

Bisectors and foliations in the complex hyperbolic space

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Symmetry and shape

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Summary

- 1 Bisectors in complex hyperbolic spaces
- 2 Complex cross-ratio and Goldman invariant
- 3 Separating bisectors
- 4 Representation in de Sitter space

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Complex hyperbolic distance

Definition

For the Hermitian form $\langle X|Y \rangle = X_1 \overline{Y_1} + \dots + X_n \overline{Y_n} - X_{n+1} \overline{Y_{n+1}}$ in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} we define n -dimensional complex hyperbolic space as projectivization of negative vectors i.e.

$$\mathbb{C}H^n = \{X \in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \mid \langle X|X \rangle < 0\} / \mathbb{C}^*$$

and its ideal boundary $\mathbb{C}H^n(\infty)$ as projectivization of null vectors.

The Bergman metric makes $\mathbb{C}H^n$ an Hadamard manifold of sectional curvature between $-1/4$ and -1 and the distance given by

$$\cosh^2 \frac{d(x, y)}{2} = \frac{\langle X|Y \rangle \langle Y|X \rangle}{\langle X|X \rangle \langle Y|Y \rangle}.$$

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Complex geodesics and complex hyperplanes

A *complex geodesic* is the projectivization of a vector space in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} spanned by two linearly independent negative vectors. It is isometric to real hyperbolic plane $\mathbb{R}H^2$.

A *complex hyperplane* is the projectivization of a vector space in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} spanned by n linearly independent negative vectors. It is isometric to $\mathbb{C}H^{n-1}$ and orthogonal to a unit positive vector (its *polar vector*)

Proposition

Let H_1 and H_2 be complex hyperplanes in $\mathbb{C}H^n$ with polar vectors C_1 and C_2 . Then

- 1 $H_1 \cap H_2 = \emptyset$ iff $|\langle C_1 | C_2 \rangle| > 1$.
- 2 $\angle(H_1, H_2) = \alpha$ iff $|\langle C_1 | C_2 \rangle| = \cos \alpha$.

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Definition

For $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}H^n$ we define a *bisector* as an equidistant from z_1 and z_2

$$\mathfrak{E}(z_1, z_2) = \{z \mid d(z, z_1) = d(z, z_2)\}.$$

Bisectors are in one-to-one correspondence with pairs of points on the ideal boundary $\mathbb{C}H^n(\infty)$. These points (called *vertices* of bisector) are ends of the unique geodesic line through z_1 and z_2 .

For the bisector \mathfrak{E} of vertices p and q we call the geodesic line σ a *spine* while the complex geodesic

$$\Sigma = \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}}(p, q) \cap \mathbb{C}H^n \simeq \mathbb{C}H^1 \simeq \mathbb{R}H^2$$

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Properties of bisectors

- 1 A bisector is a real analytic fibration over its spine with respect to the orthogonal projection onto the complex spine $\mathfrak{E} = \bigcup_{z \in \sigma} \Pi_{\Sigma}^{-1}(z)$ (*slice decomposition*).
- 2 For $z \in \mathbb{C}H^n$ the bisector \mathfrak{E} is equidistant from z iff $z \in \Sigma \setminus \sigma$.
- 3 A bisector is a real hypersurface which is Hadamard and even in $\mathbb{C}H^2$ it has 3 distinct principal curvatures: -1 , $-1/4$ and some between $-1/2$ and $-1/4$.
- 4 Every two bisectors are congruent

Observe that in case of $\mathbb{R}H^n$ all these properties trivialize — bisectors are totally geodesic.

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Spine and polar vectors of slices

Assume that a bisector \mathfrak{E} has vertices p and q represented by such null vectors that $\langle P|Q \rangle = -2$. Then

- 1 its spine σ is parametrized by arc-length as

$$\gamma(t) = \frac{1}{2} \left(e^{-\frac{t}{2}} P + e^{\frac{t}{2}} Q \right)$$

- 2 a polar vector to a slice of \mathfrak{E} at $\gamma(t)$ is

$$C(t) = \frac{1}{2} \left(e^{-\frac{t}{2}} P - e^{\frac{t}{2}} Q \right)$$

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Bisector foliations

Definition

A *bisector foliation* in $\mathbb{C}H^n$ is a foliation of all the leaves being bisectors.

By the slice decomposition every bisector foliation decomposes in a (real) codimension 2 totally geodesic foliation of $\mathbb{C}H^n$.

Theorem (Cz, P. Walczak 2006, based on Ferus 1973)

Every cospinal (i.e. having one common complex spine Σ of leaves) bisector foliations in $\mathbb{C}H^n$ is that of bisectors of (real) spines in $\Sigma \simeq \mathbb{R}H^2$ orthogonal to a curve of geodesic curvature ≤ 1 .

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Complex cross-ratio and Goldman invariant

Definition

A *Korányi–Reimann complex cross-ratio* assigns to a quadruple of points $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \in \mathbb{C}H^n(\infty)$ a number

$$[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4] = \frac{\langle X_3 | X_1 \rangle \langle X_4 | X_2 \rangle}{\langle X_4 | X_1 \rangle \langle X_3 | X_2 \rangle}$$

Definition

For a bisector \mathcal{E} of vertices p and q and a complex hyperplane H with polar vector C we define a *Goldman invariant* by

$$\eta(\mathcal{E}, H) = \eta(p, q, c) = \frac{\langle P | C \rangle \langle C | Q \rangle}{\langle P | Q \rangle \langle C | C \rangle}$$

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Metric properties of $[\cdot, \cdot, \cdot, \cdot]$ and η

Theorem (Goldman, Mostow)

Let η be a Goldman invariant for a bisector \mathfrak{E} and a complex hyperplane H . Then $\mathfrak{E} \cap H = \emptyset$ iff $(\text{Im } \eta)^2 + 2 \text{Re } \eta \geq 1$.

Thus a condition for separating bisectors as functions of their ends?

No, because we obtain an equation of degree 8 involving cross-ratios of ends. Even in case case of distance of geodesics it could be unsolvable (M. Sandler example).

If we restrict to $n = 2$ the following formula would be useful

Theorem (Parker)

Let σ_1 and σ_2 be geodesic lines in $\mathbb{C}H^2$ of ends p_1, q_1 and p_2, q_2 respectively. Then

$$d(\sigma_1, \sigma_2) \geq |[p_2, q_1, p_1, q_2]| + |[q_2, q_1, p_1, p_2]|$$

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Local separation of bisectors

In $\mathbb{C}H^2$ every complex geodesic is a complex hyperplane. For given bisectors \mathfrak{E}_j of vertices p_j, q_j we define their spines σ_j , complex spines Σ_j , and polar vectors $C_j, j = 1, 2$.

- 1 Taking such representatives of p 's and q 's that $\langle P_j | Q_j \rangle = -2$ we have $C_j = \frac{1}{4} P_j \boxtimes Q_j$ where \boxtimes denotes Hermitian cross-product in \mathbb{C}^3 .
- 2 Assume that complex hyperbolic reflection along $C_1 - C_2$ sends σ_2 onto geodesic disjoint with σ_1 .
- 3 Then using complex hyperbolic trigonometry we find such $k = k(\angle(C_1, C_2))$ that $d(\mathfrak{E}_1, \mathfrak{E}_2) \geq kd(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$ for the angle small enough.
- 4 Thus in terms of vertices of bisectors only (Parker's formula) we expressed separations of close bisectors. This is in fact enough for local condition on bisector foliation.

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Representation in de Sitter space

(Real) de Sitter n -space Λ^n is a set of unit vectors in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} with respect to the standard Lorentz form. Every oriented totally geodesic hypersurface in $\mathbb{R}H^n$ is represented by a unique point on Λ^n .

Theorem (Cz, Langevin 2013)

A continuous and unbounded curve Γ in Λ^n represents a totally geodesic codimension 1 foliation of $\mathbb{R}H^n$ iff at every point the tangent vector to Γ is time-like or light-like.

Description of bisector foliation in complex de Sitter space $\mathbb{C}\Lambda^n$ is much more complicated because every bisector is represented by a hyperbola. Thus we could follow conformal methods of studying Dupin foliation by Langevin and P. Walczak.

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¡Moitas grazas!
Thank you!
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Spanish–Polish Mathematical Meeting

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RSME, SEMA, CSM
+ PTM (=Sociedad Matematica Polaca)