

# Rigidity of Roe algebras

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## Roe algebras

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### Definition

- The **uniform Roe algebra**  $C_u^*(X)$  is the norm closure of all finite propagation operators in  $\mathfrak{B}(\ell^2(X; \mathbb{C}))$ ; E.g.  $C_u^*(\Gamma) \cong \ell^\infty(\Gamma) \rtimes_r \Gamma$ .

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- The **Roe algebra**  $C^*(X)$  is the norm closure of all finite propagation and locally compact operators in  $\mathfrak{B}(\ell^2(X; \ell^2(\mathbb{N})))$ . E.g.  $C^*(\Gamma) \cong \ell^\infty(\Gamma, \mathfrak{K}(\ell^2(\mathbb{N}))) \rtimes_r \Gamma$ .

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### Proposition

If  $X \sim_c Y$ , then

- 1  $C^*(X) \cong C^*(Y)$ ;
- 2  $C_u^*(X) \otimes \mathfrak{K}(\ell^2(\mathbb{N})) \cong C_u^*(Y) \otimes \mathfrak{K}(\ell^2(\mathbb{N}))$  (i.e.,  $C_u^*(X)$  and  $C_u^*(Y)$  are **stably isomorphic**).

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### Question

Let  $X, Y$  be metric spaces with bounded geometry.

- (a)  $C_u^*(X) \otimes \mathfrak{K}(\ell^2(\mathbb{N})) \cong C_u^*(Y) \otimes \mathfrak{K}(\ell^2(\mathbb{N})) \Rightarrow X \sim_c Y?$
- (a)'  $C_u^*(X) \cong C_u^*(Y) \Rightarrow X \sim_c Y?$
- (b)  $C^*(X) \cong C^*(Y) \Rightarrow X \sim_c Y?$

- ▶ (a)' is a weak form of rigidity.

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  - ▶ A subspace  $Y$  in a metric space  $(X, d)$  is **sparse** if  $Y = \bigsqcup_n Y_n$  where each  $Y_n$  is finite and  $d(Y_n, Y_m) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n+m \rightarrow \infty$  and  $n \neq m$ .

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### Corollary

(a), (a)' and (b) hold if  $X$  or  $Y$  satisfies the coarse Baum-Connes conjecture **with coefficients**.

## Analytic description

- If all sparse subspaces of  $X$  contain no **block-rank-one** ghost projections in their Roe algebras, then rigidity (*i.e.*, (a), (a)' and (b)) holds. [L-Špakula-Zhang, 2020]

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where each  $P_n = (\cdot, \xi_n)\xi_n$  is a rank-one projection in  $\mathfrak{B}(\ell^2(X_n; \mathcal{H}_0))$ .



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- ▶  $P$  is a ghost iff  $\{(X_n, d_n, m_n)\}_n$  is **ghostly** (i.e.  $\limsup_n \sup_{x \in X_n} m_n(x) = 0$ ).

### Theorem (L-Špakula-Zhang, 2020)

Let  $P \in \mathfrak{B}(\ell^2(X; \ell^2(\mathbb{N})))$  be a block-rank-one projection and  $m_n$  the associated measure on  $X_n$ . Then  $P \in C^*(X)$  iff  $\{(X_n, d_n, m_n)\}_n$  is a sequence of **measured asymptotic expanders**.

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- When  $c_\alpha \equiv c > 0$ , we call it **Measured expanders**.
- When  $c_\alpha \equiv c > 0$  and  $m_n =$  counting measure on finite graphs  $V_n$ , we recover **Expanders** for finite graphs  $\{V_n\}_n$ :  $\exists c > 0 \forall n$  and  $\forall A \subset V_n$  with  $0 < |A| \leq \frac{1}{2}|V_n|$ , then  $|\partial A| > c|A|$ .

## Outline of the proof

- Measured asymptotic expanders can be "nicely" approximated by measured expander graphs  $(V_n, E_n, m_n)$  with **bounded measure ratios** (i.e. If  $u \sim_{E_n} v$  in  $V_n$ , then  $s \cdot m_n(v) \leq m_n(u) \leq \frac{m_n(v)}{s}$  for some  $0 < s < 1$ ).

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- The associated Laplacian operator  $\Delta_n \in C^*(X)$  to  $(V_n, E_n, \nu_n)$  has spectral gap at 0 in the spectrum. So  $Q_n = \chi_{\{0\}}(\Delta_n) \in C^*(X)$  and  $Q_n \rightarrow P$  up to a compact perturbation. Hence,  $P \in C^*(X)$ .

## Geometric criterion

### Theorem (L-Špakula-Zhang, 2020)

*If  $X$  or  $Y$  contains no sparse subspaces consisting of ghostly measured asymptotic expanders, then the rigidity (i.e., (a), (a)' and (b)) holds.*

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### Corollary

*If either  $X$  or  $Y$  coarsely embeds into  $L^p$ -space for  $p \in [1, \infty)$ , then the rigidity (i.e., (a), (a)' and (b)) holds.*

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- As for expander graphs, we show that ghostly measured asymptotic expanders cannot coarsely embed into any  $L^p$ -spaces, hence:

### Corollary

*If either  $X$  or  $Y$  coarsely embeds into  $L^p$ -space for  $p \in [1, \infty)$ , then the rigidity (i.e., (a), (a)' and (b)) holds.*

### Corollary (L-Špakula-Zhang, 2020)

*There exist metric spaces that do **not** coarsely embed into any  $L^p$ -space for  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , but the rigidity still holds.*

**Thank you for your attention!**