

Jean Bourgain
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, NJ 08540

GENERALIZATION OF SELBERG'S

SPECTRAL GAP THEOREM

**PRIME SIEVING IN ORBITS OF
LINEAR GROUPS**

$\Lambda \subset SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ non-elementary subgroup

$r(z)$ = number of prime factors
of $z \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$

Theorem. (BGS)

*There is a constant $C(\Lambda)$ such
that*

$$\left\{ \gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Lambda \mid r(abcd) < C(\Lambda) \right\}$$

is Zariski dense in SL_2 .

Theorem. (BGS)

Let $f \in \mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4]$ taking integer values on Λ and not a multiple of

$$g(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = x_1x_4 - x_2x_3 - 1$$

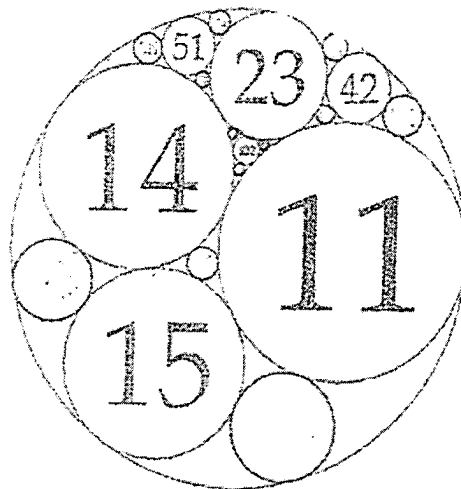
There is $r = r(\Lambda) \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ s.t.

$\{x \in \Lambda \mid f(x) \text{ has at most } r \text{ prime factors}\}$

is Zariski dense in SL_2

EXPLICIT APPLICATIONS

Example. Appolonian packings



Appolonian packing corresponding to:

Quadruple $(-6, 11, 14, 23)$

DESCARTE FORM

$$F(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) =$$

$$2(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + x_4^2) - (x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4)^2$$

O_F = Orthogonal group

$$A = \langle S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4 \rangle$$

= Apollonian packing group

$$S_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$S_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$S_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$S_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

ROLE OF EXPANDER GRAPHS

*Let S be a finite subset of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$
generating a free group*

Theorem. *(BGS)*

*There is $q_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that the family of
Cayley graphs*

$$\mathcal{G}(SL_2(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}), \pi_q(S))$$

$$q \text{ square free, } (q, q_0) = 1$$

is a family of expanders

Lubotzky-Weiss Conjecture

Let S be a finite subset of $SL_d(\mathbb{Z})$ generating a Zariski dense subgroup of SL_d . Then there is $q_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that the family of Cayley Graphs

$$\mathcal{G}(SL_d(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}), \pi_q(S))$$

$$q \in \mathbb{Z}_+, (q, q_0) = 1$$

forms a family of expanders

CONNECTEDNESS OF THE GRAPH

ROLE OF STRONG APPROXIMATION

PROPERTY

Theorem. Let G be a Zariski dense subgroup of $SL_d(\mathbb{Z})$. There is $q_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $\pi_q(G) = SL_d(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})$ if $(q, q_0) = 1$

π_q : reduction mod q

**Matthews, Vaserstein, Weisfeiler,
Pink**

KNOWN RESULTS

- $SL_2(p)$ **(B-G)** based on HELFGOTT
- $SL_2(q)$ (q square free) **(B-G-S)**
- $SL_2(p^n)$ **(B-G)**
- $SL_d(p^n)$ (p fixed prime) **(B-G)**

(d arbitrary)
- $SL_3(p)$ **(B-G)** based on HELFGOTT

ARCHIMEDIAN SETTING

$\Lambda \subset SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ non-elementary, finitely generated

$$B_N = \left\{ \gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Lambda \mid \right. \\ \left. \|\gamma\| = (a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq N \right\}$$

Theorem. (BGS)

There is a constant $C(\Lambda)$ such that for $N \rightarrow \infty$

$$|\{ \gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in B_N \mid r(abcd) < C(\Lambda) \}| \\ \gtrsim \frac{|B_N|}{(\log N)^4}$$

HYPERBOLIC LATTICE POINT COUNTING

Λ acting on $\mathbb{H} = \mathbb{H}^2 = \{x + iy \in \mathbb{C} \mid y > 0\}$

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{R}) \quad gz = \frac{az + b}{cz + d}$$

$$\|g\|^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2 = 4u(gi, i) + 2$$

$$\cosh d_H(z, w) = 1 + 2u(z, w)$$

$$u(z, w) = \frac{|z - w|^2}{4\operatorname{Im} z \operatorname{Im} w}$$

$L = L(\Lambda) \subset \mathbb{R} =$ limit set of Λ

$\delta = \delta(L) =$ Hausdorff dimension of L ($0 < \delta \leq 1$)

$$|B_N = \{\gamma \in \Lambda \mid \|\gamma\| < N\}| \sim N^{2\delta}$$

$\delta > \frac{1}{2}$ LAX-PHILLIPS (wave equation methods)

$\delta \leq \frac{1}{2}$ LALLEY (methods from symbolic dynamics)

CASE $\delta(L) > \frac{1}{2}$

Spectrum of Laplace operator on $\Lambda \setminus \mathbb{H}$

$$0 \leq \lambda_0(\Lambda) < \lambda_1(\Lambda) \leq \dots \leq \lambda_{\max}(\Lambda) < \frac{1}{4} \xrightarrow{\text{continuous}}$$

\parallel
 $\delta(1-\delta)$

Theorem. (LAX-PHILLIPS)

$$\lambda_j = \delta_j(1 - \delta_j) \quad \delta_0 = \delta$$

$$|\{\gamma \in \Lambda \mid d_H(w, \gamma w_0) \leq s\}| =$$

$$\sum_{j \geq 0} C_j \varphi_j(w) \varphi_j(w_0) e^{\delta_j s} + o(e^{\frac{1}{3}(1+\delta_0)s})$$

Corollary.

$$|\{\gamma \in \Lambda \mid \|\gamma\| \leq N\}| \sim N^{2\delta} + o(N^{2\delta_1})$$

SELBERG'S THEOREM AND CONJECTURE

$$\Gamma(q) = \left\{ \gamma \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) : \gamma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \pmod{q} \right\}$$

Theorem. (SELBERG) $\lambda_1(\Gamma(q)) \geq 3/16$

Conjecture. (SELBERG) $\lambda_1(\Gamma(q)) \geq \frac{1}{4}$

(no exceptional eigenvalues)

Theorem. (KIM-SARNAK) $\lambda_1(\Gamma(q)) > \frac{1}{4} - \left(\frac{7}{64}\right)^2$

GENERALIZATION OF SELBERG'S THEOREM

$$\Lambda = \langle S \rangle \subset SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \quad \delta(\Lambda) > \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\Lambda_q = \left\{ \gamma \in \Lambda : \gamma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \pmod{q} \right\}$$

$$\lambda_0(\Lambda_q) = \lambda_0(\Lambda)$$

Theorem. (BGS) $\lambda_1(\Lambda_q) > \lambda_0 + \varepsilon$
 $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(\Lambda) > 0$ and all square-free $q \geq 1$

$L^2(\Lambda_q \backslash \mathbb{H}) \leftrightarrow H_q$ equivariant functions on

$$\Lambda \backslash \mathbb{H} \times SL_2(q)$$

Proof of spectral gap based on expansion of

$$\mathcal{G}(SL_2(q), \pi_q(S))$$

Corollary.

$q \in \mathbb{Z}_+, q$ square-free

$(q, q_0) = 1$

$g \in SL_2(q)$

$|\{\gamma \in \Lambda \mid \|\gamma\| \leq N \text{ and } \pi_q(\gamma) = g\}|$

$$\sim \frac{N^{2\delta}}{|SL_2(q)|} + O(q^C N^{2\delta-\varepsilon})$$

with ε, C depending on Λ

GENERAL CASE

(no L^2 -spectral theory for $\delta(\Lambda) \leq \frac{1}{2}$)

$\Lambda = \langle T_1, \dots, T_k \rangle$ Schottky group with no parabolics

SYMBOLIC DYNAMICS

Λ $\Sigma_* =$ finite sequences on $\{\pm 1, \dots, \pm k\}$
 compatible with transition matrix

$$L(\Lambda) \quad \Sigma \subset \prod_{n=0}^{\infty} \{\pm 1, \dots, \pm k\}$$

$$L \xrightarrow{F} L$$

NIELSEN map

$$\Sigma \xrightarrow{\sigma} \Sigma$$

finite type shift

$$f = \log |F'| \quad \tau(x) = d_H(i, xw) - d_H(i, x_2x_3 \dots w)$$

distorsion function

$$x = x_1x_2x_3 \dots \in \Sigma$$

RENEWAL EQUATION
 TRANSFER OPERATOR (LALLEY)

$$S_n \tau = \tau + \tau \circ \sigma + \dots + \tau \circ \sigma^{n-1}$$

$$S_n \tau(x) = d_H(i, x_1 \dots x_n x_{n+1} \dots w) - d_H(i, x_{n+1} \dots w)$$

$$\psi : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad \text{Hölder}$$

$$N(a, x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{y: \sigma^n y = x} \psi(y) \mathbf{1}_{\{S_n \tau(y) \leq a\}}$$

$$\psi = 1$$

$$N(a, x) = |\{\gamma \in \Lambda \mid d_H(i, \gamma x w) - d_H(i, x w) \leq a\}|$$

Renewal Equation

$$N(a, x) = \sum_{\sigma x' = x} N(a - \tau(x'), x') + \psi(x) \mathbf{1}_{\{a \geq 0\}}$$

Laplace transform

$$F(z, x) = \int e^{az} N(a, x) da$$

satisfies

$$(I - \mathcal{L}_z)F(z, x) = \frac{\psi(x)}{z}$$

where \mathcal{L}_z is the transfer operator

$$(\mathcal{L}_z \varphi)(x) = \sum_{\sigma y = x} e^{z\tau(y)} \varphi(y)$$

Study of resolvent $(I - \mathcal{L}_z)^{-1}$

RUELLE'S THEOREM

$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_\rho(\Sigma)$ Hölder functions

$$\|\varphi\|_\rho = \sup_n \rho^{-n} \text{var}_n(\varphi)$$

$$\text{var}_n(\varphi) = \sup |\varphi(x) - \varphi(y)| \quad x_j = y_j, 1 \leq j \leq n$$

$f \in C(\Sigma)$ real valued

$$(\mathcal{L}_f \varphi)(x) = \sum_{\sigma y = x} e^{f(y)} \varphi(y)$$

Theorem. $\mathcal{L}_f : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ has simple eigenvalue λ_f and eigenfunction $h_f > 0$.

Remainder of spectrum $\subset \{|z| < \lambda_f - \varepsilon\}$

\exists Borel probability measure ν_f on Σ

$$\mathcal{L}^* \nu = \lambda \nu \quad \int h d\nu = 1$$

$$\lambda^{-n} \mathcal{L}^n g \rightarrow \left(\int g d\nu \right) h \quad \forall g \in C(\Sigma)$$

LALLEY–NAUD

Reinterpretation of $\delta(\Lambda)$

$$1 = \lambda_{-\delta f} \quad f = \text{distorsion function}$$

$\nu_{-\delta f} \sim \delta$ -dim Hausdorff measure on $L(\Lambda)$.

(BOWEN, SERIES)

Theorem. (L-N)

$$\mathcal{L}_z : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$$

- $(I - \mathcal{L}_z)^{-1}$ meromorphic on $\text{Re } z < -\delta + \varepsilon$ with simple pole at $z = -\delta$
- $\|(I - \mathcal{L}_z)^{-1}\| < C(1 + |\text{Im } z|^2)$ for $|z| \rightarrow \infty$
- $|\{\gamma \in \Lambda \mid d_H(i, \gamma(i)) \leq s\}| = Ce^{\delta s} + o(e^{(\delta-\varepsilon)s})$

Corollary.

$$|\{\gamma \in \Lambda \mid \|\gamma\| \leq N\}| \sim N^{2\delta} + o(N^{2\delta-\varepsilon})$$

CONGRUENCE SUBGROUPS

Theorem. (BGS)

$$q \text{ square-free} \quad (q, q_0) = 1$$

$$g \in SL_2(q)$$

$$|\{\gamma \in \Lambda \mid \|\gamma\| \leq N, \pi_q(\gamma) = g\}| \sim \frac{N^{2\delta}}{|SL_2(q)|} \left(1 + o\left(N^{-\frac{1}{\log \log N}}\right)\right) + q^C N^{2\delta-\varepsilon}$$

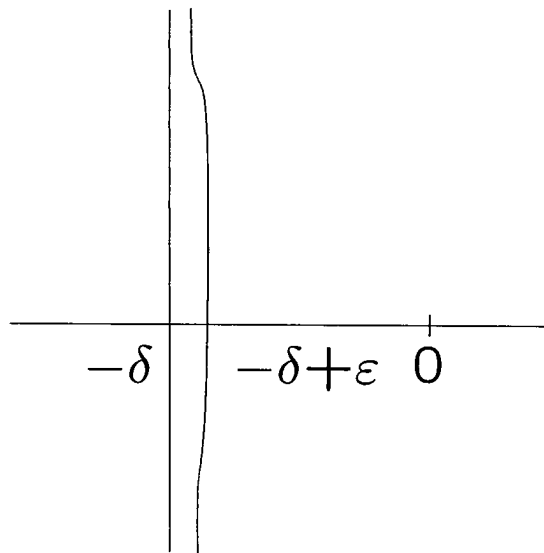
Extended action of \mathcal{L}_z on $\mathcal{F}(\Sigma \times SL_2(q))$

$$\ell^2(SL_2(q)) = \mathbb{R} \underset{q_1|q}{\oplus} E_{q_1}$$

Main estimate for \mathcal{L}_z on $\mathcal{F}_{E_q}(\Sigma) = \mathcal{F}^{(q)}$

Proposition. $(I - \mathcal{L}_z)^{-1}|_{\mathcal{F}^{(q)}}$ holomorphic on

$$\operatorname{Re} z < -\delta + \varepsilon \min \left\{ 1, \frac{\log q}{\log(1 + |\operatorname{Im} z|)} \right\}$$



$$\|(I - \mathcal{L}_z)^{-1}\| < (q + |\operatorname{Im} z|)^C$$

ROLE OF EXPANSION

Proposition.

$$\mu : SL_2(q) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

satisfying

$$\|\pi_{q_1}[\mu]\|_\infty < q_1^{-\kappa} \|\mu\|_1 \quad q_1 | q$$

Then

$$\|\mu * \varphi\|_2 \leq q^{-\kappa'} \|\mu\|_1 \|\varphi\|_2$$

for

$$\varphi \in E_q$$

CONJECTURE (BGS)

($SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ analogue of Dirichlet's Theorem)

Λ non-elementary subgroup of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$

$b \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ primitive vector

$$\mathcal{O} = \{gb \mid g \in \Lambda\}$$

$$\pi(\mathcal{O}) = \{x \in \mathcal{O} \mid x_1, x_2 \text{ are prime}\}$$

Then

$$\pi(\mathcal{O}) \text{ is Zariski dense in } \mathbb{A}^2$$

if no local obstruction:

For every $q \geq 2$, there is $x \in \mathcal{O}$ such that

$$x_1 x_2 \in (\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^*$$

Theorem.

(conditional to Montgomery's conjecture)

$\Lambda \subset SL_2(\mathbb{Z} + i\mathbb{Z})$ finitely generated

Zariski dense in $SL_2(\mathbb{C}) \sim IS(\mathbb{H}^3)$

$$\delta(L(\Lambda)) > \frac{5}{3}$$

Then $|Im g_{1,2}|, g \in \Lambda$ contains infinitely many primes, if no local obstruction

Montgomery's Conjecture

$$\psi(x; q, a) = \frac{x}{\varphi(q)} + O(q^{-\frac{1}{2}} x^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon})$$

SARNAK $\exists \Lambda$ Schottky with $\delta(L) \geq 1,759 \dots$

DOYLE $\delta(L(\Lambda)) < 2 - \varepsilon_3$ for any
geometrically finite Schottky Λ in $IS(H^3)$