Selectors of discrete coarse spaces

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Abstract. Given a coarse space (X,\mathcal{E}) with the bornology \mathcal{B} of bounded subsets, we extend the coarse structure \mathcal{E} from $X\times X$ to the natural coarse structure on $(\mathcal{B}\setminus\{\emptyset\})\times(\mathcal{B}\setminus\{\emptyset\})$ and say that a macro-uniform mapping $f:(\mathcal{B}\setminus\{\emptyset\})\to X$ (or $f\colon [X]^2\to X$) is a selector (or 2-selector) of (X,\mathcal{E}) if $f(A)\in A$ for each $A\in\mathcal{B}\setminus\{\emptyset\}$ ($A\in [X]^2$, respectively). We prove that a discrete coarse space (X,\mathcal{E}) admits a selector if and only if (X,\mathcal{E}) admits a 2-selector if and only if there exists a linear order " \leq " on X such that the family of intervals $\{[a,b]\colon a,b\in X,\ a\leq b\}$ is a base for the bornology \mathcal{B} .

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1. Introduction

The notion of selectors comes from topology. Let X be a topological space, $\exp X$ be the set of all nonempty closed subsets of X endowed with some (initially, the Vietoris) topology, \mathcal{F} be a nonempty subset of $\exp X$. A continuous mapping $f \colon \mathcal{F} \to X$ is called an \mathcal{F} -selector of X if $F(A) \in A$ for each $A \in \mathcal{F}$. The question on selectors of topological spaces was studied in a plenty of papers, we mention only [1], [4], [7], [6].

Formally, coarse spaces, introduced independently and simultaneously in [8] and [13], can be considered as asymptotic counterparts of uniform spaces. But actually this notion is rooted in *geometry* and *geometric group theory*, see [13, Chapter 1] and [5, Chapter 4]. At this point, we need some basic definitions.

Given a set X, a family $\mathcal E$ of subsets of $X\times X$ is called a *coarse structure* on X if

 \circ each $E \in \mathcal{E}$ contains the diagonal $\triangle_X := \{(x, x) : x \in X\}$ of X;

 $\begin{array}{l} \circ \text{ if } E, \ E' \in \mathcal{E} \ \text{then } E \circ E' \in \mathcal{E} \ \text{and } E^{-1} \in \mathcal{E}, \ \text{where } E \circ E' = \{(x,y) \colon \exists \, z \ ((x,z) \in E, \ (z,y) \in E')\}, \ E^{-1} = \{(y,x) \colon (x,y) \in E\}; \end{array}$

 \circ if $E \in \mathcal{E}$ and $\triangle_X \subseteq E' \subseteq E$ then $E' \in \mathcal{E}$.

Elements $E \in \mathcal{E}$ of the coarse structure are called *entourages* on X.

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For $x \in X$ and $E \in \mathcal{E}$ the set $E[x] := \{y \in X : (x,y) \in \mathcal{E}\}$ is called the *ball* of radius E centered at x. Since $E = \bigcup_{x \in X} (\{x\} \times E[x])$, the entourage E is uniquely determined by the family of balls $\{E[x] : x \in X\}$. A subfamily $\mathcal{E}' \subseteq \mathcal{E}$ is called a *base* of the coarse structure \mathcal{E} if each set $E \in \mathcal{E}$ is contained in some $E' \in \mathcal{E}'$.

The pair (X, \mathcal{E}) is called a *coarse space*, see [13], or a *ballean*, see [8], [11].

In this paper, all coarse spaces under consideration are supposed to be *connected*, that is, for any $x, y \in X$, there is $E \in \mathcal{E}$ such $y \in E[x]$. A subset $Y \subseteq X$ is called *bounded* if Y = E[x] for some $E \in \mathcal{E}$, and $x \in X$. The family \mathcal{B}_X of all bounded subsets of X is a bornology on X. We recall that a family \mathcal{B} of subsets of a set X is a *bornology* if \mathcal{B} contains the family $[X]^{<\omega}$ of all finite subsets of X and \mathcal{B} is closed under finite unions and taking subsets. A bornology \mathcal{B} on a set X is called *unbounded* if $X \notin \mathcal{B}$. A subfamily \mathcal{B}' of \mathcal{B} is called a base for \mathcal{B} if for each $B \in \mathcal{B}$, there exists $B' \in \mathcal{B}'$ such that $B \subseteq B'$.

Each subset $Y \subseteq X$ defines a subspace $(Y, \mathcal{E}|_Y)$ of (X, \mathcal{E}) , where $\mathcal{E}|_Y = \{E \cap (Y \times Y) : E \in \mathcal{E}\}$. A subspace $(Y, \mathcal{E}|_Y)$ is called large if there exists $E \in \mathcal{E}$ such that X = E[Y], where $E[Y] = \bigcup_{y \in Y} E[y]$.

Let (X, \mathcal{E}) , (X', \mathcal{E}') be coarse spaces. A mapping $f: X \to X'$ is called macro-uniform if for every $E \in \mathcal{E}$ there exists $E' \in \mathcal{E}'$ such that $f(E(x)) \subseteq E'(f(x))$ for each $x \in X$. If f is a bijection such that f and f^{-1} are macro-uniform, then f is called an asymorphism. If (X, \mathcal{E}) and (X', \mathcal{E}') contain large asymorphic subspaces, then they are called coarsely equivalent.

For a coarse space (X, \mathcal{E}) , we denote by X^{\flat} the set of all nonempty bounded subsets of X, so $(X^{\flat} = \mathcal{B} \setminus \{\emptyset\})$ and by \mathcal{E}^{\flat} the coarse structure on X^{\flat} with the base $\{E^{\flat} : E \in \mathcal{E}\}$, where

$$(A, B) \in E^{\flat} \Leftrightarrow A \subseteq E[B], \qquad B \subseteq E[A],$$

and say that $(X^{\flat}, \mathcal{E}^{\flat})$ is the *hyperballean* of (X, \mathcal{E}) . For hyperballeans see [2], [3], [9], [10].

We say that a macro-uniform mapping $f: X^{\flat} \to X$ (or $f: [X]^2 \to X$) is a selector (or 2-selector) of (X, \mathcal{E}) if $f(A) \in A$ for each $A \in X^{\flat}$ $(A \in [X]^2$, respectively). We note that a selector is a macro-uniform retraction of X^{\flat} to $[X]^1$ identified with X.

We recall that a coarse space (X, \mathcal{E}) is discrete if, for each $E \in \mathcal{E}$, there exists a bounded subset B of (X, \mathcal{E}) such that $E[x] = \{x\}$ for each $x \in X \setminus B$. Every bornology \mathcal{B} on a set X defines the discrete coarse space $X_{\mathcal{B}} = (X, \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{B}})$, where $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{B}}$ is a coarse structure with the base $\{E_B : B \in \mathcal{B}\}$, $E_B[x] = B$ if $x \in B$ and $E_B[x] = \{x\}$ if $x \in X \setminus B$. On the other hand, every discrete coarse space (X, \mathcal{E}) coincides with $X_{\mathcal{B}}$, where \mathcal{B} is the bornology of bounded subsets of (X, \mathcal{E}) .

Our goal is to characterize discrete coarse spaces which admit selectors. After exposition of results, we conclude with some comments and open problems.

2. Results

Let " \leq " be a linear order on a set X. We say that (X, \leq) is

- right (left) well-ordered if every subset Y of X has the minimal (maximal) element;
- o right (left) bounded if X has the maximal (minimal) element;
- \circ bounded if X is left and right bounded.

Every linear order " \leq " on X defines the bornology \mathcal{B}_{\leq} on X such that the family $\{[a,b]\colon a,b\in X,\ a\leq b\}$, where $[a,b]=\{x\in X\colon a\leq x\leq b\}$, is a base for \mathcal{B}_{\leq} . Clearly, $X\in\mathcal{B}_{\leq}$ if and only if (X,\leq) is bounded.

We say that a bornology \mathcal{B} on a set X has an interval base if there exists a linear order " \leq " on X such that $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}_{\leq}$.

Theorem 1. For a bornology \mathcal{B} on a set X and the discrete coarse space $X_{\mathcal{B}}$, the following statements are equivalent

- (i) $X_{\mathcal{B}}$ admits a selector;
- (ii) $X_{\mathcal{B}}$ admits a 2-selector;
- (iii) \mathcal{B} has an interval base.

PROOF: If $X \in \mathcal{B}$ then we have nothing to prove: every mapping $f: \mathcal{B} \setminus \{\emptyset\} \to X$ (or $f: [X]^2 \to X$) such that $f(A) \in A$ is a selector (2-selector, respectively) and we take an arbitrary linear order " \leq " on X such that (X, \leq) is bounded. In what follows, $X \notin \mathcal{B}$ so $X_{\mathcal{B}}$ is unbounded. The implication (i) \Rightarrow (ii) is evident.

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii) We take a 2-selector f of $X_{\mathcal{B}}$ and define a binary relation " \prec " on X as follows: $a \prec b$ if and only if either a = b or $f(\{a, b\}) = a$.

We use the following key observation.

(*) For every $B \in \mathcal{B}$, there exists $C \in \mathcal{B}$ such that if $z \in X \setminus C$ then either $b \prec z$ for each $b \in B$ or $z \prec b$ for each $b \in B$.

Indeed, we take $C \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $B \subseteq C$ and if $A, A' \in [X]^2$ and $(A, A') \in E_B^{\flat}$ then $(f(A), f(A')) \in E_C$.

We take and fix distinct $l, r \in X$ such that $l \prec r$ and use Zorn's lemma to choose a maximal by inclusion subset A of X such that $A = L \cup R$, $L \cap R = \emptyset$, R is right well-ordered by " \prec " with the minimal element r, L is left well-ordered by " \prec " with the maximal element l and $x \prec y$ for all $x \in L$, $y \in R$.

By the maximality of A and (*), A is unbounded in X_B . For $a, b \in A$, $a \prec b$, we denote $[a, b]_A = \{x \in A : a \prec x \prec b\}$. Applying (*) with $B = [a, b]_A$, we see that $[a, b]_A$ is bounded in X_B .

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We consider three cases.

Case 1: Assume that L and R are unbounded in $X_{\mathcal{B}}$. We define some auxiliary mapping $h\colon X\to A$. For $x\in A$, we put h(x)=x. For $x\in X\backslash A$, we use (*) with $B=\{r,x\}$ to find the minimal element $c\in R$ such that $x\prec y$ for each $y\in A,\ c\prec y$. If $c\neq r$ then we put h(x)=c. Otherwise, we use (*) to choose the maximal element $d\in L$ such that $y\prec x$ for each $y\in L\cup\{r\},\ y\prec d$. We put h(x)=d.

We take arbitrary $a, b \in A$ such that $a \prec l \prec r \prec b$. If $h(x) \in [a, b]$ then, by the construction of h, we have $a \prec x \prec b$. Applying (*) with $B = [a, b]_A$, we conclude that $h^{-1}([a, b]_A)$ is bounded in X_B . In particular, $h^{-1}(c)$ is bounded in X_B for each $c \in A$.

Now we are ready to define the desired linear order " \leq " on X. If $h(x) \prec h(y)$ and $h(x) \neq h(y)$ then we put x < y. If $c \in R$ then we endow $h^{-1}(c)$ with a right well-order " \leq ". If $c \in L$ then we endow $h^{-1}(c)$ with a left well-order " \leq ".

It remains to verify that the family $\{[a,b]: a,b \in X, a \leq b\}$ is a base for \mathcal{B} . Let $a,b \in A$ and $a \leq b$. We have shown that $h^{-1}([a,b]_A) \in \mathcal{B}$, hence $[a,b] \in \mathcal{B}$. If $a,b \in X$ and $a \leq b$ then we take $a' \in A$, $b' \in A$ such that a' < a, b < b'. Since $[a',b'] \in \mathcal{B}$, we have $[a,b] \in \mathcal{B}$. On the other hand, if Y is a bounded subset of $X_{\mathcal{B}}$ then we apply (*) with $B = Y \cup \{l,r\}$ to find $a \in L$, $b \in R$ such that $h(B) \subseteq [a,b]_A$, hence $B \subseteq [a,b]$.

Case 2: Assume that L is bounded and R is unbounded in $X_{\mathcal{B}}$. Since $L \in \mathcal{B}$, by (*), the set $C = \{x \in X : x < y \text{ for each } y \in R\}$ is bounded in $X_{\mathcal{B}}$. We use arguments from Case 1 to define \leq on $X \setminus C$. Then we extend " \leq " to X so that (C, \leq) is bounded and $x \prec y$ for all $x \in C$, $y \in X \setminus C$.

Case 3: Assume that L is unbounded and R is bounded in $X_{\mathcal{B}}$. Since $R \in \mathcal{B}$, by (*), the set $D = \{x \in X : y \prec x \text{ for each } y \in L\}$ is bounded in $X_{\mathcal{B}}$. We use arguments from Case 1 to define " \leq " on $X \setminus D$. Then we extend " \leq " to X so that (D, \leq) is bounded and $x \prec y$ for all $x \in X \setminus D$, $y \in D$.

(iii) \Rightarrow (i) We take a linear order " \prec " on X witnessing that \mathcal{B} has an interval base. We define a 2-selector $f:[X]^2 \to X$ by $f(\{x,y\}) = x$ if and only if $x \prec y$. Then we take the linear order " \leq " on X defined in the proof (ii) \Rightarrow (iii). To define a selector s of $X_{\mathcal{B}}$, we denote $X_l = \{x \in X : x \leq l\}$, $X_r = \{x \in X : r \leq x\}$. By the construction of " \leq ", X_l is right well-ordered and X_r is left well-ordered. We take an arbitrary $Y \in \mathcal{B} \setminus \{\emptyset\}$. If $Y \cap X_l \neq \emptyset$ then we take the maximal element $a \in Y \cap X_l$ and put s(Y) = a. Otherwise, we choose the minimal element $b \in Y \cap X_r$ and put s(Y) = b.

To see that s is macro-uniform, we take an interval [a,b] in (X, \leq) and $Y, Z \in \mathcal{B} \setminus \{\emptyset\}$ such that $Y \setminus [a,b] = Z \setminus [a,b], Y \cap [a,b] \neq \emptyset, Z \cap [a,b] \neq \emptyset$. If $s(Y) \notin [a,b]$ then s(Y) = s(Z). If $s(Y) \in [a,b]$ then $s(Z) \in [a,b]$.

An ordinal α endowed with the reverse ordering is called the *antiordinal* of α .

Corollary 2. If $X_{\mathcal{B}}$ has a selector then \mathcal{B} has an interval base with respect to some linear order " \leq " on X such that (X, \leq) is the ordinal sum of an antiordinal and an ordinal.

PROOF: We take the linear order from the proof of Theorem 1 and note that X_l is an antiordinal, X_r is ordinal and (X, \leq) is the ordinal sum of X_l and X_r . \square

Corollary 3. If a bornology \mathcal{B} on a set X has a base linearly ordered by inclusion then the discrete coarse space $X_{\mathcal{B}}$ admits a selector.

PROOF: Since \mathcal{B} has a linearly ordered base, we can choose a base $\{B_{\alpha} : \alpha < \kappa\}$ well-ordered by inclusion. We show that \mathcal{B} has an interval base and apply Theorem 1.

For each $\alpha < \kappa$, let $\mathcal{D}_{\alpha} = B_{\alpha+1} \setminus B_{\alpha}$. We endow each \mathcal{D}_{α} with an arbitrary right well-order " \leq ". If $x \in \mathcal{D}_{\alpha}$, $y \in \mathcal{D}_{\beta}$ and $\alpha < \beta$, we put x < y. Then $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}_{\leq}$.

Remark 4. Let (X, \leq) be the ordinal sum of the antiordinal of ω and the ordinal ω_1 . Then the interval bornology \mathcal{B}_{\leq} does not have a linearly ordered base. Indeed, let $X = L \cup R$, $L = \{l_n \colon n < \omega\}$, $l_n < l_m$ if and only if m < n, $R = \{r_\alpha \colon \alpha < \omega_1\}$, $r_\alpha < r_\beta$ if and only if $\alpha < \beta$, and $l_n < r_\alpha$ for all n, α . Assuming that \mathcal{B}_{\leq} has a linearly ordered base, we choose a base \mathcal{B}' of \mathcal{B}_{\leq} well-ordered by inclusion and denote $\mathcal{B}'_n = \{A \in \mathcal{B}' \colon \min A = l_n\}$. By the choice of R, there exists $m \in \omega$ such that \mathcal{B}'_m is cofinal in \mathcal{B}_{\leq} , but $l_{m+1} \notin A$ for each $A \in \mathcal{B}'_m$ and we get a contradiction.

Theorem 5. Let (X, \mathcal{E}) be a coarse space with the bornology \mathcal{B} of bounded subsets. If f is a 2-selector of (X, \mathcal{E}) then f is a 2-selector of $X_{\mathcal{B}}$.

PROOF: Let $B \in \mathcal{B}$, $A, A' \in [X]^2$ and $(A, A') \in E_B^{\flat}$. Since f is a 2-selector of (X, \mathcal{E}) , there exists $F \in \mathcal{E}$, $F = F^{-1}$ such that $(f(A), f(A')) \in F$.

If $A \cap B = \emptyset$ then A = A'. If $A \subseteq B$ then $A' \in B$, so $(f(A), f(A')) \in E_B$.

Let $A = \{b, a\}$, $A' = \{b', a\}$, $b \in B$, $b' \in B$ and $a \in X \setminus B$. If $a \in F[\{b, b'\}]$ then $f(A), f(A') \in F[\{b, b'\}]$. If $a \notin F[\{b, b'\}]$ then either f(A) = f(A') = a or $f(A), f(A') \in \{b, b'\}$.

In all considered cases, we have $(f(A), f(A')) \in E_{F[B]}$. Hence, f is a 2-selector of $X_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Remark 6. Every metric space (X, d) has the natural coarse structure \mathcal{E}_d with the base $\{E_r : r > 0\}$, $E_r = \{(x, y) : d(x, y) \le r\}$. Let \mathcal{B} denote the bornology of bounded subsets of (X, \mathcal{E}_d) . By Corollary 3, the discrete coarse space $X_{\mathcal{B}}$ admits

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a 2-selector. We show that (X, \mathcal{E}_d) could not admit a 2-selector, so the conversion of Theorem 5 does not hold.

Let $X = \mathbb{Z}^2$, $x = (x_1, x_2)$, $y = (y_1, y_2)$, $d(x, y) = \max\{|x_1 - y_1|, |x_2 - y_2|\}$. We suppose that there exists a 2-selector f of (X, \mathcal{E}_d) and choose a natural number n such that if $A, A' \in [X]^2$ and $(A, A') \in E_1^{\flat}$ then $(f(A), f(A')) \in E_n$, so $d(f(A), f(A')) \leq n$. We denote $S_n = \{x \in X : d(x, 0) = n\}$. For $x \in S_n$, let $A_x = \{x, -x\}$. Then we can choose $x, y \in S_n$ such that d(x, y) = 1, $f(A_x) = x$, $f(A_y) = -y$, but d(x, y) > n.

3. Comments

1. Let (X,\mathcal{U}) be a uniform space and let \mathcal{F}_X denote the set of all nonempty closed subsets of X endowed with the Hausdorff-Bourbaki uniformity. Given a subset \mathcal{F} of \mathcal{F}_X , a uniformly continuous mapping $f \colon \mathcal{F} \to X$ is called an \mathcal{F} -selector if $f(A) \in A$ for each $A \in \mathcal{F}$. If $\mathcal{F} = [X]^2$ then f is called a 2-selector.

In contrast to the topological case, the problem of uniform selections is much less studied. Almost all known results are concentrated around uniformizations of Michael's theorem, for references see [12].

Given a discrete uniform space, how can one detects whether X admits a 2-selector? This question seems very difficult even in the case of a countable discrete metric space X. To demonstrate the obstacles for a simple characterization, we consider the following example.

We take a family $\{C_n : n < \omega\}$ of pairwise nonintersecting circles of radius 1 on the Euclidean plane \mathbb{R}^2 . Then we inscribe a regular n-gon M_n in C_n and denote by X the set of all vertices of $\{M_n : n < \omega\}$. It is easy to verify that X does not admit a 2-selector.

2. Given a group G with the identity e, we denote by \mathcal{E}_G a coarse structure on G with the base

$$\{\{(x,y)\in G\times G\colon y\in Fx\}\colon F\in [G]^{<\omega},\ e\in F\}$$

and say that (G, \mathcal{E}_G) is the *finitary coarse space* of G. It should be noticed that finitary coarse spaces of groups (in the form of Cayley graphs) are used in geometric group theory, see [5]. We note that the bornology of bounded subsets of (G, \mathcal{E}_G) is the set $[G]^{<\omega}$. Applying Theorem 1 and Theorem 5, we conclude that if (G, \mathcal{E}_G) admits a 2-selector then G must be countable.

Problem 1. Characterize countable groups G such that the finitary coarse space (G, \mathcal{E}_G) admits a 2-selector.

3. Every connected graph $\Gamma[V]$ with the set of vertices V can be considered as the metric space (V, d),

Problem 2. Characterize graphs $\Gamma[\mathcal{V}]$ such that the coarse space of (\mathcal{V}, d) , wherever d is the path metric on the set of vertices \mathcal{V} , admits a 2-selector.

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