

## THE SPLITTING PROBLEM FOR SUBSPACES OF TENSOR PRODUCTS OF OPERATOR ALGEBRAS

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ABSTRACT. The main result of this paper is that if  $N$  is a von Neumann algebra that is a factor and has the weak\* operator approximation property (the weak\* OAP), and if  $R$  is a von Neumann algebra, then every  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$  that is an  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathcal{C}1_R$ -bimodule (under multiplication) splits, in the sense that there is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace  $T$  of  $R$  such that  $S = N\bar{\otimes}T$ . Note that if  $S$  is a von Neumann subalgebra of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$ , then  $S$  is an  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathcal{C}1_R$ -bimodule if and only if  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathcal{C}1_R \subset S$ . So this result is a generalization (in the case where  $N$  has the weak\* OAP) of the result of Ge and Kadison that if  $N$  is a factor, then every von Neumann subalgebra  $M$  of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$  that contains  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathcal{C}1_R$  splits. We also obtain other results concerning the splitting of  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspaces of tensor products of von Neumann algebras and the splitting of normed closed subspaces of  $C^*$ -algebras that generalize results previously obtained for von Neumann subalgebras and  $C^*$ -subalgebras.

In this article we are concerned with the following question: if  $N$  and  $R$  are von Neumann algebras, and if  $S$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathcal{C}1_R$ -bimodule of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$ , when do we have

$$(1) \quad S = N\bar{\otimes}T$$

for some  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace  $T$  of  $R$ ? If (1) holds for some  $T$ , then we say that  $S$  splits. Note that if a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace  $S$  of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$  splits, then it is an  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathcal{C}1_R$ -bimodule. So this requirement is necessary for splitting. This problem has been previously studied in the case when  $S = M$  is a von Neumann subalgebra of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$  containing  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathcal{C}1_R$  (which is obviously equivalent to  $M$  being an  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathcal{C}1_R$ -bimodule). Ge and Kadison showed in [4] that if  $N$  is a factor, then every von Neumann algebra  $M$  satisfying  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathcal{C}1_R \subset M \subset N\bar{\otimes}R$  splits. In [10] Strătilă and Zsidó extended this result by showing that if  $N$  is a von Neumann algebra with center  $Z(N)$ , and if  $H$  is a Hilbert space, then a von Neumann algebra  $M$  such that  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathcal{C}1_{B(H)} \subset M \subset N\bar{\otimes}B(H)$  is of the form  $N\bar{\otimes}P$  for some von Neumann subalgebra  $P$  of  $B(H)$  if and only if  $M \cap (Z(N)\bar{\otimes}B(H)) = Z(N)\bar{\otimes}P$ . By modifying the methods of [10], we are able to extend their result (and so the result of Ge and Kadison) to the case where  $S$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$  that is an  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathcal{C}1_R$ -bimodule. However, we have to add a condition to  $N$ , namely that  $N$  satisfies Property  $S_\sigma$  (introduced by the author in [6]) or, equivalently, the weak\* operator approximation property. We also observe that the proof of the main result

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in [16] (and Theorem 3.3 in [15]) can be easily modified to give a splitting result for certain norm closed subspaces of the spatial (= minimal) tensor product of  $C^*$ -algebras. We would like to thank the referee for helpful comments and suggestions.

Our first result is an extension of Theorem 3.5 in [10]. Since the proof of Theorem 1 is essentially the same as the proof of Theorem 3.5 in [10], it is omitted. (The only difference between Theorem 1 below and Theorem 3.5 in [10] is that in [10] it is shown that if  $N \subset M \subset N \vee N_0$  is an intermediate von Neumann algebra, then  $\Phi(M) = M \cap N_0 = N' \cap M$  rather than  $\Phi(S) = S \cap N_0 = N' \cap S$  if  $S$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace of  $N \vee N_0$  that is an  $N$ -bimodule. The only place in the proof of the equality  $\Phi(M) = M \cap N_0$  in [10] where the fact that  $M$  is a von Neumann algebra is used is that  $N \subset M$  implies that  $M$  is an  $N$ -bimodule, while the proof in [10] of the equality  $M \cap N_0 = N' \cap M$  is valid for any subset  $M$  of  $N \vee N_0$ .)

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $N, N_0 \subset B(H)$  be commuting von Neumann algebras with common center  $Z$ , and suppose  $N_0$  is type I. Then*

- (1)  $\Phi \rightarrow \Phi|_N$  establishes a one-to-one correspondence between normal conditional expectations  $\Phi : N \vee N_0 \rightarrow N_0$  and normal conditional expectations from  $N$  to  $Z$ ;
- (2) the normal conditional expectations  $N \vee N_0 \rightarrow N_0$  separate the points of  $N \vee N_0$ ;
- (3) for every normal conditional expectation  $\Phi : N \vee N_0 \rightarrow N_0$  and every  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace  $S$  of  $N \vee N_0$  that is an  $N$ -bimodule, we have

$$\Phi(S) = S \cap N_0 = N' \cap S.$$

The proof of our main result (Theorem 2) uses Fubini products. So before proving the result we recall some of the basic definitions and results that we need. (See [6] and [7] for more details.) If  $N$  and  $R$  are von Neumann algebras, then for each  $\phi \in N_*$ , the right slice map  $R_\phi : N \bar{\otimes} R \rightarrow R$  is defined by  $R_\phi = \phi \otimes id_R$ . Note that  $R_\phi$  is the unique  $\sigma$ -weakly continuous linear map from  $N \bar{\otimes} R \rightarrow R$  satisfying

$$R_\phi(a \otimes b) = \phi(a)b, \quad a \in N, b \in R.$$

Similarly, if  $\psi \in R_*$ , the left slice map  $L_\psi : N \bar{\otimes} R \rightarrow N$  is defined by  $L_\psi = id_N \otimes \psi$ . If  $S$  and  $T$  are  $\sigma$ -weakly subspaces of  $N$  and  $R$  respectively, then the Fubini product of  $S$  and  $T$  is the  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace of  $N \bar{\otimes} R$  defined by

$$F(S, T) = \{x \in N \bar{\otimes} R : R_\phi(x) \in T \text{ and } L_\psi(x) \in S \text{ for all } \phi \in N_* \text{ and } \psi \in R_*\}.$$

It is shown in [6] that  $F(S, T)$  only depends on  $S$  and  $T$  and not on the containing von Neumann algebras. So if  $N \subset B(H)$  and  $R \subset B(K)$ , we can replace  $N$  by  $B(H)$  and  $R$  by  $B(K)$  in the definition of  $F(S, T)$ . It is easy to see that we always have  $S \bar{\otimes} T \subset F(S, T)$ . A  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace  $S$  of  $B(H)$  is said to have Property  $S_\sigma$  if  $F(S, T) = S \bar{\otimes} T$  for all  $\sigma$ -weakly subspaces  $T \subset B(K)$  for any Hilbert space  $K$  (as shown in [6], it suffices to consider the case where  $K$  is separable and infinite dimensional). If  $1_{B(H)} \in S \subset B(H)$  and  $1_{B(K)} \in T \subset B(K)$  are  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspaces, then  $(S \bar{\otimes} T)' = F(S', T')$  (see [6]). In particular, if  $N$  and  $R$  are von Neumann algebras, then with  $S = N'$  and  $T = R'$ , we get that

$$F(N, R) = (N' \bar{\otimes} R)' = N'' \bar{\otimes} R'' = N \bar{\otimes} R$$

by Tomita's Commutation Theorem, and, in fact, the above calculation shows that Tomita's Commutation Theorem is equivalent to the statement that  $F(N, R) =$

$N\bar{\otimes}R$  whenever  $N$  and  $R$  are von Neumann algebras. However, not only are there subspaces  $S$  and  $T$  such that  $F(S, T) \neq S\bar{\otimes}T$ , but it is shown in [7] that for each of the types  $II_1, II_\infty$  and  $III_\lambda, 0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$ , there is a separably acting factor  $N$  of that type and a unital  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subalgebra  $T$  of  $B(K)$  (where  $K$  is a separable infinite-dimensional Hilbert space) such that  $N\bar{\otimes}T \neq F(N, T)$ . (We cannot choose  $N$  to be type I, because all type I von Neumann algebras have Property  $S_\sigma$  [6, Theorem 1.9].) It is also shown in [7] that a subspace  $S \subset B(H)$  has Property  $S_\sigma$  if and only if it has the weak\* OAP. (A subspace  $S \subset B(H)$  has the weak\* OAP if there is a net  $\{\Phi_i\}$  of normal finite rank completely bounded maps from  $S$  to  $S$  such that for any Hilbert space  $K$  and for any  $x \in S\bar{\otimes}B(K)$ , we have that  $(\Phi_i \otimes id_{B(K)})(x) \rightarrow x$   $\sigma$ -weakly. See [3] for a detailed treatment of the weak\* OAP and other approximation properties of operator spaces.)

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $N$  be a von Neumann algebra with center  $Z(N)$ , let  $R$  be a von Neumann algebra, and suppose  $S$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$  that is a  $N\bar{\otimes}C1_R$ -bimodule such that*

$$S \cap (Z(N)\bar{\otimes}R) = Z(N)\bar{\otimes}T$$

for some  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace  $T$  of  $R$ . Then

$$N\bar{\otimes}T \subset S \subset F(N, T).$$

In particular, if  $N$  has the weak\* OAP, or if  $S$  is a von Neumann algebra, then

$$S = N\bar{\otimes}T.$$

*Proof.* We can assume that  $R \subset B(H)$  for some Hilbert space  $H$ . Then  $S \subset N\bar{\otimes}R \subset N\bar{\otimes}B(H)$ , and  $S$  is an  $N\bar{\otimes}C1_{B(H)}$ -bimodule. Moreover, we have that  $S \cap (Z(N)\bar{\otimes}B(H)) = (S \cap (N\bar{\otimes}R)) \cap (Z(N)\bar{\otimes}B(H)) = S \cap ((N\bar{\otimes}R) \cap (Z(N)\bar{\otimes}B(H))) = S \cap (Z(N)\bar{\otimes}R) = Z(N)\bar{\otimes}T$ . Let  $\phi \in N_*$  be a normal state, let  $\psi = \phi|_{Z(N)}$ , and let  $e$  be the support projection of  $\psi$ . Then there exists a positive normal  $Z(N)$ -module map  $\Phi_1$  from  $N$  into  $Z(N)$  such that  $\phi = \psi \circ \Phi_1$  and such that  $\Phi_1(1) = e$  (see Theorem 1 in [5] or Proposition 1.4 in [9]). It follows from this result (applied to all normal states of  $N$ ) and a Zorn's lemma argument that the normal conditional expectations from  $N$  onto  $Z(N)$  separate the points of  $N$ . Now let  $\Phi_2$  be any normal conditional expectation from  $N$  onto  $Z(N)$ , and define  $\Phi$  on  $N$  by  $\Phi(x) = \Phi_1(x) + (1 - e)\Phi_2(x)$ . Then  $\Phi$  is a normal conditional expectation from  $N$  onto  $Z(N)$  such that  $\phi = \psi \circ \Phi$ . Since  $\Phi \otimes id_{B(H)}$  is a normal conditional expectation from  $(N\bar{\otimes}C1_{B(H)}) \vee (Z(N)\bar{\otimes}B(H)) = N\bar{\otimes}B(H)$  to  $Z(N)\bar{\otimes}B(H)$ , it follows from Theorem 1 that

$$(\Phi \otimes id_{B(H)})(x) \in S \cap (Z(N)\bar{\otimes}B(H)) = Z(N)\bar{\otimes}T \text{ for all } x \in S,$$

and so  $R_\psi((\Phi \otimes id_{B(H)})(x)) \in T$ . But

$$(2) \quad R_\psi((\Phi \otimes id_{B(H)})(x)) = (\psi \otimes id_{B(H)}) \circ (\Phi \otimes id_{B(H)})(x) = \phi \otimes id_{B(H)}(x) = R_\phi(x),$$

and so  $R_\phi(x) \in T$  whenever  $x \in S$  and  $\phi$  is a normal state of  $N$ . Since the map  $\phi \rightarrow R_\phi$  is linear, and since every  $\phi \in N_*$  is a linear combination of normal states, we also have that  $R_\phi(x) \in T$  for all  $\phi \in N_*$ . Moreover, since  $S \subset N\bar{\otimes}R, L_\psi(x) \in N$  for all  $\psi \in N_*$ . Hence  $S \subset F(N, T)$ . By assumption,  $Z(N)\bar{\otimes}T \subset S$  and  $S$  is an  $N\bar{\otimes}C1_R$ -bimodule; so  $(N\bar{\otimes}C1_R)(Z(N)\bar{\otimes}T) = N\bar{\otimes}T \subset S$ . Hence  $N\bar{\otimes}T \subset S \subset F(N, T)$ . As noted above, if  $N$  has the weak\* OAP, then  $N$  has Property  $S_\sigma$ ; so in this case we always have  $N\bar{\otimes}T = F(N, T)$ . Finally, if  $S$  is a von Neumann algebra,

then  $S \cap (Z(N) \bar{\otimes} R) = Z(N) \bar{\otimes} T$  is also a von Neumann algebra, and so  $T$  is a von Neumann algebra. Hence we again have  $F(N, T) = N \bar{\otimes} T$ .  $\square$

If  $N$  is a factor, then

$$S \cap (Z(N) \bar{\otimes} R) = S \cap (\mathbb{C}1_N \bar{\otimes} R) \subset \mathbb{C}1_N \bar{\otimes} R = \{1_N \otimes b : b \in R\}.$$

So we always have  $S \cap (Z(N) \bar{\otimes} R) = \mathbb{C}1_N \bar{\otimes} T = Z(N) \bar{\otimes} T$ , where  $T$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace of  $R$ . (In fact,  $T = \{R_\phi(x) : x \in S \cap (Z(N) \bar{\otimes} R) \text{ and } \phi \in N_*\}$ .) Thus we get the following extension of the result of Ge and Kadison.

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $N$  be a factor, let  $R$  be a von Neumann algebra, and suppose  $S$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace of  $N \bar{\otimes} R$  that is an  $N \bar{\otimes} \mathbb{C}1_R$ -bimodule. Then there is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace  $T$  of  $R$  such that*

$$N \bar{\otimes} T \subset S \subset F(N, T).$$

*In particular, if  $N$  has the weak\* OAP, or if  $S$  is a von Neumann algebra, then*

$$S = N \bar{\otimes} T.$$

Our next result shows that the requirement in Theorem 3 that  $N$  have the weak\* OAP is necessary for all  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $N \bar{\otimes} \mathbb{C}1_{B(H)}$ -bimodules of  $N \bar{\otimes} B(H)$  to split.

**Theorem 4.** *Suppose  $N$  is a factor without the weak\* OAP, and that  $H$  is a separable infinite-dimensional Hilbert space. Then there is a unital (but not self-adjoint)  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subalgebra  $S$  of  $N \bar{\otimes} B(H)$  that is an  $N \bar{\otimes} \mathbb{C}1_{B(H)}$ -bimodule, but which does not split.*

*Proof.* Since  $N$  is a von Neumann algebra without the weak\* OAP, and so without Property  $S_\sigma$ , there is an abelian subalgebra  $A$  of  $B(H)$  that is reflexive (and so  $\sigma$ -weakly closed and unital) such that  $F(N, A) \neq N \bar{\otimes} A$ . (See Remark 1.1 in [7], noting that von Neumann algebras are always reflexive.) Let  $S = F(N, A)$ . Then  $S$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed unital subalgebra of  $N \bar{\otimes} B(H)$ . (See Remark 3.16 in [7].) For  $\phi \in N_*$  and for  $a \in N$ , define the normal linear functionals  $a\phi$  and  $\phi a$  on  $N$  by

$$a\phi(b) = \phi(ab) \text{ and } \phi a(b) = \phi(ba) \text{ for all } b \in N.$$

Then for all  $\phi \in N_*$ ,  $a \in N$ , and  $x \in N \bar{\otimes} B(H)$ , we have

$$(3) \quad R_\phi((a \otimes 1_{B(H)})x) = R_{a\phi}(x) \text{ and } R_\phi(x(a \otimes 1_{B(H)})) = R_{\phi a}(x),$$

as can be easily seen (first check the equalities in (3) for  $x$  of the form  $x = b \otimes c$ ). It follows immediately from (3) that if  $x \in F(N, A)$ , then  $(a \otimes 1_{B(H)})x$  and  $x(a \otimes 1_{B(H)})$  are also in  $F(N, A)$  for all  $a \in N$ ; so  $S$  is an  $N \bar{\otimes} \mathbb{C}1_{B(H)}$ -bimodule. Finally, note that if  $S = N \bar{\otimes} T$  for some  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace  $T$  of  $B(H)$ , then  $T = A$ , which contradicts  $F(N, A) \neq N \bar{\otimes} A$ . Hence  $S$  does not split (and so is not selfadjoint).  $\square$

Combining Theorems 3 and 4, we get the following result.

**Theorem 5.** *A factor  $N$  has Property  $S_\sigma$  if and only if for every von Neumann algebra  $R$  (or just  $R = B(H)$ ), every  $\sigma$ -weakly closed  $N \bar{\otimes} \mathbb{C}1_R$ -bimodule of  $N \bar{\otimes} R$  splits.*

The von Neumann subalgebra version of Theorem 3 in [4] is used to show the following result ([4, Theorem H]): if  $N$  and  $R$  are factors, if  $N$  is injective, and if  $P$  is a maximal injective von Neumann subalgebra of  $R$ , then  $N \bar{\otimes} P$  is a maximal

injective von Neumann subalgebra of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$ . Injectivity makes sense for norm closed subspaces of  $B(H)$ , when these are viewed as operator spaces. By definition, an operator space  $V$  is injective if for any operator space  $W_0 \subset W$ , every complete contraction from  $W_0$  to  $V$  has a completely contractive extension from  $W$  to  $V$ . Since  $B(H)$  is injective, it is not hard to show that an operator space  $V \subset B(H)$  is injective if and only if there is a completely contractive projection from  $B(H)$  onto  $V$ . (See [3, Proposition 4.1.6].) Using ideas from the proof of Theorem H, we obtain the next result.

**Theorem 6.** *Let  $N$  be an injective factor, and let  $R$  be a von Neumann algebra. Then*

- (1) *if  $T$  is a maximal  $\sigma$ -weakly closed injective subspace of  $R$ , then  $N\bar{\otimes}T$  is a maximal  $\sigma$ -weakly closed injective  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathbb{C}1_R$ -bimodule of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$ ;*
- (2) *if  $A$  is a maximal  $\sigma$ -weakly closed injective unital (but not necessarily self-adjoint) subalgebra of  $R$ , then  $N\bar{\otimes}A$  is a maximal  $\sigma$ -weakly closed injective unital subalgebra of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$ .*

*Proof.* (1) We first show that  $N\bar{\otimes}T$  is injective. Since  $T$  is  $\sigma$ -weakly closed, it is dual as a Banach space. So it follows from Theorem 1.3 in [1] that there is an injective von Neumann algebra  $P$  and a projection  $e$  in  $P$  such that  $T$  is completely isometric and weak\* homeomorphic to  $eP(1_P - e)$ , and hence  $N\bar{\otimes}T$  is completely isometric and weak\* homeomorphic to  $N\bar{\otimes}eP(1_P - e)$ . Let  $f = 1_N \otimes e$ , and let  $M = N\bar{\otimes}P$ . Then  $1_M - f = 1_N \otimes (1_P - e)$ , and so  $N\bar{\otimes}eP(1_P - e) = fM(1_M - f)$ . Since  $N$  and  $P$  are injective von Neumann algebras, so is  $M$  ([8, Proposition 10.24]). Thus another application of Theorem 1.3 in [1] shows that  $N\bar{\otimes}T$  is injective. Now suppose that  $S$  is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed injective  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathbb{C}1_R$ -bimodule of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$ , and that  $N\bar{\otimes}T \subset S$ . Since  $N$  is injective, it has Property  $S_\sigma$ . (It is shown in [6] that semidiscrete von Neumann algebras have Property  $S_\sigma$ , and, as shown in [13], semidiscreteness is equivalent to injectivity.) Hence by Theorem 3, there is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace  $T_0$  of  $R$  such that  $S = N\bar{\otimes}T_0$ , and since  $\mathbb{C}1_N\bar{\otimes}T \subset S = F(N, T_0)$ ,  $T \subset T_0$ . Suppose  $N \subset B(K)$  for a Hilbert space  $K$ . Then  $S \subset B(K)\bar{\otimes}B(H) = B(K \otimes H)$  is injective. So there is a completely contractive projection  $\Psi$  from  $B(K \otimes H)$  onto  $S$ . Let  $\phi$  be a normal state of  $N$ , and let  $\Phi$  be the unique normal linear map from  $N\bar{\otimes}R$  onto  $\mathbb{C}1_N\bar{\otimes}R$  such that  $\Phi(a \otimes b) = \phi(a)1_N \otimes b$  for all  $a \in N$  and  $b \in R$ . Then it is easily checked that  $\Phi \circ \Psi$  is a completely contractive projection from  $B(K \otimes H)$  onto  $\mathbb{C}1_N\bar{\otimes}T_0$ . Hence  $\mathbb{C}1_N\bar{\otimes}T_0$  is injective, from which it follows easily that  $T_0$  is injective. By the maximality of  $T$ ,  $T = T_0$ , and so  $S = N\bar{\otimes}T$ . Hence  $N\bar{\otimes}T$  is a maximal  $\sigma$ -weakly closed injective  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathbb{C}1_R$ -bimodule of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$ .

(2) Let  $B$  be a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed injective unital subalgebra of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$  such that  $N\bar{\otimes}A \subset B$ . Then since  $A$  is unital,  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathbb{C}1_R \subset B$ , and so, since  $B$  is an algebra,  $B$  is an  $N\bar{\otimes}\mathbb{C}1_R$ -bimodule. Thus, by the same argument as in (1),  $B = N\bar{\otimes}A_0$ , where  $A \subset A_0$  and  $A_0$  is an injective  $\sigma$ -weakly closed subspace of  $R$ . Moreover, if  $a$  and  $b$  are elements of  $A_0$ , then  $1_N \otimes a$  and  $1_N \otimes b$  are elements of the algebra  $B$ ; so  $1_N \otimes ab = (1_N \otimes a)(1_N \otimes b) \in B = F(N, A_0)$ , and so  $ab \in A_0$ . Hence  $A_0$  is also a unital subalgebra of  $R$ , and so by the maximality of  $A$ ,  $A = A_0$ , and so  $B = N\bar{\otimes}A$ . Thus  $N\bar{\otimes}A$  is a maximal  $\sigma$ -weakly closed injective unital subalgebra of  $N\bar{\otimes}R$ .  $\square$

We conclude this paper with a result that generalizes the main result in [16] (and Theorem 3.3(1) in [15]). First we need some terminology. If  $A$  and  $B$  are  $C^*$ -algebras, we denote by  $A \otimes B$  the minimal or spatial tensor product of  $A$  and

$B$ . (If  $A \subset B(H)$  and  $B \subset B(K)$ , then  $A \otimes B$  is just the norm closed linear span in  $B(H) \bar{\otimes} B(K)$  of  $\{a \otimes b : a \in A, b \in B\}$ .) Slice maps and Fubini products can be defined as in the von Neumann algebra case, with the  $\sigma$ -weak topology replaced by the norm topology. (So, for example, if  $\phi \in A^*$ , then the right slice map  $R_\phi$  is the unique norm bounded linear map from  $A \otimes B$  to  $B$  satisfying  $R_\phi(a \otimes b) = \phi(a)b$  for all  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ .) In contrast to the case of von Neumann algebras, the Fubini product depends on  $A$  and  $B$ . (See section 5 of [7].) Since our first  $C^*$ -algebra will be fixed, we use the following special notation: if  $A$  and  $B$  are  $C^*$ -algebras, and if  $T$  is a norm closed subspace of  $B$ , then

$$F_B(T) = \{x \in A \otimes B : R_\phi(x) \in T \text{ for all } \phi \in A^*\}.$$

Note that since every bounded linear functional on  $A$  is a linear combination of states, we also have that  $F_B(T)$  is the norm closed linear span of  $\{x \in A \otimes B : R_\phi(x) \in T \text{ for all states } \phi \text{ of } A\}$ . A  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  is said to have Property  $S$  for subspaces (see [7]) if for every pair  $(T, B)$ , where  $B$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra and  $T$  is a norm closed subspace of  $B$ , we have  $F_B(T) = A \otimes T$ . (A  $C^*$ -algebra is said to have Property  $S$  if  $F_B(C) = A \otimes C$  whenever  $C$  is a  $C^*$ -subalgebra of a  $C^*$ -algebra  $B$ . Property  $S$  was introduced by Wassermann in [11], and was the inspiration for both Property  $S_\sigma$  and Property  $S$  for subspaces. In [12], Wassermann showed that there are  $C^*$ -algebras that do not have Property  $S$ .) It is shown in [7] that a  $C^*$ -algebra has Property  $S$  for subspaces if and only if for any  $C^*$ -algebra  $B$  there is a net  $\{\Phi_i\}$  of finite rank completely bounded maps from  $A$  to  $A$  such that  $(\Phi_i \otimes id_B)(x) \rightarrow x$  in the point norm topology of  $A \otimes B$ . A  $C^*$ -algebra with this approximation property is said to have the strong operator approximation property, or strong OAP (see p. 185 of [2] or Chapter 11 of [3]). Wassermann showed in [14] that nuclear  $C^*$ -algebras have Property  $S$ , and his proof of this result (Proposition 10 in [14]) shows that nuclear  $C^*$ -algebras have Property  $S$  for subspaces (and also shows directly that nuclear  $C^*$ -algebras have the strong OAP).

The main result (Theorem) in [16] is that if  $A, D$  and  $C$  are unital  $C^*$ -algebras, if  $A$  is simple and nuclear, and if  $A \otimes \mathbb{C}1_D \subset C \subset A \otimes D$ , then  $C = A \otimes B$  for some  $C^*$ -subalgebra  $B$  of  $D$ . This result was obtained independently by Zacharias, using elementary maps (Theorem 3.3(1) of [15]), where it was explicitly observed that the only property of nuclearity that Zsido used was the fact that a nuclear  $C^*$ -algebra has Property  $S$ . So the result remains valid if we just assume that  $A$  is simple and has Property  $S$ . Our last theorem follows from a straightforward modification of the proof of [16, Theorem], or the proof of [15, Theorem 3.3(1)]; so the proof is omitted.

**Theorem 7.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be unital  $C^*$ -algebras, with  $A$  simple, and suppose  $S$  is a norm closed subspace of  $A \otimes B$  that is also an  $A \otimes \mathbb{C}1_B$ -bimodule (under multiplication). Then*

- (1) *there is a norm closed subspace  $T$  of  $B$  such that  $A \otimes T \subset S \subset F_B(T)$ ;*
- (2) *if  $A$  has Property  $S$  for subspaces, or, equivalently, if  $A$  has the strong OAP (in particular, if  $A$  is nuclear), then  $S = A \otimes T$  for some norm closed subspace  $T$  of  $B$ .*

*Remark.* Theorem 3.3(2) in [15] can also be generalized to the subspace case, with the obvious modifications to the proof. The general result is: Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are unital  $C^*$ -algebras and that  $A$  contains a unital abelian  $C^*$ -subalgebra  $D$  that has the pure state extension property (each pure state on  $D$  extends uniquely to

a pure state on  $A$ ). Suppose  $C$  is a norm closed subspace of  $A \otimes B$  that is an  $A \otimes \mathbb{C}1_B$ -bimodule, and that  $B_\omega = B_0$  for each pure state  $\omega$  on  $A$  and some norm closed subspace  $B_0$  of  $B$ . (See [15] for the definition of  $B_\omega$ . Note that if we just assume  $C$  is an  $A \otimes \mathbb{C}1_B$ -bimodule, then the proofs of (i) and (iii) of Proposition 3.2 in [15] are still valid.) Then  $A \otimes B_0 \subset C \subset F_B(B_0)$ , and thus  $C = A \otimes B_0$  if  $A$  has Property S for subspaces.

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