



EXERCISE SHEET 1

Different models of hyperbolic space

To be handed in by Friday, May 12th, 2pm

Exercise 1 (Isometries of hyperbolic space). Consider the hyperboloid model. We want to prove that each isometry of I^n is a product of reflections along hyperbolic hyperspaces.

- (i) Let S be a k -space in I^n and $p \in S$ a point. Show that there is a unique $(n - k)$ -subspace S' intersecting S orthogonally in p .
- (ii) Show that reflections along hyperspaces in S^n generate $\text{Isom}(S^n) \cong O(n)$.
Hint: For a given isometry ϕ find suitable reflections ρ_i such that $\rho_n \dots \rho_1 \phi$ is the identity.
- (iii) Show that reflections along hyperbolic hyperspaces in I^n generate $\text{Isom}(I^n)$.

Exercise 2 (Inversion from H^2 to D^2). Consider the inversion $\phi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ along the circle centered in $-i$ with radius $\sqrt{2}$. We have already seen that ϕ maps the half-plane H^2 to the Poincaré disc D^2 .

Show that ϕ is given by

$$\phi(z) = \frac{\bar{z} + i}{i\bar{z} + 1}.$$

Exercise 3 (Positive triples of points). An ordered triple of distinct points in $\mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ is called *positive* if they are oriented counterclockwise, like $(0, 1, \infty)$.

Show that the group $\text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ acts freely and transitively on positive triples of points in $\mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$.
Remember: A group G acts freely on a set M if $g.m = m$ for some $m \in M$ implies $g = e_G$. And the action is transitive if for all $x, y \in M$ there is $g \in G$ such that $g.x = y$.

Exercise 4 (Distance in the hyperbolic model I^n). Let p, q be two points in I^n . Show that the hyperbolic distance $d(p, q)$ between p and q is given by

$$\cosh(d(p, q)) = -\langle p, q \rangle.$$

Hint: Consider the parametrization of the geodesic segment starting in p and ending in q .

There's more on the back! :)

Exercise 5 (Distance in the half-plane model H^2). (i) Let $w, x, y, z \in \bar{H}^2 \subseteq \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$. The *cross-ratio* of the ordered tuple (w, x, y, z) is defined via

$$\text{CR}(w, x, y, z) := \frac{(w - y)(x - z)}{(x - y)(w - z)}.$$

Show that the cross-ratio is invariant under isometries of H^2 .

Hint: What are the generators of $\text{Isom}(H^2)$?

(ii) Show that the hyperbolic distance between i and λi for $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ is given by

$$d(i, \lambda i) = |\ln \lambda|.$$

(iii) Let $p \neq q$ be two points in H^2 and consider the unique geodesic γ containing p and q , which is a half-circle or line orthogonal to the real axis. Denote by p^* and q^* the two endpoints of γ on $\mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ such that the four points lie on γ in the order p^*, p, q, q^* . Show that the hyperbolic distance is given by

$$d(p, q) = |\ln \text{CR}(p^*, p, q, q^*)|.$$

Hint: Use a suitable isometry such that p and q are mapped to "nice" points.

Exercise 6 (Triangles in the Poincaré disc model D^2). We have already seen that the angle sum in a hyperbolic triangle is always less than π . Show:

(i) For any triple of positive angles α, β, γ with $\alpha + \beta + \gamma < \pi$ there is a triangle with inner angles α, β, γ .

Hint: Start with a triangle in D^2 having a vertex 0 and a horizontal side.

(ii) This triangle is unique up to isometries.