

Left ϕ -biflatness and ϕ -biprojectivity of certain Banach algebras with applicationsSolaleh Salimi^a, Amin Mahmoodi^a, Mehdi Rostami^b, Amir Sahami^{*c}^aDepartment of Mathematics, Central Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran^bDepartment of Mathematics and Computer Science, Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic), Iran^cDepartment of Mathematics, Faculty of Basic Sciences, P.O. Box 69315-516, Ilam University, Ilam, Iran

ABSTRACT: This paper continues the investigation initially begun in [24]. We show that left ϕ -biflatness and left ϕ -biprojectivity are closely related to the notions of left ϕ -amenability and ϕ -inner amenability. We characterize left ϕ -biprojectivity and left ϕ -biflatness of certain semigroup algebras and some algebras related to a locally compact group. We discuss non left ϕ -biflatness of some specified triangular Banach algebras.

Review History:

Received:08 February 2024

Revised:14 April 2024

Accepted:14 April 2024

Available Online:01 July 2025

Keywords: ϕ -biflatness ϕ -biprojectivity ϕ -inner amenability**MSC (2020):**

43A07; 46M10; 43A20

1. Introduction and Preliminaries

Biprojectivity and biflatness are two important homological notions that arise naturally in Helemskii's works in the 1980s, interested readers are referred to his comprehensive book [7]. We begin with recalling their definitions. Given a Banach algebra \mathcal{A} , we let $\pi_{\mathcal{A}} : \mathcal{A} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ denote the *multiplication operator*, i.e., $\pi_{\mathcal{A}}(a \otimes b) = ab$ for $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$. It is known that the projective tensor product $\mathcal{A} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{A}$ becomes a Banach \mathcal{A} -bimodule in a canonical way, turning $\pi_{\mathcal{A}}$ into a \mathcal{A} -bimodule morphism. A Banach algebra \mathcal{A} is *biprojective* if there exists a bounded \mathcal{A} -bimodule morphism $\rho : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{A}$ such that $\pi_{\mathcal{A}} \circ \rho(a) = a$. Further, \mathcal{A} is *biflat* if there exists a bounded \mathcal{A} -bimodule morphism $\rho : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow (\mathcal{A} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{A})^{**}$ such that $\pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{**} \circ \rho(a) = a$ for $a \in \mathcal{A}$. These concepts are closely related to the notion of amenability introduced by Johnson [11, 12].

The notion of ϕ -amenability was introduced in [13] and independently in [16]. Let \mathcal{A} be a Banach algebra. We write $\Delta(\mathcal{A})$ for the set of all nonzero multiplicative linear functionals on \mathcal{A} . We call \mathcal{A} *left ϕ -amenable* if \mathcal{A} possess a ϕ -mean, i.e., a bounded linear functional m on \mathcal{A}^* satisfying $m(\phi) = 1$ and $m(f \cdot a) = \phi(a)m(f)$ for all $a \in \mathcal{A}$.

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and $f \in \mathcal{A}^*$. Here, we remind that \mathcal{A} is ϕ -inner amenable if and only if there exists a bounded net (a_α) in \mathcal{A} such that $aa_\alpha - a_\alpha a \rightarrow 0$ and $\phi(a_\alpha) = 1$ for all α and $a \in \mathcal{A}$ [10, Theorem 2.1].

The notions of left (right) ϕ -biprojectivity and left (right) ϕ -biflatness, motivated by above considerations, were introduced in [24].

Definition 1.1 ([24]). Let \mathcal{A} be a Banach algebra, and let $\phi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$. Then

- (i) \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -biprojective if there exists a bounded linear map $\rho: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{A}$ such that $\rho(ab) = \phi(b)\rho(a) = a \cdot \rho(b)$, and $\phi \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}} \circ \rho(a) = \phi(a)$ for all $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$;
- (ii) \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -biflat if there exists a bounded linear map $\rho: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow (\mathcal{A} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{A})^{**}$ such that $\rho(ab) = \phi(b)\rho(a) = a \cdot \rho(b)$, and $\tilde{\phi} \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{**} \circ \rho(a) = \phi(a)$ for all $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$, where $\tilde{\phi}$ is the unique extension of ϕ on \mathcal{A}^{**} .

The reader may also see [22] for definition of φ -biprojective/biflat Banach algebras.

In this paper, we continue the previous studies started in [21, 23, 24]. Firstly in Section 2, among other things, we shall find some relations between left ϕ -biprojectivity and left ϕ -biflatness of Banach algebras and their ϕ -amenability and ϕ -inner amenability.

In Section 3, we study left ϕ -biprojectivity and left ϕ -biflatness of measure algebras and Clifford semigroup algebras. We prove that $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min})$ is left ϕ -biprojective, however $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\max})$ fails to be left ϕ -biprojective, where ϕ is the augmentation character.

Finally in Section 4, we will show that a triangular Banach algebra \mathcal{T} is not left ϕ -biflat for some certain $\phi \in \Delta(\mathcal{T})$.

2. Some Properties and relations

The following first result shows that left ϕ -biflatness together with ϕ -inner amenability forces a Banach algebra to be left ϕ -amenable.

Proposition 2.1. Let \mathcal{A} be a left ϕ -biflat Banach algebra, and let $\phi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$. If \mathcal{A} is ϕ -inner amenable, then \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -amenable.

Proof. Since \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -biflat, there exists a bounded linear map $\rho: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow (\mathcal{A} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{A})^{**}$ such that

$$\rho(ab) = a \cdot \rho(b) = \phi(b)\rho(a), \quad \tilde{\phi} \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{**} \circ \rho(a) = \phi(a), \quad (a \in \mathcal{A}).$$

On the other hand, ϕ -inner amenability of \mathcal{A} implies the existence of a bounded net $(a_\alpha)_{\alpha \in I}$ in \mathcal{A} such that $aa_\alpha - a_\alpha a \rightarrow 0$ and $\phi(a_\alpha) = 1$, for all $a \in \mathcal{A}$. If we set $m_\alpha = \rho(a_\alpha) \in (\mathcal{A} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{A})^{**}$, then for each $a \in \mathcal{A}$ we have

$$a \cdot m_\alpha - \phi(a)m_\alpha = a \cdot \rho(a_\alpha) - \phi(a)\rho(a_\alpha) = \rho(aa_\alpha - a_\alpha a) \rightarrow 0$$

and

$$\tilde{\phi} \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{**}(m_\alpha) = \tilde{\phi} \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{**} \circ \rho(a_\alpha) = \phi(a_\alpha) = 1.$$

By Goldstine's Theorem, there exists a bounded net $(n_\alpha^\gamma)_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \subseteq \mathcal{A} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{A}$ such that $w^* - \lim_\gamma n_\alpha^\gamma = m_\alpha$ in $(\mathcal{A} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{A})^{**}$. For each $a \in \mathcal{A}$ then we have

$$w^* - \lim_\gamma a \cdot n_\alpha^\gamma - a \cdot m_\alpha = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad w^* - \lim_\gamma \phi(a)n_\alpha^\gamma - \phi(a)m_\alpha = 0$$

in $(\mathcal{A} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{A})^{**}$. Thus for $a \in \mathcal{A}$

$$\lim_\alpha w^* - \lim_\gamma a \cdot n_\alpha^\gamma - \phi(a)n_\alpha^\gamma = \lim_\alpha a \cdot m_\alpha - \phi(a)m_\alpha = 0.$$

Also w^* -continuity of $\pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{**}$ yields that

$$\lim_\alpha w^* - \lim_\gamma \phi \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}}(n_\alpha^\gamma) = \lim_\alpha \tilde{\phi} \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{**}(m_\alpha) = 1.$$

Set $\Lambda = I \times \Gamma^I$, where Γ^I is denoted for the set of all functions from I into Γ . Define the product ordering by

$$(\alpha, \gamma) \preceq_\Lambda (\alpha', \gamma') \Leftrightarrow \alpha \preceq_I \alpha', \gamma \preceq_{\Gamma^I} \gamma'$$

where $\gamma \preceq_{\Gamma^I} \gamma'$ means $\gamma(d) \preceq_\Gamma \gamma'(d)$ for each $d \in I$. Take $\lambda = (\alpha, (\gamma_\alpha)) \in \Lambda$. By Iterated limit theorem [14, p. 69] we obtain a bounded net (n_λ) in $\mathcal{A} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{A}$ such that for all $a \in \mathcal{A}$

$$w^* - \lim_\lambda a \cdot n_\lambda - \phi(a)n_\lambda = 0 \quad \text{in } (\mathcal{A} \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{A})^{**} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_\lambda \phi \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}}(n_\lambda) = 1 = 0$$

or equivalently

$$wk - \lim_{\lambda} a \cdot n_{\lambda} - \phi(a)n_{\lambda} = 0 \text{ in } \mathcal{A} \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{A} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{\lambda} \phi \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}}(n_{\lambda}) - 1 = 0.$$

Applying Mazur's Lemma, we may assume that

$$\lim_{\lambda} a \cdot n_{\lambda} - \phi(a)n_{\lambda} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{\lambda} \phi \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}}(n_{\lambda}) = 1 \quad (a \in \mathcal{A}).$$

Putting $u_{\lambda} = \pi_{\mathcal{A}}(n_{\lambda}) \in \mathcal{A}$, we see that

$$\lim_{\lambda} a \cdot u_{\lambda} - \phi(a)u_{\lambda} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{\lambda} \phi(u_{\lambda}) = 1 \quad (a \in \mathcal{A})$$

so that \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -amenable, by [13, Theorem 1.4]. □

For a Banach algebra \mathcal{A} , we write $\Upsilon_{\mathcal{A}}$ for the flip map on $\mathcal{A} \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{A}$ given by $\Upsilon_{\mathcal{A}}(a \otimes b) = b \otimes a$ for $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$.

The following example shows that the ϕ -inner amenability assumption in Proposition 2.1 can not be dropped.

Example 2.1. We give a left ϕ -biflat Banach algebra which is not left ϕ -amenable. Let \mathcal{V} be a Banach space with $\dim \mathcal{V} \geq 1$, and let $f \in \mathcal{V}^*$ be a non-zero element such that $\|f\| \leq 1$. It is known that \mathcal{V} equipped with either products defined by $a * b = f(a)b$ and $a \bullet b = f(b)a$ for $a, b \in \mathcal{V}$, is a Banach algebra denoted by ${}_f\mathcal{V}$ and \mathcal{V}_f , respectively. It is easy to see that $\Delta(\mathcal{V}_f) = \Delta({}_f\mathcal{V}) = \{f\}$. Put $\mathcal{A} = {}_f\mathcal{V} \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{V}_f$. Clearly the map ϕ defined by $\phi(a \otimes b) = f(a)f(b)$ for all $a, b \in \mathcal{V}$, is a non-zero multiplicative linear functional on \mathcal{A} . Choose $a_0 \in \mathcal{V}$ such that $f(a_0) = 1$. We can easily obtain that the map $\rho: \mathcal{V}_f \rightarrow \mathcal{V}_f \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{V}_f$ given by $\rho(a) = a \otimes a_0$ for all $a \in \mathcal{V}_f$, is a bounded \mathcal{V}_f -bimodule morphism such that $\pi_{\mathcal{V}_f} \circ \rho(a) = a$ for all $a \in \mathcal{V}_f$. It follows that \mathcal{V}_f is biprojective. Also the composition map $\Upsilon_{f\mathcal{V}} \circ \rho: {}_f\mathcal{V} \rightarrow {}_f\mathcal{V} \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{V}_f$ is a bounded ${}_f\mathcal{V}$ -bimodule morphism such that $\pi_{f\mathcal{V}} \circ \Upsilon_{f\mathcal{V}} \circ \rho(a) = a$ for all $a \in {}_f\mathcal{V}$. So ${}_f\mathcal{V}$ is also biprojective. Applying [20, Proposition 2.4], we see that \mathcal{A} is biprojective. Hence \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -biprojective and whence it is left ϕ -biflat.

We suppose in contradiction that \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -amenable. Then by [13, Theorem 3.3] \mathcal{V}_f is left f -amenable. So by [13, theorem 1.4] there is a bounded net (a_{α}) in \mathcal{V}_f such that $a \bullet a_{\alpha} - f(a)a_{\alpha} \rightarrow 0$ and $f(a_{\alpha}) = 1$, for each $a \in \mathcal{V}$. It follows that

$$a - f(a)a_{\alpha} = af(a_{\alpha}) - f(a)a_{\alpha} \rightarrow 0, \quad (a \in \mathcal{V}_f).$$

Pick $b_0 \in \mathcal{V}_f$ such that $f(b_0) = 1$. Putting $a = b_0$ in above equation, we obtain that $a_{\alpha} \rightarrow b_0$. Combining with $a \bullet a_{\alpha} - f(a)a_{\alpha} \rightarrow 0$ implies that $a = a \bullet b_0 = f(a)b_0$. It follows that $\dim \mathcal{V} = 1$ which is impossible. Thus \mathcal{A} is not left ϕ -amenable.

From [9] we recall that a Banach algebra \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -contractible if there exists an element $m \in \mathcal{A}$ such that $a \cdot m = \phi(a)m$ and $\phi(m) = 1$ for all $a \in \mathcal{A}$.

Lemma 2.2. Let \mathcal{A} be a Banach algebra, and let $\phi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$.

- (i) If \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -amenable, then \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -biflat;
- (ii) If \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -contractible, then \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -biprojective.

Proof. The proofs are similar, so we only prove the clause (i).

Suppose that \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -amenable. Then there exists an element $m \in \mathcal{A}^{**}$ such that $a \cdot m = \phi(a)m$ and $\tilde{\phi}(m) = 1$ for all $a \in \mathcal{A}$. Set $\eta: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^{**} \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{A}^{**}$ by $\eta(a) = a \cdot m \otimes m$. By [6, Lemma 1.7], there exists a bounded linear map $\psi: \mathcal{A}^{**} \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{A}^{**} \rightarrow (\mathcal{A} \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{A})^{**}$ satisfying

$$\psi(a \otimes b) = a \otimes b, \quad \psi(n) \cdot a = \psi(n \cdot a), \quad a \cdot \psi(n) = \psi(a \cdot n), \quad \pi_{\mathcal{A}^{**}}^{**}(\psi(n)) = \pi_{\mathcal{A}^{**}}(n)$$

for $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$ and $n \in \mathcal{A}^{**} \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{A}^{**}$. Setting $\rho = \psi \circ \eta$, it is routinely checked that

$$\rho(ab) = \phi(b)\rho(a) = a \cdot \rho(b), \quad \tilde{\phi} \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}^{**}}^{**} \circ \rho(a) = \phi(a) \quad (a, b \in \mathcal{A})$$

so \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -biflat. □

The clause (i) of Lemma 2.2 is a converse for [10, Corollary 2.2].

The following describe the connection between left ϕ -biflatness of a Banach algebra and its second dual under ϕ -inner amenability.

Proposition 2.3. Let \mathcal{A} be a Banach algebra, and let $\phi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$. Suppose that \mathcal{A} is ϕ -inner amenable. Then \mathcal{A}^{**} is left $\tilde{\phi}$ -biflat if and only if \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -biflat.

Proof. Let \mathcal{A}^{**} be left $\tilde{\phi}$ -biflat. Then there exists a bounded linear map $\rho: \mathcal{A}^{**} \rightarrow (\mathcal{A}^{**} \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{A}^{**})^{**}$ such that

$$\rho(ab) = a \cdot \rho(b) = \phi(b)\rho(a), \quad \tilde{\phi} \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}^{**}}^{**} \circ \rho(a) = \tilde{\phi}(a),$$

for all $a \in \mathcal{A}^{**}$. Here ϕ -inner amenability of \mathcal{A} guarantees the existence of a bounded net (a_α) in \mathcal{A} such that $aa_\alpha - a_\alpha a \rightarrow 0$ and $\phi(a_\alpha) = 1$, for all $a \in \mathcal{A}$. By [6, Lemma 1.7], there exists a bounded linear map $\psi: \mathcal{A}^{**} \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{A}^{**} \rightarrow (\mathcal{A} \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{A})^{**}$ satisfying

$$\psi(a \otimes b) = a \otimes b, \quad \psi(m) \cdot a = \psi(m \cdot a), \quad a \cdot \psi(m) = \psi(a \cdot m), \quad \pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{**}(\psi(m)) = \pi_{\mathcal{A}^{**}}(m)$$

for $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$ and $m \in \mathcal{A}^{**} \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{A}^{**}$. Set $m_\alpha = \pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{****} \circ \psi^{**} \circ \rho|_{\mathcal{A}}(a_\alpha)$. Clearly (m_α) is a bounded net in \mathcal{A}^{****} . Putting things together, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} am_\alpha - \phi(a)m_\alpha &= a\pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{****} \circ \psi^{**} \circ \rho|_{\mathcal{A}}(a_\alpha) - \phi(a)\pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{****} \circ \psi^{**} \circ \rho|_{\mathcal{A}}(a_\alpha) \\ &= \pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{****} \circ \psi^{**} \circ \rho|_{\mathcal{A}}(aa_\alpha - a_\alpha a) \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\phi}(m_\alpha) &= \tilde{\phi} \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{****} \circ \psi^{**} \circ \rho|_{\mathcal{A}}(a_\alpha) = \tilde{\phi} \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}^{**}}^{**} \circ \rho|_{\mathcal{A}}(a_\alpha) \\ &= \tilde{\phi}(a_\alpha) = \phi(a_\alpha) = 1. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Using Goldstine's Theorem (twice), we may assume that m_α 's are in \mathcal{A} . Thus \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -amenable. Now by Lemma 2.2 (i), \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -biflat.

Conversely, if we suppose that \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -biflat, it admits a bounded linear map $\rho: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow (\mathcal{A} \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{A})^{**}$ such that

$$\rho(ab) = \phi(b)\rho(a) = a \cdot \rho(b), \quad \tilde{\phi} \circ \pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{**} \circ \rho(a) = \phi(a),$$

for all $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$. Let the net (a_α) be as above. Set $m_\alpha = \pi_{\mathcal{A}}^{**} \circ \rho(a_\alpha)$. One can see that (m_α) is a bounded net in \mathcal{A}^{**} such that $a \cdot m_\alpha - \phi(a)m_\alpha \rightarrow 0$ and $\tilde{\phi}(m_\alpha) = 1$ for all $a \in \mathcal{A}$. Using Goldstine's Theorem we can assume that m_α 's belong to \mathcal{A} . Thus \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -amenable. According to [13, Proposition 3.4], \mathcal{A}^{**} is left $\tilde{\phi}$ -amenable. Thus \mathcal{A}^{**} is left $\tilde{\phi}$ -biflat, again by Lemma 2.2 (i). \square

The following may be compared with [19, Corollary 3.3].

Proposition 2.4. *Let \mathcal{A} be a Banach algebra with a left approximate identity, and let $\Delta(\mathcal{A})$ be non-empty. If \mathcal{A} is a left ϕ -biprojective for all $\phi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$, then $\Delta(\mathcal{A})$ is discrete with respect to the w^* -topology.*

Proof. Suppose that \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -biprojective for all $\phi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$. Since \mathcal{A} has a left approximate identity, \mathcal{A} is left ϕ -contractible for all $\phi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$ by [23, Proposition 2.4]. From [3, Proposition 2.3], we conclude that $\Delta(\mathcal{A})$ is discrete with respect to the w^* -topology. \square

3. Application to algebras related to locally compact groups and discrete semigroups

A discrete semigroup \mathcal{S} is an *inverse* semigroup if for each $s \in \mathcal{S}$ there exists a unique element $s^* \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $ss^*s = s$ and $s^*ss^* = s^*$. There exists a partial order on each inverse semigroup \mathcal{S} , that is, $s \leq t \iff s = ts^*s$ for all $s, t \in \mathcal{S}$.

Let (\mathcal{S}, \leq) be an inverse semigroup. For each $s \in \mathcal{S}$, set $[x] = \{y \in \mathcal{S} \mid y \leq x\}$. We say \mathcal{S} is *uniformly locally finite* if $\sup\{|[x]| : x \in \mathcal{S}\} < \infty$. We write $E(\mathcal{S})$ for the set of all idempotents of \mathcal{S} . For every $e \in E(\mathcal{S})$, it is known that $\mathcal{G}_e = \{s \in \mathcal{S} \mid ss^* = s^*s = e\}$ is a maximal subgroup of \mathcal{S} with respect to e . Moreover, $\mathcal{G}_{e_1} \cap \mathcal{G}_{e_2} = \emptyset$ for all $e_1, e_2 \in \mathcal{S}$ with $e_1 \neq e_2$. An inverse semigroup \mathcal{S} is a *Clifford* semigroup if $ss^* = s^*s$ for all $s \in \mathcal{S}$. See [8] as a main reference of semigroup theory.

Left ϕ -biflatness of semigroup algebras related to Clifford semigroups has been studied in [24]. We now characterize left ϕ -biprojectivity of Clifford semigroup algebras.

Proposition 3.1. *Let $\mathcal{S} = \bigcup_{e \in E(\mathcal{S})} \mathcal{G}_e$ be a Clifford semigroup such that $E(\mathcal{S})$ is uniformly locally finite. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i) $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})$ is left ϕ -biprojective for all $\phi \in \Delta(\ell^1(\mathcal{S}))$;

- (ii) Each maximal subgroup \mathcal{G}_e is finite;
- (iii) $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})$ is biprojective.

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii) Let $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})$ be left ϕ -biprojective for all $\phi \in \Delta(\ell^1(\mathcal{S}))$. It is known that $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})$ is isometrically isomorphic to $\bigoplus_{e \in E(\mathcal{S})} \ell^1(\mathcal{G}_e)$, see [20, Theorem 2.18]. Thus $\Delta(\ell^1(\mathcal{S})) = \bigcup_{e \in E(\mathcal{S})} \Delta(\ell^1(\mathcal{G}_e))$. Let $\phi \in \Delta(\ell^1(\mathcal{G}_e))$. Since each $\ell^1(\mathcal{G}_e)$ has an identity element, there exists an element x in $\mathcal{Z}(\ell^1(\mathcal{S}))$ (the center of $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})$) such that $\phi(x) = 1$. Applying [23, Lemma 2.2], we observe that $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})$ is left ϕ -contractible. So there exists an element a_1 in $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})$ such that

$$aa_1 = \phi(a)a_1, \quad \phi(a_1) = 1, \quad (a \in \ell^1(\mathcal{S})).$$

Pick $a_0 \in \ell^1(\mathcal{G}_e)$ such that $aa_0 = a_0a$ and $\phi(a_0) = 1$ for all $a \in \ell^1(\mathcal{S})$. Since $\ell^1(\mathcal{G}_e)$ is a closed ideal of $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})$, element $b = a_1a_0$ is in $\ell^1(\mathcal{G}_e)$ and satisfies

$$ab = \phi(a)b, \quad \phi(b) = 1, \quad (a \in \ell^1(\mathcal{G}_e)).$$

Then $\ell^1(\mathcal{G}_e)$ is left ϕ -contractible. Then \mathcal{G}_e is compact by [1, Theorem 3.3]. Whence \mathcal{G}_e is finite.

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii) This is proved in [20, Theorem 3.7].

(iii) \Rightarrow (i) This is trivial. □

Remark 3.2. Notice that every discrete group \mathcal{G} is uniformly locally finite. Therefore, as a consequence of Proposition 3.1, the group algebra $\ell^1(\mathcal{G})$ is left ϕ -biprojective for all $\phi \in \Delta(\ell^1(\mathcal{G}))$ if and only if \mathcal{G} is finite.

Let \mathbb{N}_{\min} and \mathbb{N}_{\max} be the semigroup \mathbb{N} with products $m *_{\min} n = \min\{m, n\}$ and $m *_{\max} n = \max\{m, n\}$, respectively. Take $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min})$ and $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\max})$ with convolution products. We write δ_n for the point mass at $\{n\}$. For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we consider a homomorphism $\phi_n : \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ defined by $\phi_n(\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \delta_i) = \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \alpha_i$. There is also a homomorphism $\psi_n : \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\max}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with the formula $\psi_n(\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i \delta_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$. It is known that $\Delta(\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min})) = \{\phi_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ and $\Delta(\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\max})) = \{\psi_n : n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}\}$. Notice that $\psi_n = \phi_1 - \phi_{n+1}$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$), and that $\phi_1 = \psi_{\infty}$ is the augmentation character, see [2].

Proposition 3.3. (i) $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min})$ is left ϕ_1 -biprojective.

(ii) $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\max})$ is not left ψ_{∞} -biprojective.

Proof. (i) Define $\rho : \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min}) \rightarrow \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min}) \widehat{\otimes} \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min})$ by $\rho(f) = \phi_1(f)\delta_1 \otimes \delta_1$ for all $f \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min})$. Clearly $\rho(fg) = f \cdot \rho(g) = \phi_1(g)\rho(f)$, and $\phi_1 \circ \pi_{\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min})} \circ \rho(f) = \phi_1(f)$ for $f, g \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min})$. So $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min})$ is left ϕ_1 -biprojective.

(ii) Towards a contradiction, suppose that $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\max})$ is left ψ_{∞} -biprojective. Since $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\max})$ is unital, it is left ψ_{∞} -contractible [23, Proposition 2.4]. Define $m = \delta_n - \delta_{n+1}$, clearly $m \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\max})$. Thus $a \cdot m = \psi_n(a)m$, and $\psi_n(m) = 1$ for all $a \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\max})$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$. So $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\max})$ is left ψ_n -contractible for all $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$. It follows from [3, Corollary 2.2] that $\Delta(\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\max})) = \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ is discrete with respect to the w^* -topology. On the other hand by Gelfand representation theorem $\Delta(\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\max})) = \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ is compact. So $\Delta(\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\max})) = \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ is finite which is impossible. □

Let S be a locally compact space. A compact space is called Stone-Čech-compactification of S (denoted by βS) if satisfying the following universal property:

(*) For each compact Hausdorff space \mathcal{K} and each continuous mapping $f : S \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$, there exists a uniquely determined continuous mapping $\tilde{f} : \beta S \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$ such that $\tilde{f}|_S = f$.

Let \mathcal{S} be a discrete semigroup. By the above characterization we have

$$\ell^1(\mathcal{S})^{**} \cong \ell^{\infty}(\mathcal{S})^* \cong C(\beta \mathcal{S})^* \cong M(\beta \mathcal{S}).$$

For more information see [2, Chapter 6].

We recall that a Banach algebra \mathcal{A} is ϕ -pseudo-amenable if there exists a net (a_{α}) in \mathcal{A} such that $aa_{\alpha} - \phi(a)a_{\alpha} \rightarrow 0$ and $\phi(a_{\alpha}) \rightarrow 1$ for all $a \in \mathcal{A}$, see [17, Proposition 2.3].

Proposition 3.4. Let \mathcal{S} be an infinite, commutative and cancellative semigroup. Then $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})^{**} = M(\beta \mathcal{S})$ is not left $\tilde{\phi}$ -biflat, where ϕ is the augmentation character on $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})$.

Proof. We assume in contradiction that $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})^{**} = M(\beta \mathcal{S})$ is left $\tilde{\phi}$ -biflat. Since \mathcal{S} is commutative, $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})$ is ϕ -inner amenable. So by Proposition 2.3, $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})$ is left ϕ -amenable. Using [13, Proposition 3.4], $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})^{**} = M(\beta \mathcal{S})$ is left $\tilde{\phi}$ -amenable. Then $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})^{**} = M(\beta \mathcal{S})$ is left $\tilde{\phi}$ -pseudo-amenable. By [17, Proposition 2.8], $\ell^1(\mathcal{S})^{**} = M(\beta \mathcal{S})$ doesn't have a non-trivial bounded point derivation at the augmentation character and this is in contradiction to [2, Theorem 11.15]. □

Remark 3.5. It should be stressed that Proposition 3.4 without cancellativity condition does not hold. To see this, consider the semigroup algebra $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min})$ with the augmentation character ϕ . It is easily checked that (δ_n) is a bounded approximate identity for $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min})$, and thus it is ϕ -inner amenable. Hence $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_{\min})^{**}$ is left $\tilde{\phi}$ -biflat, by Propositions 2.3 and 3.3(i).

Proposition 3.6. Let \mathcal{G} be a locally compact group. Then $L^1(\mathcal{G})$ is left ϕ -biflat for all $\phi \in \Delta(L^1(\mathcal{G}))$ if and only if \mathcal{G} is amenable.

Proof. We first notice that $L^1(\mathcal{G})$ is ϕ -inner amenable for all $\phi \in \Delta(L^1(\mathcal{G}))$, because it has a bounded approximate identity. If $L^1(\mathcal{G})$ is left ϕ -biflat for all $\phi \in \Delta(L^1(\mathcal{G}))$, then it is left ϕ -amenable for all $\phi \in \Delta(L^1(\mathcal{G}))$ by Proposition 2.1. Now by [16, Corollary 2.4], \mathcal{G} is amenable.

Conversely if \mathcal{G} is amenable, then $L^1(\mathcal{G})$ is left ϕ -amenable for all $\phi \in \Delta(L^1(\mathcal{G}))$ again by [16, Corollary 2.4]. Hence, the result follows from Lemma 2.2(i). \square

Recall that $M(\mathcal{G})$ is denoted for the measure algebra of a locally compact group \mathcal{G} .

Proposition 3.7. Let \mathcal{G} be a locally compact group. Then $M(\mathcal{G})$ is left ϕ -biprojective for all $\phi \in \Delta(M(\mathcal{G}))$ if and only if \mathcal{G} is finite.

Proof. Suppose that $M(\mathcal{G})$ is left ϕ -biprojective for all $\phi \in \Delta(M(\mathcal{G}))$. Since $M(\mathcal{G})$ is unital, its left ϕ -biprojectivity is equivalent to its left ϕ -contractibility. So \mathcal{G} must be finite, by [18, Corollary 6.2].

The converse is trivial. \square

Proposition 3.8. Let \mathcal{G} be a locally compact group. Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) $M(\mathcal{G})^{**}$ is left $\tilde{\phi}$ -biflat for all $\phi \in \Delta(M(\mathcal{G}))$;
- (ii) $M(\mathcal{G})$ is left ϕ -biflat for all $\phi \in \Delta(M(\mathcal{G}))$;
- (iii) \mathcal{G} is discrete and amenable.

Proof. (i) \iff (ii) It is immediate from Proposition 2.3, just note that $M(\mathcal{G})$ is unital and so it is ϕ -inner amenable for all $\phi \in \Delta(M(\mathcal{G}))$.

(ii) \iff (iii) Left ϕ -biflatness of $M(\mathcal{G})$ is equivalent to its left ϕ -amenability, because $M(\mathcal{G})$ is unital. The proof completes by [16, Corollary 2.5]. \square

4. Applications to some triangular Banach algebras

Let \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} be a Banach algebras and let \mathcal{X} be a Banach $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ -module, that is, \mathcal{X} is a Banach space, a left \mathcal{A} -module and a right \mathcal{B} -module with the compatible module action that satisfies $(a \cdot x) \cdot b = a \cdot (x \cdot b)$ and $\|a \cdot x \cdot b\| \leq \|a\| \|x\| \|b\|$ for every $a \in \mathcal{A}, x \in \mathcal{X}, b \in \mathcal{B}$. With the usual 2×2 matrix operations and the norm

$$\left\| \begin{bmatrix} a & x \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix} \right\| = \|a\| + \|x\| + \|b\|,$$

$\mathcal{T} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{X} \\ 0 & \mathcal{B} \end{bmatrix}$ becomes a Banach algebra which is called a *triangular Banach algebra*. One may see [4, 5, 15] for more information and properties on these algebras.

Let $\mathcal{T} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{X} \\ 0 & \mathcal{B} \end{bmatrix}$ be a triangular Banach algebra. For every $\phi \in \Delta(\mathcal{B})$, we may consider an element $\Psi_\phi \in \Delta(\mathcal{T})$ defined by

$$\Psi_\phi \left(\begin{bmatrix} a & x \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix} \right) = \phi(b), \quad (a \in \mathcal{A}, x \in \mathcal{X}, b \in \mathcal{B}).$$

Theorem 4.1. Let \mathcal{A} be a Banach algebra, and let $\phi \in \Delta(\mathcal{A})$. If \mathcal{A} is ϕ -inner amenable, then $\mathcal{T} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{A} \\ 0 & \mathcal{A} \end{bmatrix}$ is not left Ψ_ϕ -biflat.

Proof. Assume towards a contradiction that \mathcal{T} is left Ψ_ϕ -biflat. Since \mathcal{A} is ϕ -inner amenable, there exists a bounded net (a_α) in \mathcal{A} such that $aa_\alpha - a_\alpha a \rightarrow 0$ and $\phi(a_\alpha) = 1$, for each $a \in \mathcal{A}$. Set $t_\alpha = \begin{bmatrix} a_\alpha & 0 \\ 0 & a_\alpha \end{bmatrix}$. It is easy to see that (t_α) is a bounded net in \mathcal{T} such that

$$tt_\alpha - t_\alpha t \rightarrow 0, \quad \Psi_\phi(t_\alpha) = \phi(a_\alpha) = 1, \quad (t \in \mathcal{T}).$$

So \mathcal{T} is Ψ_ϕ -inner amenable. Thus by Proposition 2.1, \mathcal{T} is left Ψ_ϕ -amenable. Clearly $\mathcal{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \mathcal{A} \\ 0 & \mathcal{A} \end{bmatrix}$ is a closed two-sided ideal of \mathcal{T} for which $\Psi_\phi \neq 0$ on \mathcal{I} . One can easily see that \mathcal{I} is left Ψ_ϕ -amenable. So there exists a bounded net $m_\alpha = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & u_\alpha \\ 0 & v_\alpha \end{bmatrix}$ in \mathcal{I} such that

$$mm_\alpha - \Psi_\phi(m)m_\alpha \rightarrow 0, \quad (m \in \mathcal{I}) \quad (3)$$

and $\Psi_\phi(m_\alpha) = \phi(v_\alpha) = 1$. Take an element $a \in \mathcal{A}$ with $\phi(a) = 1$, and take $b \in \ker \phi$. Substitute $m_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & a \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix}$ for m in (3), we obtain $m_0 m_\alpha \rightarrow 0$. It follows that $av_\alpha \rightarrow 0$. Therefore $\phi(v_\alpha) = \phi(av_\alpha) \rightarrow 0$, a contradiction. \square

Definition 4.2. Let \mathcal{B} be a Banach algebra, let $\phi \in \Delta(\mathcal{B})$, and let \mathcal{X} be a Banach right \mathcal{B} -module. A non-zero linear functional $\psi \in \mathcal{X}^*$ is a right ϕ -character for \mathcal{X} if $\psi(x \cdot b) = \phi(b)\psi(x)$ for each $b \in \mathcal{B}$ and $x \in \mathcal{X}$.

To see an example satisfying conditions of Definition 4.2, consider a Banach right \mathcal{B} -module \mathcal{X} for which $x \cdot b = \phi(b)x$, $b \in \mathcal{B}, x \in \mathcal{X}$. Then every $0 \neq \psi \in \mathcal{X}^*$ is a right ϕ -character for \mathcal{X} .

Theorem 4.3. Let \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} be Banach algebras with bounded left approximate identities, let $\phi \in \Delta(\mathcal{B})$, and let \mathcal{X} be a Banach $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ -module with a right ϕ -character. Then $\mathcal{T} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{X} \\ 0 & \mathcal{B} \end{bmatrix}$ is not left Ψ_ϕ -biflat.

Proof. Assume towards a contradiction that \mathcal{T} is left Ψ_ϕ -biflat. Since \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} have bounded left approximate identities, \mathcal{T} also has a bounded left approximate identity, by Cohen-Hewitt factorization theorem. So $\overline{\mathcal{T} \ker \Psi_\phi}^{\|\cdot\|} = \ker \Psi_\phi$. It follows from [23, Lemma 2.1] that \mathcal{T} is left Ψ_ϕ -amenable. Clearly $\mathcal{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \mathcal{X} \\ 0 & \mathcal{B} \end{bmatrix}$ is a closed ideal of \mathcal{T} for which $\Psi_\phi|_{\mathcal{I}} \neq 0$. It follows from [13, Lemma 3.1] that \mathcal{I} is left $\Psi_\phi|_{\mathcal{I}}$ -amenable. So by [13, Theorem 1.4] there exists a bounded net $n_\alpha = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & x_\alpha \\ 0 & b_\alpha \end{bmatrix}$ in \mathcal{T} such that

$$tn_\alpha - \Psi_\phi(t)n_\alpha \rightarrow 0, \quad \Psi_\phi(n_\alpha) = \phi(b_\alpha) = 1, \quad (t \in \mathcal{I}).$$

Take $t = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & x \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix}$ for arbitrary elements $x \in \mathcal{X}$ and $b \in \mathcal{B}$. Then we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & x \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & x_\alpha \\ 0 & b_\alpha \end{bmatrix} - \Psi_\phi \left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 & x \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix} \right) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & x_\alpha \\ 0 & b_\alpha \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow 0.$$

It gives that

$$x \cdot b_\alpha - \phi(b)x_\alpha \rightarrow 0, \quad bb_\alpha - \phi(b)b_\alpha \rightarrow 0.$$

Let ψ be a right ϕ -character on \mathcal{X} . We then have

$$\psi(x) - \phi(b)\psi(x_\alpha) = \phi(b_\alpha)\psi(x) - \phi(b)\psi(x_\alpha) = \psi(x \cdot b_\alpha - \phi(b)x_\alpha) \rightarrow 0, \quad (b \in \mathcal{B}, x \in \mathcal{X}).$$

Hence $\psi(x) = \lim_\alpha \phi(b)\psi(x_\alpha)$ for all $b \in \mathcal{B}, x \in \mathcal{X}$, which is not true. To see this, take $b \in \ker \phi$ and $x \in \mathcal{X}$ with $\psi(x) \neq 0$. \square

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the referees for their useful comments which improved the manuscript. The corresponding author is thankful to Ilam university, for it's support.

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Please cite this article using:

Solaleh Salimi, Amin Mahmoodi, Mehdi Rostami, Amir Sahami, Left ϕ -biflatness and ϕ -biprojectivity of certain Banach algebras with applications, *AUT J. Math. Comput.*, 6(3) (2025) 279-287

<https://doi.org/10.22060/AJMC.2024.22985.1211>

