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# Quasidiagonal traces on exact $C^*$ -algebras



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## ABSTRACT

Recently, it was proved by Tikuisis, White and Winter that any faithful trace on a separable, nuclear  $C^*$ -algebra in the UCT class is quasidiagonal. Building on their work, we generalise the result, and show that any faithful, amenable trace on a separable, exact  $C^*$ -algebra in the UCT class is quasidiagonal. We also prove that any amenable trace on a separable, exact, quasidiagonal  $C^*$ -algebra in the UCT class is quasidiagonal.

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## 1. Introduction

The classification of separable, nuclear  $C^*$ -algebras using  $K$ -theory and traces, the Elliott classification programme, has seen prominent progress over last 25 years. The most recent success shows that separable, unital, simple, non-elementary  $C^*$ -algebras in the UCT class with finite nuclear dimension are classified by their Elliott invariant. This very complete classification result builds on a long line of results over the last 25 years, such as [15,19,18], and recent papers of (Elliott), Gong, Lin and Niu [12,9], where the

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result was proved under the additional assumption that all traces on the  $C^*$ -algebras were quasidiagonal. Soon after, it was shown by Tikuisis, White and Winter in [24], that any trace on a simple, nuclear  $C^*$ -algebra in the UCT class is quasidiagonal, thus implying the above result.

One of the early major successes in the classification programme was the Kirchberg–Phillips theorem [15,19], the classification of separable, nuclear, unital, simple, purely infinite  $C^*$ -algebras in the UCT class, by the  $K$ -groups and the position of the unit in  $K_0$ . The UCT class refers to the class of separable  $C^*$ -algebras satisfying the universal coefficient theorem of Rosenberg and Schochet [22], or equivalently, the class of separable  $C^*$ -algebras which are  $KK$ -equivalent to abelian  $C^*$ -algebras.

In Kirchberg’s approach to the classification result (see [15] or [21]), much more is actually proved. It follows from this approach, that if  $A$  is a separable, exact, unital  $C^*$ -algebra in the UCT class and  $B$  is a unital, purely infinite  $C^*$ -algebra, then any pointed homomorphism  $\phi: (K_*(A), [1_A]_0) \rightarrow (K_*(B), [1_B]_0)$  lifts to a full, unital, nuclear  $*$ -homomorphism  $A \rightarrow B$ . Using  $KK$ -theory (resp. total  $K$ -theory) one even obtains uniqueness results for such nuclear  $*$ -homomorphisms up to asymptotic (resp. approximate) unitary equivalence.

The same idea was employed by Dadarlat in [8]. He showed that if  $A$  and  $B$  are separable, simple, unital, tracially AF  $C^*$ -algebras, and  $A$  is exact and in the UCT class, then any pointed, order preserving homomorphism  $\phi: (K_*^+(A), [1_A]_0) \rightarrow (K_*^+(B), [1_B]_0)$  lifts to a nuclear  $*$ -homomorphism  $A \rightarrow B$ . He also obtains uniqueness of such  $*$ -homomorphisms up to approximate unitary equivalence using total  $K$ -theory. This reproves the classification of separable, nuclear, unital, simple tracially AF  $C^*$ -algebras in the UCT class by Lin [18].

It turns out that this phenomenon often occurs. Rather than considering nuclear  $C^*$ -algebras, one might as well consider nuclear maps for which the domain is an exact  $C^*$ -algebra. This actually also explains why classification only holds for nuclear  $C^*$ -algebras: by using the methods for nuclear  $*$ -homomorphisms with exact domains, the isomorphism one would construct by the classification results would have to be nuclear. Thus the  $C^*$ -algebras we classify would have to be nuclear by the characterisation of nuclear  $C^*$ -algebras as the  $C^*$ -algebras for which the identity map is nuclear, due to Choi and Effros [6], and Kirchberg [14].

Popa’s work on simple quasidiagonal  $C^*$ -algebras in [20] was the main inspiration for Lin’s definition of tracially AF  $C^*$ -algebras, which is a key component in the classification programme. Quasidiagonality of traces was later introduced by Brown in [2] and has also proved to play an important part in the classification programme. Very recently, Tikuisis, White and Winter showed in [24] that any faithful trace on a separable, nuclear  $C^*$ -algebra in the UCT class is quasidiagonal. This result has several remarkable consequences. It follows that (1): the Blackadar–Kirchberg problem [1, Question 9.1] has an affirmative answer for simple  $C^*$ -algebras in the UCT class, (2): the Rosenberg conjecture is true (see appendix of [13]), and as mentioned above (3): separable, unital, simple, non-elementary  $C^*$ -algebras in the UCT class with finite nuclear dimension are

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