

## ON BANACH LATTICE ALGEBRAS

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**ABSTRACT.** *In this paper we investigate a characterization of a Banach lattice algebra with unit to be represented as an AM- $f$ -algebra. We also consider, for a locally compact Hausdorff topological space  $L$  and a Banach lattice space  $A$ , the identification of  $C_b(L, Z(A))$  with the center  $Z(C_0(L, A))$  of  $C_0(L, A)$ .*

**Keywords:** Lattice Ordered Algebra;  $\ell$ -algebra; Riesz Algebra;  $f$ -algebra; Banach Lattice Algebra; Banach  $f$ -algebra; AM-space.

**1. Introduction.** The main result of this paper is the representation of a Banach lattice algebra with unit as an algebra of continuous functions on a compact Hausdorff topological space  $K$ , with the usual partial ordering, pointwise multiplication  $\cdot$ , and the supremum norm; that is,  $(A, *) \cong (C(K), \cdot)$ , where  $*$  :  $A \times A \rightarrow A$  is the algebraic multiplicative operator in a Banach lattice algebra  $A$ . The results in this direction were given by Martignon in [15]. In this paper we improve her results and prove that, under certain conditions,  $(A, *)$  and  $(C(K), \cdot)$  are isometrically and algebraically  $\ell$ -isomorphic as AM- $f$ -algebras. We also attempt to clarify some results in the same direction due to Ercan and Wickstead [7]. In particular, we prove that, if  $A$  is a Banach lattice space and  $L$  a locally compact Hausdorff space, the center of the  $\ell$ -space  $C_0(L, A)$  of all continuous  $A$ -valued functions on  $L$  is isometrically isomorphic to the space  $C_b(L, Z(A))$  of all norm bounded  $Z(A)$ -valued functions on  $L$ , where  $Z(A)$  is the center of  $A$  endowed with the strong operator topology.

### 2. Preliminaries.

**Definition 2.1.** A real lattice ordered linear space ( $\ell$ -space)  $A$  is said to be a *lattice ordered algebra* (an  $\ell$ -algebra or a *Riesz algebra*) if it is a linear algebra (not necessarily associative) such that if  $a, b \in A^+$ , then  $ab \in A^+$ . An  $\ell$ -algebra  $A$  is said to be

(i) an  *$f$ -algebra* (*function algebra*) if  $a \wedge b = 0$  implies  $ac \wedge b = ca \wedge b = 0$  for all  $c \in A^+$ , (although the following classes of  $\ell$ -algebras are not explicitly used, we include their definitions for the sake of completeness)

(ii) an *almost  $f$ -algebra* if  $a \wedge b = 0$  implies  $ab = 0$ ,

(iii) a  $d$ -algebra if  $c(a \vee b) = ca \vee cb$  and  $(a \vee b)c = ac \vee bc$  for all  $a, b \in A$  and  $c \in A^+$ .

The notion of an  $f$ -algebra, as given in the above definition, first appeared in a paper by Birkhoff and Pierce [5] in 1956 to be followed a decade later by the class of almost  $f$ -algebras introduced by Birkhoff in [4]. The notion of a  $d$ -algebra was introduced by Kudláček [13] in 1962. In general, these classes of algebras are distinct, but there are relations between them; for example, it is clear that every  $f$ -algebra is an almost  $f$ -algebra and a  $d$ -algebra. Every Archimedean (that is, for all  $a, b \in A^+$  and  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $na \leq b$  implies  $a = 0$ )  $f$ -algebra is commutative and associative. It turns out that every Archimedean almost  $f$ -algebra is commutative but not necessarily associative. In any semi-prime associative  $\ell$ -algebra the classes of  $f$ -algebras, almost  $f$ -algebras and  $d$ -algebras are equivalent. In particular, this holds for an associative  $\ell$ -algebra with (algebraic) unit element  $e > 0$ . We refer the reader to [3] for details of these results as given by Bernau and Huijmans.

For the elementary theory of  $\ell$ -space and terminology not explained here we refer to [2, 14, 16, 20].

Let  $E$  and  $F$  be  $\ell$ -spaces. A linear operator  $T : E \rightarrow F$  is said to be *order bounded* if the image under  $T$  of an order bounded set in  $E$  is again an order bounded set in  $F$ . The operator  $T$  is called *positive*  $T(E^+) \subset F^+$ . A linear operator  $T : E \rightarrow F$  is called an  $\ell$ -homomorphism (or a *Riesz homomorphism*) whenever  $a \wedge b = 0$  in  $E$  implies  $Ta \wedge Tb = 0$ . Clearly, every  $\ell$ -homomorphism is positive. An order bounded linear operator  $\pi : E \rightarrow E$  is called an *orthomorphism* if and only if, for all  $a, b \in E$ ,  $a \perp b$  implies  $\pi a \perp b$ . The collection of all orthomorphisms on  $E$  is denoted by  $Orth(E)$ . Obviously every positive orthomorphism is an  $\ell$ -homomorphism. It is well-known that the ordered vector space  $\mathcal{L}_b(E, F)$  of all order bounded linear mappings of an  $\ell$ -space  $E$  into a Dedekind complete  $\ell$ -space  $F$  is a Dedekind complete  $\ell$ -space (see, for example, [2, Theorem 1.13]). In the case that  $E = F$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_b(E, F)$  is denoted by  $\mathcal{L}_b(E)$ . It is also well-known that, if  $E$  is an (Archimedean)  $\ell$ -space, then  $Orth(E)$  is an (Archimedean)  $f$ -algebra under multiplication by composition, possessing the identity operator  $I$  on  $E$  as a multiplicative identity (see [2]), and we recall that  $Orth(E)$  is an  $f$ -subalgebra of  $\mathcal{L}_b(E)$ .

The notion of an orthomorphism is related to that of a multiplier. An order bounded operator  $T : E \rightarrow E$  is said to be a *multiplier* on an  $\ell$ -algebra  $E$  if  $T(ab) = (Ta)b = a(Tb)$  for all  $a, b \in E$ . The algebra of all multipliers on  $E$  is denoted by  $M(E)$ . If  $E$  is an Archimedean  $f$ -algebra, then every orthomorphism  $\pi : E \rightarrow E$  is a multiplier; that is  $Orth(E) \subseteq M(E)$ . Indeed, for each  $a \in E$ , the operator  $\pi_a$  defined by  $\pi_a(b) = ab$  ( $b \in E$ ) is an orthomorphism, and so,

$$\pi(ab) = \pi(\pi_a b) = (\pi \pi_a)b = (\pi_a \pi)b = a\pi b.$$

If  $E$  is an Archimedean semi-prime  $f$ -algebra, then  $Orth(E) = M(E)$  [18].

**Definition 2.2.** Let  $A$  be an  $\ell$ -space. The solid subspace generated by the identity operator  $I$  in  $\mathcal{L}_b(A)$  is said to be the *center* of  $A$  and is denoted by  $Z(A)$ ; that is,

$$Z(A) = \{T \in \mathcal{L}_b(A) : |T| \leq nI \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

The center  $Z(A)$  of an  $\ell$ -space  $A$  is an  $\ell$ -subalgebra of  $Orth(A)$ . To see this, we first note that  $Z(A)$  is itself an  $\ell$ -space since  $Z(A)$  is a solid subspace. Moreover,

it can easily be seen that  $0 \leq ST \in Z(A)$  for all  $0 \leq S, T \in Z(A)$ ; that is,  $Z(A)$  is itself an  $\ell$ -algebra. So it is sufficient to show that  $a \perp b$  in  $A$  implies that  $Ta \perp b$  in  $A$  for all  $T \in Z(A)$ . Observe that  $|Ta| \leq |T||a|$  for all  $T \in \mathcal{L}_b(A)$  and  $a \in A$ . Hence, for  $T \in Z(A)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |Ta| \wedge |b| &\leq |T||a| \leq nI|a| \wedge |b| \quad (\text{some } n \in IN) \\ &= n|a| \wedge |b| \leq n(|a| \wedge |b|) \quad (\text{all } n \in IN) \\ &= 0; \end{aligned}$$

that is,  $Ta \perp b$ . It is also obvious that  $T$  is order bounded, from which follows that  $T \in Orth(A)$ . Moreover, we see that, for all  $T \in Orth(A)$  and  $a \in A^+$ ,  $|Ta| = |T|a \leq nIa = na$  for some  $n \in IN$  (note that  $|Ta| = |T||a|$  for all  $T \in Orth(A)$  and  $a \in A$ ; see, for instance, [2, Thoerem 8.6]). Therefore the above definition may be refined as follows,

$$Z(A) = \{T \in Orth(A) : |Ta| \leq na \text{ for some } n \in IN \text{ and all } a \in A^+\}.$$

Now it is obvious that  $Z(A)$  of an Archimedean  $\ell$ -space  $A$  is an Archimedean  $f$ -subalgebra of  $Orth(A)$ , and so is necessarily commutative and associative.

A norm  $\|\cdot\|$  on an  $\ell$ -space  $A$  is said to be a *lattice norm* ( $\ell$ -norm) if  $|a| \leq |b|$  in  $A$  implies  $\|a\| \leq \|b\|$ , and the pair  $(A, \|\cdot\|)$  is called a *normed lattice space* (*normed  $\ell$ -space*). If a normed  $\ell$ -space  $(A, \|\cdot\|)$  is norm complete, then  $(A, \|\cdot\|)$  is referred to as a *Banach lattice space* (*Banach  $\ell$ -space*). A Banach  $\ell$ -space  $(A, \|\cdot\|)$  is said to be an *AM-space* (*abstract M-space*) if  $\|a \vee b\| = \|a\| \vee \|b\|$  holds for all  $a, b \in A^+$ .

We recall that every normed  $\ell$ -space is Archimedean and an orthomorphism  $\pi$  on a normed  $\ell$ -space  $A$  is norm bounded (i.e.  $\|\pi a\| \leq \|\pi\| \|a\|$  for all  $a \in A$ ) if and only if there exists a positive real number  $\lambda$  such that  $|\pi| \leq \lambda I$ ; that is,  $\pi \in Orth(A)$  is norm bounded if and only if  $\pi \in Z(A)$  (for details see [19, §144]). Note that this statement indicates that  $Z(A)$  consists precisely of all norm bounded orthomorphisms on  $A$ . Moreover, the operator norm  $\|\cdot\|$  on  $Z(A)$  is an  $\ell$ -norm and coincides with the Minkowski functional of  $[-I, I]$

$$\|T\|_\infty = \inf\{\lambda > 0 : |T| \leq \lambda I\}$$

for all  $T \in Z(A)$ ; more explicitly,  $\|T\| = \|T\|_\infty$  for all  $T \in Z(A)$ .

In the special case when  $A$  is a Banach  $\ell$ -space every orthomorphism on  $A$  is norm bounded; that is,  $Orth(A) = Z(A)$  ([17, Corollary 4.2]). The Banach  $\ell$ -space  $(Orth(A), \|\cdot\|)$  is indeed a Banach  $\ell$ -algebra since the operator norm  $\|\cdot\|$  on  $\mathcal{L}_b(A)$  is an algebra norm, and it is an  $\ell$ -norm as  $\|T\| = \|T\|_\infty$ . Wickstead proved in [17] that, if  $A$  is a Banach  $\ell$ -space, then  $Orth(A)$  is an *AM-space* with the identity operator  $I$ ; in fact,  $Orth(A)$  is a Banach  $f$ -algebra since  $Orth(A)$  is an  $f$ -algebra itself.

Next we define a concept of an *AM- $f$ -algebra*.

**Definition 2.3.** A Banach  $f$ -algebra  $(A, \|\cdot\|)$  with the property  $\|a \vee b\| = \|a\| \vee \|b\|$  for all  $a, b \in A^+$  is called an *AM- $f$ -algebra*; in other words, an *AM-space* which is also an  $f$ -algebra is called an *AM- $f$ -algebra*.

The space  $C_b(X)$  of continuous bounded functions on a topological space  $X$ , and its closed  $\ell$ -subspaces, with the usual partial ordering, multiplication (pointwise) and the operator norm, are examples of *AM- $f$ -algebras*.

We summarize our results in the following.

**Theorem 2.4.** *If  $A$  is a Banach  $\ell$ -space, then*

$$Z(A) = Orth(A) = \{\pi \in \mathcal{L}_b(A) : |\pi| \leq \lambda I \text{ for some } \lambda > 0\},$$

and  $\|\pi\| = \inf\{\lambda > 0 : |\pi| \leq \lambda I\}$  holds for all  $\pi \in Z(A)$ . In particular,  $Z(A)$  under this norm is an  $AM$ - $f$ -algebra with the identity operator  $I$  as its multiplicative identity.

A positive element  $u$  in a normed  $\ell$ -space  $A$  is called a *norm order unit* if and only if  $\|u\| = 1$  and, for any  $a \in A^+$ , with  $\|a\| \leq 1$ ,  $a \leq u$ . A positive element  $u$  in an  $\ell$ -space  $A$  is said to be an *order unit* if and only if, for every  $a \in A$ , there exists a positive integer  $n$  depending upon  $a$  such that  $|a| \leq nu$  (or, equivalently, if and only if the solid subspace  $S_u$  generated by  $u$  is equal to  $A$ ). Clearly, in a normed  $\ell$ -space every norm order unit is an order unit, and in an  $\ell$ -space every order unit is a weak order unit (A positive element  $u$  in an  $\ell$ -space  $A$  is said to be a *weak order unit* if  $a \wedge u = 0$  implies  $a = 0$ ). Indeed, let  $a \wedge u = 0$ . Then  $0 \leq a \wedge nu \leq n(a \wedge u) = 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ; that is,  $a \wedge nu = 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . If  $u$  is an order unit, then  $0 \leq a \leq nu$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and so  $a = a \wedge nu = 0$ , as required.

Every weak order unit need not be an order unit. For example, the  $\ell$ -space  $C([0, \infty))$  has the weak order unit  $u(x) = 1$  ( $0 \leq x < \infty$ ). However,  $C([0, \infty))$  has no order unit; for, if  $0 \leq f(x) = (u(x) + nx)^2$  in  $C([0, \infty))$ , then there exists no  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $u(x) \geq 0$  such that  $f(x) \leq nu(x)$  for all  $0 \leq x < \infty$ .

In general, if  $A$  is a normed  $\ell$ -space with a norm order unit  $u$ , then  $a \in A$  and  $\|a\| \leq 1$  imply that  $|a| \leq u$ ; for,

$$\|a^+ + a^-\| = \| |a| \| = \|a\| \leq 1,$$

and so  $a^+ + a^- \leq u$  since  $a^+ + a^- \in A^+$ ; that is,  $|a| \leq u$ .

**Remark 2.5.** We note that the identity operator  $I$  on a normed  $\ell$ -space  $A$  is a norm order unit in  $Z(A)$  (and hence in  $Orth(A)$ ), which is also a multiplicative identity. In fact, in general if  $A$  is a normed  $\ell$ -algebra with multiplicative modulus and a multiplicative identity  $e \geq 0$ , then  $e$  is the norm order unit of  $A$  by 2.1. Lemma of [15].

**3. A Representation Theorem for an  $AM$ - $f$ -algebra.** In this section we discuss necessary and sufficient conditions for a Banach  $\ell$ -algebra  $(A, *)$  with unit to be represented as an algebra  $(C(K), \cdot)$  of continuous real-valued functions on a compact Hausdorff topological space  $K$ , with the usual partial ordering, pointwise multiplication  $\cdot$ , and the supremum norm. Investigations in this direction have been carried out by Martignon [15]. Here we improve her results and prove that, under certain conditions,  $(A, *)$  and  $(C(K), \cdot)$  are isometrically and algebraically  $\ell$ -isomorphic as  $AM$ - $f$ -algebras.

It is well known that if  $A$  is an Archimedean  $\ell$ -algebra with a multiplicative unit  $e > 0$  which is an order unit (even a weak unit), then it is an  $f$ -algebra ([3, Corollary 1.10.]). Moreover, if  $A$  is equipped with two  $f$ -algebra multiplications with the same multiplicative unit, then these multiplications coincide on  $A$ . More precisely, if  $A$  is an Archimedean  $\ell$ -space and  $e > 0$  in  $A$ , then there exists at most one product on  $A$

that makes  $A$  an  $f$ -algebra having  $e$  as its multiplicative unit ([2, Theorem 8.23.]). Now combining these facts we obtain the following result, due to Martignon [15, 1.4. Proposition].

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $K$  be a compact Hausdorff topological space and suppose that  $(C(K), *)$  is an  $\ell$ -algebra such that  $\mathbf{1}(x) = 1$  for all  $x \in K$ . Furthermore, if  $\mathbf{1}$  is the multiplicative identity of  $(C(K), *)$ , then  $(C(K), *) = (C(K), \cdot)$ ; in other words,  $*$  is the pointwise multiplication  $\cdot$ .*

Suppose that  $A$  is a Banach  $\ell$ -space with an order unit  $u$ . Then, by the definition of an order unit,  $S_u = A$  holds, and so it follows from Theorem 12.20 of [2] that  $A$ , endowed with the norm

$$\|a\|_\infty = \inf\{\lambda > 0 : |a| \leq \lambda u\},$$

is an  $AM$ -space having the order interval  $[-u, u]$  as its closed unit ball. Moreover,  $\|a\|_\infty$  is equivalent to the original norm on  $A$  since all  $\ell$ -norms making an  $\ell$ -space a Banach  $\ell$ -space are equivalent (see [2, Corollary 12.4]). Summarizing these results, we have

**Theorem 3.2.** *If a Banach  $\ell$ -space  $A$  has an order unit  $u$ , then  $A$  can be renormed such that  $A$  becomes an  $AM$ -space having  $[-u, u]$  as its closed unit ball. In particular, the order unit  $u$  is a norm order unit.*

As observed before, every norm order unit in a normed  $\ell$ -space is an order unit. Thus, the preceding theorem yields the following characterization.

**Corollary 3.3.** *If  $u$  is a positive element in a Banach  $\ell$ -space, then  $u$  is an order unit if and only if it is a norm order unit.*

In the sequel, unless otherwise stated, we shall mean by the phrase “ $AM$ -space with unit” a Banach  $\ell$ -space with an order unit, whose norm is the  $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ -norm.

The following is an extension of Kakutani’s Representation Theorem to  $AM$ -algebras with unit. We first note that Kakutani’s Representation Theorem deals with  $AM$ -spaces with unit. This result is due to Kakutani [9, Theorems 2 and 21], and was later extended by M. Krein and S. Krein [10, 11]. We also note that an injective  $\ell$ -homomorphism  $T$  from an  $\ell$ -space  $A$  into an  $\ell$ -space  $B$  is referred to as an  $\ell$ -isomorphism, and that  $A$  and  $B$  are said to be  $\ell$ -isomorphic if  $T$  is also surjective.

**Theorem 3.4.** *A Banach  $\ell$ -algebra  $(A, *)$  with unit  $u$  is an  $AM$ -algebra if and only if  $(A, *)$  is isometrically and algebraically  $\ell$ -isomorphic to  $(C(K), \cdot)$  for some (unique up to homeomorphism) compact Hausdorff topological space  $K$ .  $K$  can be chosen to be the set of all algebraic  $\ell$ -functionals  $f$  from  $A$  into  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $f(u) = 1$ , endowed with the weak\* topology  $\sigma(A', A)$ .*

*In general, a Banach  $\ell$ -algebra  $(A, *)$  is an  $AM$ -algebra if and only if  $(A, *)$  is isometrically and algebraically  $\ell$ -isomorphic to a closed  $\ell$ -subalgebra of a  $(C(K), \cdot)$  algebra.*

**Proof.** A complete proof of the theorem can be found in [2, Theorem 12.28]. We give here a sketch of the proof. Suppose that  $A = C(K)$  for a compact Hausdorff topological space  $K$ . Clearly,  $A$  is an  $AM$ -algebra with unit the constant function

1. We now discuss the description of  $K$  in connection with the algebraic lattice structure of  $A$ . Set

$$L = \{f \in (U')^+ : f \text{ is an extreme point of } (U')^+ \text{ with } f(u) = \|f\| = 1\}$$

and

$$K = \{g \in (U')^+ : g \text{ is an algebraic } \ell\text{-functional with } g(u) = \|g\| = 1\},$$

where  $U' = \{h \in A' : \|h\| \leq 1\}$ , the closed unit ball of  $A'$ . Now since  $U'$  is  $\sigma(A', A)$ -compact by Alaoglu's Theorem (see, for example, [6, §3 of Chapter V]), and so  $L$  being  $\sigma(A', A)$ -closed in  $U'$  is also  $\sigma(A', A)$ -compact. Since  $A$  is an  $AM$ -space, it follows from Theorem 12.27 of [2] that  $K \subseteq L$ . Therefore  $K$  is  $\sigma(A', A)$ -compact and Hausdorff.

On the other hand, suppose that  $A$  is an  $AM$ -algebra with unit  $u$  and define the mapping  $T : A \rightarrow C(K)$  by  $Ta(g) = g(a)$  for all  $a \in A$  and  $g \in K$ . It follows from the Krein-Milman theorem (see [12] or [2, Theorem 9.14]) that  $T$  is a norm preserving  $\ell$ -isomorphism. The fact that every element  $g \in K$  is an algebraic homomorphism implies that  $T$  is also an algebraic homomorphism. Indeed,

$$T(a * b)(g) = g(a * b) = g(a)g(b) = (Ta(g))(Tb(g)) = (Ta \cdot Tb)(g)$$

holds for all  $g \in K$ , and so  $T(a * b) = Ta \cdot Tb$  for all  $a, b \in A$ . Moreover, the algebraic  $\ell$ -isomorphism  $T$  maps the unit element  $u$  of  $A$  onto the multiplicative identity  $1$  of  $C(K)$  (the constant function  $1$  on  $K$ ); for,  $(Tu)(g) = g(u) = 1$  for all  $g \in K$ , and so  $Tu = 1$ . Furthermore,  $T(A)$  separates the points of  $K$ . It follows from Stone-Weierstrass theorem (see [1, Theorem 8.3]) that  $T(A)$  is (norm) dense in  $C(K)$ , and so  $T(A) = \overline{T(A)} = C(K)$  since  $T(A)$  is closed. This shows that  $T$  is surjective, as required.

**Theorem 3.5.** *If  $A$  is a Banach  $\ell$ -space, then there exists a compact Hausdorff topological space  $K$  such that  $(Z(A), \circ)$  and  $(C(K), \cdot)$  are isometrically and algebraically  $\ell$ -isomorphic as  $AM$ - $f$ -algebras.*

**Proof.** By Theorem 2.4,  $Z(A)$  is an  $AM$ - $f$ -algebra with unit, the multiplicative identity  $I$ . Hence, by Theorem 3.4, there exists a compact Hausdorff topological space  $K$  such that  $Z(A)$  and  $C(K)$  are isometrically  $\ell$ -isomorphic. As observed in the proof of Theorem 3.4, the  $\ell$ -isomorphism maps the multiplicative identity  $I$  of  $Z(A)$  onto the multiplicative identity  $1$  of  $C(K)$ . It follows from Corollary 5.5 of [8] that this  $\ell$ -isomorphism is also algebraic. Therefore, we have  $(Z(A), \circ) \cong (C(K), \cdot)$ , as required.

**Definition 3.6.** An algebra  $A$  is called *faithful* if, for each  $a \in A$ ,  $Aa = aA = \{0\}$  implies that  $a = 0$ .

Before presenting the main result of this section, we recall that  $Z(A) \subseteq Orth(A) \subseteq M(A)$  holds for every Archimedean  $f$ -algebra  $A$  and, in the case that  $A$  is a Banach  $\ell$ -space,  $Z(A) = Orth(A) \subseteq M(A)$ .

**Theorem 3.7.** *If  $(A, *)$  is a faithful Banach algebra, then the following are equivalent.*

- (1)  $(A, *)$  is an  $AM$ - $f$ -algebra.

(2) The representation of  $(A, *)$  into  $M(A)$  is a contractive algebraic  $\ell$ -isomorphism of  $(A, *)$  into  $(Z(A), \circ)$ .

(3)  $(A, *)$  can be identified with a closed  $\ell$ -subalgebra of  $(C(K), \cdot)$  for some compact Hausdorff topological space  $K$ .

**Proof.** (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) Suppose that  $(A, *)$  is an  $AM$ - $f$ -algebra and Define the representation  $R : (A, *) \rightarrow (Z(A), \circ) \subseteq M(E)$  by  $R(a) = \pi_a$ , where  $\pi_a b = a * b$ ,  $b \in A$ . For each  $a \in A$ , the equation  $\pi_a b = a * b$  defines a bounded linear operator on  $A$ ; for,

$$\|\pi_a b\| = \|a * b\| \leq \|a\| \|b\|.$$

Moreover, since  $A$  is an  $f$ -algebra, if  $a \perp b$  in  $A$ , then  $a * c \perp b$  for all  $c \in A$ ; that is,  $\pi_a c \perp b$ . This shows that  $\pi_a \in Z(A)$  for all  $a \in A$ , as  $A$  is a Banach  $\ell$ -space. In other words, we have  $R(A) \subseteq Z(A)$ .

Suppose that  $a, b \in A$ . Then

$$\pi_{a \vee b} c = (a \vee b) * c = a * c \vee b * c = \pi_a c \vee \pi_b c$$

for all  $c \in A^+$ , which shows that  $R(a \vee b) = Ra \vee Rb$ ; that is,  $R$  is an  $\ell$ -homomorphism. Moreover,  $R$  is an algebra homomorphism; for, by the associativity of  $A$ ,

$$\pi_{a * b} c = (a * b) * c = a * (b * c) = a * (\pi_b c) = \pi_a(\pi_b c) = (\pi_a \circ \pi_b) c$$

for all  $c \in A$ . Thus  $R(a * b) = Ra \circ Rb$ .

Since  $A$  is faithful, if  $Ra = 0$  for all  $a \in A$ , then  $\pi_a b = a * b = 0$  for all  $b \in A$ , which implies that  $a = 0$ . Hence  $R$  is injective. This proves that  $R$  is an algebraic  $\ell$ -isomorphism.

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (3) By Proposition 3.5,  $(Z(A), \circ) \cong (C(K), \cdot)$  for some compact Hausdorff topological space  $K$ . Hence, since  $A$  is an arbitrary Banach  $\ell$ -algebra,  $(A, *)$  is isometrically and algebraically  $\ell$ -isomorphic to a closed  $\ell$ -subalgebra of a  $(C(K), \cdot)$  algebra by Theorem 3.4.

(3) $\Rightarrow$ (1) Suppose that  $D$  is a closed  $\ell$ -subalgebra of  $(C(K), \cdot)$ . On the other hand,  $(A, *) = (D, \cdot)$  by the hypothesis, from which the result follows.

**4. The identification of  $C_b(L, Z(A))$ .** We consider the center  $Z(C_0(L, A))$  of the space  $C_0(L, A)$  of all continuous mappings from  $L$  into  $A$  vanishing at infinity, where  $(L, \xi)$  is a locally compact Hausdorff topological space and  $A$  is a Banach  $\ell$ -space. The pair  $(C_0(L, A), \cdot)$  is a Banach  $\ell$ -space with respect to the natural partial ordering and the supremum norm. Moreover, it is a Banach  $f$ -algebra whenever  $A$  is so. Suppose that  $\mathcal{L}_b(A)$  is endowed with the strong operator topology  $\tau$ , and that  $C_b(L, \mathcal{L}_b(A))$  denotes the space of all norm bounded continuous mappings from  $(L, \xi)$  into  $(\mathcal{L}_b(A), \tau)$ . It has been proved in [7, Theorem 6.2] that  $C_b(L, \mathcal{L}_b(A))$  can be identified with a subalgebra of  $\mathcal{L}_b(C_0(L, A))$ . Moreover, this identification is an isometric algebraic  $\ell$ -isomorphism. The following result shows that  $C_b(L, Z(A))$  can be identified with the center  $Z(C_0(L, A))$  of  $C_0(L, A)$ .

We consider the center  $Z(C_0(L, A))$  of the space  $C_0(L, A)$  of all continuous mappings from  $L$  into  $A$  vanishing at infinity, where  $(L, \xi)$  is a locally compact Hausdorff topological space and  $A$  is a Banach  $\ell$ -space. The pair  $(C_0(L, A), \cdot)$  is a Banach  $\ell$ -space with respect to the natural partial ordering and the supremum norm. Moreover, it is a Banach  $f$ -algebra whenever  $A$  is so. Suppose that  $\mathcal{L}_b(A)$  is endowed

with the strong operator topology  $\tau$ , and that  $C_b(L, \mathcal{L}_b(A))$  denotes the space of all norm bounded continuous mappings from  $(L, \xi)$  into  $(\mathcal{L}_b(A), \tau)$ . Ercan and Wickstead have proved in [7, Theorem 6.2] that  $C_b(L, \mathcal{L}_b(A))$  can be identified with a subalgebra of  $\mathcal{L}_b(C_0(L, A))$ . Moreover, this identification is an isometric algebraic  $\ell$ -isomorphism. The following result shows that  $C_b(L, Z(A))$  can be identified with the center  $Z(C_0(L, A))$  of  $C_0(L, A)$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $L$  and  $A$  be as above, and suppose that  $\mathcal{L}_b(A)$  is endowed with the strong operator topology. Then  $C_b(L, Z(A))$  and  $Z(C_0(L, A))$  are isometrically and algebraically  $\ell$ -isomorphic as  $AM$ - $f$ -algebras.*

**Proof.** We consider the mapping  $T : C_b(L, Z(A)) \rightarrow Z(C_0(L, A))$  defined by  $T(\phi) = \pi_\phi$  for each  $\phi \in C_b(L, Z(A))$ , where  $\pi_\phi f(x) = \phi(x)(f(x))$  for all  $f \in C_0(L, A)$  and  $x \in L$ .

If  $\phi \in C_b(L, Z(A))$ , then, for each  $0 \leq f \in C_0(L, A)$ ,

$$\|\pi_\phi f\| = \sup_{x \in L} \|\phi(x)(f(x))\| \leq \|\phi\| \|f\|,$$

where  $\|\phi\| = \sup_{x \in L} \|\phi(x)\|$ , which implies that  $\|\pi_\phi\| \leq \|\phi\|$ . Hence  $T$  is bounded. Moreover, if  $f \wedge g = 0$  in  $C_0(L, A)$ , then it follows immediately that  $\pi_\phi f \wedge g = 0$  in  $C_0(L, A)$ . This shows that  $\pi_\phi \in Z(C_0(L, A))$  for each  $\phi \in C_b(L, Z(A))$ .

It is routine to show that  $T$  is an algebraic  $\ell$ -isomorphism. We show only that  $T$  is surjective. Suppose that  $\Phi \in Z(C_0(L, A))$ . For  $x \in L$  and  $f \in C_0(L, A)$ , the value  $(\Phi f)(x)$  is unambiguously defined by the value of  $f(x)$  (for, if  $f_1(x) = f(x)$  for some  $f_1 \in C_0(L, A)$ , then, by linearity,

$$|(\Phi(f_1 - f))(x)| \leq \|\Phi\| |(f_1 - f)(x)| = 0,$$

and so  $\Phi f_1(x) = \Phi f(x)$ ).

Let  $f \in C_0(L, A)$ ,  $x \in L$  and define a mapping  $\varphi : L \rightarrow Z(C_0(L, A))$  by  $\varphi(x)f(x) = \Phi f(x)$ , where  $\Phi = \pi_\varphi$ ; i.e.,  $\varphi(x)f(x) = \pi_\varphi f(x)$ . In the same way above it is easily seen that  $\varphi(x) \in Z(C_0(L, A))$  and that  $\varphi$  is unambiguously defined. It remains to show that  $\varphi \in C_b(L, Z(A))$ . As  $\Phi \in Z(C_0(L, A))$ , we have  $\Phi(C_0(L, A)) \subseteq C_0(L, A)$ ; in other words,  $\pi_\varphi(C_0(L, A)) \subseteq C_0(L, A)$ . It follows from Theorem 6.1 of [7] that  $\varphi$  is norm bounded and continuous with respect to the strong operator topology. So  $\varphi \in C_b(L, Z(A))$ , as required.

The isometric property follows from  $\|\pi_\phi\| = \|\phi\|$ , as follows. As already established,  $\|\pi_\phi\| \leq \|\phi\|$ . Since

$$\|\phi(x)\| = \sup_{a \in A} \|\phi(x)(a)\|,$$

we have that, for all  $x \in L$ ,

$$\|\phi(x)\|_{f(L)} = \sup_{f(x) \in A} \|\phi(x)(f(x))\| = \sup_{f(x) \in A} \|\pi_\phi f(x)\| \leq \|\pi_\phi\|,$$

and so  $\|\phi\|_{f(L)} \leq \|\pi_\phi\|$ . It follows that  $\|\pi_\phi\| = \|\phi\|$ ; that is,  $\|T(\phi)\| = \|\phi\|$ .

Since  $C_0(L, A)$  is a Banach  $\ell$ -space,  $Z(C_0(L, A))$  is an  $AM$ - $f$ -algebra with unit by Theorem 2.4. We therefore have  $Z(C_0(L, A)) \cong C_b(L, Z(A))$  as  $AM$ - $f$ -algebras, as required.

**Remark 4.2.** (1) The mapping  $1 : L \rightarrow Z(A)$ , defined by  $1(x) = I$  for all  $x \in L$  is a multiplicative identity of  $C_b(L, Z(A))$ , and so is a norm order unit in  $C_b(L, Z(A))$  as observed in Remark 2.5, where  $I$  is the identity operator in  $Z(A)$ .

(2) If we denote the identity operator in  $Z(C_0(L, A))$  by  $II$  (that is,  $II(f) = f$  for all  $f \in C_0(L, A)$ ), then  $\pi_1 = II$  since

$$\pi_1 f(x) = 1(x)(f(x)) = I(f(x)) = f(x)$$

for all  $x \in L$ , and so  $\pi_1 f = f$  for all  $f \in C_0(L, A)$ . It follows that  $T(1) = II$ ; in other words,  $T$  maps the multiplicative identity of  $C_b(L, Z(A))$  into that of  $Z(C_0(L, A))$ .

**Corollary 4.3.** *For every locally compact Hausdorff topological space  $L$ ,  $Z(C_0(L)) \cong C_b(L)$  as  $AM$ - $f$ -algebras.*

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