Contractibility and idempotents in Banach algebras

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Abstract

Let A be a Banach algebra. It is shown that a contractible ideal of a Banach algebra is complemented by its annihilator. Then, it is proved the existence of minimal central idempotents in a contractible Banach algebra with a nonzero character. Moreover, the notion of b-contractibility and one of its equivalent forms are introduced. Through an example, it is shown that b-contractibility is strictly weaker than contractibility.

Introduction

Taylor in [13, Theorem 5.11] showed that a contractible Banach algebra with bounded approximation property is finite dimensional. Johnson in [6, Proposition 8.1] showed that a contractible commutative semisimple Banach algebra is finite dimensional. Curtis and Loy [1, Theorem 6.2] extended this result by dropping the semisimplicity assumption. But the question for noncommutative case has remained open. For more results of this type see [4],[5], [8], [10], [13].

This paper is organized as follows. In the second section, we show that a contractible ideal of a Banach algebra is controlled by its commutant and annihilator. Then, we prove the existence of minimal central idempotents in a contractible Banach algebra with a nonzero character. In the third section, we introduce a weaker version of contractibility which we call b-contractibility. We give a characterization of b-contractibility analog to that of contractibility given by Taylor. Also, we show that b-contractibility is strictly weaker than contractibility.

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification, 46H10, 46H20.

Key words: Contractible Banach algebras, Minimal idempotent.

First we recall some terminology. Throughout this paper, A is a Banach algebra and A-module means Banach A-bimodule. For a subset E of A, E' is the commutant of E. If for every A-bimodule X every bounded derivation from A into X is inner, then A is called *contractible*. Also, the term "semisimple" means $Jacobson\ semisimple$. An idempotent $e \in A$ is called minimial if eAe is a division ring. If e and e are idempotents in e0, we write e1 if e2 if e3 holds. A nonzero idempotent e4 is called e4 e5 implies that e6 or e7. Also, two idempotents e8 and e9 are said to be e9 or e9. Let e9 be a subset of e9. The e9 right e9 in e9 in e9 in e9 in e9 in e9. Let e9 be a subset of e9. The e9 right e9 in e9

$$ran(S) = \{a \in A : ba = 0 \text{ for } b \in S\}.$$

The left annihilator lan(S) is defined semilarly. The *annihilator* of S is the set $Ann(S) = ran(S) \cap lan(S)$.

Contractibility

Theorem 2.1. Let A be a contractible Banach algebra which is an ideal in a Banach algebra B. Then A + A' = B.

Proof. If $A + A' \neq B$, then we can choose $b \in B - (A + A')$. Now define

$$D: A \to A, x \mapsto xb - bx$$
.

Clearly D is a derivation on A. By assumption there exists an $a \in A$ such that D(x) = xa - ax for all $x \in A$. The latter result implies that $b - a \in A$ or equivalently $b \in A + A$ which contradicts the selection of b. Therefore A + A' = B.

Theorem 2.2. Let A be a contractible Banach algebra which is an ideal in a Banach algebra B. Then $B = A \oplus \text{Ann}(A)$.

Proof. Since A is contractible then $M_2(A)$ with l^1 -norm is contarctible, where $M_2(A)$ is the algebra of 2×2 matrices with the enteries from A. On the other hand $M_2(A)$ is an ideal in $M_2(B)$ and by Theorem 2.1 we have the equality $M_2(B) = M_2(A) + M_2(A)$. One can easily observe that

$$M_2(A)' = \begin{bmatrix} A' & Ann(A) \\ Ann(A) & A' \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus B = A + Ann(A). But $A \cap Ann(A) = 0$, because A is unital. Therefore the identity $B = A \oplus Ann(A)$ holds.

Remark. In Theorems 2.1 and 2.2, A and B are related only algebrically. Indeed if there exists an infinite dimensional contractible Banach algebra A which is an ideal in a Banach algebra B, then the norm topology of A could be different from the relative norm topology of A which inherits from B.

Theorem 2.3. Let A be a contractible Banach algebra which admits a nonzero multiplicative linear functional f. Then A contains a central minimal idempotent.

Proof. Let $d = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \otimes b_n$ be a diagonal for A and define

$$T: A, \to a \mapsto \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle f, aa_n \rangle b_n.$$

Since $\sum_{n} a_{n}b_{n} = 1$, then $< f, T(1) > = < f, \sum_{n} < f, a_{n} > b_{n} > = \sum_{n} < f, a_{n} > < f, b_{n} >$ $= \sum_{n} < f, a_{n}b_{n} > = < f, \sum_{n} a_{n}b_{n} > = < f, 1 > = 1.$

Thus $T(1) \neq 0$. Moreover for every $a \in A$ and $g, h \in A^*$ we have

$$\langle h, \sum_{n} \langle g, aa_{n} \rangle b_{n} \rangle = \sum_{n} \langle g, aa_{n} \rangle \langle h, b_{n} \rangle$$

$$= \langle g \otimes h, \sum_{n} aa_{n} \otimes b_{n} \rangle$$

$$= \langle g \otimes h, \sum_{n} a_{n} \otimes b_{n} a \rangle$$

$$= \sum_{n} \langle g, a_{n} \rangle \langle h, b_{n} a \rangle$$

$$= \langle h, \sum_{n} \langle g, a_{n} \rangle b_{n} a \rangle .$$

This implies that

$$\sum_{n} < g, aa_{n} > b_{n} = \sum_{n} < g, a_{n} > b_{n}a.$$

Thus we assume that

T(1)=e, then we have $T(a) = \sum_n \langle f, aa_n \rangle b_n = \sum_n \langle f, a_n \rangle b_n a = ea$. On the other hand we have $T(a) = \sum_n \langle f, aa_n \rangle b_n = \langle f, a \rangle \sum_n \langle f, a_n \rangle b_n = \langle f, a \rangle e$. Hence T is an operator of rank one and $e^2 = T(e) = \langle f, e \rangle e = e$. Now define

$$T_1: A \to A, a \mapsto \sum_n a_n < f, aa_n > .$$

With a similar argument we can show that

$$T_1(a) = ae' = < f, a > e' \quad a \in A$$

where $e' = T_1(1)$. Also we have $e'^2 = e'$ and $\langle f, e' \rangle = 1$. Now the identities

$$ee' = < f, e' > e = e, \qquad ee' = < f, e > e' = e'$$

imply that e = e' and for every $a \in A$ we have

$$ea = \langle f, a \rangle e = \langle f, a \rangle e' = ae' = ae.$$

Therefore e is a central idempotent. In addition since T is a rank one operator and ranT = eAe, then eA = eAe = Ce is a division ring. Therefore e is a minimal idempotent.

b-Contractibility

Definition. Let A be a Banach algebra and π be the natural map,

$$\pi: A \otimes A \longrightarrow A, \quad \pi(\sum_n a_n \otimes b_n) \rightarrow \sum_n a_n b_n.$$

Let $b \in A$ and X be an A-module. We say that a derivation $\delta A \longrightarrow X$ is a b-derivation if there exists another derivation $\delta' A \longrightarrow X$ such that $\delta = b\delta'$, where $(b\delta')(a) = b\delta'(a)$. Also we say that A is b-contractible if for every A-module X, every bounded b-derivation from A into X is inner. We call $d \in A \hat{\otimes} A$ a b-diagonal if $\pi(d) = b$ and a.d = d.a for all $a \in A$.

Theorem 3.1. Let A be a unital Banach algebra and $b \in A' - \{0\}$. Then A is b-contractible if and only if A has a b-diagonal.

Proof. First suppose A is b-contractible and π is defined as above. Clearly $\ker \pi$ is an A-module and if we define

$$\delta: A \to \ker \pi, a \mapsto ab \otimes 1 - b \otimes a$$

then it is easy to see that δ is a b-derivation. Indeed $\delta = b\delta$ where

$$\delta': A \to \ker \pi, a \mapsto a \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes a$$

ince A is b-contractible, then threre exists an element $\sum_{n} c_n \otimes d_n \in \ker \pi$ such that

$$\delta(a) = \sum_{n} ac_{n} \otimes d_{n} - \sum_{n} c_{n} \otimes d_{n} a \quad a \in A.$$

Let $d = b \otimes 1 - \sum_n c_n \otimes d_n$. The above identities show that $\pi(d) = b$ and a.d = d.a for all $a \in A$. Therefore, d is a b-diagonal for A. Conversely suppose $d = \sum_n a_n \otimes b_n$ is a b-diagonal for A, X is an A-module and $\delta: A \longrightarrow X$ is a bounded derivation. Clearly the map

$$\Psi: A \times A \rightarrow X, (a,c) \mapsto a\delta(c)$$

is a bounded bilinear map. So by the universal property of projective tensor product there is a linear map $\varphi: A \hat{\otimes} A \longrightarrow X$ such that $\varphi \circ \otimes = \psi$ that is $\varphi(a \otimes c) = a\delta(c)$. In particular using the fact that d is a b-diagonal for A, we get

$$\sum_{n} a a_{n} \delta(b_{n}) = \varphi(a.d) = \varphi(d.a) = \sum_{n} a_{n} \delta(b_{n}a), \quad a \in A.$$

Now if $x = \sum_{n} a_n \delta(b_n)$, then for every $a \in A$ we have

$$ax - xa = \sum_{n} aa_{n}\delta(b_{n}) - \sum_{n} a_{n}\delta(b_{n})a = \sum_{n} aa_{n}\delta(b_{n}) + b\delta(a) - \sum_{n} a_{n}\delta(b_{n}a).$$

Thus the identity $ax - xa = b\delta(a)$ holds for every $a \in A$. Therefore every b-derivation is inner.

Example 3.2. Let A be the Banach algebra $l_1(N)$ with pointwise multiplication and $\{e_n\}$ be the standard basis for A. Then for every positive integer n, A is e_n -contractible. Indeed $e_n \otimes e_n$ is an e_n -diagonal for A. But A is not contractible, since it is not unital. Therefore b-contractibility dose not imply contractibility.

Remark. If A is contractible, then it is unital and one can easily observe that A is b-contractible for every $b \in A - \{0\}$. However the above example shows that for non-unital Banach algebras the converse is not true. We do not know whether this is true for unital Banach algebras or not.

Problem. Does there exist a unital Banach algebra which is b-contactible for some nonzero central idempotent b, but is not contractible?

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