

4. Index and Flow of Weights of Factors of Type III

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§ 1. Introduction. V. Jones' theory on index of II_1 factors [5] is a major break-through in recent development of the theory of operator algebras. In the type II_1 case, if index is finite, then a factor and its subfactor are known to possess many similar properties (AFD, Property T, etc.). We would like to investigate a similar problem in the type III set-up.

Let \mathcal{M} be a type III factor with a (type III) subfactor \mathcal{N} , and let E be a conditional expectation from \mathcal{M} onto \mathcal{N} . The notion of index of E was introduced by the second-named author, [6], based on Connes' spatial theory and Haagerup's theory on operator valued weights, [4]. Throughout the article we assume $\text{Index } E < \infty$. To check how similar \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{N} are, we will compare the (smooth part of) flow of weights of \mathcal{M} with that of \mathcal{N} . Our main theorem shows that each of the two flows is restricted by the other via the $\text{Index } E (< \infty)$ -information. More precisely, there exists a single flow (X, T_t) , and each of the two flows of weights appears as a (at most $\text{Index } E$ to one) factor flow of (X, T_t) .

In this announcement we will just sketch a proof of the main theorem. Full details and further results will be published elsewhere.

§ 2. Notations and the main theorem. Let E be a conditional expectation from a factor \mathcal{M} onto its subfactor \mathcal{N} . We assume that $\text{Index } E < \infty$ and \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{N} are of type III. (If one of \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{N} is of type III, then the other is also of type III.) We will denote by $(X_{\mathcal{M}}, T_t^{\mathcal{M}})$ the flow of weights of \mathcal{M} ([3]). The flow of weights can be computed from the associated crossed product $\tilde{\mathcal{M}} = \mathcal{M} \rtimes_{\sigma} \mathbf{R}$ and the dual action $\{\theta_s^{\mathcal{M}}\}_{s \in \mathbf{R}}$ on $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}$. (See [3], [10] for details.) More precisely, the center $Z(\tilde{\mathcal{M}})$ is isomorphic to $L^{\infty}(X_{\mathcal{M}}, d\mu)$, and by restriction the dual action induces the ergodic automorphism group on $Z(\tilde{\mathcal{M}})$. Then, the non-singular ergodic flow $\{T_t^{\mathcal{M}}\}_{t \in \mathbf{R}}$ on $X_{\mathcal{M}}$ is related to $\theta_t^{\mathcal{M}}$ via

$$(\theta_t^{\mathcal{M}}(f))(\omega) = f(T_{-t}^{\mathcal{M}}\omega); \quad \omega \in X_{\mathcal{M}}, \quad t \in \mathbf{R}, \quad f \in Z(\tilde{\mathcal{M}}) \cong L^{\infty}(X_{\mathcal{M}}, d\mu).$$

Theorem. *There exists a flow $(X, \{T_t\}_{t \in \mathbf{R}})$ satisfying the following:*

(i) *X is isomorphic to $X_{\mathcal{M}} \times \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ (resp. $X_{\mathcal{N}} \times \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$) as a measure space for some positive integer $m, m \leq \text{Index } E$ (resp. positive integer $n, n \leq \text{Index } E$),*

(ii) *the projection map $\pi_{\mathcal{M}}$ (resp. $\pi_{\mathcal{N}}$) from X onto $X_{\mathcal{M}}$ (resp. $X_{\mathcal{N}}$) intertwines T_t and $T_t^{\mathcal{M}}$ (resp. T_t and $T_t^{\mathcal{N}}$):*

$$T_t^{\mathcal{M}} \circ \pi_{\mathcal{M}} = \pi_{\mathcal{M}} \circ T_t, \quad T_t^{\mathcal{N}} \circ \pi_{\mathcal{N}} = \pi_{\mathcal{N}} \circ T_t, \quad t \in \mathbf{R}.$$

Let \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{N} be of type III $_{\lambda}$, III $_{\mu}$, $0 \leq \lambda, \mu \leq 1$, respectively ([1]). In [7], it was shown that $\log \lambda / \log \mu$ is rational (when $\text{Index } E < \infty$). The above theorem gives us a bound for this rational number.

Corollary. *When $\text{Index } E < \infty$, we have:*

- (i) $\lambda = 1$ if and only if $\mu = 1$,
- (ii) $\lambda = 0$ if and only if $\mu = 0$,
- (iii) when $0 < \lambda, \mu < 1$, there exist two positive integers p, q such that $p, q \leq \text{Index } E$ and $\mu = \lambda^{p/q}$.

Existence of the common finite extension of two flows of weights shows that $T_t^{\mathcal{M}}$ is a trivial flow if and only if so is $T_t^{\mathcal{N}}$ and that $T_t^{\mathcal{M}}$ is periodic if and only if so is $T_t^{\mathcal{N}}$. Hence we get (i) and (ii). Furthermore, (i) in the previous theorem gives us a bound for the ratio between these two periods. Hence we get (iii).

§ 3. Sketch of a proof of the theorem. Representing \mathcal{M} on $L^2(\mathcal{M})$, we construct the basic extension $\mathcal{M}_1 = \langle \mathcal{M}, e_{\mathcal{N}} \rangle$ and the conditional expectation $E_{\mathcal{M}}: \mathcal{M}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ (from E^{-1}).

Let φ be a fixed normal faithful state on \mathcal{N} . Setting $\psi = \varphi \circ E \in \mathcal{M}_*^+$ and $\chi = \psi \circ E_{\mathcal{M}} \in (\mathcal{M}_1)_*^+$, we consider the inclusions

$$\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_1 = \mathcal{M}_1 \rtimes_{\sigma_{\chi}} \mathbf{R} \supset \tilde{\mathcal{M}} = \mathcal{M} \rtimes_{\sigma_{\psi}} \mathbf{R} \supset \tilde{\mathcal{N}} = \mathcal{N} \rtimes_{\sigma_{\varphi}} \mathbf{R}$$

of von Neumann algebras of type II $_{\infty}$ acting on $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbf{R}, L^2(\mathcal{M}))$. Let $\mu(s)$, $s \in \mathbf{R}$, be the unitary operator on \mathcal{H} defined by

$$(\mu(s)\xi)(t) = e^{-ist}\xi(t).$$

Then $\text{Ad } \mu(s)$ gives rise to the dual actions $\theta_s^{\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_1}$, $\theta_s^{\tilde{\mathcal{M}}}$, and $\theta_s^{\tilde{\mathcal{N}}}$ on $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_1$, $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}$, and $\tilde{\mathcal{N}}$ respectively.

We construct two flows from $\tilde{\mathcal{M}} \supset \tilde{\mathcal{N}}$. By Takesaki's criterion, [9], there exists a conditional expectation $\hat{E}: \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{N}}$ satisfying $\hat{\psi} \circ \hat{E} = \hat{\psi}$, where $\hat{\psi}$ is the dual weight on $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}$. As in [4], we have $\hat{E} \circ \theta_s^{\tilde{\mathcal{M}}} = \theta_s^{\tilde{\mathcal{N}}} \circ \hat{E}$, $s \in \mathbf{R}$. We then make use of the Pimsner-Popa inequality [8]:

$$E(x) \geq (\text{Index } E)^{-1}x, \quad x \in \tilde{\mathcal{M}}_+.$$

Actually we get the complete positivity of $x \rightarrow E(x) - (\text{Index})^{-1}x$, which shows that the Pimsner-Popa inequality remains valid for \hat{E} .

By restriction, \hat{E} gives rise to

$$\hat{E}: \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \cap \tilde{\mathcal{N}}' \rightarrow Z(\tilde{\mathcal{N}}) \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{E}: Z(\tilde{\mathcal{M}} \cap \tilde{\mathcal{N}}') \rightarrow Z(\tilde{\mathcal{N}}).$$

They still satisfy the Pimsner-Popa inequality and intertwine the dual actions on the respective algebras. A measure theoretical argument (or equivalently, the direct integral decomposition of $Z(\tilde{\mathcal{M}} \cap \tilde{\mathcal{N}}') \subset \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \cap \tilde{\mathcal{N}}'$ ($\subset Z(\tilde{\mathcal{N}})'$) over $Z(\tilde{\mathcal{N}})$) shows that the spectrum of $Z(\tilde{\mathcal{M}} \cap \tilde{\mathcal{N}}')$ is of the form $X_{\mathcal{N}} \times \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, $n \leq \text{Index } E$. Here, dimension estimate obtained from the Pimsner-Popa inequality and ergodicity of the dual action on $Z(\tilde{\mathcal{N}})$ are crucial. The dual action on $Z(\tilde{\mathcal{M}} \cap \tilde{\mathcal{N}}') = L^{\infty}(X_{\mathcal{N}} \times \{1, 2, \dots, n\})$ induces a non-singular (not necessarily ergodic) transformation T_t on $X_{\mathcal{N}} \times \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. Then T_t and $T_t^{\tilde{\mathcal{N}}}$ are intertwined by the projection map $\pi_{\mathcal{N}}: X_{\mathcal{N}} \times \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \rightarrow X_{\mathcal{N}}$.

Repeating the same argument for $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_1 \supset \tilde{\mathcal{M}}$, we conclude that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} Z(\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_1 \cap \tilde{\mathcal{M}}') \cong L^\infty(X_{\mathcal{M}} \times \{1, 2, \dots, m\}), \quad m \leq \text{Index } E_{\mathcal{M}} = \text{Index } E, \text{ the flow} \\ T'_t \text{ on } X_{\mathcal{M}} \times \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \text{ determined by the dual action on } Z(\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_1 \cap \tilde{\mathcal{M}}') \\ \text{and } T_t^{\mathcal{M}} \text{ on } X_{\mathcal{M}} \text{ are intertwined by the projection map } \pi_{\mathcal{M}}: X_{\mathcal{M}} \times \\ \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \rightarrow X_{\mathcal{M}}. \end{array} \right.$$

It is easy to see that $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_1$ is the basic extension of $\tilde{\mathcal{M}} \supset \tilde{\mathcal{N}}$, that is,

$$\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_1 = \tilde{\mathcal{J}}\tilde{\mathcal{N}}'\tilde{\mathcal{J}} = \langle \tilde{\mathcal{M}}, \hat{e} \rangle,$$

where \hat{e} is the projection coming from \hat{E} and $\tilde{\mathcal{J}}$ is the modular conjugation operator on \mathcal{H} . Therefore, $\tilde{\mathcal{J}} \circ * \tilde{\mathcal{J}}$ induces an anti-isomorphism between $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_1 \cap \tilde{\mathcal{M}}'$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{M}} \cap \tilde{\mathcal{N}}'$, and hence an isomorphism between $Z(\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_1 \cap \tilde{\mathcal{M}}')$ and $Z(\tilde{\mathcal{M}} \cap \tilde{\mathcal{N}}')$. Since $\tilde{\mathcal{J}}$ commutes with $\mu(s)$, this isomorphism actually intertwines the dual actions on the respective abelian algebras. Therefore, the two flows $(X = X_{\mathcal{M}} \times \{1, 2, \dots, n\}, T_t)$ and $(X_{\mathcal{M}} \times \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, T'_t)$ can be identified.

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