

# Involutions in Banach Algebra

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**Abstract-** In this paper, we define some definition related to involution, examples, Gelfand Nahnark Theorem has important role.

**Keywords-** Commutative Banach algebra with involution Hermitian, maximal ideal space Gelfand transform, Runge's theorem in complex analysis.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Involution has important role in Banach algebra. In this paper we discuss self adjoint, hermitian, Banach algebra corollary, Gelfand Nahnark Theorem, isometry and isomorphism studied

## II. DEFINITION

A map  $x \rightarrow x^*$  of a complex algebra A into A is called an involution of A if it has the following properties for all  $x, y \in A$  and  $\lambda \in C$ .

- (1)  $(x + y)^* = x^* + y^*$
- (2)  $(\lambda x)^* = \bar{\lambda} x^*$
- (3)  $(xy)^* = y^* x^*$
- (4)  $x^{**} = x$

### 2.1 Definition :

If  $x \in A$  and  $x^* = x$ , then  $x$  is called hermitian or self adjoint.

Example :

$f \rightarrow \bar{f}$  is an involution on  $C(X)$

### 2.1 Theorem :

If A is a Banach algebra with an involution, and if  $x \in A$ , then

- a)  $x + x^*, i(x - x^*)$  and  $xx^*$  are hermitian.
- b)  $x$  has a unique representation  $x = u + iv$  where  $u, v \in A$  and  $u$  and  $v$  are hermitian.
- c) The unit element  $e$  is hermitian

d)  $x$  is invertible in A if and only if  $x^*$  is invertible in which case  $(x^*)^{-1} = (x^{-1})^*$  and

e)  $\lambda \in \sigma(x)$  iff  $\bar{\lambda} \in \sigma(x^*)$

Proof:

a)  $(x + x^*) = x^* + x^{**} = x^* x = x + x^*$ .

Hence  $x + x^*$  is hermitian.

$[i(x - x^*)]^* = \bar{i}(x - x^*)^* = -i[x^* - (x^*)^*] = -i(x^* - x) = i(x - x^*)$

$(xx^*)^* = (x^*)^* \cdot x^* = x \cdot x^*$ . Hence

$i(x - x^*)^*$  and  $xx^*$  and  $x^*$  are hermitian.

b) Put  $u = \frac{x + x^*}{2}$  and  $v = \frac{i(x^* - x)}{2}$ . Then

$x = u + iv$ . Clearly  $u, v$  are hermitian since  $\frac{i(x^* - x)}{2}$

$x + x^*$  is hermitian and also  $\frac{i(x^* - x)}{2}$  is hermitian. The uniqueness of the representation is yet to be proved. If  $u' + iv' = x$  is another representation then put  $w = v' - v$ . Then both  $w$  and  $iw$  are hermitian and  $iw = (iw)^* = -iw^* = -iw$  i.e.  $iw + iw = 0$  i.e.  $2iw = 0$  (ie)  $v' = v$ . Since  $v' = v, u' = u$

Hence the representation is unique.

c) Clearly  $e^* = ee^*$ . But  $ee^*$  is self adjoint. Hence  $e^*$  is self adjoint. Hence  $e$  is self adjoint.

d) Since  $x$  is invertible  $\exists x^{-1}$  s.t.  $xx^{-1} = e$

Now  $(xx^{-1})^* = (x^{-1})x^* = e^* = e$  ( $\because e$  is self adjoint)

$\therefore (x^{-1})^*$  is the inverse of  $x^*$

But  $(x^*)^{-1}$  is the inverse of  $x^*$  and hence  $(x^{-1}) = (x^*)^{-1}$

e) Let  $\lambda \in \sigma(x)$ . Then  $(\lambda e - x)$  is not invertible. Hence  $(\lambda e - x)^*$  is not invertible (ie)  $(\bar{\lambda} e - x^*)$  is not invertible. Hence  $\bar{\lambda} \in \sigma(x^*)$  the converse follows analogously.

3. Definition :

If A is a Banach algebra with an involution  $*$ , which satisfies the  $\|xx^*\| = \|x\|^2$  for every  $x \in A$  then A is called a  $B^*$  algebra.

3.1 Theorem :

If A is a semi simple commutative Banach algebra, then involution on A is continuous

Proof:

Let h be a homomorphism of A

Define  $\emptyset(x) = \bar{h}(x^*)$ ,

Then

$$\emptyset(x+y) = \bar{h}[x+y]^* = \bar{h}(x^*+y^*)$$

$$= \bar{h}(x^*) + \bar{h}(y^*) = \emptyset(x) + \emptyset(y)$$

$$\emptyset(\alpha x) = \bar{h}[(\alpha x)^*] = \bar{h}(\bar{\alpha} x^*)$$

$$= \overline{h(\bar{\alpha}, x^*)} = \overline{\bar{\alpha} h(x^*)}$$

$$= \alpha \cdot \bar{h}(x^*)$$

$$= \alpha \emptyset(x)$$

$$\text{Similarly } \emptyset(xy) = \bar{h}((xy)^*) = \bar{h}(y^* x^*)$$

$$= \overline{h(y^* x^*)}$$

$$= \overline{h(y^*) h(x^*)}$$

$$= \bar{h}(y^*) \bar{h}(x^*)$$

$$= \emptyset(y) \cdot \emptyset(x) = \emptyset(x) \cdot \emptyset(y)$$

Hence  $\emptyset$  is a complex homomorphism on A. Then  $\emptyset$  is continuous. For, suppose  $x_n \rightarrow x$ , and  $x_n^* \rightarrow y$  in A

Then

$$\bar{h}(x^*) = \emptyset(x) = \text{Lim} \emptyset(x_n) = \text{Lim} \bar{h}(x_n^*) = \bar{h}(y)$$

This is true for every  $h \in \Delta$ .

Since A is semisimple  $x^* = y$ . Hence  $x \rightarrow x^*$  is continuous by closed graph theorem.

3.1 Corollary

A is a  $B^*$  algebra, iff  $\|x^*\| = \|x\| \forall x \in A$

$$\text{and } \|xx^*\| = \|x\| \|x\|^*$$

$$\text{For, we have } \|x\|^2 = \|xx^*\| \leq \|x\| \|x^*\|$$

$$\text{Hence } \|x\| \leq \|x^*\| \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

$$\text{Similarly } \|x^*\| \leq \|x^{**}\| = \|x\| \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

$$\text{From (1) and (2) } \|x^*\| = \|x\|$$

$$\text{Now } \|xx^*\| = \|x\|^2 = \|x\| \cdot \|x\| = \|x\| \|x^*\|$$

Conversely, we have that if  $\|x\| = \|x^*\|$  for every  $x \in A$  and  $\|xx^*\| = \|x\| \cdot \|x^*\|$ ,

then  $\|xx^*\| = \|x\| \|x^*\| = \|x\| \cdot \|x\| = \|x\|^2$ . Hence A is a  $B^*$ -Algebra

3.2 Theorem: Gelfand-Nahmark Theorem

Suppose A is a commutative  $B^*$  algebra, with maximal ideal space  $\Delta$ . The Gelfand transform is then an isometric isomorphism of A onto  $C(\Delta)$  which has the additional property that

$$h(x^*) = \overline{h(x)} (x \in A, h \in \Delta)$$

or equivalently, that

$$(x^*)^\wedge = \overline{\hat{x}} (x \in A)$$

In particular, x is hermitian if and only if  $\hat{x}$  is a real function.

The above theorem is called Gelfand - Nahmark theorem

Proof:

Let  $u \in A$  s.t.  $u = u^*$ . Let  $h \in \Delta$ . We have to prove that h(u) is real.

Put  $z = u + ite$  for real t. If  $h(u) = \alpha + i\beta$  where  $\alpha, \beta$  are reals then

$$h(z) = h(u + ite) = h(u) + h(ite)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \alpha + i\beta + it.h(e) \\
 &= \alpha + i\beta + it = \alpha + i(\beta + t) \\
 &zz^* = u^2 + t^2e \quad \text{so that} \\
 &\alpha^2 + (\beta + t)^2 = |h(z)|^2 \leq \|z\|^2 = \|zz^*\| \leq \|u\|^2 + t^2 \\
 &\text{or } \alpha^2 + \beta^2 + 2\beta t \leq \|u\|^2 \quad \forall t \in \text{Real}
 \end{aligned}$$

But this implies that  $\beta = 0$ . Hence  $h(u)$  is real.

If  $x \in A$ , then  $x = u + iv$  with  $u = u^*, v = v^*$

Hence  $x^* = u - iv$ . Since  $\hat{u}$  and  $\hat{v}$  are real, we have  $(x^*)^\wedge(h) = \hat{u} - i\hat{v}(h)$  for every  $h \in \Delta$  (i.e.)  $(x^*)^\wedge = \overline{\hat{x}}$

Thus  $\overline{A}$  is closed under complex conjugation. By Stone Weierstrass theorem is dense in  $C[\Delta]$

If  $x \in A$  and  $y = xx^*$ , then  $y = y^*$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|y^2\| &= \|y\|^2 \\
 \|y^m\| &= \|y\|^m \quad \text{for every } m = 2^n.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\|\hat{y}\|_\infty = \|y\|$  by the spectral radius formula. Since  $y = xx^*$

$$\hat{y} = \hat{x}(x^*)^\wedge = \hat{x}\overline{\hat{x}} = |\hat{x}|^2$$

$$\text{Hence } \|\hat{x}\|_\infty^2 = \|y\| = \|xx^*\| = \|x\|^2 \quad \text{or} \quad \|\hat{x}\|_\infty = \|x\|.$$

Thus  $x \rightarrow \hat{x}$  is an isometry. Hence  $\overline{A}$  is closed in  $C(\Delta)$ . Since  $A$  is also dense in  $C(\Delta)$ , we conclude that  $\hat{A} = C(\Delta)$ . Hence the proof.

### 3.3 Theorem :

If  $A$  is a commutative  $B^*$  algebra which contains an element  $x$  such that the polynomials in  $x$  and  $x^*$  are dense in  $A$ . then the formula  $(\Psi f)^\wedge = f \circ \hat{x}$  defines an isometric isomorphism  $\Psi$  of  $C(\sigma(x))$  onto  $A$  which satisfies.

$\Psi \hat{f} = (\Psi f)^*$  for every  $f \in C(\sigma(x))$ . More over if  $f(\lambda) = \lambda$  on  $\sigma(x)$  then  $\Psi f = x$ .

Proof:

Let  $\Delta$  be the maximal ideal space of  $A$ . We know that  $\hat{x}$  is a continuous function on  $\Delta$ . The range of

$\hat{x}$  is  $\sigma(x)$ . Suppose  $h_1, h_2 \in \Delta$  and  $\hat{x}(h_1) = \hat{x}(h_2)$ , then  $h_1(x) = h_2(x)$  and hence  $h_1(x^*) = h_2(x^*)$  by the previous theorem. If  $P$  is any polynomial in  $x$  and  $x^*$ , then  $h_1(P) = h_2(P)$  since  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are homomorphisms. By hypothesis, the elements of the form  $P(x, x^*)$  are dense in  $A$  and since  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are continuous we have  $h_1(y) = h_2(y)$  for every  $y \in A$ . Hence  $h_1 = h_2$ . Hence we have proved that  $\hat{x}(h_1) = \hat{x}(h_2)$  for every  $y \in A$ . Hence  $h_1 = h_2$  (i.e.)  $\hat{x}$  is 1-1. Since  $\hat{x}$  is continuous and onto  $\sigma(x)$  and  $|\cdot|$  we have that  $x$  is homeomorphism of  $\Delta$  onto  $\sigma(x)$  (By Vadiyanatha swamy's theorem).

The mapping  $f \rightarrow f \circ \hat{x}$  is therefore an isometric isomorphism of  $C(\sigma(x)) \rightarrow C(\Delta)$  which preserves complex conjugation.

By the previous theorem, each  $f$  is the Gelfand transform of a unique element of  $A$ , which we

denote by  $\Psi f$  and which satisfies  $\|\Psi f\| = \|f\|_\infty$

[Since we have that  $(x^*)^\wedge = \hat{x}$  by the previous theorem]. We have  $\Psi \hat{f} = (\Psi(f))^*$ . If  $f(\lambda) = \lambda$ , then  $f \circ \hat{x} = \hat{x}$  so that we have  $(\Psi \hat{f}) = \hat{x}(ie) \Psi f = x$ .

We are interested in knowing the existence of square roots in a Banach algebra. The following theorem is one in that direction.

### 3.4 Theorem :

Suppose  $A$  is a commutative Banach algebra with an involution. If  $x$  is a self adjoint element of  $A$  and if  $\sigma(x)$  contains no real number  $\lambda \leq 0$ , then there exists  $y \in A$  with  $y^2 = x$  and  $y = y^*$ .

Proof:

Let  $R$  denote the non positive real numbers and let  $\Omega = C - R^-$ . There exists a holomorphic function  $f \in H(\Omega)$  such that  $f^2(\lambda)$  and  $f(1) = 1$ . Since  $\sigma(x) \subset \Omega$ , we can define  $y \in A$  as

$$y = \hat{f}(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} f(\lambda)(\lambda e - x)^{-1} d\lambda$$

Where  $\Gamma$  is any contour that surrounds  $\sigma(x)$  in  $\Omega$ . Then it can be proved that  $y^2 = x$  [For a proof the student is referred to Defn and theorem of "Functional Analysis" by Rudin. This is the required  $y$  and  $y^* = y$ . To prove  $y^* = y$  we need what is called Runge's theorem in complex analysis.

Since  $\Omega$  is simply connected 'Runge's'. Theorem gives polynomials  $P_n$ , that converge to uniformly on compact subsets of  $\Omega$ . Define  $Q_n$  by

$$2Q_n(\lambda) = P_n(\lambda) + \overline{P_n(\lambda)}. \text{ Since } f(\bar{\lambda}) = \overline{f(\lambda)} \text{ the}$$

polynomials  $Q_n \rightarrow f$  in the same manner [(ie) uniformly on compact sets]

Define  $y_n = Q_n(x)$ . ( $n=1,2,3,\dots$ ) By definition,

the polynomials  $Q_n$  have real coefficients. Since  $x = x^*$ , it follows that  $y_n = y_n^*$

The element  $y = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n$ , and hence  $y = y^*$ . if  $f^*$  is continuous. Even if  $f^*$  is not assumed to be continuous we can give a different argument to prove that  $y = y^*$  as follows.

Let  $R$  be the radical of  $A$ . Let  $\pi: A \rightarrow A/R$  be the quotient map. Define an involution in  $A/R$  by  $[\pi(a)]^* = \pi(a^*)$  for  $a \in A$

If  $a$  is hermitian, then so is it  $\pi(a)$

Since  $\pi$  is continuous,  $\pi(y_n) \rightarrow \pi(y)$

Since  $A/R$  is isomorphic to  $A$ ,  $A/R$  is semi simple and therefore every involution in  $A/R$  is continuous.

Hence  $\pi(y)$  is hermitian. Hence  $\pi(y - y^*) = 0$  (ie)  $y - y^*$  is in the radical of  $A$ .

Now we can write  $y = u + iv$  where  $u$  and  $v$  are hermitian. Since  $y - y^* \in R$ , hermitian  $v$  belongs to the radical of  $A$ . Since  $x = y^2$  we have  $x = u^2 - v^2 + 2iuv$ .

Let  $h$  be a complex homomorphism on  $A$ . Since  $v$  is in the radical of  $A$ ,  $h(v) = 0$ . Hence  $h(x) = [h(u)]^2$ . By hypothesis  $0 \notin \sigma(x)$ . Hence  $h(x) \neq 0$ . Hence  $h(x) \neq 0$ . This is true for every  $h \in \Delta(\text{ie}) u$  is invertible.

Since  $x = x^*$

and since  $x = u^2 - v^2 + 2iuv$ , we have that  $uv = 0$

Since  $v = u^{-1}(uv)$  we have that  $v = u^{-1} \cdot 0 = 0$

Hence  $v = 0$  and hence  $y^* = u^* = u$ . But  $u$  is hermitian and hence  $y^* = y$

### III. CONCLUSION

It is clear that  $A$  is semi simple commutative Banach algebra with an involution which satisfy involution on  $A$  is continuous, Gelfand Nahnork theorem gives isometric isomorphism of  $A$  onto  $A$  which satisfy certain condition and Runge's theorem give polynomials  $P_n$ , that converge to uniformly on compact subjects.

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