A Ruelle dynamical ζ -function for equivariant flows

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Joint work

Joint work with Hemanth Saratchandran (University of Adelaide):

- "Equivariant analytic torsion for proper actions", ArXiv:2205.04117.
- "A Ruelle dynamical zeta function for equivariant flows", ArXiv:2303.00312.



(1) The Ruelle dynamical ζ -function

Equivariant flows 2





I The Ruelle dynamical ζ -function

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Counting periodic flow curves

In this talk,

- *M* is a smooth manifold
- φ is a flow on M, i.e. a smooth action by \mathbb{R} on M, without fixed points
- $F \to M$ is a vector bundle, and ∇^F a **flat** connection on F.

In Part I, we also assume that M is **compact**.

The Ruelle dynamical ζ -function is a way to **count periodic flow curves** topologically, "twisted by $\nabla^{F''}$.

Nondegenerate flows

• Consider the length spectrum

 $L(\varphi) := \{l > 0; \text{ there is an } m \in M \text{ such that } \varphi_l(m) = m\}.$

For *l* ∈ *L*(φ), let Γ_l(φ) be the set of closed flow curves of period *l*, modulo constant time shifts.

Definition

The flow φ is **nondegenerate** if for all $I \in L(\varphi)$ and $\gamma \in \Gamma_I(\varphi)$,

$$\ker(1-T_{\gamma(0)}\varphi_I)=\mathbb{R}\gamma'(0).$$

Lemma

If φ is nondegenerate, then for all $l \in L(\varphi)$, the set $\Gamma_l(\varphi)$ is countable.

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The Ruelle dynamical ζ -function

Definition

If $L(\varphi)$ is countable and φ is nondegenerate, then the **Ruelle dynamical** ζ -function for φ , twisted by ∇^F , is

$$R_{\varphi,\nabla^{F}}(z) := \exp\left(\sum_{l \in L(\varphi)} \frac{e^{-lz}}{l} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{l}(\varphi)} \operatorname{sgn}\left(\det\left((1 - T_{\gamma(0)}\varphi_{l})|_{\gamma'(0)^{\perp}}\right)\right) T_{\gamma}^{\#}\operatorname{tr}(\rho_{l}(\gamma)^{-1})\right),$$

for $z \in \mathbb{C}$ for which this converges.

Here

•
$$T_{\gamma}^{\#} := \min\{t > 0; \gamma(t) = \gamma(0)\} \le I$$
 is the **primitive period** of γ
• $\rho_I(\gamma): F_{\gamma(0)} \to F_{\gamma(0)}$ is parallel transport along γ with respect to ∇^F

Note:

- The terms resemble terms in fixed-point formulas.
- There is a more general definition.

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Anosov flows

Let u be the generating vector field of φ .

Definition

The flow φ is **Anosov** if $TM = \mathbb{R}u \oplus E^+ \oplus E^-$, for φ -invariant sub-bundles $E^{\pm} \subset TM$ such that there is a Riemannian metric on M and C, c > 0 such that for all $m \in M$, $v^{\pm} \in E_m^{\pm}$ and t > 0,

$$\|T_m\varphi_{\pm t}v^{\pm}\| \leq Ce^{-ct}$$

If φ is Anosov, then it is nondegenerate.

Proposition (Margulis, 2004)

If φ is Anosov, then $L(\varphi)$ is countable, and there are C, c > 0 such that for all r > 0,

$$\#\bigcup_{l\leq r} \Gamma_l(\varphi) \leq Ce^{cr}.$$

So $R_{\varphi, \nabla^F}(z)$ converges if $\operatorname{Re}(z)$ is large enough.

Properties of the Ruelle dynamical $\zeta\mbox{-function}$ for Anosov flows

Theorem (Giulietti–Liverani–Pollicott, 2013; Dyatlov–Zworski, 2016) If M is orientable and φ is Anosov, then R_{φ,∇^F} has a meromorphic extension to \mathbb{C} .

Theorem (Dang-Guillarmou-Rivière-Shen, 2020)

If M is orientable and φ is Anosov, then $R_{\varphi,\nabla^F}(0)$, if defined, is invariant under a suitable notion of homotopy.

Proofs of both results are based on an expression for R_{φ,∇^F} in terms of a distributional **flat trace**; more on this in part III.

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Geodesic flow

Let X be a Riemannian manifold, and let

$$M = S(TX) := \{ v \in TX; \|v\| = 1 \}.$$

Let φ be the **geodesic flow** on M:

$$\varphi_t(v) = \left. \frac{d}{ds} \right|_{s=t} \exp_x(sv) \quad \in S(T_{\exp_x(tv)}X),$$

for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, $x \in X$ and $v \in S(T_xX)$.

Theorem

If X has negative sectional curvature, then φ is Anosov.

Example: the circle Let $M = S^1 = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$. Define φ by

$$\varphi_t(x+\mathbb{Z})=x+t+\mathbb{Z},$$

for $t, x \in \mathbb{R}$. Let γ be the unique flow curve up to equivalence

$$\gamma(t)=t+\mathbb{Z}.$$

Then φ is nondegenerate because $\gamma'(\mathbf{0})^{\perp} = \{\mathbf{0}\}.$

Let $\nabla^F = d + i\alpha dx$ on $F = M \times \mathbb{C}$, for $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$. Then

•
$$L(\varphi) = \mathbb{N}$$

• for all $l \in \mathbb{N}$, $\Gamma_l(\varphi) = \{\gamma\}$
• $\operatorname{sgn}\left(\det\left((1 - T_{\gamma(0)}\varphi_l)|_{\gamma'(0)^{\perp}}\right)\right) = 1$
• $T_{\gamma}^{\#} = 1$
• $\rho_l(\gamma) = e^{-i\alpha l}$.
So $R_{\varphi, \nabla^F}(z) = \exp\left(\sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-lz+i\alpha l}}{l}\right) = (1 - e^{-z+i\alpha})^{-1}$.

II Equivariant flows

Equivariant flows

From now on, we assume that a unimodular, locally compact group G acts properly on M, such that

- for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, the map φ_t is equivariant
- $F \to M$ is G-equivariant and ∇^F is G-invariant
- M/G is compact.

Example

If X is a Riemannian manifold, on which G acts properly and isometrically, then the lifted action to M = S(TX) has these properties for the geodesic flow.

Example

If X is a compact manifold, and φ_X is a flow on X, then the action by $\pi_1(X)$ on the universal cover M of X has these properties for the lift of φ_X to M.

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The g-length spectrum

From now on, fix $g \in G$.

Definition

The g-length spectrum of φ is

 $L_g(\varphi) := \{ l \neq 0; \text{ there is an } m \in M \text{ such that } \varphi_l(m) = gm \}.$

Now we also include **negative** *I*; this is needed for an equivariant Fried conjecture (more later).

Example

Consider the manifold $M = \mathbb{R}$, acted on by $G = \mathbb{R}$ by addition. Consider the flow $\varphi_t(x) = x + t$. Then for all nonzero $g \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$L_g(\varphi) = \{g\}.$$

If g < 0, then the g-length spectrum is nonempty because we allow l < 0.

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g-nondegenerate flows

Definition

We write $\Gamma_l^g(\varphi)$ for the set flow curves γ such that $\gamma(l) = g\gamma(0)$, modulo constant time shifts.

Definition

The flow φ is *g*-nondegenerate if for all $l \in L_g(\varphi)$ and $\gamma \in \Gamma_l^g(\varphi)$,

$$\ker(1 - T_{\gamma(0)}\varphi_I \circ g^{-1}) = \mathbb{R}\gamma'(0).$$

Lemma

If φ is g-nondegenerate, then for all $l \in L_g(\varphi)$, the set $\Gamma_l^g(\varphi)$ is countable.

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An equivariant primitive period?

Question: what is the most useful equivariant generalisation of the primitive period

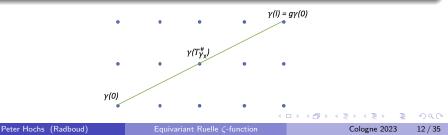
$$T_{\gamma}^{\#} = \min\{t > 0; \gamma(t) = \gamma(0)\}?$$

Example

If $\gamma(I) = g\gamma(0)$, then one could define

$$T^{g}_{\gamma} := \min\{t > 0; \gamma(t) = g\gamma(0)\}.$$

However, if *M* is the universal cover of a manifold *X*, and $G = \pi_1(X)$, this does not encode the primitive period of a flow curve in *X*.



The g-primitive period

Because M/G is compact and the action by G is proper, there is a $\chi \in C_c^{\infty}(M)$ such that for all $m \in M$,

$$\int_G \chi(xm)\,dx=1.$$

Definition

Let $\gamma \colon \mathbb{R} \to M$ be any smooth curve. Let $I_{\gamma} \subset \mathbb{R}$ be an interval such that $\gamma|_{I_{\gamma}}$ is a bijection onto its image. Then the χ -primitive period of γ is

$$T^{\chi}_{\gamma} := \int_{I_{\gamma}} \chi(\gamma(t)) \, dt.$$

Note that T^{χ}_{γ} also depends on I_{γ} .

The *g*-primitive period in the compact case

Suppose that G is **compact** (e.g. trivial), and normalise dx so that vol(G) = 1. Then M is also compact. And $\chi \equiv 1$ satisfies

$$\int_G \chi(xm)\,dx=1$$

for all $m \in M$.

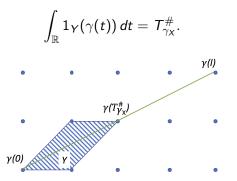
If γ is a periodic curve in M, then we can take $I_{\gamma} = [0, T_{\gamma}^{\#})$. So

$$T^{\chi}_{\gamma} = \int_{I_{\gamma}} \chi(\gamma(t)) \, dt = \int_0^{T^{\#}_{\gamma}} 1 \, dt = T^{\#}_{\gamma}$$

The g-primitive period for geodesic flow on universal covers

Let X be a compact Riemannian manifold, \tilde{X} its universal cover, and $M = S(T\tilde{X})$, acted on by $G = \pi_1(X)$.

Let γ_X be a closed geodesic on X, and γ its lift to \tilde{X} . Then $\gamma([0, T^{\#}_{\gamma_X}))$ lies in a fundamental domain $Y \subset M$ for the action by G. By approximating 1_Y by smooth functions χ , we can make T^{χ}_{γ} arbitrarily close to



The equivariant Ruelle ζ -function

Suppose that

- $L_g(\varphi)$ is countable
- φ is g-nondegenerate
- if Z < G is the centraliser of g, then G/Z has a G-invariant measure d(hZ).

Definition

The equivariant Ruelle dynamical ζ -function for g, φ and ∇^F is

$$\begin{split} R_{\varphi,\nabla^{F}}^{g}(z) &:= \\ \exp \biggl(\frac{1}{2} \int_{G/Z} \sum_{I \in L_{g}(\varphi)} \frac{e^{-Iz}}{I} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{I}^{g}(\varphi)} \operatorname{sgn} \left(\det \left((1 - T_{\gamma(0)}\varphi_{I} \circ g^{-1})|_{\gamma'(0)^{\perp}} \right) \right) \\ T_{h\gamma}^{\chi} \operatorname{tr}(g \circ \rho_{I}(\gamma)^{-1}) d(hZ) \biggr), \end{split}$$

for $z \in \mathbb{C}$ for which this converges.

Well-definedness

$$\begin{split} R_{\varphi,\nabla^{F}}^{g}(z) &= \\ \exp \left(\frac{1}{2} \int_{G/Z} \sum_{l \in L_{g}(\varphi)} \frac{e^{-lz}}{l} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{l}^{g}(\varphi)} \operatorname{sgn} \left(\det \left((1 - T_{\gamma(0)}\varphi_{l} \circ g^{-1})|_{\gamma'(0)^{\perp}} \right) \right) \right. \\ &\left. T_{h\gamma}^{\chi} \operatorname{tr}(g \circ \rho_{l}(\gamma)^{-1}) d(hZ) \right), \end{split}$$

Lemma

The integrand is right Z-invariant, so indeed defines a function on G/Z.

Theorem

The function $R^{g}_{\varphi,\nabla F}$ is independent of the cutoff function χ and the interval $I_{h\gamma}$ in the definition of $T^{\chi}_{h\gamma}$.

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Equivariant Ruelle ζ -function

The classical Ruelle ζ -function

Lemma

If G is trivial and M is odd-dimensional, then

$$R^{\mathsf{e}}_{\varphi,\nabla^{\mathsf{F}}} = |R_{\varphi,\nabla^{\mathsf{F}}}|.$$

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Flows on universal covers

Proposition

If *M* is the universal cover of a compact manifold *X*, acted on by $G = \pi_1(X)$, and φ , *F* and ∇^F are pullbacks of corresponding data φ_X , F_X and ∇^{F_X} on *X*, then

$$|R_{\varphi_X,\nabla^{F_X}}| = \prod_{(g)} R_{\varphi,\nabla^{F}}^g,$$

where the product is over the conjugacy classes in $\pi_1(X)$.

Lemma

In the setting of the previous proposition, if X = S(TZ) for Z with negative sectional curvature, φ_X is geodesic flow, and F_X and ∇^{F_X} are associated to a representation ρ of $\pi_1(Z)$, then

$$R^{g}_{arphi,
abla^{F}}(z) = \exp\left(rac{1}{2}rac{e^{-lz}}{l}T^{\#}_{\gamma}\operatorname{tr}(
ho(g))
ight),$$

where γ is the closed geodesic in (g) and I is its period.

Example: the circle

Let $M = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$. Define

$$\varphi_t(x+\mathbb{Z})=x+t+\mathbb{Z},$$

and

$$\gamma(t)=t+\mathbb{Z}.$$

Let $G = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$, acting on M in the natural way. Let $g = r + \mathbb{Z} \in G$. If $r \notin \mathbb{Z}$, then

•
$$L_g(\varphi) = r + \mathbb{Z}$$

• for all $l \in L_g(\varphi)$, $\Gamma_l^g(\varphi) = \{\gamma\}$
• $\operatorname{sgn}\left(\det\left((1 - T_{\gamma(0)}\varphi_l \circ g^{-1})|_{\gamma'(0)^{\perp}}\right)\right) = 1$
• $T_{h\gamma}^{\chi} = 1$, for $\chi \equiv 1$
• $g \circ \rho_l(\gamma)^{-1} = e^{i\alpha l}$, for $F = M \times \mathbb{C}$ and $\nabla^F = d + i\alpha dx$.
So
 $R_{\varphi, \nabla^F}^g(z) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{e^{-|n+r|z+i\alpha(n+r)}}{|n+r|}\right)$.

Example: the line Let $M = \mathbb{R}$. Define

$$\varphi_t(x)=x+t,$$

and

$$\gamma(t) = t$$

Let $G = \mathbb{R}$, acting on M by addition. Let $g \in G \setminus \{0\}$. Then

• $L_g(\varphi) = \{g\}$ • $\Gamma_g^g(\varphi) = \{\gamma\}$ • $\operatorname{sgn}\left(\det\left((1 - T_{\gamma(0)}\varphi_g \circ g^{-1})|_{\gamma'(0)^{\perp}}\right)\right) = 1$ • $T_{h\gamma}^{\chi} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \chi(t+h) \, dt = 1$ • $g \circ \rho_g(\gamma)^{-1} = e^{i\alpha g}$, for $F = M \times \mathbb{C}$ and $\nabla^F = d + i\alpha dx$. So, without convergence issues,

$$R^{g}_{\varphi,
abla F}(z) = \exp\left(rac{1}{2}rac{e^{-|g|z+ilpha g}}{|g|}
ight).$$

III A trace formula

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A trace formula for the Ruelle ζ -function

Let Φ be the lift of φ to $\bigwedge^* T^*M \otimes F$ given by

$$\Phi_t := \wedge T \varphi_{-t}^* \otimes \tau_t^{\nabla^F},$$

where $\tau_t^{\nabla^F}$ is parallel transport in F with respect to ∇^F along flow curves. Let N be the number operator on differential forms on M.

Corollary (Of Guillemin's trace formula, 1977)

If M is compact, φ is Anosov and $\operatorname{Re}(z)$ is large,

$$R_{\varphi,\nabla^{F}}(z) = \exp\left(-\int_{0}^{\infty} \operatorname{Tr}^{\flat}\left((-1)^{N} N \Phi_{t}^{*}\right) \frac{e^{-tz}}{t} dt\right).$$

Here Tr^{\flat} is defined by "integrating" distributional Schwartz kernels over the diagonal. (The wave front set of Φ_t^* is disjoint from the conormal bundle because of the Anosov/nondegeneracy condition.)

The flat g-trace

Definition

If T is a *G*-equivariant operator on smooth sections of a *G*-vector bundle over *M*, with Schwartz kernel *K*, then the **flat** *g*-**trace** of *T* is

$$\operatorname{Tr}_g^\flat(T) := \int_{G/Z} \int_M \chi(hgh^{-1}m) \operatorname{tr}(hgh^{-1}K(hg^{-1}h^{-1}m,m)) \, dm \, d(hZ),$$

when defined and convergent.

Special cases:

• If G and M are compact, then

$$\operatorname{Tr}_{g}^{\flat}(T) = \operatorname{Tr}^{\flat}(g \circ T).$$

• If K is smooth, then we recover the orbital integral trace

$$\mathsf{Tr}_g^\flat(T) = \mathsf{Tr}_g(T),$$

used in various places.

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An expression for the equivariant Ruelle ζ -function

Theorem (H-Saratchandran, 2023)

If φ is g-nondegenerate and one of the two sides converges,

$$R^{g}_{\varphi,\nabla^{F}}(z) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}\setminus\{0\}} \operatorname{Tr}_{g}^{\flat}\left((-1)^{N}N\Phi_{t}^{*}\right)\frac{e^{-|t|z}}{|t|} dt\right).$$

This follows from an equivariant generalisation of Guillemin's trace formula.

Corollaries:

- independence of $\mathit{R}^{\mathit{g}}_{\boldsymbol{\omega},\nabla^{\mathit{F}}}$ of χ and I_{γ}
- decomposition of the classical Ruelle ζ -function in terms of conjugacy classes in the fundamental group.

IV Analytic torsion

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The Fried conjecture

Suppose that M is compact, oriented, and Riemanian. Let $\Delta_F := (\nabla^F)^* \nabla^F + \nabla^F (\nabla^F)^*$.

Definition (Ray-Singer, 1971)

The **analytic torsion** of M, twisted by ∇^F , is $T_{\nabla^F}(M) := \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \left. \frac{d}{ds} \right|_{s=0} \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty t^{s-1} \operatorname{Tr}((-1)^N N e^{-t\Delta_F}|_{\ker(\Delta_F)^{\perp}}) \, dt\right).$

Conjecture (Fried, 1987)

If ker(Δ_F) = 0, then for a large class of flows, $R_{\varphi, \nabla^F}(z)$ extends to z = 0 and

$$T_{\nabla^F}(M) = |R_{\varphi,\nabla^F}(0)|.$$

Proved in various cases by Bismut, Dang–Guillarmou–Rivière–Shen, Fried, Moscovici–Stanton, Müller, Sànchez-Morgado, Shen, Shen–Yu, Spilioti, Wotzke, Yamaguchi, ...

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Example: the circle

Consider the circle $M = S^1 = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$. Again we take $F = S^1 \times \mathbb{C}$ and $\nabla^F = d + i\alpha dx$, for $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$.

If $\alpha \not\in 2\pi\mathbb{Z}$, then

$$T_{\nabla^F}(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}) = |2\sin(\alpha/2)|^{-1} = \left|(1-e^{i\alpha})\right|^{-1} = |R_{\varphi,\nabla^F}(0)|.$$

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Equivariant analytic torsion

Definition

If M/G is compact, then the **equivariant analytic torsion** of M with respect to ∇^F and g is

$$T_g(\nabla^F) := \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \left. \frac{d}{ds} \right|_{s=0} \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^1 t^{s-1} \operatorname{Tr}_g((-1)^N N e^{-t\Delta_F}|_{\ker(\Delta_F)^{\perp}}) dt - \frac{1}{2} \int_1^\infty t^{-1} \operatorname{Tr}_g((-1)^N N e^{-t\Delta_F}|_{\ker(\Delta_F)^{\perp}}) dt \right).$$

Studied by Bismut, Bismut–Goette, Deitmar, Köhler, Lott, Lott–Rothenberg, Lück, for compact G; Lott, Mathai, Su for $g = \{e\}$; Lott for fundamental groups acting on universal covers and G/Z finite.

Theorem (H.–Saratchandran, 2022)

Under suitable conditions, equivariant analytic torsion converges and is independent of the Riemannian metric on M.

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Equivariant Ruelle ζ -function

An equivariant Fried conjecture

Question (Equivariant Fried problem/conjecture)

If dim(M) is odd and ker_{L²}(Δ_F) = 0, under what further conditions is

$$T^{g}_{\nabla^{F}}(M) = R^{g}_{\varphi,\nabla^{F}}(0)?$$
(1)

We don't need an absolute value now, because we allow l < 0. Note: the two sides of (1) may not be real!

A non-example

For the lift to the universal cover of geodesic flow on the sphere bundle of a compact Riemannian manifold, then the equivariant Fried conjecture does **not** hold.

Already in Fried's original result for hyperbolic manifolds,

$$T^{\mathsf{e}}_{\nabla^{\mathsf{F}}}(M) \neq 1 = R^{\mathsf{e}}_{\varphi,\nabla^{\mathsf{F}}}(0).$$

But Fried proved that (up to regularisation)

$$T_{\nabla^F}(M) = \prod_{(g)} T^g_{\nabla^F}(M) = \prod_{(g)} R^g_{\varphi, \nabla^F}(0) = |R_{\varphi, \nabla^F}(0)|.$$

The circle

For the circle acting on itself, we saw

$$R^{r+\mathbb{Z}}_{\varphi,\nabla^F}(z) = \exp\left(rac{1}{2}\sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}rac{e^{-|n+r|z+ilpha(n+r)}}{|n+r|}
ight).$$

Now

$$T^{r+\mathbb{Z}}_{\nabla^F}(M) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}\frac{e^{ilpha(n+r)}}{|n+r|}\right) = R^{r+\mathbb{Z}}_{\varphi,\nabla^F}(0).$$

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The line

For the real line acting on itself, we saw for $g \neq 0$,

$$R^{g}_{arphi,
abla^{F}}(z) = \exp\left(rac{1}{2}rac{e^{-|g|z+ilpha g}}{|g|}
ight).$$

Now

$$T^{g}_{
abla^{F}}(M) = \exp\left(rac{1}{2}rac{e^{ilpha g}}{|g|}
ight) = R^{g}_{arphi,
abla^{F}}(0).$$

(If we only used l>0 in the definition of R^g_{φ, ∇^F} , then $R^g_{\varphi, \nabla^F} = 1$ for g < 0.)

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Geodesic flow in \mathbb{R}^n

For geodesic flow on $S(T\mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{R} \times \{\pm 1\}$, acted on by $G = \mathbb{R}$, and $\nabla^F = d + i\alpha dx$,

$$T^{g}_{
abla^{F}}(M) = \exp\left(rac{e^{ilpha g}}{|g|}
ight) = R^{g}_{arphi,
abla^{F}}(0).$$

For geodesic flow on $S(T\mathbb{R}^n)$, acted on by a discrete subgroup of the Euclidean motion group, we have for certain g,

$$T^{g}_{\nabla^{F}}(M) = R^{g}_{\varphi, \nabla^{F}}(0).$$

Geodesic flow on the circle

Let

- *M* = *S*(*TS*¹) = *S*¹ × {±1} *G* = *S*¹
- φ be geodesic flow
 ∇^F = d + iαdx on F = M × C with α ∈ R \ 2πZ
 r ∈ R \ {0}.

Then

$$R^{r+\mathbb{Z}}_{\varphi,
abla^F}(z) = \exp\left(\sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}rac{e^{-|n+r|z+ilpha(n+r)}}{|n+r|}
ight),$$

and

$$T^{r+\mathbb{Z}}_{
abla^F}(M) = \exp\left(\sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}rac{e^{ilpha(n+r)}}{|n+r|}
ight) = R^{r+\mathbb{Z}}_{arphi,
abla^F}(0).$$

Geodesic flow on spheres

For geodesic flow on $M = S(TS^n)$, acted on by G = SO(n+1), and g regular, and the trivial connection d on $M \times \mathbb{C}$,

- $L_g(\varphi)$ is countable
- the flow is g-nondegenerate
- we can compute $R^{g}_{\omega,\nabla^{F}}(z)$,

at least for n = 2 and n = 3. But

- ker $\Delta_F = H^*(M) \neq 0$
- $R^{g}_{(a,\nabla^{F})}$ does not extend to zero.

So the conditions of the equivariant Fried conjecture do not hold. Now the classical Ruelle ζ -function is not defined, because there are uncountably many closed geodesics.

A superficial similarity

Modulo suitable regularisation and interpretation,

$$"R^{g}_{\varphi,\nabla^{F}}(0) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}\setminus\{0\}}\operatorname{Tr}^{\flat}_{g}\left((-1)^{N}N\Phi^{*}_{t}\right)\frac{1}{|t|}\,dt\right)",$$

and

$$"T^{g}_{\nabla^{F}}(M) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\int_{0}^{\infty} \operatorname{Tr}_{g}\left((-1)^{N}Ne^{-t\Delta_{F}}\right)\frac{1}{t} dt\right)".$$

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Thank you

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