

## A note on generic subsets of definable groups

by

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**Abstract.** We generalize the theory of generic subsets of definably compact definable groups to arbitrary o-minimal structures. This theory is a crucial part of the solution to Pillay's conjecture connecting definably compact definable groups with Lie groups.

**1. Introduction.** In [21] Pillay introduced the following very interesting conjecture connecting definably compact definable groups with Lie groups, which in the last years has led to important developments in model theory and geometry of o-minimal structures:

PILLAY'S CONJECTURE [21]. Let  $G$  be a definably compact, definably connected, definable group in a sufficiently saturated o-minimal structure. Then:

- (1)  $G$  has a minimal type-definable normal subgroup of bounded index, call it  $G^{00}$ ;
- (2)  $G/G^{00}$ , equipped with the Logic topology, is isomorphic, as a topological group, to a compact real Lie group;
- (3)  $\dim G = \dim G/G^{00}$ .

Pillay's conjecture has now been proved in three different situations: in o-minimal expansions of fields by Hrushovski, Peterzil and Pillay [13], in linear o-minimal expansions of ordered groups by Eleftheriou and Starchenko [12] and in non-linear semi-bounded o-minimal expansions of groups by Peterzil [14]. So, Pillay's conjecture holds in arbitrary o-minimal expansions of groups. In all of the three cases above the conjecture is a consequence of the following two crucial ingredients (after the paper [1] by Berarducci, Otero, Peterzil and Pillay where the existence of  $G^{00}$  with properties (1) and (2) is proved):

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2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification*: 03C64, 20A15.

*Key words and phrases*: o-minimal structures, definable groups.

- (i) the model theory of generic subsets of definably compact definable groups from [15] together with the heavy model theory of definable amenable groups from [13];
- (ii) the computation of  $m$ -torsion subgroups of abelian definably compact definable groups ([7], [12] and [14] respectively in each one of the three cases).

In this paper we generalize the theory of generic subsets of definably compact definable groups, which is presented in [15] in an o-minimal expansion of a real closed field, to an arbitrary o-minimal structure. The computation of  $m$ -torsion subgroups of abelian definably compact definable groups in the field case uses the o-minimal singular cohomology theory from [10] and [22]; in the linear case this is obtained by a structure theorem for such definable groups [12], and in the non-linear semi-bounded case by reduction to the field case [14]. With a good cohomology theory in arbitrary o-minimal structures which generalizes the o-minimal singular cohomology in o-minimal expansions of real closed fields ([10] and [22]) one could obtain a uniform proof of the computation of  $m$ -torsion subgroups of abelian definably compact definable groups in arbitrary o-minimal structures, which would include the three cases above. The authors have already made significant advances in this direction building on previous joint work with other authors ([6], [8] and [9]).

In [15] the authors work in a saturated o-minimal structure expanding a real closed field, and develop a theory of generic subsets based on A. Dolich's work [3]. The assumption that the structure expands a real closed field is necessary there since the theory presented by them requires the definable groups to be affine in order to apply [15, Theorem 2.1]. (See the explanation in [15, Subsection 1.1].) In the case of an o-minimal expansion of a real closed field every regular definable space is affine up to definable homeomorphism. (See [2] for the definition.) However, by a trick due to Peterzil and Eleftheriou [14, Section 8], this theory of generic sets also works for arbitrary definably compact definable groups in saturated o-minimal expansions of ordered groups, even though in this case, there are definable groups which are not affine [11]. Here we point out that this trick can be generalized to definably compact definable groups in arbitrary saturated o-minimal structures.

**2. Definable normality in definable groups.** Let  $\mathcal{M} = \langle M, <, \dots \rangle$  be an o-minimal structure. By *definable* we will mean definable in  $\mathcal{M}$  possibly with parameters. A *definable group* is a group whose underlying set is a definable set and the graphs of the group operations are definable sets. By [20] a definable group has a unique definable manifold structure making it into a topological group. All topological notions in a definable group,

unless otherwise stated, will be with respect to that manifold structure. A definable group is *definably connected* if it is a definably connected definable manifold, equivalently if it has no proper definable subgroups of finite index [20]. A definable group  $G$  is *definably compact* if for every continuous definable map  $\alpha : (a, b) \subseteq M \cup \{-\infty, +\infty\} \rightarrow G$  the limits  $\lim_{t \rightarrow a^+} \alpha(t)$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow b^-} \alpha(t)$  exist in  $G$  [19]. For the basic theory of definable groups we refer the reader to [5], [16], [17], [18] and [20].

Here we show that every definable group is definably locally compact and every definably compact definable subset of a definable group is definably normal.

*Notation.* Let  $H \subseteq M^k$  be a definable group of dimension  $n$  with definable charts  $\langle U_i, \phi_i \rangle$  ( $i = 1, \dots, l$ ) for its unique definable manifold structure. Let  $U = U_i$  be such that the identity element  $e_H$  of  $H$  is in  $U_i$  and set  $\phi = \phi_i$ . Let  $\phi(e_H) = \langle e_1, \dots, e_n \rangle$  and for each  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , take  $J_j = (d_j^-, d_j^+) \subseteq M$  to be an open (definable) interval such that  $e_j \in J_j$  and  $\prod_{j=1}^n J_j \subseteq \phi(U)$ . Let  $O = \phi^{-1}(\prod_{j=1}^n J_j)$ , which is an open definable neighborhood of  $e_H$  in  $H$ .

For each  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , let  $J_j^- = \{x \in J_j : x < e_j\}$  and  $J_j^+ = \{x \in J_j : e_j < x\}$ . For  $\delta = \langle \delta_1^-, \delta_1^+, \dots, \delta_n^-, \delta_n^+ \rangle \in \prod_{j=1}^n (J_j^- \times J_j^+)$ , let

$$O^\delta = \{x \in O : \phi(x) = \langle z_1, \dots, z_n \rangle \text{ and } \delta_j^- < z_j < \delta_j^+ \text{ for all } j\},$$

$$\bar{O}^\delta = \{x \in O : \phi(x) = \langle z_1, \dots, z_n \rangle \text{ and } \delta_j^- \leq z_j \leq \delta_j^+ \text{ for all } j\}.$$

If  $D$  is a definable subset of  $H$ , we consider

$$O^\delta(D) = \bigcup \{dO^\delta : d \in D\} \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{O}^\delta(D) = \bigcup \{d\bar{O}^\delta : d \in D\}.$$

The set  $O^\delta(D)$  is an open definable neighborhood of  $D$  in  $H$  and  $O^\delta(D) \subseteq \bar{O}^\delta(D)$ .

**LEMMA 2.1.** *Let  $H$  be a definable group. If  $D$  is a definably compact definable subset of  $H$ , then  $\bar{O}^\delta(D)$  is a definably compact definable neighborhood of  $D$  in  $H$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha : (b, c) \subseteq M \rightarrow \bar{O}^\delta(D)$  be a continuous definable map. Since  $G$  has definable choice [5, Theorem 7.2], so does  $\bar{O}^\delta(D)$ . Hence, there is a continuous definable map  $\beta : (b, c) \subseteq M \rightarrow D$  such that  $\alpha(t) \in \bar{O}^\delta(\beta(t))$  for all  $t \in (b, c)$ . Therefore we have a continuous definable map  $\psi : (b, c) \subseteq M \rightarrow \prod_{j=1}^n [\delta_j^-, \delta_j^+]$  given by  $\psi(t) = \phi(\beta^{-1}(t)\alpha(t))$ . Since  $D$  is definably compact, there is  $x \in D$  such that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow c} \beta(t) = x$ . On the other hand, since  $\prod_{j=1}^n [\delta_j^-, \delta_j^+]$  is definably compact, there is  $y \in \prod_{j=1}^n [\delta_j^-, \delta_j^+]$  such that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow c} \psi(t) = y$ . By continuity we have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow c} \alpha(t) = x\phi^{-1}(y) \in \bar{O}^\delta(x) \subseteq \bar{O}^\delta(D),$$

showing that  $\bar{O}^\delta(D)$  is definably compact. ■

We say that a definable group  $G$  is *definably locally compact* if for every definably compact definable subset  $K$  of  $G$  and every open definable neighborhood  $U$  of  $K$  in  $G$ , there exists a definably compact neighborhood of  $K$  in  $U$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.2.** *Let  $G$  be a definable group. Then for every definably compact definable subset  $K$  of  $G$  and every open definable neighborhood  $U$  of  $K$  in  $G$ , there exists a definably compact neighborhood of  $K$  in  $U$  of the form  $\bar{O}^\epsilon(K)$ . In particular,  $G$  is definably locally compact.*

*Proof.* We prove the result by induction on  $\dim K$ . Clearly the result is true for  $\dim K = 0$ . Let  $K$  be a definably compact definable subset of  $G$  and  $U$  an open definable neighborhood of  $K$  in  $G$ . Suppose the conclusion is true for every definably compact subset  $L$  with  $\dim L < \dim K$ . Since  $\phi(O)$  has definable choice, there exists a definable map

$$g : K \rightarrow \prod_{j=1}^n (J_j^- \times J_j^+) : a \mapsto \langle g_1^-(a), g_1^+(a), \dots, g_n^-(a), g_n^+(a) \rangle$$

such that  $U_a = a\phi^{-1}(\prod_{j=1}^n (g_j^-(a), g_j^+(a)))$  is an open definable neighborhood of  $a$  in  $G$  contained in  $U$ . The definable subset of  $K$  on which  $g$  is not continuous is a definable set of dimension strictly less than  $\dim K$ . Let  $L$  be the closure of this set in  $K$ . Then  $\dim L < \dim K$  [2, Chapter 4, (1.8)] and  $L$  is a definably compact subset of  $G$  contained in  $U$ . So, by the induction hypothesis, there exists a definably compact neighborhood of  $L$  in  $U$  of the form  $\bar{O}^\eta(L)$ .

Take  $L' = K \cap (G \setminus O^\eta(L))$ . Then  $L'$  is definably compact and  $g|_{L'} : L' \rightarrow \prod_{j=1}^n (J_j^- \times J_j^+)$  is continuous. Fix  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Then for all  $a \in L'$  we have  $g_j^-(a) < e_j < g_j^+(a)$ . We show that there exist  $d_j^- < e_j < d_j^+$  such that  $g_j^-(a) \leq d_j^- < d_j^+ \leq g_j^+(a)$  for all  $a \in L'$ . Suppose there is no such  $d_j^+$ . Then for all  $e_j < s$  there exists  $a \in L'$  such that  $e_j < g_j^+(a) < s$ . Since  $G$  has definable choice [5, Theorem 7.2], so does  $L'$ . Hence, there is a definable map  $\alpha_j^+ : (e_j, c_j) \subseteq J_j^+ \rightarrow L'$  such that for all  $e_j < t < c_j$  we have  $e_j < g_j^+(\alpha_j^+(t)) < t$ . By o-minimality we may assume that  $\alpha_j^+$  is continuous. Since  $L'$  is definably compact there is  $e \in L'$  such that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow e_j} \alpha_j^+(t) = e$ . So  $g_j^+(e) = g_j^+(\lim_{t \rightarrow e_j} \alpha_j^+(t)) = \lim_{t \rightarrow e_j} g_j^+(\alpha_j^+(t)) = e_j$ , which is a contradiction. Similarly,  $d_j^-$  exists. By construction, for all  $a \in L'$ ,  $a\phi^{-1}(\prod_{j=1}^n (d_j^-, d_j^+))$  is an open definable neighborhood of  $a$  in  $G$  contained in  $U$ . Hence  $O^d(L') \subseteq U$  where  $d = \langle d_1^-, d_1^+, \dots, d_n^-, d_n^+ \rangle$ . Let  $\delta = \langle \delta_1^-, \delta_1^+, \dots, \delta_n^-, \delta_n^+ \rangle$  where  $d_j^- < \delta_j^- < e_j < \delta_j^+ < d_j^+$  for each  $j$ . Now take  $\epsilon = \langle \epsilon_1^-, \epsilon_1^+, \dots, \epsilon_n^-, \epsilon_n^+ \rangle$  where for each  $j$ ,  $\epsilon_j^- = \max\{\delta_j^-, \eta_j^-\}$  and  $\epsilon_j^+ = \min\{\delta_j^+, \eta_j^+\}$ . Then by Lemma 2.1,  $\bar{O}^\epsilon(K) = \bar{O}^\epsilon(L) \cup \bar{O}^\epsilon(L')$  is a definably compact definable neighborhood of  $K$  in  $U$ . ■

**COROLLARY 2.3.** *Let  $G$  be a definable group. If  $K$  and  $C$  are disjoint closed definable subsets of  $G$  with  $K$  definably compact, then there exist disjoint open definable neighborhoods  $O^\delta(K)$  and  $G \setminus \bar{O}^\epsilon(K)$  of  $K$  and  $C$  respectively in  $G$  for some  $\epsilon$  and  $\delta$ . In particular, if  $\Omega$  is a closed definable subset of  $G$ , then:*

- (1)  $\Omega$  is definably regular.
- (2) If  $\Omega$  definably compact, then it is definably normal. In fact, any two disjoint closed definable subsets  $A$  and  $B$  of  $\Omega$  can be separated by disjoint open definable neighborhoods of the form  $O^\delta(A) \cap \Omega$  and  $O^\eta(B) \cap \Omega$ .

*Proof.* Recall that  $\Omega$  is *definably regular* if for every closed definable subset  $C$  of  $\Omega$  and  $a$  a point of  $\Omega$  not in  $C$ , there exist disjoint open definable neighborhoods  $U$  and  $V$  of  $a$  and  $C$  respectively in  $\Omega$ . We say that  $\Omega$  is *definably normal* if for every pair  $K$  and  $C$  of disjoint closed definable subsets of  $\Omega$  there exist disjoint open definable neighborhoods  $U$  and  $V$  of  $K$  and  $C$  respectively in  $\Omega$ . So, by Proposition 2.2, there exists a definably compact neighborhood of  $K$  in  $G \setminus C$  of the form  $\bar{O}^\epsilon(K)$ . Now it is enough to choose  $\delta = \langle \delta_1^-, \delta_1^+, \dots, \delta_n^-, \delta_n^+ \rangle$  where  $\epsilon_j^- < \delta_j^- < e_j < \delta_j^+ < \epsilon_j^+$  for each  $j$ , and take  $U = O^\delta(K)$  and  $V = G \setminus \bar{O}^\epsilon(K)$ . ■

**COROLLARY 2.4** (Shrinking lemma). *Let  $G$  be a definable group. If  $\Omega$  is a definably compact definable subset of  $G$  and  $U_1, \dots, U_l$  are open definable subsets of  $G$  such that  $\Omega = \bigcup_i (U_i \cap \Omega)$ , then there are open definable subsets  $V_i \subseteq U_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, l$  such that  $\bar{V}_i \subseteq U_i$  and  $\Omega = \bigcup_i (V_i \cap \Omega)$ . Moreover, for each  $i = 1, \dots, l$ , we have  $V_i = O^{\delta_i}(A_i)$  for some  $\delta_i$  where the closed definable subsets  $A_i$  of  $\Omega$  are given inductively by  $A_i = \Omega \setminus (\bigcup_{m < i} V_m \cup \bigcup_{j=i+1}^l U_j)$ .*

*Proof.* This follows from the fact that  $\Omega$  is definably normal (Corollary 2.3(2)) and the shrinking lemma whose affine version is [2, Chapter 6, Lemma 3.6]. In fact, assume inductively that  $V_i \subseteq U_i$  has been defined for  $i = 1, \dots, k$  ( $k < l$ ) such that  $V_i$  is a definable open subset of  $G$ ,  $\bar{V}_i \subseteq U_i$  and  $V_1, \dots, V_k, U_{k+1}, \dots, U_l$  cover  $\Omega$ . Then apply Corollary 2.3(2) to the following two disjoint closed definable subsets of  $\Omega$ :

$$B = \Omega \setminus U_{k+1} \quad \text{and} \quad C = \Omega \setminus \left( \bigcup_{m \leq k} V_m \cup \bigcup_{j=k+2}^l U_j \right). \quad \blacksquare$$

**3. Generic subsets of definable groups.** Here we prove the main results of the paper. We start with the generalization of [14, Lemma 7.1] from semi-bounded o-minimal expansions of groups [4] to arbitrary o-minimal structures.

LEMMA 3.1. *Let  $G$  be a definable group of dimension  $n$  with definable charts  $\langle U_i, \phi_i \rangle$  with  $i = 1, \dots, l$ . If  $\Omega$  is a definably compact definable subset of  $G$ , then there are open definable subsets  $V_i \subseteq U_i$  of  $G$  for  $i = 1, \dots, l$  such that  $\bar{V}_i \subseteq U_i$ ,  $\Omega = \bigcup_i (V_i \cap \Omega)$  and, for each  $i$ ,  $\phi_i(\bar{V}_i \cap \Omega)$  is a closed and bounded definable subset of  $M^n$ . Furthermore, for each  $i = 1, \dots, l$ , we have  $V_i = O^{\delta_i}(A_i)$  for some  $\delta_i$  where the closed definable subsets  $A_i$  of  $\Omega$  are given inductively by  $A_i = \Omega \setminus (\bigcup_{m < i} V_m \cup \bigcup_{j=i+1}^l U_j)$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $G \subseteq M^k$ . Consider the finitely many definable charts  $\langle U_i, \phi_i \rangle$  for  $G$  given by Pillay's theorem on definable groups in [20]. Then by construction,  $U_i$  is a cell in  $G \subseteq M^k$  of dimension  $n$  or a translate in  $G$  of such a cell. In the first case,  $\phi_i$  is the restriction of a projection from  $M^k$  onto some  $n < k$  coordinates. In the second case  $\phi_i$  is the composition of a translation in  $G$  and the restriction of a projection as above. For the fact that the restriction of such a projection is a definable homeomorphism see [2, Chapter 3, (2.7)].

Consider the open definable subsets  $V_i \subseteq U_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, l$ ) given by Corollary 2.4 such that  $\bar{V}_i \subseteq U_i$  and  $\Omega = \bigcup_i (V_i \cap \Omega)$ . It is enough to show that for every  $U_i$  which is a cell in  $G \subseteq M^k$ , any definably compact definable subset  $C$  of  $G$  such that  $C \subseteq U_i \subseteq M^k$  is bounded.

Suppose that such a  $C$  is unbounded. Then there is a  $j$  such that the projection of  $C$  onto the  $j$ -coordinate is unbounded. Since  $G$  has definable choice [5, Theorem 7.2], one of the following holds: (i) there is a definable map  $\alpha : (e, +\infty) \subseteq M \rightarrow U_i \subseteq G$  such that  $\text{im } \alpha \subseteq C$  and  $\alpha_j(t) > t$  for each  $t \in (e, +\infty)$ , where  $\alpha_j(t)$  is the  $j$ -coordinate of  $\alpha(t)$ ; (ii) there is a definable map  $\alpha : (-\infty, d) \subseteq M \rightarrow U_i \subseteq G$  such that  $\text{im } \alpha \subseteq C$  and  $\alpha_j(t) < t$  for each  $t \in (-\infty, d)$ . We assume (i) holds. For (ii) the proof is similar. By o-minimality we may assume that  $\alpha$  is continuous with respect to the topology of  $G$ . Since  $C$  is definably compact, the limit  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \alpha(t)$ , with respect to the topology induced by  $G$  on  $C$ , exists in  $C$ . Let  $a$  be this limit.

By the observation in the first paragraph, the topology induced by  $G$  on  $U_i$  is the same as the topology induced by  $M^k$  on  $U_i$ . Let  $B$  be a bounded open box in  $M^k$  containing  $a$ . Then  $B \cap U_i$  is an open definable neighborhood of  $a$  in  $U_i \subseteq G$  in the topology of  $G$ . Thus there is a  $t_0 \in (e, +\infty)$  such that  $\text{im } \alpha|_{(t_0, +\infty)} \subseteq B \cap U_i \subseteq B$ . But this is absurd since  $\text{im } \alpha|_{(t_0, +\infty)}$  is unbounded. ■

*For the rest of this section we assume that  $\mathcal{M}$  is a saturated o-minimal structure.*

Let  $G$  be a definable group defined over a small model  $\mathcal{M}_0$  and let  $Z$  be a definable subset of  $G$ , say defined over some parameter  $a$  in  $\mathcal{M}$ . Thus, there is a uniformly  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -definable family  $\{Z(t) : t \in T\}$  of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -definable

subsets of  $G$  such that  $a \in T$  and  $Z = Z(a)$ . Let  $\{Z'(t) : t \in T'\}$  be another uniformly  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -definable family of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -definable subsets of  $G$  such that  $a \in T'$  and  $Z = Z'(a)$ . Then the sets  $\{t \in T : t \models \text{tp}(a/M_0)\}$  and  $\{t \in T' : t \models \text{tp}(a/M_0)\}$  are equal (because  $a \in T \cap T'$ ) and the subfamilies  $\{Z(t) : t \in T \text{ and } t \models \text{tp}(a/M_0)\}$  and  $\{Z'(t) : t \in T' \text{ and } t \models \text{tp}(a/M_0)\}$  are equal (because  $Z(a) = Z = Z'(a)$ ). Recall that:

- the set of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -conjugates of  $Z$  coincides with the subfamily  $\{Z(t) : t \in T \text{ and } t \models \text{tp}(a/M_0)\}$ ;
- the set of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -conjugates of  $Z$  is finitely consistent if and only if the subfamily  $\{Z(t) : t \in T \text{ and } t \models \text{tp}(a/M_0)\}$  has the finite intersection property (i.e., for any finite subset  $S$  of  $\{t \in T : t \models \text{tp}(a/M_0)\}$  the intersection  $\bigcap_{s \in S} \{Z(s) : s \in S\}$  is non-empty).

As explained in [15] and [14, Section 8] the crucial fact behind the theory of generic definable subsets of a definable group is the following.

**THEOREM 3.2.** *Let  $G$  be a definable group defined over a small model  $\mathcal{M}_0$  and let  $\Omega$  be a definably compact definable subset of  $G$  defined over  $\mathcal{M}_0$ . If  $X \subseteq G$  is a definably compact definable subset of  $\Omega$ , then the set of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -conjugates of  $X$  is finitely consistent if and only if  $X$  has a point in  $\mathcal{M}_0$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\langle U_i, \phi_i \rangle$  ( $i = 1, \dots, l$ ) be the definable charts of  $G$  given by Pillay's theorem on definable groups in [20]. Then these charts are also defined over  $\mathcal{M}_0$ . By Lemma 3.1, there are open definable subsets  $V_i \subseteq U_i$  of  $G$  for  $i = 1, \dots, l$  such that  $\bar{V}_i \subseteq U_i$ ,  $\Omega = \bigcup_i (V_i \cap \Omega) = \bigcup_i (\bar{V}_i \cap \Omega)$  and, for each  $i$ ,  $\phi_i(\bar{V}_i \cap \Omega)$  is a closed and bounded definable subset of  $M^n$  where  $n = \dim G$ . Moreover, if for each  $i$  we set  $X_i = \bar{V}_i \cap \Omega \cap X \subseteq U_i$ , then  $X = \bigcup_i X_i \subseteq \Omega$ ,  $\phi_i(X_i)$  is a closed and bounded definable subset of  $\phi_i(U_i)$ , and  $\phi_i(U_i)$  has definable choice since the same is true for  $U_i \subseteq G$ .

Let  $a$  be a parameter in  $\mathcal{M}$  over which  $X$  is defined. Consider a uniformly  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -definable family  $\{X(t) : t \in T\}$  of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -definable subsets of  $G$  such that  $a \in T$  and  $X = X(a)$ . Since  $X \subseteq \Omega$  and  $\Omega$  is defined over  $\mathcal{M}_0$ , after replacing  $T$  by an  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -definable subset, we may assume that for all  $t \in T$  we have  $X(t) \subseteq \Omega$ . Since "closed" is a first-order property, we may also assume that  $X(t)$  is a closed (hence definably compact) definable subset of  $\Omega$  for all  $t \in T$ . If for each  $i$  and  $t \in T$  we set  $X_i(t) = \bar{V}_i \cap \Omega \cap X(t) \subseteq U_i$ , then we get uniformly  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -definable families  $\{X_i(t) : t \in T\}$  of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -definable subsets of  $G$  such that  $X(t) = \bigcup_i X_i(t) \subseteq \Omega$  and  $\phi_i(X_i(t))$  is a closed and bounded definable subset of  $\phi_i(U_i)$ .

Recall that the set of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -conjugates of  $X$  is the subfamily  $\{X(t) : t \in T \text{ and } t \models \text{tp}(a/M_0)\}$ , and for each  $i$ , the set of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -conjugates of  $X_i$  (resp.  $\phi_i(X_i)$ ) is  $\{X_i(t) : t \in T \text{ and } t \models \text{tp}(a/M_0)\}$  (resp.  $\{\phi_i(X_i(t)) : t \in T \text{ and } t \models \text{tp}(a/M_0)\}$ ).

Note also that by the remarks before the proof of [15, Theorem 2.1] (in the Appendix of that paper) together with its proof we can use this theorem to conclude that the set of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -conjugates of  $\phi_i(X_i)$  is finitely consistent if and only if  $\phi_i(X_i)$  has a point in  $\mathcal{M}_0$ . Since each  $\phi_i|_{X_i} : X_i \rightarrow \phi_i(X_i)$  is the restriction of a definable bijection  $\phi_i$  defined over  $\mathcal{M}_0$ , we deduce that  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -conjugation commutes with  $\phi_i$  and with  $\phi_i^{-1}$ , and the image under  $\phi_i$  and under  $\phi_i^{-1}$  of a point in  $\mathcal{M}_0$  is a point in  $\mathcal{M}_0$ . Hence, the set of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -conjugates of  $X_i$  is finitely consistent if and only if  $X_i$  has a point in  $\mathcal{M}_0$ .

It is obvious that if  $X$  has a point in  $\mathcal{M}_0$ , then the set of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -conjugates of  $X$  is finitely consistent. Conversely, suppose that the set of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -conjugates of  $X$  is finitely consistent. By the observation in the previous paragraph it is enough to show that for some  $i$ , the set of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -conjugates of  $X_i$  is finitely consistent. By our assumption, the collection  $\{X(t) : t \in T \text{ and } t \models \text{tp}(a/M_0)\}$  of definable subsets of  $G$  is a partial type which extends to a complete type  $p$  over  $M$ . Let  $b \models p$  in some  $|M|^+$ -saturated elementary extension  $\mathcal{M}'$  of  $\mathcal{M}$ . Then  $b \in \bigcap \{X(t)(\mathcal{M}') : t \in T \text{ and } t \models \text{tp}(a/M_0)\} \subseteq \Omega(\mathcal{M}')$ . So there is some  $i$  such that  $b \in \bar{V}_i(\mathcal{M}') \cap \Omega(\mathcal{M}')$  (since  $\Omega = \bigcup_i (\bar{V}_i \cap \Omega)$ ), and consequently  $b \in \bigcap \{X_i(t)(\mathcal{M}') : t \in T \text{ and } t \models \text{tp}(a/M_0)\}$  (since  $X_i(t) = \bar{V}_i \cap \Omega \cap X(t)$  by definition). Thus, as required, we have found an  $i$  such that the set of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -conjugates of  $X_i$  is finitely consistent. ■

We can now state the main result on generic definable subsets of a definably compact definable group  $G$  which can be proved from Theorem 3.2 just like [15, Theorem 3.6]. Recall that a definable subset  $X$  of  $G$  is *left* (resp. *right*) *generic* if finitely many left (resp. right) translates of  $X$  by elements of  $G$  cover  $G$ .

**THEOREM 3.3.** *Assume that  $G$  is a definably compact definable group and  $X \subseteq G$  is a definable subset. If  $X$  is not left generic, then  $G \setminus X$  is right generic.*

*Proof.* We may assume that both  $G$  and  $X$  are defined over a small model  $\mathcal{M}_0$ . By [15, Lemma 3.4(ii)], we may assume that  $X$  is a closed definable subset of  $G$ . Since  $X$  is not left generic, for every  $h_1, \dots, h_k \in G$  there is  $g \in G$  such that  $h_i \notin Xg$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . By first-order logic compactness, there is  $g \in G$  such that  $Xg$  has no point in  $\mathcal{M}_0$ . So by Theorem 3.2, the set of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ -conjugates of the definably compact definable subset  $Xg$  of  $G$  (which is definably compact and defined over the small model  $\mathcal{M}_0$ ) is not finitely consistent. This means that the family  $\{Xg' : g' \models \text{tp}(g/M_0)\}$  does not have the finite intersection property. Therefore, there are  $g_1, \dots, g_l \in G$  all realizing  $\text{tp}(g/M_0)$  such that  $Xg_1 \cap \dots \cap Xg_l = \emptyset$ . In particular,  $G \setminus X$  is right generic as required. ■

From Theorem 3.3 we obtain just as in [15, Section 3]:

THEOREM 3.4. *If  $G$  is a definably compact, abelian, definable group, then:*

- *the union of two non-generic definable subsets of  $G$  is also non-generic;*
- *there is a complete generic type of  $G$  (whose formulas define generic definable subsets);*
- *for every definable subset  $X$  of  $G$  its stabilizer  $\text{Stab}(X) = \{g \in G : X \triangle (gX) \text{ is non-generic}\}$  is a type definable subgroup of  $G$ .*

Also from Theorem 3.3 we obtain just as in [15, Section 4]:

THEOREM 3.5. *Let  $G$  be a definably compact definable group and  $S \subseteq G$  a definable semigroup in  $G$  (i.e., a definable set closed under the group operation of  $G$ ). If the closure of  $S$  in  $G$  is definably compact, then  $S$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . In particular, if  $G$  is definably compact, then every definable semigroup in  $G$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .*

**4. Uniform definability of definable compactness.** Here we show that the notion of a definably compact group is a first-order notion in arbitrary o-minimal structures, i.e., if  $\{G_s : s \in S\}$  is a uniformly definable family of definable groups, then the set of  $s$  for which  $G_s$  is definably compact is definable. In the special case of o-minimal expansions of ordered groups this is [14, Lemma 7.4].

LEMMA 4.1. *Let  $\{G_s : s \in S\}$  be a uniformly definable family of definable groups in  $M^k$ . If  $\{C_s : s \in S\}$  is a uniformly definable subfamily of definable subsets, then there exists a definable map  $f : S \rightarrow \bigcup_{s \in S} G_s$  such that  $f(s) \in C_s$  for each  $s \in S$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that the families  $\{G_s : s \in S\}$  and  $\{C_s : s \in S\}$  are defined over  $A$ . Since each  $G_s$  has definable choice [5, Theorem 7.2], for each  $s \in S$  there exists a definable element  $c_s \in C_s$  defined over  $\{s\} \cup A$ . Let  $\psi_s(x, y, a_s)$  be a first-order formula over  $A$  such that  $\psi_s(x, s, a_s)$  defines  $c_s$ . For each  $s \in S$ , let  $B_s$  be the subset of  $S$  of all  $t \in S$  such that  $\psi_s(x, t, a_s)$  defines an element of  $C_t$ . Then  $S = \bigcup_{s \in S} B_s$  and each  $B_s$  is a definable set defined over  $A$ . Since  $S$  is also defined over  $A$ , by first-order logic compactness, there are  $s_0, \dots, s_l \in S$  such that  $S = B_{s_0} \cup \dots \cup B_{s_l}$ . Take a cell decomposition  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $S$  compatible with the definable subsets  $B_{s_0}, \dots, B_{s_l}$  and for each  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  choose  $s_C \in \{s_i : C \subseteq B_{s_i} \text{ and } i = 0, \dots, l\}$ . Consider the definable map  $f : S \rightarrow \bigcup_{s \in S} G_s$  defined over  $A$  such that for  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $f|_C$  is defined by the formula  $\psi_{s_C}(x, y, a_{s_C})$ . Then  $f(s) \in C_s$  for each  $s \in S$  as required. ■

NOTATION. Let  $\{G_s : s \in S\}$  be a uniformly definable family of definable groups in  $M^k$  with  $\dim G_s = n$  for all  $s \in S$ . By Pillay's theorem on

definable groups in [20] there exists, uniformly in  $s$ , a definable family of finitely many definable charts  $\{\langle U_{i,s}, \phi_{i,s} \rangle : s \in S, i = 1, \dots, l\}$  for the  $G_s$ 's. For each  $s \in S$ , let  $e_{G_s}$  be the identity element of  $G_s$ . Since for each  $s \in S$  we can definably choose  $i_s \in \{1, \dots, l\}$  such that  $e_{G_s} \in U_{i_s,s}$ , we may assume that for all  $s \in S$  we have  $e_{G_s} \in U_s = U_{i_s,s}$  for some fixed  $i$ . Set  $\phi_s = \phi_{i,s}$ . Let  $\phi_s(e_{G_s}) = \langle e_{1,s}, \dots, e_{n,s} \rangle$ . Since for each  $j = 1, \dots, n$  there exists an open (definable) interval  $J_{j,s} = (d_{j,s}^-, d_{j,s}^+) \subseteq M$  such that  $e_{j,s} \in J_{j,s}$  and  $\prod_{j=1}^n J_{j,s} \subseteq \phi_s(U_s)$ , by Lemma 4.1 we can assume that  $\{J_{j,s} : s \in S\}$  is uniformly definable. Let  $O_s = \phi_s^{-1}(\prod_{j=1}^n J_{j,s})$ , which is an open definable neighborhood of  $e_{G_s}$  in  $G_s$ . Then  $\{O_s : s \in S\}$  is a uniformly definable subfamily of  $\{G_s : s \in S\}$ .

For each  $s \in S$  and  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , let  $J_{j,s}^- = \{x \in J_{j,s} : x < e_{j,s}\}$  and  $J_{j,s}^+ = \{x \in J_{j,s} : e_{j,s} < x\}$ . For  $\delta_s = \langle \delta_{1,s}^-, \delta_{1,s}^+, \dots, \delta_{n,s}^-, \delta_{n,s}^+ \rangle \in \prod_{j=1}^n (J_{j,s}^- \times J_{j,s}^+)$ , let

$$O_s^{\delta_s} = \{x \in O_s : \phi_s(x) = \langle z_1, \dots, z_n \rangle \text{ and } \delta_{j,s}^- < z_j < \delta_{j,s}^+ \text{ for all } j\},$$

$$\bar{O}_s^{\delta_s} = \{x \in O_s : \phi_s(x) = \langle z_1, \dots, z_n \rangle \text{ and } \delta_{j,s}^- \leq z_j \leq \delta_{j,s}^+ \text{ for all } j\}.$$

If  $\{D_s : s \in S\}$  is a uniformly definable subfamily of  $\{G_s : s \in S\}$ , we consider

$$O_s^{\delta_s}(D_s) = \bigcup \{d O_s^{\delta_s} : d \in D_s\} \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{O}_s^{\delta_s}(D_s) = \bigcup \{d \bar{O}_s^{\delta_s} : d \in D_s\}.$$

For each  $s \in S$ ,  $O_s^{\delta_s}(D_s)$  is an open definable neighborhood of  $D_s$  in  $G_s$  and  $O_s^{\delta_s}(D_s) \subseteq \bar{O}_s^{\delta_s}(D_s)$ .

**PROPOSITION 4.2.** *Let  $\{G_s : s \in S\}$  be a uniformly definable family of definable groups in  $M^k$  and  $\{K_s : s \in S\}$  a uniformly definable subfamily of definable subsets. Then the set of  $s$  for which  $K_s$  is a definably compact definable subset of  $G_s$  is definable.*

*Proof.* By definability of dimension [20] we may assume without loss of generality that each  $G_s$  has dimension  $n$ . Let  $\{\langle U_{i,s}, \phi_{i,s} \rangle : s \in S, i = 1, \dots, l\}$  be a uniformly definable family of finitely many definable charts for the  $G_s$ 's.

Consider the subset  $S'$  of  $S$  of all  $s \in S$  such that the following condition holds:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall \delta_{1,s} \dots \forall \delta_{l,s} \left[ \left( \bigwedge_{i=1}^l \delta_{i,s} \in \prod_{j=1}^n (J_{j,s}^- \times J_{j,s}^+) \right) \right. \\ \Rightarrow \left( \bigvee_{i=1}^l \left( \phi_{i,s}(\bar{O}_s^{\delta_{i,s}(A_{i,s})} \cap K_s) \text{ is unbounded or } K_s \not\subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^l O_s^{\delta_{i,s}(A_{i,s})} \right) \right. \\ \left. \left. \text{or } \bigvee_{i=1}^l (O_s^{\delta_{i,s}(A_{i,s})} \not\subseteq U_{i,s}) \right) \right], \end{aligned}$$

where the  $A_{i,s}$ 's are given inductively by

$$A_{i,s} = K_s \setminus \left( \bigcup_{m < i} O_s^{\delta_{m,s}}(A_{m,s}) \cup \bigcup_{j=i+1}^l U_{j,s} \right).$$

By definability of “bounded” in  $M^k$ ,  $S'$  is a definable subset of  $S$ . So by Lemma 3.1, after replacing  $S$  by  $S \setminus S'$ , we may assume that for all  $s \in S$  the following first-order condition holds:

$$\begin{aligned} \exists \delta_{1,s} \dots \exists \delta_{l,s} \left[ \left( \bigwedge_{i=1}^l \delta_{i,s} \in \prod_{j=1}^n (J_{j,s}^- \times J_{j,s}^+) \right) \right. \\ \wedge \left( \bigwedge_{i=1}^l \left( \phi_{i,s}(\bar{O}_s^{\delta_{i,s}}(A_{i,s}) \cap K_s) \text{ is bounded and } K_s \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^l O_s^{\delta_{i,s}}(A_{i,s}) \right) \right. \\ \left. \left. \text{and } \bigwedge_{i=1}^l (O_s^{\delta_{i,s}}(A_{i,s}) \subseteq U_{i,s}) \right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 4.1, there exist definable maps  $(\delta_1, \dots, \delta_l : S \rightarrow \prod_{j=1}^n (J_{j,s}^- \times J_{j,s}^+))$  such that for all  $s \in S$ ,  $\bigwedge_{i=1}^l (\phi_{i,s}(\bar{O}_s^{\delta_{i,s}}(A_{i,s}) \cap K_s)$  is bounded and  $K_s \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^l O_s^{\delta_{i,s}}(A_{i,s})$  and  $\bigwedge_{i=1}^l (O_s^{\delta_{i,s}}(A_{i,s}) \subseteq U_{i,s})$ . For each  $i = 1, \dots, l$  and  $s \in S$ , set  $W_{i,s} = O_s^{\delta_{i,s}}(A_{i,s}) \cap K_s$  and if  $\epsilon_s \in \prod_{j=1}^n (J_{j,s}^- \times J_{j,s}^+)$ , let

$$W_{i,s}^{\epsilon_s} = W_{i,s} \setminus \bar{O}_s^{\epsilon_s}(\bar{W}_{i,s} \setminus W_{i,s}).$$

**CLAIM 4.3.** *For each  $s \in S$ , the definable set  $K_s$  is definably compact in  $G_s$  if and only if there exists  $\epsilon_s \in \prod_{j=1}^n (J_{j,s}^- \times J_{j,s}^+)$  such that*

$$K_s = \bigcup_{i=1}^l W_{i,s}^{\epsilon_s}.$$

*Proof.* Fix  $s$ , and assume that  $K_s$  is definably compact in  $G_s$ . For each  $i = 1, \dots, l$ , let  $V_{i,s}$  be open definable subsets of  $G_s$  such that  $\bar{V}_{i,s} \subseteq W_{i,s}$  and  $K_s = \bigcup_{i=1}^l (V_{i,s} \cap K_s)$  (Corollary 2.4). Then  $\bar{V}_{i,s} \cap (\bar{W}_{i,s} \setminus W_{i,s}) = \emptyset$  and so  $K_s \setminus \bar{V}_{i,s}$  is an open definable neighborhood of  $\bar{W}_{i,s} \setminus W_{i,s}$  in  $K_s$ . Since  $\bar{W}_{i,s} \setminus W_{i,s}$  is definably compact, it follows from Proposition 2.2 that there exists  $\epsilon_s \in \prod_{j=1}^n (J_{j,s}^- \times J_{j,s}^+)$  such that  $K_s = \bigcup_{i=1}^l W_{i,s}^{\epsilon_s}$ .

For the converse, if there is an  $\epsilon_s$  as above, then any (continuous) definable curve  $\alpha$  in  $K_s$  will be eventually contained in one of the  $W_{i,s}^{\epsilon_s}$ . Since  $\phi_{i,s}(W_{i,s}^{\epsilon_s})$  is bounded, the (continuous) definable curve  $\phi_{i,s} \circ \alpha$  has a limit  $a \in M^n$ , which must be in  $\phi_{i,s}(U_{i,s})$ . Thus  $\phi_{i,s}^{-1}(a) \in K_s$  is the limit of  $\alpha$ . ■

We end the section with an observation about another uniform definability result from [14]. In [14, Lemma 7.4(ii)] it is proved that in an o-minimal expansion of an ordered group, if  $\{G_s : s \in S\}$  is a uniformly definable fam-

ily of abelian definable groups, then the set of  $s$  for which  $G_s$  is definably connected is definable. We point out that the proof there is very general and the above assumptions are not necessary. Hence:

REMARK 4.4. If  $\{G_s : s \in S\}$  is a uniformly definable family of definable groups, then the set of  $s$  for which  $G_s$  is definably connected is definable.

**Acknowledgments.** The first author was supported by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, Financiamento Base 2008 - ISFL/1/209. This work is part of the FCT project PTDC/MAT/101740/2008.

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*Received 16 November 2010;  
in revised form 26 June 2011*

