

Quasidiagonality and the classification of nuclear C*-algebras

Aaron Tikuisis

a.tikuisis@abdn.ac.uk

University of Aberdeen

Joint work with Stuart White and Wilhelm Winter

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

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

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:

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

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

E.g., $\text{dr}(C(X)) = \dim(X)$; $\text{dr}(A) = 0$ iff A is AF.

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Can arrange that ψ witnesses quasidiagonality of A (i.e., ψ is approximately multiplicative and approximately isometric); even that ψ witnesses quasidiagonality of traces of A . That is, $\text{dr}(A) < \infty$ implies that all traces on A are quasidiagonal.

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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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$$M_2 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} \\ \hline & \mathbb{C} \\ \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} \end{array} \right)$$

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$$M_4 = \left(\begin{array}{c|c|c|c} \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} \\ \hline \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} \\ \hline \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} \\ \hline \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} & \mathbb{C} \end{array} \right)$$

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$$M_{2^\infty} = \overline{\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline \end{array} & \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline \end{array} & \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline \end{array} & \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline \end{array} & \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \hline \end{array} \right)} \parallel \cdot \parallel$$

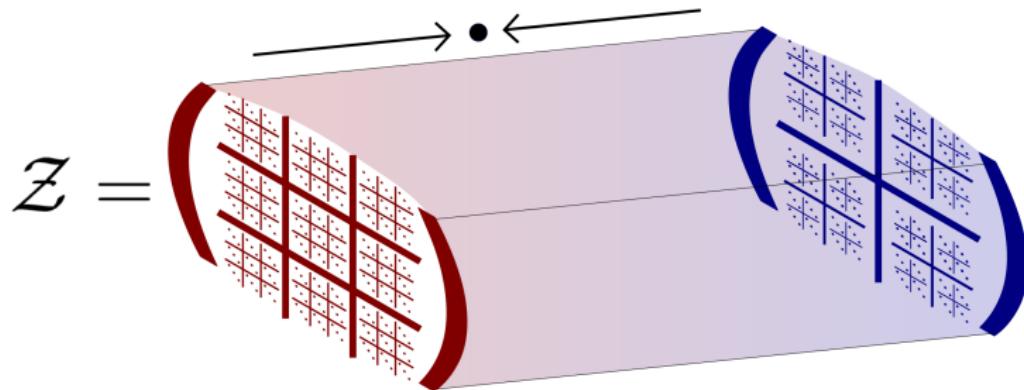
The Jiang–Su algebra \mathcal{Z}

Conjecture (Toms–Winter)

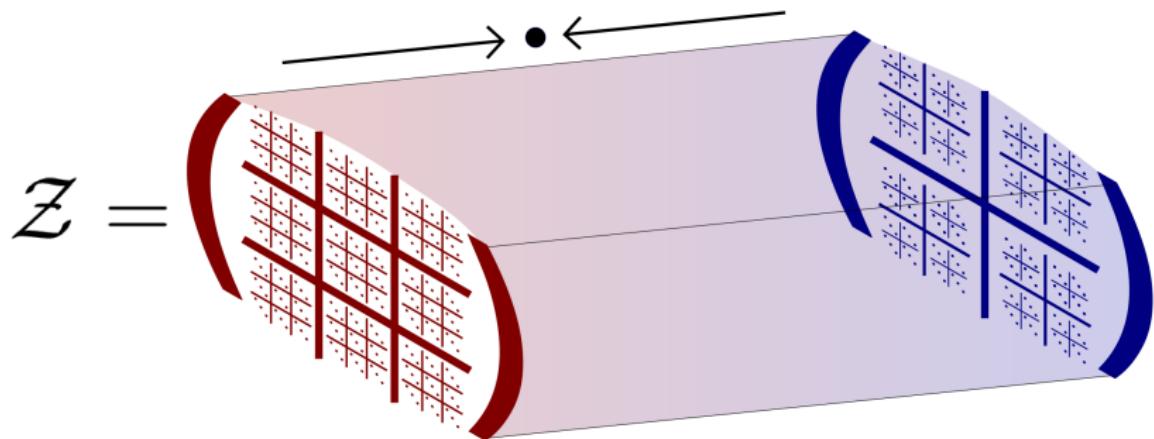
Let A be an Elliott algebra. Then:

- (i) A has finite decomposition rank if and only if A is finite and \mathcal{Z} -stable;
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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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Quasidiagonal traces and covering dimension

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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:

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

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

Let A and B are 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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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.

(Indeed, the left regular representation is the GNS representation with respect to this trace.)

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

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