Non-discrete topological full groups

Alejandra Garrido (joint with Colin Reid) Cartan subalgebras in operator algebras and topological full groups BIRS Banff, 5th November 2024

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For reasons that I don't have time to explain, we want examples of simple groups that are totally disconnected and locally compact (tdlc), not discrete and generated by a compact subset.

Examples

- $\operatorname{PSL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p), n \geq 2, p$ prime
- Aut⁺(T) =orientation-preserving automorphisms of an infinite tree T (≠ line)

Full groups of Cantor space actions give examples of simple groups but these are countable....



 $AAut(T) = \{g \in Homeo(X) \text{ for which there is a finite clopen}$ partition of $X = \bigsqcup_{i=1}^{n} U_i$ and $g_1, \ldots, g_n \in Aut(T)$ such that $g \upharpoonright_{U_i} = g_i \upharpoonright_{U_i}, i = 1, \ldots, n.\}$



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 $AAut(T) \leq Homeo(X)$, which has a natural group topology: basic opens are

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BUT

AAut(T) is not closed with respect to this topology!

Instead of top-down, go bottom-up:

AAut(*T*) preserves the opens of $\operatorname{St}_{\operatorname{Aut}(T)}(v) \leq_o \operatorname{Aut}(T)$ for any $v \in VT$, i.e., $\forall g \in \operatorname{AAut}(T) : \forall U \leq_o \operatorname{St}_{\operatorname{Aut}(T)}(v) : U \cap gUg^{-1} \leq_o \operatorname{St}_{\operatorname{Aut}(T)}(v).$

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 $G = St_{Aut(T)}(v)$ is locally decomposable:

for every $U \in \mathcal{CO}(X)$: $rst_G(U) \times rst_G(U^{\perp})$ is open in G.

This is what guarantees that the topology of $St_{Aut(T)}(v)$ can be induced up to a topology on AAut(T), so that $St_{Aut(T)}(v)$ is an open subgroup. As $St_{Aut(T)}(v)$ is compact, AAut(T) is tdlc with this topology. $G = St_{Aut(T)}(v)$ is locally decomposable:

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No need to start off with group G to get full group:



 $\mathcal{BI}(M) =$ Booleanisation of M: take all restrictions of M to $\mathcal{CO}(X)$, allow partial composition, inversion, and finite disjoint joins. F(M) =group of units of $\mathcal{BI}(M)$.

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M is a locally decomposable topological inverse monoid:

• acts continuously on X

Basic open neighbourhoods of $f \in \mathcal{BI}(M)$ are $Nf \cap fN$ for N open neighbourhood of 1 in M.

 \Rightarrow topology on $\mathcal{BI}(M)$ has continuous composition, inversion and disjoint joins and makes M open in $\mathcal{BI}(M)$.

Non-discrete topological full groups

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Theorem (G+Reid)

If $M \leq \mathsf{PHomeo}_c(X)$ is locally decomposable inverse monoid, there is a unique inverse monoid topology on $\mathcal{BI}(M)$ that extends that of M and makes taking disjoint joins continuous.

M is tdlc/discrete iff $\mathcal{BI}(M)$ is tdlc/discrete.

Alternating full groups of inverse monoids $M \leq PHomeo_c(X)$

 $A(M) = \langle h \in F(M) : h \text{ preserves a partition and does an even}$ permutation on the parts $\rangle \leq F(M)$

Theorem (Nekrashevych, '17)

If M is minimal (all orbits are dense) then A(M) is simple.

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Theorem (G+Reid)

If M is locally decomposable, compactly generated, expansive, minimal and non-discrete then $\overline{A(M)} = A(M) = F(M)'$ is open in F(M) and simple. Γ =closure of Grigorchuk group in Aut(rooted binary tree)

(any other profinite branch group will do)

 $G = \langle \Gamma, V_2 \rangle$

(Instead of V_2 , take a compact subset of $PHomeo_c(X)$ that preserves the opens of Γ)

Apply theorems

A(G) is simple tdlc group, non-discrete

Example: Coloured Neretin groups [Lederle]



There must be many more!

- non-discrete actions on k-graphs?
- other groupoids that do not obviously come from group actions?

• ...