STABLE RANK OF $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$

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Dedicated to Professor George A. Elliott on the occasion of his 75th birthday

ABSTRACT. It is shown that, for an arbitrary free and minimal \mathbb{Z}^n -action on a compact Hausdorff space X, the crossed product C^* -algebra $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^n$ always has stable rank one, i.e., invertible elements are dense. This generalizes a result of Alboiu and Lutley on \mathbb{Z} -actions.

In fact, for any free and minimal topological dynamical system (X, Γ) , where Γ is a countable discrete amenable group, if it has the uniform Rokhlin property and Cuntz comparison of open sets, then the crossed product C*-algebra $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ has stable rank one. Moreover, in this case, the C*-algebra $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ absorbs the Jiang-Su algebra tensorially if, and only if, it has strict comparison of positive elements.

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Notation and preliminaries	3
3.	Some lemmas	9
4.	Nilpotent elements, order zero maps, and limits of invertible elements	14
5.	Property (D) and stable rank one	20
6.	Non-invertible elements and zero divisors of $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$	26
7.	Stable rank of $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$	30
8.	Two remarks on Property (D)	51
References		55

1. Introduction

The topological stable rank of a unital C*-algebra A, denoted by tsr(A), is introduced by Rieffel in his seminal paper [21] as a topological version of the Bass stable rank of a ring: Denote by

$$Lg_n = \{(x_1, x_2, ..., x_n) \in A^n : Ax_1 + Ax_2 + \cdots + Ax_n = A\}.$$

Then the topological stable rank of A, denote by tsr(A), is the smallest n such that Lg_n is dense in A^n (if no such n exists, then the topological stable rank of A is ∞). It was shown in

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[12] that the topological stable rank of a C*-algebra agrees with its Bass stable rank. Thus, we may just refer it as stable rank.

The stable rank models dimension of a topological space: Consider the commutative C*-algebra C(X), where X is a compact Hausdorff space. Its stable rank is $\lfloor \frac{\dim(X)}{2} \rfloor + 1$, where $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$ denotes the integer part. It is also shown in [30] that for any $n \in \{1, 2, ..., \infty\}$, there exists a simple unital separable C*-algebra A (A actually can be chosen to be the limit of an inductive sequence of homogeneous C*-algebras) such that $\operatorname{tsr}(A) = n$.

The class of C*-algebras with stable rank one is particularly interesting. Any such C*-algebra A is stably finite, has cancellation of projections, and has the property that $K_1(A)$ is canonically isomorphic to $U(A)/U_0(A)$. It is also well known that a C*-algebra has stable rank one if, and only if, $A = \overline{GL(A)}$, where GL(A) denotes the group of invertible elements of A.

Many classes of simple C*-algebras have been shown to have stable rank one. For instance, any simple unital finite C*-algebra which absorbs a UHF algebra or, in general, absorbs the Jiang-Su algebra \mathcal{Z} , has stable rank one (see [22] and [24], respectively). These C*-algebras certainly are well behaved from the perspective of the classification program.

On the other hand, even beyond the classifiable C*-algebras, remarkably, it was shown by Elliott, Ho, and Toms ([9], also see [13]) that any simple unital AH algebra with diagonal maps (this class of C*-algebras contains the exotic AH algebras of [29] and [28], which cannot be classified by the ordered K-groups together with the traces—the Elliott invariant), no matter classifiable or not, always has stable rank one. This result actually is the main motivation of the current paper: Consider the C*-algebra of a minimal homeomorphism. In general, its behaviors are expected to be parallel to the behaviors of AH algebras with diagonal maps (see, for instance, [15] and [10] on the classifiability and mean dimension), and it had been speculated for a while in the C*-algebra community that the C*-algebra of a minimal homeomorphism should always has stable rank one. (Note that, as shown in [11], there exists a minimal homeomorphism of an infinite compact Hausdorff space such that the corresponding C*-algebra is not classifiable by its Elliott invariant.)

A considerable amount of work has been done concerning this question, and finally it is solved recently by Alboiu and Lutley in [1]. For the C*-algebra of a minimal homeomorphism, one can consider the orbit-breaking subalgebra, which was introduced by Putnam for Cantor dynamical systems ([20]) and then constructed for a general minimal homeomorphism by Q. Lin ([14]). It was shown by Archey and Phillips ([2]) that if the orbit-breaking subalgebra has stable rank one, then the transformation group C*-algebra must have stable rank one. If the minimal dynamical system has a Cantor factor (so that the orbit-breaking subalgebra is an AH algebra with diagonal maps), with the result of [9], one has that the transformation group C*-algebra has stable rank one (see [2]) (this result is also generalized by Suzuki in [26] to the C*-algebra of a minimal almost finite groupoid). For a general minimal homeomorphism (Z-action), the orbit-breaking subalgebra might not be AH, but rather a unital inductive limit of subhomogeneous C*-algebras with diagonal maps (the DSH algebras of [1]). Alboiu and Lutley show in [1] that any unital simple DSH algebra has stable rank one, and thus the C*-algebra of a minimal homeomorphism has stable rank one.

Beyond the case of \mathbb{Z} -actions, however, it is not clear how to construct orbit-breaking subalgebras in general. So, instead, one may consider the Uniform Rokhlin Property (URP) and Cuntz-comparison of Open Sets (COS) (see Definitions 2.19 and 2.21) for a topological dynamical system (X, Γ) , where Γ is a countable discrete amenable group. These two properties are introduced in [17], and it is shown that, under the assumption of the (URP) and (COS), the radius of comparison of the crossed product C*-algebra $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ is dominated by half of the mean dimension of (X, Γ) ([17]), and the C*-algebra $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ is classified by its Elliott invariant if (X, Γ) has mean dimension zero ([18]). Moreover, any free and minimal \mathbb{Z}^d -action have the (URP) and (COS) ([16]).

In this paper, we still consider these two properties, and we show that if a free and minimal Γ -action has the (URP) and (COS), then the transformation group C*-algebra must have stable rank one (Theorem 7.8). Since any free and minimal \mathbb{Z}^d -actions have the (URP) and (COS), the C*-algebra $C(X) \times \mathbb{Z}^d$ has stable rank one, no matter it is classifiable or not:

Theorem (Corollary 7.9). Let \mathbb{Z}^d act freely and minimally on a compact Hausdorff space X. Then $tsr(C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d) = 1$.

As consequences of stable rank one, we obtain the following properties of the crossed product C*-algebra $A = C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$, where (X, \mathbb{Z}^d) is free and minimal:

- A has cancellation of projections, cancellation in Cuntz semigroup, and $U(A)/U_0(A) \cong K_1(A)$ (Corollary 7.11).
- Approximately unitary equivalence classes of homomorphisms from an AI algebra to A is determined by the induced maps on Cuntz semigroups (Corollary 7.12).
- Any strictly positive lower semicontinous affine function on T(A) can be realized as the rank function of some positive element of $A \otimes \mathcal{K}$ (Corollary 7.13).
- A absorbs the Jiang-Su algebra tensorially if, and only if, A has strict comparison of positive elements (Corollary 7.14). That is, A satisfies the Toms-Winter conjecture.
- The real rank of A is either 0 or 1 (Corollary 7.15).

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2. Notation and preliminaries

2.1. Topological Dynamical Systems.

Definition 2.1. Consider a topological dynamical system (X, Γ) , where X is a separable compact Hausdorff space, Γ is a discrete group which acts on X from the right. The dynamical system (X, Γ) is said to be minimal if

$$Y\gamma = Y, \quad \gamma \in \Gamma$$

for some closed set $Y \subseteq X$ implies $Y = \emptyset$ or Y = X; and the dynamical system (X, Γ) is said to be free if

$$x\gamma = x$$

for some $x \in X$ and $\gamma \in \Gamma$ implies $\gamma = e$.

Definition 2.2. A Borel measure μ on X is invariant under the action σ if for any Borel set $E \subseteq X$, one has

$$\mu(E) = \mu(E\gamma), \quad \gamma \in \Gamma.$$

Denote by $\mathcal{M}_1(X,\Gamma)$ the set of all invariant Borel probability measures on X. It is a Choquet simplex under the weak* topology.

Definition 2.3. Let Γ be a countable discrete group. Let $K \subseteq \Gamma$ be a finite set and let $\delta > 0$. Then a finite set $E \subseteq \Gamma$ is said to be (K, ε) -invariant if

$$\frac{|EK\Delta E|}{|E|} < \varepsilon.$$

The group Γ is amenable if there is a sequence (Γ_n) of finite subsets of Γ such that for any (K, ε) , there is N such that Γ_n is (K, ε) -invariant for any n > N. The sequence (Γ_n) is called a Følner sequence.

The K-interior of a finite set $E \subseteq \Gamma$ is defined as

$$\operatorname{int}_K(E) = \{ \gamma \in E : \gamma K \subseteq E \},$$

and the K-boundary of E is defined as

$$\partial_K E := E \setminus \operatorname{int}_K(E) = \{ \gamma \in E : \gamma \gamma' \notin E \text{ for some } \gamma' \in K \}.$$

Note that

$$|E \setminus \operatorname{int}_K(E)| \le |K| |EK \setminus E| \le |K| |EK\Delta E|,$$

and hence for any $\varepsilon > 0$, if E is $(K, \frac{\varepsilon}{|K|})$ -invariant, then

$$\frac{|E \setminus \operatorname{int}_K(E)|}{|E|} < \varepsilon.$$

Remark 2.4. If a set $E \subseteq \Gamma$ is $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant, then, for any $\gamma \in \Gamma$, the left translation γE is again $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant.

Definition 2.5. An (exact) tiling of a discrete group consists of

- a finite collection $S = \{\Gamma_1, ..., \Gamma_n\}$ of finite subsets of Γ containing the unit e, called the shapes,
- a finite collection $C = \{C(S) : S \in S\}$ of disjoint subsets of Γ , called center sets, such that the left translations

$$cS, c \in C(S), S \in \mathcal{S}$$

form a partition of Γ .

Remark 2.6. If Γ is amenable, it follows from [6] that for any finite set $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \Gamma$ and any $\varepsilon > 0$, there is a tiling of Γ such that all its shapes are $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant.

2.2. Crossed product C*-algebras. Consider a topological dynamical system (X, Γ) . Then the group Γ acts (from the left) on the C*-algebra C(X) by

$$\gamma(f) = f \circ \gamma.$$

The (full) crossed product C*-algebra $A = C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ is defined to be the universal C*-algebra

$$C^*\{f, u_{\gamma} : u_{\gamma} f u_{\gamma}^* = f \circ \gamma, \ u_{\gamma_1} u_{\gamma_2}^* = u_{\gamma_1 \gamma_2^{-1}}, \ u_e = 1_A, \ f \in C(X), \ \gamma, \gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in \Gamma\}.$$

The C*-algebra A is nuclear if Γ is amenable (see, for instance, Corollary 7.18 of [31]). If, moreover, σ is minimal, the C*-algebra A is simple (Theorem 5.16 of [7] and Théorème 5.15 of [33]), i.e., A has no non-trivial two-sided ideals.

2.3. Cuntz-sub-equivalence and rank functions.

Definition 2.7. Let A be a C*-algebra, and let $a, b \in A^+$. The element a is said to be Cuntz sub-equivalent to b, denoted by $a \preceq b$, if there are $x_i, y_i, i = 1, 2, ...$, such that

$$\lim_{i \to \infty} x_i b y_i = a.$$

Example 2.8. Let $f, g \in C(X)$ be positive elements, and consider the open sets

$$E := f^{-1}(0, +\infty)$$
 and $F := g^{-1}(0, +\infty)$.

Then $f \lesssim g$ if and only if $E \subseteq F$. That is, their Cuntz equivalence classes are determined by their open supports.

Throughout this paper, we use the following notation:

Definition 2.9. For any $\varepsilon > 0$, define the function $f_{\varepsilon} : [0,1] \to [0,1]$ by

$$f_{\varepsilon}(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < \varepsilon/2, \\ \text{linear}, & \varepsilon/2 \le t < \varepsilon, \\ 1, & t > \varepsilon. \end{cases}$$

Lemma 2.10 (Proposition 2.4(iv) of [23]). Let A be a C*-algebra, and let $a, b \in A$ be positive. If $a \lesssim b$, then for any $\delta > 0$, there is $\varepsilon > 0$ and $r \in A$ such that

$$f_{\delta}(a) = r^* f_{\varepsilon}(b) r.$$

In particular, denoted by $v = f_{\varepsilon}^{\frac{1}{2}}(b)r \in A$, one has

$$f_{\delta}(a) = v^*v$$
 and $vv^* \in \text{Her}(b)$.

Definition 2.11. Let A be a C*-algebra, let T(A) denote the set of all tracial states of A, equipped with the topology of pointwise convergence. Note that if A is unital, the set T(A) is a Choquet simplex.

Let a be a positive element of $M_{\infty}(A)$ and $\tau \in T(A)$; define

$$d_{\tau}(a) := \lim_{n \to \infty} \tau(a^{\frac{1}{n}}) = \mu_{\tau}(\operatorname{sp}(a) \cap (0, +\infty)), \quad a \in A^{+},$$

where μ_{τ} is the Borel measure induced by τ on the spectrum of a. It is well known that if $a \lesssim b$, then

$$d_{\tau}(a) \le d_{\tau}(b), \quad \tau \in T(A).$$

Example 2.12. Consider $h \in C(X)^+$ and let μ be a Borel probability measure on X, where X is a compact Hausdorff space. Then

$$d_{\tau_{\mu}} = \mu(f^{-1}(0, +\infty)),$$

where τ_{μ} is the trace of C(X) defined by

$$\tau_{\mu}(f) = \int f d\mu, \quad f \in C(X).$$

If $A = M_n(C_0(X))$, where X is a locally compact Hausdorff space. Then, for any positive element $a \in M_{\infty}(A) \cong M_{\infty}(C_0(X))$ and any $\tau \in T(A)$, one has

$$\tau(a) = \int_X \frac{1}{n} \text{Tr}(a(x)) d\mu_{\tau}$$
 and $d_{\tau}(a) = \int_X \frac{1}{n} \text{rank}(a(x)) d\mu_{\tau}$,

where μ_{τ} is the Borel measure on X induced by τ .

Definition 2.13. For each open set $E \subseteq X$, pick a continuous function

such that

- (1) $E = \varphi_E^{-1}((0,1])$ and
- (2) there is an open set $V \subseteq E$ such that $\varphi_E|_V = 1$. (In particular, $\|\varphi_E\| = 1$.)

For instance, one can pick $\varphi_E(x) = \min\{\frac{1}{\varepsilon}d(x, X \setminus E), 1\}$, where d is a compatible metric on X and $\varepsilon > 0$ is sufficiently small. This notation will be used throughout this paper.

Note that the hereditary sub-C*-algebra $\overline{\varphi_E A \varphi_E}$ is independent of the choice of individual function φ_E , where A is a C*-algebra containing C(X). Therefore, one also denotes $\overline{\varphi_E A \varphi_E}$ by Her(E) in the paper.

2.4. Order zero maps and Rokhlin towers.

Definition 2.14 (Order zero maps). Let A, B be C*-algebras. A linear map $\phi : A \to B$ is said to be order zero if

$$a \perp b \Longrightarrow \phi(a) \perp \phi(b), \quad a, b \in A^+.$$

Let A be a C*-algebras and $\phi: \mathrm{M}_n(\mathbb{C}) \to A$ is a c.p. order zero map. Let $C:=\mathrm{C}^*(\phi(\mathrm{M}_n))\subseteq A$, and let $h=\phi(1_n)$. Then $h\in C\cap C'$, $\|h\|=\|\phi\|$, and there is a homomorphism $\pi_\phi:\mathrm{M}_n(\mathbb{C})\to\mathcal{M}(C)\cap\{h\}'\subseteq A^{**}$ such that

$$\phi(a) = \pi_{\phi}(a)h, \quad a \in M_n(\mathbb{C}).$$

Moreover,

$$C \cong M_n(C_0((0,1])).$$

Definition 2.15. Let $\phi : M_n(\mathbb{C}) \to A$ be a c.p. order zero map, and let $f \in C_0((0, ||h||])$, where $h = \phi(1_n)$. Then the map

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \ni a \mapsto \pi_{\phi}(a) f(h) \in A$$

is again an order zero map, where π_{ϕ} is as above. Denote this new order zero map by $f(\phi)$.

An order zero map $\psi: M_n(\mathbb{C}) \to A$ is said to be extendable if there is a c.p. order zero map $\psi': M_n(\mathbb{C}) \to A$ such that $\phi = f_\delta(\psi')$ for some $\delta > 0$.

The following is well known:

Lemma 2.16 ([32]). Let $v_1, v_2, ..., v_n \in A$, where A is a C*-algebra, such that

- $v_1^*v_1 = v_2^*v_2 = \cdots = v_n^*v_n$,
- $v_1^*v_1, v_1v_1^*, v_2v_2^*, ..., v_nv_n^*$ are mutually orthogonal, and
- $||v_1^*v_1|| = 1$.

Then there is an order zero map $\phi: M_{n+1}(\mathbb{C}) \to A$ such that $\|\phi\| = 1$,

$$\phi(e_{0,0}) = v_1^* v_1, \quad \phi(e_{i,i}) = v_i v_i^*, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n.$$

Definition 2.17. A Rokhlin tower of a dynamical system (X, Γ) is a pair (B, Γ_0) , where $B \subseteq X$ and $\Gamma_0 \subseteq \Gamma$ is finite, such that

$$B\gamma$$
, $\gamma \in \Gamma_0$,

are mutually disjoint. It is an open tower if the base set B is open. Without loss of generality, one may assume that Γ_0 contains the unit of Γ .

One can naturally construct order-zero maps from Rokhlin towers, as follows:

Let (B, Γ_0) be a tower, and pick a positive function $e: X \to [0, 1]$ such that $e^{-1}((0, 1]) \subseteq B$. Let $\gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in \Gamma_0$ and consider

$$v := u_{\gamma_2}^* e^{\frac{1}{2}} u_{\gamma_1}.$$

Then

$$v^*v = u_{\gamma_1}^* e u_{\gamma_1} = e \circ \gamma_1^{-1}$$
 and $vv^* = u_{\gamma_2}^* e u_{\gamma_2} = e \circ \gamma_2^{-1}$.

In general, if $F_1, F_2 \subseteq \Gamma_0$ are two disjoint sets with $|F_1| = |F_2|$. Pick a one-to-one correspondence $\theta: F_1 \to F_2$, and consider

$$v := \sum_{\gamma \in F_1} u_{\theta(\gamma)}^* e^{\frac{1}{2}} u_{\gamma}.$$

Then

$$v^*v = \sum_{\gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in F_1} u_{\gamma_1}^* e^{\frac{1}{2}} u_{\theta(\gamma_1)} u_{\theta(\gamma_2)}^* e^{\frac{1}{2}} u_{\gamma_2}$$

$$= \sum_{\gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in F_1} u_{\gamma_1}^* u_{\theta(\gamma_1)} (e^{\frac{1}{2}} \circ \theta(\gamma_1)^{-1}) (e^{\frac{1}{2}} \circ \theta(\gamma_2)^{-1}) u_{\theta(\gamma_2)}^* u_{\gamma_2}$$

$$= \sum_{\gamma \in F_1} u_{\gamma}^* e u_{\gamma},$$

and the same calculation shows that

$$vv^* = \sum_{\gamma \in F_1} u^*_{\theta(\gamma)} e u_{\theta(\gamma)} = \sum_{\gamma \in F_2} u^*_{\gamma} e u_{\gamma}.$$

Now, suppose there are mutually disjoint sets

$$\Gamma_{0,1}, \Gamma_{0,2}, ..., \Gamma_{0,n} \subseteq \Gamma_0$$

such that

$$|\Gamma_{0,1}| = |\Gamma_{0,2}| = \cdots = |\Gamma_{0,n}|.$$

Consider

$$e_1 := \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{0,1}} u_{\gamma}^* e u_{\gamma}, \dots, e_n := \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{0,n}} u_{\gamma}^* e u_{\gamma}.$$

Then the above calculation shows that there are $v_1, v_2, ..., v_{n-1}$ such that

$$v_1^*v_1 = v_2^*v_2 = \dots = v_{n-1}^*v_{n-1} = e_1$$

and

$$v_1v_1^* = e_2, v_2v_2^* = e_2, ..., v_{n-1}v_{n-1}^* = e_n.$$

So, there is an order zero map $\phi: \mathrm{M}_n(\mathbb{C}) \to A$ such that

$$\phi(e_{i,i}) = e_i, \quad i = 1, ..., n.$$

In summary, one has the following lemma:

Lemma 2.18. Let (B, Γ_0) be a Rokhlin tower, and let $\Gamma_{0,1}, \Gamma_{0,2}, ..., \Gamma_{0,n} \subseteq \Gamma_0$ be mutually disjoint sets such that

$$|\Gamma_{0,1}| = |\Gamma_{0,2}| = \cdots = |\Gamma_{0,n}|.$$

Let $e: X \to [0,1]$ be a continuous function such that $e^{-1}((0,1]) \subseteq B$. Set

$$e_1 := \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{0,1}} u_{\gamma}^* e u_{\gamma}, \dots, e_n := \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{0,n}} u_{\gamma}^* e u_{\gamma}.$$

Then there is an order zero map $\phi: M_n(\mathbb{C}) \to A$ such that

$$\phi(e_{i,i}) = e_i, \quad i = 1, ..., n.$$

2.5. Uniform Rokhlin property and Cuntz comparison of open sets.

Definition 2.19 ([17]). A dynamical system (X, Γ) is said to have the uniform Rokhlin property (URP) if for any finite set \mathcal{F} , any $\varepsilon > 0$, there are open Rokhlin towers (B_1, F_1) , ..., (B_S, F_S) such that $F_1, F_2, ..., F_S$ are $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant,

$$B_s \gamma$$
, $\gamma \in F_s$, $s = 1, 2, ..., S$

are mutually disjoint, and

$$\mu(X \setminus \bigsqcup_{s=1}^{S} \bigsqcup_{\gamma \in F_s} B_s \gamma) < \varepsilon, \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, \Gamma).$$

Remark 2.20. If $E \subseteq X$ is a closed set, then $\mu(E) < \varepsilon$ for all $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X,\Gamma)$ if, and only if, the orbit capacity of E is at most ε .

Definition 2.21 ([17]). A topological dynamical system (X, Γ) is said to have (λ, m) -Cuntz comparison of open sets, where $\lambda \in (0, +\infty)$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$, if, for any open sets $E, F \subseteq X$ with

$$\mu(E) \le \lambda \mu(F), \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, \Gamma),$$

one has

$$\varphi_E \lesssim \underbrace{\varphi_F \oplus \cdots \oplus \varphi_F}_{m} \quad \text{in } \mathcal{M}_{\infty}(\mathcal{C}(X) \rtimes \Gamma).$$

A topological dynamical system is said to have Cuntz comparison of open sets (COS) if it has (λ, m) -Cuntz comparison of open sets for some λ and m.

It follows from Theorem 4.2 and Theorem 5.5 of [16] that

Theorem 2.22. Any free and minimal dynamical system (X, \mathbb{Z}^d) has the (URP) and (COS).

3. Some Lemmas

In this section, let us develop some lemmas on dimension drop C*-algebras and order zero c.p.c. maps with domain a matrix algebra. Let us start with a simple observation:

Lemma 3.1. Let a, c be elements of a unital C^* -algebra, and assume that ac = c and a is positive. Then,

$$f(a)c = f(1)c, \quad f \in C([0, ||a||]).$$

Proof. If $f(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} c_k t^k$, then

$$f(a)c = (\sum_{k=0}^{n} c_k a^k)c = \sum_{k=0}^{n} c_k a^k c = \sum_{k=0}^{n} c_k c = (\sum_{k=0}^{n} c_k)c = f(1)c.$$

The general statement follows from the Weierstrass Theorem.

It is well known that the universal unital C*-algebra generated by v with respect to relations

$$vv^* \perp v^*v$$
 and $||vv^*|| \le 1$

is

$$D = \{ f : [0,1] \to M_2(\mathbb{C}) : f(0) \in \mathbb{C}1_2 \},$$

with v corresponding to

$$[0,1]\ni t\mapsto \left(\begin{array}{cc}0&\sqrt{t}\\0&0\end{array}\right).$$

Using this identification, one has the following lemma:

Lemma 3.2. Let A be a unital C*-algebra, and let $v \in A$. Consider $a = vv^*$ and $b = v^*v$, and assume that $||a|| \le 1$ and $a \perp b$. Define

$$w = \cos(\frac{\pi}{2}(vv^* + v^*v)) + g(vv^*)v - g(v^*v)v^*,$$

where

$$g(t) = \frac{\sin(\frac{\pi}{2}t)}{\sqrt{t}}, \quad t \in (0, 1].$$

Then $w \in C^*\{v, 1_A\}$ is a unitary such that

(3.1)
$$b(w^*cw) = (w^*cw)b = w^*cw, \quad if \ ac = ca = c,$$

and

(3.2)
$$a(wcw^*) = (wcw^*)a = wcw^*, \text{ if } bc = cb = c.$$

Proof. Noting that $vv^* + v^*v$ is central in $C^*(1, v)$, $vv^* \perp v^*v$, and

$$v^*h(vv^*) = h(v^*v)v^*, \quad h \in C_0((0,1]),$$

one has

$$ww^* = \left(\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}(vv^* + v^*v)) + g(vv^*)v - g(v^*v)v^*\right)$$

$$\left(\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}(vv^* + v^*v)) + v^*g(vv^*) - vg(v^*v)\right)$$

$$= \cos^2(\frac{\pi}{2}(vv^* + v^*v)) + g^2(vv^*)vv^* + g^2(v^*v)v^*v$$

$$= \cos^2(\frac{\pi}{2}(vv^* + v^*v)) + \sin^2(\frac{\pi}{2}v^*v) + \sin^2(\frac{\pi}{2}vv^*)$$

$$= \cos^2(\frac{\pi}{2}(vv^* + v^*v)) + \sin^2(\frac{\pi}{2}(v^*v + vv^*))$$

$$= 1.$$

The same calculation shows that $w^*w = 1$, and hence w is a unitary. Let $c \in A$ be an element satisfying

$$ac = ca = c$$
.

Note that, for any $f \in C([0,1])$, by Lemma 3.1, one has

$$(3.3) f(a)c = f(1)c = cf(a).$$

Therefore,

$$w^*cw = (\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}(vv^* + v^*v)) + v^*g(vv^*) - vg(v^*v))c$$

$$(\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}(vv^* + v^*v)) + g(vv^*)v - g(v^*v)v^*)$$

$$= (\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}(a)) + v^*g(vv^*))c(\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}(a)) + g(vv^*)v)$$

$$= v^*g(vv^*)cg(vv^*)v$$

$$= v^*cv,$$

and hence

$$(w^*cw)b = v^*cvb = v^*cvv^*v = v^*cav = v^*cv = w^*cw$$

and

$$b(w^*cw) = bv^*cv = v^*vv^*cv = v^*acv = v^*cv = w^*cw.$$

A similar calculation shows that

$$a(wcw^*) = (wcw^*)a = wcw^*$$

if
$$bc = cb = c$$
.

The following lemma is crucial in the proof of Proposition 5.4, in which it produces an element that behaves as a lower triangular matrix.

Lemma 3.3. Let A be a unital C*-algebra, and let $v_1, v_2, ..., v_n \in A$ be elements satisfying

•
$$v_1^*v_1 = v_2^*v_2 = \dots = v_n^*v_n$$
,

- \bullet $v_1^*v_1, v_1v_1^*, v_2v_2^*, ..., v_nv_n^*$ are mutually orthogonal, and
- $\bullet ||v_1^*v_1|| = 1.$

Then there is a unitary $w \in A$ satisfies the following properties:

(1) If $E_1, E_2, ..., E_n \in A$ are mutually orthogonal positive elements such that

$$[v_1^*v_1, E_i] = 0$$
 and $(v_iv_i^*)E_i = v_iv_i^*, i = 1, 2, ..., n,$

then

$$wE_i \in \overline{(E_1 + E_i + E_{i+1})A}, \quad 1 \le i \le n-1.$$

(2) If $D \subseteq A$ is a hereditary sub-C*-algebra such that

$$v_i v_i^* \in D, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

and $d \in D$ is an element such that

$$[d, v_1^* v_1] = 0$$
 and $v_n^* d = 0$,

then

$$wd \in \overline{DA}$$
.

(3) If $c \in A^+$ satisfies

$$(v_1^*v_1)c = c,$$

then

$$wc \in \overline{(v_1v_1^*)A}.$$

Proof. Consider the universal algebra \mathcal{A} generated by $v_1, v_2, ..., v_n$ with respect to the relations:

- $v_1^*v_1 = v_2^*v_2 = \cdots = v_n^*v_n$
- $v_1^*v_1, v_1v_1^*, v_2v_2^*, ..., v_nv_n^*$ are mutually orthogonal,
- $\bullet ||v_1^*v_1|| = 1.$

It is well known that \mathcal{A} is isomorphic to the dimension drop C*-algebra

(3.4)
$$D_{n+1} := \{ f \in \mathcal{C}([0,1], \mathcal{M}_{n+1}) : f(0) = 0_{n+1} \} \cong \mathcal{C}_0((0,1]) \otimes \mathcal{M}_{n+1}(\mathbb{C})$$

with

$$v_i(t) = \sqrt{t} \otimes e_{i,0}, \quad t \in [0,1], \ i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

where $e_{i,j}$, i, j = 0, 1, ..., n, are matrix units of $M_{n+1}(\mathbb{C})$.

With the identification (3.4), consider the unitary $w \in D_{n+1} + \mathbb{C}1$ defined by

$$w(t) = \begin{cases} 1_{n+1}, & \text{if } t = 0, \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1_{n-k} & \cos\frac{\pi}{2}n(t - \frac{k-1}{n}) & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \sin\frac{\pi}{2}n(t - \frac{k-1}{n}) \\ -\sin\frac{\pi}{2}n(t - \frac{k-1}{n}) & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \cos\frac{\pi}{2}n(t - \frac{k-1}{n}) \\ & -1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ & & -1 & 0 \end{cases}, & \text{if } t \in \left[\frac{k-1}{n}, \frac{k}{n}\right]. \end{cases}$$

Then the image of w in A, which is still denoted by w, satisfies the properties of the lemma.

Indeed, put

$$w_{i,j} = v_i v_i^*, \quad i, j = 1, ..., n,$$

and

$$w_{0,0} = v_1^* v_1, \quad w_{i,0} = v_i, \quad w_{0,j} = v_j^*, \quad i, j = 1, 2, ..., n.$$

Then

$$w = 1 + \sum_{i=0}^{n} g_{i,i}(w_{i,i}) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} g_{i,i-1}(w_{i,i})w_{i,i-1} + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} g_{i,n}(w_{i,i})w_{i,n},$$

for some functions $g_{i,j} \in C_0((0,1])$. Note that

$$(3.5) g_{0,0}(1) = -1.$$

Let $E_1, E_2, ..., E_n$ be mutually orthogonal positive elements of A satisfying

$$(3.6) w_{i,i}E_i = w_{i,i}, i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

and

$$[w_{0,0}, E_i] = 0.$$

Note that, by (3.6) and polar-decomposition, one has

$$v_j^* E_i = v_j' (v_j v_j^*)^{\frac{1}{2}} E_i = v_j' w_{j,j}^{\frac{1}{2}} E_i = v_j' w_{j,j}^{\frac{1}{2}} E_j E_i = 0, \quad j \neq i, \ 1 \leq i, j \leq n,$$

where v'_{j} is a partial isometry in the enveloping von Neumann algebra. Then, for any $1 \le i \le n-1$,

$$w_{i_1,i_2}E_i = v_{i_1}v_{i_2}^*E_i = 0, \quad i_2 \neq i, \ 1 \leq i_1, i_2 \leq n$$

and hence

$$wE_{i} = \left(1 + \sum_{j=0}^{n} g_{j,j}(w_{j,j}) + \sum_{j=1}^{n} g_{j,j-1}(w_{j,j})w_{j,j-1} + \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} g_{j,n}(w_{j,j})w_{j,n}\right)E_{i}$$

$$= E_{i} + g_{0,0}(w_{0,0})E_{i} + g_{i,i}(w_{i,i})E_{i} + g_{1,0}(w_{1,1})w_{1,0}E_{i} + g_{i+1,i}(w_{i+1,i+1})w_{i+1,i}E_{i}.$$

By (3.7),

$$g_{0,0}(w_{0,0})E_i = E_i g_{0,0}(w_{0,0}) \in E_i A.$$

By (3.6),

$$g_{i,i}(w_{i,i})E_i = E_i g_{i,i}(w_{i,i}) \in E_i A,$$

$$g_{1,0}(w_{1,1})w_{1,0}E_i = E_1 g_{1,0}(w_{1,1})w_{1,0}E_i \in E_1 A,$$

and

$$g_{i+1,i}(w_{i+1,i+1})w_{i+1,i}E_i = E_{i+1}g_{i+1,i}(w_{i+1,i+1})w_{i+1,i}E_i \in E_{i+1}A.$$

Therefore,

$$wE \in \overline{(E_1 + E_i + E_{i+1})A},$$

and this proves Property (1).

For Property (2), let D be a hereditary sub-C*-algebra such that

$$w_{i,i} \in D, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

and let $d \in D$ be an element satisfying

$$[d, w_{0,0}] = 0$$
 and $w_{0,n}d = 0$.

Then

$$wd = \left(1 + \sum_{i=0}^{n} g_{i,i}(w_{i,i}) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} g_{i,i-1}(w_{i,i})w_{i,i-1} + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} g_{i,n}(w_{i,i})w_{i,n}\right)d$$

$$= d + g_{0,0}(w_{0,0})d + \sum_{i=1}^{n} g_{i,i}(w_{i,i})d + \sum_{i=1}^{n} g_{i,i-1}(w_{i,i})w_{i,i-1}d + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} g_{i,n}(w_{i,i})w_{i,n}d$$

$$\in \overline{DA}.$$

For Property (3), let $c \in A$ be a positive element such that

$$w_{0,0}c = c$$
.

Then, by Lemma 3.1 and (3.5), one has

$$wc = \left(1 + \sum_{i=0}^{n} g_{i,i}(w_{i,i}) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} g_{i,i-1}(w_{i,i})w_{i,i-1} + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} g_{i,n}(w_{i,i})w_{i,n}\right)c$$

$$= c + g_{0,0}(w_{0,0})c + g_{1,0}(w_{1,1})w_{1,0}c$$

$$= (1 + g_{0,0}(1))c + g_{1,0}(w_{1,1})w_{1,0}c$$

$$= g_{1,0}(w_{1,1})w_{1,0}c \in \overline{w_{1,1}A}.$$

This proves the lemma.

Lemma 3.4. Let A be a unital C*-algebra, and let $\phi : M_n(\mathbb{C}) \to A$ be an extendable order zero c.p.c. map. Denote by $e_i = \phi(e_{i,i})$ and $h = \phi(1_n)$. Then, for any permutation $\sigma : \{1, 2, ..., n\} \to \{1, 2, ..., n\}$, there is a unitary $u \in A$ such that

$$[u, h] = 0$$
 and $u^* e_i u = e_{\sigma(i)}, i = 1, 2, ..., n.$

Proof. Since ϕ is extendable, there is an order zero map $\tilde{\phi}: M_n(\mathbb{C}) \to A$ and $\delta > 0$ such that $\phi = f_{\delta}(\tilde{\phi})$. Note that

$$C := C^* \{ \tilde{\phi}(M_n(\mathbb{C})) \} \cong \{ f : [0,1] \to M_n(\mathbb{C}) : f(0) = 0_n \} \cong C_0((0,1]) \otimes M_n(\mathbb{C})$$

with $e_i = f_{\delta} \otimes e_{i,i}$, i = 1, 2, ..., n, under the isomorphism. Denote by $U \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ the permutation unitary matrix such that

$$U^*e_{i,i}U = e_{\sigma(i),\sigma(i)}, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n.$$

Since the unitary group of $M_n(\mathbb{C})$ is path connected, there is a continuous path of unitaries

$$[0, \frac{\delta}{2}] \ni t \mapsto U_t \in \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$$

such that $U_0 = 1_n$ and $U_{\delta/2} = U$. Set

$$u: t \mapsto u(t) = \begin{cases} U_t, & t \in [0, \frac{\delta}{2}], \\ U, & t \in [\frac{\delta}{2}, 1]. \end{cases}$$

Then the unitary $u \in C + \mathbb{C}1_A \subseteq A$ has the desired property.

4. NILPOTENT ELEMENTS, ORDER ZERO MAPS, AND LIMITS OF INVERTIBLE ELEMENTS

An element a of a C*-algebra is said to be nilpotent if $a^n = 0$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$. It is well known that if a is nilpotent, then $a + \varepsilon 1_A$ is invertible for any non-zero ε ; in fact,

$$(4.1) (a+\varepsilon 1_A)^{-1} = \frac{1_A}{\varepsilon} - \frac{a}{\varepsilon^2} + \frac{a^2}{\varepsilon^3} + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} \frac{a^{n-1}}{\varepsilon^n} + \dots,$$

where the infinite series is eventually zero, as a is nilpotent. Hence any nilpotent element is in the closure of invertible elements.

The following lemma is a modified version of Lemma 4.2 of [2].

Lemma 4.1 (c.f. Lemma 4.2 of [2]). Let A be a finite unital C^* -algebra and let $a \in A$. Suppose there exist positive elements b_1, b_2, c_1, c_2 such that

- (1) $b_1 + b_2 = 1_A$,
- (2) $c_1 + c_2 = 1_A$,
- (3) $C^*\{b_1, b_2, c_1, c_2\}$ is commutative,
- (4) $b_1c_1=c_1$,
- (5) $b_2c_2 = b_2$,
- (6) $c_1b_2=0$,
- (7) there are unitaries $u, v \in A$ such that

$$u(b_2a(b_1-c_1)+b_2ab_2)v$$
 and $u(b_2ab_2)v$

are nilpotent,

(4.2)
$$v(u(b_2ab_2)v)^n u \in \overline{b_2Ab_2}, \quad n = 1, 2, ...,$$
and

$$c_1 v u b_2 = 0$$

(8)
$$b_1 a = 0$$
.
Then $a \in \overline{GL(A)}$

Proof. The proof is the similar to that of Lemma 5.2 of [2], but with $c_3 = b_3 = 0$. Fix an arbitrary $\varepsilon > 0$ for the time being, and note that

$$1_A = c_1 + (b_1 - c_1) + b_2.$$

Put

$$a_{3,1} = b_2 a c_1$$

$$a_{3,2} = b_2 a (b_1 - c_1)$$

$$a_{3,3} = b_2 a b_2.$$

Then, by (1) and (8),

$$a_{3,1} + a_{3,2} + a_{3,3} = b_2 a(c_1 + (b_1 - c_1) + b_2) = b_2 a(b_1 + b_2) = b_2 a = (b_1 + b_2)a = a.$$

Note that

$$a_{3,3} = u^{-1} a_{3,3}' v^{-1},$$

where

$$a'_{3,3} := ua_{3,3}v = u(b_2ab_2)v$$

is nilpotent (by 7).

Put

$$t_0 = u^{-1}(a'_{3,3} + \varepsilon 1_A)v^{-1}.$$

Then t_0 is invertible and

$$(4.3) ||t_0 - a_{3.3}|| = ||\varepsilon u^{-1} v^{-1}|| = \varepsilon.$$

Using (4.1), write

$$t_0^{-1} = v(\frac{1_A}{\varepsilon} - \frac{a'_{3,3}}{\varepsilon^2} + \frac{(a'_{3,3})^2}{\varepsilon^3} + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} \frac{(a'_{3,3})^{n-1}}{\varepsilon^n} + \dots)u = t_2 + \frac{vu}{\varepsilon},$$

where, by (4.2),

$$t_2 := -\frac{va_{3,3}'u}{\varepsilon^2} + \frac{v(a_{3,3}')^2u}{\varepsilon^3} + \dots + (-1)^{n-1}\frac{v(a_{3,3}')^{n-1}u}{\varepsilon^n} + \dots \in \overline{b_2Ab_2}.$$

(Note that the series above are eventually zero.) Therefore, together with

$$c_1b_2 = 0$$
 and $c_1vub_2 = 0$,

one has

(4.4)
$$a_{3,1}t_0^{-1}a_{3,1} = b_2ac_1(t_2 + \frac{vu}{\varepsilon})b_2ac_1 = 0$$

and

(4.5)
$$a_{3,1}t_0^{-1}a_{3,2} = b_2ac_1(t_2 + \frac{vu}{\varepsilon})b_2a(b_1 - c_1) = 0.$$

Therefore, by (4.4), one has

$$(4.6) (a3,1 + t0)t0-1(1A - a3,1t0-1) = a3,1t0-1 - a3,1t0-1 a3,1t0-1 + 1A - a3,1t0-1 = 1A and$$

$$t_0^{-1}(1_A - a_{3,1}t_0^{-1})(a_{3,1} + t_0) = t_0^{-1}a_{3,1} + 1_A - t_0^{-1}a_{3,1}t_0^{-1}a_{3,1} - t_0^{-1}a_{3,1} = 1_A.$$

In particular, the element $(a_{3,1} + t_0)$ is invertible with

$$(a_{3,1} + t_0)^{-1} = t_0^{-1} (1_A - a_{3,1} t_0^{-1}).$$

Then, together with (4.5), one has

$$(4.7) t_0^{-1}(1_A - a_{3,1}t_0^{-1})(a_{3,1} + a_{3,2} + t_0) = (a_{3,1} + t_0)^{-1}(a_{3,1} + a_{3,2} + t_0)$$

$$= 1_A + (a_{3,1} + t_0)^{-1}a_{3,2}$$

$$= 1_A + t_0^{-1}(1 - a_{3,1}t_0^{-1})a_{3,2}$$

$$= 1_A + t_0^{-1}a_{3,2}.$$

Consider

(4.8)
$$t_{1} := 1_{A} + t_{0}^{-1}a_{3,2}$$

$$= t_{0}^{-1}(t_{0} + a_{3,2})$$

$$= t_{0}^{-1}(u^{-1}(a'_{3,3} + \varepsilon 1_{A})v^{-1} + u^{-1}a'_{3,2}v^{-1})$$

$$= t_{0}^{-1}u^{-1}(a'_{3,3} + a'_{3,2} + \varepsilon 1_{A})v^{-1},$$

where

$$a'_{3,2} = ua_{3,2}v = u(b_2a(b_1 - c_1))v.$$

Since

$$a'_{3,3} + a'_{3,2} = u((b_2ab_2) + b_2a(b_1 - c_1))v$$

is nilpotent, one has that t_1 is invertible.

Put

$$y = (a_{3,1} + t_0)t_1.$$

Since $a_{3,1} + t_0$ and t_1 are invertible, one has

$$y \in GL(A)$$
.

Applying (4.6) in the third step, (4.7) in the fifth step, definition of t_1 (see (4.8)) in the sixth step, and (4.3) in the last step, one has

$$||a - y|| = ||a_{3,1} + a_{3,2} + a_{3,3} - (a_{3,1} + t_0)t_1||$$

$$\leq ||a_{3,3} - t_0|| + ||1_A(a_{3,1} + a_{3,2} + t_0) - (a_{3,1} + t_0)t_1||$$

$$\leq ||a_{3,3} - t_0|| + ||(a_{3,1} + t_0)t_0^{-1}(1_A - a_{3,1}t_0^{-1})(a_{3,1} + a_{3,2} + t_0) - (a_{3,1} + t_0)t_1||$$

$$\leq ||a_{3,3} - t_0|| + ||a_{3,1} + t_0|| ||t_0^{-1}(1_A - a_{3,1}t_0^{-1})(a_{3,1} + a_{3,2} + t_0) - t_1||$$

$$= ||a_{3,3} - t_0|| + ||a_{3,1} + t_0|| ||1_A + t_0^{-1}a_{3,2} - t_1||$$

$$= ||a_{3,3} - t_0|| = \varepsilon.$$

Since ε is arbitrary, one has $a \in \overline{\mathrm{GL}(A)}$, as desired.

Lemma 4.2. Let A be a unital C*-algebra, and let $\phi: M_n(\mathbb{C}) \to A$ be an extendable order zero c.p.c map. Set

$$h = \phi(1_n)$$
 and $e_i = \phi(e_{i,i}), i = 1, 2, ..., n,$

and set

$$b_2 = f_{\delta}(h), \quad b_1 = 1 - b_2, \quad c_2 = f_{\delta/2}(h), \quad c_1 = 1 - f_{\delta/2}(h),$$

for some $\delta \in (0,1)$.

Then, for any $m \in \mathbb{N}$ with $m \leq n$ and for some

$$1 \le i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_m \le n,$$

there are unitaries $u, v \in A$ satisfying the following properties:

- (1) $c_1vub_2 = 0$, and
- (2) if $a \in \overline{c_2 A c_2}$ satisfies

$$e_i a e_j = 0, \quad \text{if } j - i > d,$$

for some $d \in \mathbb{N}$ with d < m, and

$$e_{i_i}a = ae_{i_i} = 0, \quad 1 \le j \le m.$$

Then uav is nilpotent. Moreover, if $a \in \overline{b_2Ab_2}$, then

$$v(uav)^k u \in \overline{b_2 A b_2}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

Proof. With the given m and $i_1, i_2, ..., i_m$, define the permutation

$$\sigma: \{1, 2, ..., n\} \to \{1, 2, ..., n\}$$

by stretching $\{1, 2, ..., n-m\}$ to $\{1, 2, ..., n\} \setminus \{i_1, i_2, ..., i_m\}$, and then moves $\{n-m+1, ..., n\}$ to fill $\{i_1, i_2, ..., i_m\}$. More precisely, write

$$\begin{cases} I_0 = \{1 \le i \le n - m : i < i_1\}, \\ I_1 = \{1 \le i \le n - m : i_1 \le i, i + 1 < i_2\}, \\ \dots \\ I_{m-1} = \{1 \le i \le n - m : i_{m-1} \le i + m - 2, i + m - 1 < i_m\}, \\ I_m = \{1 \le i \le n - m : i_m \le i + m - 1\}, \end{cases}$$

and note that $\{1, 2, ..., n-m\} = I_0 \sqcup I_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup I_m$ (some of $I_k, k = 1, ..., m$, might be empty). Then

$$\sigma(i) = \begin{cases} i+k, & \text{if } i \in I_k, \\ i_{i-n+m}, & n-m+1 \le i \le n. \end{cases}$$

Note that for any $d \in \mathbb{N}$,

(4.9)
$$\sigma(j) - \sigma(i) > d, \quad \text{if } 1 \le i, j \le n - m \text{ and } j - i > d.$$

Since ϕ is extendable, by Lemma 3.4, there is a unitary $w_1 \in A$ such that

$$[w_1, h] = 0$$
 and $w_1^* e_i w_1 = e_{\sigma(i)}, i = 1, 2, ..., n.$

By Lemma 3.4 again, there is a unitary $w_2 \in A$ satisfying

$$[w_2, h] = 0$$

and

$$w_2^* e_i w_2 = \begin{cases} e_{i+n-m}, & 1 \le i \le m, \\ e_{i-m}, & m+1 \le i \le n. \end{cases}$$

Then, the unitaries

$$u := w_2 w_1 \quad \text{and} \quad v := w_1^*$$

satisfy the property of the lemma.

Indeed, since w_1 and w_2 commute with h and $c_1b_2=0$, one has that

$$c_1(vu)b_2 = c_1(w_1^*w_2w_1)b_2 = (w_1^*w_2w_1)(c_1b_2) = 0.$$

Let $a \in \overline{c_2 A c_2}$ satisfy

$$e_i a e_j = 0$$
, if $j - i > d$

for some natural number d < m, and

$$e_{i_j}a = ae_{i_j} = 0, \quad 1 \le j \le m.$$

Consider the element $w_1 a w_1^*$. Note that, for any $n - m + 1 \le i \le n$,

$$\sigma(i) \in \{i_1, i_2, ..., i_m\}$$
.

Hence

$$(4.10) e_i(w_1 a w_1^*) = w_1(e_{\sigma(i)} a) w_1^* = 0, \quad n - m + 1 \le i \le n$$

and

$$(4.11) (w_1 a w_1^*) e_i = w_1 (a e_{\sigma(i)}) w_1^* = 0, \quad n - m + 1 \le i \le n.$$

Also note that, for any $1 \le i, j \le n-m$ satisfying j-i > d, by (4.9), one has that $\sigma(j) - \sigma(i) > d$, and hence

$$e_i(w_1 a w_1^*) e_j = w_1(e_{\sigma(i)} a e_{\sigma(j)}) w_1^* = 0.$$

Together with (4.10) and (4.11), one has

$$(4.12) e_i(w_1 a w_1^*) e_j = 0, \quad j - i > d, \ 1 \le i, j \le n.$$

Consider the element $uav = w_2w_1aw_1^*$, and note that for any $1 \le i, j \le n$ with $j \ge i$,

• if $1 \le i \le m$, then $n - m + 1 \le i + n - m \le n$, and by (4.10),

$$e_i(w_2w_1aw_1^*)e_j = w_2(e_{i+n-m}w_1aw_1^*)e_j = 0;$$

• if $m+1 \le i \le n$, then $j-(i-m) \ge m > d$, and hence, by (4.12),

$$e_i(w_2w_1aw_1^*)e_j = w_2(e_{i-m}w_1aw_1^*e_j) = 0.$$

That is,

$$(4.13) e_i(uav)e_j = 0, \quad j \ge i.$$

Consider

$$\tilde{e}_i := f_{\frac{\delta}{4}}(e_i), \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

and it follows from (4.13) that

$$\tilde{e}_i(uav)\tilde{e}_i = 0, \quad j \ge i.$$

Since $uav \in \overline{c_2Ac_2}$, one has

$$uav = (\tilde{e}_1 + \dots + \tilde{e}_n)uav(\tilde{e}_1 + \dots + \tilde{e}_n) = \sum_{i,j=1}^n \tilde{e}_i(uav)\tilde{e}_j = \sum_{i>j} \tilde{e}_i(uav)\tilde{e}_j.$$

That is, there is a decomposition

$$uav = \sum_{i>i} a_{i,j}^{(1)},$$

where $a_{i,j}^{(1)} \in \overline{\tilde{e}_i A \tilde{e}_j}$. A direct calculation shows that

$$(uav)^2 = \sum_{i>k>j} a_{i,k} a_{k,j} = \sum_{i>k-1} a_{i,j}^{(2)},$$

where $a_{i,j}^{(2)} \in \overline{\tilde{e}_i A \tilde{e}_j}$.

Repeating n times, one has $(uav)^n = 0$. Hence uav is nilpotent.

If, moreover, $a \in \overline{b_2 A b_2}$, since u and v commute with h (and hence commute with b_2), one has

$$v(uav)^k u \in v(u(\overline{b_2Ab_2})v)^k u \subseteq \overline{b_2Ab_2}, \quad k = 1, 2, ...,$$

as desired. \Box

Proposition 4.3. Let A be a unital C^* -algebra, and let $a \in A$. If there exist an extendable order zero c.p.c. map $\phi : M_n(\mathbb{C}) \to A$, natural numbers d < m and $1 \le i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_m \le n$, such that

- (1) (1-h)a = 0, where $h = \phi(1_n)$,
- (2) $e_{i_j}a = ae_{i_j} = 0$, j = 1, 2, ..., m, where $e_i = \phi(e_{i,i})$, and
- (3) $e_i a e_j = 0$, if j i > d.

Then $a \in \overline{\mathrm{GL}(A)}$.

Proof. Pick an arbitrary $\delta \in (0,1)$, and consider

$$b_2 = f_{\delta}(h), \quad c_2 = f_{\delta/2}(h), \quad b_1 = 1 - f_{\delta}(h), \quad \text{and} \quad c_1 = 1 - f_{\delta/2}(h).$$

Note that

$$c_2b_2 = b_2$$
, $b_1c_1 = c_1$, and $c_1b_2 = 0$.

Since (1-h)a=0, one has a=ha, and

$$b_2 a = f_{\delta}(h) a = f_{\delta}(1) a = a.$$

Hence $b_1 a = 0$.

Consider the elements

$$b_2ab_2$$
 and $b_2a(b_1-c_1)+b_2ab_2$,

and note that both of them are in $\overline{c_2Ac_2}$. Also note that (since h commutes with e_i , i=1,2,...,n)

$$e_i b_2 a b_2 e_j = b_2 e_i a e_j b_2 = 0, \quad j - i > d$$

and

$$e_{i_j}(b_2ab_2) = b_2e_{i_j}ab_2 = 0 = b_2ae_{i_j}b_2 = (b_2ab_2)e_{i_j}, \quad j = 1, 2, ..., m;$$

and the same argument shows that

$$e_i(b_2a(b_1-c_1)+b_2ab_2)e_j=0, \quad j-i>d,$$

and

$$e_{i_j}(b_2a(b_1-c_1)+b_2ab_2)=0=(b_2a(b_1-c_1)+b_2ab_2)e_{i_j}, \quad j=1,2,...,m.$$

Let $u, v \in A$ be the unitaries obtained by applying Lemma 4.2 to ϕ , δ , m and $i_1, i_2, ..., i_m$. Then, by Lemma 4.2, one has

$$c_1vub_2=0$$
,

$$u(b_2ab_2)v$$
 and $u(b_2a(b_1-c_1)+b_2ab_2)v$

are nilpotent, and

$$v(ub_2ab_2v)^nu \in \overline{b_2Ab_2}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Then, by Lemma 4.1, one has $a \in \overline{\mathrm{GL}(A)}$, as desired.

5. Property (D) and stable rank one

Definition 5.1. Let A be a unital C*-algebra. An element $a \in A$ is said to be a \mathcal{D}_0 -operator if there exists a nonzero positive element $b \in A$ satisfying

$$ba = ab = 0$$
,

and there exists an order zero c.p.c. map

$$\phi: \mathrm{M}_{pq}(\mathbb{C}) \to A,$$

where $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$, and there exist $r, l \in \mathbb{N}$ such that, with

$$e_i := \phi(e_{i,i}), \quad i = 1, 2, ..., pq,$$

$$s_k := e_{(k-1)p+1} + \dots + e_{(k-1)p+r}, \quad k = 1, \dots, q,$$

and

$$E_k := e_{(k-1)p+1} + \cdots + e_{(k-1)p+p}, \quad k = 1, ..., q,$$

one has

- (1) $E_{k_1}aE_{k_2} = 0$, $k_2 k_1 \ge l$, $1 \le k_1, k_2 \le q$;
- (2) qr > (l+1)p;
- (3) for each k = 1, 2, ..., q, there are positive elements c_k, d_k with norm 1 such that
 - (a) $c_k, d_k \in \overline{bAb}$,
 - (b) $c_k \perp s_k$ and $c_k \perp d_k$,
 - (c) $c_k E_k = c_k$ and $d_k E_k = d_k$, and
 - (d) $s_k \lesssim c_k$ and $1_A h \lesssim d_k$, where $h := \phi(1_{pq})$.

Recall that

Definition 5.2. Let A be a C^* -algebra, then, define

$$ZD(A) := \{ a \in A : d_1 a = a d_2 = 0 \text{ for some } d_1, d_2 \in A^+ \setminus \{0\} \}.$$

And define

Definition 5.3. The C*-algebra A is said to have Property (D) if for any $a \in \text{ZD}(A)$ and any $\varepsilon > 0$, there are unitaries $u_1, u_2 \in A$ and a \mathcal{D}_0 -operator $a' \in A$ such that $||u_1 a u_2 - a'|| < \varepsilon$.

It turns out that any \mathcal{D}_0 -operator is in the norm closure of invertible elements.

Proposition 5.4. Let $a \in A$ be a \mathcal{D}_0 -operator of a unital C^* -algebra A. Then $a \in \overline{\mathrm{GL}(A)}$.

Proof. Let a be a \mathcal{D}_0 -operator. Then there is $b \in A^+ \setminus \{0\}$ such that

$$(5.1) ba = ab = 0;$$

and there exists an order zero c.p.c. map

$$\phi': \mathrm{M}_{pq}(\mathbb{C}) \to A,$$

where $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$, and there exist $r, l \in \mathbb{N}$ such that, with

$$e'_i := \phi'(e_{i,i}), \quad i = 1, 2, ..., pq,$$

$$s_k := e'_{(k-1)p+1} + \dots + e'_{(k-1)p+r}, \quad k = 1, \dots, q,$$

and

$$E_k := e'_{(k-1)p+1} + \dots + e'_{(k-1)p+p}, \quad k = 1, \dots, q,$$

one has

- (1) $E_{k_1}aE_{k_2} = 0$, $k_2 k_1 \ge l$, $1 \le k_1, k_2 \le q$;
- (2) qr > (l+1)p;
- (3) there are positive elements $c_k, d_k, k = 1, 2, ..., q$, with norm 1 such that
 - (a) $c_k, d_k \in \overline{bAb}$,
 - (b) $c_k \perp s_k$ and $c_k \perp d_k$,
 - (c) $c_k E_k = c_k$ and $d_k E_k = d_k$, and
 - (d) $s_k \lesssim c_k$ and $1_A h' \lesssim d_k$, where $h' := \phi'(1_{pq})$.

With above, one asserts that there exist an extendable order zero c.p.c. map

$$\phi: \mathrm{M}_{pq}(\mathbb{C}) \to A$$

and unitaries $u, w \in A$ such that, with

$$h := \phi(1_{pq})$$
 and $e_i := \phi(e_{i,i}), i = 1, 2, ..., pq$

then

- $\bullet (1_A h)(uw^*au^*) = 0,$
- $e_i(uw^*au^*)e_j = 0, j-i > (l+1)q$, and
- there are $e_{i_1}, ..., e_{i_{qr}}$ such that

$$e_{i_j}(uw^*au^*) = (uw^*au^*)e_{i_j} = 0, \quad j = 1, 2, ..., qr.$$

It then follows from Proposition 4.3 (with d = (l+1)p and m = qr) and Condition 2 that

$$uw^*au^* \in \overline{\mathrm{GL}(A)}.$$

Since u, w are unitaries, one has that $a \in \overline{\mathrm{GL}(A)}$, and the proposition follows.

Let us show the assertion. By Condition 3a and (5.1)

(5.2)
$$c_k a = ac_k = d_k a = ad_k = 0, \quad k = 1, ..., q.$$

Consider the positive element $f_{\frac{1}{2}}(h')$, and note that $1_A - f_{\frac{1}{2}}(h') \lesssim 1_A - h'$. Then, by Condition 3d, one has

$$1_A - f_{\frac{1}{2}}(h') \lesssim d_k, \quad k = 1, 2, ..., q,$$

and therefore, by Proposition 2.4(iv) of [23] (see Lemma 2.10), there are

$$v_1, v_2, ..., v_q \in A$$

such that

$$(5.3) v_k^* v_k = f_{\frac{1}{2}}(1_A - f_{\frac{1}{2}}(h')) \text{ and } v_k v_k^* \in \text{Her}(d_k) \subseteq \text{Her}(b), \quad k = 1, ..., q.$$

It follows from Condition 3c that $f_{\frac{1}{2}}(1_A - f_{\frac{1}{2}}(h')) \perp d_k$; then, using Condition 3c again, one has

$$f_{\frac{1}{2}}(1_A - f_{\frac{1}{2}}(h')) \perp v_k v_k^*$$
 and $v_k v_k^* \in \text{Her}(E_k)$, $1 \le k \le q$,

and hence

$$v_1^*v_1, v_1v_1^*, v_2v_2^*, ..., v_qv_q^*$$

are mutually orthogonal. Applying Lemma 3.3 to $v_1, v_2, ..., v_q$, one obtains the unitary $w \in A$ which satisfies the properties of Lemma 3.3.

By Condition 3d,

(5.4)
$$s_k \lesssim c_k, \quad k = 1, ..., q.$$

Since $s_k, c_k \in \overline{E_k A E_k}$, one may assume that the Cuntz sub-equivalences (5.4) hold in the hereditary sub-C*-algebra $\overline{E_k A E_k}$. By Proposition 2.4(iv) of [23] (see Lemma 2.10), there is $z_k \in \overline{E_k A E_k}$ such that

(5.5)
$$z_k^* z_k = f_{\frac{1}{2}}(s_k) \quad \text{and} \quad z_k z_k^* \in \text{Her}(c_k) \subseteq \text{Her}(b).$$

Note that, by Condition (3c),

$$(5.6) z_k \in \overline{f_{\frac{1}{8}}(E_k)Af_{\frac{1}{8}}(E_k)}.$$

By Condition 3b,

$$z_k^* z_k = f_{\frac{1}{8}}(s_k) \perp \overline{c_k A c_k} \ni z_k z_k^*.$$

Since $f_{\frac{1}{8}}(s_k)f_{\frac{1}{4}}(s_k) = f_{\frac{1}{4}}(s_k)$, applying Lemma 3.2 to $v = z_k$, one has that, with

(5.7)
$$u_k := \cos(\frac{\pi}{2}(z_k z_k^* + z_k^* z_k)) + z_k^* g(z_k z_k^*) - z_k g(z_k^* z_k),$$

where $g(t) = \sin(\pi t/2)/\sqrt{t}$, $t \in (0,1]$, then $u_k \in C^*(z_k,1)$ is a unitary such that

$$u_k^* f_{\frac{1}{4}}(s_k) u_k \in \operatorname{Her}(c_k) \subseteq \operatorname{Her}(b).$$

By (5.6), one has that $u_k \in \overline{f_{\frac{1}{8}}(E_k)Af_{\frac{1}{8}}(E_k)} + \mathbb{C}1_A$ and hence

$$u_k^* E_k u_k \in \overline{E_k A E_k},$$

$$u_k^* a u_k = a, \quad a \in \overline{E_{k'} A E_{k'}}, \ k \neq k'.$$

(5.8)
$$u_k^* f_{\frac{1}{8}}(E_k) u_k \in \overline{f_{\frac{1}{8}}(E_k) A f_{\frac{1}{8}}(E_k)}$$
 and $[u_k, f_{\frac{1}{16}}(E_k)] = 0$.

In particular, with

$$u := \prod_{k=1}^{q} u_k,$$

one has

(5.9)
$$u^* E_k u \in \overline{E_k A E_k}, \quad 1 \le k \le q,$$

$$[u, f_{\frac{1}{16}}(E_k)] = 0, \quad 1 \le k \le q,$$

and

(5.11)
$$u^* f_{\frac{1}{4}}(s_k) u \in \operatorname{Her}(c_k) \subseteq \operatorname{Her}(b), \quad 1 \le k \le q.$$

Consider the positive element $1_A - f_{\frac{1}{4}}(h')$, and note that

$$(1_A - f_{\frac{1}{4}}(h'))v_1^*v_1 = (1_A - f_{\frac{1}{4}}(h'))f_{\frac{1}{2}}(1_A - f_{\frac{1}{2}}(h')) = 1_A - f_{\frac{1}{4}}(h').$$

It follows from Lemma 3.3(3) that

$$(1_A - f_{\frac{1}{4}}(h'))w^* \in \overline{A(v_1v_1^*)} \subseteq \overline{Ad_1}$$

and therefore, by (5.2),

$$(5.12) (1_A - f_{\frac{1}{4}}(h'))w^*a = 0.$$

Since $v_1^*v_1, E_k \in C^*(e'_1, ..., e'_{pq})$, which is commutative, together with Condition 3c and (5.3), one has

$$[v_1^*v_1, E_k] = 0$$
 and $(v_k v_k^*) E_k = v_k v_k^*, k = 1, 2, ..., q.$

It then follows from Lemma 3.3(1) that

$$E_k w^* \in \overline{A(E_1 + E_k + E_{k+1})}, \quad k = 1, 2, ..., q - 1,$$

and hence, by Condition 1, for any $k_2 - k_1 \ge l + 1$ where $1 \le k_1, k_2 \le q$, one has that $E_{k_1} w^* a E_{k_2} = 0$, and then, by (5.9),

$$E_{k_1}(uw^*au^*)E_{k_2} = u(u^*E_{k_1}u)w^*a(u^*E_{k_2}u)u^* \in u\overline{E_{k_1}AE_{k_1}w^*a\overline{E_{k_2}AE_{k_2}}}u^* = \{0\}.$$

In particular,

$$(5.13) f_{\frac{1}{4}}(E_{k_1})(uw^*au^*)f_{\frac{1}{4}}(E_{k_2}) = 0, k_2 - k_1 \ge l + 1.$$

Consider

$$c := \sum_{k=1}^{q} c_k.$$

Note that $c \in \overline{bAb}$. By Condition 3c, one has that ch' = c; in particular, [c, h'] = 0 and hence, by (5.3), $[c, v_1^*v_1] = 0$. Also note $c \perp v_q v_q^* \in \text{Her}(d_q)$. Then, it follows from Lemma 3.3(2) (with c in the place of d and \overline{bAb} in the place of D) that

$$(5.14) cw^* \in \overline{A(\overline{bAb})}.$$

By (5.11), for each k = 1, 2, ..., q and i = 1, ..., r, one has

$$(5.15) u^* f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i}) u \le u^* f_{\frac{1}{4}}(s_k) u \in \operatorname{Her}(c_k) \subseteq \overline{cAc} \subseteq \overline{bAb}.$$

Then, together with (5.14),

$$(u^*f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i})u)w^* \in (\overline{cAc})w^* \subseteq \overline{cAcw^*} \subseteq \overline{A(\overline{bAb})}.$$

Hence

$$f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{n(k-1)+i})(uw^*au^*) = u((u^*f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i})u)w^*)au^* \in u\overline{A(\overline{bAb})}au^* = \{0\};$$

and, on the other hand, by (5.15),

$$(uw^*au^*)f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i}) = uw^*(a(u^*f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i})u))u^* \in uw^*(a(\overline{bAb}))u^* = \{0\}.$$

That is, for any k = 1, ..., q and i = 1, ..., r,

(5.16)
$$f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i})(uw^*au^*) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad (uw^*au^*)f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i}) = 0.$$

Let us show that

(5.17)
$$u^*(1_A - f_{\frac{1}{4}}(h'))uw^*a = 0.$$

By (5.10), one has

$$(5.18) u^*(1_A - f_{\frac{1}{4}}(h'))u$$

$$= 1_A - u^* \sum_{k=1}^q \sum_{i=1}^p f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i})u$$

$$= (1_A - f_{\frac{1}{16}}(h')) + f_{\frac{1}{16}}(h') - u^* \sum_{k=1}^q \sum_{i=1}^p f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i})u$$

$$= (1_A - f_{\frac{1}{16}}(h')) + \sum_{k=1}^q f_{\frac{1}{16}}(E_k) - u^* \sum_{k=1}^q \sum_{i=1}^p f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i})u$$

$$= (1 - f_{\frac{1}{16}}(h')) + u^*(\sum_{k=1}^q f_{\frac{1}{16}}(E_k) - \sum_{k=1}^q \sum_{i=1}^p f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i}))u$$

$$= (1_A - f_{\frac{1}{16}}(h')) + \sum_{k=1}^q \sum_{i=1}^p u_k^*(f_{\frac{1}{16}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i}) - f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i}))u_k$$

$$= (1_A - f_{\frac{1}{16}}(h')) + \sum_{k=1}^q \sum_{i=1}^p u_k^*\lambda_{k,i}u_k,$$

where

$$\lambda_{k,i} := f_{\frac{1}{16}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i}) - f_{\frac{1}{4}}(e'_{(k-1)p+i}), \quad k = 1, ..., q, \ i = 1, ..., p.$$

Consider the elements

$$(u_k^* \lambda_{k,i} u_k) w^* a, \quad k = 1, ..., q, \ i = 1, ..., p.$$

If i = r + 1, ..., p, then, by (5.5),

$$z_k \lambda_{k,i} = \lambda_{k,i} z_k = 0;$$

and hence, by (5.7),

$$[u_k, \lambda_{k,i}] = 0.$$

Since $\lambda_{k,i} \subseteq \text{Her}(1 - f_{\frac{1}{4}}(h'))$, together with (5.12), one has

$$(u_k^* \lambda_{k,i} u_k) w^* a = \lambda_{k,i} w^* a = 0.$$

If i = 1, ..., r, then, by (5.7),

$$\lambda_{k,i} u_k w^* a = \lambda_{k,i} \cos(\frac{\pi}{2} (z_k z_k^* + z_k^* z_k)) w^* a + \lambda_{k,i} z_k^* g(z_k z_k^*) w^* a - \lambda_{k,i} z_k g(z_k^* z_k) w^* a.$$

By (5.5) and (5.14),

$$\lambda_{k,i} z_k^* g(z_k z_k^*) w^* a \in \lambda_{k,i} z_k^* (\overline{cAc}) w^* a = \{0\}.$$

Using (5.14) again, one has $\lambda_{k,i}z_k=0$, and hence

$$\lambda_{k,i} z_k g(z_k^* z_k) w^* a = 0.$$

Since $[\lambda_{k,i}, z_k^* z_k] = 0$ (by (5.14)),

$$\lambda_{k,i}(\frac{\pi}{2}z_k^*z_k)^{2n} \in \text{Her}(\lambda_{k,i}) \subseteq \text{Her}(1 - f_{\frac{1}{4}}(h')), \quad n = 0, 1, ...,$$

and therefore, by (5.12),

$$\lambda_{k,i}\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}(z_k z_k^* + z_k^* z_k))w^* a = \lambda_{k,i} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n)!} (\frac{\pi}{2}(z_k z_k^* + z_k^* z_k))^{2n} w^* a$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n)!} \lambda_{k,i} (\frac{\pi}{2} z_k^* z_k)^{2n} w^* a$$

$$= 0.$$

This shows that

$$\lambda_{k,i}u_kw^*a=0, \quad k=1,...,q, \ i=1,2,...,r,$$

and hence

$$(5.19) (u_k^* \lambda_{k,i} u_k) w^* a = 0, \quad k = 1, ..., q, \ i = 1, ..., p.$$

Then, together with by (5.18) and (5.12),

$$u^*(1_A - f_{\frac{1}{4}}(h'))uw^*a = (1_A - f_{\frac{1}{16}}(h'))w^*a + \sum_{k=1}^q \sum_{i=1}^p u_k^* \lambda_{k,i} u_k w^*a = 0,$$

and this proves (5.17).

Therefore, with

$$\phi := f_{\frac{1}{4}}(\phi')$$
 and $h := \phi(1_{pq}),$

by (5.17), one that,

$$(1_A - h)(uw^*au^*) = 0.$$

Set

$$e_i := \phi(e_{i,i}), \quad i = 1, 2, ..., pq.$$

For any $e_i, e_j, j-i > (l+1)p$, there are $1 \le k_1, k_2 \le q$ with $k_2 - k_1 \ge l+1$ such that

$$e_i \le f_{\frac{1}{4}}(E_{k_1})$$
 and $e_j \le f_{\frac{1}{4}}(E_{k_2})$.

Then it follows from 5.13 that

$$e_i(uw^*au^*)e_j \in \overline{f_{\frac{1}{4}}(E_{k_1})Af_{\frac{1}{4}}(E_{k_1})}uw^*au^*\overline{f_{\frac{1}{4}}(E_{k_2})Af_{\frac{1}{4}}(E_{k_2})} = \{0\}.$$

Set

$${i_1, i_2, ..., i_{rq}} = {(k-1)p + i : k = 1, ..., q, i = 1, ..., r}.$$

Then it follows from (5.16) that

$$e_{i_j}(u(w^*a)u^*) = (u(w^*a)u^*)e_{i_j} = 0, \quad j = 1, 2, ..., rq,$$

as desired. Finally, it is clear that ϕ is extendable. This proves that ϕ satisfies the assertion, and hence the proposition follows.

Theorem 5.5. Let A be a unital C^* -algebra which has Property (D). Then

$$ZD(A) \subseteq \overline{GL(A)}$$
.

In particular, if A is finite, then $A = \overline{GL(A)}$ (in other words, tsr(A) = 1).

Proof. Let $a \in \mathrm{ZD}(A)$, and fix an arbitrary $\varepsilon > 0$ for the time being. Since A has the Property (D), there exist unitaries $u_1, u_2 \in A$ and a \mathcal{D}_0 -operator $a' \in A$ such that

$$||u_1 a u_2 - a'|| < \varepsilon.$$

By Proposition 5.4, one has that $a' \in \overline{GL(A)}$. Since u_1, u_2 are unitaries, it follows that

$$u_1^*a'u_2^* \in \overline{\mathrm{GL}(A)},$$

and hence

$$\operatorname{dist}(a, \overline{\operatorname{GL}(A)}) < \varepsilon.$$

Since $\varepsilon > 0$ is arbitrary, one has that $a \in \overline{\mathrm{GL}(A)}$, and therefore

(5.20)
$$ZD(A) \subseteq \overline{GL(A)}.$$

If, moreover, the C^* -algebra A is finite, by Proposition 3.2 of [22],

$$A \setminus GL(A) \subseteq \overline{ZD(A)};$$

and then, together with (5.20),

$$A = \operatorname{GL}(A) \cup (A \setminus \operatorname{GL}(A)) \subseteq \operatorname{GL}(A) \cup \overline{\operatorname{ZD}(A)} \subseteq \operatorname{GL}(A) \cup \overline{\operatorname{GL}(A)} = \overline{\operatorname{GL}(A)},$$

as desired.

6. Non-invertible elements and zero divisors of $\mathrm{C}(X) \rtimes \Gamma$

In the following two sections, let us show that the C*-algebra $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ has Property (D) if (X,Γ) has the (URP) and (COS). Since $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ is finite, this shows that $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ has stable rank one by Theorem 5.5.

Recall that if B is a sub-C*-algebra of A, a conditional expectation from A to B is a completely positive linear contraction $\mathbb{E}: A \to B$ such that

$$\mathbb{E}(b) = b$$
, $\mathbb{E}(ba) = b\mathbb{E}(a)$ and $\mathbb{E}(ab) = \mathbb{E}(a)b$, $b \in B$, $a \in A$.

If (X, Γ) is a free dynamical system, and if $\mathbb{E} : C(X) \rtimes \Gamma \to C(X)$ is a conditional expectation, where $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ is a crossed-product C*-algebra. Then

$$\mathbb{E}(u_{\gamma}) = 0, \quad \gamma \in \Gamma \setminus \{e\}.$$

Indeed, let $\gamma \in \Gamma \setminus \{e\}$ and consider $\mathbb{E}(u_{\gamma}) \in \mathrm{C}(X)$. Note that for all $g \in \mathrm{C}(X)$, since $u_{\gamma}^* g u_{\gamma} \in \mathrm{C}(X)$, one has

$$g\mathbb{E}(u_{\gamma}) = \mathbb{E}(gu_{\gamma}) = \mathbb{E}(u_{\gamma}u_{\gamma}^*gu_{\gamma}) = \mathbb{E}(u_{\gamma})(u_{\gamma}^*gu_{\gamma}).$$

Assume $\mathbb{E}(u_{\gamma}) \neq 0$. Then there is $x_0 \in X$ such that $\mathbb{E}(u_{\gamma})(x_0) \neq 0$. Since (X, Γ) is free, one has $x_0 \neq x_0 \gamma^{-1}$. Pick $g \in C(X)$ such that $g(x_0) = 1$ and $g(x_0 \gamma^{-1}) = 0$. Then

$$g(x_0)\mathbb{E}(u_{\gamma})(x_0) = \mathbb{E}(u_{\gamma})(x_0) \neq 0 = \mathbb{E}(u_{\gamma})(x_0)g(x_0\gamma^{-1}) = \mathbb{E}(u_{\gamma})(x_0)(u_{\gamma}^*gu_{\gamma})(x_0),$$

which is a contradiction.

If Γ is amenable, then a conditional expectation $\mathbb{E}: \mathrm{C}(X) \rtimes \Gamma \to \mathrm{C}(X)$ always exists, and is not only unique (see above) but also faithful (see, for instance, Proposition 4.1.9 of [4]).

Lemma 6.1. Let (X, Γ) be a free and minimal topological dynamical system, where Γ is a countable discrete group and X is a compact Hausdorff space. Denote by $A = C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ a crossed-product C^* -algebra, and assume there is a faithful conditional expectation $\mathbb{E} : A \to C(X)$.

Let $a \in A$ such that ba = 0 for some non-zero positive element b. Then, for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there is unitary $u \in A$ and a (non-empty) open set $E \subseteq X$ such that

$$\|\varphi_E ua\| < \varepsilon.$$

Proof. Since \mathbb{E} is faithful, without loss of generality, one may assume

$$||a|| = 1$$
 and $||\mathbb{E}(b)|| = 1$.

Pick $\varepsilon' > 0$ such that if $||ca|| < \varepsilon'$ for some positive element c with $||c|| \le (||b|| + 1)^2$, then $||c^{\frac{1}{2}}a|| < \varepsilon/(||b|| + 1)$. Pick $\varepsilon'' \in (0,1)$ such that

$$(\|b\| + \varepsilon'')\varepsilon'' < \varepsilon',$$

and pick $b' \in C_c(\Gamma, C(X))$ such that

$$||b-b'||<\varepsilon''.$$

Since $\|\mathbb{E}(b)\| = 1$, one may assume that $\|\mathbb{E}(b')\| = 1$. Write

$$b' = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_0} f_{\gamma} u_{\gamma}$$

for a finite set $\Gamma_0 \subseteq \Gamma$ with $\Gamma_0 = \Gamma_0^{-1}$, where $f_{\gamma} \in C(X)$. Since $\mathbb{E}(b') = f_e$, one has that $||f_e|| = 1$, and then there is $x_0 \in X$ such that

$$|f_e(x_0)| = 1.$$

Pick a neighbourhood U of x_0 such that $\overline{\bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma_0} U \gamma} \neq X$, and pick an open set $W \neq X$ such that

$$\overline{\bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma_0} U \gamma} \subseteq W.$$

Therefore, there is a continuous function $\varphi_W: X \to [0,1]$ such that

(6.1)
$$\varphi_W^{-1}((0,1]) = W \quad \text{and} \quad \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma_0} U\gamma \subseteq \varphi_W^{-1}(1).$$

Pick a continuous function $\varphi_U: X \to [0,1]$ so that

(6.2)
$$\varphi_U^{-1}((0,1]) = U$$
 and $\varphi_U(x_0) = 1$.

Note that

$$b'\varphi_{U}(b')^{*} = \left(\sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{0}} f_{\gamma}u_{\gamma}\right)\varphi_{U}\left(\sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{0}} f_{\gamma}u_{\gamma}\right)^{*}$$

$$= \left(\sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{0}} f_{\gamma}u_{\gamma}\right)\varphi_{U}\left(\sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{0}} u_{\gamma}^{*}\overline{f_{\gamma}}\right)$$

$$= \sum_{\gamma,\gamma' \in \Gamma_{0}} f_{\gamma'}u_{\gamma'}\varphi_{U}u_{\gamma}^{*}\overline{f_{\gamma}}$$

$$= \sum_{\gamma,\gamma' \in \Gamma_{0}} f_{\gamma'}(\overline{f_{\gamma}} \circ (\gamma'\gamma^{-1}))(\varphi_{U} \circ \gamma')u_{\gamma'\gamma^{-1}}.$$

Hence, by (6.1),

(6.3)
$$\varphi_W(b'\varphi_U(b')^*) = b'\varphi_U(b')^*.$$

Also note that, by (6.2),

$$\mathbb{E}(b'\varphi_{U}(b')^{*})(x_{0}) = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{0}} |f_{\gamma}(x_{0})|^{2} \varphi_{U}(x_{0}\gamma) \ge |f_{e}(x_{0})|^{2} = 1;$$

and in particular,

Set

$$b'' = \frac{1}{\|\mathbb{E}(b'\varphi_U(b')^*)\|} b'\varphi_U(b')^*.$$

Note that

$$\mathbb{E}(b'') = \frac{1}{\left\|\sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_0} |f_{\gamma}|^2 \varphi_U\right\|} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_0} |f_{\gamma}|^2 \varphi_{U\gamma}.$$

So there is $y_0 \in X$ so that $\mathbb{E}(b'')(y_0) = 1$. By perturbing f_{γ} , $\gamma \in \Gamma_0$, and φ_U to be locally constant around y_0 , there is an open neighbourhood $V \ni y_0$ such that

(6.5)
$$\mathbb{E}(b'')(x) = \mathbb{E}(b'')(y_0) = 1, \quad x \in V.$$

Moreover, since (X, Γ) is free, one may choose V small enough so that

(6.6)
$$V \cap V\gamma = \varnothing, \quad \gamma \in \Gamma_0^2 \setminus \{e\},$$

and since the action is minimal (so any orbit is dense), by choosing V even smaller, there is $\gamma_0 \in \Gamma$ such that

$$(6.7) V\gamma_0 \cap W = \varnothing.$$

Note that, by (6.4) and since b is positive,

$$||b''a|| = \left\| \frac{1}{\|\mathbb{E}(b'\varphi_U(b')^*)\|} b'\varphi_U(b')^*a \right\|$$

$$= \frac{1}{\|\mathbb{E}(b'\varphi_U(b')^*)\|} \|b'\varphi_U(b')^*a\|$$

$$\approx_{(\|b\|+\varepsilon'')\varepsilon''} \frac{1}{\|\mathbb{E}(b'\varphi_U(b')^*)\|} \|b'\varphi_Uba\| = 0.$$

That is,

(6.8)
$$||b''a|| \le (||b|| + \varepsilon'')\varepsilon'' < \varepsilon'.$$

Since

$$||b''|| \le ||b'||^2 \le (||b|| + 1)^2,$$

by the choice of ε' , one has

Now, choose a continuous function $h: X \to [0,1]$ such that $h^{-1}((0,1]) \subseteq V$, and $f^{-1}(1)$ contains a neighbourhood of y_0 . Note that ||h|| = 1.

By (6.6),

$$hu_{\gamma}h = 0, \quad \gamma \in \Gamma_0^2 \setminus \{e\},$$

and hence, writing

$$b'' = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_0^2} c_{\gamma} u_{\gamma},$$

together with (6.5), one has

(6.11)
$$hb''h = h(\sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_0^2} c_{\gamma} u_{\gamma})h = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_0^2} c_{\gamma} h u_{\gamma} h = c_e h^2 = \mathbb{E}(b'')h^2 = h^2.$$

By (6.7), one has $u_{\gamma_0}hu_{\gamma_0}^* \perp \varphi_W$ and hence, by (6.3),

$$(6.12) u_{\gamma_0} h u_{\gamma_0}^* \perp b''.$$

Consider

$$v := u_{\gamma_0} h(b'')^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Then

$$vv^* = u_{\gamma_0}hb''hu_{\gamma_0}^* = u_{\gamma_0}h^2u_{\gamma_0}^*$$

and

$$v^*v = (b'')^{\frac{1}{2}}h^2(b'')^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Pick an open set E such that

(6.13)
$$\varphi_E vv^* = \varphi_E(u_{\gamma_0} h^2 u_{\gamma_0}^*) = \varphi_E.$$

(Such E exists because h is constantly 1 in a small neighbourhood of y_0 .)

By (6.12), $vv^* \perp v^*v$. By Lemma 3.2 and (6.13), there is a unitary $u \in A$ such that

$$(u^*\varphi_E u)(b'')^{\frac{1}{2}}h^2(b'')^{\frac{1}{2}} = (u^*\varphi_E u)v^*v = u^*\varphi_E u.$$

Therefore, by (6.9), (6.10),

$$\|\varphi_E u a\| = \|u(u^* \varphi_E u) a\| = \|u(u^* \varphi_E u)(b'')^{\frac{1}{2}} h^2(b'')^{\frac{1}{2}} a\|$$

$$\leq (\|b\| + 1) \|(b'')^{\frac{1}{2}} a\|$$

$$< \varepsilon,$$

as desired.

Proposition 6.2. Let (X, Γ) be a free and minimal topological dynamical system, where Γ is a countable discrete group and X is a compact Hausdorff space. Denote by $A = C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ a crossed-product C^* -algebra. Assume A is finite and there is a faithful conditional expectation $\mathbb{E}: A \to C(X)$.

Let $a \in A$ be a non-invertible element. Then, for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exist $b \in C_c(\Gamma, C(X))$, a (non-empty) open set $E \subseteq X$, and unitaries $u_1, u_2 \in A$ such that

$$||u_1au_2 - b|| < \varepsilon$$
 and $\varphi_E b = b\varphi_E = 0$.

Proof. Without loss of generality, one may assume that ||a|| = 1. Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be given. Since a is not invertible and A is finite, by Proposition 3.2 of [22], there are $a' \in A$ and nonzero $b_1, b_2 \in A^+$ such that

$$||a'|| = 1$$
, $||a - a'|| < \varepsilon/5$, and $b_1 a' = 0 = a'b_2$.

By Lemma 6.1, there are unitaries $u_1, u_2 \in A$ and open sets $E', F' \subseteq X$ such that

$$\|\varphi_{E'}u_1a'\| < \varepsilon/5$$
 and $\|a'u_2\varphi_{F'}\| < \varepsilon/5$.

Since (X, Γ) is minimal (so any orbit is dense), by passing to smaller open sets and changing the unitary u_2 , one may assume that E' = F'.

Pick $a'' \in C_c(\Gamma, C(X))$ such that

$$||u_1a'u_2 - a''|| < \varepsilon/5,$$

and note that

$$u_{1}au_{2} \approx_{\varepsilon/5} u_{1}a'u_{2}$$

$$= \varphi_{E'}u_{1}a'u_{2}\varphi_{E'} + (1 - \varphi_{E'})u_{1}a'u_{2}\varphi_{E'} +$$

$$\varphi_{E'}u_{1}a'u_{2}(1 - \varphi_{E'}) + (1 - \varphi_{E'})u_{1}a'u_{2}(1 - \varphi_{E'})$$

$$\approx_{3\varepsilon/5} (1 - \varphi_{E'})u_{1}a'u_{2}(1 - \varphi_{E'})$$

$$\approx_{\varepsilon/5} (1 - \varphi_{E'})a''(1 - \varphi_{E'})$$

Pick an open set $E \subseteq \varphi_{E'}^{-1}(1)$ (so that $\varphi_E \varphi_{E'} = \varphi_E$), and define

$$b = (1 - \varphi_{E'})a''(1 - \varphi_{E'}).$$

Then it is clear that

$$||u_1au_2 - b|| < \varepsilon$$
 and $\varphi_E b = b\varphi_E = 0$,

as desired.

7. Stable rank of $\mathrm{C}(X) \rtimes \Gamma$

In this section, assuming (X, Γ) has the (URP) and (COS), let us show that the element b obtained in Proposition 6.2 is an \mathcal{D}_0 -operator (Proposition 7.7). Hence the C*-algebra $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ has Property (D), and has stable rank one by Theorem 5.5.

Let Γ be a discrete amenable group, and let Γ_1 , Γ_2 , ..., Γ_T be finite subsets of Γ . Recall that Γ is said to be tiled by Γ_1 , Γ_2 , ..., Γ_T if there are sets group elements

$$\gamma_{i,n}, \quad n = 1, 2, ..., i = 1, ..., T,$$

such that

$$\Gamma = \bigsqcup_{i=1}^{T} \bigsqcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \gamma_{i,n} \Gamma_{i}.$$

Note that if Γ_i is (right) $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant, then its (left) translation $\gamma_{i,n}\Gamma_i$ is also $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant.

Lemma 7.1. Let Γ be an infinite amenable group, and let $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, ..., \Gamma_T \subseteq \Gamma$ be finite sets which tile Γ . Let $\delta \in (0,1]$ and let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then, there is $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ such that if $F \subseteq \Gamma$ is $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant, then there is $H \subseteq F$ such that H is tiled by $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, ..., \Gamma_T$ with multiplicities divided by n, and

$$\frac{|H|}{|F|} > 1 - \delta.$$

Proof. Set $K = \Gamma_1 \cup \cdots \cup \Gamma_T$, and choose $\delta' > 0$ such that

$$(1 - \delta')(1 - \frac{\delta'}{2}) > \delta.$$

Choose $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ sufficiently large such that if F is $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant, then

(7.1)
$$\frac{|\operatorname{int}_K(F)|}{|F|} > 1 - \frac{\delta'}{2}.$$

Since Γ is infinite, one may assume that $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ large enough so that if F is $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant, then

(7.2)
$$|F| > \frac{2n(|\Gamma_1| + \dots + |\Gamma_T|)}{(2 - \delta')\delta'}.$$

Then this $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ satisfies the property of the lemma.

Indeed, let F be an $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant set. Since $\Gamma_1, ..., \Gamma_T$ tile Γ , by (7.1), there is a set $F' \subseteq F$ such that F' can be tiled by $\Gamma_1, ..., \Gamma_T$ (in fact, F' can be chosen as as the union of the tiles which intersect with $\mathrm{int}_K F$) and

$$\frac{|F'|}{|F|} > 1 - \frac{\delta'}{2}.$$

Write

$$F' = (\bigsqcup_{i=1}^{m_1} \gamma_{1,i} \Gamma_1) \sqcup \cdots \sqcup (\bigsqcup_{i=1}^{m_T} \gamma_{T,i} \Gamma_T),$$

where $\gamma_{i,j} \in \Gamma$ and m_i , i = 1, 2, ..., T, are non-negative integers. Note that

$$m_1 |\Gamma_1| + \cdots + m_T |\Gamma_T| = |F'|.$$

For each m_i , i = 1, 2, ..., T, consider r_i which is the remainder of m_i divided by n. Then, set

$$H = \left(\bigsqcup_{i=1}^{m_1 - r_1} \gamma_{1,m_1} \Gamma_1\right) \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \left(\bigsqcup_{i=1}^{m_T - r_T} \gamma_{T,i} \Gamma_T\right).$$

It is clear that H is tiled by $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, ..., \Gamma_T$ with multiplicities divided by n. Moreover, by (7.3) and (7.2),

$$1 - \frac{|H|}{|F'|} = \frac{r_1 |\Gamma_1| + \dots + r_T |\Gamma_T|}{|F'|} < \frac{n |\Gamma_1| + \dots + n |\Gamma_T|}{|F'|}$$

$$< \frac{2n(|\Gamma_1| + \dots + |\Gamma_T|)}{(2 - \delta')} \frac{1}{|F|} < \delta',$$

and hence, by (7.3) again,

$$\frac{|H|}{|F|} > (1 - \delta')(1 - \frac{\delta'}{2}) > 1 - \delta,$$

as desired.

Lemma 7.2. Let Γ be an infinite amenable group, and let $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, ..., \Gamma_T \subseteq \Gamma$ be finite sets which tile Γ . Let $\delta \in (0,1]$, let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and let $K \subseteq \Gamma$ be a finite set. Then, there exists $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ such that if

$$F_1, F_2, ..., F_n$$

are mutually disjoint $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant sets and

$$|F_1|=|F_2|=\cdots=|F_n|\,,$$

then there are $H_1 \subseteq F_1, ..., H_n \subseteq F_n$ such that

$$H_iK \subseteq F_i, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

each H_i is tiled by $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, ..., \Gamma_T$ with multiplicities divided by n,

$$|H_1|=|H_2|=\cdots=|H_n|\,,$$

and

$$\frac{|H_i|}{|F_i|} > 1 - \delta, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n.$$

Proof. Apply Lemma 7.1 to

$$\frac{\delta}{2(1+T)}$$
 and $n|\Gamma_1||\Gamma_2|\cdots|\Gamma_T|$,

one obtains $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$. Choose $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ such that if F is $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant, then $\mathrm{int}_K F$ is $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ -invariant, and

(7.4)
$$\frac{|\text{int}_K F|}{|F|} > 1 - \frac{\delta}{2(1+T)}.$$

Then $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ satisfies the property of the lemma.

Indeed, let $F_1, F_2, ..., F_n$ be mutually disjoint $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant sets with

$$|F_1|=|F_2|=\cdots=|F_n|.$$

Consider the sets

$$\operatorname{int}_K F_1$$
, $\operatorname{int}_K F_2$, ..., $\operatorname{int}_K F_n$.

Then each of them is $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ -invariant. Also note that

$$(\operatorname{int}_K F_i)K \subseteq F_i$$
, $(\operatorname{int}_K F_i)K \cap (\operatorname{int}_K F_j) = \emptyset$, $i, j = 1, 2, ..., n, i \neq j$,

By Lemma 7.1, there are

$$F_1' \subseteq \operatorname{int}_K F_1, \ F_2' \subseteq \operatorname{int}_K F_2, ..., \ F_n' \subseteq \operatorname{int}_K F_n,$$

such that

(7.5)
$$\frac{|F_i'|}{|\text{int}_K F_i|} > 1 - \frac{\delta}{2(1+T)}, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

and

(7.6)
$$F'_{i} = \left(\bigsqcup_{j=1}^{m_{1}^{(i)}} \gamma_{1,j}^{(i)} \Gamma_{1} \right) \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \left(\bigsqcup_{j=1}^{m_{T}^{(i)}} \gamma_{T,j}^{(i)} \Gamma_{T} \right), \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

and each $m_t^{(i)}$, i = 1, 2, ..., n, t = 1, 2, ..., T, is divided by $n |\Gamma_1| |\Gamma_2| \cdots |\Gamma_T|$.

It follows from (7.4) and (7.5) that for each i = 1, 2, ..., n,

(7.7)
$$|F_{i}| - |F'_{i}| = (|F_{i}| - |\operatorname{int}_{K}(F_{i})|) + (|\operatorname{int}_{K}(F_{i})| - |F'_{i}|)$$

$$< \frac{\delta}{2(1+T)} |F_{i}| + \frac{\delta}{2(1+T)} |\operatorname{int}_{K}F_{i}|$$

$$\leq \frac{\delta}{2(1+T)} |F_{i}| + \frac{\delta}{2(1+T)} |F_{i}|$$

$$= \frac{\delta}{1+T} |F_{i}|.$$

In the decomposition (7.6), if

$$m_t^{(i)} < \frac{\delta}{1+T} \left| F_i \right|,$$

then set $m_t^{(i)} = 0$, and denote this possibly smaller new sets still by F_i . Then, by (7.7), with the set new F_i , one has

(7.8)
$$0 \le |F_i| - |F_i'| < \frac{\delta}{1+T} |F_i| + T \frac{\delta}{1+T} |F_i| = \delta |F_i|, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n.$$

Also note that if $m_t^{(i)} \neq 0$, then

(7.9)
$$m_t^{(i)} \ge \frac{\delta}{1+T} |F_i| \ge \delta |F_i|.$$

Set

$$D = \min\{|F_1'|, |F_2'|, ..., |F_n'|\}.$$

Since $|F_1'|, |F_2'|, ..., |F_n'|$ are divided by $n |\Gamma_1| |\Gamma_2| \cdots |\Gamma_T|$, there are non-negative integers d_i , i = 1, ..., n, such that

$$|F'_i| - D = d_i |\Gamma_1| |\Gamma_2| \cdots |\Gamma_T| n, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n.$$

By (7.8) (and note that $|F_1| = \cdots = |F_n|$),

(7.10)
$$\frac{D}{|F_i|} > \frac{|F_i| - \delta |F_i|}{|F_i|} = 1 - \delta, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

and so

$$|F'_i| - D \le |F_i| - D \le \delta |F_i|, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n.$$

For each i = 1, 2, ..., n, consider

$$\{t_1, t_2, ..., t_S\} = \{t = 1, 2, ..., T : m_t^{(i)} \neq 0\}.$$

Then, there are

$$0 \le c_{t_1}^{(i)}, ..., c_{t_S}^{(i)} \le d_i |\Gamma_1| |\Gamma_2| \cdots |\Gamma_T| \le \frac{\delta |F_i|}{n}$$

such that

$$d_i |\Gamma_1| |\Gamma_2| \cdots |\Gamma_T| = c_{t_1}^{(i)} |\Gamma_{t_1}| + \cdots + c_{t_s}^{(i)} |\Gamma_{t_s}|.$$

(Actually, one can choose $c_{t_1}^{(i)} = d_i |\Gamma_1| |\Gamma_2| \cdots |\Gamma_T| / |\Gamma_{t_1}|$ and $c_{t_s}^{(i)} = 0$, s = 2, ..., S.) Note that, by (7.9),

$$\frac{\delta |F_i|}{n} \le \frac{m_{t_s}^{(i)}}{n}, \quad s = 1, 2, ..., S.$$

For each $t \notin \{t_1, ..., t_S\}$, set $c_t^{(i)} = 0$. Then, one has that

(7.11)
$$0 \le c_t^{(i)} \le d_i |\Gamma_1| |\Gamma_2| \cdots |\Gamma_T| \le \frac{\delta |F_i|}{n} \le \frac{m_t^{(i)}}{n}, \quad t = 1, 2, ..., T,$$

and

$$d_i \left| \Gamma_1 \right| \left| \Gamma_2 \right| \cdots \left| \Gamma_T \right| = c_1^{(i)} \left| \Gamma_1 \right| + \cdots + c_T^{(i)} \left| \Gamma_T \right|.$$

Put

$$H_{i} = \left(\bigsqcup_{j=1}^{m_{1}^{(i)} - c_{1}^{(i)} n} \gamma_{1,j}^{(i)} \Gamma_{1} \right) \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \left(\bigsqcup_{j=1}^{m_{T}^{(i)} - c_{T}^{(i)} n} \gamma_{T,j}^{(i)} \Gamma_{T} \right), \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n.$$

(Note that, by (7.11), $m_t^{(i)} - c_t^{(i)} n \ge 0$.) Since each $m_t^{(i)}$ is divisible by n, it is clear that each H_i is tiled by $\Gamma_1, ..., \Gamma_T$ with multiplicities divisible by n. Since

$$H_1 \subseteq \operatorname{int}_K F_1, \ H_2 \subseteq \operatorname{int}_K F_2, ..., \ H_n \subseteq \operatorname{int}_K F_n,$$

one has

$$H_1K \subseteq F_1, \ H_2K \subseteq F_2, ..., \ H_nK \subseteq F_n,$$

Also note that

$$|H_1| = |H_2| = \cdots = |H_n| = D,$$

and hence, by (7.10),

$$\frac{|H_i|}{|F_i|} > 1 - \delta, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

as desired.

Lemma 7.3. Let Γ be an infinite amenable group, and let (X, Γ) be a minimal dynamical system with the (URP). Let $\lambda > 0$ be arbitrary, and let $O_{0,1}, ..., O_{0,M}, O_{1,1}, ..., O_{1,M} \subseteq X$ be mutually disjoint non-empty open sets together with

$$\{\kappa_{0,1}(=e), \kappa_{0,2}, ..., \kappa_{0,M}, \kappa_{1,1}(=e), \kappa_{1,2}, ..., \kappa_{1,M}\} \subseteq \Gamma$$

such that

$$O_{i,m} = O_{i,1}\kappa_{i,m}, \quad i = 0, 1, \ m = 1, ..., M.$$

Put

$$\delta := \min\{\mu(O_{i,m}) : i = 0, 1, \ m = 1, ..., M, \ \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, \Gamma)\},\$$

and let $K \subseteq \Gamma$ be a symmetric finite set. (Since (X, Γ) is minimal, one has that $\delta > 0$.)

Then, there are $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$, and $n \in \mathbb{N}$ (n > 3) such that if (B, F) is a tower of (X, Γ) with F being $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant, then there is an order zero c.p.c. map

$$\phi: \mathcal{M}_{n^2}(\mathbb{C}) \to A,$$

where $A = C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$, such that if

$$h = \phi(1)$$
 and $e_i = \phi(e_{i,i}), i = 1, 2, ..., n^2,$

and

$$b_k := e_{n(k-1)+1} + \dots + e_{n(k-1)+n}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

then

$$e_i \in \mathrm{C}(X)$$

and if denote by

$$E_i = e_i^{-1}((0,1]), \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n^2,$$

then

(1)

$$\bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n^2} E_i \subseteq \bigsqcup_{\gamma \in F} B\gamma,$$

and

$$\mu(\bigsqcup_{\gamma \in F} B\gamma \setminus \bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n^2} E_i) < \lambda \frac{\delta}{16n} \mu(\bigsqcup_{\gamma \in F} B\gamma), \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, \Gamma).$$

- (2) for each k = 1, 2, ..., n, there are mutually disjoint open sets $O_{0,1}^k, ..., O_{0,M}^k$ and $O_{1,1}^k, ..., O_{1,M}^k$ such that
 - (a) $O_{0,m}^k \subseteq O_{0,m} \cap \bigsqcup_{j=n(k-1)+4}^{nk} E_j \text{ and } O_{1,m}^k \subseteq O_{1,m} \cap \bigsqcup_{j=n(k-1)+1}^{nk} E_j, m = 1, 2, ..., M,$
 - (b) $O_{i,m}^k = O_{i,1}^k \kappa_{i,m}, i = 0, 1, m = 1, 2, ..., M,$
 - (c) $\mu(O_{0,1}^k), \mu(O_{1,1}^k) > \frac{\delta}{8n} \mu(\bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n^2} E_i), \ \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, \Gamma).$
- (3) $b_{k_1} \perp u_{\gamma} b_{k_2} u_{\gamma}^*$, $\gamma \in K$, $k_1 \neq k_2$, $1 \leq k_1, k_2 \leq n$, where $u_{\gamma} \in A$ is the canonical unitary of γ .

Moreover, n can be chosen arbitrarily large.

Proof. Choose $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

(7.12)
$$0 < \frac{1}{n-3} < \frac{\delta}{24}, \quad \lambda \frac{\delta}{16n} < \frac{1}{2}, \text{ and } \frac{3}{n} < \frac{\delta}{16}.$$

Pick $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ such that if a finite set $\Gamma_0 \subseteq \Gamma$ is $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ -invariant, then

(7.13)
$$\frac{1}{|\Gamma_0|} |\{ \gamma \in \Gamma_0 : x\gamma \in O_{i,m} \}| > \frac{\delta}{2}, \quad x \in X, \ i = 0, 1, \ m = 0, 1, ..., M,$$

and

(7.14)
$$\frac{\left|\partial_{K_0^M} \Gamma_0\right|}{|\Gamma_0|} < \frac{\delta}{16},$$

where

$$K_0 := \{\kappa_{0,1}, \kappa_{0,2}, ..., \kappa_{0,M}, \kappa_{1,1}, \kappa_{1,2}, ..., \kappa_{1,M}\}.$$

By Theorem 4.3 of [6], there are $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ -invariant finite sets

$$\Gamma_1, \ \Gamma_2, \ ..., \ \Gamma_T \subseteq \Gamma$$

which tile Γ . Applying Lemma 7.2 to $\lambda\delta/32n$, n, and K with respect to the finite sets $\Gamma_1,...$, Γ_T , one obtains $(\mathcal{F}'', \varepsilon'')$.

By Theorem 4.3 of [6] again, there are $(\mathcal{F}'', \varepsilon'')$ -invariant finite sets

$$\Gamma'_1, \ \Gamma'_2, \ ..., \ \Gamma'_{T'} \subseteq \Gamma$$

which tile Γ . Applying Lemma 7.1 to $\lambda\delta/32n$ and n with respect to the finite sets Γ'_1 , Γ'_2 , ..., $\Gamma'_{T'}$, one obtains $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$. Since Γ is infinite, one may assume that $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ is sufficiently large such that if F is $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant, then $|F| > 2n^2$.

Then, $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ satisfies the property of the lemma.

Indeed, let (B, F) be a tower such that F is $(\mathcal{F}, \varepsilon)$ -invariant. Then, by Lemma 7.1, there is a finite set $R_1 \subseteq F$ such that

$$\frac{|R_1|}{|F|} < \lambda \frac{\delta}{32n}$$

and $F \setminus R_1$ can be tiled by $\Gamma'_1, ..., \Gamma'_{T'}$ with multiplicities divided by n. By a grouping of the tilings, one has

$$F \setminus R_1 = \Gamma_1'' \sqcup \Gamma_2'' \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Gamma_n'',$$

where Γ_i'' , i=1,...,n, are mutually disjoint $(\mathcal{F}'',\varepsilon'')$ -invariant set and

$$|\Gamma_1''| = |\Gamma_2''| = \dots = |\Gamma_n''|.$$

By Lemma 7.2 and the choice of $(\mathcal{F}'', \varepsilon'')$, there are finite sets $\Gamma_i''' \subseteq \Gamma_i''$ such that

$$\Gamma_i^{\prime\prime\prime} K \subseteq \Gamma_i^{\prime\prime}, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

$$\frac{|\Gamma_i'''|}{|\Gamma_i'''|} > 1 - \lambda \frac{\delta}{32n}, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

$$|\Gamma_1'''| = |\Gamma_2'''| = \dots = |\Gamma_n'''|,$$

and each Γ_i''' is tiled by $\Gamma_1, ..., \Gamma_T$ with multiplicities divided by n. Since Γ_i'' , i = 1, ..., n, are mutually disjoint, one has

$$\Gamma_i'''K \cap \Gamma_j''' = \varnothing, \quad i, j = 1, 2, ..., n, i \neq j.$$

Write

$$R_2 = (F \setminus R_1) \setminus (\Gamma_1''' \sqcup \Gamma_2''' \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Gamma_n'''),$$

and one has

$$F \setminus (R_1 \cup R_2) = \Gamma_1''' \sqcup \Gamma_2''' \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Gamma_n''',$$

and

$$\frac{|R_2|}{|F|} \le \lambda \frac{\delta}{32n}.$$

Note that, by (7.12), (7.15), and (7.16), one has

$$(7.17) 2|F\setminus (R_1\cup R_2)| > |F|.$$

Then, inside each Γ_i''' , since it is tiled by $\Gamma_1, ..., \Gamma_T$ (which are $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ -invariant) with multiplicities divided by n, after a grouping, one has

$$\Gamma_i^{\prime\prime\prime} = \Gamma_{i,1} \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Gamma_{i,n},$$

where $\Gamma_{i,j}$ is $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ -invariant with

$$|\Gamma_{i,1}| = |\Gamma_{i,2}| = \dots = |\Gamma_{i,n}|, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

In summary, one obtains the decomposition

$$F \setminus (R_1 \cup R_2) = (\Gamma_{1,1} \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Gamma_{1,n}) \sqcup \cdots \sqcup (\Gamma_{n,1} \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Gamma_{n,n})$$

with properties

(1)

(7.18)
$$|\Gamma_{i_1,j_1}| = |\Gamma_{i_2,j_2}|, \quad 1 \le i_1, i_2, j_1, j_2 \le n,$$

- (2) each $\Gamma_{i,j}$ is $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ -invariant,
- (3)

$$(7.19) \qquad (\Gamma_{i,1} \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Gamma_{i,n}) K \subseteq F, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

and

(4) if $i \neq j$, then

$$(7.20) \qquad (\Gamma_{i,1} \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Gamma_{i,n}) K \cap (\Gamma_{j,1} \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Gamma_{j,n}) = \varnothing.$$

Set $e = \varphi_B$, and set

$$e_{\gamma} = u_{\gamma}^* e u_{\gamma}, \quad \gamma \in F.$$

For each $1 \le i \le n^2$, write i = n(k-1) + j, where $1 \le j \le n$, and set

$$e_i = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{k,j}} e_{\gamma}$$

By (7.18), it follows from Lemma 2.18 that there is a order zero map

$$\phi: \mathrm{M}_{n^2}(\mathbb{C}) \to A$$

such that

$$\phi(e_{i,i}) = e_i, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n^2.$$

Denote by $E_i := e_i^{-1}((0,1])$ and note that, with i = n(k-1) + j with $1 \le j \le n$, one has

$$E_i = \bigsqcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{k,j}} B\gamma,$$

and it is clear that

(7.21)
$$\bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n^2} E_i \subseteq \bigsqcup_{\gamma \in F} B\gamma,$$

and, by (7.15) and (7.16), one has

$$\mu(\bigsqcup_{\gamma \in F} B\gamma \setminus \bigsqcup_{k=1}^{n^2} E_k) = \mu(\bigsqcup_{\gamma \in R_1 \cup R_2} B\gamma) < \lambda \frac{\delta}{16n} \mu(\bigsqcup_{\gamma \in F} B\gamma), \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, \Gamma).$$

This proves Property 1.

Consider

$$b_k := e_{n(k-1)+1} + \dots + e_{nk}, \quad k = 1, \dots, n.$$

Note that, with

$$\Gamma_k := \Gamma_{k,1} \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Gamma_{k,n},$$

one has

$$b_k = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_k} e_{\gamma},$$

and hence, if $\Gamma_k \gamma \subseteq F$ for a group element γ , then

$$u_{\gamma}^* b_k u_{\gamma} = \sum_{\gamma' \in \Gamma_k} u_{\gamma}^* e_{\gamma'} u_{\gamma} = \sum_{\gamma' \in \Gamma_k} e_{\gamma'\gamma} = \sum_{\gamma' \in \Gamma_k \gamma} e_{\gamma'}$$

Thus, by (7.19), (7.20) and the assumption that $K = K^{-1}$, one has that for any $k_1 \neq k_2$,

$$b_{k_1} \perp u_{\gamma} b_{k_2} u_{\gamma}^*, \quad \gamma \in K.$$

This proves Property 3.

Also consider

$$C := C^* \{ u_{\gamma} f : \gamma \in F, f \in C_0(B) \} \subset A,$$

the C*-algebra of the tower (B, F). Note that, by Lemma 3.12 of [17],

$$C \cong \mathrm{M}_{|F|}(\mathrm{C}_0(B)),$$

and under this isomorphism, for any $g \in C_0(\bigsqcup_{\gamma \in F} B\gamma) \subseteq C(X)$, one has $g \in C$ and

$$g \mapsto (x \mapsto \sum_{\gamma \in F} g(x\gamma)e_{\gamma,\gamma}).$$

In particular, since for each i = 0, 1, k = 1, 2, ..., n and $m = 1, ..., M, b_k \varphi_{O_{i,m}} \in C_0(\bigsqcup_{\gamma \in F} B\gamma)$, one has

$$b_k \varphi_{O_{i,m}} \in C.$$

Noting that $\Gamma_{i,j}$ are $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ -invariant, by (7.13) and (7.17), regarding $b_k \varphi_{O_{i,m}}$ as an element of $C \cong \mathrm{M}_{|F|}(\mathrm{C}_0(B))$, one has that for any $x \in B$,

$$\operatorname{rank}(b_{k}\varphi_{O_{i,m}}(x)) = \left| \left\{ \gamma \in F : (b_{k}\varphi_{O_{i,m}})(x\gamma) > 0 \right\} \right|$$

$$= \left| \left\{ \gamma \in \Gamma_{k,1} \sqcup \Gamma_{k,2} \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Gamma_{k,n} : x\gamma \in O_{i,m} \right\} \right|$$

$$\geq \frac{\delta}{2}(\left| \Gamma_{k,1} \right| + \cdots + \left| \Gamma_{k,n} \right|)$$

$$= \frac{\delta}{2}n \left| \Gamma_{k,1} \right| > \frac{\delta}{4n} \left| F \right|;$$

then, for any $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X,\Gamma)$, by (7.21) in the last step,

(7.22)
$$\mu(O_{i,m} \cap \bigsqcup_{j=n(k-1)+1}^{nk} E_j) = \mu(\left\{x \in X : (b_k \varphi_{O_{i,m}})(x) > 0\right\})$$

$$= \int_B \operatorname{rank}(b_k \varphi_{O_{i,m}}(x)) d\mu$$

$$\geq \int_B \frac{\delta}{4n} |F| d\mu$$

$$= \frac{\delta}{4n} |F| \mu(B) > \frac{\delta}{4n} \mu(\bigsqcup_{j=1}^{n^2} E_j).$$

Now, for each $i=0,1,\ k=1,2,...,n$, let us construct open sets $O_{i,m}^k,\ m=1,2,...,M$. Note that (recall $\Gamma_k=\Gamma_{k,1}\sqcup\cdots\sqcup\Gamma_{k,n}$)

$$O_{i,m} \cap \bigcup_{j=n(k-1)+1}^{nk} E_j = O_{i,m} \cap \bigsqcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma_k} B\gamma, \quad i = 0, 1, \ m = 1, 2, ..., M.$$

Consider

$$\Gamma_k^{\circ} := \Gamma_k \setminus (\Gamma_{k,1} \cup \Gamma_{k,2} \cup \Gamma_{k,3}) = \Gamma_{k,4} \sqcup \Gamma_{k,5} \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Gamma_{k,n},$$

and define

$$O_{0,1}^k := O_{0,1} \cap \bigsqcup_{\gamma \in \text{int}_{K_0^M}(\Gamma_k^\circ)} B\gamma \quad \text{and} \quad O_{0,m}^k := O_{0,1}^k \kappa_{0,m}, \quad m = 1, 2, ..., M,$$

and

$$O_{1,1}^k := O_{1,1} \cap \bigsqcup_{\gamma \in \text{int}_{K_0^M}(\Gamma_k)} B\gamma \text{ and } O_{1,m}^k := O_{1,1}^k \kappa_{1,m}, \quad m = 1, 2, ..., M.$$

Then it is clear that

$$O_{0,m}^k \subseteq O_{0,m} \cap \bigcup_{i=n(k-1)+4}^{nk} E_i \text{ and } O_{1,m}^k \subseteq O_{1,m} \cap \bigcup_{j=n(k-1)+1}^{nk} E_j, \quad m=1,2,...,M,$$

Since $\Gamma_{i,j}$ are $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ -invariant, the sets Γ_k° is also $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ -invariant. By (7.14), one has

$$\frac{\left|\partial_{K_0^M}(\Gamma_k^\circ)\right|}{|\Gamma_k^\circ|} < \frac{\delta}{16},$$

and therefore, together with (7.12) and (7.22), for any $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X,\Gamma)$ and i=0,1,

$$\mu(O_{i,1}^{k}) \geq \mu(O_{i,1} \cap \bigsqcup_{\gamma \in \operatorname{int}_{K_{0}^{M}}(\Gamma_{k}^{\circ})} B\gamma)$$

$$\geq \mu(O_{i,1} \cap \bigsqcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{k}^{\circ}} B\gamma) - \mu(\bigsqcup_{\gamma \in \partial_{K_{0}^{M}}(\Gamma_{k}^{\circ})} B\gamma)$$

$$\geq \mu(O_{i,1} \cap \bigsqcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{k}^{\circ}} B\gamma) - \frac{\delta}{16} |\Gamma_{k}^{\circ}| \mu(B)$$

$$> \mu(O_{i,1} \cap \bigsqcup_{j=n(k-1)+4}^{nk} E_{j}) - \frac{\delta}{16n} \mu(\bigsqcup_{j=1}^{n^{2}} E_{j})$$

$$\geq \mu(O_{i,1} \cap \bigsqcup_{j=n(k-1)+1}^{nk} E_{j}) - \frac{3}{n^{2}} \mu(\bigsqcup_{j=1}^{n^{2}} E_{j}) - \frac{\delta}{16n} \mu(\bigsqcup_{j=1}^{n^{2}} E_{j})$$

$$\geq \frac{\delta}{4n} \mu(\bigsqcup_{j=1}^{n^{2}} E_{j}) - \frac{\delta}{8n} \mu(\bigsqcup_{j=1}^{n^{2}} E_{j})$$

$$= \frac{\delta}{8n} \mu(\bigsqcup_{j=1}^{n^{2}} E_{j}).$$

This proves Property 2, as desired.

Lemma 7.4. Let Γ be an infinite discrete amenable group, and let (X, Γ) be a minimal topological dynamical system with the (URP). Let $\lambda > 0$ be arbitrary, and let

$$O_{0,1},...,O_{0,M},O_{1,1},...,O_{1,M} \subseteq X$$

be mutually disjoint non-empty open sets together with

$$\{\kappa_{0,1}(=e), \kappa_{0,2}, ..., \kappa_{0,M}, \kappa_{1,1}(=e), \kappa_{1,2}, ..., \kappa_{1,M}\} \subseteq \Gamma$$

such that

$$O_{i,m} = O_{i,1}\kappa_{i,m}, \quad i = 0, 1, \ m = 1, ..., M.$$

Let $K \subseteq \Gamma$ be a symmetric finite set.

Then there exist $n \in \mathbb{N}$ (n > 3) and an order zero c.p.c. map

$$\phi: \mathrm{M}_{n^2}(\mathbb{C}) \to A,$$

where $A = C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$, such that if

$$h := \phi(1)$$
 and $e_i := \phi(e_{i,i}), i = 1, 2, ..., n^2,$

and

$$b_k := e_{n(k-1)+1} + \dots + e_{n(k-1)+n}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

then

$$e_i \in \mathrm{C}(X)$$

and if denote by

$$E_i = e^{-1}((0,1]), \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n^2,$$

one has

(1) for each k = 1, 2, ..., n, there are mutually disjoint open sets $O_{0,1}^k, ..., O_{0,M}^k$ and $O_{1,1}^k, ..., O_{1,M}^k$ such that

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{(a)} \ \ O_{0,m}^k \subseteq O_{0,m} \cap \bigsqcup_{i=4}^n E_{n(k-1)+i} \ \ and \ O_{1,m}^k \subseteq O_{1,m} \cap \bigsqcup_{i=1}^n E_{n(k-1)+i}, \ m=1,2,...,M, \\ \text{(b)} \ \ O_{i,m}^k = O_{i,1}^k \kappa_{i,m}, \ i=0,1, \ m=1,2,...,M, \end{array}$$

(b)
$$O_{i,m}^k = O_{i,1}^k \kappa_{i,m}, i = 0, 1, m = 1, 2, ..., M$$

$$\lambda \mu(O_{0,1}^k) > \frac{3}{n^2}$$
 and $\lambda \mu(O_{1,1}^k) > \mu(X \setminus \bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n^2} E_i), \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X,\Gamma),$

(2)

$$b_{k_1} \perp u_{\gamma} b_{k_2} u_{\gamma}^*, \quad \gamma \in K, \ k_1 \neq k_2, \ 1 \leq k_1, k_2 \leq n_{\gamma}$$

where $u_{\gamma} \in A$ is the canonical unitary of γ .

Proof. Applying Lemma 7.3 with respect to $O_{0,1}, O_{0,2}, ..., O_{0,M}$ and $O_{1,1}, O_{1,2}, ..., O_{1,M}$, and

$$\delta := \min\{\mu(O_{i,m}) : i = 0, 1, m = 1, ..., M, \ \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, \Gamma)\} > 0,$$

one obtains $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ and n. Since n can be chosen arbitrarily large, one may assume that

$$\frac{3}{n^2} < \lambda \frac{3\delta}{32n} < \frac{1}{4}.$$

Since (X,Γ) is assumed to have the (URP), there exist open towers

$$(B_1, F_1), ..., (B_S, F_S)$$

such that each F_s , s = 1, ..., S, is $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ -invariant and

(7.24)
$$\mu(X \setminus \bigsqcup_{s=1}^{S} \bigsqcup_{\gamma \in F_s} B_s \gamma) < \lambda \frac{\delta}{32n}, \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, \Gamma).$$

For each tower (B_s, F_s) , since F_s is $(\mathcal{F}', \varepsilon')$ -invariant, by Lemma 7.3, there is an order zero c.p.c. map

$$\phi_s: \mathrm{M}_{n^2}(\mathbb{C}) \to A,$$

where $A = C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$, such that if

$$h_s := \phi_s(1)$$
 and $e_i^{(s)} := \phi_s(e_{i,i}), i = 1, 2, ..., n^2,$

and

$$b_{s,k} := e_{n(k-1)+1}^{(s)} + \dots + e_{n(k-1)+n}^{(s)}, \quad k = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

then

$$e_i^{(s)} \in \mathrm{C}(X)$$

and if denote by

$$E_{s,i} = (e_i^{(s)})^{-1}((0,1]), \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n^2,$$

then

(1)

$$\bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n^2} E_{s,i} \subseteq \bigsqcup_{\gamma \in F_s} B_s \gamma,$$

and

(7.25)
$$\mu(\bigsqcup_{\gamma \in F_s} B_s \gamma \setminus \bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n^2} E_{s,i}) < \lambda \frac{\delta}{16n} \mu(\bigsqcup_{\gamma \in F_s} B_s \gamma), \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, \Gamma).$$

(2) for each k = 1, 2, ..., n, there are open sets $O_{0,1}^{k,s}, ..., O_{0,M}^{k,s}$ and $O_{1,1}^{k,s}, ..., O_{1,M}^{k,s}$ such that (a) $O_{0,m}^{k,s} \subseteq O_{0,m} \cap \bigsqcup_{j=n(k-1)+4}^{nk} E_{s,j}$ and $O_{1,m}^{k,s} \subseteq O_{1,m} \cap \bigsqcup_{j=n(k-1)+1}^{nk} E_{s,j}, m = 1, 2, ..., M$, (b) $O_{i,m}^{k,s} = O_{i,1}^{k,s} \kappa_{i,m}, i = 0, 1, m = 1, 2, ..., M$,

(7.26)
$$\mu(O_{0,1}^{k,s}), \ \mu(O_{1,1}^{k,s}) > \frac{\delta}{8n} \mu(\bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n^2} E_{s,i}), \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X,\Gamma).$$

(3) $b_{s,k_1} \perp u_{\gamma} b_{s,k_2} u_{\gamma}^*, \ \gamma \in K, \ k_1 \neq k_2, \ 1 \leq k_1, k_2 \leq n.$

Then, the order zero c.p.c. map

$$\phi := \sum_{s=1}^{S} \phi_s$$

is the desired map.

Indeed, it follows (7.27) that

$$h = \phi(1) = \sum_{s=1}^{S} \phi_s(1) = h_1 + \dots + h_S,$$

$$e_i = \phi(e_{i,i}) = \sum_{s=1}^{S} \phi_s(e_{i,i}) = e_i^{(1)} + \dots + e_i^{(S)}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n^2.$$

In particular,

$$b_k = b_{1,i} + \dots + b_{S,i}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n^2$$

and

$$E_i = e_i^{-1}((0,1]) = E_{1,i} \sqcup \cdots \sqcup E_{S,i}, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n^2.$$

For each i = 0, 1, k = 1, 2, ..., n, and m = 1, 2, ..., M, set

$$O_{i,m}^k = \bigsqcup_{s=1}^S O_{i,m}^{k,s}.$$

By Conditions 2a and 2b, it is clear that

$$O_{0,m}^k \subseteq O_{0,m} \cap \bigsqcup_{j=4}^n E_{n(k-1)+j}$$
 and $O_{i,m}^k \subseteq O_{i,m} \cap \bigsqcup_{j=1}^n E_{n(k-1)+j}$

and

$$O_{i,m}^k = O_{i,1}^k \kappa_m, \quad i = 0, 1, \ m = 1, 2, ..., M.$$

By (7.24), (7.25) and (7.23), for any $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, \Gamma)$,

and, then by (7.26) and (7.28)

$$\lambda \mu(O_{i,1}^k) = \lambda \sum_{s=1}^S \mu(O_{i,1}^{k,s}) > \lambda \frac{\delta}{8n} \sum_{s=1}^S \mu(\bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n^2} E_{s,i})$$

$$> \lambda \frac{\delta}{8n} (1 - \frac{1}{4}) = \lambda \frac{3\delta}{32n}$$

$$> \mu(X \setminus \bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n^2} E_i).$$

Also note that, by (7.23),

$$\lambda\mu(O_{0,1}^k) > \lambda \frac{3\delta}{32n} > \frac{3}{n^2}.$$

This verifies Property 1.

Property 2 follows from Condition 3 straightforwardly. This proves the lemma. \Box

Next, let us perturb further the order zero map ϕ obtained by Lemma 7.4. First, we have the following simple observation.

Lemma 7.5. Let X be compact Hausdorff space, and let T be a compact set of probability Borel measures.

(1) If $O \subseteq X$ is an open set and $\lambda, \delta > 0$ satisfy

$$\lambda \mu(O) > \delta, \quad \mu \in T,$$

then there is a closed set $D \subseteq O$ such that

$$\lambda\mu(D) > \delta, \quad \mu \in T.$$

(2) If $O \subseteq X$ is an open set and $C \subseteq X$ is closed set satisfying

$$\lambda\mu(O) > \mu(C), \quad \mu \in T,$$

for some $\lambda > 0$, then there exist a closed set $D \subseteq O$ and an open set $F \supseteq C$ such that

$$\lambda\mu(D) > \mu(F), \quad \mu \in T.$$

Proof. Let us prove the second statement only. The first statement can be shown with a similar argument.

For any $\mu \in T$, pick continuous functions $f_{\mu}, g_{\mu} : X \to [0, 1]$ such that $f_{\mu}|_{X \setminus O} = 0$, $g_{\mu}|_{C} = 1$, and

$$\lambda \tau_{\mu}(f_{\mu}) > \tau_{\mu}(g_{\mu}) + \delta_{\mu}$$

for some $\delta_{\mu} > 0$, where $\tau_{\mu}(f) := \int f d\mu$. Then, pick a open neighborhood N_{μ} of μ such that

$$\lambda |\tau_{\mu}(f_{\mu}) - \tau_{\mu'}(f_{\mu})| < \frac{\delta_{\mu}}{4} \text{ and } |\tau_{\mu}(g_{\mu}) - \tau_{\mu'}(g_{\mu})| < \frac{\delta_{\mu}}{4}, \quad \tau' \in N_{\mu},$$

and a straightforward calculation shows

$$\lambda \tau_{\mu'}(f_{\mu}) > \tau_{\mu'}(g_{\mu}) + \frac{\delta_{\mu}}{2}, \quad \mu' \in N_{\mu}.$$

Since T is compact, there is a finite open cover of T consists of $N_{\mu_1}, ..., N_{\mu_n}$, where $\mu_1, ..., \mu_n \in T$. With

$$f := \max\{f_{\mu_1}, ..., f_{\mu_n}\}, \quad g := \min\{g_{\mu_1}, ..., g_{\mu_n}\}, \quad \text{and} \quad \delta := \frac{1}{2}\min\{\delta_{\mu_1}, ..., \delta_{\mu_n}\},$$

one has

$$f|_{X\setminus O} = 0$$
, $g|_C = 1$, and $\lambda \tau_{\mu}(f) > \tau_{\mu}(g) + \delta$, $\mu \in T$.

Then, with a sufficiently small $\varepsilon > 0$, the closed set $D := f^{-1}([\varepsilon, 1])$ and the open set $F := g^{-1}((1 - \varepsilon, 1])$ satisfy the lemma.

Lemma 7.6. Let Γ be an infinite group, and let (X, Γ) be a minimal topological dynamical system with the (URP). Let $\lambda > 0$ be arbitrary, and let $O_{0,1}, ..., O_{0,M}, O_{1,1}, ..., O_{1,M} \subseteq X$ be mutually disjoint non-empty open sets together with

$$\{\kappa_{0,1}(=e), \kappa_{0,2}, ..., \kappa_{0,M}, \kappa_{1,1}(=e), \kappa_{1,2}, ..., \kappa_{1,M}\} \subseteq \Gamma$$

such that

$$O_{i,m} = O_{i,1}\kappa_{i,m}, \quad i = 0, 1, \ m = 1, ..., M.$$

Let $K \subseteq \Gamma$ be a symmetric finite set.

Then there is an order zero c.p.c. map

$$\phi: \mathrm{M}_{n^2}(\mathbb{C}) \to A$$

for some n > 3 such that if

$$h := \phi(1)$$
 and $e_i := \phi(e_{i,i}), i = 1, 2, ..., n^2,$

and

$$b_k := e_{n(k-1)+1} + \dots + e_{n(k-1)+n}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

then

$$e_i \in \mathrm{C}(X)$$

and

(1) for each k = 1, 2, ..., n, there are mutually orthogonal positive functions

$$c_{k,1},...,c_{k,M},d_{k,1},...,d_{k,M} \in \mathcal{C}(X)$$

such that

- (a) $c_{k,m} \in \text{Her}(O_{0,m})$ and $d_{k,m} \in \text{Her}(O_{1,m})$, m = 1, 2, ..., M,
- (b) $c_{k,m} \perp (e_{(k-1)n+1} + e_{(k-1)n+2} + e_{(k-1)n+3}), m = 1, 2, ..., M,$
- (c) $c_{k,m}b_k = c_{k,m}$ and $d_{k,m}b_k = d_{k,m}$, m = 1, 2, ..., M,
- (d) $c_{k,m} = u_{\kappa_m}^* c_{k,1} u_{\kappa_m}$ and $d_{k,m} = u_{\kappa_m}^* d_{k,1} u_{\kappa_m}$, m = 1, 2, ..., M, and
- (e) $\lambda d_{\tau}(c_{k,1}) > \frac{3}{n^2}$ and $\lambda d_{\tau}(d_{k,1}) > d_{\tau}(1-h), \ \tau \in T(A),$

(2)

$$b_{k_1} \perp u_{\gamma} b_{k_2} u_{\gamma}^*, \quad \gamma \in K, \ k_1 \neq k_2, \ 1 \leq k_1, k_2 \leq n,$$

where $u_{\gamma} \in A$ is the canonical unitary of γ .

Proof. It follows form Lemma 7.4 that there exist $n \in \mathbb{N}$ (n > 3) and an order zero c.p.c. map

$$\phi': \mathrm{M}_{n^2}(\mathbb{C}) \to A$$

such that if

$$h' := \phi'(1)$$
 and $e'_i := \phi'(e_{i,i}), i = 1, 2, ..., n^2,$

and

$$b'_k := e'_{n(k-1)+1} + \dots + e'_{n(k-1)+n}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

then

$$e_i' \in \mathrm{C}(X)$$

and if denote by

$$E_i = (e_i')^{-1}((0,1]), \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n^2,$$

then

- (1) for each k = 1, 2, ..., n, there are mutually disjoint open sets $O_{0,1}^k, ..., O_{0,M}^k$ and $O_{1,1}^k, ..., O_{1,M}^k$ such that
 - (a) $O_{0,m}^k \subseteq O_{0,m} \cap \bigsqcup_{i=1}^n E_{n(k-1)+i}$ and $O_{1,m}^k \subseteq O_{1,m} \cap \bigsqcup_{i=1}^n E_{n(k-1)+i}$, m = 1, 2, ..., M,
 - (b) $O_{i,m}^k = O_{i,1}^k \kappa_{i,m}, i = 0, 1, m = 1, 2, ..., M,$
 - (c)

$$\lambda \mu(O_{0,1}^k) > \frac{3}{n^2}$$
 and $\lambda \mu(O_{1,1}^k) > \mu(X \setminus \bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n^2} E_i), \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X,\Gamma),$

(2)

$$b'_{k_1} \perp u_{\gamma} b'_{k_2} u^*_{\gamma}, \quad \gamma \in K, \ k_1 \neq k_2, \ 1 \leq k_1, k_2 \leq n.$$

Since $\mathcal{M}_1(X,\Gamma)$ is compact, $O_{0,1}^k$ and $O_{1,1}^k$ are open, and $X \setminus \bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n^2} E_i$ is closed, by Condition (1c) and Lemma 7.5, there are closed sets $D_{i,1}^k \subseteq O_{i,1}^k$, i=0,1, and an open set $U \supseteq X \setminus \bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n^2} E_i$ such that

(7.29)
$$\lambda \mu(D_{0,1}^k) > \frac{3}{n^2} \text{ and } \lambda \mu(D_{1,1}^k) > \mu(U), \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X,\Gamma).$$

For any $\varepsilon > 0$, define

(7.30)
$$V_{\varepsilon} := \inf(f_{\varepsilon}(h')^{-1}(\{1\})) = \{x \in X : h'(x) > \varepsilon\},$$

and consider the open sets

$$(7.31) W_{i,\varepsilon}^k := (O_{i,1}^k \cap V_{\varepsilon}) \cap (O_{i,2}^k \cap V_{\varepsilon}) \kappa_{i,2}^{-1} \cap \cdots \cap (O_{i,M}^k \cap V_{\varepsilon}) \kappa_{i,M}^{-1},$$

which increases to $O_{i,1}^k$ as $\varepsilon \to 0$, i = 0, 1. Since $D_{i,1}^k$ is compact, there is a sufficiently small $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$W_{i,\varepsilon}^k \supseteq D_{i,1}^k, \quad i = 0, 1.$$

Pick a such ε , and one may also assume that

$$U \supseteq \{x \in X : h'(x) < \varepsilon\},\$$

and then note

$$U \supseteq \{x \in X : h'(x) < \varepsilon\} = (1 - f_{\varepsilon}(h'))^{-1}((0, 1]).$$

Then, together with (7.29),

(7.32)
$$\lambda \mu(W_{0,\varepsilon}^k) > \lambda \mu(D_{0,1}^k) > \frac{3}{n^2}, \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X,\Gamma),$$

and

$$(7.33) \lambda \mu(W_{1,\varepsilon}^k) > \lambda \mu(D_{1,1}^k) > \mu(U) \ge \mu((1 - f_{\varepsilon}(h'))^{-1}((0,1])), \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X,\Gamma),$$

It also follows from (7.31) that

(7.34)
$$W_{i,\varepsilon}^k \kappa_{i,m} \subseteq V_{\varepsilon}, \quad i = 0, 1, \ m = 1, 2, ..., M.$$

Set

$$c_{k,1} = \varphi_{W_{0,\varepsilon}^k}$$
 and $c_{k,m} = u_{\kappa_m}^* c_{k,1} u_{\kappa_m}$, $m = 2, 3, ..., M$,

and

$$d_{k,1} = \varphi_{W_{1,\varepsilon}^k}$$
 and $c_{k,m} = u_{\kappa_m}^* c_{k,1} u_{\kappa_m}$, $m = 2, 3, ..., M$.

Note that, by (7.31),

$$c_{k,m} \in \text{Her}(O_{0,m}^k)$$
 and $d_{k,m} \in \text{Her}(O_{1,m}^k)$, $m = 1, 2, ..., M$.

It follows from (7.34) and (7.30) that

$$c_{k,m}f_{\varepsilon}(b'_k) = c_{k,m}f_{\varepsilon}(h') = c_{k,m}$$
 and $d_{k,m}f_{\varepsilon}(b'_k) = d_{k,m}f_{\varepsilon}(h') = d_{k,m}$

and it follows from (7.32) and (7.33) that for any $\tau \in T(A)$,

$$\lambda d_{\tau}(c_{k,1}) = \lambda \mu_{\tau}(W_{0,\varepsilon}^k) > \frac{3}{n^2}.$$

and

$$\lambda d_{\tau}(d_{k,1}) = \lambda \mu_{\tau}(W_{1,\varepsilon}^{k}) > \mu_{\tau}((1 - f_{\varepsilon}(h'))^{-1}((0,1])) = d_{\tau}(1 - f_{\varepsilon}(h')).$$

Then

$$\phi := f_{\varepsilon}(\phi') : \mathcal{M}_{n^2}(\mathbb{C}) \to A$$

is the desired order-zero map.

Indeed, noting that

$$h = \phi(1) = f_{\varepsilon}(h'),$$

the existence of $c_{k,m}$, $d_{k,m}$, k=1,...,n, m=1,...,M, and Property 1 are verified above. Consider any b_{k_1}, b_{k_2} with $k_1 \neq k_2$, $1 \leq k_1, k_2 \leq n$. Note that

$$b_{k_1} = f_{\varepsilon}(b'_{k_1}) \in \operatorname{Her}(b'_{k_1}) \quad \text{and} \quad u_{\gamma} b_{k_2} u_{\gamma}^* = f_{\varepsilon}(u_{\gamma} b'_{k_2} u_{\gamma}^*) \in \operatorname{Her}(u_{\gamma} b'_{k_2} u_{\gamma}^*), \quad \gamma \in K,$$

and therefore, it follows from Condition 2 that

$$b_{k_1} \perp u_{\gamma} b_{k_2} u_{\gamma}^*, \quad \gamma \in K.$$

This verified Property 2, as desired.

We are now ready for the main results of the paper.

Proposition 7.7. Let Γ be an infinite countable discrete amenable group, and let (X, Γ) be a minimal free topological dynamical system with the (URP) and (COS). Then the C*-algebra $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ has Property (D).

Proof. Let $a \in \mathrm{ZD}(A)$ and let $\varepsilon > 0$ be arbitrary. It follows from Proposition 6.2 that there are unitaries $u_1, u_2 \in A$, $a' \in \mathrm{C_c}(\Gamma, \mathrm{C}(X))$ and a non-empty open set $E \subseteq X$ such that

$$||u_1 a u_2 - a'|| < \varepsilon$$
 and $\varphi_E a' = a' \varphi_E = 0$.

In the following, let us verify that a' is actually a \mathcal{D}_0 -operator. Since ε is arbitary, this shows that A has Property (D).

Note that, since (X, Γ) has the (COS), the sub-C*-algebra C(X) has the (λ, M) -Cuntz comparison insider A for some $\lambda \in (0, +\infty)$ and $M \in \mathbb{N}$. Fix λ and M.

Write

$$(7.35) a' = \sum_{\gamma \in K} f_{\gamma} u_{\gamma},$$

where $f_{\gamma} \in \mathcal{C}(X)$ and $K \subseteq \Gamma$ is a symmetric finite set.

Consider the open set E. Since (X, Γ) is minimal, all orbits are dense, and hence there exist non-empty mutually orthogonal open sets

$$O_{0.1}, ..., O_{0.M}, O_{1.1}, ..., O_{1.M} \subseteq E$$

and

$$\{\kappa_{0,1}(=e), \kappa_{0,2}, ..., \kappa_{0,M}, \kappa_{1,1}(=e), \kappa_{1,2}, ..., \kappa_{1,M}\} \subseteq \Gamma$$

such that

$$O_{i,m} = O_{i,1}\kappa_{i,m}, \quad i = 0, 1, \ m = 1, ..., M.$$

Since (X,Γ) has the (URP), it follows from Lemma 7.6 that there is an order zero c.p.c. map

$$\phi: \mathrm{M}_{n^2}(\mathbb{C}) \to A$$

for some n > 3 such that if

$$h := \phi(1), \quad e_i := \phi(e_{i,i}), \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n^2,$$

 $s_k := e_{(k-1)p+1} + \dots + e_{(k-1)p+3}, \quad k = 1, ..., n,$

and

$$E_k := e_{n(k-1)+1} + \cdots + e_{n(k-1)+n}, \quad k = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

then

$$(7.37) e_i \in \mathcal{C}(X)$$

and

(1) for each k = 1, 2, ..., n, there are mutually orthogonal positive functions

$$c_{k,1}, ..., c_{k,M}, d_{k,1}, ..., d_{k,M} \in C(X)$$

such that

- (a) $c_{k,m} \in \text{Her}(O_{0,m})$ and $d_{k,m} \in \text{Her}(O_{1,m}), m = 1, 2, ..., M$,
- (b) $c_{k,m} \perp s_k, m = 1, 2, ..., M$,
- (c) $c_{k,m}E_k = c_{k,m}$ and $d_{k,m}E_k = d_{k,m}$, m = 1, 2, ..., M,
- (d) $c_{k,m} = u_{\kappa_m}^* c_{k,1} u_{\kappa_m}$ and $d_{k,m} = u_{\kappa_m}^* d_{k,1} u_{\kappa_m}$, m = 1, 2, ..., M, and
- (e) $\lambda d_{\tau}(c_{k,1}) > \frac{3}{n^2}$ and $\lambda d_{\tau}(d_{k,1}) > d_{\tau}(1-h), \ \tau \in T(A),$

(2)

$$E_{k_1} \perp u_{\gamma} E_{k_2} u_{\gamma}^*, \quad \gamma \in K, \ k_1 \neq k_2, \ 1 \leq k_1, k_2 \leq n,$$

where $u_{\gamma} \in A$ is the canonical unitary of γ .

Let us verify that the order zero map ϕ satisfies Definition 5.1 with p = q = n, l = 1, and r = 3. (With the given p, q, l, r, it is straightforward to verify that 2 of Definition 5.1 holds.) Note that, by Equations (7.35), (7.37), and Condition 2, for any $k_1 \neq k_2$, $1 \leq k_1, k_2 \leq n$,

$$E_{k_1} a' E_{k_2} = E_{k_1} (\sum_{\gamma \in K} f_{\gamma} u_{\gamma}) E_{k_2} = \sum_{\gamma \in K} E_{k_1} f_{\gamma} u_{\gamma} E_{k_2}$$

$$= \sum_{\gamma \in K} f_{\gamma} E_{k_1} u_{\gamma} E_{k_2}$$

$$= \sum_{\gamma \in K} f_{\gamma} (E_{k_1} u_{\gamma} E_{k_2} u_{\gamma}^*) u_{\gamma} = 0.$$

In particular, this verifies 1 of Definition 5.1.

Set

$$c_k = c_{k,1} + \cdots + c_{k,M}$$
 and $d_k = d_{k,1} + \cdots + d_{k,M}$, $k = 1, ..., n$.

Then, 3a 3b 3c of Definition 5.1 follows directly from Conditions 1a, 1b, and 1c above.

As for 3d of Definition 5.1, note that it follows from Condition 1e above that

$$d_{\tau}(s_k) \leq \frac{3}{n^2} < \lambda d_{\tau}(c_{k,1})$$
 and $d_{\tau}(1-h) < \lambda d_{\tau}(d_{k,1}), \quad \tau \in T(A).$

Since (X, Γ) has (λ, M) -Cuntz comparison of open sets and $c_{k,1}, d_{k,1}, h, s_k \in C(X)$, one has

$$s_k \lesssim \underbrace{c_{k,1} \oplus \cdots \oplus c_{k,1}}_{M}$$
 and $1 - h \lesssim \underbrace{d_{k,1} \oplus \cdots \oplus d_{k,1}}_{M}$.

By Condition 1d above, the positive elements $c_{k,m}$, m = 1, ..., M, are mutually orthogonal and mutually Cuntz equivalent, and the positive elements $d_{k,m}$, m = 1, ..., M are mutually orthogonal and mutually Cuntz equivalent. One then has

$$c_k \sim \underbrace{c_{k,1} \oplus \cdots \oplus c_{k,1}}_{M}$$
 and $d_k \sim \underbrace{d_{k,1} \oplus \cdots \oplus d_{k,1}}_{M}$,

and hence

$$s_k \lesssim c_k$$
 and $1 - h \lesssim d_k$.

This shows that a' is a \mathcal{D}_0 -operator, as desired.

Theorem 7.8. Let Γ be a countable discrete amenable group, and let (X, Γ) be a free and minimal topological dynamical system with the (URP) and (COS). Then $tsr(C(X) \rtimes \Gamma) = 1$.

Proof. If $|\Gamma| < \infty$, since (X, Γ) is minimal, the space X must consist of finitely many points and $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma \cong M_{|\Gamma|}(\mathbb{C})$. In particular, it has stable rank one.

If $|\Gamma| = \infty$, then it follows from Proposition 7.7 that $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ has Property (D). Since $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ is finite, it follows from Theorem 5.5 that $tsr(C(X) \rtimes \Gamma) = 1$, as desired.

Corollary 7.9. Let (X, \mathbb{Z}^d) be a free and minimal topological dynamical system. Then $tsr(C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d) = 1$.

Proof. By Theorem 4.2 and Theorem 5.5 of [16], any free and minimal dynamical system (X, \mathbb{Z}^d) has the (URP) and (COS). It then follows from Theorem 7.8 that $\operatorname{tsr}(C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d) = 1$.

Remark 7.10. Without simplicity, the C*-algebra $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ might not have stable rank one in general, even if X is the Cantor set, $\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}$, and (X, \mathbb{Z}) has finitely many minimal closed invariant subsets (see, [19] or [3]).

Corollary 7.11. Let (X, \mathbb{Z}^d) be a free and minimal dynamical system, and set $A = C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$. Then

- (1) A has cancellation of projections, i.e., if $p, q \in A \otimes K$ are two projections such that $p \oplus r \sim q \oplus r$ for some projections $r \in A \otimes K$, then $p \sim q$.
- (2) A has cancellation in Cuntz semigroup: let $x, y \in W(A)$ such that $x+[c] \le y+[(c-\varepsilon)_+]$ for some positive element $c \in M_{\infty}(A)$, then $x \le y$.
- (3) The canonical map $U(A)/U_0(A) \to K_1(A)$ is an isomorphism. That is, any unitary of $A \otimes K$ is homotopic to a unitary of A, and if a unitary u of A is connected to the identity with a path of unitaries of $A \otimes K$, then u can be connected to the identity by a path of unitaries of A.

Proof. Statements 1 and 3 are well known fact for C*-algebras with stable rank one ([21]). Statement 2 follows from Theorem 4.3 of [25] (an earlier version were obtained in [8]). \Box

By Theorem 4.1 of [5], the Cuntz semigroup classifies homomorphisms from an inductive limit of interval algebras (AI algebra) to a C^* -algebra A with stable rank one. Therefore we have the following corollary.

Corollary 7.12. Let (X, \mathbb{Z}^d) be a free and minimal dynamical system. Let $\phi_1, \phi_2 : I \to A = \mathbb{C}(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$ be two homomorphisms, where I is an AI algebra. Then ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 are approximately unitarily equivalent if, and only if, $[\phi_1] = [\phi_2]$ on the Cuntz semigroups.

The next corollary follows from [27]:

Corollary 7.13. Let (X,Γ) be a free and minimal dynamical system with the (URP) and (COS). Then for every $f \in LAff(T(A))_{++}$, where $A = C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$, there exists $a \in (A \otimes \mathcal{K})^+$ such that

$$d_{\tau}(a) = f(\tau), \quad \tau \in T(A).$$

Moreover, if A has strict comparison of positive elements, then the Cuntz semigroup of A is almost divisible (see [27]). In this case, there are canonical order-isomorphisms

$$Cu(A) \cong V(A) \sqcup LAff(T(A))_{++} \cong Cu(A \otimes \mathcal{Z}).$$

In particular, the statements above hold for $\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}^d$.

Proof. This follows directly from Theorem 8.11 and Corollary 8.12 of [27]. \Box

In fact, if $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$ has strict comparison of positive elements, then it actually is Jiang-Su stable:

Corollary 7.14. Let (X, Γ) be a free and minimal dynamical system with the (URP) and (COS), and denote by $A = C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$. Then $A \cong A \otimes \mathcal{Z}$ if, and only if, A has strict comparison of positive elements (that is, it satisfies the Toms-Winter conjecture). In particular, the statement holds for $\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}^d$.

Proof. One only need to show the "if" part. Since A is assumed to have strict comparison of positive elements, by Corollary 7.13, one has that $Cu(A) \cong V(A) \sqcup LAff(T(A))_{++}$ and hence it is tracially 0-divisible (see Corollary 2.6 of [18] and its proof). It then follows from Proposition 3.8 of [18] and the strict comparison assumption that A is tracially \mathcal{Z} -stable. Since A is nuclear, one has that $A \cong A \otimes \mathcal{Z}$, as desired.

Since the real rank of a C*-algebra A is at most $2 \cdot \operatorname{tsr}(A) - 1$, one has the following estimate:

Corollary 7.15. Let (X, \mathbb{Z}^d) be a free and minimal dynamical system. The real rank of $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$ is either 0 or 1.

Remark 7.16. Consider a simple unital AH algebra A with diagonal maps. It is known that if A has real rank zero (or just projections separate traces), then A is classifiable ([15]). Does the same statement hold for the crossed-product C*-algebras $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$ (or $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ in general)? That is, if $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$ (or $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$, in general) has real rank zero, does $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$ (or $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$, in general) absorb the Jiang-Su algebra \mathcal{Z} tensorially? What if one only assumes that projections separate traces instead of real rank zero?

Let Γ be a countable discrete group with sub-exponential growth, and let (X, Γ) be a free and minimal dynamical system. Assume that (X, Γ) is an extension of a minimal Γ -action on a Cantor set. Then it was shown in [26] that the C*-algebra $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ has stable rank one. Note that, by Corollary 3.8 and Corollary 8.11 of [17], the dynamical system (X, Γ) has the (URP) and (COS), and therefore this result also can follows from Theorem 7.8.

Corollary 7.17 (c.f. Main Theorem of [26]). Let Γ be a countable discrete group with subexponential growth, let (X, Γ) be a free and minimal dynamical system. Assume that (X, Γ) is an extension of a Γ -action on the Cantor set. Then $\operatorname{tsr}(C(X) \rtimes \Gamma) = 1$.

8. Two remarks on Property (D)

In the final section, let us remark that simple \mathcal{Z} -stable C*-algebras and simple AH-algebras with diagonal maps all have Property (D). These C*-algebras (if finite for the case of \mathcal{Z} -stable C*-algebras) are known to have stable rank one (see [24] and [9]).

8.1. \mathbb{Z} -stable C*-algebras. Let A be a unital simple exact C*-algebra such that $A \cong A \otimes \mathbb{Z}$, where \mathbb{Z} is the Jiang-Su algebra. Note that A has strict comparison of positive elements (we include purely infinite C*-algebras, which have empty tracial simplices).

Let $a \in \mathrm{ZD}(A)$ with ||a|| = 1 and let $\varepsilon > 0$ ber arbitrary. Pick $d_1, d_2 \in A^+$ such that $||d_1|| = ||d_2|| = 1$ and

$$d_1a = ad_2 = 0.$$

By regarding A as $A \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes \mathcal{Z}$, one obtains $\tilde{a}, \tilde{d_1}, \tilde{d_2} \in A \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes 1 \otimes 1$ with norm one and a unitary $u \in A \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes 1$ such that

$$\|uau^* - \tilde{a}\| < \frac{\varepsilon}{12}, \quad \|ud_1u^* - \tilde{d}_1\| < \frac{\varepsilon}{12}, \quad \|ud_2u^* - \tilde{d}_2\| < \frac{\varepsilon}{12},$$

and then

$$\left\| \tilde{d}_1 \tilde{a} \right\| < \frac{\varepsilon}{6} \quad \text{and} \quad \left\| \tilde{a} \tilde{d}_2 \right\| < \frac{\varepsilon}{6}.$$

With a small perturbation of \tilde{d}_1 and \tilde{d}_2 , one may assume that there are positive elements $d'_1, d'_2 \in A \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes 1 \otimes 1$ with $||d'_1|| = ||d'_2|| = 1$ such that

$$d_1'\tilde{d_1} = d_1'$$
 and $d_2'\tilde{d_2} = d_2'$

Note that

$$(1 - \tilde{d}_1)\tilde{a}(1 - \tilde{d}_2) \approx_{\frac{\varepsilon}{3}} \tilde{a}$$
 and $d'_1(1 - \tilde{d}_1)\tilde{a}(1 - \tilde{d}_2) = (1 - \tilde{d}_1)\tilde{a}(1 - \tilde{d}_2)d'_2 = 0.$

Pick two orthogonal nonzero positive elements $s_1, s_2 \in 1 \otimes 1 \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes 1$, and consider the positive elements $\tilde{d}_1 s_1$ and $\tilde{d}_2 s_2$. Since s_1, s_2 commute with \tilde{d}_1, \tilde{d}_2 , one has that

$$\tilde{d}_1 s_1 \perp \tilde{d}_2 s_2$$
 and $(\tilde{d}_1 s_1)((1 - d'_1)\tilde{a}(1 - \tilde{d}_2)) = ((1 - \tilde{d}_1)\tilde{a}(1 - \tilde{d}_2))(d'_2 s_2) = 0.$

Since $A \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes 1$ is simple, there is $v \in A \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes 1$ with ||v|| = 1 such that

$$vv^* \in \operatorname{Her}(d_1s_1)$$
 and $v^*v \in \operatorname{Her}(d_2s_2)$,

and moreover, with the polar decomposition and a further perturbation, one may assume that there is a positive element b such that ||b|| = 1 and $(vv^*)b = b$ (hence $b \in \text{Her}(d_1s_1)$). It then follows from Lemma 3.2 that there is a unitary $w \in A \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes 1$ such that

$$wbw^* \in \operatorname{Her}(d_2s_2).$$

Thus, with

$$a' := (1 - \tilde{d}_1)\tilde{a}(1 - \tilde{d}_2)w,$$

one has

$$||uau^*w - a'|| < \varepsilon$$
 and $ba' = 0 = a'b$.

Let us show that a' is a \mathcal{D}_0 -operator, and thus A has Property (D).

Since A is not of type I, there are positive elements $c, d \in \overline{b(A \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes 1)b}$ such that $c \perp d$ and ||c|| = ||d|| = 1. Since A is simple, there is $\delta > 0$ such that

$$\tau(c), \tau(d) > \delta, \quad \tau \in T(A).$$

Now, consider the embedding $\phi': \mathcal{Z} \to 1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1 \otimes \mathcal{Z}$, and note that

(8.1)
$$[a', \phi'(a)] = 0$$
 and $[b, \phi'(a)] = 0$, $a \in \mathcal{Z}$.

Pick $n \in \mathbb{N}$ sufficiently large such that

$$(n-3)\delta > 6$$
,

and pick a standard embedding

$$\iota: \mathrm{M}_{n^2}(\mathrm{C}_0((0,1])) \to \mathcal{Z}_{n^2,n^2+1} \to \mathcal{Z}.$$

Denote by ϕ'' the order zero map induced by the homomorphism $\phi' \circ \iota$, and choose $\varepsilon' > 0$ sufficiently small so that

$$\tau(f_{\varepsilon'}(\phi''(1))) > 1 - \delta/2n, \quad \tau \in T(A).$$

For each k = 1, 2, ..., n, define

$$c_k = c \cdot f_{\varepsilon'}(\phi'')(e_{(k-1)n+4} + \dots + e_{(k-1)n+n}),$$

and

$$d_k = d \cdot f_{\varepsilon'}(\phi'')(e_{(k-1)n+1} + \dots + e_{(k-1)n+n}).$$

A straightforward calculation (using (8.1)) shows that c_k , $d_k \in \overline{b(A \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes \mathcal{Z} \otimes \mathcal{Z})b}$, $c_k \perp d_k$ and

$$c_k E_k = c_k$$
 and $d_k E_k = d_k$,

where $E_k := f_{\frac{\varepsilon'}{2}}(\phi'')(e_{(k-1)n+1} + \dots + e_{(k-1)n+n}).$

Note that, for any $\tau \in T(A)$,

$$d_{\tau}(c_k) > \delta \cdot \frac{n-3}{n^2} \cdot \frac{2n-\delta}{2n} > \frac{3}{n^2} \cdot \frac{4n-2}{2n} > \frac{3}{n^2}$$

and

$$d_{\tau}(d_k) > \delta \cdot \frac{1}{n} \cdot \frac{2n - \delta}{2n} > \delta \cdot \frac{1}{n} \cdot \frac{2n - 1}{2n} > \frac{\delta}{2n} > d_{\tau}(1 - f_{\frac{\varepsilon}{2}}(\phi''(1))).$$

Since A has strict comparison of positive elements, one has that

$$s_k \lesssim c_k$$
 and $1 - f_{\frac{\varepsilon}{2}}(\phi''(1)) \lesssim d_k$.

This shows that a' is a \mathcal{D}_0 -operator (with $\phi = f_{\frac{\varepsilon'}{2}}(\phi'')$, p = q = n, r = 3, and l = 1 in Definition 5.1).

8.2. AH algebras with diagonal maps. Recall that an AH algebra with diagonal maps is the limit of a unital inductive sequence (A_n, ψ_n) , where

$$A_n = \bigoplus_{i=1}^{h_n} \mathcal{M}_{k_{n,i}}(\mathcal{C}(X_{n,i}))$$

for some compact metrizable space $X_{n,i}$, and if

$$D_n := \bigoplus_i \{\operatorname{diag}\{f_1, f_2, ..., f_{k_{n,i}}\} : f_k \in \operatorname{C}(X_{n,i})\} \subseteq \bigoplus_i \operatorname{M}_{k_{n,i}}(\operatorname{C}(X_{n,i})) = A_n,$$

then

$$\psi_n(D_n) \subseteq D_{n+1}$$
.

Let A be simple AH algebra with diagonal maps. It then follows from Theorem 3.4 of [9] that A has Property (D), and we leave the details to readers. Alternatively, let us propose the following approach which is in the similar line of our approach to the crossed product C*-algebra $C(X) \times \Gamma$: Consider

$$D := \varinjlim D_n \subseteq \varinjlim A_n = A.$$

Then the commutative sub-C*-algebra D actually behaves like the sub-C*-algebra C(X) of $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$.

Let $a \in A$ satisfy ||a|| = 1 and $d_1 a = a d_2 = 0$ for some nonzero positive elements d_1, d_2 , and let $\varepsilon > 0$ be arbitrary. With a telescoping of the inductive sequence if necessary, there are $\tilde{a}, \tilde{d}_1, \tilde{d}_2 \in A_1$ with norm one such that

$$\|a - \tilde{a}\| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$$
 and $\|\tilde{d}_1 \tilde{a}\|, \|\tilde{a}\tilde{d}_1\| < \frac{\varepsilon}{12}$

where \tilde{d}_1, \tilde{d}_2 are positive. Since \tilde{d}_1, \tilde{d}_2 has norm one, there is $x_0 \in X_{1,i}$ for some i such that

$$\|\tilde{d}_1(x_0)\| = 1$$
 and $\|\tilde{d}_2(x_0)\| = 1$.

Since \tilde{d}_1 , \tilde{d}_2 are positive, by conjugating some constant unitary matrices, one may assume that \tilde{d}_1 and \tilde{d}_2 are diagonal matrices at x_0 . Hence, by cutting the diagonal entry which has value 1 at x_0 , one can find a positive element $h \in D_1$ which is constantly 1 on a small neighborhood of x_0 such that

$$h\tilde{d}_1 \approx_{\frac{\varepsilon}{12}} h$$
 and $h\tilde{d}_2 \approx_{\frac{\varepsilon}{12}} h$.

Then a straightforward calculation shows that

$$\|h\tilde{a}\| < \frac{\varepsilon}{6}$$
 and $\|\tilde{a}h\| < \frac{\varepsilon}{6}$.

Since h is constantly 1 on a neighborhood of x_0 , there is a positive element $b \in D_n$ with norm 1 such that bh = b. Then

$$a' := (1 - h)\tilde{a}(1 - h)$$

and b satisfy

$$||a - a'|| < \varepsilon$$
 and $ba' = a'b = 0$.

Now, let us show that a' is a \mathcal{D}_0 -operator, and thus A has Property (D).

Choose positive orthogonal functions $c, d \in D_1$ such that $c, d \in bD_1b$. Set

$$\delta = \min\{\tau(c), \tau(d); \tau \in T(A)\} > 0.$$

By another telescoping if necessary, one may assume that

(8.2)
$$\frac{3}{k_{1,i}} < \frac{\delta}{2} < \frac{\min\{\operatorname{rank}(c(x)), \operatorname{rank}(d(x))\}}{k_{1,i}}, \quad x \in X_{1,i}.$$

Choose $l \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$\frac{12}{l-3} < \frac{\delta}{2}.$$

Set $K := \max\{k_{1,1}, ..., k_{1,h_1}\} + 1$. Consider A_2 , and to simplify notation, rewrite $A_2 = \bigoplus_{s=1}^{S} M_{k_s}(C(X_s))$. With a telescoping of the inductive sequence if necessary, one has that, insider each direct summand of A_2 ,

(1) the element a' is a matrix of continuous functions with

(8.3)
$$a'_{i,j} = 0$$
, if $|i - j| \ge K$,

(2) write

$$c = \bigoplus_{s=1}^{S} \operatorname{diag}\{c_1^{(s)}, ..., c_{k_s}^{(s)}\} \quad \text{and} \quad d = \bigoplus_{s=1}^{S} \operatorname{diag}\{d_1^{(s)}, ..., d_{k_s}^{(s)}\},$$

where $c_i^{(s)}, d_i^{(s)} \in C(X_s)$, then, by (8.2), for any $L = 1, ..., k_s$,

(8.4)
$$\frac{\delta}{2}(1 - \frac{2K}{L}) < \frac{\left| \{ i_0 \le i \le i + L - 1 : c_i^{(s)}(x) \ne 0 \} \right|}{L}, \quad 1 \le i_0 < k_s - L, \ x \in X_s,$$

(8.5)
$$\frac{\delta}{2}(1 - \frac{2K}{L}) < \frac{\left| \{ i_0 \le i \le i + L - 1 : d_i^{(s)}(x) \ne 0 \} \right|}{L}, \quad 1 \le i_0 < k_s - L, \ x \in X_s,$$

(3) with $k_s = m_s l^2 + r_s$, $0 \le r_s < l^2$, one has

(8.6)
$$m_s l > 2K$$
, $\frac{K}{m_s} < \frac{1}{2}$, and $\frac{4r_s}{m_s l - 2K} < \frac{\delta}{2}$.

Then, for each s = 1, ..., S, consider $M_{k_s}(\mathbb{C}) \subseteq M_{k_s}(C(X_s))$, and consider

$$p_i^{(s)} := \operatorname{diag}\{\underbrace{0_{m_s}, ..., 0_{m_s}, 1_{m_s}, 0_{m_s}, ..., 0_{m_s}, 0_{r_s}}_{im_s}\}, \quad i = 1, ..., l^2.$$

Note that $p_1^{(s)}, p_2^{(s)}, ..., p_{l^2}^{(s)} \subseteq M_{k_s}(\mathbb{C})$ have the same rank and are mutually orthogonal. Therefore, there is a homomorphism

$$\phi_s: \mathcal{M}_{l^2}(\mathbb{C}) \ni e_{i,i} \mapsto p_i^{(s)} \in \mathcal{M}_{k_s}(\mathbb{C}) \subseteq A_2.$$

Define

$$\phi := \bigoplus_{s} \phi_{s} : \mathrm{M}_{l^{2}}(\mathbb{C}) \to \bigoplus_{s} \mathrm{M}_{k_{s}}(\mathbb{C}) \subseteq A_{2},$$

and set $e_i = \phi(e_{i,i})$, $i = 1, 2, ..., l^2$, $s_k = e_{l(k-1)+1} + \cdots + e_{l(k-1)+4}$, $E_k = e_{l(k-1)+1} + \cdots + e_{lk}$, k = 1, ..., l, and $h = \phi(1)$.

Then, since $m_s l > 2K$, by (8.3),

$$E_{k_1}a'E_{k_2}=0, \quad k_2-k_1\geq 2.$$

For each k = 1, 2, ..., l, consider

$$c_k := \bigoplus_{s} \operatorname{diag} \{ \underbrace{0_{m_s}, ..., 0_{m_s}, \underbrace{0_{m_s}, ..., 0_{m_s}, c_{(l(k-1)+4)m_s+1}^{(s)}, ..., c_{lkm_s}^{(s)}, 0_{m_s}, ..., 0_{m_s}, \underbrace{0_{r_s}, ..., 0_{m_s}, c_{(l(k-1)+4)m_s+1}^{(s)}, ..., c_{lkm_s}^{(s)}, 0_{m_s}, ..., \underbrace{0_{r_s}, ..., 0_{m_s}, c_{(l(k-1)+4)m_s+1}^{(s)}, ..., c_{lkm_s}^{(s)}, 0_{m_s}, ..., \underbrace{0_{m_s}, ..., 0_{m_s}, ..., c_{lkm_s}^{(s)}, 0_{m_s}, ..., c_{lkm_s}^{(s)}, 0_{m_s}, ..., \underbrace{0_{m_s}, ..., 0_{m_s}, ..., c_{lkm_s}^{(s)}, 0_{m_s}$$

and

$$d_k := \bigoplus_{s} \operatorname{diag} \{ \underbrace{0_{m_s}, ..., 0_{m_s}, \underbrace{d_{l(k-1)m_s+1}^{(s)}, ..., d_{lkm_s}^{(s)}, 0_{m_s}, ..., 0_{m_s}, 0_{r_s} }_{lm_s}, 0_{m_s}, ..., 0_{m_s}, 0_{r_s} \}.$$

Then it is clear that $c_k \perp s_k$, $c_k \perp d_k$, $c_k E_k = c_k$ and $d_k E_k = d_k$. Note that, by (8.4), (8.5), and (8.6),

$$\frac{1}{4} \operatorname{rank}(c_k(x)) > \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{\delta}{2} ((l-4)m_s - 2K) > 3m_s = \operatorname{rank}(s_k(x))$$

and

$$\frac{1}{4}$$
rank $(d_k(x)) > \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{\delta}{2}(lm_s - 2K) > r_s = \text{rank}((1-h)(x)).$

Since s_k, c_k, d_k and 1-h are diagonal elements, by Theorem 7.8 of [17], one has that

$$s_k \lesssim c_k$$
 and $1 - h \lesssim d_k$.

Therefore, a' is a \mathcal{D}_0 -operator (with p=q=l, l=2 and r=4 in Definition 5.1).

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