

# Higher Rank Abelian Smooth Action with Hyperbolicity

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### §1 May 13

For classical dynamical systems, we consider about discrete dynamics or flows. It consists of a space  $X$  and a family of maps  $X \rightarrow X$ ,

$$\{f^{(n)} : n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \quad \text{or} \quad \{f^t : t \in \mathbb{R}\},$$

satisfying the group conditions.

We will consider a more general settings: **an abelian group action on  $X$** . The settings are

- $X$  a manifold.
- A family of maps  $\{f^t \in \text{Homeo}(X) : t \in \mathbb{Z}^l\}$ , satisfies  $f^t \circ f^s = f^{t+s}$ .

Or, we can rewrite the second condition as a group homomorphism

$$\alpha : \mathbb{Z}^l \rightarrow \text{Homeo}(X).$$

#### Example 1.1

A non-invertible example, i.e.  $\alpha$  is just a semi-group homomorphism

$$\alpha : \mathbb{N}^2 \rightarrow C^0(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{T}), \quad (m, n) \mapsto (\times 2)^m (\times 3)^n.$$

Furstenberg showed that the orbit of this action is either finite or dense. This is an example of a hyperbolic setting.

**Example 1.2**

Let  $R_\alpha$  be the  $\alpha$ -rotation on  $\mathbb{T}$ . We can consider the action

$$\alpha : (m, n) \rightarrow \text{Homeo}(\mathbb{T}), \quad (m, n) \rightarrow R_\alpha^m R_\beta^n.$$

This is an example of a non hyperbolic setting.

**Remark 1.3** — Fayad-Kanin showed that if  $f, g : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$ ,  $R(f) = \alpha$ ,  $R(g) = \beta$  and  $(\alpha, \beta)$  satisfies some number-theoretic conditions, then  $\exists \varphi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{T})$  such that  $\varphi \circ f \circ \varphi^{-1} = R_\alpha$  and  $\varphi \circ g \circ \varphi^{-1} = R_\beta$ .

For a hyperbolic setting, we consider a baby case. Let  $A \in \text{SL}(n, \mathbb{C})$  be a diagonalizable matrix, assume

$$A \sim \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & & \\ & \lambda_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix},$$

and  $|\lambda_j| \neq 1$  for every  $j$ , then we call  $A$  to be a **hyperbolic matrix**. Let  $\sigma_j = \log |\lambda_j|$ , then “hyperbolicity” means  $\sigma_j \neq 0$ .

**Example 1.4**

$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \curvearrowright \mathbb{T}^2$ , a classical Anosov map.

**Proposition 1.5** ( $C^0$ -Rigidity of Anosov Map)

For an Anosov map  $f \in \text{Diff}^\infty(X)$ , if another map  $g \in \text{Diff}^\infty(X)$  is  $C^1$ -closed to  $f$ , then  $\exists h \in \text{Homeo}(X)$  such that  $h \circ g \circ h^{-1} = f$ .

**Remark 1.6** — In general, the regularity of  $h$  cannot be  $C^1$ . Because a  $C^1$  conjugacy preserves the derivatives of fixed points.

**Question 1.7.** If we have higher rank action with at least one Anosov element, can we have the similar result?

**Example 1.8**

A baby case: for  $f_1, f_2$  commutes with each other, consider the action

$$\alpha : \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \text{Diff}^\infty(\mathbb{T}^2), \quad (m, n) \rightarrow f_1^m f_2^n.$$

Assume there exists  $(m, n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  such that  $f_1^m f_2^n$  is Anosov. Then we perturb  $(f_1, f_2)$  to  $(\tilde{f}_1, \tilde{f}_2)$  a little bit such that  $\tilde{f}_1 \tilde{f}_2 = \tilde{f}_2 \tilde{f}_1$  still holds. Then there exists  $h$  such that  $h \tilde{f}_1 h^{-1} = f_1$  and  $h \tilde{f}_2 h^{-1} = f_2$ .

**Question 1.9.** Can the conjugate  $h$  be more regular?

It is easy to construct a counter example such that  $h$  could not be  $C^1$ . For example, we can regard a  $\mathbb{Z}^1$ -action as a “degenerated”  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -action.

**Example 1.10**

Let  $T_A, T_B : \mathbb{T}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^2$  be two hyperbolic matrices. We consider

$$\alpha : (m, n) \rightarrow T_{A \times \text{Id}}^m T_{\text{Id} \times B}^n,$$

a  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -action on  $\mathbb{T}^2$ . The conjugate  $h$  in general still cannot be  $C^1$ .

This counter example is a non degenerated  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -action, but is somehow not “genuinely higher rank”. So, we need a “**genuinely higher rank assumption**”.

**Question 1.11.** Let  $\alpha_0 : \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \text{SL}(d, \mathbb{Z}) \subset \text{Diff}^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d)$  be an action such that there exists  $(m, n)$ ,  $\alpha_0(m, n)$  is Anosov (i.e. a hyperbolic matrix). Then for a  $C^1$ -perturbation  $\alpha$  of  $\alpha_0$ ,  $\alpha : \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \text{Diff}^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d)$ , can we show that  $\exists h \in \text{Diff}^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d)$  such that  $h \circ \alpha \circ h^{-1} = \alpha_0$ ?

To avoid the rank-one case, we need an additional assumption.

**“Totally ergodic ergodic assumption”:**  $\forall (m, n) \neq (0, 0)$ ,  $\alpha_0(m, n)$  is ergodic with respect to the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{T}^d$ .

## §2 May 20

**Conjecture 2.1** ( $\mathbb{Z}^l$  version of Karok-Spatzier's Conjecture)

Let  $\alpha : \mathbb{Z}^l \rightarrow \text{Diff}^\infty(M)$  be an action such that there exists  $a \neq 0 \in \mathbb{Z}^l$ ,  $\alpha(a)$  is Anosov. Then under some suitable “higher rank” assumption (no rank-one factor),  $\alpha$  is  $C^\infty$  conjugate to an “algebraic-defined” model.

As a contrast, we consider a famous conjecture of Smale and Borel in the case of rank-one.

**Conjecture 2.2** (Smale-Borel)

If  $f$  is Anosov, then  $f$  is  $C^0$ -conjugate to a  $\mathbb{T}^d$  automorphism.

This conjecture in general is **False**, for Borel have constructed an Anosov diffeomorphism on a nil-manifold. Later, there has been constructed an example of Anosov diffeomorphism on an infra-nil-manifold.

**Theorem 2.3** (Franks-Manning)

Suppose  $f \in \text{Diff}^1(M)$  is Anosov, where  $M$  is a nil-manifold. Then  $f$  is  $C^0$ -conjugate to an affine map on  $M$ .

**Corollary 2.4**

Assume  $f, g \in \text{Diff}^1(M)$  are Anosov, where  $M$  is a nil-manifold. Then there exists  $h \in \text{Homeo}(M)$  such that  $hfh^{-1} = f_0, hgh^{-1} = g_0$  where  $f_0, g_0$  are affine maps on  $M$ .

**Theorem 2.5** (Hertz-Z.Wang, 2014)

Consider the action  $\alpha : \mathbb{Z}^k \rightarrow \text{Diff}^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d)$  which is homotopic to  $\alpha_0 : \mathbb{Z}^k \rightarrow \text{GL}(d, \mathbb{Z})$ , if  $\alpha$  is Anosov (in the sense that  $\exists a \in \mathbb{Z}^k \setminus \{0\}, \alpha(a)$  is Anosov). Assume that  $\exists \mathbb{Z}^2 \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^k$  such that  $\alpha_0|_{\mathbb{Z}^2}$  is totally ergodic, then  $\alpha$  is  $C^\infty$ -conjugate to an affine action.

**Theorem 2.6** (Fisher-Kalinin-Spatzier, 2013)

The same result (as Theorem 2.5) holds under a stronger assumption that  $\alpha$  has “many” Anosov elements.

**Weyl Chamber picture**

The Lyapunov exponent for a matrix is  $\sigma_i = \log |\lambda_i|$ , where  $\lambda_i$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$ . Then

$$A \sim \begin{bmatrix} \square & & & \\ & \square & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \square \end{bmatrix},$$

where each  $\square$  is a block with all the same eigenvalues. Then we can get a coarse decomposition of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  corresponding to different Lyapunov exponents. Denotes this splitting by

$$\mathbb{R}^d = V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus V_r,$$

then  $V_i$  is  $A$ -invariant. Moreover, for every  $B$  commutes with  $A$ ,  $B$  also preserves each  $V_i$ . Hence for a  $\mathbb{Z}^k$  action of  $\text{GL}(d, \mathbb{Z})$ , we can split  $\mathbb{R}^d$  into a direct sum of finite many subspaces  $\{V_i\}$ . Such that, for every  $A \in \alpha(\mathbb{Z}^k)$ ,  $A|_{V_i}$  has a constant Lyapunov exponent. Then we can define the **Lyapunov functionals**  $\lambda_i : A \mapsto \sigma(A|_{V_i})$ , these functionals will induce linear functionals  $\mathbb{Z}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

**§3 June 3**

Today, we are going to show the idea of the proof of Theorem 2.6. For a references, for example, see [here](#).

Consider actions

$$\alpha_0 : \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathbb{T}^d), \quad \alpha : \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \text{Diff}^1(\mathbb{T}^d)$$

which are homotopic. Assume that for every  $a \neq \text{Id}$ ,  $\alpha_0(a)$  is ergodic. We want to show under some conditions (“many Anosov elements”),  $\alpha$  is  $C^\infty$ -conjugate to  $\alpha_0$ .

**Aim 3.1.** Find a way to state the “many Anosov elements” condition formally.

Recall the Lyapunov functionals introduced in last lecture. It corresponds to a Lyapunov (or Oseledec) decomposition  $\mathbb{R}^d = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k V^i$ , such that for every  $v \neq 0 \in V^i$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \|\alpha_0(na)v\| = \lambda_i(a).$$

Now we introduce the **Weyl chamber picture**. Consider the kernel of each  $\lambda_i$ , which is a line in  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ . Then these lines divide the plane into several connected components. Each connected component is called a **Weyl chamber**. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a Weyl chamber, then the signs of  $\lambda_i(a)$ 's are the same for every  $a \in \mathcal{C}$ . Hence for each Weyl chamber  $\mathcal{C}$ , we can use  $k$  signs  $(\text{sgn } \lambda_1(a), \dots, \text{sgn } \lambda_k(a))$ ,  $a \in \mathcal{C}$ , to denote it.

### Weyl chamber picture for non-linear settings

Recall Oseledec's theorem. For the case of  $\mathbb{Z}^1$ -action, let

$$f : (X, \mu) \rightarrow (X, \mu)$$

be a ergodic maps. Let

$$F : X \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow X \times \mathbb{R}^d, \quad (x, v) \mapsto (f(x), F_x v)$$

be a linear cocycle over  $f$ , where  $F_x \in \text{GL}(d, \mathbb{R})$  for every  $x \in X$  and

$$\int_X \|F_x\| d\mu(x) < \infty.$$

Oseledec's theorem tells us there exists an ( $\mu$ -a.e.)  $F$ -invariant splitting of  $X \times \mathbb{R}^d = \bigoplus V_x^i$  and  $k$  Lyapunov exponents  $\lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > \dots > \lambda_k$  such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \|F_x^n v\| = \lambda_i, \quad \forall v \in V_x^i \setminus \{0\}.$$

For a  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -action case, let

$$f_{(m,n)} : (X, \mu) \rightarrow (X, \mu), \quad (m, n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$$

be ergodic maps satisfying group conditions. Let

$$\{F_{(m,n,x)} \in \text{GL}(d, \mathbb{R}) : (m, n, x) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \times X\}$$

be a family of linear maps satisfying the cocycle condition

$$F_{(m+m', n+n', x)} = F_{(m', n', f_{(m,n)}(x))} \circ F_{(m,n,x)}.$$

Then there exists linear functions  $\lambda_i : \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and a splitting

$$\mathbb{R}^d = \bigoplus V_{(m,n,x)}^i, \quad (m, n, x) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \times X.$$

which is ( $\mu$ -a.e.) cocycle-invariant. Such that for  $\mu$ -a.e.  $x \in X$ , for every  $(m, n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ ,

$$\lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{l} \log \|F_{(lm, ln, x)} v\| = \lambda_i(m, n), \quad \forall v \in V_{(m,n,x)}^i \setminus \{0\}.$$

In our case, we will consider the derivative cocycle, i.e.  $f_{(m,n)} = \alpha(m, n)$  and  $F_{(m,n,x)} = D_x f_{(m,n)}$ . Then there is a  $\mu$ -a.e. defined  $\alpha$ -invariant measurable splitting  $T\mathbb{T}^d = \bigoplus V^i$ , and each  $V^i$  corresponds to a Lyapunov functional  $\lambda_i : \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Besides, we can define the Weyl chamber picture similarly.

By Franks-Manning's theorem,  $\alpha$  conjugates to an affine action. By passing to a finite index subgroup if necessary, we can assume that it conjugates an action on  $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{T}^d)$ . That is, there exists a bi-Hölder map  $h$  such that  $h \circ \alpha_0 \circ h^{-1} = \alpha$  ( $\alpha_0$  is the linear model of  $\alpha$ ). Then  $\nu = h_*(\text{Leb}_{\mathbb{T}^d})$  is an  $\alpha$ -invariant ergodic measure on  $\mathbb{T}^d$ .

Now, we need the “**many Anosov**” condition: for every Weyl chamber  $\mathcal{C}$  of linear action  $\alpha_0$ , there exists  $a \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $\alpha(a)$  is Anosov.

### Proposition 3.2

For  $(\alpha, \nu)$ , it has exactly the same Weyl chamber picture as the linear model  $(\alpha_0, \text{Leb})$ .

Note that  $\alpha_0(a)$  is a Anosov iff  $a \notin \bigcup \ker \lambda_i$ . Moreover, we can show that

### Proposition 3.3

$\alpha(a)$  is Anosov iff  $\alpha_0(a)$  is Anosov.

**Explanation.** We have found sufficiently many Anosov elements  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_s$  (each Weyl chamber of  $\alpha_0$  has at least one). We consider the stable/unstable foliation of each  $\alpha(a_i)$ .

**Fact 3.4.** If  $a_i, a_j$  in the same Weyl chamber, then they share the same  $\mathcal{W}^{u/s}$ .

**Fact 3.5.** Each  $\mathcal{W}_{a_i}^{u/s}$  is invariant under  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -action  $\alpha$ .

**Fact 3.6.** Any non-trivial intersection  $\bigcap_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \mathcal{W}_{a_i}^{u/s}$  is  $\alpha$ -invariant.

Let  $\mathcal{W}^1, \mathcal{W}^2, \dots, \mathcal{W}^n$  be (the finest) non-trivial intersections of these stable/unstable manifolds. Let  $E^i = T\mathcal{W}^i$ . Then  $T\mathbb{T}^d = \bigoplus E^i$ , which is a splitting possibly coarser than the Oseledec's splitting. Moreover, we can show that

**Fact 3.7.** Each  $E^i$  has the form  $\bigoplus_{\lambda_j: \exists c > 0, \lambda_j = c\lambda} V^j$  for a fixed Lyapunov functional  $\lambda$ .

Roughly speaking, this splitting is the finest splitting such that: for every  $E^i$ , for every  $a \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \bigcup \ker \lambda_j$ ,  $\alpha(a)$  contracts or expands  $E^i$  simultaneously. We call  $E^i$  the **coarse Lyapunov distribution** and  $\mathcal{W}^i$  the **coarse Lyapunov foliation**.

**Fact 3.8.**  $h : \mathcal{W}_{\alpha_0}^i \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_\alpha^i$ .

Then for every  $a \notin \bigcup \ker \lambda_j$ , let  $\nu$  be an  $\alpha(a)$ -invariant ergodic measure. Note that the Lyapunov exponents of  $\alpha_0(a)$  on  $\mathcal{W}_{\alpha_0}^i$  are bounded away from zero. Applying Pesin theory and the conjugacy is bi-Hölder, we can show that the Lyapunov exponents of  $(\alpha(a), \nu)$  have the same sign and are bounded away from zero on each  $\mathcal{W}_\alpha^i$ . It follows that  $\alpha(a)$  is uniformly contracting or expanding along each  $\mathcal{W}_\alpha^i$ , hence  $\alpha(a)$  is Anosov.  $\square$

**Aim 3.9.** To show  $h$  is  $C^\infty$ .

**Idea** Try to apply the philosophy of Journé lemma (see [here](#)).

**Proposition 3.10** (A regularity result)

Let  $u \in L^1(\mathbb{T}^d)$  and  $\mathcal{W}^1, \dots, \mathcal{W}^k$  be strongly absolutely continuous foliations with  $C^\infty$  leaves such that  $T\mathcal{W}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus T\mathcal{W}_k = T\mathbb{T}^d$ . If for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  small enough,

$$|\langle D_{\mathcal{W}^i}^\beta u, \varphi \rangle| \leq C(\alpha, \varepsilon) \|\varphi\|_\varepsilon, \quad \forall i, \forall \varphi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^d),$$

where  $\|\cdot\|_\varepsilon$  is the  $\varepsilon$ -Hölder norm  $\|\varphi\|_\varepsilon := \sup \frac{|\varphi(x) - \varphi(y)|}{d(x, y)^\varepsilon} + \|\varphi\|_\infty$ . Then  $u$  is  $C^\infty$ .

**Aim 3.11.** To estimate  $|\langle D_{\mathcal{W}^i}^\alpha (h - \text{Id}), \varphi \rangle|$ .

We need a dynamical view to show this fact. More precisely,  $\alpha$ -action is exponentially mixing with respect to  $h_*(\text{Leb}_{\mathbb{T}^d})$ .

**§4 June 9**

Recall the last lecture:

1. We can define Weyl chamber picture for linear action  $\alpha_0$ .
2. Use Weyl chamber picture of  $\alpha_0$ , we can define “many” Anosov elements of  $\alpha$ .
3. Under the “many Anosov” assumption, we can show that  $\alpha_0(m, n)$  is Anosov iff  $\alpha(m, n)$  is Anosov. See Proposition 4.3.

For our proof, we assume acting manifold is standard torus  $\mathbb{T}^d$ . In FKS's original proof, a priori  $\alpha$  can act on exotic  $\mathbb{T}^d$ , but they show that this case cannot happen because of the following two facts.

**Fact 4.1.** Exotic  $\mathbb{T}^d$  ( $d > 4$ ) is finitely covered by standard  $\mathbb{T}^d$ .

**Fact 4.2.**  $d = 3, 4$ , by a measurable normal form theorem.

**Proposition 4.3**

Let  $M$  be a  $C^\infty$  closed manifold and  $f_1, f_2 \in \text{Diff}^2(M)$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) be an  $f_i$ -invariant topological foliation with  $C^2$ -leaves. If there exists a bi-Hölder homeomorphism  $h$  such that  $h f_1 h^{-1} = f_2$ , and  $f_1|_{\mathcal{F}_1}$  is expanding, then  $f_2|_{\mathcal{F}_2}$  is expanding.

**Remark 4.4** —  $(f_1, M)$  is uniformly hyperbolic does **not** imply  $(f_2, M)$  is uniformly hyperbolic. There exists an example that  $(f_1, M)$  is Anosov but not  $(f_2, M)$ .

Now, we back to our aim 3.11, where the pair  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  means integral with respect to a smooth volume. Let  $h \circ \alpha_0 \circ h^{-1} = \alpha$ , we want to show  $h$  is  $C^\infty$ . Let  $\mu = h_*(\text{Leb}_{\mathbb{T}^d})$ , then  $\alpha$  preserves  $\mu$ .

**Proposition 4.5** (Journé Lemma)

Let  $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2$  be two topological leaves with uniformly  $C^r$ -leaves of  $M$  such that  $T\mathcal{F}_1 \oplus T\mathcal{F}_2 = TM$ . Let  $1 \leq s \leq r$  and  $h : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function which is uniformly  $C^s$  along  $\mathcal{F}_i$ . Then  $h$  is a  $C^{s-}$  function. Moreover, if  $s$  is not an integer or  $s = \infty$ , then  $h$  is  $C^s$ .

**Proposition 4.6**

$\mu$  is a smooth measure on  $\mathbb{T}^d$ .

*Proof.* Let  $J_f x$  be the Jacobian of  $f$  at  $x$ . Because  $h$  is Hölder, then  $\log J_{\alpha(a)} h(x)$  is a Hölder cocycle over  $\alpha_0$ . By Katok-Spatzier's rigidity theorem, a higher rank Hölder cocycle is homologous to a constant. That is, there exists  $c : \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  linear such that

$$\log J_{\alpha(a)} h(x) = c(a) + \Phi(\alpha_0(a)x) - \Phi(x).$$

Then  $\log J_{\alpha(a)} x = c(a) + \Psi(\alpha(a)x) - \Psi(x)$ . Hence the normalized measure of  $e^{-\Psi} \text{Leb}$  is  $\alpha$ -invariant. Denote this measure by  $\mu'$ , take an Anosov element  $a$ , then  $\mu'$  is the unique SRB measure of  $\alpha(a)$ . Again by the rigidity of cocycle, we know that the equilibrium state of  $\log J^u$  coincides with the equilibrium state of constants which is the measure of maximal entropy. Then the SRB measure  $\mu'$  is also MME, hence  $\mu' = \mu$ . Besides,  $\mu$  is a invariant measure of an smooth Anosov diffeomorphism and absolutely continuous, hence the density of  $\mu$  is  $C^\infty$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 4.7 (Exponential mixing)**

$\alpha$  with respect to  $\mu$  has exponential decay of matrix coefficients. More precisely, for every  $\gamma$ -Hölder functions  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \langle \alpha(m, n) \varphi_1, \varphi_2 \rangle - \int \varphi_1 d\mu \int \varphi_2 d\mu \right| \\ & \leq C(\alpha, \gamma) e^{-C(\alpha, \gamma)(m+n)} (\|\varphi_1\|_\gamma \|\varphi_2\|_2 + \|\varphi_1\|_2 \|\varphi_2\|_\gamma). \end{aligned}$$

**§5 June 22**

Recall the last lecture. We give some comments to the proof of proposition 4.6.

In the case of rank-one, recall the Livsic theorem. Let  $X \rightarrow X$  be a Anosov diffeomorphism and  $\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a Hölder continuous function. We want to know when there exists  $\psi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that

$$\varphi(x) = \psi(f(x)) - \psi(x) + c.$$

The Livsic theorem says that, such  $\psi$  exists if and only if for every  $k$ -periodic point  $p$ ,

$$\frac{1}{k} \sum_{l=1}^k \varphi(f^l(p)) = c.$$

In summary, if we want to show  $\varphi$  is cohomologous to a constant, it suffices to check it at all periodic points.

But on a higher rank case, Katok-Spatzier shows that any Hölder continuous cocycle is cohomologous to a constant if the original action is “higher rank” with a uniform hyperbolicity.

If we want to upgrade the regularity of solution  $\psi$ , the result was demonstrated by Livsic in 1970s. Later, Amie Wilkinson showed a similar result for a partially hyperbolic case in 2010s.

Now back to our goal: to proof proposition 4.7. For a torus case, the result can be shown by Fourier analysis on torus. For a more general case on nil-manifolds, it was shown in *Exponential Mixing of Nilmanifold Automorphisms* by Gorodnik-Spatzier in 2015.



**Idea** To use trigonometric polynomials to approximate general Hölder functions.

Firstly, we consider the case of both  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2$  are trigonometric polynomials. We can show that for  $(m, n)$  sufficiently large, we have

$$\int \alpha_0(m, n) \varphi_1 \cdot \varphi_2 d\text{Leb} = \int \varphi_1 d\text{Leb} \int \varphi_2 d\text{Leb}.$$

**Lemma 5.1**

For  $\alpha_0$ , there exists  $r_0 > 1$  such that: for every  $1 < r < r_0$  and  $\forall l$  large enough, consider the cube

$$H_l := \{z \in \mathbb{Z}^d : \|z\|_\infty \leq r^l\}$$

and  $a \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  such that  $\|a\| > l$ . We have  $\tau(a)H_l \cap H_l = \{0\}$ , where  $\tau(a)$  is the induced action of  $\alpha_0(a)$  on  $\pi_1(\mathbb{T}^d)$ .

Then we will approximate the Hölder functions by applying Fejér kernel

$$K_l(t) = \sum_{i=-l}^l \left(1 - \frac{|j|}{l+1}\right) e^{2\pi i j t}$$

on  $\mathbb{T}^1$ , and

$$F_l(t_1, \dots, t_d) = K_l(t_1) \cdots K_l(t_d)$$

on  $\mathbb{T}^d$ . For a  $\theta$ -Hölder function  $\varphi$  on  $\mathbb{T}^d$ , we have an estimate of the convergence speed as

$$\|F_l * \varphi - \varphi\|_\infty \leq C(\theta) \|\varphi\|_\theta m^{-\theta}.$$

Then we can show an exponentially mixing for  $\alpha_0$  for Hölder functions. By the conjugacy is Hölder regular, it also follows that  $\alpha$  is exponentially mixing.

Now we begin to show the conjugate is  $C^\infty$ . Recall that we assume  $\alpha$  and  $\alpha_0$  preserves a common fixed point at  $0 \in \mathbb{T}^d$  and  $h$  is bi-Hölder regular such that  $h \circ \alpha \circ h^{-1} = \alpha_0$ . Then we can lift both  $\alpha(a), \alpha_0(a), h$  to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we abbreviate these maps on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  to  $\tilde{a}, A, \tilde{h}$ , respectively. We can assume that  $\tilde{h}(0) = 0$  and it holds

$$\tilde{h} \circ \tilde{a} = A \circ \tilde{h}, \quad \forall a \in \mathbb{Z}^2.$$

Let  $\tilde{h} = \text{Id} + \phi$ , this identity can be written as

$$(\text{Id} + \phi) \circ \tilde{a} = A \circ (\text{Id} + \phi),$$

or,

$$\phi(x) = A^{-1}(\tilde{a}(x) - A(x)) + A^{-1}(\phi(\tilde{a}(x))) = Q(x) + A^{-1}(\phi(\tilde{a}(x))).$$

For every coarse Lyapunov foliation  $\mathcal{V}$  of  $\alpha$ , let  $V$  be the corresponding Lyapunov foliation (indeed a linear subspace) of  $\alpha_0$ . Let  $\phi_V : \pi_V \circ \phi$ , where  $\pi_V$  is the projection of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  to  $V$  along an  $\alpha_0$  invariant direction. Then

$$\phi_V(x) = Q_V(x) + A_V^{-1}(\phi_V(\tilde{a}(x))),$$

where  $Q_V$  is a smooth function. All we want is to find a well-chosen  $a \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  to upgrade the regularity of  $\phi_V$ .

**Idea** To show that the derivative of  $\phi_V$  along each  $\mathcal{V}'$  is a distribution of Hölder functions.

A priori, we don't know  $\phi_V$  is differentiable. Hence we consider it in  $\mathcal{D}$ , the space of distributions of smooth functions. Then the generalized derivative of  $\phi_V$  is meaningful. And we will do some estimate to show that each derivative is indeed a distribution of Hölder functions.

A key method is write  $\phi_V$  as a summation of series. By the former identity, we have

$$\phi_V(x) = \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} A_V^{-m}(\phi_V(\tilde{a}^m(x))) + A_V^{-N}(\phi_V(\tilde{a}^N(x))).$$

We can choose  $a$  such that  $A_V$  expands slowly, then  $\|A_V^{-N}\|$  grows at most polynomial in  $N$ . Hence by the exponentially mixing,

$$\langle A_V^{-N}(\phi_V(\tilde{a}^N(x))), f \rangle \rightarrow 0$$

for every Hölder function  $f$  with zero mean. Then

$$\phi_V = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} A_V^{-m}(\phi_V(\tilde{a}^m(x)))$$

in  $\mathcal{D}_0$ , the space of distributions on Hölder functions. In particular, the convergence is in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

**Remark 5.2** — Something subtle here is that, although the series is convergence in  $\mathcal{D}_0$ , but we cannot do a derivative on  $\mathcal{D}_0$ . Hence we need to consider these series in  $\mathcal{D}$ , do the derivatives and estimate it.

For another coarse Lyapunov foliation  $\mathcal{V}'$ , let  $(\phi_V)^{k, \mathcal{V}'}$  be the  $k$ -th generalized derivative of  $\phi_V$  along  $\mathcal{V}'$ . For a smooth test function  $f$ , by the exponentially mixing, we can bound

$$\langle (A_V^{-m}(\phi_V(\tilde{a}^m)))^{k, \mathcal{V}'}, f \rangle = \langle A_V^{-m}(\phi_V(\tilde{a}^m)), f^{k, \mathcal{V}'} \rangle$$

by some  $C r^{-m} \|f\|_{\theta}$ , where  $r > 1$ . In which we can always choose some  $a$  well to help us do the estimation. (In practice, we need to approximate a Hölder function by smooth functions. This need a little more delicate estimate.)

**Remark 5.3** — Our notations is a little bit different with the original paper, in which  $\phi$  and  $h$  are exchanged.

At the end, by the regularity result (proposition 3.10), the conclusion follows.