

## ZERO-DIVISOR GRAPH OF THE RINGS OF REAL MEASURABLE FUNCTIONS WITH THE MEASURES

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ABSTRACT. Let  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be the ring of real-valued measurable functions on a measurable space  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  with measure  $\mu$ . In this paper, we study the zero-divisor graph of  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ , denoted by  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . We give the relationships among graph properties of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , ring properties of  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and measure properties of  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Finally, we investigate the continuity properties of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

A  $\sigma$ -algebra on a set  $X$  is a collection  $\mathcal{A}$  of subsets of  $X$  that includes the empty subset, is closed under complement, and is closed under countable unions. If  $\mathcal{A}$  is a  $\sigma$ -algebra on  $X$ , then  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  is called a *measurable space* and the members of  $\mathcal{A}$  are called the *measurable sets* in  $X$ . A function  $\mu$  from a  $\sigma$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  to the extended real number line is called a *measure* if for all countable collections  $\{A_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  of pairwise disjoint sets in  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mu(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_i)$ . To avoid trivialities, we shall also assume that  $\mu(A) < \infty$  for at least one  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ . A *measure space* is a triple  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ , where  $X$  is a set,  $\mathcal{A}$  a  $\sigma$ -algebra on  $X$ , and  $\mu$  a measure on  $\mathcal{A}$ . A *complete measure* (or, more precisely, a *complete measure space*) is a measure space in which every subset of every set of measure zero is measurable. The statement “ $P$

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holds *almost everywhere* on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ " (abbreviated to " $P$  holds a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ ") means that

$$\mu(\{x \in X : P \text{ does not hold on } x\}) = 0.$$

If  $Y$  is a topological space and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a function, then  $f$  is said to be *measurable* provided that  $f^{-1}(V)$  is a measurable set in  $X$  for every open set  $V$  in  $Y$ . The *characteristic function* is the function  $\chi_A : X \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ , which for a given measurable set  $A$ , has value 1 at elements of  $A$  and 0 at elements of  $X \setminus A$ . For every measurable function  $f$ , the *zero set* and the *cozero set* of  $f$  are  $Z_f := \{x \in X : f(x) = 0\}$  and  $\text{co}Z_f := X \setminus Z_f$ , respectively.

The space of real measurable functions with pointwise addition and multiplication is a commutative ring with identity. Rings of real-valued measurable functions have been studied in many ways for a long time by many mathematicians (see [2, 3, 15, 16, 27, 28]). In recent years, significant researches have been done by some mathematicians like Momtahan and Henriksen (see [4, 7, 21]). In [18], Hejazipour and Naghipour by valuing the measures on measurable spaces studied the hereditary rings in the rings of real measurable functions. For notational convenience, we assume that  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  is the space of measurable functions from  $X$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  with arbitrary  $\sigma$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  on  $X$  and arbitrary measure  $\mu$  on  $\mathcal{A}$ . For more information about this ring, see [4, 10, 13, 17, 19, 23, 26].

The concept of the zero-divisor graph of a commutative ring was introduced by Beck in 1988 [9]. However, he let all elements of the ring be vertices of the graph and was mainly interested in colorings. Anderson et al. [5] associated an undirect simple graph to a commutative ring with vertices nonzero zero-divisors and with two distinct vertices  $a$  and  $b$  are adjacent if  $ab = 0$ . The zero-divisor graph of a commutative ring also has been studied by several other authors [1, 6, 12, 20, 25]. Azarpanah and Motamedi in [8], studied the zero-divisor graph of  $C(X)$ , ring of real-valued continuous functions on a completely regular Hausdorff space  $X$ . In this paper, we study the zero-divisor graph of the ring of real measurable functions with measures.

This paper has two main purposes. Firstly, we study the relationships among graph properties of the graph  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , ring properties of the ring  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and measure properties of the measure space  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Secondly, we investigate the relationship between vertices and edges of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  and continuous functions. The organization of the paper is as follows: In Section 2, we determine the distance between vertices, radius, diameter and the girth of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  by

the properties of measure spaces. In Section 3, we investigate cycles in  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . In Section 4, we study continuity properties of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . As the main result of this section, we approximate vertices of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  by the vertices of  $\Gamma(C_C(X))$ , the zero-divisor graph of  $C_C(X)$ .

2. BASIC PROPERTIES OF  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$

Naturally, the rings of real measurable functions are studied without paying attention to the measures (see [4, 7, 15, 16, 21, 27, 28]). But the measures played such a prominent role in the study of the spaces of measurable functions. In [18], we studied the rings of real measurable functions with measures. Since this article intends to examine the zero-divisor graph of the rings of real measurable functions with measures, we redefine the definition of the zero-divisor graph.

**Definition 2.1.** A function  $f \in M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  is called a *zero-divisor* of  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ , if there exists a function  $g \in M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  such that

$$\mu(\{x \in X : g(x) \neq 0\}) \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \mu(\{x \in X : f(x)g(x) \neq 0\}) = 0.$$

Let  $Z(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  denote the set of zero-divisors of  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ .

**Definition 2.2.** The *zero-divisor graph* of  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ , denoted by  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , is the graph with vertices

$$Z(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) \setminus \{f \in M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu) : f = 0 \text{ a.e. on } (X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)\}$$

and two distinct vertices  $f$  and  $g$  are adjacent if  $fg = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ .

To enter the discussion, we need the following important lemma.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be a measure space and  $f \in M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Then  $f \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  if and only if  $\mu(Z_f)$  and  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f)$  are nonzero.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $f \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . Then there exists a measurable function  $g$  such that  $g \neq 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and  $g$  is adjacent to  $f$ . If  $\mu(Z_f) = 0$ , then  $\mu(\text{co}Z_g) \leq \mu(Z_f) = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Also, since  $f \neq 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ , we have  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f) \neq 0$ . Conversely, assume that  $\mu(Z_f)$  and  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f)$  are nonzero. Obviously,  $f \neq 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Moreover the measurable function  $g := \chi_{Z_f}$  is a nonzero function a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and  $\mu(\{x \in X : f(x)g(x) \neq 0\}) = 0$ .  $\square$

According to the above lemma, the set that is presented in the next notation has an important role in the study of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ .

*Notation 2.4.* Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a  $\sigma$  – algebra on  $X$ . We set:

$$M_\mu := \{A \in \mathcal{A} : \mu(A) \text{ and } \mu(A^c) \text{ are nonzero}\}.$$

Recall that for two vertices  $f$  and  $g$  of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ ,  $d(f, g)$  is the length of the shortest path from  $f$  to  $g$ . The following theorem characterizes the concept of distance in  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ .

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be a measure space. Then the graph  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is a connected graph and for every  $f, g \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , we have:*

- (a)  $d(f, g) = 1$  if and only if  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$ .
- (b)  $d(f, g) = 2$  if and only if  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g)$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g)$  are nonzero.
- (c)  $d(f, g) = 3$  if and only if  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ .

*Proof.* (a) By the definition,  $f$  is adjacent to  $g$  if and only if  $\mu(\{x : f(x)g(x) \neq 0\}) = 0$  if and only if  $\mu(\{x : f(x) \neq 0 \text{ and } g(x) \neq 0\}) = 0$  if and only if  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$ .

(b) Assume that  $d(f, g) = 2$ . Then  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and there exists  $h \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  such that  $h$  is adjacent to both  $f$  and  $g$ . Therefore  $\mu(\text{co}Z_h \cap \text{co}Z_f) = \mu(\text{co}Z_h \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$  and so  $\text{co}Z_h \subseteq (Z_f \cap Z_g)$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Now if  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ , then  $\mu(\text{co}Z_h) = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Conversely, let  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ . Then  $d(f, g) > 1$  and  $\chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g}$  is a vertex of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . It is easy to check that  $fh = gh = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ .

(c) Assume that  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ . Then  $d(f, g) > 2$  and  $\text{co}Z_f \cup \text{co}Z_g = X$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . If  $\mu(Z_f \setminus Z_g) = 0$ , then  $\text{co}Z_f \subseteq \text{co}Z_g$  and so  $\text{co}Z_g = X$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore  $Z_g \setminus Z_f, Z_f \setminus Z_g \in M_\mu$  and  $f\chi_{Z_f \setminus Z_g} = \chi_{Z_g \setminus Z_f}\chi_{Z_f \setminus Z_g} = g\chi_{Z_g \setminus Z_f} = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Conversely, suppose that  $d(f, g) = 3$ . Then  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ , by parts (a) and (b).

The connectivity of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is a consequence of parts (a), (b) and (c).  $\square$

In the following, we recall an important definition for studying the rings of real measurable functions  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ , (see [18], Definition 2.5).

**Definition 2.6.** Suppose that  $E \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $\mu(E) \neq 0$ . Then the set  $E$  is called *near-zero* if for every subset  $A \subseteq E$  such that  $\mu(A) \neq 0$ ,  $A = E$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ .

The *associated number* of a vertex  $f$ , denoted by  $e(f)$ , is

$$e(f) := \max\{d(f, g) : g \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) \text{ and } f \neq g \text{ a.e. on } (X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)\}.$$

The *radius* of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is the smallest associated number and denoted by  $\rho\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ .

**Theorem 2.7.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be a measure space and  $f \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . Then the following properties hold:*

- (a) *If  $|M_\mu| = 2$ , then  $e(f) = 1$ .*
- (b) *If  $|M_\mu| \neq 2$  and  $\text{co}Z_f$  is a near-zero set, then  $e(f) = 2$ .*
- (c) *If  $|M_\mu| \neq 2$  and  $\text{co}Z_f$  is not a near-zero set, then  $e(f) = 3$ .*

*In respect to the above three properties, we have the following statements about the radius of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ :*

- (a') *If  $|M_\mu| = 2$ , then  $\rho\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) = 1$ .*
- (b') *If  $|M_\mu| \neq 2$  and  $M_\mu$  has a near-zero set, then  $\rho\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) = 2$ .*
- (c') *If  $|M_\mu| \neq 2$  and  $M_\mu$  has not any near-zero set, then  $\rho\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) = 3$ .*

*Proof.* (a) Suppose that  $|M_\mu| = 2$ . Thus  $M_\mu = \{\text{co}Z_f, Z_f\}$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and hence  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is a collection of segments. This means that  $e(f) = 1$ .

(b) Suppose that  $|M_\mu| \neq 2$  and  $\text{co}Z_f$  is a near-zero set. For every  $g \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) \setminus \{f\}$ , we consider two following cases:

**Case 1:**  $\text{co}Z_g \subseteq Z_f$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Then  $d(f, g) = 1$ , by Theorem 2.5(a).

**Case 2:**  $\text{co}Z_f \subseteq \text{co}Z_g$  a.e on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . By using Theorem 2.5(b),  $d(f, g) = 2$ .

Now for  $A \in M_\mu \setminus \{Z_f, \text{co}Z_f\}$ ,  $d(f, \chi_{A \cup \text{co}Z_f}) = 2$  and according to the above cases  $e(f) = 2$ .

(c) Assume that  $|M_\mu| \neq 2$  and  $\text{co}Z_f$  is not a near-zero set. Then there exists  $A \in M_\mu$  such that  $A \subseteq \text{co}Z_f$  and  $\mu(A) \neq \mu(\text{co}Z_f)$ . Set  $B := Z_f \cup A$  and  $g := \chi_B$ . Since  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = \mu(A) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ ,  $d(f, g) = 3$  and therefore  $e(f) = 3$ .

(a') Suppose that  $M_\mu = \{A, B\}$ . Then for every  $g \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ ,  $\text{co}Z_g = A$  or  $\text{co}Z_g = B$ . By using part (a),  $e(g) = 1$  and so  $\rho\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) = 1$ .

(b') Assume that  $|M_\mu| > 2$  and  $A \in M_\mu$  is a near-zero set. Then the function  $g := \chi_A$  satisfies in the part (b) and so  $e(g) = 2$ . If  $h \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  and  $e(h) = 1$ , then  $Z_h$  and  $\text{co}Z_h$  are near-zero sets, which is a contradiction. Therefore  $\rho\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) = 2$ .

(c') Let  $g \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . Since  $|M_\mu| > 2$  and  $M_\mu$  has not any near-zero set, there exists a measurable set  $A$  such that  $A \subseteq \text{co}Z_g$ ,  $\mu(A) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(A) \neq \mu(\text{co}Z_g)$ . Set  $B := Z_g \cup A$  and  $h := \chi_B$ . Therefore  $d(g, h) = 3$ , by Theorem 2.5(c). Thus  $e(g) = 3$  and hence  $\rho\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) = 3$ .  $\square$

*Remark 2.8.* Regarding to the above theorem, it does not occur that  $M_\mu$  is a singleton. If  $M_\mu$  has only two members, then  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is a collection of segments.

The *diameter* of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is

$$\text{diam}\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) := \sup\{d(f, g) : f, g \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))\}.$$

The *girth* of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is the length of the shortest cycle in  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , denoted by  $\text{gr}\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , and we set  $\text{gr}\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) = \infty$  if  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  contains no cycle. It should be noted by Theorems 2.5 and 2.7 that  $\text{diam}\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) \leq 3$ .

**Theorem 2.9.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be a measure space and  $M_\mu$  has at least three members. Then*

$$\text{diam}\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) = \text{gr}\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) = 3.$$

*Proof.* Suppose that  $M_\mu$  has at least three disjoint members  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$ . Consider the following six cases:

**Case 1:** Assume that  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  are pairwise disjoint members in  $M_\mu$ . Set  $K := A^c \cap B^c$ ,  $L := A \cup K$  and  $M := B \cup K$ . Then by Lemma 2.3, the measurable functions  $\chi_A$ ,  $\chi_B$ ,  $\chi_K$ ,  $\chi_L$  and  $\chi_M$  are in  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . Since  $\mu(L \cap M) = \mu(K) \neq 0$ ,  $d(\chi_L, \chi_M) \neq 1$ , by Theorem 2.5(a). On the other hand, if  $f \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is adjacent to both  $\chi_L$  and  $\chi_M$ , then  $\text{co}Z_f \subseteq A \cap B$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore by Theorem 2.5(c),  $d(\chi_K, \chi_L) = 3$  and so  $\text{diam}\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) = 3$ . It is easy to check that  $\chi_A \chi_B = \chi_A \chi_C = \chi_B \chi_C = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and so  $\text{gr}\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) = 3$ .

**Case 2:** Assume that  $A \subseteq B \subseteq C$ . If  $\mu(C \setminus B) = 0$ , then  $\mu(C) = \mu(B)$  and therefore  $B = C$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ , which is a contradiction. On the other hand,  $\mu((C \setminus B)^c) = \mu(C^c \cup B) \geq \mu(B) \neq 0$  and so  $C \setminus B \in M_\mu$ . Similarly, it can be show that  $B \setminus A \in M_\mu$ . Now  $C \setminus B$ ,  $B \setminus A$  and  $A$  are in  $M_\mu$  and satisfy in Case 1.

**Case 3:** Assume that  $A \subseteq B$  and  $C \cap B = \emptyset$ . As the proof of of Case 2, we can be shown that  $B \setminus A \in M_\mu$ . Therefore  $B \setminus A$ ,  $A$  and  $C$  satisfy in Case 1.

**Case 4:** Assume that  $A \cap B$ ,  $A \setminus B$  and  $B \setminus A$  are not empty sets and  $C \cap (A \cup B) = \emptyset$ . Then  $A \setminus B$ ,  $B \setminus A$  and  $C$  satisfy in Case 1.

**Case 5:** Assume that  $A \subseteq B \cup C$ . If  $\mu(C \setminus (A \cup B)) = 0$ , then  $C \subseteq A \subseteq B$  or  $A \subseteq C \subseteq B$ . This means that the sets  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  satisfy in Case 2. If  $\mu(C \setminus (A \cup B)) \neq 0$ , then  $\mu((C \setminus (A \cup B))^c) \geq \mu(A \cup B) \neq 0$  and so  $C \setminus (A \cup B) \in M_\mu$ . In the same way, it can be shown that if  $\mu(B \setminus (A \cup C)) \neq 0$ ,  $B \setminus (A \cup C) \in M_\mu$ . Therefore  $C \setminus (A \cup B)$ ,  $B \setminus (A \cup C)$  and  $A$  satisfy in Case 1.

**Case 6:** Assume that the above five cases are not establish. We claim that  $A \setminus (B \cup C)$ ,  $B \setminus (A \cup C)$  and  $C \setminus (A \cup B)$  satisfy in Case 1. If  $\mu(A \setminus (B \cup C)) = 0$ , then  $A \subseteq B \cup C$  and hence  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  satisfy in the Case 5. On the other hand,  $\mu((A \setminus (B \cup C))^c) \geq \mu(B \cup C) \neq 0$  and so  $A \setminus (B \cup C) \in M_\mu$ . Similarly, it can be shown that  $B \setminus (A \cup C)$  and  $C \setminus (A \cup B)$  are in  $M_\mu$ .  $\square$

### 3. CYCLES IN ZERO-DIVISOR GRAPH OF $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$

In this section, we intend to study the cycles and related issues to the cycles in the zero-divisor graph of the rings of real measurable functions,  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ .

A graph is called *triangulated* if each vertices is a vertex of a triangle.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be a measure space and  $|M_\mu| > 2$ . The following statements are equivalent:*

- (a) *The graph  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is a triangulated graph.*
- (b)  *$M_\mu$  has not any near-zero set.*
- (c) *There is no any maximal ideal in the ring  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  generated by an idempotent.*

*Proof.* (a)  $\implies$  (b). Assume that  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is a triangulated graph and  $A \in M_\mu$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $f := 1 - \chi_A$  is a vertex of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . Thus there exist two vertices  $g$  and  $h$  such that  $fg = gh = hf = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and hence  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_h) = \mu(\text{co}Z_g \cap \text{co}Z_h) = \mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_h) = 0$ . This means that  $\text{co}Z_g$  and  $\text{co}Z_h$  are disjoint subsets of  $A$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Since  $\mu(\text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(\text{co}Z_h) \neq 0$ ,  $A$  is not a near-zero set.

(b)  $\implies$  (c). Assume that  $M_\mu$  has not any near-zero set and  $M$  be a maximal ideal in  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  generated by an idempotent. Since every idempotent in the rings of real measurable functions has the form of a characteristic function of a measurable set, there exists  $A \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $M = \langle \chi_A \rangle$ . Suppose that  $B$  is a measurable set in  $M_\mu$  such that  $B \subseteq A$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and  $\mu(B) \neq 0$ . Therefore  $\chi_A \chi_B \in M$  and so  $\chi_B \in M$ . This means that  $B = A$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and so  $A$  is a near-zero set.

(c)  $\implies$  (a). Assume that there is not any maximal ideal in  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  generated by an idempotent and  $f$  is an arbitrary vertex of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . If  $Z_f$  is near-zero, we set  $W := \langle \chi_{Z_f} \rangle$ . Suppose that  $U$  is an ideal in  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ ,  $W \subseteq U$  and  $h \in U \setminus W$ . Therefore  $\text{co}Z_h \subseteq Z_f$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and so  $\mu(\text{co}Z_h) = 0$  or  $h \in W$ . This means that  $W$  is a maximal ideal in  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  generated by an idempotent, which is a contradiction. Now, since  $Z_f$  is not a near-zero set, there

exists  $A \subseteq Z_f$  such that  $\mu(A) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(A) \neq \mu(Z_f)$ . We set  $g := \chi_A$  and  $h := \chi_{Z_f \setminus A}$ . It is easy to check that  $g, h \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . Therefore  $fg = gh = hf = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and so  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is a triangulated graph.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.2.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be a measure space and  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  be a triangulated graph. Then for every countable set  $B \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mu(B) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that for  $x \in X$ ,  $\mu(\{x\}) \neq 0$ . Then  $\{x\}$  is a near-zero and by Theorem 3.1,  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is not a triangulated graph, which is a contradiction. Hence for every countable set  $B = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\} \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mu(B) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(\{x_i\}) = 0$ .  $\square$

A graph is called *hypertriangulated* if each edge of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is an edge of a triangle.

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be a measure space. Then  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is not hypertriangulated.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $f \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . Then  $f$  is adjacent to  $g := \chi_{Z_f}$ . Since  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ , there is not any element in  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  such that adjacent to both  $f$  and  $g$ , by Theorem 2.5(b).  $\square$

A graph is called a *tree*, if it is connected and has no cycles. A *star graph* is a tree with one vertex adjacent to all other vertices.

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be a measure space and  $|M_\mu| > 2$ . Then  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is not a star graph.*

*Proof.* (a) Assume that  $|M_\mu| > 2$  and  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  is a star graph. Then there exists  $f \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  such that  $f$  is adjacent to other vertices of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $Z_f, \text{co}Z_f \in M_\mu$ . Since  $|M_\mu| > 2$ , there exists  $A \in M_\mu$  such that  $A$  is other than both  $Z_f$  and  $\text{co}Z_f$ . By the assumptions,  $g := \chi_A$  and  $h := \chi_{A^c}$  are two vertices of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  and adjacent to  $f$ . This implies that  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f) = \mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) + \mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_h) = 0$ , which is a contradiction.  $\square$

In the following, we present a notation and a definition that are important in the studying of cycles in  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ .

*Notation 3.5.* (a) Let  $f \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . We set:

$$[f] := \{h \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) : \text{co}Z_f = \text{co}Z_h \text{ a.e. on } (X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)\}$$

(b) For  $f, g \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , we say that  $f \sim g$  if and only if  $[f] = [g]$ .

As noted in [22],  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation. Furthermore, if  $h_1 \sim h_2$  and  $h_1g = 0$ , then  $\mu(\text{co}Z_{h_1} \cap \text{co}Z_g) = \mu(\text{co}Z_{h_2} \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$  and hence  $h_2g = 0$ . It follows that multiplication is well-defined on the equivalence classes of  $\sim$ ; that is, if  $[f]$  denotes the class of  $f$ , then the product  $[f][g] = [fg]$  makes sense.

**Definition 3.6.** The graph of equivalence classes  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , denoted by  $\Gamma_E(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , is the graph associated to  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  whose vertices are the classes of elements in  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , and each pair of distinct classes  $[f], [g]$  are adjacent by an edge if and only if  $[f][g] = 0$ .

**Theorem 3.7.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be a measure space. For every  $f \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , the following properties hold:*

- (a) *There exists a 4 – cycle contains  $f$ .*
- (b) *If  $Z_f$  or  $\text{co}Z_f$  is not near-zero, then  $[f]$  is in a 3 – cycle.*
- (c) *If  $Z_f$  and  $\text{co}Z_f$  are near-zero, then there is no cycle contains  $[f]$ .*

*Proof.* (a) For every vertex  $f$ ,  $Z_f$  and  $\text{co}Z_f$  are in  $M_\mu$ . Hence the path with vertices  $f, \chi_{Z_f}, 2\chi_{\text{co}Z_f}$  and  $2\chi_{Z_f}$  is a cycle with length 4 containing  $f$ .

(b) If  $Z_f$  is not a near-zero set, then there exist disjoint members  $A, B \in M_\mu$  such that  $\mu(A) \neq 0$ ,  $\mu(B) \neq 0$  and  $A \cup B \subseteq Z_f$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Therefore  $[f] \cap [\chi_A] \cap [\chi_B] = \emptyset$  and so  $[f][\chi_A] = [\chi_A][\chi_B] = [\chi_B][f] = 0$ . If  $\text{co}Z_f$  is not near-zero, then there exists a measurable set  $D \in M_\mu$  such that  $\mu(D) \neq 0$ ,  $D \subseteq \text{co}Z_f$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and  $\mu(D) \neq \mu(\text{co}Z_f)$ . Therefore  $[f] \cap [\chi_D] \cap [\chi_{Z_f}] = \emptyset$  and so  $[f][\chi_D] = [\chi_D][\chi_{Z_f}] = [\chi_{Z_f}][f] = 0$ .

(c) Suppose that  $Z_f$  and  $\text{co}Z_f$  are near-zero. Then every  $g \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) \setminus [f]$  is in  $[\chi_{Z_f}]$  and every  $h \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)) \setminus [\chi_{Z_f}]$  is in  $[f]$ . Therefore there is no cycle contains  $[f]$ .  $\square$

If  $f$  and  $g$  are two vertices of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , by  $c(f, g)$ , we mean the length of the smallest cycle containing  $f$  and  $g$ . If there is no cycle containing  $f$  and  $g$ ,  $c(f, g) = \infty$ . For every two vertices  $f$  and  $g$ , all possible cases for  $c(f, g)$  and  $c([f], [g])$  are given in the following two theorems.

**Theorem 3.8.** *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two vertices of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . Then the following properties hold:*

- (a)  *$c(f, g) = 3$  if and only if  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ .*
- (b)  *$c(f, g) = 4$  if and only if one of the following statements hold:*
  - (1)  *$\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ .*
  - (2)  *$\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ .*
- (c)  *$c(f, g) = 6$  if and only if  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* (a) Assume that  $c(f, g) = 3$ . Then there exists a vertex  $h$  such that  $fg = gh = fh = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Thus

$$\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = \mu(\text{co}Z_h \cap \text{co}Z_f) = \mu(\text{co}Z_h \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$$

a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and hence  $\text{co}Z_h \subseteq Z_f \cap Z_g$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Since  $h$  is a vertex,  $\mu(\text{co}Z_h) \neq 0$  and therefore  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ . Conversely, let  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ . Then  $f$  is adjacent to  $g$  and  $\chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g}$  is a vertex of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . Therefore

$$fg = f\chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g} = g\chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g} = 0$$

a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ .

(b) If  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ , then  $f$  is not adjacent to  $g$  and  $h := \chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g}$  is a vertex of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . Therefore

$$fh = hg = g(-h) = (-h)g = 0$$

a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and so  $c(f, g) \leq 4$ . If  $c(f, g) = 3$ , then  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$ , by part (a), which is a contradiction.

If  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ , then  $f$  is adjacent to  $g$  and  $\text{co}Z_f \cup \text{co}Z_g = X$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . We set  $h := \frac{1}{2}f$  and  $k := \frac{1}{2}g$ . Thus  $fg = gh = hk = kf = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and hence  $c(f, g) \leq 4$ . If  $c(f, g) = 3$ , then  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ , by part (a), which is a contradiction.

Conversely, suppose that  $c(f, g) = 4$ . We have two cases:

**Case 1:**  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$ . Then  $f$  is not adjacent to  $g$ . Since  $c(f, g) = 4$ , there exist two vertices  $h$  and  $k$  of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  such that  $fh = hg = gk = kf = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Therefore  $\text{co}Z_h \subseteq Z_f$  and  $\text{co}Z_k \subseteq Z_g$  and so  $\text{co}Z_h \subseteq Z_f \cap Z_g$ . Since  $\mu(\text{co}Z_h) \neq 0$ ,  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ .

**Case 2:**  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$ . Then  $f$  is adjacent to  $g$ . If  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ , then  $\chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g}$  is a vertex of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  and

$$fg = g\chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g} = \chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g}f = 0$$

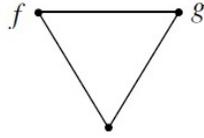
a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . This means that  $c(f, g) = 3$ , which is a contradiction.

(c) If  $c(f, g) = 6$ , then parts (a) and (b) imply that  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ . Conversely, since  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ , then by part (c) of Theorem 2.5,  $d(f, g) = 3$ . Hence there exist vertices  $h$  and  $k$  such that  $fh = hk = kg = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Now if some vertex  $t$  is adjacent to  $g$ , then  $\text{co}Z_t \subseteq Z_g$  and  $\text{co}Z_h \subseteq Z_f$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  imply that

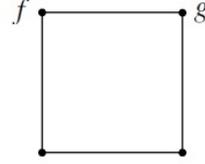
$$\mu(\text{co}Z_t \cap \text{co}Z_h) \leq \mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$$

and so  $t$  is adjacent to  $h$ . This shows that  $c(f, g) \geq 5$ . But  $d(f, g) = 3$  implies that  $f$  is not adjacent to  $t$  and hence  $c(f, g) \geq 6$ . If we consider

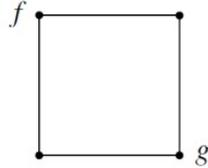
the vertices  $p := 2h$  and  $q := 2k$ , then we have a cycle with vertices  $f, g, h, k, p$  and  $q$ , and so  $c(f, g) = 6$ .



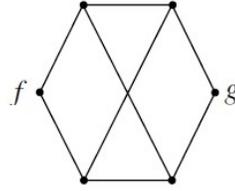
$$\begin{aligned}\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) &= 0 \\ \mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) &\neq 0.\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) &= 0 \\ \mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) &= 0.\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) &\neq 0 \\ \mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) &\neq 0.\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) &\neq 0 \\ \mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

□

**Theorem 3.9.** *Let  $[f]$  and  $[g]$  be two vertices of  $\Gamma_E(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . Then the following properties hold:*

- (a)  $c([f], [g]) = 3$  if and only if  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ .
- (b)  $c([f], [g]) = 4$  if and only if one of the following statements hold:
  - (1)  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$ ,  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$  and both  $\text{co}Z_f$  and  $\text{co}Z_g$  are not near-zero sets.
  - (2)  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$ ,  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $Z_f \cap Z_g$  is not near-zero.
- (c)  $c([f], [g]) = 5$  if and only if  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$ ,  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $Z_f \cap Z_g$  is a near-zero set.
- (d)  $c([f], [g]) = 6$  if and only if  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$ ,  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$  and both  $\text{co}Z_f \setminus \text{co}Z_g$  and  $\text{co}Z_g \setminus \text{co}Z_f$  are not near-zero sets.
- (e)  $c([f], [g]) = \infty$  if and only if one of the following statements hold:
  - (1)  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$ ,  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$  and  $\text{co}Z_f$  or  $\text{co}Z_g$  is near-zero.
  - (2)  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$ ,  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$  and  $\text{co}Z_f \setminus \text{co}Z_g$  or  $\text{co}Z_g \setminus \text{co}Z_f$  is near-zero.

*Proof.* (a) Assume that  $c([f], [g]) = 3$ . Then  $c(f, g) = 3$  and so  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ , by Theorem 3.8(a). Conversely, suppose

that  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ . Then  $\chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g}$  is a vertex of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  and  $fg = g\chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g} = f\chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g} = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . It is easy to check that  $[f] \cap [g] \cap [\chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g}] = \emptyset$  and  $c([f], [g]) = 3$ .

(b) Suppose that  $c([f], [g]) = 4$ . Then  $c(f, g) \leq 4$ . If  $c(f, g) = 3$ , then  $c([f], [g]) = 3$ , by part (a) and Theorem 3.8(a), which is a contradiction. Therefore  $c(f, g) = 4$  and we have two cases, by Theorem 3.8(b):

**Case 1:**  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ . Then  $f$  is adjacent to  $g$  and  $\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g = X$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . If  $\text{co}Z_f$  is near-zero, then for every  $h, k \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  such that  $fg = gh = hk = kf = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ ,  $h \in [f]$ , which is a contradiction.

**Case 2:**  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ . If  $Z_f \cap Z_g$  is near-zero, then for every  $h, k \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  such that  $fh = hg = gk = kf = 0$ ,  $\text{co}Z_h = Z_f \cap Z_g$  and  $\text{co}Z_k = Z_f \cap Z_g$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . This means that  $h, k \in [\chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g}]$ , which is a contradiction.

Conversely, if  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$ ,  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$  and both  $\text{co}Z_f$  and  $\text{co}Z_g$  are not near-zero sets, then  $f$  is adjacent to  $g$  and there exist  $A \subseteq \text{co}Z_f$  and  $B \subseteq \text{co}Z_g$  such that  $\mu(A) < \mu(\text{co}Z_f)$ ,  $\mu(B) < \mu(\text{co}Z_g)$ ,  $\mu(A) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(B) \neq 0$ . Thus  $[f][g] = [f][\chi_B] = [\chi_B][\chi_A] = [\chi_A][g] = 0$  and hence  $c([f], [g]) \leq 4$ . If  $c([f], [g]) = 3$ , then  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ , by part (a), which is a contradiction.

If  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$ ,  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $Z_f \cap Z_g$  is not near-zero, then  $f$  is not adjacent to  $g$  and there exist two measurable sets  $A, B \subseteq Z_f \cap Z_g$  such that  $A \cap B = \emptyset$  and  $\chi_A, \chi_B \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ . Therefore  $[f][\chi_A] = [\chi_A][g] = [g][\chi_B] = [\chi_B][f] = 0$  and so  $c([f], [g]) \leq 4$ . If  $c([f], [g]) = 3$ , then  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$ , by part (a), which is a contradiction.

(c) Suppose that  $c([f], [g]) = 5$ . Then  $c(f, g) \leq 5$ . By Theorem 3.8,  $c(f, g) = 3$  or  $4$ . If  $c(f, g) = 3$ , then  $d([f], [g]) = 3$ , by part (a) and Theorem 3.8(a), which is a contradiction. Therefore  $c(f, g) = 4$  and we have two cases, by Theorem 3.8(b):

**Case 1:**  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ . If  $\text{co}Z_f$  and  $\text{co}Z_g$  are not near-zero, then  $c([f], [g]) = 4$ , by part (b), which is a contradiction. If  $\text{co}Z_f$  is near-zero, then for every vertex  $h$  such that  $[gh] = 0$ ,  $h \in [f]$ . Therefore  $c([f], [g]) = \infty$ .

**Case 2:**  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$ . If  $Z_f \cap Z_g$  is not near-zero, then  $c([f], [g]) = 4$ , by part (b), which is a contradiction.

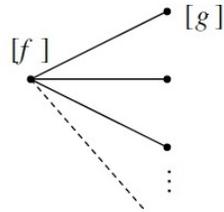
Therefore  $c([f], [g]) = 5$  implies that  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$ ,  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $Z_f \cap Z_g$  is a near-zero set.

Conversely, suppose that  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$ ,  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $Z_f \cap Z_g$  is a near-zero set. By Theorem 2.5(b),  $d(f, g) = 2$  and there exists a vertex  $h$  such that  $fh = gh = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Since

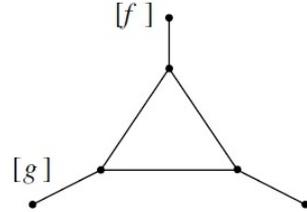
$Z_f \cap Z_g$  is near-zero, then  $h \in [\chi_{Z_f \cap Z_g}]$ . On the other hand  $d(f, g) = 3$  in the zero-divisor graph of  $\text{co}Z_f \cup \text{co}Z_g$ , by Theorem 2.5(c). Therefore there exists two vertices  $k$  and  $t$  such that  $fk = kt = tg = 0$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . Since  $d(f, g) = 3$  in the zero-divisor graph of  $\text{co}Z_f \cup \text{co}Z_g$ ,  $[f] \cap [k] \cap [t] \cap [g] \cap [h] = \emptyset$  and therefore  $c([f], [g]) = 5$ .

(d) Suppose that  $c([f], [g]) = 6$ . Then  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$  and  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$ , by parts (a), (b) and (c). If  $\text{co}Z_f \setminus \text{co}Z_g$  is near-zero, then  $[g]$  is only adjacent to  $[\chi_{\text{co}Z_f \setminus \text{co}Z_g}]$ , which is a contradiction. Conversely, suppose that  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$ ,  $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$  and both  $\text{co}Z_f \setminus \text{co}Z_g$  and  $\text{co}Z_g \setminus \text{co}Z_f$  are not near-zero sets. Then  $c([f], [g]) \geq 6$ , by parts (a), (b) and (c). Since  $\text{co}Z_f \setminus \text{co}Z_g$  and  $\text{co}Z_g \setminus \text{co}Z_f$  are not near-zero sets, there exists  $A, B \in M_\mu$  such that  $A \subseteq \text{co}Z_f \setminus \text{co}Z_g$ ,  $B \subseteq \text{co}Z_g \setminus \text{co}Z_f$ ,  $\mu(A) \neq \mu(\text{co}Z_f \setminus \text{co}Z_g)$  and  $\mu(B) \neq \mu(\text{co}Z_g \setminus \text{co}Z_f)$ . Therefore  $[f], [g], [\chi_A], [\chi_B], [1 - \chi_A]$  and  $[1 - \chi_B]$  are different classes in  $\Gamma_E(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  and  $[f][\chi_B] = [\chi_B][\chi_A] = [\chi_A][g] = [g][1 - \chi_A] = [1 - \chi_A][1 - \chi_B] = [1 - \chi_B][f] = 0$ .

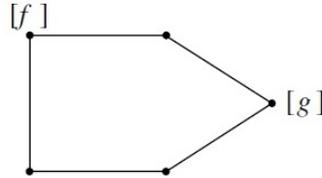
(e) The proof of this part is a consequence of the proofs of parts (c) and (d).



$\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$   
 $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) = 0$   
 $\text{co}Z_f$  is near-zero.



$\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) = 0$   
 $\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$   
 $|M_\mu| = 6$ .



$\mu(\text{co}Z_f \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$   
 $\mu(Z_f \cap Z_g) \neq 0$   
 $Z_f \cap Z_g$  is near-zero.

□

4. CONTINUITY PROPERTIES OF  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ 

In this section, we assume that  $\mu$  is a measure on a locally compact Hausdorff space  $X$  which has the properties stated in Riesz Representation Theorem [21, Theorem 2.14]. Since the continuous functions played such a prominent role in the construction of Borel measures, it seems reasonable to expect that there are some interesting relations between continuous functions and the zero-divisor graph of the ring of measurable functions. In the following, we shall give two main theorems of this kind. In the first theorem, we approximate the vertices of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  by the vertices of the zero-divisor graph of  $C_C(X)$ , denoted by  $\Gamma(C_C(X))$ . In the second theorem, we give a relation between continuity and the edges of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ .

We recall that a *Hausdorff space* is a topological space in which distinct points have disjoint neighbourhoods. A topological space  $X$  is called *locally compact*, if every point  $x \in X$  has a compact neighbourhood. A topological space  $X$  is a *completely regular space* if given any closed set  $F \subseteq X$  and any point  $x \in X$  that does not belong to  $F$ , then there is a continuous function  $f$  from  $X$  to the real line  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $f(x) = 0$  and, for every  $y \in F$ ,  $f(y) = 1$ . The *support* of a function  $f$  on a topological space  $X$  is the closure of the set  $\{x \in X : f(x) \neq 0\}$ , denoting by  $\text{supp}(f)$ . The collection of all continuous functions on a completely regular Hausdorff space  $X$  whose support is compact is denoted by  $C_C(X)$ . For every function  $f : X \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$ ,  $|f| = \sup\{|f(x)| : x \in X\}$ . The reader is referred to [11, 14] for undefined terms and concepts.

To enter the discussion, we recall that a corollary of the Lusin theorem [21, Theorem 2.24]: Suppose that  $f$  is a complex measurable function on  $X$ ,  $\mu(A) < \infty$ ,  $f(x) = 0$  if  $x \notin A$  and  $|f| \leq 1$ . Then there exists a sequence  $g_n \in C_C(X)$  such that  $|g_n| \leq 1$  and  $f(x) = \lim g_n(x)$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** *For every vertex  $f$  of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  which  $\mu(\text{co } Z_f) < \infty$  and  $|f| \leq 1$ , there exists a sequence of vertices  $\{f_n\}$  of  $\Gamma(C_C(X))$  such that*

$$f(x) = \lim f_n(x) \text{ a.e. on } (X, \mathcal{A}, \mu).$$

*Proof.* Let  $f$  be a vertex of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ ,  $|f| \leq 1$  and  $\mu(\text{co } Z_f) < \infty$ . Using Lusin Theorem [21, Theorem 2.24], for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists  $f_n \in C_C(X)$  such that

$$\mu(E_n = \{x : f(x) \neq f_n(x)\}) < 2^{-n}.$$

We claim that every  $x \in X$  lies in at most finitely many of the sets  $E_n$ . Let  $g := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \chi_{E_n}$  and

$$K := \{x \in X : x \text{ lies in infinitely many } E_n\}.$$

It is easy to check that  $x \in K$  if and only if  $g(x) = \infty$ . Now we have

$$\int_X g d\mu = \int_X \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \chi_{E_n} d\mu = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_X \chi_{E_n} d\mu = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(E_n) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2^{-n} = 1.$$

This implies that  $g \in L^1(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and so  $\mu(K) = 0$ . Thus for every  $x \in X$  and all large enough  $n$ ,  $f(x) = f_n(x)$  and hence

$$f(x) = \lim f_n(x) \text{ a.e. on } (X, \mathcal{A}, \mu).$$

Now, we claim that  $\{f_n\}$  has a subsequence of the vertices of  $\Gamma(C_C(X))$ . If for infinitely many  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mu(\text{co}Z_{f_n}) = 0$ , then there exists a sequence  $\{n_k\} \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  such that for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mu(\text{co}Z_{f_{n_k}}) = 0$  and  $f(x) = \lim f_{n_k}(x)$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . According to the assumptions and measure properties, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\mu(\text{co}Z_f) \leq \mu(\text{co}Z_{f_{n_k}}) + \mu(E_n) \leq 2^{-n}.$$

This means that  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f) = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Now suppose that for infinitely many  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mu(Z_{f_n}) = 0$ . Then there exists a subsequence  $\{f_{n_k}\}$  of  $\{f_n\}$  such that for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mu(Z_{f_{n_k}}) = 0$ . Therefore for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f_{n_k}$  is unit a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  and  $\mu(Z_f \setminus E_{n_k}) = 0$ . As a consequence of the assumptions, for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\mu(Z_f) \leq \mu(E_{n_k}) \leq 2^{-n_k}.$$

This implies that  $\mu(Z_f) = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore without considering the elements of  $\{f_n\}$  which their cozero sets are not in  $M_\mu$ , there exists a subsequence  $\{f_{n_k}\}$  of  $\{f_n\}$  such that all members are in  $\Gamma(C_C(X))$ .  $\square$

In order to establish a relation between continuity and the edges of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , we need the following definition.

**Definition 4.2.** A measurable function  $f \in M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  is called  *$\epsilon$ -continuous* if

$$\mu(\{x \in X : f \text{ is not continuous at } x\}) < \epsilon.$$

Now, we find a relationship between the edges of the graph  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  and the edges of  $\Gamma(C_C(X))$ .

**Theorem 4.3.** Let  $f, g \in \Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ ,  $|f| \leq 1$ ,  $|g| \leq 1$  and  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \epsilon_n$  be a convergence series in real line  $\mathbb{R}$ . Then  $f$  is adjacent to  $g$  if and

only if there exist two sequences  $\{f_n\}$  and  $\{g_n\}$  in  $\Gamma(C_C(X))$  such that the following statements hold:

- (1) For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f_n$  and  $g_n$  are  $\epsilon_n$ -continuous.
- (2)  $\{f_n\}$  and  $\{g_n\}$  pointwise convergence to  $f$  and  $g$ , respectively.
- (3)  $\{f_n\}$  and  $\{g_n\}$  are the parts of a complete bipartite graph.

*Proof.* Using Lusin Theorem [21, Theorem 2.24], for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists  $h_n \in C_C(X)$  such that

$$\mu(E_n = \{x : f(x) \neq h_n(x)\}) < \epsilon_n.$$

As the proof of Theorem 4.1, since  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \epsilon_n < \infty$ ,  $f(x) = \lim h_n(x)$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we define

$$f_n(x) := \begin{cases} h_n(x) & x \in E_n^c, \\ 0 & x \in E_n. \end{cases}$$

It is easy to check that  $f_n$  is  $\epsilon_n$ -continuous function and  $\mu(Z_{f_n}) \geq \mu(Z_{h_n}) \neq 0$ , for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . If for infinitely many  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mu(\text{co}Z_{f_n}) = 0$ , then there exists  $\{n_k\} \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\mu(\text{co}Z_{f_{n_k}}) = 0$  and  $\{f_{n_k}\}$  pointwise converges to  $f$ , for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . This means that  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f) = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore we can assume that  $f_n \in \Gamma(C_C(X))$ , for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . On the other hand, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\mu(\{x : f(x) \neq f_n(x)\}) \leq \mu(E_n) < \epsilon_n.$$

This means that  $f(x) = \lim f_n(x)$  a.e. on  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ . If for  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f_n$  is adjacent to  $f_m$ , then

$$\mu(\text{co}Z_f) \leq \mu(E_n) + \mu(E_m) \leq \epsilon_n + \epsilon_m.$$

Now if for infinitely many  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f_m$  is adjacent to  $f_n$ ,  $\mu(\text{co}Z_f) = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore without considering the elements of  $\{f_n\}$  which they are adjacent, there exists a subsequence of  $\{f_n\}$  such that  $f_n$  is not adjacent to  $f_m$ , for every  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Similarly, there exists a sequence of  $\epsilon$ -continuous functions  $\{g_n\}$  in  $\Gamma(C_C(X))$  such that  $\{g_n\}$  pointwise convergence to  $g$  and  $g_n$  is not adjacent to  $g_m$ , for every  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ . By the definition of  $\{f_n\}$  and  $\{g_n\}$ ,  $\text{co}Z_{f_n} \subseteq \text{co}Z_f$  and  $\text{co}Z_{g_n} \subseteq \text{co}Z_g$ , for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Now since  $f$  is adjacent to  $g$ , for every  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f_n$  is adjacent to  $g_m$ . Therefore  $\{f_n\}$  and  $\{g_n\}$  are the parts of a bipartite graph.

Conversely, assume that  $\{f_n\}$  and  $\{g_n\}$  are two sequences in  $\Gamma(C_C(X))$  such that the conditions (1), (2) and (3) are true. Now suppose that  $\mu(\text{co}Z_{f_k} \cap \text{co}Z_g) \neq 0$ , for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Since for every  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f_n$  and  $g_m$  are adjacent,  $\{g_n\}$  pointwise convergence to  $g(1 - \chi_{\text{co}Z_{f_k} \cap \text{co}Z_g})$ ,

which is a contradiction. This means that for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f_n$  is adjacent to  $g$ . Similarly, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $g_n$  is adjacent to  $f$ . Therefore by the assumptions,  $f$  is adjacent to  $g$ .  $\square$

*Remark 4.4.* According to Theorems 4.1 and 4.3, in some cases, for the study of  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ , we can use the behavior of the members of  $\Gamma(C_C(X))$  and  $\varepsilon$ -continuous functions. The question that arises is that how can we characterize the features of the graph  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  by the continuous functions?

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ZERO-DIVISOR GRAPH OF THE RINGS OF REAL MEASURABLE  
FUNCTIONS WITH THE MEASURES

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گراف مقسوم علیه صفر حلقه‌های توابع اندازه پذیر با اندازه‌ها

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فرض کنیم  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  حلقه توابع اندازه پذیر روی فضای اندازه پذیر  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  با اندازه  $\mu$  باشد. در این مقاله گراف مقسوم علیه صفر  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  که با  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  نمایش داده می‌شود را مطالعه می‌کنیم. ارتباط بین خواص گرافی  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$ ، خواص حلقه‌ای  $M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  و خواص اندازه‌ای  $(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  را ارایه می‌دهیم. در نهایت خواص پیوستگی  $\Gamma(M(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu))$  را بررسی می‌کنیم.

کلمات کلیدی: حلقه‌های توابع اندازه پذیر، فضای اندازه، گراف مقسوم علیه صفر، تابع پیوسته، دور، گراف مثلثی شونده، گراف ابر مثلثی شونده.