

# Leavitt path algebras of Cayley graphs arising from cyclic groups

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# The monoid $\mathcal{V}(R)$

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Using operation  $\oplus$ ,  $\mathcal{V}(R)$  is a conical monoid, with 'distinguished' element  $[R]$ .

Examples:

- 1)  $R = K$ , a field. Then  $\mathcal{V}(R) = \mathbb{Z}^+$ . Note  $[R] \mapsto 1$ .
- 2)  $R = M_2(K)$ . Then  $\mathcal{V}(R) = \mathbb{Z}^+$ . Note  $[R] \mapsto 2$ .

## The monoid $\mathcal{V}(R)$

3)  $R = L_K(1, n)$ , the Leavitt algebra of order  $n$ .

$R$  is generated by  $x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n$ , with relations

$$y_i x_j = \delta_{i,j} 1_R \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i = 1_R.$$

$R$  has  $R \cong R^n$  as left  $R$ -modules. In this case

$$\mathcal{V}(R) = \{0, x, 2x, \dots, (n-1)x\},$$

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Notes:

(1) For any  $R$ ,  $K_0(R)$  is the universal group of  $\mathcal{V}(R)$ .

(2) If  $R \cong R'$  then there is an isomorphism of monoids  $\varphi : \mathcal{V}(R) \rightarrow \mathcal{V}(R')$  for which  $\varphi([R]) = [R']$ .

# Bergman's Theorem

## Theorem

*(George Bergman, Trans. A.M.S. 1975) Let  $K$  be a field. Let  $S$  be a finitely generated conical monoid  $S$  with a distinguished element  $I$ , and choose a set of relations  $\mathcal{R}$  for  $S$ . Then there exists a  $K$ -algebra  $B = B(\mathcal{R})$  for which  $\mathcal{V}(B) \cong S$ , and for which, under this isomorphism,  $[B] \mapsto I$ .*

The construction is explicit, uses amalgamated products.

Bergman included the algebras  $L_K(1, n)$  as examples of these universal algebras.  $L_K(1, n)$  is the algebra  $B$  corresponding to the monoid with generator  $x$  and relation  $x = nx$

## The monoid $M_E$

Let  $E$  be a directed graph.  $E = (E^0, E^1, r, s)$  (Today:  $E$  finite)

$$\bullet s(e) \xrightarrow{e} \bullet r(e)$$

Construct the abelian monoid  $M_E$ :

$$\text{generators } \{a_v \mid v \in E^0\}$$

$$\text{relations } a_v = \sum_{r(e)=v} a_w \quad (\text{for } v \text{ not a sink})$$

In  $M_E$ , define  $x = \sum_{v \in E^0} a_v$ . Easily,  $x$  is distinguished.

In  $M_E$ , denote the zero element by  $z$ .

# The monoid $M_E$

$$M_E: \quad \{a_v \mid v \in E^0\}; \quad a_v = \sum_{r(e)=v} a_w; \quad x = \sum_{v \in E^0} a_v.$$

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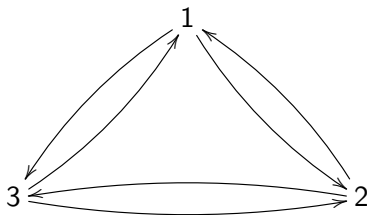
3) Example:  $E = R_n =$    $(n \geq 2)$

Then  $M_E = \{z, a, 2a, \dots, (n-1)a\}$ , with  $na = a$ .

Note:  $M_E \setminus \{z\} = \mathbb{Z}_{n-1}$ .

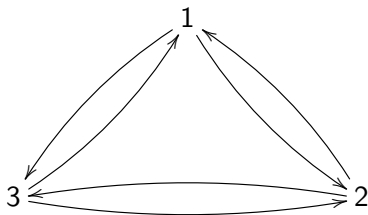
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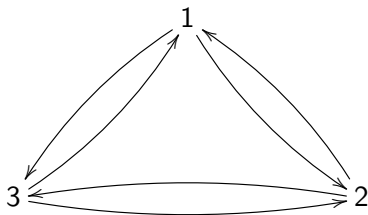
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Note:  $M_E \setminus \{z\} \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .

Here  $x = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 \mapsto (0, 0) \in \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .

# The Leavitt path algebra of a graph

Let  $E$  be a finite graph, and  $K$  any field.

We define  $L_K(E)$ , the *Leavitt path algebra of  $E$  with coefficients in  $K$* , as the universal  $K$ -algebra arising from Bergman's theorem, corresponding to the monoid  $M_E$  (using the above generators and relations). In particular,

$$\mathcal{V}(L_K(E)) \cong M_E.$$

Under this isomorphism,  $[L_K(E)] \mapsto \sum_{v \in E^0} a_v$ .

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(Note: This is historically not how things began ...)

# The Leavitt path algebra of a graph

Example:  $L_K(\bullet) = K$ .

Example:  $L_K(\bullet \rightarrow \bullet) = M_2(K)$ .

Example:  $L_K(R_n) = L_K(1, n)$  for  $n \geq 2$ .



# The Leavitt path algebra of a graph

Example: For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $C_n$  denote the “directed cycle” graph with  $n$  vertices.

Then it's easy to show that  $M_{C_n} = \mathbb{Z}^+$ , and  $x = n$ .

The corresponding Leavitt path algebra is  $M_n(K[x, x^{-1}])$ .

## purely infinite simple rings

Definition: An idempotent  $e \in R$  is *infinite* in case  $Re \cong Rf \oplus Rg$  where  $f, g$  are idempotents for which  $Re \cong Rf$ , and  $Rg \neq \{0\}$ .

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Proposition: (Pardo, posted online 2011) If  $R = L_K(E)$ , then  $R$  is purely infinite simple if and only if  $\mathcal{V}(L_K(E)) \setminus \{[0]\}$  is a group.

## purely infinite simple Leavitt path algebras

Theorem: (A-, Aranda Pino, 2006):  $L_K(E)$  is purely infinite simple if and only if  $E$  has:

- 1 every vertex in  $E$  connects to every cycle in  $E$ ,
- 2 every cycle in  $E$  has an *exit*, and
- 3  $E$  contains at least one cycle.

So  $L_K(E)$  is purely infinite simple for  $E = R_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ).

Also  $L_K(E)$  is purely infinite simple for  $E = C_3^{-1}$ .

Note  $L_K(E)$  is not purely infinite simple for  $E = \bullet$ , or for  $E = \bullet \rightarrow \bullet$ , or for any of the  $C_n$  graphs.

## purely infinite simple Leavitt path algebras

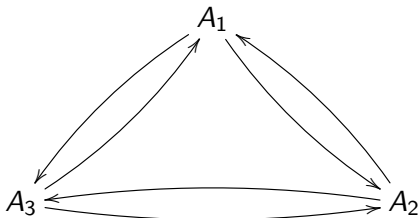
When  $L_K(E)$  is purely infinite simple, the  $K_0$  groups are easily described in terms of the adjacency matrix  $A_E$  of  $E$ . Let  $n = |E^0|$ . View  $I_n - A_E^t$  as a linear transformation  $\mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^n$ . Then

$$K_0(L_K(E)) \cong \text{Coker}(I_n - A_E^t).$$

Moreover,  $\text{Coker}(I_n - A_E^t)$  can be computed by finding the Smith normal form of  $I_n - A_E^t$ .

## purely infinite simple Leavitt path algebras

$$E = C_3^{-1}$$



$$I_3 - A_E^t = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ whose Smith normal form is: } \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Conclude that  $K_0(L_K(E)) \cong \text{Coker}(I_3 - A_E^t) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ .

And under this isomorphism,  $[L_K(E)] \mapsto (0, 0)$ .



# The Restricted Algebraic KP Theorem

Using some very powerful and deep results from symbolic dynamics, we can show

**Theorem:** (A- / Louly / Pardo / Smith 2011): Suppose  $L_K(E)$  and  $L_K(F)$  are purely infinite simple. If

$$K_0(L_K(E)) \cong K_0(L_K(F))$$

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via an isomorphism  $\varphi$  for which  $\varphi([L_K(E)]) = [L_K(F)]$ ,

$$\text{and } \text{sign}(\det(I - A_E^t)) = \text{sign}(\det(I - A_F^t)),$$

then  $L_K(E) \cong L_K(F)$ .

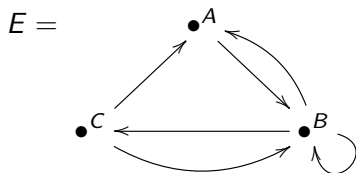
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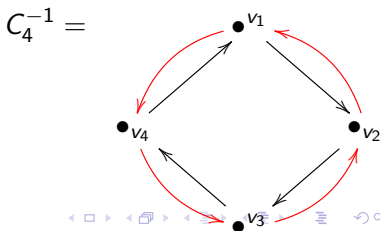
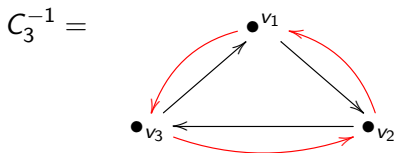
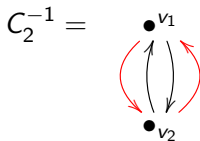
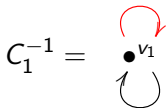
- 1  $K_0(L_K(E)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_3$
- 2 under this isomorphism,  $[L_K(E)] \mapsto 1$
- 3  $\det(I - A_E^t) = -3 < 0$ .

But  $L_K(R_4)$  has this same data. So  $L_K(E) \cong L_K(R_4) = L_K(1, 4)$ .

# Using the Restricted Algebraic KP Theorem

Now apply the Goal to an infinite class of graphs.

The graphs  $C_n^{-1}$ :



## Using The Restricted Algebraic KP Theorem

Let  $E_n$  denote  $C_n^{-1}$ , with vertices labeled  $1, 2, \dots, n$ .

Note that  $E_n$  satisfies the conditions of the Purely Infinite Simple Theorem, so that  $M_{E_n} \setminus \{z\}$  is a group (necessarily  $K_0(L_K(E_n))$ ).

In  $M_{E_n} \setminus \{z\}$  we have, for each  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,

$$a_{i+1} = a_i + a_{i+2}$$

(interpret subscripts mod  $n$ ). So in particular

$$a_{i+1} = a_i + (a_{i+1} + a_{i+3}).$$

So (using that  $M_{E_n} \setminus \{z\}$  is a group) we get  $0 = a_i + a_{i+3}$ , i.e., that

$$a_i = -a_{i+3}$$

in  $M_{E_n} \setminus \{z\}$ . This gives

$$a_i = a_{i+6}$$

# Using The Restricted Algebraic KP Theorem

Using this idea, one can show

**Proposition:** If  $m \equiv n \pmod{6}$ , then  $M_{E_n} \setminus \{z\} \cong M_{E_m} \setminus \{z\}$ .

Rephrased: If  $m \equiv n \pmod{6}$ , then  $K_0(L_K(E_n)) \cong K_0(L_K(E_m))$ .

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Here are those  $K_0$  groups:

$n \pmod{6}$	1	2	3	4	5	6
$K_0(L_K(E_n)) \cong$	$\{0\}$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\{0\}$	$\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$



## Using The Restricted Algebraic KP Theorem

Since  $a_i = a_{i-1} + a_{i+1}$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$  in  $M_{E_n} \setminus \{z\}$ , we get that

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i = \sum_{i=1}^n (a_{i-1} + a_{i+1}) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{i-1} + \sum_{i=1}^n a_{i+1} = x + x,$$

so that  $x = 0$  in the group  $M_{E_n} \setminus \{z\}$ .

# Using The Restricted Algebraic KP Theorem

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Using a formula for the determinant of a circulant matrix (involving roots of unity in  $\mathbb{C}$ ), one can show that

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Elementary computations then give:  $\det(I_n - A_{E_n}^t) \leq 0$  for all  $n$ .

# Using The Restricted Algebraic KP Theorem

We now have all the ingredients in place to achieve our main result.

**Theorem:** (A-, Schoonmaker; to appear) Up to isomorphism the collection of Leavitt path algebras  $\{L_K(C_n^{-1}) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is completely described by the following four pairwise non-isomorphic classes of  $K$ -algebras.

- 1  $L_K(C_n^{-1}) \cong L_K(C_m)$  in case  $m \equiv 1$  or  $5 \pmod{6}$  and  $n \equiv 1$  or  $5 \pmod{6}$ .

In this case, these algebras are isomorphic to  $L_K(1, 2)$ .

- 2  $L_K(C_n^{-1}) \cong L_K(C_m)$  in case  $m \equiv 2$  or  $4 \pmod{6}$  and  $n \equiv 2$  or  $4 \pmod{6}$ .

In this case, these algebras are isomorphic to  $M_3(L_K(1, 4))$ .

- 3  $L_K(C_n^{-1}) \cong L_K(C_m)$  in case  $m, n \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ .

- 4  $L_K(C_n^{-1}) \cong L_K(C_m)$  in case  $m, n \equiv 6 \pmod{6}$ .



## What's next?

For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $C_n$  be the “basic cycle graph” with  $n$  vertices.

For  $0 \leq i \leq n-1$ , let  $C_n^j$  be the graph gotten by taking  $C_n$  and adding, at each vertex  $v_i$ , an edge from  $v_i$  to  $v_{i+j}$ .

So  $C_n^{n-1} = C_n^{-1}$ .

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Interestingly, we have not seen any sort of cyclic pattern in the  $K_0$  groups of  $L_K(C_n^{n-2})$ .

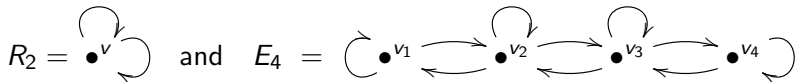
# Can we drop the determinant hypothesis?

## **Algebraic KP Question:**

Can we drop the hypothesis  
on the sign of the determinants  
in the Restricted Algebraic KP Theorem?

## Can we drop the determinant hypothesis?

Here's the "smallest" example of a situation of interest. Consider the Leavitt path algebras  $L(R_2)$  and  $L(E_4)$ , where



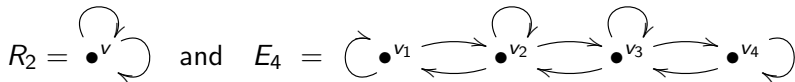
It is not hard to establish that

$$(K_0(L(R_2)), [1_{L(R_2)}]) = (\{0\}, 0) = (K_0(L(E_4)), [1_{L(E_4)}]);$$

$$\det(I - A_{R_2}^t) = -1; \text{ and } \det(I - A_{E_4}^t) = 1.$$

## Can we drop the determinant hypothesis?

Here's the "smallest" example of a situation of interest. Consider the Leavitt path algebras  $L(R_2)$  and  $L(E_4)$ , where



It is not hard to establish that

$$(K_0(L(R_2)), [1_{L(R_2)}]) = (\{0\}, 0) = (K_0(L(E_4)), [1_{L(E_4)}]);$$

$$\det(I - A_{R_2}^t) = -1; \text{ and } \det(I - A_{E_4}^t) = 1.$$

Question: Is  $L_K(R_2) \cong L_K(E_4)$ ?

# Questions?

Thanks to the Simons Foundation