

Unitary equivalence of automorphisms of C^* -algebras

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A representation of Γ on \mathcal{H} can be regarded as an **action of Γ on \mathcal{H} by unitary linear transformations**.

Irreducible representations

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Problem:

classify of the irreducible representations of a group Γ up to equivalence.

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Is it possible to extend such classification to the case of infinite groups?

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This offers a concrete (smooth) classification of representations of Γ .

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The quotient space $Irr(\Gamma, \mathcal{H}) / \approx$ of $Irr(\Gamma, \mathcal{H})$ modulo the relation \approx of unitary equivalence parametrizes the equivalence classes of representations of dimension $\dim \mathcal{H}$.

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What happens when \mathcal{H} is infinite-dimensional?

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In particular, if there is at least one infinite-dimensional representation, then the quotient topology does not provide a nice classifying space for infinite-dimensional representations.

Mackey's idea

Consider the **quotient Borel structure** on $Irr(\Gamma, \mathcal{H}) / \approx$

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- ③ $\text{Irr}(\Gamma, \mathcal{H}) / \approx$ is **standard** for \mathcal{H} infinite dimensional
- ④ the relation \approx_{Γ} of equivalence of representations of Γ is **smooth**

Dichotomy

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The proof of such result uses **Hjorth's theory of turbulence**.

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The proof of such result uses **Hjorth's theory of turbulence**.
Hjorth's theorem shows a **dichotomy** in the Borel complexity.

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If $G \curvearrowright X$ is turbulent, then the associated orbit equivalence relation is **not classifiable by countable structures**.

It is in fact even ***F-ergodic*** for every equivalence relation F that is classifiable by countable structures.

Hierarchy

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Problem

Are there Γ, Γ' non type I such that \approx_Γ and $\approx_{\Gamma'}$ are not bi-reducible?

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If X is a **compact Hausdorff space**, the space $C(X)$ of complex-valued continuous functions is a commutative C*-algebra.

Moreover every commutative C*-algebra is of this form (Gelfand-Naimark).

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The direct union

$$\bigcup_k \mathbb{M}_{2k}$$

is a $*$ -algebra whose completion

$$\mathbb{M}_{2^\infty}$$

is a C^* -algebra called **CAR algebra**.

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Representation theory of discrete groups can be seen as a particular case of representation theory of C*-algebras

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- ③ there is a projection $q \in A''$ and a subalgebra C of A commuting with q such that $qAq = qCq \simeq \mathbb{M}_{2^\infty}$

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- ③ there is a projection $q \in A''$ and a subalgebra C of A commuting with q such that $qAq = qCq \simeq \mathbb{M}_{2^\infty}$
- ④ ... (many other equivalent conditions)

Glimm's theorem

A C*-algebra is **type I** if its representations are **smoothly classifiable**.

Theorem (Glimm, 1961)

If A is a C*-algebra, TFAE

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Glimm's result in particular shows that

$$\approx \mathbb{M}_{2^\infty} \leq \approx A$$

for any other non type I C*-algebra A .

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Kerr-Li-Pichot proof prove directly (generic) turbulence for the Polish group action that has \approx_A as orbit equivalence relation.

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Little is known about the relative complexity of the relations \approx_A

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Are there non type I C-algebras A, B such that \approx_A and \approx_B are **not bi-reducible**?*

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This problem is equivalent to the corresponding one for groups.

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2 C^* -algebras

3 Automorphisms

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The group **$\text{Aut}(A)$** of automorphisms of A is Polish with respect to the **topology of pointwise norm convergence**.

Inner automorphisms

An element $u \in A$ is **unitary** if

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The group $\text{Inn}(A)$ of inner automorphisms is a **Borel normal subgroup** of $\text{Aut}(A)$.

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John Phillips characterized such C^* -algebras.

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Theorem (J. Phillips, 1985)

$\text{Inn}(A)$ is closed in $\text{Aut}(A)$ iff A is locally homogeneous

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More generally the same is true when A is a **strongly self absorbing C^* -algebra** (such as \mathbb{M}_{n^∞} , \mathcal{O}_2 , \mathcal{O}_∞ , \mathcal{Z}, \dots).

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Second attempt: use equivalence relations already known to be turbulent to prove nonclassification of automorphisms.

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