Rigidity and stationary actions of arithmetic groups

Itamar Vigdorovich (Weizmann Institute of Science) Ph.D advisor: Uri Bader

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Calculus I

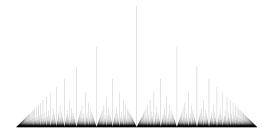
Question: does there exists a function $f : [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that f is continuous exactly on the irrational points?

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Answer: yes.

$$f(x) = egin{cases} rac{1}{q} & x = rac{p}{q} \in \mathbb{Q} \ 0 & x \notin \mathbb{Q} \end{cases}$$

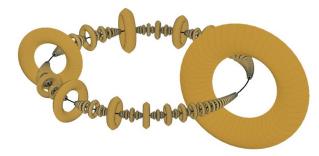


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Consider a fiber bundle $p: X \to S^1$ such that $p^{-1}(x) = \mathbb{R}^2 / f(x)\mathbb{Z}^2$.

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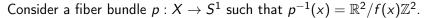
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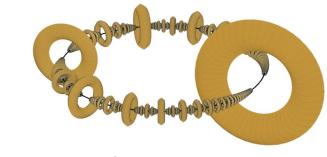


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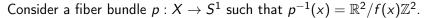


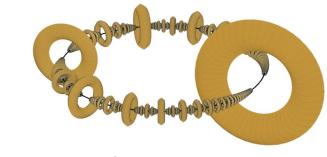




 $\Gamma = \operatorname{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \curvearrowright \mathbb{T}^2 \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \Gamma \curvearrowright X \text{ fiberwise}$





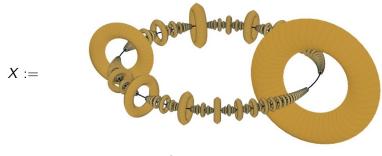




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Proposition 1.

The action of Γ on X is μ -stiff (for many $\mu \in \text{Prob}(\Gamma)$), that is, for any $\nu \in \text{Prob}(X)$:

$$\sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(\gamma) \gamma . \nu = \nu \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \forall \gamma \in \Gamma : \gamma . \nu = \nu$$

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In the next 3 min I will address the following questions

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- What is this weird space?
- ▶ Where does this SL₂(ℤ)-action come from??
- Why study random walks for this action???

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A character on a group G is a positive-definite conjugation-invariant normalized function $\varphi: G \to \mathbb{C}$, which is irreducible/extremal.

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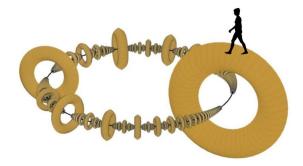
 $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \curvearrowright Ch(H(\mathbb{Z}))$ by homeomorphisms.

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Theorem 3.

Let Γ be any arithmetic group (e.g $SL_n(\mathbb{Z}) \ltimes \mathbb{Z}^n$, $Sp_{2n}(\mathbb{Z}) \ltimes H_n(\mathbb{Z}),..$). Then the action of $\Gamma \curvearrowright Ch(Rad(\Gamma))$ is stiff.

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Theorem 4.

If the semisimple part of the arithmetic group Γ is of higher rank, then Γ is "charmenable". In particular:

- 1. Every normal subgroup is either amenable or co-amenable.
- 2. Every trace is either amenable or supported on $Rad(\Gamma)$.
- 3. Every IRS with spectral gap is either amenable or co-amenable.

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- 6. Something about C*-algs and von Neumann algs.

Thank you

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