

# The Cuntz semigroup of $C(X, A)$

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SGS Thesis Exam

# The Cuntz semigroup

Ordered semigroup, constructed as follows.

- For  $a, b \in (A \otimes \mathcal{K})_+$ ,  $[a] \leq [b]$  if

$$\|a - s_n^* b s_n\| \rightarrow 0,$$

for some  $(s_n) \subset A \otimes \mathcal{K}$ .

- $[a] = [b]$  if  $[a] \leq [b]$  and  $[b] \leq [a]$ .
- $Cu(A) = \{[a] : a \in (A \otimes \mathcal{K})_+\}$
- $[a] + [b] := [a' + b']$  where  $[a] = [a']$ ,  $[b] = [b']$  and  $a' \perp b'$ .

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## Regularity of $C^*$ -algebras.

### Theorem (Toms '08)

$\exists$  two (simple, nuclear, separable, unital)  $C^*$ -algebras which have the same value under classical invariants, yet their Cuntz semigroups differ.

### Theorem (Winter, preprint '10)

For unital, simple  $C^*$ -algebras,  $Cu(A)$  is “nice” (almost unperforated and almost divisible) if and only if  $A$  is nice ( $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable and therefore, hopefully, classifiable). (Provided  $A$  has locally finite nuclear dimension).

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## Classification of non-simple $C^*$ -algebras

$Cu(A)$  contains the ideal lattice of  $A$  and  $Cu(I), Cu(A/I)$  for every ideal  $I$ .

This makes  $Cu(A)$  a good candidate for non-simple classification.

(Only as a part of the invariant - eg.  $K_1(A)$  doesn't appear in  $Cu(A)$ .)

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(Generalizing previous results by Ciuperca, Elliott, Santiago)  
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ASH algebras include: AF algebras, irrational rotation algebras, other important (simple)  $C^*$ -algebras.

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# Main result: the Cuntz-equivalence invariant $\mathbb{I}(\cdot)$

Define a Cuntz-equivalence invariant  $\mathbb{I}(\cdot)$  on  $C_0(X, A \otimes \mathcal{K})_+$ .

$\mathbb{I}(a)$  consists of:

- $x \mapsto [a(x)]$  (a function  $X \mapsto Cu(A)$ ); and
- $[a|_K] \in V(C(K, A))$  for each compact  $K \subset X$  for which  $[a(x)]$  is constant and in  $V(A)$  on  $K$ .

$\mathbb{I}(\cdot)$  is complete:

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# Main result: the range of $\mathbb{I}(\cdot)$

Recall:  $\mathbb{I}(a)$  consists of

- $x \mapsto [a(x)] = f(x)$ , a  $\ll$ -lower semicontinuous function  $f : X \rightarrow Cu(A)$
- $[a|_K] \in V(C(K, A))$  for each compact  $K \subset X$  for which  $[a(x)]$  is constant  $= [p] \in V(A)$  on  $K$ ;  
for  $[p] \in V(A)$ , this can be captured by a single projection  $a_{[p]} \in C_b(f^{-1}([p]), A \otimes \mathcal{K})$ , such that  $[a_{[p]}|_K] = [a|_K]$  for each compact  $K \subseteq f^{-1}([p])$ .  
The family  $a_{[p]}$  is compatible with  $f$  in the sense that  $[a_{[p]}(x)] = f(x)$  wherever defined (i.e. wherever  $f(x) = [p]$ ).

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$X, A$  as before. Given a  $\ll$ -lower semicontinuous  $f : X \rightarrow \mathcal{C}u(A)$  and a compatible family of projections  $(a_{[p]})_{[p] \in V(A)}$ , there exists  $[a] \in \mathcal{C}u(C_0(X, A))$  such that  $\mathbb{I}(a) = (f, (a_{[p]})_{[p] \in V(A)})$ ; that is,

- $[a(x)] = f(x)$  for all  $x$ ; and
- $[a|_K] = [a_{[p]}|_K]$  for any compact  $K \subseteq f^{-1}([p])$ .

# Main result: putting it together

## Theorem

$A, X$  as before. The Cuntz semigroup of  $C_0(X, A)$  may be identified with pairs  $(f, (\langle a_{[p]} \rangle)_{[p] \in V(A)})$  where

- $f : X \rightarrow \mathcal{C}u(A)$  is  $\ll$ -lower semicontinuous; and
- For each  $[p] \in V(A)$ ,  $a_{[p]}$  is a projection in  $C_b(f^{-1}([p]), A \otimes \mathcal{K})$  satisfying  $[a_{[p]}(x)] = [p]$  for all  $x$ , and  $\langle a_{[p]} \rangle$  denotes its equivalence class via the relation  $a_{[p]} \sim b_{[p]}$  if  $a_{[p]}|_K \sim_{M-vN} b_{[p]}|_K$  for all compact  $K \subseteq f^{-1}([p])$ .

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### Proposition

Let  $A$  be RSH with finite dimensional total space,  $I \subseteq A$  an ideal. Suppose  $a, b \in A$  are such that

- $\text{Rank } \sigma(a) < \text{Rank } \sigma(b)$  for every irred. rep.  $\sigma : A \rightarrow M_n$  for which  $\sigma(I) = 0$ ; and
- $[\pi_I(a)] \leq [\pi_I(b)]$  in  $\mathcal{C}u(A/I)$ .

Then  $[a \otimes 1_{\mathcal{Z}}] \leq [b \otimes 1_{\mathcal{Z}}]$  in  $\mathcal{C}u(A \otimes \mathcal{Z})$ .

This result is used on finite stages to achieve the completeness of  $\mathbb{I}(\cdot)$ .

A slightly stronger version is also used in the computation of the range of  $\mathbb{I}(\cdot)$ .

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## Riesz interpolation in $Cu(A)$

Proposition (Brown-Perera-Toms, Elliott-Robert-Santiago)

If  $A$  is simple, finite, exact, and  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable then

$$Cu(A) \cong V(A) \amalg Lsc(T(A), (0, \infty]).$$

Proposition

For  $A$  as above,  $Cu(A)$  has Riesz interpolation, i.e. if

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{bmatrix} \leq \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix},$$

then there exists  $[b] \in Cu(A)$  such that

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# Key ideas in the proof

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This result is used in the computation of the range of  $\mathbb{I}(\cdot)$ :

### Lemma

If  $A$  is separable,  $\mathcal{CU}(A)$  has Riesz interpolation, and  $f : X \rightarrow \mathcal{CU}(A)$  is  $\ll$ -lower semicontinuous then  $f$  is the pointwise supremum of a sequence of  $\ll$ -lower semicontinuous functions  $f_n : X \rightarrow \mathcal{CU}(A)$  with finite range.



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