#### KLEINIAN VIEWPOINTS ON HIGHER RANK WORLDS

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ABSTRACT. This talk is designed to attract people who work on real hyperbolic manifolds to consider thinking about discrete subgroups of higher rank Lie groups. To that end, we breezily discuss some applications of the ideas from the theory of Kleinian groups in the higher rank setting.

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# 1. Introduction

In this talk, I will highlight some recent applications of ideas and techniques from the theory of Kleinian groups to the study of discrete subgroups of higher rank Lie groups. I will begin with a brief introduction for those who, like me, are not totally conversant in the general theory of Lie groups. I hope this will attract others working in the rank one setting to consider studying discrete groups in higher rank. A longer attempt to make the theory of discrete subgroup of higher rank Lie groups accessible to rank one people is my *Informal Lecture Notes on Anosov Representations* which are available on my webpage and at the AMS Notes pages.

Since my choice of topics reflect my idiosyncratic personal interests, I will recommend some other surveys. The surveys of Kapovich, Leeb and Porti [79, 77] explain their approach to discrete subgroups which focuses on the action on the quotient symmetric space and explores many parallels with the rank one setting. The surveys of Wienhard [131] and Burger-Iozzi-Wienhard [32] do an excellent job of presenting results motivated by the techniques and ideas from the Fuchsian setting. Kassel's survey articles [81, 82] contain nice discussions of the relationship with projective geometry, see also Marquis [97]. Finally, Canary-Zhang-Zimmer [37] survey recent developments in Patterson-Sullivan theory in higher rank (see alse Sambarino [112], which is not a survey paper but contains a very clear discussion of the Anosov case).

**Acknowledgements:** I would like to thank Martin Bridgeman, Subhadip Dey, James Farre, Andres Sambarino, Kostas Tsouvalas, Gabriele Viaggi, Teddy Weisman, Neza Žager Korenjak, Tengren Zhang and Andy Zimmer for helpful comments on an early version of this paper.

Canary was partially supported by grant DMS-2304636 from the National Science Foundation.

# 2. Types of discrete subgroups

2.1. **Linear algebra.** We will work mostly in the setting of discrete subgroup of  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$  where  $\mathbb{K}$  is  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ . In this setting, much of the Lie theory is simple linear algebra involving singular values and eigenvalues. The Cartan subspace  $\mathfrak{a}$  of  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$  is the space of real trace-free diagonal matrices, which me may think of as d-tuples of real numbers whose entries add up to 0. The (closed) positive Weyl chamber  $\mathfrak{a}^+$  is simply d-tuples in  $\mathfrak{a}$  whose entries are in descending order, i.e.

$$\mathfrak{a} = \{ \vec{a} \in \mathbb{R}^d : a_1 + \dots + a_d = 0 \}$$
 and  $\mathfrak{a}^+ = \{ \vec{a} \in \mathfrak{a} : a_1 \ge \dots \ge a_d \}.$ 

We define the Jordan projection  $J: \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K}) \to \mathfrak{a}^+$  and the Cartan projection  $\kappa: \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K}) \to \mathfrak{a}^+$  to be

$$J(\gamma) = (\log \lambda_1(\gamma), \dots, \log \lambda_d(\gamma))$$
 and  $\kappa(\gamma) = (\log \sigma_1(\gamma), \dots, \log \sigma_d(\gamma))$ 

where  $\lambda_i(\gamma)$  is the modulus of the  $i^{th}$  eigenvalue of  $\gamma$  and  $\sigma_i(\gamma)$  is the  $i^{th}$  singular value of  $\gamma$ . Let  $X_d = \mathsf{PSL}(d, \mathbb{R})/\mathsf{PSO}(d)$  (or  $X_d = \mathsf{PSL}(d, \mathbb{C})/\mathsf{PU}(d)$ ) be the symmetric space of  $\mathsf{PSL}(d, \mathbb{R})$  (or  $\mathsf{PSL}(d, \mathbb{C})$ ). One should think of J(A) and  $\kappa(A)$  as vector-valued distance functions on  $X_d$ . To make this precise, note that if  $x_0 = [\mathsf{PSO}(d)] \in X_d$  (or  $x_0 = [\mathsf{PU}(d)] \in X_d$  if  $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$ ), then

$$d_{X_d}(x_0,A(x_0)) = ||\kappa(A)|| \quad \text{and} \quad \inf_{x \in X_d} d_{X_d}(x,A(x))) = ||J(A)||.$$

(Your favorite metric may be some constant multiple of our metric, but this choice will be convenient for us. For example, with this convention,  $X_2 = \mathbb{H}^2$  with constant curvature  $-\frac{1}{4}$ .)

We may write any element  $A \in \mathsf{PSL}(d, \mathbb{K})$  as  $Ke^{\kappa(\gamma)}L$  where  $K, L \in \mathsf{PO}(d)$  (if  $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ ) or  $K, L \in \mathsf{PU}(d)$  (if  $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$ ). (This is known as the Cartan decomposition.) The elements K and L are not uniquely defined, but if  $\sigma_k(\gamma) > \sigma_{k+1}(\gamma)$ , then

$$U_k(\gamma) = K(\langle e_1, \dots, e_k \rangle)$$
 where  $\{e_1, \dots, e_d\}$  is the standard basis for  $\mathbb{K}^d$ 

is well-defined and is the image of the k-plane which is stretched the most by  $\gamma$ .

We will also be interested in linear functionals in  $\mathfrak{a}^*$ . Particularly important are the simple roots  $\alpha_k : \mathfrak{a} \to \mathbb{R}$  and the fundamental weights  $\omega_k : \mathfrak{a} \to \mathbb{R}$  given by

$$\alpha_k(\vec{a}) = a_k - a_{k+1}$$
 and  $\omega_k(\vec{a}) = a_1 + \dots + a_k$ .

A (full) flag in  $\mathbb{K}^d$  is a collection  $\{F^k\}_{k=1}^{d-1}$  where each  $F^k$  is a k-dimensional  $\mathbb{K}$ -subspace of  $\mathbb{K}^d$  and  $F^j \subset F^k$  if j < k. If  $\mathcal{F}$  is the space of full flags in  $\mathbb{K}^d$ , we can define the Iwasawa cocycle  $B: \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{R}) \times \mathcal{F} \to \mathfrak{a}$  by the relation

$$\omega_k(B(A,F)) = \frac{||A(v_1) \wedge \dots \wedge A(v_k)||}{||v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_k||} \quad \text{where} \quad \{v_1, \dots, v_k\} \text{ is a basis for } F^k \quad \text{for all } k$$

where  $F^k$  is the k-dimensional subspace of F. In rank one, the Iwasawa cocycle is equivalent to the Busemann cocycle.

If  $\theta \subset \{1, \ldots, d-1\}$ , a  $\theta$ -flag is a collection  $\{F^k\}_{k \in \theta}$  where each  $F^k$  is a k-dimensional K-subspace of  $\mathbb{K}^d$  and  $F^j \subset F^k$  if j < k and  $j, k \in \theta$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_{\theta}$  be the space of  $\theta$ -flags. We then define a partial Cartan subspace

$$\mathfrak{a}_{\theta} = \{ \vec{a} \in \mathfrak{a} : \alpha_j(\vec{a}) = 0 \text{ if } j \notin \theta \} \text{ and } \mathfrak{a}_{\theta}^+ = \mathfrak{a}_{\theta} \cap \mathfrak{a}^+.$$

Then the group  $\mathfrak{a}_{\theta}^*$  of linear functionals on  $\mathfrak{a}_{\theta}$  has basis  $\{\omega_k\}_{k\in\theta}$ . There is a projection  $p_{\theta}:\mathfrak{a}\to\mathfrak{a}_{\theta}$  defined by the relation

$$\omega_k(\vec{a}) = \omega_k(p_{\theta}(\vec{a}))$$
 for all  $k \in \theta$ .

We can also define a partial Iwasawa cocycle just as before

$$\omega_k(B_{\theta}(A,F)) = \frac{||A(v_1) \wedge \dots \wedge A(v_k)||}{||v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_k||} \quad \text{where} \quad \{v_1, \dots, v_k\} \text{ is a basis for } F^k \quad \text{for all } k \in \theta.$$

2.2. Divergent and transverse groups. A group  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$  is  $P_k$ -divergent if whenever  $\{\gamma_n\}$  is a sequence of distinct elements in  $\Gamma$  we have  $\alpha_k(\kappa(\gamma)) \to \infty$  where

$$\alpha_k(\vec{a}) = a_k - a_{k+1}$$

is the  $k^{\text{th}}$  simple root. Intuitively, a  $P_k$ -divergent group is a discrete group whose discreteness is detected by the  $k^{\text{th}}$  simple root. Notice that if  $\Gamma$  is  $P_k$ -divergent, then it is  $P_{d-k}$ -divergent, since  $\alpha_k(\gamma) = \alpha_{d-k}(\gamma^{-1})$ . If  $\Gamma$  is  $P_k$ -divergent, then both  $U_k(\gamma)$  and  $U_{d-k}(\gamma)$  are well-defined for all but finitely many  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

We say that  $\Gamma$  is  $P_{\theta}$ -divergent for some non-empty  $\theta \subset \{1, \ldots, d-1\}$  if it is  $P_k$ -divergent for all  $k \in \theta$ . We will assume from now on that  $\theta$  is symmetric. Then  $U_{\theta}(\gamma) = \{U_k(\gamma)\}_{k \in \theta}$  is a well-defined element of  $\mathcal{F}_{\theta}$  for all but finitely many  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . The limit set  $\Lambda_{\theta}(\Gamma)$  of  $\Gamma$  is then just the set of accumulation points of  $\{U_{\theta}(\gamma)\}_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$  in  $\mathcal{F}_{\theta}$ .

If  $\phi \in \mathfrak{a}_{\theta}^*$ , we may define a "distance function" on the orbit  $\Gamma(x_0)$  in  $X_d$  by  $d_{\phi}(x_0, \gamma(x_0)) = \phi(\kappa(\gamma))$ , although of course this "distance" may be negative. (Notice that in the constant curvature -1 metric on  $\mathbb{H}^2$ , we have  $d(x_0, \gamma(x_0)) = \alpha_1(\kappa(\gamma))$ .) We may then define

$$\delta_{\phi}(\Gamma) = \limsup_{T \to \infty} \frac{\log \# \{ \gamma \in \Gamma : \phi(\kappa(\gamma)) \le T \}}{T},$$

which we regard as the exponential growth rate of the orbit from the point of view of the linear functional  $\phi$ . This is also the critical exponent of the  $\phi$ -Poincaré series of  $\Gamma$ . If  $\delta^{\phi} < +\infty$ , then one may define a  $\phi$ -Patterson-Sullivan measure supported on  $\Lambda_{\theta}(\Gamma)$  (see [35]), i.e. a probability measure  $\mu$  so that

$$\frac{d\gamma_*\mu}{d\mu}(F) = e^{-\delta_\phi(\Gamma)B_\theta(\gamma^{-1},F)}$$

for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  and  $F \in \Lambda_{\theta}(\Gamma)$ .

A  $P_{\theta}$ -divergent group  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$  is  $P_{\theta}$ -transverse if every two distinct flags F and G in  $\Lambda_{\theta}(\Gamma)$  are transverse, i.e. if  $k \in \theta$ , then  $F^k \oplus G^{d-k} = \mathbb{K}^d$ . One key feature of transverse groups is that the action of  $\Gamma$  on  $\Lambda(\Gamma)$  is a convergence group action. Moreover, one may establish a Hopf-Tsuji-Sullivan dichotomy for Patterson-Sullivan measures on  $\Lambda_{\theta}(\Gamma)$  (see [35] and [85]).

2.3. **Anosov groups.** A finitely generated group  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$  is said to be  $P_{\theta}$ -Anosov if there exists a, C > 0 so that

$$\alpha_k(\kappa(\gamma)) > a|\gamma| - C$$
 for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  and  $k \in \theta$ 

where  $|\gamma|$  is the word length of  $\gamma$  with respect to some fixed generating set for  $\Gamma$ . One may think of this as saying that  $\Gamma$  is quasi-isometrically embedded (with respect to the usual bi-invariant metric on  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$ ) and the fact that it is quasi-isometrically embedded is detected by the  $k^{\text{th}}$ -simple root for all  $k \in \theta$ .

If  $\Gamma$  is  $P_{\theta}$ -Anosov, then it is Gromov/word hyperbolic and  $P_{\theta}$ -transverse and there exists a  $\Gamma$ -equivariant homeomorphism

$$\xi:\partial\Gamma\to\Lambda_{\theta}(\Gamma)$$

where  $\partial\Gamma$  is the Gromov boundary of  $\Gamma$ .

Anosov groups have two important features. 1) The orbit map of  $\Gamma$  into  $X_d$  is a quasi-isometric embedding, i.e.  $d(x_0, \gamma(x_0))$  grows linearly in the word length of  $\gamma$ . 2) There exists

a neighborhood U of the inclusion map in  $\operatorname{Hom}(\Gamma,\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K}))$  so that if  $\rho \in U$ , then  $\rho(\Gamma)$  is  $P_{\theta}$ -Anosov.

In the case of  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{K})$ , a subgroup is  $P_1$ -Anosov if and only if it is convex compact. (Recall that in a rank one Lie group, a discrete group is convex cocompact if and only if its orbit map is a quasi-isometric embedding.)

If  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$  is  $P_{\theta}$ -Anosov,  $\phi \in \mathfrak{a}_{\theta}^*$  and  $\delta^{\phi}(\Gamma) < +\infty$ , then Sambarino [111] (see also [28]) constructed a metric Anosov flow which is Hölder orbit equivalent to the geodesic flow of  $\Gamma$  and whose periods are exactly  $\{\phi(J(\gamma))\}_{[\gamma] \in [\Gamma]}$ . This flow is one of the main tools in the study of the dynamics of the action of  $\Gamma$ . It allows us to think of  $\phi(J(\gamma))$  as giving a length function on the group. (His construction can be generalized to the setting of transverse groups, see [35].)

**Historical remarks:** The book of Benoist and Quint [12] is an excellent source for the Lie theory discussed here. Divergent and transverse groups were first studied Kapovich, Leeb and Porti (see [80]), who called them regular and regular antipodal groups. Albuquerque [7] and Quint [109] were the first to study Patterson-Sullivan measure for discrete subgroups of higher rank Lie groups.

Labourie [89] first defined Anosov groups in his study of Hitchin representations. The general theory was further developed by Guichard-Wienhard [68], Guéritaud-Guichard-Kassel-Wienhard [67], Kapovich-Leeb-Porti [80], Bochi-Potrie-Sambarino [19] and others. Labourie's original definition was dynamical. The equivalent definition we gave is due to Kapovich-Leeb-Porti [79] and Bochi-Potrie-Sambarino [19]. Dey and Kapovich [50] developed a theory of Patterson-Sullivan measures for Anosov groups.

Given a semi-simple Lie group G of non-compact type and a parabolic subgroup P of G, Labourie [89] introduced a theory of P-Anosov subgroups of G which had the same important features as above. Guichard and Wienhard [68, Prop. 4.3, Remark 4.12] observed that given G and P, there exists an irreducible representation  $\tau: G \to \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{R})$  (for some d) so that  $\Gamma \subset G$  is P-Anosov if and only if  $\tau(\Gamma)$  is  $P_{1,d-1}$ -Anosov. So many, but not all, problems concerning Anosov groups can be studied by studying the  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{R})$  case and using this equivalence.

## 3. Which groups can be Anosov?

It is natural to ask which isomorphism classes of groups arise at Anosov groups. The most obvious examples are the convex cocompact subgroups of rank one Lie groups. For example, convex cocompact subgroups of  $PO(d, 1) = \text{Isom}(\mathbb{H}^d)$  are  $P_1$ -Anosov subgroups of  $PGL(d+1, \mathbb{R})$ .

The next collection of examples, historically, is provided by fundamental groups of strictly convex, closed (real) projective manifolds. We recall that an open domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^{d+1})$  is strictly convex if it is a bounded strictly convex subset of some affine chart for  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^{d+1})$ . If  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d+1,\mathbb{R})$  preserves and acts properly discontinuously and cocompactly on a strictly convex domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^{d+1})$ , then  $\Omega/\Gamma$  is a closed strictly convex projective manifold. Benoist proved that in this case  $\Gamma$  is  $P_1$ -Anosov. However,  $\Gamma$  is not  $P_k$  Anosov for any  $1 \leq k \leq d-1$  (see [33, Cor. 1.4]). Kapovich [76] showed that certain Gromov-Thurston  $1 \leq k \leq d-1$  (see convex projective structures so that their fundamental groups arise as  $1 \leq k \leq d-1$  and  $1 \leq k \leq d-1$  (see PSL $1 \leq k \leq d-1$ ).

Danciger, Guéritaud, Kassel, Lee and Marquis [48] showed that any hyperbolic Coxeter group is isomorphic to an Anosov group. The following is the best current result.

**Theorem 3.1.** (Douba-Fléchelles-Weisman-Zhu [56]) If a hyperbolic group acts properly and cocompactly on a CAT(0) cube complex, then it is isomorphic to an Anosov subgroup of  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{R})$ for some d. It is still unknown whether or not there is a linear hyperbolic group which is not isomorphic to an Anosov group. In fact, only recently has it been shown that there exist linear hyperbolic groups which are not isomorphic to a convex cocompact subgroup of some rank one Lie group. Tholozan and Tsouvalas [121] gave examples of linear hyperbolic groups which are not isomorphic to a discrete subgroup of any rank one Lie group. Their examples are doubles of lattices in Sp(n,1) along cyclic subgroups.

On the other hand, one can place restriction on groups which admit certain flavors of Anosovness for a given group. For example, any torsion-free  $P_1$ -Anosov subgroup of  $\mathsf{SL}(4,\mathbb{R})$  is isomorphic to a convex cocompact subgroup of  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$ , see Canary-Tsouvalas [33, Thm. 1.2]. Moreover, one can obtain bounds on the cohomological dimension of Anosov groups.

**Theorem 3.2.** (Canary-Tsouvalas [33]) If  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{R})$  is torsion-free and  $P_k$ -Anosov and  $k \leq \frac{d}{2}$ , then

- (1) If (d, k) is not (2, 1), (4, 2), (8, 4) or (16, 8), then  $\Gamma$  has cohomological dimension at most d k.
- (2) If (d, k) is either (2, 1), (4, 2), (8, 4) or (16, 8), then  $\Gamma$  has cohomological dimension at most d k + 1.

Sketch of proof: If d = 2, then  $\Gamma$  is a Fuchsian group and the result is obvious and the case d = 3 can be handled separately (see [33, Thm. 1.1]).

If  $d \geq 4$ , we fix  $x_0 \in \partial \Gamma$  and a (d-k+1)-dimensional subspace V containing  $\xi(x_0)^{(d-k)}$  and define an injective map  $F : \partial \Gamma - \{x_0\} \to \mathbb{P}(V - \xi(x_0)^{(k)})$  by letting F(y) be the line  $\xi(y)^{(k)} \cap V$ . Therefore,  $\partial \Gamma$  has topological dimension at most d-k. However, Bestvina and Mess [14] showed that the cohomological dimension of a torsion-free word hyperbolic group is exactly one more than its topological dimension. Therefore, in all cases  $\Gamma$  has cohomological dimension at most d-k+1.

If the cohomological dimension of  $\Gamma$  is d-k+1, then  $\partial\Gamma$  has topological dimension d-k. Since we have embedded  $\partial\Gamma - \{x_0\}$  into a (d-k)-dimensional manifold, this implies that  $\partial\Gamma$  has a manifold point, which guarantees that  $\partial\Gamma = S^{d-k}$ , see Kapovich-Benakli [75, Thm. 4.4]. Let

$$E = \bigcup_{x \in \partial \Gamma} S(\xi(x)^{(k)}) \subset S(\mathbb{R}^d),$$

where S(v) denotes the unit sphere in V. Notice that E is a closed submanifold of  $S(\mathbb{R}^d)$  of dimension (d-k)+(k-1)=d-1, so  $E=S^{d-1}$ . The map  $p:E\to\partial\Gamma$  is a fibre bundle with fibre  $S^{k-1}$ , so the classification of sphere fibrations (see [4]) implies that (d-1,k-1) is either (3,1), (7,3) or (15,7).

Sambarino conjectured that if  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{R})$  is Borel Anosov, i.e.  $P_k$ -Anosov for all  $1 \le k \le d-1$ , then  $\Gamma$  has a finite index subgroup which is either a free group or the fundamental group of a closed surface. This surprising conjecture was proved when  $d \le 4$  by Canary-Tsouvalas [33], for  $d = 2 \pmod{4}$  by Tsouvalas [124], and for d = 3, 4 or 5 (mod 8) by Dey [49].

## 4. Hyperconvex groups

Pozzetti, Sambarino and Wienhard [108] studied the class of (1,1,2)-hyperconvex groups. A group  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$  is (1,1,2)-hyperconvex if it is  $P_{\{1,2,d-2,d-1\}}$ -Anosov and whenever  $x,y,z \in \partial\Gamma$  are distinct, then

$$\xi(x)^{(1)} \oplus \xi(y)^{(1)} \oplus \xi(z)^{(d-2)} = \mathbb{K}^d$$

where  $\xi(x)^k$  is the k-dimensional subspace in the partial flag  $\xi(x)$ . Farre, Pozzetti and Viaggi [62] called these representation (d-1)-hyperconvex. The most basic examples of (1,1,2)-hyperconvex

groups in  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{C})$  are the images of a convex cocompact group subgroup of  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$  by an irreducible representation of  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$  into  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{C})$ .

One of the key motivations for [108] was that  $\alpha_1$ -Patterson-Sullivan measures of (1,1,2)-hyperconvex groups behave more like the conformal measures developed by Patterson [106] and Sulllivan [120] for Kleinian groups than Patterson-Sullivan measures for typical Anosov groups. The following result of Pozzetti, Sambarino and Wienhard [108] generalizes the fact, due to Patterson [106] and Sulllivan [120], that the Hausdorff dimension of the limit set of a convex cocompact Kleinian group  $\Gamma$  agrees with  $\delta^{\alpha_1}(\Gamma)$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** (Pozzetti-Sambarino-Wienhard [108]) If  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d, \mathbb{K})$  is (1, 1, 2)-hyperconvex, then the Hausdorff dimension of  $\Lambda_1(\Gamma)$  is equal to  $\delta^{\alpha_1}(\Gamma)$  and  $\delta^{\alpha_1}(\Gamma) \leq \dim(\mathbb{K})$ .

Pozzetti-Sambarino-Wienhard [108, Prop. 4.1] and Glorieux-Monclair-Tholozan [65, Thm 1.1] showed that if  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$  is  $P_{1,d-1}$ -Anosov, then its limit set  $\Lambda_1(\Gamma)$  has Hausdorff dimension at most  $\delta^{\alpha_1}(\Gamma)$  but that the bound is not always sharp.

One of my favorite examples of the use of technology from Kleinian groups in higher rank is the following structural result of Farre, Pozzetti and Viaggi.

**Theorem 4.2.** (Farre-Pozzetti-Viaggi [62, Thm. A]) If  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{C})$  is (1,1,2)-hyperconvex, then  $\Gamma$  is virtually isomorphic to a convex cocompact subgroup of  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$ .

We provide a brief outline of their beautiful proof. Given  $x \in \partial \Gamma$ , consider the projection map  $\pi_x : \partial \Gamma \to \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^d/\xi(x)^{(d-2)}) \cong \mathbb{CP}^1$  (first studied in [108]) given by

$$\pi_x(z) = \xi(z)^{(1)}$$
 if  $z \neq x$  and  $\pi_x(x) = \xi(x)^{(d-1)}$ .

They show that this map is well-defined, continuous and injective. (The main difficulty here is establishing continuity at x.)

They then show, by a compactness argument, that there exists K > 1 so that if  $x, y \in \partial \Gamma$ , then the homeomorphism

$$f_{x,y} = \pi_y \circ \pi_x^{-1} : \pi_x(\partial \Gamma) \to \pi_y(\partial \Gamma)$$

is K-quasi-Möbius on  $\pi_x(\partial\Gamma)$ , i.e. if  $z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4 \in \pi_x(\partial\Gamma)$  and the absolute value of their cross ratio  $|[z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4]| = 1$ , then

$$\frac{1}{K} \le \left| [f_{x,y}(z_1), f_{x,y}(z_2), f_{x,y}(z_3), f_{x,y}(z_4)] \right| \le K.$$

If  $\partial \Gamma \cong S^2$ , then  $\xi_x(\partial \Gamma) = \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^d/\xi(x)^{(d-2)})$  and one can conclude that  $f_{x,y}$  is K-quasiconformal if it is orientation-preserving (since orientation-preserving K-quasi-Möbius homeomorphisms of  $\mathbb{CP}^1$  are K-quasiconformal.)

They then define an action  $\rho_x:\Gamma\to \operatorname{Homeo}(\pi_x(\partial\Gamma))$  given by

$$\rho_x(\gamma) = \pi_x \circ \gamma \circ (\pi_x)^{-1}$$
 for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ 

and check that

$$\rho_x(\gamma) = \hat{\gamma}|_{\gamma^- 1(x), x} \circ f_{x, \gamma^{-1}(x)}$$

where  $\hat{\gamma}_{\gamma^{-1}(x),x}: \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^d/\xi(\gamma^{-1}(x))^{(d-2)}) \to \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^d/\xi(x)^{(d-2)})$  is the map induced by  $\gamma$ . Since  $\hat{\gamma}_{\gamma^{-1}(x),x}$  is conformal,  $\rho_x(\Gamma)$  is K-quasi-Möbius for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

If 
$$\partial \Gamma = S^2$$
, let

$$\Gamma_0 = \{ \gamma \in \Gamma : \rho_x(\gamma) \text{ is orientation-preserving } \}$$

and notice that  $\Gamma_0$  has index at most two in  $\Gamma$ . So  $\rho_x(\Gamma_0)$  is a uniformly K-quasiconformal action on  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^d/\xi(x)^{(d-2)})$ , i.e. every  $\rho_x(\gamma)$  is K-quasiconformal. A theorem of Sullivan [119, Theorem VII] then implies that  $\rho_x(\Gamma_0)$  is quasiconformally conjugate to an action  $\hat{\Gamma}$  of  $\rho_x(\Gamma_0)$ 

on  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^d/\xi(x)^{(d-2)})$  by Möbius transformations. Since  $\Gamma$  acts on  $\partial\Gamma$  as a uniform convergence group,  $\hat{\Gamma}$  acts on  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^d/\xi(x)^{(d-2)})$  as a uniform convergence group, so  $\hat{\Gamma}$  is a uniform lattice in  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$ . If K is the kernel of  $\rho_x$ , then K is finite and  $\hat{\Gamma} \cong \Gamma_0/K$ . Therefore, if  $\partial\Gamma = S^2$ , then  $\Gamma$  is virtually isomorphic to a uniform lattice in  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$ .

In order to handle the general case, they use work of Haissinsky [69] which implies that a hyperbolic group  $\Gamma$  with planar Gromov boundary is virtually isomorphic to a convex cocompact Kleinian group if every quasiconvex subgroup H of  $\Gamma$  whose Gromov boundary is homeomorphic to a Sierpinski carpet is virtually isomorphic to a convex cocompact Kleinian group. In the case that  $\partial H$  is a Sierpinski carpet, they use results of Ahlfors [5], Bonk [21] and Markovic [96] to extend the uniformly K-quasi-Möbius action  $\rho_x(H)$  on  $\pi_x(\partial H)$  to a uniformly K'-quasiconformal action on  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^d/\xi(x)^{(d-2)})$ . (I am glossing over a delicate argument here.) Sullivan's theorem again implies that  $\rho_x(H)$  is virtually isomorphic to a convex cocompact Kleinian group. This completes the (sketch of the) proof of Theorem 4.2.

One may use the theory developed in Canary-Zhang-Zimmer [34, 35] to show that the  $\alpha_1$ -Patterson-Sullivan measure  $\mu$  of a (1,1,2)-hyperconvex group is  $\delta^{\alpha_1}$ -Ahlfors regular, i.e. there exists  $\epsilon_0, C > 0$  so that if  $0 < r < \epsilon_0$  and  $F \in \Lambda_1(\Gamma)$ , then

$$\frac{1}{C}r^{\delta^{\alpha_1}(\Gamma)} \leq \mu(B(F,r)) \leq Cr^{\delta^{\alpha_1}(\Gamma)}$$

where B(F,r) is the ball of radius r about F (in some fixed Riemannian metric on  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{K}^d)$ ). Since this implies that  $\Lambda_1(\gamma)$  has finite, non-zero  $\delta^{\alpha_1}(\Gamma)$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure, one may regard this result as a strengthening of Theorem 4.1.

**Theorem 4.3.** (Canary-Zhang-Zimmer [38]) If  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{C})$  is (1,1,2)-hyperconvex, then the  $\alpha_1$ -Patterson-Sullivan measure  $\mu$  of  $\Gamma$  on  $\Lambda_1(\Gamma)$  is  $\delta^{\alpha_1}(\Gamma)$ -Ahlfors regular. Therefore,  $\Lambda_1(\Gamma)$  has finite, non-zero  $\delta^{\alpha_1}(\Gamma)$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure.

Farre, Pozzetti and Viaggi [62, Thm 3.1] proved that if  $\partial\Gamma \neq S^2$ , then  $\pi_x(\partial\Gamma)$  has measure zero. Their proof is a foliated version of Ahlfors' [6] original beautiful argument that the limit set of a geometrically finite group has measure zero if it is not all of  $\mathbb{CP}^1$ . It is easy to see that  $\pi_x \circ (\xi^{(1)})^{-1} : \Lambda_1(\Gamma) \to \pi_x(\partial\Gamma)$  is bilipschitz on any compact subset of  $\Lambda_1(\Gamma) - \{\xi(x)^{(1)}\}$  (see the proof of [62, Prop. 5.3]). So, if  $\partial\Gamma \neq S^2$ , then  $\Lambda_1(\Gamma)$  has 2-dimensional Hausdorff measure zero. So, Theorem 4.3 implies that if  $\delta^{\alpha_1}(\Gamma) = 2$ , then  $\Gamma$  is virtually isomorphic to a lattice in PSL(2,  $\mathbb{C}$ ).

**Theorem 4.4.** (Canary-Zhang-Zimmer [38]) If  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{C})$  is (1,1,2)-hyperconvex, then  $\delta^{\alpha_1}(\Gamma) = 2$  if and only if  $\Gamma$  is virtually isomorphic to a uniform lattice in  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$ .

A result of Pozzetti, Sambarino and Wienhard [108, Thm 7.1] (see also Zhang-Zimmer [133]) implies that if  $\Gamma$  is (1,1,2)-hyperconvex and  $\partial\Gamma=S^2$ , then  $\Lambda_1(\Gamma)$  is  $C^1$ . Since the tangent space to  $\Lambda_1(\Gamma)$  is a complex subspace at every point,  $\Lambda_1(\Gamma)$  is a complex submanifold, and hence algebraic, by a theorem of Chow [40]. Therefore, the Zariski closure Z of  $\Gamma$  preserves  $\Lambda_1(\Gamma)$  and acts as a group of biholomorphisms. If  $\Gamma$  is strongly irreducible, then  $\Lambda_1(\Gamma)$  contains a projective frame (see [28, Lemma 2.17]), so the action of an element of Z on  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^d)$  is determined by its action on  $\Lambda_1(\Gamma)$ . Hence, Z is an irreducible copy of  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$  and we obtain the following rigidity theorem.

**Theorem 4.5.** (Canary-Zhang-Zimmer [38]) If  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{C})$  is (1,1,2)-hyperconvex and strongly irreducible and  $\delta^{\alpha_1}(\Gamma) = 2$ , then  $\Gamma$  is the image of a uniform lattice in  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$  by an irreducible representation of  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$  into  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{C})$ .

Menal-Ferrer and Porti [100, 107] previously showed that if  $\Gamma$  is a uniform lattice in  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$  and  $\tau_d: \mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C}) \to \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{C})$  is an irreducible representation, then every small deformation of  $\tau_d(\Gamma)$  is conjugate to  $\tau_d(\Gamma)$ . Since every small deformation of a (1,1,2)-hyperconvex group is (1,1,2)-hyperconvex, one may view Theorem 4.5 as a global version of the local rigidity theorem of Menal-Ferrer and Porti.

**Historical remarks:** The results in this section also hold for k-hyperconvex groups, see [62] and [38]. A group  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$  is k-hyperconvex if it is  $P_{\{k-1,k,k+1,d-k-1,d-k,d-k+1\}}$ -Anosov and whenever  $x,y,z\in\partial\Gamma$  are distinct, then

$$\left( (\xi(x)^{(d-k)} \cap \xi(z)^{(k+1)}) \oplus \xi(z)^{(k-1)} \right) \cap \left( (\xi(y)^{(d-k)} \cap \xi(z)^{(k+1)}) \oplus \xi(z)^{(k-1)} \right) = \xi(z)^{(k-1)}.$$

Notice that a group is (d-1)-hyperconvex if and only if it is (1,1,2)-hyperconvex. With the exception of Theorem 4.5, one may recover these more general results quickly from the results for (1,1,2)-hyperconvex groups by a careful study of the exterior power representation. The proof of Theorem 4.5 requires additional Lie-theoretic arguments in the general case. We originally had a more complicated dynamical proof of Theorem 4.5 but Andres Sambarino pointed out that we could use Chow's theorem to simplify the proof.

One can define a notion of (1,1,2)-hypertransversality for finitely generated transverse groups and prove that if  $\Gamma$  is (1,1,2)-hypertransverse, then  $\delta^{\alpha_1}(\Gamma)$  is the Hausdorff dimension of the conical limit points in  $\Lambda_1(\Gamma)$ , see [34, Thm. 8.1]. The proof contains ideas from a proof of analogous result for all finitely generated Kleinian groups by Bishop and Jones [15] with ideas from the work of Pozzetti-Sambarino-Wienhard [108].

Suppose that  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$  is  $P_{\theta}$ -Anosov,  $\phi \in \mathfrak{a}_{\theta}^*$  and  $\delta^{\phi}(\Gamma) < +\infty$ . If  $\phi$  is symmetric with respect to the obvious involution on  $\mathfrak{a}_{\theta}^*$  (which takes  $\omega_k$  to  $\omega_{d-k}$ ), then Dey and Kapovich [50] construct a Gromov pre-metric on  $\mathcal{F}_{\theta}$  so that  $\Lambda_{\theta}(\Gamma)$  has Hausdorff dimension  $\delta^{\phi}(\Gamma)$ . Dey, Kim and Oh [55] proved that in this same setting that the  $\phi$ -Patterson-Sullivan measure is  $\delta^{\phi}(\Gamma)$ -Ahlfors regular with respect to the pre-metric.

In a sequel paper [63], Farre, Pozzetti and Viaggi produce an analogue of Bers' Simultaneous Uniformization Theorem [13] for spaces of marked k-hyperconvex groups isomorphic to the fundamental group of a closed surface. They also show that if  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{C})$  is fully hyperconvex, i.e. k-hyperconvex for all k, and isomorphic to the fundamental group of a closed surface, then its full limit set  $\Lambda_{\{1,\dots,d-1\}}$  has Hausdorff dimension 1 if and only if it is conjugate into  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{R})$ . One may view this last result as a generalization of Bowen's famous rigidity theorem [23], which asserts that the limit set of a quasifuchsian group has Hausdorff dimension 1 if and only if it is Fuchsian.

## 5. Combination theorems and their consequences

Combination theorems arose in the study of Kleinian groups as a way of building new Kleinian groups from old. The first general combination theorem was stated by Klein [86] in 1883. We recall that if  $\Gamma$  is a discrete subgroup of  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$ , then  $\Gamma$  acts properly discontinuously on the complement  $\Omega(\Gamma)$ , in  $\mathbb{CP}^1$ , of its limit set  $\Lambda(\Gamma)$ . The set  $\Omega(\Gamma)$  is called the domain of discontinuity and may be empty.

**Klein's combination theorem:** Suppose that  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are discrete subgroups of  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$  with non-empty domains of discontinuity. If  $D_i$  is a fundamental domain for the action of  $\Gamma_i$  on  $\Omega(\Gamma_i)$  and the closure of the exterior of  $D_i$  is contained in  $D_{i+1}$  (where we interpret the indices modulo 2), then the group  $\Gamma = \langle \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2 \rangle$  generated by  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  is discrete and equal to  $\Gamma_1 * \Gamma_2$ . Moreover,  $D_1 \cap D_2$  is a fundamental domain for the action of  $\Gamma$  on  $\Omega(\Gamma)$ .

The proof of this theorem has now been immortalized as the ping-pong lemma. Notice that the analogous theorem where one considers fundamental domains for the action on  $\mathbb{H}^3$  also holds (with the same argument).

When one attempts to generalize this to the setting of Anosov groups, technical difficulties arise due to the fact that  $\Gamma$  does not act properly continuously on the complement of the limit set. However, Dey and Kapovich establish the following analogue.

**Theorem 5.1.** (Dey-Kapovich [51]) Suppose that  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are  $P_{\theta}$ -Anosov subgroups of  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$ , that  $A_i$  (for i=1,2) is a compact subset of  $\mathcal{F}_{\theta}$  with non-empty interior and that every flag in  $A_i$  is transverse to every flag in  $A_{i+1}$ . If  $\gamma_i(A_{i+1}) \subset A_i$  for all  $\gamma_i \in \Gamma_i$  (for i=1,2), then  $\langle \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2 \rangle$  is  $P_{\theta}$ -Anosov and equal to  $\Gamma_1 * \Gamma_2$ .

In this formulation, one should think of  $A_i$  as playing the role of  $\mathbb{CP}^1 - \operatorname{int}(D_i)$  in the original Klein combination theorem.

As a corollary one can show that any free product of Anosov groups is isomorphic to an Anosov group.

Corollary 5.2. (Douba-Tsouvalas [57, Thm. 3], Danciger-Guéritaud-Kassel [47, Cor 1.26]) Suppose that  $\Gamma_i$  is a  $P_{\theta_i}$ -Anosov subgroups of  $\mathsf{PSL}(d_i,\mathbb{K})$ , then there exists a  $P_{1,d-1}$ -Anosov subgroup  $\Gamma$  of  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$  so that  $\Gamma$  is isomorphic to  $\Gamma_1 * \Gamma_2$ .

Danciger, Guéritaud and Kassel [47] derive their proof of Corollary 5.2 as a consequence of their more general combination theorems for projectively convex cocompact, but not necessarily Anosov or even hyperbolic, subgroups of  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{R})$ . Douba and Tsouvalas [57, Thm 3.1] used an early version of Theorem 5.1 due to Dey-Kapovich-Leeb [53] in their proof.

Douba and Tsouvalas use Corollary 5.2 in their proof that there exist Anosov groups not admitting discrete faithful representations into any free product of rank one Lie groups.

**Theorem 5.3.** (Douba-Tsouvalas [57, Thm. 1/2]) Suppose that  $\Gamma_1$  is a uniform lattice in  $F_4^{(-20)}$  and  $\Gamma_2$  is a uniform lattice in  $F_4^{(-20)}$  or Sp(n,1) with  $n \geq 51$ . Then  $\Gamma$  is isomorphic to a  $P_{1,d-1}$ -Anosov subgroup of  $PSL(d,\mathbb{R})$ , for some d, but does not admit a discrete faithful representation into any finite product of rank one Lie groups.

Maskit generalized Klein's combination theorem to allow for amalgamation along cyclic groups, free groups and surface groups. We say that a closed subset  $A \subset \mathbb{CP}^1$  is precisely invariant for a subgroup H of a Kleinian group  $\Gamma$  if h(A) = A for all  $h \in H$  and  $\gamma(A) \cap A = \emptyset$  for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma - H$ . We state Maskit's theorem in the simpler setting of convex cocompact groups.

**Theorem 5.4.** (Maskit [98]) Suppose that  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are convex cocompact subgroups of PSL $(2, \mathbb{C})$  and that  $H = \Gamma_1 \cap \Gamma_2$  is a convex cocompact subgroup which has infinite index in both  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$ . Suppose that the limit set  $\Lambda(H)$  is contained a Jordan curve J, and let  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  be the components of  $\mathbb{C}P^1 - J$ . If  $A_i$  is precisely invariant for H in  $\Gamma_i$  (for i = 1, 2), then  $\Gamma = \langle \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2 \rangle$  is discrete and isomorphic to  $\Gamma_1 *_H \Gamma_2$ .

Maskit's theorem played a crucial role in Thurston's proof of his hyperbolization theorem, see Morgan [103].

Dey and Kapovich also obtained an analogue of Maskit's theorem. Moreover, Danciger, Guéritaud and Kassel [47] establish a version for projectively convex cocompact groups.

**Theorem 5.5.** (Dey-Kapovich [52]) Suppose that  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are  $P_{\theta}$ -Anosov subgroups of  $\mathsf{PSL}(d, \mathbb{K})$ ,  $H = \Gamma_1 \cap \Gamma_2$  is quasiconvex in either  $\Gamma_1$  or  $\Gamma_2$ . If  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are compact subsets of  $\mathcal{F}_{\theta}$  so that (1) Every flag in the interior of  $A_1$  is transverse to every flag in the interior of  $A_2$ ,

- (2)  $A_i$  is precisely invariant for H in  $\Gamma_i$  and
- (3) Every flag in  $A_i$  is transverse to every flag in  $\Lambda_{\theta}(\Gamma_{i+1}) \Lambda_{\theta}(H)$ , then  $\langle \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2 \rangle$  is  $P_{\theta}$ -Anosov and equal to  $\Gamma_1 *_H \Gamma_2$ .

Dey and Tsouvalas used Theorem 5.5 and a separability result due to Tsouvalas [126] to produce many new Anosov groups by amalgamating along cyclic subgroups. The following example is especially relevant.

**Theorem 5.6.** (Dey-Tsouvalas [54]) If  $\Gamma$  is a uniform lattice in  $\mathsf{Sp}(n,1)$  and H is an infinite abelian subgroup of  $\Gamma$ , then there exists a finite index subgroup  $\Gamma'$  of  $\Gamma$  containing H, so that  $\Gamma' *_H \Gamma'$  admits a  $P_{1,d-1}$ -Anosov representation into  $\mathsf{SL}(d,\mathbb{C})$  for some d.

Combining this with earlier work of Tholozan and Tsouvalas [121] produces many examples of one-ended hyperbolic groups which are isomorphic to Anosov groups, but do not admit discrete, faithful representations into any rank one Lie group.

Corollary 5.7. (Dey-Tsouvalas [54]) There exist one-ended Anosov groups which do not admit any discrete, faithful representation into a rank one Lie group.

**Historical remarks:** Traaseth and Weisman [123] proved combination theorems for geometrically finite convergence group actions. Tsouvalas and Weisman [127] proved combination theorems for quasi-isometrically embedded groups. As a consequence they see that if  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are quasi-isometrically embedded subgroups of  $\mathsf{PSL}(d_1,\mathbb{K})$  and  $\mathsf{PSL}(d_2,\mathbb{K})$ , then  $\Gamma_1 * \Gamma_2$  admits a quasi-isometric embedding into some  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$ . Both Dey-Kapovich [52] and Danciger-Guéritaud-Kassel [47] also establish combination theorems for HNN extensions in the spirit of Theorem 5.4.

Recall that a domain  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is properly convex if it is a convex bounded subset of some affine chart for  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ . If a subgroup  $\Gamma \subset \mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{R})$  preserves and acts properly discontinuously on a properly convex domain, then its full orbital limit set  $\Lambda_{\Omega}(\Gamma) \subset \partial \Omega$  is the set of accumulation points of any orbit, i.e.  $z \in \Lambda_{\Omega}(\Gamma)$  if and only if there exists  $x \in \Omega$  and  $\{\gamma_n\} \subset \Gamma$  so that  $\gamma_n(x) \to z$ . We say that  $\Gamma$  is (projectively) convex cocompact if  $\Gamma$  acts cocompactly on the convex hull, in  $\Omega$ , of  $\Lambda_{\Omega}(\Gamma)$ . Convex cocompact Kleinian groups are also convex cocompact in this definition where we take  $\Omega$  to be the round ball in  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^4)$  preserved by  $\mathsf{PO}(3,1)$ . More generally, any Anosov subgroup of  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{R})$  which preserves a properly convex domain is projectively convex cocompact, see Danciger-Guéritaud-Kassel [46, Thm 1.4] or Zimmer [137, Thm 1.27]. However, projectively convex cocompact groups need not be Anosov or even word hyperbolic.

# 6. Proper Affine Actions

In this section we will discuss the affine group Aff(V) of a finite-dimensional  $\mathbb{K}$ -vector space V. The affine group Aff(V) may be identified with the semidirect product of GL(V) and V, where the action is given by

$$(A, \vec{v})(\vec{w}) = A(\vec{w}) + \vec{v}.$$

The affine group is not semi-simple so does not fit into the framework of the previous sections, but its development has been heavily influenced by ideas from Fuchsian and Kleinian groups. For a fuller treatment of this subject we recommend the survey paper by Danciger, Drumm, Goldman and Smilga [42].

Auslander [9] conjectured that if  $\Gamma \subset \text{Aff}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  acts properly discontinuously and cocompactly on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  by affine transformations, then  $\Gamma$  is virtually solvable. The conjecture remains open, but has been proven in all dimensions up to six, see Abels-Margulis-Soifer [1]. Milnor [102] asked

whether something similar might be true for actions which are not cocompact, in analogy with the Bieberbach theorems for groups of Euclidean isometries.

Margulis [94, 95] produced the first examples of proper affine actions by non-abelian free groups on  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , which are now called Margulis space-times. His examples may be viewed as arising from a one-parameter family of convex cocompact representations  $\{\rho_t : F_n \to \mathsf{SL}(2,\mathbb{R})\}$  where we identify  $\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{R})$  with  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and  $\gamma \in F_n$  acts by

$$\gamma \to \left( \mathrm{A}d(\rho_0(\gamma)), \left( \frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} \rho_t(\gamma) \right) \rho_0(\gamma)^{-1} \right)$$

where Ad :  $\mathsf{SL}(2,\mathbb{R}) \to \mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{R})$  is the adjoint representation. The crucial geometric feature of the deformation is that if  $\ell(\rho_t(\gamma))$  denotes the translation length of  $\rho_t(\gamma)$ , then there exists c > 0 so that

$$\left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \ell(\rho_t(\gamma)) \le -c\ell(\rho_0(\gamma))$$

for all  $\gamma \in F_n$ .

Drumm [59] and Drumm-Goldman [60] introduced a geometric viewpoint on Margulis' construction, produced large classes of new examples and exhibited fundamental domains for their examples. Danciger, Guéritaud and Kassel [43, 44] gave a complete classification of Margulis space-times with convex cocompact linear part and showed that their quotients are all homeomorphic to the interior of a handlebody.

Goldman, Labourie and Margulis [66] gave an exact criterion for when affine actions of free groups on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  are proper. Smilga [118] extended Margulis' construction to any noncompact semisimple Lie group G. He constructed a proper affine action of a non-abelian free group on the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  whose linear part is Zariski dense in Ad(G). Abels, Margulis and Soifer [2] showed that if the linear part of a proper action is a Zariski dense subgroup of O(p,q) with  $p \geq q \geq 1$ , then (p,q) = (2n,2n-1). Smilga [117] described fundamental domains for some proper affine actions of free groups on  $\mathbb{R}^{4n-1}$  whose linear part lies in SO(2n,2n-1).

Žager Korenjak [132] generalized the strip deformations of Danciger, Guéritaud and Kassel to produce further proper affine actions of free groups on  $\mathbb{R}^{4n-1}$  whose linear part lies in  $\mathsf{SO}(2n,2n-1)$ . Burelle and Žager Korenjak [31] showed that the image of every positive representation of a free group into  $\mathsf{SO}(2n,2n-1)$  arises as the linear part of a proper action on  $\mathbb{R}^{4n-1}$ . They also exhibited fundamental domains for actions arising from strip deformations which generalize Drumm's crooked plane description [59] from the n=1 case.

It is natural to ask which other groups admit proper affine actions. In a major breakthrough, Danciger, Guéritaud and Kassel [45] proved that many geometrically natural groups admit proper affine actions, including surface groups, all hyperbolic 3-manifold groups, and groups of arbitrarily large cohomological dimension.

**Theorem 6.1.** (Danciger-Guéritaud-Kassel [45]) Any right-angled Coxeter group on k generators admits a proper affine action on  $\mathbb{R}^{k(k-1)/2}$ .

In this setting, they construct families  $\{\rho_t\}$  of representations of the right-angled Coxeter group into O(p,q+1) where p+q+1=k and obtain actions on  $\mathfrak{o}(p,q+1)$  where the linear part is the (image under the adjoint representation) of  $\rho_0$  and the translational part is given by the derivative of the deformation. They develop a contraction property which guarantees that the resulting affine action is proper and verify their criterion holds for their construction.

Danciger, Guéritaud and Kassel [45, Prop. 1.6] also show that every hyperbolic surface group admits a proper affine action on  $\mathbb{R}^6 \cong \mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C})$ . For comparison, Mess [101] had previously shown that a closed surface group cannot have a proper affine action on  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . In the surface case, they

begin with a subgroup of Isom( $\mathbb{H}^2$ ) which is the reflection group of a right-angled (2g+2)-gon P in  $\mathbb{H}^2$ , which contains the fundamental group of a closed surface of genus g as an index 4 subgroup. They extend P to a right-angled polyhedron  $\hat{P}$  in  $\mathbb{H}^3$  which also has 2g+2 faces. They explicitly describe a smooth one-parameter family of deformations of  $\hat{P}$  within  $\mathbb{H}^3$  which remain right-angled and hence generate reflection groups in  $\mathbb{H}^3$ . They show that in a small neighborhood of the Fuchsian group (but not at the Fuchsian group itself) the derivatives of the elements of the group have the contraction property guaranteeing that they give rise to proper affine actions.

Bridgeman, Canary and Sambarino [29] recently used the deformation theory of quasifuchsian groups to produce an open subset U of the space of quasifuchsian groups such that (the image under the adjoint) of every quasifuchsian group in U is the linear part of a proper affine action on  $\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C}) \cong \mathbb{R}^6$ . We recall that the space QF(S) of marked quasi-fuchsian groups isomorphic to  $\pi_1(S)$  is the space of (conjugacy classes of) convex compact representations of  $\pi_1(S)$  into  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$ . Bers [13] showed that QF(S) is naturally identified with  $\mathcal{T}(S) \times \mathcal{T}(\bar{S})$  where  $\mathcal{T}(S)$  is the Teichmüller space of marked conformal structures on S and  $\bar{S}$  is S with the opposite orientation. The space of Fuchsian representations (i.e. representations conjugate into  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{R})$ ) manifests as the diagonal in this parametrization.

If  $\rho \in QF(S)$ , then its limit set  $\Lambda(\rho) = \Lambda(\rho(\Gamma)) \subset \partial \mathbb{H}^3$  is a Jordan curve. Let  $CH(\rho)$  be the convex hull in  $\mathbb{H}^3$  of  $\Lambda(\rho)$  and  $C(\rho) = CH(\rho)/\rho(\pi_1(S))$  be the convex core of  $N_\rho = \mathbb{H}^3/\rho(\pi_1(S))$ . Then  $C(\rho)$  is homeomorphic to  $S \times [0,1]$  unless  $\rho$  is Fuchsian.

Thurston [122] (see also Epstein-Marden [61]) showed that each component of the boundary of  $C(\rho)$  is a hyperbolic surface in its intrinsic metric. Moreover, Thurston showed that each component of the boundary of  $C(\rho)$  is totally geodesic in the complement of a lamination called the bending lamination. Moreover, the bending lamination inherits a transverse measure which measures the total bending along an arc in the surface. If  $\rho$  is not Fuchsian one obtains a pair  $(\beta_+, \beta_-)$  of measured laminations. Bonahon and Otal characterized exactly which pairs of laminations can arise. Dular and Schlenker [58] recently showed that the pair  $(\beta_+, \beta_-)$  determines  $\rho$ .

If a simple closed curve  $\gamma$  separates S into two surfaces  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  and

$$\pi_1(S) = \pi_1(S_1) *_{\langle \gamma \rangle} \pi_1(S_2).$$

Given  $\rho \in QF(S)$  one can define a bending deformation of  $\rho$  along  $\gamma$ . Let  $A_{\rho(\gamma)}(\theta)$  be the Möbius transformation which rotates by an angle  $\theta$  in the axis of  $\rho(\gamma)$ . We then define  $\rho_{\theta} : \pi_1(S) \to \mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{C})$  by  $\rho_{\theta} = \rho$  on  $\pi_1(S_1)$  and  $\rho_{\theta} = A_{\rho(\gamma)}(\theta)\rho A_{\rho(\gamma)}(\theta)^{-1}$  on  $\pi_1(S_2)$ . Notice that  $\rho_0 = \rho$  and  $\rho_{\theta} \in QF(S)$  for all small enough values of  $\theta$ .

Kourouniotis [87] gave a formula for the derivative of the complex length of every element under the bending deformation along a curve or multicurve. One can, by taking limits, define a bending deformation of a quasifuchsian group along any measured lamination on the surface, see Kourouniotis [88] and Epstein-Marden [61]. One can generalize Kourouniotis' work to give a formula for the derivative of the complex length of elements with respect to the bending deformation along a general measured lamination. We use techniques developed by Bridgeman-Canary-Yarmola [30] to develop a criterion which guarantees that if  $\{\rho_t\}$  is the bending deformation of  $\rho$  along  $\beta_+$  (or along  $\beta_-$ ), then there exists c > 0 so that

$$\frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t=0}\ell(\rho_t(\gamma)) \le -ci(\gamma,\beta_+)$$

where  $\ell(\rho_t(\gamma))$  is the real translation length of  $\rho_t(\gamma)$  and  $i(\gamma, \beta_+)$  is geometric intersection number of  $\gamma$  and  $\beta_+$ .

Let  $\vec{v}_{\pm} \in T_{\rho}QF(S)$  be the tangent vectors given by the bending deformation along  $\beta_{\pm}$ . Set  $\vec{v} = \vec{v}_{+} + \vec{v}_{-}$  and let  $\{\rho_{t}\}$  be a deformation of  $\rho$  in the direction  $\vec{v}$ . One can show that if both  $\beta_{+}$  and  $\beta_{-}$  satisfy our earlier criterion then there exists d > 0 so that

$$\frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t=0}\ell(\rho_t(\gamma)) \le -d\ell(\rho_0(\gamma)) \tag{1}$$

for all  $\gamma \in \pi_1(S)$ .

Results of Ghosh [64] and Kassel-Smilga [83], combined with recent work of Sambarino [113] can then be used to guarantee that Equation (1) implies that

$$\gamma \to \left( \operatorname{Ad}(\rho(\gamma)), \left( \frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} \rho_t(\gamma) \right) \rho(\gamma)^{-1} \right)$$

gives a proper affine action of  $\pi_1(S)$ , where  $Ad : \mathsf{SL}(2,\mathbb{C}) \to \mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C})$  is the adjoint representation. We have completed the outline of the proof of the following result.

**Theorem 6.2.** (Bridgeman-Canary-Sambarino [29]) If S is a closed surface of genus  $g \geq 2$ , then there exists an open neighborhood U of the Fuchsian locus in QF(S) so that if  $\rho \in U$  is not Fuchsian, then  $Ad(\rho)$  is the linear part of a proper affine action of  $\pi_1(S)$  on  $\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C}) \cong \mathbb{R}^6$ .

Our original motivation for studying bending deformations was the entropy functional on quasifuchsian space. Here the entropy of  $\rho \in QF(S)$  is given by  $\delta^{\alpha_1}(\rho(\pi_1(S)))$ . Ruelle [110] showed that the entropy functional is analytic on QF(S) and Bowen [23] showed that it achieves its global minimum of 1 only along the Fuchsian locus. Bridgeman [27] showed that the Hessian of the entropy functional is positive definite on at least a half-dimensional subspace, so the entropy functional has no local maxima.

Work of Sambarino [113] shows that if  $\{\rho_t\}$  is a smooth path in QF(S) and

$$\frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t=0}\ell(\rho_t(\gamma)) \le 0 \text{ for all } \gamma \in \pi_1(S) \text{ and } \frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t=0}\ell(\rho_t(\alpha) < 0 \text{ for some } \alpha \in \pi_1(S),$$

then  $\rho_0$  is not a critical point of the entropy functional. Therefore, if  $\rho \in QF(S)$  is not Fuchsian and either bending lamination,  $\beta_+$  or  $\beta_-$ , satisfies our early criterion, then we may bend along that bending lamination to show that  $\rho$  is not a critical point of the energy functional.

**Theorem 6.3.** (Bridgeman-Canary-Sambarino [29]) If S is a closed surface of genus  $g \geq 2$ , then there exists an unbounded open neighborhood U of the Fuchsian locus in QF(S) so that if  $\rho \in U$  is not Fuchsian, then  $\rho$  is not a critical point of the energy functional.

#### 7. Other advances

In this section, we very briefly discuss a few other recent developments motivated by ideas from the world of Kleinian groups.

Analogues of geometric finiteness: It is well-established that Anosov groups are the analogue in higher rank of convex cocompact groups in rank one. It is then natural to ask for the higher rank analogue of geometrically finite subgroups of rank one Lie groups. Here there are two competing notions.

Kapovich and Leeb [78] were the first to develop the theory of what is now known as relatively Anosov groups. This theory was further developed by Zhu [134] and Zhu-Zimmer [135, 136]. Given a relatively Anosov groups one can show that if the critical exponent of a linear functional is finite, then its Poincaré series diverges at its critical exponent, see [36]. (The proof follows the outline of Dal'bo, Otal and Peigné [41] but in higher rank substantial difficulties arise in showing that the Poincaré series of any peripheral subgroup diverges at its critical exponent,

and we must employ Hironaka's theorem [70] on resolution of singularities in the proof.) One may further construct a BMS measure on the geodesic flow associated to the linear functional which one can show is finite and that the flow is mixing, see Blayac-Canary-Zhu-Zimmer [16] and Kim-Oh [84]. One may thus derive counting theorems, see [16]. Counting and mixing results were previously established for images of relatively Anosov representations of geometrically finite Fuchsian groups, see Bray-Canary-Kao-Martone [26], for rank one properly convex projective structures, see Blayac-Zhu [17], and for properly (but not strictly) convex closed projective 3-manifolds, see Bray [24, 25].

The main disadvantage of the theory of relatively Anosov groups is that it does not cover many of the examples which one would naturally like to call geometrically finite. The restrictions largely arise from the fact that relatively Anosov subgroups of  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K})$  are relatively hyperbolic groups whose peripheral subgroups consist of weakly unipotent elements (i.e. elements all of whose eigenvalues have modulus 1). This feature, along with the fact that there limit sets are transverse, allows for the dynamical analysis discussed in the previous paragraph.

Weisman [128] introduced the more general class of extended geometrically finite groups. His class of groups still consists of relatively hyperbolic groups but their limit sets need not be transverse and the elements of their peripheral subgroups need not be weakly unipotent. His class of groups includes all relatively Anosov groups, all projectively convex cocompact groups which are relatively hyperbolic and holonomies of many convex projective manifolds with generalized cusps, see Weisman [129]. (Islam and Zimmer [71, 72] gave necessary and sufficient conditions for a projectively convex cocompact group to be relatively hyperbolic.) Impressively, Weisman [128] is able to prove a strong stability theorem in his setting. Extended geometrically finite groups have not been as extensively studied as relatively Anosov groups, but seem likely to become an important organizing principle for this larger class of groups.

Limits of Anosov groups: As the theory of Kleinian groups matured, it began to focus on the study of limits of geometrically finite groups. This theory is in its infancy in the higher rank setting. Schwartz [114] constructed discrete subgroups of  $\mathsf{PSL}(3,\mathbb{R})$  which are isomorphic to  $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{Z})$ . Barbot, Lee and Valério [10] showed that these groups arise as algebraic limits of Anosov groups, and the limiting behavior was further analyzed by Schwartz [116]. These groups are now known to be relatively Anosov. Lahn [90, 91] has extensively studied limiting behavior of families of reducible representations.

Very recently, Bobb and Farre discovered representations of surface groups into  $\mathsf{PSL}(4,\mathbb{R})$  which are limits of Anosov representations but not even extended geometrically finite (and are un-related to geometrically infinite Kleinian groups). They associate an "ending lamination" to these representations which encodes the failure of the Anosov property. They also analyze and draw pictures of the limit sets. This discovery was an outgrowth of their work in [18] on the convex core of surface groups acting convex compactly on  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ . This discovery suggests many exciting new avenues for research.

It is known that every word hyperbolic Kleinian group is an algebraic limit of convex cocompact Kleinian groups, see Namazi-Souoto [104] and Ohshika [105]. Tsouvalas [125] decisively proved that the analogue is not true in general in higher rank. He exhibited a hyperbolic group  $\Gamma$  and an open set in  $\operatorname{Hom}(\Gamma,\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{K}))$  (for both  $\mathbb{K}=\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{K}=\mathbb{C}$ ) consisting of discrete, faithful representations which are quasi-isometric embeddings whose images are Zariski dense but not Anosov.

**Dehn filling:** Thurston [122] famously showed that all but finitely many Dehn fillings of a one-cusped finite volume hyperbolic 3-manifolds admit hyperbolic structures. Moreover, as the Dehn surgery coefficients diverge to infinity the resulting Dehn filled hyperbolic manifolds converge

to the original one-cusped hyperbolic 3-manifold. Choi, Lee and Marquis [39] established a generalized Dehn filling theorem for certain convex projective manifolds in dimensions 4 through 7. Schwartz [115] and Acosta proved a Dehn filling theorem for certain classes of sugroups of SU(2,1).

Weisman [130] recently proved a surprisingly strong generalization of Thurston's theorem which includes Thurston's results and the results of Choi-Lee-Marquis as special cases. (It appears likely that the results of Acosta and Schwartz are also special cases.) As a first application, in collaboration with Danciger, he constructs exotic new representations of 3-manifolds groups into PU(3, 1).

Other topics: Here I briefly mention a few topics that I ran out time, space or expertise to discuss properly.

- (1) Pleated surfaces: Maloni, Martone, Mazzoli and Zhang [92, 93] have developed a theory of d-pleated surfaces associated to representations of surface groups into  $\mathsf{PSL}(d,\mathbb{C})$ . Mazzoli and Viaggi [99] also develop a theory of pleated surfaces in  $\mathbb{H}^{2,n}$  in their study of maximal representations into  $\mathsf{SO}_0(2,n+1)$ .
- (2) Surface subgroups: Inspired by the solution of the surface subgroup problem for hyperbolic 3-manifolds by Kahn and Markovic [74], Kahn, Labourie and Mozes [73] showed that uniform lattices in center-free complex semi-simple Lie groups contain surface subgroups.
- (3) Anti deSitter 3-manifolds: There is a long history of techniques from Teichmüller theory and the theory of quasifuchsian manifolds influencing the study of anti deSitter 3-manifolds, beginning with the seminal work of Mess [101], see also [8]. For a recent survey of related work see Bonsante-Seppi [22].

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