

STRUCTURE THEORY OF COMPLEMENTED BANACH ALGEBRAS

BOHDAN J. TOMIUK

1. Introduction. If A is an H^* -algebra, then the orthogonal complement of a closed right (left) ideal I is a closed right (left) ideal I^\perp . Saworotnow (7) considered Banach algebras which are Hilbert spaces and in which the closed right ideals satisfy the complementation property of an H^* -algebra. In our right complemented Banach algebras we drop the requirement of the existence of an inner product and only assume that for every closed right ideal I there is a closed right ideal I^\perp which behaves like the orthogonal complement in a Hilbert space (Definition 1). Thus our algebras may be considered as a generalization of Saworotnow's right complemented algebras.

We show that a semi-simple right complemented Banach algebra A contains a primitive idempotent (Theorem 1) and that this leads to a determination of the structure of A in terms of its minimal closed two-sided ideals (Theorem 4). If A is a simple right complemented Banach algebra and I is a minimal left ideal in A , then an inner product can be introduced in I for which I is a Hilbert space (Theorem 5). If, in addition, A is a left annihilator algebra (Definition 3), then for every closed left ideal J there is a closed left ideal J' such that $J \cap J' = (0)$ and $\overline{J} + \overline{J'} = A$ (Theorem 6). Moreover, A is continuously isomorphic to an algebra of completely continuous operators on a Hilbert space (Theorem 7), and therefore is an annihilator algebra. From this it follows that a semi-simple left annihilator right complemented Banach algebra is an annihilator algebra (Theorem 8). If A is a simple bicomplemented Banach algebra with the annihilator properties, then A is dual (Theorem 9). Finally, if a simple annihilator right complemented Banach algebra A has the minimal norm property, then A is equivalent to the algebra of all completely continuous operators on a Hilbert space (Theorem 10).

In notation and terminology we follow (6) and (7). An idempotent will always be understood to be a non-zero element, and the radical is taken in the sense of Jacobson (3). If S is any set in a Banach algebra A , \bar{S} will denote the closure of S in A .

2. Right complemented algebras. Let A be a Banach algebra. We shall denote the lattice of all closed right (left) ideals in A by L_r (L_l).

DEFINITION 1. Let A be a complex Banach algebra. We shall call A a right

Received September 14, 1961. Some of the results stated in this paper were taken from the author's doctoral dissertation presented at the Catholic University of America, 1958, and written under the direction of Professor P. Saworotnow.

complemented Banach algebra if there exists a mapping $I \rightarrow I^p$ of L_r into L_r such that:

- (1) If $I \in L_r$, then $I \cap I^p = (0)$
- (2) If $I \in L_r$, then $(I^p)^p = I$
- (3) If $I \in L_r$, then $I \oplus I^p = A$
- (4) If I_1 and I_2 are in L_r , $I_1 \subseteq I_2$, then $I_2^p \subseteq I_1^p$.

Analogously we define a left complemented Banach algebra. If A is both a left and a right complemented Banach algebra, we shall call A a bicomplemented Banach algebra. I^p will be called the complement of I .

It is clear that whatever statement we make about a right complemented Banach algebra also holds for a left complemented Banach algebra if we replace everywhere the word "right" by the word "left" and the word "left" by the word "right." From now on we shall call a right complemented (bicomplemented) Banach algebra simply a right complemented (bicomplemented) algebra.

For any set S in a Banach algebra A , let $l(S) = \{x \in A : xS = (0)\}$ and $r(S) = \{x \in A : Sx = (0)\}$. It is clear that $l(S)$ and $r(S)$ are closed left and right ideals respectively. A Banach algebra A is called an annihilator algebra if $l(A) = r(A) = (0)$, and if for every closed right ideal I and every closed left ideal J , $l(I) \neq (0)$ and $r(J) \neq (0)$. If, in addition, $r[l(I)] = I$ and $l[r(J)] = J$, then A is called a dual algebra. We shall also use I_l and J_r for $l(I)$ and $r(J)$ respectively.

Examples. An annihilator B^* -algebra is a right complemented algebra. In fact, let A be an annihilator B^* -algebra. Let I be a proper closed right ideal in A and I_l be the left annihilator of I . Then $(I_l)^*$ is the complement of I , that is, $I^p = (I_l)^*$. From (1, p. 157) we know that $(I_l)^* \oplus I = A$, $(I_l)^* \cap I = (0)$ and that if I and J are proper closed right ideals in A , $I \subseteq J$, then $(J_l)^* \subseteq (I_l)^*$. We shall show now that $(I^p)^p = ((I_l)^*)_l = I$. Clearly $(I_l)^* = (I^*)_r$ for $xI = (0)$ if and only if $I^*x^* = (0)$. Therefore $(I^p)^p = ((I^p)_l)^* = ((I^p)^*)_r = ((I_l)^*)^*_r = I$. In particular, the algebra of all completely continuous operators on a Hilbert space is a right complemented algebra (6). In fact, all annihilator B^* -algebras are bicomplemented algebras.

LEMMA 1. *Let A be a right complemented algebra such that $r(A) = (0)$. If I is a closed two-sided ideal, then $l(I) = r(I) = I^p$. Moreover, every closed two-sided ideal in A is a right complemented algebra.*

Proof. For any closed two-sided ideal I , we have $I^p I \subset I^p \cap I = (0)$. Let $J = I \cap l(I)$. Then $AJ = (J \oplus J^p)J = (0)$, and so $J = (0)$, $I \cap l(I) = (0)$. Similarly $I \cap r(I) = (0)$ and therefore $l(I) = r(I)$. Also, since $A = I \oplus I^p$, $I^p \subset l(I)$ and $I \cap l(I) = (0)$, it follows that $I^p = l(I)$. Now let R be any closed right ideal in I . Then R is a closed right ideal in A and $R' = R^p \cap I$ is the complement of R in I .

COROLLARY. *If A is a right complemented algebra such that $r(A) = (0)$, then $l(A) = (0)$.*

LEMMA 2. *Let I be a proper closed modular right ideal in a right complemented algebra A . Then I^p contains a left identity modulo I . If e is a left identity modulo I that belongs to I^p , then e is an idempotent, $I = \{x - ex : x \in A\}$ and $I^p = eA$.*

Proof. If e is a left identity modulo I and $e \in I^p$, then $e^2 = e$ (7, p. 50). Let u be a left identity modulo I . Then $u = d + e$ with $u \in I$ and $e \in I^p$, and we have $ex = x$ for all $x \in I^p$, in particular, $e^2 = e$. Also $eI = (0)$ and therefore $I = \{x - ex : x \in A\}$.

LEMMA 3. *Let J be a left ideal in a Banach algebra A such that every element of J is right quasi-regular. Then J is contained in the radical of A .*

Proof. Let R be the right ideal generated by the elements of J . Since left (right) quasi-regularity for $(\alpha + x)y$ is equivalent to left (right) quasi-regularity for $y(\alpha + x)$, where α is a complex number (6, p. 17), R is a quasi-regular right ideal. Thus J belongs to the radical of A .

THEOREM 1. *If A is a non-radical right complemented algebra, then A contains a primitive idempotent.*

Proof. Let $z \in A$ be such that z is not right quasi-regular. Then $Q = \{x - zx : x \in A\}$ is a proper modular right ideal. Let M be a maximal modular right ideal containing Q . Then $z = d + e$ with $d \in M$ and $e \in M^p$, and by Lemma 2, $e^2 = e$. Since M^p is a minimal closed right ideal, e is primitive. Also we have $ez = e$ and $(ze)^2 = z(ez)e = ze$; $ze \neq 0$, otherwise $e \in M \cap M^p = (0)$.

COROLLARY. *If A is a semi-simple right complemented algebra, then every proper left (right) ideal in A contains a primitive idempotent.*

Proof. Let I be a proper left ideal. By Lemma 3, I contains an element z which is not right quasi-regular. As in the proof of Theorem 1, $ez = e \in I$ and e is a primitive idempotent. If I is a proper right ideal, then $ze \in I$ and since Ae is a minimal left ideal, ze is a primitive idempotent.

From Lemma 2 it follows that every maximal modular right ideal M in a right complemented algebra A is of the form $M = \{x - ex : x \in A\}$ where e is a primitive idempotent. If a right complemented algebra A is such that $r(A) = (0)$ we shall say that A is proper. We end this section with the following theorem.

THEOREM 2. *Let A be a proper right complemented algebra, and R be the radical of A . Then R^p is a semi-simple right complemented algebra.*

Proof. Let $A' = R^p$. Since by Lemma 1 $l(A') = R$, every idempotent $e \in A$ belongs to A' and thus every maximal modular right ideal M' in A' is given by $M' = M \cap A'$, where M is a maximal modular right ideal in A .

Hence if R' is the radical of A' , $R' \subseteq R$ and since $R \cap A' = (0)$, $R' = (0)$. By Lemma 1, A' is a right complemented algebra.

3. Semi-simple right complemented algebras.

DEFINITION 2. An idempotent e in a right complemented algebra A is called a left projection if the complement R^p of $R = \{x - ex : x \in A\}$ is eA . If e is primitive we shall say that e is a primitive left projection.

If A is a non-radical right complemented algebra, then A contains a proper closed modular right ideal and by Lemma 2, A therefore contains a left projection. Moreover, if A is a semi-simple annihilator right complemented algebra, then every proper closed right ideal contains a primitive left projection. This follows from the fact that every proper closed right ideal I is contained in a maximal modular right ideal. If e and f are primitive left projections in I and I^p respectively, then $ef = fe = 0$. By Zorn's Lemma there exists a maximal family $\{e_\alpha : \alpha \in \mathfrak{F}\}$ of orthogonal primitive left projections in a semi-simple annihilator right complemented algebra.

THEOREM 3. If $\{e_\alpha : \alpha \in \mathfrak{F}\}$ is a maximal family of orthogonal primitive left projections in a semi-simple annihilator right complemented algebra A , then the ideals

$$\sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{F}} e_\alpha A$$

and

$$\sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{F}} A e_\alpha$$

are dense in A .

Proof. Let

$$I = \overline{\sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{F}} e_\alpha A}$$

and

$$J = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{F}} M_\alpha,$$

where $M_\alpha = \{x - e_\alpha x : x \in A\}$. Then $e_\alpha A \subset I$ for all $\alpha \in \mathfrak{F}$ implies that $I^p \subset J$. But $J \subset M_\alpha$, hence $J^p \supset e_\alpha A$ for all $\alpha \in \mathfrak{F}$ and therefore $J^p = I$, $J = I^p$. If I is proper, then I^p contains a primitive left projection e , and $e_\alpha e = ee_\alpha = 0$ for all $\alpha \in \mathfrak{F}$, a contradiction. Hence $I = A$. Let

$$L = \overline{\sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{F}} A e_\alpha}$$

Then

$$l(L) \subset \bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{J}} M_\alpha$$

and since $I = A$, $l(L) = (0)$ and so $L = A$.

Let A be a semi-simple right complemented algebra and $\Omega = \{e_\alpha : \alpha \in \Lambda\}$ be the set of all primitive idempotents in A . It is easy to see that the sum

$$\sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda} e_\alpha A$$

is a two-sided ideal in A . This follows from the fact that if e is a primitive idempotent in A , then the ideal aeA (or Aea) is either (0) or minimal for every $a \in A$ (**1**, p. 158 or **6**, p. 45). The ideal

$$\sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda} e_\alpha A$$

(which is equal to the ideal

$$\sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda} Ae_\alpha)$$

is called the socle of A and we denote it by \mathfrak{S} .

LEMMA 5. *If A is a semi-simple right complemented algebra, then the socle \mathfrak{S} is dense in A .*

Proof. Let

$$I = \overline{\sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda} e_\alpha A}.$$

If $x \in I^p$, then by Lemma 1, $xe_\alpha = 0$ for all $\alpha \in \Lambda$. Thus I^p is contained in the intersection of all the maximal modular right ideals. Since A is semi-simple, $I^p = (0)$ and we have $I = A$.

THEOREM 4 (structure theorem). *A semi-simple right complemented algebra A is the direct topological sum of its minimal closed two-sided ideals, each of which is a simple right complemented algebra.*

Proof. Let K be the topological sum of all the minimal closed two-sided ideals in A . Since a closed two-sided ideal $[I]$ generated by a minimal right ideal I is a minimal closed two-sided ideal (**1**, p. 158) and since by Lemma 5 the socle is dense in A , it follows that $K = A$. By the proof of Theorem 6 in (**1**), K is also a direct topological sum.

For further analysis of semi-simple right complemented algebras we turn now to simple right complemented algebras.

4. Simple right complemented algebras. Unless otherwise stated, A will stand for a simple right complemented algebra in the following discussion.

LEMMA 6. *Let I be a minimal left ideal in A and let L be the lattice of all closed linear subspaces of I . Then there is a mapping $S \rightarrow S^p$ of L into L such that:*

- (a) If $S \in L$, then $S \cap S^p = (0)$
 (b) If $S \in L$, then $(S^p)^p = S$
 (c) If $S \in L$, then $S \oplus S^p = I$
 (d) If S_1, S_2 are in L , $S_1 \subseteq S_2$, then $S_2^p \subseteq S_1^p$.

Proof. Let R be a closed right ideal in A , that is, $R \in L_r$. Then $x \in I = Ae$ can be written in the form $x = x_1 + x_2$ with $x_1 \in R$ and $x_2 \in R^p$, and since $x = xe$ we have $x_1e = x_1$ and $x_2e = x_2$. Thus $x_1 \in R \cap I$ and $x_2 \in R^p \cap I$. If we let $S = R \cap I$ and $S^p = R^p \cap I$, then $S \cap S^p = (0)$, $(S^p)^p = S$ and $S \oplus S^p = I$. Moreover, if R_1, R_2 are in L_r , $R_1 \subseteq R_2$ and if $S_i = R_i \cap I$, $S_i^p = R_i^p \cap I$, $i = 1, 2$, then $S_1 \subseteq S_2$ and $S_2^p \subseteq S_1^p$. Let L_R be the set of all closed linear subspaces S in I such that $S = R \cap I$ for some $R \in L_r$. Then the mapping $S \rightarrow S^p$ of L_R into L_R enjoys all the properties (a), (b), (c), and (d). Hence to complete the proof we need only show that $L_R = L$. Let S be a proper closed linear subspace of I , and let R_S be the right ideal SA . Let $R = \bar{R}_S$. Then $S \subseteq R \cap I$. If $z \in R \cap I$ then z is the limit of a sequence $\{z_n\}$, $z_n \in R_S$. Since

$$z = ze = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} z_n e$$

and $R_S e \subset S$, it follows that $z \in S$. Thus $S = R \cap I$ and R is a proper closed right ideal. We have $L_R = L$.

THEOREM 5. *Let I be a minimal left ideal in a simple right complemented algebra A . Then an inner product (x, y) can be introduced in I for which I is a Hilbert space and the norm $|x| = (x, x)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ is equivalent to the given norm $\|x\|$ in I .*

Proof. By Lemma 6, $S \rightarrow S^p$ is an involutory anti-automorphism of L onto L and therefore by Theorem 2 in (5) an inner product (x, y) can be introduced in I for which I is a Hilbert space and such that the corresponding norm $|x| = (x, x)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ is equivalent to the given norm $\|x\|$. With respect to this inner product S and S^p become orthogonal complements of each other.

LEMMA 7. *Let e be a left projection in a simple right complemented algebra A . Let I be a minimal left ideal with an inner product (x, y) . Then $(ex, y) = (x, ey)$ for all x, y in I .*

Proof. Let $R = eA$. Then $R^p = \{x - ex : x \in A\}$ and if x, y are in I then $x = x_1 + x_2$ and $y = y_1 + y_2$ with x_1, y_1 in R and x_2, y_2 in R^p . Hence $(ex, y) = (x_1, y_1 + y_2) = (x_1, y_1)$ and $(x, ey) = (x_1 + x_2, y_1) = (x_1, y_1)$ and therefore $(ex, y) = (x, ey)$ for all x, y in I .

If e is a primitive idempotent in A then eAe is isomorphic to the complex number field, and therefore every $0 \neq a \in eA$ gives rise to a unique non-zero bounded linear functional ϕ_a on Ae . In fact $\|\phi_a\| \leq (\|a\|)/(\|e\|)$ (1, p. 161). Thus $a \rightarrow \phi_a$ is a continuous isomorphism of eA into $(Ae)^*$, the dual of Ae . Let Φ be the set of all linear functionals in $(Ae)^*$ corresponding to the elements

of eA . Considering Ae as a Hilbert space Φ can be identified by way of Riesz' representation theorem with a subset of Ae , which we shall denote by S_Φ .

LEMMA 8. *Let Ae be a minimal left ideal in A , then Φ is dense in $(Ae)^*$.*

Proof. Let (x, y) denote the inner product in Ae and let S be the orthogonal complement of the closed linear subspace \bar{S}_Φ . Since for each $a \in eA$ there is a unique $y_a \in S_\Phi$ such that $ax = (x, y_a)e$, $x \in Ae$, it follows that if $x \in S$ then $ax = 0$ for all $a \in eA$; that is, $eAx = (0)$ for $x \in S$. Hence $S = (0)$, S_Φ is dense in Ae and so Φ is dense in $(Ae)^*$.

DEFINITION 3. *Let A be a Banach algebra. If for every proper closed right ideal I in A , $l(I) \neq (0)$, we shall say that A is a left annihilator algebra.*

LEMMA 9. *Let Ae be a minimal left ideal in a simple left annihilator right complemented algebra A . Then $\Phi = (Ae)^*$.*

Proof. It suffices to show that every $\phi \in (Ae)^*$ belongs to Φ . Let $\phi \neq 0$ be an element of $(Ae)^*$ and let S be the null space of ϕ . Let $u \in Ae$ be such that $\phi(u) = 1$. Then $S \oplus (u) = Ae$ and $l(S) \neq (0)$ (**1**, p. 160). If $0 \neq a \in l(S) \cap eA$, then $aS = (0)$ and $au \neq 0$. Hence if we choose $a \in l(S) \cap eA$ such that $au = e$, then $\phi(x)e = ax$ and so $\phi \in \Phi$. Thus, $\Phi = (Ae)^*$ and it follows now that $a \rightarrow \phi_a$ is a continuous isomorphism of eA onto $(Ae)^*$.

COROLLARY 1. *The isomorphism $a \rightarrow \phi_a$ is a homeomorphism of eA onto $(Ae)^*$.*

COROLLARY 2. *If I is a minimal right ideal in A , then an inner product (x, y) can be introduced in I for which I is a Hilbert space and the norm $|x| = (x, x)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ is equivalent to the given norm $\|x\|$ in I .*

THEOREM 6. *Let J be a proper closed left ideal in a simple left annihilator right complemented algebra A . Then there is a left ideal J' in A such that $J \cap J' = (0)$ and $\bar{J} + J' = A$. Moreover, if J_1 and J_2 are closed left ideals, $J_1 \subseteq J_2$, then $J_2' \subseteq J_1'$.*

Proof. Let e be a primitive idempotent in J . Let $S = J \cap eA$ and S^\perp be the orthogonal complement of S in the Hilbert space eA . Then $\overline{AS^\perp}$ is a proper closed left ideal in A . Let $J' = \overline{AS^\perp}$. Then $J \cap J' = (0)$ and by the proof of Lemma 6, $S^\perp = J' \cap eA$. Thus $J + J' \supset eA$ and therefore $\overline{J + J'} = A$.

THEOREM 7 (representation theorem). *Let A be a simple left annihilator right complemented algebra. Then there is a continuous isomorphism of A onto an algebra B of completely continuous operators on a Hilbert space. B contains all the operators of finite rank.*

Proof. Let $I = Ae$ be a minimal left ideal in A . We represent A as an algebra of operators on Ae as follows: for each $a \in A$ let the operator T_a be defined by $T_a: a \rightarrow ax$, $x \in Ae$. Let B be the algebra of all operators T_a , $a \in A$. It is clear that if $a \neq 0$, then $T_a \neq 0$. Since

$$\|T_a\| = \sup_{\|x\|=1} \|ax\| \leq \|a\|, x \in Ae,$$

$a \rightarrow T_a$ is a continuous isomorphism of A onto B . Let F be the algebra of all operators of finite rank on Ae . Then by Lemma 9, $F \subset B$ and by Lemma 5, F is dense in B . Let (x, y) denote the inner product in Ae and $\|x\|_1 = (x, x)^{\frac{1}{2}}$. Since the norms $\| \cdot \|$ and $\| \cdot \|_1$ are equivalent, $a \rightarrow T_a$ is thus a continuous isomorphism of A onto B , an algebra of completely continuous operators on the Hilbert space Ae . By (6, Theorem 2.8.23), B is also an annihilator algebra.

COROLLARY. *A simple left annihilator right complemented algebra is an annihilator algebra.*

THEOREM 8. *A semi-simple left annihilator right complemented algebra A is an annihilator algebra.*

Proof. Since every minimal closed two-sided ideal I in A is a simple left annihilator right complemented algebra (1, Theorem 8), by Corollary to Theorem 7 and (6, Theorem 2.8.29) it follows that A is an annihilator algebra.

LEMMA 10. *Let A be a simple right complemented algebra. Let R be a closed right ideal, I a minimal left ideal in A , and $S = R \cap I$. If an element a in A is such that $ax \in S$ for all $x \in I$, then $a \in R$.*

Proof. Since $a = a_1 + a_2$ with $a_1 \in R$ and $a_2 \in R^p$, $ax = a_1x + a_2x \in S$ for all $x \in I$ implies that $a_2I = (0)$. Thus $a_2 = 0$ and $a \in R$.

COROLLARY. *If R_1 and R_2 are closed right ideals in A with $S_1 = R_1 \cap I$ and $S_2 = R_2 \cap I$, then $S_1 = S_2$ if and only if $R_1 = R_2$.*

THEOREM 9. *A simple annihilator bicomplemented algebra A is dual.*

Proof. Let R be a proper closed right ideal and $I = Ae$ be a minimal left ideal in A . Let R_l be the left annihilator of R , $S = R \cap I$ and $S_l = R_l \cap eA$. It is clear that $S_l \neq (0)$. Let (x, y) denote the inner product in Ae . Then for each $y \in Ae$ there is a unique $b_y \in eA$ such that $(x, y)e = b_yx$, $x \in Ae$, and for each $b \in eA$ there is a unique y_b in Ae such that $(x, y_b)e = bx$, $x \in Ae$. Since $ax \in S$ for $a \in R$ and $x \in Ae$, $(ax, y)e = (b_ya)x$ implies that if $y \in S^p$ then $b_y \in S_l$. Conversely, if $b \in S_l$ then $y_b \in Ae$ belongs to S^p . Thus there is a one-one correspondence between S^p and S_l . Let $S_{lr} = R_{lr} \cap I$. Then $S \subset S_{lr}$. If $x \in S_{lr}$ then $(x, y) = 0$ for $y \in S^p$ and therefore $x \in S$. Thus $S \supset S_{lr}$ and hence $S = S_{lr}$. By the Corollary to Lemma 10, $R_{lr} = R$. Similarly we can show that for every proper closed left ideal J , $J_{rl} = J$. We use a minimal right ideal $I = eA$ and the fact that $(eA)^*$ is equivalent to Ae .

A Banach algebra A is said to have the minimal norm property if $\| \cdot \|$ is a second norm with $\|a\| \leq \| |a| \|$ for all $a \in A$, then $\| \cdot \| = \| | \cdot \|$. A Banach algebra A is a $B^\#$ algebra if for each $a \in A$ there exists an element $a^\# \in A$ such that $a^\# \neq 0$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|(a^\# a)^n\|^{1/n} = \|a^\#\| \|a\|$. Bonsall (2, Theorem 4)

has shown that if A is an annihilator $B^\#$ algebra, then A has the minimal norm property. We conclude this section with the following theorem.

THEOREM 10. *If a simple annihilator right complemented algebra A has the minimal norm property or is a $B^\#$ algebra, then A is bicontinuously isomorphic to the algebra of all completely continuous operators on a Hilbert space.*

Proof. Let $I = Ae$ be a minimal left ideal in A . We use the notation as given in the proof of Theorem 7. If A has the minimal norm property then $\| \cdot \| = \| \cdot \|_1$ and since the norms $\| \cdot \|$ and $\| \cdot \|_1$ are equivalent, it follows that B is the algebra of all completely continuous operators on Ae .

5. Conclusion. We conclude with the following observations: Let A be a semi-simple algebra such that for every closed right ideal I the complement I^ρ is a closed left ideal, then A is commutative. Indeed, since $II^\rho \subset I \cap I^\rho = (0)$ we have $r(I) \supset I^\rho$ and $l(I^\rho) \supset I$. Since A is semi-simple $I \cap r(I) = (0)$ and $I^\rho \cap l(I^\rho) = (0)$; $r(I) = I^\rho$ and $l(I^\rho) = I$. Thus I and I^ρ are closed two-sided ideals. Hence every minimal right ideal I is a minimal closed two-sided ideal. Thus $I = eA = Ae$ and it follows that I is isomorphic to the complex number field. By Theorem 4, the sum $\sum I$ of all minimal closed two-sided ideals is dense in A and since $\sum I$ is commutative, A is commutative. It also follows from Theorem 4 that if each minimal closed two-sided ideal in a semi-simple right complemented algebra A is commutative, then A is commutative.

The author is grateful to Professor F. F. Bonsall for his comments and suggestions which helped to bring this article to its present form.

REFERENCES

1. F. F. Bonsall and A. W. Goldie, *Annihilator algebras*, Proc. London Math. Soc. (3), 4 (1954), 154–167.
2. F. F. Bonsall, *A minimal property of the norm in some Banach algebras*, J. London Math. Soc., 29 (1954), 157–163.
3. N. Jacobson, *The radical and semi-simplicity of arbitrary rings*, Amer. J. Math., 67 (1945), 300–320.
4. L. H. Loomis, *An introduction to abstract harmonic analysis*, New York (1953).
5. I. Kakutani and G. W. Mackey, *Ring and lattice characterization of complex Hilbert space*, Bull. Amer. Math. Soc. 52 (1946), 727–733.
6. C. E. Rickart, *General theory of Banach algebras*, New York (1960).
7. P. Saworotnow, *On a generalization of the notion of H^* -algebra*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc., 8 (1957), 44–55.

*University of Ottawa
and King's College,
University of Durham*