

# Classifiability of crossed products by nonamenable groups

## Noncommutativity in the North

Julian Kranz (University of Münster)

joint work with E. Gardella, S. Geffen and P. Naryshkin

March 14, 2022

# Classification of $C^*$ -algebras

Theorem (KP, EGLN, TWW, CETWW, ...)

*Unital, simple, separable, nuclear,  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable  $C^*$ -algebras in the UCT class are classified by  $K$ -theory and traces.*

# Classification of $C^*$ -algebras

Theorem (KP, EGLN, TWW, CETWW, ...)

*Unital, simple, separable, nuclear,  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable  $C^*$ -algebras in the UCT class are classified by  $K$ -theory and traces.*

## Question

What  $C^*$ -algebras belong to this class (what  $C^*$ -algebras are "classifiable")?

# Classification of $C^*$ -algebras

Theorem (KP, EGLN, TWW, CETWW, ...)

*Unital, simple, separable, nuclear,  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable  $C^*$ -algebras in the UCT class are classified by  $K$ -theory and traces.*

Question

What  $C^*$ -algebras belong to this class (what  $C^*$ -algebras are "classifiable")?

Question

Let  $G \curvearrowright X$  be an action. When is  $C(X) \rtimes G$  classifiable?

# When is $C(X) \rtimes G$ classifiable?

$G \curvearrowright X$

$C(X) \rtimes G$

---

## When is $C(X) \rtimes G$ classifiable?

$G \curvearrowright X$

$C(X) \rtimes G$

---

$G$  discrete,  $X$  compact

$\Rightarrow$  unital

## When is $C(X) \rtimes G$ classifiable?

$G \curvearrowright X$

$C(X) \rtimes G$

---

$G$  discrete,  $X$  compact

$\Rightarrow$  unital

minimal, topologically free

$\Rightarrow$  simple

## When is $C(X) \rtimes G$ classifiable?

$G \curvearrowright X$

$C(X) \rtimes G$

---

$G$  discrete,  $X$  compact

$\Rightarrow$  unital

minimal, topologically free

$\Rightarrow$  simple

$G$  countable,  $X$  2nd countable

$\Rightarrow$  separable



## When is $C(X) \rtimes G$ classifiable?

$G \curvearrowright X$		$C(X) \rtimes G$
$G$ discrete, $X$ compact	$\Rightarrow$	unital
minimal, topologically free	$\Rightarrow$	simple
$G$ countable, $X$ 2nd countable	$\Rightarrow$	separable
amenable action	$\Rightarrow$	nuclear, in the UCT class (Tu)

## When is $C(X) \rtimes G$ classifiable?

$G \curvearrowright X$

$C(X) \rtimes G$

---

$G$  discrete,  $X$  compact

$\Rightarrow$  unital

minimal, topologically free

$\Rightarrow$  simple

$G$  countable,  $X$  2nd countable

$\Rightarrow$  separable

amenable action

$\Rightarrow$  nuclear, in the UCT class (Tu)

???

$\Rightarrow$   $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable

# When is $C(X) \rtimes G$ classifiable?

$G \curvearrowright X$		$C(X) \rtimes G$
$G$ discrete, $X$ compact	$\Rightarrow$	unital
minimal, topologically free	$\Rightarrow$	simple
$G$ countable, $X$ 2nd countable	$\Rightarrow$	separable
amenable action	$\Rightarrow$	nuclear, in the UCT class (Tu)
???	$\Rightarrow$	$\mathcal{Z}$ -stable

## Theorem (GGKN)

For **many** non-amenable groups,  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stability is automatic!

# When is $C(X) \rtimes G$ classifiable?

$G \curvearrowright X$		$C(X) \rtimes G$
$G$ discrete, $X$ compact	$\Rightarrow$	unital
minimal, topologically free	$\Rightarrow$	simple
$G$ countable, $X$ 2nd countable	$\Rightarrow$	separable
amenable action	$\Rightarrow$	nuclear, in the UCT class (Tu)
$G$ has " <b>paradoxical towers</b> "	$\Rightarrow$	$\mathcal{Z}$ -stable

## Theorem (GGKN)

For groups with **paradoxical towers**,  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stability is automatic!

# When is $C(X) \rtimes G$ classifiable?

$G \curvearrowright X$		$C(X) \rtimes G$
$G$ discrete, $X$ compact	$\Rightarrow$	unital
minimal, topologically free	$\Rightarrow$	simple
$G$ countable, $X$ 2nd countable	$\Rightarrow$	separable
amenable action	$\Rightarrow$	nuclear, in the UCT class (Tu)
$G$ has " <b>paradoxical towers</b> "	$\Rightarrow$	$\mathcal{Z}$ -stable

## Theorem (GGKN)

For groups with **paradoxical towers**,  $\mathcal{Z}$ -stability is automatic!

## Strategy.

paradoxical towers  $\xRightarrow{GGKN}$  Kerr's dynamical comparison  $\xRightarrow{Ma}$  purely infinite  
infinite  $\xRightarrow{Kirchberg-Phillips}$   $\mathcal{Z}$ -stable □

# Paradoxical towers

## Definition (GGKN)

A group  $G$  has  $n$ -**paradoxical towers**, if for every finite  $D \subseteq G$ , there exist  $A_1, \dots, A_n \subseteq G$  and  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$  such that

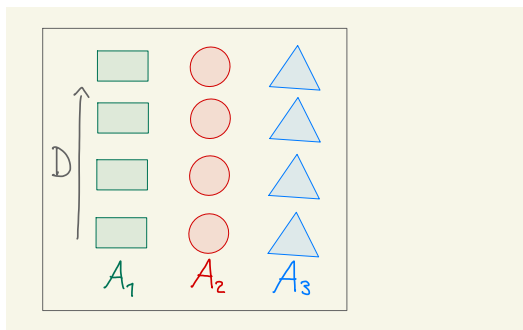
- a) The sets  $\{dA_i\}_{d \in D, i=1, \dots, n}$  are pairwise disjoint
- b)  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n g_i A_i = G$

# Paradoxical towers

## Definition (GGKN)

A group  $G$  has  $n$ -**paradoxical towers**, if for every finite  $D \in G$ , there exist  $A_1, \dots, A_n \subseteq G$  and  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$  such that

- The sets  $\{dA_i\}_{d \in D, i=1, \dots, n}$  are pairwise disjoint
- $\bigcup_{i=1}^n g_i A_i = G$

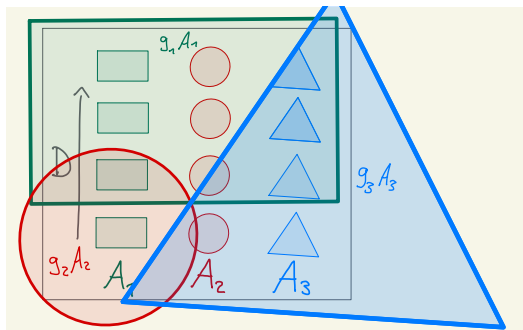


# Paradoxical towers

## Definition (GGKN)

A group  $G$  has  $n$ -**paradoxical towers**, if for every finite  $D \subseteq G$ , there exist  $A_1, \dots, A_n \subseteq G$  and  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$  such that

- The sets  $\{dA_i\}_{d \in D, i=1, \dots, n}$  are pairwise disjoint
- $\bigcup_{i=1}^n g_i A_i = G$





# Paradoxical towers

## Definition (GGKN)

A group  $G$  has  $n$ -**paradoxical towers**, if for every finite  $D \subseteq G$ , there exist  $A_1, \dots, A_n \subseteq G$  and  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$  such that

- a) The sets  $\{dA_i\}_{d \in D, i=1, \dots, n}$  are pairwise disjoint
- b)  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n g_i A_i = G$

# Paradoxical towers

## Definition (GGKN)

A group  $G$  has  $n$ -**paradoxical towers**, if for every finite  $D \Subset G$ , there exist  $A_1, \dots, A_n \subseteq G$  and  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$  such that

- a) The sets  $\{dA_i\}_{d \in D, i=1, \dots, n}$  are pairwise disjoint
- b)  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n g_i A_i = G$

## Exercise

Groups with paradoxical towers are non-amenable.

# Paradoxical towers

## Definition (GGKN)

A group  $G$  has  $n$ -**paradoxical towers**, if for every finite  $D \subseteq G$ , there exist  $A_1, \dots, A_n \subseteq G$  and  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$  such that

- a) The sets  $\{dA_i\}_{d \in D, i=1, \dots, n}$  are pairwise disjoint
- b)  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n g_i A_i = G$

## Exercise

Groups with paradoxical towers are non-amenable.

## Exercise

The free group  $F_k$  has 2-paradoxical towers.

# Paradoxical towers

## Definition (GGKN)

A group  $G$  has  $n$ -**paradoxical towers**, if for every finite  $D \subseteq G$ , there exist  $A_1, \dots, A_n \subseteq G$  and  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$  such that

- a) The sets  $\{dA_i\}_{d \in D, i=1, \dots, n}$  are pairwise disjoint
- b)  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n g_i A_i = G$

## Exercise

Groups with paradoxical towers are non-amenable.

## Exercise

The free group  $F_k$  has 2-paradoxical towers.

## Exercise

$F_k \times \mathbb{Z}$  does not have  $n$ -paradoxical towers for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

A systematic way to construct paradoxical towers

## $n$ -filling actions

### Definition (Jolissaint-Robertson)

An action  $G \curvearrowright X$  is called  $n$ -filling, if for every collection of non-empty open subsets  $U_1, \dots, U_n \subseteq X$ , there are  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$  such that  $X = g_1 U_1 \cup \dots \cup g_n U_n$ .

## $n$ -filling actions

### Definition (Jolissaint-Robertson)

An action  $G \curvearrowright X$  is called  $n$ -filling, if for every collection of non-empty open subsets  $U_1, \dots, U_n \subseteq X$ , there are  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$  such that  $X = g_1 U_1 \cup \dots \cup g_n U_n$ .

### Proposition

Let  $G \curvearrowright X$  be an  $n$ -filling action on a Hausdorff space with at least one free orbit. Then  $G$  has  $n$ -paradoxical towers.

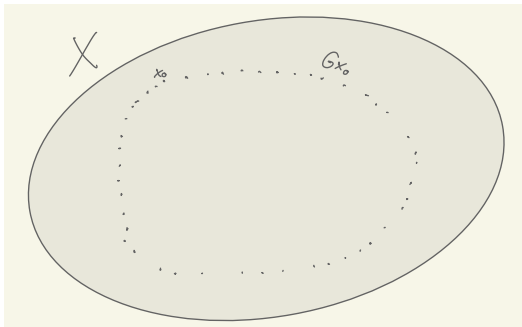
## $n$ -filling actions

### Definition (Jolissaint-Robertson)

An action  $G \curvearrowright X$  is called  $n$ -filling, if for every collection of non-empty open subsets  $U_1, \dots, U_n \subseteq X$ , there are  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$  such that  $X = g_1 U_1 \cup \dots \cup g_n U_n$ .

### Proposition

Let  $G \curvearrowright X$  be an  $n$ -filling action on a Hausdorff space with at least one free orbit. Then  $G$  has  $n$ -paradoxical towers.





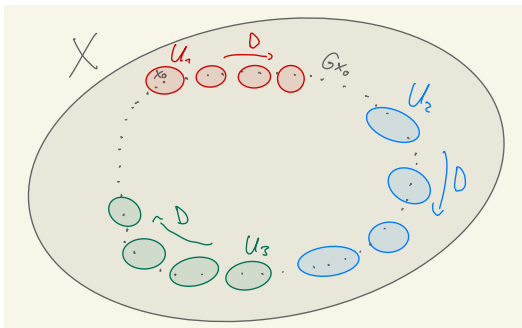
# $n$ -filling actions

## Definition (Jolissaint-Robertson)

An action  $G \curvearrowright X$  is called  $n$ -filling, if for every collection of non-empty open subsets  $U_1, \dots, U_n \subseteq X$ , there are  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$  such that  $X = g_1 U_1 \cup \dots \cup g_n U_n$ .

## Proposition

Let  $G \curvearrowright X$  be an  $n$ -filling action on a Hausdorff space with at least one free orbit. Then  $G$  has  $n$ -paradoxical towers.



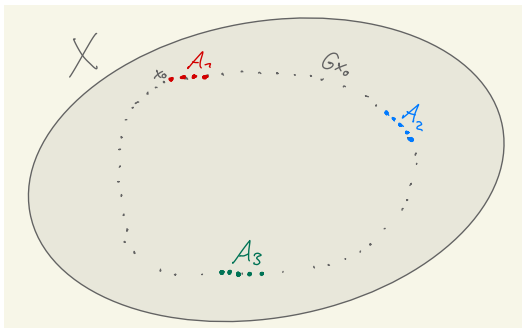
## $n$ -filling actions

### Definition (Jolissaint-Robertson)

An action  $G \curvearrowright X$  is called  $n$ -filling, if for every collection of non-empty open subsets  $U_1, \dots, U_n \subseteq X$ , there are  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$  such that  $X = g_1 U_1 \cup \dots \cup g_n U_n$ .

### Proposition

Let  $G \curvearrowright X$  be an  $n$ -filling action on a Hausdorff space with at least one free orbit. Then  $G$  has  $n$ -paradoxical towers.

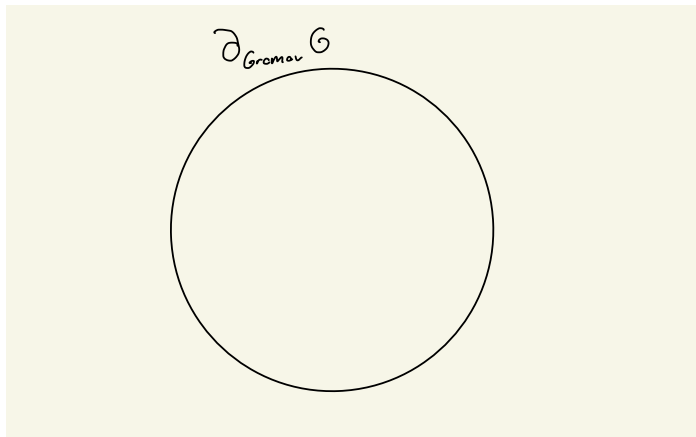


## Example: Nonamenable hyperbolic groups

$G$  nonamenable hyperbolic  $\Rightarrow G \curvearrowright \partial_{Gromov} G$  is 2-filling.

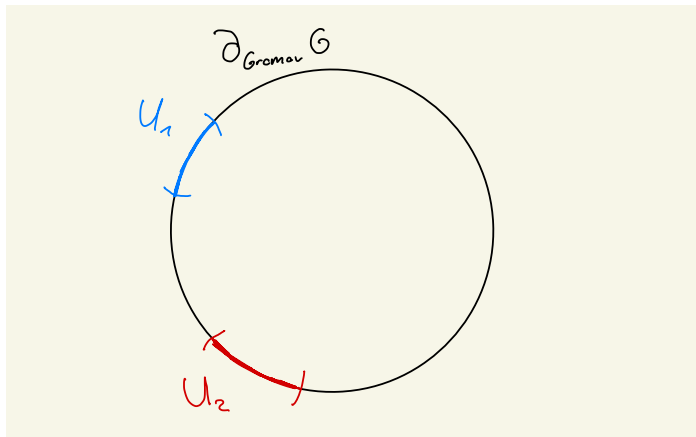
## Example: Nonamenable hyperbolic groups

$G$  nonamenable hyperbolic  $\Rightarrow G \curvearrowright \partial_{\text{Gromov}} G$  is 2-filling.



## Example: Nonamenable hyperbolic groups

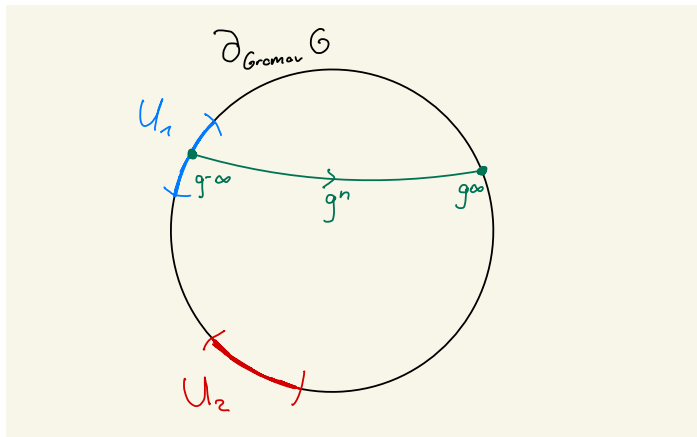
$G$  nonamenable hyperbolic  $\Rightarrow G \curvearrowright \partial_{\text{Gromov}} G$  is 2-filling.



$\emptyset \neq U_1, U_2 \subseteq X$  open

## Example: Nonamenable hyperbolic groups

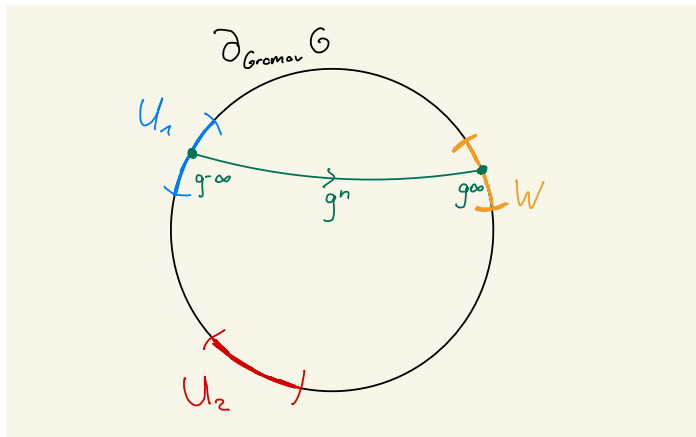
$G$  nonamenable hyperbolic  $\Rightarrow G \curvearrowright \partial_{\text{Gromov}} G$  is 2-filling.



$g \in G$  hyperbolic,  $g^{-\infty} \in U_1$

## Example: Nonamenable hyperbolic groups

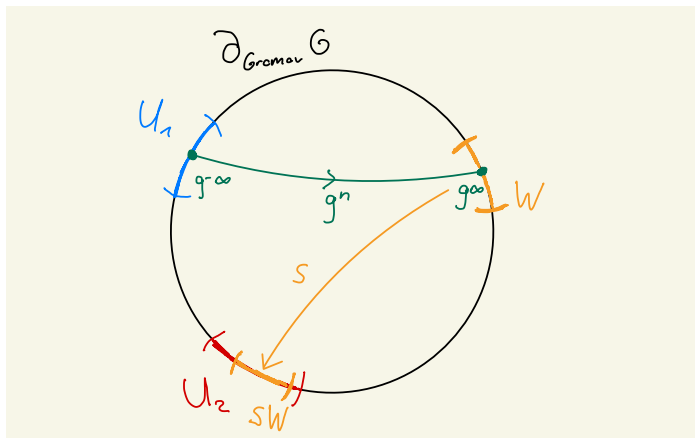
$G$  nonamenable hyperbolic  $\Rightarrow G \curvearrowright \partial_{\text{Gromov}} G$  is 2-filling.



$$g^\infty \in W \text{ open, } g^n(U_1^c) \subseteq W$$

## Example: Nonamenable hyperbolic groups

$G$  nonamenable hyperbolic  $\Rightarrow G \curvearrowright \partial_{\text{Gromov}} G$  is 2-filling.

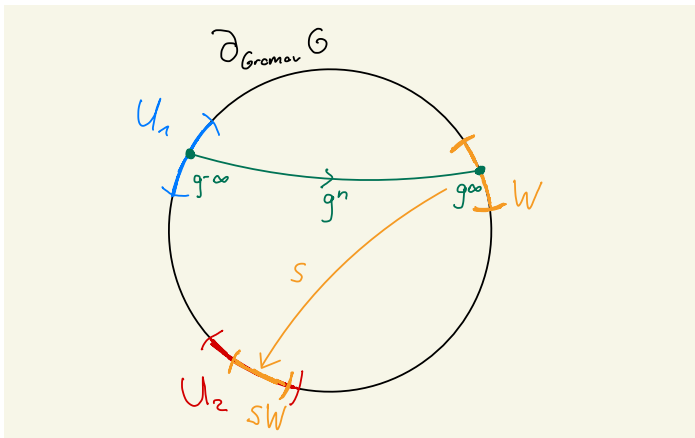


$$s \in G, sW \subseteq U_2$$



## Example: Nonamenable hyperbolic groups

$G$  nonamenable hyperbolic  $\Rightarrow G \curvearrowright \partial_{\text{Gromov}} G$  is 2-filling.



$$s \in G, sW \subseteq U_2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \partial_{\text{Gromov}} G = sg^n(U_1) \cup U_2$$

## Example: Nonamenable hyperbolic groups

### Fact

Let  $G$  be a nonamenable hyperbolic group.

- ▶ The action  $G \curvearrowright \partial_{Gromov} G$  is 2-filling.

# Example: Nonamenable hyperbolic groups

## Fact

Let  $G$  be a nonamenable hyperbolic group.

- ▶ The action  $G \curvearrowright \partial_{Gromov} G$  is 2-filling.
- ▶ If  $G$  has **trivial finite radical**, then  $G \curvearrowright \partial_{Gromov} G$  has a free orbit.

## Example: Nonamenable hyperbolic groups

### Fact

Let  $G$  be a nonamenable hyperbolic group.

- ▶ The action  $G \curvearrowright \partial_{Gromov} G$  is 2-filling.
- ▶ If  $G$  has **trivial finite radical**, then  $G \curvearrowright \partial_{Gromov} G$  has a free orbit.

$\Rightarrow G$  has paradoxical towers.

## Example: Nonamenable hyperbolic groups

### Fact

Let  $G$  be a nonamenable hyperbolic group.

- ▶ The action  $G \curvearrowright \partial_{\text{Gromov}} G$  is 2-filling.
- ▶ If  $G$  has **trivial finite radical**, then  $G \curvearrowright \partial_{\text{Gromov}} G$  has a free orbit.

$\Rightarrow G$  has paradoxical towers.

### Lemma

*Let  $N < G$  be a finite normal subgroup. Suppose that  $G/N$  has paradoxical towers. Then  $G$  has paradoxical towers too.*

# Example: Nonamenable hyperbolic groups

## Fact

Let  $G$  be a nonamenable hyperbolic group.

- ▶ The action  $G \curvearrowright \partial_{\text{Gromov}} G$  is 2-filling.
- ▶ If  $G$  has **trivial finite radical**, then  $G \curvearrowright \partial_{\text{Gromov}} G$  has a free orbit.

$\Rightarrow G$  has paradoxical towers.

## Lemma

*Let  $N < G$  be a finite normal subgroup. Suppose that  $G/N$  has paradoxical towers. Then  $G$  has paradoxical towers too.*

## Corollary

*Nonamenable hyperbolic groups have paradoxical towers.*

## More examples

Groups with paradoxical towers

$n$ -filling action

---

## More examples

Groups with paradoxical towers

$n$ -filling action

---

Acylically hyperbolic groups

Gromov boundary



## More examples

Groups with paradoxical towers

$n$ -filling action

---

Acylically hyperbolic groups

Gromov boundary

Lattices in (many) Lie groups

Poisson boundary

## More examples

Groups with paradoxical towers

$n$ -filling action

---

Acylically hyperbolic groups

Gromov boundary

Lattices in (many) Lie groups

Poisson boundary

$\tilde{A}_2$ -groups

boundary of the building

## More examples

Groups with paradoxical towers

Acylically hyperbolic groups

Lattices in (many) Lie groups

$\tilde{A}_2$ -groups

(many) HNN-extensions

$n$ -filling action

Gromov boundary

Poisson boundary

boundary of the building

boundary of Bass-Serre tree

## More examples

Groups with paradoxical towers

$n$ -filling action

Acylically hyperbolic groups

Gromov boundary

Lattices in (many) Lie groups

Poisson boundary

$\tilde{A}_2$ -groups

boundary of the building

(many) HNN-extensions

boundary of Bass-Serre tree

(many) amalgamated free products

boundary of Bass-Serre tree

## More examples

Groups with paradoxical towers

---

$n$ -filling action

Acylically hyperbolic groups

Gromov boundary

Lattices in (many) Lie groups

Poisson boundary

$\tilde{A}_2$ -groups

boundary of the building

(many) HNN-extensions

boundary of Bass-Serre tree

(many) amalgamated free products

boundary of Bass-Serre tree

(many) groups acting on  
 $CAT(0)$ -cube complexes (Ma–Wang)

visual boundary /  
Nevo–Sageev boundary

## More examples

Groups with paradoxical towers	$n$ -filling action
Acylically hyperbolic groups	Gromov boundary
Lattices in (many) Lie groups	Poisson boundary
$\tilde{A}_2$ -groups	boundary of the building
(many) HNN-extensions	boundary of Bass-Serre tree
(many) amalgamated free products	boundary of Bass-Serre tree
(many) groups acting on $CAT(0)$ -cube complexes (Ma–Wang)	visual boundary / Nevo–Sageev boundary
$\vdots$	$\vdots$

### Example (modulo caveats)

$F_n$ ,  $MCG(\Sigma)$ ,  $Out(F_n)$ ,  $SL_n(\mathbb{Z})$ ,  $BS(n, m)$ , RAAGs & RACGs, ...

## Further results

### Theorem (GGKN)

*Let  $G \curvearrowright X$  be a minimal, amenable, topologically free action of a countable discrete group on a compact metric space.*

## Further results

### Theorem (GGKN)

*Let  $G \curvearrowright X$  be a minimal, amenable, topologically free action of a countable discrete group on a compact metric space.*

- a) If  $G = H \times K$  where  $H$  has paradoxical towers, then  $C(X) \rtimes G$  is purely infinite.*



## Further results

### Theorem (GGKN)

*Let  $G \curvearrowright X$  be a minimal, amenable, topologically free action of a countable discrete group on a compact metric space.*

- a) If  $G = H \times K$  where  $H$  has paradoxical towers, then  $C(X) \rtimes G$  is purely infinite.*
- b) If  $G$  contains  $F_2$ , then  $C(X) \rtimes G$  is properly infinite.*

# What's next?

## Conjecture

Let  $G \curvearrowright X$  be a minimal, amenable, topologically free action of a **non-amenable** discrete group on a compact space. Then  $C(X) \rtimes G$  is purely infinite.

# What's next?

## Conjecture

Let  $G \curvearrowright X$  be a minimal, amenable, topologically free action of a **non-amenable** discrete group on a compact space. Then  $C(X) \rtimes G$  is purely infinite.

## Question

Are there groups with paradoxical towers that don't contain  $F_2$ ?

Thank you!