## Noncommutative Cartan $C^*$ -subalgebras

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# • 1940 (Von Neumann) $L^{\infty}(X, \mu) \rtimes G$ are factors for free group actions



History



• 1971 (Vershik) 1977 (Feldman-Moore)

**Cartan**  $W^*$ -subalgebra  $L^{\infty}(X, \mu) \subseteq \mathcal{M} \iff$  measure equivalence relation on  $(X, \mu)$  with a twist

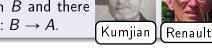
- 1986 Kumjian: C\*-diagonal  $C_0(X) \subseteq B \iff$  principle étale locally compact Hausdorff groupoid with a twist
- 2008 Renault: Cartan C\*-subalgebra C₀(X) ⊆ B ⇐⇒ topologically principle étale Hausdorff groupoids with a twist
- 2011 Exel: Noncommutative Cartan C\*-subalgebra A ⊆ B
  ⇒ Fell bundle over an inverse semigroup
- 2020 BKK, Meyer: Noncommutative Cartan A ⊆ B ⇔ closed purely outer Fell bundle over an inverse semigroup

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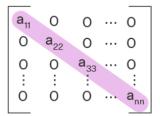
 $N(A) := \{b \in B : bAb^* \subseteq A, b^*Ab \subseteq A\}$  normalizers

We say that  $A \subseteq B$  is regular if  $B = \overline{span} N(A)$  and AB = B.

**Def.** Inclusion of  $C^*$ -algebras  $A \subseteq B$  is **Cartan**  $\iff$  it is regular, A is **maximal abelian** in B and there is a faithful conditional expectation  $E : B \rightarrow A$ .



**Ex.** Diagonal matrices  $A \cong \mathbb{C}^n$  are Cartan in  $B = M_n(\mathbb{C})$ 



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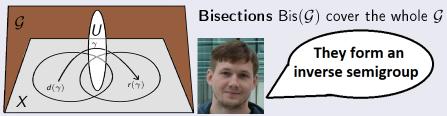
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**Ex.** For a discrete group action G on a loc. compact Hausdorff X

$$C_0(X) \subseteq C_0(X) \rtimes_r G$$
 is Cartan  $\iff \begin{array}{c} C_0(X) ext{ is maximal abelian} \ ext{ in } C_0(X) \rtimes_r G \end{array}$ 

 $\iff$  the action is topologically free

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a locally compact Hausdorff groupoid with unit space X, s.t. range, domain  $r, d : \mathcal{G} \to X \subseteq \mathcal{G}$  are local homeomorphisms (étale).



Then  $C_c(\mathcal{G}) = \operatorname{span} \{ f \in C_c(U) : U \in \operatorname{Bis}(\mathcal{G}) \}$  is a \*-algebra where

$$(f * g)(\gamma) := \sum_{r(\eta)=r(\gamma)} f(\eta) \cdot g(\eta^{-1} \cdot \gamma), \qquad (f^*)(\gamma) := \overline{f(\gamma^{-1})}.$$

The reduced  $C^*$ -algebra  $C^*_r(\mathcal{G})$  is the completion of  $C_c(\mathcal{G})$  s.t.  $C_c(\mathcal{G}) \ni f \mapsto f|_X \in C_c(X)$  extends to a faithful  $E : C^*_r(\mathcal{G}) \to C_0(X)$ . Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a locally compact Hausdorff groupoid with unit space X, s.t. range, domain  $r, d : \mathcal{G} \to X \subseteq \mathcal{G}$  are local homeomorphisms (étale). Then  $C_c(\mathcal{G}) = \operatorname{span} \{ f \in C_c(U) : U \in \operatorname{Bis}(\mathcal{G}) \}$  is a \*-algebra where

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**Ex.** If  $\mathcal{G} = X \times X$  is the full equivalence relation on  $X = \{1, ..., n\}$ ,

$$(x, y) \cdot (y, z) = (x, z),$$
  $(x, y)^{-1} = (y, x),$ 

then  $C(X) \cong \mathbb{C}^n$  are diagonal matrices in  $C^*_r(\mathcal{G}) \cong M_n(\mathbb{C})$ .

#### Thm. (Renault 2008)

 $A \subseteq B$  is a Cartan inclusion  $\iff A \cong C_0(X)$  and  $B \cong C_r^*(\mathcal{G}, \Sigma)$  for a topologically free twisted étale LCH groupoid  $(\mathcal{G}, \Sigma)$ .

#### **Lem.** (*A* possibly noncommutative)

Any regular  $C^*$ -inclusion  $A \subseteq B$  has an inverse semigroup grading

 $S := \{M \subseteq N(A) : M \text{ is a closed linear space } AM \subseteq M, MA \subseteq M\}$ with operations inherited from B is an inverse semigroup with unit A:

> $M, N \in S \implies MN$ closed span  $\in S, M^* \in S$

$$(MM^*M = M, M^*MM^* = M^*)$$
 and  $B = \overline{\sum_{M \in S} M}.$ 

#### Def. Let S be an inverse semigroup with unit 1.

A **Fell bundle** over S is a family  $\mathcal{B} = \{B_g\}_{g \in S}$  of Banach spaces equipped with multiplications  $B_g \times B_h \to B_{gh}$ , involutions  $B_g \to B_g^*$ and inclusions  $B_g \hookrightarrow B_h$  for  $g \leq h$ , maps satisfying natural axioms.

Then  $A := B_1$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra, each  $B_g$  is a (Hilbert) A-bimodule. They embed into the **reduced**  $C^*$ -algebra  $C^*_r(\mathcal{B})$  forming S-grading.

J.M.G. Fell

# **Rem.** Consider a $C^*$ -inclusion $A \subseteq B$ (A possibly noncommutative) **a** $A' \cap B \subseteq A$ and <u>A is commutative</u> $\iff A \subseteq B$ is maximal abelian **b** every $v \in A' \cap B$ defines an A-bimodule map $A \ni a \mapsto a \cdot v \in B$

**Def.** A virtual commutant is an A-bimodule map  $I \rightarrow B$  defined on  $I \lhd A$ . Regular  $C^*$ -inclusion  $A \subseteq B$  is noncommutative Cartan  $\iff$  any virtual commutant has range in A and there is a faithful conditional expectation  $E: B \rightarrow A$ .



Ruy Exel

## Thm. (Exel 2011)

 $A \subseteq B$  is noncommutative Cartan  $\Longrightarrow B \cong C^*_r(\mathcal{B})$  for a Fell bundle  $\mathcal{B} = \{B_g\}_{g \in S}$  with  $B_1 = A$ .

# Question:

Which Fell bundles  $\mathcal{B} = \{B_g\}_{g \in S}$  give Cartan inclusions?

# **Def.** (BKK, Meyer) Let $\mathcal{B} = \{B_g\}_{g \in S}$ be Fell bundle over S, $A := B_1$

 $\mathcal{B}$  is closed if  $B_g = B_{g,1} \oplus B_{g,1}^{\perp}$  as A-bimodules for  $B_{g,1} := B_g \cap A$ ,  $g \in S$  $\mathcal{B}$  is purely outer if  $B_{g,1}^{\perp}$  is purely outer as an A-bimodule,  $g \in S$ .

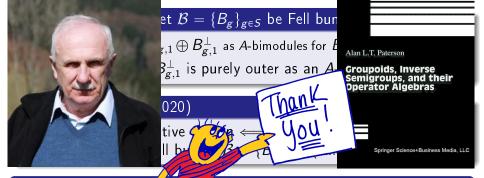
#### **Thm.** (BKK, Meyer 2020)

 $A \subseteq B$  is noncommutative Cartan  $\iff B \cong C_r^*(\mathcal{B})$  and  $A = B_1$  for a closed, purely outer Fell bundle  $\mathcal{B} = \{B_g\}_{g \in S}$  (unique after refinement)

## **Cor.** Let $A \subseteq B$ be a regular $C^*$ -inclusion with A simple. TFAE:

- **()**  $A \subseteq B$  is a noncommutative Cartan subalgebra
- **2**  $B \cong C^*_r(\mathcal{B})$  for an **outer Fell bundle**  $\mathcal{B} = (B_g)_{g \in G}$  over a **group** G with the unit fiber  $B_1 = A$  ( $\mathcal{B}$  and G are uniquely determined)
- **3**  $A \subseteq B$  is a **C**\*-irreducible, i.e. all intermediate  $A \subseteq C \subseteq B$  are simple

**Ex.** The **CAR** algebra  $M_{2^{\infty}}$  is a noncommutative Cartan subalgebra of the **Cuntz** algebra  $\mathcal{O}_2 = C^*(S_1, S_2 \text{ isometries} : S_1S_1^* + S_2S_2^* = 1)$ 



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