

**RETRACTION OF THE PAPER "ON THE
NON-EXISTENCE OF CERTAIN BRANCHED COVERS"**

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We are retracting the paper *On the non-existence of certain branched covers* (Geometry & Topology 16 (2012), 1321–1344) due to a gap in the proof of Proposition 3.1, more concretely when proving that $H^1(X; \mathbb{R})^H$ is a G -invariant subspace of $H^1(X; \mathbb{R})$. We reduce the problem to showing that the group G acts trivially on the subspace $\wedge^r(H^1(X; \mathbb{R})^H)$ of $\wedge^r H^1(X; \mathbb{R})$. We then claim incorrectly that G -invariance of $\wedge^r(H^1(X; \mathbb{R})^H)$ follows from the G -invariance of $H^r(X; \mathbb{R})$. The issue is that the homomorphism

$$w : \wedge^r H^1(X; \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H^r(X; \mathbb{R})$$

could have a non-trivial kernel Ker , and moreover that the H -action on Ker could have non-trivial fixed points. If this happens, then we cannot conclude that $H^1(X; \mathbb{R})^H$ is G -invariant, invalidating the proof of Theorem 1.2 and thus of Theorem 1.1.