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Kyoto University
Jørgensen groups of parabolic type

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ABSTRACT. This paper is a report without proofs on Jørgensen groups obtained recently. In this paper we consider Jørgensen groups of parabolic type. In particular, we consider four kinds of one-parameter families of Jørgensen groups. Here a Jørgensen group is a Kleinian group whose Jørgensen number is one.

0. Introduction.

It is an important problem to decide whether or not a non-elementary subgroup of the Möbius transformation group, which is denoted by Möb, is discrete. In 1976 Jørgensen [3] gave a necessary condition for a non-elementary Möbius transformation group $G = \langle A, B \rangle$ to be discrete: If $\langle A, B \rangle$ is a non-elementary discrete group, then

$$J(A, B) := |\text{tr}^2(A) - 4| + |\text{tr}(ABA^{-1}B^{-1}) - 2| \geq 1.$$ 

The lower bound 1 is best possible.

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Let $\langle A, B \rangle$ be a marked two-generator subgroup of Möb. We call
\[ J(A, B) := |\text{tr}^2(A) - 4| + |\text{tr}(ABA^{-1}B^{-1}) - 2| \]
the Jørgensen number for $\langle A, B \rangle$. Let $G$ be a two-generator subgroup of Möb. The Jørgensen number $J(G)$ for the group $G$ is the infimum of $J(A, B)$ where $A$ and $B$ generate $G$. We call a non-elementary two-generator discrete subgroup $G$ of Möb a Jørgensen group if $J(G) = 1$.

With respect to Jørgensen numbers it gives rise to the following problems:

1. Problem 1 is to find all Jørgensen groups.
2. Problem 2 is to find the infimum of Jørgensen numbers for some subspaces of the Kleinian space, for example for the Teichmüller space and for the Schottky space.

For Problem 2, Gilman [1] and Sato [7] gave the best lower bound of Jørgensen numbers for purely hyperbolic two-generator groups, and Sato [8], [9] gave the best lower bound of Jørgensen numbers for the classical Schottky space $RS_2$ of real type of genus two. Namely,
\[ \inf\{J(G) \mid G \in RS_2\} = 4. \]

The family of groups, $P = \{G_\sigma = \langle A, B_{1/\sigma,\sigma} \rangle \mid G_\sigma \text{ is a discrete group, } \sigma \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}\}$ contains the Riley slice $RS$ (see Keen and Series [5] for the definition of the Riley slice). If $\langle A, B_{1/\sigma,\sigma} \rangle$ is a group in $P$, then $J(A, B_{1/\sigma,\sigma}) = |\sigma|^2$. It is easily seen that $\inf\{J(G) \mid G \in P\} = 1$, since $J(A, B_{1/\sigma,\sigma}) = 1$ for $\sigma = 1$, that is, in this case the group is the classical modular group. Furthermore we easily see that
\[ 1 \leq \inf\{J(G) \mid G \in RS\} \leq 2. \]

As far as the author knows, the value of $\inf\{J(G) \mid G \in RS\}$.

For Problem 1, Jørgensen-Kiikka [3], Jørgensen-Lascurain-Pignataro [4], Sato [10] and Sato-Yamada [12] studied extreme discrete groups, that is, Jørgensen groups.
In particular Jørgensen-Kiikka [3] obtained the following theorem: Let \( \langle A, B \rangle \) be a non-elementary discrete group with \( J(A, B) = 1 \), that is, a Jørgensen group. Then \( A \) is elliptic of order at least seven or \( A \) is parabolic.

In this paper we only consider the case where \( A \) is parabolic, that is, Jørgensen groups of parabolic type. Namely, we consider two-generator groups \( G_{\mu,\sigma} = \langle A, B_{\mu,\sigma} \rangle \) generated by

\[
A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B_{\mu,\sigma} = B_{ik,\sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} ik\sigma & -k^2\sigma - 1/\sigma \\ \sigma & ik\sigma \end{pmatrix},
\]

where \( k \in \mathbb{R} \) and \( \sigma \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\} \).

This paper contains six theorems. Theorems 2, 5 and 6 are new. In §1 we will state some definitions. In §2 theorems will be stated. The proofs of the theorems will appear elsewhere.

§1. Definitions

In this section we will state some definitions, for example a Jørgensen group. Let \( \text{M"ob} \) denote the set of all Möbius transformations. In this paper we use a Kleinian group in the same meaning as a discrete group. A Kleinian group \( G \) is of the first kind if the limit set \( \Lambda(G) \) of \( G \) is 11 of the extended complex plane \( \hat{\mathbb{C}} \) and it is of the second kind otherwise. A subgroup \( G \) of \( \text{M"ob} \) is non-elementary grup if \( \#\Lambda(G) \geq 3 \).

In 1976 Jørgensen obtained the following important theorem called Jørgensen's inequality, which gives a necessary condition for a non-elementary Möbius transformation group \( G = \langle A, B \rangle \) to be discrete.

**Theorem A (Jørgensen [2]).** Suppose that the Möbius transformations \( A \) and \( B \) generate a non-elementary discrete group. Then

\[
J(A, B) := |\text{tr}^2(A) - 4| + |\text{tr}(ABA^{-1}B^{-1}) - 2| \geq 1.
\]
The lower bound 1 is best possible.

**DEFINITION 1.1.** Let $A$ and $B$ be Möbius transformations. The Jørgensen number $J(A, B)$ is

\[ J(A, B) := |\text{tr}^2(A) - 4| + |\text{tr}(ABA^{-1}B^{-1}) - 2|. \]

**DEFINITION 1.2.** Let $G$ be a non-elementary two-generator subgroup of Möb. The Jørgensen number $J(G)$ for $G$ is defined as follows:

\[ J(G) := \inf \{ J(A, B) \mid A \text{ and } B \text{ generate } G \}. \]

**DEFINITION 1.3.** A non-elementary two-generator subgroup $G$ of Möb is a Jørgensen group if $G$ is a discrete group with $J(G) = 1$.

§2. Theorems.

In this section we will theorems without proofs. Jørgensen-Kiikka [3] obtained the following theorem for Jørgensen groups.

**THEOREM B (Jørgensen-Kiikka [3]).** Let $\langle A, B \rangle$ be a non-elementary discrete group with $J(A, B) = 1$, that is, a Jørgensen group. Then $A$ is elliptic of order at least seven or $A$ is parabolic.

In this paper we only consider the case where $A$ is parabolic, that is, Jørgensen groups of parabolic type. Namely, we consider two-generator groups $G_{\mu, \sigma} = \langle A, B_{\mu, \sigma} \rangle$ generated by

\[
A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B_{\mu, \sigma} = B_{ik, \sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} i\sigma & -k^2\sigma - 1/\sigma \\ \sigma & ik\sigma \end{pmatrix},
\]

where $k \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\sigma \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$. 
Let $C_1$ and $C_2$ be the following cylinders:

$$C_1 = \{(\sigma, ik) \mid |\sigma| = 1, \ k \in \mathbb{R}\},$$

$$C_2 = \{(\sigma, ik) \mid |\sigma| = 2, \ k \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

**THEOREM 1** (Sato [10])

(i) For each point inside the cylinder $C_1$, the corresponding group $G_{ik,\sigma}$ is not a Kleinian group.

(ii) Let $(\sigma, ik)$ be a point outside of the cylinder $C_2$. If $|k| \geq 1$, then $G_{ik,\sigma}$ is a boundary group of the Schottky space of genus two.

(iii) Every Jørgensen group of type $G_{ik,\sigma}$ lies on the cylinder $C_1$.

By Theorem 1 we consider two-generator groups $G_{\mu,\sigma} = \langle A, B_{\mu,\sigma} \rangle$ with $\mu = ik$ ($k \in \mathbb{R}$) and $\sigma = -ie^{i\theta}$ ($0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$). For simplicity we set $B_{ik,\theta} := B_{ik,\sigma}$ and $G_{ik,\theta} = \langle A, B_{ik,\theta} \rangle$ for $\sigma = -ie^{i\theta}$.

**LEMMA 2.1.** Let $B_{ik,\theta}$ ($0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$) be as in the above, and let $\overline{B}_{ik,\theta}$ be the complex conjugate of $B_{ik,\theta}$. Then $B_{ik,\pi-\theta} = -\overline{B}_{ik,\theta}^{-1}$.

We easily see the following by Lemma 2.1.

**COROLLARY 2.2.** Let $A$ and $B_{ik,\theta}$ be as in Lemma 3.1. Then $G_{ik,\theta} = \langle A, B_{ik,\theta} \rangle$ is discrete if and only if $G_{ik,\pi-\theta} = \langle A, B_{ik,\pi-\theta} \rangle$ is discrete for $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$.

**LEMMA 2.3.** Let $B_{ik,\theta}$ and $G_{ik,\theta}$ be as in Lemma 3.1. Then $B_{ik,\pi+\theta} = B_{ik,\theta}$ and $G_{ik,\pi+\theta} = G_{ik,\theta}$.

**LEMMA 2.4.** A group $G_{ik,\theta}$ is a Kleinian group and so a Jørgensen group if and only if $G_{-ik,\theta}$ is a Kleinian group and so a Jørgensen group.

This lemma follows from $B_{-ik,\theta} = B_{ik,\theta}^{-1}$. By Corollary 2.2, Lemmas 3.3 and 3.4, it suffices to consider the case of $(0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2)$ and $k \geq 0$. 
THEOREM 2 (Sato [11]). Let $G_{ik,\theta} = \langle A, B_{ik,\theta} \rangle$ be the group generated by $A$ and $B_{ik,\theta}$.

(i) If $0 < \theta < \pi/6$ or $\pi/3 < \theta < \pi/2$, then $G_{ik,\theta} = \langle A, B_{ik,\theta} \rangle$ is not a Kleinian group for every $k \in \mathbb{R}$.

(ii) If $|k| < 1/2$, then $G_{ik,\theta} = \langle A, B_{ik,\theta} \rangle$ is not a Kleinian group for every $\theta$ ($0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$).

THEOREM 3 (Sato-Yamada [12]). Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $B_k := B_{ik,1} = \begin{pmatrix} ik & -(1 + k^2) \\ 1 & ik \end{pmatrix}$
and let $G_k = \langle A, B_k \rangle$ be the group generated by $A$ and $B_k$ ($k \in \mathbb{R}$). Then the following hold.

(i) In the case of $|k| > 1$, $G_k$ is a Kleinian group of the second kind, a Jørgensen group and $\Omega(G_k)/G_k$ is a single Riemann surface with signature $(0;2,2,3,3)$ for each $k$, where $\Omega(G_k)$ denotes the region of discontinuity for $G_k$.

(ii) In the case of $|k| = 1$, $G_k$ is a Kleinian group of the second kind, a Jørgensen group and $\Omega(G_k)/G_k$ is a single Riemann surface with signature $(0;3,3,\infty)$.

(iii) In the case of $\sqrt{3}/2 < |k| < 1$, $G_k$ is a Kleinian group of the second kind, a Jørgensen group and $\Omega(G_k)/G_k$ is a single Riemann surface with signature $(0;3,3,q)$ for $k$ with $k^2 = \{1 + \cos(\pi/q)\}/2$, $q = 4, 5, 6, \ldots$.

(iv) In the case of $1/2 \leq |k| \leq \sqrt{3}/2$, $G_k$ is a Kleinian group of the first kind and a Jørgensen group for $|k| = \sqrt{3}/2$, $\sqrt{2}/2$ or $1/2$. The volumes $V(G_{ik,1})$ of 3-orbifolds for $G_{ik,1}$ are as follows, where $L(\theta)$ is the Lobachevskii function:

$$L(\theta) = -\int_0^\theta \log|2\sin u| \, du.$$ 

(1) $V(G_{i\sqrt{3}/2,1}) = 5L(\pi/3)$. 
(2) $V(G_{i\sqrt{2}/2,1}) = 2\{2L(\pi/4) - L(5\pi/12) - L(\pi/12)\}$.

(3) $V(G_{i/2,1}) = 7L(\pi/3)/2 - L(\varphi_0 + \pi/6) + L(\varphi_0 - \pi/6)$,

where $\varphi_0 = \sin^{-1}(1/2\sqrt{3})$.

(v) In the case of $0 < \theta < 1/2$, $G_k$ is not a Kleinian group for every $k$.

(vi) In the case of $k = 0$, $G_k$ is a Kleinian group of the second kind, a Jørgensen group and $\Omega(G_k)/G_k$ is a union of two Riemann surfaces with signature $(0; 2, 3, \infty)$.

REMARK. The group $G_{i/2,1}$ is conjugate to the Picard group in Möb and the group $G_{0,1}$ is the classical modular group.

THEOREM 4 (Sato [10]). Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B_\theta := B_{\sqrt{3}i/2,-ie^{i\theta}} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{3}e^{i\theta}/2 & i(3e^{i\theta}/4 - e^{-i\theta}) \\ -ie^{i\theta} & \sqrt{3}e^{i\theta}/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and let $G_\theta = \langle A, B_\theta \rangle$ be the group generated by $A$ and $B_\theta$ ($0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$). Then the following hold.

(i) In the case of $\theta = \pi/6$, $G_{\pi/6}$ has the following properties:

(1) $G_{\pi/6}$ is a Kleinian group of the first kind.

(2) $G_{\pi/6}$ is a Jørgensen group.

(3) $V(G_{\pi/6}) = 6L(\pi/3)$, where $L(\theta)$ is the Lobachevskii function:

$\quad L(\theta) = -\int_0^\theta \log|2\sin u|du$.

(ii) In the case of $\theta = \pi/2$, $G_{\pi/2}$ has the following properties:

(1) $G_{\pi/2}$ is a Kleinian group of the first kind. (2) $G_{\pi/2}$ is a Jørgensen group.

(3) $V(G_{\pi/2}) = 2(L(\pi/6) + L(\pi/3))$.

(iii) In the case of $\theta = 0$, $G_0$ has the following properties:

(1) $G_0$ is a Kleinian group of the second kind.

(2) $G_0$ is a Jørgensen group.
(3) $\Omega(G_0)/G_0$ is a Riemann surface with signature $(0; 2, 3, \infty)$.

(iv) If $0 < \theta < \pi/6$ or $\pi/3 < \theta < \pi/2$, then $G_\theta$ is not a Kleinian group.

REMARKS. (1) $G_{\pi/6}$ is conjugate with the figure-eight knot group.

(2) Maskit [6] shows that the essentially same group as $G_0$ is discrete, that is, he shows that a group conjugate to $G_\pi$ is discrete. Our proof is different from his.

THEOREM 5 (Sato [11]). Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B_\theta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i e^{-i\theta} \\ -i e^{i\theta} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and let $G_\theta = \langle A, B_\theta \rangle$ be the group generated by $A$ and $B_\theta$ ($0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$). Then the following hold.

(i) In the case of $\theta = 0$, $G_0$ has the following properties:

1. $G_0$ is a Kleinian group of the second kind.

2. $G_{\pi/2}$ is a Jørgensen group.

3. $\Omega(G_0)/G_0$ is a single Riemann surface with signature $(0; 2, 3, \infty)$.

(ii) In the case of $\theta = \pi/2$, $G_{\pi/2}$ has the following properties:

1. $G_{\pi/2}$ is a Kleinian group of the second kind.

2. $G_0$ is a Jørgensen group.

3. $\Omega(G_{\pi/2})/G_{\pi/2}$ is a union of two Riemann surfaces with signature $(0; 2, 3, \infty)$.

(iii) If $0 < \theta < \pi/6, \pi/6 < \theta < \pi/4, \pi/4 < \theta < \pi/3$ or $\pi/3 < \theta < \pi/2$, then $G_\theta$ is not a Kleinian group and so not a Jørgensen group.

THEOREM 6 (Sato [11]). Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B_k := B_{ik,-i} = \begin{pmatrix} k & i(k^2 - 1) \\ -i & k \end{pmatrix}$$
and let $G_k = \langle A, B_k \rangle$ be the group generated by $A$ and $B_k$ $(k \in \mathbb{R})$. Then the following hold.

(i) In the case of $|k| > 1$, $G_k$ is a Kleinian group of the second kind, a Jørgensen group and $\Omega(G_k)/G_k$ is two Riemann surfaces with signatures $(0; 2, 2, 2, 3)$ and $(0; 2, 3, \infty)$ for each $k$, where $\Omega(G_k)$ denotes the region of discontinuity for $G_k$.

(ii) In the case of $|k| = 1$, $G_k$ is a Kleinian group of the second kind, a Jørgensen group and $\Omega(G_k)/G_k$ is two Riemann surfaces with signature $(0; 2, 3, \infty)$.

(iii) In the case of $\sqrt{3}/2 < |k| < 1$, $G_k$ is a Kleinian group of the second kind, a Jørgensen group and $\Omega(G_k)/G_k$ is two Riemann surfaces with signatures $(0; 2, 3, q)$ and $(0; 2, 3, \infty)$ for $k$ with $k^2 = \{1 + \cos(\pi/q)\}/2$, $q = 4, 5, 6, \cdots$.

(iv) In the case of $1/2 \leq |k| \leq \sqrt{3}/2$, $G_k$ is a Kleinian group of the second kind, a Jørgensen group and $\Omega(G_k)/G_k$ is a Riemann surface with signature $(0; 2, 3, \infty)$ for $|k| = \sqrt{3}/2$.

(v) In the case of $0 < |k| < 1/2$, $G_k$ is not a Kleinian group and not a Jørgensen group for every $k$.

(vi) In the case of $k = 0$, $G_k$ is a Kleinian group of the second kind, a Jørgensen group and $\Omega(G_k)/G_k$ is a Riemann surface with signature $(0; 2, 3, \infty)$.

**CORRECTION** The part (from lines 23 through 31 on page 2 in the Introduction in the previous paper [10]) contains mistake, which gives no effect the paper. It should be changed as follows.

The family of groups, $P = \{G_\sigma = \langle A, B_{1/\sigma, \sigma} \rangle \mid G_\sigma \text{ is a discrete group, } \sigma \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}\}$ contains the Riley slice $RS$ (see Keen and Series [14] for the definition of the Riley slice). If $\langle A, B_{1/\sigma, \sigma} \rangle$ is a group in $P$, then $J(A, B_{1/\sigma, \sigma}) = |\sigma|^2$. As far as the author knows, it is unknown whether or not $J(A, B_{1/\sigma, \sigma})$ achieves the infimum over the whole group $P$. It is easily seen that $\inf\{J(G) \mid G \in P\} = 1$, since
$J(A, B_{1/\sigma}) = 1$ for $\sigma = 1$, that is, in this case the group is the classical modular group. Furthermore we easily see that

$$1 \leq \inf \{ J(G) \mid G \in RS \} \leq 2.$$ 

References


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