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ABSTRACT. We generalize a theorem due to Jarosz, by proving that every almost n -multiplicative linear functional on Banach algebra A is automatically continuous. The relation between almost multiplicative and almost n -multiplicative linear functional on Banach algebra A is also investigated. Additionally, for commutative Banach algebra A , we prove that every almost Jordan homomorphism $\varphi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is an almost n -Jordan homomorphism.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let A and B be complex Banach algebras and $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ be a linear map. Then, φ is called an n -homomorphism if for all $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in A$,

$$\varphi(a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n) = \varphi(a_1) \varphi(a_2) \cdots \varphi(a_n).$$

The concept of n -homomorphism was studied for complex algebras in [6] and [11].

A linear map φ between algebras A and B is called an n -Jordan homomorphism if $\varphi(a^n) = \varphi(a)^n$, for all $a \in A$. This notion was introduced by Herstein in [10].

In the case of $n = 2$, these concepts coincide with the classical definitions of homomorphism and Jordan homomorphism, respectively.

Clearly, each homomorphism is an n -homomorphism for every $n \geq 2$, but the converse does not hold in general. For example, if $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ is a homomorphism, then $\psi := -\varphi$ is a 3-homomorphism which is not a homomorphism [6].

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Also, every n -homomorphism is an n -Jordan homomorphism, but in general, the converse is false. Zelazko in [20] has given a characterization of Jordan homomorphism that we will mention.

Theorem 1.1. *Suppose that A is a Banach algebra, which need not be commutative, and suppose that B is a semi-simple commutative Banach algebra. Then each Jordan homomorphism $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ is a homomorphism.*

This result has been proved by the author in [22] for 3-Jordan homomorphisms with the additional hypothesis that the Banach algebra A is unital, and then it is extended for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ in [1].

Bodaghi and İnceboz in [4], extended Theorem 1.1 for $n \in \{3, 4\}$ by considering an extra condition that $\varphi(a^2b - ba^2) = 0$ for all $a, b \in A$.

There are two basic results concerning the automatic continuity of homomorphisms between Banach algebras.

The first basic result is due to Šilov, which is expressed as follows (see also [5]).

Theorem 1.2 ([7, Theorem 2.3.3]). *Let A and B be two Banach algebras such that B is commutative and semi-simple. Then, every homomorphism $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ is automatically continuous.*

The second result is the following which is due to Johnson (see also [17]).

Theorem 1.3 ([14, Theorem 2]). *Let A and B be Banach algebras where B is semi-simple. Then, every surjective homomorphism $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ is automatically continuous.*

Theorem 1.3 was extended to n -homomorphism in [8]. Now the following question can be raised.

Question 1.4. *Does Theorem 1.2 generalize to n -homomorphisms?*

A linear map φ between Banach algebras A and B is called almost n -multiplicative if there exists $\varepsilon \geq 0$ such that for all $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in A$,

$$\|\varphi(a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n) - \varphi(a_1) \cdots \varphi(a_n)\| \leq \varepsilon \|a_1\| \|a_2\| \cdots \|a_n\|.$$

If $n = 2$, then φ is called simply almost multiplicative. Note that almost n -multiplicative turns out to be n -multiplicative, whenever $\varepsilon = 0$.

Jarosz [13] introduced the concept of an almost multiplicative function between Banach algebras. He investigated the automatic continuity of such maps and proved the following famous result.

Theorem 1.5 ([13, Proposition 5.5]). *Let φ be an almost multiplicative linear functional from Banach algebra A into \mathbb{C} . Then $\|\varphi\| \leq 1 + \varepsilon$, and hence φ is continuous.*

After that, Johnson obtained some results on the continuity of almost multiplicative functionals [15], and then he generalized his result to almost multiplicative maps between Banach algebras [16].

Since then, many authors have investigated almost multiplicative maps between Banach algebras, see for example [2, 18, 23].

Similarly, we have the next question which derives from Jarosz's theorem.

Question 1.6. *Does Theorem 1.5 generalize to almost n -multiplicative?*

In this paper, we give a positive answer to both Question 1.4 and Question 1.6. We also prove that every almost multiplicative linear functional on Banach algebra A is almost n -multiplicative, and the same is true for almost Jordan homomorphisms with the extra condition that A is commutative.

2. CONTINUITY OF n -HOMOMORPHISMS

We begin with the following well-known theorem.

Theorem 2.1 ([5, Proposition 3, § 16]). *Suppose that $\varphi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a multiplicative linear functional on A . Then φ is continuous and $\|\varphi\| \leq 1$.*

A Banach algebra A is called *n -functionally continuous* if every n -multiplicative linear functional on A is continuous. If $n = 2$, then A is called functionally continuous, in the usual sense.

Theorem 2.2 ([19, Corollary 2.2]). *A topological algebra A is functionally continuous if and only if it is n -functionally continuous.*

Now, it follows from Theorem 2.1 and Theorem 2.2 that every n -multiplicative linear functional on A is continuous. More precisely, every n -homomorphism from a Banach algebra A into a commutative semi-simple Banach algebra B is automatically continuous and so the answer to Question 1.4 is affirmative.

If A is a unital Banach algebra with unit e , then each n -multiplicative linear functional $\varphi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ satisfies in $\varphi(a) = \varphi(e)^{n-1}\varphi(a)$, for all $a \in A$. On the other hand, one can also verify that $\psi(a) := \varphi(e)^{n-2}\varphi(a)$ is multiplicative and so continuous by Theorem 2.1. From this, we deduce that φ is continuous.

For non-unital Banach algebra A , we now outline an alternative proof for this result with direct methods. For $n = 3$, see [24, Theorem 5].

Theorem 2.3. *Let A be a Banach algebra and $\varphi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be an n -multiplicative linear functional. Then $\|\varphi\| \leq 1$, and hence φ is automatically continuous.*

Proof. Suppose that $\varphi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is an n -multiplicative. Since $\varphi \neq 0$, there exists $a \in A$ such that $\varphi(a) = 1$. For all $x \in A$, define $\psi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by $\psi(x) = \varphi(ax)$. Then for every $x, y \in A$,

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(xy) &= \varphi(axy) \\ &= \varphi(axy)\varphi(a)^{n-1} \\ &= \varphi(axya^{n-1}) \\ &= \varphi(ax)\varphi(ya)\varphi(a)^{n-2} \\ &= \varphi(ax)\varphi(ya).\end{aligned}$$

As

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(ya) &= \varphi(a)^{n-1}\varphi(ya) \\ &= \varphi(a)^{n-2}\varphi(ay)\varphi(a) \\ &= \varphi(ay),\end{aligned}$$

we get

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(xy) &= \varphi(ax)\varphi(ay) \\ &= \psi(x)\psi(y),\end{aligned}$$

hence ψ is a multiplicative linear functional on A . Thus, ψ is continuous and $\|\psi\| \leq 1$. On the other hand, for all $x \in A$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}(2.1) \quad \psi(x) &= \varphi(ax) \\ &= \varphi(a)^{n-1}\varphi(ax) \\ &= \varphi(a^2)\varphi(a)^{n-2}\varphi(x) \\ &= \varphi(a^2)\varphi(x),\end{aligned}$$

which proves that $\varphi(a^2) \neq 0$. Let $w = \varphi(a^2)$. Since ψ is multiplicative, by (2.1) for all $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in A$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}w\varphi(x_1x_2 \cdots x_n) &= \psi(x_1x_2 \cdots x_n) \\ &= \psi(x_1)\psi(x_2) \cdots \psi(x_n) \\ &= w^n\varphi(x_1)\varphi(x_2) \cdots \varphi(x_n).\end{aligned}$$

Consequently, $|w| = 1$, so we conclude that $\|\varphi\| \leq 1$. \square

We get the following result in a similar manner to [24, Corollary 1].

Corollary 2.4. *Suppose that A is a Banach algebra and B is a semi-simple commutative Banach algebra. Then each n -homomorphism $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ is continuous.*

3. CONTINUITY OF ALMOST n -MULTIPLICATIVE

Our main theorem in this section is to generalize Theorem 1.5 for almost n -multiplicative linear functionals. First, we prove it for the unital Banach algebra A .

Proposition 3.1. *Let A be a unital Banach algebra and $\varphi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be an almost n -multiplicative linear functional. Then φ is automatically continuous.*

Proof. For all $a \in A$, define $\psi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by $\psi(a) = \varphi(e)^{n-2}\varphi(a)$, where e is the unit of A . Then

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi(ab) - \psi(a)\psi(b)| &= |\varphi(e)^{n-2}\varphi(ab) - \varphi(e)^{n-2}\varphi(a)\varphi(e)^{n-2}\varphi(b)| \\ &\leq \varepsilon |\varphi(e)^{n-2}| |\varphi(ae^{n-2}b) - \varphi(a)\varphi(e)^{n-2}\varphi(b)| \\ &\leq \varepsilon |\varphi(e)^{n-2}| \|a\| \|e\|^{n-2} \|b\| \\ &\leq \varepsilon' \|a\| \|b\|, \end{aligned}$$

where $\varepsilon' = \varepsilon |\varphi(e)^{n-2}| \|e\|^{n-2}$. Therefore ψ is almost multiplicative and it is continuous by Theorem 1.5. Now the continuity of ψ implies that of φ . □

Lemma 3.2. *Let A be a Banach algebra and $\varphi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be an almost n -multiplicative linear functional. Then for all $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, t \in A$, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} &|\varphi(t)|^{n-1} \cdot |\varphi(a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n) - \varphi(a_1)\varphi(a_2)\cdots\varphi(a_n)| \\ &\leq \varepsilon (2 \|a_1\| \cdots \|a_{n-1}\| + |\varphi(a_1)\varphi(a_2)\cdots\varphi(a_{n-1})|) \|a_n\| \|t\|^{n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Clearly, this is Lemma 3.1 of [12]. □

The next result is a generalization of Theorem 1.5. The case $n = 3$ is [24, Theorem 7].

Theorem 3.3. *Every almost n -multiplicative linear functional from a Banach algebra A into \mathbb{C} is automatically continuous.*

Proof. Let $\varphi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be an almost n -homomorphism. Then, there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$(3.1) \quad |\varphi(a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n) - \varphi(a_1)\varphi(a_2)\cdots\varphi(a_n)| \leq \varepsilon \|a_1\| \|a_2\| \cdots \|a_n\|,$$

for all $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in A$. Set $\xi = \frac{1+\sqrt{1+4\varepsilon}}{2}$. If for all $a \in A$,

$$(3.2) \quad |\varphi(a)| \leq \xi \|a\|,$$

then $\|\varphi\| \leq 1 + \varepsilon$, and hence φ is continuous. If (3.2) does not hold, then by applying Lemma 3.2 and a method similar to [24, Theorem 7], we conclude that φ is n -multiplicative. Now, the continuity of φ follows from Theorem 2.3. \square

Corollary 3.4. *Suppose that A and B are Banach algebras, where B is commutative and semisimple. Then each almost n -homomorphism $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ is continuous.*

Every multiplicative linear functional is n -multiplicative. Next, we prove the same result for almost multiplicative.

Theorem 3.5. *Let A be a Banach algebra and $\varphi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be an almost multiplicative. Then φ is almost n -multiplicative, for all $n \geq 2$.*

Proof. Let φ be an almost multiplicative. Hence there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$(3.3) \quad |\varphi(ab) - \varphi(a)\varphi(b)| \leq \varepsilon \|a\| \|b\|, \quad a, b \in A.$$

Then by Theorem 1.5, φ is continuous and $\|\varphi\| \leq 1 + \varepsilon$. Therefore, for all $a \in A$,

$$(3.4) \quad |\varphi(a)| \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \|a\|.$$

By (3.3) and (3.4), for all $a, b, c \in A$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\varphi(abc) - \varphi(a)\varphi(b)\varphi(c)| &\leq |\varphi(abc) - \varphi(ab)\varphi(c)| \\ &\quad + |\varphi(ab)\varphi(c) - \varphi(a)\varphi(b)\varphi(c)| \\ &\leq \varepsilon \|ab\| \|c\| + |\varphi(ab) - \varphi(a)\varphi(b)| |\varphi(c)| \\ &\leq \varepsilon \|a\| \|b\| \|c\| + \varepsilon(1 + \varepsilon) \|a\| \|b\| \|c\| \\ &\leq \varepsilon' \|a\| \|b\| \|c\|, \end{aligned}$$

where $\varepsilon' = \varepsilon(2 + \varepsilon)$. Thus, φ is almost 3-multiplicative. Now, assume that φ is an almost n -multiplicative for some fixed $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then there exists $\varepsilon_1 > 0$ such that

$$(3.5) \quad |\varphi(a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n) - \varphi(a_1)\varphi(a_2)\cdots\varphi(a_n)| \leq \varepsilon_1 \|a_1\| \|a_2\| \cdots \|a_n\|,$$

for all $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in A$. Hence by (3.3), (3.4) and (3.5), we get

$$\begin{aligned} &|\varphi(a_1 a_2 \cdots a_{n+1}) - \varphi(a_1)\varphi(a_2)\cdots\varphi(a_{n+1})| \\ &\leq |\varphi(a_1 a_2 \cdots a_{n+1}) - \varphi(a_1 a_2)\varphi(a_3)\cdots\varphi(a_{n+1})| \\ &\quad + |\varphi(a_1 a_2)\varphi(a_3)\cdots\varphi(a_{n+1}) - \varphi(a_1)\varphi(a_2)\cdots\varphi(a_{n+1})| \\ &\leq \varepsilon_1 \|a_1 a_2\| \|a_3\| \cdots \|a_{n+1}\| \\ &\quad + |\varphi(a_1 a_2) - \varphi(a_1)\varphi(a_2)| (|\varphi(a_3)| \cdots |\varphi(a_{n+1})|) \\ &\leq \varepsilon_1 \|a_1\| \|a_2\| \|a_3\| \cdots \|a_{n+1}\| \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &+ \varepsilon \|a_1\| \|a_2\| ((1 + \varepsilon)^{n-1} \|a_3\| \cdots \|a_{n+1}\|) \\
 &\leq \varepsilon'' \|a_1\| \|a_2\| \|a_3\| \cdots \|a_{n+1}\|.
 \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, φ is almost $(n + 1)$ -multiplicative for $\varepsilon'' = \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon(1 + \varepsilon)^{n-1}$. This finishes the proof. \square

The converse of Theorem 3.5 fails, in general. This is illustrated by the following example.

Example 3.6. Let X be the normed algebra of all polynomials defined on $[0, 1]$, and let $T : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a linear unbounded functional on X . Let

$$A = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & f \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} : f \in X \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & a & b \\ 0 & 0 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} : a, b, c \in \mathbb{C} \right\},$$

and define $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ by

$$\varphi \left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 & f \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & z & z \\ 0 & 0 & z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

where $z = T(f)$. Then, φ is n -homomorphism for every $n \geq 3$, and hence it is almost n -homomorphism for all $\varepsilon \geq 0$. But, it is easy to check that φ is not almost homomorphism.

4. ALMOST n -JORDAN HOMOMORPHISMS

Let A and B be Banach algebras and $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ be a linear map. Then φ is called almost mixed n -Jordan homomorphism if there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$\|\varphi(a^n b) - \varphi(a)^n \varphi(b)\| \leq \varepsilon \|a\|^n \|b\|, \quad a, b \in A.$$

Moreover, φ is said to be almost n -Jordan homomorphism if there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$\|\varphi(a^n) - \varphi(a)^n\| \leq \varepsilon \|a\|^n, \quad a \in A.$$

The following theorem gives a relation between almost mixed n -Jordan homomorphisms and almost n -homomorphisms.

Proposition 4.1. *Let A be an unital Banach algebra with unit e , and let $\varphi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be almost n -multiplicative such that $\varphi(e) = 1$. Then φ is almost multiplicative.*

Proof. This follows from Proposition 3.1. \square

Theorem 4.2. *Let A and B be two commutative algebras and φ be an almost mixed n -Jordan homomorphism from A into B . Then for all $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in A$,*

$$\|\varphi(a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n) - \varphi(a_1) \varphi(a_2) \varphi(a_3 \cdots a_n)\| \leq 3\varepsilon \|a_1\| \|a_2\| \cdots \|a_n\|.$$

Proof. Let φ be an almost mixed n -Jordan homomorphism. Then there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$(4.1) \quad \|\varphi(a^n b) - \varphi(a)^n \varphi(b)\| \leq \varepsilon \|a\|^n \|b\|,$$

for every $a, b \in A$. Since A and B are commutative, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \varphi(x y a_3 \cdots a_n) - \varphi(x) \varphi(y) \varphi(a_3 \cdots a_n) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [\varphi((x+y)^2 a_3 \cdots a_n) - \varphi(x+y)^2 \varphi(a_3 \cdots a_n) \\ & \quad + \varphi(x)^2 \varphi(a_3 \cdots a_n) - \varphi(x^2 a_3 \cdots a_n) + \varphi(y)^2 \varphi(a_3 \cdots a_n) \\ & \quad - \varphi(y^2 a_3 \cdots a_n)]. \end{aligned}$$

For all $x, y, a_3, \dots, a_n \in A$ with $\|x\| = \|y\| = 1$, it follows from (4.1) and the above equality that

$$\begin{aligned} (4.2) \quad & \|\varphi(x y a_3 \cdots a_n) - \varphi(x) \varphi(y) \varphi(a_3 \cdots a_n)\| \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\varphi((x+y)^2 a_3 \cdots a_n) - \varphi(x+y)^2 \varphi(a_3 \cdots a_n)\| \\ & \quad + \frac{1}{2} (\|\varphi(x)^2 \varphi(a_3 \cdots a_n) - \varphi(x^2 a_3 \cdots a_n)\| \\ & \quad + \|\varphi(y)^2 \varphi(a_3 \cdots a_n) - \varphi(y^2 a_3 \cdots a_n)\|) \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon (\|x+y\|^2 + \|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2) \|a_3 \cdots a_n\| \\ & \leq 3\varepsilon \|a_3\| \cdots \|a_n\|. \end{aligned}$$

Now, let $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in A$ be arbitrary. By setting $x = \frac{a_1}{\|a_1\|}$ and $y = \frac{a_2}{\|a_2\|}$ in (4.2), we get the result. \square

As a consequence of Theorem 4.2, we get the following result.

Corollary 4.3. *Let A and B be two commutative algebras and φ from A into B be an almost mixed 3-Jordan homomorphism. Then φ is almost 3-homomorphism.*

The following result follows from Corollary 4.3 and Theorem 3.3.

Corollary 4.4. *Every almost mixed 3-Jordan homomorphism from commutative Banach algebra A into \mathbb{C} is continuous.*

Corollary 4.5. *Suppose that A is a unital commutative Banach algebra such that $\varphi(e) = 1$. Then each almost mixed n -Jordan homomorphism $\varphi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is continuous.*

Combining Theorem 2.5 of [21] and Theorem 3.5, we get the following result.

Proposition 4.6. *Let A be a commutative Banach algebra. Then every almost Jordan homomorphism $\varphi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is an almost n -Jordan homomorphism.*

The converse of the previous proposition is not true. For example, let A, B and φ be as in Example 3.6. Then φ is almost n -Jordan homomorphism for all $n \geq 3$, but it is not almost Jordan homomorphism.

Recall that every continuous linear map between Banach algebras A and B is an almost n -Jordan homomorphism. In other words, let φ be a continuous linear map from A into B . Then there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $\|\varphi(a)\| \leq \delta \|a\|$, for all $a \in A$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \|\varphi(a^n) - \varphi(a)^n\| &\leq \|\varphi(a^n)\| + \|\varphi(a)^n\| \\ &\leq (\delta + \delta^n) \|a\|^n, \end{aligned}$$

so φ is an almost n -Jordan homomorphism.

By [3, Theorem 2.4] or [9, Theorem 2.1], every n -Jordan homomorphism between two commutative Banach algebras is an n -homomorphism. Now, the following question can be raised.

Question 4.7. *Let $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ be an almost n -Jordan homomorphism between commutative Banach algebras.*

- (i) *Is φ almost n -homomorphism?*
- (ii) *If $B = \mathbb{C}$, then is φ automatically continuous?*

If the answer of (1) is positive, then the answer of (2) is affirmative by Theorem 3.3. For $n = 2, 3$, both parts (1) and (2) are valid. Indeed, if A is a commutative Banach algebra, then by [21, Theorem 2.5], each almost Jordan homomorphism $\varphi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is almost homomorphism and hence φ is continuous by Theorem 1.5. The case $n = 3$, is [24, Theorem 11].

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