

MSRI virtual semester:
 "Random and Arithmetic Structures in Topology"
 Introductory workshop, 11 September 2020.
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Anosov representations 3.

Recall from previous lectures:

- G noncompact real semisimple Lie group
- P parabolic subgroup of G
- Γ_0 word hyperbolic group, with Gromov boundary $\partial_\infty \Gamma_0$
 (e.g. $\Gamma_0 = \begin{cases} \pi_1(S), & S \text{ closed hyperbolic surface} \rightsquigarrow \partial_\infty \Gamma_0 \text{ (circle)} \\ \mathbb{F}_2 & \text{nonabelian free group} \end{cases}$ Cantor set)

\rightsquigarrow notion of P -Anosov representation $\Gamma_0 \rightarrow G$.

For simplicity:

$$G = \begin{matrix} SL \\ PGL \end{matrix} (d, \mathbb{K}), \quad \mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R} \text{ or } \mathbb{C}$$

$$P = P_i = \begin{matrix} i \\ \begin{matrix} \text{shaded region} \\ 0 \end{matrix} \end{matrix}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq d-1.$$

• Def. (Labourie 2006, Guichard-Wienhard 2012):

A representation $\rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow G$ is P_i -Anosov

if $\exists \rho$ -equivariant maps $\xi_i: \partial_\infty \Gamma_0 \rightarrow G/P_i$ ("boundary maps")

- continuous

- transverse: $\forall \eta \neq \eta'$ in $\partial_\infty \Gamma_0$, $\xi_i(\eta) \oplus \xi_{d-i}(\eta') = \mathbb{K}^d$

- satisfying a uniform contraction contraction which strengthens the fact that ξ_i and ξ_{d-i} are dynamics-preserving: $\forall \gamma \in \Gamma_0$ ∞ -order, ξ_{d-i} (attracting fixed point of γ in \mathbb{P}^1) = (attr. f.p. of $\rho(\gamma)$ in G/\mathbb{P}^1)

• Properties:

- * ξ_i and ξ_{d-i} are unique, injective (\Rightarrow homeo onto image), compatible (i.e. $\forall \eta \in \mathbb{P}^1$, $\xi_{\min(i, d-i)}(\eta) \subset \xi_{\max(i, d-i)}(\eta)$).
- * Anosov representations have finite kernel and discrete image.
- * P_i -Anosov $\iff P_{d-i}$ -Anosov.
- * $\text{Hom}_{P_i\text{-Anosov}}(\Gamma_0, G)$ is open in $\text{Hom}(\Gamma_0, G)$.

• Examples:

* when $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{R}} G = 1$ (i.e. $d=2$ for $G = \text{PGL}(d, \mathbb{K})$), there is only one notion of Anosov, and it is equivalent to convex cocompactness in G/\mathbb{K} .

$$* \Gamma_0 \xrightarrow{\sigma_0} \text{PO}(n, 1) \hookrightarrow \text{PGL}(n+1, \mathbb{R}).$$

\dashrightarrow
 ρ_0

Compatibility: $[\sigma_0 \text{ is CC}]$ (i.e. Anosov) \iff $\left[\begin{array}{l} \Gamma_0 \text{ is word hyperbolic} \\ \text{and } \rho_0 \text{ is } P_1\text{-Anosov} \end{array} \right]$

* $\Gamma_0 = \pi_1(S) \xrightarrow[\text{discr.}]{\text{inj.}} \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R}) \xrightarrow{\text{irred.}} \text{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R})$ is P_i -Anosov ρ_i .

In this case the whole connected component of ρ_0 in $\text{Hom}(\Gamma_0, \text{PSL}(d, \mathbb{R}))$ consists of P_i -Anosov repr. ρ_i ("Hitchin representations").
 (Choi-Goldman for $d=3$)
 (Labourie in general)
 (see also Fock-Goncharov).

* free groups playing ping pong in $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ are P_i -Anosov.

- Anosov representations admit a number of characterizations that generalize the classical characterizations of rank-1 convex cocompact representations.

→ Question: Can Anosov representations also be characterized by some geometric convex cocompactness condition?

I. Anosov representations and convex cocompactness.

• Def.: $\rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \text{PO}(n, 1) = \text{Isom}(\mathbb{H}^n)$.

Say action $\Gamma_0 \curvearrowright \mathbb{H}^n$ is CC if it is properly discontinuous and $\exists \emptyset \neq \text{convex } C \subset \mathbb{H}^n$ with $\bigcap_{\gamma \in \Gamma_0} \gamma C$ compact.

- Guiding fact:
(see above)

$$\left[\Gamma_0 \subset_p \mathbb{H}^m \text{ is CC} \right] \iff \left[\begin{array}{l} \Gamma_0 \text{ is weak hyperbolic and} \\ \rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \text{PO}(n,1) \hookrightarrow \text{PGL}(n+1, \mathbb{R}) \text{ is } P_1\text{-Anosov} \end{array} \right].$$

→ What about representations $\rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \text{PGL}(n+1, \mathbb{R})$
that do not factor through $\text{PO}(n,1)$?

- 1st attempt: \mathbb{H}^m generalise G/K Riem. symmetric space
where K max. compact subgroup
($G = \text{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R}) \rightsquigarrow K = \text{PO}(d)$)

Thm (Kleiner-Leeb, Quint): Suppose $d \geq 3$

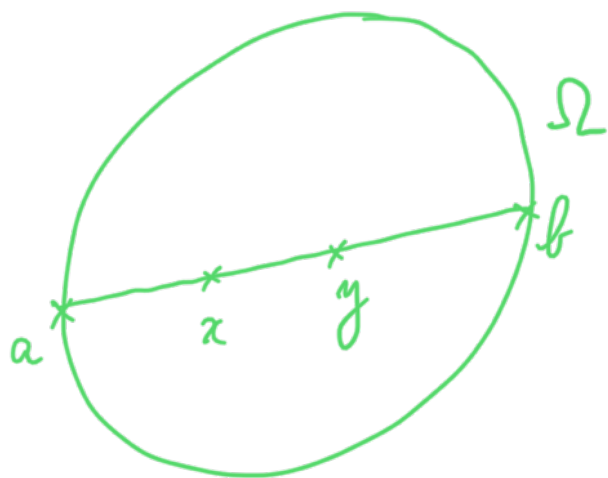
For $\rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow G$, (more generally: G simple with $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{R}} G \geq 2$).
 $\left[\Gamma_0 \subset_p G/K \text{ is CC} \right] \xrightarrow{\text{generically}} \left[\rho(\Gamma_0) \text{ is a cocompact lattice in } G \right].$

(i.e. whenever $\rho(\Gamma_0)$ is Zariski-dense in G)

In particular, such a Γ is not an Anosov subgroup.

- 2nd attempt: $\mathbb{H}^m = \{ [x] \in \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^{m+1}) \mid x_1^2 + \dots + x_m^2 - x_{m+1}^2 < 0 \}$
 generalise $\rightsquigarrow \Omega$ properly convex open $\subset \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$
 convex and bounded in some affine chart.

* NB: On Ω there is still a natural proper metric d_{Ω}
which is preserved by any $\gamma \in \text{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R})$ preserving Ω .



$$d_{\Omega}(x, y) = \frac{1}{2} \log [a : x : y : b]$$

cross ratio,
normalized so that
 $[0 : 1 : t : \infty] = t$.

(coincides with the hyperbolic metric for $\Omega = \mathbb{H}^{d-1}$,
 but in general only a Finsler metric,
 not Riemannian).

In particular, if $\Gamma < \text{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R})$ preserves Ω ,
 then $\Gamma \curvearrowright \Omega$ is properly discontinuous.

* Def.: Suppose $\partial\Omega \neq \text{segment}$ (" Ω is strictly convex").
 Let $\rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\Omega) \subset \text{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R})$.

Say action $\Gamma_0 \curvearrowright \Omega$ is CC if it is properly discontinuous
 and $\exists \mathcal{C} \text{ convex} \subset \Omega$ with \mathcal{C} compact
 $\neq \rho(\Gamma_0)$ -inv.

$\iff \mathcal{C}^{\text{core}}_{\rho(\Gamma_0)\Omega}$ is compact, where $\mathcal{C}^{\text{core}}_{\rho(\Gamma_0)\Omega} := \text{Conv}_{\Omega}(\rho^{\text{orb}}(\mathcal{C}))$.

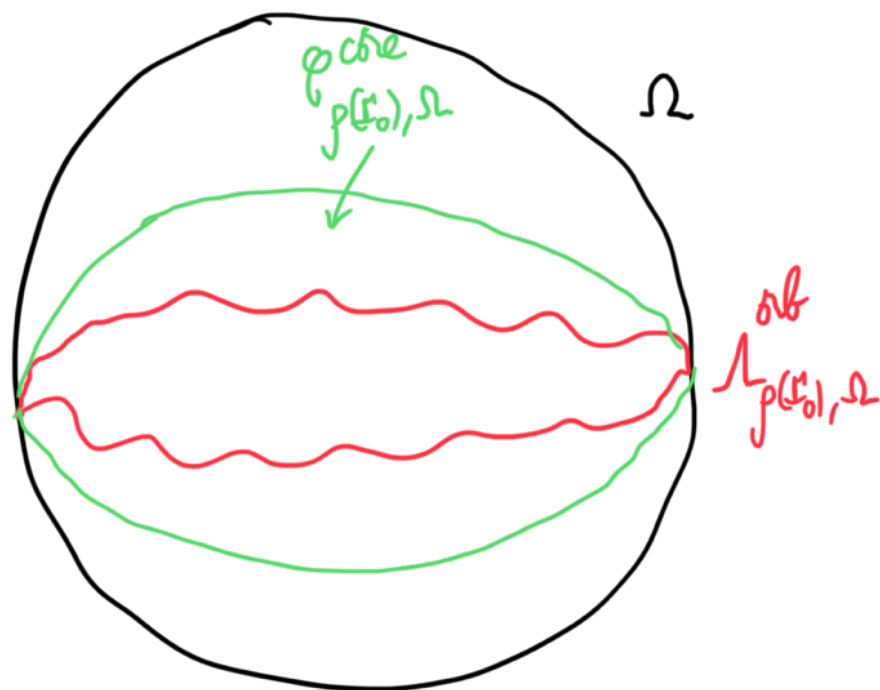
Here $\Lambda^{\text{orb}}_{\rho(\Gamma_0)\Omega} \subset \partial\Omega$ is the orbital limit set

{accumulation points of $\rho(\Gamma_0) \cdot x$ } for some $x \in \Omega$.
 (independent of x because $\partial\Omega \neq \text{segment}$)



Idea: If $\begin{cases} \rho(\gamma_m) \cdot x \rightarrow z \in \partial\Omega \\ \rho(\gamma_m) \cdot x' \rightarrow z' \in \partial\Omega \end{cases}$,

then $[z, z'] \subset \partial\Omega$ by proper discontinuity,
 hence $z = z'$.



- (first for $\rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \text{PO}(p, q)$, then general case) (assuming irreducibility).
- * Thm (Danciger-Guéritaud-Kassel, A. Zimmer):
- Γ_0 finitely generated group, $\rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \text{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R})$ representation.
- Suppose $\rho(\Gamma_0)$ preserves a properly convex open subset of $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$.
- TFAE: ① Γ_0 is word hyperbolic and ρ is P_1 -Anosov
- ② $\Gamma_0 \curvearrowright_p \Omega$ is CC for some properly convex $\Omega \subset \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ open set
 s.t. $\partial\Omega \neq \text{segment}$.
 (say ρ is "strongly CC in $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ ").

→ extends previous work of Benoist, Grampon-Marquis, Mess, Barbot-Mérigot...

- * Remark 1: For certain word hyperbolic groups Γ_0 ,
 ρ P_1 -Anosov $\Rightarrow \rho(\Gamma_0)$ preserves a properly convex set
 (hence the assumption in the theorem may be removed).

E.g. • Γ_0 with $\partial_\infty \Gamma_0$ connected

\Rightarrow true for $\rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \text{PO}(p, q) < \text{PGL}(p+q, \mathbb{R})$
(Danciger - Guéritaud - Kassel)

(in this case, convex set can be taken in

$$\mathbb{H}^{p, q-1} := \{[x] \in \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^{p+q}) \mid x_1^2 + \dots + x_p^2 - x_{p+1}^2 - \dots - x_{p+q}^2 < 0\}$$

$$\text{or } \mathbb{H}^{q, p-1} := \{[x] \in \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^{p+q}) \mid x_{p+1}^2 + \dots + x_{p+q}^2 - x_1^2 - \dots - x_p^2 < 0\}$$

which are pseudo-Riemannian analogues of \mathbb{H}^n .

• Γ_0 with $\partial_\infty \Gamma_0$ connected

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{and} \\ \text{and} \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \partial_\infty \Gamma_0 - \{\eta\} \\ \partial_\infty \Gamma_0 - \{\eta, \eta'\} \end{array} \right) \text{ --- } \forall \eta \in \partial_\infty \Gamma_0 \text{ for some } \eta \neq \eta' \text{ in } \partial_\infty \Gamma_0$$

true for irreducible $\rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \text{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R})$ (Zimmer)

(NB: this is satisfied if Γ_0 is non-elementary, not commensurable to $\pi_1(S)$, and Γ_0 does not split over a finite group: see Stallings, Swarup, Gabai, Tukia, ...)

In general, anyway,

* Remark 2: can always reduce to preserving a convex set.

$$\text{Indeed, } \tau: \text{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \text{PGL}(\text{Sym}_d^+(\mathbb{R}))$$

$$g \mapsto [A] \mapsto [gAg^t]$$

preserves $\Omega_{\text{sym}} := \mathbb{P}(\text{Sym}_d^{>0}(\mathbb{R})) \subset \mathbb{P}(\text{Sym}_d(\mathbb{R}))$.

positive definite symmetric matrices

properly convex open

Fact (see Guichard-Wienhard):

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R}) \\ \text{is } P_1\text{-Anosov} \end{array} \right] \iff \left[\begin{array}{l} \tau \circ \rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}(\mathrm{Sym}^d(\mathbb{R})) \\ \text{is } P_1\text{-Anosov} \end{array} \right].$$

Applying the above theorem, we obtain:

Corollary: Γ_0 f.g. group, $\rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R})$ any representation.

TFAE: ① Γ_0 is word hyperbolic and ρ is P_1 -Anosov

② $\tau \circ \rho$ is strongly CC in $\mathbb{P}(\mathrm{Sym}^d(\mathbb{R}))$.

* Remark 3: This yields a characterization of P -Anosov $\forall P$.

Indeed: $\tau_i: \mathrm{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}(\wedge^i \mathbb{R}^d)$
 $g \mapsto (v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_i \mapsto (g \cdot v_1) \wedge \dots \wedge (g \cdot v_i))$

Fact (see Guichard-Wienhard):

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R}) \\ \text{is } P_i\text{-Anosov} \end{array} \right] \iff \left[\begin{array}{l} \tau_i \circ \rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}(\wedge^i \mathbb{R}^d) \\ \text{is } P_1\text{-Anosov} \end{array} \right].$$

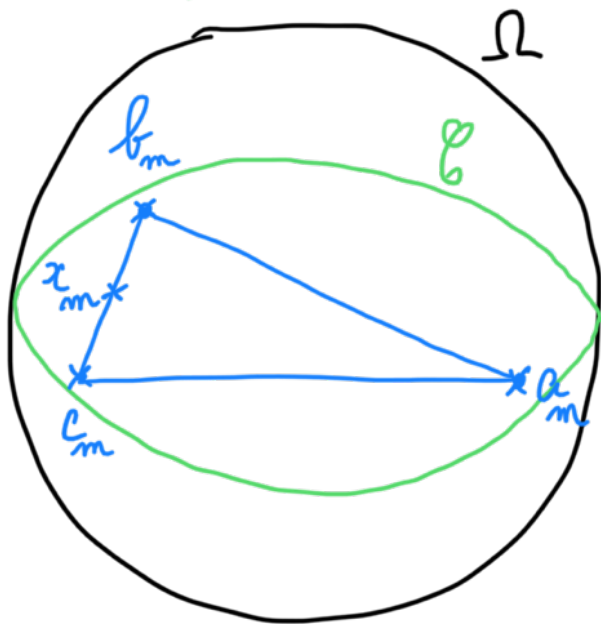
* Idea of proof of Thm, ② \Rightarrow ①:

Suppose $\Gamma_0 \curvearrowright \Omega$ is CC, $\partial\Omega \neq \text{segment}$:

$\exists \emptyset \text{ convex } \subset \Omega$ with $\overline{\emptyset}$ compact.
 $\emptyset \neq \emptyset$ $\rho(\Gamma_0)$ -inv.

(i) $\partial\Omega \neq \text{segment} \Rightarrow (\mathcal{B}, d_\Omega)$ is Gromov hyperbolic.

Indeed, by contradiction:



"less and less thin triangles":
 $d_\Omega(x_m, [a_m, b_m] \cup [a_m, c_m]) \rightarrow +\infty$.

Up to Γ_0 -action,

$x_m \in \text{compact set} \subset \mathcal{B}$.

$\downarrow_{m \rightarrow +\infty}$

$x \in \mathcal{B}$ (up to subsequence).

Then $[a_m, b_m]$ \rightarrow segments in $\partial\Omega$, nontrivial since $x \in \mathcal{B}$:
 $[a_m, c_m]$ contradiction.

(ii) $\Gamma_0 \curvearrowright_{\mathcal{P}} (\mathcal{B}, d_\Omega)$ geometric action (properly discontinuous, by isometries, cocompact)

$\Rightarrow \Gamma_0$ is word hyperbolic and any orbital map $\Gamma_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$
 extends to $\xi_\Gamma: \partial_\infty \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \partial_\infty \mathcal{B} \subset \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ continuous,
 \mathcal{P} -equivariant.

(iii) Dual convex set:

$$\Omega^* := \{H \in \mathbb{P}((\mathbb{R}^d)^*) \mid H \cap \bar{\Omega} = \emptyset\}.$$

(seen as projective hyperplane in $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$)

If Ω is C^1 (i.e. $\exists!$ supporting hyperplane at any point of $\partial\Omega$),

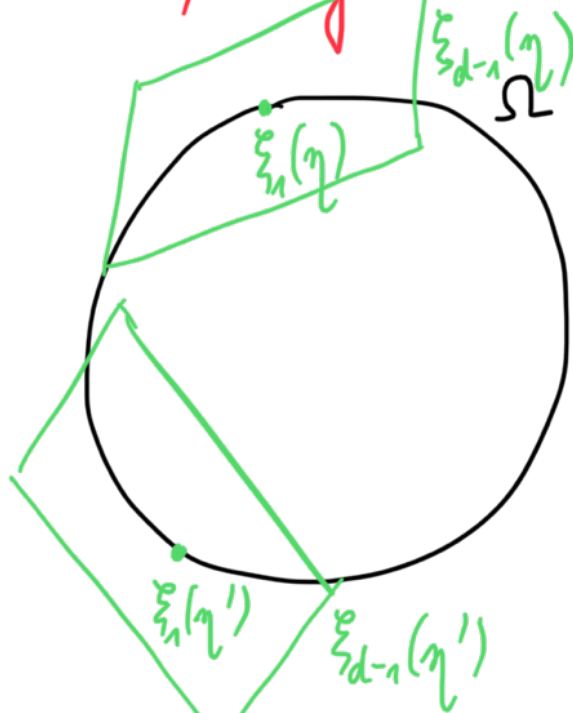
then $\partial\Omega^* \neq \text{segment}$. This can always be assumed by a "smoothing" procedure (see DGK).

Show that $\Gamma_0 \hookrightarrow \Omega^*$ is still CC.
dual action

$\rightsquigarrow \xi_{d-1}: \partial_\infty \Gamma_0 \rightarrow P((\mathbb{R}^d)^*)$ continuous, ρ -equivariant.

(iv) By construction, ξ_1 and ξ_{d-1} are transverse:

$\xi_{d-1}(\eta)$ is the unique supporting hyperplane to Ω at $\xi_1(\eta)$
and $\partial\Omega \neq \text{segment}$.



(v) Show that ξ_1 and ξ_{d-1} are dynamics-preserving

and that $\left(\frac{\text{1st singular value}}{\text{2nd singular value}} \right) (\rho(y)) \xrightarrow[\text{in } \Gamma_0]{y \rightarrow \infty} +\infty$

Then use one of the characterizations of P_1 -Anosov from last time (Kasovick - Leeb - Porti, Guéritaud - Guichard - Kassel - Wienhard). \square

* Idea of proof of Thm, ① \Rightarrow ②:

Suppose p is P_1 -Anosov with boundary maps $\xi_1: \partial_\infty \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$
 $\xi_{d-1}: \partial_\infty \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)^*$
 and $p(\Gamma_0)$ preserves a properly convex open $\Omega \subset \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

NB: $\partial\Omega$ may contain segments

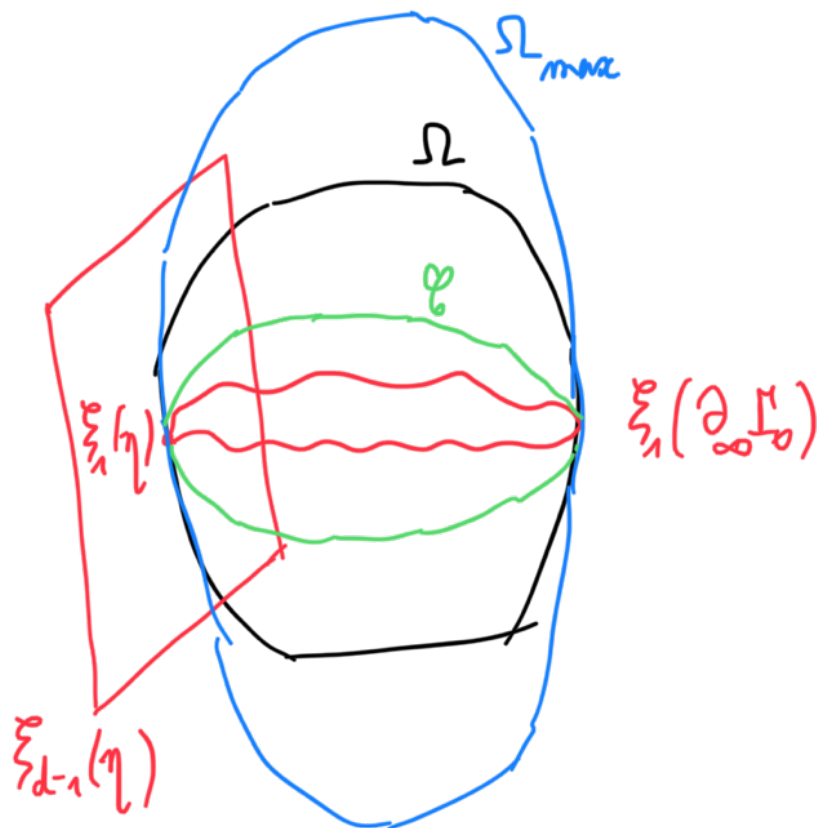
and $\Gamma_0 \hookrightarrow \Omega$ may not be CC if we distort Ω badly.

However:

(i) Consider $\Omega_{max} :=$ connected component of
 $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d) - \bigcup_{\eta \in \partial_\infty \Gamma_0} \xi_{d-1}(\eta)$
 containing Ω

(convex open set).

Show that $\forall x \in \Omega_{max}, \{accum. \text{ points of } \Gamma \cdot x\} = \xi_1(\partial_\infty \Gamma_0)$.



(ii) Consider $\mathcal{P} := \text{Conv}_{\Omega_{\max}} (\xi_1(\partial_\infty \Gamma_0))$.

Dynamics of Anosov representations $\Rightarrow \mathcal{P}$ compact.
(expansion at $\xi_1(\partial_\infty \Gamma_0)$, see KLP and GKW) \uparrow $p(\Gamma_0)$
see KLP, generalizing a classical argument of Sullivan.

(iii) Transversality of ξ_1 and ξ_{d-1}

\Rightarrow no segment in $\partial\Omega_{\max}$ between points of $\xi_1(\partial_\infty \Gamma_0)$

\Rightarrow may "smooth out" Ω_{\max} to obtain

a $p(\Gamma_0)$ -invariant properly convex open $\Omega' \subset \Omega_{\max}$ containing \mathcal{P} s.t. $\partial\Omega' \neq \text{segment}$.

Then $\Gamma_0 \curvearrowright \Omega'$ is CC. \square

II. Applications.

* Geometric interpretation for Anosov representations:

Ex.: For odd $d = 2n+1$,

any Hitchin representation $p: \Gamma_0 = \pi_1(S) \rightarrow \text{PSL}(2n+1, \mathbb{R})$ is strongly CC in $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^{2n+1})$.

(Choi-Goldman 1993 for $n=2$, DGK and Z in general).

- Idea:
(general case)
- injective and discrete is closed
 - if limit is irreducible, then preserving a properly convex set is closed
 - Hitchin representations are all P_1 -Anosov (Labourie), apply theorem above and get CC.

* New examples of Anosov representations:

Ex. (DGK, Lee-Marquis):

For any infinite, word hyperbolic Coxeter group Γ_0 in d generators,
 $\exists \rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow GL(d, \mathbb{R})$ representation as a reflection group
 which is strongly CC in $P(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

↓ Thm above

P_1 -Anosov.

In fact, $\text{Hom}_{\text{CC, reflection}}(\Gamma_0, PGL(d, \mathbb{R})) = \text{Int}(\underbrace{\text{Hom}_{\text{reflection}}(\Gamma_0, PGL(d, \mathbb{R}))}_{\text{semialgebraic set, described by Vinberg, in some connected component of } \text{Hom}(\Gamma_0, PGL(d, \mathbb{R}))})$

III. Beyond Anosov representations.

We saw that Anosov representations can be characterized by a strong CC condition in real proj. space:
 $\partial\Omega \neq \text{segment.}$

Generalizations:

- keep strong condition but allow for cusps
 \leadsto strong geometric finiteness (Gromov-Marquis 2014).

The corresponding groups Γ_0 are relatively hyperbolic and the corresponding representations are

relative Anosov representations

as developed in recent work of Kapovich-Leeb and F. Zhu.

- relax strong condition:

CC allowing $\partial\Omega \supset \text{segments}$ (DGK).

* Def.: Ω properly convex open $\subset \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with $\partial\Omega \neq \text{segment}$
 (DGK) $\rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\Omega) \subset \text{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R})$.

Say $\Gamma_0 \curvearrowright \Omega$ is naive CC if it is properly discontinuous

and $\exists \mathcal{O}$ convex $\subset \Omega$ with \mathcal{O} compact.
 \mathcal{O} $\rho(\Gamma_0)$ -inv.

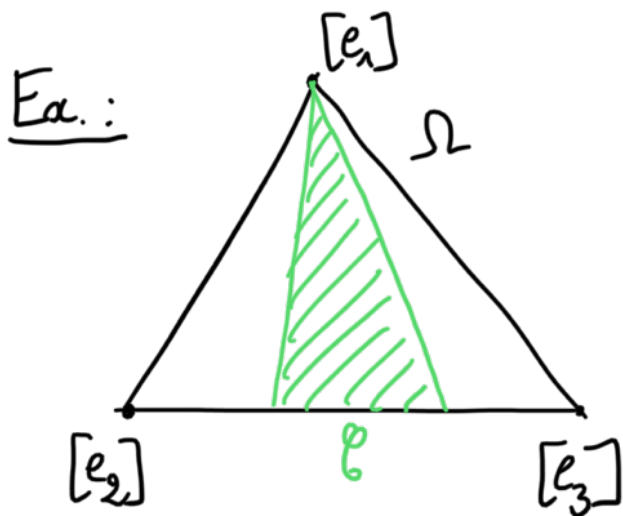
and \mathcal{O} large enough.

contains $\text{Conv}_\Omega(\Lambda_{\rho(\Gamma_0), \Omega}^{\text{orb}})$

Here $\Lambda_{\rho(\Gamma_0), \Omega}^{\text{orb}}$ is the full orbital limit set:

$$\Lambda_{\rho(\Gamma_0), \Omega}^{\text{orb}} := \bigcup_{x \in \Omega} \{\text{accum. points of } \rho(\Gamma_0) \cdot x\} \subset \partial\Omega.$$

* Point: naive CC is not stable under small deform.



$\rho: \Gamma_0 = \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \text{PGL}(3, \mathbb{R})$
 $1 \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 2 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$
 is naive CC (but not CC).

Deform:

$$\rho_\epsilon = 1 \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 2 & & \\ \cos \epsilon & -\sin \epsilon & \\ \sin \epsilon & \cos \epsilon & \end{pmatrix}$$

does not preserve
 a properly convex open set in $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3)$.

* NB: $\partial\Omega \neq \text{segment}$

$$\Rightarrow \Lambda_{\rho(\Gamma_0), \Omega}^{\text{orb}} = \{\text{accum. points of } \rho(\Gamma_0) \cdot x\} \quad \forall x \in \Omega$$

and naive CC is equivalent to CC.

False in general.

* Def.: Say $\rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R})$ is CC in $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$
if $\Gamma \subset \Gamma_0$ $\xrightarrow{\rho}$ Ω CC for some properly convex open $\Omega \subset \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$
(possibly with $\partial\Omega \supset$ segments).

* Thm (DGK):

- $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{CC\ in\ } \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)}(\Gamma_0, \mathrm{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R}))$ is open in $\mathrm{Hom}(\Gamma_0, \mathrm{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R}))$.
- $[\rho \text{ is strongly CC in } \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)]$
 $\iff [\rho \text{ is CC in } \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d) \text{ and } \Gamma_0 \text{ is word hyperbolic}]$.

* Examples:

- Ω with $\partial\Omega \supset$ segment s.t. $\overline{\Omega}$ compact
("nonstrictly convex, divisible $\overline{\Omega}$ convex set")
(Benoist, ^{Marquis} Ballas-Danciger-Lee, Choi-Lee-Marquis,...)
- Danciger-Guéritaud-Kassel-Lee-Marquis:
CC representations $\rho: \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}(d, \mathbb{R})$ as reflection group
with Γ_0 Coxeter group, not word hyperbolic
(description of all possible examples).