HIGHER COHOMOLOGY FOR ABELIAN GROUPS OF
PARTIALLY HYPERBOLIC TORAL AUTOMORPHISMS

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Abstract. In this note we extend the results of [3] which deal with description of smooth untwisted cohomology for $\mathbb{Z}^k$-actions by hyperbolic automorphisms of a torus, to the partially hyperbolic case. Along the way we correct an error found at one of the steps in the proof for the hyperbolic case.

1. Introduction; formulation of results

In this note we extend the results of [3] which deal with description of smooth untwisted cohomology for $\mathbb{Z}^k$-actions by hyperbolic automorphisms of a torus, to the partially hyperbolic case. Along the way we correct an error found at one of the steps in the proof. Most of the steps in the proof in [3] actually hold for the partially hyperbolic case. The principal difference lies in obtaining growth estimates from below for the dual orbits of the action. At the end of [3, §3] we indicate an approach to the partially hyperbolic case and acknowledge the fact that the estimates in that case cannot be uniform since the lattice points can be found arbitrary close to the eigenspaces corresponding to eigenvalues of absolute value 1. We outlined a scheme of handling the estimates in the partially hyperbolic case. Ironically, the uniform estimates from below claimed [3, Theorem 3.1] are not correct for the general hyperbolic situation either although they hold for some special situations, such as the THS (totally non-symplectic) actions. Thus we need these more subtle estimates already in the hyperbolic case. We use definitions and notations from [3] without a special notice. In several crucial instances we will provide references to specific places in that paper.

Let $A$ be an invertible $N \times N$ matrix with integer entries. It generates a surjective endomorphism on the $N$ dimensional torus $\mathbb{T}^N$ which we will denote by the same latter $A$. The dual endomorphism $\mathbb{Z}^N \to \mathbb{Z}^N$ is given by the transpose matrix $^tA$. Recall that the following conditions are equivalent:

1. The endomorphism $A$ is ergodic with respect to Lebesgue measure.
2. The set of periodic points of $A$ coincides with the set of points in $\mathbb{T}^N$ with rational coordinates.
3. None of the eigenvalues of the matrix $A$ are roots of unity.
4. The matrix $A$ has at least one eigenvalue of absolute value greater than one and has no eigenvectors with rational coordinates.
5. All orbits of the dual map $^tA : \mathbb{Z}^N \to \mathbb{Z}^N$, other than the trivial zero orbit, are infinite.

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Definition. An endomorphism \( A \) satisfying properties (1) – (5), as well as its matrix \( A \), is called partially hyperbolic.

Let \( \alpha \) be an action of \( \mathbb{Z}^k \) by partially hyperbolic automorphisms of \( \mathbb{T}^N \). This, of course, means that any element of the action, other than identity, is partially hyperbolic. Let \( \mathcal{P}(\alpha) \) be the set of all closed (finite) orbits of \( \alpha \). To each \( C \in \mathcal{P} \) one associates the \( \alpha \)-invariant measure \( \sigma_C \) concentrated on that orbit: \( \sigma_C = \frac{1}{|C|} \sum_{x \in C} \delta_x \).

We say that a \( k \)-cocycle over \( \alpha \) vanishes over \( C \) if \( [\varphi]_C := \int_{\mathbb{T}^N} \varphi d\sigma_C = 0 \).

The new estimates enable us to establish the following results in the partially hyperbolic case:

**Theorem 1.1.** Let \( \alpha \) be an action of \( \mathbb{Z}^k \) by partially hyperbolic automorphisms of \( \mathbb{T}^N \), and \( \varphi \) be a \( C^\infty \) \( k \)-cocycle over \( \alpha \) with values in \( \mathbb{R}^\ell \) (\( \ell \geq 1 \)) that vanishes on all periodic orbits of \( \mathbb{Z}^k \), i.e. \( [\varphi]_C = 0 \) for each \( C \in \mathcal{P}(\alpha) \). Then for \( x \in \mathbb{T}^N \), \( t \in (\mathbb{Z}^k)^k \)

\[
\varphi(x,t) = D\Phi(x,t),
\]
where \( \Phi \) is a \( C^\infty (k - 1) \)-cochain.

**Theorem 1.2.** Let \( \alpha \) be an action of \( \mathbb{Z}^k \) by partially hyperbolic automorphisms of \( \mathbb{T}^N \), and \( \varphi \) be a \( C^\infty \) \( n \)-cocycle over \( \alpha \) with values in \( \mathbb{R}^\ell \) (\( \ell \geq 1 \)) and \( 1 \leq n \leq k - 1 \). Then \( \varphi \) is \( C^\infty \)-cohomologous to a constant cocycle \( \psi \), i.e. for \( x \in \mathbb{T}^N \), \( t \in (\mathbb{Z}^k)^n \)

\[
\varphi(x,t) = \psi(t) + D\Phi(x,t),
\]
where \( \Phi \) is a \( C^\infty (n - 1) \)-cochain.

Let \( \alpha \) be an action of \( \mathbb{Z}^k \) by partially hyperbolic automorphisms of \( \mathbb{T}^N \), and \( \beta \) be the dual action on \( \mathbb{Z}^N \) with generators \( B_1, \ldots, B_k \in GL(N, \mathbb{Z}) \), the group of \( N \times N \) matrices with integer entries and determinant \( \pm 1 \). Since \( B_1, \ldots, B_k \) are commuting real matrices, the space \( \mathbb{R}^N \) can be decomposed into a direct sum of \( \beta \)-invariant subspaces

\[
\mathbb{R}^N = \mathbb{I}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathbb{I}_r,
\]
such that the minimal polynomial of \( B_j \) on \( \mathbb{I}_j \) is a power of an irreducible polynomial (linear or quadratic) over \( \mathbb{R} \). According to this decomposition matrices \( B_1, \ldots, B_k \) can be simultaneously brought to the following form with square blocks along the diagonal:

\[
\Lambda_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \Lambda_{11} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \Lambda_{r1} \end{pmatrix}, \ldots, \Lambda_k = \begin{pmatrix} \Lambda_{1k} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \Lambda_{rk} \end{pmatrix}.
\]

For \( 1 \leq i \leq r \) the blocks \( \Lambda_{ij} \) correspond to either real eigenvalues \( \lambda_{ij} \) of \( B_j \) or the pairs of complex conjugate eigenvalues \( (\lambda_{ij}, \bar{\lambda}_{ij}) \). For more details on this decomposition see [3, \S3].

For each \( t = (t_1, \ldots, t_k) \in \mathbb{Z}^k \), \( \beta^t = B_1^{t_1} \cdots B_k^{t_k} \) is a partially hyperbolic automorphism, hence \( \mathcal{O}(m) \), the orbit of the point \( m \in \mathbb{Z}^N \setminus \{0\} \), is of rank \( k \), i.e. \( \mathcal{O}(m) \approx \mathbb{Z}^k \). For each \( t \in \mathbb{Z}^k \) we have a decomposition of \( \mathbb{R}^N \) into a direct sum of expanding, neutral, and contracting subspaces, \( \mathbb{R}^N = V_1^+ \oplus V_0^+ \oplus V_1^- \) such that \( \beta^t(V_1^i) = V_1^i, \ i \in \{+, 0, -\} \). These subspaces are direct sums of \( \mathbb{I}_s \)'s with positive, zero, and negative Lyapunov exponents

\[
\chi_i(t) = \sum_{j=1}^k t_j \ln |\lambda_{ij}|, \ i = 1, \ldots, r,
\]
respectively. Both $V^+_t$ and $V^-_t$ are non-trivial for all $t \in \mathbb{Z}^k \setminus \{0\}$, and $V^o_t = \{0\}$ for all $t \in \mathbb{Z}^k \setminus \{0\}$ is equivalent to hyperbolicity of the action. We use the following norms: for $t \in \mathbb{Z}^k$, $\|t\| = \sum_{j=1}^k |t_j|$, and for $x \in \mathbb{Z}^N$ (or $\mathbb{R}^N$), we decompose it according to (3), $x = (x_1, \ldots, x_r)$ and let $\|x\| = \sum_{i=1}^r \|x_i\|$, where $\|x_i\|$ is a norm on $\mathbb{Z}$ (see [3, §3] for details).

2. Orbit growth for the dual action

The following result replaces Theorem 3.1 from [3] whose proof contains an error in the below estimate part. The error was found due to a comment by E. Lindenstrauss who pointed out an inaccuracy in an argument in the original version of [2] which was based on the incorrect below estimate.

Our result here holds in a more general situation but contains a weaker below estimate.

**Theorem 2.1.** Let $\alpha$ be an action by commuting partially hyperbolic automorphisms of $\mathbb{T}^N$, and $\beta$ be the dual action. Then there exist constants $a, b, C_1, C_2 > 0$ depending on the action only such that for any initial point $m \in \mathbb{Z}^N$

$$C_1\|m\|^{-N} \exp(b\|t\|) \leq \|\beta^t m\| \leq C_2\|m\| \exp(a\|t\|).$$

**Remark.** The difference with the statement of Theorem 3.1 of [3] (other than the latter only refers to the hyperbolic case) is in the estimate from below which is not uniform and that the estimates hold for any initial point $m$.

**Proof.** We first establish the estimates in the semisimple case, i.e. when the matrices $B_1, \ldots, B_k$ are simultaneously diagonalizable over $\mathbb{C}$. The estimate from above is a general fact; for example, it follows from [3, Lemma 3.3(2)] for any choice of the initial point $m$.

Now we proceed to a proof of the crucial estimate from below. Let $V \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be a $\beta$-invariant subspace, and $\Lambda = V \cap \mathbb{Z}^N$. Then $\Lambda$ is either trivial or infinite. In the latter case $\Lambda \approx \mathbb{Z}^d$ for some $1 \leq d \leq N$, and $\beta|_\Lambda$ is dual to the restriction of $\alpha$ to an invariant $d$-dimensional subtorus. Hence it is also partially hyperbolic. This is because for each $t \in \mathbb{Z}^k$ each eigenvalue of $\beta|_\Lambda$ is also an eigenvalue of $\beta|_V$ and $\beta^t$, and if $\beta|_\Lambda$ has an eigenvalue which is a root of unity, then so does $\beta^t$. Moreover, $\mathbb{R}^d$ spanned by $\Lambda$ is decomposed into a direct sum of $\beta$-invariant subspaces

$$\mathbb{R}^d = \oplus_{i \in I} V_i,$$

where $I \subset \{1, 2, \ldots, r\}$ and $V'_i \subset V_i$ so that the minimal polynomial of $B_j$ on $V'_i$ divides the minimal polynomial of $B_j$ on $V_i$. Thus we have $|I|$ Lyapunov exponents for $\beta|_\Lambda$:

$$\chi_i(t) = \sum_{j=1}^k t_j \ln |\lambda_{ij}|, \quad i \in I.$$  

Each non-trivial $\beta$-invariant lattice $\Lambda$ gives rise to a subset $I \subset \{1, \ldots, r\}$, and hence there are only finitely many types of such lattices. (Notice that there may be infinitely many lattices of the same type.)

We denote the collection of all subsets $I \subset \{1, 2, \ldots, r\}$ obtained by non-trivial $\beta$-invariant lattices by $\mathcal{I}_0$: $\mathcal{I}_0 \neq \emptyset$ since it includes $\{1, \ldots, r\}$.

For each $\Lambda$ we make the following construction. Since $\beta|_\Lambda$ is a partially hyperbolic action, not all $\chi_i$, $i \in I$, are identically 0, and hence, as follows from [3, Lemma 3.2], for any $t \in \mathbb{R}^k$ there exists $i \in I$ such that $\chi_i(t) > 0$. The function $M(t) =$
max, $\chi_i(t)$ is continuous and achieves its minimum on the unit sphere $S^{k-1} \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ which must be positive by the above argument. Let $b_I = \min_{s \in 1} M(t)$. Then for any $t/\|t\| \in S^{k-1}$, $\max_{s \in I} \chi_i(t/\|t\|) \geq b_I$, hence there exists a $i \in I$ for which $\chi_i(t) \geq b_I \|t\|$. Let $b = \min_{I \in \mathcal{I}_0} b_I$; $b > 0$.

Now let $m \in \mathbb{Z}^N$ be any non-zero initial point. It belongs to a $\beta$-invariant lattice $\Lambda$ of minimal dimension $d$, $\Lambda \approx \mathbb{Z}^d$, therefore $\beta$ is irreducible over $\mathbb{Q}$ on $\mathbb{R}^d$ spanned by $\Lambda$. Hence $\beta|_{\mathbb{R}^d}$ is separable (has no repeated eigenvalues) since otherwise the minimal polynomial of $\beta|_{\Lambda}$ would not be relatively prime with its derivative, i.e. the minimal polynomial factors over $\mathbb{Q}$, and since it is monic, by Gauss’ lemma, it factors over $\mathbb{Z}$, which contradicts the fact that irreducibility of the action implies that the action contains a matrix with irreducible characteristic polynomial [1].

Now, for $I \subset \mathcal{I}_0$ corresponding to the lattice $\Lambda$ we choose $i$ as above, so that $\chi_i(t) \geq b_I \|t\| \geq b \|t\| > 0$, and take the corresponding eigenspace $\mathbb{V}_i$. Then $\mathbb{R}^d = \bigoplus_{i \in I} \mathbb{V}_i$, where $\beta'^i|\mathbb{V}_i$ and $\beta'^{i'}|\mathbb{V}_{i'}$ have no common eigenvalues, and also $\bigoplus_{i \in I} \mathbb{V}_i \cap \mathbb{Z}^d = \{0\}$.

Let $m_i$ be a projection of $m$ to $\mathbb{V}_i$. Then, by Katzenelson’s lemma [4, Lemma 3], there exists a constant $\gamma_i$ such that

$$\|m_i\| \geq d(m, V) \geq \gamma_i \|m\|^{-N},$$

where $d$ is the Euclidean distance, and the constant $\gamma_i$ depends only on the splitting (3) for the action $\beta$. Thus, we have

$$\|\beta^i m\| \geq \sum_{i=1}^r \exp \chi_i(t) \|m_i\| \geq \exp \chi_i(t) \|m_i\| \geq \exp(b \|t\|) \|m_i\| \geq \gamma_i \|m\|^{-N}. \quad (4)$$

So, our estimate holds with $C_1 = \gamma_i$ for any initial point $m$.

If the action is not semisimple, only the polynomial growth in $\|t\|$ may occur in addition due to the presence of unipotent factor. Thus, the same estimates will hold with slightly smaller $b$ and slightly larger $\alpha$. This completes the proof of the theorem. \qed

3. Estimates for the solution of the coboundary equation

Proposition 3.1. Let $\alpha$ be an action of $\mathbb{Z}^k$ by partially hyperbolic automorphisms of $\mathbb{T}^N$, and $\varphi$ be a $C^\infty$ $k$-cocycle over $\alpha$ with values in $\mathbb{R}^l$ ($l \geq 1$) such that for any non-trivial dual orbit $O$, $\sum_{m \in O} \hat{\varphi}(m) = 0$. Then $\varphi$ is $C^\infty$-cohomologous to a constant cocycle $\psi$, i.e. for $x \in T^N$, $t \in (\mathbb{Z}^k)^k$

$$\varphi(x, t) = \psi(t) + D\Phi(x, t), \quad (5)$$

where $\Phi$ is a $C^\infty (k-1)$-cochain.

Proof. We proceed by first constructing a dual cochain $\hat{\varphi}$ on each non-trivial dual orbit as in [3, Proposition 2.2]. We follow the scheme of the proof of [3, Proposition 4.1] with modifications due to non-uniformity of the estimates for the growth of dual orbits.

Since the cocycle $\varphi$ is $C^\infty$ we have the following estimate on the decay of the dual cocycle $\hat{\varphi}$: for any $B \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ there exists $C = C(B)$ such that

$$|\hat{\varphi}(m)| \leq C \|m\|^{-B}. \quad (6)$$
We want to obtain a similar estimate on the decay of each component of the dual cochain \( \tilde{\Phi}_j \) \((1 \leq j \leq k)\). Each \( 0 \neq m \in \mathbb{Z}^N \) belongs to some dual orbit \( O(m^*) \), where now we choose the initial point \( m^* \) to be “the lowest”: \( \| m^* \| = \min_{s \in \mathbb{Z}^k} \| \beta^s(m^*) \| \); then \( m = \beta^s m^* \) for some \( s \in \mathbb{Z}^k \).

Let \( t = (t_1, \ldots, t_k) \). Formula (2.5) of [3] shows that \( \tilde{\Phi}_j(\beta^s m^*) = 0 \) if at least one of the coordinates \( t_1, \ldots, t_{j-1} \) is not equal to 0, hence it is sufficient to consider only the case when \( t_1 = \cdots = t_{j-1} = 0 \). Fix \( s = (0, \ldots, 0, t_j, \ldots, t_k) \) and consider the following half-lattice

\[
\mathbb{H} = \{ r \in \mathbb{Z}^k | r = (r_1, \ldots, r_{j-1}, r_j, 0, \ldots, 0), r_j \geq t_j \text{ if } t_j \geq 0, \quad r_j < t_j \text{ if } t_j < 0 \}.
\]

Then again by formula (2.5) of [3]

\[
|\tilde{\Phi}_j(\beta^s m^*)| \leq \sum_{r \in \mathbb{H}} |\tilde{\phi}(\beta^{s+r} m^*)|.
\]

If for \( t = r+s \) we put \( \| t \| = \sum_{i=1}^k |t_i| \), then \( \| r + s \| = \| r \| + \| s \| \). We split the right-hand side of (7) into two sums, \( S_1(\beta^r m^*) \) and \( S_2(\beta^r m^*) \) where \( S_1(\beta^r m^*) \) is a finite sum over \( \| t \| < t_0 \), where we are going to use a simple estimate \( \| \beta^s m^* \| \geq \| m^* \| \), and \( S_2(\beta^r m^*) \) is the infinite one over \( \| t \| \geq t_0 \), where the exponential estimates of Theorem 2.1 prevail and become uniform. Namely, for \( \| t \| \geq t_0 > \frac{N+1}{b} \ln \| m^* \| \) we have \( \exp(b_1\| m^* \|^{1-N} \geq \| m^* \| \), therefore

\[
\| \beta^s m^* \| \geq C_1 \| m^* \| \exp(b(\| t \| - t_0))
\]

\[
= C_1 \| m^* \| \exp(b(\| s \|)) \exp(b(\| r \| - t_0)).
\]

We first estimate \( S_2(\beta^r m^*) \). We use (8) and the estimate from above of Theorem 2.1

\[
\| \beta^r m^* \| \leq C_2 \| m^* \| \exp(a(\| s \|)).
\]

For some constant \( C_3 > 0 \)

\[
\| \beta^s m^* \|^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq C_3 \| m^* \|^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp(b(\| s \|)) \leq C_3 \| m^* \| \exp(b(\| s \|))
\]

since \( \| m^* \| \geq 1 \), so that

\[
\| \beta^s m^* \| \geq C_4 \| \beta^s m^* \|^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp(b(\| r \|))e^{-b_1 t_0}
\]

for yet another constant \( C_4 > 0 \). By (6) we have

\[
|\tilde{\phi}(\beta^s m^*)| \leq C\|\beta^s m^*\|^{-B}
\]

\[
\leq CC_4^{-B} \| \beta^s m^* \|^{-B} \exp(-Bb(\| r \|)).
\]

Then for some constants \( C_5, C_6 > 0 \) and \( m = \beta^s m^* \) we obtain a super-polynomial estimate for \( S_2(m) \).

\[
S_2(m) \leq C_5 \| m \|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{r \in \mathbb{H}} \exp(-Bb(\| r \|)) \leq C_6 \| m \|^{-B}.\]

In order to estimate \( S_1(\beta^r m^*) \) we write for \( C_7 = C_2^{-1} \)

\[
\| \beta^r m^* \| \geq \| m^* \| \geq C_7 \| \beta^s m^* \| \exp(-a(\| s \|)),
\]

therefore

\[
|\tilde{\phi}(\beta^r m^*)| \leq C\|\beta^r m^*\|^{-B}
\]

\[
\leq CC_7^{-B} \| \beta^s m^* \|^{-B} \exp(-Ba(\| s \|)).
\]
Since the number of terms in this finite sum is \( \leq t_k \), we obtain for some constant \( C_8, C_9 > 0 \)

\[
S'_1(m) \leq C_9 \|m\|^{-B(\ln \|m\|)^k} \leq C_9 \|m\|^{-(B(\ln \|m\|)^k)},
\]

but since \((\ln \|m\|)^k \geq \|m\|^\epsilon\) for every \( \epsilon > 0 \), taking \( \epsilon = B(1 - \frac{b}{a}) \) we obtain

\[
S'_1(m) \leq C_9 \|m\|^{-B+\epsilon} = C_9 \|m\|^{-B/2}.
\]

Combining this with (9) we obtain a super-polynomial estimate for \( \hat{\Phi} \) for some \( C_{10} > 0 \)

\[
|\hat{\Phi}_j(m)| \leq C_{10} \|m\|^{-B/2}.}

Thus we obtained global estimates on the decay of \( \hat{\Phi}_j \). Letting \( \hat{\Phi}_j(0) = 0 \) and using (2.1) and (2.2) of [3] we therefore obtain a \( C^\infty \) \((k-1)\)-cochain \( \Phi = (\Phi_1, \ldots, \Phi_k) \)

such that

\[
D\Phi = \varphi - \hat{\varphi}(0),
\]

i.e. is a solution of our equation (5).

The proofs of Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 now follow exactly as in [3].

For the proof of Theorem 1.1 we first apply [3, Corollary 1.4] to conclude that if a \( C^\infty \) \( k \)-cocycle over \( \alpha, \varphi \), vanishes on all periodic orbits of \( \alpha \), then for any dual orbit \( O \), including 0, \( \sum_{m \in O} \hat{\varphi}(m) = 0 \). Now, by Proposition 3.1 \( D\Phi = \varphi - \hat{\varphi}(0) \), and since \( \hat{\varphi}(0) = 0 \) we obtain a solution of (1).

For Theorem 1.2, the assertion (2) for 1-cocycles is proved using [3, Proposition 2.3] and estimates of Proposition 3.1. The assertion (2) for \( n \)-cocycles, \( 1 \leq n \leq k-1 \), follows by induction on \( k \). Our hypothesis holds for the highest cocycles for which their dual cocycles vanish over each dual orbit (Proposition 3.1) and for 1-cocycles. These cases are considered as the base step in our induction argument which goes exactly as in [3, p. 591].

References


[2] D. Damjanovic and A. Katok, *Local rigidity of partially hyperbolic actions of \( \mathbb{Z}^k \) and \( \mathbb{R}^k \), \( k \geq 2 \). I. KAM method and actions on the torus*, preprint.


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