On the norm-preservation of squares in real algebra representation

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Abstract

One of the main results of the article *Gelfand theory for real Banach algebras*, recently published in [Rev R Acad Cienc Exactas Fís Nat Ser A Mat RACSAM 114(4):163, 2020] is Proposition 4.1, which establishes that the norm inequality $\|a^2\| \leq \|a^2 + b^2\|$ for $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$ is sufficient for a commutative real Banach algebra $\mathcal{A}$ with a unit to be isomorphic to the space $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ of continuous real-valued functions on a compact Hausdorff space $\mathcal{K}$. Moreover, in this proposition is also shown that if the above condition (which involves all the operations of the algebra) holds, then the real-algebra isomorphism given by the Gelfand transform preserves the norm of squares. A very natural question springing from the above-mentioned result is whether an isomorphism of $\mathcal{A}$ onto $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ is always norm-preserving of squares. This note is devoted to providing a negative answer to this problem. To that end, we construct algebra norms on spaces $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ which are $(1 + \epsilon)$ -equivalent to the sup-norm and with the norm of the identity function equal to 1, where the norm of every nonconstant function is different from the standard sup-norm. We also provide examples of two-dimensional normed real algebras $\mathcal{A}$ where $\|a^2\| \leq k\|a^2 + b^2\|$ for all $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$, for some $k > 1$, but the inequality fails for $k = 1$.

Keywords Real commutative Banach algebra · Real algebra homomorphism · $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{K})$ -space · Representation of algebras · Gelfand theory

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1 Introduction

The papers [2,3] show how certain very simple inequalities involving either the algebra norm or the spectral radius imply that a real commutative unital Banach algebra is homomorphic, via the Gelfand transform, to $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$, the algebra of all continuous real-valued functions on a compact Hausdorff space $\mathcal{K}$ equipped with the usual norm,

$$\|f\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} = \max_{x \in \mathcal{K}} |f(x)|.$$

In [3, Theorem 1.1] it is shown that if $\mathcal{A}$ is a commutative real Banach algebra with unit, then the spectral radius r satisfies the inequality

$$r(a^2) \leq r(a^2 + b^2), \text{ for all } a, b \in \mathcal{A}, \quad (1.1)$$

if and only if the Gelfand transform

$$\Lambda: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow C_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathcal{K}), \quad a \mapsto \widehat{a}$$

maps into $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$.

What happens if we just know that the spectral radius satisfies instead the (a priori weaker) inequality

$$r(a^2) \leq k r(a^2 + b^2), \text{ for all } a, b \in \mathcal{A}, \quad (1.2)$$

for some $k \geq 1$? The answer is that nothing new happens. Indeed, the fulfilment of condition (1.2) for some $k \geq 1$ implies that the spectrum of any $a \in \mathcal{A}$ is a subset of the real line (see [2, Proposition 3.5]) and hence using [3, Theorem 1.2], we see that inequality (1.2) is satisfied with $k = 1$.

In regards to isomorphisms we have the following.

Proposition 1.1 *Let $\mathcal{A}$ be a commutative real algebra with unit. Suppose $\mathcal{A}$ is isomorphic to $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ for some compact Hausdorff space $\mathcal{K}$. Then the spectral radius seminorm r on $\mathcal{A}$ is equivalent to the algebra norm (hence in particular r defines a norm on $\mathcal{A}$). Moreover, $\mathcal{A}$ equipped with r is isometric to $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$.*

Proof Let $\|\cdot\|$ denote the norm on $\mathcal{A}$. Suppose $\Lambda: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ is an isomorphism and let k and k_1 be constants so that

$$\frac{1}{k_1} \|a\| \leq \|\Lambda(a)\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} \leq k \|a\|, \quad a \in \mathcal{A}.$$

For a in $\mathcal{A}$ we have

$$\|a^n\| \leq k_1 \|\Lambda(a^n)\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} = k_1 \|\Lambda(a)\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}}^n.$$

Taking the n th-root and letting n tend to infinity yields $r(a) \leq \|\Lambda(a)\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}}$.

Conversely,

$$\|\Lambda(a)\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}}^n = \|\Lambda(a^n)\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} \leq k \|a^n\|.$$

Taking the n th root and letting n tend to infinity yields $\|\Lambda(a)\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} \leq r(a)$, so that $\|\Lambda(a)\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} = r(a)$ as claimed. $\square$

In this paper we shall be concerned with normed real algebras satisfying the corresponding inequality (1.2), where the spectral radius is replaced by the algebra norm. Let us assign a tag to such a class of real algebras.

Definition 1.2 Suppose $\mathcal{A}$ is a commutative real Banach algebra with unit and let $k \geq 1$. We will say that $\mathcal{A}$ satisfies property $(A)_k$, to be denoted $\mathcal{A} \in (A)_k$, if the following inequality holds

$$\|a\|^2 \leq k\|a^2 + b^2\|, \quad a, b \in \mathcal{A}. \quad (1.3)$$

In turn, we will say that $\mathcal{A}$ satisfies property $(B)_k$, to be denoted $\mathcal{A} \in (B)_k$, if

$$\|a^2\| \leq k\|a^2 + b^2\|, \quad a, b \in \mathcal{A}. \quad (1.4)$$

Of course, $\mathcal{A} \in (A)_k$ implies $\mathcal{A} \in (B)_k$.

It was shown in [1, Proposition 3.3] that $\mathcal{A} \in \bigcup_{k \geq 1} (A)_k$ if and only if $\mathcal{A} \in \bigcup_{k \geq 1} (B)_k$. In [1, Theorem 3.6] the authors also proved that if $\mathcal{A} \in \bigcup_{k \geq 1} (B)_k$ then $\mathcal{A}$ is isomorphic to the algebra $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ for some compact Hausdorff space $\mathcal{K}$. The next example shows that $\mathcal{A}$ can be isomorphic to $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ and yet $\mathcal{A} \notin \bigcup_{k \geq 1} (B)_k$.

Example 1.3 Consider the algebra of matrices

$$\mathcal{A} = \left\{ a = \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ 0 & x \end{pmatrix} : x, y \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

endowed with the norm on each $a \in \mathcal{A}$ regarded as an operator on $(\mathbb{R}^2, \|\cdot\|_2)$. Since $\mathcal{A}$ is two-dimensional, it is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{R}^2, \|\cdot\|_{\infty})$. The matrix $a = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ verifies $a^2 = 0$; however, there is no $k > 0$ such that $\|a\|^2 \leq k\|a^2\|$. This shows that $\mathcal{A} \notin \bigcup_{k \geq 1} (A)_k = \bigcup_{k \geq 1} (B)_k$.

A natural question arises: Do we have a similar situation as with the spectral radius? i.e., does it hold that $\bigcup_{k \geq 1} (A)_k = (A)_1$ or $\bigcup_{k \geq 1} (B)_k = (B)_1$? The answer to this question for property $(A)_k$ is clearly negative. Recall that if $\mathcal{A} \in (A)_1$, i.e.,

$$\|a\|^2 \leq \|a^2 + b^2\|, \quad a, b \in \mathcal{A}, \quad (1.5)$$

then $\mathcal{A}$ is isometrically isomorphic to the algebra $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ for some compact Hausdorff space $\mathcal{K}$ (see [4,5]). Hence it suffices to equip $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ with some equivalent algebra norm.

On the other hand, the condition that $\mathcal{A} \in (B)_1$, i.e.,

$$\|a^2\| \leq \|a^2 + b^2\|, \quad a, b \in \mathcal{A}, \quad (1.6)$$

only guarantees that $\mathcal{A}$ is isomorphic to the algebra $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ for some compact Hausdorff space $\mathcal{K}$, although in general it needs not be isometric. In the example where $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ equipped with the algebra norm $\|f\| = \|f^+\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} + \|f^-\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}}$ the condition (1.6) is satisfied but $\mathcal{A}$ is not isometric to any $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$. However, we have the following extra information.

Proposition 1.4 (cf. [3, Proposition 4.1]) *Let $\mathcal{A}$ be a commutative real Banach algebra with unit. Then $\mathcal{A} \in (B)_1$ if and only if there exists a compact Hausdorff space $\mathcal{K}$ and an $\mathbb{R}$ -algebra isomorphism*

$$\Lambda: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K}), \quad a \mapsto \widehat{a},$$

which preserves the norm of squares, i.e.,

$$\|\widehat{a^2}\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} = \|a^2\|, \quad a \in \mathcal{A}.$$

The question arises whether an $\mathbb{R}$ -algebra isomorphism of $\mathcal{A}$ onto $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ is always norm-preserving on squares.

As the alert reader might have guessed, if a commutative real Banach algebra with unit $\mathcal{A}$ is isomorphic to a space $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ for some compact Hausdorff space $\mathcal{K}$ then $\mathcal{K}$ must agree with the set $\Phi_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathbb{R}}$ of all real homomorphisms of the algebra, and the isomorphism must be the Gelfand transform (see [2, Remark 2.8]). So the above question will be answered negatively, by constructing in Theorem 2.1 some algebra norm in $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ equivalent to $\|\cdot\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}}$ which does not preserve the norm of squares.

Of course the above result also exhibits an example of a real normed algebra $\mathcal{A} \in \bigcup_{k>1} (B)_k \setminus (B)_1$. Now, Theorem 2.5 will allow us to produce a number of such examples simply by considering two-dimensional normed algebras $\mathcal{A}$ such that there exists $v \in \mathcal{A}$ with $v^2 = v$ and $\|v\| > 1$. We will prove this in the following section.

For notation and background we refer the reader to the recent article [3], which this note aims to complement.

2 Main theorems

Theorem 2.1 *Let $\mathcal{K}$ be a compact Hausdorff space with more than two points. For each $\epsilon > 0$ we can construct a norm $\|\cdot\|_{\epsilon}$ on $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ with the following properties:*

(i) *For all f in $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$,*

$$\|f\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} \leq \|f\|_{\epsilon} \leq (1 + 2\epsilon)\|f\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}}. \quad (2.1)$$

(ii) *For all f and g in $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$,*

$$\|f^2\|_{\epsilon} \leq (1 + \epsilon)\|f^2 + g^2\|_{\epsilon}. \quad (2.2)$$

(iii) $\|f^2\|_{\epsilon} > \|f^2\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}}$ *for all functions $f \in C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ such that f^2 is nonconstant.*

Moreover, the constants $1 + 2\epsilon$ in (2.1) and $1 + \epsilon$ in (2.2) are sharp.

Proof For $f \in C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ we define

$$\|f\|_{\epsilon} = \|f\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} + \epsilon \sup_{k_1 \neq k_2} |f(k_1) - f(k_2)|.$$

It is clear that $\|\cdot\|_{\epsilon}$ is a norm on $C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ that satisfies

$$\|f\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} \leq \|f\|_{\epsilon} \leq (1 + 2\epsilon)\|f\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}}, \quad f \in C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K}). \quad (2.3)$$

Let us observe also that if $f, g \in C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$, and $k_1, k_2 \in \mathcal{K}$ with $k_1 \neq k_2$,

$$\begin{aligned} |f(k_1)g(k_1) - f(k_2)g(k_2)| &\leq |f(k_1) - f(k_2)||g(k_1)| + |f(k_2)||g(k_1) - g(k_2)| \\ &\leq |f(k_1) - f(k_2)|\|g\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} + |g(k_1) - g(k_2)|\|f\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \|fg\|_{\epsilon} &= \|fg\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} + \epsilon \sup_{k_1 \neq k_2} |f(k_1)g(k_1) - f(k_2)g(k_2)| \\ &\leq \|f\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}}\|g\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} + \epsilon \sup_{k_1 \neq k_2} |f(k_1) - f(k_2)|\|g\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} \\ &\quad + \epsilon \sup_{k_1 \neq k_2} |g(k_1) - g(k_2)|\|f\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} \leq \|f\|_{\epsilon}\|g\|_{\epsilon}. \end{aligned}$$

The constant $1 + 2\epsilon$ in (i) is sharp since we can pick points $k_1 \neq k_2$ in $\mathcal{K}$ and a function $f \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ with $\|f\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} = 1$ such that $f(k_1) = 1$ and $f(k_2) = -1$. Therefore, $\|f\|_{\epsilon} = 1 + 2\epsilon$.

Now observe that if $f \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ with $0 \leq f(k) \leq 1$ then $\|f\|_{\epsilon} \leq 1 + \epsilon$. Thus, if $\|f\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} = 1$ and $g \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$,

$$\|f^2\|_{\epsilon} \leq (1 + \epsilon) \leq (1 + \epsilon)\|f^2 + g^2\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}} \leq (1 + \epsilon)\|f^2 + g^2\|_{\epsilon}.$$

To see that the constant $1 + \epsilon$ in the last inequality is sharp, choose $f \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ with $0 \leq f \leq 1$ taking the values 0 and 1, and $g \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ such that $f^2 + g^2 = 1$.

Finally, note that if $f \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ is such that $f(k_1) \neq f(k_2)$ for some $k_1 \neq k_2$ in $\mathcal{K}$, then $\|f^2\|_{\epsilon} > \|f^2\|_{\infty, \mathcal{K}}$. $\square$

We now give some results concerning the class $(B)_k$ for $k \geq 1$.

Proposition 2.2 Suppose $\mathcal{A} \in (B)_k$ for some $k \geq 1$. Then the formula

$$\| \|a\| \| = \sqrt{\|a^2\|}, \quad a \in \mathcal{A},$$

defines a quasi-norm on $\mathcal{A}$ such that

$$\| \|a\| \| \leq \|a\| \leq k(1 + \sqrt{\|e\|})^2 \| \|a\| \|, \quad a \in \mathcal{A}.$$

Proof Of course, $\| \|a\| \| \leq \|a\|$ and clearly $\| \lambda a \| \| = |\lambda| \| \|a\| \|$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $a \in \mathcal{A}$. The triangle law of the quasi-norm follows easily as well:

$$\begin{aligned} \| \|a + b\| \|^2 &= \|(a + b)^2\| \leq k\|(a + b)^2 + (a - b)^2\| \\ &= 2k\|a^2 + b^2\| \\ &\leq 2k(\|a^2\| + \|b^2\|) \\ &\leq 2k(\| \|a\| \|^2 + \| \|b\| \|^2), \end{aligned}$$

so that $\| \|a + b\| \| \leq \sqrt{2k}(\| \|a\| \| + \| \|b\| \|)$.

Let us now show that

$$\| \|a\| \| \leq k(\| \|a\| \| + \sqrt{\|e\|})^2, \quad a \in \mathcal{A}. \quad (2.4)$$

Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} \| 4a \| &= \|(a + e)^2 - (a - e)^2\| \\ &\leq \|(a + e)^2\| + \|(a - e)^2\| \\ &= \| \|a + e\| \|^2 + \| \|a - e\| \|^2 \\ &\leq 4k(\| \|a\| \| + \sqrt{\|e\|})^2. \end{aligned}$$

If we plug ta in inequality (2.4) we obtain

$$t \| \|a\| \| \leq k(t \| \|a\| \| + \sqrt{\|e\|})^2.$$

Therefore $\| \|a\| \| = 0$ implies $\| \|a\| \| \leq \frac{k}{t} \|e\|$ for all $t > 0$ and so $a = 0$. This shows that $\| \| \cdot \| \|$ is a quasi-norm. Finally, using homogeneity we also obtain from (2.4) that

$$\| \|a\| \| \leq k(1 + \sqrt{\|e\|})^2 \| \|a\| \|, \quad a \in \mathcal{A}.$$

$\square$

Remark 2.3 Notice that if $\mathcal{A} \in \bigcup_{k \geq 1} (B)_k$ then there does not exist $a \in \mathcal{A} \setminus \{0\}$ with $a^2 = 0$.

Lemma 2.4 Let $\mathcal{A}$ be a commutative normed real algebra with unit e . The following are equivalent:

- (i) There exists $u \in \mathcal{A} \setminus \{0, \pm e\}$ such that $u^2 = e$.
- (ii) There exists $v \in \mathcal{A} \setminus \{0, \pm e\}$ such that $v^2 = v$.

Proof This follows readily since $u^2 = e$ iff $v^2 = v$ for $v = \frac{e+u}{2}$. $\square$

Theorem 2.5 Let $\mathcal{A}$ be a two-dimensional commutative real algebra with unit e of norm $\|e\| = 1$. Assume that there exists $u \in \mathcal{A} \setminus \{\pm e\}$ such $u^2 = e$. Then $\mathcal{A} \in (B)_{\|u\|}$. Moreover, $\|u\| = 1$ if and only if $\mathcal{A}$ is isometrically isomorphic to $(\mathbb{R}^2, \|\cdot\|_\infty)$.

Proof Write $v = \frac{e+u}{2}$ and $w = \frac{e-u}{2}$. Hence $v - w = u$, $v + w = e$, $v^2 = v$, $w^2 = w$ and $vw = 0$. For each $a \in \mathcal{A}$ we can write $a = \alpha v + \beta w$. Therefore $av = \alpha v$ and $aw = \beta w$, which gives

$$\max\{|\alpha|, |\beta|\} \leq \|a\|.$$

On the other hand, since $a = \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}e + \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2}u$ and $\|u\| \geq 1$ we obtain

$$\|a\| \leq \|u\| \left(\frac{|\alpha + \beta|}{2} + \frac{|\alpha - \beta|}{2} \right) \leq \|u\| \max\{|\alpha|, |\beta|\}.$$

Therefore

$$\max\{|\alpha|, |\beta|\} \leq \|a\| \leq \|u\| \max\{|\alpha|, |\beta|\}. \quad (2.5)$$

To show that $\mathcal{A} \in (B)_{\|u\|}$ just notice that if $a = \alpha v + \beta w$ then $a^2 = \alpha^2 v + \beta^2 w$. Hence, if $b = \alpha' v + \beta' w$ then $a^2 + b^2 = (\alpha^2 + (\alpha')^2)v + (\beta^2 + (\beta')^2)w$ and we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \|a^2\| &\leq \|u\| \max\{\alpha^2, \beta^2\} \\ &\leq \|u\| \max\{\alpha^2 + (\alpha')^2, \beta^2 + (\beta')^2\} \\ &\leq \|u\| \|a^2 + b^2\|. \end{aligned}$$

Using also (2.5) we obtain that $\|u\| = 1$ if and only if $\|a\| = \max\{|\alpha|, |\beta|\}$. $\square$

Corollary 2.6 Let $\mathcal{A}$ be a two-dimensional commutative real algebra with unit e of norm $\|e\| = 1$. Assume that there exists $v \in \mathcal{A}$ such that $v^2 = v$ and $\|v\| > 1$. Then $\mathcal{A} \in \bigcup_{k > 1} (B)_k \setminus (B)_1$.

Proof Taking $u = 2v - e$ in Theorem 2.5 we have that $\mathcal{A} \in (B)_{\|2v-e\|}$. To show that $\mathcal{A} \notin (B)_1$, it suffices to plug $a = v$ and $b = e - v$ in (1.4), since $\|a^2\| = \|v\| > 1 = \|a^2 + b^2\|$. $\square$

Example 2.7 Let $\mathcal{A}$ be the algebra of all real-valued functions on a set $\mathcal{K}$ of two elements. Let e denote the constant function 1 and u denote a function which takes the value 1 at one of the points of $\mathcal{K}$ and -1 at the other. These two functions form a basis for $\mathcal{A}$. Let $\lambda > 0$ and for $f = x_1 e + x_2 u$ define

$$\|f\|_{\lambda,1} = |x_1| + (1 + \lambda)|x_2|.$$

If f takes the values α and β then $x_1 = \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}$ and $x_2 = \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2}$. Hence $|x_1| + |x_2| = \max\{|\alpha|, |\beta|\}$. Thus the above expression is just the norm in Theorem 2.1 (with $\mathcal{K}$ having only two points) for $\varepsilon = \lambda/2$.

Using Theorem 2.5 and Corollary 2.6 with $v = \frac{u+e}{2}$ we infer that $(\mathcal{A}, \|\cdot\|_{\lambda,1}) \in (B)_{1+\lambda} \setminus (B)_1$ since $\|u\|_{\lambda,1} = 1 + \lambda$ and so $\|v\|_{\lambda,1} = 1 + \frac{\lambda}{2} > 1$.

Let us now present some examples of norms on two-dimensional commutative real algebras with a unit satisfying the properties in Corollary 2.6. The construction is inspired by examples of two-dimensional Hilbert space operator algebras from [6].

Example 2.8 Let $\mathcal{A}$ be the set of matrices

$$\left\{ a = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ x_2 & x_1 \end{pmatrix} : x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

with the usual matrix multiplication. For each $\lambda > 0$ define

$$\|a\|_\lambda = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2} + \lambda|x_2|, \quad a = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ x_2 & x_1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{A}.$$

It is easy to check that $\|\cdot\|_\lambda$ is a norm.

Theorem 2.9 Let $\mathcal{A}_\lambda = (\mathcal{A}, \|\cdot\|_\lambda)$. Then $\mathcal{A}_\lambda$ is a normed algebra (i.e., $\|\cdot\|_\lambda$ is submultiplicative) if and only if $\lambda \geq \sqrt{2}$. Moreover, $\mathcal{A}_\lambda \in (B)_{1+\lambda} \setminus (B)_1$ for all $\lambda \geq \sqrt{2}$.

Proof Assume first that $\lambda \geq \sqrt{2}$. Set

$$a = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ x_2 & x_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad b = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_2 & y_1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We need to show that $\|ab\|_\lambda \leq \|a\|_\lambda \|b\|_\lambda$. The case $x_2 y_2 = 0$ follows trivially since either $a = x_1 e$ or $b = y_1 e$ where $e = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\|a\| = |x_1|$ or $\|b\| = |y_1|$. We may assume that $x_2 \neq 0$ and $y_2 \neq 0$, so that it suffices to check the above inequality for

$$a = \begin{pmatrix} x & 1 \\ 1 & x \end{pmatrix}, \quad b = \begin{pmatrix} y & 1 \\ 1 & y \end{pmatrix},$$

where $x, y \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$. Thus we need to show that

$$\sqrt{(xy+1)^2 + (x+y)^2} + \lambda|x+y| \leq (\sqrt{1+x^2} + \lambda)(\sqrt{1+y^2} + \lambda),$$

or, equivalently,

$$\sqrt{(1+x^2)(1+y^2) + 4xy} - \sqrt{(1+x^2)(1+y^2)} \leq \lambda(\sqrt{1+x^2} + \sqrt{1+y^2} - |x+y| + \lambda).$$

Since

$$\sqrt{1+x^2} + \sqrt{1+y^2} - |x+y| > 0$$

it suffices to see that

$$\frac{4xy}{\sqrt{(1+x^2)(1+y^2) + 4xy} + \sqrt{(1+x^2)(1+y^2)}} \leq \lambda^2. \quad (2.6)$$

We may assume that $xy > 0$. Observe that

$$\frac{4xy}{\sqrt{(1+x^2)(1+y^2) + 4xy} + \sqrt{(1+x^2)(1+y^2)}} \leq \frac{2xy}{\sqrt{(1+x^2)(1+y^2)}} \leq 2,$$

which gives (2.6) for all $\lambda \geq \sqrt{2}$.

Assume now that $\mathcal{A}_\lambda$ is a normed algebra. In particular for $a_t = \begin{pmatrix} t & 1 \\ 1 & t \end{pmatrix}$ we have $\|a_t^2\|_\lambda \leq \|a_t\|_\lambda^2$ for all $t > 0$. Since

$$a_t^2 = \begin{pmatrix} t^2 + 1 & 2t \\ 2t & t^2 + 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

we infer that

$$\sqrt{(1+t^2)^2 + 4t^2} \leq (\sqrt{t^2 + 1} + \lambda)^2 - 2t\lambda \leq t^2 + 1 + \lambda^2 + 2\lambda(\sqrt{1+t^2} - t).$$

Therefore,

$$\sqrt{(1+t^2)^2 + 4t^2} - (1+t^2) = \frac{4t^2}{\sqrt{(1+t^2)^2 + 4t^2} + (1+t^2)} \leq \lambda^2 + \frac{2\lambda}{\sqrt{1+t^2} + t}.$$

Taking limits as $t \rightarrow \infty$ gives $\lambda^2 \geq 2$.

Finally, use that $u = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ satisfies $u^2 = e$ and $\|u\|_\lambda = 1 + \lambda$, and that $v = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$ satisfies $v^2 = v$ and $\|v\| = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + \frac{\lambda}{2} \geq \sqrt{2}$ and invoke Theorem 2.5 and Corollary 2.6 to see that $\mathcal{A}_\lambda \in (B)_{1+\lambda} \setminus (B)_1$. $\square$

We can set the above examples in a general scale.

Example 2.10 Let $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{R}^2$ and set $e = (1, 1)$ and $u = (1, -1)$. Given $a = x_1e + x_2u$ and $b = y_1e + y_2u$ we have

$$ab = (x_1y_1 + x_2y_2)e + (x_1y_2 + x_2y_1)u.$$

Let $\lambda > 0$ and $1 \leq p \leq \infty$. For $a = x_1e + x_2u$ we define

$$\|a\|_{\lambda,p} = \|(x_1, x_2)\|_p + \lambda|x_2|, \quad (2.7)$$

where, as usual, $\|(x_1, x_2)\|_p = (|x_1|^p + |x_2|^p)^{1/p}$ for $1 \leq p < \infty$, and $\|(x_1, x_2)\|_\infty = \max\{|x_1|, |x_2|\}$.

Using Examples 2.7 and 2.8 we can enunciate the following result about the normed algebra $\mathcal{A} = (\mathbb{R}^2, \|\cdot\|_{\lambda,p})$.

Proposition 2.11 Let $\mathcal{A}$ be $\mathbb{R}^2$ equipped with the norm $\|\cdot\|_{\lambda,p}$ defined in (2.7).

- (i) If $p = 1$ then $\mathcal{A} \in (B)_{1+\lambda} \setminus (B)_1$ for all $\lambda > 0$.
- (ii) If $p = 2$ then $\|\cdot\|_{\lambda,2}$ is submultiplicative for all $\lambda \geq \sqrt{2}$. Moreover, $\mathcal{A} \in (B)_{1+\lambda} \setminus (B)_1$ for all $\lambda \geq \sqrt{2}$.

Proposition 2.12 Let $\lambda > 0$. Then $\|\cdot\|_{\lambda,\infty}$ is a submultiplicative norm on $\mathbb{R}^2$ if and only if $\lambda \geq 1$. Moreover, if $\mathcal{A}$ is $\mathbb{R}^2$ equipped with the norm $\|\cdot\|_{\lambda,\infty}$, then $\mathcal{A} \in (B)_{1+\lambda} \setminus (B)_1$ for $\lambda > 1$.

Proof Assume that $\|\cdot\|_{\lambda,\infty}$ is submultiplicative. If $a = e + u$ we have

$$\|a^2\|_{\lambda,\infty} = 2\|a\|_{\lambda,\infty} \leq \|a\|_{\lambda,\infty}^2.$$

Hence $1 + \lambda = \|a\|_{\lambda,\infty} \geq 2$ and so $\lambda \geq 1$.

Assume now that $\lambda \geq 1$. We only need to analyze the cases $a = xe + u$ and $b = ye + u$. We have

$$\begin{aligned}\|a\|_{\lambda,\infty} &= \max\{|x|, 1\} + \lambda, \\ \|b\|_{\lambda,\infty} &= \max\{|y|, 1\} + \lambda, \text{ and} \\ \|ab\|_{\lambda,\infty} &= \max\{|xy + 1|, |x + y|\} + \lambda|x + y|.\end{aligned}$$

We want $\|ab\|_{\lambda,\infty} \leq \|a\|_{\lambda,\infty}\|b\|_{\lambda,\infty}$, i.e.,

$$\max\{|xy + 1|, |x + y|\} + \lambda|x + y| \leq (\max\{|x|, 1\} + \lambda)(\max\{|y|, 1\} + \lambda).$$

Let us show that

$$\max\{|x||y| + 1, |x| + |y|\} + \lambda(|x| + |y|) \leq (\max\{|x|, 1\} + \lambda)(\max\{|y|, 1\} + \lambda).$$

When $|x| \leq 1$ and $|y| \leq 1$ the right hand-side is equal to $(1 + \lambda)^2$ and the left hand-side is at most $2 + 2\lambda$, so the inequality holds.

Assuming $|x| \geq 1$ and $|y| \geq 1$ the inequality becomes

$$(|x||y| + 1) + \lambda(|x| + |y|) \leq (|x| + \lambda)(|y| + \lambda),$$

which also holds for $\lambda \geq 1$.

In the case when $|x| \leq 1 \leq |y|$ the inequality becomes

$$(1 + \lambda)(|x| + |y|) \leq (1 + \lambda)(|y| + \lambda),$$

which follows again under the assumption of $\lambda \geq 1$.

To finish the proof we just need to apply Theorem 2.5 and Corollary 2.6 with $v = \frac{e+u}{2}$. $\square$

Proposition 2.13 *Let $\lambda > 0$ and $1 < p < 2$. Then the norm $\|\cdot\|_{\lambda,p}$ is not submultiplicative.*

Proof Assume that $\|\cdot\|_{\lambda,p}$ is submultiplicative. Then $\|a^2\|_{\lambda,p} \leq \|a\|_{\lambda,p}^2$ for $a = te + u$ and $t > 0$. Therefore,

$$\left((t^2 + 1)^p + (2t)^p\right)^{1/p} - (t^p + 1)^{2/p} \leq \lambda(2(t^p + 1)^{1/p} - 2t + \lambda). \quad (2.8)$$

Observe now that $\phi_p(t) = (t^p + 1)^{1/p} - t$ is decreasing and $0 \leq \phi_p(t) \leq 1$. Hence the right hand-side of (2.8) is bounded by $\lambda^2 + 2\lambda$. On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned}& \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left((t^2 + 1)^p + (2t)^p\right)^{1/p} - (t^p + 1)^{2/p} \\&= \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\left((s^2 + 1)^p + (2s)^p\right)^{1/p} - (s^p + 1)^{2/p}}{s^2} \\&= \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\left((s^2 + 1)^p + (2s)^p\right)^{1/p-1} (s^{2-p}(1 + s^2)^{p-1} + 2^{p-1}) - (1 + s^p)^{2/p-1}}{s^{2-p}} \\&= \infty.\end{aligned}$$

This gives a contradiction, and so there is no $\lambda > 0$ for which $\|\cdot\|_{\lambda,p}$ is submultiplicative. $\square$

To analyze the case $\|\cdot\|_{\lambda,p}$ for $p > 2$ we shall use the following lemma.

Lemma 2.14 *Suppose $p > 2$. For $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ put*

$$\Phi_p(x, y) = \left((xy + 1)^p + (x + y)^p\right)^{1/p} - (x^p + 1)^{1/p}(y^p + 1)^{1/p}.$$

Then if $x, y > 0$,

$$\Phi_p(x, y) \leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{xy}\right)^{p-1} \min\{1, xy\} + 2^{p-1}(\min\{x, y\})^{2-p}. \quad (2.9)$$

In particular

$$\Phi_p(x, y) \leq 2^p, \quad x, y > 0. \quad (2.10)$$

Proof We will use the following elementary inequalities, where p' denotes the conjugate exponent of p , determined by the relation $1/p + 1/p' = 1$:

$$a^{1/p} - b^{1/p} \leq \frac{a - b}{pb^{1/p'}}, \quad a > b > 0; \quad (2.11)$$

$$u^p - v^p \leq pu^{p-1}(u - v), \quad u > v > 0; \quad (2.12)$$

and

$$\alpha + \beta - (\alpha^p + \beta^p)^{1/p} \leq \min\{\alpha, \beta\}, \quad \alpha, \beta > 0. \quad (2.13)$$

Note that

$$xy + 1 \geq (x^p y^p + 1)^{1/p};$$

and

$$x + y \geq (x^p + y^p)^{1/p},$$

so that

$$(xy + 1)^p + (x + y)^p \geq (1 + x^p)(1 + y^p).$$

Hence, applying consecutively (2.11), (2.12), and (2.13) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_p(x, y) &\leq \frac{(xy + 1)^p - (x^p y^p + 1) + (x + y)^p - (x^p + y^p)}{p(1 + y^p)^{1/p'}(1 + x^p)^{1/p'}} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{(xy)^{p/p'}} ((xy + 1)^{p-1}(xy + 1 - (x^p y^p + 1)^{1/p})) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{(xy)^{p/p'}} ((x + y)^{p-1}(x + y - (x^p + y^p)^{1/p})) \\ &\leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{xy}\right)^{p-1} \min\{1, xy\} + \left(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{y}\right)^{p-1} \min\{x, y\} \\ &\leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{xy}\right)^{p-1} \min\{1, xy\} + \left(\frac{2}{\min\{x, y\}}\right)^{p-1} \min\{x, y\}. \end{aligned}$$

Assume now that $x, y \geq 1$. Then, (2.9) and the condition $p > 2$ give $\Phi_p(x, y) \leq 2^{p-1} + 2^{p-1} = 2^p$ for all $x, y \geq 1$. But since $\Phi_p(x, y) = \Phi_p(y, x)$ and $\Phi_p(x, y) = x\Phi_p(\frac{1}{x}, y)$ for all $x, y > 0$, we obtain that $\Phi_p(x, y) \leq 2^p$ for all $x, y > 0$. $\square$

Proposition 2.15 For $2 < p < \infty$ set

$$A_p = \sup_{x>0, y>0} \Phi_p(x, y).$$

(i) If $\|\cdot\|_{\lambda, p}$ is submultiplicative then $\lambda \geq \frac{A_p}{\sqrt{1+A_p+1}}$.

(ii) If $\lambda \geq 2^{p/2}$ then $\|\cdot\|_{\lambda,p}$ is a submultiplicative norm on $\mathbb{R}^2$. In particular, if we consider $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{R}^2$ equipped with this norm then $\mathcal{A} \in (B)_{1+\lambda} \setminus (B)_1$ for all $\lambda \geq 2^{p/2}$.

Proof (i) Assume that $\|ab\|_{\lambda,p} \leq \|a\|_{\lambda,p}\|b\|_{\lambda,p}$ for $a = xe + u$ and $b = ye + u$ with $x, y > 0$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} ((xy+1)^p + (x+y)^p)^{1/p} - (x^p+1)^{1/p}(y^p+1)^{1/p} \leq \\ \lambda((x^p+1)^{1/p} - x + (y^p+1)^{1/p} - y) + \lambda^2. \end{aligned}$$

In particular, using that $(x^p+1)^{1/p} - x \leq 1$, we obtain

$$\Phi_p(x, y) \leq \lambda^2 + 2\lambda, \quad x, y > 0.$$

This gives that $\lambda^2 + 2\lambda - A_p \geq 0$ so that $\lambda \geq \sqrt{A_p + 1} - 1$.

(ii) Assume that $\lambda^2 \geq 2^p$. Let $a = x_1e + y_1u$ and $b = x_2e + y_2u$. If $y_1y_2 = 0$ then $\|ab\|_{\lambda,p} = \|a\|_{\lambda,p}\|b\|_{\lambda,p}$. Hence we only need to check that $\|ab\|_{\lambda,p} \leq \|a\|_{\lambda,p}\|b\|_{\lambda,p}$ for $a = xe + u$ and $b = ye + u$ with $x, y > 0$. Since $ab = (xy+1)e + (x+y)u$, we must equivalently show that

$$\Phi_p(x, y) \leq \lambda((x^p+1)^{1/p} - x + (y^p+1)^{1/p} - y + \lambda), \quad (2.14)$$

which follows from (2.10).

We conclude the proof by applying again Theorem 2.5 with $\|u\|_{\lambda,p} = 1 + \lambda$ and Corollary 2.6 with $v = \frac{e+u}{2}$, since

$$\|v\|_{\lambda,p} = \frac{2^{1/p} + \lambda}{2} \geq \frac{2^{1/p} + 2^{p/2}}{2} > 1.$$

□

Remark 2.16 We now define algebra norms on $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ where $\mathcal{K}$ has more than two points. Let $p > 2$ and $\lambda \geq 2^{p/2}$.

For an element f of $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ put

$$\|f\|_{\lambda,p} = \sup_F \|f|_F\|_{\lambda,p}, \quad (2.15)$$

where the supremum is taken over all two-point subsets F of $\mathcal{K}$ and $\|f|_F\|_{\lambda,p}$ is defined using the construction of Example 2.7 and the definition in Example 2.10. In this definition there are two possibilities for the function u , but both possibilities give the same norm because one is minus the other.

Let us see that the supremum is actually obtained. Consider the function

$$F_{p,\lambda}(s, t) = \left(\left| \frac{f(s) + f(t)}{2} \right|^p + \left| \frac{f(s) - f(t)}{2} \right|^p \right)^{1/p} + \left| \frac{f(s) - f(t)}{2} \right| \lambda,$$

which is continuous on $\mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{K}$.

If $f \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{K})$ is nonconstant and $\lambda > 1$, there exists $(s, t) \in \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{K}$ with $s \neq t$ such that

$$F_{p,\lambda}(s, t) \geq \left| \frac{f(s) + f(t)}{2} \right| + \left| \frac{f(s) - f(t)}{2} \right| \lambda > \max\{|f(t)|, |f(s)|\}.$$

Hence $\|F\|_{\infty} > \|f\|_{\infty}$.

The function $F_{p,\lambda}$ attains its largest value at a point (s_0, t_0) with $s_0 \neq t_0$. Set $F_0 = \{s_0, t_0\}$. Then the supremum in (2.15) is attained at $\|f|_{F_0}\|_{\lambda,p}$.

The results shown previously extend to these infinite dimensional Banach algebras.

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