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Acyclic groups, C^ -superrigidity, and the Jiang-Su algebra*

A group is called acyclic if its group homology vanishes. In this talk I will show how torsion-free, amenable, acyclic groups can be used to do the following:

- 1) Construct examples of torsion-free groups which are not C^* -superrigid, i.e. groups whose reduced C^* -algebra is isomorphic to the C^* -algebra of another group.
- 2) Realize the Jiang-Su algebra as a crossed product of $C(X)$ by a group action.

If time permits, I will outline the construction of a torsion-free, amenable, acyclic group. This talk is based on joint work with Hua and Slutsky.