

IDEAL STRUCTURE IN CERTAIN C*-TENSOR PRODUCTS***

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Abstract

This paper discusses the ideal structure in tensor product $A \otimes_{\min} B$ of C^* -algebra A and B , and introduces the concept of property (I) and property (K) with respect to the problem. When A is an AF (or scattered) C^* -algebra, it is shown that for any C^* -algebra B , the ideals in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ can be expressed by those of A and B .

§ 1. Introduction

It is well known that ideal structure in a C^* -algebra is very important in the theory of C^* -algebras. The ideal structure of type I C^* -algebras has been studied intensively^[1]. The problem of determining ideal structure in C^* -tensor products is very difficult. Takesaki proved that $A \otimes_{\min} B$ is simple whenever A and B are simple^[7]. In general, the ideal in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ can not be expressed by that of C^* -algebras A and B . Wassermann proved that there exists a closed two-sided ideal I in $B(H) \otimes_{\min} B(H)$ such that $I \cong B(H) \otimes_{\min} K + K \otimes_{\min} B(H)$ ^[9], where, as usual, $B(H)$ denotes all bounded linear operators on Hilbert space H and K all compact operators on separable Hilbert space.

In this paper, we consider the condition on C^* -algebras A and B under which ideals in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ can be determined by those of A and B . A necessary condition on such C^* -algebras will be given. When A is an AF (or scattered) C^* -algebra, it is shown that any ideal in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ can be determined by those of A and B .

We note that, in our paper, ideals of a C^* -algebra always mean closed two-sided ideals. Let A be a C^* -algebra. We use A^{**} to denote the enveloping Von Neumann algebra of A . A^{**} is a W^* -algebra in $\sigma(A^{**}, A^*)$ topology. We often identify A with its canonical image in A^{**} , and hence $A \subset A^{**}$.

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§ 2. Slice Map Property

In this section, we discuss the slice map property. First of all, we have

Lemma 2.1 *Let A be a C^* -algebra, and e be a central projection in A^{**} . Then, $A^{**}e \cap A$ is a closed two-sided ideal in A . On the other hand, every ideal of A has this form.*

Proof Since e is a central projection in A^{**} , it is easy to verify that $A^{**}e \cap A$ is a closed two-sided ideal in A . On the other hand, by [3, Theorem 2.5], every ideal of A has this form.

Let B be a C^* -subalgebra of a C^* -algebra A . For every X in B^{**} , we define $\Phi(X) \in \bar{B}^\sigma$ (the $\sigma(A^{**}, A^*)$ -closure of B in A^{**}) as follows. For any $F \in A^*$, let $\Phi(X)(F) = X(F|_B)$. By Propositions 1.12.3 and 2.11.4 in [4], we have

Lemma 2.2 *Let A and B as above. Then Φ is a W^* -isomorphism from B^{**} onto \bar{B}^σ .*

Proposition 2.3. *Let B be a C^* -subalgebra of C^* -algebra A . If $x \in A$ and $x \in B$, then $x \in \bar{B}^\sigma$. Therefore $A \cap \bar{B}^\sigma = B$.*

Proof As $x \in A$ and $x \in B$, there is an element f in A^* such that $f(x) \neq 0$ and $f(B) = 0$. If we had that $x \in \bar{B}^\sigma$, there would exist a y in B^{**} such that $\Phi(y) = x$, where Φ is the isomorphism in Lemma 2.2. Hence, $0 \neq f(x) = x(f) = \Phi(y)(f) = y(f|_B) = 0$, a contradiction. This completes the proof.

Remark. By Lemma 2.2, we often identify B^{**} with \bar{B}^σ . Then $A \cap B^{**} = B$ whenever $B \subset A$.

A C^* -algebra B is called scattered if B^{**} is atomic, i. e., B^{**} is a direct sum of some type I factor^[5]. Quigg proved that $(A \otimes_{\min} B)^{**} = A^{**} \hat{\otimes} B^{**}$ if and only if A or B is a scattered C^* -algebra, where $A^{**} \hat{\otimes} B^{**}$ is the W^* -tensor product of A^{**} and B^{**} (See [5]). We also know from [5] that any C^* -subalgebra of a scattered C^* -algebra is scattered.

Let A and B be C^* -algebras. For any $\varphi \in A^*$, we define a linear map $\sum a_i \otimes b_i \mapsto \sum \varphi(a_i) b_i$ from $A \otimes B$ to B . This map can be extended to a bounded linear map from $A \otimes_{\min} B$ to B . We denote this map by R_φ . R_φ is called the right C^* -slice map determined by φ .

Let A and B be C^* -algebras, and O a C^* -subalgebra of B . The triple (A, B, O) is said to verify the slice map conjecture if $x \in A \otimes_{\min} B$ and, for every $\varphi \in A^*$, $R_\varphi(x) \in O$ implies that x is in $A \otimes_{\min} O$ (See [8]).

Archbold and Batty proposed a problem whether the triple (A, B, O) verifies the slice map conjecture for any nuclear C^* -algebra B , where A is any C^* -algebra

and O is any C^* -subalgebra of B . The following theorem partially answers the problem affirmatively.

Theorem 2.4. *If B is a scattered C^* -algebra and O is any C^* -subalgebra of B , then for any C^* -algebra A the triple (A, B, O) verifies the slice map conjecture.*

Proof As B is scattered, we have $(A \otimes_{\min} B)^{**} = A^{**} \hat{\otimes} B^{**}$. Now, suppose that x is in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ and $R_\varphi(x)$ is in O for every φ in A^* . An element x' in $(A \otimes_{\min} O)^{**}$ can be defined by $x'(\varphi \otimes \psi) = \psi(R_\varphi(x))$ for any $\varphi \in A^*$ and $\psi \in O^*$ since $A^* \otimes_{\min} O^* = (A \otimes_{\min} O)^*$. It is clear that $\Phi(x')(\varphi \otimes \psi) = x'(\varphi \otimes \psi|_{A \otimes_{\min} O})$, where Φ is the isomorphism in Lemma 2.2. Therefore, $w = \Phi(x')$, and $x \in \overline{(A \otimes_{\min} O)^*}$. By Proposition 2.3, we know that $A \otimes_{\min} O = \overline{(A \otimes_{\min} O)^*} \cap (A \otimes_{\min} B)$, hence x is in $A \otimes_{\min} O$. The proof is completed.

§ 3. Ideal Structure

In this section, we will obtain our main results on ideal structure in certain C^* -tensor products. We first have

Theorem 3.1. *Let A be a scattered C^* -algebra, and B any C^* -algebra. Then any ideal of $A \otimes_{\min} B$ can be expressed as the form $\sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} I_\lambda \otimes_{\min} J_\lambda$, where I_λ and J_λ are ideals of A and B respectively, and Λ is an index set.*

Proof As A is a scattered C^* -algebra, $(A \otimes_{\min} B)^{**} = A^{**} \hat{\otimes} B^{**}$, and A^{**} is a direct sum of some type I factor, i. e., $A^{**} = \sum_{i \in I} B(H_i)$. Putting $H = \sum_{i \in I} H_i$ and denoting the projection from H onto H_i by p_i for every i in I , we can easily see that p_i 's are in A^{**} . We also have $(A \otimes_{\min} B)^{**} = A^{**} \hat{\otimes} B^{**} = \sum_{i \in I} B(H_i) \hat{\otimes} B^{**}$.

Regarding $B(H_i)$ as a subalgebra of A^{**} , we can easily prove that the center of $(A \otimes_{\min} B)^{**}$ is $\sum_{i \in I} \mathbb{C} p_i \otimes Z$, where Z is the center of B^{**} . Thus any central projection p in $(A \otimes_{\min} B)^{**}$ can be written as $p = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} p_\lambda \otimes q_\lambda$, where q_λ 's are projections in Z and Λ is some subset of I .

Any weak closed ideal in $(A \otimes_{\min} B)^{**}$ is associated with a central projection p in $(A \otimes_{\min} B)^{**}$. By above, there is an index set $\Lambda \subset I$ such that $p = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} p_\lambda \otimes q_\lambda$. Therefore, $(A \otimes_{\min} B)^{**} p = (A^{**} \hat{\otimes} B^{**}) p = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} A^{**} p_\lambda \hat{\otimes} B^{**} q_\lambda$. Now, putting $A^{**} p_\lambda \cap A = I_\lambda$ and $B^{**} q_\lambda \cap B = J_\lambda$, one can easily show that $I_\lambda^{**} = A^{**} p_\lambda$ and $J_\lambda^{**} = B^{**} q_\lambda$. Since any ideal of a scattered C^* -algebra is also scattered, it follows from [5] that $(I_\lambda \otimes_{\min} J_\lambda)^{**} = I_\lambda^{**} \hat{\otimes} J_\lambda^{**}$ for every $\lambda \in \Lambda$. Thus we get $\sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} I_\lambda \otimes_{\min} J_\lambda = (\sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} I_\lambda \otimes_{\min} J_\lambda)^{**} \cap (A \otimes_{\min} B) =$

$$\left(\sum_{\lambda \in A}^{\oplus} (I_{\lambda} \otimes_{\min} J_{\lambda})\right)^{**} \cap A \otimes_{\min} B = \sum_{\lambda \in A}^{\oplus} I_{\lambda}^{**} \hat{\otimes} J_{\lambda}^{**} \cap (A \otimes_{\min} B) = \sum_{\lambda \in A}^{\oplus} A^{**} p_{\lambda} \hat{\otimes} B^{**} q_{\lambda} \cap (A \otimes_{\min} B) =$$

$$((A^{**} \hat{\otimes} B^{**})p) \cap (A \otimes_{\min} B) = (A \otimes_{\min} B)^{**} p \cap (A \otimes_{\min} B), \text{ i. e., we have the following}$$

$$\text{equation } (A \otimes_{\min} B)^{**} p \cap (A \otimes_{\min} B) = \sum_{\lambda \in A}^{\oplus} I_{\lambda} \otimes_{\min} J_{\lambda}. \text{ The theorem follows from Lemma 2.1.}$$

Corollary 3.2. For any C^* -algebra A , every ideal in $A \otimes_{\min} K$ is of the form $I \otimes_{\min} K$ for some ideal I of A , where K is the C^* -algebra consisting of compact operators on some separable Hilbert space.

Proposition 3.3. Let $A = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n A_i$. If, for any C^* -algebra B , every ideal in $A_i \otimes_{\min} B$ is of the form $A_i \otimes_{\min} I_i$, where I_i 's are some ideals of B , then every ideal in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ is of the form $\bigoplus_{i=1}^n A_i \otimes_{\min} J_i$ for some ideals J_i of B .

Proof Let $D = D_1 \oplus D_2$ be the direct sum of C^* algebras D_1 and D_2 . It is clear that $D^{**} = D_1^{**} \oplus D_2^{**}$. Any central projection e in D^{**} can be written as $e = e_1 \oplus e_2$, where e_1 and e_2 are central projections in D_1 and D_2 respectively. We note that $D^{**}e \cap D = (D_1^{**}e_1 \cap D_1) \oplus (D_2^{**}e_2 \cap D_2)$, i. e., every ideal of D can be expressed as a direct sum of ideals in D_1 and D_2 . Thus the proposition follows from the assumption and induction.

Corollary 3.4. If A is a finite dimensional C^* -algebra, for any C^* -algebra B , every ideal in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ can be expressed as the form $\sum_i I_i \otimes_{\min} J_i$, where I_i 's and J_i 's are ideals of A and B respectively.

To prove Theorem 3.6, we need the following

Lemma 3.5. If A is the direct limit of $\{A_{\alpha}, \alpha \in I_1\}$ and B is the direct limit of $\{B_{\beta}, \beta \in I_2\}$, then $A \otimes_{\min} B$ is the direct limit of $\{A_{\alpha} \otimes_{\min} B_{\beta}, (\alpha, \beta) \in I_1 \times I_2\}$.

Proof By [4] or [6], we may assume that $A = \bigcup_{\alpha \in I_1} A_{\alpha}$ and $B = \bigcup_{\beta \in I_2} B_{\beta}$, where A_{α} and B_{β} are C^* -subalgebras of A and B respectively, and $A_{\alpha} \subset A_{\alpha'} (B_{\beta} \subset B_{\beta'})$ whenever $\alpha < \alpha' (\beta < \beta')$. So, it suffices to prove that $A \otimes_{\min} B = \bigcup_{(\alpha, \beta) \in I_1 \times I_2} A_{\alpha} \otimes_{\min} B_{\beta}$.

It is clear that $A \otimes_{\min} B \supset \bigcup_{\alpha \in I_1} A_{\alpha} \otimes_{\min} B_{\beta}$. On the other hand, for any $x = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \otimes b_i$ in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ (algebraic tensor product of A and B) and any positive number ε , letting $M = \max \{\|a_i\|, \|b_i\|, i=1, 2, \dots, n\}$, one can find α_0, β_0 and $a'_i \in A_{\alpha_0}, b'_i \in B_{\beta_0}$ such that $\|a_i - a'_i\| < \varepsilon/2nM$ and $\|b_i - b'_i\| < \varepsilon/2nM (i=1, 2, \dots, n)$. Thus we have

$$\left\| x - \sum_{i=1}^n a'_i \otimes b'_i \right\| < \varepsilon + \varepsilon^2/4n^2M^2,$$

and x is in $\bigcup_{\alpha \in I_1} A_{\alpha} \otimes_{\min} B_{\beta}$. Therefore, equation $A \otimes_{\min} B = \bigcup_{\alpha \in I_1} A_{\alpha} \otimes_{\min} B_{\beta}$ follows from the density of $A \otimes_{\min} B$ in $A \otimes_{\min} B$.

Theorem 3.6. *Let A be the direct limit of $\{A_\alpha, \alpha \in \Lambda\}$ and B a simple O^* -algebra. If any ideal in $A_\alpha \otimes_{\min} B (\alpha \in \Lambda)$ is of the form $I_\alpha \otimes_{\min} B$ for some ideal I_α of A_α , then every ideal in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ can be written as $I \otimes_{\min} B$ for some ideal I of A .*

Proof As in the proof of Lemma 3.5, we may assume that $A = \overline{\bigcup_{\alpha \in \Lambda} A_\alpha}$. By Lemma 3.5, we have $A \otimes_{\min} B = \overline{\bigcup_{\alpha \in \Lambda} A_\alpha \otimes_{\min} B}$. Just as in the proof of Lemma 12.4.1 in [4], we know that any ideal J of $A \otimes_{\min} B$ can be expressed as $J = \overline{\bigcup_{\alpha \in \Lambda} J_\alpha}$, where $J_\alpha = (A_\alpha \otimes_{\min} B) \cap J$ is an ideal in $A_\alpha \otimes_{\min} B (\alpha \in \Lambda)$.

By assumption, $J_\alpha = I_\alpha \otimes_{\min} B$ for some ideal I_α of A_α . We claim that $J_\alpha \subset J_{\alpha'}$ whenever $\alpha < \alpha'$. In fact, for any x in I_α , taking $b \neq 0$ in B one can choose an f in B^* such that $f(b) = 1$ by the Hahn-Banach theorem. Since $b \otimes x \in B \otimes_{\min} I_\alpha \subset B \otimes_{\min} I_{\alpha'}$, $R_f(b \otimes x) \in I_{\alpha'}$ and $R_f(b \otimes x) = x$. So, $x \in I_\alpha$ implies that $x \in I_{\alpha'}$. It is obvious that $I = \overline{\bigcup_{\alpha} I_\alpha}$ is an ideal of A and $J = I \otimes_{\min} B$.

Corollary 3.7. *Let A be an AF-algebra and B any simple O^* -algebra. Then, every ideal in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ is of the form $I \otimes_{\min} B$ for some ideal I of A .*

Using the same method as in the proof of Theorem 3.6, one can prove

Proposition 3.8. *Let A be the direct limit of $\{A_\alpha, \alpha \in \Lambda\}$ and B any O^* -algebra. If, for every $\alpha \in \Lambda$, any ideal in $A_\alpha \otimes_{\min} B$ is of the form $A_\alpha \otimes_{\min} J_\alpha$ for some ideal J_α of B , then every ideal in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ can be expressed as the form $A \otimes_{\min} J$ for some ideal J of B .*

In particular, we get

Corollary 3.9. *If A is a UHF-algebra, then for any O^* -algebra B every ideal in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ is of the form $A \otimes_{\min} I$ for some ideal I of B .*

§ 4. Property (I) and (K)

To study ideal structure in O^* -tensor products more generally, we introduce the definition of property (I), which will help us to understand ideals in O^* -tensor products. By Theorem 3.1, we see that any scattered O^* -algebra has property (I). Moreover, we introduce the concept of property (K) and get the relationship between property (I) and property (K). The O^* -algebra with property (K) is closely related with the O^* -algebraic extension theory (See [2], Theorems A and B). Therefore, there exists close relationship between the extension theory and the ideal structure in O^* -tensor products.

Suppose that $\{I_\lambda, \lambda \in \Lambda\}$ is a family of ideals in C^* -algebra A . We use the notation $I = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} I_\lambda$ to mean that $x \in I$ if and only if there exists a sequence $\{x_n\}$ converging to x in norm, where $x_n \in \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda_n} I_\lambda$, and Λ_n is a finite subset of Λ . It is easy to prove that I is an ideal in A .

Let A be a C^* -algebra. We say that A has property (I) if, for any C^* -algebra B , every ideal in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ can be expressed as the form $\sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} I_\lambda \otimes_{\min} J_\lambda$, where I_λ and J_λ are ideals of A and B respectively. We first have

Proposition 4.1. *If a C^* -algebra has property (I), so does its quotients.*

Proof Given a C^* -algebra A with property (I), we let I_0 be an ideal of A and q the canonical map from A onto A/I_0 . Then $q \otimes 1$ is a homomorphism from $A \otimes_{\min} B$ onto $(A/I_0) \otimes_{\min} B$. For any ideal J in $(A/I_0) \otimes_{\min} B$, there is an ideal J' in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ such that $J = q \otimes 1(J')$. Since A has property (I), J' can be expressed as $J' = \sum_{\lambda} I_\lambda \otimes_{\min} J_\lambda$, where I_λ and J_λ are ideals of A and B respectively. Then, we have $J = q \otimes 1(J') = q \otimes 1(\sum_{\lambda} I_\lambda \otimes_{\min} J_\lambda) = \sum_{\lambda} q(I_\lambda) \otimes_{\min} J_\lambda = \sum_{\lambda} I'_\lambda \otimes_{\min} J_\lambda$, where I'_λ is an ideal of A/I_0 . So, the proposition follows.

A C^* -algebra B is said to have property (K) if, for any C^* -algebra A and any ideal J of B , $\text{Ker}(q \otimes 1) = J \otimes_{\min} A$, where q is the canonical map from B onto B/J and $q \otimes 1$ the homomorphism from $B \otimes_{\min} A$ onto $(B/J) \otimes_{\min} A$ induced by q .

Now, we give a necessary condition of property (I).

Proposition 4.2. *Property (I) implies the property (K).*

Proof If there were a C^* -algebra A having property (I) but not having property (K), then there would be an ideal I of A and a C^* -algebra B such that $J = \text{Ker}(q \otimes 1) \not\supseteq I \otimes_{\min} B$.

Obviously, J is an ideal in $A \otimes_{\min} B$. Since A has property (I), one can write J as $J = \sum_{\lambda} I_\lambda \otimes_{\min} J_\lambda$, where I_λ and J_λ are ideals of A and B respectively. By the assumption, there is an index λ_0 such that $I_{\lambda_0} \not\subset I$, i. e., there exists an element x in I_{λ_0} such that x is not in I . For any non-zero element y in J_{λ_0} , $x \otimes y$ lies in $I_{\lambda_0} \otimes_{\min} J_{\lambda_0} \subset \sum_{\lambda} I_\lambda \otimes_{\min} J_\lambda \subset J$. But we have $q \otimes 1(x \otimes y) = q(x) \otimes y \neq 0$. The contradiction shows that A has property (K).

The following proposition characterizes property (K).

Proposition 4.3. *C^* -algebra B has property (K) if and only if, for any C^* -algebra A and any ideal I of B , the triple (A, B, I) verifies the slice map conjecture.*

Proof Let q be the canonical map from B to B/I . Then, for every $x = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \otimes y_i$

in $A \otimes B$ and any $\varphi \in A^*$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} q \circ R_\varphi(x) &= q \circ R_\varphi\left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \otimes y_i\right) = q\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \varphi(x_i) y_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \varphi(x_i) q(y_i) \\ &= R_\varphi\left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \otimes q(y_i)\right) = R_\varphi \circ (1 \otimes q)(x). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by continuity of R_φ and q and the density of $A \otimes B$ in $A \otimes_{\min} B$, we have the equation $q \circ R_\varphi = R_\varphi \circ (1 \otimes q)$.

Now, suppose that (A, B, I) verifies the slice omap conjecture. Given x in $\ker(1 \otimes q)$, we know that $q \circ R_\varphi(x) = R_\varphi(1 \otimes q)(x) = 0$, and thus $R_\varphi(x)$ is in I for any $\varphi \in A^*$. So, x belongs to $A \otimes_{\min} I$, and we have $\ker(1 \otimes q) = A \otimes_{\min} I$. This shows that B has property (K).

Conversely, suppose that B has property (K). If x is in $A \otimes_{\min} B$ such that $R_\varphi(x) \in I$ for every $\varphi \in A^*$, then $R_\varphi \circ (1 \otimes q)(x) = q \circ R_\varphi(x) = 0$. Since the set $\{R_\varphi, \varphi \in A^*\}$ separates elements in $A \otimes_{\min} (B/I)$, we get $(1 \otimes q)(x) = 0$, and thus x belongs to $\ker(1 \otimes q) = A \otimes_{\min} I$.

Proposition 4.4. Suppose that A is the C^* -algebra with property (I). Then any ideal J of A has property (I).

Proof It is clear that $J \otimes_{\min} B$ is an ideal of $A \otimes_{\min} B$. For any ideal J' in $J \otimes_{\min} B$, J' is an ideal of $A \otimes_{\min} B$. By the assumption on A , we obtain $J' = \sum_{\lambda} I_{\lambda} \otimes_{\min} J_{\lambda}$, where I_{λ} and J_{λ} are ideals of A and B respectively. By Propositions 4.2 and 4.3, (J_{λ}, A, J) verifies the slice map conjecture. Then, any $x \in J_{\lambda} \otimes_{\min} I_{\lambda} \subset J' \subset B \otimes_{\min} J$, $R_\varphi(x)$ is in J for every $\varphi \in J_{\lambda}^*$, and thus $x \in J_{\lambda} \otimes_{\min} J$. Therefore, $J_{\lambda} \otimes_{\min} I_{\lambda} \subset J_{\lambda} \otimes_{\min} J$. Using the method similar to the proof in Theorem 3.6, one can derive $I_{\lambda} \subset J$, i. e., I_{λ} is an ideal of J . So, J has property (I).

Proposition 4.5. Let A and B be C^* -algebras with property (I). Then $A \otimes_{\min} B$ has property (I).

Proof For any C^* -algebra O , $(A \otimes_{\min} B) \otimes_{\min} O = A \otimes_{\min} (B \otimes_{\min} O)$. Since A has property (I), any ideal I in $(A \otimes_{\min} B) \otimes_{\min} O$ is of the form $I = \sum_{\lambda} I_{\lambda} \otimes_{\min} J$, where I_{λ} and J_{λ} are ideals of A and $B \otimes_{\min} O$, respectively. For every λ , $J_{\lambda} = \sum_i J'_{\lambda,i} \otimes_{\min} K_{\lambda,i}$, since B has property (I), where $J'_{\lambda,i}$ and $K_{\lambda,i}$ are ideals of B and O , respectively. Therefore, we get $I = \sum_{\lambda} \sum_i (I_{\lambda} \otimes_{\min} J'_{\lambda,i}) \otimes_{\min} K_{\lambda,i}$, i. e., $A \otimes_{\min} B$ has property (I).

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