

Action of a torus in a projective variety

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Translator’s note.

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Introduction

If a reductive algebraic group G acts on a projective algebraic variety X , all over an algebraically closed field, the data of an G -linearised ample line bundle L on X allows us to define the open subset of stable points of X . The quotient (in the usual sense of orbit spaces) of this open subset $X^s = X^s(L)$ by G exists; it is a quasi-projective variety, denoted by X^s/G . Furthermore, X^s is contained in the open subset $X^{ss} = X^{ss}(L)$ of semi-stable points, and we can again define a “quotient” Y of X^{ss} by G (it is the space of closed orbits of G in X^{ss}). The variety Y is projective, and contains X^s/G as an open sub set. To define it, we introduce the algebra $A := \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} \Gamma(X, L^n)$ and its sub-algebra A^G consisting of invariants of G ; then Y is the Proj of the graded algebra A^G . Thus Y is endowed with a sheaf $\mathcal{O}(n)$ for every integer n , and one of them is invertible. So we can define the class

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$1/n[\mathcal{O}(n)]$ in the Picard group of Y , tensored with \mathbb{Q} . This class is ample, and depends only on X and L .

Our goal is to study these objects, introduced by Mumford in [MF], when G is a torus (denoted by T). The idea is to simultaneously consider all the quotients associated to the T -linearised bundles $L^n \otimes \mathcal{O}(\chi)$, where n is a positive integer, and $\mathcal{O}(\chi)$ is the trivial line bundle on X , with the torus acting on each fibre of $\mathcal{O}(\chi)$ by multiplication by the character χ . The notion of a stable or semi-stable point for $L^n \otimes \mathcal{O}(\chi)$ depends only, in fact, on χ/n . To every quotient p of a character of T by an integer, we can thus associate $X^s(p)$, $X^{ss}(p)$, $Y(p)$, and an ample class L_p in $\text{Pic}_{\mathbb{Q}}(Y(p))$; when $p = 0$, we recover the above notions.

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For simplicity, we assume L to be very ample, i.e. we consider the case where X is a subvariety of a projective space $\mathbf{P}(V)$, with the torus T acting linearly on V , and where L is the restriction of $\mathcal{O}(1)$ to X . We show that $X^s(p)$, $X^{ss}(p)$, and $Y(p)$ depend only on the position of p relative to a certain finite set Π of characters of T (the set of weights of T in V). More precisely, we define §§ 1.1 and 1.2 a partition of the convex hull \mathcal{C} of Π into “faces”. Each face is the interior of a convex polyhedron, and $X^s(p)$, $X^{ss}(p)$, and $Y(p)$ depend only on the face of p ; for every face F , we can define $X^s(F)$, $X^{ss}(F)$, and $Y(F)$. We further show § 1.3 that the map $p \in F \mapsto L_p \in \text{Pic}_{\mathbb{Q}}(Y(F))$ is affine.

Let F be an open face of \mathcal{C} . We show that every point that is semistable for F is stable; thus, if X is smooth, then $Y(F)$ only has singularities from quotients by finite abelian groups. The quotients associated to the open faces are thus relatively simply. For an arbitrary face F , let F' be an open face whose closure contains F . We define, in § 1.4, a morphism $\pi_{F,F'}: Y(F') \rightarrow Y(F)$, that is almost always birational. In ??, we study the case where F is of codimension one, and contained in the closure of the two open faces F_- and F_+ . The morphisms π_{F,F_-} and π_{F,F_+} are, in general, quite complicated; however, if \hat{Y} denotes the product of $Y(F_-)$ and $Y(F_+)$ over $Y(F)$, then the morphisms from \hat{Y} to $Y(F_-)$, $Y(F)$, and $Y(F_+)$ are blow-ups of subvarieties, with the same exceptional divisor (see ?? for a precise statement).

We can extend the affine map $p \mapsto L_p$ from F_+ to $\text{Pic}_{\mathbb{Q}}(Y_+)$ to \mathcal{C} , and then lift each L_p to \hat{Y} , giving a class L_p^+ ; we define L_p^- similarly. We show in ?? that the difference $L_p^+ - L_p^-$ is a multiple of the exceptional divisor $\hat{Y} \rightarrow Y(F)$, and is zero for all $p \in F$. Then, when we consider the product \tilde{Y} of the quotients associated to all the faces, over all the morphisms $\pi_{F,F'}$, the maps $p \mapsto L_p$ glue to give a map, piecewise affine **TODO: ???** and continuous, from \mathcal{C} to $\text{Pic}_{\mathbb{Q}}(\tilde{Y})$.

In the third section of this paper, we apply these results to the asymptotic study of multigraded modules; we consider various extensions of the notions of multiplicity and of the Hilbert–Samuel function for a graded module to these modules. More precisely, we consider a polynomial algebra A , graded by $\mathbf{N} \times \mathbf{Z}^l$ (with the \mathbf{N} -grading being defined by the degree of the polynomials). We denote by T the torus having \mathbf{Z}^l as its group of character. Every $(\mathbf{N} \times \mathbf{Z}^l)$ -graded A -module defines a T -linearised sheaf \mathcal{M} on the projective space $\mathbf{P}(V)$ associated to A . Let Π be the set of weights of T in V , i.e. **TODO: opposites? duals? of \mathbf{Z}^l -degrees?** | p. 511
of generators of A . For every face F associated to Π , let $\mathcal{M}^{(F)}$ be the sheaf given

by invariants of T in $(\pi_F)_*(\mathcal{M})$, where $\pi_F: X^{\text{ss}}(F) \rightarrow Y(F)$ is the “quotient”. We show that, if M is an A -module of finite type, then $\mathcal{M}^{(F)}$ is a coherent sheaf on $Y(F)$. For every $p \in F$, we denote by $\mu_M(p)$ the degree of $\mathcal{M}^{(F)}$ relative to the ample class L_p (see [Kle, I.3]). We show that the function μ_M is polynomial on each face. Furthermore, it appears as the density in various integral expressions of asymptotic invariants of M : the “generalised Hilbert–Samuel polynomials” ??, and the “Joseph polynomials” ([Jos]; see ??). If M is the homogeneous coordinate ring of a smooth projective subvariety X of $\mathbf{P}(V)$, then the function μ_M is continuous, and its Fourier transform depends only on fixed points of T in X , and on their normal bundle ??.

Finally, in an appendix, we briefly explain the links between our results and some theorems due to Atiyah, Duistermaat–Heckman, Guillemin–Sternberg in symplectic geometry (see [Ati], [DH1&2], and [GS1&2]). Indeed, there are close links, studied in [Kir], between the algebraic action of a complex torus on a subvariety X of a projective space and the Hamiltonian action of its compact maximal sub-torus T_c on X considered as a symplectic variety (the symplectic form being the imaginary part of a Kähler form on $\mathbf{P}(V)$ that is invariant under T_c). The objects of our study can be understood in terms of the moment map J : its image can be identified with the convex polyhedron \mathcal{C} ; the open faces consist of regular values of J ; the quotient $Y(p)$ is “the **TODO: reduced phase space**” $J^{-1}(p)/T_c$; the class of L_p in $H^2(Y(p), \mathbf{Q})$ comes from the cohomology class of the symplectic form. Furthermore, if M is the homogeneous coordinate ring of X , then the function μ_M is the density of the measure given by the image of the moment map.

After having obtained the results of this paper, we became aware (in May 1989) of the article [GS3] of V. Guillemin and S. Sternberg, which proves results that are related to ours found in ??, concerning Hamiltonian actions of compact toruses on symplectic varieties.

1 Quotients by a torus

1.1 Notation

Let T be a torus acting linearly on a vector space V (with the base field k being algebraically closed). Let X be a closed irreducible subvariety of the projective space $\mathbf{P}(V)$, stable under the action of T . For simplicity, we suppose that T acts faithfully on V , and that it does not contain the homotheties, and further that X is not contained in any linear subspace of $\mathbf{P}(V)$.

We denote by $\mathfrak{X}(T)$ the group of characters of T , and by E (resp. $E_{\mathbf{Q}}$) the vector space $\mathfrak{X}(T) \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}} \mathbf{R}$ (resp. $\mathfrak{X}(T) \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}} \mathbf{Q}$). Let $V = \oplus_{\chi \in \mathfrak{X}(T)} V_{\chi}$ be the decomposition of V into proper subspaces of T . We denote by Π the set of χ such that $V_{\chi} \neq \{0\}$, i.e. the set of weights of T in V . For all $x \in \mathbf{P}(V)$, we denote by \bar{x} a representative of x in V , and by $\bar{x} = \sum v_{\chi}$ its decomposition into eigenvectors of T . We denote by $\Pi(x)$ the set of $\chi \in \Pi$ such that $v_{\chi} \neq 0$; we call it the set of weights of x .

For all $p \in E$, let $\bar{F}(p)$ be the intersection of all the simplices that both contain p and have all their vertices in Π . This is a convex polyhedron in E , with vertices

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in $E_{\mathbf{Q}}$. We denote by $F(p)$ its relative interior, i.e. the interior of $\overline{F}(p)$ in the affine space that it generates; we call $F(p)$ the face of p . By the Carathéodory theorem [Val, Theorem 1.21], every point of the convex hull \mathcal{C} of Π belongs to a simplex that has all its vertices in Π . Thus the $F(p)_{p \in E}$ form a partition of \mathcal{C} . Furthermore, every face is contained in the closure of an open face. From this it follows that every face of codimension one is contained in the closure of at most two open faces. Every affine hyperplane generated by a face of codimension one is also generated by l points of Π , where l is the dimension of E .

1.2 Faces and quotients

For all $p \in E$, we denote by $X^{\text{ss}}(p)$ (resp. $X^{\text{s}}(p)$) the set of $x \in X$ such that the convex hull of $\Pi(x)$ contains p (resp. contains p in its interior). It is clear that these two sets depend only on the face of p ; for every face F , we can thus define $X^{\text{ss}}(F)$ and $X^{\text{s}}(F)$. The following claim is evident.

Proposition. (i) $X^{\text{s}}(F)$ and $X^{\text{ss}}(F)$ are open subsets of X , stable under T .

(ii) $X^{\text{ss}}(F)$ is non-empty $\iff F$ is non-empty.

(iii) $X^{\text{s}}(F)$ is non-empty $\iff F$ is in the interior of \mathcal{C} .

(iv) $X^{\text{ss}}(F) = X^{\text{s}}(F)$ if F is open in E . Conversely, if $X = \mathbf{P}(V)$ and $X^{\text{ss}}(F) = X^{\text{s}}(F)$, then F is open in E .

A point of $X^{\text{s}}(F)$ (resp. $X^{\text{ss}}(F)$) is said to be *stable* (resp. *semistable*) for F . The below theorem, and its proof, justify this terminology.

Theorem. *There exists a projective variety $Y(F)$, with the trivial action of T , and a T -equivariant affine morphism $\pi_F: X^{\text{ss}}(F) \rightarrow Y(F)$, such that $\mathcal{O}_{Y(F)}$ consists of the invariants of T in $(\pi_F)_*(\mathcal{O}_{X^{\text{ss}}(F)})$. The restriction of π_F to $X^{\text{s}}(F)$ has the orbits of T as its fibres.* | p. 513

Proof. Note first of all that, if $0 \in \mathcal{C}$, then $X^{\text{ss}}(0)$ (resp. $X^{\text{s}}(0)$) is the set of semistable (resp. stable) points of $X \subset \mathbf{P}(V)$; this follows from [MF, Theorem 2.1].

Let p be a point in $F \cap E_{\mathbf{Q}}$ (such a point exists since F is a convex polyhedron with vertices in $E_{\mathbf{Q}}$). Write $p = \chi/n$, where n is the smallest positive integer such that $np \in \mathfrak{X}(T)$. Define a linear action of T on the n th symmetric power $S^n V$ by $t \cdot m^n = \chi(t)^{-1}(t \cdot m)^n$. Embed X into $\mathbf{P}(S^n V)$ by the Veronese embedding. We immediately see that $X^{\text{ss}}(F) = X^{\text{ss}}(p)$ is the set of semistable points of $X \subset \mathbf{P}(S^n V)$, and that $X^{\text{s}}(F)$ is the set of stable points. The claim then follows from [MF, 1.4]. \square

Remark. In the language of [MF, Chapter 1], which we adopt, π_F is a universal categorical quotient, and its restriction to $X^{\text{s}}(F)$ is a universal geometric quotient.

1.3 A class of sheaves on the quotients

The line bundle $\mathcal{O}(1)$ on $\mathbf{P}(V)$ restricted to X gives a T -linearised bundle, again denoted by $\mathcal{O}(1)$. For every character χ of T , we denote by $\mathcal{O}(\chi)$ the following T -linearised line bundle: it is the trivial line bundle on X , and T acts on each fibre via the character $-\chi$. The map $\chi \mapsto \mathcal{O}(\chi)$ is a group homomorphism, from $\mathfrak{X}(T)$ to $\text{Pic}^T(X)$ (the group of isomorphism classes of T -linearised line bundles on X). We extend this homomorphism to give a homomorphism from $E_{\mathbf{Q}}$ to $\text{Pic}^T(X) \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}} \mathbf{Q}$, where $p \mapsto \mathcal{O}(p)$.

We now reformulate the proof of [Theorem 1.2](#) in the language of line bundles. Let $A = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}(n))$; this is a graded algebra on which T acts. By [\[MF, 1.11\]](#), we have that $Y(0) = \text{Proj}(A^T)$, where A^T is the algebra of T -invariants in A . Thus $Y(0)$ is canonically endowed with sheaves $\mathcal{O}(n)$ for each whole number n . By [\[EGA II, 8.14.4\]](#), there exists an integer $n > 0$ such that $\mathcal{O}(n)$ is invertible and very ample. Let $[\mathcal{O}(n)]$ be its class in $\text{Pic}(Y(0))$. Set $[\mathcal{O}(1)] := 1/n[\mathcal{O}(n)]$; this is an element of $\text{Pic}_{\mathbf{Q}}(Y(0)) := \text{Pic}(Y(0)) \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}} \mathbf{Q}$. By [\[EGA II, 8.14.12\]](#), this class does not depend on the choice of n (see [\[Dem\]](#) for more details on this construction). By definition, $[\mathcal{O}(1)]$ is the class of $(\pi_0)_*^T \mathcal{O}(1)$ in $\text{Pic}_{\mathbf{Q}}(Y(0))$ (the invariant direct image of $\mathcal{O}(1)$).

More generally, let $p = \chi/n$ be a rational point of \mathcal{C} . Note that $X^{\text{ss}}(p)$ is the set of semistable points of X associated to the T -linearised bundle $\mathcal{O}(n) \otimes \mathcal{O}(\chi)$. Then $Y(p)$ is the Proj of the graded algebra

$$\bigoplus_{m=0}^{\infty} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}(mn) \otimes \mathcal{O}(m\chi))^T = \bigoplus_{m=0}^{\infty} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}(mn))_{m\chi}$$

(we recall that, for every rational T -module W , and for every character ψ of T , we denote by W_{ψ} the subspace of eigenvectors of T in W , of weight ψ). We thus have a canonical sheaf $\mathcal{O}(1)$ on $Y(p)$, which depends on χ and n . Set $[\mathcal{O}_p(1)] = 1/n[\mathcal{O}(1)]$ in $\text{Pic}_{\mathbf{Q}}(Y(F))$; this class depends only on p .

Proposition. *Let p be a rational point of a face F . Then $[\mathcal{O}_p(1)]$ is the class of $(\pi_F)_*^T(\mathcal{O}(1) \otimes \mathcal{O}(p))$ in $\text{Pic}_{\mathbf{Q}}(Y(F))$.*

Proof. By definition, $\mathcal{O}_{\chi,n}(1)$ is the invariant direct image of the canonical sheaf on the Proj of $\bigoplus_{m=0}^{\infty} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}(mn) \otimes \mathcal{O}(m\chi))$, i.e. $\mathcal{O}_{\chi,n}(1) = (\pi_p)_*^T(\mathcal{O}(n) \otimes \mathcal{O}(n\chi))$. The claim then follows immediately. \square

Corollary. *For every face F , the map $p \mapsto [\mathcal{O}_p(1)]$ is the restriction of an affine map.*

Proof. Let χ/n be a rational point of the affine space generated by F . We immediately see that the restriction of $\mathcal{O}(n) \otimes \mathcal{O}(\chi)$ to any orbit of T in $X^{\text{ss}}(F)$ is trivial line T -bundle. By [\[Kra2, Proposition 3\]](#), there exists a line bundle $\mathcal{L}_{n,\chi}$ on $Y(F)$ such that $\mathcal{O}(n) \otimes \mathcal{O}(\chi) = \pi_F^* \mathcal{L}_{n,\chi}$. By the projection formula, we have that $\mathcal{L}_{n,\chi} = (\pi_F)_*^T(\mathcal{O}(n) \otimes \mathcal{O}(\chi))$, and thus $\mathcal{L}_{n,\chi}$ is unique. Since the map $\chi/n \mapsto \mathcal{O}(1) \otimes \mathcal{O}(\chi/n)$ is affine, so too is $\chi/n \mapsto (1/n)\mathcal{L}_{n,\chi}$. We conclude thanks to the fact that $(1/n)\mathcal{L}_{n,\chi} = \mathcal{O}_{\chi/n}(1)$ for every $\chi/n \in F$. \square

1.4 Relations between the quotients

Let F and F' be distinct faces such that $F \subset \overline{F'}$.

Theorem. (i) $X^s(F) \subset X^s(F') \subset X^{ss}(F') \subset X^{ss}(F)$.

(ii) There exists a morphism $\pi_{F,F'}$ that makes the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X^{ss}(F') & \longrightarrow & X^{ss}(F) \\ \pi_{F'} \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi_F \\ Y(F') & \xrightarrow{\pi_{F,F'}} & Y(F) \end{array}$$

commute.

(iii) $\pi_{F,F'}$ is birational if F is not in the boundary of \mathcal{C} .

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Proof. (i) This is by direct verification.

(ii) By [MF, 1.11] and the proof of **Theorem 1.2**, $\pi_F: X^{ss}(F) \rightarrow Y(F)$ is the quotient by the equivalence relation “ $x \sim y \iff$ the closures of the T -orbits of x and y meet”. Then the inclusion of $X^{ss}(F')$ into $X^{ss}(F)$ passes to the quotient to give $\pi_{F,F'}: Y(F') \rightarrow Y(F)$.

(iii) If F is not contained in the boundary of \mathcal{C} , then $X^s(F)$ is not empty, by §1.2; furthermore, the restrictions of π_F and $\pi_{F'}$ to $X^s(F)$ agree, since $X^s(F) \subset X^s(F')$. Thus $\pi_{F,F'}$ induces an isomorphism from $\pi_{F'}(X^s(F))$ to its image. \square

Remark. Suppose that X is smooth. For every open face F' , the only singularities of the variety $Y(F')$ are quotients by finite cyclic groups. Consequently, if F is a face contained inside $\overline{F'}$, and not in the boundary of \mathcal{C} , then the morphism $\pi_{F,F'}$ is a partial desingularisation of $Y(F)$. Using the étale slice theorem [Lun, III.1], we can show that the only singularities of $Y(F)$ are quotients by diagonalisable groups, of dimension at most the codimension of F in V .

We now study the quotient associated to a face F included in the boundary of \mathcal{C} . Let $\langle F \rangle$ be the affine space generated by F . We can choose a subgroup of \mathcal{C} with one parameter λ (that is, an element of the dual lattice of $\mathfrak{X}(T)$) such that λ is constant on F , equal to $a \in \mathbf{Z}$, and $\langle \lambda, p \rangle > a$ for all $p \in \mathcal{C} \setminus \langle F \rangle$. Let X^F be the set of fixed points of λ in $X^{ss}(F)$, that is, the set of $x \in X$ such that the convex hull of $\Pi(x)$ contains F , and is contained in $\langle F \rangle$. This is an open subset of the set X^λ of fixed points of λ in X .

For all $x \in X$, the morphism $t \mapsto \lambda(t)x$ from k^* to the complete variety X can be extended to a morphism from k to X . We denote by $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \lambda(t)x$ the image of 0 under this morphism.

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