

# A Conditional Expectation on the Tensor Product of Exel-Laca algebras

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**Abstract.** We show that the ultragraph  $C^*$ -algebra  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1 \times \mathcal{G}_2)$  can be embedded in  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$  as a  $*$ -subalgebra. We then use this fact to investigate the existence of a conditional expectation on the tensor product of Exel-Laca algebras onto a certain subalgebra.

**Keywords:** ultragraph  $C^*$ -algebra, Exel-Laca algebras, conditional expectation

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## Introduction

The Cuntz-Krieger algebras were introduced and studied in [3] for binary-valued matrices with finite index. A direct extension of these algebras is the Exel-Laca algebras of infinite matrices with  $\{0, 1\}$ -entries [4]. Another generalization of the Cuntz-Krieger algebras is the  $C^*$ -algebras of directed graphs [6, 1, 5]. It is shown in [5] that for directed graph  $G$  with no sinks and sources, the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C^*(G)$  is canonically isomorphic to the Exel-Laca algebra  $\mathcal{O}_{A_G}$ , where  $A_G$  is the edge matrix of  $G$ .

The motivation of the definition of ultragraphs  $C^*$ -algebras is to unify the theory of graph  $C^*$ -algebras and Exel-Laca algebras [9]. In ultragraphs, the range of each edge is allowed to be a nonempty set of vertices. Any  $C^*$ -algebra of a directed graph can be considered as an ultragraph  $C^*$ -algebra and the  $C^*$ -algebras of ultragraphs with no singular vertices are precisely the Exel-Laca algebras. Furthermore, the class of ultragraph  $C^*$ -algebras are strictly larger than this class of directed graphs as well as the class of Exel-Laca algebras.

This paper is motivated by a natural question, which is the existence of a conditional expectation from  $\mathcal{O}_{d_1} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{d_2}$  onto a subalgebra of  $\mathcal{O}_{d_1} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{d_2}$  isomorphic

to  $\mathcal{O}_{d_1 d_2}$  [2]. We extend this question to Exel-Laca algebras. For ultragraphs  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$ , we show that  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1 \times \mathcal{G}_2)$  is isomorphic to a certain subalgebra of  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$ . By setting some conditions on  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$ , we see that  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1 \times \mathcal{G}_2)$  is isomorphic to the fixed point algebra  $(C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2))^\beta$ , where  $\beta$  is an action from the unit circle. Finally, we show that there is a conditional expectation from the tensor product  $\mathcal{O}_A \otimes \mathcal{O}_B$  onto  $\mathcal{O}_{AB}$ .

## 1 Preliminaries

In this section, we briefly review the basic definitions and properties of ultragraph  $C^*$ -algebras which will be used in the next section. For more details about the ultragraph  $C^*$ -algebras, we refer the reader to [9, 7].

An *ultragraph*  $\mathcal{G} = (G^0, \mathcal{G}^1, r, s)$  consists of countable sets  $G^0$  of vertices and  $\mathcal{G}^1$  of edges, the source map  $s : \mathcal{G}^1 \rightarrow G^0$  and the range map  $r : \mathcal{G}^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(G^0) \setminus \{\emptyset\}$ , where  $\mathcal{P}(G^0)$  is the collection of all subsets of  $G^0$ . A vertex  $v \in G^0$  is called a *sink* if  $|s^{-1}(v)| = 0$  and an *infinite emitter* if  $|s^{-1}(v)| = \infty$ . A *singular* vertex is a vertex that is either a sink or an infinite emitter. The ultragraph is *row-finite* if each vertex emits at most finitely many edges.

For a set  $X$ , a subcollection of  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  is called an *algebra* if it is closed under the set operations  $\cup$  and  $\cap$ . If  $\mathcal{G}$  is an ultragraph, we write  $\mathcal{G}^0$  for the smallest algebra in  $\mathcal{P}(G^0)$  containing  $\{v, r(e) : v \in G^0 \text{ and } e \in \mathcal{G}^1\}$ .

**Definition 1.** Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be an ultragraph. A *Cuntz-Krieger  $\mathcal{G}$ -family* consists of projections  $\{p_A : A \in \mathcal{G}^0\}$  and partial isometries  $\{s_e : e \in \mathcal{G}^1\}$  with mutually orthogonal ranges such that

- (1)  $p_\emptyset = 0$ ,  $p_A p_B = p_{A \cap B}$  and  $p_{A \cup B} = p_A + p_B - p_{A \cap B}$  for all  $A, B \in \mathcal{G}^0$ ;
- (2)  $s_e^* s_e = p_{r(e)}$  for  $e \in \mathcal{G}^1$ ;
- (3)  $s_e s_e^* \leq p_{s(e)}$  for  $e \in \mathcal{G}^1$ ;
- (4)  $p_v = \sum_{s(e)=v} s_e s_e^*$  whenever  $0 < |s^{-1}(v)| < \infty$ .

The  $C^*$ -algebra  $C^*(\mathcal{G})$  is the universal  $C^*$ -algebra generated by a Cuntz-Krieger  $\mathcal{G}$ -family.

A *path* in ultragraph  $\mathcal{G}$  is a sequence  $\alpha = e_1 e_2 \cdots e_n$  of edges with  $s(e_{i+1}) \in r(e_i)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ . We say that the path  $\alpha$  has *length*  $|\alpha| := n$  and we write  $\mathcal{G}^*$  for the set of finite paths. The maps  $r, s$  extend to  $\mathcal{G}^*$  in an obvious way.

By [9, Remark 2.13], we have

$$C^*(\mathcal{G}) = \overline{\text{span}} \{s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^* : \alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{G}^*, A \in \mathcal{G}^0, \text{ and } r(\alpha) \cap r(\beta) \cap A \neq \emptyset\},$$

where  $s_\alpha := s_{e_1} s_{e_2} \cdots s_{e_n}$  if  $\alpha = e_1 e_2 \cdots e_n$  and  $s_\alpha := p_A$  if  $\alpha = A$ .

The universal property of  $C^*(\mathcal{G})$  gives an action  $\gamma : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \text{Aut } C^*(\mathcal{G})$ , which is characterized on generators by  $\gamma_z(p_A) = p_A$  and  $\gamma_z(s_e) = z s_e$  for  $A \in \mathcal{G}^0$ ,  $e \in \mathcal{G}^1$  and  $z \in \mathbb{T}$ . It is called the *gauge action* for  $C^*(\mathcal{G})$ . The  $*$ -subalgebra  $\{a \in C^*(\mathcal{G}) : \int_{\mathbb{T}} \gamma_z(a) dz = a\}$ , denoted  $C^*(\mathcal{G})^\gamma$ , is called the *fixed-point algebra* of  $C^*(\mathcal{G})$ .

## 2 Tensor Product

A  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is called *nuclear* if both the injective and projective  $C^*$ -cross norms on  $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{B}$  are equal for every  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{B}$ . In [8, Theorem 30] it is shown that all ultragraph  $C^*$ -algebras are nuclear. Let  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  be two ultragraphs. If  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) = C^*(s, p)$  and  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_2) = C^*(t, q)$ , then one can show that

$$C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2) = \overline{\text{span}}\{s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^* \otimes t_\mu q_B t_\nu^*\},$$

where  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{G}_1^*$ ,  $A \in \mathcal{G}_1^0$ ,  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{G}_2^*$  and  $B \in \mathcal{G}_2^0$ .

**Definition 2.** The *Cartesian product* of ultragraphs  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{G} := \mathcal{G}_1 \times \mathcal{G}_2$ , is the ultragraph  $\mathcal{G} = (G^0, \mathcal{G}^1, r, s)$ , where  $G^0 := \mathcal{G}_1^0 \times \mathcal{G}_2^0$ ,  $\mathcal{G}^1 := \mathcal{G}_1^1 \times \mathcal{G}_2^1$  and  $s : \mathcal{G}^1 \rightarrow G^0$  and  $r : \mathcal{G}^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(G^0 \times G^0)$  are the maps defined by  $s(e, f) := (s_1(e), s_2(f))$  and  $r(e, f) := r_1(e) \times r_2(f)$ , respectively.

**Remark 1.** Let  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  be two ultragraphs. If  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_1 \times \mathcal{G}_2$ , then by [9, Lemma 2.12], we have

$$G^0 = \left\{ \bigcup_{j=1}^k \bigcap_{i_j=1}^{n_j} A_{i_j} : A_{i_j} \in \{(v, w), r(e, f) : (v, w) \in G^0, (e, f) \in \mathcal{G}^1\} \right\}.$$

We see in the next theorem that there exist a Cuntz-Krieger  $\mathcal{G}$ -family  $\{S, P\}$  in the tensor product  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$  such that  $C^*(S, P) = C^*(\mathcal{G})$ .

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  be ultragraphs and let  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_1 \times \mathcal{G}_2$ . Then  $C^*(\mathcal{G})$  can be embedded in  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$  as a  $*$ -subalgebra.*

*Proof.* Let  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) = C^*(s, p)$  and  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_2) = C^*(\tilde{s}, \tilde{p})$ . We begin by construct a Cuntz-Krieger  $\mathcal{G}$ -family  $\{S, P\}$  in  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$ . Define  $P_{(v,w)} = p_v \otimes \tilde{p}_w$  and  $P_{r(e,f)} = p_{r_1(e)} \otimes \tilde{p}_{r_2(f)}$  for every  $(v, w) \in G^0$  and  $(e, f) \in \mathcal{G}^1$ . By Remark 1, we generate the projections  $\{P_A : A \in \mathcal{G}^0\}$  by defining

$$P_{A \cap B} := P_A P_B \quad \text{and} \quad P_{A \cup B} := P_A + P_B - P_A P_B,$$

for every  $A, B \in \{(v, w), r(e, f) : (v, w) \in G^0, (e, f) \in \mathcal{G}^1\}$ . Also, we naturally define  $S_{(e,f)} := s_e \otimes \tilde{s}_f$  for every  $(e, f) \in \mathcal{G}^1$ .

We show that  $\{S, P\}$  is a Cuntz-Krieger  $\mathcal{G}$ -family in  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$ . By Remark 1,  $\{P_A : A \in \mathcal{G}^0\}$  is a set of projections satisfies Condition (1) of Definition 1.

To verify Condition (2) suppose that  $(e, f) \in \mathcal{G}^1$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} S_{(e,f)}^* S_{(e,f)} &= (s_e \otimes \tilde{s}_f)^* (s_e \otimes \tilde{s}_f) = s_e^* s_e \otimes \tilde{s}_f^* \tilde{s}_f \\ &= p_{r_1(e)} \otimes \tilde{p}_{r_2(f)} = P_{r_1(e) \times r_2(f)} = P_{r(e,f)}. \end{aligned}$$

The Condition (3) of Definition 1 may be verified as Condition (2). Suppose that  $0 < |s^{-1}(v, w)| < \infty$ . Since  $s^{-1}(v, w) = s_1^{-1}(v) \times s_2^{-1}(w)$ , we have  $0 < |s_1^{-1}(v)|, |s_2^{-1}(w)| < \infty$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{(e,f) \in s^{-1}(v,w)} S_{(e,f)} S_{(e,f)}^* &= \sum_{(e,f) \in s^{-1}(v,w)} (s_e \otimes \tilde{s}_f)(s_e \otimes \tilde{s}_f)^* \\ &= \sum_{(e,f) \in s_1^{-1}(v) \times s_2^{-1}(w)} s_e s_e^* \otimes \tilde{s}_f \tilde{s}_f^* \\ &= \sum_{f \in s^{-1}(w)} \sum_{e \in s^{-1}(v)} s_e s_e^* \otimes \tilde{s}_f \tilde{s}_f^* = p_v \otimes \tilde{p}_w = P_{(v,w)}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\{S, P\}$  is a Cuntz-Krieger  $\mathcal{G}$ -family in  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$ . Now we show that  $C^*(\mathcal{G}) \cong C^*(S, P)$ . Let  $\gamma_1$  be the gauge action on  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1)$ . Define the action  $\gamma_2 : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$  by  $\gamma_2(z) = Id$  for every  $z \in \mathbb{T}$ . Also, let  $\beta := \gamma_1 \otimes \gamma_2$  be the action of compact group  $\mathbb{T}$  on  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$  defined by  $\beta(z) = \gamma_1(z) \otimes \gamma_2(z)$ . We have  $\beta_z(P_A) = P_A$  and  $\beta_z(S_{(e,f)}) = (\gamma_1)_z(s_e) \otimes (\gamma_2)_z(\tilde{s}_f) = z s_e \otimes \tilde{s}_f = z S_{(e,f)}$  for every  $A \in \mathcal{G}^0$  and  $(e, f) \in \mathcal{G}^1$ . If  $\{T, Q\}$  is the universal Cuntz-Krieger  $\mathcal{G}$ -family, then there is a homomorphism  $\phi : C^*(\mathcal{G}) \rightarrow C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$  such that  $\phi(Q_A) = P_A$  and  $\phi(T_{(e,f)}) = S_{(e,f)}$  for every  $A \in \mathcal{G}^0$  and  $(e, f) \in \mathcal{G}^1$ . Since  $\beta_z \circ \phi = \phi \circ \gamma_z$ , it follows from the gauge-invariant Uniqueness Theorem [9, Theorem 6.8] that  $\phi$  is injective and  $C^*(S, P) \cong C^*(\mathcal{G})$ .  $\square$  *QED*

## 2.1 Conditional Expectation

By setting some conditions on ultragraphs  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$ , we show that there exists a conditional expectation from  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$  onto  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1 \times \mathcal{G}_2)$ . In the following we recall the definition of conditional expectation.

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a  $C^*$ -algebra and let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a  $C^*$ -subalgebra of  $\mathcal{A}$ . A linear map  $E : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  is called a *projection* if  $E(b) = b$  for every  $b \in \mathcal{B}$ . A *conditional expectation* from  $\mathcal{A}$  onto  $\mathcal{B}$  is a projection  $E : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  such that  $\|E(a)\| \leq \|a\|$  for all  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ .

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  be range-finite ultragraphs with no singular vertex and let  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_1 \times \mathcal{G}_2$ . If  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) = C^*(s, p)$  and  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_2) = C^*(\tilde{s}, \tilde{p})$ , then  $C^*(\mathcal{G})$  is isomorphic to the subalgebra*

$$\mathcal{A} := \overline{\text{span}}\{s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^* \otimes \tilde{s}_\mu \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_\nu^* : |\alpha| - |\beta| = |\mu| - |\nu|\}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\{S, P\}$  be the Cuntz-Krieger  $\mathcal{G}$ -family as defined in Theorem 1 and let  $C^*(\mathcal{G}) = C^*(S, P)$ . We note that  $\alpha := (e_1, f_1)(e_2, f_2) \cdots (e_n, f_n)$  is a path in  $\mathcal{G}$  if and only if  $\alpha := e_1 e_2 \cdots e_n$  and  $\mu := f_1 f_2 \cdots f_n$  are paths in  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$ , respectively. Thus  $C^*(\mathcal{G}) \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^* \otimes \tilde{s}_\mu \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_\nu^* \in \mathcal{A}$ . Since  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  are range-finite  $p_{A_1} \otimes \tilde{p}_{A_2} \in C^*(\mathcal{G})$  for every  $A_1 \in \mathcal{G}_1^0$  and  $A_2 \in \mathcal{G}_2^0$ . Suppose that  $|\mu| > |\alpha|$ . Decompose  $\mu = \mu' \mu''$  and  $\nu = \nu' \nu''$ , where  $|\mu'| = |\alpha|$  and  $|\nu'| = |\beta|$ . Due to the fact that  $|\alpha| - |\beta| = |\mu| - |\nu|$  we have  $|\mu''| = |\nu''|$ . Since  $\mathcal{G}_1$  is a row-finite ultragraph without sinks, for every  $v \in \mathcal{G}_1^0$  we have

$$p_v \otimes \tilde{s}_{\mu''} \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_{\nu''}^* = \sum_{\{\eta \in \mathcal{G}_1^0 : |\eta| = |\mu''|, s_1(\eta) = v\}} s_\eta p_{r(\eta)} s_\eta^* \otimes \tilde{s}_{\mu''} \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_{\nu''}^* \in C^*(\mathcal{G}).$$

Due to the fact that  $\mathcal{G}_1$  is range-finite  $p_A \otimes \tilde{s}_{\mu''} \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_{\nu''}^* \in C^*(\mathcal{G})$ . Hence

$$(s_\alpha \otimes \tilde{s}_{\mu'}) (p_A \otimes \tilde{s}_{\mu''} \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_{\nu''}^*) (s_\beta^* \otimes \tilde{s}_{\nu'}^*) = s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^* \otimes \tilde{s}_\mu \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_\nu^* \in C^*(\mathcal{G}).$$

Suppose that  $|\mu| < |\alpha|$ . Then a similar argument as before and the assumption that  $\mathcal{G}_2$  is range-finite ultragraph with no singular vertices imply that  $s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^* \otimes \tilde{s}_\mu \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_\nu^* \in C^*(\mathcal{G})$ . Thus  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq C^*(\mathcal{G})$ , as desired.  $\square$

By using the above lemma, we construct a conditional expectation from  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$  onto  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1 \times \mathcal{G}_2)$ .

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  be range-finite ultragraphs with no singular vertex and let  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_1 \times \mathcal{G}_2$ . Then there exists a conditional expectation from  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$  onto  $C^*(\mathcal{G})$ . In particular,*

$$C^*(\mathcal{G}) = (C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2))^\beta,$$

where  $\beta$  is an action from the unit circle  $\mathbb{T}$  on  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) = C^*(s, p)$  and  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_2) = C^*(\tilde{s}, \tilde{p})$ . Also, let  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  be the gauge actions of  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1)$  and  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$ , respectively. Define the action  $\beta$  of  $\mathbb{T}$  on  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$  by  $\beta(z) = \gamma_1(z) \otimes \gamma_2(\bar{z})$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{T}$ . For every  $s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^* \otimes$

$\tilde{s}_\mu \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_\nu^* \in C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{T}} \beta_z (s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^* \otimes \tilde{s}_\mu \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_\nu^*) dz &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} (\gamma_1)_z (s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^*) \otimes (\gamma_2)_z (\tilde{s}_\mu \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_\nu^*) dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{|\alpha|-|\beta|} s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^* \otimes z^{-(|\mu|-|\nu|)} \tilde{s}_\mu \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_\nu^* dz \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{|\alpha|-|\beta|-(|\mu|-|\nu|)} (s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^* \otimes \tilde{s}_\mu \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_\nu^*) dz \\ &= \int_0^1 e^{2\pi i t (|\alpha|-|\beta|-(|\mu|-|\nu|))} (s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^* \otimes \tilde{s}_\mu \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_\nu^*) dz. \end{aligned}$$

So if we define  $E : C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2) \rightarrow C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2)$  by  $E(x) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \beta_z(x) dz$ , then

$$E(s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^* \otimes \tilde{s}_\mu \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_\nu^*) = \begin{cases} s_\alpha p_A s_\beta^* \otimes \tilde{s}_\mu \tilde{p}_B \tilde{s}_\nu^* & \text{if } |\alpha| - |\beta| = |\mu| - |\nu|, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Thus, by Lemma 1,  $E$  is onto  $C^*(\mathcal{G})$  and consequently  $E : C^*(\mathcal{G}_1) \otimes C^*(\mathcal{G}_2) \rightarrow C^*(\mathcal{G})$  is a conditional expectation.  $\square$

## 2.2 Exel-Laca algebras

The Exel-Laca algebras, denoted by  $\mathcal{O}_A$ , are generated by a set of partial isometries whose relations are determined by a countable binary-valued matrix  $A$  with no identically zero rows [4, Definition 8.1]. The  $C^*$ -algebras of ultragraphs with no singular vertices are precisely the Exel-Laca algebras. More precisely, for matrix  $A$  the ultragraph  $\mathcal{G}_A := (G_A^0, \mathcal{G}_A^1, r, s)$  is defined by  $G_A^0 := \{v_i : i \in I\}$ ,  $\mathcal{G}_A^1 := I$ ,  $s(i) := v_i$  and  $r(i) := \{v_j : A(i, j) = 1\}$  for every  $i \in I$ . By [9, Theorem 4.5], the Exel-Laca algebra  $\mathcal{O}_A$  is canonically isomorphic to ultragraph  $C^*$ -algebra  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_A)$ .

For some square matrices  $A$  and  $B$ , we show that there is a conditional expectation from  $\mathcal{O}_A \otimes \mathcal{O}_B$  onto  $\mathcal{O}_{AB}$ . To do this we recall the following definition.

**Definition 3** ([9]). Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be an ultragraph. The edge matrix of an ultragraph  $\mathcal{G}$  is the  $\mathcal{G}^1 \times \mathcal{G}^1$  matrix  $A_{\mathcal{G}}$  given by

$$A_{\mathcal{G}}(e, f) := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } s(f) \in r(e), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

**Definition 4.** Let  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  be infinite matrices with entries in  $\{0, 1\}$  and having no identically zero rows. We define  $A_1 A_2 := A_{\mathcal{G}_{A_1} \times \mathcal{G}_{A_2}}$ . If  $A = [1]_{n \times n}$ , then we have the Cuntz algebra  $\mathcal{O}_n$ . For  $B = [1]_{m \times m}$  we have  $AB = [1]_{nm \times nm}$ .

Now we give the main result of this paper.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be infinite matrices with entries in  $\{0, 1\}$  and having no identically zero rows. Then  $\mathcal{O}_{AB}$  can be embedded in  $\mathcal{O}_A \otimes \mathcal{O}_B$  as a  $*$ -subalgebra. If any row in  $A$  and  $B$  has at most finitely many non-zero elements, then there is a conditional expectation from  $\mathcal{O}_A \otimes \mathcal{O}_B$  onto  $\mathcal{O}_{AB}$ . In particular, there is a conditional expectation from  $\mathcal{O}_m \otimes \mathcal{O}_n$  onto  $\mathcal{O}_{mn}$ .*

*Proof.* By [9, Theorem 4.5]  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_A) \cong \mathcal{O}_A$  and  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_B) \cong \mathcal{O}_B$ . Also, we have  $\mathcal{O}_{AB} = \mathcal{O}_{A_{\mathcal{G}_{A_1}} \times \mathcal{G}_{A_2}} \cong C^*(\mathcal{G}_A \otimes \mathcal{G}_B)$ . So the first assertion follows from Theorem 1. Now suppose that any row in  $A$  and  $B$  has at most finitely many non-zero elements. Then one can see that  $\mathcal{G}_A$  and  $\mathcal{G}_B$  are range-finite ultragraphs with no singular vertex. By Proposition 1 there is a conditional expectation from  $\mathcal{O}_A \otimes \mathcal{O}_B$  onto  $\mathcal{O}_{AB}$ .  $\square$

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