HOLOMORPHIC FACTORIZATION OF DETERMINANTS OF LAPLACIANS USING QUASI-FUCHSIAN UNIFORMIZATION

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Abstract. For a quasi-Fuchsian group \( \Gamma \) with ordinary set \( \Omega \), and \( \Delta_n \) the Laplacian on \( n \)-differentials on \( \Gamma \backslash \Omega \), we define a notion of a Bers dual basis \( \phi_1, \ldots, \phi_{2d} \) for \( \ker \Delta_n \). We prove that \( \det \Delta_n / \det \langle \phi_j, \phi_k \rangle \), is, up to an anomaly computed by Takhtajan and the second author in [TT03a], the modulus squared of a holomorphic function \( F(n) \), where \( F(n) \) is a quasi-Fuchsian analogue of the Selberg zeta \( Z(n) \). This generalizes the D’Hoker-Phong formula \( \det \Delta_n = c_{g,n} Z(n) \), and is a quasi-Fuchsian counterpart of the result for Schottky groups proved by Takhtajan and the first author in [MT04].

1. Introduction

Let \( \Gamma \) be a Fuchsian group, such that \( \Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}_+ \cong X \) is a compact Riemann surface of genus \( g > 1 \), let \( X \) be endowed with the hyperbolic metric, and let \( \Delta_n \) be the Laplacian acting on the \( n \)-th power of the canonical bundle of \( X \), \( n > 1 \). (See Section 2 for definitions.) In [DP86], D’Hoker and Phong computed the zeta-regularized determinant of \( \det \Delta_n \) in terms of the group \( \Gamma \):

\[
\det \Delta_n = c_{g,n} Z(n) = c_{g,n} \prod_{\{\gamma\}} \prod_{m=0}^{\infty} (1 - \lambda(\gamma)^{n+m}),
\]

where \( \{\gamma\} \) runs over primitive conjugacy classes in \( \Gamma \), \( \lambda(\gamma) \) is the multiplier of \( \gamma \), and \( c_{g,n} \) is a known constant. This theorem is an analogue of the expression, (essentially due to Kronecker), when \( X \) has genus 1 and a flat metric of area 1,

\[
\det'\Delta_0(\tau) = 4 \text{Im} \tau |\eta(\tau)|^4,
\]

where \( X = \langle z \mapsto z + 1, z \mapsto z + \tau \rangle \backslash \mathbb{C} \), and \( \eta \) is the Dedekind function,

\[
\eta(\tau) = q^{\frac{1}{24}} \prod_{m=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^m), \quad q = e^{2\pi i \tau}.
\]

The expression (1.1) is a higher genus analogue of (1.2), but other analogues — in some sense closer to (1.2) — are possible.

In [ZT87a], Takhtajan and Zograf proved the following formula on the Teichmüller space \( T_g \):

\[
\partial_{\mu} \partial_{\nu} \log \frac{\det \Delta_n}{\det N_n} = \frac{6n^2 - 6n + 1}{12\pi} \langle \mu, \nu \rangle_{WP}.
\]

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Here \( \mu \) and \( \nu \) are holomorphic tangent vectors, \((N_n)_{jk} = \langle \phi_j, \phi_k \rangle\) for a holomorphically varying basis \( \phi_1, \ldots, \phi_d \) of holomorphic \( n \)-differentials, \((d = (2n - 1)(g - 1))\), which we call the period matrix, and \( \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{WP} \) is the Weil-Petersson metric on \( T_g \).

Now, for each point \([X] \in T_g\), there is a unique normalized marked Schottky group \( \Gamma \) with ordinary set \( \Omega \), such that \( X \simeq \Gamma \backslash \Omega \). As a corollary to their construction of the Liouville action functional for Schottky groups, Takhtajan and Zograf constructed the classical Liouville action \([ZT87b]\), a positive real-valued function \( S \) on the Schottky space (whose points correspond to marked Schottky groups), and hence on the Teichmüller space \( T_g \) as well. The negative of this function is a potential for the Weil-Petersson metric, namely,

\[
\partial_\mu \partial_\nu (-S) = \langle \mu, \nu \rangle_{WP}.
\]

Therefore,

\[
\log \det \Delta_n \det N_n + \frac{6n^2 - 6n + 1}{12\pi} S
\]

is a pluriharmonic real-valued function on \( T_g \). Since \( T_g \) is contractible, there exists a holomorphic function \( F(n) \) on \( T_g \) such that

\[
\log \det \Delta_n \det N_n + \frac{6n^2 - 6n + 1}{12\pi} S = \log |F(n)|^2,
\]

or equivalently,

\[
\det \Delta_n \det N_n = \exp \left( -\frac{6n^2 - 6n + 1}{12\pi} S \right) |F(n)|^2,
\]

which is what we refer to as “holomorphic factorization”.

In \([MT04]\), L. Takhtajan and the first author showed that, with a suitable explicit choice of the basis \( \phi_1, \ldots, \phi_d \), depending on the Schottky group \( \Gamma \), the function \( F(n) \) has the expression

\[
F(n) = (1 - \lambda(L_1))^2(1 - \lambda(L_1)^2)^2 \cdots (1 - \lambda(L_1)^{n-1})^2(1 - \lambda(L_2)^{n-1}) \times \\
\prod_{\{\gamma\}} \prod_{m=0}^{\infty} (1 - \lambda(\gamma)^{n+m}),
\]

where \( \{\gamma\} \) runs over primitive conjugacy classes in the Schottky group \( \Gamma \), and \( L_1, \ldots, L_g \) are generators of \( \Gamma \) corresponding to the marking. (The factors before the product sign are related to the explicit choice of basis \( \phi_1, \ldots, \phi_d \).) This theorem is closer in form to the genus 1 result than is \( 1 \), and in fact specializes to it when \( g = 1 \).

In \([TT03a]\), L. Takhtajan and the second author extended the results of \([ZT87b]\) to quasi-Fuchsian groups. In particular, they constructed the classical Liouville action, a positive real-valued function \( S \) on the quasi-Fuchsian space \( QF_g \) (whose points correspond to marked quasi-Fuchsian groups). We have \( QF_g \simeq T_g \times T_g \). As in the Schottky case, the negative of this function is a potential for the Weil-Petersson metric. Therefore one may expect that a result similar to \([MT04]\) will hold for quasi-Fuchsian groups. In this paper we prove such a result.

First it is necessary to make an appropriate choice of basis for holomorphic \( n \)-differentials. For this purpose we define the notion of a Bers dual basis. Let \( \Gamma \) be a cocompact quasi-Fuchsian group with domain of discontinuity \( \Omega = \Omega_+ \cup \Omega_- \), simultaneously uniformizing the compact Riemann surfaces \( X_\pm \simeq \Gamma \backslash \Omega_\pm \). For
n > 1, Bers [Ber66] introduced an invertible integral operator $K_-$ which maps the conjugate of a holomorphic $n$-differential on $X_-$ to a holomorphic $n$-differential on $X_+$. Its kernel is given by

$$K_-(z, w) = \frac{2^{2n-2}(2n-1)}{\pi} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \gamma'(z) \frac{n}{(\gamma z - w)^{2n}}, \quad z \in \Omega_+, w \in \Omega_-.$$ 

Given a basis $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$ of holomorphic $n$-differentials of $X_+ \simeq \Gamma \setminus \Omega_+$, the Bers dual is the basis $\phi_1^-, \ldots, \phi_d^-$ of holomorphic $n$-differentials of $X_- \simeq \Gamma \setminus \Omega_-$ such that

$$K_-(z, w) = \sum_{k=1}^d \phi_k^+(z) \phi_k^-(w).$$

Now, the Local Index Theorem [1.3] and the result in [TT03a] imply that on the quasi-Fuchsian space, there exists a holomorphic function $F(n)$ such that

$$\frac{\det \Delta_n(X_+)}{\det N_n([X_+] \setminus \Lambda_+)} \frac{\det \Delta_n(X_-)}{\det N_n([X_-] \setminus \Lambda_-)} = \exp \left( -\frac{6n^2 - 6n + 1}{12\pi} S \right) |F(n)|^2.$$ 

Here $(N([X_+] \setminus \Lambda_+))_{jk} = \langle \phi_j^+, \phi_k^- \rangle$ for Bers dual bases $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$ and $\phi_1^-, \ldots, \phi_d^-$. In this paper, we show that up to a known multiplicative constant, the function $F(n)$ is given by the product

$$F(n) = \prod_{\{\gamma\}} \prod_{m=0}^{\infty} (1 - \lambda(\gamma)^{n+m}),$$

where $\{\gamma\}$ runs over the set of conjugacy classes of primitive elements of the quasi-Fuchsian group $\Gamma$.

This theorem specializes to the D’Hoker-Phong result when restricted to the subspace of Fuchsian groups. In fact, the method of proof is to use [1.1], together with pluriharmonicity (coming from the Local Index Theorem), and symmetry properties of the various quantities in the theorem under complex conjugation of the group $\Gamma \mapsto \overline{\Gamma}$.

We collect the background facts we will need in Section 2. In following sections, we discuss the generalization of the Local Index Theorem, the function $F(n)$, the Bers integral operator and Bers dual basis. The main theorem is stated and proved in Section 6.

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2. Preliminaries

In this section, we collect some necessary facts and definitions. We refer the reader to the references cited for further details.

2.1. Quasi-Fuchsian groups and simultaneous uniformization. (See [AMS7, Ber70, Ber71, Ber81, Kra72, TT03a].) By definition, a Kleinian group is a discrete subgroup $\Gamma$ of the group of Möbius transformations $\text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ which acts properly discontinuously on some non-empty open subset of the Riemann sphere $\hat{\mathbb{C}} = \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$. The largest such subset $\Omega \subset \hat{\mathbb{C}}$ is called the ordinary set of $\Gamma$ and its complement $\Lambda$ is called the limit set of $\Gamma$. 

[References cited for further details]
A Kleinian group $\Gamma$ is called a quasi-Fuchsian group if it leaves some directed Jordan curve $C \subset \hat{C}$ invariant. We have $\Lambda \subset \Lambda_C$; if $\Lambda = C$, the group is said to be of the first kind. In this case, $\Omega$ consists of the two domains $\Omega_+$ and $\Omega_-$ complementary to $C$, chosen such that the boundary of $\Omega_\pm$ (with the orientation from the complex plane) is $\pm C$. If $C$ is a circle or line, the group is called Fuchsian; in this case, we will assume $C$ has been conjugated to $\hat{\mathbb{R}} = \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ with the usual orientation, so $\Omega_\pm = \mathbb{H}_\pm$, the upper (resp. lower) half plane.

It is known that a group $\Gamma$ is quasi-Fuchsian if and only if it is the deformation of a Fuchsian group under a quasiconformal (q. c.) map, that is,

$$\Gamma = w\Gamma_0w^{-1}$$

for some Fuchsian group $\Gamma_0$ and some q. c. homeomorphism $w : \hat{C} \rightarrow \hat{C}$. (See the references for the definition of a q. c. map.)

An element $\gamma$ of $\text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ is called loxodromic if it is conjugate in $\text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ to $z \mapsto \lambda(\gamma)z$ for some $\lambda(\gamma) \in \mathbb{C}$ (called the multiplier) such that $0 < |\lambda(\gamma)| < 1$; if every element of a Kleinian group is loxodromic except the identity, the group is called totally loxodromic. If $\Gamma$ is a finitely generated, totally loxodromic quasi-Fuchsian group of the first kind, then the quotient $\Gamma/\Omega \simeq X$ has two connected components $\Gamma \setminus \Omega_\pm \simeq X_\pm$, which are nonsingular compact Riemann surfaces of common genus $g > 1$. If $\Gamma$ is Fuchsian as well, then $X_\pm \simeq \overline{X}_\mp$, the mirror image of $X_+$ (obtained by taking the complex conjugate of all local coordinates). Conversely, Bers simultaneous uniformization theorem states that, given any two compact Riemann surfaces $X_+, X_-$ of common genus $g > 1$, there exists a finitely generated totally loxodromic quasi-Fuchsian group of the first kind $\Gamma$ such that $\Gamma \setminus \Omega_\pm \simeq X_\pm$.

In the sequel, “quasi-Fuchsian group” will always refer to a finitely generated, totally loxodromic quasi-Fuchsian group of the first kind.

A marked quasi-Fuchsian group is a quasi-Fuchsian group $\Gamma$ (with the above convention), together with a choice $a_1, \ldots, a_g, b_1, \ldots, b_g \in \Gamma$ of generators corresponding to standard generators of $\pi_1(X_+)$.

2.2. $n$-differentials and determinants of Laplacians. (See [TW01] and references therein.) Suppose that $\Gamma$ is a quasi-Fuchsian group, with $\Gamma \setminus \Omega_\pm \simeq X_\pm$ compact Riemann surfaces of genus $g > 1$. For integers $n$ and $m$, an automorphic form of type $(n, m)$ is a function $\phi : \Omega_\pm \rightarrow \hat{C}$ such that

$$\phi(z) = \phi(\gamma z) \gamma'(z)^n \overline{\gamma'(z)^m} \quad \text{for all} \quad z \in \Omega_\pm, \gamma \in \Gamma.$$ 

We write $B_{n,m}(\Omega_\pm, \Gamma)$, for the space of smooth automorphic forms of type $(n, m)$, and identify $B_{n,m}(\Omega_\pm, \Gamma)$ with $B_{n,m}(X_\pm)$, the space of smooth sections of $\omega_{X_\pm}^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^{X_\pm}$, where $\omega_{X_\pm} = T^*X_\pm$ is the holomorphic cotangent bundle of $X_\pm$. We abbreviate $B_{n,0}(\Omega_\pm, \Gamma) = B_n(\Omega_\pm, \Gamma)$, called $n$-differentials, and write $A_n(\Omega_\pm, \Gamma)$ for the holomorphic $n$-differentials.
The hyperbolic metric on $X_{\pm}$, written locally as $\rho(z) |dz|^2$, induces a Hermitian metric
\[ (\phi, \psi) = \int_{\mathcal{F}_{\pm}} \overline{\phi} \rho^{1-n-m} d^2 z, \]
on $B_{n,m}(X_{\pm})$, where $\mathcal{F}_{\pm}$ is a fundamental region for $\Gamma$ in $\Omega_{\pm}$, and $d^2 z = \frac{i}{2} d\overline{z} \wedge d\overline{z}$ is the Euclidean area form on $\Omega_{\pm}$. The complex structure and metric determine a connection
\[ D = \partial_n + \overline{\partial}_n : B_n(X_{\pm}) \to B_{n+1}(X_{\pm}) \oplus B_{n,1}(X_{\pm}) \]
on the line bundle $\omega_{X_{\pm}}$, given locally by
\[ \overline{\partial}_n = \frac{\partial}{\partial \overline{z}} \quad \text{and} \quad \partial_n = \rho^n \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \rho^{-n}. \]
The $\overline{\partial}$-Laplacian acting on $B_n(X_{\pm})$ is then $\Delta_n = \overline{\partial}_n \partial_n$, where $\overline{\partial}_n = -\rho^{-1} \partial_n$ is the adjoint of $\overline{\partial}_n$ with respect to (2.1).

The operator $\Delta_n$ is self-adjoint and non-negative, and has pure discrete spectrum in the $L^2$-closure of $B_{n,m}(X_{\pm})$. The corresponding eigenvalues $0 \leq \lambda_0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \cdots$ of $\Delta_n$ have finite multiplicity and accumulate only at infinity. The determinant of $\Delta_n$ is defined by zeta regularization: the elliptic operator zeta-function
\[ \zeta_n(s) = \sum_{\lambda_k > 0} \lambda_k^{-s}, \]
defined initially for Re $s > 1$, has a meromorphic continuation to the entire s-plane, and by definition
\[ \det \Delta_n = e^{-\zeta_n'(0)}. \]
The non-zero spectrum of $\Delta_{1-n}$ is identical to that of $\Delta_n$, so that $\det \Delta_n = \det \Delta_{1-n}$. Hence without loss of generality we will usually assume $n \geq 1$.

For $n \geq 2$, ker $\Delta_n = A_n(X_{\pm})$ has dimension $d = (2n-1)(g-1)$. If $\phi_1, \ldots, \phi_d$ is a basis for $A_n(X_{\pm})$, we refer to $(N_n)_{jk} = \langle \phi_j, \phi_k \rangle$ as the period matrix corresponding to this basis.

2.3. Quasi-Fuchsian deformation space. (See [ABHY7], [Ber81], [TT03], and references therein.) The set of marked, normalized quasi-Fuchsian groups of genus $g > 1$ (recall our conventions on quasi-Fuchsian groups from Section 2.1) has a natural structure of a complex manifold of dimension $6g - 6$. We refer to it as the quasi-Fuchsian space of genus $g$ and denote it by $QF_g$. The subset of $QF_g$ corresponding to Fuchsian groups — that is, the subset with $X_- \simeq X_+$ — is called the Teichmüller space, $T_g$. It is a totally real submanifold of $QF_g$; however, it has a natural complex structure. With this complex structure, there is a natural biholomorphism [Kra72]
\[ QF_g = T_g \times T_g. \]
We obtain the first (resp. second) copy of $T_g$ by fixing $X_-$ (resp. $X_+$) (this is the Bers embedding of $T_g$ into $QF_g$).

Local coordinates (Bers coordinates) for $QF_g$ may be defined as follows. Fix a quasi-Fuchsian group $\Gamma$ of genus $g$, which will serve as the basepoint for the coordinate chart. Let $\Omega_{-1,1}(\Omega, \Gamma)$ be the space of harmonic Beltrami differentials for $\Gamma$, that is, $\mu \in B_{-1,1}(\Omega, \Gamma)$ such that $(\rho \mu)_z = 0$. It is a complex vector space of dimension $6g - 6$; we give it the sup norm. Each $\mu$ in the open unit ball in
holomorphic line bundle over $QF_t$ space defined as a smooth section of the direct image bundle $\pi$. c. map satisfying (2.3), we then have, for each $z$

\begin{equation}
(\varepsilon \mu) = \mu(z) \tag{2.3}
\end{equation}

and fixing the points 0, 1 and $\infty$. Set

\[ \Gamma^\mu = w_\mu \Gamma w_\mu^{-1}. \]

The group $\Gamma^\mu$ is quasi-Fuchsian, marked, and normalized, so it may be identified with a point in $QF_\mu$; for a sufficiently small neighbourhood of the origin in $\Omega_{-1,1}(\Omega, \Gamma)$, this identification is injective.

Write $U(\Gamma)$ for the Bers coordinate chart based at $\Gamma$. There is a natural biholomorphism $U(\Gamma) \simeq U(\Gamma^\mu)$, mapping $\Gamma^\mu \in U(\Gamma)$ to $(\Gamma^\mu)^\lambda \in U(\Gamma^\mu)$ such that $w_\nu = w_\lambda \circ w_\mu$, which provides overlap maps for the coordinate charts, and allows us to identify the holomorphic tangent space at the point $\Gamma^\nu \in U(\Gamma)$ with the space of harmonic Beltrami differentials $\Omega_{-1,1}(\Gamma^\nu, \Gamma^\mu)$. Given $\mu \in \Omega_{-1,1}(\Omega, \Gamma)$, we denote by $\partial_\nu$ the holomorphic and anti-holomorphic derivatives (vector fields) in a neighbourhood of $\Gamma$ defined using the Bers coordinates at the point $\Gamma$. The scalar product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on $\Omega_{-1,1}(\Gamma^\mu)$ defines a Kähler metric on $QF_\mu$ — the Weil-Petersson metric.

To cover $QF_\mu$, it is sufficient to take Bers coordinate charts based at Fuchsian groups. Explicitly: given a Fuchsian group $\Gamma_0$, let $\mu_1, \ldots, \mu_{6g - 6}$ be a real basis of $\Omega_{-1,1}(\Gamma_0)$ which satisfies

\[ \mu(\overline{z}) = \overline{\mu(z)}, \]

and map $\varepsilon = (\varepsilon_1, \ldots, \varepsilon_{6g - 6})$ to $\Gamma^\varepsilon = \varepsilon \Gamma_0 \varepsilon^{-1}$, where $\varepsilon_\nu : \hat{C} \to \hat{C}$ is the unique normalized q. c. mapping with Beltrami differential $\varepsilon_1 \mu_1 + \ldots + \varepsilon_{6g - 6} \mu_{6g - 6}$. In this coordinate chart, the subset $\text{Im} \varepsilon_k = 0$, $k = 1, \ldots, 6g - 6$ consists of precisely the Fuchsian groups in the chart. These coordinate charts cover $QF_\mu$.

For $\Gamma$ quasi-Fuchsian and $\mu$ in the unit ball in $\Omega_{-1,1}(\Gamma)$, if $w_\varepsilon$ is the corresponding q. c. map satisfying (2.3), we then have, for each $z \in \Omega$,

\[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \varepsilon} \bigg|_{\varepsilon = 0} w_{\varepsilon \mu}(z) = 0. \tag{2.4} \]

Combining this with the equation

\[ \gamma^\varepsilon \mu \circ w_{\varepsilon \mu} = w_{\varepsilon \mu} \circ \gamma, \tag{2.5} \]

we have

\[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \varepsilon} \bigg|_{\varepsilon = 0} \gamma^\varepsilon \mu = 0 \tag{2.6} \]

for each $\gamma^\varepsilon \mu \in \Gamma^\varepsilon \mu$.

2.4. Families of $n$-differentials. (See [Be81] and references therein.) The quasi-Fuchsian fibre space is a fibration $p : \mathcal{F}_g \to QF_g$ with fibre $\pi^{-1}(t) = \mathcal{F}_g \setminus \Omega^t$ for $t \in QF_g$. Let $T_V \mathcal{F}_g \to \mathcal{F}_g$ be the holomorphic vertical tangent bundle — the holomorphic line bundle over $\mathcal{F}_g$ consisting of vectors in the holomorphic tangent space $T \mathcal{F}_g$ that are tangent to the fibres $\pi^{-1}(t)$. A family $\phi^t$ of $n$-differentials is defined as a smooth section of the direct image bundle

\[ \Lambda_n = p_*((T_V \mathcal{F}_g)^{-n}) \to QF_g. \]
The fibre of $\Lambda_n$ over $t \in QF_g$ is the vector space $B_n(\Omega^t, \Gamma^t)$. The hyperbolic metric $\rho^t$ on $\Gamma^t \backslash \Omega^t$ defines a natural Hermitian metric on the line bundle $\Lambda_n$ by $\{\mathcal{F}_g\}$. Analogously, there exist fibre spaces $p_{\pm} : (\{\mathcal{F}_g\})_{\pm} \to QF_g$ with fibre $\pi^{-1}(t) = \Gamma^t \backslash \Omega^t_\pm$ for $t \in QF_g$, and consequently we may define families of $n$-differentials in $B_n(\Omega^t_\pm, \Gamma^t)$.

For a harmonic Beltrami differential $\mu$ in the unit ball of $\Omega_{-1,1}(\Omega, \Gamma)$, the pull-back of an $n$-differential $\phi^\epsilon \in B_n(\Omega^{\epsilon \mu}, \Gamma^{\epsilon \mu})$ is an $n$-differential $w^*_\epsilon \mu(\phi^\epsilon) \in B_n(\Omega, \Gamma)$ defined by

$$w^*_\epsilon \mu(\phi^\epsilon) = \phi^\epsilon \circ w_{\epsilon \mu} \left((w_{\epsilon \mu})z\right)^n,$$

where $w_{\epsilon \mu} : \widehat{\mathbb{C}} \to \widehat{\mathbb{C}}$ is the solution of the Beltrami equation corresponding to $\mu$. The Lie derivatives of the family $\phi^\epsilon$ in the directions $\mu$ and $\overline{\mu}$ are defined by

$$L_\mu \phi^\epsilon = \frac{\partial}{\partial \epsilon} \bigg|_{\epsilon=0} w^*_\epsilon \mu(\phi^\epsilon) \in B_n(\Omega, \Gamma)$$

and

$$L_{\overline{\mu}} \phi^\epsilon = \frac{\partial}{\partial \epsilon} \bigg|_{\epsilon=0} w^*_\epsilon \mu(\phi^\epsilon) \in B_n(\Omega, \Gamma).$$

Note that a smooth section $\phi^\epsilon$ of $(\Lambda_n)_\pm$ is holomorphic if and only if $L_{\overline{\mu}} \phi^\epsilon = 0$ in each Bers coordinate chart. If $\phi^\epsilon_1, \ldots, \phi^\epsilon_k$ are holomorphic sections which form a basis of $A_n(\Omega^{\epsilon \mu}_\pm, \Gamma^t)$ for each $t \in QF_g$, we call them a holomorphically varying basis of holomorphic $n$-differentials.

2.5. Inversion on the quasi-Fuchsian deformation space. There is a canonical inversion $\iota$ on the quasi-Fuchsian deformation space given by $\Gamma \mapsto \overline{\Gamma}$, where $\overline{\Gamma}$ is the quasi-Fuchsian group

$$\overline{\Gamma} = \left\{ \gamma = \left( \begin{array}{cc} a & b \\ c & d \end{array} \right) : \gamma \in \Gamma \right\}. \quad (2.7)$$

With our conventions, we have $\Omega_\pm(\Gamma) = \overline{\Omega_\mp(\overline{\Gamma})}$, where $\Omega_\pm$ means the set of $z$ such that $\overline{z} \in \Omega_\pm$, with the orientation from the complex plane. The hyperbolic metric on $\overline{\Omega}$ is given by $\rho_{\overline{\Gamma}}(z) = \rho_\Gamma(\overline{z})$. If $\Gamma \backslash \Omega \simeq X_+ \sqcup X_-$, then $\overline{\Gamma} \backslash \Omega \simeq X_- \sqcup X_+$, where $X_\pm$ is obtained from $X_\pm$ by taking the conjugate of all local coordinates. Note that as a hyperbolic manifold, $X_\pm$ is isometric to $X_\pm$ by an orientation-reversing isometry. The fixed submanifold of the inversion $\iota$ is precisely the real submanifold of Fuchsian groups. On the Bers coordinate with a Fuchsian basepoint $\Gamma_0$, the inversion is realized explicitly by $\iota(\mu)(z) = \mu(\overline{z})$.

2.6. Classical Liouville action. In [T103a], Takhtajan and the second author constructed the classical Liouville action $S : QF_g \to \mathbb{R}$ on the quasi-Fuchsian space, which has the following properties:

- **CL1** $S$ is a real analytic function on $QF_g$.
- **CL2** $S$ is invariant under the inversion $\iota$, that is, $S(\Gamma) = S(\overline{\Gamma})$.
- **CL3** Restricted to the real submanifold of Fuchsian groups, $S$ is a constant, equal to $8\pi(2g-2)$.
- **CL4** $-S$ is a potential for the Weil-Petersson metric on the quasi-Fuchsian deformation space. Namely, at a point $\Gamma$, for all $\mu, \nu \in \Omega_{-1,1}(\Gamma)$,

$$\partial_\mu \partial_\nu (-S) = \langle \mu, \nu \rangle.$$
2.7. Selberg Zeta function and D’Hoker-Phong theorem. The Selberg zeta function $Z(s)$ of a Riemann surface $X \simeq \Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^+$, where $\Gamma$ is a Fuchsian group, is defined for $\Re s > 1$ by the absolutely convergent product

$$Z(s) = \prod_{\{\gamma_0\}} \prod_{m=0}^{\infty} (1 - \lambda(\gamma_0)^{s+m}),$$

where $\gamma_0$ runs over the set of conjugacy classes of primitive hyperbolic elements of $\Gamma$, and $0 < \lambda(\gamma) < 1$ is the multiplier of $\gamma$. The function $Z(s)$ has a meromorphic continuation to the whole $s$-plane. In [DPS06], D’Hoker and Phong proved that for $n \geq 2$,

$$\det \Delta_n = c_{g,n} Z(n).$$

Here $c_{g,n}$ is an explicitly known positive constant depending only on $g$ and $n$, and not on $X$ (we refer the reader to [DPS06] for the precise expression for $c_{g,n}$).

3. Generalized local index theorem on the quasi-Fuchsian space

In [TZS7a] (see also [TZ91]), Takhtajan and Zograf proved the Local Index Theorem:

**Theorem.** Let $\Gamma$ be a marked Fuchsian group corresponding to a point in the Teichmüller space $T_g$, with $\Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^+ \simeq X$ a compact Riemann surface of genus $g > 1$. Write $[X]$ for the corresponding marked Riemann surface. Then we have, for all $\mu, \nu \in \Omega_{-1,1}(\mathbb{H}^+)$,

$$\partial_\mu \partial_\nu \log \frac{\det \Delta_n(X)}{\det N_n([X])} = \frac{6n^2 - 6n + 1}{12\pi} \langle \mu, \nu \rangle,$$

where $(N_n([X]))_{jk} = \langle \phi_j, \phi_k \rangle$ is the period matrix of a holomorphically varying basis $\phi_1, \ldots, \phi_d$ of $A_n(X)$, i.e. of holomorphic n-differentials of the Riemann surface $X$.

Note that we write $N_n([X])$ since we may find a holomorphically varying basis globally only over $T_g$, not over the moduli space of surfaces $X$.

Given $\Gamma$ a quasi-Fuchsian group with $\Gamma \backslash \Omega \simeq X \simeq X_+ \sqcup X_-$ a union of compact Riemann surfaces $X_\pm$ of genus $g > 1$, the determinant of the Laplacian acting on $n$-differentials is the product

$$\det \Delta_n(X) = \det \Delta_n(X_+) \det \Delta_n(X_-) = c_{g,n}^2 Z_{X_+}(n)Z_{X_-}(n),$$

and, given choices of holomorphically varying bases of holomorphic n-differentials on $X_+$ and $X_-$, the period matrix $N_n([X])$ is defined as

$$\det N_n([X]) = \det N_n([X_+]) \det N_n([X_-]).$$

It is straightforward to generalize the Local Index Theorem to quasi-Fuchsian groups:

**Theorem.** Let $\Gamma$ be a marked quasi-Fuchsian group corresponding to a point in the quasi-Fuchsian space $Q\Gamma F_g$, with $\Gamma \backslash \Omega \simeq X \simeq X_+ \sqcup X_-$ a union of two compact Riemann surfaces of genus $g > 1$. Write $[X_\pm]$ for the corresponding marked Riemann surfaces. Then we have, for all $\mu, \nu \in \Omega_{-1,1}(\Omega, \Gamma)$,

$$\partial_\mu \partial_\nu \log \frac{\det \Delta_n(X)}{\det N_n([X])} = \partial_\mu \partial_\nu \log \frac{\det \Delta_n(X_+)}{\det N_n([X_+])} \frac{\det \Delta_n(X_-)}{\det N_n([X_-])} = \frac{6n^2 - 6n + 1}{12\pi} \langle \mu, \nu \rangle.$$

We call this the Generalized Local Index Theorem.

Proof. Simply use the isomorphism $QF_g \simeq T_g \times T_g$ to split the tangent space $T_t QF_g \simeq T_t T_g \oplus T_t T_g$ at each point $t \in QF_g$. □

4. The function $F(n)$

Analogous to the Selberg zeta function $Z(s)$, given a quasi-Fuchsian group $\Gamma$ and an integer $n \geq 2$, we define the function

$$F(n) = \prod_{\{\gamma\}} \prod_{m=0}^{\infty} (1 - \lambda(\gamma)^{n+m}),$$

where $\{\gamma\}$ runs over the set of conjugacy classes of primitive elements of $\Gamma$, omitting the identity, and $|\lambda(\gamma)| < 1$ the multiplier of $\gamma$. The product converges absolutely if and only if the series $\sum_{\{\gamma\}} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} |\lambda(\gamma)|^m$ converges. It is straightforward to prove that this series converges provided that the multiplier series $\sum_{\{\gamma\}} |\lambda(\gamma)|^n$ converges, where $\{\gamma\}$ runs over all distinct conjugacy classes (not necessarily primitive) in $\Gamma$. The argument of B"user for Schottky groups [B"us96] goes through for quasi-Fuchsian groups, showing that multiplier series converges if the Poincaré series $\sum_{\{\gamma\}} |\gamma'(z)|^n$ converges, and it is a classical fact that this converges when $n \geq 2$.

Lemma 4.1.

(i) $F(n)$ is a holomorphic function on the quasi-Fuchsian deformation space.

(ii) Under the inversion $\iota$ on the quasi-Fuchsian deformation space, the function $F(n)$ transforms as $F(n)(\iota(\Gamma)) = F(n)(\Gamma)$.

(iii) Restricted to the real submanifold of Fuchsian groups, $F(n)$ is real and coincides with $Z(n)$.

Proof. Properties (ii) and (iii) are immediate from the definitions. It is easy to show that the multiplier $\lambda(\gamma)$ is a holomorphic function of the entries of $\gamma$, whenever $0 < \lambda(\gamma) < 1$. Combining this with (2.6) establishes property (i). □

These properties characterize $F(n)$ uniquely; see Lemma 6.1.

5. Bers integral operator and Bers dual bases

Let $\Gamma$ be a quasi-Fuchsian group of genus $g \geq 1$ with ordinary set $\Omega_+ \cup \Omega_-$ (recall our conventions on quasi-Fuchsian groups from Section 2.1), and let $n \geq 2$ be an integer. Recall that $A_n(\Omega_{\pm}, \Gamma)$, the space of holomorphic $n$-differentials of $\Gamma$ with support on $\Omega_{\pm}$, is a complex vector space of dimension $d = (2n - 1)(g - 1)$, with a canonical inner product given by

$$\langle \phi, \psi \rangle = \int_{\Gamma \setminus \Omega_{\pm}} \phi(z) \overline{\psi(z)} \rho(z)^{1-n} \ d^2z.$$

5.1. Bers integral operator. In [Ber66], Bers introduced complex linear operators

$$K_{\pm}(\Gamma) : A_n(\Omega_{\pm}, \Gamma) \to A_n(\Omega_{\mp}, \Gamma)$$
(we suppress the \(n\) to simplify notation). The two operators \(K_±(\Gamma)\) (or simply \(K_±\)) are defined for \(\phi \in A_n(\Omega_{±}, \Gamma)\) and \(z \in \Omega_{±}\) by
\[
(K_±\phi)(z) = c_n \int_{\Omega_±} \frac{\phi(w)\rho(w)^{1-n}}{(z-w)^{2n}} \, d^2w = \int_{\Gamma \setminus \Omega_±} K_±(z, w)\phi(w)\rho(w)^{1-n} \, d^2w,
\]
where \(c_n\) is the constant
\[
c_n = \frac{2^{2n-2}(2n-1)}{\pi},
\]
and, for \(z \in \Omega_{±}\), \(w \in \Omega_{±}\),
\[
K_±(z, w) = c_n \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \frac{\gamma'(z)^n}{(\gamma z - w)^{2n}}.
\]
We can also define these operators for the conjugate group \(\overline{\Gamma}\); we have
\[
K_±(\overline{\Gamma}) : A_n(\overline{\Omega_{±}}, \overline{\Gamma}) \to A_n(\overline{\Omega_{±}}, \overline{\Gamma}).
\]

**Remark 5.1.** In \(\text{[Ber66]}\), the operator \(K_-\) is defined on the Banach space \(B_n(\Omega_{±}, \Gamma)\), where \(B_n(\Omega_{±}, \Gamma)\) is the space of bounded \(n\)-differentials of \(\Gamma\) with support on \(\Omega_{±}\). There is a canonical decomposition
\[
B_n = A_n \oplus N_n,
\]
where \(N_n\) is the subspace of \(B_n\) consisting of all \(\eta\) such that
\[
\int_{\Gamma \setminus \Omega_{±}} \eta\overline{\phi} \rho^{1-n} = 0,
\]
for all holomorphic \(n\)-differentials \(\phi\) which are \(L^1\) integrable. Using this characterization of \(N_n\), it is easy to see that \(N_n\) lies in the kernel of \(K_\pm\). Hence here we define \(K_-\) on the quotient space \(\overline{B_n}/N_n \simeq \overline{A_n}\) (and similarly for \(K_+\)).

Define operators
\[
\iota_± : A_n(\Omega_{±}, \Gamma) \to A_n(\overline{\Omega_{±}}, \overline{\Gamma}),
\]
\[
\overline{\iota_±} : A_n(\Omega_{±}, \Gamma) \to A_n(\overline{\Omega_{±}}, \overline{\Gamma})
\]
by \((\iota_± \phi)(z) = \overline{\phi(z)}\) and \((\overline{\iota_± \phi})(z) = \phi(\overline{z})\) for each \(\phi \in A_n(\Omega_{±}, \Gamma)\) and \(z \in \overline{\Omega_{±}}\).

**Lemma 5.2.**
(i) \(K^*_± \phi = K_± \overline{\phi}\) for all \(\phi \in A_n(\Omega_{±}, \Gamma)\).
(ii) \(\iota_± K_±(\Gamma) = K_±(\overline{\Gamma})\overline{\iota_±}\) and \(\overline{\iota_± K_±(\Gamma)} = \overline{K_±(\overline{\Gamma})}\iota_±\).
(iii) When \(\Gamma\) is Fuchsian, \(K_± \overline{\phi} = \iota_± \phi\) for all \(\phi \in A_n(\Omega_{±}, \Gamma)\).

**Proof.** For \(z \in \Omega_{±}\) and \(\phi \in A_n(\Omega_{±}, \Gamma)\), the adjoint operator \(K^*_± : A_n(\Omega_{±}, \Gamma) \to A_n(\overline{\Omega_{±}}, \overline{\Gamma})\) is given by
\[
(K^*_± \phi)(z) = c_n \int_{\Omega_{±}} \frac{\phi(w)\rho(w)^{1-n}}{(z-w)^{2n}} \, d^2w,
\]
hence
\[
\overline{K^*_± \phi}(z) = c_n \int_{\Omega_{±}} \frac{\overline{\phi(w)}\rho(w)^{1-n}}{(z-w)^{2n}} \, d^2w = (K_± \overline{\phi})(z),
\]
establishing (i). For $z \in \overline{\Omega_{\pm}}$ and $\phi \in A_n(\Omega_{\pm}, \Gamma)$,

$$(\iota_\pm K_\pm(\Gamma)\phi)(z) = (K_\pm(\Gamma)\phi)(z) = c_n \int_{\Omega_{\pm}} \frac{\phi(w)\rho(w)^{1-n}}{(z-w)^{2n}} \, d^2w$$

which proves the first part of (ii); the second part is similar. When $\Gamma$ is Fuchsian, property (iii) is the reproducing formula — see [Ber66]. □

Bers proved that the operator $K_\pm$ is invertible. Hence $\kappa_\pm = K_\pm K_\pm^*$ is a self-adjoint positive definite operator.

**Lemma 5.3.**

(i) $\kappa_+$ and $\kappa_-$ have the same eigenvalues.

(ii) $\kappa_\pm(\Gamma)$ and $\kappa_\pm(\overline{\Gamma})$ have the same eigenvalues.

(iii) If $\Gamma$ is Fuchsian, $\kappa_+(\Gamma)$ is the identity.

Note that properties (i) and (ii) imply that $\kappa_\pm(\Gamma)$ and $\kappa_\pm(\overline{\Gamma})$ have the same eigenvalues.

**Proof.** The map $\phi \mapsto K_+\overline{\phi}$ from $A_n(\Omega_+, \Gamma) \to A_n(\Omega_-, \Gamma)$ conjugates $\kappa_+$ with $\kappa_-:

$$K_+K_+(\Gamma) = K_+K_+^*\overline{\phi} = K_-K_-^*\phi,$$

which establishes (i). To prove (ii), note that the map $\iota_-$ conjugates $\kappa_+(\Gamma)$ with $\kappa_-(\Gamma)$:

$$\kappa_+(\Gamma)K_+(\overline{\Gamma}) = K_-(\Gamma)\overline{K_+(\overline{\Gamma})}K_-(\Gamma) = K_-K_-(\overline{\Gamma})$$

Property (iii) follows from part (iii) of the previous lemma. □

5.2. **Bers dual bases.** We choose a basis $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$ of $A_n(\Omega_+, \Gamma)$ and expand the kernel $K_-(z, w)$ with respect to this basis by

$$K_-(z, w) = \sum_{k=1}^d \phi_k^+(z)\overline{\phi_k^-(w)}.$$

We define the period matrices $N_\pm = N_n([X_{\pm}])$ by

$$(N_\pm)_{kl} = \langle \phi_k^+, \phi_l^- \rangle.$$

Then

$$\kappa_-(z, w) = \int_{\Gamma \backslash \Omega_--} K_-(z, u)\overline{K_-(w, u)}\rho(u)^{1-n} \, d^2u = \sum_{j=1}^d \sum_{k=1}^d \phi_j^+(z)(N_-)_{jk}\phi_k^+(w),$$

and hence

$$(\kappa_-(\phi_j^+))(z) = \sum_{j=1}^d \sum_{k=1}^d (N_+)(N_-)_{jk}\phi_k^+(z).$$

Namely, with respect to the basis $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$, the matrix for the operator $\kappa_-$ is given by $N_+N_-^T$. The invertibility of $\kappa_-$ then shows that $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$ is a basis of $A_n(\Omega_-, \Gamma)$, and we say that this basis is **Bers dual** to $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$. Note that we have $\det \kappa_- = \det N_+ \det N_-$. 
5.3. Properties of period matrices. Suppose that $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$ is a basis for $A_n(\Omega, \Gamma)$ chosen globally on $QF_g$ and varying holomorphically, and $\phi_1^-, \ldots, \phi_d^-$ is a Bers dual basis for $A_n(\Omega, \Gamma)$. Let $N_\pm$ be the corresponding period matrices.

Lemma 5.4.

(i) The basis $\phi_1^-, \ldots, \phi_d^-$ varies holomorphically on $QF_g$.

(ii) $\det N_+ \det N_- = 1$ on the real submanifold of Fuchsian groups.

Proof. If $\mu \in \Omega_{-1,1}(\Gamma)$ is a harmonic Beltrami differential, and $w_{\varepsilon \mu}$ is the q. c. mapping defined by $\varepsilon \mu$, then by (2.4) and (2.5), we have

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \varepsilon} \bigg|_{\varepsilon = 0} ((w_{\varepsilon \mu} \otimes w_{\varepsilon \mu})^* K_-(z, w) = 0,$$

the symbol $\otimes$ indicating that we are pulling $K_-(z, w)$ back as an n-differential in each variable. Hence,

$$\sum_{k=1}^d \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \varepsilon} \bigg|_{\varepsilon = 0} w_{\varepsilon \mu}^*(\phi_k^-)^{\varepsilon \mu}(z) \right) (w) (\phi_k^+)^{\varepsilon \mu}(w) + \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \varepsilon} \bigg|_{\varepsilon = 0} w_{\varepsilon \mu}^*(\phi_k^+)^{\varepsilon \mu}(z) \right) (w) (\phi_k^-)^{\varepsilon \mu}(w) = 0.$$

Consequently, if the basis $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$ varies holomorphically with respect to moduli, i. e. for all $k$,

$$\left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \varepsilon} \bigg|_{\varepsilon = 0} w_{\varepsilon \mu}^*(\phi_k^+)^{\varepsilon \mu}(z) \right) = 0,$$

then

$$\left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \varepsilon} \bigg|_{\varepsilon = 0} w_{\varepsilon \mu}^*(\phi_k^-)^{\varepsilon \mu}(z) \right) = 0$$

for all $k$ as well, which proves (i).

Properties (ii) and (iii) follows from Lemma 5.3 since $\det \kappa_- = \det N_+ \det N_-$. 

5.4. Global choice of basis over $QF_g$. We may choose a holomorphically varying basis of $n$-differentials globally over the Teichmüller space by using the Bers embedding. Fix a marked Riemann surface $[X_+]$, and choose a fixed basis $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$ of $A_n(X_+)$. Then for any $[X_-]$, take the corresponding quasi-Fuchsian group, identify $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$ with a basis of $A_n(\Omega_+, \Gamma)$, and let $\phi_1^-, \ldots, \phi_d^-$ be the Bers dual basis of $A_n(\Omega_-, \Gamma)$. By Lemma 5.4, this basis varies holomorphically. (This is essentially equivalent to a construction by Bers; see [Ber81] and references therein.)

Now, assume a choice of holomorphically varying basis of $n$-differentials $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$ of $A_n(X_+)$ has been made at each point $[X_+]$ in the Teichmüller space. Given any $[X_-]$, take the corresponding quasi-Fuchsian group, identify $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$ with a basis of $A_n(\Omega_+, \Gamma)$, and let $\phi_1^-, \ldots, \phi_d^-$ be the Bers dual basis of $A_n(\Omega_-, \Gamma)$. By Lemma 5.4, this basis varies holomorphically.

Consequently we have shown that it is possible to make a choice of holomorphically varying bases $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$ of $A_n(\Omega_\pm, \Gamma)$ globally over $QF_g$, in such a way that $\phi_1^-, \ldots, \phi_d^-$ is Bers dual to $\phi_1^+, \ldots, \phi_d^+$ at each point of $QF_g$. 

□
6. Holomorphic factorization of determinants of Laplacians

In this section, we prove our main theorem:

**Theorem.** Let \( \Gamma \) be a quasi-Fuchsian group simultaneously uniformizing compact Riemann surfaces \( X_+ \) and \( X_- \) of genus \( g > 1 \). Then for \( n \geq 2 \),

\[
\frac{\det \Delta_n(X_+)}{\det N_n([X_+]^+)} \frac{\det \Delta_n(X_-)}{\det N_n([X_-]^+)} = a_{g,n} |F_{\Gamma}(n)|^2 \exp \left( -\frac{6n^2 - 6n + 1}{12\pi} S_\Gamma \right).
\]

Here the Laplacian is computed in the hyperbolic metric; \( N_n([X_+]^+) \) are period matrices of bases of \( \ker \Delta_n(X_+) \), Bers dual in the sense of Section 5.2 and chosen globally over the quasi-Fuchsian space; and \( S_\Gamma \) is the classical Liouville action defined in Section 2.5. The function

\[
F_{\Gamma}(n) = \prod_{\{\gamma\} \in \Gamma} \prod_{m=0}^{\infty} (1 - \lambda(\gamma)^{n+m})
\]

is defined in more detail in Section 3 and \( a_{g,n} \) is the positive constant

\[
a_{g,n} = c_{g,n}^2 \exp \left( -\frac{(6n^2 - 6n + 1)(4g - 4)}{3} \right),
\]

where \( c_{g,n} \) is the constant from the D'Hoker-Phong formula \( \{2,3\} \).

First, we prove a “Schwarz reflection” lemma for pluriharmonic functions:

**Lemma 6.1.** Let \( V \) be an open, convex subset of \( \mathbb{C}^m \), such that \( V \cap \mathbb{R}^m \) is nonempty. Suppose that \( h : V \to \mathbb{R} \) satisfies the following conditions:

(i) \( \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k} = 0 \) everywhere in \( V \), for all \( j, k \in \{1, \ldots, m\} \).

(ii) \( h(x_1, \ldots, x_m) = 0 \) for all \( (x_1, \ldots, x_m) \in V \cap \mathbb{R}^m \).

(iii) \( h(\bar{z}_1, \ldots, \bar{z}_m) = h(z_1, \ldots, z_m) \) for all \( (z_1, \ldots, z_m) \in V \) such that \( (\bar{z}_1, \ldots, \bar{z}_m) \in V \).

Then \( h \) is identically zero on \( V \).

**Proof.** Fix \( a, b \in \mathbb{R}^m \), and let \( W = \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : az + b \in V \} \). Define \( f : W \to \mathbb{R} \) by \( f(z) = h(az + b) \). Property (i) implies that \( f \) is harmonic on \( W \). Property (ii) implies that \( f(x) = 0 \) for all \( x \in W \cap \mathbb{R} \). Hence by the Schwarz reflection principle, we have \( f(\bar{z}) = -f(z) \) for all \( z \) in some neighbourhood of \( W \cap \mathbb{R} \). On the other hand, \( f(\bar{z}) = f(z) \) whenever \( z, \bar{z} \in W \) by (iii), so \( f(z) = 0 \) for all \( z \) in some neighbourhood of \( W \cap \mathbb{R} \). But since \( V \) is convex, \( W \) is connected, so \( f(z) = 0 \) for all \( z \in W \).

Hence \( h \) is zero at all points in \( V \) of the form \( az + b \) for some \( a, b \in \mathbb{R}^m \) and some \( z \in \mathbb{C} \). But it is easy to check that every point in \( \mathbb{C}^m \) is of this form, so \( h \) is identically zero on \( V \). \( \square \)

Now we return to the proof of the theorem. Let

\[
h = \log \left( \frac{\det \Delta_n(X_+)}{\det N_n([X_+]^+)} \frac{\det \Delta_n(X_-)}{\det N_n([X_-]^+)} \right) a_{g,n} |F_{\Gamma}(n)|^2 \exp \left( -\frac{6n^2 - 6n + 1}{12\pi} S_\Gamma \right).
\]

The function \( h \) is real-valued on the quasi-Fuchsian deformation space \( QF_g \). We claim that

(i) \( h \) is pluriharmonic on \( QF_g \)

(ii) \( h \) is invariant under the inversion \( \iota \)
(iii) \( h = 0 \) on the real submanifold of Fuchsian groups.

Property (i) follows directly from the generalized local index theorem (Section 3) and the fact that \( F_\Gamma(n) \) is holomorphic on \( QF_g \) (Section 4). Property (ii) follows from the transformations under \( \iota \), established in Sections 2.2, 4, 2.6, and 5.3, of the factors appearing in \( h \). Using the fact that \( S_\Gamma \) is constant on the real submanifold of Fuchsian groups, property (iii) reduces to the D’Hoker-Phong formula (2.8).

Writing \( h \) in the local coordinates on \( QF_g \) described in Section 2.3, we see that it satisfies the conditions of Lemma 6.1, and hence is identically zero on \( QF_g \), proving the theorem.

**Remark 6.2.** The theorem should be considered as an equality of functions over the quasi-Fuchsian space \( QF_g \). However, we can obtain as a corollary an equality of functions over the Teichmüller space \( T_g \), by means of the Bers embedding. Fix the marked Riemann surface \( X_- \) and the basis \( \phi_1^-, \ldots, \phi_d^- \) of holomorphic \( n \)-differentials on \( X_- \). Then \( \det \Delta_n(X_-)/\det N_n([X_-]) \) is constant, and all other quantities in the theorem are functions only of \([X_+] \in T_g\).

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