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**Algèbres de Banach unitaires et semisimplicité**

Unitary elements of a norm-unital Banach algebra  $A$  are defined as those invertible elements  $u$  of  $A$  satisfying  $\|u\| = \|u^{-1}\| = 1$ . By a unitary Banach algebra we mean a norm-unital Banach algebra  $A$  such that the convex hull of the set of its unitary elements is norm-dense in the closed unit ball of  $A$ . Examples of unitary Banach algebras are all unital  $C^*$ -algebras and the discrete group algebras  $l_1(G)$  for every group  $G$ . In this talk we consider the problem of semisimplicity of a unitary Banach algebra and the existence, over them, of an involution algebra mapping each unitary element to its inverse.

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