

C^* -algebras and Tilings, Aperiodic Order, CIRM, Luminy

Ian F. Putnam,
University of Victoria

September 10, 2007

1. C^* -algebra basics
2. C^* -algebras from dynamics
3. Morita equivalence
4. C^* -algebras from projection tilings
5. K-theory for C^* -algebras

Part 1 : C^* -algebra basics

Definition 1. A C^* -algebra is a set A :

- A is an algebra over \mathbb{C} , the complex numbers (Not nec. commutative or unital)
- there is an involution $a \rightarrow a^*$, $a \in A$
- A has a norm, $\| \cdot \|$,

such that

- $(a + \lambda b)^* = a^* + \bar{\lambda}b^*$, $a, b \in A$,
- $(ab)^* = b^*a^*$, $a, b \in A$,
- A is complete in $\| \cdot \|$,
- $\| a^*a \| = \| a \|^2$, $a \in A$.

Examples:

- \mathbb{C} , the complex numbers,
- For $n \geq 1$, $M_n(\mathbb{C})$, $n \times n$ complex matrices.
* = conjugate transpose.
- For \mathcal{H} a complex Hilbert space, $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, the bounded linear operators on \mathcal{H} . * = adjoint.
- Any $A \subset \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ which is an algebra, closed under *, closed in the norm topology.

Let X be a compact, Hausdorff space.

$$C(X) = \{f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ continuous}\}.$$

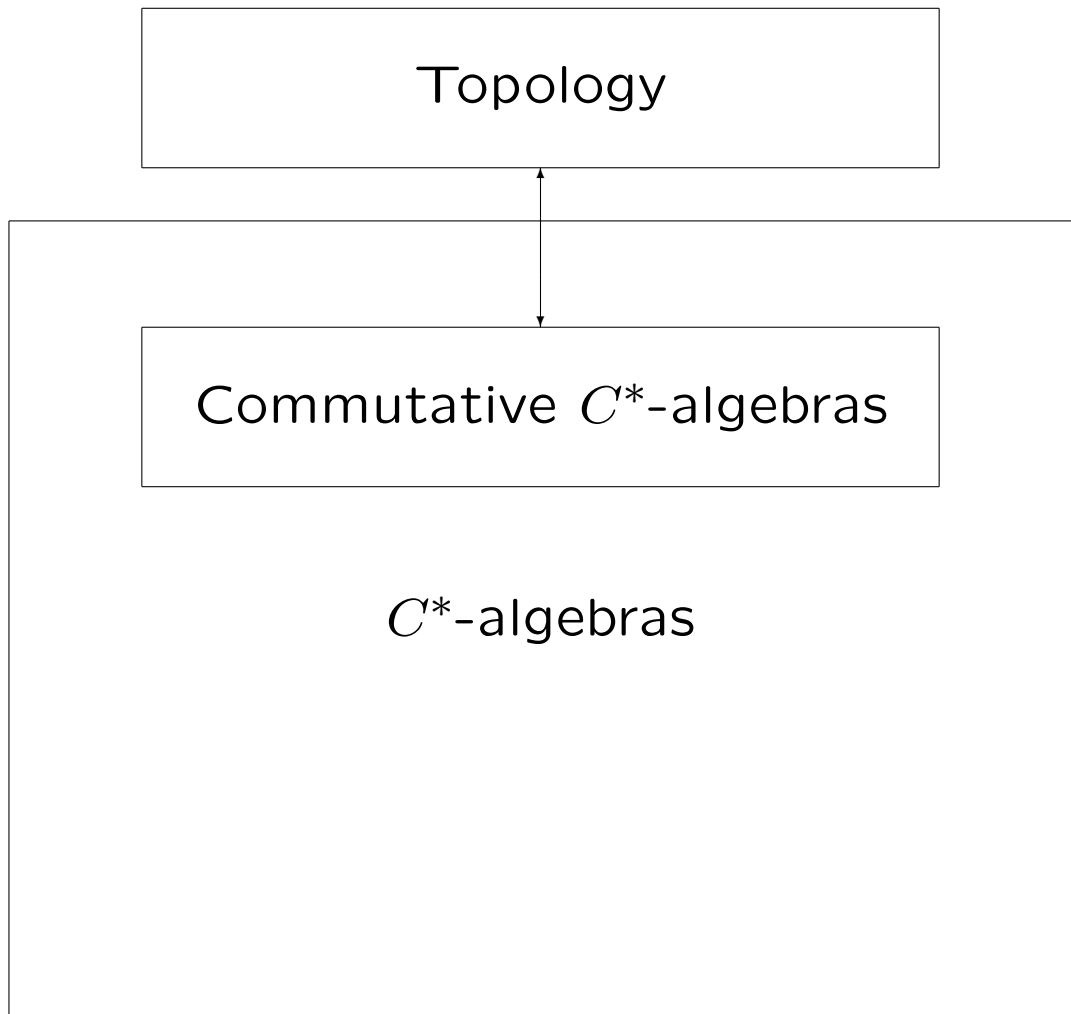
It is a C^* -algebra with pointwise algebraic operations, $*$ = pointwise complex conjugation, $\| \cdot \|$ is the supremum norm.

We can generalize: if the space X is *locally compact*, replace $C(X)$ with $C_0(X)$, the continuous complex functions which vanish at infinity. This is unital if and only if X is compact.

These are both *commutative*.

Gelfand-Naimark Theorem: Every commutative C^* -algebra arises in this way. $C_0(X)$ and $C_0(Y)$ are isomorphic if and only if X and Y are homeomorphic.

Theorem 2. *The functor $X \rightarrow C_0(X)$ is an equivalence of categories between locally compact, Hausdorff spaces and commutative C^* -algebras.*



- Can we extend standard topological notions to C^* -algebras?
- Are there some geometric constructions of non-commutative C^* -algebras?

Gelfand-Naimark dictionary:

Topology	Commutative C^* -alg's
closed set	closed ideal
$Y \subset X$	$I = \{f \in C(X) \mid f _Y = 0\}$ is a closed ideal in $C_0(X)$
Borel measure	functional
μ	$\varphi_\mu(f) = \int_X f d\mu$ $\varphi_\mu : C_0(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$
K-theory	K-theory

An application: Hilbert space $L^2[0, 1]$.

Let $Cut = \{p2^{-k} \mid p, k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \cap [0, 1]$

For each $a < b$ in Cut , let $\chi_{[a,b)}$ denote the characteristic function of $[a, b)$, which we regard as an operator on $L^2[0, 1]$ by pointwise multiplication.

Let A be the closed linear span of $\{\chi_{[a,b)} \mid a < b, a, b \in Cut\}$ in $\mathcal{B}(L^2[0, 1])$.

This is a commutative, unital C^* -algebra. Hence, $A \cong C(X)$, for some X . What is X ?

It should be a space where our functions $\chi_{[a,b)}$ are continuous: from $[0, 1]$, remove each point a in Cut and replace it with two points a^-, a^+ . Topologically, imagine a^- as a left endpoint of $[0, a]$ and a^+ as a right endpoint for $[a, 1]$, separated by a gap. This is X and it is a Cantor set.

Part 2: C^* -algebras from dynamics

Situation 1: Topological equivalence relations

Let X be a compact, Hausdorff space.

R an equivalence relation on X .

$r, s : R \rightarrow X$ are the projections:

$$r(x, y) = x, s(x, y) = y, (x, y) \in R.$$

Assume R has an étale topology: r, s are open and local homeomorphisms.

Idea: if (x, y) is in R , there are open sets $x \in U$, $y \in V$ and a (unique) homeomorphism $\rho : U \rightarrow V$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(x) &= y, \\ \{(u, \rho(u)) \mid u \in U\} &\subset R. \end{aligned}$$

$C^*(R)$:

First look at $C_c(R)$, the continuous, complex-valued functions of compact support on R . It is a linear space in an obvious way. Define a product and involution:

$$\begin{aligned}(f \cdot g)(x, y) &= \sum_{(x,z) \in R} f(x, z)g(z, y), \\ f^*(x, y) &= \overline{f(y, x)}.\end{aligned}$$

Complete in a norm to get a C^* -algebra, $C^*(R)$.

Example: $X = \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$, $R = X \times X$.

$$C^*(R) = M_N(\mathbb{C}).$$

Start with $C(X) = \mathbb{C}^N = \text{span}\{\chi_1, \dots, \chi_N\}$ and add $e_{i,j}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}e_{i,j}^* e_{i,j} &= \chi_j, \\ e_{i,j} e_{i,j}^* &= \chi_i,\end{aligned}$$

The last example illustrates a general property:

$$f \in C(X) \rightarrow \delta(f)(x, y) = \begin{cases} f(x) & x = y \\ 0 & x \neq y \end{cases}$$

embeds $C(X)$ as a unital subalgebra of $C^*(R)$.

Assume $U, V \subset X$ are clopen, $\rho : U \rightarrow V$ as before, let $w(x, y) = 1, x \in U, y = \rho(x), w(x, y) = 0$, otherwise.

$$\begin{aligned} w^*w &= \delta(\chi_U), \\ ww^* &= \delta(\chi_V), \\ w\delta(f)w^* &= \delta(f \circ \rho) \end{aligned}$$

if f is supported in U .

Example: X locally compact, $R = =$ (equality).

$$C^*(R) = C_0(X).$$

Example (Kellendonk): $\mathcal{P} = \{p_1, \dots, p_N\}$, a finite set of prototiles in \mathbb{R}^d . Each has a distinguished interior point $x(p_i)$ called a puncture.

Translate: $x(p_i + y) = x(p_i) + y, y \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Suppose Ω a compact, translation invariant collection of tilings which are made from translates of \mathcal{P} .

$$\Omega_{punc} = \{T \in \Omega \mid x(t) = 0, \text{ for some } t \in T\}.$$

$R_{punc} = \{(T, T + x) \mid T, T + x \in \Omega_{punc}, x \in \mathbb{R}^d\}$
is an étale groupoid.

Let $T \in \Omega, t_1, t_2 \in T$:

$$\begin{aligned} U &= \{T' \mid t_1 - x(t_1), t_2 - x(t_1) \in T'\} \\ V &= \{T' \mid t_1 - x(t_2), t_2 - x(t_2) \in T'\} \\ \rho(T') &= T' + x(t_1) - x(t_2). \end{aligned}$$

Situation 2: Actions of countable groups

G a countable abelian (for notation) group, X a loc. compct Hausdorff space, φ an action of G on X :

$$s \in G, \varphi^s : X \rightarrow X,$$

is a homeomorphism.

Action is free if $\varphi^s(x) = x \Rightarrow s = 0$.

$C_0(X) \rtimes_{\varphi} G$: Generators: $C_0(X)$, $u_s, s \in G$,
Relations:

$$\begin{aligned} u_0 &= 1, \\ u_s u_t &= u_{s+t}, \\ u_s^* &= u_{-s}, \\ u_s f u_s^* &= f \circ \varphi^{-s} \\ u_s f &= (f \circ \varphi^{-s}) u_s \end{aligned}$$

$s, t \in G, f \in C_0(X)$.

Consider all formal sums

$$\sum_{s \in G} f_s u_s$$

where only finitely many $f_s \in C(X)$ are non-zero. The rules above define product and involution. We give this a norm and then complete.

Idea: Each s in G defines an automorphism of $C_0(X)$: $f \rightarrow f \circ \varphi^{-s}$. Here $\delta(f) = f u_0$ and $C_0(X) \subset C_0(X) \times_{\varphi} G$ and all these automorphisms become inner. u_s is a unitary. (Caution: u_s is in $C_0(X) \times_{\varphi} G$ only if X is compact.)

Example: $X = \{1, \dots, N\}$, $G = \mathbb{Z}_N$, φ is addition, mod N . $C(X) \times G \cong M_N$.

Gelfand-Naimark dictionary (for free actions):

Dynamics (X, G, φ) C^* -alg. $C_0(X) \times_{\varphi} G$

closed invariant set two-sided closed ideal

$$Y \subset X$$

$I = \{\sum_s f_s u_s \mid f_s|_Y = 0\}^-$
is a closed two-sided ideal
in $C_0(X) \times_{\varphi} G$

invariant measure

trace

$$\mu$$

$$\tau_{\mu}(\sum_s f_s u_s) = \int_X f_0 d\mu$$

$$\tau_{\mu}(ab) = \tau_{\mu}(ba)$$

Comparison of topological equivalence relations and actions of countable groups.

Start with (X, G, φ) .

Let

$$R_\varphi = \{(x, \varphi^s(x)) \mid x \in X, s \in G\},$$

is an equivalence relation. The classes are the orbits.

If G acts *freely* ($\varphi^s(x) = x$ only if $s = e$), this can be given an étale topology. The local homeomorphisms are $\varphi^s, s \in G$.

$$C(X) \times_\varphi G \cong C^*(R_\varphi).$$

Situation 3: Continuous group actions

G a locally compact abelian group, X a locally compact Hausdorff space, φ an action of G on X :

$$s \in G, \varphi^s : X \rightarrow X,$$

is a homeomorphism.

$C_c(X \times G)$ is a linear space and is given a product and involution:

$$(f \cdot g)(x, s) = \int_G f(x, t)g(\varphi^t(x), s - t)d\lambda(t),$$

$$f^*(x, s) = f(\varphi^{-s}(x), s),$$

f, g in $C_c(X \times G)$, x in X , s in G ,

λ is Haar measure on G .

$$G \text{ discrete: } u_s(x, t) = \begin{cases} 1 & t = s \\ 0 & t \neq s \end{cases}$$

Part 4: Morita equivalence for C^* -algebras (Rieffel, Muhly-Renault-Williams)

“Morita equivalence is more natural than isomorphism” - A. Connes.

If A and B are Morita equivalent ($A \sim B$), then

- A and B have isomorphic lattices of closed two-sided ideals
- there is a bijection between classes of representations as operators on Hilbert space
- A and B have isomorphic K-theory

What is *not* preserved:

- linear dimension
- commutativity

Example 1: $M_m(\mathbb{C}) \sim M_n(\mathbb{C})$ are Morita equivalent for all $m, n \geq 1$.

Example 2: φ a free, wandering action of G on X . $q : X \rightarrow X/R_\varphi$ is the quotient map. Wandering implies that the space of orbits X/R_φ is Hausdorff in the quotient topology.

$A = C_0(X) \rtimes_\varphi G \sim B = C_0(X/R_\varphi)$ are Morita equivalent.

e.g. $C_0(\mathbb{R}) \rtimes \mathbb{Z} \sim C(S^1)$.

Moral: if the quotient X/R_φ is a bad space (there is some recurrence in φ), then $C_0(X) \rtimes_\varphi G$ is its non-commutative replacement.

Example 3: X locally compact, Hausdorff, φ an action of G , ψ an action of H ,

$$\varphi^s \circ \psi^t = \psi^t \circ \varphi^s, s \in G, t \in H.$$

If the actions φ and ψ are both wandering, then

$$A = C_0(X/R_\varphi) \times_\psi H$$

$$B = C_0(X/R_\psi) \times_\varphi G$$

$$C = C_0(X) \times_{\varphi \times \psi} (G \times H)$$

are all Morita equivalent.

Example 4: If φ is an \mathbb{R} -action on X and has a transversal T , let ψ be the Poincaré first return map on T . Under mild conditions,

$$C_0(X) \times_\varphi \mathbb{R} \sim C_0(T) \times_\psi \mathbb{Z}.$$

Example 5: Let Ω be a continuous hull. It has an action of \mathbb{R}^d and we consider the C^* -algebra $C(\Omega) \times \mathbb{R}^d$.

Recall

$$\Omega_{punc} = \{T \in \Omega \mid x(t) = 0, \text{ some } t \in T\}$$

and

$$R_{punc} = \{(T, T + x) \mid T, T + x \in \Omega_{punc}\}$$

and the C^* -algebra $C^*(R_{punc})$.

- Ω_{punc} is a transverse to the \mathbb{R}^d -action,
- restricting the \mathbb{R}^d -orbits to Ω_{punc} gives R_{punc} which is étale
- every \mathbb{R}^d orbit in Ω meets Ω_{punc} .

$C^*(R_{punc})$ and $C(\Omega) \times \mathbb{R}^d$ are Morita equivalent.

Part 5: C^* -algebras for projection method tilings (Forrest-Hunton-Kellendonk)

Data:

- \mathbb{R}^d , physical space (to be tiled),
- H , internal space, locally cpct ab. group,
- $\pi : \mathbb{R}^d \times H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d, \pi^\perp : \mathbb{R}^d \times H \rightarrow H$,
- $\mathcal{L} \subset \mathbb{R}^d \times H$, discrete, co-compact (lattice),
- $\pi|_{\mathcal{L}}, \pi^\perp|_{\mathcal{L}}$ one-to-one, $L = \pi^\perp(\mathcal{L})$ dense in H .
- $W \subset H$, compact, regular, $\lambda(\partial W) = 0$.

A point x in $\mathbb{R}^d \times H$ is *non-singular* if

$$\pi^\perp(x + \mathcal{L}) \cap \partial W = \emptyset.$$

\mathcal{N} is the set of non-singular points.

$$\Lambda_x = \pi\{y \in x + \mathcal{L} \mid \pi^\perp(y) \in W\}$$

is a Delone set, called a regular model set.

The hull Ω is the completion of

$$\{\Lambda_x \mid x \in \mathcal{N}\}.$$

Comments:

- \mathcal{N} is invariant under the actions of \mathbb{R}^d and \mathcal{L} ,
- $\Lambda_{x+s} = \Lambda_x$, if $s \in \mathcal{L}$,
- $\Lambda_{x+u} = \Lambda_x + u$, if $u \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

Lemma 3. *Suppose $x_n \in \mathcal{N}$ converges to $x \in \mathbb{R}^d \times H$. Λ_{x_n} converges in Ω (i.e. is Cauchy in the tiling metric) if and only if, for every $s \in L$, the sequence $\pi^\perp(x_n)$ is eventually either in $W + s$ or in its complement.*

Theorem 4. *For $s \in L$,*

$$\Lambda_x \rightarrow \chi_{W+s}(x), x \in \mathcal{N} \cap H$$

extends to a continuous function on Ω .

Definition 5. *Consider A , the C^* -algebra of operators on $L^2(H, \lambda)$ generated by $C_0(H)$ and $\chi_{W+s}, s \in L$. Let \hat{H} be its spectrum; i.e. $A \cong C_0(\hat{H})$.*

The action of L on E extends to \hat{H} . $L \subset H$ is dense implies that \hat{H} is totally disconnected.

Theorem 6. *The hull Ω is homeomorphic to*

$$\mathbb{R}^d \times \hat{H} / \mathcal{L}$$

The actions of \mathbb{R}^d and \mathcal{L} on $\mathbb{R}^d \times \hat{H}$ are commuting, free and wandering:

Theorem 7. *$C_0(\mathbb{R}^d \times \hat{H} / \mathcal{L}) \rtimes \mathbb{R}^d$ is Morita equivalent to*

$$C_0(\hat{H}) \rtimes L.$$

The actions of $G = \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\mathcal{L} \cong L$ on $\mathbb{R}^d \times \hat{H}$ are commuting and wandering:

$$\mathbb{R}^d \times \hat{H} / \mathbb{R}^d \cong \hat{H}.$$

Further reductions:

Assume $H = \mathbb{R}^N$. So $L \cong \mathcal{L} \cong \mathbb{Z}^{d+N}$, as an abstract group: $C_0(\hat{H}) \times \mathbb{Z}^{d+N}$. The action is by translation by the vectors L , which is a dense subgroup of \mathbb{R}^N .

\hat{H} is \mathbb{R}^N disconnected along the boundaries of W and its translates by L . In many cases, this can be done in other ways, e.g. by lines.

Example: Fibonacci: $d = 1$, $N = 1$, $L = \mathbb{Z} + \alpha\mathbb{Z}$. $W = [a, b]$. \hat{H} is \mathbb{R}^1 disconnected along the $\mathbb{Z} + \alpha\mathbb{Z}$ -orbits of a and b (one orbit or two?).

Example: Penrose: $d = 2$, $N = 2$, L is the subgroup of the plane generated by $\exp(2\pi i j/5)$, $j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$. \hat{H} is the plane disconnected along the 5 lines through the origin and $\exp(2\pi i j/5)$, $j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$, and all translates of them by L .

Example: TTT (Tübingen triangle tiling) Same is the Penrose, but rotate the 5 original lines by $\pi/10$.

Example: Octagonal tiling: $d = 2$, $N = 2$, L is the subgroup generated by $\exp(\pi i j / 4)$, $j = 0, 1, 2, 3$. \hat{H} is the plane disconnected along the 4 lines through the origin and $\exp(\pi i j / 4)$, $j = 0, 1, 2, 3$, and all translates by L .

One more reduction (still with $H = \mathbb{R}^N$). List a set of generators of L : s_1, \dots, s_{d+N} . Act on a disconnected $H = \mathbb{R}^N$. The action of the first N of them is free and wandering: let \hat{H}_0 denote the quotient, which is a Cantor set. It is really a disconnected N -torus. Our C^* -algebra is Morita equivalent to

$$C(\hat{H}) \times \mathbb{Z}^{d+N} = C(\hat{H}_0) \times \mathbb{Z}^d.$$

Part 6: K-theory for C^* -algebras

To a C^* -algebra, A , there are associated two abelian groups, $K_0(A)$ and $K_1(A)$. These are based on

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{projections} & p^2 = p = p^* \\ \text{unitaries} & u^* = u^{-1}, \end{array}$$

respectively, in A . It is a receptacle for such data and also an invariant for A . There is (by now) quite a lot of machinery for computing it.

$K_0(A)$: Assume A with unit.

p is a projection if $p^2 = p = p^*$.

Equivalence of projections:

Murray- von Neumann similarity	$p \sim q$	$\exists v, v^*v = p, vv^* = q,$
unitary eq.	$p \sim_s q$	$\exists v, vpv^{-1} = q$
homotopy	$p \sim_u q$	$\exists v^* = v^{-1}, vpv^{-1} = q$
	$p \sim_h q$	$\exists t \rightarrow p_t, p_0 = p, p_1 = q$

Note that v above must be in A .

Addition of projections: if p, q are orthogonal ($pq = 0$), then $p + q$ is a projection.

$M_n(A)$ is the set of $n \times n$ matrices with entries from A . It is a C^* -algebra. Its unit is 1_n . For $a \in M_n(A), b \in M_m(A)$,

$$a \oplus b = \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix} \in M_{m+n}(A).$$

$P_n(A)$, projections in $M_n(A)$.

$$P_1(A) \subset P_2(A) \subset P_3(A) \subset \dots$$

by identifying p and $p \oplus 0$. Let $P(A) = \cup_n P_n(A)$.

Equivalence: In $P(A)$, we have $\sim = \sim_s = \sim_u = \sim_h$.

Problem: $p + p_0 \sim q + p_0 \not\Rightarrow p \sim q$.

Define $p \approx q$ if and only if $p \oplus 1_n \sim q \oplus 1_n$, for some n . $[p]$ is the class modulo \approx .

Addition: $p, q \in P(A)$, $p = p \oplus 0$, $q \sim 0 \oplus q$, which are orthogonal, and so

$$[p] + [q] = [p \oplus q]$$

is a well-defined addition.

$P(A)/\approx$ is a semi-group with identity, $[0]$. $K_0(A)$ is its Grothendieck group, i.e. formal differences of classes of $P(A)$:

$$K_0(A) = \{[p] - [q] \mid p, q \in P(A)\}.$$

It has a natural positive cone:

$$K_0(A)^+ = \{[p] - [0] \mid p \in P(A)\}.$$

Example: \mathbb{C}

Consider matrices over \mathbb{C} :

Lemma 8. *Two projections p and q in $M_n(\mathbb{C})$ are similar if and only if $\text{rank}(p) = \text{rank}(q)$.*

Rank is not going to generalize easily to other C^* -algebras, but recall, for a projection $\text{rank}(p) = \text{Trace}(p)$.

Proposition 9. *The map $\text{Tr} : K_0(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$*

$$\text{Tr}([p] - [q]) = \text{Trace}(p) - \text{Trace}(q)$$

is an isomorphism. Under this, $K_0(\mathbb{C})^+ = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\} = \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Example: $C(S^2)$

If $p \in M_n(C(S^2))$, then $\text{Trace}(p(x))$ is continuous in x . If p is also a projection, its value is integral.

$[p] - [q] \in K_0(C(S^2)) \rightarrow \text{Trace}(p(x)) - \text{Trace}(q(x))$ is a homomorphism, but is not injective. There is a projection $p \in M_2(C(S^2))$ such that at every point $p(x)$ is similar to $1 \oplus 0$, but this similarity cannot be made continuous over S^2 .

Proposition 10. *If X is totally disconnected, let $C(X, \mathbb{Z})$ be the group of continuous integer-valued functions on X . The function $\text{Tr} : K_0(C(X)) \rightarrow C(X, \mathbb{Z})$ defined by*

$$\text{Tr}([p] - [q])(x) = \text{Trace}(p(x)) - \text{Trace}(q(x))$$
is an isomorphism. Under this, $K_0(C(X))^+ = C(X, \mathbb{Z}^+)$.

$U \subset X$ clopen, χ_U is a projection in $C(X)$ and also in $C(X, \mathbb{Z})$. The map takes $[\chi_U] - [0]$ to χ_U .

What about dynamics on $C(X)$? $G = \mathbb{Z}$: Pimsner-Voiculescu six-term exact sequences for K -theory of integer actions.

Proposition 11. *For a minimal action of \mathbb{Z} on a Cantor set X , $K_0(C(X) \rtimes_{\varphi} \mathbb{Z})$ is isomorphic to*

$$C(X, \mathbb{Z}) / \{f - f \circ \varphi \mid f \in C(X, \mathbb{Z})\}$$

and $K_0(C(X) \rtimes_{\varphi} \mathbb{Z})^+$ is the image of $C(X, \mathbb{Z}^+)$.

Inclusion $C(X) \subset C(X) \times \mathbb{Z}$ gives $K_0(C(X)) \cong C(X, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow K_0(C(X) \times \mathbb{Z})$.

Surjectivity: every projection in $C(X) \times \mathbb{Z}$ is similar to one in $C(X)$.

Let $U \subset X$ be clopen. χ_U is a projection in $C(X)$, but

$$\chi_U \sim_u u_1 \chi_U u_1^* = \chi_U \circ \varphi^{-1} = \chi_{\varphi(U)}.$$

If one replaces \mathbb{Z} by \mathbb{Z}^d , $d > 1$, more sophisticated methods (spectral sequences) are needed.

Recall, every φ -invariant measure μ gives a trace τ_μ on $C(X) \times \mathbb{Z}$. This yields a map

$$\hat{\tau}_\mu : K_0(C(X) \times \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

If U is clopen, $\hat{\tau}_\mu[\chi_U] = \mu(U)$.

Theorem 12. *a in $K_0(C(X) \times \mathbb{Z})$ is in $K_0(C(X) \times \mathbb{Z})^+$ if and only if $a = 0$ or $\hat{\tau}_\mu(a) > 0$, for all μ .*

For $d > 1$, the inclusion $C(X) \subset C(X) \times \mathbb{Z}^d$ induces $C(X, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow K_0(C(X) \times \mathbb{Z}^d)$ which is *not* onto.

Theorem 13 (Gap labelling: B-B-G, B-OO, K-P).

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\tau}_\mu(K_0(C(X) \times \mathbb{Z}^d)) &= \hat{\tau}_\mu(C(X, \mathbb{Z})) \\ &= \{\mu(U) \mid U \text{ clopen}\} + \mathbb{Z}. \end{aligned}$$

There are some very sophisticated machinery for computing this.

Connes' analogue of the Thom isomorphism:

$$K_i(C(X) \times \mathbb{R}^d) \cong K_{i+d}(C(X)).$$

Can be used in the case $X = \Omega$, the continuous hull. $K_i(C(X))$ is closely related (especially in low dimensions) to the cohomology of X .

However, this isomorphism does *not* respect the order structure on K_0 .