

**Math 595: Descriptive Set Theory**

**HOMEWORK 4**

**Due: Nov 15-16**

1. Let  $G$  be a Polish group and let  $H \leq G$  be a subgroup. Prove that  $H$  is Polish iff  $H$  is closed.

HINT: Consider  $H$  inside  $\overline{H}$ . What is the Baire category status (meager/nonmeager/comeager) of  $H$  in (the relative topology of)  $\overline{H}$ ? If  $H \subsetneq \overline{H}$ , look at the cosets.

2. Let  $\Gamma$  be a group acting on a Polish space  $X$  by homeomorphisms (i.e. each element  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  acts as a homeomorphism of  $X$ ). A set  $A \subseteq X$  is called invariant if  $\gamma A = A$  for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . The action  $\Gamma \curvearrowright X$  is called *generically ergodic* if every invariant Baire measurable set  $A \subseteq X$  is either meager or comeager. For a set  $A \subseteq X$ , denote by  $[A]_\Gamma$  the saturation of  $A$ , namely  $[A]_\Gamma = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \gamma A$ .

Prove that the following are equivalent:

- (1)  $\Gamma \curvearrowright X$  is generically ergodic.
- (2) Every invariant nonempty open set is dense.
- (3) For comeagerly many  $x \in X$ , the orbit  $[x]_\Gamma$  is dense.
- (4) There is a dense orbit.
- (5) For every nonempty open sets  $U, V \subseteq X$ , there is  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  such that  $(\gamma U) \cap V \neq \emptyset$ .

HINT: For (2) $\Rightarrow$ (3), take a countable basis  $\{U_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and consider  $\bigcap_n [U_n]_\Gamma$ .

3. Show that if  $X, Y$  are second countable Baire spaces, so is  $X \times Y$ .
4. [Optional] Show that the Kuratowski–Ulam theorem fails if  $A$  is not Baire measurable by constructing a nonmeager set  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  (using AC) so that no three points of  $A$  are on a straight line. Construct this set  $A$  following these steps:
  - (i) Note that there are only continuum many  $F_\sigma$  subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , so take a transfinite enumeration  $(F_\xi)_{\xi < 2^{\aleph_0}}$  of all *meager*  $F_\sigma$  sets.
  - (ii) Aim at recursively constructing a sequence  $(a_\xi)_{\xi < 2^{\aleph_0}}$  of points in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  by transfinite recursion so that for each  $\xi < 2^{\aleph_0}$ ,  $\{a_\lambda : \lambda \leq \xi\} \not\subseteq F_\xi$  and no three of the points in  $\{a_\lambda : \lambda \leq \xi\}$  lie on a straight line.
  - (iii) To see that a choice of  $a_\xi$  is possible, note that  $\{a_\lambda : \lambda < \xi\}$  generates  $< 2^{\aleph_0}$  many lines and find (using Kuratowski–Ulam, ironically) a vertical line in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  disjoint from  $\{a_\lambda : \lambda < \xi\}$  and such that  $F_\xi$  is meager on that line.
5. Prove that in any topological group  $G$ , every nonmeager Baire measurable subgroup  $H \leq G$  is actually clopen! In particular, if  $G$  is Polish and  $H \leq G$  is Baire measurable, then  $H$  is clopen if and only if it has countable index in  $G$ .

6. Prove that if  $f : (\mathbb{R}, +) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, +)$  is a Baire measurable group homomorphism, then  $f$  is just a multiplication by a constant, i.e.  $f(x) = f(1)x$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .  
HINT: First show this for integers, then for rationals, etc.
7. For Polish spaces  $X, Y$ , a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is called *universally measurable* if the  $f$ -preimage of each Borel subset of  $Y$  is universally measurable. Prove that universally measurable functions are closed under composition, i.e. for Polish spaces  $X, Y, Z$ , if  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $g : Y \rightarrow Z$  are universally measurable, then so is  $g \circ f$ .
8. Prove that the translation action of  $\mathbb{Q}$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  is generically ergodic and ergodic with respect to Lebesgue measure.
9. Let  $\mu$  be any Bernoulli (coin-flip) measure on  $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ .
  - (a) Prove the **99% lemma** for  $\mu$ , namely: any measurable set  $B \subseteq 2^{\mathbb{N}}$  of positive measure admits a basic clopen set  $[s]$ ,  $s \in 2^{<\mathbb{N}}$ , whose 99% is  $B$ . Show that  $[s]$  can be taken to be arbitrarily  $\mu$ -small (equivalently,  $s$  can be taken to be arbitrarily long).
  - (b) Deduce that the Hamming graph (equivalently, the corresponding group action  $\bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \curvearrowright 2^{\mathbb{N}}$ ) is  $\mu$ -ergodic.
  - (c) Also observe that the Hamming graph (equivalently, the same group action as in (b)) is generically ergodic.
10. Let  $C_0 := \{(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \in [0, 1]^{\mathbb{N}} : \lim_n x_n = 0\}$ , and show that  $C_0$  is in  $\Pi_3^0(X)$ .