

# Isomorphisms and stable isomorphisms of non-selfadjoint operator algebras

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June 30, 2022

# Isomorphisms of Operator Algebras

# The definition of a semicrossed product

A  $C^*$ -dynamical system  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  consists of a  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  and a  $*$ -endomorphism

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An isometric covariant representation  $(\pi, V)$  of  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  consists of a  $*$ -representation  $\pi$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  and an isometry  $V \in B(\mathcal{H})$  so that

$$\pi(a)V = V\pi(\alpha(a)), \text{ for all } a \in \mathcal{A}.$$

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## Definition

The semicrossed product  $\mathcal{A} \rtimes_{\alpha} \mathbb{Z}^+$  is the universal operator algebra associated with “all” covariant representations of  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$ , i.e., the universal algebra generated by a faithful copy of  $\mathcal{A}$  and an isometry  $v$  satisfying the covariance relations.

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In the case where  $\alpha$  is an automorphism of  $\mathcal{A}$ , then  $\mathcal{A} \rtimes_{\alpha} \mathbb{Z}^+$  is isomorphic to the subalgebra of the crossed product  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A} \rtimes_{\alpha} \mathbb{Z}$  generated by  $\mathcal{A}$  and the “universal” unitary  $u$  implementing the covariance relations.

# The classification problem

One of the central problems in the study of semicrossed products is the classification problem, whose study spans more than 50 years. This problem asks if two semicrossed products are isomorphic as algebras exactly when the corresponding  $C^*$ -dynamical systems are outer conjugate, that is, unitarily equivalent after a conjugation.

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## Definition

The  $C^*$ -dynamical systems  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  and  $(\mathcal{B}, \beta)$  are said to be outer conjugate if there exists a  $*$ -isomorphism  $\gamma : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  and a unitary  $u \in M(\mathcal{A})$  so that

$$\alpha(a) = u(\gamma^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \gamma(a))u^*, \quad \text{for all } a \in \mathcal{A}.$$



# The classification problem

The classification problem first appeared in the work of Arveson (1967) and it was subsequently investigated by Peters (1984), Hadwin and Hoover (1988), Power (1992) and Davidson and Katsoulis (2008), who finally settled affirmatively the case where  $\mathcal{A}$  is abelian.

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- automorphisms with full Connes spectrum, (Muhly and Solel, 2000)
- simple  $C^*$ -algebras, (Davidson and Katsoulis, 2008).

Considerable progress was made by

- Davidson and Kakariadis, 2014

who resolved the problem for *isometric isomorphisms* and dynamical systems consisting of unital injective endomorphisms of unital  $C^*$ -algebras. Actually the work of Davidson and Kakariadis went well beyond systems consisting of injective endomorphisms.

## Theorem (Davidson and Kakariadis, 2014)

Let  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  and  $(\mathcal{B}, \beta)$  be unital  $C^*$ -dynamical systems and assume that one of the following conditions holds

- (1)  $\mathcal{A}$  has trivial center.
- (2)  $\mathcal{A}$  is abelian.
- (3)  $\mathcal{A}$  is finite, i.e., no proper isometries.
- (4)  $\alpha(\mathcal{A})'$  is finite.
- (5)  $\alpha(R_\alpha) = R_\alpha$ , where  $R_\alpha = \overline{\cup_{k \geq 1} \ker(\alpha^k)}$ .
- (6)  $\alpha(R_\alpha^\perp) \subseteq R_\alpha^\perp$ .

If the semicrossed products  $\mathcal{A} \rtimes_\alpha \mathbb{Z}^+$  and  $\mathcal{B} \rtimes_\beta \mathbb{Z}^+$  are isometrically isomorphic then the corresponding  $C^*$ -dynamical systems are outer conjugate.

# A conjecture and an open problem

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## Conjecture (Davidson and Kakariadis)

*The (isometric) isomorphism problem has a positive resolution for arbitrary unital  $C^*$ -dynamical systems.*

Problem: The above conjecture of Davidson and Kakariadis is a true conjecture! In other words, there exists a dynamical system  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  that does not satisfy any of the six conditions given earlier.

For the second conjecture, we claim that for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 6$ , there exists a dynamical system  $(\mathcal{A}_i, \alpha_i)$  that fails the corresponding condition  $(i)$  from the above list. It is easy to see then that the dynamical system  $(\bigoplus_{i=1}^6 \mathcal{A}_i, \bigoplus_{i=1}^6 \alpha_i)$  will fail all six conditions.

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The existence of dynamical systems that do not satisfy anyone of the conditions

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For condition

(4)  $\alpha(\mathcal{A})'$  is finite.

let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a separable Hilbert space and let  $B(\mathcal{H}), K(\mathcal{H})$  denote the bounded and compact operators respectively acting on  $\mathcal{H}$ . Let

$$\mathcal{A}_4 = B(\mathcal{H}) \otimes K(\mathcal{H}) + \mathbb{C}(I \otimes I)$$

acting on  $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$  and let  $\alpha_4$  be the unital endomorphism of  $\mathcal{A}$  defined as

$$\alpha_4(S + \lambda I \otimes I) = \lambda I \otimes I, \quad S \in B(\mathcal{H}) \otimes K(\mathcal{H}), \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{C}.$$

The dynamical system  $(\mathcal{A}_4, \alpha_4)$  fails property (4) from the above list.

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let  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $K(\mathcal{H})$  be as in the previous paragraph and consider

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$$\alpha_6(K + \lambda I, \mu I) = (\mu I, \lambda I), \quad K \in K(\mathcal{H}), \quad \lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{C}.$$



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$$\alpha_6(K + \lambda I, \mu I) = (\mu I, \lambda I), \quad K \in K(\mathcal{H}), \lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{C}.$$

It is clear that  $\ker(\alpha_6^k) = K(\mathcal{H}) \oplus 0$ , for all  $k \geq 1$ , and so  $R_\alpha = K(\mathcal{H}) \oplus 0$ . Therefore  $R_{\alpha_6}^\perp = 0 \oplus \mathbb{C}I$  and so

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$$\alpha_6(R_{\alpha_6}^\perp) = \mathbb{C}I \oplus 0 \not\subseteq 0 \oplus \mathbb{C}I = R_{\alpha_6}^\perp,$$

i.e.,  $(\mathcal{A}_6, \alpha_6)$  does not satisfy (6).

Note also that

$$\alpha_6(R_{\alpha_6}) = 0 \neq R_{\alpha_6}$$

and so  $(\mathcal{A}_6, \alpha_6)$  does not satisfy

(5)  $\alpha(R_\alpha) = R_\alpha$

as well.

## Theorem (K. and Ramsey)

*Let  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  and  $(\mathcal{B}, \beta)$  be two unital  $C^*$ -dynamical systems. Then  $\mathcal{A} \rtimes_{\alpha} \mathbb{Z}^+$  and  $\mathcal{B} \rtimes_{\beta} \mathbb{Z}^+$  are isometrically isomorphic if and only if  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  and  $(\mathcal{B}, \beta)$  are outer conjugate.*

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Strategy of the proof: Davidson and Kakariadis noticed that if

$$\psi : \mathcal{A} \rtimes_{\alpha} \mathbb{Z}^+ \longrightarrow \mathcal{B} \rtimes_{\beta} \mathbb{Z}^+$$

is an isometric isomorphism so that the zero Fourier coefficient of  $\psi(v)$  is very small (less than 0.15), then  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  and  $(\mathcal{B}, \beta)$  are outer conjugate.

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is an isometric isomorphism so that the zero Fourier coefficient of  $\psi(v)$  is very small (less than 0.15), then  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  and  $(\mathcal{B}, \beta)$  are outer conjugate. We construct an automorphism  $\rho_{\psi}$  of  $\mathcal{B} \rtimes_{\beta} \mathbb{Z}^+$  that  $\rho_{\psi} \circ \psi$  satisfies that property.

# Multivariable systems and tensor algebras

A *multivariable  $C^*$ -dynamical system* is a pair  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  consisting of a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  along with unital  $*$ -endomorphisms  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  into itself.

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A row isometric covariant representation of  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  consists of a non-degenerate  $*$ -representation  $\pi$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  and a row isometry  $V = (V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n)$  acting on  $\mathcal{H}^{(n)}$  so that  $\pi(a)V_i = V_i\pi(\alpha(a))$ , for all  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .



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The tensor algebra  $\mathcal{T}^+(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  is the universal algebra generated by a copy of  $\mathcal{A}$  and a row isometry  $v$  satisfying the covariance relations.

# The multivariable isomorphism problem

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Specifically, Davidson and Katsoulis utilized the concept of piecewise conjugacy for classical multivariable dynamical systems and they established that if the tensor algebras are algebraically isomorphic then the two dynamical systems must be piecewise conjugate.

However, the converse could only be established for tensor algebras with  $n = 2$  or  $3$  and some other cases.

# The multivariable isomorphism problem

## Conjecture (Davidson and Katsoulis, 2011)

*Let  $(\mathcal{X}, \alpha)$  and  $(\mathcal{Y}, \beta)$  be classical dynamical systems on compact Hausdorff spaces. Then  $\mathcal{T}^+(C(\mathcal{X}), \alpha)$  and  $\mathcal{T}^+(C(\mathcal{Y}), \beta)$  are isomorphic as algebras if and only if  $(\mathcal{X}, \alpha)$  and  $(\mathcal{Y}, \beta)$  are piecewise conjugate.*

In order to study this conjecture Katsoulis Kakariadis utilized the framework of  $C^*$ -correspondences.

# Multivariable systems and tensor algebras

Muhly and Solel placed semicrossed products and (non-selfadjoint) graph algebras and their study into a much broader context.

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## Definition

If  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  is a  $C^*$ -correspondence over a  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ , then the tensor algebra  $\mathcal{T}^+(X, \mathcal{A})$  is the non-selfadjoint norm-closed subalgebra of the Cuntz-Pimsner-Toeplitz algebra  $\mathcal{T}(X, \mathcal{A})$  generated by the faithful copies of  $X$  and  $\mathcal{A}$ .



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$\mathcal{T}^+(X, \mathcal{A}) \subseteq \mathcal{T}(X, \mathcal{A})$  is generated by  $X$  and  $\mathcal{A}$ .

## Some familiar examples

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$$\mathcal{A}_\alpha := (V\pi(\mathcal{A}), \pi(\mathcal{A}))$$

is completely isometrically isomorphic to  $\mathcal{A} \rtimes_\alpha \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

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- Let  $(\pi, V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n)$  be a covariant representation of the system  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n))$  with  $\pi$  faithful. Then the tensor algebra for the  $C^*$ -correspondence

$$\mathcal{A}_\alpha := \left( \sum_{i=1}^n V_i \pi(\mathcal{A}), \pi(\mathcal{A}) \right)$$

is completely isometrically isomorphic to  $\mathcal{A} \rtimes_\alpha \mathbb{Z}^+$ .



### Conjecture (Muhly and Solel, 2000)

*Consider  $C^*$ -correspondences  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  and  $(Y, \mathcal{B})$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}^+(X, \mathcal{A})$  and  $\mathcal{T}^+(Y, \mathcal{B})$  are completely isometrically isomorphic if and only if  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  and  $(Y, \mathcal{B})$  are unitarily equivalent, i.e., there exists a  $*$ -homomorphism  $\rho : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  and  $\rho$ -unitary  $U : X \rightarrow Y$ .*

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## Lemma

*If  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  and  $(Y, \mathcal{B})$  are unitarily equivalent, then  $\mathcal{T}^+(X, \mathcal{A})$  and  $\mathcal{T}^+(Y, \mathcal{B})$  are completely isometrically isomorphic.*

# Solving a special case of the conjecture

## Lemma

If  $\mathcal{A}_\alpha$  and  $\mathcal{B}_\beta$  are the correspondences coming from multivariable systems  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  and  $(\mathcal{B}, \beta)$  then  $\mathcal{A}_\alpha$  and  $\mathcal{B}_\beta$  are unitarily equivalent after a conjugation if there exists unitary matrix

$U = [u_{i,j}] \in M_{n,m}(\mathcal{A})$  and  $*$ -isomorphism  $\gamma : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  so that

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1(a) & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \alpha_n(a) \end{pmatrix} = U \begin{pmatrix} \gamma^{-1}\beta_1\gamma_1(a) & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \gamma^{-1}\beta_m\gamma_1(a) \end{pmatrix} U^*,$$

for all  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ .

## Theorem (Kakariadis and Katsoulis, 2014)

*Under various conditions for automorphic unital  $C^*$ -dynamical systems, if  $\psi : \mathcal{T}^+(\mathcal{A}, \alpha) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}^+(\mathcal{B}, \beta)$  is a completely isometric isomorphism then  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  and  $(\mathcal{B}, \beta)$  are unitarily equivalent after a conjugation.*

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## Theorem (Katsoulis and Ramsey, 2021)

*If  $\psi : \mathcal{T}^+(\mathcal{A}, \alpha) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}^+(\mathcal{B}, \beta)$  is a completely isometric isomorphism of unital  $C^*$ -dynamical systems, then  $(\mathcal{A}, \alpha)$  and  $(\mathcal{B}, \beta)$  are unitarily equivalent after a conjugation.*

# Stable Isomorphisms of Operator Algebras

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### Theorem (Dor-On, Eilers and Geffen)

Let  $G_1, G_2$  be row finite graphs and let  $\mathcal{K}$  denote the compact operators. Then the following are equivalent:

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- (ii) The algebras  $\mathcal{T}^+(G_1)$  and  $\mathcal{T}^+(G_2)$  are completely isometrically isomorphic
- (iii) The graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are isomorphic



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The equivalence of (ii) and (iii) is an earlier result of Katsoulis and Kribs (2004) and independently Solel (2004).

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- (i) *The algebras  $\mathcal{T}^+(G_1) \otimes \mathcal{K}$  and  $\mathcal{T}^+(G_2) \otimes \mathcal{K}$  are completely isometrically isomorphic*
- (ii) *The algebras  $\mathcal{T}^+(G_1)$  and  $\mathcal{T}^+(G_2)$  are completely isometrically isomorphic*
- (iii) *The graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are isomorphic*

The equivalence of (ii) and (iii) is an earlier result of Katsoulis and Kribs (2004) and independently Solel (2004).

But the above Theorem is part of the program for resolving the Muhly Solel isomorphism problem and one needs to allow  $\mathcal{K}$  to be any  $C^*$ -algebra!

## Theorem

*Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be operator algebras with  $c_0$ -isomorphic diagonals and let  $\mathcal{K}$  denote the compact operators. If  $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{K}$  and  $\mathcal{B} \otimes \mathcal{K}$  are isometrically isomorphic, then  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are isometrically isomorphic.*

## Theorem

*Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be operator algebras with  $c_0$ -isomorphic diagonals and let  $\mathcal{K}$  denote the compact operators. If  $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{K}$  and  $\mathcal{B} \otimes \mathcal{K}$  are isometrically isomorphic, then  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are isometrically isomorphic.*

## Corollary

*Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be operator algebras with  $c_0$ -isomorphic diagonals and let  $\mathcal{K}$  denote the compact operators. If  $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{K}$  and  $\mathcal{B} \otimes \mathcal{K}$  are completely isometrically isomorphic, then  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are completely isometrically isomorphic.*

## Theorem

*Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be analytic operator algebras with  $c_0$ -isomorphic diagonals and let  $\mathfrak{K}_{\mathcal{A}}$  and  $\mathfrak{K}_{\mathcal{B}}$  be operator algebras containing the compact operators. If  $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathfrak{K}_{\mathcal{A}}$  and  $\mathcal{B} \otimes \mathfrak{K}_{\mathcal{B}}$  are isometrically isomorphic, then  $\mathfrak{K}_{\mathcal{A}}$  and  $\mathfrak{K}_{\mathcal{B}}$  are isometrically isomorphic and the algebras  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are bicontinuously isomorphic.*

## Theorem







Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be analytic operator algebras with  $c_0$ -isomorphic diagonals and let  $\mathfrak{K}_{\mathcal{A}}$  and  $\mathfrak{K}_{\mathcal{B}}$  be operator algebras containing the compact operators. If  $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathfrak{K}_{\mathcal{A}}$  and  $\mathcal{B} \otimes \mathfrak{K}_{\mathcal{B}}$  are isometrically isomorphic, then  $\mathfrak{K}_{\mathcal{A}}$  and  $\mathfrak{K}_{\mathcal{B}}$  are isometrically isomorphic and the algebras  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are bicontinuously isomorphic.

## Corollary








Let  $G_1, G_2$  be countable graphs and let  $\mathcal{K}$  denote an operator algebra containing the compact operators. Then the following are equivalent:





- (i) The algebras  $\mathcal{T}^+(G_1) \otimes \mathcal{K}$  and  $\mathcal{T}^+(G_2) \otimes \mathcal{K}$  are isometrically isomorphic.
- (ii) The algebras  $\mathcal{T}^+(G_1)$  and  $\mathcal{T}^+(G_2)$  are isomorphic as Banach algebras.
- (iii) The graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are isomorphic.

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Thank you Paul!!