

# Chap 13. Nielsen-Thurston Classification.

Thm (Thurston) Every  $f \in \text{Mod}(S)$  has a representative  $\varphi$  s.t.

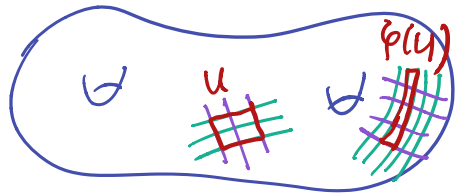
- ① periodic:  $\varphi^n = 1$
- ② reducible:  $\varphi(M) = M$   
some multicurve  $M$
- ③ pseudo-Anosov:

$\exists$  transv. meas. fol's  $\mathcal{F}_u, \mathcal{F}_s$   
&  $\lambda > 1$  s.t. "stretch factor"

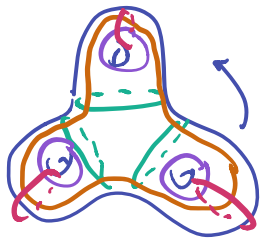
$$\varphi \cdot \mathcal{F}_u = \lambda \mathcal{F}_u$$

$$\varphi \cdot \mathcal{F}_s = \frac{1}{\lambda} \mathcal{F}_s$$

Moreover ③ is exclusive from  
① & ②.



# Examples



per.  
& red.

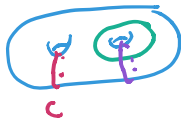
$$CRS = \emptyset$$



per.  
(not. red)  
b/c quotient  
orbifold is ☹️

$T_c$

red  
not per.



$$CRS = c$$



foliations  $\leftrightarrow$  eigenvectors  
stretch factor  $\leftrightarrow$  eigenvalues.

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Birman-Lubotzky-McCarthy:

Canonical reduction system = intersection  
of max reduction systems.

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Restatement of NTC: Every mapping  
class reduces to per & pA pieces.



a typical mapping  
class.

Jordan  
form

## Torus case

$$\begin{aligned} f \in \text{Mod}(T^2) &\leftrightarrow A \in \text{SL}_2 \mathbb{Z} \\ &\leftrightarrow \tau \in \text{Isom}^+(\mathbb{H}^2) \end{aligned}$$

Case 1 2 complex eigenvals

(per.)  $\leftrightarrow \tau$  rotation.  
prop disc.  $\Rightarrow |\tau| < \infty$ .  $\odot$

Case 2. 1 real eigenval

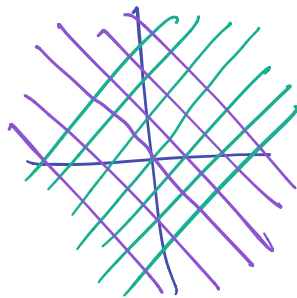
(red) product of eigenvals = det = 1.

$$\lambda = \pm 1$$

$\Rightarrow$  eigenvector rational.

$\leadsto$  fixed curve

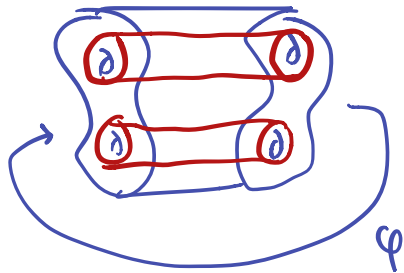
Case 3 2 real eigenvals.  $\lambda, \frac{1}{\lambda}$   
(pA)  $\Rightarrow f$  (pseudo-)Anosov.



$$\begin{aligned} X^2 + X + 1 &= 0 \\ (X-1)(X^2 + X + 1) &= 0 \\ X^3 &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

### 3-manifolds

$f \in \text{Mod}(S) \rightsquigarrow M_f = \text{mapping torus}$



$$[\phi] = f.$$

Thm (Thurston)  $f \in \text{Mod}(S) \quad \chi(S) < 0.$

- $f$  per  $\iff M_f$  admits metric locally isometric to  $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ .
- $f$  red  $\iff M$  contains incompressible torus  
 $\hookrightarrow \pi_1$ -inj.
- $f$  pA  $\iff M$  admits hyperbolic metric.  
 $\implies$   
hard.

Periodic elements "Easy Nielsen realization" (Fenchel)

Thm.  $f \in \text{Mod}(S)$  periodic

$\Rightarrow f$  has a periodic rep:

$$\varphi^n = 1.$$

Pf. To show  $f$  has fixed pt in  $\text{Teich}(S)$ .

Indeed:  $f \cdot X = X$

$$\varphi^* X \sim X$$

Can change  $\varphi$  by isotopy so fixes  $X$  on nose.

Note  $\langle f \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/m$

Fact.  $\mathbb{Z}/m$  cannot act freely on a fin. dim contractible space.

(otherwise quotient is a fin. dim  $K(\mathbb{Z}/m, 1)$  &  $H^k(\mathbb{Z}/m) \neq 0$  arb. large  $k$ ).

So  $f^j$  fixes  $X \in \text{Teich}(S)$  some  $j$ .

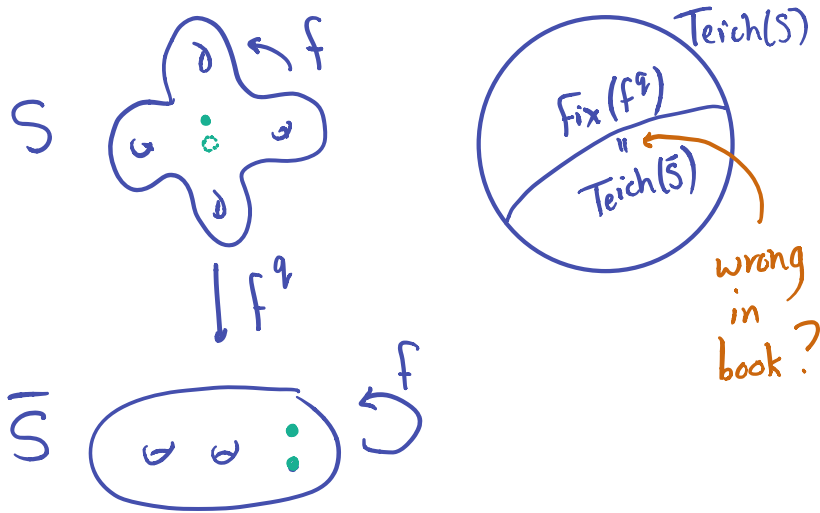
Special case.  $m$  prime.

$$f = (f^j)^k \text{ some } k. \Rightarrow f \cdot X = X.$$

Assume now  $m = pq$   $p$  prime,  $q$  prime.

Note  $f^q$  has order  $p$ .

As above  $f^q$  fixes  $X \in \text{Teich}(S)$ .



The map

$$\text{Teich}(\bar{S}) \rightarrow \text{Fix}(f^q)$$

is: lift complex structures.

Injectivity: Teich. U.T. \*

$$\bar{X} \neq \bar{Y} \in \text{Teich}(\bar{S})$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  Teich map of  $\bar{S}$

$\rightsquigarrow$  Teich map of  $S$   
between lifts  $X, Y$ .

$$\Rightarrow X \neq Y.$$

Surjectivity: Special case.



# Outline of proof of NTC (Bers)

$$f \in \text{Mod}(S)$$

$$L(f) = \inf \left\{ X \in \text{Teich}(S) : \right. \\ \left. d(X, f \cdot X) \right\}$$

"translation length"

To show:

$$L(f) = 0 \text{ \& realized} \iff f \text{ periodic}$$

$$L(f) \text{ not realized} \iff f \text{ reducible}$$

$$L(f) > 0 \text{ \& realized} \iff f \text{ pA.}$$

