FUCHSIAN GROUPS GENERATED BY HALF-TURNS AND GEOMETRICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF HYPERELLIPTIC AND SYMMETRIC RIEMANN SURFACES

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Abstract

We construct a special type of fundamental regions for any Fuchsian group F generated by an even number of half-turns, and for certain non-Euclidean crystallographic groups (NEC groups in short). By comparing these regions we give geometrical conditions in order to F be the canonical Fuchsian subgroup of one of those NEC groups. Precisely speaking, we deal with NEC groups of algebraic genus 0 having all periods in the signature equal to 2. By means of these conditions we give a characterization of hyperelliptic and symmetric Riemann surfaces.

1. Introduction

Hyperelliptic Riemann surfaces constitute a very important class of surfaces. They are studied since XIX century [11]. There exist several geometrical characterizations of these surfaces, for instance, [6], [8]. A different way to characterize hyperelliptic Riemann surfaces is by means of Fuchsian groups. Let $S = \mathscr{D}/F^*$ be a Riemann surface of genus $p \ge 2$; S is hyperelliptic if and only if there exists a Fuchsian group F containing F^* as a subgroup of index 2, with signature $(0; +; [2^{2p+2}], \{-\})$.

Analogously for a Klein surface we have a characterization of hyperellipticity in terms of NEC groups. Let $X = \mathscr{D} / \Gamma^*$ be a Klein surface where Γ^* has signature $(g; \pm; [-], \{(-)^k\})$. The surface X is hyperelliptic if and only if there exists an NEC group Γ containing Γ^* as a subgroup of index 2, [2]. In such a case Γ has algebraic genus 0 and each proper period and link-period in its signature is 2.

A Riemann surface S is said to be symmetric if and only if S admits an anticonformal automorphism ψ such that ψ^2 is the identity. Let us observe that the quotient $X = S/\langle \psi \rangle$ is a Klein surface. If the Riemann surface S is

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both hyperelliptic and symmetric then *X* is a hyperelliptic Klein surface [4] and in this case we have the following diagram relating the different groups.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Gamma & \longrightarrow & F \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \Gamma^* & \longrightarrow & F^* \end{array}$$

Fuchsian groups with all periods equal to 2 are generated by half-turns, that is elliptic elements with trace 0. We are interested in the following geometrical problem that allows us to give a characterization of hyperelliptic and symmetric Riemann surfaces. Given a Fuchsian group F generated by half-turns, what conditions must F satisfy in order to be the canonical Fuchsian subgroup of an NEC group Γ , that is to say, in what conditions $F = \Gamma^+$? Obviously the group Γ has then each period equal to 2 in its signature. We will give the answer by means of geometrical conditions which fundamental regions of the groups Fand Γ^+ must satisfy.

For it, we need to compare regions of both groups. Canonical regions are not adequate because of the different number of sides of the regions of Fand Γ^+ . Instead of them, we construct a special type of fundamental regions (hyperbolic polygons whose angles satisfy some conditions) for these groups. Given such a fundamental region of F we may say when $F = \Gamma^+$ and in this case the class of NEC groups to which Γ belongs.

The work is organized as follows. In Section 2 we give the necessary preliminaries about Fuchsian and NEC groups and canonical fundamental regions. In Section 3 we construct a new fundamental region for concerned Fuchsian group F and NEC group Γ . Then, in Section 4, we compare the obtained regions and give the geometrical conditions in order to F be the canonical Fuchsian subgroup of Γ . Finally, in Section 5, we rewrite the results in terms of hyperelliptic Riemann surfaces.

2. Preliminaries

An NEC group Γ is a discrete subgroup of isometries of the hyperbolic plane \mathscr{D} (including orientation-reversing isometries) with compact quotient \mathscr{D}/Γ [10]. The signature of Γ is the following symbol:

(1)
$$\sigma(\Gamma): (g, \pm, [m_1, \ldots, m_r], \{(n_{i,1}, \ldots, n_{i,s_i})_{i=1,\ldots,k}\}),$$

where $g, k \ge 0, m_i, n_{i,j} \ge 2$ and every number is an integer. The signature determines the algebraic structure of Γ [7]. The quotient $X = \mathcal{D}/\Gamma$ has topological genus g and k boundary components. X is orientable if the sign in (1) is '+' and nonorientable otherwise. The brackets $(n_{i,1}, \ldots, n_{i,s_i})$ are called

cycle-periods and the numbers m_i and $n_{i,j}$ are called *proper periods* and *link periods*, respectively. If r = 0, k = 0 or $s_i = 0$, we write in each respective case $[-], \{-\}, (-)$. Also we write m_i^t or $n_{i,j}^t$ when a period is repeated t times.

The *algebraic genus* of Γ is $p = \eta g + k - 1$ where $\eta = 2$ or 1 according to the sign in σ be '+' or '-'. The area of Γ is the area of any fundamental region of Γ . It is denoted by $|\Gamma|$ and it satisfies

$$|\Gamma| = 2\pi \left(\eta g + k - 2 + \sum_{i=1}^{r} \left(1 - \frac{1}{m_i} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{k} \sum_{j=1}^{s_i} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n_{i,j}} \right) \right).$$

An NEC group Γ with signature as (1) exists if and only if $|\Gamma| > 0$.

Let Γ be an NEC group with signature as (1). Γ is generated by x_i , (i = 1, ..., r) elliptic transformations, e_i , (i = 1, ..., k) hyperbolic transformations, $c_{i,j}$, $(i = 1, ..., k; j = 0, 1, ..., s_i)$ reflections and a_i, b_i , (i = 1, ..., g) hyperbolic transformations (if sign is '+') or d_i , (i = 1, ..., g) glide reflections (if sign is '-'). The generators satisfy the following relations:

$$\begin{aligned} x_i^{m_i} &= 1 & i = 1, \dots, r, \\ c_{i,j-1}^2 &= c_{i,j}^2 = (c_{i,j-1} \cdot c_{i,j})^{n_{i,j}} = 1 & i = 1, \dots, k, \quad j = 1, \dots, s_i, \\ e_i^{-1} \cdot c_{i,0} \cdot e_i \cdot c_{i,s_i} = 1 & i = 1, \dots, k, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\prod_{i=1}^{r} x_i \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{k} e_i \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{g} [a_i, b_i] = 1 \quad \text{if sign '+'},$$
$$\prod_{i=1}^{r} x_i \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{k} e_i \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{g} d_i^2 = 1 \quad \text{if sign '-'}$$

where $[a_i, b_i]$ denotes the commutator $a_i b_i a_i^{-1} b_i^{-1}$.

An NEC group Γ with sign '+' in the signature and k = 0, (hence $g \ge 2$) is a surface Fuchsian group and in this case $X = \mathcal{D} / \Gamma$ is a Riemann surface. An NEC group which is not a Fuchsian group is called a *proper* NEC group.

The subgroup of orientation preserving elements of a proper NEC group Γ is called the *canonical Fuchsian subgroup* and it is denoted by Γ^+ . If Γ has a signature as (1) then Γ^+ has the following signature $\sigma(\Gamma^+)$, [9]:

$$(p, +, [m_1, m_1, m_2, m_2, \dots, m_r, m_r, n_{1,1}, \dots, n_{1,s_1}, \dots, n_{k,1}, \dots, n_{k,s_k}], \{-\}).$$

As an immediate consequence we have the following Proposition for later convenience,

PROPOSITION 2.1. Let F be a Fuchsian group with signature

$$(0, +, [2^{2r}], \{-\}),$$

and let us suppose that $F = \Gamma^+$ for an NEC group Γ . Then the signature of Γ is one of the following signatures:

- 1) $\sigma(\Gamma_1): (0, +, [-], (\{(2^{2r})\}).$
- 2) $\sigma(\Gamma_2)$: $(0, +, [2^q], (\{(2^s)\}), where 2q + s = 2r.$
- 3) $\sigma(\Gamma_3)$: $(0, +, [2^r], (\{(-)\}).$
- 4) $\sigma(\Gamma_4)$: $(1, -, [2^r], (\{-\}))$.

Although 1) and 3) can be considered as particular cases of 2) for technical reasons it is better to study them as separated cases.

Wilkie in [10] found a class of fundamental region *W* from what he obtained the algebraic structure of NEC groups. These regions are called *canonical regions* and also Wilkie regions.

For an NEC group Γ with signature as (1) the region *W* is a hyperbolic polygon with sides labelled in anticlockwise order as follows

$$\underbrace{\dots \xi_i, \xi'_i, \dots;}_{i=1,\dots,r}; \underbrace{\dots \varepsilon_i, \gamma_{i,0}, \gamma_{i,1}, \dots, \gamma_{i,s_i}, \varepsilon'_i, \dots;}_{i=1,\dots,k}; \underbrace{\dots \alpha_i, \beta'_i, \alpha'_i, \beta_i, \dots,}_{i=1,\dots,g}$$

if the sign is '+' or

$$\underbrace{\ldots \xi_i, \xi_i', \ldots}_{i=1,\ldots,r}; \underbrace{\ldots \varepsilon_i, \gamma_{i,0}, \gamma_{i,1}, \ldots, \gamma_{i,s_i}, \varepsilon_i', \ldots}_{i=1,\ldots,k}; \underbrace{\ldots \delta_i, \delta_i^*, \ldots}_{i=1,\ldots,g},$$

if the sign is -', where

$$\begin{aligned} x_i(\xi_i') &= \xi_i, \qquad e_i(\varepsilon_i') = \varepsilon_i, \qquad c_{i,j}(\gamma_{i,j}) = \gamma_{i,j}, \\ a_i(\alpha_i') &= \alpha_i, \qquad b_i(\beta_i') = \beta_i, \qquad d_i(\delta_i^*) = \delta_i. \end{aligned}$$

Let us denote by $\langle s_1, s_2 \rangle$ the angle between two consecutive sides. In the region *W* we have

$$\langle \varepsilon_i, \gamma_{i,0} \rangle + \langle \gamma_{i,s_i}, \varepsilon'_i \rangle = \pi,$$

and the sum of the remaining angles (accidental cycle) is 2π . Without loss of generality we may suppose that *W* is a convex polygon and

$$\langle \varepsilon_i, \gamma_{i,0} \rangle = \langle \gamma_{i,s_i}, \varepsilon'_i \rangle = \pi/2.$$

3. Regions

Through this section we deal with fundamental regions of groups F, Γ_1 , Γ_2 , Γ_3 and Γ_4 , as in Proposition 2.1. For F, Γ_2 , Γ_3 and Γ_4 (the canonical region of Γ_1 is different) we start with a canonical fundamental region W_1 and we shall obtain a new fundamental region by means of a cutting and pasting procedure. This procedure is common for the four groups except the last steps.

Let W_1 be the following canonical region for the group G = F, Γ_2 , Γ_3 , Γ_4 , with vertices labelled by capital letters and described in an anticlockwise order.

$$\xi_1, X_1, \xi_1', P_1, \ldots, \xi_\tau, X_\tau, \xi_\tau', P_\tau, \mathscr{L}, Q_\tau$$

where \mathscr{L} is

- = \emptyset , if G = F.
- $=\varepsilon, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \ldots, \gamma_s, \varepsilon'$, if $G = \Gamma_2$, and then $Q = P_{\tau+1}$.
- $=\varepsilon, \gamma, \varepsilon', \text{ if } G = \Gamma_3, \text{ and then } Q = P_{\tau+1}.$
- = δ , $P_{\tau+1}$, δ^* , if $G = \Gamma_4$, and $Q = P_{\tau+2}$.

In the second and third cases it is not necessary to write explicitly the intermediate vertices because the angles at these vertices are $\frac{\pi}{2}$.

In the above description, points X_i are the fixed points of elliptic transformations, x_i , of order 2. The angles at vertices P_i are θ_i and $\sum_i \theta_i = 2\pi$.

Let us observe that $\tau = 2r, q, r, r$ in the four respective cases.

Let η_i be the hyperbolic segment between X_i and X_{i+1} . In the step *i* we cut by η_i the region W_i , which becomes divided in two subpolygons: one of them, say R_i , must contain the side ξ_{i+1} . Let W_{i+1} be the new region

$$W_{i+1} = (W_i - R_i) \cup x_{i+1}(R_i)$$

obtained identifying $\xi_{i+1} \rightarrow \xi'_{i+1}$ by means of $x_{i+1}^{-1} = x_{i+1}$.

In the first step we obtain

$$W_2 := \xi_1, X_1, \eta_1, X_2, x_2(\eta_1), x_2(X_1), x_2(\xi_1'), P_2, Z$$

where Z denotes the remaining sides. Let us observe that the angle π in X_1 becomes divided in two angles: the interior angle α_1 between ξ_1 and η_1 , and the angle $\pi - \alpha_1$. Furthermore, the angle in the vertex P_2 is now $\theta_1 + \theta_2$. The next step produces

$$W_3 := \xi_1, X_1, \eta_1, X_2, \eta_2, X_3, x_3(\eta_2), x_3(X_2),$$
$$x_3 \cdot x_2(\eta_1), x_3 \cdot x_2(X_1), x_3 \cdot x_2(\xi_1'), P_3, Z$$

Now we denote the interior angle between η_1 and η_2 by α_2 . The angle in P_3 is now $\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3$.

Repeating the procedure we arrive to the following polygon:

$$\xi_1, X_1, \eta_1, X_2, \eta_2, X_3, \eta_3, \dots, \eta_{\tau-1}, X_{\tau}, x_{\tau}(\eta_{\tau-1}), x_{\tau}(X_{\tau-1}), x_{\tau} \cdot x_{\tau-1}(\eta_{\tau-2}), x_{\tau} \cdot x_{\tau-1}(\eta_{\tau-2}), \dots, x_{\tau} \cdot x_{\tau-1} \cdot \dots \cdot x_2(\eta_1), x_{\tau} \cdot x_{\tau-1} \cdot \dots \cdot x_2(X_1), P_{\tau}, Z_1$$

where the angles at the vertices X_i are α_i and in the respective images are $\pi - \alpha_i$.

In this point we must split our study in four cases according to G be F, Γ_2 , Γ_3 or Γ_4 .

• Case G = F.

The angle in $P_{\tau} = \theta_1 + \theta_2 + \cdots + \theta_n = 2\pi$, and P_{τ} becomes an interior point. Moreover

$$x_{\tau} \cdot x_{\tau-1} \cdot \ldots \cdot x_2(X_1) = x_1(X_1) = X_1,$$

$$x_{\tau} \cdot x_{\tau-1} \cdot \ldots \cdot x_2(\xi_1') = x_1(\xi_1') = \xi_1,$$

and the angle in X_1 is π . We have the following polygon W_F , drawn for $\tau = 6$.



FIGURE 1. Region W_F for $\tau = 6$

• Case $G = \Gamma_2$.

Let λ be the perpendicular segment from X_{τ} to γ_0 , dividing γ_0 in $\widehat{\gamma}_0$ and $\overline{\gamma}_0$. Cut by λ the subpolygon that contains the side ε and glue $\varepsilon \to \varepsilon'$ by means of e^{-1} . The angle in $P_{\tau+1}$ is now 2π and

$$e^{-1} \cdot x_{\tau} \cdot x_{\tau-1} \cdots x_2(X_1) = x_1(X_1) = X_1,$$

$$e^{-1} \cdot x_{\tau} \cdot x_{\tau-1} \cdots x_2(\xi_1') = x_1(\xi_1') = \xi_1.$$

• Case $G = \Gamma_3$.

The procedure is similar to the previous case, λ being now the perpendicular segment from X_{τ} to γ dividing it in $\widehat{\gamma}$ and $\overline{\gamma}$.

We obtain the respective polygons W_{Γ_2} and W_{Γ_3} . They are shown for values $\tau = 4$, s = 2 in Figure 2(a) and (b).



(a) Region W_{Γ_2} for $\tau = 4$ and s = 2

(b) Region W_{Γ_3} for $\tau = 4$





FIGURE 3. Region W_{Γ_4} for $\tau = 4$

• Case $G = \Gamma_4$.

We need two steps in this case. First, let λ be the segment from $X_{\tau+1}$ to $P_{\tau+1}$. Cut by λ the subpolygon which contains the side δ and glue $\delta \rightarrow \delta^*$ by means of d^{-1} . We obtain a new region.

Now let μ be the segment between X_{τ} and $d^{-1}(X_{\tau})$ and cut by μ the subpolygon that contains the side λ . Glue $\lambda \to d^{-1}(\lambda)$ by means of d^{-1} . We finally obtain the region W_{Γ_4} , shown in Figure 3 for $\tau = 4$.

We have proved the following result:

PROPOSITION 3.1. The above regions W_F , W_{Γ_2} , W_{Γ_3} and W_{Γ_4} are, respectively, fundamental regions of groups F, Γ_2 , Γ_3 and Γ_4 .

Let $\mathcal{P}_F, \mathcal{P}_2, \mathcal{P}_3, \mathcal{P}_4$, be the classes of marked polygons:

• \mathcal{P}_{F} : $X_{2}, \eta_{2}, \dots, X_{\tau-1}, \eta_{\tau-1}, X_{\tau}, \eta'_{\tau-1}, X'_{\tau-1}, \dots, \eta'_{2}, X'_{2}, \eta'_{1}, X_{1}, \eta_{1},$ where $\widehat{X_{1}} = \widehat{X_{\tau}} = \pi, \widehat{X_{i}} + \widehat{X'_{i}} = \pi, i = 2, \dots, \tau - 1.$ • \mathcal{P}_{2} : $X_{2}, \eta_{2}, \dots, X_{\tau-1}, \eta_{\tau-1}, X_{\tau}, \lambda, \gamma_{0}, \gamma_{1}, \dots, \gamma_{s},$ $\lambda', X'_{\tau}, \dots, \eta'_{2}, X'_{2}, \eta'_{1}, X_{1}, \eta_{1},$ where $\widehat{X_{1}} = \pi, \widehat{X_{i}} + \widehat{X'_{i}} = \pi, i = 2, \dots, \tau, \langle \lambda, \gamma_{0} \rangle = \langle \gamma_{0}, \gamma_{1} \rangle = \dots =$ $\langle \gamma_{s-1}, \gamma_{s} \rangle = \langle \gamma_{s}, \lambda' \rangle = \frac{\pi}{2}.$ • \mathcal{P}_{3} : $X_{2}, \eta_{2}, \dots, X_{\tau-1}, \eta_{\tau-1}, X_{\tau}, \lambda, \gamma, \lambda', X'_{\tau}, \dots, \eta'_{2}, X'_{2}, \eta'_{1}, X_{1}, \eta_{1},$ where $\widehat{X_{1}} = \pi, \widehat{X_{i}} + \widehat{X'_{i}} = \pi, i = 2, \dots, \tau, \langle \lambda, \gamma \rangle = \langle \gamma, \lambda' \rangle = \frac{\pi}{2}.$ • \mathcal{P}_{4} : $X_{2}, \eta_{2}, \dots, X_{\tau-1}, \eta_{\tau-1}, X_{\tau}, \mu, X''_{\tau}, \mu^{*}, X'_{\tau}, \dots, \eta'_{2}, X'_{2}, \eta'_{1}, X_{1}, \eta_{1},$

where
$$\widehat{X}_1 = \pi$$
, $\widehat{X}_i + \widehat{X}'_i = \pi$, $i = 2, ..., \tau - 1$, $\widehat{X}_{\tau} + \widehat{X}'_{\tau} + \widehat{X}''_{\tau} = \pi$.

The next result is the converse of Proposition 3.1.

PROPOSITION 3.2. Every polygon $W \in \mathcal{P}_F, \mathcal{P}_2, \mathcal{P}_3, \mathcal{P}_4$ is a fundamental region of a Fuchsian group F or NEC group $\Gamma_2, \Gamma_3, \Gamma_4$, respectively, where the signatures of these groups are as in Proposition 2.1.

PROOF. We must distinguish according to whether W belongs to \mathcal{P}_F , \mathcal{P}_2 , \mathcal{P}_3 , \mathcal{P}_4 .

• $W \in \mathscr{P}_F$.

Let us observe that the geodesics containing the sides η_i , η'_i , $i = 2, ..., \tau - 1$, do not intersect. Thus there exist hyperbolic transformations f_i which map

 η'_i on η_i such that $f_i(X'_{i-1}) = X_{i-1}$ and $f_i(X'_i) = X_i$. Let x_1 and x_{τ} be the elliptic transformations of order two and fixed points X_1 and X_{τ} , respectively.

The segment between X_1 and X_{τ} divides W in two parts. Let P be an interior point of the right part. We draw the segments $l_1, l_2, l_3, \ldots, l_{\tau-1}, l_{\tau}$, from P to $X_1, X'_2, X'_3, \ldots, X'_{\tau-1}, X_{\tau}$.

We cut the triangle $T_1 = PX_1X_2'$ and take $x_1(T_1)$. We have obtained a new region $W_1 = (W - T_1) \cup x_1(T_1)$. Let us now consider the triangle $T_2 = PX_2'X_3'$. Cut T_2 and take $f_2(T_2)$. We have a new region $W_2 = (W - (T_1 \cup T_2)) \cup x_1(T_1) \cup f_2(T_2)$. Repeating the process for the triangles $T_i = PX_i'X_{i+1}'$, $i = 3, \ldots, \tau - 2$, we obtain a region

$$W_{\tau-1} = \left(W - \bigcup_i T_i\right) \cup x_1(T_1) \cup \bigcup_i f_i(T_i).$$

For the last step we cut the triangle $T_{\tau-1} = PX'_{\tau-1}X_{\tau}$ and take $x_{\tau}(T_{\tau-1})$. We form the region W_{τ} , whose perimeter is

$$P, l_1, X_1, x_1(l_1), x_1(P) \equiv f_2(X'_2), f_2(l_2), \dots, x_{\tau}(l_{\tau}), X_{\tau}, l_{\tau}.$$

Let us observe that $\widehat{X}_i = \pi, i = 2, ..., \tau - 2$. Moreover, $f_{\tau-1} \cdot x_\tau(x_\tau(l_{\tau-1})) = f_{\tau-1}(l_{\tau-1})$ and $f_{\tau-1} \cdot x_\tau(X_{\tau-1}) = X_{\tau-1}$. Hence $f_{\tau-1} \cdot x_\tau$ is an elliptic transformation of order two with fixed point $X_{\tau-1}$. Call $x_{\tau-1} = f_{\tau-1} \cdot x_\tau$. Analogously, $x_i = f_i \cdot f_{i+1}^{-1}, i = 2, ..., \tau - 2$, are elliptic transformations of order two with fixed point X_i . Furthermore, the sum of the angles at the images of the point P is 2π .

We have obtained a canonical fundamental region of a Fuchsian group F, with signature $(0, +, [2^r], \{-\})$.

• $W \in \mathscr{P}_2$ (respectively \mathscr{P}_3).

As in previous case there exist hyperbolic transformations f_i mapping $\eta'_i \rightarrow \eta_i$, $i = 2, ..., \tau - 1$, and an elliptic transformation x_1 with fixed point X_1 . Besides we have another hyperbolic transformation f_{τ} mapping $\lambda' \rightarrow \lambda$.

Let l_1, \ldots, l_{τ} be as above and $l_{\tau+1}$ the perpendicular from *P* to γ_s (resp. γ) dividing it in $\widehat{\gamma}_s$ and $\overline{\gamma}_s$ (resp. in $\widehat{\gamma}$ and $\overline{\gamma}$).

Repeat the cutting and pasting procedure of the former case for $i = 1, ..., \tau - 1$, in the last step, cut the quadrilateral $l_{\tau}, \lambda', \overline{\gamma}_s, l_{\tau+1}$ (resp. $l_{\tau}, \lambda', \overline{\gamma}, l_{\tau+1}$) and glue $\lambda' \to \lambda$ by means of f_{τ} .

We obtain a canonical fundamental region of an NEC group Γ_2 (resp. Γ_3) with signature $(0, +, [2^{\tau}], \{(2^s)\})$, or respectively $(0, +, [2^{\tau}], \{(-)\})$.

• $W \in \mathcal{P}_4$.

Let now l_1, \ldots, l_{τ} , be as in previous cases and let $l_{\tau+1}$ be the segment from P to X''_{τ} . There exist an elliptic transformation x_1 , hyperbolic transformations $f_2, \ldots, f_{\tau-1}$, and a glide-reflection d which maps $\mu^* \to \mu$.

Repeating the same procedure we arrive to the last step which consists of cutting the triangle $PX'_{\tau}X''_{\tau}$ and gluing $\mu^* \to \mu$ by means of *d*. We need an extra cut. Let $l_{\tau+2}$ be the segment from *P* to d(P). Now we cut the triangle $PX''_{\tau}d(P)$ and glue $l_{\tau+1}$ with $d(l_{\tau+1})$ by means of *d*. So that we obtain a canonical fundamental region of an NEC group Γ_4 with signature $(1, -, [2^{\tau}], \{-\})$.

Up to now we have studied the groups F, Γ_2 , Γ_3 , Γ_4 . Now we deal with the case of the group Γ_1 . Let \mathcal{P}_1 be the class of hyperbolic polygons

$$\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \ldots, \gamma_{2r},$$

where every angle is $\frac{\pi}{2}$. It is well known that every NEC group Γ_1 has a canonical fundamental region $W \in \mathcal{P}_1$ and, conversely, every $W \in \mathcal{P}_1$ is the fundamental region of an NEC group with signature $(0, +, [-], \{(2^{2r})\})$.

Now we are going to study a parametrization of \mathcal{P}_i . In order to construct a hyperbolic polygon with *n* sides and angles we need 2n - 3 parameters. When several lengths of sides or some angles are given we must discount them. If the polygon is to be a fundamental region of a Fuchsian or NEC group several cycles of angles may appear, and in these cases we usually know the sum of the angles in each cycle, and then we must discount the number of those cycles.

For our polygons $W \in \mathcal{P}_i$ we have,

• $W \in \mathscr{P}_0 (= \mathscr{P}_F)$:

The number of free lengths is $\tau - 4$, two angles (= π) are given, and we have $\tau - 2$ cycles with two angles in each one. The number of free parameters is then $2\tau - 6$.

• $W \in \mathscr{P}_1$:

The angles are given. So we have 2r - 3 free parameters.

• $W \in \mathscr{P}_2$:

The number of free lengths is $\tau + s + 1 - 3$. The polygon has s + 2 right angles and another one equal to π . The remaining angles appear in $\tau - 1$ two-cycles. The total number of free parameters is $2\tau + s - 3$.

• $W \in \mathscr{P}_3$:

It is a particular case of the previous one when s = 0. So the number is $2\tau - 3$.

• $W \in \mathscr{P}_4$:

The number of free lengths is now $\tau - 3$. An angle equal to π is given. The remaining angles appear in $\tau - 2$ two-cycles and in one three-cycle. Then the total number is $2\tau - 3$.

We call *dimension* of a polygon W the number of free parameters appearing in its construction and denote this number by d(W).

PROPOSITION 3.3. The dimension of each polygon $W^i \in \mathcal{P}_i$, i = 0, 1, ..., 4, equals the dimension of the Teichmüller space of the groups $F, \Gamma_1, ..., \Gamma_4$.

PROOF. According to the different values of τ (see the signatures of Proposition 2.1), we have

$$d(W^{0}) = 2\tau - 6 = 4r - 6,$$

$$d(W^{1}) = 2r - 3,$$

$$d(W^{2}) = 2\tau + s - 3 = 2q + s - 3,$$

$$d(W^{3}) = 2\tau - 3 = 2r - 3,$$

$$d(W^{4}) = 2\tau - 3 = 2r - 3.$$

And these numbers coincide with the dimension of the Teichmüller spaces of the respective groups.

4. Comparison of regions

In this section we study the geometrical conditions that W_F must satisfy in order to the group F be the canonical Fuchsian group of an NEC group Γ_i having a fundamental region of type W_{Γ_i} . For this purpose we must firstly study the regions $W_{\Gamma_i^+}$, obtained by doubling the region W_{Γ_i} . We shall distinguish the four cases.

• W_{Γ_1}

In this case $W_{\Gamma_1} \in \mathscr{P}_1$. Let us reflect the region by means of c_r , the reflection on the side γ_r . We obtain a right-angled region $W_{\Gamma_1^+} = W_{\Gamma_1} \cup c_r(W_{\Gamma_1})$.

• W_{Γ_2}

We describe the procedure to be followed in case Γ_2 for a particular simple case, namely q = 2 and s = 2. Let W_{Γ_2} be the polygon as Figure 4(a).

If we reflect the region by means of c_i , the reflection on the side γ_i , we do not obtain a region of the type W_F . Instead of we must reflect different parts of the region by means of different reflections. In a precise way, let us denote by v_0 and v_1 the segments from the point X_2 to the vertices in the angles $\langle \gamma_0, \gamma_1 \rangle, \langle \gamma_1, \gamma_2 \rangle$, respectively. The triangles $\lambda, \gamma_0, v_0; v_0, \gamma_1, v_1;$ are reflected by means of c_0 and c_1 , respectively. The remaining part of W_{Γ_2} is reflected by means of c_2 , (Figure 4(b)). Let us observe that the angle between $c_i(v_i)$ and $c_{i+1}(v_i)$ is always π . Let us denote $c_1 \cdot c_0$ as x_3 and $c_2 \cdot c_1$ as x_4 ; and the angles $\langle \lambda, v_0 \rangle, \langle v_0, v_1 \rangle, \langle v_1, \eta_1 \rangle$ as ϕ_0, ϕ_1 , and ϕ_2 , respectively. Obviously $\phi_0 + \phi_1 + \phi_2 = \alpha_2$.





In the obtained region we perform the following procedure: cut by v_0 and glue $c_0(v_0) \rightarrow c_1(v_0)$ by means of $x_3^{-1} = x_3$. From the point X_2 the perimeter of the region runs now:

$$X_2, v_0, X_3, x_3(v_0), x_3(X_2), x_3(\lambda \cup c_0(\lambda)), x_3(c_0(X_2)), c_1(v_1), X_4, \dots$$

where the angles at the vertices $x_3(X_2)$ and $x_3(c_0(X_2))$ are ϕ_0 and $\phi_0 + \phi_1$, respectively.

Let us cut by γ_1 and glue $c_1(\nu_1) \rightarrow c_2(\nu_1)$ by means of x_4 . The perimeter from X_3 is

$$X_3, \gamma_1, X_4, x_4(\gamma_1), x_4(X_3), x_4 \cdot x_3(\nu_0), x_4 \cdot x_3(X_2), x_4 \cdot x_3(\lambda \cup c_0(\lambda)), c_2(X_2), c_2(\nu_2), X_5, \dots$$

where the angle in the vertex $c_2(X_2)$ is $\phi_0 + \phi_1 + \phi_2$.

In this point we change the procedure. Instead of cutting by γ_2 we cut by the line ρ_1 that joins X_4 with the point $c_2(X_1) = X_5$ and we glue $c_2(\eta_1) \rightarrow c_2(\eta'_1)$ by means of $x_5 = c_2 \cdot x_1 \cdot c_2$. In the next step cut by ρ_2 joining X_5 to $c_2(X'_2) = X_6$ and glue $(\lambda \cup c_0(\lambda)) \rightarrow \lambda'$ by means of $x_5 \cdot x_4 \cdot x_3$.

We have obtained the following polygon (Figure 5):

$$X_{2}, v_{0}, X_{3}, \gamma_{1}, X_{4}, \rho_{1}, X_{5}, \rho_{2}, X_{6}, x_{6}(\rho_{2}), x_{6}(X_{5}), x_{6} \cdot x_{5}(\rho_{1}), x_{6} \cdot x_{5}(X_{4}), x_{6} \cdot x_{5} \cdot x_{4}(\gamma_{1}), x_{6} \cdot x_{5} \cdot x_{4}(X_{3}), x_{6} \cdot x_{5} \cdot x_{4} \cdot x_{3}(v_{0}), X_{2}', \eta_{1}', X_{1}, \eta_{1}.$$

The angles in the polygon are the following, calling for brevity $x_6(X_5) =$

 $X'_{5}, x_{6} \cdot x_{5}(X_{4}) = X'_{4}$ and so on:





For arbitrary q and s we follow the same procedure until arriving to γ_s . Note that the angle in the vertex $c_s(X_q)$ is $\phi_0 + \phi_1 + \ldots + \phi_s = \alpha_q$. In this point we cut by the line ρ_1 that joins X_{q+s} with the point $c_s(X_1)$ and we glue $c_s(\eta_1) \rightarrow c_s(\eta'_1)$ by means of $x_{q+s+1} = c_s \cdot x_1 \cdot c_s$. In the next step cut by ρ_2 joining $c_s(X_1)$ to $c_s(X'_2)$ and repeat the process. In each new step ρ_j joins $c_s(X'_{j-1})$ to $c_s(X'_j)$.

Finally the perimeter of the region arrives to be

$$X_2, \eta_2, X_3, \dots, X_q, \nu_0, X_{q+1}, \gamma_1, \dots, X_{q+s},$$

 $\rho_1, X_{q+s+1}, \rho_2, \dots, X'_2, \eta'_1, X_1, \eta_1,$

where the angles are

$$\widehat{X}_1 = \widehat{X}_{2q+s} = \pi,$$

$$\widehat{X}_i = \alpha_i, \qquad i = 2, \dots, q-1,$$

$$\widehat{X}_q = \sum_{i=1}^s \phi_i,$$

$$\begin{split} \widehat{X}_{q+1} &= \alpha_{q+1} < \frac{\pi}{2}, \\ \widehat{X}_{q+i} &= \alpha_{q+i} = \frac{\pi}{2}, \\ \widehat{X}_{q+s} &= \alpha_{q+s} > \frac{\pi}{2}, \\ \widehat{X}_{i}' &= \pi - \alpha_{i}, \\ \widehat{X}_{i}' &= \pi - \alpha_{i}, \\ \widehat{X}_{i}' &= \pi - \alpha_{q} + \phi_{0} = \pi - \sum_{i=1}^{s} \phi_{i}. \end{split}$$

• W_{Γ_3}

Let now W_{Γ_3} be as in Figure 2(b) for an arbitrary τ . Let us reflect the region by means of *c*, the reflection on the side γ and then $W_{\Gamma_3^+} = W_{\Gamma_3} \cup c(W_{\Gamma_3})$.

• W_{Γ_4}

Let now W_{Γ_4} be as in Figure 3 for an arbitrary τ . Let $W_{\Gamma_4^+} = W_{\Gamma_4} \cup d(W_{\Gamma_4})$, d being the glide-reflection mapping $\mu^* \to \mu$.

We are ready to establish the following results, for which we remember the above notations: α_i and α'_i are the angles at the vertices \widehat{X}_i and \widehat{X}'_i respectively, and the sides η_i and η'_i are those between X_i and X_{i+1} , or X'_i and X'_{i+1} , respectively.

THEOREM 4.1. A Fuchsian group F with signature $(0, +, [2^{2r}], \{-\})$ is the canonical Fuchsian subgroup of an NEC group Γ_1 with signature $(0, +, [-], \{(2^r)\})$ if F admits a right-angled fundamental region W_F .

PROOF. It is obvious comparing W_F with $W_{\Gamma_1^+}$. In such a case we have:

 $x_1 = c_r \cdot c_1, \quad x_2 = c_1 \cdot c_2, \quad \dots, \quad x_r = c_{r-1} \cdot c_r.$

THEOREM 4.2. A Fuchsian group F with signature $(0, +, [2^{2r}], \{-\})$ is the canonical Fuchsian subgroup of an NEC group Γ_2 with signature $(0, +, [2^q], \{(2^s)\})$, where 2q + s = 2r and $q, s \neq 0$, if F admits a fundamental region W_F satisfying the following conditions:

$$\alpha_1 = \alpha_{2r} = \pi,$$

 $\alpha'_i = \pi - \alpha_i, \quad i = 2, \dots, 2r - 1,$

 $\eta'_i = \eta_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, 2r - 1,$

where besides

$$\begin{aligned} &\alpha_{q+1} < \frac{\pi}{2}, \\ &\alpha_{q+i} = \frac{\pi}{2}, \\ &\alpha_{q+s} > \frac{\pi}{2}, \end{aligned} \qquad i = 2, \dots, s - 1, \\ &\alpha_{q+s} > \frac{\pi}{2}, \\ &\alpha_{q+s+i} = \alpha_i, \\ &\eta_{q+s+i} = \eta_i, \end{aligned} \qquad i = 2, \dots, q - 1, \\ &\eta_{q+s+i} = \eta_i, \end{aligned}$$

PROOF. We compare $W_{\Gamma_2^+}$ with W_F , and we see that W_F must satisfy the above conditions.

Let us call

$$\overline{x}_{i} = x_{i}, \qquad i = 1, \dots, q,$$

$$\overline{x}_{q+i} = c_{i-1} \cdot c_{i}, \qquad i = 1, \dots, s,$$

$$\overline{x}_{q+s+1} = c_{s} \cdot x_{1} \cdot c_{s}$$

$$\overline{x}_{q+s+2} = c_{s} \cdot e^{-1} \cdot x_{q} \cdot x_{q-1} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{3} \cdot x_{2} \cdot x_{3} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{q-1} \cdot x_{q} \cdot e \cdot c_{s}$$

$$\overline{x}_{q+s+3} = c_{s} \cdot e^{-1} \cdot x_{q} \cdot x_{q-1} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{4} \cdot x_{3} \cdot x_{4} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{q-1} \cdot x_{q} \cdot e \cdot c_{s}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\overline{x}_{q+s+q-1} = c_{s} \cdot e^{-1} \cdot x_{q} \cdot x_{q-1} \cdot x_{q} \cdot e \cdot c_{s}$$

$$\overline{x}_{q+s+q} = c_{s} \cdot e^{-1} \cdot x_{q} \cdot e \cdot c_{s}$$

Now we check the product of these elliptic elements:

$$\begin{split} \prod_{i=1}^{2q+s} \overline{x}_i &= \prod_{i=1}^{q} \overline{x}_i \cdot \prod_{i=q+1}^{q+s} \overline{x}_i \cdot \prod_{i=q+s+1}^{2q+s} \overline{x}_i \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^{q} x_i \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{s} (c_{i-1} \cdot c_i) \cdot \left((c_s \cdot x_1 \cdot c_s) \cdot \dots \cdot (c_s \cdot e^{-1} \cdot x_q \cdot e \cdot c_s) \right) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^{q} x_i \cdot c_0 \cdot x_1 \cdot e^{-1} \cdot x_q \cdot \dots \cdot x_3 \cdot x_2 \cdot e \cdot c_s \\ &= x_1 \cdot \dots \cdot x_q \cdot c_0 \cdot e \cdot c_s \\ &= x_1 \cdot \dots \cdot x_q \cdot e \\ &= 1. \end{split}$$

THEOREM 4.3. A Fuchsian group F with signature $(0, +, [2^{2r}], \{-\})$ is the canonical Fuchsian subgroup of an NEC group Γ_3 with signature $(0, +, [2^r], [2^r$

 $\{(-)\}$, if *F* admits a fundamental region W_F satisfying the following conditions: $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \pi$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \alpha_{1} = \alpha_{2r} = \pi, \\ \alpha_{i}' = \pi - \alpha_{i}, & i = 2, \dots, 2r - 1, \\ \alpha_{i} = \alpha_{2r - i + 1}, & i = 2, \dots, r, \\ \eta_{i} = \eta_{i}', & i = 1, \dots, r - 1, \\ \eta_{i} = \eta_{2r - i}, & i = 2, \dots, r - 1. \end{array}$$

PROOF. In this case we compare W_F with $W_{\Gamma_3^+}$ and we see that W_F must satisfy the above conditions. In this situation we call

$$\overline{x}_i = x_i, \qquad i = 1, \dots, \frac{r}{2},$$
$$\overline{x}_i = c \cdot x_{r-i+1} \cdot c, \qquad i = \frac{r}{2} + 1, \dots, r$$

Finally we need only to realize that

$$\prod_{i=1}^{r} \overline{x}_i = \prod_{i=1}^{\frac{r}{2}} x_i \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{\frac{r}{2}} c \cdot x_{r-i+1} \cdot c$$
$$= (x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot x_{\frac{r}{2}}) \cdot c \cdot (x_{\frac{r}{2}} \cdot \ldots \cdot x_2 \cdot x_1) \cdot c$$
$$= (x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot x_{\frac{r}{2}}) \cdot c \cdot e \cdot c$$
$$= 1.$$

THEOREM 4.4. A Fuchsian group F with signature $(0, +, [2^{2r}], \{-\})$ is the canonical Fuchsian subgroup of an NEC group Γ_4 with signature $(1, -, [2^r], \{-\})$, if F admits a fundamental region W_F satisfying the following conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} &\alpha_1 = \alpha_{2r} = \pi, \\ &\alpha'_i = \pi - \alpha_i, \\ &\alpha_i = \alpha_{2r-i+1}, \\ &\alpha_r > \alpha_{r+1}, \\ &\eta'_i = \eta_i, \\ &\eta_i = \eta_{2r-i}, \end{aligned}$$
 $i = 2, \dots, r-1, \\ i = 1, \dots, 2r-1, \\ &i = 2, \dots, r-1, \end{aligned}$

PROOF. By comparing W_F with $W_{\Gamma_4^+}$ we see that W_F must satisfy the above

conditions. Call

$$\overline{x}_i = x_i, \qquad i = 1, \dots, \frac{r}{2},$$
$$\overline{x}_i = d \cdot x_{r-i+1} \cdot d^{-1}, \qquad i = 1, \dots, \frac{r}{2}.$$

At last, we check that

$$\prod_{i=1}^{r} \overline{x}_{i} = \prod_{i=1}^{\frac{r}{2}} x_{i} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{\frac{r}{2}} (d \cdot x_{r-i+1} \cdot d^{-1})$$

= $(x_{1} \cdot x_{2} \cdot \ldots \cdot x_{\frac{r}{2}}) \cdot d \cdot (x_{\frac{r}{2}} \cdot \ldots \cdot x_{2} \cdot x_{1}) \cdot d^{-1}$
= $(x_{1} \cdot x_{2} \cdot \ldots \cdot x_{\frac{r}{2}}) \cdot d \cdot d^{2} \cdot d^{-1}$
= 1.

5. Hyperelliptic surfaces

In this section we characterize the hyperelliptic and symmetric Riemann surfaces by means of the results of Section 4 about fundamental regions. Previously we need the following results about hyperelliptic Klein surfaces.

Let $X = \mathscr{D} / \Gamma^*$ be a Klein surface where Γ^* has a signature $(g; \pm; [-], \{(-)^k\})$. The surface X is hyperelliptic if and only if there exists an NEC group Γ containing Γ^* as a subgroup of index 2 having one of the following signatures:

If $k \neq 0$, [2, Theorem 4.5]:

- i) $(0, +, [-], \{(2^{2k})\})$ $g = 0, k \ge 3.$
- ii) $(0, +, [2^{g+k}], \{(-)\})$ g > 0, "+", k = 1, 2.
- iii) $(0, +, [2^g], \{(2^{2k})\})$ g > 0, "-", k > 0.

If k = 0, and in this case X must be a nonorientable unbordered surface (see [5, Theorem 2.2] for the case q = 0):

iv) $(0, +, [2^g], \{(-)\})$ $g \ge 3$, "-", k = 0. v) $(1, -, [2^g], \{-\})$ g > 3, "-", k = 0, g even.

Let $S = \mathscr{D}/F^*$ be a hyperelliptic and symmetric Riemann surface of genus $p \ge 2$. Since *S* is hyperelliptic there exists a Fuchsian group *F* containing F^* as a subgroup of index 2, with signature $(0, +, \lfloor 2^{2p+2} \rfloor, \{-\})$, and because *S* is symmetric, with a symmetry ψ , then $S/\langle \psi \rangle = X = \mathscr{D}/\Gamma^*$, where *X* is a hyperelliptic Klein surface and so there exists an NEC group Γ with one of the

five above signatures. Moreover, the group *F* must be the Fuchsian canonical subgroup of the NEC group Γ and we may apply the geometric results on the respective fundamental regions of *F* and Γ^+ . With the above notations, we rewrite without proofs the Theorems 4.1–4.4 in terms of surfaces, where $S = \mathscr{D}/F^*$ is a given hyperelliptic Riemann surface and *F* is the hyperellipticity group, and $W_{\Gamma_r^+}$ denotes the corresponding regions in Theorems 4.1–4.4.

THEOREM 5.1. If F admits a fundamental region $W_F = W_{\Gamma_1^+}$ then S has an automorphism ψ such that $X = S/\langle \psi \rangle$ is a orientable hyperelliptic Klein surface with topological genus g = 0, and k = p + 1 boundary components.

THEOREM 5.2. If *F* admits a fundamental region $W_F = W_{\Gamma_2^+}$ then *S* has an automorphism ψ such that $X = S/\langle \psi \rangle$ is a non-orientable hyperelliptic Klein surface with topological genus *g*, and k > 0 boundary components, where g + k = p.

THEOREM 5.3. If F admits a fundamental region $W_F = W_{\Gamma_3^+}$ then S has an automorphism ψ such that $X = S/\langle \psi \rangle$ is either

- an orientable hyperelliptic Klein surface with topological genus g, and k = 1 or 2 boundary components, where g + k = p + 1; or
- a non-orientable hyperelliptic unbordered Klein surface with topological genus g = p + 1.

THEOREM 5.4. If F admits a fundamental region $W_F = W_{\Gamma_4^+}$ then S has an automorphism ψ such that $X = S/\langle \psi \rangle$ is a non-orientable unbordered hyperelliptic Klein surface with topological genus g = p + 1. In this case p must be odd.

Let us note that q-hyperelliptic surfaces are too defined by groups whose signatures have all periods equal to 2, [1] and [3]. We feel that similar procedures to the above ones, applied to the fundamental regions of these groups also should work. To do that, it shall be necessary to study the fundamental regions of NEC groups with several empty cycle-periods.

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