DIVERGENCE IN DEFORMATION SPACES OF KLEINIAN GROUPS

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The attention of specialists in the Kleinian group theory is now shifted to the study of the topological structure of deformation spaces after the major problems like Marden's tameness conjecture and the ending lamination conjecture are solved. Although we know, by the resolution of the Bers-Thurston density conjecture ([4]) using the proof of the ending lamination conjecture by Minsky with his collaborators that every finitely generated Kleinian group is an algebraic limit of quasi-conformal deformations of a (minimally parabolic) geometrically finite group, the structure of deformation spaces as topological spaces is far from completely understood.

To understand such a global structure of deformation spaces, the first step would be to give a criterion for sequences in the deformation space to converge or diverge. Let us put it in more concrete terms focusing only on the case of Kleinian groups isomorphic to surface groups. Consider a hyperbolic surface $S$ of finite type and the space of faithful discrete representations of $\pi_1(S)$ to $\text{PSL}_2\mathbb{C}$ preserving the parabolicity modulo conjugacy (both as elements of $\text{PSL}_2\mathbb{C}$ and complex conjugation), which is usually denoted by $AH(S)$. Since the hyperbolic metric of $S$ determines a Fuchsian representation of $\pi_1(S)$ to $\text{PSL}_2\mathbb{R} \subset \text{PSL}_2\mathbb{C}$, as the space of quasi-conformal deformations of this representation, we can consider the space of quasi-Fuchsian representations $QF(S)$ embedded as an open set in $AH(S)$. What we are interested in is the problem to determine in which directions $QF(S)$ has frontier in $AH(S)$ and in which directions it is open-ended. Since by the theory of Ahlfors-Bers, $QF(S)$ is parametrised by $T(S) \times T(\bar{S})$, we can describe the directions in $QF(S)$ in terms of the Teichmüller spaces.

The main results in this talk is the following.

**Theorem 1.** Let $\{(m_i, n_i)\}$ be a sequence in $T(S) \times T(\bar{S})$ satisfying the following conditions.
KEN'ICHI OSHIKA

(1) \{m_i\} converges to a projective lamination \([\mu^-]\) \(\in\mathcal{PML}(S)\)
whereas \(\{n_i\}\) converges to \([\mu^+]\) \(\in\mathcal{PML}(S)\).

(2) The supports of \(\mu^-\) and \(\mu^+\) share a component \(\mu_0\) which is not
a simple closed curve.

Then the sequence \(\{qf(m_i, n_i)\} \subset QF(S)\) diverges in \(AH(S)\).

**Theorem 2.** Let \(\mu^-\) and \(\mu^+\) be two measured laminations on \(S\) such
that the components shared by \(|\mu^-|\) and \(|\mu^+|\) are all simple closed curves,
which we denote by \(c_1, \ldots, c_r\).

(1) Suppose that none of \(c_1, \ldots, c_r\) lie on the boundary of supporting
surfaces of components of \(\mu^-\) or \(\mu^+\). Then there is a sequence \(\{(m_i, n_i)\}\)
\(\in\mathcal{T}(S) \times \mathcal{T}(\overline{S})\) with convergent \(qf(m_i, n_i)\)
such that \(m_i\) converges \([\overline{\mu}^-]\) and \(n_i\) converges to \([\overline{\mu}^+]\) and
\(|\overline{\mu}^-| = |\mu^-|, |\overline{\mu}^+| = |\mu^+|\). Moreover, if \(|\mu^+| = c_1 \cup \cdots \cup c_r\), we choose
\(\{(m_i, n_i)\}\) so that \(qf(m_i, n_i)\) converges exotically to a b-group.

(2) Otherwise for every \(\{m_i\}\) converging to \([\mu^-]\) and \(\{n_i\}\)
converging to \([\mu^+]\), the sequence \(\{qf(m_i, n_i)\} \subset QF(S)\) diverges in
\(AH(S)\).

The proofs of Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 take quite different strategies. For Theorem 1, which is apparently the more complicated case of the two, we can use a rather standard technique of pleated surfaces originally due to Thurston. For Theorem 2, we need to invoke much more sophisticated tool of model manifolds due to Minsky.

In this note we only explain Theorem 1.

1. A Sketch of Proof of Theorem 1.

Let \(S\) be a hyperbolic surface of finite area. Let \(\phi_i : \pi_1(S) \rightarrow \text{PSL}_2\mathbb{C}\)
be a quasi-Fuchsian representation representing \(qf(m_i, n_i)\) as was given
in Theorem 1. Let \(G_i\) be the image of \(\phi_i\), and \(M_i\) the hyperbolic 3-
manifold \(\mathbb{H}^3/G_i\). Since \(G_i\) is a quasi-conformal deformation of the
Fuchsian representation of \(\pi_1(S)\) associated to the hyperbolic metric
on \(S\), there is a natural homeomorphism \(\Phi_i : S \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow M_i\) induced
by a quasi-conformal homeomorphism, where we regard \(S \times \mathbb{R}\) as the
hyperbolic 3-manifold containing the hyperbolic surface \(S\) in the form
of \(S \times \{0\}\) as a totally geodesic submanifold. Since \(G_i\) is quasi-Fuchsian,
the manifold \(M_i\) is geometrically finite and has convex core \(C(M_i)\),
which is homeomorphic to \(S \times I\) preserving the parabolicity. We can
isotope \(\Phi_i\) above so that \(\Phi_i(S \times [-1, 1]) = C(M_i)\).

Let \(\Sigma_i^-, \Sigma_i^+\) be the two frontier components of \(C(M_i)\) corresponding
to \(\Phi_i(S \times \{-1\})\) and \(\Phi_i(S \times \{1\})\) respectively. The hyperbolic metric
on \(M_i\) induces hyperbolic structures on \(\Sigma_i^-\) and \(\Sigma_i^+\) as length metrics.
DIVERSION IN DEFORMATION SPACES OF KLEINIAN GROUPS

We give markings on $\Sigma_i^-$ and $\Sigma_i^+$ by natural homeomorphism between $S$ and $S \times \{-1\}$ and $S \times \{1\}$ obtained by forgetting the second coordinates. It should be noted the orientation given on $\Sigma^+$ is different from the ordinary one induced from $C(M_i)$. Let $(p_i, q_i)$ be points in $T(S)$ determined by these hyperbolic structures on $\Sigma_i^-, \Sigma_i^+$ and markings. Since $(G_i, \phi_i) = qf(m_i, n_i)$ with respect to the Ahlfors-Bers parametrisation, by Bers' inequality, there is a universal bound $K$ between the Teichmüller distances between $m_i, p_i$ and $n_i, q_i$.

The pleating loci on $\Sigma_i^-$ and $\Sigma_i^+$ give two measured laminations $\lambda_i^-, \lambda_i^+$ on $S$ by pulling back them to $S$ using the inverse of $\Phi_i|S \times \{\pm 1\}$. By passing to a subsequence, we can assume that both $[\lambda_i^-]$ and $[\lambda_i^+]$ converge to projective laminations $[\lambda_\infty^-]$ and $[\lambda_\infty^+]$. We can also assume that the sequences of supports $\{[\lambda_i^-]\}$ and $\{[\lambda_i^+]\}$ converge to geodesic laminations $\ell^-\infty$ and $\ell^+\infty$ in the Hausdorff topology.

We shall prove Theorem 1 by contradiction. Assume that $\{(G_i, [\phi_i])\}$ converges to $(\Gamma, \psi)$ in $AH(S)$ by taking conjugates and a subsequence. We divide our argument into three cases:

1. The first case is when either $i(\mu^- , \lambda_\infty^-)$ or $i(\mu^+ , \lambda_\infty^+)$ is non-zero.
2. The second case is when both $\lambda_\infty^-$ and $\lambda_\infty^+$ contain a component shared by $\mu^\pm$ which is not a simple closed curve.
3. Finally, the third case is when either $\lambda_\infty^+$ or $\lambda_\infty^-$ is disjoint from any component of $\mu^+$ shared with $\mu^-$ that is not a simple closed curve.

In the first case, we assume that $i(\mu^- , \lambda_\infty^-) > 0$. The argument for the case when $i(\mu^+ , \lambda^+) > 0$ is completely the same. By the definition of the Thurston compactification of the Teichmüller space (see Fathi-Laudenbach-Poénaru [2]) or the argument in Otal [5], we have $\text{length}_{\Sigma_i^-}(\lambda_i^-) \to \infty$. Since $\lambda_j^-$ is realised on $\Sigma^-$, its length on $\Sigma_i^-$ with respect to $p_i$ is equal to that in $M_i$. Therefore we have $\text{length}_{\Sigma_i^+}(\Phi_i(\lambda_i^-)) \to \infty$. On the other hand, by the continuity of the length function (Brock [1]), we have

$$\lim \text{length}_{\Sigma_i^+}(\Phi_i(\lambda_i^-)) = \text{length}_{\Sigma^+}(\Psi(\lambda_\infty^-))$$

and the right hand side is finite. This is a contradiction, and we have completed the proof of the first case.

Now let us turn to the second case. Let $\lambda_0$ be the component shared by $[\lambda_\infty^+]$ and $[\lambda_\infty^-]$, which is not a simple closed curve.

Using the technique of interpolating pleated surfaces due to Thurston, we prove the following.

**Proposition 3.** We can take a constant $L > 0$ for which the following holds for large $i$. There is $t_i \in [0, 1]$ such that $H_i(S(\mu_0), t_i)$ is homotopic
to \( f_i|S(\mu_0) \) by a homotopy staying within the distance \( L \) from \( f_i(S(\mu_0)) \)
which keeps the frontier inside the Margulis tubes all the time.

Then the pleated surface \( g_i|S(\mu_0) \) converges to a pleated surface
\( g_\infty : S(\mu_0) \to M_\infty \) homotopic to \( f_\infty \) since the homotopy between
\( g_i|S(\mu_0) \) and \( f_i|S(\mu_0) \) has bounded diameter and converges to a homoto-
py between \( g_\infty \) and \( f_\infty|S(\mu_0) \). The limit pleated surface \( g_\infty \) realises
the limit of the measured laminations \( \alpha_i(t_i)|S(\mu_0) \). By taking a subse-
quence we can assume that \( \alpha(t_i) \) converges to a projective lamination
on \( \alpha([0,1]) \), which must have the same support as \( \mu_0 \) if it is restricted
in \( S(\mu_0) \). Therefore the limit surface \( S(\mu_0) \) also realises \( \mu_0 \). This contradicts the fact that \( \mu_0 \)
represents an ending lamination. Thus we have completed the proof of
Theorem 1 in this case.

The third case is the most difficult. We need to make an eclectic
approach considering Hausdorff limits of the bending loci. The key
steps are as follows.

**Lemma 4.** Let \( \ell \) be a minimal component of \( \ell_\infty^\pm \) or \( \ell_\infty^\mp \). Then \( \ell \) does
not intersect a component of \( \mu \) transversely.

**Lemma 5.** Suppose that the Hausdorff limits \( \ell_\infty^\pm \) of \( |\lambda_\pm^\mp| \) contain a
common component which coincides with the support a component \( \mu_0 \)
of \( \mu^\pm \). Then there is an arc \( \alpha_i : [0,1] \to \mathcal{PML}(S) \) connecting \( |\lambda_i^\pm| \) with
\( |\lambda_\infty^\pm| \) converging uniformly to an arc \( \alpha_\infty \) such that for any sequence \( \{t_k\} \)
in \([0,1]\) and monotone increasing \( \{i_k\} \) for which \( |\alpha_{i_k}(t_k)| \) converges in
the Hausdorff topology, the limit contains a minimal component which
coincides with \( |\mu_0| \) except for the case when \( t_k = \frac{1}{4}i_k \) or \( t_k = 1-\frac{1}{4}i_k \)
for all large \( k \), in which case we have \( |\alpha_{i_k}(t_k)| = |\lambda_\infty^\pm| \) or \( |\lambda_\infty^\mp| \).

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