

# CLASSIFYING $*$ -HOMOMORPHISMS

JOINT WORK WITH J. GABE, C. SCHAFHAUSER,  
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# INTRODUCTION

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### Theorem (“Many hands”)

*$C^*$ -algebras that are unital, simple, separable, nuclear, regular, and satisfy the UCT, are classified by  $K$ -theory and traces.*

- $C^*$ -analog of the classification of injective von Neumann factors: Murray-von Neumann, Connes, Haagerup.
- No traces: Kirchberg-Phillips (1990s).
- We focus only on the case  $T(A) \neq \emptyset$ .
- Classifying invariant:

$$\text{Ell}(A) := \left( K_0(A), [1_A]_0, K_1(A), T(A), T(A) \times K_0(A) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \right)$$

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Setup:  $G$ , a countable discrete group, acting on  $X$ , a compact metric space.

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- ... nuclear, if  $G$  is amenable;
- ... in the UCT class, if  $G$  is amenable;
- ... **regular**, if  $X$  is finite dimensional and  $G$  is f.g. nilpotent.

## Finite nuclear dimension (Winter-Zacharias)

- $\dim_{\text{nuc}} A$ : noncommutative analog of covering dimension
- $\dim_{\text{nuc}} C(X) = \dim X$
- range of  $\text{Ell}(-)$  exhausted by  $C^*$ -algebras with  $\dim_{\text{nuc}} < \infty$

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## $\mathcal{Z}$ -stability: $A \cong A \otimes \mathcal{Z}$

- Jiang-Su algebra  $\mathcal{Z}$ :  $\infty$ -dim'l analog of  $\mathbb{C}$ .
- $\mathcal{Z} \sim_{KK} \mathbb{C}$ ; has unique trace.
- $\text{Ell}(A) = \text{Ell}(A \otimes \mathcal{Z})$

## Theorem (Castillejos-Evington-Tikuisis-White-Winter)

For  $A$  is a unital, simple, separable, nuclear, nonelementary,

$$\dim_{\text{nuc}} A < \infty \iff A \cong A \otimes \mathcal{Z}.$$

Comments:

- “ $\Rightarrow$ ” is due to Winter
- Can remove “unital” from statement: Castillejos-Evington, Tikuisis.
- Conjecturally equivalent to a third condition: *strict comparison*. (True under mild trace hypotheses.)
- Proof developed important technique for handling complicated trace spaces.

## THE ORIGINAL ROAD TO CLASSIFICATION (~2017)

Impossible to summarize decades of work in a slide.

Some recent components:

### Classification of “model” algebras

- Gong-Lin-Niu '15: classified  $C^*$ -algebras with a certain internal tracial approximation structure.
- The class exhausts range of  $\text{Ell}(-)$ .

### Realizing the approximations

- Elliott-Gong-Lin-Niu '15: abstract conditions on a  $C^*$ -algebra  $\Rightarrow$  concrete tracial approximations of GLN.
- Tikuisis-White-Winter '17: the abstract conditions are the ones stated in the classification theorem.

## A DIFFERENT APPROACH

We develop an alternate route to classification: beginning with von Neumann algebraic techniques inspired by work of Connes and Haagerup, we extend the *KK*-theoretic techniques recently developed by Schafhauser to prove classification theorems in an abstract setting.

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We will (mostly) ignore the difficulties that arise from non-separability or the lack of a unit.



# CLASSIFYING MORPHISMS & ALGEBRAS

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## Theorem (Connes '76)

*Injective von Neumann Algebras are AFD.*

## Corollary

*A: nuclear  $C^*$ -algebra; M:  $II_1$  factor.*

1. (existence)

$$\tau \in T(A) \implies \exists \text{ *-hom } \varphi: A \rightarrow M \text{ s.t. } \tau_M \circ \varphi = \tau.$$

2. (uniqueness)

$$\varphi, \psi: A \rightarrow M \text{ *-hom's s.t. } \tau_M \circ \varphi = \tau_M \circ \psi$$

$$\implies \varphi \approx_u \psi \text{ (in } \|\cdot\|_2)$$

## Rough scheme

Produce invariant  $\text{inv}(-)$  s.t.

(with abstract hypotheses on  $A, B$ ):

- (existence)

$$\alpha: \text{inv}(A) \rightarrow \text{inv}(B) \implies \exists \varphi: A \rightarrow B \text{ s.t. } \text{inv}(\varphi) = \alpha;$$

- (uniqueness)

$$\varphi, \psi: A \rightarrow B \text{ and } \text{inv}(\varphi) = \text{inv}(\psi) \implies \varphi \approx_u \psi.$$

Intertwining:  $\text{inv}(A) \cong \text{inv}(B) \implies A \cong B.$

# CLASSIFICATION OF MORPHISMS

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Intertwining:  $\text{inv}(A) \cong \text{inv}(B) \implies A \cong B.$

$\text{inv}(-)$  will be more complicated than  $\text{Ell}(-)$ .

**Also want:**

$$\text{Ell}(A) \cong \text{Ell}(B) \text{ yields } \text{inv}(A) \cong \text{inv}(B).$$

## Definition

$$\underline{K}(A) = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} K_0(A; \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}) \oplus K_1(A; \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})$$

Can think of  $K_i(A; \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})$  as  $K_i(A \otimes \mathcal{O}_{n+1})$ .

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## Slogan

Can check “closeness” of  $KK(\varphi)$  and  $KK(\psi)$  by checking that  $\underline{K}(\varphi)$  and  $\underline{K}(\psi)$  agree on large finite subsets of  $\underline{K}(A)$ .

## ANOTHER INGREDIENT OF $\text{INV}(-)$ : “ALGEBRAIC” $K_1$

Thomsen-Nielsen (early 90s): different proof of Elliott’s classification of simple unital  $A\mathbb{T}$  algebras. Need refined  $\text{inv}$ .

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$\overline{K}_1^{\text{alg}}(A)$  came up in Thomsen’s work on the role of the relationship between  $K$ -theory and traces in classification theory.

Has seen lots of use in classification (e.g. in GLN).

## Definition

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$$\underline{\alpha}: \underline{K}(A) \rightarrow \underline{K}(E), \quad \beta: \overline{K}_1^{\text{alg}}(A) \rightarrow \overline{K}_1^{\text{alg}}(E), \quad \gamma: \text{Aff } T(A) \rightarrow \text{Aff } T(E)$$

such that

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} K_0(A) & \xrightarrow{\rho_A} & \text{Aff } T(A) & \xrightarrow{\text{Th}_A} & \overline{K}_1^{\text{alg}}(A) & \longrightarrow & K_1(A) \\ \downarrow \alpha_0 & & \downarrow \gamma & & \downarrow \beta & & \downarrow \alpha_1 \\ K_0(E) & \xrightarrow{\rho_E} & \text{Aff } T(E) & \xrightarrow{\text{Th}_E} & \overline{K}_1^{\text{alg}}(E) & \longrightarrow & K_1(E) \end{array}$$

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$(\underline{\alpha}, \beta, \gamma)$  is *faithful and amenable* if  $\gamma^*(T(E)) \subseteq T(A)$  consists of faithful amenable traces.

## Theorem (C-Gabe-Schafhauser-Tikuisis-White)

- $A$  : *sep., exact, UCT*
- $B$  : *sep.,  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable, strict comparison w.r.t.  $T(B)$ ,  $T(B) \neq \emptyset$   
& compact*
- $(\underline{\alpha}, \beta, \gamma) : \text{inv}(A) \rightarrow \text{inv}(B)$  : *compatible triple that is faithful  
and amenable*

*Then:*

- $\exists$  *full<sup>†</sup> nuclear  $*$ -hom.  $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$  s.t.  $\text{inv}(\varphi) = (\underline{\alpha}, \beta, \gamma)$ ;*
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The (unital)  $C^*$ -algebras in

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{alg's satisfying} \\ \text{domain hyp.} \end{array} \right\} \cap \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{alg's satisfying} \\ \text{target hyp.} \end{array} \right\} \cap \left\{ \begin{array}{l} A : \text{id}_A \text{ satisfies} \\ \text{morphism hyp.} \end{array} \right\}$$

are precisely those we wanted to classify on first slide.

$\Rightarrow$  Classification of algebras via  $\text{inv}(-)$ .

Can deduce classification of algebras via  $\text{Ell}(-)$ .



# CLASSIFYING ALGEBRAS

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Future goal: move more hypotheses (regularity?) to the morphisms, allowing even more general algebras.

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### Punchline:

$$\exists \text{ trace-preserving } C_r^*(\Gamma) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{Q} \iff \Gamma \text{ is amenable} \iff \exists \text{ trace-preserving } L\Gamma \hookrightarrow \mathcal{R}$$

# STRATEGY

---

## THE TRACE-KERNEL EXTENSION

Define  $B_\infty := \ell^\infty B / c_0 B$ .

Will prove classification of maps  $A \rightarrow B_\infty$ .

The *trace-kernel ideal* is

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Conditions on  $B \rightsquigarrow J_B$  nice enough to employ KK machinery

$\rightsquigarrow B^\infty$  behaves like a finite vNa (sort of)


## APPROXIMATE CLASSIFICATION OF MORPHISMS: MAJOR STEPS

$A$

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1. **Classify morphisms into  $B^\infty$**   
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1. Classify morphisms into  $B^\infty$   
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2. Classify lifts of morphisms to  $B_\infty$   
(Ext, KK techniques)
3. Deal with KK-theory, exploiting  $J_B$

# 1. CLASSIFYING MAPS INTO $B^\infty$

## Theorem (Castillejos-Evington-Tikuisis-White + ...)

Let  $A$ : exact;  $B$ :  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable,  $T(B) \neq \emptyset$  & compact,

$\mathfrak{t}: T(B^\infty) \rightarrow T_{\text{amenable}}(A)$  continuous affine.

$\implies \exists$  nuclear  $*$ -hom.  $\theta: A \rightarrow B^\infty$

s.t.  $\tau \circ \theta = \mathfrak{t}(\tau) \quad \forall \tau \in T(B^\infty)$ .

$\theta$  is unique up to unitary equivalence.

Compare with classifying maps from nuclear  $C^*$ -alg's into  $\text{II}_1$  factors.

In fact: if  $T(B) = \{\tau\}$ ,  $B^\infty$  is essentially a vNA ultrapower of  $\pi_\tau(B)''$ .



## 2. CLASSIFYING LIFTS (A GLIMPSE)

Setup:  $A$ : sep. exact;  $B$ :  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable, strict comp. w.r.t.  $T(B)$ ,  
 $T(B) \neq \emptyset$  & compact

### Theorem (Existence for lifts)

$\theta: A \rightarrow B^\infty$  full nuclear  $*$ -hom;

$\kappa \in KK(A, B_\infty)$ ,  $[\kappa]_{KKK} = [\theta]_{KK}$

$\implies \exists$  full nuclear lift  $\varphi: A \rightarrow B_\infty$  of  $\theta$

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- $[e_\theta] = 0 \implies e_\theta \oplus (\text{trivial extension}) \approx$  a **split** extension.

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(Very) roughly:

- $\theta$  determines a pullback extension  $e_\theta$  whose class in  $\text{Ext}(A, J_B)$  vanishes.
- $[e_\theta] = 0 \implies e_\theta \oplus (\text{trivial extension}) \approx$  a split extension.
- Weyl-von Neumann-Voiculescu type **absorption** theorems  
 $\implies e_\theta \oplus (\text{trivial extension}) \approx e_\theta$ .

What if we have two (nuclear) lifts  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  of  $\theta$ ?

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & A & \xrightarrow{\theta} & & & \\
 & & \psi \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & J_B & \longrightarrow & B_\infty & \longrightarrow & B^\infty \longrightarrow 0
 \end{array}$$

**Under these hypotheses:**

- get class  $[\varphi, \psi] \in KK(A, J_B)$
- $[\varphi, \psi]$  determines when  $\varphi, \psi$  are approx. unitarily equiv.

Think of Voiculescu's Theorem:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & A & \xrightarrow{\quad \theta \quad} & & & \\ & & \downarrow \psi & & \downarrow \varphi & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{K} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{H}) \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

If  $\varphi, \psi$  are “admissible” (faithful, nondegenerate, and  $\varphi(A) \cap \mathcal{K} = \{0\} = \psi(A) \cap \mathcal{K}$ ), then  $\varphi \approx_u \psi$ .

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More can be said:

### Theorem (Dadarlat-Eilers '01)

*Suppose:  $\varphi, \psi: A \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  are admissible lifts of  $\theta$ .*

*Then:*

$[\varphi, \psi] = 0 \in KK(A, \mathcal{K}) \implies \varphi \approx_u \psi$  via unitaries in  $\mathcal{K} + \mathbb{C}1_{\mathcal{H}}$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & A & & & \\
 & & & \downarrow \psi & \downarrow \varphi & & \\
 & & & B_\infty & & & \\
 & & & \downarrow & & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & J_B & \xrightarrow{j} & B_\infty & \xrightarrow{q} & B^\infty \longrightarrow 0
 \end{array}$$

$\theta$  (curved arrow from  $A$  to  $B^\infty$ )

### Theorem (Uniqueness for lifts; CGSTW)

- $A$ : sep. exact;
- $B$ :  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable, strict comparison w.r.t.  $T(B)$ ,  $T(B) \neq \emptyset$  & cpt;
- $\varphi, \psi$ : unitizably full, nuclear lifts of  $\theta$ .

$$[\varphi, \psi] = 0 \in KK(A, J_B) \quad \implies \quad \varphi \approx_u \psi \text{ via unitaries in } \tilde{J}_B.$$



### 3. FROM $KK$ TO $\text{inv}$ : ROTATION MAPS

Consider maps

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & & A & & & \\ & & & \downarrow \psi & \downarrow \varphi & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & J_B & \xrightarrow{j} & B_\infty & \xrightarrow{q} & B^\infty \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

agreeing modulo  $J_B$ .

Solutions to lifting problems were encoded in certain  $KK$  classes. Want to compute this information in terms  $\text{inv}(-)$ .

For instance, can  $\text{inv}$  detect when  $[\varphi, \psi] \in KK(A, J_B)$  vanishes?

$\exists$  morphism

$$j_*: KK(A, J_B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_\Lambda \left( \underline{K}(A), \underline{K}(B_\infty) \right)$$

$$[\varphi, \psi] \mapsto \underline{K}(\varphi) - \underline{K}(\psi)$$

induced by  $j: J_B \rightarrow B_\infty$ .

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$\underline{K}(\varphi) = \underline{K}(\psi)$  doesn't guarantee  $[\varphi, \psi] = 0$ .

### Subtle obstruction:

Even if  $\varphi(u) \sim_h \psi(u)$  is true for  $u \in U(A)$ , the path  $\xi$  connecting them might have nonzero “winding number”.

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### Subtle obstruction:

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$\rightsquigarrow$  **rotation map**  $R([\varphi, \psi])$ ; (roughly) assigns the function

$$\tau \mapsto \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_0^1 \tau \left( \frac{d\xi(t)}{dt} \xi(t)^{-1} \right) dt$$

to  $[u] \in K_1(A)$ . This is an element of  $\text{Aff } T(B_\infty)$ .

Want to encode this additional obstruction to  $[\varphi, \psi] = 0$  using  $\overline{K}_1^{\text{alg}}$ .

*Idea:* use Thomsen's map

$$\text{Aff}T(B_\infty) \rightarrow \overline{K}_1^{\text{alg}}(B_\infty)$$

which, given  $h = h^* \in B_\infty$ , maps  $\hat{h}$  to  $[e^{2\pi ih}]_{\text{alg}}$ .

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### Punchline

Assuming  $\underline{K}(\varphi) = \underline{K}(\psi)$ ,

$$\bar{K}_1^{\text{alg}}(\varphi) - \bar{K}_1^{\text{alg}}(\psi) = 0 \implies R([\varphi, \psi]) = 0 \implies [\varphi, \psi] = 0.$$

This let us access the classification theorem for lifts.

## SUMMARY

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## Using $\text{inv}(-)$ can provide $\exists$ and $!$ for $*$ -hom's



(can do this much more generally!)



Using  $\text{inv}(-)$  can provide  $\exists$  and  $!$  for  $*$ -hom's



(can do this much more generally!)

Can use this to classify algebras  
... even in the non-unital setting.

### Theorem

*Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are non-unital, simple, separable, nuclear,  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable  $C^*$ -algebras satisfying the UCT.*

*Any isomorphism  $\text{Ell}(A) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Ell}(B)$  lifts to an isomorphism  $A \xrightarrow{\sim} B$ .*

THANK YOU!