

# FURTHER STUDIES OF STRONGLY AMENABLE \*-REPRESENTATIONS OF LAU \*-ALGEBRAS

FATEMEH AKHTARI and RASOUL NASR-ISFAHANI

*Communicated by Dan Timotin*

The new notion of strong amenability for a  $*$ -representation of a Lau  $*$ -algebra  $A$  on a Hilbert space, was recently introduced and studied by the second author. The strong amenability has several operator theoretic characterizations which unify the notion of amenability and of inner amenability for locally compact groups. In this work, we continue our study to give further properties of strongly amenable  $*$ -representations of Lau  $*$ -algebras.

*AMS 2010 Subject Classification:* Primary 43A07, 46K05, 46L30; Secondary 22D20, 46K10, 47A46, 47A80.

*Key words:* Hilbert space, involution, Lau  $*$ -algebra,  $*$ -representation, stable state, strong amenability, tensor product, unitization,  $W^*$ -algebra.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

By a Lau  $*$ -algebra, we shall mean a Banach  $*$ -algebra which is also a Lau algebra, a Banach algebra  $A$  whose dual space has a  $W^*$ -algebra structure and the identity element  $u_A$  of  $A^*$  is a multiplicative linear functional on  $A$ . Such a  $W^*$ -algebra structure on  $A^*$  is not necessarily unique; we will endow the dual space  $A^*$  of  $A$  with the structure of a fixed  $W^*$ -algebra whose identity element is a multiplicative linear functional on  $A$ .

The large family of Lau  $*$ -algebras include the group algebra, the measure algebra and the Fourier algebra of a locally compact group; see Lau [9]. The Fourier-Stieltjes algebra of a topological group is also a Lau  $*$ -algebra; see Lau and Ludwig [13]. Finally, the predual of a Hopf von-Neumann algebra is another example of Lau  $*$ -algebra.

The subject of Lau algebras originated with a paper published in 1983 by Lau [9] in which he referred to them as  $F$ -algebras. Later on, in his useful monograph, Pier [19] introduced the name Lau algebra. Analysis on Lau algebras have been widely studied by several authors; see for example [5, 7, 8, 10–12] and [16].

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This research was in part supported by a grant from IPM (No. 92430417).

The second author [15] has recently introduced and investigated a new notion of amenability, called strong amenability, for an arbitrary  $*$ -representation of a Lau  $*$ -algebra on a Hilbert space. The strong amenability is a strengthening of amenability of unitary representations of a locally compact group  $G$  introduced by Bekka [1] as an answer to a question raised by Eymard [6]. For a nice improvement of the subject of amenability for unitary representations of  $G$  see Chou and Lau [3]; see also Buneci [2].

In the case of the left regular representation of  $G$ , amenability and strong amenability are equivalent, and characterize amenability of  $G$ ; moreover, in the case of the inner regular representation of  $G$ , amenability and strong amenability are equivalent, and characterize inner amenability of  $G$ ; however, each one dimensional representation is amenable but is, not in general, strongly amenable; see [15] and [18].

The purpose of this paper is to give some further properties of strong amenability for  $*$ -representations of a Lau  $*$ -algebra  $A$  on a Hilbert space. After some elementary considerations, we consider the projective tensor products  $A_1 \widehat{\otimes} A_2$  of two Lau  $*$ -algebras  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , to investigate the interaction between strong amenability of  $*$ -representations  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , respectively, and the tensor product  $*$ -representation  $\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2$  of  $A_1 \widehat{\otimes} A_2$ . We then investigate strong amenability of  $*$ -representations of the unitization  $A \oplus \mathbb{C}$  of  $A$  to show that a  $*$ -representation of  $A \oplus \mathbb{C}$  is strongly amenable if and only if its restriction to  $A$  is strongly amenable. We finally study strong amenability of  $*$ -representations of subalgebras, ideals and the second dual of  $A$  and their relationships with strong amenability of  $*$ -representations of  $A$ .

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

Let  $A$  be a Lau  $*$ -algebra and let us recall that a  $*$ -representation of  $A$  on Hilbert space  $H$  is a  $*$ -homomorphism from  $A$  into  $B(H)$ , the von Neumann algebra of all bounded linear operators on  $H$  with identity  $I_H$ .

A state on  $B(H)$  is a linear functional  $\beta$  with  $\beta(I_H) = \|\beta\| = 1$ ; the set of all states on  $B(H)$  is denoted by  $S(B(H))$ . Also, for any subset  $E$  of  $B(H)$ , denote by  $C^*(E)$  the  $C^*$ -algebra generated by  $E$  in  $B(H)$ .

We commence the section by the main concept of the work.

*Definition 2.1.* Let  $A$  be a Lau  $*$ -algebra and let  $\pi$  be a  $*$ -representation of  $A$  on a Hilbert space  $H$ . We say that  $\pi$  is *strongly amenable* if there exists a state  $\beta$  on  $B(H)$  such that

$$\beta(\pi(a)) = u_A(a)$$

for all  $a \in A$ ; that is, the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{\pi} & B(H) \\
 \beta \downarrow & \swarrow u_A & \\
 \mathbb{C} & & 
 \end{array}$$

we call  $\beta$  a  $\pi$ -stable state. We denote by  $S_\pi(A)$  the set of all  $\pi$ -stable states in  $S(B(H))$ .

Note that  $S_\pi(A)$  is a weak\* closed and convex subset of  $S(B(H))$ . It follows that if  $S_\pi(A)$  has at least two elements, then it has infinitely many.

It is easily seen that any  $*$ -representation of  $A$  which contains a strongly amenable  $*$ -subrepresentation of  $A$  is strongly amenable. Moreover, any  $*$ -representation of  $A$  which is equivalent to a strongly amenable  $*$ -representation of  $A$  is strongly amenable.

Recall that a positive functional  $p$  on  $A$  is called  $\pi$ -representable if there is a vector  $h \in H$  such that for each  $a \in A$ ,

$$p(a) = \langle \pi(a)h, h \rangle;$$

so, each representable positive functional on  $A$  is self-adjoint. This implies that the following assertions are equivalent.

- (i)  $A$  has a strongly amenable  $*$ -representation.
- (ii)  $u_A$  is a representable positive functional on  $A$ .
- (iii)  $u_A$  is a  $*$ -representation of  $A$  on  $\mathbb{C}$ .

The following theorem is the main result of the work [15] by the second author which provides a number of equivalent assertions characterizing strong amenability of  $\pi$ . First, let us denote by  $I_0(A)$  the maximal closed ideal  $u_A^{-1}(0)$  of  $A$ ; that is,

$$I_0(A) = \{a \in A : u_A(a) = 0\};$$

moreover, let  $P_1(A)$  denote the set of all elements of  $A$  that induces a positive functional on the dual  $W^*$ -algebra  $A^*$ ; in fact,

$$P_1(A) = \{a \in A : \|a\| = u_A(a) = 1\}.$$

**THEOREM 2.2.** *Let  $A$  be a Lau  $*$ -algebra and let  $\pi$  be a  $*$ -representation of  $A$  on a Hilbert space  $H$ . Then the following assertions are equivalent.*

- (a)  $\pi$  is strongly amenable.
- (b)  $\|I_H + \pi(a_1 + \cdots + a_m)\| = 1 + m$  for all  $a_1, \dots, a_m \in P_1(A)$ .
- (c) There is a net  $(h_\gamma)$  in  $H$  with  $\|h_\gamma\| = 1$  for all  $\gamma$  such that

$$\|\pi(a)h_\gamma - h_\gamma\| \rightarrow 0 \text{ for all } a \in P_1(A).$$

(d) There is a net  $(p_\gamma)$  of  $\pi$ -representable positive functionals on  $A$  such that

$$p_\gamma(a) \rightarrow 1 \text{ for all } a \in P_1(A).$$

(e) *There is a state  $\beta \in S(B(H))$  such that  $\beta(\pi(a_0)) = 1$  for some  $a_0 \in P_1(A)$  and*

$$C^*(\pi(I_0(A))) = C^*(\pi(A)) \cap \beta^{-1}(0).$$

*Example 2.3.* Let  $\mathbb{T}$  be the circle group and let  $\ell^1(\mathbb{T})$  be corresponding group algebra endowed with the convolution product

$$(a * b)(s) = \sum_{t \in \mathbb{T}} a(t) b(s/t)$$

for all  $a, b \in \ell^1(\mathbb{T})$  and  $s \in \mathbb{T}$ . Then  $\ell^1(\mathbb{T})$  with the involution

$$a^*(s) = \overline{a(1/s)}$$

for all  $a \in \ell^1(\mathbb{T})$  and  $s \in \mathbb{T}$  is a Lau  $*$ -algebra. For each  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  and each Hilbert space  $H$ , the mappings

$$\pi_k : \ell^1(\mathbb{T}) \rightarrow B(H)$$

defined by

$$\pi_k(a) = \sum_{s \in \mathbb{T}} \frac{a(s)}{s^k} I_H$$

are  $*$ -representations of  $\ell^1(\mathbb{T})$ . Moreover, for any  $\beta \in S(B(H))$  and  $a \in \ell^1(\mathbb{T})$  we have

$$\beta(\pi_k(a)) = \sum_{s \in \mathbb{T}} \frac{a(s)}{s^k}$$

whereas

$$u_{\ell^1(\mathbb{T})}(a) = \sum_{s \in \mathbb{T}} a(s).$$

It follows that

$$S_{\pi_0}(\ell^1(\mathbb{T})) = S(B(H))$$

and

$$S_{\pi_k}(\ell^1(\mathbb{T})) = \emptyset$$

for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $k \neq 0$ ; in particular,  $\pi_0$  is strongly amenable, but  $\pi_k$  is not strongly amenable when  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $k \neq 0$ .

### 3. REPRESENTATIONS OF TENSOR PRODUCTS OF LAU $*$ -ALGEBRAS

Let  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  be Hilbert spaces, and let  $H_1 \overline{\otimes} H_2$  be their Hilbert space tensor product. Moreover, let  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  be Lau  $*$ -algebras and let  $A_1 \widehat{\otimes} A_2$  be their projective tensor product endowed with the multiplication

$$(a_1 \otimes a_2)(b_1 \otimes b_2) = (a_1 b_1) \otimes (a_2 b_2)$$

and the natural involution

$$(a_1 \otimes a_2)^* = a_1^* \otimes a_2^*$$

for all  $a_1, b_1 \in A_1$  and  $a_2, b_2 \in A_2$ . For  $*$ -representations  $\pi_1 : A_1 \rightarrow B(H_1)$  and  $\pi_2 : A_2 \rightarrow B(H_2)$ , the tensor product map

$$\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2 : A_1 \widehat{\otimes} A_2 \rightarrow B(H_1 \overline{\otimes} H_2)$$

defined by

$$(\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2)(a_1 \otimes a_2) := \pi_1(a_1) \otimes \pi_2(a_2)$$

for all  $a_1 \in A_1$  and  $a_2 \in A_2$  is a  $*$ -representation; for more details see [17], Theorems 10.1.32 and 10.1.33. Finally, the formula

$$(u_{A_1} \otimes u_{A_2})(a_1 \otimes a_2) := u_{A_1}(a_1)u_{A_2}(a_2)$$

for all  $a_1 \in A_1$  and  $a_2 \in A_2$  defines a multiplicative linear functional  $u_{A_1} \otimes u_{A_2}$  on  $A_1 \widehat{\otimes} A_2$ .

**LEMMA 3.1.** *Let  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  be Lau  $*$ -algebras such that  $(A_1 \widehat{\otimes} A_2)^*$  has a  $W^*$ -algebra structure with identity  $u_{A_1} \otimes u_{A_2}$  and let  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  be  $*$ -representations of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  on Hilbert spaces  $H_1$  and  $H_2$ , respectively. If  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  are strongly amenable, then  $\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2$  is strongly amenable.*

*Proof.* First, note that for each  $T_1 \in B(H_1)$  and  $T_2 \in B(H_2)$ , the element  $T_1 \otimes T_2$  of the tensor product  $B(H_1) \otimes B(H_2)$  of  $B(H_1)$  and  $B(H_2)$  can be considered as an element of  $B(H_1 \overline{\otimes} H_2)$  by the formula

$$(T_1 \otimes T_2)(h_1 \otimes h_2) := T_1(h_1) \otimes T_2(h_2)$$

for all  $h_1 \in H_1$  and  $h_2 \in H_2$ ; this defines an injective  $*$ -homomorphism of  $B(H_1) \otimes B(H_2)$  into  $B(H_1 \overline{\otimes} H_2)$  satisfying

$$\|T_1 \otimes T_2\|_{B(H_1 \overline{\otimes} H_2)} = \|T_1\|_{B(H_1)} \|T_2\|_{B(H_2)}$$

for all  $T_1 \in B(H_1)$  and  $T_2 \in B(H_2)$ . Under this map, the image of  $B(H_1) \otimes B(H_2)$  is norm dense in  $B(H_1 \overline{\otimes} H_2)$ , and the operator norm of  $B(H_1 \overline{\otimes} H_2)$  restricted on the image of  $B(H_1) \otimes B(H_2)$  is the unique  $C^*$ -norm on it.

Now, let  $\beta_1$  be a  $\pi_1$ -stable state and  $\beta_2$  be a  $\pi_2$ -stable state, and define the functional  $\beta_1 \otimes \beta_2$  on  $B(H_1) \otimes B(H_2)$  by

$$(\beta_1 \otimes \beta_2)(T_1 \otimes T_2) := \beta_1(T_1) \beta_2(T_2)$$

for all  $T_1 \in B(H_1)$  and  $T_2 \in B(H_2)$ . Then  $\beta_1 \otimes \beta_2$  can be extended to a state  $\beta$  on  $B(H_1 \overline{\otimes} H_2)$ ; see for example [14], Theorem 6.4.6. Now, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \beta((\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2)(a_1 \otimes a_2)) &= \beta(\pi_1(a_1) \otimes \pi_2(a_2)) \\ &= (\beta_1 \otimes \beta_2)(\pi_1(a_1) \otimes \pi_2(a_2)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \beta_1(\pi_1(a_1)) \beta_2(\pi_2(a_2)) \\
&= u_{A_1}(a_1) u_{A_2}(a_2) \\
&= (u_{A_1} \otimes u_{A_2})(a_1 \otimes a_2).
\end{aligned}$$

for all  $a_1 \in A_1$  and  $a_2 \in A_2$ . Thus,  $\beta$  is a  $\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2$ -stable state.  $\square$

We now apply Lemma 3.1 to characterize strong amenability of the tensor product  $*$ -representations under an additional hypothesis.

**THEOREM 3.2.** *Let  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  be Lau  $*$ -algebras with bounded left approximate identities  $(e_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \Lambda}$  and  $(f_\gamma)_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$  respectively, and let  $(A_1 \widehat{\otimes} A_2)^*$  has a  $W^*$ -algebra structure with identity  $u_{A_1} \otimes u_{A_2}$ . Suppose that  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  are  $*$ -representations of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  on Hilbert spaces  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  respectively, with*

$$\pi_1(e_\alpha) \rightarrow I_{H_1} \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_2(f_\gamma) \rightarrow I_{H_2}.$$

*in the weak operator topology of  $B(H)$ . Then  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  are strongly amenable if and only if  $\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2$  is strongly amenable.*

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.1, we only need to prove that  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  are strongly amenable if  $\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2$  is strongly amenable. For this end, let  $\beta$  be a  $\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2$ -stable state and replace  $(f_\gamma)_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$  by

$$(f_\gamma + f_\gamma^* - f_\gamma^* f_\gamma)_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$$

if necessary, to assume that  $(f_\gamma)_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$  is a self-adjoint bounded two-sided approximate identity with

$$\pi_2(f_\gamma) \rightarrow I_{H_2}.$$

For  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , let  $\beta_{1,\gamma}$  be the linear functional on  $B(H_1)$  defined by

$$\beta_{1,\gamma}(T) := \beta(T \otimes \pi_2(f_\gamma))$$

for all  $T \in B(H_1)$  and note that  $(\beta_{1,\gamma})$  is a bounded net in  $B(H_1)^*$ . Then there exists a subnet of  $(\beta_{1,\gamma})_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$  convergent to an element  $\beta_1$  of  $B(H_1)^*$  in the weak\* topology. Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $\beta_1$  is the weak\*-limit of the net  $(\beta_{1,\gamma})_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$ . It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_1(I_{H_1}) &= \lim_{\gamma} \beta_{1,\gamma}(I_{H_1}) \\
&= \lim_{\gamma} \beta(I_{H_1} \otimes \pi_2(f_\gamma)) \\
&= \beta(I_{H_1} \otimes I_{H_2}) \\
&= \beta(I_{H_1 \overline{\otimes} H_2}) \\
&= 1.
\end{aligned}$$

Moreover, for each  $T \in B(H_1)$ ,

$$\beta_1(TT^*) = \lim_{\gamma} \beta_{1,\gamma}(TT^*)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \lim_{\gamma} \beta(TT^* \otimes \pi_2(f_{\gamma})) \\
&= \lim_{\gamma} \beta(TT^* \otimes \pi_2(f_{\gamma})\pi_2(f_{\gamma}^*)) \\
&= \lim_{\gamma} \beta((T \otimes \pi_2(f_{\gamma}))(T \otimes \pi_2(f_{\gamma}))^*) \\
&\geq 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Consequently,  $\beta_1 \in S(B(H))$ . Since

$$\lim_{\gamma} u_{A_2}(f_{\gamma}) = 1,$$

we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_1(\pi(a_1)) &= \lim_{\gamma} \beta(\pi_1(a_1) \otimes \pi_2(f_{\gamma})) \\
&= \lim_{\gamma} \beta((\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2)(a_1 \otimes f_{\gamma})) \\
&= \lim_{\gamma} (u_{A_1} \otimes u_{A_2})(a_1 \otimes f_{\gamma}) \\
&= \lim_{\gamma} u_{A_1}(a_1) u_{A_2}(f_{\gamma}) \\
&= u_{A_1}(a_1)
\end{aligned}$$

for all  $a_1 \in A_1$ . That is,  $\beta_1$  is a  $\pi_2$ -stable state; similarly, there is a  $\pi_1$ -stable state, and the proof is complete.  $\square$

Let  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  be Lau  $*$ -algebras with identities  $e_1$  and  $e_2$ , respectively, and let  $\pi$  be a  $*$ -representation of  $A_1 \widehat{\otimes} A_2$  on a Hilbert space  $H$ . Then the maps

$$\pi_{A_1} : a_1 \rightarrow \pi(a_1 \otimes e_2) \text{ and } \pi_{A_2} : a_2 \rightarrow \pi(e_1 \otimes a_2)$$

are  $*$ -representations of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  on  $H$ , respectively.

**COROLLARY 3.3.** *Let  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  be Lau  $*$ -algebras with identities  $e_1$  and  $e_2$ , respectively, and let  $(A_1 \widehat{\otimes} A_2)^*$  has a  $W^*$ -algebra structure with identity  $u_{A_1} \otimes u_{A_2}$ . Suppose that  $\pi$  is a  $*$ -representation of  $A_1 \widehat{\otimes} A_2$  on a Hilbert space  $H$ . If  $\pi_{A_1}$  and  $\pi_{A_2}$  are strongly amenable, then  $\pi$  is strongly amenable.*

*Proof.* On the one hand, note that the tensor product  $*$ -representation  $\pi_{A_1} \otimes \pi_{A_2}$  is strongly amenable by Theorem 3.2. On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned}
(\pi_{A_1} \otimes \pi_{A_2})(a_1 \otimes a_2) &= \pi_{A_1}(a_1)\pi_{A_2}(a_2) \\
&= \pi(a_1 \otimes e_2) \otimes \pi(e_1 \otimes a_2) \\
&= (\pi \otimes \pi)((a_1 \otimes e_2) \otimes (e_1 \otimes a_2)) \\
&= (\pi \otimes \pi)(a_1 \otimes a_2)
\end{aligned}$$

for all  $a_1 \in A_1$  and  $a_2 \in A_2$ . Therefore,  $\pi \otimes \pi$  is strongly amenable, and so  $\pi$  is strongly amenable by another application of Theorem 3.2.  $\square$

#### 4. REPRESENTATIONS OF SUBALGEBRAS

Let  $A$  be a Lau  $*$ -algebra and recall from Lau [9] that the unitization  $A \oplus \mathbb{C}$  of  $A$  is a Lau algebra; we endow  $A \oplus \mathbb{C}$  with the natural involution

$$(a, t)^* = a^* + \bar{t}$$

for all  $(a, t) \in A \oplus \mathbb{C}$ . Then  $A \oplus \mathbb{C}$  is a Lau  $*$ -algebra and the identity element  $u_{A \oplus \mathbb{C}}$  of the  $W^*$ -algebra  $(A \oplus \mathbb{C})^*$  is the unique extension of  $u_A$  to a multiplicative linear functional on  $A \oplus \mathbb{C}$  defined by

$$u_{A \oplus \mathbb{C}}(a, t) := u_A(a) + t$$

for all  $(a, t) \in A \oplus \mathbb{C}$ .

Every  $*$ -representation of  $A \oplus \mathbb{C}$  on a Hilbert space  $H$  is of the form  $(\pi, u_{\mathbb{C}})$  for some  $*$ -representation  $\pi$  of  $A$  which  $(\pi, u_{\mathbb{C}})$  is an extension of  $\pi$  from  $A$  into  $A \oplus \mathbb{C}$  defined by

$$(\pi, u_{\mathbb{C}})(a, t) := \pi(a) + tI_H$$

for all  $(a, t) \in A \oplus \mathbb{C}$ .

**PROPOSITION 4.1.** *Let  $A$  be a Lau  $*$ -algebra and let  $\pi$  be a  $*$ -representation of  $A$  on a Hilbert space  $H$ . Then  $(\pi, u_{\mathbb{C}})$  is strongly amenable if and only if  $\pi$  is strongly amenable. In particular,  $(0, u_{\mathbb{C}})$  is never strongly amenable.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $(\pi, u_{\mathbb{C}})$  is strongly amenable and let  $\beta_0$  be a  $(\pi, u_{\mathbb{C}})$ -stable state. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_0(\pi(a)) &= \beta_0((\pi, u_{\mathbb{C}})(a, 0)) \\ &= u_{A \oplus \mathbb{C}}(a, 0) \\ &= u_A(a) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $a \in A$ . Therefore,  $\beta_0$  is a  $\pi$ -stable state and hence  $\pi$  is strongly amenable.

Conversely, suppose that  $\pi$  is strongly amenable and let  $\beta$  is a  $\pi$ -stable state. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \beta((\pi, u_{\mathbb{C}})(a, t)) &= \beta(\pi(a) + t\beta(I_H)) \\ &= u_A(a) + t \\ &= u_{A \oplus \mathbb{C}}(a, t) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $(a, t) \in A \oplus \mathbb{C}$ . Hence  $\beta$  is a  $(\pi, u_{\mathbb{C}})$ -stable state and so  $(\pi, u_{\mathbb{C}})$  is strongly amenable.  $\square$

Recall that a closed subspace  $S$  of a Lau  $*$ -algebra  $A$  is said to be *topological complemented* if there exists a continuous projection  $Q_S$  on  $A$  with

$$Q_S(A) = S.$$

In this case, there is a closed subspace  $V_S$  of  $A$  such that

$$A = S \oplus_1 V_S,$$

the  $\ell^1$ -direct sum of the spaces  $S$  and  $V_S$ .

Following [4], by an *admissible  $*$ -subalgebra* of  $A$ , we shall mean a topological complemented non-trivial  $*$ -subalgebra  $B$  of  $A$  for which both  $B^*$  and  $V_B^*$  are  $W^*$ -algebras such that

$$A^* = B^* \oplus_\infty V_B^*,$$

the  $\ell^\infty$ -direct sum of the  $W^*$ -algebras  $B^*$  and  $V_B^*$ .

Note that for any admissible  $*$ -subalgebra  $B$  of  $A$ , the restriction of the identity element  $u_A$  of  $A^*$  to  $B$  is the identity of  $B^*$ , and hence  $B$  is a Lau  $*$ -algebra.

**THEOREM 4.2.** *Let  $A$  be a Lau  $*$ -algebra and let  $\pi$  be a  $*$ -representation of  $A$  on a Hilbert space  $H$ . Suppose that  $(A_\gamma)_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$  is a net of admissible closed  $*$ -subalgebras of  $A$  such that*

(a)  $A_{\gamma_1} \subseteq A_{\gamma_2}$  whenever  $\gamma_1 \leq \gamma_2$ ;

(b)  $\bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} A_\gamma$  is dense in  $A$ .

*Then  $\pi$  is strongly amenable if and only if  $\pi|_{A_\gamma}$  is strongly amenable for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\pi|_{A_\gamma}$  is strongly amenable for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , and let  $\beta_\gamma$  be a  $\pi|_{A_\gamma}$ -stable state. Then there is a subnet  $(\beta_\delta)_{\delta \in \Delta}$  of  $(\beta_\gamma)_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$  which is convergent to an element  $\beta$  of  $S(B(H))$ . For each  $a \in A$  and any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $a_0 \in \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} A_\gamma$  such that

$$\|a - a_0\| < \varepsilon.$$

So, there exists  $\gamma_0 \in \Gamma$  and  $\delta_1 \in \Delta$  such that  $a_0 \in A_{\gamma_0}$  and

$$|\beta_\delta(\pi(a_0)) - \beta(\pi(a_0))| < \varepsilon$$

for all  $\delta \geq \delta_1$ . Now, choose  $\delta_2 \in \Delta$  with  $\delta_2 \geq \delta_1$  and  $\delta_2 \geq \gamma_0$ . Then  $a_0 \in A_{\delta_2}$ , and hence

$$\beta_{\delta_2}(\pi(a_0)) = u_A(a_0).$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} |\beta(\pi(a)) - u_A(a)| &= |\beta(\pi(a)) - \beta(\pi(a_0))| \\ &\quad + |\beta(\pi(a_0)) - \beta_{\delta_2}(\pi(a_0))| \\ &\quad + |u_A(a_0) - u_A(a)| \end{aligned}$$

which shows that

$$|\beta(\pi(a)) - u_A(a)| \leq 3\varepsilon$$

for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ ; that is,  $\beta$  is a  $\pi$ -stable state. So,  $\pi$  is strongly amenable. The converse is trivial.  $\square$

PROPOSITION 4.3. *Let  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  be Lau  $*$ -algebras. Suppose that  $\pi$  is a  $*$ -representation of  $A_2$  on a Hilbert space  $H$  and  $\vartheta : A_1 \rightarrow A_2$  is a  $*$ -homomorphism with dense range such that  $u_{A_2} \circ \vartheta = u_{A_1}$ . Then  $\pi$  is strongly amenable if and only if  $\pi \circ \vartheta$  is strongly amenable.*

*Proof.* Let  $\beta$  be a  $\pi$ -stable state. Then

$$\beta(\pi(\vartheta(a_1))) = u_{A_2}(\vartheta(a_1)) = u_{A_1}(a_1)$$

for all  $a_1 \in A_1$ , and therefore  $\beta$  is a  $\pi \circ \vartheta$ -stable state.

Conversely, if  $\beta$  is a  $\pi \circ \vartheta$ -stable state, then for  $a_2 \in A_2$ , there exists a sequence  $(a_{1,n}) \subseteq A_1$  such that

$$\lim_n \vartheta(a_{1,n}) = a_2,$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} \beta(\pi(a_2)) &= \beta(\pi(\lim_n \vartheta(a_{1,n}))) \\ &= \lim_n \beta(\pi(\vartheta(a_{1,n}))) \\ &= \lim_n u_{A_2}(\vartheta(a_{1,n})) \\ &= u_{A_2}(a_2). \end{aligned}$$

This shows that  $\beta$  is a  $\pi$ -stable state.  $\square$

Before we give our next result, let us recall the following key lemma from [15], Lemma 2.3.

LEMMA 4.4. *Let  $A$  be a Lau  $*$ -algebra and let  $I$  be an ideal of  $A$  which is not contained in  $I_0(A)$ . Suppose that  $p$  is a representable positive functional on  $A$  such that  $p = u_A$  on  $I$ . Then  $p = u_A$  on  $A$ .*

We end the work the following result which investigates the interaction between strong amenability of  $*$ -representations of a Lau  $*$ -algebra  $A$  and its restrictions to certain  $*$ -ideals of  $A$ .

PROPOSITION 4.5. *Let  $A$  be a Lau  $*$ -algebra and let  $I$  be an admissible closed  $*$ -ideal of  $A$  with*

$$I \not\subseteq I_0(A).$$

*Suppose that  $\pi$  is a  $*$ -representation of  $A$  on a Hilbert space  $H$ . Then  $\pi$  is strongly amenable if and only if  $\pi|_I$  is strongly amenable.*

*Proof.* The “only if” part follows from the definition. To prove the converse, suppose that  $\beta$  is a  $\pi|_I$ -stable state. Then  $\beta \circ \pi$  is a representable positive functional on  $A$  such that

$$\beta \circ \pi|_I = u_A|_I.$$

So, it follows from Lemma 4.4 that

$$\beta \circ \pi = u_A;$$

that is,  $\pi$  is strongly amenable.  $\square$

**Acknowledgments.** The authors would like to thank the referee of this paper for valuable remarks. They acknowledge that this research was partially carried out at the IPM-Isfahan Branch.

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*Received 3 March 2014*

*Department of Mathematical Sciences,  
Isfahan University of Technology,  
Isfahan 84156-83111, Iran  
f\_akhtari@math.iut.ac.ir*

*Department of Mathematical Sciences,  
Isfahan University of Technology,  
Isfahan 84156-83111, Iran  
isfahani@cc.iut.ac.ir*

*and*

*School of Mathematics,  
Institute for Research in Fundamental  
Sciences (IPM),  
Tehran, P. O. Box: 19395-5746, Iran*