

# DESCRIPTION OF INVARIANT SUBSPACES OF $L^p(\mu)$ BY MULTIPLICATION OPERATORS

per

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper we give a description for the closed subspaces of  $L^p(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ ,  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , which are invariant under multiplication by a selfconjugate family of essentially bounded functions. This work is a continuation of [3] and [4] and the results obtained form part of the author's doctoral dissertation [5].

## 1. Introduction and Notation

In what follows,  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  will be a  $\sigma$ -finite measure space,  $L^p(\mu)$ ,  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , the classical Banach space associated with the pair  $(X, \mu)$  and  $E_{\mathcal{F}}$  the *conditional expectation* operator (or the averaging projection with respect to  $\mathcal{F}$ , where  $\mathcal{F}$  is a  $\sigma$ -finite sub $\sigma$ -algebra of  $\mathcal{A}$ ).

$S$  will always be a closed subspace of  $L^p(\mu)$  and  $\Pi$  a selfconjugate family of  $L^\infty(\mu)$ . We say that  $S$  is  *$\Pi$ -invariant* when  $\varphi S \subset S$  for every  $\varphi \in \Pi$ . We denote by  $\sigma(\Pi)$  the smallest sub $\sigma$ -algebra of  $\mathcal{A}$  making all the functions in  $\Pi$  measurable and by  $S^\circ$  the *polar* of  $S$ , i.e.,

$$S^\circ = \left\{ g \in L^{p'}(\mu) : \int_X fg d\mu = 0 \text{ for all } f \in S \right\},$$

$$-\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p'} = -1$$

The  $H$ -invariant subspaces  $S$  of  $L^p(\mu)$  are essentially determined by the  $\sigma$ -algebra  $\sigma(H)$ . More exactly, if  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  are two different families of  $L^\infty(\mu)$  such that  $\sigma(H_1) \subseteq \sigma(H_2)$ , then, the  $H_1$ -invariant subspaces and the  $H_2$ -invariant subspaces are the same if and only if the  $\sigma$ -algebras  $\sigma(H_1)$  and  $\sigma(H_2)$  are equivalent (i.e., they have the same  $\mu$ -completion). This is a consequence of the following result.

**1.1 Lemma.** (see [3], [5])

*If  $S$  is  $H$ -invariant, then the closure of  $S$  in  $L^p(\mu)$  is  $L^\infty(\sigma(H))$ -invariant.*

When  $\sigma(H)$  is  $\sigma$ -finite, we have a description for the  $H$ -invariant subspaces of  $L^p(\mu)$  by using the conditional expectation operator,  $E_{\sigma(H)}$ .

**1.2 Theorem.**

*$S$  is  $H$ -invariant if and only if there exist a family  $(g_i)_{i \in I}$  of  $L^{p'}(\mu)$  such that  $S = \bigcap_{i \in I} Sg_i$  where*

$$Sg_i = \{ f \in L^p(\mu) : E_{\sigma(H)}(fg_i) = 0 \quad \mu\text{-a.e.} \}$$

See [4] for the proof. The reader can also look at Theorem 3.2 below whose proof is quite similar.

**1.3 Remarks.**

a) The last result contains Beurling's theorem concerning invariant subspaces of  $L^2(T)$  by the bilateral shift. In fact, in this case,  $H = \{e^{it}, e^{-it}\}$  and  $\sigma(H)$  consists of all Borel subsets of  $T$ , so that  $E_{\sigma(H)}$  is the identity operator and

$$S = \bigcap_{i \in I} Sg_i = \{ f \in L^2(T) : f = 0 \text{ a.e. in } E \}$$

where  $E$  is the support of the family  $\{g_i\}_{i \in I}$ .

b) Theorem 1.2 is also true in  $L^\infty(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ , if we consider the weak-\* topology in  $L^\infty(\mu)$  and the subspace  $S$  is supposed to be weak-\* closed.

c) It is possible to extend theorem 1.2 to a more general situation. For example, if  $S$  is a closed subspace of  $L^\rho_B(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ , (a Köthe function space, see [7]), where  $\rho$  is a saturated, absolutely continuous norm and  $B$  is a Banach space such that the dual space  $B^*$  verifies the Radon-Nikodym property. (Many of the important classical Banach function spaces are contained in this class for suitable  $\rho$ 's).

## 2. Application to shift operators.

A natural question arises from the above theorem. How many functions of  $L^p(\mu)$  are necessary to obtain the subspace  $S$ ? Here, this question is solved in a particular, non trivial, situation. When,  $X = [0,1)$  and  $\sigma(H)$  is the  $\sigma$ -algebra of  $\frac{1}{n}$  periodic Borel subsets of  $[0,1)$ , i.e.  $\sigma(H)$  is the  $\sigma$ -algebra

$$\mathcal{B}_n = \left\{ B \subset [0,1); B \text{ is a Borel set and } \frac{1}{n} \dot{+} B = B \right\}$$

where  $\dot{+}$  stands for addition (mod. 1) in  $[0,1)$ . We shall need the following technical lemmas.

### 2.1 Lemma.

Let  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be a  $\sigma$ -finite measure space let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a family of measurable functions. Then, there exists a unique ( $\mu$ -a.e.) measurable subset  $A$  of  $X$ , such that:

i)  $f(x) = 0$  a.e.  $x \notin A$ ,  $\forall f \in \mathcal{H}$

ii) there is a countable family of functions  $\{f_j\}_j \subset \mathcal{H}$  with  $\sum_j |f_j(x)| > 0$  a.e.  $x \in A$

( $A$  will be the support of  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $\text{supp } \mathcal{H}$ , and  $\mathcal{H}^{-1}(0)$  the set  $X \setminus A$ )

### Proof.

We consider the family

$\mathcal{C} = \left\{ (A_j)_{j \in J} : A_j \in \mathcal{A} \text{ pairwise disjoint with } \mu(A_j) > 0 \text{ and such that for each } j \in J, \text{ there is } f_j \in \mathcal{H} \text{ with } f_j(x) \neq 0 \text{ a.e. } x \in A_j \right\}$

(each  $J$  must be countable because  $(X, \mu)$  is  $\sigma$ -finite).

$\mathcal{C} \neq \emptyset$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  is an inductive set under the partial order:

$(A_j)_{j \in J_1} \leq (B_j)_{j \in J_2}$  if  $(A_j)_{j \in J_1}$  is a subfamily of  $(B_j)_{j \in J_2}$

By Zorn's lemma, we have a maximal element of  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $(A_j)_{j \in J}$ . Let  $f_j, j \in J$ , be the functions corresponding to  $A_j$  and  $A = \bigcup_{j \in J} A_j$ . Then, if  $f \in \mathcal{H}$  and

$B = \{x : f(x) > 0\} \cap A^c$ , necessarily  $\mu(B) = 0$ .  $\square$

### 2.2 Lemma.

Let  $H$  be a selfconjugate family of essentially bounded functions on  $[0,1)$  such that  $\sigma(H) = \mathcal{B}_n$ . If  $S$  is an invariant subspace of  $L^p([0,1), m)$ , ( $m$  denotes

Lebesgue measure),  $0 < p < \infty$ , then there exists  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n$  belonging to  $S$  such that

$$g(x) = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j(x) s_j(x) \quad x \in [0,1]$$

for each  $g \in S$  and suitable  $\mathcal{B}_n$ -measurable functions,  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$ . (The functions  $\alpha_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$  depend on  $g$ , and, in general, they are not in  $L^\infty(\mathcal{B}_n)$ ).

**Proof.**

$n = 1$  : By applying the above lemma to  $\text{supp } S$ , we obtain a countable pairwise disjoint family  $(A_j)_{j \in J}$  and their corresponding functions of  $S$ ,  $(f_j)_{j \in J}$ . These functions can be modified so that  $\|f_j\|^p < 2^{-j}$ ,  $j \in J$ . The function  $s(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} f_j(x) \chi_{A_j}(x)$ , belongs to  $S$  and verifies the result.

Next, we will give only the proof for  $n = 2$ , because for  $n \geq 3$  the ideas are the same although the notation is more complicated.

$n = 2$  : We take the following families of functions on  $[0, 1/2]$

$$F_1 = \{g(x), g(x+1/2) : g \in S\}$$

$$F_2 = \left\{ \det \begin{pmatrix} g(x) & g(x+1/2) \\ h(x) & h(x+1/2) \end{pmatrix} : g, h \in S \right\}$$

and we denote by  $N_1$  and  $N_2$ , the sets  $F_1^{-1}(0)$  and  $F_2^{-1}(0)$ . If  $A$  is a Borel subset of  $[0, 1/2]$  we define  $\tilde{A}$  as the set  $\tilde{A} = A \cup (A + \frac{1}{2})$ .

The result holds in  $(N_1)^\sim$ , taking  $s_1(x) = 0 = s_2(x)$ . As  $N_2 \setminus N_1 = \bigcup_{j \in J} A_j$ , by lemma 2.1 (we suppose that the corresponding functions  $f_j$  verify  $\|f_j\|^p < 2^{-j}$ ) the functions

$$\begin{aligned} s_1(x) &= \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} f_j \chi_{A_j}(x) \\ s_2(x) &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad \text{a.e. } x \in [0,1]$$

belong to  $S$ . Moreover, if  $h \in S$ ,

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} h(x) & h(x+1/2) \\ f_j(x) & f_j(x+1/2) \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad \text{a.e. } x \in A_j$$

then, there exist  $c_{hj}(x)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} h(x) &= c_{hj}(x) f_j(x) \\ h(x+1/2) &= c_{hj}(x) f_j(x+1/2) \end{aligned} \quad \text{a.e. } x \in \Lambda_j$$

We can extend  $c_{hj}$  to  $[0,1)$ , by defining them on  $\tilde{\Lambda}_j$  as  $c_{hj}(x+1/2) = c_{hj}(x)$ . Thus,  $c_{hj}$  is  $\mathcal{B}_2$ -measurable and calling  $\alpha_1(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} c_{hj}(x) \chi_{\tilde{\Lambda}_j}(x)$ , we conclude that

$$h(x) = \alpha_1(x) s_1(x) + \alpha_2(x) s_2(x) \quad \text{a.e. } x \in \tilde{N}_2 \setminus \tilde{N}_1$$

for all  $\alpha_2$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_2$ -measurable.

Likewise,  $[0,1) \setminus \tilde{N}_2 = ([0,1/2) \setminus N_2)^\sim$  and  $[0,1/2) \setminus N_2$  is contained in  $\text{supp } F_2$ , then there are two families of functions  $(f_j)_{j \in J}$ ,  $(g_j)_{j \in J}$  in  $S$  such that

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} f_j(x) & f_j(x+1/2) \\ g_j(x) & g_j(x+1/2) \end{pmatrix} \neq 0 \quad \text{a.e. } x \in \Lambda_j$$

The functions

$$\begin{aligned} s_1(x) &= \sum_{j \in J} f_j(x) \chi_{\tilde{\Lambda}_j}(x) \\ s_2(x) &= \sum_{j \in J} g_j(x) \chi_{\tilde{\Lambda}_j}(x) \end{aligned}$$

belong to  $S$  and besides, if  $h \in S$ , there exist  $a_{hj}$ ,  $b_{hj}$  verifying

$$\begin{aligned} h(x) &= a_{hj}(x) f_j(x) + b_{hj}(x) g_j(x) \\ h(x+1/2) &= a_{hj}(x) f_j(x+1/2) + b_{hj}(x) g_j(x+1/2) \end{aligned} \quad \text{a.e. } x \in \Lambda_j$$

We define  $a_{hj}$  and  $b_{hj}$  on  $\tilde{\Lambda}_j$ , by an  $\frac{1}{2}$ -periodic extension and denote

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1(x) &= \sum_{j \in J} a_{hj}(x) \chi_{\tilde{\Lambda}_j}(x) \\ \alpha_2(x) &= \sum_{j \in J} b_{hj}(x) \chi_{\tilde{\Lambda}_j}(x) \end{aligned}$$

which are  $\mathcal{B}_2$ -measurable. Thus

$$h(x) = \alpha_1(x) s_1(x) + \alpha_2(x) s_2(x) \quad \text{a.e. } x \in [0,1) \setminus \tilde{N}_2.$$

If  $n = 3$ , we should consider the families of functions on  $[0, 1/3]$

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &= \left\{ g(x), g(x+1/3), g(x+2/3) : g \in S \right\} \\ F_2 &= \left\{ \det \begin{pmatrix} g(x) & g(x+1/3) \\ h(x) & h(x+1/3) \end{pmatrix}, \det \begin{pmatrix} g(x) & g(x+2/3) \\ h(x) & h(x+2/3) \end{pmatrix}, \right. \\ &\quad \left. \det \begin{pmatrix} g(x+1/3) & g(x+2/3) \\ h(x+1/3) & h(x+2/3) \end{pmatrix} : g, h \in S \right\} \\ F_3 &= \left\{ \det \begin{pmatrix} g(x) & g(x+1/3) & g(x+2/3) \\ f(x) & f(x+1/3) & f(x+2/3) \\ h(x) & h(x+1/3) & h(x+2/3) \end{pmatrix} : f, g, h \in S \right\} \end{aligned}$$

and we should continue in the same way as above.  $\square$

If  $p = +\infty$  the last result is true. It is necessary to take the functions  $f_j$  with  $|f_j| \leq 1$ , so that  $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} f_j X_{\mathcal{N}_j} \in S$ .

### 2.3 Theorem.

Let  $p$  and  $n$  be fixed, with  $1 \leq p < \infty$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . If  $S$  is an  $H$ -invariant subspace of  $L^p([0, 1])$ ,  $H = \{e^{2\pi i n t}, e^{-2\pi i n t}\}$ , then, there exist  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n \in L^{p'}([0, 1])$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \left\{ f \in L^p : \sum_{j=1}^n f(t + \frac{j}{n}) h_k(t + \frac{j}{n}) = 0 \text{ a.e. } t \right. \\ &\quad \left. k = 1, 2, \dots, n \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

#### Proof.

Since  $H$  is selfconjugate, then  $S$  and  $S^\circ$  are  $L^\infty(\sigma(H))$ -invariant by using lemma 1.1. Now,  $\sigma(H) = \mathbb{B}_n$  and by applying lemma 2.2 to  $S^\circ$ , we obtain  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n \in S^\circ$  such that  $g(x) = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j(x) h_j(x)$  for each  $g \in S^\circ$  and  $(\alpha_j)_{j=1}^n$

$\mathbb{B}_n$ -measurable functions. Hence, by theorem 1.1, we have:

$f \in S$  if and only if  $E_{\sigma(H)}(fg) = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j E_{\sigma(H)}(fh_j) = 0$  for all  $g \in S^\circ$  or equivalently,  $E_{\sigma(H)}(fh_k) = 0$   $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

**2.4 Remarks.**

a) If  $p = +\infty$ , the theorem holds by considering the weak-\* topology in  $L^\infty(\mu)$  and a weak-\* closed subspace  $S$ .

b) If  $p = 2$ , we have obtained an implicit description for the invariant subspaces by the bilateral shift of finite multiplicity, in the Hilbert space  $L^2([0,1])$ , because these subspaces can be seen as the invariant subspaces by the multiplication operators associated to functions  $e^{+2\pi i n t}$  ( $n$  is the multiplicity of the shift). If we identify the spaces  $L^2([0,1])$  and  $L^2_{\mathbb{Q}^n}([0,1/n])$  by the map  $f \rightarrow F = (f_j)_{j=1}^n$  such that  $f_j(t) = f(t + \frac{j-1}{n})$ , we have obtained in theorem 2.3 that

$$(*) \quad S = \left\{ f \in L^2([0,1]) ; F(t) \cdot \Pi_k(t) = 0 \quad \text{a.e. } f, \right. \\ \left. k = 1, 2, \dots, n \right\}$$

By denoting as  $M(t)$  the subspace of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , which is orthogonal to the family  $\{\Pi_1(t), \Pi_2(t), \dots, \Pi_n(t)\}$  (with  $0 \leq \dim M(t) \leq n$ ), then (\*) is equivalent to the customary explicit description for these subspaces which appears for example in [2].

**2.5 Theorem.**

Let  $T^2$  be the 2-dimensional torus, and let  $H = \{f_1, f_2\}$  with  $f_1(x,y) = e^{2\pi i x}$  and  $f_2(x,y) = e^{-2\pi i x}$ . If  $S$  is an  $H$ -invariant subspace of  $L^p(T^2)$ ,  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , then there exist a countable family  $(g_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$  of  $L^{p'}(T^2)$  such that

$$S = \left\{ f \in L^p(T^2) ; \int_T f(x,y) g_j(x,y) dy = 0 \quad \text{a.e. } x, j \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$$

**Proof.**

Since  $H$  is selfconjugate, theorem 1.2 can be applied, and it suffices to observe that  $\sigma(H) = \{B \times T ; B \text{ Borel subset of } T\}$ , and therefore:

$$E_{\sigma(H)} f(x,y) = \int_T f(x,y) dy \quad \text{a.e. } x$$

If  $p = 2$ , we have got an implicit description for the invariant subspaces by the bilateral shift of countable multiplicity in the Hilbert space  $L^2(T^2)$ , because the multiplication operator by  $e^{2\pi i x}$  transforms  $e_{n,m} \rightarrow e_{n+1,m}$  ( $(e_{n,m})_{n,m \in \mathbb{N}} = (e^{2\pi i(n x + m y)})_{n,m \in \mathbb{Z}}$  is an orthonormal basis of  $L^2(T^2)$ ). Moreover, we can identify  $L^2(T^2)$  with  $L^2_{L^2(T)}(T)$  by the map  $f \rightarrow F$  such that  $F(x)(y) = f(x,y)$  and then we have

$$S = \left\{ f \in L^2(T^2) ; \langle F(x), G_j(x) \rangle = 0 \quad \text{a.e. } x, j \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$$

or equivalently  $S = \{ f \in L^2(T^2) : f(x) \in M(x) \text{ a.e. } x \}$ , where  $M(x)$  denotes the orthogonal complement of the family  $\{ G_k(x) \}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ , for each  $x \in T$  (This characterisation can also be seen in [2]).

### 3. The case of non $\sigma$ -finite $\mathcal{F}$

In this section we shall obtain two results similar to theorem 1.2, when  $\sigma(\Pi)$  is not supposed to be  $\sigma$ -finite.

Let  $G$  be a  $\sigma$ -compact locally compact abelian group,  $d\varphi$  a Haar measure on  $G$ ,  $m$  another measure on  $G$  given by  $dm(\varphi) = \Delta(\varphi)d\varphi$ , where the weight  $\Delta$  is a multiplicative measurable homomorfisme from  $G$  to  $\mathbb{R}^+$ , and  $(X_0, \mathcal{A}_0, \mu_0)$  a  $\sigma$ -finite measure space. Let  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be the product space  $(X_0 \times G, \mathcal{A}_0 \otimes \mathcal{B}(G), \mu_0 \otimes m)$ , ( $\mathcal{B}(G)$  is the  $\sigma$ -algebra of Borel subsets of  $G$ ), and let  $\mathcal{F}$  be, the sub- $\sigma$ -algebra of  $\mathcal{A}$ ,

$$\mathcal{F} = \{ \pi^{-1}(A_0) : A_0 \in \mathcal{A}_0 \} \cup \{ A_0 \times G : A_0 \in \mathcal{A}_0 \}$$

( $\pi$  is the canonical projection from  $X$  to  $X_0$ ). Under these hypothesis,  $G$  can be considered as a bijective transformation group on  $X$ , which carries  $\mathcal{A}$ -measurable sets to  $\mathcal{A}$ -measurable sets and dilates the measure according to  $\Delta$ , i.e.:

$$\mu(\psi(A)) = \Delta(\psi)\mu(A) \quad , \quad \psi \in G, A \in \mathcal{A} \quad .$$

Moreover, the  $\sigma$ -algebra  $\mathcal{F}$  coincides with  $\{ A \in \mathcal{A} : \varphi(A) = A \text{ for all } A \in \mathcal{A} \}$  and an  $\Pi$ -measurable function  $f$  on  $X$  is  $\mathcal{F}$ -measurable if and only if  $f(x, \varphi) = f(x, e)$  for all  $\varphi \in G$ ,  $x \in X_0$  ( $e$  is the unit element on  $G$ ).

The following lemma is an immediate consequence of Fubini's theorem.

#### 3.1. Lemma.

Let  $f$  be a function in  $L^1(X)$ . Then the function

$$\tilde{f}(x) = \int_G f(x, \varphi) dm(\varphi)$$

exists  $\mu_0$  a.e. and it belong to  $L^1(X_0, \mu_0)$ . Furthermore,

$$\int_{X_0} \tilde{f} d\mu_0 = \int_X f d\mu \quad \text{and} \quad \|\tilde{f}\|_{L^1(\mu_0)} \leq \|f\|_{L^1(\mu)}$$



The function  $\tilde{f}$  admits a natural extension to  $X$  :

$$\tilde{f}(x, \psi) = \Delta(\psi^{-1}) \tilde{f}(x, e)$$

where we identify  $x$  with  $(x, e)$ . In general  $\tilde{f}$  is not  $\mathcal{F}$ -measurable

### 3.2 Theorem.

If  $S$  is a closed subspace of  $L^p(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and  $H$  is a selfconjugate family in  $L^\infty(\mu)$  with  $\sigma(H) = \mathcal{F}$ , then:  $S$  is  $H$ -invariant if and only if there exists a family  $\{g_i\}_{i \in I}$  in  $L^{p'}(\mu)$  such that  $S = \bigcap_{i \in I} \tilde{S}g_i$ , where

$$\tilde{S}g_i = \{f \in L^p(\mu) : (fg)_\sim = 0 \text{ } \mu_0 \text{ a.e.}\}$$

#### Proof.

Assume first that  $S$  is a closed subspace of  $L^p(\mu)$ . For each  $\Lambda_0 \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $g \in L^{p'}(\mu)$  and  $f \in L^p(\mu)$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Lambda_0} (fg)_\sim(x) d\mu_0(x) &= \int_{X_0} (fg)_\sim(x) \chi_{\Lambda_0}(x) d\mu_0(x) = \\ &= \int_{X_0} (fg \chi_{\pi^{-1}(\Lambda_0)})_\sim(x) d\mu_0(x) = \\ &= \int_X (fg \chi_{\pi^{-1}(\Lambda_0)})(x, \varphi) d\mu(x, \varphi) \end{aligned}$$

By lemma 1.1, the subspaces  $S$  and  $S^\circ$  are  $L^\infty(\mathcal{F})$ -invariant and thus,  $f \in S$  implies  $f \in \tilde{S}g$  for all  $g \in S^\circ$ . On the other hand, if  $f \in \tilde{S}g$  for all  $g \in S^\circ$  necessarily  $(fg)_\sim = 0 \text{ } \mu_0 \text{ a.e.}$  for all  $g \in S^\circ$  and, by lemma 3.1,  $\int_X fg d\mu = 0$  for all  $g \in S^\circ$ , which implies  $f \in S$ .

To prove the converse, it suffices to show that  $\tilde{S}g$  is a closed and  $H$ -invariant subspace of  $L^p(\mu)$  for every  $g \in L^{p'}(\mu)$ . But

$$(hfg)_\sim(x) = h(x, e) (fg)_\sim(x)$$

for all  $f \in L^p(\mu)$ ,  $g \in L^{p'}(\mu)$ ,  $h \in H$ , and then,  $\tilde{S}g$  is  $H$ -invariant. Furthermore if  $f_n \rightarrow f$  in  $L^p(\mu)$ , then  $f_n g \rightarrow fg$  in  $L^1(\mu)$  for all  $g \in L^{p'}(\mu)$  and since the operator:  $f \rightarrow \tilde{f}$  is continuous from  $L^1(\mu)$  to  $L^1(\mu_0)$ , it follows that  $\tilde{S}g$  is closed.  $\square$

A comparison between theorem 1.2 and 3.2 shows that the operator:  $f \rightarrow \tilde{f}$  is a good substitute for the conditional expectation operator:  $f \rightarrow E_{\mathcal{F}}(f)$ , which cannot be defined for the general kind of  $\sigma$ -algebras  $\mathcal{F}$  considered here.

When  $\sigma(\Pi)$  is  $\sigma$ -finite, the subspace  $\widetilde{S}_g$  of theorem 3.2 are the same as those appearing in theorem 1.2, i.e.:

$$\widetilde{S}_g = \{ f \in L^p(\mu); \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f g = 0 \quad \mu \text{ a.e.} \}.$$

In fact:

$$\int_{\Lambda_0} (fg)^{\sim} d\mu_0 = \int_X f g \chi_{\pi^{-1}(\Lambda_0)} d\mu \quad \text{for all } \Lambda_0 \in \mathcal{A}_0.$$

### 3.3 Examples.

We present several examples of  $\sigma$ -algebras  $\mathcal{F}$  and projections:  $f \rightarrow \widetilde{f}$  which fall under the scope of theorem 3.2. More examples are given in [5].

1°) Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the  $\sigma$ -algebra of all Borel subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , which are translation invariant with respect to a vector  $w$  and  $\widetilde{f}(x) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} f(x+nw)$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ; then  $\widetilde{f}$  is

$\mathcal{F}$ -measurable. Taking:  $X_0 = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n; 0 \leq x \cdot w < 1 \}$  and  $G$  as the group of translation by  $kw$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , with their natural measures, theorem 3.2 can be applied in this context.

2°) Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the  $\sigma$ -algebra of all Borel subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  which are radial and  $\widetilde{f}(x) = \int_{S_{n-1}} f(rx') d\sigma(x')$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $r = \|x\|$  ( $d\sigma(x')$  denotes Lebesgue measure on  $S_{n-1} = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n; \|x\| = 1 \}$ ),  $S_{n-1}$  which is  $\mathcal{F}$ -measurable. In this case, if we take:  $X_0 = [0, +\infty)$  with the measure  $d\mu_0(r) = \omega_{n-1} r^{n-1} dr$  ( $\omega_{n-1}$  is the total measure of  $S_{n-1}$ ), and as  $G$  the quotient group  $O(n)/K$  ( $O(n)$  is the group of all orthogonal transformation on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $K$  its the normal subgroup which fixes a point  $x'_0$  of  $S_{n-1}$ ) with normalized Haar measure, then theorem 3.2 can be applied again.

3°) Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the  $\sigma$ -algebra of all dilatation-invariant Borel subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\widetilde{f}(x) = \int_0^{+\infty} f(rx) r^{n-1} dr$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $r = \|x\|$ , which is not  $\mathcal{F}$ -measurable. Now, if  $X_0 = S_{n-1}$  with its measure and  $G$  is the group of homotecies on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  ( $G$  can be identified with the group  $(0, +\infty)$  with measure  $dm(\varphi) = r^n \frac{dr}{r}$ ) again, we have a good situation for the application theorem 3.2.  $\square$

The following situation is not included in the theorem 3.2 and we shall now give a theorem for it. Let  $X$  be a locally compact abelian group,  $G$  a closed subgroup of  $X$  and  $\widetilde{X}$  the quotient group  $X/G$  equipped with their respective Haar measures  $m$  and  $m_G$ . We can take a suitable Haar measure  $\widetilde{m}$  on  $\widetilde{X}$  such that Weil's formula holds: If  $f \in L^1(X)$  and we define

$$\widetilde{f}(\widetilde{x}) = \int_G f(\varphi(x)) dm_G(\varphi)$$

then  $\widetilde{f} \in L^1(\widetilde{X})$  and  $\int_{\widetilde{X}} \widetilde{f} d\widetilde{m} = \int_X f dm$ .

Now,  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}$  is the sub- $\sigma$ -algebra of Borel subsets of  $X$ , then  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}} = \{ \pi^{-1}(B) ; B \in \mathcal{B}(\tilde{X}) \}$ , where  $\pi$  denotes the canonical projection from  $X$  onto  $\tilde{X}$ . This situation is very similar the one described above, but, in general, it is not clear that the  $\sigma$ -algebras  $\mathcal{B}(G) \cong \mathcal{B}(\tilde{G})$  and  $\mathcal{B}(X)$  can be identified.

### 3.4 Theorem.

Let  $S$  be a closed subspace of  $L^p(X, \mathcal{B}(X), m)$  and  $H$  a selfconjugate family of  $L^\infty(\tilde{\mathcal{F}})$  with  $\sigma(H) = \tilde{\mathcal{F}}$ . Then,  $S$  is  $H$ -invariant if and only if there exists a family  $\{g_i\}_{i \in I} \subset L^p(m)$  such that  $S = \bigcap_{i \in I} Sg_i$ , where

$$\tilde{S}g_i = \{ f \in L^p(m) : (fg)_\sim = 0 \text{ } \tilde{m} \text{ a.e.} \}$$

The proof is exactly as in Theorem 3.2, Weil's identity being now the substitute of Lemma 3.1. Finally, we observe that the remarks 1.3 b) and c), remains true (with a suitable formulation) in this context.

### 4. An application to Operator Theory in Hilbert spaces.

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a separable Hilbert space. We denote by  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  the family of bounded linear operators on  $\mathcal{H}$ , by  $\sigma(T)$  the spectrum of  $T$  ( $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ ) and by  $C(T)$ , the algebra of operators commuting with  $T$ ,  $C(T) = \{ Q \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}) : QT = TQ \}$ .

If  $T$  is a normal operator on  $\mathcal{H}$ , there exists a unique resolution of the identity  $E$  on  $(\sigma(T), \mathcal{B}(\sigma(T)))$  such that  $T = \int_{\sigma(T)} \lambda dE\lambda$ , i.e.

$$\langle Tx, y \rangle = \int_{\sigma(T)} \lambda E_{x,y}(\lambda) \text{ for all } x, y \in \mathcal{H} \text{ (see [2], [6]).}$$

Moreover,  $Q \in C(T)$  if and only if  $(QE(\omega) = E(\omega)Q$  for all  $\omega \in \mathcal{B}(\sigma(T))$  (see [6], pág. 308). Another version of the spectral theorem says that, if  $T$  is a normal operator on  $\mathcal{H}$ , then there is a finite measure space  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and function  $\varphi \in L^\infty(\mu)$  such that  $T$  is unitarily equivalent to the multiplication operator  $M_\varphi$  on  $L^2(\mu)$ . Furthermore,  $\sigma(M_\varphi) = \text{essential range of } \varphi = \sigma(T)$ . We shall denote by  $E'$  the resolution of the identity on  $(\sigma(T), \mathcal{B}(\sigma(T)))$  associated to  $M_\varphi$ , which is defined by:  $E'(\omega) = M_{\chi_{\varphi^{-1}(\omega)}}$ , so that  $E$  and  $E'$  will be unitarily equivalent.

In what follows, we shall identify the spaces  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $L^2(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ , the operators  $T$  and  $M_\varphi$  and the resolutions of the identity  $E$  and  $E'$ .

**4.1 Theorem.**

Let  $S$  be a closed subspace of  $\mathcal{H}$  and let  $T$  be a normal operator on  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then,  $S$  is  $T$ -invariant and  $T^*$ -invariant ( $TS \subset S$  and  $T^*S \subset S$ ) if and only if  $S$  is the intersection of a family of subspaces  $S_y$  of  $\mathcal{H}$ , where, for each  $y \in \mathcal{B}$ :  $S_y = \{x \in \mathcal{H}; E_{xy} = 0\}$ .

**Proof.**

Since  $E'_{f,g}(\omega) = \langle E'(\omega)f, g \rangle = \int_{\varphi^{-1}(\omega)} f g d\mu$  for all  $\omega \in \mathcal{B}(\sigma(T))$ , by the theorem 1.2 and the above identification the result follows.

**4.2 Theorem.**

Let  $T$  be a normal operator on  $\mathcal{H}$ . The following statements are equivalent:

$$(a) \quad C(T) = \{F(T); F \in L^\infty(\sigma(T))\}$$

(b) The only subspaces  $S$  of  $\mathcal{H}$  which are  $T$ -invariant and  $T^*$ -invariant are the ranges of the spectral projections associated to  $E$ , i.e.,  $S = \text{Im } E(\omega)$  with  $\omega \in \mathcal{B}(\sigma(T))$ .

**Proof.**

Observe that  $F(T) \in C(T)$ , and if  $\sigma(\varphi) = \mathcal{F}$  then,  $F \circ \varphi$  is  $\mathcal{F}$ -measurable for all  $F \in L^\infty(\sigma(T))$ .

We shall show that (a) and (b) are equivalent to (c):  $\sigma(\varphi) \sim \mathcal{A}$  (i.e., they have the same  $\mu$ -completion).

$$(a) \Leftrightarrow (c).$$

If  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{A} \setminus \mathcal{F}$ , then  $M_{\chi_\Lambda} \in C(T)$ , and it does not belong to  $\{F(T); F \in L^\infty(\sigma(T))\}$ . On the other hand, if  $\mathcal{F} \sim \mathcal{A}$ , there exists a cyclic vector of  $T$  in  $\mathcal{H}$ , because the span of  $M_{\varphi^n} M_{\varphi^m} \chi_X$  ( $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ ) is dense in  $L^2(\mu)$  (see theorem 2 in [3] or theorem 1.2 in [4]), and then, we can take,  $X = \sigma(T)$  and  $\varphi(z) = z$  for all  $z \in \sigma(T)$ , in the spectral representation, (see [2], pág. 13). Moreover, if  $Q \in C(T)$ ,  $Q \in C(F(T))$ , i.e.,  $Q M_F = M_F Q$  for all  $F \in L^\infty(\sigma(T))$ . Since  $\{M_F; F \in L^\infty(\sigma(T))\}$  is a maximal abelian algebra (see [2], pág. 21), then,  $Q = M_G$  for some  $G \in L^\infty(\sigma(T))$  or equivalently  $Q = G(T)$ .

$$(c) \Leftrightarrow (b)$$

If  $S$  is  $T$  and  $T^*$ -invariant and  $\mathcal{F} \sim \mathcal{A}$ , by using theorem 1.2 of [4] it follows that  $S = L^2(\varphi^{-1}(\omega_0))$ , where  $\varphi^{-1}(\omega_0)$  is the support of  $S$ .

Reciprocally if  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $L^2(\Lambda, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  is a subspace of  $\mathcal{H}$  which is  $\varphi$  and  $\varphi^*$ -invariant, and then, there exists  $\omega \in \sigma(T)$  such that  $L^2(\Lambda, \mathcal{A}, \mu) = \text{Im } E(\omega) = L^2(\varphi^{-1}(\omega), \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and thus  $\Lambda = \varphi^{-1}(\omega) \mu$ -a.e., i.e.,  $\mathcal{A} \sim \mathcal{F}$ .

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