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A (co)homological criterion for Property A of metric spaces

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Opiekun pracy:

# A (co)homological criterion for Property A of metric spaces

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## 1 Introduction

In this paper we present an extension of the criteria for amenability of group actions (in particular, for Property A of groups) given in [5], [3] and [4] to detect Property A for general metric spaces. In Section 4 we will show how this theory works on a concrete example of a space without Property A which was described in [1].

Throughout the whole paper we assume that  $X$  is a metric space with the following properties:

- $X$  is *uniformly discrete*: there exists  $C > 0$  such that  $d(x, y) > C$  if  $x \neq y$ ;  
(without loss of generality we assume that  $C = 1$ )
- $X$  has *bounded geometry*: for every  $R$  there exists  $K_R$  such that for all  $x$ , the ball  $B(x, R)$  contains at most  $K_R$  elements;
- $X$  is infinite.  
(every finite metric space clearly has Property A)

Among many equivalent definitions of Property A, we choose as our starting point the one taken from [7, Lemma 3.5]:

**Definition 1.** A space  $X$  has *Property A* if and only if there exists a sequence  $(a_n)$  of functions from  $X$  to  $l^1(X)$  satisfying the following conditions:

- for all  $n$  and  $x$ , we have  $a_n(x) \geq 0$  and  $\|a_n(x)\|_1 = 1$ ;
- for all  $n$ , there exists  $R$  such that for all  $x$ , the support of  $a_n(x)$  is contained in the ball of radius  $R$  around  $x$ ;
- for every  $K$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $N$  such that for every  $n > N$  and arbitrary pair  $x, y : d(x, y) < K$  we have

$$\|a_n(x) - a_n(y)\|_1 < \varepsilon.$$

We will reformulate the above definition using the space  $W_0(X)$  analogous to  $W_0(G, X)$  appearing in [3].

**Definition 2.** Let  $W_{00}(X)$  denote the space of functions  $w : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with the following properties:

- there exists  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\sum_{y \in X} w(x, y) = c$  for all  $x \in X$ ;  
(the functional which, given  $w$ , returns the value of  $c$  will be denoted by  $\pi$ )

- (b) there exists  $r \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $w(x, y) > 0$  implies  $d(x, y) \leq r$ ;  
(the lowest such  $r$  will be called the *support size* of  $w$  and denoted by  $|\text{supp } w|$ )
- (c) the expression  $\sup_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in X} |w(x, y)|$  is a finite number.  
(by this formula we define a norm  $W_{00}(X)$ , denoted by  $\|\cdot\|_{\infty,1}$ )

**Definition 3.** The space  $W_0(X)$  is defined as the closure of  $W_{00}(X)$  in the space of all functions from  $X \times X$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  which have finite  $\|\cdot\|_{\infty,1}$ -norm.

According to the above definitions, we may modify Definition 1: a function  $a_n : X \rightarrow l^1(X)$  satisfying conditions (a) and (b) can be equivalently replaced by an element  $w_n \in W_{00}(X)$  meeting the condition

(a')  $w_n \geq 0$  and  $\pi(w_n) = 1$ .

Note that condition (b) in Definition 1 translates exactly to the condition  $w_n \in W_{00}(X)$ . We have still not simplified (c), which will take place in the next section.

## 2 Criteria for Property A

### 2.1 The action of bijection group

**Definition 4.** Let  $G_R(X)$  denote the undirected graph whose vertices are the points of  $X$ , and an edge joins  $x$  with  $y$  if and only if  $d(x, y) \leq R$ .

**Definition 5.** We say that a bijection  $f : X \rightarrow X$  is *close to the identity* if  $\sup_{x \in X} d(f(x), x) < \infty$ . The group of all such bijections will be denoted by  $B_{id}(X)$ .

**Lemma 6** ([10, Lemma 1.13]). For a given  $R$ , the edges of  $G_R(X)$  can be labeled with finitely many colours so that two edges of the same color never meet in a common adjacent vertex.

**Lemma 7.** For a given  $R$ , there exists a finite subset  $B \subseteq B_{id}(X)$  such that for every pair  $(x, y)$  with  $d(x, y) \leq R$  there exists  $b \in B$  such that  $b(x) = y$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 6,  $G_R(X)$  can be labeled by a  $M$  colors for some  $M$ . For each  $i$ , define a bijection  $b_i$  close to the identity as follows:

- if there is an edge of color  $i$  joining  $x$  with  $y$ , set  $f(x) = y$ ;  
(then also  $f(y) = x$ )
- if there is no edge of color  $i$  adjacent to  $x$ , set  $f(x) = x$ .

As the whole  $G_R(X)$  is coloured, every  $b_i$  is fully specified in this way, and the claim holds.  $\square$

**Definition 8.** We define an action of  $B_{id}(X)$  on  $W_0(X)$  by the formula

$$(gw)(x, y) = w(g^{-1}(x), y).$$

**Definition 9.** For a function  $w \in W_0(X)$  and an element  $g \in B_{id}(X)$ , we will understand as the  $g$ -variance of  $w$  either the element  $w - gw$  itself or its norm. (The meaning will be clear from the context. Note that, in both senses,  $g$ -invariance is having trivial  $g$ -variance).

Using the above definitions, we can eventually restate the definition of Property A:

**Fact 10.** A space  $X$  has Property A if and only if there exists a sequence  $w_n \in W_{00}(X)$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (a)' for all  $n$ ,  $w_n \geq 0$  and  $\pi(w_n) = 1$  (i.e.  $\sum_{y \in X} w_n(x, y) = 1$  for all  $x$ );
- (c') for all  $g \in B_{id}$ , we have  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|w_n - gw_n\|_{\infty, 1} = 0$ .

*Proof.* This is an immediate consequence of the preceding definitions and Lemma 7, which allows for any  $R$  to include all pairs  $(x, y)$  of mutual distance bounded by  $R$  into finitely many bijections close to the identity.  $\square$

**Definition 11.** A sequence  $(w_n)$  satisfying the above conditions will be called a *Reiter sequence* for  $X$ .

## 2.2 Cohomological criterion

**Lemma 12.** A space  $X$  has Property A if and only if there exists an element  $\mu \in W_0(X)^{**}$  satisfying conditions:

$$\mu(\phi) = \mu(g\phi) \quad \text{and} \quad \mu(\pi) = 1.$$

The proof proceeds analogously as in [4, Theorem A].

**Definition 13.** By  $N_0(X)$  we denote the space of these  $w \in W_0(X)$  for which  $\pi(w) = 0$ .

**Definition 14** (cf. [5]). We define the *Johnson cochain* by the formula

$$J(g_0, g_1)(a)(x) = [x = g_1^{-1}(a)] - [x = g_0^{-1}(a)],$$

where  $[\varphi]$  is the Iverson bracket standing for 1 when  $\varphi$  holds and 0 otherwise.

**Theorem 1.** A space  $X$  has Property A if and only if the Johnson class  $[J] \in H_b^1(B_{id}(X), N_0(X)^{**})$  vanishes.

The proof proceeds analogously as in [4, Theorem B]. It is easy to check that, just as in [4],  $[J]$  is the image of  $[\mathbf{1}_X]$  under the connecting map arising from the Snake Lemma.

## 2.3 Reduction of the group and homological criterion

The group  $B_{id}$  seems too large; in particular, it is usually not finitely generated. Note, however, that Fact 10 and Theorem 1 will still hold if we replace  $B_{id}$  by any its subgroup  $H$  satisfying the claim of Lemma 7. For this it is sufficient that  $H$  be *exhausting* in the following sense.

**Definition 15.** A subgroup  $H$  of  $B_{id}(X)$  is *exhausting* if for every  $g \in B_{id}(X)$  there exist finitely many elements  $h_1, \dots, h_n \in H$  such that for all  $x \in X$ , we have  $g(x) = h_i(x)$  for some  $i$ .

**Remark 16.** Recall that a space  $X$  is called *coarsely connected* if the graph  $G_{R_0}(X)$  is connected for some  $R_0$ , and *quasi-geodesic* if it is coarsely connected and the metric in  $X$  is quasi-isometric to the graph-path metric in  $G_{R_0}(X)$  (cf. [9, Definition 1.4.6]). For such spaces, there exists a finitely generated exhausting group; an example is the group  $H$  generated by the set  $B$  of elements obtained in Lemma 7 for  $R = R_0$ . Let us verify that  $H$  is exhausting. Let  $C > 1$  be the constant setting up the quasi-isometry between  $X$  and  $G_{R_0}(X)$  (we may use a single constant since we assume that all distances in  $X$  are separated from zero). Let  $\overline{B}$  the set of the compositions of all sequences of length at most  $C \cdot k$  of elements of  $B$ . Now, let  $g$  be any element of  $B_{id}(X)$ ; then  $\sup_{x \in X} d(g(x), x) < kR$  for some  $k$ . Then for any  $x \in X$  there is a path  $x = x_0, x_1, \dots, x_M = g(x)$  in  $G_{R_0}(X)$  with  $M \leq C \cdot k$ . It follows from the definition of  $B$  that for every  $i$  there exists  $b_i \in B$  such that  $b_i(x_i) = x_{i+1}$ . Therefore an appropriate composition of these  $b_i$  belongs to  $\overline{B}$  and takes  $x$  to  $g(x)$ , which finishes the proof.

For a finitely generated exhausting subgroup  $H \leq B_{id}$ , we may use the duality between homology and cohomology as it is done in [5, Main Theorem] and [3, Theorem 8]. This leads to the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.** Let  $X$  be a space and  $H \leq B_{id}(X)$  a finitely generated exhausting subgroup. Then  $X$  has Property A if and only if the class  $[\pi]$  does not vanish in  $H_0(H, W_0^*(X))$ .

**Remark 17.** If  $X$  is the Cayley graph of a group, the group of all left shifts by elements of  $X$  is an exhausting subgroup of  $B_{id}(X)$ . In this way, we may obtain as special cases from Theorems 1 and 2 the original criteria for Property A of groups which were given in [5], [3] and [4].

**Definition 18.** If  $H$  is an exhausting subgroup of  $B_{id}(X)$  with a finite set of generators  $h_1, \dots, h_n$  specified in the context, we will mean by the *H-variance* of  $w$  the maximum of its  $h_i$ -variances. If  $H$  is also specified, we will say that  $w$  is  $\varepsilon$ -invariant if its  $H$ -variance is below  $\varepsilon$ . The motivation is that it is sufficient for being a Reiter sequence that  $w_n$  is  $\varepsilon_n$ -invariant, where  $\varepsilon_n$  may be any sequence converging to zero.

## 3 Reductions of coefficients

### 3.1 Symmetrisation

**Lemma 19.** If a non-amenable space  $X$  with a f. g. subgroup of  $B_{id}(X)$  has Property A, then there exists a Reiter sequence for  $X$  consisting of *symmetric* elements, i.e. satisfying  $w_n(x_1, x_2) = w_n(x_2, x_1)$ .

*Proof.* By [6], if  $X$  is not amenable, there exist two coarse inclusions  $i_1, i_2 : X \rightarrow X$  with disjoint images. For any  $w \in W_{00}$  denote

$$p(w) = \sup_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in X} w(x, y).$$

This is a finite number bounded by  $\|w\|$  times the support size of  $w$ . Now let

$$w'(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}w(x, y') & \text{if } y = i_1(y'), \\ \frac{1}{2}w(x, y'') & \text{if } y = i_2(y''), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Then  $w' \in W_{00}$  and we have

$$\|w'\| = \|w\|, \quad \pi(w') = \pi(w), \quad p(w') = \frac{1}{2}p(w).$$

Moreover, this operation is linear and preserves the action of  $B_{id}$ ; thus  $\|w' - gw'\| = \|w - gw\|$ . Therefore by iterating it we may force  $p(w)$  to become arbitrarily small, at the same time keeping the  $g$ -variance of  $w$  unchanged for all  $g$ . This means that if  $X$  is a non-amenable space with Property A, we may choose a Reiter sequence  $(w_n)$  with the following property:

$$\text{if } w_n \text{ is } \varepsilon\text{-invariant, then } p(w) < \varepsilon$$

Now, for such a sequence, we define its symmetrisation  $\bar{w}_n$  by the formula

$$\bar{w}_n(x_1, x_2) = w_n(x_1, x_2) + w_n(x_2, x_1).$$

If  $w_n$  is  $\varepsilon$ -invariant, then  $\bar{w}_n$  is  $(2\varepsilon)$ -invariant since the norm of the second summand does not exceed  $p(w_n)$  and this is less than  $\varepsilon$ . In order to obtain a Reiter sequence, we must correct every  $\bar{w}_n$  so that it has equal sums of values on all vertical fibers of the form  $\{x\} \times X$ . Observe that the sum of  $\bar{w}_n$  on any such fiber belongs to  $[1, 1 + \varepsilon]$ . Moreover, by the symmetry, the sums on the horizontal and vertical fibers passing through  $(x, x)$  are equal. Thus, we can construct  $\tilde{w}_n$  by increasing the diagonal values of  $\bar{w}_n$  so that the sum on all horizontal and vertical fibers becomes exactly  $1 + \varepsilon$ . Since what we added has norm at most  $\varepsilon$ , the new function  $\tilde{w}_n$  is  $(3\varepsilon)$ -invariant. The last step is to multiply  $\tilde{w}_n$  by  $\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}$  which makes  $\pi(\tilde{w}_n)$  equal one.  $\square$

**Remark 20.** The above lemma shows that, in our definition of Property A, the space  $W_{00}(X)$  can be (in the case of a non-amenable space) replaced by its subspace

$$\widetilde{W}_{00}(X) = \left\{ w \in W_{00}(X) : \forall_{y \in X} \sum_{x \in X} w(x, y) = \pi(w) \right\}$$

considered with the same norm  $\|\cdot\|_{\infty,1}$ . Note that the lemma implies the existence of a Reiter sequence even in a smaller subspace  $\overline{W}_{00}(X)$  of symmetric elements. However, unlike  $\widetilde{W}_{00}(X)$ , this space is not closed under the action of  $B_{id}(X)$ , which means that investigating functionals on it will not lead to a description of Property A.

### 3.2 Invariant chains with respect to a torsion generator

We will now consider a special case of a group  $G$  generated by two elements  $a, b$  such that  $a$  is a torsion element while  $b$  is not. Then, for any  $w \in W_{00}(G)$  we define its “partially averaged” version  $\bar{w}$  by the formula

$$\bar{w}(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n w(x_1 \cdot a^i, x_2),$$

where  $n$  is the rank of  $a$ . Now,  $\bar{w}$  is  $a$ -invariant, and its  $b$ -variance is at most the  $b$ -variance of  $w$  times a constant independent of  $w$ . Thus, if  $G$  has Property A, it must have a Reiter sequence consisting of  $a$ -invariant elements.

**Lemma 21.** Let  $v \in N_{00}(G)$  be the  $b$ -variance of some  $w \in W_{00}(G)$ . Then  $w$  must be equal to  $\bar{w}$  which is defined by the formula

$$(1) \quad \bar{w}(x_1, x_2) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} v(b^{-i} \cdot x_1, x_2).$$

*Proof.* First, note that  $\bar{w} - b\bar{w} = v$ . Then, the element  $\tilde{w} = \bar{w} - w$  is  $b$ -invariant. If we had  $\tilde{w}(x, y) \neq 0$  for some  $(x, y)$ , we would also have  $\tilde{w}(b^i \cdot x, y) = \tilde{w}(x, y) \neq 0$  for all  $i$ , so the support size of  $\tilde{w}$  would be infinite, which is a contradiction. Thus  $\tilde{w} = 0$ , so  $w = \bar{w}$ .  $\square$

**Definition 22.** Define  $\bar{N}_{00}(X)$  as the space of possible  $b$ -variances of  $a$ -invariant elements of  $W_{00}(X)$ .

**Corollary 23.** Under the assumptions imposed on  $G$ ,  $G$  has Property A if and only if the operator on  $\bar{N}_{00}(X)$  defined by the formula (1) is not continuous.

## 4 Constructing a witness for not having Property A

In this section we show how one can try — in the case when  $X$  does not have Property A — to construct a chain  $c \in C_1(H, W_0^*(X))$  such that  $\pi = \partial c$ . In a particular case, we will perform an explicit construction.

### 4.1 General form of the witness functional

**Lemma 24.** Let  $h_1, \dots, h_n$  be generators of an exhausting group  $H$  for a space  $X$ . Then the map

$$\delta: \quad W_0 \ni w \longmapsto (w - h_1 w, \dots, w - h_n w) \in W_0^n$$

is injective.

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\delta w = 0$  for some  $w \in W_0$ . For any  $x, y, z$  there exists  $h \in H$  taking  $x$  to  $y$ ; on the other hand,  $w = hw$ , so  $w(x, z) = w(y, z)$ . Therefore either  $w$  is zero or it has infinite support size; the latter is impossible.  $\square$

Observe that the existence of a Reiter sequence (that is, Property A) is equivalent to the inverse operator  $\delta^{-1}$  (considered on the image of  $\delta$ ) being not continuous. If  $X$  does not have Property A, we can, by Hahn-Banach Theorem, extend  $\pi \circ \delta^{-1}$  from  $\text{im } \delta$  onto whole  $W_0^n$ , without increasing its norm. Let  $\phi_i$  be the restriction of this extended functional to the  $i$ -th summand  $W_0$  in the product  $W_0^n$ . Then we have

$$(2) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i(w) - (h_i^{-1}\phi_i)(w) = \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i(w - h_i w) = \phi(\delta(w)) = \pi(w).$$

In order to define a chain  $c$ , it suffices to set its values on all 1-simplices of the form  $(\varepsilon, h)$  for  $h \in H$ , with the restriction that  $c(\varepsilon, h)$  be zero for almost all  $h$ . In our case, we take

$$(3) \quad c(\varepsilon, h_i) = -\phi_i$$

and  $c(\varepsilon, h) = 0$  for all other elements  $h$ . Note that then  $\partial c$  is a chain which in  $\varepsilon \in G$  takes the value

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i - h_i^{-1}\phi_i \stackrel{(2)}{=} \pi,$$

so  $\partial c = \pi$ .

## 4.2 Description of a space without Property A

In [1], there is an example of a space  $X$  without property A which is interesting as it admits an inclusion into a Hilbert space. By Theorem 2, the fact that  $X$  does not have Property A must be demonstrated by some chain  $c \in W_0(X)^*$  such that  $\pi = \partial c$ . Below we will construct an example of such chain. We will start from a description of the space  $X$ .

**Denotation 25.** For a group  $G$ , we denote by  $G^2$  the group generated by the squares of all elements of  $G$ .

**Fact 26.**  $G^2$  is a normal subgroup in  $G$  with an abelian quotient.

*Proof.* Normality follows from the equality

$$g^{-1} g_1^2 g_2^2 \dots g_n^2 g = (g^{-1} g_1 g)^2 (g^{-1} g_2 g)^2 \dots (g^{-1} g_n g)^2.$$

Observe that for any  $g \in G/G^2$  we have  $g = g^{-1}$ . Thus

$$gh = g^{-1}h^{-1} = (hg)^{-1} = hg. \quad \square$$

**Definition 27.** Let  $\Gamma_0 = F_2$  and  $\Gamma_n = \Gamma_{n-1}^2$ . Denote by  $X_n$  the quotient  $F_2/\Gamma_n$ .

**Lemma 28.**  $X_n$  is finite.

*Proof.* We will perform an inductive proof. For  $X_0 = F_2/\Gamma_0$ , the claim is clear. Now suppose that  $X_{n-1}$  is finite. We have

$$(4) \quad X_{n-1} = F_2/\Gamma_{n-1} = (F_2/\Gamma_n)/(\Gamma_{n-1}/\Gamma_n) = X_n/(\Gamma_{n-1}/\Gamma_n).$$

By Propositions 3.8 and 3.9 in [8],  $\Gamma_{n-1}$  is a finitely generated free group because the quotient  $F_2/\Gamma_{n-1}$  is finite. Therefore  $\Gamma_{n-1}/\Gamma_n$  is finitely generated, and abelian by Fact 26, so finite (as every its element has rank 2). Thus from (4) we get that  $X_n$  is also finite.  $\square$

Define a metric space  $X$  as  $\bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} X_n$ , where  $\bigcup$  means adjoining the spaces  $X_n$  to a rope, each appropriately separated from the other. More formally, start with endowing each quotient group  $X_n$  with the metric of its Cayley graph, and setting the distance between the neutral elements  $\varepsilon_n \in X_n$  and  $\varepsilon_{n+1} \in X_{n+1}$  to be triple diameter of  $X_{n+1}$ . If we chose any metric on  $X$  compatible with these settings,  $X$  would turn out not to be coarsely connected. To fix that, we introduce a “ $\mathbb{Z}$ -rope”, i.e. a sequence of additional points  $\{x_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$ , where  $\varepsilon_n$  is identified with  $x_{s_n}$  for  $s_n = 3 \sum_{i=2}^n \text{diam } X_i$ . We will now formally define — using the Cayley graph metrics in the  $X_n$  — the distance in  $X$ :

- $d(x_i, x_j) = |i - j|$  for  $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$ ;  
(in particular,  $d(\varepsilon_n, \varepsilon_{n+1}) = 3 \text{diam } X_{n+1}$ , just as claimed before)
- $d(a, b) = d(a, \varepsilon_n) + d(\varepsilon_n, \varepsilon_m) + d(\varepsilon_m, b)$  for  $a \in X_n, b \in X_m, n \neq m$ ;
- $d(a, x_i) = d(a, \varepsilon_n) + d(\varepsilon_n, x_i)$  for  $a \in X_n, i \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

We define also an action of the free group  $F_3$  on  $X$  as follows:

- The first two generators  $a, b$  act on every  $X_m$  according to the natural action of  $F_2$  on  $X_m$ ,
- $c \cdot x_i = x_{i+1}$  for  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,
- in all other cases, the generators  $a, b, c$  act trivially.

This action determines an identification of  $F_3$  with some subgroup in  $B_{id}(X)$ . It is easy to check that this subgroup is exhausting. (This follows, for instance, from the fact that Lemma 7 holds when taking  $R = 1$  and  $B = \{a, b, c, a^{-1}, b^{-1}, c^{-1}\}$ ). An illustration of the space  $X$  together with the action of  $F_3$  on it is given in Figure 1.

**Lemma 29** (cf. [8, Proposition 3.3]). For every  $R$  there exists  $n_0$  such that for all  $n > n_0$ , the natural projection  $p : F_2 \rightarrow X_n$  restricted to the ball  $B(\varepsilon, R)$  is an isometry and preserves the action of  $a$  i  $b$ . More precisely: if  $g$  and  $ag$  belong to  $B(\varepsilon, R)$ , then  $p(ag) = [a]p(g)$ , and analogously for  $b$ .

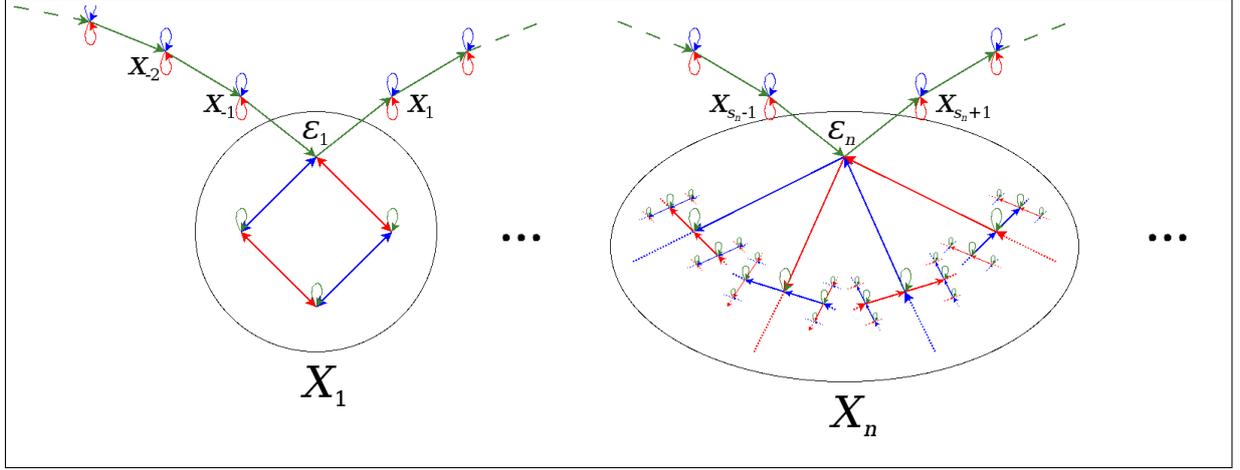


Figure 1: An illustration of the space  $X$  together with the action of  $F_3$  on it. The blue, red and green arrows show respectively the actions of the generators  $a$ ,  $b$  i  $c$ .

### 4.3 Description of the witness chain

Let  $l_1, l_2 : F_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be bounded functions such that

$$(l_1 - al_1) + (l_2 - bl_2) = \mathbf{1}_{F_2},$$

where  $a, b$  are the canonical generators of  $F_2$ . The existence of such functions follows from [2] because  $F_2$  is not amenable. Choose  $n > 0$ . Let  $m$  be the radius for which the ball  $B(\varepsilon_m, n)$  in  $X_m$  is isometric with a corresponding ball in  $F_2$  (in the sense of Lemma 29). Note that

$$(5) \quad (l_1 - al_1) + (l_2 - bl_2) = \mathbf{1} \quad \text{in the ball } B(\varepsilon, n - 1).$$

Let  $f_i : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  assign to a point  $x \in B(\varepsilon_m, n)$  the value  $l_i(x)$  obtained by identifying the balls in  $X_m$  and  $F_2$ , and the value 0 to all other points in  $X$ . Define functionals  $\phi_i^n$  on  $W_0(X)$  by the formula

$$\phi_i^n(w) = \frac{1}{\#(X_m)} \sum_{x_1, x_2 \in X_m} w(x_1, x_2) \cdot f_i(x_1 \cdot x_2^{-1}).$$

It is easy to check that  $\phi_i^n$  is continuous with norm bounded by  $\|l_i\|_\infty$ . Then we can define  $\phi_i \in W_0(X)^*$  as the Banach limit of  $\phi_i^n$ ; more precisely, as the composition

$$W_0(X) \xrightarrow{(\phi_i^n)_{n=1}^\infty} l^\infty(\mathbb{N}) \xrightarrow{\text{lim B}} \mathbb{R}.$$

**Theorem 3.** For all  $w \in W_0(X)$ , we have

$$(6) \quad \phi_1(w - aw) + \phi_2(w - bw) = \pi(w).$$

With this Theorem, we see that, after setting  $\phi_3 = 0$ , the chain  $c$  defined as in (3) will satisfy  $\partial c = \pi$ , which will demonstrate that  $X$  does not have Property A.

*Proof of the Theorem.* It suffices to show that (6) holds on  $W_{00}$  since it is dense in  $W_0$  and both sides in (6) depend continuously on  $w$ . Let  $\bar{w}$  be arbitrary element of  $W_{00}$  and let  $k$  be its support size. It follows from (5) that, for  $n > k + 1$  and  $m$  chosen as in the definition of  $\phi_i^n$ , we have

$$(f_1 - af_1) + (f_2 - bf_2) = \mathbf{1} \quad \text{in the ball } B(\varepsilon_m, k).$$

This means that

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_1^n(\bar{w} - a\bar{w}) &= \frac{1}{\#(X_m)} \sum_{x_1, x_2 \in X_m} \bar{w}(x_1, x_2) \cdot \left( f_1(x_1 \cdot x_2^{-1}) - (af_1)(x_1 \cdot x_2^{-1}) \right), \\ \phi_2^n(\bar{w} - b\bar{w}) &= \frac{1}{\#(X_m)} \sum_{x_1, x_2 \in X_m} \bar{w}(x_1, x_2) \cdot \left( f_2(x_1 \cdot x_2^{-1}) - (bf_2)(x_1 \cdot x_2^{-1}) \right), \end{aligned}$$

so the sum of these expression is

$$\frac{1}{\#(X_m)} \sum_{x_1, x_2 \in X_m} \bar{w}(x_1, x_2) \cdot (f_1 - af_1 + f_2 - bf_2)(x_1 \cdot x_2^{-1}) = \frac{1}{\#(X_m)} \sum_{x_1, x_2 \in X_m} \bar{w}(x_1, x_2).$$

What we obtained is the sum of values of  $\bar{w}$  on whole  $X_m \times X_m$ , divided by the number of vertical fibers of the form  $\{x_1\} \times X_m$ . Now define  $K_m$  as the number of these  $x_m \in X_m$  for which there exists  $y \notin X_m$  such that  $\bar{w}(x_m, y) \neq 0$ . In fact,  $K_m$  is exactly the size of the external  $|\text{supp } \bar{w}|$ -boundary of  $X_m$  in  $X$ . Clearly,  $(X_m)$  is a Følner sequence in  $X$ , which implies that for all  $\delta > 0$  we have  $\frac{K_m}{\#(X_m)} < \delta$  for sufficiently large  $m$ . This means that the sum of  $\bar{w}$  on  $X_m \times X_m$  equals — with a relative error less than  $\delta$  — the sum on  $X_m \times X$ , which is  $\#(X_m) \cdot \pi(\bar{w})$ . Therefore, after passing to the limit with respect to  $m$ , we obtain (6) for  $\phi_1^n$ ,  $\phi_2^n$  and  $\bar{w}$ . Now passing to the limit with respect to  $n$  finishes the proof.  $\square$

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