

## ON THE BOUNDARY SPECTRUM IN BANACH ALGEBRAS

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We investigate some properties of the set  $S_{\partial}(a) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : \lambda - a \in \partial S\}$  (which we call the boundary spectrum of  $a$ ) where  $\partial S$  denotes the topological boundary of the set  $S$  of all non-invertible elements of a Banach algebra  $A$ , and where  $a$  is an element of  $A$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARIES

Let  $A$  be a complex Banach algebra with unit 1. We shall denote the spectrum of an element  $a$  in  $A$  by  $\sigma(a)$  and the spectral radius of  $a$  in  $A$  by  $r(a)$  (or by  $\sigma(a, A)$  and  $r(a, A)$  respectively, if the particular Banach algebra needs to be emphasized). The distance from an element  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  to a subset  $E$  of  $\mathbb{C}$  will be denoted by  $d(\alpha, E)$ , and  $\delta(a)$  (or  $\delta(a, A)$ , if necessary) will indicate the distance  $d(0, \sigma(a))$  from 0 to the spectrum of  $a$ . If  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ , then we shall write  $\lambda$  for the element  $\lambda 1$  in  $A$ . We recall that if  $\alpha \notin \sigma(a)$ , then  $d(\alpha, \sigma(a)) = 1 / \left( r((\alpha - a)^{-1}) \right)$  ([1, Theorem 3.3.5]).

If  $E$  is a subset of a metric space  $\mathcal{X}$ , then  $\partial_{\mathcal{X}}E$  denotes the topological boundary of  $E$  and  $\text{int}_{\mathcal{X}}E$  the topological interior of  $E$  relative to  $\mathcal{X}$ . For an  $r > 0$  and an element  $x$  in  $\mathcal{X}$ , the notation  $B_{\mathcal{X}}(x, \varepsilon)$  will be used to denote the open ball relative to  $\mathcal{X}$  with centre  $x$  and radius  $\varepsilon$ . (If the choice of a metric space  $\mathcal{X}$  is clear, the subscript  $\mathcal{X}$  will be dropped.)

In this paper we consider the set  $S_{\partial}(a) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : \lambda - a \in \partial S\}$  (or  $S_{\partial}(a, A)$ , if the particular Banach algebra needs to be emphasized) where  $S$  (or  $S_A$ , if necessary) denotes the set of all non-invertible elements of  $A$ . Some properties of this set are investigated: in particular the relationship between  $S_{\partial}(a, A)$  and  $S_{\partial}(a, B)$  where  $B$  is a closed subalgebra of a Banach algebra  $A$  such that  $B$  contains the unit of  $A$ , and the relationship between  $S_{\partial}(a, A)$  and  $S_{\partial}(Ta, B)$  where  $B$  is another Banach algebra and  $T : A \rightarrow B$  a homomorphism. Finally, some results involving the boundary spectrum  $S_{\partial}(a)$  of a positive element  $a$  in an ordered Banach algebra are obtained.

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2. BOUNDARY SPECTRUM

Let  $A$  be a complex Banach algebra with unit 1 and let  $S$  be the set of all non-invertible elements of  $A$ . Then  $S$  is a closed subset of  $A$ . Define, for  $a \in A$ , the set  $S_\partial(a)$  in the complex plane as follows:

$$S_\partial(a) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : \lambda - a \in \partial S\}$$

We shall call this set the *boundary spectrum* of  $a$  in  $A$ . Also define, for  $a \in A$ ,

$$r_1(a) = \sup\{|\lambda| : \lambda \in \partial\sigma(a)\}$$

and

$$r_2(a) = \sup\{|\lambda| : \lambda \in S_\partial(a)\}.$$

**PROPOSITION 2.1.** *Let  $A$  be a Banach algebra and  $a \in A$ . Then  $\partial\sigma(a) \subseteq S_\partial(a) \subseteq \sigma(a)$ ; and therefore  $r_1(a) = r_2(a) = r(a)$ , and if  $\alpha \notin \sigma(a)$ , then  $d(\alpha, \partial\sigma(a)) = d(\alpha, S_\partial(a)) = d(\alpha, \sigma(a))$ .*

**PROOF:** To prove that  $\partial\sigma(a) \subseteq S_\partial(a)$ , let  $\lambda \in \partial\sigma(a)$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then there exist a  $\lambda_1 \in B(\lambda, \varepsilon) \cap \sigma(a)$  and a  $\lambda_2 \in B(\lambda, \varepsilon) \cap (\mathbb{C} \setminus \sigma(a))$ . If  $b_1 = \lambda_1 - a$  and  $b_2 = \lambda_2 - a$ , then  $b_1 \in S$ ,  $b_2 \notin S$  and  $b_1, b_2 \in B(\lambda - a, \varepsilon)$ . Therefore  $\lambda - a \in \partial S$ , so that  $\lambda \in S_\partial(a)$ . This proves that  $\partial\sigma(a) \subseteq S_\partial(a)$ , and since  $S$  is closed,  $\partial S \subseteq S$ , so that  $S_\partial(a) \subseteq \sigma(a)$ .  $\square$

It follows from Proposition 2.1 that, for every  $a \in A$ , the set  $S_\partial(a)$  is non-empty. Since  $\partial S$  is closed,  $S_\partial(a)$  is closed, and since  $S_\partial(a)$  is contained in the spectrum of  $a$ , it is bounded as well; in fact,  $S_\partial(a) \subseteq \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : |\lambda| \leq r(a)\}$ . Therefore  $S_\partial(a)$  is a compact set.

In general,  $\partial\sigma(a) \neq S_\partial(a)$ . We proceed to illustrate this with an example.

**EXAMPLE 2.2.** ([1, Remark 1, p.56]) Let  $l^2(\mathbb{Z})$  be the Hilbert space of all bilateral square-summable sequences and  $\{e_n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  the orthonormal basis where, for each integer  $n$ , the vector  $e_n$  is  $(\dots, \xi_{-1}, (\xi_0), \xi_1, \dots)$ , where  $\xi_n = 1$  and  $\xi_i = 0$  for all integers  $i$  different from  $n$ . (In this case, the term in round brackets indicates the one corresponding to index zero.) Let  $T, R : l^2(\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow l^2(\mathbb{Z})$  be the weighted shifts

$$Te_n = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = -1 \\ e_{n+1} & \text{if } n \neq -1 \end{cases}$$

and

$$Re_n = \begin{cases} e_0 & \text{if } n = -1 \\ 0 & \text{if } n \neq -1. \end{cases}$$

Then  $0 \in \sigma(T)$  and  $\sigma(T + \lambda R)$  is contained in the unit circle for all  $\lambda \neq 0$ .

Moreover, if  $0 < |\lambda| < 1$ , then  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ . Indeed, if  $\xi_j = 0$  for all  $j \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$  and  $\xi_{-j} = \lambda^{j-1}$  for all  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ , then the (non-zero) element  $(\dots, \xi_{-1}, (\xi_0), \xi_1, \dots)$  of  $l^2(\mathbb{Z})$  is in the kernel of  $T - \lambda I$ .

(The above facts about the operators  $T$  and  $R$  also follow from ([3, Problem 84]).)

**EXAMPLE 2.3.** Let  $l^2(\mathbb{Z})$  be the Hilbert space of all bilateral square-summable sequences,  $A$  the Banach algebra  $\mathcal{L}(l^2(\mathbb{Z}))$  of all bounded linear operators on  $l^2(\mathbb{Z})$  and  $T$  the element of  $A$  defined in Example 2.2. Then  $\partial\sigma(T)$  is properly contained in  $S_\partial(T)$ .

**PROOF:** Let  $(\lambda_n)$  be a sequence different from zero converging to zero,  $R$  the operator defined in Example 2.2 and  $T_n = T + \lambda_n R$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ). Then  $\|T_n - T\| \rightarrow 0$ . Moreover, by Example 2.2, each  $T_n$  is invertible and  $T$  is not invertible. Hence  $T \in \partial S$ . Therefore  $-T \in \partial S$ , and so  $0 \in S_\partial(T)$ . However, Example 2.2 together with the remark thereafter imply that  $0$  is an interior point of  $\sigma(T)$ , and so  $0 \notin \partial\sigma(T)$ .  $\square$

We recall the following well-known property of boundary points of the set of invertible (or non-invertible) elements:

**THEOREM 2.4.** ([10, Theorem 2.5, p. 397]) *Let  $A$  be a Banach algebra and  $a \in A$ . If  $a \in \partial S$ , then  $a$  is a topological divisor of zero.*

From the above theorem we immediately obtain the following property of the boundary spectrum of  $a$ :

**COROLLARY 2.5.** *Let  $A$  be a Banach algebra and  $a \in A$ . If  $\lambda \in S_\partial(a)$ , then  $\lambda - a$  is a topological divisor of zero.*

**LEMMA 2.6.** *Let  $A$  be a Banach algebra,  $a \in \partial S$  and  $d$  an invertible element. Then  $ad \in \partial S$  and  $da \in \partial S$ .*

**PROOF:** If  $a \in \partial S$  and  $d$  is invertible, then for each  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exist elements  $c_1 \in S \cap B(a, (\varepsilon/\|d\|))$  and  $c_2 \in (A \setminus S) \cap B(a, (\varepsilon/\|d\|))$ . It follows that  $c_1 d \in S \cap B(ad, \varepsilon)$  and  $c_2 d \in (A \setminus S) \cap B(ad, \varepsilon)$ . Hence  $ad \in \partial S$ , and similarly  $da \in \partial S$ .  $\square$

It follows from Lemma 2.6 that  $a \in \partial S$  if and only if  $\lambda a \in \partial S$ , for all  $\lambda \neq 0$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.7.** *Let  $a$  be an invertible element of a Banach algebra  $A$ . Then  $S_\partial(a^{-1}) = (S_\partial(a))^{-1}$ .*

**PROOF:** For any  $\lambda \neq 0$  and any invertible element  $a \in A$  we have  $\lambda - a^{-1} = \lambda(a - (1/\lambda))a^{-1}$ . So if  $\lambda \in S_\partial(a^{-1})$ , then  $\lambda(a - (1/\lambda))a^{-1} \in \partial S$ . It follows from Lemma 2.6 that  $a - (1/\lambda) \in \partial S$ , so that  $1/\lambda \in S_\partial(a)$ . We have proved that  $S_\partial(a^{-1}) \subseteq (S_\partial(a))^{-1}$  for all invertible elements  $a$ , and therefore also  $(S_\partial(a))^{-1} \subseteq S_\partial(a^{-1})$  for all invertible  $a$ .  $\square$

Further mapping properties of  $S_\partial$  will be investigated in a future paper.

Let  $B$  be a closed subalgebra of a Banach algebra  $A$  such that  $B$  contains the unit element  $1$  of  $A$ . It is well known that if  $a \in B$ , then  $\partial\sigma(a, B) \subseteq \partial\sigma(a, A)$  ([1, Theorem

3.2.13]). We shall show that  $S_\partial(a, B) \subseteq S_\partial(a, A)$  holds as well. In order to do this, we need the following results, some of which are interesting in their own right.

**THEOREM 2.8.** ([1, Theorem 3.2.13 (i)]) *Let  $B$  be a closed subalgebra of a Banach algebra  $A$  such that  $B$  contains the unit element  $1$  of  $A$ . Then  $B \setminus S_B$  is the union of all components of  $B \cap (A \setminus S_A)$  containing points of  $B \setminus S_B$ .*

**LEMMA 2.9.** *Let  $B$  be a closed subalgebra of a Banach algebra  $A$  such that  $B$  contains the unit element  $1$  of  $A$ . If  $E$  is a subset of  $A$ , then  $\partial_B E \subseteq \partial_A E$ .*

**THEOREM 2.10.** *Let  $B$  be a closed subalgebra of a Banach algebra  $A$  such that  $B$  contains the unit element  $1$  of  $A$ . Then  $S_B$  is the union of  $S_A$  and all the components of  $B \cap (A \setminus S_A)$  containing points of  $S_B$ .*

**PROOF:** Clearly  $S_A \subseteq S_B$ . If  $x \in S_B$  and  $x \notin S_A$ , then  $x \in B \cap (A \setminus S_A)$ , so that  $x$  is contained in a component of  $B \cap (A \setminus S_A)$  which contains points of  $S_B$ . Hence  $S_B$  is contained in the union of  $S_A$  and all the components of  $B \cap (A \setminus S_A)$  containing points of  $S_B$ .

Conversely, let  $\Omega$  be a component of  $B \cap (A \setminus S_A)$  which contains points of  $S_B$ . If  $\Omega \not\subseteq S_B$ , then  $\Omega$  is a component of  $B \cap (A \setminus S_A)$  which contains a point of  $B \setminus S_B$ . Theorem 2.8 implies that  $\Omega \subseteq B \setminus S_B$ , which contradicts the fact that  $\Omega$  contains points of  $S_B$ . Hence  $\Omega \subseteq S_B$ . □

The following result was proved in [2], using the fact that boundary points of the set of invertible elements of a Banach algebra are topological divisors of zero (see Theorem 2.4) and therefore permanently singular. We provide an alternative proof.

**THEOREM 2.11.** ([2, Corollary 18, p. 14]) *Let  $B$  be a closed subalgebra of a Banach algebra  $A$  such that  $B$  contains the unit element  $1$  of  $A$ . Then  $\partial_B S_B \subseteq \partial_A S_A$ .*

**PROOF:** To prove that  $\partial_B S_B \subseteq \partial_B S_A$ , suppose that  $x \notin \partial_B S_A$ . If  $x \notin B$ , then  $x \notin \partial_B S_B$ , so suppose that  $x \in B$ . Then there exists an  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that either (i)  $B_B(x, \varepsilon) \subseteq S_A$  or (ii)  $B_B(x, \varepsilon) \subseteq B \setminus S_A$ . Since  $S_A \subseteq S_B$ , case (i) implies that  $B_B(x, \varepsilon) \subseteq S_B$ , so that  $x \notin \partial_B S_B$ , so suppose that  $B_B(x, \varepsilon)$  is contained in a component  $\Omega$  of  $B \cap (A \setminus S_A)$ . If  $\Omega$  contains points of  $S_B$ , then by Theorem 2.10,  $\Omega$  is contained in  $S_B$ , so that  $x \notin \partial_B S_B$ . If  $\Omega$  contains no points of  $S_B$ , then  $\Omega \subseteq B \setminus S_B$ , so that once again,  $x \notin \partial_B S_B$ .

We have proved that  $\partial_B S_B \subseteq \partial_B S_A$ . Together with Lemma 2.9 the result follows. □

**COROLLARY 2.12.** *Let  $B$  be a closed subalgebra of a Banach algebra  $A$  such that  $B$  contains the unit element  $1$  of  $A$ . If  $a \in B$ , then  $S_\partial(a, B) \subseteq S_\partial(a, A)$ .*

**PROOF:** If  $\lambda \in S_\partial(a, B)$ , then  $\lambda - a \in \partial_B S_B$ . It follows from Theorem 2.11 that  $\lambda - a \in \partial_A S_A$ , so that  $\lambda \in S_\partial(a, A)$ . □

Now we consider the situation where  $A$  and  $B$  are Banach algebras (with  $B$  not necessarily a subalgebra of  $A$ ) and  $T : A \rightarrow B$  a homomorphism, and investigate the

relationship between  $S_\partial(a, A)$  and  $S_\partial(Ta, B)$ , where  $a \in A$ . We first establish some properties involving  $TS_A$  and  $S_B$ , and  $T(\partial_A S_A)$  and  $\partial_B S_B$ . The proof of the next lemma is trivial:

**LEMMA 2.13.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be Banach algebras and  $T : A \rightarrow B$  a homomorphism. Then the following hold:*

1.  $T^{-1}S_B \subseteq S_A$ .
2. If  $T$  is surjective, then  $S_B \subseteq TS_A$ .
3. If  $T$  is bijective, then  $T^{-1}S_B = S_A$  and  $TS_A = S_B$ .

**THEOREM 2.14.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be Banach algebras and  $T : A \rightarrow B$  a continuous isomorphism. Then  $T(\partial_A S_A) = \partial_B S_B$ .*

**PROOF:** If  $x \in \partial_A S_A$ , then there exist sequences  $(x_n)$  in  $S_A$  and  $(y_n)$  in  $A \setminus S_A$  such that  $x_n \rightarrow x$  and  $y_n \rightarrow x$ . It follows from Lemma 2.13 (3) that  $Ty_n \in B \setminus S_B$  and  $Tx_n \in S_B$ . Since  $T$  is continuous,  $Tx_n \rightarrow Tx$  and  $Ty_n \rightarrow Tx$ . Hence  $Tx \in \partial_B S_B$ .

Conversely, if  $y \in \partial_B S_B$ , say  $y = Tx$  with  $x \in A$ , then there exist sequences  $(z_n)$  in  $S_B$  and  $(w_n)$  in  $B \setminus S_B$  such that  $z_n \rightarrow y$  and  $w_n \rightarrow y$ . It follows from Lemma 2.13 (3) that  $z_n = Tx_n$  with  $x_n \in S_A$  and that  $w_n \in B \setminus TS_A$ , so that  $w_n = Tu_n$  with  $u_n \in A \setminus S_A$ . Since  $T$  is bijective, linear and bounded,  $T^{-1}$  exists and is linear and bounded (by the Bounded Inverse Theorem), which implies that  $x_n \rightarrow x$  and  $u_n \rightarrow x$ . Since  $(x_n)$  is in  $S_A$  and  $(u_n)$  is in  $A \setminus S_A$ , it follows that  $x \in \partial_A S_A$ . □

In the following result  $\ker T$  will denote the kernel of  $T$ .

**THEOREM 2.15.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be Banach algebras,  $T : A \rightarrow B$  a continuous isomorphism and  $a \in A$ . Then*

$$S_\partial(a, A) = S_\partial(Ta, B) = \bigcup_{b \in \ker T} S_\partial(a + b, A).$$

**PROOF:** If  $\lambda \in S_\partial(a, A)$ , then  $\lambda - a \in \partial_A S_A$ , so that Theorem 2.14 implies that  $\lambda - Ta = T(\lambda - a) \in \partial_B S_B$ , and so  $\lambda \in S_\partial(Ta, B)$ .

If  $\lambda \in S_\partial(a + b, A)$  for some  $b \in \ker T$ , then  $\lambda - Ta = T(\lambda - a - b) \in \partial_B S_B$ , by Theorem 2.14, so that  $\lambda \in S_\partial(Ta, B)$ .

We have proved that

$$S_\partial(a, A) \subseteq S_\partial(Ta, B) \text{ and } \bigcup_{b \in \ker T} S_\partial(a + b, A) \subseteq S_\partial(Ta, B).$$

If  $\lambda \in S_\partial(Ta, B)$ , then  $T(\lambda - a) = \lambda - Ta \in \partial_B S_B$ , so that Theorem 2.14 implies that  $T(\lambda - a) \in T(\partial_A S_A)$ . The injectivity of  $T$  implies that  $\lambda - a \in \partial_A S_A$ , so that  $\lambda \in S_\partial(a, A)$ . Since  $0 \in \ker T$ , we obtain the following inclusions:

$$S_\partial(Ta, B) \subseteq S_\partial(a, A) \subseteq \bigcup_{b \in \ker T} S_\partial(a + b, A)$$

Hence the results follow. □

### 3. APPLICATIONS IN ORDERED BANACH ALGEBRAS

In this section we investigate certain results in ordered Banach algebras involving the boundary spectrum. From ([9, Section 3]) we recall that an *algebra cone*  $C$  of a complex Banach algebra  $A$  with unit 1 is a subset of  $A$  containing 1 which is closed under the following operations: addition, positive scalar multiplication, and multiplication. If  $A$  has an algebra cone  $C$ , then  $A$ , or more specifically  $(A, C)$ , is called an *ordered Banach algebra* (OBA). If, in addition,  $C \cap -C = \{0\}$ , then  $C$  is called *proper*.

An algebra cone  $C$  of  $A$  induces an *ordering* " $\leq$ " on  $A$  in the following way:

$$a \leq b \text{ if and only if } b - a \in C$$

(where  $a, b \in A$ ). This ordering is reflexive and transitive. Furthermore,  $C$  is proper if and only if the ordering has the additional property of being antisymmetric. Considering the ordering that  $C$  induces we find that  $C = \{a \in A : a \geq 0\}$  and therefore we call the elements of  $C$  *positive*.

An algebra cone  $C$  of  $A$  is called *closed* if it is a closed subset of  $A$ . Furthermore,  $C$  is said to be *normal* if there exists a constant  $\alpha > 0$  such that it follows from  $0 \leq a \leq b$  in  $A$  that  $\|a\| \leq \alpha\|b\|$ . It is well known that if  $C$  is normal, then  $C$  is proper. If  $C$  has the property that if  $a \in C$  and  $a$  is invertible, then  $a^{-1} \in C$ , then  $C$  is said to be *inverse-closed*. If  $B$  is a Banach algebra such that  $1 \in B \subseteq A$ , then  $C \cap B$  is an algebra cone of  $B$ , and hence  $(B, C \cap B)$  is an OBA.

In [9, 8], and later in [4, 5, 6, 7], some spectral theory of positive elements in ordered Banach algebras was developed. In particular, we recall the following results:

**THEOREM 3.1.** ([9, Theorem 4.1(1)]) *Let  $(A, C)$  be an OBA with  $C$  normal. If  $a, b \in A$  such that  $0 \leq a \leq b$ , then  $r(a) \leq r(b)$ .*

We refer to the above property by saying that the spectral radius in  $(A, C)$  is *monotone*.

**THEOREM 3.2.** ([9, Theorem 5.2]) *Let  $(A, C)$  be an OBA with  $C$  closed and such that the spectral radius in  $(A, C)$  is monotone. If  $a \in C$ , then  $r(a) \in \sigma(a)$ .*

Using the boundary spectrum we obtain the following (slightly stronger) analogues of Theorem 3.2 and ([6, Theorem 3.3]):

**PROPOSITION 3.3.** *Let  $(A, C)$  be an OBA with  $C$  closed and such that the spectral radius in  $(A, C)$  is monotone. If  $a \in C$ , then  $r(a) \in S_{\partial}(a)$ .*

**PROOF:** If  $a \in C$ , then by Theorem 3.2  $r(a) \in \sigma(a)$ . Hence  $r(a) \in \partial\sigma(a)$  and so  $r(a) \in S_{\partial}(a)$ .  $\square$

**PROPOSITION 3.4.** *Let  $(A, C)$  be an OBA with  $C$  closed and inverse-closed, and such that the spectral radius in  $(A, C)$  is monotone. If  $a$  is an invertible element of  $C$ , then  $\delta(a) \in S_{\partial}(a)$ .*

**PROOF:** If  $a \in C$  and  $a$  is invertible, then  $a^{-1} \in C$ , since  $C$  is inverse-closed. Proposition 3.3 implies that  $r(a^{-1}) \in S_\theta(a^{-1})$ . Hence  $r(a^{-1}) = 1/\lambda_0$  for some  $\lambda_0 \in S_\theta(a)$ , by Proposition 2.7. Since  $r(a^{-1}) = 1/(\delta(a))$ , the result follows.  $\square$

In the following result  $B$  is a subalgebra of  $A$  but not necessarily closed in  $A$ .

**THEOREM 3.5.** *Let  $(A, C)$  be an OBA and  $B$  a Banach algebra with  $1 \in B \subseteq A$ .*

1. *Suppose that the spectral radius in  $(A, C)$  is monotone. If  $0 \leq a \leq b$  with  $a, b \in B$  and either  $\partial\sigma(a, B) = \partial\sigma(a, A)$  or  $S_\theta(a, B) = S_\theta(a, A)$ , then  $r(a, B) \leq r(b, B)$ .*
2. *Suppose that the spectral radius in  $(B, C \cap B)$  is monotone. If  $0 \leq a \leq b$  with  $a, b \in B$  and either  $\partial\sigma(b, B) = \partial\sigma(b, A)$  or  $S_\theta(b, B) = S_\theta(b, A)$ , then  $r(a, A) \leq r(b, A)$ .*

**PROOF:**

1. Since  $B$  is a subalgebra of  $A$ , we have that  $\sigma(b, A) \subseteq \sigma(b, B)$ , so that  $r(b, A) \leq r(b, B)$ . The monotonicity of the spectral radius in  $(A, C)$  implies that  $r(a, A) \leq r(b, A)$ . Finally, the assumption that either  $\partial\sigma(a, B) = \partial\sigma(a, A)$  or  $S_\theta(a, B) = S_\theta(a, A)$  yields  $r(a, B) = r(a, A)$ , by Proposition 2.1. Combining the results, it follows that  $r(a, B) \leq r(b, B)$ .
2. Similarly as in (1), the fact that  $B$  is a subalgebra of  $A$ , the monotonicity of the spectral radius in  $(B, C \cap B)$  and the additional assumption imply, respectively, that  $r(a, A) \leq r(a, B)$ ,  $r(a, B) \leq r(b, B)$  and  $r(b, B) = r(b, A)$ , which yield the result.  $\square$

We note that Theorem 3.5 (2) is a stronger version of ([9, Proposition 4.5]).

For our next result we need the following lemma and theorem:

**LEMMA 3.6.** ([7, Lemma 4.1]) *Let  $A$  be a Banach algebra,  $x, y \in A$  and  $\alpha \in C$ . If  $\alpha - x$  is invertible and  $r((\alpha - x)^{-1}(x - y)) < 1$ , then  $\alpha - y$  is invertible.*

**THEOREM 3.7.** ([7, Proof of Theorem 4.2]) *Let  $(A, C)$  be an OBA with  $C$  closed and normal, and let  $x \in C$ . If  $y \in C$  such that  $x \leq y$  and either  $xy \leq yx$  or  $yx \leq xy$ , and  $\alpha$  is a positive real number such that  $\alpha > r(x)$ , then*

$$r((\alpha - x)^{-1}(y - x)) \leq r((\alpha - x)^{-1})r(y - x).$$

Now let  $(A, C)$  be an OBA. Define, for each  $x \in C$ , an analogue  $A'(x)$  of the set  $A(x)$  (defined in ([7, Section 4])) as follows:

$$A'(x) = \{y \in A : x \leq y, \quad xy \leq yx \text{ or } yx \leq xy \quad \text{and} \\ d(r(y), S_\theta(x)) \geq d(\alpha, S_\theta(x)) \text{ for all } \alpha \in S_\theta(y)\}$$

Then  $x \in A'(x)$ ,  $A'(x) \subseteq C$  and  $A'(0) = C$ . Finally, the following theorem is a complementary result to ([7, Theorem 4.2]):

**THEOREM 3.8.** *Let  $(A, C)$  be an OBA with  $C$  closed and normal, and let  $x \in C$ . Then  $S_\theta(y) \subseteq S_\theta(x) + r(x - y)$  for all  $y \in A'(x)$ .*

**PROOF:** Let  $y \in A'(x)$ . Then  $0 \leq x \leq y$ , so that  $r(x) \leq r(y)$ , by Theorem 3.1. If  $r(x) = r(y)$ , then  $d(r(y), S_\theta(x)) = 0$ , by Proposition 3.3, so that, by the assumption,  $d(\alpha, S_\theta(x)) = 0$  for all  $\alpha \in S_\theta(y)$ . This implies that  $d(\alpha, S_\theta(x)) \leq r(x - y)$  for all  $\alpha \in S_\theta(y)$ , so that  $S_\theta(y) \subseteq S_\theta(x) + r(x - y)$ .

So suppose that  $r(x) < r(y)$ , and suppose there exists an  $\alpha \in S_\theta(y)$  such that  $d(\alpha, S_\theta(x)) > r(x - y)$ . Proposition 3.3 implies that  $r(y) \in S_\theta(y)$  and hence, by the assumption, we may take  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^+$  with  $\alpha > r(x)$ . Since  $\alpha \notin \sigma(x)$ , it follows from Proposition 2.1 that  $d(\alpha, S_\theta(x)) = d(\alpha, \sigma(x))$ , so that  $d(\alpha, S_\theta(x)) = 1 / (r((\alpha - x)^{-1}))$ . Therefore  $r((\alpha - x)^{-1})r(x - y) < 1$  with  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^+$  and  $\alpha > r(x)$ .

It follows from Theorem 3.7 that  $r((\alpha - x)^{-1}(y - x)) < 1$ , so that  $\alpha \notin \sigma(y)$ , by Lemma 3.6. Hence  $\alpha \notin S_\theta(y)$  — a contradiction. Therefore  $d(\alpha, S_\theta(x)) \leq r(x - y)$  for all  $\alpha \in S_\theta(y)$ , so that  $S_\theta(y) \subseteq S_\theta(x) + r(x - y)$ .  $\square$

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