

# Strong measure zero in separable metric spaces and Polish groups

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# Miller–Šteprāns paper

## Framework

$\mathbb{G}$ ... non-discrete Polish group

$X$ ... Polish space

$\mathcal{M}$ ... the ideal of meager sets in  $X$

$\alpha$ ... action of  $\mathbb{G}$  on a Polish space  $X$

## Definition (Miller–Šteprāns 2006)

- $\text{cov}_{\mathbb{G}} = \min\{|A| : \exists M \in \mathcal{M} \ A + M = \mathbb{G}\}$
- $\text{cov}_{\alpha} = \min\{|A| : A \subseteq \mathbb{G}, \exists M \in \mathcal{M} \ \alpha(A \times M) = X\}$

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# Miller–Steprāns paper

## Two cardinals

- $\text{cov } \mathcal{M} = \min\{|F| : F \subseteq \omega^\omega \ \forall g \in \omega^\omega \ \exists f \in F \ \forall n \in \omega \ f(n) \neq g(n)\}$
- $\mathfrak{eq} = \min\{|F| : F \subseteq \omega^\omega \text{ bounded, } \forall g \in \omega^\omega \ \exists f \in F \ \forall n \in \omega \ f(n) \neq g(n)\}$

## Theorem (Miller–Steprāns 2006)

- *If  $\mathbb{G}$  is  $\mathbb{R}^n$  or a countable product of finite groups then  $\text{cov}_{\mathbb{G}} = \mathfrak{eq}$*
- *In particular, if  $\mathbb{G} = 2^\omega$ , then  $\text{cov}_{\mathbb{G}} = \mathfrak{eq}$*
- *If  $\mathbb{G} = \mathbb{Z}^\omega$ , then  $\text{cov}_{\mathbb{G}} = \text{cov } \mathcal{M}$*

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- ① Is it consistent to have a compact group  $\mathbb{G}$  such that  $\text{cov}_{\mathbb{G}} > \aleph_1$ ?
- ② Is it true that for any infinite compact group  $G$  we have  $\text{cov}_{\mathbb{G}} \geq \aleph_1$ ?
- ③ Is it true that for every non-discrete Polish group  $G$  we have  $\text{cov}_{\mathbb{G}} = \aleph_1$  or  $\text{cov}_{\mathbb{G}} = \text{cov } \mathcal{M}$ ?
- ④ Let  $\alpha_n$  be the natural action of the isometry group on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Is it true that  $\text{cov}_{\alpha_m} = \text{cov}_{\alpha_n}$  for all  $m, n$ ?

## Definition

$\mathbb{G}$  is CLI if it admits a complete left-invariant metric.

## Theorem (Dobrowolski–Marciszewski 2008)

*If  $\mathbb{G}$  is a Polish, not locally compact, CLI group (in particular, if  $\mathbb{G}$  is abelian), then  $\text{cov}_{\mathbb{G}} = \text{cov } \mathcal{M}$ .*

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# Strong measure zero

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$$\mathbf{Pr}(\mathbb{G}) = \{A \subseteq \mathbb{G} : \forall M \in \mathcal{M} \ A + M \neq \mathbb{G}\}.$$

## Uniformity

$$\text{cov}_{\mathbb{G}} = \text{non } \mathbf{Pr}(\mathbb{G})$$

## Definition (Borel 1919)

A set  $A$  in a separable metric space has **strong measure zero** if for any sequence  $\langle r_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  of radii there is a sequence  $\langle x_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  such that  $\{B(x_n, r_n) : n \in \omega\}$  covers  $A$ .

## Theorem (Prikry 1973)

*Let  $\mathbb{G}$  be a separable group equipped with a left-invariant metric  $d$ . Then  $\mathbf{Pr}(\mathbb{G}) \subseteq \text{Smz}(\mathbb{G})$ .*

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## Proof.

- If  $A \notin \mathbf{Pr}(\mathbb{G})$ , then  $\mathbb{G}$  is covered by  $|A|$ -many translates of a meager set.
- $\mathbb{G}$  contains (by the Perfect Set Theorem) a (uniform) copy of the Cantor space and therefore  $\text{non}(\mathbf{Smz}(X)) \leq \text{non}(\mathbf{Smz}(2^{\omega}))$ .
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# Galvin–Mycielski–Solovay Theorem

Theorem (Galvin–Mycielski–Solovay 1973)

$$\mathbf{Pr}(\mathbb{R}) = \mathbf{Smz}(\mathbb{R})$$

Question

Which Polish groups satisfy Galvin–Mycielski–Solovay Theorem?

Theorem (Kysiak 2000, Fremlin 2008, Zindulka 2010)

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## Theorem

$\text{cov}_{\mathbb{G}} = \text{non } \mathbf{Pr}(\mathbb{G}) = \mathfrak{eq}$  for every locally compact group  $\mathbb{G}$ .

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Only need  $\text{non } \mathbf{Smz}(\mathbb{G}) \geq \mathfrak{eq}$ .

Suppose  $X$  be compact. There is a continuous mapping  $f : 2^{\omega} \rightarrow X$  onto  $X$ .

It is of course uniformly continuous, so

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# Hard work



# GMS Theorem for non-locally compact groups?

## Definition

$\mathbb{G}$  is GMS if  $\mathbf{Pr}(\mathbb{G}) = \mathbf{Smz}(\mathbb{G})$  in ZFC.

## Definition

$\mathbb{G}$  is **weakly** GMS if for every closed nowhere dense  $M \subseteq \mathbb{G}$  there is a  $\langle \varepsilon_n : n \in \omega \rangle$   $\forall \langle U_n : n \in \omega \rangle$  such that  $\text{diam } U_n < \varepsilon_n$  there is a  $g \in \mathbb{G}$  such that  $(g \cdot \bigcup_{n \in \omega} U_n) \cap M$  is not dense in  $M$ .

## Theorem

*Every Polish GMS group is weakly GMS.*

## Theorem ( $\text{cov}(\mathcal{M})=\mathfrak{c}$ )

*If  $\mathbb{G}$  is Polish and not weakly GMS, then  $\mathbf{Pr}(\mathbb{G}) \neq \mathbf{Smz}(\mathbb{G})$ .*



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*The group  $\mathbb{Z}^\omega$  is not weakly GMS.*

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*Consistently,  $\text{Pr}(\mathbb{Z}^\omega) \neq \text{Smz}(\mathbb{Z}^\omega)$ .*

## Remark (Borel Conjecture)

*Consistently,  $\text{Pr}(\mathbb{G}) = \text{Smz}(\mathbb{G})$  for all Polish groups.*

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## Third question revisited

### Question

Is it true that for every non-discrete Polish group  $G$  we have  $\text{cov}_G = \aleph_1$  or  $\text{cov}_G = \text{cov } \mathcal{M}$ ?

### Question rephrased

Is it true that for every non-locally compact Polish group  $G$  we have  $\text{non } \mathbf{Pr}(G) = \text{cov } \mathcal{M}$ ?

### Theorem

*A CLI Polish group is either locally compact, or else contains a uniform copy of  $\omega^\omega$ .*

### Corollary

*$\text{non } \mathbf{Pr}(G) = \text{non } \mathbf{Smz}(G) = \text{cov } \mathcal{M}$  for every non-locally compact CLI Polish group  $G$ .*

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## Question

Let  $\alpha_n$  be the natural action of the isometry group on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Is it true that  $\text{non } \mathbf{Pr}(\alpha_m) = \text{non } \mathbf{Pr}(\alpha_n)$  for all  $m, n$ ?

## Theorem

*If  $\alpha$  is an action of a  $\sigma$ -compact Polish group  $\mathbb{G}$  on a Polish space, then  $\text{Smz}(\mathbb{G}) \subseteq \mathbf{Pr}(\alpha)$ . Consequently  $\text{non } \mathbf{Pr}(\alpha) \geq \aleph$ .*

## Corollary (Answer to the question)

*Yes, and they are all equal to  $\aleph$ .*

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# Two mysteries

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*The group  $\mathbb{Z}^\omega$  is not weakly GMS.*

## Question

*Is it true that no Polish non-locally compact group is weakly GMS?*

## Corollary

*$\text{non Pr}(\mathbb{G}) = \text{non Smz}(\mathbb{G}) = \text{cov } \mathcal{M}$  for every non-locally compact CLI Polish group  $\mathbb{G}$ .*

## Question

*Can one drop the CLI assumption?*

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