

UNITARY ORBITS OF SELF-ADJOINT OPERATORS IN C^* -ALGEBRAS

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From as early as the work of Weyl it has been known that the distance between unitary orbits of self-adjoint operators is connected essentially to the spectrum of the operators in question. In this talk we will trace the history of this idea, and present what is quite probably the outer limit of its usefulness among simple separable C^* -algebras.