



# $\mathcal{F}$ Mixing and $\mathcal{F}$ Scattering

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we study the complexity of group actions from the viewpoint of Furstenberg families, we characterize the  $\mathcal{F}$  uniform rigidity and  $\mathcal{F}$  equicontinuity using topological sequence complexity function, and we establish the connection between  $\mathcal{F}$  mixing and  $\mathcal{F}$  scattering.

**Keywords:**  $\mathcal{F}$  uniform rigidity;  $\mathcal{F}$  mixing;  $\mathcal{F}$  scattering.

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## 1 Introduction

Blanchard, Host and Maass used open covers to define a complexity function for a continuous map on a compact metric space, and discussed the equicontinuity and scattering properties. Subsequently, Yang discussed the relations of  $\mathcal{F}$  mixing and  $\mathcal{F}$  scattering of a continuous map (see [1–3]). We study the complexity of group actions from the viewpoint of Furstenberg families. The results are as follows: we characterize the  $\mathcal{F}$  uniform rigidity and  $\mathcal{F}$  equicontinuity using topological sequence complexity function, and we establish the connection between  $\mathcal{F}$  mixing and  $\mathcal{F}$  scattering.

Suppose  $(X, T)$  is a semi-dynamical system, where  $X$  is a compact metric space,  $T$  is a topological semigroup and contains the unit element.

- Suppose  $X$  is a topological space,  $T$  is a topological semigroup, if a map

$$\pi : X \times T \rightarrow X$$

satisfies

$$\pi(\pi(x, t), s) = \pi(x, ts), \forall x \in X, \forall t, s \in T,$$

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then we call  $\pi$  a right action of  $T$  on  $X$ . If the right action  $\pi$  is continuous, then  $(X, T, \pi)$  is called a semi-dynamical system (abbreviation:  $(X, T)$ ). Often we write  $\pi(x, t) = xt$ .

• We denote by  $\mathcal{P}$  the collection of all subsets of  $T$ . Subset  $\mathcal{F}$  of  $\mathcal{P}$  is called a family, if  $\mathcal{P}$  has hereditary upward, i.e., if  $F_1 \subset F_2$  and  $F_1 \in \mathcal{F}$ , then  $F_2 \in \mathcal{F}$ . The family  $\mathcal{F}$  is a proper family when it is a proper subset of  $\mathcal{P}$ , neither empty nor all of  $\mathcal{P}$ .

For a family  $\mathcal{F}$ , we define the dual family:

$$\begin{aligned} k\mathcal{F} &= \{F|F \cap F_1 \neq \emptyset, \text{ for all } F_1 \in \mathcal{F}\} \\ &= \{F|T \setminus F \notin \mathcal{F}\}. \end{aligned}$$

• For  $t \in T$  define  $g^t : T \rightarrow T$  by  $g^t(s) = ts, \forall s \in T$ ,  $g^t$  is called a translation map. If for any  $t \in T$  and any  $F \in \mathcal{F}$ , we have  $(g^t)^{-1}(F) \in \mathcal{F}$ , then a family  $\mathcal{F}$  is called translation invariant. Write  $\tau\mathcal{F} = \{F|(g^{t_1})^{-1}(F) \cap \dots \cap (g^{t_k})^{-1}(F) \in \mathcal{F}, \text{ for any finite subset } \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_k\} \text{ of } T\}$ . Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a family of infinite subset of  $T$ , if  $k\mathcal{B} \cdot \mathcal{F} = \{A \cap F|A \in k\mathcal{B}, F \in \mathcal{F}\} \subset \mathcal{F}$ , then a proper family  $\mathcal{F}$  is called full.

• Assume that  $\mathcal{F}$  is a family,  $x \in X$ . Write  $\omega_{\mathcal{F}}(x) = \bigcap_{F \in k\mathcal{F}} \overline{xF}$ , then  $\omega_{\mathcal{F}}(x)$  is called a  $\mathcal{F}$  limit set of  $x$ ;  $y \in \omega_{\mathcal{F}}(x)$ , i.e., for any neighborhood  $U$  of  $y, D(x, U) = \{t|xt \in U\} \in \mathcal{F}$ , then  $y$  is called a  $\mathcal{F}$  limit point of  $x$ . Recall that the continuous action  $\pi$  on  $X$  induces a continuous action  $\pi_*$  of  $T$  on  $C^u(X, X)$  by  $(\pi_t)_*(h) = \pi_t \circ h$ . We call  $(X, T)$   $\mathcal{F}$  uniformly rigid, if  $id \in \omega_{\mathcal{F}}(id)$ , i.e., for any  $\varepsilon > 0, \{t|d(\pi_t, id) < \varepsilon\} \in \mathcal{F}$  (where  $d(\pi_t, id) = \sup\{d(\pi_t(x), x)|x \in X\}$ ).

• Let  $C = \{U_1, \dots, U_k\}$  be an open cover of  $X$ . If  $S$  is a infinite subset of  $T$ , denote the set of all finite subsets of  $S$  by  $F(S)$ . For  $A \in F(S)$ , denote  $C_0^A = \bigvee_{t \in A} (\pi_t)^{-1}C$ . Let  $r_S(T, C, A)$  denote the number of sets in a finite subcover of  $C_0^A$  with smallest cardinality. We get a map  $r_S(T, C, \cdot) : F(S) \rightarrow Z^+, A \mapsto r_S(T, C, A)$ .  $r_S(T, C, \cdot)$  is said to be the topological complexity function of the cover  $C$  along  $S$ . Put  $E = \{1, \dots, k\}$ . One defines a map  $\omega : T \rightarrow E, t \mapsto \omega(t)$ . If  $x \in \bigcap_{t \in S} \pi_t^{-1}U_{\omega(t)}$ , then  $\omega$  is called a  $C_S$ -name of  $x$ . Denote  $J^*(\omega) = \bigcap_{t \in T} \pi_t^{-1}U_{\omega(t)}, J_S^*(\omega) = \bigcap_{t \in S} \pi_t^{-1}U_{\omega(t)}$ . If  $\bigcup_{i \in I} J_S^*(\omega_i) = X$ , then we say that the set of  $C_S$ -names  $\omega_i$  covers  $X$ . Let  $M(T, E)$  be the set of maps from  $T$  to  $E$  and  $M(S, E)$  be the set of maps from  $S$  to  $E$ .

• For any open set  $U, V$  of  $X$ , if  $D(U, V) = \{t \in T|U \cap \pi_t^{-1}V \neq \emptyset\} \in \mathcal{F}$ , then  $(X, T)$  is called  $\mathcal{F}$  transitive. If  $(X \times X, T)$  is  $\mathcal{F}$  transitive, then  $(X, T)$  is called  $\mathcal{F}$  mixing; If for any  $S \in \mathcal{F}$ , and any finite cover  $C$  of  $X$  by non-dense open sets, we have  $r_S(T, C, \cdot)$  is unbounded, then  $(X, T)$  is called  $\mathcal{F}$  scattering.

## 2 $\mathcal{F}$ Uniformly Rigid, $\mathcal{F}$ Mixing and $\mathcal{F}$ Scattering

**Lemma 2.1** *Suppose  $T$  is countable, a finite cover  $C = (U_1, \dots, U_k)$  has complexity bounded by  $m$  if and only if there exist  $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_m \in M(T, E)$  such that  $\bigcup_{i=1}^m J^*(\omega_i) = X$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $T$  is countable, suppose  $T = \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n, \dots\}$ . Take  $A_n = \{t_1, \dots, t_n\}$ , then  $r_T(T, C, A_n) \leq m$ .

Denote by  $H(n)$  the set of  $m$ -tuples  $(v_1, \dots, v_m)$  of elements of  $M(T, E)$  such that  $(J_{A_n}^*(v_1), \dots, J_{A_n}^*(v_m))$  covers  $X$ , the set  $H(n)$  is non-empty and a closed subset of  $M(T, E)^m$ . If  $(J_{A_n}^*(v_1), \dots, J_{A_n}^*(v_m))$  covers  $X$ , then  $(J_{A_{n-1}}^*(v_1), \dots, J_{A_{n-1}}^*(v_m))$  covers  $X$  too, hence  $H(n) \subseteq H(n-1)$ , the intersection  $H = \bigcap_{n=0}^{\infty} H(n)$  is non-empty, so there is  $\omega = (\omega_1, \dots, \omega_m) \in H$ . Obviously  $\bigcup_{i=1}^m J^*(\omega_i) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \bigcup_{i=1}^m J_{A_n}^*(\omega_i) = X$ .

**Theorem 2.1** *Suppose  $T$  is a topological group satisfying the second axiom of countability. Then  $(X, T)$  is  $\mathcal{F}$  uniformly rigid if and only if there is a set  $S \in \mathcal{F}$  containing a unit element, for any finite cover  $C$  of  $X$ ,  $r_S(T, C, \cdot)$  is bounded and  $C_S$ -names  $\omega_i$  covering  $X$  are  $k$  instant.*

**Proof.**  $\Rightarrow$ . Since  $(X, T)$  is  $\mathcal{F}$  uniformly rigid,  $id \in \omega_{\mathcal{F}}(id)$ . Let  $\varepsilon$  be a Lebesgue number of  $C$ , then  $S = \{t \in T | \sup_{x \in X} d(\pi_t(x), x) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\} \in \mathcal{F}$ . Let  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in X$  be such that the open balls  $\{B(x_i, \frac{\varepsilon}{2}) | i = 1, 2, \dots, m\}$  cover  $X$ . For any  $t \in S$ , we have  $B(x_i, \frac{\varepsilon}{2})t \subset B(x_i, \varepsilon)$ , and for any  $1 \leq i \leq m$ , there is  $U_{l(i)} \in C$  such that  $B(x_i, \varepsilon) \subset U_{l(i)}$ . Then for any finite set  $A$  of  $S$ , we have  $B(x_i, \frac{\varepsilon}{2}) \subset \bigcap_{t \in A} \pi_t^{-1} U_{l(i)}$ , suppose the number of  $U_{l(i)}$  is  $k$ . Since  $\{\bigcap_{t \in A} \pi_t^{-1}(U_{l(i)}) | i = 1, \dots, m\}$  is a finite cover of  $\bigvee_{t \in A} \pi_t^{-1}(C)$ , then  $r_S(T, C, A) \leq k$ . By Lemma 2.1, for a countable dense set  $D$  of  $S$ , we have  $\bigcup_{i=1}^k \bigcap_{t \in D} \pi_t^{-1}(U_{l(i)}) = X$ . By the denseness of  $D$ ,  $\bigcup_{i=1}^k \bigcap_{t \in S} \pi_t^{-1}(U_{l(i)}) = X$ .

$\Leftarrow$ . If  $(X, T)$  is not  $\mathcal{F}$  uniformly rigid, then there is  $\varepsilon > 0$ , such that  $\{t | d(\pi_t, id) < \varepsilon\} \notin \mathcal{F}$ , then  $S' = \{t | d(\pi_t, id) \geq \varepsilon\} \in k\mathcal{F}$ . Let  $C = \{U_1, \dots, U_m\}$  be a finite cover by open balls with radius  $\frac{\varepsilon}{4}$ . If there is  $S \in \mathcal{F}$ , for any finite set  $A$  of  $S$ , we have  $r_S(T, C, A) \leq k$  and  $C_S$ -names  $\omega_i$  covering  $X$  are instant. Then by Lemma 2.1, there exists a closed cover  $\{X_1, \dots, X_k\}$  of  $X$ , where  $X_i = \bigcap_{t \in S} \pi_t^{-1}(\overline{U_{i'}})$ . Because of  $S \cap S' \neq \emptyset$ , take  $t \in S \cap S'$ , then  $d(\pi_t, id) \geq \varepsilon$ , that is there is  $x_t \in X$  such that  $d(x_t t, x_t) \geq \varepsilon$ . Let  $x_t \in X_i$ , then  $x_t \in \overline{U_{i'}}$  and for any  $s \in S$  we have  $x_t s \in \overline{U_{i'}}$  that is  $d(x_t s, x_t) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$ , which contradicts the assumption  $d(x_t s, x_t) \geq \varepsilon$ .

**Theorem 2.2**  *$(X, T)$  is  $\mathcal{F}$  equicontinuous if and only if there is  $F \in \mathcal{F}$ , and for any finite open cover  $C$ ,  $r_F(T, C, \cdot)$  is bounded.*

**Proof.** The proof is similar to the proof of Proposition 2.2 in [4].

**Remark 2.1** In the case  $T = Z_+$ ,  $\mathcal{F}$  is the family of infinite subsets. If  $X$  is represented as the unit circle in  $C$ , then  $\hat{\theta}^1$  is given by  $\hat{\theta}^1(Z) := \alpha z (z \in C, |z| = 1)$  with  $\alpha := \exp(2\pi i \theta)$ , let  $\theta$  be irrational, then  $(X, Z_+, \hat{\theta}^1)$  is  $\mathcal{F}$  equicontinuous.

In the following we discuss the existence of  $\mathcal{F}$  equicontinuous point, and the connection between  $\mathcal{F}$  mixing and  $\mathcal{F}$  scattering.

**Lemma 2.2** *Assume  $\mathcal{F}$  is a translation invariant proper family,  $(X, T)$  is not  $k\mathcal{F}$  mixing if and only if there is a non-empty open set  $U, V$  of  $X$  and  $S \in \mathcal{F}$ , such that for any  $t \in S$  either  $\pi_t^{-1}U \cap U = \emptyset$  or  $\pi_t^{-1}V \cap U = \emptyset$ .*

**Proof.** The proof is similar to the proof of Lemma 3.1 of [2].

**Theorem 2.3** *Assume that  $\mathcal{F}$  is a translation invariant proper family, if there is  $F \in \mathcal{F}$ , such that there is a  $F$  equicontinuous point  $x$ , then  $(X, T)$  is not  $k\mathcal{F}$  mixing.*

**Proof.** Take  $y \in X$  and  $y \neq x$ , let  $\varepsilon < d(y, x)$ . Since  $x$  is a  $F$  equicontinuous point, there is  $\delta, 0 < \delta < \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$ , if  $d(x, z) < \delta$ , we have  $d(xt, zt) < \frac{\varepsilon}{4} (\forall t \in F)$ . Let  $U = B(y, \delta), V = B(x, \delta)$ , if there is  $t \in F$  such that  $\pi_t^{-1}U \cap V \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\pi_t V \cap U \neq \emptyset$ , thus  $\pi_t V \cap V = \emptyset$ , that is  $\pi_t^{-1}V \cap V = \emptyset$ . By Lemma 2.2,  $(X, T)$  is not  $k\mathcal{F}$  mixing.

**Lemma 2.3** *If the family  $\mathcal{F}$  is full, then  $(X, T)$  is  $\mathcal{F}$  mixing if and only if  $(X, T)$  is  $\tau\mathcal{F}$  transitive.*

**Proof.** The proof can be found in [4].

**Theorem 2.4** Assume that  $T$  is commutative,  $\mathcal{F}$  is full, and  $(X, T)$  is  $\mathcal{F}$  mixing, then  $(X, T)$  is  $k\tau\mathcal{F}$  scattering.

**Proof.** For any non-trivial closed cover  $\alpha = (W_1, \dots, W_n)$  of  $X$ . Let  $U_1, U_2, V_1, V_2$  be non-empty open sets of  $X$ , since  $(X, T)$  is  $\mathcal{F}$  mixing,

$$F = D(U_1, U_2) \cap D(V_1, V_2) \in \mathcal{F}.$$

Take  $t \in F$ , let  $U = U_1 \cap \pi_t^{-1}U_2, V = V_1 \cap \pi_t^{-1}V_2$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $(X, T)$  is  $\tau\mathcal{F}$  transitive, then  $D(U, V) \in \tau\mathcal{F}$ . Because of  $D(U, V) \subset D(U_1, U_2) \cap D(V_1, V_2)$ , and  $\tau\mathcal{F}$  is a family, then  $D(U_1, U_2) \cap D(V_1, V_2) \in \tau\mathcal{F}$ .

Now we take  $U, V$  such that  $U, V$  do not simultaneously belong to any element of  $\alpha$ .

Let  $S_1 = D(U, U) \cap D(U, V) \in \tau\mathcal{F}$ , for any  $S \in k\tau\mathcal{F}$  there are  $t_1 \in S_1 \cap S$  and  $x_1, x'_1 \in U$  such that

$$x_1t_1 \in U, x'_1t_1 \in V.$$

So one takes  $A_1 = \{t_1\}$ , then  $r_S(T, \alpha, A_1) \geq 2$ . By the continuity of  $\pi$ , there exists a neighbourhood  $U_1 \subset U$  of  $x'_1$  such that  $U_1t_1 \subset V$ . Let  $S_2 = D(U_1, U) \cap D(U_1, V) \in \tau\mathcal{F}$ , then there are  $t_2 \in S_2 \cap S$  and  $x_2, x'_2 \in U_1$  such that

$$x_2t_1 \in V, x'_2t_1 \in V, x_2t_2 \in V, x'_2t_2 \in U.$$

Obviously  $t_1 \neq t_2$ . so we take  $A_2 = \{t_1, t_2\}$  then  $r_S(T, \alpha, A_2) \geq 3$ . By the continuity of  $\pi$ , there exists a neighbourhood  $U_2 \subset U_1$  of  $x'_2$  such that  $U_2t_1 \subset U_1$ . Let  $S_3 = D(U_2, U) \cap D(U_2, V) \in \tau\mathcal{F}$ , then there are  $t_3 \in S_3 \cap S$  and  $x_3, x'_3 \in U_2$  such that

$$x_3t_1 \in V, x'_3t_1 \in V, x_3t_2 \in V, x'_3t_2 \in U, x_3t_3 \in U, x'_3t_3 \in V.$$

so one takes  $A_3 = \{t_1, t_2\}$  then  $r_S(T, \alpha, A_3) \geq 4$ .

Using similar arguments repeatedly, we can get an infinite sequence

$\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \dots\}$  and  $\{t_1, \dots, t_n, \dots\}$  satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} x_n &\in U, i = 1, 2, \dots, \\ x_1t_1 &\in U, x_it_1 \in V, i = 2, 3, \dots, \\ x_2t_2 &\in V, x_it_2 \in U, i = 3, 4, \dots, \\ x_3t_3 &\in U, x_it_3 \in V, i = 4, 5, \dots, \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$

For any  $N \geq 1$ , take  $A_N = \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N\}$  then  $r_S(T, \alpha, A_N) \geq N + 1$ .

**Example 2.1** In the case  $T = Z_+$ ,  $\mathcal{F}$  is the family of infinite subsets. Let  $S$  be a finite set with at least two elements, say  $S = \{0, \dots, s - 1\}$  with  $s \in N, s \geq 2$ . Consider  $S$  as a finite discrete topological space and put  $\Omega := S^{Z_+}$ . Endowed with the product topology. Define a mapping  $\sigma : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega, (x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots) \mapsto (x_1, x_2, \dots)$ . Clearly  $(\Omega, Z_+, \sigma)$  is  $\mathcal{F}$  mixing, then  $(\Omega, Z_+, \sigma)$  is  $k\tau\mathcal{F}$  scattering.

### 3 Concluding Remarks

In this paper, we study the complexity of group actions. We characterize the  $\mathcal{F}$  uniform rigidity and  $\mathcal{F}$  equicontinuity using topological sequence complexity function, and we show that  $\mathcal{F}$  mixing implies  $k\tau\mathcal{F}$  scattering.

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