

# Geometrically finite Kleinian groups: the completeness of Nayatani's metric

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**Abstract.** We give a criteria for the completeness of Nayatani's metric on the domain of discontinuity of a geometrically finite kleinian group.

*Complétude de la métrique de Nayatani  
pour les groupes kleiniens géométriquement finis*

**Résumé.** Nous donnons un critère de complétude pour la métrique de Nayatani sur le domaine de discontinuité d'un groupe kleinien géométriquement fini.

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## Version Française Abrégée

Soit  $\Gamma$  un groupe kleinien non élémentaire.  $\Gamma$  est par définition un sous-groupe du groupe de Möbius  $M(n)$ : ses éléments agissent par isométries sur le modèle en boule  $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$  de l'espace hyperbolique de dimension  $n + 1$  et par transformations conformes sur son bord géométrique, la sphère unité  $\mathbb{S}^n$ . En utilisant les mesures de Patterson-Sullivan, S. Nayatani [3] a construit une métrique  $g$  sur l'ensemble de discontinuité  $\Omega(\Gamma) \subset \mathbb{S}^n$  de  $\Gamma$ , conforme à la métrique standard  $g_0$  de la sphère et invariante par  $\Gamma$ . En notant  $\Lambda(\Gamma)$  l'ensemble limite de  $\Gamma$ ,  $\delta = \delta(\Gamma)$  son exposant critique,  $\mu$  une mesure de Patterson-Sullivan sur  $\Lambda(\Gamma)$  et  $|\cdot|$  la norme euclidienne de  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ ,  $g$  est donnée par:

$$g = \left( \int_{\Lambda(\Gamma)} \frac{2^\delta}{|x - y|^{2\delta}} d\mu(y) \right)^{2/\delta} g_0.$$

Si  $\Gamma$  agit librement sur  $\Omega(\Gamma)$ , on obtient une métrique compatible sur la variété kleinienne

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**Mots-clés:** groupes kleiniens, cusps, exposant critique, mesures de Patterson-Sullivan, métrique de Nayatani, variétés conformément plates, complétude.

**Classification Mathématique:** 20H10, 30F50, 53A30, 53B21, 58C35.

$M = \Omega(\Gamma)/\Gamma$ . S. Nayatani a montré que la courbure scalaire de  $g$  s'exprime simplement en fonction de l'exposant critique  $\delta(\Gamma)$  de  $\Gamma$ , ce qui permet de faire le lien avec les travaux de R. Schoen et S.T. Yau (cf [5]) sur les variétés conformément plates.

Si  $\Gamma$  est convexe cocompact, la variété quotient  $M$  est compacte et donc la métrique  $g$  est complète sur  $\Omega(\Gamma)$ . Nous nous intéressons dans cette note à la complétude de  $g$  dans le cas où  $\Gamma$  est seulement supposé géométriquement fini. En comparant le facteur conforme de  $g$  avec les masses totales de mesures de Patterson-Sullivan bien choisies, et grâce à l'article [7] de D. Sullivan, on voit apparaître une condition portant sur le rang des cusps. Plus précisément, on montre que  $g$  est complète si et seulement si l'ensemble limite  $\Lambda(\Gamma)$  de  $\Gamma$  ne contient pas de point fixe parabolique de rang  $k < \delta(\Gamma)$  (théorème 1).

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Can one realize conformally flat Riemannian manifolds as Kleinian manifolds, that is, quotients of (connected) domains of the unit sphere  $\mathbb{S}^n$  by Kleinian groups? Schoen and Yau [5] answered positively this question for a large class of conformally flat manifolds, which in particular contains those which admit a compatible complete metric of non-negative scalar curvature.

Conversely, given a non-elementary Kleinian group  $\Gamma$ , Nayatani [3] constructed a metric  $g$  on the domain of discontinuity  $\Omega(\Gamma)$  of  $\Gamma$ , which is conformal to the standard metric  $g_0$  of  $\mathbb{S}^n$ :

$$g = \left( \int_{\Lambda(\Gamma)} \frac{2^\delta}{|x - y|^{2\delta}} d\mu(y) \right)^{2/\delta} g_0,$$

where  $\Lambda(\Gamma) \subset \mathbb{S}^n$  is the limit set of  $\Gamma$ ,  $\delta = \delta(\Gamma)$  its critical exponent,  $|\cdot|$  is the euclidian norm of  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  and  $\mu$  is a borel measure supported on  $\Lambda(\Gamma)$  of unit total mass such that for every borel subset  $E$  of  $\mathbb{S}^n$  and for every  $\gamma$  in  $\Gamma$ ,

$$\mu(\gamma(E)) = \int_E |\gamma'(y)|^\delta d\mu(y)$$

(see Patterson [4] and Sullivan [6]). Following Sullivan, we call  $\mu$  a geometric measure of unit total mass.

This metric is  $\Gamma$ -invariant and hence if  $\Gamma$  acts freely on  $\Omega(\Gamma)$ , it gives rise to a compatible metric on the Kleinian manifold  $M = \Omega(\Gamma)/\Gamma$ . Nayatani also showed that the scalar curvature of  $g$  is closely related to the critical exponent of  $\Gamma$ .

If  $M$  is compact, for example if  $\Gamma$  is convex cocompact (cf [8]), the metric  $g$  is automatically complete on  $\Omega(\Gamma)$ . When  $\Gamma$  is geometrically finite with parabolic elements, the situation becomes somewhat more complicated. The purpose of this note is to prove the following theorem for a geometrically finite Kleinian group:

**THEOREM 1.** — *Let  $\Gamma$  be a non-elementary geometrically finite Kleinian group,  $\Omega(\Gamma) \subset \mathbb{S}^n$  its domain of discontinuity and  $\delta(\Gamma)$  its critical exponent. The Nayatani metric  $g$  on  $\Omega(\Gamma)$  is complete if and only if the limit set  $\Lambda(\Gamma)$  of  $\Gamma$  does not contain any parabolic fixed point of rank  $k < \delta(\Gamma)$ .*

Let  $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$  be the unit ball model of the hyperbolic  $(n+1)$ -space, and let  $\mathbb{S}^n = \partial_\infty \mathbb{B}^{n+1}$  be its boundary at infinity. Sullivan showed that, for  $\Gamma$  non-elementary and geometrically finite (what we now assume), there is, up to a constant multiple, only one geometric measure. Hence we may assume that  $\mu = \mu_0$ , the Patterson-Sullivan measure at  $0 \in \mathbb{B}^{n+1}$ , and that  $g = f g_0$ , with

$$\begin{aligned} f : \Omega(\Gamma) &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ \\ x &\longmapsto f(x) = \left( \int_{\Lambda(\Gamma)} \frac{2^\delta}{|x-y|^{2\delta}} d\mu_0(y) \right)^{2/\delta}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $x \in \mathbb{B}^{n+1}$ , let  $\mu_x$  denote the Patterson-Sullivan measure at  $x$  and let  $\varphi_\mu$  be the map ‘‘total mass’’ on  $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$  defined by  $\varphi_\mu(x) = \mu_x(\mathbb{S}^n)$ .  $\varphi_\mu$  is continuous and  $\Gamma$ -invariant. In fact, we have that

$$\varphi_\mu(x) = \int_{\Lambda(\Gamma)} \left( \frac{1 - |x|^2}{|x-y|^2} \right)^\delta d\mu_0(y).$$

Thanks to the work of Sullivan,  $\varphi_\mu$  is a much more known object than  $f$ . Thus we would like to compare  $f(x)$  for  $x \in \Omega(\Gamma)$  with  $\varphi_\mu(x')$  for  $x' \in \mathbb{B}^{n+1}$  well chosen.

LEMMA 1. — *Let  $x \in \Omega(\Gamma)$ ,  $r(x) = \inf_{y \in \Lambda(\Gamma)} |x-y|$  and  $\xi \in \Lambda(\Gamma)$  such that  $|x-\xi| = r(x)$ . Let  $\nu(\xi, r(x))$  be the point on the geodesic  $[0, \xi]$  in  $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$  at hyperbolic distance  $\ln(1/r(x))$  from 0. Then we have:*

$$f(x) \asymp \frac{1}{r(x)^2} \varphi_\mu(\nu(\xi, r(x)))^{2/\delta},$$

where  $\asymp$  means that there exist a constant  $C > 0$ , which depends only on  $\Gamma$  (and maybe on the equivalence class of  $\xi$  under  $\Gamma$ ), such that

$$\frac{1}{C} \frac{1}{r(x)^2} \varphi_\mu(\nu(\xi, r(x)))^{2/\delta} \leq f(x) \leq C \frac{1}{r(x)^2} \varphi_\mu(\nu(\xi, r(x)))^{2/\delta}.$$

*Proof.* — Let  $r = r(x)$ . From the hyperbolic formulas (cf [1]), we have

$$|\nu(\xi, r)| = \frac{1-r}{1+r} \quad \text{and} \quad |\nu(\xi, r) - \xi| = \frac{2r}{1+r}.$$

The following is just an obvious computation: let  $y \in \Lambda(\Gamma)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |\nu(\xi, r) - y| &\leq |\nu(\xi, r) - \xi| + |\xi - x| + |x - y| \\ &\leq \frac{2r}{1+r} + 2|x - y| \\ &\leq 4|x - y| \end{aligned}$$

In the same way, we obtain the reverse inequality and thus

$$|x - y| \asymp |\nu(\xi, r) - y|.$$

Hence

$$f(x) \asymp f(\nu(\xi, r)),$$

and

$$f(x) \asymp \frac{(1+r^2)^2}{r^2} \varphi_\mu(\nu(\xi, r))^{2/\delta},$$

which yields the result.  $\square$

From now on, we will assume that  $0 \in \mathbb{B}^{n+1}$  belongs to the hyperbolic convex hull  $C(\Lambda(\Gamma))$  of  $\Lambda(\Gamma)$  in  $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$  (if not, just take an  $L$ -neighbourhood  $V_L(C(\Lambda(\Gamma)))$  of  $C(\Lambda(\Gamma))$  containing it and replace  $C(\Lambda(\Gamma))$  by  $V_L(C(\Lambda(\Gamma)))$  in the proof).

If  $\Gamma$  is geometrically finite without parabolic element, that is, convex cocompact,  $C(\Lambda(\Gamma))/\Gamma$  is by definition compact. Hence by continuity and  $\Gamma$ -invariance,  $\varphi_\mu$  is bounded from below on  $C(\Lambda(\Gamma))$  by a strictly positive constant. We denote the  $g_0$ -distance from  $x$  to  $\Lambda(\Gamma)$  by  $\rho(x)$ . Since  $\nu(\xi, r(x)) \in C(\Lambda(\Gamma))$  and  $\rho(x) \asymp r(x)$ , we have

$$\exists C > 0 \text{ such that } \forall x \in \Omega(\Gamma), f(x) \geq \frac{C}{\rho(x)^2},$$

which gives another proof of the completeness of  $g$  on  $\Omega(\Gamma)$ .

But when  $\Gamma$  is geometrically finite with parabolic elements,  $C(\Lambda(\Gamma))/\Gamma$  consists of a compact piece with boundary and a finite number of exponentially skinny ends attached, called cuspidal ends, one for each class under  $\Gamma$  of parabolic fixed points ([7]).  $\varphi_\mu$  is then bounded from below only in the compact part of  $C(\Lambda(\Gamma)) \bmod \Gamma$  and we need a control of  $\varphi_\mu$  inside the cuspidal ends, which is precisely given by the following result of Sullivan ([7]).

**THEOREM 2.** — *Let  $\xi \in \Lambda(\Gamma)$  be a rank  $k$  parabolic fixed point. There is a constant  $r_0$ , which depends only on  $\Gamma$ ,  $k$ , and the class of  $\xi$  under  $\Gamma$ , such that:*

$$\forall r \leq r_0, \quad \varphi_\mu(\nu(\xi, r)) \asymp \left(\frac{1}{r}\right)^{k-\delta}.$$

*Proof.* — It is more convenient to work in the upper half-space model  $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$  of the hyperbolic  $(n+1)$ -space. We write  $\overline{\mathbb{H}^{n+1}} = \mathbb{R}^k \oplus \mathbb{R}^{n-k} \oplus \mathbb{R}^+$  and we denote by  $[x]_k$ ,  $[x]_{n-k}$ ,  $[x]_{n+1}$ , the images of  $x \in \overline{\mathbb{H}^{n+1}}$  under the projections on  $\mathbb{R}^k$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^+$ .

We come back to the construction of the Patterson-Sullivan measures. Let  $d$  denote the hyperbolic distance in  $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ . Fix a point  $y$  in  $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$  and define the absolute Poincaré series by:

$$g_s(x, y) = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \exp(-s d(x, \gamma y)), \text{ for } x \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1}.$$

By definition,  $\delta = \delta(\Gamma) = \inf\{s \in \mathbb{R}^+ / g_s(x, y) < \infty\}$ . For  $s > \delta$ , form the measures

$$\mu_{s,x} = \frac{1}{g_s(y, y)} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \exp(-s d(x, \gamma y)) \delta(\gamma y),$$

where  $\delta(\gamma y)$  is the Dirac atomic mass at  $\gamma y$ . Since  $\Gamma$  is geometrically finite,  $g_\delta(y, y) = \infty$  ([6]) and the Patterson-Sullivan measure at  $x$  is given by:

$$\mu_x = \lim_{s \rightarrow \delta} \mu_{s,x}.$$

Hence

$$\varphi_\mu(x) = \mu_x(\mathbb{S}^n) = \lim_{s \rightarrow \delta} \mu_{s,x}(\mathbb{H}^{n+1}) = \lim_{s \rightarrow \delta} \frac{g_s(x, y)}{g_s(y, y)}.$$

Thus we need to estimate  $g_s(x, y)$ , for  $s > \delta$ , when  $x \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1}$  goes to the rank  $k$  parabolic fixed point  $\xi$ . Up to conjugation, we may assume that  $\xi = \infty$  and so we compute  $g_s(x_z, y)$  for  $x_z = (0, \dots, 0, z)$ . Let  $\Gamma_\infty \subset \Gamma$  be the stabilizer of  $\infty$ .

$$\begin{aligned} g_s(x_z, y) &= \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \exp(-s d(x_z, \gamma y)) \\ &= \sum_{h|h(y) \in P_\infty} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty} \exp(-s d(x_z, \gamma^{-1} h(y))) \\ &= \sum_{h|h(y) \in P_\infty} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty} \exp(-s d(\gamma x_z, h y)) \end{aligned}$$

where  $P_\infty$  is a convex fundamental polyhedra for the action of  $\Gamma_\infty$  on  $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ .

We have, see Beardon [1], that

$$\exp(d(\gamma x_z, h y)) \asymp \cosh(d(\gamma x_z, h y)) = 1 + \frac{|\gamma x_z - h y|^2}{2z[h y]_{n+1}}.$$

But, up to conjugation, one may assume that  $\Gamma_\infty$  leaves  $\mathbb{R}^k$  globally invariant and acts cocompactly on it:  $\mathbb{R}^k/\Gamma_\infty$  is compact. Then, the action of  $\Gamma_\infty$  on  $\overline{\mathbb{H}^{n+1}}$  is given by

$$\gamma(x) = ([x]_k + a_\gamma, \alpha_\gamma([x]_{n-k}), [x]_{n+1}), \text{ where } \begin{cases} a_\gamma \in \mathbb{R}^k \\ \alpha_\gamma \in O(n-k), \end{cases}$$

so that

$$|\gamma x_z - h y|^2 = |a_\gamma - [h y]_k|^2 + |[h y]_{n-k}|^2 + |z - [h y]_{n+1}|^2.$$

The next theorem (see Tukia [8]) describes the structure of the limit set near a rank  $k$  parabolic fixed point:

**THEOREM 3.** — *Let  $\Gamma$  be a geometrically finite group, and  $\infty$  a rank  $k$  parabolic fixed point. Then there is a neighbourhood  $U_\infty$  of  $\infty$  in  $\overline{\mathbb{H}^{n+1}}$  of the form*

$$\overline{\mathbb{H}^{n+1}} \cap \left( \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus (\mathbb{R}^k \times \overline{B^{n-k}(0, R)}) \right)$$

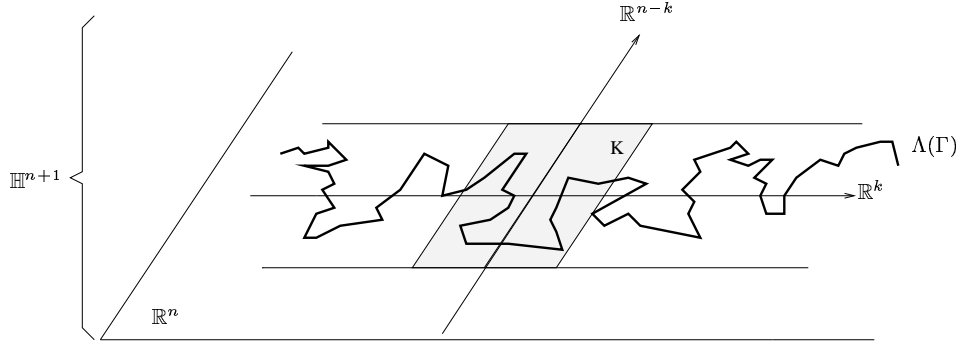
where  $B^{n-k}(0, R)$  is the euclidian ball in  $\mathbb{R}^{n-k}$  of center 0 and radius  $R$ , such that  $\Lambda(\Gamma) \cap U_\infty = \{\infty\}$ ,  $U_\infty$  is  $\Gamma_\infty$ -invariant and  $h(U_\infty) \cap U_\infty = \emptyset$  for every  $h \in \Gamma \setminus \Gamma_\infty$ . Such a neighbourhood is called *cuspidal*.

and allows us to show the

**LEMMA 2.** — *Let  $\Gamma y$  be the orbit of  $y$  under  $\Gamma$  and  $P_\infty$  a convex fundamental polyhedra for the action of  $\Gamma_\infty$  on  $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ .  $\Gamma y \cap P_\infty$  is bounded for the euclidian norm  $|\cdot|$  on  $\overline{\mathbb{H}^{n+1}} \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ .*

*Proof of the lemma.* — From theorem 3, there exists a constant  $R$  such that for all  $\xi$  in  $\Lambda(\Gamma) \setminus \{\infty\}$ ,  $|\xi]_{n-k}| \leq R$ . Hence there exists a compact  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$\forall \xi \in \Lambda(\Gamma) \setminus \{\infty\}, \exists \gamma \in \Gamma_\infty \mid \gamma \xi \in K.$$



Now, assume that  $\Gamma y \cap P_\infty$  is unbounded: there exists a sequence  $(h_m)_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$  of distinct elements of  $\Gamma$  such that  $h_m(y) \in P_\infty$  and  $|h_m(y)| \rightarrow \infty$ . Then,

$$\begin{cases} |[h_m(y)]_k| \text{ is bounded, for } \mathbb{R}^k / \Gamma_\infty \text{ compact implies } P_\infty \cap \mathbb{R}^k \text{ bounded,} \\ |[h_m(y)]_{n-k}] + |[h_m(y)]_{n+1}] \rightarrow \infty. \end{cases}$$

We may assume that  $y \in P_\infty$  and  $h_m \in \Gamma \setminus \Gamma_\infty$ . Let  $P$  be a convex fundamental polyhedra for the action of  $\Gamma$  on  $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ . We can choose  $P$  so that  $\infty \in \overline{P}$ . Indeed, consider the Dirichlet polyhedra  $P$  based at  $p \in U_\infty$  with  $|[p]_{n+1}]| > R$ . Since  $g(U_\infty) \cap U_\infty = \emptyset$  for all  $h \in \Gamma \setminus \Gamma_\infty$ ,  $|[\gamma p]_{n+1}]| \leq |[p]_{n+1}]|$  for every  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . Hence  $\overline{P}$  must contain  $\infty$ .

Let  $x$  be a point in  $P$  and  $\sigma$  be the geodesic  $[x, \infty)$ :  $\sigma \subset P$  because  $P$  is convex.  $d(h_m(x), h_m(y)) = d(x, y)$  and so  $|[h_m(x)]_{n-k}] + |[h_m(x)]_{n+1}] \rightarrow \infty$ . Since  $h_m$  doesn't belong to  $\Gamma_\infty$ ,  $h_m(\infty) \in \Lambda(\Gamma) \setminus \{\infty\}$  and there exists  $\gamma_m \in \Gamma_\infty$  such that  $\gamma_m \circ h_m(\infty) \in K$ . Remark that we still have  $|[\gamma_m \circ h_m(x)]_{n-k}] + |[\gamma_m \circ h_m(x)]_{n+1}] \rightarrow \infty$ .

Hence we can find a compact  $K' \subset \mathbb{H}^{n+1}$ , for example  $V_1(K) \times \{1\}$  (here  $V_1(K)$  denotes the set of points of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  at euclidian distance from  $K$  less than one), so that  $\gamma_m \circ h_m(\sigma) \cap K' \neq \emptyset$  for  $m$  large enough. But the covering of  $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$  by  $\Gamma P$  must be locally finite. This contradiction ends the proof.  $\square$

Thus there exists a constant  $M$  such that  $|hy - x_1| \leq M$ , for every  $h \in \Gamma$  with  $hy \in P_\infty$ . From now on, we assume that  $z \geq z_0 \gg M$ .

Then we have

$$|\gamma x_z - hy|^2 \asymp |a_\gamma - [hy]_k|^2 + |z|^2,$$

and

$$\exp(d(\gamma x_z, hy)) \asymp 1 + \frac{|a_\gamma - [hy]_k|^2 + |z|^2}{2z[hy]_{n+1}} \asymp \frac{z}{[hy]_{n+1}} \left( 1 + \frac{|a_\gamma - [hy]_k|^2}{z^2} \right).$$

Hence

$$g_s(x_z, y) \asymp z^{-s} \sum_{h|h(y) \in P_\infty} ([hy]_{n+1})^s \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty} \left(1 + \frac{|a_\gamma - [hy]_k|^2}{z^2}\right)^{-s}$$

$$g_s(x_z, y) \asymp z^{-s} \sum_{h|h(y) \in P_\infty} ([hy]_{n+1})^s \sum_{\substack{m \in \mathbb{N} \\ m \leq |a_\gamma - [hy]_k| < m+1}} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty} \left(1 + \frac{|a_\gamma - [hy]_k|^2}{z^2}\right)^{-s}.$$

For every  $\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty$  such that  $m \leq |a_\gamma - [hy]_k| < m+1$ ,  $1 + \frac{|a_\gamma - [hy]_k|^2}{z^2} \asymp 1 + \frac{m^2}{z^2}$ . Moreover,  $\text{card}\{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty \mid m \leq |a_\gamma - [hy]_k| < m+1\} \asymp m^{k-1}$ , with the convention that  $0^{k-1} = 1$ . Thus,

$$g_s(x_z, y) \asymp z^{-s} \sum_{h|h(y) \in P_\infty} ([hy]_{n+1})^s \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} m^{k-1} \left(1 + \frac{m^2}{z^2}\right)^{-s}.$$

We remark that

$$\sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} m^{k-1} \left(1 + \frac{m^2}{z^2}\right)^{-s} \asymp \int_0^\infty \frac{t^{k-1} dt}{\left(1 + \frac{t^2}{z^2}\right)^s},$$

and after the change of variables  $t \rightarrow u = t/z$  in the integral, we finally obtain

$$g_s(x_z, y) \asymp z^{k-s} \int_0^\infty \frac{u^{k-1} dt}{(1+u^2)^s} \sum_{h|h(y) \in P_\infty} ([hy]_{n+1})^s.$$

The integral  $\int_0^\infty \frac{u^{k-1} dt}{(1+u^2)^s}$  is finite since a rank  $k$  parabolic fixed point implies  $\delta > k/2$  (cf [2]).

The same computation is valid for  $z = z_0$  and thus

$$g_s(x_z, y) \asymp \left(\frac{z}{z_0}\right)^{k-s} g_s(x_{z_0}, y).$$

But  $z_0$  is fixed and we have

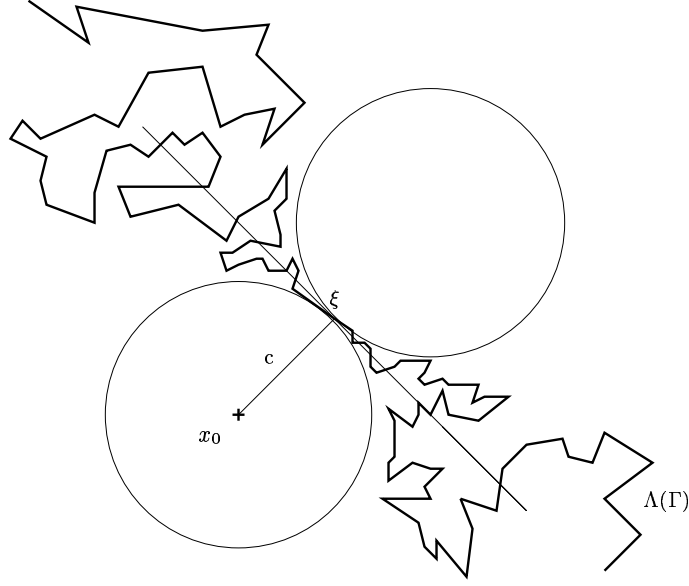
$$\mu_{s, x_z} \asymp z^{k-s} \mu_{s, x_{z_0}},$$

which, making  $s \rightarrow \delta$ , yields  $\varphi_\mu(x_z) \asymp z^{k-\delta}$ . (The constant, implicit in the notation  $\asymp$ , depends only on the geometry of  $\Gamma$ , on the class of the parabolic fixed point  $\infty$ , and on the point  $y \in \mathbb{H}^{n+1}$  we chose to define the Patterson-Sullivan measures.)  $\square$

We are now in position to prove theorem 1. Assume that the rank of any parabolic fixed point of  $\Lambda(\Gamma)$  is not less than  $\delta$ . Then, for every parabolic fixed point  $\xi$ ,  $\varphi_\mu(\nu(\xi, r))$  is bounded from below when  $r \rightarrow 0$ . This lower bound depends only on the class of  $\xi$  and there is a finite number of these:  $\varphi_\mu(\nu(\xi, r(x)))$  is bounded from below on  $C(\Lambda(\Gamma))$  by a strictly positive constant, independently of  $\xi \in \Lambda(\Gamma)$ . Hence there is a constant  $A > 0$  such that  $f(x) \geq \frac{A}{\rho(x)^2}$  for all  $x \in \Omega(\Gamma)$ :  $g$  is complete on  $\Omega(\Gamma)$ .

*Remark.* — It is known that if  $\Gamma$  is geometrically finite with only rank  $n$  parabolic fixed points then  $M$  is compact ([8]) and hence  $g$  is complete on  $\Omega(\Gamma)$ . Here we obtain this last completeness result from the fact that  $\delta(\Gamma) < n$  for  $\Gamma$  geometrically finite ([7]).

On the contrary, assume that there exists a parabolic fixed point  $\xi$  whose rank  $k$  is (strictly) less than  $\delta$ . Then  $1 \leq k \leq n-1$  since for a geometrically finite group,  $\delta < n$ . From the existence of a cuspidal neighbourhood  $U_\xi$  of  $\xi$ , we see that there exists  $x_0$  in  $\Omega(\Gamma)$  such that  $|x_0 - \xi| = r(x_0)$  (Indeed, this cuspidal neighbourhood is the image of a set of the form  $U_\infty$  by the conformal transformation mapping  $\mathbb{H}^{n+1}$  into  $\mathbb{B}^{n+1}$  and sending  $\infty$  on  $\xi$ ).



Let  $(c_t)_{t \in [0, l_0]}$  be the unit speed geodesic from  $x_0$  to  $\xi$  for the  $g_0$  metric of  $\mathbb{S}^n$  ( $l_0$  is the  $g_0$ -distance between  $x_0$  and  $\xi$ ).  $c$  is a divergent curve of  $\Omega(\Gamma)$ : it escapes from every compact of  $\Omega(\Gamma)$ . Let's compute the  $g$ -length of  $c$ :

$$l_g(c) = \int_0^{l_0} f(c_t)^{1/2} dt \leq C \int_0^{l_0} \frac{1}{r(c_t)} \left( \frac{1}{r(c_t)^{k-\delta}} \right)^{1/\delta} dt = C \int_0^{l_0} \frac{dt}{r(c_t)^{k/\delta}}.$$

For  $r(c_t) \asymp \rho(c_t) = l_0 - t$  and  $k/\delta < 1$ , the last integral is finite.  $c$  is a divergent curve in  $\Omega(\Gamma)$  of finite  $g$ -length:  $(\Omega(\Gamma), g)$  is not complete and theorem 1 is proved.



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