Markovian properties of continuous group actions: algebraic actions, entropy and the homoclinic group

Sebastián Barbieri, Felipe García-Ramos and Hanfeng Li

Abstract

We provide a unifying approach which links results on algebraic actions by Lind and Schmidt, Chung and Li, and a topological result by Meyerovitch that relates entropy to the set of asymptotic pairs. In order to do this we introduce a series of Markovian properties and, under the assumption that they are satisfied, we prove several results that relate topological entropy and asymptotic pairs (the homoclinic group in the algebraic case). As new applications of our method, we give a characterization of the homoclinic group of any finitely presented expansive algebraic action of (1) any elementary amenable group with an upper bound on the orders of finite subgroups or (2) any left orderable amenable group, using the language of independence entropy pairs.

Key words and phrases: topological entropy, sofic entropy, naive entropy, algebraic actions, expansive actions, asymptotic pairs, homoclinic points, local entropy theory, topological Markov properties, strong Atiyah conjecture.

MSC2010: Primary: 37B40, 22D40, 20C07. Secondary: 22F05, 37C85, 37C29, 37B05.

1 Introduction

Inspired by properties introduced in the context of symbolic dynamical systems in [22, 6] we define a series of Markovian properties for actions of countable groups $G$ on compact metrizable spaces $X$ by homeomorphisms. Among them, the topological Markov property (TMP) and the strong topological Markov property (strong TMP). Every group action which satisfies the pseudo-orbit tracing property (or shadowing) has the strong TMP, and every action with the strong TMP has the TMP. Although these properties were introduced to study supports of measures that arise in the theory of thermodynamic formalism, it turns out that they are specially relevant in the context of algebraic actions on compact metrizable abelian groups.

A group action $G \curvearrowright X$ satisfies the TMP, if for every $\varepsilon > 0$, there is $\delta > 0$ such that for every finite set $A \subset G$ there exists a finite subset $B \supset A$ of $G$ such that for every pair $x, y \in X$ whose $G$-orbits are at distance at most $\delta$ in $B \setminus A$, there is $z \in X$ whose $G$-orbit is at distance at most $\varepsilon$ from the $G$-orbit of $x$ in $B$ and at distance at most $\varepsilon$ from the $G$-orbit of $y$ in $G \setminus A$. Intuitively, satisfying the TMP means that for every finite set $A \subset G$, there is a finite subset $B \supset A$ of $G$ such that knowledge of the values (up to $\delta$) of any $G$-orbit on $C \setminus A$ for some $C \supset B$ does not provide further information about the values (up to $\varepsilon$) of the $G$-orbit in $A$ than the mere knowledge of the values in $B \setminus A$, hence the name Markovian. The strong TMP imposes that the set $B$ should take the form $FA$ for some fixed finite set $F \subset G$ which does not depend on $A$, and hence gives a bounded variant of the TMP.

An action $G \curvearrowright X$ of a countable group $G$ on a compact metrizable space $X$ by homeomorphisms is called expansive if there is some $c > 0$ such that $\sup_{x \in G} d(sx, sy) > c$ for all distinct $x, y \in X$, where $d$ is a given compatible metric on $X$. A pair $(x, y)$ in $X^2$ is called asymptotic if $d(sx, sy) \to 0$ as $G \ni s \to \infty$. The TMP and the strong TMP are especially useful for establishing relations between independence entropy pairs and asymptotic pairs for expansive actions (Theorems 6.1, 6.4 and 6.9).

By an algebraic action we mean an action of a countable group $G$ on a compact metrizable abelian group $X$ by continuous automorphisms. The study of algebraic actions has been an active field, because of rich connections with commutative algebra, operator algebras, and $L^2$-invariants. See for example [7, 75, 74] for algebraic actions of $\mathbb{Z}$, [5, 54, 63, 71, 74, 80, 91] for algebraic actions of $\mathbb{Z}^d$, and [8, 8] for algebraic actions of $\mathbb{Z}^2$. For any algebraic action $G \curvearrowright X$, the Pontryagin dual $\hat{X}$ of $X$ as a compact abelian
group is naturally a countable left $ZG$-module. In fact, up to isomorphism, there is a natural one-to-one correspondence between algebraic actions of $G$ and countable left $ZG$-modules. Recall that a unital ring is **(left/right) Noetherian** if every (left/right) ideal is finitely generated. For any positive integers $m,n$ and any $a \in M_{m \times n}(CG)$, the von Neumann dimension $\dim_{vN} \ker a$ of the kernel of the bounded operator $M_{m \times 1}(\ell^2(G)) \to M_{n \times 1}(\ell^2(G))$ sending $z$ to $az$ is a real number in $[0, n]$ (see Section 4). The group $G$ is said to satisfy the **strong Atiyah conjecture** if $\dim_{vN} \ker a$ lies in the subgroup of $\mathbb{Q}$ generated by $1/|H|$ for $H$ ranging over finite subgroups of $G$. For algebraic actions $G \acts X$, the asymptotic pairs are determined by the homoclinic group $\Delta(X, G)$ consisting of $x \in X$ such that $sx \to e_X$ as $G \ni s \to \infty$, where $e_X$ denotes the identity element of $X$. For any algebraic action $G \acts X$ of an amenable group $G$, we may either view the action as a topological dynamical system and speak about the topological entropy, or view it as an action preserving the normalized Haar measure of $X$ and speak about the measure-theoretical entropy (see Section 2). It turns out that these two entropies always coincide [29]. Furthermore, the action has complete positive entropy in the topological sense (i.e. every nontrivial topological factor has positive topological entropy) exactly when it has completely positive entropy in the measure-preserving sense (i.e. every nontrivial measurable factor has positive measure-theoretical entropy) [29]. One of our main results is the following:

**Theorem 1.1.** Let $G \acts X$ be an expansive algebraic action of a countably infinite amenable group. Assume that at least one of the following conditions holds:

1. the integral group ring $ZG$ is left Noetherian;

2. $G$ satisfies the strong Atiyah conjecture, there is an upper bound on the orders of finite subgroups of $G$, and the Pontryagin dual $\hat{X}$ of $X$ is a finitely presented left $ZG$-module.

Then $G \acts X$ has the strong TMP. As a consequence, the following hold:

i. $G \acts X$ has positive entropy if and only if $\Delta(X, G)$ is nontrivial;

ii. $G \acts X$ has completely positive entropy if and only if $\Delta(X, G)$ is dense in $X$.

The “if” direction of consequences (i) and (ii) in the above statement, i.e. non-triviality and denseness of the homoclinic group $\Delta(X, G)$, imply that $G \acts X$ has positive entropy and completely positive entropy respectively, is in fact valid in much wider generality. It is known for all amenable groups [26], and for all groups in the sense of naive topological entropy [56]. It is even true without assuming that $X$ is abelian, for all groups in the sense of naive topological entropy [56] and for all sofic groups in the sense of sofic topological entropy (see Corollary 7.3). A recent result of Hayes shows that when $\Delta(X, G)$ is replaced by the subgroup of square summable homoclinic points, it is also true for sofic groups without assuming expansivity [40, Theorem 1.3]. The “only if” direction (the existence of non-trivial homoclinic points from positive entropy and denseness of the homoclinic group from completely positive entropy) is much more difficult to establish. It is still open whether the “only if” direction holds for all finitely presented algebraic actions of amenable groups. The crucial statement of the second part of the theorem is that the “only if” direction holds in the aforementioned cases. Both directions were first established by Lind and Schmidt [68] in the case $G = \mathbb{Z}^d$, using commutative algebra tools. The case where $ZG$ is left Noetherian was proven by Chung and Li [26] using local entropy theory, Peters’ entropy formula and Yuzvinskii’s addition formula for entropy. Besides local entropy theory, our proof uses techniques of von Neumann algebras to prove the strong TMP, and then straightforward combinatorial arguments to obtain the conclusion. We also present examples where this conclusion does not hold when assuming weaker hypotheses.

For every polycyclic-by-finite group $G$, the group ring $ZG$ is left Noetherian [42, 76, Theorem 1.5.12]. It is a long standing conjecture that the converse holds. Recall that the class of **elementary amenable groups** is the smallest class of groups containing all finite groups and all abelian groups and is closed under taking subgroups, quotient groups, extensions, and inductive limits [28]. A result of Linnell says that if there is an upper bound on the orders of finite subgroups of an elementary amenable group $G$, then the strong Atiyah conjecture holds for $G$ [72, Theorem 1.5] [74, Theorem 10.19]. In particular, for any polycyclic-by-finite group $G$, there is an upper bound on the orders of finite subgroups of $G$ and the strong Atiyah conjecture holds for $G$. Recall that a unital ring $R$ is called a **domain** if for any $a, b \in R$ with $ab = 0$ one must have either $a = 0$ or $b = 0$. If $CG$ is a domain, then $G$ is torsion-free. Kaplansky’s zero-divisor conjecture asserts that the converse holds. For torsion-free amenable groups, the strong Atiyah conjecture is equivalent to Kaplansky’s zero-divisor conjecture.
Classical local entropy theory was initiated by Blanchard when he introduced the concept of entropy showing that Theorem 1.1 does not extend naively into the context of non-amenable group actions. However, it is very suitable for discussing whether the entropy is positive or not [65]. We or +∞ in the work of Downarowicz, Frej and Romagnoli [32]. The naive entropy can only take the values 0 or +∞, whereas the topological entropy can take any real value in the measurable and topological settings by Bowen [17] and Burton [18]. The finitely presented condition in (2) of Theorem 1.1 is natural since for any expansive algebraic action $G \curvearrowright X$ of a countable group $G$, the Pontryagin dual $\hat{X}$ of $X$ is a finitely generated left $\hat{Z}_G$-module [90]. In particular, when $\hat{Z}_G$ is left Noetherian, $\hat{X}$ is finitely presented for every expansive algebraic action $G \curvearrowright X$ of $G$. In general, when $\hat{Z}_G$ is not left Noetherian, we expect much better dynamical properties for algebraic actions $G \curvearrowright X$ with $\hat{X}$ finitely presented than just $\hat{X}$ finitely generated. For instance, Meyerovitch [77] has constructed an expansive algebraic action of an infinite locally finite abelian group with positive entropy and trivial homoclinic group, in which $\hat{X}$ is finitely generated but not finitely presented.

Homoclinic points were first studied by Poincaré [2], and are used in the study of smooth dynamical systems [86, 27] (note that Anosov diffeomorphisms are expansive and have the pseudo-orbit tracing property [3, Theorem 1.2.1]). Recently, Meyerovitch [77] showed that every expansive action of an amenable group on a compact metrizable space by homeomorphisms, which has positive topological entropy and which satisfies the pseudo-orbit tracing property, must have off-diagonal asymptotic pairs. Schmidt showed that expansive actions of polycyclic-by-finite groups on zero-dimensional compact metrizable groups by continuous automorphisms satisfy the pseudo-orbit tracing property [90, Corollary 2.3, Theorems 3.8 and 4.2], thus Meyerovitch’s result applies to such actions. However, Meyerovitch’s result does not apply to all expansive algebraic actions of polycyclic-by-finite groups as Bhattacharya constructed an expansive algebraic action of a polycyclic group which does not have the pseudo-orbit tracing property [7]. We improve Meyerovitch’s result by showing that the pseudo-orbit tracing property (Theorem 1.1) is a necessary technical condition for the existence of off-diagonal asymptotic pairs under the assumption of positive topological entropy. Our proof of Theorem 1.1 rests on the fact that both of the conditions stated in the theorem imply that the action has the strong TMP (Theorem 1.3).

We also study analogous results in the context of non-amenable group actions. Entropy theory beyond the scope of actions of amenable groups has only been introduced recently. For sofic group actions the theory of measurable entropy was introduced by Bowen in [15] and its topological counterpart along with a variational principle by Kerr and Li [55]. Another notion, naive entropy, which applies to actions of any countable group was formally introduced respectively in the measurable and topological settings by Bowen [17] and Burton [18] although in the amenable case the notion is already present in the work of Downarowicz, Frej and Romagnoli [32]. The naive entropy can only take the values 0 or +∞ for action of non-amenable groups [17, 18], thus is not suitable as an invariant for classifying actions. However, it is very suitable for discussing whether the entropy is positive or not [65]. We provide an example of an expansive algebraic symbolic action of the free group with two generators which has uniformly positive naive entropy but whose homoclinic group is trivial (Example 6.8), thus showing that Theorem 1.1 does not extend naively into the context of non-amenable group actions.

The TMP provides a condition which ensures that under simple conditions a group action has positive topological entropy. Assuming the TMP, we show that expansivity and the existence of an off-diagonal asymptotic pair (and a necessary technical condition) is enough to ensure both positive topological naive and sofic entropy (Theorems 5.1 and 5.4). This gives easy criteria to show positive entropy for all sofic approximation sequences. For example, we use this result to show that expansive algebraic actions with nontrivial homoclinic group (see Corollary 7.3) and hard-square models (see Example 6.4) in sofic groups have positive sofic entropy for any sofic approximation sequence.

The results explained in the previous paragraphs are given in the context of local entropy theory. Classical local entropy theory was initiated by Blanchard when he introduced the concept of entropy...
pairs \([9, 10]\) and developed quickly in \([11, 12, 13, 14, 36, 47, 48, 50]\) (for a survey on local entropy theory see \([37]\)). Later on a combinatorial approach was given by Kerr and Li in \([53]\), and further developed in \([26, 44, 49, 54, 56, 58, 65]\). One advantage of local entropy theory is that it provides necessary and sufficient conditions for uniform positive entropy (an action which has positive topological entropy with respect to any standard open cover).

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we provide the definitions of several classical notions which will be used through the paper. Particularly, we provide definitions of topological classical, sofic and naive entropy and their local versions. We also provide a few notions on shift spaces and we define the pseudo-orbit tracing property.

In Section 3 we introduce our topological Markov properties and their uniform versions. We prove several structural results of the topological Markov properties, in particular, we describe the connection between uniformity and expansivity, which shall be used extensively in the remainder of the paper. We also present several examples of group actions which satisfy different types of Markovian properties, which show that all the classes we introduce are relevant.

In Section 4 we study the Markovian properties in the setting of algebraic actions. We show that every action of a countable group on a compact metrizable group by continuous automorphisms has the TMP (Proposition 4.1) and that a large class of finitely presented expansive algebraic actions of amenable groups have the strong TMP (Theorem 4.3).

In Section 5 we study the Markovian properties in the setting of minimal group actions. In particular we show that minimal expansive group actions have the TMP if and only if they do not admit off-diagonal asymptotic pairs (Theorem 5.1).

In Section 6 we present our results regarding the connection between topological entropy and asymptotic pairs in the setting of Markovian properties. First we give conditions under which the existence of off-diagonal asymptotic pairs of an action which satisfies the TMP give rise to positive entropy (Corollaries 6.2 and 6.5). Then we give conditions under which an action with positive entropy which satisfies the strong TMP has off-diagonal asymptotic pairs (Corollary 6.10).

In Section 7 we put together the results from the previous sections and present applications to algebraic actions, minimal actions and subshifts which are the support of some Markovian measure. In particular we prove Theorem 7.1 and show that a minimal expansive action of an amenable group which satisfies the strong TMP always has zero topological entropy (Corollary 7.13). We also provide an example which shows that an analogue of Theorem 7.1 does not hold in the free group for naive entropy, even for subshifts of finite type.

Acknowledgments. The authors wish to thank Tom Meyerovitch for interesting discussions and Ville Salo for sharing a beautiful proof that minimal subshifts on finitely generated groups cannot admit interchangeable patterns, on which our proof of Proposition 5.4 is based, and Tim Austin for pointing out the reference \([75]\) to us. They are also grateful to the referee for helpful comments. Sebastián Barbieri wishes to acknowledge that a considerable portion of this work was done while he was affiliated to the University of British Columbia. Sebastián Barbieri was partially supported by the ANR project CoCoGro (ANR-16-CE40-0005), the ANR project CODYS (ANR-18-CE40-0007) and FONDECYT grant 11200037. Felipe García-Ramos was partially supported by CONACyT (287764). Hanfeng Li was partially supported by NSF grants DMS-1600717 and DMS-1900746.

2 Preliminaries

Throughout this paper \(\mathbb{N}\) denotes the set of positive integers and \(G\) denotes a countably infinite group with identity \(e_G\). We denote by \(F \subseteq G\) a finite subset of \(G\).

Let \(\delta > 0\) and \(K \subseteq G\). A nonempty set \(F \subseteq G\) is said to be left \((K, \delta)-\)invariant if \(|KF \Delta F| \leq \delta |F|\). A sequence of nonempty finite subsets \(\{F_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}\) of \(G\) is said to be left asymptotically invariant or left Følner if it is eventually left \((K, \delta)-\)invariant for every nonempty \(K \subseteq G\) and \(\delta > 0\). From this point forward we shall omit the usage of the word left and speak plainly about a Følner sequence.

A countable group \(G\) is amenable if it admits a Følner sequence. Elementary amenable groups and finitely generated groups of subexponential growth are all amenable.

For \(n \in \mathbb{N}\) we write \(\text{Sym}(n)\) for the group of permutations of \(\{1, \ldots, n\}\). A group \(G\) is sofic if there exist a sequence \(\{n_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}\) of positive integers which goes to infinity and a sequence \(\Sigma = \{\sigma_i : G \rightarrow\)


Sym\((n_i)_{i=1}^{\infty}\) that satisfies
\[
\lim_{i \to \infty} \frac{1}{n_i} |\{v \in \{1, \ldots, n_i\} : \sigma_i(st)v = \sigma_i(s)\sigma_i(t)v\}| = 1 \text{ for every } s, t \in G
\]
\[
\lim_{i \to \infty} \frac{1}{n_i} |\{v \in \{1, \ldots, n_i\} : \sigma_i(s)v \neq \sigma_i(t)v\}| = 1 \text{ for every } s \neq t \in G.
\]
In this case we say \(\Sigma\) is a sofic approximation sequence of \(G\). Amenable groups are all sofic. We refer the reader to [19, 20, 84] for general information about amenable groups and sofic groups.

A (left) action of the group \(G\) on \(X\) is represented by \(G \actson X\). In this paper we shall always assume that \(X\) is a compact metrizable space and that \(G\) acts by homeomorphisms. We denote by \(d\) a compatible metric on \(X\).

We say \(G \actson X\) is expansive if there exists \(c > 0\) such that whenever \(x, y \in X\), if \(x \neq y\) then there exists \(g \in G\) such that \(d(gx, gy) > c\). The value \(c\) is called an expansivity constant of \(G \actson X\).

Let \(G \actson X\) be an action, \(k \geq 2\) and \(\epsilon > 0\). We say \((x_1, \ldots, x_k) \in X^k\) is an \(\epsilon\)-asymptotic tuple if there exists \(F \subset G\) such that for every \(g \notin F\) and \(1 \leq i, j \leq k\), one has \(d(gx_i, gx_j) \leq \epsilon\). Furthermore, we say \((x_1, \ldots, x_k)\) is an asymptotic tuple if it is \(\epsilon\)-asymptotic for every \(\epsilon > 0\).

**Notation 2.1.** We denote by \(k^0_\epsilon(X, G)\) the set of all \((x_1, \ldots, x_k) \in X^k\) which are \(\epsilon\)-asymptotic and by \(k(X, G) = \bigcap_{\epsilon > 0} k^0_\epsilon(X, G)\) the set of asymptotic \(k\)-tuples.

**Remark 2.2.** When \(G = \mathbb{Z}\), asymptotic pairs are sometimes called bilateral asymptotic pairs or two-sided asymptotic pairs to avoid confusion with the weaker notion of forward asymptotic pairs, for which the only requirement is that \(\lim_{n \to +\infty} d(nx_1, nx_2) = 0\).

Let \(G \actson X\) and \(G \actson Y\) be two actions of \(G\). A function \(\pi : X \to Y\) is \(G\)-equivariant if \(g\pi(x) = \pi(gx)\) for every \(g \in G\) and \(x \in X\). A \(G\)-equivariant function as above is called a topological factor if it is continuous and surjective, and is called a topological conjugacy if it is a homeomorphism. If there exists a topological conjugacy between \(X\) and \(Y\) we say \(G \actson X\) and \(G \actson Y\) are topologically conjugate.

Let \(G \actson X\) be an action. A Borel probability measure \(\mu\) on \(X\) is \(G\)-invariant if for every Borel set \(A \subset X\) and \(g \in G\), we have \(\mu(A) = \mu(g^{-1}A)\). In this case we say that \(G \actson (X, \mu)\) is a probability measure preserving (p.m.p.) action. For p.m.p. actions \(G \actson (X, \mu)\) and \(G \actson (Y, \nu)\) we say that \(G \actson (Y, \nu)\) is a factor of \(G \actson (X, \mu)\) if there is a \(G\)-invariant measurable map \(\pi : X' \to Y\) such that \(\mu(\pi^{-1}(A)) = \nu(A)\) for every Borel set \(A \subset Y\). Furthermore, we say that \(G \actson (X, \mu)\) and \(G \actson (Y, \nu)\) are isomorphic if there are \(G\)-invariant measurable maps \(\pi : X' \to X\) and \(\pi : Y' \to Y\) such that \(\mu(\pi^{-1}(A)) = \nu(A)\) for every Borel set \(A \subset Y\).

### 2.1 Entropy theory

In what follows we shall provide several definitions and results on entropy theory. For a more detailed exposition of these topics we refer the reader to [31, 85, 93] for ample background on entropy theory of \(Z\)-actions, and to [58, 70] for entropy theory of actions of amenable and sofic groups.

#### 2.1.1 Topological entropy for actions of amenable groups

Given two open covers \(U, V\) of \(X\) we define their join by \(U \vee V = \{U \cap V : U \in U, V \in V\}\). For \(g \in G\) let \(gU = \{gU : U \in U\}\) and denote by \(N(U)\) the smallest cardinality of a subcover of \(U\). If \(F\) is a nonempty finite subset of \(G\), denote by \(\mathcal{U}^F\) the join
\[
\mathcal{U}^F = \bigvee_{g \in F} g^{-1}U.
\]

Let \(G\) be an amenable group, \(G \actson X\) an action, \(U\) an open cover of \(X\) and \(\{F_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}\) a Følner sequence for \(G\). We define the topological entropy of \(G \actson X\) with respect to \(U\) as
\[
h_{\text{top}}(G \actson X, U) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{|F_n|} \log N(U^{F_n}).
\]
The function $F \mapsto \log N(U^F)$ is subadditive and thus the limit exists and does not depend on the choice of Følner sequence, see for instance [52, 60, 55, pages 220]. The topological entropy of $G \acts X$ is defined as

$$h_{\text{top}}(G \acts X) = \sup_U h_{\text{top}}(G \acts X, U).$$

### 2.1.3 Sofic topological entropy

Let $G \acts X$ be an action and $U$ an open cover of $X$. We define the naive topological entropy of $G \acts X$ with respect to $U$ as

$$h_{\text{top}}^\text{nv}(G \acts X, U) = \inf_{\varphi \not\in F \subseteq G} \frac{1}{|F|} \log N(U^F).$$

The naive topological entropy of $G \acts X$ is defined as

$$h_{\text{top}}^\text{nv}(G \acts X) = \sup_U h_{\text{top}}^\text{nv}(G \acts X, U).$$

The notion of naive entropy was introduced by Burton [18]. He showed that in the case of a non-amenable group $h_{\text{top}}^\text{nv}(G \acts X)$ can only take the values $\{0, +\infty\}$.

### 2.1.4 Measure-theoretical entropy and the variational principle

Let $G \acts (X, \mu)$ be a p.m.p. action. For a finite partition $\mathcal{P}$ of $X$ consisting of Borel sets the Shannon entropy of $\mathcal{P}$ with respect to $\mu$ is given by

$$H_\mu(\mathcal{P}) = \sum_{A \in \mathcal{P}} -\mu(A) \log \mu(A).$$

For an amenable group $G$, the measure-theoretical entropy of $G \acts (X, \mu)$ with respect to $\mathcal{P}$ is given by

$$h_\mu(G \acts X, \mathcal{P}) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{|F_n|} \log H_\mu(\bigvee_{g \in F_n} g^{-1}\mathcal{P}),$$

where $\{F_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a Følner sequence. The measure-theoretical entropy of $G \acts (X, \mu)$ is the supremum of $h_\mu(G \acts X, \mathcal{P})$ taken over all finite partitions:

$$h_\mu(G \acts X) = \sup_{\mathcal{P} \text{ finite}} h_\mu(G \acts X, \mathcal{P}).$$
The variational principle relates the topological entropy with the measure-theoretical entropy through the following formula.

**Theorem 2.4.** [79, Theorem 5.2.7] Let \( G \) be an amenable group and \( G \acts X \) an action, we have

\[
h_{\text{top}}(G \acts X) = \sup_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}(G \acts X)} h_{\mu}(G \acts X),
\]

where \( \mathcal{M}(G \acts X) \) denotes the space of all Borel \( G \)-invariant probability measures on \( X \).

For a p.m.p. action \( G \acts (X, \mu) \) of a sofic group \( G \), there is the notion of the **measure-theoretical sofic entropy** \( h^NV_{\mu}(G \acts X) \) with respect to a sofic approximation sequence \( \Sigma \) for \( G \) introduced by Bowen [15]. An analogous variational principle for sofic entropy was established by Kerr and Li [55].

### 2.2 Local entropy theory

In the seminal papers [9, 10], Blanchard introduced the notion of entropy pairs. These can be used to give a local characterization of positive entropy. This work was the birth of what is now called local entropy theory (see [37] for a survey). A combinatorial counterpart of that theory is the notion of independence which can also be used in the context of non-amenable group actions. For an introduction to the subject see [55, Chapter 12].

**Notation 2.5.** For each \( k \in \mathbb{N} \), we represent by \( \triangle_k(X) \) the diagonal of \( X^k \); that is, the set of all tuples \( (x, x, \ldots, x) \in X^k \).

#### 2.2.1 Orbit independence entropy tuples

Let \( G \acts X \) be an action and \( A = (A_1, \ldots, A_n) \) a tuple of subsets of \( X \). We say \( J \subseteq G \) is an **independence set** for \( A \) if for every nonempty \( I \subseteq J \) and every \( \phi: I \to \{1, \ldots, n\} \) we have

\[
\bigcap_{s \in I} s^{-1}A_{\phi(s)} \neq \emptyset.
\]

We define the **independence density** of \( A \) (over \( G \)) to be the largest \( q \geq 0 \) such that every set \( F \subseteq G \) has a subset of cardinality at least \( q |F| \) which is an independence set for \( A \).

**Definition 2.6.** [79, Definition 3.2] Fix an integer \( k \geq 1 \). We say a tuple \( x = (x_1, \ldots, x_k) \in X^k \) is an **orbit independence entropy tuple** (orbit IE-tuple) if for every product neighborhood \( U_1 \times \cdots \times U_k \) of \( x \) the tuple \( U = (U_1, \ldots, U_k) \) has positive independence density. We denote the set of orbit IE-tuples of length \( k \) by \( \text{IE}_k(X, G) \).

An open cover \( \mathcal{U} \) of \( X \) is called standard if \( \mathcal{U} = \{U_1, U_2\} \) such that none of \( U_1, U_2 \) is dense in \( X \). We say an action \( G \acts X \) has **naive uniform positive entropy** (naive UPE) if for each standard cover \( \mathcal{U} \) we have that \( h_{\text{top}}^\mathcal{U}(G \acts X, \mathcal{U}) > 0 \). The notion of UPE was defined in the context of \( \mathbb{Z} \)-actions by Blanchard [9] and naive UPE is a natural generalization in the context of naive topological entropy.

**Theorem 2.7.** Let \( G \acts X \) be an action.

1. [65, Theorem 2.5] If \( \text{IE}_2(X, G) \setminus \triangle_2(X) \neq \emptyset \), then \( h_{\text{top}}^{\mathcal{U}}(G \acts X) > 0 \).
2. [58, Theorems 12.19 and 12.23] If \( G \) is amenable and \( h_{\text{top}}(G \acts X) > 0 \), then for each \( k \in \mathbb{N} \) there is some \( (x_1, \ldots, x_k) \in \text{IE}_k(X, G) \) such that \( x_1, \ldots, x_k \) are distinct.
3. [65, Theorem 2.5] \( \text{IE}_2(X, G) = X^2 \) if and only if \( G \acts X \) has naive UPE.
4. [59, Lemma 6.2] We have that \( \bigcup_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}(G \acts X)} \text{supp}(\mu) \subset \text{IE}_1(X, G) \), where \( \mathcal{M}(G \acts X) \) is the set of \( G \)-invariant Borel probability measures on \( X \) and \( \text{supp}(\mu) \) denotes the support of \( \mu \).

Consequently with the third point of Theorem 2.7 for \( k \geq 2 \) we shall say that \( G \acts X \) has naive UPE of order \( k \) if \( \text{IE}_k(X, G) = X^k \). We also say that \( G \acts X \) has naive UPE of all orders if it has naive UPE of order \( k \) for all \( k \geq 2 \).
2.2.2 Sofic independence entropy tuples

Let $G$ be a sofic group, $G \curvearrowright X$ an action and $A = (A_1, \ldots, A_k)$ a tuple of subsets of $X$. Given $F \subseteq G$, $\delta > 0$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\sigma : G \to \text{Sym}(n)$, we say $J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n\}$ is a $(d, F, \delta, \sigma)$-independence set for $A$ if for every $\omega : J \to \{1, \ldots, k\}$ there exists $\varphi \in \text{Map}(d, F, \delta, \sigma)$ such that $\varphi(a) \in A_{\omega(a)}$ for every $a \in J$.

**Definition 2.8.** [58, Definitions 1.33 and 1.34] Let $G$ be a sofic group, $G \curvearrowright X$ an action and $\Sigma = \{\sigma_i : G \to \text{Sym}(n_i)\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ a sofic approximation sequence for $G$. We say a tuple $A = (A_1, \ldots, A_k)$ of subsets of $X$ has positive upper independence density over $\Sigma$ if there exists $q > 0$ such that for every $F \subseteq G$ and $\delta > 0$ there exists an infinite set of $i$ for which $A$ has a $(d, F, \delta, \sigma_i)$-independence set of cardinality at least $q n_i$. This property does not depend on the choice of the metric $d$, see [58, Lemma 10.24].

We say $x = (x_1, \ldots, x_k) \in X^k$ is a sofic independence entropy tuple with respect to $\Sigma$ ($\Sigma$-IE-tuple) if for every product neighborhood $U_1 \times \cdots \times U_k$ of $x$ the tuple $U = (U_1, \ldots, U_k)$ has positive upper independence density over $\Sigma$. We denote the set of $\Sigma$-IE-tuples of length $k$ by $\mathcal{IE}_k(X, G)$.

**Theorem 2.9.** [58, Theorem 12.39] Let $G$ be sofic, $\Sigma$ a sofic approximation sequence for $G$, and $G \curvearrowright X$ an action. Then

1. $\mathcal{IE}_2(X, G) \neq \emptyset$ if and only if $h^{\text{top}}_{\text{UPE}}(G \curvearrowright X) \geq 0$.
2. $\mathcal{IE}_2(X, G) \setminus \Delta_2(X) \neq \emptyset$ if and only if $h^{\text{top}}_{\text{UPE}}(G \curvearrowright X) > 0$.

Given a sofic group $G$, and a sofic approximation sequence $\Sigma$ for $G$, for $k \geq 2$ we say $G \curvearrowright X$ has sofic UPE of order $k$ if $\mathcal{IE}_k(X, G) = X^k$. We also say that $G \curvearrowright X$ has sofic UPE of all orders if it has sofic UPE of order $k$ for all $k \geq 2$.

**Remark 2.10.** Every $\Sigma$-IE-tuple is an orbit IE-tuple [58, Proposition 4.6] but there might exist orbit IE-tuples that are not $\Sigma$-IE-tuples for any $\Sigma$. Nonetheless, if $G$ is amenable then every orbit IE-tuple is a $\Sigma$-IE-tuple for every $\Sigma$ [58, Theorem 4.8]. In this case we call naive/sofic UPE simply UPE.

2.3 Shift spaces and the pseudo-orbit tracing property

Given a nonempty finite set $\Lambda$, we say $X \subseteq \Lambda^G$ is a $G$-subshift or $G$-shift space if $X$ is closed under the product topology and $G$-invariant under the left shift action $G \curvearrowright \Lambda^G$ given by

$$gx(h) = x(g^{-1}h)$$

for every $g, h \in G$.

Elements $x \in \Lambda^G$ are called configurations. A pattern is an element $p \in \Lambda^A$ for some $A \subseteq G$. For a pattern $p \in \Lambda^A$ let us denote by $[p] = \{x \in \Lambda^G : x|_A = p\}$ the cylinder centered at $p$. A set $X \subseteq \Lambda^G$ is a subshift if and only if there exists a set $\mathcal{F}$ of patterns which generates $X$, that is, $X = X_{\mathcal{F}}$ where

$$X_{\mathcal{F}} = \Lambda^G \setminus \bigcup_{g \in G, p \in \mathcal{F}} g[p].$$

In other words, $X$ is the set of all configurations $x \in \Lambda^G$ where no translation of a pattern $p \in \mathcal{F}$ appears in $x$. If there exists a finite set $\mathcal{F}$ of patterns such that $X = X_{\mathcal{F}}$, then we say that $X$ is a subshift of finite type (SFT).

Let $G \curvearrowright X$ be an action, $\delta > 0$ and $S \subseteq G$. An $(S, \delta)$ pseudo-orbit is a sequence $\{x_g\}_{g \in G}$ of elements in $X$ such that $d(s x_g, x_{sg}) < \delta$ for every $s \in S$ and $g \in G$. We say a pseudo-orbit is $\varepsilon$-traced by $x \in X$ if $d(gx, x_g) \leq \varepsilon$ for every $g \in G$.

An action $G \curvearrowright X$ has the pseudo-orbit tracing property (POTP) if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exist $\delta > 0$ and $S \subseteq G$ such that any $(S, \delta)$ pseudo-orbit is $\varepsilon$-traced by some point $x \in X$. The POTP is also known as shadowing. For a shift space, POTP coincides with the notion of SFT [92, 81, 23, Theorem 3.2].
3 Topological Markov properties: results and examples

3.1 Topological Markov properties

In what follows the following notation shall be useful.

**Notation 3.1.** For an action \(G \act X\), a set \(K \subset G\), and \(x,y \in X\), we shall write
\[
d_K(x,y) = \sup_{g \in K} d(gx,gy).
\]

**Definition 3.2.** Let \(G \act X\) be an action, and \(\varepsilon,\delta > 0\). We say that \(B \subset G\) is an \((\varepsilon,\delta)\)-memory set for \(A \subset B\) if for every pair \(x,y \in X\) satisfying \(d_{B \setminus A}(x,y) \leq \delta\) there exists \(z \in X\) such that \(d_B(x,z) \leq \varepsilon\) and \(d_{G \setminus A}(y,z) \leq \varepsilon\).

In [22] the authors introduced the notion of topological Markov field. A topological Markov field is a subshift \(X \subset \Lambda^\mathbb{Z}\) which has the following property: for every pair of configurations \(x,y \in X\) for which there are \(n, m \in \mathbb{Z}\) so that \(n < m, x_n = y_n\) and \(x_m = y_m\), we have that the configuration \(z \in \Lambda^\mathbb{Z}\) given by
\[
z(i) = \begin{cases} x(i) & \text{if } i \in \{n, \ldots, m\} \\ y(i) & \text{if } i \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{n, \ldots, m\}\end{cases}
\]

belongs to \(X\). In terms of memory sets, this property is stating that for an adequate choice of \(\varepsilon,\delta\) (which depends upon \(d\)) an \((\varepsilon,\delta)\)-memory set for an interval \(A = \{n+1, \ldots, m-1\}\) is the interval \(B = \{n, \ldots, m\}\). The notion of topological Markov field was in turn generalized to the concept of (strong) topological Markov property for subshifts on arbitrary countable groups in [6]. We shall give a natural generalization of these properties to the non-symbolic setting.

**Definition 3.3.** An action \(G \act X\) has the:

1. **Topological Markov property** (**TMP**) if for every \(\varepsilon > 0\) there exists \(\delta > 0\) such that every \(A \subset G\) admits an \((\varepsilon,\delta)\)-memory set for \(A\).

2. **Strong topological Markov property** (**strong TMP**) if for every \(\varepsilon > 0\) there exist \(\delta > 0\) and \(F \subset G\) containing the identity, such that every \(A \subset G\) admits \(FA\) as an \((\varepsilon,\delta)\)-memory set for \(A\).

3. **Mean topological Markov property** (**mean TMP**) if for every \(\varepsilon > 0\) there exist \(\delta > 0\) and an increasing sequence \(\{F_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}\) of finite subsets of \(G\) with union \(G\) such that for each \(n \in \mathbb{N}\) there is an \((\varepsilon,\delta)\)-memory set \(F_n^A\) for \(F_n\) so that \(|F_n \setminus F_n^A| = o(|F_n|)\).

Now we introduce uniform versions of the topological Markov properties. These are mainly technical conditions needed for the results in the following sections.

Let \(B \subset G\). We say that a set \(V \subset G\) is **\(B\)-separated** if \(Bv_1 \cap Bv_2 = \emptyset\) whenever \(v_1 \neq v_2\) and \(v_1, v_2 \in V\).

**Definition 3.4.** Let \(G \act X\) be an action, \(\varepsilon,\delta > 0\), and \(A \subset G\). We say that an \((\varepsilon,\delta)\)-memory set \(B\) for \(A\) is **uniform**, if for any \(B\)-separated \(V \subset G\), \(x_v \in X\) for \(v \in V\) and \(y \in X\) such that \(d_{(B \setminus A)v}(x_v,y) \leq \delta\) for every \(v \in V\), there exists \(z \in X\) such that \(d_B(z,x_v) \leq \varepsilon\) for every \(v \in V\) and \(d_{G \setminus AV}(z,y) \leq \varepsilon\).

**Remark 3.5.** If an \((\varepsilon,\delta)\)-memory set \(B\) is uniform, it follows by compactness that in fact the above property holds for any \(B\)-separated \(V \subset G\), even if it is not finite.

**Definition 3.6.** We say that an action \(G \act X\) has the uniform (mean/strong) topological Markov property if it satisfies the (mean/strong) topological Markov property with a memory set which is uniform.

If two metrics \(d\) and \(d'\) on \(X\) are both compatible with the given compact topology on \(X\), then for any \(\varepsilon > 0\) there is some \(\varepsilon' > 0\) such that for any \(x, y \in X\) satisfying \(d'(x,y) \leq \varepsilon'\) one has \(d(x,y) \leq \varepsilon\). It follows that the topological Markov properties do not depend upon the choice of the metric as long as it is compatible with the topology of \(X\). Hence, they are invariants of topological conjugacy.
3.2 Structural results

We say that a continuous pseudometric $\rho$ on $X$ is dynamically generating for an action $G \acts X$ [58, Definition 9.35] if for any distinct $x, y \in X$ one has $\sup_{s \in G} \rho(sx, sy) > 0$. As in the case of a metric, for $K \subset G$ we denote $\rho_K(x, y) = \sup_{s \in K} \rho(sx, sy)$.

**Proposition 3.7.** Let $\rho$ be a dynamically generating continuous pseudometric on $X$ for an action $G \acts X$. Then the following hold.

1. $G \acts X$ has the TMP if and only if for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there is some $\delta > 0$ such that for any $A \subset G$ there is some $B \subset G$ containing $A$ so that for any $x, y \in X$ with $\rho_B \setminus A(x, y) \leq \delta$ there is some $z \in X$ with $\rho_B(z, x) \leq \varepsilon$ and $\rho_G \setminus A(z, y) \leq \varepsilon$.

2. $G \acts X$ has the strong TMP if and only if for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there are some $\delta > 0$ and $F \subset G$ containing $e_G$ such that for any $A \subset G$ and any $x, y \in X$ with $\rho_F \setminus A(x, y) \leq \delta$ there is some $z \in X$ with $\rho_F(z, x) \leq \varepsilon$ and $\rho_G \setminus A(z, y) \leq \varepsilon$.

**Proof.** We shall prove (1). The proof for (2) is similar.

Take a function $f : G \to (0, 1]$ with $\sum_{s \in G} f(s) < \infty$ and $f(e_G) = 1$. For any $x, y \in X$, put

$$d(x, y) = \sum_{s \in G} f(s) \rho(sx, sy).$$

Then it is easily checked that $d$ is a compatible metric on $X$ and $d \geq \rho$.

We prove the “only if” part first. Assume that $G \acts X$ has the TMP. Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Then there is some $\delta > 0$ such that for any $A \subset G$ there is some $B \subset G$ containing $A$ so that for any $x, y \in X$ with $d_{B \setminus A}(x, y) \leq \delta$ there is some $z \in X$ with $d_B(z, x) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$ and $d_G \setminus A(z, y) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$. Take a $K \subset G$ with $e_G \in K = K^{-1}$ such that $\mathrm{diam}(X, \rho) \sum_{t \in G \setminus K} f(s) < \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$. Put $\delta' = \frac{\varepsilon}{4} \min(\varepsilon, \delta) > 0$. For $A \subset G$, let $B' = KBA$. Then $B'$ is a finite subset of $G$ containing $A$, and $K(BKA \setminus KA) \subset B' \setminus A$. Let $x, y \in X$ with $\rho_{B' \setminus A}(x, y) \leq \delta'$. For any $s \in BKA \setminus KA$, we have

$$d(sx, sy) = \sum_{t \in K} f(t) \rho(tsx, tsy) + \sum_{t \in G \setminus K} f(t) \rho(tsx, tsy) < |K| \delta' + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \leq \delta.$$

Thus there is some $z \in X$ with $d_{BKA}(z, x) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$ and $d_G \setminus A(z, y) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$. For any $s \in BKA$, we have $\rho(sx, sx) \leq d(sx, sx) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$. For any $s \in G \setminus KA$, we have $\rho(sx, sy) \leq d(sx, sy) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$. For any $s \in KA$, we have

$$\rho(sx, sy) \leq \rho(sx, sx) + \rho(sx, sy) \leq d(sx, sy) + \delta' \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \delta' \leq \varepsilon.$$

For any $s \in B' \setminus BKA$, we have

$$\rho(sx, sx) \leq \rho(sx, sy) + \rho(sy, sx) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \delta' \leq \varepsilon.$$

This proves the “only if” part.

Next we prove the “if” part. Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Take a $K \subset G$ with $e_G \in K = K^{-1}$ such that $\mathrm{diam}(X, \rho) \sum_{s \in G \setminus K} f(s) < \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$. Put $\varepsilon' = \frac{\varepsilon}{4} K^{-1} > 0$. By assumption, there is some $\delta' > 0$ such that for any $A \subset G$ there is some $B' \subset G$ containing $A$ so that for any $x, y \in X$ with $\rho_{B' \setminus A}(x, y) \leq \delta'$ there is some $z \in X$ with $\rho_{B'}(z, x) \leq \varepsilon'$ and $\rho_G \setminus A(z, y) \leq \varepsilon'$. Put $\delta = \min(\delta', \varepsilon') > 0$. Let $A \subset G$. Put $B = B' \cap K \supseteq K \supseteq A$. Let $x, y \in X$ with $d_{B \setminus A}(x, y) \leq \delta$. Then

$$\max_{s \in B' \cap K \setminus A} \rho(sx, sy) \leq d_{B \setminus A}(x, y) \leq \delta \leq \delta'.$$

Thus there is some $z \in X$ with $\rho_{B' \cap K \setminus A}(z, x) \leq \varepsilon'$ and $\rho_G \setminus A(z, y) \leq \varepsilon'$. For any $s \in KA$, we have

$$d(sx, sx) = \sum_{t \in K} f(t) \rho(tsx, tsx) + \sum_{t \in G \setminus K} f(t) \rho(tsx, tsx) < |K| \varepsilon' + \frac{\varepsilon}{4} \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}.$$

For any $\gamma \in K \cap A \subset B \setminus A$, we have

$$\rho(\gamma z, \gamma y) \leq \rho(\gamma z, \gamma x) + \rho(\gamma x, \gamma y) \leq \varepsilon' + d(\gamma x, \gamma y) \leq \varepsilon' + \delta.$$
Thus \( \rho(\gamma z, \gamma y) \leq \varepsilon' + \delta \) for all \( \gamma \in G \setminus A \). Then for any \( s \in G \setminus KA \), we get
\[
|d(sz, sy) - d(sz, sz)| + |d(sz, sy) - d(sz, sy)| \leq |K|(\varepsilon' + \delta) + \varepsilon/4 \leq \varepsilon/2.
\]

For any \( s \in KA \setminus A \), we have
\[
d(sz, sy) \leq d(sz, sz) + d(sz, sy) \leq \varepsilon/2 + \delta < \varepsilon.
\]

For any \( s \in B \setminus KA \), we have
\[
d(sz, sx) \leq d(sz, sy) + d(sy, sx) \leq \varepsilon/2 + \delta < \varepsilon.
\]

Therefore \( G \triangleleft X \) has the TMP. This proves the “if” part.

Let \( X \subset \Lambda^G \) be a \( G \)-subshift. For any \( x, y \in X \), put
\[
\rho(x, y) = \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{if } x(e_G) \neq y(e_G), \\
0 & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]

Then \( \rho \) is a dynamically generating continuous pseudometric for \( G \triangleleft X \). Thus from Proposition 3.7, we get the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.8.** Let \( X \subset \Lambda^G \) be a \( G \)-subshift. The following hold.

1. \( G \triangleleft X \) has the TMP if and only if for any \( A \in G \) there is some \( B \in G \) containing \( A \) so that for any \( x, y \in X \) with \( x = y \) on \( B \setminus A \) the configuration \( z \in \Lambda^G \) such that \( z|_A = x|_A \) and \( z|_{G \setminus A} = y|_{G \setminus A} \) lies in \( X \).

2. \( G \triangleleft X \) has the strong TMP if and only if there is some \( F \in G \) containing the identity, such that for any \( A \in G \) and any \( x, y \in X \) with \( x = y \) on \( AF \setminus A \) the configuration \( z \in \Lambda^G \) such that \( z|_A = x|_A \) and \( z|_{G \setminus A} = y|_{G \setminus A} \) lies in \( X \).

In particular, we recover the original definitions introduced for subshifts in [1 Section 2.5.1]. Before stating the relation between the POTP and the TMP properties, we shall state the following technical lemma.

**Lemma 3.9.** Let \( G \triangleleft X \) be an action, \( F \in G \) with \( e_G \in F = F^{-1} \) and \( \delta > 0 \). There exists \( \eta > 0 \) such that for any \( A \in G \), any \( FA \)-separated \( V \subset G \), any \( x_v \in X \) for \( v \in V \), and \( y \in X \) satisfying \( d_{(FA \setminus A)_{V}}(x_v, y) \leq \eta \) for all \( v \in V \), we have that \( \{w_\gamma\}_{\gamma \in G} \) is an \((F, \delta)\) pseudo-orbit, where
\[
w_\gamma = \begin{cases} 
\gamma x_v & \text{if } \gamma \in Av \text{ for some } v \in V \\
\gamma y & \text{if } \gamma \in G \setminus AV
\end{cases}
\]

**Proof.** Take \( 0 < \eta < \delta \) such that, for any \( x, y \in X \) with \( d(x, y) \leq \eta \), we have \( d_F(x, y) < \delta \). Let \( A, V, x_v \) and \( y \) be as in the statement. We need to check \( d(sw_\gamma, w_\gamma) < \delta \) for all \( s \in F \) and \( \gamma \in G \). Fix \( s \in F \). The only nontrivial cases are \( 1 \) \( \gamma \in Av \) for some \( v \in V \) and \( s\gamma \in G \setminus AV \), and \( 2 \) \( \gamma \in G \setminus AV \) and \( s\gamma \in Av \) for some \( v \in V \).

Consider the case (1). Then \( s\gamma \in (FA \setminus A)v \), and hence
\[
d(sw_\gamma, w_\gamma) = d(s\gamma x_v, s\gamma y) \leq \eta < \delta.
\]

Now consider the case (2). Note that \( s\gamma \in Av \) and \( s^{-1}(s\gamma) \in G \setminus AV \), and hence from the case (1) we have
\[
d(s^{-1}w_\gamma, w_\gamma) \leq \eta.
\]

From our choice of \( \eta \) we get \( d(w_\gamma, s\gamma w_\gamma) < \delta \) as desired.

**Proposition 3.10.** Let \( G \triangleleft X \) be an action. The following implications hold.
Thus $G \triangleleft X$ have the (uniform) strong TMP, for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and $\delta > 0$.

Lemma 3.12

Proposition 3.11. Let $G$ be an amenable group and $G \triangleleft X$ an action. The following implications hold:

\[ G \triangleleft X \text{ has uniform strong TMP} \quad \Rightarrow \quad G \triangleleft X \text{ has uniform mean TMP} \quad \Rightarrow \quad G \triangleleft X \text{ has uniform TMP} \]

\[ G \triangleleft X \text{ has strong TMP} \quad \Rightarrow \quad G \triangleleft X \text{ has mean TMP} \quad \Rightarrow \quad G \triangleleft X \text{ has TMP} \]

Proof. As before, the uniform versions imply the non-uniform versions by choosing $V = \{e_G\}$. Since $\epsilon$ is amenable, there exists an increasing Følner sequence $\{F_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ for $G$ with union $G$. If $G \triangleleft X$ has the (uniform) strong TMP, for any $\epsilon > 0$ there are $\delta > 0$ and $K \subseteq G$ containing the identity such that $KF_n$ is a (uniform) $(\epsilon, \delta)$-memory set for $F_n$. As $\{F_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is Følner, we have that $|KF_n \setminus F_n| = o(|F_n|)$. Thus $G \triangleleft X$ has the (uniform) mean TMP.

If $G \triangleleft X$ has the (uniform) mean TMP then for every $\epsilon > 0$ there are $0 < \delta < \frac{\epsilon}{4}$ and an increasing sequence $\{F_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of finite subsets of $G$ with union $G$ for which there are finite (uniform) $(\frac{\epsilon}{2}, \delta)$-memory sets $F_n$. It suffices to choose for every $A \subseteq G$ a value of $n$ large enough such that $A \subseteq F_n$ and thus $\overline{F_n}$ is a (uniform) $(\epsilon, \delta)$-memory set for $A$.

Now we will see that an expansive action has the TMP if and only if it has the uniform TMP. Note that for any $F \subseteq G$ and $\delta > 0$, if $\{x_t\}_{t \in G}$ is an $(F, \delta)$ pseudo-orbit, then so is $\{x_tg\}_{t \in G}$ for any $g \in G$. The following lemma is only stated for $G = \mathbb{Z}$ in the reference, but its proof works for all countable groups.

Lemma 3.12 (Propositions 1 and 2 of [1]). Let $G \triangleleft X$ be an action and $c > 0$. The following are equivalent:

1. $c$ is an expansive constant for $G \triangleleft X$.
2. For any $\epsilon > 0$, there exist $F \subseteq G$ and $\delta > 0$ such that for any two $(F, \delta)$ pseudo-orbits $\{x_t\}_{t \in G}$ and $\{y_t\}_{t \in G}$, if $d(x_t, y_t) \leq \epsilon$ for all $t \in G$, then $d(x_t, y_t) \leq \epsilon$ for all $t \in G$.
3. For any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $W \subseteq G$ such that for any $x, y \in X$, if $d_W(x, y) \leq \epsilon$, then $d(x, y) \leq \epsilon$.

Theorem 3.13. Every expansive action $G \triangleleft X$ with the TMP has the uniform TMP.
Proof. Let $c > 0$ be an expansivity constant for $G \curvearrowright X$. Let $0 < \varepsilon \leq c$. We have $F$ and $\delta$ in Lemma 3.12(2) for $\frac{2}{3}$. Replacing $F$ by $F \cup F^{-1} \cup \{e_G\}$, we may assume that $e_G \in F = F^{-1}$. Then we have $\eta$ in Lemma 3.9 for $F$ and $\delta$.

Since $G \curvearrowright X$ has the TMP, there is some $0 < \tau < \min(\eta, \frac{2}{3})$ such that for any $A \in G$ there is some $B_A \in G$ containing $A$ such that for any $x, y \in X$ satisfying $d_{B_A \setminus A}(x, y) \leq \tau$, there is some $z \in X$ such that $d_{B_A}(z, x) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$ and $d_{G \setminus A}(z, y) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$. Take $W$ in Lemma 3.12(3) for $\tau$. Replacing $W$ by $W \cup W^{-1} \cup \{e_G\}$, we may assume that $e_G \in W = W^{-1}$. Let $A \in G$. Then we have $B_A$ and $B_{W_A}$ as above. Put $B = B_A \cup WB_{W_A} \cup FA \in G$. We shall prove the following claim.

Claim: For any $B$-separated $V \in G$ and any $x_v \in X$ for $v \in V$ and $y \in X$ satisfying $d_{B_{V \setminus A}}(x_v, y) \leq \tau$ for all $v \in V$, there is some $z \in X$ such that $d_{Av}(z, x_v) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$ for all $v \in V$ and $d_{G \setminus Av}(z, y) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$.

Assume the claim holds. As $\tau < \frac{2}{3}$, we have that for any such finite set $V$, $d_{B_V}(z, x_v) \leq \varepsilon$ for every $v \in V$ and $d_{G \setminus Av}(z, y) \leq \varepsilon$. This is exactly what we wanted to show.

To prove the claim, we argue by induction on $|V|$. Consider first the case $|V| = 1$. Say, $V = \{v\}$. Let $x_v, y \in X$ with $d_{B_{V \setminus A}}(x_v, y) \leq \tau$. Then $d(s(x_v), s(y)) \leq \tau$ for all $s \in B \setminus A$, in particular for all $s \in B_A \setminus A$. Thus by our choice of $B_A$ there is some $z \in X$ such that $d_{B_A}(z, x_v) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$ and $d_{G \setminus A}(z, y) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$. Putting $z' = v^{-1}z$, we have $d_{B_{V \setminus A}}(z', x_v) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$ and $d_{G \setminus Av}(z', y) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$. This proves the case $|V| = 1$.

Assume that the claim holds for $|V| = n + 1$. Let $V \in G$ be $B$-separated with $|V| = n + 1$, and let $x_v \in X$ for $v \in V$ and $y \in X$ with $d_{B_{V \setminus A}}(x_v, y) \leq \tau$ for all $v \in V$. Take $v_0 \in V$. Applying the inductive hypothesis to $V \setminus \{v_0\}$ we find some $u \in X$ such that $d_{Av_0}(u, x_v) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$ for all $v \in V \setminus \{v_0\}$, and $d_{G \setminus Av_0}(u, y) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$. For any $g \in B_{W_A} \setminus WA$ and any $s \in W$, we have $sg \in WB_{W_A} \setminus A \subset B \setminus A$, and hence

$$d(s_{v_0} u, s_{v_0} x_v) \leq d(s_{v_0} u, s_{v_0} y) + d(s_{v_0} x_v, s_{v_0} y) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \tau \leq c.$$

From our choice of $W$, we get $d_{B_{W_A}}(v_0 u, v_0 x_v) < \tau$. From the TMP and our choice of $B_{W_A}$, we obtain there is $u' \in X$ such that $d_{B_{W_A}}(u', v_0 x_v) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$ and $d_{G \setminus W_A}(u', v_0 u) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$. Put $z = v_0^{-1} u' \in X$. Then $d_{B_{W_A}}(z, x_v) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$ and $d_{G \setminus WA}(z, u) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$. For any $v \in V \setminus \{v_0\}$ and $s \in Av$, we have

$$d(s z, s x_v) \leq d(s z, s u) + d(s u, s x_v) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \leq c.$$

For any $s \in Av_0 \subset WAv_0$, we have $d(s z, s x_{v_0}) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} < c$. For any $s \in G \setminus (AV \cup WAv_0)$, we have

$$d(s z, s y) \leq d(s z, s u) + d(s u, s y) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \leq c.$$

For any $s \in WAv_0 \setminus Av_0$, we have

$$d(s z, s y) \leq d(s z, s x_{v_0}) + d(s x_{v_0}, s y) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \tau \leq c.$$

Put $w_v = \gamma x_v$ for all $v \in V$ and $\gamma \in Av$ and $w_v = \gamma y$ for all $\gamma \in G \setminus AV$. Then $d(\gamma z, w_v) \leq c$ for all $\gamma \in G$. Since $\tau < \eta$ and $B \supset FA$, by our choice of $\eta$ we know that $\{w_\gamma\}_{\gamma \in G}$ is an $(F, \delta)$ pseudo-orbit. Then from our choice of $F$ and $\delta$ we conclude $d(\gamma z, w_v) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$ for all $\gamma \in G$. This finishes the induction step, and proves the claim.

Remark 3.14. The previous proof can be easily adapted to show that every expansive action with the strong TMP has the uniform strong TMP.

Theorem 3.12 does not hold if we do not assume expansivity. Indeed, Lind and Schmidt [85 Example 7.5] constructed an algebraic action of $\mathbb{Z}^2$ with off-diagonal asymptotic pairs and zero topological entropy. As a consequence of Theorem 2.7 and Proposition 3.3 which we shall prove later on, this action does not have the uniform TMP, but it has the TMP by Proposition 3.1. Nonetheless, as we saw in Proposition 3.10 whenever an action has the POTP it will have the uniform TMP even if it is not expansive.
3.3 Examples

Classic examples of actions with the POTP are subshifts of finite type (SFTs). Schmidt showed that expansive actions of polycyclic-by-finite groups on zero-dimensional compact metrizable groups by continuous automorphisms are SFTs [22, Corollary 2.3, Theorems 3.8 and 4.2], thus have the POTP. Other examples of group actions with the POTP are Axiom A diffeomorphisms [3, Theorem 1.2.1], and expansive principal algebraic actions of countable groups [27, Theorem 1.5].

There are known examples of $\mathbb{Z}$-subshifts with the strong TMP but which are not SFTs, see [22, Proposition 3.6]. For any fixed countable group there are countably many SFTs, but in contrast, there are uncountably many $\mathbb{Z}^2$-subshifts $X$ such that $\mathbb{Z}^2 \cap X$ has the strong TMP [23]. Indeed, if $X \subset \Lambda^Z$ is any $\mathbb{Z}$-subshift, then the $\mathbb{Z}^2$-subshift consisting of all $x \in \Lambda^Z$ whose restriction to $Z \times \{0\}$ is an element of $X$ and such that $\{0\} \times Z$ acts trivially has the strong TMP but is not necessarily an SFT.

We shall see that subshifts with the strong TMP also arise naturally as supports of Markovian measures. A $G$-invariant Borel probability measure $\mu$ on a $G$-subshift $X$ is Markovian if there exists $F \in G$ containing the identity such that for every $A \in G$, $p \in \Sigma^A$ and $x \in \text{supp}(\mu)$ we have that for every $B \in G$ which contains $AF$,

$$\mu([p] \mid [x]_{B \setminus A}) = \mu([p] \mid [x]_{AF \setminus A}),$$

where $\mu([p] \mid [q]) = \frac{\mu([p] \cap [q])}{\mu([q])}$ denotes the conditional probability of $[p]$ given $[q]$.

The following proposition is essentially a rephrasing of [21, Lemma 2.0.1].

**Proposition 3.15.** Let $X \subset \Lambda^G$ be a $G$-subshift and $\mu$ a Markovian measure on $X$. Then $G \curvearrowright \text{supp}(\mu)$ has the strong TMP.

**Proof.** As $\mu$ is Markovian there is $F \in G$ containing the identity such that for every $A \in G$ and $p \in \Lambda^A$ we have that for every $B \in G$ which contains $AF$ and $x \in \text{supp}(\mu)$ we have $\mu([p] \mid [x]_{B \setminus A}) = \mu([p] \mid [x]_{AF \setminus A})$. Let us fix $A \in G$ and let $x, y \in \text{supp}(\mu)$ such that $x|_{AF \setminus A} = y|_{AF \setminus A}$. We shall show that $z \in \Lambda^G$, defined by

$$z(g) = \begin{cases} x(g) & \text{if } g \in A \\ y(g) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

is in $\text{supp}(\mu)$. Indeed, it suffices to show that for every large enough $B \in G$ we have $\mu([z]_B) > 0$. For any $B \in G$ which contains $AF$ we have

$$\mu([z]_B) = \mu([z]_A \mid [z]_{B \setminus A}) \cdot \mu([z]_{B \setminus A}) = \mu([x]_A \mid [y]_{B \setminus A}) \cdot \mu([y]_{B \setminus A}).$$

As $y \in \text{supp}(\mu)$, we have $\mu([y]_{B \setminus A}) > 0$. Furthermore, by our choice of $F$ we also get

$$\mu([x]_A \mid [y]_{B \setminus A}) = \mu([x]_A \mid [y]_{AF \setminus A}) = \mu([x]_A \mid [x]_{AF \setminus A}) = \frac{\mu([x]_A)}{\mu([x]_A)}.$$ 

Since $x \in \text{supp}(\mu)$, we obtain $\mu([x]_A \mid [y]_{B \setminus A}) > 0$ and thus $\mu([z]_B) > 0$. 

**Example 3.16** (mean TMP but not strong TMP). Let $G$ be a locally finite group (for instance $G = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z} / 2\mathbb{Z}$) and $X$ be the subshift $\{0^G, 1^G\} \subset \{0, 1\}^G$. Recall that $G$ is infinite as assumed at the beginning of Section 2. We claim that $G \curvearrowright X$ does not have the strong TMP. Indeed, assume $G \curvearrowright X$ has the strong TMP. Then for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there are $\delta > 0$ and $F \in G$ containing the identity, such that for every $A \in G$ we have that $FA$ is an $(\varepsilon, \delta)$-memory set for $A$. In particular taking $A = \langle F \rangle$ the subgroup generated by $F$, we get that $\langle F \rangle$ is an $(\varepsilon, \delta)$-memory set for $\langle F \rangle$ which is clearly false. On the other hand, $G \curvearrowright X$ does have the mean TMP. Indeed, for any sufficiently small $\delta > 0$, any $A \in G$ and any $g \in G \setminus A$ we have that $A \cup \{g\}$ is an $(\varepsilon, \delta)$-memory set for $A$.

**Example 3.17** (TMP but not mean TMP. Lemmas 4.2 and 4.3 of [27]). Let $G_i$ be a sequence of finite groups of order $a_i$ and consider their direct sum $G = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{N}} G_i$. Identify $g \in G_i$ with the tuple in $G$ for which the only non-identity coordinate is $g$ at position $i$. Consider the subshift $X \subset (\mathbb{Z} / 2\mathbb{Z})^G$ consisting of all $x \in (\mathbb{Z} / 2\mathbb{Z})^G$ such that for every $i \in \mathbb{N}$ and $h \in G$ we have $\sum_{g \in G_i} x(hg) = 0$. This example has no off-diagonal asymptotic pairs and, if $a_i$ grows rapidly enough (so that $\prod_{i \in \mathbb{N}} (1 - a_i^{-1}) > 0$) then $G \curvearrowright X$ has positive topological entropy. We shall later see that, by Proposition 4.1, the action $G \curvearrowright X$ has the TMP, while as a consequence of Remark 4.14 it does not satisfy the mean TMP.
Another example with the TMP and not the strong TMP can be found in [6, Example 2.4]. This example has both positive topological entropy and off-diagonal asymptotic pairs.

**Example 3.18** (not TMP). Consider the sunny-side up G-subshift consisting on all points $x \in \{0,1\}^G$ where $x(g) = 1$ for at most one value of $g$, that is,

$$X_{\leq 1} = \{ x \in \{0,1\}^G : |x^{-1}(1)| \leq 1 \}.$$ 

We claim that $G \acts X_{\leq 1}$ does not have the TMP. Let $A = \{ e_G \}$. For every $B \subseteq G$ which contains $A$, let $h \in G \setminus B$ and $x,y \in X_{\leq 1}$ such that $x(e_G) = 1$ and $y(h) = 1$. Then $x|_{B \setminus A} = y|_{B \setminus A}$ but $z \in \{0,1\}^G$ such that $z|_A = x|_A$ and $z|_{G \setminus A} = y|_{G \setminus A}$ does not belong to $X_{\leq 1}$. By Corollary 3.8, the action $G \acts X_{\leq 1}$ does not have the TMP.

When $G = \mathbb{Z}$ the sunny-side up subshift $X_{\leq 1}$ is a topological factor of an SFT. Indeed, let $X \subset \{a,b\}^\mathbb{Z}$ be the subshift of all configurations which satisfy that if $x(n) = b$, then $x(n + 1) = b$ for every $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Since $X$ is an SFT, it satisfies the TMP by Proposition 4.1. The map $\pi : X \to X_{\leq 1}$ given by

$$\pi(x)(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x(n - 1) = a \text{ and } x(n) = b \text{ for every } n \in \mathbb{Z}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is a factor map. It follows that even for $\mathbb{Z}$-actions the property of having the TMP does not pass to topological factors.

### 4 Markovian properties of algebraic actions

In this section we prove Theorem 4.3 which establishes the strong TMP for finitely presented expansive algebraic actions of a large class of amenable groups.

**Proposition 4.1.** Every action $G \acts X$ of a group $G$ on a compact metrizable group $X$ by continuous automorphisms has the TMP.

**Proof.** We can find a compatible metric $d$ on $X$ which is translation-invariant, that is, $d(zxw,zyw) = d(x,y)$ for all $x,y,z,w \in X$. Indeed, given any compatible metric $d'$ on $X$, we can define $d(x,y) = \sup_{z,w \in X} d'(zxw,zyw)$ which satisfies the property. Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be arbitrary and fix $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$. Let $\mathcal{C} = \{ C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_n \}$ be a $\delta$-cover of $X$, that is, for every $C_i$, $\sup_{x,y \in C_i} d(x,y) \leq \delta$, and for $A,B \subseteq G$ define $L_{A,B}$ as the set of all functions $\varphi : A \to \{1,\ldots,n\}$ such that there exists $z \in X$ satisfying:

1. For every $g \in A$ we have $g z \in C_\varphi(g)$.
2. We have $d_{B \setminus A}(z,e_X) \leq \delta$, where $e_X$ denotes the identity element of $X$.

Clearly if $B_1 \subset B_2$, then $L_{A|B_1} \supset L_{A|B_2}$, also, these sets are all finite. It follows that if we fix an enumeration $g_0, g_1, \ldots, g_n$ of $G$ and set $B_n = \{ g_0, \ldots, g_n \}$ then the decreasing sequence

$$\cdots \subseteq L_{A|B_n} \subseteq \cdots \subseteq L_{A|B_2} \subseteq L_{A|B_1}$$

stabilizes for some $N_A \in \mathbb{N}$. Let us fix $B = A \cup B_{N_A}$.

Suppose we have $x \in X$ such that $d_{B \setminus A}(x,e_X) \leq \delta$. By definition any function $\varphi : A \to \{1,\ldots,n\}$ such that $\varphi(x) = k$ implies $g x \in C_k$ is in $L_{A|B}$. By our choice of $N_A$, for each $m > N_A$ we may extract a point $z_m \in X$ for which $d_{B_m \setminus A}(z_m,e_X) \leq \delta$ and $g z_m \in C_{\varphi(g)}$ for every $g \in A$. As $\mathcal{C}$ is a $\delta$-cover, we obtain that $d_A(x,z_m) \leq \delta$ for every $m > N_A$. By compactness of $X$, we may extract an accumulation point $z \in X$ which satisfies that $d_{C \setminus A}(z,e_X) \leq \delta < \varepsilon$ and $d_A(z,x) \leq \delta < \varepsilon$. Then $d_{B \setminus A}(z,x) \leq d_{B \setminus A}(z,e_X) + d_{B \setminus A}(e_X,x) \leq 2\delta \leq \varepsilon$.

Now let $x,y \in X$ be arbitrary points such that $d_{B \setminus A}(x,y) \leq \delta$. Then $x' = y^{-1}x$ satisfies that $d_{B \setminus A}(x',e_X) \leq \delta$. Consequently we may extract $z'$ with the aforementioned properties. Let $z = y z'$. As the metric is translation-invariant, by left-multiplying by $y^{-1}$ we have that $d_B(z,x) = d_B(z',x') \leq \varepsilon$ and $d_{C \setminus A}(z,y) = d_{C \setminus A}(z',e_X) \leq \varepsilon$. \qed
We say $G \curvearrowright Z$ is an **algebraic action** if $Z$ is a compact metrizable abelian group and $G$ acts by continuous automorphisms.

Schmidt [90] Theorems 3.8 and 4.2 showed that every group shift of a polycyclic-by-finite group has the POTP (i.e. it is an SFT). Nonetheless, Bhattacharya [79] Section 3] showed that not every expansive algebraic action of a polycyclic group has the POTP (negatively answering [77, Question 3.11]). We will now show that a larger class of algebraic actions, including Bhattacharya’s example, always satisfy the strong TMP.

Let us briefly recall the notion of group ring. Given a group $G$ and a unital ring $R$, the **group ring** $RG$ consists of all functions $f : G \to R$ of finite support. We shall write the elements of $RG$ as $f = \sum_{s \in G} f_s s$, where $f_s \in R$ is zero except for finitely many $s \in G$. The addition and multiplication of $RG$ are given by

\[
\sum_{s \in G} f_s s + \sum_{s \in G} g_s s = \sum_{s \in G} (f_s + g_s)s,
\]

\[
(\sum_{s \in G} f_s s)(\sum_{s \in G} g_s s) = \sum_{s \in G} (\sum_{t \in G} f_t g_{t^{-1} s})s.
\]

(1)

We refer the reader to [83] for general information about group rings. The ring $CG$ has also a $*$-operation given by

\[
(\sum_{s \in G} f_s s)^* = \sum_{s \in G} \overline{f_s} s^{-1}.
\]

(2)

Under these operations $\mathbb{C}G$ becomes a $*$-algebra, that is, $(fg)^* = g^* f^*$, $(f + g)^* = f^* + g^*$, and $(\lambda f)^* = \overline{\lambda} f^*$ for all $f, g \in \mathbb{C}G$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. For $g \in (\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^G$ and $f \in ZG$, the convolution products $fg, gf \in (\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^G$ are also defined via (1).

Let us now denote for $p \in [1, +\infty)$ by $\ell^p(G) = \{f : G \to \mathbb{C} : \sum_{s \in G} |f_s|^p < \infty\}$ and $\ell^\infty(G) = \{f : G \to \mathbb{C} : \sup_{s \in G} |f_s| < \infty\}$ together with the norms $\|\cdot\|_p$ on $\ell^p(G)$ and $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ on $\ell^\infty(G)$. The convolution products $fg, gf \in \ell^p(G)$ are defined by \( \|f\|_p \) for all $1 \leq p < \infty$ and $f \in \ell^1(G)$, $g \in \ell^p(G)$. The $*$-operation also extends to $\ell^p(G)$ for $p \in [1, +\infty)$ via (2). Then $\ell^1(G)$ is also a $*$-algebra.

For $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\alpha \in M_{m,n}(\mathbb{C}G)$, denote by $\ker \alpha$ the kernel of the bounded linear operator $M_{n \times 1}(\ell^2(G)) \to M_{m \times 1}(\ell^2(G))$ sending $z$ to $az$, and by $P$ the orthogonal projection from $M_{n \times 1}(\ell^2(G))$ to $\ker \alpha$. Then $P = (P_{jk})_{1 \leq j, k \leq n} \in M_{m,n}(\mathbb{B}(\ell^2(G)))$, where $\mathbb{B}(\ell^2(G))$ denotes the algebra of all bounded linear operators from $\ell^2(G)$ to itself. We have the canonical orthonormal basis $\{\delta_s\}_{s \in G}$ of $\ell^2(G)$, where $\delta_s$ is the unit vector in $\ell^2(G)$ taking value $1$ at $s$ and $0$ everywhere else. The **von Neumann dimension** of $\ker \alpha$ is

\[
\dim_{\text{VN}} \ker \alpha := \sum_{j=1}^n \langle P_{j,j} \delta_{e_G}, \delta_{e_G} \rangle.
\]

For a gentle introduction to group von Neumann algebras and a definition of the von Neumann dimension in a general context we refer the reader to Sections 1.1.1 to 1.1.3 of [83]. The following lemma is well known. For convenience of the reader, we give a proof here.

**Lemma 4.2.** Let $\alpha \in M_{m,n}(\mathbb{C}G)$. The following hold:

1. $\dim_{\text{VN}} \ker \alpha \in [0, n]$,
2. $\dim_{\text{VN}} \ker \alpha = 0$ if and only if $\ker \alpha = \{0\}$,
3. $\dim_{\text{VN}} \ker \alpha = n$ if and only if $\alpha = 0$.

**Proof.** For each $z \in \ell^2(G)$ and $1 \leq j \leq n$ denote by $z \otimes \delta^j$ the column vector in $M_{n \times 1}(\ell^2(G))$ which is equal to $z$ at the $j$-th row and $0$ everywhere else. Then

\[
\dim_{\text{VN}} \ker \alpha = \sum_{j=1}^n \langle P(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j), \delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j \rangle.
\]

Since $P$ is an orthogonal projection, we have $P^2 = P = P^*$. Thus

\[
\dim_{\text{VN}} \ker \alpha = \sum_{j=1}^n \langle P^2(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j), \delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^n \langle P(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j), P(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j) \rangle \geq 0.
\]

(3)
Denote by $I$ the identity map from $M_{n \times 1}(\ell^2(G))$ to itself. Then $I - P$ is the orthogonal projection from $M_{n \times 1}(\ell^2(G))$ to the orthogonal complement of $\ker a$, and hence $(I - P)^2 = I - P = (I - P)^*$. Thus

$$n - \dim_{vN} \ker a = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \langle (I - P)(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j), \delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \langle (I - P)^2(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j), \delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j \rangle$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{n} \langle (I - P)(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j), \delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j \rangle$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{n} \langle (I - P)(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j), \delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j \rangle$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{n} \langle (I - P)(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j), (I - P)\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j \rangle \geq 0.$$  

This proves $\dim_{vN} \ker a \in [0, n]$.

For each $s \in G$, we have the unitary $\rho_{s^{-1}, n}$ on $M_{n \times 1}(\ell^2(G))$ given by $\rho_{s^{-1}, n} z = z s$. Since the bounded linear operator $T : M_{n \times 1}(\ell^2(G)) \to M_{n \times 1}(\ell^2(G))$ sending $z$ to $a z$ satisfies $T \rho_{s^{-1}, n} = \rho_{s^{-1}, n} T$, we have $\rho_{s^{-1}, n} \ker a = \ker a$, and hence the projections $P$ and $I - P$ commute with $\rho_{s^{-1}, n}$.

If $\ker a = \{0\}$, then $P = 0$, and hence $\dim_{vN} \ker a = 0$. Conversely, assume that $\dim_{vN} \ker a = 0$. From (3) we have $P(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j) = 0$ for all $1 \leq j \leq n$, and hence

$$P(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j) = P(\rho_{s^{-1}, n}(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j) = \rho_{s^{-1}, n} P(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j) = 0$$

for all $s \in G$ and $1 \leq j \leq n$. Since $\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j$ for all $s \in G$ and $1 \leq j \leq n$ is an orthonormal basis of $M_{n \times 1}(\ell^2(G))$, we conclude that $P = 0$. Therefore $\ker a = \{0\}$.

If $a = 0$, then $P = I$, and hence $\dim_{vN} \ker a = n$. Conversely, assume that $\dim_{vN} \ker a = n$. From (4) we have $(I - P)(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j) = 0$ for all $1 \leq j \leq n$, and hence

$$(I - P)(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j) = (I - P)\rho_{s^{-1}, n}(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j) = \rho_{s^{-1}, n}(I - P)(\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j) = 0$$

for all $s \in G$ and $1 \leq j \leq n$. Since $\delta_{e_G} \otimes \delta^j$ for all $s \in G$ and $1 \leq j \leq n$ is an orthonormal basis of $M_{n \times 1}(\ell^2(G))$, we conclude that $I - P = 0$. Then $\ker a = M_{n \times 1}(\ell^2(G))$, and hence $a = 0$. $\Box$

The strong Atiyah conjecture asserts that $\dim_{vN} \ker a$ is in the subgroup of $\mathbb{Q}$ generated by $1/|H|$ for $H$ ranging over all finite subgroups of $G$. We refer the reader to [74, Chapter 10] for information about the strong Atiyah conjecture and related conjectures.

For each locally compact abelian group $Y$, we denote by $\hat{Y}$ its Pontryagin dual. It consists of all continuous group homomorphisms $Y \to \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$, and becomes a locally compact abelian group under pointwise addition and the topology of uniform convergence on compact subsets. Then $\hat{Y}$ is compact metrizable if and only if $\hat{Y}$ is countable discrete.

For a compact metrizable abelian group $X$, there is a natural one-to-one correspondence between algebraic actions of $G$ on $X$ and actions of $G$ on $\hat{X}$ by automorphisms. There is also a natural one-to-one correspondence between the latter and the left $\mathbb{Z}G$-module structure on $\hat{X}$. Thus, up to isomorphism, there is a natural one-to-one correspondence between algebraic actions of $G$ and countable left $\mathbb{Z}G$-modules. We say an algebraic action $G \curvearrowright X$ is finitely generated (finitely presented) resp. if $\hat{X}$ is a finitely generated (finitely presented resp.) left $\mathbb{Z}G$-module. Every expansive algebraic action of $G$ is finitely generated [60, Proposition 2.2 and Corollary 2.16].

Using the $*$-operation it is easy to see that $\mathbb{Z}G$ is left Noetherian if and only if it is right Noetherian. Also note that if a unital ring $R$ is left Noetherian, then every finitely generated left $R$-module is finitely presented [61, Proposition 4.29].

**Theorem 4.3.** Let $G$ be an amenable group. The following results hold:

1. If $\mathbb{Z}G$ is left Noetherian, then every expansive algebraic action of $G$ has the strong TMP.

2. If $G$ satisfies the strong Atiyah conjecture and there is an upper bound on the orders of finite subgroups of $G$, then every finitely presented expansive algebraic action of $G$ has the strong TMP.
If $G$ satisfies the strong Atiyah conjecture and there is an upper bound on the orders of finite subgroups of $G$, then $\{\dim_{\mathbb{N}} \ker a : a \in ZG\}$ is a finite subset of $[0,1]$ and thus every point of this set is isolated. Therefore Theorem 4.3 follows from Lemmas 4.5 and 4.6 below.

For each nonempty $F \in G$, denote by $\mathbb{C}F$ (resp. $\mathbb{Z}F$) the set of $f \in \mathbb{C}G$ ($f \in \mathbb{Z}G$ resp.) with support in $F$. We shall need the following result of Elek in [34] on the analytic zero divisor conjecture.

The result is proven for a finitely generated amenable group and $m = n = 1$, but the arguments work for any countable amenable group and any $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$.

**Lemma 4.4.** Let $G$ be an amenable group, and $a \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{C}G)$ for some $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then the following hold:

1. For any $F \subseteq G$, one has $\dim_{\mathbb{N}} \ker a \geq \dim_{\mathbb{N}} (\ker a \cap M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{C}F))$.
2. If $az = 0$ for some nonzero $z \in M_{m \times 1}(\ell^2(G))$, then $\lambda z = 0$ for some nonzero $\lambda \in M_{m \times 1}(\mathbb{C}G)$.

For amenable groups, in view of Lemmas 4.2 and 4.4, the condition (2) of the following lemma implies that $\dim_{\mathbb{N}} \ker a$ for $a \in ZG$ is equal to 1 or 0 depending on $a = 0$ or not, which in turn implies the condition (3). Nevertheless we give a separate proof for the case (2) since the proof in this case is easier.

**Lemma 4.5.** Let $G$ be an amenable group. Assume that at least one of the following conditions holds:

1. $ZG$ is right Noetherian,
2. $ZG$ is a domain,
3. 1 is an isolated point in $\{\dim_{\mathbb{N}} \ker a : a \in ZG\}$.

Let $f \in M_n(ZG)$ be invertible in $M_n(\ell^1(G))$, and let $g \in M_{m \times 1}(ZG)$. Then there is some $\varepsilon > 0$ such that for any $x \in M_{1 \times n}(ZG)$, if $xf^{-1}g \notin ZG$, then $\|xf^{-1}g - y\|_{\infty} \geq \varepsilon$ for all $y \in ZG$.

**Proof.** Denote by $K$ the union of the supports of $f$ and $g$, which is a nonempty finite subset of $G$.

For each nonempty $F \subseteq G$, denote by $V(F, \mathbb{C})$ (resp. $V(F, \mathbb{C})$) the set of $(h, w) \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{C}F) \times \mathbb{C}F$ satisfying $gw = fh$. Note that $(h, w) \in V(F, \mathbb{C})$ is a finite system of linear equations with coefficients in $\mathbb{C}$. Thus $V(F, \mathbb{C})$ is the subvariety of $V(F, \mathbb{Z})$. Since $f$ is invertible in $M_n(\ell^1(G))$, for any $(h, w) \in V(F, \mathbb{C})$, we have $h = f^{-1}gw$, and hence $h$ is determined by $w$. Denote by $W(F, \mathbb{C})$ the image of $V(F, \mathbb{C})$ under the projection $M_{m \times 1}(\mathbb{C}F) \times \mathbb{C}F \to \mathbb{C}F$ sending $(h, w)$ to $w$. Then $W(F, \mathbb{C})$ is the C-linear span of $W(F, \mathbb{Z})$.

Consider the map $\varphi_F : M_{m \times 1}(\mathbb{C}F) \times \mathbb{C}F \to M_{m \times 1}(\mathbb{C}K)$ sending $(h, w)$ to $fh - gw$. Then $V(F, \mathbb{C})$ is the kernel of $\varphi_F$.

Thus
\[
\dim_{\mathbb{C}} W(F, \mathbb{C}) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} V(F, \mathbb{C}) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \ker(\varphi_F) \\
\geq \dim_{\mathbb{C}} (M_{m \times 1}(\mathbb{C}F) \times \mathbb{C}F) - \dim_{\mathbb{C}} M_{m \times 1}(\mathbb{C}K) \\
= (n+1)|F| - n|KF|.
\]

As $G$ is amenable, there exists a left Følner sequence $\{F_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that $F_k \subseteq F_{k+1}$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} F_k = G$. Then
\[
\liminf_{k \to \infty} \frac{\dim_{\mathbb{C}} W(F_k, \mathbb{C})}{|F_k|} \geq \lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{(n+1)|F_k| - n|KF_k|}{|F_k|} = 1.
\]

Denote by $W(Z)$ (resp. $W(C)$) the union of $W(F, Z)$ (resp. $W(F, C)$) over all nonempty $F \subseteq G$. Then $W(Z)$ contains nonzero elements. Let $W = \{w_1, \ldots, w_m\}$ be a nonempty finite set of nonzero elements in $W(Z)$ which we shall determine later. Take $0 < \varepsilon < \min_{1 \leq j \leq m} \frac{1}{\|w_j\|_1}$. Let $x \in M_{1 \times n}(ZG)$ and $y \in ZG$ with $\|xf^{-1}g - y\|_{\infty} < \varepsilon$. Then
\[
\|xf^{-1}gw_j - w_j\|_{\infty} \leq \|xf^{-1}g - y\|_{\infty}\|w_j\|_1 < \varepsilon\|w_j\|_1 < 1.
\]

Since $w_j \in W(F_k, Z)$, we have $f^{-1}gw_j \in M_{m \times 1}(\mathbb{C}F_k)$, and hence $xf^{-1}gw_j - w_j \in ZG$. Therefore $xf^{-1}gw_j - w_j = 0$. Put $b := xf^{-1}g - y \in \ell^1(G) \subseteq \ell^2(G)$. Then $b(w_1, \ldots, w_m) = 0$, and hence

18
we can find an \( f \) for all \( x, y \in G \), which is a contradiction. Thus \( x^{-1}g = y \in ZG \).

Finally consider the case where 1 is an isolated point in \( V = \{ \dim N \ker z : z \in ZG \} \). Take 0 < \( \delta < 1 \) close to 1 such that \( V \cap [\delta, 1] = \{ 1 \} \). Take \( k \in \mathbb{N} \) such that \( \dim W(F_{n}, C) \geq \delta \). We may take \( W \) to be a basis of \( W(F_{k}, \mathbb{Z}) \). Then \( a_{w} = 0 \) for all \( x \in W(F_{k}, C) \). By Lemma 4.4 we have \( \dim N \ker a \geq \dim W(F_{n}, C) \geq 1 \). From Lemma 4.2 we get \( a = 0 \), which is a contradiction. Thus \( x^{-1}g = y \in ZG \).

For each \( n \in \mathbb{N} \), we write \( M_{1,n}(ZG) \) and \( M_{1,n}((\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{G}) \) as \((ZG)^{n}\) and \((\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{G})^{n}\) respectively. For any finitely generated algebraic action \( G \curvearrowright X \), if we write \( \hat{X} \) as \((ZG)^{n}/J\) for some \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) and some left \( ZG\)-submodule \( J \) of \((ZG)^{n}\), then we may identify \( X \) with
\[
\{ x \in ((\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{G})^{n} : xg^{*} = 0_{(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{G}} \text{ for all } g \in J \}
\]
with the \( G \)-action on \( X \) being the restriction of the left shift action of \( G \) on \((\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{n}\) to \( X \) [35] page 312.

**Lemma 4.6.** Assume that for any \( n \in \mathbb{N} \), any \( f \in M_{n}(ZG) \) which is invertible in \( M_{n}(\ell^{1}(G)) \) and any \( g \in M_{n,1}(ZG) \), there is some \( \varepsilon > 0 \) such that for all \( x \in (ZG)^{n} \), if \( x^{-1}g \notin ZG \), then \( \|x^{-1}g - y\|_{\infty} \geq \varepsilon \) for all \( y \in ZG \).

Then every finitely presented expansive algebraic action of \( G \) has the strong TMP.

**Proof.** Let \( G \curvearrowright X \) be a finitely presented expansive algebraic action of \( G \). Then we can write \( \hat{X} \) as \((ZG)^{n}/(ZG)^{k}g\) for some \( n, k \in \mathbb{N} \) and \( g \in M_{n,k}(ZG) \). Since \( G \curvearrowright X \) is expansive, by [23] Theorem 3.1 we can find \( f \in M_{n}(ZG) \) such that \( f \) is invertible in \( M_{n}(\ell^{1}(G)) \) and the rows of \( f \) are all contained in \((ZG)^{k}g\). Write the rows of \( g \) as \( g_{1}, \ldots, g_{k} \). Then we may identify \( X \) with
\[
\{ x \in ((\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{G})^{n} : xg^{*}_{j} = 0_{(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{G}} \text{ for all } 1 \leq j \leq k \}.
\]
In particular, for each \( x \in X \), we have \( x^{*} = (0_{(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{G}}, \ldots, 0_{(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{G}}) \).

Applying our assumption to \( f^{*} \) and \( g^{*} \) we find an \( \eta > 0 \) such that for any \( x \in (ZG)^{n} \) and \( 1 \leq j \leq k \), if \( f^{(*)}g^{*}_{j} \notin ZG \), then \( \|f^{(*)}g^{*}_{j} - y\|_{\infty} \geq \eta \) for all \( y \in ZG \).

Denote by \( P \) the natural projection \((\mathbb{R}^{n})^{G} \to ((\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{G})^{n} \) modulo \( \mathbb{Z} \). For each bounded function \( u : G \to \mathbb{R}^{n} \), we put \( \|u\|_{\infty} = \sup_{x \in G} \|u_{x}\|_{\infty} \). Set \( \|f\|_{1} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \|f_{i,j}\|_{1} \).

Consider the metric \( \rho \) on \((\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{n}\) given by
\[
\rho(a + \mathbb{Z}^{n}, b + \mathbb{Z}^{n}) = \min_{m \in \mathbb{Z}^{n}} \|a - b - m\|_{\infty}
\]
for all \( a, b \in \mathbb{R}^{n} \). Then we may think of \( \rho \) as a continuous pseudometric on \((\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{n}\) via setting
\[
\rho(x, y) = \rho(x_{eG}, y_{eG})
\]
for all \( x, y \in ((\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{n})^{G} \). This is a dynamically generating continuous pseudometric on \( X \), thus Proposition 3.7 applies.

Let \( \varepsilon > 0 \). Take \( 0 < \tau < \frac{\min(c_{0} \|f\|_{1})}{\|f\|_{1}} \). Take a finite subset \( K_{1} \) of \( G \) containing the support of \( f^{*} \) and \( \{e_{G}\} \). Take a large nonzero finite subset \( K_{2} \) of \( G \) containing \( e_{G} \) such that
\[
\sum_{s \in G \setminus K_{2}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} |((f^{*})^{-1}g^{*})_{i,s}| < \tau \text{ for all } 1 \leq j \leq k, \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{s \in G \setminus K_{2}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} |((f^{*})^{-1}g^{*})_{i,j,s}| < \tau.
\]
Take $0 < \delta < \min(\frac{1}{2\pi}, \frac{\pi}{2})$. Put $F = K_1K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}$, which is a finite subset of $G$ containing $e_G$.

Let $A \subseteq G$ and $x, y \in X$ with $\rho_{F \setminus A}(x, y) \leq \delta$. Put $z = x - y \in X$. There is a unique $\tilde{z} \in (-1/2, 1/2)^G$ satisfying $P(\tilde{z}) = z$. Then

$$\max_{s \in A^{-1}K_1K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1} \setminus A^{-1}K_1} \|\tilde{z}_s\|_{\infty} = \max_{s \in A^{-1}K_1K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1} \setminus A^{-1}A} \|\tilde{z}_{s^{-1}}\|_{\infty} = \max_{s \in F \setminus A} \|\tilde{z}_{s^{-1}}\|_{\infty} = \max_{s \in F \setminus A} \rho(sz, 0_X) = \max_{s \in F \setminus A} \rho(sx, sy) = \rho_{F \setminus A}(x, y) \leq \delta,$$

and hence

$$\max_{s \in A^{-1}K_1K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1} \setminus A^{-1}K_1} \|\tilde{z}f^s\|_{\infty} \leq \max_{s \in A^{-1}K_1K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1} \setminus A^{-1}K_1} \|\tilde{z}\|_{\infty} \|f^s\|_1 \leq \delta \|f\|_1 < 1.$$

Since $zf^s = (0_{(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n}, \ldots, 0_{(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n})$, we have $\tilde{z}f^s \in (\mathbb{Z}^n)^G$. Therefore $(\tilde{z}f^s)_s = 0_{\mathbb{R}^n}$ for all $s \in A^{-1}K_1K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1} \setminus A^{-1}K_1$. We also have

$$\|\tilde{z}f^s\|_{\infty} \leq \|\tilde{z}\|_{\infty} \|f^s\|_1 \leq \frac{\|f\|_1}{2}.$$ 

Define $u' \in (ZG)^n$ by $u'_s = (\tilde{z}f^s)_s$ for all $s \in A^{-1}K_1$ and $u'_s = 0_{\mathbb{R}^n}$ for all $s \in G \setminus A^{-1}K_1$. Also put $v' = \tilde{z}f^s - u'$. Then the supports of $u'$ and $v'$ are contained in $A^{-1}K_1$ and $G \setminus A^{-1}K_1K_2^{-1}$ respectively. Note that

$$\max(\|u'\|_{\infty}, \|v'\|_{\infty}) = \|\tilde{z}f^s\|_{\infty} \leq \frac{\|f\|_1}{2}.$$ 

Let $1 \leq j \leq k$. Then

$$\sup_{s \not\in G \setminus A^{-1}K_1K_2} |(u'(f^s)^{-1}g^*_j)_s| \leq \|u'\|_{\infty} \left( \sum_{s \in G \setminus K_2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |((f^s)^{-1}g^*_j)_i| \right) \right) \leq \frac{\|f\|_1}{2} < \eta,$$

and

$$\max_{s \not\in A^{-1}K_1K_2} |(v'(f^s)^{-1}g^*_j)_s| \leq \|v'\|_{\infty} \left( \sum_{s \not\in G \setminus K_2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |((f^s)^{-1}g^*_j)_i| \right) \right) \leq \frac{\|f\|_1}{2} < \eta.$$ 

Since $z \in X$, we have $zg^*_j = 0_{(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n}$, and hence $u'(f^s)^{-1}g^*_j + v'(f^s)^{-1}g^*_j = \tilde{z}g^*_j \in Z^G$. It follows that $\|u'(f^s)^{-1}g^*_j - u_j\|_\infty < \eta$ for some $u_j \in ZG$, and hence $u'(f^s)^{-1}g^*_j \in ZG$ by our choice of $\eta$.

Put $u = P(u'(f)^{-1}) \in ((\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^G)^n$ and $v = P(v'(f)^{-1}) \in ((\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^G)^n$. Note that $u + v = z = x - y$. For each $1 \leq j \leq k$, since $u'(f^s)^{-1}g^*_j \in ZG$, we have $ug^*_j = 0_{(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n}$. Thus $u \in X$. We have

$$\sup_{s \not\in G \setminus A^{-1}K_1K_2} \rho(u_s, 0_{(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n}) \leq \sup_{s \not\in A^{-1}K_1K_2} \|u'(f)^{-1}_s\|_\infty \leq \|u'\|_{\infty} \left( \sum_{s \not\in G \setminus K_2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |((f)^{-1})_{i,s}| \right) \right) \leq \frac{\|f\|_1}{2} < \frac{\varepsilon}{2},$$

and similarly

$$\max_{s \not\in A^{-1}K_1K_2} \rho(u_s, 0_{(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n}) \leq \max_{s \not\in A^{-1}K_1K_2} \|v'(f)^{-1}_s\|_\infty \leq \|v'\|_{\infty} \left( \sum_{s \not\in G \setminus K_2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |((f)^{-1})_{i,s}| \right) \right) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}.$$ 

Then

$$\rho_{G \setminus K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}A}(u + y, y) = \sup_{s \not\in G \setminus A^{-1}K_1K_2} \rho(u + y)_s, y_s) = \sup_{s \not\in A^{-1}K_1K_2} \rho(u_s, 0_{(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^n}) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}.$$
and
\[ \rho_{K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}\cdot A}(u + y, x) = \max_{s \in A^{-1}K_1K_2} \rho((u + y)s, x_s) = \max_{s \in A^{-1}K_1K_2} \rho((x - v)s, x_s) = \max_{s \in A^{-1}K_1K_2} \rho(v_s, 0_{\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}^n}) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}. \]

Now we have
\[ \rho_{K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}\cdot A}(u + y, y) \leq \rho_{K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}\cdot A}(u + y, x) + \rho_{K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}\cdot A}(x, y) \leq \rho_{K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}\cdot A}(u + y, x) + \rho_{FA\setminus A}(x, y) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \delta < \varepsilon, \]
and
\[ \rho_{FA\setminus K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}\cdot A}(u + y, y) \leq \rho_{FA\setminus K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}\cdot A}(u + y, x) + \rho_{FA\setminus K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}\cdot A}(x, y) \leq \rho_{G\setminus K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}\cdot A}(u + y, y) + \rho_{FA\setminus A}(y, x) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \delta < \varepsilon. \]

Finally,
\[ \rho_{G\setminus A}(u + y, y) = \max(\rho_{G\setminus K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}\cdot A}(u + y, y), \rho_{K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}\cdot A}(u + y, y)) < \varepsilon, \]
and
\[ \rho_{FA}(u + y, x) = \max(\rho_{K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}\cdot A}(u + y, x), \rho_{FA\setminus K_2^{-1}K_1^{-1}\cdot A}(u + y, x)) < \varepsilon. \]

From Proposition 5.2, we conclude that \( G \acts X \) has the strong TMP.

\[ \Box \]

## 5 Markovian properties of minimal actions

In this section we prove Theorem 5.1, which characterizes the TMP for minimal expansive actions. We say \( G \acts X \) is minimal if every closed \( G \)-invariant subset of \( X \) is either equal to \( X \) or empty.

**Theorem 5.1.** Let \( G \acts X \) be a minimal expansive action. Then \( G \acts X \) has the TMP if and only if it has no off-diagonal asymptotic pairs.

Theorem 5.1 follows from Theorem 5.13 and Propositions 5.3 and 5.4 below.

The following result is [26, Lemma 6.2], and also follows from the part (3) of Lemma 5.14.

**Lemma 5.2.** Let \( G \acts X \) be an expansive action with an expansivity constant \( c > 0 \). Then \( A_2^c(X, G) = A_2(X, G) \).

**Proposition 5.3.** If \( G \acts X \) is expansive and has no off-diagonal asymptotic pairs, then \( G \acts X \) has the TMP.

**Proof.** Let \( c > 0 \) be an expansivity constant for \( G \acts X \). If \( G \acts X \) does not have the TMP then there exists \( \varepsilon > 0 \) such that for every \( \delta > 0 \) there is \( A \subseteq G \) such that for every \( B \subseteq G \) which contains \( A \) there exist \( x, y \in X \) such that \( d_B(x, y) < \delta \) but for every \( z \in X \) we have that either \( d_B(x, z) > \varepsilon \) or \( d_{G\setminus A}(y, z) > \varepsilon \). Choose \( \delta < \min(c, \varepsilon) \) and consider an increasing sequence \( \{B_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \) of finite subsets of \( G \) such that \( \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} B_n = G \) and \( B_n \supseteq A \) and let \((x_n, y_n)\) be a pair for which \( d_{B_n\setminus A}(x_n, y_n) \leq \delta \) but for every \( z \in X \) we have that either \( d_{B_n}(x_n, z) > \varepsilon \) or \( d_{G\setminus A}(y_n, z) > \varepsilon \). By compactness of \( X \times X \), we may extract an accumulation point \((\bar{x}, \bar{y})\) of \( \{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \).

From the choice of \( B_n \) and \((x_n, y_n)\) it follows that for every \( g \notin A \) we get that \( d(\bar{g}\bar{x}, \bar{g}\bar{y}) \leq \delta \) and hence by the choice \( \delta < c \) and Lemma 5.2 we have that \((\bar{x}, \bar{y})\) is an asymptotic pair. If \( \bar{x} = \bar{y} \) then for every \( \varepsilon' > 0 \) there would be \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) such that \( d_A(x_n, y_n) < \varepsilon' \). Taking \( \varepsilon' < \delta \) yields a contradiction because \( z = y_n \) would satisfy that \( d_{B_n}(x_n, z) \leq \varepsilon \) and \( d_{G\setminus A}(y_n, z) \leq \varepsilon \). Therefore \((\bar{x}, \bar{y})\) is an off-diagonal asymptotic pair.

Salo [39] communicated to us a proof that minimal actions of finitely generated groups on subshifts do not have exchangeable patterns. We use some of his ideas to prove the following generalization of his result.

**Proposition 5.4.** Assume that \( G \acts X \) has only finitely many minimal closed \( G \)-invariant subsets and has the uniform TMP. Then \( X \) has no off-diagonal asymptotic pairs \((x_1, x_2)\) with \( \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}^n \) minimal.
Proof. List the minimal closed $G$-invariant subsets of $X$ as $Y_1, \ldots, Y_N$. Take a point $\omega_j \in Y_j$ for each $1 \leq j \leq N$. Put $\Omega = \{\omega_1, \ldots, \omega_N\}$. Assume that $X$ has an off-diagonal asymptotic pair $(x_1, x_2)$ such that $G\{x_1\}$ is minimal. Take $0 < \varepsilon < \frac{1}{4}d(x_1, x_2)$.

Since $G \cap X$ has the uniform TMP, there is some $\tau > 0$ such that for any $A \in G$ there is some $B \in G$ containing $A$ such that for any $B$-separated $V \in G$ and any $x_0 \in X$ for $v \in V$ and $y \in X$ satisfying $d(Bu(A)v, x_0, y) \leq \tau$ for all $v \in V$, there is some $z \in X$ such that $d_B(z, x_0) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$ for all $v \in V$ and $d_{G\setminus AV}(z, y) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$.

Since $(x_1, x_2)$ is asymptotic, there is some $A \in G$ containing $c_0$ such that $d_G(x_1, x_2) < \frac{\tau}{2}$. Then we have $B$ as above for $A$. Take $0 < \theta < \frac{\tau}{4}$ such that for any $x, y \in X$ with $d(x, y) \leq \theta$, one has $d_{B\setminus A}(x, y) < \frac{\tau}{4}$. Since $G\{x_1\}$ is minimal, there is some $K' \in G$ containing $c_0$ such that for any $y \in G\{x_1\}$ one has $\min_{\omega \in K'} d(x_1, \omega) < \theta$. Put $K_1 = BK' \in G$. Then $K_1 \supset B$.

Since $G$ is infinite, we can take a $K_1$-separated $W_2 \in G$ with $2|W_2| > N|K_1|^4|W_2|^4$. Put $K_2 = K_1W_2 \in G$. Then $\|K_2\| = |K_1| \cdot |W_2|$ and $K_2 \supset W_2$. Put $K_3 = K_2^{-1}K_2 \in G$.

Denote by $U$ the union of the open $d_{K_1}^{-1}K_2$-balls of radius $\varepsilon$ around each $\omega \in \Omega$. Then $GU \supset \bigcup_{j=1}^N Y_j$. If $GU \neq X$, then $X \setminus GU$ contains a minimal closed $G$-invariant subset, which is impossible. Thus $GU = X$. Since $X$ is compact, this means that there is some $K_4 \in G$ with $K_4^{-1}U = X$, i.e. for any $y \in X$ one has $\min_{\omega \in K_4} d_{K_4^{-1}K_4}(\omega, y) < \varepsilon$. Take a maximal $K_2$-separated subset $W_4$ of $K_4$.

Then

$$K_2^{-1}K_2W_4 \supset K_4.$$ (5)

Since $W_4$ is $K_2$-separated and $K_2 \supset W_2$, we know that $W_4$ is $W_2$-separated.

We claim that $W_2W_4$ is $K_1$-separated. Let $\gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in W_2W_4$ with $K_1\gamma_1 \cap K_1\gamma_2 \neq \emptyset$. Say, $\gamma_j = h_js_j$ with $h_j \in W_2$, $s_j \in W_4$ for $j = 1, 2$. From

$$K_2s_1 \cap K_2s_2 = K_1W_2s_1 \cap K_1W_2s_2 \supset K_1\gamma_1 \cap K_1\gamma_2$$

we know that $K_2s_1 \cap K_2s_2 \neq \emptyset$, and hence $s_1 = s_2$. Then $K_1h_1 \cap K_1h_2 \neq \emptyset$, and consequently $h_1 = h_2$. Therefore $\gamma_1 = \gamma_2$. This proves our claim.

Fix $y_1 \in G\{x_1\}$. For each $\gamma \in W_2W_4$, by our choice of $K_4$ we can find some $g_\gamma \in K_4$ with $d(x_1, g_\gamma y_1) < \theta$. Put $V' = \{g_\gamma : \gamma \in W_2W_4\} \in G$. For any $\gamma, \gamma' \in W_2W_4$, if $B_{\gamma} \cap B_{\gamma'} \neq \emptyset$, then using that $W_2W_4$ is $K_1$-separated we get $\gamma = \gamma'$. Thus $V'$ is $B$-separated, and the map $W_2W_4 \to V'$ sending $\gamma$ to $g_\gamma$ is a bijection.

Let $s \in W_4$. Denote by $C_s$ the set of $t \in G$ satisfying $K_3t \supset K_2s$. For each $t \in C_s$ one has $t \in K_3^{-1}K_2s$, and hence

$$|C_s| \leq |K_3^{-1}K_2| \leq |K_2|^4 \leq |K_1|^4|W_2|^4 < \frac{1}{N}|2|W_2|.|$$

Note that for any distinct maps $\varphi, \varphi' : (W_2)s \to \{1, 2\}$, one has $\max_{\gamma \in (W_2)s} d(x_{\varphi(\gamma)}, x_{\varphi'(\gamma)}) > 5\varepsilon$. Thus for each $t \in C_s$ and $\omega \in \Omega$, there is at most one map $\varphi : (W_2)s \to \{1, 2\}$ which satisfies that $\max_{\gamma \in (W_2)s} d(g_\gamma \varphi^{-1}(\omega), x_{\varphi(\gamma)}) < 2\varepsilon$. Since $N|C_s| < 2|W_2|$, we can find some map $\varphi : (W_2)s \to \{1, 2\}$ such that for every $t \in C_s$ and $\omega \in \Omega$ one has

$$\max_{\gamma \in (W_2)s} d(g_\gamma \varphi^{-1}(\omega), x_{\varphi(\gamma)}) \geq 2\varepsilon.$$ (6)

Since $W_4$ is $W_2$-separated, $W_2W_4$ is the disjoint union of $(W_2)s$ for $s \in W_4$. Then we can define a map $\varphi : W_2W_4 \to \{1, 2\}$ by taking $\varphi$ to be $\varphi_s$ on $(W_2)s$ for all $s \in W_4$. Put $V = \{g_\gamma : \gamma \in \varphi^{-1}(2)\} \subset V'$. Then $V$ is $B$-separated. For each $\gamma \in \varphi^{-1}(2)$, putting $x_{\varphi(\gamma)} = (g_\gamma)^{-1}x_2$ and using $d(x_1, g_\gamma y_1) < \theta$ we have

$$d(u, x_{\varphi(\gamma)}, y_1) = d(u(g_\gamma)^{-1}x_2, u(g_\gamma)^{-1}(g_\gamma y_1))$$

$$\leq d(u(g_\gamma)^{-1}x_2, u(g_\gamma)^{-1}x_1) + d(u(g_\gamma)^{-1}x_1, u(g_\gamma)^{-1}(g_\gamma y_1))$$

$$\leq \frac{\tau}{2} + \frac{\tau}{2} = \tau$$

for all $u \in (B \setminus A)g_\gamma$. Thus there is some $z \in X$ satisfying $d_{B\gamma}(z, x_{\varphi(\gamma)}) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$ for all $\gamma \in \varphi^{-1}(2)$ and $d_{G\setminus AV}(z, y_1) \leq \frac{\tau}{2}$. 

22
By our choice of $K_4$, there are some $t \in K_4$ and $\omega \in \Omega$ with $d_{K_1K_3}(\omega, tz) < \varepsilon$. From (5) we have $t \in K_2^{-1}K_2s$ for some $s \in W_4$. Then $s \in K_2^{-1}K_2t$, and hence $K_2s \subset K_3t$. Thus $t \in C_s$, and
\[
\max_{\gamma \in (W_2)s} d(g_{\gamma}t^{-1}\omega, g_{\gamma}\gamma z) \leq d_{K_1(W_2)s}(t^{-1}\omega, z) \\
\leq d_{K_1K_2s}(t^{-1}\omega, z) \\
\leq d_{K_1K_3}(t^{-1}\omega, z) \\
= d_{K_1K_3}(\omega, tz) < \varepsilon.
\]

From (6) we can find some $\gamma \in (W_2)s$ with $d(g_{\gamma}t^{-1}\omega, x_{\varphi_s(\gamma)}) \geq 2\varepsilon$. Then
\[
d(x_{\varphi_s(\gamma)}, g_{\gamma}\gamma z) \geq d(g_{\gamma}t^{-1}\omega, x_{\varphi_s(\gamma)}) - d(g_{\gamma}t^{-1}\omega, g_{\gamma}\gamma z) > 2\varepsilon - \varepsilon = \varepsilon.
\]

Now we have $\varphi_s(\gamma) = 1$ or 2. Consider first the case $\varphi_s(\gamma) = 2$. We have $d(g_{\gamma}\gamma z, x_2) = d(g_{\gamma}\gamma z, g_{\gamma}x_{\gamma}\gamma) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$, contradicting (7). Next consider the case $\varphi_s(\gamma) = 1$. We have $g_{\gamma}\gamma \in V \setminus V \subset G \setminus AV$. Then $d(g_{\gamma}\gamma z, g_{\gamma}\gamma y_1) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$. Therefore
\[
d(x_1, g_{\gamma}\gamma z) \leq d(x_1, g_{\gamma}\gamma y_1) + d(g_{\gamma}\gamma y_1, g_{\gamma}\gamma z) < \theta + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} < \varepsilon,
\]
again contradicting (7). Thus $X$ has no off-diagonal asymptotic pairs $(x_1, x_2)$ with $Gx_1$ minimal. \qed

6 Topological entropy and asymptotic pairs

In this section we will explore the consequences of having Markovian properties on the relation between asymptotic pair and independence entropy pairs.

6.1 From asymptotic pairs to independence entropy pairs

In this subsection we shall give conditions under which the existence of an off-diagonal asymptotic pair gives rise to IE-pairs. We provide a result for orbit IE-pairs which applies to all groups (Theorem 6.1), and a result for $\Sigma$-IE-pairs which applies to sofic groups (Theorem 6.3).

**Theorem 6.1.** Let $G \acts X$ be an expansive action with the TMP. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $(x_1, \ldots, x_k, x_{k+1}) \in X^{k+1}$ such that $(x_1, \ldots, x_k) \in \IE_k(X, G)$ and $(x_k, x_{k+1})$ is an asymptotic pair. Then $(x_1, \ldots, x_k, x_{k+1}) \in \IE_{k+1}(X, G)$.

Theorem 6.1 follows from Theorem 5.12 and Proposition 6.3 below.

Whenever $G$ is amenable, we have $x \in \IE_1(X, G)$ if and only if $x$ is in the the support of an invariant Borel probability measure, see [58] Lemma 12.6. For a non-amenable group $G$ every element in the support of some $G$-invariant Borel probability measure is in $\IE_1(X, G)$ but the converse may not hold, see Theorem 2.4.

A direct application of Theorems 6.1 and 2.4 yields the following result.

**Corollary 6.2.** Let $G \acts X$ be an expansive action with the TMP.

1. Suppose that $(x, y) \in A_2(X, G) \setminus A_2(X)$ and $x \in \IE_1(X, G)$, then $(x, y) \in \IE_2(X, G)$. In particular we have $h_{\top}^\text{top}(G \acts X) > 0$.

2. If $\IE_1(X, G) = X$ and $\bar{h}_2(X, G) = X^2$, then $G \acts X$ has naive UPE of all orders.

For $x \in X$ and $\delta > 0$, denote by $B_\delta(x) = \{y \in X : d(y, x) < \delta\}$ the open ball of radius $\delta$ centered at $x$.

**Proposition 6.3.** Suppose that $G \acts X$ has the uniform TMP. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $(x_1, \ldots, x_k, x_{k+1}) \in X^{k+1}$ such that $(x_k, x_{k+1})$ is an asymptotic pair. Then $(x_1, \ldots, x_k) \in \IE_k(X, G)$ if and only if $(x_1, \ldots, x_{k}, x_{k+1}) \in \IE_{k+1}(X, G)$. 

23
Proof. The “if” part is trivial. We shall prove the “only if” part. Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Then there is some $\tau > 0$ such that for any $A \in G$ there is some $B' \in G$ containing $A$ such that for any $B'$-separated $V \in G$ and any $x_v \in X$ for $v \in V$ and $y \in X$ satisfying $d_{B' \setminus AV}(x_v, y) \leq \tau$ for all $v \in V$, there is some $z \in X$ such that $d_{B' \setminus V}(z, x_v) \leq \sqrt[2]{\varepsilon}$ for all $v \in V$ and $d_{B' \setminus AV}(z, y) \leq \sqrt[2]{\varepsilon}$.

Since $(x_k, x_{k+1})$ is an asymptotic pair, there is some $A \in G$ containing $e_0$ such that $d_{G \setminus A}(x_k, x_{k+1}) < \sqrt[2]{\varepsilon}$. Then we have $B' \setminus A$ as above. Take $0 < \delta < \sqrt[2]{\varepsilon}$ such that for any $x, y \in X$ with $d(x, y) \leq \delta$ one has $d_{B' \setminus A}(x, y) < \varepsilon$. Since $(x_1, \ldots, x_k) \in \mathcal{I}_E(X, G)$, the tuple $(B_0(x_1), \ldots, B_0(x_k))$ has independence density $\rho > 0$.

Let $F \subset G$. Then there is some $F' \subset F$ with $|F'| \geq q|F|$ such that $F'$ is an independence set for $(B_0(x_1), \ldots, B_0(x_k))$. Take a maximal $B'$-separated subset $J$ of $F'$. Then $B'^{-1} B' J \supset F'$ and hence

$$|J| \geq \frac{|F'|}{|B'|^2} \geq \frac{q|F|}{|B'|^2}.$$ 

We claim that $J$ is an independence set for $(B_0(x_1), \ldots, B_0(x_k), B_0(x_{k+1}))$. Consider an arbitrary map $f: J \to \{1, \ldots, k+1\}$ and put $V = f^{-1}(k+1)$, which is $B'$-separated. Define $g: J \to \{1, \ldots, k\}$ by $g = f \setminus V$ and $g = k$ on $V$. Then there is some $y \in \bigcap_{E \in J} s^{-1} B_0(x_{g(E)})$. Put $x_v = v^{-1} x_{k+1}$ for each $v \in V$. For any $v \in V$ we have $d(x_v, y) \leq \delta$, and hence for $s \in (B \setminus A)v$,

$$d(s x_v, s y) = d(s v^{-1} x_{k+1}, s v^{-1}(s y)) \leq d(s v^{-1} x_{k+1}, s v^{-1}(x_v)) + d(s v^{-1} x_v, s v^{-1}(vy)) < \frac{\tau}{2} + \frac{\tau}{2} = \tau.$$ 

Thus there is some $z \in X$ such that $d_{B' \setminus V}(z, x_v) < \varepsilon$ for all $v \in V$ and $d_{G \setminus AV}(z, y) < \varepsilon$. For any $v \in f^{-1}(k+1) = V$, we have $d(v z, x_{k+1}) = d(v z, v x_v)$ for any $v \in J \setminus V$, we have

$$d(v z, x_{f(v)}) \leq d(v z, y) + d(y, x_{f(v)}) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \delta < \varepsilon.$$ 

Therefore $z \in \bigcap_{E \in J} s^{-1} B_0(x_{g(E)})$. This proves our claim.

Now we conclude that $(B_0(x_1), \ldots, B_0(x_k), B_0(x_{k+1}))$ has independence density at least $\frac{q}{|B'|^2}$. Therefore $(x_1, \ldots, x_k, x_{k+1}) \in \mathcal{I}_E(X, G)$.

Next we shall prove Theorem 6.3, which is the analogue of Theorem 6.1 for sofic topological entropy.

**Theorem 6.4.** Let $G$ be a sofic group and $\Sigma$ a sofic approximation sequence for $G$. Suppose that $G \acts X$ is expansive and has the TMP. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $(x_1, \ldots, x_k, x_{k+1}) \in X^{k+1}$ such that $(x_1, \ldots, x_k) \in \mathcal{I}_E^\infty(X, G)$ and $(x_k, x_{k+1})$ is an asymptotic pair. Then $(x_1, \ldots, x_k, x_{k+1}) \in \mathcal{I}_E^{\infty}(X, G)$.

A direct consequence of Theorems 2.10 and 4.4 yields the following.

**Corollary 6.5.** Let $G$ be a sofic group, $\Sigma$ a sofic approximation sequence for $G$, and $G \acts X$ an expansive action with the TMP.

1. Suppose that $(x, y) \in A_2(X, G) \setminus \triangle_2(X)$ and $x \in \mathcal{I}_E^\infty(X, G)$, then $(x, y) \in \mathcal{I}_E^\infty(X, G)$. In particular we have $\mathcal{I}_E^\infty(G \acts X) > 0$.

2. If $\mathcal{I}_E^\infty(X, G) = X$ and $\mathcal{I}_E^\infty(G \acts X) = X^2$, then $G \acts X$ has sofic UPE of all orders.

**Example 6.6.** Let $G$ be a sofic group, $F \subset G$ which does not contain $e_G$, and $\Sigma$ a sofic approximation sequence for $G$. The $F$-hard-square model of $G$ is the subshift $X_{\text{hard},F} \subset \{0, 1\}^G$ consisting of all $x \in \{0, 1\}^G$ for which $x^{-1}(1)$ is an independence set in the right Cayley graph of $G$ given by $F$, that is

$$X_{\text{hard},F} = \{ x \in \{0, 1\}^G : \text{ for every } g \in G \text{ and } s \in F, x(g)x(g s) = 0 \}.$$ 

$X_{\text{hard},F}$ is a subshift of finite type, and therefore has the POTP and thus the TMP by Proposition 5.10. It is easy to see that any point which is asymptotic to $0^G$ is in $\mathcal{I}_E^\infty(X_{\text{hard},F}, G)$ and hence $\mathcal{I}_E^\infty(X_{\text{hard},F}, G) = X_{\text{hard},F}$, moreover, $\mathcal{I}_E^\infty(X_{\text{hard},F}, G) = (X_{\text{hard},F})^2$. By Corollary 6.3 we obtain that $G \acts X_{\text{hard},F}$ has sofic UPE of all orders for every sofic approximation sequence. Although this result is not very surprising, as far as we now, this is the first proof of (uniform) positive topological sofic entropy of hard-square models on sofic groups.
To prove Theorem 6.4 we need to make some preparations. The following is a result of Karpovsky and Milman [51]. See also [58, Lemma 12.14].

**Lemma 6.7.** Let \( k \geq 2 \) and \( \lambda > 1 \). Then there is a \( c > 0 \) such that for every \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) and \( S \subset \{1, 2, \ldots, k\}^{[1,\ldots,n]} \) with \( |S| \geq ((k-1)\lambda)^n \) there is an \( I \subset \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \) satisfying \(|I| \geq cn\) and \(|S| \cup \{1, 2, \ldots, k\} \).

**Lemma 6.8.** Let \( G \) be a sofic group and \( \Sigma = \{\sigma_i : G \to \text{Sym}(n_i)\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \) a sofic approximation sequence for \( G \). Let \( G \curvearrowright X \) be an action and \( \mathbf{A} = (A_1, \ldots, A_k) \) a tuple of subsets of \( X \). Then \( \mathbf{A} \) has positive upper independence density over \( \Sigma \) if and only if there exists \( q > 0 \) such that for every \( F \in G \) and \( \delta > 0 \) there exists an infinite set of \( i \) for which there is a set \( J_i \subset \{1, \ldots, n_i\} \) so that \( |J_i| \geq qn_i \) and for every map \( \omega : J_i \to \{1, \ldots, k\} \) there is some \( \varphi \in \text{Map}(d, F, \delta, \sigma_i) \) satisfying \( \varphi(a) \in A_{\omega(a)} \) for all \( a \in J_i \) and \( d(s_{\varphi}(a), \varphi(\sigma_i(s)(a))) \leq \delta \) for all \( a \in J_i \) and \( s \in F \).

**Proof.** The “if” part is trivial.

Assume that \( \mathbf{A} \) has positive upper independence density over \( \Sigma \). Then there exists \( q > 0 \) such that for every \( F \in G \) and \( \delta > 0 \) there is an infinite set \( I_F,\delta \) of \( i \) for which \( \mathbf{A} \) has a \( (d, F, \delta, \sigma_i) \)-independence set \( J_i \subset \{1, \ldots, n_i\} \) of cardinality at least \( qn_i \).

Consider the case \( k \geq 2 \). Take \( \eta > 0 \) small such that \( k^{1-\eta} > k-1 \). Put \( \lambda = k^{1-\eta}/(k-1) > 1 \). Then we have \( c > 0 \) given by Lemma 6.7 for \( k \) and \( \lambda \). From Stirling’s approximation formula (see Example 58 [Lemma 10.1]) it is easy to see that there is some \( \tau > 0 \) depending only on \( k^{\eta} \) such that \( \sum_{0 < j < \tau^n} \binom{n}{j} \leq k^{\eta n} \) for all \( n \in \mathbb{N} \). Put \( \tau = \min(\tau, \epsilon q/2) > 0 \).

In the case \( k = 1 \), we put \( \tau = q/2 \).

Let \( F \in G \) and \( \delta > 0 \). Put \( \delta' = \left(\frac{\epsilon q}{|\Omega|}\right)^{1/\delta} > 0 \).

Let \( i \in I_{F,\delta} \). Then \( \mathbf{A} \) has a \( (d, F, \delta, \sigma_i) \)-independence set \( J_i \subset \{1, \ldots, n_i\} \) of cardinality at least \( qn_i \). For each \( \omega : J_i \to \{1, 2, \ldots, k\} \), take \( \varphi_\omega \in \text{Map}(d, F, \delta', \sigma_i) \) such that \( \varphi_\omega(a) \in A_{\omega(a)} \) for all \( a \in J_i \). Denote by \( W_{\omega} \) the set of all \( a \in \{1, \ldots, n_i\} \) satisfying \( d(s_{\varphi_\omega}(a), \varphi_\omega(\sigma_i(s)(a))) \leq \delta \) for all \( s \in F \). Since \( \varphi_\omega \in \text{Map}(d, F, \delta', \sigma_i) \), we have \( |W_\omega|/n_i \geq 1-\tau \). In the case \( k = 1 \), there is only one \( \omega \) and setting \( J' = J_i \cap W_{\omega} \) we have \( |J'|/n_i \geq q/2 \). Thus we may assume \( k \geq 2 \). From our choice of \( \tau \), we get that the number of choices for \( W_{\omega} \) is at most \( k^{\eta n} \). Thus there is a set \( \Omega \subset \{1, 2, \ldots, k\} \) such that \( W_{\omega} \) is the same for all \( \omega \in \Omega \), while we denote by \( W \), and

\[
|\Omega| \geq k^{-1}|k^{\eta n}|, \quad k^{1-|J'|/|J_i|} = k^{1-\eta}|J_i| = ((k-1)\lambda)^{|J_i|}.
\]

By our choice of \( c \), we find a \( J'' \subset J \) such that \( |J''| \geq c|J_i| \) and \( \Omega|J'' = \{1, 2, \ldots, k\} \). Put \( J'' = J_i \cap W \).

Then

\[
|J''|/n_i \geq |J'|/n_i - (1 - |W|)/n_i \geq \epsilon \tau - \tau \geq \epsilon q/2.
\]

Let \( g : J'' \to \{1, 2, \ldots, k\} \) be an arbitrary map. Take a \( \omega \in \Omega \) such that \( \omega|J'' = g \). Then \( \varphi_\omega \in \text{Map}(d, F, \delta', \sigma_i) \subset \text{Map}(d, F, \delta, \sigma_i) \), \( \varphi_\omega(a) \in A_{\omega(a)} \) for all \( a \in J'' \), and for any \( a \in J'' \) and \( s \in F \) we have \( a \in W = W_{\omega} \), whence \( d(s_{\varphi_\omega}(a), \varphi_\omega(\sigma_i(s)(a))) \leq \delta \). This proves the “only if” part.

We are ready to prove Theorem 6.4.

**Proof of Theorem 6.4.** Let \( c > 0 \) be an expansivity constant for \( G \curvearrowright X \). Say, \( \Sigma = \{\sigma_i : G \to \text{Sym}(n_i)\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \).

Let \( 0 < \epsilon < \epsilon \) \( \frac{1}{2} \). It suffices to show that the tuple \((B_\epsilon(x_1), \ldots, B_\epsilon(x_k), B_\epsilon(x_{k+1}))\) has positive upper independence density over \( \Sigma \). By Theorem 3.13 we have that \( G \curvearrowright X \) satisfies the uniform TMP and thus there is some \( \tau > 0 \) such that for any \( A \subset G \) there is some \( B' \subset G \) containing \( A \) such that for any \( B' \)-separated \( V \subset G \) and any \( x_\epsilon \in X \) for \( x_\epsilon \in V \) and \( y \in X \) satisfying \( d_{(B')\setminus\{y\}}(x_\epsilon, y) \leq \tau \) for all \( v \in V \), there is some \( z \in X \) such that \( d_{(B')\setminus\{y\}}(z, x_\epsilon) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{4} \) for all \( v \in V \) and \( d_{G \setminus \{y\}}(z, y) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{4} \).

Since \((x_k, x_{k+1})\) is asymptotic, there is some \( A \subset G \) containing \( c_\epsilon \) such that \( d_{G \setminus A}(x_k, x_{k+1}) < \frac{\epsilon}{4} \). Then we have \( B' \) for \( A \) as above. Take \( 0 < \theta < \epsilon \) \( \frac{1}{2} \) such that for any \( x, y \in X \) with \( d(x, y) \leq 2 \theta \) one has \( d_{(B')\setminus\{y\}}(x, y) < \frac{\epsilon}{4} \).

Since \((x_1, \ldots, x_k) \in \mathcal{P}^2_{\mathbb{Z}}(X, G)\), the tuple \((B_\theta(x_1), \ldots, B_\theta(x_k))\) has positive upper independence density over \( \Sigma \). By Lemma 6.8 there is some \( q > 0 \) such that for every \( F \in G \) and \( \delta > 0 \) there is an infinite set \( I_{F,\delta} \) of \( i \) for which there is a set \( W_{F,\delta} \subset \{1, \ldots, n_i\} \) so that \( |W_{F,\delta}| > qn_i \) and for every map \( \omega : W_{F,\delta} \to \{1, \ldots, k\} \) there is a \( \varphi \in \text{Map}(d, F, \delta, \sigma_i) \) satisfying \( \varphi(a) \in B_\theta(\omega(a)) \) for all \( a \in W_{F,\delta} \) and \( d(s_{\varphi}(a), \varphi(\sigma_i(s)(a))) \leq \delta \) for all \( a \in W_{F,\delta} \) and \( s \in F \).
Let $F \subseteq G$ and $\delta > 0$. By Lemma 3.12 there is some $K_1 \subseteq G$ such that for any $x, y \in X$, if $d_{K_1}(x, y) \leq \frac{\eta}{4}$, then $d(x, y) < \frac{\eta}{2}$. Take $0 < \kappa \leq \theta$ such that for any $x, y \in X$ with $d(x, y) \leq \kappa$, one has $d_{K_1}(x, y) < \frac{\eta}{2}$.

Put $K = B' \cup F \cup A^{-1}K_1 \cup A^{-1}K_1F \subseteq G$. Take $0 < \eta < \frac{\delta}{2}$ such that $4\eta \text{diam}(X, d)^2 \leq (\frac{\delta}{2})^2$. Put $\delta' = \kappa\sqrt{\eta|K|} > 0$. Let $i \in I_{K,\delta'}$ be sufficiently large so that $|W_i| \geq (1 - \eta)n_i$ for

$$W_i = \{a \in \{1, \ldots, n_i\} : \sigma_i(a) \neq \sigma_i(t)a \text{ for all distinct } s, t, \in K, \text{ and } \sigma_i(s)\sigma_i(t)a = \sigma_i(st)a \text{ for all } s, t \in K\}.$$ 

Take a maximal subset $J_i$ of $W_i \cap W_{K,\delta',i}$ subject to the condition that $\sigma_i(B')a \cap \sigma_i(B')b = \emptyset$ for all distinct $a, b \in J_i$. Then $(\sigma_i(B'))^{-1}\sigma_i(B')J_i \subseteq W_i \cap W_{K,\delta',i}$, and hence

$$|J_i| \geq \frac{|W_i \cap W_{K,\delta',i}|}{|B'|^2} \geq \frac{(q - \eta)n_i}{2|B'|^2}.$$ 

Now it suffices to show that $J_i$ is a $(d, F, \delta, \sigma_i)$-independence set for $(B_s(x_1), \ldots, B_s(x_k), B_s(x_{k+1}))$. Let $f : J_i \to \{1, \ldots, k+1\}$ be an arbitrary map and define $g : J_i \to \{1, \ldots, k\}$ by $g = f$ on $J_i \setminus f^{-1}(k+1)$ and $g = k$ on $f^{-1}(k+1)$. Then there is some $\psi \in \text{Map}(d, K, \delta', \sigma_i)$ such that $\varphi(a) \in B_0(x_{g(a)})$ for all $a \in J_i$ and $d(\varphi(a), \varphi_i(a)) \leq \delta'$ for all $a \in W_{K,\delta',i}$ and $s \in K$.

Denote by $W_\varphi$ the set of $a \in \{1, \ldots, n_i\}$ satisfying $d(s\varphi(a), \varphi_i(a)) \leq \kappa$ for all $s \in K$. Since $\varphi \in \text{Map}(d, K, \delta', \sigma_i)$, we have $|W_\varphi|/|n_i| \geq 1 - \eta$. Let $a \in W_i \cap W_\varphi$. Denote by $V_a$ ($V_a'$ resp.) the set of $t \in K$ satisfying $\sigma_i(t)a \in f^{-1}(k+1)$ ($\sigma_i(t)a \in J_i$ resp.). For each $t \in V_a$, we have $\sigma_i(B'ta) = \sigma_i(B't)\sigma_i(t)a$. For any distinct $t_1, t_2 \in V_a$, we have $\sigma_i(t_1)a \neq \sigma_i(t_2)a$, and hence $\sigma_i(B't_1a) \cap \sigma_i(B't_2)a = \sigma_i(B')\sigma_i(t_1)a \cap \sigma_i(B')\sigma_i(t_2)a = \emptyset$, which implies that $B't_1 \cap B't_2 = \emptyset$. Thus $V_a \subseteq B'$-separated. Put $y_a = \varphi(a)$, and for each $t \in V_a$ put $x_{a,t} = t^{-1}x_{k+1}$. For any $t \in V_a$ and $s \in (B' \setminus A)t$, we have

$$d(x_{a,t}, \varphi(a)) \leq d(x_{a,t}, \varphi_i(t)a) + d(\varphi(\sigma_i(t)a), \varphi(a)) \leq \theta + \kappa \leq 2\theta,$$

and hence

$$d(s_{a,t}, s_{y_a}) = d(st^{-1}x_{k+1}, st^{-1}(t\varphi(a))) \leq d(st^{-1}x_{k+1}, st^{-1}x_{k}) + d(st^{-1}x_{k}, st^{-1}(t\varphi(a))) \leq \frac{\eta}{2} + \frac{\eta}{2} = \eta.$$ 

Then there is some $\psi(a) \in X$ such that $d(B_t\psi(a), x_{a,t}) \leq \frac{\eta}{2}$ for all $t \in V_a$ and $d_G\setminus AV_a(\psi(a), y_a) \leq \frac{\eta}{2}$. 

For any $a \in \{1, \ldots, n_i\} \setminus (W_i \cap W_\varphi)$, take $\psi(a)$ to be any point in $X$. Then we get a map $\psi : \{1, \ldots, n_i\} \to X$. We claim that $\psi \in \text{Map}(d, F, \delta, \sigma_i)$.

Indeed, let $s \in F$ and put $W = (W_i \cap W_\varphi) \cap (\sigma_i(s))^{-1}(W_i \cap W_\varphi)$. We have

$$|\{1, \ldots, n_i\} \setminus W| \leq 2|\{1, \ldots, n_i\} \setminus W_i| + 2|\{1, \ldots, n_i\} \setminus W_\varphi| \leq 4\eta n_i.$$ 

Let $a \in W$ and $\gamma \in K_1$. If $\gamma s \in At$ for some $t \in V_a$, then $ts^{-1} \in A^{-1}K_1 \subseteq K$ and $\sigma_i(ts^{-1})\sigma_i(s)a = \sigma_i(t)a \in f^{-1}(k+1)$, and hence $ts^{-1} \in V_{\sigma(s)}a$ and $\gamma \in Ats^{-1}$, from which we get

$$d(\gamma s\varphi(a), \gamma \varphi_i(s)a) \leq d(\gamma s\varphi(a), \gamma s_{x_{a,t}}) + d(\gamma s_{x_{a,t}}, \gamma x_{\sigma_i(s)at^{-1}}) + d(\gamma x_{\sigma_i(s)at^{-1}}, \gamma \varphi_i(s)a)$$

$$\leq \frac{\eta}{2} + d(\gamma st^{-1}x_{k+1}, \gamma s_{x_{a,t}}) + \frac{\eta}{2} = \frac{\eta}{\epsilon} < \epsilon < c.$$ 

If $\gamma \in At$ for some $t \in V_{\sigma(s)}a$, then $ts \in A^{-1}K_1F \subseteq K$ and $\sigma_i(ts)a = \sigma_i(t)s(a) \in f^{-1}(k+1)$, and hence $ts \in V_a$ and $\gamma \in At(s)$. Thus, if $\gamma s \in G \setminus AV_a$, then $\gamma \in G \setminus AV_{\sigma(s)}a$, and using $d(s\varphi(a), \varphi_ia) \leq \kappa$ and $\kappa \in K_1$ we have

$$d(\gamma s\varphi(a), \gamma \varphi_i(s)a) \leq d(\gamma s\varphi(a), \gamma s_{y_a}) + d(\gamma s_{y_a}, \gamma y_{\sigma(s)}a) + d(\gamma y_{\sigma(s)}a, \gamma \varphi_i(s)a)$$

$$\leq \frac{\eta}{2} + d(\gamma s\varphi(a), \gamma \varphi_i(s)a) + \frac{\eta}{2} \leq \epsilon + \epsilon \leq \epsilon < c.$$ 

We conclude that $d(B_t\psi(a), \psi_ia) \leq c$ for every $a \in W$. From our choice of $K_1$, we obtain that $d(s\varphi(a), \psi_i(s)a) < \frac{\eta}{2}$ for all $a \in W$. Therefore

$$\frac{1}{n_i} \sum_{a \in \{1, \ldots, n_i\}} d(s\varphi(a), \psi_i(s)a)^2 = \frac{1}{n_i} \sum_{a \in W} d(s\varphi(a), \psi_i(s)a)^2 + \frac{1}{n_i} \sum_{a \in \{1, \ldots, n_i\} \setminus W} d(s\varphi(a), \psi_i(s)a)^2$$

$$\leq \left|\frac{W_i}{n_i}\right| \left(\frac{\eta}{2}\right)^2 + \text{diam}(X, d)^2 \frac{|\{1, \ldots, n_i\} \setminus W_i|}{n_i}$$

$$\leq \left(\frac{\eta}{2}\right)^2 + 4\eta \text{diam}(X, d)^2 \leq 2\left(\frac{\eta}{2}\right)^2 < \delta^2.$$ 

26
This proves our claim.

We have $W_{K',x,i} \subseteq W_x$, and hence $J_i \subseteq W_i \cap W_{K',x,i} \subseteq W_i \cap W_x$. Since $e_G \in K$, we have $\sigma_i(e_G)a = a$ for all $a \in W_i$. For any $a \in f^{-1}(k+1)$, we have $e_G \in V_a$, and hence $d(\psi(a), x_{f(k+1)}) = d(\psi(a), x_{f(k+1)}) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2}$. For any $a \in J_i \setminus f^{-1}(k+1)$, we have $e_G \in V_a \setminus V_0 \subseteq G \setminus AV_a$, whence $d(\psi(a), \varphi(a)) = d(\psi(a), y_a) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ and consequently

$$d(\psi(a), x_{f(a)}) \leq d(\psi(a), \varphi(a)) + d(\varphi(a), x_{f(a)}) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \theta < \epsilon.$$  

We conclude that $\psi(a) \in B_{\epsilon}(x_{f(a)})$ for all $a \in J_i$. This shows that $J_i$ is a $(d,F,\delta,\sigma_i)$-independence set for $(B(x_1), \ldots, B(x_k), B_{\epsilon}(x_{k+1}))$ as desired. \hfill $\square$

### 6.2 From independence entropy pairs to asymptotic pairs

In this subsection we prove Theorem 6.9 which gives sufficient conditions under which positive topological entropy for an action of an amenable group implies the existence of off-diagonal asymptotic pairs.

**Theorem 6.9.** Let $G$ be an amenable group, and $G \acts X$ an expansive action with the strong TMP. Then $\mathcal{I}_{E}(X,G) \subseteq \mathcal{A}_{k}(X,G)$ for every $k \geq 2$.

Theorem 6.9 follows from Proposition 6.11, Lemma 6.12 and Proposition 6.14 below. Combining Theorem 6.9 and part (2) of Theorem 2.7 we obtain the following corollary. Part (1) of it was proven by Meyerovitch [17] and part (2) of Theorem 1.4 under the stronger assumption that $G \acts X$ has the POTP.

**Corollary 6.10.** Let $G$ be an amenable group, and $G \acts X$ an expansive action with the strong TMP.

1. If $h_{top}(G \acts X) > 0$, then for every $k \geq 2$ there exists an $(x_1, \ldots, x_k) \in \mathcal{A}_{k}(X,G)$ with $x_1, \ldots, x_k$ distinct.

2. If $G \acts X$ has UPE of order $k$ for some $k \geq 2$, then $\mathcal{A}_{k}(X,G)$ is dense in $X^{k}$.

**Remark 6.11.** Theorem 6.9 and Corollary 6.10 also hold with the strong TMP replaced by the mean TMP.

The proof is very similar but it is in fact much more natural in this general context.

**Proposition 6.12.** Let $G \acts X$ be an action with the mean TMP. For every $k \geq 2$ and $\epsilon > 0$ we have $\mathcal{I}_{E}(X,G) \subseteq \mathcal{A}_{k}(X,G)$.

**Proof.** Let $(x_1, \ldots, x_k) \in \mathcal{I}_{E}(X,G)$. It suffices to show that for any $\epsilon > 0$ there exists an $\epsilon$-asymptotic tuple in $B_{\epsilon}(x_1) \times \cdots \times B_{\epsilon}(x_k)$. By the mean TMP there exist $\delta > 0$ and an increasing sequence $\{F_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of finite subsets of $G$ with union $G$ such that for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ there is an $(\epsilon, \delta)$-memory set $F_n$ for $F_n$ so that $|F_n \setminus F_n| = o(|F_n|)$. Let $C = \{C_i\}$ be a finite $\delta$-cover of $X$, that is, for every $C_i$, $\sup_{z,w \in C_i} d(z,w) \leq \delta$. For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we define

$$K_n = \bigvee_{g \in F_n} g^{-1}C \quad \text{and} \quad \partial K_n = \bigvee_{g \notin F_n} g^{-1}C.$$

Let $U = (B_{\epsilon}(x_1), \ldots, B_{\epsilon}(x_k))$. Since $(x_1, \ldots, x_k)$ is an orbit IE-tuple, there exists $q > 0$ such that for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists an independence set $J_n \subseteq F_n$ for $U$ such that $|J_n| \geq q|F_n|$. We also have that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$|\partial K_n| \leq |C||F_n \setminus F_n|.$$

Since $|F_n \setminus F_n| = o(|F_n|)$, for all sufficiently large $m \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $|F_m \setminus F_m| < \frac{q\log(k/(k-1))}{\log(k)}|F_m|$ and thus

$$\left(\frac{k}{k-1}\right)^{|J_n|} \geq \left(\frac{k}{k-1}\right)^{q|F_n|} = \left(\frac{k}{k-1}\right)^{|F_m \setminus F_m|} \geq |\partial K_m|.$$

In particular, as $J_m$ is an independence set for $U$, there exist $\gamma \in J_m$, $C \subseteq \partial K_m$ and $x'_1, \ldots, x'_k \in C$ such that

$$\gamma x'_j \in B_{\epsilon}(x_j) \quad \text{for every} \quad 1 \leq j \leq k.$$
Let $2 \leq j \leq k$. Since $x', x'' \in C$, for every $g \in F_m \setminus F_m$ we have that $d(gx', y) \leq \delta$ and thus $d_{F_m \setminus F_m}(x', x'') \leq \delta$. As $F_m$ is an $(\varepsilon, \delta)$-memory set for $F_m$, there exists $z_j' \in X$ such that $d_{F_m}(x', z_j') \leq \varepsilon$ and $d_{F_m}(x', z_j') \leq \varepsilon$. By definition, $(x', z_j')$ is an $\varepsilon$-asymptotic pair and as $\gamma \in F_m \subset F_m$ we obtain that $d(\gamma x', \gamma z_j') \leq \delta$ and hence $\gamma z_j' \in B_\varepsilon(x_j)$.

Defining $z_j = \gamma z_j'$ for $2 \leq j \leq k$ and $z_1 = \gamma x_1$ yields that $(z_1, \ldots, z_k) \in \mathcal{K}_\varepsilon(X, G) \cap (B_\varepsilon(x_1) \times \cdots \times B_\varepsilon(x_k))$. \hfill $\blacksquare$

**Remark 6.13.** Proposition 6.12 does not hold in general for actions with the (uniform) TMP. Indeed, Example 3.17 is an expansive algebraic action of a countable amenable group with positive topological entropy and no off-diagonal asymptotic pairs. By Proposition 6.11 and Theorem 6.13 we conclude that this action has the uniform TMP but cannot have the mean TMP as it would contradict Remark 6.11.

Corollary 6.10 does not hold in general for actions of non-amenable groups and sofic topological entropy. In order to illustrate this, we need to introduce a few concepts from measurable dynamics. Given a sofic group $G$, a sofic approximation sequence $\Sigma$ for $G$, and an action $G \curvearrowright X$ and a $G$-invariant Borel probability measure $\mu$ on $X$, we say $G \curvearrowright (X, \mu)$ is Bernoulli if it is isomorphic to a p.m.p. action of the form $G \curvearrowright (Y^G, \mu^G)$ where $Y$ is a compact metrizable space, $\nu$ is a Borel probability measure on $Y$, $\nu^G$ is the product measure on $Y^G$ and the action $G \curvearrowright Y^G$ is given by $gg(h) = y(g^{-1}h)$ for every $g \in Y^G$ and $g \in G$. We say that $G \curvearrowright (X, \mu)$ has completely positive entropy with respect to $\Sigma$ if any nontrivial measurable factor $G \curvearrowright (X', \mu')$ of $G \curvearrowright (X, \mu)$ has positive measure-theoretical sofic entropy with respect to $\Sigma$ (by nontrivial we mean that $\nu$ does not have an atom of full measure). A theorem of Kerr [22, Theorem 2.6] states that every Bernoulli measure has completely positive entropy with respect to any sofic approximation sequence $\Sigma$.

**Example 6.14.** Let $F_2 = \langle a, b \mid \varnothing \rangle$ be the free group on two generators. The perfect matchings subshift $X_{pm}$ is the SFT consisting of the configurations $x \in \{a, b, a^{-1}, b^{-1}\}^{F_2}$ such that for every $g \in F_2$ we have $(x(g))^{-1} = x(g \cdot x(g))$. By a result of Lyons and Nazarov there is an $F_2$-invariant Borel probability measure $\mu_{pm}$ on $X_{pm}$ which is a nontrivial factor of a Bernoulli measure [15, Theorem 1.1]. By the result of Kerr, we obtain that $h^\Sigma_{\mu_{pm}}(F_2 \curvearrowright X_{pm}) > 0$ for every sofic approximation sequence $\Sigma$. By the variational principle for actions of sofic groups, we conclude that $F_2 \curvearrowright X_{pm}$ has positive topological sofic entropy for every sofic approximation sequence $\Sigma$. However, the next proposition shows that $F_2 \curvearrowright X_{pm}$ has no off-diagonal asymptotic pairs.

**Proposition 6.15.** The action $F_2 \curvearrowright X_{pm}$ has no off-diagonal asymptotic pairs.

**Proof.** Let $(x, y) \in (X_{pm})^2$ be an asymptotic pair. Let $F \subseteq G$ be the set of $g \in F_2$ such that $x(g) \neq y(g)$ if $x \neq y$ then $F \neq \varnothing$. Let $g \in F$ such that the length of the reduced word $w_1 w_2 \ldots w_k \in \{a, b, a^{-1}, b^{-1}\}^*$ which represents $g$ is maximized. Then we have that $gs \notin F$ for every $s \in \{a, b, a^{-1}, b^{-1}\} \setminus \{w_k^{-1}\}$. If $x(g) = s$ for some $s \in \{a, b, a^{-1}, b^{-1}\} \setminus \{w_k^{-1}\}$, then $y(gs) = x(gs) = s^{-1}$ and thus $y(g) = y(gss^{-1}) = s$ which contradicts $g \in F$. Then we have $x(g) = w_k^{-1}$. Using the same argument we get $y(g) = w_k^{-1}$ and thus $x(g) = y(g)$ contradicting again that $g \in F$. Therefore $F = \varnothing$ and thus $x = y$. \hfill $\blacksquare$

7 Applications

In this section we shall put together the results of Sections 3 to 6 to obtain several results about Markovian measures, algebraic actions, and minimal actions.

7.1 Supports of Markovian measures

Recall that a p.m.p. action $G \curvearrowright (X, \mu)$ of an amenable group has completely positive entropy if every nontrivial measurable factor of $G \curvearrowright (X, \mu)$ has positive measure-theoretical entropy.

**Corollary 7.1.** Let $G$ be an amenable group, $X$ a $G$-subshift, and $\mu$ a $G$-invariant Markovian measure on $X$. The following hold:

1. If $h_\mu(G \curvearrowright X) > 0$, then $G \curvearrowright \text{supp}(\mu)$ has off-diagonal asymptotic pairs.
2. If $G \acts X$ has completely positive entropy, then the asymptotic pairs of $G \acts \text{supp}(\mu)$ are dense in $\text{supp}(\mu) \times \text{supp}(\mu)$.

Proof. If $h_\mu(G \acts X) > 0$, we have that

$$h_{\text{top}}(G \acts \text{supp}(\mu)) \geq h_\mu(G \acts \text{supp}(\mu)) = h_\mu(G \acts X) > 0,$$

where the first inequality comes from the variational principle.

If $G \acts (X, \mu)$ has completely positive entropy, then $\text{IE}_2(\text{supp}(\mu), G) = \text{supp}(\mu) \times \text{supp}(\mu)$ by Proposition 2.2 and Corollary 2.16. In general, when $G \acts (X, \mu)$ is sofic and denoted by $\Delta(X, G)$, the following result:

We say $x \in X$ is an IE point [56] Definition 7.2 [56] page 247 if $(x, e_X) \in \text{IE}_2(X, G)$. The IE points form a $G$-invariant closed normal subgroup of $X$, called the homoclinic group and denoted by $\Delta(X, G)$. Using the fact that $X$ admits a translation-invariant compatible metric (see the proof of Proposition 4.1), it is easy to see that for each $k \geq 2$, one has

$$h_k(X, G) = \{(yx_1, \ldots, yx_k) : x_1, \ldots, x_k \in \Delta(X, G), y \in X\}$$

We say $x \in X$ is an IE point [26] Definition 7.2 if $(x, e_X) \in \text{IE}_2(X, G)$. The IE points form a $G$-invariant closed normal subgroup of $X$ [26] Theorem 6.4, called the IE group and denoted by $\text{IE}(X, G)$. Furthermore, for each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we have [56] Theorem 6.4

$$\text{IE}_k(X, G) = \{(yx_1, \ldots, yx_k) : x_1, \ldots, x_k \in \text{IE}(X, G), y \in X\}$$

Corollary 7.2. Let $G \acts X$ be an expansive action of $G$ on a compact metrizable group $X$ by continuous automorphisms. We have:

1. $\Delta(X, G) \subset \text{IE}(X, G)$. In particular, $\Delta(X, G)^k \subset \text{IE}_k(X, G)$ for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

2. If $G$ is sofic and $\Sigma$ is any sofic approximation sequence for $G$, then $\Delta(X, G)^k \subset \text{IE}_k^\Sigma(X, G)$ for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Proof. It is quite easy to see that $e_X \in \text{IE}_1(X, G)$ and $e_X \in \text{IE}_k^\Sigma(X, G)$. By Proposition 4.1 we have that $G \acts X$ has the TMP. Therefore, using Theorem 6.1 and Theorem 6.4 we obtain respectively that $\{e_X\} \times \Delta(X, G) \subset \text{IE}_2(X, G)$ and $\{e_X\} \times \Delta(X, G) \subset \text{IE}_k^\Sigma(X, G)$. From the first inclusion we get (1). From the second inclusion we get that $\Delta(X, G) \subset \text{IE}_k^\Sigma(X, G)$. Therefore by repeating the argument we obtain that $\Delta(X, G)^2 \subset \text{IE}_k^\Sigma(X, G)$. Iterating the above argument yields (2).

In the case $X$ is abelian and $G$ is amenable, part (1) of Corollary 7.2 was known first as a consequence of [26] Theorem 5.6 and 7.8 and the fact that every expansive algebraic action of $G$ is finitely generated [10] Proposition 2.2 and Corollary 2.16. In general, when $X$ is abelian, part (1) of Corollary 7.2 is also a consequence of [56] Theorem 6.5 and [26] Theorem 5.6.

A straightforward application of Corollary 7.2 together with Theorems 5.6 and 5.7 yields the following result:

Corollary 7.3. Let $G \acts X$ be an expansive action of $G$ on a compact metrizable group $X$ by continuous automorphisms. The following hold:

1. If $\Delta(X, G) \neq \{e_X\}$, then $h_{\text{top}}^\Sigma(G \acts X) > 0$.

2. If $\Delta(X, G)$ is dense in $X$, then $G \acts X$ has naive UPE of all orders.

Furthermore, if $G$ is sofic with $\Sigma$ a sofic approximation sequence for $G$, then:

1. If $\Delta(X, G) \neq \{e_X\}$, then $h_{\text{top}}^\Sigma(G \acts X) > 0$. 

29
If \( \Delta(X, G) \) is dense in \( X \), then \( G \curvearrowright X \) has sofic UPE of all orders.

**Remark 7.4.** Note that we do not need to assume that \( X \) is abelian for any of the results so far in this section.

The previous corollaries are false without the expansivity assumption. In [68] Example 7.5 Lind and Schmidt constructed an algebraic action of \( \mathbb{Z}^3 \) with zero topological entropy and nontrivial homoclinic points.

Possibly the most interesting corollary in this section is the following.

**Corollary 7.5.** Let \( G \curvearrowright X \) be an expansive algebraic action of an amenable group such that either:

1. \( \mathbb{Z}G \) is left Noetherian, or

2. \( G \) satisfies the strong Atiyah conjecture, there is an upper bound on the orders of finite subgroups of \( G \), and \( G \curvearrowright X \) is finitely presented.

Then \( \Delta(X, G) \) = \( \text{IE}(X, G) \).

**Proof.** By Theorem 4.3 the hypotheses above imply that \( G \curvearrowright X \) has the strong TMP. Using Theorem 5.9 and Corollary 7.2 yields the result. \( \square \)

For an action \( G \curvearrowright X \) of an amenable group \( G \) on a compact metrizable group \( X \) by continuous automorphisms, denoting by \( \mu_X \) the normalized Haar measure of \( X \), one has \( h_{\text{top}}(G \curvearrowright X) = h_{\text{top}}(G) \) [29 Theorem 2.2]. See also [58 Proposition 13.2]. For such an action, \( \text{IE}(X, G) \neq \{e_X\} \) exactly when \( h_{\text{top}}(G \curvearrowright X) > 0 \) [26 Theorem 7.3]. Furthermore, \( \text{IE}(X, G) = X \) exactly when \( G \curvearrowright X \) has completely positive topological entropy in the sense that every nontrivial (i.e. not reduced to a single point) topological factor of \( G \curvearrowright X \) has positive topological entropy [26 Theorem 7.4], also exactly when the p.m.p. action \( G \curvearrowright (X, \mu_X) \) has completely positive entropy in the sense that every nontrivial measurable factor of \( G \curvearrowright (X, \mu_X) \) has positive measure-theoretical entropy [26 Theorem 8.1]. Now Theorem 7.4 follows from Corollary 7.5.

We will see now that Theorem 1.1 does not hold for naive topological entropy if the group is not amenable (even if the finitely presented expansive algebraic action is an SFT).

**Example 7.6.** Let \( F_2 = \langle a, b \mid \varnothing \rangle \) be the free group on two generators. For \( g \in F_2 \) denote by \( |g| \) the length of the reduced word on \( \{a, b, a^{-1}, b^{-1}\}^* \) representing \( g \). Also, for \( g, h \in F_2 \) define their distance by \( \delta(g, h) = |g^{-1}h| \). Write \( B_n = \{g \in F_2 : |g| \leq n\} \) and \( \partial B_n = B_n \setminus B_{n-1} \).

Consider the 5-dot shift in \( F_2 \) given by

\[
X_\Phi = \left\{ x \in (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^{F_2} : \sum_{s \in B_1} x(gs) = 0 \text{ for every } g \in F_2 \right\}.
\]

Let \( \mathcal{F}_\Phi \) be the finite set of all \( p \in (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^{B_1} \) such that \( \sum_{s \in B_1} p(s) \neq 0 \). Clearly

\[
X_\Phi = (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^{F_2} \setminus \bigcup_{g \in F_2, p \in \mathcal{F}_\Phi} g[p].
\]

Thus \( X_\Phi \) is a subshift of finite type. It is also clear that \( F_2 \curvearrowright X_\Phi \) is an algebraic action and \( \overline{X_\Phi} = \mathbb{Z}F_2 / J \), where \( J \) is the left ideal of \( \mathbb{Z}F_2 \) generated by \( 2 \) and \( \sum_{s \in B_1} s \). Thus \( F_2 \curvearrowright X_\Phi \) is a finitely presented expansive algebraic action.

**Proposition 7.7.** \( X_\Phi \) has no off-diagonal asymptotic pairs.

**Proof.** Suppose there exists an asymptotic pair \( (x, y) \) such that \( x \neq y \). Let \( n \) be the smallest integer such that \( x|_{F_2 \setminus B_n} = y|_{F_2 \setminus B_n} \). It follows that there is \( g \in \partial B_n \) such that \( x(g) \neq y(g) \).

Let \( u \in B_1 \) such that \( gu \in \partial B_{n+1} \). For every \( h \in B_1 \setminus \{u^{-1}, e_{F_2}\} \) we have \( guh \in \partial B_{n+2} \). By definition, we have that every \( z \in X_\Phi \) satisfies \( \sum_{s \in B_1} z(gs) = 0 \) and thus \( z(g) = \sum_{s \in B_1 \setminus \{u^{-1}\}} z(gs) \).

Hence, using that \( x|_{F_2 \setminus B_n} = y|_{F_2 \setminus B_n} \) we obtain

\[
x(g) = \sum_{s \in B_1 \setminus \{u^{-1}\}} x(gs) = \sum_{s \in B_1 \setminus \{u^{-1}\}} y(gs) = y(g),
\]

which contradicts \( x(g) \neq y(g) \). \( \square \)
Let $X \subset \Lambda^G$ be a $G$-subshift and let $\mathcal{F} \subset \bigcup_{A \in G} \Lambda^A$. Fix $F \in G$. The set of globally admissible patterns of support $F$ is $L_F(X) = \{ p \in \Lambda^F : [p] \cap X \neq \emptyset\}$. The set of $\mathcal{F}$-locally admissible patterns of support $F$ is $L^\mathcal{F}_F(X) = \{ p \in \Lambda^F : \text{ for every } q \in \mathcal{F} \text{ and } g \in G, [p] \nsubseteq g[q]\}$. Note that whenever $\mathcal{F}$ generates $X$ in the sense that $X = \Lambda^G \bigcup \bigcup_{p \in \mathcal{F} \cap \Lambda} X_g[p]$, we have $L_F(X) \subset L^\mathcal{F}_F(X)$.

For $s,t,g \in F_2$ let $(s,t)_g = \frac{1}{2}((s,t) + \delta(t,g) - \delta(s,t))$. For $F \in F_2$, the span of $F$ is the set $\text{Span}(F)$ of all $g \in F_2$ for which there are $s,t \in F$ such that $(s,t)_g = 0$. We say that $F$ is connected if $F = \text{Span}(F)$. This is the same as saying that $F$ is connected in the right Cayley graph of $F_2$ given by the generators $\{a,b,a^{-1},b^{-1}\}$.

**Lemma 7.8.** Let $A,B$ be connected finite subsets of $F_2$ such that $A \subset B$ and $|B \setminus A| = 1$. For every $p \in L^A_{loc}(F_\mathcal{F})$ there exists $q \in L^B_{\mathcal{F}}(F_\mathcal{F})$ such that $q|_A = p$.

**Proof.** As $|B \setminus A| = 1$ and $B \supset A$ is connected, there exists $g \in A$ and $s \in \partial B_1$ such that $gsB \in B \setminus A$. As $A$ is connected, if $u \in B_1 \setminus \{s^{-1}\}$ then $gsu \notin A$.

For $h \in A$ we let $q(h) = p(h)$. If $gB_1 \subset B$, then we define $q(gs) = \sum_{v \in B_1 \setminus \{s\}} p(gv)$, otherwise we define $q(gs) = 0$. By definition, $q|_A = p$. Let us show that $q \in L^B_{\mathcal{F}}(F_\mathcal{F})$.

Suppose that $q \notin L^B_{\mathcal{F}}(F_\mathcal{F})$. Then there is some $h \in B$ such that $hB_1 \subset B$ and $\sum_{v \in B_1 \setminus \{s\}} q(hv) \neq 0$. As $q|_A = p \in L^A_{loc}(F_\mathcal{F})$, we have $gsB \in B_1$. Since for every $u \in B_1 \setminus \{s^{-1}\}$ we have $gsu \notin A$, the only possibility is that $h = g$. Then $gB_1 \subset B$ and by definition of $q(gs)$ we have $\sum_{v \in B_1 \setminus \{s\}} q(gv) = 0$, which is a contradiction. \qed

**Lemma 7.9.** Let $F$ be a connected finite subset of $F_2$. Then $L^F_{\mathcal{F}}(F_\mathcal{F}) = L_F(X_\mathcal{F})$.

**Proof.** Let $p \in L^F_{\mathcal{F}}(F_\mathcal{F})$ and consider an increasing sequence $\{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of finite subsets of $F_2$ with union $F_2$ such that $A_1 = F$. In order to show that $p \in L_F(X_\mathcal{F})$ it suffices to construct a sequence $p_n \in L^F_{\mathcal{F}}(F_\mathcal{F})$ such that $p_1 = p$ and for $n \geq 1$, $p_{n+1} \setminus A_n = p_n$. Indeed, by definition $[p_n] \supset [p_{n+1}]$ and thus $\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}}[p_n]$ is nonempty. As the sets $A_n$ increase to $F_2$, the set $\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}}[p_n]$ is a singleton, say $\{x\}$. If $x \in q[p]$ for some $g \in F_2$ and $q \in F_\mathcal{F}$, then $p_{n+1} \subseteq q[g]$ for some large $n$, which is impossible as $p_n \in L^F_{A_n}(F_\mathcal{F})$. Therefore $x \in X_\mathcal{F} \cap [p]$. For $m \geq 0$, consider $C_m = F B_m$. Let $h_1, \ldots, h_{k(m)}$ be an enumeration of $C_{m+1} \setminus C_m$ and for $i \in \{1, \ldots, k(m)\}$ let $D_{m,i} = C_m \cup \{h_1, \ldots, h_i\}$ and note that $D_{m,k(m)} = C_{m+1}$. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$ define recursively $A_1 = C_1 = F$ and

$$A_{n+1} = \begin{cases} D_{m,i+1} & \text{if } A_n = D_{m,i} \text{ and } i < k(m) \\ D_{m,1} & \text{if } A_n = C_m \end{cases}$$

Note that each $A_n$ is a connected subset of $F_2$, $|A_{n+1} \setminus A_n| = 1$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and that $A_n$ increases to $F_2$. Assume inductively that we have $p_n \in L^F_{A_n}(F_\mathcal{F})$. By Lemma 7.8 there is $p_{n+1} \in L^F_{A_{n+1}}(F_\mathcal{F})$ such that $p_{n+1} \setminus A_n = p_n$.

We say a pair of sets $A,B \subset F_2$ are $k$-separated if $\delta(A,B) = \inf_{(g,h) \in A \times B} \delta(g,h) \geq k$. We say a collection $A_1, \ldots, A_n \subset F_2$ is $k$-separated if it is pairwise $k$-separated.

**Lemma 7.10.** Let $A,B$ be a 3-separated pair of connected subsets of $F_2$. Then for every $p \in L^A_{\text{Span}(A \cup B)}(F_\mathcal{F})$ there exists $q \in L^B_{\text{Span}(A \cup B)}(F_\mathcal{F})$ such that $q|_{A \cup B} = p$.

**Proof.** Let $h_A \in A$ and $h_B \in B$ such that $\delta(h_A, h_B) = \inf_{(g,h)} \delta(g,h)$. As $A,B$ are connected and $F_2$ has no cycles, it follows that $\text{Span}(A \cup B) = A \cup B \cup \text{Span}(\{h_A, h_B\})$. Let $h_0, h_1, \ldots, h_n, h_{n+1} \in F_2$ be an enumeration of $\text{Span}(\{h_A, h_B\})$ such that $h_0 = h_A$, $h_{n+1} = h_B$ and $A \cup \{h_1, \ldots, h_k\}$ is connected for every $1 \leq k \leq n$. As $A,B$ are 3-separated, it follows that $\delta(h_A, h_B) \geq 3$ and thus $n \geq 2$. By Lemma 7.8 there are $p_A \in L^A_{\text{Span}(h_A)}(F_\mathcal{F})$ and $p_B \in L^B_{\text{Span}(h_B)}(F_\mathcal{F})$ such that $p_A|_A = p|_A$ and $p_B|_B = p|_B$. Let $q \in \{0,1\}^{\text{Span}(A \cup B)}$ be defined by

$$q(g) = \begin{cases} p_A(g) & \text{if } g \in A \cup \{h_1\} \\ p_B(g) & \text{if } g \in B \cup \{h_n\} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

It can be verified directly from the definition that $q|_{A \cup B} = p$ and that $q \in L^B_{\text{Span}(A \cup B)}(F_\mathcal{F})$. \qed

31
Lemma 7.11. Let \( A \) be a 5-separated finite collection of finite connected subsets of \( F_2 \). Let \( p_A \in L^{\text{Sierp}}_A(F_\Phi) \) for each \( A \in A \). Then there exists \( p \in L^{\text{Sierp}}_{\text{Span}(\cup_{A \in A} A)}(F_\Phi) \) such that \( p|_A = p_A \) for all \( A \in A \).

Proof. We proceed by induction on the size of \( A \). If \( |A| = 1 \) the result is trivial. Let \( |A| = n > 1 \) and assume the result for all 5-separated collections of cardinality at most \( n - 1 \). By Lemma 7.10 it is enough to show that there is \( A \in A \) which is 3-separated from \( \text{Span}(\cup_{C \in A \setminus \{A\}} C) \).

Let us verify the above property. Pick \( A_0 \in A \) and choose \( A \in A \) such that \( \delta(A, A_0) \) achieves the maximum. We claim that \( \delta(A, \text{Span}(\cup_{C \in A \setminus \{A\}} C)) \geq 3 \). Indeed, let \( g_0 \in A_0 \) and \( g \in A \) such that \( \delta(A, A_0) = \delta(g_0, g_0) \). Assume that \( \delta(A, \text{Span}(\cup_{C \in A \setminus \{A\}} C)) \leq 2 \). Then there exist \( h \in \text{Span}(\cup_{C \in A \setminus \{A\}} C) \setminus \cup_{C \in A \setminus \{A\}} C \) and \( g \in A \) such that \( \delta(g, h) = \delta(A, \text{Span}(\cup_{C \in A \setminus \{A\}} C)) \leq 2 \). It follows that there are distinct \( A_1, A_2 \in A \setminus \{A\} \) and \( g_1 \in A_1, g_2 \in A_2 \) such that \( h \in \text{Span}(\{g_1, g_2\}) \) and \( \text{Span}(\{g_1, g_2\}) \cap \cup_{C \in A \setminus \{A\}} C = \{g_1, g_2\} \). Without loss of generality we may assume that \( A_1 \neq A_0 \). If \( g \neq g \), then
\[
\delta(A_1, A_0) = \delta(g_1, g_0) = \delta(g_1, g) + \delta(g, g_0) + \delta(g, g_0) = \delta(A, A_0),
\]
which contradicts our choice of \( A \). Thus \( g = g \). We have \( \text{Span}(\{g, g_0\}) \cap \text{Span}(\{g, g_1\}) = \text{Span}(\{g, h_1\}) \) for some \( h_1 \). If \( h_1 \in \text{Span}(\{g, h_1\}) \), then
\[
\delta(A_0, A_1) = \delta(g_0, g_1) = \delta(g_0, h_1) + \delta(h_1, g_1)
\]
which contradicts our choice of \( A \). Thus \( h_1 \notin \text{Span}(\{g, h_1\}) \). Then \( A_2 = A_0 \), and \( \text{Span}(\{g, g_0\}) \cap \text{Span}(\{g, g_2\}) = \text{Span}(\{g, h_2\}) \) for some \( h_2 \in \text{Span}(\{g, h_1\}) \). Similar to the above, we get \( \delta(A_0, A_2) > \delta(A, A) \), which again contradicts our choice of \( A \).

Proposition 7.12. \( F_2 \rhd X_\Phi \) has naive UPE of all orders.

Proof. It suffices to show IE(\( X_\Phi \), \( F_2 \)) = \( X_\Phi \). Let \( (x_1, x_2) \in (X_\Phi)^2 \). Then it suffices to show that for every \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) there exists \( \alpha > 0 \) such that for every \( D \subseteq F_2 \) there exists a set \( A \subseteq D \) such that \( |A| \geq \alpha|D| \) and for any map \( \varphi : A \to \{1, 2\} \) we have
\[
X_\Phi \cap \bigcap_{a \in A} a[x_{\varphi(a)}|B_n] \neq \emptyset.
\]

Put \( \alpha = |B_{4+2n}|^{-1} \). Fix \( D \subseteq F_2 \) and let \( A \) be any maximal \((5+2n)\)-separated subset of \( D \). Then \( AB_{4+2n} \supset D \), and hence \( |A| \geq |B_{4+2n}|^{-1}|D| = \alpha|D| \). Consider the collection \( \mathcal{A} = \{aB_n : a \in A\} \) and for each \( a \in A \) the pattern \( p_a = (ax_{\varphi(a)})|aB_n \). By definition, \( \mathcal{A} \) is 5-separated and each \( p_a \in L^{\text{Sierp}}_{aB_n}(X_\Phi) \), therefore, by Lemma 7.11 there exists \( p \in L^{\text{Sierp}}_{\text{Span}(\cup_{a \in A} aB_n)}(F_\Phi) \) such that \( p|aB_n = p_a \) for every \( a \in A \). In other words, \( [p] \subseteq \bigcap_{a \in A} a[x_{\varphi(a)}|B_n] \).

Furthermore, as \( \text{Span}(\cup_{a \in A} aB_n) \) is connected, by Lemma 7.10 we have \([p] \cap X_\Phi \neq \emptyset \) and therefore \( X_\Phi \cap \bigcap_{a \in A} a[x_{\varphi(a)}|B_n] \neq \emptyset \).

7.3 Minimal actions

Corollary 7.13. Let \( G \) be an amenable group and \( G \rhd X \) a minimal expansive action with the strong TMP. Then \( h_{\text{top}}(G \rhd X) = 0 \).

Proof. By Proposition 6.11 the action \( G \rhd X \) has the TMP. Then by Theorem 5.4 there is no off-diagonal asymptotic pair. From Corollary 6.10 we conclude that \( h_{\text{top}}(G \rhd X) = 0 \).

The previous result was proven for minimal \( \mathbb{Z}^d \)-SFTs in [87] Corollary 2.3 and for minimal \( G \)-SFTs of any amenable group in [4] Corollary 3.17 using the formalism of group quasi-tilings. Our result jointly generalizes these previous theorems from the context of subshifts and the POTP.

Remark 7.14. Corollary 7.13 also holds if we just assume that \( G \rhd X \) has the mean TMP instead of the strong TMP.
We do not know whether the result fails for non-amenable groups. We believe the following question might not be easy.

**Question 7.15.** Does there exist a sofic group (and some sofic approximation sequence) for which there exists a minimal SFT with positive topological sofic entropy?

**References**

[1] M. Achigar. A note on Anosov homeomorphisms. *Axioms*, 8(2):54, 2019.

[2] K. G. Andersson. Poincaré’s discovery of homoclinic points. *Archive for History of Exact Sciences*, 48(2):133–147, 1994.

[3] N. Aoki and K. Hiraide. *Topological Theory of Dynamical Systems. Recent Advances*. North-Holland Mathematical Library, 52. North-Holland Publishing Co., Amsterdam, 1994.

[4] S. Barbieri. On the entropies of subshifts of finite type on countable amenable groups. *Groups, Geometry, and Dynamics*, 15(2):607–638, 2021.

[5] S. Barbieri and F. García-Ramos. A hierarchy of topological systems with completely positive entropy. *Journal d’Analyse Mathématique*, 143(2):639–680, 2021.

[6] S. Barbieri, R. Gómez, B. Marcus, and S. Taati. Equivalence of relative Gibbs and relative equilibrium measures for actions of countable amenable groups. *Nonlinearity*, 33(5):2409–2454, 2020.

[7] S. Bhattacharya. Ergodicity of algebraic actions of nilpotent groups. *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*, in press.

[8] S. Bhattacharya, T. Ceccherini-Silberstein, and M. Coornaert. Surjunctivity and topological rigidity of algebraic dynamical systems. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems*, 39(3):604–619, 2019.

[9] F. Blanchard. Fully positive topological entropy and topological mixing. In *Symbolic Dynamics and its Applications (New Haven, CT, 1991)*, pages 95–105. Contemporary Mathematics, 135, American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 1992.

[10] F. Blanchard. A disjointness theorem involving topological entropy. *Bulletin de la Société Mathématique de France*, 121(4):465–478, 1993.

[11] F. Blanchard, E. Glasner, and B. Host. A variation on the variational principle and applications to entropy pairs. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems*, 17(1):29–43, 1997.

[12] F. Blanchard, E. Glasner, S. Kolyada, and A. Maass. On Li-Yorke pairs. *Journal für die Reine und Angewandte Mathematik*, 547:51–68, 2002.

[13] F. Blanchard, B. Host, A. Maass, S. Martinez, and D. J. Rudolph. Entropy pairs for a measure. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems*, 15(4):621–632, 1995.

[14] F. Blanchard, B. Host, and S. Ruette. Asymptotic pairs in positive-entropy systems. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems*, 22(3):671–686, 2002.

[15] L. Bowen. Measure conjugacy invariants for actions of countable sofic groups. *Journal of the American Mathematical Society*, 23(1):217–245, 2010.

[16] L. Bowen. Entropy for expansive algebraic actions of residually finite groups. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems*, 31(3):703–718, 2011.

[17] L. Bowen. Examples in the entropy theory of countable group actions. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems*, 40(10):2593–2680, 2020.

[18] P. Burton. Naive entropy of dynamical systems. *Israel Journal of Mathematics*, 219(2):637–659, 2017.
[19] V. Capraro and M. Lupini. *Introduction to Sofic and Hyperlinear Groups and Connes' Embedding Conjecture. With an appendix by Vladimir Pestov*. Lecture Notes in Mathematics, 2136. Springer, Cham, 2015.

[20] T. Ceccherini-Silberstein and M. Coornaert. *Cellular Automata and Groups*. Springer Monographs in Mathematics. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 2010.

[21] N. Chandgotia. Markov Random Fields and Measures with Nearest Neighbour Gibbs Potential. Master's thesis, University of British Columbia, 2011.

[22] N. Chandgotia, G. Han, B. Marcus, T. Meyerovitch, and R. Pavlov. One-dimensional Markov random fields, Markov chains and topological Markov fields. *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*, 142(1):227–242, 2014.

[23] N. Chandgotia and T. Meyerovitch. Markov random fields, Markov cocycles and the 3-colored chessboard. *Israel Journal of Mathematics*, 215(2):909–964, 2016.

[24] C. Chou. Elementary amenable groups. *Illinois Journal of Mathematics*, 24(3):396–407, 1980.

[25] N.-P. Chung and K. Lee. Topological stability and pseudo-orbit tracing property of group actions. *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*, 146(3):1047–1057, 2018.

[26] N.-P. Chung and H. Li. Homoclinic groups, IE groups, and expansive algebraic actions. *Inventiones Mathematicae*, 199(3):805–858, 2015.

[27] S. Crovisier. Birth of homoclinic intersections: a model for the central dynamics of partially hyperbolic systems. *Annals of Mathematics. Second Series*, 172(3):1641–1677, 2010.

[28] M. M. Day. Amenable semigroups. *Illinois Journal of Mathematics*, 1(4):509–544, 1957.

[29] C. Deninger. Fuglede-Kadison determinants and entropy for actions of discrete amenable groups. *Journal of the American Mathematical Society*, 19(3):737–758, 2006.

[30] C. Deninger and K. Schmidt. Expansive algebraic actions of discrete residually finite amenable groups and their entropy. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems*, 27(3):769–786, 2007.

[31] T. Downarowicz. *Entropy in Dynamical Systems*. New Mathematical Monographs, 18. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2011.

[32] T. Downarowicz, B. Frej, and P.-P. Romagnoli. Shearer’s inequality and infimum rule for Shannon entropy and topological entropy. In *Dynamics and Numbers*, pages 63–75. Contemporary Mathematics, 669, American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 2016.

[33] M. Einsiedler and T. Ward. Entropy geometry and disjointness for zero-dimensional algebraic actions. *Journal für die Reine und Angewandte Mathematik*, 584:195–214, 2005.

[34] G. Elek. On the analytic zero divisor conjecture of Linnell. *Bulletin of the London Mathematical Society*, 35(2):236–238, 2003.

[35] D. Gaboriau and B. Seward. Cost, $\ell^2$-Betti numbers and the sofic entropy of some algebraic actions. *Journal d’Analyse Mathématique*, 139(1):1–65, 2019.

[36] E. Glasner. *Ergodic Theory via Joinings*. Mathematical Surveys and Monographs, 101. American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 2003.

[37] E. Glasner and X. Ye. Local entropy theory. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems*, 29(2):321–356, 2009.

[38] M. Göll, K. Schmidt, and E. Verbitskiy. Algebraic actions of the discrete Heisenberg group: Expansiveness and homoclinic points. *Indagationes Mathematicae*, 25(4):713–744, 2014.

[39] R. I. Grigorchuk. On the growth degrees of $p$-groups and torsion-free groups. *Mathematics of the USSR-Sbornik*, 54(1):185–205, 1986 [Russian original: Matematicheskii Sbornik 126(168):194–214, 1985].
[40] R. I. Grigorchuk and A. Maki. A group of intermediate growth acting by homomorphisms on the real line. *Mathematical Notes*, 53(2):146–157, 1993 [Russian original: Matematicheskie Zametki 53(2):46–63, 1993].

[41] R. I. Grigorchuk and A. Žuk. The lamplighter group as a group generated by a 2-state automaton, and its spectrum. *Geometriae Dedicata*, 87(1-3):209–244, 2001.

[42] P. Hall. Finiteness conditions for soluble groups. *Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society. Third Series*, 4:419–436, 1954.

[43] B. Hayes. Fuglede-Kadison determinants and sofic entropy. *Geometric and Functional Analysis*, 26(2):520–606, 2016.

[44] B. Hayes. Independence tuples and Deninger’s problem. *Groups, Geometry, and Dynamics*, 11(1):245–289, 2017.

[45] B. Hayes. Local and doubly empirical convergence and the entropy of algebraic actions of sofic groups. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems*, 39(4):930–953, 2019.

[46] B. Hayes. Max-min theorems for weak containment, square summable homoclinic points, and completely positive entropy. *Indiana University Mathematics Journal*, 70(4):1221–1266, 2021.

[47] W. Huang, A. Maass, P.-P. Romagnoli, and X. Ye. Entropy pairs and a local Abramov formula for a measure theoretical entropy of open covers. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems*, 24(4):1127–1153, 2004.

[48] W. Huang and X. Ye. A local variational relation and applications. *Israel Journal of Mathematics*, 151(1):237–279, 2006.

[49] W. Huang and X. Ye. Combinatorial lemmas and applications to dynamics. *Advances in Mathematics*, 220(6):1689–1716, 2009.

[50] W. Huang, X. Ye, and G. Zhang. Local entropy theory for a countable discrete amenable group action. *Journal of Functional Analysis*, 261(4):1028–1082, 2011.

[51] M. G. Karpovsky and V. D. Milman. Coordinate density of sets of vectors. *Discrete Mathematics*, 24(2):177–184, 1978.

[52] D. Kerr. Bernoulli actions of sofic groups have completely positive entropy. *Israel Journal of Mathematics*, 202(1):461–474, 2014.

[53] D. Kerr and H. Li. Independence in topological and $C^*$-dynamics. *Mathematische Annalen*, 338(4):869–926, 2007.

[54] D. Kerr and H. Li. Combinatorial independence in measurable dynamics. *Journal of Functional Analysis*, 256(5):1341–1386, 2009.

[55] D. Kerr and H. Li. Entropy and the variational principle for actions of sofic groups. *Inventiones Mathematicae*, 186(3):501–558, 2011.

[56] D. Kerr and H. Li. Combinatorial independence and sofic entropy. *Communications in Mathematics and Statistics*, 1(2):213–257, 2013.

[57] D. Kerr and H. Li. Soficity, amenability, and dynamical entropy. *American Journal of Mathematics*, 135(3):721–761, 2013.

[58] D. Kerr and H. Li. *Ergodic Theory, Independence and Dichotomies*. Springer Monographs in Mathematics. Springer, Cham, 2016.

[59] B. Kitchens and K. Schmidt. Isomorphism rigidity of irreducible algebraic $\mathbb{Z}^d$-actions. *Inventiones Mathematicae*, 142(3):559–577, 2000.

[60] F. Krieger. Le lemme d’Ornstein-Weiss d’après Gromov. In *Dynamics, Ergodic Theory and Geometry*, pages 99–111. Mathematical Sciences Research Institute Publications, 54, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2007.
[61] T. Y. Lam. *Lectures on Modules and Rings*. Graduate Texts in Mathematics, 189. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1999.

[62] H. Li. Compact group automorphisms, addition formulas and Fuglede-Kadison determinants. *Annals of Mathematics. Second Series*, 176(1):303–347, 2012.

[63] H. Li and B. Liang. Mean dimension, mean rank, and von Neumann-Lück rank. *Journal für die Reine und Angewandte Mathematik*, 739:207–240, 2018.

[64] H. Li and B. Liang. Sofic mean length. *Advances in Mathematics*, 353:802–858, 2019.

[65] H. Li and Z. Rong. Combinatorial independence and naive entropy. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems*, 41(7):2136–2147, 2021.

[66] H. Li and A. Thom. Entropy, determinants, and $L^2$-torsion. *Journal of the American Mathematical Society*, 27(1):239–292, 2014.

[67] D. Lind. The structure of skew products with ergodic group automorphisms. *Israel Journal of Mathematics*, 28(3):205–248, 1977.

[68] D. Lind and K. Schmidt. Homoclinic points of algebraic $Z^d$-actions. *Journal of the American Mathematical Society*, 12(4):953–980, 1999.

[69] D. Lind and K. Schmidt. A survey of algebraic actions of the discrete Heisenberg group. *Russian Mathematical Surveys*, 70(4):657–714, 2015 [Russian original: Uspekhi Matematicheskikh Nauk 70(4):77–142, 2015].

[70] D. Lind, K. Schmidt, and E. Verbitskiy. Homoclinic points, atoral polynomials, and periodic points of algebraic $Z^d$-actions. *Journal of the American Mathematical Society*, 33(4):1060–1081, 2013.

[71] D. Lind, K. Schmidt, and T. Ward. Mahler measure and entropy for commuting automorphisms of compact groups. *Inventiones Mathematicae*, 101(3):593–629, 1990.

[72] P. A. Linnell. Division rings and group von neumann algebras. *Forum Mathematicum*, 5(6):561–576, 1993.

[73] P. A. Linnell. Analytic versions of the zero divisor conjecture. In *Geometry and Cohomology in Group Theory (Durham, 1994)*, pages 209–248. London Mathematical Society Lecture Note Series, 252, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1998.

[74] W. Lück. $L^2$-Invariants: *Theory and Applications to Geometry and K-theory*. Results in Mathematics and Related Areas. 3rd Series. A Series of Modern Surveys in Mathematics. 44. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 2002.

[75] R. Lyons and F. Nazarov. Perfect matchings as IID factors on non-amenable groups. *European Journal of Combinatorics*, 32(7):1115–1125, 2011.

[76] J. C. McConnell and J. C. Robson. *Noncommutative Noetherian Rings*. Revised edition. Graduate Studies in Mathematics, 30. American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 2001.

[77] T. Meyerovitch. Pseudo-orbit tracing and algebraic actions of countable amenable groups. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems*, 39(9):2570–2591, 2019.

[78] G. Miles and R. K. Thomas. Generalized torus automorphisms are Bernoullian. In *Studies in Probability and Ergodic Theory*, pages 231–249. Advances in Mathematics Supplementary Studies, 2. Academic Press, New York-London, 1978.

[79] J. Moulin Ollagnier. *Ergodic Theory and Statistical Mechanics*. Lecture Notes in Mathematics, 1115. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1985.

[80] R. B. Mura and A. Rhemtulla. *Orderable Groups*. Lecture Notes in Pure and Applied Mathematics, 27. Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York-Basel, 1977.

[81] P. Oprocha. Shadowing in multi-dimensional shift spaces. *Colloquium Mathematicum*, 110(2):451–460, 2008.
[82] D. S. Ornstein and B. Weiss. Entropy and isomorphism theorems for actions of amenable groups. *Journal d’Analyse Mathématique*, 48(1):1–141, 1987.

[83] D. S. Passman. *The Algebraic Structure of Group Rings*. Reprint of the 1977 original. Robert E. Krieger Publishing Co., Inc., Melbourne, FL, 1985.

[84] V. G. Pestov. Hyperlinear and sofic groups: a brief guide. *The Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*, 14(4):449–480, 2008.

[85] M. Pollicott and M. Yuri. *Dynamical Systems and Ergodic Theory*. London Mathematical Society Student Texts, 40. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1998.

[86] E. R. Pujals and M. Sambarino. Homoclinic tangencies and hyperbolicity for surface diffeomorphisms. *Annals of Mathematics. Second Series*, 151(3):961–1023, 2000.

[87] A. N. Quas and P. B. Trow. Subshifts of multi-dimensional shifts of finite type. *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems*, 20(3):859–874, 2000.

[88] D. J. Rudolph and K. Schmidt. Almost block independence and Bernoullicity of $\mathbb{Z}^d$-actions by automorphisms of compact abelian groups. *Inventiones Mathematicae*, 120(3):455–488, 1995.

[89] V. Salo. Personal communication, 2019.

[90] K. Schmidt. *Dynamical Systems of Algebraic Origin*. Modern Birkhäuser Classics. Birkhäuser/Springer Basel AG, Basel, 1995.

[91] K. Schmidt and T. Ward. Mixing automorphisms of compact groups and a theorem of Schlickewei. *Inventiones Mathematicae*, 111(1):69–76, 1993.

[92] P. Walters. On the pseudo-orbit tracing property and its relationship to stability. In *The Structure of Attractors in Dynamical Systems*, pages 231–244. Lecture Notes in Mathematics, 668. Springer Berlin, 1978.

[93] P. Walters. *An Introduction to Ergodic Theory*. Graduate Texts in Mathematics, 79. Springer-Verlag, New York-Berlin, 1982.

[94] S. A. Yuzvinskii. Metric properties of endomorphisms of compact groups. *American Mathematical Society Translations: Series 2*, 66:63–98, 1968 [Russian original: Izvestiya Rossiiskoi Akademii Nauk. Seriya Matematicheskaya 29:1295–1328, 1965].

S. Barbieri, DMCC, Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Las Sophoras 173. Estación Central. Santiago. Chile.

E-mail address: sebastian.barbieri@usach.cl

F. García-Ramos, CONACYT, México.

Instituto de Física, Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, México.

E-mail address: fgramos@conacyt.mx

H. Li, Center of Mathematics, Chongqing University, Chongqing 401331, China.

Department of Mathematics, SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260-2900, USA.

E-mail address: hfli@math.buffalo.edu