

INSTITUTUL
DE
MATEMATICA

INSTITUTUL NATIONAL
PENTRU CREATIE
STIINTIFICA SI TEHNICA

ISSN 0250 3638

REDUCTION OF TOPOLOGICAL STABLE RANK
IN INDUCTIVE LIMITS OF C^* -ALGEBRAS

by

Marius DADARLAT, Gabriel NAGY,
Andras NEMETHI and Cornel PASNICU
PREPRINT SERIES IN MATHEMATICS

No. 46/1990

BUCURESTI

**REDUCTION OF TOPOLOGICAL STABLE RANK
IN INDUCTIVE LIMITS OF C^* -ALGEBRAS**

by

**Marius DADARLAT^{*)}, Gabriel NAGY^{*)},
Andras NEMETHI^{*)} and Cornel PASNICU^{*)}**

July 1990

^{*)} *Institute of Mathematics, Bd. Păcii 220, 79622 Bucharest, Romania.*

REDUCTION OF TOPOLOGICAL STABLE RANK IN INDUCTIVE LIMITS OF C^* -ALGEBRAS

Marius DĂDĂRLAT, Gabriel NAGY, András NÉMETHI and Cornel PASNICU

We consider inductive limits A of sequences $A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \rightarrow \dots$ of finite direct sums of C^* -algebras of continuous functions from compact Hausdorff spaces into full matrix algebras. We prove that A has topological stable rank (tsr) one provided that A is simple and the sequence of the dimensions of the spectra of A_i is bounded. For unital A , $\text{tsr}(A) = 1$ means that the set of invertible elements is dense in A . If A is infinite dimensional then, the simplicity of A implies that the sizes of the involved matrices tend to infinity, so by general arguments (see [23]) one gets that $\text{tsr}(A_i) \leq 2$ for large enough i whence $\text{tsr}(A) \leq 2$. The reduction of tsr from two to one requires arguments which are strongly related to this special class of C^* -algebras.

The problem of reduction of real rank (see [6]) for these algebras was recently studied in [2] in connection with some interesting features revealed in several papers ([3], [1], [15], [5], [12], [11]). The reduction of tsr and real rank for other classes of C^* -algebras was studied in [22], [21], [8], [24], [17], [25].

The paper consists of three sections :

1. Preliminaries and Notation
2. Local aspects of the connecting homomorphisms
3. The Main Result

1.

1.1. For a unital C^* -algebra A and a finitely generated projective A -module E , we denote by $\text{End}_A(E)$ the algebra of A -linear endomorphisms of E and by $\text{GL}_A(E)$ the group of units of $\text{End}_A(E)$. For $E = A^n$ we shall write $\text{GL}(n, A)$ for $\text{GL}_A(A^n)$ and $\text{GL}^\circ(n, A)$ for the connected component of 1. Let $U(A)$ denote the unitary group of A and $U(n) := U(\mathbb{C}^n)$. A selfadjoint idempotent element of a C^* -algebra will be simply called projection.

Recall some definitions from [23]. For a unital C^* -algebra A and a natural number n let $\text{Lg}_n(A)$ denote the set of n -tuples of elements of A which generate A as a left ideal. The topological stable rank of A is the least n (if it does not exist it will be taken by definition to be ∞) such that $\text{Lg}_n(A)$ is dense in A^n . One denotes by $\text{csr}(A)$ the least integer n such that $\text{GL}^\circ(m, A)$ acts transitively by right multiplication on $\text{Lg}_m(A)$ for any $m \geq n$. (If no such integer exists one takes $\text{csr}(A) = \infty$). For nonunital A one takes

$\text{tsr}(A) := \text{tsr}(\tilde{A})$ and $\text{csr}(A) := \text{csr}(\tilde{A})$ where \tilde{A} is the algebra obtained from A by adjoining a unit.

For a compact Hausdorff space X of finite covering dimension one has:

$$\text{tsr}(C(X)) = \left\lfloor \frac{\dim X}{2} \right\rfloor + 1$$

$$\text{csr}(C(X)) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{\dim X + 1}{2} \right\rfloor + 1$$

(see [23] and [18]).

1.2. We consider C^* -inductive limits

$$A = \varinjlim (A_i, \Phi_{ij})$$

The A_i 's are C^* -algebras of the form

$$A_i = \bigoplus_{t=1}^{s(i)} C(X_{it}) \otimes M_{n(i,t)}$$

where X_{it} is a Hausdorff compact space, $s(i)$, $n(i,t)$ are positive integers and $M_{n(i,t)}$ is the C^* -algebra of complex $n(i,t) \times n(i,t)$ matrices. The $*$ -homomorphisms $\Phi_{ij}: A_i \rightarrow A_j$ are not assumed to be unital or injective. We denote by $\bar{\Phi}_i$ the natural map $A_i \rightarrow A$ and by $X_i = \bigcup_{t=1}^{s(i)} X_{it}$ the spectrum of A_i .

We begin with a brief discussion of the $*$ -homomorphisms between certain homogeneous C^* -algebras.

1.3. For given C^* -algebras C, D we denote by $\text{Hom}(C, D)$ the space of all $*$ -homomorphisms from C to D with the point-norm topology. $\text{Hom}^1(C, D)$ stands for the subspace of unital $*$ -homomorphisms. We shall identify

$$\text{Hom}(C(X), C(Y) \otimes M_n) \text{ with } \text{Map}(Y, \text{Hom}(C(X), M_n))$$

where for topological spaces Y, Z , $\text{Map}(Y, Z)$ denotes the space of continuous functions from Y to Z endowed with the compact-open topology.

Each $\Psi \in \text{Hom}(C(X), M_n)$ has the form

$$\Psi(f) = \sum f(x_r) p_r, \quad f \in C(X)$$

for suitable points $x_r \in X$ and mutually orthogonal projections p_r in M_n . Let L_Ψ be the set of all x_r 's that appear in the above formula. More generally, each $\Phi \in \text{Hom}(C(X), C(Y) \otimes M_n)$ is identified with a map $\bar{\Phi}: Y \rightarrow \text{Hom}(C(X), M_n)$ and we define for each $y \in Y$, $L_{\bar{\Phi}}(y) := L_{\Phi(y)}$. In the same way for given

$$\bar{\Phi} \in \text{Hom}(\bigoplus C(X_\alpha) \otimes M_{n(\alpha)}, \bigoplus C(Y_\beta) \otimes M_{m(\beta)})$$

and $y \in Y$ we define

$$L_{\bar{\Phi}}(y) = \bigsqcup_{\alpha} L_{\Phi_{\alpha, \beta}}(y)$$

where $\Phi_{\alpha, \beta}$ denotes the component of $\bar{\Phi}$ from $C(X_\alpha) \subset C(X_\alpha) \otimes \otimes M_{n(\alpha)}$ to $C(Y_\beta) \otimes M_{m(\beta)}$.

The map $y \mapsto L_{\Phi}(y)$ has useful semicontinuity properties:

- a) if $L_{\Phi}(y)$ is contained in some open set U then $L_{\Phi}(z) \subset U$ for any z in some neighborhood of y
- b) the set $\{y : L_{\Phi}(y) \cap U \neq \emptyset\}$ is open for each open set U (see [9] and [19]).

1.4. The space $\text{Hom}(C, M_m)$, $C = \bigoplus C(X_{\alpha}) \times M_{n(\alpha)}$, decomposes as a union of disjoint open sets labeled by the systems of positive integers $K = (k_{\alpha})$ such that the quantity $k_0 := m - \sum_{\alpha} k_{\alpha} n(\alpha)$ is positive. Let $\text{Hom}_K(C, M_m)$ denote the open subset corresponding to K . Then there is (see [10]) a principal bundle

$$E(K) \xrightarrow{p} \text{Hom}_K(C, M_m)$$

with

$$G(K) = \prod_{\alpha} U(k_{\alpha}) \times U(k_0) \text{ as structural group}$$

$$E(K) = \prod_{\alpha} \text{Hom}^1(C(X_{\alpha}), M_{k_{\alpha}}) \times U(m)$$

$$p((\Phi_{\alpha}), u) = u(\bigoplus_{\alpha} \Phi_{\alpha} \otimes \text{id}(M_{n(\alpha)}) \oplus O_{k_0}) u^*$$

This description of p corresponds to the canonical embedding

$$\bigoplus M_{k_{\alpha}} \otimes M_{n(\alpha)} \oplus M_{k_0} \subset M_m$$

2.

We begin by giving two criteria of simplicity for C^* -algebras A as above, which extend the corresponding results for AF-algebras [4] and Bunce-Deddens algebras [7].

2.1. Proposition. Let $A = \varinjlim (A_i, \Phi_{ij})$ be as in 1.1 and assume that the connecting homomorphisms Φ_{ij} are injective. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

(i) A is simple

(ii) For any positive integer i and any open nonempty subset U of X_i there is a j_0 such that $L_{\Phi_{ij}}(x) \cap U \neq \emptyset$ for any $j \geq j_0$ and $x \in X_j$.

(iii) For any nonzero $a \in A_i$ there is a j_0 such that

$$\Phi_{ij}(a)(x) \neq 0 \text{ for each } j \geq j_0 \text{ and } x \in X_j.$$

Proof. (ii) \Leftrightarrow (iii). This is clear since for given $a \in A_i$ one has

$$\Phi_{ij}(a)(x) = 0 \text{ if and only if } a = 0 \text{ on } L_{\Phi_{ij}}(x)$$

(i) \Rightarrow (ii). Assume that (ii) does not hold for some i and some open nonempty $U \subsetneq X_i$. Passing to a subsequence, if necessary, we may assume that for any $j \geq i$ the set $F_j = \{x \in X_j; L_{\Phi_{ij}}(x) \cap U = \emptyset\}$ is nonempty and $F_j \neq X_j$. By the last part of 1.3 F_j is closed. Therefore the family $(J_j)_{j \geq i}$ where

$$J_j = \{a \in A_j; a = 0 \text{ on } F_j\}$$

defines a closed two sided ideal J in A. (Note that $\Phi_{jk}(J_j) \subset J_k$ since $L_{\Phi_{ij}}(y) \subset L_{\Phi_{ik}}(x)$ for any $y \in L_{\Phi_{ij}}(x)$). Also $J \neq A$ since if e_i is the unit of A_i then $\text{dist}(\Phi_{ij}(e_i), J_j) = 1$ for any $j \geq i$ and so $e_i \notin J$. The existence of J contradicts (i).

(iii) \Rightarrow (i). Let J be a two-sided closed nonzero ideal of A. One has $J = \overline{\bigcup (J \cap A_i)}$ (see [4]). We shall prove that $J \cap A_j = A_j$ for large enough j. Take $a \in J \cap A_i$, $a \neq 0$. By (iii) there is a j_0 such that $\Phi_{ij}(a) \neq 0$ for all $j \geq j_0$ and $x \in X_j$. Since $\Phi_{ij}(J \cap A_i) \subset J \cap A_j$ we find that $\Phi_{ij}(a) \in J \cap A_j$ for $j \geq j_0$. Since $\Phi_{ij}(a)$ does not vanish at any point of X_j this forces $J \cap A_j = A_j$. \square

Let $A = \varinjlim (A_i, \Phi_{ij})$ be as above. For a noninvertible element $a \in A_i$ there are $x_0 \in X_i$, $u \in U(A_i)$ and a projection $p \in A_i$ (both u and p "scalars") such that $ua(x_0)p = pua(x_0) = 0$.

For simple A the following sequence of Lemmas enables us to obtain something similar for $\Phi_{ij}(a)$ (for some $j \geq i$) locally around any point of X_j , after a small perturbation of a .

2.2. LEMMA. Let $\Phi \in \text{Hom}(C(X), C(Y) \otimes M_m)$, k a positive integer, U a nonempty open subset of X . Suppose that $L_\Phi(y) \cap U$ has at least k points for some $y \in Y$. Then there is a neighbourhood W of y and a projection valued continuous map $q_W : W \rightarrow M_m$ with $\text{rank } q_W(z) \geq k$ for any $z \in W$ such that for any $f \in C(X)$ with $f = 0$ on U one has

$$\Phi(f)q_W = q_W\Phi(f) = 0 \text{ on } W.$$

Proof. Take open sets U_1, U_2 having disjoint closures such that

$$L_\Phi(y) \cap U \subset U_1 \subset U$$

$$L_\Phi(y) \cap (Y \setminus U) \subset U_2$$

Using the semicontinuity of L_Φ (see 1.3) we find a neighbourhood W of y such that $L_\Phi(z) \subset U_1 \cup U_2$ for any $z \in W$. Take a continuous map $g : X \rightarrow [0,1]$ such that $g = 1$ on U_1 and $g = 0$ on U_2 and define q_W as the restriction of $\Phi(g)$ to W . It is clear that q_W is projection valued since $g^2 = g$ on $L_\Phi(W)$. The continuity of the map $z \mapsto \text{tr } \Phi(g)(z)$ shows that for z close to y one has $\text{rank } q_W(z) \geq k$. The proof is complete since $fg = 0$ on $L_\Phi(W)$. \square

2.3. LEMMA. Let $C = \bigoplus_{i=1}^s C(Z_i) \otimes M_{n(i)}$, $\Phi \in \text{Hom}(C, C(Y) \otimes M_m)$, k a positive integer, U is a nonempty open subset of Z_1 and $y \in Y$ such that $L_\Phi(y) \cap U$ has at least k points.

Then there is a neighbourhood W of y and a projection valued map $p_W : W \rightarrow M_m$ with $\text{rank } p_W(x) \geq k$ for $x \in W$ such that for any $a \in C$ satisfying

$$ae_{11} = e_{11}a = 0 \text{ on } U$$

(here (e_{ij}) is the canonical system of matrix units of $M_{n(1)}$) one has

$$\bar{\Phi}(a)p_W = p_W\bar{\Phi}(a) = 0 \text{ on } W.$$

Proof. Viewing $\bar{\Phi}$ as a map $\bar{\Phi} : Y \rightarrow \text{Hom}(C, M_m)$ let Y_K be the preimage of $\text{Hom}_K(C, M_m)$ under this map (see 1.4). The family (Y_K) is a partition of Y by open sets. Choose $K = (k_i)$ such that $y \in Y_K$. Let $W \subset Y_K$ be a neighbourhood of y such that the restriction of $\bar{\Phi}$ to W has a lifting $\bar{\Phi}' : W \rightarrow E(K)$. This is possible since $E(K) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_K(C, M_m)$ is a locally trivial fibration (see 1.4). Therefore we find continuous maps

$$u : W \rightarrow U(m)$$

$$\bar{\Phi}_i : W \rightarrow \text{Hom}^1(C(Z_i), M_{k_i}) \quad i = 1, \dots, s.$$

such that

$$\bar{\Phi} = u(\bigoplus_{i=1}^s \bar{\Phi}_i \otimes \text{id}(M_{n(i)}) \oplus 0_{k_0})u^* \text{ on } W.$$

Since $L_{\bar{\Phi}_1}(y) = L_{\bar{\Phi}}(y) \cap Z_1$, shrinking W if necessary we may assume that $\bar{\Phi}_1$ satisfies the conditions of Lemma 2.2 and let q_W be the corresponding map. Put $p_W = u(q_W \otimes e_{11})u^*$ viewed as a continuous map $W \rightarrow M_{k_1} \otimes M_{n(1)} \subset M_m$. A simple computation based on the conclusions of Lemma 2.2 concludes the proof. \square

2.4. LEMMA. Let $C = C(X) \otimes M_n$ and let $a \in C$ such that $\det a(x) = 0$ for some $x \in X$. Then for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there are $u, v \in GL(C)$ and $b \in C$ such that

$$\|uav - b\| < \varepsilon \text{ and } be_{11} = e_{11}b = 0 \text{ on a neighbourhood of } x.$$

Proof. Take $u, v \in GL(n, \mathbb{C})$ such that the matrix $ua(x)v$ has only zero entries on the first row and on the first column. Now b is easily found since continuous functions vanishing at x can be uniformly approximated by continuous functions vanishing on a neighbourhood of x . \square

3.

The next step toward the main result is based on the following theorem which follows from Michael's paper [16].

3.1. THEOREM. Let X be a Hausdorff compact space of dimension d , let T be a complete metric space and let Y be a map from X to the family of the nonempty closed subsets of T .

Suppose that

- a) Y is lower semicontinuous i.e. for each open subset U of T the set $\{x \in X : Y(x) \cap U \neq \emptyset\}$ is open
- b) Each $Y(x)$ is $(d + 1)$ - connected
- c) There is $\xi > 0$ such that for any $0 < r < \xi$ and $x \in X$ the intersection of $Y(x)$ with any closed ball of radius r in T is a contractible space.

Then there is a continuous map $\sigma : X \rightarrow T$ such that $\sigma(x) \in Y(x)$ for all $x \in X$.

Proof. The Theorem follows from Theorem 1.2 in [16] using the comments from the second part of the same paper.

3.2. PROPOSITION. Let X be a Hausdorff compact space, let $k' \geq k \geq 1$ integers, let \mathcal{W} be an open cover of X and assume that for each $W \in \mathcal{W}$ it is given a continuous projection valued map $p_W : W \rightarrow M_n$ such that $\text{rank } p_W(x) \geq k'$ for $x \in W$. If $\dim(X) \leq 2(k' - k) - 1$ then there is a continuous projection valued map $p : X \rightarrow M_n$ such that for $x \in X$:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rank } p(x) &\geq k \\ p(x) &\leq \bigvee \{p_W(x) : W \in \mathcal{W}, x \in W\} \end{aligned}$$

Proof. For $x \in X$ define $\mathcal{W}(x) = \{W \in \mathcal{W} : x \in W\}$ and $H(x) = \text{span}\{p_W(x)\mathbf{C}^n : W \in \mathcal{W}(x)\}$.

For any linear subspace H of \mathbf{C}^n let $V(H, k)$, $k \leq \dim(H)$, denote the Stiefel manifold of k -orthogonal frames in H (see [14]). For any $x \in X$ define $\Upsilon(x) = V(H(x), k) \subset V(\mathbf{C}^n, k)$. We check that Υ satisfies the conditions of Theorem 3.1.

a) The lower semicontinuity of Υ follows from the lower semicontinuity of the map $x \mapsto H(x) \subset \mathbf{C}^n$ which is almost obvious having in mind the definition of $H(x)$.

b) $V(H, k)$ is $2(\dim(H) - k)$ -connected (see [14]). Therefore $V(H(x), k)$ is $2(k' - k)$ -connected since $\dim H(x) \geq k'$.

c) For any $m, n \geq m \geq k$, there is $\varepsilon_m > 0$ such that any closed ball of radius at most ε_m in $V(\mathbf{C}^m, k)$ is contractible. (We consider $V(\mathbf{C}^m, k)$ with the metric induced by the restriction of a $U(n)$ -invariant Riemann structure on $V(\mathbf{C}^n, k)$). In this situation $V(\mathbf{C}^m, k)$ is a totally geodesic manifold of $V(\mathbf{C}^n, k)$ and the same is true for any $V(H, k)$ with $H \subset \mathbf{C}^n$. Therefore the induced metric form from $V(\mathbf{C}^n, k)$ coincides with the metric given by the induced Riemann structure of $V(H, k)$ (see [13]). Having also the $U(n)$ -invariance of this metric one can take

$$\varepsilon = \min \{ \varepsilon_m : k \leq m \leq n \}. \quad \square$$

We also need the following approximation results:

3.3. LEMMA. Let B be a unital C^* -algebra and let $k \geq \max(\text{tsr}(B), \text{csr}(B))$.

Then for any positive integer m and any $a \in M_m(B)$, the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & 0_k \end{pmatrix}$ belongs to the closure of $GL(m+k, B)$.

Proof. If $m \leq k$ one can take

$$b_{\xi} = \begin{pmatrix} a & \xi 1_m & 0 \\ \xi 1_m & 0_m & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \xi 1_{k-m} \end{pmatrix} \in GL(m+k, B)$$

and $b_{\xi} \rightarrow a$ as $\xi \rightarrow 0$.

For $m \geq k$ we proceed by induction. Assume the statement holds for a fixed $m \geq k$ and let $a \in M_{m+1}(B)$. Since $m \geq \max(\text{tsr}(B), \text{csr}(B))$ it follows from [23] that for each $\xi > 0$ there are $t \in GL(m+1, B)$, $a_1 \in M_m(B)$ and $b \in B^m$ such that

$$\| a - \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ b & a_1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot t \| < \xi$$

By the induction hypothesis we can approximate

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ b & \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline a_1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0_k \end{array} \\ 0 & 0 & 0_k \end{pmatrix}$$

with an invertible matrix of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ b & \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline c & \\ \hline 0 & \end{array} \\ 0 & & \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence $\begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & 0_k \end{pmatrix}$ will be approximated by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ b & \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline c & \\ \hline 0 & \end{array} \\ 0 & & \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} t & 0 \\ 0 & 1_k \end{pmatrix}$$

□

3.4. REMARK. Suppose B, k are as above. Let F, G, H be finitely generated projective B -modules and put $E = F \oplus G \oplus H$. If F, G are free and $G \simeq B^k$, then a

slight modification of the above arguments shows that $\text{End}_B(F) \subset \overline{\text{GL}_B(E)}$.

In the proof of the main result we shall invoke the following straightforward approximation device:

3.5. LEMMA. Let $B = \overline{\bigcup B_i}$ where the B_i 's form an increasing sequence of unital C^* -algebras. Let e_i be the unit of B_i . If for any $a \in B_i$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ there is $j \geq i$ and $b \in \text{GL}(e_i B_j e_i)$ such that $\|a - b\| < \varepsilon$ then $\text{tsr}(B) = 1$.

Proof. Let $\tilde{B} = B + \mathbb{C} \cdot 1$ be the algebra obtained by adjoining a unit to B . Let $x + \lambda 1 \in \tilde{B}$ with $x \in B_i$. By hypothesis there is $j \geq i$ and $y \in \text{GL}(e_i B_j e_i) \subset \text{GL}(e_i B e_i)$ such that $\|x + \lambda e_i - y\|$ is small. Choosing a non zero scalar λ' close to λ , the element $y + \lambda'(1 - e_i)$ is invertible and approximate $x + \lambda \cdot 1$. Therefore $\text{GL}(\tilde{B})$ is dense in \tilde{B} which means $\text{tsr}(B) = 1$. \square

3.6. THEOREM. Let $A = \varinjlim (A_i, \Phi_{ij})$ where

$A_i = \bigoplus_{t=1}^{s(i)} C(X_{it}) \otimes M_{n(i,t)}$, each X_{it} being a Hausdorff compact space such that $d = \sup \dim(X_{it}) < \infty$.

If A is simple then $\text{tsr}(A) = 1$.

Proof. Replacing each A_i by its image in A one may suppose that all the Φ_{ij} 's are injective. We shall verify the conditions from lemma 3.5. Let $a \in A_i$ be a noninvertible element and put $Z = \{x \in X_i : \det a(x) = 0\}$. If Z consists only of isolated points of X_i then it is obvious that $a \in \overline{\text{GL}(A_i)}$. Thus we may assume that there is $x \in Z$ such that each neighbourhood of x is an infinite set.

Moreover by Lemma 2.4 we may suppose that $a e_{11}^t = e_{11}^t a = 0$ on some neighbourhood U of x for some t . Fix integers k', k such that

$$k \geq 2d + 4$$

$$2(k' - k) + 1 \geq d$$

Since U is an infinite open set and the C^* -algebras A is simple it follows by Proposition 2.1 that there is $j \geq i$ such that $L_{\bar{\Phi}_{ij}}(y) \cap U$ has at least k' elements for any $y \in X_j$. This enables us by using the proof of Lemma 2.3 to find an open covering \mathcal{W} of X_j such that for each $W \in \mathcal{W}$ there is $p_W \in A_j$ satisfying

- 1) p_W is projection valued on W
- 2) $\text{rank } p_W(y) \geq k'$ for any $y \in W$
- 3) $p_W \bar{\Phi}_{ij}(a) = \bar{\Phi}_{ij}(a) p_W = 0$ on W
- 4) $p_W \leq \bar{\Phi}_{ij}(e_i)$ where e_i is the unit of A_i .

Proposition 3.2 provides us a projection $p \in A_j$ such that

- a) $p(x) \leq \bigvee \{p_W(x) : W \in \mathcal{W}, x \in W\}$ for all $x \in X_j$.
- b) $\text{rank } p(x) \geq k$ for all $x \in X_j$.

Of course 4) and a) imply that $p \leq \bar{\Phi}_{ij}(e_i)$.

We have also

$$c) \bar{\Phi}_{ij}(a)p = p\bar{\Phi}_{ij}(a) = 0$$

as a consequence of 3) and a).

Let $b := \bar{\Phi}_{ij}(a)$ have the components (b_t) with $b_t \in C(X_{jt}) \otimes M_{n(j,t)}$. We shall use Remark 3.4 in order to approximate each b_t by invertible elements in $\text{End}_{C(X_{jt})}^{(E_t)}$ where $E_t := \bar{\Phi}_{ij}(e_i)C(X_{jt})^{n(j,t)}$. Consider also the finitely generated projective $C(X_{jt})$ -modules

$$P_t = pC(X_{jt})^{n(j,t)}$$

$$Q_t = (\bar{\Phi}_{ij}(e_i) - p)C(X_{jt})^{n(j,t)}.$$

It is clear that $E_t \simeq P_t \oplus Q_t$. Using the stability properties of vector bundles (see [14, Chapter 8]) one can find a finitely generated projective $C(X_{jt})$ -module R_t of rank at most $d/2 + 1$ such that $Q_t \oplus R_t$ is free. Since $k \leq \text{rank } P_t$ is large enough

using again the results of [14, Chapter 8] we find finitely generated projective $C(X_{jt})$ -modules G_t and H_t such that G_t is free of rank greater than $[(d+1)/2] + 1 \geq \max\{\text{tsr } C(X_{jt}), \text{csr } C(X_{jt})\}$ and P_t is isomorphic to $R_t \oplus G_t \oplus H_t$. Putting $F_t = Q_t \oplus R_t$ we have $b_t \in \text{End}_{C(X_{jt})}^{(Q_t)} \subset \text{End}_{C(X_{jt})}^{(F_t)}$ by c). Using Remark 3.4 we find that $b_t \in \overline{\text{GL}_{C(X_{jt})}^{(E_t)}}$. It follows

$$\bar{\Phi}_{ij}(a) = b \in \overline{\text{GL}_{C(X_j)}^{(\oplus E_t)}} = \overline{\text{GL}(\bar{\Phi}_{ij}(e_i)A_j\bar{\Phi}_{ij}(e_i))}$$

and we are done by Lemma 3.5

REFERENCES:

- [1] B. Blackadar, Symmetries of the CAR algebra, Preprint 1988
- [2] B. Blackadar, O. Brattelli, G.A. Elliott and A. Kumjian, Reduction of real rank in inductive limits of C^* -algebras, Preprint.
- [3] B. Blackadar and A. Kumjian, Skew products of relations and the structure of simple C^* -algebras, Math. Z. 189 (1985), 55-63.
- [4] O. Brattelli, Inductive limits of finite-dimensional C^* -algebras, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 171(1972), 195-234.
- [5] O. Brattelli, G.A. Elliott, D.E. Evans and A. Kishimoto, Finite groups actions on AF algebras obtained by folding the interval, Preprint 1989.
- [6] L.B. Brown and G.K. Pedersen, C^* -algebras of real rank zero, Preprint 1989.
- [7] J. Bunce and J. Deddens, A family of simple C^* -algebras related to weighted shift operators, J. Functional Analysis 19(1975), 12-34.
- [8] M.-D. Choi and G.A. Elliott, Density of the self-adjoint elements with finite spectrum in an irrational rotation C^* -algebra, Preprint 1988.
- [9] M. Dădărlat, On homomorphisms of certain C^* -algebras, Preprint 1986.

- [10] **M. Dădărlat and A. Némethi**, Shape theory and connective K-theory to appear in J. Operator Theory.
- [11] **G.A. Elliott**, On the classification of C^* -algebras of real rank zero, Preprint.
- [12] **D.E. Evans and A. Kishimoto**, Compact group actions on UHF algebras obtained by folding the interval, J. Functional Analysis (to appear).
- [13] **S. Helgason**, Differential geometry, Lie groups and symmetric spaces, Academic Press, 1978.
- [14] **D. Husemoller**, Fibre Bundles, 2nd ed., Springer Verlag, 1966.
- [15] **A. Kumjian**, An involutive automorphism of the Bunce-Deddens algebra, C.R. Math. Rep. Acad. Sci. Canada 10(1988), 217-218.
- [16] **E. Michael**, Continuous selections II, Ann of Math., vol. 64, no.3, (1956), 562-580.
- [17] **G. Nagy**, Some remarks on lifting invertible elements from quotient C^* -algebras, J. Operator Theory 21(1989), 379-386.
- [18] **V. Nistor**, Stable range for tensor products of extensions of \mathcal{K} by $C(X)$, J. Operator Theory 16(1986), 387-396.
- [19] **C. Pasnicu**, On inductive limits of certain C^* -algebras of the form $C(X) \otimes F$, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc., 310(1988), 703-714.
- [20] **G.K. Pedersen**, C^* -algebras and their Automorphism Groups, Academic Press, London/New York, 1979.
- [21] **I.F. Putnam**, The invertible elements are dense in the irrational rotation C^* -algebras, preprint 1989.
- [22] **N. Riedel**, On the topological stable rank of irrational rotation algebras, J. Operator Theory 13(1985), 143-150.
- [23] **M.A. Rieffel**, Dimension and stable rank in the K-theory of C^* -algebras, Proc. London Math. Soc. 46(1983), 301-333.
- [24] **M. Rordam**, On the structure of simple C^* -algebras tensored with a UHF-algebra I,II, Preprints.
- [25] **S. Zhang**, C^* -algebras with real rank zero and the internal structure of their corona and multiplier algebras I,II,III,IV, Preprints.