

Restriction Algebras

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RESTRICTIONS OF UNIFORM ALGEBRAS

Anthony G.O'Farrell

The preprint follows.
It is more legible
than the printed text.

1. The diagram. Let A be a complex uniform algebra on a compact Hausdorff space X [2, p. 32]. This paper is about the family of sets $E \subset X$ for which the restriction algebra $A|E$ is uniformly closed. For background, cf. [1;2;3;5;7;8]. More details of the results described here will appear in the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy.

← In the end, fewer details appeared there!

The algebra A induces certain families of subsets of X , as follows:

\mathcal{W}^* is the family of *weak-star closed* subsets of X , regarding X as a subset of the dual A^* (the "original" closed sets).

\mathcal{B} is the family of *A-convex* subsets of X , i.e. $E \in \mathcal{B}$ if and only if E equals the *A-convex hull* of E (in X), which is the set $\{a \in X : |f(a)| \leq \|f\|_E \text{ whenever } f \in A\}$, where $\|f\|_E$ denotes the uniform norm of f on E .

\mathcal{K} is the family of *hull-kernel closed* subsets of X , i.e. $E \in \mathcal{K}$ if and only if $E = \{a \in X : f(a) = 0 \text{ whenever } f \in \ker E\}$, where $\ker E = \{f \in A : f|E = 0\}$ ($f|E$ denotes the restriction of f to E).

\mathcal{R} is the family of *A-convex* sets E such that $A|E$ is closed. The reason we restrict attention to *A-convex* sets is that for any $E \subset X$, with *A-convex* hull F , the restriction algebra $A|E$ is closed if and only if $A|F$ is closed.

\mathcal{R}_1 is the family of *A-convex* sets E such that the quotient $A/\ker E$ is isometric to the restriction algebra $A|E$, i.e. given $f \in A$ and $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $g \in A$ such that $g|E = f|E$ and $\|g\|_X \leq (1 + \epsilon)\|f\|_E$.

\mathcal{J} is the family of *interpolation sets*, i.e. those $E \subset X$ such

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Abstract. Let A be a uniform algebra on a compact Hausdorff space X . We discuss the diagram of inclusions

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} \mathcal{I} \cap \mathcal{P} & \rightarrow & \mathcal{I}_1 & \rightarrow & \mathcal{I} & & & & \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \\ \mathcal{P} & \rightarrow & \mathcal{R}_1 & \rightarrow & \mathcal{R} & \rightarrow & \mathcal{H} & \rightarrow & \mathcal{L} & \rightarrow & \mathcal{W} \end{array}$$

in which \mathcal{W} is the family of weak-star closed subsets of X , \mathcal{L} is the family of (relatively) A -convex sets, \mathcal{H} is the family of (relatively) hull-kernel closed sets, \mathcal{R} is the family of sets $E \in \mathcal{L}$ such that the restriction algebra $A|E$ is closed in $C(E)$, \mathcal{R}_1 is the family of sets $E \in \mathcal{W}$ such that $A|E$ is isometric to $A/\ker E$, \mathcal{P} is the family of p -sets, \mathcal{I} is the family of interpolation sets, i.e. sets $E \in \mathcal{W}$ such that $A|E = C(E)$, and $\mathcal{I}_1 = \mathcal{I} \cap \mathcal{R}_1$ is the family of isometric interpolation sets. We discuss the behaviour of these families under union and intersection. We give a new sufficient condition for the equality $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{P}$. This yields a "Rudin-Carleson theorem" for hypodirichlet algebras of analytic functions.

§1. Introduction.

(1.1) Let A be a complex uniform algebra on a compact Hausdorff space X [2, p.32]. This paper is about the family of sets $E \subset X$ for which the restriction algebra $A|E$ is uniformly closed. For background, cf. [1,2,3,5,7,8].

The algebra A induces certain families of subsets of X , as follows:

(1) \mathcal{W} is the family of weak-star closed subsets of X , regarding X as a subset of the dual A^* (the "original" closed sets).

(2) \mathcal{B} is the family of A-convex subsets of X , i.e. $E \in \mathcal{B}$ if and only if E equals the A-convex hull of E (in X), which is the set

$$\{a \in X : |f(a)| \leq \|f\|_E \text{ whenever } f \in A\},$$

where $\|f\|_E$ denotes the uniform norm of f on E .

(3) \mathcal{H} is the family of hull-kernel closed subsets of X , i.e. $E \in \mathcal{H}$ if and only if

$$E = \{a \in X : f(a) = 0 \text{ whenever } f \in \ker E\},$$

where

$$\ker E = \{f \in A : f|E = 0\},$$

where $f|E$ denotes the restriction of f to E .

(4) \mathcal{R} is the family of A-convex sets E such that $A|E$ is closed. The reason we restrict attention to A-convex sets is that for any

$E \subset X$, with A -convex hull F , the restriction algebra $A|E$ is closed if and only if $A|F$ is closed. This is proved in (2.2) below.

(5) \mathcal{R}_1 is the family of A -convex sets E such that the quotient $A/\ker E$ is isometric to the restriction algebra $A|E$, i.e. given $f \in A$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $g \in A$ such that $g|E = f|E$ and $\|g\|_X \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|f\|_E$.

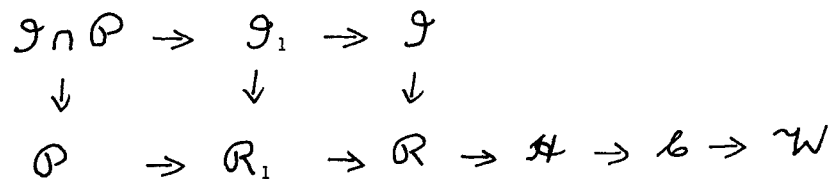
(6) \mathcal{G} is the family of interpolation sets, i.e. those $E \subset X$ such that E is weak-star closed and $A|E = C(E)$.

(7) \mathcal{G}_1 is the family of isometric interpolation sets, i.e. those $E \in \mathcal{G}$ such that $C(E)$ is isometric to $A/\ker E$.

(8) \mathcal{P} is the family of p-sets in X , i.e. intersections of peak sets [2, p.56].

(9) $\mathcal{G} \cap \mathcal{P}$ is the family of p-interpolation sets.

The relationship between these families is expressed in the following diagram, in which each arrow is an inclusion map.



(1.2) Some of these inclusions are obvious. The inclusion $\mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}_1$ is due to Glicksberg [5;2, p.58]. It implies the inclusion $\mathcal{G} \cap \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_1$.

The inclusion $\mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ is due to Bernard [1]. The inclusion $\mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ implies the inclusion $\mathcal{Y}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{R}_1$. We include brief proofs of the inclusions $\mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ and $\mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ in (2.4) and (2.5).

(1.3) Each inclusion in the diagram may be proper. We are interested mainly in the case when $X = M(A)$, the maximal ideal space of A , and the case when $X = \underline{W}(A)$, the Šilov boundary of A . In both cases, each of the inclusions in the diagram may be proper. We give examples in (2.6) - (2.11).

(1.4) Each of the families $\mathcal{Y} \cap \mathcal{P}$, \mathcal{P} , \mathcal{H} , \mathcal{L} , and \mathcal{W} is known to be an F -topology, i.e. is closed under finite unions and arbitrary intersections. Clearly, the families \mathcal{Y} and \mathcal{Y}_1 are directed downward (i.e. closed under subsets), and hence are closed under arbitrary intersections. In (3.1) and (3.2) we give examples to show that none of \mathcal{R} , \mathcal{R}_1 , \mathcal{Y} , \mathcal{Y}_1 need be closed under finite unions, and that \mathcal{R} and \mathcal{R}_1 may fail to be closed under finite intersections. In (3.3) we show that if $X = M(A)$, E and F are disjoint elements of \mathcal{R} , then $E \cup F \in \mathcal{R}$.

We mention some other positive results. Glicksberg [5, pp.424-425] noted that $E \in \mathcal{P}$ and $F \in \mathcal{R}$ imply $E \cup F \in \mathcal{R}$. A similar argument shows that $E \cap F \in \mathcal{R}$ also. The family \mathcal{R}_1 is closed under nested intersection.

(1.5) Consider the problem, under what circumstances equality obtains between \mathcal{R} or \mathcal{Y} and one of the other families in the diagram. Apart from the fact that a diagram of inclusions always prompts such a question, there is a natural reason for studying it: the families \mathcal{P} ,

\mathcal{H} , \mathcal{L} , \mathcal{W} may admit explicit description, so that an equality permits the explicit description of \mathcal{R} or \mathcal{Y} . Consider, for instance, the disc algebra A on the unit circle X . Then $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{R}_1 = \mathcal{R} = \mathcal{H}$, and $\mathcal{Y} \cap \mathcal{P} = \mathcal{Y}_1 = \mathcal{Y}$, and $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{Y} \cup \{X\}$. The family \mathcal{Y} consists of the closed sets of length zero. These facts are the Luzin-Privaloff and Rudin-Carleson theorems. They extend to the polydisc [7] and ball [8] in \mathbb{C}^n . Glicksberg showed that, in general, \mathcal{P} is the family of sets $E \in \mathcal{W}$ such that $\mu|_E$ annihilates A whenever the measure μ annihilates A . This yields even more explicit descriptions of \mathcal{P} in special situations. Thus interest focuses on the equation $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{P}$. Glicksberg showed that $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{P}$ if $X = \mathbb{W}(A)$ and A is logmodular, and Bernard obtained the stronger conclusion $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{P}$ under the assumption that A has unique representing measures on $X = \mathbb{W}(A)$ and that $M(A)$ is "bien-partagé" (the representing measure for each point of each Gleason part P of A is supported on the weak-star closure of P in $M(A)$). These results apply to many examples, but they fail to cover such simple algebras as $A(U)$, where U is an annulus. In (4.1) we prove a result which yields a "Rudin-Carleson theorem" for $A(U)$ whenever U is a plane domain bounded by a finite number of closed curves, and which also covers some infinitely-connected U .

§2. The diagram.

(2.1) Lemma. Let $E \subset X$ and let $A|E$ be closed. Then
hull ker E equals the A-convex hull of E ,
and $A|F$ is closed whenever $E \subset F \subset \text{hull ker } E$.

Proof. By the open mapping theorem, $A|E$ is closed if and only if there exists $M > 0$ such that each $f \in A|E$ has an extension $g \in A$ such that $\|g\|_X \leq M\|f\|_E$. Let $A|E$ be closed, let M be so chosen, and let $E \subset F \subset \text{hull ker } E$. Let $f \in A$. Then $f|E$ has an extension $g \in A$ such that $\|g\|_X \leq M\|f\|_E$. Since $f = g$ on E , it follows that $f = g$ on F , so g extends $f|F$ and $\|g\|_X \leq M\|f\|_F$. Thus $A|F$ is closed.

In general, hull ker E contains the A -convex hull of E , since $\mathcal{H} \subset \mathcal{B}$. If $A|E$ is closed, if M is as above, and $F = \text{hull ker } E$, then clearly $\|f\|_F \leq M\|f\|_E$ for all $f \in A$. Replacing f by f^n and taking roots and limits we conclude that $\|f\|_F \leq \|f\|_E$, so that F is contained in the A -convex hull of E . This completes the proof.

(2.2) Theorem. Let $E \subset X$, and let F be the A-convex hull of E .
Then $A|E$ is closed if and only if $A|F$ is closed.

Proof. In view of the lemma, it remains to prove the "if" ^{part} ~~point~~.

Suppose $A|F$ is closed. Choose $M > 0$ such that for each $f \in A$ the function $f|F$ has an extension $g \in A$ such that $\|g\|_X \leq M\|f\|_F$. Then, since $\|f\|_F \leq \|f\|_E$, we see that $A|E$ is closed.

(2.3) The above theorem fails if the A -convex hull is replaced by the

hull-kernel closure. Consider, for example, the disc algebra A on either the unit circle $X = \mathbb{L}(A)$ or the closed disc $X = M(A)$. If E is a closed semicircle, then $A|E$ is not closed, yet $\text{hull ker } E = X$.

(2.4) Corollary. $\mathcal{R} \subset \mathcal{H}$.

Proof. This is immediate from Lemma (2.1).

(2.5) Corollary. $\mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{R}$.

Proof. Let $E \in \mathcal{G}$, and let F be the A -convex hull of E . Then $A|F$ is isometrically isomorphic to $A|E = C(E)$. If $F \setminus E$ were nonempty, then $C(E)$ would admit an algebra homomorphism onto \mathcal{C} , other than evaluation at points of E , which is impossible.

(2.6) Example. $\mathcal{L} \neq \mathcal{W}$.

It is easy to see that \mathcal{L} need not equal \mathcal{W} . It is less obvious that \mathcal{L} need not equal \mathcal{W} if $X = \mathbb{L}(A)$. An example is the "thumbtack" [8, p.206].

Using Bishop's criterion [2, p.59] it is easy to see that $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{W}$ if and only if each point of X is a p -point (generalized peak point).

(2.7) Example. $\mathcal{H} \neq \mathcal{L}$. The disc algebra on $\mathbb{L}(A)$

(2.8) Example. $\mathcal{R} \neq \mathcal{H}$.

In (3.1) below we give an example in which there exist $E, F \in \mathcal{R}$ such that $E \cup F \notin \mathcal{R}$. Since \mathcal{H} is an F-topology, we must have $\mathcal{R} \neq \mathcal{H}$.

(2.9) Example. $\mathcal{G}_1 \neq \mathcal{G}$, hence $\mathcal{R}_1 \neq \mathcal{R}$.

If a and b belong to the same Gleason part of A , and $E = \{a, b\}$, then $E \in \mathcal{G} \sim \mathcal{G}_1$. Thus $\mathcal{G} \sim \mathcal{G}_1 \neq \emptyset$ whenever X meets some Gleason part in two or more points. This can occur even for $X = \mathcal{L}(A)$. Take, for instance $X \subset \mathbb{C}$ with no interior such that $R(X) \neq C(X)$ [2, p.25; p.54; p.146].

(2.10) Example. $\mathcal{P} \cap \mathcal{G} \neq \mathcal{G}_1$, hence $\mathcal{P} \neq \mathcal{R}_1$.

Take $E = \{a\}$, where a is a non p -point on X . An $R(X)$, as above, gives an example with $X = \mathcal{L}(A)$.

(2.11) Example. $\mathcal{P} \cap \mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_1 = \mathcal{G} \neq \mathcal{R} = \mathcal{R}_1 = \mathcal{P} \cap \mathcal{R}$.

The disc algebra.

§3. Unions and intersections.

(3.1) Example. None of $\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}$ is closed under union.

We shall give an example of $E, F \in \mathcal{G}_1$ with $E \cup F \notin \mathcal{R}$.

Let a_n be a sequence of positive numbers, decreasing to zero, and let $r_n > 0$ be such that the closed discs D_n with centres a_n and radii r_n are disjoint. Let $X = \{0\} \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} D_n$, and let A be the algebra $A(X)$ of all functions, continuous on X and analytic on $\text{int } D_n$ for each n . For each n , pick $b_n \in \text{int } D_n$, $b_n \neq a_n$, such that the Gleason distance $\rho(a_n, b_n)$ is less than 4^{-n} . Let $E = \{0, a_1, a_2, \dots\}$ and $F = \{0, b_1, b_2, \dots\}$. Then, obviously, E and F are isometric interpolation sets, and $A|_{E \cup F}$ is dense in $C(E \cup F)$. Suppose $E \cup F \in \mathcal{R}$. Then $A|_{E \cup F} = C(E \cup F)$. But consider the function $f \in C(E \cup F)$, given by $f(a_n) = 0$, $f(b_n) = 2^{-n}$, $f(0) = 0$. If $g \in A$ and $g|_{E \cup F} = f$, then

$$2^{-n} = |g(a_n) - g(b_n)| \leq 4^{-n} \|g\|_X$$

for each n , which is impossible.

This A is generated by one element.

By replacing the discs D_n by Swiss cheeses, we obtain an example in which $X = \sqcup(A)$.

(3.2) Example. Neither \mathcal{R}_1 nor \mathcal{R} is closed under intersection.

Let E and F be disjoint copies of the set X constructed in (3.1), and let X be the space obtained by identifying the 0 of E with the 0 of F , the a_n of E with the a_n of F , and the b_n of E with the b_n of F , for each n . Let A be the algebra of functions $f \in C(X)$ such

that $f|_E \in A(E)$ and $f|_F \in A(F)$. Then E and F belong to \mathcal{R}_1 , because $A|_E = A(E)$ and $A|_F = A(F)$, as is easily seen. But $A|_{E \cap F}$ is $A(E)|_{E \cap F}$, and is not closed, as we saw in (3.1). Thus $E \cap F \notin \mathcal{R}$.

(3.3) Theorem. Let $X = M(A)$ and let $E, F \in \mathcal{R}$, with $E \cap F = \emptyset$.
Then $E \cup F \in \mathcal{R}$.

Proof. We employ the following characterisation of \mathcal{R} , due to Glicksberg [5]. Let $E \in \mathcal{B}$. Then $A|_E$ is closed if and only if there exists $\kappa = \kappa(E) > 0$ such that

$$\text{dist} \left[\mu, (A|_E)^\perp \right] \leq \kappa \text{dist} \left[\mu, A^\perp \right]$$

whenever μ is a measure supported on E , where A^\perp denotes the space of measures on X which annihilate A , and $(A|_E)^\perp$ denotes the space of measures on E which annihilate A .

Let $\kappa(E)$ and $\kappa(F)$ be chosen as above.

Since E and F are disjoint and hull-kernel closed, the ideal $\ker E + \ker F$ is contained in no maximal ideal. Since A is a Banach algebra,

$$A = \ker E + \ker F.$$

Choose $f \in \ker E$ and $g \in \ker F$ such that $f + g = 1$.

Let μ be a measure supported on $E \cup F$. Then $\mu = f\mu + g\mu$, $f\mu$ is supported on F and $g\mu$ is supported on E . There exist annihilating measures σ and τ , supported on E and F , respectively, such that

$$\|\sigma - g\mu\| \leq \kappa(E) \text{dist} \left[g\mu, A^\perp \right],$$

$$\|\tau - f\mu\| \leq \kappa(F) \text{dist} \left[f\mu, A^\perp \right].$$

Now clearly $\text{dist} [f\mu, A^\perp] \leq \|f\|_\chi \text{dist} [\mu, A^\perp]$, since $f\lambda \in A^\perp$ whenever $\lambda \in A^\perp$, and similarly $\text{dist} [g\mu, A^\perp] \leq \|g\|_\chi \text{dist} [\mu, A^\perp]$.

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{dist} [\mu, (A|E \cup F)^\perp] \\ & \leq \|\mu - \sigma - \tau\| \\ & \leq \{\kappa(E)\|g\|_\chi + \kappa(F)\|f\|_\chi\} \text{dist} [\mu, A^\perp]. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by Glicksberg's characterisation, $E \cup F \in \mathcal{R}$.

§4. Equality between different classes.

(4.1) Theorem. Let A be a uniform algebra on $X \subset M(A)$.
Suppose (1) A has no completely-singular annihilating measures on X , (2) for each $a \in M(A)$, each representing measure for a on X is supported on the hull-kernel closure in $M(A)$ of the Gleason part of a , and (3) for each $a \in M(A)$ and each representing measure ν for a on X , there exists a Jensen measure μ for a on X , with $\nu \ll \mu$. Then
 $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{P}$.

Proof. Glicksberg [5;2, p.58] showed that $E \in \mathcal{P}$ if and only if $\mu|_E \in A^\perp$ whenever $\mu \in A^\perp$. Bernard [1, p.377] deduced that if $E \in \mathcal{P}$, then E is ergodic for all representing measures for A on X , in the sense that if μ is such a measure, then $\mu(E)$ is 0 or 1. If A has no completely-singular annihilating measures, then by the general F. and M. Riesz theorem [2, p.45, (7.11)], if E is ergodic for all representing measures, then $E \in \mathcal{P}$. Thus in the present situation, \mathcal{P} is the family of sets which are ergodic for all representing measures.

Suppose $E \in \mathcal{H}$. We wish to show that $E \in \mathcal{P}$. It suffices to take $E = f^{-1}(0)$ for some $f \in A$. Let τ be a representing measure for a point $a \in M(A)$. We wish to show that $\tau(E) = 0$ or 1. Suppose $\tau(E) > 0$. Let $P \subset M(A)$ be the Gleason part of a , and let b be any point of P . Then b has a representing measure ν on X such that $\tau \ll \nu$ [2, p.143,(1.2)], hence $\nu(E) > 0$. By hypothesis (3), there is a

Jensen measure μ for b with $\nu \ll \mu$, hence $\mu(E) > 0$, so that

$$\log|\hat{f}(b)| \leq \int \log|f|d\mu = -\infty,$$

where \hat{f} denotes the Gelfand transform of f . Thus $\hat{f}(b) = 0$. Thus $\hat{f} = 0$ on P , hence $\hat{f} = 0$ on the hull-kernel closure of P in $M(A)$. By hypothesis (2), $\hat{f} = f = 0$ on the support of τ , hence $\tau(E) = 1$. The result follows.

(4.2) This result does not imply Glicksberg's result that $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{P}$ for logmodular algebras. The hypothesis on the support of representing measures fails for any algebra with a one-point part off the Shilov boundary. It would be interesting to know if $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{P}$ whenever A is hypodirichlet on $X = \mathbb{L}(A)$ (cf. (4.4) below).

(4.3) Let U be an open subset of the Riemann sphere, and let $A(U)$ denote the algebra of all functions continuous on $\text{clos } U$ and analytic on U . Suppose $A(U)$ has nonconstant functions in it. The maximal ideal space of $A(U)$ is $\text{clos } U$ (Arens' theorem). The Shilov boundary of $A(U)$ is the essential boundary of U , i.e. the set of points $a \in \text{bdy } U$ such that a is an essential singularity for some $f \in A(U)$. The algebra $A(U)$ has no completely singular annihilating measures, and representing measures for a point of $\text{clos } U$ are always supported on the closure of the part [4]. Thus we obtain the following.

Corollary. Let $A = A(U)$ on $X = \mathbb{L}(A)$, and suppose that each representing measure for each point $a \in \text{clos } U$ is absolutely-continuous with respect to some Jensen measure for a . Then $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{R} = \mathcal{R}_1 = \mathcal{P}$.

(4.4) Corollary. Suppose $A = A(U)$ is a hypodirichlet algebra
on $X = \text{bdy } U$. Then $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{R} = \mathcal{R}_1 = \mathcal{P}$
is the family of all closed sets $E \subset X$ which
are ergodic for harmonic measure for each
component of U .

Proof. If A is a hypodirichlet on X , then $X = \mathcal{L}(A)$ and all representing measures on X for a point $a \in M(A)$ are dominated by the (unique) Jensen measure for a [2, p.116]. In case $A = A(U)$, the last corollary yields $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{P}$. As we noted in the proof of (4.1), a closed set $E \subset X$ belongs to \mathcal{P} if and only if E is ergodic for all representing measures. Thus $E \in \mathcal{P}$ if and only if E is ergodic for all Jensen measures. Since $\log|f|$ is subharmonic on U for each $f \in A(U)$, it follows that the Jensen measure for a point $a \in U$ is in fact the harmonic measure for a on the boundary of the component of a in U . Thus $E \in \mathcal{P}$ if and only if E is ergodic for all these harmonic measures. This completes the proof.

(4.5) Gamelin and Garnett [4] gave fairly explicit necessary and sufficient conditions on U for $A(U)$ to be hypodirichlet.

The fact that $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{P}$ for hypodirichlet $A(U)$ does not follow from Glicksberg's result on logmodular algebras. Indeed $A(U)$ is logmodular if and only if it is dirichlet.

Corollary (4.3) applies to some non-hypodirichlet $A(U)$, such as the "champagne bubble" algebra [2, p.227]. This infinitely-connected U is such that harmonic measure dominates all representing measures, and is, as always, a Jensen measure.

(4.6) Generalised Rudin-Carleson Theorem. Let $A(U)$ be hypodirichlet on $X = \text{bdy } U$. Then $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_1 = \mathcal{G} \cap \mathcal{P}$ is the family of closed sets $E \subset X$ having harmonic measure zero with respect to each component of U .

Proof. Since $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{P}$, it follows that $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G} \cap \mathcal{P}$.

Suppose $E \in \mathcal{G}$. By the last corollary, E is ergodic for all harmonic measures. If there exists a connected component V of U for which E has full harmonic measure, then E contains $\text{bdy } V$, hence $C(\text{bdy } V) = A|_{\text{bdy } V} \subset A(V)|_{\text{bdy } V} \neq C(\text{bdy } V)$, which is impossible. Thus E has harmonic measure zero for all components of U .

Conversely, if E has harmonic measure zero for all components, then $\mu|_E = 0$ whenever $\mu \perp A$, by the generalized F. and M. Riesz theorem, hence $E \in \mathcal{G} \cap \mathcal{P}$ by [2, p.58].

(4.7) Problem. Glicksberg showed [6] that if $A|_E$ is closed for each weak-star closed set $E \subset X$, and $X = M(A)$, then $A = C(X)$. In view of Theorem (2.2), this shows that if $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{L}$ and $X = M(A)$, then $A = C(X)$. This is one of a body of results which characterise $C(X)$ among its subalgebras in various ways. We may ask whether $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{H}$ and $X = M(A)$ force $A = C(X)$, i.e. whether "weak-star closed" may be replaced by "hull-kernel closed" in Glicksberg's result.

Smyth and West [9] asked a related question. They asked (essentially) whether a uniform algebra A on $X = M(A)$, of which all quotients A/I by closed ideals are also uniform algebras, must be $C(X)$. If all quotients are uniform algebras, then $\mathcal{R}_1 = \mathcal{H}$, so a positive answer to the first question implies a positive answer to the second.