

# MEASURABLE DYNAMICS OF MAPS ON PROFINITE GROUPS

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ABSTRACT. We study the measurable dynamics of transformations on profinite groups, in particular of those which factor through sufficiently many of the projection maps; these maps generalize the 1-Lipschitz maps on  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Several authors have studied the measurable dynamics of polynomial maps that define Haar measure-preserving transformations on balls or spheres in the (locally compact) field of  $p$ -adic numbers, see for example [GKL01], [CP01], [Ana02], [BS05]. Anashin [Ana02] has studied a class of maps on  $\mathbb{Z}_p^k$  that are 1-Lipschitz and that he calls *compatible*; Anashin stated that if a compatible (i.e., 1-Lipschitz) map is measure-preserving, then it is bijective, and moreover it is an isometry of  $\mathbb{Z}_p^k$  (under the  $p$ -adic metric). It is also true that if it is bijective then it is measure-preserving, hence an isometry (see [BS05, Lemma 4.5]). It was also shown in [BS05] that an isometry on a compact-open subset of  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  is never totally ergodic, in contrast to the real case where, for example, irrational rotations on the circle are totally ergodic. In this paper we introduce a class of maps called *quotient-preserving maps* that generalize the asymptotically compatible (and compatible) maps of Anashin and classify their measurable dynamics. However, rather than studying these maps on  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  we find that their natural setting is in the context of profinite groups. We now outline the contents of the various sections.

Section 2 reviews inverse limits and states the basic properties of profinite groups that we will use. Section 3 is a review of applications of these notions, in particular of inverse limits, to the context of measurable dynamics. In Section 4 we introduce the notion of quotient-preserving maps and prove the following theorem on the dynamics of these maps.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $G$  be a second-countable profinite group,  $\mu$  normalized Haar measure on  $G$ , and  $T : G \rightarrow G$  a quotient-preserving map. Define the finite factor set of  $T$  as*

$$\mathcal{F}(T) = \{N \triangleleft_O G : T \text{ factors through } \pi_N : G \rightarrow G/N\}.$$

*Let  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{F}(T)$  be a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$ . For each  $N \in \mathcal{F}(T)$  let  $T_N$  denote the induced map  $G/N \rightarrow G/N$ . Then, the following are equivalent:*

- (i)  $T$  is measure-preserving (equivalently nonsingular) with respect to  $\mu$ ;
- (ii)  $T_N$  is bijective for each  $N \in \mathcal{F}$ ;
- (iii)  $T$  is surjective;

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- (iv) *There exists a translation invariant metric  $d$  inducing the topology on  $G$  such  $T$  is an isometry with respect to  $d$  and the subset of  $\mathcal{F}$  consisting of sets that are balls of some radius with respect to  $d$  is a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$ .*

Also, the following are equivalent:

- (i)  *$T$  is measure-preserving and ergodic with respect to  $\mu$ ;*
- (ii)  *$T_N$  is measure-preserving and ergodic with respect to  $\mu_{G/N}$  for each  $N \in \mathcal{F}$ ;*
- (iii)  *$T_N$  is minimal with respect to  $\mu_{G/N}$  for each  $N \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

Section 5 applies our methods to the case of continuous homomorphisms, where the additional structure allows us to give a simpler characterization of quotient-preserving maps. Finally, Section 6 applies our results to products of quotient-preserving maps. The prototypical examples of such products are given by products of 1-Lipschitz maps on  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ , for possibly different primes  $p$ . The main result of Section 6 is Theorem 6.3.

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## 2. INVERSE LIMITS

For our purposes, we are primarily interested in inverse limits in two categories:

- (i) The category **TopGp**: The objects of **TopGp** are topological groups, and the morphisms are continuous group homomorphisms.
- (ii) The category **MD**: The objects are measurable dynamical systems, and the morphisms are measure-preserving maps commuting (almost everywhere) with the action of the dynamical systems (identifying two morphisms if they agree almost-everywhere).

In the following, we let  $\mathfrak{C}$  be an arbitrary category; in light of the above, the reader should feel free to replace it with either of the above.

A *inverse system* in  $\mathfrak{C}$ , denoted  $\mathcal{D} : (I, \leq) \rightarrow \mathfrak{C}$  consists of the following data:

- (i) A directed set  $(I, \leq)$  (i.e.  $(I, \leq)$  is a partially ordered set, such that each finite subset has an upper bound in  $I$ );
- (ii) A collection  $\{\mathcal{D}(i) \in \text{Ob}_{\mathfrak{C}} : i \in I\}$  of objects of  $\mathfrak{C}$ ;
- (iii) A collection  $\{\mathcal{D}(i, j) \in \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{C}}(\mathcal{D}(j), \mathcal{D}(i)) : i \leq j\}$  of morphisms such that for all  $i \leq j \leq k \in I$  we have  $\mathcal{D}(i, j) \circ \mathcal{D}(j, k) = \mathcal{D}(i, k)$  and such that  $\mathcal{D}(i, i) = \text{id}_i$  for all  $i \in I$ .

A pair  $(L, \{\pi_i\})$  with  $L \in \text{Ob}_{\mathfrak{C}}$  and with  $\{\pi_i \in \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{C}}(L, \mathcal{D}(i)) : i \in I\}$  a collection of morphisms such that  $\mathcal{D}(i, j) \circ \pi_j = \pi_i$  for all  $i \leq j \in I$  is said to satisfy the *defining property of an inverse limit* for the inverse system  $\mathcal{D}$ .

An *inverse limit* for the inverse system  $\mathcal{D}$  is a pair  $(L, \{\pi_i\})$  satisfying the defining property of an inverse limit and the following universal property: For any pair  $(L', \{\pi'_i\})$  satisfying the defining property of an inverse limit there must exist a unique morphism  $L' \rightarrow L$  making

the following diagram commute for all  $i \leq j \in I$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & L' & \\
 \pi'_j \swarrow & \vdots & \searrow \pi'_i \\
 & L & \\
 \pi_j \swarrow & & \searrow \pi_i \\
 H_j & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}(i,j)} & H_i
 \end{array}$$

Such an object, which is unique if it exists, is denoted by

$$\varprojlim_{i \in I} \mathcal{D}(i).$$

If  $\mathfrak{C}$  is **TopGp** then each directed system in  $\mathfrak{C}$  has an inverse limit, given by the following construction:

$$\varprojlim_{i \in I} \mathcal{D}(i) = \{x \in \prod_{i \in I} \mathcal{D}(i) : \pi_i(x) = \mathcal{D}(i, j)(\pi_j(x)) \text{ for all } i \leq j \in I\},$$

with the subspace topology from the product topology and with projection maps given by the projection maps from the product.

We are now ready to define a *profinite group*. We say that a topological group  $G$  is *profinite* if it is isomorphic, as a topological group, to an inverse limit of finite groups. That is, if

$$G \cong \varprojlim_{i \in I} \mathcal{D}(i)$$

for  $\mathcal{D} : (I, \leq) \rightarrow \mathbf{TopGp}$  an inverse system of *finite* (topological via the discrete topology) groups.

Let us sketch and cite some standard results on profinite groups:

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $G$  be a profinite group. Then:*

- (i)  $G$  is a compact Hausdorff totally-disconnected topological group. Moreover, these properties characterize profinite groups.
- (ii) Every open subgroup  $U \leq_O G$  is also closed (this in fact holds for all topological groups).
- (iii) Every open subgroups  $U \leq_O G$  has finite index.
- (iv) The normal open subgroups form a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$  (equivalently, their translates form a base for the topology on  $G$ ).
- (v) Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a collection of open normal subgroups of  $G$  such that  $\mathcal{F}$  is a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$ . Then, we may order  $\mathcal{F}$  by inclusion, and for  $N \supseteq N'$  we have a projection  $G/N' \rightarrow G/N$ . This makes the system of quotients  $G/N$  into an inverse system, with

$$G \cong \varprojlim_{N \in \mathcal{F}} G/N,$$

where the inverse limit and isomorphism are **TopGp**.

(vi) Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be smallest  $\sigma$ -algebra containing the compact subsets of  $G$ . Then, there is a unique measure  $\mu$  on  $\mathcal{B}$  such that  $\mu(gS) = \mu(sG) = \mu(S)$  for  $g \in G$  and  $S \in \mathcal{B}$ ,  $\mu$  is regular, and  $\mu(G) = 1$ . We call  $\mu$  the (normalized) Haar measure on  $G$ .

*Proof.* For (i), note that the product space in the construction given above is compact Hausdorff. Then,  $G$  corresponds to a closed subgroup of the product, and so is also a compact Hausdorff topological group. That  $G$  is totally disconnected then follows from (ii) and (iv). For the converse, it suffices to show that (iv) holds for such a space and then use the proof of (v); for this see the reference below.

Distinct cosets of  $U$  are disjoint; so the union of the cosets different from  $U$  is just  $G \setminus U$ , and this set must be open. This proves claim (ii). Claim (iii) follows by compactness.

Say  $G \cong \varprojlim_{i \in I} \mathcal{D}(i)$ ,  $\mathcal{D}(i)$  finite groups with the discrete topology, and let  $\pi_i : G \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(i)$  be the projection map. Then,  $\ker \pi_i$  is a normal open subgroup of  $G$  for each  $i \in I$ . We readily check that these form a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$  (indeed, their cosets are just the restriction of the standard base for the product topology on the inverse limit). This proves (iv).

Now, say  $\mathcal{F}$  forms a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$ . Let  $\pi_N : G \rightarrow G/N$  be the quotient maps. Then,  $(G, \{\pi_N\})$  satisfies the defining property of the inverse limit, so by the universal property of the inverse limit we have a canonical map

$$\phi : G \longrightarrow \varprojlim_{N \in \mathcal{F}} G/N$$

such that the appropriate diagram must commute. Note that this map must be an injection, for

$$\bigcap_{N \in \mathcal{F}} \ker \pi_N = \bigcap_{N \in \mathcal{F}} N = \{1\}.$$

Furthermore, the image of  $\phi$  must be dense, and must be compact as  $G$  is compact,  $\phi$  continuous, and the inverse limit Hausdorff. So,  $\phi$  is surjective. So,  $\phi$  is a continuous bijection. But,  $\phi$  must take closed, hence compact, sets to compact, hence closed, sets; so  $\phi^{-1}$  is continuous. So,  $\phi$  is an isomorphism of topological groups. This proves (v). For more on the general theory of topological groups see for instance [Pon66]. For complete proofs of the above claims, see for instance [Wil98, p. 17-20].

Finally,  $G$  is a compact topological group, so it is unimodular and has a unique (left and right) Haar measure. This proves (vi). For more details on Haar measure on locally compact groups and the unimodularity of compact groups see for instance [Fol95, p. 36-47].  $\square$

**Example 2.2.** Let  $I = \mathbb{N}$ , and for  $k \in I$  let  $\mathcal{D}(i) = \mathbb{Z}/p^i\mathbb{Z}$ . For  $i \leq j \in I$  let  $\mathcal{D}(i, j) : \mathbb{Z}/p^j\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/p^i\mathbb{Z}$  be the reduction mod  $p^i$  map. Then, we have

$$\mathbb{Z}_p \cong \varprojlim_{i \in I} \mathcal{D}(i) = \varprojlim_{k \geq 1} \mathbb{Z}/p^k\mathbb{Z},$$

where  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  refers to the additive group of the ring of  $p$ -adic integers.

### 3. MEASURABLE DYNAMICAL STRUCTURE

By a *measurable dynamical system* we mean a 4-tuple  $(X, \mu, \mathcal{B}, T)$  where  $X$  is a set,  $\mathcal{B}$  is a  $\sigma$ -algebra of subsets of  $X$ ,  $\mu$  is a probability measure on  $\mathcal{B}$ , and  $T$  is a  $\mathcal{B}$ -measurable function. We define a *morphism of measurable dynamical systems*  $(X, \mu, \mathcal{B}, T) \rightarrow (X', \mu', \mathcal{B}', T')$  to be

an equivalence class of maps  $\phi : X \rightarrow X'$  such that  $\phi$  is measurable and measure-preserving, and  $\phi \circ T(x) = T' \circ \phi(x)$  holds outside a set of  $\mu$ -measure 0; our equivalence relation is to identity  $\phi : X \rightarrow X'$  and  $\phi' : X \rightarrow X'$  when  $\phi(x) = \phi'(x)$  holds outside a set of  $\mu$ -measure 0. These definitions define a category, which we shall denote **MD**.

Inverse limits need not always exist in **MD**; indeed even when the inverse system consists just of finite direct products, there need not be a measure on the topological inverse limit [Hal50, p. 214]. There are significant existence results, such as in the case of standard spaces [Par67] or of topological measures on compact spaces [Cho58]. Even without these topological restrictions, we may sometimes be guaranteed that an inverse system has an inverse limit; furthermore when an inverse limit exists its dynamics are closely related to the dynamics of the systems in the inverse system:

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $(I, \leq)$  be an directed set, and  $\mathcal{D} : I \rightarrow \mathbf{MD}$  an inverse system in **MD**. Moreover, assume there is an object  $U = (X, \mu, \mathcal{B}, T)$  and morphisms  $\{\pi_i \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{MD}}(U \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(i)) : i \in I\}$  such that the following diagram commutes for each  $i \leq j \in I$*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & U & \\ \pi_j \swarrow & & \searrow \pi_i \\ \mathcal{D}(j) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}(i,j)} & \mathcal{D}(i) \end{array}$$

For each  $i \in I$ , let  $\mathcal{B}_i$  denote the  $\sigma$ -algebra of measurable sets of  $\mathcal{D}(i)$ , and let  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}$  be the smallest  $\sigma$ -algebra containing

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} \pi_i^{-1}(\mathcal{B}_i).$$

Then,  $(X, \mu, \tilde{\mathcal{B}}, T)$  is an inverse limit for  $\mathcal{D}$ .

Moreover, if  $L$  is an inverse limit for  $\mathcal{D}$  then  $L$  is measure-preserving if and only if  $\mathcal{D}(i)$  is measure-preserving for each  $i \in I$ . The previous sentence still holds when one adds to “measure-preserving” any of the following additional conditions: ergodic, weakly mixing, mixing.

*Proof.* See [Bro72]. □

Now, Proposition 2.1(vi) turns each profinite group, in a natural way, into a probability space. Say  $G$  is a profinite group,  $\mu$  Haar measure on  $G$ , and  $\mathcal{B}$  the  $\sigma$ -algebra of  $\mathcal{B}$ -measurable sets. Then, for any  $\mu$ -measurable map  $T : G \rightarrow G$  we have that the 4-tuple  $\Sigma = (G, \mu, \mathcal{B}, T)$  is an object of **MD**. The final statement of Proposition 2.1 combined with Proposition 3.1 suggests that we may be able to study the dynamics of a system on  $G$  by looking at systems on some finite quotients of  $G$ . Unfortunately, for  $N \triangleleft_O G$  an open normal subgroup,  $T$  need not induce a well-defined map  $G/N \rightarrow G/N$ . We may recover some such information through the following construction.

For  $N \triangleleft_O G$  we define the following objects:

- Let

$$X_N = \prod_{k \geq 0} G/N,$$

let  $\pi_N : G \rightarrow G/N$  be the quotient map, and let the map  $\Phi_N : G \rightarrow X_N$  be given by

$$x \mapsto (\pi_N(x), \pi_N(Tx), \pi_N(T^2x), \pi_N(T^3x), \dots) \quad \text{that is } \varpi_k \circ \Phi = \pi_N \circ T^k,$$

where  $\varpi_k : X_N \rightarrow G/N$  is projection to the  $k^{\text{th}}$  slot.

- We may define a measure on  $X_N$  such that  $\Phi_N$  is measure-preserving; specifically, let  $\mu_N = \mu \circ \Phi_N^{-1}$ , let  $\mathcal{B}_N$  the  $\sigma$ -algebra of  $\mu_N$ -measurable sets.
- Finally, let  $T_N$  be the left-shift map on  $X_N$ . Then, we may define the following measurable dynamical system:

$$\Sigma_N = (X_N, \mu_N, \mathcal{B}_N, T_N).$$

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $\Sigma = (G, \mu, \mathcal{B}, T)$  be a measurable dynamical system with  $G$  a profinite group and  $\mu$  Haar measure on  $G$ . Let  $\Sigma_N, \Phi_N$  be as above.*

*Say  $I \subseteq \{N \triangleleft_O G\}$  is ordered by set-inclusion. For  $N \supseteq N' \in I$ , we have a natural projection  $G/N' \rightarrow G/N$ ; this induces a morphism (of **MD**)  $\Sigma_{N'} \rightarrow \Sigma_N$ . Now, we may define  $\mathcal{D} : (I, \supseteq) \rightarrow \mathbf{MD}$  by*

$$\mathcal{D}(N) = \Sigma_N \quad \mathcal{D}(N, N') = \text{the above morphism } \Sigma_{N'} \rightarrow \Sigma_N$$

for all  $N, N' \in I$ .

Then:

- (i)  $\mathcal{D}$  is an inverse system in **MD**;
- (ii)  $(\Sigma, \{\Phi_N\})$  satisfies the defining property for the inverse limit of  $\mathcal{D}$ ;
- (iii)  $\mathcal{D}$  has an inverse limit in **MD**;
- (iv) If  $G$  is second-countable and  $I$  forms a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$ , then  $(\Sigma, \{\Phi_N\})$  is an inverse limit for  $\mathcal{D}$ .

*Proof.* The commutativity of the appropriate diagrams for (i) and (ii) are routine verifications. We note that the maps  $\pi_N$ , as well as the maps  $\mathcal{D}(N, N')$  are surjective continuous group homomorphisms. It is a standard result that surjective continuous group homomorphisms preserve Haar measure. Also, for each  $N \in I$ , the map  $\Phi_N$  is continuous and is measure-preserving by construction of  $\mu_N$ . So, all relevant maps are indeed morphisms in **MD** and claims (i) and (ii) are complete. Then, claim (iii) follows by Prop 3.1.

Now, by Prop 3.1, letting  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}$  be the smallest  $\sigma$ -algebra containing

$$\bigcup_{N \in I} \Phi_N^{-1}(\mathcal{B}_N),$$

we have that  $(X, \mu, \tilde{\mathcal{B}}, T)$  is an inverse limit for  $\mathcal{D}$ . Noting that the maps  $\Phi_N$  are measurable we have  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}} \subseteq \mathcal{B}$ .

Say  $G$  is second-countable. Each element of  $I$  is a compact-open set, and is thus a finite union of elements of the countable base of  $G$ . As the collection of finite subsets of a countable set is itself countable, we have that  $I$  must be at most countable. Moreover, each  $N \subseteq I$  has finitely many distinct translates. So, if  $I$  forms a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$ , then the collection of translates of the elements of  $I$  form a countable base for the topology of  $G$ .

For  $N \subseteq I$ , the cosets of  $N$  are contained in  $\Phi_N^{-1}(\mathcal{B}_N)$ . So,  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}$  contains all translates of  $I$ , and hence a countable base for the open sets of  $G$ . By countable unions,  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}$  contains the open sets of  $G$ , and by taking complements it contains the closed sets of  $G$  and so the compact sets. Recalling that  $\mathcal{B}$  was generated by the compact sets, we have  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \tilde{\mathcal{B}}$ . With the above, this implies that  $\mathcal{B} = \tilde{\mathcal{B}}$  and proves our claim.  $\square$

**Example 3.3.** Let  $G = \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Note that each element of  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  has a unique expression of the form  $c + pd$  with  $c \in \{0, \dots, p-1\}$  and  $d \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Then, we may define  $T : G \rightarrow G$  by

$$T(c + pd) = d \text{ for } c \in \{0, \dots, p-1\}, d \in \mathbb{Z}_p.$$

Then,  $T$  is a surjective,  $p$ -to-1, measure-preserving map. Take  $N = p\mathbb{Z}_p$ . Then,  $\Sigma_N$  is a Bernoulli shift on  $p$  symbols. Moreover, one can show that the map  $\Phi_N : G \rightarrow X_N$  is a measurable (and topological) isomorphism.

**Example 3.4.** Let  $G = \mathbb{Z}_p$ , and define the transformation  $f : G \rightarrow G$  by

$$f(x) = \binom{x}{p} = \frac{x(x-1)\cdots(x-p+1)}{p!}.$$

Take  $N = p\mathbb{Z}_p$ . It is possible to check that  $\Sigma_N$  is a Bernoulli shift on  $p$  symbols, and that  $\Phi_N : G \rightarrow X_N$  is a measurable (and topological) isomorphism. Details of this construction are worked out in [KLPS].

#### 4. FACTORING THROUGH PROJECTIONS

Let  $G, H$  be compact topological groups. For a transformation  $T : G \rightarrow G$  we say that  $T$  *factors through* a surjective continuous group homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  if there exists a transformation  $T' : H \rightarrow H$  such that the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{T} & G \\ \downarrow \phi & & \downarrow \phi \\ H & \xrightarrow{T'} & H \end{array}$$

Let us relate this to the situation of Lemma 3.2.

**Lemma 4.1.** *Let  $G$  be a profinite group,  $\mu$  normalized Haar measure on  $G$ , and  $T : G \rightarrow G$  a transformation on  $G$ . Let  $N \triangleleft_O G$  be such that  $T$  factors through the quotient map  $\pi_N : G \rightarrow G/N$ . Let  $T'_N : G/N \rightarrow G/N$  denote the factor transformation. Let  $\Sigma_N = (X_N, \mu_N, \mathcal{B}_N, T_N)$  be as defined in Lemma 3.2. Define*

$$\Sigma'_N = (G/N, \mu_{G/N}, \mathcal{B}_{G/N}, T'_N)$$

where  $\mu_{G/N}$  is Haar measure on the finite group  $G/N$  (i.e. normalized counting measure), and  $\mathcal{B}_{G/N}$  its  $\sigma$ -algebra (i.e. the power set of  $G/N$ ). Then, projection to the first coordinate  $X_N \rightarrow G/N$  gives an isomorphism

$$\Sigma_N \cong \Sigma'_N.$$

*Proof.* For  $k \geq 0$ , let  $\varpi_k : X_N \rightarrow G/N$  be the projection to the  $k^{\text{th}}$  coordinate. Then, by the definition of  $T_N$  and  $T'_N$  we have the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
& & G & & \\
& \Phi_N \swarrow & \downarrow & \searrow \pi_N & \\
X_A & \xrightarrow{\varpi_0} & G & \xrightarrow{\varpi_0} & G/N \\
\downarrow T_N^k & & \downarrow T^k & & \downarrow T_N'^k \\
& & G & & \\
& \Phi_N \swarrow & \downarrow & \searrow \pi_N & \\
X_A & \xrightarrow{\varpi_0} & G & \xrightarrow{\varpi_0} & G/N
\end{array}$$

for each  $k \geq 0$ , where  $T^k$ ,  $T_N^k$ , and  $T_N'^k$  denote the  $k$ -fold composites of  $T, T_N, T'_N$  respectively.

Note that for  $x \in G/N$ ,

$$\mu_N(\varpi_0^{-1}(x)) = \mu(\Phi_N^{-1}\varpi_0^{-1}(x)) = \mu(\pi_N^{-1}(x)) = \mu_{G/N}(x).$$

So,  $\varpi_0$  is measure-preserving and  $\Sigma'_N$  is a measurable factor of  $\Sigma_N$ . Moreover, note that  $\varpi_k = \varpi_0 \circ T_N^k = \varpi_0 \circ T_N'^k \circ \varpi_0$ ; so each element of  $X_N$  is uniquely determined by its first entry. It follows that  $\varpi_0^{-1}(\mathcal{B}_{G/N}) = \mathcal{B}_N$ . Then,

$$\Sigma'_N \cong (X_N, \mu_N, \varpi_0^{-1}(\mathcal{B}_{G/N}), T_N) = (X_N, \mu_N, \mathcal{B}_N, T_N) = \Sigma_N. \quad \square$$

For  $T : G \rightarrow G$ , define the *finite factor set* of  $T$  as

$$\mathcal{F}(T) = \{N \triangleleft_O G : T \text{ factors through } \pi_N : G \rightarrow G/N\}.$$

Note that each  $\pi_N$  is a continuous surjective group homomorphism, thus measure-preserving with respect to Haar measure.

**Remark 4.2.** The notion of  $\mathcal{F}(T)$  has another natural description. Denote

$$\mathcal{F}'(T) = \{\pi \in \text{Hom}_{\text{TopGrp}}(G, H) \text{ surjective} : H \text{ is a finite group, } T \text{ factors through } \pi\}/\{\sim\},$$

where  $\pi_1 \sim \pi_2$  if there exists an isomorphism  $\text{im } \pi_1 \cong \text{im } \pi_2$  conjugating the two maps.

That is,  $\mathcal{F}'(T)$  is the set of all finite group factors of  $T : G \rightarrow G$ . The relationship between  $\mathcal{F}(T)$  and  $\mathcal{F}'(T)$  is clear: for each  $N \in \mathcal{F}(T)$  we have  $G \rightarrow G/N \in \mathcal{F}'(T)$ , and conversely for each  $\pi \in \mathcal{F}'(T)$  we have  $\ker \pi \in \mathcal{F}(T)$ .

**Definition 4.3.** For a profinite group  $G$ , we say that  $T : G \rightarrow G$  is a *quotient-preserving map* if the cosets of  $\mathcal{F}(T)$  form a base for the topology of  $G$ .

If  $G$  is known to be second-countable, then Lemma 3.2 and Lemma 4.1 give us that

$$\Sigma \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (G, \mu, \mathcal{B}, T) \cong \varprojlim_{N \in \mathcal{F}(T)} \Sigma'_N,$$

where  $\Sigma'_N$  is in the sense of Lemma 4.1, and  $\Sigma'_N$  is in particular a measurable dynamical system on a finite set.

We invite the reader to prove the following alternate characterization of the quotient-preserving maps:

**Lemma 4.4.** *Let  $G$  be a profinite group. Then a map  $T : G \rightarrow G$  is a quotient-preserving map if and only if there exists a directed set  $(I, \leq)$  and an inverse system  $\mathcal{D} : I \rightarrow \mathbf{TopGp}$  of finite groups such that*

$$G \cong \varprojlim_{i \in I} \mathcal{D}(i)$$

and  $T$  factors through the projection  $G \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(i)$  for each  $i \in I$ . The inverse system may be assumed surjective. In addition, instead of  $T$  factoring through each projection, it suffices that for each  $i \in I$  there exists a  $j \in I$  with  $i \leq j$  such that  $T$  factors through the projection  $G \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_j$ .

**Example 4.5.** Let  $G = \mathbb{Z}_p$ . We note that

$$\mathbb{Z}_p \cong \varprojlim_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{Z}/p^k \mathbb{Z}.$$

The open normal subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  are all of the form  $p^k \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Then, we see that  $T : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$  is a quotient-preserving map if and only if there is an infinite subset  $I$  of  $\mathbb{N}$  such that  $k \in I$  and  $|x - y|_p \leq p^{-k}$  implies that  $|Tx - Ty|_p \leq p^{-k}$ . In particular, this holds for all maps satisfying  $|Tx - Ty|_p \leq |x - y|_p$  (i.e., the 1-Lipschitz maps). In this context, our notion of quotient-preserving maps may be viewed as generalizing the notions of (asymptotically) compatible maps found in [Ana02], and our Proposition 4.9 generalizes Lemma 4.5 of [BS05].

**Example 4.6.** Let  $G = \mathbb{Z}_p \times \mathbb{Z}_p$ . We note that

$$G \cong \varprojlim_{k_1, k_2 \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{Z}/p^{k_1} \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/p^{k_2} \mathbb{Z}.$$

Let  $T$  be given by multiplication by an element of  $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . Given  $k_1, k_2 \in \mathbb{N}$  it need not be the case that  $T$  factors through the projection to  $\mathbb{Z}/p^{k_1} \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/p^{k_2} \mathbb{Z}$ . However,  $T$  does factor through the projection for  $k_1 = k_2$ . The kernels of these projections form a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$ , so  $T$  is a quotient-preserving map.

**Lemma 4.7.** *Let  $G$  be a profinite group and  $T : G \rightarrow G$  a quotient-preserving map. Then,  $T$  is continuous.*

*Proof.* Say  $T$  factors through  $\pi_N : G \rightarrow G/N$  as  $T_N$  for each  $N \in \mathcal{F}(T)$ .

For  $N \in \mathcal{F}(T)$  and  $h \in G/N$ , then

$$T^{-1}(\pi_N^{-1}(h)) = \pi_N^{-1}(T_N^{-1}(h)) = \bigcup_{h' \in T_N^{-1}(h)} \pi_N^{-1}(h').$$

As the sets

$$\{\pi_N^{-1}(h) : N \in \mathcal{F}(T), h \in G/N\}$$

are precisely the cosets of the elements of  $\mathcal{F}(T)$  they form a base for the topology on  $G$ . As  $T^{-1}$  takes each set in this base to an open set, continuity of  $T$  follows.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.8.** *Let  $G$  be a compact Hausdorff topological group,  $\mu$  normalized Haar measure on  $G$ , and  $T : G \rightarrow G$  continuous. If  $T$  is nonsingular with respect to  $\mu$ , then  $T$  is surjective.*

*Proof.* As  $T$  is continuous,  $T(G)$  is the continuous image of a compact set, thus compact and so closed in the Hausdorff space  $G$ .

But,

$$\mu(T^{-1}(G \setminus T(G))) = \mu(\emptyset) = 0,$$

and by nonsingularity

$$\mu(G \setminus T(G)) = 0.$$

Note that  $\mu$  is positive on non-empty open sets, so this implies that  $G \setminus T(G)$  does not contain a non-empty open set and hence that  $T(G)$  is dense in  $G$ . As  $T(G)$  is closed in  $G$ , this implies  $T(G) = G$ . So,  $T$  is surjective.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.9.** *Let  $G$  be a second-countable profinite group,  $\mu$  normalized Haar measure on  $G$ , and  $T : G \rightarrow G$  a quotient-preserving map. Let  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{F}(T)$  be a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$ . For each  $N \in \mathcal{F}(T)$  let  $T_N$  denote the induced map  $G/N \rightarrow G/N$ . Then, the following are equivalent:*

- (i)  $T_N$  is bijective on  $G/N$  for all  $N \in \mathcal{F}$ ;
- (ii)  $T_N$  is nonsingular with respect to  $\mu_{G/N}$  for all  $N \in \mathcal{F}$ ;
- (iii)  $T_N$  is measure-preserving with respect to  $\mu_{G/N}$  for all  $N \in \mathcal{F}$ ;
- (iv)  $T$  is measure-preserving with respect to  $\mu$ ;
- (v)  $T$  is nonsingular with respect to  $\mu$ ;
- (vi)  $T$  is surjective.

*Proof.* We prove the following implications:

$$(i) \Leftrightarrow (ii) \Leftrightarrow (iii) \Leftrightarrow (iv) \Rightarrow (v) \Rightarrow (vi) \Rightarrow (i)$$

The implications (i) $\Leftrightarrow$ (ii) $\Leftrightarrow$ (iii) follow as  $G/N$  is finite and  $\mu_{G/N}$  is counting measure. The implications (iii) $\Leftrightarrow$ (iv) follow by Lemma 3.2 and Lemma 4.1. The implication (iv) $\Rightarrow$ (v) is true by definition. The implication (v) $\Rightarrow$ (vi) follows by Lemma 4.8. Finally, (vi) implies that each  $T_N$  is surjective; as a surjective map of a finite set to itself is bijective, we have (vi) $\Rightarrow$ (i).  $\square$

**Lemma 4.10.** *Let  $G$  be a second-countable profinite group,  $\mu$  normalized Haar measure on  $G$ , and  $T : G \rightarrow G$  a transformation. Then,  $T$  is a measure-preserving quotient-preserving map if and only if there exists a metric  $d : G^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  on  $G$  such that the following conditions hold:*

- (i)  $d$  induces the usual topology on  $G$ ;
- (ii)  $d$  is left translation invariant in the sense that  $d(gx, gy) = d(x, y)$  for all  $x, y, g \in G$ ;
- (iii)  $T$  is an isometry with respect to  $d$ .
- (iv) The set of open-subgroups of  $G$  which are (closed) balls with respect to  $d$ , i.e.

$$\{N \triangleleft_O G : N = \{x \in G : d(e, x) \leq r_N\} \text{ for some } r_N > 0\}$$

is a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$ .

*Proof.*  $\Rightarrow$ :

By the proof of Lemma 3.2 we note that  $\mathcal{F}(T)$  is countable and that the translates of the elements of  $\mathcal{F}(T)$  give a countable base for the topology on  $G$ . Say  $\mathcal{F}(T) = \{N'_1, N'_2, N'_3, \dots\}$ . Set  $N_1 = N'_1$ , and for  $k > 1$  let  $N_k \in \mathcal{F}(T)$  be such that  $N_k \subseteq N_{k-1} \cap N'_k$ . Note that  $N_{k-1} \cap N'_k$

is open and contains  $e$  for each  $k > 1$ , so such an  $N_k$  must exist. Then, set  $\mathcal{F} = \{N_1, N_2, \dots\}$ . Note that  $\mathcal{F}$  is countable, nested, and forms a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$ .

For  $N \triangleleft_O G$ , let  $\pi_N : G \rightarrow G/N$  be the quotient map. Then, we may define  $d : G^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  for  $x, y \in G$  by

$$d(x, y) = 2^{-\ell} \text{ where } \ell = \min\{k : \pi_{N_k}(x) = \pi_{N_k}(y)\},$$

and  $d(x, y) = 0$  if  $\pi_{N_k}(x) = \pi_{N_k}(y)$  for all  $k \geq 0$ .

We claim that  $d$  is a metric, and that it moreover satisfies the conditions in the lemma:

- It is clear by construction that  $d$  is symmetric and non-negative. Note that

$$\bigcap_{k \geq 0} N_k = \{e\},$$

so  $d(x, y) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = y$ . Moreover,  $d(x, y) \leq 2^{-k}$  and  $d(y, z) \leq 2^{-k}$  implies  $d(x, z) \leq 2^{-k}$ , so  $d$  satisfies the strong triangle inequality. So, we see that  $d$  is indeed a metric.

- The set of balls with respect to  $d$  is precisely  $\mathcal{F}$  and the emptyset. So,  $d$  satisfies condition (iv) of the Lemma, and moreover it induces the same topology as  $\mathcal{F}$  and so satisfies (i).
- As  $\pi_{N_k}$  is a homomorphism for each  $k \geq 0$ , we see immediately that  $\pi_{N_k}(x) = \pi_{N_k}(y) \Leftrightarrow \pi_{N_k}(gx) = \pi_{N_k}(gy) \Leftrightarrow \pi_{N_k}(xg) = \pi_{N_k}(yg)$  for all  $x, y, g \in G$ . So,  $d$  is (left and right) translation invariant, and satisfies (ii).
- For  $N \in \mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{F}(T)$  we have that  $T_N : G/N \rightarrow G/N$  is a bijection by Proposition 4.9. So,  $\pi_{N_k}(x) = \pi_{N_k}(y) \Leftrightarrow \pi_{N_k}(T(x)) = \pi_{N_k}(T(y))$  for all  $k \geq 0$ . So, we see that  $T$  is an isometry with respect to  $d$ , hence condition (iii).

$\Leftarrow$ :

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the collection in (iv). For each  $N \in \mathcal{F}$ , let  $r_N > 0$  be as in the definition of  $\mathcal{F}$ .

Using the fact that  $N = \{x \in G : d(e, x) = d(x, e) \leq r_N\}$  and the fact that  $d$  is left translation invariant we confirm that

$$\pi_N(x) = \pi_N(y) \Leftrightarrow x^{-1}y \in N \Leftrightarrow d(x, y) = d(x^{-1}y, e) \leq r_N.$$

Then, the fact that  $T$  is an isometry with respect to  $d$  implies that  $\pi_N(x) = \pi_N(y) \Leftrightarrow \pi_N(T(x)) = \pi_N(T(y))$ . So,  $T$  induces a well-defined injective, hence bijective as  $G/N$  is finite, map  $T_N : G/N \rightarrow G/N$ .

As this holds for arbitrary  $N \in \mathcal{F}$ , we have that  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{F}(T)$  is a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$  with  $T_N$  bijective on  $G/N$  for all  $N \in \mathcal{F}$ . This implies immediately that  $T$  is a quotient-preserving map, and by Proposition 4.9 that  $T$  is measure-preserving.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.11.** *Let  $G$  be a second-countable profinite group,  $\mu$  normalized Haar measure on  $G$ , and  $T : G \rightarrow G$  a quotient-preserving map. Let  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{F}(T)$  be a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$ . For each  $N \in \mathcal{F}(T)$  let  $T_N$  denote the induced map  $G/N \rightarrow G/N$ . Then, the following are equivalent:*

- (i)  $T$  is measure-preserving and ergodic with respect to  $\mu$ ;
- (ii)  $T_N$  is measure-preserving and ergodic with respect to  $\mu_{G/N}$  for all  $N \in \mathcal{F}$ ;
- (iii)  $T_N$  is minimal for all  $N \in \mathcal{F}$ .

By Proposition 4.9, we may replace “measure-preserving” with “nonsingular” in one or both of the above occurrences.

*Proof.* The equivalence (i) $\Leftrightarrow$ (ii) follows by Lemma 3.2 and Lemma 4.1. The equivalence (ii) $\Leftrightarrow$ (iii) holds as each  $G/N$  is finite with  $\mu_{G/N}$  the normalized counting measure.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.12.** *Let  $G$  be a compact Hausdorff topological group,  $\mu$  normalized Haar measure on  $G$ , and  $T : G \rightarrow G$  a transformation. Say  $\mathcal{F}(T) \supsetneq \{G\}$ . Then,  $T$  is not totally ergodic. In particular, if  $T$  is a quotient-preserving map then it is not totally ergodic unless  $|G| = 1$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $N \in \mathcal{F}(T) \setminus \{G\}$ . Then,  $1 < |G/N| < \infty$ , and  $T : G \rightarrow G$  factors through  $G/N$  as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{T} & G \\ \downarrow \pi_N & & \downarrow \pi_N \\ G/N & \xrightarrow{T_N} & G/N \end{array}$$

If  $T$  is ergodic then  $T_N$  is ergodic, hence minimal. In particular for  $h \in G/N$  we have that  $T^\ell(h) = h$  if and only if  $|G/N| \mid \ell$ . Then,  $T^{|G/N|}$  factors through the projection as  $T_N^{|G/N|}$ ; but this is just the identity map on  $G/N$ . So,  $T$  is not totally ergodic.

If  $T$  is a quotient-preserving map, then

$$G \cong \varprojlim_{N \in \mathcal{F}(T)} G/N$$

by Proposition 2.1. In particular  $\mathcal{F}(T) = \{G\}$  implies  $|G| = 1$ .  $\square$

**Remark 4.13.** Recall also that weakly mixing implies totally ergodic. So, the above also gives negative results for weak mixing.

Now, the results of the propositions yield the proof of Theorem 1.1.

## 5. HOMOMORPHISMS

We begin by recalling a result on when a continuous group endomorphism is measure-preserving:

**Lemma 5.1.** *Let  $G$  be a compact Hausdorff topological group,  $\mu$  normalized Haar measure on  $G$ , and  $T : G \rightarrow G$  a homomorphism of topological groups. Then, the following are equivalent*

- (i)  $T$  is nonsingular with respect to  $\mu$ ;
- (ii)  $T$  is surjective;
- (iii)  $T$  is measure-preserving with respect to  $\mu$ .

*Proof.* The assertion (i) $\Rightarrow$ (ii) follows from Proposition 4.9. The assertion (ii) $\Rightarrow$ (iii) is true as  $\mu \circ T^{-1}$  can be shown to be regular, translation invariant, and normalized. The assertion (iii) $\Rightarrow$ (i) is true by definition.  $\square$

Now, in the case of continuous group endomorphisms, we may give an alternate characterization of the collection  $\mathcal{F}(T)$  in the definition of a quotient-preserving map:

**Lemma 5.2.** *Let  $G$  be a compact Hausdorff topological group and  $T : G \rightarrow G$  a homomorphism of topological groups. Then,*

$$\mathcal{F}(T) = \{N \triangleleft_o G : N \subseteq T^{-1}(N)\}.$$

If  $T$  is surjective then in fact

$$\mathcal{F}(T) = \{N \triangleleft_O G : N = T^{-1}(N)\}.$$

*Proof.* Note that for  $N \triangleleft_O G$ , any  $T_N$  making the following diagram commute must be a group homomorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{T} & G \\ \downarrow \pi_N & & \downarrow \pi_N \\ G/N & \xrightarrow{T_N} & G/N \end{array}$$

Furthermore, such a  $T'$  exists if and only if  $N = \ker \pi_N \subseteq \ker \pi_N \circ T = T^{-1}(N)$ . If  $T$  is in addition surjective, then by Lemma 5.1 it is measure-preserving. Then,  $\mu(N) = \mu(T^{-1}(N))$  and so  $\mu(T^{-1}(N) \setminus N) = 0$ ; as  $T^{-1}(N) \setminus N$  is open, this implies that it is empty and so  $T^{-1}(N) = N$ .

So,

$$\mathcal{F}(T) = \{N \triangleleft_O G : T(N) \subseteq N\},$$

and if  $T$  is in addition surjective then we may replace the constraint by  $T(N) = N$ .  $\square$

**Remark 5.3.** Note that if  $\mathcal{F}(T) \neq \{G\}$  then  $T$  is not ergodic. This follows because the factor transformation would be a group homomorphism on a finite group, which can not be ergodic (for it maps  $e$  to itself).

For many profinite groups, the following criterion suffices to show that all group endomorphisms are quotient-preserving maps:

**Proposition 5.4.** *Let  $G$  be a profinite group such that  $G$  has finitely many open normal subgroups of each finite index. If  $T : G \rightarrow G$  is a (Haar) nonsingular homomorphism of topological groups (i.e. a surjective continuous group homomorphism), then  $T$  is a quotient-preserving map.*

*In particular, if  $G$  has a finitely-generated dense subgroup then the any such  $T$  is a quotient-preserving map.*

*Proof.* Say  $N \triangleleft_O G$ . Then,  $T^{-1}(N) \triangleleft_O G$ . Taking measures and noting that  $T$  is measure-preserving with respect to Haar measure by Lemma 5.1 we observe that

$$1/[G : N] = \mu(N) = \mu(T^{-1}(N)) = 1/[G : \mu(T^{-1}(N))].$$

Now, for  $N \triangleleft_O G$  consider the collection

$$\{T^{-k}(N) : k \geq 0\}.$$

Each element of the this collection must be an open normal subgroup of the same index in  $G$ , so the collection must be finite by hypothesis. Set

$$N' = \bigcap_{k \geq 0} T^{-k}(N),$$

where the intersection is over finitely many distinct sets; so  $N' \triangleleft_O G$ . Note that  $N \cap T^{-1}(N') = N'$ , so  $N' \subseteq T^{-1}(N')$  and  $N' \in \mathcal{F}(T)$  by Lemma 5.2. Moreover,  $N' \subseteq N$  and  $N$  may be written as a union of cosets of  $N'$ . As this holds for arbitrary  $N \triangleleft_O G$ , we see that  $\mathcal{F}(T)$  forms a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$ , and  $T$  is a quotient-preserving map.

By [Wil98, Lemma 4.1.2], if  $G$  has a finitely-generated dense subgroup then  $G$  has finitely many open normal subgroups of a given index, and the final assertion of the proposition follows.  $\square$

We may apply the Proposition to several groups of interest:

**Corollary 5.5.** *Let  $G = \prod_{i=1}^g \mathbb{Z}_{p_i}^{e_i}$  with the  $p_i$  rational primes and  $e_i \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then, any continuous homomorphism  $T : G \rightarrow G$  is a quotient-preserving map and is not ergodic.*

*Proof.* We note that  $G$  contains a dense finitely-generated subgroup

$$\prod_{i=1}^g \mathbb{Z}^{e_i}.$$

Then,  $G$  has finitely many open normal subgroups of a given index, and in particular for each open normal subgroup  $N \triangleleft_O G$  we have that  $\{T^{-k}(N)\}$  must be finite (for each element of this set has index equal to the index of  $N$ ). Applying Proposition 5.4 proves that  $T$  is a quotient-preserving map, and applying Remark 5.3 yields that  $T$  is not ergodic.  $\square$

**Corollary 5.6.** *Let  $G = \mathbb{Z}_p^k$ . Then, the nonsingular continuous homomorphisms  $T : G \rightarrow G$  are given by multiplication by elements of  $\mathrm{GL}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . Any such homomorphism is a quotient-preserving map and is not ergodic.*

*Proof.* We note that  $\mathbb{Z}^k$  is dense in  $G$ , and so a continuous homomorphism is defined by its values on a basis for  $\mathbb{Z}^k$ . In particular, this implies that any continuous homomorphism must be given by multiplication by some  $T \in \mathrm{Mat}_{k \times k}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . By Proposition 4.9 we must have  $T$  surjective. In particular, the image of  $T$  must contain the generators for  $\mathbb{Z}_p^k$ , so there must exist a  $S \in \mathrm{Mat}_{k \times k}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  such that  $TS = \mathrm{id}_{k \times k} \in \mathrm{Mat}_{k \times k}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . Then,  $T \in \mathrm{GL}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  (and of course, the converse holds by reversing this logic). Now, the previous corollary gives that this map must be a quotient-preserving map and is not ergodic.  $\square$

**Remark 5.7.** In this context we mention that Juzvinskiĭ [Juz65] showed that ergodic group endomorphisms have completely positive entropy and Lind proves in [Lin77] that ergodic automorphisms of compact metrizable groups are measurably isomorphic to Bernoulli shifts.

## 6. PRODUCTS

**Lemma 6.1.** *Let  $A$  be an index set. For each  $\alpha \in A$  let  $G_\alpha$  be a profinite group and  $T_\alpha : G_\alpha \rightarrow G_\alpha$  a quotient-preserving map. Then,*

$$G = \prod_{\alpha \in A} G_\alpha$$

*is a profinite group, and*

$$T = \prod_{\alpha \in A} T_\alpha$$

*is a quotient-preserving map on  $G$ .*

*Proof.* Note that for each  $\alpha \in A$  we have that  $\mathcal{F}(T_\alpha)$  is a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G_\alpha$ . Then, the collection

$$\mathcal{F} = \left\{ \prod_{\alpha \in A} N_\alpha : N_\alpha \in \mathcal{F}(T_\alpha), N_\alpha = G_\alpha \text{ for all but finitely many } \alpha \in A \right\}$$

forms a base for the neighborhoods of  $e \in G$ . Moreover, observe that each element of  $\mathcal{F}$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ .

We claim that

$$G \cong \varprojlim_{N \in \mathcal{F}} G/N.$$

Indeed, the natural projections induce a homomorphism

$$\phi : G \longrightarrow \varprojlim_{N \in \mathcal{F}} G/N.$$

Observe that  $\phi$  is injective as  $G$  is Hausdorff. Moreover,  $\phi$  is continuous and  $G$  compact (by Tychonoff's Theorem), so the image of  $\phi$  is closed; but the image of  $\phi$  is also dense in the codomain. So,  $\phi$  is surjective. Then,  $\phi$  is a continuous bijection with compact domain, so a homeomorphism, and  $G$  is indeed profinite.

Now, note that for any  $N \in \mathcal{F}$ ,  $T$  factors through the projection  $G \rightarrow G/N$  as the product of the factor transformations in each coordinate. So,  $T$  is a quotient-preserving map.  $\square$

**Lemma 6.2.** *Let  $S_k$  be a finite non-empty set and  $T_k : S_k \rightarrow S_k$  a transformation for  $k = 1, \dots, n$ . Let*

$$S = \prod_{k=1}^n S_k, \quad T = \prod_{k=1}^n T_k.$$

*Then,  $T$  is minimal on  $S$  if and only if each  $T_k$  is minimal on  $S_k$  and the  $|S_k|$  are pairwise coprime.*

*Proof.* Note that the general case follows from  $n = 2$  case by induction. So, we may assume  $n = 2$ .

We have that  $T$  minimal implies  $T_1, T_2$  minimal. By the minimality of  $T_k$ , each point of  $S_k$  must have full orbit. So we have  $T_k^\ell(x) = x$  if and only if  $|S_k| \mid \ell$ . Let  $\ell = |S_1||S_2|/(|S_1|, |S_2|)$  be the least common multiple of  $|S_1|, |S_2|$ . Then,

$$T^\ell(s_1, s_2) = (T_1^\ell(s_1), T_2^\ell(s_2)) = (s_1, s_2).$$

So,  $T$  minimal requires  $(|S_1|, |S_2|) = 1$ , that is that the cardinalities be coprime.

Conversely, say  $(|S_1|, |S_2|) = 1$ . In particular, given  $s_k \in T_k$ ,  $\ell_k \in \mathbb{N}$  for  $k = 1, 2$ , the Chinese Remainder Theorem gives us a  $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\ell \equiv \ell_k \pmod{|S_k|}$  for  $k = 1, 2$ . Then,

$$T^\ell(s_1, s_2) = (T_1^\ell(s_1), T_2^\ell(s_2)) = (s_1^{\ell_1}, s_2^{\ell_2}).$$

Then,  $T_1, T_2$  minimal implies  $T$  minimal.  $\square$

Then:

**Theorem 6.3.** *Let  $A, G_\alpha, T_\alpha, G, T$  be as in Lemma 6.1. Moreover, assume each  $G_\alpha$  is second-countable and  $A$  is countable. Then,  $G$  is second-countable and*

- (i)  *$T$  is nonsingular if and only if  $T_\alpha$  is nonsingular for each  $\alpha \in A$ .*
- (ii) *Denote*

$$D_\alpha = \{|G_\alpha/N_\alpha| : N_\alpha \in \mathcal{F}(T_\alpha)\}.$$

*Then,  $T$  is ergodic if and only if  $T_\alpha$  is ergodic for each  $\alpha \in A$  and for all  $\alpha, \beta \in A$  distinct and all  $n \in D_\alpha, m \in D_\beta$  we have  $(n, m) = 1$ .*

*Proof.* For each  $\alpha \in A$  let  $C_\alpha$  be a countable base for  $G_\alpha$ . We may assume without loss of generality that  $G_\alpha \in C_\alpha$  for each  $\alpha \in A$ . Then the set

$$\left\{ \prod_{\alpha \in A} S_\alpha : S_\alpha \in C_\alpha, S_\alpha = G_\alpha \text{ for all but finitely many } \alpha \in A \right\}$$

is a countable base for  $G$ . So,  $G$  is second-countable.

Note that  $T$  and each  $T_\alpha$  are quotient-preserving maps. So, by Proposition 4.9, they are nonsingular if and only if they are surjective. Now, the product of a set of maps is surjective if and only if each map is surjective. The first claim follows.

Applying Proposition 4.11 to each  $T_\alpha$  we see that  $T_\alpha$  is ergodic if and only if each of the factor transformations  $\{T_\alpha^{N_\alpha} : N_\alpha \in \mathcal{F}(T_\alpha)\}$  is minimal.

For  $N_\alpha \in \mathcal{F}(T_\alpha)$ , let  $T_\alpha^{N_\alpha}$  denote the map making the following diagram commute

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G_\alpha & \xrightarrow{T_\alpha} & G_\alpha \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ G_\alpha/N_\alpha & \xrightarrow{T_\alpha^{N_\alpha}} & G_\alpha/N_\alpha \end{array}$$

We note that  $\mathcal{F}(T_\alpha)$  is a base for the open sets containing  $e \in G_\alpha$ , and so,

$$\left\{ \prod_{\alpha \in A} N_\alpha : N_\alpha \in \mathcal{F}(T_\alpha), N_\alpha = G_\alpha \text{ for all but finitely many } \alpha \in A \right\}$$

is a base for the open sets containing  $e \in G$ . Given

$$N = \prod_{\alpha \in A} N_\alpha$$

in this base, we have that  $T$  factors through the projection  $G \rightarrow G/N$  as

$$T_N = \prod_{\alpha \in A} T_\alpha^{N_\alpha}.$$

Applying Proposition 4.11, we see that  $T$  is ergodic if and only if each of these factor transformations is minimal on the finite quotient

$$G/N = \prod_{\alpha \in A} G_\alpha/N_\alpha \cong \prod_{N_\alpha \neq G_\alpha} G_\alpha/N_\alpha.$$

Dropping trivial factors and applying Lemma 6.2, we have that  $T$  is ergodic if and only if each  $T_\alpha^{N_\alpha}$  is ergodic for all  $\alpha \in A$  and  $N_\alpha \in \mathcal{F}(T_\alpha)$  and the elements of the  $D_\alpha$  are pairwise co-prime (for different subscripts). Applying Proposition 4.11 to the  $T_\alpha$ , this yields our desired result.  $\square$

**Remark 6.4.** As a consequence, we get an alternate proof that no quotient-preserving maps are weakly mixing.

**Corollary 6.5.** *Let  $T_p : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$  be an ergodic quotient-preserving map for each rational prime  $p$ . Then, the map  $T = \prod_p T_p$  on  $G = \prod_p \mathbb{Z}_p$  is an ergodic quotient-preserving map.*

*Proof.* Follows immediately by Theorem 6.3 after noting that  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  has quotients of  $p$ -power orders.  $\square$

**Corollary 6.6.** *The maps  $x \mapsto x \pm 1$  on*

$$\widehat{\mathbb{Z}} = \varprojlim_{n,|} \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \cong \prod_p \mathbb{Z}_p$$

*is ergodic.*

*Proof.* Each maps factors through all the projections and so is a quotient-preserving map. Note that the maps  $x \mapsto x \pm 1$  are certainly minimal on  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  for each  $n > 0$ . In light of Proposition 4.11 this gives a direct proof that the induced map on  $\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}$  is ergodic. Alternatively, we may use Proposition 4.11 to show that the induced map on  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  is ergodic for each  $p$ , and then use the previous corollary.

Also, observe that for  $n > 2$ , the maps  $x \mapsto -x \pm 1$  are *not* minimal on  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  [ $1 - 0 = 1$ ,  $1 - 1 = 0$ ;  $-1 - 0 = -1$ ,  $-1 - (-1) = 0$ ].  $\square$

**Remark 6.7.** Let  $K = \mathbb{F}_p$  be the finite field of  $p$  elements. Let  $L$  be an algebraic closure of  $K$ . Then,

$$G = \text{Gal}(L/K) \cong \widehat{\mathbb{Z}}.$$

The  $p^{\text{th}}$  power map (the ‘‘Frobenius automorphism’’), denoted  $\text{Frob} \in G$ , generates a dense cyclic subgroup of  $G$ . Indeed, the map  $\widehat{\mathbb{Z}} \rightarrow G$  given by  $n \mapsto \text{Frob}^n$  induces the above isomorphism. So, the map  $x \mapsto x + 1$  on  $\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}$  may be reinterpreted as the map on  $G$  given by  $\sigma \mapsto \sigma \circ \text{Frob}$ .

Alternatively, we could let  $K = \mathbb{C}(t)$ , and  $L = \mathbb{C}(t, t^{1/2}, t^{1/3}, t^{1/4}, \dots, t^{1/n}, \dots)$ . Then,

$$G = \text{Gal}(L/K) \cong \widehat{\mathbb{Z}}.$$

Take  $\tau \in G$  defined by

$$\tau t^{1/m} = e^{2\pi\sqrt{-1}/m} t^{1/m}.$$

Then,  $\tau$  generates a dense cyclic subgroup of  $G$ , and the map  $\sigma \mapsto \sigma \circ \tau$  is the equivalent of  $x \mapsto x + 1$ .

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