

**REPRESENTABILITY OF POSITIVE FUNCTIONALS ON
ABSTRACT STAR ALGEBRAS WITHOUT IDENTITY
WITH APPLICATIONS TO LOCALLY
CONVEX *ALGEBRAS**

By

SUBHASH J. BHATT

(Received September 30, 1980)

In the context of unbounded representation theory, representable functionals on a star algebra are introduced and are characterized as extendable functionals. This gives faithful representations of certain star algebras as Op^* -algebras. Every representation of a pseudo-complete hermitian locally convex $*$ -algebra is shown to be essentially selfadjoint. Also proved that a Generalized B^* -algebra (without identity) admits a bounded approximate identity which yields the representability of every positive functional.

R. T. Powers [13, Theorem 6.3] has proved that the well known *GNS* construction with a positive functional f on a star algebra A with identity yields a closed strongly cyclic star representation π of A on a Hilbert space H mapping the elements of A into closable linear operators all defined on a common domain $D(\pi)$ dense in H ; and π represents f in a suitable sense. In this paper, we consider the case when A does not possess identity. In § 2, representable functionals on A are introduced in the setting of unbounded representations; and are characterized (as extendable functionals) as in the case of Banach star algebras [5, Theorem 37.11]. This gives a number of sufficient conditions for the representability of every positive functional which in turn are used to construct faithful representations of certain algebras as Op^* -algebras [11, Definition 2.1]. In § 3 we give a couple of applications to locally convex $*$ -algebras. It is shown that every representation of a hermitian pseudo-complete locally convex $*$ -algebra A is essentially selfadjoint. Further if A has a bounded approximate identity and the positive elements A^+ forms a closed convex cone, then A is $*$ -isomorphic to a selfadjoint Op^* -algebra. We also show that a locally convex Generalized B^* -algebra [8] admits a bounded approximate identity.

1. Our notations and terminology will follow [13] except for a suitable modification when the algebra does not possess identity. They are outlined bellow.

Notations and terminology. Let A be a complex star algebra. A *representation* $(\pi, D(\pi), H)$ of A on a Hilbert space H is a mapping π of A into linear operators all defined on a common domain $D(\pi)$ dense in H such that for all x, y in A ; α, β in \mathcal{C} and ζ, η in $D(\pi)$;

$$(a) \quad \pi(\alpha x + \beta y)\zeta = \alpha\pi(x)\zeta + \beta\pi(y)\zeta$$

$$(b) \quad \pi(x)D(\pi) \subset D(\pi) \text{ and } \pi(x)\pi(y)\zeta = \pi(xy)\zeta.$$

It is called *hermitian* or a *star representation* if

$$(c) \quad D(\pi) \subset D(\pi(x)^*) \text{ (here } D(\pi(x)^*) \text{ denote the domain of the operator adjoint } \pi(x)^* \text{ of } \pi(x)) \text{ and } \pi(x^*) \subset \pi(x)^*.$$

In case A possesses identity 1 , then

$$(d) \quad \pi(1) = I.$$

Throughout we shall only consider hermitian representations that are *essential* in the sense that

$$\{\zeta \in D(\pi) \mid \pi(x)\zeta = 0 \text{ for all } x \text{ in } A\} = \{0\}.$$

It is easily seen that, π is essential if and only if $\pi(A)D(\pi)$ is dense in H . By (c), each $\pi(x)$ is a closable operator whose closure is denoted by $\overline{\pi(x)}$. Let A_* be the star algebra obtained by adjoining identity to A . Then $\pi_*(x + \lambda 1) = \pi(x) + \lambda I$ ($x \in A$, $\lambda \in \mathcal{C}$) defines a representation of A_* with domain $D(\pi)$. The *induced topology* (or the A_* -topology) on $D(\pi)$ is the locally convex topology defined by the seminorms $\zeta \rightarrow \|\pi_*(x)\zeta\|$ for varying x in A_* . The completion of $D(\pi)$ in this topology [11, Lemma 3.2] is

$$\begin{aligned} D(\bar{\pi}) &= \bigcap \{D(\overline{\pi_*(x)}) \mid x \in A_*\} \\ &= \bigcap \{D(\overline{\pi(x)}) \mid x \in A\} \end{aligned}$$

(The latter equality follows from: If S and T are densely defined operators in a Hilbert space with $D(T) = D(S)$, then $(T+S)^- = \bar{T} + \bar{S}$ provided either of them is bounded). Now this defines a representation $\bar{\pi}$ of A with domain $D(\bar{\pi})$ as $\bar{\pi}(x) = \overline{\pi(x)}|_{D(\bar{\pi})}$, called the *closure* of π ; and π is *closed* if $\pi = \bar{\pi}$.

The *hermitian adjoint* of π is a (not necessarily hermitian) representation $(\pi^*, D(\pi^*), H)$ with

$$\begin{aligned} D(\pi^*) &= \bigcap \{D(\pi_*(x^*)^*) \mid x \in A_*\} \\ &= \bigcap \{D(\pi(x^*)^*) \mid x \in A\} \text{ (as above)} \end{aligned}$$

with $\pi^*(x) = \pi(x^*)^*|_{D(\pi^*)}$. π is *essentially selfadjoint* (respectively *selfadjoint*) if $\bar{\pi} = \pi^*$ (respectively, $\pi = \pi^*$).

A vector ζ in $D(\pi)$ is called *strongly cyclic* (respectively *cyclic*) if $\pi(A)\zeta$ is dense

in $D(\pi)$ in the induced topology (respectively, $\pi(A)\zeta$ is norm dense in H). It is called an *ultracyclic* vector if $\pi(A)\zeta = D(\pi)$.

2. Let f be a representable functional [5, Definition 37.10] on a Banach star algebra A . The GNS construction [5, Theorem 37.11] gives a cyclic representation π of A on a Hilbert space H such that $f(x) = (\pi(x)\xi, \xi)$ where ξ is a cyclic vector. Due to the admissibility of f [15, Ch. IV, § 5] each $\pi(x)$ is a bounded operator with the result that π automatically turns out to be strongly cyclic. In the context of unbounded representations, this, together with Powers' work [13, Theorem 6.3], suggests the following definition.

Definition 2.1. A positive functional f on a star algebra A is called *representable* if there exists a closed strongly cyclic representation $(\pi, D(\pi), H)$ of A on a Hilbert space H with a strongly cyclic vector ξ such that $f(x) = (\pi(x)\xi, \xi)$ for all x in A . In this case, f is said to be represented by π .

As for Banach star algebras, the above mentioned result of Powers shows that every positive functional on a star algebra with identity is representable. It also follows, by the same arguments as there, that a representable functional is represented by a unique (up to unitary equivalence) closed strongly cyclic representation. The following analogue of [5, Theorem 37.11] shows that representable functionals on A are precisely those that extend positively to A_* .

Theorem 2.2. A positive functional f on a star algebra A is representable if and only if $|f(x)|^2 \leq kf(x^*x)$ holds for all x in A and for some constant k depending on f only.

Proof. Since $\pi(x^*) \subset \pi(x)^*$ for each x in A , one way implication is trivial. Conversely, let $|f(x)|^2 \leq kf(x^*x)$ for all $x \in A$. Then g on A_* defined as $g(x + \lambda 1) = f(x) + k\lambda$ ($x \in A, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$) gives a positive linear extension of f . The standard GNS construction with g is as follows:

Let $N_g = \{a \in A_* \mid g(a^*a) = 0\}$; let $X_g = A_*/N_g$, a vector space with the canonical inner product $(a + N_g, b + N_g) = g(b^*a)$. For each $a \in A_*$, $\pi'_g(a)$ on X_g is defined by $\pi'_g(a)(b + N_g) = ab + N_g$ ($b \in A_*$). Let H_g be the Hilbert space completion of X_g . Then π'_g defines an ultracyclic representation of A_* on H_g with $D(\pi'_g) = X_g$. Let $(\pi_g, D(\pi_g), H_g)$ be its closure; for convenience, being denoted by $(\pi, D(\pi), H)$. It is a closed strongly cyclic representation of A_* such that $g(a) = (\pi(a)\xi_0, \xi_0)$ ($a \in A_*$); $\xi_0 = 1 + N_g$ being a strongly cyclic vector.

Let

$$\begin{aligned} N &= \{y \in D(\pi) \mid \pi(a)y = 0 \text{ for all } a \in A\} \\ &= \text{Cl} \{y \in X_\sigma \mid \pi(a)y = 0 \text{ for all } a \in A\} \end{aligned}$$

where Cl denotes the closure in $D(\pi)$ in the induced topology. Further, let

$$\begin{aligned} M &= \{z \in D(\pi) \mid (z, \eta) = 0 \text{ for all } \eta \in N\} \\ &= D(\pi) \cap N^\perp \quad \text{where } N^\perp = H \ominus N. \end{aligned}$$

From the facts that π is closed and the induced topology on $D(\pi)$ is finer than the norm topology, it follows at once that N is a closed subspace of H . Thus $H = N \oplus N^\perp$ and $D(\pi) = N + M$ which too is a direct sum. As N and M are both π -invariant subspaces, $\pi = \pi_1 + \pi_2$ where π_1 is $(\pi|_N, D(\pi_1) = N, H_1 = N)$ and π_2 is $(\pi|_M, D(\pi_2) = M, H_2 = N^\perp)$, each a representation of A_σ . Also $\xi_0 = v + u$ with $v \in D(\pi_1)$, $u \in D(\pi_2)$, $u \neq 0$ and for each $x \in A$, $f(x) = (\pi_2(x)u, u)$. Let $K = (\pi(A)u)^\perp$, the closure in H of $\pi(A)u$. Define a representation π_3 of A in K with $D(\pi_3) = \pi(A)u$ as $\pi_3(a) = \pi_2(a)|_{D(\pi_3)}$. We show that its closure $(\bar{\pi}_3, D(\bar{\pi}_3), K)$ is the desired representation of A with u as a strongly cyclic vector such that $f(a) = (\bar{\pi}_3(a)u, u)$ ($a \in A$), and for this, it only suffices to show that $u \in D(\bar{\pi}_3)$.

By the definition, $D(\bar{\pi}_3) = \bigcap \{D(\overline{\pi_3(a)^K}) \mid a \in A\}$ where now $\overline{\pi_3(a)^K}$ is the closure of $\pi_3(a)$ as an operator in K with domain $D(\pi_3)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} u &\in D(\pi) \\ &= D(\bar{\pi}) \quad \text{as } \pi \text{ is closed} \\ &= \bigcap \{D(\overline{\pi(a)}) \mid a \in A\} \end{aligned}$$

and so $u \in D(\overline{\pi(a)})$ for each $a \in A$. Further, the graph of the operator $\overline{\pi(a)}$ being

$$\begin{aligned} G(\overline{\pi(a)}) &= \{(\pi_\sigma(x + \lambda 1)\xi_0, \pi(a)\pi_\sigma(x + \lambda 1)\xi_0) \mid x \in A, \lambda \in \mathcal{C}\}^- \quad (\text{the closure in } H \times H) \\ &= \{(\pi(x)u + \lambda v, \pi(a)(\pi(x)u + \lambda v)) \mid x \in A, \lambda \in \mathcal{C}\}^- \end{aligned}$$

there are sequences (x_n) in A , (λ_n) in \mathcal{C} such that $\pi(x_n)u + \lambda_n v \rightarrow u$ and $\pi(a)(\pi(x_n)u + \lambda_n v) \rightarrow \pi(a)u$ both in H . As $D(\pi) = N \oplus M$, also a direct sum in the norm topology, it follows that $\pi(x_n)u \rightarrow u$ and $\lambda_n \rightarrow 0$; and so $\pi(a)\pi(x_n)u \rightarrow \overline{\pi(a)u}$. Thus $u \in D(\overline{\pi_3(a)^K})$ for each $a \in A$ and so $u \in D(\bar{\pi}_3)$. This completes the proof.

The following corollary contains the variants of some of the results known [5, § 37] in the context of automatic continuity of positive functionals on Banach star algebras. Note that a representable functional on a Banach star algebra is continuous.

Corollary 2.3.

(a) *Let A be a star algebra and f a positive functional on A . For each b in*

- A*, define $f_b(x) = f(b^*xb)$ ($x \in A$). Then each f_b is a representable positive functional on *A*.
- (b) Let $(\pi, D(\pi), H)$ be a representation of a star algebra *A*. For each $\zeta \in D(\pi)$, let $F_\zeta(x) = (\pi(x)\zeta, \zeta)$. Then each F_ζ is a representable positive functional on *A*.
- (c) Let *A* be a star algebra such that (i) $A^2 = A$ and (ii) each nonzero positive functional on *A* dominates a nonzero representable functional. (Then each positive functional on *A* is representable.)

Proof. (a) is immediate from the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality [5, Lemma 37.6 (ii)], whereas (b) is obvious. (c) is a variant of a continuity theorem of Murphy [5, Theorem 37.13] and is proved thus: Let f be positive; g be representable with $f \geq g$. Let \tilde{g} be the positive extension of g to A_* . As finite linear combinations of elements of type a^*a ($a \in A$) span *A*, a simple verification shows that $\tilde{f}(x + \lambda 1) = f(x) + \lambda \tilde{g}(1)$ defines a positive linear extension of f on A_* . The assertion follows from Theorem 2.2.

*Op**-algebras [11, Definition 2.1] provides a fairly general class of unbounded operator algebras. The next result gives construction of a faithful representation of a certain star algebra as an *Op**-algebra (without identity).

Corollary 2.4. *Let A be a star algebra and $R(A)$ be the set of all representable functionals on A. The following are equivalent.*

- (a) *For each nonzero x in A, there exists an f in $R(A)$ such that $f(x^*x) > 0$.*
 (b) *There exists a closed faithful representation of A as an *Op**-algebra.*

Proof. For f in $R(A)$, let $(\pi_f, D(\pi_f), H_f)$ be the closed representation of *A* with a strongly cyclic vector ξ_f that represents f . Let $(\pi, D(\pi), H)$ be the direct-sum [13, remark following Theorem 7.5] of the π_f 's. Then π is closed. Assume (a). Let $x \in A, x \neq 0$. Let $f \in R(A)$ be such that $f(x^*x) > 0$. Let $\xi' = (\xi'_g \mid g \in R(A))$ be the vector $\xi'_g = 0, (g \neq f); \xi'_g = \xi_f, (g = f)$. Then $\|\pi(x)\xi'\|^2 = \|\pi_f(x)\xi_f\|^2 = f(x^*x) > 0$. Hence π is faithful.

Conversely, if π is any faithful representation of *A*, then given $x \neq 0$ in *A*, $\pi(x)\eta \neq 0$ for some $\eta \in D(\pi)$. The functional $f(x) = (\pi(x)\eta, \eta)$ is in $R(A)$ and $f(x^*x) = \|\pi(x)\eta\|^2 > 0$.

3. Now we consider locally convex ***-algebras [2, § 2]. Throughout the continuity of the involution is assumed. It is immediate from [15, Chapter IV, § 5] that if f is a representable functional on a star algebra *A* and if π represents f ,

then each $\pi(x)$ is a bounded operator if and only if f is admissible. In this case, π is called a bounded representation. A result due to Powell [12, Theorem 2] (where too admissible functionals are considered, but in a different sense) leads to the following.

Proposition 3.1. *Let A be a pseudo-complete locally convex $*$ algebra such that $A=A_0$, the set of all bounded elements of A . Let f be a representable functional on A . Then each representation of A that represents f is a bounded cyclic representation.*

Proof. Let $f(x)=(\pi(x)\xi_0, \xi_0)$ where ξ_0 is a strongly cyclic vector. Let $K=\pi(A)\xi_0$ and let $\xi=\pi(y)\xi_0$ for $y \in A$. Then $\|\pi(x)\xi\|^2=f(y^*x^*xy) \leq \beta(x^*x)f(y^*y)$ by [12, Theorem 2]. Here $\beta(x^*x)$ is the radius of boundedness [1, Definition] of x^*x which is finite as $x \in A=A_0$. Hence $\|\pi(x)\xi\| \leq \beta(x^*x)^{1/2}\|\xi\|$ for all $\xi \in K$. Let $\xi \in D(\pi)$. As K is dense in $D(\pi)$ in the induced topology and since the induced topology is finer than the norm topology, there exists a net (x_α) in A such that $\pi(x_\alpha)\xi_0 \rightarrow \xi$ and $\pi(x)\pi(x_\alpha)\xi_0 \rightarrow \pi(x)\xi$ ($x \in A$) both in the norm. This gives, for each x in A ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\pi(x)\xi\| &= \lim \|\pi(x)\pi(x_\alpha)\xi_0\| \\ &\leq \beta(x^*x)^{1/2} \lim \|\pi(x_\alpha)\xi_0\| \\ &= \beta(x^*x)^{1/2} \|\xi\|. \end{aligned}$$

Thus each $\pi(x)$ is a norm bounded operator on $D(\pi)$. Hence $x \rightarrow w(x)=\overline{\pi(x)}$ defines a $*$ homomorphism of A into $\beta(H)$ (The C^* -algebra of all bounded operators on H) which is a cyclic representation. Hence the result.

It follows that each representable functional on such an algebra is admissible. The next result gives an important case where $A \neq A_0$ in general, but certain representable functionals are admissible.

Proposition 3.2. *Let A be a complete locally- m -convex $*$ algebra and let f be a continuous representable functional on A . Then each representation of A that represents f is a bounded cyclic representation.*

The functional f is extendable, and continuity implies that it is admissible [6, Theorem 6.1]. Thus, in particular, each representable functional on a Frechet $*$ algebra is admissible.

We say that a locally convex $*$ algebra A has a bounded approximate identity if there exists a net (u_α) in A such that

- (i) (u_α) is bounded;

(ii) for each x in A , $u_\alpha x \rightarrow x$ and $xu_\alpha \rightarrow x$

and

(iii) $(u_\alpha^* u_\alpha)$ is also bounded.

Note that in A , if the product of two bounded sets is bounded, in particular, if A is lmc, then (i) implies (iii). The next result which corresponds to [5, Theorem 37.15] is an immediate corollary of Theorem 2.2.

Proposition 3.3. *Let A be a locally convex $*$ algebra with a bounded approximate identity. Then each continuous positive functional on A is representable.*

From this stems the following modification of corollary 2.4. In analogy with [2, §§ 2, 3] a locally convex $*$ algebra A is hermitian if for each $h = h^*$ in A , the Allan spectrum [1, Definition 3.1] $\sigma_A(h) \subset \mathbf{R} \cup \{\infty\}$, or equivalently, for such h , $-h^2$ has a bounded adverse.

Corollary 3.4. *Let A be a locally convex $*$ algebra with a bounded approximate identity. If the set $A^+ = \{x^*x \mid x \in A\}$ forms a closed convex cone in A , then A admits a faithful closed $*$ representation π as an Op^* -algebra. Further, if A is pseudo-complete and hermitian, then π represents A as a selfadjoint Op^* -algebra.*

Proof. Let $x \neq 0$ be in A . Let $y = x^*x$. Then $-y \in A \sim A^+$. Hahn-Banach Theorem gives a continuous linear functional f on A such that $f(A^+) \geq 0$ and $f(y) < 0$. Thus f is positive which, by above result, is representable. The conclusion follows from Corollary 2.4 except for the final part which is a consequence of the result that follows.

Theorem 3.5. *Every representation $(\pi, D(\pi), H)$ of a pseudo-complete hermitian locally convex $*$ algebra is essentially selfadjoint.*

Proof. We can assume π to be closed. Let β^* denote the set of all $B \subset A$ such that $B^2 = B$, $B^* = B$, B is absolutely convex and is closed and bounded. For each such B , we consider the $*$ normed algebra $A(B) = \{\lambda x \mid \lambda \in \mathcal{C}, x \in B\}$ with the norm $\|x\|_B = \{\lambda > 0 \mid x \in \lambda B\}$. Pseudo-completeness of A implies that it is Banach. First we show:

(i) $x \rightarrow \overline{\pi(x)}$ defines a continuous $*$ homomorphism of $A(B)$ into $\beta(H)$.

For $\xi \in D(\pi)$, consider $F_\xi(x) = (\pi(x)\xi, \xi)$ on A . By Corollary 2.3, it is representable on A and so on $A(B)$; hence is norm continuous by [5, § 37]. Then $\|\pi(x)\xi\|^2 = F_\xi(x^*x) \leq \|F_\xi\| \|x^*x\| \leq \|F_\xi\| \|x\|^2$; and if \tilde{F}_ξ is the positive extension of F_ξ to $(A(B))_s$, then $\|F_\xi\| \leq \tilde{F}_\xi(1) \leq \|\xi\|^2$. It follows that $\|\pi(x)\xi\| \leq \|x\| \|\xi\|$ which gives

(i) with $\|\overline{\pi(x)}\| \leq \|x\|$ ($x \in A(B)$).

Next we show:

(ii) For each $h = h^*$ in A , $(\overline{\pi(h)})^* = \overline{\pi(h)} = \pi(h)^*$.

Indeed, let h be as above. Let $\alpha \in \mathcal{C} \sim R$. Since A is hermitian, the quasi inverse [15, Ch. I, §5] $k = (\alpha^{-1}h)_{-1}$ is bounded. Then for some $\beta \neq 0$, $S = \{(\beta^{-1}k)^n \mid n=1, 2, \dots\}$ is a bounded set. Obviously, its closed absolutely convex hull B is in β^* . By (i) above, $\pi(k)$ is a bounded operator. Also, for each $\xi \in D(\pi)$, $\pi((\alpha^{-1}h)_{-1})\xi = (\alpha^{-1}\pi(h))_{-1}\xi = (\alpha^{-1}\overline{\pi(h)})_{-1}\xi$. Hence $\overline{\pi((\alpha^{-1}h)_{-1})} \subset (\alpha^{-1}\overline{\pi(h)})_{-1}$ each a bounded closed operator. Therefore $(I - \alpha^{-1}\overline{\pi(h)})^{-1} = I - (\alpha^{-1}\overline{\pi(h)})_{-1}$ is a bounded operator defined on the whole of H . Thus the (operator theoretic) spectrum of $\overline{\pi(h)}$ is real. But $\pi(h) = \pi(h^*) \subset \pi(h)^* = (\overline{\pi(h)})^*$, and so $\overline{\pi(h)} \subset (\overline{\pi(h)})^*$. Since a closed symmetric operator with real spectrum is selfadjoint, $\overline{\pi(h)} = (\overline{\pi(h)})^*$.

Finally, (ii) is used to prove:

(iii) For each $x \in A$, $\overline{\pi(x)} = \pi(x^*)^*$.

The argument for this is standard, e.g. as in [8, Lemma 7.10]. This, with the definition of π^* , gives $D(\pi) = D(\overline{\pi}) = D(\pi^*)$ which finishes the proof of the theorem.

An important case to which Proposition 3.3 applies is to unbounded Hilbert algebras [10]; more generally to the GB^* -algebras. We can suitably modify [2, Definition in §3] (or [8, Definition 2.5]) to define a GB^* -algebra without identity. It is a routine matter to verify that if A is a locally convex GB^* -algebra with unit ball B_0 , then $A(B_0) = \{\lambda x \mid \lambda \in \mathcal{C}, x \in B_0\}$ is a B^* -algebra (with the Minkowski functional $\|\cdot\|_{B_0}$ of B_0 as norm), and A_e is also a GB^* -algebra with underlying B^* -subalgebra $(A(B_0))_e$. A recent result due to the author [4] (proved for GB^* -algebra with identity and holds in the non unital case also) is: if A is a GB^* -algebra with unit ball B_0 , then the B^* -algebra $A(B_0)$ is sequentially dense in A . This gives the following important result.

Theorem 3.6. *A locally convex GB^* -algebra possesses a bounded approximate identity consisting of positive elements.*

Proof. Given a locally convex GB^* -algebra A with unit ball B_0 , let $(u_\lambda \mid \lambda \in A)$ be an approximate identity for $A(B_0)$ [3, Theorem 1.8.2] contained in B_0 and consisting of positive elements. Continuity of $(A(B_0), \|\cdot\|_{B_0}) \rightarrow (A, t)$ (t denotes the topology of A) implies that for each $x \in A(B_0)$, $xu_\lambda \rightarrow x$ and $u_\lambda x \rightarrow x$. Let t' be the associated barrel topology on A [2, §5]. Then as in [2, §5], (A, t') is easily seen to be a locally convex GB^* -algebra with the same unit ball B_0 [8, Corollary

7.8]. Further t' is finer than t and, though t' need not be barrelled, an adaptation of [8, Lemma 6.3] shows that (A, t') is hypocontinuous. We show that $(u_\lambda | \lambda \in A)$ is the desired approximate identity, and for this it suffices to prove that for each $x \in A$, $xu_{\lambda_i} \rightarrow x$ and $u_\lambda x \rightarrow x$.

Given x in A and a o -neighbourhood W in (A, t') , continuity of addition and hypocontinuity of multiplication gives o -neighbourhoods V and U in (A, t') such that $U+U \subset W$, $V+V \subset U$, $B_0V \subset U$ and $VB_0 \subset U$. By the sequential denseness of $A(B_0)$ in (A, t') , there exists a sequence (x_n) in $A(B_0)$ such that $x_n - x \in V$ for all $n \geq n_0$, some n_0 . Then

$$u_\lambda x - x = (u_\lambda x - u_\lambda x_{n_0}) + (u_\lambda x_{n_0} - x_{n_0}) + (x_{n_0} - x) \in B_0V + V + V \subset W \text{ eventually.}$$

Thus $u_\lambda x \rightarrow x$ and similarly $xu_{\lambda_i} \rightarrow x$. This proves the assertion.

It now follows from Proposition 3.3 and the automatic continuity of a positive functional in the largest locally convex GB^* -topology [8, §§ 6, 8] that every positive functional on a GB^* -algebra A is representable, which by Theorem 3.5 is represented by a selfadjoint representation. This can be used to construct a faithful selfadjoint representation of A as an extended C^* -algebra without identity as in [8, § 7]. In particular, this applies to unbounded Hilbert algebras and to b^* -algebras [2, Example 3.3].

Acknowledgement. The author is thankful to Dr. M. H. Vasavada for the help he has offered during the period of preparation of this paper.

References

- [1] G. R. Allan: *A spectral theory for locally convex algebras*, Proc. London Math. Soc. (3) 15(1965) 399-421.
- [2] G. R. Allan: *On a class of locally convex algebras*, *ibid.* (3) 17(1967) 91-114.
- [3] W. Arveson: *An invitation to C^* -algebras*, (Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1976).
- [4] S. J. Bhatt: *A note on Generalized B^* -algebras*, Journal Indian Math. Soc. (to appear).
- [5] F. F. Bonsall and J. Duncan: *Complete normed algebras*, (Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1973).
- [6] R. M. Brooks: *On locally m -convex $*$ -algebras*, Pacific J. Math. 23(1967) 5-23.
- [7] R. M. Brooks: *On representing F^* -algebras*, *ibid.* 39(1971) 51-69.
- [8] P. G. Dixon: *Generalized B^* -algebras*, Proc. London Math. Soc. (3) 21(1970) 693-715.
- [9] S. Gudder and W. Scrugg: *Unbounded representations of $*$ -algebras*, Pacific J. Math. 70(1977) 369-382.
- [10] A. Inoue: *Unbounded Hilbert algebras as locally convex $*$ -algebras*, Math. Rep. College Gen. Edu., Kyushu Univ., Japan, X-2(1972) 113-128.
- [11] G. Laßner: *Topological algebras of operators*, Rep. Math. Phys. 3(1972) 239-293.
- [12] J. D. Powell: *Representations of locally convex $*$ -algebras*, Proc. American Math. Soc. 44(1974) 341-346.

- [13] R. T. Powers: *Self-adjoint algebras of unbounded operators*, Comm. Math. Phys. 21 (1971) 85-124.
- [14] R. T. Powers: *Self-adjoint algebras of unbounded operators-II*, Trans. American Math. Soc. 187(1974) 261-293.
- [15] C. E. Rickart: *General Theory of Banach Algebras*, (Van Nostrand, 1960).

Department of Mathematics
Sardar Patel University
Vallabh Vidyanagar-388120
India