

A torsion-free C^* -unique group

Eduardo Scarparo

Federal University of Santa Catarina

02/08/21

Given a group Γ , there is a bijection between ideals in $C^*(\Gamma)$ and C^* -seminorms on $\mathbb{C}\Gamma$.

Analogously, there is a bijection between C^* -norms on $\mathbb{C}\Gamma$ and ideals $I \trianglelefteq C^*(\Gamma)$ such that $I \cap \mathbb{C}\Gamma = \{0\}$ is trivial.

A group Γ is said to be C^* -unique if $\mathbb{C}\Gamma$ admits a unique C^* -norm.

Example

If Γ is finite, then $\mathbb{C}\Gamma = C^*(\Gamma)$ and Γ is C^* -unique.

Moreover, any C^* -unique group is amenable.

On the other hand, e.g. \mathbb{Z} is not C^* -unique.

Grigorchuk-Musat-Rørdam observed that any locally finite group is C^* -unique, and asked whether the converse holds. In a workshop in 2019, Alekseev presented his work on C^* -uniqueness. Ozawa, who was attending the workshop, pointed out that the lamplighter group

$$\bigoplus_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}_2 \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$$

is C^* -unique (and not locally finite). Main ingredient is the fact that $\mathbb{Z} \curvearrowright \widehat{\bigoplus_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}_2}$ is a *topologically free* action. Alekseev asked then whether there is a *torsion-free* C^* -unique group.

Given an integer $n \geq 2$, $\mathbb{Z}[1/n] = \{\frac{k}{n^l} : k \in \mathbb{Z}, l \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

Two integers $p, q \geq 2$ are said to be *multiplicatively independent* if there is no $r, s \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $p^r = q^s$.

Theorem (S.)

Let p and q be multiplicatively independent integers. Then $\mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{pq}] \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^2$ is C^* -unique.

The main ingredient is a theorem of Furstenberg which says that, given p and q multiplicatively independent integers, if $B \subset S^1$ is an infinite closed set such that $B = \{z^p : z \in B\} = \{z^q : z \in B\}$ then $B = S^1$.

The measure-theoretical counterpart of this theorem is an open problem (Furstenberg conjecture): whether the only $\times p$ - $\times q$ -invariant ergodic probability measure on S^1 with infinite support is the Lebesgue measure.