

# COMPARISON RADIUS AND MEAN TOPOLOGICAL DIMENSION: $\mathbb{Z}^d$ -ACTIONS

ZHUANG NIU

ABSTRACT. Consider a minimal free topological dynamical system  $(X, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ . It is shown that the comparison radius of the crossed product C\*-algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$  is at most the half of the mean topological dimension of  $(X, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ . As a consequence, the C\*-algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$  is classified by the Elliott invariant if the mean dimension of  $(X, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  is zero.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $(X, \Gamma)$  be a topological dynamical system, where  $X$  is a compact Hausdorff space and  $\Gamma$  is a discrete amenable group. The mean (topological) dimension of  $(X, \Gamma)$ , denoted by  $\text{mdim}(X, \Gamma)$ , was introduced by Gromov ([9]), and then was developed and studied systematically by Lindenstrauss and Weiss ([21]). It is a numerical invariant, taking value in  $[0, +\infty]$ , to measure the complexity of  $(X, \Gamma)$  in terms of dimension growth with respect to partial orbits. Applications of mean dimension theory can be found in topological dynamical systems ([21], [20], [10], [18], [13], [12], [14]), geometric analysis ([34], [5], [23], [35]), operator algebras ([19], [4], [26], [24], [25]), and information theory ([22]).

On the other hand, for a general unital stably finite C\*-algebra  $A$ , the radius of comparison, introduced by Toms ([32]) and denoted by  $\text{rc}(A)$ , is also a numerical invariant to measure the regularity of the C\*-algebra  $A$ ; and  $\text{rc}(A)$  can be regarded as an abstract version of the dimension growth of  $A$ . A heuristic example is  $M_n(C(X))$ , the C\*-algebra of (complex)  $n \times n$  matrix valued continuous functions on a finite CW-complex  $X$ ; its comparison radius is around  $\frac{1}{2} \frac{\dim(X)}{n}$ , which is half of the dimension ratio of  $M_n(C(X))$ .

For the given topological dynamical system  $(X, \Gamma)$ , the canonical C\*-algebra to be considered is the transformation group C\*-algebra  $A = C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ . A natural question to ask then is how the radius of comparison of the C\*-algebra is connected to the mean dimension of the dynamical system. In fact, Phillips and Toms even made the following conjecture:

**Conjecture** (Phillips-Toms). *Let  $(X, \Gamma)$  be a minimal and free topological dynamical system, where  $X$  is compact Hausdorff space, and  $\Gamma$  is a discrete amenable group. Then*

$$\text{rc}(C(X) \rtimes \Gamma) = \frac{1}{2} \text{mdim}(X, \Gamma).$$

This conjecture is closely related to the classification of C\*-algebras. In general, the C\*-algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$  can be wild and not to be classified by the Elliott invariant (even with  $\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}$ , see [6]). So, an important question in the classification program of C\*-algebras

---

*Date:* July 15, 2021.

The research is supported by an NSF grant (DMS-1800882).

is to determine which transformation group  $C^*$ -algebra is classifiable. Now, a special case of this conjecture is that  $\text{mdim}(X, \Gamma) = 0$  implies  $\text{rc}(C(X) \rtimes \Gamma) = 0$  (strict comparison of positive elements); and by the Toms-Winter conjecture, this should imply that the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$  is Jiang-Su stable and classifiable.

There have been many researches on the classifiability of transformation group  $C^*$ -algebras: Under the assumption that  $X$  is finite dimensional (hence the mean dimension is automatically zero), it was shown in [33] that the algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$  has finite nuclear dimension, and therefore is Jiang-Su stable. With Rokhlin dimension, this result was generalized to  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ -actions in [29], and then to the actions of residually finite groups with box spaces of finite asymptotic dimension ([30]); and with almost finiteness, the Jiang-Su stability is also obtained for actions by groups with comparison property ([16]).

Without the finite dimensionality assumption on  $X$ , so far the only result was [4] where  $\mathbb{Z}$ -actions are considered, and the zero mean dimension was shown to imply the classifiability of the  $C^*$ -algebra. Note that this result particularly covers all strictly ergodic dynamical systems. Beyond the case of mean dimension zero, Phillips considered  $\mathbb{Z}$ -actions in [26] and showed that the radius of comparison of  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$  is at most  $1 + 36\text{mdim}(X, \mathbb{Z})$ .

In this paper, let us consider minimal and free  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ -actions, and show the following:

**Theorem A** (Theorem 5.6). *Let  $(X, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  be a minimal free dynamical system. Then*

$$(1.1) \quad \text{rc}(C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d) \leq \frac{1}{2}\text{mdim}(X, \mathbb{Z}^d).$$

As a consequence of (1.1), one obtains the classifiability if  $(X, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  has mean dimension zero:

**Theorem B** (Theorem 5.7). *Let  $(X, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  be a minimal free dynamical system with mean dimension zero, then  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$  is classified by its Elliott invariant. In particular, if  $\dim(X) < \infty$ , or  $(X, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  has at most countably many ergodic measures, or  $(X, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  has finite topological entropy, then  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$  is classified by its Elliott invariant.*

The argument in [33], [4], or [26] relies on the Putnam's orbit-cutting algebra (or the large sub-algebra)  $A_y$ ; and in the case of zero mean dimension, the argument in [4] also heavily depends on the small boundary property (which is equivalent to mean dimension zero in the case of  $\mathbb{Z}$ -actions). However, beyond the case of  $\mathbb{Z}$ -actions, it is not clear in general how to construct large sub-algebras; moreover, once the dynamical system does not have mean dimension zero, the small boundary property does not hold anymore. So, instead of large sub-algebra and small boundary property, the proofs of Theorem A and Theorem B depend on Uniform Rokhlin Property (URP) and Cuntz comparison of Open Sets (COS):

**Definition 1.1** (Definition 3.1 and Definition 4.1 of [24]). A topological dynamical system  $(X, \Gamma)$ , where  $\Gamma$  is a discrete amenable group, is said to have Uniform Rokhlin Property (URP) if for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  and any finite set  $K \subseteq \Gamma$ , there exist closed sets  $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_S \subseteq X$  and  $(K, \varepsilon)$ -invariant sets  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \dots, \Gamma_S \subseteq \Gamma$  such that

$$B_s \gamma, \quad \gamma \in \Gamma_s, \quad s = 1, \dots, S,$$

are mutually disjoint and

$$\text{ocap}(X \setminus \bigsqcup_{s=1}^S \bigsqcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma_s} B_s \gamma) < \varepsilon,$$

where  $\text{ocap}$  denote the orbit capacity (see, for instance, Definition 5.1 of [21]).

The dynamical system  $(X, \Gamma)$  is said to have  $(\lambda, m)$ -Cuntz-comparison of open sets, where  $\lambda \in (0, 1]$  and  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , if for any open sets  $E, F \subseteq X$  with

$$\mu(E) < \lambda \mu(F), \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, \Gamma),$$

where  $\mathcal{M}_1(X, \Gamma)$  is the simplex of all invariant probability measures on  $X$ , then

$$\varphi_E \preceq \underbrace{\varphi_F \oplus \cdots \oplus \varphi_F}_m \quad \text{in } C(X) \rtimes \Gamma,$$

where  $\varphi_E$  and  $\varphi_F$  are continuous functions supporting on  $E$  and  $F$  respectively.

The dynamical system  $(X, \Gamma)$  is said to have Cuntz comparison of Open Sets (COS) if it has  $(\lambda, m)$ -Cuntz-comparison on open sets for some  $\lambda$  and  $m$ .

It is shown in [24] (Theorem 4.8) that the (URP) and (COS) implies

$$\text{rc}(C(X) \rtimes \Gamma) \leq \frac{1}{2} \text{mdim}(X, \Gamma),$$

and it is also shown in [25] (Theorem 4.8) that if, in addition,  $(X, \Gamma)$  has mean dimension zero, then the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$  is classifiable. Thus, Theorem A and Theorem B follows from the following:

**Theorem** (Theorem 4.2 and Theorem 5.5). *Any free and minimal dynamical system  $(X, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  has the (URP) and (COS).*

*Remark 1.2.* The adding-one-dimension and going-down argument of [11] play a crucial role in the proof of the (COS) and (URP).

*Remark 1.3.* In [17], it is shown that the (URP) and (COS) imply that the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$  always has stable rank one (classifiable or not), and satisfies the Toms-Winter conjecture. Thus, by the Theorem above,  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$  always has stable rank one (classifiable or not), and satisfies the Toms-Winter conjecture.

## 2. NOTATION AND PRELIMINARIES

**2.1. Topological Dynamical Systems.** In this paper, one only considers  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ -actions on a separable compact Hausdorff space  $X$ .

**Definition 2.1.** Consider a topological dynamical system  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ . A closed set  $Y \subseteq X$  is said to be invariant if  $T^n(Y) = Y$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ , and  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  is said to be minimal if  $\emptyset$  and  $X$  are the only invariant closed subsets. The dynamical system  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  is free if for any  $x \in X$ ,  $\{n \in \mathbb{Z}^d : T^n(x) = x\} = \{0\}$ .

*Remark 2.2.* The dynamical system  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  is induced by  $d$  commuting homeomorphisms of  $X$ , and vice versa.

**Definition 2.3.** A Borel measure  $\mu$  on  $X$  is invariant under the action  $\sigma$  if  $\mu(E) = \mu(T^n(E))$ , for any  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  and any Borel set  $E \subseteq X$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{M}_1(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  the collection of all invariant Borel probability measures on  $X$ . It is a Choquet simplex under the weak\* topology.

**Definition 2.4** (see [9] and [21]). Consider a topological dynamical system  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ , and let  $E$  be a subset of  $X$ . The orbit capacity of  $E$  is defined by

$$\text{ocap}(E) := \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N^d} \sup_{x \in X} \sum_{n \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d} \chi_E(T^n(x)),$$

where  $\chi_E$  is the characteristic function of  $E$ . The limit always exists.

**Definition 2.5** (see [21]). Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be an open cover of  $X$ . Define

$$D(\mathcal{U}) = \min\{\text{ord}(\mathcal{V}) : \mathcal{V} \preceq \mathcal{U}\},$$

where  $\mathcal{V} = -1 + \sup_{x \in X} \sum_{V \in \mathcal{V}} \chi_V(x)$ .

Consider a topological dynamical system  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ . Then the topological mean dimension of  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  is defined by

$$\text{mdim}(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d) := \sup_{\mathcal{U}} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N^d} D\left(\bigvee_{n \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d} T^{-n}(\mathcal{U})\right),$$

where  $\mathcal{U}$  runs over all finite open covers of  $X$ .

*Remark 2.6.* It follows from the definition that if  $\dim(X) < \infty$ , then  $\text{mdim}(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d) = 0$ ; By [21], if  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  has at most countably many ergodic measures, then  $\text{mdim}(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d) = 0$ ; and by [20], if  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  has finite topological entropy, then  $\text{mdim}(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d) = 0$ .

**2.2. Crossed product C\*-algebras.** Consider a topological dynamical system  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ . Then the crossed product C\*-algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$  is the universal C\*-algebra

$$A = C^*\{f, u_n; u_n f u_n^* = f \circ T^n, u_m u_n^* = u_{m-n}, u_0 = 1, f \in C(X), m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^d\}.$$

The C\*-algebra  $A$  is nuclear, and if  $T$  is minimal, the C\*-algebra  $A$  is simple. Moreover, the simplex of tracial states of  $C(X) \rtimes_{\sigma} \Gamma$  is canonically homeomorphic to the simplex of the invariant probability measures of  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ .

**2.3. Cuntz comparison of positive elements of a C\*-algebra.**

**Definition 2.7.** Let  $A$  be a C\*-algebra, and let  $a, b \in A^+$ . Then we say that  $a$  is Cuntz subequivalent to  $b$ , denote by  $a \preceq b$ , if there are  $x_i, y_i, i = 1, 2, \dots$ , such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_i b y_i = a,$$

and we say that  $a$  is Cuntz equivalent to  $b$  if  $a \preceq b$  and  $b \preceq a$ .

Let  $\tau : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a trace. Define the rank function

$$d_{\tau}(a) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau(a^{1/n}) = \mu_{\tau}(\text{sp}(a) \cap (0, +\infty)),$$

where  $\mu_{\tau}$  is the Borel measure induced by  $\tau$  on the spectrum of  $a$ . It is well known that

$$d_{\tau}(a) \leq d_{\tau}(b), \quad \text{if } a \preceq b.$$

*Example 2.8.* Consider  $h \in C(X)^+$  and let  $\mu$  be a probability measure on  $X$ . Then

$$d_{\tau_\mu} = \mu(f^{-1}(0, +\infty)),$$

where  $\tau_\mu$  is the trace of  $C(X)$  induced by  $\mu$ .

Let  $f, g \in C(X)$  be positive elements. Then  $f$  and  $g$  are Cuntz equivalent if and only if  $f^{-1}(0, +\infty) = g^{-1}(0, +\infty)$ . That is, their equivalence classes are determined by their open support. On the other hand, for each open set  $E \subseteq X$ , pick a continuous function

$$\varphi_E : X \rightarrow [0, +\infty) \quad \text{such that} \quad E = \varphi_E^{-1}(0, +\infty).$$

For instance, one can pick  $\varphi_E(x) = d(x, X \setminus E)$ , where  $d$  is a compatible metric on  $X$ . This notation will be used throughout this paper. Note that the Cuntz equivalence class of  $\varphi_E$  is independent of the choice of individual function  $\varphi_E$ .

**Definition 2.9.** Let  $a \in A^+$ , where  $A$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra, and let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Define

$$(a - \varepsilon)_+ = f(a) \in A,$$

where  $f(t) = \max\{t - \varepsilon, 0\}$ .

The following lemma is frequently used:

**Lemma 2.10** (Section 2 of [27]). *Let  $a, b$  be positive elements of a  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$ . Then  $a \precsim b$  if and only if  $(a - \varepsilon)_+ \precsim b$  for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ .*

**Definition 2.11** (Definition 6.1 of [32]). Let  $A$  be a  $C^*$ -algebra. Denote by  $M_n(A)$  the  $C^*$ -algebra of  $n \times n$  matrices over  $A$ . Regard  $M_n(A)$  as the upper-left conner of  $M_{n+1}(A)$ , and denote by

$$M_\infty(A) = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n(A),$$

the algebra of all finite matrices over  $A$ .

The radius of comparison of a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$ , denoted by  $\text{rc}(A)$ , is the infimum of the set of real numbers  $r > 0$  such that if  $a, b \in (M_\infty(A))^+$  satisfy

$$d_\tau(a) + r < d_\tau(b), \quad \tau \in T(A),$$

then  $a \precsim b$ , where  $T(A)$  is the simplex of tracial states. (In [32], the radius of comparison is defined in terms of quasitraces instead of traces; but since all the algebras considered in this note are nuclear, by [15], any quasitrace actually is a trace.)

*Example 2.12.* Let  $X$  be a compact Hausdorff space. Then

$$(2.1) \quad \text{rc}(M_n(C(X))) \leq \frac{1}{2} \frac{\dim(X) - 1}{n},$$

where  $\dim(X)$  is the topological covering dimension of  $X$  (a lower bound of  $\text{rc}(C(X))$  in terms of cohomological dimension is given in [2]).

The main result of this paper is a dynamical version of (2.1); that is,

$$\text{rc}(C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d) \leq \frac{1}{2} \text{mdim}(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$$

if  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  is minimal and free (Corollary 5.6).

### 3. ADDING ONE DIMENSION, GOING-DOWN ARGUMENT, $R$ -BOUNDARY POINTS, AND $R$ -INTERIOR POINTS

Adding-one-dimension and going-down argument are introduced in [11], and they play a crucial role in this paper. Let us first take a brief review. Consider a minimal system  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ . Pick open sets  $U' \subseteq U \subseteq X$  with  $\overline{U'} \subseteq U$ , and a continuous function  $\varphi : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that

$$\varphi|_{U'} = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi|_{X \setminus U} = 0.$$

Since  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  minimal, there exists  $L \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\bigcup_{|n| \leq L} T^n(U') = X$$

and hence

$$(1) \text{ for any } x \in X, \text{ there is } n \in \mathbb{Z}^d \text{ with } |n| \leq L \text{ such that } \varphi(T^n(x)) = 1.$$

On the other hand, pick  $M$  such that

$$T^n(U), \quad |n| \leq M,$$

are mutually disjoint, and therefore

(2) if  $\varphi(x) > 0$  for some  $x \in X$ , then  $\varphi(T^n(x)) = 0$  for all nonzero  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^k$  with  $|n| \leq M$ . Note that  $M \leq L$ ; by the freeness of  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ , the number  $M$  is arbitrarily large if  $U$  is sufficiently small.

Pick  $x \in X$ . Following from [11], one considers the set

$$\left\{ \left( n, \frac{1}{\varphi(T^n(x))} \right) : n \in \mathbb{Z}^d, \varphi(T^n(x)) \neq 0 \right\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d+1},$$

and defines the Voronoi cell  $V(x, n) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$  with center  $(n, \frac{1}{\varphi(T^n(x))})$  by

$$V(x, n) = \left\{ \xi \in \mathbb{R}^{k+1} : \left\| \xi - \left( n, \frac{1}{\varphi(T^n(x))} \right) \right\| \leq \left\| \xi - \left( m, \frac{1}{\varphi(T^m(x))} \right) \right\|, \forall m \in \mathbb{Z}^d \right\},$$

where  $\|\cdot\|$  is the  $\ell^2$ -norm on  $\mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ . If  $\varphi(T^n(x)) = 0$ , then put

$$V(x, n) = \emptyset.$$

One then has a tiling

$$\mathbb{R}^{d+1} = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^d} V(x, n).$$

Pick  $H > (L + \sqrt{d})^2$ . For each  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ , define

$$W_H(x, n) = V(x, n) \cap (\mathbb{R}^d \times \{-H\}),$$

and one has a tiling

$$\mathcal{W}_H : \mathbb{R}^d = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^d} W(x, n).$$

The following are some basic properties of this construction, and the proofs can be found in [11].

**Lemma 3.1** (Lemma 4.1 of [11]). *With the construction above, one has*

- (1)  $\mathcal{W}_H$  is continuous on  $x$  in the following sense: Suppose that  $W(x, n)$  has non-empty interior. For any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , if  $y \in X$  is sufficiently close to  $x$ , then the Hausdorff distance between  $W_H(x, n)$  and  $W_H(y, n)$  are smaller than  $\varepsilon$ .
- (2)  $\mathcal{W}_H$  is  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ -equivariant:  $W_H(T^m(x), n - m) = -m + W_H(x, n)$ .
- (3) If  $\varphi(T^n(x)) > 0$ , then

$$B_{\frac{M}{2}}(n, \frac{1}{\varphi(T^n(x))}) \subseteq V(x, n).$$

- (4) If  $W_H(x, n)$  is non-empty, then

$$1 \leq \frac{1}{\varphi(T^n(x))} \leq 2.$$

- (5) If  $(a, -H) \in V(x, n)$ , then

$$\|a - n\| < L + \sqrt{d}.$$

Moreover, if one considers different horizontal cuts, at levels  $-sH$  and  $-H$  for some  $s > 1$ , one has the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.2** (Lemma 4.1(4) of [11] and its proof). *Let  $s > 1$  and  $r > 0$ . One can choose  $M$  sufficiently large such that if  $(a, -sH) \in V(x, n)$ , then*

$$B_r\left(\frac{a}{s} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{s}\right)n\right) \subseteq W_H(x, n)$$

and

$$\left\| \frac{a}{s} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{s}\right)n - \left(a + \frac{(s-1)H}{sH+t}(n-a)\right) \right\| \leq \frac{4}{L + \sqrt{d}},$$

where  $t = \frac{1}{\varphi(T^n(x))}$  and  $\|\cdot\|$  is the  $\ell^2$ -norm on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

**Definition 3.3.** Note that the point  $(a + \frac{(s-1)H}{sH+t}(n-a), -H)$  is the image of  $(a, -sH)$  in the plane  $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{-H\}$  under the projection towards the center  $(n, t)$ . Let us call  $a + \frac{(s-1)H}{sH+t}(n-a)$  the  $H$ -projective image of  $a$  (with the center  $(n, t)$ ).

The following is a lemma on convex bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and the author is in debt to Tyrrell McAllister for the discussions.

**Lemma 3.4.** *Consider  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . For any  $\varepsilon > 0$  and any  $r > 0$ , there is  $N_0 > 0$  such that if  $N \geq N_0$ , then for any convex body  $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ , one has*

$$\frac{1}{N^d} |\{n \in \mathbb{Z}^d : \text{dist}(n, \partial V) \leq r, n \in I_N\}| < \varepsilon,$$

where  $I_N = [0, N]^d$ .

*Proof.* Pick  $N_0$  sufficiently large such that

$$2 \frac{\text{vol}(\partial_{r+\sqrt{d}}(I_N))}{\text{vol}(I_N)} < \varepsilon, \quad N > N_0,$$

where  $\partial_E(K)$  denotes the  $E$ -neighbourhood of the boundary of a convex body  $K$ . Then, this  $N_0$  satisfies the conclusion of the Lemma.

Indeed, for any  $N \geq N_0$ , denote by  $\partial_{r+\sqrt{d}}^+(V \cap I_N)$  the outer  $(r + \sqrt{d})$ -neighborhood of the convex body  $V \cap I_N$ , and it follows from Steiner formula (see, for instance, (4.1.1) of [28]) that

$$\text{vol}(\partial_{r+\sqrt{d}}^+(V \cap I_N)) = \sum_{j=1}^d C_d^j W_j(V \cap I_N) (r + \sqrt{d})^j,$$

where  $W_j(V \cap I_N)$  is the  $j$ -th quermassintegral of  $V \cap I_N$ . Since the quermassintegrals  $W_j$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, d$ , are monotonic (see, for instance, Page 211 of [28]), one has

$$W_j(V \cap I_N) \leq W_j(I_N), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, d,$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \text{vol}(\partial_{r+\sqrt{d}}^+(V \cap I_N)) &= \sum_{j=1}^d C_d^j W_j(V \cap I_N) (r + \sqrt{d})^j \\ &\leq \sum_{j=1}^d C_d^j W_j(I_N) (r + \sqrt{d})^j \\ &= \text{vol}(\partial_{r+\sqrt{d}}^+(I_N)). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\text{vol}(\partial_{r+\sqrt{d}}^+(V \cap I_N)) \leq 2\text{vol}(\partial_{r+\sqrt{d}}^+(V \cap I_N))$ , one has

$$\frac{\text{vol}(\partial_{r+\sqrt{d}}^+(V \cap I_N))}{\text{vol}(I_N)} \leq 2 \frac{\text{vol}(\partial_{r+\sqrt{d}}^+(V \cap I_N))}{\text{vol}(I_N)} \leq 2 \frac{\text{vol}(\partial_{r+\sqrt{d}}^+(I_N))}{\text{vol}(I_N)} < \varepsilon.$$

On the other hand, note that

$$|\{n \in \mathbb{Z}^d : \text{dist}(n, \partial V) \leq r, n \in I_N\}| \leq \text{vol}(\partial_{r+\sqrt{d}}^+(V \cap I_N)),$$

and hence

$$\frac{1}{N^d} |\{n \in \mathbb{Z}^d : \text{dist}(n, \partial V) \leq r, n \in I_N\}| \leq \frac{\text{vol}(\partial_{r+\sqrt{d}}^+(V \cap I_N))}{\text{vol}(I_N)} < \varepsilon,$$

as desired.  $\square$

**Definition 3.5.** Consider a continuous function  $X \ni x \mapsto \mathcal{W}(x)$  with  $\mathcal{W}(x)$  a  $\mathbb{R}^d$ -tiling. For each  $R \geq 0$ , a point  $x \in X$  is said to be an  $R$ -interior point if  $\text{dist}(0, \partial \mathcal{W}(x)) > R$ , where  $\partial \mathcal{W}(x)$  denotes the union of the boundaries of the tiles of  $\mathcal{W}$ . Note that, in this case, the origin  $0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is an interior point of a (unique) tile of  $\mathcal{W}(x)$ . Denote this tile by  $\mathcal{W}(x)_0$ , and denote the set of  $R$ -interior points by  $\iota_R(\mathcal{T})$ .

Otherwise (if  $\text{dist}(0, \partial \mathcal{W}(x)) \leq R$ ), the point  $x$  is said to be an  $R$ -boundary point. Denote by  $\beta_R(\mathcal{T})$  the set of  $R$ -boundary points.

Note that  $\beta_R(\mathcal{T})$  is closed and  $\iota_R(\mathcal{T})$  is open.

**Lemma 3.6.** *Let  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  be a minimal free dynamical system.*

*Fix  $s \in (1, 2)$ . Let  $R_0 > 0$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  be arbitrary. Let  $N > N_0$ , where  $N_0$  the constant of Lemma 3.4 with respect to  $\varepsilon$  and  $2R_0 + 4 + \sqrt{d}/2$ , and let  $R_1 > \max\{R_0, N\sqrt{d}\}$ .*

*Then  $M$  can be chosen large enough such that there exist a finite open cover*

$$U_1 \cup U_2 \cup \dots \cup U_K \supseteq \beta_{R_0}(\mathcal{W}_{sH}),$$



and  $n_1, n_2, \dots, n_K \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  such that

- (1)  $T^{n_i}(U_i) \subseteq \iota_{R_1}(\mathcal{W}_H) \subseteq \iota_0(\mathcal{W}_H)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, K$ ,
- (2) the open sets

$$T^{n_i}(U_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, K,$$

can be grouped as

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} T^{n_1}(U_1), \dots, T^{n_{s_1}}(U_{s_1}), \\ T^{n_{s_1+1}}(U_{s_1+1}), \dots, T^{n_{s_2}}(U_{s_2}), \\ \dots \\ T^{n_{s_{m-1}+1}}(U_{s_{m-1}+1}), \dots, T^{n_{s_m}}(U_{s_m}), \end{array} \right.$$

- with  $m \leq (\lfloor 2\sqrt{d} \rfloor + 1)^d$ , such that the open sets in each group are mutually disjoint,
- (3) for each  $x \in \iota_0(\mathcal{W}_H)$  and each  $c \in \text{int}(\mathcal{W}_H(x)_0) \cap \mathbb{Z}^d$  with  $\text{dist}(c, \partial\mathcal{W}_H) > N\sqrt{d}$ , one has

$$\frac{1}{N^d} \left| \left\{ n \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d : T^{c+n}(x) \in \bigcup_{i=1}^K T^{n_i}(U_i) \right\} \right| < \varepsilon.$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 4.1(4) of [11] (see Lemma 3.2), one can choose  $U' \subseteq U$  and  $\varphi$  such that  $M$  is sufficiently large so that for a fixed  $H > (L + \sqrt{d})^2$ , if  $(a, -sH) \in V(x, n)$  for some  $a \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , then

$$B_{R_1+2R_0+1+\frac{\sqrt{d}}{2}}\left(\frac{a}{s} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{s}\right)n\right) \times \{-H\} \in V(x, n)$$

and

$$(3.1) \quad \left\| \frac{a}{s} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{s}\right)n - \left(a + \frac{(s-1)H}{sH+t}(n-a)\right) \right\| \leq \frac{4}{L + \sqrt{d}} < 4,$$

where  $t = \frac{1}{\varphi(T^n(x))}$ , and  $a + \frac{(s-1)H}{sH+t}(n-a)$  is the  $H$ -projective image of  $a$ .

For each  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ , define

$$U_n = \{x \in X : \text{dist}(0, \partial W_{sH}(x, n)) < 2R_0, \text{int}W_{sH}(x, n) \neq \emptyset\}.$$

Note that  $U_n$  is open. For the same  $n$ , one also picks  $h_n \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  such that

$$(3.2) \quad \left\| \left(1 - \frac{1}{s}\right)n - h_n \right\| \leq \frac{\sqrt{d}}{2}.$$

For each  $x \in U_n$ , there is  $a \in \partial W_{sH}(x, n) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  with

$$\|a\| < 2R_0.$$

By the choice of  $M$  (hence  $H$ ), one has

$$(3.3) \quad B_{R_1+2R_0+1+\frac{\sqrt{d}}{2}}\left(\frac{a}{s} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{s}\right)n\right) \subseteq W_H(x, n).$$

Since

$$(3.4) \quad \left\| h_n - \left(\frac{a}{s} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{s}\right)n\right) \right\| \leq \left\| \frac{a}{s} \right\| + \left\| \left(1 - \frac{1}{s}\right)n - h_n \right\| < 2R_0 + \frac{\sqrt{d}}{2},$$

by (3.3), one has

$$B_{R_1+1}(h_n) \subseteq W_H(x, n),$$

which implies

$$(3.5) \quad B_{R_1}(0) \subset B_{R_1+1}(0) \subseteq -h_n + W_H(x, n) = W_H(T^{h_n}(x), n - h_n).$$

In particular,  $T^{h_n}(x) \in \iota_{R_1}(\mathcal{W}_H)$ , which implies

$$T^{h_n}(U_n) \subseteq \iota_{R_1}(\mathcal{W}_H),$$

and this shows Property (1).

Note that by (3.1) and (3.4),

$$(3.6) \quad \left\| h_n - \left( a + \frac{(s-1)H}{sH+t}(n-a) \right) \right\| < 2R_0 + 4 + \frac{\sqrt{d}}{2}.$$

Since  $a \in \partial W_{sH}(x, n)$ , this implies that  $h_n$  is in the  $(2R_0 + 4 + \frac{\sqrt{d}}{2})$ -neighbourhood of the the  $H$ -projective image of  $\partial W_{sH}(x, n)$  (with respect to  $(n, t)$ ).

On the other hand, if  $x \in \beta_{R_0}(\mathcal{W}_{sH})$ , then  $\text{dist}(0, \partial W_{sH}(x, n)) \leq R_0$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  with  $\text{int}(W_{sH}(x, n)) \neq \emptyset$ , which implies that  $x \in U_n$ . Therefore,  $\{U_n : n \in \mathbb{Z}^d\}$  form an open cover of  $\beta_{R_0}(\mathcal{W}_{sH})$ . Since  $\beta_{R_0}(\mathcal{W}_{sH})$  is a compact set, there is a finite subcover

$$U_{n_1}, U_{n_2}, \dots, U_{n_K}.$$

(In fact,  $\{U_n : \|n\| < L + \sqrt{d} + 2R_0\}$  already covers  $\beta_{R_0}(\mathcal{W}_{sH})$  by (5) of Lemma 3.1.)

Assume that  $n_i$  and  $n_j$  satisfy

$$T^{h_{n_i}}(U_{n_i}) \cap T^{h_{n_j}}(U_{n_j}) \neq \emptyset.$$

Then there are  $x_i \in U_{n_i}$  and  $x_j \in U_{n_j}$  with

$$T^{h_{n_i}}(x_i) = T^{h_{n_j}}(x_j).$$

Since  $x_i \in U_{n_i}$  and  $x_j \in U_{n_j}$ , by (3.5), one has that

$$B_R(0) \subseteq W_H(T^{h_{n_i}}(x_i), n_i - h_{n_i})$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} B_R(0) &\subseteq W_H(T^{h_{n_j}}(x_j), n_j - h_{n_j}) \\ &= W_H(T^{h_{n_i}}(x_i), n_j - h_{n_j}). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $n_i - h_{n_i} = n_j - h_{n_j}$ , and

$$n_i - n_j = h_{n_i} - h_{n_j}.$$

Together with (3.2), one has

$$\begin{aligned} \|n_i - n_j\| &= \|h_{n_j} - h_{n_i}\| \\ &\leq \left(1 - \frac{1}{s}\right) \|n_i - n_j\| + \sqrt{d} \\ &< \frac{1}{2} \|n_i - n_j\| + \sqrt{d}, \end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$\|n_i - n_j\| < 2\sqrt{d}.$$

Note that the set  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  can be divided into  $(\lfloor 2\sqrt{d} \rfloor + 1)^d$  groups  $(\mathbb{Z}^d)_1, \dots, (\mathbb{Z}^d)_{(\lfloor 2\sqrt{d} \rfloor + 1)^d}$  such that any pair of elements inside each group has distance at least  $2\sqrt{d}$ , and therefore

$$T^{h_n}(U_n) \cap T^{h_{n'}}(U_{n'}) = \emptyset, \quad n, n' \in (\mathbb{Z}^d)_m, \quad m = 1, \dots, (\lfloor 2\sqrt{d} \rfloor + 1)^d.$$

Then group  $U_{n_1}, \dots, U_{n_K}$  as

$$\{U_{n_i} : i = 1, \dots, K, n_i \in (\mathbb{Z}^d)_1\}, \dots, \{U_{n_i} : i = 1, \dots, K, n_i \in (\mathbb{Z}^d)_{(\lfloor 2\sqrt{d} \rfloor + 1)^d}\},$$

and this shows Property (2).

Let  $x \in \iota_0(\mathcal{W}_H)$  (so that  $\mathcal{W}_H(x)_0$  is well defined). Write

$$\mathcal{W}_H(x)_0 = W_H(x, n(x)) = V(x, n(x)) \cap (\mathbb{R}^d \times \{-H\}), \quad \text{where } n(x) \in \mathbb{Z}^d.$$

Assume there is  $m \in \text{int}(\mathcal{W}_H(x)_0) \cap \mathbb{Z}^d$  such that

$$(3.7) \quad T^m(x) \in T^{h_{n_k}}(U_{n_k})$$

for some  $n_k$ .

Since  $m \in \text{int}(\mathcal{W}_H(x)_0) \cap \mathbb{Z}^d$ , one has that

$$0 \in \text{int}(-m + W_H(x, n(x))) = \text{int}W_H(T^m(x), n(x) - m).$$

Hence  $T^m(x) \in \iota_0(\mathcal{W}_H)$  and

$$(3.8) \quad \mathcal{W}_H(T^m(x))_0 = W_H(T^m(x), n(x) - m).$$

By the assumption (3.7), there is  $x_{n_k} \in U_{n_k}$  such that

$$T^m(x) = T^{h_{n_k}}(x_{n_k}).$$

Then, with (3.5), one has

$$B_{R_1}(0) \subseteq W_H(T^{h_{n_k}}(x_{n_k}), n_k - h_{n_k}) = W_H(T^m(x), n_k - h_{n_k}),$$

and therefore (with (3.8)),

$$W_H(T^m(x), n(x) - m) = W_H(T^{h_{n_k}}(x_{n_k}), n_k - h_{n_k})$$

and

$$V(T^m(x), n(x) - m) = V(T^{h_{n_k}}(x_{n_k}), n_k - h_{n_k}).$$

Hence, at the  $-sH$  level, one also has

$$(3.9) \quad W_{sH}(T^m(x), n(x) - m) = W_{sH}(T^{h_{n_k}}(x_{n_k}), n_k - h_{n_k}) = -h_{n_k} + W_{sH}(x_{n_k}, n_k).$$

By (3.6),  $h_{n_k}$  is in the  $(2R_0 + 4 + \sqrt{d}/2)$ -neighbourhood of the  $H$ -projective image of  $\partial W_{sH}(x_{n_k}, n_k)$ , and therefore 0 is in the  $(2R_0 + 4 + \sqrt{d}/2)$ -neighbourhood of the  $H$ -projective image of

$$-h_{n_k} + \partial W_{sH}(x_{n_k}, n_k) = W_{sH}(T^{h_{n_k}}(x_{n_k}), n_k - h_{n_k})$$

Thus, by (3.9), the origin 0 is in the  $(2R_0 + 4 + \sqrt{d}/2)$ -neighbourhood of the  $H$ -projective image of  $\partial W_{sH}(T^m(x), n(x) - m)$ , and hence  $m$  is in the  $(2R_0 + 4 + \sqrt{d}/2)$ -neighbourhood of the  $H$ -projective image of  $\partial W_{sH}(x, n(x))$ , which is denoted by  $\partial W_{sH}^H(x, n(x))$ .

Therefore, for any  $c \in \text{int}(\mathcal{W}_H(x)_0) \cap \mathbb{Z}^d$  with  $\text{dist}(c, \partial \mathcal{W}_H) > N\sqrt{d}$ , since

$$c + n \in \text{int}(\mathcal{W}_H(x)_0), \quad n \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d,$$

one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\{ n \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d : T^{c+n}(x) \in \bigcup_{i=1}^K h_i(U_i) \right\} \\ & \subseteq \left\{ n \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d : \text{dist}(c+n, \partial W_{sH}^H(x, n(x))) < 2R_0 + 4 + \sqrt{d}/2 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by the choice of  $N$  and Lemma 3.4,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{N^d} \left| \left\{ n \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d : T^{c+n}(x) \in \bigcup_{i=1}^K h_i(U_i) \right\} \right| \\ & \leq \frac{1}{N^d} \left| \left\{ n \in c + \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d : \text{dist}(n, \partial W_{sH}^H(x, n(x))) < 2R_0 + 4 + \sqrt{d}/2 \right\} \right| \\ & < \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

This proves Property (3). □

#### 4. TWO TOWERS

**4.1. Rokhlin towers.** Let  $x \mapsto \mathcal{W}(x) = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^d} W(x, n)$  be a map with  $\mathcal{W}(x)$  a tiling of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and  $W(x, n)$  is the cell with label  $n$ . Assume that the map  $x \mapsto \mathcal{W}(x)$  is continuous in the sense that for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  and any  $W(x, n)$  with non-empty interior, if  $y \in X$  is sufficiently close to  $x$  then the Hausdorff distance between  $W(x, n)$  and  $W(y, n)$  are smaller than  $\varepsilon$ . One also assumes that the map  $x \mapsto \mathcal{W}(x)$  is equivariant in the sense that

$$W(T^{-m}(x), n+m) = m + W(x, n), \quad x \in X, \quad m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^d.$$

The tiling functions  $\mathcal{W}_H$  and  $\mathcal{W}_{sH}$  constructed in the previous section clearly satisfy the assumptions above. With a such tiling function, one actually can build a Rokhlin tower as the following:

Let  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  be arbitrary. Put

$$\Omega = \{x \in X : \text{dist}(0, \partial \mathcal{W}(x)) > N\sqrt{d} \text{ and } \mathcal{W}(x)_0 = W(x, n) \text{ for some } n = 0 \pmod{N}\},$$

where by  $n = 0 \pmod{N}$ , one means  $n_i = 0 \pmod{N}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, d$ , if  $n = (n_1, n_2, \dots, n_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ . Note that  $\Omega$  is open.

Let  $m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d$ . Pick arbitrary  $x \in \Omega$  and consider  $T^{-m}(x)$ . Note that  $0 \in W(x, n)$  for some  $n = 0 \pmod{N}$  and  $\text{dist}(0, \partial W(x, n)) > N\sqrt{d}$ . Since

$$W(T^{-m}(x), n+m) = m + W(x, n),$$

one has that

$$0 \in \text{int}W(T^{-m}(x), n+m) \quad \text{and} \quad n+m = m \pmod{N}.$$

Hence

$$(4.1) \quad T^{-m}(\Omega) \subseteq \Omega'_m.$$

where

$$\Omega'_m := \{x \in X : 0 \notin \partial \mathcal{W}(x) \text{ and } \mathcal{W}(x)_0 = W(x, n), \quad n = m \pmod{N}\}.$$

For the same reason, if one defines

$$\Omega''_m := \{x \in X : \text{dist}(0, \partial\mathcal{W}(x)) > 2N\sqrt{d} \text{ and } \mathcal{W}(x)_0 = W(x, n), n = m \pmod{N}\},$$

then

$$(4.2) \quad \Omega''_m \subseteq T^{-m}(\Omega).$$

Since the sets

$$\Omega'_m, \quad m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d,$$

are mutually disjoint, it follows from (4.1) that

$$T^{-m}(\Omega), \quad m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d$$

are mutually disjoint. That is, it forms a Rokhlin tower for  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ .

On the other hand, by (4.2) and the construction of  $\Omega''_m$ , one has

$$(4.3) \quad \bigsqcup_{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d} T^{-m}(\Omega) \supseteq \bigsqcup_{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d} \Omega''_m = \{x \in X : \text{dist}(0, \partial\mathcal{W}(x)) > 2N\sqrt{d}\}.$$

In particular, one has

$$(4.4) \quad \text{ocap} \left( X \setminus \bigsqcup_{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d} T^{-m}(\Omega) \right) \leq \text{ocap}(\{x \in X : \text{dist}(0, \partial\mathcal{W}(x)) \leq 2N\sqrt{d}\}).$$

**Lemma 4.1.** *For any  $E > 0$ , one has*

$$\text{ocap}(\{x \in X : \text{dist}(0, \partial\mathcal{W}(x)) \leq E\}) \leq \limsup_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\text{vol}(B_R)} \sup_{x \in X} \text{vol}(\partial_E \mathcal{W}(x) \cap B_R),$$

where  $\partial_E \mathcal{W}(x) = \{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d : \text{dist}(\xi, \partial W(x)) \leq E\}$ .

*Proof.* Pick an arbitrary  $x \in X$  and an arbitrary positive number  $R$ , and consider the partial orbit

$$T^m(x), \quad \|m\| < R.$$

Note that if  $\text{dist}(0, \partial\mathcal{W}(T^m(x))) \leq E$  (i.e.,  $0 \in \partial_E \mathcal{W}(T^m(x))$ ) for some  $m$ , then

$$-m \in \partial_E \mathcal{W}(x).$$

Therefore

$$\{\|m\| < R : 0 \in \partial_E \mathcal{W}(T^m(x))\} \subseteq \{\|m\| < R : m \in \partial_E \mathcal{W}(x)\}.$$

As  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{|B_R \cap \mathbb{Z}^d|} |\{\|m\| < R : 0 \in \partial_E \mathcal{W}(T^m(x))\}| \\ & \leq \frac{1}{|B_R \cap \mathbb{Z}^d|} |\{\|m\| < R : m \in \partial_E \mathcal{W}(x)\}| \\ & \approx \frac{1}{\text{vol}(B_R)} \text{vol}(\partial_E \mathcal{W}(x) \cap B_R), \quad (\text{if } R \text{ is sufficiently large}). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\limsup_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{|B_R \cap \mathbb{Z}^d|} |\{\|m\| < R : 0 \in \partial_E \mathcal{W}(T^m(x))\}| \leq \limsup_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\text{vol}(B_R)} \sup_{x \in X} \text{vol}(\partial_E \mathcal{W}(x) \cap B_R).$$

Since  $x$  is arbitrary, this proves the desired conclusion.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.2.** *Consider the minimal free dynamical system  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ . Then, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , there is an open set  $\Omega \subseteq X$  such that*

$$T^{-n}(\Omega), \quad n \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d$$

are mutually disjoint (hence form a Rokhlin tower), and

$$\text{ocap} \left( X \setminus \bigcup_{n \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}^d} T^{-n}(\Omega) \right) < \varepsilon.$$

In other words, the system  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  has the Uniform Rokhlin Property (see Definition 1.1 and Lemma 3.2 of [24]).

*Proof.* By Lemma 4.2 of [11], there is an equivariant  $\mathbb{R}^d$ -tiling  $x \mapsto \mathcal{W}(x)$  such that

$$\limsup_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\text{vol}(B_R)} \sup_{x \in X} \text{vol}(\partial_{2N\sqrt{d}} \mathcal{W}(x) \cap B_R) < \varepsilon.$$

Then, the statement follows from (4.4) and Lemma 4.1 (with  $E = 2N\sqrt{d}$ ).  $\square$

**4.2. The two towers.** The Rokhlin tower constructed above in general cannot cover the whole space  $X$ . Consider the two continuous tiling functions  $\mathcal{W}_{sH}$  and  $\mathcal{W}_H$ , and consider the Rokhlin towers  $\mathcal{T}_0$  and  $\mathcal{T}_1$  constructed from them respectively. It is still possible that  $\mathcal{T}_0$  together with  $\mathcal{T}_1$  do not cover the whole space  $X$ . However, in the following theorem, one can show that the complement of the tower  $\mathcal{T}_0$  can be cut into pieces and then each piece can be translated into the tower  $\mathcal{T}_1$  in a way that the order of the overlaps of the translations are universally bounded, and the intersection of the translations with each  $\mathcal{T}_1$ -orbit is uniformly small. This eventually leads to a Cuntz comparison of open sets for minimal free  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ -actions (Theorem 5.5).

**Theorem 4.3.** *Consider a minimal free dynamical system  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ . Let  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  be arbitrary. There exist two Rokhlin towers*

$$\mathcal{T}_0 := \{T^{-m}(\Omega_0) : m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_0 - 1\}^d\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{T}_1 := \{T^{-m}(\Omega_1) : m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_1 - 1\}^d\},$$

with  $N_0, N_1 \geq N$  and  $\Omega_0, \Omega_1 \subseteq X$  open, an open cover  $\{U_1, U_2, \dots, U_K\}$  of  $X \setminus \bigcup_m T^{-m}(\Omega_0)$ , and  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_K \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  such that

- (1)  $T^{h_k}(U_k) \subseteq \bigcup_m T^{-m}(\Omega_1)$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$ ;
- (2) the open sets

$$T^{h_k}(U_k), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, K,$$

can be grouped as

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} T^{h_1}(U_1), \dots, T^{h_{s_1}}(U_{s_1}), \\ T^{h_{s_1+1}}(U_{s_1+1}), \dots, T^{h_{s_2}}(U_{s_2}), \\ \dots \\ T^{h_{s_{m-1}+1}}(U_{s_{m-1}+1}), \dots, T^{h_{s_m}}(U_{s_m}), \end{array} \right.$$

for some  $m \leq (\lfloor 2\sqrt{d} \rfloor + 1)^d$ , such that the open sets in each group are mutually disjoint;

(3) for each  $x \in \Omega_1$ , one has

$$\frac{1}{N_1^d} \left| \left\{ m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_1 - 1\}^d : T^m(x) \in \bigcup_{k=1}^K T^{n_k}(U_k) \right\} \right| < \varepsilon.$$

*Proof.* Applying Lemma 3.6 with  $R_0 = 2N\sqrt{d}$ ,  $\varepsilon$ , and some  $s \in (1, 2)$ , together with some  $N_1 > \max\{N(R_0, \varepsilon), N\}$  (in place of  $N$ ) and  $R_1 > \max\{R_0, 2N_1\sqrt{d}\}$ , where  $N(R_0, \varepsilon)$  is the constant of Lemma 3.4 with respect to  $\varepsilon$  and  $2R_0 + 4 + \sqrt{d}/2$ , there are two continuous equivariant  $\mathbb{R}^d$ -tilings  $\mathcal{W}_{sH}$  and  $\mathcal{W}_H$  for some (sufficiently large)  $H > 0$ , a finite open cover

$$U_1 \cup U_2 \cup \dots \cup U_K \supseteq \beta_{R_0}(\mathcal{W}_{sH}),$$

and  $n_1, n_2, \dots, n_K \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  such that

- (1)  $T^{n_i}(U_i) \subseteq \iota_{R_1}(\mathcal{W}_H) \subseteq \iota_0(\mathcal{W}_H)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, K$ ;
- (2) the open sets

$$T^{n_i}(U_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, K,$$

can be grouped as

$$\begin{cases} T^{n_1}(U_1), \dots, T^{n_{s_1}}(U_{s_1}), \\ T^{n_{s_1+1}}(U_{s_1+1}), \dots, T^{n_{s_2}}(U_{s_2}), \\ \dots \\ T^{n_{s_{m-1}+1}}(U_{s_{m-1}+1}), \dots, T^{n_{s_m}}(U_{s_m}), \end{cases}$$

with  $m \leq (\lfloor 2\sqrt{d} \rfloor + 1)^d$ , such that the open sets in each group are mutually disjoint;

- (3) for each  $x \in \iota_0(\mathcal{W}_H)$  and each  $c \in \text{int}(\mathcal{W}_H(x)_0) \cap \mathbb{Z}^d$  with  $\text{dist}(c, \partial\mathcal{W}_H) > N_1\sqrt{d}$ , one has

$$\frac{1}{N_1^d} \left| \left\{ n \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_1 - 1\}^d : T^{c+n}(x) \in \bigcup_{i=1}^K T^{n_i}(U_i) \right\} \right| < \varepsilon.$$

Put

$$\Omega_0 = \{x \in X : \text{dist}(0, \partial\mathcal{W}_{sH}(x)) > N\sqrt{d} \text{ and } \mathcal{W}_{sH}(x)_0 = W_{sH}(x, n), n = 0 \pmod{N}\}.$$

Then

$$T^{-m}(\Omega_0), \quad m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_0 - 1\}^d$$

form a Rokhlin tower with  $N_0 = N$ , and by (4.3)

$$(4.5) \quad X \setminus \bigsqcup_{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_0 - 1\}^d} T^{-m}(\Omega_0) \subseteq \{x \in X : \text{dist}(0, \partial\mathcal{W}_{sH}(x)) \leq 2N\sqrt{d}\} = \beta_{2N\sqrt{d}}(\mathcal{W}_{sH}).$$

Thus,  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_K$  form an open cover of  $X \setminus \bigsqcup_{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_0 - 1\}^d} T^{-m}(\Omega_0)$ .

Put

$$\Omega_1 = \{x \in X : \text{dist}(0, \partial\mathcal{W}_H(x)) > N_1\sqrt{d} \text{ and } \mathcal{W}_H(x)_0 = W_H(x, n), n = 0 \pmod{N_1}\}.$$

Then

$$T^{-m}(\Omega_1), \quad m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_1 - 1\}^d,$$

form a Rokhlin tower, and by (4.3) (and the assumption that  $R_1 > 2N_1\sqrt{d}$ ),

$$(4.6) \quad \bigsqcup_{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_1 - 1\}^d} T^{-m}(\Omega_1) \supseteq \{x \in X : \text{dist}(0, \partial\mathcal{W}_H) > 2N_1\sqrt{d}\} \supseteq \iota_{R_1}(\mathcal{W}_H).$$

Thus,  $T^{-h_i}(U_i) \subseteq \bigsqcup_{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_1 - 1\}^d} T^{-m}(\Omega_1)$ .

If  $x \in \Omega_1$  (hence  $x \in \iota_0(\mathcal{W}_H)$  and  $\text{dist}(0, \partial\mathcal{W}_H) > N_1\sqrt{d}$ ), it then follows from (3) (with  $c = 0$ ) that

$$\frac{1}{N_1^d} \left| \left\{ m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_1 - 1\}^d : T^m(x) \in \bigcup_{k=1}^K T^{n_k}(U_k) \right\} \right| < \varepsilon,$$

as desired.  $\square$

## 5. CUNTZ COMPARISON OF OPEN SETS, COMPARISON RADIUS, AND THE MEAN TOPOLOGICAL DIMENSION

With the two-tower construction in the previous section, one is able to show that the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$  has Cuntz-comparison on open sets (Theorem 5.5), and therefore the radius of comparison of  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$  is at most half of the mean dimension of  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ .

As a preparation, one has the following two very simple observations on the Cuntz semi-group of a  $C^*$ -algebra.

**Lemma 5.1.** *Let  $A$  be a  $C^*$ -algebra, and let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m \in A$  be positive elements. Then*

$$[a_1] + [a_2] + \dots + [a_m] \leq m[a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_m].$$

*Proof.* The lemma follows from the observation:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & & & \\ & a_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & a_m \end{pmatrix} \leq \begin{pmatrix} a_1 + \dots + a_m & & & \\ & a_1 + \dots + a_m & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & a_1 + \dots + a_m \end{pmatrix}.$$

$\square$

**Lemma 5.2.** *Let  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_K \subseteq X$  be open sets which can be divided into  $M$  groups such that each group consists of mutually disjoint sets. Then*

$$[\varphi_{U_1}] + \dots + [\varphi_{U_K}] \leq M[\varphi_{U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_K}] = M[\varphi_{U_1} + \dots + \varphi_{U_K}]$$

*Proof.* Write  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_K$  as

$$\{U_1, \dots, U_{s_1}\}, \{U_{s_1+1}, \dots, U_{s_2}\}, \dots, \{U_{s_{m-1}+1}, \dots, U_{s_M}\},$$

such that the open sets in each group are mutually disjoint. Then

$$[\varphi_{U_{s_i+1}}] + \dots + [\varphi_{U_{s_{i+1}}}] = [\varphi_{U_{s_i+1}} + \dots + \varphi_{U_{s_{i+1}}}] = [\varphi_{U_{s_i+1} \cup \dots \cup U_{s_{i+1}}}], \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, M-1,$$

and together with the lemma above, one has

$$\begin{aligned} [\varphi_{U_1}] + \dots + [\varphi_{U_K}] &= [\varphi_{U_1} + \dots + \varphi_{U_{s_1}}] + \dots + [\varphi_{U_{s_{m-1}+1}} + \dots + \varphi_{U_{s_M}}] \\ &= [\varphi_{U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_{s_1}}] + \dots + [\varphi_{U_{s_{m-1}+1} \cup \dots \cup U_{s_M}}] \\ &\leq M[\varphi_{U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_K}], \end{aligned}$$



as desired.  $\square$

**Definition 5.3.** Consider a topological dynamical system  $(X, \Gamma)$ , where  $X$  is a compact metrizable space and  $\Gamma$  is a discrete group acting on  $X$  from the right, and consider a Rokhlin tower

$$\mathcal{T} = \{\Omega\gamma, \gamma \in \Gamma_0\},$$

where  $\Omega \subseteq X$  is open and  $\Gamma_0 \subseteq \Gamma$  is a finite set containing the unit  $e$  of the discrete group  $\Gamma$ . Define the  $C^*$ -algebra

$$C^*(\mathcal{T}) := C^*\{u_\gamma C_0(\Omega), \gamma \in \Gamma_0\} \subseteq C(X) \rtimes \Gamma.$$

By Lemma 3.11 of [24], it is canonically isomorphic to  $M_{|\Gamma_0|}(C_0(\Omega))$ , and

$$C_0\left(\bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma_0} \Omega\gamma\right) \ni \phi \mapsto \text{diag}\{\phi|_{\Omega\gamma_1}, \phi|_{\Omega\gamma_2}, \dots, \phi|_{\Omega\gamma_{|\Gamma_0|}}\} \in M_{|\Gamma_0|}(C_0(\Omega))$$

under this isomorphism.

The following comparison result essentially is a special case of Theorem 7.8 of [24].

**Lemma 5.4** (Theorem 7.8 of [24]). *Let  $Z$  be a locally compact metrizable space, and consider  $M_n(C_0(Z))$ . Let  $a, b \in M_n(C_0(Z))$  be two positive diagonal elements, i.e.,*

$$a(t) = \text{diag}\{a_1(t), a_2(t), \dots, a_n(t)\} \quad \text{and} \quad b(t) = \text{diag}\{b_1(t), b_2(t), \dots, b_n(t)\}$$

for some positive continuous functions  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n : Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . If

$$\text{rank}(a(t)) \leq \frac{1}{4} \text{rank}(b(t)), \quad t \in Z$$

and

$$4 < \text{rank}(b(t)), \quad t \in Z,$$

then  $a \precsim b$  in  $M_n(C_0(Z))$ .

*Proof.* It is enough to show that  $(a - \varepsilon)_+ \precsim b$  for arbitrary  $\varepsilon > 0$ . For a given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is a compact subset  $D \subseteq Z$  such that  $(a - \varepsilon)_+$  is supported inside  $D$ . Denote by  $\pi : M_n(C_0(Z)) \rightarrow M_n(C(D))$  the restriction map. One then has

$$\text{rank}(\pi((a - \varepsilon)_+)(t)) \leq \frac{1}{4} \text{rank}(\pi(b)(t)), \quad t \in D$$

and

$$\frac{1}{n} < \frac{1}{4n} \text{rank}(b(t)), \quad t \in D.$$

By Theorem 7.8 of [24], one has that  $\pi((a - \varepsilon)_+) \precsim \pi(b)$  in  $M_n(C(D))$ , that is, there is a sequence  $(v_k) \subseteq M_n(C(D))$  such that  $v_k(\pi(b))v_k^* \rightarrow \pi((a - \varepsilon)_+)$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . Extend each  $v_k$  to a function in  $M_n(C_0(Z))$ , and still denote it by  $v_k$ . It is clear that the new sequence  $(v_k)$  satisfies  $v_k b v_k^* \rightarrow (a - \varepsilon)_+$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , and hence  $(a - \varepsilon)_+ \precsim b$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Theorem 5.5.** *Let  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  be a minimal free dynamical system, and let  $E, F \subseteq X$  be open sets such that*

$$\mu(E) \leq \frac{1}{4}\nu(F), \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d).$$

Then,

$$[\varphi_E] \leq ((2\lfloor\sqrt{d}\rfloor + 1)^d + 1)[\varphi_F]$$

in the Cuntz semigroup of  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$ . In other words, the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$  has  $(\frac{1}{4}, (2\lfloor\sqrt{d}\rfloor + 1)^d + 1)$ -Cuntz-comparison on open sets (see Definition 1.1).

*Proof.* Let  $E$  and  $F$  be open sets satisfying the condition of the theorem. Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be arbitrary. In order to prove the statement of the theorem, it is enough to show that

$$(\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+ \preceq \underbrace{\varphi_F \oplus \cdots \oplus \varphi_F}_{(2\lfloor\sqrt{d}\rfloor + 1)^{d+1}}.$$

For the given  $\varepsilon$ , pick a compact set  $E' \subseteq E$  such that

$$(5.1) \quad (\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+(x) = 0, \quad x \notin E'.$$

By the assumption of the theorem, one has that

$$(5.2) \quad \mu(E') < \frac{1}{4}\mu(F), \quad \mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d),$$

and then there is  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for any  $M > N$  and any  $x \in X$ ,

$$(5.3) \quad \frac{1}{M^d} \{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, M-1\}^d : T^{-m}(x) \in E'\} < \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{M^d} \{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, M-1\}^d : T^{-m}(x) \in F\}.$$

Otherwise, there are sequences  $N_k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x_k \in X$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , such that  $N_k \rightarrow \infty$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , and for any  $k$ ,

$$\frac{1}{N_k^d} \{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_k-1\}^d : T^{-m}(x_k) \in E'\} \geq \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{N_k^d} \{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_k-1\}^d : T^{-m}(x_k) \in F\}.$$

That is

$$(5.4) \quad 4\delta_{N_k, x_k}(E') \geq \delta_{N_k, x_k}(F), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots,$$

where  $\delta_{N_k, x_k} = \frac{1}{N_k^d} \sum_{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_k-1\}^d} \delta_{T^{-m}(x_k)}$  and  $\delta_y$  is the Dirac measure concentrated at  $y$ . Let  $\delta_\infty$  be a limit point of  $\{\delta_{N_k, x_k}, k = 1, 2, \dots\}$  and it is clear that  $\delta_\infty \in \mathcal{M}_1(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$ . Passing to a subsequence of  $k$ , one has

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_\infty(F) &\leq \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \delta_{N_k, x_k}(F) && (F \text{ is open}) \\ &\leq 4 \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \delta_{N_k, x_k}(E') && (\text{by (5.4)}) \\ &\leq 4 \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \delta_{N_k, x_k}(E') \\ &\leq 4\delta_\infty(E'), && (E' \text{ is closed}) \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts to (5.2).

With (5.1) and (5.3), one has that for any  $M > N$  and any  $x \in X$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
(5.5) \quad & \frac{1}{M^d} \{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, M-1\}^d : (\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+(T^{-m}(x)) > 0\} \\
& \leq \frac{1}{M^d} \{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, M-1\}^d : T^{-m}(x) \in E'\} \\
& < \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{M^d} \{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, M-1\}^d : T^{-m}(x) \in F\} \\
& = \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{M^d} \{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, M-1\}^d : \varphi_F(T^{-m}(x)) > 0\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Also note that since  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  is minimal, there is  $\delta > 0$  such that for any  $M > N$ ,

$$(5.6) \quad \frac{1}{4M^d} |\{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, M-1\}^d : \varphi_F(T^{-m}(x)) > 0\}| > \delta, \quad x \in X$$

Let

$$\mathcal{T}_0 = \{T^{-m}(\Omega_0), \quad m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_0-1\}^d\}$$

and

$$\mathcal{T}_1 = \{T^{-m}(\Omega_1), \quad m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_1-1\}^d\}$$

be the two towers obtained from Theorem 4.3 with respect to  $\max\{N, \sqrt[d]{\frac{1}{\delta}}\}$  and  $\delta$ . Denote by  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_K$  and  $n_1, n_2, \dots, n_K \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  be the open sets and group elements, respectively, obtained from Theorem 4.3.

Pick  $\chi_0 \in C(X)^+$  such that

$$(5.7) \quad \begin{cases} \chi_0(x) = 1, & x \notin \bigcup_{k=1}^K U_k, \\ \chi_0(x) > 0, & x \in \bigsqcup_{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_0-1\}^d} T^{-m}(\Omega_0), \\ \chi_0(x) = 0, & x \notin \bigsqcup_{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_0-1\}^d} T^{-m}(\Omega_0). \end{cases}$$

Note that then  $(1 - \chi_0)$  is supported in  $U_1 \cup U_2 \cup \dots \cup U_K$ . Consider

$$(\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+ = (\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+(1 - \chi_0) + (\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+\chi_0.$$

Then, for any  $x \in \Omega_0$ , it follows from (5.5) and (5.7) that

$$\begin{aligned}
& |\{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_0-1\}^d : ((\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+\chi_0)(T^{-m}(x)) > 0\}| \\
& = |\{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_0-1\}^d : (\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+(T^{-m}(x)) > 0\}| \\
& < \frac{1}{4} |\{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_0-1\}^d : \varphi_F(T^{-m}(x)) > 0\}| \\
& = \frac{1}{4} |\{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_0-1\}^d : (\varphi_F\chi_0)(T^{-m}(x)) > 0\}|.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, under the isomorphism  $C^*(\mathcal{T}_0) \cong M_{N_0^d}(C_0(\Omega_0))$ , one has

$$\text{rank}(((\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+\chi_0)(x)) \leq \frac{1}{4} \text{rank}((\varphi_F\chi_0)(x)), \quad x \in \Omega_0.$$

Moreover, it follows from (5.6) and the fact that  $N_0 > \sqrt[d]{\frac{1}{\delta}}$  that for any  $x \in \Omega_0$ ,

$$\frac{1}{4N_0^d} \text{rank}((\varphi_F\chi_0)(x)) = \frac{1}{4N_0^d} |\{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_0-1\}^d : \varphi_F(T^{-m}(x)) > 0\}| > \delta > \frac{1}{N_0^d}.$$

Thus, by Lemma 5.4, one has that

$$(5.8) \quad (\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+ \chi_0 \lesssim \varphi_F \chi_0 \lesssim \varphi_F.$$

Consider  $(\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+(1 - \chi_0)$ . Since  $(1 - \chi_0)$  is supported in  $U_1 \cup U_2 \cup \dots \cup U_K$ , one has that

$$(\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+(1 - \chi_0) \lesssim (1 - \chi_0) \lesssim \varphi_{U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_K} \sim \varphi_{U_1} + \dots + \varphi_{U_K} \lesssim \varphi_{U_1} \oplus \dots \oplus \varphi_{U_K}.$$

On the other hand, by Lemma 5.2,

$$\varphi_{T^{n_1}(U_1)} \oplus \dots \oplus \varphi_{T^{n_K}(U_K)} \lesssim \bigoplus_{(2\lfloor\sqrt{d}\rfloor+1)^d} (\varphi_{T^{n_1}(U_1)} + \dots + \varphi_{T^{n_K}(U_K)}).$$

Note that  $\varphi_{U_i} \sim \varphi_{T^{n_i}(U_i)}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, K$ , and one has

$$(5.9) \quad (\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+(1 - \chi_0) \lesssim \bigoplus_{(2\lfloor\sqrt{d}\rfloor+1)^d} (\varphi_{T^{n_1}(U_1) \cup \dots \cup T^{n_K}(U_K)}).$$

By Theorem 4.3,

$$(5.10) \quad \frac{1}{N_1^d} \left| \left\{ m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_1 - 1\}^d : T^{-m}(x) \in \bigcup_{k=1}^K T^{n_k}(U_k) \right\} \right| < \delta, \quad x \in \Omega_1.$$

Let  $\chi_1 : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  be a continuous function such that

$$\begin{cases} \chi_1(x) > 0, & x \in \bigsqcup_{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_1 - 1\}^d} T^{-m}(\Omega_1), \\ \chi_1(x) = 0, & x \notin \bigsqcup_{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_1 - 1\}^d} T^{-m}(\Omega_1). \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\frac{1}{4N_1^d} \text{rank}((\varphi_F \chi_1)(x)) = \frac{1}{4N_1^d} |\{m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_1 - 1\}^d : \varphi_F(T^{-m}(x)) > 0\}| > \delta > \frac{1}{N_1^d}, \quad x \in \Omega_1,$$

and hence, for any  $x \in \Omega_1$ , with (5.10), one has

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rank}(\varphi_{T^{n_1}(U_1) \cup \dots \cup T^{n_K}(U_K)}(x)) &= \left| \left\{ m \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_1 - 1\}^d : T^{-m}(x) \in \bigcup_{k=1}^K T^{n_k}(U_k) \right\} \right| \\ &< N_1^d \delta < \frac{1}{4} \text{rank}((\varphi_F \chi_1)(x)). \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 5.4,

$$\varphi_{T^{n_1}(U_1) \cup \dots \cup T^{n_K}(U_K)} \lesssim \varphi_F \chi_1 \lesssim \varphi_F,$$

and together with (5.9) and (5.8),

$$\begin{aligned} (\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+ &\lesssim (\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+(1 - \chi_0) \oplus (\varphi_E - \varepsilon)_+ \chi_0 \\ &\lesssim \left( \bigoplus_{(2\lfloor\sqrt{d}\rfloor+1)^d} (\varphi_{T^{n_1}(U_1) \cup \dots \cup T^{n_K}(U_K)}) \right) \oplus \varphi_F \\ &\lesssim \left( \bigoplus_{(2\lfloor\sqrt{d}\rfloor+1)^d} \varphi_F \right) \oplus \varphi_F, \end{aligned}$$

as desired.  $\square$

**Theorem 5.6.** *Let  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  be a minimal free dynamical system. Then*

$$\text{rc}(C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d) \leq \frac{1}{2} \text{mdim}(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d).$$

*Proof.* By Theorem 5.5, the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$  has the (COS). By Theorem 4.2, the dynamical system  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  has the (URP). Then the statement follows directly from Theorem 4.8 of [24].  $\square$

The following corollary generalizes Corollary 4.9 of [4] (where  $d = 1$ ) and generalizes the classifiability result of [29] (where  $\dim(X) < \infty$ ).

**Theorem 5.7.** *Let  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  be a minimal free dynamical system with mean dimension zero, then  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$  is classified by its Elliott invariant. In particular, if  $\dim(X) < \infty$ , or  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  has at most countably many ergodic measures, or  $(X, T, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  has finite topological entropy, then  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$  is classified by its Elliott invariant.*

*Proof.* By Theorem 4.2 and Theorem 5.5, the dynamical system  $(X, \mathbb{Z}^d)$  has the (URP) and (COS). Then the statement follows from Theorem 4.8 of [25]  $\square$

*Remark 5.8.* In [17], it is also shown that the (URP) and (COS) implies that the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ , classifiable or not, always has (topological) stable rank one; and the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$  satisfies the Toms-Winter conjecture (i.e., it is classifiable if, and only if it has the strict comparison of positive elements). Therefore, as corollaries of Theorem 5.6, the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$ , classifiable or not, always has stable rank one, and the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C(X) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^d$  satisfies the Toms-Winter conjecture.

The following is a generalization of Corollary 5.7 of [4].

**Corollary 5.9.** *Let  $(X_1, T_1, \mathbb{Z}^{d_1})$  and  $(X_2, T_2, \mathbb{Z}^{d_2})$  be minimal free dynamical systems where  $d_1, d_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then the tensor product  $C^*$ -algebra  $(C(X_1) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^{d_1}) \otimes (C(X_2) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^{d_2})$  is classified by its Elliott invariant.*

*Proof.* Note that

$$(C(X_1) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^{d_1}) \otimes (C(X_2) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}^{d_2}) \cong C(X_1 \times X_2) \rtimes (\mathbb{Z}^{d_1} \times \mathbb{Z}^{d_2}),$$

where  $\mathbb{Z}^{d_1} \times \mathbb{Z}^{d_2}$  acting on  $X_1 \times X_2$  by

$$(T_1 \times T_2)^{(n_1, n_2)}((x_1, x_2)) = (T_1^{n_1}(x_1), T_2^{n_2}(x_2)), \quad n_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^{d_1}, \quad n_2 \in \mathbb{Z}^{d_2}.$$

By the argument of Remark 5.8 of [4], one has

$$\text{mdim}(X_1 \times X_2, T_1 \times T_2, \mathbb{Z}^{d_1} \times \mathbb{Z}^{d_2}) = 0,$$

and the statement then follows from Theorem 5.7.  $\square$

## REFERENCES

- [1] G. A. Elliott, G. Gong, H. Lin, and Z. Niu. On the classification of simple amenable  $C^*$ -algebras with finite decomposition rank, II. 07 2015. URL: <http://arxiv.org/abs/1507.03437>, arXiv:1507.03437.
- [2] G. A. Elliott and Z. Niu. On the radius of comparison of a commutative  $C^*$ -algebra. *Canad. Math. Bull.*, 56(4):737–744, 2013. doi:10.4153/CMB-2012-012-9.
- [3] G. A. Elliott and Z. Niu. On the classification of simple amenable  $C^*$ -algebras with finite decomposition rank. In R. S. Doran and E. Park, editors, “*Operator Algebras and their Applications: A Tribute to Richard V. Kadison*”, *Contemporary Mathematics*, volume 671, pages 117–125. Amer. Math. Soc., 2016. arXiv:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1090/conm/671/13506>.
- [4] G. A. Elliott and Z. Niu. The  $C^*$ -algebra of a minimal homeomorphism of zero mean dimension. *Duke Math. J.*, 166(18):3569–3594, 2017. doi:10.1215/00127094-2017-0033.
- [5] Bernardo Freitas Paulo Da Costa. Deux exemples sur la dimension moyenne d’un espace de courbes de Brody. *Ann. Inst. Fourier (Grenoble)*, 63(6):2223–2237, 2013. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=3237445>.
- [6] J. Giol and D. Kerr. Subshifts and perforation. *J. Reine Angew. Math.*, 639:107–119, 2010. URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1515/CRELLE.2010.012>, doi:10.1515/CRELLE.2010.012.
- [7] G. Gong, H. Lin, and Z. Niu. Classification of finite simple amenable  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable  $C^*$ -algebras, I.  $C^*$ -algebras with generalized tracial rank one. *C. R. Math. Acad. Sci. Soc. R. Can.*, 42(3):63–450, 2020.
- [8] G. Gong, H. Lin, and Z. Niu. Classification of finite simple amenable  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable  $C^*$ -algebras, II.  $C^*$ -algebras with rational generalized tracial rank one. *C. R. Math. Acad. Sci. Soc. R. Can.*, 42(4):451–539, 2020.
- [9] M. Gromov. Topological invariants of dynamical systems and spaces of holomorphic maps. I. *Math. Phys. Anal. Geom.*, 2(4):323–415, 1999. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=1742309>, doi:10.1023/A:1009841100168.
- [10] Y. Gutman. Embedding  $\mathbb{Z}^k$ -actions in cubical shifts and  $\mathbb{Z}^k$ -symbolic extensions. *Ergodic Theory Dynam. Systems*, 31(2):383–403, 2011. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=2776381>, doi:10.1017/S0143385709001096.
- [11] Y. Gutman, E. Lindenstrauss, and M. Tsukamoto. Mean dimension of  $\mathbb{Z}^k$ -actions. *Geom. Funct. Anal.*, 26(3):778–817, 2016. URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00039-016-0372-9>, doi:10.1007/s00039-016-0372-9.
- [12] Yonatan Gutman. Embedding topological dynamical systems with periodic points in cubical shifts. *Ergodic Theory Dynam. Systems*, 37(2):512–538, 2017. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=3614036>, doi:10.1017/etds.2015.40.
- [13] Yonatan Gutman and Masaki Tsukamoto. Mean dimension and a sharp embedding theorem: extensions of aperiodic subshifts. *Ergodic Theory Dynam. Systems*, 34(6):1888–1896, 2014. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=3272776>, doi:10.1017/etds.2013.30.
- [14] Yonatan Gutman and Masaki Tsukamoto. Embedding minimal dynamical systems into Hilbert cubes. *Invent. Math.*, 221(1):113–166, 2020. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=4105086>, doi:10.1007/s00222-019-00942-w.
- [15] U. Haagerup. Quasitraces on exact  $C^*$ -algebras are traces. *C. R. Math. Acad. Sci. Soc. R. Can.*, 36(2-3):67–92, 2014.
- [16] D. Kerr and G. Szabo. Almost finiteness and the small boundary property. 07 2018. URL: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1807.04326>, arXiv:1807.04326.
- [17] C. Li and Z. Niu. Stable rank of  $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ . *arXiv: 2008.03361*, 2020.
- [18] Hanfeng Li. Sofic mean dimension. *Adv. Math.*, 244:570–604, 2013. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=3077882>, doi:10.1016/j.aim.2013.05.005.

- [19] Hanfeng Li and Bingbing Liang. Mean dimension, mean rank, and von Neumann–Lück rank. *J. Reine Angew. Math.*, 739:207–240, 2018. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=3808261>, doi:10.1515/crelle-2015-0046.
- [20] E. Lindenstrauss. Mean dimension, small entropy factors and an embedding theorem. *Inst. Hautes Études Sci. Publ. Math.*, (89):227–262 (2000), 1999. URL: [http://www.numdam.org/item?id=PMIHES\\_1999\\_\\_89\\_\\_227\\_0](http://www.numdam.org/item?id=PMIHES_1999__89__227_0).
- [21] E. Lindenstrauss and B. Weiss. Mean topological dimension. *Israel J. Math.*, 115:1–24, 2000. URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/BF02810577>, doi:10.1007/BF02810577.
- [22] Elon Lindenstrauss and Masaki Tsukamoto. From rate distortion theory to metric mean dimension: variational principle. *IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory*, 64(5):3590–3609, 2018. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=3798396>, doi:10.1109/TIT.2018.2806219.
- [23] Shinichiroh Matsuo and Masaki Tsukamoto. Brody curves and mean dimension. *J. Amer. Math. Soc.*, 28(1):159–182, 2015. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=3264765>, doi:10.1090/S0894-0347-2014-00798-0.
- [24] Z. Niu. Comparison radius and mean topological dimension: Rokhlin property, comparison of open sets, and subhomogeneous  $C^*$ -algebras. *J. Analyse Math.*, *accepted*, 2020.
- [25] Z. Niu.  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stability of  $C(X) \rtimes \Gamma$ . *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.*, *accepted*.
- [26] N. C. Phillips. The  $C^*$ -algebra of a minimal homeomorphism with finite mean dimension has finite radius of comparison. 05 2016. URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/1605.07976>, arXiv:1605.07976.
- [27] M. Rørdam. On the structure of simple  $C^*$ -algebras tensored with a UHF-algebra. II. *J. Funct. Anal.*, 107(2):255–269, 1992. URL: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0022-1236\(92\)90106-S](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0022-1236(92)90106-S), doi:10.1016/0022-1236(92)90106-S.
- [28] R. Schneider. *Convex bodies: the Brunn-Minkowski theory*, volume 44 of *Encyclopedia of Mathematics and its Applications*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1993. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=1216521>, doi:10.1017/CB09780511526282.
- [29] G. Szabó. The Rokhlin dimension of topological  $\mathbb{Z}^m$ -actions. *Proc. Lond. Math. Soc. (3)*, 110(3):673–694, 2015. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=3342101>, doi:10.1112/plms/pdu065.
- [30] G. Szabo, J. Wu, and J. Zacharias. Rokhlin dimension for actions of residually finite groups. 08 2014. URL: <http://arxiv.org/abs/1408.6096>, arXiv:1408.6096.
- [31] A. Tikuisis, S. White, and W. Winter. Quasidiagonality of nuclear  $C^*$ -algebras. *Ann. of Math. (2)*, *to appear*, 09. URL: <http://arxiv.org/abs/1509.08318>, arXiv:1509.08318.
- [32] A. S. Toms. Flat dimension growth for  $C^*$ -algebras. *J. Funct. Anal.*, 238(2):678–708, 2006.
- [33] A. S. Toms and W. Winter. Minimal dynamics and K-theoretic rigidity: Elliott’s conjecture. *Geom. Funct. Anal.*, 23(1):467–481, 2013. URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00039-012-0208-1>, doi:10.1007/s00039-012-0208-1.
- [34] Masaki Tsukamoto. Deformation of Brody curves and mean dimension. *Ergodic Theory Dynam. Systems*, 29(5):1641–1657, 2009. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=2545021>, doi:10.1017/S014338570800076X.
- [35] Masaki Tsukamoto. Mean dimension of the dynamical system of Brody curves. *Invent. Math.*, 211(3):935–968, 2018. URL: <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet-getitem?mr=3763403>, doi:10.1007/s00222-017-0758-9.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING, LARAMIE, WYOMING, USA, 82071  
 Email address: zniu@uwyo.edu