

Quasidiagonality and the classification of nuclear C^* -algebras

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Joint work with Stuart White and Wilhelm Winter

Quasidiagonality

Definition

A (separable) C^* -algebra A is *quasidiagonal* if there exists a sequence of c.p.c. maps $\phi_n : A \rightarrow M_{k_n}$ that are:

- (i) approximately multiplicative ($\|\phi_n(a)\phi_n(b) - \phi_n(ab)\| \rightarrow 0$, for $a, b \in A$); and
- (ii) approximately isometric ($\|\phi_n(a)\| \rightarrow \|a\|$, for $a \in A$).

Let \mathcal{Q} be the universal UHF algebra, $\mathcal{Q} := \bigotimes_{n \in \mathbb{N}} M_n$.

Let \mathcal{Q}_ω be the ultrapower of \mathcal{Q} with respect to a free ultrafilter ω .

Fact: A is quasidiagonal if there exists an injective $*$ -homomorphism $\phi : A \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}_\omega$ with a c.p.c. lift $A \rightarrow \prod \mathcal{Q}$.

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Quasidiagonality: obstructions

A is quasidiagonal if there exists an injective $*$ -homomorphism $\phi : A \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}_\omega$ with a c.p.c. lift $A \rightarrow \prod \mathcal{Q}$.

Quasidiagonal C^* -algebras are stably finite.

Theorem (Rosenberg)

Let G be a discrete group. If $C_r^*(G)$ is quasidiagonal, then G must be amenable (equivalently, $C_r^*(G)$ must be nuclear).

Question (Blackadar–Kirchberg)

Is every nuclear, stably finite C^* -algebra quasidiagonal?

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Definition (N. Brown)

A trace τ on a C^* -algebra A is *quasidiagonal* if there exists a $*$ -homomorphism $\phi : A \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}_\omega$ with a c.p.c. lift $(\phi_n)_n : A \rightarrow \prod \mathcal{Q}$ such that

$$\tau(a) = \tau_{\mathcal{Q}_\omega} \circ \phi(a) \left(= \lim_{\omega} \tau_{\mathcal{Q}} \circ \phi_n(a) \right), \quad a \in A.$$

Proposition

If A is unital and quasidiagonal then A has a quasidiagonal trace.

If A has a faithful quasidiagonal trace then A is quasidiagonal.

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Quasidiagonal traces and covering dimension

Decomposition rank (Kirchberg–Winter) is a marriage of Lebesgue’s covering dimension, Lance’s completely positive approximation property, and quasidiagonality.

Definition

A has *decomposition rank at most d* if:



point- $\|\cdot\|$ approximately commuting, ϕ and ψ are both c.p.c., and $\phi|_{F^{(i)}}$ is orthogonality-preserving (order zero).

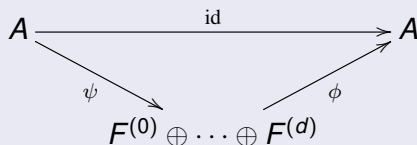
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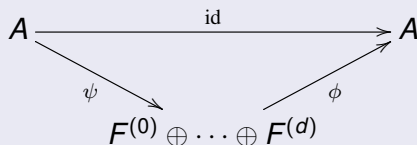
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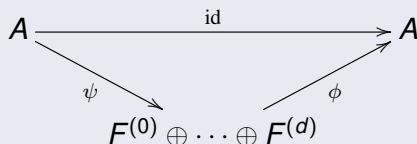
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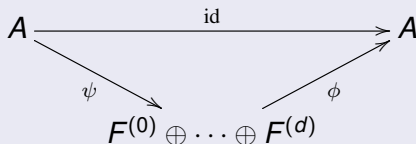
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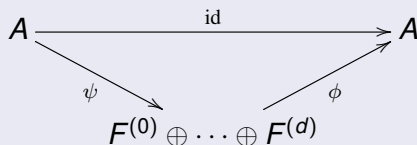
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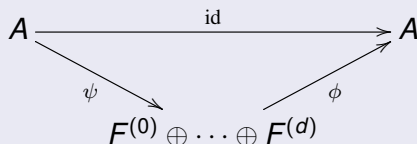
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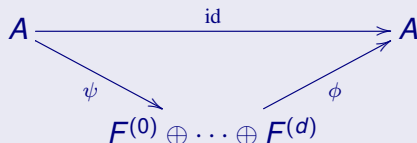
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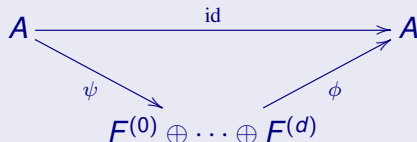
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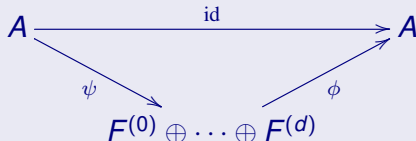
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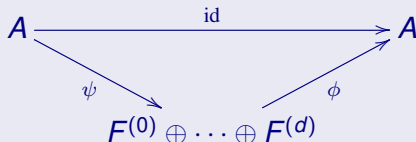
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$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & A \\ & \searrow \psi & \nearrow \phi \\ & F^{(0)} \oplus \dots \oplus F^{(d)} & \end{array}$$

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Quasidiagonal traces and covering dimension

Finite decomposition rank is a powerful property. Characterizing this property is desirable, particularly for Elliott algebras:

Definition

An *Elliott algebra* is a C^* -algebra that is simple, separable, nuclear, unital, and infinite dimensional.

Conjecture (Toms–Winter)

Let A be an Elliott algebra. Then:

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$$M_8 = \left(\begin{array}{cc|cc|cc|cc} \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} \\ \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} \\ \hline \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} \\ \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} \\ \hline \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} \\ \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} \\ \hline \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} \\ \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} & \frac{C}{C} \end{array} \right)$$

The Jiang–Su algebra \mathcal{Z}

Conjecture (Toms–Winter)

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$$\mathcal{R} = \overline{\left(\begin{array}{cc|cc} \begin{array}{cc|cc} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{array} & \begin{array}{cc|cc} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{array} & \begin{array}{cc|cc} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{array} & \begin{array}{cc|cc} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{cc|cc} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{array} & \begin{array}{cc|cc} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{array} & \begin{array}{cc|cc} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{array} & \begin{array}{cc|cc} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{array} \end{array} \right)}^{\text{SOT}}$$

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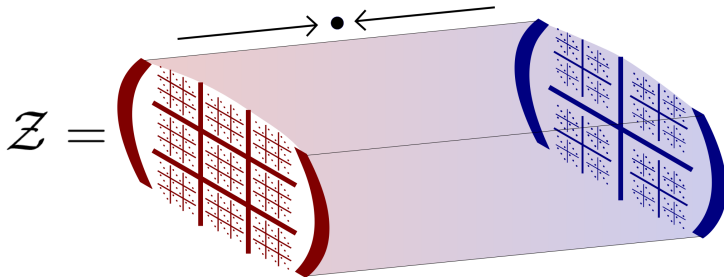
The Jiang–Su algebra \mathcal{Z}

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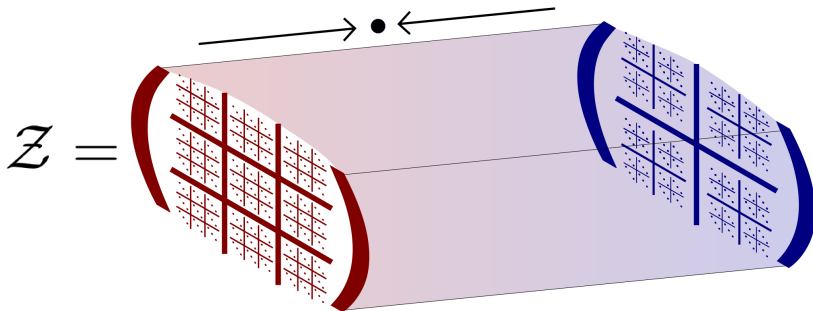
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\mathcal{Z} is an Elliott algebra with unique trace and no nontrivial projections, which satisfies $K_*(\mathcal{Z}) \cong K_*(\mathbb{C})$.

Quasidiagonal traces and covering dimension

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Let A be a \mathcal{Z} -stable Elliott algebra, such that the extreme boundary $\partial_e T(A)$ of the tracial state simplex is compact. Then:

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Sketch (of (ii)). Quasidiagonal traces provide maps $A \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_\omega$ realizing any trace, factoring through matrix algebras.

Patch these together along $\partial_e T(A)$ to get a map $\Psi : A \rightarrow (A \otimes \mathcal{Z})_\omega$, factoring through finite dimensional C^* -algebras.

Show that Ψ is 2-coloured equivalent to the canonical embedding $A \rightarrow (A \otimes \mathcal{Z})_\omega$, yielding $\text{dr}(A) \leq 1$.

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Classification of C^* -algebras

The goal of C^* -algebra classification is to show that nuclear C^* -algebras that agree on K -theoretic invariants are isomorphic.

The K -theoretic invariants are ordered K -theory, traces, and the pairing between these:

$$\mathrm{Ell}(A) := (K_0(A), K_0(A)_+, [1_A]_{K_0(A)}, K_1(A), T(A), \rho_A : T(A) \times K_0(A) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}).$$

Theorem (Gong–Lin–Niu, Elliott–Gong–Lin–Niu)

Let A and B be Elliott algebras with finite nuclear dimension, which satisfy the Universal Coefficient Theorem (UCT).

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A separable C^* -algebra A satisfies the Universal Coefficient Theorem (UCT) if, for every σ -unital C^* -algebra B ,

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is an exact sequence.

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If A is an Elliott algebra which satisfies the UCT, $\phi, \psi : A \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}_\omega$ are homotopic $*$ -homomorphisms, and $\iota : A \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}$ is a unital $*$ -homomorphism, then

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Main result

Theorem (T–White–Winter)

Let A be a nuclear C^* -algebra which satisfies the UCT and let $\tau \in T(A)$ be a faithful trace. Then τ is quasidiagonal.

Hence A is quasidiagonal.

Corollary (with Rosenberg, Tu)

A group G is amenable if and only if $C_r^*(G)$ is quasidiagonal.

Proof. The canonical trace given by $\tau(\lambda_g) = \delta_{g,e}$ is faithful.

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Tu proved that $C_r^*(G)$ satisfies the UCT whenever G is an amenable group(oid).

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Moreover, both A and B are inductive limits of subhomogeneous C^* -algebras.

Main result

Theorem (T–White–Winter)

Let A be a nuclear C^* -algebra which satisfies the UCT and let $\tau \in T(A)$ be a faithful trace. Then τ is quasidiagonal.

Hence A is quasidiagonal.

Corollary (with Elliott–Gong–Lin–Niu)

Let A and B be Elliott algebras with finite nuclear dimension, which satisfy the UCT. Then $A \cong B$ if and only if $\text{Ell}(A) \cong \text{Ell}(B)$.

Moreover, both A and B are inductive limits of subhomogeneous C^* -algebras.