Generalized B*-algebras: A short introduction and overview

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Generalized B*-algebras (GB*-algebras, for short) are locally convex *-algebras which are abstract *-algebras of unbounded linear operators on a Hilbert space, and are generalizations of C*-algebras. They were first studied by G. R. Allan in the late sixties, and then later, in the early seventies, by P. G. Dixon to include non locally convex algebras. The aim of this talk is to give an introduction and survey of these algebras, and we include some of the latest results of the speaker and his collaborators. Some connections between GB*-algebras and mathematical physics will also be discussed.