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**Sheldon Axler\*** ([axler@sfsu.edu](mailto:axler@sfsu.edu)), Mathematics Department, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA 94132. *The Sarason Space  $H^\infty + C$ .*

Let  $\mathbf{T}$  denote the unit circle in the complex plane; let  $L^\infty$  denote the usual space of bounded measurable functions on  $\mathbf{T}$  with respect to arc length measure; let  $H^\infty$  denote the subalgebra of  $L^\infty$  consisting of those  $L^\infty$  functions whose Fourier coefficients corresponding to the negative integers all vanish; and let  $C$  denote the set of continuous complex-valued functions on  $\mathbf{T}$ . The Sarason space  $H^\infty + C$  is the linear span of  $H^\infty$  and  $C$ . Surprisingly,  $H^\infty + C$  is a closed subalgebra of  $L^\infty$ . This expository talk will highlight the many remarkable appearances of  $H^\infty + C$  in various aspects of operator theory and function theory. (Received July 14, 2017)