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Universal C-algebras of *-semigroups and the C*-algebra of a partial isometry*

A structure of the C*-algebra of a partial isometry is described in terms of a Cuntz-Pimsner C*-algebra associated with a C*-correspondence; this can be viewed as a form of crossed product C*-algebra for an action by a completely positive map on a non-unital C*-algebra. The C*-algebras involved occur as universal C*-algebras associated with contractive *-representations, and complete order *-representations, of certain *-semigroups.