Patterns of Geodesics, Shearing, and Anosov Representations of the Modular Group

Richard Evan Schwartz *

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Abstract

Let $X = SL_3(\mathbf{R})/SO(3)$. Let \mathcal{DFR} be the space of discrete faithful representations of the modular group into $\operatorname{Isom}(X)$ which map the order 2 generator to an isometry with a unique fixed point. In this paper, I prove many things about the component \mathcal{B} of \mathcal{DFR} known as the Barbot component: It is homeomorphic to $\mathbf{R}^2 \times [0, \infty)$. The boundary parametrizes the Pappus representations from [**S0**]. The interior parametrizes the complete extension of the family of Anosov representations from [**BLV**]. The members of \mathcal{B} are isometry groups of embedded patterns of geodesics in X which have asymptotic properties like the edges of the Farey triangulation or shears thereof. The Anosov representations are obtained from the Pappus representations by either of two shearing operations in X. The shearing structure is encoded by two proper foliations of \mathcal{B} into rays.

1 Introduction

Let $X = SL_3(\mathbf{R})/SO(3)$. This is a prototypical higher rank symmetric space. In this paper we consider the moduli space \mathcal{DFR} of conjugacy classes of discrete and faithful representations of the modular group $\mathbf{Z}/3 * \mathbf{Z}/2$ into $\mathrm{Isom}(X)$ which map the order 2 elements to isometries having a unique fixed point in X. Such isometries are often called *elliptic polarities*.

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The Pappus representations ¹ are a 2-parameter subfamily of \mathcal{DFR} which I constructed in my 1993 paper [S0] and then revisited in my recent paper [S1]. These groups exhibit many features that, much later and more generally, appeared in higher Teichmuller Theory, e.g. in [Lab], [GW]. [Bar], [BCLS], and [KL].

The Pappus representations arise as the projective symmetry groups of *convex marked box orbits*. A *convex marked box* is convex quadrilateral with two additional marked points on a pair of opposite edges. One gets a marked box orbit by starting with one marked box and iteratively applying operations that are derived from Pappus's Theorem, a classic theorem in projective geometry. Figure 1.1 shows part of a marked box orbit.



Figure 1.1: Part of a marked box orbit.

¹The Pappus representations are called *Schwartz representations* in $[\mathbf{V}]$ and $[\mathbf{BLV}]$.

The Pappus representations are nowadays classified as *relatively Anosov* groups in the Barbot component. This point is view is exposited in [**BLV**] and [**KL**]. Let $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathcal{DFR}$ denote the subset consisting of Pappus modular group representations. The component \mathcal{B} of \mathcal{DFR} containing \mathcal{P} is called the Barbot component. It is partially understood thanks to [**S0**] and [**BLV**].

In [**BLV**], T. Barbot, G.-S. Lee, and V. P. Valerio build on [**S0**] and construct a 3-parameter family of Anosov representations which are defined in terms of modified operations on marked boxes. Using their morphed marked boxes (my terminology) they construct a 4-parameter family of representations of $\mathbf{Z}/3 * \mathbf{Z}/3$ into $SL_3(\mathbf{R})$, all of which are Anosov. They show that a subset \mathcal{A} of these extend to Anosov representations of the modular group $\mathbf{Z}/3 * \mathbf{Z}/2$. They use an implicit function argument to show that \mathcal{A} contains an open neighborhood of \mathcal{P} in \mathcal{DFR} . Here I will complete the analysis.

Theorem 1.1 The component \mathcal{B} is homeomorphic to $\mathbb{R}^2 \times [0, \infty)$. Its boundary is precisely \mathcal{P} and its interior is precisely \mathcal{A} . In particular, every representation of \mathcal{B} is either Pappus or Anosov.

One part of our proof involves extending the analysis in [BLV] to fully work out the set \mathcal{A} . Our trick is to replace the transcendental parametrization in [BLV] with a rational parametrization and then subject the resulting formulas to computer algebra. The theory of resultants works great on the formulas we get.

One difficulty in working with the description in [**BLV**] is showing that it is a locally injective parametrization. Our algebraic analysis would combine with local injectivity, Invariance of Domain, and a properness argument, to finish the proof of Theorem 1.1. I do not know how to establish this local injectivity directly.

Another thing, though this is perhaps just an aesthetic point, is that the morphed box construction in [BLV] is not adapted to projective duality and thus not completely canonical. The order 2 elements in the \mathcal{A} -representations do not generally preserve the morphed marked box orbits. Rather, the duality comes from an *ad hoc* calculation that is not tied the morphed marked boxes. (See §7.6.) Indeed, the morphing construction in [BLV] requires some choices to be made, and the choices made have nothing to do with duality. Other choices would lead to the same \mathcal{A} -representations but different collections of nested quadrilaterals upon which the representations act. Perhaps there is some canonical morphing operation that is adapted to projective duality, but I have not tried to find it.

To make the calculations go smoothly, and also to give more canonical descriptions of the representations in \mathcal{B} , I will give alternate descriptions of the groups in \mathcal{B} as isometry groups of certain patterns of geodesics and flats in X. There are two descriptions per representation, distinct in the generic acse. I call these the *prism descriptions*. The prism descriptions are more closely aligned with the geometry of X. The prism descriptions and the marked box description complement each other: Properties of the parametrization, such as injectivity, are easy to see from the prism descriptions, and the discreteness/Anosov properties of the individual groups are easier to see from the morphed marked box description. In particular, all the hard work concerning the Anosov nature of the representations is already done in [**BLV**].

The prism descriptions are an eleboration of my recent paper [S1], in which I re-interpreted the Pappus modular groups as isometry groups of what I call *Farey patterns*. These are embedded patterns of geodesics in Xthat have the same asymptotic structure as the Farey triangulation. Each geodesic in the Farey pattern is a *medial geodesic*. These are geodesics which are angle bisectors of the Weyl chambers within the flats that contain them. These patterns do not generally lie in a totally geodesic slice of X. They are bent, sort of like pleated planes.

Theorem 1.2 Let $\rho \in \mathcal{B}$ be arbitrary. Let $\Gamma = \rho(\mathbb{Z}/3 * \mathbb{Z}/2)$. Then there are two infinite embedded patterns $Y_{\rho,1}$ and $Y_{\rho,2}$ of geodesics in X such that $\Gamma \subset \text{Isom}(Y_{\rho,1})$ and $\Gamma \subset \text{Isom}(Y_{\rho,1})$ with finite index. In the generic case, Γ equals these isometry groups, and $Y_{\rho_1}, Y_{\rho,2}$ are not isometric to each other. Finally, the pattern of flats containing $Y_{\rho,k}$ is embedded for k = 1, 2.

Just as in the classic Farey triangulation, the geodesics in the Farey patterns are organized into triples of mutually asymptotic geodesics which I call triangles. (The triple of flats containing the geodesics in a triangle are the prisms.) Two triangles τ_1, τ_2 are adjacent if they have a geodesic γ in common. The pair (τ_1, τ_2') is a shear of (τ_1, τ_2) if $\tau_2' = I(\tau_2)$ where I is an isometry of X which translates along γ . There is a 1-parameter family of such translations. The amount of shearing, which we call the strength of the shear, is the translation length of I. More generally, if J is an isometry of X, the pair $(J(\tau_1), J(\tau_2'))$ is a shear of (τ_1, τ_2) .

Speaking more globally, a *shear* of a Farey pattern is another pattern of geodesics in which adjacent triangles in the new pattern are shears of adjacent triangles in the original pattern – all of the same strength and in the same direction so to speak.

Theorem 1.3 The space \mathcal{B} has two different 1-dimensional foliations by proper and canonically parametrized rays. Each ray has its endpoint in \mathcal{P} . A representation $\rho \in \mathcal{B}$ lies d units along a ray in the first foliation if and only if it lies d units along a ray in the second foliation. In this case, the patterns $Y_{\rho,1}$ and $Y_{\rho,2}$ are each strength-d shears respectively of Farey patterns $F_{\rho,1}$ and $F_{\rho,1}$. Generically, $F_{\rho,1}$ and $F_{\rho,2}$ are not isometric to either.

For each d, the double foliation sets up a map $\phi_d : \mathcal{P} \to \mathcal{P}$, which I call the *shearing dynamics*. Here is a description. We start with a Pappus representation p_0 , and then move d-units along the ray in the first foliation that contains it. We arrive at some representation p_d . Then we move d units backwards along the ray in the second foliation that contains p_d . This gives us $\phi_d(p)$. The map ϕ_d is a self-homeomorphism of \mathcal{P} that is the product of 2 involutions. It is the *bounce map* associated to the initial segments of length d of our two ray foliations.

I did a little bit of experimentation with these shearing dynamics. (I am not yet completely confident in my way of computing it.) For the parameters I looked it, it seems that ϕ_d has infinite order and that its orbits are dense in finite unions of 1-dimensional curves. See §8.5. This leads me to conjecture that ϕ_d is integrable for all d – i.e. is area-preserving in the right coordinates and has an invariant. I also wonder whether the shearing dynamics is related somehow to the action of the mapping class group on character varieties. Compare e.g. [G2].

This paper is organized as follows.

- In §2, I discuss classic shearing of the modular group in the hyperbolic plane. The shearing phenomenon we uncover in X extends what happens in H^2 .
- In §3, I give some background material about the space X and also give a topological analysis of the space \mathcal{R} of all representations mod conjugacy of the modular group which map the order 2 generator to an isometry having a unique fixed point. The space \mathcal{R} is our big space that contains all modular group representations we consider in the paper. The structure of \mathcal{R} is likely well known see e.g. $[\mathbf{FL}]$ and $[\mathbf{L}]$ but it seemed easier to derive exactly what I need from scratch.
- In §4, I explore the geometry of *prisms*, namely triples of flats which contain mutually asymptotic medial geodesics. (I only consider prisms

defined by flats having negative triple invariants; the other kinds of prisms are presumably related to the Goldman-Hitchin component [G1], [Hit] of \mathcal{DFR} .) At the end of §4, I describe a space \mathcal{B} of pairs (Π, p) where Π is a prism and $p \in \Pi$ is some point. There is a map $\rho : \mathcal{B} \to \mathcal{R}$ which creates a modular group representation based on the data (Π, p) .

• In §5, I show that the map ρ is injective on \mathcal{P} and two-to-one on $\mathcal{B} - \mathcal{P}$. More precisely, I consider the two components $\mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}$ and $\mathcal{B}\mathcal{R}$ of $\mathcal{B} - \mathcal{P}$. I show that ρ is injective on each of $\mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}$ and $\mathcal{B}\mathcal{R}$, and I show that

$$\rho(\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}) = \rho(\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{B}\mathcal{R}) = \rho(\mathcal{B}).$$

So, in short, ρ is a kind of folding map, just as in the real hyperbolic case. At the end of §5, I do a calculation related to the gradient of the trace function on \mathcal{R} . At this point, I arbitrarily choose \mathcal{BA} over \mathcal{BR} . The calculations in this chapter are done in Mathematica [**W**].

- In §6, I work out the topology of $\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}$ and show that $\rho : \mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{B}\mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{R}$ is continuous, injective, and proper. Combining this with the trace calculation at the end of §5, I conclude that $\rho(\mathcal{B})$ is a component of \mathcal{DFR} provided that all representations in \mathcal{B} are discrete and faithful. At this point, we identify \mathcal{B} with its image $\rho(\mathcal{B})$.
- In §7, I recall the work in [**BLV**] and then use algebraic methods to completely analyze the set \mathcal{A} of Anosov representations studied there. The calculations in this chapter are also done in Mathematica. At the end of §7 I use a homological argument (rather than local injectivity) to show that \mathcal{A} is precisely the interior of \mathcal{B} .
- In §8, I show that the patterns of geodesics in Theorem 1.2 are always embedded, and so are the patterns of flats that contain them. In §8.5 I describe some calculations I did with the shearing dynamics.
- in §9, an appendix, I include the Mathematica files I use for the calculations in §5, §7, and §8.5.

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2 The Classic Case

2.1 The Hyperbolic Plane

We work with the upper half-plane model \mathbf{H}^2 of the hyperbolic plane. In this model, the geodesics are either arcs of semicircles with endpoints on \mathbf{R} or else vertical rays. The group $\text{Isom}(\mathbf{H}^2)$ is generated by real linear fractional transformations and the map $z \to -\overline{z}$, which is reflection in the Y-axis.

A group $\Lambda \subset \text{Isom}(\mathbf{H}^2)$ acts discretely if for any compact $K \subset \mathbf{H}^2$ there are only finitely many $g \in \Lambda$ such that $g(K) \cap K \neq \emptyset$. This kind action is also called *properly discontinuous*. The *limit set* of Λ is the accumulation set on $\mathbf{R} \cup \infty$ of any orbit. The definition does not depend on the orbit chosen.

2.2 The Farey Triangulation

The geodesics of the Farey triangulation limit on rational points in the ideal boundary $\mathbf{R} \cup \infty$; two rationals a/b and c/d are endpoints of a geodesic in the triangulation if and only if |ad - bc| = 1. See Figure 2.1



Figure 2.1: Part of the Farey triangulation and dual horodisk packing

The tangency points of the horodisks in the packing are distinguished points on the geodesics of the Farey pattern. We call these the *inflection points* of the geodesic. A more robust definition of the inflection points goes like this: Any ideal triangle in H^2 has an order 6 symmetry group. The elements of order 2 are reflections about geodesics which connect an inflection point to the opposite cusp. This definition is nicer because it only depends on the individual ideal triangle. When the triangles are arranged as in the Farey triangulation, the robust definition coincides with the special definition given in terms of the horodisks.

2.3 The Modular Group and its Shears

The modular group $PSL_2(\mathbf{Z})$ is generated by the order 3 isometric rotations about the centers of the ideal triangles in the triangulation and the order 2 reflections about the inflection points. Algebraically, the modular group is the free product $\mathbf{Z}/2 * \mathbf{Z}/3$.

The robust definition of the inflection points gives us another way to define the modular group. Let τ be some fixed ideal triangle. Then the modular group is the isometry group generated by the order 3 counterclockwise rotation σ_3 of τ and by the order 2 rotation σ_2 about one of the inflection points of τ . If we choose τ to be (say) the triangle with vertices $0, 1, \infty$ then we recover the modular group exactly. If we start with a different choice of τ we get a group that is conjugate to the modular group.

Now we consider shearing of the modular group. Let τ be an ideal triangle, as above. Let γ be one of the geodesics comprising $\partial \tau$. We choose one of the points $p \in \gamma$ which is d units from the inflection point on γ . We then let Γ_t denote the group generated by σ_3 above and by the order 2 rotation about p. When d = 0 we recover the modular group. When d > 0 we get a *shearing* of the modular group. The other choice of $p \in \gamma$ that is equidistant from the inflection point gives a conjugate group. So, the distance d here is all that really matters.

When $d \neq 0$, the group Γ_d preserves a tiling of a closed subset $\Delta_d \subset \mathbf{H}^2$ by ideal triangles. We get this tiling starting with τ and using the isometries to successively lay down isometric copies of τ . Two adjacent ideal triangles τ_1 and τ_2 are related in the following way. Let γ be the geodesic common to τ_1 and τ_2 . Then the distance between the inflection point of τ_1 on γ and the inflection point of τ_2 on γ is 2d. Thus, we can also think of getting the pair (τ_1, τ_2) by starting with two adjacent triangles in the Farey triangle, sliding one of them 2d units relative to the other, then moving the union into some new position by an isometry.

The limit set Λ_d of Γ_d is a Cantor set when $d \neq 0$. The region Δ_d is the convex hull of Λ_d . The group Γ_d is a classic example of an Anosov group. As $d \to 0$, the region Δ_d converges to all of H^2 (assuming we keep the initial triangle τ the same for all d) and the limit set Λ_d converges to $\mathbf{R} \cup \infty$ in the Hausdorff topology.

The description above is quite well known. See e.g. $[\mathbf{T}]$ or $[\mathbf{P}]$.

2.4 The Representation Variety

To get a representation of the abstract modular group $\mathbb{Z}/2 * \mathbb{Z}/3$ all we need to do is choose an order 2 element and an order 3 element. We will insist that our representation is in $PSL_2(\mathbb{R})$, the index 2 subgroup of linear fractional transformations. We consider two representations equivalent if they are conjugate. Once we do this, the only data that is important is the distance between the fixed points. Let $\Omega = [0, \infty)$ denote this quotient. The point $0 \in \Omega$ corresponds to the case when both fixed points coincide.

Let d_0 denote the half the distance between two adjacent ideal triangle centers in the Farey triangulation. As is well known, the point $d \in \Omega$ gives rise to a discrete and faithful (i.e. injective) representation if and only if $d \geq d_0$. The case $d = d_0$ is exactly the classic modular group. The case $d > d_0$ corresponds to the shears of the modular group.

Here is another way to describe the trichotomy. Let

$$g = \sigma_2 \circ \sigma_3. \tag{1}$$

Then g^2 is elliptic, parabolic, or loxodromic according as $d < d_0$, $d = d_0$, or $d > d_0$. Since g^2 is given by a linear fractional transformation based on an element of $SL_2(\mathbf{R})$, this criterion can be expressed in terms of $Trace(g^2)$ being either less than, equal to, or greater than 2.

Let us reconcile this with our picture of the shears. The shears of the modular group give what looks like a 1-parameter family of representations that is diffeomorphic to \mathbf{R} . After all, we are free to slide the point anywhere along the geodesic γ . However, this copy of \mathbf{R} maps into Ω with a fold at d_0 : The image is the ray $[d_0, \omega)$. If we shear the same amount in opposite directions, we get conjugate groups. In particular, every group aside from the modular group has 2 distinct descriptions in terms of shearing. This kind of folding picture will generalize to the case of $X = SL_3(\mathbf{R})/SL(3)$.

3 Geometric Preliminaries

3.1 The Symmetric Space

Here I give an abbreviated account of the corresponding material in [S1]. This material is, of course, well known.

Basic Definition: The symmetric space $X = SL_3(\mathbf{R})/SO(3)$ can be interpreted as the space of unit volume ellipsoids centered at the origin of \mathbf{R}^3 . There is a natural origin of X, the point which names the round ball. The group $SL_3(\mathbf{R})$ acts on X in the obvious way. If E is an ellipsoid and $T \in SL_3(\mathbf{R})$ then T(E) is just the image ellipsoid. Here I am somewhat blurring the distinction between points in X and the ellipsoids they name. The group $SL_3(\mathbf{R})$ acts transitively on X and the stabilizer of the origin is SO(3). So, the orbit map gives an isomorphism between the coset description of X and the ellipsoid description.

One can also interpret X as the space of unit determinant positive definite symmetric matrices. Each matrix like this defines an inner product on \mathbf{R}^3 and this unit ball of this inner product is a unit volume ellipsoid centered at the origin. This is how the correspondence between two descriptions works.

The Metric: The space X has a canonical $SL_3(\mathbf{R})$ invariant metric which is induced by a Riemannian metric of non-positive sectional curvature. The distance between E_0 and the *standard ellipsoid* E(a, b, c) given by

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1, \qquad a, b, c > 0, \qquad abc = 1.$$
(2)

is

$$\sqrt{\log^2(a) + \log^2(b) + \log^2(c)}.$$
 (3)

The rest of the metric can be deduced from symmetry.

Isometries: As already mentioned, $SL_3(\mathbf{R})$ acts isometrically on X. There is also an order 2 isometry Δ of X which fixes the origin and reverses all the geodesics through the origin. In terms of the matrix interpretation of X, this isometry is given by $S \to S^{-1}$, where S is a positive definite symmetric matrix. This isometry is sometimes called the *Cartan involution*. We call it the *standard polarity*. The standard polarity maps the ellipsoid E(a, b, c) to E(1/a, 1/b, 1/c). The group Isom(X) is generated by Δ and $SL_3(\mathbf{R})$. In particular, any point of X is fixed by an order 2 isometry (a conjugate of Δ) which reverses all the geodesics through that point. Such an isometry is called an *elliptic polarity*.

Flats: The standard flat F_0 is the union of all the points representing standard ellipsoids. The rank 2 abelian group of diagonal matrices acts transitively on the standard flat. Thus, F_0 is isometric to a Euclidean plane. In particular, the straight lines in F_0 are geodesics in X. Every other flat in X is isometric to F_0 . In particular, the structure of F_0 determines the structure of all the flats.

There are 3 singular geodesics through the origin in F_0 : These correspond to the standard ellipsoids where the set $\{a, b, c\}$ has cardinality at most 2. That is, either a = b or a = c or b = c. In general, the singular geodesics in F_0 are the ones parallel to the singular geodesics through the origin. A geodesic in F_0 is contained in more than one flat if and only if it is a singular geodesic. All other geodesics in F_0 lie only in F_0 .

There are 3 medial geodesics though the origin. These correspond to triples (a, b, c) where either a = 1 or b = 1 or c = 1. More generally, a medial geodesic in F_0 is one parallel to a medial geodesic through the origin. Each medial geodesic lies in a unique flat. In terms of the cyclic order on the geodesics through the origin in F_0 , the singular geodesics alternate with the medial geodesics, and the angle between adjacent singular and medial geodesic is $\pi/6$. A medial foliation of a flat is a foliation by parallel medial geodesics. Thus, every flat has 3 medial foliations. We call a flat with a distinguished medial foliation a marked flat.

Visual Boundary: The visual boundary of X is defined to be the union of geodesic rays through the origin. We denote this as ∂X . The action of isometries on X extends to give a homeomorphism of ∂X in the following way. If ρ is a geodesic ray through the origin and I is an isometry then the image of ρ under I is some other geodesic ray, not necessarily contained on a geodesic through the origin. There is a unique geodesic ray through origin ρ' such that the distance between corresponding points of $I(\rho)$ and ρ' remains uniformly bounded. The action of I on ∂X maps ρ to ρ' .

3.2 Connection to Projective Geometry

Projective Objects: The projective plane P is the set of 1-dimensional subspaces of \mathbb{R}^3 . The dual plane P^* is the set of 2-dimensional subspaces of \mathbb{R}^3 . The flag variety is the set of pairs (p, ℓ) where p is a 1-dimensional subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 and ℓ is a 2-dimensional subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 , and $p \subset \ell$. These objects are called flags. Equivalently, a flag is a pair (p, ℓ) where p is a point of P and ℓ is a line of P, and $p \in L$. Each point in P^2 corresponds to a line in P, namely the set of 1-dimensional subspaces contained in a given 2-dimensional subspace.

Limits of Singular and Medial Geodesics: The singular geodesics accumulate at one end to points of P and at the other end to points of P^* . This is easily seen for the standard flat. For one of the singular geodesics through the origin, the corresponding standard ellipsoids are $E(a, a, 1/a^2)$. As $a \to 0$ these become long and thin and pick out a 1-dimensional subspace in \mathbb{R}^3 . As $a \to \infty$, these ellipsoids flatten out like a pancake and define a 2 dimensional subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 .

The medial geodesics accumulate at both end at points of the flag variety. The standard example is the medial geodesic consisting of E(a, 1, 1/a). As $a \to 0$ the 1-dimensional subspace if the Z-axis and the 2-dimensional subspace is the YZ-plane. As $a \to \infty$ the 1-dimensional subspace is the X-axis and the 2-dimensional subspace is the XY-plane. The intuition here is that in either direction these ellipsoids look like popsicle sticks. The longest direction picks out the one dimensional subspace.

Marked Flats and Pairs of Flags: A triple of points in P is in general position if they are not contained in the same line. Likewise, a triple of lines in P is in general position if they are not have a single point in common. Two flags are (p_1, ℓ_1) and (p_2, ℓ_2) are transverse if $p_1 \notin \ell_2$ and $p_2 \notin \ell_1$.

A marked flat defines a pair of transverse flags, namely the (common) limits of the medial geodesics in the foliation. Conversely a pair of transverse flags determines a unique marked flat. The space of marked flats is 6-dimensional. A *projective triangle*, namely a triple of general position points, determines a unique flat, and *vice versa*. A pair of transverse flags determines a unique projective triangle, and a projective triangle determines three pairs of transverse flags, corresponding to the three markings of the flat.

3.3 Matrix Actions

Here we explain how we compute the action of projective transformations and polarities using matrices.

Representing Points and Lines: We represent points in P as 3-vectors. When $c \neq 0$, the vector (a, b, c) represents the point (a/c, b/c) in the affine patch. The affine patch is essentially a copy of \mathbb{R}^2 sitting inside P. We also represent lines as vectors. The vector (a, b, c) represents the line given by the subspace ax + by + cz = 0. If we have two vectors $v_1 = (a_1, b_1, 1)$ and $v_2 = (a_2, b_2, 1)$ then the vector $(1 + t)v_1 - tv_2$ represents a point on the line $\overline{v_1v_2}$.

Action on Points: We will work with matrices in $GL_3(\mathbf{R})$. For our purposes we do not need to fuss about whether our matrix has determinant 1. We can always scale the matrix to have this property. The matrix S acts on a vector \hat{p} representing a point p by linear transformation: The new vector $S(\hat{p})$ represents S(p).

Action on Lines: The matrix S acts on our line representations in the following way: We let $(S^{-1})^t$ act on the vector representation \hat{L} of a line L. and the new vector represents the line S(L). Here we are taking the inverse-transpose. A few calculations will convince the reader that this is indeed the right thing to do. This works because

$$S(\hat{p}) \cdot (S^{-1})^t(\hat{L}) = S^{-1}S(\hat{p}) \cdot \hat{L} = \hat{p} \cdot \hat{L}.$$

This way of defining the action is correct because it preserves incidences between points and lines.

Action of Polarity: The standard polarity Δ just acts as the identity matrix, both on points and lines. Thus $\Delta(a, b, c) = (a, b, c)$. All that changes is the interpretation of the meaning of the vector (a, b, c). It is most convenient to represent dualities as compositions $\Delta \circ S$. We have the equations

$$S \circ \Delta = \Delta \circ (S^{-1})^t, \qquad S \circ \Delta \circ S^{-1} = \Delta \circ (S^{-1})^t S^{-1}.$$
(4)

The first of these equations implies the second one.

3.4 The Tangent Space and the Adjoint Action

For this section it is easier to use the representation of X as the space of unit determinant positive definite symmetric matrices. The tangent space $T_O(X)$ to X at the origin is given by the trace zero symmetric matrices. The subgroup SO(3) acts on $T_O(x)$ by the *adjoint representation*:

$$g: M \to gMg^{-1}.$$
 (5)

The reader might worry that we should really use $(g^{-1})^t$ in place of g but fortunately $g = (g^{-1})^t$ when $g \in SO(3)$.

For purposes that will be made clear in the next section we wish to consider the adjoint action of the matrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & \sin(\theta) & 0\\ -\sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} : \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c\\ b & -a & d\\ c & d & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a' & b' & c'\\ b' & -a' & d'\\ c' & d' & 0 \end{bmatrix} .$$
(6)

We calculate that

$$a' = a\cos(2\theta) + b\sin(2\theta), \qquad b' = -a\sin(2\theta) + b\cos(2\theta),$$

$$c' = c\cos(\theta) + d\sin(\theta), \qquad d' = -c\sin(\theta) + d\cos(\theta).$$

This action looks nicer if we identify the matrix in Equation 6 with the unit complex number $u = \exp(i\theta)$ and \mathbf{R}^4 with \mathbf{C}^2 under the identification

$$(a,b) \rightarrow z = a + bi,$$
 $(c,d) \rightarrow w = c + di.$ (7)

The action is then given by

$$u: (z, w) \to (u^2 z, uw). \tag{8}$$

Here is the geometric significance of the matrices on the right side of Equation 6. They are all orthogonal to the tangent vector given by the matrix diag(-1, -1, 2). This matrix is in turn tangent to the singular geodesic in X through the origin that limits at one end on the point of \boldsymbol{P} named by the origin and at the other end on the point of \boldsymbol{P}^* named by the line at infinity. We let $V_0 \cong \boldsymbol{C}^2$ be the vector space of such matrices.

Our action acts in a rather special way on the subspaces $C \times \{0\}$ and $\{0\} \times C$. The former subspace is the tangent space to matrices which have block form with a 2 × 2 matrix in the upper left corner and a nonzero entry in the lower right corner. The latter subspace corresponds to matrices which stabilize the unit circle in the affine patch. These two subspaces will correspond to representations which, respectively, preserve a projective line and a conic section. The former arise for us and the latter do not.

3.5 The Big Representation Space

The modular group $G = \mathbb{Z}/2 * \mathbb{Z}/3$ is generated by σ_2 and σ_3 , elements of order 2 and 3. We consider homomorphisms $\rho : G \to \text{Isom}(X)$ such that $\rho(\sigma_2)$ is an order 2 elliptic polarity and $\rho(\sigma_3)$ is an order 3 projective transformation. We insist that the point fixed by $\rho(\sigma_2)$ does not lie in the fixed point set of $\rho(\sigma_3)$. The fixed set of $\rho(\sigma_3)$ is a singular geodesic.

We consider two representations to be the same if they are conjugate in Isom(X). We usually normalize so that $\rho(\sigma_3)$ is given by the projective transformation R_3 which extends the order 3 counter-clockwise rotation about the origin in the affine patch \mathbf{R}^2 . This is the matrix in Equation 6 when $\theta = 2\pi/3$. Note that R_3 fixes the origin and stabilizes the line at infinity. The fixed point set in X is the singular geodesic mentioned at the end of the last section. We call these kinds of representations *normalized*.

Let \mathcal{R} denote the space of all modular group representations, except the one where the fixed geodesic of $\rho(\sigma_3)$ contains the fixed point of $\rho(\sigma_2)$. To be able to talk about continuity we define the distance between two elements $[\rho_1], [\rho_2] \in \mathcal{R}$ to be the minimal D such that there are two normalized representatives ρ_1 and ρ_2 such that the fixed point sets of $\rho_1(\sigma_1)$ and $\rho_2(\sigma_2)$ are D apart in X. In this section we prove the following result.

Theorem 3.1 \mathcal{R} is homeomorphic to $\mathbf{R}^3 - \{(0,0,0)\}$ and is a smooth manifold away from the two curves, one corresponding to line-preserving representations and one corresponding to conic-preserving representations. The trace of any word is a smooth function on the smooth points of \mathcal{R} .

Let γ be the geodesic fixed by R_3 . For each $p \in \gamma$ we let V_p be the the subspace of the tangent space $T_p(X)$ which is orthogonal to γ . Let X_p denote the image of V_p under the exponential map. We call X_p an orthogonal cut. The orthogonal cuts are diffeomorphic to \mathbf{R}^4 .

Lemma 3.2 The space X is foliated by the orthogonal cuts.

Proof: Every point $q \in X - \gamma$ lies in the orthogonal cut containing the geodesic connecting q to the point on γ nearest q. Given this fact, we just have to show that two orthogonal cuts are disjoint. If not, we can find a geodesic triangle in X with 2 right angles. But this is impossible in a space like X, which has non-positive sectional curvature.

Using the action of Γ we can normalize so that the fixed point of $\rho(\sigma_2)$ lies in the orthogonal cut X_0 through the origin. The reason this is possible is that Γ acts transitively on γ and hence acts transitively on the set of orthogonal cuts. Let Γ_0 be the subgroup which stabilizes X_0 . This subgroup is generated by rotations, as in Equation 6, and the standard polarity. The rotations act on $V_0 \cong \mathbb{C}^2$ as in Equation 8, and the polarity acts as $\Delta(z, w) = (-z, -w)$.

Using the inverse exponential map, a diffeomorphism, we identify X_0 with the 4-dimensional subspace $V_0 \cong \mathbb{C}^2$ discussed in the previous section. So, the quotient we want is

$$(\mathbf{C}^2 - (0,0))/\Gamma_0.$$
 (9)

The action of Γ_0 preserves the standard polar coordinate system in $\mathbb{C}^2 \cong \mathbb{R}^4$, so the quotient we seek is just the cone (minus the origin) over S^3/Γ_0 . We now have a standard topological problem.

The quotient S^3/Γ_0 homeomorphic to S^2 , and has a smooth structure away from the points corresponding the circles $\{z = 0\}$ and $\{w = 0\}$. Here we recall the construction. Let S^3_* denote the space obtained by removing these two circles. This space is foliated by Clifford tori of the form |z|/|w| = const, and the Γ_0 preserves this foliation. The quotient S^3_*/Γ_0 is diffeomorphic to the product $(T/\Gamma_0) \times (0, \infty)$ where T is the central Clifford torus |z| = |w|. The quotient T/Γ_0 is diffeomorphic to a circle. Hence S^3_*/Γ is homeomorphic to a cyclinder. But then S^3/Γ_0 is the two-point compactification of this smooth cylinder, a topological sphere.

Taking the cone, we see that the quotient in Equation 9 is a smooth manifold away from the curves coming from the cones over the two special points of S^3/Γ_0 . This gives us everything in Theorem 3.1 except the statement about the traces of words in G corresponding to projective transformations.

The trace is a polynomial function on the matrix entries of $\rho(\sigma_1)$ and $\rho(\sigma_2)$. (We represent the polarity $\rho(\sigma_2)$ as a matrix M such that $\rho(\sigma_2) = \Delta \circ M$.) When we construct a local coordinate chart for the smooth subset of the quotient in Equation 9 what we do is take a small and smooth cross section to the circle foliation given by the action in Equation 8. The trace of our given word restricts to a smooth function on this cross section. Hence the trace of a given word is a smooth function on the smooth part of \mathbf{R} .

Remark: Unlike in the H^2 setting, $\mathcal{R} - \mathcal{DFR}$ has representations such that the distance between the fixed sets of $\rho(\sigma_2)$ and $\rho(\sigma_3)$ is arbitrarily large. We arrange this by choosing the fixed point of $\rho(\sigma_2)$ in a flat stabilized by $\rho(\sigma_3)$.

4 The Prism Representations

4.1 Basic Definitions

We say that a triple of flags $\{(p_i, \ell_i)\}$ is *negative* if it is projectively equivalent to one of the rotationally symmetric examples shown in Figure 4.1.



Figure 4.1: Negative triples with 3-fold Euclidean symmetry.

The points are at infinity in the first two cases. The last figure in Figure 4.1 depicts the generic case. The middle cases are dual to each other.

Let P_1, P_2, P_3 and L_1, L_2, L_3 respectively be vectors representing p_1, p_2, p_3 and ℓ_1, ℓ_2, ℓ_3 . These vector representatives are unique up to scaling. The *triple product* of our flag triple is

$$\xi = \frac{(P_1 \cdot L_2)(P_2 \cdot L_3)(P_3 \cdot L_1)}{(P_2 \cdot L_1)(P_3 \cdot L_2)(P_1 \cdot L_2)}.$$
(10)

This is a very well known invariant. Compare [FG].

Lemma 4.1 A triple of flags with negative triple invariant is negative.

Proof: We consider the generic case. The special cases are similar. We can arrange so that the three points $\ell_i \cap \ell_j$ for $i \neq j$ make an equilateral triangle T. The subgroup of projective transformations stabilizing T is conjugate to the subgroup of diagonal matrices. Using elements conjugate to the matrices of the form diag $(\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1)$ we can first adjust so that p_1, p_2, p_3 are disjoint from the compact region in \mathbb{R}^2 bounded by T. The lines of T divide \mathbb{P} into 4 triangular regions. The triple product is negative exactly when p_1, p_2, p_3 do not lie in the boundary of one of these regions. Knowing this, we can use elements conjugate to diagonal matrices with positive entries to adjust the points so that they look like the right side of Figure 4.1.

If we permute the order of our flags then ξ is either preserved or replaced by $1/\xi$. For non-generic negative triples we have $\xi = -1$ and the invariant cannot tell apart the various cases. For the generic case, two negative triples are projectively equivalent if and only if they have the same triple invariant. Referring to Figure 4.1, the invariant χ , when not equal to -1, measures how the triple of points is placed with respect to the equilateral triangle Tdiscussed in Lemma 4.1.

Definition: A *prism* is the triple of marked flats corresponding to a negative triple of flags. We define the *triple invariant* of the prism Π to be

$$\xi(\Pi) = |\log(-\chi)| \in [0, \infty), \tag{11}$$

where χ is the triple invariant of a triple of flags defining Π . We take absolute values so as to get an invariant that is independent of permutations of the flags and also self-dual. By construction, the prism Π is generic if and only if $\xi(\Pi) > 0$.

Lemma 4.2 The generic prisms Π_1 and Π_2 are isometric iff $\xi(\Pi_1) = \xi(\Pi_2)$.

Proof: Suppose Π_1, Π_2 are generic prisms and $I : P_1 \to P_2$ is an isometry. Then I maps the one triple of flags to the other and either preserves the triple product or inverts it (depending on whether I comes from a projective transformation or a duality.) Conversely, any two triples with the same or reciprocal triple invariants are equivalent under some isometry of X.

4.2 Inflection Points and Lines

In this section we pick out some special geometric features of prisms, which we call inflection points and inflection lines. The inflection points only exist for the generic prism and the inflection lines exist in all cases.

Lemma 4.3 The symmetry group of a generic prism is isomorphic to S_3 , the permutation group of order 6. The even permutations are induced by projective transformations and the odd permutations are induced by polarities.

Proof: This is proved in [S1]. Here is a sketch. Suppose we apply the standard polarity to our flag triple. We then get the same vector representatives

except that their roles have changed. Therefore, the triple product of the dual triple is the reciprocal of the origin. If we then apply an odd permutation to the flags we get back to the original invariant. This operation implies the existence of an order 2 symmetry of the flag, induced by a polarity, which does an odd permutation to the flats comprising the prism.

The 2-fold symmetry just explained combines with the 3-fold symmetry to give us a symmetry group $H = S_3$ of order 6. Suppose ψ is some other symmetry. Composing with some element of H we can consider the case when ψ preserves at least one flag and also is a projective transformation. But then ψ has to induce the identity permutation on the flags because of the triple invariant. But then ψ is a projective transformation which fixes 6 general position points. Hence ψ is the identity. This shows that H is the full group of symmetries.

Lemma 4.4 Let Π be a generic prism. Each order 2 isometry of Π fixes a unique point in the flat of Π that it stabilizes.

Proof: This is proved in [S1]. Here is the proof again. Let δ be such an isometry and let F be the flat such that $\delta(F) = F$. The duality δ swaps the two flags defining F and hence reverses the directions of the medial geodesics foliating F and asymptotic to these flags. Also, being a polarity, δ reverses the directions of all singular geodesics in F. In particular δ reverses an orthogonal pair of directions. This forces δ to reverse every direction. If we identify F with \mathbf{R}^2 then δ is acting as an isometry whose linear part is an order 2 rotation. Such maps have unique fixed points in \mathbf{R}^2 .

Definition: On a generic prism Π , the *inflection points* are the fixed points of the order 2 isometries of Π . There are 3 such inflection points, one per flat. They are permuted by the order 3 isometries of Π . The *inflection lines* are the singular geodesics which contain the inflection points and which are perpendicular to the geodesics in the medial foliations.

For a prism based on either of the two middle pictures in Figure 4.1, the inflection points do not exist. Geometrically, what is happening as we approach one of these prisms through a family of generic prisms is that the inflection points move off to ∞ . The inflection lines still exist however, as we now explain.

In [S1] we show that every Pappus modular group is an isometry group of an embedded pattern of flats. In the generic case we show that each fixed point of an order 2 element of the group is contained in the relevant inflection line. (See also 5.5.) If we exclude the totally symmetric Pappus modular groups, the remaining 1-parameter family of non-generic groups can be normalized so that they all involve the same flat. Taking a limit of the generic result, we can say that all the order 2 fixed points of all these groups in F lie on the same singular geodesic which is perpendicular to the medial foliation of F. This singular geodesic is the inflection line in F.

We have not yet discussed the totally symmetric case, the prism based on the lefthand picture in Figure 4.1. The associated prism has an infinite symmetry group. Referring to Figure 1, the projective transformation which extends the map $x \to rx$, for any $r \neq 0$, induces an isometry that preserves the prism. These isometries act nontrivially on the flats. In this case every associated triangle is isometric to a hyperbolic Farey triangle. The inflection lines are comprised of the symmetry points on each ideal hyperbolic triangle.

4.3 Triangle Foliations

Let Π be a prism. The order 3 isometries of Π preserve the medial geodesic foliations. Thus Π is foliated by *triangles*, triples of medial geodesics invariant under the order 3 isometries of Π . In the generic case, exactly one triangle of Π contains all 3 inflection points. In all cases, the triangles of Π are perpendicular to the inflection lines. In particular, this fact gives us a way to pick out canonical *inflection points* on each triangle, namely where the triangle intersects the inflection line. In the totally symmetric case, all the triangles are isometric to hyperbolic ideal triangles and hence isometric to each other. For the other prisms the situation is very different.

Lemma 4.5 Let Π_1 and Π_2 be generic prisms and let τ_k be a triangle of Π_k for k = 1, 2. Then τ_1 and τ_2 are isometric to each other only if Π_1 and Π_2 are isomorphic prisms. If $\Pi_1 = \Pi_2 = \Pi$ then τ_1 and τ_2 are isometric if and only if they are permuted by the symmetry group of Π .

Proof: An isometry taking τ_1 to τ_2 would have to map the flats of Π_1 to the flats of Π_2 . This proves the first statement. For the second statement, note that a projective symmetry of Π taking γ_1 to γ_2 must be in the symmetry group of Π .

4.4 The Axis

In this section we prove a properness result about prisms that will come in handy when analyze components of the representation variety. We first need to define what we mean the axis of a prism.

Lemma 4.6 The fixed point set of the order 3 symmetries of a prism is a singular geodesic.

Proof: If we normalize as in Figure 4.1, then in all cases, the order 3 symmetry must be the extension to \boldsymbol{P} of an order 3 rotation about the origin. The associated linear transformation of \boldsymbol{R}^3 only stabilizes standard ellipsoids, and only those of the form $E(a, a, 1/a^2)$. These comprise a singular geodesic. \blacklozenge We call the fixed point set of the order 3 symmetry the *axis* of the prism.

Our next result compares two geometric properties of prisms. The second of these quantities is related to the topology of the representation space \mathcal{R} .

Given a prism Π and a point $p \in \Pi$. we define $\eta(\Pi, p)$ be the distance from p to the inflection line in the flat of Π that contains p. At the same time, let $\nu(\Pi, p)$ be the distance from p to the axis of Π .

Lemma 4.7 (Properness) Let $\{\Pi_n, p_n\}$ be any sequence of prisms. If $\eta(\Pi_n, p_n) \to \infty$ then also $\nu(\Pi_n, p_n) \to \infty$.

Proof: We will suppose this false and derive a contradiction. That is, we suppose that $\eta(\Pi_n, p_n) \to \infty$ but $\nu(\Pi_n, p_n)$ stays bounded. We can normalize by isometries so that the point on the axis of Π_n closest to p_n is the origin of X. This means that the distance from p_n to the origin is uniformly bounded. But then the flat F_n of Π_n containing p_n intersects a uniformly bounded region of X. Since the order 3 isometries of Π_n fix the origin, we see that all flats of Π_n intersect a uniformly bounded region of X.

But then we can take a limit and get a prism $\Pi = \lim \Pi_n$. Since the inflection lines of Π exist and are unique, we see that the inflection lines of Π_n remain within a uniformly bounded region of X. But then we have a uniformly bounded distance from p_n to the relevant inflection line. This is a contradiction.

4.5 Modular Group Representations

We say that a prism pair is a pair (Π, p) where Π is a prism and $p \in \Pi$. We impose a cyclic order on Π , determined by the cyclic order on the flats. The order 3 symmetries of Π respect this order and the order 2 symmetries do not. One of the order 3 symmetries cycles the flats of Π one click forward in the cyclic order and the other one cycles the flats of Π one click backward. We prefer the former symmetry and we call it the *forward symmetry*. When we normalize as in Figure 4.1, the forward symmetry is given by $2\pi/3$ -counterclockwise rotation about the origin in the affine patch.

The prism pair (Π, p) determines a point in \mathcal{R} . We let $\rho(\Pi, p)$ be the representation such that $\rho(\sigma_2)$ is the elliptic polarity fixing p and $\rho(\sigma_3)$ is the forward symmetry of Π . We call these representations the *prism representations*.

We call two prism pairs (Π_1, p_1) and (Π_2, p_2) equivalent if there is an isometry of X which maps the first pair to the second and respects the imposed cyclic orders. We let \mathcal{B} denote the space of equivalence classes of prism pairs. We have a map $\mathcal{B} \to \mathcal{R}$. Here $\mathcal{R} \cong \mathbb{R}^3 - \{(0, 0, 0)\}$ is the big representation space we considered in the previous chapter.

We call a prism pair (Π, p) neutral if p lies on an inflection line of Π . We proved in [S1] that every neutral prism pair gives rise to a Pappus representation of the modular group and conversely that every Pappus representation of the modular group arises this way. Also see §5.5.

We let $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathcal{B}$ denote the set of neutral prism pairs. Our results in the next chapter will show that the map $\rho : \mathcal{B} \to \mathcal{R}$ is one-to-one on \mathcal{P} and two-to-one on $\mathcal{B} - \mathcal{P}$. This result generalizes the folding phenomenon we discussed in §2 in the hyperbolic setting.

5 The Big Calculation

5.1 The Main Results

We continue the notation from the last section of the previous chapter. Given $\rho = \rho(\Pi, p)$ define

$$g_{\rho} = \rho(\sigma_2 \sigma_3). \tag{12}$$

This element $g = g_{\rho}$ preserves one of the flags f_1 associated to the flat F_1 of Π that contains p. To see this, let f_1, f_2, f_3 be the flags defining Π , chosen so that F_1 is determined by the pair (f_1, f_2) . Then $\sigma_3(f_1) = f_2$ and $\sigma_2(f_2) = f_1$. Hence $g(f_1) = f_1$. The square g^2 also preserves f_1 . It is easier to work with g^2 because this element is a projective transformation. Below we prove the following result:

Theorem 5.1 The element g_{ρ}^2 is parabolic iff p lies on the inflection line of Π . This happens iff ρ is a Pappus modular group representation. Otherwise g_{ρ}^2 has eigenvalues $(\lambda, 1/\lambda, 1)$ with $\lambda \in (-\infty, -1) \cup (-1, 0)$. We can choose λ so that the corresponding eigenvector corresponds to the flag f_1 .

The final statement requires some explanation. To keep consistent with our notation below, we write $f_1 = (b_1, L_2)$. What we are saying, first of all, is that the eigenvector of g^2 corresponding to λ represents b_1 . We are also saying that λ is an eigenvalue of $(g^{-2})^t$, and the corresponding eigenvector represents L_2 .

We call the prism pair (Π_1, p_1) attracting if $|\lambda| > 1$. This property is independent of how we normalize (Π, p) . This is obvious if we replace (Π, p) by some pair $(T(\Pi), T(p))$ where T is a projective transformation. This is far less obvious if we take T to be a duality. The reader might worry that somehow λ gets changed to $1/\lambda$. This is not the case. One way to check this is just to try some experiments with diagonal matrices and the standard flags associated to them. Another way is to observe that the attracting nature of (Π, p) has a geometric interpretation in terms of the symmetric space X: The isometry g^2 is moving points in X towards the point in the visual boundary corresponding to f. This is an isometry-invariant way to talk about the attracting nature of (Π, p) . If $|\lambda| < 1$ we call (Π, p) repelling. Finally, as in the previous chapter, we call (Π, p) neutral if $\lambda = -1$.

The element g^2 also has an eigenvalue $1/\lambda$ and there is some other flag f'_1 that corresponds to this eigenvalue. below we also prove the following result.

Theorem 5.2 If ρ is not a Pappus modular group representation, then the orbit of f'_1 under $\rho(\sigma_3)$ defines a prism Π' such that $\rho(\Pi', p) = \rho(\Pi, p)$. Exactly one of the prism pairs is attracting and exactly one is repelling.

We will prove Theorems 5.1 and 5.2 in this chapter.

Recall that \mathcal{B} is the space of isometry classes of prism pairs. Let \mathcal{BA} denote the set of attracting prism pairs. Our corollary below favors the attracting prism pairs over the repelling prism pairs, but we could make the same kind of statement about the repelling pairs. Let $\rho : \mathcal{B} \to \mathcal{R}$ be the map which assigns each isometry class of prism pair its representation class in \mathcal{R} . We are slightly abusing notation here, because $\rho(\Pi, p)$ is also denoting the individual representation based on (Π, p) and not its conjugacy class.

Corollary 5.3 The map ρ is injective on $\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{BA}$ and $\rho(\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{BA}) = \rho(\mathcal{B})$.

Proof: Certainly a neutral prism pair cannot give the same representation as an attracting or repelling pair because parabolic elements are not conjugate to loxodromic elements. Hence $\rho(\mathcal{P}) \cap \rho(\mathcal{BA}) = \emptyset$.

Suppose $\rho(P_1, p_1) = \rho(P_2, p_2)$ for two prism pairs in $\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{BA}$. Such that $\rho(\Pi_1, p_1) = \rho(\Pi_1, p_2)$. (We can adjust by an isometry so that these representations are equal and not just conjugate.) The common element g^2 cannot be both loxodromic and parabolic. Hence both prism pairs are either neutral or attracting.

Consider the neutral case first. The element g^2 has a unique fixed flag f_1 , and f_1 must be one of the triple of flags defining both Π_1 and Π_2 . But then the orbit of f_1 under $\rho_k(\sigma_3)$ defines Π_k . Since $\rho_1(\sigma_3) = \rho_1(\sigma_3)$ we see that $\Pi_1 = \Pi_2$. Since $\rho_1(\sigma_2) = \rho_2(\sigma_2)$ and p_k is the unique fixed point of $\rho_k(\sigma_2)$, we have $p_1 = p_2$.

Now consider the attracting case. One of the flags f_1 defining Π_k is the attracting fixed point of g_k^2 for each k = 1, 2. Since these are the same element, the same flag is part of the triple defining both Π_1 and Π_2 . But then the orbit of this flag under the common element $\rho_k(\sigma_3)$ gives the triple defining Π_k . Hence $\Pi_1 = \Pi_2$. Likewise $p_1 = p_2$. This proves the first statement of the lemma.

The second statement follows from Theorem 5.2, which says that each non-neutral member of \mathcal{B} has the property that there are both attracting and repelling pairs which give the same representation.

5.2 Normalizing Triples of Flags

As preparation for proving Theorems 5.1 and 5.2 we discuss how to normalize triples of flags. We consider the generic case, and then at the end of our calculations consider the non-generic case. We can normalize the picture as in the right-hand picture in Figure 4.1. Figure 5.1 repeats with this picture, and with labels. The flags are $f_k = (a_k, L_{k+1})$. Here and everywhere else we take the indices mod 3.



Figure 5.1: A normlized Flag

In the case shown in Figure 5.1, the point a_1 is between a_3 and b_1 on the line L_2 . This case corresponds to the triple invariant of (f_1, f_2, f_3) lying in (-1, 0). The other case would be when a_3 lies between b_1 and a_1 . This corresponds to the triple invariant lying in $(-\infty, -1)$. The intermediate case, when b_1, b_2, b_3 all lie on the line at infinity, corresponds to the triple invariant being equal to -1.

We can apply the standard duality Δ to the picture. The new flags $\Delta(f_1), \Delta(f_2), \Delta(f_3)$ have two properties we remark on:

- 1. The order 3 counterclockwise rotation about the origin has the action $\Delta(f_k) \to \Delta(f_{k+1})$.
- 2. The triple invariant of these new flags is the reciprocal of the triple invariant of the original flags.

What this means is that if we have a generic prism, we can always normalize it so that the corresponding flags are as in Figure 5.1, with a_1 between a_3 and b_1 . See §5.6 for more details.

5.3 The Big Calculation

In this section will compute g^2 , the element from Equation 12, and deduce information from the computation. We first treat the generic case, and then discuss the non-generic cases at the end of the section. We normalize as in Figure 5.1.

The Flags: We represent our points by 3-vectors in Mathematica:

$$a_1 = (1, 0, 1)$$
 $a_2 = (-1/2, \sqrt{3}/2, 1),$ $a_3 = (-1/2, -\sqrt{3}/2, 1).$ (13)

The lines in Figure 5.1 are represented by the cross products $L_k = a_{k-1} \times a_{k+1}$. Next, we choose t > 0 and define

$$b_k = (1+t)a_k - ta_{k-1}.$$
(14)

Our flags are (b_k, L_{k+1}) for k = 1, 2, 3. The flag fixed by g^2 will, as above, be $f_1 = (b_1, L_2)$. The triple invariant of f_1, f_2, f_3 is

$$-\frac{t^3}{(t+1)^3} \in (-1,0).$$
(15)

The Order 3 Element: The element $\rho(\sigma_3)$ is represented by the matrix

$$M_3 = \begin{pmatrix} -1/2 & -\sqrt{3}/2 & 0\\ \sqrt{3}/2 & -1/2 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
(16)

This map has order 3 and has the action $f_k \to f_{k+1}$.

The Order 2 Element: Δ be the standard polarity. Let *S* be the matrix whose column vectors are $2rb_1, 2sb_2, a_1$:

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} r(2+3t) & -s(1+3t) & 1\\ \sqrt{3}rt & \sqrt{3}s(1+t) & 0\\ 2r & 2s & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
(17)

Let L_X and L_Y respectively denote the lines in P extending the X-axis and the Y-axis. Let $p_X \in L_X$ and $p_Y \in L_Y$ be the points at infinity. The duality Δ interchanges the flags (p_X, L_X) and (p_Y, L_Y) and the projective transformation represented by S carries these flags to f_1 and f_2 . The composition

$$\rho(\sigma_2) = S \circ \Delta \circ S^{-1} = \Delta \circ M_2 \qquad M_2 = (S^{-1})^t S^{-1}.$$
 (18)

gives the general form of the elliptic polarity which interchanges f_1 and f_2 . Thus, choosing the parameters (r, s) picks out a generating point in the flat F determined by these two flags. We compute

$$\det(S) = 6\sqrt{3}rst(1+t). \tag{19}$$

Since t > 0, this determinant is nonzero as long as $rs \neq 0$.

Now we observe a symmetry. If D is any diagonal matrix whose diagonal entries belong to the 2 element set $\{-1, +1\}$ then $D \circ \Delta = \Delta \circ D$. For this reason, the matrix $S \circ D$ gives the same polarity as the matrix S. This means that all the possibilities are covered by the cases r, s > 0.

The Key Element: Finally, we have

$$g^{2} = (M_{2}^{-1})^{t} (M_{3}^{-1})^{t} M_{2} M_{3}.$$
(20)

To see why this works, we work from right to left. We start out with a vector representing a point. We apply M_3 and we get another vector representing a point. Now we apply ΔM_2 and we get a vector representing a line. The next two matrix operations involve the inverse transpose because we are acting on lines. Finally, we apply Δ and we get a vector representing a point.

As a sanity check, we compute that

$$\det(g^2) = 1, \qquad g^2(b_1) = b_1, \qquad g^2(L_2) = L_2. \tag{21}$$

For the final calculation, of course, we use the inverse transpose of the matrix representing g^2 . Thus g^2 fixes the flag $f_1 = (b_1, L_2)$, as expected.

Eigenvalues: Now a miracle occurs. The matrix g^2 is huge, but we compute in Mathematica that its eigenvalues are:

1,
$$\lambda$$
, λ^{-1} , $\lambda = -\left(\frac{r^2}{s^2}\right)\left(\frac{t}{1+t}\right) < 0.$ (22)

This element is loxodromic unless $\lambda = -1$. The eigenvector corresponding to λ represents b_1 .

Exploring the Dichotomy: We have r, s, t > 0. From the calculation above, we see that g^2 is loxodromic unless

$$r = \mu s, \qquad \mu = \sqrt{\frac{1+t}{t}}.$$
(23)

The parabolic case is parametrized by the infinite set s > 0, which is homeomorphic to a line. Call this set \mathcal{J} .

Now let us look at the Pappus representations. In [S1] we prove that these representations correspond to prism pairs (Π, p) with p on an inflection line. We give a different proof below in §5.5. The triple invariant of the representation is an injective function of our parameter t. So, if we hold tfixed, we get an iso-prismatic family parametrized by the inflection line in F. Call this family \mathcal{B} . Each member of \mathcal{B} gives us a triple (r, s, t), and this triple must lie in \mathcal{J} because the corresponding g^2 is parabolic. This gives us a map $\mathcal{B} \to \mathcal{J}$. No two distinct representations in \mathcal{B} are conjugate to each other, because a conjugacy would preserve the pattern of flats, prisms, triangles, and inflection points. Hence, the map $\mathcal{B} \to \mathcal{J}$ is injective. Different members of \mathcal{B} must have a different s-parameter. As the parameter in \mathcal{B} exits every compact subset of the inflection line, the corresponding parabolic element also exits every compact subset of $SL_2(\mathbf{R})$. Hence the map $\mathcal{B} \to \mathcal{J}$ is proper. Hence $\mathcal{J} = \mathcal{B}$. This proves Theorem 5.1 in the generic case.

The Second Prism Description Consider the flag $f'_1 = (b'_1, L'_2)$ corresponding to the eigenvalue $1/\lambda$ of g^2 and $(g^{-2})^t$. The flag f'_1 is distinct from f_1 because the eigenvalues are different. The eigenflag f'_1 has a monstrous formula, but the coordinates are rational functions of r, s, t. We get a new triple of flags by taking the orbit of (p'_1, L'_2) under the action of M_3 . Thus $p'_{k+1} = M_3(p'_k)$ and $L_{k+1} = M_3(L'_k)$. Normally we would use the inverse-transpose to compute the new lines, but in this case $(M_3^{-1})^t = M_3$.

The new triple of flags in turn defines a new prism Π' together with a new flat F' of Π' corresponding the flags (b'_1, L'_2) and (b'_2, L'_3) . We then compute that $\rho(\sigma_2)$ swaps (b'_1, L'_2) with (b'_2, L'_3) . This means that the fixed point of $\rho(\sigma_2)$ in X, namely the generating point p for our representation, also lies in F'. So, the pair (Π', p) is a second description of the same prism group. Exactly one prism pair is attracting and one is repelling. This proves Theorem 5.2 in the generic case. The Non-Generic Cases: For the totally symmetric case we are back in the hyperbolic plane with the Farey triangulation and its shears. In this case, Theorem 5.1 follows from the hyperbolic geometry picture developed in §2.

The remaining cases correspond to the case when the triple invariant is -1 but the triple is not completely symmetric. In this case we set $b_k = a_k$ for k = 1, 2, 3, and L_1, L_2, L_3 are the line through the origin with $b_k \in L_{k+1}$. The matrix S above is now the one whose column vectors are $2rb_1, 2rb_2, (0, 0, 1)$. With these changes, the calculation above, and all the results, go through just as in the generic case.

5.4 Comparing the Prisms

We consider the loxodromic case in more detail. We call the two prism pairs (Π, p) and (Π', p) partners. Equation 15 gives the triple invariant for the flags defining Π . The invariant for Π is $3\log((t+1)/t)$. Let τ' be the triple invariant for the flags defining Π' . See §9.1.4 for the monstrous formula. Inspecting this formula, we see that $\tau' < 0$ no matter which r, s, t > 0 we choose. See the discussion at the end of §9.1.4. As in Equation 15, the expression for τ' is a perfect cube.

Here is a sample calculation. The prism invariants for Π and Π' when (r, s, t) = (1, 1, 1) are respectively

$$3\log(2), \qquad 3\log\left(\frac{9825}{5602}\right)$$

In the non-generic case, the formula for τ' is shorter:

$$-\frac{\left(36r^{12}s^2+r^{12}+3r^{10}s^2+3r^8s^4+1296r^6s^{10}+144r^6s^8+2r^6s^6+108r^4s^{10}+3r^4s^8+3r^2s^{10}+s^{12}\right)^3}{\left(r^{12}+1296r^{10}s^6+108r^{10}s^4+3r^{10}s^2+144r^8s^6+3r^8s^4+2r^6s^6+3r^4s^8+36r^2s^{12}+3r^2s^{10}+s^{12}\right)^3}$$

One can see, again, that this expression is always negative. When r = s the expression equals -1 as it must in the parabolic case. In general, the expression can take on all negative values. Reversing the roles played by Π and Π' we see that a non-generic pair (Π', p) can arise from a generic pair (Π, p) no matter what the prism invariant of Π . It all depends on the choice of p.

5.5 Pappus Representations and the Inflection Line

For the sake of making this paper self-contained, we prove that the Pappus representations correspond to prism pairs (Π, p) where p lies on the inflection line of the flat F which contains p. Our proof here is somewhat like the proof in **[S1]** but also somewhat different. In **[S1]** we defined the *axial Pappus groups* to be those corresponding to marked boxes having invariant [(1/2, y)].

Lemma 5.4 The fixed points of the order 2 elements of an axial Pappus group are exactly the inflection points of the associated prisms.

Proof: Let M be the marked box corresponding to the flat F. The other flats in Π correspond to b(M) and t(M). The axial Pappus groups have an extra symmetry, an order 2 projective transformation T which preserves the top and bottom flags of M and maps M to i(M) and has the action

$$M, t(M), b(M) \rightarrow i(M), bi(M), ti(M).$$

We understand here that the tops and bottoms of the boxes are interchanged. Also, the duality fixing the generating point p has the action

$$M, t(M), b(M) \rightarrow i(M), ti(M), bi(M).$$

The boxes on the right are standing for their dopplegangers.

The composition $\delta = d \circ T$ has the action

$$M, t(M), b(M) \to M, b(M), t(M),$$

except that on the right we are switching the tops and bottoms and taking the dopplegangers. On the level of flags, δ gives an odd permutation of the flags associated to these three marked boxes. More precisely, δ swaps the top flag of M with the bottom flag of M and preserves the flag which is both the bottom of t(M) and the top of b(M). This we see that δ is precisely one of the odd symmetries of the prism Π .

By definition, the fixed point of δ is an inflection point of Π in F. At the same time d preserves F as well. The fixed points of d and δ coincide because $T = d \circ \delta$ is an involution and must act as the identity on F. Hence, the fixed point of d, namely the generating point p, is also the inflection point on F.

The above argument is as in [S1]. Now we give a different argument. Recall that the flat F is foliated by medial geodesics defined by the flags (b_1, L_2) and (b_2, L_3) . The orthogonal foliation is by singular geodesics which we call orthgonal singular geodesics.

Lemma 5.5 The points (r, s, t) and (rd, sd, t) represent representations which are $\sqrt{2/3}\log(d)$ units apart along an orthogonal singular geodesic.

Proof: Referring to Equation 18, let $I_0 = M_2(r, s, t)$ and $I_1 = M_2(rd, sd, t)$. Let

$$J = (I_1^{-1})^t I_0.$$

Then J is a translation along F along the vector which is twice the difference between the fixed points of I_0 and I_1 . We compute that the eigenvalues of J are $(1, d^2, d^2)$, and the vectors representing b_1 and b_2 are both eigenvectors corresponding to d^2 . This shows that J is translation along the singular geodesics by $\sqrt{8/3} \log d$ units. (We get the funny factor because we compute the distance by first rescaling J so that it belongs to $SL_3(\mathbf{R})$.) Hence the fixed points of I_0 and I_1 are $\sqrt{2/3} \log(d)$ units apart and on the same orthogonal singular geodesic.

Our claim, that the Pappus modular groups correspond to pairs (Π, p) , where p lies on the inflection line, now follows from Equation 23, Lemma 5.4, and Lemma 5.5.

While we are in the neighborhood, let's prove a related result which will help with Theorem 1.3.

Lemma 5.6 The points (r, s, t) and (rd, s/d, t) represent representations which are $\sqrt{2}\log(d)$ units apart along a medial geodesic.

Proof: We work as in Lemma 5.5 but this time we set $I_1 = M_2(rd, s/d, t)$. We compute that the eigenvalues of $J \in SL_3(\mathbf{R})$ are $(d^2, d^{-2}, 1)$, and the vectors representing b_1 and b_2 are eigenvectors respectively corresponding to d^2 and $1/d^2$. Finally, the point $a_1 = L_2 \cap L_3$ is the eigenvector corresponding to 1. Our result follows from this structure.

5.6 Discussion

Now we discuss some of the symmetries of our (r, s, t) parametrization.

Axial Representations: It is worth recording that for each fixed t the axial Pappus representation corresponds to the parameters

$$r_0 = \frac{\sqrt{1+t}}{\sqrt{4+12t+12t^2}}, \qquad s_0 = \frac{\sqrt{t}}{\sqrt{4+12t+12t^2}}.$$
 (24)

We find this by noting that in the axial representations the element g^2 fixes the point $(1,0,1) = a_1 = L_2 \cap L_3$. When we force g to have trace -1 and also this property, we get the parameters above.

First Symmetry: Define

$$\iota_1(r, s, t) = \left(\frac{r_0^2}{r}, \frac{s_0^2}{s}, t\right).$$
(25)

Here r_0 and s_0 depend on t but we have suppressed the dependence. Note that the map ι_1 is an involution which fixes (r_0, s_0, t) . If we use log-coordinates and identify the (r, s) positive quadrant with \mathbf{R}^2 , then this map is the order 2 isometry of \mathbf{R}^2 which fixes the point corresponding to the axial representation. This map corresponds to the action of the order 2 symmetry of the prism Π which preserves the flat $F \cong \mathbf{R}^2$ containing the generating point. The representations corresponding to (r, s, t) and $\iota_1(r, s, t)$ are not conjugate, but they have the same image in Isom(X). The representations become conjugate if we switch the order 3 generator of one of the groups to its inverse.

Second Symmetry: In §5.2 we said that we would restrict our attention to triples of flags with triple invariant in (-1, 0). This corresponds to $t \in (0, \infty)$. The case of flags with triple invariant in $(-\infty, -1)$ corresponds to $t \in (-\infty, -1)$. We mentioned that we can always arrange the former case by applying a duality to our initial triple of flags. We define

$$\iota_2(r,s,t) = \left(\frac{s_0^2}{s}, \frac{r_0^2}{r}, -1 - t\right).$$
(26)

The two sets of parameters (r, s, t) and $\iota_2(r, s, t)$ describe groups that are conjugate via a duality. We call ι_2 the duality involution.

5.7 The Elliptic Side

Each prism pair (Π, p) gives rise to a representation $\rho(\Pi, p)$ in which the element g_{ρ} is either parabolic or loxodromic. In this section we explain why, in the larger space \mathcal{R} , there are also nearby representations in which g_{ρ}^2 is elliptic. More precisely, we exhibit for each $q \in \rho(\mathcal{P})$, except for the point representing the totally symmetric representation, a smooth curve $\gamma_q \subset \mathcal{R}$ such that one component of $\gamma_q - q$ consists of representations having g^2 elliptic and the other component consists of representations having g^2 loxodromic.

Remark: Such a curve exists for the totally symmetric point as well, but this curve lies in one of the exceptional subsets of \mathcal{R} which do not have a smooth structure. Indeed, the curve here simply is the curve of \mathcal{R} consisting of line-preserving representations. We can interpret these representations as acting on an isometrically embedded copy of the hyperbolic plane inside X. As we move along this special curve, the hyperbolic distance, in this slice, between the fixed point of $\rho(\sigma_2)$ and the fixed point of $\rho(\sigma_3)$ varies monotonically.

Having dispensed with the totally symmetric case, we now treat the generic case. We introduce the matrix

$$\tau = \begin{bmatrix} 1+u & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 1 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (27)

We then set $r = \mu s$, as in Equation 23, so as to make g^2 parabolic. Finally, we replace the matrix M_3 by the conjugate matrix

$$M_3(u) = \tau \circ M_3 \circ \tau^{-1}. \tag{28}$$

Our curve of representations is given by

$$\gamma_q(u) = \langle M_2, M_3(u) \rangle. \tag{29}$$

Let $g^2(u)$ be the corresponding element of this representation. Since $M_3(u)$ still has order 3, these representations all belong to \mathcal{R} .

Define

$$\phi(u) = \operatorname{trace}(g^2(u)). \tag{30}$$

Note that u = 0 corresponds to our original representation, and $\phi(0) = -1$. We compute that

$$\left. \frac{d\phi}{du} \right|_{u=0} = \frac{\left(2t+1\right) \left(16s^4 \left(3t^2+3t+1\right)^2+8s^2 t \left(2t^3+3t^2+3t+1\right)+t^2\right)}{8s^2 t^3 (t+1)^2}$$
(31)

This expression is positive. Hence $\phi(u) < -1$ for u < 0 and $\phi(u) > -1$ for u < 0 as long as |u| is sufficiently small. This is the desired curve.

Now we turn to the non-generic cases which are not the totally symmetric case. We make all the same constructions but with the modified matrices as above. This time we set r = s and we get the much shorter $2 + 18s^2$ on the right hand side of Equation 31. It is worth pointing out that the two cases are essentially compatible. If we let $t \to \infty$ in Equation 31 we get $4 + 36s^2$ in the limit.

Our calculations have some consequences for how \mathcal{P} sits inside \mathcal{R} . All but one point of \mathcal{P} sits inside the smooth part of \mathcal{R} . For such points, the trace of g^2 is a smooth function. We have exhibited a smooth curve through such points where the directional derivative of the trace is nonzero. Hence, for all but one point in \mathcal{P} , we see that \mathcal{P} is a smooth surface in \mathcal{R} , locally dividing it into an elliptic side and a loxodromic side.

Even though the surface \mathcal{P} is not smooth at the totally symmetric point, the existence of our curve even in this case shows that \mathcal{P} is a topological surface in a neighborhood of this point and locally divides \mathcal{R} into an elliptic side and a loxodromic side.

Remark: According to Theorem 3.1 there are two rays in \mathcal{R} consisting of (possibly) non-smooth points. We have already seen that one of these rays pierces through \mathcal{P} . The other ray, corresponding to conic-preserving representations, is disjoint from \mathcal{P} .

6 Recognizing the Representations

6.1 The Pappus Modular Groups

In this chapter we want to characterize the image $\rho(\mathcal{B}) \subset \mathcal{R}$. We will start by recalling information about the Pappus modular group representations. These are precisely the set $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathcal{B}$. Our exposition follows [S1], though ultimately the material goes back to [S0].

Convex Marked Boxes: A convex marked box is a convex quadrilateral in P together with a distinguished point in the interior of one side and a distinguished point in the interior of an opposite side. We call one of the points the *top* point and the other one the *bottom* point. Correspondingly we call the edges containing these points the *top edge* and the *bottom edge*. Finally, we say that the *top flag* is the flag (p, ℓ) where p is the top point and ℓ is the line extending the top edge. We define the *bottom flag* similarity.

Operations on Marked Boxes: There are 3 operations we can perform on marked boxes, and we call them t, b, i. Figure 6.1 shows how they act.



Figure 6.1: The three operations on marked boxes packing

These operations satisfy the relations

$$i^2 = I$$
. $tit = b$, $bib = t$, $tibi = I$, $biti = I$. (32)

here I is the identity. As a consequence of these relations, and the nesting of the marked boxes. The group of operations isomorphic to the modular group. The explicit generators are (say) i and ti. We let \mathcal{M} be the orbit of a marked box under the action of this group. Order Three Symmetries of the Orbit: Given a marked box $M \in \mathcal{M}$ there is an order 3 projective transformation T_M which has the orbit

$$i(M) \to t(M) \to b(M).$$

This accounts for the order 3 elements of the Pappus modular groups. If we list out the top and bottom flats of these three marked boxes, they coincide in pairs and we end up with a triple of flags. The triple always turns out to be harmonious. Thus each marked box M in \mathcal{M} gives us a prism in X.

Order Two Symmetries of the Orbit: There is also an elliptic polarity which, in a certain sense, swaps M and i(M). To make sense of this, we have to recall the notion of a *doppelganger* defined in [S1].



Figure 6.2 A convex marked box and its doppelganger

The 6-tuple (s, t, u, a, b, c) shown on the left side of Figure 6.2 encodes the marked box M. Here t and b are respectively the top and bottom points of M. The corresponding 6-tuple of lines (S, T, U, A, B, C), which is defined entirely in terms of M, encodes a convex marked box M^* in P^* . We can repeat the operation and we get $M^{**} = M$. It turns out that the i, b, toperations commute with the doppelganger operation and we can think of our orbit \mathcal{M} as an orbit of pairs of the form (M, M^*) . We call such a pair an *enhanced convex marked box*.

We showed in [S1] that there is an elliptic polarity δ_M that swaps M and $(i(M))^*$, and simultaneously swaps M^* and i(M). As we reproved in §5.5, the fixed point of δ_M lies on the inflection line of one of the flats comprising the prism Π_M .

In short, the Pappus modular group is obtained by choosing a prism Π and a *generating point* on an inflection line of Π . The representation maps the order 3 generator to an order 3 symmetry of Π and the order 2 generator to the elliptic polarity which fixes the generating point.

6.2 The Space of Prism Representations

Two Pappus modular group representations are conjugate if and only if the enhanced marked boxes in their orbits are projectively equivalent, either by dualities or projective transformations. We can get a section of the space of Pappus representations by normalizing so that our initial marked box is the unit square Q, and the top point t lies in the interior of the top edge of Q and the bottom point b lies in the interior of the bottom edge of Q.

Given a marked box normalized this way, we let $c \in (0, 1)$ be the distance from t to the top left corner of Q. We let $d \in (0, 1)$ be the distance from b to the bottom right corner of Q. We call this marked box M(c, d). The boxes M(1-c, 1-d) are projectively equivalent via the projective transformation that reflects in the vertical midline of Q. The enhanced marked boxes based on M(c, d) and M(1-d, c) are equivalent under a duality.

In short M(c, d) and M(c', d') define the same representation in \mathcal{R} if and only if (c, d) and (c', d') are in the same *T*-orbit, where *T* is the order 4 rotation about the center of $(0, 1)^2$. Thus, as we saw in **[S1**], the space of Pappus modular group representations is homeomorphic to the cone

$$\mathcal{C} = (0,1)^2 / \langle T \rangle. \tag{33}$$

This space is in turn homeomorphic to \mathbf{R}^2 .

Let h be the map which assigns to each point in C the isometry class of prism pairs for the associated Pappus modular group representation. The map h is a homeomorphism between C and \mathcal{P} .

Lemma 6.1 The map h extends to be a homeomorphism from $C \times [0, \infty)$ to $\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{BA}$.

Proof: Given $c \in C$ and $r \in [0, \infty)$ let (Π, p_0) be the prism pair given by h(c). Let F be the flat of Π containing p_0 . Recall that p_0 lies on the inflection line in F. Let γ be the geodesic in the medial geodesic foliation of F that contains p_0 . One component of $\gamma - p_0$ consists of points q such that (Π, q) is attracting and the other component is the repelling case. These components cannot mix because the only neutral pairs lie on the inflection line. So, we let q_r be the unique point of γ such that $d_X(p_0, p_r) = r$ and (Π, p_r) is an attracting pair.

By construction, h gives a continuous proper bijection from $\mathcal{C} \times [0, \infty)$ to $\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{BA}$. A map with all these properties is a homeomorphism. The

continuity follows from the fact that if (Π, p_0) and (Π', p'_0) are two nearby prism pairs, then the points p_r and p'_r are also close in X. The key observation is that the attracting rays of γ and γ' point in the about the same rather than about opposite directions. The properness follows from the fact that, as $r \to \infty$, the distance from p_r to the inflection line of Π tends to ∞ .

6.3 The Image in the Big Representation Space

Let O = (0, 0, 0), the origin in \mathbf{R}^3 . We have a composition of maps

$$\mathbf{R}^2 \times [0,\infty) \to \mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{B}\mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{R} \cong \mathbf{R}^3 - O.$$
 (34)

The first of these maps is a homeomorphism. The second of these maps is both continuous and injective. Therefore, the composition

$$f: \mathbf{R}^2 \times [0, \infty) \to \mathbf{R}^3 - O \tag{35}$$

is continuous and injective.

Since f is a map between 3-manifolds, it follows from Invariance of Domain that $f(\mathbf{R}^2 \times (0, \infty))$ is an open subset of $\mathbf{R}^3 - O$ and f is a homeomorphism from this set onto its image. We also remark that the image of f stays outside a neighborhood of O because representations indexed by points close to O satisfy trace $(g^2) \sim 0$, and all prism representations have trace $(g^2) \leq -1$. Here g^2 is the element we have studied extensively in the previous chapter.

Lemma 6.2 f is a proper map.

Proof: What we mean is that if $\{q_n\}$ is a sequence of points in $\mathbb{R}^2 \times [0, \infty)$ that exits every compact subset, then $\{f(q_n)\}$ also exits every compact subset of $\mathbb{R}^3 - O$. Since our image avoids a neighborhood of O we are really saying the the image sequence exits every compact subset of \mathbb{R}^3 . We suppose not and derive a contradiction.

Let (Π_n, p_n) be the prism pair associated to q_n . Let $\eta(\Pi_n, p_n)$ be the invariant computed in §4.4. The Properness Theorem tells us that if we have $\eta(\Pi_n, p_n) \to \infty$ then we also have $\nu(\Pi_n, p_n) \to \infty$. But this latter quantity is the distance in X from p_n , the fixed point of the element $\rho_n(\sigma_2)$, to the geodesic fixed by the element $\rho_n(\sigma_3)$. Here we are setting $\rho_n = \rho(\Pi_n, p_n)$. If this distance tends to ∞ then our representations exit every compact subset of \mathcal{R} . We conclude that $\{\eta(\Pi_n, p_n)\}$ remains uniformly bounded.

We want to see that in this case we also have $\nu(\Pi_n, p_n) \to \infty$. Since $\{q_n\}$ is exiting every compact subset of $\mathbb{R}^2 \times [0, \infty)$ it means that the first two coordinates of q_n are exiting every compact subset of \mathbb{R}^2 . The corresponding Pappus modular groups are exiting every compact subset of \mathcal{P} . Since there is a uniform bound between p_n and the point on the inflection line contained in the same medial geodesic, it suffices to prove our result when $\rho(\Pi_n, p_n)$ is a Pappus representation.



Figure 6.3: A shrinking quadrilateral

Let $M_n = M(x_n, y_n)$ be the initial marked box. Without loss of generality we can assume that $x_n \to 0$. One can easily check either geometrically or by computing that the diameter of the marked box $bt^3(M_n)$ tends to 0 in this case. Figure 6.3 shows the box we have in mind. Here we are showing all the boxes we get by applying words of length 4 in $\{t, b\}$.

There is a loxodromic projective transformation T_n that maps M_n to $bt^3(M_n)$. The diameter condition forces one of the eigenvalues of T_n to tend to 0 and another one to tend to ∞ . This would be impossible if ρ_n remained in a compact subset of \mathcal{R} .

Because f is a proper map, the image $f(\mathbf{R}^2 \times \{0\}$ separates $\mathbf{R}^3 - O$ into two components. This is a consequence of the Jordan Separation Theorem. Also because f is proper, $f(\mathbf{R}^2 \times [0, \infty))$ contains every point of one of these components. Since one of the open components is homeomorphic to $\mathbf{R}^3 - \{0\}$ and the other is homeomorphic to \mathbf{R}^3 we see that $f(\mathbf{R}^2 \times [0, \infty))$ contains the component homeomorphic to \mathbf{R}^3 .

Going back to our original maps, we have just shown that the image $\rho(\mathcal{P})$ separates \mathcal{R} into two open components, and that $\rho(\mathcal{B} - \mathcal{P})$ is one of these components. Given the work in §5.7 we can say more: The surface $\rho(\mathcal{P})$ is smoothly embedded except perhaps at one point. Also, very near \mathcal{P} , the other component of $\mathcal{R} - \mathcal{P}$ consists of representations where the element g^2 is elliptic.

Recall that \mathcal{DFR} is the subset of \mathcal{R} consisting of discrete faithful representations. Once we know that $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{DFR}$, we can conclude that \mathcal{B} is precisely a component of \mathcal{DFR} . The reason: Because we can only exit \mathcal{R} through \mathcal{P} , and as soon we we exit we reach representations having g^2 elliptic. If g^2 has finite order the representation is not faithful and if g^2 has infinite order the representation is not faithful and if g^2 has

All we need to show is that $\mathcal{BA} \subset \mathcal{DFR}$. We will do this in the next chapter by recalling, and then improving, the construction in [**BLV**].

7 The Anosov Picture

7.1 Morphing Marked Boxes

The construction in [**BLV**] builds off the marked box construction from [**S0**]. Here we recall the constructions in [**BLV**].

Box Morphing: Barbot, Lee, and Valerio identify a certain operation $\sigma_{\delta,\epsilon}$ which modifies a marked box by a projective transformation. Here δ and ϵ are real parameters. This is really an operation on convex quadrilaterals; the distinguished top and bottom points just go along for the ride. Figure 7.1 shows the image of the unit square under $\sigma_{-1/5,-1/5}$.



Figure 7.1 The unit square morphed by $\sigma_{-1/5,-1/5}$.

They define their operation in a way that forces it to be projectively natural. Given a marked box M they let T_M be a projective transformation so that $T_M(M)$ has vertices

$$[-1:1:0], \qquad [1:1:0], \qquad [1:0:1], \qquad [-1:0:1]. \tag{36}$$

These points are listed so that they go cyclically around the boundary of the convex quad. The first two vertices are on the top edge and the last two vertices are on the bottom edge. T_M is unique up to an order 2 symmetry. Next, they introduce the projective transformation given by

$$\Sigma_{\epsilon,\delta} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & e^{-\delta}\cosh(\epsilon) & -\sinh(\epsilon)\\ 0 & -\sinh(\epsilon) & e^{\delta}\cosh(\epsilon) \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (37)

Finally, they define $\sigma(M) = T_M^{-1} \circ \Sigma \circ T_M$. See [**BLV**, §7.1]. Let's call this box morphing.

Morphed Operations on Boxes: As in [BLV], we write $\lambda = (\delta, \epsilon)$. B-L-V define 3 modified marked box operations. For each $\tau \in \{i, t, b\}$ they define

$$\tau^{\lambda}(M) = \sigma_{\lambda} \circ \tau(M). \tag{38}$$

They show that these relations satisfy the same operations as the original ones and hence form a modular group of morphed marked box operations. It turns out that this morphed marked box orbit still has a Z/3 * Z/3 group of projective transformation symmetries.

B-L-V identify a certain subset $\mathcal{R}_{\text{BLV}} \subset \mathbf{R}^2$, homeomorphic to an open disk, such that each the convex quad underlying $\sigma_{\delta,\epsilon}(M)$ is contained in the open interior of the convex quad underlying M if and only if $\lambda \in \mathcal{R}_{BLV}$. See [**BLV**, Figure 11]. This is a direct calculation which I will explain below. (I am adding the subscript "BLV" to their notation to distinguish their set from my \mathcal{R} , a larger set of representations.)

For each $\lambda \in \mathcal{R}$ and each initial convex marked box M, the morphed orbit consists of marked boxes, every two of which are either disjoint or strictly nested. Using an argument akin to that in [S0], B-L-V show that this property forces the corresponding representation of $\mathbb{Z}/3 * \mathbb{Z}/3$ to be discrete and faithful. Also, the strict nesting of the marked boxes forces the limit set to be a Cantor set. B-L-V also show that their representations are *Anosov*. See [BLV] for definitions and the proof.

Order Two Symmetry: The construction above gives a 4-parameter family of representations of $\mathbb{Z}/3 * \mathbb{Z}/3$. B-L-V identify a certain function h such that when $h(\lambda) = 0$ there is a polarity σ_2 that conjugates the $\mathbb{Z}/3 * \mathbb{Z}/3$ subgroup to itself, swapping the order 3 element σ_2 associated to M and the order 3 element associated to $i^{\lambda}(M)$. The level curve $h(\lambda) = 0$ is a half-open arc which emanates from (0,0). B-L-V find this function by a direct calculation. Unlike in the Pappus case, it does not seem related to the self-dual nature of Pappus's Theorem. The group generated by σ_2 and σ_3 is the modular group representation associated to the pair (M, λ) .

Remark: While B-L-V show that every one of their $\mathbf{Z}/3 * \mathbf{Z}/3$ representation (aside from the Pappus groups) is Anosov, they only analyze the level curve $h(\lambda) = 0$ in a small neighborhood of (0, 0). So we do not know from [**BLV**] the full extent of their representations. This is one part of the analysis we have to take further.

7.2 Lining up the Representations

For the next lemma we identify $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{P}$, and $\mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}$ with their images in \mathcal{R} .

Lemma 7.1 $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}$.

Proof: We know that \mathcal{P} is a properly embedded surface, homeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^2 , that separates \mathcal{R} into two components. One of these components is exactly \mathcal{BA} . One of the components of $\mathcal{R} - \mathcal{P}$ has an open set of representations, arbitrarily close to \mathcal{P} , in which the element g^2 is elliptic. Let is call this the *bad side*.

Let \mathcal{A} denote the set of Anosov representations produced in [**BLV**]. We have a map $\psi : \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{R}$. This map is continuous. The image $\psi(\mathcal{A})$ is disjoint from $\psi(\mathcal{P})$. Hence $\psi(\mathcal{A})$ either is a subset of $\mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}$ or else lies entirely on the bad side. The second option is impossible because $\psi(\mathcal{A})$ accumulates on \mathcal{P} and has no elliptic elements. Hence $\psi(\mathcal{A}) \subset \mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}$.

7.3 The Group Generators

Our goal is to show that the fully realized construction in [**BLV**] leads to the result that $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}$. This in turn implies that all representations in $\mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}$ are Anosov. Going further requires a more algebraic, and in fact computer assisted, approach. For starters, we replace the transcendental functions in Equation 37 with rational functions. We set

$$a = \epsilon^{\delta}, \qquad \sinh(\epsilon) = \frac{1 - b^2}{2b}, \qquad \cosh(\epsilon) = \frac{1 + b^2}{2b}.$$
 (39)

Here $(a, b) \in (0, \infty)^2$. These are rational parametrizations of these transcendental functions. We now define

$$\Sigma_{a,b} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \frac{(1+b^2)}{2ab} & \frac{-1+b^2}{2b}\\ 0 & \frac{-1+b^2}{2b} & \frac{a(1+b^2)}{2b} \end{bmatrix}.$$
(40)

Here we give formulas for the representation of $\mathbb{Z}/3 * \mathbb{Z}/3$ from [**BLV**] which uses $\Sigma_{a,b}$ and starts with the marked box $M_{c,d}$ shown in Figure 7.1. Our variables (c, d) lie in (-1, 1).



As in [**BLV**] this box is not drawn accurately in the affine patch. Also, the normalization in [**BLV**] is different than in our paper. We use essentially their conventions, except for the algebraic nature of $\Sigma_{a,b}$. Using Mathematica code, I traced through the construction in [**BLV**] and arrived at a pair of matrices r_1 and r_2 . The matrices do not have unit determinant, but their product does. If we try to force them to each have unit determinant, we lose the great property that they have entries which are rational functions in a, b, c, d.

The formula for r_1 does not involve a and b. Here it is.

$$r_{1} = \frac{1}{(c^{2} - 1)(d^{2} - 1)} \begin{bmatrix} cd - 1 & -c(cd - 1) & d - c \\ d - c & 1 - cd & cd - 1 \\ 0 & -((c - 1)(c + 1)) & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
(41)

The formula for r_2 is quite large. We list out the column vectors in order.

$$\begin{bmatrix} -cd - 1\\ \frac{(b-1)(b+1)(c+d)}{2b}\\ -\frac{(b^2+1)(c+d)}{2ab} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{ab^2cd^2+ab^2d-acd^2-ad+b^2c+b^2d+c+d}{2ab}\\ \frac{(b-1)(b+1)(a^2b^2d^2+a^2(-b^2)+a^2d^2-a^2-ab^2cd-ab^2+acd+a-b^2cd-b^2-cd-1)}{4ab^2}\\ -\frac{a^2b^4d^2-a^2b^4-2a^2b^2d^2+2a^2b^2+a^2d^2-a^2-ab^4cd-ab^4+acd+a-b^4cd-b^4-2b^2cd-2b^2-cd-1}{4a^2b^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{ab^2cd^2+ab^2d+acd^2+ad+b^2c+b^2d-c-d}{2b}\\ -\frac{-a^2b^4d^2+a^2b^4-2a^2b^2d^2+2a^2b^2-a^2d^2+a^2+ab^4cd+ab^4-acd-a+b^4cd+b^4-2b^2cd-2b^2+cd+1}{4b^2}\\ -\frac{(b^2+1)(a^2b^2d^2+a^2(-b^2)-a^2d^2+a^2-ab^2cd-ab^2-acd-a-b^2cd-b^2+cd+1)}{4ab^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} (42) \end{bmatrix}$$

I checked sdmbolically that r_1 has order 3 and also has the orbit

$$i^{(a,b)}(M_{c,d}) \to t^{(a,b)}(M_{c,d}) \to b^{(a,b)}(M_{c,d}),$$
(43)

Due to the naturality of the construction, this map does not depend on (a, b). Likewise I checked symbolically that r_2 has order 3 and also has the orbit

$$M_{c,d} \to t^{(a,b)} i^{(a,b)}(M_{c,d}) \to b^{(a,b)} i^{(a,b)}(M_{c,d}).$$
 (44)

As a further sanity check, I checked that the product r_1r_2 is parabolic when (a, b) = (1, 1). This case corresponds to the Pappus modular groups.

7.4 The Good Region

Let me explain how the region \mathcal{R}_{BLV} is computed.



Figure 7.3 The initial box and its image under $\Sigma_{a,b}$.

The one of the defining functions for the boundary of this region is given by

$$\det\left(\begin{bmatrix}-1\\1\\0\end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix}-1\\1\end{bmatrix}(\Sigma_{a,b}(-1,1,0))^t\right) = 0$$
(45)

This calculation checks that the geometric conditions shown in Figure 7.3 hold. There are 4 calculations like this one can make, and in pairs they give the same defining equation. The equations can be stated together as:

$$\frac{1+b^2}{1+2b-b^2} \le a \le \frac{1+2b-b^2}{1+b^2} \tag{46}$$

These equations say in particular that there are no solutions when b > 1and that a = 1 is the unique solution when b = 1. Figure 7.4, which should be compared to [**BLV**, Figure 11], shows the region. Note that in our coordinates one can plot the whole region. (I first plotted this picture in mathematica and then traced over it to get the shading nice.)



Figure 7.4 The good region

7.5 Algebraic Tricks

Resultants: The resultant of $P = a_2c^2 + a_1c + a_0$ and $Q = b_3c^3 + b_2x^2 + b_1x + b_0$ is the number

$$\operatorname{res}(P,Q) = \det \begin{bmatrix} a_2 & a_1 & a_0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & a_2 & a_1 & a_0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & a_2 & a_1 & a_0\\ b_3 & b_2 & b_1 & b_0 & 0\\ 0 & b_3 & b_2 & b_1 & b_0 \end{bmatrix}$$
(47)

This vanishes if and only if P and Q have a common (complex) root. The case for polynomials of degree n works the same way; we just display the special case for typesetting purposes. See [Sil, §2] for a general exposition of resultants.

In the multivariable case, one can treat two polynomials $P(x_1, ..., x_n)$ and $Q(x_1, ..., x_n)$ as elements of the ring $R[x_n]$ where $R = \mathbf{C}[x_1, ..., x_{n-1}]$. The resultant res_{x_n}(P,Q) computes the resultant in R and thus gives a polynomial in $\mathbf{C}[x_1, ..., x_{n-1}]$. The polynomials P and Q simultaneously vanish at $(x_1, ..., x_n)$ only if res_{x_n}(P,Q) vanishes at $(x_1, ..., x_{n-1})$.

The Mathematica command Resultant [P,Q,t] computes the resultant of P and Q with respect to the variable t.

A Particular Polynomial: We will also have to deal with a special polynomial. To make our exposition below go more smoothly, we treat it here. Let

$$f(c,d) = c^{2} + d^{2} - 2c^{2}d^{2} + c^{3}d - cd^{3}.$$
(48)

We will need to know that $f \ge 0$ on $(-1,1)^2$, with equality if and only if c = d = 0. We compute the Laplacian: $\Delta f = 4 - 4c^2 - 4d^2 > 0$. This shows that f has no local maxima in our domain. So, for the inequality, it suffices to show that $f \ge 0$ on the boundary of our domain. The restriction of f to each of the boundary components has the form $(1 \pm u)^2(1 \mp u)$ for $u \in \{c, d\}$, and all these expressions are non-negative. This shows that $f \ge 0$ on $(-1, 1)^2$.

To treat the case of equality we will show off the power of resultants. If f(c, d) = 0 then (c, d) must be a local minimum. Hence $\partial f / \partial d(c, d) + 0$. Hence, for this value of d, we have

$$0 = \operatorname{res}(f, \partial f / \partial d, c) = 4d^2(1 - d^2)(1 + 3d^2 + 2d^4 + 2d^6).$$

This vanishes only if d = 0. So, if f(c, d) = 0 then d = 0. But $f(c, 0) = c^2$. This forces c = 0. So, f(c, d) = 0 if and only if c = d = 0.

Sturm Sequences: Sturm sequences give an algorithm for computing the number of roots a real polynomial P(x) has in an interval [a, b]. Here is a quick description. Let $P_0 = P$ and $P_1 = dP/dx$ and then let $P_2, P_3, ...$ be the successive remainders in the Euclidean algorithm applied to P_0 and P_1 . Let N(a) denote the number of sign changes in the squence $\{P_k(a)\}$. Likewise define N(b). Then N(a) - N(b) counts the number of roots of P in the interval [a, b]. In particular, there are no roots in [a, b] if N(a) = N(b).

7.6 The Duality Curve

As discussed in [**BLV**] the necessary and sufficient condition that there is an augmentation of the $\mathbb{Z}/3 * \mathbb{Z}/3$ representation to a modular group representation is that there is a polarity conjugating r_1 to r_2 . This happens if and only if r_1r_2 and $r_2^2r_2^2$ have the same trace. Equivalently, this happens if and only if

$$\det(r_1 r_2 - I) = 0. (49)$$

Here I is the identity 3×3 matrix. See [**BLV**, Eq. 10.1]. Again, we remark that r_1r_2 has unit determinant even though r_1 and r_2 separately do not have unit determinants.

When we set the two traces equal and solve (or use Equation 49 and solve), we get $\psi(a, b, c, d) = 0$, where $\psi(a, b, c, d)$ is the following expression.

$$-2a^{4}b^{4}c^{2}d^{2} + a^{4}b^{4}c^{2} + a^{4}b^{4}d^{2} - 4a^{4}b^{2}c^{2}d^{2} + 2a^{4}b^{2}c^{2} + 2a^{4}b^{2}d^{2} -2a^{4}c^{2}d^{2} + a^{4}c^{2} + a^{4}d^{2} + a^{3}b^{4}c^{3}d - 2a^{3}b^{4}c^{2}d^{2} + a^{3}b^{4}c^{2} -a^{3}b^{4}cd^{3} + a^{3}b^{4}d^{2} - a^{3}c^{3}d + 2a^{3}c^{2}d^{2} - a^{3}c^{2} + a^{3}cd^{3} -a^{3}d^{2} + 2a^{2}b^{4}c^{3}d - 2a^{2}b^{4}cd^{3} - 4a^{2}b^{3}c^{3}d + 4a^{2}b^{3}cd^{3} -4a^{2}b^{2}c^{3}d + 4a^{2}b^{2}cd^{3} + 4a^{2}bc^{3}d - 4a^{2}bcd^{3} + 2a^{2}c^{3}d -2a^{2}cd^{3} + ab^{4}c^{3}d + 2ab^{4}c^{2}d^{2} - ab^{4}c^{2} - ab^{4}cd^{3} -ab^{4}d^{2} - ac^{3}d - 2ac^{2}d^{2} + ac^{2} + acd^{3} + ad^{2} + 2b^{4}c^{2}d^{2} -b^{4}c^{2} - b^{4}d^{2} + 4b^{2}c^{2}d^{2} - 2b^{2}c^{2} - 2b^{2}d^{2} + 2c^{2}d^{2} - c^{2} - d^{2}$$

$$(50)$$

Lemma 7.2 Excluding the points (1,0) and (1,1), we have $\psi < 0$ on one boundary component of the good region and $\psi > 0$ on the other.

Proof: The two boundary components of the good region correspond to the equations

$$a = \frac{1+2b-b^2}{1+b^2}, \qquad a = \frac{1+b^2}{1+2b-b^2}.$$
 (51)

Making these two substitutions, we find that, respectively,

$$\psi = \frac{4b(1-b^2)}{(1+b^2)^2} \times \mu_1, \qquad \psi = \frac{4b(1-b^2)(1+b^2)^2}{1+2b-b^2}\mu_2,$$

where

$$\mu_{1} = \frac{b^{4}c^{3}d - 2b^{4}c^{2}d^{2} + b^{4}c^{2} + b^{4}(-c)d^{3} + b^{4}d^{2} - 2b^{3}c^{3}d + 4b^{3}c^{2}d^{2} - 2b^{3}c^{2} + 2b^{3}cd^{3} - 2b^{3}d^{2} - 2b^{2}c^{3}d - 12b^{2}c^{2}d^{2} + 6b^{2}c^{2} + 2b^{2}cd^{3} + 6b^{2}d^{2} + 2bc^{3}d - 4bc^{2}d^{2} + 2bc^{2} - 2bcd^{3} + 2bd^{2} + c^{3}d - 2c^{2}d^{2} + c^{2} - cd^{3} + d^{2}.$$

$$\mu_{2} = \frac{b^{4}c^{3}d + 2b^{4}c^{2}d^{2} - b^{4}c^{2} + b^{4}(-c)d^{3} - b^{4}d^{2} - 2b^{3}c^{3}d - 4b^{3}c^{2}d^{2} + 2b^{3}c^{2} + 2b^{3}cd^{3} + 2b^{3}d^{2} - 2b^{2}c^{3}d + 12b^{2}c^{2}d^{2} - 6b^{2}c^{2} + 2b^{2}cd^{3} - 6b^{2}d^{2} + 2bc^{3}d + 4bc^{2}d^{2} - 2bcd^{3} - 2bd^{2} + c^{3}d + 2c^{2}d^{2} - c^{2} - cd^{3} - d^{2}$$

$$(52)$$

Since we are taking $b \in (0, 1)$ the functions μ_1 and μ_2 have the same sign as ψ restricted to each boundary component.

We assume that we are not at the symmetry point c = d = 0. We will show that $\mu_1 > 0$ when $b \in (0, 1)$ and $\mu_2 < 0$ when $b \in (0, 1)$. This forces the duality curve to connect the two points (1, 0) and (1, 1) and remain in the good region. These functions are hard to analyze directly, but we get lucky with an algebraic trick. We compute

$$\mu_1 + \mu_2 = 2(1 - b^2)(1 + 2b - b^2)(c^3d - cd^3) = 2F_1(b)G_1(c, d)$$
(54)

$$\mu_1 - \mu_2 = 2(1 + 2b + 6b^2 - 2b^3 + b^4)(c^2 + d^2 - 2c^2d^2) = 2F_2(b)G_2(c, d).$$
(55)

The last part of the equation factors the expressions in a useful way. We have

$$F_2 > 1 + 2b(1 - b^2) > 0, \qquad G_2 = (c - d)^2 + cd(1 - cd) > 0,$$

$$F_1 - F_2 = 8b^2 > 0, \qquad G_2 - G_1 = c^2 + d^2 - 2c^2d^2 - c^3d + cd^3 > 0.$$
(56)

The last equality comes from our analysis of Equation 48. We conclude from these inequalities that $F_2 > |F_1|$ and $G_2 > |G_2|$. Hence $\mu_1 + \mu_2 > |\mu_1 - \mu_2|$. But then

$$2\mu_1 = (\mu_1 - \mu_2) + (\mu_1 + \mu_2) \ge (\mu_1 - \mu_2) - |\mu_1 - \mu_2| > 0.$$
 (57)

In short $\mu_1 > 0$ when $b \in (0, 1)$. Reversing the roles played by μ_1 and μ_2 we see that $\mu_2 < 0$ when $b \in (0, 1)$. This completes the proof except when c = d = 0.

When c = d = 0, the duality curve is just the vertical line segment connecting (0, 1) to (1, 1).

Now we know that the duality curve $\{\psi = 0\}$ separates the two boundary components of the good region. The good region is contained entirely between the lines a = 1/2 and a = 3/2. Also, it is foliated by horizontal segments. Let us call these segments the *foliating horizontal segments*. For each fixed value $(c, d) \in (-1, 1)$, the quantity $\psi(a, b)$ is a quartic polynomial in a. This means that the duality curve intersects each foliating horizontal segment at most 4 times. Also, $\psi < 0$ at one endpoint of a foliating segment and $\psi > 0$ at the other. This means that the duality curve intersects each foliating segment either 1 or 3 times, counting multiplicity.

Lemma 7.3 The duality curve intersects each foliating horizontal segment exactly once, and with multiplicity one.

Proof: When we set d = 0 and keep $c \neq 0$ we find that

$$\psi = (a^2 - 1)(b^2 + 1)(1 - a + a^2 + b^2 + ab^2 + a^2b^2)c.$$

The big factor is nonzero on $(1/2, 3/2) \times (0, 1)$. So, we have $\psi = 0$ only when a = 0. In this case the duality curve is the vertical line that connects (1, 0) to (1, 1).

We will show that when we hold b, c, d constant, the duality curve never has a double root on the horizontal line segment connecting (1/2, b) to (3/2, b). Once we prove this, we know that the number of roots on a foliating line segment cannot change as the parameters change. So, the number has to always be 1. To prove our claim about no double roots it suffices to prove that, ψ and $\partial \psi / \partial a$ never vanish simultaneously in $[1/2, 1/2] \times (0, 1) \times (-1, 1)^2$.

We compute the resultant:

$$\operatorname{res}(\psi, \partial\psi/\partial a, c) = 4(b^4 - 1)^3(d^2 - 1)^2 d^9 \times r(a, b)^3,$$

$$r(a, b) = a^6 b^4 + 2a^6 b^2 + a^6 + 4a^5 b^4 - 8a^5 b^3 - 8a^5 b - 4a^5 + 5a^4 b^4 - 4a^4 b^3 + 2a^4 b^2 + 4a^4 b + 5a^4 + 4a^3 b^4 - 4a^3 + 5a^2 b^4 - 4a^2 b^3 + 2a^2 b^2 + 4a^2 b + 5a^2 + 4ab^4 - 8ab^3 - 8ab - 4a + b^4 + 2b^2 + 1$$
(58)

We just need to show that this does not vanish $[1/2, 3/2] \times (0, 1)$. We claim that the gradient ∇r does not vanish when $a \in (0, 2)$. Assuming this is true, we just have to check that the minimum value of r on the boundary of our domain is 0. We compute

$$64r(1/2,b) = 3 + 192b - 170b^2 + 352b^3 - 333b^4.$$
 (59)

$$64r(3/2,b) = 59 + 2784b - 2522b^2 + 6528b^3 - 6325b^4$$
(60)

Easy exercises in algebra show that these polynomials have no roots in (0, 1). This shows that $r \ge 0$ on the vertical sides of our domain. Next,

$$r(a,0) = -(a-1)^2(1-2a-2a^3+a^4).$$
(61)

$$r(a,1) = -4(a-1)^2(1-2a-2a^2-2a^3+a^4).$$
(62)

Easy exercises in algebra show that these polynomials have a double root at a = 1 and no other roots in [1/2, 3/2]. This shows that $r \ge 0$ on the horizontal sides of our domain.

To finish our proof, we just have to prove that ∇r does not vanish when $a \in [0, 2]$. The actual cutoff is $a \in [0, 3.89777...)$ but that is more than we need. We compute that $\operatorname{res}(\partial r/\partial a, \partial r/\partial b, b) = 2^{18}a^2(1+a)g$, where

$$g(a) = \begin{cases} -60a^{32} - 340a^{31} + 264a^{30} + 5388a^{29} + 6849a^{28} + 4257a^{27} + 12209a^{26} + \\ 12697a^{25} + 1414a^{24} + 2164a^{23} + 10860a^{22} - 1492a^{21} - 710a^{20} + \\ 7618a^{19} + 8406a^{18} - 6130a^{17} - 5164a^{16} - 56a^{15} + 5896a^{14} - \\ 3348a^{13} - 1690a^{12} + 1946a^{11} + 4342a^{10} - 1326a^9 - 2074a^8 - \\ 1150a^7 + 1094a^6 + 598a^5 - 63a^4 - 135a^3 - 111a^2 + 45a + 10 \end{cases}$$

$$(63)$$

Using Sturm sequences, we check that g has no real roots in [0, 2]. (To be sure, we also compute the roots numerically.)

Our results above immediately imply the following theorem.

Theorem 7.4 The duality curve is a smooth embedded curve that connects (1,0) to (1,1) and (other than at the endpoints) remains in the good region.

In [BLV] it is shown that some initial arc of the duality curve starts at (1, 1) and moves into the good region. Our theorem extends this result.

7.7 Degree One Argument

For each fixed (c, d) we let $\delta_{c,d}$ denote the portion of the duality curve that connects (1, 0) to (1, 1) and remains in the good region. At (1, 1) the corresponding representation is a Pappus modular group. We also note that the entire duality curve is a subset of \mathcal{B} , our space of prism representations.

Lemma 7.5 $\delta_{c,d}$ exits every compact subset of \mathcal{B} as it approaches (1,0).

Proof: We can write $\operatorname{trace}(r_1r_2) = \frac{P}{Q}$, where P is a polynomial satisfying

$$P(1,0,c,d) = -(1-c^2)(1-d^2) < 0,$$
(64)

$$Q(a, b, c, d) = 4a^{2}b^{2}(1 - c^{2})(1 - d^{2}).$$
(65)

Hence the trace of r_1r_2 is asymptotic to $-1/b^2$ as $(a, b) \rightarrow (1, 0)$. This expression, of course, tends to $-\infty$. Also, the determinant of r_1r_2 is 1. Hence the element r_1r_2 is exiting every compact subset of \mathcal{B} .

Now we introduce a new space \mathcal{H} . This space is a fiber bundle over $\mathcal{P} \cong \mathbf{R}^2$. The fiber over (c, d) is $\delta_{c,d}$. This works because $\delta_{-d,c} = \delta_{c,d}$. In other words, the fibers respect the quotient relation on the parameter square $(-1, 1)^2$.

Remark: In the conventions of [**BLV**] the space \mathcal{P} is the cone $(-1,1)^2/\rho$, where ρ is order 4 rotation about the origin. In hindsight, this is a better convention than the one I have used in [**S0**] and [**S1**].

The space \mathcal{H} is homeomorphic to the upper half-plane: Each fiber is half-open arc that starts at (1, 1, c, d) and ends at (1, 0, c, d). We let $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}$ be the 1-point compactification of \mathcal{H} . Likewise, we let $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}$ denote the 1-point compactification of \mathcal{B} . Both spaces are balls. We have a canonical map $\psi : \mathcal{H} \to \mathcal{B}$ which is the identity map on \mathcal{P} . Given Lemma 7.5 we see that ψ extends to a map $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}$ to $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}$ which is the identity on the boundary.

Since \mathcal{B} minus any interior point has non-trivial second homology, our situation forces ψ to be surjective. We have thus proved that every prism representation comes from the (extended) construction in [**BLV**] and therefore is Anosov. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.1.

8 Patterns of Geodesics and Shearing

8.1 The Main Argument

In this chapter we prove Theorems 1.2 and 1.3. We start by assembling what we have already done.

Let \mathcal{B} be the space of prism groups, as above. The Barbot component is $\rho(\mathcal{B})$. Since ρ is a homeomorphism onto its image, we identity \mathcal{B} with $\rho(\mathcal{B})$. We showed that \mathcal{B} is homeomorphic to $\mathbf{R}^2 \times [0, \infty)$. The explicit homeomorphism is obtained by noting that

$$\mathcal{B} = \rho(\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{B}\mathcal{A}), \qquad \mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{B}\mathcal{A} \cong \mathbf{R}^2 \times [0, \infty).$$

We have the corresponding foliation of \mathcal{B} by rays. Each ray has its endpoint in \mathcal{P} . The rays correspond to medial geodesic rays in the prism that are perpendicular to the inflection lines.

In our constructions above, we have persistently favored \mathcal{BA} over \mathcal{BR} , for no reason at all except that we had do make some choice. We also have the equations

$$\mathcal{B} = \rho(\mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{BB}), \qquad \mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{BR} \cong \mathbf{R}^2 \times [0, \infty).$$

Again, ρ is a homeomorphism onto its image. Again, we have a corresponding foliation of \mathcal{B} by rays. The two foliations are different. In §8.5 we will explore the relationship between them.

Let $\rho \in \mathcal{B}$. When we use \mathcal{BA} , we produce a prism description (Π_1, p_1) of ρ . When we use \mathcal{BR} , we produce a second prism description (Π_2, p_2) of ρ . Our analysis of the triple invariants shows that generically Π_1 and Π_2 are not isometric to each other. When $\rho \in \mathcal{P}$, the two descriptions coincide.

The prism Π_k contains a distinguished triangle γ_k , namely the one that contains the generating point p_k . The orbit of γ_k under Γ is the pattern $Y_{\rho,k}$. Here we have set $\Gamma = \rho(\mathbf{Z}/2 * \mathbf{Z}/3)$, as in Theorems 1.2 and 1.3. By construction,

$$\Gamma \subset \text{Isom}(Y_{\rho,1}), \qquad \Gamma \subset \text{Isom}(Y_{\rho,1}).$$

The group Γ acts transitively on the prisms associated to $Y_{\rho,k}$. Hence each coset of Γ in $\text{Isom}(Y_{\rho,k})$ has a representative which is a symmetry of Π_k . This shows that our containment of groups has index at most 6. Generically, the symmetries of Π_k do not preserve the set of inflection points of Π_k . For this reason, $\Gamma = \text{Isom}(Y_{\rho,k})$ in the generic case.

Since Π_1 and Π_2 are not generic isometric, neither are the patterns $Y_{\rho,1}$ and $Y_{\rho,2}$. We also have the patterns $F_{\rho,1}$ and $F_{\rho,2}$ which are the Farey patterns corresponding to the endpoinds of the two rays containing our representation. The same triple invariant analysis shows that $F_{\rho,1}$ and $F_{\rho,2}$ are not isometric to each other. We have not yet pinned down the relationship between $F_{\rho,k}$ and $Y_{\rho,k}$. We will show below that the relationship is that of shearing.

To finish the proof we need to show that the patterns $Y_{\rho,k}$ are embedded for k = 1, 2, and we need to explain the shearing relationship between $F_{\rho,k}$ and Y_{ρ_k} . Finally, we need to establish the equality of the shearing strengths. The rest of the chapter is devoted to these things.

8.2 Pairs of Flags

In this section we give some preliminary information about certain pairs of flags.

We say that a pair of flags is *orthogonal* if the flat it determines contains the origin. In this case, the standard polarity switches the two flags. Figure 8.1 shows a typical orthogonal pair, (p_1, L_1) and (p_2, L_2) . The lines L_1 and L_2 are parallel, the the line $\overline{p_1p_2}$ contains the origin and is perpendicular to L_1 and L_2 . Finally, we have $d_1d_2 = 1$ where d_k is the distance from L_k to the origin.



Figure 8.1 An orthogonal pair of flags and the unit circle C.

If we have two orthogonal pairs a_1, a_2 and b_1, b_2 then there are 8 triple invariants we can compute. In all cases we pick 3 of the flags and order the triple some way and then compute. **Lemma 8.1** All 8 triple invariants associated to a pair of orthogonal flags have the same sign.

Proof: At least for generic choices, we can normalize so that one of the pairs is given by

$$([r, 0, 1], [-1, 0, r]),$$
 $([-1, 0, r], [r, 0, 1]),$

and the other one is given by

$$([x, y, 1], [-x, -y, x^2 + y^2])$$
 $([-x, -y, x^2 + y^2], [x, y, 1]))$

We compute that the triple invariants occur in pairs. They are t_1 and t_2 and $1/t_1$ and $1/t_2$, where

$$t_1 = \frac{(r-x)(r(x^2+y^2)+x)}{(rx+1)(-rx+x^2+y^2)},$$

$$t_2 = \frac{(x^2+y^2+1)(-rx+x^2+y^2)(r(x^2+y^2)+x)}{(r-x)(rx+1)((x^2+y^2)^2+x^2+y^2)}$$

The important thing to notice is that

$$\frac{t_1}{t_2} = \frac{(r-x)^2 \left(x^2 + y^2\right)}{\left(rx - x^2 - y^2\right)^2} > 0$$

Hence t_1 and t_2 have the same sign. Taking reciprocals does not change the sign, so all the triple products have the same sign. \blacklozenge

Here is the geometric picture. In the negative triple product case, the lines of the pair a_1, a_2 separate the points of the pair b_1, b_2 from each other, and *vice versa*. Figure 8.2 shows examples of the positive and the negative cases.



Figure 8.2: The positive case (left) and the negative case (right).

More generally, we say that two pairs of flags (a_1, a_2) and (b_1, b_2) are *separating* if the lines of the first pair separate the points of the second pair and *vice versa*.

8.3 The Embedding Proof

Transversality: Our embedding proof really just uses one familiar property of Anosov embeddings, namely *transversality*. An Anosov representation of a group G includes an equivariant map

$$\phi: \partial G \to \mathcal{F},\tag{66}$$

where ∂G is the Gromov boundary of G – in our case a Cantor set – and \mathcal{F} is the flag variety. The key property is that every pair of flags of $\phi(\partial G)$ consists of transverse flags. Again, this means that the point of one flag does not lie in the line of the other. See e.g. [Lab] or [GW]. For reference below, we call this collection of flags the *big collection*.

Now we get to the proof. As we have already mentioned, each prism group preserves an infinite pattern of flats. These are just the orbit of the flats in the initial prism under the group. Moreover, each flat in the orbit has a distinguished geodesic, and so the pattern of geodesics is embedded provided that the pattern of flats is embedded.

In [S0] we proved that the pattern of flats is embedded when the group is a Pappus modular group. Our proof in the Anosov case is similar in spirit, but takes advantage of the transversality property discussed above. Corresponding to our prism representation ρ we have two infinite collections of flags, one subsuming the other. We have the big collection mentioned in the previous section. We also have the *small collection*. As in the previous chapters we make a choice of attracting over repelling. We then take the attracting flag for the element $g_{\rho}^2 = \rho(\sigma_2 \sigma_3 \sigma_2 \sigma_3)$ and consider its orbit under the group. This is the small collection. The big collection contains the small collection.

Lemma 8.2 Every triple of flags in the big collection has negative triple invariant.

Proof: This is clearly true for the symmetric Pappus modular group. As we move continuously to other representations, the invariant cannot change sign without becoming 0 along the way. But if this happens, we have a non-transverse pair of flags, a contradiction. \blacklozenge

The flats in our pattern are naturally associated to the morphed marked boxes in the orbit. In the case of Pappus modular group, the flats are defined in terms of the tops and the bottoms of the marked boxes. As we move into the Anosov representations we define the same kind of association just by continuity. We call a pair of flags (a_1, a_2) linked if they are associated to the same morphed marked box. This is the same as saying that they are associated to the same flat in our pattern.

Lemma 8.3 (Separating) Let (a_1, a_2) and (b_1, b_2) be pairs of linked flags. Then this pair is not separating.

Proof: This also follows from transversality and continuity. The property is true for shears of the symmetric Pappus group, as one can see from the nesting of the geodesics in the hyperbolic plane associated to these groups. The general case follows from continuity. We we move along a path of Anosov representation, we can never acquire the separating property. If we did, we would encounter a non-transverse pair of flags. \blacklozenge

Now we will suppose that a pair of flats in our pattern intersect. We can move these flats by an isometry so that their intersection point is the origin. Now we have a linked pair of orthogonal flags. All the triple invariants associated to these flags must be negative. Hence the linked pair is separating. This contradicts the Separating Lemma. Hence the flats cannot intersect. This proves that our pattern of flats is embedded. This finishes the proof of Theorem 1.2. To finish the proof of Theorem 1.3 we just need to explain the shearing.

8.4 Shearing

Consider two representations (Π, p_1) and (Π, p_2) corresponding to points in the same ray. The crucial point is that p_1 and p_2 lie in the same medial geodesic γ in the same flat F of Π . Let $\delta_1 = \rho_1(\sigma_2)$ and $\delta_2 = \rho_2(\sigma_2)$ denote the elliptic polarities fixing p_1 and p_2 respectively. Let I be the isometry that translates along γ , mapping p_1 to p_2 . Another crucial point is that δ_k conjugates I to I^{-1} because δ_k stabilizes γ and reverses its directions. Hence

$$\delta_2 = I \circ \delta_1 \circ I^{-1} = I^2 \circ \delta_1.$$

In particular, if τ is the triangle in the pattern contained in the prism Π , then

$$\delta_2(\tau) = I^2(\delta_1(\tau)).$$

Thus the pair $(\tau, \delta_1(\tau))$ is replaced by the sheared pair $(\tau, I^2 \circ \delta_1(\tau))$. This is the shearing phenomenon in Theorems 1.2 and 1.3.

Finally, the rays are canonically parametrized as follows. We say that a point on a given ray γ is d away from the endpoint if the corresponding representation is obtained from the Pappus group at the endpoint by performing a shear of strength d. This pins down the shearing relationship.

It only remains to consider the strengths of the two kinds of shearing which produce the same group. It suffices to consider the generic case. We revisit the r, s, t coordinates from §5. If we fix the value of t, then the region $(r, s) \in (0, \infty)^2$ gives us all the prism groups (Π, p) with p varying in the same flat $F \cong \mathbb{R}^2$ of Π .

Let $r = \mu s$, as in Equation 23. The representation corresponding to (r, s, t) is a Pappus representation. According to Equation 23 and Lemma 5.6, the representation corresponding to (rd, s/d, t) is a $\sqrt{2} \log d$ shearing of a Pappus representation. When d > 1 this is one kind of shearing and when d < 1 this is the other.

We compute that eigenvalues of our element g^2 are $-d^2$, $-d^{-2}$, 1, with the flag (b_1, L_2) corresponding to the d^2 eigenvalue. The eigenvalue set only depends on the shearing strength, namely $\sqrt{2} \log d$, and not any other property of the parameters. The two prism descriptions of the same representation give rise to the same element g^2 . Therefore they correspond to the same strength shears of both kinds. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.3.

8.5 Shearing Dynamics

We give an extended example. In (r, s, t) coordinates, the point (2, 1, 1/3) represents a Pappus modular group. We will show a plot of the (r, s) coordinates of the first 300 iterates of (2, 1, 1/3) under the map $\phi_{1/2}$. We first show how to compute the action of $\phi_{1/2}$.

Starting with (2, 1, 1/3) we first shear by 1/2. This gives a representation ρ given by (r, s, t) = (1, 2, 1/3). The first triple of flags $\{(b_k, L_{k+1})\}$ has invariant -1/64. The element g^2 has eigenvalues (-16, -1/16, 1) and the flag (b_1, L_2) corresponds to -1/16.

The second triple of flags, corresponding to -16, has invariant

$$\frac{29048726675421859277775036736}{61326686949038201735373601} = -\left(\frac{1+t'}{t'}\right)^3, \quad t' = -\frac{3074036596}{2679685395} \tag{67}$$

We set t = t' to arrange that the first triple of flags has the invariant in Equation 67.

Remark: Note that $t' \in (-\infty, -1)$. This choice still describes a prism group for us. As we discussed in §5.6, we could apply the duality involution (Equation 26) to the coordinates to get $t' \in (0, \infty)$ but for simplicity we do not do this.

Now we want to find the parameters r and s which give us ρ again. When we solve for $\operatorname{Trace}(g^2) = 1 - 16 - (1/16)$ we find that r = 2s.

$$r = \frac{1}{8} \times \sqrt{\frac{394351201}{768509149}} \times s \tag{68}$$

This gives g^2 eigenvalues -16, -1/16, 1. Finally, referring to §9.1.4, we set $\tau' = -1/64$ and solve for s. There is just one positive real root:

$$s = \frac{27305\sqrt{768509149}}{4296643304}.$$
(69)

Plugging this into Equation 68 we get the value of r. The corresponding group is the same as ρ . Indeed, one can check that the linear transformation given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{29893}{65426} & \frac{20451\sqrt{3}}{65426} & 0\\ -\frac{20451\sqrt{3}}{65426} & \frac{29893}{65426} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$
(70)

conjugates the group with coordinates (1, 2, 1/3) to the group we have just constructed. In short, the two groups are the same.

In the new description, ρ is given as a the second kind of shear of a Pappus modular group. To get back the Pappus modular group, we un-shear, so to speak: We replace (r, s, t) by (r/2, 2s, 1). All in all, the action of $\phi_{1/2}$ is given by

$$\left(2,1,\frac{1}{3}\right) \to \left(\frac{27305\sqrt{394351201}}{4296643304},\frac{27305\sqrt{768509149}}{2148321652},-\frac{3074036596}{2679685395}\right)$$
(71)

I made an attempt at automating this process. I numerically computed the first 300 terms of the sequence $\{(r_j, s_j, t_j)\}$. Figure 8.1 shows a Mathematica plot of $\{(r_j, s_j)\}$ for j = 1, ..., 300. No information in the plot is lost because we can recover t_j from (r_j, s_j) . The formula is $t = s^2/(r^2 - s^2)$. Recall the discussion above about the situations where $t_j \in (-\infty, -1)$.



Figure 8.3 The first 300 iterates of $\phi_{1/2}$ on (2, 1, 1/3).

There is one thing about the plot that gives me pause. As the grey arrows indicate, there are a few outliers in the plot. Possibly these are errors caused by a sloppy implementation of the shearing dynamics. I am not sure. In spite of possible flaws in the methodology, I wanted to include a picture. I hope to study these shearing dynamics in more detail later on.

9 Appendix: Mathematica Code

9.1 Chapter 5 Calculations

9.1.1 The Generic Case

This does does the calculations for §5 in the generic case.

```
(*For the generic calculation:*)
(* basic flags are (b1,12), etc.*)
a1=\{1,0,1\};
a2 = \{-1, +Sqrt[3], 2\}/2;
a3 = \{-1, -Sqrt[3], 2\}/2;
11=Cross[a2,a3];
12=Cross[a3,a1];
13=Cross[a1,a2];
b1=(1+t) a1 - t a3;
b2=(1+t) a2 - t a1;
b3=(1+t) a3 - t a2;
(*The rest is the same for generic and non-generic calcs/*)
(*First we clear the variables*)
Clear[r,s,t];
(* order 3 element*)
cc=Cos[2 Pi/3]; ss=Sin[2 Pi/3];
M3=\{\{cc, -ss, 0\}, \{ss, cc, 0\}, \{0, 0, 1\}\};\
(* order 2 element*)
S=Transpose[2 r b1,2 s b2,a1];
M2=Transpose[Inverse[S]].Inverse[S];
MM2=Inverse[Transpose[M2]];
MM3=Inverse[Transpose[M3]];
(* the key element*)
gg= MM2.MM3.M2.M3;
```

```
(*Here eigsys gives the Eigensystem for gg*)
eigsys=Simplify[Eigensystem[gg]];
(*Triple of flags corresponding to the other eigenvalue*)
bb1=eigsys[[2,2]];
bb2=M3.bb1;
bb3=M3.bb2;
eigsys2=Simplify[Eigensystem[Inverse[Transpose[gg]]]];
ll2=eigsys2[[2,2]];
ll3=M3.ll2;
ll1=M3.ll3;
(*triple invariants for the two prisms*)
```

```
t1=Factor[b1.13 b2.11 b3.12/b1.11/b2.12/b3.13];
t2=Factor[bb1.113 bb2.111 bb3.112/bb1.111/bb2.112/bb3.113];
```

9.1.2 Non Generic Case

This file is the same as above but the beginning is different. We don't need the vectors l_1, l_2, l_3 because we don't compute the triple invariant.

```
(*For the non-generic case*)
b1={1,0,1};
b2 = {-1,+Sqrt[3],2}/2;
b3 = {-1,-Sqrt[3],2}/2;
```

9.1.3 Elliptic Calculation

Here we include the extra code needed for the calculation in §5.7. The only difference is that we tweak the definition of the element M_2 .

(* The tweaked order 3 element*)
cc=Cos[2 Pi/3]; ss=Sin[2 Pi/3];
M3={{cc,-ss,0},{ss,cc,0},{0,0,1}};
TWEAK={{1+u,0,0},{0,1,0},{0,0,1}};
M3=TWEAK.M3.Inverse[TWEAK];

9.1.4 The Monster Expression

The expression for the second triple invariant τ' is $-(1+t)^3 A^3/(t^3 B^3)$, where A and B respectively are:

 $576r^{12}s^{2}t^{8} + 1152r^{12}s^{2}t^{7} + 960r^{12}s^{2}t^{6} + 384r^{12}s^{2}t^{5} + 64r^{12}s^{2}t^{4} + 16r^{12}t^{8} + 64r^{12}s^{2}t^{4} + 16r^{12}t^{8} + 64r^{12}s^{2}t^{6} + 64r^{12}s^{2} + 64$ $48r^{10}s^{2}t^{8} + 192r^{10}s^{2}t^{7} + 288r^{10}s^{2}t^{6} + 192r^{10}s^{2}t^{5} + 48r^{10}s^{2}t^{4} + 48r^{8}s^{4}t^{8} + 68r^{10}s^{2}t^{6} + 192r^{10}s^{2}t^{6} + 192r^{10}s^{2} + 192r^{10$ $96r^8s^4t^7 + 48r^8s^4t^6 + 12r^8s^2t^6 + 24r^8s^2t^5 + 12r^8s^2t^4 + 20736r^6s^{10}t^8 + 24r^8s^2t^5 + 12r^8s^2t^4 + 20736r^6s^{10}t^8 + 24r^8s^2t^6 + 24r^8s^2t^5 + 12r^8s^2t^6 + 24r^8s^2t^6 + 24r^8t^6 + 24r^8s^2 + 24r^8s^2t^6 + 24r^8s^2$ $82944r^6s^{10}t^7 + 152064r^6s^{10}t^6 + 165888r^6s^{10}t^5 + 117504r^6s^{10}t^4 + 55296r^6s^{10}t^3 + 6688r^6s^{10}t^5 + 117504r^6s^{10}t^4 + 55296r^6s^{10}t^3 + 6888r^6s^{10}t^5 + 117504r^6s^{10}t^4 + 552966r^6s^{10}t^3 + 6888r^6s^{10}t^5 + 117504r^6s^{10}t^4 + 55296r^6s^{10}t^3 + 6888r^6s^{10}t^5 + 117504r^6s^{10}t^6 + 10888r^6s^{10}t^5 +$ $16896r^6s^{10}t^2 + 3072r^6s^{10}t + 256r^6s^{10} + 2304r^6s^8t^8 + 4608r^6s^8t^7 + 3840r^6s^8t^6 + 2304r^6s^8t^6 + 2304r^6t^6 + 2304r^6t^6 + 2304r^6t^6 + 2$ $1536r^6s^8t^5 + 256r^6s^8t^4 + 32r^6s^6t^8 - \mathbf{192r^6s^6t^7} - \mathbf{192r^6s^6t^6} - \mathbf{64r^6s^6t^5} + 16r^6s^4t^6 + 16r^6s^6t^6 + 16r^6t^6 + 16r^6t^6 + 16r^6t^6 + 16r^6t^6 + 16r^6t^6 + 1$ $r^{6}s^{2}t^{4} + 1728r^{4}s^{10}t^{8} + 10368r^{4}s^{10}t^{7} + 27072r^{4}s^{10}t^{6} + 40320r^{4}s^{10}t^{5} + 37632r^{4}s^{10}t^{4} + 668r^{4}s^{10}t^{6} + 10368r^{4}s^{10}t^{6} + 10368r^{4}s^{$ $22656r^4s^{10}t^3 + 8640r^4s^{10}t^2 + 1920r^4s^{10}t + 192r^4s^{10} + 48r^4s^8t^8 + 192r^4s^8t^7 + 288r^4s^8t^6 + 192r^4s^8t^7 + 192r^4s^8$ $192r^4s^8t^5 + 48r^4s^8t^4 + 48r^2s^{10}t^8 + 384r^2s^{10}t^7 + 1344r^2s^{10}t^6 + 2688r^2s^{10}t^5 + 2688$ $3360r^2s^{10}t^4 + 2688r^2s^{10}t^3 + 1344r^2s^{10}t^2 + 384r^2s^{10}t + 48r^2s^{10} + 16s^{12}t^8 +$ $96s^{12}t^7 + 240s^{12}t^6 + 320s^{12}t^5 + 240s^{12}t^4 + 96s^{12}t^3 + 16s^{12}t^2 + 4s^{10}t^6 + 320s^{12}t^5 + 240s^{12}t^4 + 96s^{12}t^3 + 16s^{12}t^2 + 4s^{10}t^6 + 320s^{12}t^4 + 96s^{12}t^4 + 96s^{12}t^3 + 16s^{12}t^2 + 4s^{10}t^6 + 320s^{12}t^4 + 96s^{12}t^4 + 96s^{12}t^3 + 16s^{12}t^2 + 4s^{10}t^6 + 320s^{12}t^4 + 96s^{12}t^4 + 96s^{12}t^3 + 16s^{12}t^2 + 4s^{10}t^6 + 320s^{12}t^4 + 96s^{12}t^4 + 96s^{12}t^3 + 16s^{12}t^2 + 4s^{10}t^6 + 320s^{12}t^4 + 96s^{12}t^4 + 96s^{12}t^$ $24s^{10}t^5 + 60s^{10}t^4 + 80s^{10}t^3 + 60s^{10}t^2 + 24s^{10}t + 4s^{10}t$ $r^{2}s^{6} + 16r^{4}s^{6} + 96r^{6}s^{6} + 256r^{8}s^{6} + 256r^{10}s^{6} + 16s^{12} + 64r^{2}s^{12} + 64r^{$ $4r^{2}s^{6}t + 96r^{4}s^{6}t + 768r^{6}s^{6}t + 2560r^{8}s^{6}t + 3072r^{10}s^{6}t + 128s^{12}t +$ $640r^2s^{12}t + 6r^2s^6t^2 + 240r^4s^6t^2 + 2688r^6s^6t^2 + 11520r^8s^6t^2 + 16896r^{10}s^6t^2 + 16886r^{10}s^6t^2 + 16886r^$ $12r^2s^8t^2 + 48r^4s^8t^2 + 448s^{12}t^2 + 2880r^2s^{12}t^2 + 4r^2s^6t^3 + 320r^4s^6t^3 + 5312r^6s^6t^3 + 580r^2s^6t^3 + 5812r^6s^6t^3 + 581$ $30208r^8s^6t^3 + 55296r^{10}s^6t^3 + 48r^2s^8t^3 + 288r^4s^8t^3 + 896s^{12}t^3 + 7552r^2s^{12}t^3 + 688r^4s^8t^3 + 888r^4s^8t^3 + 888r^4s^8$ $48r^8s^4t^4 + 192r^{10}s^4t^4 + r^2s^6t^4 + 240r^4s^6t^4 + 6400r^6s^6t^4 + 50176r^8s^6t^4 + 50176r^8s^6t^6 + 50176r^8s^6t^6$ $117504r^{10}s^{6}t^{4} + 72r^{2}s^{8}t^{4} + 720r^{4}s^{8}t^{4} + 48r^{2}s^{10}t^{4} + 1120s^{12}t^{4} + 12544r^{2}s^{12}t^{4} + 1254t^{2}s^{12}t^{4} + 1254t^{2}s^{12}t^{4} + 125t^{2}s^{12}t^{4} + 125t^{2}s^{12}t^{5} + 125t^{2}s^{12}t^{5} + 125t^{2}s^{12}t^{5} + 125t^{2}t^{5} + 125t^{2}t^{5} + 125t^{2}t^{5} + 125t^{2}t^{5} + 125t^{2}t^{5} + 1$ $192r^8s^4t^5 + 1152r^{10}s^4t^5 + 96r^4s^6t^5 + 4736r^6s^6t^5 + 53760r^8s^6t^5 + 165888r^{10}s^6t^5 + 16588r^{10}s^6t^5 + 1$ $48r^2s^8t^5 + 960r^4s^8t^5 + 192r^2s^{10}t^5 + 896s^{12}t^5 + 13440r^2s^{12}t^5 + 4r^{10}t^6 +$ $16r^{12}t^6 + 288r^8s^4t^6 + 2880r^{10}s^4t^6 + 16r^4s^6t^6 + 2048r^6s^6t^6 + 36096r^8s^6t^6 + 3608r^8s^6t^6 + 3608r^8s^6t^6 + 3608r^8s^6t^6 + 36096r^8s^6t^6 + 36096r^8s^6t^6 + 3608r^8s^6t^6 + 3608r^8s^6 + 3608r^8s^6 + 3608r^8s^6 + 3608r^8s^6 + 3608r^8s^$ $152064r^{10}s^{6}t^{6} + 12r^{2}s^{8}t^{6} + 720r^{4}s^{8}t^{6} + 288r^{2}s^{10}t^{6} + 448s^{12}t^{6} + 9024r^{2}s^{12}t^{6} + 9024r^{2}t^{6} + 9024r^{2}t^{6} + 9024r^{2}t^{6} + 9024r^{2}t^{6} + 9024r^{2}t^{6} + 9024r^{2}t^{6}$ $32r^{12}t^7 + 192r^8s^4t^7 + 3456r^{10}s^4t^7 + 448r^6s^6t^7 + 13824r^8s^6t^7 + 82944r^{10}s^6t^7 + 888t^6t^7 + 1388t^6t^7 + 1388t^6t$ $288r^4s^8t^7 + 192r^2s^{10}t^7 + 128s^{12}t^7 + 3456r^2s^{12}t^7 + 16r^{12}t^8 + 48r^{10}s^2t^8 + 6r^{10}s^2t^8 + 6r^{10}s^2 + 6r^{10}s^2t^8 + 6r^{10}s^2t^8 + 6r^{10}s^2t^8 + 6r^{10}s^2 +$ $48r^8s^4t^8 + 1728r^{10}s^4t^8 + 32r^6s^6t^8 + 2304r^8s^6t^8 + 20736r^{10}s^6t^8 + 48r^4s^8t^8 + 28r^4s^8t^8 + 28r^4s^8 + 28r^4s^$ $48r^2s^{10}t^8 + 16s^{12}t^8 + 576r^2s^{12}t^8$

Remarks:

(1) I used chatGPT 40 mini to help me format these monsters.

(2) We have B > 0 for all r, s, t because B is the sum of positive monomials. When $r \ge 1$ and $t \ge 1$ and $s \le 1$, the first term of A dominates the sum of the bolded negative terms, and so A > 0 in this case. There are 7 other cases, depending on the signs of r - 1, s - 1, t - 1, and in all cases one can find short sums of positive terms which dominate the 3 bolded terms. Hence A > 0 for all r, s, t > 0. Hence $\tau' < 0$ for all r, s, t > 0.

9.2 Chapter 7 Calculations

Here is the main file for the calculations in Chapter 7. Some of the lines in the file are too long to fit on the page here, so I add some extra linebreaks and spacing for the sake of typesetting.

```
(* converts vectors to points in the affine patch*)
ToPlane0[Vec_]:={Vec[[1]]/Vec[[3]],Vec[[2]]/Vec[[3]]};
ToPlane[LIST_]:=Table[ToPlane0[LIST[[j]]], {j,1,Length[LIST]}]
(*The starting marked box, normalized as in the BLV paper*)
YO[c_{-},d_{-}]:=\{\{-1,1,0\},\{c,1,0\},\{1,1,0\},\{1,0,1\},\{d,0,1\},\{-1,0,1\}\}\}
(* marked box operations*)
CR[Y_{-},a_{-},b_{-},c_{-},d_{-}] := Cross[Cross[Y[[a]],Y[[b]]]],
Cross[Y[[c]],Y[[d]]]];
DoT[Y_] := \{Y[[1]], Y[[2]], Y[[3]], \}
CR[Y,2,4,3,5],CR[Y,1,4,3,6],CR[Y,1,5,2,6]};
DoB[Y_] := \{ CR[Y, 2, 4, 3, 5], \}
CR[Y,1,4,3,6], CR[Y,1,5,2,6],Y[[6]],Y[[5]],Y[[4]]};
DoI[Y_] := \{Y[[6]], Y[[5]], Y[[4]], Y[[1]], Y[[2]], Y[[3]]\}
(*The morphing matrix from BLV in rational form*)
MORPH[a_,b_] := \{\{1,0,0\}, \{0,(1+b b)/2/a/b,(b b -1)/2/b\},\
\{0, (b b -1)/2/b, a(1+ b b)/2/b\}\}
(* the matrix mapping a standard quad to a give marked box*)
GetMatrix[Y_]:=(
Clear[s1,s2,s3];
m1={s1 Y[[1]],s2 Y[[3]],s3 Y[[4]]};
m2=Transpose[m1];
SOL=Solve[m2.{1,1,1}==Y[[6]],{s1,s2,s3}];
s1=SOL[[1,1,2]]; s2=SOL[[1,2,2]]; s3=SOL[[1,3,2]];
m2)
```

```
Morph[Y_{-}, a_{-}, b_{-}] := (
w0=GetMatrix[Y0[0,0]];
w1=GetMatrix[Y];
ww=w0.Inverse[w1];
ss=Inverse[ww].MORPH[a,b].ww;
Table[ss.Y[[j]],{j,1,6}])
(* Here are the 6 marked boxes for the group*)
Y1[a_{,b_{,x_{,y_{,}}} := Morph[DoI[Y0[x,y]],a,b];
Y2[a_{,b_{,x_{,y_{}}}] := Morph[DoT[Y0[x,y]],a,b];
Y3[a_{,b_{,x_{,y_{-}}}] := Morph[DoB[Y0[x,y]],a,b];
Z1[a_{,b_{,x_{,y_{}}}] := Y0[x,y];
Z2[a_{,b_{,x_{,y_{}}}:=Morph[DoT[Y1[a,b,x,y]],a,b];
Z3[a_{,b_{,x_{,y_{}}}:=Morph[DoB[Y1[a,b,x,y]],a,b];
(*Here are the two order-3 generators of the Z/3*Z/3 group.*)
g1[a_,b_,c_,d_]:=(
mm1=GetMatrix[Y1[a,b,c,d]];
mm2=GetMatrix[Y2[a,b,c,d]];
Factor[mm2.Inverse[mm1]/(c+1)/(d+1)/(d-1)])
g2[a_,b_,c_,d_]:=(
hh=Z1[a,b,c,d];
hh2=hh[[3]],hh[[2]],hh[[1]],hh[[6]],hh[[5]],hh[[4]];
mm1=GetMatrix[hh2];
mm2=GetMatrix[Z2[a,b,c,d]];
Factor[(d-1) mm2.Inverse[mm1]])
(*Now the file departs from what I used. In my file*)
(*I have stored the long expressions in Equations 41 and 42*)
(*I have them pre-stored because g2[a,b,c,d] is slow to compute.*)
r1=g1[a,b,c,d];
r2=g2[a,b,c,d];
(*This is equation for the duality curve *)
(*In my file I just have the expression listed*)
psi=Numerator[Factor[Tr[r1.r2]-Tr[r1.r1.r2.r2]]];
```

```
(*Here are the equations for the boundaries of the good region*)
bd1 = -1 - (1 - b b)/(2 b) + (a*(1 + b b))/(2 b);
bd2 = -1 - (1 - b b)/(2 b) + (1 + b b)/(2 a b);
(*The formulas for the restrictions mu1 and mu2 of psi*)
(*To the boundary of the good domain, bd1=0 and bd2=0*)
(*You can check the multiplication factors by computing*)
(*restrict1/mu1 and restrict2/mu2*)
restrict1=Factor[psi//.a->(1+2 b - b b)/(1+ b b)];
restrict2=Factor[psi//.a->(1+b b)/(1+2 b - b b)];
mu1=restrict1[[6]];
mu2=restrict2[[7]];
(*This gets the resultant factor r(a,b) in Equation 58*)
res1=Factor[Resultant[psi,D[psi,a],c]];
r=res1[[5,1]];
(*This gets the resultant polynomial g in Equation 63*)
res2=Factor[Resultant[D[r,a],D[r,b],b]];
```

```
g=res2[[4]];
```

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