

FINITE GENERATORS FOR COUNTABLE GROUP ACTIONS

Anush Tserunyan

UCLA

Introduction

Let G be a countable group and X be a standard Borel space equipped with a Borel action of G .

Introduction

Let G be a countable group and X be a standard Borel space equipped with a Borel action of G .

Definition

A countable Borel partition \mathcal{P} of X is called a *generator* if its G -translates $\{gA : g \in G, A \in \mathcal{P}\}$ generate the Borel σ -algebra of X .

Introduction

Let G be a countable group and X be a standard Borel space equipped with a Borel action of G .

Definition

A countable Borel partition \mathcal{P} of X is called a *generator* if its G -translates $\{gA : g \in G, A \in \mathcal{P}\}$ generate the Borel σ -algebra of X .

Another way of thinking about it is as follows: for a Borel partition $\mathcal{P} = \{P_n\}_{n < k}$, $k \leq \infty$, define a map $f_{\mathcal{P}} : X \rightarrow k^G$ by $x \mapsto (n_g)_{g \in G}$, where $g x \in P_{n_g}$.

Introduction

Let G be a countable group and X be a standard Borel space equipped with a Borel action of G .

Definition

A countable Borel partition \mathcal{P} of X is called a *generator* if its G -translates $\{gA : g \in G, A \in \mathcal{P}\}$ generate the Borel σ -algebra of X .

Another way of thinking about it is as follows: for a Borel partition $\mathcal{P} = \{P_n\}_{n < k}$, $k \leq \infty$, define a map $f_{\mathcal{P}} : X \rightarrow k^G$ by $x \mapsto (n_g)_{g \in G}$, where $g x \in P_{n_g}$. This $f_{\mathcal{P}}$ is called the *symbolic representation map* of \mathcal{P} .

Introduction

Let G be a countable group and X be a standard Borel space equipped with a Borel action of G .

Definition

A countable Borel partition \mathcal{P} of X is called a *generator* if its G -translates $\{gA : g \in G, A \in \mathcal{P}\}$ generate the Borel σ -algebra of X .

Another way of thinking about it is as follows: for a Borel partition $\mathcal{P} = \{P_n\}_{n < k}$, $k \leq \infty$, define a map $f_{\mathcal{P}} : X \rightarrow k^G$ by $x \mapsto (n_g)_{g \in G}$, where $g x \in P_{n_g}$. This $f_{\mathcal{P}}$ is called the *symbolic representation map* of \mathcal{P} .

Easy fact: \mathcal{P} is a *generator* if and only if $f_{\mathcal{P}}$ is *injective*.

Example

If X is an invariant Borel subset of the shift k^G , then letting $V_i = \{x \in k^G : x(1_G) = i\}$, $i < k$, we get that $\mathcal{P} = \{V_i\}_{i < k}$ is a k -generator.

Example

If X is an invariant Borel subset of the shift k^G , then letting $V_i = \{x \in k^G : x(1_G) = i\}$, $i < k$, we get that $\mathcal{P} = \{V_i\}_{i < k}$ is a k -generator.

Observation

For $k \leq \infty$, X admits a k -generator if and only if there is a Borel G -embedding of X into k^G .

Countable generators

The question of the existence of **countable generators** is completely resolved.

Countable generators

The question of the existence of **countable generators** is completely resolved.

Theorem (Weiss '87 for $G = \mathbb{Z}$; Jackson-Kechris-Louveau '02)

*Every aperiodic Borel G -space X admits a **countable generator**.*

Countable generators

The question of the existence of **countable generators** is completely resolved.

Theorem (Weiss '87 for $G = \mathbb{Z}$; Jackson-Kechris-Louveau '02)

*Every aperiodic Borel G -space X admits a **countable generator**. In particular, there is a Borel G -embedding of X into \mathbb{N}^G .*

Countable generators

The question of the existence of **countable generators** is completely resolved.

Theorem (Weiss '87 for $G = \mathbb{Z}$; Jackson-Kechris-Louveau '02)

*Every aperiodic Borel G -space X admits a **countable generator**. In particular, there is a Borel G -embedding of X into \mathbb{N}^G .*

This is sharp in the sense that we could not hope to obtain a finite generator solely from the aperiodicity assumption as we will explain later.

Countable generators

The question of the existence of **countable generators** is completely resolved.

Theorem (Weiss '87 for $G = \mathbb{Z}$; Jackson-Kechris-Louveau '02)

*Every aperiodic Borel G -space X admits a **countable generator**. In particular, there is a Borel G -embedding of X into \mathbb{N}^G .*

This is sharp in the sense that we could not hope to obtain a finite generator solely from the aperiodicity assumption as we will explain later.

In this talk, we are concerned with the existence of **finite generators**.

Overview: dynamical systems

Generators arose in the study of entropy in ergodic theory.

Overview: dynamical systems

Generators arose in the study of entropy in ergodic theory.

Let (X, μ, T) be a dynamical system. For a finite partition \mathcal{P} of X consider the following interpretation:

Overview: dynamical systems

Generators arose in the study of entropy in ergodic theory.

Let (X, μ, T) be a dynamical system. For a finite partition \mathcal{P} of X consider the following interpretation:

- X is the set of possible pictures of the world,

Overview: dynamical systems

Generators arose in the study of entropy in ergodic theory.

Let (X, μ, T) be a dynamical system. For a finite partition \mathcal{P} of X consider the following interpretation:

- X is the set of possible pictures of the world,
- T is a unit of time,

Overview: dynamical systems

Generators arose in the study of entropy in ergodic theory.

Let (X, μ, T) be a dynamical system. For a finite partition \mathcal{P} of X consider the following interpretation:

- X is the set of possible pictures of the world,
- T is a unit of time,
- \mathcal{P} is an experiment.

Overview: dynamical systems

Generators arose in the study of entropy in ergodic theory.

Let (X, μ, T) be a dynamical system. For a finite partition \mathcal{P} of X consider the following interpretation:

- X is the set of possible pictures of the world,
- T is a unit of time,
- \mathcal{P} is an experiment.

We repeat the experiment every day and record its outcome.

Overview: dynamical systems

Generators arose in the study of entropy in ergodic theory.

Let (X, μ, T) be a dynamical system. For a finite partition \mathcal{P} of X consider the following interpretation:

- X is the set of possible pictures of the world,
- T is a unit of time,
- \mathcal{P} is an experiment.

We repeat the experiment every day and record its outcome.

The goal is to find the true picture of the world (i.e. a randomly chosen $x \in X$) with probability 1.

Overview: dynamical systems

Generators arose in the study of entropy in ergodic theory.

Let (X, μ, T) be a dynamical system. For a finite partition \mathcal{P} of X consider the following interpretation:

- X is the set of possible pictures of the world,
- T is a unit of time,
- \mathcal{P} is an experiment.

We repeat the experiment every day and record its outcome.

The goal is to find the true picture of the world (i.e. a randomly chosen $x \in X$) with probability 1. This happens precisely when \mathcal{P} is a generator mod μ -NULL.

Overview: entropy

Recall: for a finite experiment (partition of X) $\mathcal{P} = \{P_n\}_{n < k}$, the *static entropy* $h_\mu(\mathcal{P})$ is a real number that measures our probabilistic uncertainty about the outcome of the experiment;

Overview: entropy

Recall: for a finite experiment (partition of X) $\mathcal{P} = \{P_n\}_{n < k}$, the *static entropy* $h_\mu(\mathcal{P})$ is a real number that measures our probabilistic uncertainty about the outcome of the experiment; equivalently, it measures **how much information we gain** from learning the outcome of the experiment.

Overview: entropy

Recall: for a finite experiment (partition of X) $\mathcal{P} = \{P_n\}_{n < k}$, the *static entropy* $h_\mu(\mathcal{P})$ is a real number that measures our probabilistic uncertainty about the outcome of the experiment; equivalently, it measures **how much information we gain** from learning the outcome of the experiment.

One then defines the *time average of the entropy of \mathcal{P}* by

$$h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} h_\mu\left(\bigvee_{i < n} T^i \mathcal{P}\right).$$

Overview: entropy

Recall: for a finite experiment (partition of X) $\mathcal{P} = \{P_n\}_{n < k}$, the *static entropy* $h_\mu(\mathcal{P})$ is a real number that measures our probabilistic uncertainty about the outcome of the experiment; equivalently, it measures **how much information we gain** from learning the outcome of the experiment.

One then defines the *time average of the entropy of \mathcal{P}* by

$$h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} h_\mu\left(\bigvee_{i < n} T^i \mathcal{P}\right).$$

The sequence in the limit is decreasing and hence the limit is finite.

Overview: entropy

Recall: for a finite experiment (partition of X) $\mathcal{P} = \{P_n\}_{n < k}$, the *static entropy* $h_\mu(\mathcal{P})$ is a real number that measures our probabilistic uncertainty about the outcome of the experiment; equivalently, it measures **how much information we gain** from learning the outcome of the experiment.

One then defines the *time average of the entropy of \mathcal{P}* by

$$h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} h_\mu\left(\bigvee_{i < n} T^i \mathcal{P}\right).$$

The sequence in the limit is decreasing and hence the limit is finite.

Finally the *entropy of the dynamical system (X, μ, T)* is defined as the supremum over all (finite) experiments:

$$h_\mu(T) = \sup_{\mathcal{P}} h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T),$$

Overview: entropy

Recall: for a finite experiment (partition of X) $\mathcal{P} = \{P_n\}_{n < k}$, the *static entropy* $h_\mu(\mathcal{P})$ is a real number that measures our probabilistic uncertainty about the outcome of the experiment; equivalently, it measures **how much information we gain** from learning the outcome of the experiment.

One then defines the *time average of the entropy of \mathcal{P}* by

$$h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} h_\mu\left(\bigvee_{i < n} T^i \mathcal{P}\right).$$

The sequence in the limit is decreasing and hence the limit is finite.

Finally the *entropy of the dynamical system (X, μ, T)* is defined as the supremum over all (finite) experiments:

$$h_\mu(T) = \sup_{\mathcal{P}} h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T),$$

and it could be finite or infinite.

Overview: entropy

Recall: for a finite experiment (partition of X) $\mathcal{P} = \{P_n\}_{n < k}$, the *static entropy* $h_\mu(\mathcal{P})$ is a real number that measures our probabilistic uncertainty about the outcome of the experiment; equivalently, it measures **how much information we gain** from learning the outcome of the experiment.

One then defines the *time average of the entropy of \mathcal{P}* by

$$h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} h_\mu\left(\bigvee_{i < n} T^i \mathcal{P}\right).$$

The sequence in the limit is decreasing and hence the limit is finite.

Finally the *entropy of the dynamical system (X, μ, T)* is defined as the supremum over all (finite) experiments:

$$h_\mu(T) = \sup_{\mathcal{P}} h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T),$$

and it could be finite or infinite. **When is this supremum achieved?**

Overview: entropy and generators

It is plausible that if \mathcal{P} is a **finite generator**, then $h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T)$ should be all the information there is to obtain about X

Overview: entropy and generators

It is plausible that if \mathcal{P} is a **finite generator**, then $h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T)$ should be all the information there is to obtain about X and hence \mathcal{P} should achieve the supremum above.

Overview: entropy and generators

It is plausible that if \mathcal{P} is a **finite generator**, then $h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T)$ should be all the information there is to obtain about X and hence \mathcal{P} should achieve the supremum above. Indeed:

Theorem (Kolmogorov-Sinai, '58-59)

If \mathcal{P} is a **finite generator** modulo μ -NULL, then $h_\mu(T) = h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T)$.

Overview: entropy and generators

It is plausible that if \mathcal{P} is a **finite generator**, then $h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T)$ should be all the information there is to obtain about X and hence \mathcal{P} should achieve the supremum above. Indeed:

Theorem (Kolmogorov-Sinai, '58-59)

*If \mathcal{P} is a **finite generator** modulo μ -NULL, then $h_\mu(T) = h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T)$. In particular, **the entropy is finite**: $h_\mu(T) \leq \log(|\mathcal{P}|) < \infty$.*

Overview: entropy and generators

It is plausible that if \mathcal{P} is a **finite generator**, then $h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T)$ should be all the information there is to obtain about X and hence \mathcal{P} should achieve the supremum above. Indeed:

Theorem (Kolmogorov-Sinai, '58-59)

*If \mathcal{P} is a **finite generator** modulo μ -NULL, then $h_\mu(T) = h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T)$. In particular, **the entropy is finite**: $h_\mu(T) \leq \log(|\mathcal{P}|) < \infty$.*

In case of ergodic systems, the converse is also true:

Overview: entropy and generators

It is plausible that if \mathcal{P} is a **finite generator**, then $h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T)$ should be all the information there is to obtain about X and hence \mathcal{P} should achieve the supremum above. Indeed:

Theorem (Kolmogorov-Sinai, '58-59)

If \mathcal{P} is a **finite generator** modulo μ -NULL, then $h_\mu(T) = h_\mu(\mathcal{P}, T)$. In particular, **the entropy is finite**: $h_\mu(T) \leq \log(|\mathcal{P}|) < \infty$.

In case of ergodic systems, the converse is also true:

Theorem (Krieger, '70)

Suppose (X, μ, T) is ergodic. If $h_\mu(T) < \log k$, for some $k \geq 2$, then there is a **k -generator** modulo μ -NULL.

Now let X be just a Borel \mathbb{Z} -space (no measure specified).

Now let X be just a Borel \mathbb{Z} -space (no measure specified).

By the Kolmogorov-Sinai theorem,

Borel context: Weiss's question

Now let X be just a Borel \mathbb{Z} -space (no measure specified).

By the Kolmogorov-Sinai theorem, **if there exists an invariant probability measure on X of infinite entropy, then X does not admit a finite generator.**

Now let X be just a Borel \mathbb{Z} -space (no measure specified).

By the Kolmogorov-Sinai theorem, **if there exists an invariant probability measure on X of infinite entropy, then X does not admit a finite generator.**

It is because of this measure-theoretic obstruction that finite generators don't exist for aperiodic actions in general.

Now let X be just a Borel \mathbb{Z} -space (no measure specified).

By the Kolmogorov-Sinai theorem, **if there exists an invariant probability measure on X of infinite entropy, then X does not admit a finite generator.**

It is because of this measure-theoretic obstruction that finite generators don't exist for aperiodic actions in general.

What happens when we get rid of the measures?

Now let X be just a Borel \mathbb{Z} -space (no measure specified).

By the Kolmogorov-Sinai theorem, *if there exists an invariant probability measure on X of infinite entropy, then X does not admit a finite generator.*

It is because of this measure-theoretic obstruction that finite generators don't exist for aperiodic actions in general.

What happens when we get rid of the measures?

Question (Weiss '87)

*If a Borel \mathbb{Z} -space X does not admit **any** invariant probability measure, does it have a finite generator?*

Borel context: potential dichotomy

It is perhaps more natural to ask the following

Question

*If a Borel \mathbb{Z} -space X does **not** admit an invariant probability measure of **infinite entropy**, does it have a finite generator?*

Borel context: potential dichotomy

It is perhaps more natural to ask the following

Question

*If a Borel \mathbb{Z} -space X does **not** admit an invariant probability measure of **infinite entropy**, does it have a finite generator?*

I show that **these questions are actually equivalent**

Borel context: potential dichotomy

It is perhaps more natural to ask the following

Question

*If a Borel \mathbb{Z} -space X does **not** admit an invariant probability measure of **infinite entropy**, does it have a finite generator?*

I show that **these questions are actually equivalent**, so a positive answer to Weiss's question would imply a nice dichotomy for Borel actions of \mathbb{Z} .

Borel context: potential dichotomy

It is perhaps more natural to ask the following

Question

If a Borel \mathbb{Z} -space X does **not** admit an invariant probability measure of **infinite entropy**, does it have a finite generator?

I show that **these questions are actually equivalent**, so a positive answer to Weiss's question would imply a nice dichotomy for Borel actions of \mathbb{Z} .

Thus we focus on Weiss's question for **arbitrary group G** .

Question (Weiss '87)

If a **Borel G -space** X does not admit **any** invariant probability measure, does it have a finite generator?

Measure theoretic context: the Krengel-Kuntz theorem

Weiss's question has a positive answer in the [measure-theoretic context](#):

Weiss's question has a positive answer in the [measure-theoretic context](#):

Theorem (Krengel, Kuntz, '74)

Let X be a Borel G -space and let μ be a quasi-invariant Borel probability measure on X (i.e. G preserves the μ -null sets).

Weiss's question has a positive answer in the [measure-theoretic context](#):

Theorem (Krengel, Kuntz, '74)

*Let X be a Borel G -space and let μ be a quasi-invariant Borel probability measure on X (i.e. G preserves the μ -null sets). If there is **no invariant Borel probability measure** absolutely continuous with respect to μ ,*

Weiss's question has a positive answer in the [measure-theoretic context](#):

Theorem (Krengel, Kuntz, '74)

*Let X be a Borel G -space and let μ be a quasi-invariant Borel probability measure on X (i.e. G preserves the μ -null sets). If there is **no invariant Borel probability measure** absolutely continuous with respect to μ , then X admits a **2-generator** modulo μ -NULL.*

Baire category context: Kechris's question

In the early '90s, Kechris asked whether an analogue of the Krenzel-Kuntz theorem holds in the [context of Baire category](#):

Baire category context: Kechris's question

In the early '90s, Kechris asked whether an analogue of the Krengel-Kuntz theorem holds in the [context of Baire category](#):

Question (Kechris, mid-'90s)

If X is an aperiodic Polish G -space, does there exist a finite generator on an invariant comeager set?

Baire category context: Kechris's question

In the early '90s, Kechris asked whether an analogue of the Krengel-Kuntz theorem holds in the [context of Baire category](#):

Question (Kechris, mid-'90s)

If X is an aperiodic Polish G -space, does there exist a finite generator on an invariant comeager set?

Note that a positive answer to Weiss's question would imply a positive answer to this question

Baire category context: Kechris's question

In the early '90s, Kechris asked whether an analogue of the Krengel-Kuntz theorem holds in the [context of Baire category](#):

Question (Kechris, mid-'90s)

If X is an aperiodic Polish G -space, does there exist a finite generator on an invariant comeager set?

Note that a positive answer to Weiss's question would imply a positive answer to this question because, by the Generic Compressibility theorem of Kechris-Miller, we can always [restrict to a comeager invariant set with no invariant probability measure](#) on it

Baire category context: Kechris's question

In the early '90s, Kechris asked whether an analogue of the Krengel-Kuntz theorem holds in the **context of Baire category**:

Question (Kechris, mid-'90s)

If X is an aperiodic Polish G -space, does there exist a finite generator on an invariant comeager set?

Note that a positive answer to Weiss's question would imply a positive answer to this question because, by the Generic Compressibility theorem of Kechris-Miller, we can always **restrict to a comeager invariant set with no invariant probability measure** on it and then **apply the positive answer to Weiss's question**.

Answers: Kechris's question (Baire category setting)

Answers: Kechris's question (Baire category setting)

One may first try to adapt the proof of Krengel-Kuntz result to the Baire category setting.

Answers: Kechris's question (Baire category setting)

One may first try to adapt the proof of Krengel-Kuntz result to the Baire category setting. **However**, their proof relies on the existence of so-called *weakly wandering sets* of arbitrarily large measure,

Answers: Kechris's question (Baire category setting)

One may first try to adapt the proof of Krengel-Kuntz result to the Baire category setting. **However**, their proof relies on the existence of so-called *weakly wandering sets* of arbitrarily large measure, and we show that the existence of “large” weakly wandering sets **fails in the Baire category setting**.

Answers: Kechris's question (Baire category setting)

One may first try to adapt the proof of Krenzel-Kuntz result to the Baire category setting. **However**, their proof relies on the existence of so-called *weakly wandering sets* of arbitrarily large measure, and we show that the existence of “large” weakly wandering sets **fails in the Baire category setting**.

Using a different approach, we give an **affirmative answer** to Kechris's question:

Answers: Kechris's question (Baire category setting)

One may first try to adapt the proof of Krengel-Kuntz result to the Baire category setting. **However**, their proof relies on the existence of so-called *weakly wandering sets* of arbitrarily large measure, and we show that the existence of “large” weakly wandering sets **fails in the Baire category setting**.

Using a different approach, we give an **affirmative answer** to Kechris's question:

Theorem (Ts.)

*If X is an aperiodic Polish G -space, then there exists a **4-generator** on an invariant comeager set.*

Answers: Kechris's question (Baire category setting)

One may first try to adapt the proof of Krengel-Kuntz result to the Baire category setting. **However**, their proof relies on the existence of so-called *weakly wandering sets* of arbitrarily large measure, and we show that the existence of “large” weakly wandering sets **fails in the Baire category setting**.

Using a different approach, we give an **affirmative answer** to Kechris's question:

Theorem (Ts.)

If X is an aperiodic Polish G -space, then there exists a 4-generator on an invariant comeager set.

The proof of this uses the **Kuratowski-Ulam method** introduced in the proofs of generic hyperfiniteness and generic compressibility by Kechris and Miller.

Answers: Weiss's question (Borel setting)

Answers: Weiss's question (Borel setting)

It is not hard to show that any Borel G -space X has a **Polish topological realization**, i.e. there is a Polish topology on X having the same Borel sets and making the action continuous.

Answers: Weiss's question (Borel setting)

It is not hard to show that any Borel G -space X has a **Polish topological realization**, i.e. there is a Polish topology on X having the same Borel sets and making the action continuous. So we reformulate:

Question (Weiss, '87)

*If a Polish G -space X does not admit **any** invariant probability measure, does it have a finite generator?*

Answers: Weiss's question (Borel setting)

It is not hard to show that any Borel G -space X has a **Polish topological realization**, i.e. there is a Polish topology on X having the same Borel sets and making the action continuous. So we reformulate:

Question (Weiss, '87)

*If a Polish G -space X does not admit **any** invariant probability measure, does it have a finite generator?*

We give a **positive answer** to Weiss's question in case X is a σ -compact Polish G -space

Answers: Weiss's question (Borel setting)

It is not hard to show that any Borel G -space X has a **Polish topological realization**, i.e. there is a Polish topology on X having the same Borel sets and making the action continuous. So we reformulate:

Question (Weiss, '87)

*If a Polish G -space X does not admit **any** invariant probability measure, does it have a finite generator?*

We give a **positive answer** to Weiss's question in case X is a σ -compact Polish G -space, in particular if X is a **locally compact** Polish G -space.

Answers: Weiss's question (Borel setting)

It is not hard to show that any Borel G -space X has a Polish topological realization, i.e. there is a Polish topology on X having the same Borel sets and making the action continuous. So we reformulate:

Question (Weiss, '87)

If a Polish G -space X does not admit any invariant probability measure, does it have a finite generator?

We give a positive answer to Weiss's question in case X is a σ -compact Polish G -space, in particular if X is a locally compact Polish G -space. Actually, we don't really need Polishness as long as the topology has the same Borel sets,

Answers: Weiss's question (Borel setting)

It is not hard to show that any Borel G -space X has a Polish topological realization, i.e. there is a Polish topology on X having the same Borel sets and making the action continuous. So we reformulate:

Question (Weiss, '87)

If a Polish G -space X does not admit any invariant probability measure, does it have a finite generator?

We give a positive answer to Weiss's question in case X is a σ -compact Polish G -space, in particular if X is a locally compact Polish G -space. Actually, we don't really need Polishness as long as the topology has the same Borel sets, so the precise formulation is:

Theorem (Ts.)

Let X be a Borel G -space that admits a σ -compact realization.

Answers: Weiss's question (Borel setting)

It is not hard to show that any Borel G -space X has a Polish topological realization, i.e. there is a Polish topology on X having the same Borel sets and making the action continuous. So we reformulate:

Question (Weiss, '87)

If a Polish G -space X does not admit any invariant probability measure, does it have a finite generator?

We give a positive answer to Weiss's question in case X is a σ -compact Polish G -space, in particular if X is a locally compact Polish G -space. Actually, we don't really need Polishness as long as the topology has the same Borel sets, so the precise formulation is:

Theorem (Ts.)

Let X be a Borel G -space that admits a σ -compact realization. If there is no invariant probability measure on X , then X admits a 32-generator.

Theorem (Ts.)

Let X be a Borel G -space that admits a σ -compact realization. If there is no invariant probability measure on X , then X admits a 32-generator.

Theorem (Ts.)

Let X be a Borel G -space that admits a σ -compact realization. If there is no invariant probability measure on X , then X admits a 32-generator.

Remark: We were wondering if every Borel G -space had a σ -compact realization

Answers: Weiss's question (Borel setting)

Theorem (Ts.)

Let X be a Borel G -space that admits a σ -compact realization. If there is no invariant probability measure on X , then X admits a 32-generator.

Remark: We were wondering if every Borel G -space had a σ -compact realization, but it was shown in a recent Conley-Kechris-Miller paper that it is not the case.

Answers: Weiss's question (Borel setting)

Theorem (Ts.)

Let X be a Borel G -space that admits a σ -compact realization. If there is no invariant probability measure on X , then X admits a 32-generator.

Remark: We were wondering if every Borel G -space had a σ -compact realization, but it was shown in a recent Conley-Kechris-Miller paper that it is not the case. E.g. the standard coordinatewise action of $\mathbb{Z}^{<\mathbb{N}}$ on $\mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}$.

Theorem (Ts.)

Let X be a Borel G -space that admits a σ -compact realization. If there is no invariant probability measure on X , then X admits a 32-generator.

Remark: We were wondering if every Borel G -space had a σ -compact realization, but it was shown in a recent Conley-Kechris-Miller paper that it is not the case. E.g. the standard coordinatewise action of $\mathbb{Z}^{<\mathbb{N}}$ on $\mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}$.

We will spend the remaining time discussing the idea of the proof of the above theorem.

First, let's investigate the hypothesis of the question:

X does not admit an invariant probability measure.

First, let's investigate the hypothesis of the question:

X does not admit an invariant probability measure.

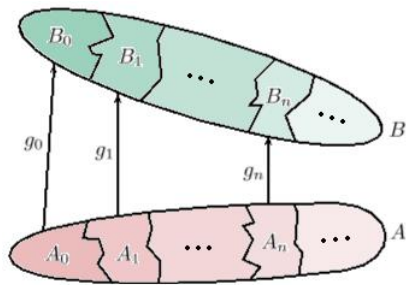
It is a **negative statement**, but fortunately there is a **positive equivalent** condition due to Nadkarni and we will work towards presenting it (although the proof does not directly use this condition).

Equidecomposability

First, let's investigate the hypothesis of the question:

X does not admit an invariant probability measure.

It is a **negative statement**, but fortunately there is a **positive equivalent** condition due to Nadkarni and we will work towards presenting it (although the proof does not directly use this condition).



Definition

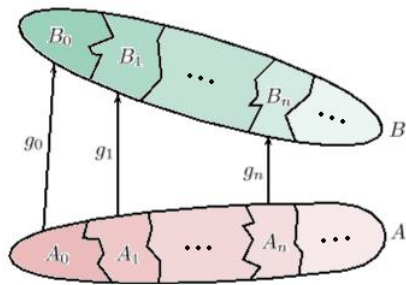
Two Borel sets $A, B \subseteq X$ are said to be *equidecomposable*

Equidecomposability

First, let's investigate the hypothesis of the question:

X does not admit an invariant probability measure.

It is a **negative statement**, but fortunately there is a **positive equivalent** condition due to Nadkarni and we will work towards presenting it (although the proof does not directly use this condition).



Definition

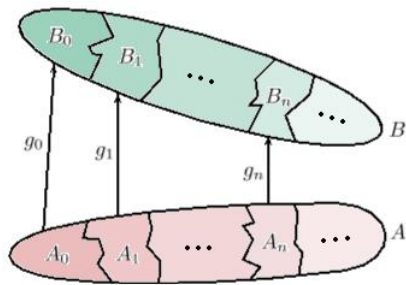
Two Borel sets $A, B \subseteq X$ are said to be **equidecomposable** (denoted by $A \sim B$)

Equidecomposability

First, let's investigate the hypothesis of the question:

X does not admit an invariant probability measure.

It is a **negative statement**, but fortunately there is a **positive equivalent** condition due to Nadkarni and we will work towards presenting it (although the proof does not directly use this condition).



Definition

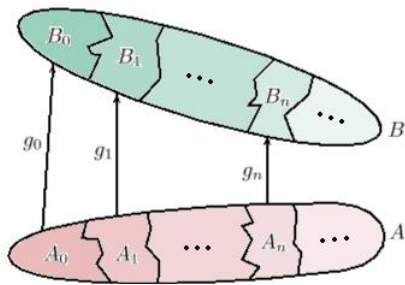
Two Borel sets $A, B \subseteq X$ are said to be **equidecomposable** (denoted by $A \sim B$) if there are Borel partitions $\{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{B_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of A and B , respectively,

Equidecomposability

First, let's investigate the hypothesis of the question:

X does not admit an invariant probability measure.

It is a **negative statement**, but fortunately there is a **positive equivalent** condition due to Nadkarni and we will work towards presenting it (although the proof does not directly use this condition).



Definition

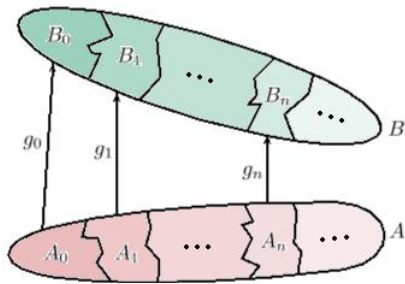
Two Borel sets $A, B \subseteq X$ are said to be **equidecomposable** (denoted by $A \sim B$) if there are Borel partitions $\{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{B_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of A and B , respectively, and $\{g_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq G$

Equidecomposability

First, let's investigate the hypothesis of the question:

X does not admit an invariant probability measure.

It is a **negative statement**, but fortunately there is a **positive equivalent** condition due to Nadkarni and we will work towards presenting it (although the proof does not directly use this condition).



Definition

Two Borel sets $A, B \subseteq X$ are said to be **equidecomposable** (denoted by $A \sim B$) if there are Borel partitions $\{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{B_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of A and B , respectively, and $\{g_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq G$ such that $g_n A_n = B_n$.

Compressibility and Nadkarni's theorem

We write $A \preceq B$ if $A \sim B' \subseteq B$,

Compressibility and Nadkarni's theorem

We write $A \preceq B$ if $A \sim B' \subseteq B$, and we write $A \prec B$ if moreover this B' leaves out at least one point from every orbit in B .

Compressibility and Nadkarni's theorem

We write $A \preceq B$ if $A \sim B' \subseteq B$, and we write $A \prec B$ if moreover this B' leaves out at least one point from every orbit in B .

Observation

Compressibility and Nadkarni's theorem

We write $A \preceq B$ if $A \sim B' \subseteq B$, and we write $A \prec B$ if moreover this B' leaves out at least one point from every orbit in B .

Observation

Let $A, B \subseteq X$ be Borel sets and μ an invariant probability measure on X .

(a) If $A \sim B$, then $\mu(A) = \mu(B)$.

Compressibility and Nadkarni's theorem

We write $A \preceq B$ if $A \sim B' \subseteq B$, and we write $A \prec B$ if moreover this B' leaves out at least one point from every orbit in B .

Observation

Let $A, B \subseteq X$ be Borel sets and μ an invariant probability measure on X .

- (a) *If $A \sim B$, then $\mu(A) = \mu(B)$.*
- (b) *If $A \preceq B$, then $\mu(A) \leq \mu(B)$.*

Compressibility and Nadkarni's theorem

We write $A \preceq B$ if $A \sim B' \subseteq B$, and we write $A \prec B$ if moreover this B' leaves out at least one point from every orbit in B .

Observation

Let $A, B \subseteq X$ be Borel sets and μ an invariant probability measure on X .

- (a) If $A \sim B$, then $\mu(A) = \mu(B)$.*
- (b) If $A \preceq B$, then $\mu(A) \leq \mu(B)$.*
- (c) If $A \prec B$, then either $\mu(A) < \mu(B)$ or $\mu(A) = \mu(B) = 0$.*

Compressibility and Nadkarni's theorem

We write $A \preceq B$ if $A \sim B' \subseteq B$, and we write $A \prec B$ if moreover this B' leaves out at least one point from every orbit in B .

Observation

Let $A, B \subseteq X$ be Borel sets and μ an invariant probability measure on X .

- (a) If $A \sim B$, then $\mu(A) = \mu(B)$.
- (b) If $A \preceq B$, then $\mu(A) \leq \mu(B)$.
- (c) If $A \prec B$, then either $\mu(A) < \mu(B)$ or $\mu(A) = \mu(B) = 0$.

We call A *compressible* if $A \prec A$.

Compressibility and Nadkarni's theorem

We write $A \preceq B$ if $A \sim B' \subseteq B$, and we write $A \prec B$ if moreover this B' leaves out at least one point from every orbit in B .

Observation

Let $A, B \subseteq X$ be Borel sets and μ an invariant probability measure on X .

- (a) If $A \sim B$, then $\mu(A) = \mu(B)$.
- (b) If $A \preceq B$, then $\mu(A) \leq \mu(B)$.
- (c) If $A \prec B$, then either $\mu(A) < \mu(B)$ or $\mu(A) = \mu(B) = 0$.

We call A *compressible* if $A \prec A$.

It is clear from (c) that if X is compressible then there is no invariant probability measure on X .

Compressibility and Nadkarni's theorem

We write $A \preceq B$ if $A \sim B' \subseteq B$, and we write $A \prec B$ if moreover this B' leaves out at least one point from every orbit in B .

Observation

Let $A, B \subseteq X$ be Borel sets and μ an invariant probability measure on X .

- (a) If $A \sim B$, then $\mu(A) = \mu(B)$.
- (b) If $A \preceq B$, then $\mu(A) \leq \mu(B)$.
- (c) If $A \prec B$, then either $\mu(A) < \mu(B)$ or $\mu(A) = \mu(B) = 0$.

We call A *compressible* if $A \prec A$.

It is clear from (c) that if X is compressible then there is no invariant probability measure on X . **The converse is also true!**

Compressibility and Nadkarni's theorem

We write $A \preceq B$ if $A \sim B' \subseteq B$, and we write $A \prec B$ if moreover this B' leaves out at least one point from every orbit in B .

Observation

Let $A, B \subseteq X$ be Borel sets and μ an invariant probability measure on X .

- (a) If $A \sim B$, then $\mu(A) = \mu(B)$.
- (b) If $A \preceq B$, then $\mu(A) \leq \mu(B)$.
- (c) If $A \prec B$, then either $\mu(A) < \mu(B)$ or $\mu(A) = \mu(B) = 0$.

We call A *compressible* if $A \prec A$.

It is clear from (c) that if X is compressible then there is no invariant probability measure on X . **The converse is also true!**

Theorem (Nadkarni, '91)

There is *no invariant probability measure* on X if and only if X is *compressible*.

The idea of the proof

The idea of the proof

I first tried to use compressibility directly to construct a finite generator by hand, but I only succeeded in special cases.

The idea of the proof

I first tried to use compressibility directly to construct a finite generator by hand, but I only succeeded in special cases.

So we take the **nonconstructive approach**, i.e. try to prove the contrapositive of Weiss's question:

No finite generators \longrightarrow \exists **an invariant probability measure**

The idea of the proof

I first tried to use compressibility directly to construct a finite generator by hand, but I only succeeded in special cases.

So we take the **nonconstructive approach**, i.e. try to prove the contrapositive of Weiss's question:

No finite generators $\longrightarrow \exists$ **an invariant probability measure**

When constructing an invariant measure (e.g. Haar measure), one usually needs some notion of “largeness” so that X is “large” (e.g. having nonempty interior, being incompressible).

The idea of the proof

I first tried to use compressibility directly to construct a finite generator by hand, but I only succeeded in special cases.

So we take the **nonconstructive approach**, i.e. try to prove the contrapositive of Weiss's question:

No finite generators \longrightarrow \exists **an invariant probability measure**

When constructing an invariant measure (e.g. Haar measure), one usually needs some notion of “largeness” so that X is “large” (e.g. having nonempty interior, being incompressible). So we aim at something like this:

No finite generators $\qquad \exists$ **an invariant probability measure**
 $\searrow \qquad \nearrow$
 X is not “small” = X is “large”

The key definition towards the right notion of “smallness”

The key definition towards the right notion of “smallness”

In the definition of equidecomposability of sets A and B , the partitions $\{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{B_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ belong to the **Borel σ -algebra**.

The key definition towards the right notion of “smallness”

In the definition of equidecomposability of sets A and B , the partitions $\{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{B_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ belong to the **Borel σ -algebra**.

For $i \geq 1$, we define a **finer notion of equidecomposability** by restricting to **some σ -algebra** that is generated by the G -translates of i -many Borel sets.

The key definition towards the right notion of “smallness”

In the definition of equidecomposability of sets A and B , the partitions $\{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{B_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ belong to the **Borel σ -algebra**.

For $i \geq 1$, we define a **finer notion of equidecomposability** by restricting to **some σ -algebra** that is generated by the G -translates of i -many Borel sets. In this case we say that A and B are **i -equidecomposable** and denote by $A \sim_i B$.

The key definition towards the right notion of “smallness”

In the definition of equidecomposability of sets A and B , the partitions $\{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{B_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ belong to the **Borel σ -algebra**.

For $i \geq 1$, we define a **finer notion of equidecomposability** by restricting to **some σ -algebra** that is generated by the G -translates of i -many Borel sets. In this case we say that A and B are **i -equidecomposable** and denote by $A \sim_i B$.

In other words, $A \sim_i B$ if i -many Borel sets are **enough to generate** a G -invariant σ -algebra that is **sufficiently fine** to carve out partitions $\{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{B_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ witnessing $A \sim B$.

“Small” = i -compressible

As before, we say that a set A is *i -compressible* if $A \prec_i A$.

“Small” = i -compressible

As before, we say that a set A is *i -compressible* if $A \prec_i A$.

Taking i -compressibility as our notion of “smallness”, we prove the following:

“Small” = i -compressible

As before, we say that a set A is i -compressible if $A \prec_i A$.

Taking i -compressibility as our notion of “smallness”, we prove the following:

No 32-generator

\exists an invariant probability measure

(1) \searrow

\nearrow (2)

X is not 4-compressible

Step (1)

We prove the contrapositive of Step (1): assuming i -compressibility, we construct a finite generator by hand.

Step (1)

We prove the contrapositive of Step (1): assuming i -compressibility, we construct a finite generator by hand.

Lemma

If X is i -compressible, then it admits a 2^{i+1} -generator.

Step (1)

We prove the contrapositive of Step (1): assuming i -compressibility, we construct a finite generator by hand.

Lemma

If X is i -compressible, then it admits a 2^{i+1} -generator.

Thus we obtain:

No 2^5 -generator $\longrightarrow X$ is not 4-compressible

Step (1)

We prove the contrapositive of Step (1): assuming i -compressibility, we construct a finite generator by hand.

Lemma

If X is i -compressible, then it admits a 2^{i+1} -generator.

Thus we obtain:

No 2^5 -generator $\longrightarrow X$ is not 4-compressible

Remark: It is not hard to see that i -compressibility is **necessary** for the existence of a finite generator under the assumption that X is compressible.

Step (2)

This step is proving an analog of Nadkarni's theorem for i -compressibility:

X is not 4-compressible $\longrightarrow \exists$ an invariant probability measure

Step (2)

This step is proving an analog of Nadkarni's theorem for i -compressibility:

X is not 4-compressible $\longrightarrow \exists$ an invariant probability measure

Firstly, we show that i -compressibility is indeed a notion of “smallness”, i.e. that the set of i -compressible sets (roughly speaking) forms a σ -ideal.

Step (2)

This step is proving an analog of Nadkarni's theorem for i -compressibility:

X is not 4-compressible $\longrightarrow \exists$ an invariant probability measure

Firstly, we show that i -compressibility is indeed a notion of “smallness”, i.e. that the set of i -compressible sets (roughly speaking) forms a σ -ideal.

The difficulty here is to prevent i from growing when taking unions.

Step (2)

This step is proving an analog of Nadkarni's theorem for i -compressibility:

X is not 4-compressible $\longrightarrow \exists$ an invariant probability measure

Firstly, we show that i -compressibility is indeed a notion of “smallness”, i.e. that the set of i -compressible sets (roughly speaking) forms a σ -ideal.

The difficulty here is to prevent i from growing when taking unions.

Secondly, we assume that X is not 4-compressible and give a construction of a measure reminiscent of the one in the proof of Nadkarni's theorem or the existence of Haar measure.

Step (2)

This step is proving an analog of Nadkarni's theorem for i -compressibility:

X is not 4-compressible $\longrightarrow \exists$ an invariant probability measure

Firstly, we show that i -compressibility is indeed a notion of “smallness”, i.e. that the set of i -compressible sets (roughly speaking) forms a σ -ideal.

The difficulty here is to prevent i from growing when taking unions.

Secondly, we assume that X is not 4-compressible and give a construction of a measure reminiscent of the one in the proof of Nadkarni's theorem or the existence of Haar measure. But unfortunately our proof only yields a finitely additive invariant probability measure.

Step (2)

This step is proving an analog of Nadkarni's theorem for i -compressibility:

X is not 4-compressible $\longrightarrow \exists$ an invariant probability measure

Firstly, we show that i -compressibility is indeed a notion of “smallness”, i.e. that the set of i -compressible sets (roughly speaking) forms a σ -ideal.

The difficulty here is to prevent i from growing when taking unions.

Secondly, we assume that X is not 4-compressible and give a construction of a measure reminiscent of the one in the proof of Nadkarni's theorem or the existence of Haar measure. But unfortunately our proof only yields a finitely additive invariant probability measure. However... with the additional assumption that X is σ -compact, we are able to concoct a countably additive invariant probability measure out of it.

The main result

Putting steps (1) and (2) together, we obtain the main

The main result

Putting steps (1) and (2) together, we obtain the main

Theorem (Ts.)

Let X be a Borel G -space that admits a σ -compact realization. If there is no invariant probability measure on X , then X admits a 32-generator.

THANK YOU