# Limit sets of Anosov representations

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## Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Lie group preliminaries

We fix the Cartan subalgebra  $\mathfrak{a}$  of  $SL(d, \mathbb{R})$ :

$$\mathfrak{a} = \{ \operatorname{diag}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d) : \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_d = 0 \}$$

and the Weyl chamber  $\mathfrak{a}^+$  of  $SL(d,\mathbb{R})$ 

$$\mathfrak{a}^+ = \{ \operatorname{diag}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d) : \alpha_1 \ge \dots \ge \alpha_d \}.$$

Denoting with  $K=\mathrm{SO}(d,\mathbb{R}), A^+=e^{\mathfrak{a}^+},$  we have the Cartan decomposition:

$$\mathfrak{sl}(d,\mathbb{R}) \to K \times A^+ \times K$$
  
 $g \mapsto (k_q, a_q, l_q)$ 

such that  $g = k_g a_g l_g$ . In particular  $a_g = \operatorname{diag}(\sigma_1(g), \dots, \sigma_d(g))$  with  $\sigma_1 \ge \dots \ge \sigma_d(g)$ , where  $\sigma_i(g)$  is the *i*-th singular value of g, i.e. eigenvalue of  $g^t \cdot g$ .

We will use the spaces

$$U_p(g) = \mathbb{R}u_1(g) \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathbb{R}u_p(g)$$

where  $u_i(g) = k_g \cdot e_i$ . One can easily show that the decomposition

$$g^{-1} \cdot U_p(g) \oplus U_{d-p}(g^{-1})$$

is orthogonal with respect to the standard inner product and that  $u_p(g^{-1}) = l_g^{-1} e_{d-p+1}(g)$ .

### 1.2 Limit set preliminaries

**Definition 1.2.1.** For  $p \in \{2, ..., d\}$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $g \in SL(d, \mathbb{R})$  we denote with  $\tilde{\Psi}^p_s(g), \Psi^p_s(g) : SL(d, \mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{R}$  the functional:

$$\Psi_{s}^{p}(g) = \alpha_{12}(a(g)) + \dots + \alpha_{1(p-1)}(a(g)) + (s - (p-2))\alpha_{1p}(a(g))$$

$$\tilde{\Psi}_{s}^{p}(g) = \left(\frac{\sigma_{2}}{\sigma_{1}} \cdots \frac{\sigma_{p-1}}{\sigma_{1}}(g)\right) \left(\frac{\sigma_{p-1}}{\sigma_{1}}(g)\right)^{s - (p-2)}$$

Remark 1.2.1. We have  $\alpha_{ij}(a) = a_i - a_j, a_i(g) = \log(\sigma_i(g))$  and

$$\Psi^p_s(g) = \log \tilde{\Psi}^p_s(g)$$

and that

$$\min_{p \in [\![2,d]\!]} \left\{ \sum_{|\gamma| = T} \frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1} \cdots \frac{\sigma_{p-1}}{\sigma_1}(g) \left( \frac{\sigma_{p-1}}{\sigma_1}(g) \right)^{s - (p-2)} \right\} = \sum_{|\gamma| = T} e^{-\max_{p \in [\![2,d]\!]} \Psi^p_s(g)}$$

Remark 1.2.2. For any  $g \in \mathrm{SL}(d,\mathbb{R})$  we have that:

$$\max_{p \in [2,d]} \Psi_s^p(g) = \Psi_s^{p_0}(g) \text{ for } s \in [p_0 - 2, p_0 - 1].$$

Indeed, a quick calculation shows that for  $s \ge 0$  and  $p \in [2, d]$ :

$$\Psi_s^p(g) \leq \Psi_s^p(g)$$
 if and only if  $s \geq p-1$ .

and that equality holds in the case s = p - 1. Thus for  $s \in [p - 2, p - 1]$  we have that

$$s \geq p-2, \ldots, 1$$
 implies that  $\Psi_s^p(g) \geq \ldots \geq \Psi_s^2(g)$ 

$$s \leq p, \ldots, d-1$$
 implies that  $\Psi_s^p(g) \leq \ldots \leq \Psi_s^d(g)$ 

Another way to see this (refer to Figure 1.1) is to note that  $\Psi^2_s(g), \cdots, \Psi^d_s(g)$  is a sequence of functions that are affine in s, with slopes  $\alpha_{12}(g) \leq \cdots \leq \alpha_{1d}(g)$  and that they satisfy  $\Psi^2_1(g) = \Psi^2_2(g), \Psi^3_2(g) = \Psi^4_3(g), \cdots, \Psi^{d-1}_{d-2}(g) = \Psi^d_{d-2}(g)$ .

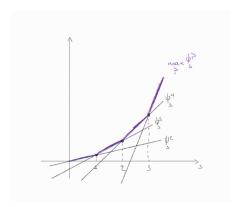


Figure 1.1: Visual illustration that  $\max_p \Psi_s^p(g) = \Psi_s^{p_0}(g)$  for  $s \in [p_0 - 2, p_0 - 1]$ .

The following definition comes from [0], in the special case of projective Anosov representations (P=1):

**Definition 1.2.2.** For  $s \geq 0$  we consider the Falconer functional  $F_s : \mathrm{SL}(d,\mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{R}$  by:

$$F_s(g) = \min \left\{ \sum_{j=2}^d s_j \alpha_{1j}(a(g)) : s_j \in (0,1], \sum_{j=2}^d s_j = s \right\},$$

and define the Falconer dimension  $\dim_F(\rho)$  of  $\rho$  to be its critical exponent:

$$\dim_F(\rho) = \inf \left\{ s > 0 : \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} e^{-F_s(\rho(\gamma))} < \infty \right\}.$$

Remark 1.2.3. Using elementary computations one may prove that for all  $s \ge 0$ :

$$F_s(g) = \max_{p \in [2,d]} \Psi_s^p(g)$$

**Definition 1.2.3.** Let  $\rho: \Gamma \to \mathrm{SL}(d,\mathbb{R})$  be a linear representation and  $p \in [1,d-1]$ . We say that  $\rho$  is p-Anosov if there exist constants  $\mu, C > 0$  such that for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ :

$$\frac{\sigma_{p+1}}{\sigma_p}(\rho(\gamma)) \le Ce^{-\mu|\gamma|}.$$

One can show that in that case there exist equivariant continuous maps  $\xi^p: \hat{\Gamma} \to \mathcal{G}_p(\mathbb{R}^d), \xi^{d-p}: \hat{\Gamma} \to \mathcal{G}_{d-p}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  that are transverse and restrict to

$$\xi^p(\gamma) = U_p(\rho(\gamma)), \xi^{d-p}(\gamma) = U_{d-p}(\rho(\gamma))$$

for  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , where  $U_p(\gamma), U_{d-p}(\gamma)$  denote the flags corresponding to  $\rho(\gamma)$ .

Figure out what this exactly means

## Chapter 2

# Upper bound

#### 2.1 Proof of bound

**Lemma 2.1.1** (Upper bound for dimension). Let  $\rho : \Gamma \to \mathrm{SL}(d,\mathbb{R})$  be a projective Anosov representation. Then:

$$\dim_H(\xi^1(\partial\Gamma)) \le \dim_F(\rho).$$

Remark 2.1.1. The idea of the proof of Lemma 2.1.1 is to find a covering whose Hausdorff content is dominated by the Dirichlet series of some functional  $\Psi^p_s$ , which will in turn imply that  $\dim_H(\xi^1(\partial\Gamma)) \leq h_p(\Psi^p)$ . Choosing then the most "effective" cover (i.e. the one which yields the smallest Hausdorff content up to a constant) we obtain that

$$\dim_H(\xi^1(\partial\Gamma)) \le h_\rho(\max_p \Psi^p)$$

To obtain this we first cover  $\xi^1(\partial\Gamma)$  by the bassins of attraction  $\rho(\gamma) \cdot B_{\alpha_1,\alpha}(\rho(\gamma))$  for  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  satisfying  $|\gamma| = T$ . Then we cover each bassin by an ellipsoid of axes lengths

$$\frac{1}{\sin(\alpha)} \frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1}(\rho(\gamma)), \dots, \frac{1}{\sin(\alpha)} \frac{\sigma_d}{\sigma_1}(\rho(\gamma)).$$

Finally we cover each ellipsoid by balls of some fixed radius r > 0. It can be shown by comparing the series appearing in the Hausdorff content of each resulting cover that the most "effective" choice of r depends only on the Hausdorff exponent s > 0 and in any case will be to have r equal (up to a constant) to the the length of an axis of the ellipsoid, i.e.

$$r \in \left\{ \frac{1}{\sin(\alpha)} \frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1}(\rho(\gamma)), \dots, \frac{1}{\sin(\alpha)} \frac{\sigma_d}{\sigma_1}(\rho(\gamma)). \right\}$$

In particular, when  $s \in [p-2, p-1]$ , the most effective choice is  $r = \sigma_p(\rho(\gamma))/\sigma_1(\rho(\gamma))$ , whose Hausdorff content is dominated by the Dirichlet series of  $\Psi^p_s$ .

Proof of Lemma 2.1.1. Let  $p \in [2, d]$ . Then using Proposition 2.2.1, Lemma 2.2.2, and Lemma 2.2.3 we have that for T > 0 large enough,  $\xi^1(\partial \Gamma)$  is covered by the family

$$\mathcal{U}_T = \{ \rho(\gamma) B_{\alpha_1,\alpha}(\rho(\gamma)) : |\gamma| = T \},$$

and that each basin  $\rho(\gamma)B_{\alpha_1,\alpha}(\rho(\gamma))$  is in turn covered by

$$2^{p-2} \cdot \frac{\sigma_p(g)^{p-2}}{\sigma_2(g) \cdots \sigma_{p-1}(g)}$$

many balls of radius

$$\sqrt{d-1} \frac{1}{\sin \alpha} \frac{\sigma_p(g)}{\sigma_1(g)}.$$

By the definition of the Hausdorff measure, for  $s \geq 0$ :

$$\mathcal{H}^{s}(\xi^{1}(\partial\Gamma)) \leq \sum_{|\gamma|=T} 2^{2p+1} \cdot \frac{\sigma_{2}(\rho(\gamma))}{\sigma_{1}(\rho(\gamma))} \cdots \frac{\sigma_{p-1}(\rho(\gamma))}{\sigma_{1}(\rho(\gamma))} \left(\frac{\sigma_{p}(\rho(\gamma))}{\sigma_{1}(\rho(\gamma))}\right)^{-(p-2)} \left(\sqrt{d-1} \frac{1}{\sin \alpha} \frac{\sigma_{p}(\rho(\gamma))}{\sigma_{1}(\rho(\gamma))}\right)^{s} =$$

$$= 2^{2p+1} \cdot \left(\frac{\sqrt{d-1}}{\sin \alpha}\right)^{s} \sum_{|\gamma|=T} \frac{\sigma_{2}(\rho(\gamma))}{\sigma_{1}(\rho(\gamma))} \cdots \frac{\sigma_{p-1}(\rho(\gamma))}{\sigma_{1}(\rho(\gamma))} \left(\frac{\sigma_{p}(\rho(\gamma))}{\sigma_{1}(\rho(\gamma))}\right)^{s-(p-2)} =$$

$$= 2^{2p+1} \cdot \left(\frac{\sqrt{d-1}}{\sin \alpha}\right)^{s} \sum_{|\gamma|=T} e^{-\left(\alpha_{12}+\ldots+\alpha_{1(p-1)}+(s-(p-2))\alpha_{1p}\right)\rho(\gamma)}$$

$$= 2^{2p+1} \cdot \left(\frac{\sqrt{d-1}}{\sin \alpha}\right)^{s} \sum_{|\gamma|=T} e^{-\Psi^{p}_{s}(\rho(\gamma))}$$

and thus

$$\mathcal{H}^s(\xi^1(\partial\Gamma)) \leq 2^{2p+1} \cdot \left(\frac{\sqrt{d-1}}{\sin\alpha}\right)^s \sum_{|\gamma| = T} e^{-\max_p \Psi^p_s(\rho(\gamma))} \lesssim \sum_{|\gamma| = T} e^{-F_s(\rho(\gamma))}.$$

To see that the above implies the upper bound, consider some  $s > \dim_F(\rho)$ . By the definition of the Falconer dimension, this implies that the Dirichlet series corresponding to the Falconer functional converges:

$$\sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} e^{-F_s(\rho(\gamma))} < \infty$$

and in particular

$$\mathcal{H}^{s}(\xi^{1}(\partial\Gamma)) \leq \lim_{T \to \infty} e^{-F_{s}(\rho(\gamma))} = 0.$$

#### 2.2 Lemmata

**Definition 2.2.1.** Let V be a finite-dimensional  $\mathbb{R}$ -vector space. We consider a decomposition

$$V = \mathbb{R}u_1 \bigoplus \cdots \bigoplus \mathbb{R}u_d$$

be a direct decomposition that is orthogonal with respect to a fixed inner-product over V. Given  $\beta_2 \geq \ldots \beta_d > 0$ , we define an ellipsoid with axes  $u_1 \oplus u_p(g)$  and lengths  $\beta_p$  to be the image of

$$\left\{ v = \sum_{1}^{d} v_i u_i \in V : \sum_{2}^{d} \left( \frac{v_j}{\beta_j} \right)^2 \le 1 \right\}$$

through the projection  $V \to \mathbb{P}(V)$ .

The following aims to be something along the lines of [0, Lemma 2.4]:

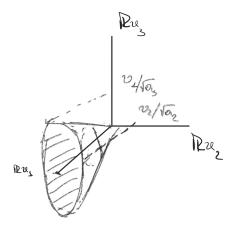


Figure 2.1: Depiction in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  of an ellipsoid of  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ 

**Lemma 2.2.1.** Let  $\rho: \Gamma \to \operatorname{SL}(d,\mathbb{R})$  be a projective Anosov representation. For  $\alpha > 0$  small enough, there exists L > 0 such that for any geodesic ray  $(a_j)_j$  through e we have:

$$\angle(U_1(\rho(a_i)), U_{d-1}(\rho(a_0))) > \alpha$$

when  $|a_i|, |a_0| > T$ .

*Proof.* Assume the contrary for the shake of contradiction. Then (see Figure 2.2 ) for each n > 0 there exists a geodesic ray  $a^n$  through e such that

$$|a_n^n|, |a_0^n| > n \text{ and } \angle(U_1(\rho(a_n^n)), U_1(\rho(a_0^n))) < \frac{1}{n}.$$

Due to compactness of  $\partial\Gamma$  we may assume (up to a subsequence) that  $a^n \to x$  in  $\partial\Gamma$  for some  $x \in \partial\Gamma$ . Then  $a_n^n, a_0^n \to x$  in  $\hat{\Gamma}$  which implies

Not sure if this is true.

$$\angle(\xi^{1}(x), \xi^{d-1}(x)) = 0$$

using the fact that the limit maps  $\xi^1, \xi^{d-1}$  are continuous, which contradicts their tranversality.

The following is [0, Proposition 3.5].

**Lemma 2.2.2.** Let  $\rho: \Gamma \to SL(d,\mathbb{R})$  be projective Anosov. Then for  $\alpha > 0$  small enough, there exists some  $T_0 > 0$  such that for all  $T \geq T_0$  the family

$$\mathcal{U}_T = \{ \rho(\gamma) B_{\alpha_1, \alpha}(\rho(\gamma)) : |\gamma| = T \}$$

is an open covering of  $\xi^1(\partial\Gamma)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha, T > 0$  be as in the statement of Lemma 2.2.1 and  $x \in \partial \Gamma$  be represented by a geodesic ray  $(\gamma_j)_{j \geq 0}$  starting from e. Then  $(\gamma_T^{-1}\gamma_j)_j$  is a geodesic ray starting from  $(\gamma_T)^{-1}$  that passes through e, so

$$\angle(U_1(\rho(\gamma_T^{-1}\gamma_j)), U_{d-1}(\rho(\gamma_T^{-1}))) > \alpha$$

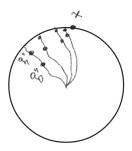


Figure 2.2: Situation in Lemma 2.2.1

as implied by Lemma 2.2.1. Taking the limit  $j \to \infty$  and using the equivariance of the limit map, we obtain

$$\angle(\rho(\gamma_T^{-1})\xi^1(x), U_{d-1}(\rho(\gamma_T^{-1}))) > \alpha$$

and thus  $\xi^1(x) \in \rho(\gamma_T) \cdot B_{\alpha_1,\alpha}(\rho(\gamma_T))$ .

The following is [0, Proposition 3.8].

**Proposition 2.2.1.** For each  $g \in SL(d,\mathbb{R}), \alpha > 0$ , the basin of attraction  $g \cdot B_{\alpha_1,\alpha}(g)$  lies in the ellipsoid with axes  $u_1(g) \oplus u_p(g)$  with lengths

$$\frac{1}{\sin\alpha} \cdot \frac{\sigma_p(g)}{\sigma_1(g)}$$

*Proof.* Using the definition of the basin of attraction (see Figure 2.3 ), we have that  $w=w_1u_1(g^{-1})+\cdots+w_du_d(g^{-1})\in B_{\alpha_1,\alpha}(g)$  if and only if

$$w_d^2 \ge (\sin \alpha)^2 \sum_{i=1}^d w_i^2.$$

Considering now some  $v = v_1 u_1(g) + \cdots + v_d u_d(g) \in g \cdot B_{\alpha_1,\alpha}(g)$  we have that

$$w = g^{-1}v = v_1\sigma_1(g)^{-1}l_g^{-1}e_1(g) + \cdots + v_d\sigma_d(g)^{-1}l_g^{-1}e_d(g)$$
$$= v_1\sigma_1(g)^{-1}u_d(g^{-1}) + \cdots + v_d\sigma_d(g)^{-1}u_1(g^{-1})$$

where we used that  $u_p(g^{-1}) = l_g^{-1} e_{d+1-p}$ . Hence

$$\sigma_1(g)^{-2} \cdot v_1^2 \ge (\sin a)^2 \sum_{i=1}^d \sigma_i(g)^{-2} v_i^2.$$

The following is [0, Lemma 3.7]:

**Lemma 2.2.3.** For any  $p \in [2,d]$ , an ellipsoid in  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  of axes lengths  $\beta_2, \dots, \beta_d$  is covered by

$$2^{p-2} \frac{\beta_2 \cdots \beta_{p-1}}{\beta_p^{p-2}}$$

many (projected) balls of radius  $\sqrt{d-1}\beta_p$ .

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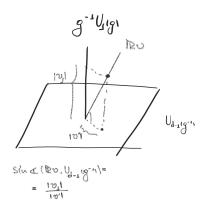


Figure 2.3: Aid for Proposition 2.2.1

Proof. We assume that E is an ellipsoid about  $\mathbb{R}e_1$ , so it suffice to cover its intersection  $E_1 = E \cap U_1 \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d-1}$  with the affine chart  $U_1 = \{[x_1 : \dots, x_d] \in \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d) : x_1 \neq 0\}$ . Clearly  $E_1 \subseteq [-\beta_2, \beta_2] \times \dots \times [-\beta_d, \beta_d]$ , so we proceed by covering the rectangle with side-lengths  $2\beta_2, \dots, 2\beta_d$ . Clearly each interval  $(-\beta_j, \beta_j)$  is contained in the union of  $[\beta_j/\beta_p]$  intervals of length  $2\beta_p$ , thus  $E_1$  is contained in the union of

$$\left[\frac{\beta_2}{\beta_p}\right] \cdots \left[\frac{\beta_{p-1}}{\beta_p}\right] = \left[\frac{\beta_2}{\beta_p}\right] \cdots \left[\frac{\beta_d}{\beta_p}\right]$$

many squares of side-length  $2\beta_p$ . Since each such product is contained in a (d-1)-ball of radius  $\sqrt{d-1}\beta_p$  we may use at most

$$\left\lceil \frac{\beta_2}{\beta_p} \right\rceil \cdots \left\lceil \frac{\beta_{p-1}}{\beta_p} \right\rceil \le \sum_{i \in \{0,1\}^{p-2}} \prod_{j=2}^{p-1} \left( \frac{\beta_j}{\beta_p} \right)^{i_j} \le 2^{p-2} \frac{\beta_2}{\beta_p} \cdots \frac{\beta_{p-1}}{\beta_p}$$

many (d-1)-balls of radius  $\sqrt{d-1}\beta_p$  to cover  $E_1$ .

The following can be found in [0, Proposition 3.3]:

**Proposition 2.2.2.** Let  $\rho: \Gamma \to SL(d,\mathbb{R})$  be projective Anosov and  $\alpha > 0$  Then there exist  $c_0, c_1 > 0$  that depends only on  $\alpha$  and  $\rho$  such that for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ :

$$(\xi^1)^{-1}(B_{\alpha_1,\alpha}(\rho(\gamma))) \subseteq C_{c_0,c_1}^{\infty}(\gamma)$$

*Proof.* We begin by noting that it suffices to show this for all but finitely many  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , since then we may alter the constants to satisfy the wanted inclusion also for the finitely many remaining  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . Given this, we shall assume that  $|\gamma| \geq l_0$  where  $l_0 > 0$  is such that  $Ce^{-\mu l_0} < 1$  and  $C, \mu > 0$  are the constants appearing in the definition of the Anosov property of  $\rho$ ..

Suppose  $x \in \partial \Gamma$  such that  $\xi^1(x) \in B_{\alpha_1,\alpha}(\rho(\gamma))$ , and consider a geodesic ray  $a_j \to x$  starting from  $a_0 = e$ . To prove the result, it suffices to find constants  $c_0, c_1$  independent of  $\gamma$  and a  $(c_0, c_1)$ -quasi-geodesic from  $\gamma^{-1}$  to x that passes through e and stays at a bounded distance from  $(a_j)_{j=0}^{\infty}$ 

Using [0, Proposition 2.5] we have that  $d(\xi^1(a_j), U_{d-1}(\rho(\gamma^{-1}))) \leq Ce^{-\mu j}$ , so there exists some L > 0 that depends only on  $\alpha$  such that for all  $j \geq L : U_1(\rho(a_j)) \in B_{\alpha_1,\alpha}(\rho(\gamma))$  and in particular

$$d(\xi^1(a_j), \gamma^{-1}) = d(U_1(\rho(a_j)), U_1(\rho(\gamma^{-1}))) \ge d(U_1(\rho(a_j)), U_{d-1}(\rho(\gamma^{-1}))) > \sin \alpha.$$

Along with the uniform continuity of  $\xi^1: \Gamma \cup \partial \Gamma \to \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  this implies there exists some  $\alpha' > 0$  and L > 0 such that for all  $j \geq L$ :

$$d(a_j, \gamma^{-1}) \ge \alpha'.$$

Upon considering a large L, we may also assume that  $|a_L| = L > l_0$ . Note that both  $\alpha'$  and L do not depend on each  $\gamma$  but only on  $\rho$  and  $\alpha$ .

Using some geometric group theory, we can show that for all  $j \geq L$ 

$$d(\gamma^{-1}, a_j) > \alpha' \Rightarrow d([\gamma^{-1}, a_j], e) < \alpha''$$

for some  $\alpha''$  that depends only on  $\Gamma$  and  $\alpha'$ , where  $[a_j, \gamma^{-1}]$  denotes the geodesic segment connecting  $\gamma^{-1}$  and  $a_j$ .

Consider the concatenation  $(a'_j)_{j=L-K}^{\infty}$  of  $[\gamma^{-1}, a_L]$  and  $[a_L, x]$ . To find quasi-geodesic-constants that are uniform in  $\gamma$ , we note that for any  $c_0 \geq 1, c_1 \geq 0$ :

$$c_0^{-1}|i-j|-c_1 \le d(a_i',a_j') = d(a_i,a_j) \le d(a_i)c_0^{\dagger}i-j|+c_1 \text{ when } i,j \ge L \text{ or } i,j \le L$$

and that the upper bound follows trivially by the triangle inequality.

For the lower bound we proceed in two steps. First we bound the distance of  $\gamma^- 1 = a'_{L-K}$  to  $a_{L+j}$  for  $j \ge 0$ :

$$d(a'_{L-K}, a'_{L+j}) \ge \nu(|a_{L+j}| - |\gamma^{-1}|) - c'_0 - c'_1 |\log(d(U_1(\rho(a_{L+j})), U_1(\rho(\gamma^{-1}))))| \ge$$

$$\ge \nu((L+j) + (K-L)) - c'_0 - c'_1 |\log(\sin a)| \ge$$

$$= c_0^{-1}(j+K) - c_1$$

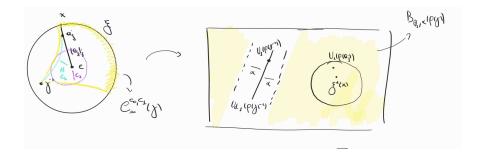
for  $c_0 = \nu^{-1}$ ,  $c_1 = c_0' + c_1' |\log(\sin \alpha)|$ . The first inequality comes from [0, Lemma 3.9]. For the second inequality we estimate  $|\gamma^{-1}|$  from below using the triangle inequality. We are now ready to show that the concatenation  $(a_j')_j$  is indeed a  $(c_0, c_1)$ -geodesic:

$$d(a_{L+j}, a_{L-i}) \ge d(a_{L+j}, a_{LK}) - d(a_{LK}, a_{L-i}) \ge c_0^{-1}(j+K) - c_1 - (K-i) \ge c_0^{-1}(j+i) - c_1.$$

Note however that  $(a_j')$  does not necessarily lie in  $C_{\infty}^{c_0,c_1}$  since it may not pass through e. For this reason we some  $L-K \leq i_0 \leq L$  such that  $|a_{i_0}| < \alpha''$ , the existence of which is guaranteed by the fact that  $d([\gamma^{-1},a_L],\epsilon) < \alpha''$ . We then consider alter  $(a_j')$  at  $i_0$  so that it passes through e to obtain

$$a_j'' = \begin{cases} a_j & \text{for } j \neq i_0 \\ e & \text{for } j = i_0 \end{cases}$$

which is a  $(c_0, c_1 + \alpha'')$ -quasigeodesic passing from e and converging to x.



## Chapter 3

### Lower bound

We denote with  $\Pi$  the set of simple positive roots, and for  $\Theta \subseteq \Pi$  we consider the Levi-Anosov subspace of  $\mathfrak{a}$ 

$$\mathfrak{a}_{\Theta} = \bigcap_{\alpha \notin \Theta} \ker \alpha,$$

which in particular admits  $\{\omega_{\alpha_i} : \alpha_i \in \Theta\}$  as a basis. Finally, we shall consider the Busemann cocycle

$$b_{\Theta}: \mathrm{PSL}(d,\mathbb{R}) \times \mathcal{F}_{\Theta} \to \mathfrak{a}_{\Theta}$$

which might as well be defined as

$$\omega_{\alpha_i}(b_{\Theta}(g,x)) = \log \frac{\|gv_1 \wedge \cdots gv_i\|}{\|v_1 \wedge \cdots v_i\|} \text{ for all } \alpha_i \in \Theta$$

for any basis  $v_1, \ldots, v_i$  of  $x^i \in \mathcal{G}_i(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , where  $\|\cdot\|$  denotes the norm on  $\bigwedge^i \mathbb{R}^d$  induced by the euclidean inner product on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , i.e.  $\langle v_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge v_k, w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge w_k \rangle := \det(\langle v_i, w_j \rangle)$ .

**Definition 3.0.1.** For a discrete subgroup  $\Gamma < \mathrm{PSL}(d,\mathbb{R}), \phi \in (\alpha_{\Theta})^*$ , a  $(\Gamma,\phi)$ -Patterson Sullivan measure on  $\mathcal{F}_{\Theta}$  is a finite Radon measure  $\mu$  such that for every  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ 

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\gamma_*\mu}{\mathrm{d}\mu}(x) = e^{-\phi(b_{\Theta}(g^{-1},x))}, \text{ for all } x \in \mathcal{F}_{\Theta}(\mathbb{R}^d).$$

**Lemma 3.0.1.** Let  $\alpha > 0, \Theta \subseteq \Pi$ . There exists  $K = K(\alpha) > 0$  such that for each  $g \in SL(d, \mathbb{R}), a_i \in \Theta, y \in B_{\Theta,\alpha}(g)$ 

$$|\omega_i(a(g) - b(g, y))| \le K.$$

How to prove this?

Recalling that  $\{\omega_i\}_{a_i\in\Theta}$  is a basis for  $\mathfrak{a}_{\Theta}$ , the above implies in particular that for each  $\phi\in\mathfrak{a}_{\Theta}^*$  there exists  $K=K(\alpha,\phi)>0$  such that for all  $g\in\mathrm{SL}(d,\mathbb{R}),y\in B_{\Theta,\alpha}(g)$ 

$$|\phi(a(q) - b(q, y))| \le K.$$

### 3.1 Proof strategy

Denoting with  $d_{\Gamma} = \dim_H \xi_{\rho}^1(\partial \Gamma)$  the Hausdorff dimension of the limit set, we shall outline how to obtain its lower bound by the Falconer dimension

$$d_{\Gamma} \geq h_{\rho}(F)$$
.

First we recall that  $F_s(a) = \max\{\Psi_s^p(a) : p \in [2, d]\}$  and in particular  $h_\rho(F) \leq h_\rho(\Psi^{d_\Gamma+1})$ . Thus the lower bound will follow once we have shown that

$$d_{\Gamma} \geq h_{\rho}(\Psi^{d_{\Gamma}+1}).$$

Noting that  $(s+1)J_{d_{\Gamma}^u} \geq \Psi_{s+d_{\Gamma}}^{d_{\Gamma}+1}$ , the above bound will follow as soon as we have shown that

$$h_{\rho}(J_{d_{\Gamma}}) \ge 1.$$
 (LB)

To obtain Equation (LB), one uses the method of Patterson-Sullivan-Quint, which may be summed up in

There exists a  $(\phi, \rho)$ -Patterson-Sullivan measure on  $\mathcal{F}_{\Theta}(\mathbb{R}^d) \Rightarrow h_{\rho}(\phi) \geq 1$ ,

where  $\phi \in \mathfrak{a}_{\Theta}$  and  $\Theta \subseteq \Pi$ . The property that we will need of our measure is that there exists a collection of open sets  $U_{\gamma_{\gamma}} \in \Gamma$  such that

$$\mu(U_{\gamma}) \sim e^{-J_{d_{\Gamma}}^{u}(a(\rho(\gamma)))} \text{ and } M := \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \max \left\{ \sharp A : A \subseteq \Gamma_{n}, \bigcap_{\gamma \in A} U_{\gamma} \neq \emptyset \right\} < \infty$$
 (MP)

where  $\Gamma_n = \{ \gamma \in \Gamma : |\gamma| = n \}$ . The existence of a  $(J_{d_{\Gamma}}^u, \rho)$ -Patterson-Sullivan measure that satisfies the property (MP) will be proved in Section 3.2. Assuming that for the time being, below we outline the Patterson-Sullivan-Quint method of obtaining Equation (LB).

Indeed, we first obtain the uniform in n bound:

$$\sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_n} e^{-J_{d_{\Gamma}}^u(a(\rho(\gamma)))} \lesssim \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_n} \mu(\rho(U_{\gamma})) \leq \frac{1}{M} \mu(\mathcal{F}_{\Theta}(\mathbb{R}^d)) < \infty$$

along with the bound implied by the Anosov property of  $\rho$ :

$$J_{d_{\Gamma}}(a(\rho(\gamma))) \geq \mathsf{a}_{12}(a(\rho(\gamma))) \geq C|\gamma| - b$$

to conclude that

$$\sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} e^{-(s+1)J^u_{d_\Gamma}(a(\rho(\gamma)))} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_n} e^{-sJ^u_{d_\Gamma}(a(\rho(\gamma)))} e^{J^u_{d_\Gamma}(a(\rho(\gamma)))} \lesssim \sum_{n \geq 0} e^{-s(Cn-b)} < \infty$$

which holds for any s > 0, and thus Equation (LB) holds.

#### 3.2 Existence of Patterson-Sullivan measure

**Definition 3.2.1.** Let  $V \in \mathcal{G}_{p+1}\mathbb{R}^d$  and  $l \in \mathbb{P}(V)$ . Using the canonical identification  $T_l\mathbb{P}(V) \simeq \text{hom}(l,V/l)$ , we define the density  $|\Omega_{l,V}|$  on  $\bigwedge^p T_l\mathbb{P}(V)$  by

$$|\Omega_{l,V}|(\phi_1,\ldots,\phi_p) = \frac{\|v \wedge \tilde{\phi}_1(v) \wedge \cdots \wedge \tilde{\phi}_p(v)\|}{\|v\|^{p+1}}$$

for any  $v \in l - \{0\}$ , where  $\tilde{\phi}_1, \dots \tilde{\phi}_p \in \text{hom}(l, V)$  are such that  $\phi_i = \tilde{\phi}_i + \text{hom}(l, l)$  and  $\|\cdot\|$  denotes the norm on  $\bigwedge^{p+1} R^d$  induced by the euclidean inner product.

The following is [0, Proposition 6.4]:

**Proposition 3.2.1.** Assume that  $\xi^1_{\rho}(\partial\Gamma)$  is a Lipschitz submanifold of dimension  $d_{\Gamma}$ . Then there exists a  $(\rho(\Gamma), J^u_{d_{\Gamma}})$ -Patterson-Sullivan measure on  $\mathcal{F}_{1,d_{\Gamma}+1}$ .

*Proof.* By Rademacher's theorem,  $\xi_{\rho}^{1}(\partial\Gamma)$  has a well-defined Lebesgue measure class, and Lebesgue-almost every  $\xi_{\rho}^{1}(x) \in \xi_{\rho}^{1}(\partial\Gamma)$  admits a well-defined tangent space  $T_{\xi_{\rho}^{1}(x)}\xi_{\rho}^{1}(\partial\Gamma)$ . Considering such a  $\xi_{\rho}^{1}(x)$  we let

$$\pi: \hom(\xi_\rho^1(x), \mathbb{R}^d) \to \hom(\xi_\rho^1(x), \mathbb{R}^d/\xi_\rho^1(x)) \simeq T_{\xi_\rho^1(x)} \xi_\rho^1(\partial \Gamma),$$

and

$$x^{d_{\Gamma}+1} = \pi^{-1}(T_{\xi_{\rho}^{1}(x)}\xi_{\rho}^{1}(\partial\Gamma))\xi_{\rho}^{1}(x) \in \mathcal{G}_{d_{\Gamma}+1}(\mathbb{R}^{d}),$$

for which one can show that

$$T_{\xi_{\rho}^1(x)}\xi_{\rho}^1(\partial\Gamma) \simeq \hom(\xi_{\rho}^1(x),\mathbb{R}^d/\xi_{\rho}^1(x)) \simeq \hom(\xi_{\rho}^1(x),x^{d_{\Gamma}+1}/\xi_{\rho}^1(x)).$$

In this notation, we shall define (Lebesgue-almost eeverywhere) the map

$$\zeta_{\rho}: \xi_{\rho}^1(\partial\Gamma) \to \mathcal{F}_{1,d_{\Gamma}+1}(R^d), \quad \zeta_{\rho}(\xi_{\rho}^1(x)) = (\xi_{\rho}^1(x), x^{d_{\Gamma}+1}).$$

We now define the non-negative density on  $\xi_o^1(\partial\Gamma)$ 

$$\mu_{\xi_{\rho}^{1}(x)} = |\Omega_{\zeta_{\rho}(\xi_{\rho}^{1}(x))}|$$

which satisfies

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\gamma_*\mu}{\mathrm{d}\mu}(\xi) = \frac{\mathrm{d}(\rho(\gamma)^{-1})^*\mu}{\mathrm{d}\mu}(\xi) = e^{-J_{d_{\Gamma}+1}^u(b_{\Theta}(\rho(\gamma)^{-1},\zeta(x))))},$$

where the term on the left-hand side involves measures, the term between the two equalities involves densities, and  $\Theta = \{1, d_{\Gamma} + 1\}$ . Indeed, for  $\phi_1, \ldots, \phi_{d_{\Gamma}} \in T_{\xi_{\rho}^1(x)} \xi_{\rho}^1(\partial \Gamma)$ :

$$\begin{split} &(\rho(\gamma)^*\mu)_{\xi_{\rho}^1(x)}(\phi_1,\dots,\phi_{d_{\Gamma}}) \\ &= \mu_{\rho(\gamma)}\xi_{\rho}^1(x)(\rho(\gamma)\phi_1\rho(\gamma)^{-1},\dots,\rho(\gamma)\phi_{d_{\Gamma}}\rho(\gamma)^{-1}) = \\ &= \frac{\|\rho(\gamma)\xi_{\rho}^1(x)\wedge\rho(\gamma)\phi_1(\xi_{\rho}^1(x))\wedge\dots\wedge\rho(\gamma)\phi_{d_{\Gamma}}(\xi_{\rho}^1(x))\|}{\|\rho(\gamma)\xi_{\rho}^1(x)\|^{d_{\Gamma}+1}} = \\ &= \frac{\|\rho(\gamma)\xi_{\rho}^1(x)\wedge\rho(\gamma)\phi_1(\xi_{\rho}^1(x))\wedge\dots\wedge\rho(\gamma)\phi_{d_{\Gamma}}(\xi_{\rho}^1(x))\|}{\|\xi_{\rho}^1(x)\wedge\phi_1(\xi_{\rho}^1(x))\wedge\dots\wedge\phi_{d_{\Gamma}}(\xi_{\rho}^1(x))\|} \cdot \frac{\|\xi_{\rho}^1(x)\wedge\phi_1(\xi_{\rho}^1(x))\wedge\dots\wedge\phi_{d_{\Gamma}}(\xi_{\rho}^1(x))\|}{\|\rho(\gamma)\xi_{\rho}^1(x)\|^{d_{\Gamma}+1}} \cdot \frac{\|\rho(\gamma)\xi_{\rho}^1(x)\|^{d_{\Gamma}+1}}{\|\xi_{\rho}^1(x)\|^{d_{\Gamma}+1}} = \\ &= e^{\omega_{d_{\Gamma}}(b_{\Theta}(\rho(\gamma),\zeta_{\rho}(\xi_{\rho}^1(x))))} \cdot \mu_{\xi_{\rho}^1(x)}(\phi_1,\dots,\phi_{d_{\Gamma}}) \cdot e^{-(p+1)\omega_1(b_{\Theta}(\rho(\gamma),\zeta_{\rho}(\xi_{\rho}^1(x))))} = \\ &= e^{-J_{d_{\Gamma}}^u(b_{\Theta}(\rho(\gamma)^{-1},\zeta(\xi_{\rho}^1(x))))} \mu_{\xi_{\rho}^1(x)}(\phi_1,\dots,\phi_{d_{\Gamma}}). \end{split}$$

Finally, we let  $\nu = \zeta_{\rho_*}\mu$ , which is the wanted Patterson-Sullivan measure on  $\mathcal{F}_{1,d_{\Gamma}+1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , since for  $f \in C_c(\mathcal{F}_{1,d_{\Gamma}+1}(\mathbb{R}^d))$ :

$$\begin{split} \int_{\mathcal{F}_{1,d_{\Gamma}+1}(\mathbb{R}^d)} f \, \mathrm{d}(\gamma_* \zeta_{\rho_*} \mu) &= \int_{\xi_{\rho}^1(\partial \Gamma)} f \circ \gamma \circ \zeta_{\rho} \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \int_{\xi_{\rho}^1(\partial \Gamma)} f \circ \zeta_{\rho} \circ \gamma \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \\ &= \int_{\xi_{\rho}^1(\partial \Gamma)} f \circ \zeta_{\rho}(\xi) e^{-J_{d_{\Gamma}}^u(b_{\Theta}(\rho(\gamma)^{-1}, \zeta(\xi_{\rho}^1(x)))} \, \mathrm{d}\mu(\xi_{\rho}^1(x)) = \\ &= \int_{\mathcal{F}_{1,d_{\Gamma}+1}(\mathbb{R}^d)} f(y) e^{-J_{d_{\Gamma}}^u(b_{\Theta}(\rho(\gamma)^{-1}, y)} \, \mathrm{d}(\zeta_{\rho_*} \mu)(y) \end{split}$$

Before giving the next definition, we recall that the annihilator annihilator of an element  $y \in \mathcal{F}_F i\Theta(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is the set of partial flags that are not transverse to y, that is:

$$\operatorname{Ann}(y) = \left\{ x \in \mathcal{F}_{\Theta}(\mathbb{R}^d) : x^{\theta} \cap y^{d-\theta} \neq 0 \text{ for some } \theta \in \Theta \right\}.$$

**Definition 3.2.2.** Let  $\rho: \Gamma \to \mathrm{SL}(d,\mathbb{R})$  be a linear representation,  $\Theta \subseteq \Pi$  and  $\mu$  a measure over  $\mathcal{F}_{\Theta}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ . We say that  $\rho$  is  $\mu$ -irreducible there is no element in  $\mathcal{F}_{i\Theta}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , whose annihilator is of full measure, i.e. for all  $y \in \mathcal{F}_{i\Theta}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ :

$$\mu(\operatorname{Ann}(y)) < \mu(\mathcal{F}_{\Theta}(\mathbb{R}^d)).$$

**Example 3.2.1.** If  $\rho(\Gamma)$  is Zariski-dense in  $\mathrm{SL}(d,\mathbb{R})$ , then  $\rho$  is  $\mu$ -irreducible for any  $\rho$ -quasi-equivariant measure  $\mu$ , and in particular for any  $(\rho(\Gamma), \phi)$ -Patterson-Sullivan measure.

Remark 3.2.1. The reason that we introduce the concept of  $\mu$ -irreducibility is that for any  $\mu$ -irreducible representation  $\rho: \Gamma \to \operatorname{SL} d, \mathbb{R}$ , there exist  $\alpha, \kappa > 0$  such that  $\mu(B_{\Theta,\alpha}(\rho(\gamma))) \geq k$  for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

Indeed, if this were not the case, then there would exists a sequence  $\alpha_n \searrow 0$  and  $\gamma_n \in \Gamma$  such that

$$\mu(B_{\theta,\alpha}(\rho(\gamma))) \le \frac{1}{n}.$$

Due to the compactness of  $\mathcal{F}_{\Theta}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , up to considering a subsequence, we may assume that the reppeling flags or  $\rho(\gamma_n)$  converge to some  $\xi \in \mathcal{F}_{\Theta}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ :

$$(U_{d-i}(\rho(\gamma_n)^{-1}))_{a_i \in \Theta} \to \xi$$

In that case, the complements  $B_{\Theta,\alpha_n}^c(\rho(\gamma_n))$  will converge to the annihilator of  $\xi$ , in the sense:

$$\lim\sup_{n} B_{\Theta,\alpha_n}^c(\rho(\gamma_n)) \subseteq \operatorname{Ann}(\xi).$$

Indeed, let  $y \in \limsup_n B_{\Theta,\alpha_n}^c(\rho(\gamma_n))$  and consider a subsequence  $k_n$  such that  $y \in B_{\Theta,\alpha_n}^c(\rho(\gamma_{k_n}))$ . By the very definition of  $B_{\Theta,\alpha_n}(\rho(\gamma_n))$ , there exists some p such that up to considering a subsequence of  $k_n$ ,

$$\angle (y^p, U_{d-p}(\rho(\gamma_n)^{-1})) \le \alpha_n$$

holds. Taking the limit as  $n \to \infty$ , we have that  $y^p \cap \xi^{d-p} \neq 0$  and hence  $y \in \text{Ann}(\xi)$ .

Using a measure-theoretic argument we conclude that  $Ann(\xi)$  is of full measure, which contradicts the  $\mu$ -irreducibility of  $\rho$ :

$$\mu(\operatorname{Ann}(\xi)) \ge \mu(\limsup_{n} B_{\Theta,\alpha_{n}}^{c}(\rho(\gamma_{k_{n}}))) \ge \limsup_{n} \mu(B_{\Theta,\alpha_{n}}^{c}(\rho(\gamma_{k_{n}}))) = \mu(\mathcal{F}_{\Theta}(\mathbb{R}^{d})).$$

**Lemma 3.2.1.** Let  $\rho: \Gamma \to SL(d, \mathbb{R})$  be a representation and  $\mu^{\phi}$  be a  $(\rho(\Gamma), \phi)$ -Patterson-Sullivan measure. If  $\rho(\Gamma)$  is  $\mu$ -irreducible, then there exists some  $\alpha_0 > 0$ , such that for any  $\alpha \in (0, \alpha_0)$ , there's some  $k = k(\alpha) > 0$  for which

$$\frac{1}{k}e^{-\phi(a(\rho(\gamma)))} \le \mu^{\phi}(\rho(\gamma)B_{\Theta,\alpha}(\rho(\gamma))) \le ke^{-\phi(a(\rho(\gamma)))}$$

for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha_0, k > 0$  be as in the remark preceding the statement of the lemma. As noted in Lemma 3.0.1, there exists some  $K = K(\alpha_0, \phi) > 0$  such that for any  $\alpha \in (0, \alpha_0)$  and  $y \in B_{\Theta,\alpha}(\rho(\gamma))$ :

$$|\phi(a(\rho(\gamma)) - b(\rho(\gamma), y))| \le K,$$

from which we obtain the upper bound

$$\mu^{\phi}(\rho(\gamma)B_{\Theta,\alpha}(\rho(\gamma))) = (\rho(\gamma^{-1})_*\mu^{\phi})(B_{\Theta,\alpha}(\rho(\gamma))) = \int_{\mathcal{F}_{\Theta}(\mathbb{R}^d)} e^{-\phi(b(\rho(\gamma),y))} d\mu^{\phi}(y) \le$$

$$\le e^{-K}\mu^{\phi}(\mathcal{F}_{\Theta}(\mathbb{R}^d))e^{-\phi(a(\rho(\gamma)))}.$$

Similarly we obtain the lower bound

<sup>\*</sup>Appendix

## Appendix A

## Tangent space to the Grassmanian

Let V be a d-dimensional real vector space. We denote with  $\mathcal{G}_k(V)$  the Grassmanian of k-dimensional subspaces of V. Our first objective is to find a convenient way to express its tangent space.

**Proposition A.0.1.** We have the following canonical identification:

$$hom(W, V/W) \simeq T_W \mathcal{G}_k(V)$$
$$\phi \mapsto \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\Big|_{t=0} \Gamma(t\phi)$$

where  $\Gamma(\phi) = (Id + \phi)(W)$  is the graph of  $\phi$ .

*Proof.* We will consider the map

$$F: \text{Injhom}(W, V) \to \mathcal{G}_k(V), \quad \phi \mapsto \phi(W).$$

whose derivative is given by:

$$d_I F(\phi) = F\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\Big|_{t=0} (I + t\phi)\right) = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\Big|_{t=0} (I + t\phi(W)) = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\Big|_{t=0} \Gamma(t\phi).$$

The result will follow as soon as we have shown that  $d_I F$  is surjective and that  $\ker d_I F = \text{hom}(W, W)$ .

To show that it is surjective, we consider a (d-k)-dimensional subspace  $W' \in \mathcal{G}_{d-k}(V)$  that is complementary to W, i.e.  $V = W \oplus W'$ . Denoting with  $U_{W'} = \{Z \in \mathcal{G}_k(V) : Z \cap W' = 0\}$ , we recall the corresponding chart:

$$\Psi : \text{hom}(W, W') \to U_{W'}$$
  
 $\phi \mapsto \Gamma(\phi).$ 

Surjectivity of  $d_I F$  now follows by the fact that

$$d_I F(\phi) = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\Big|_{t=0} \Gamma(t\phi) = d_0 \Psi(\phi).$$

To show that  $\ker d_I F = \hom(W, W)$ , we first note that clearly  $\ker d_I F \supseteq \hom(W, W)$ . Equality then follows by the fact that  $\dim \hom(W, W) = \dim \ker d_I F$ , which is a direct consequence of the surjectivity.

Note that another way to prove the above identification throught the fact that the Grassmanian is a homogeneous space of  $GL(d, \mathbb{R})$ , giving us the diffeomorphism

$$\operatorname{GL}(V)/\operatorname{St}_{GL(V)}W \to \mathcal{G}_k(V)$$
  
 $[g] \mapsto gW,$ 

where  $\operatorname{St}_{GL(V)}W = \{g \in \operatorname{GL}(V) : gW = W\}$  is the stabilizer of W. Thus an expression for the tangent space at W may be obtained by differentiating the map above at the identity coset:

$$hom(W, V/W) \simeq hom(V, V) / hom(W, W) \simeq T_W \mathcal{G}_k(V).$$

In particular the above gives us a direct proof that the kernel of the map constructed in the previous proof is indeed hom(W, W).

Our second objective is to identify subspaces of  $T_l\mathbb{P}(V)$  with subspaces of V, by considering the first as projectivisation of the second. More concretely, we shall consider the space

$$\mathcal{P} = \{(l, P) : l \in \mathbb{P}(V), P \in \mathcal{G}_k(T_l \mathbb{P}(V))\}\$$

as a homogenous space of SL(V), where the action is given by

$$g \cdot (l, P) = (gl, d_l g(P)) = g\pi^{-1}(P)g^{-1} + \text{hom}(gl, gl)).$$

where we use the identification of  $T_l\mathbb{P}(V)$  with  $\hom(l,V/l)$  as above and denote with  $\pi: \hom(l,V) \to \hom(l,V/l)$  the canonical projection. For the sake of completeness, we outline the calculation of the differential:

$$\begin{aligned} \hom(l,V/l) \to T_l \mathbb{P}(V) & \to T_{gl} \mathbb{P}(V) & \to \hom(gl,V/gl) \\ \phi \mapsto \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\Big|_{t=0} g(I+t\tilde{\phi})(l) & \mapsto \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\Big|_{t=0} (I+tg\tilde{\phi}g^{-1})(gl) & \mapsto g\tilde{\phi}g^{-1} + \hom(gl,gl) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\phi \in \text{hom}(l, V/l), \tilde{\phi} \in \text{hom}(l, V)$  such that  $\tilde{\phi} + \text{hom}(l, l) = \phi$ .

We are now ready to express the needed identification:

**Proposition A.0.2.** We have the following SL(V) equivariant identification:

$$\mathcal{P} \to \mathcal{F}_{1,k+1}(V)$$
$$(l,P) \mapsto (l,\pi^{-1}(P)l)$$
$$(l, \hom(l,Q/l)) \longleftrightarrow (l,Q).$$

where  $\pi : \text{hom}(l, V) \to \text{hom}(l, V/l)$  is the canonical projection.

Proof. We begin by showing that the left-to-right direction of the map is well-defined. For this, we first need to check that for  $(l, P) \in \mathcal{P}$ , we have that  $\dim \pi^{-1}(P)l = k + 1$ . Indeed, we have that  $\dim \pi^{-1}(P) = k + 1$  as implied by the rank-nullity theorem for  $\pi : \pi^{-1}(P) \to P$ . The result then follows by the fact that  $\pi^{-1}(P)l = T_1(l) \oplus \cdots \oplus T_{k+1}(l)$  for any base  $T_1, \ldots, T_{k+1}$  of  $\pi^{-1}(P)$ . The second thing to check is that  $l \leq \pi^{-1}(P)l$ , which holds since  $\ker \pi = \hom(l, l) \leq \pi^{-1}(P)$ .

To see that the two directions above are inverse to each other, we begin by examining the right-to-left-to-right composition:

$$(l,Q) \mapsto (l,\pi(\text{hom}(l,Q))) \mapsto (l,\pi^{-1}\pi(\text{hom}(l,Q))) = (l,\text{hom}(l,Q)l) = (l,Q).$$

and for the left-to-right-to-left composition

$$(l, P) \mapsto (l, \pi^{-1}(P)l) \mapsto (l, \text{hom}(l, \pi^{-1}(P)l)),$$

so it suffices to show that  $hom(l, \pi^{-1}(P)l/l) = P$ . Indeed, for  $\pi^{-1}(P) = \mathbb{R}T_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathbb{R}T_k$ , we have that

$$hom(l, \pi^{-1}(P)l/l) = hom(l, \pi^{-1}(P)l) / hom(l, l) = (\bigoplus_{i} hom(l, T_{i}(l)) / hom(l, l)) =$$
$$= (\bigoplus_{i} \mathbb{R}T_{i}) / hom(l, l) = \pi^{-1}(P) / hom(l, l) = P.$$

For the equivariance, the calculations has as follows:

$$(l,P) \longmapsto (l,\pi^{-1}(P)l)$$
 
$$\downarrow^g \qquad \qquad \downarrow^g \qquad \qquad \Box$$
 
$$(gl,g\pi^{-1}(P)g^{-1} + \hom(gl,gl)) \longmapsto (gl,(g\pi^{-1}(P)g^{-1})(gl)) = (gl,g\pi^{-1}(P)l)$$