

# COVERINGS OF SKEW-PRODUCTS AND CROSSED PRODUCTS BY COACTIONS

DAVID PASK, JOHN QUIGG, AND AIDAN SIMS

ABSTRACT. Consider a projective limit  $G$  of finite groups  $G_n$ . Fix a compatible family  $\delta^n$  of coactions of the  $G_n$  on a  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$ . From this data we obtain a coaction  $\delta$  of  $G$  on  $A$ . We show that the coaction crossed product of  $A$  by  $\delta$  is isomorphic to a direct limit of the coaction crossed products of  $A$  by the  $\delta^n$ .

If  $A = C^*(\Lambda)$  for some  $k$ -graph  $\Lambda$ , and if the coactions  $\delta^n$  correspond to skew-products of  $\Lambda$ , then we can say more. We prove that the coaction crossed-product of  $C^*(\Lambda)$  by  $\delta$  may be realised as a full corner of the  $C^*$ -algebra of a  $(k+1)$ -graph. We then explore connections with Yeend's topological higher-rank graphs and their  $C^*$ -algebras.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this article we investigate how certain coactions of discrete groups on  $k$ -graph  $C^*$ -algebras behave under inductive limits. This leads to interesting new connections between  $k$ -graph  $C^*$ -algebras, nonabelian duality, and Yeend's topological higher-rank graph  $C^*$ -algebras.

We consider a particularly tractable class of coactions of finite groups on  $k$ -graph  $C^*$ -algebras. A functor  $c$  from a  $k$ -graph  $\Lambda$  to a discrete group  $G$  gives rise to two natural constructions. At the level of  $k$ -graphs, one may construct the skew-product  $k$ -graph  $\Lambda \times_c G$ ; and at the level of  $C^*$ -algebras,  $c$  induces a coaction  $\delta$  of  $G$  on  $C^*(\Lambda)$ . It is a theorem of [15] that these two constructions are compatible in the sense that the  $k$ -graph algebra  $C^*(\Lambda \times_c G)$  is canonically isomorphic to the coaction crossed-product  $C^*$ -algebra  $C^*(\Lambda) \times_\delta G$ .

The skew-product construction is also related to discrete topology: given a regular covering map from a  $k$ -graph  $\Gamma$  to a connected  $k$ -graph  $\Lambda$ , one obtains an isomorphism of  $\Gamma$  with a skew-product of  $\Lambda$  by a discrete group  $G$  [15, Theorem 6.11]. Further results of [15] then show how to realise the  $C^*$ -algebra of  $\Gamma$  as a coaction crossed product of the  $C^*$ -algebra of  $\Lambda$ .

The results of [12] investigate the relationship between  $C^*(\Lambda)$  and  $C^*(\Gamma)$  from a different point of view. Specifically, they show how a covering  $p$  of a  $k$ -graph  $\Lambda$  by a  $k$ -graph  $\Gamma$  induces an inclusion of  $C^*(\Lambda)$  into  $C^*(\Gamma)$ . A sequence of compatible coverings therefore gives rise to an inductive limit of  $C^*$ -algebras. The main results

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of [12] show how to realise this inductive limit as a full corner in the  $C^*$ -algebra of a  $(k+1)$ -graph.

We can combine the ideas discussed in the preceding three paragraphs as follows. Fix a  $k$ -graph  $\Lambda$ , a projective sequence of finite groups  $G_n$ , and a sequence of functors  $c_n : \Lambda \rightarrow G_n$  which are compatible with the projective structure. We obtain from this data a sequence of skew-products  $\Lambda \times_{c_n} G_n$  which form a sequence of compatible coverings of  $\Lambda$ . By results of [12], we therefore obtain an inductive system of  $k$ -graph  $C^*$ -algebras  $C^*(\Lambda \times_{c_n} G_n)$ . The results of [15] show that each  $C^*(\Lambda \times_{c_n} G_n)$  is isomorphic to a coaction crossed product  $C^*(\Lambda) \times_{\delta^n} G_n$ . It is therefore natural to ask whether the direct limit  $C^*$ -algebra  $\varinjlim(C^*(\Lambda \times_{c_n} G_n))$  is isomorphic to a coaction crossed product of  $C^*(\Lambda)$  by the projective limit group  $\varprojlim G_n$ .

After summarising in Section 2 the background needed for our results, we answer this question in the affirmative and in greater generality in Theorem 3.1. Given a  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$ , a projective limit of finite groups  $G_n$  and a compatible system of coactions of the  $G_n$  on  $A$ , we show that there is an associated coaction  $\delta$  of  $\varprojlim G_n$  on  $A$ , such that  $A \times_{\delta} (\varprojlim G_n) \cong \varinjlim(A \times_{\delta^n} G_n)$ .

In Section 4, we consider the consequences of Theorem 3.1 in the original motivating context of  $k$ -graph  $C^*$ -algebras. We consider a  $k$ -graph  $\Lambda$  together with functors  $c_n : \Lambda \rightarrow G_n$  which are consistent with the projective limit structure on the  $G_n$ . In Theorem 4.3, we use Theorem 3.1 to deduce that  $C^*(\Lambda) \times_{\delta} G$  is isomorphic to  $\varinjlim(C^*(\Lambda) \times_{\delta^n} G_n)$ . Using results of [12], we realise  $C^*(\Lambda) \times_{\delta} G$  as a full corner in a  $(k+1)$ -graph algebra (Corollary 4.5). We digress in Section 5 to investigate simplicity of  $C^*(\Lambda) \times_{\delta} G$  via the results of [18].

We conclude in Section 6 with an investigation of the connection between our results and Yeend's notion of a topological  $k$ -graph [21, 20]. We construct from an infinite sequence of coverings  $p_n : \Lambda_{n+1} \rightarrow \Lambda_n$  of  $k$ -graphs a projective limit  $\Lambda$  which is a topological  $k$ -graph. We show that the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C^*(\Lambda)$  of this topological  $k$ -graph coincides with the direct limit of the  $C^*(\Lambda_n)$  under the inclusions induced by the  $p_n$ . In particular, the system of cocycles  $c_n : \Lambda \rightarrow G_n$  discussed in the preceding paragraph yields a cocycle  $c : \Lambda \rightarrow G := \varinjlim(G_n, q_n)$ , the skew-product  $\Lambda \times_c G$  is a topological  $k$ -graph, and the  $C^*$ -algebras  $C^*(\Lambda \times_c G)$  and  $C^*(\Lambda) \times_{\delta} G$  are isomorphic, generalising the corresponding result [15, Theorem 7.1(ii)] for discrete groups.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

Throughout this paper, we regard  $\mathbb{N}^k$  as a semigroup under addition with identity element 0. We denote the canonical generators of  $\mathbb{N}^k$  by  $e_1, \dots, e_k$ . For  $n \in \mathbb{N}^k$ , we denote its coordinates by  $n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{N}$  so that  $n = \sum_{i=1}^k n_i e_i$ . For  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}^k$ , we write  $m \leq n$  if  $m_i \leq n_i$  for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ .

We will at times need to identify  $\mathbb{N}^k$  with the subsemigroup of  $\mathbb{N}^{k+1}$  consisting of elements  $n$  whose last coordinate is equal to zero. For  $n \in \mathbb{N}^k$ , we write  $(n, 0)$  for the corresponding element of  $\mathbb{N}^{k+1}$ . When convenient, we regard  $\mathbb{N}^k$  as (the morphisms of) a category with a single object in which the composition map is the usual addition operation in  $\mathbb{N}^k$ .

**2.1.  $k$ -graphs.** Higher-rank graphs are defined in terms of categories. In this paper, given a category  $\mathcal{C}$ , we will identify the objects with the identity morphisms, and think of  $\mathcal{C}$  as the collection of morphisms only. We will write composition in our categories by juxtaposition.

Fix an integer  $k \geq 1$ . A  $k$ -graph is a pair  $(\Lambda, d)$  where  $\Lambda$  is a countable category and  $d : \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^k$  is a functor satisfying the factorisation property: whenever  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  and  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}^k$  satisfy  $d(\lambda) = m + n$ , there are unique  $\mu, \nu \in \Lambda$  with  $d(\mu) = m$ ,  $d(\nu) = n$ , and  $\lambda = \mu\nu$ . If  $p \leq q \leq d(\lambda)$ , we denote by  $\lambda(p, q)$  the unique path in  $\Lambda^{q-p}$  such that  $\lambda = \lambda' \lambda(p, q) \lambda''$  for some  $\lambda' \in \Lambda^p$  and  $\lambda'' \in \Lambda^{d(\lambda)-q}$ .

For  $n \in \mathbb{N}^k$ , we write  $\Lambda^n$  for  $d^{-1}(n)$ . Applying the factorisation property with  $m = 0$ ,  $n = d(\lambda)$  and with  $m = d(\lambda)$ ,  $n = 0$ , one shows that  $\Lambda^0$  is precisely the set of identity morphisms in  $\Lambda$ . The codomain and domain maps in  $\Lambda$  therefore determine maps  $r, s : \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda^0$ . We think of  $\Lambda^0$  as the vertices — and  $\Lambda$  as the paths — in a “ $k$ -dimensional directed graph.”

Given  $F \subset \Lambda$  and  $v \in \Lambda^0$  we write  $vF$  for  $F \cap r^{-1}(v)$  and  $Fv$  for  $F \cap s^{-1}(v)$ . We say that  $\Lambda$  is *row-finite* if  $v\Lambda^n$  is a finite set for all  $v \in \Lambda^0$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}^k$ , and we say that  $\Lambda$  has *no sources* if  $v\Lambda^n$  is always nonempty.

We denote by  $\Omega_k$  the  $k$ -graph  $\Omega_k := \{(p, q) \in \mathbb{N}^k \times \mathbb{N}^k : p \leq q\}$  with  $r(p, q) := (p, p)$ ,  $s(p, q) := (q, q)$  and  $d(p, q) := q - p$ . As a notational convenience, we will henceforth denote  $(p, p) \in \Omega_k^0$  by  $p$ . An *infinite path* in a  $k$ -graph  $\Lambda$  is a degree-preserving functor (otherwise known as a  *$k$ -graph morphism*)  $x : \Omega_k \rightarrow \Lambda$ . The collection of all infinite paths is denoted  $\Lambda^\infty$ . We write  $r(x)$  for  $x(0)$ , and think of this as the range of  $x$ .

For  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  and  $x \in s(\lambda)\Lambda^\infty$ , there is a unique infinite path  $\lambda x \in r(\lambda)\Lambda^\infty$  satisfying  $(\lambda x)(0, p) := \lambda x(0, p - d(\lambda))$  for all  $p \geq d(\lambda)$ . In particular,  $r(x)x = x$  for all  $x \in \Lambda^\infty$ , so we denote  $\{x \in \Lambda^\infty : r(x) = v\}$  by  $v\Lambda^\infty$ . If  $\Lambda$  has no sources, then  $v\Lambda^\infty$  is nonempty for all  $v \in \Lambda^0$ .

The factorisation property also guarantees that for  $x \in \Lambda^\infty$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}^k$  there is a unique infinite path  $\sigma^n(x) \in x(n)\Lambda^\infty$  such that  $\sigma^n(x)(p, q) = x(p + n, q + n)$ . We somewhat imprecisely refer to  $\sigma$  as the *shift map*. Note that  $\sigma^{d(\lambda)}(\lambda x) = x$  for all  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ ,  $x \in s(\lambda)\Lambda^\infty$ , and  $x = x(0, n)\sigma^n(x)$  for all  $x \in \Lambda^\infty$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}^k$ .

We say a row-finite  $k$ -graph  $\Lambda$  with no sources is *cofinal* if, for every  $v \in \Lambda^0$  and every  $x \in \Lambda^\infty$  there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}^k$  such that  $v\Lambda x(n) \neq \emptyset$ . Given  $m \neq n \in \mathbb{N}^k$  and  $v \in \Lambda^0$ , we say that  $\Lambda$  has *local periodicity*  $m, n$  at  $v$  if  $\sigma^m(x) = \sigma^n(x)$  for all  $x \in v\Lambda^\infty$ . We say that  $\Lambda$  has *no local periodicity* if, for every  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}^k$  and every  $v \in \Lambda^0$ , we have  $\sigma^m(x) \neq \sigma^n(x)$  for some  $x \in v\Lambda^\infty$ .

**2.2. Skew-products.** Let  $\Lambda$  be a  $k$ -graph, and let  $G$  be a group. A *cocycle*  $c : \Lambda \rightarrow G$  is a functor from  $\Lambda$  to  $G$  where the latter is regarded as a category with one object. That is,  $c : \Lambda \rightarrow G$  satisfies  $c(\mu\nu) = c(\mu)c(\nu)$  whenever  $\mu, \nu$  can be composed in  $\Lambda$ . It follows that  $c(v) = e$  for all  $v \in \Lambda^0$ , where  $e \in G$  is the identity element.

Given a cocycle  $c : \Lambda \rightarrow G$ , we can form the *skew-product  $k$ -graph*  $\Lambda \times_c G$ . We follow the conventions of [15, Section 6]. Note that these are different to those of [9,

Section 5]. The paths in  $\Lambda \times_c G$  are

$$(\Lambda \times_c G)^n := \Lambda^n \times G$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}^k$ . The range and source maps  $r, s : \Lambda \times_c G \rightarrow (\Lambda \times_c G)^0$  are given by  $r(\lambda, g) := (r(\lambda), c(\lambda)g)$  and  $s(\lambda, g) := (s(\lambda), g)$ . Composition is determined by  $(\mu, c(\nu)g)(\nu, g) = (\mu\nu, g)$ . It is shown in [15, Section 6] that  $\Lambda \times_c G$  is a  $k$ -graph.

**2.3. Coverings and  $(k + 1)$ -graphs.** We recall here some definitions and results from [12] regarding coverings of  $k$ -graphs. Given  $k$ -graphs  $\Lambda$  and  $\Gamma$ , a  $k$ -graph morphism  $\phi : \Lambda \rightarrow \Gamma$  is a functor which respects the degree maps. A *covering of  $k$ -graphs* is a triple  $(\Lambda, \Gamma, p)$  where  $\Lambda$  and  $\Gamma$  are  $k$ -graphs, and  $p : \Gamma \rightarrow \Lambda$  is a  $k$ -graph morphism which is surjective and is locally bijective in the sense that for each  $v \in \Gamma^0$ , the restrictions  $p|_{v\Gamma} : v\Gamma \rightarrow p(v)\Lambda$  and  $p|_{\Gamma v} : \Gamma v \rightarrow \Lambda p(v)$  are bijective.

*Remark 2.1.* What we have called a covering of  $k$ -graphs is a special case of what was called a “covering system of  $k$ -graphs” in [12]. In general, a covering system consists of a covering of  $k$ -graphs together with some extra combinatorial data. We do not need the extra generality, so we have dropped the word “system.”

A covering  $(\Lambda, \Gamma, p)$  is *row-finite* if  $\Lambda$  (equivalently  $\Gamma$ ) is row-finite, and  $|p^{-1}(v)| < \infty$  for all  $v \in \Lambda^0$ . Proposition 2.6 of [12] shows that we can associate to a row-finite covering  $p : \Gamma \rightarrow \Lambda$  of  $k$ -graphs a row-finite  $(k + 1)$ -graph  $\Lambda \xleftarrow{p} \Gamma$  containing disjoint copies  $\iota(\Lambda)$  and  $j(\Gamma)$  of  $\Lambda$  and  $\Gamma$  with an edge of degree  $e_{k+1}$  connecting each vertex  $j(v) \in j(\Gamma^0)$  to its image  $\iota(p(v)) \in \iota(\Lambda^0)$ .

More generally, given a sequence  $(\Lambda_n, \Lambda_{n+1}, p_n)$  of row-finite coverings of  $k$ -graphs, Corollary 2.10 of [12] shows how to build a  $(k + 1)$ -graph  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)$ , which we sometimes refer to as a *tower graph*, containing a copy  $\iota_n(\Lambda_n)$  of each individual  $k$ -graph in the sequence, and an edge of degree  $e_{k+1}$  connecting each  $\iota_{n+1}(v) \in \iota_{n+1}(\Lambda_{n+1}^0)$  to its image  $\iota_n(p_n(v)) \in \iota_n(\Lambda_n^0)$ . The  $(k + 1)$ -graph  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)$  has no sources if the  $\Lambda_n$  all have no sources.

Given a covering  $(\Lambda, \Gamma, p)$ , [12, Proposition 3.2 and Theorem 3.8] show that the covering map  $p : \Gamma \rightarrow \Lambda$  induces an inclusion  $\iota_p : C^*(\Lambda) \rightarrow C^*(\Gamma)$ . If  $(\Lambda_n, \Lambda_{n+1}, p_n)_{n=1}^\infty$  is a sequence of coverings, the  $(k + 1)$ -graph algebra  $C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n))$  is Morita equivalent to the direct limit  $\varinjlim(C^*(\Lambda_n), \iota_{p_n})$ .

**2.4. Coactions and coaction crossed products.** Here we give some background on group coactions on  $C^*$ -algebras and coaction crossed products. For a detailed treatment of coactions and coaction crossed-products, see [4, Appendix A].

Given a locally compact group  $G$ , we write  $C^*(G)$  for the full group  $C^*$ -algebra of  $G$ . We prefer to identify  $G$  with its canonical image in  $M(C^*(G))$ , but when confusion is likely we use  $s \mapsto u(s)$  for the canonical inclusion of  $G$  in  $M(C^*(G))$ . If  $A$  and  $B$  are  $C^*$ -algebras, then  $A \otimes B$  denotes the spatial tensor product. For a group  $G$ , we write  $\delta_G$  for the natural comultiplication  $\delta_G : C^*(G) \rightarrow M(C^*(G) \otimes C^*(G))$  given by the integrated form of the strictly continuous map which takes  $s \in G$  to  $s \otimes s \in \mathcal{UM}(C^*(G) \otimes C^*(G))$ .

As in [4, Definition A.21], a *coaction* of a group  $G$  on a  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  is an injective homomorphism  $\delta : A \rightarrow M(A \otimes C^*(G))$  satisfying

- (1) the *coaction identity*  $(\delta \otimes 1_G) \circ \delta = (1_A \otimes \delta_G) \circ \delta$  (as maps from  $A$  to  $M(A \otimes C^*(G) \otimes C^*(G))$ ); and  
(2) the *nondegeneracy condition*  $\overline{\delta(A)(1_A \otimes C^*(G))} = M(A \otimes C^*(G))$ .

As in [7, 8], the nondegeneracy condition (2) — rather than the weaker condition that  $\delta$  be a nondegenerate homomorphism — is part of our definition of a coaction (cf. Definition A.21 and Remark A.22(3) of [4]). Since we will be dealing only with coactions of compact (and hence amenable) groups, the two conditions are equivalent in our setting in any case (see [14, Lemma 3.8]).

Let  $\delta : A \rightarrow M(A \otimes C^*(G))$  be a coaction of  $G$  on  $A$ . We regard the map which takes  $s \in G$  to  $u(s) \in M(C^*(G))$  as an element  $w_G$  of  $\mathcal{UM}(C_0(G) \otimes C^*(G))$ . Given a  $C^*$ -algebra  $D$ , a *covariant homomorphism* of  $(A, G, \delta)$  into  $M(D)$  is a pair  $(\pi, \mu)$  of homomorphisms  $\pi : A \rightarrow M(D)$  and  $\mu : C_0(G) \rightarrow M(D)$  satisfying the covariance condition:

$$(\pi \otimes \text{id}_G) \circ \delta(a) = (\mu \otimes \text{id}_G)(w_G)(\pi(a) \otimes 1)(\mu \otimes \text{id}_G)(w_G)^*$$

for all  $a \in A$ .

The coaction crossed-product  $A \rtimes_\delta G$  is the universal  $C^*$ -algebra generated by the image of a universal covariant representation  $(j_A, j_G)$  of  $(A, G, \delta)$  (see [4, Theorem A.41]).

### 3. CONTINUITY OF COACTION CROSSED-PRODUCTS

In this section, we prove a general result regarding the continuity of the coaction crossed-product construction. Specifically, consider a projective system of finite groups  $G_n$  and a system of compatible coactions  $\delta^n$  of the  $G_n$  on a fixed  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$ . We show that this determines a coaction  $\delta$  of the projective limit  $\varprojlim G_n$  on  $A$ , and that the coaction crossed product of  $A$  by  $\delta$  is isomorphic to a direct limit of the coaction crossed products of  $A$  by the  $\delta^n$ .

The application we have in mind is when  $A = C^*(\Lambda)$  is a  $k$ -graph algebra, and the  $\delta^n$  arise from a system of skew-products of  $\Lambda$  by the  $G_n$ . We consider this situation in Section 4.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $A$  be a  $C^*$ -algebra, and let*

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{q_{n+1}} G_{n+1} \xrightarrow{q_n} G_n \longrightarrow \cdots \xrightarrow{q_1} G_1$$

*be surjective homomorphisms of finite groups. For each  $n$  let  $\delta^n$  be a coaction of  $G_n$  on  $A$ . Suppose that the diagram*

$$(1) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\delta^{n+1}} & M(A \otimes C^*(G_{n+1})) \\ & \searrow \delta^n & \downarrow \text{id} \otimes q_n \\ & & M(A \otimes C^*(G_n)) \end{array}$$

*commutes for each  $n$ .*

*For each  $n$ , write  $Q_n$  for the canonical surjective homomorphism of  $\varprojlim(G_m, q_m)$  onto  $G_n$ ; write  $q_n^* : C(G_n) \rightarrow C(G_{n+1})$  for the induced map  $q_n^*(f) := f \circ q_n$ ; and write  $J_n$  for the homomorphism  $J_n := j_A^{\delta^{n+1}} \times (j_{G_{n+1}} \circ q_n^*)$  from  $A \rtimes_{\delta^n} G_n$  to  $A \rtimes_{\delta^{n+1}} G_{n+1}$ .*

Then there is a unique coaction  $\delta$  of  $\varprojlim(G_n, q_n)$  on  $A$  such that:

(i) the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\delta} & M(A \otimes C^*(\varprojlim G_n)) \\ & \searrow \delta^n & \downarrow \text{id} \otimes Q_n \\ & & M(A \otimes C^*(G_n)) \end{array}$$

commute; and

(ii)  $A \times_{\delta} \varprojlim(G_n, q_n) \cong \varprojlim(A \times_{\delta^n} G_n, J_n)$ .

*Remark 3.2.* In equation (1) we could replace  $M(A \otimes C^*(G_n))$  with  $A \otimes C^*(G_n)$  and  $M(A \otimes C^*(G_{n+1}))$  with  $A \otimes C^*(G_{n+1})$  because  $G_n, G_{n+1}$  are discrete.

*Proof of Theorem 3.1.* Put

$$\begin{aligned} G &= \varprojlim G_n \\ B_n &= A \times_{\delta^n} G_n \\ J_n &= j_A^{\delta^{n+1}} \times (j_{G_{n+1}} \circ q_n^*) : B_n \rightarrow B_{n+1} \\ B &= \varinjlim(B_n, J_n) \\ K_n &= \text{the canonical embedding } B_n \rightarrow B. \end{aligned}$$

We aim to apply Landstad duality [17]: we will show that  $B$  is of the form  $C \times_{\delta} G$  for some coaction  $(C, G, \delta)$ , and then we will show that we can take  $C = A$ . To apply [17] we need:

- an action  $\alpha$  of  $G$  on  $B$ , and
- a nondegenerate homomorphism  $\mu : C(G) \rightarrow M(B)$  which is  $\text{rt} - \alpha$  equivariant, where  $\text{rt}$  is the action of  $G$  on  $C(G)$  by right translation.

Then [17] will provide a coaction  $(C, G, \delta)$  and an isomorphism

$$\theta : B \xrightarrow{\cong} C \times_{\delta} G$$

such that

$$\theta \circ \mu = j_G \quad \text{and} \quad \theta(B^{\alpha}) = j_C(C).$$

This is simpler than the general construction of [17], because our group  $G$  is compact (and then we are really using Landstad's unpublished characterisation [13] of crossed products by coactions of compact groups).

We begin by constructing the action  $\alpha$ : for each  $s \in G$  the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\widehat{\delta^{n+1}}_{Q_{n+1}(s)}} & B_{n+1} \\ J_n \uparrow & & \uparrow J_n \\ B_n & \xrightarrow{\widehat{\delta^n}_{Q_n(s)}} & B_n \end{array}$$

commute because

$$\begin{aligned}
\widehat{\delta}^{n+1}_{Q_{n+1}(s)} \circ J_n \circ j_A^{\delta^n} &= \widehat{\delta}^{n+1}_{Q_{n+1}(s)} \circ j_A^{\delta^{n+1}} \\
&= j_A^{\delta^{n+1}} \\
&= J_n \circ j_A^{\delta^n} \\
&= J_n \circ \widehat{\delta}^n_{Q_n(s)} \circ j_A^{\delta^n}
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
\widehat{\delta}^{n+1}_{Q_{n+1}(s)} \circ J_n \circ j_{G_n} &= \widehat{\delta}^{n+1}_{Q_{n+1}(s)} \circ j_{G_{n+1}} \circ q_n^* \\
&= j_{G_{n+1}} \circ \text{rt}_{Q_{n+1}(s)} \circ q_n^* \\
&= j_{G_{n+1}} \circ q_n^* \circ \text{rt}_{q_n \circ Q_{n+1}(s)} \\
&= J_n \circ j_{G_n} \circ \text{rt}_{Q_n(s)} \\
&= J_n \circ \widehat{\delta}^n_{Q_n(s)} \circ j_{G_n}.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, because the  $\widehat{\delta}^n_{Q_n(s)}$  are automorphisms, by universality there is a unique automorphism  $\alpha_s$  such that the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
B & \xrightarrow{\alpha_s} & B \\
K_n \uparrow & & \uparrow K_n \\
B_n & \xrightarrow{\widehat{\delta}^n_{Q_n(s)}} & B_n
\end{array}$$

commute. It is easy to check that this gives a homomorphism  $\alpha : G \rightarrow \text{Aut } B$ . We verify continuity: each function  $s \mapsto \alpha_s(b)$  for  $b \in B$  is a uniform limit of functions of the form  $s \mapsto \alpha_s \circ K_n(b)$  for  $b \in B_n$ . But we have

$$\alpha_s \circ K_n(b) = K_n \circ \widehat{\delta}^n_{Q_n(s)}(b),$$

which is continuous since  $K_n$ ,  $Q_n$ , and  $t \mapsto \widehat{\delta}^n_t(b) : G_n \rightarrow B_n$  are.

We turn to the construction of the nondegenerate homomorphism  $\mu$ : first note that the increasing union  $\bigcup_n Q_n^*(C(G_n))$  is dense in  $C(G)$  by the Stone-Weierstrass Theorem, and it follows that there is an isomorphism

$$C(G) \cong \varinjlim (C(G_n), q_n^*)$$

taking  $Q_n$  to the canonical embedding. We have a compatible sequence of nondegenerate homomorphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
C(G_{n+1}) & \xrightarrow{j_{G_{n+1}}} & M(B_{n+1}) \\
q_n^* \uparrow & & \uparrow J_n \\
C(G_n) & \xrightarrow{j_{G_n}} & M(B_n),
\end{array}$$

so by universality there is a unique homomorphism  $\mu$  making the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C(G) & \xrightarrow{\mu} & M(B) \\ Q_n^* \uparrow & & \uparrow K_n \\ C(G_n) & \xrightarrow{j_{G_n}} & M(B_n) \end{array}$$

commute. Moreover,  $\mu$  is nondegenerate since  $K_n$  and  $j_{G_n}$  are.

We now have  $\alpha$  and  $\mu$ , and the equivariance

$$\alpha_s \circ \mu = \mu \circ \text{rt}_s$$

follows from

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_s \circ \mu \circ Q_n^* &= \alpha_s \circ K_n \circ j_{G_n} \\ &= K_n \circ \widehat{\delta}_{Q_n(s)}^n \circ j_{G_n} \\ &= K_n \circ j_{G_n} \circ \text{rt}_{Q_n(s)} \\ &= \mu \circ Q_n^* \circ \text{rt}_{Q_n(s)} \\ &= \mu \circ \text{rt}_s \circ Q_n^*. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we can apply [17] to obtain a coaction  $(C, G, \delta)$  and an isomorphism

$$\theta : B \xrightarrow{\cong} C \times_\delta G$$

such that

$$\theta \circ \mu = j_G \quad \text{and} \quad \theta(B^\alpha) = j_C(C).$$

We want to take  $C = A$ . Note that we have a compatible sequence of nondegenerate homomorphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{j_A^{\delta^{n+1}}} & B_{n+1} \\ & \searrow j_A^{\delta^n} & \uparrow J_n \\ & & B_n \end{array}$$

so by universality there is a unique homomorphism  $j$  making the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{j} & B \\ & \searrow j_A^{\delta^n} & \uparrow K_n \\ & & B_n \end{array}$$

commute. Moreover,  $j$  is injective and nondegenerate since  $K_n$  and  $j_A^{\delta^n}$  are. Because  $j$ ,  $j_C$ , and  $\theta$  are faithful, to show that we can take  $C = A$  it suffices to show that

$$j(A) = B^\alpha.$$

We have

$$j(A) \subset B^\alpha$$



because

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha_s \circ j &= \alpha_s \circ K_n \circ j_A^{\delta^n} \\
&= K_n \circ \widehat{\delta^n}_{Q_n(s)} \circ j_A^{\delta^n} \\
&= K_n \circ j_A^{\delta^n} \\
&= j.
\end{aligned}$$

For the opposite containment, let  $b \in B^\alpha$ . There is a sequence  $b_n \in B_n$  such that  $K_n(b_n) \rightarrow b$ . The functions  $s \mapsto \alpha_s \circ K_n(b)$  converge uniformly to the function  $s \mapsto \alpha_s(b)$ , so

$$\int_G \alpha_s \circ K_n(b_n) ds \rightarrow \int_G \alpha_s(b) ds = b.$$

We have

$$\int_G \alpha_s \circ K_n(b_n) ds = \int_G K_n \circ \widehat{\delta^n}_{Q_n(s)}(b_n) ds = K_n \left( \int_G \widehat{\delta^n}_{Q_n(s)}(b_n) ds \right).$$

Since

$$\int_G \widehat{\delta^n}_{Q_n(s)}(b_n) ds \in B_n^{\widehat{\delta^n}} = j_A^{\delta^n}(A),$$

we conclude that

$$b \in K_n \circ j_A^{\delta^n}(A) = j(A).$$

Therefore we can take  $C = A$ , so that we have a coaction  $(A, G, \delta)$  and an isomorphism

$$\theta : B \xrightarrow{\cong} A \times_\delta G$$

such that

$$\theta \circ \mu = j_G.$$

We have proved (ii). For (i), we calculate:

$$\begin{aligned}
(j_A^\delta \otimes \delta) \circ (\text{id} \otimes q_n) \circ \delta &= (\text{id} \otimes q_n) \circ (j_A^\delta \otimes \text{id}) \circ \delta \\
&= (\text{id} \otimes q_n) \circ \text{Ad}(j_G \otimes \text{id})(w_G) \circ (j_A^\delta \otimes 1) \\
&= \text{Ad}(\text{id} \otimes q_n)((j_G \otimes \text{id})(w_G)) \circ (\text{id} \otimes q_n) \circ (j_A^\delta \otimes 1) \\
&= \text{Ad}(j_G \otimes \text{id})((\text{id} \otimes q_n)(w_G)) \circ (j_A^\delta \otimes 1) \\
&= \text{Ad}(j_G \otimes \text{id})((Q_n^* \otimes \text{id})(w_{G_n})) \circ (j_A^\delta \otimes 1) \\
&= \text{Ad}(j_G \circ Q_n^* \otimes \text{id})(w_{G_n}) \circ (j_A^\delta \otimes 1) \\
&= \text{Ad}(K_n \circ j_{G_n} \otimes \text{id})(w_{G_n}) \circ (K_n \circ j_A^{\delta^n} \otimes 1) \\
&= (K_n \otimes \text{id}) \circ \text{Ad}(j_{G_n} \otimes \text{id})(w_{G_n}) \circ (j_A^{\delta^n} \otimes 1) \\
&= (K_n \otimes \text{id}) \circ (j_A^{\delta^n} \otimes \text{id}) \circ \delta^n \\
&= (K_n \circ j_A^{\delta^n} \otimes \text{id}) \circ \delta^n \\
&= (j_A^\delta \otimes \text{id}) \circ \delta^n.
\end{aligned}$$

Since  $j_A^\delta$  is faithful, we therefore have  $\delta \circ (\text{id} \otimes q_n) = \delta^n$ . □

The following application of Theorem 3.1 motivates the work of the following sections.

*Example 3.3.* Let  $A = C(\mathbb{T}) = C^*(\mathbb{Z})$ , and let  $z$  denote the canonical generating unitary function  $z \mapsto z$ . For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $G_n := \mathbb{Z}/2^{n-1}\mathbb{Z}$  be the cyclic group of order  $2^{n-1}$ . We write 1 for the canonical generator of  $G_n$  and 0 for the identity element. Let  $g \mapsto u_n(g)$  denote the canonical embedding of  $G_n$  into  $C^*(G_n)$ . Define  $q_n : G_{n+1} \rightarrow G_n$  by  $q_n(m) := m \pmod{2^{n-1}}$ , and write  $q_n$  also for the homomorphism  $q_n : C^*(G_{n+1}) \rightarrow C^*(G_n)$  satisfying  $q_n(u_{n+1}(g)) = u_n(q_n(g))$ . For each  $n$ , let  $\delta^n$  be the coaction of  $G_n$  on  $A$  determined by  $\delta^n(z) := z \otimes u_n(1)$ .

Let  $g \mapsto u(g)$  denote the canonical embedding of  $\varprojlim G_n$  as unitaries in the multiplier algebra of  $C^*(\varprojlim G_n)$ . The coaction  $\delta$  of  $\varprojlim G_n$  on  $A$  described in Theorem 3.1 is the one determined by  $\delta(z) := z \otimes u(1, 1, \dots)$ ; the corresponding coaction crossed-product is known to be isomorphic to the Bunce-Deddens algebra of type  $2^\infty$  (see, for example, [6, 8.4.4]).

#### 4. COVERINGS OF SKEW-PRODUCTS

In this section and the next, we adopt the following notation and assumptions.

**Notation 4.1.** Let  $\Lambda$  be a connected row-finite  $k$ -graph with no sources. Fix a vertex  $v \in \Lambda^0$ , and denote by  $\pi\Lambda$  the fundamental group  $\pi_1(\Lambda, v)$  of  $\Lambda$  with respect to  $v$ . Fix a cocycle  $c : \Lambda \rightarrow \pi\Lambda$  such that the skew product  $\Lambda \times_c \pi\Lambda$  is isomorphic to the universal covering  $\Omega_\Lambda$  of  $\Lambda$  (such a cocycle exists by [15, Corollary 6.5]).

Fix a descending chain of finite-index normal subgroups

$$(2) \quad \cdots \triangleleft H_{n+1} \triangleleft H_n \triangleleft \cdots \triangleleft H_1 := \pi\Lambda.$$

For each  $n$ , let  $G_n := \pi\Lambda/H_n$ , and let  $q_n : G_{n+1} \rightarrow G_n$  be the induced homomorphism

$$q_n(gH_{n+1}) := gH_n.$$

Then

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{q_{n+1}} G_{n+1} \xrightarrow{q_n} G_n \longrightarrow \cdots \xrightarrow{q_1} G_1 := \{e\}$$

is a chain of surjective homomorphisms of finite groups. Let  $G$  denote the projective limit group  $\varprojlim(G_n, q_n)$ .

For each  $n$ , let  $c_n : \Lambda \rightarrow G_n$  be the induced cocycle  $c_n(\lambda) = c(\lambda)H_n$ , and let

$$\Lambda_n := \Lambda \times_{c_n} G_n$$

be the skew-product  $k$ -graph. Define covering maps  $p_n : \Lambda_{n+1} \rightarrow \Lambda_n$  by  $p_n(\lambda, g) := (\lambda, q_n(g))$ .

As in [15, Theorem 7.1(1)], for each  $n$  there is a coaction  $\delta^n : C^*(\Lambda) \rightarrow C^*(\Lambda) \otimes C^*(G_n)$  determined by  $\delta^n(s_\lambda) := s_\lambda \otimes c_n(\lambda)$ . Denote by  $J_n$  the inclusion

$$J_n := j_A^{\delta^{n+1}} \times (j_{G_{n+1}} \circ q_n^*) : C^*(\Lambda) \times_{\delta^n} G_n \rightarrow C^*(\Lambda) \times_{\delta^{n+1}} G_{n+1}$$

described in Theorem 3.1(ii).

As in [15, Theorem 7.1(ii)], for each  $n$  there is an isomorphism  $\phi_n$  of  $C^*(\Lambda_n) = C^*(\Lambda \times_{c_n} G_n)$  onto  $C^*(\Lambda) \times_{\delta^n} (G_n)$  which satisfies  $\phi_n(s_{(\lambda, g)}) := (s_\lambda, g)$ .

*Example 4.2* (Example 3.3 Continued). Let  $\Lambda$  be the path category of the directed graph  $B_1$  consisting of a single vertex  $v$  and a single edge  $f$  with  $r(f) = s(f) = v$ . Note that as a category,  $\Lambda$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{N}$ , and the degree functor is then the identity function from  $\mathbb{N}$  to itself.

Then  $\pi\Lambda$  is the free abelian group generated by the homotopy class of  $f$ , and so is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}$ . We define a functor  $c : \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  by  $c(f) = 1$ .

For each  $n$ , let  $H_n := 2^{n-1}\mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Z}$ , so that  $\cdots \triangleleft H_{n+1} \triangleleft H_n \triangleleft \cdots \triangleleft H_1 := \pi\Lambda$  is a descending chain of finite-index normal subgroups. For each  $n$ ,  $G_n := \mathbb{Z}/H_n$  is the cyclic group of order  $2^{n-1}$ , and  $q_n : G_{n+1} \rightarrow G_n$  is the quotient map described in Example 3.3. The induced cocycle  $c_n : \Lambda \rightarrow G_n$  obtained from  $c$  is determined by  $c_n(f) = 1 \in \mathbb{Z}/2^{n-1}\mathbb{Z}$ .

For  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $C_p$  denote the simple cycle graph with  $p$  vertices:  $C_p^0 := \{v_j^p : j \in \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}\}$  and  $C_p^1 := \{e_j^p : j \in \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}\}$ , where  $r(e_i^p) = v_i^p$  and  $s(e_i^p) = v_{i+1 \bmod p}^p$ . For each  $n$ , the skew-product graph  $\Lambda_n := \Lambda \times_{c_n} G_n$  is isomorphic to the path-category of  $C_{2^{n-1}}$ . The associated covering map  $p_n : \Lambda_{n+1} \rightarrow \Lambda_n$  corresponds to the double-covering of  $C_{2^{n-1}}$  by  $C_{2^n}$  satisfying  $v_i^{2^n} \mapsto v_{i \bmod 2^{n-1}}^{2^{n-1}}$  and  $e_i^{2^n} \mapsto e_{i \bmod 2^{n-1}}^{2^{n-1}}$ .

Modulo a relabelling of the generators of  $\mathbb{N}^2$ , the 2-graph  $\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$  obtained from this data as in [12] (see Section 2.3) is isomorphic to the 2-graph of [16, Example 6.7]. Combining this with the final observation of Example 3.3, we obtain a new proof that the  $C^*$ -algebra of this 2-graph is Morita equivalent to the Bunce-Deddens algebra of type  $2^\infty$ .

**Theorem 4.3.** *Adopt the notation and assumptions 4.1. Taking  $A := C^*(\Lambda)$ , the coactions  $\delta^n$  and the quotient maps  $q_n$  make the diagrams (1) commute. Let  $\delta$  denote the coaction of  $G := \varprojlim(G_n, q_n)$  on  $C^*(\Lambda)$  obtained from Theorem 3.1. Let  $P_0$  denote the projection  $\sum_{v \in \Lambda^0} s_v$  in the multiplier algebra of  $C^*(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))$ . Then  $P_0$  is full and*

$$P_0 C^*(C^*(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))) P_0 \cong C^*(\Lambda) \times_\delta G.$$

To prove this theorem, we first show that in the setting described above, the inclusions of  $k$ -graph algebras induced from the coverings  $p_n : \Lambda_{n+1} \rightarrow \Lambda_n$  as in [12] are compatible with the inclusions of coaction crossed products induced from the quotient maps  $q_n : G_{n+1} \rightarrow G_n$ .

**Lemma 4.4.** *With the notation and assumptions 4.1, fix  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and let  $\iota_{p_n}$  be the inclusion of  $C^*(\Lambda_n)$  into  $C^*(\Lambda_{n+1})$  obtained from [12, Proposition 3.3(iv)]. Then the inclusion  $\iota_n$  and the isomorphisms  $\phi_n, \phi_{n+1}$  of Notation 4.1 make the following diagram commute.*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C^*(\Lambda_n) & \xrightarrow{\iota_{p_n}} & C^*(\Lambda_{n+1}) \\ \downarrow \phi_n & & \downarrow \phi_{n+1} \\ C^*(\Lambda) \times_{\delta^n} G_n & \xrightarrow{\iota_n} & C^*(\Lambda) \times_{\delta^{n+1}} G_{n+1} \end{array}$$

*Proof.* By definition, we have

$$\iota_{p_n}(s_{(\lambda, gH_n)}) = \sum_{p(\lambda', g'H_{n+1}) = (\lambda, gH_n)} s_{(\lambda', g'H_{n+1})}.$$

By definition of  $p_n$ , this becomes

$$\iota_p(s_{(\lambda, gH_n)}) = \sum_{\{g'H_{n+1} \in G_{n+1} : g'H_n = gH_n\}} s_{(\lambda, g'H_{n+1})}.$$

Hence

$$\phi_{n+1} \circ \iota_{p_n}(s_{(\lambda, gH_n)}) = \sum_{\{g'H_{n+1} \in G_{n+1} : g'H_n = gH_n\}} (s_{\lambda}, g'H_{n+1}).$$

But this is precisely  $\iota(\phi_n(s_{(\lambda, gH_n)}))$  by definition of  $\iota$  and  $\phi_n$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 4.5.** *With the notation and assumptions 4.1, let  $P_0$  denote the projection  $\sum_{v \in \Lambda^0} s_v$  in the multiplier algebra of  $C^*(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))$ . Then  $P_0$  is full, and*

$$P_0 C^*(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)) P_0 \cong \varinjlim(C^*(\Lambda) \times_{\delta^n} G_n, \iota_n).$$

*Proof.* Equation (3.2) of [12] implies that  $P_0 C^*(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)) P_0$  is isomorphic to  $\varinjlim(C^*(\Lambda_n), \iota_{p_n})$ . The latter is isomorphic to  $\varinjlim(C^*(\Lambda) \times_{\delta^n} G_n, \iota_n)$  by Lemma 4.4 and the universal property of the direct limit.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 4.3.* It is immediate from the definitions of the maps involved that the maps  $\delta^n$  and  $q_n$  make the diagram (1) commute. The rest of the statement then follows from Corollary 4.5 and Theorem 3.1(ii).  $\square$

## 5. SIMPLICITY

In this section we frequently embed  $\mathbb{N}^k$  into  $\mathbb{N}^{k+1}$  as the subset consisting of elements whose  $(k+1)^{\text{st}}$  coordinate is equal to zero. For  $n \in \mathbb{N}^k$ , we write  $(n, 0)$  for the corresponding element of  $\mathbb{N}^{k+1}$ .

**Theorem 5.1.** *Adopt the notation and assumptions 4.1. Then  $C^*(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))$  is simple if and only if the following two conditions are satisfied:*

- (i) *each  $\Lambda_n$  is cofinal, and*
- (ii) *whenever  $v \in \Lambda^0$ ,  $p \neq q \in \mathbb{N}^k$  satisfy  $\sigma^p(x) = \sigma^q(x)$  for all  $x \in v\Lambda^0$ , there exists  $x \in v\Lambda^\infty$ ,  $l \in \mathbb{N}^k$  and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $c_N(x(p, p+l)) \neq c_N(x(q, q+l))$ .*

The idea is to prove the theorem by appealing to [18, Theorem 3.1]. To do this, we will first describe the infinite paths in  $\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$ . We identify  $\varinjlim(G_n, q_n)$  with the set of sequences  $g = (g_n)_{n=1}^\infty$  such that  $q_n(g_{n+1}) = g_n$  for all  $n$ .

**Lemma 5.2.** *Adopt the notation and assumptions 4.1. Fix  $x \in \Lambda^\infty$  and  $g = (g_n)_{n=1}^\infty \in \varinjlim(G_n, q_n)$ . For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  there is a unique infinite path  $(x, g_n) \in \Lambda_n^\infty$  determined by  $(x, g_n)(0, m) = (x(0, m), c_n(x(0, m))^{-1} g_n)$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}^k$ . There is a unique infinite path  $x^g \in (\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))$  such that  $x^g(0, (m, 0)) = x(0, m)$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}^k$  and  $x^g(ne_{k+1}) = (x(0), g_n)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ; moreover  $\sigma^{ne_{k+1}}(x^g)(0, (m, 0)) = (x, g_n)(0, m)$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}^k$ . Finally, every infinite path  $y \in (\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))^\infty$  is of the form  $\sigma^{ne_{k+1}}(x^g)$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x \in \Lambda^\infty$  and  $g \in \varinjlim(G_n, q_n)$ .*

*Proof.* That the formula given determines unique infinite paths  $(x, g_n)$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  follows from [9, Remarks 2.2]. That there is a unique infinite path  $x^g$  such that

$x^g(0, (m, 0)) = x(0, m)$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}^k$  and  $x^g(ne_{k+1}) = (x(0), g_n)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  follows from the observation that for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  there is a unique path

$$\alpha = \alpha_{g,n} := e(x(0), g_1)e(x(0), g_2) \cdots e(x(0), g_n)$$

with  $d(\alpha_{g,n}) = ne_{k+1}$ ,  $r(\alpha) = x(0) \in \Lambda^0$  and  $s(\alpha) = (x(0), g_n) \in \Lambda_n^0$ , and that for each  $m \in \mathbb{N}^k$ ,

$$\alpha(x, g_n)(0, m) = x(0, m)e(x(m), c_1(x(0, m))^{-1}g_1) \cdots e(x(m), c_n(x(0, m))^{-1}g_n)$$

is the unique minimal common extension of  $x(0, m)$  and  $\alpha$ . This also establishes the assertion that  $\sigma^{ne_{k+1}}(x^g)(0, (m, 0)) = (x, g_n)(0, m)$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}^k$ .

For the final assertion, fix  $y \in \varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)^\infty$ . We must have  $y(0) = (v, g_n)$  for some  $v \in \Lambda^0$ ,  $g_n \in G_n = \pi\Lambda/H_n$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $x \in \Lambda_n^\infty$  be the infinite path determined by  $x(0, m) := y(0, (m, 0))$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}^k$ . By definition of  $\Lambda_n = \Lambda \times_{c_n} G_n$ , we have  $x(0, m) := (\alpha_m, c_n(\alpha_m)^{-1}g_n)$  where each  $\alpha_m \in v\Lambda^m$  and  $g$  is the element of  $\pi\Lambda$  such that  $y(0) = v(g_n)$  as above. There is then an infinite path in  $x' \in \Lambda^\infty$  determined by  $x'(0, m) = \alpha_m$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}^k$ . For  $n > i \geq 1$ , inductively define  $g_i := q_i(g_{i+1})$ , and for  $n < i$  let  $g_i$  be the unique element of  $G_i$  such that  $y((i-n)e_{k+1}) = (v, g_i)$ ; that such  $g_i$  exist follows from the definition of  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$ . Then  $g := (g_i)_{i=1}^\infty$  is an element of  $\varprojlim(G_n, q_n)$  by definition, and routine calculations using the definitions of the  $\Lambda_n$  show that  $x = \sigma^{ne_{k+1}}((x')^g)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.3.** *Adopt the notation and assumptions 4.1. Then the  $(k+1)$ -graph  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$  is cofinal if and only if each  $\Lambda_n$  is cofinal.*

*Proof.* First suppose that each  $\Lambda_n$  is cofinal. Fix  $y \in \varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$  and  $w \in \varprojlim(\Lambda^0)$ . By Lemma 5.2, we have  $y = \sigma^{i_0 e_{k+1}}(x^g)$  for some  $g = (g_n)_{n=1}^\infty \in \varprojlim(G_n, q_n)$ , some  $i_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  and some  $x \in \Lambda^\infty$ . We must show that  $w(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))y(q) \neq \emptyset$  for some  $q$ . We have  $w \in \Lambda_m^0$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , so  $w = (w', h)$  for some  $h \in G_m$ . If  $m < i_0$ , fix any  $h' \in \pi\Lambda$  such that  $h'H_{i_0} = h$ , and note that  $w(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))(w', hH_{i_0})$  is nonempty, so that it suffices to show that  $(w', h'H_{i_0})\varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)y(q) \neq \emptyset$  for some  $q$ . That is to say, we may assume without loss of generality that  $m \geq i_0$ . But now  $w \in \Lambda_m^0$  and  $\sigma^{(0, \dots, 0, m-i_0)}(y) \in \varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)^\infty$  with  $r(y) \in \Lambda_{i_0}^0$ . Since  $\Lambda_n$  is cofinal, we have  $w\Lambda_{i_0}(x, g_m)(q) \neq \emptyset$  for some  $q \in \mathbb{N}^k$  (recall that  $x, (g_i)_{i=1}^\infty$  are such that  $y = \sigma^{i_0 e_{k+1}}(x^g)$ ). By definition,  $(x, g_m)(q) = y(q_1, \dots, q_k, m-i_0)$  and this shows that  $w(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))y(q) \neq \emptyset$  for  $q = (q_1, \dots, q_k, m-n)$ .

Now suppose that  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$  is cofinal. Fix  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and a vertex  $w$  and an infinite path  $x$  in  $\Lambda_n$ . Then  $x(0) = (v, gH_n)$  for some  $v \in \Lambda^0$ ,  $g \in \pi\Lambda$ . There are paths  $\alpha_m \in \Lambda_n^m$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}^k$  determined by  $x(0, m) = (\alpha_m, c_n(\alpha_m)^{-1}gH_n)$ ; there is then an infinite path  $x' \in \Lambda^\infty$  such that  $x'(0, m) = \alpha_m$  for all  $m$ . Let  $g_i := gH_i$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ . By abuse of notation we denote by  $g$  the element  $(gH_i)_{i=1}^\infty$  of  $\varprojlim(G_n, q_n)$ . Let  $y = \sigma^n((x')^g)$  be the infinite path of  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$  provided by Lemma 5.2. As  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$  is cofinal, we may fix a path  $\lambda \in \varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$  such that  $r(\lambda) = w$  and  $s(\lambda)$  lies on  $y$ . By definition of  $y$ , there exist  $n' \geq n$  and  $m \in \mathbb{N}^k$  such that  $s(\lambda) = (x'(m), c_{n'}(\alpha_m)^{-1}g_{n'})$ . We then have  $d(\lambda)_{k+1} = n' - n$ , and we may factorise  $\lambda = \lambda'\lambda''$  where  $d(\lambda') = d(\lambda) - (n' - n)e_{k+1}$  and  $d(\lambda'') = (n' - n)e_{k+1}$ . By construction

of  $\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$ , if  $d(\mu) = je_{k+1}$  and  $s(\mu) = (v, gH_n) \in \Lambda_n^0$  then  $n \geq j$  and  $r(\mu) = (v, gH_{n-j}) \in \Lambda_{n-j}^0$ . In particular,

$$s(\lambda') = r(\lambda'') = (x'(m), c_n(\alpha_m)^{-1}g_n) = x(m),$$

so  $w\Lambda_n x(m) \neq \emptyset$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.4.** *Adopt the notation and assumptions 4.1. Then the  $(k+1)$ -graph  $\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$  has no local periodicity if and only if it satisfies condition 2 of Theorem 5.1.*

*Proof.* First suppose that condition 2 of Theorem 5.1 holds. Fix a vertex  $v \in (\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))^0$  and  $p \neq q \in \mathbb{N}^{k+1}$ . So  $v \in \Lambda_n^0$  for some  $n$ , and  $v$  therefore has the form  $v = (w, gH_n)$  for some  $w \in \Lambda^0$  and  $g \in \pi\Lambda$ . We must show that there exists  $x \in v(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))^\infty$  such that  $\sigma^p(x) \neq \sigma^q(x)$ .

We first consider the case where  $p_{k+1} \neq q_{k+1}$ . By construction of the tower graph  $\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$ , this forces the vertices  $x(p)$  and  $x(q)$  to lie in distinct  $\Lambda_n$  for any  $x \in v(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))^\infty$ ; in particular they cannot be equal.

Now suppose that  $p_{k+1} = q_{k+1}$ . If  $\sigma^p(x) = \sigma^q(x)$  for every  $x \in v(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))^\infty$ , then for any  $\alpha \in v(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))^{p_{k+1}e_{k+1}}$  and any  $y \in s(\alpha)(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))^\infty$ , we have  $\sigma^p(\alpha y) = \sigma^q(\alpha y)$ ; that is,

$$\sigma^{p-p_{k+1}e_{k+1}}(y) = \sigma^{q-q_{k+1}e_{k+1}}(y) \quad \text{for all } y \in s(\alpha)(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))^\infty.$$

So we may assume without loss of generality that  $p_{k+1} = q_{k+1} = 0$ . Write  $p'$  and  $q'$  for the elements of  $\mathbb{N}^k$  whose entries are the first  $k$  entries of  $p$  and  $q$ .

We have  $v \in \Lambda_n$  for some  $n$ , so there exists  $w \in \Lambda^0$  and  $g \in \pi\Lambda$  such that  $v = (w, gH_n)$ . Suppose first that there exists  $x \in w\Lambda^\infty$  such that  $\sigma^{p'}(x) \neq \sigma^{q'}(x)$ , then the infinite path  $(x, gH_n) \in v\Lambda_n^\infty$  such that

$$(x, gH_n)(0, m) := (x(0, m), c_n(x(0, m))^{-1}gH_n) \quad \text{for all } m \in \mathbb{N}^k$$

also satisfies  $\sigma^{p'}((x, gH_n)) \neq \sigma^{q'}((x, gH_n))$ . By Lemma 5.2 we may choose an infinite path  $y$  such that  $y|_{\mathbb{N}^k \times \{0\}} = (x, gH_n)$ , and then  $y \in v(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))^\infty$  satisfies  $\sigma^p(y) \neq \sigma^q(y)$ .

Now suppose that every path  $x \in w\Lambda^\infty$  satisfies  $\sigma^{p'}(x) = \sigma^{q'}(x)$ . Then by condition 2 of Theorem 5.1, we may fix  $x \in w\Lambda^\infty$  and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $c_N(x(0, p')) \neq c_N(x(0, q'))$ . It then follows from the definition of the  $c_j$  that  $c_j(x(0, p')) \neq c_j(x(0, q'))$  whenever  $j \geq N$ . So with  $j := \max\{N, n\}$ , we have

$$(x, gH_j)(p') = (x(p'), c_j(x(0, p'))^{-1}gH_j) \neq (x(q'), c_j(x(0, q'))^{-1}gH_j) = (x, gH_j)(q').$$

There is an element  $g = (g_i)_{i=1}^\infty$  of  $\varinjlim(G_n, q_n)$  determined by  $g_i := gH_i$  for all  $i$ . Let  $x^g$  be the element of  $(\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))^\infty$  determined by  $x$  and  $g$  as in Lemma 5.2. Then  $(x, gH_n)((j-n)e_{k+1} + p) \neq (x, gH_n)((j-n)e_{k+1} + q)$ , and therefore  $x^g$  satisfies  $\sigma^p(x^g) \neq \sigma^q(x^g)$  as required. Hence condition 2 of Theorem 5.1 implies that  $\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$  has no local periodicity.

To show that if  $\varinjlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$  has no local periodicity then condition 2 of Theorem 5.1 holds, we prove the contrapositive statement. Suppose that condition 2 of Theorem 5.1 does not hold. Fix  $v \in \Lambda^0$  and  $p, q \in \mathbb{N}^k$  such that  $\sigma^p(x) = \sigma^q(x)$  for

all  $x \in v\Lambda^\infty$  and  $c_n(x(p, p+l)) = c_n(x(q, q+l))$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $l \in \mathbb{N}^k$ . Then for each  $x \in v\Lambda^\infty$  and each  $g = (g_n)_{n=1}^\infty \in \varprojlim(G_n, p_n)$ , we have  $\sigma^p(x, g_n)(0, l) = \sigma^q(x, g_n)(0, l)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $l \in \mathbb{N}^k$ . Hence Lemma 5.2 implies that every  $y \in v(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n))^\infty$  satisfies  $\sigma^{(p,0)}(y) = \sigma^{(q,0)}(y)$ .  $\square$

## 6. PROJECTIVE LIMIT $k$ -GRAPHS

Let  $(\Lambda_n, \Lambda_{n+1}, p_n)_{n=1}^\infty$  be a sequence of row-finite coverings of  $k$ -graphs with no sources as in Section 2.3. We aim to show that the sets  $(\varprojlim \Lambda_i)^m := \varprojlim(\Lambda_i^m, p_i)$  under the projective limit topology with the natural (coordinate-wise) range and source maps specify a topological  $k$ -graph (in the sense of Yeend). Moreover, we show that the associated topological  $k$ -graph  $C^*$ -algebra is isomorphic to the full corner  $P_0 C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)) P_0$  determined by  $P_0 := \sum_{v \in \Lambda^0} s_v$ . In particular, when the  $\Lambda_n$  and  $p_n$  are as in 4.1, the  $C^*$ -algebra of the projective limit topological  $k$ -graph is isomorphic to the crossed product of  $C^*(\Lambda)$  by the coaction of the projective limit of the groups  $G_i$  obtained from Theorem 3.1.

Let  $(\Lambda_n, \Lambda_{n+1}, p_n)_{n=1}^\infty$  be a sequence of row-finite coverings of  $k$ -graphs with no sources. Let  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)$  be the projective limit category, equipped with the projective limit topology. That is,  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)$  consists of all sequences  $(\lambda_i)_{i=1}^\infty$  such that each  $\lambda_i \in \Lambda_i$  and  $p_i(\lambda_{i+1}) = \lambda_i$ ; the structure maps  $\tilde{r}$ ,  $\tilde{s}$ ,  $\tilde{o}$  and  $\tilde{\text{id}}$  on  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)$  are obtained by pointwise application of the corresponding structure maps for  $\Lambda$ . The cylinder sets  $Z(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_j) := \{(\mu_i)_{i=1}^\infty \in \varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i) : \mu_i = \lambda_i \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq j\}$ , form a basis of compact open sets for a locally compact Hausdorff topology.

Define  $\tilde{d} : \varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^k$  by  $\tilde{d}((\lambda_i)_{i=1}^\infty) := d(\lambda_1)$ . Since the  $p_i$  are degree-preserving, we have

$$\tilde{d}((\lambda_i)_{i=1}^\infty) = d(\lambda_i) \quad \text{for all } i \geq 1.$$

For fixed  $\lambda = (\lambda_i)_{i=1}^\infty \in \varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)^{m+n}$ , the unique factorisation property for each  $\lambda_i$  produces unique elements  $\lambda(0, m) := (\lambda_i(0, m))_{i=1}^\infty \in \varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)^m$  and  $\lambda(m, n) := (\lambda_i(m, n))_{i=1}^\infty \in \varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)^n$  such that  $\lambda = \lambda(0, m)\lambda(m, n)$ ; that is,  $(\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i), \tilde{d})$  is a second-countable small category with a degree functor satisfying the factorisation property.

The identity  $\tilde{d}((\lambda_i)_{i=1}^\infty) = d(\lambda_i)$  for all  $i \geq 1$  implies that  $Z(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_j)$  is empty unless  $d(\lambda_1) = \dots = d(\lambda_j)$ , and it follows that  $\tilde{d}$  is continuous.

We claim that  $\tilde{r}$  and  $\tilde{s}$  are local homeomorphisms. To see this, fix a cylinder set  $Z(v_1, \dots, v_j) \subset \varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)^0$ , and for  $\lambda \in v_1\Lambda_1$  and  $2 \leq l \leq j$ , let  $v_l p_{1,l}^{-1}(\lambda)$  be the unique element of  $v_l\Lambda_l$  such that  $p_1 \circ p_2 \circ \dots \circ p_{l-1}(v_l p_{1,l}^{-1}(\lambda)) = \lambda$ . Then

$$\tilde{r}^{-1}(Z(v_1, \dots, v_j)) \cap \varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)^n := \sqcup_{\lambda \in v_1\Lambda_1^n} Z(\lambda, v_2 p_{1,2}^{-1}(\lambda), \dots, v_j p_{1,j}^{-1}(\lambda))$$

which is clearly open, showing that  $\tilde{r}$  is continuous. Moreover, this same formula shows that for  $\lambda = (\lambda_i)_{i=1}^\infty \in \varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)$ , the restriction of  $\tilde{r}$  to  $Z(\lambda_1)$  is a homeomorphism, and  $\tilde{r}$  is a local homeomorphism as claimed. A similar argument shows that  $\tilde{s}$  is also a local homeomorphism.

It is easy to see that the inverse image under composition of the cylinder set  $Z(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_j) \in \varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)^n$  is equal to the disjoint union

$$\bigsqcup_{p+q=n} Z(\lambda_1(0, p), \dots, \lambda_j(0, p)) \times Z(\lambda_1(p, q), \dots, \lambda_j(p, q))$$

of cartesian products of cylinder sets and hence is open, so that composition is continuous, and it follows that  $(\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i), \tilde{d})$  is a topological  $k$ -graph in the sense of Yeend [21, 20].

Let  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)$  be as described in Section 2.3, and let  $P_0$  denote the full projection  $\sum_{v \in \Lambda_0} s_v \in M(C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)))$ . For the following proposition, we need to describe  $P_0 C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)) P_0$  in detail. For  $n \geq m \geq 1$ , we write  $p_{m,n} : \Lambda_n \rightarrow \Lambda_m$  for the covering map  $p_{m,n} := p_m \circ \dots \circ p_{n-1}$ , with the convention that  $p_{n,n}$  is the identity map on  $\Lambda_n$ . For  $v \in \Lambda_m^0$ , and  $l \leq m$ , we denote by  $\alpha_{l,m}(v)$  the unique path in  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)^{(m-l)e_{k+1}}$  whose source is  $v$  (and whose range is  $p_{l,m}(v)$ ). In particular,  $\alpha_{1,m}(v)$  the unique path in  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)^{(m-1)e_{k+1}}$  whose source is  $v$  with range in  $\Lambda_1$ . For  $\lambda \in \Lambda_m$ ,

$$s_{\alpha_{1,m}(r(\lambda))} s_{\alpha_{1,m}(r(\lambda))}^* s_{p_{1,m}(\lambda)} = s_{\alpha_{1,m}(r(\lambda))} s_{\lambda} s_{\alpha_{1,m}(s(\lambda))}^* = s_{p_{1,m}(\lambda)} s_{\alpha_{1,m}(s(\lambda))} s_{\alpha_{1,m}(s(\lambda))}^*.$$

Furthermore,  $P_0 C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)) P_0$  is equal to the closed span

$$P_0 C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)) P_0 = \overline{\text{span}}\{s_{\alpha_{1,m}(r(\lambda))} s_{\lambda} s_{\alpha_{1,m}(s(\lambda))}^* : m \geq 1, \lambda \in \Lambda_m\}.$$

**Proposition 6.1.** *Let  $(\Lambda_n, \Lambda_{n+1}, p_n)_{n=1}^\infty$  be a sequence of row-finite coverings of  $k$ -graphs with no sources, and let  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)$  be the associated  $(k+1)$ -graph as in [12]. Let  $P_0 := \sum_{v \in \Lambda_0^0} s_v \in M C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n))$ . Let  $(\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i), \tilde{d})$  be the topological  $k$ -graph defined above. Then there is a unique isomorphism*

$$\pi : P_0 C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)) P_0 \rightarrow C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i))$$

such that for  $\lambda \in \Lambda_m$ ,

$$(3) \quad \pi(s_{\alpha_{1,m}(r(\lambda))} s_{\lambda} s_{\alpha_{1,m}(s(\lambda))}^*) = \chi_{Z(p_{1,m}(\lambda), p_{2,m}(\lambda), \dots, p_{m-1,m}(\lambda), \lambda)}.$$

In particular, with the notation and assumptions (4.1), the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i))$  of the topological  $k$ -graph  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)$  is isomorphic to the coaction crossed-product  $C^*(\Lambda) \times_\delta G$ .

*Proof.* The final statement will follow from Theorem 4.3 once we establish the first statement.

To prove the first statement we will use Allen's gauge-invariant uniqueness theorem for corners in  $k$ -graph algebras [1]. For this, we adopt Allen's notation: for  $\mu, \nu \in \Lambda_1^0 \varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)$ , we let  $t_{\mu, \nu} := s_\mu s_\nu^* \in P_0 C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)) P_0$ . The factorisation property guarantees that for  $\mu, \nu \in \Lambda_1^0 \varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)$ , we can rewrite  $\mu = \alpha_{1,m}(r(\mu')) \mu'$  and  $\nu = \alpha_{1,m}(r(\nu')) \nu'$  for some  $m \geq 1$  and  $\mu', \nu' \in \Lambda_m$  with  $s(\mu') = s(\nu')$ . By [1, Corollary 3.7], there is an isomorphism  $\theta$  of  $P_0 C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)) P_0$  onto Allen's universal algebra  $C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n), \Lambda_1^0)$  (see Definition 3.1 and the following paragraphs in [1]) which satisfies  $\theta(t_{\mu, \nu}) = T_{\mu, \nu}$  for all  $\mu, \nu$ . It therefore suffices here to show that there is an isomorphism  $\psi : C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n), \Lambda_1^0) \rightarrow C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i))$  such that



$\psi(T_{\alpha_{1,m}(r(\mu))\mu,\alpha_{1,m}(r(\nu))\nu}) = \chi_{Z(p_{1,m}(\mu),\dots,\mu)*Z(p_{1,m}(\nu),\dots,\nu)}$  for all  $m \geq 1$  and  $\mu, \nu \in \Lambda_m$  with  $s(\mu) = s(\nu)$ ; the composition  $\pi := \psi \circ \theta$  clearly satisfies (3), and it is uniquely specified by (3) because the elements  $\{t_{\alpha_{1,m}(r(\lambda))\lambda,\alpha_{1,m}(s(\lambda))} : m \geq 1, \lambda \in \Lambda_m\}$  generate  $P_0 C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n)) P_0$  as a  $C^*$ -algebra.

Let  $\Gamma$  denote the topological  $k$ -graph  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)$ . Since  $\Gamma$  is row-finite and has no sources,  $\partial\Gamma = \Gamma^\infty$ . As in [21], for open subsets  $U, V \subset \Gamma$ , let  $Z_{\mathcal{G}_\Gamma}(U *_s V, m)$  denote the set  $\{(\mu x, m, \nu x) : \mu \in U, \nu \in V, x \in \Gamma^\infty, s(\mu) = s(\nu) = r(x)\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{G}_\Gamma$  is the locally compact Hausdorff topological groupoid

$$\mathcal{G}_\Gamma = \{(x, m - n, y) : x, y \in \Gamma^\infty, m, n \in \mathbb{N}^k, \sigma^m(x) = \sigma^n(y)\}$$

where the  $Z_{\mathcal{G}_\Gamma}(U *_s V, m)$  form a basis of compact open sets for the topology.

For  $m \geq 1$  and  $\lambda \in \Lambda_m$ , let  $U_{m,\lambda} := Z(p_{1,m}(\lambda), \dots, \lambda) \subset \Gamma$ . So the  $U_{m,\lambda}$  are a basis for the topology on  $\Gamma = \varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)$ . Now for  $m \geq 1$  and  $\mu, \nu \in \Lambda_m$  with  $s(\mu) = s(\nu)$ , let

$$u_{\alpha_{1,m}(r(\mu))\mu,\alpha_{1,m}(r(\nu))\nu} := \chi_{Z(U_{m,\mu} * U_{m,\nu}, d(\mu) - d(\nu))} \in C_c(\mathcal{G}_\Gamma).$$

Tedious but routine calculations using the definition of the convolution product and the involution on  $C_c(\mathcal{G}_\Gamma) \subset C^*(\mathcal{G}_\Gamma)$  show that  $\{u_{\alpha_{1,m}(r(\mu))\mu,\alpha_{1,m}(r(\nu))\nu} : m \geq 1, \mu, \nu \in \Lambda_m, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}$  is a Cuntz-Krieger  $(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n), \Lambda_1^0)$ -family in  $C^*(\mathcal{G}_\Gamma)$ . By the universal property of  $C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n), \Lambda_1^0)$  (see [1, Section 3]), there is a homomorphism  $\psi : C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n), \Lambda_1^0) \rightarrow C^*(\mathcal{G}_\Gamma)$  such that

$$\psi(T_{\alpha_{1,m}(r(\mu))\mu,\alpha_{1,m}(r(\nu))\nu}) = u_{\alpha_{1,m}(r(\mu))\mu,\alpha_{1,m}(r(\nu))\nu}$$

for each  $m, \mu, \nu$ . The canonical gauge action  $\beta : \mathbb{T}^k \rightarrow \text{Aut}(C^*(\mathcal{G}_\Gamma))$  determined by  $\beta_z(f)(x, m, y) := z^m f(x, m, y)$  satisfies  $\psi \circ \gamma_z = \beta_z \circ \psi$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{T}^k$ , where  $\gamma$  is the gauge action on  $C^*(\varprojlim(\Lambda_n; p_n), \Lambda_1^0)$ . Proposition 4.3 of [21] shows that each  $u_{\alpha_{1,m}(r(\mu))\mu,\alpha_{1,m}(r(\nu))\nu}$  is nonzero, and it follows from the gauge-invariant uniqueness theorem [1, Theorem 3.5] that  $\psi$  is injective. The topologies on  $\mathcal{G}_\Gamma^{(0)}$  and on  $\mathcal{G}_\Gamma$  are generated by the collections  $\{U_{m,\lambda} : m \geq 1, \lambda \in \Lambda_m\}$  and  $\{U_{m,\mu} * U_{m,\nu} : m \geq 1, \mu, \nu \in \Lambda_m, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}$  respectively of compact open sets. Since  $C^*(\{u_{\alpha_{1,m}(r(\mu))\mu,\alpha_{1,m}(r(\nu))\nu} : m \geq 1, \mu, \nu \in \Lambda_m, s(\mu) = s(\nu)\}) \subset C^*(\mathcal{G}_\Gamma)$  contains the characteristic functions of these sets, it follows that  $\psi$  is also onto, and this completes the proof.  $\square$

*Remark 6.2.* The final statement of Proposition 6.1 suggests that  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)$  should be thought of as a skew-product of  $\Lambda$  by  $G$ .

To make this precise, note that for  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ ,  $c(\lambda) := (c_n(\lambda))_{n=1}^\infty$  belongs to  $G$ , and  $c : \Lambda \rightarrow G$  is then a cocycle. There is a natural bijection between the cartesian product  $\Lambda \times G$  and the topological  $k$ -graph  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)$ , so we may view  $\Lambda \times G$  as a topological  $k$ -graph by pulling back the structure maps from  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_i, p_i)$ . What we obtain coincides with the natural definition of the skew-product  $\Lambda \times_c G$ .

With this point of view, we can regard Proposition 6.1 as a generalisation of [15, Theorem 7.1(ii)] to profinite groups and topological  $k$ -graphs:  $C^*(\Lambda \times_c G) \cong C^*(\Lambda) \times_\delta G$ .

*Example 6.3* (Example 3.3 continued). Resume the notation of Examples 3.3 and 4.2. The resulting projective limit  $\varprojlim(\Lambda_n, p_n)$  is the topological 1-graph  $E$  associated to

the odometer action of  $\mathbb{Z}$  on the Cantor set as in [21, Example 2.5(3)]. That is,  $E$  can be realised as the skew-product of  $B_1^*$  by the 2-adic integers  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  with respect to the functor  $c : B_1^* \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2$  determined by  $c(f) = (1, 1, 1, \dots)$ , where  $f$  is the loop edge generating  $B_1^*$ .

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ASS. PROF. DAVID PASK, SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND APPLIED STATISTICS, UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, WOLLONGONG, NSW, 2522, AUSTRALIA

*E-mail address:* dpask@uow.edu.au

PROF. JOHN QUIGG, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, TEMPE, ARIZONA, 85287, USA

*E-mail address:* quigg@asu.edu

DR AIDAN SIMS, SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND APPLIED STATISTICS, UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, WOLLONGONG, NSW, 2522, AUSTRALIA

*E-mail address:* asims@uow.edu.au