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HEREDITARY $C^*$-SUBALGEBRAS OF GRAPH $C^*$-ALGEBRAS

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Abstract. We show that a $C^*$-algebra $\mathfrak{A}$ which is stably isomorphic to a unital graph $C^*$-algebra, is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra if and only if it admits an approximate unit of projections. As a consequence, a hereditary $C^*$-subalgebra of a unital real rank zero graph $C^*$-algebra is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra. Furthermore, if a $C^*$-algebra $\mathfrak{A}$ admits an approximate unit of projections, then its minimal unitization is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra if and only if $\mathfrak{A}$ is stably isomorphic to a unital graph $C^*$-algebra.

1. Introduction

Graph $C^*$-algebras were introduced by M. Enomoto and Y. Watatani in 1980 as a generalization of the Cuntz–Krieger algebras. For a graph $C^*$-algebra $C^*(E)$, many $C^*$-algebraic properties correspond to properties of its underlying graph $E$, making graph $C^*$-algebras graph algebras we can see. Like Cuntz-Krieger algebras, graph $C^*$-algebras provide models for purely infinite $C^*$-algebras, both simple and with finitely many ideals. In the simple case, any stable UCT Kirchberg algebra with free $K_1$-group is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra. And in the non-simple case, the class of graph $C^*$-algebras provide an abundance of concrete examples of $C^*$-algebras with both purely infinite and stably finite parts. For these reasons, graph $C^*$-algebras show up in several contexts, including the classification program, as either counterexamples or test objects for conjectures and working theories.

In this paper, we study permanence properties for the class of graph $C^*$-algebras. An important observation for us is that all graph $C^*$-algebras are $\sigma_p$-unital, i.e., they admit a countable approximate unit of projections. Thus, having an approximate unit consisting of projections is a necessary condition for a $C^*$-algebra to be isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra. We show, in Theorem 6.1, that it is also sufficient when the $C^*$-algebra is stably isomorphic to a unital graph $C^*$-algebra. As a corollary, if $E$ is a graph with finitely many vertices (equivalently $C^*(E)$ is unital), then a hereditary $C^*$-subalgebra of $C^*(E) \otimes K$ is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra if and only if it is $\sigma_p$-unital; see Corollary 6.3. If, in addition, $E$ is furthermore assumed to satisfy Condition (K) (equivalently the real rank of $C^*(E)$ is zero), then a $C^*$-algebra stably isomorphic to $C^*(E)$ is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra, and a hereditary $C^*$-subalgebra of $C^*(E) \otimes K$ is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra. It was proved by Crisp (see [Cris08, Theorem 3.5 and Lemma 3.6]), that for a graph $E$ with finitely many vertices, if $X \subseteq E^0$ and $p_X$ is the sum of the vertex projections over $X$, then $p_X C^*(E)p_X$ is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra. This result of Crisp becomes a special case of our result (see Corollary 6.3).
These are surprising results, and as noted in Example 6.4, they do not hold in general for nonunital graph \( \text{C}^* \)-algebras. The results also hold within the class of Cuntz–Krieger algebras. As was shown by the first and last named authors in [AR15], a unital \( \text{C}^* \)-algebra stably isomorphic to a Cuntz–Krieger algebra is isomorphic to a Cuntz–Krieger algebra, and a unital, hereditary \( \text{C}^* \)-subalgebra of a Cuntz–Krieger algebra is isomorphic to a Cuntz–Krieger algebra. Our methods and constructions generalize those in [AR15] to graphs with infinitely many edges.

As in [AR15], the proofs are constructive. When \( \mathfrak{A} \) is a \( \sigma_p \)-unital \( \text{C}^* \)-algebra stably isomorphic to a unital graph \( \text{C}^* \)-algebra \( \text{C}^*(E) \), we describe how to build a graph \( G \) with \( \text{C}^*(G) \cong \mathfrak{A} \), and how \( G \) relates to \( E \); see Theorem 6.1. For a general \( \sigma_p \)-unital \( \text{C}^* \)-subalgebra of \( \text{C}^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \), the underlying graph is also constructed; see Corollary 6.5.

Knowing how the graph \( G \) relates to the graph \( E \), allows one to investigate what properties of \( \text{C}^*(E) \) are inherited by the \( \text{C}^* \)-algebra \( \mathfrak{A} \cong \text{C}^*(G) \). In [ELR], our constructions are applied to investigate a class of \( \text{C}^* \)-algebras that turn out to be in the class of graph \( \text{C}^* \)-algebras. Furthermore, for graphs \( G \) that are of the form we construct, the minimal unitization of \( \text{C}^*(G) \) is easily seen to be isomorphic to a graph \( \text{C}^* \)-algebra. This allows us to establish Theorem 7.6 for \( \sigma_p \)-unital \( \text{C}^* \)-algebras \( \mathfrak{A} \): The minimal unitization of \( \mathfrak{A} \) is isomorphic to a graph \( \text{C}^* \)-algebra if and only if \( \mathfrak{A} \) is stably isomorphic to a unital graph \( \text{C}^* \)-algebra.

The Leavitt path algebra associated to a graph \( E \) is the universal algebra (over a fixed field) constructed from generators and relations which highly resemble the defining generators and relations of the graph \( \text{C}^* \)-algebra \( \text{C}^*(E) \). It is an interesting problem to determine which results about graph \( \text{C}^* \)-algebras have analogues in the realm of Leavitt path algebras. We believe that the same methods and ideas, which are presented in this paper, should allow one to prove similar results for Leavitt path algebras. In particular, we believe that our strategy implies that any unital corner in a unital Leavitt path algebra is isomorphic to a Leavitt path algebra. One could argue, that this result is even more surprising than its \( \text{C}^* \)-analogue, as the lack of analytic structure makes the Leavitt path algebras even more rigid than their \( \text{C}^* \)-algebra cousins.

2. Definitions and preliminaries

Throughout the paper, unless stated otherwise, all graphs will be countable and directed. All definitions in this section are standard definitions.

**Definition 2.1.** Let \( E = (E^0, E^1, s_E, r_E) \) be a (countable, directed) graph. A Cuntz–Krieger \( E \)-family is a set of mutually orthogonal projections \( \{p_v \mid v \in E^0\} \) and a set \( \{s_e \mid e \in E^1\} \) of partial isometries satisfying the following conditions:

- (CK0) \( s_es_f = 0 \) if \( e, f \in E^1 \) and \( e \neq f \),
- (CK1) \( s_es_e = p_{r_E(e)} \) for all \( e \in E^1 \),
- (CK2) \( s_es_e^* \leq p_{s_E(e)} \) for all \( e \in E^1 \), and,
- (CK3) \( p_v = \sum_{e \in s_E^{-1}(v)} s_es_e^* \) for all \( v \in E^0 \) with \( 0 < |s_E^{-1}(v)| < \infty \).

The graph \( \text{C}^* \)-algebra \( \text{C}^*(E) \) is defined as the universal \( \text{C}^* \)-algebra given by these generators and relations.

**Definition 2.2.** Let \( E \) be a graph. A subgraph \( G \) of \( E \) is called a \( \text{CK-subgraph} \), written \( G \subseteq_{\text{CK}} E \), if \( s_G^{-1}(v) = s_E^{-1}(v) \) for all \( v \in E^0 \).
The notion of CK-subgraphs and more generally CK-morphisms between arbitrary directed graphs was introduced in [Good09] by Goodearl who showed for all fields $K$ that a CK-morphism $G \to E$ induces an injective $K$-algebra morphism $\mathcal{L}_K(G) \to \mathcal{L}_K(E)$ between the Leavitt path algebras. By Lemma 2.7 of [AAR15], the same holds in the $C^*$-algebraic setting, so in particular $C^*(G)$ embeds into $C^*(E)$ when $G \subseteq \text{CK} \ E$. More concretely, if $\{q_v, t_e \mid v \in G^0, e \in G^1\}$ is a universal Cuntz-Krieger $G$-family generating $C^*(G)$ and $\{p_v, s_e \mid v \in E^0, e \in E^1\}$ a universal Cuntz-Krieger $E$-family generating $C^*(E)$, then the assignment $q_v \mapsto p_v, t_e \mapsto s_e$ induces an injective $*$-homomorphism $C^*(G) \to C^*(E)$.

**Definition 2.3.** Let $G$ be a graph. A loop in $G$ is an edge $e$ for which $s_E(e) = r(E(e))$. We say that a loop $e$ is based at $s_E(e)$. A path of length $n$ in $E$ is a sequence $e_1 \cdots e_n$ of edges $e_i$ in $E$ with $s_E(e_i) = r_E(e_{i-1})$ for all $i \in \{2, \ldots, n\}$. We consider vertices as paths of length 0, and let $E^*$ and $E^n$ denote the set of paths respectively paths of length $n$ in $E$. We extend the range and source map to paths by $r_E(e_1 \cdots e_n) = r(E(e_n))$ and $s_E(e_1 \cdots e_n) = s(E(e_1))$, and by $s_E(v) = r_E(v) = v$. A path $\alpha$ in $E$ of nonzero length with $s(E(\alpha)) = r(E(\alpha))$ is called a cycle and is considered based at $s(E(\alpha))$. A cycle $\alpha = e_1 \cdots e_n$ is called simple if $r_E(e_i) \neq r(E(e_n))$ for all $i < n$.

**Definition 2.4.** A graph $E$ satisfies Condition (K) if for all $v \in E^0$, there is either no cycle based in $v$ or two distinct simple cycles in $v$.

By Theorem 2.5 of [HS03], a graph $C^*$-algebra $C^*(E)$ has real rank zero if and only if its underlying graph $E$ satisfies Condition (K).

**Definition 2.5.** We say that $v$ dominates $w$, written $v \succeq w$, if there is a path of nonzero length in $E$ from $v$ to $w$. For $S \subseteq E^0$ and $v \in E^0$, we write $v \succeq S$ if there exists $w \in S$ such that $v \succeq w$.

If there exists a path (possibly of length zero) from $v$ to $w$, then we write $v \succeq w$. If $v \succeq w$ and $v \neq w$, then we write $v > w$.

Note that if $v \neq w$, then $v \succeq w$ if and only if $v \succeq w$ if and only if $v > w$. In the case that $v = w$, $v \succeq v$ establishes that there is a path of nonzero length from $v$ to $v$, where as $v \succeq v$ does not. Distinguishing these notions is crucial in the proofs of our results.

**Definition 2.6.** Let $E$ be a graph, and let $v$ be a vertex in $E$. The vertex $v$ is called regular if $s(E^{-1}(v))$ is finite and nonempty. If $s(E^{-1}(v))$ is empty, $v$ is called a sink, and if $s(E^{-1}(v))$ is infinite, $v$ is called an infinite emitter. If $r(E^{-1}(v))$ is empty, then $v$ is called a source.

**Definition 2.7.** Let $E$ be a graph. A subset $H$ of $E^0$ is called hereditary if for all $v \in H$ and $w \in E^0$, $v \succeq w$ implies $w \in H$. A subset $H$ of $E^0$ is called saturated if for all regular vertices in $v \in E^0$, $r(E(s(E^{-1}(v)))) \subseteq H$ implies $v \in H$. Given a saturated hereditary subset $H$ of $E^0$, a vertex $v \in E^0$ is called a breaking vertex for $H$ if $v$ is an infinite emitter and $s(E^{-1}(v)) \cap r(E(E^0 \setminus H))$ is finite and nonempty.

**Definition 2.8.** Let $E$ be a graph, and let $\{p_v, s_e \mid v \in E^0, e \in E^1\}$ denote a Cuntz-Krieger $E$-family generating $C^*(E)$. An admissible pair $(H, S)$ in $E$ is a saturated hereditary subset $H$ of $E^0$ and a set $S$ of breaking vertices for $H$. Let
\((H, S)\) be an admissible pair. We let \(I_{(H, S)}\) denote the ideal in \(C^*(E)\) generated by
\[
\{ p_v \mid v \in H \} \cup \left\{ \sum_{e \in s_{E(E)}(v) \cap r_{E(E)}(E^0 \setminus H)} s_e s_e^* \mid v \in S \right\}.
\]

And we define a subgraph \(E_{(H, S)}\) of \(E\) by \(E_{(H, S)}^0 = H \cup S\) and \(E_{(H, S)}^{-1} = s_{E(E)}^{-1}(H) \cup \{ e \in s_{E(E)}^{-1}(S) \mid r_{E(E)}(e) \in H \}\).

**Definition 2.9.** Let \(E\) be a graph, and let \(\{ p_v, s_e \mid v \in E^0, e \in E^1 \}\) denote a Cuntz–Krieger \(E\)-family generating \(C^*(E)\). Let \(\gamma\) denote the gauge action on \(C^*(E)\), i.e., the action of the circle group \(\mathbb{T}\) on \(C^*(E)\) for which \(\gamma_z(s_e) = z s_e \) and \(\gamma_z(p_v) = p_v\) for all \(z \in \mathbb{T}, e \in E^1,\) and \(v \in E^0\). An ideal \(\mathcal{I}\) in \(C^*(E)\) is called **gauge-invariant** if \(\gamma_z(\mathcal{I}) \subseteq \mathcal{I}\) for all \(z \in \mathbb{T}\).

All ideals are assumed two-sided and closed. By Theorem 3.6 of [BHRS02], all gauge-invariant ideals in a graph \(C^*-\) algebra \(C^*(E)\) are of the form \(I_{(H, S)}\) for \((H, S)\) an admissible pair in \(E\). Furthermore, the ideal \(I_{(H, S)}\) is isomorphic to a full corner in \(C^*(E_{(H, S)}) \otimes \mathbb{K}\).

**Proposition 2.10.** Let \(E\) be a graph and let \((H, S)\) be an admissible pair. Then \(I_{(H, S)}\) and \(I_{(H, S)} \otimes \mathbb{K}\) are isomorphic to full corners of \(C^*(E_{(H, S)}) \otimes \mathbb{K}\).

**Proof.** By Theorem 5.1 of [RT14], \(I_{(H, S)} \cong C^*(\overline{E}(E_{(H, S)})\) (see Definition 4.1 of [RT14] for the definition of \(\overline{E}(E_{(H, S)})\)). Since \(\overline{E}(E_{(H, S)})\) is obtained from \(E_{(H, S)}\) by adding regular sources to \(E_{(H, S)}\), we have that \(C^*(E_{(H, S)})\) is isomorphic to a full corner of \(C^*(\overline{E}(E_{(H, S)}))\). By Corollary 2.9 of [Bro77], \(C^*(E_{(H, S)}) \otimes \mathbb{K} \cong C^*(\overline{E}(E_{(H, S)}) \otimes \mathbb{K}\). Therefore, \(I_{(H, S)} \cong C^*(\overline{E}(E_{(H, S)})) \otimes \mathbb{K}\) and \(I_{(H, S)} \otimes \mathbb{K}\) is isomorphic to a full corner of \(C^*(E_{(H, S)}) \otimes \mathbb{K}\). \(\square\)

### 3. Move Equivalence and Stably Complete Graphs

Move equivalence for graphs with finitely vertices was introduced by A. Sørensen in [Sør13]. It was introduced to identify stable isomorphism between unital graph \(C^*\)-algebras \(C^*(E)\) and \(C^*(F)\) on the level of the graphs \(E\) and \(F\).

**Definition 3.1 (Out-splitting Graph).** Let \(E\) be a graph and let \(u \in E^0\). Partition \(s_{E^{-1}}(u)\) into disjoint nonempty sets \(\mathcal{E}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{E}_n\). Define the **out-splitting graph** \(E_{os}\) as follows:
\[
E_{os}^0 = (E^0 \setminus \{u\}) \cup \{u^1, \ldots, u^n\}
\]
\[
E_{os}^{-1} = (E^{-1} \setminus r_{E^{-1}}(u)) \cup \{e^1, \ldots, e^n \mid e \in r_{E^{-1}}(u)\}
\]
For \(e \notin r_{E^{-1}}(u)\), we let \(r_{E_{os}}(e) = r_{E}(e)\) and for \(e \in r_{E^{-1}}(u)\), we let \(r_{E_{os}}(e) = u^i\). For \(e \notin s_{E^{-1}}(u)\), we let \(s_{E_{os}}(e) = s_{E}(e)\), for \(e \in s_{E^{-1}}(u)\), we let \(s_{E_{os}}(e) = u^i\) if \(e \in \mathcal{E}_i\), and for \(e \in s_{E^{-1}}(u) \cap r_{E^{-1}}(u)\), we let \(s_{E_{os}}(e) = u^j\) if \(e \in \mathcal{E}_i\), for \(i, j = 1, \ldots, n\).

The following proposition is a special case of Theorem 3.2 of [BP04].

**Proposition 3.2 (Move (O)).** Let \(E\) be a graph and let \(u \in E^0\). Partition \(s_{E^{-1}}(u)\) into disjoint nonempty sets \(\mathcal{E}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{E}_n\). If at most one \(\mathcal{E}_i\) is infinite, then there exists a *-isomorphism \(\varphi: C^*(E) \to C^*(E_{os})\) such that
\[
\varphi(p_v) = \begin{cases} q_v, & \text{if } v \neq u \\ q^1 + \cdots + q^n, & \text{if } v = u \end{cases}
\]
and

\[ \varphi(s_e) = \begin{cases} t_e, & \text{if } e \notin r_E^{-1}(u) \\ t_e + \cdots + t_{e_n}, & \text{if } e \in r_E^{-1}(u), \end{cases} \]

where \( \{p_u, s_e \mid v \in E_0, e \in E_1\} \) and \( \{q_v, t_e \mid v \in E_0, e \in E_1\} \) are universal Cuntz–Krieger families generating \( C^*(E) \) and \( C^*(E_{\text{on}}) \) respectively. Consequently, \( \varphi \otimes \text{id}_K : C^*(E) \otimes K \to C^*(E_{\text{on}}) \otimes K \) is a \(*\)-isomorphism.

In [Sør13], A. Sørensen defines Move (O) together with Move (I) (in-split at a regular vertex), Move (S) (removing a regular source), and Move (R) (reduction). The following definition is Definition 4.1 of [Sør13].

**Definition 3.3.** Move equivalence \( \sim_M \) is the smallest equivalence relation on graphs with finitely many vertices such that \( E \sim_M G \) if \( G \) differs, up to graph isomorphism, from \( E \) by an application of one of the moves (O), (I), (S), or (R), or their inverses. If \( E \sim_M G \), we say that \( E \) is move equivalent to \( G \).

If one adds Move (C), the Cuntz splice, to the list of moves, one obtains a weaker move equivalence \( \sim_{CE} \). In [ERRS16b], it is shown that \( E \sim_{CE} G \) if and only if \( C^*(E) \otimes K \cong C^*(G) \otimes K \), provided \( C^*(E) \) and \( C^*(G) \) are unital and of real rank zero. For our purposes, the following generalization of Proposition 3.2 suffices. We refer to [Sør13] for a proof.

**Theorem 3.4.** Let \( E \) and \( G \) be graphs with finitely many vertices. If \( E \sim_M G \), then \( C^*(E) \otimes K \cong C^*(G) \otimes K \).

We will need the following moves that can be derived from move equivalence. For collapsing (Proposition 3.6) and Move (T) (Proposition 3.7), we refer to Theorem 5.2 respectively Theorem 5.4 of [Sør13].

**Definition 3.5 (Collapsing).** Let \( E \) be a graph and let \( v \in E_0 \). Assume that \( u \) does not support a loop. Defining the collapsing graph \( E_c \) by \( E_c^0 = E_0 \setminus \{u\} \),

\[ \begin{aligned} E_c^1 & = (E^1 \setminus (s_E^{-1}(u) \cup r_E^{-1}(u))) \cup \{[e,f] \mid e \in r_E^{-1}(u), f \in s_E^{-1}(u)\}, \end{aligned} \]

the range and source maps extends those of \( E \), \( r_{E_c}([e,f]) = r_E(f) \) and \( s_{E_c}([e,f]) = s_E(e) \).

**Proposition 3.6.** Let \( E \) be a graph and let \( u \in E_0 \). Suppose \( u \) is a regular vertex that is not a source and does not support a loop, and let \( E_c \) denote the graph obtained by collapsing \( u \). Then \( E \sim_M E_c \), and there exists a \(*\)-isomorphism \( \varphi : C^*(E) \otimes K \to C^*(E_c) \otimes K \) such that \( \varphi(p_v \otimes e_{i,1}) \sim q_v \otimes e_{1,1} \) for all \( v \in E_0 \setminus \{u\} \), where \( \{p_v, s_e \mid v \in E_0, e \in E_1\} \) and \( \{q_v, t_e \mid v \in E_0, e \in E_1\} \) are universal Cuntz–Krieger families generating \( C^*(E) \) and \( C^*(E_c) \) respectively and \( \{e_{i,j}\}_{i,j \in \mathbb{N}} \) is a system of matrix units of \( K \).

**Proposition 3.7 (Move (T)).** Let \( E \) be a graph and let \( \alpha = e_1 \cdots e_n \) be a path in \( E \). Assume that \( s_E^{-1}(s_E(e_1)) \cap r_E^{-1}(r_E(e_1)) \) is infinite. Let \( G \) be the graph defined by \( G^0 = E^0 \),

\[ G^1 = E^1 \cup \{\alpha^m \mid m \in \mathbb{N}\}, \]

and \( r_G \) and \( s_G \) extending \( r_E \) and \( s_E \) respectively with \( r_G(\alpha^m) = r_E(\alpha) \) and \( s_G(\alpha) = s_E(\alpha) \). Then \( E \sim_M G \).
The following lemma tells us that, up to move equivalence, we can remove breaking vertices from a graph with finitely many vertices. Two edges $e$ and $f$ in a graph $E$ are called parallel if $s_E(e) = s_E(f)$ and $r_E(e) = r_E(f)$.

Lemma 3.8. Let $E$ be a graph with finitely many vertices, and let $u \in E$ be an infinite emitter. Put

$$E_1 = \{ e \in s_E^{-1}(u) \mid \text{there are infinitely many edges parallel to } e \}$$

and $E_2 = s_E^{-1}(u) \setminus E_1$. Let $F$ be the graph obtained by out-splitting the vertex $u$ into the vertices $u^1$, $u^2$ according to the partition $E_1$, $E_2$. Then

1. $u^2$ is a finite emitter;
2. $u^1$ has the property that if $e \in s_F^{-1}(u^1)$, then there are infinitely many edges parallel to $e$;
3. the number of infinite emitters in $E$ is equal to the number of infinite emitters in $F$; and
4. $C^*(E) \cong C^*(F)$, and $E \sim_M F$.

Proof. Note that if $E_2 = \emptyset$, then $E = F$. Suppose $E_2 \neq \emptyset$. Since $E$ has finitely many vertices, we have that $E_2$ is finite. Therefore, $E \sim_M F$ via Move (O), hence $C^*(E) \cong C^*(F)$. It is clear from the construction of the out-splitting graph that $u^2$ is a finite emitter, and that $u^1$ has the property that if $e \in s_F^{-1}(u^1)$, then there are infinitely many edges parallel to $e$. \hfill \Box

Definition 3.9. A graph $E$ is stably complete if

1. its set of vertices $E^0$ is finite,
2. every regular vertex $v$ of $E$ supports a loop,
3. every vertex $v$ of $E$ supporting 2 distinct simple cycles, supports 2 loops,
4. every infinite emitter $v$ of $E$ emits infinitely to every vertex it dominates, i.e., if $v \geq w$, then $s_E^{-1}(v) \cap r_E^{-1}(w)$ is infinite,
5. for all vertices $v$ and $w$ in $E$, if $v$ dominates $w$ then $v$ emits to $w$, i.e., if $v \geq w$ then $s_E^{-1}(v) \cap r_E^{-1}(w) \neq \emptyset$, and
6. if $v$ is an infinite emitter in $E$ supporting a loop, then there exists a regular vertex $w$ in $E$ with $v \geq w$ and $w \geq v$.

Proposition 3.10. Let $E$ be a graph with finitely many vertices. Then there exists a stably complete graph $G$ for which $E \sim_M G$.

Proof. We first apply Lemma 3.8 to each infinite emitter in $E$ to get a graph $E_1$ such that $E \sim_M E_1$. $E_1$ has finitely many vertices, and for every infinite emitter $v \in E_1$, if $v \in s_{E_1}^{-1}(v)$, then there exists infinitely many edges parallel to $e$.

For each infinite emitter $v$ and each $w$ with $v \geq w$, we can now apply Proposition 3.7 since all paths out of $v$ trivially satisfy the required condition. We thereby achieve a graph $E_2$ with finitely many vertices for which $E \sim_M E_2$ and (4) of Definition 3.9 holds.

Now remove all regular sources of $E_1$, remove the regular vertices that become regular sources, and repeat this procedure finitely many times, so that we get a subgraph $E_3$ of $E_2$ with no regular sources. Since $E_4$ is achieved from $E_2$ via Move (S), $E_3 \sim_M E_2$.

By Proposition 3.8 we may collapse all regular vertices $v$ in $E_4$ that is not a base point of at least one loop, to get a graph $E_5$ satisfying (1), (2), and (3), for which $E_3 \sim_M E_5$. For each infinite emitter $v$ and for each $w \in E^0$, with $v \geq w$ choose...
$e_w \in s^{-1}(v) \cap r^{-1}(w)$. Then partition $s^{-1}(v)$ using the partition $E_1 = \{e_w : v \geq w\}$ and $E_2 = s^{-1}(v) \setminus E_1$. Applying Move (O) to $v$ with respect to this partition and doing this for all infinite emitters, we get a graph $E_5$ such that $E_5 \sim_M E_5$ such that $E_5$ satisfies 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and if $v$ is an infinite emitter and $|s^{-1}(w) \cap r^{-1}(v)| \geq 1$, then $|s^{-1}(w) \cap r^{-1}(w')| \geq 1$ for all $v \geq w'$.

Throughout the rest of the proof, $A_F$ will denote the adjacency matrix of $F$, i.e., $A_F(u, v) = |s^{-1}(u) \cap r^{-1}(v)|$. Let $E_{u,v}$ denote the matrix that is the identity except at the entry $(u,v)$ in which $E_{u,v} = 1$. Note that $E_{u,v}$ acts on the left by adding adding row $v$ to row $u$ and $E_{u,v}$ acts on the right by adding column $u$ to column $v$. We will also use the convention that $\infty - 1 = \infty$. We now do “legal column operations” as in \cite[Proposition 3.2]{ERRS16a} (see also \cite[Lemma 7.2]{Sør13}) to obtain a new graph $E_6 \sim_M E_5$, $E_6$ satisfies 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Note that if $v$ is an infinite emitter in $E_5$ such that $v \geq w$, then $v$ emits to $w$ by 4.

Suppose $v$ is a regular vertex and $\mu = \mu_1 \cdots \mu_n$ is a path through distinct vertices with source $v$ and $n \geq 2$. Let $E_6$ be the graph with adjacency matrix satisfying

$$A_{E_6} - I = (A_{E_5} - I)E_{s(\mu_2),r(\mu_2)}E_{s(\mu_3),r(\mu_3)} \cdots E_{s(\mu_n),r(\mu_n)}$$

Since $A_{E_5}(s(\mu_1),r(\mu_1)) > 0$ for all $i$, by \cite[Proposition 3.2]{ERRS16a} (see also \cite[Lemma 7.2]{Sør13}), $E_5 \sim_M E_6$. Note that $A_{E_6}(v, r(\mu_n)) \geq A_{E_5}(v, r(\mu_n)) + 1$. Moreover, if $r(\mu) = v$, then $A_{E_6}(v, v) \geq 2$. So, in particular, if $v$ is a regular vertex that supports 2 distinct simple cycles, then $A_{E_6}(v, v) \geq 2$ since for $A_{E_6}(v, v) = 1$ and $v$ is a regular vertex that supports 2 distinct paths, there must be a path of length greater than or equal to 2 from $v$ to $v$.

Continuing this process finitely many times for all regular vertices $v$ and all $v \geq w$ with $s^{-1}(v) \cap r^{-1}(w) = \emptyset$, we get $E_7 \sim_M E_6$ and $E_7$ satisfies 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

4. Projections in unital graph $C^*$-algebras

For a stable $C^*$-algebra $\mathfrak{A}$ let $s_1, s_2, \cdots \in M(\mathfrak{A})$ be a sequence of isometries such that $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} s_k s_k^*$ converges strictly to $1_{M(\mathfrak{A})}$. For a projection $p$ in $\mathfrak{A}$ and $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ we let $np$ denote the projection

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} s_k p s_k^*.$$  

For $n = \infty$ this sum converges strictly to a multiplier projection. This construction is unique up to unitary equivalence, in the sense that if $t_1, t_2, \ldots$ is another such sequence of isometries, then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} t_k s_k^*$ converges strictly to a unitary $u$ such that

$$u^* \left( \sum_{k=1}^{n} t_k p t_k^* \right) u = \sum_{k=1}^{n} s_k p s_k^*$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$. Thus we will in general not specify our chosen sequence of isometries. It is obvious, that if $p \in \mathfrak{A}$ is a projection then $p$ is Murray–von Neumann equivalent (denoted by $\sim$) to $1p$.

Also, if $I$ is some countable index set, and $(p_i)_{i \in I}$ is a collection of projections, then we let

$$\bigoplus_{i \in I, f} p_i = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} s_k p_f(k) s_k^*.$$
where \( f: \{1, \ldots, |I|\} \to I \) is a bijection. Here \( \{1, \ldots, |I|\} = \mathbb{N} \) if \( |I| = \infty \). As above, this does not depend on choice of bijection \( f \) up to unitary equivalence, and thus we will omit \( f \) from the notation above. We also define the sum \( p \oplus q = s_1p^*_1 + s_2q^*_2 \). This sum is commutative and associative up to unitary equivalence, by similar arguments as above, so we allow ourselves to write \( p_1 \oplus p_2 \oplus p_3 \) (and similar expressions) without emphasising if this means \( (p_1 \oplus p_2) \oplus p_3 \) or \( p_1 \oplus (p_2 \oplus p_3) \).

We will always consider a \( C^* \)-algebra \( \mathfrak{A} \) as a \( C^* \)-subalgebra of \( \mathfrak{A} \otimes \mathbb{K} \), via the isomorphism \( id_\mathfrak{A} \otimes \varepsilon_{1,1}: \mathfrak{A} \cong \mathfrak{A} \otimes \varepsilon_{1,1} \subseteq \mathfrak{A} \otimes \mathbb{K} \). So, for instance, if we are given projections \( p, q \in \mathfrak{A} \), then the sum \( p \oplus q \) makes sense in \( \mathfrak{A} \otimes \mathbb{K} \).

**Definition 4.1 (E-coefficients).** Let \( E \) be a graph and let \( \{p_v, s_e \mid v \in E^0, E^1\} \) be a universal Cuntz–Krieger family generating \( C^*(E) \). Given a projection \( p \) in \( C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \), a set of positive integers \( \{n_{(v,T)}\}_{(v,T) \in S} \) indexed by a finite subset \( S \) of \( E^0 \times 2^{E^1} \) is called \( E \)-coefficients for \( p \) if

1. for all \((v,T) \in S, T \) is a finite subset of \( s^{-1}_E(v) \);
2. for all \((v,T) \in S, T \neq \emptyset \) only if \( s^{-1}_E(v) \) is infinite;
3. the projection

\[
\bigoplus_{(v,T) \in S} n_{(v,T)} \left(p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_es_e^* \right)
\]

(which exists due to (1)–(2)) is Murray–von Neumann equivalent to \( p \) in \( C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \).

**Theorem 4.2** (cf. [HLM+14 Theorem 3.4 and Corollary 3.5] and [AMP07 Theorem 3.5]). Let \( E \) be a graph and let \( \{p_v, s_e \mid v \in E^0, E^1\} \) be a universal Cuntz–Krieger family generating \( C^*(E) \). Then any projection \( p \) in \( C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \) has \( E \)-coefficients.

**Corollary 4.3.** Let \( E \) be a graph. If \( \mathfrak{I} \) is an ideal in \( C^*(E) \) generated by projections, then \( \mathfrak{I} \) is gauge-invariant. In particular, there exists an admissible pair \((H,V)\) in \( E^0 \) for which \( \mathfrak{I} = \mathfrak{I}_{(H,V)} \).

**Proof.** Let \( \{p_e, s_e \mid v \in E^0, e \in E^1\} \) be a universal Cuntz-Krieger \( E \)-family generating \( C^*(E) \), and let \( \{e_{i,j}\}_{i,j} \) denote a system of matrix units for \( \mathbb{K} \). Let \( \mathcal{P} \) be a set of projections in \( C^*(E) \) such that the ideal generated by \( \mathcal{P} \) is \( \mathfrak{I} \), and let \( E \)-coefficients \( \{n_{(v,T)}\}_{(v,T) \in S_p} \) for \( p \oplus e_{1,1} \) be given for \( p \in \mathcal{P} \). Then \( \mathfrak{I} \) is generated as an ideal by

\[
\bigcup_{p \in \mathcal{P}} \left\{ p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_es_e^* \mid (v,T) \in S_p \right\}.
\]

As these generators are fixed under the gauge action, \( \mathfrak{I} \) is gauge-invariant.

**Definition 4.4.** Let \( E \) be a graph and let \( \{p_v, s_e \mid v \in E^0, e \in E^1\} \) be a universal Cuntz–Krieger family generating \( C^*(E) \). Let \( \{q_k\}_{k=1}^\infty \) be a sequence of projections in \( C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \) and let \( E \)-coefficients \( \{n_{(v,T)}^{(k)}\}_{(v,T) \in S_k} \) for each \( q_k \) be given. The sequence \( \{n_{(v,T)}^{(k)}\}_{(v,T) \in S_k} \) of \( E \)-coefficients is called partitioned if

1. for all \( k, l \in \mathbb{N} \) and \((v,T) \in S_k, (u,V) \in S_l \), if \( T \cap V \neq \emptyset \) then \( k = l, v = u \) and \( T = V \);
Proof. By Theorem 4.2, is an infinite emitter and there exists Lemma 4.5. if / stably complete, we may assume p Replace (4.1) using that E Then the r with C there exists C to hereditary closure in E Since H all subsets of n ⨁ \sum_{j} E 0 = v, T (4.2) \sum_{j} E \sum_{j} E. If the vertex w is regular, there exists a loop f' based in w, and

\[ p_w = \sum_{e \in s^{-1}_E(w)} s_e s_{e'} \sim p_w \oplus p_v \oplus \bigoplus_{e \in s^{-1}_E(w) \setminus \{f, f'\}} \alpha_{E(e)}. \tag{4.1} \]

Replace p_w in

\[ p \sim \bigoplus_{(u, V) \in S_{i-1}} n_{(u, V)}^{-1} \left( p_u - \sum_{e \in V} s_e s_{e'} \right) \]

using \([4.1]\) using that \((w, \emptyset) \in S_{i-1}\) as w \in V_{i-1}. If the vertex w is not regular, it is an infinite emitter and there exists T \subseteq s^{-1}_E(w) with (w, T) \in S_{i-1}. Since E is stably complete, we may assume \(f \not\in T\) by replacing f if necessary. Then

\[ p_w - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_{e'} \sim p_w + s_f s_{f'} - \sum_{e \in T \setminus \{f\}} s_e s_{e'} \sim \left( p_w - \sum_{e \in T \setminus \{f\}} s_e s_{e'} \right) + p_v. \tag{4.2} \]

Replace p_w - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_{e'} in

\[ p \sim \bigoplus_{(u, V) \in S_{i-1}} n_{(u, V)}^{-1} \left( p_u - \sum_{e \in V} s_e s_{e'} \right) \]

Lemma 4.5. Let E be a stably complete graph and let \(\{p_v, s_v \mid v \in E^0, e \in E^1\}\) be a universal Cuntz–Krieger family generating \(C^*(E)\). Let p be a full projection in \(C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}\). Then p has E-coefficients \(m_{(v, T)}(v, T) \in S\) satisfying that for all \(v \in E^0\) there exists \(T \subseteq s^{-1}_E(v)\) for which \((v, T) \in S\).

Proof. By Theorem 4.2, p has E-coefficients \(\{n_{(v, T)} \mid (v, T) \in S\}\). Let H denote the hereditary closure in \(E^0\) of the set

\[ V_0 = \{v \in E^0 \mid \exists T \subseteq s^{-1}_E(v) : (v, T) \in S\}. \]

The projection \(\bigoplus_{(v, T) \in S} n_{(v, T)}(p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_v s_{e'})\) is Murray–von Neumann equivalent to p and thus full, and it is Murray–von Neumann subequivalent to \(n(\sum_{v \in V_0} p_v)\), where \(n = \sum_{(v, T) \in S} n_{(v, T)}\). It clearly follows that \(\sum_{v \in V_0} p_v\) is full, and thus the hereditary and saturated set generated by \(V_0\) is all of \(E_0\). Since E is stably complete, all subsets of \(E^0\) are saturated and thus \(H = E^0\).

Define recursively

\[ V_i = r_E(s^{-1}_E(V_{i-1})) \cup V_{i-1}. \]

Since \(H = E^0\), there exists a j for which \(V_j = E^0\). We will recursively construct E-coefficients \(\{n_{(v, T)} \mid (v, T) \in S_j\}\) for p satisfying

\[ V_i \subseteq \{v \in E^0 \mid \exists T \subseteq s^{-1}_E(v) : (v, T) \in S_j\}. \]

Then the E-coefficients \(\{n_{(v, T)} \mid (v, T) \in S_j\}\) will have the desired property.

Assume that E-coefficients \(\{n_{(v, T)} \mid (v, T) \in S_{i-1}\}\) have been constructed (with \(S_0 = S\) and \(n_{(v, T)} = n_{(v, T)}\)). Let \(v \in V_i \setminus V_{i-1}\), and let \(w \in V_{i-1}\) and \(f \in s^{-1}_E(w)\) be given with \(r_E(f) = v\). If the vertex w is regular, there exists a loop f' based in w, and

\[ p_w = \sum_{e \in s^{-1}_E(w)} s_v s_{e'} \sim p_w \oplus p_v \oplus \bigoplus_{e \in s^{-1}_E(w) \setminus \{f, f'\}} p_{E(e)}. \tag{4.1} \]

Replace p_w in

\[ p \sim \bigoplus_{(u, V) \in S_{i-1}} n_{(u, V)}^{-1} \left( p_u - \sum_{e \in V} s_v s_{e'} \right) \]

using (4.1) using that \((w, \emptyset) \in S_{i-1}\) as w \in V_{i-1}. If the vertex w is not regular, it is an infinite emitter and there exists T \subseteq s^{-1}_E(w) with (w, T) \in S_{i-1}. Since E is stably complete, we may assume \(f \not\in T\) by replacing f if necessary. Then

\[ p_w - \sum_{e \in T} s_v s_{e'} = p_w + s_f s_{f'} - \sum_{e \in T \setminus \{f\}} s_v s_{e'} \sim \left( p_w - \sum_{e \in T \setminus \{f\}} s_v s_{e'} \right) + p_v. \tag{4.2} \]

Replace p_w - \sum_{e \in T} s_v s_{e'} in

\[ p \sim \bigoplus_{(u, V) \in S_{i-1}} n_{(u, V)}^{-1} \left( p_u - \sum_{e \in V} s_v s_{e'} \right) \]
using (12) using that $(w, T) \in S_{i-1}$. Make such replacements recursively for all the finitely many $v$ in $V_i \setminus V_{i-1}$ to create $E$-coefficients $\{n_{(u,V)}^i\}_{(u,V) \in S_i}$. □

**Definition 4.6.** Let $E$ be a graph and let $\{p_v, s_e \mid v \in E^0, e \in E^1\}$ be a universal Cuntz–Krieger family generating $C^*(E)$. Let $\{q_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ be a sequence of projections in $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$ and let $E$-coefficients $\{n_{(v,T)}^{(k)}\}_{(v,T) \in S_k}$ for each $q_k$ be given. The sequence $\{\{n_{(v,T)}^{(k)}\}_{(v,T) \in S_k}\}_{k=1}^\infty$ of $E$-coefficients is called full if for all $v \in E^0$ there exists $T \subseteq s_{E}^{-1}(v)$ for which $(v, T) \in S_k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$. For a projection $q$ in $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$, its $E$-coefficients $\{n_{(v,T)}\}_{(v,T) \in S}$ are called full if the constant sequence $\{\{n_{(v,T)}\}_{(v,T) \in S}\}_{k=1}^\infty$ is full.

**Lemma 4.7.** Let $E$ be a graph with finitely many vertices and let $\{p_v, s_e \mid v \in E^0, E^1\}$ be a universal Cuntz–Krieger family generating $C^*(E)$. Then any sequence of projections $\{q_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ in $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$ has a partitioned sequence of $E$-coefficients. If a sequence of projections $\{q_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ in $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$ admits a full sequence of $E$-coefficients, then it admits a full partitioned sequence of $E$-coefficients.

**Proof.** By Theorem 4.2, each $q_k$ has $E$-coefficients $\{n_{(v,T)}^{(k)}\}_{(v,T) \in S_k}$. Using that $p_v - s_es_e^* \sim p_v - sfs_f^*$ holds when $s_E(f) = s_E(g) = v$ and $r_E(f) = r_E(g)$, one may achieve (1) of Definition 4.4 by replacing the $T \neq \emptyset$ suitably. As the replacements do not affect the set of $v \in E^0$ for which there exists $T \subseteq s_{E}^{-1}(v)$ with $(v, T) \in S_k$, being full is not affected. □

**Lemma 4.8.** Let $E$ be a stably complete graph and let $\{p_v, s_e \mid u \in E^0, e \in E^1\}$ denote a universal Cuntz–Krieger family generating $C^*(E)$. Let $v$ be an infinite emitter in $E$ supporting a loop, and let $T$ be a finite subset of $s_{E}^{-1}(v)$. Then there exists a family $\{n_u\}_{v \geq u}$ of nonnegative integers for which

$$p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_es_e^* \sim p_v \oplus \bigoplus_{v \geq u} n_u p_u$$

in $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$.

**Proof.** Since $E$ is stably complete, there exists a regular vertex $w$ with $v \geq w$ and $w \geq v$. Since $w$ is regular, it supports a loop $l$. Write $T = \{e_1, \ldots, e_t\}$. Since $v$ emits infinitely to $w$, there exist $f_1, \ldots, f_t$ with $f_i \neq f_j$ when $i \neq j$, $s_E(f_i) = v$, $r_E(f_i) = w$ and $f_i \notin T$ for all $i \in \{1, \ldots, t\}$. Put $F = \{f_1, \ldots, f_t\}$. Then

$$p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_es_e^* = \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T \cup F} s_es_e^* \right) + \sum_{e \in F} s_es_e^*$$

in $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$.
in $C^*(E)$. Now, let $\{e_{i,j}\}_{i,j}$ denote a system of matrix units for $K$, and note since $s_f s_{f_i}^* \sim s_i s_f^*$ for all $i$ that
\[
\sum_{e \in F} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{1,1} \sim \sum_{i=1}^t p_w \otimes e_{i+1,i+1} = \sum_{i=1}^t \sum_{e \in s_{E^{-1}}(w)} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{i+1,i+1} \\
\sim \sum_{i=1}^t \left( s_f s_f^* \otimes e_{1,1} + \sum_{e \in s_{E^{-1}}(w) \setminus \{l\}} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{i+1,i+1} \right) \\
= \sum_{e \in F} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{1,1} + \sum_{i=1}^t \sum_{e \in s_{E^{-1}}(w) \setminus \{l\}} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{i+1,i+1}.
\]
Note for all $i \in \{1, \ldots, t\}$ that $w \succeq r_E(e_i)$ and thereby that there exists an edge $g_i$ with $s_E(g_i) = w$ and $r_E(g_i) = r_E(e_i)$. Then $s_g s_{g_i}^* \sim s_e s_{e_i}^*$ for all $i$, and thereby
\[
\sum_{e \in F} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{1,1} \sim \sum_{e \in T \cup F} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{1,1} + \sum_{i=1}^t \sum_{e \in s_{E^{-1}}(w) \setminus \{l,g_i\}} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{i+1,i+1}.
\]
Since both of the two equivalent projections above are orthogonal to
\[
\left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T \cup F} s_e s_e^* \right) \otimes e_{1,1},
\]
we conclude that
\[
\left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \right) \otimes e_{1,1} \sim p_v \otimes e_{1,1} + \sum_{i=1}^t \sum_{e \in s_{E^{-1}}(w) \setminus \{l,g_i\}} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{i+1,i+1}
\]
which is the desired as $s_e s_e^* \sim p_{r_E(e)}$ for all edges $e$. \hfill \Box

**Lemma 4.9.** Let $E$ be a stably complete graph and let $\{p_u, s_e \mid u \in E^0, e \in E^1\}$ denote a universal Cuntz–Krieger family generating $C^*(E)$. Let $v$ be an infinite emitter in $E$ not supporting a loop, and assume that there exists a regular vertex $w$ with $w \succeq v$. Let $n$ be an integer, and let $T$ be a finite subset of $s_{E^{-1}}(v)$. Then there exists a family $\{n_u\}_{w \succeq u}$ of nonnegative integers for which

\[
p_w \oplus n \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \right) \sim p_w \oplus np_v \oplus \bigoplus_{w \succeq u} n_u p_u
\]

in $C^*(E) \otimes K$.

**Proof.** It suffices to prove the lemma for $n = 1$. Since $w$ is regular, it supports a loop $l$. Hence $s_l s_l^* \sim p_w$. Write $T = \{e_1, \ldots, e_t\}$, and let $\{e_{i,j}\}_{i,j}$ denote a system
of matrix units for $\mathbb{K}$. Since $w \geq r_E(e_i)$, there exists for each $i$ an edge $g_i$ with $s_E(g_i) = w$ and $r_E(g_i) = r_E(e_i)$. Note that $s_{g_i} s_{g_i}^* \sim s_e s_e^*$ for all $i$. Hence,

\[
p_w \otimes e_{1,1} = \sum_{e \in s_E^{-1}(w)} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{1,1}
\]

\[
\sim p_w \otimes e_{1,1} + \sum_{e \in s_E^{-1}(w) \setminus \{l\}} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{t+1,t+1}
\]

\[
\sim p_w \otimes e_{1,1} + \sum_{e \in s_E^{-1}(w) \setminus \{l\}} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{t,t} + \sum_{e \in s_E^{-1}(w) \setminus \{l\}} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{t+1,t+1}
\]

\[
\sim p_w \otimes e_{1,1} + \sum_{i=1}^{t} e \in s_E^{-1}(w) \setminus \{l\} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{1,i+1}
\]

\[
\sim p_w \otimes e_{1,1} + \sum_{i=1}^{t} \left( s_e s_{e_i}^* \otimes e_{i+1,i+1} + \sum_{e \in s_E^{-1}(w) \setminus \{l,g_i\}} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{i+1,i+1} \right)
\]

\[
\sim p_w \otimes e_{1,1} + \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{1,1} + \sum_{i=1}^{t} \sum_{e \in s_E^{-1}(w) \setminus \{l,g_i\}} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{i+1,i+1}.
\]

Since both the first and the last of the above equivalent projections are orthogonal to \((p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^*) \otimes e_{1,1}\), we conclude that

\[
(p_w + \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \right)) \otimes e_{1,1} \sim (p_w + p_v) \otimes e_{1,1} + \sum_{i=1}^{t} \sum_{e \in s_E^{-1}(w) \setminus \{l,g_i\}} s_e s_e^* \otimes e_{i+1,i+1}
\]

which is the desired as $s_e s_e^* \sim p_{r_E(e)}$ for all edges $e$.

**Lemma 4.10.** Let $E$ be a stably complete graph and let \(\{p_u, s_e \mid u \in E^0, e \in E^1\}\) denote a universal Cuntz–Krieger family generating $C^*(E)$. Let $v$ be an infinite emitter in $E$ not supporting a loop, and assume that there exists no regular vertex $w$ with $w \geq v$. Let $T$ be a finite subset of $s_E^{-1}(v)$. Then there exists a $*$-automorphism $\varphi : C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \to C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$ with the following properties:

1. For all $u \in E^0 \setminus \{v\}$ and all finite subsets $U \subseteq s_E^{-1}(u)$ with $w \not\in r_U(U)$,

\[
\varphi \left( p_u - \sum_{e \in U} s_e s_e^* \right) \sim p_u - \sum_{e \in U} s_e s_e^*.
\]

2. For all $u \in E^0 \setminus \{v\}$ and all finite subsets $U \subseteq s_E^{-1}(u)$ with $w \in r_U(U)$, there exists a finite set $U'$ for which $U \subseteq U' \subseteq s_E^{-1}(u)$ and

\[
\varphi \left( p_u - \sum_{e \in U} s_e s_e^* \right) \sim p_u - \sum_{e \in U'} s_e s_e^*.
\]

3. And for all $T' \subseteq T$ there exists a family $\{n_u\}_{v \geq u}$ of nonnegative integers for which

\[
\varphi \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T'} s_e s_e^* \right) \sim p_v + \bigoplus_{v \geq u} n_u p_u.
\]
Proof. Define $E_2 = T$, and $E_1 = s_{E_1}^{-1}(v) \setminus E_2$. Let $E_{os}$ denote the graph obtained from $E$ by out-splitting $v$ into $v_1$ and $v_2$ with respect to $E_1$ and $E_2$. Since $v$ supports no loops and $E_2$ is finite, the vertex $v_2$ of $E_{os}$ is a regular vertex not supporting a loop.

Let $G$ denote the graph obtained from $E_{os}$ by collapsing $v_2$.

Recall that $G$ is

$$G^0 = E^0 \setminus \{v\} \cup \{v_1\}$$

$$G^1 = (E^1 \setminus (r_{E_1}^{-1}(v) \cup T)) \cup \{e^1 \mid e \in r_{E_1}^{-1}(v)\} \cup \{[e^2f] \mid e \in r_{E_1}^{-1}(v), f \in T\}$$

with $r_G$ and $s_G$ defined as follows:

$$r_G(g) = \begin{cases} r_{E_1}(g) & \text{when } g \in E^1 \setminus (r_{E_1}^{-1}(v) \cup T) \\ v^1 & \text{when } g = e^1, e \in r_{E_1}^{-1}(v) \\ r_{E_1}(f) & \text{when } g = [e^2f], e \in r_{E_1}^{-1}(v), f \in T \end{cases}$$

$$s_G(g) = \begin{cases} s_{E_1}(g) & \text{when } g \in E^1 \setminus (r_{E_1}^{-1}(v) \cup s_{E_1}^{-1}(v)) \\ v^1 & \text{when } g \in s_{E_1}^{-1}(v) \setminus T \\ s_{E_1}(e) & \text{when } g = e^1, e \in r_{E_1}^{-1}(v) \\ s_{E_1}(e) & \text{when } g = [e^2f], e \in r_{E_1}^{-1}(v), f \in T \end{cases}$$

For all $f \in T$, there are infinitely many edges from $v$ to $r_{E_1}(f)$. Since no regular vertex emits to $v$, there are infinitely many edges from $s_{E_1}(e)$ to $r_{E_1}(f)$ for all $f \in T$ and all $e \in r_{E_1}^{-1}(v)$. By renaming these, one can therefore construct a graph isomorphism $\Phi : G \to E$ with $\Phi^0(v) = v$ and $\Phi^0(u) = u$ for $u \in G^0 \setminus \{v\}$.

Let $\{q_u, t_e \mid u \in G^0, e \in G^1\}$, $\{p_v, \tilde{s}_e \mid u \in E_{os}, e \in E_{os}^1\}$, and $\{p_u, s_e \mid u \in E^0, e \in E^1\}$ denote universal Cuntz–Krieger families generating $C^*(G)$, $C^*(E_{os})$, and $C^*(E)$ respectively. Let $\Phi^*$ denote the $*$-isomorphism $C^*(G) \otimes K \to C^*(E) \otimes K$ induced by $t_e \mapsto \Phi^1(e)$ and $q_u \mapsto p_{\Phi^0(u)}$. Let $\psi_{E_{os}} : C^*(E_{os}) \to C^*(G)$ denote the $*$-isomorphism given by Proposition 4.2 and let $\psi : C^*(E_{os}) \otimes K \to C^*(G) \otimes K$ denote the $*$-isomorphism given by Proposition 4.6 and let $\psi$ denote the composite

$$C^*(E) \otimes K \xrightarrow{\psi_{E_{os}} \otimes id_K} C^*(E_{os}) \otimes K \xrightarrow{\psi} C^*(G) \otimes K.$$

Let $\varphi$ denote the $*$-automorphism given as the composite $\Phi^* \circ \psi$.

Let $u \in E_{os} \setminus \{v\}$ and let $e \in s_{E_{os}}^{-1}(u)$. Since $u \neq v$, $\psi_c(\tilde{p}_u) \sim q_u$ and thereby $\psi(p_u) \sim q_u$, hence $\varphi(p_u) \sim p_u$. Assume first that $r_{E_1}(e) \neq v$. As $s_{E_1}(s_e) \sim p_{\Phi^0(e)}$ and $r_{E_1}(e) = r_{E_1}(e)$, $\psi(s_e, s_{E_1}(s_e)) \sim t_e \psi(t_e)$ and thereby $\varphi(s_e, s_{E_1}(s_e)) \sim s_{\Phi^1(e)} s_{\Phi^1(e)}$ and $s_{\Phi^1(e)} s_{\Phi^1(e)}$. This establishes (1). Assume now that $r_{E_1}(e) = v$. Then

$$\psi_{E_{os}}(s_e, s_{E_1}(s_e)) = \tilde{s}_e \tilde{t}_e + \tilde{s}_e \tilde{t}_e = \tilde{s}_e \tilde{t}_e + \tilde{s}_e \tilde{t}_e = \tilde{s}_e \tilde{t}_e + \sum_{f \in T} \tilde{s}_e \tilde{f} \tilde{s}_f \tilde{s}_e$$

with $\psi_c(\tilde{s}_e, \tilde{s}_{E_1}(s_e)) \sim q_{E_1} \sim t_{E_1} t_{E_1}^*$ and $\psi_c(\tilde{s}_e \tilde{f} \tilde{s}_f \tilde{s}_{E_1}(s_e)) \sim \psi_c(\tilde{p}_{E_1}(f)) \sim \psi_c(\tilde{p}_{E_1}(f)) \sim q_{E_1}(f) \sim t_{E_1}(f) t_{E_1}(f)^*$ for all $f \in T$. Since $u = s_{E_1}(e) \geq u$, $u$ is an infinite emitter. So there are distinct edges $\{gf\} \in T$ with $s_{E_1}(gf) = u$ and $r_{E_1}(gf) = r_{E_1}(f)$ and thereby $s_{gf} s_{gf} \sim s_{\Phi^1([c_2 f]s_{E_1}(gf))} s_{\Phi^1([c_2 f]s_{E_1}(gf))} \sim s_{E_1}(s_{E_1}(s_e)) + \sum_{f \in T} s_{\Phi^1([c_2 f])} s_{\Phi^1([c_2 f])}$ for all $f \in T$. Hence

$$\varphi(s_e, s_{E_1}(s_e)) \sim s_{\Phi^1(e)} s_{\Phi^1(e)} \sim \sum_{f \in T} s_{\Phi^1([c_2 f])} s_{\Phi^1([c_2 f])} \sim s_{E_1}(s_e) + \sum_{f \in T} s_{gf} s_{gf}$$

which together with (1) establishes (2).
To prove (3), let $T' \subseteq T$, and fix an edge $g$ with $r_E(g) = v$. Then

$$\psi_{\text{os}} \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T'} s_es^*_e \right) = \bar{p}_v + \bar{p}_{v^2} - \sum_{e \in T'} s_es^*_e$$

$$= \bar{p}_v + \sum_{e \in T \setminus T'} s_es^*_e$$

$$\sim \bar{p}_v + \sum_{e \in T \setminus T'} s_es^*_e s^*_g s_g,$$

with $\psi_c(s_g \bar{s}_e s^*_e s^*_g) \sim \psi_c(\bar{p}_{r_E(e)}) \sim q_{r_E(e)} \sim t_{[g^2e]} t^*_g$ for all $e \in T \setminus T'$. Hence

$$\psi \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T'} s_es^*_e \right) \sim q_v + \sum_{e \in T \setminus T'} t_{[g^2e]} t^*_g$$

with $s_{\Phi^1((g^2e))} s_{\Phi^1((g^2e))} = s_g s_e s^*_e s^*_g$ for all $e \in T \setminus T$, implying that

$$\varphi \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T'} s_es^*_e \right) \sim p_v + \sum_{e \in T \setminus T'} s_g s_e s^*_e s^*_g$$

which gives the desired as $s_g s_e s^*_e s^*_g \sim p_{r_E(e)}$ with $v \geq r_E(e)$ for all $e \in T \setminus T'$. \( \square \)

We write $p \geq q$ for projections $p$ and $q$ in the $C^*$-algebra $\mathfrak{A}$ if there exists a projection $q' \in \mathfrak{A} \otimes \mathbb{K}$ with $p \geq q'$ and $q' \sim q$.

**Lemma 4.11.** Let $\mathfrak{A}$ be a $C^*$-algebra, and let $p$ and $q$ be projections in $\mathfrak{A} \otimes \mathbb{K}$. Assume that $p \geq q$. Then $\infty p \sim q \oplus \infty p \sim \infty (q \oplus p)$ in $\mathcal{M}(\mathfrak{A} \otimes \mathbb{K})$.

**Proof.** Set $P = \infty p$. By Theorem 2.1 of [HR98], $\mathcal{B} = P(\mathfrak{A} \otimes \mathbb{K})P$ is stable since $\{s_k p s^*_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a collection of mutually orthogonal, mutually equivalent projections whose sum $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} s_k p s^*_k$ converges strictly to $P$ in $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{B})$. So, for any projection $e$ in $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{B})$ if $e \sim e'$ and $1_{\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{B})} \sim P'$ in $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{B})$ such that $e'$ and $P'$ are orthogonal, then $e' + Q' \sim 1_{\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{B})}$. Since $\mathcal{M}(\mathfrak{A}) \cong P \mathcal{M}(\mathfrak{A} \otimes \mathbb{K}) P$, we have that $e \oplus e' \sim e' + Q' \sim P$ for all projections $e$ in $P \mathcal{M}(\mathfrak{A} \otimes \mathbb{K}) P$. The lemma now follows since $q \oplus \infty p \sim e \oplus P$ and $\infty q \oplus p \sim f \oplus \infty p$ for some projections $e, f$ in $P \mathcal{M}(\mathfrak{A} \otimes \mathbb{K}) P$. \( \square \)

**Lemma 4.12.** Let $E$ be a stably complete graph and let $\{p_u, s_e \mid u \in E^0, e \in E^1\}$ denote a universal Cuntz-Krieger family generating $C^*(E)$. Let $\{q_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ be a sequence of projections in $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$ and fix a full partitioned sequence $\{\{n_{(v,T)}^{(k)}\}_{(v,T) \in S_k}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ of $E$-coefficients for $\{q_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$.

Assume that the sum $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} q_k$ converges strictly to a projection $p$ in $\mathcal{M}(C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K})$. Define for all $v \in E^0$

$$T_v = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} (v,T) \in S_k \neq T,$$

and assume for all $v \in E^0$ that either $T_v = \emptyset$ or there exists $w \in E^0$ with $w \geq v$ for which $T_w$ is infinite. For all $v \in E^0$ and $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we define $n_{(v,\emptyset)}^{(k)} = 0$ if $(v,\emptyset) \notin S_k$. Define for all $v \in E^0$,

$$n_v = \begin{cases} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} n_{(v,\emptyset)}^{(k)} & \text{if } T_w = \emptyset \text{ for all } w \geq v \\ \infty & \text{if } T_v \text{ is infinite and } T_w = \emptyset \text{ for all } w \in E^0 \setminus \{v\} \text{ with } w \geq v \\ 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
Then the sum $\sum_{v \in E^w} n_v p_v$ is a projection in $\mathcal{M}(C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K})$ Murray-von Neumann equivalent to $p$.

**Proof.** Define a partition $\{A, B, C\}$ of $E^0$ as follows. Let $A$ denote the set of $v \in E^0$ for which $T_w = \emptyset$ for all $w \geq v$, let $B$ denote the set of vertices $v$ for which $T_v$ is infinite and $T_w = \emptyset$ for all $w > v$, and let $C$ denote $E^0 \setminus (A \cup B)$. For $v \in C$, we let $\kappa_v \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ denote the number of elements in $\{T \subseteq s_E^{-1}(v) \mid (v, T) \in \bigcup_{k=1}^\infty S_k\}$, and for $v \in B \cup C$ we renumber $\{(T, s_E^{-1}(v), (v, T)) \mid k \in \mathbb{N}, T \subseteq s_E^{-1}(v), (v, T) \in S_k\}$ as $\{(T_k^v, n_k^v)\}$, so that we may write

$$p = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} q_k \sim \bigoplus_{k=1}^{\infty} q_k \sim \bigoplus_{k=1}^{\infty} n_{(v,T)}^{(k)} \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \right)$$

$$\sim \bigoplus_{v \in A} n vp_v \oplus \bigoplus_{v \in B} \bigoplus_{k=1}^{\infty} n_k^v \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \right) \oplus \bigoplus_{v \in C} \bigoplus_{k=1}^{\infty} n_k^v \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \right).$$

Let $v \in B$. Choose $F = \{f_1, \ldots, f_{r_E(T_v)}\} \subseteq s_E^{-1}(v) \setminus T_v$ such that $r_E(T_v) = r_E(F)$. Consider $\bigoplus_{k=1}^{\infty} n_k^v \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \right)$ and let us show that it is Murray-von Neumann equivalent to $\infp_v$. Note for fixed $k \in \mathbb{N}$ that

$$p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \sim \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T \cup F} s_e s_e^* \right) \oplus s_{f_1} s_{f_1}^* \oplus \cdots \oplus s_{f_{r_E(T_v)}} s_{f_{r_E(T_v)}}^*,$$

where we let the latter projection in $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$ be denoted by $r_k$. Note that each $s_{f_i} s_{f_i}^*$ appears infinitely often in the direct sum $\bigoplus_{k=1}^{\infty} n_k^v r_k$. By rearranging the blocks we can therefore get $\bigoplus_{k=1}^{\infty} n_k^v r_k \sim \bigoplus_{k=1}^{\infty} n_k^v r_k$ with each projection $r_k$ defined as

$$p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \oplus s_{f_1} s_{f_1}^* \oplus \cdots \oplus s_{f_{r_E(T_v)}} s_{f_{r_E(T_v)}}^* \oplus s_{f_1} s_{f_1}^* \oplus \cdots \oplus s_{f_{n(k)}} s_{f_{n(k)}}^*,$$

where $i_1, \ldots, i_{n(k)}$ are chosen such that $n(k) = \lvert T_k^v \rvert$ and $r_E(f_{i_j}) = r_E(f_{i_j})$ when $T_k^v = \{e_1, \ldots, e_{n(k)}\}$. Since $s_{f_1} s_{f_1}^* \sim s_{f_1} s_{f_1}^*$, we note that $r_k \sim p_v$. Hence

$$\bigoplus_{k=1}^{\infty} n_k^v \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \right) \sim \infp_v.$$
We may therefore conclude that

\[
p \sim \bigoplus_{v \in A} n_v p_v \oplus \bigoplus_{v \in B} \infty p_v \oplus \bigoplus_{v \in C} r_v n_k^v \left( p_v - \sum_{e \in T_v} s_e s_e^* \right) \sim \bigoplus_{v \in A} n_v p_v \oplus \bigoplus_{v \in B} \infty p_v \oplus \bigoplus_{v \in C} p_v
\]

as desired. \hfill \Box

**Remark 4.13.** Let \( E \) be a graph with finitely many vertices. Let \( p \) be a projection in \( \mathcal{M}(C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}) \) and assume that \( p \) is Murray–von Neumann equivalent to a direct sum \( \bigoplus_{v \in E^0} n_v p_v \) with \( n_v \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{ \infty \} \) for all \( v \in E^0 \). Let \( \{ m_v \}_{v \in E^0} \) with \( m_v \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{ \infty \} \) for all \( v \in E^0 \), and assume for all \( v \in E^0 \) that \( n_v \neq m_v \) only occurs if \( n_w = \infty \) for some \( w \in E^0 \) with \( w > v \). Then \( \bigoplus_{v \in E^0} m_v p_v \) is Murray–von Neumann equivalent to \( p \).

5. **Corners of unital graph \( C^* \)-algebras**

For a graph \( E \), the stabilization \( SE \) of \( E \) is the graph obtained by adding an infinite head to every vertex of \( E \):

\[
(\mathcal{S}E)^0 = \{ v^i \mid v \in E^0, i \in \mathbb{N}_0 \}, \\
(\mathcal{S}E)^1 = E^1 \cup \{ f(v)^i \mid v \in E^0, i \in \mathbb{N} \},
\]

with range and source defined by \( r_{\mathcal{S}E}(e) = r_E(e)^0 \) and \( s_{\mathcal{S}E}(e) = s_E(e)^0 \) for \( e \in E^1 \), and \( r_{\mathcal{S}E}(f(v)^i) = v^{i-1} \) and \( s_{\mathcal{S}E}(f(v)^i) = v^i \) for \( v \in E^0 \) and \( i \in \mathbb{N} \). We have the following proposition.

**Proposition 5.1.** Let \( E \) be a graph, \( SE \) be the stabilization of \( E \), and let \( \mathbb{K} \) be the compact operators with standard matrix units \( \{ e_{i,j} \}_{i,j=0}^\infty \). There is a \(*\)-isomorphism \( \varphi : C^*(SE) \to C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \) given by

\[
p_{v^i} \mapsto p_v \otimes e_{i,i}, \quad \text{for } v \in E^0, i \in \mathbb{N}_0, \\
s_e \mapsto s_e \otimes e_{0,0}, \quad \text{for } e \in E^1, \\
s_{f(v)} \mapsto p_v \otimes e_{i,i-1}, \quad \text{for } v \in E^0, i \geq 1.
\]

**Proof.** It is straightforward to verify that the above assignment satisfies the Cuntz–Krieger relations and thus induces a \(*\)-isomorphism. We will construct the inverse. Let \( \psi : C^*(E) \to \mathcal{M}(C^*(SE)) \) be given by

\[
p_v \mapsto \sum_{i=0}^\infty p_{v^i}, \quad \text{for } v \in E^0 \\
s_e \mapsto s_e + \sum_{i=1}^\infty s_{f(s(e))^i} s_{f(s(e))^{i-1}} \cdots f(s(e))^{2} e s_{f(r(e))^{2}} \cdots f(r(e))^{2}, \quad \text{for } e \in E^1
\]

where the sums converge in the strict topology. It is straightforward to verify that this is well-defined, i.e. that the above projections and partial isometries satisfy the Cuntz–Krieger relations.
Let \( \psi_2 : \mathbb{K} \to \mathcal{M}(C^*(SE)) \) be given by
\[
\epsilon_{i,i-1} \mapsto \sum_{v \in E^0} s_f(v)^i, \quad \text{for } i \geq 1,
\]
with the sum converging strictly. It is straight forward to check that \( \psi_2 \) is well-defined, that the image of \( \psi_2 \) commutes with the image of \( \psi_1 \), and that
\[
\psi_1(C^*(E))\psi_2(\mathbb{K}) \subseteq C^*(SE).
\]
Thus there is an induced \( * \)-homomorphism \( \psi : C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \to C^*(SE) \) given by corestricting \( \psi_1 \times \psi_2 : C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \to \mathcal{M}(C^*(SE)) \) to \( C^*(SE) \). Straight forward computations show that \( \varphi \) and \( \psi \) are each others inverses. \( \square \)

The following theorem is proved in the same way as Theorem 3.1 of \[\text{[AR15]}\].

**Theorem 5.2.** Let \( E \) be a graph and let \( T \) be a hereditary subset of \((SE)^0\) such that \( E^0 \subseteq T \). Define \( p_T \) as the strict limit in the multiplier algebra \( \mathcal{M}(C^*(SE)) \)
\[
p_T = \sum_{v \in T} p_v
\]
where \( \{s_e, p_v : e \in (SE)^1, v \in (SE)^0\} \) is a universal Cuntz–Krieger \( SE \)-family generating \( C^*(SE) \). Then \( p_T C^*(SE)p_T \) is a full hereditary \( C^* \)-subalgebra of \( C^*(SE) \), and \( C^*(G) \cong p_T C^*(SE)p_T \) holds for the graph \( G = (T, s_{SE}(T), r_{SE}, s_{SE}) \). Consequently, if \( T \) is finite, then \( p_T \) is a full projection in \( C^*(SE) \).

**Proposition 5.3.** Let \( E \) be a stably complete graph. Let \( \{q_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty} \) be a sequence of orthogonal projections in \( C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \) with \( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} q_k \) converging strictly to a projection \( p \) in \( \mathcal{M}(C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}) \). If \( \mathfrak{A} = p(C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K})p \) is a full \( C^* \)-subalgebra of \( C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \), then \( \mathfrak{A} \) is isomorphic to a graph \( C^* \)-algebra. Furthermore, there exists a graph \( G \) with \( E \subseteq_{ck} G \subseteq_{ck} SE \) and \( \mathfrak{A} \cong C^*(G) \).

**Proof.** Let \( \{p_v, s_v : v \in E^0, s \in E^1\} \) denote a universal Cuntz–Krieger \( E \)-family generating \( C^*(E) \). We first note that since \( \mathfrak{A} \) is a full \( C^* \)-subalgebra of \( C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \), we may assume that \( q_1 \) is a full projection of \( C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \). In fact, since \( \text{Prim}(\mathfrak{A}) \cong \text{Prim}(C^*(E)) \) is compact, and \( \{\sum_{k=1}^{n} q_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty} \) is an (increasing) approximate identity for \( \mathfrak{A} \), \( \sum_{k=1}^{n} q_k \) will be full in \( \mathfrak{A} \) for large \( n \), and thus also full in \( C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \). By replacing \( \{q_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty} \) with \( \{\sum_{k=1}^{n} q_k, q_{n+1}, q_{n+2}, \ldots \} \) the desired is achieved.

Let \( \{n_{(v,T)}^{(k)}\}_{(v,T) \in S_k} \}_{k=1}^{\infty} \) be a sequence of \( E \)-coefficients for \( \{q_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty} \). By Lemma \[\text{[4.4]}\], we may assume since \( q_1 \) is full that for all \( v \in E^0 \) there exists \( T \subseteq s_E^{-1}(v) \) with \( (v,T) \in S_1 \). Hence \( \{n_{(v,T)}^{(k)}\}_{(v,T) \in S_k} \) is full. By Lemma \[\text{[4.5]}\], we may assume that \( \{n_{(v,T)}^{(k)}\}_{(v,T) \in S_k} \) is partitioned and full.

Define for all \( v \in E^0 \),
\[
T_v = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} (v,T) \in S_k
\]
We first consider infinite emitters \( v \) with the following properties: \( v \) does not support a loop, there exists a regular vertex \( w \) with \( w \succeq v \), and \( T_v \) is finite and nonempty. For such \( v \), we need the existence of a regular vertex \( w \succeq v \) for which \( (w,\emptyset) \in S_k \) whenever there is a \( T \neq \emptyset \) with \( (v,T) \in S_k \). To see that we may assume this, let \( v \) be such an infinite emitter. Define \( N \) as the largest integer \( k \) for which there exists
$T \neq \emptyset$ with $(v, T) \in S_k$. Replace $\{q_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ with $q_1 + \cdots + q_N, q_{N+1}, q_{N+2}, \ldots$ and their full partitioned $E$-coefficients with $\{(\pi^{(k)}_{(u,T)})_{(u,T)\in \overline{S}_k}\}_{k=N}^\infty$ defined by

$$
\bigoplus_{(u,T)\in \overline{S}_k} \pi^{(N)}_{(u,T)} \left( p_u - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \right) = \bigoplus_{k=1}^{N} \bigoplus_{(u,T)\in S_k} n^{(k)}_{(u,T)} \left( p_u - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \right)
$$

and $\overline{S}_k = S_k$ and $\pi^{(k)}_{(u,T)} = n^{(k)}_{(u,T)}$ for $k > N$ and $(u, T) \in S_k$. Then $(v, T) \in \overline{S}_k$ only occurs when $T = \emptyset$ or $k = N$. By assumption, there exists a regular vertex $w$ with $w \geq v$. Since $(w, \emptyset) \in S_1$, we see that $(w, \emptyset) \in \overline{S}_N$, as desired. By doing this recursively for the finitely many infinite emitters $v$ of this type, we achieve the desired.

We are now in the situation where all infinite emitters $v$ fall into at least one of the following categories:

1. $v$ supports a loop;
2. $v$ does not support a loop, $T_v$ is finite, and there exists a regular vertex $w \geq v$ for which $(w, \emptyset) \in S_k$ whenever there is a $T \neq \emptyset$ with $(v, T) \in S_k$;
3. $v$ does not support at loop, there is no regular vertex $w \geq v$, and $T_v$ is finite;
4. $T_v$ is infinite.

For each infinite emitter $v$ in category 1, we can apply Lemma 4.8 to all $T \neq \emptyset$ with $(v, T) \in S_k$ for some $k$. By replacing the full partitioned $E$-coefficients for $\{q_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ accordingly, we see that for such $v$ we may assume that $T_v$ is empty.

Similarly, we can apply Lemma 4.9 to all infinite emitters $v$ that fall in category 2. So for such $v$ we may also assume that $T_v$ is empty.

Let $v$ be an infinite emitter in category 3. Let $\varphi: C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \to C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$ denote the $*$-isomorphism given by Lemma 4.11. By replacing $\{q_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ with $\{\varphi(q_k)\}_{k=1}^\infty$ we may assume that $T_v$ is empty. More concretely, let for each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $\{(\pi^{(k)}_{(u,T)})_{(u,T)\in \overline{S}_k}\}$ be $E$-coefficients for $\varphi(q_k)$ achieved by applying 1–3 of Lemma 4.11 to

$$
\varphi(q_k) \sim \bigoplus_{(u,T)\in \overline{S}_k} \varphi \left( p_u - \sum_{e \in T} s_e s_e^* \right).
$$

Clearly, $\{(\pi^{(k)}_{(u,T)})_{(u,T)\in \overline{S}_k}\}_{k=1}^\infty$ is full and partitioned since $\{(n^{(k)}_{(u,T)})_{(u,T)\in S_k}\}_{k=1}^\infty$ is.

Let $\overline{T}_w = \bigcup_{k=1}^\infty \bigcup_{(u,T)\in \overline{S}_k} T$. Now, by 1–2 of Lemma 4.11 all infinite emitters $w \in E^0 \setminus \{v\}$ fall into category 3 if $\overline{T}_w$ is finite. And by 3 of Lemma 4.11 $T_v$ is empty.

We have now achieved that $T_v \neq \emptyset$ only occurs in category 4, i.e., when $T_v$ is infinite. Define for all $v \in E^0$

$$n_v = \begin{cases} 
\sum_{k=1}^\infty n^{(k)}_{(v,\emptyset)} & \text{if } T_v = \emptyset \text{ for all } w \geq v \\
\infty & \text{if } T_v \text{ is infinite and } T_w = \emptyset \text{ for all } w > v \\
1 & \text{otherwise.}
\end{cases}
$$

By Lemma 4.12 $p \sim \bigoplus_{v \in E^0} n_v p_v$ in $\mathcal{M}(C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K})$.

Define $T \subseteq (SE)^0$ by

$$T = \{v^i \mid v \in E^0, i \in \{0, \ldots, n_v - 1\}\},$$

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and \( p_T = \sum_{v \in T} p_v \). Let \( \overline{\psi} : M(C^*(SE)) \to M(C^*(E) \otimes K) \) be the \( \ast \)-isomorphism induced by Proposition 5.31. It is easily seen (by the definition of \( \psi \)) that 
\[
\overline{\psi}^{-1}(\bigoplus_{v \in E^0} m_v p_v)
\]
is Murray–von Neumann equivalent to \( p_T \). Hence \( \overline{\psi}C^*(SE)p_T \cong p(C^*(E) \otimes K)p \). So by Theorem 5.2, \( \mathfrak{A} \cong C^*(G) \) for the CK-subgraph \( G \) of \( SE \) defined by
\[
G = (T, s_{SE}^{-1}(T), r_{SE}, s_{SE}).
\]

6. Hereditary \( C^\ast \)-subalgebras of unital graph \( C^\ast \)-algebras

A \( C^\ast \)-algebra \( \mathfrak{A} \) is called \( \sigma_r \)-unital if it contains a countable approximate unit of projections. All graph \( C^\ast \)-algebras \( C^*(E) \) are \( \sigma_r \)-unital as the finite sums of vertex projections \( p_v \) constitutes an approximate unit of projections.

Recall that if \( E \) is a graph with finitely many vertices, then by Proposition 5.10, there exists a stably complete graph \( G \) such that \( E \sim_M G \) and thereby \( C^*(E) \otimes K \cong C^*(G) \otimes K \).

**Theorem 6.1.** Let \( E \) be a graph with finitely many vertices, and let \( \mathfrak{A} \) be a \( C^\ast \)-algebra strongly Morita equivalent to \( C^*(E) \). Then the following are equivalent:

1. For any stably complete graph \( G \) with \( C^*(E) \otimes K \cong C^*(G) \otimes K \), there exists a graph \( F \) with \( G \subseteq_{CK} F \subseteq_{CK} SG \) and \( \mathfrak{A} \cong C^*(F) \).
2. \( \mathfrak{A} \) is isomorphic to a graph \( C^\ast \)-algebra.
3. \( \mathfrak{A} \) is \( \sigma_r \)-unital.

**Proof.** 1 \( \implies \) 2 and 2 \( \implies \) 3 are clear. Assume that \( \mathfrak{A} \) is \( \sigma_r \)-unital and let \( \{p_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \) denote an approximate unit of projections for \( \mathfrak{A} \). Since \( \mathfrak{A} \) is \( \sigma_r \)-unital and strongly Morita equivalent to \( C^*(E) \) which is separable, \( \mathfrak{A} \) is stably isomorphic to \( C^*(E) \) and therefore separable. Since \( \mathfrak{A} \) is separable, we may assume that \( \{p_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \) is increasing.

Let \( G \) be a stably complete graph with \( C^*(E) \otimes K \cong C^*(G) \otimes K \). Let a \( \ast \)-isomorphism \( \varphi : \mathfrak{A} \otimes K \to C^*(E) \otimes K \) be given and let \( \{e_{i,j}\}_{i,j} \) denote a system of matrix units for \( K \). Define mutually orthogonal projections \( q_n \) in \( C^*(G) \otimes K \) by \( q_n = \varphi((p_n - p_{n-1}) \otimes e_{1,1}) \). Note that \( \{p_n \otimes e_{1,1}\} \) converges in the strict topology on \( M(\mathfrak{A} \otimes K) \) to a projection \( p \) with \( p(\mathfrak{A} \otimes K)p \cong \mathfrak{A} \) being full in \( \mathfrak{A} \otimes K \). Hence \( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q_n \) converges in the strict topology on \( M(C^*(E) \otimes K) \) to a projection \( q \) with \( q(C^*(E) \otimes K)q \cong p(\mathfrak{A} \otimes K)p \) and \( q(C^*(G) \otimes K)q \) full in \( C^*(E) \otimes K \). By Proposition 5.24, there exists a graph \( F \) with \( G \subseteq_{CK} F \subseteq_{CK} SG \) and \( C^*(F) \cong q(C^*(G) \otimes K)q \). Hence \( \mathfrak{A} \cong C^*(F) \).

**Remark 6.2.** Note that if \( E \) is not stably complete, there may not exist a graph \( F \) with \( E \subseteq_{CK} F \subseteq_{CK} SE \) and \( \mathfrak{A} \cong C^*(F) \): If \( E^0 = \{v, w\} \) and \( E^1 = \{f, g\} \) with \( s_E(f) = r_E(g) = v \) and \( r_E(f) = s_E(g) = w \) then \( \mathfrak{A} = C(S^1) \) is stably isomorphic to \( C^*(E) \cong M_2(C(S^1)) \) but \( C^*(F) \) is nonabelian for all \( F \) with \( E \subseteq_{CK} F \subseteq_{CK} SE \).

**Example 6.3.** Set \( \mathfrak{A} = \left\{ f \in C(S^1, M_2) : f(1) \in \begin{bmatrix} C & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \). Then \( \mathfrak{A} \) is a hereditary full \( C^\ast \)-subalgebra of \( C(S^1, M_2) \) which is not \( \sigma_R \)-unital. Consequently, \( \mathfrak{A} \) is stably isomorphic to a unital graph \( C^\ast \)-algebra but is not isomorphic to a graph \( C^\ast \)-algebra.
Example 6.4. The UHF algebra $M_{2^\infty}$ is not isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra as the $K$-theory of a unital graph $C^*$-algebra is always finitely generated. Since $M_{2^\infty} \otimes \mathbb{K}$ is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra, we conclude that Theorem 6.1 fails if one omits the assumption that the graph $E$ has finitely many vertices.

Corollary 6.5. Let $E$ be a graph with finitely many vertices, and let $\mathcal{A}$ be a hereditary $C^*$-subalgebra of $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$. Then the following are equivalent:

1. For any stably complete graph $G$ such that $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \cong C^*(G) \otimes \mathbb{K}$, there exists a hereditary subset $H$ of $G^0$ and a graph $F$ with $G_H \subseteq_C K F \subseteq_C K S(G_H)$ and $\mathcal{A} \cong C^*(F)$.
2. $\mathcal{A}$ is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra.
3. $\mathcal{A}$ is $\sigma_p$-unital.

Proof. (1) $\implies$ (2) and (2) $\implies$ (3) are clear. Assume that $\mathcal{A}$ is $\sigma_p$-unital. Let $G$ be a stably complete graph with $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \cong C^*(G) \otimes \mathbb{K}$. Suppose $\mathcal{A}$ is a full hereditary $C^*$-subalgebra of $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$. Then by Corollary 2.9 of [Bro77], $\mathcal{A}$ and $C^*(E)$ are stably isomorphic. Then by Theorem 6.1 there exists a graph $F$ with $G \subseteq_C K F \subseteq_C K S(G)$ with $\mathcal{A} \cong C^*(F)$. Set $H = G^0$.

Assume that $\mathcal{A}$ is not full in $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$. We may view $\mathcal{A}$ as a hereditary $C^*$-subalgebra of $C^*(G) \otimes \mathbb{K}$ since $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K} \cong C^*(G) \otimes \mathbb{K}$. Let $\mathcal{I}$ denote the ideal in $C^*(G) \otimes \mathbb{K}$ generated by $\mathcal{A}$. Let $\{p_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ denote an increasing approximate unit of projections for $\mathcal{A}$, and let $\mathcal{J}_n$ denote the ideal in $C^*(G) \otimes \mathbb{K}$ generated by $p_n$. By Corollary 1.4, $\mathcal{J}_n$ is gauge-invariant. Since $G$ has finitely many vertices, $C^*(G) \otimes \mathbb{K}$ has finitely many gauge-invariant ideals. So we conclude that $\mathcal{J} = \mathcal{J}_n$ for some $n$, hence $\mathcal{J}$ is gauge-invariant and there exists an admissible pair $(H, S)$ in $G^0$ with $\mathcal{J} = I_{(H, S)} \otimes \mathbb{K}$. Since $G$ is a stably complete graph, $G$ has no breaking vertices, hence $S = \emptyset$. Furthermore, one easily checks that $G_H$ is a stably complete graph.

By Proposition 2.11, $\mathcal{J} = I_{H} \otimes \mathbb{K}$ is isomorphic to a full hereditary $C^*$-subalgebra of $C^*(G_H) \otimes \mathbb{K}$. We conclude that $\mathcal{A}$ is isomorphic to a full hereditary $C^*$-subalgebra of $C^*(G_H) \otimes \mathbb{K}$. By Theorem 6.1 there exists a graph $F$ with $G_H \subseteq_C K F \subseteq_C K S(G_H)$ such that $\mathcal{A} \cong C^*(F)$. \hfill $\Box$

Corollary 6.6. Let $E$ be a graph with finitely many vertices and assume that $E$ satisfies Condition (K). If $\mathcal{A}$ is a hereditary $C^*$-subalgebra of $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$, then $\mathcal{A}$ is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra.

Proof. Since $E$ satisfies Condition (K), $C^*(E)$ and thereby also $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$ have real rank zero. Consequently, all hereditary $C^*$-subalgebras of $C^*(E) \otimes \mathbb{K}$ are $\sigma_p$-unital. In particular, $\mathcal{A}$ is $\sigma_p$-unital, and the desired follows from Corollary 6.5. \hfill $\Box$

Corollary 6.7. Let $E$ be a graph with finitely many vertices and assume that $E$ satisfies Condition (K). If $\mathcal{A}$ is a $C^*$-algebra stably isomorphic to $C^*(E)$, then $\mathcal{A}$ is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra.

7. Unitizations and graph $C^*$-algebras

For a non-unital $C^*$-algebra $\mathcal{A}$, we let $\mathcal{A}^\dagger$ denote the minimal unitization of $\mathcal{A}$. For $\mathcal{A}$ unital, we let $\mathcal{A}^\dagger = \mathcal{A}$.

Definition 7.1. Let $E$ be a graph, and let $H$ be a hereditary subset of $E^0$. Consider the set

$$F(H) = \{ \alpha \in E^* \mid \alpha = e_1 \cdots e_n, s_E(e_n) \notin H, r_E(e_n) \in H \},$$
let \( \mathcal{T}(H) \) denote a copy of \( F(H) \), and write \( \pi \) for the copy of \( \alpha \) in \( \mathcal{T}(H) \). Define the graph \( E(H) \) by

\[
E(H)^0 = H \cup F(H) \\
E(H)^1 = s_E^{-1}(H) \cup \mathcal{T}(H)
\]

and by extending \( s_E \) and \( r_E \) to \( E(H) \) by defining \( s_{E(H)}(\pi) = \alpha \) and \( r_{E(H)}(\pi) = r_E(\alpha) \).

**Definition 7.2.** Let \( E \) be a graph, and let \( H \) be a hereditary subset of \( E^0 \). Consider again the set

\[
F(H) = \{ \alpha \in E^* \mid \alpha = e_1 \cdots e_n, s_E(e_n) \notin H, r_E(e_n) \in H \}.
\]

Define the graph \( \mathcal{E}(H) \) by

\[
\mathcal{E}(H)^0 = H \cup \{ \ast \} \\
\mathcal{E}(H)^1 = s_E^{-1}(H) \cup F(H)
\]

and by extending \( s_E \) and \( r_E \) to \( \mathcal{E}(H) \) by defining \( s_{\mathcal{E}(H)}(\alpha) = \ast \) and \( r_{\mathcal{E}(H)}(\alpha) = r_E(\alpha) \).

Theorem 3.9 of [AR15] and its proof hold in the following more general setting.

**Theorem 7.3.** Let \( E \) be a graph and let \( H \) be a hereditary subset of \( E^0 \). Assume that the graph

\[
(E^0 \setminus H, r_E^{-1}(E^0 \setminus H), r_E, s_E)
\]

is acyclic, that \( v \supseteq H \) for all \( v \in E^0 \setminus H \), and that \( E^0 \setminus H \subseteq E_{\text{reg}} \). Assume furthermore that for all \( v \in E^0 \setminus H \) that there is an upper bound for the length of paths \( \alpha \in F(H) \) for which \( s_E(\alpha) = v \). Then \( C^*(E) \cong C^*(E(H)) \).

**Corollary 7.4.** Let \( E \) be a graph, and let \( G \) be a CK-subgraph of \( SE \) containing \( E \) as a CK-subgraph. Then \( C^*(G) \cong C^*(G(E^0)) \).

**Proof.** The set \( E^0 \) is a hereditary subset of \( G^0 \) satisfying the assumptions of Theorem 7.3.

**Lemma 7.5.** Let \( E \) be a graph and let \( H \) be a hereditary subset of \( E^0 \). Assume that \( H \) is finite. Then \( C^*(\mathcal{E}(H)) \cong C^*(E(H))^\dagger \).

**Proof.** The \( C^\ast \)-algebra \( C^*(E(H)) \) is unital if and only if \( F(H) = \{ \alpha \in E^* \mid \alpha = e_1 \cdots e_n, s_E(e_n) \notin H, r_E(e_n) \in H \} \) is finite. If \( F(H) \) is finite, then the unique vertex \( \ast \) of \( \mathcal{E}(H)^0 \setminus H \) is regular, so \( C^*(\mathcal{E}(H)) \cong C^*((\mathcal{E}(H))(H)) \) by Theorem 7.3. Since \( E(H) = (\mathcal{E}(H))(H) \), it follows that \( C^*(E(H)) \cong C^*(\mathcal{E}(H)) \).

Assume that \( F(H) \) is not finite. Then \( H \) is a hereditary saturated subset of \( \mathcal{E}(H) \) that has no breaking vertices. Let \( I_H \) denote the corresponding ideal and note that it is nonunital. By [R14], \( I_H \cong C^*(E(H)) \) as in this setting their construction corresponds with the construction of \( E(H) \). Since \( \mathcal{E}(H)^0 \setminus H \) is the singleton \( \{ \ast \} \), the quotient \( C^*(\mathcal{E}(H))/I_H \) is \( \mathbb{C} \). So since \( C^*(\mathcal{E}(H)) \) is unital, we conclude that \( I_H^\dagger \cong C^*(\mathcal{E}(H)) \).

**Theorem 7.6.** Let \( \mathfrak{A} \) be a \( \sigma_\pi \)-unital \( C^\ast \)-algebra. Then \( \mathfrak{A}^\dagger \) is isomorphic to a graph \( C^\ast \)-algebra if and only if \( \mathfrak{A} \) is strongly Morita equivalent to a unital graph \( C^\ast \)-algebra.
Proof. Suppose $\mathfrak{A}^\dagger$ is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra. If $\mathfrak{A}$ is unital, then $\mathfrak{A}^\dagger = \mathfrak{A}$ so $\mathfrak{A}$ is strongly Morita equivalent to a unital graph $C^*$-algebra. Suppose $\mathfrak{A}$ is not unital. Then $\mathfrak{A}$ is a $\sigma_p$-unital hereditary $C^*$-subalgebra of the unital graph $C^*$-algebra $\mathfrak{A}^\dagger$. By Corollary 6.3, there exists a graph $F$ with finitely many vertices and a graph $G$ with $F \subseteq_{CK} G \subseteq_{CK} SF$ and $\mathfrak{A} \cong C^*(G)$. Note that $C^*(G) \otimes K \cong C^*(F) \otimes K$. Hence $\mathfrak{A}$ is strongly Morita equivalent to the unital graph $C^*$-algebra $C^*(F)$.

Suppose that $\mathfrak{A}$ is $\sigma_p$-unital and strongly Morita equivalent to a unital graph $C^*$-algebra. If $\mathfrak{A}$ is unital, then $\mathfrak{A} = \mathfrak{A}^\dagger$ and by Theorem 9.6 $\mathfrak{A}$ is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra. Suppose $\mathfrak{A}$ is not unital. Let $E$ be a graph with finitely many vertices such that $\mathfrak{A}$ is strongly Morita equivalent to $C^*(E)$. By Theorem 6.1 there exists a graph $F$ with finitely many vertices and a graph $G$ with $F \subseteq_{CK} G \subseteq_{CK} SF$ and $\mathfrak{A} \cong C^*(G)$. By Corollary 7.4, $C^*(G) \cong C^*(G(F^0))$. So by Lemma 7.5 $\mathfrak{A}^\dagger \cong C^*(G(F^0))$. □

Example 7.7. Theorem 7.6 fails in both directions when one omits the assumption of $\sigma_p$-unitality. For one direction, we note that the $C^*$-algebra $C_0(\mathbb{R})$ is not stably isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra while its minimal unitization $C(S^1)$ is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra. For the other direction, consider the $C^*$-algebra $\mathfrak{A}$ defined in Example 6.6. Its minimal unitization $\mathfrak{A}^\dagger$ is not isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra, but $\mathfrak{A}$ is stably isomorphic to the graph $C^*$-algebra $C(S^1)$.

To see that $\mathfrak{A}^\dagger$ is not isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra, note that the primitive ideal space is homeomorphic to $(\mathbb{T} \times \{1, 2\})/ \sim$ with $(z, 1) \sim (z, 2)$ whenever $z \neq 1$. It can be seen from Theorem 3.4 of [HS04] that no graph $C^*$-algebra has such a primitive ideal space. (The reader is referred to Theorem 1 of [Gab13] as well, as the statement of the result in [HS04] is not correct.)

As an application of Theorem 7.6, we provide the following corollary on semiprojectivity. But first we introduce some terminology.

An important type of ideals in graph $C^*$-algebras are the gauge-invariant ideals. However, when we know that a $C^*$-algebra is isomorphic to a graph $C^*$-algebra, but we do not know the graph, this of course means that we do not have an induced gauge action. So how does one determine the gauge-invariant ideals?

Recall that the ideal lattice in a $C^*$-algebra $\mathfrak{A}$ is canonically isomorphic to the lattice of open subsets of the primitive ideal space of $\mathfrak{A}$. An ideal in $\mathfrak{A}$ is called compact if it corresponds to a compact, open subset of the primitive ideal space of $\mathfrak{A}$. Note that compact sets need not be closed. For graph $C^*$-algebras, it is not hard to see that the compact ideals are exactly the ideals generated by finitely many projections. By Corollary 3.13 and by Theorem 3.6 of [BHR02], the gauge-invariant ideals in a graph $C^*$-algebra are exactly those ideals which are generated by projections. Thus, the gauge-invariant ideals are exactly the ideals which can be formed as a union of the compact ideals. Note that this latter condition can be determined from the primitive ideal space of the $C^*$-algebra alone, and does not require that you know any other structure of the $C^*$-algebra.

Since all gauge-invariant ideals in a unital graph $C^*$-algebra are generated by finitely many projections, the compact ideals of a unital graph $C^*$-algebra are exactly the gauge-invariant ideals. Hence, in the case of a $C^*$-algebra $\mathfrak{A}$ which is strongly Morita equivalent to a unital graph $C^*$-algebra, the compact ideals in $\mathfrak{A}$
Corollary 7.8. Let $\mathfrak{A}$ be a $\sigma_p$-unital $C^*$-algebra and assume that $\mathfrak{A}$ is strongly Morita equivalent to a unital graph $C^*$-algebra. Then $\mathfrak{A}$ is semiprojective if and only if for any compact ideals $I \subseteq J$ in the minimal unitization $\mathfrak{A}^\dagger$, $J/I$ is not strong Morita equivalent to $\mathbb{K}^\dagger$ or $(C(S^1) \otimes \mathbb{K})^\dagger$.

Proof. It is well-known that $\mathfrak{A}$ is semiprojective if and only if $\mathfrak{A}^\dagger$ is semiprojective. By Theorem 7.6, $\mathfrak{A}^\dagger$ is isomorphic to a unital graph $C^*$-algebra, so by [EK, Theorem 1.1] it follows that $\mathfrak{A}^\dagger$ is semiprojective if and only if for any gauge-invariant ideals $I \subseteq J$ in $\mathfrak{A}^\dagger$, the subquotient $J/I$ is not strong Morita equivalent to $\mathbb{K}^\dagger$ or $(C(S^1) \otimes \mathbb{K})^\dagger$. As noted above, the gauge-invariant ideals in a unital graph $C^*$-algebra are exactly the compact ideals.

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