

On the large-scale geometry of the L^p -metric on the symplectomorphism group of the two-sphere.

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Abstract

We prove that the L^p -metric on the group of area-preserving diffeomorphisms \mathcal{G} of the two-sphere is unbounded. Moreover, we show that the vector space \mathbb{R}^d of any finite dimension d with the standard metric embeds in a bi-Lipschitz way into \mathcal{G} endowed with the L^p -metric.

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1 Introduction and main results

1.1 Introduction

The first results on the large-scale metric geometry of volume-preserving diffeomorphism groups equipped with the hydrodynamic L^2 -metric were achieved around 1985 by A. Shnirel'man [30] (cf. [31]). He proved that the diameter of the compactly supported diffeomorphism group of the three dimensional cube $I^3 = (0, 1)^3$ is finite, and conjectured that this diameter is infinite in the two-dimensional case $I^2 = (0, 1)^2$. It is a folklore statement [21, 3, 16] that Shnirel'man's boundedness result generalizes to arbitrary compact simply-connected Riemannian manifolds (with or without boundary) of dimension 3 or higher.

Before we survey results pertaining to the question of unboundedness of the L^p -metric in the two-dimensional case, we briefly discuss the general method used to establish such a result. Usually, given a diffeomorphism group \mathcal{G} one constructs a function $\Psi : \tilde{\mathcal{G}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, whose absolute value provides a lower bound for the length of a path in \mathcal{G} starting at the identity (up to some additive and multiplicative constants, possibly). This automatically implies that $|\Psi|$ is a lower bound for the corresponding norm on $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$. Then, to obtain a result on the norm on \mathcal{G} itself, one argues that Ψ suitably descends to \mathcal{G} . This holds for example if Ψ is constant on fibers $pr^{-1}(\phi)$ of the natural projection $pr : \tilde{\mathcal{G}} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$, up to an error that is bounded uniformly in $\phi \in \mathcal{G}$. It is interesting to identify such a calibrating function in each of the cases considered.

Shnirel'man's conjecture for the two-dimensional case was settled in 1991 by Y. Eliashberg and T. Ratiu [16]. In fact they proved two more general results. First the L^p -metric on the (identity component) of the group of symplectomorphisms $Symp_{c,0}(M, d\lambda)$ of any compact exact symplectic manifold (necessarily with boundary) is unbounded. Moreover its restriction (as a function of two variables) to the subgroup of Hamiltonian diffeomorphisms $Ham_c(M, d\lambda)$ is unbounded. One can further restrict the metric (as a function of two variables) to the kernel $\text{Ker}(\text{Cal}) \subset Ham_c(M, d\lambda)$ of the Calabi homomorphism [12] $\text{Cal} : Ham_c(M, d\lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, retaining unboundedness. Note that from this first result it follows as a special case that the L^p -metric is unbounded on the group of volume-preserving diffeomorphisms of any compact surface with boundary. The methods of proof of the first result involved the Calabi homomorphism as a key ingredient.

To address the case of closed surfaces, we review Eliashberg and Ratiu's second result. For any compact manifold M with a volume form, whose first Betti number is non-zero and whose fundamental group has trivial center, the diameter of the group of volume-preserving diffeomorphisms endowed with the L^p -metric is infinite. From this result it follows that the diameter is infinite for all surfaces of genus $g \geq 2$. The methods of proof of this result involve measuring (on average) the trajectories of the flow against closed differential 1-forms (hence the condition on the first Betti number).

For the two-torus T^2 the situation is slightly more involved. Firstly, we note that since the orbit of any point in T^2 under the action of a Hamiltonian loop is contractible (by the existence of the Seidel element [29] or by a number of other arguments), one can apply either the original argument of Eliashberg-Ratiu or [10, Theorem 1.2] to prove that the L^p -metric on $Ham(T^2, dx \wedge dy)$ is unbounded. Then it is rather uncomplicated to upgrade this result to the unboundedness of the L^p -metric on $\text{Diff}_0(T^2, dx \wedge dy)$. Alternatively, one can use a folklore argument measuring the displacement of a ball in the universal cover, to prove said unboundedness (this argument, related to us by L. Polterovich, resembles the proof of [23, Part II, Lemma 5.7]).

Therefore the question that remained open was the case of the two-sphere S^2 , which is neither exact nor has first cohomology. We note that remarkable progress was achieved in the 1990's and the 2000's in the study of a different metric on the group of Hamiltonian diffeomorphisms, introduced by H. Hofer [20]. We refer to [22, 23, 24, 25] for several early results in this direction, and shall not survey this intensive area of research fully, for the sheer number of developments and for reasons of relevance to the issue at hand in this paper. We note however, that a result of L. Polterovich from 1998 [24] on the unboundedness of the Hofer metric on $Ham(S^2, dV)$ implies by the Sobolev inequality the unboundedness of the L^p -metric in the case of S^2 for exponents $p > 2$. However, since the Sobolev inequality in dimension two fails at exponent $p = 2$, one does not deduce the unboundedness of the hydrodynamic L^2 -metric from Polterovich's result.

In this paper we settle the question of unboundedness of the L^p -metric on $\text{Diff}(S^2, dV)$ for arbitrary exponents $p \geq 1$. Our methods are related to a different line of research in two-dimensional Hamiltonian dynamics than described above, and have to do with braiding and relative rotation numbers of trajectories in extended phase space of time-dependent two-dimensional Hamiltonian flows. We note that Shnirel'man has proposed to use relative rotation numbers to bound from below the L^2 -lengths of two-dimensional Hamiltonian paths in [31]. This direction is related to the method of Eliashberg

and Ratiu by a theorem of J.-M. Gambaudo and E. Ghys [17]. Gambaudo and Ghys prove that up to a multiplicative constant, the Calabi homomorphism is proportional to the relative rotation number of the trajectories of two distinct points in the two-disc under a Hamiltonian flow, averaged over the configuration space of ordered pairs of distinct points (z_1, z_2) in the two-disc (we will call this the average rotation number of the flow). While by virtue of this theorem it follows immediately that the average rotation number is a lower bound for the L^p -distance from the identity (since the Calabi invariant is), it is instructive to obtain this bound directly. Such an estimate was performed by J.-M. Gambaudo and M. Lagrange [19] by a creative use of the Hölder inequality, to obtain a different proof for the unboundedness of the L^p -metric for the two-disc (a modification of which applies for $\text{Ker}(\text{Cal})$ too). Their argument was later pushed further by M. Benaim and J.-M. Gambaudo [5] to obtain quasi-isometric embeddings into $\text{Ker}(\text{Cal}) \subset \text{Diff}_c(\mathbb{D}, dx \wedge dy)$ of free groups on an arbitrary finite number of generators and of \mathbb{Z}^d for all finite dimensions d .

To explain our methods we should explain the functions we use to calibrate the L^p -norm. These are quasimorphisms - functions that are additive with respect to the group action - up to an error which is uniformly bounded (as a function of two variables), on groups of area-preserving diffeomorphisms. The quasimorphisms we use were introduced and studied by Gambaudo and Ghys in a beautiful paper from 2004 [18]. These quasimorphisms essentially appear from invariants of braids traced out by the action a Hamiltonian path on an ordered n -tuple of distinct points in the surface (the traces should be suitably closed up to produce pure braids, and the resulting invariants averaged over the configuration space of n -tuples of distinct points). The general procedure for constructing quasimorphisms on volume-preserving diffeomorphism groups from quasimorphisms on the fundamental group (this is the case of the configuration space of 1-tuples) was described by Polterovich in [26], and quasimorphisms on diffeomorphism groups appearing from invariants of braids and related constructions were further studied in [27, 28, 8] and in other works.

In [9] it was shown that for the case of 1-tuples and for the case of n -tuples of points on the standard disc, the above quasimorphisms calibrate the L^p -norm, improving in particular the result of Benaim and Gambaudo to bi-Lipschitz embeddings of \mathbb{R}^d with the l^1 -metric into $\text{Ker}(\text{Cal})$, and sharpening the results of Eliashberg-Ratiu (see also [11, 10]). In this paper we produce similar estimates for the case of the two-sphere. Technically, our case of $\text{Diff}(S^2, dV)$ is more difficult than that of $\text{Ker}(\text{Cal}) \subset \text{Diff}_c(\mathbb{D}, dx \wedge dy)$ because the required analytical and topological bounds should be performed in different choices of coordinates. Hence first a coordinate-free expression for the quantities in question should be sought.

As in [9] for the case of the two disc, our methods readily give a stronger result than unboundedness. Namely, we prove that for every $p \geq 1$ the group $\text{Diff}(S^2, dV)$ with the L^p -metric contains bi-Lipschitz embedded vector spaces \mathbb{R}^d of arbitrary finite dimension d (equipped with the standard metric). We note that the natural counterpart of this statement in Hofer geometry is completely open: it is not known whether or not $\text{Ham}(S^2, dV)$ equipped with the Hofer metric is quasi-isometric to \mathbb{R} .

We also note that the local geometry of the Riemannian metric corresponding to the case of the L^2 -metric was studied earlier, and very extensively throughout the years, starting with the observation of V.I. Arnol'd [1] that the geodesic equations with respect to this metric coincide with the Euler equations of the flow of 2-dimensional ideal incompressible fluid. We refer to [15] for a recent development in this line of research and for a survey of previous results.

It may amuse the reader to consider that the case of the two-sphere described in this paper is the two-dimensional case most pertinent to the atmospheric sciences.

1.2 Preliminaries

1.2.1 The L^p -metric

Let M denote a compact connected oriented Riemannian manifold (possibly with boundary) with a volume form μ . We denote by $\mathcal{G} = \text{Diff}_{c,0}(M, \mu)$ the identity component of the group of diffeomorphisms of M preserving μ , that are Id near the boundary if $\partial M \neq \emptyset$. Alternatively, in the case of non-empty boundary, one can consider the open manifold $M \setminus \partial M$ and take compactly supported diffeomorphisms preserving μ .

Given a path $\{\phi_t\}$ in \mathcal{G} between ϕ_0 and ϕ_1 , we define its L^p -length by

$$l_p(\{\phi_t\}) = \int_0^1 dt \left(\int_M |X_t|^p \mu \right)^{\frac{1}{p}},$$

where $X_t = \frac{d}{dt}|_{t=t} \phi_{t'} \circ \phi_t^{-1}$ is the time-dependent vector field generating the path $\{\phi_t\}$, and $|X_t|$ its length with respect to the Riemannian structure on M . As is easily seen by a displacement argument, this length functional determines a non-degenerate metric on \mathcal{G} by the formula

$$d_p(\phi_0, \phi_1) = \inf l_p(\{\phi_t\}),$$

where the infimum runs over all paths $\{\phi_t\}$ in \mathcal{G} between ϕ_0 and ϕ_1 . It is immediate that this metric is right-invariant. We denote the corresponding norm on the group by

$$\|\phi\|_p = d_p(Id, \phi).$$

Clearly $d_p(\phi_0, \phi_1) = \|\phi_1 \phi_0^{-1}\|_p$. Similarly one has the L^p -norm on the universal cover $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$ of \mathcal{G} , defined for $\tilde{\phi} \in \tilde{\mathcal{G}}$ as

$$\|\tilde{\phi}\|_p = \inf l_p(\{\phi_t\}),$$

where the infimum is taken over all paths $\{\phi_t\}$ in the class of $\tilde{\phi}$.

We note that up to bi-Lipschitz equivalence of metrics (d and d' are equivalent if $\frac{1}{C}d \leq d' \leq Cd$ for a certain constant $C > 0$) the L^p -metrics on \mathcal{G} and on $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$ are independent of the choice Riemannian structure and of the volume form μ compatible with the orientation on M . In particular the question of boundedness or unboundedness of the L^p -metric enjoys the same invariance property.

1.2.2 Quasimorphisms

The notion of a quasimorphism will play a key role in our arguments. Quasimorphisms are helpful tools for the study of non-abelian groups, especially those that admit few or no homomorphisms to the reals. A quasimorphism $r : G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ on a group G is a real-valued function that satisfies

$$r(xy) = r(x) + r(y) + b(x, y),$$

for a function $b : G \times G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that is uniformly bounded:

$$\delta(r) := \sup_{G \times G} |b| < \infty.$$

A quasimorphism $\bar{r} : G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called *homogenous* if $\bar{r}(x^k) = k\bar{r}(x)$ for all $x \in G$ and $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. To any quasimorphism $r : G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ there corresponds a unique homogenous quasimorphism \bar{r} that differs from r by a bounded function:

$$\sup_G |\bar{r} - r| < \infty.$$

It is called the *homogenization* of r and satisfies

$$\bar{r}(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{r(x^n)}{n}.$$

We refer to [13] for more information about quasimorphisms.

1.3 Main results

We consider the following situation. Our manifold is $M = S^2 = \mathbb{C}P^1$ endowed with the Fubini-Study symplectic form dV scaled to have total volume 2π . Note that this is twice the Riemannian volume of the standard Fubini-Study metric on S^2 , which is the Riemannian metric that we equip S^2 with. For a given integer n we have the associated configuration space $X = X_n(M)$ of ordered n -tuples of distinct points in M . This space can be considered as the complement in the complex manifold $M^n = M \times \dots \times M$ of a union of $n(n-1)/2$ complex hypersurfaces. For $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ such a hypersurface D_{ij} is defined by the equation $z_i = z_j$ for $z_i \in M, z_j \in M$. Note that the Fubini-Study Riemannian measure induces a measure ν of finite volume on X .

Given a real valued quasimorphism r on the fundamental group $\Gamma = P_n(M) = \pi_1(X_n(M), m)$ for a fixed base-point $m \in X_n(M)$ there is a natural way to induce a real valued quasimorphism on the universal cover $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$ of the group \mathcal{G} of all volume preserving diffeomorphisms of $M = S^2$. Since in our case of $M = S^2$ the fundamental group of \mathcal{G} is finite, this induces a quasimorphism on \mathcal{G} itself. The construction is carried out by the following steps (cf. [18, 26, 8]).

1. For all $x \in X' = X \setminus Z$, with Z a closed negligible subset (e.g. a union of submanifolds of positive codimension) choose a smooth path $\gamma(x) : [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ between the basepoint $m \in X$ and x . Make this choice continuous in X' . We perform this choice by choosing such a system of paths on M itself and then considering the induced coordinate-wise paths in M^n , and picking Z to ensure that these induced paths actually lie in X . After choosing the system of paths $\{\gamma(x)\}_{x \in X \setminus Z}$ we extend it measurably to X (obviously, no numerical values computed in the sequel will depend on this extension). We call the resulting choice a system of "short paths". On the two-sphere, we use minimal geodesics as paths on the manifold itself. We note, however, that the resulting quasimorphism will not depend, up to bounded error, on the choice of the system of short paths - as long as the new system of paths differs from the old one by a system of loops whose image in $\pi_1(X, m)$ is bounded. For the calculations that follow we will make a choice of short paths that is equivalent in this manner to the one induced by minimal geodesics. We shall specify it later.
2. Given a path $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in [0, 1]}$ in \mathcal{G} starting at Id , and a point $x \in X$ consider the path $\{\phi_t \cdot x\}$, to which we then catenate the corresponding short paths. That is consider the loop

$$l(x) := \gamma(x) \# \{\phi_t \cdot x\} \# \gamma(y)^{-1} \in \Omega_m X,$$

where $^{-1}$ denotes time reversal. Hence we obtain for each $x \in X$ an element $[l(x)] \in \pi_1(X, m)$. Consequently applying the quasimorphism $r : \pi_1(X, m) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ we obtain a measurable function $g : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Namely $g(x) = r([l(x)])$. The quasimorphism Φ on $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$ is defined by

$$\Phi(\{\{\phi_t\}\}) = \int_X g d\nu.$$

It is immediate to see that this function is well-defined by topological reasons. The quasimorphism property follows by the quasimorphism property of r combined with finiteness of volume. The fact that the function g is absolutely integrable can be shown to hold a-priori as in Appendix A. We note that by Tonelli's theorem it also follows as a by-product of the proof of our main theorem.

3. Of course our quasimorphism can be homogenized, to obtain a homogeneous quasimorphism Φ_0 .

Remark 1.3.1. In our case, by the result of Smale [32] $\pi_1(\mathcal{G}) = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, and hence the quasimorphisms descend to quasimorphisms on \mathcal{G} , e.g. by minimizing over the two-element fibers of the projection $\tilde{\mathcal{G}} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$. For Φ_0 , the situation is easier since it vanishes on $\pi_1(\mathcal{G})$, and therefore depends only on the image in \mathcal{G} of an element in $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$. We keep the same notations for the induced quasimorphisms.

It is well-known (cf. [7, Chapter 4]) that the fundamental group Γ is generated by the homotopy classes of small loops γ_{ij} around the partial diagonals D_{ij} , moreover, as follows from a generalization (cf. [33] and references therein) of a theorem of Arnol'd [2] the first cohomology of $X_n(M)$ is generated by $(-i)$ times the cohomology classes of closed 1-forms α_{ij} , $1 \leq i < j \leq n$, satisfying $\int_{\gamma_{ij}} \alpha_{i'j'} = i\delta_i^{i'}\delta_j^{j'}$.

Such α_{ij} can be constructed as the restriction to $X_n(M)$ of the pull-back $p_{ij}^*\alpha$, for

$$p_{ij} : M^n \setminus D_{ij} \rightarrow M^2 \setminus D$$

the natural projection (D being the diagonal in M^2) and

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{d(aw - bz)}{aw - bz}$$

for homogenous coordinates $([a, b], [z, w])$ on $\mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^1$. We set $\theta_{ij} := \text{Im}(\alpha_{ij})$.

For a 1-form θ on a manifold Y and a smooth parameterized path $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow Y$ set

$$\int_{\gamma} |\theta| := \int_0^1 |\theta_{\gamma(t)}(\dot{\gamma}(t))| dt.$$

Clearly, for a smooth loop γ we have $|\int_{\gamma} \theta| \leq \int_{\gamma} |\theta|$. Note moreover that for any loop γ' homologous to γ we similarly have $|\int_{\gamma'} \theta| \leq \int_{\gamma'} |\theta|$. Moreover, $\int_{\gamma} |\theta| = \int_{\gamma^{-1}} |\theta|$, where γ^{-1} is the time-reversal of γ .

Our main theorem is the following estimate:

Theorem 1. *For every $p \geq 1$ the quasimorphism Φ is controlled from above by the L^p -norm. Namely there exists a constant C such that for each path $\vec{\phi} = \{\phi_i\}$ in \mathcal{G} starting at Id , we have*

$$|\Phi([\vec{\phi}])| \leq C \cdot (l_p(\vec{\phi}) + 1).$$

It follows immediately that

Corollary 1.

$$|\Phi(-)| \leq C' \cdot (\| - \|_p + 1).$$

By averaging and the triangle inequality for norms we have

Corollary 2.

$$|\Phi_0(-)| \leq C' \cdot \| - \|_p.$$

By choosing any such quasimorphism Φ that is unbounded (equivalently, non-zero such Φ_0) we obtain the following (c.f. [9]).

Corollary 3. *The metrics d_p on $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$ and on \mathcal{G} are unbounded.*

By choosing a sequence $\Phi_{1,0}, \dots, \Phi_{d,0}$ of homogenous quasimorphisms satisfying $\Phi_{i,0}(\phi_j) = \delta_{ij}$ for a sequence ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_n of commuting diffeomorphisms in \mathcal{G} we enhance this to the following.

Corollary 4. *For each integer $d \geq 1$, there is a bi-Lipschitz embedding $\mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ of groups, where the real vector space \mathbb{R}^d is endowed with the metric coming from the l^1 -norm, and \mathcal{G} is endowed with the L^p -metric.*

See Section 5 for examples of such choices.

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2 Proof.

The proof consists of two steps: the topological bound and the analytical bounds, the details of which appear in subsequent sections. For our purposes it is convenient to consider the generating set $S = \bigcup_{i,j} \{[\gamma_{ij}], [\gamma_{ij}]^{-1}\}$ in the spherical pure braid group $P_n(S^2) = \pi_1(X_n(S^2), m)$. We denote by $||[\gamma]||_S$ the corresponding word-length of an element $[\gamma]$ in $P_n(S^2)$.

Our goal is to estimate $|\Phi(\vec{\phi})|$ for a path $\vec{\phi} = \{\phi_t\}$ in \mathcal{G} starting at Id . We first estimate the integrand $g(x) = r([l(x)])$. Surely, by the quasimorphism property, for $C_1 = \max_{\gamma \in S} |r(\gamma)| + \delta(r)$ (recall that $\delta(r)$ denotes the defect $\sup_{x,y \in \pi_1(X)} |r(xy) - r(x) - r(y)| < \infty$ of the quasimorphism r) we get

$$|g(x)| \leq C_1 \cdot ||[l(x)]||_S. \quad (1)$$

Therefore it is enough to estimate

$$\int_X d\nu(x) ||[l(x)]||_S.$$

In order to do this we prove the following topological bound.

Lemma 1.

$$|[l(x)]|_S \leq 2A \sum_{i < j} \int_{l(x)} |\theta_{ij}| + B,$$

for some constants $A > 0, B > 0$.

Hence it is enough to estimate

$$\int_X d\nu \int_{l(x)} |\theta_{ij}|. \quad (2)$$

Note that

$$\int_{l(x)} |\theta_{ij}| = \int_{\gamma(x)} |\theta_{ij}| + \int_{\gamma(y)} |\theta_{ij}| + \int_{\{\phi_t \cdot x\}} |\theta_{ij}|.$$

We show in Lemma 3 that for an appropriate choice of short paths we have $\int_{\gamma(q)} |\theta_{ij}| \leq C_3$ for all $q \in X$. This will reduce estimating the expression in Equation 2 to estimating

$$\int_X d\nu \int_{\{\phi_t \cdot x\}} |\theta_{ij}|. \quad (3)$$

We note that $|\theta_{ij}| \leq |\alpha_{ij}|$, where in the right hand side we use the standard norm on complex numbers, and hence it is sufficient to estimate

$$\int_X d\nu \int_{\{\phi_t \cdot x\}} |\alpha_{ij}|. \quad (4)$$

To this end we have the following.

Lemma 2.

$$\int_X d\nu \int_{\{\phi_t \cdot x\}} |\alpha_{ij}| \leq C_4 \cdot l_p(\vec{\phi}).$$

Hence, combining 1, Lemma 1, Lemma 2 and Lemma 3 gives a proof of Theorem 1.

3 Topological bound

In this section we prove Lemma 1. The idea is to use a full-measure chart on $\mathbb{C}P^1$ diffeomorphic to \mathbb{C} , where the usual topological bounds can be applied.

We shall estimate the expression $||l(x)||_S$ via $\sum_{i < j} \int_{l(x)} |\theta_{ij}|$. Indeed, consider the divisors D_k^∞ that are defined by $z_k = x_\infty = [1, 0]$, in homogenous coordinates on $\mathbb{C}P^1$. Denote by D^∞ their union (sum). Consider the trace $D_\phi^\infty = \bigcup_{t \in [0, 1]} \phi_t \cdot (D^\infty)$. Since this can be considered as a smooth cycle with boundary whose dimension is one less than that of X , its measure is zero. Denoting $U_0 := \mathbb{C}P^1 \setminus \{[1, 0]\}$, consider the subset $X'' = X \setminus D_\phi^\infty \subset (U_0 \times \dots \times U_0) \cap X \subset X$ of full measure. It is the maximal subset of X with the property that $x \in X''$ if and only if $\phi_t \cdot x \in X''$ for all $t \in [0, 1]$. Note that $(U_0 \times \dots \times U_0) \cap X \cong X_n(\mathbb{C})$ canonically, hence for the length of the current estimate we shall assume that all points of S^2 that are considered lie in \mathbb{C} . Firstly

$$\int_X d\nu(x) ||l(x)||_S = \int_{X''} d\nu(x) ||l(x)||_S.$$

We now estimate the right hand side of this equality. Note that $\theta_{ij} = p_{ij}^* \theta$, and the latter takes the form $Im\left(\frac{d(a-z)}{a-z}\right)$ in the chart $U_0 \times U_0$. Hence for $x \in X''$, we have $\int_{l(x)} |\theta_{ij}| = \int_{l(x)_{ij}} |\theta|$, where $l(x)_{ij} = p_{ij} \circ l(x)$, and moreover the following equality holds by the co-area formula.

For almost all $\omega \in S^1$, the quantity

$$n_{ij}(\omega) = \#\{t \in [0, 1] \mid \frac{p_i \circ l(x)(t) - p_j \circ l(x)(t)}{|p_i \circ l(x)(t) - p_j \circ l(x)(t)|} = \omega \in S^1\}$$

is finite (and well-defined). Moreover,

$$\int_{l(x)} |\theta_{ij}| = \int_{S^1} n_{ij}(\omega) dm(\omega)$$

for m the Haar (Lebesgue) measure on S^1 . Note that (cf. [9, 11]) $n_{ij}(\omega)$ is the number of times that the i -th strand overcrosses the j -th strand in the diagram of the braid $l(x)$ obtained by projection in the direction ω . From the ω -projection diagram of the braid $l(x)$ we get a presentation of $l(x)$ as a word in the full braid group $B_n(\mathbb{C})$, generated by say the half-twists, that has exactly one generator for each overcrossing. Hence

$$\sum_{i \neq j} n_{ij}(\omega) \geq ||l(x)||_{B_n(\mathbb{C})}.$$

Consequently

$$2 \int_{l(x)} \sum_{i < j} |\theta_{ij}| = \int_{S^1} \sum_{i \neq j} n_{ij}(\omega) dm(\omega) \geq ||l(x)||_{B_n(\mathbb{C})}.$$

By standard geometric group theory (cf. [14, Corollary 24]), since the pure braid group $P_n(\mathbb{C})$ is a subgroup of finite index in $B_n(\mathbb{C})$, we have

$$|\cdot|_{P_n(\mathbb{C})} \leq A |\cdot|_{B_n(\mathbb{C})} + B,$$

for some $A > 0, B > 0$. Since the small loops around the diagonals whose classes generate the pure braid group $P_n(S^2)$ can be taken to be disjoint from the infinity divisor D^∞ , we see that this generating set is actually an image of a generating set of $P_n(\mathbb{C})$ under the natural surjection i_* of fundamental groups induced by the inclusion. Therefore

$$|i_*(\cdot)|_{P_n(S^2)} \leq |\cdot|_{P_n(\mathbb{C})}$$

with respect to the chosen generating set. That is

$$|\gamma|_{P_n(S^2)} \leq \min_{\tilde{\gamma} \in (i_*)^{-1}(\gamma)} |\tilde{\gamma}|_{P_n(\mathbb{C})}.$$

Combining the last three observations we have

$$|[l(x)]|_{P_n(S^2)} \leq 2A \int_{l(x)} \sum_{i < j} |\theta_{ij}| + B.$$

This proves the lemma.

4 Analytical bounds

4.1 Estimating middle term

We first prove Lemma 2. The idea is to cover the sphere with two charts whose union has full measure, and each of whose closures is compact. This allows us to control the conversion factors between the spherical and the Euclidean metrics and volume forms.

Proof. We adapt an estimate of Gambaudo-Lagrange (c.f. [9]), relying on a creative use of the Hölder inequality. Since $\alpha_{ij} = p_{ij}^* \alpha$, and since projections in Banach spaces have norm 1, it is enough to show the estimate for the case $n = 2$, namely $X = \mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^1 \setminus D$. For the path $\{\phi_t\}$ in \mathcal{G} we have

$$\int_X d\nu(x) \int_{\{\phi_t \cdot x\}} |\alpha| = \int_X d\nu(x) \int_0^1 |\alpha_{\phi_t \cdot x}(X_t^2(\phi_t \cdot x))| dt.$$

Here $X_t^2 = X_t \oplus X_t$ is the time-dependent vector field coming from the diagonal action of \mathcal{G} on M^2 . Note that this action preserves the measure ν . If necessary, we restrict it to X without changing notation. Therefore

$$\int_X d\nu(x) \int_0^1 |\alpha_{\phi_t \cdot x}(X_t^2(\phi_t \cdot x))| dt = \int_0^1 dt \int_X d\nu(x) |\iota_{X_t^2} \alpha|,$$

by Tonelli's theorem. Of course by definition of the Lebesgue integral, we may integrate over M^2 extending the integrand by $+\infty$ to the diagonal.

To estimate this integral in terms of the L^p -length we proceed as follows. First note that under the standard stereographic projection the lower hemisphere in S^2 is identified with the standard unit disk $\mathbb{D} = \{|z| \leq 1\}$ in \mathbb{C} . This sits as

$$H_0 = \{[z, 1] \mid |z| \leq 1\}$$

in $\mathbb{C}P^1$ under the standard affine chart $u_0 : \mathbb{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} U_0$ containing $[0, 1]$. Similarly, the upper hemisphere is identified with the subset

$$H_\infty = \{[1, w] \mid |w| \leq 1\}$$

of the image of the affine chart $u_\infty : \mathbb{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} U_\infty$ in $\mathbb{C}P^1$. Moreover, $\mathbb{C}P^1$ is the measure-disjoint union of H_0 and H_∞ . Therefore

$$\mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^1 = (H_0 \times H_0) \cup (H_0 \times H_\infty) \cup (H_\infty \times H_0) \cup (H_\infty \times H_\infty),$$

the union being measure-disjoint. Denote by $u_{\alpha\beta}$ the chart map

$$u_{\alpha\beta} = u_\alpha \times u_\beta : \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} U_\alpha \times U_\beta \subset \mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^1,$$

for $\alpha, \beta \in \{0, \infty\}$. Note that $H_\alpha \times H_\beta$ is the image of $\mathbb{D} \times \mathbb{D}$ under $u_{\alpha\beta}$. We have

$$\int_0^1 dt \int_X d\nu(x) |\iota_{X_t^2} \alpha| = \sum_{\alpha, \beta} \int_0^1 dt \int_{H_\alpha \times H_\beta} |\iota_{X_t^2} \alpha|.$$

We shall estimate these summands separately. We show first how to estimate the summand corresponding to $H_\infty \times H_\infty$. The other summands are treated analogously.

Note that $u_{\infty\infty}^* \alpha = \frac{d(w-b)}{w-b}$, and $u_{\infty\infty}^* X_t^2 = (B_t, W_t)$ for vector fields $B = u_\infty^* X_t, W = u_\infty^* X_t$ on \mathbb{C} . It is easy to see that via the affine trivialization of the tangent bundle to $\mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}$, B depends only on the coordinate b and W only on w . Moreover, $u_{\infty\infty}^* \nu = \mu \boxtimes \mu$, for μ the pullback by the standard affine chart of our chosen Riemannian measure dV on $\mathbb{C}P^1$. Therefore

$$\int_0^1 dt \int_{(H_\infty \times H_\infty) \cap X} d\nu |\iota_{X_t^2} \alpha| = \int_0^1 dt \int_{\mathbb{D} \times \mathbb{D} \setminus \Delta} \frac{|W_t(w) - B_t(b)|}{|w - b|} d\mu(b) d\mu(w).$$

We apply the triangle inequality $|W_t(w) - B_t(b)| \leq |W_t(w)| + |B_t(b)|$, and estimate the two resulting terms separately. Since the two are estimated analogously, we show the case of the first summand. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 dt \int_{\mathbb{D}} d\mu(w) \int_{\mathbb{D}} d\mu(b) \frac{|W_t(w)|}{|w - b|} &= \int_0^1 dt \int_{\mathbb{D}} |W_t(w)| d\mu(w) \int_{\mathbb{D}} d\mu(b) \frac{1}{|w - b|} \leq \\ &\leq \int_0^1 dt \left(\int_{\mathbb{D}} |W_t(w)|^p d\mu(w) \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \cdot \left(\int_{\mathbb{D}} \left(\int_{\mathbb{D}} d\mu(b) \frac{1}{|w - b|} \right)^q d\mu(w) \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \end{aligned}$$

applying the Hölder inequality to the functions $\phi(w) = |W_t(w)|$ and $\psi(w) = \int_{\mathbb{D}} d\mu(b) \frac{1}{|w - b|}$ of w , and the measure μ , noting that the second function is in fact bounded by the constant

$$C = \int_{\mathbb{C}} d\mu(b) \frac{1}{|w - b|} > 0.$$

Consequently

$$\int_0^1 dt \int_{\mathbb{D}} d\mu(w) \int_{\mathbb{D}} d\mu(b) \frac{|W_t(w)|}{|w - b|} \leq C \pi^{\frac{1}{q}} \cdot \int_0^1 dt \left(\int_{\mathbb{D}} |W_t(w)|^p d\mu(w) \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

This is nearly the required result. What remains is to compare the integral on the right hand side to the corresponding part of the integral for the L^p -length of $\{\phi_t\}$. Note that

$$l_p(\{\phi_t\}) = \int_0^1 dt \left(\int_{S^2} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} = \int_0^1 dt \left(\int_{H_0} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV + \int_{H_\infty} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

We now note that

$$\int_{H_0} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV = 2 \int_{\mathbb{D}} |u_0^*(X_t)|_{Eucl}^p (1 + |z|^2)^{-p-2} dm(z)$$

and

$$\int_{H_\infty} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV = 2 \int_{\mathbb{D}} |u_\infty^*(X_t)|_{Eucl}^p (1 + |w|^2)^{-p-2} dm(w),$$

where m denotes the Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{C} and $|\cdot|_{Eucl}$ is the Euclidean metric. Here we used the conversions for the pullback of the spherical measure

$$d\mu(\zeta) = 2(1 + |\zeta|^2)^{-2} dm(\zeta)$$

and for the pullback $|\cdot|_{Sph} = u_i^*|\cdot|_{S^2}$, $i \in \{0, \infty\}$ of the metric on the sphere in either of the coordinate charts

$$(|\cdot|_{Sph})_\zeta = (1 + |\zeta|^2)^{-1} |\cdot|_{Eucl}.$$

Since for $|w| \leq 1$ we have $1 \leq 2^p(1 + |w|^2)^{-p}$, we obtain

$$\int_0^1 dt \int_{\mathbb{D}} d\mu(w) \int_{\mathbb{D}} d\mu(b) \frac{|W_t(w)|}{|w-b|} \leq 2C\pi^{\frac{1}{q}} \cdot \int_0^1 dt \left(\int_{H_\infty} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

Consequently

$$\int_0^1 dt \int_{(H_\infty \times H_\infty) \cap X} d\nu |\iota_{X_t^2} \alpha| \leq 4C\pi^{\frac{1}{q}} \cdot \int_0^1 dt \left(\int_{H_\infty} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

We briefly describe the analogous estimate for

$$\int_0^1 dt \int_{(H_0 \times H_\infty) \cap X} d\nu |\iota_{X_t^2} \alpha|.$$

We have $(u_{0\infty})^* \alpha = \frac{d(aw-1)}{aw-1}$, $u_{0\infty}^* X_t^2 = (A_t, W_t)$, $A_t = u_0^* X_t(a)$, $W_t = u_\infty^* X_t(w)$. Hence

$$u_{0\infty}^* |\iota_{X_t^2} \alpha| = \frac{|aW_t(w) - A_t(a)w|}{|aw-1|}.$$

Using the triangle inequality, we estimate say the first term analogously to the previous case, the only difference being following calculation. Denoting $\tilde{a} = \frac{1}{a}$, we compute

$$\int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{|a|}{|aw-1|} d\mu(a) = \int_{\{|\tilde{a}| \geq 1\}} \frac{1}{|w-\tilde{a}|} d\mu(\tilde{a}) \leq \int_{\mathbb{C}} \frac{1}{|w-\tilde{a}|} d\mu(\tilde{a}) = C.$$

In conclusion we obtain the estimates

$$\int_0^1 dt \int_{(H_\alpha \times H_\beta) \cap X} d\nu |\iota_{X_t^2} \alpha| \leq 2C\pi^{\frac{1}{q}} \cdot \int_0^1 dt \left[\left(\int_{H_\alpha} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} + \left(\int_{H_\beta} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \right].$$

Therefore

$$\int_0^1 dt \int_X d\nu |\iota_{X_t^2} \alpha| \leq 8C\pi^{\frac{1}{q}} \cdot \int_0^1 dt \left[\left(\int_{H_0} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} + \left(\int_{H_\infty} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \right].$$

Whence by the Jensen inequality, which in our case takes the form

$$\left(\int_{H_0} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} + \left(\int_{H_\infty} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \leq 2^{1-\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_{S^2} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV \right)^{\frac{1}{p}},$$

we obtain

$$\int_0^1 dt \int_X d\nu |\iota_{X_t^2} \alpha| \leq 16C\pi^{\frac{1}{q}} 2^{-\frac{1}{p}} \cdot \int_0^1 dt \left(\int_{S^2} |X_t|_{S^2}^p dV \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

Namely

$$\int_0^1 dt \int_X d\nu |\iota_{X_t^2} \alpha| \leq 16C\pi^{\frac{1}{q}} 2^{-\frac{1}{p}} \cdot l_p(\{\phi_t\}). \quad (5)$$

This finishes the proof for $1 \leq p < \infty$. By passing to the limit $p \rightarrow \infty$ we conclude

$$\int_0^1 dt \int_X d\nu |\iota_{X_t^2} \alpha| \leq 16C\pi \cdot l_\infty(\{\phi_t\}). \quad (6)$$

4.2 Estimating the short path terms

We now describe the nice choice of short paths.

Consider the affine chart $\mathbb{C} \cong \mathbb{C}P^1 \setminus \{[0, 1]\} \subset \mathbb{C}P^1$. Namely, the chart is $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^1$, $w \mapsto [1, w]$. Denote $x_\infty := [0, 1]$. Define the divisor D_k^∞ in M^n by the equation $z_k = x_\infty$. Then a subset X_1 in X of full measure is given by the equation $X_1 = X \setminus \bigcup_{k=1}^n D_k^\infty$, considered as subsets of M^n . Choose pairwise distinct base-points $m_k \in \mathbb{C}$, $1 \leq k \leq n$, for example $m_k = \varepsilon \cdot e^{ik \cdot 2\pi/n}$, where $0 < \varepsilon$ is small. These points combine to a base-point $m \in X$.

For a point $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in X_1$, we have in particular that $y_j \in \mathbb{C}$, $1 \leq j \leq n$. For each $1 \leq j \leq n$ consider the linear path

$$\{m_j + t \cdot (y_j - m_j)\}_{t \in [0,1]}$$

between m_j and y_j in \mathbb{C} . Combine these paths to obtain a path $\gamma(y)$ between m and y in M^n . Investigating the y for which the path $\gamma(y)$ is not contained in X , we obtain a union N of open subsets in submanifolds (with corners) of codimension 1. Thus we obtain a continuous system of paths as required on the subset $X' = X_1 \setminus N$ of full measure. Extend it measurably to X . This choice of paths allows us to prove the following.

Lemma 3. *For the nice choice of paths, we have $\int_{\gamma(y)} |\theta_{ij}| \leq \pi$ for all $y \in X$.*

Proof. Indeed $\theta_{ij} = p_{ij}^* \theta$, for $\theta = \text{Im}(\alpha)$ on $\mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^1$. In the chart $a = 1, z = 1$ for $\mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^1$, the form α looks like $\tilde{\alpha} = \frac{d(w-b)}{w-b}$. Hence $\int_{\gamma(y)} |\theta_{ij}|$ equals the total variation of angle of the linear path $\{w_t - b_t\}_{t \in [0,1]}$ in \mathbb{C} (for b_t, w_t corresponding to $\gamma(y)(t)_i, \gamma(y)(t)_j$ in the given chart), that does not pass through the origin. The bound is now immediate.

5 Examples of quasimorphisms and bi-Lipschitz embeddings of vector spaces

For $\alpha \in P_n = P_n(\mathbb{C})$ we denote by $\hat{\alpha}$ the n -component link which is a closure of α , see Figure 1.

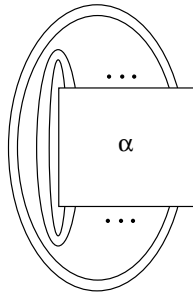


Figure 1: Closure $\hat{\alpha}$ of a braid α .

Let $\text{sign}_n: P_n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ be a map such that $\text{sign}_n(\alpha) = \text{sign}(\hat{\alpha})$, where sign is a signature invariant of links in \mathbb{R}^3 . Gambaudo-Ghys [18] and the first named author [8] showed that sign_n defines a quasimorphism on P_n . As usual we denote by $\overline{\text{sign}}_n: P_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ the induced homogeneous quasimorphism. Recall that the center of P_n is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z} . Let Δ_n be a generator of the center of P_n . It is a well known fact that $P_n(S^2)$ is isomorphic to the quotient of P_{n-1} by the cyclic group $\langle \Delta_{n-1}^2 \rangle$, see [6]. Let $\text{lk}_n: P_n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ be a restriction to P_n of a canonical homomorphism from $B_n = B_n(\mathbb{C})$ to \mathbb{Z} which takes value 1 on

each Artin generator of B_n . Let $s_{n-1}: P_{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a homogeneous quasimorphism defined by

$$s_{n-1}(\alpha) := \overline{\text{sign}}_{n-1}(\alpha) - \frac{\overline{\text{sign}}_{n-1}(\Delta_{n-1})}{\text{lk}_{n-1}(\Delta_{n-1})} \text{lk}_{n-1}(\alpha).$$

Since $s_{n-1}(\Delta_{n-1}) = 0$, the homogeneous quasimorphism s_{n-1} descends to a homogeneous quasimorphism $\bar{s}_n: P_n(S^2) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Note that \bar{s}_2 and \bar{s}_3 are trivial because $P_2(S^2)$ and $P_3(S^2)$ are finite groups.

For each $n \geq 4$ let

$$\overline{\mathbf{Sign}}_n: \text{Diff}(S^2, dV) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

be the induced homogeneous quasimorphism. In [18, Section 5.3] Gambaudo-Ghys evaluated quasimorphisms $\overline{\mathbf{Sign}}_{2n}$ on a family of diffeomorphisms

$$f_\omega: S^2 \rightarrow S^2,$$

such that $f_\omega(\infty) = \infty$ and $f_\omega(x) = e^{2i\pi\omega(|x|)}x$, here S^2 is identified with $\mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$, and $\omega: \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a function which is constant in a neighborhood of 0 and outside some compact set. Let $a(r)$ be the spherical area (with the normalization $\text{vol}(\mathbb{C}) = 1$) of the disc in \mathbb{C} with radius r centered at 0. Set $u = 1 - 2a(r)$ and let $\tilde{\omega}(u) = \omega(r)$. In [18, Lemma 5.3] Gambaudo-Ghys showed that for each $n \geq 2$

$$\overline{\mathbf{Sign}}_{2n}(f_\omega) = \frac{n}{2} \int_{-1}^1 (u^{2n-1} - u) \tilde{\omega}(u) du. \quad (7)$$

Proof of Corollary 4. Let $H_\omega: S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a smooth function supported away from the $\{\infty\}$ point and $f_{t,\omega}$ be a Hamiltonian flow generated by H_ω , such that $f_{1,\omega} = f_\omega$. Since $f_{t,\omega}$ is an autonomous flow, by (7) we have

$$\overline{\mathbf{Sign}}_{2n}(f_{t,\omega}) = t \frac{n}{2} \int_{-1}^1 (u^{2n-1} - u) \tilde{\omega}(u) du.$$

Let $d \in \mathbb{N}$. It follows from (7) that it is straight forward to construct a family of functions $\omega_i: \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\{H_{\omega_i}\}_{i=1}^d$ supported away from the $\{\infty\}$ point such that

- Each Hamiltonian flow f_{t,ω_i} is generated by H_{ω_i} and $f_{1,\omega_i} = f_{\omega_i}$.
- The functions $\{H_{\omega_i}\}_{i=1}^d$ have disjoint support and hence the diffeomorphisms f_{t,ω_i} and f_{s,ω_j} commute for all $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$, $1 \leq i, j \leq n$.

- The $(d \times d)$ matrix $\begin{pmatrix} \overline{\mathbf{Sign}}_4(f_{1,\omega_1}) & \cdots & \overline{\mathbf{Sign}}_4(f_{1,\omega_d}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \overline{\mathbf{Sign}}_{2d+2}(f_{1,\omega_1}) & \cdots & \overline{\mathbf{Sign}}_{2d+2}(f_{1,\omega_d}) \end{pmatrix}$ is non-singular.

It follows that there exists a family $\{\Phi_{i,0}\}_{i=1}^d$ of homogeneous quasimorphisms on $\text{Diff}(S^2, dV)$, such that $\Phi_{i,0}$ is a linear combination of $\overline{\mathbf{Sign}}_4, \dots, \overline{\mathbf{Sign}}_{2d+2}$ and

$$\Phi_{i,0}(f_{t,\omega_j}) = \begin{cases} t & \text{if } i = j \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}. \quad (8)$$

Let $I: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \text{Diff}(S^2, dV)$ be a map, such that

$$I(v) := f_{v_1, \omega_1} \circ \dots \circ f_{v_d, \omega_d}$$

and $v = (v_1, \dots, v_d)$. It follows from the construction of $\{f_{v_i, \omega_i}\}_{i=1}^d$ that I is a monomorphism. Let $A' := \max_i \|f_{1, \omega_i}\|_p$, where $\|\cdot\|_p$ denotes the L^p -norm, then

$$\|f_{v_1, \omega_1} \circ \dots \circ f_{v_d, \omega_d}\|_p \leq A' \|v\|,$$

where $\|v\| = \sum_{i=1}^d |v_i|$.

All diffeomorphisms $f_{v_1, \omega_1}, \dots, f_{v_d, \omega_d}$ pair-wise commute. Hence, for each $1 \leq i \leq d$, by our main Theorem and (8) we have

$$\|f_{v_1, \omega_1} \circ \dots \circ f_{v_d, \omega_d}\|_p \geq A^{-1} |\Phi_{i,0}(f_{v_1, \omega_1} \circ \dots \circ f_{v_d, \omega_d})| = A^{-1} \cdot |v_i| |\Phi_{i,0}(f_{1, \omega_i})|,$$

where A is the maximum over the Lipschitz constants (in our main theorem) of the functions

$$\Phi_{i,0}: \text{Diff}(S^2, dV) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

It follows that

$$\|f_{v_1, \omega_1} \circ \dots \circ f_{v_d, \omega_d}\|_p \geq \left((d \cdot A)^{-1} \min_i |\Phi_{i,0}(f_{1, \omega_i})| \right) \|v\| = ((d \cdot A)^{-1}) \|v\|,$$

and the proof follows. \square

A Integrability of the quasimorphisms

For every pair of points $x, y \in S^2$ let us choose a minimal geodesic path $s_{xy}: [0, 1] \rightarrow S^2$ from x to y . Let $f_t \in \text{Diff}(S^2, dV)$ be an isotopy from the identity to $f \in \text{Diff}(S^2, dV)$ and let $m \in S^2$ be a basepoint. For $y \in S^2$ we define a loop $\gamma_y: [0, 1] \rightarrow S^2$ by

$$\gamma_y(t) := \begin{cases} s_{my}(3t) & \text{for } t \in [0, \frac{1}{3}] \\ f_{3t-1}(y) & \text{for } t \in [\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}] \\ s_{f(y)m}(3t-2) & \text{for } t \in [\frac{2}{3}, 1]. \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

Let $X_n(S^2)$ be the configuration space of all ordered n -tuples of pairwise distinct points in the surface S^2 . It's fundamental group $\pi_1(X_n(S^2))$ is identified with the pure braid group $P_n(S^2)$. Fix a basepoint $m = (m_1, \dots, m_n)$ in $X_n(S^2)$. For almost each $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in X_n(S^2)$ the n -tuple of loops $(\gamma_{x_1}, \dots, \gamma_{x_n})$ is a based loop in the configuration space $X_n(S^2)$. Let $\gamma(f, x) \in P_n(S^2)$ be an element represented by this loop.

Let $r: P_n(S^2) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a homogeneous quasimorphism. Note that since $\pi_1(\text{Diff}(S^2, dV)) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, the value $r(\gamma(f; x))$ does not depend on the isotopy f_t . Define $\Phi: \text{Diff}(S^2, dV) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\Phi(f) := \int_{X_n(S^2)} r(\gamma(f; x)) dx \quad \Phi_0(f) := \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\Phi(f^k)}{k}. \quad (10)$$

Lemma 4. *The function $\Phi_0: \text{Diff}(S^2, dV) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a well defined homogeneous quasimorphism.*

Proof. It was proved by Banyaga that there exists $d \in \mathbb{N}$ and a family $\{f_i\}_{i=1}^d$ of diffeomorphisms in the group $\text{Diff}(S^2, dV)$, such that each f_i is supported in some disc $D_i \subset S^2$ and $f = f_1 \circ \dots \circ f_d$, see [4]. For each $1 \leq i \leq d$ pick an isotopy $\{f_{t,i}\}$ in $\text{Diff}(S^2, dV)$ between the identity and f_i , such that the support of $\{f_{t,i}\}$ lies in the same disc D_i . First we are going to show that $|\Phi(f_i)| < \infty$.

Let $X_n(D_i)$ be the configuration space of all ordered n -tuples of pairwise distinct points in the disc $D_i \subset S^2$. Since changing a basepoint in $X_n(S^2)$ changes Φ by a bounded value, we can assume that the basepoint m lies in $X_n(D_i)$. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi(f_i) &= \int_{X_n(S^2)} r(\gamma(f_i; x)) dx \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n \binom{n}{j} \text{vol}(X_{n-j}(S^2 \setminus D_i)) \int_{X_j(D_i)} r(\gamma(f_i; x)) dx.\end{aligned}$$

Since $r: P_n(S^2) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a homogeneous quasimorphism, there exists a constant $C > 0$, such that

$$|r(\gamma)| \leq C|\gamma|_{P_n(S^2)},$$

where $|\gamma|_{P_n(S^2)}$ is the word length of γ with respect to the Artin generating set of $P_n(S^2)$. The support of the isotopy $\{f_{t,i}\}$ lies in the disc, hence the representative of the braid $\gamma(f_i; x)$, which was built using $\{f_{t,i}\}$, defines a braid in P_n . It is a well-known fact that $P_n(S^2)$ is a factor group of P_{n-1} . It follows that $|\gamma(f_i; x)|_{P_n(S^2)} \leq |\gamma(f_i; x)|_{P_n}$, where $|\cdot|_{P_n}$ is the word length in P_n with respect to the Artin generating set of P_n . For $1 \leq j < n$ the group P_j may be viewed as a subgroup of P_n by adding $n-j$ strings. It follows that

$$|\Phi(f_i)| \leq C \sum_{j=1}^n \binom{n}{j} \text{vol}(X_{n-j}(S^2 \setminus D_i)) \int_{X_j(D_i)} |\gamma(f_i; x)|_{P_n} dx.$$

The integral $\int_{X_j(D_i)} |\gamma(f_i; x)|_{P_n} dx$ is well defined for each $1 \leq j \leq n$, see [8, Lemma 4.1], hence

$$|\Phi(f_i)| < \infty.$$

Let $g', h' \in \text{Diff}(S^2, dV)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}& |\Phi(g'h') - \Phi(g') - \Phi(h')| \\ & \leq \int_{X_n(S^2)} |r(\gamma(g'h'; x)) - r(\gamma(g'; h'(x))) - r(\gamma(h'; x))| dx \\ & \leq \text{vol}(X_n(S^2)) \cdot \delta(r),\end{aligned}$$

i.e. Φ satisfies the quasimorphism condition. It follows that

$$|\Phi(f)| \leq d \left(\delta(r) \cdot \text{vol}(X_n(S^2)) + \sum_{i=1}^d |\Phi(f_i)| \right).$$

Hence Φ is a well defined quasimorphism and so is Φ_0 . □

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