

## INFINITE TOWERS OF TREE LATTICES

LISA CARBONE AND GABRIEL ROSENBERG

### §0. Introduction

Let  $X$  be a locally finite tree and let  $G = \text{Aut}(X)$ . Then  $G$  is naturally a locally compact group ([BL], Ch. 3). A discrete subgroup  $\Gamma \leq G$  is called an  $X$ -lattice if

$$(1) \quad \text{Vol}(\Gamma \backslash X) \quad := \quad \sum_{x \in V(\Gamma \backslash X)} \frac{1}{|\Gamma_x|}$$

is finite, and a *uniform  $X$ -lattice* if  $\Gamma \backslash X$  is a finite graph, *non-uniform* otherwise ([BL], Ch. 3). Bass and Kulkarni have shown ([BK], (4.10)) that  $G = \text{Aut}(X)$  contains a uniform  $X$ -lattice if and only if  $X$  is the universal covering of a finite connected graph, or equivalently, that  $G$  is unimodular, and  $G \backslash X$  is finite. In this case, we call  $X$  a *uniform tree*.

Following ([BL], (3.5)) we call  $X$  *rigid* if  $G$  itself is discrete, and we call  $X$  *minimal* if  $G$  acts minimally on  $X$ , that is, there is no proper  $G$ -invariant subtree. If  $X$  is uniform then there is always a unique minimal  $G$ -invariant subtree  $X_0 \subseteq X$  ([BL] (5.7), (5.11), (9.7)). We call  $X$  *virtually rigid* if  $X_0$  is rigid (*cf.* ([BL], (3.6))).

Let  $X$  be a locally finite tree, and let  $\Gamma \leq \Gamma'$  be an inclusion of  $X$ -lattices. Then by ([BL], (1.7)) we have:

$$(2) \quad \text{Vol}(\Gamma' \backslash X) \quad = \quad \frac{\text{Vol}(\Gamma \backslash X)}{[\Gamma' : \Gamma]}.$$

We call an infinite ascending chain

$$(3) \quad \Gamma_1 < \Gamma_2 < \Gamma_3 < \dots$$

of  $X$ -lattices an *infinite tower of  $X$ -lattices*. By (0.2), the lattice inclusions of (0.3) are of finite index, and  $\text{Vol}(\Gamma_i \backslash X) \rightarrow 0$  as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ .

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The Kazhdan-Margulis property for lattices in Lie groups ([KM]) states that the co-volume of a lattice is bounded away from zero. Hence the existence of infinite towers of  $X$ -lattices in  $G = \text{Aut}(X)$  shows that the Kazhdan-Margulis property is violated for  $X$ -lattices.

Bass and Kulkarni have given ([BK], (Sec. 7)) several examples of uniform trees such that  $G = \text{Aut}(X)$  contains infinite towers of uniform  $X$ -lattices. The second author has extended the results and techniques of Bass-Kulkarni to all uniform trees that are not rigid ([R]).

Here our main result is that, with one exception (see §5), if  $G = \text{Aut}(X)$  contains a non-uniform  $X$ -lattice, then  $G$  contains an infinite tower of non-uniform  $X$ -lattices.

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### §1. The setting

An *edge-indexed graph*  $(A, i)$  consists of an underlying graph  $A$ , and an assignment of a positive integer  $i(e) > 0$  to each oriented edge  $e \in EA$ . Our underlying graph  $A$  will always be understood to be locally finite. In [BK] and [BL] one allows  $i(e)$  to be any positive cardinal, but our interest here is only in finite  $i(e)$ . If  $i(e) > 1$ , we call  $e$  *ramified* and *unramified* otherwise.

Let  $\mathbb{A} = (A, \mathcal{A})$  be a graph of groups, with underlying graph  $A$ , vertex groups  $(\mathcal{A}_a)_{a \in VA}$ , edge groups  $(\mathcal{A}_e = \mathcal{A}_{\bar{e}})_{e \in EA}$  and monomorphisms  $\alpha_e: \mathcal{A}_e \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}_{\partial_0 e}$ . A graph of groups  $\mathbb{A}$  naturally gives rise to an edge-indexed graph  $I(\mathbb{A}) = (A, i)$  whose indices are the indices of the edge-groups as subgroups of the adjacent vertex groups: that is,  $i(e) = [\mathcal{A}_{\partial_0 e} : \alpha_e \mathcal{A}_e]$ , which we assume to be finite, for all  $e \in EA$ .

Given an edge-indexed graph  $(A, i)$ , a graph of groups  $\mathbb{A}$  such that  $I(\mathbb{A}) = (A, i)$ , is called a *grouping* of  $(A, i)$ . We call  $\mathbb{A}$  a *finite grouping* if the vertex groups  $\mathcal{A}_a$  are finite and a *faithful grouping* if  $\mathbb{A}$  is a faithful graph of groups, that is if  $\pi_1(\mathbb{A}, a)$  acts faithfully on  $X = \widehat{(\mathbb{A}, a)}$ .

Let  $\mathbb{A}'$  and  $\mathbb{A}$  be groupings of  $(A, i)$ . Then  $\mathbb{A}' = (A, \mathcal{A}')$  is called a *full graph of subgroups* of  $\mathbb{A} = (A, \mathcal{A})$  (as in ([B], (1.14)) if  $\mathcal{A}'_a \leq \mathcal{A}_a$  for  $a \in A'$ , and for  $e \in EA'$ ,  $\mathcal{A}'_e \leq \mathcal{A}_e$ , and  $\alpha'_e = \alpha_e|_{\mathcal{A}'_e}$ . We further assume that for  $e \in EA'$ , with  $\partial_0 e = a$ ,  $\mathcal{A}'_a \cap \alpha_e \mathcal{A}_e = \alpha_e \mathcal{A}'_e$ , that is  $\mathcal{A}'_a / \alpha_e \mathcal{A}'_e \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_a / \alpha_e \mathcal{A}_e$  is injective, and hence bijective. This assumption implies that  $I(\mathbb{A}') = (A, i)$ , and that  $\pi_1(\mathbb{A}', a') \leq \pi_1(\mathbb{A}, a)$  ([B], (1.14)).

Let  $(A, i)$  be an edge-indexed graph. A *tower of groupings* on  $(A, i)$  is a semi-infinite sequence  $(\mathbb{A}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}}$  of groupings of  $(A, i)$  such that each  $\mathbb{A}_i$  is a full graph of proper subgroups of  $\mathbb{A}_{i+1}$ . A tower of faithful groupings induces an infinite ascending chain of fundamental groups:

$$(1) \quad \pi_1(\mathbb{A}_1, a_0) \leq \pi_1(\mathbb{A}_2, a_0) \leq \pi_1(\mathbb{A}_3, a_0) \leq \dots$$

For an edge  $e \in EA$ , define:

$$(2) \quad \Delta(e) = \frac{i(\bar{e})}{i(e)}.$$

If  $\gamma = (e_1, \dots, e_n)$  is a path, set:

$$\Delta(\gamma) = \Delta(e_1) \dots \Delta(e_n).$$

**Definition.** An indexed graph  $(A, i)$  is unimodular if  $\Delta(\gamma) = 1$  for all closed paths  $\gamma$  in  $A$ .

Now assume that  $(A, i)$  is unimodular. Pick a base point  $a_0 \in VA$ , and define, for  $a \in VA$ ,

$$(3) \quad N_{a_0}(a) = \frac{\Delta a}{\Delta a_0} (= \Delta(\gamma) \text{ for any path } \gamma \text{ from } a_0 \text{ to } a) \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}.$$

For  $e \in EA$ , put

$$N_{a_0}(e) := \frac{N_{a_0}(\partial_0(e))}{i(e)}.$$

Following ([BL], (2.6)), we say that  $(A, i)$  has *bounded denominators* if

$$\{N_{a_0}(e) \mid e \in EA\}$$

has bounded denominators, that is, if for some integer  $D > 0$ ,  $D \cdot N_{a_0}$  takes only integer values on edges. Since

$$N_{a_1} = \frac{\Delta a_0}{\Delta a_1} N_{a_0},$$

this condition is independent of  $a_0 \in VA$ .

**Theorem ([BK], (2.4)).** An indexed graph  $(A, i)$  admits a finite grouping if and only if  $(A, i)$  is unimodular and has bounded denominators. The grouping can further be taken to be faithful.

We define the *volume* of an indexed graph  $(A, i)$  at a basepoint  $a_0 \in VA$ :

$$(4) \quad Vol_{a_0}(A, i) := \sum_{a \in VA} \frac{1}{\left(\frac{\Delta a}{\Delta a_0}\right)} = \sum_{a \in VA} \left(\frac{\Delta a_0}{\Delta a}\right).$$

Then

$$Vol_{a_1}(A, i) = \frac{\Delta a_0}{\Delta a_1} Vol_{a_0}(A, i),$$

as in ([BL], Ch. 2) We write  $Vol(A, i) < \infty$  if  $Vol_a(A, i) < \infty$  for some, and hence every  $a \in VA$ .

If  $\mathbb{A}$  is a finite grouping of  $(A, i)$ , then we have ([BL], (2.6.15)):

$$(5) \quad Vol(\mathbb{A}) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}_a|} Vol_a(A, i),$$

which is automatically finite if  $Vol(A, i) < \infty$ .

We now describe a method for constructing  $X$ -lattices which follows naturally from the fundamental theory of Bass-Serre ([B], [S]), and was first suggested in ([BK]). We begin with an edge-indexed graph  $(A, i)$ . Then  $(A, i)$  determines  $X = \widetilde{(A, i, a_0)}$  up to isomorphism ([BL], Ch. 2).

We say that  $(A, i)$  *admits a lattice* if  $(A, i)$  admits a grouping  $\mathbb{A}$  such that  $\pi_1(\mathbb{A}, a_0)$  is an  $X$ -lattice. This happens if and only if  $(A, i)$  satisfies:

- (U)  $(A, i)$  is unimodular, and
- (BD)  $(A, i)$  has bounded denominators, and
- (FV)  $(A, i)$  has finite volume.

Assume that  $(A, i)$  is unimodular and has bounded denominators (which is automatic if  $A$  is finite). By ([BK], (2.4)) we can find a finite faithful grouping  $\mathbb{A}$  of  $(A, i)$  and a group  $\Gamma = \pi_1(\mathbb{A}, a_0)$  acting faithfully on  $X$ . Then

- (a)  $\Gamma$  is *discrete*, since  $\mathbb{A}$  is a graph of *finite* groups.
- (b)  $\Gamma$  is a *uniform  $X$ -lattice* if and only if  $A$  is finite.
- (c)  $\Gamma$  is a *non-uniform  $X$ -lattice* if and only if  $A$  is infinite, and

$$(6) \quad Vol(\Gamma \backslash X) = Vol(\mathbb{A}) := \sum_{a \in VA} \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}_a|} = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}_a|} Vol_a(A, i) < \infty.$$

Our task is the following: *given an edge-indexed graph  $(A, i)$  of finite volume, construct an infinite tower of finite faithful groupings of  $(A, i)$ .* This induces an infinite tower

$$\Gamma_1 < \Gamma_2 < \Gamma_3 < \dots$$

of  $X$ -lattices in  $Aut(X)$ , for  $X = \widetilde{(A, i)}$ , with  $\Gamma_i \backslash X = A$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots$

An edge  $e \in EA$  is called *separating* if  $A - \{e, \bar{e}\}$  has two connected components  $A_0(e)$  and  $A_1(e)$ , where  $A_0(e)$  and  $A_1(e)$  contain  $\partial_0(e)$  and  $\partial_1(e)$  respectively.

Let  $(A, i)$  be any connected edge-indexed graph. A subset  $\beta \subset EA$  of  $n \geq 2$  (oriented) edges is called an *arithmetic bridge* for  $(A, i)$  (as in ([C1], Sec. 4)) if:

- (1)  $\beta \cap \bar{\beta} = \emptyset$ ,  $A - (\beta \cup \bar{\beta})$  has two connected components,  $A_0$  and  $A_1$ ,
- (2) For every  $e \in \beta$ ,  $\partial_0 e \in A_0$  and  $\partial_1 e \in A_1$ ,
- (3) There exists an integer  $d > 1$  such that  $d \mid i(e)$  for every  $e \in \beta$ .

Following [BT] we say that  $(A, i)$  is *discretely ramified* if for  $e \in EA$

$$i(e) > 1 \implies i(e) = 2, \text{ } e \text{ is separating, and } (A_0(e), i) \text{ is an unramified tree.}$$

We call  $(A, i)$  a *dominant rooted edge-indexed tree* if  $A$  is a tree, and there exists an  $a \in VA$  such that  $i(e) = 1$  for all edges  $e \in EA$  directed towards  $a$ . Let  $(A, i)$  be an edge-indexed graph. We say that  $(A, i)$  is *restricted* if  $(A, i)$  satisfies any one of the following conditions:

- (DR)  $(A, i)$  is discretely ramified, or
- (F)  $(A, i)$  is a dominant rooted edge-indexed tree, or
- (GS)  $A$  is a tree, and  $(A, i)$  contains a prime-prime interval (see [R]) and no other ramified edges.

We say that  $(A, i)$  is *permissible* if  $(A, i)$  admits a lattice and if  $(A, i)$  is not restricted. We note that an infinite edge-indexed graph  $(A, i)$  with finite volume is automatically non-discretely ramified, is not a dominant rooted tree ([CR2]), is obviously not (GS) as above, and hence is not restricted.

## §2. Rooted products of graphs of groups

Given rooted graphs of groups  $\mathbb{A} = (A, \mathcal{A}, a_0)$ ,  $a_0 \in VA$ , and  $\mathbb{B} = (B, \mathcal{B}, b_0)$ ,  $b_0 \in VB$ , we construct a rooted graph of groups  $\mathbb{C} = (C, \mathcal{C}, c_0) = \mathbb{A} \times_{a_0=b_0} \mathbb{B}$  as follows: we set

$$C := A \sqcup B / (a_0 = b_0 = c_0).$$

For  $a \in VA$ ,  $e \in EA$ , we set

$$\mathcal{C}_a := \mathcal{A}_a \times \mathcal{B}_{b_0}, \quad \mathcal{C}_e := \mathcal{A}_e \times \mathcal{B}_{b_0},$$

and if  $\alpha_e : \mathcal{A}_e \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}_{\partial_0 e}$ , we set

$$\gamma_e := \alpha_e \times Id_{\mathcal{B}_{b_0}}.$$

Similarly, for  $b \in VB$ ,  $e \in EB$ , we set

$$\mathcal{C}_b := \mathcal{A}_{a_0} \times \mathcal{B}_b, \quad \mathcal{C}_e := \mathcal{A}_{a_0} \times \mathcal{B}_e,$$

and if  $\beta_e : \mathcal{B}_e \hookrightarrow \mathcal{B}_{\partial_0 e}$ , we set

$$\gamma_e := Id_{\mathcal{A}_{a_0}} \times \beta_e.$$

If we set  $(A, i^A) = I(\mathbb{A})$  and  $(B, i^B) = I(\mathbb{B})$ , then we have the ‘rooted union of edge-indexed graphs’:

$$(C, i^C) := (A, i^A) \sqcup (B, i^B) / (a_0 = b_0 = c_0),$$

for  $c_0 \in VC$ , and clearly  $\mathbb{C}$  is a grouping of  $(C, i^C)$ .

### (2.1) Remarks.

- (1) The graph of groups  $\mathbb{C}$  is faithful if and only if  $\mathbb{A}$  and  $\mathbb{B}$  are faithful. In fact, if  $N_{\mathbb{A}}$  is the maximal normal subgroup of  $\mathbb{A}$ , and  $N_{\mathbb{B}}$  is the maximal normal subgroup of  $\mathbb{B}$ , then the maximal normal subgroup of  $\mathbb{C}$  is  $N_{\mathbb{A}} \times N_{\mathbb{B}}$ .
- (2) We have

$$\pi_1(\mathbb{C}, c_0) = (\pi_1(\mathbb{A}, a_0) \times \mathcal{B}_{b_0}) *_{(\mathcal{A}_{a_0} \times \mathcal{B}_{b_0})} (\mathcal{A}_{a_0} \times \pi_1(\mathbb{B}, b_0)).$$

- (3) If  $\mathbb{A}$  and  $\mathbb{B}$  are graphs of finite groups, then so also is  $\mathbb{C}$ , and

$$Vol(\mathbb{C}) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{B}_{b_0}|} Vol(\mathbb{A}) + \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}_{a_0}|} Vol(\mathbb{B}) - \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}_{a_0}| |\mathcal{B}_{b_0}|}.$$

**(2.2) Functoriality.**

Suppose that we have groupings  $\mathbb{A} \leq \mathbb{A}'$  of an edge-indexed graph  $(A, i^A)$  and  $\mathbb{B} \leq \mathbb{B}'$  of an edge-indexed graph  $(B, i^B)$ , then we get groupings

$$\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{A} \times_{a_0=b_0} \mathbb{B} \leq \mathbb{C}' = \mathbb{A}' \times_{a_0=b_0} \mathbb{B}'$$

for  $a_0 \in VA$ ,  $b_0 \in VB$  of the edge-indexed graph  $(C, i^C) = (A, i^A) \sqcup (B, i^B) / (a_0 = b_0 = c_0)$ , for  $c_0 \in VC$ . In particular, for an edge  $e \in VA$  with initial vertex  $a \in VA$ ,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{A}'_e \times \mathcal{B}'_{b_0} & \xrightarrow{\alpha'_e \times Id_{\mathcal{B}'_{b_0}}} & \mathcal{A}'_a \times \mathcal{B}'_{b_0} \\ \leq & & \leq \\ \mathcal{A}_e \times \mathcal{B}_{b_0} & \xrightarrow{\alpha_e \times Id_{\mathcal{B}_{b_0}}} & \mathcal{A}_a \times \mathcal{B}_{b_0} \end{array}$$

commutes, and similarly in  $B$ .

**(2.3) Corollary.** *A tower  $\mathbb{A}_1 \leq \mathbb{A}_2 \leq \mathbb{A}_3 \leq \dots$  yields a tower*

$$\mathbb{A}_1 \times_{a_0=b_0} \mathbb{B} \leq \mathbb{A}_2 \times_{a_0=b_0} \mathbb{B} \leq \mathbb{A}_3 \times_{a_0=b_0} \mathbb{B} \leq \dots$$

Since a unimodular edge-indexed graph with bounded denominators admits a finite faithful grouping, we can apply the above corollary repeatedly to obtain the following lemma.

**(2.4) Lemma.** *Let  $(A, i)$  be an edge-indexed graph and  $(A_0, i)$  a core subgraph such that  $(A, i)$  is obtained from  $(A_0, i)$  by attaching to finitely many vertices  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in VA_0$ , rooted edge-indexed graphs  $(A_j, i_j, a_j)$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, n$ . Suppose that  $(A_0, i)$  admits an infinite ascending chain of finite faithful groupings of finite volume. Suppose that  $(A_j, i_j)$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, n$  are unimodular, have finite volume and bounded denominators. Then  $(A, i)$  admits an infinite tower of finite faithful groupings of finite volume.*

§3. Infinite towers of uniform tree lattices

In [R], the second author proved the following:

**(3.1) Theorem ([R]).** *Let  $(A, i)$  be a finite permissible edge-indexed graph. Then  $(A, i)$  admits an infinite tower of finite faithful groupings.*

The proof of Theorem (3.1) generalizes the techniques of Bass-Kulkarni ([BK]) for constructing towers of groupings on certain fundamental examples, and uses certain constructions with edge-indexed graphs to extend to a more general setting.

Theorem (3.1) yields the following:

**(3.2) Theorem ([R]).** *Let  $X$  be a locally finite tree. The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (a)  $X$  is uniform and not rigid.
- (b)  $X$  is the universal cover of a finite permissible edge-indexed graph.
- (c)  $\text{Aut}(X)$  contains an infinite ascending chain

$$\Gamma_1 < \Gamma_2 < \Gamma_3 < \dots$$

*of uniform  $X$ -lattices.*

- (d) *The set of uniform covolumes*

$$\{\text{Vol}(\Gamma \backslash X) \mid \Gamma \text{ is a uniform } X\text{-lattice}\} \subset \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$$

*is not bounded away from zero.*

This generalizes Theorem 7.1(a) of [BK] which states the result for homogeneous trees.

#### §4. Infinite towers of non-uniform $X$ -lattices with quotient a tree

The techniques described in §3 extend to certain infinite edge-indexed graphs. We have the following:

**(4.1) Theorem.** *Let  $(A, i)$  be an edge-indexed graph that admits a lattice, and which is infinite, hence permissible. Assume that  $(A, i)$  is a tree, but is not dominant-end-rooted. Then  $(A, i)$  admits an infinite tower of finite faithful groupings.*

Except for the case that  $(A, i)$  is a *dominant-end-rooted edge-indexed tree* (see [CR2]), the assumption that  $(A, i)$  is an infinite permissible tree implies the existence of a *finite* permissible ‘core’ graph  $(A_0, i)$  which is an edge-indexed path of length  $n \geq 1$ . By Theorem (3.1),  $(A_0, i)$  admits an infinite tower of finite faithful groupings, and we may then apply Lemma (2.4) to extend the tower of groupings to  $(A, i)$ .

If  $(A, i)$  is a dominant end-rooted edge-indexed tree, then  $(A, i)$  does not contain a finite permissible core. We know that in this case, the set of covolumes of non-uniform lattices in  $\text{Aut}(X)$ ,  $X = \widetilde{(A, i)}$ , is not bounded away from zero, however our techniques do not suffice to produce a tower of groupings on  $(A, i)$ .

**(4.2) Theorem.** *Let  $(A, i)$  be as in Theorem (4.1). Let  $X = \widetilde{(A, i)}$ . Then there is an infinite ascending chain*

$$\Gamma_1 < \Gamma_2 < \Gamma_3 < \dots$$

*of non-uniform  $X$ -lattices in  $\text{Aut}(X)$ . Hence  $\text{Vol}(\Gamma_i \backslash X) \rightarrow 0$  as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ .*

In Theorems (4.1), and (4.2), the covering tree  $X = \widetilde{(A, i)}$  may be uniform or not.

§5. Infinite towers of non-uniform  $X$ -lattices

We have the following:

**(5.1) Theorem ([R]).** *Let  $(A, i)$  be a permissible edge-indexed graph. Suppose  $(A, i)$  contains an arithmetic bridge with  $n \geq 2$  edges. Then  $(A, i)$  admits an infinite tower of finite faithful groupings.*

Concerning existence of arithmetic bridges, we have the following:

**(5.2) Theorem ([C1], [CR1]).** *Let  $(A, i)$  be a unimodular edge-indexed graph. Let  $e \in EA$  be a ramified edge such that  $\Delta(e)$  is not an integer. If  $e$  is not separating, then  $e$  is contained in an arithmetic bridge with  $n \geq 2$  edges.*

Combining the results of §2, §4 and the above, we have:

**(5.3) Theorem.** *Let  $(A, i)$  be a permissible edge-indexed graph that is not a dominant-end-rooted edge-indexed tree. Then  $(A, i)$  admits an infinite tower of finite faithful groupings.*

A corollary of Theorem (5.3) is the following:

**(5.4) Theorem.** *Let  $X$  be a locally finite tree. If  $\text{Aut}(X)$  contains a non-uniform  $X$ -lattice  $\Gamma$ , and  $X$  is not the universal cover of a dominant-end-rooted edge-indexed tree, then  $\text{Aut}(X)$  contains an infinite tower*

$$\Gamma_1 < \Gamma_2 < \Gamma_3 < \dots$$

*of non-uniform  $X$ -lattices. Hence  $\text{Vol}(\Gamma_i \backslash X) \rightarrow 0$  as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ .*

§6. Existence of non-uniform  $X$ -lattices

By Theorem (5.4), the question of existence of infinite towers of non-uniform  $X$ -lattices reduces to the question of existence of non-uniform  $X$ -lattices.

To outline the results on existence of non-uniform  $X$ -lattices, we make the following definition. Let  $X$  be a locally finite tree,  $G = \text{Aut}(X)$ , and let  $\mu$  be a (left) Haar measure on  $G$ . Suppose that  $G$  is unimodular. Then  $\mu(G_x)$  is constant on  $G$ -orbits, so we can define ([BL], (1.5)):

$$\mu(G \backslash X) := \sum_{x \in V(G \backslash X)} \frac{1}{\mu(G_x)}.$$

We have the ‘Lattice existence theorem’:

**(6.1) Theorem ([BCR], (0.2)).** *Let  $X$  be a locally finite tree, let  $G = \text{Aut}(X)$ , and let  $\mu$  be a (left) Haar measure on  $G$ . The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (a)  $G$  contains an  $X$ -lattice  $\Gamma$ .
- (b) (U)  $G$  is unimodular, and  
(FV)  $\mu(G \backslash X) < \infty$ .

In particular, we have the following theorem, which together with Bass-Kulkarni’s ‘Uniform existence theorem’ ([BK], (4.10)) gives Theorem (6.1):



**(6.2) Theorem ([BCR], (0.5)).** *Let  $X$  be a locally finite tree, let  $G = \text{Aut}(X)$ , and let  $\mu$  be a (left) Haar measure on  $G$ . Assume that:*

- (U)  $G$  is unimodular,
- (FV)  $\mu(G \setminus X) < \infty$ , and
- (INF)  $G \setminus X$  is infinite.

*Then  $G$  contains a (necessarily non-uniform)  $X$ -lattice  $\Gamma$ .*

For uniform trees, we have the following:

**(6.3) Theorem ([C1], [C2]).** *If  $X$  is uniform and not virtually rigid then  $G$  contains a non-uniform  $X$ -lattice  $\Gamma$ .*

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*Department of Mathematics, Harvard University, Science Center 325, One Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138*

*e-mail:* lisa@math.harvard.edu

*Department of Mathematics, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027*

*e-mail:* gr@math.columbia.edu