A note on generic fundamental polyhedra

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1 Preliminaries

Let $\mathbb{H}^3 := \{(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 | x_3 > 0\}$ be the upper half-space model of hyperbolic space. We regard its boundary in $\mathbb{R}^3 \cup \{\infty\}$ as $\mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$, which is called the sphere at infinity, and we denote it by $\partial \mathbb{H}^3$. Let \mathbb{B}^3 be the open unit sphere centred at the origin of \mathbb{R}^3 , and we regard it as the *Poincaré ball model* of hyperbolic space; indeed, an isometry, say Φ , from \mathbb{H}^3 to \mathbb{B}^3 is given by the reflection along \mathbb{C} , followed by the inversion along the sphere of radius $\sqrt{2}$ and centre (0, 0, 1). Then $\Phi(\partial \mathbb{H}^3) = \partial \mathbb{B}^3$ and $\Phi|_{\mathbb{C}}$ coincide with the stereographic projection from (0, 0, 1). For a hyperbolic plane P in \mathbb{H}^3 , we denote its closure in $\overline{\mathbb{H}^3} := \mathbb{H}^3 \cup \partial \mathbb{H}^3$ by \overline{P} , and its boundary in $\overline{\mathbb{H}^3}$ (i.e., $\overline{P} \cap \partial \mathbb{H}^3$) by ∂P . Any hyperbolic plane in \mathbb{B}^3 is the image of some hyperbolic plane P in \mathbb{H}^3 by Φ , and it is the intersection with \mathbb{B}^3 of a Euclidean sphere or plane, say P^* , orthogonal to $\partial \mathbb{B}^3$. If P^* is a sphere, then we say its centre (in the Euclidean sense) the centre of P (or $\Phi(P)$), and if P^* is a plane, then the centre of P (or $\Phi(P)$) means ∞ . Every point in $\mathbb{R}^3 - \overline{\mathbb{B}^3}$ uniquely determines a hyperbolic plane in \mathbb{B}^3 .

Definition. 1. For a point $\boldsymbol{x} \in \overline{\mathbb{H}^3}$ and a loxodromic or a parabolic element $T \in \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{C})$, we define $B(\boldsymbol{x};T) \subset \mathbb{H}^3$ as follows:

- (a) If $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{H}^3$ with $T(\boldsymbol{x}) \neq \boldsymbol{x}$, then $B(\boldsymbol{x};T)$ is defined as the bisecting perpendicular geodesic plane of the geodesic segment joining \boldsymbol{x} and $T^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$.
- (b) If $\boldsymbol{x} \in \partial \mathbb{H}^3$ with $T(\boldsymbol{x}) \neq \boldsymbol{x}$, then $B(\boldsymbol{x};T)$ is a geodesic plane defined (and well-defined) as a limit of $B(\boldsymbol{x}';T)$ by a convergence of $\boldsymbol{x}' \in \mathbb{H}^3$ to \boldsymbol{x} .
- (c) If \boldsymbol{x} is a fixed point of T, then $B(\boldsymbol{x};T) := \{\boldsymbol{x}\}$.
- 2. For a point $\boldsymbol{x} \in \overline{\mathbb{H}^3}$, we denote the centre of $\Phi(B(\boldsymbol{x};T))$ by $C(\boldsymbol{x};T)$.

The following lemma says that the definition of B(x;T) for a fixed point x is well-defined.

Lemma 1 ([JM88, LEMMA 2.4]). Let $T \in PSL_2(\mathbb{C})$, and let $x \in \partial \mathbb{H}^3$ with $T(x) \neq x$.

- 1. If T is loxodromic, then $\partial B(\mathbf{x};T)$ does not pass through any fixed point of T. As \mathbf{x} approaches a fixed point of T, then $B(\mathbf{x};T)$ converges to the point.
- 2. If T is parabolic, then $\partial B(\mathbf{x};T)$ passes through the fixed point of T. There is a suitable approach of \mathbf{x} to the fixed point such that $B(\mathbf{x};T)$ converges to the point.

When $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{H}^3$, the actual coordinate of $C(\boldsymbol{x};T)$ is obtained by the following calculations:

$$a := -\Phi(x) + (1 - |\Phi(x)|^2) (\Phi(T^{-1}x)^* - \Phi(x))^*,$$

$$b := a^* + (1 - |a^*|^2) (\Phi(x) + a^*)^*,$$

$$C(x; T) = \left\{ \Phi(x) + (1 - |\Phi(x)|^2) (\Phi(x) + b^*)^* \right\}^*,$$

where y^* means the complex conjugate of y^{-1} . You can see that C(x;T) converges to the expression in [JM88, 2.9] as $x_3 \to 0$, if you calculate C(x;T) explicitly.

2 Notations and terminologies

1. First we define a Dirichlet fundamental polyhedron $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$ as follows:

$$\mathcal{P}_{0}(y) := \begin{cases} \left\{ x \in \mathbb{H}^{3} \middle| d(x, y) \leq d(y, Tx), \forall T \in G \right\} & \text{if } y \in \mathbb{H}^{3}, \\ \left\{ x \in \mathbb{H}^{3} \middle| \begin{array}{c} x \text{ lies in the closure of the} \\ \text{component of } \mathbb{H}^{3} - B(y; T) \text{ that} \\ \text{is adjacent to } y, \forall T \in G, T \neq \text{id.} \end{cases} & \text{if } y \in \partial \mathbb{H}^{3}. \end{cases}$$

- When $y \in \partial \mathbb{H}^3$, $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$ is well defined and is a fundamental polyhedron only when y has special properties, for example, when $y \in \Omega(G)$, where $\Omega(G)$ is the set of ordinary points with respect to G on $\partial \mathbb{H}^3$
- The point y is called the *center* of $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$.
- $\mathcal{P}(y) := \overline{\mathcal{P}_0(y)} \cap (\mathbb{H}^3 \cup \Omega(G)).$
- 2. Associate with each edge e of $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$, is an *edge cycle of length* k, $(T_1 = \mathrm{id.}, T_2, \ldots, T_k, T_{k+1} = T_1 = \mathrm{id.})$, where $(\mathcal{P}(y), T_2\mathcal{P}(y), \ldots, T_k\mathcal{P}(y))$ is the cyclic arrangement of polyhedra about e in the G-orbit of $\mathcal{P}(y)$.

Equivalently, k is the number of disjoint edges of $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$ that are equivalent to e under G.

3. • The order k of a vertex v of $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$ is the number of distinct vertices of $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$ that are equivalent to v under G.

Equivalently, k is the number of polyhedra, $\mathcal{P}_0(y), T_2\mathcal{P}_0(y), \ldots, T_k\mathcal{P}_0(y)$ in the G-orbit of $\mathcal{P}(y)$ that share the vertex v.

- The transformations $T_i \in G$, are said to be associated with v.
- A cusp of \$\mathcal{P}(y)\$ is a parabolic fixed point that lies in the Euclidean closure of \$\mathcal{P}(y)\$.
 - It is of *rank one* or *rank two* according to the rank of the parabolic subgroup that fixes it.
- 5. Boundary vertices and boundary edges of $\mathcal{P}(y)$ are those lie in $\Omega(G)$.
 - Associated with each boundary vertex is a *vertex cycle* analogous to the edge cycles of $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$.
- 6. The full line containing an edge e of $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$ is denoted by $\ell(e)$.

3 Original definition and the main theorem

The polyhedron $\mathcal{P}(y)$ is called *generic* if it has the following properties.

- (i) (i-a) Each edge e of $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$ for which $\ell(e)$ does not end at a parabolic fixed point has an edge cycle of length three.
 - (i-b) If $\ell(e)$ ends at a parabolic fixed point ζ , then
 - -e has an edge cycle of length three or four,
 - and every transformation entering into the cycle fixes $\zeta.$
- (ii)(ii-a) Three edges emanate from each vertex v of $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$.
 - (ii-b) For at most one of them $e, \ell(e)$ ends at a parabolic fixed point ζ .
 - (ii-c) The order of v is either four or five.
 - In the latter case, three of the four transformations \neq id. associated with v are parabolic and fix the end point ζ of $\ell(e)$ for an edge e emanating from v.
- (iii)(iii-a) Every boundary vertex v^* is an end point of exactly one edge e of $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$.
 - (iii-b) The vertex cycle at v^* has length three or four.
 - In the latter case,
 - (iii-b1) either all the transformations are parabolic and fix the other end of e,
 - (iii-b2) or they all lie in a cyclic loxodromic subgroup and $y \in \partial \mathbb{H}^3$.
- (iv)(iv-a) No edges of $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$ end at a rank one cusp ζ of $\mathcal{P}(y)$ but two faces of $\mathcal{P}(y)$ are tangent to ζ with a face pairing transformations that fixes ζ .

(iv-b) Every rank two cusp ζ is the end point of four or six edges of $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$.

Theorem 2. Let G be a Kleinian group without elliptic elements. There are dense sets of points $\mathcal{G}^* \subset \partial \mathbb{H}^3, \mathcal{G} \subset \mathbb{H}^3$ such that for any $y \in \mathcal{G}$, or for any $y \in \mathcal{G}^* \cap \Omega(G), \mathcal{P}(y)$ is a generic fundamental polyhedron for G.

4 Problems

1. There is a contradiction between (ii-a) and (ii-c).

Suppose there is a vertex v with its order five. Then, by calculating the Euler characteristic, you can see that the neighborhoods of v is constructed by four tetrahedra and one square pyramid. Since each of them are images of neighborhoods of vertices of $\mathcal{P}_0(y)$, there is a vertex from which four edges emanate. This contradicts (ii-a).

On the other hand, if we assume (ii-a), the discussion above says that there is no vertex in the interior of a length four edge. But I could not find the proof in [JM88] which guaranteed this result, and I cannot prove it by myself now.

2. It seems that there is also a contradiction between (i) and (iii-b2).

Suppose that there is a boundary vertex v^* satisfying (iii-b2). Then, by (iii-a), the length of the cycle of the edge, say e, ending at v^* is four. Then, by (i-a), the other end point of e must be a parabolic fixed point. In this case, by (i-b), the transformations constructing e must be parabolic, a contradiction.

So this argument says that there is no boundary vertex satisfying (iii-b2), but this part of the proof in [JM88, Theorem 4.6] is owned by [JM88, Lemma 4.4], and it says there is a possibility of existence of boundary vertices satisfying (iii-b2).

References

[JM88] T. Jørgensen and A. Marden, Generic fundamental polyhedra for Kleinian groups, Holomorphic functions and moduli, Vol. II (Berkeley, CA, 1986), Math. Sci. Res. Inst. Publ., vol. 11, Springer, New York, 1988, pp. 69–85.