Contents

1 General Theory of Banach Algebras 1
1.1 Basic definitions and examples 1
1.2 The spectrum of a Banach algebra element 8
1.3 L^1-algebras and Beurling algebras 18
1.4 Ideals and multiplier algebras 22
1.5 Tensor products of Banach algebras 30
1.6 Exercises 35
1.7 Notes and references 41

2 Gelfand Theory 43
2.1 Multiplicative linear functionals 44
2.2 The Gelfand representation 52
2.3 Finitely generated commutative Banach algebras 60
2.4 Commutative C^*-algebras 66
2.5 The uniform algebras $P(X)$ and $R(X)$ 73
2.6 The structure space of $A(X)$ 84
2.7 The Gelfand representation of $L^1(G)$ 89
2.8 Beurling algebras $L^1(G, \omega)$ 99
2.9 The Fourier algebra of a locally compact group 107
2.10 The algebra of almost periodic functions 111
2.11 Structure spaces of tensor products 120
2.12 Exercises 125
2.13 Notes and references 135

3 Functional Calculus, Shilov Boundary, and Applications . . . 139
3.1 The holomorphic functional calculus 140
3.2 Some applications of the functional calculus 152
3.3 The Shilov boundary 158
3.4 Topological divisors of zero 169
3.5 Shilov's idempotent theorem and applications 178
3.6 Exercises 185

3.7 Notes and references . . . 190

4 Regularity and Related Properties . . . 193
4.1 The hull-kernel topology . . . 194
4.2 Regular commutative Banach algebras . . . 198
4.3 The greatest regular subalgebra . . . 207
4.4 Regularity of $L^1(G)$ . . . 213
4.5 Spectral extension properties . . . 222
4.6 The unique uniform norm property . . . 229
4.7 Regularity of Beurling algebras . . . 236
4.8 Exercises . . . 245
4.9 Notes and references . . . 251

5 Spectral Synthesis and Ideal Theory . . . 253
5.1 Basic notions and local membership . . . 254
5.2 Spectral sets and Ditkin sets . . . 260
5.3 Ideals in $C^n[0,1]$ . . . 269
5.4 Spectral synthesis in the Mirkil algebra . . . 278
5.5 Spectral sets and Ditkin sets for $L^1(G)$ . . . 288
5.6 Ideals with bounded approximate identities in $L^1(G)$ . . . 295
5.7 On spectral synthesis in projective tensor products . . . 305
5.8 Exercises . . . 310
5.9 Notes and references . . . 316

A Appendix . . . 319
A.1 Topology . . . 319
A.2 Functional analysis . . . 321
A.3 Measure and integration . . . 325
A.4 Haar measure and convolution on locally compact groups . . . 327
A.5 The Pontryagin duality theorem . . . 332
A.6 The coset ring of an Abelian group . . . 336

References . . . 343

Index . . . 349