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Spectral Flow and C-algebras*

In $B(H)$ (the set of bounded operators on a Hilbert space), the spectral flow counts the net number of eigenvalues which change sign as one travels along a path of self-adjoint Fredholm operators; in other words, spectral flow measures a change in the spectrum of the operators. The beginning of the talk will make precise the definition of spectral flow in this context, its properties and its connections to K-theory and non-commutative geometry. I will conclude the talk with a discussion of spectral flow in the context of a unital C*-algebra with a norm-closed 2-sided ideal.