# A NATURAL FAMILY OF FACTORS FOR PRODUCT $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$-ACTIONS 

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#### Abstract

It is shown that if $\mathcal{N}$ and $\mathcal{N}^{\prime}$ are natural families of factors (in the sense of [5]) for minimal flows $(X, T)$ and $\left(X^{\prime}, T^{\prime}\right)$, respectively, then $\left\{R \otimes R^{\prime}: R \in \mathcal{N}, R^{\prime} \in \mathcal{N}^{\prime}\right\}$ is a natural family of factors for the product $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$-action on $X \times X^{\prime}$ generated by $T$ and $T^{\prime}$.

An example is given showing the existence of topologically disjoint minimal flows $(X, T)$ and $\left(X^{\prime}, T^{\prime}\right)$ for which the family of factors of the flow ( $X \times X^{\prime}, T \times T^{\prime}$ ) is strictly bigger than the family of factors of the product $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$-action on $X \times X^{\prime}$ generated by $T$ and $T^{\prime}$.

There is also an example of a minimal distal system with no nontrivial compact subgroups in the group of its automorphisms.


By a topological flow we mean a triple $(X, \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{U})$ where $X$ is a compact metric space, $\mathcal{T}$ is a topological group (with the discrete topology) and $\mathcal{U}: \mathcal{T} \times X \rightarrow X$ is a continuous map such that
(1) $\mathcal{U}(e, x)=x$ (here $e$ stands for the identity of $\mathcal{T}$ ) for $x \in X$;
(2) $\mathcal{U}(t, \mathcal{U}(s, x))=\mathcal{U}(t s, x)$ for $x \in X$ and $s, t \in \mathcal{T}$.

We say that $\mathcal{U}$ is a $\mathcal{T}$-action on $X$. If the acting group is understood we write $(X, \mathcal{U})$.

[^0]In this note we focus on the case where $\mathcal{T}=\mathbb{Z}$ or $\mathcal{T}=\mathbb{Z}^{2}$. In the former case the action $\mathcal{U}$ is generated by the single homeomorphism $T: X \rightarrow X$ defined by $\mathcal{U}(n, x)=T^{n} x$ and the flow is denoted by $(X, T)$.

The latter case will be restricted to the following situation. Given two homeomorphisms $T_{i}: X_{i} \rightarrow X_{i}, i=1,2$, of compact metric spaces we consider a so called product $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$-action $\underline{\mathcal{U}}=\underline{\mathcal{U}}_{\left(T_{1}, T_{2}\right)}$ on $X_{1} \times X_{2}$ :

$$
\underline{\mathcal{U}}\left((n, m),\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right)\right)=\left(T_{1}^{n} x_{1}, T_{2}^{m} x_{2}\right) .
$$

In such a situation we say that $\underline{\mathcal{U}}$ is generated by $\left(T_{1}, T_{2}\right)$.
The straightforward proof of the following lemma will be omitted.
LEMMA 1. The action $\underline{\mathcal{U}}_{\left(T_{1}, T_{2}\right)}$ is minimal if and only if so are the homeomorphisms $T_{1}$ and $T_{2}$.

Following [3] we recall that disjointness of minimal $\mathbb{Z}$-actions generated by two homeomorphisms means that the product $\mathbb{Z}$-action is minimal.

The following result is known and the reader may find it for instance in [1, p. 155]. However the proof in [1] uses the elaborated algebraic Ellis theory of minimal flows. Here a simple proof is presented that uses product $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$-actions. Recall that a homomorphism $\pi:\left(X, \mathcal{U}_{1}\right) \rightarrow\left(Y, \mathcal{U}_{2}\right)$ is called proximal if $R_{\pi}=$ $\left\{\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right) \in X \times X: \pi\left(x_{1}\right)=\pi\left(x_{2}\right)\right\}$ consists od proximal pairs (i.e. for every $\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right) \in R_{\pi}$ there is a net $\left(u_{i}\right) \subset \mathcal{T}$ and $x \in X$ such that $\left(u_{i} x_{1}, u_{i} x_{2}\right)$ converges to $(x, x))$.

Proposition 2. Let $\pi_{i}:\left(X_{i}, T_{i}\right) \rightarrow\left(Y_{i}, S_{i}\right), i=1,2$, be proximal homomorphisms between minimal $\mathbb{Z}$-actions. Then topological disjointness of $\left(Y_{1}, S_{1}\right)$ and $\left(Y_{2}, S_{2}\right)$ implies topological disjointness of $\left(X_{1}, T_{1}\right)$ and $\left(X_{2}, T_{2}\right)$.

Proof. Since $\pi_{1} \times \mathrm{id}_{Y_{2}}: X_{1} \times Y_{2} \rightarrow Y_{1} \times Y_{2}$ is proximal and $\left(Y_{1} \times Y_{2}, S_{1} \times S_{2}\right)$ is minimal, $\left(X_{1} \times Y_{2}, T_{1} \times S_{2}\right)$ possesses precisely one minimal set, say $M$. Then $\left(\operatorname{id}_{X_{1}} \times S_{2}\right)(M)=\left(T_{1} \times \operatorname{id}_{Y_{2}}\right)(M)=M$ since id $X_{X_{1}} \times S_{2}$ and $T_{1} \times \operatorname{id}_{Y_{2}}$ commute with $T_{1} \times S_{2}$ and it follows that $M$ is $\underline{\mathcal{U}}_{\left(T_{1}, S_{2}\right)}$-invariant. Since, by Lemma 1, $\underline{\mathcal{U}}_{\left(T_{1}, S_{2}\right)}$ is minimal, $M=X_{1} \times Y_{2}$. It has been shown that $\left(X_{1}, T_{1}\right)$ and $\left(Y_{2}, S_{2}\right)$ are disjoint.

The same reasoning applied to the homomorphism $\mathrm{id}_{X_{1}} \times \pi_{2}$ shows disjointness of $\left(X_{1}, T_{1}\right)$ and $\left(X_{2}, T_{2}\right)$.

Borrowing some ideas from [6] the authors of [5] introduced the concept of a natural family of factors for a minimal topological flow (see also [8]). Before we state the definition we need the following lemma.

Let $\mathcal{U}_{i}, i=1,2$, be $\mathcal{T}$-actions on $X$ and $Y$, respectively. Let $M$ be a joining of $\mathcal{U}_{1}$ and $\mathcal{U}_{2}$, i.e. a minimal subset of the product system that projects onto both of coordinates (a self-joining is a joining of the system with itself).

Lemma 3 ([5], [8]). There exist the smallest $\mathcal{U}_{i}$-ICERs $R_{i}(M), i=1,2$, such that

$$
\left(\pi_{1} \times \pi_{2}\right)(M)=\operatorname{Graph} \phi
$$

where $\phi$ is some isomorphism between $X / R_{1}(M)$ and $Y / R_{2}(M)$.
In such a situation we say that $M$ induces $\phi$. Observe that in the case where $\left(X, \mathcal{U}_{1}\right)=\left(Y, \mathcal{U}_{2}\right)$ we have

$$
R_{1}(M)=\left\langle M \circ M^{-1}\right\rangle \quad \text { and } \quad R_{2}(M)=\left\langle M^{-1} \circ M\right\rangle .
$$

Here and in the sequel $A \circ B=\{(x, y) \in X \times X ;(x, z) \in A$ and $(z, y) \in B$ for some $z \in X\}, A^{-1}=\{(x, y) \in X \times X:(y, x) \in A\}$ for $A, B \subset X \times X$ and $\langle C\rangle$ denotes the smallest invariant closed equivalent relation on $X$ containing $C \subset X \times X$.

Definition 4 ([5]). A family $\mathcal{N}$ of ICERs is said to be natural if
(a) $\Delta_{X} \in \mathcal{N}$;
(b) if $\left\{R_{\lambda}\right\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \subset \mathcal{N}$ then $\bigvee_{\lambda \in \Lambda} R_{\lambda} \in \mathcal{N}$;
(c) $R_{i}(M) \in \mathcal{N}$ for every self-joining $M$;
(d) if $\Phi: X / R \rightarrow X / R^{\prime}$ is an isomorphism and $R \in \mathcal{N}$ then $R^{\prime} \in \mathcal{N}$.

In (b) and in the sequel $\bigvee_{\lambda \in \Lambda} R_{\lambda}$ stands for $\left\langle\bigcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} R_{\lambda}\right\rangle$.
REMARK 5. (a) For any family of factor relations $\mathcal{N}$ satisfying conditions (a) and (b) of Definition 4 and for each ICER $R$ there exists a biggest ICER $\widetilde{R} \in \mathcal{N}$ with $\widetilde{R} \subset R$.
(b) Since the intersection of natural families is obviously a natural family and the family of all factors is natural, it follows that for any minimal $\mathcal{U}$ there exists the smallest natural family of factors.

The term "natural" is explained by the following result.
Proposition 6 ([5], [8]. Let $\mathcal{N}$ be a natural family of ICERs for a minimal flow $(X, \mathcal{U})$. For each ICER $R$ of $(X, \mathcal{U})$ the homomorphism $\pi: X / \widetilde{R} \rightarrow X / R$ is regular. Furthermore if $\pi$ is distal then it is a group extension.

The second part of the above proposition is actually Glasner's result that may be considered as a topological version of a theorem of Veech.

Theorem 7 (Glasner, [4]). A regular and distal homomorphism between two minimal systems is a group extension.

Recall that a homomorphism $\pi:\left(X, \mathcal{U}_{1}\right) \rightarrow\left(Y, \mathcal{U}_{2}\right)$ is called distal if $R_{\pi}$ is a union of minimal sets and regular if every minimal subset of $R_{\pi}$ is a graph of some element from the group of automorphisms of $\left(X, \mathcal{U}_{1}\right)$. (In the sequel the group of automorphisms of $(X, \mathcal{U})$ will be denoted by $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{U})$. Recall that this
group is usually endowed with the topology of uniform convergence of homeomorphisms and their inverse that makes it a Polish group.) Recall also that $\pi$ is called a group extension if there is a compact subgroup $G \subset \operatorname{Aut}\left(\mathcal{U}_{1}\right)$ such that the quotient system $\left(X / G, \mathcal{U}_{1} / G\right)$ is conjugate to $\left(Y, \mathcal{U}_{2}\right)$.

REMARK 8. It is obvious that if $T: X \rightarrow X, S: X^{\prime} \rightarrow X^{\prime}$ are homeomorphisms then $\left(X \times X^{\prime}, \underline{\mathcal{U}}_{(T, S)}\right)$ is distal iff $(X, T)$ and $\left(X^{\prime}, S\right)$ are so.

Let $\left(X \times X^{\prime}, \underline{\mathcal{U}}\right)$ be a minimal $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$-action generated by homeomorphisms $T: X \rightarrow X$ and $S: X^{\prime} \rightarrow X^{\prime}$. If $A \subset X \times X$ and $B \subset X^{\prime} \times X^{\prime}$ then put

$$
A \otimes B:=\left\{\left(\left(x_{1}, x_{1}^{\prime}\right),\left(x_{2}, x_{2}^{\prime}\right)\right) \in\left(X \times X^{\prime}\right)^{2}:\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right) \in A,\left(x_{1}^{\prime}, x_{2}^{\prime}\right) \in B\right\}
$$

Thus $A \otimes B$ is an image of $A \times B$ under the isomorphisms exchanging the second and the third coordinate. We will need the following simple lemma.

Let $M \subset\left(X \times X^{\prime}\right)^{2}$ be a $\underline{\mathcal{U}}$-self-joining.
Lemma 9. There are a T-self-joining $N \subset X \times X$ and an $S$-self-joining $N^{\prime} \subset X^{\prime} \times X^{\prime}$ such that

$$
M=N \otimes N^{\prime}
$$

Proof. Put $N=\Pi_{1,3}(M)$ and $N^{\prime}=\Pi_{2,4}(M)$, where $\Pi_{i, j}$ denotes the projection onto the $i$-th and the $j$-th coordinate.

Let us consider a family of $\underline{\mathcal{U}}$-ICERs (so called product relations)

$$
\mathcal{P}=\mathcal{P}(\underline{\mathcal{U}})=\left\{R \otimes R^{\prime}: R \text { is a } T \text {-ICER and } R^{\prime} \text { is an } S \text {-ICER }\right\} .
$$

The following is a topological counterpart of some results from Section III of [2].
Proposition 10. The family $\mathcal{P}(\underline{\mathcal{U}})$ of product ICERs of a product $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$-action is natural.

Proof. (a) We have $\Delta_{X \times X^{\prime}}=\Delta_{X} \otimes \Delta_{X^{\prime}} \in \mathcal{P}$.
(b) identify the algebra $C\left(X \times X^{\prime}\right)$ of real continuous functions on $X \times X^{\prime}$ with the algebra $C\left(X, C\left(X^{\prime}\right)\right)$ of continuous functions on $X$ with values in the Banach algebra $C\left(X^{\prime}\right)$. The homeomorphic isomorphism is given by

$$
(L(F)(x))(y)=F(x, y)
$$

Let $A(\underline{R})$ denote the subalgebra of $C\left(X \times X^{\prime}\right)$ that consists of functions constant on co-sets of $\underline{R}$. If $\underline{R}=R \otimes R^{\prime}$, then $L(A(\underline{R}))=A\left(R, A\left(R^{\prime}\right)\right)$, where $A\left(R, A\left(R^{\prime}\right)\right)$
stands for the subalgebra of $C\left(X, C\left(X^{\prime}\right)\right)$ consisting of functions constant on cosets of $R$ with values in the subalgebra $A\left(R^{\prime}\right)$. Now we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
L\left(A\left(\bigvee_{i}\left(R_{i} \otimes R_{i}^{\prime}\right)\right)\right) & =L\left(\bigcap_{i} A\left(R_{i} \otimes R_{i}^{\prime}\right)\right)=\bigcap_{i} A\left(R_{i}, A\left(R_{i}^{\prime}\right)\right) \\
& =\bigcap_{i} A\left(R_{i}, \bigcap_{j} A\left(R_{j}^{\prime}\right)\right)=\bigcap_{i} A\left(R_{i}, A\left(\bigvee_{j} R_{j}^{\prime}\right)\right) \\
& =A\left(\bigvee_{i} R_{i}, A\left(\bigvee_{j} R_{j}^{\prime}\right)\right) \\
& =L\left(A\left(\left(\bigvee_{i} R_{i}\right) \otimes\left(\bigvee_{i} R_{i}^{\prime}\right)\right)\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Since there is one-to-one correspondence between ICERs $\underline{R}$ and subalgebras $A(\underline{R})$ we have obtained $\bigvee_{i}\left(R_{i} \otimes R_{i}^{\prime}\right)=\left(\bigvee_{i} R_{i}\right) \otimes\left(\bigvee_{i} R_{i}^{\prime}\right) \in \mathcal{P}$.
(c) Using Lemma 9 for the third equality below and, for instance, Lemma 1 of [7] for the fifth one, we get

$$
\begin{aligned}
R_{1}(M) & =\left\langle M \circ M^{-1}\right\rangle=\left\langle M \circ M^{-1} \cup \Delta_{X \times X^{\prime}}\right\rangle \\
& =\left\langle\left(N \otimes N^{\prime}\right) \circ\left(N \otimes N^{\prime}\right)^{-1} \cup \Delta_{X} \otimes \Delta_{X^{\prime}}\right\rangle \\
& =\left\langle\left(N \circ N^{-1} \cup \Delta_{X}\right) \otimes\left(N^{\prime} \circ\left(N^{\prime}\right)^{-1} \cup \Delta_{X^{\prime}}\right)\right\rangle \\
& =\left\langle\left(N \circ N^{-1} \cup \Delta_{X}\right)\right\rangle \otimes\left\langle\left(N^{\prime} \circ\left(N^{\prime}\right)^{-1} \cup \Delta_{X^{\prime}}\right)\right\rangle \\
& =\left\langle N \circ N^{-1}\right\rangle \otimes\left\langle N^{\prime} \circ\left(N^{\prime}\right)^{-1}\right\rangle=R_{1}(N) \otimes R_{1}\left(N^{\prime}\right) \in \mathcal{P} .
\end{aligned}
$$

The proof for $R_{2}(M)$ is analogous.
(d) It follows immediately from Corollary 11 below.

Lemmas 3 and 9, and the proof of (c) of Proposition 10 yield the following.
Corollary 11. Let $\phi \in \operatorname{Aut}(\underline{\mathcal{U}})$. There exist $\phi \in \operatorname{Aut}(T)$ and $\phi^{\prime} \in \operatorname{Aut}(S)$ such that $\underline{\phi}=\phi \times \phi^{\prime}$.

Proof. Obviously $M=\operatorname{Graph} \underline{\phi}$ is a $\underline{\mathcal{U}}$-self-joining. Then

$$
R_{i}(N) \otimes R_{i}\left(N^{\prime}\right)=R_{i}(M)=\Delta_{X \times X^{\prime}}=\Delta_{X} \otimes \Delta_{X^{\prime}}
$$

so $R_{i}(N)=\Delta_{X}$ and $R_{i}\left(N^{\prime}\right)=\Delta_{X^{\prime}}$. The result follows from Lemma 3.
Remark 12. One may also show Corollary 11 independently on Lemmas 3 and 9, and (c) of Proposition 10.

Indeed, let $\left(X_{i} \times X_{i}^{\prime}, \underline{\mathcal{U}}_{i}\right), i=1,2$, be minimal product $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$-actions generated by $\left(T_{i}, S_{i}\right)$, respectively, and let $\underline{\phi}$ be an isomorphism between $\left(X_{1} \times X_{1}^{\prime}, \underline{\mathcal{U}}_{1}\right)$ and $\left(X_{2} \times X_{2}^{\prime}, \underline{\mathcal{U}}_{2}\right)$. If $\underline{\phi}\left(x, x^{\prime}\right)=\left(\underline{\phi}_{1}\left(x, x^{\prime}\right), \underline{\phi}_{2}\left(x, x^{\prime}\right)\right)$ then

$$
\left(\underline{\phi}_{1}\left(T_{1}^{n} x, S_{1}^{m} x^{\prime}\right), \underline{\phi}_{2}\left(T_{1}^{n} x, S_{1}^{m} x^{\prime}\right)=\left(T_{2}^{n}\left(\underline{\phi}_{1}\left(x, x^{\prime}\right)\right), S_{2}^{m}\left(\underline{\phi}_{2}\left(x, x^{\prime}\right)\right)\right)\right.
$$

for every $(n, m) \in \mathbb{Z}^{2}$. By minimality of considered actions, $\underline{\phi}_{1(2)}$ does not depend on the second (first) coordinate and the result follows.

In fact the proof of Proposition 10 shows even stronger result.
Proposition 13. If $\mathcal{N}$ and $\mathcal{N}^{\prime}$ are natural families of factors for minimal flows $(X, T)$ and $\left(X^{\prime}, T^{\prime}\right)$, respectively, then the family

$$
\left\{R \otimes R^{\prime}: R \in \mathcal{N}, R^{\prime} \in \mathcal{N}\right\}
$$

is natural for $\underline{\mathcal{U}}$.
There is an interest in investigating natural families of product $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$-actions $\underline{\mathcal{U}}$ generated by two homeomorphisms because a product $\mathbb{Z}$-action generated by those homeomorphisms may have more factors than $\underline{\mathcal{U}}$ as the following example shows.

Example 14. Let $(\Omega, \sigma)$ denote the full shift over $\{0,1\}$.
Let $m$ and $n$ be relatively prime positive integers. Consider two generalized Morse systems generated by substitutions of constant length $m$ and $n$. Precisely, let $\varsigma_{i}:\{0,1\} \rightarrow\{0,1\}^{i}, i=n, m$, satisfy $\left(\varsigma_{i}(0)\right)_{j}=\left(\varsigma_{i}(1)\right)_{j}+1(\bmod 2)$. Let $\eta^{(i)}$ be a sequence generated by $\varsigma_{i}$ and take any almost periodic bisequence $\omega^{(i)}$ with $\omega_{j}^{(i)}=\eta_{j}^{(i)}$ for $j \geq 0$.

Let $X^{(i)}$ be the orbit closure of $\omega^{(i)}$. It is well-known that $\left(X^{(i)}, \sigma\right)$ factors on the odometer $\mathbb{Z}(i)$ through the so called Morse-Toepliz system $\left(Y^{(i)}, \sigma\right)$ in the way that the latter system is an almost 1-1 (hence proximal) extension of $\mathbb{Z}(i)$. Now Proposition 2 assures that $\left(Y^{(m)}, \sigma\right)$ and $\left(Y^{(n)}, \sigma\right)$ are topologically disjoint since $\mathbb{Z}(m)$ and $\mathbb{Z}(n)$ also are.

We describe the factor maps $\left(X^{(i)}, \sigma\right) \rightarrow\left(Y^{(i)}, \sigma\right)$. Let $\psi: \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$ be defined by $\psi(u)_{j}=u_{j}+u_{j+1}$ and put $\rho^{(i)}: X^{(i)} \rightarrow Y^{(i)}, \rho^{(i)}=\left.\psi\right|_{X^{(i)}}$.

Put $\phi: \Omega \times \Omega \rightarrow \Omega,\left(\phi\left(u^{(1)}, u^{(2)}\right)\right)_{j}=u_{j}^{(1)}+u_{j}^{(2)}(\bmod 2)$. We need to show that $\phi$ restricted to $Y^{(m)} \times Y^{(n)}$ is not a bijection.

For this let us define two bisequences $\breve{\omega}^{(i)}, i=1,2$, by

$$
\breve{\omega}_{j}^{(i)}= \begin{cases}\omega_{j}^{(i)} & \text { if } j \geq 0 \\ \omega_{j}^{(i)}+1(\bmod 2) & \text { if } j<0\end{cases}
$$

It is easy to check that $\breve{\omega}^{(i)} \in X_{i}$ (both $\omega^{(i)}$ and $\breve{\omega}^{(i)}$ are almost periodic and the pair $\left(\omega^{(i)}, \breve{\omega}^{(i)}\right)$ is asymptotic) and that

$$
\begin{equation*}
y^{(i)}=\rho_{i}\left(\omega^{(i)}\right) \neq \rho_{i}\left(\breve{\omega}^{(i)}\right)=: \breve{y}^{(i)} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

Moreover,

$$
\phi\left(\omega^{(m)}, \omega^{(n)}\right)=\phi\left(\breve{\omega}^{(m)}, \breve{\omega}^{(n)}\right)
$$

hence $\phi\left(y^{(m)}, y^{(n)}\right)=\phi\left(\breve{y}^{(m)}, \breve{y}^{(n)}\right)$ and this, together with (1), implies that $\left.\phi\right|_{Y^{(m)} \times Y^{(n)}}$ is not a bijection.

Now we see that $\left.\phi\right|_{Y^{(m)} \times Y^{(n)}}$ defines a nontrivial factor of $\mathbb{Z}$-action on $Y^{(m)} \times$ $Y^{(n)}$ generated by $\sigma \times \sigma$ that is not a factor of a product $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$-action generated by $(\sigma, \sigma)$.

In [2] the $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$ version of Furstenberg's filtering problem from [3] is considered. In the rest of the present note it is shown how to apply Proposition 10 to obtain some analogous result in topological dynamics.

Following [2] we define a topological counterpart of a univalence property and universal filtering.

Definition 15. The function $F: X \times X^{\prime} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ has T-pointwise univalence property if for any distinct $x_{1}, x_{2} \in X$ there exists $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$
F\left(T^{n} x_{1}, \cdot\right) \neq F\left(T^{n} x_{2}, \cdot\right)
$$

Consider two equivalence relations on $X \times X^{\prime}$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
R_{X} & =\left\{\left(\left(x, x_{1}^{\prime}\right),\left(x, x_{2}^{\prime}\right)\right): x \in X, x_{1}^{\prime}, x_{2}^{\prime} \in X^{\prime}\right\} \\
R_{F} & =\left\{\left(\left(x_{1}, x_{1}^{\prime}\right),\left(x_{2}, x_{2}^{\prime}\right)\right): F\left(x_{1}, x_{1}^{\prime}\right)=F\left(x_{2}, x_{2}^{\prime}\right)\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

The former one is already an ICER. Since the latter one need not be an ICER we consider

$$
\widehat{R}_{F}=\bigvee\left\{R \subset R_{F}: R \text { is a } \underline{\mathcal{U}} \text {-ICER }\right\}
$$

The factor of $\underline{\mathcal{U}}$ generated by $R_{X}$ is of course a $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$-action. Nevertheless one may naturally identify it as a $\mathbb{Z}$-action generated by $T$.

Definition 16. We say that the distal minimal system $(X, T)$ is distally filtered if for every minimal distal system $\left(X^{\prime}, S\right)$

$$
\widehat{R}_{F} \subset R_{X}
$$

for any continuous function $F: X \times X^{\prime} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that has $T$-pointwise univalence property.

Proposition 17. Assume that there are no nontrivial compact subgroups in the group of automorphisms of a distal minimal system $(X, T)$. Then $(X, T)$ is distally filtered.

Proof. Let $T: X \rightarrow X$ and $S: X^{\prime} \rightarrow X^{\prime}$ be two distal minimal homeomorphisms. Let $\underline{\mathcal{U}}$ be a product $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$-action generated by $(T, S)$ and $F: X \times X^{\prime} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function with the $T$-pointwise univalence property. Put $\underline{R}=$ $\widehat{R}_{F}$ and, applying Proposition 13, let $\underline{\widetilde{R}}=R \otimes R^{\prime}$. Let $\pi: X \rightarrow X / R$ and $\pi^{\prime}: X^{\prime} \rightarrow X^{\prime} / R^{\prime}$ be canonical factor maps. First we show that $R=\Delta_{X}$. Indeed, if $x_{1}, x_{2} \in X, x_{1} \neq x_{2}$ then, by univalence property of $F$, there are $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $x^{\prime} \in X^{\prime}$ such that $F\left(T^{n} x_{1}, x^{\prime}\right) \neq F\left(T^{n} x_{2}, x^{\prime}\right)$. Since $R \times R^{\prime} \subset \widehat{R}_{F} \subset R_{F}$,
the function $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x)=F\left(T^{n} x, x^{\prime}\right)$ belongs to the algebra $A(R)$ and $f\left(x_{1}\right) \neq f\left(x_{2}\right)$. Therefore $A(R)$ separates points of $X$, so $R=\Delta_{X}$.

By the distality assumption, Remark 8 and Proposition 10 the extension

$$
X \times X^{\prime} / \underline{\widetilde{R}} \rightarrow X \times X^{\prime} / \underline{R}
$$

is a group, say $G$-extension. We intend to show that this extension is actually trivial, i.e. $G$ is a trivial group.

Using Corollary 11 one may represent $G$ in $\operatorname{Aut}(T)$. We only need to know that $\phi^{\prime}=\operatorname{id}_{X^{\prime} / R^{\prime}}$, whenever $\operatorname{id}_{X} \times \phi^{\prime} \in G$. Since

$$
\begin{aligned}
\Delta_{X} \otimes\left\langle\left(\pi^{\prime}\right)^{-1}\left(\operatorname{Graph} \phi^{\prime}\right)\right\rangle & =\left\langle\Delta_{X} \otimes\left(\pi^{\prime}\right)^{-1}\left(\operatorname{Graph} \phi^{\prime}\right)\right\rangle \\
& =\left\langle( \pi \times \pi ^ { \prime } ) ^ { - 1 } \left({\left.\left.\operatorname{Graph} \operatorname{id}_{X} \times \phi^{\prime}\right)\right\rangle \subset \underline{R}}\right.\right.
\end{aligned}
$$

$\left(\pi^{\prime}\right)^{-1}\left(\operatorname{Graph} \phi^{\prime}\right) \subset R^{\prime}$, hence $\left(\pi^{\prime}\right)^{-1}\left(\operatorname{Graph} \phi^{\prime}\right)=R^{\prime}$. Thus Graph $\phi^{\prime}=\Delta_{X^{\prime} / R^{\prime}}$, so $\phi^{\prime}=\mathrm{id}_{X^{\prime} / R^{\prime}}$.

Since there are no nontrivial compact subgroups in $\operatorname{Aut}(T)$,

$$
G=\left\{\mathrm{id}_{X \times X^{\prime} / \underline{\tilde{R}}}\right\}
$$

It follows that $\widehat{R}_{F}=\underline{\widetilde{R}}=\Delta_{X} \otimes R^{\prime} \subset R_{X}$.
Here is an example of a minimal distal system with no compact subgroups in the group of its automorphisms. I thank Eli Glasner for turning my attention to the homeomorphism presented below.

First we state the following simple lemma.
LEMMA 18. There are no nontrivial compact subgroups in the topological group $\left(\mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}, \oplus\right)$, where

$$
\left(\left(k_{1}, k_{2}, \ldots\right) \oplus\left(k_{1}^{\prime}, k_{2}^{\prime}, \ldots\right)\right)_{n}=\sum_{l=0}^{n} k_{n-l} k_{l}^{\prime}
$$

for $n=1,2, \ldots, k_{0}=k_{0}^{\prime}=1$.
Proof. Let $K \subset \mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}$ be a compact subgroup and $\Pi_{n}$ denote the projection onto the $n$ 'th coordinate. Since $\Pi_{1}: \mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is a continuous group homomorphism, $\Pi_{1}(K)=\{0\}$, hence $K \subset\left\{\underline{k} \in \mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}: k_{1}=0\right\}$. Assume now that $K \subset\left\{\underline{k} \in \mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}: k_{1}=\ldots=k_{n-1}=0\right\}$. Then $\left.\Pi_{n}\right|_{K}$ is a continuous group homomorphism and it follows that $K \subset\left\{\underline{k} \in \mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}: k_{1}=\ldots=k_{n}=0\right\}$. By induction $K=\{(0,0, \ldots)\}$.

Example 19. Let $\mathbb{T}=\{z \in \mathbb{C}:|z|=1\}$. Put $T: \mathbb{T}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^{\mathbb{N}}$,

$$
T\left(z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n}, \ldots\right)=\left(u z_{1}, z_{1} z_{2}, \ldots, z_{n-1} z_{n}, \ldots\right)
$$

where $u \in \mathbb{T}$ is not a root of the unity.
We will show that $(\operatorname{Aut}(T), \circ)$ as a topological group is equal to $\left(\mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}, \oplus\right)$.

Consider the restriction of $T$ to the first $n$ coordinates:

$$
T_{n}\left(z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n}\right)=\left(u z_{1}, z_{1} z_{2}, \ldots, z_{n-1} z_{n}\right)
$$

Since each factor $T_{n}$ is canonical, every $S \in \operatorname{Aut}(T)$ leaves it invariant. Let $S_{n}$ denote a restriction of $S$ to $T_{n}$. We show, using the induction with respect to $n$, that for every $S \in \operatorname{Aut}(T)$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$ there exist $u_{n} \in \mathbb{T}$ and $k_{1}, \ldots, k_{n-1} \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that
(2) $S_{n}\left(z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n}\right)$

$$
=\left(u^{k_{1}} z_{1}, u^{k_{2}} z_{1}^{k_{1}} z_{2}, \ldots, u^{k_{n-1}} z_{1}^{k_{n-2}} \ldots z_{n-2}^{k_{1}} z_{n-1}, u_{n} z_{1}^{k_{n-1}} \ldots z_{n-1}^{k_{1}} z_{n}\right)
$$

Observe that every $T_{n}$ is a cocycle extension of $T_{n-1}$. From results of [8] or [9] it follows that in case $n=2$

$$
S_{2}\left(z_{1}, z_{2}\right)=\left(u_{1} z_{1}, f\left(z_{1}\right) v\left(z_{2}\right)\right)
$$

for some continuous function $f: \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$ and a continuous $\mathbb{T}$-automorphism $v$. Let $f(z)=\sum a_{m} z^{m}$ be a Fourier series of $f$. Assume first that $v(z)=z^{-1}$. Since $S_{2}$ and $T_{2}$ commutes, we have $f(u z)=u_{1} z^{2} f(z)$, hence $\left|a_{m}\right|=\left|a_{m-2}\right|$. It follows that $f \equiv 0$, a contradiction. Thus $v=\mathrm{id}_{\mathbb{T}}$.

Now we have $f(u z)=u_{1} f(z)$, hence $u^{m} a_{m}=u_{1} a_{m}$ for every $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. Since $u$ is not a root of the unity there is $k_{1} \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $a_{m}=0$ for $m \neq k_{1}, a_{k_{1}} \neq 0$ and $u_{1}=u^{k_{1}}$. We have got

$$
S_{2}\left(z_{1}, z_{2}\right)=\left(u^{k_{1}} z_{1}, u_{2} z_{1}^{k_{1}} z_{2}\right)
$$

Assume now that (2) holds for $n-1$. From the same results of [8] or [9] as above we know that

$$
\begin{aligned}
& S_{n}\left(z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n}\right) \\
& \quad=\left(u^{k_{1}} z_{1}, u^{k_{2}} z_{1}^{k_{1}} z_{2}, \ldots, u_{n-1} z_{1}^{k_{n-2}} \ldots z_{n-2}^{k_{1}} z_{n-1}, f\left(z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n-1}\right) v\left(z_{n}\right)\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

for some continuous function $f: \mathbb{T}^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$ and a continuous $\mathbb{T}$-automorphism $v$. If $v(z)=z^{-1}$ then

$$
f\left(u z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n-2} z_{n-1}\right)=u_{n-1} z_{1}^{k_{n-2}} z_{2}^{k_{n-3}} \ldots z_{n-2}^{k_{1}} z_{n-1}^{2} f\left(z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n-1}\right)
$$

hence

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum a_{m_{1}, \ldots, m_{n-1}} u^{m_{1}} z_{1}^{m_{1}+m_{2}} z_{2}^{m_{2}+m_{3}} \ldots z_{n-2}^{m_{n-2}+m_{n-1}} z_{n-1}^{m_{n-1}} \\
& \quad=\sum a_{m_{1}, \ldots, m_{n-1}} u_{n-1} z_{1}^{m_{1}+k_{n-2}} z_{2}^{m_{2}+k_{n-3}} \ldots z_{n-2}^{m_{n-2}+k_{1}} z_{n-1}^{m_{n-1}+2}
\end{aligned}
$$

We see that

$$
\left|a_{m_{1}-m_{2}+\ldots-m_{n-1}, \ldots, m_{n-2}-m_{n-1}, m_{n-1}}\right|=\left|a_{m_{1}-k_{n-2}, \ldots, m_{n-2}-k_{1}, m_{n-1}-2}\right|,
$$

for every $m_{1}, \ldots, m_{n-1} \in \mathbb{Z}$. It follows that $f \equiv 0$, a contradiction. Now we have $v=\mathrm{id}_{\mathbb{Z}}$, so

$$
f\left(u z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n-2} z_{n-1}\right)=u_{n-1} z_{1}^{k_{n-2}} z_{2}^{k_{n-3}} \ldots z_{n-2}^{k_{1}} f\left(z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n-1}\right)
$$

hence

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{m_{1}, \ldots, m_{n-2}} a_{m_{1}, \ldots, m_{n-1}} u^{m_{1}} z_{1}^{m_{1}+m_{2}} z_{2}^{m_{2}+m_{3}} \ldots z_{n-2}^{m_{n-2}+m_{n-1}} \\
&=\sum_{m_{1}, \ldots, m_{n-2}} a_{m_{1}, \ldots, m_{n-1}} u_{n-1} z_{1}^{m_{1}+k_{n-2}} z_{2}^{m_{2}+k_{n-3}} \ldots z_{n-2}^{m_{n-2}+k_{1}}
\end{aligned}
$$

for every $m_{n-1} \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $m_{n-1} \neq k_{1}$ then

$$
\left|a_{m_{1}-m_{2}+\ldots-m_{n-1}, \ldots, m_{n-2}-m_{n-1}, m_{n-1}}\right|=\left|a_{m_{1}-k_{n-2}, \ldots, m_{n-2}-k_{1}, m_{n-1}}\right|
$$

and it follows that $a_{m_{1}, \ldots, m_{n-2}, m_{n-1}}=0$ for every $m_{1}, \ldots, m_{n-2} \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $m_{n-1} \in \mathbb{Z} \backslash\left\{k_{1}\right\}$. If $m_{n-1}=k_{1}$, repeating our consideration for $m_{n-2}$ and $k_{2}$ we get that $a_{m_{1}, \ldots, m_{n-2}, k_{1}}=0$ for every $m_{1}, \ldots, m_{n-3} \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $m_{n-2} \in$ $\mathbb{Z} \backslash\left\{k_{2}\right\}$. After $n-2$ steps we obtain that $a_{m_{1}, \ldots, m_{n-1}}=0$ for every $m_{1} \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $\left(m_{2}, \ldots, m_{n-1}\right) \in(\mathbb{Z} \times \ldots \times \mathbb{Z}) \backslash\left\{\left(k_{n-2}, \ldots, k_{1}\right)\right\}$. Also we have that $u^{m_{1}} a_{m_{1}, k_{n-2}, \ldots, k_{1}}=u_{n-1} a_{m_{1}, k_{n-2}, \ldots, k_{1}}$ for every $m_{1} \in \mathbb{Z}$. This forces that $a_{m_{1}, k_{n-2}, \ldots, k_{1}} \neq 0$ for precisely one $m_{1}=k_{n-1}$ and that $u_{n-1}=u^{k_{n-1}}$. We have shown (2) with $u_{n}=a_{k_{n-1}, \ldots, k_{1}}$.

The formula (2) allows us to establish a bijection $J: \mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \operatorname{Aut}(T)$ that is obviously a group isomorphism between $\left(\mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}, \oplus\right)$ and $(\operatorname{Aut}(T), \circ)$. It is easy to see that $J$ is continuous. For inverse take an integer $N>1$ and let $0<\delta<$ $1 / 2^{N}$. Assume that $D(S, \bar{S})<\delta$, where $J^{-1}(S)=\left(k_{1}, k_{2}, \ldots\right)$ and $J^{-1}(\bar{S})=$ $\left(\bar{k}_{1}, \bar{k}_{2}, \ldots\right)$. If $S=\bar{S}$ then $k_{n}=\bar{k}_{n}$ and we are done.

If $S \neq \bar{S}$ then put $l=\min \left\{n: k_{n} \neq \bar{k}_{n}\right\}$ and suppose that $l<N$. Then we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
\delta> & D(S, \bar{S})=\frac{\rho\left(u^{k_{l}}, u^{\bar{k}_{l}}\right)}{2^{l}} \\
& +\sup _{z_{1}, z_{2}, \ldots \in \mathbb{T}} \sum_{n=l+1}^{\infty} \frac{\rho\left(u^{k_{n}} z_{1}^{k_{n-1}} \ldots z_{n-l}^{k_{l}}, u^{\bar{k}_{n}} z_{1}^{\bar{k}_{n-1}} \ldots z_{n-l}^{\bar{k}_{l}}\right)}{2^{n}} \\
& \geq \frac{\rho\left(u^{k_{l}}, u^{\bar{k}_{l}}\right)}{2^{l}}+\frac{\pi}{2^{l+1}}>\frac{1}{2^{N}}\left(\rho\left(u^{k_{l}}, u^{\bar{k}_{l}}\right)+\pi\right)>\delta \pi,
\end{aligned}
$$

a contradiction. Therefore $l \geq N$, hence $k_{n}=\bar{k}_{n}$ for $n=1, \ldots, N-1$.

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