

AG
T

*Algebraic & Geometric
Topology*

Volume 25 (2025)

A Quillen stability criterion for bounded cohomology

CARLOS DE LA CRUZ MENGUAL

TOBIAS HARTNICK



A Quillen stability criterion for bounded cohomology

CARLOS DE LA CRUZ MENGUAL
TOBIAS HARTNICK

We provide a version of Quillen’s homological stability criterion for continuous bounded cohomology. In the companion paper we exploit this criterion to derive new bounded cohomological stability results for various families of classical groups.

20J06; 55T25, 57T10

1 Introduction

An infinite chain $(G_r)_{r \geq 0} = (G_0 < G_1 < G_2 < \dots)$ of groups is called *homologically stable* if there exists a function $r : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that the respective inclusions induce isomorphisms

$$H_q(G_{r(q)}) \cong H_q(G_{r(q)+1}) \cong H_q(G_{r(q)+2}) \cong \dots$$

in group homology for all $q \in \mathbb{N}$.¹ Any such function r is then called a *stability range* for the family. Homological stability (with a linear stability range) has been established for many families of classical linear algebraic groups, but also for various families of nonlinear groups of interest, such as mapping class groups or automorphism groups of free groups.

A particularly successful method to establish homological stability, employed for example by Van der Kallen [14], Harer [12], Hatcher and Vogtmann [13], Essert [9], and Sprehn and Wahl [22], is based on *Quillen’s stability criterion*, which can be stated as follows. Suppose that, for every $r \in \mathbb{N}$, we are given a Δ -complex $X(r)$ — also known as a semisimplicial set — endowed with a simplicial G_r -action, and two natural numbers $\gamma(r)$ and $\tau(r)$ with the following properties:

- (Q1) $X(r)$ is $\gamma(r)$ -acyclic, ie the reduced homology $\tilde{H}_\bullet(X(r))$ vanishes up to degree $\gamma(r)$.
- (Q2) $X(r)$ is $\tau(r)$ -transitive, ie there is only one G_r -orbit of l -simplices for $l \in \{0, \dots, \tau(r)\}$.
- (Q3) The complexes are $\tau(r)$ -compatible, ie the stabilizer of an l -simplex in $X(r)$ is isomorphic to G_{r-l-1} for every $l < \tau(r)$, and these isomorphisms are compatible with inclusions of stabilizers in the sense of condition (MQ3a) below.

Then $(G_r)_{r \geq 0}$ is homologically stable provided $\min\{\gamma(r), \tau(r)\} \rightarrow \infty$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$. In addition, a stability range can be computed explicitly from the functions γ and τ . See Quillen’s unpublished notes [21], or the more recent treatments by Bestvina [1] and Sprehn and Wahl [22] for details.

¹As usual in homological algebra, we enumerate starting from 0. Accordingly, we use the convention $0 \in \mathbb{N}$, and for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we denote by $[k]$ the $(k+1)$ -element set $\{0, \dots, k\} \subset \mathbb{N}$. We also set $[\infty] := \mathbb{N}$.

Our purpose here is to establish a similar stability criterion in *continuous bounded cohomology*. The theory of bounded cohomology for discrete groups goes back to Johnson, Trauber, and Gromov [11], and was later extended to the realm of topological groups by Burger and Monod [4]; we refer to the monographs by Frigerio [10] and Monod [16] for background and numerous applications.

By analogy with the classical situation, we say that an infinite family $G_0 < G_1 < G_2 < \dots$ of locally compact groups is *bc-stable* (short for *bounded-cohomologically stable*) with *stability range* $r: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ if, for every $q \geq 0$, the respective inclusions induce isomorphisms

$$H_b^q(G_{r(q)}) \cong H_b^q(G_{r(q)+1}) \cong H_b^q(G_{r(q)+2}) \cong \dots$$

in continuous bounded cohomology. We will give conditions analogous to (Q1)–(Q3) and show that these imply bc-stability. For technical reasons we will assume that G is either second-countable or discrete. This setting is broad enough to deal with both almost-connected Lie groups (as considered in our article [8]) and with uncountable discrete groups (as considered by Monod and Nariman [19]).

Compared to classical (co)homology, (continuous) bounded cohomology has a more functional analytic flavor—in fact, it can be defined as a derived functor in some suitable exact category of Banach modules; see work of Bühler [3]. While it is sometimes possible to extend classical cohomological results to this setting, this usually requires additional effort in order to take certain functional analytic peculiarities into account. These peculiarities are why we need to assume second-countability in the nondiscrete case.

1.1 General setting

Throughout this article let G denote a locally compact group. We will assume throughout that G is either second-countable or discrete. To formulate analogues of Quillen’s conditions in the setting of bounded cohomology, we need to consider G -actions on complexes of a suitable type.

- In case G is discrete, the associated complexes will be, as in standard (co)homology, Δ -complexes with a simplicial G -action (semisimplicial G -sets); their sets of simplices will be endowed with the counting measure.
- In case G is second-countable and nondiscrete, we will need to replace Δ -complexes by a class that is better adapted to a measurable setting, namely, semisimplicial objects in the category of *Lebesgue G -spaces*. Here by a Lebesgue G -space we mean a standard Borel space with a Borel G -action and a G -invariant probability measure class.

In order to unify the treatment of the two cases we will refer to the corresponding complexes as *Lebesgue G -complexes* in either case. To a Lebesgue G -complex $X = (X_q)_{q \geq 0}$, we can associate a complex

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \rightarrow L^\infty(X_0) \rightarrow L^\infty(X_1) \rightarrow L^\infty(X_2) \rightarrow \dots$$

of Banach spaces, where the codifferentials are given by alternating sums of dual face maps. Note that in the discrete case, this complex reduces to

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \ell^\infty(X_0) \rightarrow \ell^\infty(X_1) \rightarrow \ell^\infty(X_2) \rightarrow \dots$$

We then say that X is *boundedly γ_0 -acyclic* if the cohomology of this complex vanishes up to degree γ_0 . We also say that X is *essentially τ_0 -transitive* if G acts essentially transitively (ie with a conull orbit) on q -simplices for $q \in \{0, 1, \dots, \tau_0\}$. In this case, we can choose simplices $o_0 \in X_0, \dots, o_{\tau_0} \in X_{\tau_0}$ such that o_i is a face of o_{i+1} for all $i \in \{0, \dots, \tau_0 - 1\}$, and such that the orbits of o_0, \dots, o_{τ_0} are conull in the respective spaces of simplices (see Construction 3.3). We then refer to (o_0, \dots, o_{τ_0}) as a *generic flag* in X .

1.2 A spectral sequence in bounded cohomology

Our main tool will be the following spectral sequence, which connects the continuous bounded cohomology ring of a locally compact group G (always assumed to be second-countable or discrete) to those of the stabilizers of simplices of a generic flag in a highly boundedly acyclic and highly essentially transitive Lebesgue- G -complex.

Theorem A *Let X be a Lebesgue G -complex which is boundedly γ_0 -acyclic and essentially τ_0 -transitive for some $\gamma_0, \tau_0 \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$. Moreover, let (o_0, \dots, o_{τ_0}) be a generic flag in X with stabilizers $H_i := \text{Stab}_G(o_i)$ for $i \in \{0, \dots, \tau_0\}$, and set $H_{-1} := G$.*

- (1) *For every $p \in \{0, \dots, \tau_0 - 1\}$ and $i \in \{0, \dots, p + 1\}$, there exists an element $w_{p,i} \in G$ such that $\delta_i(o_{p+1}) = w_{p,i}^{-1}o_p$, that induces an injective homomorphism*

$$\text{Int}(w_{p,i}): H_{p+1} \rightarrow H_p, \quad h \mapsto w_{p,i}hw_{p,i}^{-1}.$$

- (2) *There exists a first-quadrant spectral sequence $E_{\bullet, \bullet}$ such that:*
 - (i) $E_{\infty}^t = 0$ for every $t \in \{0, \dots, \gamma_0 + 1\}$.
 - (ii) $E_1^{p,q} = H_b^q(H_{p-1})$ for all $p \in \{0, \dots, \tau_0 + 1\}$ and $q \geq 0$.
 - (iii) $E_2^{p,0} = 0$ for all $p \in \{0, \dots, \tau_0 + 1\}$.
 - (iv) *The first page differentials $d_1^{0,q}: H_b^q(G) \rightarrow H_b^q(H_0)$ are induced by the inclusion $H_0 \hookrightarrow G$ for all $q \geq 0$.*
 - (v) *The first page differentials $d_1^{p,q}: H_b^q(H_{p-1}) \rightarrow H_b^q(H_p)$ are the alternating sums*

$$d_1^{p,q} = \sum_{i=0}^p (-1)^i H_b^q(\text{Int}(w_{p-1,i}))$$

for all $p \in \{1, \dots, \tau_0\}$, $q \geq 0$, and any choice of elements $w_{p,i} \in G$ as in (1).

Remark 1.1 A version of this spectral sequence for product complexes (complexes where $X_r = X_0^{r+1}$ with the usual differential) of locally compact second-countable (lcsc) groups was first studied by Monod in [17]. The version for uncountable discrete groups played a key role in work by Monod and Nariman [19] — specifically their Theorem 3 — on the computation of the bounded cohomology of various homeomorphism and diffeomorphism groups of manifolds.

1.3 Measurable Quillen families

Assume that we are given an infinite family $(G_r)_{r \geq 0} = (G_0 < G_1 < G_2 < \dots)$ of locally compact groups which are either all second-countable or all discrete, and a Lebesgue G_r -complex $X(r)$ for every $r \geq 0$. We can then define counterparts to the Quillen conditions (Q1) and (Q2) as follows. We assume that we are given functions $\gamma, \tau: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\pm\infty\}$ such that

- (MQ1) $X(r)$ is boundedly $\gamma(r)$ -acyclic,
- (MQ2) $X(r)$ is essentially $\tau(r)$ -transitive.

These assumptions imply by Theorem A that, for each $r \geq 0$, we obtain elements $w_{r,p,i} \in G_r$ for all $p \in \{0, \dots, \tau(r)\}$ and $i \in \{0, \dots, p + 1\}$ as in Theorem A(1), and a spectral sequence as in (2), relating the continuous bounded cohomology of G_r to the continuous bounded cohomology of the stabilizers $G_r =: H_{r,-1} > H_{r,0} > \dots > H_{r,\tau(r)}$ of a generic flag $(o_{r,0}, \dots, o_{r,\tau(r)})$ in $X(r)$. To obtain a stability result in the vein of Quillen's, we need to relate the bounded cohomology of these stabilizers to the one of the previous groups in the sequence. We offer three different compatibility conditions which are useful in different situations and are all sufficient to obtain bc-stability:

(MQ3a) For all $r \geq 0$ and $p \in \{-1, 0, \dots, \tau(r)\}$, we have $H_{r,p} = G_{r-p-1}$ (we use the convention that G_k is the trivial group for $k < 0$), and the conjugation $\text{Int}(w_{r,p,i}): H_{r,p+1} \rightarrow H_{r,p}$ equals the inclusion $\iota_{r-p-2}: G_{r-p-2} \hookrightarrow G_{r-p-1}$ for all r , all $p \leq \tau(r) - 1$, and all i .

(MQ3b) For all $r \geq 0$ and $p \in \{-1, 0, \dots, \tau(r)\}$, there is an epimorphism $\pi_{r,p}: H_{r,p} \twoheadrightarrow G_{r-p-1}$ with amenable kernel such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_{r,p+1} & \xrightarrow{\text{Int}(w_{r,p,i})} & H_{r,p} \\ \pi_{r,p+1} \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi_{r,p} \\ G_{r-p-2} & \xrightarrow{\iota_{r-p-2}} & G_{r-p-1} \end{array}$$

is a commutative diagram for all r , all $p \leq \tau(r) - 1$, and all i .

(MQ3c) For all $r \geq 0$ and $p \in \{-1, 0, \dots, \tau(r)\}$, there is an epimorphism $\pi_{r,p}: H_{r,p} \twoheadrightarrow G_{r-p-1}$ with amenable kernel and a continuous homomorphic section $\sigma_{r,p}$ of $\pi_{r,p}$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_{r,p+1} & \xrightarrow{\text{Int}(w_{r,p,i})} & H_{r,p} \\ \sigma_{r,p+1} \uparrow & & \downarrow \pi_{r,p} \\ G_{r-p-2} & \xrightarrow{\iota_{r-p-2}} & G_{r-p-1} \end{array}$$

is a commutative diagram for all r , all $p \leq \tau(r) - 1$, and all i .

Here, (MQ3a) is Quillen's original condition; indeed, the equality $\text{Int}(w_{r,p,i}) = \iota_{r-p-2}$ means that the element $w_{r,p,i} \in G_r$ centralizes $G_{r-p-2} < G_r$. The conditions (MQ3b) and (MQ3c) are two different relaxations, which take advantage of the fact that continuous surjections with amenable kernel induce

isomorphisms in continuous bounded cohomology. The latter is the most technical, but also most useful condition, as witnessed by Example 1.4 below.

Definition 1.2 We say that $(G_r, X(r))_{r \geq 0}$ is a *measurable (γ, τ) -Quillen family* if conditions (MQ1), (MQ2), and one of (MQ3a), (MQ3b), or (MQ3c) hold.

The following is our main qualitative result:

Theorem B (Quillen stability for continuous bounded cohomology) *Assume that $(G_r, X(r))_{r \geq 0}$ is a measurable (γ, τ) -Quillen family. If both γ and τ are proper, then $(G_r)_{r \geq 0}$ is bc-stable.*

Theorem B will be established by comparing the various spectral sequences associated to the Lebesgue complexes $X(r)$ by means of Theorem A. This will actually provide a quantitative version of Theorem B: we will obtain an explicit stability range which depends only on the functions γ and τ . This quantitative version actually also makes sense for finite Quillen families. We will state the most general version of our main theorem as Theorem 4.6 below.

For *product complexes*, ie complexes of the form $X(r)_q = X(r)_0^{q+1}$ with the forgetful face maps, Theorem B and its quantitative version were essentially established by Monod in [17], and our proof is an extension of Monod’s original proof. As we will explain after Example 1.4, our more general version is crucial if one wants to generalize Monod’s results concerning bc-stability of general linear groups to other classes of classical groups.

Remark 1.3 The isomorphisms produced by Theorem B are generally not isometric with respect to the Gromov norms. This fact is evidenced, for instance, by the norms of the bounded Borel classes in complex simple Lie groups of classical type, which were computed in works by Bucher, Burger, and Iozzi [2] and the first author [6; 7].

1.4 The discrete case

Recall that Theorem B applies to the case in which $(G_r)_{r \geq 0}$ are discrete groups. In this case, the statement simplifies considerably, and we record this special case for ease of reference. The sequence $(X(r))_{r \geq 0}$ is just a family of Δ -complexes, and the sets of simplices of $X(r)$ are all endowed with the respective counting measures. To prove rational homological stability of $(G_r)_{r \geq 0}$ using Quillen’s criterion, it suffices to show that G_r acts $\tau(r)$ -transitively on $X(r)$ with stabilizers $H_{r,p} = G_{r-p-1}$ and that $X(r)$ is rationally $\gamma(r)$ -acyclic for two proper functions $\tau, \gamma: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\pm\infty\}$. One way to do this is by exhibiting a partial contracting chain homotopy h_* for each of the complexes

$$\dots \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}X(r)_1 \xrightarrow{d_0} \mathbb{Q}X(r)_0 \xrightarrow{d_{-1}} \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow 0$$

so that $d_k \circ h_k + h_{k-1} \circ d_{k-1} = 1$. These chain homotopies will then induce a partial dual contracting chain homotopy of the dual cocomplexes

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{d^{-1}} \ell^\infty(X(r)_0) \xrightarrow{d^0} \ell^\infty(X(r)_1) \rightarrow \dots,$$

provided that for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$ there is a constant $C_k > 0$ such that for every simplex $\sigma \in X_k$ the ℓ^1 -norm $\|h_k(\sigma)\|_1$ is bounded by C_k , ie

$$h_k(\sigma) = \sum_{i=1}^{n_\sigma} \alpha_i \tau_i \implies \sum_{i=1}^{n_\sigma} |\alpha_i| \leq C_k.$$

In this case we refer to h_* as a *rational ℓ^1 -homotopy*.

Corollary C *Let $(G_r)_{r \geq 0}$ be a family of discrete groups. For every $r \geq 0$, let $X(r)$ be a $\gamma(r)$ -acyclic Δ -complex with a $\tau(r)$ -transitive G_r -action and stabilizers $H_{r,q} = G_{r-q-1}$ which are compatible in the sense of (MQ3a).*

- (i) *If $\gamma, \tau: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\pm\infty\}$ are proper, then $(G_r)_{r \geq 0}$ is homologically stable.*
- (ii) *If, moreover, rational $\gamma(r)$ -acyclicity of $X(r)$ is witnessed by a rational ℓ^1 -homotopy, then $(G_r)_{r \geq 0}$ is also bc-stable.*

Again, the stability range can be computed explicitly in terms of γ and τ ; see Theorem 4.6. Corollary C provides a clear strategy to establish bc-stability for all families of countable groups for which homological stability has been established using Quillen’s method: One just has to check whether the underlying homotopy is rationally ℓ^1 . Unfortunately, the homotopies in question are usually only given implicitly. We thus leave it to future work to determine for which countable groups an explicit rational ℓ^1 -homotopy can be constructed.

1.5 The case of reductive Lie groups

Our main interest in establishing Theorem B in its present generality was to provide a framework for establishing bc-stability of the classical families of reductive Lie groups. For all of these families, bc-stability is predicted by the (notoriously open) isomorphism conjecture in continuous bounded cohomology. However, prior to this work, this predicted stability had only been established for general and special linear groups over \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{C} by Monod [17] using a special case of Theorem B. Let us briefly explain how the results for general linear groups² fit into our present context:

Example 1.4 (general linear groups) *Let $G_r := \text{GL}_r(\mathbb{K})$ with $\mathbb{K} \in \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}\}$. These groups constitute an infinite family $(G_0 < G_1 < G_2 < \dots)$ of lcsc groups with the block inclusions*

$$(1-1) \quad \iota_r: G_r \hookrightarrow G_{r+1}, \quad A \mapsto 1 \times A := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & A \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let $X(r)_q := \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{K}^r)^{q+1}$, where $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{K}^r)$ denotes the projective space of \mathbb{K}^r and the face maps are the usual forgetful maps. If we equip each of these spaces with its canonical Lebesgue measure class, then each $X(r)$ becomes a boundedly acyclic Lebesgue $G(r)$ -complex. Moreover, the action of G_r on

²As explained by Monod in [18, Note before Lemma 10], the stability range given in [17] is not correct due to an inaccuracy in the induction step. We use this opportunity to state the correct range; see [6, Sections 6.3 and 6.4] for details. Also, the quaternionic case is absent from [17], but it does not require any new ideas.

$X(r)$ is essentially r -transitive. If e_1, \dots, e_r denotes the standard basis of \mathbb{K}^r and $e_{r+1} = \sum_{i=1}^r e_i$, then a generic flag in $X(r)$ is given by (o_0, \dots, o_r) , where $o_q := ([e_1], \dots, [e_{q+1}])$. The corresponding stabilizers $H_{r,q} = \text{Stab}_{G_r}(o_q)$ are

$$H_{r,q} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} D & V \\ 0 & A \end{pmatrix} \mid D \in G_{q+1} \text{ diagonal, } A \in G_{r-q-1}, V \in M_{(q+1) \times (r-q-1)}(\mathbb{K}) \right\}$$

for $q \in [r-1]$, and $H_{r,r} = (\mathbb{K}^\times) \cdot I_r$; we also set $H_{r,-1} = G_r$. For $q \in \{0, \dots, r-2\}$ and $i \in \{0, \dots, q+1\}$, we let $w_{r,q,i} \in G_r$ be the matrix that permutes the standard basis vectors via the cycle $(q+2, q+1, \dots, i+1)$, and for $q = r-1$ we fix an arbitrary choice of $w_{r,r-1,i} \in G_r$ according to Theorem A(1). With this notation, condition (MQ3a) is violated, and while the obvious projections $\pi_{r,q}: H_{r,q} \rightarrow G_{r-q-1}$ do have amenable kernel, they do not satisfy condition (MQ3b) since the corresponding diagram does not commute. In turn, condition (MQ3c) is satisfied with the homomorphic sections

$$\sigma_{r,q}: G_{r-q-1} \rightarrow H_{r,q}, \quad A \mapsto I_{q+1} \times A,$$

of $\pi_{r,q}$. This is the reason why we insist on this slightly technical compatibility condition.

We may now deduce that $(G_r, X(r))_{r \geq 0}$ is a measurable (∞, r) -Quillen family, and hence (G_r) is bc-stable. An explicit stability range can be read off from Theorem 4.6 below. In the notation of that theorem, we have $q_0 = 2$, $\gamma(r) = \infty$, and $\tau(r) = r$ (since $H_b^2(G_r) = 0$ for all $r \geq 0$; this follows from work of Burger and Monod [5] and Monod [16, Corollary 8.8.6 and Example 9.9.3]), and hence

$$\min\{\tilde{\gamma}(q, r), \tilde{\tau}(q, r) - 1\} = \min_{j=q_0}^q \{\tau(r + 1 - 2(q - j)) - j\} - 1 = r - 2q + q_0 = r - (2q - 2).$$

We deduce that for every $q \geq q_0 + 1 = 3$, the inclusions ι_r induce isomorphisms and injections

$$\dots \cong H_b^q(\text{GL}_{2q-1}(\mathbb{K})) \cong H_b^q(\text{GL}_{2q-2}(\mathbb{K})) \hookrightarrow H_b^q(\text{GL}_{2q-3}(\mathbb{K})) \hookrightarrow H_b^q(\text{GL}_{2q-4}(\mathbb{K})).$$

For the general linear groups, we thus obtain bc-stability with slope two.

In Example 1.4, the complexes $X(r)$ can be chosen to be product complexes, since GL_r acts essentially r -transitively on projective space. It is known that reductive Lie groups whose semisimple part is of type other than A_n do not admit highly transitive actions on generalized flag manifolds; see work by Popov [20]. Thus the product version of Theorem B is insufficient to establish bc-stability for other classical groups. This was our main motivation in stating Theorem B in its present form.

Example 1.5 (symplectic, orthogonal, and unitary groups) For $\mathbb{K} \in \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}\}$ and $d \in \mathbb{N}$, let $(G_r)_{r \geq 0}$ denote one of the following classical families of Lie groups:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{1\} < \text{Sp}_2(\mathbb{K}) < \text{Sp}_4(\mathbb{K}) < \dots < \text{Sp}_{2r}(\mathbb{K}) < \dots, \\ & O_{d,0}(\mathbb{K}) < O_{d+1,1}(\mathbb{K}) < O_{d+2,2}(\mathbb{K}) < \dots < O_{d+r,r}(\mathbb{K}) < \dots, \\ & U_{d,0}(\mathbb{C}) < U_{d+1,1}(\mathbb{C}) < U_{d+2,2}(\mathbb{C}) < \dots < U_{d+r,r}(\mathbb{C}) < \dots \end{aligned}$$

In our article [8], we apply Theorem B to establish bc-stability for all of these families (G_r) . Our proof is based on the fact that all of the groups above arise as automorphism groups of sesquilinear forms.

With each of the groups G_r above, one can thus associate a corresponding *Stiefel complex* in the sense of Vogtmann [23], and as in the case of the general linear groups, it is easy to see that the actions are $(r-1)$ -transitive and compatible (in the sense of (MQ3c)). In order to establish bc-stability, one thus only has to show that the Stiefel complex X_r is measurably $\gamma(r)$ -acyclic for some proper function γ . This is established in our article [8] using probabilistic methods, leading to an acyclicity range of the form $\gamma(r) \sim \log_2(r)$.

1.6 The need for finite measurable Quillen families

Theorem B does not apply directly to the families of special linear (or special orthogonal or special unitary) groups. The problem is that while $G_r = \mathrm{SL}_r(\mathbb{K})$ acts highly transitively on the product complex $X(r)$ defined as in Example 1.4, the quotient of the stabilizer $H_{r,q}$ by its radical is isomorphic to $\mathrm{GL}_{r-q-1}(\mathbb{K})$ instead of $\mathrm{SL}_{r-q-1}(\mathbb{K})$.

To deal with this problem, we introduce in Section 4 below the notion of a finite measurable Quillen family. It then turns out that (for $\mathbb{K} \in \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}\}$), the family

$$\{1\} < \mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{K}) < \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{K}) < \cdots < \mathrm{GL}_{R-1}(\mathbb{K}) < \mathrm{SL}_R(\mathbb{K})$$

is a finite measurable Quillen family in this sense, and our main Theorem 4.6 also applies. Assuming the theorem and its notation, we recover Monod's results for SL_n .

Example 1.6 (special linear groups) Let $\mathbb{K} \in \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}\}$ and $R \geq 2$. We set $G_r := \mathrm{GL}_r(\mathbb{K})$ for any $r \in [R-1]$ and $G_R := \mathrm{SL}_R(\mathbb{K})$. The inclusions $\iota_r : G_r \hookrightarrow G_{r+1}$ are defined as in (1-1) for $r < R-1$, and as

$$A \mapsto (\det A)^{-1} \times A$$

for $r = R-1$. We consider the same acyclic product complexes $X(r)$ as in Example 1.4; then the action of G_r on $X(r)$ is $\tau(r)$ -transitive, where $\tau(r) = r$ if $r < R$ and $\tau(R) = R-1$. The group elements $w_{r,q,i} \in G_r$ can be chosen as in Example 1.4 for $r < R$, but for $r = R$ one requires a sign adjustment to guarantee that the matrices lie in G_R . In the notation of Theorem 4.6 the initial condition is again given by $q_0 = 2$ if $R \geq 3$ and $q_0 = 1$ if $R = 2$. Assume first that $R \geq 3$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \min\{\tilde{\gamma}(q, R-1), \tilde{\tau}(q, R-1) - 1\} &= \min_{j=q_0}^q \{\tau(R-2(q-j)) - j\} - 1 \\ &= \min \left\{ \min_{j=q_0}^{q-1} \{R-2q+j\}, R-1-q \right\} - 1 \\ &= \min\{R-2q+2, R-q-1\} - 1 = R-(2q-2), \end{aligned}$$

and, hence the map ι_R induces

- (i) an isomorphism $H_b^q(\mathrm{SL}_R(\mathbb{K})) \cong H_b^q(\mathrm{GL}_{R-1}(\mathbb{K}))$ if $R \geq 2q-2$,
- (ii) an injection $H_b^q(\mathrm{SL}_R(\mathbb{K})) \hookrightarrow H_b^q(\mathrm{GL}_{R-1}(\mathbb{K}))$ if $R \geq 2q-4$.

Combining this information with Example 1.4, we see that for $q \geq 3$ the natural inclusions induce isomorphisms/injections³

$$\cdots \cong H_b^q(\mathrm{SL}_{2q}(\mathbb{K})) \cong H_b^q(\mathrm{SL}_{2q-1}(\mathbb{K})) \cong H_b^q(\mathrm{SL}_{2q-2}(\mathbb{K})) \hookrightarrow H_b^q(\mathrm{GL}_{2q-3}(\mathbb{K})).$$

The case $q = 2$, not covered by the discussion above, is well known (see [5; 16, Example 9.9.3]):

$$\cdots \cong H_b^2(\mathrm{SL}_4(\mathbb{K})) \cong H_b^2(\mathrm{SL}_3(\mathbb{K})) \cong \{0\} \hookrightarrow H_b^2(\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{K})).$$

Here the inclusion is an isomorphism for $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$ or \mathbb{H} , but not for $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$.

Acknowledgments We thank Marc Burger and Nicolas Monod for insightful conversations, and the referee for valuable feedback on the first version of this article. This work was completed during a postdoctoral fellowship of De la Cruz Mengual at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel. He was supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation, grants 169106 and 188010. Hartnick was supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, grant HA 8094/1-1 within the Schwerpunktprogramm SPP 2026 (Geometry at Infinity).

2 Spectral sequences associated to Lebesgue complexes

Throughout this section, G denotes a locally compact group. We will assume that G is either second-countable or discrete. The goal of this section is to associate a first-quadrant spectral sequence in continuous bounded cohomology with every partially boundedly acyclic Lebesgue G -complex. We explain the terminology used in this statement and recall the necessary background on bounded cohomology, and refer the reader to Monod’s book [16] for further details.

2.1 Coefficient G -modules and Lebesgue G -spaces

Following [16], we discuss the class of modules which can be used as coefficients in continuous bounded cohomology. In order to be able to deal with uncountable discrete groups, we have to modify the definitions slightly.

A *Banach G -module* is a Banach space over the field of real numbers equipped with a G -action by linear isometries, and a *G -morphism* is a G -equivariant bounded (but not necessarily isometric) operator between Banach G -modules. A Banach G -module is said to be *separable* if the underlying Banach space is separable, and *continuous* if the G -action is jointly continuous. Given a Banach G -module E , we denote by $E^\#$ the topological dual of E , considered as a Banach G -module endowed with the contragredient G -action. Note that $E^\#$ need not be separable nor continuous, even if E has either of those properties. The following notion is due to Monod [16] in the second-countable case:

Definition 2.1 (i) If G is nondiscrete and second-countable, then a *coefficient G -module* is a pair $(E, E^\#)$, where E is a separable, continuous Banach G -module.

³Note that the stability range given by Monod [17] is not correct, since it uses the inaccurate stability range for $\mathrm{GL}_r(\mathbb{K})$.

(ii) If G is discrete, then a *coefficient G -module* is a pair $(E, E^\#)$, where E is a continuous Banach G -module (not necessarily separable).

In either case, a *morphism* $(E, E^\#) \rightarrow (F, F^\#)$ of coefficient G -modules is a pair $(\Phi, \Phi^\#)$, where $\Phi: E \rightarrow F$ is a bounded operator with a G -equivariant dual $\Phi^\#: F^\# \rightarrow E^\#$. We write \mathbf{Coef}_G for the category of coefficient G -modules.

Remark 2.2 If we consider a coefficient G -module (E^b, E) , then the only role of the specified predual E^b is to define a weak-* topology on E . We will thus usually drop the predual E^b from notation and simply refer to E as a coefficient G -module. With this abuse of notation, a morphism between coefficient G -modules E and F is simply a G -equivariant map $E \rightarrow F$, which is continuous with respect to the weak-* topologies defined by the omitted preduals.

The next notion allows us to produce examples of coefficient G -modules:

Definition 2.3 (i) If G is nondiscrete and second-countable, we say that X is a *Lebesgue G -space* if it is a standard Borel space endowed with a Borel G -action and a G -invariant Borel measure class. For economy, we will say that the pair (X, μ) is a Lebesgue G -space whenever X is a Lebesgue G -space and μ is a fixed G -quasi-invariant probability measure within the measure class.

(ii) If G is discrete, we will say that X is a *Lebesgue G -space* if it is a G -set, endowed with the measure class of its counting measure.

We denote by \mathbf{Leb}_G the category whose objects are Lebesgue G -spaces and G -equivariant measure-class-preserving Borel maps.

Example 2.4 The space G^n is a Lebesgue G -space (with respect to the diagonal G -action) for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$. For this to be the case it is crucial that we do not assume a Lebesgue- G -space to be countably separated if G is an uncountable discrete group.

Example 2.5 Let X be a Lebesgue G -space. If G is nondiscrete, then we denote by μ a fixed probability measure in the given measure class on X , and if G is discrete, then we denote by μ the counting measure on X . The group G acts on $L^1(X, \mu)$ via

$$g \cdot \phi(x) := \rho_\mu(g^{-1}, x) \cdot \phi(g^{-1}x),$$

where $\rho_\mu(g, x) := d(g_*\mu)/d\mu(x)$ denotes the Radon–Nikodym cocycle of μ . In the nondiscrete case this action is continuous, as proven by Bühler [3, Appendix D]. Moreover, $L^1(X, \mu)$ is separable in this case (but not necessarily in the discrete case). Either way, the contragredient module is then given by $L^1(X, \mu)^\# = L^\infty(X)$ with action given by $g \cdot f(x) := f(g^{-1}x)$, and our definitions have been set up in such a way that the pair $(L^1(X, \mu), L^\infty(X))$ is a coefficient G -module which up to isomorphism does not depend on the choice of μ .

Remark 2.6 The assignment $L^\infty(-): \mathbf{Leb}_G^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Coef}_G$ is functorial. In fact, if $T: Y \rightarrow X$ is a morphism of Lebesgue G -spaces, then the induced operator

$$L^\infty(T): L^\infty(X) \rightarrow L^\infty(Y), \quad L^\infty(T)(\phi) := \phi \circ T,$$

is a morphism of coefficient G -modules. Choosing a G -quasi-invariant measure ν on Y as above and letting $\mu := T_*\nu$, the predual operator to $L^\infty(T)$ is

$$L^1(T): L^1(Y, \nu) \rightarrow L^1(X, \mu), \quad (L^1(T)(\psi))(x) := d(T_*(\psi \cdot \nu))/d\mu.$$

We will need the following generalization:

Construction 2.7 Let X be a Lebesgue G -space and let E be a coefficient G -module. We equip E with the Borel σ -algebra associated with the weak- $*$ topology on E . Given $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we then define

$$L^\infty(X; E) := \{\phi: X \rightarrow E \mid \phi \text{ is measurable and essentially bounded}\} / \sim,$$

where \sim denotes almost-everywhere equality. This defines a Banach G -module when equipped with the essential supremum norm and the G -action given by the formula $g \cdot f(x) = g \cdot f(g^{-1}x)$. In particular, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we obtain a Banach G -module

$$L^\infty(G^n; E) := \{\phi: G^n \rightarrow E \mid \phi \text{ is measurable and essentially bounded}\} / \sim.$$

Remark 2.8 Our definition of coefficient G -module is made in such a way that if X is a Lebesgue G -space and E is a coefficient G -module, then $L^\infty(X; E)$ is again a coefficient G -module. Indeed, it is the dual of the Bochner space $L^1(X; E^b)$, where E^b denotes the underlying predual of E . Note that in the discrete case the module $L^1(X; E^b)$ need not be separable.

The use of the weak- $*$ Borel structure of E in the definition of $L^\infty(X; E)$ is necessary since $L^\infty(X; E)$ is not well defined if measurability is taken with respect to its norm-structure. If G is discrete, measurability is a void assumption and $L^\infty(X; E)$ can in fact be defined for *any* Banach G -module E .

As in the case of the trivial coefficient module \mathbb{R} , one shows that the assignment $X \mapsto L^\infty(X; E)$ is functorial for any fixed coefficient module E .

2.2 Background on continuous bounded cohomology

We collect the definition and a series of useful facts on continuous bounded cohomology.

Definition 2.9 If E is Banach G -module and $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then we denote by $C_b(G^{n+1}; E)$ the Banach space of continuous bounded functions $f: G^{n+1} \rightarrow E$ with the supremum norm. The group G acts diagonally on G^{n+1} and hence by isometries on $C_b(G^{n+1}; E)$ via the left-regular representation, and we denote by $C_b(G^{n+1}; E)^G$ the subspace of G -invariant functions. Then the *continuous bounded cohomology* of G with coefficients in E is defined as

$$H_b^\bullet(G; E) := H^\bullet(C_b(G^{\bullet+1}; E)^G).$$

If $E = \mathbb{R}$ with trivial G -action, we will drop E from the notation and write $H_b^\bullet(G) := H_b^\bullet(G; \mathbb{R})$.

Proposition 2.10 *If E is a coefficient G -module, then*

$$H_b^\bullet(G; E) = H^\bullet(0 \rightarrow L^\infty(G; E)^G \rightarrow L^\infty(G^2; E)^G \rightarrow L^\infty(G^3; E)^G \rightarrow \dots).$$

Proof In the discrete case, this is just the definition, since $L^\infty(G^{n+1}; E)^G = \ell^\infty(G^{n+1}; E)^G = C_b(G^{n+1}; E)^G$. In the second-countable case this is nontrivial, and appears as [16, Proposition 7.5.1] in Monod's book. \square

To provide a more general class of resolutions, we need to recall the notion of an amenable Lebesgue G -space. In the discrete case, its definition is given in [10, Section 4.9] in Frigerio's book. In the nondiscrete case, the definition is more technical; see [16, Section 5.3].

Proposition 2.11 [10, Theorem 4.23; 16, Theorem 7.5.3] *If E is a coefficient G -module and S is an amenable Lebesgue G -space, then*

$$H_b^\bullet(G; E) = H^\bullet(0 \rightarrow L^\infty(S; E)^G \rightarrow L^\infty(S^2; E)^G \rightarrow L^\infty(S^3; E)^G \rightarrow \dots).$$

Example 2.12 The group G acts amenably on $S := G$ via left-multiplication; see [16, Example 2.1.2.(i)]. If $H < G$ is a closed subgroup and S is an amenable G -space, then it is also an amenable H -space; see [16, Example 2.1.2.(iv)]. In particular, G is an amenable H -space, and we deduce from Proposition 2.11 that for any coefficient H -module E we have

$$(2-1) \quad H_b^\bullet(H; E) = H^\bullet(0 \rightarrow L^\infty(G; E)^H \rightarrow L^\infty(G^2; E)^H \rightarrow L^\infty(G^3; E)^H \rightarrow \dots).$$

The following lemma is an essential technical tool for us. Let \mathbf{Vect} denote the category of real vector spaces. We say that a sequence $0 \rightarrow E^0 \rightarrow E^1 \rightarrow E^2 \rightarrow \dots$ of Banach G -modules is a *cochain complex* (resp. *exact*) if the underlying sequence of vector spaces has the corresponding property.

Lemma 2.13 *For any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the functor $\mathbf{Coef}_G \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$ given by $E \mapsto L^\infty(G^n, E)^G$ is exact.*

Proof For discrete groups, this is contained in [16, Lemma 8.2.4], and, for nondiscrete lsc groups, in [16, Lemma 8.2.5]. \square

More concretely, this lemma states that if $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$ is a short exact sequence of coefficient G -modules, then

$$0 \rightarrow L^\infty(G^n; A)^G \rightarrow L^\infty(G^n; B)^G \rightarrow L^\infty(G^n; C)^G \rightarrow 0$$

is an exact sequence of vector spaces.

2.3 Lebesgue G -complexes

From Lebesgue G -spaces, we can build associated complexes using the following notion:

Definition 2.14 (see Weibel [24, Definition 8.1.9]) A *semisimplicial object* X over a concrete category \mathcal{C} is a sequence of objects $(X_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$, together with morphisms $\delta_{i,k}: X_{k+1} \rightarrow X_k$ for all k and $i \in [k]$, called *face maps*, such that

$$(2-2) \quad \delta_{i,k-1} \circ \delta_{j,k} = \delta_{j-1,k-1} \circ \delta_{i,k} \quad \text{whenever } i < j.$$

If X and Y are semisimplicial objects over a category \mathcal{C} , then a *semisimplicial morphism* $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a collection $(f_k: X_k \rightarrow Y_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ of morphisms such that $f_k \circ \delta_{i,k-1} = \delta_{i,k} \circ f_{k+1}$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and all $i \in [k+1]$.

We will usually omit the index k in $\delta_{i,k}$, writing simply δ_i for all i^{th} face maps.

Definition 2.15 A semisimplicial object in \mathbf{Leb}_G will be called a *Lebesgue G -complex*.

Remark 2.16 If X is a Lebesgue G -space, then we refer to points in $\bigsqcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} X_k$ as *simplices* and to points of X_k as *k -simplices* of X . Given two simplices $x, y \in X$, we say that x is a *face* of y , denoted by $x < y$, if x can be obtained by applying finitely many face maps to y . A (finite or infinite) sequence $x_0 < x_1 < x_2 < \dots$ of simplices is called a *flag*.

If $x, y \in X$ are such that $x < y$, then the reversed inclusion $\text{Stab}_G(y) < \text{Stab}_G(x)$ of stabilizer subgroups holds, and hence every flag $x_0 < x_1 < x_2 < \dots$ gives rise to a chain of closed subgroups

$$G > \text{Stab}_G(x_0) > \text{Stab}_G(x_1) > \text{Stab}_G(x_2) > \dots$$

The closedness of these inclusions in the case that G is nondiscrete follows from [25, Corollary 2.1.20] in Zimmer’s book, since standard Borel spaces are countably separated.

Construction 2.17 Let X be a Lebesgue G -complex. We define X_{-1} to be a singleton, so that $L^\infty(X_{-1}) \cong \mathbb{R}$. There is a unique “face map” $\delta_0: X_0 \rightarrow X_{-1}$ which induces the inclusion of constants $\delta^0: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow L^\infty(X_0)$.

Applying the L^∞ -functor from Remark 2.6 to the face maps $\delta_i: X_{l+1} \rightarrow X_l$ provides a family of morphisms $\delta^i: L^\infty(X_l) \rightarrow L^\infty(X_{l+1})$ of coefficient G -modules. If we define

$$d^l: L^\infty(X_l) \rightarrow L^\infty(X_{l+1}), \quad d^l := \sum_{i=0}^{l+1} (-1)^i \delta^i \quad \text{for } l \geq -1,$$

then $d^l \circ d^{l-1} = 0$ for all $l \geq 0$, and hence we obtain a cochain complex

$$(2-3) \quad 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{d^{-1}} L^\infty(X_0) \xrightarrow{d^0} L^\infty(X_1) \xrightarrow{d^1} L^\infty(X_2) \xrightarrow{d^2} L^\infty(X_3) \rightarrow \dots$$

of coefficient G -modules.

Definition 2.18 Given a Lebesgue G -complex X , the cochain complex of coefficient G -modules (2-3) is called the *augmented L^∞ -complex* associated to X .

We will say that X is *boundedly acyclic* if its augmented L^∞ -complex is exact, and *boundedly γ_0 -acyclic* for some $\gamma_0 \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ if $\ker d^l = \text{im } d^{l-1}$ for every $l \in [\gamma_0]$.

If a Lebesgue G -complex X is boundedly γ_0 -acyclic for some $\gamma_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ that we do not want to specify, then we will say that X is *partially boundedly acyclic*. We will also use the convention that every Lebesgue G -complex is boundedly $(-\infty)$ -acyclic.

2.4 The spectral sequence of a partially boundedly acyclic Lebesgue G -complex

With every partially boundedly acyclic Lebesgue G -complex, we can now associate a spectral sequence; our notation concerning spectral sequences follows McCleary's book [15].

Proposition 2.19 *Let $X = (X_q)_{q \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a Lebesgue G -complex which is boundedly γ_0 -acyclic for some $\gamma_0 \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$. Then there exists a first-quadrant spectral sequence E_{\bullet}^{\bullet} with first page terms and differentials*

$$(2-4) \quad E_1^{p,q} = H_b^q(G; L^\infty(X_{p-1})) \quad \text{and} \quad d_1^{p,q} = H_b^q(G; d^{p-1}) \quad \text{for all } p, q \geq 0$$

that converges to $E_\infty^t = 0$ for all $t \in [\gamma_0 + 1]$, where d^q are the coboundary operators in (2-3).

Proof Consider the first-quadrant double complex $(L^{\bullet,\bullet}, d_H, d_V)$, whose terms and differentials for $p, q \geq 0$ are given by

$$\begin{aligned} L^{p,q} &:= L^\infty(G^{p+1} \times X_{q-1})^G \cong L^\infty(G^{p+1}; L^\infty(X_{q-1}))^G, \\ d_H^{p,q} : L^{p,q} &\rightarrow L^{p+1,q}, \quad d_H^{p,q} f(g_0, \dots, g_p) := \sum_{i=0}^p (-1)^i f(g_0, \dots, \hat{g}_i, \dots, g_p), \\ d_V^{p,q} : L^{p,q} &\rightarrow L^{p,q+1}, \quad d_V^{p,q} f(g_0, \dots, g_{p-1}) := d^{q-1}(f(g_0, \dots, g_{p-1})). \end{aligned}$$

Here d^{q-1} denotes the coboundary operator of the augmented L^∞ -complex of X , as in (2-3). We let ${}^I E_{\bullet}^{\bullet}$ and ${}^{II} E_{\bullet}^{\bullet}$ be the two spectral sequences associated with the horizontal and vertical filtrations of $L^{\bullet,\bullet}$, respectively, both of which converge to the cohomology of the total complex of $L^{\bullet,\bullet}$ and whose first-page terms and differentials are given by

$$\begin{aligned} {}^I E_1^{p,q} &= H^q(L^{p,\bullet}, d_V^{p,\bullet}), \quad {}^I d_1^{p,q} = H^q(d_H^{p,\bullet}) : {}^I E_1^{p,q} \rightarrow {}^I E_1^{p+1,q}, \\ {}^{II} E_1^{p,q} &= H^q(L^{\bullet,p}, d_H^{\bullet,p}), \quad {}^{II} d_1^{p,q} = H^q(d_V^{\bullet,p}) : {}^{II} E_1^{p,q} \rightarrow {}^{II} E_1^{p+1,q}. \end{aligned}$$

For a proof of the existence and convergence properties of these two spectral sequences, see McCleary [15, Theorem 2.15]. By the γ_0 -acyclicity of X and exactness of the functor $L^\infty(G^{p+1}, -)^G$ for every $p \geq 0$ (see Lemma 2.13), the complex

$$0 \rightarrow L^{p,0} \rightarrow L^{p,1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow L^{p,\gamma_0} \rightarrow L^{p,\gamma_0+1} \rightarrow L^{p,\gamma_0+2} \rightarrow \dots$$

is exact up to degree $\gamma_0 + 1$. Thus ${}^I E_1^{p,q} = 0$ for all $p \geq 0$ and $q \in [\gamma_0 + 1]$, and therefore ${}^I E_\infty^t \cong \bigoplus_{p+q=t} {}^I E_\infty^{p,q} = 0$ for every $t \in [\gamma_0 + 1]$. We deduce that also the spectral sequence $E_{\bullet}^{\bullet} := {}^{II} E_{\bullet}^{\bullet}$ converges to 0 in degrees $t \in [\gamma_0 + 1]$. Finally, it follows from Proposition 2.10 that the first page of E_{\bullet}^{\bullet} is given by (2-4). □

3 The highly essentially transitive case

In this section, G continues to denote a locally compact group, either second-countable or discrete, and X denotes a partially boundedly acyclic Lebesgue G -complex. In the discrete case, G -sets are always endowed with the counting measure. We are going to discuss how certain transitivity properties of the G -action on X affect the spectral sequence constructed in the previous section. This will lead us to a proof of Theorem A from Section 1.

Definition 3.1 Let X be a Lebesgue G -complex and $\tau_0 \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$. We say that X is *essentially τ_0 -transitive* if X_l admits a conull G -orbit for all $l \in [\tau_0]$. We use the convention that any Lebesgue G -complex is essentially $(-\infty)$ -transitive.

For the remainder of this section we assume that X is a Lebesgue G -complex which is boundedly γ_0 -acyclic and essentially τ_0 -transitive for some $\gamma_0, \tau_0 \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$. We denote by $E_{\bullet}^{*,\bullet}$ the associated spectral sequence constructed in Proposition 2.19.

Remark 3.2 The bottom row of the first page of the spectral sequence $E_{\bullet}^{*,\bullet}$ is given by

$$E_1^{p,0} = H_b^0(G; L^\infty(X_{p-1})) = L^\infty(X_{p-1})^G \quad \text{and} \quad d_1^{p,0} = H_b^0(G; d^{p-1}) \quad \text{for all } p \geq 0.$$

Since the constant functions are always contained in $L^\infty(X_{p-1})^G$ we have an embedding of constants $c_p: \mathbb{R} \hookrightarrow E_1^{p,0}$ for every $p \geq 0$, such that all of the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E_1^{p,0} & \xrightarrow{\delta^i} & E_1^{p+1,0} \\ & \swarrow c_p & \searrow c_{p+1} \\ & \mathbb{R} & \end{array}$$

commute. Since G acts essentially τ_0 -transitive, we have

$$E_1^{p,0} = L^\infty(X_{p-1})^G = c_p(\mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R} \quad \text{for all } p \in [\tau_0 + 1].$$

It thus follows from the commuting diagram above that each of the dual face maps $\delta^i: E_1^{p,0} \rightarrow E_1^{p+1,0}$ equals the identity if $p \in [\tau_0]$ and is an injection if $p = \tau_0 + 1$. We deduce that the face map $d_1^{p,0}$ is the zero map if $p \in [\tau_0 + 1]$ is odd, an isomorphism if $p \in [\tau_0]$ is even, and injective if $p = \tau_0 + 1$ is even. Consequently

$$(3-1) \quad E_2^{p,0} = 0 \quad \text{for all } p \in [\tau_0 + 1].$$

Construction 3.3 By assumption, we can find $o_{\tau_0} \in X_{\tau_0}$ such that the orbit $G \cdot o_{\tau_0} \subset X_{\tau_0}$ is conull. Since the face maps are G -equivariant and measure-class-preserving, any codimension-1 face $o_{\tau_0-1} \in X_{\tau_0-1}$ has a conull orbit in X_{τ_0-1} . Thus we construct a flag $o_{-1} \prec o_0 \prec \dots \prec o_{\tau_0}$ inductively with $o_q \in X_q$ such that o_q has a conull orbit in X_q for all $q \in \{-1\} \cup [\tau_0]$ —recall our convention that X_{-1} is a singleton,

and thus o_{-1} denotes its only element. We refer to such a flag as a *generic flag* in X . Given a generic flag, we define

$$H_q := \text{Stab}_G(o_q) \quad \text{for } q \in \{-1\} \cup [\tau_0].$$

Note that according to our convention, G acts trivially on X_{-1} , so $H_{-1} = G$.

By Remark 2.16, we have a chain of closed subgroups

$$G = H_{-1} > H_0 > H_1 > \cdots > H_{\tau_0}.$$

Now let $q \in \{-1\} \cup [\tau_0 - 1]$ and $i \in [q + 1]$, so that $\delta_i(o_{q+1}) \in X_q$. By transitivity, there exists $w_{q,i} \in G$ such that

$$\delta_i(o_{q+1}) = w_{q,i}^{-1} \cdot o_q,$$

and we fix a choice of such elements of G once and for all.

Lemma 3.4 *For all $q \in \{-1\} \cup [\tau_0 - 1]$ and $i \in [q + 1]$, we have the inclusion $w_{q,i} H_{q+1} w_{q,i}^{-1} < H_q$. In particular, there is a well-defined map*

$$\text{Int}(w_{q,i}): H_{q+1} \rightarrow H_q, \quad h \mapsto w_{q,i} h w_{q,i}^{-1}.$$

Proof If $h \in H_{q+1}$, then

$$w_{q,i}^{-1} \cdot o_q = \delta_i(o_{q+1}) = \delta_i(h \cdot o_{q+1}) = h \cdot \delta_i(o_{q+1}) = h \cdot w_{q,i}^{-1} \cdot o_q \implies w_{q,i} h w_{q,i}^{-1} \in H_q. \quad \square$$

Construction 3.5 For $p \in [\tau_0 + 1]$, we define the $(p-1)$ th induction module $\text{Ind}^{p-1} := L^\infty(G)^{H_{p-1}}$, where the H_{p-1} -invariance is taken with respect to the restriction of the G -action by left-translation. Equipped with the right-translation G -action ρ , the space Ind^{p-1} is a Banach G -module. We now define a family of induction maps

$$\text{Ind}: L^\infty(G^{q+1})^{H_{p-1}} \rightarrow L^\infty(G^{q+1}, \text{Ind}^{p-1})^G, \quad (\text{Ind } \varphi)(\vec{g})(x) := \varphi(x\vec{g}) \quad \text{for } q \geq 0,$$

which produces a morphism of cochain complexes; see [16, Proposition 10.1.3]. We also define

$$\Psi_0: \text{Ind}^{p-1} \rightarrow L^\infty(X_{p-1}), \quad (\Psi_0 \varphi)(g \cdot o_{p-1}) := \varphi(g^{-1}),$$

and define a morphism of cochain complexes $\Psi := L^\infty(G^{q+1}; \Psi_0)^G$, so that

$$\Psi: L^\infty(G^{q+1}; \text{Ind}^{p-1})^G \rightarrow L^\infty(G^{q+1}; L^\infty(X_{p-1}))^G \quad \text{for } q \geq 0.$$

Note that by Proposition 2.11, the cohomology of $L^\infty(G^{q+1})^{H_{p-1}}$ is $H_b^q(H_{p-1})$, and by Proposition 2.10, the cohomology of $L^\infty(G^{q+1}; L^\infty(X_{p-1}))^G$ is $H_b^q(G; L^\infty(X_{p-1})) = E_1^{p,q}$.

Proposition 3.6 *The composition $\Psi \circ \text{Ind}: L^\infty(G^{q+1})^{H_{p-1}} \rightarrow L^\infty(G^{q+1}; L^\infty(X_{p-1}))^G$ induces an isomorphism*

$$I_{p,q}: H_b^q(H_{p-1}) \rightarrow E_1^{p,q} \quad \text{for every } p \in [\tau_0 + 1] \text{ and every } q \geq 0.$$

Proof It suffices to show that Ind and Ψ induce isomorphisms in cohomology. The former is just the Eckmann–Shapiro lemma for L^∞ -modules (see Monod [16, Proposition 10.1.3] and Monod and Nariman [19, Lemma 3.5]) and the latter is immediate from the fact Ψ_0 is an isomorphism for any fixed $q \geq 0$ by essential transitivity. \square

Having computed the terms on the first page of E_{\bullet}^{\bullet} , we now compute the differentials. The maps $\text{Int}(w_{p-1,i}): H_p \rightarrow H_{p-1}$ from Lemma 3.4 induce a family of maps

$$H_b^q(\text{Int}(w_{p-1,i})): H_b^q(H_{p-1}) \rightarrow H_b^q(H_p),$$

and we claim:

Lemma 3.7 For every $p \in [\tau_0]$, $q \geq 0$, and $i \in [p]$, we have a commuting diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E_1^{p,q} & \xrightarrow{H_b^q(G;\delta^i)} & E_1^{p+1,q} \\ I_{p,q} \uparrow & & \uparrow I_{p+1,q} \\ H_b^q(H_{p-1}) & \xrightarrow{H_b^q(\text{Int}(w_{p-1,i}))} & H_b^q(H_p) \end{array}$$

Proof For all i, p and q as in the lemma we consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \mathbb{R} & \longrightarrow & L^\infty(G) & \longrightarrow & L^\infty(G^2) & \longrightarrow & \dots \longrightarrow L^\infty(G^{q+1}) \longrightarrow \dots \\ \text{Id} \downarrow & & \Psi_{i,p,0} \downarrow & & \Psi_{i,p,1} \downarrow & & \Psi_{i,p,q} \downarrow \\ \mathbb{R} & \longrightarrow & L^\infty(G) & \longrightarrow & L^\infty(G^2) & \longrightarrow & \dots \longrightarrow L^\infty(G^{q+1}) \longrightarrow \dots \end{array}$$

where $\Psi_{i,p,q}(\varphi)(g_0, \dots, g_q) := \varphi(w_{p-1,i}g_0, \dots, w_{p-1,i}g_q)$. For all $h \in H_p$ and $\vec{g} \in G^{q+1}$

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_{i,p,q}(\text{Int}(w_{p-1,i})(h) \cdot \varphi)(\vec{g}) &= \text{Int}(w_{p-1,i})(h) \cdot \varphi(w_{p-1,i} \cdot \vec{g}) = \varphi(w_{p-1,i} h^{-1} \cdot \vec{g}) \\ &= \Psi_{i,p,q}(\varphi)(h^{-1} \vec{g}) = h \cdot \Psi_{i,p,q}(\varphi)(\vec{g}), \end{aligned}$$

and hence $\Psi_{i,p,q}$ restricts to a map $\Psi_{i,p,q}: L^\infty(G^{q+1})^{H_{p-1}} \rightarrow L^\infty(G^{q+1})^{H_p}$, which by [16, Proposition 8.4.2] induces the map $H_b^q(\text{Int}(w_{p-1,i}))$ in cohomology. It thus remains to show only that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L^\infty(G^{q+1}; L^\infty(X_{p-1}))^G & \xrightarrow{\delta^i} & L^\infty(G^{q+1}; L^\infty(X_p))^G \\ \Psi \circ \text{Ind} \uparrow & & \uparrow \Psi \circ \text{Ind} \\ L^\infty(G^{q+1})^{H_{p-1}} & \xrightarrow{\Psi_{i,p,q}} & L^\infty(G^{q+1})^{H_p} \end{array}$$

commutes. Now if $\varphi \in L^\infty(G^{q+1})^{H_{p-1}}$, $\vec{g} \in G^{q+1}$, and $x \in G$, then

$$\begin{aligned} (\delta^i \circ \Psi \circ \text{Ind})(\varphi)(\vec{g})(x \cdot o_p) &= (\Psi \circ \text{Ind})(\varphi)(\vec{g})(x w_{p-1,i}^{-1} \cdot o_{p-1}) = \varphi(w_{p-1,i} x^{-1} \vec{g}) \\ &= \Psi_{i,p,q} \varphi(x^{-1} \vec{g}) = (\Psi \circ \text{Ind} \circ \Psi_{i,p,q})(\varphi)(\vec{g})(x \cdot o_p), \end{aligned}$$

and hence $\delta^i \circ \Psi \circ \text{Ind} = \Psi \circ \text{Ind} \circ \Psi_{i,p,q}$, which proves the lemma. \square

Combining this fact with Propositions 2.19 and 3.6, Lemma 3.4, and (3-1), we arrive at Theorem A.

4 Measurable Quillen families

In Definition 1.2, we have introduced the notion of an infinite measurable Quillen family. Since the quantitative version of Theorem B (see Theorem 4.6 below) also applies to certain finite families of groups, we modify the definitions accordingly.

Setting 4.1 Let $R \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ be a *length parameter* and let

$$\gamma, \tau: [R] \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\pm\infty\}$$

be two functions, called the *acyclicity range* and *transitivity range*, respectively. We assume that we are given

- a locally compact group G_r for every $r \in [R]$, all either second-countable or discrete,
- an embedding $\iota_r: G_r \hookrightarrow G_{r+1}$ for every $r < R$,
- a Lebesgue G_r -complex $X(r)$ for every $r \in [R]$.

We set $G_r := \{1\}$ for all $r < 0$. Furthermore, we keep our convention from last section that $X(r)_{-1}$ is a singleton, and we denote by $o_{r,-1}$ its only element.

Generalizing Definition 1.2, we declare:

Definition 4.2 We say that $(G_r, X(r))_{r \in [R]}$ is a *measurable (R, γ, τ) -Quillen family* provided:

(MQ1) $X(r)$ is a boundedly $\gamma(r)$ -acyclic Lebesgue G_r -complex for every $r \in [R]$.

(MQ2) $X(r)$ is an essentially $\tau(r)$ -transitive Lebesgue G_r -complex for every $r \in [R]$.

(MQ3) For every $r \in [R]$, there exists a generic flag $o_{r,-1} < o_{r,0} < o_{r,1} < \dots < o_{r,\tau(r)}$ in $X(r)$ such that the corresponding stabilizers $H_{r,q} := \text{Stab}_{G_r}(o_{r,q}) < G_r$ are compatible with $G_{r-\tau(r)}, \dots, G_r$ in the sense of one of (MQ3a), (MQ3b), or (MQ3c) from Section 1 for elements $w_{r,q,i} \in G_r$ with $r \in [R]$, $q \in [\tau(r) - 1]$, and $i \in [q + 1]$.

In particular, a measurable (∞, γ, τ) -Quillen family is the same as a measurable (γ, τ) -Quillen family in the sense of Definition 1.2.

Applying Theorem A to each of the complexes $X(r)$ in a measurable Quillen family, we obtain:

Corollary 4.3 Assume that $(G_r, X(r))_{r \in [R]}$ is a measurable (R, γ, τ) -Quillen family. Then for every $r \in [R]$, there exists a spectral sequence ${}^r E_{\bullet}^{\bullet}$ such that:

- (i) ${}^r E_{\bullet}^{\bullet}$ converges and ${}^r E_{\infty}^t = 0$ for every $t \in [\gamma(r) + 1]$.
- (ii) ${}^r E_1^{p,q} = H_b^q(G_{r-p})$ for all $p \in [\tau(r) + 1]$ and $q \geq 0$.
- (iii) ${}^r E_2^{p,0} = 0$ for all $p \in [\tau(r) + 1]$ and $q \geq 0$.
- (iv) For all $p \in [\tau(r)]$ and $q \geq 0$, the map $d_1^{p,q}: H_b^q(G_{r-p}) \rightarrow H_b^q(G_{r-p-1})$ is given by

$$d_1^{p,q} = \begin{cases} H_b^q(\iota_{r-p-1}) & \text{if } p \text{ is even,} \\ 0 & \text{if } p \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

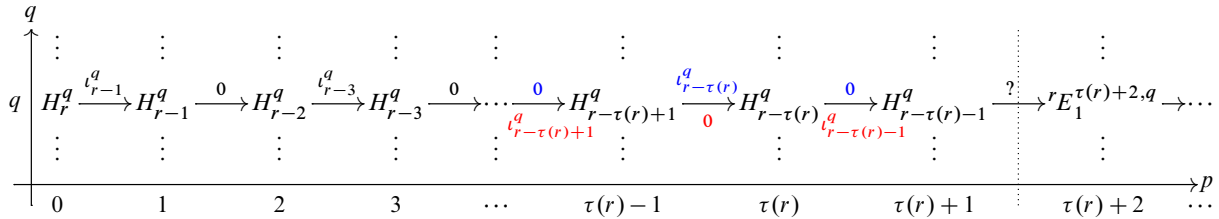


Figure 1: The first page ${}^rE_1^{\bullet, \bullet}$.

Proof Since the inflation maps in bounded cohomology whose inducing epimorphisms have amenable kernels are isomorphisms (see Monod [16, Corollary 8.5.2]), condition (MQ3) produces the following commutative diagram for all $r \in [R]$, $p \in [\tau(r)]$, $i \in [p]$, and $q \geq 0$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 H_b^q(H_{r,p-1}) & \xrightarrow{H_b^q(\text{Int}(w_{r,p-1,i}))} & H_b^q(H_{r,p}) \\
 \uparrow \cong & & \uparrow \cong \\
 H_b^q(G_{r-p}) & \xrightarrow{H_b^q(\iota_{r-p-1})} & H_b^q(G_{r-p-1})
 \end{array}$$

The corollary follows now from Theorem A. □

If for any $s \in [R - 1]$ and any $q \geq 0$ we abbreviate

$$H_s^q := H_b^q(G_s) \quad \text{and} \quad \iota_s^q := H_b^q(\iota_s),$$

then the first page ${}^rE_1^{\bullet, \bullet}$ is given by Figure 1. The terms to the left of the dotted line are explained by Corollary 4.3(ii), while the behavior of the terms to the right of the dotted line is a priori not understood. According to Corollary 4.3(iii), the parity of $\tau(r)$ determines the pattern of the arrows just to the left of the dotted line: the labels above the arrows correspond to the case in which $\tau(r)$ is odd, and the labels underneath correspond to the even case.

Remark 4.4 Let $(G_r, X(r))_{r \in [R]}$ be a measurable (R, γ, τ) -Quillen family. We say that $q_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ is an *initial parameter* for this measurable Quillen family if

$$H_b^q(\iota_r): H_b^q(G_{r+1}) \rightarrow H_b^q(G_r) \text{ is an isomorphism for all } q \leq q_0 \text{ and } r < R.$$

In theory, one would always like to work with the optimal initial parameter

$$q_0 := \sup\{q \mid H_b^q(\iota_r): H_b^q(G_{r+1}) \rightarrow H_b^q(G_r) \text{ is an isomorphism for all } r < R\},$$

but in practice, the optimal initial parameter is not known. If no a priori information about the bounded cohomology of the group G_r is available, then one can always work with $q_0 := 1$, since $H_b^1(G)$ vanishes for lsc groups G . In some cases of interest, better initial parameters are available. Notably, if all G_r are connected semisimple Lie groups with finite center and either all of the groups G_r are of Hermitian type or all are of non-Hermitian type, then $q_0 \geq 2$.

To state the quantitative version of our bc-stability criterion, we introduce the following:

Definition 4.5 Let $(G_r, X(r))_{r \in [R]}$ be a measurable (R, γ, τ) -Quillen family with initial parameter $q_0 \in \mathbb{N}$. We define the associated *dual acyclicity range* and *dual transitivity function* to be functions $\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\tau}: \mathbb{N} \times [R - 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\pm\infty\}$ defined by the formulae

$$\tilde{\gamma}(q, r) := \min_{j=q_0}^q \{\gamma(r + 1 - 2(q - j)) - j\} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\tau}(q, r) := \min_{j=q_0}^q \{\tau(r + 1 - 2(q - j)) - j\}$$

for $r + 1 - 2(q - q_0) \geq 0$, and $\tilde{\gamma}(q, r) = \tilde{\tau}(q, r) = -\infty$ otherwise.

We state now our main result:

Theorem 4.6 Let $(G_r, X(r))_{r \in [R]}$ be a measurable (R, γ, τ) -Quillen family with initial parameter $q_0 \geq 1$, associated dual acyclicity range $\tilde{\gamma}$, and dual transitivity function $\tilde{\tau}$. Then the inclusion ι_r induces an isomorphism (resp. an injection)

$$H_b^q(\iota_r): H_b^q(G_{r+1}) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_b^q(G_r) \quad (\text{resp. } H_b^{q+1}(\iota_r): H_b^{q+1}(G_{r+1}) \hookrightarrow H_b^{q+1}(G_r)),$$

provided $r \in [R - 1]$ and $q \geq 0$ satisfy the condition

$$(4-1) \quad \min\{\tilde{\gamma}(q, r), \tilde{\tau}(q, r) - 1\} \geq 0.$$

An immediate corollary of this quantitative bc-stability result is Theorem B, as stated in Section 1.

Proof of Theorem B from Theorem 4.6 We may assume without loss of generality that $q_0 = 1$. Since $\gamma(r) \rightarrow \infty$ and $\tau(r) \rightarrow \infty$, we find for every $q \geq q_0$ some $r(q) \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for all $j \in \{q_0, \dots, q\}$ and all $r \geq r(q)$, we have

$$\gamma(r + 1 - 2(q - j)) \geq j \quad \text{and} \quad \tau(r + 1 - 2(q - j)) \geq j + 1.$$

Then Theorem 4.6 implies the chain of isomorphisms

$$H_b^q(G_{r(q)}) \xleftarrow{\cong} H_b^q(G_{r(q)+1}) \xleftarrow{\cong} H_b^q(G_{r(q)+2}) \xleftarrow{\cong} \dots,$$

which is the desired bc-stability. □

The functions $\tilde{\gamma}(q, r)$ and $\tilde{\tau}(q, r)$ have been defined so that they satisfy the following lemma, which will allow us to make inductive arguments:

Lemma 4.7 Let $r, q \in \mathbb{N}$ for $q \geq q_0$, and assume that $\min\{\tilde{\gamma}(q, r), \tilde{\tau}(q, r) - 1\} \geq 0$. Then the following hold:

- (i) $\gamma(r + 1) \geq q$ and $\tau(r + 1) \geq q + 1$.
- (ii) $\min\{\tilde{\gamma}(q - 1, r), \tilde{\tau}(q - 1, r) - 1\} \geq 0$.
- (iii) If $p \in [q - q_0]$ is odd, then $\min\{\tilde{\gamma}(q - p, r - p - 1), \tilde{\tau}(q - p, r - p - 1) - 1\} \geq 0$.
- (iv) If $p \in [q - q_0]$ is even, then $\min\{\tilde{\gamma}(q - p - 1, r - p - 2), \tilde{\tau}(q - p - 1, r - p - 2) - 1\} \geq 0$.

Proof The assumption means that for all $j \in \{q_0, \dots, q\}$ we have

$$(4-2) \quad r + 1 - 2(q - j) \geq 0,$$

$$(4-3) \quad \gamma(r + 1 - 2(q - j)) \geq j, \quad \tau(r + 1 - 2(q - j)) \geq j + 1.$$

(i) Choose $j = q$ in (4-3).

(ii) If $q = q_0$, then $r + 1 - 2(q - 1 - q_0) \geq 0$ and $\tilde{\gamma}(q - 1, r) = \tilde{\tau}(q - 1, r) = \infty$ for any r . Assume now that $q > q_0$, and let $j \in \{q_0, \dots, q - 1\}$. Observe that

$$r + 1 - 2(q - 1 - j) = r + 1 - 2(q - (j + 1)).$$

Since $j + 1 \in \{q_0, \dots, q\}$, from this equality combined with (4-2) and (4-3) we deduce

$$r + 1 - 2(q - 1 - j) \geq 0, \quad \gamma(r + 1 - 2(q - 1 - j)) \geq j + 1 > j, \quad \tau(r + 1 - 2(q - 1 - j)) \geq j + 2 > j + 1,$$

which establishes the claim.

(iii) Observe that for any odd $p \in [q - q_0]$ and any $j \in \{q_0, \dots, q - p\}$, we have

$$r - p - 2(q - p - j) = r + 1 - 2\left(q - \left(j + \frac{1}{2}(p - 1)\right)\right),$$

and $j + \frac{1}{2}(p - 1) \in \{q_0 + \frac{1}{2}(p - 1), \dots, q - \frac{1}{2}(p + 1)\} \subset \{q_0, \dots, q\}$. Just as in (ii), the claim follows now from (4-2) and (4-3).

(iv) For any even $p \in [q - q_0]$ and any $j \in \{q, \dots, q - p\}$, we have

$$r - p - 1 - 2(q - p - 1 - j) = r + 1 - 2\left(q - \left(j + \frac{1}{2}p\right)\right),$$

and $j + \frac{1}{2}p \in \{q_0 + \frac{1}{2}p, \dots, q - \frac{1}{2}p\} \subset \{q_0, \dots, q\}$, and conclude by (4-2) and (4-3). □

5 Proof of the main theorem

The remainder of this article is devoted to deriving Theorem 4.6 from Corollary 4.3. We consider a measurable (R, γ, τ) -Quillen family $(G_r, X(r))_{r \in [R]}$ with initial parameter $q_0 \geq 1$, dual acyclicity range $\tilde{\gamma}$, and dual transitivity function $\tilde{\tau}$, and abbreviate

$$H_s^q := H_b^q(G_s) \quad \text{and} \quad \iota_s^q := H_b^q(\iota_s),$$

as before. We consider the following statement for $q \in \mathbb{N}$ and $r < R$:

$(S_{q,r})$ $\iota_r^q: H_{r+1}^q \rightarrow H_r^q$ is an isomorphism and $\iota_r^{q+1}: H_{r+1}^{q+1} \rightarrow H_r^{q+1}$ is an injection.

The conclusion of Theorem 4.6 then says that for all $q \in \mathbb{N}$, the following statement (S_q) holds true:

(S_q) If $r < R$ satisfies $\min\{\tilde{\gamma}(q, r), \tilde{\tau}(q, r) - 1\} \geq 0$, then $(S_{q,r})$ holds.

If $q < q_0$ then $r + 1 - 2(q - q_0) \geq 0$, and hence by definition $\tilde{\gamma}(q, r) = \tilde{\tau}(q, r) = \infty$. Since q_0 is an initial parameter, both ι_r^q and ι_r^{q+1} are isomorphisms for all $r < R$. Thus (S_q) holds for all $q < q_0$. We now proceed to prove (S_q) for $q \geq q_0$ by induction on q . For this purpose, assume that $q \geq q_0$ and that $(S_{q'})$ holds for all $q' < q$. In view of Lemma 4.7, we have:

Lemma 5.1 For $r < R$ with $\min\{\tilde{\gamma}(q, r), \tilde{\tau}(q, r) - 1\} \geq 0$, the following hold:

- (A) The map ι_r^q is injective.
- (B) The map ι_{r-p-1}^{q-p} is an isomorphism for all odd numbers $p \in [q]$.
- (C) The map ι_{r-p-2}^{q-p} is an injection for all even numbers $p \in [q]$.

Proof (A) By Lemma 4.7(ii), the inequality $\min\{\tilde{\gamma}(q-1, r), \tilde{\tau}(q-1, r) - 1\} \geq 0$ holds. Thus we may apply (S_{q-1}) to deduce the claim.

(B) If $p > q - q_0$, then $q - p < q_0$ and hence ι_{r-p-1}^{q-p} is an isomorphism by the initial condition. If $p \leq q - q_0$, then by Lemma 4.7(iii) we have $\min\{\tilde{\gamma}(q-p, r-p-1), \tilde{\tau}(q-p, r-p-1) - 1\} \geq 0$. We may thus use (S_{q-p}) to show that $(S_{q-p, r-p-1})$ is true, implying the claim.

(C) The case $p > q - q_0$ is again covered by the initial condition, and if $p \leq q - q_0$, then by Lemma 4.7(iv) we have $\min\{\tilde{\gamma}(q-p-1, r-p-2), \tilde{\tau}(q-p-1, r-p-2) - 1\} \geq 0$. Thus, by (S_{q-p-1}) , the statement $(S_{q-p-1, r-p-2})$ applies. □

To establish (S_q) , we fix a natural number $r < R$ such that $\min\{\tilde{\gamma}(q, r), \tilde{\tau}(q, r) - 1\} \geq 0$ and consider the spectral sequence $E_{\bullet, \bullet}^{\bullet, \bullet} := {}^{r+1}E_{\bullet, \bullet}^{\bullet, \bullet}$ from Corollary 4.3. By Lemma 4.7(i), we have

$$(5-1) \quad \gamma(r+1) \geq q \quad \text{and} \quad \tau(r+1) \geq q+1,$$

and thus Corollary 4.3 gives

$$(5-2) \quad \begin{aligned} E_1^{p', q'} &= H_{r+1-p'}^{q'} && \text{for } p' \in [q+2] \text{ and } q' \geq 0, \\ E_2^{p', 0} &= 0 && \text{for } p' \in [q+2], \\ d_1^{p', q'} &= \begin{cases} \iota_{r-p'}^{q'} & \text{if } p' \text{ is even,} \\ 0 & \text{if } p' \text{ is odd,} \end{cases} && \text{for } p' \in [q+1] \text{ and } q' \geq 0, \\ E_\infty^t &= 0 && \text{for } t \in [q+1]. \end{aligned}$$

The second equality is (3-1). We are going to show now that

$$(5-3) \quad E_2^{0, q+1} \cong \ker(\iota_r^{q+1}) \quad \text{and} \quad E_2^{1, q} \cong \text{coker}(\iota_r^q),$$

$$(5-4) \quad E_2^{p', q'} = 0 \quad \text{for all } (p', q') \in \{0, \dots, q\}^2 \text{ with } p' + q' = q + 2.$$

These computations will be sufficient to establish (S_q) : As indicated in Figure 2, the differentials emanating from $E_2^{0, q+1}$ and $E_2^{1, q}$ as well as all those emanating from the positions $(0, q+1)$ and $(1, q)$ on any of the following pages end up on the diagonal $p' + q' = q + 2$. Since this diagonal contains only zeros up to row q , we conclude that

$$E_\infty^{0, q+1} \cong E_2^{0, q+1} \cong \ker(\iota_r^{q+1}) \quad \text{and} \quad E_\infty^{1, q} \cong E_2^{1, q} \cong \text{coker}(\iota_r^q).$$

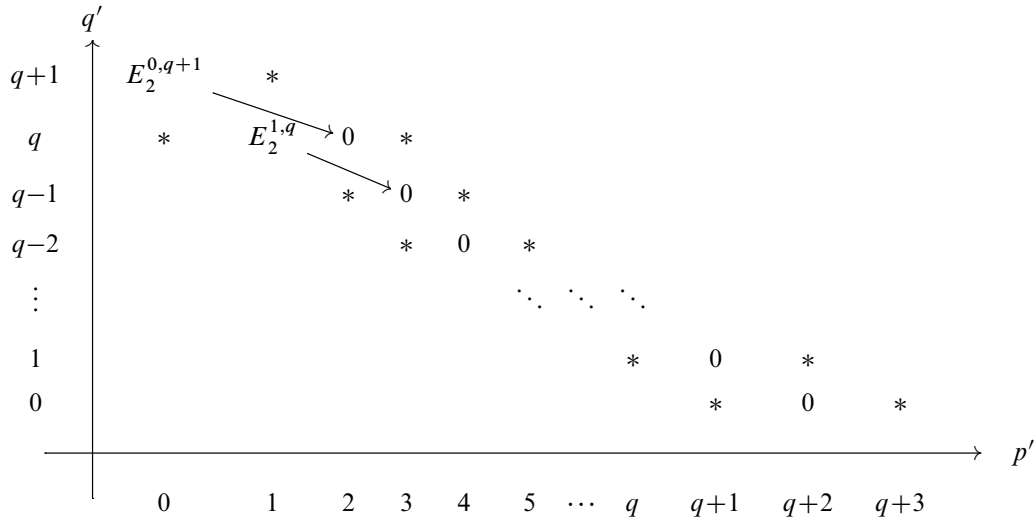


Figure 2: The second page $E_2^{\bullet, \bullet}$.

In particular, it follows that $\ker(\iota_r^{q+1}) \oplus \text{coker}(\iota_r^q) \hookrightarrow E_\infty^{q+1} = 0$. This gives the injectivity of ι_r^{q+1} and the surjectivity of ι_r^q . Since ι_r^q is injective by (A), the claim (S_q) is proven. We have thus reduced the proof of Theorem 4.6 to (5-3) and (5-4).

To prove (5-3) and (5-4), we only need to consider the few arrows on the first page of the spectral sequence depicted in Figure 3. The statement (5-3) is immediate from the fact that the leftmost maps in the q^{th} and $(q+1)^{\text{th}}$ row of $E_1^{\bullet, \bullet}$ are given by

$$H_{r+1}^q \xrightarrow{\iota_r^q} H_r^q \quad \text{and} \quad H_{r+1}^{q+1} \xrightarrow{\iota_r^{q+1}} H_r^{q+1},$$

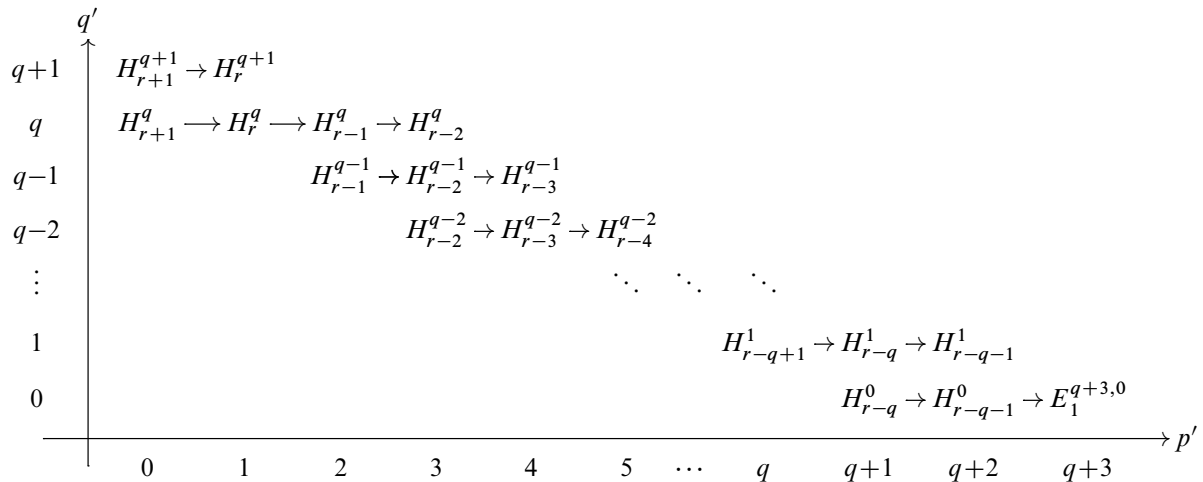


Figure 3: The first page $E_1^{r+1, \bullet}$.

respectively. As for (5-4), we first consider $q' \in \{1, \dots, q\}$ and define $p' := q - q' \in [q - 1]$ so that $p' + q' = q$. By (5-2), the two maps $E_1^{p'+1, q'} \rightarrow E_1^{p'+2, q'} \rightarrow E_1^{p'+3, q'}$ are given by

$$\begin{cases} H_{r-p'}^{q-p'} \xrightarrow{0} H_{r-p'-1}^{q-p'} \xrightarrow{\iota_{r-p'-2}^{q-p'}} H_{r-p'-2}^{q-p'} & \text{if } p' \text{ is even,} \\ H_{r-p'}^{q-p'} \xrightarrow{\iota_{r-p'-1}^{q-p'}} H_{r-p'-1}^{q-p'} \xrightarrow{0} H_{r-p'-2}^{q-p'} & \text{if } p' \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

From Lemma 5.1(B)–(C), we deduce that

$$E_2^{p'+2, q'} = 0 \quad \text{for all } (p', q') \in [q]^2 \text{ with } p' + q' = q,$$

where the case $(p', q') = (q, 0)$ is covered in (5-2). This concludes the proof of (5-4). \square

References

- [1] **M Bestvina**, *Homological stability of $\text{Aut}(F_n)$ revisited*, from “Hyperbolic geometry and geometric group theory”, Adv. Stud. Pure Math. 73, Math. Soc. Japan, Tokyo (2017) 1–11 MR Zbl
- [2] **M Bucher, M Burger, A Iozzi**, *The bounded Borel class and 3-manifold groups*, Duke Math. J. 167 (2018) 3129–3169 MR Zbl
- [3] **T Bühler**, *On the algebraic foundations of bounded cohomology*, Mem. Amer. Math. Soc. 1006, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, RI (2011) MR Zbl
- [4] **M Burger, N Monod**, *Bounded cohomology of lattices in higher rank Lie groups*, J. Eur. Math. Soc. 1 (1999) 199–235 MR Zbl
- [5] **M Burger, N Monod**, *On and around the bounded cohomology of SL_2* , from “Rigidity in dynamics and geometry” (M Burger, A Iozzi, editors), Springer (2002) 19–37 MR Zbl
- [6] **C De la Cruz Mengual**, *On bounded-cohomological stability for classical groups*, PhD thesis, ETH Zürich (2019) Available at <https://doi.org/10.3929/ethz-b-000373321>
- [7] **C De la Cruz Mengual**, *The degree-three bounded cohomology of complex Lie groups of classical type*, preprint (2023) arXiv 2304.00607
- [8] **C De la Cruz Mengual, T Hartnick**, *Stabilization of bounded cohomology for classical groups*, preprint (2022) arXiv 2201.03879
- [9] **J Essert**, *Homological stability for classical groups*, Israel J. Math. 198 (2013) 169–204 MR Zbl
- [10] **R Frigerio**, *Bounded cohomology of discrete groups*, Math. Surv. Monogr. 227, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, RI (2017) MR Zbl
- [11] **M Gromov**, *Volume and bounded cohomology*, Inst. Hautes Études Sci. Publ. Math. 56 (1982) 5–99 MR Zbl
- [12] **JL Harer**, *Stability of the homology of the mapping class groups of orientable surfaces*, Ann. of Math. 121 (1985) 215–249 MR Zbl
- [13] **A Hatcher, K Vogtmann**, *Homology stability for outer automorphism groups of free groups*, Algebr. Geom. Topol. 4 (2004) 1253–1272 MR Zbl
- [14] **W van der Kallen**, *Homology stability for linear groups*, Invent. Math. 60 (1980) 269–295 MR Zbl

- [15] **J McCleary**, *A user's guide to spectral sequences*, 2nd edition, Cambridge Stud. Adv. Math. 58, Cambridge Univ. Press (2001) MR Zbl
- [16] **N Monod**, *Continuous bounded cohomology of locally compact groups*, Lecture Notes in Math. 1758, Springer (2001) MR Zbl
- [17] **N Monod**, *Stabilization for SL_n in bounded cohomology*, from “Discrete geometric analysis”, Contemp. Math. 347, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, RI (2004) 191–202 MR Zbl
- [18] **N Monod**, *Vanishing up to the rank in bounded cohomology*, Math. Res. Lett. 14 (2007) 681–687 MR Zbl
- [19] **N Monod, S Nariman**, *Bounded and unbounded cohomology of homeomorphism and diffeomorphism groups*, Invent. Math. 232 (2023) 1439–1475 MR Zbl
- [20] **V L Popov**, *Generically multiple transitive algebraic group actions*, from “Algebraic groups and homogeneous spaces”, Tata Inst. Fund. Res. Stud. Math. 19, Tata Inst. Fund. Res., Mumbai (2007) 481–523 MR Zbl
- [21] **D Quillen**, *Notebook 1974-1*, personal notes (1974) Available at https://www.claymath.org/library/Quillen/Working_papers/quillen%201974/1974-1.pdf
- [22] **D Sprehn, N Wahl**, *Homological stability for classical groups*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 373 (2020) 4807–4861 MR Zbl
- [23] **K Vogtmann**, *A Stiefel complex for the orthogonal group of a field*, Comment. Math. Helv. 57 (1982) 11–21 MR Zbl
- [24] **C A Weibel**, *An introduction to homological algebra*, Cambridge Stud. Adv. Math. 38, Cambridge Univ. Press (1994) MR Zbl
- [25] **R J Zimmer**, *Ergodic theory and semisimple groups*, Monogr. Math. 81, Birkhäuser, Basel (1984) MR Zbl

Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Technion
Haifa, Israel

Institute of Algebra and Geometry, KIT
Karlsruhe, Germany

c.delacruz@technion.ac.il, tobias.hartnick@kit.edu

Received: 24 July 2023 Revised: 23 January 2024

ALGEBRAIC & GEOMETRIC TOPOLOGY

msp.org/agt

EDITORS

PRINCIPAL ACADEMIC EDITORS

John Etnyre
etnyre@math.gatech.edu
Georgia Institute of Technology

Kathryn Hess
kathryn.hess@epfl.ch
École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

BOARD OF EDITORS

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------|---|
| Julie Bergner | University of Virginia jeb2md@eservices.virginia.edu | Thomas Koberda | University of Virginia thomas.koberda@virginia.edu |
| Steven Boyer | Université du Québec à Montréal cohf@math.rochester.edu | Markus Land | LMU München markus.land@math.lmu.de |
| Tara E Brendle | University of Glasgow tara.brendle@glasgow.ac.uk | Christine Lescop | Université Joseph Fourier lescop@ujf-grenoble.fr |
| Indira Chatterji | CNRS & Univ. Côte d'Azur (Nice) indira.chatterji@math.cnrs.fr | Norihiko Minami | Yamato University minami.norihiko@yamato-u.ac.jp |
| Octav Cornea | Université' de Montreal cornea@dms.umontreal.ca | Andrés Navas | Universidad de Santiago de Chile andres.navas@usach.cl |
| Alexander Dranishnikov | University of Florida dranish@math.ufl.edu | Robert Oliver | Université Paris 13 bobol@math.univ-paris13.fr |
| Tobias Ekholm | Uppsala University, Sweden tobias.ekholm@math.uu.se | Jessica S Purcell | Monash University jessica.purcell@monash.edu |
| Mario Eudave-Muñoz | Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México mario@matem.unam.mx | Birgit Richter | Universität Hamburg birgit.richter@uni-hamburg.de |
| David Futер | Temple University dfuter@temple.edu | Jérôme Scherer | École Polytech. Féd. de Lausanne jerome.scherer@epfl.ch |
| John Greenlees | University of Warwick john.greenlees@warwick.ac.uk | Vesna Stojanoska | Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign vesna@illinois.edu |
| Matthew Hedden | Michigan State University mhedden@math.msu.edu | Zoltán Szabó | Princeton University szabo@math.princeton.edu |
| Kristen Hendricks | Rutgers University kristen.hendricks@rutgers.edu | Maggy Tomova | University of Iowa maggy-tomova@uiowa.edu |
| Hans-Werner Henn | Université Louis Pasteur henn@math.u-strasbg.fr | Daniel T Wise | McGill University, Canada daniel.wise@mcgill.ca |
| Daniel Isaksen | Wayne State University isaksen@math.wayne.edu | Lior Yanovski | Hebrew University of Jerusalem lior.yanovski@gmail.com |


See inside back cover or msp.org/agt for submission instructions.

The subscription price for 2025 is US \$760/year for the electronic version, and \$1110/year (+\$75, if shipping outside the US) for print and electronic. Subscriptions, requests for back issues and changes of subscriber address should be sent to MSP. Algebraic & Geometric Topology is indexed by Mathematical Reviews, Zentralblatt MATH, Current Mathematical Publications and the Science Citation Index.

Algebraic & Geometric Topology (ISSN 1472-2747 printed, 1472-2739 electronic) is published 9 times per year and continuously online, by Mathematical Sciences Publishers, c/o Department of Mathematics, University of California, 798 Evans Hall #3840, Berkeley, CA 94720-3840. Periodical rate postage paid at Oakland, CA 94615-9651, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Mathematical Sciences Publishers, c/o Department of Mathematics, University of California, 798 Evans Hall #3840, Berkeley, CA 94720-3840.

AGT peer review and production are managed by EditFlow® from MSP.

PUBLISHED BY

 **mathematical sciences publishers**
nonprofit scientific publishing

<https://msp.org/>

© 2025 Mathematical Sciences Publishers

ALGEBRAIC & GEOMETRIC TOPOLOGY

Volume 25 Issue 4 (pages 1917–2526) 2025

| | |
|--|------|
| The zero stability for the one-row colored \mathfrak{sl}_3 -Jones polynomial | 1917 |
| WATARU YUASA | |
| Quillen homology of spectral Lie algebras with application to mod p homology of labeled configuration spaces | 1945 |
| ADELA YIYU ZHANG | |
| Coarse Alexander duality for pairs and applications | 1999 |
| G CHRISTOPHER HRUSKA, EMILY STARK and HÙNG CÔNG TRẦN | |
| K-cwaist on complete foliated manifolds | 2037 |
| GUANGXIANG SU and XIANGSHENG WANG | |
| Line bundle twists for unitary bordism are ghosts | 2053 |
| THORSTEN HERTL | |
| The generalized Kauffman–Harary conjecture is true | 2067 |
| RHEA PALAK BAKSHI, HUIZHENG GUO, GABRIEL MONTOYA-VEGA, SUJOY MUKHERJEE and JÓZEF H PRZYTYCKI | |
| Rigidity of elliptic genera for nonspin manifolds | 2083 |
| MICHAEL WIEMELER | |
| Shrinking without doing much at all | 2099 |
| MICHAEL FREEDMAN and MICHAEL STARBIRD | |
| Action of the Mazur pattern up to topological concordance | 2115 |
| ALEX MANCHESTER | |
| Kauffman bracket intertwiners and the volume conjecture | 2143 |
| ZHIHAO WANG | |
| Horizontal decompositions, II | 2179 |
| PAOLO LISCA and ANDREA PARMA | |
| On the nonorientable four-ball genus of torus knots | 2209 |
| FRASER BINNS, SUNGKYUNG KANG, JONATHAN SIMONE and PAULA TRUÛL | |
| Generalised Baumslag–Solitar groups and hierarchically hyperbolic groups | 2253 |
| JACK O BUTTON | |
| Geometric and arithmetic properties of Löbell polyhedra | 2281 |
| NIKOLAY BOGACHEV and SAMI DOUBA | |
| Formality of sphere bundles | 2297 |
| JIAWEI ZHOU | |
| A Quillen stability criterion for bounded cohomology | 2317 |
| CARLOS DE LA CRUZ MENGUAL and TOBIAS HARTNICK | |
| T -equivariant motives of flag varieties | 2343 |
| CAN YAYLALI | |
| Small Heegaard genus and $SU(2)$ | 2369 |
| JOHN A BALDWIN and STEVEN SIVEK | |
| Harmonic measures and rigidity for surface group actions on the circle | 2391 |
| MASANORI ADACHI, YOSHIFUMI MATSUDA and HIRAKU NOZAWA | |
| Finite groups of untwisted outer automorphisms of RAAGs | 2413 |
| COREY BREGMAN, RUTH CHARNEY and KAREN VOGTMANN | |
| Computations on cobordism groups of projected immersions | 2441 |
| ANDRÁS CSÉPAI | |
| Rank-preserving additions for topological vector bundles, after a construction of Horrocks | 2451 |
| MORGAN P OPIE | |
| Power sum elements in the G_2 skein algebra | 2477 |
| BODIE BEAUMONT-GOULD, ERIK BRODSKY, VIJAY HIGGINS, ALAINA HOGAN, JOSEPH M MELBY and JOSHUA PIAZZA | |
| On contact mapping classes of prequantizations | 2507 |
| SANDRINE MARTEL and MATHIEU SÉBASTIEN | |