# Closed operator ideals on the Banach space of continuous functions on the first uncountable ordinal 

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Joint work with Tomasz Kania

## C(K)-spaces

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Here, for an ordinal $\sigma$,

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[0, \sigma]=\{\alpha \text { ordinal : } \alpha \leqslant \sigma\}
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is equipped with the order topology, which is determined by the basis

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[0, \beta), \quad(\alpha, \beta), \quad(\alpha, \sigma] \quad(0 \leqslant \alpha<\beta \leqslant \sigma)
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Introducing our main character: the Loy-Willis ideal

Let $\omega_{1}$ be the first uncountable ordinal, so that $C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]$ is the "next" $C(K)$-space after the separable ones $C\left[0, \omega^{\omega^{\alpha}}\right]$ for countable $\alpha$.

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We call $\mathscr{M}$ the Loy-Willis ideal.
It is defined using a representation of operators on $C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]$ as scalar-valued $\left[0, \omega_{1}\right] \times\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]$-matrices; an operator belongs to $\mathscr{M}$ if and only if its final column is continuous. The precise definition will follow later.

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Motivation. Loy and Willis' aim was to show that each derivation from $\mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right)$ into a Banach $\mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right)$-bimodule is automatically continuous.

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Key step: $\mathscr{M}$ has a bounded right approximate identity.

## Main result: a coordinate-free characterization of $\mathscr{M}$

Theorem (Kania+NJL 2011). An operator on $C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]$ belongs to the Loy-Willis ideal if and only if the identity operator on $C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]$ does not factor through it;

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\mathscr{M}=\left\{T \in \mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right): \forall R, S \in \mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right): I \neq S T R\right\} .
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Corollary. The Loy-Willis ideal is the unique maximal ideal of $\mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right)$.
Proof. The theorem implies that the identity operator belongs to the ideal generated by any operator not in $\mathscr{M}$.

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Remark. Many Banach spaces $X$ share with $C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]$ the property that

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Fact (Dosev and Johnson 2010). Suppose that $\mathscr{M}_{X}$ is closed under addition. Then $\mathscr{M}_{X}$ is the unique maximal ideal of $\mathscr{B}(X)$.

Banach spaces $X$ such that $\mathscr{M}_{X}$ is the unique maximal ideal

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Note: $C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]$ differs from all these Banach spaces because

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## Operators on $C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]$ with separable range

Theorem (Kania+NJL 2011). The following are equivalent for $T \in \mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right):$
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Theorem (Kania+NJL 2011). The following are equivalent for $T \in \mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right):$
(a) $T$ has separable range,
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(c) $T=P_{\sigma} T P_{\sigma}$ for some $\sigma \in\left[0, \omega_{1}\right)$, where

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\left(P_{\sigma} f\right)(\alpha)=\left\{\begin{array}{ll}
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Reason: for given $\tau \in\left[0, \omega_{1}\right)$ and $T \in \overline{\mathscr{G}}_{C[0, \tau]}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right)$, the ordinal $\sigma$, such that (d) holds may be much larger tha $6 \tau$ and depend on $T$.

Partial structure of the lattice of closed ideals of $\mathscr{B}=\mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right)$


Partial structure of the lattice of closed ideals of $\mathscr{B}=\mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right)$

(i) We suppress $C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]$ everywhere, thus writing $\mathscr{K}$ instead of $\mathscr{K}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right)$ for the ideal of compact operators on $C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]$, etc.;
(ii) $\mathscr{I} \longleftrightarrow \mathscr{J}$ means that the ideal $\mathscr{I}$ is properly contained in the ideal $\mathscr{J}$;
(iii) a double-headed arrow indicates that there are no closed ideals between $\mathscr{I}$ and $\mathscr{J}$;
(iv) $\alpha$ denotes a countable ordinal; and
(v) $K_{\alpha}=\left[0, \omega^{\omega^{\alpha}}\right]$.

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More precisely, for each $\mu \in C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]^{*}$, there are unique scalars $\left(c_{\alpha}\right)$ such that

$$
\|\mu\|=\sum_{\alpha \in\left[0, \omega_{\mathbf{1}}\right]}\left|c_{\alpha}\right|<\infty \quad \text { and } \quad \mu=\sum_{\alpha \in\left[0, \omega_{\mathbf{1}}\right]} c_{\alpha} \delta_{\alpha},
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Corollary. For each $T \in \mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right)$, there is a unique scalar-valued matrix $\left(T_{\alpha, \beta}\right)_{\alpha, \beta \in\left[0, \omega_{\mathbf{1}}\right]}$ such that

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Notation. For $T \in \mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right)$ and $\beta \in\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]$, let $k_{\beta}^{T}:\left[0, \omega_{1}\right] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ denote the $\beta^{\text {th }}$ column of the matrix of $T$, that is, $k_{\beta}^{T}(\alpha)=T_{\alpha, \beta}$.

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Theorem (Loy and Willis 1989). The set

$$
\mathscr{M}=\left\{T \in \mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right): k_{\omega_{1}}^{T} \text { is continuous at } \omega_{1}\right\}
$$

is a maximal ideal of codimension one in $\mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right)$.

Sketch proof: $\mathscr{M}$ is a maximal ideal of codimension one
Recall: $\quad \mathscr{M}=\left\{T \in \mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right): k_{\omega_{1}}^{T}\right.$ is continuous at $\left.\omega_{1}\right\}$.

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- $\mathscr{M}$ has codimension one. Given $S \in \mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right)$, define

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c=\lim _{\alpha \rightarrow \omega_{1}} S_{\alpha, \omega_{1}}-S_{\omega_{1}, \omega_{1}} \quad \text { and } \quad T=c \cdot I+S .
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Then $T \in \mathscr{M}$ because $k_{\omega_{1}}^{T}$ is continuous at $\omega_{1}$ :

$$
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## Sketch proof: $\mathscr{M}$ is a maximal ideal of codimension one

Recall: $\quad \mathscr{M}=\left\{T \in \mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right): k_{\omega_{1}}^{T}\right.$ is continuous at $\left.\omega_{1}\right\}$.
Loy and Willis' Key Lemma. For each $S \in \mathscr{B}\left(C\left[0, \omega_{1}\right]\right)$, the restriction of $k_{\omega_{1}}^{S}$ to $\left[0, \omega_{1}\right)$ is continuous, and $\lim _{\alpha \rightarrow \omega_{1}} k_{\omega_{1}}^{S}(\alpha)$ exists.

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- $\mathscr{M}$ is a right ideal and maximal: automatic!


## Further work (in progress with Kania and Piotr Koszmider)

Let $L_{0}$ be the one-point compactification of the disjoint union of the intervals $[0, \sigma]$, where $\sigma \in\left[0, \omega_{1}\right)$.

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Theorem (Amir and Lindenstrauss 1968). A compact Hausdorff space $K$ is Eberlein compact if and only if $C(K)$ is weakly compactly generated (that is, $C(K)=\overline{\operatorname{span}} W$ for some weakly compact subset $W$ ).

