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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105

## TWO SIDED IDEALS OF OPERATORS

BY HORACIO PORTA

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1. Let  $X$  be a Banach space, and  $B(X)$  the Banach algebra of all bounded linear operators in  $X$ . The closed two sided ideals of  $B(X)$  (actually, of *any* Banach algebra) form a complete lattice  $L(X)$ . Aside from very concrete cases,  $L(X)$  has not yet been determined; for instance, when  $X = l^p$ ,  $1 \leq p < \infty$ ,  $L(X)$  is a chain (i.e., totally ordered) with three elements:  $\{0\}$ ,  $B(X)$  and the ideal  $C(X)$  of compact operators (see [3]). On the other hand, it is known [2, 5.23] that for  $X = L^p$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$ , the lattice  $L(X)$  is *not* a chain. A treatment for  $X$  a Hilbert space of arbitrary dimension can be found in [4]. We aim to exhibit here a Banach space  $X$  such that  $L(X)$  is both "long" and "wide." Precisely, we have

PROPOSITION. *There exists a real Banach space  $X$  with the properties:*

- (i)  *$X$  is separable, isometric to its dual  $X^*$ , and reflexive;*
- (ii) *it is possible to assign a closed two sided ideal  $\alpha(\mathfrak{F}) \subset B(X)$  to each finite set of positive integers  $\mathfrak{F}$ , in such a way that the mapping  $\mathfrak{F} \rightarrow \alpha(\mathfrak{F})$  is injective and inclusion preserving in both directions:  $\mathfrak{F} \subseteq \mathfrak{G}$  if and only if  $\alpha(\mathfrak{F}) \subseteq \alpha(\mathfrak{G})$ .*

The example is described below, in §3.

2. In the sequel, all Banach spaces are *real* (the complex case can be dealt with similarly). If  $X, Y$  are Banach spaces,  $m(Y, X)$  denotes the set of operators  $T \in B(X)$  that can be factorized through  $Y$ , i.e., such that  $T = SQ$  for suitable bounded linear operators  $Q: X \rightarrow Y$ ,  $S: Y \rightarrow X$ . If  $Y$  is isomorphic (as a Banach space) to its square  $Y \times Y$  ( $\times$  means cartesian product), then (see [6, Proposition 1.2] or [2, Theorem 5.13])  $m(Y, X)$  is a two sided ideal of  $B(X)$ .  $\alpha(Y, X)$  will denote the (uniform) closure of  $m(Y, X)$ ; thus, if  $Y$  is isomorphic to  $Y \times Y$ ,  $\alpha(Y, X)$  is a *closed two sided ideal* of  $B(X)$ .

In all that follows, *subspace* means closed lineal subspace; a sub-