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Author(s): Alexander S. Kechris

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## COUNTABLE SECTIONS FOR LOCALLY COMPACT GROUP ACTIONS. II

ALEXANDER S. KECHRIS

(Communicated by Andreas R. Blass)

**ABSTRACT.** In this paper we study the structure of the orbit equivalence relation induced by a Borel action of a second countable locally compact group on a standard Borel space.

Let  $G$  be a second countable locally compact group and  $(g, x) \mapsto g.x$  a Borel action of  $G$  on a standard Borel space  $X$ . (A *standard Borel space* is a Polish space with the associated Borel structure, and an action is Borel if the function  $(g, x) \mapsto g.x$  is Borel from  $G \times X$  into  $X$ .) We denote by  $E_G$  the equivalence relation induced by this action, i.e.,  $x E_G y \Leftrightarrow \exists g \in G (g.x = y)$ . It is well known that  $E_G$  is a Borel equivalence relation on  $X$ .

A Borel equivalence relation  $E$  on a standard Borel space  $X$  is called *countable* if every equivalence class  $[x]_E$  of  $E$  is countable. Given two Borel equivalence relations  $E, E'$  on  $X, X'$  resp., we say that  $E$  is (*Borel*) *reducible* to  $E'$ , in symbols  $E \leq E'$ , if there is a Borel map  $f: X \rightarrow X'$  such that  $x E y \Leftrightarrow f(x) E' f(y)$ , and we say that  $E, E'$  are *bireducible*, in symbols  $E \approx^* E'$ , if  $E \leq E'$  and  $E' \leq E$ . It has been shown in [DJK] that bireducibility for countable Borel equivalence relations is also equivalent to the following notion: We say that  $E, E'$  are *stably isomorphic*, in symbols  $E \cong^s E'$ , if there are Borel sets  $A \subseteq X, B \subseteq X'$  which meet every  $E$ - (resp.  $E'$ -) equivalence class (such sets are called *complete sections* or *full*) and  $E|A \cong E'|B$ , where  $E|A$  denotes the restriction of  $E$  to  $A$  and  $\cong$  is (Borel) isomorphism. (Two Borel equivalence relations  $F, F'$  on standard Borel spaces  $Y, Y'$  resp. are (*Borel*) *isomorphic* if there is a Borel bijection  $f: Y \rightarrow Y'$  with  $x F y \Leftrightarrow f(x) F' f(y)$ .) Denoting by  $I_S$  the transitive equivalence relation  $S \times S$  on  $S$ , it turns out that we have, for countable  $E, E'$ ,

$$E \approx E' \Leftrightarrow E \cong^s E' \Leftrightarrow E \times I_{\mathbb{N}} \cong E' \times I_{\mathbb{N}}$$

where as usual the product of two equivalence relations  $E, F$  is the equivalence relation

$$(x, y)(E \times F)(x', y') \Leftrightarrow x E x' \ \& \ y F y'.$$

We now state our main results in this paper.

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**Theorem 1.** *Let  $G$  be a second countable locally compact group acting in a Borel way on a standard Borel space  $X$ . Then there is a unique decomposition  $X = C \cup U$  into invariant Borel sets such that  $E_G|C$  is countable and  $E_G|U \cong F \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$ , with  $F = E_G|Z$  for  $Z$  a complete Borel section of  $E_G|U$  such that  $E_G|Z$  is countable.*

We call  $E|C$  the countable part of  $E_G$  and  $E_G|U$  the uncountable (or continuous) part of  $E_G$ . For the latter we have the following additional information.

**Theorem 2.** *The map  $F \mapsto F \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$  gives a one-to-one correspondence between: (1) countable Borel equivalence relations up to stable isomorphism, and (2) Borel equivalence relations of the form  $E_G$ ,  $G$  second countable locally compact, with all equivalence classes uncountable, up to isomorphism.*

These results provide pure Borel theoretic versions of analogous results of Feldman-Hahn-Moore [FHM, §§4–6], who study nonsingular measurable actions of second countable locally compact groups on standard measure spaces. The proofs of Theorems 1 and 2 use, among other things, a result in [K], which provides a purely Borel theoretic extension of the main result of [FHM], concerning the existence of countable complete Borel sections in Borel actions of such groups.

In the case of  $\mathbb{R}$ -actions, i.e., flows, one can obtain further information using [W] (see also [K]) and one of the results in [DJK]. Note that if  $E_{\mathbb{R}}$  is the orbit equivalence relation of a flow, then every equivalence class is either a singleton or uncountable (this is because the stabilizer of a point under the action is a closed subgroup of  $\mathbb{R}$ ; see [V]). Recall that a Borel equivalence relation  $E$  on a standard Borel space  $X$  is called *smooth* if there is a standard Borel space  $Y$  and a Borel map  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  with  $xEy \Leftrightarrow f(x) = f(y)$ . For  $E$  of the form  $E_G$ , this is equivalent (as it follows from [B], see also [K]) to saying that there is a Borel set  $A \subseteq X$  picking exactly one element out of each  $E$ -equivalence class. It is easy to classify  $E_{\mathbb{R}}$  up to Borel isomorphism when it is smooth. For nonsmooth ones we have

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^1, E_{\mathbb{R}}^2$  be two nonsmooth Borel equivalence relations, induced by Borel actions of  $\mathbb{R}$ . Let  $c_i$  = the cardinality of the set of singleton equivalence classes for  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^i$ . Then  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^1 \cong E_{\mathbb{R}}^2 \Leftrightarrow c_1 = c_2$ . In particular, any two nonsmooth equivalence relations induced by Borel flows with no fixed points are Borel isomorphic.*

It should also be true that any two nonsmooth  $E_G$ , with  $G$  amenable, which have all equivalence classes uncountable are Borel isomorphic, but this is an open problem.

*Added in proof.* This has now been verified by Jackson, Kechris, and Louveau for compactly generated  $G$  of polynomial growth, extending a result of B. Weiss.

### 1. SOME LEMMAS

The following lemmas are needed for the proofs of the main results.

**Lemma 1.1.** *Let  $Z, X$  be standard Borel spaces,  $H \subseteq Z \times X$  a Borel set with  $H_z = \{x : (z, x) \in H\} \neq \emptyset$ , for every  $z \in Z$ . Assume to each  $z \in Z$  we have assigned a  $\sigma$ -ideal  $I_z$  of subsets of  $H_z$  (i.e., a collection containing  $\emptyset$  and*

closed under subsets and countable unions) such that:

- (1)  $H_z \notin I_z, \{x\} \in I_z$  for every  $x \in H_z$ ;
- (2) For each Borel  $P \subseteq H$ , the set  $P_I = \{z \in Z : P_z \in I_z\}$  is Borel.

Then there is a Borel map  $\varphi : Z \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow X$  such that for each  $z \in Z$ ,  $\varphi_z : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow X$  given by  $\varphi_z(r) = \varphi(z, r)$  is a Borel isomorphism of  $\mathbb{R}$  with  $H_z$ .

*Proof.* Since  $H$  is Borel, we can find a family  $\{H^s\}$ , where  $s$  varies over the set  $\mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$  of finite sequences from  $\mathbb{N}$ , such that:

- (i)  $H^s$  is Borel;
- (ii)  $H^\emptyset = H, H^s \hat{\cap}^n \cap H^s \hat{\cap}^m = \emptyset$ , if  $n \neq m, H^s = \bigcup_n H^s \hat{\cap}^n$ ;
- (iii) If  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  and  $H^{\alpha|n} \neq \emptyset$  for all  $n$ , then  $H^\alpha := \bigcap_n H^{\alpha|n}$  is a singleton  $\{w\}$  and if  $w_n \in H^{\alpha|n}$ , then  $w_n \rightarrow w$ .

(We view here  $Z, X$  and thus  $Z \times X$  as Polish spaces, so  $w_n \rightarrow w$  means convergence in  $Z \times X$ .)

Put now  $H_z^s = \{x : (z, x) \in H^s\}$ . Then it is easy to see that  $\{H_z^s\}$  has properties (i)–(iii) for  $H_z$ .

For each  $z$  now define a tree  $T_z$  on  $\mathbb{N}$  (i.e., a set of finite sequences from  $\mathbb{N}$  closed under initial segments) as follows:  $s \in T_z \Leftrightarrow H_z^s \notin I_z$ . Since every singleton is in  $I_z$ , it follows that

$$\forall s \in T_z \exists s', s'' \in T_z [s \subseteq s', s \subseteq s'', \text{ and } s', s'' \text{ are incompatible}].$$

(Otherwise for some  $s \in T_z$  there is  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}, s \subseteq \alpha$ , such that  $H_z^{\alpha|n} \notin I_z$  for all  $n$ , but if  $t \supseteq s, t \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ , and  $t \neq \alpha|n$ , then  $H_z^t \in I_z$ . Then  $H_z^s = H_z^\alpha \cup \{H_z^t : s \subseteq t, t \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}, t \neq \alpha|n\}$ , where  $H_z^\alpha = \bigcap_n H_z^{\alpha|n}$ . Thus  $H_z^\alpha \notin I_z$ , which is impossible since  $H_z^\alpha$  is a singleton.)

Define now inductively on the length of  $u \in 2^{<\mathbb{N}}$  a sequence  $s_u \in T_z$ , so that  $s_\emptyset = \emptyset$  and  $s_{u \hat{\cap} 0}, s_{u \hat{\cap} 1}$  are the first two (in some enumeration of  $\mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$ ) incompatible extensions of  $s_u$  in  $T_z$ . Finally define for each  $\alpha \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}$

$$\tilde{\varphi}_z(\alpha) = \text{the unique element of } \bigcap_n H_z^{s_{\alpha|n}}.$$

In view of property (2) of the assignment  $z \mapsto I_z$ , it is easy to check that the map  $\tilde{\varphi}(z, \alpha) = \tilde{\varphi}_z(\alpha)$  from  $Z \times 2^{\mathbb{N}}$  into  $X$  is Borel. Moreover, it is clear that  $\tilde{\varphi}_z : 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow H_z$  is a Borel injection. Let also  $\tilde{\psi} : H \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}}$  be a Borel injection, so that in particular  $\tilde{\psi}_z : H_z \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}}$  given by  $\tilde{\psi}_z(x) = \tilde{\psi}(z, x)$  is a Borel injection. By the usual Schroeder-Bernstein argument applied to  $\tilde{\varphi}_z, \tilde{\psi}_z$  we can finally find a Borel map  $\varphi : Z \times 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow X$  such that  $\varphi_z$  is a bijection of  $2^{\mathbb{N}}$  with  $H_z$ . Since  $2^{\mathbb{N}}, \mathbb{R}$  are Borel isomorphic, this completes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 1.2.** *Let  $E$  be a Borel equivalence relation on a standard Borel space  $X$ . Assume to each  $E$  equivalence class  $C$  we have assigned a  $\sigma$ -ideal  $J_C$  of subsets of  $C$  such that:*

- (1)  $C \notin J_C, \{x\} \in J_C$  for all  $x \in C$ ;
- (2) If  $P \subseteq E$  is Borel, then the set  $P_J = \{x : P_x \in J_{[x]_E}\}$  is Borel.

Let also  $F$  be a countable Borel equivalence relation on a standard Borel space  $Y$  and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  a Borel map with  $xEy \Leftrightarrow f(x)Ff(y)$ .

Then there is a Borel set  $Z \subseteq f[X]$ , such that  $Z$  and  $f[X]$  meet the same  $F$ -equivalence classes and such that  $E \cong (F|Z) \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$ .

*Proof.* Note that if  $C$  is an  $E$ -equivalence class, then  $f[C]$  is countable; thus, for some  $y \in f[C]$ ,  $f^{-1}(\{y\}) \subseteq C$  is not in  $J_C$ . So define

$$\begin{aligned} R(y, x) &\Leftrightarrow f(x) = y \ \& \ f^{-1}(\{y\}) \notin J_{[x]_E} \\ &\Leftrightarrow f(x) = y \ \& \ \{x' : f(x) = f(x')\} \notin J_{[x]_E} \end{aligned}$$

so that  $R$  is Borel.

*Claim.* There is a Borel uniformization  $R^* \subseteq R$ , i.e., a Borel set  $R^* \subseteq R$  such that  $\{y : \exists x(y, x) \in R^*\} = \{y : \exists x(y, x) \in R\}$  and  $(y, x) \in R^* \ \& \ (y, x') \in R^* \Rightarrow x = x'$ .

Granting this claim it follows immediately that  $Z = \{y : \exists x(y, x) \in R\}$  is Borel and the function  $r : Z \rightarrow X$  given by  $r(z) = x \Leftrightarrow R^*(z, x)$  is Borel too. Note that  $Z$  and  $f[X]$  meet the same  $F$ -equivalence classes.

If

$$X^* = \{x : \exists y(x, y) \in R\} = \{x : \{x' : f(x) = f(x')\} \notin J_{[x]_E}\}$$

then  $X^*$  is also a Borel subset of  $X$  and  $f$  is a surjection of  $X^*$  onto  $Z$ . Also  $\forall x \in X \exists z \in Z(f(x)Fz)$ , so since every  $F$ -equivalence class is countable, it follows that  $\forall x \in X$  (there are at most countably many  $z \in Z$  with  $f(x)Fz$ ); so by a standard uniformization theorem, let  $g : X \rightarrow Z$  be Borel with  $f(x)Fg(x)$ ,  $g(x) \in Z$ . Let  $h : X \rightarrow Z$  be the Borel surjection defined by  $h(x) = f(x)$  if  $x \in X^*$ , and  $h(x) = g(x)$  if  $x \notin X^*$ . Then  $h(x)Ff(x)$ , so  $xEy \Leftrightarrow h(x)Fh(y)$  and, for each  $z \in Z$ ,  $h^{-1}[\{z\}] \notin J_{[x]_E}$  if  $h(x) = z$ . Put  $H(z, x) \Leftrightarrow h(x) = z$ . To each  $z \in Z$  assign the following  $\sigma$ -ideal  $I_z$  of subsets of  $H_z$ :

$$I_z = \{A \subseteq H_z : A \in J_{[x]_E}\}$$

where  $h(x) = z$ . Then all the conditions of Lemma 1.1 are satisfied. (To verify condition (2) note that if  $P \subseteq H$  then

$$\begin{aligned} z \in P_I &\Leftrightarrow P_z \in I_z \\ &\Leftrightarrow \exists x[h(x) = z \ \& \ \{x' : (h(x), x') \in P\} \in J_{[x]_E}] \\ &\Leftrightarrow \forall x[h(x) = z \Rightarrow \{x' : (h(x), x') \in P\} \in J_{[x]_E}] \end{aligned}$$

so  $P_I$  is Borel.) Then there is Borel  $\varphi : Z \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow X$  such that for each  $z$ ,  $\varphi_z$  is a bijection of  $\mathbb{R}$  into  $H_z$ . But then clearly  $\varphi$  is a Borel isomorphism of  $(F|Z) \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$  with  $E$ .

So it remains to give the

*Proof of the claim.* The proof is similar to that of 2.4 in [K], so we only give a sketch. Let  $\{R^s\}_{s \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}}$  be a family of Borel sets having properties (i)–(iii) (for  $R$ ) as in the beginning of the proof of Lemma 1.1. For each  $y$  with  $\exists x(y, x) \in R$ , i.e.,  $R_y \neq \emptyset$ , so that actually  $R_y \notin J_{[x]_E}$ , where  $f(x) = y$ , define  $\alpha_y : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  inductively so that  $\alpha_y(n)$  is the least number  $m$  for which  $R_y^{(\alpha_y|n)\hat{m}} = \{x' : (y, x') \in R^{(\alpha_y|n)\hat{m}}\} \notin J_{[x]_E}$ . Let  $x_y$  be the unique element of  $R_y^\alpha = \bigcap_n R_y^{\alpha|n}$ . Put  $R^*(y, x) \Leftrightarrow x = x_y$ .  $\square$

## 2. THE MAIN RESULTS

We have first

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $G$  be a second countable locally compact group and  $(g, x) \mapsto g.x$  a Borel action of  $G$  on a standard Borel space  $X$ . Let  $E_G$  be the induced*

*Borel equivalence relation*

$$xE_Gy \Leftrightarrow \exists g \in G(g.x = y).$$

Then if  $C = \{x : [x]_{E_G} \text{ is countable}\}$  and  $U = X \setminus C$ , the sets  $C, U$  are Borel invariant and there is a Borel set  $Z \subseteq U$ , which meets every  $E_G|U$ -equivalence class in a countable non- $\emptyset$  set and  $E_G|U \cong (E_G|Z) \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$ . (Notice that  $E_G|Z$  is a countable Borel equivalence relation.)

*Proof.* For each  $E_G$ -equivalence class  $D$  define the  $\sigma$ -ideal  $J_D$  of a subset of  $D$  as

$$A \in J_D \Leftrightarrow \{g \in G : g.x \in A\} \text{ is meager in } G$$

where  $x \in D$  (this is easily seen to be independent of the choice of  $x$ ). Note (see, e.g., [K]) that if  $P \subseteq E_G$  is Borel, so is  $P_J = \{x : P_x \in J_{[x]_E}\}$ . Note now that

$$\begin{aligned} [x]_{E_G} \text{ is countable} &\Leftrightarrow G_x = \{g \in G : g.x = x\} \text{ has countable index in } G \\ &\Leftrightarrow G_x \text{ is not meager in } G \end{aligned}$$

(the last equivalence following from the Baire Category Theorem). So

$$x \in C \Leftrightarrow \{x\} \notin J_{[x]_{E_G}},$$

thus  $C$  (and therefore  $U$ ) is Borel.

By the main Theorem 1.2 of [K], there is a Borel set  $Y \subseteq U$  which meets every  $E_G|U$ -equivalence class in a countable non- $\emptyset$  set. Since the set

$$R(x, z) \Leftrightarrow x \in U \ \& \ y \in Y \ \& \ xE_Gy$$

is Borel and has countable sections, while  $\forall x \in U \exists y \in Y R(x, y)$ , it follows by a standard uniformization theorem that there is a Borel function  $f$  such that  $\forall x \in UR(x, f(x))$ ; thus, in particular,  $x E_G y \Leftrightarrow f(x) F f(y)$ , where  $F = E_G \upharpoonright Y$ . All the conditions of Lemma 1.2 are now satisfied, so there is a Borel set  $Z \subseteq Y$  meeting every  $E_G \upharpoonright U$ -equivalence class in a non- $\emptyset$  countable set and  $E_G|U \cong (E_G|Z) \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$ .  $\square$

If  $E, E'$  are Borel equivalence relations on disjoint standard Borel spaces  $X, X'$ , we denote by  $E \oplus E'$  their *direct sum* (i.e., the union of  $E, E'$  which is a Borel equivalence relation on  $X \cup X'$ ). It follows from the preceding that every  $E_G$ , where  $G$  is second countable locally compact, can be uniquely written as  $E \oplus E'$ , where  $E$  is a countable Borel equivalence relation and  $E' = F \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$  for some countable Borel equivalence relation  $F$ .

Since by a result of Feldman-Moore [FM] every countable Borel equivalence relation  $E$  is of the form  $E = E_G$  for some *countable* group  $G$ , and so, in particular,  $E = E_{F_\omega}$ , where  $F_\omega$  is the free group on a countably infinite set of generators, it follows that every  $E_G$ , with  $G$  second countable locally compact, is Borel isomorphic to some  $E_{F_\omega \times \mathbb{R}}$ .

For two Borel equivalence relations  $E, E'$  on  $X, X'$  respectively, we write

$$E \sqsubseteq^i E' \Leftrightarrow \text{there is a Borel invariant } Y \subseteq X' \text{ with } E \cong E' \upharpoonright Y.$$

Since it has been shown in [V] that, for every second countable locally compact group  $G$ , there is a universal Borel  $G$ -action, it follows in particular that there is some  $E_G^0$  such that for every  $E_G, E_G \sqsubseteq^i E_G^0$ . Thus, in view of the preceding remarks,  $E_G \sqsubseteq^i E_{F_\omega \times \mathbb{R}}^0$  for any  $E_G, G$  second countable locally compact.

Let us note now some simple facts concerning equivalence relations of the form  $F \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$ ,  $F$  a countable Borel equivalence relation.

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $F, F'$  be countable Borel equivalence relations. If  $F \leq F'$  then  $F \times I_{\mathbb{R}} \sqsubseteq^i F' \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$ . In particular,  $F \approx^* F' \Leftrightarrow F \times I_{\mathbb{R}} \cong F' \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$ .*

*If  $G, G'$  are second countable locally compact groups and  $E_G, E_{G'}$  have uncountable equivalence classes, then  $E_G \leq E_{G'} \Leftrightarrow E_G \sqsubseteq^i E_{G'}$  and thus  $E_G \approx^* E_{G'} \Leftrightarrow E_G \cong E_{G'}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $X, X'$  be the underlying spaces of  $F, F'$ , and let  $f: X \rightarrow X'$  be Borel such that  $xFy \Leftrightarrow f(x)F'f(y)$ . Since  $f$  is countable-to-1,  $f[X] = Z$  is Borel and so is  $W = [Z]_{F'}$ . Also clearly,  $F \approx^* F'|W$ . Then  $F \times I_{\mathbb{N}} \cong (F'|W) \times I_{\mathbb{N}}$ , so  $F \times I_{\mathbb{R}} \cong F \times I_{\mathbb{N}} \times I_{\mathbb{R}} \cong (F'|W) \times I_{\mathbb{N}} \times I_{\mathbb{R}} \cong (F'|W) \times I_{\mathbb{R}} = (F' \times I_{\mathbb{R}})|(W \times \mathbb{R})$ . But  $W \times \mathbb{R}$  is invariant Borel in  $F' \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$ , so  $F \times I_{\mathbb{R}} \sqsubseteq^i F' \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$ . The second assertion follows from the usual Schroeder-Bernstein argument.

If now  $E_G, E_{G'}$  are as in the statement of the proposition, then by Theorem 2.1  $E_G \cong F \times I_{\mathbb{R}}, E_{G'} \cong F' \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$ , for some countable Borel  $F, F'$ . As  $F \leq F \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$  and  $F' \times I_{\mathbb{R}} \leq F'$ , we have that  $E_G \leq E_{G'}$  implies  $F \leq F'$ , and so  $E_G \cong F \times I_{\mathbb{R}} \sqsubseteq^i F' \times I_{\mathbb{R}} \cong E_{G'}$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.3.** *The map  $F \mapsto F \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$  gives a 1-1 correspondence between countable Borel equivalence relations up to stable isomorphism (or equivalently, bireducibility) and Borel equivalence relations  $E_G, G$  a second countable locally compact group, with uncountable equivalence classes, up to isomorphism (or equivalently, bireducibility).*

Finally, we consider  $\mathbb{R}$ -actions, i.e., flows. It follows from a result of Wagh [W] (see also [K]) that, for every Borel action of  $\mathbb{R}$  on a standard Borel space  $X$ , there is  $Y \subseteq X$  such that  $E_{\mathbb{R}}|Y$  is hyperfinite, where a Borel equivalence relation  $E$  is *hyperfinite* if it can be written as  $E = \bigcup_n E_n$ , with  $E_0 \subseteq E_1 \subseteq \dots$  Borel equivalence relations with finite equivalence classes (thus  $E$  is countable).

It is shown in [DJK] that any two hyperfinite nonsmooth Borel equivalence relations are stably isomorphic. It thus follows that we have the following classification.

**Theorem 2.4.** *Let  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^0, E_{\mathbb{R}}^1$  be two Borel equivalence relations induced by Borel  $\mathbb{R}$ -actions. Let*

$$c_i = \text{card}(\{[x]_{E_{\mathbb{R}}^i} : [x]_{E_{\mathbb{R}}^i} \text{ is a singleton}\}).$$

*If  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^0, E_{\mathbb{R}}^1$  are not smooth, then  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^0 \cong E_{\mathbb{R}}^1 \Leftrightarrow c_0 = c_1$ . In particular, all nonsmooth  $E_{\mathbb{R}}$  with uncountable equivalence classes are Borel isomorphic.*

*Proof.* Let  $X^0, X^1$  be the spaces of  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^0, E_{\mathbb{R}}^1$ . Put

$$\tilde{X}^i = \{x \in X^i : [x]_{E_{\mathbb{R}}^i} \text{ is a singleton}\}.$$

Then  $\tilde{X}^i$  are Borel, and if  $c_0 = c_1$ ,  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^0|\tilde{X}^0 = E_{\mathbb{R}}^1|\tilde{X}^1$ . Let  $Y^i = X^i \setminus \tilde{X}^i$ . As  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^i|\tilde{X}^i$  is smooth,  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^i|Y^i$  is not smooth. Moreover, each  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^i$ -equivalence class in  $Y^i$  is uncountable, since the cardinality of  $[x]_{E_{\mathbb{R}}^i}$  is the same as the index of the stabilizer of  $x$  in the action inducing  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^i$ , which is a closed subgroup of  $\mathbb{R}$  (see [V]). So  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^i|Y^i \cong F_i \times I_{\mathbb{R}}$  with  $F_i = E_{\mathbb{R}}^i|Z_i$  hyperfinite and nonsmooth. So  $F_0 \cong^s F_1$ ; thus,  $E_{\mathbb{R}}^0|Y^0 \cong E_{\mathbb{R}}^0|Y^1$ .  $\square$

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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91125

*E-mail address:* kechris@caltech.bitnet  
kechris@romeo-caltech.edu