

BOUNDED COHOMOLOGY OF CERTAIN GROUPS OF HOMEOMORPHISMS

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ABSTRACT. We consider the condition when bounded cohomology injects into ordinary cohomology and prove the vanishing of bounded cohomology of the group of all compactly supported homeomorphisms of \mathbf{R}^n .

Introduction. In this note we consider relations among bounded cohomology, ordinary real cohomology and l^1 homology of spaces or groups. In particular we present a necessary and sufficient condition under which bounded cohomology injects into ordinary cohomology and by using it prove the vanishing of bounded cohomology and l^1 homology of $\text{Homeo}_c \mathbf{R}^n$, the group of all homeomorphisms of \mathbf{R}^n with compact support. We also determine the second bounded cohomology of $\text{SL}_2 \mathbf{R}$.

1. Bounded cohomology. Let us quickly review the theory of bounded cohomology developed by Gromov [2] (see also Brooks [1] and Mitsumatsu [5]). Let X be a topological space and let $\mathcal{C}_*(X) = \{C_q(X), \partial_q\}$ be the singular chain complex of X with real coefficients. Define a norm on $C_q(X)$ by $\|\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \sigma_i\| = \sum_{i=1}^n |a_i|$. The differentials ∂_q are then bounded linear operators.

Let $\mathcal{C}_*^l(X) = \{C_q^l(X), \partial_q\}$ be the norm completion of $\mathcal{C}_*(X)$. Thus $C_q^l(X) = \{\sum_{i=1}^\infty a_i \sigma_i \mid \sum_{i=1}^\infty |a_i| < \infty\}$ is a Banach space. Passing to the dual Banach spaces, we obtain a cochain complex $\mathcal{C}_b^*(X) = \{C_b^q(X), \delta_q\}$. It is a subcomplex of the ordinary singular cochain complex consisting of bounded cochains. The homology of $\mathcal{C}_*^l(X)$, denoted by $H_*^l(X)$, is called l_1 homology of X and the cohomology of $\mathcal{C}_b^*(X)$, denoted by $H_b^*(X)$, is called bounded cohomology of X . The inclusions induce homomorphisms $H_*(X) \rightarrow H_*^l(X)$ and $H_b^*(X) \rightarrow H^*(X)$.

Since the image of a bounded operator is not necessarily a closed subspace, it may happen that the pseudonorms induced on $H_*^l(X)$ or $H_b^*(X)$ are not norms. Following Mitsumatsu [5], we define $\overline{H}_*^l(X)$ (resp. $\overline{H}_b^*(X)$) to be the quotient of $H_*^l(X)$ (resp. $H_b^*(X)$) by the subspace of pseudonorm zero. In other words, $\overline{H}_q^l(X) = Z_q^l(X)/\overline{B}_q^l(X)$ and $\overline{H}_b^q(X) = Z_b^q(X)/\overline{B}_b^q(X)$, where Z or B denotes the spaces of (co)cycles or (co)boundaries of the corresponding complex and \overline{B} denotes the closure of B . Notice that $\overline{H}_q^l(X)$ and $\overline{H}_b^q(X)$ are Banach spaces. There is a

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surjective homomorphism $\bar{H}_b^q(X) \rightarrow (\bar{H}_q^{l_1}(X))'$, where ' denotes the dual Banach space.

Now for a group G , starting from the real chain complex $\mathcal{C}_*(G) = \{C_q(G), \delta_q\}$, similar constructions as above are made, yielding l^1 homology $H_*^{l_1}(G)$ and bounded cohomology $H_b^*(G)$ of G .

2. Uniform boundary condition. A chain complex is called *normed* if each chain group is a normed linear space over \mathbf{R} and each differential is a bounded linear operator.

DEFINITION 2.1. A normed chain complex \mathcal{C}_* is said to satisfy *q uniform boundary condition* (q -UBC, for short) if there exists a number $K > 0$ such that for any boundary $z \in B_q$, there is a chain $c \in C_{q+1}$ satisfying $\partial c = z$ and $\|c\| \leq K\|z\|$.

DEFINITION 2.2. (i) A topological space or a group is said to satisfy q -UBC if its ordinary chain complex satisfies q -UBC.

(ii) It is said to satisfy q -UBC^l if its l^1 chain complex satisfies q -UBC.

THEOREM 2.3. For spaces or groups, the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) q -UBC^l.
- (ii) $B_q^{l_1}$ is closed in $C_q^{l_1}$.
- (iii) $\bar{H}_q^{l_1} = H_q^{l_1}$.
- (iv) $\bar{H}_b^{q+1} = H_b^{q+1}$.
- (v) The surjective homomorphism $H_b^{q+1} \rightarrow (\bar{H}_{q+1}^{l_1})'$ is injective.

PROOF. (i) is clearly equivalent to that the bijection $C_{q+1}^{l_1}/Z_{q+1}^{l_1} \rightarrow B_q^{l_1}$ has a bounded inverse, that is, they are homeomorphic. Since $C_{q+1}^{l_1}/Z_{q+1}^{l_1}$ is a Banach space, it follows that $B_q^{l_1}$ is also a Banach space and hence (ii) holds. Conversely if (ii) is satisfied, then $B_q^{l_1}$ is a Banach space and the open mapping theorem (cf. [11]) applied to the above bijection implies (i).

(ii) \Leftrightarrow (iii) is clear.

(iii) \Leftrightarrow (iv) is a direct consequence of the closed range theorem.

(i) \Rightarrow (v). Take $f \in Z_b^{q+1}$ so that $f(z) = 0$ for all $z \in Z_{q+1}^{l_1}$. By (i), the map $B_q^{l_1} \leftarrow C_{q+1}^{l_1}/Z_{q+1}^{l_1} \xrightarrow{f} \mathbf{R}$ is bounded and thus by the Hahn-Banach theorem has an extension to $C_q^{l_1}$. This shows (v).

(v) \Rightarrow (iv). It suffices to show $\text{Ker}(H_b^{q+1} \rightarrow \bar{H}_b^{q+1}) \subset \text{Ker}(H_b^{q+1} \rightarrow (\bar{H}_{q+1}^{l_1})')$. Let $f \in \bar{B}_b^{q+1}$. Then $f = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} f_i$ ($f_i \in B_b^{q+1}$). Thus for any $z \in Z_{q+1}^{l_1}$, we have $f(z) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} f_i(z) = 0$. This completes the proof. Q.E.D.

COROLLARY 2.4. (i) If $\bar{H}_q^{l_1} = H_q^{l_1}$ and $\bar{H}_{q+1}^{l_1} = 0$, then $H_b^{q+1} = 0$.

(ii) If $\bar{H}_b^{q+1} = H_b^{q+1}$ and $\bar{H}_b^q = 0$, then $H_q^{l_1} = 0$.

(iii) The reduced bounded cohomology \bar{H}_b^* vanishes if and only if the reduced l^1 homology $\bar{H}_*^{l_1}$ also vanishes.

In Brooks [1] and Gromov [2], it is shown that the reduced bounded cohomology vanishes for spaces with amenable π_1 . This, combined with the above corollary, gives

COROLLARY 2.5. If $\pi_1(X)$ is amenable, then $\bar{H}_*^{l_1}(X) = 0$.

REMARK 2.6. It seems plausible that the l^1 homology of a space depends only on its fundamental group. But we do not have a proof.

COROLLARY 2.7. *For any space or a group, we have*

- (i) $H_1^1 = H_b^1 = 0$.
- (ii) $H_b^{-2} = H_b^2$. Equivalently, H_b^2 is a Banach space.

PROOF. First we deal with a group G . In [5], Mitsumatsu constructed for $g \in g$,

$$S(g) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k} (g^k, g^k) \in C_2^1(G).$$

Clearly, $\|S(g)\| = 1$ and $\partial S(g) = g$, showing that $H_1^1(G) = 0$ and that G satisfies 1- UBC^1 . From this follows the corollary. Notice that 0- UBC^1 is always satisfied.

For spaces, according to Gromov [2], $H_b^2(X)$ is isometric to $H_b^2(\pi_1(X))$. This shows (ii). Also it is known that $H_b^1(X) = 0$ [2]. Thus (i) follows from Corollary 2.4. Q.E.D.

We have shown that 1- UBC^1 is always true. It would be interesting to determine whether q - UBC^1 always holds or not.

Next, we investigate q - UBC for spaces or groups.

THEOREM 2.8. *The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) q - UBC .
- (ii) q - UBC^1 and Z_{q+1} is dense in Z_{q+1}^1 .
- (iii) The homomorphism $H_b^{q+1} \rightarrow H^{q+1}$ is injective.

PROOF. (i) \Rightarrow (ii). We first prove q - UBC^1 . Clearly B_q is dense in B_q^1 . Further a standard argument shows that for any $z \in B_q^1$, there exist $z_i \in B_q$ such that $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} z_i = z$ and $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|z_i\| \leq (1 + \epsilon)\|z\|$. Now by q - UBC , one can choose $c_i \in C_{q+1}$ such that $\partial c_i = z_i$ and $\|c_i\| \leq K\|z_i\|$. Let $c = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} c_i \in C_{q+1}^1$. Then $\partial c = z$ and $\|c\| \leq (1 + \epsilon)K\|z\|$.

Next we prove that Z_{q+1} is dense in Z_{q+1}^1 . Take $z \in Z_{q+1}^1$ and let $z = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} c_i$ ($c_i \in C_{q+1}$). Choose an element $d_i \in C_{q+1}$ such that $\partial d_i = -\partial c_i$ and $\|d_i\| \leq K\|\partial c_i\|$. Then we have

$$\|\partial c_i\| = \|\partial(c_i - z)\| \leq \|\partial\| \|c_i - z\| = (q + 2)\|c_i - z\|.$$

Hence $\|d_i\| \leq (q + 2)K\|c_i - z\|$. Now $c_i + d_i \in Z_{q+1}$ and $c_i + d_i \rightarrow z$.

(ii) \Rightarrow (i). This is left to the reader.

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii). Take $f \in Z_b^{q+1}$ such that $[f] = 0$ in H^{q+1} , that is, $f(z) = 0$ for any $z \in Z_{q+1}$. Then $f(z) = 0$ for any $z \in Z_{q+1}^1$. Thus f induces a bounded map $\tilde{f}: C_{q+1}^1/Z_{q+1}^1 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$. Now q - UBC^1 implies that the bijection $C_{q+1}^1/Z_{q+1}^1 \rightarrow B_q^1$ has a bounded inverse. Compose it with \tilde{f} and extend to the whole of C_q^1 by the Hahn-Banach theorem. This shows (iii).

(iii) \Rightarrow (ii). Notice that the map $H_b^{q+1} \rightarrow H^{q+1}$ is a composite of maps $H_b^{q+1} \rightarrow \overline{H}_b^{q+1} \rightarrow H^{q+1}$. Injectivity of the first map implies q - UBC^1 by Theorem 2.3. Next, clearly (iii) implies that the image of the map $H_{q+1} \rightarrow \overline{H}_{q+1}^1$ is dense. From this the denseness of Z_{q+1} follows easily. Q.E.D.

DEFINITION 2.9. A group G is said to be *uniformly perfect* if for some $N > 0$, any $g \in G$ can be represented as a product of at most N commutators.

LEMMA 2.10. *If a group G is uniformly perfect, then it satisfies 1-UBC.*

PROOF. Notice that for $f_i, g, h \in G$,

$$\begin{aligned} \partial((f_1, f_2) + (f_1f_2, f_3) + \cdots + (f_1f_2 \cdots f_{N-1}, f_N)) \\ = (f_1) + (f_2) + \cdots + (f_N) - (f_1f_2 \cdots f_N) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\partial(([g, h], h) + (ghg^{-1}, g) - (g, h)) = ([g, h])$$

where $()$ denotes a chain and $[]$ a commutator. This shows for all $f \in G$ there exists $c \in C_2(G)$ such that $\partial c = (f)$ and $\|c\| \leq 4N - 1$. That is, G satisfies 1-UBC. Q.E.D.

COROLLARY 2.11. *If G is uniformly perfect, then the map $H_b^2(G) \rightarrow H^2(G)$ is injective.*

As applications, we shall compute H_b^2 for some groups.

EXAMPLE 2.12. The group of all orientation preserving homeomorphisms of S^1 , denoted by $\text{Homeo}_+(S^1)$, is uniformly perfect. In fact any element is a product of two homeomorphisms with compact support, which are commutators by Mather [4]. Thus H_b^2 injects into H^2 . Now it is a consequence of Thurston’s general result [8] that $H^*(\text{Homeo}_+(S^1); \mathbf{Z}) \cong \mathbf{Z}[\chi]$, where $\chi \in H^2$ is the Euler class. Now H_b^* is mapped onto real cohomology, because χ can be represented by a bounded cocycle (see Morita [6]). Hence we have $H_b^2(\text{Homeo}_+(S^1)) \cong \mathbf{R}$.

EXAMPLE 2.13. Sah and Wagoner [7] have calculated second homology of certain Lie groups (considered to be discrete groups). Combined with our result, this gives information about H_b^2 . For example, $\text{SL}_2 \mathbf{R}$ is uniformly perfect (see Wood [10]) and $H_2(\text{SL}_2 \mathbf{R}; \mathbf{Z})$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z} \oplus A$, where A is a certain \mathbf{Q} -vector space. \mathbf{Z} is detected by the “volume class” $\in H^2(\text{SL}_2 \mathbf{R})$, which is a bounded cohomology class. Any element of A is supported on a torus (see [7] and Tsuboi [9]). From these, we can conclude $H_b^2(\text{SL}_2 \mathbf{R}) \cong H_b^2(\text{PSL}_2 \mathbf{R}) \cong \mathbf{R}$.

3. Bounded cohomology of $\text{Homeo}_K(\mathbf{R}^n)$. In this section we prove the vanishing of bounded cohomology and l^1 homology of $\text{Homeo}_K(\mathbf{R}^n)$, the group of all homeomorphisms of \mathbf{R}^n with compact support.

THEOREM 3.1. *For $q > 0$,*

$$H_b^q(\text{Homeo}_K(\mathbf{R}^n)) = H_q^l(\text{Homeo}_K(\mathbf{R}^n)) = 0.$$

Our argument is a refinement of Mather’s proof of the acyclicity of $\text{Homeo}_K(\mathbf{R}^n)$. In the sequel we follow Mather [4]. We write $G = \text{Homeo}_K(\mathbf{R}^n)$ and $G^i = \{g \in G : \text{supp } g \subset \text{Int } iD^n\}$ ($i = 1, 2, 3$), where D^n is the unit ball. Inclusions are denoted by $\iota^1: G^1 \rightarrow G^2$, $\iota^2: G^2 \rightarrow G^3$, $\bar{\iota} = \iota^2 \iota^1$ and $\iota: G^1 \rightarrow G$. Let C_q and C_q^i be the chain complex of G and G^i . Z_q and Z_q^i (resp. B_q and B_q^i) denote the cycle group (resp.

boundary group) of the corresponding complexes. In fact, $Z_q = B_q$ and $Z_q^i = B_q^i$ by the acyclicity of the group.

We shall prove inductively the existence of bounded linear operators $S_q: B_q^1 \rightarrow C_{q+1}$ such that $\partial_{q+1} S_q = \iota_*$. Let us show first that this suffices for our purpose. We have only to show q -UBC for G , because the acyclicity of G , together with Theorem 2.8 and Corollary 2.4 yields Theorem 3.1. Take $z \in B_q^1$. Choose $\varphi \in G$ such that φ is the identity on $\text{supp } z$ and maps $\text{supp } S_q(z)$ into $\text{Int } D^n$. Define $I_\varphi: G \rightarrow G$ by $I_\varphi(g) = \varphi g \varphi^{-1}$. Then we have $I_{\varphi^*}(S_q(z)) \in C_{q+1}^1$, $\|I_{\varphi^*}(S_q(z))\| = \|S_q(z)\| \leq \|S_q\| \|z\|$ and $\partial(I_{\varphi^*}(S_q(z))) = I_{\varphi^*}(\partial S_q(z)) = I_{\varphi^*}(z) = z$. This proves q -UBC for G^1 , hence for G .

S_1 is constructed in an elementary fashion as follows. Choose $k \in G$ such that $k(3D^n) \cap 3D^n = \emptyset$ and that $k^i(3D^n)$ tends to one point as $i \rightarrow \infty$. Define $\psi_1: G^3 \rightarrow G$ by $\psi_1(g) = \sum_{i=1}^\infty k^i g k^{-i}$ and let $\psi_0(g) = k^{-1} \psi_1(g) k$. Then for any $g \in G^3$, $\text{supp } g \cap \text{supp } \psi_1(g) = \emptyset$ and $\psi_0(g) = g \psi_1(g)$. The restrictions of ψ_i to G^1 are denoted by the same letter. Now we define a bounded linear map $S_1: B_1^1 \rightarrow C_2$ by

$$S_1(g) = (k, g) - (\psi_1(g), k) + (kg, \psi_1(g)).$$

Direct computation shows $\partial_2 S_1 = \iota_*$.

Next we assume there exist $S_j^1: B_j^1 \rightarrow C_{j+1}^2$ and $S_j^2: B_j^2 \rightarrow C_{j+1}^3$ for $0 \leq j \leq q-1$ and construct $S_q: B_q^1 \rightarrow C_{q+1}$. Let $\alpha: C_*(G \times G) \rightarrow C_* \otimes C_*$ (resp. $\beta: C_* \otimes C_* \rightarrow C_*(G \times G)$) be the Alexander-Whitney map (resp. Eilenberg-Mac Lane map) (see Mac Lane [3]). Those maps for G^i are also denoted by the same letters. They are functorial and if we give a norm to $C_* \otimes C_*$ in a canonical manner, they are bounded linear.

For each $z \in B_q^1$, define $D(z) = \alpha \Delta_* z - (z \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes z)$, where $\Delta: G^1 \rightarrow G^1 \times G^1$ is the diagonal map. Then $D(z) \in Z'_q(C^1 \otimes C^1) = Z_q(C^1 \otimes C^1) \cap \sum_{i=1}^{q-1} C_i^1 \otimes C_{q-i}^1$. D is bounded linear. Now let Z^1 and \bar{B}^1 be the chain complexes (with trivial differential) defined by $(Z^1)_q = Z_q^1$ and $(\bar{B}^1)_q = B_{q-1}^1$. Then we have the following commutative diagram, whose horizontal sequences are all exact.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \rightarrow & (C^1 \otimes Z^1)_{q+1} & \rightarrow & (C^1 \otimes C^1)_{q+1} & \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \partial} & (C^1 \otimes \bar{B}^1)_{q+1} \rightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow \partial & & \downarrow \partial & & \downarrow \partial \\ 0 & \rightarrow & (C^1 \otimes Z^1)_q & \rightarrow & (C^1 \otimes C^1)_q & \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \partial} & (C^1 \otimes \bar{B}^1)_q \rightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow \partial & & \downarrow \partial & & \downarrow \partial \\ 0 & \rightarrow & (C^1 \otimes Z^1)_{q-1} & \rightarrow & (C^1 \otimes F^1)_{q-1} & \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \partial} & (C^1 \otimes \bar{B}^1)_{q-1} \rightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

Analogous diagrams are considered for G^2 and G^3 . They are combined by ι_*^1 and ι_*^2 . Now because $\partial(D(z)) = 0$, $(1 \otimes \partial)D(z)$ is contained in $Z'_q(C^1 \otimes \bar{B}^1)$. Notice that $Z'_q(C \otimes \bar{B}^1) = (Z^1 \otimes \bar{B}^1)'_q$. Hence by the induction assumption we can consider

$$(S^1 \otimes S^1)(1 \otimes \partial)D(z) = (S^1 \otimes S^1 \partial)D(z) \in (C^2 \otimes C^2)_{q+1}.$$

Let $u = (\iota_*^1 \otimes \iota_*^1)D(z) - \partial(S^1 \otimes S^1 \partial)D(z) \in (C^2 \otimes C^2)'_q$. Direct computation shows that $(1 \otimes \partial)u = 0$. Thus we have $u \in (C^2 \otimes Z^2)'_q$. Also we have $\partial u = 0$. That is,

$$u \in Z'_q(C^2 \otimes Z^2) = (Z^2 \otimes Z^2)'_q.$$

Therefore by the induction assumption, we can consider

$$(S^2 \otimes (\iota_*^2 - S^2\partial))u \in (C^3 \otimes C^3)_{q+1}.$$

Again direct computation shows that

$$\partial(S^2 \otimes (\iota_*^2 - S^2\partial))u = (\iota_*^2 \otimes \iota_*^2)u.$$

Hence we have $(\bar{i}_* \otimes \bar{i}_*)D(z) = \partial(ED(z))$, where

$$E = (\iota_*^2 S^1 \otimes \iota_*^2 S^1 \partial) + (S^2 \otimes (\iota_*^2 - S^2\partial))(\iota_*^1 - \partial(S^1 \otimes S^1 \partial)).$$

$E: Z'_q(C^1 \otimes C^1) \rightarrow (C^3 \otimes C^3)_{q+1}$ is a bounded linear map. We can now write

$$(\bar{i}_* \otimes \bar{i}_*)\alpha\Delta_*z = (\bar{i}_* \otimes \bar{i}_*)z \otimes 1 + \partial(ED(z)) + (\bar{i}_* \otimes \bar{i}_*)(1 \otimes z).$$

Let $\eta: G^3 \otimes G^3 \rightarrow G$ be the homomorphism given by $\eta(g, h) = g\psi_1(h)$. Applying $\eta_*\beta$, we get

$$\eta_*(\bar{i} \times \bar{i})_*\beta\alpha\Delta_*z = \iota_*z + \eta_*\beta\partial(ED(z)) + \chi_{1*}z.$$

As is well known, $\beta\alpha$ is chain homotopic to the identity. Namely there is a linear map $\Phi: C_*(G^1 \times G^1) \rightarrow C_{*+1}(G^1 \times G^1)$ such that $\beta\alpha - \text{id} = \partial\Phi + \Phi\partial$. It is easy to show that we can choose Φ as a bounded linear map. Now $\beta\alpha\Delta_*z = \Delta_*z + \partial\Phi(\Delta_*z)$. Because $\eta\Delta = \psi_0$, we have

$$\psi_{0*}z + \eta_*(\bar{i} \times \bar{i})_*\partial\Phi\Delta_*z = \iota_*z + \eta_*\beta\partial ED(z) = \psi_{1*}z.$$

Two homomorphisms ψ_0 and ψ_1 are conjugate and thus ψ_{0*} is chain homotopic to ψ_{1*} . Namely there is a linear map $\Theta: C_*^1 \rightarrow C_{*+1}$ such that $\psi_{1*} - \psi_{0*} = \partial\Theta + \Theta\partial$. Here we can also choose Θ to be bounded linear. Finally we obtain $\iota_* = \partial_{q+1}S_q$, where

$$S_q = \eta_*(\bar{i} \times \bar{i})_*\Phi\Delta_* - \Theta - \eta_*\beta ED.$$

This completes the proof.

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