



University  
of Glasgow



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

# Dynamic asymptotic dimension

Applications to Homology and K-theory

---

Christian Bönicke

April 7, 2021

joint work with Clément Dell'Aiera, James Gabe, and Rufus Willett

## Groupoids and examples

Let  $G$  be a locally compact Hausdorff *groupoid*, i.e. we have a partially defined continuous multiplication map

$$G \times G \supseteq G^{(2)} \rightarrow G$$

and a continuous inverse map

$$.\!^{-1} : G \rightarrow G$$

satisfying the usual axioms (whenever they make sense).

## Groupoids and examples

Let  $G$  be a locally compact Hausdorff *groupoid*, i.e. we have a partially defined continuous multiplication map

$$G \times G \supseteq G^{(2)} \rightarrow G$$

and a continuous inverse map

$$\cdot^{-1} : G \rightarrow G$$

satisfying the usual axioms (whenever they make sense).

Let  $s, r : G \rightarrow G$  denote the source and range maps  $s(g) = g^{-1}g$  and  $r(g) = gg^{-1}$ . Let  $G^0 := r(G) = s(G)$  denote the set of units.

## Groupoids and examples

Let  $G$  be a locally compact Hausdorff *groupoid*, i.e. we have a partially defined continuous multiplication map

$$G \times G \supseteq G^{(2)} \rightarrow G$$

and a continuous inverse map

$$.\!^{-1} : G \rightarrow G$$

satisfying the usual axioms (whenever they make sense).

Let  $s, r : G \rightarrow G$  denote the source and range maps  $s(g) = g^{-1}g$  and  $r(g) = gg^{-1}$ . Let  $G^0 := r(G) = s(G)$  denote the set of units.

We will assume that  $G$  is *ample*, which means that the range map  $r : G \rightarrow G$  is a local homeomorphism (i.e.  $G$  is étale) and  $G^0$  is totally disconnected.

## Examples

- An action of a discrete group  $\Gamma \curvearrowright X$  on a totally disconnected space  $X$  gives rise to the transformation groupoid  $\Gamma \ltimes X$ .

## Examples

- An action of a discrete group  $\Gamma \curvearrowright X$  on a totally disconnected space  $X$  gives rise to the transformation groupoid  $\Gamma \ltimes X$ .
- Given a discrete metric space  $X$  with bounded geometry, one can build an ample groupoid  $G(X)$  encoding the *coarse geometry* of  $X$ .

## Examples

- An action of a discrete group  $\Gamma \curvearrowright X$  on a totally disconnected space  $X$  gives rise to the transformation groupoid  $\Gamma \ltimes X$ .
- Given a discrete metric space  $X$  with bounded geometry, one can build an ample groupoid  $G(X)$  encoding the *coarse geometry* of  $X$ .
- Putnam associates an ample groupoid  $G^u(X, \varphi)$  to an irreducible *Smale space*  $(X, \varphi)$  with totally disconnected stable sets.

## Examples

- An action of a discrete group  $\Gamma \curvearrowright X$  on a totally disconnected space  $X$  gives rise to the transformation groupoid  $\Gamma \ltimes X$ .
- Given a discrete metric space  $X$  with bounded geometry, one can build an ample groupoid  $G(X)$  encoding the *coarse geometry* of  $X$ .
- Putnam associates an ample groupoid  $G^u(X, \varphi)$  to an irreducible *Smale space*  $(X, \varphi)$  with totally disconnected stable sets.

$G$  is called *principal* if all of its isotropy groups are trivial, i.e. for all  $x \in G^0$  we have

$$G_x^x := \{g \in G \mid s(g) = r(g) = x\} = \{x\}.$$



## Examples

- An action of a discrete group  $\Gamma \curvearrowright X$  on a totally disconnected space  $X$  gives rise to the transformation groupoid  $\Gamma \ltimes X$ .
- Given a discrete metric space  $X$  with bounded geometry, one can build an ample groupoid  $G(X)$  encoding the *coarse geometry* of  $X$ .
- Putnam associates an ample groupoid  $G^u(X, \varphi)$  to an irreducible *Smale space*  $(X, \varphi)$  with totally disconnected stable sets.

$G$  is called *principal* if all of its isotropy groups are trivial, i.e. for all  $x \in G^0$  we have

$$G_x^x := \{g \in G \mid s(g) = r(g) = x\} = \{x\}.$$

$\Gamma \ltimes X$  is principal iff  $\Gamma \curvearrowright X$  is free. The other two examples are always principal.

**Definition (Guentner, Willett, Yu '17)**

Let  $G$  be an ample groupoid with  $G^0$  compact. We say that  $G$  has **dynamic asymptotic dimension at most  $d$**  (and write  $\text{dad}(G) \leq d$ ) if for any compact open subset  $G^0 \subseteq K \subseteq G$ ,

## Definition (Guentner, Willett, Yu '17)

Let  $G$  be an ample groupoid with  $G^0$  compact. We say that  $G$  has **dynamic asymptotic dimension at most  $d$**  (and write  $\text{dad}(G) \leq d$ ) if for any compact open subset  $G^0 \subseteq K \subseteq G$ , there is a clopen cover  $U_0, \dots, U_d \subseteq G^0$  of  $G^0$ ,

## Definition (Guentner, Willett, Yu '17)

Let  $G$  be an ample groupoid with  $G^0$  compact. We say that  $G$  has **dynamic asymptotic dimension at most  $d$**  (and write  $\text{dad}(G) \leq d$ ) if for any compact open subset  $G^0 \subseteq K \subseteq G$ , there is a clopen cover  $U_0, \dots, U_d \subseteq G^0$  of  $G^0$ , such that for each  $i$  the set

$$\{g \in K \mid s(g), r(g) \in U_i\}$$

generates a compact open subgroupoid of  $G$ .

## Definition (Guentner, Willett, Yu '17)

Let  $G$  be an ample groupoid with  $G^0$  compact. We say that  $G$  has **dynamic asymptotic dimension at most  $d$**  (and write  $\text{dad}(G) \leq d$ ) if for any compact open subset  $G^0 \subseteq K \subseteq G$ , there is a clopen cover  $U_0, \dots, U_d \subseteq G^0$  of  $G^0$ , such that for each  $i$  the set

$$\{g \in K \mid s(g), r(g) \in U_i\}$$

generates a compact open subgroupoid of  $G$ .

## Dimension 0

The groupoids with dimension zero are just those which can be written as an increasing union of compact open subgroupoids (**AF groupoids**).

## Examples

1. (GWY) For  $\mathbb{Z} \curvearrowright X$  minimal action on Cantor set  $\text{dad}(\mathbb{Z} \curvearrowright X) = 1$ .

## Examples

1. (GWY) For  $\mathbb{Z} \curvearrowright X$  minimal action on Cantor set  $\text{dad}(\mathbb{Z} \curvearrowright X) = 1$ .
2. (GWY) For a bounded geometry metric space  $(X, d)$ ,  
 $\text{dad}(G(X)) = \text{asdim}(X)$ .

## Examples

1. (GWY) For  $\mathbb{Z} \curvearrowright X$  minimal action on Cantor set  $\text{dad}(\mathbb{Z} \curvearrowright X) = 1$ .
2. (GWY) For a bounded geometry metric space  $(X, d)$ ,  
 $\text{dad}(G(X)) = \text{asdim}(X)$ .
3. (Deeley&Strung) For an irreducible Smale space  $X$  with totally disconnected stable sets  $\text{dad}(G^u(X, \varphi)) \leq \dim(X)$ .



## Examples

1. (GWY) For  $\mathbb{Z} \curvearrowright X$  minimal action on Cantor set  $\text{dad}(\mathbb{Z} \curvearrowright X) = 1$ .
2. (GWY) For a bounded geometry metric space  $(X, d)$ ,  
 $\text{dad}(G(X)) = \text{asdim}(X)$ .
3. (Deeley&Strung) For an irreducible Smale space  $X$  with totally disconnected stable sets  $\text{dad}(G^u(X, \varphi)) \leq \dim(X)$ .

## Theorem (GWY '17)

Let  $G$  be a principal ample groupoid. Then

$$\dim_{\text{nuc}}(C_r^*(G)) \leq \text{dad}(G)$$

# Groupoid homology

Crainic & Moerdijk introduced a homology theory for étale groupoids generalizing group homology. For constant  $\mathbb{Z}$  coefficients the construction can be done in an elementary way as follows: We have canonical maps

$$d_i : G^{(n)} \rightarrow G^{(n-1)}$$
$$d_i(g_1, \dots, g_n) = \begin{cases} (g_2, \dots, g_n) & i = 0 \\ (g_1, \dots, g_i g_{i+1}, \dots, g_n) & 1 \leq i \leq n-1 \\ (g_1, \dots, g_{n-1}) & i = n \end{cases}$$

# Groupoid homology

Crainic & Moerdijk introduced a homology theory for étale groupoids generalizing group homology. For constant  $\mathbb{Z}$  coefficients the construction can be done in an elementary way as follows: We have canonical maps

$$d_i : G^{(n)} \rightarrow G^{(n-1)}$$
$$d_i(g_1, \dots, g_n) = \begin{cases} (g_2, \dots, g_n) & i = 0 \\ (g_1, \dots, g_i g_{i+1}, \dots, g_n) & 1 \leq i \leq n-1 \\ (g_1, \dots, g_{n-1}) & i = n \end{cases}$$

Each  $d_i$  induces a map  $(d_i)_* : C_c(G^{(n)}, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow C_c(G^{(n-1)}, \mathbb{Z})$  by

$$(d_i)_*(f)(g_1, \dots, g_{n-1}) = \sum_{d_i(h_1, \dots, h_n) = (g_1, \dots, g_{n-1})} f(h_1, \dots, h_n)$$

# Groupoid homology

Crainic & Moerdijk introduced a homology theory for étale groupoids generalizing group homology. For constant  $\mathbb{Z}$  coefficients the construction can be done in an elementary way as follows: We have canonical maps

$$d_i : G^{(n)} \rightarrow G^{(n-1)}$$
$$d_i(g_1, \dots, g_n) = \begin{cases} (g_2, \dots, g_n) & i = 0 \\ (g_1, \dots, g_i g_{i+1}, \dots, g_n) & 1 \leq i \leq n-1 \\ (g_1, \dots, g_{n-1}) & i = n \end{cases}$$

Each  $d_i$  induces a map  $(d_i)_* : C_c(G^{(n)}, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow C_c(G^{(n-1)}, \mathbb{Z})$  by

$$(d_i)_*(f)(g_1, \dots, g_{n-1}) = \sum_{d_i(h_1, \dots, h_n) = (g_1, \dots, g_{n-1})} f(h_1, \dots, h_n)$$

If we let

$$\delta_n = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i (d_i)_*$$

we obtain a chain complex

$$\dots \rightarrow C_c(G^{(2)}, \mathbb{Z}) \xrightarrow{\delta_2} C_c(G^{(1)}, \mathbb{Z}) \xrightarrow{\delta_1} C_c(G^0, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow 0$$

## Groupoid homology and Matui's HK conjecture

The groupoid homology is now just the homology of this chain complex:

$$H_n(G) := \ker(\delta_n) / \operatorname{im}(\delta_{n+1})$$

# Groupoid homology and Matui's HK conjecture

The groupoid homology is now just the homology of this chain complex:

$$H_n(G) := \ker(\delta_n) / \text{im}(\delta_{n+1})$$

## HK conjecture (Matui)

Let  $G$  be an essentially principal, minimal ample groupoid, then

$$K_0(C_r^*(G)) \cong \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} H_{2n}(G) \text{ and } K_1(C_r^*(G)) \cong \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} H_{2n+1}(G)$$

# Groupoid homology and Matui's HK conjecture

The groupoid homology is now just the homology of this chain complex:

$$H_n(G) := \ker(\delta_n) / \text{im}(\delta_{n+1})$$

## HK conjecture (Matui)

Let  $G$  be an essentially principal, minimal ample groupoid, then

$$K_0(C_r^*(G)) \cong \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} H_{2n}(G) \text{ and } K_1(C_r^*(G)) \cong \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} H_{2n+1}(G)$$

- The conjecture in this form has been disproved by Scarparo.
- Yet, it remains an interesting question which groupoids  $G$  DO satisfy the conclusion of the conjecture.

# Main results

## Theorem

Let  $G$  be a principal,  $\sigma$ -compact, ample groupoid with compact unit space and dynamic asymptotic dimension at most  $d$ . Then

$H_n(G) = 0$  for all  $n > d$ , and  $H_d(G)$  is free abelian.



# Main results

## Theorem

Let  $G$  be a principal,  $\sigma$ -compact, ample groupoid with compact unit space and dynamic asymptotic dimension at most  $d$ . Then

$$H_n(G) = 0 \text{ for all } n > d, \text{ and } H_d(G) \text{ is free abelian.}$$

Combining this with a spectral sequence result

$$H_p(G, K_q(C(G^0))) \Rightarrow K_{p+q}(C_r^*(G))$$

recently developed by Proietti-Yamashita ([more about that later in Makoto's talk!](#)) we obtain

## Corollary (Matui's conjecture up to dimension 2)

Let  $G$  be a  $\sigma$ -compact, principal ample groupoid with compact unit space and  $\text{dad}(G) \leq 2$ , then

$$K_0(C_r^*(G)) \cong H_0(G) \oplus H_2(G), \text{ and } K_1(C_r^*(G)) \cong H_1(G)$$

## Mapping homology to K-theory

A clopen subset  $A \subseteq G^0$  gives rise to a projection  $1_A \in C(G^0) \subseteq C_r^*(G)$ .  
This gives rise to a canonical homomorphism

$$\mu_0 : H_0(G) \rightarrow K_0(C_r^*(G))$$

Already in degree 1 the situation is much less obvious.

# Mapping homology to K-theory

A clopen subset  $A \subseteq G^0$  gives rise to a projection  $1_A \in C(G^0) \subseteq C_r^*(G)$ . This gives rise to a canonical homomorphism

$$\mu_0 : H_0(G) \rightarrow K_0(C_r^*(G))$$

Already in degree 1 the situation is much less obvious.

## **Theorem**

For any ample groupoid  $G$ , there is a canonical map

$$\mu_1 : H_1(G) \rightarrow K_1(C_r^*(G))$$

# Mapping homology to K-theory

A clopen subset  $A \subseteq G^0$  gives rise to a projection  $1_A \in C(G^0) \subseteq C_r^*(G)$ . This gives rise to a canonical homomorphism

$$\mu_0 : H_0(G) \rightarrow K_0(C_r^*(G))$$

Already in degree 1 the situation is much less obvious.

## Theorem

For any ample groupoid  $G$ , there is a canonical map

$$\mu_1 : H_1(G) \rightarrow K_1(C_r^*(G))$$

- $H_1(G)$  is generated by classes of the form  $[1_V]$  where  $V \subseteq G$  is a compact open bisection.  $1_V$  can be viewed as a partial isometry in  $C_r^*(G)$ .

# Mapping homology to K-theory

A clopen subset  $A \subseteq G^0$  gives rise to a projection  $1_A \in C(G^0) \subseteq C_r^*(G)$ . This gives rise to a canonical homomorphism

$$\mu_0 : H_0(G) \rightarrow K_0(C_r^*(G))$$

Already in degree 1 the situation is much less obvious.

## Theorem

For any ample groupoid  $G$ , there is a canonical map

$$\mu_1 : H_1(G) \rightarrow K_1(C_r^*(G))$$

- $H_1(G)$  is generated by classes of the form  $[1_V]$  where  $V \subseteq G$  is a compact open bisection.  $1_V$  can be viewed as a partial isometry in  $C_r^*(G)$ .
- Partial isometries like this live in a relative  $K_0$  group  $K_0(C(G^0) \subseteq C_r^*(G))$ , so get a canonical map  $H_1(G) \rightarrow K_0(C(G^0) \subseteq C_r^*(G))$

# Mapping homology to K-theory

A clopen subset  $A \subseteq G^0$  gives rise to a projection  $1_A \in C(G^0) \subseteq C_r^*(G)$ . This gives rise to a canonical homomorphism

$$\mu_0 : H_0(G) \rightarrow K_0(C_r^*(G))$$

Already in degree 1 the situation is much less obvious.

## Theorem

For any ample groupoid  $G$ , there is a canonical map

$$\mu_1 : H_1(G) \rightarrow K_1(C_r^*(G))$$

- $H_1(G)$  is generated by classes of the form  $[1_V]$  where  $V \subseteq G$  is a compact open bisection.  $1_V$  can be viewed as a partial isometry in  $C_r^*(G)$ .
- Partial isometries like this live in a relative  $K_0$  group  $K_0(C(G^0) \subseteq C_r^*(G))$ , so get a canonical map  $H_1(G) \rightarrow K_0(C(G^0) \subseteq C_r^*(G))$
- Factors through the desired map

### **Theorem**

Let  $G$  be a principal ample groupoid. If  $\text{dad}(G) \leq 1$  then  $\mu_0$  is an isomorphism and  $\mu_1$  is surjective.

### Theorem

Let  $G$  be a principal ample groupoid. If  $\text{dad}(G) \leq 1$  then  $\mu_0$  is an isomorphism and  $\mu_1$  is surjective.

This concrete isomorphism allows us to completely determine the Elliott invariant of  $C_r^*(G)$ !



## Further results

### Theorem

Let  $G$  be a principal ample groupoid. If  $\text{dad}(G) \leq 1$  then  $\mu_0$  is an isomorphism and  $\mu_1$  is surjective.

This concrete isomorphism allows us to completely determine the Elliott invariant of  $C_r^*(G)$ !

We also observe the following negative result:

### Theorem

There exists a principal ample groupoid  $G$  with  $H_n(G) = 0$  for all  $n \geq 2$  such that  $\mu_0$  is not an isomorphism.

## Further results

### Theorem

Let  $G$  be a principal ample groupoid. If  $\text{dad}(G) \leq 1$  then  $\mu_0$  is an isomorphism and  $\mu_1$  is surjective.

This concrete isomorphism allows us to completely determine the Elliott invariant of  $C_r^*(G)$ !

We also observe the following negative result:

### Theorem

There exists a principal ample groupoid  $G$  with  $H_n(G) = 0$  for all  $n \geq 2$  such that  $\mu_0$  is not an isomorphism.

The examples are groupoids with topological property (T), which also provide counter-examples to the Baum-Connes conjecture!