## Orbit equivalence and graph $C^{*}$-algebras

Work in progress with Nathan Brownlowe and Michael Whittaker

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Graph Algebras: Bridges between graph $C^{*}$-algebras and Leavitt path algebras
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## Directed graphs

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## Directed graphs

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- If $s(e)=v$ and $r(e)=w$, then we say that $v$ emits $e$, and that $w$ receives $e$.
- If $v \in E^{0}$, then we let $v E^{1}=\left\{e \in E^{n}: r(e)=v\right\}$ and $E^{1} v=\left\{e \in E^{n}: s(e)=v\right\}$.


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- A path of length $n$ in a directed graph $E$ is a sequence $\mu=\mu_{1} \mu_{2} \ldots \mu_{n}$ of edges in $E$ such that $s\left(\mu_{i}\right)=r\left(\mu_{i+1}\right)$ for $i \in\{1,2, \ldots, n-1\}$.


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- We extend the range and source maps to $E^{*}$ by setting $r(\mu)=r\left(\mu_{1}\right)$ and $s(\mu)=s\left(\mu_{n}\right)$ when $|\mu| \geq 1$, and $r(\mu)=s(\mu)=\mu$ when $\mu \in E^{0}$.


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- If $\mu, \nu \in E^{*}$ and $s(\mu)=r(\nu)$, then we write $\mu \nu$ for the path $\mu_{1} \ldots \mu_{|\mu|} \nu_{1} \ldots \nu_{|\nu|}$.


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- A vertex $v \in E^{*}$ is called a sink if $E^{1} v=\emptyset$, and a source if $v E^{1}=\emptyset$.
- A directed graph is said to be row-finite if $v E^{1}$ is finite for all $v \in E^{0}$.


## Graph $C^{*}$-algebras

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Let $E$ be a row-finite directed graph with no sources. The $C^{*}$-algebra $C^{*}(E)$ of the graph $E$ is defined as the universal $C^{*}$-algebra generated by a family $\left(s_{e}, p_{V}\right)_{e \in E^{1}, v \in E^{0}}$ consisting of partial isometries $\left(s_{e}\right)_{e \in E^{1}}$ with mutually orthogonal range projections and mutually orthogonal projections $\left(p_{v}\right)_{v \in E^{0}}$ satisfying
(1) $s_{e}^{*} s_{e}=p_{s(e)}$ for all $e \in E^{1}$,
(2) $p_{v}=\sum_{e \in V E^{1}} s_{e} s_{e}^{*}$ for all $v \in E^{0}$.

## The $C^{*}$-subalgebra $\mathcal{D}(E)$

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- We let $\mathcal{D}(E)$ denote the $C^{*}$-subalgebra of $C^{*}(E)$ generated by, $\left\{s_{\mu} s_{\mu}^{*} \mid \mu \in E^{*}\right\}$.
- Let $E$ and $F$ be two row-finite directed graphs with no sources. We are interested in determining when there is an isomorphism $\psi: C^{*}(E) \rightarrow C^{*}(F)$ such that $\psi(\mathcal{D}(E))=\mathcal{D}(F)$.


## Infinite paths

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- If $\mu \in E^{*}, x \in E^{\infty}$ and $s(\mu)=r(x)$, then we write $\mu x$ for the path $\mu_{1} \ldots \mu_{|\mu|} x_{1} x_{2} \ldots$ (if $\mu \in E^{0}$, then $\mu x=x$ ).


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- $E^{\infty}$ is compact if and only if $E^{0}$ is finite.
- There is a $*$-isomorphism from $\mathcal{D}(E)$ to $C_{0}\left(E^{\infty}\right)$ which, for every $\mu \in E^{*}$, maps $s_{\mu} s_{\mu}^{*}$ to the characteristic function of $Z(\mu)$.


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- There is a $*$-isomorphism from $\mathcal{D}(E)$ to $C_{0}\left(E^{\infty}\right)$ which, for every $\mu \in E^{*}$, maps $s_{\mu} s_{\mu}^{*}$ to the characteristic function of $Z(\mu)$.
- We let $\sigma_{E}: E^{\infty} \rightarrow E^{\infty}$ denote the map

$$
x_{1} x_{2} x_{3} \ldots \mapsto x_{2} x_{3} \ldots
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Let $E$ and $F$ be two row-finite directed graphs with no sources. We say the infinite path spaces $E^{\infty}$ and $F^{\infty}$ are continuously orbit equivalent if there exists a homeomorphism $h: E^{\infty} \rightarrow F^{\infty}$ and continuous functions $k_{1}, l_{1}: E^{\infty} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ and $k_{2}, l_{2}: F^{\infty} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that

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$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sigma_{F}^{k_{1}(x)} \circ h \circ \sigma_{E}(x)=\sigma_{F}^{h_{1}(x)} \circ h(x) \text { and } \\
& \sigma_{E}^{k_{2}(y)} \circ h^{-1} \circ \sigma_{F}(y)=\sigma_{E}^{l_{2}(y)} \circ h^{-1}(y)
\end{aligned}
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for all $x \in E^{\infty}, y \in F^{\infty}$.

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- A cycle is a path $\mu \in E^{*}$ for which $\mu \geq 1$ and $s(\mu)=r(\mu)$.
- An entry for a cycle $\mu$ is an edge $e \in E^{1}$ such that $r(e)=r\left(\mu_{i}\right)$ and $e \neq \mu_{i}$ for some $i \in\{1,2, \ldots,|\mu|\}$.


## The main theorem

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Suppose $E$ and $F$ are row-finite directed graphs with no sources and in which every cycle has an entry. Then the following are equivalent:
(1) There is an isomorphism $\psi: C^{*}(E) \rightarrow C^{*}(F)$ such that $\psi(\mathcal{D}(E))=\mathcal{D}(F) ;$
(2) $E^{\infty}$ and $F^{\infty}$ are continuously orbit equivalent.

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Then $E^{\infty}=\mathbb{N}=F^{\infty}$, so $E^{\infty}$ and $F^{\infty}$ are continuously orbit equivalent, but $C^{*}(E) \cong \mathcal{K} \not \approx \mathcal{K} \otimes C(\mathbb{T}) \cong C^{*}(F)$.

## The full inverse semigroup

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Let $E$ be a row-finite directed graph with no sources and in which every cycle has an entry. We denote by $\mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)$ the set of all partial homeomorphisms of $E^{\infty}$ whose domain and range are compact open sets, and such that there exist continuous functions $k_{\tau}, l_{\tau}: \operatorname{Dom}(\tau) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ satisfying

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\sigma_{E}^{k_{\tau}(x)}(\tau(x))=\sigma_{E}^{I_{\tau}(x)}(x)
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\sigma_{E}^{k_{F}(x)}(\tau(x))=\sigma_{E}^{I_{E}(x)}(x) .
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If $h: E^{\infty} \rightarrow F^{\infty}$ is a homeomorphism, we denote by $h \circ \mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right) \circ h^{-1}$ the set

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\left\{h \circ \tau \circ h^{-1} \mid h(\operatorname{Dom}(\tau)): \tau \in \mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)\right\} .
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(2) $E^{\infty}$ and $F^{\infty}$ are continuously orbit equivalent;
(3) there is a homeomorphism $h: E^{\infty} \rightarrow F^{\infty}$ such that $h \circ \mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right) \circ h^{-1}=\mathcal{S}\left(F^{\infty}\right)$.

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- When $E$ is a row-finite directed graph with no sinks in which every cycle has an entry, then we let $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)}$ be the groupoid

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\left\{(x, \tau) \mid \tau \in \mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right), x \in \operatorname{Dom}(\tau)\right\} / \sim
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where $\left(x_{1}, \tau_{1}\right) \sim\left(x_{2}, \tau_{2}\right)$ if $x_{1}=x_{2}$ and there is a a compact open neighbourhood $U \subseteq \operatorname{Dom}\left(\tau_{1}\right) \cap \operatorname{Dom}\left(\tau_{2}\right)$ of $x_{1}$ such that $\tau_{1}$ and $\tau_{2}$ are equal on $U$.

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- $[x, \tau]^{-1}=\left[\tau(x), \tau^{-1}\right]$.
- $\left[x_{1}, \tau_{1}\right]$ and $\left[x_{2}, \tau_{2}\right]$ are composable if $x_{1}=\tau_{2}\left(x_{2}\right)$ in which case $\left[x_{1}, \tau_{1}\right]\left[x_{2}, \tau_{2}\right]=\left[x_{2}, \tau_{1} \circ \tau_{2}\right]$.


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- We equip $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)}$ with the topology generated by $\left\{Z(U, \tau) \mid \tau \in \mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right), U\right.$ is an open subset of $\left.\operatorname{Dom}(\tau)\right\}$.


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- Then $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)}$ becomes a locally compact, Hausdorff, étale topological groupoid and $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)}^{0}$ is homeomorphic to $E^{\infty}$.


## The Cuntz-Krieger uniqueness theorem

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Let $E$ be a row-finite directed graph with no sources and in which every cycle has an entry. Let $\phi$ be a $*$-homomorphism defined on $C^{*}(E)$. Then $\phi$ is injective if and only if $\phi\left(p_{v}\right) \neq 0$ for all $v \in E^{0}$.

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For $v \in E^{0}$ let $q_{v}$ denote the characteristic function of $Z\left(Z(v), \operatorname{ld}_{Z(v)}\right)$, and for $e \in E^{1}$ let $t_{e}$ denote the characteristic function of $Z\left(Z(e),\left(\sigma_{E}\right)_{\mid Z(e)}\right)$.

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(1) $t_{e}^{*} t_{e}=q_{s(e)}$ for all $e \in E^{1}$,
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It then follows from the universal property of $C^{*}(E)$ that there exists a $*$-homomorphism $\phi: C^{*}(E) \rightarrow C^{*}\left(\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)}\right)$ such that $\phi\left(p_{v}\right)=q_{v}$ and $\phi\left(s_{e}\right)=t_{e}$.

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It then follows from the universal property of $C^{*}(E)$ that there exists a $*$-homomorphism $\phi: C^{*}(E) \rightarrow C^{*}\left(\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)}\right)$ such that $\phi\left(p_{v}\right)=q_{v}$ and $\phi\left(s_{e}\right)=t_{e}$. $\phi$ is surjective since $C^{*}\left(\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)}\right)$ is generated by $\left(t_{e}, q_{v}\right)_{e \in E^{1}, v \in E^{0}}$. It is easy to check that $\phi(\mathcal{D}(E))=C_{0}\left(\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)}^{0}\right)$ and that $\phi$ restricted to $\mathcal{D}(E)$ is injective. It then follows from the
Cuntz-Krieger uniqueness theorem that $\phi$ is injective.

## The main theorem

Suppose $E$ and $F$ are row-finite directed graphs with no sources and in which every cycle has an entry.

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Suppose $E$ and $F$ are row-finite directed graphs with no sources and in which every cycle has an entry. Then the following are equivalent:
(1) There is an isomorphism $\psi: C^{*}(E) \rightarrow C^{*}(F)$ such that $\psi(\mathcal{D}(E))=\mathcal{D}(F) ;$
(2) $E^{\infty}$ and $F^{\infty}$ are continuously orbit equivalent;
(3) there is a homeomorphism $h: E^{\infty} \rightarrow F^{\infty}$ such that $h \circ \mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right) \circ h^{-1}=\mathcal{S}\left(F^{\infty}\right)$;
(a) the groupoids $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)}$ and $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{S}\left(F^{\infty}\right)}$ are isomorphic (as topological groupoids with Haar systems).

## Remark

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The main theorem, and its proof, is inspired by the results in Kengo Matsumoto's two papers
(1) Orbit equivalence of topological Markov shifts and Cuntz-Krieger algebras,
(2) Orbit equivalence of one-sided subshifts and the associated $C^{*}$-algebras.

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$k_{1}, l_{1}: E^{\infty} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ and $k_{2}, l_{2}: F^{\infty} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sigma_{F}^{k_{1}(x)} \circ h \circ \sigma_{E}(x)=\sigma_{F}^{l_{1}(x)} \circ h(x) \text { and } \\
& \sigma_{E}^{k_{2}(y)} \circ h^{-1} \circ \sigma_{F}(y)=\sigma_{E}^{l_{2}(y)} \circ h^{-1}(y),
\end{aligned}
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for all $x \in E^{\infty}, y \in F^{\infty}$,

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\end{aligned}
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for all $x \in E^{\infty}, y \in F^{\infty}$, if and only if $h \circ \mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right) \circ h^{-1}=\mathcal{S}\left(F^{\infty}\right)$.

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$0 \Rightarrow \boldsymbol{0}$ :

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(3) (4): It is also easy to check that if $h: E^{\infty} \rightarrow F^{\infty}$ is a homeomorphism such that $h \circ \mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right) \circ h^{-1}=\mathcal{S}\left(F^{\infty}\right)$,

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(3) (4): It is also easy to check that if $h: E^{\infty} \rightarrow F^{\infty}$ is a homeomorphism such that $h \circ \mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right) \circ h^{-1}=\mathcal{S}\left(F^{\infty}\right)$, then $[x, \tau] \mapsto\left[h(x), h \circ \tau \circ h^{-1}\right]$ is an isomorphism between $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)}$ and $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{S}\left(F^{\infty}\right)}$.

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## On the proof of the main theorem

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If $u \in N_{E}$, then $u u^{*}$ and $u^{*} u$ belong to $\mathcal{D}(E)$ which we will identify with $C_{0}\left(E^{\infty}\right)$.

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If $u \in N_{E}$, then $u u^{*}$ and $u^{*} u$ belong to $\mathcal{D}(E)$ which we will identify with $C_{0}\left(E^{\infty}\right)$. There is for each $u \in N_{E}$ a unique $\tau_{u} \in \mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)$ satisfying $u f u^{*}=f \circ \tau_{u}$ and $u^{*} f u=f \circ \tau_{u}^{-1}$ for all $f \in C_{0}\left(E^{\infty}\right)$.

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## On the proof of the main theorem

(1) $\Longrightarrow$ 3: Let
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If $u \in N_{E}$, then $u u^{*}$ and $u^{*} u$ belong to $\mathcal{D}(E)$ which we will identify with $C_{0}\left(E^{\infty}\right)$. There is for each $u \in N_{E}$ a unique $\tau_{u} \in \mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)$ satisfying $u f u^{*}=f \circ \tau_{u}$ and $u^{*} f u=f \circ \tau_{u}^{-1}$ for all $f \in C_{0}\left(E^{\infty}\right)$. The map $u \mapsto \tau_{u}$ is a surjective map from $N_{E}$ to $\mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right)$, and $\tau_{u_{1}}=\tau_{u_{2}}$ iff $u_{1} u_{1}^{*}=u_{2} u_{2}^{*}, u_{1}^{*} u_{1}=u_{2}^{*} u_{2}$, and $u_{1} u_{2}^{*}$ and $u_{1}^{*} u_{2}$ both belong to $\mathcal{D}(E)$. It follows that if there is an isomorphism between $C^{*}(E)$ and $C^{*}(F)$ which maps $\mathcal{D}(E)$ onto $\mathcal{D}(F)$, then there is a homeomorphism $h: E^{\infty} \rightarrow F^{\infty}$ such that $h \circ \mathcal{S}\left(E^{\infty}\right) \circ h^{-1}=\mathcal{S}\left(F^{\infty}\right)$.

## Some remarks about the main theorem

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(1) We believe that the assumptions that $E$ and $F$ are row-finite with no sources can be dropped without too much problems.

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(1) We believe that the assumptions that $E$ and $F$ are row-finite with no sources can be dropped without too much problems.
(2) We also believe that the theorem (and the proof) holds if $E$ and $F$ are replaced by higher rank graphs.

## Examples

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(1) If $\left(E^{\infty}, \sigma_{E}\right)$ and $\left(F^{\infty}, \sigma_{F}\right)$ are conjugate, then $E^{\infty}$ and $F^{\infty}$ are continuously orbit equivalent.

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(1) If $\left(E^{\infty}, \sigma_{E}\right)$ and $\left(F^{\infty}, \sigma_{F}\right)$ are conjugate, then $E^{\infty}$ and $F^{\infty}$ are continuously orbit equivalent. It follows that if $F$ is an in-split of $E$, then there is an isomorphism between $C^{*}(E)$ and $C^{*}(F)$ which maps $\mathcal{D}(E)$ onto $\mathcal{D}(F)$ (this is a small improvement of a result by Bates and Pask).

## Examples

(2) Let $E$ be the graph


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Then $e_{1} e_{2}^{n} x \mapsto f_{1}\left(f_{2} f_{1}\right)^{n} x, e_{2}^{n} x \mapsto\left(f_{2} f_{1}\right)^{n} x, x \mapsto x$ give raise to a continuously orbit equivalence between $E^{\infty}$ and $F^{\infty}$.

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## Examples

(3) Let $E$ be the graph


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Then $E^{\infty}$ and $F^{\infty}$ are both homeomorphic to the Cantor set, but $C^{*}(E) \cong \mathcal{O}_{2} \not \approx \mathcal{O}_{3} \cong C^{*}(F)$,

- 


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(3) Let $E$ be the graph

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Then $E^{\infty}$ and $F^{\infty}$ are both homeomorphic to the Cantor set, but $C^{*}(E) \cong \mathcal{O}_{2} \not \approx \mathcal{O}_{3} \cong C^{*}(F)$, so $E^{\infty}$ and $F^{\infty}$ are not continuously orbit equivalent.

- 


## Questions

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(1) Can any of you find graphs $E$ and $F$ such that $C^{*}(E) \cong C^{*}(F)$, and $E^{\infty}$ is not homeomorphic to $F^{\infty}$ ?

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(1) Can any of you find graphs $E$ and $F$ such that $C^{*}(E) \cong C^{*}(F)$, and $E^{\infty}$ is not homeomorphic to $F^{\infty}$ ?
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(0. Can any of you find graphs $E$ and $F$ such that $C^{*}(E) \cong C^{*}(F)$, $E^{\infty}$ is homeomorphic to $F^{\infty}$, the diagram

$$
\begin{array}{cc}
K_{0}(\mathcal{D}(E)) & \longrightarrow K_{0}\left(C^{*}(E)\right) \\
\cong \uparrow & \downarrow \\
K_{0}(\mathcal{D}(F)) \longrightarrow K_{0}\left(C^{*}(F)\right)
\end{array}
$$

commutes, but $E^{\infty}$ and $F^{\infty}$ are not continuously orbit equivalent?

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Norwegian University of
Science and Technology

## Questions

(4) Let $E$ be the graph


## Questions

(4) Let $E$ be the graph

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## Questions

(4) Let $E$ be the graph

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Are $E^{\infty}$ and $F^{\infty}$ continuously orbit equivalent?

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