

Strongly Graded C^* -algebras

by

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Abstract

We investigate strongly graded C^* -algebras. We focus on graph C^* -algebras and explore the connection between graph C^* -algebras and Leavitt path algebras, both of which are \mathbb{Z} -graded. It is known that a graphical condition called *Condition (Y)* is necessary and sufficient for Leavitt path algebras to be strongly graded. In this thesis we prove this can be translated to the graph C^* -algebra and prove that a graph C^* -algebra associated to a row-finite graph is strongly graded if and only if Condition (Y) holds.

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Directed Graphs And Their Algebras	5
2.1	Directed Graphs	5
2.2	Leavitt Path Algebras	6
2.3	Graph C*-algebras	11
3	Gradings	17
3.1	The \mathbb{Z} -grading of $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$	18
3.2	The \mathbb{Z} -grading of Graph C*-algebras	25
3.3	The Core	37
3.4	Fell Bundles	40
4	Strongly Graded Graph C*-algebras	49

Chapter 1

Introduction

We say that a ring A is *graded* by a group G if $A = \bigoplus_{g \in G} A_g$, where each A_g is an additive subgroup of A , and $A_g \cdot A_h \subseteq A_{gh}$ for every $g, h \in G$. For a G -graded ring A every element $a \in A$ has a unique decomposition $a = \sum_{g \in F} a_g$ where each $a_g \in A_g$ and F is a finite subset of G . A motivating example is a polynomial ring, which is graded by the integers, \mathbb{Z} .

In a recent book [5], Exel defines a C^* -algebra to be G -graded if it contains a dense G -graded ring. In fact, Exel also introduces a stronger notion: a G -graded C^* -algebra is *topologically graded* if there is a bounded linear map $F : A \rightarrow A$ which is the identity on A_e and vanishes on every A_g with $g \neq e$ [5, Definition 19.2]. Results from both [5] and [12] demonstrate that there is an interesting relationship between the algebraic theory of graded rings and analytic theory of graded C^* -algebras. Expressly, each *grading subspace* of a graded C^* -algebra is a Banach space and the collection of these form an analytic structure known as a Fell bundle.

We say that a ring is *strongly graded* if in addition to being G -graded, $A_g \cdot A_h = A_{gh}$ for every $g, h \in G$. In [4], Dade systematically studied strongly graded rings and claimed that "their gradings alone are their most important property".

In this thesis we aim to introduce the notion of *strongly graded C^* -*

algebras. In the literature, a Fell bundle is called *saturated* if it satisfies a condition which looks strikingly similar to the condition for strong grading. We expect the relationship between strong grading and saturated Fell bundles to reflect the relationship between grading and Fell bundles.

We focus our investigation within the specific setting of graph rings and algebras. To any directed graph we can associate both a purely algebraic ring called the Leavitt path algebra as well as a C^* -algebra such that the Leavitt path algebra sits densely inside the graph C^* -algebra. The connection between the two have captured the attention of ring theorists and analysts alike.

Both the graph C^* -algebra and the Leavitt path algebra are graded by \mathbb{Z} . In the preprint [3], a graphical condition is given such that a graph ring is strongly graded if and only if the condition is met. The main goal of this thesis is to demonstrate how this characterisation gives similar results for graph C^* -algebras by showing that its grading generates a saturated Fell bundle.

Numerous results have been found wherein the Leavitt path algebra has a particular property if and only if the graph C^* -algebra shares said property (or some topological equivalent) and our main theorem fits this model. Typically the arguments for these results run parallel to one another; it is shown that a Leavitt path algebra has a property if and only if the associated graph has some property, and the same is proven for the graph C^* -algebra using different techniques. The link between the graph C^* -algebra and the Leavitt path algebra is only made at the level of the graph. The novelty of our approach is that we deduce our C^* -algebra result directly from the analogous result about Leavitt path algebras.

We assume a basic understanding of C^* -algebras, though we will define the terminologies when needed including the definitions and conventions of graph C^* -algebras which follow [10].

We now outline the structure of this thesis. In the second chapter we

define and review some of the basic properties of Leavitt path algebras and graph C^* -algebras. The third chapter discusses grading in both the algebraic and the C^* -algebraic setting; in particular, we will show that both the Leavitt path algebra and the graph C^* -algebra are graded by the group \mathbb{Z} . We also look at the structure of the 0-graded piece, A_0 , of both structures. We show that the 0-graded piece of the Leavitt path algebra and the graph C^* -algebra are isomorphic to the direct limit of matrix algebras. Finally, in Chapter 3 we examine Fell bundles over C^* -algebras, which we will see are intrinsically tied to C^* -grading, and present some properties of saturated Fell bundles. These chapters will cover most of the preliminary knowledge required.

In the fourth chapter we introduce the notion of a strongly graded C^* -algebra and present our main result. Namely, we prove that the C^* -algebra of a row-finite directed E graph is strongly graded if and only if E has no sources and satisfies Condition (Y).

Chapter 2

Directed Graphs And Their Algebras

In this chapter we discuss directed graphs and their associated algebras. We begin by introducing directed graphs and terms used to describe their components and properties. Then for a directed graph E we discuss the associated Leavitt path algebra ring $L_K(E)$, where K is an arbitrary field, which is built using an axiomatised set of relations over the vertices and edges of the graph. We then move on to discussing Cuntz–Krieger E -families which we use to establish the graph C^* -algebra $C^*(E)$. We show that the two structures are founded upon similar relations, and are strongly connected. In fact, there is a dense Leavitt path algebra $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ embedded in $C^*(E)$, which we use to form the crucial argument for the main result of this thesis.

2.1 Directed Graphs

A *directed graph* E is a quadruple (E^0, E^1, r, s) , consisting of two countable sets, E^0, E^1 and two functions $r, s : E^1 \rightarrow E^0$. We call E^0 the set of vertices of E and E^1 the set of edges of E . For an edge $e \in E^1$ we call $s(e)$ the *source* of e , and $r(e)$ the *range* of e . If $e \in E^1$ such that $s(e) = v$ and $r(e) = w$ we

say that v emits e and that w receives e . For the purposes of this thesis all graphs will be directed unless otherwise stated so the reader may always assume the term "graph" refers to directed graphs as defined above.

An edge with the same source and range is known as a *loop*. A vertex which emits no edge is known as a *sink* and a vertex that receives no edge is known as a *source* (the double up in terminology does not seem to cause any ambiguity within the literature).

It is often useful to represent graphs by drawing them; however, there are many ways to draw a graph. It is important to note that two graphs E and F are isomorphic if and only if there are two bijective functions $\phi^0 : E^0 \rightarrow F^0$, and $\phi^1 : E^1 \rightarrow F^1$ such that $r_F \circ \phi^1 = \phi^0 \circ r_E$ and $s_F \circ \phi^1 = \phi^0 \circ s_E$.

We say that a graph E is *row-finite* if the vertex matrix A_E of the graph E , which is the $E^0 \times E^0$ matrix with entries

$$A_E(v, w) = \#\{e \in E^1 : r(e) = v, s(e) = w\},$$

is such that each row has a finite sum.

2.2 Leavitt Path Algebras

Let E be a row-finite directed graph and K be any field. Define the set $(E^1)^* := \{e^* : e \in E^1\}$ to be a new set of edges consisting of the edges of E with the direction reversed so that $s(e^*) = r(e)$ and $r(e^*) = s(e)$. We sometimes refer to these as *ghost edges*. The *Leavitt path algebra* $L_K(E)$ is the free associative K -algebra generated by $E^0 \cup E^1 \cup (E^1)^*$ subject to the following relations:

1. For all $v, w \in E^0$, $vw = \delta_{v,w}v$;
2. For all $e \in E^1$, $e = r(e)e = es(e)$;
3. For all $e \in (E^1)^*$, $e^* = s(e)e^* = e^*r(e)$;

4. For all $e, f \in E^1$, $e^*f = \delta_{e,f}s(e)$;
5. For all $v \in E^0$, $v = \sum_{\{e \in E^1 : r(e)=v\}} ee^*$ whenever v is not a source.

These relations can vary within the literature where r and s are essentially swapped and sinks become sources and vice versa. The above definition and the results in the rest of this section can be found in [1, Chapter 1, Section 2] with r and s interchanged. We have chosen this convention to be consistent with [10]. This will mean that the paths of a graph will appear to be in reverse; however, this approach is better suited for the context of higher rank graphs.

Remark 2.2.1 (The Universal Property of $L_K(E)$). Leavitt path algebras are universally defined in the following sense: Suppose E is a graph, and A is a K -algebra which contains a set of pairwise orthogonal idempotents $\{a_v : v \in E^0\}$, and two sets $\{a_e : e \in E^1\}$, and $\{b_e : e \in E^1\}$ for which

- (i) $a_e = a_{r(e)}a_e = a_e a_{s(e)}$ and $b_e = a_{s(e)}b_e = b_e a_{r(e)}$ for all $e \in E^1$;
- (ii) $b_e a_f = \delta_{e,f} a_{s(e)}$ for all $e, f \in E^1$; and
- (iii) $a_v = \sum_{\{e \in E^1 : r(e)=v\}} a_e b_e$ whenever v is not a source;

then there exists a unique K -algebra homomorphism $\phi : L_K(E) \rightarrow A$ such that $\phi(v) = a_v$, $\phi(e) = a_e$ and $\phi(e^*) = b_e$ for all $v \in E^0$ and $e \in E^1$ [1, Remark 1.2.5]. We call such a family a *Leavitt E -family* in A .

We now give some basic properties of $L_K(E)$. The following calculations and terminologies have been adapted from chapter one of [10] for Leavitt E -families in order to give a more detailed proof of [1, Lemma 1.2.12].

Proposition 2.2.2. *Let E be a row-finite graph, let K be a field. Then for $e, f \in L_K(E)$, we have that:*

- (i) $ef \neq 0 \implies s(e) = r(f)$;

$$(ii) \quad e^* f^* \neq 0 \implies r(e) = s(f);$$

$$(iii) \quad e f^* \neq 0 \implies s(e) = s(f);$$

$$(iv) \quad (ee^*)(ff^*) = \begin{cases} ee^* & \text{if } e = f \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

Proof. To begin with fix $e, f \in E^0$. To prove (i), notice that

$$\begin{aligned} ef &= (es(e))(r(e)f) && \text{by the second relation for } L_K(E) \\ &= e(s(e)r(f))f \\ &= e(\delta_{s(e),r(f)}s(e))f, && \text{by the first relation for } L_K(E) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{s(e),r(f)}s(e) &\neq 0 \\ \implies s(e) &= r(f) \end{aligned}$$

according to the first Leavitt path algebra relations; giving us (i). We can use a similar calculation prove (ii) and (iii).

Lastly, for (iv), $(ee^*)(ff^*) = e(e^*f)f^* = e(\delta_{e,f}s(e))f^*$ by the fourth Leavitt path algebra relation. So either

$$(ee^*)(ff^*) = e0f^* = 0$$

implying $e \neq f$; else $e = f$ and

$$(ee^*)(ff^*) = e(e^*e)e^* = es(e)e^* = ee^*.$$

□

Part (i) of Proposition 2.2.2 is particularly useful because this allows us to think of paths as elements of the Leavitt path algebra. A *path of length n* in a directed graph E is a sequence of edges $\mu = \mu_1 \cdots \mu_n$ in E such that $s(\mu_i) = r(\mu_{i+1})$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$. We denote the length of μ as

$|\mu| := n$, and consider vertices to be paths of length 0. We say that E^n is the set of paths of length n in E . We call the set of all paths of a graph $E^* := \bigcup_{n \geq 0} E^n$. We can extend the range and source maps to paths of E by setting $r(\mu) = r(\mu_1)$ and $s(\mu) = s(\mu_{|\mu|})$ for $\mu \in E^*$. For $\mu, \nu \in E^*$ with $s(\mu) = r(\nu)$, we write $\mu\nu$ for the path $\mu_1 \cdots \mu_{|\mu|} \nu_1 \cdots \nu_{|\nu|}$.

When we view a finite sequence of edges as a product of edges in the Leavitt path algebra Proposition 2.2.2 tells us that for any product of length n , $\mu = \mu_1 \cdots \mu_n = 0$ unless μ is a path. If μ is a path then:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu^* \mu &= (\mu_1 \cdots \mu_n)^* \mu_1 \cdots \mu_n & (2.1) \\
 &= \mu_n^* \cdots \mu_2^* (\mu_1^* \mu_1) \mu_2 \cdots \mu_n \\
 &= \mu_n^* \cdots \mu_2^* s(\mu_1) \mu_2 \cdots \mu_n & (\text{fourth relation for } L_K(E)) \\
 &= \mu_n^* \cdots \mu_2^* r(\mu_2) \mu_2 \cdots \mu_n & (s(\mu_i) = r(\mu_{i+1})) \\
 &= \mu_n^* \cdots \mu_3^* (\mu_2^* \mu_2) \mu_3 \cdots \mu_n \\
 &\vdots \\
 &= s(\mu_n) = s(\mu).
 \end{aligned}$$

We can extend the results of Proposition 2.2.2 in the following way:

Corollary 2.2.3. *Let E be a row-finite directed graph and K be a field. Then for paths $\mu, \nu \in E^*$ in the Leavitt path algebra $L_K(E)$ we have that:*

- (i) $\mu\nu \neq 0 \implies \mu\nu \in E^*$;
- (ii) $\mu\nu^* \neq 0 \implies s(\mu) = s(\nu)$;
- (iii) $\mu^*\nu^* \neq 0 \implies \nu\mu \in E^*$;
- (iv) if $|\mu| = |\nu|$ and $\mu \neq \nu$, then $(\mu\mu^*)(\nu\nu^*) = 0$;
- (v) $\mu^*\nu = \begin{cases} \mu'^* & \text{if } \mu = \nu\mu' \text{ for some } \mu' \in E^* \\ \nu' & \text{if } \nu = \mu\nu' \text{ for some } \nu' \in E^* \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$.

Proof. Fix $\mu, \nu \in E^*$. Firstly, we show (i). As discussed above $\mu\nu = \mu_1 \cdots \mu_{|\mu|} \nu_1 \cdots \nu_{|\nu|}$. Suppose $\mu\nu \neq 0$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{|\mu|} \nu_1 \neq 0 &\implies s(\mu_{|\mu|}) = r(\nu_1) && \text{by Proposition 2.2.2.(i)} \\ &\implies \mu\nu \in E^* \end{aligned}$$

Similarly for (ii), we can see that

$$\begin{aligned} \mu\nu^* &= \mu_1 \cdots \mu_{|\mu|} (\nu_1 \cdots \nu_{|\nu|})^* \\ &= \mu_1 \cdots \mu_{|\mu|} \nu_{|\nu|}^* \cdots \nu_1^*. \end{aligned}$$

If $\mu\nu^* \neq 0$ then $\mu_{|\mu|} \nu_{|\nu|}^* \neq 0$ which implies $s(\mu_{|\mu|}) = s(\nu_{|\nu|}^*)$ by Proposition 2.2.2.(iii), and thus $s(\mu) = s(\mu_{|\mu|}) = s(\nu_{|\nu|}^*) = s(\nu)$.

To see (iii), notice $\mu^* \nu^* = (\nu\mu)^*$, which is non-zero by (i) whenever $\nu\mu \in E^*$.

To see (iv), suppose $|\mu| = |\nu| = n$ and let i be the smallest integer such that $\mu_i \neq \nu_i$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^* \nu &= (\mu_1 \cdots \mu_n)^* \nu_1 \cdots \nu_n \\ &= \mu_n^* \cdots \mu_i^* (\mu_{i-1}^* \cdots \mu_1^*) (\nu_1 \cdots \nu_{i-1}) \nu_i \cdots \nu_n \\ &= \mu_n^* \cdots \mu_i^* s(\mu_{i-1}) \nu_i \cdots \nu_n && \text{by Equation (2.1)} \\ &= \mu_n^* \cdots \mu_i^* r(\mu_i) \nu_i \cdots \nu_n && \text{as } s(\mu_{i-1}) = r(\mu_i) \\ &= \mu_n^* \cdots \mu_i^* \nu_i \cdots \nu_n && \text{by fourth relation for } L_K(E). \end{aligned}$$

Which is equal to 0 since $\mu_i^* \neq \nu_i$ by fourth relation for Leavitt path algebras.

Finally, for (v) suppose that $|\mu| = n$, and $|\mu| \leq |\nu|$. Let $\nu = \alpha\nu'$ with $|\alpha| = n$. Then $\mu^* \nu = \mu^* (\alpha\nu') = (\mu^* \alpha) \nu'$. If $\mu = \alpha$, then by Equation (2.1) $(\mu^* \alpha) \nu' = s(\mu) \nu'$. Else, $\mu \neq \alpha$ and $(\mu^* \alpha) \nu' = 0 \nu' = 0$ by (i). In the case where $|\mu| > |\nu|$ we can show (v) using a similar argument factoring $\mu = \beta\mu'$. \square

We are now able to prove the following lemma which can be found in [1, Lemma 1.2.12].

Lemma 2.2.4. *Let E be a row-finite graph and K be a field. Then for paths $\mu, \nu, \alpha, \beta \in E^*$ in $L_K(E)$ we have*

$$(\mu\nu^*)(\alpha\beta^*) = \begin{cases} (\mu\alpha')\beta^* & \text{if } \alpha = \nu\alpha' \text{ for some } \alpha' \in E^* \\ \mu(\beta\nu')^* & \text{if } \nu = \alpha\nu' \text{ for some } \nu' \in E^* \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases} \quad (2.2)$$

In particular, the algebra $L_K(E)$ is spanned as a K -vector space by the set

$$\{\mu\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}.$$

Proof. Fix $\mu, \nu, \alpha, \beta \in E^*$. If $s(\mu) \neq s(\nu)$ or $s(\alpha) \neq s(\beta)$, then $(\mu\nu^*)(\alpha\beta^*) = 0$ by Corollary 2.2.3.(ii). Suppose that $s(\mu) = s(\nu)$ and $s(\alpha) = s(\beta)$. Then

$$(\mu\nu^*)(\alpha\beta^*) = \mu(\nu^*\alpha)\beta^* = \begin{cases} \mu\alpha'\beta^* & \text{if } \alpha = \nu\alpha' \text{ for some } \alpha' \in E^* \\ \mu(\beta\nu')^* & \text{if } \nu = \alpha\nu' \text{ for some } \nu' \in E^* \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

by Corollary 2.2.3.(v).

To show the second statement of this proposition, take a non-zero string of elements $e \in E^1$ and $f^* \in (E^1)^*$. Adjacent e 's can be written as a path $\mu \in E^*$ and adjacent f^* 's can be written as ν^* for some $\nu \in E^*$. So the string is a product of terms of the form $\mu\nu^*$; for example we can write μ^* as $s(\mu)\mu^*$. Equation (2.2) tells us a product of these terms can be simplified to a single term of that form. Thus, every element of $L_K(E)$ is a sum of terms of the form $\mu\nu^*$ and $L_K(E) = \text{span}\{\mu\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}$. \square

2.3 Graph C^* -algebras

We now seek to represent a directed graph E with operators on a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} . When building a graph C^* -algebra from a graph we represent the vertices with projective subspaces of \mathcal{H} and the edges with partial isometries mapping between them. It is important to note that there is

no standard method to prescribing which direction to put the isometries. Some authors will put them in the same direction as the edges, and others will put them in the opposite direction. Each method comes with its own advantages and disadvantages. A large majority of the information regarding graph C^* -algebras in this thesis, the remainder of this chapter in particular, is from [10] and as such we will be using the conventions used by Raeburn.

Let E be a row-finite directed graph and \mathcal{H} be a Hilbert space. A *Cuntz–Krieger E -family* $\{S, P\}$ on \mathcal{H} consists of a set of mutually orthogonal projections $\{P_v : v \in E^0\}$ and a set $\{S_e : e \in E^1\}$ of partial isometries on \mathcal{H} such that

$$(CK1) \ S_e^* S_e = P_v$$

$$(CK2) \ P_v = \sum_{e \in E^1: r(e)=v} S_e S_e^* \text{ whenever } v \text{ is not a source.}$$

These conditions are known as *Cuntz–Krieger relations*. In particular, CK(2) is known as the *Cuntz–Krieger relation at v* .

Since these projections are mutually orthogonal, ie. $P_v P_u = 0$ whenever $v \neq u$, the subspaces $P_v \mathcal{H}$ are mutually orthogonal subspaces of \mathcal{H} . The relation (CK1) implies that the initial space of the partial isometry S_e is $P_{s(e)} \mathcal{H}$ ([10, Proposition A.4]) and relation (CK2) informs us that $S_e S_e^*$ is dominated by $P_{r(e)}$, and as such we have that $S_e \mathcal{H} \subset P_{r(e)}$ ([10, Proposition A.1]). Thus S_e is an isometry of $P_{s(e)}$ onto a closed subspace of $P_{r(e)}$ giving us the relation

$$S_e = P_{s(e)} S_e = S_e P_{r(e)}. \quad (2.3)$$

Notice that these relations are strikingly similar to the Leavitt path algebra relations, the main difference being that one may sum infinitely many terms over a C^* -algebra and the field is strictly \mathbb{C} . In fact, one should notice that $\{S, P\} = \{S_e\} \cup \{P_v\} \cup \{S_e^*\}$ form a Leavitt E -family inside $B(\mathcal{H})$. Since S_e^* is the adjoint of S_e it is not necessary for $\{S_e^* : e \in E^1\}$ to be mentioned in the definition of Cuntz–Krieger E -families.

We denote the C^* -algebra generated by a Cuntz–Krieger E-family $\{S, P\}$ in $B(\mathcal{H})$ as $C^*(S, P)$ and investigate the $*$ -algebraic consequences of the Cuntz–Krieger relations.

Proposition 2.3.1. *Given a row-finite graph E and a Cuntz–Krieger E-family $\{S, P\}$ in a C^* -algebra B . Then for $e, f \in E^1$ and $\mu, \nu \in E^*$:*

- (i) $S_e S_f \neq 0 \implies s(e) = r(f)$;
- (ii) $S_e^* S_f^* \neq 0 \implies r(e) = s(f)$;
- (iii) $S_e S_f^* \neq 0 \implies s(e) = s(f)$;
- (iv) $(S_e S_e^*)(S_f S_f^*) = \begin{cases} S_e S_e^* & \text{if } e = f \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$ (this implies that $\{S_e S_e^* : e \in E^1\}$ are mutually orthogonal);
- (v) $S_\mu S_\nu \neq 0 \implies \mu\nu \in E^*$;
- (vi) $S_\mu S_\nu^* \neq 0 \implies s(\mu) = s(\nu)$;
- (vii) $S_\mu^* S_\nu^* \neq 0 \implies \nu\mu \in E^*$;
- (viii) if $|\mu| = |\nu|$ and $\mu \neq \nu$, then $(S_\mu S_\mu^*)(S_\nu S_\nu^*) = 0$;
- (ix) $S_\mu^* S_\nu = \begin{cases} S_{\mu'}^* & \text{if } \mu = \nu\mu' \text{ for some } \mu' \in E^* \\ S_{\nu'} & \text{if } \nu = \mu\nu' \text{ for some } \nu' \in E^* \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$

Proof. As $\{S, P\}$ form a Leavitt E-family we can apply the same calculations from Proposition 2.2.2 and Corollary 2.2.3 to see this is true. \square

In fact the calculations from Proposition 2.2.2 and Corollary 2.2.3 give us the following corollary as per [10, Corollary 1.15]:

Corollary 2.3.2. *Suppose that E is a row-finite directed graph and $\{S, P\}$ is a Cuntz–Krieger E -family in a C^* -algebra B . Then for paths $\mu, \nu, \alpha, \beta \in E^*$ we have*

$$(S_\mu S_\nu^*)(S_\alpha S_\beta^*) = \begin{cases} (S_{\mu\alpha'}) S_\beta^* & \text{if } \alpha = \nu\alpha' \text{ for some } \alpha' \in E^* \\ S_\mu (S_{\beta\nu'})^* & \text{if } \nu = \alpha\nu' \text{ for some } \nu' \in E^* \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases} \quad (2.4)$$

In particular, it follows that every non-zero finite product of the partial isometries S_e and S_f^ has the form $S_\mu S_\nu^*$ for some $\mu, \nu \in E^*$ with $s(\mu) = s(\nu)$.*

Proof. This proof follows the proof of Lemma 2.2.4 using the equivalent relations from Proposition 2.3.1. \square

Corollary 2.3.3. *[10, Corollary 1.16] If $\{S, P\}$ is a Cuntz–Krieger E -family in a C^* -algebra B for a row-finite graph E , then*

$$C^*(S, P) = \overline{\text{span}}\{S_\mu S_\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}.$$

Proof. Corollary 2.3.2 implies that $\text{span}\{S_\mu S_\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}$ is a sub-algebra of $C^*(S, P)$. Since

$$(S_\mu S_\nu^*)^* = S_\nu S_\mu^* \in \text{span}\{S_\mu S_\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}$$

it is a $*$ -sub-algebra; therefore its closure is a C^* -sub-algebra. Now, $C^*(S, P)$ is the smallest C^* -algebra containing the generators S_e and P_v and since $S_e = S_e S_{s(e)}^*$ and $P_v = S_v S_v^*$ which are both in $\text{span}\{S_\mu S_\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}$ we have that

$$C^*(S, P) = \overline{\text{span}}\{S_\mu S_\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}.$$

\square

Now, [10, Proposition 1.21] states that for any row-finite directed graph E , there is a C^* -algebra $C^*(E)$ generated by a universal Cuntz–Krieger E -family $\{s, p\}$ such that for every Cuntz–Krieger E -family $\{T, Q\}$ in a

C^* -algebra B , there is a homomorphism $\pi_{T,Q}$ of $C^*(E)$ into B satisfying $\pi_{T,Q}(s_e) = T_e$ for every $e \in E^1$ and $\pi_{T,Q}(p_v) = Q_v$ for every $v \in E^0$. We call $C^*(E)$ the graph C^* -algebra of the graph E . In this thesis $\{s, p\}$ will always refer to the universal family which generates $C^*(E)$.

Suppose E is a row-finite graph, and $\{s, p\}$ is the universal Cuntz–Krieger E -family. From the discussion above we can see that $\{s, p\}$ form a Leavitt E -family, and by the universal property of $L_K(E)$ (Remark 2.2.1), there exists a homomorphism $\varphi : L_{\mathbb{C}}(E) \rightarrow C^*(E)$ such that $\varphi(v) = p_v$, $\varphi(e) = s_e$, and $\varphi(e^*) = s_e^*$. Proving that φ is injective directly would be challenging; however, *The Graded Uniqueness Theorem* [14, Theorem 5.3] states that φ is injective since both $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ and $C^*(E)$ are graded, which we discuss in the following chapter. This is an example of how the grading in both $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ and $C^*(E)$ plays a critical role in informing us about the strong connection between these objects and their structure. From now on we will identify $\varphi(L_{\mathbb{C}}(E))$ as $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$; in particular, we will write $s_{\mu}s_{\nu}^*$ instead of $\mu\nu^*$ and p_v rather than v .

Earlier we said that $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E) = \text{span}\{s_{\mu}s_{\nu}^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}$, so we can see exactly how the Leavitt path algebra $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ sits densely inside $C^*(E) = \overline{\text{span}}\{s_{\mu}s_{\nu}^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}$.

Chapter 3

Gradings

We say that a ring A is *graded* by a group G if $A = \bigoplus_{g \in G} A_g$, where each A_g is an additive subgroup of A such that the pointwise product $A_g \cdot A_h \subseteq A_{gh}$ for every $g, h \in G$. More generally for an algebra A , A_g is a subspace of A for every $g \in G$ and the product $A_g \cdot A_h = \text{span}\{ab : a \in A_g, b \in A_h\}$ for every $g, h \in G$. This implies that every element of A can be written as a unique sum of elements from the A_g 's. We refer to these subgroups as the *grading* of A , or *grading subspaces* whenever A is an algebra.

A C^* -algebra is *graded* if it contains a dense graded sub-ring; however, unlike in the algebraic sense, we do not necessarily have a canonical way to write an element of a graded C^* -algebra in terms of elements from its grading.

In this chapter we begin by showing that $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ is \mathbb{Z} -graded. We then prove the graph C^* -algebras of row-finite graphs are also \mathbb{Z} -graded, and that the grading subspaces of $C^*(E)$ are the closed spans of the grading subspaces of the Leavitt path algebra sitting densely inside it. We then discuss the structure of the grading subspace associated with 0 for both Leavitt path algebras and graph C^* -algebras. Both are isomorphic to the direct limit of matrix algebras – a fact we use in the argument for the main result of this thesis. The grading subspaces of the graph C^* -algebra col-

lectively form an analytic structure known as a Fell bundle, which we describe more thoroughly towards the end of this chapter. We also introduce the notion of saturated Fell bundles, which are a class of Fell bundles satisfying a condition similar to the description of strong grading in the algebraic sense.

3.1 The \mathbb{Z} -grading of $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$

In Chapter 2 we saw that $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E) = \text{span}\{s_{\mu}s_{\nu}^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}$. In [1, Corollary 2.1.5] Abrams states that for any graph E the Leavitt path algebra $L_K(E)$ is \mathbb{Z} -graded with grading subspaces

$$L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n := \text{span}\{s_{\mu}s_{\nu}^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*, |\mu| - |\nu| = n, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}.$$

In this section we verify this for row-finite graphs without sources using an adaptation of [11, Proposition C.1] for Leavitt path algebras. It is difficult to show that the $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n$ are linearly independent due to the multiple ways we can represent elements of a Leavitt path algebra. In order to do this we use tensor products between the Leavitt path algebra $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ and the group algebra $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{Z}$. For more information about group algebras see [6, pg. 227]. We now define and review some basic properties of the tensor products. The following discussion and proposition is a summary of [7, Chapter 8, pg. 319-321] adapted to the specific setting of vector spaces.

For any two vector spaces V and W over a field K we simultaneously construct a vector space $V \otimes W$ and a bilinear map $\varphi : V \times W \rightarrow V \otimes W$. We begin by constructing a free vector space F generated by $V \times W$. We then consider the subspace of S of F spanned by elements

$$\begin{aligned} &(k_1v_1 + k_2v_2, w) - k_1(v_1, w) + k_2(v_2, w), \text{ and} \\ &(v, k_1w_1 + k_2w_2) - k_1(v, w_1) + k_2(v, w_2) \end{aligned}$$

for $k_1, k_2 \in K$, $v, v_1, v_2 \in V$ and $w, w_1, w_2 \in W$, and write $V \otimes W$ for the quotient space F/S , and call this the tensor product of V and W .

Then $V \otimes W$ is a vectors space generated by vectors of the form $v \otimes w$ for vectors $v \in V$, and $w \in W$. The relation $\otimes : V \times W \rightarrow V \otimes W$ is such that for every $v, v_1, v_2 \in V, w, w_1, w_2 \in W$ and $c \in K$ we have:

- (i) $c(v \otimes w) = (cv) \otimes w = v \otimes (cw)$
- (ii) $(v_1 + v_2) \otimes w = v_1 \otimes w + v_2 \otimes w$
- (iii) $v \otimes (w_1 + w_2) = v \otimes w_1 + v \otimes w_2$.

And thus $\varphi : (v, w) \mapsto v \otimes w$ is bilinear.

Proposition 3.1.1. *(Universal Property of Tensor Product Vector Spaces) The vector spaces V, W , and the associated bilinear map $\varphi : V \times W \rightarrow V \otimes W$ have the property that for any bilinear map $b : V \times W \rightarrow X$ where X is some vector space, there exists a linear map $b' : V \otimes W \rightarrow X$ such that $b(v, w) = b' \circ \varphi(v, w) = b'(v \otimes w)$ for any $v \in V$ and $w \in W$. Thus $L(V \otimes W, X) = B(V \times W, X)$.*

The following Lemma can be found in [13, Lemma B.1]:

Lemma 3.1.2. *If A and B are $*$ -algebras over a field K , then there is a unique algebra structure on the vector space tensor product over $A \otimes B$ such that*

$$(a \otimes b)(c \otimes d) = ac \otimes bd \quad \text{and} \quad (a \otimes b)^* = a^* \otimes b^*$$

for every $a, c \in A$ and $b, d \in B$.

Proof. We verify the first relation, for the proof of the second relation see [13, Lemma B.1]. Fix $a \in A$ and $b \in B$. Then the map $(c, d) \mapsto ac \otimes bd$ is bilinear for all $c \in A$ and $d \in B$ by the properties of elements of $A \otimes B$, and multiplication in A and B . So, by the Universal Property of Tensor Products of Vector Spaces there exists a linear map $L_{a,b} : c \otimes d \rightarrow ac \otimes bd$.

Let us consider the map L whereby $L(a, b) \mapsto L_a \otimes L_b = L_{a,b}$ where L_a and L_b are linear mappings with respect to a and b . Clearly, this is a bilinear mapping from $A \times B$ to $L(A \otimes B)$ which is the space of linear mappings of $A \otimes B$, so there exists a linear map $\bar{L} : A \otimes B \rightarrow L(A \otimes B)$ such that

$\bar{L}(a \otimes b) = L_{a,b}$. So the required product can be defined as $(a \otimes b)(c \otimes d) = \bar{L}(a \otimes b)(c \otimes d)$.

We can check that the required laws for associativity and distributivity for multiplication over an algebra hold. First we check to see if the multiplication as defined is associative:

$$\begin{aligned}
 ((a \otimes b)(c \otimes d))(e \otimes f) &= (\bar{L}(a \otimes b)(c \otimes d))(e \otimes f) \\
 &= (L_{a,b}(c \otimes d))(e \otimes f) \\
 &= (ac \otimes bd)(e \otimes f) \\
 &= L_{ac,bd}(e \otimes f) \\
 &= ace \otimes bdf \\
 &= L_{a,b}(ce \otimes df) \\
 &= (a \otimes b)(ce \otimes df) \\
 &= (a \otimes b)(L_{c,d}(e \otimes f)) \\
 &= (a \otimes b)((c \otimes d)(e \otimes f))
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we check the distributive properties hold:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a \otimes b)((c \otimes d) + (e \otimes f)) &= L_{a,b}((c \otimes d) + (e \otimes f)) \\
 &= L_{a,b}(c \otimes d) + L_{a,b}(e \otimes f) \\
 &= (a \otimes b)(c \otimes d) + (a \otimes b)(e \otimes f),
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 ((a \otimes b) + (c \otimes d))(e \otimes f) &= \bar{L}((a \otimes b) + (c \otimes d))(e \otimes f) \\
 &= (\bar{L}(a \otimes b) + \bar{L}(c \otimes d))(e \otimes f) \\
 &= (L_{a,b} + L_{c,d})(e \otimes f) \\
 &= L_{a,b}(e \otimes f) + L_{c,d}(e \otimes f) \\
 &= (a \otimes b)(e \otimes f) + (c \otimes d)(e \otimes f),
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(z(a \otimes b))(c \otimes d) &= \overline{L}(z(a \otimes b))(c \otimes d) \\
&= z\overline{L}(a \otimes b)(c \otimes d) \\
&= z((a \otimes b)(c \otimes d)) \\
&= zL_{a,b}(c \otimes d) \\
&= L_{a,b}(z(c \otimes d)) \\
&= (a \otimes b)(z(c \otimes d)),
\end{aligned}$$

verifying the first relation. □

Now we are able to verify that for a row-finite graph without sources, $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ is \mathbb{Z} -graded. To do this we adapt the proof of [11, Proposition Proposition C.1] to the context of Leavitt path algebras.

Proposition 3.1.3. *Let E be a directed row-finite graph with no sources. Then $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ is a \mathbb{Z} -graded algebra so that*

$$L_{\mathbb{C}}(E) = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n.$$

Proof. Define

$$L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n := \text{span}\{s_{\mu}s_{\nu}^* : |\mu| - |\nu| = n\}.$$

Clearly, the subspaces $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n$ span $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$, so we must check that

$$L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cap L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_m = \{0\} \quad \forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ with } n \neq m.$$

To see this is true we show that these subspaces are linearly independent using an argument from coaction theory. Consider the group algebra of the integers, $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{Z}$. First, we take $\eta : E^* \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ such that $\mu \mapsto |\mu|$ for $\mu \in E^*$. Define $\tau : \mathbb{C}\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by $\tau(y) = y_0$ where $y = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} y_n \delta_n \in \mathbb{C}\mathbb{Z}$. For arbitrary

$k \in \mathbb{C}$ and $y, x \in \mathbb{C}\mathbb{Z}$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tau(ky + x) &= \tau\left(\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} k y_n \delta_n + \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} x_n \delta_n\right) \\
 &= \tau\left(\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (k y_n + x_n) \delta_n\right) \\
 &= k y_0 + x_0 \\
 &= k \tau(y) + \tau(x).
 \end{aligned}$$

So τ is a linear transformation. For each $g \in \mathbb{Z}$ we define $\tau_g(y) := \tau(\delta_g^{-1}y) = y_g$. We claim that given the Cuntz-Krieger E -family $\{s, p\}$, the elements $s_\mu \otimes \eta(\mu)$ generate a Leavitt E -family in $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{Z}$ by checking they agree with the Leavitt path algebra relations. Fix $p_v, p_w \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 (p_v \otimes \eta(v))(p_w \otimes \eta(w)) &= (p_v p_w \otimes \eta(vw)) \\
 &= \begin{cases} p_v \otimes \eta(v) & \text{if } v = w \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

So the first relation is satisfied. For $s_e \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ we have

$$r(e)s_e \otimes \eta(r(e)e) = s_e \otimes \eta(e) = s_e s(e) \otimes \eta(es(e))$$

satisfying the second relation. We can see the third relation is satisfied using a similar calculation.

To see that (CK1) holds fix $s_e, s_f \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 (s_e \otimes \eta(e))^*(s_e \otimes \eta(e)) &= s_e^* s_e \otimes \eta(e^*e) \\
 &= p_{s(e)} \otimes 0 \\
 &= p_{s(e)} \otimes \eta(v).
 \end{aligned}$$

Lastly to see that (CK2) is satisfied fix $p_v \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_v \otimes \eta(v) &= \left(\sum_{e \in E^*: r(e)=v} (s_e s_e^*) \right) \otimes 0 \\
 &= \sum_{e \in E^*: r(e)=v} ((s_e s_e^*) \otimes 0) \\
 &= \sum_{e \in E^*: r(e)=v} (s_e s_e^*) \otimes \eta(e e^*) \\
 &= \sum_{e \in E^*: r(e)=v} (s_e \otimes \eta(e))(s_e \otimes \eta(e))^*.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by the universal property of Leavitt path algebras, Remark 2.2.1, there is a homomorphism $\pi_{s \otimes \eta} : L_{\mathbb{C}}(E) \rightarrow L_{\mathbb{C}}(E) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{Z}$ such that $\pi_{s \otimes \eta}(s_{\mu}) = s_{\mu} \otimes \eta(\mu)$. The map $(x \otimes c) \mapsto x \tau_g(c)$ is bilinear by the scalar multiplication of tensor products, so by the universal property of tensor products of vector spaces, there is a well-defined linear map $\iota \otimes \tau_g$ from $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{Z}$ to $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ where ι is the identity map on $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$, such that $\iota \otimes \tau_g(x \otimes h) = x \tau_g(h)$. We can see that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\iota \otimes \tau_g) \circ \pi_{s \otimes \eta}(s_{\mu} s_{\nu}^*) &= (\iota \otimes \tau_g)(s_{\mu} s_{\nu}^* \otimes \eta(\mu \nu^*)) \\
 &= \begin{cases} s_{\mu} s_{\nu}^* & \text{if } |\mu| - |\nu| = g \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

To see linear independence take the finite sum $a = \sum_{n \in F} a_n$ where each

$a_n \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n$ and $a = 0$ in $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$. For all $g \in \mathbb{Z}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 &= (id \otimes \tau_g) \circ \pi_{s \otimes \eta} \left(\sum_{n \in F} a_n \right) \\
 &= (id \otimes \tau_g) \circ \left(\sum_{n \in F} \pi_{s \otimes \eta}(a_n) \right) \\
 &= (id \otimes \tau_g) \left(\sum_{n \in F} (a_n \otimes n) \right) \\
 &= \sum_{n \in F} (id \otimes \tau_g)(a_n \otimes n) \\
 &= \sum_{n \in F} a_n \tau_g(n) \\
 &= a_g.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore the subspaces $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n$ are linearly independent, and thus their direct sum is equal to $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$.

It remains to show that $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_m \subseteq L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{n+m}$. To see this, fix $a \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n$ and $b \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_m$, then ab can be written as a linear combination of elements of the form $(s_{\mu} s_{\nu}^*)(s_{\alpha} s_{\beta}^*)$ for $\mu, \nu, \alpha, \beta \in E^*$ such that $|\mu| - |\nu| = n$, and $|\alpha| - |\beta| = m$. From Lemma 2.2.4 we know that

$$(s_{\mu} s_{\nu}^*)(s_{\alpha} s_{\beta}^*) = \begin{cases} s_{\mu\alpha'} s_{\beta}^* & \text{if } \alpha = \nu\alpha' \text{ for some } \alpha' \in E^* \\ s_{\mu} s_{\beta\nu'}^* & \text{if } \nu = \alpha\nu' \text{ for some } \nu' \in E^* \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

Clearly, $0 \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{n+m}$, so all we need to do is check the other two cases.

Suppose $(s_{\mu} s_{\nu}^*)(s_{\alpha} s_{\beta}^*) = s_{\mu\alpha'} s_{\beta}^*$, for some $\alpha' \in E^*$, then $|\alpha'| = |\alpha| - |\nu|$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\mu\alpha'| - |\beta| &= |\mu| + |\alpha'| - |\beta| \\
 &= |\mu| + |\alpha| - |\nu| - |\beta| \\
 &= n + m.
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we see that if $(s_{\mu} s_{\nu}^*)(s_{\alpha} s_{\beta}^*) = s_{\mu} s_{\beta\nu'}^*$ for some $\nu' \in E^*$ then $|\mu| - |\beta\nu'| = n + m$. Thus $(s_{\mu} s_{\nu}^*)(s_{\alpha} s_{\beta}^*) = ab \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{n+m}$. \square

3.2 The \mathbb{Z} -grading of Graph C^* -algebras

The following definition for graded C^* -algebras can be found in [5, p. 125]. Let A be a C^* -algebra and G be a group. We say that a linearly independent collection $\{A_\sigma\}_{\sigma \in G}$ of closed subspaces of A is a C^* -grading for A , if $\bigoplus_{\sigma \in G} A_\sigma$ is dense in A , and for every σ and τ in G one has that

$$(i) \quad A_\sigma \cdot A_\tau \subseteq A_{\sigma\tau}$$

$$(ii) \quad A_\sigma^* \subseteq A_{\sigma^{-1}}.$$

If A has a C^* -grading we say that A is C^* -graded; moreover, if it is clear that A is a C^* -algebra we simply say that A is graded.

In this section we show that $C^*(E)$ is \mathbb{Z} -graded with grading subspaces

$$C^*(E)_n = \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n} := \overline{\text{span}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : s_\mu s_\nu^* \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n\}}.$$

In order to do this we need to show that $\{\overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ is a collection of linearly independent subspaces which are dense in $C^*(E)$. Showing that the subspaces $\{\overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ are linearly independent is tricky in an analytic setting because we need to show that the closures of the $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n$ do not intersect. To do this we use a faithful map Φ_n to project $C^*(E)$ onto $\overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, which averages $C^*(E)$ over the gauge action γ of the unit circle \mathbb{T} on $C^*(E)$.

In order to construct this map we establish the existence of the gauge action of \mathbb{T} on $C^*(E)$. The following Proposition follows [10, Proposition 2.1].

Theorem 3.2.1. *Let E be a row-finite directed graph. Then there is a topological group action γ of \mathbb{T} on $C^*(E)$ such that $\gamma_z(s_e) = zs_e$ for every $e \in E^1$ and $\gamma_z p_v = p_v$ for every $v \in E^0$.*

Proof. We take $C^*(E)$ generated by the Cuntz–Krieger E -family $\{s, p\} = \{s_e, p_v\}$, and fix $z \in \mathbb{T}$. Then $|z| = 1$ and $\{zs, p\} = \{zs_e, p_v\}$ is a Cuntz–Krieger E -family since

$$(zs_e)^*(zs_e) = |z|s_e^*s_e = p_{s(e)}$$

and

$$\sum_{e \in E^1; r(e)=v} (zs_e)(zs_e)^* = \sum_{e \in E^1; r(e)=v} |z|s_e s_e^* = p_v;$$

satisfying the Cuntz–Krieger relations. Since

$$C^*(s, p) = C^*(E) = \overline{\text{span}}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*\},$$

$C^*(zs, p)$ is a sub-algebra of $C^*(E)$ because zs_e is a scalar multiple of s_e . Likewise, $s_e = \bar{z}zs_e$ so $C^*(E)$ is contained in $C^*(zs, p)$, therefore $\{zs, p\}$ generates $C^*(E)$.

We can also see that if $\{T, Q\}$ is a Cuntz–Krieger E -family in a $C^*(E)$ -algebra B , then $\{\bar{z}T, Q\}$ is a Cuntz–Krieger E -family in B . Using the homomorphism $\pi_{\bar{z}T, Q}$ of $C^*(E)$ into B as described in [10, Proposition 1.21] we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_{\bar{z}T, Q}(zs_e) &= z\pi_{\bar{z}T, Q}(s_e) \\ &= z(\bar{z}T_e) \\ &= |z|T_e \\ &= T_e. \end{aligned}$$

With the homomorphism $\rho_{T, Q} := \pi_{\bar{z}T, Q}$, the pair $(C^*(E), \{zs, p\})$ has the property described in [10, Corollary 1.22] so there is an isomorphism γ_z of $C^*(E)$ onto $C^*(E)$ such that $\gamma_z(s_e) = zs_e$ for every $e \in E^1$ and $\gamma_z p_v = p_v$ for every $v \in E^0$.

To see that γ is be a continuous group action, we must first show that it is a group action. Fix $w \in \mathbb{T}$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
\gamma_z \circ \gamma_w(s_e) &= \gamma_z(\gamma_w(s_e)) \\
&= \gamma_z(ws_e) \\
&= zws_e \\
&= \gamma_{zw}(s_e).
\end{aligned}$$

In addition, we can see that when $z = 1$, γ_z acts as the identity over $C^*(E)$ using a straightforward calculation. So γ is an action of \mathbb{T} on $C^*(E)$, and γ is a homomorphism of \mathbb{T} into $\text{Aut } C^*(E)$ by [6, Theorem 4.5].

To show γ is continuous under multiplication, we use an $\varepsilon/3$ argument. Fix $z \in \mathbb{T}$, $a \in C^*(E)$ and $\varepsilon > 0$. Choose $c := \sum_{\mu, \nu \in E^*} \lambda_{\mu, \nu} s_\mu s_\nu^*$ such that $\|a - c\| < \varepsilon/3$. Notice that $\gamma_z(s_\mu) = z^{|\mu|} s_\mu$, and $\gamma_z(s_\mu^*) = (z^{|\mu|} s_\mu)^* = z^{-|\mu|} s_\mu^*$ because $|\lambda| = 1$. Hence $\gamma_z(s_\mu s_\nu^*) = z^{|\mu| - |\nu|} s_\mu s_\nu^*$. By the continuity of scalar multiplication

$$w \mapsto \sum_{\mu, \nu \in E^*} \lambda_{\mu, \nu} w^{|\mu| - |\nu|} s_\mu s_\nu^*$$

is continuous so there exists some $\delta > 0$ such that

$$|w - z| < \delta \implies \|\gamma_w(c) - \gamma_z(c)\| < \varepsilon/3.$$

We also know that automorphisms of C^* -algebras preserve the norm so that $\|\gamma_z(a - c)\| < \varepsilon/3$ for every $z \in \mathbb{T}$. Thus, for any $w \in \mathbb{T}$ such that $|w - z| < \delta$ we have the following inequality:

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\gamma_w(a) - \gamma_z(a)\| &\leq \|\gamma_w(a - c)\| + \|\gamma_w(c) - \gamma_z(a)\| \\
&\leq \|\gamma_w(a - c)\| + \|\gamma_w(c) - \gamma_z(c)\| + \|\gamma_z(c) - \gamma_z(a)\| \\
&< 3(\varepsilon/3) = \varepsilon
\end{aligned}$$

as required. □

Now that we have defined the gauge action we can use it to project $C^*(E)$ onto the subspaces $\overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n}$ for every $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Our method for doing

this is motivated by the map which projects $C^*(E)$ onto the fixed point algebra

$$C^*(E)^\gamma := \{a \in C^*(E) : \gamma_z(a) = a, \forall z \in \mathbb{T}\}.$$

We show that $C^*(E)^\gamma$ is the same as $\overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0}$. We use the following lemmas which can be found in [10, Chapter 3] to construct a faithful map $\Phi : C^*(E) \rightarrow C^*(E)^\gamma$ called a *conditional expectation*.

Lemma 3.2.2. *Suppose that A is a C^* -algebra and $f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow A$ is a continuous function. Then there is a unique element $\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz$ of A such that, for every representation π of A on \mathcal{H} and $h, k \in \mathcal{H}$ we have*

$$\left(\pi \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz \right) h \middle| k \right) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} (\pi(f(z))h | k) dz. \quad (3.1)$$

Which gives us:

- (i) $b(\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} bf(z) dz$ for $b \in A$
- (ii) $\|\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz\| \leq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \|f(z)\| dz$
- (iii) $\phi(\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \phi(f(z)) dz$ for every homomorphism $\phi : A \rightarrow B$
- (iv) for $w \in \mathbb{T}$, $\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(wz) dz = \int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz$.

Proof. We follow the proof given in [10, Lemma 3.1], with additional information from [13, pg.275]. We choose a faithful representation $\rho : A \rightarrow B(\mathcal{H})$. The map $(h, k) \mapsto \int_{\mathbb{T}} (\rho(f(z))h | k) dz$ is sesquilinear given the linearity of integration and sesquilinearity of the inner product, thus there exists a linear operator $T \in B(\mathcal{H})$ satisfying $(Th | k) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} (\rho(f(z))h | k) dz$ for all $h, k \in \mathcal{H}$ by [9, Theorem 2.3.6]. We can see that T is bounded by $\|f\|_1$ since

$$\begin{aligned} (Th | k) &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} (\rho(f(z))h | k) dz \\ &\leq \|f\|_1 \|h\| \|k\| \text{ for all } h, k \in \mathcal{H}. \end{aligned}$$

Now we want to show that $T \in \rho(A)$ so that we can define

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz := \rho^{-1}(T).$$

To see this we fix $\varepsilon < 0$. The Heine-Cantor theorem informs us that f is uniformly continuous since the function f is continuous and \mathbb{T} is compact, so there exists some δ such that for every $y, z \in \mathbb{T}$,

$$|y - z| < \delta \text{ implies that } \|f(y) - f(z)\| < \varepsilon.$$

Let V be the open set $B(1, \delta) \cap \mathbb{T}$. If $y^{-1}z \in V$, then

$$\begin{aligned} |1 - y^{-1}z| < \delta &\implies |y - z| < \delta \\ &\implies \|f(y) - f(z)\| < \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Now $\{yV\}_{y \in \mathbb{T}}$ is an infinite open cover of \mathbb{T} , which is compact, so there are finitely many y_i so that $\bigcup_i y_i V$ is a finite open cover of \mathbb{T} . We can make a partition of unity $\{\phi_i\}$ on \mathbb{T} subordinate to $\bigcup_i y_i V$ in accordance with [13, Lemma 4.34]. The functions $\phi_i \in C(\mathbb{T})$ are such that $0 \leq \phi_i \leq 1$, and $\text{supp}(\phi_i) \subset (y_i \cdot V)$ for each i , satisfying $\sum_i \phi_i(z) = 1$ for all $z \in \mathbb{T}$.

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \|f - \sum_i f(y_i) \phi_i\|_1 &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \|f(z) - \sum_i f(y_i) \phi_i(z)\| dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \|f(z) \sum_i \phi_i(z) - \sum_i f(y_i) \phi_i(z)\| dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \|\sum_i (f(z) - f(y_i)) \phi_i(z)\| dz \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \sum_i \|(f(z) - f(y_i)) \phi_i(z)\| dz \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \sum_i \|f(z) - f(y_i)\| \phi_i(z) dz \\ &< \int_{\mathbb{T}} \varepsilon \sum_i \phi_i(z) dz \\ &= \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

So $\sum_i f(y_i) \phi_i \rightarrow f$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. This implies that

$$\begin{aligned}
(Th|k) - \left(\sum_i \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} \phi_i(z) dz \right) \rho(f(y_i)) h|k \right) \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{T}} (\rho(f(z)) h|k) dz - \int_{\mathbb{T}} \left(\left(\sum_i \phi_i(z) \rho(f(y_i)) \right) h|k \right) dz \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \left((\rho(f(z)) - \sum_i \phi_i(z) \rho(f(y_i))) h|k \right) dz \\
&\leq \|f - \sum_i f(y_i) \phi_i\|_1 \|h\| \|k\| \\
&< \varepsilon \|h\| \|k\|.
\end{aligned}$$

So $\|T - \sum_i \phi_i(z) \rho(f(y_i))\|_{op} \rightarrow 0$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

Let $c_i = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \phi_i(z) dz$. Then the sum $\sum_i c_i \rho(f(y_i)) \in \rho(A)$ and $\sum_i c_i \rho(f(y_i)) \rightarrow \int_{\mathbb{T}} \rho(f(z)) dz = T$. Thus $T \in \rho(A)$. We can define $\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz := \rho^{-1}(T)$. Since ρ is isometric, $\|\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz - \sum_i c_i f(y_i)\| < \varepsilon$ which shows that $\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz$ is unique.

Given any representation π of A :

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left| \left(\pi \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz \right) h|k \right) - \left(\left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} \pi(f(z)) dz \right) h|k \right) \right| \\
&\leq \left| \left(\pi \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz - \sum_i c_i f(y_i) \right) h|k \right) \right| \\
&\quad + \left| \left(\left(\sum_i c_i \pi(f(y_i)) - \int_{\mathbb{T}} \pi(f(z)) dz \right) h|k \right) \right| \\
&\leq (\varepsilon + \varepsilon) \|h\| \|k\| \\
&= 2\varepsilon \|h\| \|k\|,
\end{aligned}$$

this proves Equation (3.1) since ε is arbitrary.

We can use Equation (3.1) to show (i) and (ii) by fixing $b \in A$ and a

faithful representation ρ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left(\rho \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} b f(z) dz \right) h | k \right) &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \left(\rho(b f(z)) h | k \right) dz \\
 &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \left(\rho(b) \rho(f(z)) h | k \right) dz \\
 &= \left(\rho(b) \rho \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz \right) h | k \right) \\
 &= \left(\rho(b \int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz) h | k \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left\| \int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz \right\| &= \left\| \rho \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz \right) \right\|_{op} \\
 &= \left\| \int_{\mathbb{T}} \rho(f(z)) dz \right\|_{op} \\
 &\leq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \left\| \rho(f(z)) \right\|_{op} dz \\
 &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \|f(z)\| dz.
 \end{aligned}$$

For (iii) let ρ be a faithful representation of B and let $\pi = \rho \circ \phi$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \phi \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz \right) &= \rho^{-1} \circ \pi \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz \right) \\
 &= \rho^{-1} \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} \pi(f(z)) dz \right) \\
 &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \rho^{-1} \circ \pi(f(z)) dz \\
 &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \phi(f(z)) dz.
 \end{aligned}$$

To show (iv), recall that for a continuous function $g : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ we write

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) dz = \int_0^1 f(e^{2\pi i t}) dt.$$

We can obtain integrals of continuous functions $g : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by using the right hand side of Equation (3.1) which integrates an inner product over

\mathbb{T} . Fix $w \in \mathbb{T}$ with $w = e^{2\pi i\theta}$, then

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} g(wz) dz = \int_0^1 g(e^{2\pi i(\theta+t)}) dt = \int_{\theta}^{1+\theta} g(e^{2\pi it}) dt,$$

which is equal to \int_0^1 by periodicity. \square

Now we are ready to project $C^*(E)$ onto the fixed point algebra $C^*(E)^\gamma$ by averaging over γ using [10, Proposition 3.2].

Lemma 3.2.3. *Let α be an action of \mathbb{T} on a C^* -algebra, and define $\Phi : A \rightarrow A$ by*

$$\Phi(a) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \alpha_z(a) dz.$$

*Then $\Phi(a) \in A^\alpha$ for every $a \in A$, and $\Phi(a) = a$ for every $a \in A^\alpha$. The map Φ is linear and norm-decreasing, and is faithful in the sense that $\Phi(a^*a) = 0$ implies $a = 0$.*

Proof. Fix $w \in \mathbb{T}$ and $a \in A$, then by parts (iii) and (iv) of Lemma 3.2.2 we can see that $\Phi(a) \in A^\alpha$ since

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_w(\Phi(a)) &= \alpha_w \int_{\mathbb{T}} \alpha_z(a) dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \alpha_w(\alpha_z(a)) dz && \text{by Lemma 3.2.2.(iii)} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \alpha_{wz}(a) dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \alpha_z(a) dz && \text{by Lemma 3.2.2.(iv)} \\ &= \Phi(a). \end{aligned}$$

To see that $\Phi(a) = a$ for $\forall a \in A^\alpha$, fix $a \in A^\alpha$ and by (i) of Lemma 3.2.2

$$\Phi(a) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \alpha_z(a) dz = \int_{\mathbb{T}} a dz = a \int_{\mathbb{T}} 1 dz = a.$$

The linearity of $\Phi(a)$ can be seen through the application of Equation (3.1). As for the norm-decreasing property of $\Phi(a)$, using part (ii) of Lemma 3.2.2

and the fact that automorphisms of C^* -algebras are norm-preserving we can see that

$$\|\Phi(a)\| = \left\| \int_{\mathbb{T}} \alpha_z(a) dz \right\| \leq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \|\alpha_z(a)\| dz = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \|a\| dz = \|a\|.$$

Lastly, to see that Φ is faithful, suppose that $\Phi(a^*a) = 0$, and let π be a faithful representation of A . Then for every $h \in \mathcal{H}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= (\pi(\Phi(a^*a))h|h) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} (\pi(\alpha_z(a^*a))h|h) dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} (\pi(\alpha_z(a))^* (\pi(\alpha_z(a))h|h) dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} (\pi(\alpha_z(a))h | \pi(\alpha_z(a))h) dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \|\pi(\alpha_z(a))h\|^2 dz. \end{aligned}$$

Since $z \mapsto \|\pi(\alpha_z(a))h\|^2$ is a non-negative continuous function the mapping is zero and $\pi(\alpha_z(a))h = 0$ for all $h \in \mathcal{H}$. Since π is faithful, $a = 0$. \square

For the remainder of this thesis Φ will denote the linear map of $C^*(E)$ onto

$$C^*(E)^\gamma := \{a \in C^*(E) : \gamma_z(a) = a, \forall z \in \mathbb{T}\}$$

which we call the *core* of $C^*(E)$. We use the core, $C^*(E)^\gamma$, to create a \mathbb{Z} -grading of $C^*(E)$. In the following corollary, which follows [10, Corollary 3.3], we show that $C^*(E)^\gamma = \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0}$ before adapting Φ to project $C^*(E)$ onto the subspaces $\overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n}$.

Corollary 3.2.4. *For every finite subset F of E^* and every choice of scalars $c_{\mu,\nu}$, we have*

$$\Phi\left(\sum_{\mu,\nu \in F} c_{\mu,\nu} s_\mu s_\nu^*\right) = \sum_{\{\mu,\nu \in F : |\mu|=|\nu|\}} c_{\mu,\nu} s_\mu s_\nu^* \quad (3.2)$$

and

$$C^*(E)^\gamma = \overline{\text{span}}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : |\mu| - |\nu| = 0\}.$$

Proof. Since Φ is linear we need only consider $\Phi(s_\mu s_\nu^*)$ for $\mu, \nu \in E^*$. If $s(\mu) \neq s(\nu)$ then $\Phi(s_\mu s_\nu^*) = 0$. Else

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(s_\mu s_\nu^*) &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \gamma_z(s_\mu s_\nu^*) dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{|\mu| - |\nu|} s_\mu s_\nu^* dz \\ &= \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{|\mu| - |\nu|} dz \right) s_\mu s_\nu^* \\ &= \begin{cases} s_\mu s_\nu^* & \text{if } |\mu| = |\nu| \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Which proves the first equality.

To show $C^*(E)^\gamma = \overline{\text{span}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : |\mu| - |\nu| = 0\}}$, first we check that $\overline{\text{span}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : |\mu| - |\nu| = 0\}} \subseteq C^*(E)^\gamma$. Let $a \in \overline{\text{span}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : |\mu| - |\nu| = 0\}}$, then a is fixed by γ_z for every $z \in \mathbb{T}$ as a is the limit of sums of elements $s_\mu s_\nu^*$ with $|\mu| = |\nu|$.

We have that $\Phi(C^*(E)^\gamma) = C^*(E)^\gamma$ from Lemma 3.2.3 and by Equation (3.2) $\Phi(C^*(E)^\gamma) \subseteq \overline{\text{span}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : |\mu| - |\nu| = 0\}} = \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0}$. \square

Proposition 3.2.5. *Let E be a directed row-finite graph. Then $C^*(E)$ is a \mathbb{Z} -graded C^* -algebra such that*

$$C^*(E) = \overline{\bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} C^*(E)_n}.$$

Proof. This proof follows closely to the proof of [1, Lemma 5.2.11]. For each $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ define

$$C^*(E)_n := \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n}.$$

By Corollary 3.2.4 Φ maps $C^*(E)$ onto $C^*(E)^\gamma = \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0} = C^*(E)_0$. Define $\Phi_n(a) := \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{-n} \gamma_z(a)$. Then

$$\Phi(s_\mu s_\nu^*) = \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} (z^{-n})(z^{|\mu| - |\nu|} dz) \right) s_\mu s_\nu^* = \begin{cases} s_\mu s_\nu^* & \text{if } |\mu| - |\nu| = n \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

Which implies

$$\Phi_n\left(\sum_{\mu,\nu \in F} c_{\mu,\nu} s_\mu s_\nu^*\right) = \sum_{\{\mu,\nu \in F: |\mu| - |\nu| = n\}} c_{\mu,\nu} s_\mu s_\nu^*,$$

from which we conclude that Φ_n is a map of $C^*(E)$ onto $C^*(E)_n$.

To see that $C^*(E)$ is \mathbb{Z} -graded, fix $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$, $a_n \in C^*(E)_n$ and $a_m \in C^*(E)_m$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} a_n a_m &= \Phi_n(a_n) \Phi(a_m) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{-n} \gamma_z(a_n) dz \cdot \int_{\mathbb{T}} w^{-m} \gamma_w(a_m) dw \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{-n} \gamma_z(a_n) \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} (zz^{-1}w)^{-m} \gamma_{zz^{-1}w}(a_m) dw \right) dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{-n} \gamma_z(a_n) \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{-m} (z^{-1}w)^{-m} \gamma_z \circ \gamma_{z^{-1}w}(a_m) dw \right) dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{-n} \gamma_z(a_n) \left(z^{-m} \gamma_z \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} (z^{-1}w)^{-m} \gamma_{z^{-1}w}(a_m) dw \right) \right) dz \quad \text{by 3.2.2.(iii)} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{-n} \gamma_z(a_n) \left(z^{-m} \gamma_z \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} w^{-m} \gamma_w(a_m) dw \right) \right) dz \quad \text{by 3.2.2.(iv)} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{-n} \gamma_z(a_n) z^{-m} \gamma_z(a_m) dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{-(n+m)} \gamma_z(a_n a_m) dz. \end{aligned}$$

Since a_n and a_m were arbitrary, and $\Phi_{m+n}(a) \in C^*(E)_{m+n}$ for all $a \in C^*(E)$ we have that $C^*(E)_n C^*(E)_m \subseteq C^*(E)_{n+m}$.

We also have

$$\begin{aligned} a_n^* &= \Phi_n(a_n) \\ &= \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{-n} \gamma_z(a_n) dz \right)^* \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^n (\gamma_z(a_n))^* dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^n \gamma_z(a_n^*) dz \end{aligned}$$

for $a_n \in C^*(E)_n$. This implies that $a_n^* \in C^*(E)_{-n}$ and $(C^*(E)_n)^* \subseteq C^*(E)_{-n}$.

Lastly, we need to show that these subspaces are linearly independent. For $a \in C^*(E)_n$ with $n \neq 0$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\Phi(a) &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \gamma_z(a) dz \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \gamma_z \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} w^{-n} \gamma_w(a) dw \right) dz \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \gamma_z \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} (z^{-1}zw)^{-n} \gamma_{z^{-1}zw}(a) dw \right) dz \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{T}} \gamma_z \left(z^n \gamma_{z^{-1}} \int_{\mathbb{T}} (zw)^{-n} \gamma_{zw}(a) dw \right) dz && \text{by 3.2.2.(iii)} \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{-n} \gamma_{zz^{-1}} \left(\int_{\mathbb{T}} (w)^{-n} \gamma_w(a) dw \right) dz && \text{by 3.2.2.(iv)} \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{-n} a dz \\
&= 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Suppose $\sum_{i=-N}^N a_i = 0$ for some $N \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $a_i \in C^*(E)_i$ for each i . Then

$$\left(\sum_{i=-N}^N a_i \right)^* = \sum_{i=-N}^N a_i^*.$$

Fix $-N < j < N$. Then $a_j^* \in C^*(E)_{-j}$ since $(C^*(E)_j)^* \subseteq C^*(E)_{-j}$ and $a_j^* a_i \in C^*(E)_{-j+i}$ for each $-N \leq i \leq N$ because $C^*(E)_{-j} C^*(E)_i \subseteq C^*(E)_{-j+i}$. Therefore

$$0 = \Phi \left(\sum_{i=-N}^N a_j^* a_i \right) = \sum_{i=-N}^N \Phi(a_j^* a_i) = \Phi(a_j^* a_j).$$

Since $a_j^* a_i \notin C^*(E)^\gamma$, $a_j^* a_i = 0$ for $i \neq j$. Thus, $a_j = 0$ because Φ is faithful. Therefore the subspaces $C^*(E)_n$ are linearly independent and $C^*(E)$ is \mathbb{Z} -graded. \square

3.3 The Core

In Section 3.2 we saw that the gauge action maps $C^*(E)$ onto the fixed point algebra $C^*(E)^\gamma = \overline{\text{span}}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : |\mu| - |\nu| = 0\}$, which we called the core of $C^*(E)$. In the context of grading, $C^*(E)^\gamma$ is $C^*(E)_0$. In fact, the subspace A_e of any G -graded algebra A , where e is the identity of G , forms a subalgebra of A ; since it is closed under addition by liberty of its span and according to the definition of grading we have that $A_e \cdot A_e \subseteq A_e$ so it is closed under multiplication.

We have seen that $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ is dense in $C^*(E)$ and that $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0$ sits densely inside $C^*(E)^\gamma$. Since $\Phi(L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)) = L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0$ we will refer to $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0$ as the core of $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$. Both $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0$ and $C^*(E)^\gamma$ are isomorphic to the direct limit of matricial algebras, a fact we rely heavily upon in the proof of our main result.

We begin with a short summary of section A.2. of [10] which discusses matrix algebras; then we apply these results to the core of both the Leavitt path algebra and graph C^* -algebra of a row-finite graph E taking heavy direction from the discussion of the structure of $C^*(E)^\gamma$ in chapter 3 of [10].

A matrix unit is a matrix $E_{ij} \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ whereby $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ and

$$(E_{ij})_{kl} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = k, j = l \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

Every $a \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ can be written as $\sum_{i,j} a_{ij} E_{ij}$ and hence the set $\{E_{ij}\}$ forms a basis for $M_n(\mathbb{C})$.

We can also see, through simple calculations, that the matrix units E_{ij} are such that

$$E_{ij}^* = E_{ji} \quad \text{and} \quad E_{ij} E_{kl} = \begin{cases} E_{il} & \text{if } j = k \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

We use these conditions to find copies of $M_n(\mathbb{C})$ in our algebras by finding families satisfying the necessary relations. In [10, Proposition A.5] Raeburn shows that for a C^* -algebra B with a non-zero family $\{e_{ij} : 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$ satisfying the above relations there is an injective homomorphism ϕ from $M_n(\mathbb{C})$ in to B such that $\phi(E_{ij}) = e_{ij}$.

Suppose E is a row-finite directed graph. We use the discussion above to analyse the structure of the core of both $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ and $C^*(E)$. For a given $k \in \mathbb{N}$, define

$$\mathcal{F}_k := \text{span}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^k\}.$$

For any paths $\mu, \nu, \alpha, \beta \in E^k$, we have

$$(s_\mu s_\nu^*)(s_\alpha s_\beta^*) = \begin{cases} s_\mu s_\beta^* & \text{if } \nu = \alpha \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad (3.3)$$

by Lemma 2.2.4 and the fact that $|\nu| = |\alpha| = k$. Moreover, we have that $(s_\mu s_\nu^*)^* = s_\nu s_\mu^*$; hence \mathcal{F}_k is a family of matrix units.

For every $v \in E^0$,

$$\mathcal{F}_k(v) := \text{span}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^k, s(\mu) = s(\nu) = v\}$$

is a family of matrix units we can see this using Equation (3.3) in conjunction with [10, Proposition A.5]. For a row-finite graph there are a finite number of paths $\mu \in E^k \cap s^{-1}(v)$ so $\mathcal{F}_k(v) \cong M_{|E^k \cap s^{-1}(v)|}(\mathbb{C})$.

Since no path of $\mathcal{F}_k(v)$ is in $\mathcal{F}_k(w)$ for all $v, w \in E^0$ such that $v \neq w$ we have $\mathcal{F}_k(v)\mathcal{F}_k(w) = 0$. Hence

$$\mathcal{F}_k = \bigoplus_{v \in E^0} \mathcal{F}_k(v).$$

When the graph E has no sources, the Cuntz-Krieger relation at v gives

$$s_\mu s_\nu^* = s_\mu p_v s_\nu^* = \sum_{r(e)=v} s_\mu s_e s_e^* s_\nu^* = \sum_{r(e)=v} s_{\mu e} s_{\nu e}^*,$$

which implies that $\mathcal{F}_k \subset \mathcal{F}_{k+1}$. So

$$\cup_k (\oplus_{v \in E^0} \mathcal{F}_k(v)) = \cup_k \mathcal{F}_k = \text{span}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*, |\mu| = |\nu|\} = L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0$$

and

$$\overline{\cup_k (\oplus_{v \in E^0} \mathcal{F}_k(v))} = \overline{\cup_k \mathcal{F}_k} = \overline{\text{span}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^*, |\mu| = |\nu|\}} = C^*(E)^\gamma.$$

Thus, the core of both $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ and $C^*(E)$ are isomorphic to the direct limit of matrix algebras.

For general row-finite graphs Raeburn uses a technique introduced by Yeend (2003) to analyse the core of $C^*(E)$ which we can also use for the core of $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$. Take $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we define

$$E^{\leq k} := \{\mu \in E^* : |\mu| = k, \text{ or } |\mu| < k \text{ and } s(\mu) \text{ is a source}\}.$$

If $\nu, \alpha \in E^{\leq k}$ and $|\nu| < |\alpha|$, then $\nu \neq \alpha\nu'$. Additionally $|\nu| < k$ and $s(\nu)$ is a source of E meaning that α cannot extend ν . Thus by Lemma 2.2.4 $(s_\mu s_\nu^*)(s_\alpha s_\beta^*) = 0$. By the same reasoning, if $|\alpha| < |\nu|$ then $\alpha \neq \nu\alpha'$ and $\nu \neq \alpha\nu'$. Hence Equation (3.3) holds for all $\mu, \nu, \alpha, \beta \in E^{\leq k}$. Thus

$$\mathcal{F}_{\leq k}(v) := \text{span}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^{\leq k} \text{ and } s(\mu) = s(\nu) = v\}$$

is a family of matrix units and

$$\mathcal{F}_{\leq k} := \text{span}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^{\leq k}\}$$

is the direct $\bigoplus_{v \in E^0} \mathcal{F}_{\leq k}(v)$. If v is not a source then all paths $\mu, \nu \in E^{\leq k}$ must have length k , and we know that $\mathcal{F}_k \subset \mathcal{F}_{k+1}$ from above; thus

$$\mathcal{F}_{\leq k}(v) = \mathcal{F}_k(v) \subset \mathcal{F}_k \subset \mathcal{F}_{k+1} \subset \mathcal{F}_{\leq k+1}.$$

If v is a source then from the definition of $E^{\leq k}$ we can see that

$$(E^{\leq k} \cap s^{-1}(v)) \subset (E^{\leq k+1} \cap s^{-1}(v))$$

and thus $\mathcal{F}_{\leq k}(v) \subset \mathcal{F}_{\leq k+1}(v)$. As such $\mathcal{F}_{\leq k} \subset \mathcal{F}_{\leq k+1}$, giving us that

$$L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0 \subset \cup_k \mathcal{F}_{\leq k} = \cup_k (\oplus_{v \in E^0} \mathcal{F}_{\leq k}(v))$$

and

$$C^*(E)^\gamma \subset \overline{\cup_k \mathcal{F}_{\leq k}} = \overline{\cup_k (\oplus_{v \in E^0} \mathcal{F}_{\leq k}(v))}.$$

If E has sources the inclusion will be proper, because $\mathcal{F}_{\leq k}(v)$ will include elements $s_\mu s_\nu^*$ such that $|\mu| \neq |\nu|$. If we want to describe the core of $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ and $C^*(E)$ we will need to introduce the sub-algebras

$$\mathcal{F}_{k,l}(v) := \text{span}\{s_\mu s_\nu^* : \mu, \nu \in E^{\leq k}, |\mu| = |\nu| = l, s(\mu) = s(\nu) = v\}.$$

Again we can see that $\mathcal{F}_{k,l}(v)$ contains a family of matrix units. Then

$$\mathcal{G}_k(v) := \mathcal{F}_{\leq k}(v) \cap L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0 = \bigoplus_{l=1}^k \mathcal{F}_{k,l}(v),$$

and

$$\mathcal{G}_k := \mathcal{F}_{\leq k} \cap L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0 = \bigoplus_{v \in E^0} \mathcal{G}_k(v).$$

Since $\mathcal{F}_{\leq k} \subset \mathcal{F}_{\leq k+1}$ and $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0$ is closed under multiplication we have that $\mathcal{G}_k \subset \mathcal{G}_{k+1}$. From this we can see that

$$L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0 = \bigcup_k (\bigoplus_{v \in E^0} \mathcal{G}_k(v)) \quad (3.4)$$

and

$$C^*(E)^\gamma = \overline{\bigcup_k (\bigoplus_{v \in E^0} \mathcal{G}_k(v))}. \quad (3.5)$$

3.4 Fell Bundles

In this section we discuss the structure of Fell Bundles that can be found within a C^* algebra and their relation to gradings. The definitions and results of this section can be found in Chapter 16 of [5].

A *Fell bundle* over a group G is a collection of Banach spaces

$$\mathcal{B} = \{B_g\}_{g \in G},$$

wherein each B_g is known as a *fibre*. In addition, the disjoint union of these fibres, known as the total space of \mathcal{B} , is equipped with a multiplication operation and an involution satisfying the following properties for all $g, h \in G$ and $b, c \in \mathcal{B}$:

- (i) $B_g B_h \subseteq B_{gh}$;
- (ii) multiplication is bilinear from $B_g \times B_h$ to B_{gh} ;
- (iii) multiplication on \mathcal{B} is associative;
- (iv) $\|bc\| \leq \|b\| \|c\|$;
- (v) $(B_g)^* \subseteq B_{g^{-1}}$;
- (vi) involution is conjugate linear from B_g to $B_{g^{-1}}$;
- (vii) $(bc)^* = c^* b^*$;
- (viii) $b^{**} = b$;
- (ix) $\|b^*\| = \|b\|$;
- (x) $\|b^* b\| = \|b\|^2$;
- (xi) $b^* b \geq \text{in } B_e$.

According to [5], the properties (i) to (iv) give rise to what is known as a *Banach Algebraic Bundle*, and with the addition of (v) to (x) describe a *Banach $*$ -algebraic Bundle*.

Given that $B_e \times B_e$ maps to B_e and $(B_e)^* \subseteq B_e$, we can observe that axioms (i) through (x) imply that B_e is a C^* -algebra using given operations. We often call B_e the *unit fibre algebra*.

Remark 3.4.1. Clearly, if given a G -graded C^* -algebra B the grading subspaces B_g form a Fell bundle with respect to the norm, multiplication and adjoint of B . However, B cannot necessarily be uniquely determined from \mathcal{B} , because there can be multiple ways to complete \mathcal{B} .

Before we move on we will visit two examples which illustrate this point, and introduce a notion of grading for C^* -algebras with stronger conditions.

Example 3.4.2. This first example is discussed in [12, Example 1]. Consider the graph E consisting of a single vertex v and a single loop e . The Cuntz-Krieger E -family $\{S, P\}$ of E is generated by the single unitary operator S_e , and P_v is an identity for $C^*(E)$. Since graph algebras are universal for Cuntz-Krieger E -families, this graph is universal for all C^* -algebras generated by a single unitary element, and since for any C^* -algebra B generated by a unitary element u we can construct the homomorphism $\pi_u : C^*(E) \rightarrow B$ so that $\pi_u(S_e) = u$.

Consider \mathbb{T} and the identity function $\iota : z \mapsto z$ from \mathbb{T} to \mathbb{C} . Now ι is unitary, and the C^* -algebra generated by ι is the closed span of the functions $\iota^m(\iota^*)^n : z \mapsto z^m \bar{z}^n$, which for \mathbb{T} is the polynomials z^k . Moreover, the Stone-Weierstrass Theorem tells us that $C^*(\iota) = C(\mathbb{T})$. Hence $(C^*(E), S_e)$ is $(C(\mathbb{T}), z)$.

We know from Proposition 3.2.5 that $C^*(E)$ is a \mathbb{Z} -graded algebra, and we can observe the grading $C(\mathbb{T})_n$ by considering the span of polynomials z^n . As discussed above, the subspaces form a Fell bundle \mathcal{B} , with fibres B_n consisting of the polynomials z^n . We can see that the polynomials z^n form an orthonormal basis for $L^2(\mathbb{T})$ and $C(\mathbb{T}) \subset L^2(\mathbb{T})$, so the Fourier coefficients

$$\hat{f}(n) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} f(z) z^{-n} dz := \int_0^1 f(e^{2\pi it}) e^{-2\pi it} dt$$

of $f \in C(\mathbb{T})$ determine f uniquely and $\hat{f}(n) = \hat{g}(n)$ for all n implies $f = g$ in $C(\mathbb{T})$. A classical result of Fejér (1900) tells us that the Cesàro means (we

say that a sequence $\{a_n\}$ is Cesàro summable, with Cesàro sum $A \in \mathbb{R}$, if as n tends to infinity the arithmetic means of the partial sums $s_k := a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_k = \sum_{n=1}^k a_n$ converge to A , ie, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n s_k = A$) of the partial sums of the Fourier series converge uniformly to f on \mathbb{T} . As such we can recover f from its Fourier coefficients which allows us to view $C(\mathbb{T})$ as a \mathbb{Z} -graded algebra.

Example 3.4.3. This second example is discussed in both [5, p. 156], and [12, Example 2]. In this example we take a closed proper subset X of \mathbb{T} which is infinite, and consider $C(X)$ generated by the inclusion map $\iota : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ whereby $z \mapsto z$, we say that $C(X)$ is generated by z . Now we can consider whether $B_n = \mathbb{C}z^n, \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$ can constitute a \mathbb{Z} -grading for $C(X)$.

Clearly, we can see that $B_n B_m \subseteq B_{n+m} \forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$, and $B_n^* = B_{-n}$ for every $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Now we must check that the B_n 's are linearly independent subspaces of $C(X)$. To see this suppose that $\sum_{n \leq N} c_n z^n = 0$ on X . Then

$$\iota(z) = \sum_{n \leq N} c_n z^n = 0, \quad \forall z \in X.$$

Then $z^{-N} \iota(z) = z^{-N} p(z)$, for some polynomial p of degree $2N$. Now, $|z^{-1}| \neq 0$, so $p(z) = 0$ for all z in X , which, by the fundamental theorem of algebra, implies that X is contained in the roots of p , and $|X| \leq 2N$. However, X was chosen as an infinite set, therefore $c_n = 0$ for each n and the subspaces $C(X)_n$ are linearly independent.

Now, X is a proper closed subset of \mathbb{T} , so X is compact; meaning each continuous function $f \in C(X)$ is bounded. We can apply Tietze's Extension Theorem, as described in [2, Theorem 3.2.13], to the real and imaginary parts of f to see that there exists a continuous function $g : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $g|_X = f$, for all $x \in X$. So the map $g \mapsto g|_X$ is onto.

Each $f \in C(X)$ has many extensions $g \in C(\mathbb{T})$. As discussed in the previous example each such extension g has a canonical sequence of homogeneous components $\hat{g}(n)$, over which the Cesàro means of the partial sums

converge uniformly to g in $C(\mathbb{T})$. The restrictions of the Cesàro means to X converge uniformly in $C(X)$ to $g|_X = f$. However, each extension of f will have different Fourier coefficients, and there is no canonical way to choose homogeneous components for f in $C(X)$.

These examples demonstrate the strong connection between graded C^* -algebras and Fell Bundles. In Example 3.4.2 we see that we can derive $C(\mathbb{T})$ from the Fell bundle \mathcal{B} , but we are unable to obtain $C(X)$ from the Fell bundle made up of the spaces $C(X)_n$ as described in Example 3.4.3. When we can reassemble a graded C^* -algebra from its parts we say that it is *topologically graded*. More formally we say a grading on a C^* -algebra B is said to be a *topological grading* if there exists a (necessarily unique) conditional expectation of B onto B_e , vanishing on all B_g for $g \neq e$.

Now we move on to discuss some properties of Fell bundles and a class of Fell bundles known as *saturated Fell bundles* as they hold particular significance to our result.

Lemma 3.4.4. *For any Fell Bundle $\mathcal{B} = \{B_g\}_{g \in G}$ and $g \in G$, $\overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}}}$ is a closed ideal of B_e (where $\overline{B_g B_h}$ is the closed span of $B_g B_h$).*

Proof. Fix $g \in G$, then by continuity, we have

$$\overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}} B_e} \subseteq \overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}} B_e} \subseteq \overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}}}$$

and

$$B_e \overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}}} \subseteq \overline{B_e B_g B_{g^{-1}}} \subseteq \overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}}}.$$

□

If $\mathcal{B} = \{B_g\}_{g \in G}$ is a Fell Bundle with $\overline{B_g B_h} = B_{gh}$ for all $g, h \in G$, we say that \mathcal{B} is *saturated* as per the definition given in [5, Definition 16.10]. This definition seems to hold certain parallels with that of strong grading, a connection which we intend to demonstrate in our main result. But first, we need to better understand the structure of a saturated Fell Bundle.

Proposition 3.4.5. *A Fell bundle $\mathcal{B} = \{B_g\}_{g \in G}$ is saturated if and only if $\overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}}} = B_e \forall g \in G$.*

We present the proof of Proposition 3.4.5 after the following Lemmas. We have $\overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}}} \subseteq B_e$ for any $g \in G$ by definition; however, we need to do more work to show that $B_e \subseteq \overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}}}$ using Bi-modules which we describe below using [5, Definition 15.1].

Given a C^* -algebra A , we say that a *right pre-Hilbert A -module* is a complex linear space M equipped with a right A -module structure with a map $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : M \times M \rightarrow A$ satisfying the following properties for all $x, y, z \in M$, $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$, and $a \in A$:

- (i) $\langle x, \alpha y + \beta z \rangle = \alpha \langle x, y \rangle + \beta \langle x, z \rangle$;
- (ii) $\langle x, ya \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle a$;
- (iii) $\langle x, y \rangle^* = \langle y, x \rangle$;
- (iv) $\langle x, x \rangle \geq 0$ and $\langle x, x \rangle = 0 \iff x = 0$.

We define a *left pre-Hilbert A -module* similarly, where we assume M to be have a left A -module structure and we alter the first two axioms to get:

- (i') $\langle \alpha x + \beta y, z \rangle = \alpha \langle x, z \rangle + \beta \langle y, z \rangle$;
- (ii') $\langle ax, y \rangle = a \langle x, y \rangle$.

We can define a norm over the pre-Hilbert A -module M whereby $\|m\| = \|\langle m, m \rangle\|^{1/2}$. If M is complete with respect to this norm we say that M is a *Hilbert A -module*.

Lemma 3.4.6. *If $\{v_i\}$ is an approximate identity for B_e , then for any $g \in G$ and $b \in B_g$,*

$$b = \lim_i bv_i = \lim_i v_i b.$$

Proof. Fix $g \in G$, we claim that B_g is a Hilbert B_e - B_e -bimodule. Clearly B_g forms a B_e -bimodule and through the associativity of multiplication over \mathcal{B} together with the sesquilinear maps giving $\langle x, y \rangle_R := xy^*$ from the right and $\langle x, y \rangle_L := x^*y$ from the left which map from $B_g \times B_g$ to B_e since $B_g^*B_g \subseteq B_e$ and $B_gB_g^* \subseteq B_e$. These maps give us that

$$\langle x, y \rangle_R z = (xy^*)z = x(y^*z) = x\langle y, z \rangle_L.$$

The fibre B_g will be complete with respect to the norm $\|\cdot\|_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle}$ defined over the Hilbert bimodule given that B_g is a Banach space and $\|b\|_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle}^2 = \|\langle b, b \rangle\| = \|b^*b\| = \|b\|^2$.

Since B_g is a Hilbert B_e - B_e -bimodule we can see from the result of [5, Lemma 15.2] that

$$b = \lim_i bv_i = \lim_i v_i b \quad \forall b \in B_g.$$

□

Lemma 3.4.7. *For a Fell bundle $\mathcal{B} = \{B_g\}_{g \in G}$ and any $g \in G$, $B_g = \overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}} B_g}$.*

Proof. Firstly since B_g and $B_{g^{-1}}$ are fibres of \mathcal{B} , $\overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}} B_g} \subseteq \overline{B_e B_g} \subseteq B_g$.

To show the other containment let $\{v_i\}$ be an approximate identity for $\overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}}}$ and $\{u_i\}$ be an approximate identity for $\overline{B_{g^{-1}} B_g}$. Then for any $b \in B_g$

$$b = \lim_i v_i b = \lim_i b u_i$$

since B_g will be a $B_g B_{g^{-1}} B_{g^{-1}} B_g$ -bimodule using the same sesquilinear forms discussed in Lemma 3.4.6. This implies that B_g is a right Hilbert $\overline{B_{g^{-1}} B_g}$ -module and a left Hilbert $\overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}}}$ -module. According to [5, Lemma 15.2] this means that $b = \lim_i v_i b = \lim_i b u_i$. So $B_g \subseteq \overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}} B_g}$. □

The proof of Proposition 3.4.5. As stated earlier if $\overline{B_g B_h} = B_{gh} \forall g, h \in G$ then $\overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}}} = B_e$. Suppose that $\overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}}} = B_e$ for every $g \in G$. We fix $g, h \in G$,

and compute

$$\begin{aligned}
 B_{gh} &= \overline{B_{gh}B_{(gh)^{-1}}B_{gh}} && \text{(by Lemma 3.4.7)} \\
 &\subseteq \overline{B_e B_{gh}} && (\overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}}} = B_e \forall g \in G) \\
 &= \overline{B_g B_{g^{-1}} B_{gh}} \\
 &\subseteq \overline{B_g B_h}.
 \end{aligned}$$

□

Chapter 4

Strongly Graded Graph C*-algebras

Suppose that a ring A is graded by a group G , such that $A = \bigoplus_{g \in G} A_g$. We say that A is *strongly graded* if $A_g \cdot A_h = A_{gh}$ for every $g, h \in G$.

Motivated by this definition and the definition of saturated Fell bundles we define strongly graded C*-algebras as follows:

Definition 4.0.1. Let A be a G -graded C*-algebra with the C*-grading $\{A_g\}_{g \in G}$. Then A is *strongly G -graded* if

$$\overline{A_g \cdot A_h} = A_{gh}$$

for every $g, h \in G$.

If the group G is clear, we say that A is strongly graded.

In Remark 3.4.1 we discussed how the grading of a C*-algebra forms a Fell bundle. Any grading of a C*-algebra satisfying the conditions for a strongly graded C*-algebra would indeed form a saturated Fell bundle; and if a Fell bundle generated by the grading of a G -graded C*-algebra A were saturated then A would be strongly graded.

A graph E satisfies *Condition (Y)* if for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and every infinite path p , there exists a final subpath $\alpha \in E^*$ and $\beta \in E^*$ such that $s(\beta) = s(\alpha)$

and $|\beta| - |\alpha| = k$ [3, Definition 4.1]. In [3, Theorem 4.2] Clark, Hazrat and Rigby prove that $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_K(E)$ is strongly graded if and only if E has no sources and satisfies Condition (Y).

The main new result of this thesis is as follows:

Theorem 4.0.2. *Suppose E is a row-finite graph. Then $C^*(E)$ is a strongly graded C^* -algebra if and only if E has no sources and satisfies Condition (Y).*

We tried to prove this directly by modifying the argument of [3, Theorem 4.2] but found the "unusual thing" of deducing the C^* -algebra result from the Leavitt path algebra result worked better and was cleaner.

Theorem 4.0.3. *Let E be a row-finite graph. Then $C^*(E)$ is a strongly graded C^* -algebra if and only if $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ is a strongly graded ring.*

The easier argument is the "if" direction.

Proposition 4.0.4. *Suppose E is a row-finite graph. If $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ is a strongly graded ring then $C^*(E)$ is a strongly graded C^* -algebra.*

Proof. If $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ is strongly graded then

$$L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_m = L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{n+m} \quad \forall n, m \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Since $C^*(E)$ is graded we have that $C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_m \subseteq C^*(E)_{n+m}$ and since $C^*(E)_{n+m}$ is a Banach space it is closed; giving us $\overline{C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_m} \subseteq C^*(E)_{n+m}$. It remains to show is that $C^*(E)_{n+m} \subseteq \overline{C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_m}$. To see this, fix $a \in C^*(E)_{n+m}$. Since $C^*(E)_{n+m} = \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{n+m}}$ by Proposition 3.2.5, there exists a sequence

$$\{a_i\} \subseteq L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{n+m} \text{ such that } a_i \rightarrow a \text{ as } i \rightarrow \infty.$$

Then $\{a_i\} \subseteq L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_m \subseteq C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_m$ and hence $a \in \overline{C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_m}$.

□

For the other direction we prove the contrapositive.

Proposition 4.0.5. *Suppose E is a row-finite graph. If $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ is not a strongly graded ring then $C^*(E)$ is not a strongly graded C^* -algebra.*

To prove this we need the following Lemmas:

Lemma 4.0.6. *Let E be a graph. Then $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}$ is a $*$ -subalgebra of $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$.*

Proof. By definition $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n} = \text{span}\{ab : a \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n, b \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}\}$ so it is closed under addition and scalar multiplication. To see that it is closed under multiplication it suffices to show that two generators of $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}$ multiplied remain in $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}$ thanks to the distributive property of multiplication. Suppose a and b are two generators of $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}$ with $a = a_n a_{-n}$ and $b = b_n b_{-n}$ such that $a_n, b_n \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n$ and $a_{-n}, b_{-n} \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}$. Then

$$ab = (a_n a_{-n})(b_n b_{-n}) = a_n(a_{-n}(b_n b_{-n})).$$

Since $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ is \mathbb{Z} -graded we have that

$$a_{-n}(b_n b_{-n}) \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n} \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n} \subseteq L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n} \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0 \subseteq L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}.$$

So $ab = a_n(a_{-n}(b_n b_{-n})) \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}$.

Lastly for $*$ -closure, fix a generator $a = a_n a_{-n} \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}$ with $a_n \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n$ and $a_{-n} \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}$ then

$$a^* = (a_n a_{-n})^* = a_{-n}^* a_n^*$$

and since $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_m^* \subseteq L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-m}$ for all $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, we have

$$a_{-n}^* a_n^* \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}.$$

□

Lemma 4.0.7. *Let E be a row-finite graph, then*

$$\overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}} = \overline{C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_{-n}}.$$

Proof. We have $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n} \subseteq C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_{-n}$ giving us

$$\overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}} \subseteq \overline{C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_{-n}}.$$

It remains to show that

$$\overline{C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_{-n}} \subseteq \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}}.$$

It suffices to show

$$C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_{-n} = \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}} \subseteq \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}}.$$

To see this fix sequences $\{a_i\} \subseteq L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n$ and $\{b_i\} \subseteq L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}$ with $a_i \rightarrow a$ and $b_i \rightarrow b$ as $i \rightarrow \infty$. By the algebra of limits we have $a_i b_i \rightarrow ab$ as $i \rightarrow \infty$. Thus $\{a_i b_i\}$ is a convergent sequence of $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}$ and

$$\overline{C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_{-n}} = \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}}.$$

□

Proof of Proposition 4.0.5: Suppose $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ is not strongly graded. By [3, Lemma 2.1] there exists $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n} \subsetneq L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0.$$

Hence there exists $a \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0$ such that $a \notin L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}$. Recall that $C^*(E)_0 = C^*(E)^\gamma$. We will show that $a \in C^*(E)^\gamma \setminus \overline{C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_{-n}}$, which would imply that $C^*(E)^\gamma \neq \overline{C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_{-n}}$ so $C^*(E)$ is not strongly graded.

Since $a \in L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0$ we have $a \in C^*(E)^\gamma$. By Lemma 4.0.7

$$\overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}} = \overline{C^*(E)_n \cdot C^*(E)_{-n}}$$

so it suffices to show that $a \notin \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}}$. Recall that by Equation (3.4)

$$L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_0 = \bigcup_k \mathcal{G}_k = \bigcup_k \left(\bigoplus_{v \in E^0} \mathcal{G}_k(v) \right).$$

So there exists some k and a finite collection of vertices $F \in E^0$ such that $a \in \bigoplus_{v \in F} \mathcal{G}_k(v)$ which we will denote $A_{F,k}$. Since $A_{F,k}$ is a finite direct sum of matricial algebras it is finite dimensional and hence a closed $*$ -subalgebra in $C^*(E)$.

By Lemma 4.0.6 $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}$ is a $*$ -subalgebra so the intersection $A_{F,k} \cap L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}$ will be a closed $*$ -subalgebra of $A_{F,k}$. Since

$$a \notin A_{F,k} \cap L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n},$$

there exists an open set U_a in $A_{F,k}$, with respect to the subspace topology, containing a such that

$$U_a \cap (A_{F,k} \cap L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}) = \emptyset.$$

Since $U_a \cap A_{F,k} = U_a$, we have $U_a \cap L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n} = \emptyset$. Thus

$$a \notin \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}}^{A_{F,k}}$$

where closure is taking place in $A_{F,k}$. But, $A_{F,k}$ is closed in $C^*(E)$, so by [8, Theorem 17.3]

$$\overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}}^{A_{F,k}} = \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}}$$

in $C^*(E)$. Hence $a \notin \overline{L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_n \cdot L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)_{-n}}$ as needed. \square

Theorem 4.0.3 follows from Proposition 4.0.4 and Proposition 4.0.5.

Proof of Theorem 4.0.2: Let E be a row-finite graph. Then $C^*(E)$ is a strongly graded C^* -algebra if and only if $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ is a strongly graded ring by Theorem 4.0.3. Now $L_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ is a strongly graded ring if and only if E has no sources and satisfies Condition (Y) by [3, Theorem 4.1]. This completes the proof. \square

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