

## COUNTABLE SATURATION OF CORONA ALGEBRAS

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Presented by Alistair Lachlan, FRSC

**ABSTRACT.** We present unified proofs of several properties of the corona of  $\sigma$ -unital  $C^*$ -algebras such as AA-CRISP, SAW\*, being sub- $\sigma$ -Stonean in the sense of Kirchberg, and the conclusion of Kasparov’s Technical Theorem. Although our results were obtained by considering  $C^*$ -algebras as models of the logic for metric structures, the reader is not required to have any knowledge of model theory of metric structures (or model theory, or logic in general). The proofs involve analysis of the extent of model-theoretic saturation of corona algebras.

**RÉSUMÉ.** Nous présentons des démonstrations unifiées de plusieurs propriétés de la corona des  $C^*$ -algèbres  $\sigma$ -unitales tel qu’AA-CRISP, SAW\*, étant sous- $\sigma$ -Stonean au sens de Kirchberg, et la conclusion du théorème technique de Kasparov. Bien que nos résultats aient été obtenus en considérant les  $C^*$ -algèbres comme modèles de la logique pour les structures métriques, le lecteur n’est pas requis d’avoir aucune connaissance de la théorie des modèles des structures métriques (ou la théorie des modèles, ou de la logique en général). Les démonstrations impliquent l’analyse de l’ampleur de la saturation modèle-théorique des algèbres de corona.

We shall investigate the degree of countable saturation of coronas (see Definition 1.1 and paragraph following it). This property is shared by ultraproducts associated with nonprincipal ultrafilters on  $\mathbb{N}$  in its full form. The following summarizes our main results. All ultrafilters are nonprincipal ultrafilters on  $\mathbb{N}$ .

**THEOREM 1.** *Assume a  $C^*$ -algebra  $M$  is in one of the following forms:*

- (1) *the corona of a  $\sigma$ -unital  $C^*$ -algebra,*
- (2) *an ultraproduct of a sequence of  $C^*$ -algebras,*
- (3) *an ultrapower of a  $C^*$ -algebra,*
- (4)  *$\prod_n A_n / \bigoplus_n A_n$ , for unital  $C^*$ -algebras  $A_n$ ,*
- (5) *the relative commutant of a separable subalgebra of an algebra that is in one of the forms (1)–(4).*

*Then  $M$  satisfies each of the following (see below for definitions):*

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Received by the editors on December 16, 2011; revised April 15, 2013.

Partially supported by NSERC. The authors would like to thank Saeed Ghasemi and Paul McKenney for pointing out to several typos in the earlier version and to Mikael Rørdam for a helpful remark.

AMS Subject Classification: Primary: 46L05; secondary: 03C65.

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- (6) *It is SAW\**
- (7) *It has AA-CRISP (asymptotically abelian, countable Riesz separation property),*
- (8) *The conclusion of Kasparov's technical theorem,*
- (9) *It is sub- $\sigma$ -Stonean in the sense of Kirchberg,*
- (10) *Every derivation of a separable subalgebra of  $M$  is of the form  $\delta_b$  for some  $b \in M$ .*

PROOF. Each of these classes of C\*-algebras is countably degree-1 saturated (Definition 1.1). For (1) this is Theorem 1.4, proved in §3. For (2) and (3) this is a consequence of Los's theorem (see e.g., [9, Proposition 4.11]). Every algebra as in (4) is the corona of  $\bigoplus_n A_n$  so this is a special case of (1). For (5) this is Lemma 2.4.

Property (6) now follows by Proposition 2.7, (7) follows by Proposition 2.6, (8) follows by Proposition 2.8, (9) follows by Proposition 2.11, and (10) follows by Proposition 2.12.  $\square$

The assertion 'every approximately inner automorphism of a separable subalgebra of  $M$  is implemented by a unitary in  $M$ ' is true for algebras as in (2), (3) or the corresponding instance of (4) (Lemma 2.15). However this is not true in the case when  $M$  is the Calkin algebra (see Proposition 4.2).

By [11] no SAW\*-algebra can be written as a tensor product of two infinite-dimensional C\*-algebras. By Theorem 1, this applies to every C\*-algebra  $M$  satisfying any of (1)–(5).

*Organization of the paper* In §1 we introduce terminology and state the main results. Applications are given in §2, and proofs of the main results are in §3. In §4 we demonstrate that the degree of saturation of the Calkin algebra is rather mild. In §5 we list several open problems.

**1. Introduction** For  $F \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  we write  $F_\varepsilon = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : \text{dist}(x, F) \leq \varepsilon\}$ . Given a C\*-algebra  $A$ , a *degree 1 \*-polynomial* in variables  $x_j$ , for  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ , with coefficients in  $A$  is a linear combination of terms of the form  $ax_jb$ ,  $ax_j^*b$  and  $a$  with  $a, b$  in  $A$ . We write  $M_{\leq 1}$  for the unit ball of a C\*-algebra  $M$ .

DEFINITION 1.1. A metric structure  $M$  is *countably degree-1 saturated* if for every countable family of degree-1 \*-polynomials  $P_n(\bar{x})$  with coefficients in  $M$  and variables  $x_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and every family of compact sets  $K_n \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the following are equivalent.

- (1) There are  $b_n \in M_{\leq 1}$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $P_n(\bar{b}) \in K_n$  for all  $n$ .
- (2) For every  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  there are  $b_n \in M_{\leq 1}$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $P_n(\bar{b}) \in (K_n)_{1/m}$  for all  $n \leq m$ .

More generally, if  $\Phi$  is a class of \*-polynomials, we say that  $M$  is *countably  $\Phi$ -saturated* if for every countable family of \*-polynomials  $P_n(\bar{x})$  in  $\Phi$  with co-

efficients in  $M$  and variables  $x_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and every family of compact sets  $K_n \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  the assertions (1) and (2) above are equivalent.

If  $\Phi$  is the class of all  $*$ -polynomials then instead of  $\Phi$ -saturated we say *countably quantifier-free saturated*.

Note that by compactness we obtain an equivalent definition if we require each  $K_n$  to be a singleton.

With the obvious definition of ‘degree- $n$  saturated’ one might expect to have a proper hierarchy of levels of saturation. However, this is not the case.

LEMMA 1.2. *An algebra that is degree-2 saturated is necessarily quantifier-free saturated.*

PROOF. Assume  $C$  is degree-2 saturated and  $\mathbf{t}$  is a consistent countable quantifier-free type over  $C$ . By compactness and the Stone–Weierstrass approximation theorem we may assume that  $\mathbf{t}$  consists of formulas of the form  $\|P(\bar{x})\| = r$  for a polynomial  $P$ . By adding a countable set of new variables  $\{z_i\}$  and formulas  $\|xy - z_i\| = 0$  for distinct variables  $x$  and  $y$  occurring in  $\mathbf{t}$ , one can reduce the degree of all polynomials occurring in  $\mathbf{t}$ . By repeating this procedure countably many times one obtains a new type  $\mathbf{t}'$  in countably many variables such that  $\mathbf{t}'$  does not contain polynomials of degree higher than 2, it is consistent, and a realization of  $\mathbf{t}'$  gives a realization of  $\mathbf{t}$ .  $\square$

In the following it is assumed that each  $P_n$  is a  $*$ -polynomial with coefficients in  $M$ , and reference to the ambient algebra  $M$  is omitted whenever it is clear from the context. An expression of the form  $P_n(\bar{x}) \in K_n$  is called a *condition* (over  $M$ ). A set of conditions is a *type* (over  $M$ ). If all conditions involve only polynomials in  $\Phi$  then we say that the type is a  $\Phi$ -*type*. If all coefficients of polynomials occurring in type  $\mathbf{t}$  belong to a set  $X \subseteq M$  then we say  $\mathbf{t}$  is a *type over  $X$* . A type satisfying (2) is *approximately finitely satisfiable* (in  $M$ ), or more succinctly *consistent* with  $M$ , and a type satisfying (1) is *realized* (in  $M$ ) by  $\bar{b}$ . In the latter case we also say that  $M$  realizes this type. Thus  $M$  is countably  $\Phi$ -saturated if and only if every consistent  $\Phi$ -type over a countable subset of  $M$  is realized in  $M$ .

REMARK 1.3. *We use the term ‘expression’ instead of ‘formula’ in order to avoid confusion with formulas of the logic for metric structures. Also, the expressions  $\|P(\bar{x})\| = r$  and  $\|P(\bar{x})\| \leq r$  are identified with conditions (using the terminology of [4])  $\|P(\bar{x})\| \in \{r\}$  and  $\|P(\bar{x})\| \in [0, r]$ , respectively. Finally, instead of  $\|P(\bar{x}) - Q(\bar{x})\| = 0$  we write  $P(\bar{x}) = Q(\bar{x})$ .*

Recall that the *multiplier algebra*  $M(A)$  of a  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  is defined to be the idealizer of  $A$  in any nondegenerate representation of  $A$  (see e.g., [5]). The *corona* of  $A$  is the quotient  $M(A)/A$ .

THEOREM 1.4. *If  $A$  is a  $\sigma$ -unital  $C^*$ -algebra then its corona  $C(A)$  is countably degree-1 saturated.*

Theorem 1.4 will be proved in §3.1.

**COROLLARY 1.5.** *If  $A$  is a  $\sigma$ -unital  $C^*$ -algebra then  $M_n(C(A))$  is countably degree-1 saturated for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .*

**PROOF.** The universality property of the multiplier algebra easily implies that  $M(M_n(A))$  and  $M_n(M(A))$  are isomorphic, via the natural isomorphism that fixes  $A$ . Therefore  $M_n(C(A))$  is isomorphic to  $C(M_n(A))$  and we can apply Theorem 1.4.  $\square$

The following will be proved as Theorem 3.1.

**THEOREM 1.6.** *Assume  $A$  is a  $\sigma$ -unital  $C^*$ -algebra such that for every separable subalgebra  $B$  of  $M(A)$  there is a  $B$ -quasicentral approximate unit for  $A$  consisting of projections. Then its corona  $C(A)$  is countably quantifier-free saturated.*

We shall show that the Calkin algebra fails the conclusion of Theorem 1.6, and therefore that Theorem 1.4 essentially gives an optimal conclusion in its case.

**2. Applications** Most of our applications require only types with a single variable, or so-called *1-types*. We shall occasionally use shortcuts such as  $a = b$  for  $\|a - b\| = 0$  or  $a \leq b$  for  $b - a$  being positive (the latter assuming both  $a$  and  $b$  are positive) in order to simplify the notation. We say that  $c$   $\varepsilon$ -realizes type  $\mathfrak{t}$  if for all conditions  $\|P(x)\| \in K$  in  $\mathfrak{t}$  we have  $\|P(c)\| \in (K)_\varepsilon$ . Therefore a type is consistent if and only if each of its finite subsets is  $\varepsilon$ -realized for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

*2.1. A self-strengthening* We start with a self-strengthening of the notion of approximate finite satisfiability, stated only for 1-types. An obvious generalization to arbitrary types is left to the reader.

**LEMMA 2.1.** *If  $\Phi$  includes all degree-1  $*$ -polynomials and  $C$  is countably  $\Phi$ -saturated then every countable  $\Phi$ -type  $\mathfrak{t}$  that is approximately finitely satisfiable by self-adjoint (positive) elements is realized by a self-adjoint (positive) element.*

*Moreover, if  $\mathfrak{t}$  is approximately finitely satisfiable by self-adjoint elements whose spectrum is included in the interval  $[r, s]$ , then  $\mathfrak{t}$  is realized by a self-adjoint element whose spectrum is included in  $[r, s]$ .*

**PROOF.** If  $\mathfrak{t}$  is approximately finitely satisfiable by a self-adjoint element, then the type  $\mathfrak{t}_1$  obtained by adding  $x = x^*$  to  $\mathfrak{t}$  is still approximately finitely satisfiable and countable, and therefore realized. Any realization of  $\mathfrak{t}_1$  is a self-adjoint realization of  $\mathfrak{t}$ .

Now assume  $\mathfrak{t}$  is approximately finitely satisfiable by positive elements. By compactness, there is  $r \in K$  such that  $\mathfrak{t} \cup \{\|x\| = r\}$  is approximately finitely satisfiable by a positive element. Let  $\mathfrak{t}_2 = \mathfrak{t} \cup \{\|x\| = r, x = x^*, \|x - r \cdot 1\| \leq r\}$ . A simple continuous functional calculus argument shows that for a self-adjoint  $b$  we have that  $b \geq 0$  if and only if  $\|b - \|b\| \cdot 1\| \leq \|b\|$ . The proof is completed analogously to the case of a self-adjoint operator.

Now assume  $\mathbf{t}$  is approximately finitely satisfiable by elements whose spectrum is included in  $[r, s]$ . Add conditions  $\|x - x^*\| = 0$  and  $\|x - (r + s)/2\| \leq (s - r)/2$  to  $\mathbf{t}$ . The second condition is satisfied by a self-adjoint element iff its spectrum is included in the interval  $[r, s]$ . Therefore the new type is approximately finitely satisfiable and its realization is as required.  $\square$

Note that the assumption of Lemma 2.2 is necessarily stronger than the assumption of Lemma 2.1 by results of §4.

LEMMA 2.2. *If  $C$  is countably quantifier-free saturated then every countable quantifier-free type that is approximately finitely satisfiable by a unitary (projection) is realized by a unitary (projection, respectively).*

PROOF. This is just like the proof of Lemma 2.1, but adding conditions  $xx^* = 1$  and  $x^*x = 1$  in the unitary case and  $x = x^*$  and  $x^2 = x$  in the projection case.  $\square$

In Proposition 4.1 and Proposition 4.2 we prove that there is a countable type over the Calkin algebra that is approximately finitely satisfiable by a unitary but not realized by a unitary. By Lemma 2.2, the Calkin algebra is not quantifier-free saturated.

2.2. *Largeness of countably saturated  $C^*$ -algebras* If  $C$  is a finite-dimensional  $C^*$ -algebra then its unit ball is compact, and this easily implies that  $C$  is countably saturated.

PROPOSITION 2.3. *If  $C$  is countably degree-1 saturated then it is either finite-dimensional or nonseparable. In the latter case,  $C$  even has no separable maximal abelian subalgebras.*

PROOF. Assume  $C$  is infinite-dimensional and let  $A$  be its masa. Then  $A$  is infinite-dimensional and there is a sequence of positive operators  $a_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , of norm 1 such that  $\|a_m - a_n\| = 1$  (cf. [16] or [10, Lemma 5.2]).

Assume  $A$  is separable, and fix a countable dense subset  $b_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , of its unit ball. The type  $\mathbf{t}$  consisting of all conditions of the form  $\|x - b_n\| \geq 1/2$  and  $xb_n = b_nx$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , together with  $\|x\| = 1$ , is consistent. This is because each of its finite subsets is realized by  $a_m$  for a large enough  $m$ . Otherwise, there are  $n, i$  and  $j$  such that  $\|b_n - a_i\| < 1/2$  and  $\|b_n - a_j\| < 1/2$ . By countable saturation some  $c \in C$  realizes  $\mathbf{t}$ . Then  $c \in A' \setminus A$ , contradicting the assumed maximality of  $A$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 2.4. *Assume  $C$  is countably  $\Phi$ -saturated and  $\Phi$  includes all degree-1 polynomials. If  $A$  is a separable subalgebra of  $C$  then the relative commutant of  $A$  is countably  $\Phi$ -saturated.*

*Moreover, if  $C$  is infinite-dimensional then  $A' \cap C$  is nonseparable.*

PROOF. Let  $a_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , enumerate a countable dense subset of the unit ball of  $A$ . The relative commutant type over  $A$ ,  $\mathbf{t}_{rc}$ , consists of all formulas of the form

$$\|a_n x - x a_n\| = 0, \text{ for } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

If  $\mathbf{t}$  is a finitely approximately finitely satisfiable  $\Phi$ -type over  $A' \cap C$  then  $\mathbf{t} \cup \mathbf{t}_{r_c}$  is an approximately finitely satisfiable  $\Phi$ -type over  $C$ . Also, an element  $c$  of  $C$  realizes  $\mathbf{t} \cup \mathbf{t}_{r_c}$  if and only if  $c \in A' \cap C$  and  $c$  realizes  $\mathbf{t}$ . Since  $\mathbf{t}$  was an arbitrary  $\Phi$ -type, countable  $\Phi$ -saturation of  $A' \cap C$  follows.

Now assume  $C$  is infinite-dimensional. By enlarging  $A$  if necessary, we can assume it is infinite-dimensional. Expand  $\mathbf{t}_{r_c}$  by adding all formulas of the form

$$(ii) \|a_n x - a_n\| \geq 1/2.$$

We denote the resulting type by  $\mathbf{t}$ . We shall prove that  $\mathbf{t}$  is approximately finitely satisfiable. This follows from the proof of [10, Lemma 5.2] and we refer the reader to this paper for details. First, if  $A$  is a continuous trace, infinite-dimensional algebra then its center  $\mathcal{Z}(A)$  is infinite-dimensional. Therefore  $\mathcal{Z}(A)$  includes a sequence of contractions  $f_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $\|f_m - f_n\| = 1$  if  $m \neq n$  (this is a consequence of Gelfand–Naimark theorem, see e.g., the proof of [10, Lemma 5.4]), and therefore  $\mathbf{t}$  is approximately finitely satisfiable by  $f_n$ s.

If  $A$  is not a continuous trace algebra, then by [1, Theorem 2.4] it has a nontrivial central sequence. Elements of such a sequence witness that  $\mathbf{t}$  is approximately finitely satisfiable.

By countable saturation,  $\mathbf{t}$  is realized in  $C$ . A realization of  $\mathbf{t}$  in  $C$  is at a distance  $\geq 1/2$  from  $A$ , and therefore we have proved that  $A' \cap C \not\subseteq A$ .

Now assume  $A$  is a separable, not necessarily infinite-dimensional, subalgebra of  $C$ . Since  $C$  is infinite-dimensional, find infinite-dimensional  $A_0$  such that  $A \subseteq A_0 \subseteq C$ . By using the above, build an increasing chain of separable subalgebras of  $C$ ,  $A_\gamma$ , for  $\gamma < \aleph_1$ , such that  $A'_\gamma \cap A_{\gamma+1}$  is nontrivial for all  $\gamma$ . This shows that  $A' \cap C$  intersects  $A_{\gamma+1} \setminus A_\gamma$  for all  $\gamma$ , and it is therefore nonseparable.  $\square$

*2.3. Properties of countably degree-1 saturated  $C^*$ -algebras* In the following there is a clear analogy with the theory of gaps in  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})/\text{Fin}$ .

**DEFINITION 2.5.** Two subalgebras  $A, B$  of an algebra  $C$  are *orthogonal* if  $ab = 0$  for all  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ . They are *separated* if there is a positive element  $c \in C$  such that  $cac = a$  for all  $a \in A$  and  $cb = 0$  for all  $b \in B$ .

A  $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  has AA-CRISP (asymptotically abelian, countable Riesz separation property) if the following holds: Assume  $a_n, b_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , are positive elements of  $C$  such that

$$a_n \leq a_{n+1} \leq b_{n+1} \leq b_n$$

for all  $n$ . Furthermore assume  $D$  is a separable subset of  $C$  such that for every  $d \in D$  we have

$$\lim_n \|[a_n, d]\| = 0.$$

Then there exists a positive  $c \in C$  such that  $a_n \leq c \leq b_n$  for all  $n$  and  $[c, d] = 0$  for all  $d \in D$ .

By Theorem 1.4 the following is a strengthening of the result that every corona of a  $\sigma$ -unital  $C^*$ -algebra has AA-CRISP ([18, Corollary 6.7]).

**PROPOSITION 2.6.** *Every countably degree-1 saturated  $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  has AA-CRISP.*

**PROOF.** By scaling, we may assume that  $\|b_1\| = 1$ . Fix a countable dense subset  $\{d_n\}$  of  $D$  and let  $\mathbf{t}$  be the type consisting of the following conditions:  $a_n \leq x$ ,  $x \leq b_n$  and  $[d_n, x] = 0$ , for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . If  $\mathbf{t}_0$  is any finite subset of  $\mathbf{t}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then for a large enough  $n$  we have that  $a_n$   $\varepsilon$ -approximately realizes  $\mathbf{t}_0$ . By countable saturation of  $C$ , some  $c \in C$  realizes  $\mathbf{t}$ . This  $c$  satisfies the requirements of the AA-CRISP for  $a_n, b_n$  and  $D$ .  $\square$

Recall that a  $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  is an SAW\*-algebra if any two  $\sigma$ -unital subalgebras  $A$  and  $B$  of  $C$  are orthogonal if and only if they are separated. By Theorem 1.4 the following is a strengthening of the result that every corona of a  $\sigma$ -unital  $C^*$ -algebra is an SAW\*-algebra ([18, Corollary 7.5]). (By [18, Theorem 7.4], CRISP implies SAW\* but we include a simple direct proof below.)

**PROPOSITION 2.7.** *Every countably degree-1 saturated  $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  is an SAW\*-algebra.*

**PROOF.** Assume  $A$  and  $B$  are  $\sigma$ -unital subalgebras of  $C$  such that  $ab = 0$  for all  $a \in A$  and all  $b \in B$ . Let  $a_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $b_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , be an approximate identity of  $A$  and  $B$ , respectively. Consider type  $\mathbf{t}_{AB}$  consisting of the following expressions, for all  $n$ .

- (i)  $a_n x = a_n$ ,
- (ii)  $x b_n = 0$
- (iii)  $x = x^*$ .

Every finite subset of  $\mathbf{t}_{AB}$  is  $\varepsilon$ -realized by  $a_n$  for a large enough  $n$ . If  $c$  realizes  $\mathbf{t}_{AB}$ , then  $ac = a$  for all  $a \in A$  and  $cb = 0$  for all  $b \in B$ . Moreover,  $c$  is self-adjoint by (iii) and  $|c|$  still satisfies the above.  $\square$

Assume  $B, C$  and  $D$  are subalgebras of a  $C^*$ -algebra  $M$ . We say that  $D$  *derives*  $B$  if for every  $d \in D$  the derivation  $\delta_d(x) = dx - xd$  maps  $B$  into itself. The following is an extension of Higson's formulation of Kasparov's Technical Theorem ([14], also [18, Theorem 8.1]).

We say that a  $C^*$ -algebra  $M$  has KTT if the following holds: Assume  $A, B$ , and  $C$  are subalgebras of  $M$  such that  $A \perp B$  and  $C$  derives  $B$ . Furthermore assume  $A$  and  $B$  are  $\sigma$ -unital and  $C$  is separable. Then there is a positive element  $d \in M$  such that  $d \in C' \cap M$ , the map  $x \mapsto xd$  is the identity on  $B$ , and the map  $x \mapsto dx$  annihilates  $A$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.8.** *Every countably degree-1 saturated  $C^*$ -algebra has KTT.*

PROOF. Assume  $A, B$  and  $C$  are as above. Since  $B$  is  $\sigma$ -unital we can fix a strictly positive element  $b \in B$ . Then  $b^{1/n}$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , is an approximate unit for  $B$ . An easy computation demonstrates that for every  $c \in C$  the commutators  $[b^{1/n}, c]$  strictly converge to 0 (see the first paragraph of the proof of Theorem 8.1 in [18]). They therefore converge to 0 weakly. The Hahn–Banach theorem combined with the separability of  $C$  now shows that one can extract an approximate unit  $(e_m)$  for  $B$  in the convex closure of  $\{b^{1/n} : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  such that the commutators  $[e_m, c]$  norm-converge to 0 for every  $c \in C$ .

In other words,  $B$  has an approximate unit  $(e_m)$  which is  $C$ -quasicentral. Fix a countable approximate unit  $(f_n)$  of  $A$  and a countable dense subset  $\{c_m\}$  of  $C$ . Consider the type  $\mathbf{t}$  consisting of the following conditions, for all  $m$  and all  $n$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \|e_n x - e_n\| &= 0 \\ \|x f_n\| &= 0 \\ \|[c_m, x]\| &= 0 \\ \|x - x^*\| &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

For every finite subset  $F$  of this type and every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists an  $m$  large enough so that all the conditions in  $F$  are  $\varepsilon$ -satisfied with  $x = e_m$ . Therefore the type  $\mathbf{t}$  is consistent and by countable degree-1 saturation it is satisfied by some  $d_0$ . Then  $d = |d_0|$  is as required.  $\square$

A  $C^*$ -algebra  $M$  is *sub-Stonean* if for all  $b$  and  $c$  in  $M$  such that  $bc = 0$  there are positive contractions  $f$  and  $g$  such that  $bf = b$ ,  $gc = c$  and  $fg = 0$ . By considering  $B = C^*(b)$  and  $C = C^*(c)$  and noting that  $B$  and  $C$  are orthogonal, one easily sees that every SAW\* algebra is sub-Stonean. The following strengthening was introduced by Kirchberg [15].

DEFINITION 2.9. A  $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  is *sub- $\sigma$ -Stonean* if for every separable sub-algebra  $A$  of  $C$  and all positive  $b$  and  $c$  in  $C$  such that  $bAc = \{0\}$  there are contractions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $A' \cap C$  such that  $fg = 0$ ,  $fb = b$  and  $gc = c$ .

The fact that for a separable  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  the relative commutant of  $A$  in its ultrapower associated with a nonprincipal ultrafilter on  $\mathbb{N}$  (as well as the related algebra  $F(A) = (A' \cap A^{\mathcal{U}}) / \text{Ann}(A, A^{\mathcal{U}})$ , see [15]) is sub- $\sigma$  Stonean was used in [15] to deduce many other properties of the relative commutant. Several proofs in [15], in particular the ones in the appendix, can easily be recast in the language of logic for metric structures.

Before we strengthen Kirchberg's result by proving countably degree-1 saturated algebras are sub- $\sigma$ -Stonean (Proposition 2.11) we prove a lemma.

LEMMA 2.10. *Assume  $M$  is countably degree-1 saturated and  $B$  is a separable subalgebra. If  $I$  is a (closed, two-sided) ideal of  $B$  then there is a contraction  $f \in M \cap B'$  such that  $af = a$  for all  $a \in I$ .*

*If moreover  $c \in M$  is such that  $Ic = \{0\}$ , then we can choose  $f$  so that  $fc = 0$  and  $fIc = \{0\}$ .*



PROOF. Fix a countable dense subset  $a_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , of  $I$  and a countable dense subset  $b_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , on  $B$ . Consider type  $\mathbf{t}$  consisting of the following conditions.

- (1)  $\|a_n x - a_n\| = 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,
- (2)  $\|b_n x - x b_n\| = 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- (3)  $x c = 0$ , and
- (4)  $x a_n c = 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We prove that  $\mathbf{t}$  is consistent, and moreover that it is finitely approximately satisfiable by a contraction. By [2]  $I$  has a  $B$ -quasicentral approximate unit  $e_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , consisting of positive elements. Since  $Bc = \{0\}$  we have  $e_n c = 0$ , as well as  $e_n a_m c = 0$  for all  $m$  and all  $n$ . Therefore every finite fragment of  $\mathbf{t}$  is arbitrarily well approximately satisfiable by  $e_n$  for all large enough  $n$ . By Lemma 2.1 (applied with  $[r, s] = [0, 1]$ ) and saturation of  $M$  there is a contraction  $f \in M$  that realizes  $\mathbf{t}$ . Then  $fa = a$  for all  $a \in I$ ,  $f \in B' \cap M$ ,  $fAc = \{0\}$ , and  $fc = 0$ , as required.  $\square$

PROPOSITION 2.11. *Every countably degree-1 saturated  $C^*$ -algebra is sub- $\sigma$ -Stonian.*

PROOF. Fix  $A, b$  and  $c$  as in Definition 2.9. By applying Lemma 2.10 find a contraction  $f \in M \cap A'$  such that  $bf = b$ ,  $fc = 0$  and  $fAc = \{0\}$ . Now let  $C = C^*(A, c)$  and let  $J$  be the ideal of  $C$  generated by  $c$ . By applying Lemma 2.10 again (with left and right sides switched) with  $c$  replaced by  $f$  we find a contraction  $g \in M \cap A'$  such that  $fg = 0$ , and  $gc = c$ .  $\square$

By Theorem 1.4 the following is a strengthening of the result that every derivation of a separable subalgebra of the corona of a  $\sigma$ -unital  $C^*$ -algebra is inner ([18, Theorem 10.1]).

PROPOSITION 2.12. *Assume  $C$  is a countably degree-1 saturated  $C^*$ -algebra and  $B$  is a separable subalgebra. Then every derivation  $\delta$  of  $B$  is of the form  $\delta_c$  for some  $c \in C$ .*

PROOF. Fix a countable dense subset  $B_0$  of  $B$ . Consider the type  $\mathbf{t}_\delta$  consisting of following conditions, for  $b \in B_0$ .

- (i)  $\|xb - bx - \delta(b)\| = 0$ .

By [17, 8.6.12] this type is consistent and if  $c$  realizes it then  $\delta(b) = \delta_c(b)$  for all  $b \in B$ .  $\square$

*2.4. Automorphisms* In [21] the authors proved that the Continuum Hypothesis implies that the Calkin algebra has  $2^{\aleph_1}$  outer automorphisms. Since  $\kappa < 2^\kappa$  for all cardinals  $\kappa$ , this conclusion implies that the Calkin algebra has outer automorphisms. A simpler proof of Phillips–Weaver’s result was given in [8]. The proof of Theorem 2.13 below is in the spirit of [21], but instead of results about KK-theory it uses countable quantifier-free saturation.

Recall that the *character density* of a  $C^*$ -algebra is the smallest cardinality of a dense subset. The following remark refers to the full countable saturation in logic for countable structures, not considered in the present paper (cf. [9]). The standard back-and-forth method shows that a fully countably saturated  $C^*$ -algebra of character density  $\aleph_1$  has  $2^{\aleph_1}$  automorphisms. Therefore, the Continuum Hypothesis implies that  $M$  has  $2^{\aleph_1}$  automorphisms whenever  $M$  is an ultrapower of a separable  $C^*$ -algebra, a relative commutant of a separable  $C^*$ -algebra in its ultrapower, or an algebra of the form  $\prod_n A_n / \bigoplus_n A_n$  for a sequence of separable unital  $C^*$ -algebras  $A_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Since  $\aleph_1$  is always less than  $2^{\aleph_1}$ , in this situation, the automorphism group is strictly larger than the group of inner automorphisms. These issues will be treated in an upcoming paper joint with David Sherman. In the following we show how to construct  $2^{\aleph_1}$  automorphisms in a situation where the algebra is only quantifier-free saturated.

**THEOREM 2.13.** *If  $C$  is a countably quantifier-free saturated  $C^*$ -algebra of character density  $\aleph_1$  whose center is separable then  $C$  has  $2^{\aleph_1}$  automorphisms.*

Before proceeding to prove Theorem 2.13 we note that every countably saturated metric structure of character density  $\aleph_1$  has  $2^{\aleph_1}$  automorphisms. We don't know whether the Continuum Hypothesis implies that every corona of a separable  $C^*$ -algebra has  $2^{\aleph_1}$  automorphisms (but see [7]).

By Theorem 2.13 and Theorem 3.1 we have the following:

**COROLLARY 2.14.** *Assume the Continuum Hypothesis. Assume  $A$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra such that for every separable subalgebra  $B$  of  $M(A)$  there is a  $B$ -quasi-central approximate unit for  $A$  consisting of projections and the center of  $C(A)$  is separable. Then  $C(A)$  has  $2^{\aleph_1}$  outer automorphisms.  $\square$*

Recall that an automorphism  $\Phi$  of a  $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  is *approximately inner* if for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  and every finite set  $F$ , there is a unitary  $u$  such that  $\|\Phi(a) - uau^*\| < \varepsilon$  for all  $a \in F$ . An approximately inner  $*$ -isomorphism from a subalgebra of  $C$  into  $C$  is defined analogously.

The conclusion of the following lemma fails for the Calkin algebra (cf. Proposition 4.2).

**LEMMA 2.15.** *Assume  $C$  is a countably quantifier-free saturated  $C^*$ -algebra and  $B$  is its separable subalgebra. If  $\Phi: B \rightarrow C$  is an approximately inner  $*$ -isomorphism then there is a unitary  $u \in C$  such that  $\Phi(b) = ubu^*$  for all  $b \in B$ .*

**PROOF.** This is essentially a consequence of Lemma 2.2. Fix a countable dense subset  $B_0$  of  $B$ . Consider the type  $\mathbf{t}_\Phi$  consisting of all conditions of the form  $\|xbx^* - \Phi(b)\| = 0$  for  $b \in B_0$  together with  $xx^* = 1$  and  $x^*x = 1$ . The assumption that  $\Phi$  is approximately inner is equivalent to the assertion that  $\mathbf{t}_\Phi$  is consistent. Since  $B_0$  is countable, by countable quantifier-free saturation there exists  $u \in C(A)$  that realizes  $\mathbf{t}_\Phi$ . Such  $u$  is a unitary which implements  $\Phi$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 2.16. *Assume  $C$  is a countably quantifier-free saturated, simple  $C^*$ -algebra whose center is separable. If  $\Phi$  is an automorphism of  $C$  and  $A$  is a separable subalgebra of  $C$  then there is an automorphism  $\Phi'$  of  $C$  distinct from  $\Phi$  whose restriction to  $A$  is identical to the restriction of  $\Phi$  to  $A$ . Moreover, if  $\Phi$  is inner then  $\Phi'$  can be chosen to be inner.*

PROOF. By Lemma 2.4, we can find a non-central unitary  $u \in A' \cap C$ . Therefore  $\Phi' = \Phi \circ \text{Ad } u$  is as required.  $\square$

PROOF OF THEOREM 2.13. By using Lemma 2.15 and Lemma 2.16 we can construct a complete binary tree of height  $\aleph_1$  whose branches correspond to distinct automorphisms. This standard construction is similar to the one given in [21] but much easier, since in our case the limit stages are covered by Lemma 2.15, and in [21] most of the effort was made in the limit stages.  $\square$

**3. Proofs** Recall that  $A$  is an *essential ideal* of  $C$  if no nonzero element of  $C$  annihilates  $A$ . The *strict topology* on  $M(A)$  is the topology induced by the family of seminorms  $\|(x - y)a\|$ , where  $a$  ranges over  $A$ . If  $A$  is separable then the strict topology on  $M(A)$  has a compatible metric,  $\|(x - y)a\|$ , where  $a$  is any strictly positive element of  $A$ .

We note that for any sequence of  $C^*$ -algebras  $A_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the algebra  $\prod_n A_n / \bigoplus_n A_n$  is fully countably saturated. This is a straightforward analogue of a well-known result in classical model theory (cf. [9], [4]).

*3.1. Quantifier-free saturation* The proof of Theorem 1.6 is a warmup for the proof of Theorem 1.4 given in the next subsection. In Proposition 4.2 we shall see that the conclusion of Theorem 3.1 does not follow from the assumptions of Theorem 1.4. Let us start by recalling the statement of Theorem 1.6.

THEOREM 3.1. *Assume  $A$  is a  $\sigma$ -unital  $C^*$ -algebra such that for every separable subalgebra  $B$  of  $M(A)$  there is a  $B$ -quasicentral approximate unit for  $A$  consisting of projections. Then its corona  $C(A)$  is countably quantifier-free saturated.*

In this section and elsewhere we shall write  $\bar{b}$  for an  $n$ -tuple, hence

$$\bar{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_n)$$

(with  $n$  clear from the context) in order to simplify the notation. We also write

$$q\bar{b} = (qb_1, \dots, qb_n).$$

In our proof of Theorem 3.1 we shall need the following fact.

LEMMA 3.2. *Assume  $P(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is a  $*$ -polynomial with coefficients in a  $C^*$ -algebra  $C$ . Then there is constant  $K < \infty$ , depending only on  $P$ , such that for all  $a$  and  $b_1, \dots, b_n$  in  $C$  we have*

$$\|[a, P(\bar{b})]\| \leq K \max_c \|[a, c]\| \|a\| \max_{j \leq n} \|b_j\|$$

where  $c$  ranges over coefficients of  $P$  and  $b_1, \dots, b_n$ .

If in addition  $q$  is a projection then we have

$$\|qP(\bar{b}) - qP(q\bar{b})q\| \leq K \max_c \|[q, c]\| \|a\| \max_{j \leq n} \|b_j\|.$$

PROOF. The existence of constant  $K$  satisfying the first inequality can be proved by a straightforward induction on the complexity of  $P$ . For the second inequality use the first one and the fact that  $q = q^{d+1}$ , where  $d$  is the degree of  $P$  in order to find a large enough  $K$ .  $\square$

PROOF OF THEOREM 3.1. Fix a countable quantifier-free type  $\mathbf{t}$  over  $C(A)$  and enumerate all polynomials occurring in it as  $P_n(\bar{x})$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . By re-enumerating and adding redundancies we may assume that all variables of  $P_n$  are among  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ . Let  $P_n^0(\bar{x})$  be a polynomial over  $M(A)$  corresponding to  $P_n(\bar{x})$ . Let  $K_n$  be a constant corresponding to  $P_n^0$  as given by Lemma 3.2. Let  $B$  be a separable subalgebra of  $M(A)$  such that all coefficients of all polynomials  $P_n^0(\bar{x})$  belong to  $B$ .

Let  $r_n$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be such that  $\mathbf{t}$  is the set of conditions  $\|P_n(\bar{x})\| = r_n$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . For all  $n$  fix  $b_1^n, \dots, b_n^n$  such that

$$\|\pi(P_j^0(b_1^n, \dots, b_n^n))\| - r_n < 2^{-n}$$

for all  $j \leq n$  and  $\|b_k^n\| \leq 2$ . The latter is possible by our assumption that the condition  $\|x_n\| \leq 1$  belongs to  $\mathbf{t}$  for all  $k$ .

Let  $q_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , be a  $B$ -quasicentral approximate unit for  $A$  consisting of projections. By going to a subsequence we may assume the following apply for all  $j \leq n$  (with  $q_0 = 0$ ):

- (1)  $\|[q_n, a]\| < 2^{-n} K_n^{-1}$  when  $a$  ranges over coefficients of  $P_j^0$  and all  $b_1^j, \dots, b_j^j$ ,
- (2)  $\|(q_{n+1} - q_n)P_j^0(b_1^j, \dots, b_j^j)(q_{n+1} - q_n)\| - r_n < 1/n$ ,

Let

$$p_n = q_{n+1} - q_n$$

For every  $k$  the series  $\sum_n p_n b_k^n p_n$  is convergent with respect to the strict topology. Let  $b_k$  be equal to the sum of this series. By the second inequality of Lemma 3.2 and (1) we have that for all  $k \leq n$

$$(3) \quad \|\|p_n P_k^0(b_1, \dots, b_k)\| - \|p_n P^0(p_n b_1 p_n, \dots, p_n b_k p_n) p_n\|\| < 2^{-n}.$$

Since  $p_n b_k p_n = p_n b_k^n p_n$ , we conclude that

$$\|P_k(\pi(\bar{b}))\| = \|\pi(P_j^0(\bar{b}))\| = \limsup_n \|p_n P_j^0(p_n b_1^n p_n, \dots, p_n b_j^n p_n)\| = r_n.$$

Therefore  $\pi(b_n)$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , realizes  $\mathbf{t}$  in  $C(A)$ .  $\square$

3.2. *Degree-1 saturation* We shall use [18, Corollary 6.3] which states that if  $0 \leq a \leq 1$  and  $\|b\| = 1$ , then  $\|[a, b]\| \leq \varepsilon \leq 1/4$  implies  $\|[a^{1/2}, b]\| \leq 5\varepsilon^{1/2}/4$ . We shall also need the following lemma.

LEMMA 3.3. *Assume  $a$  and  $b$  are positive operators. Then  $\|a + b\| \geq \max(\|a\|, \|b\|)$ .*

PROOF. We may assume  $1 = \|a\| \geq \|b\|$ . Fix  $\varepsilon > 0$  and let  $\xi$  be a unit vector such that  $\eta = \xi - a\xi$  satisfies  $\|\eta\| < \varepsilon$ . Then  $Re(a\xi|b\xi) = Re(\xi|b\xi) + Re(\eta|b\xi) \geq Re(\eta|b\xi) > -\varepsilon$  since  $b \geq 0$ . We therefore have

$$\begin{aligned} \|(a + b)\xi\|^2 &= ((a + b)\xi|(a + b)\xi) \\ &= \|a\xi\|^2 + \|b\xi\|^2 + 2Re(a\xi|b\xi) > 1 + \|b\xi\|^2 - 2\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

and since  $\varepsilon > 0$  was arbitrary the conclusion follows.  $\square$

LEMMA 3.4. *Assume  $M$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra and a  $\sigma$ -unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  is an essential ideal of  $M$ . Furthermore assume  $F_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , is an increasing sequence of finite subsets of the unit ball of  $M$  and  $\varepsilon_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , is a decreasing sequence of positive numbers converging to 0. Then  $A$  has an approximate unit  $e_n$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that with (setting  $e_{-1} = 0$ )*

$$f_n = (e_{n+1} - e_n)^{1/2}$$

for all  $n$  and all  $a \in F_n$  we have the following:

- (4)  $\|[a, f_n]\| \leq \varepsilon_n$ ,
- (5)  $\|f_n a f_n\| \geq \|\pi(a)\| - \varepsilon_n$  (where  $\pi: M \rightarrow M/A$  is the quotient map),
- (6)  $\|f_m f_n\| = 0$  if  $|m - n| \geq 2$ ,
- (7)  $\|[f_n, f_{n+1}]\| \leq \varepsilon_n$ .

PROOF. In order to take care of the condition (6) we do the following. Let  $h$  be a strictly positive element of  $A$ . By continuous functional calculus we choose an approximate unit  $(e_n^{-1})$  of  $A$  satisfying (6).

Let  $\delta_n = (4\varepsilon_n/25)^2$ . By [2, §1] inside the convex closure this approximate unit we can find another approximate unit  $(e_n^0)$  of  $A$  such that

$$(8) \|e_n^0 a - a e_n^0\| \leq \delta_n \text{ for all } a \in F_n \cup \{e_i^0 : i < n\}.$$

We can moreover assure that there is an increasing sequence of natural numbers  $m(n)$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $e_n^0$  is in the convex closure of  $\{e_k^{-1} : m(n) \leq k < m(n+1)\}$ . This will assure every subsequence  $(e_n)$  of  $(e_n^0)$  satisfies (6).

For such a subsequence  $(e_n)$  and  $f_n$  defined as above we will have (4) and (7) by the choice of  $\delta_n$  and [18, Corollary 6.3]. Since  $A$  is an essential ideal of  $M$ , there is a faithful representation  $\alpha: M \rightarrow B(H)$  such that  $\alpha[A]$  is an essential ideal of  $B(H)$  (this is essentially by [5, II.6.1.6]). In particular  $\alpha(e_n)$  strongly converges to  $1_H$ . Therefore for every  $a \in M$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is  $n$  large enough so that  $\|\alpha(a(e_n - e_m))\| \geq \|\alpha(a)\| - \varepsilon$ . Using this observation we can recursively find a subsequence  $(e_n)$  of  $(e_n^0)$  such that  $\|(e_{n+1} - e_n)a\| \geq \|\pi(a)\| - \delta_n$  for all  $a \in F_n$ . Therefore  $\|f_n a f_n\| \geq \|\pi(a)\| - \varepsilon_n$  for all  $a \in F_n$  and (5) holds.  $\square$

Fix a  $\sigma$ -unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$ ; let  $M = M(A)$ , and  $\varepsilon_n = 2^{-n}$ . Now by applying Lemma 3.4 we get  $A, M, F_n, (e_n)$  and  $(f_n)$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We shall show that in this situation these objects have the additional properties in formulas (9)–(16) below.

(9) The series  $\sum_n f_n^2$  strictly converges to 1.

Since  $A$  is  $\sigma$ -unital, we can pick a strictly positive  $a \in A$ . Therefore the strict topology is given by compatible metric  $d(b, c) = \|a(b - c)\|$ . Fix  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Let  $n$  be large enough so that  $\|ae_{n+1} - a\| < \varepsilon$ . Since  $1 - e_{n+1} = \sum_{j=n+1}^{\infty} f_j^2$ , (9) follows.

(10) For every sequence  $(b_j)$  in the unit ball of  $M$  the series  $\sum_j f_j b_j f_j$  is strictly convergent.

We first note that  $0 \leq c \leq d$  implies  $\|cb\| \leq \|db\|$  for all  $b$ . This is because  $\|cb\|^2 = \|b^*c^2b\| \leq \|b^*d^2b\| = \|db\|^2$ .

Since every element  $b$  of a  $C^*$ -algebra is a linear combination of four positive elements  $b = c_0 - c_1 + ic_2 - ic_3$ , we may assume  $b_j \geq 0$  for all  $j$ . Fix  $\varepsilon > 0$  and find  $n$  large enough so that (with  $a \in A$  strictly positive)  $\|\sum_{j=n}^{\infty} (f_j^2)a\| < \varepsilon$ . Then  $0 \leq \sum_{j \geq n} f_j b_j f_j \leq \sum_{j \geq n} f_j^2$ . Therefore by the above inequality applied with  $c = \sum_{j \geq n} f_j b_j f_j$  and  $d = \sum_{j \geq n} f_j^2$  we have  $\|ca\| \leq \|da\| \leq \varepsilon$ .

(11)  $\|\sum_j f_j x_j f_j\| \leq \sup_j \|f_j x_j f_j\|$  for every norm-bounded sequence  $(x_j)$ .

(12) If in addition  $\sup_j \|f_j x_j f_j\| = \sup_j \|x_j\|$  then we moreover have the equality in (11).

In order to prove (11) consider the  $C^*$ -algebra  $N = \prod_{\mathbb{N}} M$ . Each map

$$N \ni (x_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mapsto f_j x_j f_j \in M$$

for  $j \in \mathbb{N}$  is completely positive on  $N$ , and therefore for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  the map  $(x_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mapsto \sum_{j \leq n} f_j x_j f_j$  is completely positive as well. The supremum of these maps is also a completely positive map. By the assumption that  $\sum_j f_j^2 = 1$  this map is also unital, and therefore of norm 1. The inequality (11) follows.

In order to prove (12) let  $\alpha = \sup_j \|x_j\|$ . We may assume  $\alpha = 1$ . Fix  $\varepsilon > 0$ , unit vector  $\xi$ , and  $n$  such that  $\|(f_n x_n f_n)\xi\| > 1 - \varepsilon$ . Then  $\|f_n \xi\| \geq 1 - \varepsilon$  and therefore  $|(f_n^2 \xi | \xi)| = \|f_n \xi\|^2 \geq 1 - \varepsilon$  and this implies that  $\|\xi - f_n^2 \xi\| \leq \varepsilon$ . Since  $\sum_j f_j^2 = 1$ , this shows that  $\|\sum_j (f_j x_j f_j)\xi\| \approx \|(f_n x_n f_n)\xi\|$  and the conclusion follows.

Recall that  $\pi: M(A) \rightarrow C(A)$  is the quotient map. In the following the norm on the left-hand side of the equality is computed in the corona and the norm on the right-hand side is computed in the multiplier algebra.

(13)  $\|\pi(\sum_j f_j x_j f_j)\| = \limsup_j \|f_j x_j f_j\|$  for every bounded sequence  $(x_j)$  such that  $\sup_j \|f_j x_j f_j\| = \sup_j \|x_j\|$ .

Since  $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} f_j x_j f_j - \sum_{j=m}^{\infty} f_j x_j f_j$  is in  $A$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , the inequality  $\leq$  follows from (11) and  $\|\pi(a)\| \leq \|a\|$ . Similarly,  $\geq$  follows from (12).

The converse inequality follows by Lemma 3.3.

- (14)  $X_{(f_n)} = \{a \in M : \sum_n \|[a, f_n]\| < \infty\}$  is a subalgebra of  $M$  including  $C^*(\bigcup_n F_n)$ .

Since  $b \in F_j$  implies  $\|[b, f_n]\| \leq 2^{-n}$  for all  $n \geq j$ , we have  $\bigcup_j F_j \subseteq X_{(f_n)}$ .

For  $a$  and  $b$  in  $M$  we have  $[a + b, f_n] = [a, f_n] + [b, f_n]$ ,  $\|[a^*, f_n]\| = \|[a, f_n]\|$  and  $\|[ab, f_n]\| \leq \|a\| \cdot \|[b, f_n]\| + \|b\| \cdot \|[a, f_n]\|$ . Therefore  $X_{(f_n)}$  is a  $*$ -subalgebra of  $M$ .

$X_{(f_n)}$  is not necessarily norm-closed but this will be of no consequence.

- (15) The map  $\Lambda = \Lambda_{(f_n)}$  from  $M$  into  $M$  defined by

$$\Lambda(a) = \sum_n f_n a f_n$$

is completely positive and it satisfies  $b - \Lambda(b) \in A$  for all  $b \in X_{(f_n)}$ .

Note that  $\|\Lambda(b)\| \leq \|b\|$  by (11), and the map is clearly completely positive. Fix  $b \in X_{(f_n)}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Since  $b \in X_{(f_n)}$  the series  $\delta_j = \|f_j b - b f_j\|$  is convergent, and we can pick  $n$  large enough to have  $\sum_{j \geq n} \|f_j b - b f_j\| \leq \varepsilon$ . We write  $c \sim_A d$  for  $c - d \in A$  and  $c \sim_\varepsilon d$  for  $\|c - d\| \leq \varepsilon$  (clearly the latter is not an equivalence relation). We have  $\sum_{j \leq n} f_j b f_j \in A$ . Also, with  $\delta = \sum_{j \geq n} \delta_j$  we have

$$(1 - e_n)b = \sum_{j=n}^{\infty} f_j^2 b \sim_\delta \sum_{j=n}^{\infty} f_j b f_j$$

and the conclusion follows.

- (16) If  $\sup_j \|x_j\| < \infty$  and  $\delta_j = \sup_{i \geq j} \|[x_j, f_i]\|$  are such that  $\sum_j \delta_j < \infty$ , then  $x = \sum_j f_j x_j f_j$  belongs to  $X_{(f_n)}$ .

We have  $f_n(\sum_j f_j x_j f_j) = f_n(\sum_{j=n-1}^{n+1} f_j x_j f_j)$ . Since  $\|[f_k, f_{k+1}]\| \leq \varepsilon_k$  we have

$$\|[x, f_n]\| \leq \sum_{j=n-1}^{n+1} \|[f_j x_j f_j, f_n]\| \leq 4 \sup_j \|x_j\| \varepsilon_{n-1} + \delta_{n-1} + \delta_n + \delta_{n+1}$$

and the conclusion follows.

PROOF OF THEOREM 1.4. Fix a  $\sigma$ -unital algebra  $A$  and let  $\pi: M(A) \rightarrow C(A)$  be the quotient map.

Fix degree-1  $*$ -polynomials  $P_n(\bar{x})$  with coefficients in  $C(A)$  and compact subsets  $K_n \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  such that for every  $n$  the system

- (17)  $\|P_j(\bar{x})\| \in (K_j)_{1/n}$  for all  $j \leq n$

has a solution in  $C(A)$ . Without a loss of generality all the inequalities of the form  $\|x_n\| \leq 1$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , are in the system. By compactness, we can assume each  $K_n$  is a singleton  $\{r_n\}$ . Therefore we may assume (17) consists of conditions of the form  $\|P_n(\bar{x}) - r_n\| \leq 1/m$ , for all  $m$  and  $n$ . By re-enumerating  $P_n$ 's and adding redundancies, we may also assume that only the variables  $x_j$ , for  $j \leq n$ , occur in  $P_n$  for every  $n$ . For each  $m$  fix an approximate solution  $\hat{x}_j(m) = \pi(x_j(m))$ , for  $j \leq m$ , as in (17). Therefore

$$(18) \quad \|\|P_k(\pi(\bar{x}(m)))\| - r_k\| \leq 1/m \text{ for all } k \leq m.$$

We choose all  $x_k(m)$  to have norm  $\leq 1$ .

Let  $P_n^0(\bar{x})$  be a polynomial with coefficients in  $M(A)$  that lift to the corresponding coefficients of  $P_n(\bar{x})$ . Let  $F_n$  be a finite subset of  $M(A)$  such that  $\pi(F_n)$  includes the following:

- (i) all coefficients of every  $P_j^0$  for  $j \leq n$ ,
- (ii)  $\{x_k(m) : k \leq m\}$  satisfying (18) for all  $m \leq n$ , and
- (iii)  $\{P_j^0(x_0(j), \dots, x_j(j)) : j \leq n\}$ .

With  $\varepsilon_n = 2^{-n}$  let  $(e_n)$  and  $(f_n)$  be as guaranteed by Lemma 3.4. Since  $\|x_j(i)\| \leq 1$ , by (10) we have that

$$y_i = \sum_j f_j x_i(j) f_j$$

belongs to  $M(A)$  for all  $i$ , and (16) implies  $y_i \in X_{(f_n)}$  for all  $i$ .

We shall prove  $\|P_n(\pi(\bar{y}))\| = r_n$  for all  $n$ .

By (11) we have  $\|y_i\| \leq 2$ . Fix  $n$  and a monomial  $ax_k b$  of  $P_n^0(\bar{x})$ . Then for all  $j \geq n$  we have

$$\|af_j x_k(j) f_j b - f_j a x_k(j) b f_j\| \leq \varepsilon_j \cdot (|a| + |b|)$$

and therefore the sum of these differences is a convergent series in  $A$  and we have

$$(19) \quad a(\sum_j f_j x_k(j) f_j) b \sim_A \sum_j (f_j a x_k(j) b f_j).$$

Since the polynomial  $P_n^0(\bar{x})$  has degree 1, all of its nonconstant monomials are either of the form  $ax_k b$  or of the form  $ax_k^* b$  for some  $k$ ,  $a$  and  $b$ , and by (19) (writing  $\sum_j f_j \bar{y} f_j$  for the  $n+1$ -tuple  $(\sum_j f_j y_0 f_j, \dots, \sum_j f_j y_n f_j)$ )

$$P_n^0(\sum_j f_j y_k f_j) \sim_A \sum_j f_j P_n^0(\bar{y}) f_j.$$

By (15) we have  $\sum_j f_j y_i f_j \sim_A \sum_j f_j y_i f_j$  for all  $i$  and therefore

$$P_n^0(\bar{y}) \sim_A P_n^0(\sum_j f_j \bar{y} f_j) \sim_A \sum_j f_j P_n^0(\bar{y}) f_j.$$

Using this, by (13) we have that

$$\|P_n(\pi(\bar{y}))\| = \|\pi(P_n^0(\bar{y}))\| = \limsup_j \|f_j P_n^0(\bar{y}) f_j\| = r_n.$$

Therefore  $\pi(\bar{y})$  is a solution to the system. Since the inequality  $\|x_k\| \leq 1$  was in the system for all  $k$  we also have  $\|y_k\| \leq 1$  for all  $k$  and this concludes the proof.  $\square$



**4. Limiting examples** In this section we prove that the Calkin algebra is not countably saturated (cf. [9]). More precisely, in Proposition 4.1 we construct a consistent type consisting of universal formulas that is not realized in the Calkin algebra. In Proposition 4.2 we go a step further and present a proof, due to N. Christopher Phillips, that some consistent quantifier-free type is not realized in the Calkin algebra.

For a unitary  $u$  in a  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  let

$$\xi(u) = \{j \in \mathbb{N} \mid u \text{ has a } j\text{-th root}\}.$$

By Atkinson's theorem, every invertible operator in the Calkin algebra is the image of a Fredholm operator in  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  and therefore  $\xi(u)$  is either  $\mathbb{N}$  or  $\{j \mid j \text{ divides } m\}$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , depending on whether the Fredholm index of  $u$  is 0 or  $\pm m$ .

Recall that a *supernatural number* is a formal expression of the form  $\prod_i p_i^{k_i}$ , where  $\{p_i\}$  is the enumeration of primes and each  $k_i$  is a natural number (possibly zero) or  $\infty$ . The divisibility relation on supernatural numbers is defined in the natural way.

**PROPOSITION 4.1.** *For any supernatural number  $n$  the type  $\mathbf{t}(n)$  consisting of following conditions is approximately finitely satisfiable, but not realizable, in the Calkin algebra.*

- (1)  $x_0 x_0^* = 1, x_0^* x_0 = 1,$
- (2)  $x_k^k = x_0,$  whenever  $k$  is a natural number that divides  $n,$
- (3)  $\inf_{\|y\|=1} \|y^k - x_0\| \geq 1,$  whenever  $k$  is a natural number that does not divide  $n.$

*In particular, the Calkin algebra is not countably saturated.*

**PROOF.** We have  $n = \prod_j p_j^{k_j}$ , where  $(p_j)$  is the increasing enumeration of primes and  $k_j \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ .

Let  $s$  denote the unilateral shift on the underlying Hilbert space  $H$  and let  $\dot{s}$  be its image in the Calkin algebra. For  $l \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $n_l = \prod_{j=1}^l p_j^{\min(k_j, l)}$ . We claim that

$$\xi(\dot{s}^{n_l}) = \{m \in \mathbb{N} \mid m \text{ divides } n_l\}.$$

The inclusion is trivial. In order to prove the converse inclusion fix  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  that does not divide  $n_l$ . Assume for a moment that  $\dot{s}^{n_l}$  has a  $k$ -th root  $\dot{v}$  in  $\mathcal{C}(H)^{\mathcal{U}}$ . Let  $u$  and  $w$  be elements of  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  mapped to  $\dot{s}^{n_l}$  and  $\dot{v}^k$  by the quotient map. Then they are Fredholm operators with different Fredholm indices and  $\|\pi(u)\| = \|\pi(w)\| = 1$ . Essentially by [19, 3.3.18 and 3.3.20] we have  $\|\pi(u - w)\| \geq 1$ , and therefore  $v = \pi(w)$  is not  $k$ -th root of  $\dot{s}^{n_l}$ .  $\square$

Proposition 4.2 below was communicated to us by N. Christopher Phillips in [20]. We would like to thank Chris for his kind permission to include this result here. While the proof in [20] relied entirely on known results about Pext

and a topology on  $\text{Ext}$  (more precisely, [22, §3], [2, §2], [23, [Theorem 3.3], and [24, Proposition 9.3 (1)]), for convenience of the reader we shall present a self-contained proof of this result.

**PROPOSITION 4.2.** *There is a countable degree-1 type over the Calkin algebra that is approximately finitely realizable by unitaries but not realizable by a unitary. In particular, the Calkin algebra is not countably quantifier-free saturated.*

**PROOF.** We include more details than a  $C^*$ -algebraist may want to see. Recall that for a  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  the abelian semigroup  $\text{Ext}(A)$  is defined as follows: On the set of  $*$ -homomorphisms  $\pi: A \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(H)$  consider the conjugacy relation by unitaries in  $\mathcal{C}(H)$ . On the set of conjugacy classes define addition by letting  $\pi_1 \oplus \pi_2$  be the direct sum, where  $\mathcal{C}(H)$  is identified with  $\mathcal{C}(H \oplus H)$ . The only fact about  $\text{Ext}$  that we shall need is that there exists a simple separable  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  such that  $A$  is a direct limit of algebras whose  $\text{Ext}$  is trivial, but  $\text{Ext}(A)$  is not trivial. For example, the CAR algebra has this property and we shall sketch a proof of this well-known fact below.

Now fix  $A$  as above and let  $\pi_1: A \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(H)$  and  $\pi_2: A \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(H)$  be inequivalent  $*$ -homomorphisms. Since  $A$  is simple both  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  are injective and  $F(\pi_1(a)) = \pi_2(a)$  defines a map  $F$  from  $\pi_1[A]$  to  $\pi_2[A]$ . This map is not implemented by a unitary, but if  $A = \lim_n A_n$  so that  $\text{Ext}(A_n)$  is trivial for every  $n$ , then the restriction of  $F$  to  $\pi_1[A_n]$  is implemented by a unitary. Fix a countable dense subset  $D$  of  $\pi_1[A]$ . Then the countable degree-1 type  $\mathbf{t}$  consisting of all conditions of the form  $xa = F(a)x$ , for  $x \in D$ , is approximately finitely realizable by a unitary, but not realizable by a unitary.

We now sketch a proof that  $\text{Ext}$  of the CAR algebra  $A = \bigotimes_n M_2(\mathbb{C})$  is nontrivial. Write  $A$  as a direct limit of  $M_{2^n}(\mathbb{C})$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . While  $\text{Ext}(M_{2^n}(\mathbb{C}))$  is trivial, the so-called *strong*  $\text{Ext}$  of  $M_{2^n}(\mathbb{C})$  is not. Two  $*$ -homomorphisms of  $M_{2^n}(\mathbb{C})$  into  $\mathcal{C}(H)$  are *strongly equivalent* if they are conjugate by  $\dot{u}$ , for a unitary  $u \in \mathcal{B}(H)$ . Every unital  $*$ -homomorphism  $\Phi$  of  $M_{2^n}(\mathbb{C})$  into  $\mathcal{C}(H)$  is lifted by a  $*$ -homomorphism  $\Phi_0$  into  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  and the strong equivalence class of  $\Phi$  is uniquely determined by the codimension of  $\Phi_0(1)$  modulo  $2^n$ . Any unitary  $u$  in  $\mathcal{C}(H)$  that witnesses such  $\Phi$  is conjugate to the trivial representation of  $M_{2^n}(\mathbb{C})$  which necessarily has Fredholm index equal to the codimension of  $\Phi_0(1)$  modulo  $2^n$ . Now write  $M_{2^\infty}$  as  $\bigotimes_{\mathbb{N}} A_n$  where  $A_n \cong M_2(\mathbb{C})$  for all  $n$ . Recursively find  $*$ -homomorphisms  $\pi_1^n$  and  $\pi_2^n$  from  $\bigotimes_{j \leq n} A_j$  into the Calkin algebra so that (i)  $\pi_j^{n+1}$  extends  $\pi_j^n$  for all  $n$  and  $j = 1, 2$ , (ii) each  $\pi_1^n$  has trivial strong  $\text{Ext}$  class, and (iii) each  $\pi_2^n$  has strong  $\text{Ext}$  class  $2^{n-1}$  (modulo  $2^n$ ). The construction is straightforward. The limits  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  are  $*$ -homomorphisms of the CAR algebra into the Calkin algebra such that the first one lifts to a homomorphism of the CAR algebra into  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  and the other one does not.  $\square$

**5. Concluding remarks** Both obstructions to the countable saturation of the Calkin algebra described in §4 have a K-theoretic nature.

QUESTION 5.1. *Do all obstructions to countable saturation, or at least to countable quantifier-free saturation, of corona algebras have a K-theoretic nature?*

A test question for Question 5.1 was suggested by Itäi Ben Ya'acov. Consider the unitary group  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{C}(H))$  of the Calkin algebra with respect to the gauge given by the Fredholm index (see [3]). Is this structure quantifier-free countably saturated? Here is an even less ambitious test question:

QUESTION 5.2. *Let  $\mathcal{U}_0$  be the subgroup of the unitary group of the Calkin algebra consisting of unitaries of Fredholm index zero. Is this structure quantifier-free countably saturated in the logic of metric structures?*

A discrete total ordering  $L$  is countably saturated (in the classical model-theoretic sense, see e.g., [6]) if and only if whenever  $X$  and  $Y$  are countable subsets of  $L$  such that  $x < y$  for all  $x \in X$  and all  $y \in Y$  and either  $X$  has no maximal element or  $Y$  has no minimal element there is  $z \in L$  such that  $x < z$  and  $z < y$  for all  $x \in X$  and all  $y \in Y$ . The fact that this definition does not involve formulas of arbitrary complexity is a consequence of the classical result that theory of dense linear orderings allows elimination of quantifiers.

Hadwin proved ([12]) that every maximal chain of projections in the Calkin algebra, when considered as a discrete linear ordering, is countably saturated. It should be noted that not every maximal commuting family of projections in the Calkin algebra is countably saturated. For example, the family of projections of an atomless masa is isomorphic to the Lebesgue measure algebra. The latter is a complete Boolean algebra and therefore not countably saturated. It is not difficult to see that in every quantifier-free countably saturated algebra every maximal chain of projections is countably saturated. However, the Calkin algebra is not countably quantifier-free saturated (Proposition 4.2) and we don't know whether countable degree-1 saturation suffices for Hadwin's result. An affirmative answer to Question 5.3 below would suffice for this.

We also don't know whether in a countably degree-1 saturated  $C^*$ -algebra every countable type that is approximately finitely satisfiable by projections is realized by a projection (cf. Lemma 2.1 and Lemma 2.2). An affirmative answer would imply an affirmative answer to the following: (see Definition 2.5).

QUESTION 5.3. *Assume  $C$  is a countably degree-1 saturated  $C^*$ -algebra. If  $A$  and  $B$  are separable orthogonal subalgebras of  $C$ , are they necessarily separated by a projection?*

A positive answer to the following would provide a more satisfying proof of Corollary 1.5.

QUESTION 5.4. *Assume<sup>1</sup>  $C$  is countably degree-1 saturated. Is  $M_n(C)$  countably degree-1 saturated for all  $n$ ?*

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<sup>1</sup>Added in Proof, March 2013. Martino Lupini has proved that the answer to Question 5.5 is positive, and that the norm in  $M_n(A)$  is definable by a universal formula. Therefore both Question 5.4 and Question 5.5 have a positive answer.

The statement of [18, Proposition 9.1] distinguishes between  $C$ ,  $M_2(C)$  and  $M_4(C)$  being SAW\*-algebras and therefore suggests that the analogous assertion for SAW\*-algebras is false, or at least not obviously true. A closely related problem to Question 5.4 is the following (the relevant definition of ‘definable’ is as in [4] or [9]):

QUESTION 5.5. *If<sup>2</sup>  $A$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra and  $n \geq 2$ , is the unit ball of  $M_n(A)$ , when identified with a subset of  $(A_{\leq 1})^{n^2}$ , definable over  $A$ ? If so, what is the logical complexity of the definition?*

A positive answer to Question 5.5 would imply that if  $C$  is countably saturated then so is  $M_n(C)$ . By [18, Proposition 9.1], this would imply, for example, that countably degree-1 saturated  $C^*$ -algebras allow weak polar decomposition.

Following [7] we say that an automorphism  $\Phi$  of  $M(A)/A$  is *trivial* if the set  $\{(a, b) \in M(A)^2 : \Phi(a/A) = b/A\}$  is strictly Borel. Every inner automorphism is clearly of this form. Also in the case when  $A$  is separable  $M(A)$  is separable metric in the strict topology and therefore  $M(A)/A$  has at most  $2^{\aleph_0}$  trivial automorphisms.

PROBLEM 5.6. Prove that the Continuum Hypothesis implies that every corona of an infinite-dimensional, non-unital, separable  $C^*$ -algebra has nontrivial automorphisms.

A positive answer to this problem for a large class of  $C^*$ -algebras, including all stable  $C^*$ -algebras of real rank zero, is given in [7]. Methods of the present paper of [7] do not apply to the algebra  $C([0, 1])$ . However, Problem 5.6 is known to have an affirmative solution by a result of J. C. Yu (see [13, §9]). We don’t know the degree of saturation of the corona of  $C([0, 1])$ . An even more interesting problem is to prove that an appropriate forcing axiom implies all automorphisms of all coronas of separable  $C^*$ -algebras are trivial (this is necessarily weaker than ‘inner,’ see the last section of [8]).

A  $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  is *countably homogeneous* (as a metric structure) if for every two sequences  $\langle a_n : n \in \mathbb{N} \rangle$  and  $\langle b_n : n \in \mathbb{N} \rangle$  in  $C$  that have the same type in  $C$  (see [9]) there exists an automorphism  $\Phi$  of  $C$  such that  $\Phi(a_n) = b_n$  for all  $n$ . Fully countably saturated  $C^*$ -algebras of character density  $\aleph_1$  are countably homogeneous. Therefore for example the Continuum Hypothesis implies that ultrapowers of separable  $C^*$ -algebras associated with nonprincipal ultrafilters on  $\mathbb{N}$  are countably homogeneous.

QUESTION 5.7. *Are corona algebras of  $\sigma$ -unital  $C^*$ -algebras countably homogeneous?*

A positive answer in the case of the Calkin algebra  $\mathcal{C}(H)$  would imply that the unilateral shift and its adjoint have the same type if and only if it is relatively consistent with ZFC that  $\mathcal{C}(H)$  has a K-theory reversing automorphism.

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<sup>2</sup>See footnote to Question 5.4

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