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# SPECTRUM OF THE FOURIER-STIELTJES ALGEBRA OF A SEMIGROUP

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ABSTRACT. For a unital foundation topological \*-semigroup S whose representations separate points of S, we show that the spectrum of the Fourier-Stieltjes algebra B(S) is a compact semitopological semigroup. We also calculate B(S) for several examples of S.

**Keywords:** Fourier algebra, Fourier-Stieltjes algebra, amenability, weakly and strongly almost periodic functions, spectrum, foundation topological \*-semigroups

### 2000 Mathematics subject classification: 43A37, 43A20

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In [3] Lau studied the subalgebra F(S) of WAP(S) of a topological semigroup S with involution. If G is an abelian topological group, then  $F(G) \simeq M(\hat{G})$  where  $\hat{G}$  is the dual group of G. If S is a topological \*- semigroup with an identity, then F(S) is the linear span of positive definite functions on S. The authors introduced and studied Fourier and Fourier-Stieltjes algebras A(S) and B(S) of a foundation topological \*-semigroup S in [1]. When S is unital, B(S) = F(S).

Let S be a locally compact topological semigroup and M(S) be the Banach algebra of all bounded regular Borel measures on S. We consider the mappings

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 $L_{\mu}$  and  $R_{\mu}$  of S into M(S) defined by

$$L_{\mu}(x) = \mu * \delta_x, \quad R_{\mu}(x) = \delta_x * \mu \quad (x \in S, \mu \in M(S)),$$

where  $\delta_x$  is the point mass at x. Then the semigroup algebra L(S) consists of those  $\mu \in M(S)$  for which  $L_{|\mu|}$  and  $R_{|\mu|}$  are continuous with respect to the weak topology of M(S), and L(S) is a Banach subalgebra of M(S). The semigroup S is called foundation if  $\cup \{ \operatorname{supp}(\mu) : \mu \in L(S) \}$  is dense in S [6].

A representation of S is a pair  $\{\pi, H_{\pi}\}$  of a Hilbert space  $H_{\pi}$  and a semigroup homomorphism  $\pi : S \to B(H_{\pi})$  such that  $\pi$  is (weakly) continuous, i.e. the mappings  $x \mapsto \langle \pi(x)\xi, \eta \rangle$  are continuous on S, for all  $\xi, \eta \in H_{\pi}$ , and that  $\pi$ is bounded if  $||\pi|| = \sup_{x \in S} ||\pi(x)|| < \infty$ . Also  $\pi$  is called a \*-representation if moreover  $\pi(x^*) = \pi(x)^*(x \in S)$ , where the right hand side is the adjoint operator. A \*-representation  $\{\sigma, H\}$  of L(S) is called non-vanishing if for every  $0 \neq \xi \in H$ , there exists  $\mu \in L(S)$  with  $\sigma(\mu)\xi \neq 0$ . Let  $\Sigma(L(S))$  be the family of all \*-representations of L(S) on a Hilbert space which are non-vanishing, and  $\Sigma(S)$  be the family of all continuous \*-representations  $\pi$  of S with  $||\pi|| \leq 1$ , then one has a bijective correspondence between  $\Sigma(S)$  and  $\Sigma(L(S))$  via

$$\langle \tilde{\pi}(\mu)\xi,\eta\rangle = \int_{S} \langle \pi(x)\xi,\eta\rangle d\mu(x) \quad (\mu \in L(S), \ \xi,\eta \in H_{\pi} = H_{\tilde{\pi}}).$$

Given  $\rho \subseteq \Sigma = \Sigma(S)$  and  $\mu \in L(S)$ , define  $\|\mu\|_{\rho} = \sup\{\|\tilde{\pi}(\mu)\| : \pi \in \rho\}$ and  $I_{\rho} = \{\mu \in L(S) : \|\mu\|_{\rho} = 0\}$ . Then  $I_{\rho}$  is clearly a closed two-sided ideal of L(S) and  $\|\mu + I_{\rho}\| = \|\mu\|_{\rho}$  defines a  $C^*$ -norm on  $L(S)/I_{\rho}$ . The completion of this quotient space in this norm is a  $C^*$ -algebra which is denoted by  $C^*_{\rho}(S)$ . When  $\rho = \Sigma$ , then the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C^*(S) = C^*_{\Sigma}(S)$  is called the (full) semigroup  $C^*$ -algebra of S. If S is foundation and  $\Sigma$  separates the points of S, then L(S)is \*-semisimple and so  $I_{\Sigma} = \{0\}$ . In this case L(S) is a norm dense subalgebra of  $C^*(S)$  (see [1] for more details).

A complex valued function  $u: S \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is called positive definite if for all positive integers n and all  $\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_n \in \mathbb{C}$ , and  $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \in S$ , we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_i \bar{\lambda}_j u(x_i x_j^*) \ge 0.$$

Let P(S) denotes the set of all continuous positive definite functions on S. We denote the linear span of P(S) by B(S) and call it the Fourier-Stieltjes algebra of S. Let S be a topological \*-semigroup and  $C_c(S)$  be the algebra of all continuous functions on S with compact support. Then the closed subalgebra  $\overline{(B(S) \cap C_c(S))} \subseteq B(S)$  is denoted by A(S) and is called the Fourier algebra of S.

### 2. Fourier-Stieljes Algebra

It is well known that for an abelian topological group G, the Fourier and Fourier-Stieltjes algebras A(G) and B(G) are isometrically isomorphic to the group and measure algebras  $L^1(\hat{G})$  and  $M(\hat{G})$  of the dual group  $\hat{G}$ . For a class of commutative foundation topological \*-semigroup with identity we show that

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B(S) is isometrically isomorphic to  $M(\hat{S})$ . Here  $\hat{S}$  is the set of continuous semi-characters on S which is a locally compact topological semigroup [3].

**Theorem 2.1.** Let S be a commutative foundation topological \*-semigroup with identity. For  $\lambda \in L(\hat{S})$ , define  $\hat{\lambda} : S \to \mathbb{C}$  by

$$\hat{\lambda}(x) = \int_{\hat{S}} \chi(x) d\lambda(\chi) \quad (x \in S).$$

Then the map  $\lambda \mapsto \hat{\lambda}$  is a continuous monomorphism from  $L(\hat{S})$  into B(S).

**Proof.**  $\hat{S}$  is a locally compact topological semigroup [3]. Also for each  $\lambda \in L(\hat{S})$  there is a probability measure  $\gamma$  on  $\hat{S}$  and  $\phi \in L^1(\hat{S}, \gamma)$  such that  $d\lambda = \phi d\gamma$ . We can decompose  $\phi$  as

$$\phi = (\phi_1 - \phi_2) + i(\phi_3 - \phi_4),$$

where  $\phi_i \geq 0$ , for i = 1, ..., 4. Put  $d\lambda_i = \phi_i d\gamma$ . Then for each  $n \geq 1$ ,  $c_1, \ldots, c_n \in \mathbb{C}$ , and  $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in S$ ,

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^{n} c_i \bar{c}_j \hat{\lambda}_k(x_i x_j^*) = \int_{\hat{S}} \sum_{i,j=1}^{n} c_i \bar{c}_j \hat{\chi}(x_i x_j^*) d\lambda_k(\chi) \ge 0,$$

for k = 1, ..., 4. Next we show that  $\hat{\lambda}_k$  is also continuous. Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is a measurable subset  $K \subseteq \hat{S}$  such that

$$\int_{\hat{S}\setminus K} \phi_k(\chi) d\gamma(\chi) < \varepsilon.$$

By Ascoli's Theorem, K is equicontinuous. Now given  $x_0 \in S$ , there is a neighborhood U of  $x_0$  in S such that

$$|\chi(x) - \chi(x_0)| < \varepsilon \quad (\chi \in K, x \in U).$$

For each  $x \in U$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |\hat{\lambda}_k(x) - \hat{\lambda}_k(x_0)| &\leq \int_{\hat{S}} |\chi(x) - \chi(x_0)| d\lambda_k(\chi) \\ &\leq \int_K |\chi(x) - \chi(x_0)| d\lambda_k(\chi) + \int_{\hat{S} \setminus K} |\chi(x) - \chi(x_0)| d\lambda_k(\chi) \\ &\leq \varepsilon \lambda_k(K) + 2\varepsilon \leq (2 + \lambda_k(\hat{S}))\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

This shows that  $\hat{\lambda}_k \in P(S)$ , for k = 1, ..., 4, and so  $\hat{\lambda} \in B(S)$ . Next we have

$$\begin{split} \|\hat{\lambda}\|_{B(S)} &= \sup \Big| \int_{S} \hat{\lambda}(x) d\mu(x) \Big| = \sup \Big| \int_{S} \int_{\hat{S}} \chi(x) d\lambda(\chi) d\mu(x) \\ &\leq \int_{\hat{S}} \Big| \int_{S} \chi(x) d\mu(x) \Big| d|\lambda|(\chi) \leq \|\lambda\|, \end{split}$$

where the supremum is taken over all  $\mu \in L(S)$  with  $\|\mu\|_{\Sigma} \leq 1$  (see [1]). Also the last inequality follows from the fact that each semi-character  $\chi \in \hat{S}$  could be regarded as a representation of S. 4

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When  $\lambda$  is positive, we also have

$$\|\lambda\| = \int_{\hat{S}} \chi(e) d\lambda(\chi) = \hat{\lambda}(e) \le \|\hat{\lambda}\|_{B(S)},$$

since  $\chi(e) = 1$ , for each  $\chi \in \hat{S}$ , where *e* is the identity of *S*. In general,  $\lambda = (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) + i(\lambda_3 - (\lambda_4))$ , with  $\lambda_k$ 's positive, and we have

$$\|\lambda\| \le \sum_{i=1}^{4} \|\lambda_i\| \le \sum_{i=1}^{4} \|\hat{\lambda}_i\|.$$

In particular the map  $\lambda \mapsto \hat{\lambda}$  is injective.

Finally, for  $\lambda, \mu \in L(S)$  and  $x \in S$  we have

$$(\lambda * \mu)\hat{\ }(x) = \int_{S} \chi(x) d(\lambda * \mu)(\chi) = \int_{S} \int_{S} \chi(x) \zeta(x) d\lambda(\chi) d\mu(\zeta) = \hat{\lambda}(x) \hat{\mu}(x),$$

and we are done.

**Remark 2.2.** In the group case, the range of the above map is A(S). We don't know if this is the case for foundation semigroups.

Following [4] we say that S is of type  $\mathcal{U}$  if it has a dense subsemigroup U which is a union of groups. Then to each  $x \in U$  there corresponds an element  $x' \in U$  (the inverse of x in the group to which x belongs) such that xx' and x'x are idempotents and

$$xx'x = x, \quad x'xx' = x'.$$

In [5] a concept of positive definite functions is defined for semigroups of type  $\mathcal{U}$ . We denote the set of positive definite functions on U by P(U). When U is an increasing union or a disjoint union of groups, this element x' is unique for each  $x \in U$ . When the latter holds and the map  $x \mapsto x'$  is continuous we say that S is of type  $\overline{\mathcal{U}}$ . In this case the map  $x \mapsto x'$  on U extends to a continuous map  $x \to x^*$  on S and S becomes a topological \*-semigroup. In this case we can talk about positive definite functions on S in the sense of section 1. If U is an increasing union or a disjoint union of groups, each open in S, then S is of type  $\overline{\mathcal{U}}$ . If S is of type  $\overline{\mathcal{U}}$ , then it is easy to see that for each  $f \in C_b(S)$ ,  $f \in P(S)$  if and only if  $f_{|U} \in P(U)$ . In particular for a unital commutative semigroup S of type  $\overline{\mathcal{U}}$  we have B(S) = R(S) [5, 7.2.5]. Now the following result follows from [5] immediately.

**Proposition 2.3.** If S is a commutative foundation \*-semigroup of type  $\overline{\mathcal{U}}$  with identity, then the map  $\lambda \mapsto \hat{\lambda}$  is a linear isometry of  $M(\hat{S})$  onto B(S).

Note that if we consider the semigroup of integers  $\mathbb{Z}$  with trivial involution  $n^* = n$ , then we have  $B(\mathbb{Z}) \neq R(\mathbb{Z})$  [7].

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#### 3. Spectrum of the Fourier Algebra

In this section we show that for a unital foundation topological \*-semigroup S, the spectrum of B(S) is a compact unital semitopological semigroup. Let S be a unital foundation topological \*-semigroup with identity e and  $\Omega = \Omega(S)$  be the family of all continuous \*-representations  $\omega$  of S in a W\*-algebra  $M_{\omega}$  with  $\|\omega\| \leq 1$ . Let  $\omega_{\Omega}$  be the universal representation of S in the  $\ell^{\infty}$  direct sum  $M_{\Omega} = \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} \oplus M_{\omega}$ . Then the predual  $(M_{\Omega})_*$  is the  $\ell^1$  direct sum  $\sum_{\omega \in \Omega} \oplus (M_{\omega})_*$  and for each  $\psi \in (M_{\Omega})_*$  we have  $u = \psi \circ \omega_{\Omega} \in B(S)$  and  $\|u\| \leq \|\psi\|$  [1, 3.1, 3.4], [7].

For  $u \in B(S)$  and  $x, y \in S$  let  $u_x(y) = u(yx)$  then  $u_x \in B(S)$  with  $||u_x|| \le ||u||$  [1, 3.4]. This means that the right translation operators  $\tau_x : B(S) \to B(S)$  defined by

$$\tau_x(u) = u_x \quad (x \in S, u \in B(S)),$$

are bounded with  $\|\tau_x\| \leq 1$ .

**Definition 3.1.** For  $u \in B(S)$  and  $f \in B(S)^* = W^*_{\Omega}(S)$  define  $E_f(u) : S \to \mathbb{C}$  by

$$E_f(u)(x) = \langle f, u_x \rangle \quad (x \in S)$$

**Lemma 3.2.** For  $f \in W^*_{\Omega}(S)$ ,  $E_f : B(S) \to B(S)$  is a bounded linear operator which commutes with right translation operators and  $||E_f|| = ||f||$ .

**Proof.** Let  $u \in B(S)$  and choose  $\psi \in (M_{\Omega})_*$  with  $u = \psi \circ \omega_{\Omega}$  and  $||u|| = ||\psi||$ , then  $u(x) = \langle \omega_{\Omega}(x), \psi \rangle$ , for  $x \in S$ . Given  $\zeta \in (M_{\Omega})_*$  and  $m \in M_{\Omega}$  define  $\zeta . m \in (M_{\Omega})_*$  by  $\langle n, \zeta . m \rangle = \langle mn, \zeta \rangle$  for  $n \in M_{\Omega}$ . Also  $m.\zeta$  is defined similarly. For each  $x, y \in S$ ,

$$u_x(y) = u(yx) = \langle \omega_{\Omega}(yx), \psi \rangle = \langle \omega_{\Omega}(y), \psi . \omega_{\Omega}(x) \rangle,$$

hence  $u_x = (\psi . \omega_{\Omega}(x)) \circ \omega_{\Omega}$ . To each  $f \in W^*_{\Omega}(S)$  there corresponds  $f^{\circ} \in M_{\Omega}$  defined by  $\langle f^{\circ}, \zeta \rangle = \langle f, \zeta \circ \omega_{\Omega} \rangle$ , for  $\zeta \in (M_{\Omega})_*$ . Then

$$E_f(u)(x) = \langle f, u_x \rangle = \langle f, (\psi.\omega_\Omega(x)) \circ \omega_\Omega \rangle = \langle f^{\circ}, \psi.\omega_\Omega(x) \rangle = \langle \omega_\Omega(x), f^{\circ}.\psi \rangle,$$

so  $E_f(u) = (f^{\circ}.\psi) \circ \omega_{\Omega} \in B(S)$  with  $||E_f(u)|| \le ||f^{\circ}.\psi|| \le ||u|| ||f||$ , that is  $||E_f|| \le ||f||$ . On the other hand  $|\langle f, u \rangle| = |E_f(u)(e)| \le ||E_f(u)|| \le ||E_f|| ||u||$ , hence  $||E_f|| = ||f||$ . Finally, for  $x, y \in S$ ,

$$(E_f(u))_x(y) = E_f(u)(yx) = \langle f, u_{yx} \rangle = \langle f, (u_x)_y \rangle = E_f(u_x)(y),$$

and so  $E_f$  commutes with right translation operators.

Let L(B(S)) be the space of all bounded linear operators on B(S) and  $L_0(B(S))$  be the closed subspace of L(B(S)) consisting of those operators which commute with all right translation operators  $\tau_x$  on B(S).

**Theorem 3.3.** Let S be a unital foundation topological \*-semigroup with identity e, then  $B(S)^*$  is isometrically isomorphic to  $L_0(B(S))$  and  $B(S)^*$  is homeomorphic to the space  $End(L_0(B(S)))$  consisting of non-zero endomorphisms of  $L_0(B(S))$ . In particular  $B(S)^*$  is a compact unital semitopological semigroup. 6

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**Proof.** By above lemma, the map  $f \mapsto E_f$  is an isometric isomorphism from  $B(S)^*$  into  $L_0(B(S))$ . Given  $E \in L_0(B(S))$  define  $f \in B(S)^*$  by  $\langle f, u \rangle = E(u)(e)$ , for  $u \in B(S)$ . Then

$$E_f(u)(x) = \langle f, u_x \rangle = E(u_x)(e) = E(u)_x(e) = E(u)(x),$$

for  $x \in S$  and  $u \in B(S)$ . Therefore  $E_f = E$ . Now it is easy to check that f is multiplicative if and only if  $E_f$  is an endomorphism. Next  $B(S)^*$  is isomorphic with the  $w^*$ -closed linear span of  $\{\omega_{\Omega}(x) : x \in S\}$  in  $M_{\Omega}$  [1, 2.1]. Now for each net  $\{f_{\alpha}\} \subseteq B(S)^*, E_{f_{\alpha}} \to E_f$  in WOT if and only if  $E_{f_{\alpha}}(u) \to E_f(u)$  weakly, for each  $u \in B(S)$ , that is  $\langle m, E_{f_{\alpha}}(u) \rangle \to \langle m, E_f(u) \rangle$ , for  $m \in B(S)^*$ , which in turn is equivalent to  $\langle f_{\alpha}^{\circ}, \psi.m \rangle = \langle m, f_{\alpha}^{\circ}.\psi \rangle \to \langle f^{\circ}, \psi.m \rangle = \langle m, f^{\circ}.\psi \rangle$ , for  $m \in B(S)^*$  and  $\psi \in (M_{\Omega})_*$ . But B(S) is unital and so  $(M_{\Omega})_*.B(S) = (M_{\Omega})_*$ , hence the latter is equivalent to  $\langle f_{\alpha}^{\circ}, \psi \rangle \to \langle f, \psi \rangle$ , for  $\psi \in (M_{\Omega})_*$ , that is  $f_{\alpha} \to f$ in  $w^*$ -topology.  $\Box$ 

### 4. Examples

In this section we calculate the algebras A(S) and B(S) in various examples. One class of examples are semigroups of type  $\mathcal{U}$  [4].

The following example shows that the existence of an identity is needed in Proposition 2.3.

**Example 4.1.** Let  $S = \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$  with discrete topology and multiplication  $n.m = \delta_{nm}n$ , for  $n, m \in S$ . Then each singleton  $\{n\}$  is the trivial group and S is of type  $\overline{\mathcal{U}}$ . In this case  $R(S) = \ell^1(\mathbb{N}) \cup \mathbb{C}$  [5, 3.1.6], whereas  $B(S) = span\{f \in c_b(S) : f(n) \ge f(0) \ge 0\}$ .

**Example 4.2.** Let S be the unit ball of  $L^{\infty}(\Omega, \mu)$  with pointwise multiplication and  $w^*$ -topology. We assume that  $\mu$  is a finite measure on  $\Omega$ . Put

$$U = \{ f \in S : |f| = 1 \text{ or } 0 \}$$

In this case  $f' = \overline{f}$  if  $f \neq 0$  and 0' = 0. We claim that the map  $f \mapsto f' = \overline{f}$  is continuous on U. Let  $f_{\alpha} \to f$  in  $w^*$ -topology, i.e.

$$\int_{\Omega} g f_{\alpha} d\mu \to \int_{\Omega} g f d\mu \quad (g \in L^1(\Omega, \mu)).$$

Then we have

$$\int_{\Omega} g(\bar{f}_{\alpha} - \bar{f}) d\mu = \left( \int_{\Omega} \bar{g}(\bar{f}_{\alpha} - \bar{f}) d\mu \right)^{-} \to 0,$$

for each  $g \in L^1(\Omega, \mu)$ . This shows that S is of type  $\overline{\mathcal{U}}$ . In particular B(S) = R(S).

**Example 4.3.** Let  $S = G \cup \{\infty\}$  be a one-point compactification of a locally compact group G. If  $\{g_{\alpha}\}$  is a net in G and  $g_{\alpha} \to \infty$  in S, then  $g_{\alpha}^{-1} \to \infty$ in S. If  $g_{\alpha} \to g$  in G then  $g_{\alpha}^{-1} \to g^{-1}$  in G. Hence S is of type  $\tilde{\mathcal{U}}$ . Also Sis unital with identity  $\infty$ . If G is abelian, then  $B(S) = R(S) = M_0(\hat{G})^{\uparrow} \oplus \mathbb{C}$ , where  $M_0(\hat{G}) = \{\mu \in M(\hat{G}) : \hat{\mu} \in C_0(G)\}$  [5, 5.1.3]. **Example 4.4.** Let S = ([0, 1], max) with involution  $x^* = x$ . Then S is a compact abelian unital semigroup and  $\hat{S}$  is an idempotent semigroup. Indeed

$$\hat{S} = \{\chi_{[0,x]} : x \in S\}.$$

In particular  $\hat{S}$  separates the points of S (and so does  $\Sigma(S)$ .) Also

$$L^1(S) = \{f: S \to \mathbb{C} : f \text{ measurable and } \int_0^1 |f(x)| dx < \infty\}$$

is a Banach algebra with convolution

$$f * g(x) = f(x) \int_0^x g(t)dt + g(x) \int_0^x f(t)dt.$$

 $L^1(S)$  has a bounded approximate identity. Let  $f:S\to \mathbb{C}$  be positive definite, then

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^{n} c_i \bar{c}_j f(x_i x_j^*) \ge 0,$$

for each  $n \ge 1, c_1, \ldots, c_n \in \mathbb{C}$ , and  $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in S$ . Once put  $n = 1, c_1 = 1$ , and  $x_1 = x$ , and then put  $n = 2, c_1 = c_2 = \sqrt{-1}$ , and  $x_1 = x, x_2 = y$  to get

$$f(x) \ge 0, \ f(x) - 2f(xy) + f(y) \ge 0,$$

for each  $x, y \in S$ . This shows that f is non-negative and non-increasing. Conversely all such functions are positive definite, and so A(S) = B(S) = BV[0, 1]. In particular A(S) is regular and natural [4, 4.4.35]. Also B(S) is not a dual space [5]. Note that in this case S is not foundation [7] (compare with [1].) The convolution product of two elements in  $L^2(S)$  is defined as above. In particular for g(x) = 1 and

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x \sin(\frac{1}{x}) & x \neq 0\\ 0 & x = 0, \end{cases},$$

we have  $f, g \in L^2(S)$ , but

$$f * g(x) = x^2 sin(\frac{1}{x}) + \int_0^x tsin(\frac{1}{t})dt.$$

for  $x \neq 0$  and f \* g(0) = 0. It is easy to see that  $f * g \notin BV[0, 1]$ . In particular  $A(S) \neq L^2(S) * L^2(S)$ .

**Example 4.5.** Let  $S = (\mathbb{R}^+, +)$  with involution  $x^* = x$ . Then S is a locally compact commutative unital \*-semigroup. If  $f : S \to \mathbb{C}$  is continuous and positive definite, then in the corresponding inequality, once put  $n = 1, c_1 = 1$ , and  $x_1 = \frac{x}{2}$ , and then put  $n = 2, c_1 = 1, c_2 = -1$ , and  $x_1 = \frac{x}{2}, x_2 = \frac{y}{2}$  to get

$$f(x) \ge 0, \ f(x) - 2f(\frac{x}{2} + \frac{y}{2}) + f(y) \ge 0,$$

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for each  $x, y \in S$ . This shows that f is non negative and convex. Conversely we know that  $\hat{\mathbb{R}}^+ \simeq \mathbb{R}^+$  [4] and we have the Laplace transform

$$\hat{\mu}(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-xt} d\mu(t),$$

for  $\mu \in M(\mathbb{R}^+)$ , and these are exactly the elements of  $B(\mathbb{R}^+)$  [2].

**Example 4.6.** Let  $S = (\mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}, +)$  with involution  $x^* = x$ . Then S is a discrete abelian unital semigroup. If  $f: S \to \mathbb{C}$  is positive definite, then in the corresponding inequality, once put  $n = 1, c_1 = 1$ , and  $x_1 = n$ , and then put  $n = 2, c_1 = c_2 = 1$  and  $x_1 = 0, x_2 = n$ , or  $c_1 = 1, c_2 = -1$  and  $x_1 = m, x_2 = n$  to get

$$f(2n) \ge 0, \ f(0) - 2f(n) + f(2n) \ge 0, \ f(2m) - 2f(m+n) + f(2n) \ge 0,$$

for each  $m, n \in S$ . It follows from the first and second inequality that f is real valued. In this case  $\hat{S} \simeq [-1, 1]$  with multiplication. Hence  $B(S) \simeq M[-1, 1]$ .

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