

# An introduction to the Universal Coefficient Theorem

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# Content

- 1 Classical
- 2 Modern
- 3 Contemporary

# Outline

- 1 Classical
- 2 Modern
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[RS] p. 431

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THE KÜNNETH THEOREM AND THE UNIVERSAL  
COEFFICIENT THEOREM FOR KASPAROV'S  
GENERALIZED  $K$ -FUNCTOR

JONATHAN ROSENBERG AND CLAUDE SCHOCHET



[RS] p. 434

difficulties, WE HENCEFORTH ASSUME THAT  $A$  IS SEPARABLE NUCLEAR AND THAT  $B$  HAS A COUNTABLE APPROXIMATE UNIT THROUGHOUT THE PAPER unless stated otherwise.

[RS] p. 439

UNIVERSAL COEFFICIENT THEOREM (UCT) 1.17. *Let  $A \in \mathcal{N}$ . Then there is a short exact sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Ext}_{\mathbb{Z}}^1(K_*(A), K_*(B)) \xrightarrow{\delta} KK_*(A, B) \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Hom}(K_*(A), K_*(B)) \rightarrow 0$$

*which is natural in each variable. The map  $\gamma$  has degree 0 and the map  $\delta$  has degree 1.*

## Brown's UCT

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Ext}_{\mathbb{Z}}^1(K^0(X), \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \text{Ext}(C(X)) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(K^1(X), \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow 0$$

[RS] p. 439

Here are our principal theorems. Let  $\mathcal{N}$  be the smallest full subcategory of the separable nuclear  $C^*$ -algebras which contains the separable Type I  $C^*$ -algebras and is closed under strong Morita equivalence (by [7], this is the same as stable isomorphism), inductive limits, extensions, and crossed products by  $\mathbf{R}$  and by  $\mathbf{Z}$ . We may also require that if  $J$  is an ideal in  $A$  and  $J$  and  $A$  are in  $\mathcal{N}$  then so is  $A/J$ , and if  $A$  and  $A/J$  are in  $\mathcal{N}$  then so is  $J$ . As pointed out by Skandalis [39],

[RS] p. 439

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*which is natural in each variable. The map  $\gamma$  has degree 0 and the map  $\delta$  has degree 1.*

## [RS] proof, first steps

We consider

$$\gamma(A, B) : KK_*(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(K_*(A), K_*(B))$$

- If  $K_*(B)$  is injective,  $I \triangleleft A$ , and two out of  $\gamma(I, B)$ ,  $\gamma(A, B)$ ,  $\gamma(A/I, B)$  are isomorphisms, so is the last.
- If  $K_*(B)$  is injective,  $A = \varinjlim A_i$ , and all  $\gamma(A_i, B)$  are isomorphisms, so is  $\gamma(A, B)$ .
- If  $K_*(B)$  is injective then  $\gamma(C_0(X), B)$  is an isomorphism.
- If  $K_*(B)$  is injective and  $A$  is type I then  $\gamma(A, B)$  is an isomorphism.



### [RS] proof, last steps

- If  $K_*(B)$  is injective, and  $A \in \mathcal{N}$ , then  $\gamma(A, B)$  is an isomorphism.
- For any  $\sigma$ -unital  $B$  there is  $\varphi : B \rightarrow D$  with  $K_*(D)$  injective and  $\varphi_* : K_*(B) \rightarrow K_*(D)$  injective.

[RS] p. 454

It is quite possible that the UCT (1.17) holds for completely arbitrary separable  $C^*$ -algebras  $A$ . (This is assuming  $B$  has a countable approximate unit.)

[RS] p. 456

An interesting open problem is to determine whether the UCT might in fact hold for *all* separable  $C^*$ -algebras. The argument of Corollary 7.5 shows that this is equivalent to the question: is every separable  $C^*$ -algebra  $KK$ -equivalent to a commutative  $C^*$ -algebra?\* To obtain still another formulation, let  $A$  be any

\*(Added May, 1986) Recent work of G. Skandalis now shows this is not the case, though this may be true for nuclear separable  $C^*$ -algebras.

### Proposition [RS]

If  $A \in \mathcal{N}$ , then  $A$  is  $KK$ -equivalent to some  $C_0(X)$ .

### Theorem [Skandalis]

The following are equivalent for a separable  $A$  (non necessarily nuclear!)

- 1 The UCT holds for  $A$  and any  $B$
- 2  $A$  is  $KK$ -equivalent to some  $C_0(X)$
- 3 If  $K_*(B) = 0$ , then  $KK(A, B) = 0$

and there is a non-nuclear  $A$  for which they are false.

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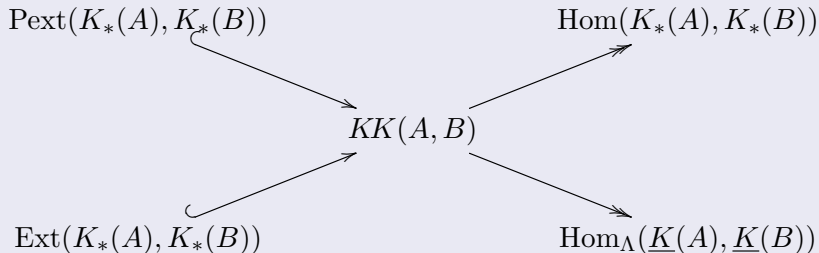
### Theorem [Elliott]

For  $A$  and  $B$  AT-algebras of real rank zero, we have

$$A \otimes \mathbb{K} \cong B \otimes \mathbb{K} \iff (K_*(A), K_*(A)_+) \cong (K_*(B), K_*(B)_+)$$

## The UMCT [Dadarlat-Loring]

For  $A \in \mathcal{N}$  we have



### Theorem [Dadarlat-Loring]

For  $A$  and  $B$  AD-algebras of real rank zero, we have

$$A \otimes \mathbb{K} \cong B \otimes \mathbb{K} \iff (\underline{K}(A), \underline{K}(A)_+) \cong (\underline{K}(B), \underline{K}(B)_+)$$

### Theorem [Kirchberg-Phillips]

Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are simple, separable, nuclear, purely infinite  $C^*$ -algebras. If  $A$  and  $B$  are  $KK$ -equivalent, then  $A \otimes \mathbb{K} \cong B \otimes \mathbb{K}$ .

### Theorem [Kirchberg-Phillips]

Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are simple, separable, nuclear, purely infinite  $C^*$ -algebras with  $A, B \in \mathcal{N}$ . Then

$$A \otimes \mathbb{K} \cong B \otimes \mathbb{K} \iff K_*(A) \cong K_*(B)$$



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### Theorem [Tikuisis-White-Winter]

If  $A$  is separable, nuclear and satisfies the UCT, then any amenable trace on  $A$  is quasidiagonal.

### Theorem [Dadarlat]

If  $A$  is separable, exact, residually finite-dimensional and satisfies the UCT, then  $A$  is AF-embeddable

## New classes

$A$  satisfies the UCT when

- $A = C^*(G)$  for certain amenable groupoids  $G$  (Tu)
- $A$  may be locally approximated with UCT subalgebras (Dadarlat)
- $A = C_\pi^*(G)$  for a nilpotent group (Eckhart-Gillaspy)
- $A$  has a Cartan subalgebra (Barlak-Li)

## Localizations

The UCT holds for all nuclear  $C^*$ -algebras if  $\mathcal{O}_2$  is unique with  $K_*(\mathcal{O}_2) = 0$  among the purely infinite, nuclear  $C^*$ -algebras [Kirchberg].

### Theorem [Kirchberg]

Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are separable, nuclear, purely infinite  $C^*$ -algebras with

$$\text{Prim}(A) \cong X \cong \text{Prim}(B)$$

If  $A$  and  $B$  are  $KK(X)$ -equivalent, then  $A \otimes \mathbb{K} \cong B \otimes \mathbb{K}$ .

### Theorem [Meyer-Nest, Bentmann-Köhler]

Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are separable, nuclear, purely infinite  $C^*$ -algebras with  $A, B \in \mathcal{N}$  and

$$\text{Prim}(A) \cong X \cong \text{Prim}(B)$$

with  $X$  a finite accordion space. Then

$$A \otimes \mathbb{K} \cong B \otimes \mathbb{K} \iff K_*(X, A) \cong K_*(X, B)$$