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CONTINUOUS FIELDS OF PROPERLY INFINITE C*-ALGEBRAS

ETIENNE BLANCHARD

ABSTRACT. The only separable unital continuous C([0, 1])-algebra with fibres isomorphic to the Cuntz algebra \mathcal{O}_{∞} is the trivial continuous field $\mathcal{O}_{\infty} \otimes C([0, 1])$. But there exist non properly infinite separable unital continuous C([0, 1])-algebras with properly infinite fibres.

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the basic C*-algebras studied in the classification programme launched by G. Elliott ([Ell94]) of nuclear C*-algebras through K-theoretical invariants is the Cuntz C*-algebra \mathcal{O}_{∞} generated by infinitely many isometries with pairwise orthogonal ranges ([Cun77]). This C*-algebra is pretty rigid in so far as it is a strongly self-absorbing C*-algebra ([TW07]): Any separable unital continuous C(X)-algebra A the fibres of which are isomorphic to the same strongly self-absorbing C*-algebra D is a trivial C(X)-algebra provided the compact Hausdorff base space X has finite topological dimension. (Indeed, the strongly self-absorbing C*-algebra D tensorially absorbs the Jiang-Su algebra \mathcal{Z} ([Win09]). Hence, this C*-algebra D is K₁-injective ([Ror04]) and the C(X)-algebra A satisfies $A \cong D \otimes C(X)$ ([DW08]).) But I. Hirshberg, M. Rørdam and W. Winter have built a non-trivial unital continuous C*-bundle over the infinite dimensional compact product $\prod_{n=0}^{\infty} S^2$ such that all its fibres are isomorphic to the strongly self-absorbing UHF algebra of type 2^{∞} ([HRW07, Example 4.7]). More recently, M. Dădărlat has constructed in [Dad09, §3] for all pair (Γ_0, Γ_1) of discrete countable torsion groups a unital separable continuous C(X)-algebra A such that:

- the base space X is the compact Hilbert cube $X = \mathfrak{X}$ of infinite dimension,
- all the fibres A_x ($x \in \mathfrak{X}$) are isomorphic to the strongly self-absorbing Cuntz
- C*-algebra \mathcal{O}_2 generated by two isometries s_1, s_2 satisfying $1_{\mathcal{O}_2} = s_1 s_1^* + s_2 s_2^*$,
- $-K_i(A) \cong C(Y_0, \Gamma_i)$ for i = 0, 1, where $Y_0 \subset [0, 1]$ is the canonical Cantor set.

These K-theoretical conditions imply that the $C(\mathfrak{X})$ -algebra A is not a trivial one. These arguments does not anymore work when the strongly self-absorbing algebra D is the Cuntz algebra \mathcal{O}_{∞} ([Cun77]), in so far as $K_0(\mathcal{O}_{\infty}) = \mathbb{Z}$ is a torsion free group.

We show directly in this article that the Pimsner-Toeplitz algebra ([Pim95]) of the nontrivial Dixmier-Douady Hilbert C(X)-module E_{DD} ([DD63]) is a nontrivial unital C(X)-algebra with fibres \mathcal{O}_{∞} . This notably implies that there exists a properly infinite C^{*}-algebra A which is not K₁-injective, *i.e.* the mapping $\mathcal{U}(A)/\mathcal{U}_0(A) \to K_1(A)$ is not

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injective, and there exist separable unital continuous C([0,1])-algebras with properly infinite fibres which are not properly infinite C^{*}-algebras.

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2. NOTATIONS

We present in this section the main notations which are used in this article. We denote by $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \ldots\}$ the set of positive integers and we denote by [S] the closed linear span of any subset S in a Banach space.

Definition 2.1. ([Dix69], [Kas88], [Blan97]) Let X be a compact Hausdorff space and let C(X) be the C^{*}-algebra of continuous function on X.

- -A unital C(X)-algebra is a unital C^* -algebra A endowed with a unital morphism of C^* -algebra from C(X) to the centre of A.
- For all closed subset $F \subset X$ and all element $a \in A$, one denotes by $a_{|F}$ the image of a in the quotient $A_{|F} := A/C_0(X \setminus F) \cdot A$. If $x \in X$ is a point in X, one calls fibre at x the quotient $A_x := A_{|\{x\}}$ and one write a_x for $a_{|\{x\}}$.
- The C(X)-algebra A is said to be continuous if the upper semicontinuous map $x \in X \mapsto ||a_x|| \in \mathbb{R}_+$ is continuous for all $a \in A$.

Remarks 2.2. a) ([Cun81], [BRR08]) For all integer $n \ge 2$, the C*-algebra $\mathcal{T}_n := \mathcal{T}(\mathbb{C}^n)$ is the universal unital C^{*}-algebra generated by n isometries s_1, \ldots, s_n satisfying the relation

$$s_1 s_1^* + \ldots + s_n s_n^* \le 1$$
. (2.1)

b) A unital C^{*}-algebra A is properly infinite if and only if one the following equivalent conditions holds ([Cun77], [Ror03, Proposition 2.1]):

- the C^{*}-algebra A contains two isometries with mutually orthogonal range projections, *i.e.* A unitally contains a copy of \mathcal{T}_2 ,
- the C^{*}-algebra A contains a unital copy of the simple Cuntz C^{*}-algebra \mathcal{O}_{∞} generated by infinitely many isometries with pairwise orthogonal ranges.

3. GLOBAL PROPER INFINITENESS

Proposition 2.5 of [BRR08] and section 6 of [Blan13] entail the following stable proper infiniteness for continuous C(X)-algebras with properly infinite fibres.

Proposition 3.1. Let X be a second countable perfect compact Hausdorff space and let A be a separable unital continuous C(X)-algebra with properly infinite fibres.

1) There exist:

- (a) a finite integer $n \ge 1$,
- (a) a finite integer $n \leq 1$, (b) a covering $X = F_1 \cup \ldots \cup F_n$ by the interiors of closed balls F_1, \ldots, F_n , (c) unital embeddings of C^* -algebra $\sigma_k : \mathcal{O}_{\infty} \hookrightarrow A_{|F_k}$ $(1 \leq k \leq n)$.
- 2) The tensor product $M_p(\mathbb{C}) \otimes A$ is properly infinite for all large enough integers p.

Proof. 1) For all point $x \in X$, the semiprojectivity of the C*-subalgebra $\mathcal{O}_{\infty} \hookrightarrow A_x$ ([Blac04, Theorem 3.2]) entails that there are a closed neighbourhood $F \subset X$ of the point x and a unital embedding $\mathcal{O}_{\infty} \otimes C(F) \hookrightarrow A_{|F}$ of C(F)-algebra. The compactness of the topological space X enables to conclude.

2) Proposition [BRR08, Proposition 2.7] entails that $M_{2^{n-1}}(A)$ is properly infinite and [Ror97, Proposition 2.1] implies that $M_p(A)$ for all integer $p \ge 2^{n-1}$.

Remark 3.2. If X is an ordinary second countable compact Hausdorff space and A is a separable unital continuous C(X)-algebra, then $\widetilde{X} := X \times [0, 1]$ is a perfect space, $\widetilde{A} := A \otimes C([0, 1])$ is a unital continuous $C(\widetilde{X})$ -algebra and any morphism $\mathcal{O}_{\infty} \to \widetilde{A}$ induces a morphism $\mathcal{O}_{\infty} \to A$ by composition with the projection map $\widetilde{A} \to A$ coming from the injection $x \in X \mapsto (x, 0) \in \widetilde{X}$.

The proper infiniteness of the tensor product $M_p(\mathbb{C}) \otimes A$ does not always imply that the C*-algebra A is properly infinite ([HR98]). Indeed, there exists a unital C*-algebra A which is not properly infinite, but such that the tensor product $M_2(\mathbb{C}) \otimes A$ is properly infinite ([Ror03, Proposition 4.5]). We nevertheless have the following corollary.

Corollary 3.3. Let j_0, j_1 denote the two canonical unital embeddings of the C^{*}-algebra \mathcal{T}_2 in the full unital free product $\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2$ and let $\tilde{u} \in \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2)$ be a K_1 -trivial unitary satisfying $j_1(s_1) = \tilde{u} \cdot j_0(s_1)$ ([BRR08, Lemma 2.4]).

Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) The full unital free product $\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2$ is K_1 -injective.
- (b) The unitary \tilde{u} belongs to the connected component $\mathcal{U}_0(\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2)$ of $1_{\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2}$.
- (c) Every separable unital continuous C(X)-algebra A with properly infinite fibres is a properly infinite C^{*}-algebra.

Proof. (a) \Rightarrow (b) A unital C*-algebra A is called K₁-injective if and only if every unitary $v \in \mathcal{U}(A)$ is homotopic to the unit 1_A in $\mathcal{U}(A)$ (see *e.g.* [Roh09]). Thus, (b) is a special case of (a).

(b) \Rightarrow (c) Let A be a separable unital continuous C(X)-algebra with properly infinite fibres. Take a finite covering such that there exist unital embeddings $\sigma_k : \mathcal{T}_2 \to A_{|F_k}$ $(1 \leq k \leq n)$. Set $G_k := F_1 \cup \ldots \cup F_k \subset X$ for all $1 \leq k \leq n$ and let us construct by induction isometries $w_k \in A_{|G_k}$ such that the two projections $w_k w_k^*$ and $1_{|G_k} - w_k w_k^*$ are properly infinite and full in the restriction $A_{|G_k}$:

- If k = 1, the isometry $w_1 := \sigma_1(s_1)$ has the requested properties.

- If $k \in \{1, \ldots, n-1\}$ and the isometry $w_k \in A_{|G_k|}$ is already constructed, then Lemma 2.4 of [BRR08] implies that there exist an homomorphism of unital C*-algebra $\pi_k : \mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2 \to A_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}|}$ and a K₁-trivial unitary $u_{k+1} \in \mathcal{U}(A_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}|})$ satisfying:

$$- \pi_{k}(j_{0}(s_{1})) = w_{k|G_{k} \cap F_{k+1}} \quad \text{and} \\ - \pi_{k}(j_{1}(s_{1})) = \sigma_{k+1}(s_{1})|_{G_{k} \cap F_{k+1}} = u_{k+1} \cdot w_{k|G_{k} \cap F_{k+1}}.$$
(3.1)

If the unitary \tilde{u} belongs to $\mathcal{U}_0(\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2)$, then the unitary $u_{k+1} = \pi_k(\tilde{u})$ is homotopic to $1_{A_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}}} = \pi_k(1_{\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2})$ in $\mathcal{U}(A_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}})$, so that u_{k+1} admits a unitary lifting z_{k+1} in $\mathcal{U}_0(A_{|F_{k+1}})$ (see *e.g.* [LLR00, Lemma 2.1.7]). The only isometry $w_{k+1} \in A_{|G_{k+1}}$ satisfying the two constraints:

$$w_{k+1|G_k} = w_k$$
 and $w_{k+1|F_{k+1}} = (z_{k+1})^* \cdot \sigma_{k+1}(s_1)$ (3.2)

verifies that the two projections $w_{k+1}w_{k+1}^*$ and $1_{|G_{k+1}} - w_{k+1}w_{k+1}^*$ are properly infinite and full in $A_{|G_{k+1}}$.

The proper infiniteness of the projection $w_n w_n^* \in A_{|G_n|} = A$ implies that the unit $1_A = w_n^* w_n = w_n^* \cdot w_n w_n^* \cdot w_n$ is also a properly infinite projection in A, *i.e.* the C^{*}-algebra A is properly infinite.

(c) \Rightarrow (a) The C*-algebra $\mathcal{D}:=\{f \in C([0, 1], \mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2); f(0) \in j_0(\mathcal{T}_2) \text{ and } f(1) \in j_1(\mathcal{T}_2)\}$ is a unital continuous C([0, 1])-algebra the fibres of which are all properly infinite. Thus, condition (c) implies that the C*-algebra \mathcal{D} is properly infinite, a statement which is equivalent to the K₁-injectivity of $\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2$ ([Blan10, Proposition 4.2]).

4. The Pimsner-Toeplitz algebra of a Hilbert C(X)-module

We look in this section at the special case of unital continuous C(X)-algebras with fibres \mathcal{O}_{∞} corresponding to the Pimsner-Toeplitz C(X)-algebras of Hilbert C(X)modules with infinite dimension fibres.

Definition 4.1. ([Pim95]) Let X be a compact Hausdorff space and E a full Hilbert C(X)-module E, i.e. without any zero fibre.

a) The full Fock Hilbert C(X)-module $\mathcal{F}(E)$ of E is the direct sum of Hilbert C(X)-module

$$\mathcal{F}(E) := \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} E^{(\otimes_{C(\mathfrak{X})})m}, \qquad (4.1)$$

where $E^{(\otimes_{C(\mathfrak{X})})m} := \begin{cases} C(X) & \text{if } m = 0, \\ E \otimes_{C(X)} \dots \otimes_{C(X)} E & (m \text{ terms}) & \text{if } m \ge 1. \end{cases}$

b) The Pimsner-Toeplitz C(X)-algebra $\mathcal{T}(E)$ of E is the unital subalgebra of the C(X)algebra $\mathscr{L}_{C(\mathfrak{X})}(\mathcal{F}(E))$ of adjointable C(X)-linear operator acting on $\mathcal{F}(E)$ generated by the creation operators $\ell(\zeta)$ ($\zeta \in E$), where:

$$- \ell(\zeta) (f \cdot \hat{1}_{C(X)}) := f \cdot \zeta = \zeta \cdot f \quad \text{for } f \in C(X) \quad \text{and} \\ - \ell(\zeta) (\zeta_1 \otimes \ldots \otimes \zeta_k) := \zeta \otimes \zeta_1 \otimes \ldots \otimes \zeta_k \quad \text{for } \zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_k \in E \quad \text{if } k \ge 1.$$

$$(4.2)$$

c) There is a unique coaction α of the group C^* -algebra $(C^*(\mathbb{Z}), \Delta)$ on the Pimsner-Toeplitz C(X)-algebra $\mathcal{T}(E)$ such that $\alpha(\ell(\zeta)) = \ell(\zeta) \otimes \mathbf{u}$ for all $\zeta \in E$, i.e.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \alpha : & \mathcal{T}(E) & \to & \mathcal{T}(E) \otimes C^*(\mathbb{Z}) & = & C(\mathbb{T}, \mathcal{T}(E)) \\ & & \ell(\zeta) & \mapsto & \ell(\zeta) \otimes \mathbf{u} & = & (z \mapsto \ell(z\zeta)) \end{array}$$
(4.3)

The fixed point C(X)-subalgebra $\mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha} = \{a \in \mathcal{T}(E); \alpha(a) = a \otimes 1\}$ under this coaction is the closed linear span

$$\mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha} = \left[C(X).1 + \sum_{k \ge 1} \ell(E)^k \cdot \left(\ell(E)^k\right)^*\right].$$
(4.4)

Besides, the projection $P \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}(E))$ onto the submodule E induces a quotient morphism of C(X)-algebra $a \in \mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha} \mapsto \overline{\mathbf{q}}(a) := P \cdot a \cdot P \in \mathcal{K}(E) + C(x) \cdot 1 \subset \mathcal{L}(E)$. **Proposition 4.2.** Let X be a second countable compact Hausdorff perfect space, i.e. without any isolated point, and let E be a separable Hilbert C(X)-module with infinite dimensional fibres.

1) There exist a covering $X = \overset{o}{F_1} \cup \ldots \cup \overset{o}{F_m}$ by the interiors of closed subsets F_1, \ldots, F_m and m sections ζ_1, \ldots, ζ_m in E such that $\mathcal{T}(E) = C^* < \mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha}, \ell(\zeta_1, \ldots, \ell(\zeta_m) > and$ $\|(\zeta_k)_x\| = 1$ for all $k \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$ and all $x \in F_k$.

2) If the full unital free product $\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2$ is K_1 -injective, then there exists a section $\xi \in E$ such that $\|\xi_x\| = 1$ for all $x \in X$.

Proof. 1) For all point $x \in X$, there exists a section section $\zeta \in E$ such that $\|\zeta_x\| = 1$, whence an isomorphism of C*-algebra $\mathcal{T}(E)_x \cong \mathcal{T}(E_x) = C^* < \mathcal{T}(E_x)^{\alpha}, \ell(\zeta_x) > .$ The semiprojectivity of the C*-algebra $\mathcal{O}_{\infty} \cong \mathcal{T}(E)_x$ and the compactness of the space Xthen imply that there exist a finite covering $X = \overset{o}{F_1} \cup \ldots \cup \overset{o}{F_m}$ by the interiors of closed subsets F_1, \ldots, F_m and m contractions ζ_1, \ldots, ζ_m in E such that $\|(\zeta_k)_x\| = 1$ for all index $k \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$ and all point $x \in F_k$.

2) Set $G_k := F_1 \cup \ldots \cup F_k$ for all $k \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$ (as in Corollary 3.3) and let us construct inductively sections $\xi(k) \in E_{|G_k}$ such that $\|\xi(k)_x\| = 1$ for all $x \in G_k$.

- If k = 1, the section $\xi(1) := (\zeta_1)_{|F_1|}$ has the requested properties.

- Suppose now that $k \in \{1, \ldots, m-1\}$ and a convenient section $\xi(k)$ in $E_{|G_k|}$ has already been constructed. There exists a unital *-homomorphism $\pi_k : \mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2 \to \mathcal{T}(E)_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}|}$ such that $\pi_k(j_0(s_1)) = \ell(\xi(k))_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}|}$ and $\pi_k(j_1(s_1)) = \ell(\zeta_{k+1})_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}|}$. The partial isometry $\ell(\zeta_{k+1})_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}|} \cdot \ell(\xi(k))_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}|}^*$ belongs to the subalgebra $\mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha}_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}|}$ and it extends in $\mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha}_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}|}$ to a K₁-trivial unitary u_k by [BRR08, Lemma 2.4], *i.e.*

$$\begin{split} \ell(\zeta_{k+1})_{|G_k\cap F_{k+1}} \cdot \ell(\xi(k))^*_{|G_k\cap F_{k+1}} &= \ell(\zeta_{k+1})\ell(\zeta_{k+1})^*_{|G_k\cap F_{k+1}} \cdot u_k = u_k \cdot \ell(\xi(k))\ell(\xi(k))^*_{|G_k\cap F_{k+1}}, \\ \text{since } 1 - \ell(\xi(k))\ell(\xi(k))^*_{|G_k\cap F_{k+1}} &\geq \pi_k(j_0(s_2s_2^*)) \text{ and } 1 - \ell(\zeta_{k+1})\ell(\zeta_{k+1})^*_{|G_k\cap F_{k+1}} \geq \\ \pi_k(j_1(s_2s_2^*)) \text{ are properly infinite and full projections in } \mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha}_{|G_k\cap F_{k+1}}. \text{ If } \mathcal{T}_2 \ast_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2 \text{ is } \\ K_1\text{-injective, this unitary } u_k \text{ belongs to } \mathcal{U}_0\left(\mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha}_{|G_k\cap F_{k+1}}\right) \text{ and it admits a unitary lifting } \\ z_{k+1} \in \mathcal{U}_0(\mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha}). \text{ The only section } \xi(k+1) \in E_{|G_{k+1}} \text{ such that } \xi(k+1)_{|G_k} = \xi(k) \\ \text{ and } \xi(k+1)_{|F_{k+1}} = \overline{\mathbf{q}}(z_{k+1})^* \cdot \xi_{k+1|F_{k+1}} \text{ satisfies the desired conditions.} \end{split}$$

Theorem 4.3. The full unital free product $\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2$ is properly infinite, but not K_1 -injective.

Proof. Let \mathfrak{X} be the complex Hilbert cube $\mathfrak{X} := \{z \in \mathbb{C}; |z| \leq 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$. It is a compact space when equipped with the distance $d(x, y) = \sum_{p} 2^{-p-2} |x_p - y_p|$. Let also E_{DD} be the non-trivial separable Hilbert $C(\mathfrak{X})$ -module contracted by J. Dixmier and A. Douady ([DD63]): It has infinite dimensional fibres and every section $\zeta \in E_{DD}$ satisfies $\zeta_x = 0$ for at least one $x \in \mathfrak{X}$. Thus proposition 4.2 implies that $\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2$ is not K_1 -injective. \Box

The C([0,1])-algebra $\mathcal{D} := \{ f \in C([0,1], \mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2) ; f(0) \in j_0(\mathcal{T}_2) \text{ and } f(1) \in j_1(\mathcal{T}_2) \}$ introduced in Corollary 3.3 is an example of the following corollary:

Corollary 4.4. There exists a separable unital continuous C([0, 1])-algebra with properly infinite fibres which is not properly infinite.

Question 4.5. The Pimsner-Toeplitz algebra $\mathcal{T}(E_{DD})$ is locally purely infinite ([BK04b, Definition 1.3]) since all its simple quotients are isomorphic to the Cuntz algebra \mathcal{O}_{∞} ([BK04b, Proposition 5.1]). But is $\mathcal{T}(E_{DD})$ properly infinite?

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Etienne.Blanchard@imj-prg.fr

IMJ, Bâtiment Sophie Germain, Case 7012, F-75013 Paris