

MARKOV FAMILIES FOR ANOSOV FLOWS WITH AN INVOLUTIVE ACTION

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§1. Introduction

The aim of this note is to construct “involutive” Markov families for geodesic flows of negative curvature. Roughly speaking, a Markov family for a flow is a finite family of local cross-sections to the flow with fine boundary conditions. They are basic tools in the study of dynamical systems. In 1973, R. Bowen [5] constructed Markov families for Axiom A flows. Using these families, he reduced the problem of counting periodic orbits of an Axiom A flow to the case of hyperbolic symbolic flows.

It is well-known that geodesic flows of negative curvature are Anosov flows, hence are of Axiom A type. But within the class of Anosov flows the geodesic flows still retain a special importance. Let ψ_t be the geodesic flow on the unit tangent bundle UN of a compact manifold N of negative curvature. If we define an involution $\theta: UN \rightarrow UN$ by $\theta(v) = -v$, then we have $\psi_t \circ \theta = \theta \circ \psi_{-t}$. This is a typical property and should be utilized for getting some informations on geodesics. For applying Bowen’s symbolic dynamics, Markov families which inherit this involutive property are very useful. In the forthcoming paper [2], we shall show that there exist infinitely many prime closed geodesics in each one-dimensional homology class of N . By using our preliminary work, one can reduce the problem to the case of “involutive” graphs.

Our construction goes on the same lines as in [5]. Since it is not difficult to fill up between the lines, we just point out where should be modified.

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§2. Involutive Markov families

A differentiable flow φ_t on a compact Riemannian manifold M is called *Anosov* if the following condition holds. The tangent bundle of M can be written as the Whitney sum of three $d\varphi_t$ -invariant continuous subbundles

$$TM = E^T \oplus E^s \oplus E^u,$$

where E^T is the line bundle tangent to the flow, and there are constants $C, \lambda > 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|d\varphi_t(v)\| &\leq Ce^{-\lambda t}\|v\| \quad \text{for } v \in E^s, \quad t \geq 0, \\ \|d\varphi_{-t}(v)\| &\leq Ce^{-\lambda t}\|v\| \quad \text{for } v \in E^u, \quad t \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

A finite family of closed sets $\mathcal{T} = \{T_1, \dots, T_n\}$ is called a *proper family* of size α if the followings hold;

- 1) $M = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \varphi_{[-\alpha, 0]}(T_i)$,
- 2) there are differentiable closed disks D_1, \dots, D_n transverse to φ_t of diameter smaller than α such that
 - a) $\dim(D_i) = \dim(M) - 1$,
 - b) $T_i \subset \text{Int}(D_i)$ and $T_i = \overline{\text{Int}_{D_i}(T_i)}$, where $\text{Int}_{D_i}(T_i)$ is the interior of T_i with respect to the relative topology of D_i ,
 - c) for $i \neq j$, at least one of the sets $D_i \cap \varphi_{[0, \alpha]}(D_j)$ and $D_j \cap \varphi_{[0, \alpha]}(D_i)$ is empty.

For each $x \in \Gamma(\mathcal{T}) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n T_i$ let $0 < t_{\mathcal{T}}(x) \leq \alpha$ be the least time for which $\varphi_t(x) \in \Gamma(\mathcal{T})$. We define a bijection $H_{\mathcal{T}}: \Gamma(\mathcal{T}) \rightarrow \Gamma(\mathcal{T})$ by $H_{\mathcal{T}}(x) = \varphi_{t_{\mathcal{T}}(x)}(x)$ and a dense subset of $\Gamma(\mathcal{T})$ by

$$\Gamma'(\mathcal{T}) = \{x \in \Gamma(\mathcal{T}) \mid H_{\mathcal{T}}^k(x) \in \bigcup_{i=1}^n \text{Int}_{D_i}(T_i) \text{ for any } k \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

Let $\prod_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{T}$ be the set of all doubly infinite sequences of symbols with the product topology. There is a continuous injective map $Q: \Gamma'(\mathcal{T}) \rightarrow \prod_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{T}$ given by

$$Q(x) = (q(H_{\mathcal{T}}^k(x)))_{k \in \mathbb{Z}},$$

where $q(y)$ denotes the unique element of \mathcal{T} containing y . Since $Q^{-1}: Q(\Gamma'(\mathcal{T})) \rightarrow \Gamma'(\mathcal{T})$ is Lipschitz with respect to the canonical distance on $\prod_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{T}$, one can define a surjective map $\pi: \overline{Q(\Gamma'(\mathcal{T}))} \rightarrow \Gamma(\mathcal{T})$ as the continuous extension of Q^{-1} . We define a strictly positive function $f_{\mathcal{T}}: \overline{Q(\Gamma'(\mathcal{T}))} \rightarrow (0, \alpha]$ as the continuous extension of $t_{\mathcal{T}} \circ Q^{-1}$. In general, the

set $\overline{Q(\Gamma'(\mathcal{T}))}$ is complicated. To avoid this we have to choose \mathcal{T} carefully.

For a point $x \in M$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ we define the *stable* and *unstable* sets by

$$W_\varepsilon^s(x) = \left\{ y \in M \left| \begin{array}{l} d(\varphi_t(x), \varphi_t(y)) \leq \varepsilon \text{ for } t \geq 0 \\ \text{and } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} d(\varphi_t(x), \varphi_t(y)) = 0 \end{array} \right. \right\},$$

$$W_\varepsilon^u(x) = \left\{ y \in M \left| \begin{array}{l} d(\varphi_t(x), \varphi_t(y)) \leq \varepsilon \text{ for } t \leq 0 \\ \text{and } \lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} d(\varphi_t(x), \varphi_t(y)) = 0 \end{array} \right. \right\}.$$

These sets play the role of coordinates ([7], [10]). For each small $\varepsilon > 0$, there is $\delta(\varepsilon) > 0$ for which the following is true; whenever $x, y \in M$ satisfy $d(x, y) \leq \delta(\varepsilon)$ there is a unique $\mu = \mu(x, y) \in [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]$ such that

$$W_\varepsilon^s(\varphi_\mu(x)) \cap W_\varepsilon^u(y) \neq \emptyset,$$

and this set consists of a single point, which is denoted by $\langle x, y \rangle$.

Let D be a differentiable closed disk transverse to the flow φ_t of dimension $\dim(M) - 1$. If its diameter is sufficiently small, there is $\xi > 0$ such that $(z, t) \rightarrow \varphi_t(z)$ gives a diffeomorphism of $D \times [-\xi, \xi]$ to $\varphi_{[-\xi, \xi]}(D)$. For a set $T \subset D$ disjoint from the boundary ∂D of D and of small diameter compared with $d(T, \partial D)$, we can define

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_D: T \times T \rightarrow D$$

by $\langle x, y \rangle_D = \text{Pr}_D \langle x, y \rangle$, where $\text{Pr}_D: \varphi_{[-\xi, \xi]}(D) \rightarrow D$ is the projection defined by $\text{Pr}_D(\varphi_t(z)) = z$. We call T a *rectangle* if $\langle x, y \rangle_D \in T$ for any $x, y \in T$. For a rectangle T and $x \in T$ we set

$$W^s(x, T) = \{ \langle x, y \rangle_D \mid y \in T \},$$

$$W^u(x, T) = \{ \langle y, x \rangle_D \mid y \in T \}.$$

A proper family \mathcal{T} of small size is said to be *Markov* if

- 1) each $T \in \mathcal{T}$ is a rectangle,
- 2) $W^s(x, T) \subset U(T, S)$ whenever $x \in U(T, S)$,
- 3) $W^u(x, T) \subset V(S, T)$ whenever $x \in V(S, T)$,

where

$$U(T, S) = \text{Cl} \{ y \in T \cap \Gamma'(\mathcal{T}) \mid H_\sigma(y) \in S \},$$

$$V(S, T) = \text{Cl} \{ y \in T \cap \Gamma'(\mathcal{T}) \mid H_\sigma^{-1}(y) \in S \},$$

and $\text{Cl}(A)$ denotes the closure of a set A .

Given a proper family \mathcal{T} we set

$$\mathcal{E} = \left\{ (T, S) \in \mathcal{T} \times \mathcal{T} \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{there is } x \in T \cap \Gamma'(\mathcal{T}) \\ \text{with } H_x(x) \in S \end{array} \right\}$$

and define an oriented graph by $(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{E})$ and a subshift of finite type $\Sigma(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{E})$ by

$$\{(T_k) \in \prod_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{T} \mid (T_k, T_{k+1}) \in \mathcal{E} \text{ for any } k \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

It is known [5] that this subshift coincides with $\overline{Q(\Gamma'(\mathcal{T}))}$ if and only if \mathcal{T} is Markov. In this case we can define a suspension $\Sigma(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{E}, f_{\mathcal{T}})$ as the set

$$\{(X, s) \mid X \in \Sigma(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{E}), 0 \leq s \leq f_{\mathcal{T}}(X)\}$$

with $(X, f_{\mathcal{T}}(X))$ and $(\sigma(X), 0)$ identified, where $\sigma: \Sigma(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \Sigma(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{E})$ is the shift operator given by $\sigma(X)_k = X_{k+1}$. On this space there is a vertical flow sus_t defined by the local flow $\text{sus}_t(X, s) = (X, s + t)$ when $0 \leq s, s + t \leq f_{\mathcal{T}}(X)$. Let $\rho: \Sigma(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{E}, f_{\mathcal{T}}) \rightarrow M$ denote the surjective map given by $\rho(X, s) = \varphi_s(\pi(X))$. Then this map connects the suspension flow sus_t and the flow φ_t in the following sense;

- 1) $\rho \circ \text{sus}_t = \varphi_t \circ \rho$,
- 2) ρ is a bounded-to-one map.

Now we state our result.

THEOREM 1. *Let $\varphi_t: M \rightarrow M$ be an Anosov flow. Suppose there is an involution $\theta: M \rightarrow M$ with $\varphi_t \circ \theta = \theta \circ \varphi_{-t}$. Then there exists a Markov family \mathcal{M} for φ_t of arbitrarily small size such that*

- 1) \mathcal{M} admits an involution $\tau: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$,
- 2) τ is a graph isomorphism of $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E})$ to $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E}^*)$, where $\mathcal{E}^* = \{(y, x) \mid (x, y) \in \mathcal{E}\}$,
- 3) the suspending function $f_{\mathcal{M}}$ satisfies $f_{\mathcal{M}} = f_{\mathcal{M}} \circ \bar{\tau} \circ \sigma$, where $\bar{\tau}: \Sigma(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \Sigma(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E})$ is given by $\bar{\tau}(X)_k = \tau(X_{-k})$,
- 4) if we define $\bar{\theta}: \Sigma(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E}, f_{\mathcal{M}}) \rightarrow \Sigma(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E}, f_{\mathcal{M}})$ by $\bar{\theta}(X, s) = (\bar{\tau} \circ \sigma(X), f_{\mathcal{M}}(X) - s)$, then $\rho \circ \bar{\theta} = \theta \circ \rho$.

§3. Proof

Since the Anosov property does not depend on a metric, we may suppose θ is an isometry. Hence the stable and unstable sets satisfy $\theta(W_s^u(x)) = W_s^u(\theta x)$ and if T is a rectangle, so is $\theta(T)$.

Let $\alpha > 0$ be a sufficiently small number compared with ε , $\delta(\varepsilon)$, the minimal period of φ_t and so on. Cover M by a finite number of flow boxes

of small size along a dense orbit. From the assumption $\varphi_t \circ \theta = \theta \circ \varphi_{-t}$, there are differentiable closed disks $D_{-n}, \dots, D_{-1}, D_1, \dots, D_n$ transverse to φ_t and closed rectangles $B_i \subset \text{Int}(D_i)$ such that

- 1) $\theta(D_i) = D_{-i}$ and $\theta(B_i) = B_{-i}$,
- 2) $\dim(D_i) = \dim(M) - 1$,
- 3) $\text{diam}(D_i) < 3\alpha/4$,
- 4) $M = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \varphi_{[-2\alpha/3, -\alpha/3]}(\text{Int}_{D_i}(B_i))$,
- 5) for $i \neq j$, at least one of the sets $D_i \cap \varphi_{[0, 2\alpha]}(D_j)$ and $D_j \cap \varphi_{[0, 2\alpha]}(D_i)$

is empty,

- 6) if $B_i \cap \varphi_{[-\alpha/2, \alpha/2]}(B_j) \neq \emptyset$ then $B_i \subset \varphi_{[-\alpha, \alpha]}(D_j)$.

For $i > 0$ choose a closed rectangle $K_i \subset \text{Int}_{D_i}(B_i)$ so that $M = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \varphi_{[-3\alpha/4, -\alpha/4]}(K_i)$ and set $K_{-i} = \theta(K_i)$. Pick $\nu > 0$ so that any set with diameter smaller than 4ν is contained in some $\varphi_{[-\alpha, \alpha]}(K_i)$, $i > 0$. One can find large $L > 0$ depending on ν and a finite closed covering \mathcal{V}_i of K_i , $i > 0$, with

$$\max_{|i| \leq L} \text{diam}(\varphi_i(V)) \leq \nu \quad \text{and} \quad V = \overline{\text{Int}_{D_i}(V)}$$

for every $V \in \mathcal{V}_i$. There are $a(V), b(V) \in [1, n]$ for each $V \in \mathcal{V}_i$ such that $B_i(\varphi_{-L}(V)) \subset \varphi_{[-\alpha, \alpha]}(K_{a(V)})$ and $B_i(\varphi_L(V)) \subset \varphi_{[-\alpha, \alpha]}(K_{b(V)})$: Here $B_i(\varphi_{-L}(V)) = \{x \in M \mid d(x, \varphi_{-L}(V)) < \nu\}$. For $i < 0$, we define a covering of K_i by $\mathcal{V}_i = \theta(\mathcal{V}_{-i}) = \{\theta(V) \mid V \in \mathcal{V}_{-i}\}$ and set $a, b: \mathcal{V}_i \rightarrow [-n, -1]$ by $a(\theta(V)) = -b(V)$ and $b(\theta(V)) = -a(V)$. Consider maps

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\bar{V}} &= P_{D_{a(V)}} \circ \varphi_{-L}: V \rightarrow K_{a(V)}, \\ g_{\bar{V}}^+ &= P_{D_{b(V)}} \circ \varphi_L: V \rightarrow K_{b(V)}, \end{aligned}$$

where $P_{D_i}: \varphi_{[-\alpha, \alpha]}(D_i) \rightarrow D_i$ is the projection. We inductively define

$$\begin{aligned} R_{i,0} &= S_{i,0} = K_i, \\ R_{i,k+1} &= \bigcup_{V \in \mathcal{V}_i} \bigcup_{x \in V} \left\{ \langle y, P_{D_i} \circ \varphi_L(z) \rangle_{D_j} \mid \begin{array}{l} y \in K_i \\ z \in W^s(g_{\bar{V}}(x), R_{a(V),k}) \end{array} \right\}, \\ S_{i,k+1} &= \bigcup_{V \in \mathcal{V}_i} \bigcup_{x \in V} \left\{ \langle P_{D_i} \circ \varphi_{-L}(z), y \rangle_{D_i} \mid \begin{array}{l} y \in K_i \\ z \in W^u(g_{\bar{V}}^+(x), S_{b(V),k}) \end{array} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

As L is sufficiently large, it is not difficult to check that $R_{i,k}$ and $S_{i,k}$ are rectangles contained in B_i . Also we have $\theta(R_{i,k}) = S_{-i,k}$ because $\theta \circ g_{\bar{V}}^+ = g_{\bar{\theta(V)}} \circ \theta$.

Now set rectangles $R_i = \bigcup_{k=0}^\infty R_{i,k}$, $S_i = \bigcup_{k=0}^\infty S_{i,k}$ and $C_i = \langle S_i, R_i \rangle_{D_i} = \{\langle x, y \rangle_{D_i} \mid x \in S_i, y \in R_i\}$. Let \mathcal{C} denotes the proper family $\{C_i\}_{i=\pm 1, \dots, \pm n}$. By

using the canonical bijection $H_\varphi: \Gamma(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \Gamma(\mathcal{C})$, we define $J^+(i)$ and $J^-(i)$ as the sets

$$\begin{aligned} & \{j \mid \text{there is } x \in \text{Int}_{D_i}(C_i) \text{ with } H_\varphi(x) \in \text{Int}_{D_j}(C_j)\}, \\ & \{j \mid \text{there is } x \in \text{Int}_{D_i}(C_i) \text{ with } H_\varphi^{-1}(x) \in \text{Int}_{D_j}(C_j)\}, \end{aligned}$$

respectively. As $H_\varphi \circ \theta \circ H_\varphi = \theta$, we have $j \in J^\pm(i)$ if and only if $-j \in J^\mp(-i)$. From the choice of $\{D_i\}$, for each $j \in J(i) = J^+(i) \cup J^-(i)$, $E_{i,j} = C_i \cap P_{D_i}(C_j)$ is a rectangle with nonempty interior. Choose a point $z_{i,j} \in \text{Int}_{D_i}(E_{i,j})$ for $j \in J^+(i)$ and put $z_{i,j} = \theta(z_{-i,-j})$ for $j \in J^-(i)$. We part C_i into four closed rectangles intersecting only in their boundaries;

$$\begin{aligned} E_{i,j}^1 &= \text{Cl}(\text{Int}_{D_i}(E_{i,j})), \\ E_{i,j}^2 &= \text{Cl} \left\{ y \in \text{Int}_{D_i}(C_i) \mid \begin{array}{l} \langle z_{i,j}, y \rangle_{D_i} \in \text{Int}_{D_i}(E_{i,j}) \\ \langle y, z_{i,j} \rangle_{D_i} \notin E_{i,j} \end{array} \right\}, \\ E_{i,j}^3 &= \text{Cl} \left\{ y \in \text{Int}_{D_i}(C_i) \mid \begin{array}{l} \langle z_{i,j}, y \rangle_{D_i} \notin E_{i,j} \\ \langle y, z_{i,j} \rangle_{D_i} \in \text{Int}_{D_i}(E_{i,j}) \end{array} \right\}, \\ E_{i,j}^4 &= \text{Cl} \left\{ y \in \text{Int}_{D_i}(C_i) \mid \begin{array}{l} \langle z_{i,j}, y \rangle_{D_i} \notin E_{i,j} \\ \langle y, z_{i,j} \rangle_{D_i} \notin E_{i,j} \end{array} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

They satisfy $\theta(E_{i,j}^1) = E_{-i,-j}^1$, $\theta(E_{i,j}^2) = E_{-i,-j}^3$, $\theta(E_{i,j}^3) = E_{-i,-j}^2$ and $\theta(E_{i,j}^4) = E_{-i,-j}^4$. We get a covering \mathcal{E}_i of C_i by a finite number of closed rectangles

$$\mathcal{E}_i = \left\{ \text{Cl} \left(\bigcap_{j \in J(i)} \text{Int}_{D_i}(E_{i,j}^{\ell(j)}) \right) \mid \ell: J(i) \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \right\}.$$

Put $U_i = \cup \{ \text{Int}_{D_i}(E) \mid E \in \mathcal{E}_i \}$ and set for a positive integer N

$$\Gamma'_N(\mathcal{C}) = \{ z \in \bigcup_{|i|=1}^n U_i \mid H_\varphi^k(z) \in \bigcup_i U_i \text{ for } -N \leq k \leq N \}.$$

Given $x, y \in \Gamma'_N(\mathcal{C})$ we denote $x \sim y$ if for any $k \in [-N, N]$ there exists $E \in \bigcup_i \mathcal{E}_i$ with $H_\varphi^k(x), H_\varphi^k(y) \in E$. This is an equivalence relation. Since $\theta(U_i) = U_{-i}$ and $C_i \cap C_{-i} = \emptyset$, we have $x \not\sim \theta x$ and $x \sim y$ if and only if $\theta x \sim \theta y$. Let $G_{-m}, \dots, G_{-1}, G_1, \dots, G_m$ denote the equivalence classes, where we assign the indexes so that if $x \in G_p$ then $\theta x \in G_{-p}$. We pick very small numbers $0 < u_1 < \dots < u_m$, put $u_{-p} = -u_p$ and set $\mathcal{M}_N = (\varphi_{u_p}(\overline{G_p}))_{p=\pm 1, \dots, \pm m}$.

Finally we should check that \mathcal{M}_N is a Markov family for φ_t if N is sufficiently large compared with L . It is clear that \mathcal{M}_N is a proper family of size α . Suppose $x, y \in G_p \subset D_{i(p)}$ and consider $z = \langle x, y \rangle_{D_{i(p)}}$. Since at least one of the sets $D_i \cap \varphi_{[0, 2\alpha]}(D_j)$ and $D_j \cap \varphi_{[0, 2\alpha]}(D_i)$ is empty, we can inductively conclude that $H_\varphi^k(x)$ and $H_\varphi^k(y)$ are contained in the same C_i

and $H_\varphi^k(z) = \langle H_\varphi^k(x), H_\varphi^k(y) \rangle_{D_\ell}$ for each $k \in [-N, N]$. Therefore $z \in \bar{G}_p$ and $M_p = \varphi_{u_p}(\bar{G})$ is a rectangle.

Now suppose $x \in V(M_q, M_p) \cap \Gamma'(\mathcal{M}_n)$. Choose arbitrary $y \in W^u(x, M_p) \cap \varphi_{u_p}(G_p)$ and put $x' = \varphi_{-u_p}(x)$, $y' = \varphi_{-u_p}(y) \in G_p$. We denote by x_1, y_1 the points $H_\varphi^{-N-1}(x')$, $P_{D_\ell} \circ H_\varphi^{-N}(y') \in D_\ell$ respectively. As N is sufficiently large, one can prove that $H_\varphi^{N+1}(y_1) = y'$ and $H_\varphi^N(x_1) \sim H_\varphi^N(y_1)$ just like the same way as in [5]. This implies that $H_\varphi^{-1}(y) \in M_q$ and $y \in V(M_q, M_p)$. Hence $W^u(x, M_p) \subset V(M_q, M_p)$ whenever $x \in V(M_q, M_p)$. Similarly we can conclude $W^s(x, M_p) \subset U(M_p, M_q)$ if $x \in U(M_p, M_q)$. Therefore $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_N$ is a Markov family for φ_t of size α .

Define an involution $\tau: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ by $\tau(M_p) = M_{-p}$. Then it is clear that τ is a graph isomorphism of $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E})$ to $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E}^*)$. Since $H_{\mathcal{M}} \circ \theta \circ H_{\mathcal{M}} = \theta$ and $t_{\mathcal{M}} \circ \theta \circ H_{\mathcal{M}} = t_{\mathcal{M}}$, we get that $f_{\mathcal{M}} = f_{\mathcal{M}} \circ \tau \circ \sigma$ and that the induced map $\bar{\theta}: \Sigma(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E}, f_{\mathcal{M}}) \rightarrow \Sigma(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E}, f_{\mathcal{M}})$ satisfies $\theta \circ \rho = \rho \circ \bar{\theta}$ and $\bar{\theta} \circ \text{sus}_t = \text{sus}_{-t} \circ \bar{\theta}$.

§ 4. Remarks

We mention here about Markov partitions for Anosov diffeomorphisms. For the definition see for example [6]. If we slightly modify the definition of α -pseudo-orbits, then along the line in [6] we have

PROPOSITION 2. *Let $f: M \rightarrow M$ be an Anosov diffeomorphism on a compact manifold M . Suppose there is an involution $\theta: M \rightarrow M$ with $f \circ \theta = \theta \circ f^{-1}$. Then there exists a Markov partition \mathcal{M} for f of arbitrarily small size such that*

- 1) θ induces an involutive graph isomorphism τ of the associated graph $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E})$ to $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E}^*)$,
- 2) τ induces an involution $\bar{\theta}$ on the subshift of finite type $\Sigma(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E})$ with $\rho \circ \bar{\theta} = \theta \circ \rho$, where $\rho: \Sigma(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow M$ is the canonical map.

If a finite group G acts isometrically on M and satisfies $g \circ \varphi_t = \varphi_{\pm t} \circ g$ ($g \circ f = f^\pm \circ g$) for each $g \in G$, then we can get a result of the same type. Also our proof is applicable to an Axiom A flow restricted on a basic set which is invariant under the group action.

Addendum. After I wrote this paper M. Pollicott pointed me out Rees [11] has announced a part of Theorem 1.

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