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Functional continuity of unital B_0 -algebras with orthogonal bases

M. El Azhari

Abstract. Let A be a unital B_0 -algebra with an orthogonal basis, then every multiplicative linear functional on A is continuous. This gives an answer to a problem posed by Z. Sawon and Z. Wronski.

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I. Preliminaries

A topological algebra is a complex associative algebra which is also a Hausdorff topological vector space such that the multiplication is separately continuous. A locally convex algebra is a topological algebra whose topology is determined by a family of seminorms. A complete metrizable locally convex algebra is called a B_0 -algebra. The topology of a B_0 -algebra A may be given by a countable family $(\|.\|_i)_{i\geq 1}$ of seminorms such that $\|x\|_i \leq \|x\|_{i+1}$ and $\|xy\|_i \leq \|x\|_{i+1}\|y\|_{i+1}$ for all $i \geq 1$ and $x, y \in A$. A multiplicative linear functional on a complex algebra. $M^*(A)$ denotes the set of all nonzero multiplicative linear functionals on A. M(A) denotes the set of all nonzero continuous multiplicative linear functionals on A. A seminorm p on A is lower semicontinuous if the set $\{x \in A : p(x) \leq 1\}$ is closed in A.

Let A be a topological algebra. A sequence $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$ in A is a basis if for each $x \in A$ there is a unique sequence $(\alpha_n)_{n\geq 1}$ of complex numbers such that $x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \alpha_n e_n$. Each linear functional $e_n^* : A \to \mathbb{C}$, $e_n^*(x) = \alpha_n$, is called a coefficient functional. If each e_n^* is continuous, the basis $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$ is called a Schauder basis. A basis $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$ is orthogonal if $e_i e_j = \delta_{ij} e_i$ where δ_{ij} is the Kronecker symbol. If $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$ is an orthogonal basis, then each e_n^* is a multiplicative linear functional on A. Let A be a topological algebra with an orthogonal basis $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$. If A has a unity e, then $e = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e_n$. Let $(x_k)_k$ be a net in A converging to 0, since the multiplication is separately continuous, $e_n x_k = e_n^*(x_k)e_n \to_k 0$ and so $e_n^*(x_k) \to_k 0$. Then each orthogonal basis in a topological algebra is a Schauder basis. Let f be a multiplicative linear functional on A. If $f(e_{n_0}) \neq 0$ for some $n_0 \geq 1$, then $f(x)f(e_{n_0}) = f(xe_{n_0}) = f(e_{n_0}^*(x)e_{n_0}) = e_{n_0}^*(x)f(e_{n_0})$ for all $x \in A$ and therefore $f = e_{n_0}^* \in M(A)$. This shows that $M(A) = \{e_n^* : n \geq 1\}$.

Here we consider unital B_0 -algebras with orthogonal bases. These algebras were investigated in [3] where we can find examples of such algebras.

II. Results

Proposition II.1. Let $(A, (\|.\|_i)_{i\geq 1})$ be a unital B_0 -algebra with an orthogonal basis $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$. Then there exists $x \in A$ such that the sequence $(e_n^*(x))_{n\geq 1}$ is not bounded.

Proof. Suppose that $\sup_{n\geq 1} |e_n^*(x)| < \infty$ for all $x \in A$. For each $x \in A$, let $||x|| = \sup_{n\geq 1} |e_n^*(x)|$, ||.|| is a lower semicontinuous norm on A since $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$ is a Schauder basis. Let τ_A be the topology on A determined by the family $(||.||_i)_{i\geq 1}$ of seminorms. We define a new topology τ on A described by the norm ||.|| and the family $(||.||_i)_{i\geq 1}$ of seminorms. The topology τ is stronger than the topology τ_A . By Garling's completeness theorem [1, Theorem 1], (A, τ) is complete. The topologies τ_A and τ are homeomorphic by the open mapping theorem. Then there exist $i_0 \geq 1$ and M > 0 such that $||x|| \leq M ||x||_{i_0}$ for all $x \in A$, hence $1 = |e_n^*(e_n)| \leq ||e_n|| \leq M ||e_n||_{i_0}$ for all $n \geq 1$. This contradicts the fact that $e_n \to_n 0$.

Proposition II.2. Let A be a unital B_0 -algebra with an orthogonal basis $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$. If $x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} t_n e_n \in A$ such that $t_n \in \mathbb{R}$, $t_n \leq t_{n+1}$ for $n \geq 1$ and $t_n \to \infty$, then $f(x) \in \mathbb{R}$ for all $f \in M^*(A)$.

Proof. If $f \in M(A)$, $f = e_n^*$ for some $n \ge 1$, then $f(x) = t_n \in \mathbb{R}$. If $f \in M^*(A) \smallsetminus M(A)$, then $f(e_n) = 0$ for all $n \ge 1$. Suppose that $f(x) \notin \mathbb{R}$, $f(x) = \alpha + i\beta$ with $\beta \ne 0$. Since $t_n \to \infty$, there exists $n_0 \ge 1$ such that $t_n \ge \alpha + |\beta|$ for all $n \ge n_0$. We define the sequence $(s_n)_{n\ge 1}$ by $s_n = t_{n_0}$ for $1 \le n \le n_0$ and $s_n = t_n$ for $n \ge n_0 + 1$. It is clear that $y = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} s_n e_n \in A$ such that $s_n \ge \alpha + |\beta|$, $s_n \le s_{n+1}$ for $n \ge 1$ and $s_n \to \infty$. Since $f(e_n) = 0$ for all $n \ge 1$, $f(y) = f(x) = \alpha + i\beta$. We have $f(|\beta|^{-1}y) = |\beta|^{-1}\alpha + i|\beta|^{-1}\beta$, then $f(|\beta|^{-1}y - |\beta|^{-1}\alpha e) = i|\beta|^{-1}\beta$. Set $z = |\beta|^{-1}y - |\beta|^{-1}\alpha e = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{s_n - \alpha}{|\beta|} e_n$. The real sequence $(\frac{s_n - \alpha}{|\beta|})_{n\ge 1}$ is positive increasing and $\frac{s_n - \alpha}{|\beta|} \to \infty$, then $z^{-1} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{|\beta|}{s_n - \alpha} e_n \in A$ by [3, Theorem 0.1] and $f(z^{-1}) = -i|\beta|\beta^{-1}$, so $f(z+z^{-1}) = 0$. Since the map $g : [1, \infty) \to \mathbb{R}$, $g(x) = x + \frac{1}{x}$, is increasing and the sequence $(\frac{s_n - \alpha}{|\beta|})_{n\ge 1} \subset [1, \infty)$ is increasing, it follows that $(v_n)_{n\ge 1}$ is a positive increasing sequence and $v_n \to \infty$. By [3, Theorem 0.1], $v^{-1} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{v_n} e_n \in A$ and therefore $f(e) = f(v)f(v^{-1}) = 0$. This contradicts the fact that f is nonzero.

The following two results are due to Sawon and Wronski [3], the proofs are given for completeness.

Theorem II.3([3, Theorem 2.1]). Let A be a unital B_0 -algebra with an orthogonal basis $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$. If $x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} t_n e_n \in A$ such that $t_n \in \mathbb{R}$, $t_n \leq t_{n+1}$ for $n \geq 1$ and $t_n \to \infty$, then every multiplicative linear functional on A is continuous.

Proposition II.4([3, p.109]). Let $(A, (||.||_i)_{i\geq 1})$ be a unital B_0 -algebra with an orthogonal basis $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$. Then the set N of all positive integers can be split into two disjoint subsets N_1 and N_2 such that by putting $A_1 = \overline{span}(e_n)_{n\in N_1}$ and $A_2 = \overline{span}(e_n)_{n\in N_2}$, we have

 $(1) A = A_1 \oplus A_2;$

(2) if f is a multiplicative linear functional on A such that $f \notin M(A)$, then $f_{A_1} = 0$.

Proof. By Proposition II.1, there is $x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} t_n e_n \in A$ such that the sequence $(t_n)_{n\geq 1}$ is not bounded. Then there exists a subsequence $(t_{k_n})_{n\geq 1}$ of $(t_n)_{n\geq 1}$ such that $|t_{k_n}| \geq n^2$ for all $n \geq 1$. For each $i \geq 1$, there is $M_i > 0$ such that $|t_{ne_n}|_i \leq M_i$ for all $n \geq 1$. Let $i \geq 1$ and $n \geq 1$, $n^2 ||e_{k_n}||_i \leq |t_{k_n}||e_{k_n}||_i = ||t_{k_n}e_{k_n}||_i \leq M_i$, then $||e_{k_n}||_i \leq n^{-2}M_i$. This implies that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}e_{k_n}$ is absolutely convergent. Let $A_1 = \overline{span}\{e_{k_n} : n \geq 1\}$, A_1 is a unital B_0 -algebra with an orthogonal basis $(e_{k_n})_{n\geq 1}$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}n^{\frac{1}{2}}e_{k_n} \in A_1$ since $n^{\frac{1}{2}}||e_{k_n}||_i \leq n^{-\frac{3}{2}}M_i$ for all $i \geq 1$ and $n \geq 1$. Set $N_1 = \{k_n : n \geq 1\}$, $N_2 = N \smallsetminus N_1$ and $A_2 = \overline{span}\{e_n : n \in N_2\}$. A_2 is a B_0 -algebra with an orthogonal basis $(e_n)_{n\in N_2}$ and the unity $u_2 = e - u_1$ where $u_1 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty}e_{k_n}$ is the unity of A_1 . Let $x \in A$, $x = xe = x(u_1+u_2) = xu_1+xu_2 \in A_1+A_2$, then $A = A_1 \oplus A_2$. If f is a multiplicative linear functional on A such that $f \notin M(A)$, f_{A_1} is a multiplicative linear functional on A_1 such that $f_{A_1}(e_{k_n}) = 0$ for all $n \geq 1$. Since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}n^{\frac{1}{2}}e_{k_n} \in A_1$, f_{A_1} is continuous on A_1 by Theorem II.3 and therefore $f_{A_1} = 0$.

Sawon and Wronski [3, p.109] posed the following problem:

Problem. Let A be a unital B_0 -algebra with an orthogonal basis $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$. Does there exist a maximal subalgebra $A'_1 = \overline{span}\{e_n : n \in N'_1\}(N'_1 \subset N)$ of A for which (1) and (2) hold?

Proposition II.5. Let A be a unital B_0 -algebra with an orthogonal basis $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$. Then the following assertions are equivalent:

(i) $A = \overline{span}\{e_n : n \in N\}$ is a maximal subalgebra of itself for which (1) and (2) hold;

(ii) every multiplicative linear functional on A is continuous.

Proof. $(i) \Rightarrow (ii)$: Let f be a multiplicative linear functional on A such that $f \notin M(A), f$ is zero on A by (i). Then every multiplicative linear functional on A is continuous.

 $(ii) \Rightarrow (i)$: It is clear that A satisfies (1). Let f be a multiplicative linear functional on A such that $f \notin M(A)$, then f is zero on A since f is continuous, hence A satisfies (2).

Proposition II.6. Let $(t_n)_{n \ge n_0}$ be a complex sequence, the following assertions are equivalent:

 $\begin{array}{l} (i) \ \Sigma_{n=n_0}^{\infty} |t_n - t_{n+1}| < \infty; \\ (ii) \ \text{there exists} \ M > 0 \ \text{such that} \ |t_q| + \Sigma_{n=p}^{q-1} |t_n - t_{n+1}| \le M \ \text{for all} \ q > p \ge n_0. \end{array}$

Proof. $(i) \Rightarrow (ii)$: Let $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $n_1 \ge n_0$ such that $\sum_{k=n}^{\infty} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \le \epsilon$ for every $n \ge n_1$. let $m > n \ge n_1$, $|t_n - t_m| \le |t_n - t_{n+1}| + \dots + |t_{m-1} - t_m| \le \epsilon$. Then the sequence $(t_n)_{n\geq n_0}$ converges, so there is $M_0 > 0$ such that $|t_n| \leq M_0$ for all $n \ge n_0$. Let $q > p \ge n_0$, $|t_q| + \sum_{n=p}^{q-1} |t_n - t_{n+1}| \le M_0 + \sum_{n=n_0}^{\infty} |t_n - t_{n+1}|$. $(ii) \Rightarrow (i)$: Let $p \ge n_0$ and q = p+1, $\sum_{n=n_0}^{p} |t_n - t_{n+1}| \le |t_q| + \sum_{n=n_0}^{q-1} |t_n - t_{n+1}| \le |t_$ *M*. Then the sequence $(\sum_{n=n_0}^p |t_n - t_{n+1}|)_{p \ge n_0}$ is positive increasing and bounded, so it is convergent i.e. $\sum_{n=n_0}^{\infty} |t_n - t_{n+1}| < \infty$.

Proposition II.7. Let $(A, (||.||_i)_{i\geq 1})$ be a unital B_0 -algebra with an orthogonal basis $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$. If $(t_n)_{n\geq n_0}$ is a complex sequence such that $\sum_{n=n_0}^{\infty} |t_n - t_{n+1}| < \infty$, then $\sum_{n=n_0}^{\infty} t_n e_n \in A$.

Proof. Let $q > p \ge n_0$, by using the equality $t_n = t_q + \sum_{k=n}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1})$ for every $p \le n < q$, we obtain that $\sum_{n=p}^{q-1} t_n e_n = t_q (e_p + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_p + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=q-1}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_p + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=q-1}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_p + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=q-1}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_p + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=q-1}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_p + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=q-1}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_p + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=q-1}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_q + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=q-1}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_q + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=q-1}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_q + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=q-1}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_q + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=q-1}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_q + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=q-1}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_q + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=q-1}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_q + \ldots + e_{q-1}) + \sum_{k=q-1}^{q-1} (t_k - t_{k+1}) (e_q + \ldots + e_{q-1})$ $\dots + e_k). \text{ Let } i \ge 1, \|\Sigma_{n=p}^{q-1} t_n e_n\|_i \le |t_q| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_{k+1}| \|e_p + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \sum_{k=p}^{q-1} |t_k - t_k + \dots + e_{q-1}\|_i + \dots$ $\sum_{n=n_0}^{\infty} t_n e_n$ is convergent in A.

Theorem II.8. Let $(A, (\|.\|_i)_{i\geq 1})$ be a unital B_0 -algebra with an orthogonal basis $(e_n)_{n\geq 1}$. Then every multiplicative linear functional on A is continuous.

Proof. By Proposition II.7, $x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} e_n \in A$. Let $f \in M^*(A)$ and $\alpha = f(x)$, then $f(\alpha e - x) = 0$. We have $\alpha e - x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\alpha - \frac{1}{n}) e_n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha n - 1}{n} e_n$. Let \mathbb{N} be the set of all positive integers. Put $I_{\alpha} = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : n \neq \alpha^{-1}\}$, $I_{\alpha} = \mathbb{N}$ if $\alpha^{-1} \notin \mathbb{N}$ and $I_{\alpha} = \mathbb{N} \setminus \{\alpha^{-1}\}$ if $\alpha^{-1} \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $m_{\alpha} = \inf\{n \in \mathbb{N} : |\alpha|n - 1 > 0\}$ and consider the complex sequence $(\frac{n}{\alpha n - 1})_{n \ge m_{\alpha}}$. Let $n \ge m_{\alpha}$, $\frac{n}{\alpha n - 1} - \frac{n+1}{2}$. $\frac{n+1}{\alpha(n+1)-1} = \frac{1}{(\alpha n-1)(\alpha(n+1)-1)}. \text{ We have } |\alpha n-1| \ge |\alpha|n-1 \text{ and } |\alpha(n+1)-1| \ge |\alpha|(n+1)-1| = |\alpha|(n+1)-1| \ge |\alpha$ $\frac{1}{|\alpha n-1||\alpha(n+1)-1|} \leq \frac{1}{(|\alpha|n-1)^2}. \text{ Then } \sum_{n=m_\alpha}^{\infty} \frac{n}{\alpha n-1} e_n \in A \text{ by Proposition II.7 and} \\ \text{therefore } \sum_{n \in I_\alpha} \frac{n}{\alpha n-1} e_n \in A. \text{ If } \alpha^{-1} \notin \mathbb{N} \text{ i.e. } I_\alpha = \mathbb{N}, \ (\alpha e - x) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{\alpha n-1} e_n = e, \\ \text{then } \alpha e - x \text{ is invertible, a contradiction. If } \alpha^{-1} \in \mathbb{N}, \text{ put } n_\alpha = \alpha^{-1}, \text{ then} \\ (\alpha e - x) \sum_{n \in I_\alpha} \frac{n}{\alpha n-1} e_n = \sum_{n \in I_\alpha} e_n, \text{ hence } \sum_{n \in I_\alpha} e_n \in Ker(f) \text{ since } \alpha e - x \in Ker(f). \text{ If } e_{n_\alpha} \in Ker(f), \text{ then } e = e_{n_\alpha} + \sum_{n \in I_\alpha} e_n \in Ker(f), \text{ a contradiction.} \\ \text{Finally } f(e_{n_\alpha}) \neq 0 \text{ and therefore } f = e_{n_\alpha}^*.$

Remark. Proposition II.5 and Theorem II.8 give an answer to Sawon and Wronski's problem.

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