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*Model theory of strongly self absorbing  $C^*$ -algebras*

Virtually all uses of ultrapowers in operator algebras (and elsewhere) rely on two of their model-theoretic properties, countable saturation and Los's theorem. Unlike ultrapowers, relative commutants do not have a well-studied abstract analogue. Because of their central role it would be desirable to have a better understanding of relative commutants. When algebras in question are strongly-self absorbing the relative commutant is as well behaved as the ultrapower, in a very specific (and somewhat surprising) way.