

**$G_1$  CLASS ELEMENTS IN A BANACH ALGEBRA**

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ABSTRACT. Let  $A$  be a complex unital Banach algebra with unit 1. An element  $a \in A$  is said to be of  $G_1$ -class if

$$\|(z - a)^{-1}\| = \frac{1}{d(z, \sigma(a))} \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \sigma(a).$$

Here  $d(z, \sigma(a))$  denotes the distance between  $z$  and the spectrum  $\sigma(a)$  of  $a$ . Some examples of such elements are given and also some properties are proved. It is shown that a  $G_1$ -class element is a scalar multiple of the unit 1 if and only if its spectrum is a singleton set consisting of that scalar. It is proved that if  $T$  is a  $G_1$  class operator on a Banach space  $X$ , then every isolated point of  $\sigma(T)$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ . If, in addition,  $\sigma(T)$  is finite, then  $X$  is a direct sum of eigenspaces of  $T$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $T$  be a normal operator on a complex Hilbert space  $H$  and  $\lambda$  a complex number not lying in the spectrum  $\sigma(T)$  of  $T$ . Then it is known that the distance between  $\lambda$  and  $\sigma(T)$  is given by  $\frac{1}{\|(\lambda I - T)^{-1}\|}$ . It is also known that there are many other operators that are not normal but still satisfy this property. Putnam called such operators as operators satisfying  $G_1$  condition and investigated properties of such operators in [7], [8]. In particular, he proved that if  $T$  is a  $G_1$  class operator, then every isolated point of  $\sigma(T)$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$  and every  $G_1$  class operator on a finite dimensional Hilbert space is normal.

In this note we extend this concept of  $G_1$  class operators to operators on a Banach space and more generally to elements of a complex Banach algebra and investigate the properties of such elements. The next section contains some preliminary definitions and results that are used throughout. In Section 3, we give definition of a  $G_1$  class element in a complex unital Banach algebra, give some examples and prove a few elementary properties of such elements. In particular, it is proved that every element of a uniform algebra is of  $G_1$  class and conversely if every element of a complex unital Banach algebra  $A$  is of  $G_1$  class, then  $A$  is commutative, semisimple and hence isomorphic and homeomorphic to a uniform

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algebra. The last section deals with the spectral properties of  $G_1$  class elements and contains the main results of this note. In particular, it is proved that if  $T$  is a  $G_1$  class operator on a Banach space  $X$ , then every isolated point of  $\sigma(T)$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ . Further, if, in addition,  $\sigma(T)$  is finite, then  $X$  is a direct sum of eigenspaces of  $T$ . In this sense  $T$  is “diagonalizable” and hence this result can be considered to be an analogue of the Spectral Theorem for such operators.

An overall aim of such a study can be to obtain an analogue of the Spectral Theorem for  $G_1$  class operators. Though at present we are far away from this goal, the present results can be considered a small step in that direction. Next natural step should be to try to prove a similar result for compact operators of  $G_1$  class. Another way of looking at this study is an attempt to answer the following question: “To what extent does the spectrum of an element determine the element?” This question has a long and interesting history. It has appeared under different names at different times such as “Spectral characterizations”, “hearing the shape of a drum”, [2] “ $T = I$  problem” [12] etc. The results in this note say that the spectrum of a  $G_1$  class element gives a fairly good information about that element.

We shall use the following notations throughout this article. Let

$B(w, r) := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - w| < r\}$ , the open disc with the centre at  $w$  and radius  $r$ ,  
 $D(z_0, r) := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - z_0| \leq r\}$ , the closed disc with the centre at  $w$  and radius  $r$ ,

$A + D(0, r) = \bigcup_{a \in A} D(a; r)$  for  $A \subseteq \mathbb{C}$  and  $d(z, K) = \inf\{|z - k| : k \in K\}$ , the distance between a complex number  $z$  and a closed set  $K \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ .

Let  $\delta\Omega$  denote the boundary of a set  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ .

$\mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  denotes the space of square matrices of order  $n$  and  $B(X)$  denotes the set of bounded linear operators on a Banach space  $X$ .

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

Since our main objects of study are certain elements in a Banach algebra, we shall review some definitions related to a Banach algebra. Many of these definitions can be found in the book [1]. Some material in this section is also available in the review article [6].

**Definition 2.1. Spectrum:** Let  $A$  be a complex unital Banach algebra with unit 1. For  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\lambda \cdot 1$  is identified with  $\lambda$ . Let  $\text{Inv}(A) = \{x \in A : x \text{ is invertible in } A\}$  and  $\text{Sing}(A) = \{x \in A : x \text{ is not invertible in } A\}$ . The *spectrum* of an element  $a \in A$  is defined as:

$$\sigma(a) := \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : \lambda - a \in \text{Sing}(A)\}$$

The *spectral radius* of an element  $a$  is defined as:

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

Its value is also given by the Spectral Radius Formula,

$$r(a) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|a^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \inf_n \|a^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}}$$

The complement of the spectrum of an element  $a$  is called the *resolvent set* of  $a$  and is denoted by  $\rho(a)$ .

Thus when  $A = C(X)$ , the algebra of all continuous complex valued functions on a compact Hausdorff space  $X$  and  $f \in A$ , then the spectrum  $\sigma(f)$  of  $f$  coincides with the range of  $f$ .

Similarly when  $A = \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ , the algebra of all square matrices of order  $n$  with complex entries and  $M \in A$ , the spectrum  $\sigma(M)$  of  $M$  is the set of all eigenvalues of  $M$ .

**Definition 2.2. Numerical Range** Let  $A$  be a Banach algebra and  $a \in A$ . The *numerical range* of  $a$  is defined by

$$V(a) := \{f(a) : f \in A', f(1) = 1 = \|f\|\},$$

where  $A'$  denotes the dual space of  $A$ , the space of all continuous linear functionals on  $A$ .

The *numerical radius*  $\nu(a)$  is defined as

$$\nu(a) := \sup\{|\lambda| : \lambda \in V(a)\}$$

Let  $A$  be a Banach algebra and  $a \in A$ . Then  $a$  is said to be *Hermitian* if  $V(a) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ .

If  $A$  is a  $C^*$  algebra (also known as  $B^*$  algebra), then an element  $a \in A$  is Hermitian if and only if it is self-adjoint. [1]

**Definition 2.3. Spatial Numerical Range**

Let  $X$  be a Banach space and  $T \in B(X)$ . Let  $X'$  denote the dual space of  $X$ . The *spatial numerical range* of  $T$  is defined by

$$W(T) = \{f(Tx) : f \in X', \|f\| = f(x) = 1 = \|x\|\}.$$

For an operator  $T$  on a Banach space  $X$ , the spatial numerical range  $W(T)$  and the numerical range  $V(T)$ , where  $T$  is regarded as an element of the Banach algebra  $B(X)$ , are related by the following:

$$\overline{\text{Co}} W(T) = V(T)$$

where  $\overline{\text{Co}} E$  denotes the closure of the convex hull of  $E \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ .

The following theorem gives the relation between the spectrum and numerical range.

**Theorem 2.4.** *Let  $A$  be a complex unital Banach algebra with unit 1 and  $a \in A$ . Then the numerical range  $V(a)$  is a closed convex set containing  $\sigma(a)$ . Thus  $\overline{Co}(\sigma(a)) \subseteq V(a)$ . Hence  $r(a) \leq \nu(a) \leq \|a\| \leq e\nu(a)$ .*

A proof of this can be found in [1].

**Corollary 2.5.** *Let  $A$  be a complex unital Banach algebra with unit 1 and  $a \in A$ . If  $a$  is Hermitian, then  $\sigma(a) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ .*

We now discuss another important and popular set related to the spectrum, namely pseudospectrum. We begin with its definition.

**Definition 2.6. Pseudospectrum** Let  $A$  be a complex Banach algebra,  $a \in A$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ . The  $\epsilon$ -pseudospectrum  $\Lambda_\epsilon(a)$  of  $a$  is defined by

$$\Lambda_\epsilon(a) := \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : \|(\lambda - a)^{-1}\| \geq \epsilon^{-1}\}$$

with the convention that  $\|(\lambda - a)^{-1}\| = \infty$  if  $\lambda - a$  is not invertible.

This definition and many results in this section can be found in [5]. The book [10] is a standard reference on Pseudospectrum. It contains a good amount of information about the idea of pseudospectrum, (especially in the context of matrices and operators), historical remarks and applications to various fields. Another useful source is the website [11].

The following theorems establish the relationships between the spectrum, the  $\epsilon$ -pseudospectrum and the numerical range of an element of a Banach algebra.

**Theorem 2.7.** *Let  $A$  be a Banach algebra,  $a \in A$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ . Then*

$$d(\lambda, V(a)) \leq \frac{1}{\|(\lambda - a)^{-1}\|} \leq d(\lambda, \sigma(a)) \quad \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \sigma(a). \quad (1)$$

Thus

$$\sigma(a) + D(0; \epsilon) \subseteq \Lambda_\epsilon(a) \subseteq V(a) + D(0; \epsilon). \quad (2)$$

A proof of this Theorem can be found in [5].

The following theorem gives the basic information about the analytical functional calculus for elements of a Banach algebra.

**Theorem 2.8.** *Let  $A$  be a Banach algebra and  $a \in A$ . Let  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{C}$  be an open neighbourhood of  $\sigma(a)$  and  $\Gamma$  be a contour that surrounds  $\sigma(a)$  in  $\Omega$ . Let  $H(\Omega)$  denote the set of all analytic functions in  $\Omega$  and let  $P(\Omega)$  denote the set of all polynomials in  $z$  with  $z \in \Omega$ . We recall the definition of  $\tilde{f}(a)$  in the analytical functional calculus as*

$$\tilde{f}(a) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} (z - a)^{-1} f(z) dz \quad (3)$$

Then the map  $f \rightarrow \tilde{f}(a)$  is a homomorphism from  $H(\Omega)$  into  $A$  that extends the natural homomorphism  $p \rightarrow p(a)$  of  $P(\Omega)$  into  $A$  and

$$\sigma(\tilde{f}(a)) = \{f(z) : z \in \sigma(a)\}$$

A proof of this Theorem can be found in [1].

### 3. $G_1$ CLASS ELEMENTS

In this section, we give definition, some examples and elementary properties of  $G_1$  class elements. It is possible to view this definition as motivated by considering the question of equality in some of the inclusions given in Theorem 2.7.

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $A$  be a Banach algebra and  $a \in A$ . We define  $a$  to be of  $G_1$ -class if

$$\|(z - a)^{-1}\| = \frac{1}{d(z, \sigma(a))} \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \sigma(a). \quad (4)$$

**Remark 3.2.** The idea of  $G_1$ -class was introduced by Putnam who defined it for operators on Hilbert spaces. (See [7],[8].) It is known that the  $G_1$ -class properly contains the class of seminormal operators (that is, the operators satisfying  $TT^* \leq T^*T$  or  $T^*T \leq TT^*$ ) and this class properly contains the class of normal operators. Using the Gelfand- Naimark theorem [1], we can make similar statements about elements in a  $C^*$  algebra.

$G_1$ -class operators on a finite dimensional Hilbert space are normal[7].

In particular, normal elements are hyponormal. In general, the equation (4) may hold, for every  $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \sigma(a)$ , for an element  $a$  of a  $C^*$ -algebra even though  $a$  is not normal.

For example, we may consider the right shift operator  $R$  on  $\ell^2(\mathbb{N})$ . It is not normal but  $\Lambda_\epsilon(R) = \sigma(R) + D(0; \epsilon) = D(0; 1 + \epsilon) \forall \epsilon > 0$ . The operator  $R$  is, however, a hyponormal operator.

We now deal with a natural question: What are  $G_1$  class elements in an arbitrary Banach algebra?

The following lemma is elementary and gives a characterization of a  $G_1$  class element in terms of its pseudospectrum.

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $A$  be a Banach algebra and  $a \in A$ . Then*

$$\Lambda_\epsilon(a) = \sigma(a) + D(0; \epsilon) \quad \forall \epsilon > 0 \quad (5)$$

*iff  $a$  is of  $G_1$ -class.*

A proof of this Lemma can be found in [5].

As one may expect, most natural candidates to be  $G_1$  class elements are scalars, that is, scalar multiples of the identity 1.

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $A$  be a complex Banach algebra with unit 1 and  $a \in A$ .*

- (i) *If  $a = \mu$  for some complex number  $\mu$ , then  $a$  is of  $G_1$  class and  $\sigma(a) = \{\mu\}$ .*
- (ii) *If  $a$  is of  $G_1$  class, then  $\alpha a + \beta$  is also of  $G_1$  class for every complex numbers  $\alpha, \beta$ .*
- (iii) *If  $a$  is of  $G_1$  class and  $\sigma(a) = \{\mu\}$ , then  $a = \mu$ .*

A proof of this is straight forward. It also follows easily from 3.3 and Corollary 3.17 of [5]. We include it here for the sake of completeness.

*Proof.* (i) Let  $a = \mu$  for some complex number  $\mu$ . Then clearly  $\sigma(a) = \{\mu\}$ . Hence for all  $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \sigma(a)$ , we have  $z \neq \mu$ . Thus  $\|(z - a)^{-1}\| = \frac{1}{|z - \mu|} = \frac{1}{d(z, \sigma(a))}$ . This shows that  $a$  is of  $G_1$  class.

(ii) Next suppose that  $a$  is of  $G_1$  class and  $b = \alpha a + \beta$  for some complex numbers  $\alpha, \beta$ . We want to prove that  $b$  is of  $G_1$  class. If  $\alpha = 0$ , then it follows from (i). So assume that  $\alpha \neq 0$ . Let  $w \notin \sigma(b) = \{\alpha z + \beta : z \in \sigma(a)\}$ . Then  $z := \frac{w - \beta}{\alpha} \notin \sigma(a)$  and since  $a$  is of  $G_1$  class,  $\|(z - a)^{-1}\| = \frac{1}{d(z, \sigma(a))}$ . Now  $\|(w - b)^{-1}\| = \|(\alpha z + \beta - (\alpha a + \beta))^{-1}\| = \frac{1}{|\alpha|} \|(z - a)^{-1}\| = \frac{1}{|\alpha| d(z, \sigma(a))} = \frac{1}{d(\alpha z, \sigma(\alpha a))} = \frac{1}{d(w, \sigma(b))}$ . This shows that  $b$  is of  $G_1$  class.

(iii) Suppose  $a$  is of  $G_1$  class and  $\sigma(a) = \{\mu\}$ . Let  $b = a - \mu$ . Then by (ii),  $b$  is of  $G_1$  class and  $\sigma(b) = \{0\}$ . Let  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $C$  denote the circle with the centre at 0 and radius  $\epsilon$  traced anticlockwise. Then for every  $z \in C$ ,  $\|(z - b)^{-1}\| = \frac{1}{d(z, \sigma(b))} = \frac{1}{|z - 0|} = \frac{1}{\epsilon}$ . Also

$$b = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_C z(z - b)^{-1} dz$$

Hence  $\|b\| \leq \frac{1}{2\pi} 2\pi \epsilon \frac{1}{\epsilon} = \epsilon$ . Since this holds for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , we have  $b = 0$ , that is  $a = \mu$ . □

**Remark 3.5.** The above Theorem has a relevance in the context of a very well known classical problem in operator theory known as “ $T = I?$  problem”. This problem asks the following question: *Let  $T$  be an operator on a Banach space. Suppose  $\sigma(T) = \{1\}$ . Under what additional conditions can we conclude  $T = I$ ?* A survey article [12] contains details of many classical results about this problem.

From the above Theorem it follows that if  $T$  is of  $G_1$  class and  $\sigma(T) = \{1\}$ , then we can conclude that  $T = I$ . In other words “ $T$  is of  $G_1$  class” works as an additional condition in the “ $T = I$  problem”.

Next we show that every Hermitian idempotent element is of  $G_1$  class. A version of this result was included in the thesis [4].

**Theorem 3.6.** *Let  $A$  be a complex unital Banach algebra with unit 1 and  $a \in A$ . If  $a$  is a Hermitian idempotent element, then  $a$  is of  $G_1$  class. Also, if  $a$  is of  $G_1$  class and  $\sigma(a) \subseteq \{0, 1\}$ , then  $a$  is a Hermitian idempotent.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $a$  is a Hermitian idempotent element. If  $a = 0$  or  $a = 1$ , then  $a$  is of  $G_1$  class by (i) of Theorem 3.4. Next, let  $a \neq 0, 1$ . Then  $\sigma(a) = \{0, 1\}$  and by Theorem 1.10.17 of [1],  $\|a\| = r(a) = 1$ . Now Corollary 3.18 of [5] implies that  $\Lambda_\epsilon(a) = D(0, \epsilon) \cup D(1, \epsilon)$  for every  $\epsilon > 0$ . Hence  $a$  is of  $G_1$  class by Lemma 3.3.

Next suppose  $a$  is of  $G_1$  class and  $\sigma(a) \subseteq \{0, 1\}$ . If  $\sigma(a) = \{0\}$ , then  $a = 0$  by (ii) of Theorem 3.4. Similarly, if  $\sigma(a) = \{1\}$ , then  $a = 1$ . So assume that  $\sigma(a) = \{0, 1\}$ . Then by Lemma 3.3,  $\Lambda_\epsilon(a) = D(0, \epsilon) \cup D(1, \epsilon)$  for every  $\epsilon > 0$ . Hence by 3.18 of [5],  $a$  is a Hermitian idempotent element.  $\square$

The abundance or scarcity of  $G_1$  class elements in a given Banach algebra depends on the nature of that Banach algebra. There exist extreme cases, that is, there are Banach algebras in which every element is of  $G_1$  class. On the other hand, there are also Banach algebras in which the scalars are the only elements of  $G_1$  class. We shall see examples of both types below. Before that, we need to review a relation between the spectrum and numerical range of an element of  $G_1$  class. Recall that the numerical range of an element of a Banach algebra is a compact convex subset of  $\mathbb{C}$  containing its spectrum, and hence it also contains the closure of the convex hull of the spectrum. The next proposition shows that the equality holds in case of elements of  $G_1$  class.

**Proposition 3.7.** *Let  $A$  be a complex unital Banach algebra and  $a \in A$ . Suppose  $a$  is of  $G_1$ -class. Then  $V(a) = \overline{\text{Co}}(\sigma(a))$ , the closure of the convex hull of the spectrum of  $a$  and  $\|a\| \leq er(a)$ .*

A proof of this can be found in [5].

**Corollary 3.8.** *Let  $A$  be a complex unital Banach algebra. Suppose  $a \in A$  is of  $G_1$ -class and  $\sigma(a) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $a$  is Hermitian.*

It is shown in the next theorem that every element in a uniform algebra is of  $G_1$  class. Also a partial converse of this statement is proved. We may recall that a *uniform algebra* is a unital Banach algebra satisfying  $\|a\|^2 = \|a^2\|$  for every  $a \in A$ . Every complex uniform algebra is commutative by a theorem of Hirschfeld and Zelazko [1]. Then it follows by Gelfand theory [1] that such an algebra is isometrically isomorphic to a *function algebra*, that is, a uniformly closed subalgebra of  $C(X)$  that contains the constant function 1 and separates the points of  $X$ , where  $X$  is the maximal ideal space of  $A$ .

**Theorem 3.9.** *(See also Theorem 3.15 of [5]) Let  $A$  be a complex unital Banach algebra with unit 1.*

*(i) If  $A$  is a uniform algebra, then every element in  $A$  is of  $G_1$  class.*

(ii) If every element of  $A$  is of  $G_1$  class, then  $A$  is commutative, semisimple and hence isomorphic and homeomorphic to a uniform algebra.

*Proof.* (i) The Spectral Radius Formula implies that  $\|a\| = r(a)$  for every  $a \in A$ . Now let  $a \in A$  and  $\lambda \notin \sigma(a)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|(\lambda - a)^{-1}\| &= r((\lambda - a)^{-1}) \\ &= \sup\{|z| : z \in \sigma((\lambda - a)^{-1})\} \\ &= \sup\left\{\frac{1}{|\lambda - \mu|} : \mu \in \sigma(a)\right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{\inf\{|\lambda - \mu| : \mu \in \sigma(a)\}} \\ &= \frac{1}{d(\lambda, \sigma(a))} \end{aligned}$$

. This shows that  $a$  is of  $G_1$  class.

(ii) By Proposition 3.7,  $\|a\| \leq er(a)$  for all  $a \in A$ . Hence  $A$  is commutative by a theorem of Hirschfeld and Zelazko [1]. Also, the condition  $\|a\| \leq er(a)$  for all  $a \in A$  implies that  $A$  is semisimple and hence the spectral radius  $r(\cdot)$  is a norm on  $A$ . Clearly,  $r(a^2) = (r(a))^2$  for every  $a \in A$ . Hence  $A$  is a uniform algebra under this norm. Also the inequality  $r(a) \leq \|a\| \leq er(a)$  for all  $a \in A$  implies that the identity map is a homeomorphism between these two algebras.  $\square$

Next we consider an example of a Banach algebra in which scalars are the only elements of  $G_1$  class.

**Example 3.10.** (See also Example 2.16 and Remark 2.20 of [3])

Let  $A = \{a \in \mathbb{C}^{2 \times 2} : a = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ 0 & \alpha \end{bmatrix}\}$  with the norm given by  $\|a\| = |\alpha| + \|\beta\|$ .

Suppose  $a = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ 0 & \alpha \end{bmatrix} \in A$  is of  $G_1$  class. Then since  $\sigma(a) = \{\alpha\}$ , it follows by Theorem 3.4(iii) that  $a = \alpha$ . (This means  $\beta = 0$ .)

#### 4. SPECTRAL PROPERTIES OF $G_1$ CLASS ELEMENTS

In this section, we show that  $G_1$  class elements have some properties that are very similar to the properties of normal operators on a complex Hilbert space. For example, if  $H$  is a complex Hilbert space,  $T$  is a normal operator on  $H$  and  $\lambda$  is an isolated point of  $\sigma(T)$ , then  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ . We show that a similar property holds for a bounded operator of  $G_1$  class on a Banach space. For that we need the following theorem about isolated points of the spectrum of a  $G_1$  class element in a Banach algebra.

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $A$  be a complex unital Banach algebra with unit 1. Suppose  $a$  is of  $G_1$ -class and  $\lambda$  is an isolated point of  $\sigma(a)$ . Then there exists an idempotent element  $e \in A$  such that  $ae = \lambda e$  and  $\|e\| = 1$ .*

*Proof.* If  $\sigma(a) = \{\lambda\}$ , then by 3.4(iii),  $a = \lambda$  and we can take  $e = 1$ .

Next assume that  $\sigma(a) \setminus \{\lambda\}$  is nonempty. Let  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  be disjoint open neighbourhoods of  $\lambda$  and  $\sigma(a) \setminus \{\lambda\}$  respectively. Define

$$f(z) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z \in D_1 \\ 0 & \text{if } z \in D_2 \end{cases}$$

Then  $f$  is analytic in  $D_1 \cup D_2$ . Let  $e = \tilde{f}(a)$ . Then since  $f^2 = f$ , we have  $e^2 = e$ , that is,  $e$  is an idempotent element and  $\|e\| \geq 1$ . To prove other assertions, choose  $\epsilon > 0$  in such a way that for every  $z \in \Gamma_1 := \{w \in \mathbb{C} : |w - \lambda| = \epsilon\}$ ,  $\lambda$  is the nearest point of  $\sigma(a)$  and  $\Gamma_1 \subseteq D_1$ . Then for every such  $z$ ,  $d(z, \sigma(a)) = |z - \lambda| = \epsilon$ , hence  $\|(z - a)^{-1}\| = \frac{1}{\epsilon}$ . Now let  $\Gamma_2$  be any closed curve lying in  $D_2$  and enclosing  $\sigma(a) \setminus \{\lambda\}$  and let  $\Gamma = \Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2$ . Then

$$e = \tilde{f}(a) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} f(z)(z - a)^{-1} dz = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma_1} (z - a)^{-1} dz$$

Hence

$$\|e\| \leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{1}{\epsilon} 2\pi\epsilon = 1$$

This shows that  $\|e\| = 1$ .

Now define  $g(z) = (z - \lambda)f(z)$ . Then  $|g(z)| \leq \epsilon$  for all  $z \in \Gamma_1$ . Note that

$$ae - \lambda e = \tilde{g}(a) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} g(z)(z - a)^{-1} dz = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma_1} g(z)(z - a)^{-1} dz$$

Hence

$$\|ae - \lambda e\| \leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \epsilon \frac{1}{\epsilon} 2\pi\epsilon = \epsilon$$

Since this holds for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , we have  $ae - \lambda e = 0$ . □

**Corollary 4.2.** *Let  $X$  be a complex Banach space,  $T \in B(X)$  be of  $G_1$  class and  $\lambda$  be an isolated point of  $\sigma(T)$ . Then  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ .*

*Proof.* By Theorem 4.1, there exists an idempotent element  $P \in B(X)$  such that  $\|P\| = 1$  and  $TP = \lambda P$ . Clearly  $P$  is a nonzero projection operator on  $X$ . Let  $x \neq 0$  be an element of the range  $R(P)$  of  $P$ . Then  $P(x) = x$ . Hence  $T(x) = TP(x) = \lambda P(x) = \lambda x$ . Thus  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ . □

Some ideas in the proof of the next theorem can be compared with the proof of Theorem C in [9] that deals with similar results about hyponormal operators on a Hilbert space.

**Theorem 4.3.** *Let  $A$  be a complex unital Banach algebra with unit 1. Suppose  $a$  is of  $G_1$ -class and  $\sigma(a) = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m\}$  is finite. Then there exist idempotent elements  $e_1, \dots, e_m$  such that*

$$(1) \|e_j\| = 1, ae_j = \lambda_j e_j \text{ for } j = 1, \dots, m, e_j e_k = 0 \text{ for } j \neq k,$$

$$e_1 + \dots + e_m = 1$$

and

$$a = \lambda_1 e_1 + \dots + \lambda_m e_m.$$

(2) *If  $p$  is any polynomial, then*

$$p(a) = p(\lambda_1)e_1 + \dots + p(\lambda_m)e_m.$$

(3) *In particular,*

$$(a - \lambda_1) \dots (a - \lambda_m) = 0.$$

(4) *If  $\lambda$  is a complex number such that  $\lambda \neq \lambda_j$  for  $j = 1, \dots, m$ , then*

$$(\lambda - a)^{-1} = \frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_1}e_1 + \dots + \frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_m}e_m.$$

(5) *If a function  $f$  is analytic in a neighbourhood of  $\sigma(a)$ , then*

$$\tilde{f}(a) = f(\lambda_1)e_1 + \dots + f(\lambda_m)e_m$$

*Proof.* If  $m = 1$ , then by Theorem 3.4(iii),  $a = \lambda_1$ . Hence we can take  $e_1 = 1$  and all the conclusions follow trivially. Next we assume  $m > 1$ . Let  $D_1, \dots, D_m$  be mutually disjoint neighbourhoods of  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$  respectively and let  $D = \cup_{j=1}^m D_j$ . Now for each  $j = 1, \dots, m$ , define a function  $f_j$  on  $D$  by

$$f_j(z) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z \in D_j \\ 0 & \text{if } z \notin D_j \end{cases}$$

Let  $e_j = \tilde{f}_j(a)$ . Then it follows as in Theorem 4.1 that each  $e_j$  is an idempotent,  $\|e_j\| = 1$  and  $ae_j = \lambda_j e_j$ . Since for  $j \neq k$ ,  $f_j f_k = 0$ , we have  $e_j e_k = 0$ . Further  $f_1 + \dots + f_m = 1$  implies  $e_1 + \dots + e_m = 1$ .

Next

$$\begin{aligned} a &= a1 \\ &= a(e_1 + \dots + e_m) \\ &= ae_1 + \dots + ae_m \\ &= \lambda_1 e_1 + \dots + \lambda_m e_m. \end{aligned}$$

This proves (1).

Now since  $e_j^2 = e_j$  for each  $j$  and  $e_j e_k = 0$  for  $j \neq k$ , we have

$$a^2 = \lambda_1^2 e_1 + \dots + \lambda_m^2 e_m$$

and in general for any power  $k$ ,

$$a^k = \lambda_1^k e_1 + \dots + \lambda_m^k e_m.$$

It follows easily from this that for any polynomial  $p$ , we have

$$p(a) = p(\lambda_1)e_1 + \dots + p(\lambda_m)e_m.$$

Thus (2) is proved.

Now consider the polynomial  $p$  given by  $p(z) = (z - \lambda_1) \dots (z - \lambda_m)$ . Then  $p(\lambda_j) = 0$  for each  $j$ . Hence  $p(a) = 0$ , that is,  $(a - \lambda_1) \dots (a - \lambda_m) = 0$ . This completes the proof of (3).

Now suppose  $\lambda$  is a complex number such that  $\lambda \neq \lambda_j$  for  $j = 1, \dots, m$ . Let

$$b = \frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_1} e_1 + \dots + \frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_m} e_m.$$

Then in view of (1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda - a)b &= [(\lambda - \lambda_1)e_1 + \dots + (\lambda - \lambda_m)e_m] \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_1} e_1 + \dots + \frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_m} e_m \right] \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can prove  $b(\lambda - a) = 1$  implying (4).

Next suppose a function  $f$  is analytic in a neighbourhood  $\Omega$  of  $\sigma(a)$  and  $\Gamma$  is a closed curve lying in  $\Omega$  and surrounding  $\sigma(a)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{f}(a) &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} f(z)(z - a)^{-1} dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} f(z) \left[ \frac{1}{z - \lambda_1} e_1 + \dots + \frac{1}{z - \lambda_m} e_m \right] dz \\ &= \left( \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{f(z)}{z - \lambda_1} dz \right) e_1 + \dots + \left( \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{f(z)}{z - \lambda_m} dz \right) e_m \\ &= f(\lambda_1)e_1 + \dots + f(\lambda_m)e_m \end{aligned}$$

□

**Remark 4.4.** Note that the conclusions (2) and (4) of the above Theorem are special cases of (5).

Now we apply the above Theorem to a bounded operator on a Banach space.

**Theorem 4.5.** *Let  $X$  be a complex Banach space. Suppose  $T \in B(X)$  is of  $G_1$  class and  $\sigma(T) = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m\}$  is finite. Then*

- (1) *Each  $\lambda_j$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ . In fact, there exist projections  $P_j$  such that for each  $j$ , the range of  $P_j$  is the eigenspace corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$  and  $X$  is the direct sum of these eigenspaces. In other words,  $T$  is*

“diagonalizable”. Also  $\|P_j\| = 1$  and  $TP_j = \lambda_j P_j$  for each  $j$ ,  $P_j P_k = 0$  for  $j \neq k$ ,

$$P_1 + \dots + P_m = I$$

and

$$T = \lambda_1 P_1 + \dots + \lambda_m P_m.$$

(2)

$$(T - \lambda_1 I) \dots (T - \lambda_m I) = 0.$$

(3) If a function  $f$  is analytic in a neighbourhood of  $\sigma(T)$ , then

$$\tilde{f}(T) = f(\lambda_1)P_1 + \dots + f(\lambda_m)P_m$$

*Proof.* It follows from Corollary 4.2 that each  $\lambda_j$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ . The existence and properties of projections  $P_j$  follow from Theorem 4.3. Let  $X_j = R(P_j)$ , the range of  $P_j$ . The property  $TP_j = \lambda_j P_j$  implies that  $X_j$  is the eigenspace of  $T$  corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$  for each  $j$ . Also  $P_j P_k = 0$  for  $j \neq k$  implies that  $X_j \cap X_k = \{0\}$  for  $j \neq k$ . It follows from

$$P_1 + \dots + P_m = I$$

that  $X$  is the sum of  $X_j$ . This shows that  $X$  is the direct sum of these eigenspaces.  $\square$

**Remark 4.6.** Let  $X$  and  $T$  be as in the above Theorem. Since the conclusion (1) says that  $X$  has a basis consisting of eigenvectors of  $T$  and  $T$  is a linear combination of projections, it can be called Spectral Theorem for such operators. Similarly, the conclusion (2) is an analogue of the Caley-Hamilton Theorem. If, in particular,  $X$  is a Hilbert space, then every projection of norm 1 is orthogonal and hence Hermitian(self-adjoint). Thus each  $P_j$  is self-adjoint and hence  $T$  is normal. This result is also proved in [8].

Suppose  $X$  is finite dimensional. Then the above Theorem says that every  $G_1$  class operator on  $X$  is diagonalizable.

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