

# Groupoid $C^*$ -algebras

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# The $C^*$ -game

Input  $\rightarrow C^*$ -algebra  $\rightarrow K$ -theory

Input	$C^*$ -algebra	$K$ -theory
A compact Hausdorff space, $X$	$C(X)$	$K_*(C(X))$
A group, $G$	$C^*(G)$	$K_*(C^*(G))$
An action of $G$ on $X$	$C(X) \rtimes G$	$K_*(C(X) \rtimes G)$

Remarks:

- 1 Going from a  $C^*$ -algebra to its  $K$ -theory is not a technical issue but it almost certainly a computational issue (see Mark Tomforde's talk).
- 2 Going from an input to a  $C^*$ -algebra is a technical issue (e.g., given an input how do we construct a  $C^*$ -algebra, in the second line should we take the reduced or full group  $C^*$ -algebra?).

Big Picture: Our approach will be based on the fact that many classes of inputs naturally lead to groupoids and will discuss a method for constructing  $C^*$ -algebras from (certain) groupoids.

More concrete plan: We will play the  $C^*$ -game when the input is an equivalence relation.

# Equivalence relations

Let  $\sim$  denote an equivalence relation on a nonempty set  $X$ , so that

- 1 for each  $x \in X$ ,  $x \sim x$ ;
- 2 if  $x \sim y$ , then  $y \sim x$ ;
- 3 if  $x \sim y$  and  $y \sim z$ , then  $x \sim z$ .

The equivalence class of  $x$  is denote by  $[x]$  and is the set

$$\{y \in X \mid x \sim y\}.$$

We view an equivalence relation as a subset of  $X \times X$  via

$$R = \{(x, y) \in X \times X \mid x \sim y\}$$

$$X / \sim = \{ [x] \mid x \in X \}$$

# Examples when $X$ is a finite set

Consider the following equivalence relations:

Let  $X_1 = \{x_1, x_2\}$  and  $R_1 = \{(x_1, x_1), (x_1, x_2), (x_2, x_1), (x_2, x_2)\}$ .

Let  $X_2 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$  and  $R_2$  be the equivalence relation with all elements equivalent to each other.

Let  $X_3 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$  and  $R_3$  be the equivalence relation generated by  $x_1 \sim x_2$  and  $x_3 \sim x_4$ .

Let  $X_4 = \{x_1, x_2\}$  and  $R_4 = \{(x_1, x_1), (x_2, x_2)\}$ .

# Making a $C^*$ -algebra from $R$ : First Attempt

First attempt at making a  $C^*$ -algebra:

For each  $R_i$  we have that  $X_i / \sim_i$  is a compact, Hausdorff space so we can consider  $C(X_i / \sim_i)$ .

Why is this not a great choice?

It forgets a lot of information about the input. For example,

$$C(X_1 / \sim_1) = C(X_2 / \sim_2) \cong \mathbb{C}$$

Likewise  $C(X_3 / \sim_3)$  and  $C(X_4 / \sim_4)$  are the same.

# Making a $C^*$ -algebra from $R$ : Second Attempt

Given a finite set  $X$  and an equivalence relation  $R \subset X \times X$ , we let

$$C^*(R) = \{f : R \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}(\lambda \cdot f)(x, y) &= \lambda f(x, y) \\ (f + g)(x, y) &= f(x, y) + g(x, y)\end{aligned}$$

# The star operation when $X$ is finite

Define  $(f^*)(x, y) = \overline{f(y, x)}$ .

Exercise: Prove that the star operation is well-defined.

Exercise: Would it be well-defined if  $R$  was an arbitrary subset of  $X \times X$  rather than an equivalence relation?



# Multiplication in $C^*(R)$ when $X$ is finite

The convolution product on  $C^*(R)$  is defined via

$$(f * g)(x, y) = \sum_{z \sim x} f(x, z)g(z, y)$$

Exercise: Prove that  $*$  is well-defined. Would it be well-defined if  $R$  was an arbitrary subset of  $X \times X$  rather than an equivalence relation?

Exercise: Prove  $C^*(R)$  is a  $*$ -algebra.

Somewhat involved exercise: Define a norm on  $C^*(R)$  (still with  $X$  finite) so that it becomes a  $C^*$ -algebra. (Hint: the examples on the next slide should be helpful).

# Examples

Back to  $R_1$ , which was defined by taking  $X_1 = \{x_1, x_2\}$  and

$$R_1 = \{(x_1, x_1), (x_1, x_2), (x_2, x_1), (x_2, x_2)\}$$

and

$$C^*(R_1) = \{f : R_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$$

As a vector space  $C^*(R_1)$  is four dimensional; it has basis:

$$f_{ij}(x_l, x_m) = \begin{cases} 1 & l = i \text{ and } m = j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $1 \leq i \leq 2$  and  $1 \leq j \leq 2$ .

Exercise: Prove that  $C^*(R_1) \cong M_2(\mathbb{C})$  as  $*$ -algebras via the map defined on the above basis by

$$f_{11} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, f_{12} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, f_{21} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, f_{22} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Exercise: Prove that  $C^*(R_2) \cong M_4(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $C^*(R_3) \cong M_2(\mathbb{C}) \oplus M_2(\mathbb{C})$  and  $C^*(R_4) \cong \mathbb{C}^2$ .

# The $C^*$ -game in this case

## Definition

A  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  is finite dimensional if it is finite dimensional as a vector space.

## Theorem

*If  $X$  a finite nonempty set and  $R \subseteq X \times X$  is an equivalence relation, then  $C^*(R)$  is finite dimensional.*

## Theorem

*If  $A$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra that is finite dimensional, then there exists  $X$  finite and an equivalence relation  $R \subseteq X \times X$  such that  $A \cong C^*(R)$ .*

Exercise: (Still with  $X$  finite) compute the  $K$ -theory of  $C^*(R)$  in terms of the equivalence relation  $R$ .

## Generalizing to the case when $X$ is infinite

To generalize to the case when  $X$  is infinite, we need more structure on  $R$ .

One can work more generally but we will assume  $R$  is a locally compact, Hausdorff space.

Let  $r : R \rightarrow X$  be defined via  $(x, y) \mapsto x$  and  $s : R \rightarrow X$  be defined via  $(x, y) \mapsto y$ .

### Definition

A topological equivalence relation  $R$  is an equivalence relation over  $X$  with a locally compact Hausdorff topology such that

$$(x, y) \mapsto (y, x) \text{ and } ((x, y), (y, z)) \mapsto (x, z)$$

are continuous. This implies that  $r$  and  $s$  are both continuous (see the next slide).

## Important Remark

The topology on  $R$  determines the topology on  $X$  (rather than the opposite). How?

Using the identification of sets:  $X \cong \{(x, x) \mid x \in X\} \subseteq R$ .

Based on this,  $r$  is more correctly defined as  $r : R \rightarrow R$  via

$$(x, y) \mapsto (x, x)$$

Exercise: Based on the definition of  $r$ , define  $s$ .

Exercise: Prove that  $r$  and  $s$  are continuous.

## Definition

A topological equivalence relation  $R$  is étale if  $r$  and  $s$  are local homeomorphisms.

## Theorem

If  $R$  is étale, then for each  $x \in X$

$$\{(x, y) \mid y \sim x\} \text{ and } \{(y, x) \mid y \sim x\}$$

are discrete subsets of  $R$ .

# Examples

- 1 If  $X$  is nonempty and finite, then any equivalence relation  $R$  on  $X$  is étale.
- 2 Suppose  $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$  is a local homeomorphism and

$$R_\pi := \{(x_1, x_2) \in X \times X \mid \pi(x_1) = \pi(x_2)\}.$$

Then  $R_\pi \subseteq X \times X$  is étale.

- 3 As specific case of the previous example, take  $\pi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow S^1$  the standard covering map.

Exercise: What is missing from the above examples to make the statements “is étale” precise?



# An example from dynamical systems

## Definition

A dynamical system is a pair  $(X, \varphi)$  where  $X$  is a compact Hausdorff space and  $\varphi : X \rightarrow X$  is a homeomorphism.

We say that  $(X, \varphi)$  is free if the following property holds:  $\varphi^n(x) = x$  for some  $x \in X$  if and only if  $n = 0$ .

## Definition

Suppose  $(X, \varphi)$  is free. Define

$$R_{orbit} = \{(x_1, x_2) \in X \times X \mid \varphi^n(x_1) = x_2 \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

Exercise: Prove  $R_{orbit}$  is an equivalence relation.

# Étale topology on $R_{orbit}$

Using the assumption that  $(X, \varphi)$  is free, we can (as sets) identify  $R_{orbit}$  with  $X \times \mathbb{Z}$  via

$$(x, n) \in X \times \mathbb{Z} \mapsto (\varphi^n(x), x) \in R_{orbit}.$$

Since  $X \times \mathbb{Z}$  has a natural topology this gives  $R_{orbit}$  a topology.

Facts:

- 1 The original topology on  $X$  agrees with the topology on  $X \times \{0\} \subseteq X \times \mathbb{Z}$ .
- 2  $X$  is compact but  $R_{orbit}$  is not compact.
- 3 The topology on  $R_{orbit}$  is not the subspace topology from  $R_{orbit} \subseteq X \times X$ .
- 4 Using the topology above,  $R_{orbit}$  is étale (but with the subspace topology is not).

# Example of an equivalence relation that is not étale

## Example

Let  $X = [0, 1]$  and define an equivalence relation

$$R = \{(x, x) \mid x \in X\} \cup \{(0, 1), (1, 0)\}.$$

where we give  $R \subseteq X \times X$  the subspace topology.

Exercise: Prove that for each  $x \in X$

$$\{(x, y) \mid (x, y) \in R\} \text{ and } \{(y, x) \mid (y, x) \in R\}$$

are finite (and hence discrete) subsets of  $R$ .

Exercise: Prove that  $R$  is not étale.

# Functions of compact support

Suppose  $R$  is a locally compact Hausdorff étale equivalence relation. Let

$$C_c(R) = \{f : R \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ is continuous and has compact support}\}$$

We have the following algebraic operations:

$$(\lambda \cdot f)(x, y) = \lambda f(x, y)$$

$$(f + g)(x, y) = f(x, y) + g(x, y)$$

$$(f^*)(x, y) = \overline{f(y, x)}$$

$$(f * g)(x, y) = \sum_{z \sim x} f(x, z)g(z, y)$$

Very involved exercise: Prove that the convolution product is well-defined.

Exercise: Prove that the convolution product is **not** well-defined for the non-étale equivalence relation from the previous slide.

# $C^*$ -algebras associated to an étale equivalence relation

Plan: Complete  $C_c(R)$  to get a  $C^*$ -algebra.

The issue is what norm should we complete with respect to?

There is no canonical choice.

In general, given a faithful representation  $\phi : C_c(R) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ , we can form

$$C_\phi^*(R) := \overline{C_c(R)}^{\|\cdot\|}$$

where  $\|\cdot\|$  is the operator norm in  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ .

We will discuss representations in more detail later in the talk.

If  $(X, \varphi)$  is free, then  $C^*(R_{orbit}) \cong C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$ .

## An explicit example

Take  $X = \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$  with the product topology ( $X$  is the Cantor set) and  $\varphi$  the odometer homeomorphism (i.e.,  $\varphi$  acts via add one to the first coordinate and then carry over). That is,

$$\varphi(0, x_1, x_2, \dots) = (1, x_1, x_2, \dots)$$

$$\varphi(1, 0, x_2, \dots) = (0, 1, x_2, \dots)$$

$$\varphi(1, 1, 0, x_3, \dots) = (0, 0, 1, x_3, \dots)$$

and

$$\varphi(1, 1, 1, \dots) = (0, 0, 0, \dots)$$

**Goal: Understand the orbit relation and the  $C^*$ -algebra associated to the orbit relation for this dynamical system.**

## Example of an orbit

The orbit of  $x \in X$  is the set

$$\{y \in X \mid y = \varphi^n(x) \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

By the definition of the orbit relation,  $[x]_{orbit}$  is exactly the orbit of  $x$ .

For example, when  $x = (0, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots)$ , we have

$$\varphi(x) = (1, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots)$$

$$\varphi^2(x) = (0, 0, 1, 1, 0, \dots)$$

$$\varphi^{-1}(x) = (1, 0, 0, 1, 0, \dots)$$

## Another relation on $X$

Recall that  $X = \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$  with the product topology.

### Definition

We say that  $x = (x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots)$  and  $y = (y_0, y_1, y_2, \dots)$  are tail equivalent and write

$$x \sim_{tail} y$$

if there exists  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $x_i = y_i$  for all  $i \geq N$ .

Q: Is orbit equivalence relation from the odometer action the same as the tail equivalence relation?

A: Not quite

$(1, 1, 1, \dots) \sim_{orbit} (0, 0, 0, \dots)$  (since  $\varphi(1, 1, 1, \dots) = (0, 0, 0, \dots)$ ) but  
 $(1, 1, 1, \dots) \not\sim_{tail} (0, 0, 0, \dots)$



The relationship between these two equivalence relations is the following:

- ① If  $x \in X$  and  $x \not\sim_{orbit} (0, 0, 0, \dots)$ , then

$$[x]_{tail} = [x]_{orbit}$$

- ② The orbit of  $(0, 0, 0, \dots)$  has been broken into its forward and backward parts:

$$[(1, 1, 1, \dots)]_{tail} \cup [(0, 0, 0, \dots)]_{tail} = [(0, 0, 0, \dots)]_{orbit}$$

- ③  $R_{tail} \subseteq R_{orbit}$  as an open subrelation.

Exercise: Prove that if  $\hat{R}$  is an open subrelation of  $R$  and  $R$  is étale, then  $\hat{R}$  (with the subspace topology) is also étale.

# $C^*(R_{tail})$ vs $C^*(R_{orbit})$

Define  $\iota : C_c(R_{tail}) \rightarrow C_c(R_{orbit})$  by

$$\iota(f)(x_1, x_2) = \begin{cases} f(x_1, x_2) & (x_1, x_2) \in R_{tail} \\ 0 & (x_1, x_2) \notin R_{tail} \end{cases}$$

Fact:  $\iota$  can be extended to a  $*$ -homomorphism  $C^*(R_{tail}) \rightarrow C^*(R_{orbit})$ .

Exercise: Prove that  $C^*(R_{tail}) \rightarrow C^*(R_{orbit})$  is injective (so that we can view  $C^*(R_{tail})$  as a subalgebra of  $C^*(R_{orbit})$ ).

Fact:  $C^*(R_{tail})$  is a large subalgebra of  $C^*(R_{orbit}) \cong C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$ . (see Dawn Archey's talk)

# The structure of $C^*(R_{tail})$

$C^*(R_{tail})$  is the CAR algebra!

Outline of the ideas of the proof:

Define  $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow C^*(R_{tail})$  via  $\lambda \mapsto \lambda I$  where  $I \in C_c(R_{tail})$  is defined by

$$I(x, \hat{x}) = \begin{cases} 1 & x = \hat{x} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Exercise: Prove that  $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow C^*(R_{tail})$  is a well-defined injective  $*$ -homomorphism.

Next we want to define  $M_2(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow C^*(R_{tail})$ .

# The map: $M_2(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow C^*(R_{tail})$

For  $i, j \in \{0, 1\}$  define

$$E_{ij} = \{(x, \hat{x}) \mid \pi_0(x) = i, \pi_0(\hat{x}) = j \text{ and for } k > 0, \pi_k(x) = \pi_k(\hat{x})\}$$

where  $\pi_k : \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  is the projection onto the  $k$ -coordinate.

For example

$$((0, 1, 1, \dots), (1, 1, 1, \dots)) \in E_{01}$$

$$((0, 1, 1, \dots), (0, 1, 1, \dots)) \notin E_{01}$$

$$((0, 1, 1, \dots), (1, 0, 0, \dots)) \notin E_{01}$$

$$((0, 1, 0, \dots), (1, 0, 0, \dots)) \in E_{01}$$

$$((0, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots), (1, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots)) \in E_{01}$$

Note: One of these ordered pairs is not even in  $R_{tail}$ .

# The map: $M_2(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow C^*(R_{tail})$

$E_{ij} = \{(x, \hat{x}) \mid \pi_0(x) = i, \pi_0(\hat{x}) = j \text{ and for } k > 0, \pi_k(x) = \pi_k(\hat{x})\}$  where  $\pi_k : \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  is the projection onto the  $k$ -coordinate.

Define  $M_2(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow C^*(R_{tail})$  via

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \mapsto a\chi_{00} + b\chi_{01} + c\chi_{10} + d\chi_{11}$$

where  $\chi_{ij} : R_{tail} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is defined via

$$\chi_{ij}(x, \hat{x}) = \begin{cases} 1 & (x, \hat{x}) \in E_{ij} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Exercise: Prove that  $M_2(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow C^*(R_{tail})$  is a well-defined injective  $*$ -homomorphism.

# The structure of $C^*(R_{tail})$

Exercise: How are the maps  $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow C^*(R_{tail})$  and  $M_2(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow C^*(R_{tail})$  related? (Hint: What is  $\chi_{00} + \chi_{11}$ ?)

Involved exercise: For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , define the relevant injective  $*$ -homomorphism  $M_{2^n}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow C^*(R_{tail})$ .

Very involved exercise: Prove that  $\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} M_{2^n}(\mathbb{C})$  is dense in  $C^*(R_{tail})$ .

Exercise: Is  $\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} M_{2^n}(\mathbb{C}) = C_c(R_{tail})$ ?

**Summary:** Using the fact that  $C^*(R_{tail})$  is large inside  $C^*(R_{orbit})$  reduces many questions about  $C^*(R_{orbit})$  to  $C^*(R_{tail})$  and we know “everything” about  $C^*(R_{tail})$  because it is the CAR algebra.

# What is a groupoid?

## Definition

A groupoid is a nonempty set  $\mathcal{G}$  with the following additional structure:

- 1 a fixed subset of  $\mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G}$  denoted by  $\mathcal{G}^2$ ;
- 2 a map  $\mathcal{G}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$  denoted by  $(g, h) \mapsto gh$ ;
- 3 an involution  $\mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$  denoted by  $g \mapsto g^{-1}$ .

such that

- 1 if  $g, h$  and  $k$  are in  $\mathcal{G}$  with  $(g, h), (h, k)$  both in  $\mathcal{G}^2$ , then  $(gh, k), (g, hk)$  are both in  $\mathcal{G}^2$  and  $(gh)k = g(hk)$  (so that we can simply write  $ghk$ );
- 2 for each  $g \in \mathcal{G}$ , both  $(g, g^{-1})$  and  $(g^{-1}, g)$  are in  $\mathcal{G}^2$  and moreover if  $(g, h) \in \mathcal{G}^2$ , then  $g^{-1}gh = h$  and if  $(h, g) \in \mathcal{G}^2$ , then  $hgg^{-1} = h$ .

# An equivalence relation is a groupoid

Let  $X$  be a nonempty set and  $R \subseteq X \times X$  be an equivalence relation. We take

- 1  $\mathcal{G} = R$ ;
- 2  $\mathcal{G}^2 = \{((x, y), (a, z)) \in R \times R \mid y = a\}$ ;
- 3  $\mathcal{G}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$  defined via  $((x, y), (y, z)) \mapsto (x, z)$ ;
- 4  $\mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$  defined via  $(x, y) \mapsto (y, x)$ .

Exercise: Prove that the above defines a groupoid.



## Definition

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a groupoid. The set of units of  $\mathcal{G}$  is

$$\mathcal{G}^0 = \{g^{-1}g \mid g \in \mathcal{G}\}$$

Define the range map,  $r : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}^0$  via  $g \mapsto gg^{-1}$  and the source map,  $s : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}^0$  via  $g \mapsto g^{-1}g$ .

For the groupoid associated to an equivalence relation, we have

$$\mathcal{G}^0 = \{(y, x)(x, y) \mid (x, y) \in \mathcal{G}\} = \{(y, y) \mid y \in X\} \cong X$$

Moreover,

$$r(x, y) = (x, y)(y, x) = (x, x)$$

and

$$s(x, y) = (y, x)(x, y) = (y, y)$$

## Example

Given a nonempty set  $X$ , we can define a groupoid by taking

- 1  $\mathcal{G} = X$ ,
- 2  $\mathcal{G}^2 = \{((x_1, x_2) \in X \times X \mid x_1 = x_2)\}$ ,
- 3  $\mathcal{G}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$  defined via  $(x, x) \mapsto x$  and
- 4  $\mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$  defined via  $x \mapsto x$ .

Exercise: How are the constructions of a groupoid from a set and an equivalence relation related? (Hint: One is a special case of the other).

Exercise: What is  $\mathcal{G}^0$  in this case?

## Example

Given a group  $G$ , we can define a groupoid by taking

- 1  $\mathcal{G} = G$ ,
- 2  $\mathcal{G}^2 = G \times G$ ,
- 3  $\mathcal{G}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$  defined by group multiplication and
- 4  $\mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$  defined by taking the inverse.

Exercise: What is  $\mathcal{G}^0$  in this case?

## Definition

A topological groupoid is a groupoid with a (locally compact, Hausdorff) topology on  $\mathcal{G}$  such that

- 1  $\mathcal{G}^2$  is given the subspace topology from  $\mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G}$ ;
- 2  $\mathcal{G}^2$  is closed;
- 3  $\mathcal{G}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$  is continuous;
- 4  $\mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$  is continuous.

Examples? Same as above but with topologies, so topological spaces (rather than sets), topological groups (note: discrete groups are topological groups), and topological equivalence relations.

Exercise: Prove that given a topological groupoid the range and source maps are continuous.

## Definition

A topological groupoid is étale if  $r$  and  $s$  are local homeomorphisms.

## Example

The groupoid associated to a topological group,  $G$ , is étale if and only if  $G$  is discrete.

## Example

If  $X$  is a locally compact and Hausdorff space, then the associated groupoid is étale.

# Functions of compact support

Suppose that  $\mathcal{G}$  is a locally compact, Hausdorff, étale groupoid. Let

$$C_c(\mathcal{G}) = \{a : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid a \text{ is continuous and has compact support}\}.$$

Algebraic operations:

$$(\lambda \cdot a)(g) = \lambda a(g)$$

$$(a + b)(g) = a(g) + b(g)$$

$$(a^*)(g) = \overline{a(g^{-1})}$$

$$(a * b)(g) = \sum_{r(h)=r(g)} a(h)b(h^{-1}g)$$

## Theorem

Let  $u$  be a unit in a locally compact, Hausdorff étale groupoid  $\mathcal{G}$  (i.e.,  $u \in \mathcal{G}^0$ ). For each  $a \in C_c(\mathcal{G})$  and  $\xi \in \ell^2(s^{-1}(u))$  the expression

$$(\pi_\lambda^u(a)\xi)(g) = \sum_{r(h)=r(g)} a(h)\xi(h^{-1}g)$$

defines an element in  $\ell^2(s^{-1}(u))$ . Moreover,  $\pi_\lambda^u(a)$  is in  $\mathcal{B}(\ell^2(s^{-1}(u)))$  with  $\|\pi_\lambda^u(a)\|$  bounded by a constant that is independent of  $u$  (it does depend on  $a$ ), and  $\pi_\lambda^u : C_c(\mathcal{G}) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\ell^2(s^{-1}(u)))$  is a  $*$ -representation.

# The $C^*$ -algebra associated to a groupoid

## Theorem

Suppose that  $\mathcal{G}$  is a locally compact, Hausdorff, étale groupoid. Then

$$\|a\| := \sup\{\|\pi(a)\| \mid \pi \text{ a representation of } C_c(\mathcal{G})\}$$

and

$$\|a\|_\lambda := \sup\{\|\pi_\lambda^u(a)\| \mid u \in \mathcal{G}^0\}$$

define (non-complete)  $C^*$ -norms on  $C_c(\mathcal{G})$ .

## Definition

The full groupoid  $C^*$ -algebra of  $\mathcal{G}$  is  $C^*(\mathcal{G}) = \overline{C_c(\mathcal{G})}^{\|\cdot\|}$ .

## Definition

The reduced  $C^*$ -algebra of  $\mathcal{G}$  is  $C_\lambda^*(\mathcal{G}) = \overline{C_c(\mathcal{G})}^{\|\cdot\|_\lambda}$ .



# What's next?

For more, see

- 1 Ian Putnam's lecture notes on  $C^*$ -algebra (available on his website, see Chapter 3);
- 2 Aidan Sims "Étale groupoids and their  $C^*$ -algebras" [arXiv:1710.10897](https://arxiv.org/abs/1710.10897);
- 3 Karen Strung "An introduction to  $C^*$ -algebras and the Classification Programme" (available on her website, see Exercises 9.6.12 and 9.6.13 for more on the odometer action and its  $C^*$ -algebra);
- 4 J.N. Renault "A groupoid approach to  $C^*$ -algebras".

Thank you!