

Quantitative measure theory of Nilpotent groups

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Quasi-isometry versus measure equivalence

Theorem (Gromov)

*Two finitely generated groups Γ and Λ are **quasi-isometric** if and only if there exists a **topological coupling between them:**
a **locally compact space X and commuting, proper, cocompact actions of Λ and Γ by homeomorphisms on X .***

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- Any two infinite **amenable** groups are ME (Ornstein-Weiss 80).

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- For a topological coupling, $\alpha(\cdot, x)$ is a **quasi-isometry** between Λ to Γ (uniform with respect to x).
- **Problem:** for a measurable coupling, quantify how “distorted” the maps $\alpha(\cdot, x)$ are “in average”.

Quantifying ME equivalence

Definition (L^p -measure equivalence)

Let $p \in (0, \infty]$. Two finitely generated groups Λ and Γ are L^p -ME if they are ME, and for all $s \in S_\Lambda$, $t \in S_\Gamma$, both

$$x \mapsto |\alpha(x, s)|_{S_\Gamma} \quad \text{and} \quad y \mapsto |\beta(y, t)|_{S_\Lambda}$$

are in $L^p(X_\Gamma)$ and $L^p(X_\Lambda)$.

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$$(L^\infty - ME) \Rightarrow (L^2 - ME) \Rightarrow (L^1 - ME) \Rightarrow (L^{1/2} - ME).$$

- (Shalom 04) if Λ and Γ are **amenable** and QI, then they are L^∞ -ME.

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Problem

Classify simply connected/ finitely generated nilpotent groups up to L^p -ME.

Growth function

Theorem (Bowen 16)

If Λ and Γ are L^1 -ME, then $V_\Lambda \approx V_\Gamma$.

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If $V_\Gamma(r) \simeq r^d$ and $V_\Lambda(r) \simeq r^{d+k}$, with $k \geq 1$ then Γ and Λ are not L^p -ME for $p \geq \frac{d}{d+k}$.

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Theorem (Delabie-Llosa-T 24)

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Example: \mathbb{Z}^4 and $\text{Heis}(\mathbb{Z})$ are L^p -ME for all $p < 1$.

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Corollary (Classification up to L^1 -ME)

Two finitely generated nilpotent groups are L^1 -ME if and only if they have isomorphic Carnot-graded associated Lie groups.

Problem: Find the supremum over all p such that two nilpotent groups (with same Carnot-graded) are L^p -ME.

Concrete examples

Definition (filiform Lie algebra)

The (standard) filiform n -nilpotent Lie algebra \mathfrak{l}_n is the Lie algebra of dimension n with basis $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ satisfying $[x_1, x_i] = x_{i+1}$ for $2 \leq i \leq n-1$ and $[x_i, x_j] = 0$ for $1 < i \leq j \leq n$ or if $(i, j) = (1, n)$.

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We denote $G_{m,n}$ the central product of L_m with L_n obtained by identifying x_m with x_n (in the respective Lie algebras).

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We denote $G_{m,n}$ the central product of L_m with L_n obtained by identifying x_m with x_n (in the respective Lie algebras).

Concrete examples

Definition (filiform Lie algebra)

The (standard) filiform n -nilpotent Lie algebra \mathfrak{l}_n is the Lie algebra of dimension n with basis $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ satisfying $[x_1, x_i] = x_{i+1}$ for $2 \leq i \leq n-1$ and $[x_i, x_j] = 0$ for $1 < i \leq j \leq n$ or if $(i, j) = (1, n)$.

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The critical value $p_c = \frac{m-1}{n-1}$ is expected to be sharp.

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Two free pmp actions $\Lambda \curvearrowright (Z, \mu)$ and $\Gamma \curvearrowright (Y, \nu)$ are **orbit equivalent** (OE), if there exists an isomorphism of measure spaces $\Psi : (Z, \mu) \rightarrow (Y, \nu)$ such that for a.e. $z \in Z$,

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Proposition

Assume $\Gamma, \Lambda \curvearrowright Z$ free pmp actions **with same orbits**. Then

$$X = \{(z, y) \in Z \times Z \mid z \in \Gamma \cdot y\}$$

comes with a σ -finite measure (identifying it with $Z \times \Gamma$), and free commuting, measure-preserving Λ and Γ actions with $X_\Lambda = X_\Gamma = \{(z, z) \mid z \in Z\}$ as common fundamental domain.

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Constructions of OE pmp actions

Quantitative
measure
theory of
Nilpotent
groups

Romain
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More precise results:

Theorem (Delabie-Llosa-T 24)

If $V_\Gamma(r) \simeq r^d$ and $V_\Lambda(r) \simeq r^{d+k}$ for $d, k \in \mathbb{N}$, then Γ and Λ have (profinite) pmp actions which are L^p -OE for all $p < \frac{d}{d+k}$.

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If two finitely generated nilpotent groups have isomorphic Carnot-graded associated Lie groups, then they (profinite) pmp actions which are L^p -OE for some (explicit) $p > 1$.

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Constructing an OE between \mathbb{Z} and \mathbb{Z}^2

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These actions **preserve the product measures** on $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ and $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}^{\mathbb{N}}$.

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Two sequences belong to the **same orbit** if and only if they **differ by at most finitely many coordinates**.

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The actions of \mathbb{Z} and \mathbb{Z}^2 :

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The orbit equivalence: $F : \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}} \times \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is defined

$$F(x, y) = x + 2y.$$

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Integrability: better from \mathbb{Z} to \mathbb{Z}^2 than from \mathbb{Z}^2 to \mathbb{Z} , because **large carry cascades** happen more often on the \mathbb{Z}^2 -action than on the \mathbb{Z} -action.