Abstract. We prove that the M"obius function is disjoint to all Lipschitz continuous skew product dynamical systems on the 3-dimensional Heisenberg nilmanifold over a minimal rotation of the 2-dimensional torus.

1. Introduction

1.1. Setting and statement. The M"obius function $\mu : \mathbb{N} \to \{-1, 0, 1\}$ is defined as follows: $\mu(n) = (-1)^k$ if $n$ is the product of $k$ distinct primes, and $\mu(n) = 0$ otherwise. Sarnak’s M"obius disjointness conjecture states that $\mu(n)$ is highly random, in the sense that it is orthogonal to all continuous observables from zero-entropy topological dynamical systems. In this article, we deal with a special case of this conjecture, namely Lipschitz continuous skew product maps on the 3-dimensional Heisenberg nilmanifold.

The Heisenberg group is

$$G = \{(x, y, z) : x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}\} \cong \mathbb{R}^3$$

equipped with the group rule

$$(x, y, z)(x', y', z') = (x + x', y + y', z + z' + (xy' - x'y)).$$

Set $\Gamma = G(\mathbb{Z}) = \{(x, y, z) \in G : x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ and $X = G/\Gamma$. Then $X$ is a compact nilmanifold and its maximal torus factor is $T^2 = \mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2$, parametrized by the $x$ and $y$ coordinates. $X$ is a principal $T^1$-bundle over $T^2$. $G$ acts on $X$ by left translation.

For $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ and a continuous function $h : T^2 \to T^1$, define $T : X \to X$ by

$$x \mapsto (\alpha, \beta, \tilde{h}(x, y))x,$$

Date: March 19, 2018.

This paper was the outcome of an undergraduate research project sponsored by the Eberly College of Science at Penn State University during the 2016-2017 academic year. M.L. thanks the ECoS for its support. Z.W., the faculty mentor of the project, was supported by the NSF grant DMS-1501295.
where $x = (x, y, z) \Gamma$, $\tilde{h}(x, y)$ is any lifting of the value $h(x, y) \in \mathbb{T}^1$ to $\mathbb{R}$, and $(\alpha, \beta, \tilde{h}(x, y))$ stands for an element in $G$. Here we regard $h$ as a $\mathbb{Z}^2$-periodic function on $\mathbb{R}^2$.

Indeed, the choice of $\tilde{h}(x, y)$ does not matter. This is because for two different choices of $\tilde{h}(x, y)$, the values of $(\alpha, \beta, \tilde{h}(x, y))$ differ by translation by an element from the group $C = \{(0,0,m) : m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$. This group is both in the center of $G$ and in $\Gamma$, so the two different choices of $(\alpha, \beta, \tilde{h}(x, y))x$ represent the same point in $X = G/\Gamma$.

Without causing confusion, we will simply write (1.3) as

$$T : x \mapsto (\alpha, \beta, h(x, y))x.$$ 

Here $(\alpha, \beta, h(x, y))$ should be think of as an element in the quotient group $G/C$.

The map $T$ is an isometric extension of the translation by $(\alpha, \beta)$ on $\mathbb{T}^2$, which we denote by $T_0$. Namely, $T_0$ is a factor of $T$, and $T$ send fibers (which are circles $\mathbb{T}^1$) to fibers by isometries. In particular, $(X, T)$ is a distal dynamical system and has zero topological entropy.

Recall that $T_0$ is minimal and ergodic on $\mathbb{T}^2$ if $\alpha$, $\beta$, 1 are linearly independent over $\mathbb{Q}$. Otherwise, every orbit of $T_0$ is contained in a finite union of parallel 1-dimensional subtori in $\mathbb{T}^2$.

Our main result is:

**Theorem 1.1.** If $\alpha$, $\beta$, 1 are linearly independent over $\mathbb{Q}$ and $h : \mathbb{T}^2 \to \mathbb{T}^1$ is Lipschitz continuous, then

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} f(T^n x) \mu(n) = 0, \ \forall x \in X, \forall f \in C(X).$$

We remark that the assumption on $\alpha$, $\beta$ is in place only to guarantee minimality, and no extra Diophantine conditions are needed.

1.2. Background and motivation. The Möbius disjointness conjecture, proposed by Sarnak [30], is:

**Conjecture 1.2.** For a topological dynamical system $(X, T)$, if $h_{\text{top}}(T) = 0$, then (1.5) holds.

The conjecture has been the subject of many recent researches. For known cases of the conjecture, see [1–12,15,17–19,22–24,26–29,31,32], to list a few.

An important class of zero entropy topological dynamical systems are distal dynamical systems. By Furstenberg’s structure theorem [14], minimal distal systems are inverse limits of towers of isometric extensions.

Möbius disjointness for homogeneous distal dynamical systems were known by the works of Davenport [4] for rotations of the circle, of Green-Tao [17] for nilflows, and of Liu-Sarnak [23] for all affine distal flows.
According to Furstenberg’s structure theorem, the simplest non-homogeneous distal systems are 2-step isometric extensions, i.e. an isometric extension of a rotation on a compact abelian group.

For manifolds, $T^2$ is the smallest on which one can create such a map, which is the skew product $T(x, y) = (x + \alpha, y + h(x))$. Möbius disjointness for such skew products is proved for generic $\alpha$ when $h$ is $C^{1+\epsilon}$ by Kulaga-Przymus and Lemanczyk [22], as well as for all $\alpha$ when $T$ is analytic by Liu and Sarnak [23] and Wang [32].

The aim of this paper is to demonstrate that the problem is easier to handle for non-homogeneous dynamical systems when the isometric extension’s underlying fiber bundle structure is not trivial.

In the settings of Theorem 1.1, the Heisenberg nilmanifold is a non-trivial principal circle bundle over $T^2$. The twistedness of the topology allows to show unique ergodicity of a dynamical system that is induced from $T$ using the Kátai-Bourgain-Sarnak-Ziegler criterion [3][21], assuming Lipschitz continuity. In contrast, for skew products on $T^2$, which is a trivial circle bundle over the circle, the works [23] and [32] required either methods from harmonic analysis or Matomäki-Radziwiłł-Tao bounds [25] on short averages of multiplicative functions, in addition to the Kátai-Bourgain-Sarnak-Ziegler criterion, and needed to assume analyticity.

We remark that the proof of Theorem 1.1 can be easily extended to skew products on higher dimensional Heisenberg manifolds and other 2-step nilmanifolds. However, we are not going to pursue this direction in detail.

Notations. On $T^1 = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$, $\| \cdot \|$ denotes the distance to the origin. The function $e(\cdot)$ on $T^1$ (or $\mathbb{R}$) is defined as $e(x) = e^{2\pi ix}$. For a compact nilmanifold or torus $Y$, $m_Y$ denotes the unique uniform probability measure on $Y$, which descends from a Haar measure on the universal cover of $Y$.

2. Proof of Theorem 1.1

2.1. Reduction of the joining dynamics. We suppose $x_0 \in X$ and a function $f_0 \in C(X)$ does not satisfy (1.5). By translating both the point and the function, we may assume without loss of generality that $x_0$ is the identity point $\Gamma$ in $X = G/\Gamma$, i.e. represented by $(0, 0, 0)$.

Definition 2.1. A continuous function $f : X \to \mathbb{C}$ has vertical oscillation of frequency $\xi \in \mathbb{Z}$ if for all $\tau \in X$ and $z \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$f((0, 0, z)\tau) = e(z)f(\tau).$$
Lemma 2.2. There exists a non-zero integer $\xi$ and a continuous function $f : X \to \mathbb{C}$ of vertical oscillation of frequency $\xi$, such that

\begin{equation}
\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} f(T^nx_0)\mu(n) \not\to 0 \text{ as } N \to \infty.
\end{equation}

Proof. By our earlier hypothesis, there are $\delta \in (0,1)$ and a subsequence $\{N_i\}$ of $\mathbb{N}$, such that

$$
\left| \frac{1}{N_i} \sum_{n=1}^{N_i} f_0(T^n x_0)\mu(n) \right| > \delta.
$$

On the other hand, by the proof of [16, Lemma 3.7], there are finitely many continuous functions $f_j$, $1 \leq j \leq J$ on $X$ of vertical oscillation, respectively of frequency $\xi_j$, such that $\|f_0 - \sum_{j=1}^{J} f_j\|_{L^\infty} < \frac{\delta}{2}$. It follows that

$$
\left| \frac{1}{N_i} \sum_{n=1}^{N_i} f_0(T^n x_0)\mu(n) - \sum_{j=1}^{J} \frac{1}{N_i} \sum_{n=1}^{N_i} f_j(T^{pn} x_0)\mu(n) \right| < \frac{\delta}{2},
$$

and hence

$$
\left| \sum_{j=1}^{J} \frac{1}{N_i} \sum_{n=1}^{N_i} f_j(T^{pn} x_0)\mu(n) \right| > \delta - \frac{\delta}{2} = \frac{\delta}{2},
$$

for all $i$. In other words, $\sum_{j=1}^{J} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} f_j(T^{pn} x_0)\mu(n) \not\to 0$ as $N \to \infty$. We deduce that for at least one $j$, $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} f_j(T^{pn} x_0)\mu(n) \not\to 0$. Let $f = f_j$ and $\xi = \xi_j$. Then (2.1) holds.

It remains to claim that $\xi \neq 0$. Indeed, if $\xi = 0$, then $f$ is constant under translations along the vertical subgroup $\{(0,0,z)\}$, which are fibers of $X \to \mathbb{T}^2$. Equivalently, $f$ can be thought of as a continuous function on $\mathbb{T}^2$, and (2.1) can be rewritten as

$$
\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} f(T_0^n (0,0))\mu(n) \not\to 0 \text{ as } N \to \infty.
$$

As $T_0$ is the translation by $(\alpha, \beta)$ on $\mathbb{T}^2$, this contradicts Davenport’s theorem [4]. So we conclude that $\xi \neq 0$. \qed

The following important criterion guarantees Möbius disjointness and is due to Kátai [21] and Bourgain-Sarnak-Ziegler [3]:

Theorem 2.3. For a dynamical system $(\mathcal{X}, T)$, a continuous function $f \in C(\mathcal{X})$, and a point $x \in \mathcal{X}$, if the equation (1.5) fails to hold, then there exist a pair of distinct primes $p > q$, such that $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} f(T^{pn} x)f(T^{qn} x) \not\to 0$ as $N \to \infty$. 

By this criterion, for a pair of distinct primes $p > q$,

\begin{equation}
\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} f(T^{pn}x_0)f(T^{qn}x_0) \not\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty.
\end{equation}

We study the dynamics of the pair $(T^{pn}x_0, T^{qn}x_0)$.

**Lemma 2.4.** The set $G_1 = \{(x_1, y_1, z_1, x_2, y_2, z_2) \mid q(x_1, y_1) = p(x_2, y_2)\} \subseteq G^2$ is a closed subgroup of $G^2$ with the following properties:

(i) $G_1/\Gamma_1$, where $\Gamma_1 = G_1 \cap (\Gamma \times \Gamma)$, is compact.

(ii) $(T^{pn}x_0, T^{qn}x_0) \in X_1 = G_1/\Gamma_1$ for all $n$.

**Proof.** (i) The nilpotent group $G$ is (the real points of) an algebraic group defined over $\mathbb{Q}$ and thus so is $G^2$. The lattice $\Gamma$ is given by $G(\mathbb{Z})$. In order to show that $\Gamma_1$ is cocompact in $G_1$, it suffices to prove $G_1$ is a subgroup defined over $\mathbb{Q}$. This is true by definition.

(ii) Notice that $(x_0, x_0)$ is the identity element in $X^2 = G^2/\Gamma^2$. It suffices to show that the embedded subnilmanifold $X_1 \subset X^2$ is $T^p \times T^q$-invariant. This can be verified from the definition of $G_1$, because $T^p$ adds $(p\alpha, p\beta)$ to the coordinate pair $(x_1, y_1)$ and $T^q$ adds $(q\alpha, q\beta)$ to $(x_2, y_2)$.

**Lemma 2.5.** For $D = \{(0,0,z_1,0,0,z_2) \mid z_1 = z_2\} \subset G_1$ and $G_* = G_1/D$, the subgroup $\Gamma_* = \Gamma_1/\Gamma_1 \cap D$ is a cocompact lattice in $G_*$, and thus $X_* = G_*/\Gamma_* = X_1/(D/\Gamma_1 \cap D)$ is a compact nilmanifold.

**Proof.** Remark first that $D$ is in the center of $G_1$, so $G_*$ is a group. Again, it suffices to notice that $D$ is an algebraic subgroup of the nilpotent group $G_1$ defined over $\mathbb{Q}$.

We now describe the natural projection from $X_1$ to $X_*$. Because of the definition of $G_1$, each point in $G_1$ can be uniquely written as $(px, py, z_1, qx, qy, z_2) \in G^2$ for some $x, y, z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{R}$, where $G$ is parametrized as in (1.1). The $D$-orbit of this point is the set \{$(px, py, z_1 + a, qx, qy, z_2 + a) : a \in \mathbb{R}$\}. So $G_* = G_1/D$ can be parametrized by \{(x, y, z) : x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}$\}, and the projection $\pi : G_1 \rightarrow G_*$ is given by

\begin{equation}
\pi(px, py, z_1, qx, qy, z_2) = (x, y, z_1 - z_2).
\end{equation}

Because $p, q$ are distinct primes, each point in $\Gamma_1 = G_1 \cap \Gamma$ can be uniquely written as $(px, py, z_1, qx, qy, z_2) \in G^2$ for some $x, y, z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$. Combining this with (2.3), we see that $\Gamma_* = \pi(\Gamma_1)$ is just the set of integer points \{(x, y, z) \in G_* : x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}$\} of $G_*$.

**Lemma 2.6.** The group rule in $G_*$, which we denote by $\ast$, is given by

$(x, y, z) * (x', y', z') = (x + x', y + y', z + z' + (p^2 - q^2)(xy' - x'y))$. 

\[ \pi(px, py, z_1, qx, qy, z_2) = (x, y, z_1 - z_2) \]
Proof. The group rule in $G_1$ is

$$(px,py,z_1,qx, qy, z_2)(px', py', z'_1, qx', qy', z'_2) = (p(x + x'), p(y + y'), z_1 + z'_1 + p^2(xy' - x'y),$$

$$q(x + x'), q(y + y'), z_2 + z'_2 + q^2(xy' - x'y)).$$

Applying $\pi$ to both sides, we get the formula in the lemma.

It is not hard to see that the 2-step compact nilmanifold $X_\ast = G_\ast / \Gamma_\ast$, similar to the Heisenberg nilmanifold $X = G / \Gamma$, is a principal $\mathbb{T}^1$-bundle over $\mathbb{T}^2$. The base $\mathbb{T}^2$ is parametrized by the first two coordinates $(x, y)$.

We indifferently denote by $\pi$ the projection from $X_1$ to $X_\ast$, which is induced from $\pi : G_1 \to G_\ast$. By Lemma 2.4, for all $n$ we have a point $\pi(T^n x, T^n q x) \in X_\ast$.

The group $G_\ast$ acts by left translation on $X_\ast / \Gamma_\ast$. We keep the symbol $\ast$ to denote this action. It should be noted that, as $\pi$ is presented by $\pi$, $G \ast \times T \ast$.

To proceed, we will need an expression for the $n$-th iterate $T^n$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

**Lemma 2.7.** Let $h_n(x, y) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} h(x + i\alpha, y + i\beta)$. Then for $x = (x, y, z) \Gamma \in X$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$T^n x = (x + n\alpha, y + n\beta, h_n(x, y))x.$$

**Proof.** Because $T$ factors to $T_0$ on $\mathbb{T}^2$, the projection of $T^n x$ to $\mathbb{T}^2$ is represented by $(x + n\alpha, y + n\beta)$. Thus $T^{n+1} x = (\alpha, \beta, h(x + n\alpha, y + n\beta)) \cdot T^n x$.

When $n = 0$, the equality in the lemma automatically holds as $h_0(x, y) = 0$. Suppose the lemma is true for $n$, then

$$T^{n+1} x = (\alpha, \beta, h(x + n\alpha, y + n\beta))(n\alpha, n\beta, h_n(x, y))x$$

$$= ((n + 1)\alpha, (n + 1)\beta, h_n(x, y) + h(x + n\alpha, y + n\beta) + \alpha \cdot n\beta - \beta \cdot n\alpha)x$$

$$= ((n + 1)\alpha, (n + 1)\beta, h_{n+1}(x, y))x$$

by the group rule (1.2). This establishes the lemma by induction.

Given the functions $h_n$ in Lemma 2.7, we can define a piecewise continuous function $H : \mathbb{T}^2 \mapsto \mathbb{T}^1$ by

$$(2.4) \quad H(x, y) = h_p(px, py) - h_q(qx, qy)$$

on $\mathbb{T}^2$.

**Corollary 2.8.** $\pi \circ (T^p \times T^q) = T_\ast \circ \pi$, where

$$T_\ast x_\ast = (\alpha, \beta, H(x, y)) * x_\ast$$

if $x_\ast \in X_\ast$ is the equivalence class containing $(x, y, z) \in G_\ast$.
We remark that here, as in (1.4), \((\alpha, \beta, H(x, y))\) should be viewed as an element of the group \(G_*/C_*\) where \(C_* = \{(0, 0, m) \in G_* : m \in \mathbb{Z}\}\). For different choices of \(\tilde{H}(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}\) lifting \(H(x, y) \in T^1\), \((\alpha, \beta, \tilde{H}(x, y))\) differ by a defect in \(C_*\). As \(C_*\) is both in the center of \(G_*\) and in \(\Gamma_*\), this defect does not affect the position of \((\alpha, \beta, \tilde{H}(x, y))\). So we can write \(H\) instead of \(\tilde{H}\) in Corollary 2.8.

**Proof.** Suppose \(x \in X_1\) is represented by \((px, py, z_1, qx, qy, z_2) \in G_1\). By Lemma 2.7 and formula (2.3)

\[
\pi((T^p \times T^q)x) = \pi((pa, p \beta, h_p(px, py), qa, q \beta, h_q(qx, qy)) \cdot x) \\
= \pi((pa, p \beta, h_p(px, py), qa, q \beta, h_q(qx, qy))) \star \pi x \\
= (\alpha, \beta, H(x, y)) \star \pi x.
\]

The corollary is proved. \(\square\)

Note that \(T_*\) is a skew product map on \(X_*\). It also descends to \(T_0\) on \(T^2\), and acts by rotations along the fiber direction. Hence, \(T_*\) preserves the uniform probability measure \(m_{T_*X_*}\).

We define \(f_1\) on \(X^2 = G^2/T^2\) (and thus on \(X_1 \subseteq X^2\)) by \(f_1(x_1, x_2) = f(x_1)\overline{f}(x_2)\). Because \(f\) has vertical oscillation of frequency \(\xi\), \(f_1\) is invariant by \(D\). Thus \(f_1\) descends to a function \(f_*\) on \(X_*\).

**Lemma 2.9.** \(\int_{X_*} f_* dm_{X_*} = 0\).

**Proof.** Since \(\xi \neq 0\), we have that

\[
\int_{X_1} f_1 dm_{X_1} \\
= \int_{x, y, z_1, z_2 \in [0, 1)} f_1((px, py, z_1, qx, qy, z_2)\Gamma^2) dx dy dz_1 dz_2 \\
= \int_{x, y \in [0, 1)} \left( \int_0^1 f((px, py, z_1)\Gamma) dz_1 \right) \left( \int_0^1 \overline{f}(qx, qy, z_2)\Gamma) dz_2 \right) dx dy \\
= \int_{x, y \in [0, 1)} 0 \cdot 0 dx dy = 0.
\]

This implies the lemma, as \(f_1\) and \(m_{X_1}\) respectively descend to \(f_*\) and \(m_{X_*}\). \(\square\)

Let \(x_{0*}\) be the identity point \((0, 0, 0) \star \Gamma_*\) in \(X_*\). By Lemma 2.4 and Corollary 2.8 the average in (2.2) can be formulated as

(2.5)

\[
\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} f(T^{pn}x_0)\overline{f}(T^{qn}x_0) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} f_*(T_*^{pn}\pi(x_0, x_0)) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} f_*(T_*^{pn}x_{0*}).
\]
From this, we can conclude the analysis above by stating the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.10.** Under the hypotheses of this section, $T_*$ is not uniquely ergodic.

**Proof.** If $T_*$ is uniquely ergodic, its unique invariant probability measure must be $m_{X_*}$. Then by Birkhoff ergodic theorem and Lemma 2.9 the ergodic averages \( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} f_n(T_n^* \omega_0) \) converges to 0. This contradicts (2.2), because of (2.5). \hfill \square

**2.2. Unique ergodicity of the reduced joining dynamics.** By the proposition above, in order to prove Theorem 1.1, it suffices to show

**Proposition 2.11.** $T_*$ is uniquely ergodic.

In [13], Furstenberg proved that the unique ergodicity for a skew product map on a circle bundle over a uniquely ergodic base that acts as rotations on the fibers is equivalent to the non-existence of invariant multi-valued graphs. He originally stated this criterion for skew products generated by a continuous cocycle. The same proof also works for measurable cocycles, which is the statement we will need (Theorem 2.12 below). For completeness’ sake, we include the proof here.

**Theorem 2.12.** Let $(\Omega, T_0)$ be a uniquely ergodic topological dynamical system, whose unique invariant probability measure is denoted by $\gamma_0$. Take $\Omega = \Omega_0 \times T^1$ and define a skew product map $T : \Omega \to \Omega$ by $T(\omega_0, \zeta) = (T_0 \omega_0, g(\omega_0) + \zeta)$, where $g : \Omega_0 \to T^1$ is a measurable function. Then:

(i) The product measure $\gamma = \gamma_0 \times m_{T^1}$ is an invariant probability measure for $T$;

(ii) $T$ is uniquely ergodic if and only if for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, the equation

\[
R(T_0 \omega_0) = R(\omega_0) + kg(\omega_0)
\]

has no measurable solution $R : \Omega_0 \to T^1$ modulo $\gamma_0$.

**Proof.** The proof of Part (i) is straightforward, so we only discuss the second part.

The key claim is:

$T$ is uniquely ergodic if and only if $\gamma$ is ergodic.

To see this, define the transformation $\tau_\beta : \Omega \to \Omega$ by $\tau_\beta(\omega_0, \zeta) = (\omega_0, \beta + \zeta)$. Since $\gamma = \gamma_0 \times m_{T^1}$, if $\omega_*$ is a generic point for $(\Omega, T, \gamma)$, in the sense that \( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \delta_{T_i \omega_*} \to \gamma \) in the weak-* topology as $N \to \infty$, then so is $\tau_\beta(\omega_*)$ for every $\beta \in T^1$.

To show ergodicity implies unique ergodicity, suppose $T$ is ergodic with respect to $\gamma$. It follows that almost all points of $\Omega$ (with respect to $\gamma$) are
generic for \((\Omega, T, \gamma)\). So \(\gamma_0\)-almost every \(\omega_0 \in \Omega_0\) has the property that 
\((\omega_0, \zeta)\) is generic for \((\Omega, T, \gamma)\) for \(m_{\mathbb{T}^1}\)-almost every \(\zeta\). By applying \(\tau_\beta\) for all \(\beta \in \mathbb{T}^1\), we see that for \(\gamma_0\)-almost every \(\omega_0 \in \Omega_0\), \((\omega_0, \zeta)\) is generic for \((\Omega, T, \gamma)\) for all \(\zeta \in \mathbb{T}^1\). Suppose \(T\) is not uniquely ergodic, then there exists an ergodic probability measure \(\gamma'\) other than \(\gamma\) for \(T\). As any \(T\)-invariant measure on \(\Omega\) projects to an invariant measure on \(\Omega_0\), and \((\Omega_0, T_0, \gamma_0)\) is uniquely ergodic, it follows that the projection of \(\gamma'\) on \(\Omega_0\) is \(\gamma_0\). Thus for \(\gamma_0\)-almost all points \(\omega_0\) in the base \(\Omega_0\), there exist extended points \((\omega_0, \zeta)\) that are generic for \((\Omega, T, \gamma')\). This cannot happen though, since for almost every \(\omega_0\) and all \(\zeta\), \((\omega_0, \zeta)\) is generic for \(\gamma\), which is different from \(\gamma'\). This establishes the claim.

It remains to show that the ergodicity of \(\gamma\) is equivalent to the condition in part (ii).

Suppose first that \(\gamma\) is not ergodic. Then \(Tf = f\) has a non-constant solution \(f \in L^2(\Omega, \gamma)\). Since \(\gamma = \gamma_0 \times m_{\mathbb{T}^1}\) is a product and \(f\) is \(L^2\) with respect to \(\gamma\), we can split \(f\) into Fourier series along the \(\mathbb{T}^1\) direction and write it as

\[
 f = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} c_k(\omega_0)e(k\zeta),
\]

where \(c_k(\omega_0) \in L^2(\Omega_0, \gamma_0)\) and \(e(\xi) = e^{2\pi i \xi}\). The condition \(Tf = f\) implies

\[
 \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} c_k(T_0\omega_0)e(kg(\omega_0) + k\zeta) = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} c_k(\omega_0)e(k\zeta),
\]

for every \(k \in \mathbb{Z}\).

Since \(T_0\) is ergodic, \(f\) is not reducible to a function of \(\omega_0\) alone and thus \(c_k(\omega_0) \neq 0\) for at least one non-zero integer \(k\). By the ergodicity of \(T_0\) it follows that \(c_k\) vanishes only on a set of measure zero, which allows us to write \(c_k(\omega_0)\) as \(r_k(\omega_0)e(\theta_k(\omega_0))\), where \(r_k(\omega_0) > 0\) and \(\theta_k(\omega_0) \in \mathbb{T}^1\). From (2.7), we get that \(r_k(T_0\omega_0)e(\theta_k(T_0\omega_0) + kg(\omega_0)) = r_k(\omega_0)e(\theta_k(\omega_0))\) for every \(k\), thus \(R(\omega_0) = -\theta_k(\omega_0)\) is a solution to (2.6). In addition, if \(k < 0\), then we can replace \(k\) with \(-k\) and \(R\) with \(-R\). So one can claim \(k \in \mathbb{N}\) without loss of generality.

Conversely, if (2.6) has a solution, then the non-constant measurable function \(e(-k\zeta)e(R(\omega_0))\) is invariant under \(T\) modulo \(\gamma\), implying that \(\gamma\) is not ergodic, and we are done. \(\Box\)

We now reparametrize \(X_\ast\) in a piecewise continuous way in order to identify it with \(\mathbb{T}^3 = \mathbb{T}^2 \times \mathbb{T}^1\) and apply Theorem 2.12.

In the parametrization given by Lemma 2.6 the box \([0,1]^3\) is a fundamental domain for the projection \(G_\ast \to X_\ast\). Indeed, for each \((x, y, z) \in G_\ast\), there is a unique element of \(\Gamma_\ast\), which we denote by \([(x, y, z)]\), such that
(x, y, z) ∗ [(x, y, z)]^{-1} ∈ [0, 1)^3. Given the group rule (1.2), it is not hard to check that

\[(2.8) \quad [(x, y, z)] = ([x], [y], [z - (p^2 - q^2)(x|y| - |x|y])].\]

Thus the map \( \rho_0 : X_* \to [0, 1)^3 \) given by

\[(2.9) \quad \rho_0 : (x, y, z) \mapsto (x, y, z) \ast [(x, y, z)]^{-1} = ([x], [y], [z - (p^2 - q^2)(x|y| - |x|y)])\]

is bijective and provides a piecewise continuous parametrization of \( X_* \) by \([0, 1)^3\). Here \( \{x\} \) stands for \( x - \lfloor x \rfloor \), the fractional part of \( x \).

If \( x_* \in X_* \) is represented by \((x, y, z) \in F\), then \( T_3(x_*) \) is represented by \((x + \alpha, y + \beta, z + (p^2 - q^2)(\alpha y - \beta x) + H(x, y)) \in G_*\), and thus can also be represented by the element

\[
\left\{\{x + \alpha\}, \{y + \beta\}, \left\{z + H(x, y) + (p^2 - q^2)((\alpha y - \beta x) - (x + \alpha)|y + \beta| + |x + \alpha|y + \beta)\right\}\right\}
\]

in \([0, 1)^3\).

If we identify \([0, 1)^3\) with \( T^3 \) in the natural way, and let \( \rho \) be the composition given by \( X_* \xrightarrow{\rho_0} [0, 1)^3 \to T^3 \), then \( \rho \) is bijective and piecewise continuous. Moreover, the discussion above shows that \( T_* \) is conjugate to the map

\[(2.10) \quad T_* : (x, y, z) \mapsto (x + \alpha, y + \beta, z + H'(x, y))\]

on \( T^3 \) by the piecewise continuous bijection \( \rho \), where \( H' : T^2 \to \mathbb{R} \) is defined by

\[(2.11) \quad H'(x, y) = H(x, y) + (p^2 - q^2)((\alpha y - \beta x) - (x + \alpha)|y + \beta| + |x + \alpha|y + \beta))\]

for \((x, y) \in [0, 1)^2\) and regarded as a piecewise continuous map on \( T^2 \).

Therefore, in view of Theorem 2.12 in order to obtain Proposition 2.11 it suffices to show the following lemma:

**Lemma 2.13.** For all \( k \in \mathbb{N} \), the equation

\[(2.12) \quad R(x + \alpha, y + \beta) = R(x, y) + kH'(x, y)\]

has no measurable solution \( R : T^2 \to T^1 \) modulo \( m_{T^2} \).

Our approach to Lemma 2.13 is inspired by [13, Lemma 2.2]

Notice first that, suppose \( R(x, y) \) is such a solution, then the set

\[\Lambda' := \{(x, y, z) \in T^3 : kz = R(x, y)\},\]
which is a multi-valued graph over \( \mathbb{T}^2 \), is \( T'_n \) invariant except for a \( m_T \)-null set of \((x, y)\). Let \( \Lambda = \rho^{-1}(\Lambda') \subset X_\ast \). Then \( \Lambda \) intersects every \( \mathbb{T}^1 \)-fiber in exactly \( k \) points that form a translate of \( \frac{1}{k} \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z} \). Moreover, \( \Lambda \) is almost \( T_\ast \)-invariant, in the sense that there is a subset \( A \subset \mathbb{T}^2 \) with \( m_T(A) = 1 \), such that if \( x_\ast \in \Lambda \cap \pi^{-1}_T(A) \), then \( T_\ast x_\ast \in \Lambda \).

**Lemma 2.14.** For \( x_\ast = (x, y, z) \Gamma \in X_\ast \) and \( n \in \mathbb{N} \),

\[
T^n_\ast x_\ast = (x + n\alpha, y + n\beta, H_n(x, y)) x_\ast,
\]

where \( H_n(x, y) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} H(x + i\alpha, y + i\beta) \).

**Proof.** The proof is the same as that of Lemma 2.7 using the new group rule \( \ast \) in lieu of \( 1.2 \). \( \square \)

Given \( n \in \mathbb{N} \), remark that \( T^n_\ast \) is conjugate by \( \rho \) to the \( (T'_n)^n \). Repeating the proof of (2.10), we can show similarly that

\[
(T'_n)^n(x, y, z) = (x + n\alpha, y + n\beta, z + H'_n(x, y))
\]

on \( \mathbb{T}^3 \), where \( H'_n : \mathbb{T}^2 \to \mathbb{R} \) is defined by

\[
H'_n(x, y) = H_n(x, y) + (p^2 - q^2)((n\alpha y - n\beta x) - (x + n\alpha)(y + n\beta)).
\]

for \((x, y) \in [0, 1)^2\).

Because \( \Lambda \) is almost \( T_\ast \) invariant, it is also almost \( T'_n \) invariant. And \( \Lambda' \) is almost \( (T'_n)^n \) invariant in the same sense, i.e. for a subset \( A \subset \mathbb{T}^2 \) of full \( m_T \)-measure, if \( x'_\ast \in \Lambda' \cap \pi^{-1}_T(A) \), then \( (T'_n)^n x'_\ast \in \Lambda' \). This is equivalent to the statement that the equation

\[
R(x + n\alpha, y + n\beta) = R(x, y) + kH'_n(x, y)
\]

holds for \( m_T \)-almost all \((x, y)\).

**Proof of Lemma 2.13** Suppose \( k \in \mathbb{N} \) and \( R : \mathbb{T}^2 \mapsto \mathbb{T}^1 \) is a measurable solution of (2.12). Let

\[
\delta_1 = \frac{|k(p^2 - q^2)d_1 - k(p^2 - q^2)\beta - \beta|}{24k(p^2 + q^2)(L + |\alpha| + |\beta|)}
\]

and

\[
\nu = \frac{6}{|k(p^2 - q^2)d_1 - k(p^2 - q^2)\beta - \beta|}
\]

where \( d_1 \) is the degree of \( h \) in \( x \) and \( L \) is the Lipschitz constant of \( h \). Note \( \delta_1 > 0 \) and \( \nu < \infty \) because \( p > q \), \( k > 0 \), \( p, q, k, d_1 \in \mathbb{Z} \) and \( \beta \notin \mathbb{Q} \). By Luzin’s theorem, we can find a compact subset \( \Phi \subset \mathbb{T}^2 \) of measure greater than \( 1 - \delta_1 \) such that \( R \) is continuous when restricted to \( \Phi \).
Choose $\delta_2 \in (0, \min(\frac{1}{3}, \delta_1))$ such that if $(x, y), (x', y') \in \Phi$ and $\|(x, y) - (x', y')\| < \delta_2$, then $\|R(x, y) - R(x', y')\| < \frac{1}{3}$. We then fix $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\{\nu_n\}, \{\nu_n\} \in (0, \delta_2)$ and $n > \nu$. Such integers $n$ exist because $T_0$ is minimal on $\mathbb{T}^2$.

For $(x, y) \in (0, 1 - \delta_2)^2$, we have that $x + \{\nu_n\}, y + \{\nu_n\} \in (0, 1)$ and $\|x + \{\nu_n\}, y + \{\nu_n\} - [\nu_n]\| = [\nu_n, y + \{\nu_n\} = [\nu_n]$. Hence,

$$
(2.18) \quad H_n(x, y) := H_n(x, y) + n(p^2 - q^2)(\alpha y - \beta x) - [\nu_n](x + \{\nu_n\})
$$

$$
(2.18) \quad + [\nu_n](y + \{\nu_n\}), \forall (x, y) \in (\delta_2, 1 - \delta_2)^2.
$$

On the other hand, for $(x, y) \in \Phi \cap (\Phi - (\nu_n, n\beta))$, $\|R(x + \nu_n, y + \nu_n) - R(x, y)\| < \frac{1}{3}$. So by (2.15),

$$
(2.19) \quad \|kH_n(x, y)\| < \frac{1}{3}, \forall (x, y) \in \Phi \cap (\Phi - (\nu_n, n\beta)).
$$

Because $m_{\mathbb{T}^2}(\Phi \cap (\Phi - (\nu_n, n\beta))) > 1 - 2\delta_1$ and $m_{\mathbb{T}^2}((0, 1 - \delta_2)^2) > (1 - \delta_2)^2 > 1 - 2\delta_2 > 1 - 2\delta_1$, by combining (2.18) and (2.19), we know that

$$
(2.20) \quad \|kH_n(x, y) + nk(p^2 - q^2)(\alpha y - \beta x) - [\nu_n](x + \{\nu_n\}) + [\nu_n](y + \{\nu_n\})\| < \frac{1}{3}
$$

on a subset $\Phi_1 \subset (0, 1)^2$ with $m_{\mathbb{R}^2}(\Phi_1) > 1 - 4\delta_1$, where $m_{\mathbb{R}^2}$ is the Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{R}^2$.

Fix a continuous lifting $\tilde{H}_n : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^1$ of the function $H_n : \mathbb{T}^2 \to \mathbb{T}^1$. Then (2.20) actually asserts the continuous function

$$
F_n(x, y) := k\tilde{H}_n(x, y) + nk(p^2 - q^2)(\alpha y - \beta x) - [\nu_n](x + \{\nu_n\}) + [\nu_n](y + \{\nu_n\})
$$

takes values in $\bigcup_{m \in \mathbb{Z}}(m - \frac{1}{3}, m + \frac{1}{3})$ on $\Phi_1$.

Because $h$ has degree $d_1$ in $x$, $h_y$ has degree $jd_1$ in $x$. Thus $H(x, y) = h_y(px, py) - h_q(qx, qy)$ has degree $(p^2 - q^2)d_1$ in $x$. It in turn follows that $H_n(x, y)$ has degree $n(p^2 - q^2)d_1$ in $x$. In consequence, for all $y \in \mathbb{R}$,$\tilde{H}_n(1, y) - \tilde{H}_n(0, y) = n(p^2 - q^2)d_1$ and thus

$$
(2.21) \quad F_n(1, y) - F_n(0, y) = nk(p^2 - q^2)d_1 - nk(p^2 - q^2)\beta - [\nu_n].
$$

By Fubini’s Theorem, there exists $y_0 \in [0, 1)$ such that

$$
(2.22) \quad m_{\mathbb{R}}\{x \in [0, 1] : (x, y_0) \notin \Phi_1\} < 4\delta_1.
$$

Because $F_n$ takes values in $\bigcup_{m \in \mathbb{Z}}(m - \frac{1}{3}, m + \frac{1}{3})$ on $\Phi_1$, the image

$$
(2.23) \quad \{F(x, y_0) : x \in [0, 1], (x, y_0) \notin \Phi_1\} \subset \mathbb{R}
$$
has at least Lebesgue measure

\[
\frac{1}{3}(|F_n(1, y) - F_n(0, y)| - 1)
\]

(2.24)

\[
\geq \frac{1}{3}(n k(p^2 - q^2) - n k(p^2 - q^2) - n) - 2
\]

\[
\geq n \cdot \frac{1}{3}|k(p^2 - q^2) - k(p^2 - q^2) - \beta| - 1.
\]

On the other hand, because \( h \) is \( L \)-Lipschitz, \( h_j \) is \( jL \)-Lipschitz and \( H(x, y) \) is \((p^2+q^2)L\)-Lipschitz. It in turn follows that \( H_n(x, y) \) is \( n(p^2+q^2)L \)-Lipschitz and so is \( \tilde{H}_n \). From (2.20), the Lipschitz constant of \( F_n \) is at most

\[
nk(p^2 + q^2) + nk[p^2 - q^2](|\alpha| + |\beta|) + (|\alpha| + |\beta|) \leq nk(p^2 + q^2)(L + |\alpha| + |\beta|).
\]

So the image (2.23) has at most Lebesgue measure

\[
nk(p^2 + q^2)(L + |\alpha| + |\beta|) \cdot 4\delta_1
\]

(2.25)

\[
\leq n \cdot \frac{1}{6}|k(p^2 - q^2) - k(p^2 - q^2) - \beta|.
\]

Comparing (2.24) with (2.25) yields that

\[
n \cdot \frac{1}{6}|k(p^2 - q^2) - k(p^2 - q^2) - \beta| \leq 1.
\]

However, this contradicts the hypothesis that \( n > \nu \). We arrive at a contradiction and the statement is proven. \( \square \)

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Lemma 2.13 and Theorem 2.12 imply Proposition 2.11 contradicting Proposition 2.10. Thus the standing hypothesis in Section 2.1 cannot be true. In other words, (1.5) must hold. \( \square \)

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