

Semi-stable lattices in higher rank

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 In 2 dimensions
- 3 In dimension at least 3

Historical motivation - [3]

Serre and Quillen used the notion of semistable vector bundle on an algebraic curve to study $SL_n(\mathcal{O})$ when \mathcal{O} is a Dedekind domain finitely generated over a finite field. Stuhler then realized he can use the same method to adapt some work of Harder and Narasimhan on stable vector bundles to yields new facts about lattices in a Euclidean space.

Definition of two-dimensional lattices

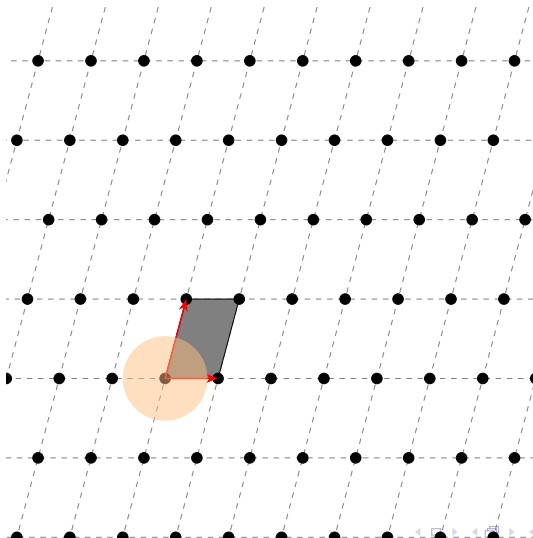
Lattice

A lattice $L \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ is a set of the form

$$L = \mathbb{Z}e_1 \oplus \mathbb{Z}e_2$$

where $e_1, e_2 \in \mathbb{R}^2$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{R} .

Example of a 2-dim lattice



Classification of lattices

Do we know all the possible 2 dimensional "lattice shapes"?

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Answer: Up to rescaling, rotation and change of basis, the answer is yes.

Fundamental domain

Up to rotations and rescaling, we can reduce a lattice

$$L = \mathbb{Z}e_1 \oplus \mathbb{Z}e_2$$

to a lattice of the form

$$L_z = \mathbb{Z}z \oplus \mathbb{Z}, \quad \Im(z) > 0$$

So the upper half-plane parametrizes the 2 dimensional lattices.

Classification of unit lattices

The map $z \mapsto L_z = \mathbb{Z}z \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ induces a bijection

$$\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash \mathbb{H} \cong \{ \text{lattices} \} / \mathbb{C}^\times$$

Fundamental domain

So we reduce the study of the space of lattices by looking the action of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ on the upper half plane. Geometrically, the fundamental domain is given by

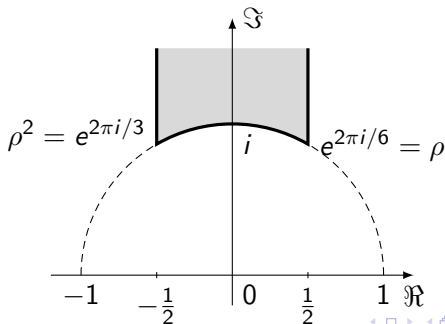
$$\mathfrak{D} = \{z = x + iy \in \mathbb{H} : |z| \geq 1, -1/2 \leq x \leq 1/2\}$$

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Canonical plot

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The process is as follows:

- 1 Put $(0, 0)$ in the plot.
- 2 For each primitive vector $v \in L$, he assigns the point $(1, \log(\|v\|))$ to the plot.
- 3 Put the point $(2, \log(\text{vol}(L)))$ in the plot.

Canonical plot

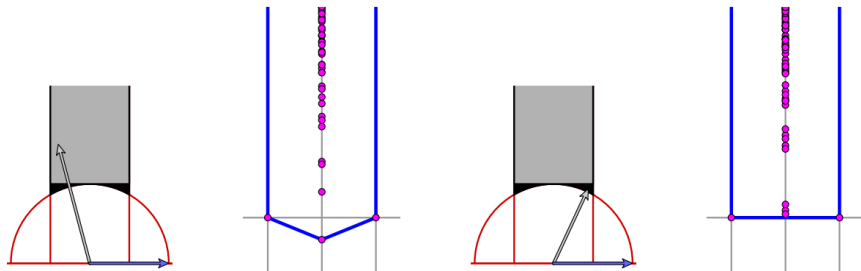


Figure: [1] - The figure on the left corresponds to $z = -2/5 + 3i/2$ and on the right corresponds to $z = 7/16 + 15i/16$

Canonical plot

Since the lattice is discrete, there is a shortest primitive vector - on the plot we have the lowest point on the vertical line $x = 1$.

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Grayson called the set of points plotted above as **canonical plot**. The convex hull of the collection of the plot points is called **profile**.

For any $z \in \mathbb{H} = \{\text{Im}(z) > 0\}$, we can assign to it a lattice of covolume 1 as follows

$$z \mapsto L_z = \mathbb{Z} \frac{e_1}{\sqrt{y}} + \mathbb{Z} \left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{y}} e_1 + \sqrt{y} e_2 \right)$$

The shortest vector is then e_1/\sqrt{y} , with length $\frac{1}{\sqrt{y}}$. So for $y < 1$, the lowest point is below the horizontal axis.

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The element z corresponds to a lattice L_z such that its lowest point on the vertical line $x = 1$ lies below the x -axis is called **semi-stable**, otherwise z is called **unstable**.

Semi-stable locus in fundamental domain

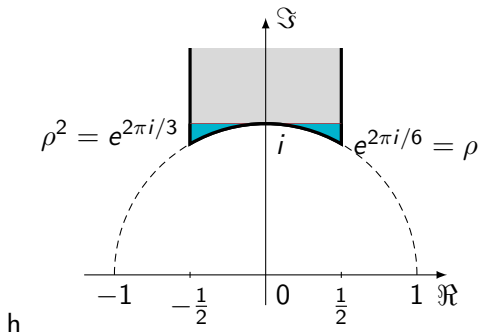


Figure: The blue part is the semistable locus in the fundamental domain

Since the semi-stability is preserved under the action of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$, the semi-stable locus in the upper half plane \mathbb{H} is as follows

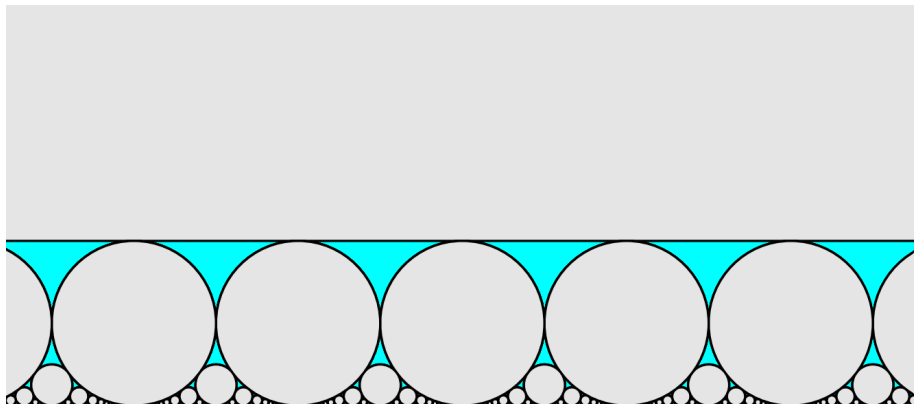


Figure: [1] - Semi-stable locus over \mathbb{H} - it is the complement of the union of the gray area

In higher dimensions

We work with the lattices of the form $g\mathbb{Z}^n$ for $g \in \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})$ or $g \in \mathrm{SL}_n(\mathbb{R})$. The latter yields lattices with unit volumes. Even if we want to work with unit lattices, we still need to consider the sublattices of arbitrary volumes.

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Sublattice

A discrete subgroup M of the lattice L is called **sublattice** if it satisfies one of the the following equivalent conditions:

- 1 L/M is torsion-free.
- 2 M is a direct summand in L .
- 3 Every basis of M can be extended to a basis in L .
- 4 The quotient L/M is a free \mathbb{Z} -module.

Volume of lattice

The volume of $L = g\mathbb{Z}^n$ is just $\det(g)$. Assume that M is a sublattice of L of rank $k \leq n$ with a basis

$$\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$$

Let e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n be the standard basis in $L \otimes \mathbb{R} \cong \mathbb{R}^n$. We can form a matrix of size $k \times n$

$$A = [\langle v_i, e_j \rangle]$$

The volume of M is defined to be the sum of the squares of the determinants of the $k \times k$ minor matrices in the matrix A .

Canonical plot in higher dimension

Grayson assigns to the lattice L a canonical plot as follows:

- 1 Put the point $(0, 0)$ in the plot.
- 2 For each sublattice $M \subset L$, assign a point with coordinates $I(M) = (\text{rank}(M), \log(\text{vol}(M)))$ to the plot.
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As before, we call the convex hull of this plot its **profile**.

We have the following proposition:

Lemma - Grayson

Fix a lattice L of rank n and a positive number c . For each $k \leq n$, there are only finitely many sublattices $M \subset L$ such that $\text{vol}(M) < c$.

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Semi-stable lattice

A lattice L is called **semi-stable** if the bottom of the profile is just a line.

Example of a higher rank profile

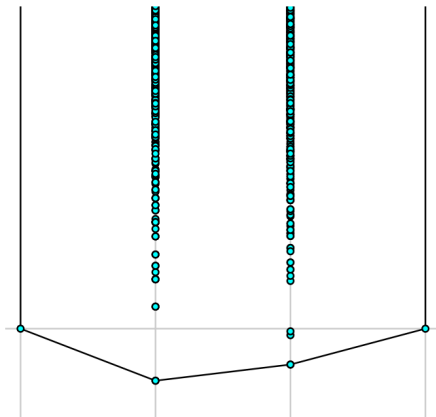


Figure: An unstable lattice

Iwasawa decomposition

We recall the Iwasawa decomposition for $G = \mathrm{GL}_n$:

$$G = K \times A \times N$$

where:

- 1 K is the orthogonal subgroup.
- 2 A is the group of diagonal matrices with positive entries along the diagonal.
- 3 N is the unipotent subgroup.

Parabolic subgroups

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Standard Parabolic subgroups of GL_n

For each partition

$$n = n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_k$$

We denote P_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k} the standard parabolic subgroup of type (n_1, \dots, n_k) to be the subgroup of matrices of the form

$$P_{n_1, \dots, n_k} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \mathfrak{m}_1 & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & \mathfrak{m}_2 & \dots & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \mathfrak{m}_k \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

where \mathfrak{m}_i is invertible of size $n_i \times n_i$.

Degree of instability

Now we are ready to define the degree of instability

Degree of instability, [2]

For each $x \in G$, we define its degree of instability to be

$$\deg_{\text{inst}}(x) := \min_{P \in \text{ParSt}, \gamma \in G/P} \langle \rho_P, H_B(x\gamma) \rangle$$

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We define the notion of ρ -semistable as follows

ρ -semistable

A point $x \in G$ is called **semi-stable** iff $\deg_{\text{inst}}(x) \geq 0$.

Equivalent between two notions of semi-stable

We have

$$\langle \rho_{Q_i}, H_B(x\gamma) \rangle = a_1 a_2 \dots a_i$$

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where

$$x = k_x a_x n_x \in K \times A \times N,$$

in which

$$a_x = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & a_1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & a_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Equivalent between two notions of semi-stable lattices

We have the following Lemma

Lemma 2.2.1, [2]

The following are equivalent:

- 1 $\deg_{\text{inst}}(x) \geq 0$;
- 2 For every parabolic subgroup $P \subset G$, every $\delta \in G(\mathbb{Q})/P(\mathbb{Q})$, and every $\varpi \in \hat{\Delta}_P^G$, we have:

$$\langle \varpi, H_B(x\delta) \rangle \geq 0;$$

- 3 For every maximal parabolic subgroup $P \subset G$, every $\delta \in G(\mathbb{Q})/P(\mathbb{Q})$, and every $\varpi \in \hat{\Delta}_P^G$, we have:

$$\langle \varpi, H_B(x\delta) \rangle \geq 0.$$

This suggests that there should be a connection between the maximal parabolic subgroups of G and sublattices of L . Indeed we have

$$\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z})/(Q_i(\mathbb{Q}) \cap \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z})) \longleftrightarrow \{ \text{sublattices of rank } i \text{ of } \mathbb{Z}^n \}$$

So we have the main theorem

Main theorem

Let $x \in X_n = K \backslash \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})$ - the space of lattices . Then x is semi-stable if one of the following equivalent conditions holds

- ① The bottom of the profile of the lattice corresponding to x is a straight line that connects the origin and $(n, \log(\mathrm{vol}(L)))$.
- ② The degree of instability of x is nonnegative, namely, $\deg_{\mathrm{inst}}(x) \geq 0$.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.