# Twisted Patterson-Sullivan measure and applications to growth problems 

Probabilistic Methods in Negative Curvature

Rémi Coulon
March, 2021
CNRS / Université de Rennes 1

## General context

## Growth of groups

Let $G$ be a group acting properly by isometries on a geodesic space $X$.
Goal. Measure the "size" of its orbits

## Definition (Exponential growth rate)

$$
h(G, X)=\limsup _{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{r} \ln \#\{g \in G: d(g x, x) \leqslant r\} .
$$

Exercise. $h(G, X)$ does not depends on the point $x$.

## Examples

$$
h(G, X)=\underset{r \rightarrow \infty}{\limsup } \frac{1}{r} \ln \#\{g \in G: d(g x, x) \leqslant r\} .
$$

## Remark and question

## Remark

If $H$ is a subgroup of $G$, then

$$
0 \leqslant h(H, X) \leqslant h(G, X) .
$$

## Questions:

- What are the possible values of $h(H, X)$ when $H$ runs over the subgroups of $G$ ?
- When do we have $h(H, X)=h(G, X)$ ?


## Main goal of these lectures

## Simplified theorem (C.-Dougall-Schapira-Tapie)

Let $G$ be a group acting properly co-compactly by isometries on a Gromov hyperbolic space $X$. Let $N \triangleleft G$.

Then $h(N, X)=h(G, X)$ if and only if $G / N$ is amenable.

Last step of a long history.

- Grigorchuk, Cohen. $G=\mathbf{F}_{r}$.
- Brooks. $G=\pi_{1}(M)$ with $M$ hyperbolic manifold.
- Burger, Roblin, Tapie, Stadlbauer, Jaerisch, Dougall-Sharp, C.-Dal'bo-Sambusetti, etc.


## The case of free groups

## Kesten's criterion

Fix $S$ symmetric generating set of $G=\mathbf{F}_{r}$.
Let $\mu$ be the uniform probability measure on $S$.
Spectral radius of the random walk in $G / N$ :

$$
\kappa=\limsup _{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\mu^{* n}(N)}
$$

## Kesten amenability criterion

The quotient $G / N$ is amenable if and only if $\kappa=1$.

## Kesten vs. Cohen-Grigorchuk

## Almost invariants vectors and amenability

## Sketch of proof

## Sketch of proof

## The "easy" direction

## Reminder

## Simplified theorem (C.-Dougall-Schapira-Tapie)

Let $G$ be a group acting properly co-compactly by isometries on a Gromov hyperbolic space $X$. Let $N \triangleleft G$.
Then $h(N, X)=h(G, X)$ if and only if $G / N$ is amenable.

Previously: if $G$ is the free group, then

$$
h(N, X)=h(G, X) \Longrightarrow G / N \text { amenable. }
$$

## The "easy" direction

## Theorem (Roblin)

Let $G$ be a group acting properly by isometries on a hyperbolic space $X$. Let $N \triangleleft G$.

If $G / N$ is amenable, then $h(G, X)=h(N, X)$.
Proof when $X$ is CAT(-1). Write $\bar{X}=X \cup \partial X$ for the visual compactification of $X$.

## Patterson-Sullivan measures

Fix a base point $o \in X$ and a subgroup $H<G$.
Poincaré series

$$
\mathcal{P}(s)=\sum_{h \in H} e^{-s d(o, h o)}
$$

Converges if $s>h(H, X)$, diverges if $s<h(H, X)$.

## Definition

The action of $H$ on $X$ is divergent if $P_{H}(s)$ diverges at $s=h(H, X)$. It is convergent otherwise.

## Examples.

- $G \curvearrowright X$ proper and co-compact $\Longrightarrow$ divergent.


## Patterson-Sullivan measures

## Patterson-Sullivan measures

For every $x \in X$, define a measure $\bar{X}$.

$$
\nu_{x}^{s}=\frac{1}{P(s)} \sum_{h \in H} e^{-s d(x, h o)} \operatorname{Dirac}(h o)
$$

Probability measure if $x=0$.
Up to passing to a subsequence

$$
\left.\nu_{x}^{s} \frac{\text { weak* }}{s \rightarrow h_{H}}\right\rangle \nu_{x}
$$

Patterson-Sullivan density of $H: \quad \nu=\left(\nu_{x}\right)_{x \in X}$

## Patterson-Sullivan measures

## Main properties

- (Support) $\nu_{x}$ is supported on $\partial X$ (cheated a bit)
- (Normalization) $\nu_{0}$ is a probability measure
- (Equivariance) $g_{*} \nu_{x}=\nu_{g x}$ for every $g \in H$ and $x \in X$.
- (Conformality)

$$
\frac{d \nu_{x}}{d \nu_{y}}(\xi)=e^{-h_{H} \beta_{\xi}(x, y)}
$$

for every $x, y \in X$ and $\xi \in \partial X$.

## Patterson-Sullivan measures

## Patterson-Sullivan measures

## Patterson-Sullivan measures

## Shadows $\mathcal{O}_{x}(y, r)$.

## Patterson-Sullivan measures

## Shadow Lemma

Assume that $H \triangleleft G$ is normal. Let $\mu=\left(\mu_{x}\right)$ be an $h$-conformal, $H$-invariant density on $\partial X$.

There exists $C>0$ and $r$, such that for every $g \in G$,

$$
\frac{1}{C}\left\|\mu_{g o}\right\| e^{-h d(o, g o)} \leqslant \mu_{o}\left(\mathcal{O}_{o}(g o, r)\right) \leqslant C\left\|\mu_{g o}\right\| e^{-h d(o, g o)}
$$

Notation. $\left\|\mu_{x}\right\|=\mu_{x}(\partial X)$.

## Patterson-Sullivan measures

## Patterson-Sullivan measures

## Proof of the "easy" direction

## Proposition

Assume that $H \triangleleft G$ is normal. Let $\mu=\left(\mu_{x}\right)$ be an $h$-conformal, $H$-invariant density on $\partial X$.

The critical exponent of the series

$$
\sum_{g \in G}\left\|\mu_{g o}\right\| e^{-s d(o, g o)}
$$

is at most $h$.

## Proof of the "easy" direction

Here $N$ is normal in $G$. Let $Q=G / N$. Assume that $Q$ is amenable.
Goal. $h(N, X)=h(G, X)$.
Averaging Patterson-Sullivan measures.
Fix a $Q$-invariant mean $M: \ell^{\infty}(Q) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.
$\nu=\left(\nu_{x}\right)$ Patterson-Sullivan density of $N$.
Given $f \in C(\partial X)$, and $x \in X$, let

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \psi_{f, x}: \quad G / N \rightarrow \\
& \\
& u \mapsto
\end{aligned} \frac{1}{\left\|\nu_{u o}\right\|} \int f d u_{*}^{-1} \nu_{u x} .
$$

Define an $h_{N}$-conformal $N$-equivariant density $\mu=\left(\mu_{x}\right)$ by

$$
\int f d \mu_{x}=M\left(\psi_{f, x}\right), \quad \forall f \in C(\partial X)
$$

## Proof of the "easy" direction

Jensen inequality (exp is convex)

$$
\left\|\mu_{g \circ}\right\|=M\left(\exp \circ \ln \left(\psi_{\mathbb{1}, g_{\circ}}\right)\right) \geqslant \exp \left(M\left(\ln \left(\psi_{\mathbb{1}, g \circ}\right)\right)\right)
$$

Said differently

$$
\left\|\mu_{g o}\right\| \geqslant e^{\chi(g)},
$$

where

$$
\begin{array}{rlcc}
\chi: \quad G & \rightarrow & \mathbb{R} \\
& g & \mapsto & M\left(\ln \left(\psi_{1, g o}\right)\right) .
\end{array}
$$

is a homomorphism.

## Proof of the "easy" direction

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sum_{g \in G}\left\|\mu_{g o}\right\| e^{-s d(o, g o)} \geqslant \sum_{g \in G} e^{-s d(o, g o)} e^{\chi(g)} & \geqslant \sum_{g \in G} e^{-s d(o, g o)} \cosh \circ \chi(g) \\
& \geqslant \sum_{g \in G} e^{-s d(o, g o)}
\end{aligned}
$$

Hence $h(G, X) \leqslant h(N, X)$.

## The optimal statement

## Main goal of these lectures

## Simplified theorem (C.-Dougall-Schapira-Tapie)

Let $G$ be a group acting properly co-compactly by isometries on a Gromov hyperbolic space $X$. Let $N \triangleleft G$.

Then $h(N, X)=h(G, X)$ if and only if $G / N$ is amenable.

## Full theorem (C.-Dougall-Schapira-Tapie)

Let $G$ be a group acting properly by isometries on a Gromov hyperbolic space $X$. Assume that the action of $G$ on $X$ is strongly positively recurrent. Let $H<G$.

Then $h(H, X)=h(G, X)$ if and only if $H$ is co-amenable in $G$.

## Co-amenability

## Proposition-Definition

A subgroup $H<G$ is co-amenable in $G$ is one of the following equivalent assertions holds.

1. There exists a $G$-invariant mean $M: \ell^{\infty}(G / H) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.
2. The regular representation $\rho: G \rightarrow U(\mathcal{H})$ where $\mathcal{H}=\ell^{2}(G / H)$ almost has invariant vectors.
3. The Cheeger constant of the Schreier graph of $G / H$ is zero.

## Co-amenability

## Examples.

- Let $N \triangleleft G$.
$N$ is co-amenable in $G \Longleftrightarrow G / N$ is amenable.
- $G=\mathbf{F}(a, b)$

$$
H=\left\langle a^{n} b a^{-n}: n \in \mathbb{N}\right\rangle
$$

## Strongly positively recurrent action

## Well understood situation.

The action of $G$ is convex co-compact if $G$ acts properly co-compactly on a quasi-convex $G$-invariant subset $Y \subset X$.

Goal. Measure "how much" the action is not convex co-compact.

## Strongly positively recurrent action

Let $K \subset X$ be a compact subset and let

$$
G_{K}=\{g \in G: \exists x, y \in K,[x, g y] \cap G K \subset K \cup g K\}
$$

## Strongly positively recurrent action

The entropy at infinity of (the action of) $G$ is

$$
h_{\infty}(G, X)=\inf _{\substack{K \subset X \\ \text { compact }}} h\left(G_{K}, X\right)
$$

Observation. $h_{\infty}(G, X) \leqslant h(G, X)$.

## Definition (Schapira-Tapie)

The action of $G$ on $X$ is strongly positively recurrent if

$$
h_{\infty}(G, X)<h(G, X)
$$

a.k.a. statistically convex co-compact (Yang)

## Strongly positively recurrent action

## Examples.

- $G \curvearrowright X$ proper and co-compact.
- If $G$ is hyperbolic relative to $\left\{P_{1}, \ldots, P_{m}\right\}$ and $G \curvearrowright X$ is a cusped uniform action, then

$$
h_{\infty}(G, X)=\min _{1 \leqslant i \leqslant m} h\left(P_{i}, X\right) .
$$

- Ancona type surfaces


## Strongly positively recurrent action

## Optimality of the main theorem

## Full theorem (C.-Dougall-Schapira-Tapie)

Let $G$ be a group acting properly by isometries on a Gromov hyperbolic space $X$. Assume that the action of $G$ on $X$ is strongly positively recurrent. Let $H<G$.

Then $h(H, X)=h(G, X)$ if and only if $H$ is co-amenable in $G$.

## Optimality of the main theorem

- Negative curvature
- Strongly positively recurrent action


## Growth gap

## Definition

A group $G$ has Kazhdan Property $(T)$ is for every unitary representation $\rho: G \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{H})$ in a Hilbert space, if $\rho$ almost has invariant vector, then $\rho$ has a non-zero invariant vector.

## Examples.

## Growth gap

## Original problem:

$$
\text { Describe }\{h(H, X): H<G\} .
$$

## Theorem (C.-Dougall-Schapira-Tapie)

Let $G$ be a group acting properly by isometries on a Gromov hyperbolic space $X$. Assume that the action of $G$ on $X$ is strongly positively recurrent.

If $G$ has Property $(T)$, then there exists $\varepsilon>0$, such that for every subgroup $H<G$

- either $h(H, X)<h(G, X)-\varepsilon$,
- or $[G: H]<\infty$.


## The "hard" direction

## Twisted Poincaré series

## Initial data.

- $X$ CAT(-1) space. $G$ acts properly on $X$ by isometries.
- Let $\mathcal{H}$ be a Hilbert space with a partial order $\prec$ compatible with the Hilbert structure, i.e. $\left\langle\phi_{1}, \phi_{2}\right\rangle \geqslant 0$, whenever $\phi_{1} \succ 0$ and $\phi_{2} \succ 0$. Example. $\mathcal{H}=L^{2}(Y)$, where $f_{1} \prec f_{2} \Longleftrightarrow \forall y \in Y, f_{1}(y) \leqslant f_{2}(y)$.
- Let $\rho: G \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{H})$ be a positive unitary representation, i.e. $\rho(g) \phi \succ 0$ for every $g \in G$ and $\phi \succ 0$.
Example. If $G$ acts on $Y$, then $\rho: G \rightarrow \mathcal{U}\left(L^{2}(Y)\right)$ regular representation.


## Twisted Poincaré series

## Twisted Poincaré series.

$$
A(s)=\sum_{g \in G} e^{-s d(o, g o)} \rho(g)
$$

(bounded operator on $\mathcal{H}$ ).
Convergence. Strong operator topology.

## Twisted Poincaré series

Twisted Poincaré series.

$$
A(s)=\sum_{g \in G} e^{-s d(o, g o)} \rho(g) .
$$

Critical exponent. There exists $h_{\rho} \in\left[0, h_{G}\right]$ such that

- $A(s)$ converges, if $s>h_{\rho}$
- $A(s)$ diverges, if $s<h_{\rho}$


## Twisted Poincaré series

## Lemma.

Let $H<G$. Let $\mathcal{H}=\ell^{2}(G / H)$ and $\rho: G \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{H})$ be the regular representation. Then

$$
h_{H} \leqslant h_{\rho} \leqslant h_{G} .
$$

In particular, $h_{H}=h_{G} \Longrightarrow h_{\rho}=h_{G}$.

## Twisted Poincaré series

$$
A(s)=\sum_{g \in G} e^{-s d(o, g o)} \rho(g)
$$

## Twisted Poincaré series

## Exercise.

Let $H<G$. Let $\mathcal{H}=\ell^{2}(G / H)$ and $\rho: G \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{H})$ be the regular representation. Let $\phi_{u} \in \mathcal{H}$ be the Dirac at $u H$.

For every $u \in G$,

$$
\left\langle A(s) \phi_{e}, \phi_{u}\right\rangle=\sum_{g \in u H} e^{-s d(o, g o)}
$$

$A(s)$ "combines" the Poincaré series of all H -cosets.

## Twisted Poincaré series

## Theorem.

Let $\mathcal{H}$ be a Hilbert space with a partial order. Let $\rho: G \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{H})$ be a positive unitary representation. The following are equivalents

1. $h_{\rho}=h(G, X)$,
2. $\rho$ almost has invariant vectors.

Exercise. $(2) \Longrightarrow(1)$

## Twisted Patterson-Sullivan measures

Naive attempt.
Consider

$$
a_{x}^{s}=\frac{1}{\|A(s)\|} \sum_{g \in G} e^{-s d(o, g o)} \operatorname{Dirac}(g o) \rho(g)
$$

Measure on $\bar{X}=X \cup \partial X$ with value in $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$.
Other point of view. Linear functional $C(\bar{X}) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$.
Take the limit

$$
a_{x}^{s} \xrightarrow[s \rightarrow h_{\rho}]{ } a_{x}
$$

## Warning

The space of Banach valued measure is not compact!

## Ultra-limit of Hilbert spaces.

Let $\omega: \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N}) \rightarrow\{0,1\}$ be a non-principal ultra-filter, i.e.

1. $\omega(A \sqcup B)=\omega(A)+\omega(B)$ for every disjoint $A, B \subset \mathbb{N}$.
2. $\omega(\mathbb{N})=1$,
3. $\omega(A)=0$, finite $A \subset \mathbb{N}$.

A property $P_{n}$ holds $\omega$-almost surely ( $\omega$-as) if

$$
\omega\left(\left\{n \in \mathbb{N}: P_{n} \text { is true }\right\}\right)=1 .
$$

Given a real sequence $\left(u_{n}\right)$ we say that $\lim _{\omega} u_{n}=\ell$ if

$$
\forall \varepsilon>0, \quad\left|u_{n}-\ell\right|<\varepsilon \omega \text {-as. }
$$

Fact. Every real valued bounded sequences admits an $\omega$-limit.

## Ultra-limit of Hilbert spaces.

Let $\left(\mathcal{H}_{n}\right)$ be a sequence of Hilbert spaces.
Let

$$
\prod_{\omega} \mathcal{H}_{n}=\left\{\left(\phi_{n}\right) \in \prod_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{H}_{n}:\left\|\phi_{n}\right\| \text { is bounded }\right\} .
$$

Pseudo-norm. $\left\|\left(\phi_{n}\right)\right\|=\lim _{\omega}\left\|\phi_{n}\right\|$.

$$
W=\left\{\left(\phi_{n}\right) \in \prod_{\omega} \mathcal{H}_{n}:\left\|\left(\phi_{n}\right)\right\|=0\right\} \text { is a vector space. }
$$

Proposition-Definition.
$\mathcal{H}_{\omega}:=\prod \mathcal{H}_{n} / W$ is a Hilbert space.

Notations. $\lim _{\omega} \phi_{n}$ : image of $\left(\phi_{n}\right)$ in $\mathcal{H}_{\omega}$.

## Ultra-limit of Hilbert spaces.

For our purpose

- $\left(\mathcal{H}_{n}\right)$ constant sequence equal to $\mathcal{H}$.
- $\mathcal{H}_{\omega}$ is endowed with a partial order $\prec$ coming from the one on $\mathcal{H}$.
- If $\left(B_{n}\right)$ is a bounded sequence of operators on $\mathcal{H}$ one defines $B_{\omega}=\lim _{\omega} B_{n}$ by

$$
B_{\omega}\left(\lim _{\omega} \phi_{n}\right)=\lim _{\omega}\left(B_{n} \phi_{n}\right) .
$$

$B_{\omega}$ belongs to $\mathcal{B}\left(\mathcal{H}_{\omega}\right)$.

- In particular, $\rho: G \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{H})$ induces a positive unitary representation $\rho_{\omega}: G \rightarrow \mathcal{U}\left(\mathcal{H}_{\omega}\right)$


## Exercise.

$\rho$ almost have invariant vectors $\Longleftrightarrow \rho_{\omega}$ has a non-zero invariant vector.

## Twisted Patterson-Sullivan measures

Second attempt.
Recall

$$
a_{x}^{s}=\frac{1}{\|A(s)\|} \sum_{g \in G} e^{-s d(o, g o)} \operatorname{Dirac}(g o) \rho(g)
$$

Fix a sequence $s_{n}>h_{\rho}$, converging to $h_{\rho}$.

Define $a_{x}$ as follows.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\int f d a_{x} & :=\lim _{\omega} \int f d a_{x}^{s_{n}} \\
& =\lim _{\omega} \frac{1}{\left\|A\left(s_{n}\right)\right\|} \sum_{g \in G} e^{-s_{n} d(o, g o)} f(g o) \rho(g), \quad \forall f \in C(\bar{X}) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Measure on $\bar{X}$ with values in $\mathcal{B}\left(\mathcal{H}_{\omega}\right)$.

## Twisted Patterson-Sullivan measures

## Main properties

- (Support) $a_{x}$ is supported on $\partial X$ (cheated a bit)
- (Normalization) $\int \mathbb{1} d a_{0}$ has norm 1.
- (Twisted equivariance) $g_{*} a_{x}=\rho_{\omega}(g)^{-1} a_{g x}$ for every $g \in G$ and $x \in X$.
- (Conformality)

$$
\frac{d a_{x}}{d a_{y}}(\xi)=e^{-h_{\rho} \beta_{\xi}(x, y)} \mathrm{Id}
$$

for every $x, y \in X$ and $\xi \in \partial X$.

## The "hard" direction (continued)

## Reminder

## Twisted Poincaré series.

$$
\left.A(s)=\sum_{g \in G} e^{-s d(o, g o)} \rho(g) \quad \text { (bounded operator on } \mathcal{H}\right) .
$$

Critical exponent: $h_{\rho} \in\left[0, h_{G}\right]$

## Theorem.

Let $\mathcal{H}$ be a Hilbert space with a partial order. Let $\rho: G \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{H})$ be a positive unitary representation. The following are equivalents

1. $h_{\rho}=h_{G}$,
2. $\rho$ almost has invariant vectors.

## Reminder

Let

$$
a_{x}^{s}=\frac{1}{\|A(s)\|} \sum_{g \in G} e^{-s d(o, g o)} \operatorname{Dirac}(g o) \rho(g)
$$

Fix a sequence $s_{n}>h_{\rho}$, converging to $h_{\rho}$.
Fix a non-principal ultra-filter $\omega$.

Define $a_{x}$ as follows.

$$
\int f d a_{x}=\lim _{\omega} \int f d a_{x}^{s_{n}}
$$

Measure on $\bar{X}$ with values in $\mathcal{B}\left(\mathcal{H}_{\omega}\right)$
Twisted Patterson-Sullivan density: $a=\left(a_{x}\right)$.

## Twisted Patterson-Sullivan measures

## Main properties

- (Support) $a_{x}$ is supported on $\partial X$ (cheated a bit)
- (Normalization) $\int \mathbb{1} d a_{o} \in \mathcal{B}\left(\mathcal{H}_{\omega}\right)$ has norm 1 .
- (Twisted equivariance) $g_{*} a_{x}=\rho_{\omega}(g)^{-1} a_{g x}$ for every $g \in G$ and $x \in X$.
- (Conformality)

$$
\frac{d a_{x}}{d a_{y}}(\xi)=e^{-h_{\rho} \beta_{\xi}(x, y)} \mathrm{Id}
$$

for every $x, y \in X$ and $\xi \in \partial X$.

## Twisted Patterson-Sullivan measures

## Shadow Lemma

Let $\nu=\left(\nu_{x}\right)$ be an $h_{G}$-conformal, $G$-invariant density on $\partial X$.
There exists $C>0$ and $r$, such that for every $g \in G$,

$$
\frac{1}{C} e^{-h_{G} d(o, g o)} \leqslant \nu_{o}\left(\mathcal{O}_{o}(g o, r)\right) \leqslant C e^{-h_{G} d(o, g o)}
$$

## Twisted Patterson-Sullivan measures

## Shadow Lemma

Let $\nu=\left(\nu_{x}\right)$ be an $h_{G}$-conformal, $G$-invariant density on $\partial X$.
There exists $C>0$ and $r$, such that for every $g \in G$,

$$
\frac{1}{C} e^{-h_{G} d(o, g o)} \leqslant \nu_{o}\left(\mathcal{O}_{o}(g o, r)\right) \leqslant C e^{-h_{G} d(o, g o)}
$$

## Half shadow Lemma

For every $r>0$, there exists $C>0$, such that for every $g \in G$,

$$
\left\|a_{o}\left(\mathcal{O}_{o}(g o, r)\right)\right\| \leqslant C e^{-h_{\rho} d(o, g o)}
$$

## Heuristic of the proof

Assumption. $h_{\rho}=h_{G}$.
Consequence. For every $g \in G$,

$$
\left\|a_{o}\left(\mathcal{O}_{o}(g o, r)\right)\right\| \prec e^{-h_{\rho} d(o, g o)} \asymp e^{-h_{G} d(o, g o)} \asymp \nu_{o}\left(\mathcal{O}_{o}(g o, r)\right),
$$

where $\nu_{o}$ (standard) Patterson-Sullivan measure of $G$.

In other words $a_{0} \ll \nu_{o}$.

## Heuristic of the proof

Introduce

$$
D=\frac{d a_{o}}{d \nu_{o}}: \partial X \rightarrow \mathcal{B}\left(\mathcal{H}_{\omega}\right)
$$

- Equivariance/Conformality of $\nu_{o} / a_{o}$ implies

$$
D(g \xi)=\rho_{\omega}(g) D(\xi), \quad \forall g \in G, \forall \xi \in \partial X, \nu_{o} \text {-as. }
$$

- Ergodicity of $G$ on $\left(\partial X \times \partial X, \nu_{o} \otimes \nu_{o}\right)$ implies $D$ is constant $\nu_{o}$-as.

Conclusion. The image of $D$ consists of $\rho_{\omega}$-invariant vectors.

## From shadows to absolute continuity

## Radial limit set

Given $K \subset X$ compact, define $\Lambda_{\text {rad }}^{K}$.

$$
\Lambda_{\mathrm{rad}}=\bigcup_{\substack{K \subset \subset \\ \text { compact }}} \Lambda_{\mathrm{rad}}^{K}
$$

## Absolute continuity

## Proposition

If the action of $G$ on $X$ is strongly positively recurrent, then there exists $K \subset X$ compact such that $\Lambda_{\text {rad }}^{K}$ has full measure for both $\nu_{o}$ and $a_{0}$.

Consequence (using the Shadow Lemmas)

## Absolute continuity

## Corollary

There exists a unique linear continuous map

$$
D: \mathcal{H}_{\omega} \rightarrow L^{\infty}\left(\partial X, \mathcal{H}_{\omega}\right)
$$

such that for every $f \in C(\bar{X})$, for every $\phi \in \mathcal{H}_{\omega}$,

$$
\left(\int f d a_{o}\right) \phi=\int f D(\phi) d \nu_{o}
$$

Roughly speaking,

$$
D=\frac{d a_{o}}{d \nu_{o}}
$$

## Exploiting equivariance/conformality

## Proposition

Choose $\phi \in \mathcal{H}_{\omega}$ and let $\psi=D(\phi)$
For every $g \in G$,

$$
\psi \circ g=\rho_{\omega}(g) \Psi, \quad \nu_{o} \text {-a.s. }
$$

## Exploiting equivariance/conformality

## Hopf-Tsuji-Sullivan theorem

## Theorem

Let $G$ be a group acting properly by isometries on a CAT(-1) space $X$. The following statements are equivalent

1. The action of $G$ is divergent
2. The Patterson-Sullivan measure $\nu_{o}$ only charges the radial limit set.
3. The geodesic flow on $S X / G$ is ergodic (for the Bowen-Margulis measure).
4. The diagonal action of $\Gamma$ on $\left(\partial X \times \partial X, \nu_{o} \otimes \nu_{o}\right)$ is ergodic.

Reminder: $G \curvearrowright X$ strongly positively recurrent $\Longrightarrow \nu_{o}$ only charges the radial limit set.

## Hopf-Tsuji-Sullivan theorem

## Exploiting ergodicity

## Proposition

Choose $\phi \in \mathcal{H}_{\omega}$. The map $\psi=D(\phi)$ is essentially constant.

## Exploiting ergodicity

## Summary.

Assumption: $h_{\rho}=h_{G}$.

1. Build a twisted Patterson-Sullivan density $a=\left(a_{x}\right)$.
2. $a_{0}$ is absolutely continuous with respect to $\nu_{o}$ (uses strong positive recurrence).
3. $D: \mathcal{H}_{\omega} \rightarrow L^{\infty}\left(\partial X, \mathcal{H}_{\omega}\right)$ "Radon-Nikodym" derivative.
4. $D$ is non-zero: the norm of $\int \mathbb{1} d a_{0}$ is 1 .
5. Choose $\phi \in \mathcal{H}_{\omega}$, such that $\psi=D(\phi)$ is non-zero.
6. $\Psi$ is essentially constant and $\rho_{\omega}$-equivariant.

Conclusion: the essential value $\psi$ of $\psi$ is a non-zero invariant vector for $\rho_{\omega}$.
... hence the initial representation $\rho$ almost has invariant vectors.

## That's all folks!

## Radial limit set

## Proposition

If the action of $G$ on $X$ is strongly positively recurrent, then there exists $K \subset X$ compact such that $\Lambda_{\text {rad }}^{K}$ has full measure for both $\nu_{o}$ and $a_{0}$.

## Radial limit set

## Radial limit set

## Radial limit set

