

# Gel'fand Theory of the Commutative Banach Algebra $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ with the Convolution Product

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**Abstract:** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an algebra and  $\mathcal{I}$  be an ideal in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then  $\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{I}$  is an algebra with pointwise linear operations and the convolution product  $(a, x)(b, y) = (ab + xy, ay + xb)$   $((a, x), (b, y) \in \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{I})$ ; it will be denoted by  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . If  $\mathcal{A}$  is a commutative Banach algebra and  $\mathcal{I}$  is a closed ideal in  $\mathcal{A}$ , then  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is also a commutative Banach algebra with some suitable norm. In this paper, we shall study the Gel'fand theory, uniqueness properties, and regularity of  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ .

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## 1. Introduction

Consider the group  $\mathbb{Z}_2 = \{0, 1\}$  with the binary operation addition modulo 2. Then  $\ell^1(\mathbb{Z}_2)$  is a Banach algebra with convolution product. For  $f, g \in \ell^1(\mathbb{Z}_2)$ , the convolution product of  $f$  and  $g$  is defined as

$$f * g = (f(0)g(0) + f(1)g(1), f(0)g(1) + f(1)g(0)).$$

This motivates the following product. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an algebra and  $\mathcal{I}$  be an ideal in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is an algebra with pointwise linear operations and the *convolution product* defined as  $(a, x)(b, y) = (ab + xy, ay + xb)$   $((a, x), (b, y) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . It is commutative (resp. unital) iff  $\mathcal{A}$  is commutative (resp. unital). Further, If  $\mathcal{A}$  is a normed algebra (resp. Banach algebra), then  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is a normed algebra (resp. Banach algebra) with the norm  $\|(a, x)\|_1 = \|a\| + \|x\|$   $((a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ .

## 2. Basic Results

Throughout the paper, let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an algebra and  $\mathcal{I}$  be an ideal in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}_{-1}$  denote the set of all quasi invertible elements of  $\mathcal{A}$ . If  $\mathcal{A}$  is unital,  $\mathcal{A}^{-1}$  is the set of all invertible elements of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Further,  $\sigma_{\mathcal{A}}(a)$  and  $r_{\mathcal{A}}(a)$  denote the spectrum and the spectral radius of  $a$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then we have the following.

**Proposition 2.1.** Let  $(a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Then

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- (1).  $(a, x) \in (\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})^{-1}$  iff  $a + x, a - x \in \mathcal{A}^{-1}$ ;
- (2).  $(a, x) \in (\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})_{-1}$  iff  $a + x, a - x \in \mathcal{A}_{-1}$ ;
- (3).  $\sigma_{\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}}((a, x)) = \sigma_{\mathcal{A}}(a + x) \cup \sigma_{\mathcal{A}}(a - x)$ ;
- (4).  $r_{\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}}((a, x)) = \max\{r_{\mathcal{A}}(a + x), r_{\mathcal{A}}(a - x)\}$ .

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a normed algebra and  $\mathcal{I}$  be closed in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  has a left approximate identity iff  $\mathcal{A}$  has a left approximate identity. (Similar results are true for right, bounded left, bounded right approximate identity.)*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  has a left approximate identity  $((e_\alpha, x_\alpha))_{\alpha \in \Lambda}$  and  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ . Then

$$\|e_\alpha a - a\| \leq \|e_\alpha a - a\| + \|x_\alpha a\| = \|(e_\alpha, x_\alpha)(a, 0) - (a, 0)\|_1$$

converges to 0 as  $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$ . Thus  $(e_\alpha)$  is a left approximate identity for  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  has a left approximate identity  $(e_\alpha)$ . Then,

$$\|(e_\alpha, 0)(a, x) - (a, x)\|_1 = \|(e_\alpha a, e_\alpha x) - (a, x)\|_1 = \|(e_\alpha a - a) + (e_\alpha x - x)\|_1$$

converges to 0 as  $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$  for every  $(a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Thus  $(e_\alpha, 0)$  is a left approximate identity for  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Therefore  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  has a left approximate identity. The proof for the bounded approximate identity follows from the fact that a sequence  $((e_\alpha, x_\alpha))$  in  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is bounded then the sequence  $(e_\alpha)$  is bounded in  $\mathcal{A}$  and if a sequence  $(e_\alpha)$  is bounded in  $\mathcal{A}$ , then the sequence  $((e_\alpha, 0))$  is bounded in  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ .  $\square$

**Remark 2.3.** *Let  $\|\cdot\|$  be a norm on an algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{I}$  be an ideal of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $\|(a, x)\|_\infty = \max\{\|a\|, \|x\|\}$  ( $(a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ ). Then  $\|\cdot\|_\infty$  is a linear norm but it may not be an algebra norm on  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ .*

**Definition 2.4.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an algebra. Then*

- (1). *An algebra norm  $\|\cdot\|$  on  $\mathcal{A}$  is a uniform norm if  $\|a^2\| = \|a\|^2$  ( $a \in \mathcal{A}$ ).*
- (2).  *$\mathcal{A}$  is a uniform algebra if it admits a complete uniform norm.*
- (3). *An algebra norm  $\|\cdot\|$  on a  $*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is a  $C^*$ -norm if  $\|a^*a\| = \|a\|^2$  ( $a \in \mathcal{A}$ ).*

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $\mathcal{I}$  be an ideal in a normed algebra  $(\mathcal{A}, \|\cdot\|)$  and  $(a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Define  $|(a, x)| := \max\{\|a + x\|, \|a - x\|\}$ . Then*

- (1).  *$|\cdot|$  is an algebra norm on  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ ;*
- (2).  *$|\cdot|$  is a uniform norm on  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  iff  $\|\cdot\|$  is a uniform norm on  $\mathcal{A}$ ;*
- (3). *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a  $*$ -algebra and  $\mathcal{I}$  be a  $*$ -ideal in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then  $|\cdot|$  is a  $C^*$ -norm on  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  iff  $\|\cdot\|$  is a  $C^*$ -norm on  $\mathcal{A}$ .*

**Corollary 2.6.** *Let  $\mathcal{I}$  be a closed ideal in a Banach algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is a uniform algebra iff  $\mathcal{A}$  is a uniform algebra.*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{I}$  be a closed ideal in a Banach algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . Since  $\mathcal{A} \cong \mathcal{A} \times \{0\}$  is a closed subalgebra of  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  is a uniform algebra whenever  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is a uniform algebra. Conversely, let  $\|\cdot\|$  be the complete uniform norm on  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then, by Lemma 2.5(2),  $|\cdot|$  is a uniform norm on  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Next, let  $((a_n, x_n))$  be a Cauchy sequence in  $(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}, |\cdot|)$ . Then, for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\|a_n\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \{\|a_n + x_n\| + \|a_n - x_n\|\} \leq \max\{\|a_n + x_n\|, \|a_n - x_n\|\} = |(a_n, x_n)|.$$

This implies that  $(a_n)$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $(\mathcal{A}, \|\cdot\|)$ . Since  $\|\cdot\|$  is a complete norm on  $\mathcal{A}$ , the sequence  $(a_n)$  converges to some  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ . By the similar argument, it follows that the sequence  $(x_n)$  converges to some  $x \in \mathcal{I}$ . Hence the sequence  $((a_n, x_n))$  converges to  $(a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Thus  $|\cdot|$  is a complete uniform norm on  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ .  $\square$

### 3. Gel'fand Space and Shilov Boundary

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a commutative Banach algebra and  $\mathcal{I}$  be a closed ideal in  $\mathcal{A}$ . In this section, we calculate the Gel'fand space  $\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Note that the Gel'fand space of  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is very much different from the Gel'fand space of  $\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{B}$  (see [4]).

**Notations 3.1.** Let  $\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{I})$  and  $u \in \mathcal{I}$  such that  $\varphi(u) = 1$ . Define  $\varphi^+, \varphi^- : \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  as  $\varphi^+((a, x)) := \varphi(au) + \varphi(x)$  and  $\varphi^-((a, x)) := \varphi(au) - \varphi(x)$   $((a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . We note that  $\varphi^+, \varphi^-$  are independent of  $u$ . Let  $F \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A})$ . Define  $F^+ := \{\varphi^+ : \varphi \in F\}$  and  $F^- := \{\varphi^- : \varphi \in F\}$ .

**Lemma 3.2.** Let  $F \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A})$  and  $G \subset \Delta(\mathcal{I})$ . Then

- (1).  $F^+, F^- \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ ;
- (2).  $G^+, G^- \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ ;
- (3).  $G^+ \cap G^- = F^+ \cap G^- = F^- \cap G^+ = \emptyset$ .

*Proof.* (1) Let  $\varphi \in F$ . Choose  $u \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\varphi(u) = 1$ . Then  $\varphi^+((u, 0)) = 1 \neq 0$ . It is clear that  $\varphi^+$  is linear. We show that  $\varphi^+$  is multiplicative. Also,  $\varphi(au) = \varphi(a)$ . So we have  $\varphi^+((a, x)) = \varphi(a) + \varphi(x)$ . Let  $(a, x), (b, y) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi^+((a, x)(b, y)) &= \varphi^+(ab + xy, ay + xb) = \varphi(ab + xy) + \varphi(ay + xb) \\ &= \varphi(a)\varphi(b) + \varphi(x)\varphi(y) + \varphi(a)\varphi(y) + \varphi(x)\varphi(b) \\ &= (\varphi(a) + \varphi(x))(\varphi(b) + \varphi(y)) = \varphi^+((a, x))\varphi^+((b, y)). \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\varphi^+ \in \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Hence,  $F^+ \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . By similar arguments, it follows that  $F^- \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ .

(2) Let  $\varphi \in G$ . Let  $u \in \mathcal{I}$  be such that  $\varphi(u) = 1$ . Then it is clear that  $\varphi^-$  is a nonzero linear function on  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . To show that  $\varphi^-$  is multiplicative, let  $(a, x), (b, y) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi^-((a, x)(b, y)) &= \varphi^-((ab + xy, ay + xb)) = \varphi((ab + xy)u) - \varphi(ay + xb) \\ &= \varphi(au)\varphi(bu) + \varphi(x)\varphi(y) - \varphi(au)\varphi(y) - \varphi(x)\varphi(bu) \\ &= (\varphi(au) - \varphi(x))(\varphi(bu) - \varphi(y)) = \varphi^-((a, x))\varphi^-((b, y)). \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\varphi^- \in \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Hence,  $G^- \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . By similar arguments, it follows that  $G^+ \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ .

(3) Suppose that  $\tilde{\eta} \in F^+ \cap G^-$ . Then there exist  $\varphi \in F, \psi \in G$  such that  $\varphi^+ = \tilde{\eta} = \psi^-$  on  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Then,  $2\varphi(x) = \varphi^+((x, x)) = \psi^-((x, x)) = 0$   $(x \in \mathcal{I})$ . Thus  $\varphi \equiv 0$  on  $\mathcal{I}$ . Therefore,  $\psi(x) = \psi^-((x, 0)) = \varphi^+((x, 0)) = \varphi(x) = 0$   $(x \in \mathcal{I})$ . Thus  $\psi \equiv 0$  on  $\mathcal{I}$ , a contradiction. Hence  $F^+ \cap G^- = \emptyset$ . By similar arguments, it follows that  $G^+ \cap G^- = F^- \cap G^+ = \emptyset$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a commutative Banach algebra and  $\mathcal{I}$  be a closed ideal of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then  $\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \cong \Delta^+(\mathcal{A}) \uplus \Delta^-(\mathcal{I})$ .

*Proof.* It follows from Lemma 3.2 that  $\Delta^+(\mathcal{A}) \uplus \Delta^-(\mathcal{I}) \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ .

For the reverse inclusion, let  $\tilde{\eta} \in \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Define  $\varphi(a) = \tilde{\eta}((a, 0))$  on  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\psi(x) = \tilde{\eta}((0, x))$  on  $\mathcal{I}$ . Then  $\tilde{\eta}((a, x)) = \varphi(a) + \psi(x)$   $((a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Also, if  $\varphi \equiv 0$  on  $\mathcal{A}$ , then  $\psi(x)^2 = \tilde{\eta}((0, x))^2 = \tilde{\eta}((0, x)^2) = \tilde{\eta}((x, 0))^2 = \varphi(x)^2 = 0$   $(x \in \mathcal{I})$ .

Hence  $\tilde{\eta} \equiv 0$  on  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . This is not possible. Therefore, there exists  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\varphi(a) \neq 0$ . Also,  $\varphi(ab) = \tilde{\eta}((ab, 0)) = \tilde{\eta}((a, 0))\tilde{\eta}((b, 0)) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$  ( $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$ ). Hence  $\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$ . Now, there are two cases.

**Case -(i):**  $\tilde{\eta} = 0$  on  $\{0\} \times \mathcal{I}$ . So that  $\psi = 0$  on  $\mathcal{I}$ . Therefore, for every  $x \in \mathcal{I}$ ,

$$\varphi(x)^2 = \tilde{\eta}((x, 0))^2 = \tilde{\eta}((x, 0)^2) = \tilde{\eta}((0, x)^2) = \tilde{\eta}((0, x))^2 = 0.$$

So  $\varphi(x) = 0$  ( $x \in \mathcal{I}$ ). Hence,  $\varphi = \psi$  on  $\mathcal{I}$ . Also, for  $(a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ ,

$$\tilde{\eta}((a, x)) = \tilde{\eta}((a, 0)) + \tilde{\eta}((0, x)) = \varphi(a) + \psi(x) = \varphi(a) + \varphi(x) = \varphi^+((a, x)).$$

Thus we get  $\tilde{\eta} = \varphi^+ \in \Delta^+(\mathcal{A})$ .

**Case-(ii):**  $\tilde{\eta} \neq 0$  on  $\{0\} \times \mathcal{I}$ . So that  $\psi \neq 0$  on  $\mathcal{I}$ . Since  $\psi$  is linear, there exists  $y \in \mathcal{I}$  such that  $\psi(y) = 1$ . Then, for each  $x \in \mathcal{I}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(x) &= \varphi(x)\psi(y) = \tilde{\eta}((x, 0))\tilde{\eta}((0, y)) = \tilde{\eta}((x, 0)(0, y)) \\ &= \tilde{\eta}((0, xy)) = \tilde{\eta}((y, 0)(0, x)) = \varphi(y)\psi(x) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Now,  $\varphi(y)^2 = \tilde{\eta}((y, 0))^2 = \tilde{\eta}((y, 0)^2) = \tilde{\eta}((0, y)^2) = \psi(y)^2 = 1$  implies that  $\varphi(y) = \pm 1$ . If  $\varphi(y) = 1$ , then from equation (1),  $\varphi(x) = \psi(x)$  ( $x \in \mathcal{I}$ ). So that

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\eta}((a, x)) &= \varphi(a) + \psi(x) = \varphi(a)\varphi(y) + \varphi(x) \\ &= \varphi(ay) + \varphi(x) = \varphi^+((a, x)) \quad ((a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\tilde{\eta} = \varphi^+ \in \Delta^+(\mathcal{A})$ . If  $\varphi(y) = -1$ , then from equation (1), we get  $\varphi(x) = -\psi(x)$  ( $x \in \mathcal{I}$ ) and  $\varphi(u) = 1$ , where  $u = -y$ . So that

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\eta}((a, x)) &= \varphi(a) + \psi(x) = \varphi(a)\varphi(u) - \varphi(x) \\ &= \varphi(au) - \varphi(x) = \varphi^-((a, x)) \quad ((a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\tilde{\eta} = \varphi^- \in \Delta^-(\mathcal{I})$ . Hence  $\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \subset \Delta^+(\mathcal{A}) \uplus \Delta^-(\mathcal{I})$ . Thus  $\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$  and  $\Delta^+(\mathcal{A}) \uplus \Delta^-(\mathcal{I})$  are set theoretically same. By arguments as in [4, Theorem 2.2], we can show that they are homeomorphic.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.4** ([6, Corollary 3.3.4]). *Let  $X$  be a locally compact Hausdorff space, and let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a subalgebra of  $C_0(X)$  which strongly separates the points of  $X$ . Then a point  $x \in X$  belongs to the Shilov boundary of  $\mathcal{A}$  if and only if given any open neighbourhood  $U$  of  $x$ , there exist  $f \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\|f|_{X \setminus U}\|_\infty < \|f|_U\|_\infty$ .*

**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a commutative Banach algebra and  $\mathcal{I}$  be a closed ideal of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then  $\partial(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) = \partial^+(\mathcal{A}) \uplus \partial^-(\mathcal{I})$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\varphi_0 \in \partial\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $\tilde{U}$  be a neighborhood of  $\varphi_0^+$ . Set  $U = \{\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A}) : \varphi^+ \in \tilde{U}\} \cup \{\psi \in \Delta(\mathcal{I}) : \psi^- \in \tilde{U}\}$ . Then  $U$  is a neighborhood of  $\varphi_0$ . Therefore, by Theorem 3.4, there exists  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\|\hat{a}|_{\Delta(\mathcal{A}) \setminus U}\|_\infty < \|\hat{a}|_U\|_\infty$ . If  $\psi^- \in \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \setminus \tilde{U}$ , then  $\psi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A}) \setminus U$ . If  $\varphi^+ \in \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \setminus \tilde{U}$ , then  $\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A}) \setminus U$ . This gives  $\|(a, 0)^\wedge|_{\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \setminus \tilde{U}}\|_\infty = \|\hat{a}|_{\Delta(\mathcal{A}) \setminus U}\|_\infty$ . Also  $(a, 0)^\wedge(\varphi^+) = \hat{a}(\varphi)$  for every  $\varphi^+ \in \tilde{U}$ . Hence

$$\|(a, 0)^\wedge|_{\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \setminus \tilde{U}}\|_\infty = \|\hat{a}|_{\Delta(\mathcal{A}) \setminus U}\|_\infty < \|\hat{a}|_U\|_\infty = \|(a, 0)^\wedge|_{\tilde{U}}\|_\infty.$$

Therefore, by Theorem 3.4,  $\varphi_0^+ \in \partial(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Thus  $\partial^+(\mathcal{A}) \subset \partial(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Let  $\psi_0 \in \partial\mathcal{I}$ . Let  $\tilde{V}$  be a neighborhood of  $\psi_0^-$ . Set  $V = \{\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A}) : \varphi^+ \in \tilde{V}\} \cup \{\psi \in \Delta(\mathcal{I}) : \psi^- \in \tilde{V}\}$ . Then  $V$  is a neighborhood of  $\psi_0$ . Therefore, by Theorem 3.4, there exists  $x \in \mathcal{I}$  such that  $\|\hat{x}|_{\Delta(\mathcal{I}) \setminus V}\|_\infty < \|\hat{x}|_V\|_\infty$ . If  $\psi^- \in \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \setminus \tilde{V}$ , then  $(x, -x)^\wedge(\psi^-) = 2\hat{x}(\psi)$ . If  $\varphi^+ \in \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \setminus \tilde{V}$ , then  $(x, -x)^\wedge(\varphi^+) = 0$ . This gives  $\|(x, -x)^\wedge|_{\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \setminus \tilde{V}}\|_\infty = 2\|\hat{x}|_{\Delta(\mathcal{I}) \setminus V}\|_\infty$ . Hence

$$\|(x, -x)^\wedge|_{\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \setminus \tilde{V}}\|_\infty = 2\|\hat{x}|_{\Delta(\mathcal{I}) \setminus V}\|_\infty < 2\|\hat{x}|_V\|_\infty = \|(x, -x)^\wedge|_{\tilde{V}}\|_\infty.$$

Therefore, by Theorem 3.4,  $\psi_0^- \in \partial(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Thus  $\partial^-(\mathcal{I}) \subset \partial(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ .

For the reverse inclusion, let  $\varphi_0^+ \in \partial(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Let  $U$  be a neighborhood of  $\varphi_0 \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$ . Then  $\tilde{U} = U^+$  is a neighborhood of  $\varphi_0^+$  in  $\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Since  $\varphi_0^+ \in \partial(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ , by Theorem 3.4, there exists  $(a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  such that  $\|(a, x)^\wedge|_{\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \setminus \tilde{U}}\|_\infty < \|(a, x)^\wedge|_{\tilde{U}}\|_\infty$ . This gives  $\|(a, x)^\wedge|_{\Delta(\mathcal{A}) \setminus U}\|_\infty < \|(a, x)^\wedge|_U\|_\infty$ . Therefore  $\varphi_0 \in \partial\mathcal{A}$ .

Let  $\psi_0^- \in \partial(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Let  $V$  be a neighborhood of  $\psi_0 \in \Delta(\mathcal{I})$ . Then  $V^-$  is a neighborhood of  $\psi_0^-$  in  $\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Since  $\psi_0^- \in \partial(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ , by Theorem 3.4, there exists  $(a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  such that  $\|(a, x)^\wedge|_{\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \setminus V^-}\|_\infty < \|(a, x)^\wedge|_{V^-}\|_\infty$ . Hence  $\|(a, x)^\wedge|_{\Delta(\mathcal{I}) \setminus V}\|_\infty \leq \|(a, x)^\wedge|_V\|_\infty$ . Therefore, by Theorem 3.4,  $\psi_0 \in \partial\mathcal{I}$ . Hence  $\partial(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \subset \partial^+(\mathcal{A}) \uplus \partial^-(\mathcal{I})$ .  $\square$

**Remark 3.6.** Let  $\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{I})$ . Then there exists  $u \in \mathcal{I}$  such that  $\varphi(u) = 1$ . Define *Opt. Lett.*  $\varphi(a) := \varphi(au)$ . Then *Opt. Lett.*  $\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$ . Thus every  $\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{I})$  can be extended to  $\Delta(\mathcal{A})$ . Therefore,  $\Delta(\mathcal{I}) \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A})$ . Also, it is clear that  $\Delta(\mathcal{A}) = \Delta(\mathcal{I}) \cup \{\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A}) : \mathcal{I} \subset \ker \varphi\}$ . Hence  $\Delta^+(\mathcal{A}) \cup \Delta^-(\mathcal{I}) = \Delta^+(\mathcal{A}) \cup \Delta^-(\mathcal{A})$  as sets.

**Theorem 3.7.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a commutative Banach algebra and  $\mathcal{I}$  be closed ideal in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is semisimple if and only if  $\mathcal{A}$  is semisimple.

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is semisimple. Let  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\varphi(a) = 0$  ( $\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$ ). Let  $\psi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$  and  $u \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\psi(u) = 1$ . Then  $\psi^+((a, 0)) = \psi(au) + \psi(0) = \psi(a)\psi(u) + 0 = 0$ . Now let  $\psi \in \Delta(\mathcal{I})$ . Then, by Remark 3.6, *Opt. Lett.*  $\psi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$ . So, by the assumption,  $\psi(av) = \text{Opt. Lett. } \psi(a) = 0$ . Hence  $\psi^-((a, 0)) = \psi(av) = 0$ . Thus  $\tilde{\eta}((a, 0)) = 0$  for all  $\tilde{\eta} \in \Delta^+(\mathcal{A}) \uplus \Delta^-(\mathcal{I})$ . Since  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is semisimple,  $(a, 0) = (0, 0)$  gives  $a = 0$ . Thus  $\mathcal{A}$  is semisimple.

Conversely, suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  is semisimple. Let  $(a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  be such that  $\tilde{\eta}((a, x)) = 0$  ( $\tilde{\eta} \in \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ ). Let  $\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$ . Then  $\varphi^+, \varphi^- \in \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . So that  $\varphi^+((a, x)) = \varphi^-((a, x)) = 0$ . Then  $\varphi(a) + \varphi(x) = \varphi(a) - \varphi(x) = 0$ . Hence  $\varphi(a) = \varphi(x) = 0$ . Since  $\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$  is arbitrary and  $\mathcal{A}$  is semisimple, we get  $a = x = 0$ . Hence  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is semisimple.  $\square$

## 4. Uniqueness and Separation Properties

We start with the following lemma which will be used in the proofs of main results.

**Lemma 4.1.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a semisimple, commutative Banach algebra and  $\mathcal{I}$  be a closed ideal in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $\tilde{F} \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Define  $F_{\mathcal{A}} = \{\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A}) : \varphi^+ \in \tilde{F} \text{ or } \varphi^- \in \tilde{F}\}$ . Then

- (1).  $F_{\mathcal{A}}^+ \cup F_{\mathcal{A}}^- = \tilde{F}$ ;
- (2). If  $\tilde{F}$  is closed, then  $F_{\mathcal{A}}$  is closed in  $\Delta(\mathcal{A})$ ;
- (3). If  $\tilde{F}$  is a set of uniqueness for  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ , then so is  $F_{\mathcal{A}}$  for  $\mathcal{A}$ .

*Proof.* (1) This is trivial.

(2) Suppose that  $\tilde{F} \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$  is closed. Let  $\varphi \in \text{Opt. Lett. } F_{\mathcal{A}}$ . Then there exists a net  $(\varphi_\alpha)$  in  $F_{\mathcal{A}}$  such that  $\varphi_\alpha \rightarrow \varphi$ . Then we get a subnet  $(\varphi_{\alpha_i})$  of  $(\varphi_\alpha)$  such that either  $\{\varphi_{\alpha_i}^+\} \subset \tilde{F}$  or  $\{\varphi_{\alpha_i}^-\} \subset \tilde{F}$ . Also,  $\varphi_{\alpha_i}^+ \rightarrow \varphi^+$  and  $\varphi_{\alpha_i}^- \rightarrow \varphi^-$ . Since  $\tilde{F}$  is closed, either  $\varphi^+ \in \tilde{F}$  or  $\varphi^- \in \tilde{F}$ . So that  $\varphi \in F_{\mathcal{A}}$ . Thus  $F_{\mathcal{A}}$  is closed in  $\Delta(\mathcal{A})$ .

(3) Suppose that  $\tilde{F}$  is a set of uniqueness for  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Let  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\hat{a}|_{F_{\mathcal{A}}} = 0$ . Then  $(a, 0)^\wedge(\varphi^+) = \varphi(a) = \hat{a}(\varphi) = 0 = (a, 0)^\wedge(\varphi^-)$  ( $\varphi \in F_{\mathcal{A}}$ ). Thus  $(a, 0)^\wedge = 0$  on  $\tilde{F}$ . This implies that  $(a, 0) = (0, 0)$  as  $\tilde{F}$  is a set of uniqueness for  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Thus  $a = 0$ . Hence  $F_{\mathcal{A}}$  is a set of uniqueness for  $\mathcal{A}$ .  $\square$

**Definition 4.2** ([1, 3]). An algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  has unique uniform norm property (UUNP) if  $\mathcal{A}$  has exactly one uniform norm.

**Theorem 4.3.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a semisimple, commutative Banach algebra and  $\mathcal{I}$  be a closed ideal in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  has UUNP if and only if  $\mathcal{A}$  has UUNP.

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  have UUNP. Let  $F \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A})$  be a closed set of uniqueness for  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then  $F^+ \uplus F^-$  is a closed subset of  $\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Moreover, it is also a set of uniqueness for  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Since  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  has UUNP, by [3, Theorem 2.3],  $\partial^+(\mathcal{A}) \uplus \partial^-(\mathcal{I}) \subset F^+ \uplus F^-$ . Since  $\Delta^+(\mathcal{A})$  and  $\Delta^-(\mathcal{I})$  are disjoint,  $\partial^+(\mathcal{A}) \subset F^+$ . So,  $\partial\mathcal{A} \subset F$ . Thus  $\partial\mathcal{A}$  is the smallest closed set of uniqueness for  $\mathcal{A}$ . Hence, by [3, Theorem 2.3],  $\mathcal{A}$  has UUNP.

Conversely, suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  has UUNP. Since  $\mathcal{A}$  is semisimple,  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is also semisimple by Theorem 3.7. Let  $\tilde{F} \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$  be a closed set of uniqueness for  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Then, by Lemma 4.1,  $F_{\mathcal{A}}$  is a closed set of uniqueness for  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $F_{\mathcal{A}}^+ \uplus F_{\mathcal{A}}^- = \tilde{F}$ . Since  $\mathcal{A}$  has UUNP, by [3, Theorem 2.3],  $\partial\mathcal{A} \subset F_{\mathcal{A}}$ . Hence  $\partial^+(\mathcal{A}) \subset F_{\mathcal{A}}^+$ . Also we may assume that  $\mathcal{A}$  has identity due to [2, Theorem 3.1]. Then, by [6, Theorem 3.4.13],  $\partial\mathcal{I} \subset \partial\mathcal{A}$ . Therefore  $\partial\mathcal{I} \subset F_{\mathcal{A}}$ . Which implies that  $\partial^-(\mathcal{I}) \subset F_{\mathcal{A}}^-$ . Hence

$$\partial(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) = \partial^+(\mathcal{A}) \uplus \partial^-(\mathcal{I}) \subset F_{\mathcal{A}}^+ \uplus F_{\mathcal{A}}^- = \tilde{F}.$$

Thus  $\partial(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$  is the smallest closed set of uniqueness for  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Hence, again by [3, Theorem 2.3],  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  has UUNP.  $\square$

**Definition 4.4** ([1, 3]). A  $*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  has unique  $C^*$ -norm property (UC\*NP) if  $\mathcal{A}$  has exactly one  $C^*$  norm.

**Theorem 4.5.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a  $*$ -semisimple, Banach  $*$ -algebra and  $\mathcal{I}$  be a closed  $*$ -ideal of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then

(1). If  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  has UC\*NP, then  $\mathcal{A}$  has UC\*NP;

(2). Suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  is commutative. If  $\mathcal{A}$  has UC\*NP, then  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  has UC\*NP.

*Proof.* (1) Suppose that  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  has UC\*NP. Let  $|\cdot|_{\mathcal{A}}$  be the largest  $C^*$ -norm on  $\mathcal{A}$ . Define  $|(a, x)| = \max\{|a+x|_{\mathcal{A}}, |a-x|_{\mathcal{A}}\}$  ( $(a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ ). Then, by Lemma 2.5 (3),  $|\cdot|$  is a  $C^*$ -norm on  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Now, let  $|||\cdot|||_{\mathcal{A}}$  be any  $C^*$ -norm on  $\mathcal{A}$ . Define  $|||(a, x)||| = \max\{|||a+x|||_{\mathcal{A}}, |||a-x|||_{\mathcal{A}}\}$  ( $(a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ ). Then, by Lemma 2.5 (3),  $|||\cdot|||$  is also a  $C^*$ -norm on  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Hence, by the hypothesis,  $|\cdot| = |||\cdot|||$  on  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$ . Now,

$$|||a|||_{\mathcal{A}} = \max\{|||a|||_{\mathcal{A}}, |||a|||_{\mathcal{A}}\} = |||(a, 0)||| = |(a, 0)| = |a|_{\mathcal{A}} \quad (a \in \mathcal{A}).$$

Thus  $\mathcal{A}$  has UC\*NP.

(2) Suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  is commutative and it has UC\*NP. Since  $\mathcal{I}$  is a closed  $*$ -ideal in  $\mathcal{A}$ , by Theorem 2.2 of [1],  $\mathcal{I}$  has UC\*NP. Let  $\Delta^h(\mathcal{A})$  denote the Hermitian Gel'fand space of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $\tilde{F}$  be a proper closed subset of  $\Delta^h(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Set  $F_{\mathcal{A}} = \{\varphi \in \Delta^h(\mathcal{A}) : \varphi^+ \in \tilde{F} \text{ or } \varphi^- \in \tilde{F}\}$ . Then  $F_{\mathcal{A}}$  is a proper closed subset of  $\Delta^h(\mathcal{A})$  such that  $F_{\mathcal{A}}^+ \uplus F_{\mathcal{A}}^- = \tilde{F}$ . Since  $\mathcal{A}$  has UC\*NP, by [1, Proposition 1.3], there exists a nonzero element  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\hat{a}|_{F_{\mathcal{A}}} = 0$ . Then  $(a, 0)^\wedge|_{\tilde{F}} = \hat{a}|_{F_{\mathcal{A}}} = 0$ . Therefore, by [1, Proposition 1.3],  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  has UC\*NP.  $\square$

**Definition 4.6.** A semisimple, commutative algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is weakly regular if for each proper closed set  $F \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A})$ , there exists  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\widehat{a}|_F = 0$ .

**Theorem 4.7.**  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is weakly regular if and only if  $\mathcal{A}$  is weakly regular.

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  be weakly regular. Let  $F$  be a proper closed subset of  $\Delta(\mathcal{A})$ . Then  $F^+ \cup F^-$  is a proper closed subset of  $\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Hence, by the hypothesis, there exists a non-zero element  $(a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  such that  $(a, x)^\wedge|_{F^+ \cup F^-} = 0$ . This implies that  $(a, x)^\wedge|_{F^+} = 0$  and  $(a, x)^\wedge|_{F^-} = 0$ . Then  $(a + x)^\wedge(\varphi) = (a, x)^\wedge(\varphi^+) = 0$  and  $(a - x)^\wedge(\varphi) = (a, x)^\wedge(\varphi^-) = 0$  ( $\varphi \in F$ ). Thus  $(a + x)^\wedge|_F = (a - x)^\wedge|_F = 0$ . Also, note that either  $a + x \neq 0$  or  $a - x \neq 0$  as  $(a, x)$  is non-zero. Hence  $\mathcal{A}$  is weakly regular.

Conversely, assume that  $\mathcal{A}$  is weakly regular. Let  $\widetilde{F}$  be a proper closed subset of  $\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$ . Then, by Lemma 4.1,  $F_{\mathcal{A}}$  is a proper closed subset of  $\Delta(\mathcal{A})$  such that  $F_{\mathcal{A}}^+ \cup F_{\mathcal{A}}^- = \widetilde{F}$ . Therefore, by the hypothesis, there exists  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\widehat{a}|_{F_{\mathcal{A}}} = 0$ . Now let  $\widetilde{\eta} \in \widetilde{F}$ . Then either  $\widetilde{\eta} = \varphi^+$  or  $\widetilde{\eta} = \varphi^-$  for some  $\varphi \in F_{\mathcal{A}}$ . Suppose that  $\widetilde{\eta} = \varphi^+$  for some  $\varphi \in F_{\mathcal{A}}$ . Then  $(a, 0)^\wedge(\widetilde{\eta}) = (a, 0)^\wedge(\varphi^+) = \varphi(a) = \widehat{a}(\varphi) = 0$ . Similarly, if  $\widetilde{\eta} = \varphi^-$ , then also  $(a, 0)^\wedge(\widetilde{\eta}) = 0$ . Thus, in each case,  $(a, 0)^\wedge(\widetilde{\eta}) = 0$ . Therefore  $(a, 0)^\wedge|_{\widetilde{F}} = 0$ . Hence  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is weakly regular.  $\square$

**Definition 4.8.**  $\mathcal{A}$  is regular if for every closed set  $F \subset \Delta(\mathcal{A})$  and an element  $\varphi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A}) \setminus F$ , there exists an element  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\widehat{a}(\varphi) = 1$  and  $\widehat{a}|_F = 0$ .

**Theorem 4.9.**  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is regular if and only if  $\mathcal{A}$  is regular.

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  be regular. Let  $F$  be a closed subset of  $\Delta(\mathcal{A})$  and  $\psi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A}) \setminus F$ . Then  $F^+$  is a closed subset of  $\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$  and  $\psi^+ \in \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \setminus (F^+)$ . Hence, by the hypothesis, there exists  $(a, x) \in \mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  such that  $(a, x)^\wedge|_{F^+} = 0$  and  $(a, x)^\wedge(\psi^+) = 1$ . This implies that  $(a + x)^\wedge(\varphi) = \varphi^+((a, x)) = (a, x)^\wedge(\varphi^+) = 0$  ( $\varphi \in F$ ) and  $(a + x)^\wedge(\psi) = (a, x)^\wedge(\psi^+) = 1$ . Thus  $\mathcal{A}$  is regular.

Conversely, assume that  $\mathcal{A}$  is regular. Since  $\mathcal{A}$  is semisimple,  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is also semisimple. Let  $\widetilde{F}$  be a closed subsets of  $\Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I})$  and  $\widetilde{\psi} \in \Delta(\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}) \setminus \widetilde{F}$ . Then, by Lemma 4.1,  $F_{\mathcal{A}}$  is a proper closed subset of  $\Delta(\mathcal{A})$  such that  $F_{\mathcal{A}}^+ \cup F_{\mathcal{A}}^- = \widetilde{F}$ . Also, either  $\widetilde{\psi} = \psi^+$  or  $\widetilde{\psi} = \psi^-$  for some  $\psi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A}) \setminus F_{\mathcal{A}}$ , by Remark 3.6. Therefore, by the hypothesis, there exists  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\widehat{a}|_{F_{\mathcal{A}}} = 0$  and  $\widehat{a}(\psi) = 1$ . Now let  $\widetilde{\eta} \in \widetilde{F}$ . Then either  $\widetilde{\eta} = \varphi^+$  or  $\widetilde{\eta} = \varphi^-$  for some  $\varphi \in F_{\mathcal{A}}$ . Suppose that  $\widetilde{\eta} = \varphi^+$  for some  $\varphi \in F_{\mathcal{A}}$ . Then  $(a, 0)^\wedge(\widetilde{\eta}) = (a, 0)^\wedge(\varphi^+) = \varphi(a) = \widehat{a}(\varphi) = 0$ . Similarly, if  $\widetilde{\eta} = \varphi^-$ , then also  $(a, 0)^\wedge(\widetilde{\eta}) = 0$ . Thus, in each case,  $(a, 0)^\wedge(\widetilde{\eta}) = 0$ . Therefore  $(a, 0)^\wedge|_{\widetilde{F}} = 0$ . Also,  $(a, 0)^\wedge(\widetilde{\psi}) = 1$ . Hence  $\mathcal{A} \times_c \mathcal{I}$  is regular.  $\square$

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