

## A NOTE ON MORITA EQUIVALENCE OF GROUP ACTIONS ON PRO- $C^*$ -ALGEBRAS

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we prove that two continuous inverse limit actions  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  of a locally compact group  $G$  on two pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $A$  and  $B$  are strongly Morita equivalent if and only if there is a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  such that  $A$  and  $B$  appear as two complementary full corners in  $C$  and there is a continuous inverse limit action  $\gamma$  of  $G$  on  $C$  which leaves  $A$  and  $B$  invariant and such that  $\gamma|_A = \alpha$  and  $\gamma|_B = \beta$ . This generalizes a result of Combes [3].

**1. Introduction and preliminaries.** Pro- $C^*$ -algebras are generalizations of  $C^*$ -algebras. Instead of being given by a single  $C^*$ -norm, the topology on a pro- $C^*$ -algebra is defined by a directed family of  $C^*$ -seminorms. The  $*$ -algebra  $C_{cc}([0, 1])$  of all complex-valued continuous functions on  $[0, 1]$  with the topology of uniform convergence on the countable compact subsets of  $[0, 1]$  is a pro- $C^*$ -algebra which is not topologically isomorphic with any  $C^*$ -algebra [4]. If  $X$  is a Hausdorff countably compactly generated topological space (that is, there is a countable family of compact spaces  $K_1 \subseteq K_2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq K_n \subseteq \dots$  such that  $X = \lim_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \rightarrow K_n$  [9]), then the  $*$ -algebra  $C(X)$  of all continuous complex-valued functions on  $X$  equipped with the topology defined by the family of  $C^*$ -seminorms  $\{p_{K_n}\}_n$ , where

$$p_{K_n}(f) = \sup\{|f(x)|, x \in K_n\},$$

is a unital commutative metrizable pro- $C^*$ -algebra [9, Proposition 5.7]. Other very nice examples of pro- $C^*$ -algebras are presented in [9, Section 1]. In the literature, pro- $C^*$ -algebras have been given different names such as  $b^*$ -algebras (Apostol),  $LMC^*$ -algebras (Lassner and Schmüdgen) or locally  $C^*$ -algebras (Inoue and Fragoulopoulou).

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By a *morphism of pro- $C^*$ -algebras* we always mean a continuous morphism and by an *isomorphism of pro- $C^*$ -algebras* a bijective morphism  $\varphi$  of pro- $C^*$ -algebras such that  $\varphi^{-1}$  is also a morphism of pro- $C^*$ -algebras.

In fact a pro- $C^*$ -algebra can be identified up to an isomorphism of pro- $C^*$ -algebras with an inverse limit of  $C^*$ -algebras. For a given pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $A$ , the set  $S(A)$  of all continuous  $C^*$ -seminorms on  $A$  is directed with the order  $p \geq q$  if  $p(a) \geq q(a)$  for all  $a \in A$ , and for each  $p \in S(A)$ ,  $\ker p = \{a \in A; p(a) = 0\}$  is a two-sided  $*$ -ideal of  $A$ . The quotient  $*$ -algebra  $A/\ker p$ , denoted by  $A_p$ , is a  $C^*$ -algebra in the  $C^*$ -norm induced by  $p$ , for each  $p \in S(A)$  (see, for example, [9]). For  $p, q \in S(A)$  with  $p \geq q$  there is a canonical surjective morphism of  $C^*$ -algebras  $\pi_{pq}^A : A_p \rightarrow A_q$  such that  $\pi_{pq}^A \circ \pi_p^A = \pi_q^A$ , where  $\pi_p^A$  is the canonical map from  $A$  to  $A_p$ . Then  $\{A_p; \pi_{pq}^A\}_{p, q \in S(A), p \geq q}$  is an inverse system of  $C^*$ -algebras, and moreover, the map  $\varphi : A \rightarrow \lim_{\leftarrow p \in S(A)} A_p$  defined by  $\varphi(a) = (\pi_p^A(a))_p$  is an isomorphism of pro- $C^*$ -algebras.

Let  $G$  be a locally compact group and let  $A$  be a pro- $C^*$ -algebra. An *action* of  $G$  on  $A$  is a morphism of groups  $t \mapsto \alpha_t$  from  $G$  to  $\text{Aut}(A)$ , the group of all isomorphisms of pro- $C^*$ -algebras from  $A$  to  $A$ . The action  $\alpha$  is *continuous* if the function  $t \mapsto \alpha_t(a)$  from  $G$  to  $A$  is continuous for each  $a \in A$ .

The study of the group actions on pro- $C^*$ -algebras is motivated by the following example. If  $(G, X)$  is a transformation group with  $X$  a Hausdorff compactly countably generated topological space (this means that there is a continuous map  $(t, x) \mapsto t \cdot x$  from  $G \times X$  to  $X$  such that  $e \cdot x = x$  and  $s \cdot (t \cdot x) = (st) \cdot x$  for all  $s, t \in G$  and for all  $x \in X$ ), then the map  $\alpha_t : C(X) \rightarrow C(X)$  defined by  $\alpha_t(f)(x) = f(t^{-1} \cdot x)$  is an isomorphism of pro- $C^*$ -algebras for each  $t \in G$ , and moreover, the map  $t \rightarrow \alpha_t(f)$  from  $G$  to  $C(X)$  is a continuous action of  $G$  on  $C(X)$ . Therefore, the transformation group  $(G, X)$  induces a continuous action of  $G$  on  $C(X)$ .

An action  $\alpha$  of  $G$  on  $A$  is an *inverse limit action* if we can write  $A$  as inverse limit  $\lim_{\leftarrow \lambda \in \Lambda} A_\lambda$  of  $C^*$ -algebras in such a way that there are actions  $\alpha^\lambda$  of  $G$  on  $A_\lambda$ ,  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  such that  $\alpha_t = \lim_{\leftarrow \lambda \in \Lambda} \alpha_t^\lambda$  for all  $t$  in  $G$  [10, Definition 5.1].

A transformation group  $(G, X)$  with  $X$  a Hausdorff countably compactly generated topological space and  $G$  a compact group induces a continuous inverse limit action of  $G$  on  $C(X)$  [10].

In [5] we introduced the notion of strong Morita equivalence for pro- $C^*$ -algebras and proved that two metrizable pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $A$  and  $B$  both possessing countable approximate unit are strongly Morita equivalent if and only if they are stably isomorphic. The notion of strong Morita equivalence for group actions on pro- $C^*$ -algebras was introduced in [8]. In [6, Theorem 2.9] we showed that two pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $A$  and  $B$  are strongly Morita equivalent if and only if there is a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  such that  $A$  and  $B$  appear as complementary full corners in  $C$ . This extends a well-known result of Brown, Green and Rieffel [2, Theorem 1.1]. It is known that two continuous actions  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  of a locally compact group  $G$  on two  $C^*$ -algebras  $A$  and  $B$  are strongly Morita equivalent if and only if there is a  $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  such that  $A$  and  $B$  appear as two complementary full corners in  $C$  and there is a continuous action  $\gamma$  of  $G$  on  $C$  which leaves  $A$  and  $B$  invariant and such that  $\gamma|_A = \alpha$  and  $\gamma|_B = \beta$  [3]. In this paper we extend this result to the case of group continuous inverse limit actions on pro- $C^*$ -algebras.

A Hilbert  $A$ -module is a complex vector space  $E$  which is also a right  $A$ -module, compatible with the complex algebra structure, equipped with an  $A$ -valued inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : E \times E \rightarrow A$  which is  $\mathbf{C}$ - and  $A$ -linear in its second variable and satisfies the following relations:

- (1)  $\langle \xi, \eta \rangle^* = \langle \eta, \xi \rangle$  for every  $\xi, \eta \in E$ ;
- (2)  $\langle \xi, \xi \rangle \geq 0$  for every  $\xi \in E$ ;
- (3)  $\langle \xi, \xi \rangle = 0$  if and only if  $\xi = 0$

and which is complete with respect to the topology determined by the family of seminorms  $\{\bar{p}_E\}_{p \in S(A)}$ , where  $\bar{p}_E(\xi) = \sqrt{p(\langle \xi, \xi \rangle)}$ ,  $\xi \in E$ .

A Hilbert  $A$ -module  $E$  is *full* if the linear space  $\langle E, E \rangle$  generated by  $\{\langle \xi, \eta \rangle; \xi, \eta \in E\}$  is dense in  $A$ .

Let  $E$  be a Hilbert  $A$ -module. For  $p \in S(A)$ ,  $\ker \bar{p}_E = \{\xi \in E; \bar{p}_E(\xi) = 0\}$  is a closed submodule of  $E$  and  $E_p = E / \ker \bar{p}_E$  is a Hilbert  $A_p$ -module with  $(\xi + \ker \bar{p}_E)\pi_p^A(a) = \xi a + \ker \bar{p}_E$  and  $\langle \xi + \ker \bar{p}_E, \eta + \ker \bar{p}_E \rangle = \pi_p^A(\langle \xi, \eta \rangle)$ . Moreover, the map  $U : E \rightarrow$

$\lim_{p \in S(A)} \leftarrow E_p$  defined by  $U(\xi) = (\sigma_p^E(\xi))_p$  is an isomorphism of Hilbert modules (that is,  $U$  is a surjective linear map with the property that  $\langle U(\xi), U(\eta) \rangle = \langle \xi, \eta \rangle$  for all  $\xi, \eta \in E$ ).

A module morphism  $T : E \rightarrow E$  is adjointable if there is a module morphism  $T^* : E \rightarrow E$  such that  $\langle T\xi, \eta \rangle = \langle \xi, T^*\eta \rangle$  for all  $\xi, \eta \in E$ . If  $T$  is an adjointable module morphism on  $E$ , then, for each  $p \in S(A)$ , there is a positive constant  $M_p$  such that  $\bar{p}_E(T\xi) \leq M_p \bar{p}_E(\xi)$  for all  $\xi \in E$ .

The  $*$ -algebra  $L(E)$  of all adjointable module morphisms on  $E$  is a pro- $C^*$ -algebra with respect to the topology defined by the family of  $C^*$ -seminorms  $\{\tilde{p}_{L(E)}\}_{p \in S(A)}$ , where

$$\tilde{p}_{L(E)}(T) = \sup\{\bar{p}_E(T(\xi)); \xi \in E, \bar{p}_E(\xi) \leq 1\}.$$

For  $\xi, \eta \in E$  the map  $\theta_{\eta, \xi} : E \rightarrow E$  defined by  $\theta_{\eta, \xi}(\zeta) = \eta \langle \xi, \zeta \rangle$  is an adjointable module morphism. The linear subspace of  $L(E)$  spanned by  $\{\theta_{\eta, \xi}; \xi, \eta \in E\}$  is denoted by  $\Theta(E)$ , and the closure of  $\Theta(E)$  in  $L(E)$  is denoted by  $K(E)$ .

A *generalized morphism* of Hilbert modules from  $E$  to  $E$  is a map  $u : E \rightarrow E$  with the property that there is a morphism of pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $\alpha : A \rightarrow A$  such that

$$\langle u(\xi), u(\eta) \rangle = \alpha(\langle \xi, \eta \rangle)$$

for all  $\xi, \eta \in E$ . A *generalized isomorphism* of Hilbert modules is a bijective map  $u : E \rightarrow E$  such that  $u$  and  $u^{-1}$  are generalized morphisms of Hilbert modules.

An *action* of a locally compact group  $G$  on  $E$  is a morphism of groups  $t \mapsto u_t$  from  $G$  to  $\text{Aut}(E)$ , the group of all generalized isomorphisms of Hilbert modules from  $E$  to  $E$ . The action  $t \mapsto u_t$  of  $G$  on  $E$  is *continuous* if the map  $t \mapsto u_t(\xi)$  from  $G$  to  $E$  is continuous for each  $\xi \in E$ .

An action  $t \mapsto u_t$  of  $G$  on  $E$  is an *inverse limit action* if we can write  $E$  as an inverse limit of Hilbert  $C^*$ -modules  $\lim_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \leftarrow E_\lambda$  in such a way that for each  $t \in G$ ,  $u_t = \lim_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \leftarrow u_t^\lambda$ , where  $t \mapsto u_t^\lambda$  is an action of  $G$  on  $E_\lambda$ ,  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ .

An action  $t \mapsto u_t$  of a locally compact group  $G$  on a full Hilbert  $A$ -module  $E$  induces two actions  $t \mapsto \alpha_t^u$  and  $t \mapsto \beta_t^u$  of  $G$  on the pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $A$  and  $K(E)$  defined by

$$\alpha_t^u (\langle \xi, \eta \rangle) = \langle u_t (\xi), u_t (\eta) \rangle$$

for all  $t \in G$  and for all  $\xi, \eta \in E$ , respectively

$$\beta_t^u (\theta_{\xi, \eta}) = \theta_{u_t(\xi), u_t(\eta)}$$

for all  $t \in G$  and for all  $\xi, \eta \in E$ . Moreover, if  $t \mapsto u_t$  is a continuous inverse limit action of  $G$  on  $E$ , then the actions of  $G$  on  $A$  and  $K(E)$  induced by  $u$  are continuous inverse limit actions.

Two continuous actions  $t \mapsto \alpha_t$  and  $t \mapsto \beta_t$  of  $G$  on two pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $A$  and  $B$  are *conjugate* if there is an isomorphism of pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$  such that  $\alpha_t = \varphi^{-1} \circ \beta_t \circ \varphi$  for all  $t \in G$ .

Two continuous actions  $t \mapsto \alpha_t$  and  $t \mapsto \beta_t$  of a locally compact group  $G$  on two pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $A$  and  $B$  are *strongly Morita equivalent* if there is a full Hilbert module  $E$  over  $A$ , and there is a continuous action  $t \mapsto u_t$  of  $G$  on  $E$  such that the actions of  $G$  on  $A$  and  $K(E)$  induced by  $u$  are conjugate with  $\alpha$ , respectively  $\beta$ .

**2. Main results.** A pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  is a *full corner* in a given pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $C$ , if there is a projection  $e$  in the multiplier algebra  $M(C)$  of  $C$  such that  $A = eCe$  and  $CeC$  is dense in  $C$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $G$  be a locally compact group,  $C$  a pro- $C^*$ -algebra and  $t \mapsto \gamma_t$  a continuous action of  $G$  on  $C$ . If  $A$  is a full corner in  $C$  invariant under  $\gamma$ , then the actions  $t \mapsto \gamma_t$  and  $t \mapsto \gamma_t|_A$  of  $G$  on  $C$  and  $A$  are strongly Morita equivalent.*

*Proof.* By [6, Proposition 2.8], the pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $A$  and  $C$  are strongly Morita equivalent. Moreover, if  $e$  is a projection in  $M(C)$  such that  $A = eCe$  and  $CeC$  is dense in  $C$ , then the Hilbert  $A$ -module  $Ce$  implements a strong Morita equivalence between  $A$  and  $C$ .

Let  $t \in G$ . Since  $\gamma_t \in \text{Aut}(C)$ , there is  $\bar{\gamma}_t \in \text{Aut}(M(C))$  such that  $\bar{\gamma}_t|_C = \gamma_t$ . We will show that  $\bar{\gamma}_t(e) \in A$ . If  $\{e_i\}_{i \in I}$  is an approximate

unit of  $C$  [9, Proposition 3.11], then the net  $\{ee_i e\}_{i \in I}$  converges to  $e$  and so the net  $\{\gamma_t(ee_i e)\}_{i \in I}$  converges to  $\overline{\gamma_t}(e)$ . But  $\gamma_t(ee_i e) \in A$ , and then  $\overline{\gamma_t}(e) \in A$ . Thus we have

$$\gamma_t(ce)e = \gamma_t(c)\overline{\gamma_t}(e)e = \gamma_t(c)\overline{\gamma_t}(e) = \gamma_t(ce)$$

and so  $\gamma_t(ce) \in Ce$  for each  $c \in C$ . Therefore, we can consider the linear map  $u_t : Ce \rightarrow Ce$  defined by  $u_t(ce) = \gamma_t(ce)$ . Since

$$\langle u_t(ce), u_t(de) \rangle = \langle \gamma_t(ce), \gamma_t(de) \rangle = \gamma_t(ec^*de) = \gamma_t|_A(\langle ce, de \rangle)$$

for all  $c, d \in C$  and since  $u_t$  is invertible and  $(u_t)^{-1} = u_{t^{-1}}$ ,  $u_t \in \text{Aut}(Ce)$ . It is not difficult to check that  $t \mapsto u_t$  is an action of  $G$  on  $Ce$ . Moreover, since the map  $t \mapsto \gamma_t(c)$  from  $G$  to  $C$  is continuous for each  $c \in C$ , the map  $t \mapsto u_t(ce)$  from  $G$  to  $Ce$  is continuous for each  $c \in C$ . Therefore,  $t \mapsto u_t$  is a continuous action of  $G$  on  $Ce$ . Since

$$\langle u_t(ce), u_t(de) \rangle = \gamma_t|_A(\langle ce, de \rangle)$$

for all  $t \in G$  and for all  $c, d \in C$ ,  $\alpha^u = \gamma|_A$ .

Let  $\varphi$  be the isomorphism from  $K(Ce)$  onto  $C$  defined by  $\varphi(\theta_{ce, de}) = ced^*$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} (\varphi \circ \beta_t^u)(\theta_{ce, de}) &= \varphi(\theta_{u_t(ce), u_t(de)}) = u_t(ce)u_t(de)^* \\ &= \gamma_t(ce)\gamma_t(de)^* = \gamma_t(ced^*) = (\gamma_t \circ \varphi)(\theta_{ce, de}) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $t \in G$  and for all  $c, d \in C$ , and so the actions  $\beta^u$  and  $\gamma$  are conjugate. Thus we proved that the actions  $\gamma|_A$  and  $\gamma$  are strongly Morita equivalent.  $\square$

Let  $\alpha$  be a continuous inverse limit action of a locally compact group  $G$  on a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $A$ . The vector space  $C_c(G, A)$  of all continuous functions from  $G$  to  $A$  with compact support becomes a  $*$ -algebra with convolution

$$(f \times h)(s) = \int_G f(t)\alpha_t(h(t^{-1}s)) dt,$$

where  $dt$  denotes the Haar measure on  $G$ , as product and involution defined by

$$f^\sharp(t) = \Delta(t)^{-1}\alpha_t(f(t^{-1})^*)$$

where  $\Delta$  is the modular function on  $G$  [7].

The Hausdorff completion of  $C_c(G, A)$  with respect to the topology defined by the family of submultiplicative  $*$ -seminorms  $\{N_p\}_{p \in S(A)}$ , where

$$N_p(f) = \int_G p(f(s)) ds$$

is a complete locally  $m$ -convex  $*$ -algebra  $L^1(G, A, \alpha)$  with bounded approximate unit [7]. The crossed product of  $A$  by the action  $\alpha$ , denoted by  $G \times_\alpha A$ , is the enveloping pro- $C^*$ -algebra of  $L^1(G, A, \alpha)$  [4, 7].

**Corollary 2.2.** *Let  $G$  be a locally compact group,  $C$  a pro- $C^*$ -algebra and  $t \mapsto \gamma_t$  a continuous inverse limit action of  $G$  on  $C$ . If  $A$  is a full corner in  $C$  invariant under  $\gamma$ , then the pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $G \times_\gamma C$  and  $G \times_{\gamma|_A} A$  are isomorphic.*

*Proof.* Clearly,  $t \mapsto \gamma_t|_A$  is a continuous inverse limit action of  $G$  on  $A$  and so there is  $G \times_{\gamma|_A} A$ . By Proposition 2.1, the actions  $t \mapsto \gamma_t$  and  $t \mapsto \gamma_t|_A$  of  $G$  on  $C$  and  $A$  are strongly Morita equivalent, and then by [8, Theorem 5.6], the pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $G \times_\gamma C$  and  $G \times_{\gamma|_A} A$  are isomorphic.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.3.** *Let  $t \mapsto \alpha_t$  be a continuous inverse limit action of  $G$  on  $A$ . Then the pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $G \times_\alpha A$  and  $G \times_\gamma M_2(A)$ , where  $t \mapsto \gamma_t$  is the action of  $G$  on the pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $M_2(A)$  of all  $2 \times 2$  matrices over  $A$  defined by  $\gamma_t([a_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^2) = [\alpha_t(a_{ij})]_{i,j=1}^2$ , are isomorphic.*

*Proof.* Clearly,  $A$  can be identified with a full corner of  $M_2(A)$  invariant under  $\gamma$ . Then, by Proposition 2.1 the actions  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  of  $G$  on  $A$  respectively  $M_2(A)$  are strongly Morita equivalent, and since  $\alpha$  is an inverse limit action, by [8, Remark 4.7],  $\gamma$  is an inverse limit action. Therefore, the pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $G \times_\alpha A$  and  $G \times_\gamma M_2(A)$  are isomorphic.  $\square$

Let  $E$  be a full Hilbert module over a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $A$ . The linking algebra  $\mathcal{L}(E)$  of  $E$  is the pro- $C^*$ -subalgebra of  $L(A \oplus E)$  generated by  $\{L_{a,\xi,\eta,T}; a \in A, \xi, \eta \in E, T \in K(E)\}$ , where  $L_{a,\xi,\eta,T}$  is the module

morphism on  $A \oplus E$  defined by

$$L_{a,\xi,\eta,T}(b \oplus \zeta) = (ab + \langle \xi, \zeta \rangle) \oplus (\eta b + T(\zeta)).$$

Moreover,

$$\mathcal{L}(E) = \varprojlim_{p \in S(A)} \mathcal{L}(E_p)$$

where  $\mathcal{L}(E_p)$  is the linking algebra of  $E_p$  for each  $p \in S(A)$ , up to an isomorphism of pro- $C^*$ -algebras [6]. But  $\mathcal{L}(E_p) = K(A_p \oplus E_p)$  for each  $p \in S(A)$  [11], and then, by [9, Proposition 4.7],  $\mathcal{L}(E)$  can be identified with  $K(A \oplus E)$ .

**Proposition 2.4.** *Let  $G$  be a locally compact group, and  $E$  a full Hilbert module over a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $A$ . Any action  $t \mapsto u_t$  of  $G$  on  $E$  induces a unique action  $t \mapsto \gamma_t^u$  of  $G$  on the linking algebra  $\mathcal{L}(E)$  of  $E$  such that*

$$\gamma_t^u(L_{a,\xi,\eta,T}) = L_{\alpha_t^u(a), u_t(\xi), u_t(\eta), \beta_t^u(T)}$$

for all  $a \in A$ ,  $\xi, \eta \in E$ ,  $T \in K(E)$  and for all  $t \in G$ . Moreover, if  $t \mapsto u_t$  is a continuous inverse limit action, then  $t \mapsto \gamma_t^u$  is a continuous inverse limit action.

*Proof.* Clearly, if there is an action  $t \mapsto \gamma_t^u$  of  $G$  on  $\mathcal{L}(E)$  such that

$$\gamma_t^u(L_{a,\xi,\eta,T}) = L_{\alpha_t^u(a), u_t(\xi), u_t(\eta), \beta_t^u(T)}$$

for all  $a \in A$ ,  $\xi, \eta \in E$ ,  $T \in K(E)$  and for all  $t \in G$ , then this action is unique.

Let  $t \in G$ . The map  $w_t^u : A \oplus E \rightarrow A \oplus E$  defined by

$$w_t^u(a \oplus \xi) = \alpha_t^u(a) \oplus u_t(\xi)$$

is a generalized morphism of Hilbert modules, since

$$\begin{aligned} \langle w_t^u(a \oplus \xi), w_t^u(b \oplus \eta) \rangle &= \langle \alpha_t^u(a), \alpha_t^u(b) \rangle + \langle u_t(\xi), u_t(\eta) \rangle \\ &= \alpha_t^u(\langle a \oplus \xi, b \oplus \eta \rangle) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $a, b \in A$  and for all  $\xi, \eta \in E$ , and since  $\alpha_t^u$  is an isomorphism of pro- $C^*$ -algebras. Moreover, since  $w_t^u$  is invertible and  $(w_t^u)^{-1} = w_{t^{-1}}^u$ ,



$w_t^u$  is a generalized isomorphism of Hilbert modules. It is not difficult to check that  $t \mapsto w_t^u$  is an action of  $G$  on  $A \oplus E$ .

Since  $A \oplus E$  is a full Hilbert  $A$ -module, the action  $t \mapsto w_t^u$  of  $G$  on  $A \oplus E$  induces an action  $t \mapsto \gamma_t^u$  of  $G$  on  $K(A \oplus E)$  such that

$$\gamma_t^u (\theta_{a \oplus \xi, b \oplus \eta}) = \theta_{w_t^u(a \oplus \xi), w_t^u(b \oplus \eta)} = \theta_{\alpha_t^u(a) \oplus u_t(\xi), \alpha_t^u(b) \oplus u_t(\eta)}$$

for all  $a, b \in A$ , for all  $\xi, \eta \in E$ , and for all  $t \in G$ .

Let  $t \in G$ ,  $a \in A$ ,  $\xi, \eta \in E$  and  $T \in K(E)$ . We will show that

$$\gamma_t^u (L_{a, \xi, \eta, T}) = L_{\alpha_t^u(a), u_t(\xi), u_t(\eta), \beta_t^u(T)}.$$

For this, let  $\{e_i\}_i$  be an approximate unit for  $A$ . From

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{p}_{L(A \oplus E)}(L_{a, 0, 0, 0} - \theta_{a \oplus 0, e_i \oplus 0}) &\leq p(a - ae_i) \\ \tilde{p}_{L(A \oplus E)}(L_{0, \xi, 0, 0} - \theta_{e_i \oplus 0, 0 \oplus \xi}) &\leq \bar{p}_E(\xi - \xi e_i) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\tilde{p}_{L(A \oplus E)}(L_{0, 0, \eta, 0} - \theta_{0 \oplus \eta, e_i \oplus 0}) \leq \bar{p}_E(\eta - \eta e_i)$$

for all  $p \in S(A)$  and for all  $i \in I$ , and taking into account that  $\gamma_t^u$ ,  $\alpha_t^u$  and  $u_t$  are continuous,  $ae_i \rightarrow a$ ,  $\xi e_i \rightarrow \xi$  and  $\eta e_i \rightarrow \eta$ , we conclude that

$$\gamma_t^u (L_{a, \xi, \eta, 0}) = L_{\alpha_t^u(a), u_t(\xi), u_t(\eta), 0}.$$

If  $T \in K(E)$ , then there is a net  $\{\sum_{k \in I_j} \theta_{\xi_k, \eta_k}\}_j$  in  $\Theta(E)$  which converges to  $T$ . From

$$\tilde{p}_{L(A \oplus E)}\left(L_{0, 0, 0, T} - \sum_{k \in I_j} \theta_{0 \oplus \xi_k, 0 \oplus \eta_k}\right) \leq \tilde{p}_{L(E)}\left(T - \sum_{k \in I_j} \theta_{\xi_k, \eta_k}\right)$$

for all  $p \in S(A)$ , and taking into account that  $\gamma_t^u$  and  $\beta_t^u$  are continuous and

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k \in I_j} \gamma_t^u (\theta_{0 \oplus \xi_k, 0 \oplus \eta_k}) &= \sum_{k \in I_j} \theta_{0 \oplus u_t(\xi_k), 0 \oplus u_t(\eta_k)} \\ &= \sum_{k \in I_j} L_{0, 0, 0, \theta_{u_t(\xi_k), u_t(\eta_k)}} \\ &= \sum_{k \in I_j} L_{0, 0, 0, \beta_t^u(\theta_{\xi_k, \eta_k})}, \end{aligned}$$

we deduce that

$$\gamma_t^u(L_{0,0,0,T}) = L_{0,0,0,\beta_t^u(T)}.$$

Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_t^u(L_{a,\xi,\eta,T}) &= \gamma_t^u(L_{a,\xi,\eta,0}) + \gamma_t^u(L_{0,0,0,T}) \\ &= L_{\alpha_t^u(a),u_t(\xi),u_t(\eta),0} + L_{0,0,0,\beta_t^u(T)} \\ &= L_{\alpha_t^u(a),u_t(\xi),u_t(\eta),\beta_t^u(T)}. \end{aligned}$$

If  $u$  is a continuous inverse limit action, then we can suppose that  $u_t = \lim_{\leftarrow p \in S(A)} u_t^p$  [8, Remark 3.6], where  $t \mapsto u_t^p$  is a continuous action of  $G$  on  $E_p$  for each  $p \in S(A)$ . Let  $p \in S(A)$ , and let  $t \mapsto w_t^{u^p}$  be the action of  $G$  on  $A_p \oplus E_p$  induced by  $u^p$ . Since

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| w_t^{u^p}(a_p \oplus \xi_p) - a_p \oplus \xi_p \right\|_{A_p \oplus E_p} &= \left\| \alpha_t^{u^p}(a_p) \oplus u_t^p(\xi_p) - a_p \oplus \xi_p \right\|_{A_p \oplus E_p} \\ &\leq \left\| \alpha_t^{u^p}(a_p) - a_p \right\|_{A_p} + \left\| u_t^p(\xi_p) - \xi_p \right\|_{E_p} \end{aligned}$$

and since the actions  $t \mapsto u_t^p$  and  $t \mapsto \alpha_t^{u^p}$  of  $G$  on  $E_p$  and  $A_p$  are continuous, the map  $t \mapsto w_t^{u^p}(a_p \oplus \xi_p)$  from  $G$  to  $A_p \oplus E_p$  is continuous for each  $a_p \oplus \xi_p \in A_p \oplus E_p$ . Therefore,  $t \mapsto w_t^{u^p}$  is a continuous action of  $G$  on  $A_p \oplus E_p$ .

It is not difficult to check that  $(w_t^{u^p})_p$  is an inverse system of generalized isomorphisms of Hilbert  $C^*$ -modules for each  $t \in G$  and  $t \mapsto \lim_{\leftarrow p \in S(A)} w_t^{u^p}$  is a continuous inverse limit action of  $G$  on  $A \oplus E$ . Moreover,  $w_t^u = \lim_{\leftarrow p \in S(A)} w_t^{u^p}$  for each  $t \in G$ . By [8, Proposition 3.8], the action  $\gamma^u$  of  $G$  on  $K(A \oplus E)$  induced by  $w^u$  is a continuous inverse limit action, and moreover,  $\gamma_t^u = \lim_{\leftarrow p \in S(A)} \gamma_t^{u^p}$  for each  $t \in G$ , where  $\gamma^{u^p}$  is the action of  $G$  of  $\mathcal{L}(E_p)$  induced by  $u^p$ .  $\square$

*Remark 2.5.* Let  $G$  be a locally compact group,  $E$  a full Hilbert  $A$ -module, and  $t \mapsto u_t$  an action of  $G$  on  $E$ .

(1) Since the map  $a \mapsto L_{a,0,0,0}$  from  $A$  to  $\mathcal{L}(E)$  identifies  $A$  with a pro- $C^*$ -subalgebra of  $\mathcal{L}(E)$  and  $\gamma_t^u(L_{a,0,0,0}) = L_{\alpha_t^u(a),0,0,0}$  for all  $a \in A$

and for all  $t \in G$ , the restriction of  $\gamma^u$  to  $A$  can be identified with the action of  $G$  on  $A$  induced by  $u$ .

(2) Since the map  $T \mapsto L_{0,0,0,T}$  from  $K(E)$  to  $\mathcal{L}(E)$  identifies  $K(E)$  with a pro- $C^*$ -subalgebra of  $\mathcal{L}(E)$  and  $\gamma_t^u(L_{0,0,0,T}) = L_{0,0,0,\beta_t^u(T)}$  for all  $T \in K(E)$  and for all  $t \in G$ , the restriction of  $\gamma^u$  to  $K(E)$  can be identified with the action of  $G$  on  $K(E)$  induced by  $u$ .

Recall that two corners  $eCe$  and  $fCf$  in the pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  are *complementary* if  $e + f = 1_{M(C)}$ .

The following theorem is a version of [6, Theorem 2.9] for continuous inverse limit group action on pro- $C^*$ -algebras.

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $G$  be a locally compact group, and let  $t \mapsto \alpha_t$  and  $t \mapsto \beta_t$  be two continuous inverse limit actions of  $G$  on two pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $A$  and  $B$ . Then the actions  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are strongly Morita equivalent if and only if there is a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  such that  $A$  and  $B$  appear as two complementary full corners in  $C$  and there is a continuous inverse limit action  $t \mapsto \gamma_t$  of  $G$  on  $C$  such that  $A$  and  $B$  are invariant under  $\gamma$  and the actions  $t \mapsto \gamma_t|_A$  and  $t \mapsto \gamma_t|_B$  of  $G$  on  $A$  and  $B$  can be identified with  $\alpha$ , respectively  $\beta$ .*

*Proof.* First we suppose that  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are strongly Morita equivalent. Let  $(E, u)$  be the pair consisting of a full Hilbert  $A$ -module and a continuous action of  $G$  on  $E$  which implements a strong Morita equivalence between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . Let  $C = \mathcal{L}(E)$ , and let  $\gamma^u$  be the action of  $G$  on  $C$  induced by  $u$ . By [6, Theorem 2.9],  $A$  and  $B$  are isomorphic with two complementary full corners in  $C$ , and by Proposition 2.4 and Remark 2.5,  $t \mapsto \gamma_t^u$  is a continuous inverse limit action of  $G$  on  $C$  such that identifying  $A$  and  $B$  with corners in  $C$ ,  $\gamma^u|_A = \alpha$  and  $\gamma^u|_B = \beta$ .

Conversely, we suppose that there is a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  such that  $A$  and  $B$  appear as two complementary full corners in  $C$ , and there is a continuous inverse limit action  $t \mapsto \gamma_t$  of  $G$  on  $C$  such that  $A$  and  $B$  are invariant under  $\gamma$  and the actions  $t \mapsto \gamma_t|_A$  and  $t \mapsto \gamma_t|_B$  of  $G$  on  $A$  and  $B$  can be identified with  $\alpha$ , respectively  $\beta$ . Then, by Proposition 2.1 the actions  $t \mapsto \gamma_t$  and  $t \mapsto \gamma_t|_A$  of  $G$  on  $C$  respectively  $A$  are strongly Morita equivalent as well as the actions  $t \mapsto \gamma_t$  and  $t \mapsto \gamma_t|_B$ , and since the strong Morita equivalence is an equivalence relation [8, Proposition 4.13], the actions  $t \mapsto \gamma_t|_A$  and  $t \mapsto \gamma_t|_B$  are strongly Morita equivalent. Therefore, the actions  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are strongly Morita equivalent.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.7.** *Let  $G$  be a compact group, and let  $t \mapsto \alpha_t$  and  $t \mapsto \beta_t$  be two actions of  $G$  on two pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $A$  and  $B$  such that the maps  $(t, a) \mapsto \alpha_t(a)$  from  $G \times A$  to  $A$  and  $(t, b) \mapsto \beta_t(b)$  from  $G \times B$  to  $B$  are jointly continuous. Then the actions  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are strongly Morita equivalent if and only if there is a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $C$  such that  $A$  and  $B$  appear as two complementary full corners in  $C$  and there is an action  $t \mapsto \gamma_t$  of  $G$  on  $C$  with the property that the map  $(t, c) \mapsto \gamma_t(c)$  from  $G \times C$  to  $C$  is jointly continuous and such that  $A$  and  $B$  are invariant under  $\gamma$  and the actions  $t \mapsto \gamma_t|_A$  and  $t \mapsto \gamma_t|_B$  of  $G$  on  $A$  and  $B$  can be identified with  $\alpha$ , respectively  $\beta$ .*

*Proof.* By [10, Lemma 5.2], the actions  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $\gamma$  of  $G$  on  $A, B$  and  $C$  are continuous inverse limit actions and apply Theorem 2.6.  $\square$

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