An Invitation to Coarse Groups
# Contents

1 Introduction ............................................................... 1  
1.1 Background and Motivation ........................................... 1  
1.2 List of Findings I: Basic Theory .................................... 6  
1.3 List of Findings II: Selected Topics .............................. 13  

Part I Basic Theory  

2 Introduction to the Coarse Category .................................... 23  
2.1 Some Notation for Subsets and Relations .......................... 23  
2.2 Coarse Structures ..................................................... 26  
2.3 Coarse Structures via Partial Coverings ........................... 30  
2.4 Controlled Maps ....................................................... 33  
2.5 The Category of Coarse Spaces ...................................... 35  
2.6 Binary Products ....................................................... 38  
2.7 Equi Controlled Maps ................................................ 39  

3 Properties of the Category of Coarse Spaces ......................... 43  
3.1 Pull-Back and Push-Forward ......................................... 43  
3.2 Controlled Thickenings and Asymptoticity ........................ 44  
3.3 Coarse Subspaces, Restrictions, Images and Quotients .......... 45  
3.4 Containments and Intersections of Coarse Subspaces .......... 48  

4 Coarse Groups ............................................................. 53  
4.1 Preliminary: Group Objects in a Category .......................... 53  
4.2 Coarse Groups: Definition, Notation and Examples .............. 55  
4.3 Equi Invariant Coarse Structures and Automatic Control ...... 58  
4.4 Making Sets into Coarse Groups .................................... 61  
4.5 Coarse Groups are Determined Locally ............................. 67  
4.6 Summary: A Concrete Description of Coarse Groups ............ 72  

5 Coarse Homomorphisms, Subgroups and Quotients ................... 75  
5.1 Definitions and Examples of Coarse Homomorphisms ............. 75  
5.2 Properties of Coarse Homomorphisms ................................ 80
5.3 Coarse Subgroups ............................................... 85
5.4 Coarse Quotients .................................................. 89

6 Coarse Actions .......................................................... 93
6.1 Definition and Examples ........................................... 93
6.2 Coarse Invariance and Equivariance .......................... 96
6.3 Coarse Action by Conjugation .................................. 98
6.4 Coarse Orbits ....................................................... 100
6.5 The Fundamental Observation of Geometric Group Theory 104
6.6 Quotient Coarse Actions .......................................... 107
6.7 Coarse Quotient Actions of the Action by Left Multiplication 109
6.8 Coarse Cosets Spaces: Subsets .................................. 111
6.9 Coarse Cosets Spaces: Subgroups ............................... 115

7 Coarse Kernels .......................................................... 119
7.1 Coarse Preimages and Kernels .................................. 119
7.2 The Isomorphism Theorems ...................................... 123
7.3 Short Exact Sequences of Coarse Groups ........................ 127
7.4 A Criterion for the Existence of Coarse Kernels .............. 130
7.5 Some Comments and Questions .................................. 133

Part II Selected Topics

8 Coarse Structures on Set-Groups .................................... 137
8.1 Connected Coarsifications of Set-Groups ....................... 138
8.2 Metric Coarsifications and Bi-Invariant Metrics ............. 140
8.3 Some Examples of (Un)bounded Set-Groups .................... 143

9 Coarse Structures on \( \mathbb{Z} \) ........................................... 147
9.1 Coarse Structures Generated by Cayley Graphs .............. 147
9.2 Coarse Structures Generated by Topologies .................... 149
9.3 Some Questions .................................................... 152

10 On Bi-Invariant Word Metrics ..................................... 155
10.1 Computing the Cancellation Metric on Free Groups ........ 156
10.2 The Canonical Coarsification of Finitely Generated Set-Groups and their Subgroups ................................. 159

11 A Quest for Coarse Groups that are not Coarsified Set-Groups 163
11.1 General Observations ............................................. 163
11.2 A Conjecture on Coarse Groups that are not Coarsified Set-Groups ................................................ 165
11.3 A Few More Questions ............................................ 168

12 On Coarse Homomorphisms and Coarse Automorphisms .......... 171
12.1 Elementary Constructions of Coarse Automorphisms .......... 171
12.2 Coarse Homomorphisms into Banach Spaces .................. 173