

*INVARIANT SUBSETS
OF NON-SYNTHESIS LEPTIN ALGEBRAS AND NON-SYMMETRY*

BY

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1. Leptin algebras. Formulation of the problem. Let A be a Banach algebra and let G be a locally compact group acting strongly continuously on A as a group of isometric isomorphisms:

$$A \ni a \rightarrow a^x \in A, \quad x \in G.$$

By a *Leptin algebra* we mean what is also known under an awkward name of the generalized L^1 -algebra ⁽¹⁾, the algebra $L^1(G, A)$ of Bochner integrable (with respect to the left invariant Haar measure) A -valued functions on G . The convolution on $L^1(G, A)$ is defined by

$$(1.1) \quad f * g(x) = \int f(xy)^{y^{-1}} g(y^{-1}) dy.$$

Actually, in general, the convolution depends on a factor-system (cf. [5]), which in our constructions, however, will be trivial.

If A has also an isometric involution $a \rightarrow a^*$ and $(a^x)^* = (a^*)^x$, then $L^1(G, A)$ is a Banach $*$ -algebra with

$$(1.2) \quad f^*(x) = \Delta(x^{-1}) (f(x^{-1})^x)^*,$$

where Δ is the modular function on G .

Leptin algebras proved to be a most useful tool in studying the L^1 -algebras of locally compact groups Γ which are extensions of N by G , since if $\Gamma = GN$, then

$$(1.3) \quad L^1(\Gamma) = L^1(G, L^1(N)),$$

and if N is only normal in Γ and $G = \Gamma/N$, then (1.3) still holds but (1.1) must be modified by a factor-system (cf. [7] and [8] and the bibliography therein).

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⁽¹⁾ The name *Leptin algebra* was first used by Leinert [4].

Here again a question posed by Leptin, which has arisen in his study of symmetry of L^1 of group extensions [7], formulated in terms of Leptin algebras, finds its answer in this language and produces, as a by-product, an example of a second solvable locally finite group G such that $L^1(G)$ is non-symmetric and the spectral radius

$$r(f) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|f^n\|^{1/n}, \quad f \in L^1(G),$$

is discontinuous on Hermitian elements. An example of a locally finite group, whose L^1 -algebra is non-symmetric, has recently been produced by Fountain et al. [1], but their group is far from being solvable.

A Banach algebra A is called *radical* if, for every a in A ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|a^n\|^{1/n} = 0,$$

and A is *nilpotent of degree less than or equal to c* if

$$a_1 \dots a_c = 0 \quad \text{for all } a_1, \dots, a_c \text{ in } A.$$

If a Banach $*$ -algebra is non-radical, then it is easy to see that there is also a Hermitian element a in A such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|a^n\|^{1/n} > 0.$$

If such an algebra is also symmetric, then it has at least one non-zero $*$ -representation (into the algebra of bounded operators on a Hilbert space); cf., e.g., [10].

It is easy to see that if A is nilpotent of degree less than or equal to c , then so is $L^1(G, A)$, since by (1.1) we have

$$\begin{aligned} (1.4) \quad & f_1 * \dots * f_n(x) \\ &= \int \dots \int f_1(x x_{n-1} \dots x_1)^{(x_{n-1} \dots x_1)^{-1}} f(x_1)^{(x_{n-1} \dots x_2)^{-1}} \dots f_n(x_{n-1}) dx_1 \dots dx_{n-1} \\ & \quad \text{for all } f_1, \dots, f_n \text{ in } L^1(G, A). \end{aligned}$$

In [7] Leptin formulated the question whether $L^1(G, A)$ must be radical if A is radical. As a matter of fact he was interested in the following situation.

Let H be a locally compact Abelian group and let G act on H as a group of automorphisms: $h \rightarrow h^x$, $x \in G$, $h \in H$. Suppose that E is a closed subset of H such that $E = E^x$ for all x in G and E is a set of non-synthesis for $A(H)$. Then, clearly, the set E , its kernel $k(E) = \{a \in A(H) : a(E) = 0\}$ and the minimal ideal $j(E) = \text{cl}\{a \in A(H) : a(U) = 0 \text{ for an open } U \supset E\}$ are all stable under the action of G on $A(H)$. Let $A = k(E)/j(E)$. G acts on A as a group of isometric $*$ -automorphisms and we form the Leptin

algebra $L^1(G, A)$. We then have

$$L^1(G, A) = L^1(G, k(E))/L^1(G, j(E))$$

(cf. [5]), and so $L^1(G, A)$ is a subquotient of

$$L^1(G, A(H)) = L^1(G, L^1(H)) = L^1(GH).$$

QUESTION (Leptin). Is $L^1(G, k(E)/j(E))$ radical?

In some particular cases, where $G = O_n$, $H = \mathbf{R}^{n+1}$ and $E = S^n$, the answer is positive, since $k(E)/j(E)$ is nilpotent of degree $\frac{1}{2}(n-1)n$ (cf. [11] and [7]).

In Section 3 we show that the answer is negative already when G is a direct sum of countably many copies of the cyclic group of order 2 and H is the Cantor group; then there exists a compact subset E of H such that $L^1(G, k(E)/j(E))$ is non-radical.

In Section 4 we present a remark of Horst Leptin which shows how this result can be used to prove non-symmetry of certain group algebras. We show also the discontinuity of the spectral radius on Hermitian elements of $L^1(G\hat{H})$, which proves that $L^1(G\hat{H})$ is non-symmetric even though $G\hat{H}$ is locally finite and second solvable.

2. Malliavin's sets of non-synthesis. Let H be a compact Abelian group and let $A(H) = \{\varphi: \hat{\varphi} \in \mathcal{l}^1(\hat{H})\}$ be its Fourier algebra. $A(H)$ is naturally embedded in its dual $PM(H)$: if $\psi \in A(H)$, we write

$$\langle \varphi, \psi \rangle = \int \varphi \psi.$$

A classical Malliavin result (cf. [9]) states that for every infinite H there exists a real-valued function φ in $A(H)$ such that, for every natural number n ,

$$\|e^{iu\varphi}\|_{PM} = o(|u|^{-n}) \quad \text{as } |u| \rightarrow \infty.$$

If for such a φ (necessarily non-zero) a T_φ in $PM(H)$ is defined by

$$T_\varphi = \int_{\mathbf{R}} iue^{iu\varphi} du,$$

then, by an easy integration by parts, we have

$$(2.1) \quad \langle \varphi, T_\varphi \rangle = - \int \langle 1, e^{iu\varphi} \rangle du$$

and

(2.2)

$$\langle \psi\varphi^2, T_\varphi \rangle = \int \langle \psi\varphi^2, iue^{iu\varphi} \rangle du = - \int \langle \psi, \varphi e^{iu\varphi} \rangle du = \langle \psi, e^{iu\varphi} \rangle \Big|_{-\infty}^{+\infty} = 0.$$

For our purpose we modify such a φ by selecting a λ_0 such that if

$$\varphi_0 = \varphi + \lambda_0,$$

then

$$T_{\varphi_0} = \int_{\mathbf{R}} iu \exp[iu\varphi_0] du$$

satisfies

$$(2.3) \quad \langle \varphi_0, T_{\varphi_0} \rangle \neq 0,$$

$$(2.4) \quad \langle 1, T_{\varphi_0} \rangle = 0,$$

$$(2.5) \quad \langle \psi\varphi_0^2, T_{\varphi_0} \rangle = 0 \quad \text{for all } \psi \text{ in } \mathcal{A}(H).$$

Since (2.5) follows only from the definition of T_{φ_0} , as in (2.2), for any λ_0 , our λ_0 should be selected in such a way that only (2.3) and (2.4) are satisfied. This can be done as follows. We put

$$M(u) = \langle 1, e^{iu\varphi} \rangle.$$

Since φ is real, $M(-u) = \overline{M(u)}$, whence

$$\hat{M}(\lambda) = \int_{\mathbf{R}} \langle 1, e^{iu\varphi} \rangle e^{iu\lambda} du = \int_{\mathbf{R}} \langle 1, e^{iu(\varphi+\lambda)} \rangle du$$

is a real-valued function vanishing at infinity. Thus for an extremum point λ_0 we have

$$\hat{M}(\lambda_0) \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d}{d\lambda} \hat{M}(\lambda_0) = 0.$$

But, as in (2.1), $\hat{M}(\lambda_0) \neq 0$ is simply (2.3) and

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 1, T_{\varphi_0} \rangle &= \int_{\mathbf{R}} iu \langle 1, \exp[iu\varphi_0] \rangle du = \int_{\mathbf{R}} iu M(u) \exp[iu\lambda_0] du \\ &= \frac{d}{d\lambda} \hat{M}(\lambda_0) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

It follows immediately from (2.3) and (2.5) that the ideal I_0 generated by φ_0 in $\mathcal{A}(H)$ is different from the (closed) ideal I generated by φ_0^2 . Consequently, by Wiener's theorem, there is a point x_0 in H such that $\varphi_0(x_0) = 0$. Multiplying T_{φ_0} by a suitable constant, we get such a T_0 that the following equalities are satisfied:

$$(2.6) \quad \begin{aligned} \langle \varphi_0, T_0 \rangle &= 1, & \langle \varphi_0, \delta_{x_0} \rangle &= 0, & \langle 1, T_0 \rangle &= 0, \\ \langle \psi\varphi_0^2, T_0 \rangle &= 0 & \text{for all } \psi \in \mathcal{A}(H). \end{aligned}$$

Now, if $E = \{x \in H: \varphi_0(x) = 0\}$, then $x_0 \in E$ and T_0 does not annihilate

$$k(E) = \{\psi \in A(H): \psi(E) = 0\}$$

but annihilates the ideal generated by φ_0^2 and, consequently, since $A(H)$ is regular, T_0 annihilates

$$j(E) = \text{cl} \{\psi \in A(H): \psi(U) = 0 \text{ for an open } U \supset E\}.$$

3. Construction of the example. Let D be the direct sum of countably, infinitely many cyclic groups of order 2 with generators a_1, a_2, \dots , respectively. Then every element d in D is uniquely defined by a finite subset i of natural numbers as follows:

$$d = a_i = \sum_{i \in i} a_i.$$

It so happens that the function φ_0 , described in the previous section and satisfying (2.6), is somewhat easier to be constructed on \hat{D} , the compact dual of D — the Cantor group. If for $x = (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots) \in \hat{D}$, $\varepsilon_j = 0, 1$, we write

$$a_i(x) = (-1)^{\varepsilon_i},$$

then a sequence c_i can be selected so that

$$\sum_i |c_i| < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_0(x) = \sum_i c_i a_{2i}(x) a_{2i+1}(x)$$

(cf. [3]).

Let, as before, $E = \varphi_0^{-1}(0)$.

We define D as the Cartesian product of groups \hat{D} indexed by the elements of the group D :

$$D = \prod_{d \in D} H_d, \quad H_d = \hat{D}.$$

Let also

$$E = \prod_{d \in D} E_d, \quad E_d = E.$$

For every d in D we define a function f_d in $A(D)$ by

$$f_d(x) = \varphi_0(x_d), \quad \text{where } x = (x_d)_{d \in D} \in D.$$

Clearly,

$$E = \bigcap_{d \in D} f_d^{-1}(0).$$

We also note that $A(D)$ is the projective tensor product of $A(H_d)$:

$$A(D) = \bigotimes_{d \in D} A(H_d).$$

For a finite subset \mathbf{d} of D we define a functional $F_{\mathbf{d}} \in PM(D)$ as

$$F_{\mathbf{d}} = \bigotimes_{\mathbf{d} \neq \mathbf{d}} \delta_{\mathbf{d}} \otimes \bigotimes_{\mathbf{d} \in \mathbf{d}} F_{\mathbf{d}},$$

where $\delta_{\mathbf{d}} = \delta_{x_0}$ and $F_{\mathbf{d}} = T_0$ (both x_0 and T_0 as in (2.6)). In other words, if

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \hat{\mathbf{D}}} c_{\mathbf{x}} \chi(\mathbf{x}), \quad \sum_{\mathbf{x}} |c_{\mathbf{x}}| < \infty,$$

where

$$\chi = \chi_{\mathbf{c}} = \prod_{\mathbf{c} \in \mathbf{c}} \chi_{\mathbf{c}} \in \hat{\mathbf{D}} \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \chi, T_0 \rangle = m_{\mathbf{x}}, \quad \chi \in D,$$

then for a finite subset \mathbf{d} of D we have

$$\langle f, F_{\mathbf{d}} \rangle = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \hat{\mathbf{D}}} c_{\mathbf{x}} \prod_{\mathbf{c} \in \mathbf{c} \setminus \mathbf{d}} \chi_{\mathbf{c}}(x_0) \prod_{\mathbf{c} \in \mathbf{c} \cap \mathbf{d}} m_{\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{d}}}.$$

Clearly,

$$(3.1) \quad \|F_{\mathbf{d}}\|_{PM(D)} = \|T_0\|_{PM(\hat{\mathbf{D}})}^{|\mathbf{d}|}.$$

Now, for a finite subset \mathbf{d} of D and a multiindex function $\alpha: D \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}^+$ with $\text{supp } \alpha = \mathbf{d}$ we write

$$f_{\mathbf{d}}^{\alpha} = \prod_{\mathbf{d} \in \mathbf{d}} f_{\mathbf{d}}^{\alpha(\mathbf{d})}.$$

By virtue of (2.6), a simple verification shows that

$$(3.2) \quad \langle f_{\mathbf{c}}^{\alpha}, F_{\mathbf{d}} \rangle = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \mathbf{c} = \alpha^{-1}(1) = \mathbf{d}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and, moreover,

$$\langle ff_{\mathbf{c}}^2, F_{\mathbf{d}} \rangle = 0 \quad \text{for all } f \in A(D), \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{d} \subset D.$$

This shows that the ideal generated by $f_{\mathbf{d}}^2$, $\mathbf{d} \subset D$, is annihilated by all $F_{\mathbf{d}}$, $\mathbf{d} \subset D$, and, consequently,

$$(3.3) \quad \langle j(\mathbf{E}), F_{\mathbf{d}} \rangle = 0 \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{d} \subset D.$$

Let $\mathbf{B} = k(\mathbf{E})/j(\mathbf{E})$. Of course, by (3.3), $F_{\mathbf{d}}$ are functionals on \mathbf{B} with the same norm:

$$\|F_{\mathbf{d}}\|_{\mathbf{B}^*} = \|T_0\|_{PM}^{|\mathbf{d}|}.$$

Now we define the action of D on \mathbf{B} by

$$(x_{\mathbf{c}})_{\mathbf{c} \in D}^{\mathbf{d}} = (x_{\mathbf{c}+\mathbf{d}})_{\mathbf{c} \in D}.$$

This defines an action of D on $A(D)$ and, since $\mathbf{E}^{\mathbf{d}} = \mathbf{E}$ for all $\mathbf{d} \in D$, $k(\mathbf{E})$ and $j(\mathbf{E})$ are stable under D , which, in consequence, gives rise to an

action of D on B by isometric $*$ -automorphisms, $f \rightarrow f^{(d)}$, $d \in D$, and we note that

$$(3.4) \quad f_c^{(d)} = f_{c-d}, \quad c, d \in D,$$

where for a function f in $k(E)$ we denote its image in $k(E)/j(E)$ by f again. Consider the Leptin algebra $L^1(D, B)$.

THEOREM. $L^1(D, B)$ is a non-radical Banach $*$ -algebra.

Proof. Let Φ in $L^1(D, B)$ be defined by

$$\Phi(d) = \begin{cases} 2^{-k} f_0 & \text{if } d = a_k, k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, a_0 = 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let $n_k = 2^k - 1$, $k = 1, 2, \dots$. We define sequences $d_1^k, \dots, d_{n_k}^k$, where $k = 1, 2, \dots$, by induction as follows:

$$d_1^1 = a_1, \\ d_1^k, \dots, d_{n_k}^k = d_1^{k-1}, \dots, d_{n_{k-1}}^{k-1}, a_k, d_1^{k-1}, \dots, d_{n_{k-1}}^{k-1}.$$

It is obvious that for a fixed k all $d_1^k, \dots, d_{n_k}^k$ belong to the set a_1, \dots, a_k and that a_j appears 2^{k-j} times in the sequence $d_1^k, \dots, d_{n_k}^k$. It is also easy to verify that all n_k elements

$$d_1^k + \dots + d_{n_k}^k, d_2^k + \dots + d_{n_k}^k, \dots, d_{n_k}^k \quad \text{in } D$$

are different. In fact, first we note that this is equivalent to the fact that, for every i, j , $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n_k$,

$$(3.5) \quad d_i^k + d_{i+1}^k + \dots + d_j^k \neq 0.$$

To see this we argue by induction on k :

if $i \leq n_{k-1} \leq j$, then a_{k-1} appears only once in d_i^k, \dots, d_j^k and (3.5) follows;

if $i \leq j < n_{k-1}$, then $d_i^k + \dots + d_j^k = d_i^{k-1} + \dots + d_j^{k-1}$;

if $n_{k-1} < i \leq j$, then $d_i^k + \dots + d_j^k = d_{i-n_{k-1}}^{k-1} + \dots + d_{j-n_{k-1}}^{k-1}$ and (3.5) follows by inductive hypothesis.

Now, using (1.4) we compute Φ^{n_k+1} . We have

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi^{n_k+1}(d) &= \sum_{d_1, \dots, d_{n_k}} \Phi(d - (d_1 + \dots + d_{n_k}))^{-(d_1 + \dots + d_{n_k})} \Phi(d_1)^{-(d_2 + \dots + d_{n_k})} \times \\ &\quad \times \Phi(d_2)^{-(d_3 + \dots + d_{n_k})} \dots \Phi(d_{n_k}) \\ &= \sum_{d_1, \dots, d_{n_k}} t(d - d_1 - \dots - d_{n_k}) f_{d_1 + \dots + d_{n_k}} t(d_1) f_{d_2 + \dots + d_{n_k}} t(d_2) f_{d_3 + \dots + d_{n_k}} t(d_{n_k}) f_0, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$t(d) = \begin{cases} 2^{-j} & \text{if } d = a_j, j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let

$$(3.6) \quad \{d_1^k + \dots + d_{n_k}^k, d_2^k + \dots + d_{n_k}^k, \dots, d_{n_k}^k\} = \mathbf{d}.$$

As we have seen above, the set \mathbf{d} consists of n_k different elements listed in (3.6).

By (3.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Phi^{n_k+1}(d_1^k + \dots + d_{n_k}^k), F_{\mathbf{d}} \rangle &\geq t(0)t(d_1^k) \dots t(d_{n_k}^k) \\ &= 2^{-2^k-1} \cdot 2^{-2 \cdot 2^{k-2}} \cdot 2^{-3 \cdot 2^{k-3}} \cdot \dots \cdot 2^{-k} \\ &= 2^{-(2^k-1+2 \cdot 2^{k-2}+3 \cdot 2^{k-3}+\dots+k)} \\ &> 2^{-2(n_k+1)} = 4^{-(n_k+1)}, \end{aligned}$$

since, clearly,

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{k-1} + 2 \cdot 2^{k-2} + 3 \cdot 2^{k-3} + \dots + k &= (2^k - 1) + (2^{k-1} - 1) + \dots + 1 \\ &= 2^{k+1} - k. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\Phi^{n_k+1}\|_{L^1(D, B)} &\geq \|\Phi^{n_k+1}(d_1^k + \dots + d_{n_k}^k)\|_B \geq \|F_{\mathbf{d}}\|_{B^*}^{-1} \cdot 4^{-(n_k+1)} \\ &= \|T_0\|_{PM}^{-n_k} \cdot 4^{-(n_k+1)}, \end{aligned}$$

whence

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|\Phi^n\|_{L^1(D, B)}^{1/n} = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|\Phi^n\|_{L^1(D, B)}^{1/n} \geq (4 \|T_0\|_{PM})^{-1} > 0.$$

4. Non-symmetry and discontinuity of spectra. Horst Leptin has shown to the author how the theorem of the previous section can be used to disprove symmetry of L^1 -algebras of certain groups. His argument is as follows.

Suppose that a group G is a split extension of an Abelian group N by a group S . Then

$$L^1(G) = L^1(S, L^1(N)).$$

Suppose further that $L^1(N)$ has a $*$ -subalgebra K which is stable under the action of S on N and I is an S -stable $*$ -ideal of K such that $B = K/I$ is radical.

THEOREM (Leptin). *If $L^1(S, B)$ is a non-radical Banach $*$ -algebra, then $L^1(G)$ is non-symmetric.*

Proof. Assume that $L^1(G)$ is symmetric. Then, since

$$L^1(S, B) = L^1(S, K)/L^1(S, I),$$

$L^1(S, B)$ is symmetric because $L^1(S, K)$ is a $*$ -subalgebra of $L^1(S, L^1(N))$. But a symmetric non-radical Banach $*$ -algebra $L^1(S, B)$ has a non-zero $*$ -representation.

On the other hand, by the Blattner-Leptin theorem (cf. [6]), for every $*$ -representation π of a Leptin algebra $L^1(S, B)$ with a trivial factor-system, there exist a unitary representation π_1 of S and a $*$ -representation π_2 of B such that

$$\pi(f) = \int \pi_1(x)\pi_2(f(x))dx.$$

But, since B is radical, $\pi_2 = 0$, whence $\pi = 0$, which is a contradiction.

We conclude with some remarks concerning the groups discussed in Section 3.

The dual group \hat{D} of the group D discussed in Section 3 is, of course, the direct sum of countably many copies of D , so isomorphic to D . On the other hand,

$$L^1(D, A(D)) = L^1(D, L^1(\hat{D})) = L^1(D\hat{D}).$$

It is obvious that $D\hat{D}$ is solvable of class 2 and locally finite. Even more is true: since every element of D is of order 2, every element of $D\hat{D}$ is at most of order 4. Still $L^1(D\hat{D})$ is non-symmetric. This can be also alternatively seen as follows.

As previously, it suffices to show that the Leptin algebra $L^1(D, B)$ is non-symmetric. We have shown that $L^1(D, B)$ contains a function $\psi = \psi^*$ such that the spectral radius $\nu(\psi)$ is greater than zero. On the other hand, since

$$D = \bigcup_n D_n,$$

where $\{D_n\}$ is an increasing sequence of finite groups, the algebra $L^1(D, B)$ contains radical subalgebras $L^1(D_n, B)$ and, if $\psi_n = \psi|_{D_n}$, we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|\psi - \psi_n\|_{L^1(D, B)} = 0.$$

Consequently, a Hermitian element ψ with $\nu(\psi) > 0$ is a limit of Hermitian elements ψ_n with $\nu(\psi_n) = 0$ and this cannot happen in a symmetric algebra.

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