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The C^*-algebra of a Partial Isometry

In joint work with Zhuang Niu we considered some questions on the universal C^*-algebra of a partial isometry. It has long been known that this class of operators is intractable; nevertheless it is possible to say some things about this C^*-algebra of interest to both operator theorists and algebraists. In particular we relate this C^*-algebra to the universal unital C^*-algebra generated by a contraction, and show it is non-unital, non-exact, and residually finite dimensional. Additionally, we compute its K-theory.