

## VARIETIES GENERATED BY COUNTABLY COMPACT ABELIAN GROUPS

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**ABSTRACT.** We prove under the assumption of Martin’s Axiom that every precompact Abelian group of size  $\leq 2^{\aleph_0}$  belongs to the smallest class of groups that contains all Abelian countably compact groups and is closed under direct products, taking closed subgroups and continuous isomorphic images.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The celebrated Comfort–Ross theorem states that the direct product of any family of pseudocompact topological groups is pseudocompact [CR]. However, every precompact topological group can be embedded as a closed subgroup into a pseudocompact topological group [CM, Lemma 2.1], so the class of closed subgroups of pseudocompact groups coincides with all precompact groups.

Countable compactness behaves in a completely different way. Clearly, closed subgroups of countably compact groups inherit this property. But the product of two countably compact Abelian topological groups can contain a countably infinite closed subgroup (which is neither countably compact nor pseudocompact, since every infinite pseudocompact group has cardinality  $\geq 2^{\aleph_0}$ ). Therefore, the product of two countably compact groups can fail to be countably compact [Do1]. It is important to mention that van Douwen’s construction in [Do1] makes use of Martin’s Axiom (MA for short). Under the weaker assumption of  $MA_{countable}$ , Hart and van Mill constructed in [HM] a single group  $H$  whose square was not countably compact. Later on, Tomita [To1, To2] presented several construction of this type under  $MA_{countable}$ . At this moment, there is no single construction in ZFC of two countably compact groups whose product is not countably compact. This suggests the hypothesis that there might exist a model of ZFC where countable compactness is productive in topological groups.

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The opposite possibility is that *every* precompact topological group can be embedded as a closed subgroup into a product of countably compact groups. However, this is not the case. Recall that a topological group  $G$  is called *sequentially complete* [DT2, DT3] if  $G$  is sequentially closed in its completion  $\tilde{G}$ , that is, no sequence in  $G$  converges to a point of  $\tilde{G} \setminus G$ . It is easy to see that the class of sequentially complete groups is closed under taking arbitrary direct products and closed subgroups [DT2], and hence is an  $\overline{SC}$ -variety (see the definition below). Since countably compact groups are sequentially complete, we infer that every closed subgroup of a direct product of countably compact groups must be sequentially complete. On the other hand, sequential completeness coincides with compactness for metrizable groups (the completion of a metrizable topological group is metrizable), so no proper dense subgroup of a compact metrizable group can be embedded as a closed subgroup in a product of countably compact groups. In particular, the torsion subgroup of the circle group  $\mathbb{T}$  is not topologically isomorphic to a closed subgroup of a product of countably compact groups.

Let us take one more step and consider continuous isomorphic images of closed subgroups lying in direct products of countably compact (Abelian) groups. Will these coincide with all precompact (Abelian) groups? This is the main problem we study in the article. In fact, we restrict ourselves to considering the Abelian case of the problem. Surprisingly, MA enables us to represent in this way every precompact Abelian group  $G$  of size  $\leq 2^{\aleph_0}$  (Theorem A).

The problem under consideration suggests using the language of varieties. In the next subsection we give the necessary definitions and briefly discuss the relations between different types of varieties.

### 1.1. Varieties of countably compact groups and sequential completeness.

In this paper we consider several types of varieties of Abelian *topological* groups. Here are the relevant definitions, introduced (except for the last one) by Morris [Mo1, Mo2] and Taylor [Tay].

**Definition 1.1.** A class  $\mathcal{V}$  of topological Abelian groups is called a:

- (1) *Q-variety* if  $\mathcal{V}$  is stable under taking quotient groups;
- (2)  $\overline{S}$ -variety if  $\mathcal{V}$  is stable under taking closed subgroups;
- (3) *C-variety* if  $\mathcal{V}$  is stable under taking arbitrary Cartesian (direct) products;
- (4) *H-variety* if  $\mathcal{V}$  is stable under taking continuous homomorphic images;
- (5) *I-variety* if  $\mathcal{V}$  is stable under taking continuous isomorphic images.

Clearly  $\mathcal{V}$  is an *H-variety* iff it is a *Q-* and *I-variety*. Taking the intersection of a *Q-variety* with a *C-variety*, we obtain a *QC-variety*. Similarly, one defines  $\overline{ISC}$ -,  $\overline{QSC}$ - and  $\overline{HSC}$ -varieties. Typical examples are the  $\overline{HSC}$ -variety  $\mathcal{TA}$  of all topological Abelian groups, and its  $\overline{HSC}$ -subvarieties  $\mathcal{CA}$  and  $\mathcal{PA}$  of compact and precompact groups, respectively. Note that the complete groups form an  $\overline{SC}$ -variety which is neither an *I-variety* nor a *Q-variety*, and the same holds for the sequentially complete groups (cf. [DT2]). We shall deal mainly with  $\overline{SC}$ - and  $\overline{ISC}$ -varieties in this paper.

It is clear that the intersection of *Q-*,  $\overline{S}$ -, *C-*, *H-* and *I-variety* is again a *Q-*,  $\overline{S}$ -, *C-*, *H-* or *I-variety*, respectively. Therefore, for every  $X \in \{Q, \overline{S}, C, H, I\}$ , a class  $\mathcal{U}$  of topological groups generates a smallest *X-variety*  $X(\mathcal{U})$  containing the class  $\mathcal{U}$ , which we call the *X-variety generated by  $\mathcal{U}$* . Similarly, one defines  $\overline{HC}(\mathcal{U})$ ,  $\overline{SC}(\mathcal{U})$ ,  $\overline{ISC}(\mathcal{U})$ , etc.

Denote by  $\mathcal{CCA}$  the class of all countably compact Abelian groups and by  $\mathcal{SCP}\mathcal{A}$  the class of all sequentially complete precompact Abelian groups. Clearly,  $\mathcal{SCP}\mathcal{A} = \overline{SC}(\mathcal{SCP}\mathcal{A})$  is a  $\overline{SC}$ -variety and

$$\overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA}) \subseteq \mathcal{SCP}\mathcal{A} \subseteq I(\mathcal{SCP}\mathcal{A}).$$

It would be interesting to find out whether the first two of these  $\overline{SC}$ -varieties coincide (see Problems 3.1 (d) and 3.2). We show in Theorem B that the third one coincides with  $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{A}$ .

The main objective of this paper is the  $I\overline{SC}$ -variety  $\mathfrak{C} = I\overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA})$ .

**Conjecture 1.2.**  $\mathfrak{C}$  coincides with the class  $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{A}$  of all precompact Abelian groups.

The main result of the article confirms Conjecture 1.2 for “small” groups:

**Theorem A** ([MA]). *Every precompact Abelian group of cardinality  $\leq 2^{\aleph_0}$  belongs to  $\mathfrak{C}$ .*

We see now that the above conjecture becomes valid when  $\mathfrak{C}$  is replaced by the formally larger  $I\overline{SC}$ -variety  $I(\mathcal{SCP}\mathcal{A})$ . Therefore, if the equality  $\overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA}) = \mathcal{SCP}\mathcal{A}$  holds, then  $\mathfrak{C} = \mathcal{P}\mathcal{A}$ . For an abstract Abelian group  $G$ , we denote by  $G^\#$  the underlying group  $G$  endowed with the maximal precompact group topology [Do2, DTT].

**Theorem B.**  $I(\mathcal{SCP}\mathcal{A}) = Q(\mathcal{SCP}\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{P}\mathcal{A}$ .

*Proof.* To prove that  $I(\mathcal{SCP}\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{P}\mathcal{A}$ , let  $G$  be an infinite precompact Abelian group, and let  $\tau_G$  be the topology of  $G$ . Clearly, the topology  $\tau$  of  $G^\#$  is finer than  $\tau_G$ , so the identity map  $id: G^\# \rightarrow G$  is a continuous isomorphism. By Flor’s theorem in [Flo], the group  $G^\#$  contains no convergent sequences other than trivial ones. Therefore, the group  $G^\#$  is sequentially complete by Proposition 2.2 of [DT1]. This implies that  $G \in I(\mathcal{SCP}\mathcal{A})$ .

It follows from [DT2, Theorem 5.4] that every precompact Abelian group  $G$  is a quotient of a precompact sequentially complete Abelian group  $G^*$  (to be precise, this assertion requires a brief analysis of the proof given in [DT2]: the group  $G^*$  turns out to be a subgroup of  $G \times \mathbb{T}^\lambda$  for some infinite cardinal  $\lambda$ ). This proves that  $Q(\mathcal{SCP}\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{P}\mathcal{A}$ . □

It is also known that every Abelian topological group is isomorphic to a quotient of a complete Abelian group, so  $Q\overline{SC}(\text{complete Abelian groups}) = \mathcal{TA}$ . Moreover, every (precompact) topological group is isomorphic to a quotient of a zero-dimensional (precompact) group [Ar2, Sha, D].

**Notation and terminology.** The symbols  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}$  are used for the set of positive integers and the group of integers, respectively. We put  $\mathbb{N}^* = \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ . The circle group  $\mathbb{T}$  is identified with the quotient group  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$  of the reals  $\mathbb{R}$  and carries its usual compact topology. The cyclic group of order  $n$  is denoted by  $\mathbb{Z}(n)$ . For  $d, n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the fact that  $d$  divides  $n$  abbreviates to  $d|n$ .

We consider only Abelian groups, so the additive notation is used here. The symbol  $0_G$  (or simply 0) stands for the neutral element of an Abelian group  $G$ . We write  $H \leq G$  if  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . If  $\alpha$  is an ordinal, we use  $G^\alpha$  and  $G^{(\alpha)}$  to denote the direct product and direct sum of  $\alpha$  copies of the group  $G$ , respectively.

Let  $G$  be a group. For a non-zero element  $b \in G$ , we denote by  $ord(b)$  the order of  $b$  (so  $ord(b) \in \mathbb{N}^*$  or  $ord(b) = \infty$ ). The cyclic subgroup of  $G$  generated by  $b$  is

denoted by  $\langle b \rangle$ . Clearly,  $\text{ord}(b) = |\langle b \rangle|$ . For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we put  $G[n] = \{g \in G : ng = 0\}$ . For convenience we extend this notation also to the symbol  $\infty$  by putting  $G[\infty] = G$ .

All topological groups are assumed to be Hausdorff. For a topological group  $G$ , we denote by  $w(G)$  the weight of  $G$ .

Let  $I$  be a non-empty set, and suppose that for every  $i \in I$ ,  $f_i: G \rightarrow G_i$  is a homomorphism. Then we denote by  $f = \Delta_{i \in I} f_i$  the diagonal product of the family  $\{f_i : i \in I\}$ . Clearly,  $f: G \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} G_i$  is the unique homomorphism satisfying  $p_i \circ f = f_i$  for each  $i \in I$ , where  $p_i: \prod_{j \in I} G_j \rightarrow G_i$  is the natural projection.

The symbol  $\mathfrak{c}$  stands for the cardinality of the continuum, so  $\mathfrak{c} = 2^{\aleph_0}$ . We abbreviate Martin's Axiom to MA. It is known (see [Juh]) that MA is equivalent to the following topological statement: *In a countably cellular compact space  $X$ , the intersection of less than  $\mathfrak{c}$  open dense sets is dense in  $X$ .*

## 2. PROOF OF THEOREM A

We start with three auxiliary results that appeared in [DT4]. The proofs of the first and the second one are given in [DT4], so we only prove Lemma 2.6 (the only one that requires MA).

The notion of HFD subsets of infinite products was introduced by Hajnal and Juhász in [HJ]. It plays an important role in the proof of Theorem 2.7.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $\lambda$  be an infinite cardinal. An infinite subset  $Y$  of a topological product  $X = \prod_{\alpha < \lambda} X_\alpha$  is called *finally dense* in  $X$  if there exists  $\beta < \lambda$  such that  $\pi_{\lambda \setminus \beta}(Y)$  is dense in  $\prod_{\beta \leq \alpha < \lambda} X_\alpha$ , where  $\pi_{\lambda \setminus \beta}$  is the projection of  $X$  onto  $\prod_{\beta \leq \alpha < \lambda} X_\alpha$ . If every infinite subset of  $Y$  is finally dense in  $X$ , then  $Y$  is called *hereditarily finally dense* (HFD) in  $X$ .

The first lemma goes back to [HJ] and, in the present form, it appears in [DT4, Prop. 3.2].

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $\lambda$  be an uncountable regular cardinal, and let  $X = \prod_{\alpha < \lambda} X_\alpha$  be a product of compact metrizable spaces  $X_\alpha$ . Suppose that  $Y$  is a subset of  $X$  such that  $\pi_\beta(Y) = \prod_{\alpha < \beta} X_\alpha$  for each  $\beta < \lambda$ , and  $S \subseteq Y$  is an HFD set in  $X$ . Then  $S$  has a cluster point in  $Y$ . In particular, if  $Y$  is HFD in  $X$ , then it is a countably compact dense subspace of  $X$ .*

Items (b) and (c) of the following notion (the latter (b) under a different name) were introduced in [DT4, Definition 3.3].

**Definition 2.3.** Let  $G$  be an Abelian group, and  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ . A countably infinite subset  $S$  of  $G$  is called:

- (a) *d-flat*, if it meets some coset of the subgroup  $G[d]$  in an infinite subset;
- (b) *n-round*, if  $S \subseteq G[n]$  and  $S$  is not *d-flat* for any proper divisor  $d$  of  $n$ ;
- (c)  *$\infty$ -round*, if  $S$  is not *d-flat* for each  $d \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

One important property of *n-round* sets in Abelian groups is immediate.

**Lemma 2.4.** *Every infinite set in an Abelian group  $G$  contains either an  $\infty$ -round subset or a subset of the form  $S + z$ , where  $z \in G$  and  $S$  is an *n-round* set for some integer  $n \geq 2$ .*

For a discrete Abelian group  $G$ , let  $\widehat{G}$  be the group of all homomorphisms  $f: G \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$  endowed with the topology of pointwise convergence. It is well known that the topological group  $\widehat{G}$  is compact [HR, DPS]. The group of homomorphisms of  $G$  to  $\mathbb{T}^\omega$  is naturally identified with  $\widehat{G}^\omega$ . We shall also identify  $\mathbb{Z}(n)$  with the subgroup of  $\mathbb{T}$  generated by the coset  $1/n + \mathbb{Z}$ .

The following result is a simple combination of Lemma 3.7 and Lemma 4.2 of [DT4]. To formulate it properly, we put  $T_\infty = \mathbb{T}^\omega$  and  $T_n = \mathbb{Z}(n)^\omega$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ . The groups  $\mathbb{T}^\omega$  and  $\mathbb{Z}(n)^\omega \leq \mathbb{T}^\omega$  carry their usual compact group topologies. This notation will be also used in Lemma 2.6 and in the proof of Theorem 2.7.

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $S$  be an  $n$ -round subset of an Abelian group  $G$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}^* \cup \{\infty\}$ . Then the set*

$$H_S = \{h \in \widehat{G}^\omega : h(S) \text{ is dense in } T_n\}$$

*is an intersection of countably many open dense subsets of  $\widehat{G}^\omega$ , hence dense in  $\widehat{G}^\omega$ .*

The next lemma is our main technical tool in the proof of Theorem 2.7.

**Lemma 2.6** ([MA]). *Let  $G$  be an abstract Abelian group,  $\alpha < \mathfrak{c}$  an ordinal, and  $x^*$  a non-zero element of  $G$ . For every  $\gamma < \alpha$ , let  $f_\gamma: G \rightarrow G_\gamma$  be a homomorphism of  $G$  to a non-discrete topological group  $G_\gamma$ . Suppose that for every  $\gamma < \alpha$ ,*

- (a) *a subset  $S_\gamma$  of  $G$  is  $n_\gamma$ -round, for  $n_\gamma \in \mathbb{N}^* \cup \{\infty\}$ ; and*
- (b)  *$f_\gamma(S_\gamma)$  is dense in  $G_\gamma$  and  $w(G_\gamma) < \mathfrak{c}$ .*

*Then there exists a homomorphism  $f: G \rightarrow T_\infty$  such that  $f(x^*) \neq 0$  and for every  $\gamma < \alpha$ , the image  $(f_\gamma \Delta f)(S_\gamma)$  is dense in  $G_\gamma \times T_{n_\gamma}$ .*

*Proof.* According to (b), there exists a base  $\mathcal{B}_\gamma$  of non-empty open sets for  $G_\gamma$  such that  $|\mathcal{B}_\gamma| < \mathfrak{c}$ . Let also  $\mathcal{B}$  be a countable base for  $T_\infty = \mathbb{T}^\omega$ . For  $\gamma < \alpha$  and  $U \in \mathcal{B}_\gamma$ , put  $S_\gamma(U) = S_\gamma \cap f_\gamma^{-1}(U \cap f_\gamma(S_\gamma))$ . Since  $f_\gamma(S_\gamma)$  is dense in the non-discrete group  $G_\gamma$ , the family

$$\mathcal{S}_\gamma = \{S_\gamma(U) : U \in \mathcal{B}_\gamma\}$$

consists of infinite subsets of  $G$ , and  $|\mathcal{S}_\gamma| \leq |\mathcal{B}_\gamma| < \mathfrak{c}$ . Note that  $S_\gamma(U)$  is  $n_\gamma$ -round for every  $U \in \mathcal{B}_\gamma$  as an infinite subset of the  $n_\gamma$ -round set  $S_\gamma$ . Denote by  $H_\gamma$  the set of all homomorphisms  $h: G \rightarrow T_\infty$  such that  $h(S)$  is dense in  $T_{n_\gamma}$  for each  $S \in \mathcal{S}_\gamma$ . By Lemma 2.5,  $H_\gamma$  is the intersection of at most  $|\mathcal{S}_\gamma| \cdot \omega < \mathfrak{c}$  open dense subsets of the compact group  $\widehat{G}^\omega$ . Since  $\alpha < \mathfrak{c}$ , the set  $H = \bigcap_{\gamma < \alpha} H_\gamma$  is the intersection of less than  $\mathfrak{c}$  open dense subsets of  $\widehat{G}^\omega$  (here we use the fact that  $\mathfrak{c}$  is a regular cardinal under MA). The dual group  $\widehat{G}$  of the discrete Abelian group  $G$  is compact, hence dyadic [Kuz], so the cellularity of  $\widehat{G}^\omega$  is countable.

Consider the non-empty open subset

$$W = \{h \in \widehat{G}^\omega : h(x^*) \neq 0\}$$

of  $\widehat{G}^\omega$ . Then  $W \cap H \neq \emptyset$ , so there exists an element  $f \in W \cap H$ . Clearly,  $f(x^*) \neq 0$ . For every  $\gamma < \alpha$ , denote by  $h_\gamma$  the diagonal product of  $f_\gamma$  and  $f$ . We claim that  $h_\gamma(S_\gamma)$  is dense in  $G_\gamma \times T_{n_\gamma}$  for each  $\gamma < \alpha$ . Indeed, let  $U \times V$  be a non-empty open subset of  $G_\gamma \times T_\infty$ , where  $U \in \mathcal{B}_\gamma$ ,  $V \in \mathcal{B}$  and  $V \cap T_{n_\gamma} \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $S = S_\gamma(U) \in \mathcal{S}_\gamma$  and  $f \in H$ , the set  $f(S)$  is dense in  $T_{n_\gamma}$ . Choose a point  $y \in S$  such that  $f(y) \in V \cap T_{n_\gamma}$ . Then  $h_\gamma(y) = (f_\gamma(y), f(y)) \in U \times V$ , whence  $h_\gamma(S) \cap (U \times V) \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $S \subseteq S_\gamma$ , we conclude that  $h_\gamma(S_\gamma)$  is dense in  $G_\gamma \times T_{n_\gamma}$ .  $\square$

The next theorem is the main step in the proof of Theorem A.

**Theorem 2.7.** *Under MA, every precompact Abelian group  $H$  with  $w(H) \leq \aleph_0$  belongs to  $\mathfrak{C}$ .*

*Proof.* Our argument follows the line of the proof of [DT4, Theorem 4.4], but several important modifications are necessary. Without loss of generality we can assume that the group  $H$  is infinite. Then  $w(H) = \aleph_0$ , and hence  $|H| \leq 2^{\aleph_0} = \mathfrak{c}$ . Put  $M = \mathbb{Z}^{(\mathfrak{c})} \oplus \bigoplus_{n=2}^{\infty} \mathbb{Z}(n)^{(\mathfrak{c})}$  and  $G = H \oplus M$ . For every  $\beta < \mathfrak{c}$ , put  $M_\beta = \mathbb{Z}^{(\mathfrak{c} \setminus \beta)} \oplus \bigoplus_{n=2}^{\infty} \mathbb{Z}(n)^{(\mathfrak{c} \setminus \beta)}$ , and let  $G_\beta = H \oplus M_\beta$ . Note that  $H \cong H \times \{0_M\} = \bigcap_{\beta < \mathfrak{c}} G_\beta$ . Our main idea is to define a group topology  $\tau$  on  $G$  which will additionally make the subgroup  $G_\beta$  of  $G$  countably compact for each  $\beta < \mathfrak{c}$ , and such that the topology  $\tau_H^G$  on  $H$  induced from  $G$  will be finer than the original topology  $\tau_H$  of  $H$ . Once this is done, the group  $(H, \tau_H)$  can be represented as a continuous isomorphic image of the closed diagonal subgroup  $\Delta_H$  of the direct product  $\prod_{\beta < \mathfrak{c}} G_\beta$ . Let us show that such a construction is possible under MA.

Put  $T_n = \mathbb{Z}(n)^\omega$  if  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ , and  $T_\infty = \mathbb{T}^\omega$ . Note that  $T_n \leq T_\infty$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ . We also put  $T = T_\infty$  to avoid a frequent use of the subscript  $\infty$ . For every  $\alpha < \mathfrak{c}$ , denote by  $\pi_\alpha$  the projection of  $T^\mathfrak{c}$  onto  $T^\alpha$ . We shall construct an injective homomorphism  $h: G \rightarrow T^\mathfrak{c}$  satisfying the following conditions for all  $\alpha, \beta < \mathfrak{c}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}^* \cup \{\infty\}$  (recall that by definition,  $G_\beta[\infty] = G_\beta$ ):

- (A) if  $S$  is an  $n$ -round subset of  $G$ , then  $h(S)$  is finally dense in  $T_n^\mathfrak{c}$ ;
- (B)  $\pi_\alpha(h(G_\beta[n])) = T_n^\alpha$ .

The claim below partially explains the role of the conditions (A) and (B).

**Claim 1.** *If the homomorphism  $h: G \rightarrow T^\mathfrak{c}$  satisfies (A) and (B), then for every  $\beta < \mathfrak{c}$ , the subgroup  $h(G_\beta)$  of  $T^\mathfrak{c}$  is countably compact and has no non-trivial convergent sequences.*

Indeed, consider a countably infinite subset  $C$  of  $G$ . By Lemma 2.4,  $C$  contains either a set of the form  $S + z$ , where  $S$  is a  $d$ -round subset of  $G$  for an integer  $d > 1$ , or an  $\infty$ -round subset  $S'$ . In the first case, the image  $h(S)$  is finally dense in  $T_d^\mathfrak{c}$  by (A), and in the second case (A) implies that  $h(S')$  is finally dense in  $T^\mathfrak{c}$ . In either case,  $h(C)$  cannot converge since compact countable subsets of  $T^\mathfrak{c}$  or  $T_d^\mathfrak{c}$  are not finally dense.

Let us show that  $h(G_\beta)$  is countably compact for each  $\beta < \mathfrak{c}$ . First, we claim that  $h(G_\beta[n])$  is countably compact for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . This is trivial for  $n = 1$ . The next step is to see that  $h(G_\beta[p])$  is countably compact for a prime  $n = p$ . Indeed, by (A),  $h(G_\beta[p])$  is an HFD subgroup of  $T_p^\mathfrak{c}$  (every infinite subset of  $G_\beta[p]$  is  $p$ -round), and by (B), the projections of  $h(G_\beta[p])$  fill all faces  $T_p^\alpha$ ,  $\alpha < \mathfrak{c}$ . Therefore, Lemma 2.2 implies that  $h(G_\beta[p])$  is countably compact. Suppose that  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  is compound and we have proved countable compactness of  $h(G_\beta[d])$  for every proper divisor  $d$  of  $n$ . Consider a countably infinite subset  $S$  of  $G_\beta[n]$ . If  $S$  is  $n$ -round, then every infinite subset of  $S$  is also  $n$ -round, so (A) implies that  $h(S)$  is an HFD subset of  $T_n^\mathfrak{c}$ . Since  $h(G_\beta[n])$  fills all “initial” faces of  $T_n^\mathfrak{c}$ , again Lemma 2.2 implies that  $h(S)$  has a cluster point in  $h(G_\beta[n])$ . If  $S$  is not  $n$ -round, we apply Lemma 2.4 to find a proper divisor  $d$  of  $n$ , an element  $z \in G_\beta[n]$  and a  $d$ -round subset  $S_0$  of  $S$  such that  $S_0 + z \subseteq S$ . Since  $h(G_\beta[d])$  is countably compact by the inductive hypothesis,  $h(S_0)$  has a cluster point  $h(y)$  for some  $y \in G_\beta[d]$ . Therefore,  $h(z + y)$  is an accumulation point of  $h(S)$ . This proves that  $h(G_\beta[n])$  is countably compact.

Suppose now that  $C$  is a countably infinite subset of  $G_\beta$ . If  $C$  contains a subset of the form  $S + z$ , where  $z \in G_\beta$  and  $S$  is  $d$ -round in  $G_\beta$  for some  $d \in \mathbb{N}^*$ , then  $S \subseteq G_\beta[d]$ , and hence  $h(S)$  has a cluster point  $h(x)$  for some  $x \in G_\beta[d]$ . Therefore,  $h(x + z)$  is a cluster point of  $h(C)$ . Otherwise  $C$  contains an  $\infty$ -round subset  $S'$  by Lemma 2.4, so (A) implies that  $h(S')$  is finally dense in  $T^c$ . In fact, every infinite subset of  $S'$  is  $\infty$ -round, so  $h(S')$  is an HFD subset of  $T^c$ . From (B) and Lemma 2.2 it follows that  $h(S') \subseteq h(S)$  has a cluster point in  $h(G_\beta)$ , so  $h(G_\beta)$  is countably compact. This proves Claim 1.

By Claim 1, we obtain the required countably compact group topology on  $G$  identifying the group  $G$  with its image  $h(G) \subseteq T^c$ .

We shall construct the monomorphism  $h: G \rightarrow T^c$  by recursion of length  $\mathfrak{c}$ . For every  $\xi < \mathfrak{c}$ , put  $N_\xi = H \oplus \mathbb{Z}^{(\xi)} \oplus \bigoplus_{n=2}^\infty \mathbb{Z}(n)^{(\xi)}$ . Then  $G = \bigcup_{\xi < \mathfrak{c}} N_\xi$ , and the subgroups  $N_\xi$  of  $G$  satisfy the following conditions for all  $\xi < \mathfrak{c}$  (we put  $\mathbb{Z}(\infty) = \mathbb{Z}$  in (c) below):

- (a)  $N_0 = H$ , and  $N_\zeta \subseteq N_\xi$  if  $\zeta < \xi$ ;
- (b)  $N_\xi = \bigcup_{\zeta < \xi} N_\zeta$  if  $\xi$  is an infinite limit ordinal;
- (c) for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}^* \cup \{\infty\}$ ,  $N_{\xi+1} \cap G_\xi$  contains a copy of the group  $\mathbb{Z}(n)$  which trivially intersects  $N_\xi$ .

We shall use the decomposition  $G = \bigcup_{\xi < \mathfrak{c}} N_\xi$  in order to consequently define homomorphisms  $h_{\alpha,\xi}$  of  $N_\xi$  to  $T$  in such a way that  $h_{\alpha,\xi}$  extends  $h_{\alpha,\zeta}$  if  $\zeta < \xi < \mathfrak{c}$  and  $\alpha < \mathfrak{c}$ . Therefore, for every  $\alpha < \mathfrak{c}$ , we shall finally get the homomorphism  $h_\alpha = \bigcup_{\xi < \mathfrak{c}} h_{\alpha,\xi}$  of  $G$  to  $T$ . The homomorphism  $h: G \rightarrow T^c$  will be the diagonal product of the family  $\{h_\alpha : \alpha < \mathfrak{c}\}$ .

Denote by  $\mathcal{S}$  the family of all countably infinite subsets of  $G \setminus \{0\}$  such that every  $S \in \mathcal{S}$  is  $n$ -round for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}^* \cup \{\infty\}$ . It is clear that  $|\mathcal{S}| = \mathfrak{c}$ , so there exists an enumeration  $\mathcal{S} = \{S_\mu : 0 < \mu < \mathfrak{c}\}$  such that  $S_\mu \subseteq N_\mu$  whenever  $0 < \mu < \mathfrak{c}$ . Then  $S_\mu$  is  $d_\mu$ -round for some  $d_\mu \in \mathbb{N}^* \cup \{\infty\}$ .

Let  $\Sigma$  be the subgroup of  $T^c$  consisting of all  $x \in T^c$  that satisfy

$$|\{\alpha < \mathfrak{c} : x(\alpha) \neq 0\}| < \mathfrak{c}.$$

MA implies that the cardinality of  $\Sigma$  is equal to  $\sum_{\lambda < \mathfrak{c}} 2^\lambda = \mathfrak{c}$ , so there exists an enumeration  $\Sigma \setminus \{0\} = \{b_\nu : \nu < \mathfrak{c}\}$ . Finally, for every  $x \in G$ , denote by  $\xi(x)$  the minimal ordinal  $\xi < \mathfrak{c}$  such that  $x \in N_\xi$ . Then  $\xi(x)$  is either zero or non-limit.

Our aim now is to define a family  $\mathcal{H} = \{h_{\alpha,\nu} : \alpha, \nu < \mathfrak{c}\}$  satisfying the following conditions for all  $\alpha, \nu < \mathfrak{c}$ :

- (1)  $h_{\alpha,\nu}: N_\nu \rightarrow T$  is a homomorphism and  $h_{\alpha,\nu}$  extends  $h_{\alpha,\mu}$  if  $\mu < \nu$ ;
- (2) for every  $\mu$  with  $0 < \mu < \alpha$ , the image  $\Delta_{\mu \leq \gamma < \alpha} h_{\gamma,\mu}(S_\mu)$  is dense in  $T_{d_\mu}^{\alpha \setminus \mu}$ ;
- (3) there exists a point  $x \in N_{\nu+1} \cap G_\nu[\text{ord}(b_\nu)]$  such that  $h_{\gamma,\nu+1}(x) = b_\nu(\gamma)$  for each  $\gamma \leq \nu$ ;
- (4) if  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\xi = \min\{\xi(x) : x \in S_\alpha\}$ , then there exists a point  $z \in S_\alpha \cap N_\xi$  such that  $h_{\alpha,\alpha}(z) \neq 0$ .

Let us show that the homomorphism  $h = \Delta_{\alpha < \mathfrak{c}} h_\alpha: G \rightarrow T^c$  is injective. Suppose that  $x \in G$  is a non-zero element and put  $\xi = \xi(x)$ . Then choose an  $\infty$ -round subset  $S$  of  $G$  such that  $x \in S$  and  $\xi(y) > \xi$  for each  $y \in S$  distinct from  $x$ . Clearly,  $S = S_\alpha$  for some  $\alpha > 0$ . By (4), there exists  $z \in S_\alpha \cap N_\xi$  such that  $h_{\alpha,\alpha}(z) \neq 0$ . However,  $S_\alpha \cap N_\xi = \{x\}$ , so  $z = x$ . This proves that  $h_{\alpha,\alpha}(x) \neq 0$ .

Conditions (1)–(3) imply the validity of (A) and (B). Let us verify that (A) holds. If  $d \in \mathbb{N}^* \cup \{\infty\}$  and  $S$  is a  $d$ -round subset of  $G$ , then  $S = S_\mu$  for some  $\mu < \mathfrak{c}$ . For every  $\alpha$  satisfying  $\mu < \alpha < \mathfrak{c}$ , let  $f_{\mu,\alpha} = \Delta_{\mu \leq \gamma < \alpha} h_{\gamma,\alpha}$  be the diagonal product of the family  $\{h_{\gamma,\alpha} : \mu \leq \gamma < \alpha\}$ . From the equality  $\pi_{\alpha \setminus \mu} \circ h = f_{\mu,\alpha}$  and (1), (2) it follows that  $\pi_{\alpha \setminus \mu}(h(S_\mu))$  is dense in  $T_d^{\alpha \setminus \mu}$  for each  $\alpha > \mu$ , and hence  $h(S_\mu)$  is dense in  $T_d^{\mathfrak{c} \setminus \mu}$ .

Let us show that (B) holds. Suppose that  $\alpha, \beta < \mathfrak{c}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}^* \cup \{\infty\}$  and  $z \in T_n^\alpha$ ,  $z \neq 0$ . Denote by  $d$  the order of  $z$ . Then either  $d = n = \infty$  or  $d|n$ . Since  $|\{\nu < \mathfrak{c} : \text{ord}(b_\nu) = d \ \& \ \pi_\alpha(b_\nu) = z\}| = \mathfrak{c}$ , there exists  $\nu < \mathfrak{c}$  such that  $\alpha \leq \nu$ ,  $\beta \leq \nu$ ,  $\text{ord}(b_\nu) = d$  and  $\pi_\alpha(b_\nu) = z$ . By (3), there exists a point  $x \in N_{\nu+1} \cap G_\nu[d]$  such that  $h_{\gamma,\nu+1}(x) = b_\nu(\gamma)$  for each  $\gamma < \nu$ . This and the definition of  $h$  together imply that  $\pi_\alpha(h(x)) = z$ . Since  $z$  is an arbitrary point of  $T_n^\alpha$  and  $G_\nu \subseteq G_\beta$ , we have proved that  $\pi_\alpha(h(G_\beta[n])) = T_n^\alpha$ .

Therefore, it remains to prove the following:

**Claim 2.** *The family  $\mathcal{H}$  satisfying (1)–(4) exists under MA.*

Indeed, since  $w(H) = \aleph_0$ , there exists a topological monomorphism  $h_{0,0}: H \rightarrow T = \mathbb{T}^\omega$ , and we put  $\mathcal{H}_0 = \{h_{0,0}\}$ . Let  $\alpha$  be an ordinal with  $0 < \alpha < \mathfrak{c}$ , and suppose that for every  $\delta < \alpha$ , we have defined a family  $\mathcal{H}_\delta = \{h_{\gamma,\nu} : \gamma, \nu \leq \delta\}$  satisfying (1)–(4).

If  $\alpha = \beta + 1$ , the family  $\mathcal{H}_\beta$  has been defined to satisfy (1)–(4). We have to extend the homomorphisms  $h_{\gamma,\beta}$  (with  $\gamma \leq \beta$ ) over  $N_\alpha$ , thus obtaining the homomorphisms  $h_{\gamma,\alpha}$ , and define a homomorphism  $h_{\alpha,\alpha}: N_\alpha \rightarrow T$ .

Let us start with extensions of homomorphisms  $h_{\gamma,\beta}$ . Suppose that the element  $b_\beta \in \Sigma \setminus \{0\}$  has order  $n \in \mathbb{N}^* \cup \{\infty\}$ . Then by (c), there exists an element  $x \in N_\alpha \cap G_\beta$  of order  $n$  such that  $\langle x \rangle \cap N_\beta = \{0\}$ . For every  $\gamma \leq \beta$ , define a homomorphism  $h_{\gamma,\alpha}: N_\alpha \rightarrow T$  extending  $h_{\gamma,\beta}$  and satisfying  $h_{\gamma,\alpha}(x) = b_\beta(\gamma)$ .

Finally, we define a homomorphism  $h_{\alpha,\alpha}: N_\alpha \rightarrow T$ . First, choose an element  $z \in S_\alpha$  with the minimal possible  $\xi(z)$ . For every  $\mu \leq \beta$ , denote by  $f_{\mu,\alpha}$  the diagonal product of the homomorphisms  $h_{\gamma,\beta}$  with  $\mu \leq \gamma \leq \beta$ . Then  $f_{\mu,\alpha}: N_\alpha \rightarrow T^{\alpha \setminus \mu}$ . Apply Lemma 2.6 to find a homomorphism  $f: N_\alpha \rightarrow T$  such that  $f(z) \neq 0$  and for every  $\mu \leq \beta$ , the image  $(f_{\mu,\alpha} \Delta f)(S_\mu)$  is dense in  $T_{d_\mu}^{\alpha \setminus \mu} \times T_{d_\mu}$ . It remains to put  $h_{\alpha,\alpha} = f$  and  $h_{\alpha,\nu} = f|_{N_\nu}$  for each  $\nu < \alpha$ .

If  $\alpha$  is limit, then  $N_\alpha = \bigcup_{\beta < \alpha} N_\beta$ , so by (1), for every  $\gamma < \alpha$  there exists a homomorphism  $h_{\gamma,\alpha}: N_\alpha \rightarrow T$  such that  $h_{\gamma,\alpha}|_{N_\nu} = h_{\gamma,\nu}$  for each  $\nu < \alpha$ . The existence of a homomorphism  $h_{\alpha,\alpha}: N_\alpha \rightarrow T$  satisfying (4) can be established similarly to the case of a non-limit  $\alpha$  above. Put  $h_{\alpha,\nu} = h_{\alpha,\alpha}|_{N_\nu}$  for each  $\nu < \alpha$  to complete the construction of  $\mathcal{H}_\alpha$ . This also finishes our recursive construction of the family  $\mathcal{H} = \bigcup_{\alpha < \mathfrak{c}} \mathcal{H}_\alpha$ .

One easily verifies that the family  $\mathcal{H}$  satisfies (1)–(4). This proves Claim 2 and the theorem. □

Our next step settles the case of Abelian groups  $G^\#$  with  $|G| \leq \mathfrak{c}$ .

**Proposition 2.8** ([MA]).  *$G^\# \in \overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA})$  for every Abelian group  $G$  of cardinality  $\leq \mathfrak{c}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $G$  be an abstract Abelian group  $G$  with  $|G| \leq \mathfrak{c}$  and let  $\widehat{G} = \{\chi_i\}_{i \in I}$  be a one-to-one enumeration of the dual group  $\widehat{G}$ . Clearly, the topology  $\tau_B$  of  $G^\#$  is induced by the monomorphism  $g = \Delta_{i \in I} \chi_i : G \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^I$ . First we prove that  $G^\# \in \mathfrak{C}$ .

There exists an isomorphic embedding  $j : G \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^\omega$  [Fuc] that induces a second countable precompact group topology  $\tau$  on  $G$  which is obviously coarser than  $\tau_B$ . For every  $i \in I$ , denote by  $\tau_i$  the topology induced on  $G$  by  $j\Delta\chi_i : G \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^\omega \times \mathbb{T}$ . Then  $\tau_i$  is finer than  $\tau$  and  $w(G, \tau_i) = \aleph_0$ , so  $(G, \tau_i) \in \mathfrak{C}$  by Theorem 2.7. Hence also  $H = \prod_{i \in I} (G, \tau_i) \in \mathfrak{C}$ . The diagonal subgroup  $\Delta$  of  $H$  consisting of all points  $(x, x, \dots)$ , with  $x \in G$ , is closed, whence  $\Delta \in \mathfrak{C}$ . Since  $\tau_i$  is precompact, the identity map  $\nu_i : G^\# \rightarrow (G, \tau_i)$  is continuous for every  $i \in I$ . Hence  $\nu = \Delta_{i \in I} \nu_i : G \rightarrow H$  is continuous and  $\nu(G) = \Delta$ . Since the restriction  $p$  of the natural projection  $(\mathbb{T}^\omega \times \mathbb{T})^I \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^I$  to  $\Delta$  is continuous and  $g = p \circ \nu : G^\# \rightarrow g(G)$  is a topological isomorphism, we conclude that  $\nu$  is a topological isomorphism too. Hence  $G^\# \cong \Delta$  and so  $G^\# \in \mathfrak{C}$ .

Finally, let  $f : K \rightarrow G^\#$  be a continuous isomorphism, where  $K \in \overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA})$ . The group  $K$  is necessarily precompact, and since  $G^\#$  carries the maximal precompact group topology,  $f$  has to be a topological isomorphism. Therefore,  $G^\# \in \overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA})$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem A.* Suppose that a precompact Abelian group  $G$  satisfies  $|G| \leq \mathfrak{c}$ . Since the original topology of  $G$  is coarser than the Bohr topology of the abstract group  $G$ , the identity map  $G^\# \rightarrow G$  is continuous. By Proposition 2.8,  $G^\# \in \overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA})$ , so  $G \in \overline{ISC}(\mathcal{CCA}) = \mathfrak{C}$ .  $\square$

### 3. OPEN PROBLEMS

Here we formulate two problems concerning the relations between the classes  $\mathfrak{C} = \overline{ISC}(\mathcal{CCA})$ ,  $\overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA})$ ,  $Q\overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA})$ ,  $H\overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA})$  and the class  $\mathcal{PA}$  of all precompact Abelian groups.

**Problem 3.1.** Which of the following equalities holds:

- (a)  $\mathfrak{C} = \mathcal{PA}$ ;
- (b)  $Q\overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA}) = \mathcal{PA}$ ;
- (c)  $H\overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA}) = \mathcal{PA}$ ;
- (d)  $\overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA}) = \mathcal{SCP}\mathcal{A}$ ?

Our second problem is a special case of Problem 3.1 (d).

**Problem 3.2.** Is every precompact sequentially complete Abelian group of cardinality  $\leq \mathfrak{c}$  in  $\overline{SC}(\mathcal{CCA})$ ?

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