

## Approximately Inner \*-Derivations of Irrational Rotation C\*-Algebras

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(Communicated by Y. Ito)

**Abstract.** Let  $\theta$  be an irrational number and  $A_\theta$  be the corresponding irrational rotation C\*-algebra. For any  $k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$  let  $A_\theta^k$  be the dense \*-subalgebra of  $k$ -times continuously differentiable elements in  $A_\theta$  with respect to the canonical action of the two dimensional torus and let  $A_\theta^0 = A_\theta$ . In the present paper we will show that there is an approximately inner \*-derivation of  $A_\theta^0$  to  $A_\theta^k$  which is not inner if and only if  $\theta$  is a non-generic irrational number.

### § 1. Preliminaries.

Let  $\theta$  be an irrational number and  $A_\theta$  be the corresponding irrational rotation C\*-algebra. Let  $u$  and  $v$  be unitary elements in  $A_\theta$  with  $uv = e^{2\pi i \theta} vu$  which generate  $A_\theta$ . Let  $\tau$  be the unique tracial state on  $A_\theta$  and  $(\pi_\tau, H_\tau)$  be the cyclic representation associated with  $\tau$ . We identify  $A_\theta$  with  $\pi_\tau(A_\theta)$ . Furthermore  $A_\theta$  can be identified with a dense subspace of  $H_\tau$  with the  $L^2$ -norm topology. Then  $\{u^m v^n\}_{m, n \in \mathbb{Z}}$  is an orthonormal basis of  $H_\tau$ . Let  $t \in \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \beta_t^{(j)}$  ( $j=1, 2$ ) be the one-parameter groups of automorphisms of  $A_\theta$  defined by

$$\beta_t^{(1)}(u) = e^{2\pi i t} u, \quad \beta_t^{(1)}(v) = v$$

and

$$\beta_t^{(2)}(u) = u, \quad \beta_t^{(2)}(v) = e^{2\pi i t} v$$

for any  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Let  $\delta_1$  and  $\delta_2$  be the generators of  $\beta^{(1)}$  and  $\beta^{(2)}$ . Then by easy computation

$$\delta_1(u) = 2\pi i u, \quad \delta_1(v) = 0$$

and

$$\delta_2(u) = 0, \quad \delta_2(v) = 2\pi i v.$$

Since we identify  $A_\theta$  with  $\pi_\tau(A_\theta)$  and  $\tau$  is unique, there are one-parameter groups of unitary operators  $w_t^{(j)}$  ( $j=1, 2$ ) on  $H_\tau$  such that

$$\beta_t^{(j)}(x)1 = w_t^{(j)}x$$

for any  $x \in A_\theta$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $j=1, 2$ . Let  $h_j$  be the anti-selfadjoint generators of  $w^{(j)}$  for  $j=1, 2$ . Then

$$h_j u = \delta_j(u), \quad h_j v = \delta_j(v)$$

and  $D(\delta_j) \subset D(h_j)$  for  $j=1, 2$  where  $D(\delta_j)$  and  $D(h_j)$  ( $j=1, 2$ ) denote their domains. Furthermore for any  $k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$  let  $A_\theta^k$  be the dense  $*$ -subalgebra of  $k$ -times continuously differentiable elements in  $A_\theta$  with respect to the canonical action and let  $A_\theta^0 = A_\theta$ .

LEMMA 1. *With the above notations*

$$h_1(D(\delta_1)) \perp \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}^\oplus C v^n$$

and

$$h_2(D(\delta_2)) \perp \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}^\oplus C u^n.$$

PROOF. Let  $x \in D(\delta_1)$ . Then for any  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$(h_1 x | v^n) = \tau(v^{-n} \delta_1(x)) = \tau(\delta_1(v^{-n} x)) = 0$$

since  $\tau$  is unique where  $(\cdot | \cdot)$  is the inner product on  $H_\tau$ . Hence

$$h_1(D(\delta_1)) \perp \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}^\oplus C v^n.$$

Similarly we obtain that

$$h_2(D(\delta_2)) \perp \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}^\oplus C u^n. \quad \text{Q.E.D.}$$

DEFINITION. For any  $x \in A_\theta$  there is a sequence  $\{c_{m,n}\} \in l^2(\mathbb{Z}^2)$  such that

$$x = \sum_{m,n \in \mathbb{Z}} c_{m,n} u^m v^n$$

where the summation is considered under the  $L^2$ -norm topology. We say that  $\{c_{m,n}\}$  are the Fourier coefficients of  $x$ .

LEMMA 2. *Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $x \in A_\theta^k$  and  $\{c_{m,n}\}$  be its Fourier coefficients. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} |m|^k |c_{m,n}| &\rightarrow 0, \\ |n|^k |c_{m,n}| &\rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

as  $|m|, |n| \rightarrow \infty$ .

PROOF. Since  $x \in A_\theta^k$ ,  $x \in D(\delta_1^k)$ . Thus  $x \in D(h_1^k)$ . Let  $\{d_{m,n}\}$  be the Fourier coefficients of  $h_1^k x$ . Then

$$h_1^k x = \sum d_{m,n} u^m v^n$$

where  $\{d_{m,n}\} \in l^2(\mathbb{Z}^2)$  and the summation is considered under the  $L^2$ -norm topology. By Lemma 1,  $d_{0,n} = 0$  for any  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Let

$$y = \sum_{m,n \in \mathbb{Z}, m \neq 0} \left( \frac{1}{2\pi i m} \right)^k d_{m,n} u^m v^n,$$

where the summation is considered under the  $L^2$ -norm topology. Then by the closedness of  $h_1$ ,  $y \in D(h_1^k)$  and

$$h_1^k y = \sum_{m,n \in \mathbb{Z}, m \neq 0} d_{m,n} u^m v^n.$$

Thus  $h_1^k x = h_1^k y$ . Hence there is a  $z \in \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}^\oplus C v^n$  such that  $x = y + z$ . Therefore since

$$\begin{aligned} c_{m,n} &= \left( \frac{1}{2\pi i m} \right)^k d_{m,n} \quad \text{if } m \neq 0, \\ |m|^k |c_{m,n}| &\rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

as  $|m|, |n| \rightarrow \infty$ . Similarly

$$|n|^k |c_{m,n}| \rightarrow 0$$

as  $|m|, |n| \rightarrow \infty$ .

Q.E.D.

COROLLARY 3. Let  $x \in A_\theta^\infty$  and  $\{c_{m,n}\}$  be its Fourier coefficients. Then for any  $k, l \in \mathbb{N}$

$$|m|^k |n|^l |c_{m,n}| \rightarrow 0$$

as  $|m|, |n| \rightarrow \infty$ .

PROOF. By Lemma 2 we can easily obtain the conclusion. Q.E.D.

### §2. Inner \*-derivations of $A_\theta^{k+1}$ to $A_\theta^k$ .

Now we recall the definitions of a generic irrational number and an approximately inner \*-derivation.

DEFINITION. Let  $\theta$  be an irrational number. We say that it is *generic* if there are  $C > 0$  and  $r > 1$  such that

$$|e^{2\pi i n \theta} - 1| \geq \frac{C}{n^r}$$

for any positive integer  $n$ . That is,  $\theta$  is generic if it is not a *Liouville number*.

DEFINITION. Let  $\delta$  be a  $*$ -derivation on a dense  $*$ -subalgebra  $B$  of  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$ . We say it is *approximately inner* if there is a net  $\{b_\nu\}$  of anti-selfadjoint elements in  $A$  such that

$$\delta(x) = \lim_{\nu \rightarrow \infty} (b_\nu x - x b_\nu)$$

for any  $x \in B$ . If  $B$  is countably generated as an algebra, then such a net, if it exists, may be taken to be a sequence.

PROPOSITION 4. Let  $\theta$  be a generic irrational number. If  $C > 0$  and  $r > 1$  satisfy that

$$|e^{2\pi i n \theta} - 1| \geq \frac{C}{n^r}$$

for any positive integer  $n$ , then for any positive integer  $k$  with  $k > r + 2$  each approximately inner  $*$ -derivation  $\delta: A_\theta^{k+1} \rightarrow A_\theta^k$  is inner.

PROOF. We will prove the above proposition in the same way as in [2, Remark 4.3]. Since  $u$  and  $v$  are in  $A_\theta^{k+1}$ ,  $\delta(u)$  and  $\delta(v)$  are in  $A_\theta^k$ . Let

$$\delta(u) = \sum_{m, n \in \mathbf{Z}} c_{m, n} u^m v^n,$$

$$\delta(v) = \sum_{m, n \in \mathbf{Z}} d_{m, n} u^m v^n,$$

where the summations are considered under the  $L^2$ -norm topology. Since  $\delta$  is approximately inner,  $\tau(u^* \delta(u)) = 0$ . Thus  $c_{1, 0} = 0$ . Similarly  $d_{0, 1} = 0$ . And since  $\delta(uv) = e^{2\pi i \theta} \delta(uv)$ ,

$$(1 - e^{-2\pi i m \theta}) c_{m+1, n} + (1 - e^{-2\pi i n \theta}) d_{m, n+1} = 0 \quad (1)$$

for any  $m, n \in \mathbf{Z}$ . Furthermore by Lemma 2 there are  $K_c > 0$  and  $K_d > 0$  such that

$$|c_{m, n}| \leq \frac{K_c}{|n|^k} \quad \text{for } m \in \mathbf{Z}, n \in \mathbf{Z} - \{0\},$$

$$|d_{m,n}| \leq \frac{K_d}{|m|^k} \quad \text{for } m \in \mathbf{Z} - \{0\}, n \in \mathbf{Z}.$$

The derivation  $\delta$  is formally implemented by an operator

$$h = \sum_{m,n} a_{m,n} u^m v^n$$

where the coefficients  $\{a_{m,n}\}$  are determined by the requirements

$$c_{m+1,n} = (e^{-2\pi i n \theta} - 1) a_{m,n}, \quad (2)$$

$$d_{m,n+1} = (1 - e^{-2\pi i m \theta}) a_{m,n}. \quad (3)$$

If  $m \neq 0$  and  $n \neq 0$ , we define

$$a_{m,n} = \frac{c_{m+1,n}}{e^{-2\pi i n \theta} - 1}.$$

Then by the equation (1), we see that the equation (3) holds. Thus

$$a_{m,n} = \frac{d_{m,n+1}}{1 - e^{-2\pi i m \theta}}.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} |a_{m,n}|^2 &= \frac{|c_{m+1,n}| |d_{m,n+1}|}{|e^{-2\pi i n \theta} - 1| |1 - e^{-2\pi i m \theta}|} \\ &\leq \frac{K_c K_d}{C^2} \frac{1}{|m|^{k-r} |n|^{k-r}}. \end{aligned}$$

If  $m \neq 0$  and  $n = 0$ , we define

$$a_{m,0} = \frac{d_{m,1}}{1 - e^{-2\pi i m \theta}}.$$

Then by the equation (1), we see that  $c_{m+1,0} = 0$ . Thus the equation (2) holds and

$$\begin{aligned} |a_{m,0}| &= \left| \frac{d_{m,1}}{1 - e^{-2\pi i m \theta}} \right| \\ &\leq \frac{K_d}{C} \frac{1}{|m|^{k-r}}. \end{aligned}$$

If  $m = 0$  and  $n \neq 0$ , we define

$$a_{0,n} = \frac{c_{1,n}}{e^{-2\pi i n \theta} - 1}.$$

Then by the equation (1), we see that  $d_{0,n+1}=0$ . Thus the equation (3) holds and

$$\begin{aligned} |a_{0,n}| &= \left| \frac{c_{m+1,n}}{e^{-2\pi i n \theta} - 1} \right| \\ &\leq \frac{K_c}{C} \frac{1}{|n|^{k-r}}. \end{aligned}$$

If  $m=n=0$ , we define  $a_{0,0}=0$ . Then since  $c_{1,0}=d_{0,1}=0$ , the equations (2) and (3) hold. Therefore we obtain that  $\{a_{m,n}\} \in l^1(\mathbb{Z}^2)$ . Hence  $h \in A_\theta$ . Furthermore since

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(u)^*u + u^*\delta(u) &= 0, \\ \delta(v)^*v + v^*\delta(v) &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

we can easily see that  $h$  is anti-selfadjoint.

Q.E.D.

**§3. An approximately inner \*-derivation of  $A_\theta^{k+1}$  to  $A_\theta^k$  which is not inner.**

First we will give a definition.

**DEFINITION.** Let  $\theta$  be an irrational number and  $r$  be a positive number with  $r \geq 1$ . We say that  $\theta$  is *approximable by rational numbers to order  $r$*  if there is a  $K(\theta) > 0$ , depending only on  $\theta$ , such that

$$\left| \theta - \frac{p}{q} \right| < \frac{K(\theta)}{q^r}$$

is satisfied for infinitely many pairs of integers  $p, q$  with  $q > 0$ .

By easy computation  $\theta$  is approximable by rational numbers to order  $r \geq 1$  if and only if there is a  $C(\theta) > 0$ , depending only on  $\theta$ , such that

$$|e^{2\pi i n \theta} - 1| < \frac{C(\theta)}{n^{r-1}}$$

is satisfied for infinitely many positive integers  $n$ .

By Besicovitch [1] or Falconer [5, Theorem 8.16] we can see that for any  $r \geq 1$  there is an irrational number  $\theta$  which is approximable by rational numbers to order  $r$ .

Let  $\theta$  be approximable by rational numbers to order  $r \geq 3$ . Let  $k$  be a positive integer with  $k \leq r$ . Then there is a strictly increasing sequence  $\{n_j\}_{j=1}^\infty$  of positive integers such that

$$|e^{2\pi i n_j \theta} - 1| < \frac{C(\theta)}{n_j^{k-1}}$$

for any  $j \in N$ . Let  $\{a_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$  be the sequence defined by

$$a_n = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{j} \frac{1}{n_j^{k-1}} \frac{1 - e^{2\pi i n_j \theta}}{|1 - e^{2\pi i n_j \theta}|} & \text{if } n = n_j \\ \frac{1}{j} \frac{1}{n_j^{k-1}} \frac{1 - e^{-2\pi i n_j \theta}}{|1 - e^{-2\pi i n_j \theta}|} & \text{if } n = -n_j \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases}$$

LEMMA 5. Let  $\theta, k, \{n_j\}$  and  $\{a_n\}$  be as above. If  $k \geq 2$ , we can define a real valued function  $g \in C^{k-2}(T)$  by

$$g(t) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n e^{2\pi i n t}$$

where we identify  $C(T)$  with the algebra of all continuous functions on  $\mathbb{R}$  with period 1. Then it follows that  $\int_0^1 g(t) dt = 0$  and there is no continuous function  $h: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with period 1 satisfying that

$$g(t) = h(t) - h(t + \theta)$$

for any  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

PROOF. We note that for any  $j \in N$

$$|a_{n_j}| = \frac{1}{j n_j^{k-1}} \leq \frac{1}{j^k}.$$

Since  $k \geq 2$ ,  $\{a_n\} \in l^1(\mathbb{Z})$ . Hence  $g \in C(T)$ . By the definition of  $g$

$$\int_0^1 g(t) dt = a_0 = 0$$

and  $g(t) \in \mathbb{R}$  for any  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . For any positive integer  $N$  let

$$g_N(t) = \sum_{n=-N}^N a_n e^{2\pi i n t}.$$

Then for any positive integer  $l \leq k - 2$

$$\frac{d^l}{dt^l} g_N(t) = \sum_{n=-N}^N (2\pi i n)^l a_n e^{2\pi i n t}.$$

And

$$\begin{aligned} |(2\pi i n_j)^l a_{n_j}| &= \frac{(2\pi)^l}{j} \frac{1}{n_j^{k-l-1}} \\ &\leq (2\pi)^l \frac{1}{j^{k-l}} \\ &\leq (2\pi)^l \frac{1}{j^2} . \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\{(d^l/dt^l)g_N\}$  is a Cauchy sequence under the norm topology in  $C(T)$ . Therefore  $g \in C^{k-2}(T)$ .

Now we suppose that there is a continuous function  $h: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  with period 1 satisfying that

$$g(t) = h(t) - h(t + \theta)$$

for any  $t \in \mathbf{R}$ . Then the Fourier series of  $h$  should be as follows:

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{a_n}{1 - e^{2\pi i n \theta}} e^{2\pi i n t} + c$$

where  $c$  is a constant number. Since  $h$  is continuous,

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{a_n}{1 - e^{2\pi i n \theta}}$$

is Cesàro summable. However

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{a_n}{1 - e^{2\pi i n \theta}} = 2 \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{j} \frac{1}{n_j^{k-1}} \frac{1}{|1 - e^{2\pi i n_j \theta}|} .$$

By the definition of  $\{n_j\}$

$$\frac{1}{n_j^{k-1}} \frac{1}{|1 - e^{2\pi i n_j \theta}|} > \frac{1}{n_j^{k-1}} \frac{n_j^{k-1}}{C(\theta)} = \frac{1}{C(\theta)} .$$

Since  $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 1/j$  is not Cesàro summable, neither is  $\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n/(1 - e^{2\pi i n \theta})$ . Therefore we obtain a contradiction. Q.E.D.

REMARK. Let  $g$  be as in Lemma 5. Let  $\alpha$  be the automorphism of  $A_\theta$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(u) &= e^{2\pi i g(v)} u , \\ \alpha(v) &= v . \end{aligned}$$

Then by [7] we can obtain the following facts:

- (1)  $\alpha_* = \text{id}$  on  $K_1(A_\theta)$ ,
- (2)  $\tilde{\tau}_*(K_0(A_\theta \times_\alpha \mathbf{Z})) = \mathbf{Z} + \mathbf{Z}\theta$ ,
- (3)  $\Gamma(\alpha) = T$ ,

where  $\tilde{\tau}_*$  is the homomorphism of  $K_0(A_\theta \times_\alpha \mathbf{Z})$  to  $\mathbf{R}$  induced by  $\tau$  and  $\Gamma(\alpha)$  is the Connes spectrum of  $\alpha$ .

Now we will introduce a new notation. For any  $s, t \in \mathbf{R}$  let  $\alpha_{(s,t)}$  be the automorphism of  $A_\theta$  defined by

$$\alpha_{(s,t)}(u) = e^{2\pi i s} u, \quad \alpha_{(s,t)}(v) = e^{2\pi i t} v.$$

Then by easy computation  $\alpha_{(s,t)}(A_\theta^k) = A_\theta^k$  for any  $k \in \mathbf{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ .

**PROPOSITION 6.** *Let  $k$  be an integer with  $k \geq 0$ . Let  $\theta$  be approximable by rational numbers to order  $k+3$ . Then there is an approximately inner \*-derivation of  $A_\theta^{k+1}$  to  $A_\theta^k$  which is not inner.*

**PROOF.** Let  $g$  be as in Lemma 5. Thus  $g \in C^{k+1}(T)$ . Let  $\alpha$  be as in the above remark. Since  $g \in C^{k+1}(T)$ ,  $\alpha(A^l) = A^l$  for  $l=0, 1, 2, \dots, k+1$ . Hence  $\alpha^{-1} \circ \delta_j \circ \alpha$  is a \*-derivation of  $A_\theta^{k+1}$  to  $A_\theta^k$  for  $j=1, 2$ . By Bratteli, Elliott and Jørgensen [2] there are the unique decompositions

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha^{-1} \circ \delta_1 \circ \alpha &= c_{1,1} \delta_1 + c_{1,2} \delta_2 + \tilde{\delta}_1, \\ \alpha^{-1} \circ \delta_2 \circ \alpha &= c_{2,1} \delta_1 + c_{2,2} \delta_2 + \tilde{\delta}_2, \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_{1,1}, c_{1,2}, c_{2,1}$  and  $c_{2,2}$  are in  $\mathbf{R}$  and  $\tilde{\delta}_1, \tilde{\delta}_2$  are approximately inner \*-derivations of  $A_\theta^{k+1}$  to  $A_\theta^k$ . However by the definition of  $\alpha$  we obtain the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha^{-1} \circ \delta_1 \circ \alpha)(u) &= 2\pi i u, \\ (\alpha^{-1} \circ \delta_1 \circ \alpha)(v) &= 0, \\ (\alpha^{-1} \circ \delta_2 \circ \alpha)(u) &= 2\pi i g'(v) u, \\ (\alpha^{-1} \circ \delta_2 \circ \alpha)(v) &= 2\pi i v \end{aligned}$$

where  $g'$  is the derivative of  $g$ . By the uniqueness of the decompositions we can see that

$$\alpha^{-1} \circ \delta_1 \circ \alpha = \delta_1.$$

And we obtain the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} 2\pi i g'(v) u &= 2\pi i c_{2,1} u + \tilde{\delta}_2(u), \\ 2\pi i v &= 2\pi i c_{2,2} v + \tilde{\delta}_2(v). \end{aligned}$$

We will show that  $\tilde{\delta}_2$  is not inner. We suppose that it is inner. Then there is a selfadjoint element  $a \in A_\theta$  such that

$$\begin{aligned}\tau(a) &= 0, \\ \tilde{\delta}_2(x) &= i(ax - xa)\end{aligned}$$

for any  $x \in A_\theta^{k+1}$ . Hence we get

$$au - ua = 2\pi g'(v)u - 2\pi c_{2,1}u,$$

i.e.,

$$a - uau^* = 2\pi g'(v) - 2\pi c_{2,1}.$$

Thus

$$\tau(a - uau^*) = 2\pi\tau(g'(v)) - 2\pi c_{2,1}.$$

Since  $\tau(uau^*) = \tau(a)$  and  $2\pi\tau(g'(v)) = 0$ ,  $c_{2,1} = 0$ . Moreover

$$av - va = 2\pi(1 - c_{2,2})v,$$

i.e.,

$$a - vav^* = 2\pi(1 - c_{2,2}).$$

Thus

$$\tau(a - vav^*) = 2\pi(1 - c_{2,2}).$$

Hence we obtain that  $c_{2,2} = 1$ . Therefore

$$\alpha^{-1} \circ \delta_2 \circ \alpha = \delta_2 + ad(ia)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}2\pi ig'(v)u &= i(au - ua), \\ av - va &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

Since  $av = va$ ,  $a \in C^*(v)$  where  $C^*(v)$  is the  $C^*$ -subalgebra of  $A_\theta$  generated by  $v$ . Hence there is a selfadjoint element  $f \in C(\mathcal{T})$  such that  $a = f(v)$ . And  $\int_0^1 f(t)dt = 0$  since  $\tau(a) = 0$ . Let  $F$  be the selfadjoint element in  $C(\mathcal{T})$  defined by

$$F(t) = \int_0^t f(s)ds$$

and let  $w = e^{iF(v)}$ . Then  $w$  is a unitary element in  $A_\theta$  and

$$\begin{aligned} w\delta_2(w^*) &= e^{iF(v)}\delta_2(e^{-iF(v)}) \\ &= e^{iF(v)}(-iF'(v))e^{-iF(v)} \\ &= -if(v) = -ia \end{aligned}$$

where  $F'$  is the derivative of  $F$ . Therefore by easy computation

$$\begin{aligned} Ad(w) \circ \alpha^{-1} \circ \delta_1 \circ \alpha \circ Ad(w^*) &= \delta_1, \\ Ad(w) \circ \alpha^{-1} \circ \delta_2 \circ \alpha \circ Ad(w^*) &= \delta_2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence there are  $s, t \in R$  such that

$$\alpha \circ Ad(w^*) = \alpha_{(s,t)},$$

i.e.,

$$\alpha = \alpha_{(s,t)} \circ Ad(w).$$

By Pimsner [12] we see that

$$\tilde{\tau}_*(K_0(A_\theta \times_\alpha Z)) = Z + Z\theta + Zs + Zt.$$

On the other hand by the above remark

$$\tilde{\tau}_*(K_0(A_\theta \times_\alpha Z)) = Z + Z\theta.$$

Thus  $s, t \in Z + Z\theta$ . Hence, since  $\alpha_{(s,t)}$  is inner, so is  $\alpha$ . However by the above remark  $\Gamma(\alpha) = T$ . This is a contradiction. Therefore  $\tilde{\delta}_2$  is not inner. Q.E.D.

DEFINITION. Let  $\theta$  be an irrational number. We define  $r(\theta)$  by

$$r(\theta) = \sup\{r \geq 1 \mid r \text{ is a number to which } \theta \text{ is approximable by rational numbers}\}.$$

We call it *the degree of irrationality* for  $\theta$ .

By Besicovitch [1] or Falconer [5, Theorem 8.16] we see that there is an irrational number  $\theta$  with  $r(\theta) < \infty$ . And if  $r(\theta) = \infty$ ,  $\theta$  is a non-generic irrational number.

**THEOREM 7.** *Let  $\theta$  be an irrational number and  $r(\theta)$  be its degree of irrationality. If  $r(\theta) > 3$ , then for any integer  $k$  with  $r(\theta) + 1 < k$  each approximately inner \*-derivation of  $A_\theta^{k+1}$  to  $A_\theta^k$  is inner and for any integer  $k$  with  $0 \leq k < r(\theta) - 3$  there is an approximately inner \*-derivation of  $A_\theta^{k+1}$  to  $A_\theta^k$  which is not inner.*

PROOF. We suppose that  $k$  is an integer with  $r(\theta) + 1 < k$ . Let  $\delta$  be

an approximately inner  $*$ -derivation of  $A_\theta^{k+1}$  to  $A_\theta^k$ . Then there is a real number  $r$  with  $r(\theta)+1 < r+1 < k$  and  $C > 0$  satisfying that

$$|e^{2\pi i n \theta} - 1| \geq \frac{C}{n^{r-1}}$$

for any positive integer  $n$ . Hence by Proposition 4  $\delta$  is inner.

Next we suppose that  $k$  is an integer with  $0 \leq k < r(\theta) - 3$ . Then  $\theta$  is approximable by rational numbers to order  $k+3$ . Hence by Proposition 6 there is an approximately inner  $*$ -derivation of  $A_\theta^{k+1}$  to  $A_\theta^k$  which is not inner. Q.E.D.

**COROLLARY 8.** *Let  $\theta$  be an irrational number. Then there is an approximately inner  $*$ -derivation of  $A_\theta^\infty$  to  $A_\theta^\infty$  which is not inner if and only if  $\theta$  is non-generic.*

**PROOF.** We suppose that  $\theta$  is non-generic. By [8] there is an automorphism  $\alpha$  of  $A_\theta$  with  $\alpha(A_\theta^\infty) = A_\theta^\infty$  satisfying that

$$\begin{aligned} (1) \quad & \alpha_* = \text{id} \quad \text{on } K_1(A_\theta), \\ (2) \quad & \tilde{\tau}_*(K_0(A_\theta \times_\alpha \mathbf{Z})) = \mathbf{Z} + \mathbf{Z}\theta, \\ (3) \quad & \Gamma(\alpha) = T. \end{aligned}$$

Then we can prove in the same way as in Proposition 6 that there is an approximately inner  $*$ -derivation of  $A_\theta^\infty$  to  $A_\theta^\infty$ . And it is easy by [2, Remark 4.3] to prove the converse part. Q.E.D.

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