

## **A-realcompact spaces.**

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### **Abstract**

Relations between homomorphisms on a real function algebra and different properties (such as being inverse-closed and closed under bounded inversion) are studied.

## **1 Introduction and notation**

By a function algebra  $A$  on  $X$  we mean a family of real-valued functions on  $X$  such that: 1)  $A$  is a linear algebra with unit under operations defined pointwise, 2)  $A$  separates points on  $X$  and 3)  $A$  is closed under bounded inversion, that is, if  $f \in A$  and  $f \geq 1$ , then  $\frac{1}{f} \in A$ . We denote by  $Hom(A)$  the family of all  $A$ -homomorphisms, that is, non null multiplicative real linear functionals on  $A$ , endowed with the Gelfand topology.

$Hom(A)$  has been intensively studied when  $X$  is a completely regular Hausdorff space and  $A$  is  $C(X)$  (see [12]). In recent years different papers have been devoted to study homomorphisms on some subalgebras of  $C(X)$ , for example algebras of differentiable functions have been considered in [1]-[5], [14] and [15]. As can be seen in the quoted papers, in studying function algebras frequently one needs results asserting that a homomorphism is the evaluation at some point of the supporting space. This paper is devoted to elaborate a general theory related with this subject.

## 2 Single-set evaluating algebras and $A$ -realcompactness

2.1.- Let  $X$  be a completely regular Hausdorff space,  $Y \subset X$  and  $f : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  a continuous map. If  $f$  has a continuous extension to  $p \in X \setminus Y$ , this extension will be denoted by  $\hat{f}(p)$ . For  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $Z(f) = \{x \in X : f(x) = 0\}$ . A set  $S \subset Y$  is a zero set if there exists  $g \in C(Y)$  such that  $S = Z(g)$  and  $\bar{S}^X$  is the closure of  $S$  in  $X$ . As usual  $\beta X$  denotes the Stone-Čech compactification of  $X$ .

2.2.- The elements of any function algebra can be considered as uniformly continuous functions on  $X$  in the following sense. Denote by  $A_b$  the subalgebra of all bounded functions in  $A$ . Let  $U_A$  be the uniformity generated on  $X$  by  $A_b$ , that is  $U_A$  is defined by the pseudometrics

$$d_f(x, y) = |f(x) - f(y)|; \quad f \in A_b, x, y \in X.$$

Let  $\tau_A$  denote the topology induced by  $U_A$  on  $X$ . Since  $A$  separates points in  $X$ ,  $(X, \tau_A)$  is a completely regular Hausdorff space. All topological notions on  $X$  are assumed in the  $\tau_A$  topology.

Denote by  $X_A$  the completion of the uniform space  $(X, U_A)$ , then  $X_A$  is a compact Hausdorff space and  $X$  can be considered as a dense subspace of  $X_A$ . It is known that each  $f \in A_b$  has a unique continuous extension  $\hat{f}$  to  $X_A$ . Set  $\hat{A} = \{\hat{f} : f \in A_b\}$ .  $\hat{A}$  separates points in  $X_A$  ([7]) then, by the Stone-Weierstrass theorem,  $\hat{A}$  is a dense subspace of  $C(X_A)$  in the uniform norm.

2.3.- The following result from [7] will be used in the sequel:

**Theorem.** *Let  $A$  be a function algebra on  $X$ , then*

- (a)  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}(A_b)$  if and only if there exists a (unique)  $p \in X_A$  such that  $\varphi(f) = \hat{f}(p)$  for every  $f \in A$ . Moreover  $X_A$  is (homeomorphic to) the maximal ideal space of  $A_b$ ;
- (b)  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}(A)$  if and only if there exists a (unique) point  $p \in X_A$  such that, every  $f \in A$  has a finite continuous extension  $\hat{f}(p)$  to  $p$  and  $\varphi(f) = \hat{f}(p)$ . The set  $I(A)$  of all such  $p$ , with the topology induced by  $X_A$ , is (homeomorphic to) the maximal ideal space of  $A$ .

2.4.- In what follows we associate to a given function algebra  $A$  the spaces  $X_A$  and  $I(A)$  defined above. Moreover, we identify  $\text{Hom}(A)$  with  $I(A)$  and  $X$  with a (dense) subset of  $X_A$ . Thus we have the inclusions,

$$X \subset I(A) \subset X_A.$$

In studying properties of homomorphisms it is important to have conditions to recognize points in  $I(A) \setminus X$ . It is easy to verify that for a point  $p \in X_A \setminus X$  the following assertions are equivalents:

- (a)  $p \in I(A)$ ;
- (b) for every  $f \in A$ , there exists a net  $\{x_\lambda\}$  in  $X$  such that  $x_\lambda \rightarrow p$  and  $f(x_\lambda)$  is bounded;
- (c) for every  $f \in A$ , there exists a neighbourhood  $V$  of  $p$  in  $X_A$  such that  $f(V \cap X)$  is bounded.

2.5.- We need some definitions: a function algebra  $A$  on  $X$  is called *single-set evaluating* if, for every  $\varphi \in A$  and each  $f \in A$ , there exists  $x \in X$  such that  $\varphi(f) = f(x)$ .  $A$  is called *inverse-closed* if for every  $f \in A$  such that  $Z(f) = \emptyset$ ,  $\frac{1}{f} \in A$ . It is easy to prove that inverse-closed algebras are single-set evaluating. There exist single-set evaluating algebras which are not inverse-closed [6].

2.6.- Given a nonempty set  $X$ ,  $(A, B)$  is called a *subordinated pair* [7] on  $X$  if: i)  $A$  and  $B$  are function algebras on  $X$ ; ii)  $B \subset A$ ; iii) every homomorphism on  $B$  has an extension to a homomorphism on  $A$ .

2.7.- **Theorem.** *For a function algebra  $A$  on  $X$  the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (a)  $A$  is single-set evaluating;
- (b) For all  $p \in I(A) \setminus X$ , if  $f \in A$  and  $0 < f \leq 1$ , then  $\hat{f}(p) \neq 0$ ;
- (c)  $(RA, A)$  is a subordinated pair, where  $RA$  the smallest inverse-closed algebra on  $X$  containing  $A$ .

**Proof.**

- i) Suppose that (a) holds but (b) does not. Fix  $p \in I(A) \setminus X$  and  $h \in A$  such that  $0 < h \leq 1$  and  $\hat{h}(p) = 0$ . Since evaluation at  $p$  is a homomorphism on  $A$ ,  $A$  is not single-set evaluating.
- ii) Suppose that (b) holds and  $A$  is not single-set evaluating. Take  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}(A)$ ,  $p \in I(A)$  and  $k \in A$  such that  $\varphi(g) = \hat{g}(p)$  for every  $g \in A$  and  $\varphi(k) \neq k(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ . Set  $h(x) = (k(x) - \varphi(k))^2$  and  $f(x) = \frac{h(x)}{1+h(x)}$ . Then  $\hat{f}(p) = \varphi(f) = 0$  and  $0 < f(x) \leq 1$ . This contradicts (b).
- iii) For (a) implies (c) see lemma 16 of [6].
- iv) Since  $RA$  is inverse-closed it is single-set evaluating. If  $(RA, A)$  is a subordinated pair, then  $A$  is single-set evaluating.

■

2.8.- Recall that a completely regular Hausdorff space  $Y$  is realcompact [12] if every  $C(Y)$ -homomorphism is the evaluation at some point  $p$  in  $Y$ . This concept can be generalized in the following way: if  $A$  is a function algebra on  $X$ ,  $X$  is said to be *A-realcompact* if every  $A$ -homomorphism is the evaluation at some point  $p$  of  $X$ . A similar notion was used in [8], [16] and [17].

**2.9.- Remarks.**

- 1) If  $A_b = A$ , then  $X$  is  $A$ -realcompact if and only if  $X$  is compact (in the  $\tau_A$  topology). When  $X_A \setminus X \neq \emptyset$  we can obtain  $A$ -realcompactness only when  $A$  contains an unbounded function. In particular if  $(X, \tau)$  is a pseudocompact noncompact, completely regular Hausdorff space and  $A = C(X)$ , then  $X$  is not  $A$ -realcompact.
- 2) Notice that if  $A$  and  $B$  are function algebras on  $X$ ,  $B \subset A$ , with  $X$   $A$ -realcompact, then  $X$  is  $B$ -realcompact if and only if  $(A, B)$  is a subordinated pair.

2.10.- **Proposition.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be function algebras on  $X$  with  $B$  uniformly dense in  $A$ . Then  $(A, B)$  is a subordinated pair.*

**Proof.** Since  $B_b$  is uniformly dense in  $A_b$ , the spaces  $C(X_A)$  and  $C(X_B)$  are isomorphic, thus by the Banach-Stone theorem (see [12])  $X_A$  and  $X_B$  are homeomorphic. We may identify  $X_A$  and  $X_B$ . Fix a homomorphism  $\varphi$  on  $B$  and a point  $p \in X_A$  such that for every  $f \in B$ ,  $\varphi(f) = \hat{f}(p)$ . We will finish our proof by showing that every  $g \in A$  has a (unique) continuous finite extension to  $p$ . Fix  $g \in A$  and  $f \in B$  such that  $\sup_{x \in X} |f(x) - g(x)| \leq 1$ . There exist a neighbourhood  $V$  of  $p$  in  $X_A$  and a positive constant  $M$  such that for every  $y \in V \cap X$ ,  $|f(y)| \leq M$ . Then for every  $y \in V \cap X$ ,  $|g(y)| \leq M + 1$ , now the assertion follows from 2.4. ■

In [10] (proposition 1.8) was proved the following fact: if  $X$  is a realcompact space and  $A \subset C(X)$  is a subalgebra with unit, closed under bounded inversion, uniformly dense in  $C(X)$ , then  $Hom(A) = X$ . Our next result, as an application of proposition 2.10 (see remark 2.9.2), provides a natural extension.

2.11.- **Corollary.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be function algebras on  $X$ ,  $B \subset A$ . If  $B$  is uniformly dense in  $A$  and  $X$  is  $A$ -realcompact, then  $X$  is  $B$ -realcompact.*

2.12.- **Theorem.** *Let  $A$  be a single-set evaluating algebra on  $X$ . Then  $X$  is  $A$ -realcompact if and only if  $X$  is  $RA$ -realcompact (see (c) in 2.7). Moreover if  $A$  is inverse-closed, then  $X$  is  $A$ -realcompact if and only if for every  $p \in X_A \setminus X$ , there exists*

$$f \in A_b, \quad 0 < f \leq 1, \quad \text{such that } \hat{f}(p) = 0. \quad (1)$$

**Proof.** The first part follows from theorem 2.7, the remark 2) in 2.9 and the construction of  $RA$ .

For the second part suppose first that  $X$  is  $A$ -realcompact. Suppose that  $p \in X_A \setminus X$ . Taking into account that  $p \notin I(A) = X$ , there exists  $f \in A \setminus A_b$  such that for every net  $\{x_\lambda\}$  in  $X$ , with  $x_\lambda \rightarrow p$ ,  $f(x_\lambda)$  is unbounded (see the last assertion in 2.4). Then  $\hat{h}(p) = 0$  and  $0 < h(x) \leq 1$  for  $x \in X$ , where  $h(x) = \frac{1+f^2(x)}{1+f^4(x)}$ .

Suppose now that for all  $p \in X_A \setminus X$  there exists  $f \in A$  such that  $0 < f \leq 1$  and  $\hat{f}(p) = 0$ . By defining  $g(x) = \frac{1}{f(x)}$ , we have that  $g \in A$

and for every net  $\{x_\lambda\}$  in  $X$ ,  $x_\lambda \rightarrow p$ ,  $\{g(x_\lambda)\}$  is not bounded. This completes the proof. ■

**2.13.- Remark.** In general condition (1) does not imply  $A$ -realcompactness. For example, let  $X$  be the real interval  $(0,1]$  and  $A$  the restriction of continuous functions in  $[0,1]$  to  $(0,1]$ . In this case the condition holds but  $X$  is not  $A$ -realcompact (notice that  $X_A = [0,1]$ ).

**2.14.- Theorem.** *Let  $A$  be a function algebra. Then  $X_A$  is the Stone-Čech compactification of  $X$  if and only if for any disjoint zero sets  $S$  and  $T$  in  $X$ , there exists  $f \in A$ , such that*

$$0 \leq f \leq 1, \quad f(S) = \{0\} \text{ and } f(T) = \{1\}. \quad (2)$$

**Proof.** If  $A$  satisfies (2) by theorem 11 of [11],  $A_b$  is uniformly dense in the space  $C_b(X)$  of all real continuous bounded functions on  $X$ , then  $\beta X = X_A$ .

On the other hand if  $\beta X = X_A$ ,  $A_b$  is dense in  $C_b(X)$  and the result follows again from theorem 11 of [11]. ■

From theorems 2.12 and 2.14 we obtain a proof of the following result due to S. Mrówka (proposition 3.11.10 in [9]).

**2.15.- Corollary.** *Let  $X$  be a completely regular Hausdorff space. Then  $X$  is realcompact if and only if for every  $p \in \beta X \setminus X$ , there exists  $f \in C(X)$  such that  $0 < f(x) \leq 1$ ,  $x \in X$ , and  $\hat{f}(p) = 0$ .*

The next result extends Theorem 2 of [15]. Jaramillo presented in [15] different examples of function algebras for which Theorem 2.16 may be applied.

**2.16.- Theorem.** *Let us suppose that a function algebra  $A$  on  $X$  satisfies the following conditions:*

(a) *for every  $f, g \in A$  and  $\rho, \epsilon > 0$ , if the sets*

$$P_\epsilon(f) = \{x : |f(x)| \leq \epsilon\} \text{ and } Q_\rho(g) = \{x : |g(x)| \geq \rho\}$$

are not empty and disjoint, there exists  $h \in A$ ,  $0 \leq h \leq 1$ , such that

$$h(P_\epsilon(f)) = \{0\} \text{ and } h(Q_\rho(g)) = \{1\};$$

(b) given an open (in the  $\tau_A$  topology) cover  $\{H_n\}$  of  $X$ , such that  $\overline{H_n} \subset H_{n+1}$ , and  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ , if there exists a sequence  $f_n$  in  $A$  such that  $f_n|_{H_n} = f|_{H_n}$ , then  $f \in A$ ;

(c) for every  $p \in X_A \setminus X$  there exists  $\overline{g} \in C(X_A)$  which satisfies (1).

Then  $X$  is  $A$ -realcompact.

**Proof.** Let  $\varphi$  be a homomorphism on  $A$ . There exists  $p \in X_A$  such that  $\varphi(f) = \hat{f}(p)$  for every  $f \in A$ . We will show that  $p \in X$ .

Suppose that  $p \in X_A \setminus X$ , take  $g \in C(X_A)$  such that  $0 < g \leq 1$  and  $\hat{g}(p) = 0$ . Set

$$E_n = \{x \in X_A : g(x) > \frac{1}{2^n}\}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

We may suppose that each  $E_n$  is not empty. Since  $\hat{A}$  is dense in  $C(X_A)$ , there exists a sequence  $\{f_n\}$  in  $A_b$  such that

$$\| \hat{f}_n - g \|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{2^{n+3}} \text{ and } \| \hat{f}_n - \hat{f}_{n+1} \|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{2^{n+3}},$$

where  $\| \cdot \|_\infty$  denotes the sup norm in  $C(X_A)$ . Set

$$F_n = \{x \in X_A : | \hat{f}_n(x) | \geq \frac{1}{2^n}\}.$$

It is easy to prove that for  $n \geq 2$ ,  $E_{n-1} \subset F_n \subset E_{n+1}$ .

Now we have that  $(X \cap \bigcup_{n \in \mathbf{N}} E_n) = \bigcap_{n \in \mathbf{N}} X \cup F_n$ , thus  $\{F_{2n} \cap X\}$  is an increasing open cover of  $X$ . For each  $n \geq 2$  take  $g_n \in A$ ,  $0 \leq g_n \leq 1$ , such that

$$g_n(F_{2n+2}^c \cap X) = \{1\} \text{ and } g_n(\overline{F_{2n}} \cap X) = \{0\}.$$

Notice that  $\hat{g}_n(p) = 1$ , thus  $\varphi(\hat{g}_n) = 1$ . The function  $f(x) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} g_n(x)$ ,

$x \in X$  is well defined. Set  $k_n(x) = \sum_{j=2}^n g_j(x)$ . Since  $k_n \in A$ ,  $f \in A$ .

It is easy to see that for every  $x \in X$  and each  $n$ ,  $k_n(x) \leq f(x)$ , then  $\varphi(f) \geq \varphi(k_n) = \sum_{j=1}^n \varphi(g_j) = n$  (see 1.4 of [13]), this says that  $\varphi(f) = \infty$ , a contradiction. ■

2.17.- Theorem 2.3 gives a representation of the real maximal ideal of  $A$  but, as the following result will prove, we can not expect to obtain a one to one relation between  $z$ -ultrafilters and maximal ideals. The notion on  $z$ -filter is used as in [12]. An ideal in  $A$  is a proper ideal. For an ideal  $I$ ,  $Z(I) = \{Z(f) : f \in I\}$ . If  $J$  is a  $z$ -filter  $J_A^{-1} = \{f \in A : Z(f) \in J\}$ .

2.18.- **Theorem.** *Let  $A$  be a function algebra which satisfies (2). The following assertion are equivalent:*

(a) *for each maximal ideal  $I$  in  $A$ , there exists  $p \in \beta X$  such that*

$$I = \{f \in A : p \in \overline{Z(f)}^{\beta X}\}.$$

(b) *for each maximal ideal  $I$  in  $A$ , there exists a maximal ideal  $J$  in  $C(X)$  such that  $I \subset J$ ;*

(c) *for each maximal ideal  $I$  in  $A$ ,  $Z(I)$  is a  $z$ -ultrafilter;*

(d)  *$A$  is inverse-closed.*

**Proof.** Since  $A$  satisfies (2), for every zero set  $P$  in  $X$  there exists  $f \in A$  such that  $Z(f) = P$ .

The assertions (a) implies (b) and (b) implies (a) follow directly from the Gelfand-Kolmogorov theorem ([12], 7.3).

(b) implies (c) Fix maximal ideals  $I$  and  $J$  in  $A$  and  $C(X)$  respectively, with  $I \subset J$ .  $Z_A^{-1}(Z(J))$  is an ideal in  $A$ . Therefore,  $I = Z_A^{-1}(Z(J))$ . Since  $Z(I) = Z(J)$ ,  $Z(I)$  is a  $z$ -ultrafilter.

(c) implies (b) Fix a maximal ideal  $I$  in  $A$ , since  $Z(I)$  is a  $z$ -ultrafilter  $J = \{f \in C(X) : Z(f) \in Z(I)\}$  is a maximal ideal in  $C(X)$  containing  $I$ .

(c) implies (d) Take  $f \in A$  such that  $Z(f) = \emptyset$  and set  $I = \{gf : g \in A\}$ . Since  $f \in I$ ,  $I$  can not be an ideal, therefore  $I = A$ .

(d) implies (c) Fix an ideal  $I$  in  $A$ . Since  $A$  is inverse closed  $\emptyset \notin Z(I)$ . On the other hand, if  $f, g \in I$  and  $h \in A$ ,  $Z(f^2 + g^2) = Z(f) \cap Z(g)$  and  $Z(f) \subset Z(fg) = Z(g)$ . ■



### 3 The sequentially evaluating property

3.1.- A function algebra  $A$  on  $X$  is called *sequentially evaluating* if, for every  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}(A)$  and each sequence  $\{f_n\}$  in  $A$ , there exists  $x \in X$  such that  $\varphi(f_n) = f_n(x)$ , for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . This property has been intensively studied in [2]. As far as we know the use of this property goes back to S. Mazur (see the note to statement A of [8]). If a function algebra  $A$  on  $X$  has the sequentially evaluating property, then every homomorphism on  $A$  is sequentially continuous on  $A_p$ , where  $A_p$  is the algebra  $A$  endowed with the pointwise convergence topology. This fact was noticed for some particular algebras in [2] and [6].

3.2.- Denote by  $[A \cup C(X_A)]$  the closed under bounded inversion algebra on  $X$  generated by  $A$  and  $C(X_A)$ . By setting

$$A_1 := \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^n f_k g_k : f_k \in A, g_k \in C(X_A), n \in \mathbb{N} \right\},$$

we have that  $[A \cup C(X_A)] = \{h_1/h_2 : h_1, h_2 \in A_1, h_2 \geq 1\}$ .

3.3.- **Theorem.** *Let  $A$  be a single-set evaluating algebra on  $X$ . The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (a)  *$A$  has the sequentially evaluating property.*
- (b) *Each zero set in  $X_A \setminus X$  does not meet  $I(A)$ .*
- (c)  *$[A \cup C(X_A)]$  is single-set evaluating.*

**Proof.** Suppose that (a) holds and (b) fails, then there exists a zero set  $P \subset X_A \setminus X$  such that  $P \cap I(A) \neq \emptyset$ . Fix  $q \in P \cap I(A)$  and let  $\varphi$  be the evaluation at  $q$ . Since  $P$  is a zero set, there exists  $f \in C(X_A)$  such that  $P = Z(f)$ . Since  $\hat{A}$  is dense in  $C(X_A)$  for the uniform norm, there exists  $\{f_n\}$  in  $A_b$ , with  $\hat{f}_n \rightarrow f$  uniformly on  $X_A$ . We have that  $\varphi(f_n) = \hat{f}_n(q) \rightarrow f(q) = 0$ . Set  $g_n = f_n - \varphi(f_n) \in A_b$ . According to the above arguments  $\hat{g}_n \rightarrow f$  uniformly on  $X_A$  and  $\varphi(g_n) = 0$ . By the sequentially evaluating property there exists  $x_0 \in X$  such that  $\varphi(g_n) = g_n(x_0) = 0$ . This says that  $\lim_n g_n(x_0) = f(x_0) = 0$  and we have a contradiction.

(b) implies (c) Suppose that (b) holds and let  $\varphi$  be a homomorphism on  $[A \cup C(X_A)]$ . We will prove that for each  $h \in [A \cup C(X_A)]$ ,

$Z(h - \varphi(h)) \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $\varphi$  is a homomorphism on  $A$  ( $C(X_A)$ ), there exists  $p \in I(A)$  ( $q \in C(X_A)$ ) such that, for each  $f \in A$  ( $g \in C(X_A)$ )  $\varphi(f) = \hat{f}(p)$  ( $\varphi(g) = \hat{g}(q)$ ). Since  $A_b \subset A \cap C(X_A)$ , for each  $f \in A_b$ ,  $\hat{f}(p) = \hat{f}(q)$ . Taking into account that  $\hat{A}$  separates points in  $X_A$ , we have that  $p = q$ . Now if  $f \in (A \cup C(X_A))$ , set  $g_f = f - \varphi(f)$ . If  $Z(g) \cap X = \emptyset$ , then  $Z(g) \cap I(A) = \emptyset$  and this is not possible ( $p \in Z(g) \cap I(A)$ ).

Since for every  $f \in A$ ,  $\frac{(f - \varphi(f))^2}{1 + (f - \varphi(f))^2}$  has a continuous extension to  $X_A$ , we have that for any  $h \in A_1$  (see 3.2),  $Z(h - \varphi(h)) \neq \emptyset$ . In fact, if  $f_1, \dots, f_n \in A$  and  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in C(X_A)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \emptyset &\neq Z\left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(f_k - \varphi(f_k))^2}{1 + (f_k - \varphi(f_k))^2} + (g_k - \varphi(g_k))^2\right) \\ &\subset Z\left(\sum_{k=1}^n (f_k - \varphi(f_k))g_k + \varphi(f_k)(g_k - \varphi(g_k))\right) \\ &= Z\left(\sum_{k=1}^n f_k g_k - \varphi\left(\sum_{k=1}^n f_k g_k\right)\right) \end{aligned}$$

Now if  $h_1, h_2 \in A_1$  with  $h_2 \geq 1$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} Z\left(\frac{h_1}{h_2} - \varphi\left(\frac{h_1}{h_2}\right)\right) &= Z(\varphi(h_2)h_1 - \varphi(h_1)h_2) \\ &= Z(\varphi(h_2)h_1 - \varphi(h_1)h_2 - \varphi(\varphi(h_2)h_1 - \varphi(h_1)h_2)) \neq \emptyset. \end{aligned}$$

(c) implies (a) Suppose that  $[A \cup C(X_A)]$  is single-set evaluating. Fix  $\psi \in Hom(A)$ . There exists  $p \in I(A)$  such that, for each  $f \in A$ ,  $\psi(f) = \hat{f}(p)$ . Let us prove that  $\psi$  may be extended to a homomorphism  $\varphi$  on  $[A \cup C(X_A)]$ . It is sufficient to prove that every function  $h \in [A \cup C(X_A)]$  has a (unique) continuous extension to  $p$ .

Suppose first that  $h = \sum_{k=1}^n f_k g_k$ , with  $f_k \in A$  and  $g_k \in C(X_A)$ , for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Set  $\hat{h}(p) = \sum_{k=1}^n \hat{f}_k(p) \hat{g}_k(p)$ . We have that, for any net  $\{x_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$  in  $X$ , such that  $x_\lambda \rightarrow p$  in  $X_A$ ,

$$\lim_{\lambda} h(x_\lambda) = \sum_{k=1}^n \lim_{\lambda} f_k(x_\lambda) \lim_{\lambda} g_k(x_\lambda) = \sum_{k=1}^n \hat{f}_k(p) \hat{g}_k(p) = \hat{h}(p).$$

Finally, if  $h = \frac{h_1}{h_2} \in [A \cup C(X_A)]$ . with  $h_1, h_2 \in A_1$  ( $h_2 \geq 1$ ), set  $\hat{h}(p) = \frac{\hat{h}_1(p)}{\hat{h}_2(p)}$ . Then, by defining  $\varphi(h) = \hat{h}(p)$  for  $h \in [A \cup C(X_A)]$ , we have that  $\varphi \in Hom([A \cup C(X_A)])$  and  $\varphi(f) = \psi(f)$  for  $f \in A$ .

Now, fix a sequence  $\{f_n\}$  in  $A$ . Set  $g_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^n} \frac{(f_n(x) - \varphi(f_n))^2}{1 + (f_n(x) - \varphi(f_n))^2}$  and  $g = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} g_n$ . We have that  $\hat{g} \in C(X_A)$ . Let us prove that  $\varphi(g) = 0$ .

In fact, notice that the sequence  $\{\sum_{k=1}^n g_k\}$  converges uniformly to  $g$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^n g_k \leq g$ . Then, given  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $n$  such that  $\|\sum_{k=1}^n g_k - g\|_{\infty} < \epsilon$ , it follows that

$$0 = \varphi\left(\sum_{k=1}^n g_k\right) \leq \varphi(g) = \varphi\left(g - \sum_{k=1}^n g_k\right) \leq \epsilon\varphi(1) = \epsilon.$$

Taking into account that  $[A \cup C(X_A)]$  is single-set evaluating, there exist  $x_0 \in X$  such that  $0 = \varphi(g) = g(x_0)$ . Therefore  $\varphi(f_n) = f_n(x_0)$  for each  $n$ . ■

**3.4.- Remark.** If  $A$  is an inverse-closed algebra on  $X$  closed under the uniform convergence, then  $[A \cup C(X_A)] = A$ , and  $A$  has the sequential evaluating property. This assertion can be obtained from the result of S. Mazur quoted in [8] and gives a proof of following fact:  $X$  need not be  $A$ -realcompact when  $A$  is a sequentially evaluating algebra on  $X$ . For certain class of algebras the sequentially evaluating property implies  $A$ -realcompactness (for example if  $X$  is a Lindelöf space in the  $\tau_A$  topology), this just was the main reason for studying this property in [2].

The last proposition in this section can be proved as theorem 2.16.

**3.5.- Proposition.** *If a function algebra  $A$  satisfies conditions (a) and (b) in theorem 2.16 then  $A$  has the sequentially evaluating property.*

**Acknowledgments.** The authors thank the referee for several suggestions which have been incorporated into the final version.

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Recibido: 14 de Octubre de 1996

Revisado: 10 de Abril de 1997