## Approximate weak amenability, derivations and Arens regularity of Segal algebras

by

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**Abstract.** We continue our study of derivations, multipliers, weak amenability and Arens regularity of Segal algebras on locally compact groups. We also answer two questions on Arens regularity of the Lebesgue–Fourier algebra left open in our earlier work.

**0. Introduction.** In [9] we studied derivations, weak amenability and Arens regularity of certain classes of Segal algebras on locally compact groups and in particular we showed that every symmetric Segal algebra S(G) on an amenable SIN group is approximately weakly amenable, i.e., for every continuous derivation  $D: S(G) \to S(G)^*$ , there is a net  $(\varphi_i) \subset S(G)^*$ such that

$$D(f) = \lim_{i \to \infty} [f \cdot \varphi_i - \varphi_i \cdot f] \quad (f \in S(G)).$$

In this paper we continue our study of derivations, multipliers, weak amenability and Arens regularity of Segal algebras and in particular we show that a symmetric Segal algebra S(G) is approximately weakly amenable if one only assumes that G is a SIN group or an amenable group. We show that if G is amenable and S(G) is a symmetric Segal algebra, then for every Banach  $L^1(G)$ -bimodule X, continuous derivations from S(G) into X are approximately inner. Alternatively, continuous derivations from S(G) into  $X^*$  are precisely the ones defined by continuous double centralizers.

In [9] we also showed that the Lebesgue–Fourier algebra of a compact (discrete) group G is Arens regular for the convolution (resp. pointwise) product. Here we prove the converse to these results, provided that G is unimodular in the first case, and for all groups in the second case. Thus we answer two questions left open in [9].

For a compact group G, we determine the space  $\mathcal{Z}^1(S(G), X)$  of continuous derivations from S(G) into X, where S(G) is one of the naturally arising

<sup>2000</sup> Mathematics Subject Classification: 43A20, 43A22, 46A20, 46H25.

Research of the first named author supported by NSERC Grant 36640-02.

Research of the second named author supported by NSERC Grant A-7679.

Segal algebras  $(C(G), *), (L^p(G), *), 1 \le p \le \infty$ , or (A(G), \*) where \* stands for the convolution product and X is a naturally arising S(G)-module. Along the way we determine all the left (right) multipliers from S(G) into X. Finally, we find necessary conditions for S(G) to be Arens regular; these conditions are sometimes sufficient as well. We also find necessary and sufficient conditions for S(G) to be an ideal in its second dual space, when the latter is equipped with the first or the second Arens product.

Our interest in (co)homological properties of Segal algebras stemmed from our study of the Lebesgue–Fourier algebra  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  (see Preliminaries for definition and [9] for further properties) at a time when it was proved by H. G. Dales and S. S. Pandey that certain Segal algebras on abelian locally compact groups are weakly amenable [4]. As pointed out in [4] a proper Segal algebra can never be amenable, since it cannot have a bounded approximate identity. However it is our opinion that Segal algebras provide good examples for generalized notions of amenability that are recently being developed. For example, it has been shown by the first named author and R. J. Loy that every symmetric Segal algebra on an amenable group is essentially amenable ([10, Corollary 7.1]).

We thank the referee for his/her many valuable suggestions.

1. Preliminaries. Throughout this paper, G will denote a locally compact group with a fixed left Haar measure. Given a function f on G, the left (right) translation of f by  $x \in G$  will be denoted by  $(\ell_x f)(y) = f(xy)$  (resp.  $(r_x f)(y) = f(yx)$ ),  $y \in G$ . The standard Lebesgue spaces with respect to the left Haar measure will be denoted by  $L^p(G)$ ,  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ ; CB(G) will denote the space of all bounded continuous complex-valued functions on Gwith the supremum norm, and UC(G) the space of bounded uniformly continuous functions on G, i.e. all  $f \in CB(G)$  such that the maps  $x \mapsto \ell_x f$ and  $x \mapsto r_x f$  from G into CB(G) are continuous; WAP(G) will be the space of continuous weakly almost periodic functions on G, i.e. all  $f \in CB(G)$ such that  $\{\ell_x f : x \in G\}$  is relatively weakly compact in CB(G);  $C_0(G)$  the closed subspace of CB(G) consisting of functions with compact support.

Let A(G) be all functions u in  $C_0(G)$  of the form  $u(x) = \langle \varrho(x)h, k \rangle$ , with  $h, k \in L^2(G)$  and  $\varrho(x)h(y) = h(x^{-1}y)$ ,  $x, y \in G$ , where  $\langle , \rangle$  denotes the inner product of  $L^2(G)$ . Then A(G) may be identified with the unique predual of VN(G), the von Neumann algebra on  $L^2(G)$  generated by  $\{\varrho(x) : x \in G\}$ . Then, as is well known, A(G) with the predual norm and pointwise multiplication is a commutative Banach algebra with spectrum G (see [7] for details). Convolution product of two functions f and g on G is defined by

$$(f*g)(x) = \int_G f(y)g(y^{-1}x) \, d\lambda(y),$$

whenever the integral exists. Then  $L^1(G)$  is a Banach algebra with convolution product, called the group algebra of G. If G is compact, then  $L^p(G)$ ,  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ , and C(G) are also Banach algebras with convolution product. When G is abelian, A(G) is isometrically and algebraically isomorphic to  $L^1(\widehat{G})$ , where  $\widehat{G}$  is the dual group of G.

A linear subspace S(G) of the convolution group algebra  $L^1(G)$  of a locally compact group G is said to be a *Segal algebra* if it satisfies the following conditions:

- (i) S(G) is dense in  $L^1(G)$ ;
- (ii) S(G) is a Banach space under some norm  $\|\cdot\|_S$  and  $\|f\|_S \ge \|f\|_1$ for all  $f \in S(G)$ ;
- (iii) S(G) is left translation invariant, i.e.  $\|\ell_x f\|_S = \|f\|_S$  for all  $x \in G$  and  $f \in S(G)$ , and the map  $x \mapsto \ell_x f$  from G into S(G) is continuous.

A Segal algebra S(G) is symmetric if it is right translation invariant, and for each  $f \in S(G)$ ,  $||r_x f||_S = ||f||_S$  for all  $x \in G$ , and the map  $x \mapsto r_x f$  from G into S(G) is continuous. Note that the symmetric Segal algebras include all Segal algebras on locally compact abelian groups. Also, every symmetric Segal algebra is a two-sided ideal in  $L^1(G)$  and has an approximate identity which is self-adjoint with each term having  $L^1$ -norm equal to 1. The proof of these results and other basic properties of Segal algebras can be found in [22] and [23]. The necessary background on (weak) amenability of Banach algebras can be found in [3].

We recall from [9] that the Lebesgue–Fourier algebra  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  of a locally compact group G is  $\mathcal{L}A(G) = L^1(G) \cap A(G)$ , where

$$|||f||| = ||f||_1 + ||f||_{A(G)} \quad (f \in \mathcal{L}A(G))$$

and where the product is the convolution product. As shown in [9], pointwise product also provides a Banach algebra structure on  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$ .

Let A be a Banach algebra and X be a Banach A-module. A derivation D from A into X is approximately inner if there is a net  $(x_i) \subset X$  such that

$$D(a) = \lim_{i \to \infty} [a \cdot x_i - x_i \cdot a] \quad (a \in A).$$

The Banach algebra A is approximately amenable if every continuous derivation  $D: A \to X^*$  is approximately inner for all Banach A-bimodules X, and A is approximately weakly amenable if the above holds for X = A. The Banach algebra A is weak<sup>\*</sup> approximately weakly amenable if the limit exists in the weak<sup>\*</sup> topology of  $A^*$  (see [10] for more on these concepts). 2. Approximate weak amenability of Segal algebras. A locally compact group G is called a *SIN group* if there is a basis for the neighbourhood of the identity of e consisting of compact sets U such that  $xUx^{-1} = U$  for all  $x \in G$ . Examples of SIN groups include all discrete groups, abelian groups and compact groups. All SIN groups are unimodular.

THEOREM 2.1. Suppose that S(G) is a symmetric Segal algebra on a SIN group G. Then:

- (i) S(G) is approximately weakly amenable.
- (ii) For every continuous derivation  $D : S(G) \to S(G)$  there is a net  $(\mu_i) \subset M(G)$  such that  $D(f) = \lim_{i \to \infty} [f * \mu_i \mu_i * f].$

*Proof.* (i) Since G is SIN,  $L^1(G)$  has a central bounded approximate identity  $(e_i)$  such that it is an approximate identity for S(G) (see [20]).

Fix  $e_i$  and let  $n \in S(G)^*$ . Then for  $f \in S(G)$  we have

$$|\langle e_i \cdot n, f \rangle| = |\langle n, f * e_i \rangle| \le ||n||_{S(G)^*} ||f * e_i||_{S(G)} \le ||f||_1 ||e_i||_{S(G)} ||n||_{S(G)^*}.$$

Hence  $e_i \cdot n$  is continuous on  $(S(G), \|\cdot\|_1)$  and so it has a unique extension to an element of  $L^1(G)^*$  which we denote by  $(e_i \cdot n)^-$ .

Let  $D:S(G)\to S(G)^*$  be a continuous derivation. We define  $D_i:L^1(G)\to S(G)^*$  by

(1) 
$$D_i(f) = D(e_i * f) - D(e_i) \cdot f \quad (f \in L^1(G)).$$

Then  $D_i$  is a derivation (see the proof of Theorem 3.1 in [9]).

Now we define the mapping  $\Delta_i : L^1(G) \to L^1(G)^*$  by

(2) 
$$\Delta_i(f) = (e_i \cdot D_i(f))^- \quad (f \in L^1(G)).$$

Since  $D_i$  is a derivation and  $(e_i)$  is central,  $\Delta_i$  is a derivation from  $L^1(G)$ into  $L^1(G)^*$ . Hence by weak amenability of  $L^1(G)$  (see [5] or [19]), there is  $\psi_i \in L^1(G)^*$  such that

(3) 
$$\Delta_i(f) = f \cdot \psi_i - \psi_i \cdot f \quad (f \in L^1(G)).$$

Let  $\varphi_i = \psi_i | S(G)$ . Then  $\varphi_i \in S(G)^*$ , since the  $L^1$ -norm is dominated by the S(G)-norm.

From (1)–(3) for  $f \in S(G)$  we have

$$e_i \cdot D(e_i * f) - e_i D(e_i) \cdot f = f \cdot \varphi_i - \varphi_i \cdot f \quad (f \in S(G)),$$

or

(4) 
$$e_i^2 \cdot D(f) = f \cdot \varphi_i - \varphi_i \cdot f \quad (f \in S(G)).$$

Now we note that  $(e_i^2)$  is an approximate identity for S(G). In fact, for  $f \in S(G)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|f * e_i^2 - f\|_{S(G)} &= \|f * e_i^2 - f * e_i\|_{S(G)} + \|f * e_i - f\|_{S(G)} \\ &\leq \|f * e_i - f\|_{S(G)} \|e_i\|_{L^1(G)} + \|f * e_i - f\|_{S(G)} \to 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence from (4) we get

(5) 
$$D(f) = \operatorname{weak}^*-\lim_{i \to \infty} [f \cdot \varphi_i - \varphi_i \cdot f].$$

This, in particular, shows that  $D(e_i^2) = 0$ , since  $(e_i)$  is central. Thus (4) implies that

$$D(e_i^2 * f) = f \cdot \varphi_i - \varphi_i f \quad (f \in S(G))$$

and so

$$D(f) = \operatorname{norm-lim}_{i \to \infty} [f \cdot \varphi_i - \varphi_i \cdot f] \qquad (f \in S(G)).$$

Hence S(G) is approximately weakly amenable.

(ii) Suppose that G is SIN and S(G) is symmetric and  $D: S(G) \to S(G)$ is a continuous derivation. Let  $(e_i)$  be a central approximate identity for S(G), as in the proof of part (i). We define  $D_i: L^1(G) \to S(G) \subset L^1(G)$  by

$$D_i(f) = D(e_i * f) - D(e_i) * f.$$

By using strong operator topology it can be shown that each  $D_i$  is a derivation. From [18, Proposition 4.1] or [11, p. 366] there is  $\mu_i \in M(G)$  such that  $D_i(f) = f * \mu_i - \mu_i * f$ . In particular, for  $f \in S(G)$  we have

$$e_i * D(f) = f * \mu_i - \mu_i * f.$$

Hence

$$D(f) = \operatorname{norm-lim}_{i \to \infty} [f * \mu_i - \mu_i * f] \quad (f \in S(G)). \bullet$$

REMARK 2.2. It was pointed out to us by the referee that an abstract version of Theorem 2.1(i) is also true: Let A be a weakly amenable Banach algebra and let B be an abstract Segal subalgebra of A such that B has a central approximate identity. Then B is approximately weakly amenable. The proof follows exactly that of Theorem 2.1.

REMARK 2.3. Let G be an infinite non-abelian compact group. It is shown in [9, Remark 3.2] that the convolution Segal algebra  $L^2(G)$  is not weakly amenable. Thus in general the conclusion of Theorem 2.1 is the best that one can get.

REMARK 2.4. It follows from [8] and Theorem 3.3 in [9] that if G is a totally disconnected amenable locally compact group, then  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  with pointwise multiplication is weakly amenable.

REMARK 2.5. It was shown in [9] that for any locally compact group,  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  with convolution product is amenable if and only if G is discrete and amenable.

**3. Derivations from Segal algebras on amenable groups.** Suppose that X is a Banach A-bimodule. An operator  $T : A \to X$  is a *left multiplier* if  $T(ab) = T(a) \cdot b$   $(a, b \in A)$ . Right multipliers are defined similarly. Suppose

that T is a right multiplier and S is a left multiplier. Then the pair (S,T) is a *double centralizer* if

$$a \cdot S(b) = T(a) \cdot b \quad (a, b \in A).$$

It is easily verified that when (S,T) is a double centralizer, D = S - T:  $A \to X$  is a derivation.

We recall from [18] that for a Banach algebra A, a Banach A-bimodule X is *neo-unital* if  $A \cdot X = X \cdot A = X$ .

THEOREM 3.1. Let G be an amenable group, and let S(G) be a symmetric Segal algebra on G. Suppose that X is a Banach  $L^1(G)$ -bimodule. Then:

- (i) For every continuous derivation  $D: S(G) \to X^*$  there is a continuous double centralizer (S,T) such that D = S T.
- (ii) Every continuous derivation from S(G) into X is approximately inner.

*Proof.* (i) First we note that if A is a Banach algebra with an approximate identity  $(e_i)$ , and X is a Banach A-bimodule such that the left (or right) action of A on X is trivial, i.e.,  $a \cdot x = 0$  (resp.  $x \cdot a = 0$ ) for every  $a \in A, x \in X$ , then every continuous derivation  $D : A \to X$  is approximately inner. In fact if the left action is trivial, then for every  $a \in A$ ,

$$D(a) = \lim_{i \to \infty} D(e_i * a) = \lim_{i \to \infty} [D(e_i) \cdot a + e_i \cdot D(a)]$$
$$= \lim_{i \to \infty} D(e_i)a = \lim_{i \to \infty} [D(e_i) \cdot a - a \cdot D(e_i)].$$

Now suppose that X is a Banach  $L^1(G)$ -bimodule and  $D : S(G) \to X^*$  is a continuous derivation. Let  $X_1 = L^1(G) \cdot X \cdot L^1(G)$ . Then by Cohen's factorization theorem  $X_1$  is a neo-unital Banach submodule of X. By arguments similar to the ones in [18, p. 15] we can write  $X^*$  as the direct sum of three submodules one of which is isomorphic to the dual  $L^1(G)$ -module  $X_1^*$ , whereas the action of  $L^1(G)$  on one side of the other two is trivial. Furthermore, the projection of  $X^*$  on each of these submodules is an  $L^1(G)$ -module morphism. Hence we can write  $D = D_1 + D_2 + D_3$ , where  $D_1 \in \mathcal{Z}^1(S(G), X_1^*)$ , whereas  $D_2$  and  $D_3$  are approximately inner derivations. So, without loss of generality we can assume that X is a neo-unital Banach  $L^1(G)$ -bimodule.

Let Mul be the Banach space of all continuous left multipliers from S(G) into  $X^*$ . We can make Mul into a Banach S(G)-bimodule by defining the right and left actions of S(G) on Mul by

$$(f \cdot T)(g) = f \cdot T(g), \quad (T \cdot f)(g) = T(f * g) \quad (f, g \in S(G), T \in Mul).$$

Suppose  $D: S(G) \to X^*$  is a continuous derivation. We can extend D to a continuous derivation  $\overline{D}: L^1(G) \to Mul$ , where  $\overline{D}(f)(g) = D(f*g) - f \cdot D(g)$ 

 $(f \in L^1(G), g \in S(G))$  (see [9, Lemma 4.2]). Hence, from amenability of  $L^1(G)$ , there is a bounded net  $(T_i) \subset Mul$  such that

$$\overline{D}(f) = \lim_{j \to \infty} (f \cdot T_j - T_j \cdot f) \quad (f \in L^1(G))$$

([12, Proposition 2.1]). Let T be a cluster point of  $(T_i)$  in the weak\*-operator topology. Then

$$\overline{D}(f) = f \cdot T - T \cdot f \quad (f \in L^1(G)).$$

Let  $(e_i)$  be a bounded approximate identity for  $L^1(G)$  such that it is also an approximate identity for S(G). Now for  $f \in S(G)$  we have

$$\overline{D}(f)(e_i) = f \cdot T(e_i) - T(f * e_i).$$

Hence

$$D(f * e_i) - f \cdot D(e_i) = f \cdot T(e_i) - T(f * e_i),$$

or

$$e_i \cdot D(f) = f \cdot T(e_i) - T(f * e_i).$$

Therefore

(1) 
$$D(f) = \operatorname{weak}^* - \lim_{i \to \infty} f \cdot T(e_i) - T(f).$$

Now it is easily seen that  $S: f \mapsto \operatorname{weak}^*-\lim_{i\to\infty} f \cdot T(e_i)$  is a continuous right multiplier. Furthermore,

$$S(f) \cdot g = \operatorname{weak}^* - \lim_{i \to \infty} f \cdot T(e_i) \cdot g = \operatorname{weak}^* - \lim_{i \to \infty} f \cdot T(e_i * g)$$
$$= f \cdot T(g) \quad (f, g \in S(G)).$$

Obviously, S is continuous, since D and T are so. Hence D = S - T for the double centralizer (S, T).

(ii) First suppose that  $D \in \mathcal{Z}^1(S(G), X^{**})$ . Then from equation (1) above we have

$$D(f) = \text{weak}^* - \lim_{i \to \infty} [f \cdot T(e_i) - T(e_i \cdot f)] = \text{weak}^* - \lim_i [f \cdot x_i^{**} - x_i^{**} \cdot f],$$
  
here  $x_i^{**} - T(e_i)$ 

where  $x_i^{**} = T(e_i)$ . Now if  $D \in \mathcal{Z}^1(S(G), X)$ , then we have  $D \in \mathcal{Z}^1(S(G), X^{**})$ , through the canonical embedding of X into  $X^{**}$ . Hence by the first case there is a net  $(x_i^{**}) \subset X^{**}$  such that

$$D(f) = \operatorname{weak}^*\operatorname{-}\lim_{i \to \infty} [f \cdot x_i^{**} - x_i^{**} \cdot f] \quad (f \in S(G)).$$

Now it is standard that by using Goldstine's theorem and taking convex combinations we can find a net  $(x_i) \subset X$ , such that

$$D(f) = \operatorname{norm-lim}_{i \to \infty} [f \cdot x_i - x_i \cdot f] \quad (f \in S(G)). \bullet$$

EXAMPLES 3.2. There is a multitude of examples covered by Theorem 3.1. Let G be a unimodular amenable group. Then for any S(G), X can be taken to be any of the spaces  $L^p(G)$ ,  $1 \le p < \infty$ ,  $L^1(G) \cap L^p(G)$ ,  $1 \le p < \infty$ , LUC(G), RUC(G), UC(G), WAP(G), A(G), where the right and left actions of S(G) on X are defined by convolution.

COROLLARY 3.3. Let G be an amenable group. Then every symmetric Segal algebra S(G) on G is approximately weakly amenable.

*Proof.* This follows from part (ii) of Theorem 3.1 with  $X = S(G)^*$ .

REMARK 3.4. The referee has also pointed out that an abstract version of Theorem 3.1 is valid: Let A be an amenable Banach algebra, let B be an abstract Segal subalgebra of A and let X be a Banach A-bimodule. Then:

- (i') For every continuous derivation  $D: B \to X^*$  there is a continuous double centralizer (S, T) such that D = S T.
- (ii') Every continuous derivation from B into X is approximately inner.
- (iii') B is approximately weakly amenable.

The proof of these is the same as that of Theorem 3.2.

4. Derivations and multipliers from Segal algebras on compact groups. In [9], for a compact group G, we characterized all the derivations from the convolution algebra A(G) into A(G). Here, for a compact group G, we consider the convolution algebras C(G), A(G), VN(G), M(G) and  $L^p(G)$ ,  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ , and attempt to describe continuous derivations from A into B, where A and B are chosen from among the above algebras provided that B is naturally a Banach A-bimodule. In all the cases, the description of the continuous multipliers from A into B plays an important rôle in identifying the derivations.

In the following theorem  $Mul_{\ell}(A, X)$  stands for the space of all continuous left multipliers from A into X, and a subscript r signifies right multipliers. Many of the parts of the theorem are proved in [17, Chapter IX, §35]. Here we provide new proofs for the known ones; our proofs are considerably shorter. We also provide proofs for the previously unknown parts.

THEOREM 4.1. Let G be a compact group. Let  $1 \le p < \infty$  and q be the conjugate exponent to p. Then:

- (i)  $Mul_{\ell}(L^p(G), C(G)) \cong Mul_r(L^p(G), C(G)) \cong L^q(G).$
- (ii)  $Mul_{\ell}(L^p(G), L^{\infty}(G)) \cong Mul_r(L^p(G), L^{\infty}(G)) \cong L^q(G).$
- (iii)  $Mul_{\ell}(L^{\infty}(G), C(G)) \cong Mul_{r}(L^{\infty}(G), C(G)) \cong L^{1}(G).$
- (iv)  $Mul_{\ell}(C(G), C(G)) \cong Mul_r(C(G), C(G)) \cong M(G).$
- (v)  $Mul_{\ell}(C(G), L^{\infty}(G)) \cong Mul_{r}(C(G), L^{\infty}(G)) \cong M(G).$
- (vi)  $Mul_{\ell}(L^{\infty}(G), L^{\infty}(G)) \cong Mul_{r}(L^{\infty}(G), L^{\infty}(G)) \cong M(G).$
- (vii)  $Mul_{\ell}(L^2(G), L^2(G)) \cong Mul_r(L^2(G), L^2(G)) \cong VN(G).$
- (viii)  $Mul_{\ell}(A(G), C(G)) \cong Mul_{r}(A(G), C(G)) \cong VN(G).$
- (ix)  $Mul_{\ell}(A(G), L^{\infty}(G)) \cong Mul_{r}(A(G), L^{\infty}(G)) \cong VN(G).$

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(x) Let  $\Sigma$  be the set of all (equivalence classes of) irreducible unitary representations of G, and for  $\sigma \in \Sigma$ , let  $d_{\sigma}$  be the dimension of the Hilbert space which is the range of  $\sigma$ . If  $\sup\{d_{\sigma} : \sigma \in \Sigma\} < \infty$ , then

$$Mul_{\ell}(A(G), \operatorname{VN}(G)) = Mul_{r}(A(G), \operatorname{VN}(G)) = \operatorname{VN}(G)$$

and

$$Mul_r(C(G), M(G)) \cong Mul_\ell(C(G), M(G)) \cong VN(G).$$

(xi) In each of the cases above the space of continuous double centralizers coincides with the space of continuous left or right multipliers.

*Proof.* We prove the results only in the case of left multipliers. Similar proofs can be given in the case of right multipliers.

(i) Suppose that  $T \in Mul_{\ell}(L^p(G), C(G))$ . The space  $L^q(G)$  is a Banach M(G)-bimodule when the right and left actions are defined by convolution. It is easily seen that  $T^* : M(G) \to L^q(G)$  is a left multiplier, and so, as M(G) is unital, there is  $g \in L^q(G)$  such that  $T^*(\mu) = g * \mu \ (\mu \in M(G))$ . Now for  $f \in L^p(G)$  and  $\mu \in M(G)$  we have

$$\langle T(f), \mu \rangle = \langle f, T^*(\mu) \rangle = \langle f, g * \mu \rangle = \langle \check{g} * f, \mu \rangle,$$

where  $\check{g}(x) = g(x^{-1})$   $(x \in G)$ . Hence

$$T(f) = \check{g} * f \quad (f \in L^p(G)).$$

(ii) Let  $T \in Mul_{\ell}(L^{p}(G), L^{\infty}(G))$ , and let  $(e_{i})$  be an approximate identity for  $L^{p}(G)$ . Then

$$T(f) = \lim_{i \to \infty} T(e_i * f) = \lim_{i \to \infty} T(e_i) * f \in C(G).$$

Hence the result follows from (i).

(iii) Let  $T \in Mul_{\ell}(L^{\infty}(G), C(G))$ . The Banach space  $L^{1}(G)^{**}$  is a Banach M(G)-bimodule since  $L^{1}(G)$  is a Banach M(G)-bimodule with actions defined by convolution. The operator  $T^{*}: M(G) \to L^{1}(G)^{**}$  is a left multiplier. In particular  $T^{*}|L^{1}(G): L^{1}(G) \to L^{1}(G)^{**}$  is a left multiplier. Let  $(e_{i})$  be a bounded approximate identity for  $L^{1}(G)$ . For every  $f \in L^{1}(G)$  we have  $T(f) = \text{norm-}\lim_{i\to\infty} T(e_{i}) * f \in L^{1}(G)$ , since  $L^{1}(G)$  is an ideal in  $L^{1}(G)^{**}$ . Hence  $T^{*}$  restricts to a left multiplier from  $L^{1}(G)$  into  $L^{1}(G)$ . Thus by Wendel's characterization of multipliers of  $L^{1}(G)$ , there is a measure  $\mu \in M(G)$  such that  $T^{*}(f) = \mu * f$  for every  $f \in L^{1}(G)$ . Now for  $g \in L^{\infty}(G)$  and  $f \in L^{1}(G)$  we have

$$\langle T(g), f \rangle = \langle g, T^*f \rangle = \langle g, \mu * f \rangle = \langle \check{\mu} * g, f \rangle,$$

where  $\check{\mu}$  is the measure defined by

$$\langle \check{\mu}, \varphi \rangle = \langle \mu, \check{\varphi} \rangle \quad (\varphi \in C(G)).$$

Hence  $T(g) = \check{\mu} * g$   $(g \in L^{\infty}(G))$ . Since T maps into C(G), we conclude from [16, V.19.27] that  $\mu \in L^{1}(G)$ .

(iv) Similar to (i).

(v) Let  $T \in Mul_{\ell}(C(G), L^{\infty}(G))$ . Let  $(e_i)$  be an approximate identity for C(G). Then for  $f \in C(G)$ ,  $T(f) = \lim_{i \to \infty} T(e_i) * f \in C(G)$ , and the result follows from (iv).

(vi) Let  $T \in Mul_{\ell}(L^{\infty}(G), L^{\infty}(G))$ . By (v) there is a measure  $\mu \in M(G)$  such that  $T(f) = \mu * f$  for all  $f \in C(G)$ . The relation T(f \* g) = T(f) \* g, which is valid for  $f, g \in L^{\infty}(G)$ , can be extended to hold for all  $g \in L^{1}(G)$ , by continuity and since  $L^{\infty}(G)$  is dense in  $L^{1}(G)$ .

Now for  $f \in L^{\infty}(G)$  and  $g_1, g_2 \in L^1(G)$ ,

$$\langle T(f), g_1 * g_2 \rangle = \langle T(f) * \check{g}_2, f_1 \rangle = \langle T(f * \check{g}_2), g_1 \rangle = \langle \mu * f * \check{g}_2, g_1 \rangle$$
  
=  $\langle \mu * f, g_1 * g_2 \rangle,$ 

and we have the result since  $L^1(G)$  factorizes.

(vii) For  $n \in VN(G)$ , let  $\lambda_n$  be an operator on  $L^2(G)$ , given by the duality  $\langle \lambda_n(f), g \rangle_2 = \langle n, f * g \rangle$ , where the last number stands for the value of  $n \in A(G)^*$  at  $f * g \in A(G)$ . It is readily seen that  $\lambda_n$  is a left multiplier.

For the converse suppose that  $T \in Mul_{\ell}(L^2(G), L^2(G))$ . We define an operator  $\widetilde{T}: A(G) \to A(G)$  by

(1) 
$$\widetilde{T}(h) = T(f) * \check{g}$$
 if  $h = f * \check{g}$ 

for some  $f, g \in L^2(G)$ . We notice that  $\widetilde{T}$  is well defined since the right hand side can be written as  $\lim_{i\to\infty} T(e_i) * f * \check{g} = \lim_{i\to\infty} T(e_i) * h$ , where  $(e_i)$ is an approximate identity for  $L^2(G)$ . Now from [9, Theorem 5.2] there is  $n \in VN(G)$  such that  $\widetilde{T}(h) = n \cdot h$   $(h \in A(G))$ . Hence from equation (1) we have

(2) 
$$T(f) * \check{g} = n \cdot (f * \check{g}).$$

By letting  $g = \check{e}_i$  and taking norm limits, we obtain  $T(f) = n \cdot f$ .

(viii) Similar to (iii).

(ix) Let  $T \in Mul_{\ell}(A(G), L^{\infty}(G))$ . By using an approximate identity of A(G) we see that T maps into C(G). Hence the result follows from (viii).

(x) It is shown in [17] that under the stated condition,  $Mul_{\ell}(L^2(G), VN(G)) = VN(G)$ . Suppose  $T \in Mul_{\ell}(A(G), VN(G))$ . Define an operator  $\widetilde{T}: L^2(G) \to Mul(L^2(G), VN(G)) = VN(G)$  by

$$\widetilde{T}(f)(g) = T(f * g) \quad (g \in L^2(G)).$$

There is an  $n \in VN(G)$  such that  $\widetilde{T}(f) = n \cdot f$ . Hence  $T(f * g) = n \cdot (f * g)$ , for  $f, g \in L^2(G)$  and we have the result, since  $A(G) = L^2(G) * L^2(G)$ .

To prove the second part, first we notice that to every  $n \in VN(G)$ and  $f \in C(G)$ , we can associate an element  $n \cdot f \in M(G)$ , specified by  $\langle n \cdot f, g \rangle = \langle n, f * g \rangle$ , where the last pairing is (VN(G), A(G)) dual pairing. We notice that since

$$|\langle n, f * g \rangle| \le \|n\| \, \|f * g\| \le \|n\| \, \|f\|_2 \, \|g\|_2 \le \|n\| \, \|f\|_{C(G)} \, \|g\|_{C(G)}$$

the element  $n \cdot f$  as defined above is a continuous functional on C(G). Hence  $f \mapsto n \cdot f$  is a multiplier from C(G) into M(G).

For the converse, suppose that  $T \in Mul_{\ell}(C(G), M(G))$ . Then T|A(G) is a multiplier from A(G) to  $M(G) \hookrightarrow VN(G)$ . By the first part there is  $n \in VN(G)$  such that  $T(f) = n \cdot f$  for all  $f \in A(G)$ , and since A(G) is dense in C(G), this holds for all  $f \in C(G)$ .

(xi) We prove this only in the case of double centralizers from  $L^p(G)$  into C(G). The proofs of the other cases follow similar lines. So let (S,T) be a continuous double centralizer from C(G) into  $L^p(G)$ . Then by (1) there are  $f_1, f_2 \in L^q(G)$  such that  $g_1 * f_1 * g_2 = g_1 * f_2 * g_2$   $(g_1, g_2 \in C(G))$ . By using an approximate identity we obtain  $f_1 = f_2$ .

THEOREM 4.2. Let G be a compact group,  $1 \le p < \infty$  and q be the conjugate exponent to p. Then:

- (i)  $D \in \mathcal{Z}^1(L^p(G), L^\infty(G))$  if and only if there is  $g \in L^q(G)$  such that D(f) = f \* g g \* f  $(f \in L^p(G)).$
- (ii)  $D \in \mathcal{Z}^1(L^p(G), C(G))$  if and only if there is  $g \in L^q(G)$  such that D(f) = f \* g g \* f  $(f \in L^p(G)).$
- (iii)  $D \in \mathcal{Z}^1(L^\infty(G), C(G))$  if and only if there is  $g \in L^1(G)$  such that D(f) = f \* g g \* f  $(f \in L^\infty(G)).$
- (iv)  $D \in \mathcal{Z}^1(C(G), C(G))$  if and only if there is  $\mu \in M(G)$  such that  $D(f) = f * \mu \mu * f$   $(f \in C(G)).$
- (v)  $D \in \mathbb{Z}^1(C(G), L^{\infty}(G))$  if and only if there is  $\mu \in M(G)$  such that  $D(f) = f * \mu \mu * f$   $(f \in C(G)).$
- (vi)  $D \in \mathcal{Z}^1(L^{\infty}(G), L^{\infty}(G))$  if and only if there is  $\mu \in M(G)$  such that  $D(f) = f * \mu \mu * f$   $(f \in L^{\infty}(G)).$
- (vii)  $D \in \mathcal{Z}^1(L^2(G), L^2(G))$  if and only if there is  $n \in VN(G)$  such that  $D(f) = f \cdot n n \cdot f$   $(f \in L^2(G)).$
- (viii)  $D \in \mathcal{Z}^1(A(G), C(G))$  if and only if there is  $n \in VN(G)$  such that  $D(f) = f \cdot n n \cdot f$   $(f \in A(G)).$ 
  - (ix)  $D \in \mathcal{Z}^1(A(G), L^{\infty}(G))$  if and only if there is  $n \in VN(G)$  such that  $D(f) = f \cdot n n \cdot f$   $(f \in A(G)).$
  - (x) Furthermore, if  $\sup\{d_{\sigma}: \sigma \in \Sigma\} < \infty$ , then  $D \in \mathbb{Z}^1(A(G), \operatorname{VN}(G))$ if and only if there is  $n \in \operatorname{VN}(G)$  such that  $D(f) = f \cdot n - n \cdot f$  $(f \in A(G))$ , and  $D \in \mathbb{Z}^1(C(G), M(G))$  if and only if there is  $n \in \operatorname{VN}(G)$  such that  $D(f) = f \cdot n - n \cdot f$   $(f \in C(G))$ .

*Proof.* Parts (i), (v), (vi), (vii), (ix) and (x) follow from part (i) of Theorem 3.1 and from Theorem 4.1. Then we have (ii), (iv), (vii) since (i) $\Rightarrow$ (ii), (v) $\Rightarrow$ (iv) and (vii) $\Rightarrow$ (viii). Now to prove (vi), let  $D \in \mathbb{Z}^1(L^{\infty}(G), L^{\infty}(G))$ .

By (v) there is  $\mu \in M(G)$  such that for every  $f \in C(G)$ ,  $D(f) = f * \mu - \mu * f$ . To prove (iii), let  $f \in L^{\infty}(G)$ ,  $g_1, g_2 \in C(G)$ . Then

$$\begin{split} \langle D(f), g_1 * g_2 \rangle &= \langle D(f) \cdot g_1, g_2 \rangle = \langle \check{g}_1 * D(f), g_2 \rangle \\ &= \langle D(\check{g}_1 * f) - D(\check{g}_1) * f, g_2 \rangle \\ &= \langle \check{g}_1 * f * \mu - \mu * \check{g}_1 * f - \check{g}_1 * \mu * f + \mu * \check{g}_1 * f, g_2 \rangle \\ &= \langle f * \mu - \mu * f, g_1 * g_2 \rangle \,. \end{split}$$

Hence  $D(f) = f * \mu - \mu * f$ , since C(G) \* C(G) is dense in  $L^1(G)$ .

**5. Arens regularity of**  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$ . The second dual space  $A^{**}$  of a Banach algebra A can be equipped with two Banach algebra products, called first and second Arens products, each of which extends the original product of A as canonically embedded in  $A^{**}$ . The Banach algebra A is Arens regular if the two Arens products on  $A^{**}$  coincide ([6], [3]). A condition equivalent to Arens regularity of A due to J. S. Pym is that for every  $f \in A^*$ , the operator  $a \mapsto a \cdot f : A \to A^*$  is weakly compact [6]. Here  $a \cdot f \in A^*$  is defined by

$$\langle a \cdot f, b \rangle = \langle f, ba \rangle \quad (b \in A)$$

(see [6]).

THEOREM 5.1. Suppose that S(G) is a symmetric Segal subalgebra of  $L^1(G)$ . Then:

- (i) Arens regularity of S(G) is sufficient but not necessary for G to be compact.
- (ii) Let G be unimodular. Then LA(G) is Arens regular if and only if G is compact.

*Proof.* (i) We denote the norm on S(G) by  $\|\cdot\|_S$ . Take  $f \in UC(G)$ . Since for every  $g \in S(G)$ ,

$$|\langle f, g \rangle| = \left| \int_{G} f(x)g(x) \, dx \right| \le \|f\|_{\infty} \|g\|_{1} \le \|f\|_{\infty} \|g\|_{S},$$

we can view f as an element of  $S(G)^*$ , through integration. Let  $(e_i)$  be a bounded approximate identity for  $L^1(G)$  such that it is also an approximate identity for S(G). Fix  $e_i$ . For  $g \in L^1(G)$  we have  $||g * e_i||_S \leq ||g||_1 ||e_i||_S$  and so the set  $\{g * e_i : ||g||_1 \leq 1\}$  is bounded in S(G). Hence by our assumption on Arens regularity of S(G), the set  $\{(g * e_i) \cdot f : ||g||_1 \leq 1\}$  has weakly compact closure in  $S(G)^*$ . The operator  $T_i : f \mapsto f \cdot e_i$  from  $S(G)^*$  into  $L^1(G)^*$  is continuous, since for every  $g \in L^1(G)$ ,

$$|\langle f \cdot e_i, g \rangle| = |\langle f, e_i * g \rangle| \le ||f|| \, ||e_i * g||_S \le ||f|| \, ||e_i||_S \, ||g||_1$$

Hence the set  $\{(g * e_i) \cdot f \cdot e_i : ||g||_1 \leq 1\}$  has weakly compact closure in  $L^{\infty}(G)$ . This means that  $e_i \cdot f \cdot e_i$  is a weakly almost periodic function on G.

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We also have  $f = \lim_{i \to \infty} e_i \cdot f \cdot e_i$ , since  $UC(G) = L^1(G) * UC(G) * L^1(G)$ . Thus  $f \in WAP(G)$ . Hence WAP(G) = UC(G) and so G is compact [13].

To show that the converse is not true, we let G be an infinite compact group and we consider  $S(G) = L^1(G)$ , which is not Arens regular [25].

(ii) If G is unimodular,  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  is a symmetric Segal algebra. Hence the result follows from part (i) and [9, Theorem 6.2].

If G is a locally compact group, let  $UC(\widehat{G})$  denote the closed linear span of  $\{u \cdot T : u \in A(G) \text{ and } T \in VN(G)\}$ . When G is amenable, then  $UC(\widehat{G}) = A(G) \cdot VN(G)$  by Cohen's factorization theorem as shown by Granirer [13]. When G is abelian,  $UC(\widehat{G})$  is precisely the space of bounded uniformly continuous functions on the dual group  $\widehat{G}$ . Let  $WAP(\widehat{G})$  denote the set of all  $T \in VN(G)$  such that  $\{u \cdot T : u \in A(G), ||u|| \leq 1\}$  is relatively compact in the weak topology of VN(G). When G is abelian,  $WAP(\widehat{G})$  is the space of continuous weakly almost periodic functions on  $\widehat{G}$ .

THEOREM 5.2. Let G be a locally compact group. Then  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  with pointwise multiplication is Arens regular if and only if G is discrete.

*Proof.* The "if" part is proved in [9, Proposition 6.1]. For the converse, we will show that if  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  is Arens regular,  $\mathrm{UC}(\widehat{G}) = \mathrm{WAP}(\widehat{G})$ . Then Gmust be discrete by using [13] and [14]. Since  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  is norm dense in A(G), it suffices to show that if  $v \in \mathcal{L}A(G)$ ,  $T \in \mathrm{VN}(G)$ , then  $S = v \cdot T \in \mathrm{WAP}(\widehat{G})$ . We may view S as an element of  $\mathcal{L}A(G)^*$ .

Let  $||| \cdot |||$  denote the norm in  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$ . Then since

$$|||uv||| \le ||u|| \, |||v|||,$$

the set  $\{uv : ||u|| \leq 1, u \in A(G)\}$  is a norm bounded subset of  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$ . So  $\{u \cdot S : ||u|| \leq 1, u \in A(G)\}$  is relatively weakly compact in  $\mathcal{L}A(G)^*$  by Arens regularity of  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$ . Consider now the map  $\Pi : \mathcal{L}A(G)^* \to \mathrm{VN}(G)$ defined by  $\Pi(T) = v \cdot T$ . Then for  $u \in A(G)$ , we have

$$|\langle v \cdot T, u \rangle| = |\langle T, vu \rangle| \le ||T||_{\mathcal{L}A(G)^*} |||vu||| \le ||T||_{\mathcal{L}A(G)^*} |||v||| ||u||_{A(G)}$$

(since  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  is an ideal in A(G)). Hence  $\Pi$  is continuous and so the set  $\{\Pi(u \cdot S) : u \in A(G), \|u\| \leq 1\} = \{u \cdot (v \cdot T) : u \in A(G) : \|u\| \leq 1\}$  is relatively weakly compact in VN(G). Thus  $S \in WAP(\widehat{G})$  as required.

After the completion of our paper, Professor E. E. Granirer kindly sent us a preprint of his very interesting work [15] where a proof of the "only if" direction of our Theorem 5.2 is given. However his proof is for a much more general situation and it is in fact quite different from ours.

REMARK 5.3. When G is a compact group each of the Segal algebras (C(G), \*) and  $(L^{\infty}(G), *)$  is Arens regular. This is due to the fact that

every bounded operator from a  $C^*$ -algebra into its dual space is weakly compact [1].

6.  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  as an ideal in its second dual space. Suppose that A is a Banach algebra and the second dual space  $A^{**}$  of A is equipped with the first or the second Arens product. It is well known that A is an ideal in  $A^{**}$ if and only if, for every  $a \in A$ , the operators  $\varrho_a : b \mapsto ab$  and  $\lambda_a : b \mapsto ba$  are weakly compact [6].

PROPOSITION 6.1. Let S(G) be a symmetric Segal subalgebra of  $L^1(G)$ . Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) G is compact;
- (ii) for every  $f \in S(G)$ ,  $\lambda_f : g \mapsto f * g \ (g \in S(G))$  is compact;
- (iii) for every  $f \in S(G)$ ,  $\lambda_f : g \mapsto f * g \ (g \in S(G))$  is weakly compact;
- (iv) for some non-zero  $f \in S(G)$ ,  $\lambda_f : g \mapsto f * g \ (g \in S(G))$  is compact;
- (v) for some non-zero  $f \in S(G)$ ,  $\lambda_f : g \mapsto f * g \ (g \in S(G))$  is weakly compact.

*Proof.* (i) $\Rightarrow$ (ii). Let G be compact. It is known ([2]) that for every  $f \in L^1(G)$ ,  $\lambda : g \mapsto f * g$  is a compact operator on  $L^1(G)$ . Now let  $f \in S(G)$ . Then f = g \* h for some  $h \in L^1(G)$  and  $g \in S(G)$ . Let  $(k_n)$  be a bounded sequence in S(G). Then  $(k_n)$  is bounded in  $L^1(G)$ . Hence for a subsequence  $(k_{n_i})$  of  $(k_n)$ , the sequence  $(h * k_{n_i})$  converges in  $L^1(G)$ , and so  $(g * h * k_{n_i})$  converges in S(G).

The implications (ii) $\Rightarrow$ (iii) and (iii) $\Rightarrow$ (iv) $\Rightarrow$ (v) are clear.

 $(\mathbf{v})\Rightarrow(\mathbf{i})$ . Let  $f \in S(G)$ ,  $f \neq 0$ , and suppose that  $\lambda_f : g \mapsto f * g$  is a weakly compact operator on S(G). Let  $(k_n)$  be a bounded sequence in  $L^1(G)$ . Let  $h \in S(G)$  be such that  $f * h \neq 0$  (such h exists since S(G) contains a bounded approximate identity of  $L^1(G)$ ). Then  $(h * k_n)$  is a bounded sequence in S(G) and so by weak compactness of  $\lambda_f$ , there is a subsequence  $(h * k_{n_i})$  of  $(h * k_n)$  such that  $(f * h * k_{n_i})$  converges weakly in S(G). Choose  $m \in L^1(G)$  with  $m * f * h \neq 0$ . Then the sequence  $m * f * h * k_{n_i}$  converges weakly in  $L^1(G)$ . This shows that for the non-zero element p = m \* f \* h of  $L^1(G), \lambda_p : L^1(G) \to L^1(G)$  is weakly compact, and this in turn forces G to be compact [2].

COROLLARY 6.2. Let G be a unimodular group. Then the algebra  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  is an ideal in its second dual if and only if G is compact.

*Proof.* When G is unimodular,  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  is a symmetric Segal subalgebra of  $L^1(G)$ .

We now let  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  have a pointwise product and determine when it is an ideal in its second dual. First we need the following: We recall that a scalar-valued function f on G is *positive-definite* if for any finite number of complex numbers  $c_1, \ldots, c_n$  and elements  $x_1, \ldots, x_n$  of G we have  $\sum_{i,j} c_i \overline{c}_j f(x_i x_j^{-1}) \ge 0$ . The Fourier–Stieltjes algebra B(G) of Gis the linear span of all continuous positive-definite functions on G, with the pointwise multiplication [7]. Let

$$P_1(G) = \{ \varphi \in B(G) : \varphi(e) = 1 = \|\varphi\|_{B(G)} \}.$$

That is,  $P_1(G)$  consists of all positive-definite functions  $\varphi$  on G with  $\varphi(e) = 1$ . For every  $f \in \mathcal{L}A(G)$  we let

$$K_f := \{ vf : v \in P_1(G) \cap A(G) \}.$$

We note that  $K_f \subset \mathcal{L}A(G)$ , since  $\|vf\|_{A(G)} = \|f\|_{A(G)}$  and  $\|vf\|_1 \le \|f\|_1$ .

LEMMA 6.3. Suppose that  $f \in \mathcal{L}A(G)$ , f is positive-definite and f(e) = 1(||f|| = 1). If  $K_f$  is relatively weakly compact in  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$ , then G is discrete.

Proof. Since the inclusion map  $\iota : \mathcal{L}A(G) \to A(G)$  is continuous, it follows that  $K_f$  is a relatively weakly compact subset of A(G). Now  $K_f$  is convex and so  $\overline{K}_f$  is a weakly compact convex subset of A(G) contained in  $P_1(G) \cap A(G)$ . For every  $v \in P_1(G)$ , let  $T_v$  be a mapping on  $\overline{K}_f$  defined by  $T_v(w) = vw$  ( $w \in \overline{K}_f$ ), and let  $S = \{T_v : v \in P_1(G)\}$ . Then S is a commuting family of continuous affine mappings on  $\overline{K}_f$ . So by the Markov– Kakutani fixed point theorem there is  $w_0 \in \overline{K}_f$  such that  $vw_0 = w_0$  for every  $v \in P_1(G)$ . Hence  $w_0$  is a topological invariant mean on VN(G) and  $w_0 \in A(G)$ . Then by a result of [24], G must be discrete.

THEOREM 6.4. Let G be a locally compact group and suppose that  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  is equipped with the pointwise product. Then  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  is an ideal in  $\mathcal{L}A(G)^{**}$  if and only if G is discrete.

*Proof.* If G is discrete, then  $\mathcal{L}A(G) = \ell^1(G)$  with pointwise product and this is a compact algebra. For the converse, suppose that  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  is an ideal in  $\mathcal{L}A(G)^{**}$ . Then for every  $f \in \mathcal{L}A(G)$  the set  $Q_f = \{wf : ||w|| \leq 1, w \in \mathcal{L}A(G)\}$  is relatively compact in the weak topology of  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$ . Now,  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$  contains all the functions in A(G) with compact support.

Take  $h \in C_{c}(G)$  with  $||h||_{2} = 1$ , and set  $f(x) = \langle \varrho(x)h, h \rangle$   $(x \in G)$ . Then  $f \in A(G) \cap C_{c}(G)$ , f is positive-definite, f(e) = 1, and  $Q_{f}$  is relatively weakly compact in  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$ . Now, for  $K_{f}$  as defined before Lemma 6.3 we have

$$K_{f^2} = \{ vf^2 : v \in P_1(G) \cap A(G) \} = \{ (vf)f : v \in P_1(G) \cap A(G) \}.$$

For vf as above we have

$$||vf||_{A(G)} = (vf)(e) = f(e) = ||f||_{A(G)},$$

and

$$||vf||_1 = \int_G |v(t)|f(t) dt \le ||f||_1.$$

Therefore  $K_{f^2} \subseteq (\|f\|_{A(G)} + \|f\|_1)Q_f$ . Hence  $K_{f^2}$  is relatively weakly compact in  $\mathcal{L}A(G)$ , and so G is discrete by Lemma 6.3.

REMARK 6.5. The proof of Lemma 6.3 shows that if there exists an  $f \in A(G), f \ge 0$  and positive-definite, with f(e) = 1, such that  $g \mapsto f \cdot g$  is a weakly compact operator from A(G) into A(G), then G is discrete.

OPEN QUESTIONS. 1. Is Theorem 1.1 true without G being a SIN group?

- 2. Is every symmetric Segal algebra on an amenable group approximately amenable?
- 3. Suppose that there exists an  $f \in A(G)$ ,  $f \neq 0$ , such that  $g \mapsto fg$  is a weakly compact operator from A(G) into A(G). Is G discrete?

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Received October 13, 2004 Revised version January 21, 2005 (5515)