

ON THE AUTONOMOUS METRIC ON GROUPS OF HAMILTONIAN DIFFEOMORPHISMS OF CLOSED HYPERBOLIC SURFACES

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ABSTRACT. Let Σ_g be a closed hyperbolic surface of genus g and let $\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ be the group of Hamiltonian diffeomorphisms of Σ_g . The most natural word metric on this group is the autonomous metric. It has many interesting properties, most important of which is the bi-invariance of this metric. In this work we show that $\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ is unbounded with respect to this metric.

1. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULT

Let Σ_g be a closed hyperbolic surface of genus g and let ω be an area form on Σ_g . For every smooth normalized function $H: \Sigma_g \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$, i.e. H has a zero mean with respect to ω , there exists a unique vector field X_H which satisfies

$$dH(\cdot) = \omega(X_H, \cdot).$$

It is easy to see that X_H is tangent to the level sets of H . Let h be the time-one map of the flow h_t generated by X_H . The diffeomorphism h is area-preserving and every diffeomorphism arising in this way is called *autonomous*. Such a diffeomorphism is relatively easy to understand in terms of its generating function.

Denote by $\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ the group of Hamiltonian diffeomorphisms of Σ_g . It follows from results of Banyaga that every Hamiltonian diffeomorphism is a composition of finitely many autonomous diffeomorphisms [2]. We define the *autonomous norm* on $\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ by

$$\|f\|_{\text{Aut}} := \min \{m \in \mathbf{N} \mid f = h_1 \cdots h_m \text{ where each } h_i \text{ is autonomous}\}.$$

The associated metric is defined by $\mathbf{d}_{\text{Aut}}(f, g) := \|fg^{-1}\|_{\text{Aut}}$. Since the set of autonomous diffeomorphisms is invariant under conjugation, the autonomous metric is bi-invariant. Our main result is the following

Theorem 1. *The metric group $(\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g), \mathbf{d}_{\text{Aut}})$ is unbounded.*

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Remark 1.1. We must notice that Theorem 1 may be seen as a corollary from more general results of the author, which will appear in a subsequent paper [8]. However, we think that the proof given in this paper is much easier than the one presented in [8].

2. PRELIMINARIES

In this paper we consider only normalized functions $\Sigma_g \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$.

2.A. Quasi-morphisms. A function $\psi: G \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ from a group G to the reals is called a *quasi-morphism* if there exists a real number $A \geq 0$ such that

$$|\psi(gg') - \psi(g) - \psi(g')| \leq C$$

for all $g, g' \in G$. The infimum of such C 's is called the *defect* of ψ and is denoted by D_ψ . If $\psi(g^n) = n\psi(g)$ for all $n \in \mathbf{Z}$ and $g \in G$ then ψ is called *homogeneous*. Any quasi-morphism ψ can be homogenized by setting

$$\bar{\psi}(g) := \lim_{p \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\psi(g^p)}{p}.$$

The vector space of homogeneous quasi-morphisms on G is denoted by $Q(G)$. The space of homogeneous quasi-morphisms on G modulo the space of homomorphisms on G is denoted by $\widehat{Q}(G)$. For more information about quasi-morphisms and their connections to different branches of mathematics, see [9].

2.B. Polterovich construction. Let \mathbf{M} be an oriented closed Riemannian manifold equipped with a Riemannian volume form, and denote by $\text{Diff}_0(\mathbf{M}, \text{vol})$ the identity component of the group of volume preserving diffeomorphisms of \mathbf{M} . Let us describe a construction, due to L. Polterovich, of quasi-morphisms on $\text{Diff}_0(\mathbf{M}, \text{vol})$.

Let $z \in \mathbf{M}$. Suppose that the group $\pi_1(\mathbf{M}, z)$ has a trivial center and it admits a *non-trivial* homogeneous quasi-morphism

$$\psi: \pi_1(\mathbf{M}, z) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}.$$

For each $x \in \mathbf{M}$ let us choose a short geodesic path from x to z . In [12] Polterovich constructed the induced *non-trivial* homogeneous quasi-morphism $\bar{\Psi}$ on $\text{Diff}_0(\mathbf{M}, \text{vol})$ as follows:

For each $x \in \mathbf{M}$ and an isotopy $\{g_t\}_{t \in [0,1]}$ between Id and g , let g_x be a closed loop in \mathbf{M} which is a concatenation of a geodesic path from z to x , the path $g_t(x)$ and a described above geodesic path from $g(x)$ to z . Denote by $[g_x]$ the corresponding element in $\pi_1(\mathbf{M}, z)$ and set

$$\Psi(g) := \int_{\mathbf{M}} \psi([g_x]) \text{vol} \qquad \bar{\Psi}(g) := \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{p} \int_{\mathbf{M}} \psi([(g^p)_x]) \text{vol}.$$

The maps Ψ and $\overline{\Psi}$ are well-defined quasi-morphisms because every diffeomorphism in $\text{Diff}_0(\mathbf{M}, \text{vol})$ is volume-preserving. They do not depend on a choice of the path $\{g_t\}$ because the evaluation map

$$\text{ev}: \text{Diff}_0(\mathbf{M}, \text{vol}) \rightarrow \mathbf{M},$$

where $\text{ev}(g) = g(z)$, induces a map between $\pi_1(\text{Diff}_0(\mathbf{M}, \text{vol}), \text{Id})$ and $\pi_1(\mathbf{M}, z)$ whose image lies in the center of $\pi_1(\mathbf{M}, z)$, which is trivial by our assumption. In addition, the quasi-morphism $\overline{\Psi}$ neither depends on the choice of a family of geodesic paths, nor on the choice of a base point z . For more details see [12]. We abuse the notation and sometimes write $\pi_1(\mathbf{M})$ instead of $\pi_1(\mathbf{M}, z)$.

Denote by $\mathfrak{Polt}_{\mathbf{M}}$ the linear map, induced by Polterovich construction, from $\widehat{Q}(\pi_1(\mathbf{M})) \rightarrow \widehat{Q}(\text{Diff}_0(\mathbf{M}, \text{vol}))$. Since every homogeneous quasi-morphism on $\pi_1(\mathbf{M})$, which is not a homomorphism, defines a homogeneous quasi-morphism on $\text{Diff}_0(\mathbf{M}, \text{vol})$, which is also not a homomorphism, we obtain the following

Corollary 2.1. *The linear map $\mathfrak{Polt}_{\mathbf{M}}: \widehat{Q}(\pi_1(\mathbf{M})) \rightarrow \widehat{Q}(\text{Diff}_0(\mathbf{M}, \text{vol}))$ is injective.*

Let $g > 1$. Since the group $\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ is simple [2, 3], the linear space $\widehat{Q}(\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g))$ coincides with $Q(\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g))$. We denote by \mathfrak{Polt}_g the linear map $\widehat{Q}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g)) \rightarrow \widehat{Q}(\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g))$ induced by Polterovich construction.

Proposition 2.2. *The linear map $\mathfrak{Polt}_g: \widehat{Q}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g)) \rightarrow \widehat{Q}(\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g))$ is injective.*

Proof. Suppose that \mathfrak{Polt}_g is not injective. Then there exists a quasi-morphism ψ in $Q(\pi_1(\Sigma_g))$, which is not a homomorphism, such that the induced homogeneous quasi-morphism $\overline{\Psi}$ on $\text{Diff}_0(\Sigma_g, \text{area})$ vanishes on the group $\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$.

Lemma 2.3. *Let G be a group and G' its commutator subgroup. Then every homogeneous quasi-morphism on G that vanishes on G' is a homomorphism.*

Proof. Let $\varphi: G \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ be a homogeneous quasi-morphism such that $\varphi(g') = 0$ for every $g' \in G'$. Since G' is a normal subgroup of G , the map $\widehat{\varphi}: G/G' \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$, given by $\widehat{\varphi}(gG') = \varphi(g)$, is a well-defined homogeneous quasi-morphism. The group G/G' is abelian and hence $\widehat{\varphi}$ is a homomorphism and so is φ . \square

By a theorem of Banyaga [3] the group $\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ coincides with the commutator subgroup of $\text{Diff}_0(\Sigma_g, \text{area})$. It follows from Lemma 2.3

that $\bar{\Psi}$ is a homomorphism, which contradicts the fact that the map

$$\mathfrak{Bolt}_{\Sigma_g} : \widehat{Q}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g)) \rightarrow \widehat{Q}(\text{Diff}_0(\Sigma_g, \text{area}))$$

is injective by Corollary 2.1. \square

3. PROOFS

3.A. Curves traced by Morse autonomous flows. Let h_t be an autonomous flow generated by a Morse function $H : \Sigma_g \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ and set $h := h_1$. Let $x \in \Sigma_g$ which satisfies the following conditions:

- x is a regular point of H ,
- x belongs to only one connected component, i.e. a simple closed curve in Σ_g , of the set $H^{-1}(H(x))$.

Such a set of points in Σ_g is denoted by Reg_H . Note that the measure of $\Sigma_g \setminus \text{Reg}_H$ is zero. For each $x \in \text{Reg}_H$ let $c_x : [0, 1] \rightarrow \Sigma_g$ be an injective path (on $(0, 1)$), such that $c_x(0) = c_x(1) = x$ and its image is a simple closed curve which is a connected component of $H^{-1}(H(x))$. For every $y_1, y_2 \in \Sigma_g$ choose an injective map $s_{y_1 y_2} : [0, 1] \rightarrow \Sigma_g$ whose image is a short geodesic path from y_1 to y_2 . Define

$$(1) \quad \gamma_x(t) := \begin{cases} s_{zx}(3t) & \text{for } t \in [0, \frac{1}{3}] \\ c_x(3t - 1) & \text{for } t \in [\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}] \\ s_{xz}(3t - 2) & \text{for } t \in [\frac{2}{3}, 1] \end{cases}.$$

Denote by $[\gamma_x]$ the corresponding element in $\pi_1(\Sigma_g, z)$. Let $x \in \text{Reg}_H$ and let $[h_x]$ be an element in $\pi_1(\Sigma_g, z)$ represented by a path which is a concatenation of paths s_{zx} , $h_t(x)$ and s_{xz} . Then for each $p \in \mathbf{N}$ the element $[h_x^p]$ can be written as a product

$$(2) \quad [h_x^p] = \alpha'_{p,x} \circ [\gamma_x]^{k_{h,p}} \circ \alpha''_{p,x},$$

where $k_{h,p}$ is an integer which depends only h , p and x , and the word length of elements $\alpha'_{p,x}$, $\alpha''_{p,x}$ in $\pi_1(\Sigma_g, z)$ is bounded by some constant K which is independent of h , x and p .

Denote by \mathcal{MCG}_g^1 the mapping class group of a surface Σ_g with one puncture z . Recall that there is a following short exact sequence due to Birman [5]

$$(3) \quad 1 \rightarrow \pi_1(\Sigma_g, z) \rightarrow \mathcal{MCG}_g^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{MCG}_g \rightarrow 1,$$

where \mathcal{MCG}_g is the mapping class group of a surface Σ_g . Hence we view $\pi_1(\Sigma_g, z)$ as a normal subgroup of \mathcal{MCG}_g^1 .

Proposition 3.1. *Let $g > 1$. There exists a finite set S_g of elements in \mathcal{MCG}_g^1 , such that for every Morse function $H : \Sigma_g \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ and every $x \in \text{Reg}_H$ the loop $[\gamma_x] \in \pi_1(\Sigma_g, z) < \mathcal{MCG}_g^1$ is conjugated to some element in S_g .*

Proof. Let $x \in \text{Reg}_H$. If the loop $\gamma_x(t)$ is homotopically trivial in Σ_g , then $[\gamma_x] = 1_{\mathcal{MCG}_g^1}$. Suppose that $\gamma_x(t)$ is homotopically non-trivial in Σ_g . We say that simple closed curves $\delta, \delta' \in \Sigma_g$ are equivalent $\delta \cong \delta'$, if there exists a homeomorphism $f: \Sigma_g \rightarrow \Sigma_g$ such that $f(\delta) = \delta'$. It follows from classification of surfaces that the set of equivalence classes \mathcal{E}_g is finite. Let c_x be a simple closed curve defined in (1). Since Σ_g and c_x are oriented, the curve c_x splits in $\Sigma_g \setminus \{x\}$ into two simple closed curves $c_{x,+}$ and $c_{x,-}$ which are homotopic in Σ_g , see Figure 1.

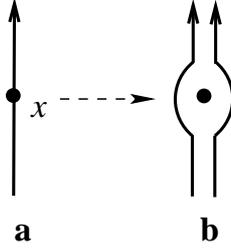


FIGURE 1. Part of the curve c_x is shown in Figure **a**. Its splitting into curves $c_{x,+}$ and $c_{x,-}$ is shown in Figure **b**. The left curve in Figure **b** is $c_{x,+}$ and the right curve is $c_{x,-}$.

The image of the element $[\gamma_x]$ in \mathcal{MCG}_g^1 , under the Birman embedding (3) of $\pi_1(\Sigma_g, z)$ into \mathcal{MCG}_g^1 , is conjugated to $t_{c_{x,+}} \circ t_{c_{x,-}}^{-1}$, where $t_{c_{x,+}}$ and $t_{c_{x,-}}$ are Dehn twists in $\Sigma_g \setminus \{x\}$ about curves $c_{x,+}$ and $c_{x,-}$ respectively.

Note that if $c_x \cong \delta$ then there exists a homeomorphism $f: \Sigma_g \rightarrow \Sigma_g$ such that $f(c_x) = \delta$, hence $f(c_{x,+}) = \delta_+$ and $f(c_{x,-}) = \delta_-$. We have

$$t_{\delta_+} = f \circ t_{c_{x,+}} \circ f^{-1} \quad t_{\delta_-} = f \circ t_{c_{x,-}} \circ f^{-1}.$$

This yields

$$f \circ (t_{c_{x,+}} \circ t_{c_{x,-}}^{-1}) \circ f^{-1} = t_{\delta_+} \circ t_{\delta_-}^{-1}.$$

In other words, an element $[\gamma_x]$ is conjugated in \mathcal{MCG}_g^1 to some $t_{\delta_+} \circ t_{\delta_-}^{-1}$, where δ is a representative of an equivalence class in \mathcal{E}_g . Let $\{\delta_i\}_{i=1}^{\#\mathcal{E}_g}$ be a set of simple closed curves in Σ_g , such that each equivalence class in \mathcal{E}_g is represented by some δ_i . Let

$$(4) \quad S_g := \{t_{\delta_{1,+}} \circ t_{\delta_{1,-}}^{-1}, \dots, t_{\delta_{\#\mathcal{E}_g,+}} \circ t_{\delta_{\#\mathcal{E}_g,-}}^{-1}\}.$$

It follows that $[\gamma_x]$ is conjugated to some element in S_g . Noting that the set S_g neither depend on H nor on x , we conclude the proof of the proposition. \square

3.B. Continuity of Polterovich quasi-morphisms. The aim of this subsection is to prove the following technical result which will be used in the proof of Theorem 1.

Theorem 3.2. *Let $H: \Sigma_g \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ and $\{H_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ be a sequence of functions such that each $H_k: \Sigma_g \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ and $H_k \xrightarrow[k \rightarrow \infty]{} H$ in C^1 -topology. Let h and h_k be the time-one maps of the Hamiltonian flows generated by H and H_k respectively. Then*

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \overline{\Psi}(h_k) = \overline{\Psi}(h),$$

where $\overline{\Psi}$ is a homogeneous quasi-morphism on $\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ induced by Polterovich construction.

Proof. The proof of this theorem is similar to the proof of Theorem 3.4 in [7]. For the reader convenience, we present the proof below.

At this point we recall a definition of the L^1 -metric on the group $\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$. It is defined as follows. Let

$$\mathcal{L}_1\{h_t\} := \int_0^1 \int_{\Sigma_g} |\dot{h}_t(x)| \omega dt$$

be the L^1 -length of a path $\{h_t\}_{t \in [0,1]} \in \text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$, where $|\dot{h}_t(x)|$ denotes the length of the tangent vector $\dot{h}_t(x) \in T_x \Sigma_g$ induced by the Riemannian metric. Observe that this length is right-invariant, that is, $\mathcal{L}_1\{h_t \circ f\} = \mathcal{L}_1\{h_t\}$ for any $f \in \text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$. It defines a non-degenerate right-invariant metric on $\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ by

$$\mathbf{d}_1(h_0, h_1) := \inf_{h_t} \mathcal{L}_1\{h_t\},$$

where the infimum is taken over all paths from h_0 to h_1 . See Arnol'd-Khesin [1] for a detailed discussion. We set $\|h\|_1 := \mathbf{d}_1(\text{Id}, h)$. In [6] the author proved the following

Theorem 3.3 ([6]). *Let Σ_g be a closed hyperbolic surface, and $\overline{\Psi}$ a homogeneous quasi-morphism on $\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ induced by Polterovich construction. Then $\overline{\Psi}$ is Lipschitz with respect to the L^1 -metric on the group $\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$, i.e. there exists $C > 0$ such that $\forall h \in \text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$*

$$\overline{\Psi}(h) \leq C \|h\|_1.$$

Lemma 3.4. *Let $G: \Sigma_g \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ be smooth function. Then for any $\epsilon > 0$ and $p \in \mathbf{N}$ there exists $\delta_p > 0$, such that if G is δ_p -close to a smooth function $F: \Sigma_g \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ in C^1 -topology, then*

$$\mathbf{d}_1(g^p, f^p) < \epsilon,$$

where g_t and f_t are the Hamiltonian flows generated by G and F , and g and h are time-one maps of these flows.

Proof. We replace \mathbf{D}^2 by Σ_g in the proof of Lemma 3.7 in [7]. Now the proof is identical to the proof of Lemma 3.7 in [7]. \square

Proposition 3.5. *Let $H: \Sigma_g \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$. Then for any $\epsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$, such that if $F: \Sigma_g \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ is δ -close to H in C^1 -topology then:*

$$|\overline{\Psi}(h) - \overline{\Psi}(f)| \leq \epsilon,$$

where h and f are time-one maps of flows generated by H and F .

Proof. Fix some $\epsilon > 0$. Let C be the constant which was defined in Theorem 3.3. Take $p \in \mathbf{N}$ such that $\frac{D_{\overline{\Psi}} + C}{p} < \epsilon$. It follows from Lemma 3.4 that there exists $\delta_p > 0$, such that if F is δ_p -close to H in C^1 -topology, then $\mathbf{d}_1(f^p, h^p) < 1$. Thus we obtain

$$|\overline{\Psi}(f) - \overline{\Psi}(h)| = \frac{1}{p} |\overline{\Psi}(f^p) - \overline{\Psi}(h^p)| \leq \frac{D_{\overline{\Psi}} + |\overline{\Psi}(f^p h^{-p})|}{p}.$$

It follows from Theorem 3.3 that

$$|\overline{\Psi}(f^p h^{-p})| \leq C \mathbf{d}_1(\text{Id}, f^p h^{-p}) = C \mathbf{d}_1(f^p, h^p) < C.$$

Thus

$$|\overline{\Psi}(f) - \overline{\Psi}(h)| < \frac{D_{\overline{\Psi}} + C}{p} < \epsilon.$$

\square

Proposition 3.5 concludes the proof of Theorem 3.2. \square

3.C. Proof of Theorem 1. Recall that the group $\pi_1(\Sigma_g)$ is a subgroup of \mathcal{MCG}_g^1 . Denote by $Q_{\mathcal{MCG}_g^1}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g), S_g)$ the space of homogeneous quasi-morphisms on $\pi_1(\Sigma_g)$ so that:

- For each $\varphi \in Q_{\mathcal{MCG}_g^1}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g), S_g)$ there exists $\widehat{\varphi} \in Q(\mathcal{MCG}_g^1)$ such that $\widehat{\varphi}|_{\pi_1(\Sigma_g)} = \varphi$,
- each φ vanishes on the finite set S_g ,

where S_g is the set defined in (4). The group $\pi_1(\Sigma_g)$ contains a non-abelian free group, and thus is not virtually abelian. It is an infinite normal subgroup of \mathcal{MCG}_g^1 and hence is a non-reducible subgroup of \mathcal{MCG}_g^1 , see [10, Corollary 7.13]. Now, by a result of Bestvina-Fujiwara [4, Theorem 12] we have the following

Corollary 3.6. *The space $Q_{\mathcal{MCG}_g^1}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g), S_g)$ is infinite dimensional.*

Note that since every non-trivial quasi-morphism in $Q_{\mathcal{MCG}_g^1}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g), S_g)$ vanishes on S_g , it can not be a homomorphism. Hence the space

$Q_{\mathcal{MCG}_g^1}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g), S_g)$ may be viewed as a linear subspace of $\widehat{Q}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g))$. Recall that by Corollary 2.1 the linear map

$$\mathfrak{Bolt}_g: \widehat{Q}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g)) \hookrightarrow \widehat{Q}(\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g))$$

is injective. Hence the map

$$\mathfrak{Bolt}_g: Q_{\mathcal{MCG}_g^1}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g), S_g) \hookrightarrow \widehat{Q}(\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g))$$

is also injective.

Denote by $Q(\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g), \text{Aut})$ the space of homogeneous quasi-morphisms on $\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ that vanish on the set $\text{Aut} \subset \text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ of all autonomous diffeomorphisms. Since $Q(\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g), \text{Aut})$ contains no non-trivial homomorphisms, it is viewed as a linear subspace of $\widehat{Q}(\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g))$. Now we are ready to state and prove our key proposition.

Proposition 3.7. *The image of the map*

$$\mathfrak{Bolt}_g: Q_{\mathcal{MCG}_g^1}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g), S_g) \hookrightarrow \widehat{Q}(\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g))$$

lies in the linear space $Q(\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g), \text{Aut})$.

Proof. Let $\psi \in Q_{\mathcal{MCG}_g^1}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g), S_g)$ and $h \in \text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ an autonomous diffeomorphism. We need to show that $\overline{\Psi}(h) = 0$, where $\overline{\Psi} = \mathfrak{Bolt}_g(\psi)$. Since Morse functions on Σ_g form a dense subset in the set of all smooth functions in C^1 -topology [11], by Theorem 3.2 it is enough to show that $\overline{\Psi}(h) = 0$, where h is a time-one map of the flow generated by some Morse function $H: \Sigma_g \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$. Recall that by definition we have

$$\overline{\Psi}(h) = \int_{\Sigma_g} \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\psi([h_x^p])}{p} \omega.$$

Since the set Reg_H is of full measure in Σ_g , it is enough to show that for each $x \in \text{Reg}_H$ the following equality holds $\lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\psi([h_x^p])|}{p} = 0$.

The group $\pi_1(\Sigma_g)$ admits the following presentation

$$(5) \quad \pi_1(\Sigma_g) = \langle \alpha_i, \beta_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq g, \prod_{i=1}^g [\alpha_i, \beta_i] = 1 \rangle.$$

For every $\alpha \in \pi_1(\Sigma_g)$ denote by $l(\alpha)$ the word length of α with respect to the set of generators given in (5). Since $\psi \in Q_{\mathcal{MCG}_g^1}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g), S_g)$, it is constant on conjugacy classes and thus $\psi(\alpha_i) = \psi(\beta_i) = 0$ for each $1 \leq i \leq g$. In addition, for every $\alpha \in \pi_1(\Sigma_g)$ we have $|\psi(\alpha)| \leq D_\psi l(\alpha)$. It follows from (2) that for every $p \in \mathbf{N}$ and $x \in \text{Reg}_H$ we have

$$[h_x^p] = \alpha'_{p,x} \circ [\gamma_x]^{k_{h,p}} \circ \alpha''_{p,x},$$

where $k_{h,p}$ is an integer which depends only h, p and x , and $l(\alpha'_{p,x}), l(\alpha''_{p,x})$ are bounded by some constant $K > 0$ independent of h, x and p . Hence for every $p \in \mathbf{N}$ and $x \in \text{Reg}_H$ we have

$$0 \leq \frac{|\psi([h_x^p])|}{p} \leq \frac{|\psi(\alpha'_{p,x})| + |k_{h,p}| |\psi([\gamma_x])| + |\psi(\alpha''_{p,x})| + 2D_\psi}{p}.$$

Since $\psi \in Q_{\mathcal{MCG}_g^1}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g), S_g)$, by definition it extends to a homogeneous quasi-morphism on \mathcal{MCG}_g^1 and vanishes on the set S_g . Hence by Proposition 3.1 we have $\psi([\gamma_x]) = 0$, and hence

$$0 \leq \frac{|\psi([h_x^p])|}{p} \leq \frac{2K \cdot D_\psi + 2D_\psi}{p} = \frac{2D_\psi(K+1)}{p}.$$

By taking $p \rightarrow \infty$ we conclude the proof of the proposition. \square

Since the map \mathfrak{Polt}_g is injective and by Corollary 3.6 the linear space $Q_{\mathcal{MCG}_g^1}(\pi_1(\Sigma_g), S_g)$ is infinite dimensional, an immediate consequence of Proposition 3.7 is the following

Corollary 3.8. *The space $Q(\text{Ham}(\Sigma_g), \text{Aut})$ is infinite dimensional.*

Remark 3.9. The existence of a non-trivial homogeneous quasi-morphism $\bar{\Psi}: \text{Ham}(\Sigma_g) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$, which is trivial on the set $\text{Aut} \subset \text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ of all autonomous diffeomorphisms, implies that the autonomous norm is unbounded. Indeed, for every $f \in \text{Ham}(\Sigma_g)$ we have that

$$|\bar{\Psi}(f)| = |\bar{\Psi}(h_1 \circ \dots \circ h_m)| \leq mD_{\bar{\Psi}}$$

and hence for every natural number n we get $\|f^n\|_{\text{Aut}} \geq \frac{|\bar{\Psi}(f)|}{D_{\bar{\Psi}}} n > 0$, provided $\bar{\Psi}(f) \neq 0$.

Remark 3.9 and Corollary 3.8 conclude the proof of the theorem. \square

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