# Basic dynamics for Kleinian groups 

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Definition The limit set $L_{\Gamma}$ of a Kleinian group $\Gamma$ is the set of all accumulation points of $\Gamma . w$ for any $w \in H^{3}$. Since $\Gamma$ acts discretely on $H^{3}$, the limit set is a closed subset of $\overline{\mathbb{C}}$.

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Let $d$ denote the corresponding metric on $H^{3}$. If $w_{1}, w_{2}$ are two points in $H^{3}$ then $d\left(\gamma \cdot w_{1}, \gamma \cdot w_{2}\right)=d\left(w_{1}, w_{2}\right)$ for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

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For $A \in S L(2, \mathbb{C}), A^{*} A$ is has strictly positive eigenvalues with product 1. So we have

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A^{*} A=Q^{*} \Delta^{2} Q
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where $Q \in S U(2, \mathbb{C})$ and

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By choice of $Q$, we can assume $0<\lambda<1$, unless
$A \in S U(2, \mathbb{C})$ and $A^{*} A$ is the identity in which case $\lambda=1$. Then

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\sqrt{A^{*} A}=Q^{*} \Delta Q,
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and, for any $\underline{v} \in \mathbb{C}^{2}$,

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Hence, for some $P \in S U(2, \mathbb{C})$,

$$
A=P Q \sqrt{A^{*} A}=P \Delta Q .
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This is known as the compact-abelian-compact decomposition (of $A \in S L(2, \mathbb{C})$ ) and is an instance of a decomposition which works for any semisimple Lie group.

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Suppose that $A_{n}$ is a sequence of matrices in a Kleinian group $\Gamma$ such that $A_{n} . j$ converges to $z_{0} \in \overline{\mathbb{C}}$ and

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with $P_{n}$ and $Q_{n} \in S U(2, \mathbb{C})$ and, for $0<\lambda_{n}<1$,

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Also, if $z \in \overline{\mathbb{C}}$ and $Q . z \neq \infty$ then

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Proof Take any $z \in L_{\Gamma}$ and sequence $\left\{A_{n}\right\} \subset \Gamma$ with $A_{n} . j \rightarrow z$. Write $A_{n}=P_{n} \Delta_{n} Q_{n}$ as before and assume $P_{n} \rightarrow P$ and $Q_{n} \rightarrow Q$.

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- If $z_{0} \neq Q^{-1} . \infty$ then $A_{n} \rightarrow z_{0} \rightarrow P .0=z$.
- If $z_{0}=Q^{-1} . \infty$ then choose $B \in \Gamma$ such that $B . z_{0} \neq z_{0}$. then $\left(A_{n} B\right) . j=A_{n} . B . j \rightarrow z$ by Lemma 1. So
$\left(A_{n} B\right) \cdot z_{0}=A_{n} \cdot\left(B \cdot z_{0}\right) \rightarrow z$.

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Lemma 3 If $z \notin L_{\Gamma}$ then there exists an open neighbourhood $U$ of $z$ such that $A . U \cap U \neq \emptyset$ for $A \in \Gamma$ only if $A . z=z$ - in which case $A$ must be elliptic.

Proof

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- Certainly if $z$ is fixed by $A$ and $A$ is parabolic or hyperbolic then $z \in L_{\Gamma}$, because if $A$ is parabolic then $A^{n} . j \rightarrow z$ as $n \rightarrow \pm \infty$ and if $A$ is hyperbolic then $A^{n} . j \rightarrow z$ either as $n \rightarrow+\infty$ or as $n \rightarrow-\infty$, depending on whether $z$ is an attracting or repelling fixed point of $A$.


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- So now suppose that there are sequences $\left\{A_{n}\right\} \subset \Gamma$ and $\left\{z_{n}\right\} \subset \overline{\mathbb{C}}$ such that $z_{n} \rightarrow z$ and $A_{n} \cdot z_{n} \rightarrow z$ and all $A_{n}$ distinct.


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- Write $A_{n}=P_{n} \Delta_{n} Q_{n}$ as before and as before assume that $P_{n} \rightarrow P$ and $Q_{n} \rightarrow Q$.
- We have seen that $A_{n} . j \rightarrow P .0$ and $A_{n}^{-1} . j \rightarrow Q^{-1} . \infty$, and $A_{n} . z \rightarrow P .0$ unless $z=Q^{-1} . \infty$. But $z \neq Q^{-1} . \infty$ because $z \notin L_{\Gamma}$.


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- In fact $A_{n} . z^{\prime} \rightarrow P .0$ uniformly on some neighbourhood of $z$ if $z \neq Q^{-1} . \infty$ (which is true). So $A_{n} . z_{n} \rightarrow P .0$. But then $z=P .0 \in L_{\Gamma}$, giving a contradiction.


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- Then, as in Lemma 2, $A_{n} B . z^{\prime} \rightarrow z$ uniformly for $z^{\prime}$ in some open neighbourhood $U$ of $z$.
- Then for all sufficiently large $n, A_{n} B(\bar{U}) \subset U$. But then $A_{n} B$ must be hyperbolic with attractive fixed point in $U$.


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- Then for all sufficiently large $n, A_{n} B(\bar{U}) \subset U$. But then $A_{n} B$ must be hyperbolic with attractive fixed point in $U$.
- Since $U$ can be taken arbitrarily small, $z$ is approximated arbitrarily closely by attractive fixed points of hyperbolic elements.


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- Let $\left(z_{1}, z_{2}\right) \in L_{\Gamma} \times L_{\Gamma}$ where $z_{1}$ is an attractive fixed point of $A_{1}$ and $z_{2}$ is a repelling fixed point of $A_{2}$ and $z_{1} \neq z_{2}$.


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- Let $z_{3}$ and $z_{4}$ be the repelling and attractive fixed points of $A_{1}$ and $A_{2}$ respectively. Assume also that $z_{4} \neq z_{3}$.
- Fix disjoint open neighbourhoods $U_{j}$ of $z_{j}$ with

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- It follows that $U_{1}$ contains the attractive fixed point of $A_{1}^{m} A_{2}^{n}$ and $U_{2}$ contains the repelling fixed point.


## Discussion: Equivalence between hyperbolic action and convex cocompact

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