

# A CLASSIFICATION OF IDEALS IN CROSSED PRODUCTS

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**Abstract.**

Given a  $C^*$ -dynamical system  $(A, G, \alpha)$  and a closed subgroup  $H$  of the locally compact abelian group  $G$  we show that the crossed product  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  is prime if and only if two conditions are satisfied: (a) the sub-crossed product  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  is  $G$ -prime (any two non-zero  $G$ -invariant ideals of  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  have non-zero intersection) and (b) the Connes spectrum  $\Gamma(\alpha)$  contains the annihilator  $H^\perp$  of  $H$  in the dual group  $\hat{G}$  of  $G$ . When  $G/H$  is discrete, we obtain that the crossed product is simple if and only if (a)  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  is  $G$ -simple (has no non-trivial  $G$ -invariant ideals) and (b)  $\Gamma(\alpha)$  contains  $H^\perp$ .

**Introduction.**

Let  $(A, G, \alpha)$  be a  $C^*$ -dynamical system,  $(G \rtimes_\alpha A, \hat{G}, \hat{\alpha})$  its dual system. In an earlier paper [8] it was shown that the existence of  $G$ -invariant ideals in  $A$  is equivalent to the existence of  $\hat{G}$ -invariant ideals in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$ . Here we pursue this line of thought to show that given a closed subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ , the existence of  $G$ -invariant ideals in the "sub"-crossed product  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  is equivalent to the existence of  $H^\perp$ -invariant ideals in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$ . The result is based on the characterization of  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  obtained in [6], and indicates that it is of interest to classify the ideals in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  by the largest closed subgroup of  $\hat{G}$  under which they are invariant.

Using the established correspondence between ideals in  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  and  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  we get new criteria for the simplicity (and primeness) of  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$ , formulated in terms of properties of  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$ . Our method also yields new results for  $W^*$ -dynamical systems, extending results in [4].

**1. Notation.**

This paper constitutes a sequel of [6] and [8], to which we refer the reader for terminology. For more general reference on  $C^*$ - and  $W^*$ -dynamical systems one may consult [9]. Let  $(A, G, \alpha)$  be a  $C^*$ -dynamical system,  $H$  a

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closed subgroup of the locally compact abelian group  $G$ . The action  $\alpha^H$  of  $G$  on the space  $K(H, A)$  of continuous functions from  $H$  into  $A$  with compact support is defined by

$$(\alpha_t^H y)(s) = \alpha_t(y(s))$$

and this is easily seen to coincide with the action  $\text{Ad } \lambda$  (as defined in [8]) on  $M(G \rtimes_\alpha A)$  when restricted to  $K(H, A)$ .

By  $\alpha^H$  we shall henceforth mean the canonical extension of the action on  $K(H, A)$  to all of  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$ , and whenever we speak of  $G$  acting on  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  we think of  $(H \rtimes_\alpha A, G, \alpha^H)$ .

**2. An ideal correspondence.**

LEMMA 2.1. *Let  $(A, G, \alpha)$  be a  $C^*$ -dynamical system,  $(G \rtimes_\alpha A, \hat{G}, \hat{\alpha})$  its dual system. Let  $H$  be a closed subgroup of  $G, H^\perp$  its annihilator in  $\hat{G}$ . For every non-trivial  $H^\perp$ -invariant ideal  $J$  in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  let  $I_H(J)$  denote the closed linear span of*

$$\{x \in H \rtimes_\alpha A \mid \exists y \in J: x = I_H(y)\} .$$

*Then  $I_H(J)$  is a non-trivial  $G$ -invariant ideal in  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$ .*

PROOF. By [6, Lemma 2.6]  $I_H(J)$  is non-zero when  $J$  is non-zero since  $\lambda_f y \lambda_g \in J$  when  $y \in J$  and  $f, g$  are in  $K(G)$ . Furthermore,  $I_H(J) \neq H \rtimes_\alpha A$  when  $J \neq G \rtimes_\alpha A$ . Indeed, let  $\varphi$  be a non-zero functional on  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  which annihilates  $J$ . By the  $H^\perp$ -invariance of  $J, \varphi$  annihilates  $I_H(J)$ , but  $\varphi$  cannot annihilate all of  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  since this contains an approximate unit for  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$ . That  $I_H(J)$  is a closed  $*$ -subspace of  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  is obvious, and that it is an ideal follows easily from the pointwise  $H^\perp$ -invariance of the elements of  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  which ensures that

$$x_1 I_H(y) = I_H(x_1 y)$$

whenever  $x_1 \in H \rtimes_\alpha A, y \in B_0^* B_0 \cap J$ . The  $G$ -invariance follows from

$$I_H(\lambda_t y \lambda_t^*) = \lambda_t I_H(y) \lambda_t^*$$

for all  $y$  in  $B_0^* B_0$  and  $t$  in  $G$ .

LEMMA 2.2. *Let  $(A, G, \alpha), (G \rtimes_\alpha A, \hat{G}, \hat{\alpha})$  and  $H^\perp$  be as in 2.1. Let  $N$  be a non-trivial  $G$ -invariant ideal in  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$ . Denote by  $\text{Ext } N$  the closed linear span of elements*

$$\{xy, yx \mid x \in N, y \in G \rtimes_\alpha A\} .$$

*Then  $\text{Ext } N$  is a non-trivial  $H^\perp$ -invariant ideal in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$ .*

PROOF. We regard  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  as the  $C^*$ -subalgebra of  $M(G \rtimes_\alpha A)$  satisfying the conditions of [6, Theorem 2.1]. By the  $G$ -invariance of  $N$ , one easily verifies that  $\text{Ext } N$  is an ideal in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$ . The  $H^\perp$ -invariance follows from

$$\hat{\alpha}_\gamma(xy) = x\hat{\alpha}_\gamma(y), \quad \gamma \in H^\perp,$$

whenever  $x \in N$  and  $y \in G \rtimes_\alpha A$ . When  $N$  is non-zero, so is  $\text{Ext } N$ —if not, some non-zero  $x$  in  $N$  would be orthogonal to  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$ , which is impossible. When  $N$  is not all of  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  we want to conclude  $\text{Ext } N \neq G \rtimes_\alpha A$ . Let  $\tilde{\pi}^0$  be a representation of  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}^0$ , or equivalently a pair  $(\pi^0, u^0)$ , where  $\pi^0$  is a representation of  $A$  on  $\mathcal{H}^0$  and  $u^0$  is a unitary representation of  $H$  on  $\mathcal{H}^0$  such that for  $s$  in  $H$  and  $x$  in  $A$

$$\pi^0(\alpha_s(x)) = u_s^0 \pi^0(x) u_{-s}^0.$$

Let  $\tilde{\pi} = (\pi, u)$  be the induced representation of  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  (or covariant representation of  $(A, G, \alpha)$ ) on the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  of measurable functions  $\xi: G \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^0$  satisfying that for all  $s$  in  $H$  and  $t$  in  $G$   $\xi(t+s) = u_{-s}^0 \xi(t)$  and that  $\int_{G/H} \|\xi\|^2 < \infty$ , as defined in [11, Section 3]. Clearly  $(\pi, u)$  restricts to a covariant representation of  $(A, H, \alpha)$ , and hence

$$\tilde{\pi}''(x) = \int_H \pi(x(s)) u_s ds$$

extends from a representation of  $K(H, A)$  to  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$ , cf. [9]. Since  $(u_s \xi)(t) = \xi(t-s) = (u_s^0 \xi)(t)$  for  $s$  in  $H$  we have

$$\tilde{\pi}(x)(t) = \tilde{\pi}^0(\alpha_{-t}(x))(t)$$

for all  $t$  in  $G$ . This shows that by choosing a non-trivial  $\tilde{\pi}^0$  of  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  such that  $N \subset \ker \tilde{\pi}^0$  one obtains from the  $G$ -invariance of  $N$  that  $N \subset \ker \tilde{\pi}''$ , hence  $\text{Ext } N \subset \ker \tilde{\pi}$ , and the conclusion follows.

REMARK 2.3. The above direct proof that  $N \neq H \rtimes_\alpha A$  implies  $\text{Ext } N \neq G \rtimes_\alpha A$  was pointed out by the referee. Originally, a different proof of this was given, using the complicated machinery of [5]. For the benefit of the reader acquainted with [5] it might be worthwhile to point out that one can deduce from [5, Proposition 12] that the quotient of  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  by  $\text{Ext } N$  is isomorphic to the twisted crossed product of  $G$  with the quotient of  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  by  $N$ . Hence if the latter is non-trivial, so is the former.

REMARK 2.4. In [8], we worked with the case  $H = \{0\}$  and established the correspondence from a  $\hat{G}$ -invariant ideal in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  to a  $G$ -invariant ideal in  $A$  exactly as in 2.1 above—i.e. by using the conditional expectation  $I = I_{\{0\}}$ . To go back, however, from a  $G$ -invariant ideal  $N$  in  $A$  to a  $\hat{G}$ -invariant  $J$  in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$

we simply referred to the Takai duality (cf. [10]), using that  $N \otimes C(L^2(G))$  naturally identifies with a  $G$ -invariant ideal in the double crossed product, and thus maps onto a  $\widehat{G}$ -invariant ideal in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$ .

This construction is in fact equivalent to the Ext-operation used in 2.2. One way of seeing this is to note that when  $N$  is a  $G$ -invariant ideal in  $A$ ,  $\text{Ext } N$  as defined in 2.2 identifies with  $G \rtimes_\alpha N$ . Indeed, observe that  $K(G, A)$  is dense in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  and for  $y$  in  $K(G, A)$ ,  $xy \in K(G, N)$  when  $x \in N$ . Now  $N \otimes C(L^2(G))$  identifies with the double crossed product  $\widehat{G} \rtimes_\alpha G \rtimes_\alpha N$ , thus the canonical conditional expectation maps  $N \otimes C(L^2(G))$  onto  $G \rtimes_\alpha N$ , and we are back.

**PROPOSITION 2.5.** *Let  $(A, G, \alpha)$  be a  $C^*$ -dynamical system,  $(G \rtimes_\alpha A, \widehat{G}, \widehat{\alpha})$  its dual system,  $H$  a closed subgroup of  $G$  with annihilator  $H^\perp$  in  $G$ . Then  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  is  $G$ -prime (resp.  $G$ -simple) if and only if  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  is  $H^\perp$ -prime (resp.  $H^\perp$ -simple).*

**PROOF.** (i) Prime version: assume  $J_1$  and  $J_2$  are orthogonal non-zero  $H^\perp$ -invariant ideals in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$ . The associated  $G$ -invariant ideals  $I_H(J_1)$  and  $I_H(J_2)$  obtained from 2.1 are then also orthogonal since

$$x_1 x_2 = I_H(y_1) I_H(y_2) = \int_{H^\perp} \int_{H^\perp} \widehat{\alpha}_\tau(y_1) \widehat{\alpha}_\gamma(y_2) d\tau d\gamma = 0$$

when  $y_1 \in J_1$  and  $y_2 \in J_2$ .

Assume conversely that  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  are non-zero orthogonal  $G$ -invariant ideals in  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$ , and let  $\text{Ext } N_1$  and  $\text{Ext } N_2$  be the associated  $H^\perp$ -invariant ideals in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  obtained from 2.2. Take the four combinations  $x_1 y_1 y_2 x_2$ ,  $y_1 x_1 x_2 y_2$ ,  $y_1 x_1 y_2 x_2$  and  $x_1 y_1 x_2 y_2$  where  $x_1 \in N_1$ ,  $x_2 \in N_2$  and  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$ . All such elements must be zero. Indeed, for  $y_1 x_1 x_2 y_2$  this is obvious, since already  $x_1 x_2 = 0$ . To prove it for the other three cases note that whenever  $y \in K(G, A)$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 y x_2 &= x_1 \left( \int \iota(y(s)) \lambda_s ds \right) x_2 \\ &= \int \lambda_s \lambda_s^* x_1 \lambda_s \iota(\alpha_{-s}(y(s)) x_2) ds = 0, \end{aligned}$$

since  $\lambda_s^* x_1 \lambda_s \in N_1$  by  $G$ -invariance, and  $\iota(\alpha_{-s}(y(s)))$  belongs to the multiplier algebra of  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$ , thus  $\iota(\alpha_{-s}(y(s))) x_2 \in N_2$ .

(ii) Simple version: this is obvious from lemmas 2.1 and 2.2.

**PROPOSITION 2.6.** *Let  $(A, G, \alpha)$ ,  $(G \rtimes_\alpha A, \widehat{G}, \widehat{\alpha})$ ,  $H$  and  $H^\perp$ ,  $\text{Ext}$  and  $I_H$  be as in 2.1 and 2.2. Let  $J$  be an  $H^\perp$ -invariant ideal of  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$ ,  $N$  a  $G$ -invariant ideal of  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$ . Then*

- (i)  $\text{Ext}(I_H(J)) \subseteq J$ , and
- (ii)  $I_H(\text{Ext } N) \supseteq N$ .

PROOF. (i) Take  $G \rtimes_{\alpha} A$  in its universal representation. By the  $H^{\perp}$ -invariance,  $I_H(J)$  is contained in the weak closure  $J''$  of  $J$ . Thus  $\text{Ext}(I_H(J))$  is a closed ideal in  $J'' \cap (G \rtimes_{\alpha} A) = J$ .

(ii) Take  $A \subset B(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $G \rtimes_{\alpha} A \subset B(L^2(G, \mathcal{H}))$ . Let  $\mathcal{D}(I_H)$  denote the dense subset of  $G \rtimes_{\alpha} A$  of elements that are in the domain of  $I_H$  and map onto elements of  $H \rtimes_{\alpha} A$  ([6, Lemmas 2.5 and 2.6]). Note that the range of such elements under  $I_H$  is dense in  $H \rtimes_{\alpha} A$  by the proof of [6, Lemma 2.6]. Thus the generating set for  $\text{Ext } N$  has the dense subset  $\{xy, yx \mid x \in N, y \in \mathcal{D}(I_H)\}$  which maps onto a dense subset of  $N$ , and so  $I_H(\text{Ext } N)$  must contain  $N$ .

When  $G$  is discrete, the crossed product  $G \rtimes_{\alpha} A$  identifies with the  $C^*$ -algebra generated by  $\iota(A)$  and  $\lambda_G$  on  $L^2(G, \mathcal{H})$ . In this case we have the simple inclusion chain

$$\iota(A) \subset H \rtimes_{\alpha} A \subset G \rtimes_{\alpha} A$$

for every subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ . As a further simplification the dual system is now based on a compact group  $\hat{G}$  thus the map  $I_H$  becomes everywhere defined. For this special setting, we obtain more transparent results concerning the ideal correspondence.

PROPOSITION 2.7. *Let  $(A, G, \alpha)$ ,  $(G \rtimes_{\alpha} A, \hat{G}, \hat{\alpha})$ ,  $H$  and  $H^{\perp}$  be as in 2.1, and assume  $G$  to be discrete. Let  $N$  be a  $G$ -invariant ideal in  $H \rtimes_{\alpha} A$ . The extension of  $N$  is the smallest ideal in  $G \rtimes_{\alpha} A$  containing  $N$  and*

$$I_H(\text{Ext } N) = N .$$

PROOF.  $N$  is now a subspace of  $G \rtimes_{\alpha} A$ , thus

$$\{xy, yx \mid y \in G \rtimes_{\alpha} A, x \in N\}$$

spans the smallest ideal containing  $N$ . Note that

$$\text{Ext } N = \text{cl. span } \bigcup_{t \in G \setminus H} N \lambda_t .$$

When applying  $I_H = \int_{H^{\perp}} \hat{\alpha}_{\gamma} d\gamma$  to elements in this closed linear span, we obviously get the elements from  $N$  back.

PROPOSITION 2.8. *Let  $(A, G, \alpha)$ ,  $(G \rtimes_{\alpha} A, \hat{G}, \hat{\alpha})$ ,  $H$  and  $H^{\perp}$  be as in 2.1, and assume  $G$  to be discrete. Let  $J$  be an  $H^{\perp}$ -invariant in  $G \rtimes_{\alpha} A$ , then  $I_H(J) = J \cap (H \rtimes_{\alpha} A)$  and*

$$\text{Ext}(I_H(J)) = J .$$

PROOF.  $H^{\perp}$  is compact, thus  $I_H$  is a projection of norm one from  $G \rtimes_{\alpha} A$  onto  $H \rtimes_{\alpha} A$ . Now take an element  $x$  in  $J$ , then  $\hat{\alpha}_{\gamma}(x) \in J$  for every  $\gamma$  in  $H^{\perp}$ , thus

$I_H(x) \in J$ , and at the same time  $I_H(x)$  is fixed under  $\hat{\alpha}_\gamma, \gamma$  in  $H^\perp$ , so  $I_H(x) \in H \rtimes_\alpha A$ . Conversely, every  $x$  in  $J$  which belongs to  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  satisfies that  $x = I_H(x)$ .

Take  $(u_\lambda)$  to be an approximate unit for  $J$ . By the  $H^\perp$ -invariance of  $J$  and compactness of  $H^\perp$  it follows that  $(I_H(u_\lambda))$  is an approximate unit for  $J$ . However,  $(I_H(u_\lambda))$  also belongs to  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$ . Thus the smallest ideal in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  which contains  $J \cap (H \rtimes_\alpha A)$  contains an approximate unit for  $\mathfrak{K}$  and is contained in  $J$ , therefore equals  $J$ .

### 3. Prime and simple crossed products.

In this section we obtain the natural generalizations of [8, Theorems 5.8 and 6.5].

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Let  $(A, G, \alpha)$  be a  $C^*$ -dynamical system,  $(G \rtimes_\alpha A, \hat{G}, \hat{\alpha})$  its dual system,  $H$  a closed subgroup of  $G$  with annihilator  $H^\perp$  in  $\hat{G}$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent*

- (i)  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  is prime;
- (ii) (a)  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  is  $G$ -prime and (b)  $\Gamma(\alpha) \supseteq H^\perp$ .

**PROOF.** That (i) implies (ii) (a) follows directly from proposition 2.5. From [8, Theorem 5.8] we know that (i) implies  $\Gamma(\alpha) = \hat{G}$ , so obviously (ii) (b) holds. For the reverse, note that by 2.4 above, (ii) (a) implies that  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  is  $H^\perp$ -prime. Assume that  $J_1$  and  $J_2$  were non-zero orthogonal ideals in  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$ . Since  $H^\perp \subseteq \Gamma(\alpha)$  we then have

$$J_1 \cap \hat{\alpha}_\gamma(J_2) = \{0\}$$

for each  $\gamma$  in  $H^\perp$ , reasoning as in the proof of [8, Theorem 3.4]. But then  $J_1$  has zero intersection with the span  $J_3$  of all  $\hat{\alpha}_\gamma(J_2)$ ,  $\gamma \in H^\perp$ , and repeating the argument with  $J_3, J_1$  in place of  $J_1, J_2$  we obtain orthogonal  $H^\perp$ -invariant ideals, in contradiction with  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  being  $H^\perp$ -prime.

**THEOREM 3.2.** *Let  $(A, G, \alpha)$  be a  $C^*$ -dynamical system,  $(G \rtimes_\alpha A, \hat{G}, \hat{\alpha})$  its dual system. Let  $H$  be a closed subgroup of  $G$  such that the quotient group  $G/H$  is discrete, and denote by  $H^\perp$  the (compact) annihilator of  $H$  in  $\hat{G}$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent*

- (i)  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  is simple
- (ii) (a)  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  is  $G$ -simple and (b)  $\Gamma(\alpha) \supseteq H^\perp$ .

**PROOF.** That (i) implies (ii) (a) follows from 2.5 (simple version), and that (i) implies  $\Gamma(\alpha) = \hat{G}$ , a fortiori that  $\Gamma(\alpha) \supseteq H^\perp$  follows from [8, Theorem 6.5]. That

(ii) (a) and (b) imply that  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  is prime follows from 3.1, and that  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  is  $H^\perp$ -simple from 2.5. To complete the proof we need just the following generalization of [8, Lemma 6.4].

LEMMA 3.3. *Let  $(B, K, \beta)$  be a  $C^*$ -dynamical system and  $N$  a compact subgroup of  $K$ . If  $B$  is prime and  $N$ -simple, then it is simple.*

PROOF. A verbatim repetition of the proof of [8, Lemma 6.4] shows that given a non-zero ideal  $I$  in  $B$  there exists a non-zero  $y_0$  which belongs to  $\beta_n(I)$  for all  $n$  in  $N$ , thus the intersection over these form a non-zero  $N$ -invariant ideal.

A natural question at this point concerns the exact relationship between  $\Gamma(\alpha^H)$  and  $\Gamma(\alpha)$ . We obtain the following, using notation as above.

PROPOSITION 3.4.  $\Gamma(\alpha^H) = \Gamma(\alpha) \cap H^\perp$ .

PROOF. (i) It follows from the proof of [7, 4.2] that the annihilator  $\Gamma(\alpha^H)^\perp$  must contain all  $t$  in  $G$  for which  $\alpha_t^H$  is multiplier-inner in the fixed-point algebra of the bitransposed action  $(\alpha^H)'$ . Obviously,  $\alpha_h^H$  is inner in this sense for all  $h$  in  $H$ , whence  $\Gamma(\alpha^H)^\perp \supseteq H$ , thus  $\Gamma(\alpha^H) \subseteq H^\perp$ .

(ii) To see that  $\Gamma(\alpha^H) \subseteq \Gamma(\alpha)$  note that whenever  $B \in \mathcal{K}^\alpha(A)$ ,  $H \rtimes_\alpha B \in \mathcal{K}^{\alpha^H}(H \rtimes_\alpha A)$ . It is easily checked that the Arveson spectrum  $\text{Sp}(\alpha|B)$  equals  $\text{Sp}(\alpha^H|H \rtimes_\alpha B)$ . From this we conclude that

$$\Gamma(\alpha^H) \subseteq \bigcap \text{Sp}(\alpha^H|H \rtimes_\alpha B) = \bigcap \text{Sp}(\alpha|B) = \Gamma(\alpha).$$

(iii) To prove  $\Gamma(\alpha^H) \supseteq \Gamma(\alpha) \cap H^\perp$  we appeal to results in [5]. Indeed, let  $\gamma \in \Gamma(\alpha) \cap H^\perp$ , then we want to see that for every non-zero ideal  $J$  in  $G \rtimes_{\alpha^H}(H \rtimes_\alpha A)$ ,

$$\hat{\alpha}_\gamma^H(J) \cap J \neq 0.$$

By [5, Proposition 1] the crossed product  $G \rtimes_\alpha A$  identifies with the quotient

$$G \rtimes_{\alpha^H}(H \rtimes_\alpha A) / I_H$$

where  $I_H$  is the intersection of  $G \rtimes_{\alpha^H}(H \rtimes_\alpha A)$  with the ideal in  $M(G \rtimes_{\alpha^H}(H \rtimes_\alpha A))$  generated by

$$\{\alpha_h^H(y) - \lambda_{hy} \mid h \in H, y \in H \rtimes_\alpha A\},$$

cf. [5, p. 196]. Using that by [6, 2.1]  $\hat{\alpha}_\gamma^H$  leaves  $H \rtimes_\alpha A$  pointwise invariant we have that for  $\gamma \in H^\perp$

$$\hat{\alpha}_\gamma^H(\alpha_h^H(y) - \lambda_{hy}) = \hat{\alpha}_\gamma^H(\alpha_\gamma^H(y) - (h, \gamma)\lambda_h \alpha_\gamma^H(y)) = \alpha_h^H(y) - \lambda_{hy}.$$

This means that  $I_H$  is pointwise invariant under  $\alpha_\gamma^H$ . Hence if  $J \cap I_H \neq \{0\}$ , we immediately obtain the desired conclusion. If  $J \cap I_H = \{0\}$ , the quotient  $J = J/I_H$  is a non-zero ideal in  $G \times_\alpha A$ , and furthermore  $\alpha_\gamma^H(J)/I_H = \alpha_\gamma(J)$ , hence it follows from  $\gamma \in \Gamma(\alpha)$  that  $\hat{\alpha}_\gamma(J) \neq \{0\}$ , so  $J \cap \hat{\alpha}_\gamma^H(J) \neq \{0\}$ .

**4. The von Neumann algebra case.**

Let  $(M, G, \alpha)$  be a  $W^*$ -dynamical system with  $M$   $\sigma$ -finite and  $G$  separable;  $\Gamma(\alpha)$  its Connes spectrum as defined in [3, 2.2.1]. Using the above ideas and the characterization in [4, III, Theorem 3.2] of  $\Gamma(\alpha)$  as the kernel of the restriction of  $\hat{\alpha}$  to the center  $Z(G \times_\alpha M)$  of the  $W^*$ -crossed product  $G \times_\alpha M$  we obtain the following generalization of [4, III, Corollary 3.4].

**THEOREM 4.1.** *Let  $(M, G, \alpha)$  be a  $W^*$ -dynamical system,  $(G \times_\alpha M, \hat{G}, \hat{\alpha})$  its dual system,  $H$  a closed subgroup of  $G$  with annihilator  $H^\perp$  in  $\hat{G}$ . Then the following are equivalent*

- (i)  $G \times_\alpha M$  is a factor
- (ii) (a)  $\alpha^H$  acts centrally ergodic on  $H \times_\alpha M$   
and  
(b)  $\Gamma(\alpha) \supseteq H^\perp$ .

To see this, let us first prove the following

**LEMMA 4.2.** *Let  $(M, G, \alpha)$ ,  $(G \times_\alpha M, \hat{G}, \hat{\alpha})$ ,  $H$  and  $H^\perp$  be as above. The  $H^\perp$ -invariant central projections in  $G \times_\alpha M$  identify with  $G$ -invariant central projections in  $H \times_\alpha M$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $p$  be a  $G$ -invariant central projection in  $H \times_\alpha M$ . Since  $M$  is a subalgebra of  $H \times_\alpha M$ ,  $p$  commutes with  $M$ , and the  $G$ -invariance ensures that  $p$  commutes with  $\{\lambda_G\}$ , thus  $p$  is central in  $G \times_\alpha M$ . Since  $H \times_\alpha M$  by [12, Theorem 7.1] identifies with

$$\{y \in G \times_\alpha M \mid \hat{\alpha}(y) = y \ \forall \gamma \in H^\perp\},$$

$p$  is  $H^\perp$ -invariant.

Conversely, assume  $p$  to be central and  $H^\perp$ -invariant in  $G \times_\alpha M$ , then by the above  $p \in H \times_\alpha M$  and is  $G$ -invariant and central since it is central in  $G \times_\alpha M$ .

**PROOF OF THEOREM 4.1.** Assume (i), then (ii) (a) holds by 4.2, and by [4, III, Theorem 3.2]  $\Gamma(\alpha) = \hat{G}$ , a fortiori  $\Gamma(\alpha) \supseteq H^\perp$ . Conversely, assuming (ii) (a) we know by 4.2 that  $G \times_\alpha M$  has no  $H^\perp$ -invariant non-trivial central projections and now the characterization



$$\Gamma(\alpha) = \ker \hat{\alpha} | Z(G \rtimes M)$$

tells us that (ii) (b) implies that all central projections in  $G \rtimes M$  must be  $H^\perp$ -invariant. Thus  $G \rtimes M$  is a factor.

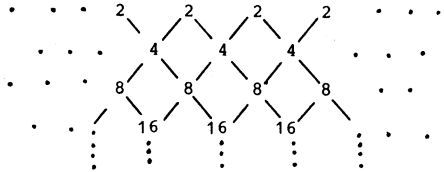
**5. An example: the gauge group on the Fermion algebra.**

Let  $(F, T, \alpha)$  be the  $C^*$ -dynamical system where  $F$  is the Fermion algebra,  $T$  the circle group and  $\alpha$  the action of  $T$  as gauge automorphisms. One way of viewing this is to see  $F$  as the infinite tensor product of  $2 \times 2$ -matrices, and the gauge automorphism  $\alpha_t$  as the product type automorphism which on each  $2 \times 2$ -matrix algebra is implemented by the unitary  $u_t$ ,

$$u_t = \begin{pmatrix} e^{it} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(see [2, Section 4] or [9, 8.12.11]).

In [2, Section 4] the diagram of the crossed product  $T \rtimes F$  was shown to be



and the dual action represents a “shift” in the diagram. The non-trivial ideals in  $T \rtimes F$  correspond to subsets of the diagram of the form ([2, Section 4])



thus no ideal in  $T \rtimes F$  is invariant by any  $\hat{\alpha}_\gamma, \gamma \neq 0$ .

This shows that only one class of ideals in  $T \rtimes F$  has non-trivial elements, namely the 0-class. Whenever  $N$  is a proper subgroup of  $T$ , the class of ideals in  $T \rtimes F$  invariant under  $N^\perp$  contains only 0 and  $T \rtimes F$ . This corresponds according to section 2, to  $N \rtimes F$  being  $T$ -simple. But in fact we have even more here:  $N \rtimes F$  is always simple. Indeed,  $N$  is a finite (thus discrete) group and so by [8, Theorem 6.5]  $N \rtimes F$  must be simple if  $F$  is  $N$ -simple and  $\Gamma(\alpha | N) = \hat{N}$ . But  $F$  is actually simple, and every gauge automorphism is outer, thus by [7, Theorem 4.2]  $\Gamma(\alpha | N)^\perp = \{0\}$ , so  $\Gamma(\alpha | N) = \hat{N}$ .

## 6. Actions on the compact operators.

Let  $A = C(H)$ , the algebra of all compact operators on a Hilbert space  $H$ , and let  $G$  be any locally compact abelian group acting on  $C(H)$ . Combining [5, Theorem 18 and Proposition 34] with [7, 4.2 Theorem] we get the following

**PROPOSITION 6.1.** *Let  $(C(H), G, \alpha)$  be a  $C^*$ -dynamical system,  $(G \rtimes_\alpha C(H), \hat{G}, \hat{\alpha})$  its dual system. The ideals of  $G \rtimes_\alpha C(H)$  all have the same stabilizer under the dual action, and this coincides with the Connes spectrum  $\Gamma(\alpha)$ .*

**PROOF.** By [5, Theorem 18] the crossed product  $G \rtimes_\alpha C(H)$  is isomorphic to the tensor product  $C(H) \otimes (G' \rtimes C)$  where, denoting by  $U$  the unitary group in  $B(H)$

$$G' = \{(s, u) \in G \times U \mid \alpha_s = u \cdot u^*\},$$

and the twisting map is defined by mapping the subgroup  $N'$  of  $G'$  consisting of elements  $(0, e^{it} 1)$  into the circle group by the canonical procedure. Obviously, this is an isomorphism of the group  $N'$  onto  $T$ , so the twisted  $C^*$ -dynamical system in question is a *reduced abelian system* in the sense of [5]. Hence by [5, Proposition 32 (ii)] the stabilizer of any primitive ideal  $P$  in  $G' \rtimes C$  is the annihilator in  $\hat{G}$  of the quotient  $Z/N'$  where  $Z$  denotes the center of  $G'$ . By the proof of [7, 4.2 Theorem] this annihilator always contains  $\Gamma(\alpha)$ , and by [8, 3.2 Lemma] the stabilizer is always contained in  $\Gamma(\alpha)$ , hence equality holds between the stabilizer and  $\Gamma(\alpha)$ .

The above exhibits the marked contrast between the Fermion algebra case treated in section 5 and the case for any  $C^*$ -dynamical system based on the compact operators. In the latter case, all ideals of the crossed product belong to the Connes spectrum-class.

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