

Notes on discrete subgroups of $PU(1, 2; \mathbb{C})$ with Heisenberg translations II

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In a previous paper [8] we have seen that under some conditions Parker's theorem yields the discreteness condition of Basmajian and Miner for groups with a Heisenberg translation. We show that we can obtain the same result as in [8] without the assumption on r .

1. First we recall some definitions and notation. Let $\mathbb{C}$ be the field of complex numbers. Let $V = V^{1,2}(\mathbb{C})$ denote the vector space $\mathbb{C}^3$, together with the unitary structure defined by the Hermitian form

$$\tilde{\Phi}(z^*, w^*) = -(\overline{z_0^*}w_1^* + \overline{z_1^*}w_0^*) + \overline{z_2^*}w_2^*$$

for $z^* = (z_0^*, z_1^*, z_2^*)$, $w^* = (w_0^*, w_1^*, w_2^*)$ in V . An automorphism g of V , that is a linear bijection such that $\tilde{\Phi}(g(z^*), g(w^*)) = \tilde{\Phi}(z^*, w^*)$ for z^*, w^* in V , will be called a unitary transformation. We denote the group of all unitary transformations by $U(1, 2; \mathbb{C})$. Let $V_0 = \{w^* \in V \mid \tilde{\Phi}(w^*, w^*) = 0\}$ and $V_- = \{w^* \in V \mid \tilde{\Phi}(w^*, w^*) < 0\}$. It is clear that V_0 and V_- are invariant under $U(1, 2; \mathbb{C})$. We denote $U(1, 2; \mathbb{C})/(\text{center})$ by $PU(1, 2; \mathbb{C})$. Set $V^* = V_- \cup V_0 - \{0\}$. Let $\pi : V^* \rightarrow \pi(V^*)$ be the projection map defined by $\pi(w_0^*, w_1^*, w_2^*) = (w_1, w_2)$, where $w_1 = w_1^*/w_0^*$ and $w_2 = w_2^*/w_0^*$. We write ∞ for $\pi(0, 1, 0)$. We may identify $\pi(V_-)$ with the Siegel domain

$$H^2 = \{w = (w_1, w_2) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid \operatorname{Re}(w_1) > \frac{1}{2}|w_2|^2\}.$$

We can regard an element of $PU(1, 2; \mathbb{C})$ as a transformation acting on H^2 and its boundary ∂H^2 (see [6]). Denote $H^2 \cup \partial H^2$ by $\overline{H^2}$. We define a new coordinate system in $\overline{H^2} - \{\infty\}$. Our convention slightly differs from Basmajian-Miner [1] and Parker [8]. The H -coordinates of a point $(w_1, w_2) \in \overline{H^2} - \{\infty\}$ are defined by $(k, t, w_2)_H \in (\mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\}) \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{C}$ such that $k = \operatorname{Re}(w_1) - \frac{1}{2}|w_2|^2$ and $t = \operatorname{Im}(w_1)$. For simplicity, we write $(t_1, w')_H$ for $(0, t_1, w')_H$. The Cygan metric $\rho(p, q)$ for $p = (k_1, t_1, w')_H$ and $q = (k_2, t_2, W')_H$ is given by

$$\rho(p, q) = \left\{ \frac{1}{2}|W' - w'|^2 + |k_2 - k_1| \right\} + i\{t_1 - t_2 + \operatorname{Im}(\overline{w'}W')\}^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

We note that the Cygan metric ρ is a generalization of the Heisenberg metric δ in ∂H^2 (see [7]).

Let $f = (a_{ij})_{1 \leq i,j \leq 3}$ be an element of $PU(1, 2; \mathbf{C})$ with $f(\infty) \neq \infty$. We define the *isometric sphere* I_f of f by

$$I_f = \{w = (w_1, w_2) \in \overline{H}^2 \mid |\tilde{\Phi}(W, Q)| = |\tilde{\Phi}(W, f^{-1}(Q))|\},$$

where $Q = (0, 1, 0)$, $W = (1, w_1, w_2)$ in V^* (see [4]). It follows that the isometric sphere I_f is the sphere in the Cygan metric with center $f^{-1}(\infty)$ and radius $R_f = \sqrt{1/|a_{12}|}$, that is,

$$I_f = \left\{ z = (k, t, w')_H \in (\mathbf{R}^+ \cup \{0\}) \times \mathbf{R} \times \mathbf{C} \mid \rho(z, f^{-1}(\infty)) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{|a_{12}|}} \right\}.$$

2. We shall give a modified version of the stable basin theorem of Basmajian and Miner in [1]. Let

$$B_r = \{z \in \partial H^2 \mid \delta(z, 0) < r\},$$

and let $\overline{B}_s^c = \partial H^2 - \overline{B}_s$. Given r and s with $r < s$, the pair of open sets $(B_r, \overline{B}_s^c)$ is said to be *stable* with respect to a set S of elements in $PU(1, 2; \mathbf{C})$ if for any element $g \in S$,

$$g(0) \in B_r \quad g(\infty) \in \overline{B}_s^c.$$

A loxodromic element f has a unique complex dilation factor $\lambda(f)$ such that $|\lambda(f)| > 1$. Let $S(r, \varepsilon)$ denote the family of loxodromic elements f with fixed points in B_r and $\overline{B}_{1/r}^c$, and satisfying $|\lambda(f) - 1| < \varepsilon$. For positive real numbers r and r' with $r < 1/\sqrt{3}$ and $r' < 1$, we define $\varepsilon(r, r')$ by

$$\varepsilon(r, r') = \sup\{|\lambda(f) - 1|\}, \quad (2.1)$$

where $|\lambda(f) - 1|$ satisfies the inequality

$$|\lambda(f) - 1| < \sqrt{2 + \left(\frac{1 - (3 + |\lambda(f) - 1|)r^2}{1 - 2r^2} \right)^2 \left(\frac{1 - 3r^2}{1 - r^2} \right)^2 \left(\frac{r'}{r} \right)^2} - \sqrt{2}. \quad (2.2)$$

A triple of non-negative numbers (r, r', ε) is said to be a *basin point* provided that $r < 1/\sqrt{3}$, $r' < 1$ and $\varepsilon < \varepsilon(r, r')$. In particular, if $r' \leq r$, we call (r, r', ε) a *stable basin point*. Call the set of all such points the *stable basin region*. For simplicity, we abbreviate (r, r, ε) to (r, ε) .

Theorem 2.1 ([8; Theorem 3.1]). *Given positive real numbers r and r' with $r < 1/\sqrt{3}$ and $r' < 1$, the pair of open sets $(B_{r'}, \overline{B}_{1/r'}^c)$ is stable with respect to the family $S(r, \varepsilon(r, r'))$, where $\varepsilon(r, r')$ is given by (2.1).*

3. We begin with introducing Parker's theorem on the discreteness of subgroups of $PU(1, 2; \mathbb{C})$.

Theorem 3.1 ([9; Theorem 2.1]). *Let g be a Heisenberg translation with the form*

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ s & 1 & \bar{a} \\ a & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

where $Re(s) = \frac{1}{2}|a|^2$. Let f be any element of $PU(1, 2; \mathbb{C})$ with isometric sphere of radius R_f . If

$$R_f^2 > \delta(gf^{-1}(\infty), f^{-1}(\infty))\delta(gf(\infty), f(\infty)) + 2|a|^2,$$

then the group $\langle f, g \rangle$ generated by f and g is not discrete.

Remark 3.2. Suppose that g is a vertical Heisenberg translation. As $a = 0$, this theorem is equivalent to results in [5] and [6].

In Theorem 4.5 of [8] we have shown that if $r < 0.484$, then Theorem 3.1 leads to the discreteness condition of Basmajian and Miner for groups with a Heisenberg translation. By using a more precise estimate on the Heisenberg distance between fixed points of f in terms of R_f and $\lambda(f)$, we have the following same result without the assumption on r .

Theorem 3.3. *Fix a stable basin point (r, ε) . Let g be the same element as in Theorem 3.1. Let f be a loxodromic element with fixed point 0 and q , and satisfying $|\lambda(f) - 1| < \varepsilon$. If $\delta(0, q) > \frac{\delta(0, g(0))}{r^2}(1 + r^2 + \sqrt{1 + r^2})$, then the group $\langle f, g \rangle$ generated by f and g is not discrete.*

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