

Limit Sets and Their Applications

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Topology Seminar
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Outline

Introduction to Limit Sets

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Introduction to Limit Sets
Preliminaries

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A (More General) Example

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A (More General) Example

Basic Results about Limit Points/Sets

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A (More General) Example

Basic Results about Limit Points/Sets

Curt McMullen & LIM

Outline

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- Preliminaries

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Outline

Introduction to Limit Sets

- Preliminaries

- A (More General) Example

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- Introduction to LIM

- Some Technical Stuff

- Examples and Output

Outline

Introduction to Limit Sets

- Preliminaries

- A (More General) Example

- Basic Results about Limit Points/Sets

Curt McMullen & LIM

- Introduction to LIM

- Some Technical Stuff

- Examples and Output

Applications & Future Work

Outline

Introduction to Limit Sets

- Preliminaries

- A (More General) Example

- Basic Results about Limit Points/Sets

Curt McMullen & LIM

- Introduction to LIM

- Some Technical Stuff

- Examples and Output

Applications & Future Work

- Applications to Foliation Theory

Part I

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Preliminaries

A (More General) Example

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Curt McMullen & LIM

Introduction to LIM

Some Technical Stuff

Examples and Output

Applications & Future Work

Applications to Foliation Theory

Definitions

Definition.

A **Möbius Transformation** in \mathbb{R}^n is a bijective conformal orientation-preserving map $\varphi : S^{n-1} \rightarrow S^{n-1}$.

Notation

E^n = n -dimensional Euclidean space

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$$\begin{aligned} E^n &= n\text{-dimensional Euclidean space} \\ &= \mathbb{R}^n \text{ with the standard Euclidean metric} \end{aligned}$$

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E^n = n -dimensional Euclidean space

= \mathbb{R}^n with the standard Euclidean metric

\widehat{E}^n = $E^n \cup \{\infty\}$

B^n = $\{x \in \widehat{E}^n : x < 1\}$

$M(B^n)$ = collection of Möbius transformations of B^n

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leave B^n invariant

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Remark.

Clearly, there is a natural group action $M(B^n) \times B^n \rightarrow B^n$
defined by $(\varphi, x) \mapsto \varphi(x)$.

(More) Definitions

Definition.

An element $\varphi \in M(B^n)$ is:

- **elliptic** if it fixes a unique point of B^n and fixes no point of S^{n-1} .

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Definition.

A point $a \in S^{n-1}$ is a **limit point** of a subgroup $G \leq M(B^n)$ if there is a point $x \in B^n$ and a sequence $\{g_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ of elements of G such that $g_i x \rightarrow a$ as $i \rightarrow \infty$.

(Even More) Definitions

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Remark.

This is a specific notion of the more general term *limit set* appearing in the study of dynamical systems and defined to be “the state of a dynamical system after an infinite amount of time.”

Example: Apollonian Gasket

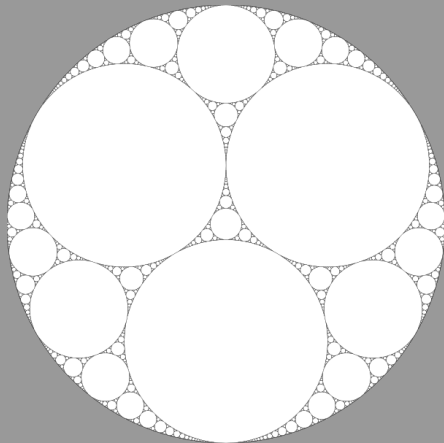


Figure 1

The Apollonian gasket is the limit of an iterated process

Background Results for $M(B^n)$ Sans Proof

Theorem 1.

If $a \in S^{n-1}$ is fixed by either a parabolic or hyperbolic element of a subgroup $G \leq M(B^n)$, then a is a limit point of G .

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Let G be a subgroup of $M(B^n)$. Then $L(G)$ is empty if and only if G has a finite orbit in both B^n and $\overline{B^n}$.

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- Such a group G is said to be “elementary of elliptic type”—*elementary* because of $\overline{B^n}$ and ...*of elliptic type* because of B^n .

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- Such a group G is said to be “elementary of elliptic type”—*elementary* because of $\overline{B^n}$ and ...*of elliptic type* because of B^n .
- G has finite orbit in B^n if for some $x \in B^n$, the cardinality of the set $\{gx : g \in G\}$ is finite.

Background Results for $M(B^n)$ Sans Proof

Theorem 3.

Any subgroup $G \leq M(B^n)$ for which $L(G)$ is finite is elementary (i.e., it has a finite orbit in $\overline{B^n}$) and necessarily has at most two limit points.

Part II

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Preliminaries

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Curt McMullen & LIM

Introduction to LIM

Some Technical Stuff

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The LIM Program

McMullen's description in the "Read Me" file:

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Limit Sets of Kleinian Groups

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Remark.

- Here, we're in the case of $n = 2$.
- $M(\mathbb{C}) \cong \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$
- A **Kleinian Group** is a discrete subgroup of $\text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$.

How It Works—Short Version

Required Input

- Circles c_1, \dots, c_i known to be in the limit set

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- Output style options

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- Circles r_1, \dots, r_k in which to define reflections for c_α

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- Circles u_1, \dots, u_n in which to define reflections of the coordinate system

How It Works—Short Version

Behind the Scenes

- LIM applies the group

$$G = \langle m_1, \dots, m_j, r_1, \dots, r_k \rangle$$

to the collection $C = \{c_\alpha\}$.

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- LIM applies the group

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- The raw output is data in .ps format.

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Output

- The raw output is data in .ps format.
- This can be converted to visual representations in .pdf format.

Example 1

hex.run

```
./lim -d 8 -s -h 3 <<eof > hex.ps  
c 0.866025403784438 0.0 -0.5  
c 0.25 0.433012701892219 -0.166666666666  
c -0.25 0.433012701892219 -0.833333333333  
r 0.866025403784438 0.0 -0.5  
r 0.25 0.433012701892219 -0.166666666666  
r -0.25 0.433012701892219 -0.833333333333  
eof
```

Graph on sphere; omit to graph in plane

Output file name

Two different threshold variables

Example 1

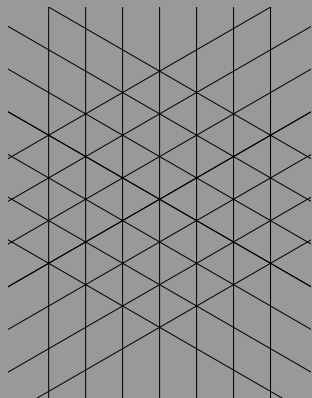


Figure 2
`hex.ps` without `-s`

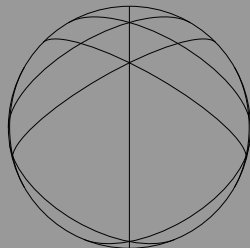


Figure 3
`hex.ps` with `-s`

Example 2

Example.run

```
./lim -s -d 60 -e 0.0001 <<eof > Example.ps  
c 0. 0. 1  
m 1 1 0 1 0 -1 1 -1  
m 1 -1 0 -1 0 1 1 1  
m 0.955 -0.025 0.045 0.025 -1.955 0.025 0.955 -0.025  
m 0.955 -0.025 -0.045 -0.025 1.955 -0.025 0.955 -0.025  
eof
```

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m 1 1 0 1 0 -1 1 -1  
m 1 -1 0 -1 0 1 1 1  
m 0.955 -0.025 0.045 0.025 -1.955 0.025 0.955 -0.025  
m 0.955 -0.025 -0.045 -0.025 1.955 -0.025 0.955 -0.025  
eof
```

Remark.

Example 2

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m 0.955 -0.025 -0.045 -0.025 1.955 -0.025 0.955 -0.025  
eof
```

Remark.

According to McMullen: “This is a picture of the limit set of a Kleinian group on the boundary of Maskit’s embedding of the Teichmuller space of a once-punctured torus.”

Example 2

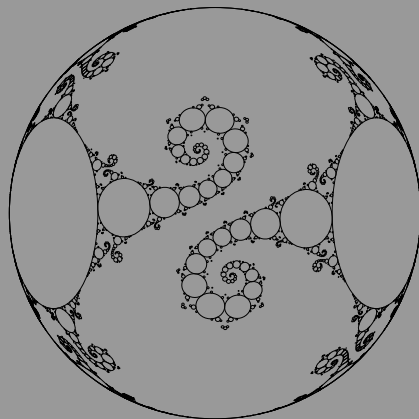


Figure 4
Example.ps

Example 3

Schottky.run

```
./lim -d 10 -e .001 <<eof > schottky2.ps  
r 0 1 .7  
r 0.866025 -.5 .8  
r -0.866025 -.5 .8  
c 0 1 .7  
c 0.866025 -.5 .8  
c -0.866025 -.5 .8  
eof
```

Example 3

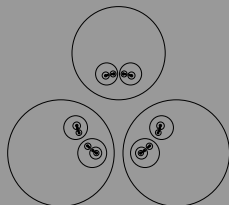


Figure 5
In the plane

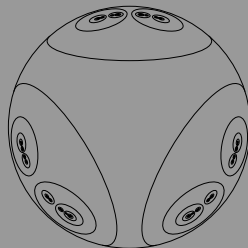


Figure 6
On the sphere

Example 4

ngon4.run

```
./lim -a 1000 -b -d 100 -e 0.001  
-c 0 0 1 -w -1.1 -1.1 1.1 1.1  
<<eof > ngon4.ps  
r 1.553773974030037 0 1.189207115002721  
c 1.553773974030037 0 1.189207115002721  
r 0 1.553773974030037 1.189207115002721  
c 0 1.553773974030037 1.189207115002721  
r -1.553773974030037 0 1.189207115002721  
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r 0 -1.553773974030037 1.189207115002721  
c 0 -1.553773974030037 1.189207115002721  
eof
```

Optional style parameter
A *different* threshold variable

Example 4

ngon4.run

```
./lim -a 1000 -b -d 100 -e 0.001  
-c 0 0 1 -w -1.1 -1.1 1.1 1.1  
<<eof > ngon4.ps  
r 1.553773974030037 0 1.189207115002721  
c 1.553773974030037 0 1.189207115002721  
r 0 1.553773974030037 1.189207115002721  
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eof
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Remark.

Optional style parameter
A *different* threshold variable

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ngon4.run

```
./lim -a 1000 -b -d 100 -e 0.001
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<<eof > ngon4.ps
r 1.553773974030037 0 1.189207115002721
c 1.553773974030037 0 1.189207115002721
r 0 1.553773974030037 1.189207115002721
c 0 1.553773974030037 1.189207115002721
r -1.553773974030037 0 1.189207115002721
c -1.553773974030037 0 1.189207115002721
r 0 -1.553773974030037 1.189207115002721
c 0 -1.553773974030037 1.189207115002721
eof
```

Remark.

According to McMullen: “Tiling of H for torus with orbifold point of order 2.”

Optional style parameter
A *different* threshold variable

Example 4

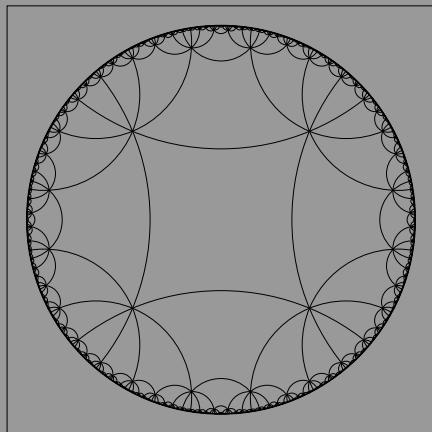


Figure 7

ngon4.ps + a box because of -b

Example 5

lattice.run

```
./lim -s -d 10 <<eof > lattice.ps  
c 0 0 0.0  
c 0 0 -.5  
m 1 0 1 0 0 0 1 0  
m 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0  
m 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 0  
u .3 .4 2  
eof
```

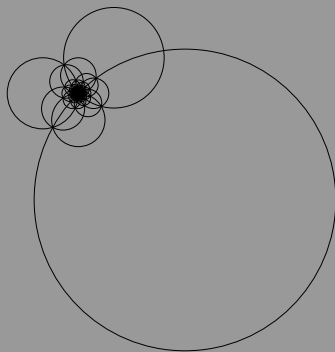



Figure 8
In the plane

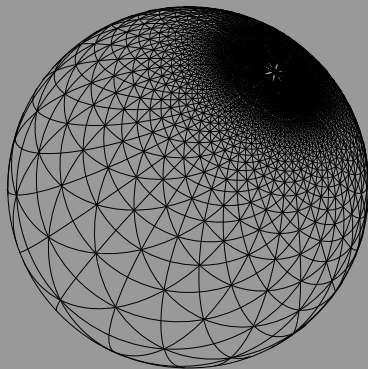


Figure 9
On the sphere

Part III

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- Reeb components
- Finite-depth foliations
- Depth of a leaf within finite-depth foliations
- Fibers / bundle theory

Big Idea

Is it possible to modify the above results in order to get decent pictures of the limit sets of the lifts of finite-depth foliations to the universal cover of hyperbolic 3-manifolds?

Context-Specific Things

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 2. If M^3 is a hyperbolic manifold and \mathcal{F} is a codimension-one Reebless foliation on M , the lift $\widetilde{\mathcal{F}}$ is a foliation of H^3 and the leaves \mathcal{L} of \mathcal{F} are planes. In particular, \mathcal{L} is non-compact and so it makes sense to talk about the limit set of \mathcal{L} as the collection of accumulation points of \mathcal{L} in the sphere at infinity S_∞^2 .

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- Both of these ideas may be relevant when talking about the limit sets of finite depth foliations.

Finite-Depth Foliations & Limit Sets of Their Lifts

- By definition, any depth-zero leaf \mathcal{L}_0 of \mathcal{F} is compact. From results of Thurston, Bonahon, and Marden, it follows that either:

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- Let \mathcal{D}_0 be the collection of depth-zero leaves, let M_1 be the closure of a component of $\overline{M - \mathcal{D}_0}$ such that $\mathcal{L}_0 \in \partial M_1$, and let \mathcal{L}_1 be a depth-one leaf in M_1 . Then:

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 2. The union of all such iterates is dense therein.

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- Win a Fields medal. :)

Thank you!