



Banach J. Math. Anal. 13 (2019), no. 4, 837–863

<https://doi.org/10.1215/17358787-2018-0040>

ISSN: 1735-8787 (electronic)

<http://projecteuclid.org/bjma>

EXTENSIONS OF UNIFORM ALGEBRAS

SAM MORLEY

Communicated by A. R. Villena

ABSTRACT. The theory of algebraic extensions of Banach algebras is well established, and there are many constructions which yield interesting extensions. In particular, Cole’s method for extending uniform algebras by adding square roots of functions to a given uniform algebra has been used to solve many problems within uniform algebra theory. However, there are numerous other examples in the theory of uniform algebras that can be realized as extensions of a uniform algebra, and these more general extensions have received little attention in the literature. In this paper, we investigate more general classes of uniform algebra extensions. We introduce a new class of extensions of uniform algebras, and show that several important properties of the original uniform algebra are preserved in these extensions. We also show that several well-known examples from the theory of uniform algebras belong to these more general classes of uniform algebra extensions.

1. Introduction

Many important examples of uniform algebras can be realized as an extension of a given uniform algebra, such as the counterexamples to the *peak point conjecture* given by Cole [7] and Basener [2]. In the former, it is explicit that an extension of uniform algebra is constructed, while in the latter this fact is less obvious. In fact, it can be shown that both of these examples belong to an interesting class of extensions of uniform algebras, which we introduce in this paper. Extensions that belong to this class have numerous desirable properties and, perhaps most

Copyright 2019 by the Tusi Mathematical Research Group.

Received Aug. 30, 2018; Accepted Nov. 14, 2018.

First published online Sep. 13, 2019.

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. Primary 46J10; Secondary 47B48.

Keywords. uniform algebras, uniform algebra extensions, averaging operators, Cole extensions.

importantly, have the property that the extension is a nontrivial uniform algebra if the original uniform algebra was nontrivial (see Section 2 for definitions). In this article, we develop a general theory of uniform algebra extensions that will be useful in future constructions.

Much of the literature on extensions of uniform algebras—and, more generally, of commutative Banach algebras—has focused on algebraic extensions. (The study of algebraic extensions of commutative Banach algebras originates in work of Arens and Hoffmann [1]; see also [12], [24], [26], [27], [30].) These algebraic extensions of uniform algebras, such as Cole extensions (see Section 4), and their properties are generally well understood, while more general classes of uniform algebra extensions have received relatively little attention. Many results proved for algebraic extensions of uniform algebras can be generalized to a larger class of extensions.

We are especially interested in the properties of a uniform algebra that are inherited by any uniform algebra extension, such as being nontrivial, natural, regular, or normal. We are also interested in the relationship between peak sets (in the weak sense) and the Shilov boundary of a uniform algebra extension to those of the original uniform algebra. Cole's construction yields a uniform algebra extension that preserves many of the properties of the original uniform algebra. This is largely due to the existence of a norm 1 linear map that maps the Cole extension onto the original algebra. Several examples in the theory of uniform algebras use Cole's construction (see, e.g., [15]–[17]).

Many recent examples in uniform algebra theory can be realized—or are explicitly constructed—as uniform algebra extensions. For example, in [11], Dales, Feinstein, and Pham construct a uniform algebra that contains a maximal ideal in which all null sequences factor but does not contain a bounded approximate identity. In [18], Feinstein and Izzo describe a construction that yields essential uniform algebras.

In Section 5, we introduce a class of uniform algebra extensions, motivated by Cole's construction, which we call *generalized Cole extensions*. These extensions are distinguished by the existence of a norm 1 linear map onto the original uniform algebra. We show that these generalized Cole extensions preserve several properties of the original uniform algebra; in particular, they preserve nontriviality. The class of generalized Cole extensions is larger than the class of Cole extensions in general, although we do provide some special conditions under which a generalized Cole extension is necessarily a Cole extension (see Theorem 5.15). These conditions are closely related to the solution to the “bicontractive/symmetric projection problem” for uniform algebras discussed in [5]. We also show that Basener's counterexample to the peak point conjecture can also be realized as a generalized Cole extension of a certain uniform algebra.

The outline of the paper is as follows. We first fix our notation, terminology, and provide some elementary results on averaging operators. We then investigate general uniform algebra extensions in Section 3, followed by a short description of (simple) Cole extensions in Section 4. Finally, in Section 5 we introduce our new class of uniform algebra extensions and discuss their properties. We discuss how, in some cases, the action of a compact group yields the norm 1 linear map

onto the original algebra. We show that, under certain conditions, this is always the case. Finally, we show that Basener's example belongs to this new class of extensions, and that the norm 1 linear map arises due to the action of a compact group.

2. Preliminaries

Throughout this article, we say *compact space* to mean a nonempty, compact, Hausdorff topological space, we say *measure* to mean a regular, complex, Borel measure, and we denote the set of positive integers by \mathbb{N} .

Let \mathfrak{X} be a Banach space, and let F be a closed linear subspace of \mathfrak{X} . We write \mathfrak{X}^* for the *topological dual* of \mathfrak{X} , and we write F^\perp for the *annihilator* of F in \mathfrak{X}^* ; that is, F^\perp is the space of all linear functionals $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}^*$ such that $\lambda(F) \subseteq \{0\}$.

Let A be complex, commutative, unital Banach algebra. We denote the character space of A by Φ_A . We give Φ_A the relative weak-* topology so that Φ_A is a compact space. We write \hat{a} for the Gelfand transform of $a \in A$, which is a continuous function from Φ_A into \mathbb{C} ; we write \hat{A} for the set $\{\hat{a} : a \in A\}$, which is an algebra of continuous, complex-valued functions on Φ_A .

Let X be a compact space. We denote the algebra (with pointwise operations) of all continuous, complex-valued functions on X by $C(X)$. For each nonempty $E \subseteq X$, we write

$$|f|_E := \sup_{x \in E} |f(x)| \quad (f \in C(X)).$$

Let S be a subset of $C(X)$. We say that S *separates the points of X* if, for each $x, y \in X$ with $x \neq y$, there exists $f \in S$ such that $f(x) \neq f(y)$. It is standard that $|\cdot|_X$ is a norm on $C(X)$ and that $C(X)$ is a commutative Banach algebra with this norm. We call $|\cdot|_X$ the *uniform norm*. A *uniform algebra on X* is a closed subalgebra A of $C(X)$ such that A separates the points of X and A contains all constant functions on X . Let A be a uniform algebra on X . We say that A is *trivial* if $A = C(X)$; otherwise, A is *nontrivial*. For each $x \in X$, let ε_x denote the *point evaluation character at x* , given by $\varepsilon_x(f) = f(x)$ ($f \in A$). The map $x \mapsto \varepsilon_x$ ($x \in X$) identifies X with a closed subset of Φ_A . We say that a uniform algebra A is *natural on X* if all characters on A correspond to point evaluations at points of X ; that is, if $X = \Phi_A$.

Let E be a nonempty closed subset of X . We write $A|E$ for the algebra $\{f|E : f \in A\}$. The uniform closure in $C(E)$ of $A|E$ is a uniform algebra on E , which we denote by A_E . We refer the reader to [6], [20], and [32] for additional information on uniform algebras, and to [10] for additional information on Banach algebras.

We also require the following definitions.

Definition 2.1. Let A be a uniform algebra on a compact space X . We say that A is *normal on X* if for each compact set $K \subseteq X$ and each closed set $E \subseteq X$ with $E \cap K = \emptyset$, there exists $f \in A$ with $f(K) \subseteq \{1\}$ and $f(E) \subseteq \{0\}$; we say that A is *regular on X* if for each closed set $E \subseteq X$ and each point $x \in X \setminus E$, there exists $f \in A$ such that $f(x) = 1$ and $f(E) \subseteq \{0\}$.

Let A be a uniform algebra on a compact space X . Then A is normal on X if and only if A is natural and regular on X (see [32, Theorem 27.2]).

Definition 2.2. Let A be a uniform algebra on a compact space X , and let $E \subseteq X$. We say that E is a *boundary (for A)* if, for all $f \in A$, there exists $x \in E$ such that $|f(x)| = \|f\|_X$. We say that E is a *closed boundary (for A)* if E is a closed set which is a boundary. The intersection of all closed boundaries for A is called the *Shilov boundary (for A)* and is denoted by $\Gamma(A)$. We say that E is a *peak set (for A)* if there exists $f \in A$ such that $f(x) = 1$ ($x \in E$) and $|f(x)| < 1$ ($x \in X \setminus E$); in this case, we say that the function f *peaks on E* . We say that E is a *peak set in the weak sense (for A)* if there is a family \mathcal{F} of peak sets for A such that $E = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}} F$. Let $x \in X$. We say that x is a *peak point (for A)* if $\{x\}$ is a peak set, and we say that x is a *strong boundary point (for A)* if $\{x\}$ is a peak set in the weak sense; the set of all strong boundary points for A is called the *Choquet boundary (for A)* and is denoted by $\Gamma_0(A)$.

It is standard that $\Gamma_0(A)$ is a boundary for A , that $\Gamma(A)$ is a closed boundary for A , and that $\Gamma(A)$ is the closure of $\Gamma_0(A)$. Here and throughout this paper we identify the dual space of $C(X)$, where X is a compact space, with the set of all measures on X . We need the following standard terminology.

Definition 2.3. Let A be a uniform algebra on a compact space X , and let φ be a character on A . A *representing measure for φ* (with respect to A) is a probability measure μ on X such that

$$\varphi(f) = \int_X f \, d\mu \quad (f \in A).$$

A *Jensen measure for φ* (with respect to A) is a probability measure μ on X such that

$$\log |\varphi(f)| \leq \int_X \log |f| \, d\mu \quad (f \in A).$$

An *annihilating measure for A* is a measure μ on X such that

$$\int_X f \, d\mu = 0$$

for all $f \in A$; the space of annihilating measures for A is identified with A^\perp .

Let A be a uniform algebra on a compact space X , let $E \subseteq X$, and let φ be a character on A . By Theorems 2.4.7 and 2.4.9 of [6], E is a peak set in the weak sense for A if and only if, for every annihilating measure μ for A , the measure μ_E (given by $\mu_E(S) = \mu(E \cap S)$ for Borel sets $S \subseteq X$) is also an annihilating measure for A . Every Jensen measure for φ is a representing measure for φ , and φ always admits a Jensen measure. We say that a Jensen measure μ for φ is *trivial* if there exists $x \in X$ such that μ is the point-mass measure at x . In this case, $\varphi = \varepsilon_x$.

Let X and Y be topological spaces, let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a continuous function, and let F be a family of continuous functions from Y into a topological space Z . We write f^* for the function $g \mapsto g \circ f$, which maps F into the set of continuous functions from X into Z . If X and Y are Banach spaces, f is linear, $Z = \mathbb{C}$, and

F is a collection of bounded linear functionals on Y , then f^* is the usual adjoint operator. In the case where X and Y are compact spaces, $f^* : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$ is a continuous, unital homomorphism with $\|f^*\| = 1$. Moreover, if f is surjective, then f^* is isometric.

Let X be a compact space, and let μ be a measure on X . We write $\text{supp } \mu$ for the *support* of μ ; that is, $\text{supp } \mu$ is the complement of the largest open subset U of X such that $|\mu|(U) = 0$. Let Y be a second compact space. Suppose that $\Pi : X \rightarrow Y$ is a continuous surjection. Then the *pushforward measure* $\Pi_*(\mu)$, defined by $\Pi_*(\mu)(E) = \mu(\Pi^{-1}(E))$ for each Borel set $E \subseteq Y$, is a regular, complex Borel measure on Y .

Remark 2.4. It is useful to note that $\Pi^{**} : C(X)^* \rightarrow C(Y)^*$ (where $\Pi^{**} = (\Pi^*)^*$) is the map which sends a measure μ on Y to the pushforward measure $\Pi_*(\mu)$ on X . (This fact is noted in [9, Example VI.1.7].) We use this fact implicitly throughout this article.

In particular, if $f : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a Borel measurable function, then $f \circ \Pi$ is Borel measurable and f is $\Pi_*(\mu)$ -integrable if and only if $f \circ \Pi$ is μ -integrable, and if this occurs, then (see, e.g., [14, Theorem 2.4.18])

$$\int_X f \, d\Pi_*(\mu) = \int_Y f \circ \Pi \, d\mu. \quad (2.1)$$

Let $E \subseteq \mathbb{C}$. We write $\overline{\text{conv}} E$ for the *closed convex hull* of E ; that is, $\overline{\text{conv}} E$ is the smallest closed, convex subset of \mathbb{C} which contains E .

We conclude this section with an elementary lemma, with a short proof for the convenience of the reader.

Lemma 2.5. *Let X and Y be compact spaces, and let K be a closed subset of X . Suppose that $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ is a continuous function and that V is an open neighborhood of $\Pi^{-1}(K)$ in Y . Then there exists an open neighborhood U of K in X such that $\Pi^{-1}(U) \subseteq V$.*

Proof. Let (N_α) be the family of all closed neighborhoods of K in X . For each α , let $V_\alpha := Y \setminus \Pi^{-1}(N_\alpha)$. We have that $\bigcap_\alpha N_\alpha = K$, and so $Y \setminus V \subseteq \bigcup_\alpha V_\alpha$. Since $Y \setminus V$ is compact, there exists $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ such that $Y \setminus V \subseteq \bigcup_{j=1}^n V_{\alpha_j}$. Set $N := \bigcap_{j=1}^n N_{\alpha_j}$, and let U be an open set in X with $K \subseteq U \subseteq N$. Then U has the desired properties. \square

2.1. Averaging operators. We first examine the properties of certain linear operators between algebras of continuous functions. Before we give any formal definitions, we first fix some notation. Throughout this section let X and Y be compact spaces, and let $T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$ be a bounded linear operator. If $\lambda \in C(X)^*$, then there exists a unique measure μ_λ on Y such that

$$\lambda(T(f)) = \int_Y f(y) \, d\mu_\lambda(y) \quad (2.2)$$

for all $f \in C(Y)$. If λ is a character on $C(X)$, then λ is a point evaluation at some point $x \in X$, and we instead write μ_x in place of μ_λ for the measure associated with this character. Throughout the remainder of this article, the measures μ_λ

will always denote the measure associated (via (2.2)) with the linear operator labeled T , whenever this operator is defined.

We say that T is *positive* if, for all $f \in C(Y)$ such that $f(Y) \subseteq [0, \infty)$, we have $T(f)(X) \subseteq [0, \infty)$. In this case, the measure μ_x , as above, is a positive measure for all $x \in X$. It is standard that if T is unital and $\|T\| = 1$, then T is positive (see, e.g., [4, p. 17]).

We require the following definition from [25, p. 218].

Definition 2.6. Suppose that $Y = X$. We say that T is an *averaging operator* if, for each $x \in X$, we have

$$\text{supp } \mu_x \subseteq \{y \in X : T(f)(y) = T(f)(x) \text{ (} f \in C(X)\text{)}\}.$$

Kelley [25, Theorem 2.2] showed that, in the case where $Y = X$, a bounded linear operator T is averaging if and only if we have $T(fT(g)) = T(f)T(g)$ for all $f, g \in C(X)$. It is this property that is most useful to us. Note that Kelley’s proof was for the case where $C(X)$ is the algebra of continuous, real-valued functions on X . However, it is a simple task to see that the proof works for complex-valued functions too (indeed Kelley notes this in the paper).

We now expand on this result. Several of the statements contained within the following lemma are well known, but we include details for the reader’s convenience.

Lemma 2.7. *Suppose that $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ is a continuous surjection such that $T \circ \Pi^* = \text{id}_{C(X)}$. The following statements are equivalent:*

- (1) *the projection $\Pi^* \circ T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(Y)$ is averaging,*
- (2) *for each $f \in C(Y)$ and $g \in C(X)$ we have $T(f\Pi^*(g)) = T(f)g$,*
- (3) *for each $x \in X$ we have $\text{supp } \mu_x \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$.*

Suppose further that T is unital and that $\|T\| = 1$. Then T is positive and satisfies each of the above conditions. In this case, T also satisfies the following:

- (4) *for each $f \in C(Y)$ and $x \in X$ we have $T(f)(x) \in \overline{\text{conv}} f(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\}))$.*

Proof. Throughout, set $P := \Pi^* \circ T$. Then P is a continuous projection on $C(Y)$ whose range is precisely the set $\Pi^*(C(X))$.

(1) \implies (2). Suppose that P is averaging. Then, by [25, Theorem 2.2], P satisfies $P(fP(h)) = P(f)P(h)$ for all $f, h \in C(Y)$. Fix $f \in C(Y)$ and $g \in C(X)$; set $h := \Pi^*(g)$. The map Π^* is an isometric homomorphism from $C(X)$ into $C(Y)$, so we have

$$P(fP(h)) = P(f)P(h) = \Pi^*(T(f))\Pi^*(T(h)) = \Pi^*(T(f)T(h)),$$

so that $\Pi^*(T(fT(h))) = \Pi^*(T(f)T(h))$. Thus $T(f\Pi^*(T(h))) = T(f)T(h)$. But then $T(h) = T(\Pi^*(g)) = g$ so that $T(fh) = T(f)g$. This proves (2).

(2) \implies (1). Suppose that $T(f\Pi^*(g)) = T(f)g$ for all $f \in C(Y)$ and $g \in C(X)$. We have

$$P(fP(\Pi^*(g))) = P(f\Pi^*(g)) = \Pi^*(T(f\Pi^*(g))) = \Pi^*(T(f)g) = P(f)\Pi^*(g)$$

for all $f \in C(Y)$ and $g \in C(X)$. However, the range of P is precisely the subalgebra $\Pi^*(C(X))$ of $C(Y)$, and so for each $h \in C(Y)$ there exists a unique

$g \in C(X)$ such that $P(h) = \Pi^*(g)$. Thus, by the above, $P(fP(h)) = P(f)P(h)$ for all $f, h \in C(Y)$. By [25, Theorem 2.2], P is averaging. This proves (1).

(1) \iff (3). For each $y \in Y$, let ν_y be the unique, regular Borel measure on Y such that, for all $f \in C(Y)$, we have

$$P(f)(y) = \int_Y f \, d\nu_y.$$

Let $y_0 \in Y$ and $x_0 = \Pi(y_0)$. Let

$$K_{y_0} = \{z \in Y : P(f)(z) = P(f)(y_0) \ (f \in C(Y))\}.$$

Then we have

$$\int_Y f \, d\nu_{y_0} = (\Pi^* \circ T)(f)(y_0) = T(f)(\Pi(y_0)) = \int_Y f \, d\mu_{x_0}$$

for all $f \in C(Y)$, so that $\nu_{y_0} = \mu_{x_0}$. If $z \in \Pi^{-1}(\{x_0\})$, then we have $\Pi(z) = x_0$ and so

$$P(f)(z) = T(f)(\Pi(z)) = T(f)(x_0) = P(f)(y_0).$$

Thus $\Pi^{-1}(\{x_0\}) \subseteq K_{y_0}$. Conversely, if $z \in K_{y_0}$, then we have

$$T(f)(\Pi(z)) = P(f)(z) = P(f)(y_0) = T(f)(x_0)$$

for all $f \in C(Y)$. Thus we must have $\Pi(z) = x_0$; otherwise, choose a continuous function $g \in C(X)$ such that $g(\Pi(z)) = 0$ and $g(x_0) = 1$ and look at $f = \Pi^*(g)$. Thus we have $K_{y_0} \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\{x_0\})$ and the equality holds.

The above is valid for all $y_0 \in Y$, so if P is averaging, then we have

$$\text{supp } \mu_{\Pi(y)} = \text{supp } \nu_y \subseteq K_y = \Pi^{-1}(\{\Pi(y)\})$$

for all $y \in Y$. Since Π is a surjection, we have $\text{supp } \mu_x \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$ for all $x \in X$. Conversely, if $\text{supp } \mu_x \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$ for all $x \in X$, then for each $y \in Y$, we have

$$\text{supp } \nu_y = \text{supp } \mu_{\Pi(y)} \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\{\Pi(y)\}) = K_y$$

so that P is averaging. This proves that (1) holds if and only if (3) holds.

For the remainder of the proof, we assume, in addition, that T is unital and $\|T\| = 1$. It follows that T is positive. Then, for each $x \in X$, the measure μ_x is positive with $\mu_x(Y) = 1$.

We must show that P is averaging under these additional assumptions. Since T is unital and $\|T\| = 1$, it follows that P is a unital projection on $C(Y)$ such that $\|P\| = 1$. Then, by a well-known theorem of Tomiyama [33, Theorem 1] (see also [4, Corollary 4.2.9]), P satisfies $P(P(f)gP(h)) = P(f)P(g)P(h)$ for all $f, g, h \in C(Y)$. Thus P is averaging by [25, Theorem 2.2].

It remains to show that the above conditions imply that T satisfies (4). By (3), $\text{supp } \mu_x \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$ for all $x \in X$ and $f \in C(Y)$. Then, since μ_x is a probability measure, we have

$$T(f)(x) = \int_Y f(y) \, d\mu_x(y) \in \overline{\text{conv}} f(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\}))$$

for all $x \in X$ and $f \in C(Y)$. This completes the proof. \square

The extra assumptions that T is unital and satisfies $\|T\| = 1$ are not a significant obstruction to the topics discussed in this article.

The map $x \mapsto \mu_x : X \rightarrow C(Y)^*$ is weak- $*$ continuous as noted in [28] and [25], and any weak- $*$ continuous function ψ from X into $C(Y)^*$ yields a bounded linear map from $C(Y)$ into $C(X)$.

Remark 2.8. Property (2) in the above lemma is reminiscent of the defining property of “conditional expectations,” which are important in C^* -algebra and von Neumann algebra theory.

3. Uniform algebra extensions

We begin by examining the general class of uniform algebra extensions of a given uniform algebra. Many results proved in special cases can be generalized to the general setting. Throughout, we will use the following definition of a uniform algebra extension.

Definition 3.1. Let X, Y be compact spaces, let A be a uniform algebra on X , and let B be a uniform algebra on Y . Suppose that there exists a continuous surjection $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ such that $\Pi^*(A) \subseteq B$. Then we say that B is a *uniform algebra extension* of A , and Π is the map *associated* with this extension.

Note that, with X, Y, A , and B as in the above, there may be many continuous surjections $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ for which B is a uniform algebra extension of A (in the sense defined above).

Before we continue, we make some remarks about our choice of terminology. Let A, B, X , and Y be as in the definition. If $\theta : A \rightarrow B$ is an isometric homomorphism, then it is not hard to see that $\Gamma(A)$ is always contained in the image of $\Gamma(B)$ under the associated map $\tau_\theta : \Phi_B \rightarrow \Phi_A$. In particular, the image of Y under τ_θ is a compact subset of Φ_A which contains $\Gamma(A)$. Hence A can be identified with a uniform algebra on $\tau_\theta(Y)$. By changing our X to coincide with $\tau_\theta(Y)$, we can obtain a continuous surjection from Y onto X .

There are many examples of uniform algebra extensions in the literature. For example, given any uniform algebra A on a compact space X , the uniform algebra $C(X)$ is a uniform algebra extension of A , in the sense above, where the associated map is taken to be the identity map on X . In particular, if A is a nontrivial uniform algebra and B is any uniform algebra extension of A , then B need not be nontrivial.

The following illustrative examples provide a basis for the present study.

Example 3.2. Let Y be a compact space, and let K be a closed subset of Y . Suppose that X is obtained from Y by contracting K to a point, say, $x_0 \in X$, and that Π is the quotient map. Let A_0 be a nontrivial uniform algebra on K . Let $A = C(X)$ and

$$B = \{f \in C(Y) : f|_K \in A_0\}.$$

Clearly B is a uniform algebra extension of A and, since $B_K = A_0 \neq C(K)$, we have $B \neq C(Y)$. (Note that K is the fiber of Π over x_0 .) Moreover, since every function in $\Pi^*(C(X))$ is constant on K , it follows quickly that B is natural on Y if and only if A_0 is natural on K .

The construction above yields nonessential uniform algebras in general; indeed, the essential set of B is contained in K . (See [6] for details on the essential set.) Recently, Feinstein and Izzo [18] have constructed examples of essential uniform algebras using similar ideas. In their construction, they use a sequence (K_n) of pairwise disjoint, nowhere dense subsets of a compact metric space Y such that the union of the K_n is dense in Y .

Note that, in the above, A is natural on X , but B need not be natural on Y .

Example 3.3. Let X and Y be the closed unit disk in \mathbb{C} , let Π be the identity map on X , let A be the disk algebra, and let

$$B = \{f \in C(Y) : f|_{\mathbb{T}} \in A|_{\mathbb{T}}\},$$

where \mathbb{T} denotes the unit circle in \mathbb{C} . Then B is not natural on Y ; Φ_B consists of two copies of the closed unit disk that are identified on \mathbb{T} . Note that, in this case, $\Gamma(B) \not\subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\Gamma(A))$, and that A admits nontrivial Jensen measures supported on \mathbb{T} , which are also Jensen measures for B .

Throughout the remainder of this section, let X and Y be compact spaces, let A be a uniform algebra on X , and let B be a uniform algebra on Y . We also assume that B is a uniform algebra extension of A with associated map Π . For each $x \in X$, we write E_x for the fiber of Π over x (i.e., $E_x := \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$), and we write B_x for B_{E_x} .

Remark 3.4. Note that X is naturally homeomorphic to the quotient space obtained from Y by contracting each fiber E_x to a point. It follows from this that every $f \in C(Y)$ such that $f|_{E_x}$ is constant ($x \in X$) corresponds uniquely to $\Pi^*(g)$ for some $g \in C(X)$.

We have already seen that there are nonnatural uniform algebra extensions of a natural uniform algebra. However, if A is natural, then \widehat{B} is a uniform algebra extension of A with associated map $\widehat{\Pi} : \Phi_B \rightarrow X$ given by $\widehat{\Pi}(\varphi) = \varphi \circ \Pi^*$ ($\varphi \in \Phi_B$). (Note that it is essential that A is natural on X to ensure that $\widehat{\Pi}$ is a surjection onto X .)

On the other hand, if B is natural on Y , then B_x is natural on E_x for each $x \in X$. To see this, for $x \in X$, note that the character space of B_x is identified with the set of $y \in Y$ such that $|f(y)| \leq |f|_{E_x}$ for each $f \in B$. But if $y \in Y \setminus E_x$, then there is a function $g \in \Pi^*(A)$ such that $g(y) = 1$ and $g(E_x) \subseteq \{0\}$, so that y does not belong to Φ_{B_x} . Thus $\Phi_{B_x} \subseteq E_x$ and so equality holds.

Our first theorem provides stronger assumptions that ensure that B is a natural uniform algebra. We first prove the following lemma, which is surely well known. (A similar result is given in [21, Lemma 8.1]. The result is also used in the proof of [2, Lemma 9].)

Lemma 3.5. *Let $\varphi \in \Phi_B$, and let μ be a Jensen measure for φ with respect to B . Then the pushforward measure $\Pi_*(\mu)$ is a Jensen measure for $\varphi \circ \Pi^*$ with respect to A and $\text{supp } \mu \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\text{supp } \Pi_*(\mu))$.*

Proof. Set $\psi := \varphi \circ \Pi^*$. It is easy to see that $\psi \in \Phi_A$. Fix $f \in A$, and let $g = \Pi^*(f)$. Then, by (2.1), we have

$$\log |\psi(f)| = \log |\varphi(g)| \leq \int_Y \log |g(y)| \, d\mu(y) = \int_X \log |f(x)| \, d\Pi_*(\mu),$$

and so $\Pi_*(\mu)$ is a Jensen measure for ψ . It is not hard to see that, since μ is a positive measure, we have $\text{supp } \mu \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\text{supp } \Pi_*(\mu))$. This completes the proof. \square

We now prove our first theorem.

Theorem 3.6. *Suppose that A does not admit any nontrivial Jensen measures and that, for each $x \in X$, B_x does not admit any nontrivial Jensen measures. Then B does not admit any nontrivial Jensen measures. In particular, B is natural on Y .*

Proof. Fix a character φ on B , and let μ be a Jensen measure on Y for φ with respect to B . By Lemma 3.5, $\Pi_*(\mu)$ is a Jensen measure on X for $\varphi \circ \Pi^*$, and we have $\text{supp } \mu \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\text{supp } \Pi_*(\mu))$. Since $\Pi_*(\mu)$ is trivial, there exists $x \in X$ such that $\Pi_*(\mu)$ is the point-mass measure at x . It follows that $\text{supp } \mu \subseteq E_x$.

It is not hard to see that there exists $\psi \in \Phi_{B_x}$ such that $\psi(f|E_x) = \varphi(f)$ for all $f \in B$, and such that μ_{E_x} is a Jensen measure for ψ . Since B_x does not admit any nontrivial Jensen measures, it follows that μ is trivial. This completes the proof. \square

In many examples utilizing uniform algebra extensions (explicitly or implicitly), the base algebra A is chosen to be regular (normal) on X , and is subject to the condition that $B_x = C(E_x)$ for each $x \in X$; the above theorem shows that B is natural on Y in this case.

Next we seek to understand the relationship between $\Gamma(A)$ and $\Gamma(B)$. Since Π^* is an isometry, it is easy to see that $\Gamma(A) \subseteq \Pi(\Gamma(B))$. We start with the following proposition.

Proposition 3.7. *Let $E \subseteq X$, and let $F = \Pi^{-1}(E)$.*

- (1) *If E is a peak set for A , then F is a peak set for B .*
- (2) *If E is a peak set in the weak set for A , then F is a peak set in the weak sense for B .*
- (3) *If $x \in \Gamma_0(A)$ and $y \in \Gamma_0(B_x)$, then $y \in \Gamma_0(B)$.*

Proof. (1) Suppose that E is a peak set for A . Then it is easy to see that, if f is a function which peaks on E , then $\Pi^*(f)$ is a function which peaks on F so that F is a peak set for B .

(2) Suppose that E is a peak set in the weak sense for A . Then there exists a family \mathcal{F} of peak sets for A such that $E = \bigcap_{C \in \mathcal{F}} C$. By part (1), we have that $\mathcal{G} := \{\Pi^{-1}(C) : C \in \mathcal{F}\}$ is a family of peak sets for B , and $\bigcap_{D \in \mathcal{G}} D = F$. Thus F is a peak set in the weak sense for B . This proves (2).

(3) This follows immediately from (2) and [6, Theorem 2.4.4]. \square

It is certainly not true that if y is a strong boundary point for B , then $\Pi(y)$ is a strong boundary point for A ; Cole’s counterexample to the peak point conjecture does not have this property. We may restate (3) as the following.

Corollary 3.8. *For each $x \in \Gamma_0(A)$, we have $\Gamma_0(B_x) = \Gamma_0(B) \cap E_x$.*

We now show that a similar relationship holds between $\Gamma(A)$ and $\Gamma(B)$. Our proof below is based on a similar proof due to Lindberg [26, Theorem 3.1].

Theorem 3.9. *Suppose that Π is an open map. Then for each $x \in \Gamma(A)$, we have $\Gamma(B_x) \subseteq \Gamma(B) \cap E_x$.*

Proof. Fix $x \in \Gamma(A)$, let $y_0 \in \Gamma(B_x)$, and let U be an open neighborhood of y_0 in Y . We first show that if $E_x \subseteq U$, then there exists $f \in B$ such that $|f|_Y = 1 > |f|_{Y \setminus U}$. By Lemma 2.5, there is an open neighborhood V of x in X such that $E_x \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(V) \subseteq U$. Since $x \in \Gamma(A)$, there exists $g \in A$ such that $|g|_X = 1$ and $|g|_{X \setminus V} < 1$. Set $f := \Pi^*(g)$. Then $f \in B$, $|f|_Y = 1$ and $|f|_{Y \setminus U} \leq |f|_{Y \setminus \Pi^{-1}(V)} < 1$. In particular, if $E_x = \{y_0\}$, then $y_0 \in \Gamma(B)$. Hence we may assume that E_x contains at least two points and that $E_x \setminus U$ is nonempty.

Let $\varepsilon \in (0, 1/12)$, and let $U_0 := U \cap E_x$. Then U_0 is an open neighborhood of y_0 in E_x . Since $y_0 \in \Gamma(B_x)$, there exists $f_0 \in B_x$ such that $|f_0|_{E_x} = 1$ and $|f_0|_{E_x \setminus U_0} < 1$. By replacing f_0 with f_0^n for sufficiently large $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we may assume that $|f_0|_{E_x} = 1$ and $|f_0|_{E_x \setminus U_0} < \varepsilon$.

Now take $f_1 \in B$ such that $|f_1 - f_0|_{E_x} < \varepsilon$. Then we have $|f_1|_{E_x \setminus U} < 2\varepsilon$ and

$$1 - \varepsilon < |f_1|_{E_x} < 1 + \varepsilon.$$

For each $y \in E_x$, let U_y be an open neighborhood of y in Y such that, for all $z \in U_y$, we have

$$|f_1(z) - f_1(y)| < \varepsilon.$$

Fix $z_0 \in E_x$ such that $|f_1(z_0)| = |f_1|_{E_x}$. Then, for each $y \in U_{z_0}$, we have

$$|f_1(y)| \geq |f_1(z_0)| - |f_1(y) - f_1(z_0)| > 1 - 2\varepsilon.$$

Note that we must have $z_0 \in U$ and, replacing U_{z_0} with $U_{z_0} \cap U$, we may assume that $U_{z_0} \subseteq U$.

By compactness of $E_x \setminus U$, there exists $y_1, \dots, y_m \in E_x \setminus U$ such that

$$E_x \setminus U \subseteq \bigcup_{j=1}^m U_{y_j}.$$

Let $V := \Pi(U_{z_0}) \cap \bigcap_{j=1}^m \Pi(U_{y_j})$. Since Π is an open map, V is an open neighborhood of x in X . By Lemma 2.5, there exists an open neighborhood W of x in X such that $W \subseteq V$ and

$$E_x \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(W) \subseteq U \cup \bigcup_{j=1}^m U_{y_j}.$$

Since $x \in \Gamma(A)$, there exists $g \in A$ such that $|g|_X = 1 > |g|_{X \setminus W}$. As above, replacing g with g^n for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$ if necessary, we may assume that $|g|_X = 1$ and $|g|_{X \setminus W} < \varepsilon/|f_1|_Y$. Let W_0 be the subset of X consisting of all $x' \in X$ such that $|g(x')| > 1 - \varepsilon$, and set $f := \Pi^*(g)f_1 \in B$. Note that W_0 is an open set, $W_0 \subseteq W$, and $\Pi^{-1}(W_0) \cap U_{z_0} \neq \emptyset$.

Let $y \in Y$. If $y \in Y \setminus \Pi^{-1}(W)$, then we have

$$|f(y)| \leq |g(\Pi(y))| |f_1|_Y < \varepsilon.$$

If $y \in U_{y_k}$ for some $k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, then we have

$$|f(y)| \leq |g|_X (|f_1(y) - f_1(y_j)| + |f_1(y_j)|) < 2\varepsilon.$$

In particular, if $y \in Y \setminus U$, then we have $|f(y)| < 2\varepsilon$.

If $y \in U_{z_0} \cap \Pi^{-1}(W_0)$, then we have

$$|f(y)| = |g(\Pi(y))| |f_1(y)| > (1 - \varepsilon)(1 - 2\varepsilon) > 1 - 3\varepsilon.$$

Since $U_{z_0} \cap \Pi^{-1}(W_0) \neq \emptyset$, we have $|f|_Y > 1 - 3\varepsilon > 3/4$ and, by the above, we also have $|f|_{Y \setminus U} < 2\varepsilon < 1/6$. It follows that $y_0 \in \Gamma(B)$. \square

Remark 3.10. More is true in the above. If $x \in \Gamma(A)$ and $y \in \Gamma(B) \cap \text{int}_Y(E_x)$, then $y \in \Gamma(B_x)$. A corollary of the local maximum modulus theorem, [31, Corollary 6.2], suggests that $\Gamma(B) \cap E_x \subseteq \Gamma(B_x)$. However, this corollary is given without proof, and we have not been able to provide a proof for this inclusion.

In the special case where $\Gamma(B_x) = E_x$ for all $x \in \Gamma(A)$, we have the following.

Corollary 3.11. *Suppose that Π is an open map. If we have $\Gamma(B_x) = E_x$ for all $x \in \Gamma(A)$, then $\Gamma(B) \supseteq \Pi^{-1}(\Gamma(A))$. In particular, this occurs if $B_x = C(E_x)$ for all $x \in X$.*

4. Motivating example: Cole extensions

Our aim is to introduce a new class of uniform algebra extensions, which preserve certain properties of the original uniform algebra. Our motivating example is Cole’s construction of a counterexample to the peak point conjecture, where he constructs extensions of a given uniform algebra by adjoining square roots to a family of functions. In this section, we describe a simpler construction—based on Cole’s method—for adjoining roots to a single arbitrary monic polynomial over a given uniform algebra. We call such extensions *simple Cole extensions*. The most general case can be reconstructed by considering systems of simple extensions. (We refer the reader to [7], [12], and [32, Section 19] for additional information and references.)

Let X be a compact space, let A be a uniform algebra on A , let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and let $h_0, \dots, h_{n-1} \in A$ so that $q = h_0 + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} h_j t^j + t^n$ is a monic polynomial over A . We define the set

$$X^q := \{(x, z) \in X \times \mathbb{C} : h_0(x) + h_1(x)z + \dots + h_{n-1}(x)z^{n-1} + z^n = 0\}.$$

It is not hard to see that X^q is a compact space (see [12]). Let $\Pi_q : X^q \rightarrow X$ and $p_q : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ denote the restrictions of the coordinate projections; the map Π_q is continuous, surjective, and open. Let A^q denote the uniform closure in $C(X^q)$ of the algebra generated by the functions p_q and $\Pi_q^*(f)$ ($f \in A$). It is not hard to see that A^q is a uniform algebra on X^q , which we call the *simple Cole extension of A relative to q* .

We summarize some of the properties of A^q in the following proposition.

Proposition 4.1.

- (1) *There exists a bounded linear map $T : C(X^q) \rightarrow C(X)$ with $\|T\| = 1$ such that $T(A^q) = A$ and $T \circ \Pi_q^* = \text{id}_{C(X)}$.*
- (2) *We have $A^q \mid \Pi_q^{-1}(\{x\}) = C(\Pi_q^{-1}(\{x\}))$ for all $x \in X$.*
- (3) *If A is natural on X , then A^q is natural on X^q .*
- (4) *We have $\Gamma(A^q) = \Pi_q^{-1}(\Gamma(A))$.*

All of the above properties are proved by Cole [7] in the case where $q(t) = t^2 - h$ for some $h \in A$. Cole's proof of (1) used an integral over a compact group; the general case is stated in [12] (see also [30]). Part (2) follows immediately from the fact that $\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$ contains at most n points. The general case for parts (3) and (4) are proved in [27]. Many other properties of A which are preserved in A^q are mentioned in [12].

5. Generalized Cole extensions

In this section we introduce our new class of extensions, which were originally described in correspondence between Cole and Feinstein. We will see that many of the results from Section 3 can be strengthened in this new setting and that any extension, in this class, of a nontrivial uniform algebra will be a nontrivial uniform algebra. Throughout this section, let X be a compact space, and let A be a uniform algebra on X .

Definition 5.1. Let B be a uniform algebra on a compact space Y . We say that B is a *generalized Cole extension* of A if there exists a continuous surjection $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ and a unital linear map $T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$ with $\|T\| = 1$ such that $T \circ \Pi^* = \text{id}_{C(X)}$, $\Pi^*(A) \subseteq B$, and $T(B) = A$.

The maps Π and T in the above will often be referred to as the maps *associated* with the extension. We need not assume any additional conditions on the map T . By an application of Lemma 2.7 and elementary functional analysis, we see that T has many desirable properties that are summarized in the following lemma, along with some additional facts that will be useful throughout.

Lemma 5.2. *Let B be a uniform algebra on a compact space Y . Suppose that B is a generalized Cole extension of A with associated maps $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ and $T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$. Then T satisfies each of the following conditions:*

- (1) *the projection $\Pi^* \circ T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(Y)$ is averaging;*
- (2) *for each $f \in C(Y)$ and $g \in C(X)$, we have $T(f\Pi^*(g)) = T(f)g$;*
- (3) *for each $x \in X$, we have $\text{supp } \mu_x \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$;*
- (4) *for each $x \in X$ and $f \in C(Y)$, we have $T(f)(x) \in \overline{\text{conv } f(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\}))}$;*
- (5) *we have $T^*(A^\perp) \subseteq B^\perp$;*
- (6) *we have $\Pi^{**} \circ T^* = \text{id}_{C(X)^*}$ and $\Pi^{**}(B^\perp) = A^\perp$, where $\Pi^{**} = (\Pi^*)^*$.*

In particular, if A is nontrivial, then B is nontrivial.

An alternative proof of the final assertion is an easy modification of a similar proof for Cole extensions found in [13].

Note that if B is a uniform algebra on a compact space Y and B is a generalized Cole extension of A , with associated maps Π and T , then $B \cap \Pi^*(C(X)) = \Pi^*(A)$. This follows from (5) above.

Cole extensions are generalized Cole extensions, by Proposition 4.1, but the converse is not true in general. We now give an example of a generalized Cole extension that is not a Cole extension; further examples will be given in the final section.

Example 5.3. Let $A(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$ be the disk algebra (here $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$ is the closed unit disk in \mathbb{C}). Then $A(\overline{\mathbb{D}}) \hat{\otimes} A(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$, the injective tensor product of $A(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$ with itself, can be identified with a uniform algebra on $\overline{\mathbb{D}} \times \mathbb{T}$. Let $\rho : \overline{\mathbb{D}} \times \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{D}}$ denote the coordinate projection onto the first coordinate, and let $\tau : \overline{\mathbb{D}} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{D}} \times \mathbb{T}$ denote the function $\tau(z) = (z, 1)$ ($z \in \overline{\mathbb{D}}$). Then both ρ and τ are continuous, and $\rho \circ \tau = \text{id}_{\overline{\mathbb{D}}}$. Now we see that $A(\overline{\mathbb{D}}) \hat{\otimes} A(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$ is a generalized Cole extension of $A(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$, with associated maps $\rho : \overline{\mathbb{D}} \times \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{D}}$ and $\tau^* : C(\overline{\mathbb{D}} \times \mathbb{T}) \rightarrow C(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$.

To see that this does not give a Cole extension, take any $z \in \overline{\mathbb{D}}$. Then $\rho^{-1}(\{z\}) = \mathbb{T}$, which is connected. However, it is not hard to see that if $A(\overline{\mathbb{D}}) \hat{\otimes} A(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$ was a Cole extension of $A(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$, then $\rho^{-1}(\{z\})$ would be (totally) disconnected. Also note that $A(\overline{\mathbb{D}}) \hat{\otimes} A(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$ is not natural on $\overline{\mathbb{D}} \times \mathbb{T}$, and that τ^* is actually a homomorphism.

As for general uniform algebra extensions, a generalized Cole extension B of A need not be natural on the given compact space Y even if A is natural on X , as demonstrated by the above example. However, just as in the general case, we instead consider the Gelfand transform of B when A is natural on X . This is made precise in the following proposition; the proof is an easy exercise.

Proposition 5.4. *Let B be a uniform algebra on a compact space Y . Suppose that A is natural on X and that B is a generalized Cole extension of A with associated maps $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ and $T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$. Then \widehat{B} is a generalized Cole extension of A with associated maps $\widehat{\Pi} : \Phi_B \rightarrow X$ and $\widehat{T} : C(\Phi_B) \rightarrow C(X)$ given by $\widehat{\Pi}(\varphi) = \varphi \circ \Pi^*$ ($\varphi \in \Phi_B$) and $\widehat{T}(f) = T(f|_Y)$ ($f \in C(\Phi_B)$).*

Clearly the linear map associated with a generalized Cole extension need not be a homomorphism in general; one can easily show that the averaging map associated with a simple Cole extension is not multiplicative in most cases. The following proposition gives necessary and sufficient conditions for this to be the case.

Proposition 5.5. *Let B be a uniform algebra on a compact space Y , and let $E \subseteq X$. Suppose that B is a generalized Cole extension of A with associated maps Π and T . If, for each $x \in E$, μ_x is a representing measure for some character ψ_x on B , then we have $T(fg)(x) = T(f)(x)T(g)(x)$ ($f, g \in B$) for all $x \in E$. In particular, $T|_B$ is a homomorphism if and only if, for each $x \in X$, μ_x is a representing measure for some character ψ_x on B .*

Proof. To prove the first assertion, suppose that, for each $x \in E$, μ_x is a representing measure for some character ψ_x on B . Let $x \in E$, and let $f, g \in B$. Then

we have

$$T(fg)(x) = \int_Y fg \, d\mu_x = \psi_x(fg) = \psi_x(f)\psi_x(g) = T(f)(x)T(g)(x),$$

which proves the first assertion. If the above holds with $E = X$, then it follows that $T(fg) = T(f)T(g)$ for all $f, g \in B$ and so $T|B$ is a homomorphism.

Now suppose that $T|B$ is a homomorphism. Let $\theta := T|B$. Then θ^* maps Φ_A into Φ_B and so, for each $x \in X$, there exists $\psi_x \in \Phi_B$ such that $\theta^*(\varepsilon_x) = \psi_x$. Then, for all $f \in B$, we have

$$\psi_x(f) = \varepsilon_x(\theta(f)) = T(f)(x) = \int_Y f \, d\mu_x$$

so that μ_x is a representing measure for ψ_x . This completes the proof. \square

In the above proof, we necessarily have that the ψ_x 's are distinct since $T|B$ is surjective; moreover, we have $\psi_x \circ \Pi^* = \varepsilon_x$. The above result can be seen as a generalization of [34, Theorem 6.7]. Indeed, take $B = C(Y)$ and $A = C(X)$ in the above. Then the conclusion is that T is a homomorphism if and only if μ_x is a representing measure for $C(Y)$ for all $x \in X$. But since all representing measures for $C(Y)$ are point-mass measures, it follows that $\mu_x = \delta_y$ for some $y \in Y$. Thus T is a homomorphism if and only if $T = \rho^*$ for some continuous map $\rho : X \rightarrow Y$ with $\Pi \circ \rho = \text{id}_X$.

In the setting of generalized Cole extensions, some results from Section 3 can be strengthened.

Proposition 5.6. *Let B be a uniform algebra on a compact space Y . Suppose that B is a generalized Cole extension of A with associated maps $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ and $T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$. Let $E \subseteq X$ and $F = \Pi^{-1}(E)$. Then*

- (1) *E is a peak set for A if and only if F is a peak set for B ;*
- (2) *E is a peak set in the weak sense for A if and only if F is a peak set in the weak sense for B .*

Proof. (1) By Proposition 3.7(1), if E is a peak set for A , then F is a peak set for B . Conversely, if F is a peak set for B , then there exists $g \in B$ which peaks on F . Set $f := T(g)$. Then, for each $x \in E$, we have

$$f(x) = T(g)(x) \in \overline{\text{conv}} g(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})) \subseteq \overline{\text{conv}} g(F) \subseteq \{1\}.$$

For each $x \in X \setminus E$, we have $|g(y)| < 1$ for all $y \in \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$, and since we have $f(x) \in \overline{\text{conv}} g(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\}))$, it follows that $|f(x)| < 1$. Thus f peaks on E and so E is a peak set for A . This completes the proof.

(2) By Proposition 3.7(2), if E is a peak set in the weak sense for A , then F is a peak set in the weak sense for B . Suppose that F is a peak set in the weak sense for B , and let μ be an annihilating measure for A . We must prove that μ_E is an annihilating measure for A . By Proposition 5.2(5) (and Remark 2.4), $\nu := T^*(\mu)$ is an annihilating measure for B such that $\Pi_*(\nu) = \mu$. Since F is a peak set in the weak sense for B , ν_F is also an annihilating measure for B . It is not hard to see that $\Pi_*(\nu_F) = \mu_E$. Thus μ_E is an annihilating measure for A and so E is a peak set in the weak sense. \square

The above indicates that generalized Cole extensions have a “local nature.” This can be made precise in the following proposition.

Proposition 5.7. *Let B be a uniform algebra on a compact space Y . Suppose that B is a generalized Cole extension of A with associated maps $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ and $T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$. Let K be a compact subset of X , and let $L = \Pi^{-1}(K)$. Let $\Pi_K = \Pi \mid L$, and let $T_K : C(L) \rightarrow C(K)$ be given by $T_K(f \mid L) = T(f) \mid K$ ($f \in C(Y)$). Then B_L is a generalized Cole extension of A_K with associated maps Π_K and T_K .*

Proof. Clearly Π_K is a continuous surjection from L onto K , and T_K is a unital linear map with $\|T_K\| = 1$, and $T_K \circ \Pi_K^* = \text{id}_{C(K)}$. It remains to see that $T_K(B_L) = A_K$. Note that, for each $f \in C(Y)$ and $x \in K$, we have

$$[T_K(f \mid L)](x) = [T(f) \mid K](x) = \int_L f \, d\mu_x.$$

In particular, if $f, g \in C(Y)$ with $f \mid L = g \mid L$, then $T_K(f \mid L) = T_K(g \mid L)$.

Since $T_K(f \mid L) = T(f) \mid K$, for all $f \in B$, we have $T_K(f \mid L) \in A_K$ for all $f \in B$. Since $B \mid L$ is dense in B_L , it follows that $T_K(B_L) \subseteq A_K$. The reverse inclusion follows from the fact that $\Pi_K^*(g \mid K) = \Pi^*(g) \mid L$ for all $g \in A$ and that A is dense in A_K . This completes the proof. \square

Next we ask whether we can improve Theorem 3.9 for generalized Cole extensions. Using the linear map associated with a generalized Cole extension, we obtain the following characterization of Shilov boundary points for an extension that are mapped into the Shilov boundary for A .

Theorem 5.8. *Let B be a uniform algebra on a compact space Y . Suppose that B is a generalized Cole extension of A with associated maps $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ and $T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$. Let $y_0 \in \Gamma(B)$. Then $\Pi(y_0) \in \Gamma(A)$ if and only if, for each open neighborhood U of $\Pi(y_0)$, there exist a peak set K for B and $x \in X$ such that $K \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(U)$ and $\mu_x(K) > 0$.*

Proof. First assume that, for each open neighborhood U of $\Pi(y_0)$, there exist a peak set K for B and $x \in X$ such that $K \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(U)$ and $\mu_x(K) > 0$.

Let $x_0 = \Pi(y)$, and fix an open neighborhood U of x_0 . By assumption, there exists a peak set K for B and $x \in U$ such that $K \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(U)$ and $\mu_x(K) > 0$. Let $f \in B$ be a function which peaks on K . Then the sequence (f^n) is uniformly bounded and converges pointwise to χ_K , the characteristic function for K . By the dominated convergence theorem, we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_Y f^n \, d\mu_x = \mu_x(K) > 0.$$

Then there exists $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $|f^n|_{Y \setminus \Pi^{-1}(U)} \leq \mu_x(K)/4$ and

$$\left| \int_Y f^n \, d\mu_x \right| > \frac{3\mu_x(K)}{4}.$$

Set $h := T(f^n)$. Then we have

$$|h(x)| > \frac{3\mu_x(K)}{4},$$

and, for each $x' \in X \setminus U$, we have

$$|h(x')| \leq \mu_{x'}(Y) \frac{\mu_x(K)}{4} \leq \frac{\mu_x(K)}{4}.$$

Thus $|h|_X > |h|_{X \setminus U}$. It follows that $x \in \Gamma(A)$.

Now assume that $x_0 := \Pi(y_0) \in \Gamma(A)$. Let U be an open neighborhood x_0 . Then there exists a peak set L for A such that $L \subseteq U$. Set $K := \Pi^{-1}(L)$, and let $x \in L$. Then, by Lemma 3.7(1), K is a peak set for B and $K \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(U)$. Moreover, $\mu_x(K) = \mu_x(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})) = 1$. This completes the proof. \square

Unfortunately, generalized Cole extensions have some limitations such as the following.

Proposition 5.9. *Let B be a uniform algebra on a compact space Y . Suppose that B is a generalized Cole extension of A with associated maps $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ and $T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$. If B is normal on Y , then A is normal on X .*

Proof. Let K_1, K_2 be closed subsets of X with $K_1 \cap K_2 = \emptyset$. For $j = 1, 2$, set $L_j := \Pi^{-1}(K_j)$. Then L_1 and L_2 are closed subsets of Y with $L_1 \cap L_2 = \emptyset$. Since B is normal on Y , there exists $g \in B$ such that $g(L_1) \subseteq \{1\}$ and $g(L_2) \subseteq \{0\}$. Set $f := T(g)$. Then, for each $x \in K_1$, we have

$$f(x) = T(g)(x) \in \overline{\text{conv}} g(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})) \subseteq \overline{\text{conv}} g(L_1) \subseteq \{1\},$$

and, for each $x \in K_2$, we have

$$f(x) = T(g)(x) \in \overline{\text{conv}} g(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})) \subseteq \overline{\text{conv}} g(L_2) \subseteq \{0\}.$$

Thus $f(K_1) \subseteq \{1\}$ and $f(K_2) \subseteq \{0\}$. It follows that A is normal on X . \square

In particular, we cannot hope to construct new examples of normal uniform algebras using generalized Cole extensions. See the comments following [16, Proposition 7], which is similar to the above; the same proof is used to prove the result for Cole extensions. A similar proof can be used to show that if B has spectral synthesis, then A has spectral synthesis.

5.1. Groups associated with generalized Cole extensions. The subclass of generalized Cole extensions that are “induced” by the action of a compact group are especially interesting. Indeed, many of the results from the previous sections can be strengthened further in this setting, and many examples of generalized Cole extensions that exist in the literature belong to this subclass. First we recall some standard definitions and results on compact groups and continuous group actions. We refer the reader to [19] and [22] for more information on these topics.

A *compact group* is a group G equipped with a compact, Hausdorff topology such that the maps $(s, t) \mapsto st : G \times G \rightarrow G$ and $s \mapsto s^{-1} : G \rightarrow G$ are continuous. Let G be a compact group. Then there is a unique probability measure μ on G such that $\mu(sE) = \mu(E) = \mu(Es)$ for all $E \subseteq G$ and $s \in G$. (Here sE is defined to be $\{st : t \in E\}$, and Es is defined in a similar manner.) This measure μ is

called the *normalized Haar measure* for G . We say that G *acts continuously* on a topological space X if the action is jointly continuous.

Let G be a compact group, let X be a compact space, and suppose that G acts continuously on X . For each $E \subseteq G$ and $F \subseteq X$, let $E \cdot F = \{s \cdot x : s \in E, x \in F\}$; in the special case where $E = \{s\}$ for some $s \in G$, we instead write $s \cdot F$; $E \cdot x$ is defined analogously. We say that a subset E of X is G -*invariant* if $G \cdot E = E$, and the *orbit* of $x \in X$ with respect to G is the set $G \cdot x$, and the set of all G -orbits in X is denoted X/G .

We begin with the following fundamental lemma, which is certainly well known. In several examples from the literature where generalized Cole extensions appear, some version of this lemma is proved for the specific case. We provide a proof of the general case for the convenience of the reader.

Lemma 5.10. *Let X, Y be compact spaces, let $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ be a continuous surjection, let G be a compact group, and let μ be the normalized Haar measure on G . Suppose that G acts continuously on Y and that, for each $x \in X$ and $y \in Y$ with $\Pi(y) = x$, we have $G \cdot y = \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$. For each $f \in C(Y)$, let*

$$P(f)(y) = \int_G f(s \cdot y) \, d\mu(s). \tag{5.1}$$

Then P is a continuous projection on $C(Y)$ such that $P \circ \Pi^ = \Pi^*$ and $\|P\| = 1$. Moreover, P is averaging and the range of P coincides with the set $\Pi^*(C(X))$.*

Proof. We must first show that $P(f)$ is a continuous function on X . This part of the proof is effectively [32, Theorem 19.1]. Fix $\varepsilon > 0$. For each $(s, y) \in G \times Y$, there is an open neighborhood $W_{(s,y)}$ of (s, y) such that $|f(s' \cdot y') - f(s \cdot y)| < \varepsilon/2$ for all $(s', y') \in W_{(s,y)}$. Now for each $(s, y) \in G \times Y$, there are open neighborhoods U_s of s and V_y of y such that $U_s \times V_y \subseteq W_{(s,y)}$. Fix $y_0 \in G$. By compactness, there exist finitely many pairs $(s_1, y_1), \dots, (s_n, y_n) \in G \times Y$ such that $G \times \{y_0\} \subseteq \bigcup_{j=1}^n (U_{s_j} \times V_{y_j})$. Set $U_j := U_{s_j}$ and $V_j := V_{y_j}$ for $j = 1, \dots, n$. We may assume that we have $y_0 \in V_j$ for $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Let $V := \bigcap_{j=1}^n V_j$ so that V is an open neighborhood of $y_0 \in Y$. For each $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, put $U'_j := U_j \setminus \bigcup_{k=1}^{j-1} U_k$. Then for each $y \in V$ we have

$$\int_G |f(s \cdot y) - f(s \cdot y_0)| \, d\mu(s) \leq \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{U'_j} |f(s \cdot y) - f(s \cdot y_0)| \, d\mu(s) < \varepsilon.$$

It follows that $|P(f)(y) - P(f)(y_0)| < \varepsilon$ for all $y \in V$. This shows that $P(f)$ is continuous on Y .

To see that P is a projection, take $f \in C(Y)$ and $y \in Y$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_G P(f)(s \cdot y) \, d\mu(s) &= \int_G \int_G f(t \cdot (s \cdot y)) \, d\mu(t) \, d\mu(s) \\ &= \int_G \int_G f(s \cdot y) \, d\mu(s) \, d\mu(t) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int_G P(f)(y) \, d\mu(t) \\ &= P(f)(y) \end{aligned}$$

by the right invariance of the normalized Haar measure. Next, for each $f \in C(Y)$ and $y \in Y$, we have

$$|P(f)(y)| \leq \int_G |f(s \cdot y)| \, d\mu(s) \leq \int_G |f|_Y \, d\mu(s) = |f|_Y.$$

Thus $|P(f)|_Y \leq |f|_Y$. It is clear that $P(1) = 1$, so that $\|P\| = 1$.

It is trivial to see that $\|P\| = 1$. To see that $P(C(Y)) = \Pi^*(C(X))$, consider $f \in C(Y)$. Then, for each $y \in Y$ and $s \in G$, we have

$$P(f)(s \cdot y) = \int_G f(t \cdot (s \cdot y)) \, d\mu(t) = \int_G f(t \cdot y) \, d\mu(t) = P(f)(y)$$

by the right invariance of μ . In particular, $P(f)$ is constant on the sets $\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$ ($x \in X$), and so there exists a unique continuous function $g \in C(X)$ such that $f = g \circ \Pi$ (see Remark 3.4). Thus we have $P(f) \in \Pi^*(C(X))$. The fact that P is averaging now follows from Lemma 2.7 (applied to the map $(\Pi^*)^{-1} \circ P$). This completes the proof. \square

Throughout the remainder of this section, let X, Y be compact spaces, let A be a uniform algebra on X , let B be a uniform algebra on Y , let G be a compact group, and let μ denote the normalized Haar measure on G .

Definition 5.11. Suppose that B is a generalized Cole extension of A with associated maps $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ and $T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$. We say that this extension is *implemented by G* if G acts continuously on Y ; if $G \cdot \Pi(y) = \Pi^{-1}(\{\Pi(y)\})$ for all $y \in Y$; and if, for each $f \in B$, we have

$$T(f)(\Pi(y)) = \int_G f(s \cdot y) \, d\mu(s) \quad (y \in Y). \tag{5.2}$$

Cole’s counterexample to the peak point conjecture is a generalized Cole extension which is implemented by a group. The following lemma provides some useful facts about generalized Cole extensions that are implemented by groups.

Lemma 5.12. *Suppose that B is a generalized Cole extension of A with associated maps $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ and $T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$, and that G acts continuously on Y .*

- (1) *If $G \cdot y = \Pi^{-1}(\{\Pi(y)\})$ for each $y \in Y$, then Π is an open map.*
- (2) *If*

$$T(f)(\Pi(y)) = \int_G f(s \cdot y) \, d\mu(s) \quad (y \in Y) \tag{5.3}$$

for all $f \in C(Y)$, then $G \cdot y = \Pi^{-1}(\{\Pi(y)\})$ for all $y \in Y$.

Proof. (1) Suppose that $G \cdot y = \Pi^{-1}(\{\Pi(y)\})$ for all $y \in Y$. Let $q : Y \rightarrow Y/G$ denote the quotient map. Then q is continuous and open, and Y/G is homeomorphic to X , via the map $\tilde{\Pi} : Y/G \rightarrow X : \Pi^{-1}(\{x\}) \mapsto x$, and $\Pi = \tilde{\Pi} \circ q$. Thus Π is an open map.

(2) First suppose that (5.3) holds for all $f \in C(Y)$. Fix $x \in X$. Take $y \in \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$, and let F be the orbit of y under G . Suppose, toward a contradiction, that $F \not\subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$. Then there exists $s_0 \in G$ such that $s_0 \cdot y \notin \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$.

By Urysohn's lemma, there is a function $f \in C(Y)$ with $f(Y) \subseteq [0, \infty)$ such that $f(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})) \subseteq \{0\}$ and $f(s_0 \cdot y) = 1$. Since the action of G on Y is jointly continuous, there is an open neighborhood U of s_0 in G such that $|f(s \cdot y) - 1| < 1/4$ whenever $s \in U$. Then we have

$$T(f)(\Pi(y)) = \int_G f(s \cdot y) \, d\mu(s) \geq \int_U f(s \cdot y) \, d\mu(s) > \frac{\mu(U)}{4} > 0.$$

But since $f(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})) \subseteq \{0\}$ and $T(f)(x) \in \overline{\text{conv}} f(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})) \subseteq \{0\}$, we have a contradiction. Hence $F \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$.

Now suppose, again toward a contradiction, that we have $F \neq \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$. Take $y_0 \in \Pi^{-1}(\{x\}) \setminus F$, and let K be the orbit of y_0 in Y . (Note that, by the above, $K \subseteq \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$.) Then there exists $f \in C(Y)$ such that $f(F) \subseteq \{0\}$ and $f(K) \subseteq \{1\}$. Hence

$$1 = \int_G f(s \cdot y_0) \, d\mu(s) = T(f)(\Pi(y_0)) = T(f)(\Pi(y)) = \int_G f(s \cdot y) \, d\mu(s) = 0,$$

which is a contradiction. Hence $F = \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$ and the result follows. This completes the proof. □

Suppose that G acts continuously on Y . Then, for each $f \in C(Y)$ and $s \in G$, we can form a new function $f_s \in C(Y)$ given by $f_s(y) = f(s \cdot y)$ ($y \in Y$). Moreover, it is easy to see that the function $s \mapsto f_s : G \rightarrow C(Y)$ is continuous for each $f \in C(Y)$.

Proposition 5.13. *Suppose that G acts continuously on Y and that $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ is a continuous surjection such that $G \cdot y = \Pi^{-1}(\{\Pi(y)\})$ for all $y \in Y$. If $f_s \in B$ for all $f \in B$ and $s \in G$ and $\Pi^*(C(X)) \cap B = \Pi^*(A)$, then B is a generalized Cole extension of A implemented by G .*

Proof. Suppose that $\Pi^*(C(X)) \cap B = \Pi^*(A)$ and that, for all $f \in B$ and $s \in G$, we have $f_s \in B$. Note that these conditions give that $\Pi^*(A) \subseteq B$. Let $T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$ be the norm 1 linear map given by

$$T(f)(\Pi(y)) = \int_G f(s \cdot y) \, d\mu(s) \quad (y \in Y, f \in C(Y)).$$

Then T is a unital and, since $G \cdot y = \Pi^{-1}(\{\Pi(y)\})$ for all $y \in Y$, it follows that $T \circ \Pi^* = \text{id}_{C(X)}$. It remains only to show that $T(B) = A$. Let $f \in B$, and let $g = T(f) \in C(X)$. Then, if ν is an annihilating measure for B , then by Fubini's theorem

$$\int g(\Pi(y)) \, d\nu(y) = \int_Y \int_G f_s(y) \, d\mu(s) \, d\nu(y) = \int_G \int_Y f_s(y) \, d\nu(y) \, d\mu(s) = 0.$$

It follows that $\Pi^*(g) \in B \cap \Pi^*(C(X))$ and so $g \in A$. This completes the proof. □

Note that the condition $\Pi^*(C(X)) \cap B = \Pi^*(A)$ in the above is necessary, as mentioned below Proposition 5.2. The condition that $f_s \in B$ whenever $f \in B$ and $s \in G$, in the above, is seemingly stronger than (5.2). For generalized Cole extensions that satisfy this additional condition we can apply results of Björk [3] and Izzo [23] to obtain the following proposition.

Proposition 5.14. *Suppose that B is a generalized Cole extension of A implemented by G , with associated maps $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ and $T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$. Suppose that, for all $f \in B$ and $s \in G$, we have $f_s \in B$.*

- (1) *The action of G on Y can be extended to a continuous action of G on Φ_B .*
- (2) *For each $x \in X$, if $B_{\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})}$ is natural on $\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$, then we must have $B_{\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})} = C(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\}))$.*
- (3) *If A is natural on X , $\Pi^*(A)$ separates the G -orbits in Φ_B , and, for each $x \in X$, $B_{\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})}$ is natural on $\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$, then B is natural on Y .*
- (4) *We have that $B = C(Y)$ if and only if B is natural on Y and $A = C(X)$.*
- (5) *We have $\Gamma(B) = \Pi^{-1}(\Gamma(A))$.*

Proof. (1) For each $s \in G$ and $\varphi \in \Phi_B$, let φ_s be the character on B given by $\varphi_s(f) = \varphi(f_s)$ ($f \in B$). This action is obviously continuous and agrees with the action of G when restricted to Y .

(2) Let $x \in X$. Suppose that $B_{\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})}$ is natural on $\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$. Since $\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$ is a G -orbit, it follows that $f_s \in B_{\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})}$ whenever $f \in B_{\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})}$. The result follows from [23, Corollary 1.4].

(3) Suppose that A is natural on X and that, for each $x \in X$, $B_{\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})}$ is natural on $\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$. Then, by [3, Theorem 1.2], there is a homeomorphism $\tau : X \rightarrow \Phi_B/G$, where the action of G on Φ_B is as in the proof of clause (1). Let $\varphi \in \Phi_B$. Then there is a unique $x \in X$ such that $\tau(G \cdot \varphi) = x$. It follows that φ belongs to the character space of $B_{\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})}$, which is $\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$, and so φ is a point evaluation at some $y \in \Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$. The result follows.

(4) If $B = C(Y)$, then B is natural on Y and $A = C(X)$ (by Lemma 5.2). Conversely, suppose that B is natural on Y and $A = C(X)$. Then each point $x \in X$ is a strong boundary point for A and so $\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$ is a peak set in the weak sense, by Proposition 5.6(2). Hence $B_{\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})}$ is closed in $C(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\}))$ for all $x \in X$. Now if $B \neq C(Y)$, then there exists $x \in X$ such that $B_{\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})} \neq C(\Pi^{-1}(\{x\}))$ and, by (2), this implies that $B_{\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})}$ is not natural on $\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$ for some $x \in X$. But since B is natural on Y , it follows that $B_{\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})}$ is natural on $\Pi^{-1}(\{x\})$. This is a contradiction. Hence $B = C(Y)$.

(5) This follows from [3, Theorem 1.2] using an argument similar to that in the proof of (3). \square

In general, a generalized Cole extension of A need not be implemented by a group. However, in a special case it is possible to show that there is a finite group that implements the extension. In fact, a generalized Cole extension of A that satisfies this extra condition and which is generated by “adjoining” a single function to A is necessarily a simple Cole extension of A .

Theorem 5.15. *Suppose that B is a generalized Cole extension of A with associated maps $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$ and $T : C(Y) \rightarrow C(X)$. Suppose further that*

$\|\text{id}_{C(Y)} - \Pi^* \circ T\| = 1$. Then there exists a finite group G such that B is a generalized Cole extension of A implemented by G . Moreover, if there exists $h_0 \in B$ with $T(h_0) = 0$ such that B is the uniform algebra generated by $\Pi^*(A)$ and h_0 , then there exists a homeomorphism $\psi : Y \rightarrow X^q$, where $q(t) = t^2 - h$ for some $h \in A$, such that $\Pi_q \circ \psi = \Pi$, $\psi^*(A^q) = B$, and $\psi^*(p_q) = h_0$.

Proof. Let $P := \Pi^* \circ T$ and $Q := \text{id}_{C(Y)} - P$. Then P is a unital projection on $C(Y)$ and $\|P\| = \|Q\| = 1$. Set $\theta := P - Q$, so that $P = (\text{id}_{C(Y)} + \theta)/2$. By [5, Lemma 4.1], θ is a homomorphism with $\theta \circ \theta = \text{id}_{C(Y)}$. Hence θ is an automorphism and is isometric by [10, Proposition 1.5.28] (this fact is contained in [5, Theorem 4.5]). Thus there is a homeomorphism $\rho : Y \rightarrow Y$ such that $\theta = \rho^*$, and we have $P = (\text{id}_{C(Y)} + \theta)/2$.

Let $G := \{\text{id}_Y, \rho\}$; under composition and given the discrete topology this is a compact group. Let μ denote the normalized Haar measure on G . Note that $\mu(\{\text{id}_Y\}) = \mu(\{\rho\}) = 1/2$, and G acts continuously on Y . Thus, for each $f \in C(Y)$, we have

$$\int_G f(s \cdot y) d\mu(s) = \frac{1}{2}(f(y) + f(\rho(y))) = P(f)(y) \quad (y \in Y).$$

By Lemma 5.12(2), we have $G \cdot y = \Pi^{-1}(\{\Pi(y)\})$ for all $y \in Y$ and it follows that B is a generalized Cole extension of A implemented by G .

Suppose now that there exists $h_0 \in B$ with $T(h_0) = 0$ and such that B is generated by $\Pi^*(A)$ and h_0 . Again by [5, Lemma 4.1], we have $h_0^2 \in \Pi^*(A)$, so there exists $h \in A$ such that $h_0^2 = \Pi^*(h)$. Set $q(t) = t^2 - h$. We must now prove that B is isomorphic to A^q .

Define the map $\psi : Y \rightarrow X^q$ by $\psi(y) = (\Pi(y), h_0(y))$. It is not hard to see that ψ is continuous and surjective, and it is immediate that $\Pi_q \circ \psi = \Pi$. We claim that ψ is injective. Indeed, suppose that $y_1, y_2 \in Y$ with $y_1 \neq y_2$ and $\psi(y_1) = \psi(y_2)$. Then we have $\Pi(y_1) = \Pi(y_2)$ and $h_0(y_1) = h_0(y_2)$. We have $y_1 = \rho(y_2)$ and so $h_0(y_1) = h_0(y_2) = -h_0(y_1)$. Hence $h_0(y_2) = h_0(y_1) = 0$. This contradicts the fact that B separates the points of Y , and so no such points can exist. Hence ψ is injective, and so is a homeomorphism.

The function $\psi^* : C(X^q) \rightarrow C(Y)$ is an isometric isomorphism such that $\Pi^* = \psi^* \circ \Pi_q^*$. Finally, we must prove that $\psi^*(A^q) = B$. Since $p_q \circ \psi(y) = h_0(y)$ for each $y \in Y$, so that $\psi^*(p_q) = h_0$, and B is generated by $\Pi^*(A)$ and h_0 and A^q is generated by $\Pi_q^*(A)$ and p_q . This completes the proof. \square

Take two nonzero functions $g_1, g_2 \in A$ with disjoint supports. Then we can form the (iterated) simple Cole extension $(A^{q_1})^{q_2}$, where $q_1(t) = t^2 - g_1$ and $q_2(t) = t^2 - \Pi_{q_1}^*(g_2)$. It is not hard to see that this uniform algebra is not generated by the embedding of A and a single element, but does satisfy all the other conditions of the above. We have not been able to show that all generalized Cole extensions that satisfy the conditions above are necessarily Cole extensions, although we conjecture that this is the case. In the above, we do not use the full power of [5, Lemma 4.1], and so our result can be slightly generalized to obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 5.16. *Suppose that P is a unital projection on A such that both P and $\text{id}_A - P$ have norm 1. Let $A_0 = P(A)$. Then the cyclic group C_2 of order 2 acts continuously on Φ_A . If A_0 separates the C_2 -orbits in Φ_A , then A_0 can be viewed as a natural uniform algebra on Φ_A/C_2 . Moreover, in this case, A is a generalized Cole extension of A_0 implemented by C_2 . If, in addition, X is a C_2 -invariant subset of Φ_A , then A_0 is a uniform algebra on X/C_2 .*

Proof. As in the proof of Theorem 5.15, let $\theta = P - Q$, where $Q = \text{id}_A - P$. Then θ is an (isometric) automorphism of A with $\theta \circ \theta = \text{id}_A$, and hence there is a homeomorphism ρ of Φ_A with $\rho^* \upharpoonright A = \theta$. Let $G = \{\text{id}_{\Phi_A}, \rho\}$, which is isomorphic to C_2 . It is easy to see that G , and hence C_2 , acts continuously on Φ_A .

Suppose now that A_0 separates the C_2 -orbits in Φ_A . Let $q : \Phi_A \rightarrow \Phi_A/C_2$ be the quotient map. Then we have $C_2 \cdot \varphi = q^{-1}(q(\varphi))$ for all $\varphi \in \Phi_A$, and A_0 consists precisely of those functions f in A such that \hat{f} is constant on each C_2 orbit in Φ_A , and so A_0 can be viewed as a natural uniform algebra on Φ_A/C_2 , and $q^*(C(\Phi_A/C_2)) \cap A = A_0$. By Proposition 5.13, A is a generalized Cole extension of A_0 implemented by C_2 . \square

5.2. Examples of generalized Cole extensions. We now show that some examples from the literature are in fact generalized Cole extensions. First, we note that the bidual of a generalized Cole extension of a uniform algebra A is a generalized Cole extension of A^{**} .

Let B be a uniform algebra on a compact space Y . Suppose that B is a generalized Cole extension of A with associated maps Π and T . It is interesting to note that $C(Y)$ is also a generalized Cole extension of $C(X)$, with associated maps Π and T , and that B^{**} (the bidual of B) is a generalized Cole extension of A^{**} . In the latter, the associated maps are given by the map $\tau : \Phi_{C(Y)^{**}} \rightarrow \Phi_{C(X)^{**}}$ induced by $\pi^{***} : C(X)^{**} \rightarrow C(Y)^{**}$, and the linear map $T^{**} : C(Y)^{**} \rightarrow C(X)^{**}$. (Note that bidual of a uniform algebra is again a uniform algebra.) We refer the reader to [8] for similar comments and results.

5.2.1. Basener's counterexample to the peak point conjecture. In [2], Basener gave a simple counterexample to the peak point conjecture using a compact subset of \mathbb{C}^2 . We now show that this example can be realized as a generalized Cole extension. We refer the reader to [32, Example 19.8] for a detailed account of the construction.

If X is a compact subset of \mathbb{C}^n , for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then $R(X)$ denotes the closure in $C(X)$ of the algebra of all restrictions to X of rational functions with no poles on X . It is clear that $R(X)$ is a uniform algebra on X for each such X . If X is a compact subset of \mathbb{C} , then $R(X)$ is always natural on X .

For the remainder of the section, fix a compact subset K in the open unit disk in \mathbb{C} such that $R(K)$ is nontrivial and K does not admit any nontrivial Jensen measures; for example, the Swiss cheese set constructed in [29]. Set $A := R(K)$, and set

$$X_K := \{(z, w) \in \mathbb{C}^2 : z \in K, |z|^2 + |w|^2 = 1\}.$$

Then X_K is a nonempty, compact subset of \mathbb{C}^2 . (In fact, it is a compact subset of the unit sphere in \mathbb{C}^2 .) Set $B := R(X_K)$. Let $\Pi : X_K \rightarrow K$ and $p : X_K \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be the

restrictions of the coordinate projections. Then B is generated by the functions p, p^{-1} , and $\Pi^*(g)$ ($g \in A$), as proved in [32], so that $\Pi^*(A) \subseteq B$. Clearly then B is a uniform algebra extension of A . For each $z \in K$, we have

$$\Pi^{-1}(\{z\}) = \{w \in \mathbb{C} : |w| = \sqrt{1 - |z|^2}\},$$

which is a circle in \mathbb{C} . In particular, $B \upharpoonright \Pi^{-1}(\{z\})$ is dense in $C(\Pi^{-1}(\{z\}))$ for each $z \in K$ since B contains p and p^{-1} . It is a trivial fact that every point of X_K is a peak point for B . In particular, $\Gamma(B) = X_K$. Some additional features of the construction are outlined in the following proposition. We give a proof of these facts using the techniques of this paper; a direct proof of clause (1) is given in [32].

Proposition 5.17.

- (1) *The algebra B is natural on X_K .*
- (2) *The circle group \mathbb{T} acts continuously on X_K , via the formula*

$$s \cdot (z, w) = (z, sw) \quad (s \in \mathbb{T}, (z, w) \in X_K).$$

- (3) *The algebra B is a generalized Cole extension of A implemented by \mathbb{T} .*

Proof. (1) Since $B \upharpoonright \Pi^{-1}(\{z\})$ is dense in $C(\Pi^{-1}(\{z\}))$ for all $z \in K$, the result follows from Theorem 3.6.

(2) This is clear from the definition.

(3) The \mathbb{T} -orbits in X_K are precisely the fibers of Π , by definition. Clearly, for all $s \in \mathbb{T}$, we have $p_s = sp \in B$ and $(p^{-1})_s = s^{-1}p^{-1} \in B$ and $(\Pi^*(g))_s = \Pi^*(g)$ for all $g \in A$ and $s \in \mathbb{T}$. Since B is generated by the functions $p, p^{-1}, \Pi^*(g)$ ($g \in A$), it quickly follows that $f_s \in B$ for all $f \in B$ and $s \in \mathbb{T}$. Fix $(z, w) \in X_K$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} [ws]^n d\mu(s) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [\sqrt{1 - |z|^2} e^{i(\theta+t)}]^n dt,$$

where μ denotes the normalized Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{T} , and θ is the principle argument of w . It follows that

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} [ws]^n d\mu(s) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \zeta^{n-1} d\zeta,$$

where γ is the path describing the circle with radius $\sqrt{1 - |z|^2}$ once counterclockwise. Cauchy’s theorem now tells us that this integral is zero whenever $n \neq 0$, and it is 1 if $n = 0$. It follows that $\Pi^*(C(K)) \cap B = \Pi^*(A)$. Hence B is a generalized Cole extension of A implemented by \mathbb{T} by Proposition 5.13. □

In fact, in the above, we showed that B satisfies the stronger property that $f_s \in B$ for all $f \in B$ and $s \in \mathbb{T}$.

5.2.2. *Factorization in commutative Banach algebras.* A more recent construction of a generalized Cole extension is given in [11], where Dales et al. construct uniform algebras in which certain null sequences factor. We summarize some of the details of their construction below.

Let A be a uniform algebra on a compact space X , fix $x_0 \in X$, and let M_{x_0} be the maximal ideal of all functions in A that vanish at x_0 . Fix a null sequence $(f_n) \in M_{x_0}$. Let Y be the set of all triples $(x, (z_n), w) \in X \times \mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{N}} \times \mathbb{C}$ satisfying the following conditions:

- (1) $z_n w = f_n(x)$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$);
- (2) $|w| = \max\{|f_n(x)|^{1/2} : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$;
- (3) $|z_n|^2 \leq |f_n(x)|$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$).

Then Y is a compact space. Let B be the uniform algebra on Y generated by the functions $\Pi^*(f)$ ($f \in A$), p_n ($n \in \mathbb{N}$), and q , where Π , p_n ($n \in \mathbb{N}$), and q are the obvious coordinate projections. Clearly B is a uniform algebra extension of A . In fact, B is a generalized Cole extension of A implemented by \mathbb{T} . Moreover, the fiber of Π over x_0 consists of a single point. (Extensions such as the above where there is a point x_0 whose fiber consists of a single point are called *distinguished point extensions* in [11].)

Note that, as for Basener's construction, this construction also satisfies the stronger condition that $f_s \in B$ for all $f \in A$ and $s \in \mathbb{T}$.

Open problems

We conclude with two open problems. In the following X and Y are compact spaces, A is a uniform algebra on X , and B is a uniform algebra on Y .

Question 5.18. Suppose that B is a uniform algebra extension of A with associated map $\Pi : Y \rightarrow X$, and that P is a continuous projection on B with $P(B) = \Pi^*(A)$. Is B a generalized Cole extension of A ?

Question 5.19. Suppose that B is a generalized Cole extension of A . When is this extension implemented by a compact group G acting continuously on Y ?

Acknowledgments. I would like to thank J. Feinstein for many helpful discussions on uniform algebras and Cole extensions and for suggesting the topic of generalized Cole extensions to me. Thanks are also extended to D. Blecher and A. Izzo for helpful communications and to the referees for useful comments.

References

1. R. Arens and K. Hoffmann, *Algebraic extension of normed algebras*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **7** (1956), 203–210. [Zbl 0073.33001](#). [MR0077901](#). [DOI 10.2307/2033173](#). [838](#)
2. R. F. Basener, *An example concerning peak points*, Notices Amer. Math. Soc. **18** (1971), no. 2, 415–416. [837](#), [845](#), [859](#)
3. J.-E. Björk, *Compact groups operating on Banach algebras*, Math. Ann. **205** (1973), 281–297. [Zbl 0262.46051](#). [MR0328604](#). [DOI 10.1007/BF01362698](#). [857](#)
4. D. P. Blecher and C. Le Merdy, *Operator Algebras and Their Modules—An Operator Space Approach*, London Math. Soc. Monogr. (N.S.) **30**, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2004. [Zbl 1061.47002](#). [MR2111973](#). [DOI 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198526599.001.0001](#). [842](#), [843](#)

5. D. P. Blecher and M. Neal, *Completely contractive projections on operator algebras*, Pacific J. Math. **283** (2016), no. 2, 289–324. [Zbl 1356.46039](#). [MR3519104](#). [DOI 10.2140/pjm.2016.283.289](#). [838](#), [858](#)
6. A. Browder, *Introduction to Function Algebras*, W. A. Benjamin, New York, 1969. [Zbl 0199.46103](#). [MR0246125](#). [839](#), [840](#), [845](#), [846](#)
7. B. J. Cole, *One-point parts and the peak point conjecture*, Ph.D. dissertation, Yale University, New Haven, CT, 1968. [MR2617861](#). [837](#), [848](#), [849](#)
8. B. J. Cole and T. W. Gamelin, *Tight uniform algebras and algebras of analytic functions*, J. Funct. Anal. **46** (1982), no. 2, 158–220. [Zbl 0569.46034](#). [MR0660185](#). [DOI 10.1016/0022-1236\(82\)90034-9](#). [859](#)
9. J. Conway, *A Course in Functional Analysis*, 2nd ed., Grad. Texts in Math. **96**, Springer, New York, 1990. [Zbl 0706.46003](#). [MR1070713](#). [841](#)
10. H. G. Dales, *Banach Algebras and Automatic Continuity*, London Math. Soc. Monogr. (N.S.) **24**, Oxford University Press, New York, 2000. [Zbl 0981.46043](#). [MR1816726](#). [839](#), [858](#)
11. H. G. Dales, J. F. Feinstein, and H. L. Pham, *Factorization in commutative Banach algebras*, in preparation. [838](#), [861](#)
12. T. Dawson, “A survey of algebraic extensions of commutative, unital normed algebras” in *Function Spaces (Edwardsville, 2002)*, Contemp. Math. **328**, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, 2003, 157–170. [Zbl 1062.46040](#). [MR1990397](#). [DOI 10.1090/conm/328/05777](#). [838](#), [848](#), [849](#)
13. T. Dawson, *Extensions of normed algebras*, Ph.D. dissertation, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, 2003. [849](#)
14. H. Federer, *Geometric Measure Theory*, Grundlehren Math. Wiss. **153**, Springer, New York, 1969. [Zbl 0176.00801](#). [MR0257325](#). [841](#)
15. J. F. Feinstein, *A nontrivial, strongly regular uniform algebra*, J. Lond. Math. Soc. (2) **45** (1992), no. 2, 288–300. [Zbl 0712.46026](#). [MR1171556](#). [DOI 10.1112/jlms/s2-45.2.288](#). [838](#)
16. J. F. Feinstein, *Trivial Jensen measures without regularity*, Studia Math. **148** (2001), no. 1, 67–74. [Zbl 1055.46035](#). [MR1881440](#). [DOI 10.4064/sm148-1-6](#). [838](#), [853](#)
17. J. F. Feinstein, *A counterexample to a conjecture of S. E. Morris*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **132** (2004), no. 8, 2389–2397. [Zbl 1055.46036](#). [MR2052417](#). [DOI 10.1090/S0002-9939-04-07382-4](#). [838](#)
18. J. F. Feinstein and A. J. Izzo, *A general method for constructing essential uniform algebras*, Studia Math. **246** (2019), no. 1, 47–61. [Zbl 07010876](#). [MR3878630](#). [DOI 10.4064/sm170907-23-2](#). [838](#), [845](#)
19. G. B. Folland, *A Course in Abstract Harmonic Analysis*, 2nd ed., Textb. Math., CRC, Boca Raton, FL, 2016. [Zbl 1342.43001](#). [MR3444405](#). [853](#)
20. T. W. Gamelin, *Uniform Algebras*, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1969. [Zbl 0213.40401](#). [MR0410387](#). [839](#)
21. T. W. Gamelin, *Uniform algebras and Jensen measures*, London Math. Soc. Lecture Note Ser. **32**, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1978. [Zbl 0418.46042](#). [MR0521440](#). [845](#)
22. E. Hewitt and K. A. Ross, *Abstract Harmonic Analysis, I: Structure of Topological Groups, Integration Theory, Group Representations*, 2nd ed., Grundlehren Math. Wiss. **115**, Springer, Berlin, 1979. [Zbl 0416.43001](#). [MR0551496](#). [853](#)
23. A. J. Izzo, *Uniform algebras invariant under transitive group actions*, Indiana Univ. Math. J. **59** (2010), no. 2, 417–426. [Zbl 1270.46044](#). [MR2648073](#). [DOI 10.1512/iumj.2010.59.4032](#). [857](#)
24. M. I. Karahanjan, *Some algebraic characterizations of the algebra of all continuous functions on a locally connected compactum* (in Russian), Mat. Sb. (N.S.) **107(149)** (1978), no. 3, 416–434; English translation in Sb. Math. **35** (1979), 681–696. [Zbl 0487.46033](#). [MR0515739](#). [838](#)
25. J. L. Kelley, *Averaging operators on $C_\infty(X)$* , Illinois J. Math. **2** (1958), 214–223. [Zbl 0080.32001](#). [MR0103409](#). [842](#), [843](#), [844](#)

26. J. A. Lindberg, Jr., *Algebraic extensions of commutative Banach algebras*, Pacific J. Math. **14** (1964), 559–583. [Zbl 0142.10203](#). [MR0173166](#). [838](#), [847](#)
27. J. A. Lindberg, Jr., *Integral extensions of commutative Banach algebras*, Canad. J. Math. **25** (1973), 673–686. [Zbl 0247.46064](#). [MR0331066](#). [DOI 10.4153/CJM-1973-068-2](#). [838](#), [849](#)
28. S. P. Lloyd, *On extreme averaging operators*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **14** (1963), 305–310. [Zbl 0112.34201](#). [MR0159234](#). [DOI 10.2307/2034632](#). [844](#)
29. R. McKissick, *A nontrivial normal sup norm algebra*, Bull. Amer. Math. Soc. (N.S.) **69** (1963), 391–395. [Zbl 0113.31502](#). [MR0146646](#). [DOI 10.1090/S0002-9904-1963-10940-4](#). [859](#)
30. V. G. Narmaniya, *Construction of algebraically closed extensions of commutative Banach algebras* (in Russian), Trudy Tbiliss Mat. Inst. Razmadze Akad. **69** (1982), 154–162; English translation in Trans. A. Razmadze Math. Inst. **69** (1982), 154–162. [Zbl 0532.46030](#). [MR0722605](#). [838](#), [849](#)
31. H. Rossi, *The local maximum modulus principle*, Ann. of Math. (2) **72** (1960), 1–11. [Zbl 0099.32703](#). [MR0117539](#). [DOI 10.2307/1970145](#). [848](#)
32. E. L. Stout, *The Theory of Uniform Algebras*, Bogden and Quigley, Tarrytown-on-Hudson, 1971. [Zbl 0286.46049](#). [MR0423083](#). [839](#), [840](#), [848](#), [854](#), [859](#), [860](#)
33. J. Tomiyama, *On the projection of norm one in W^* -algebras*, Proc. Japan Acad. **33** (1957), 608–612. [Zbl 0081.11201](#). [MR0096140](#). [843](#)
34. F. B. Wright, *Generalized means*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **98** (1961), 187–203. [Zbl 0122.35005](#). [MR0154107](#). [DOI 10.2307/1993492](#). [851](#)

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA, NORWICH, NR4 7TJ, UNITED KINGDOM.

E-mail address: Sam.Morley@uea.ac.uk