

# Mobius Geometry

Def:  $\mathbb{C}^+ = \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$  equivalent to  $S^2$ .

Def: Let  $M$  be the set of all Mobius transformations, that is  $M$  is the set of transformations of the form

$$Tz = \frac{az + b}{cz + d},$$

for  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{C}$ , and  $ad - bc \neq 0$ .

The pair  $(\mathbb{C}^+, M)$  is a model of Mobius Geometry.

Thm: If  $T \in M$  is not the identity, then  $T$  has either one or two fixed points.

Pf: Let  $Tz = \frac{az + b}{cz + d}$ ,  $ad - bc \neq 0$ .

Case 1  $z$  is a fixed point of  $T$  if

$$z = Tz = \frac{az + b}{cz + d}$$

$$z(cz + d) = az + b$$

$$cz^2 + dz - az - b = 0$$

$$cz^2 + (d-a)z - b = 0$$

Case 1:  $c \neq 0$ . Then  $T$  has ~~at most 2~~ fixed points.

Case 2:  $c = 0$  Then  
 $a \neq d$

$$(d-a)z - b = 0$$

$$z = \frac{b}{d-a} \text{ is fixed}$$

$$z = \infty \text{ is fixed.}$$

Case 3:  $c = 0$  Then  $-b = 0$ , so  
 $a = d$

$$Tz = \frac{az}{d} = z, \text{ the id. } \square$$

Cor: A mobius transformation with three or more fixed points is the identity.

Thm: Fundamental Theorem of Mobius Geometry.

For any three distinct points

$$z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}^+ \quad \text{and}$$

~~or~~ three other distinct points

$$w_1, w_2, w_3 \in \mathbb{C}^+$$

there is a mobius transformation so that

$$z_1 \mapsto w_1$$

$$z_2 \mapsto w_2$$

$$z_3 \mapsto w_3.$$

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Pf: Let  $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}^+$  be distinct points  
and  $w_1, w_2, w_3 \in \mathbb{C}^+$  be distinct points.

define  $T_z = \frac{(z-z_2)(z_1-z_3)}{(z-z_3)(z_1-z_2)}$ .

Claim:  $T_{z_1} = 1$  ✓  
 $T_{z_2} = 0$   
 $T_{z_3} = \infty$

$$T_{z_1} = \frac{\cancel{(z_1-z_2)} \cancel{(z_1-z_3)}}{\cancel{(z_1-z_3)} \cancel{(z_1-z_2)}} = 1$$

$$T_{z_2} = \frac{(z_2-z_2)(z_1-z_3)}{(z_2-z_3)(z_1-z_2)} = 0$$

$$T_{z_3} = \frac{(z_3-z_2)(z_1-z_3)}{(z_3-z_3)(z_1-z_2)} = \infty$$

Define  $S_z = \frac{(z-w_2)(w_1-w_3)}{(z-w_3)(w_1-w_2)}$

$$S_{w_1} = 1$$

$$S_{w_2} = 0$$

$$S_{w_3} = \infty$$

$$S w_1 = 1$$

 $S_0$ 

$$w_1 = S^{-1}(1)$$

$$S w_2 = 0$$

$$w_2 = S^{-1}(0)$$

$$S w_3 = \infty$$

$$w_3 = S^{-1}(\infty)$$

Now define  $U = S^{-1} \circ T$ . Then

$$\begin{array}{ccc} z_1 & \xrightarrow{T} & 1 \xrightarrow{S^{-1}} w_1 \\ & \searrow U & \nearrow \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} z_2 & \xrightarrow{T} & 0 \xrightarrow{S^{-1}} w_2 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} z_3 & \xrightarrow{T} & \infty \xrightarrow{S^{-1}} w_3 \end{array}$$

So there exists a  $u \in M$  with

$$U z_1 = w_1$$

$$U z_2 = w_2$$

$$U z_3 = w_3$$

Uniqueness

Suppose  $V$  is a transformation with

$$V z_1 = w_1$$

$$V z_2 = w_2$$

$$V z_3 = w_3$$

Then  $(V^{-1} \circ U)z_1 = V^{-1}(Uz_1) = V^{-1}(w_1) = z_1$

$$V^{-1}Uz_2 = z_2$$

$$V^{-1}Uz_3 = z_3$$

So  $V^{-1}U = \text{Id}$ , since it has 3 fixed points.

Hence  $U = V$ .

Def: The cross ratio of 4 complex numbers  $z_0, z_1, z_2$  and  $z_3$  is

$$(z_0, z_1, z_2, z_3) = \frac{(z_0 - z_1)(z_1 - z_3)}{(z_0 - z_3)(z_1 - z_2)}$$

Def: A cline is a circle or a line.

Rem: On  $S^2$  a line is a circle thru the North pole.

Thm: A mobius transformation takes  
clines to clines.

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Next time: Work out examples  
Post HW.