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FOUR DODECAHEDRAL SPACES

PETER LORIMER

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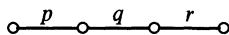
Four dodecahedral spaces are constructed from the Coxeter groups $[3, 3, 5]$ and $[5, 3, 5]$. Two of these are the Poincaré homology sphere and its hyperbolic analogue discovered by Weber and Seifert (1933). Two are spherical manifolds and two are hyperbolic.

The 120-cell is a tessellation of the sphere S^3 in 4-dimensional space into dodecahedrons and its group of symmetries is the Coxeter group $[3, 3, 5]$ of order 14400. (See [5, 7, 8 pp. 131–134].) This group has a subgroup G_1 , which can be used to construct the Poincaré homology sphere as the orbit space of the action of G_1 on S^3 [8, pp. 123–126].

This paper is based on two observations. First, the group $[3, 3, 5]$ is a homomorphic image of the Coxeter group $[5, 3, 5]$, which is the group of symmetries of a tessellation of 3-dimensional hyperbolic space by dodecahedrons. Second, the group $[3, 3, 5]$ has a subgroup G_2 , which is not isomorphic to G_1 , but has those properties which enable the Poincaré homology sphere to be defined from G_1 .

As a consequence, four dodecahedral spaces can be constructed from $[3, 3, 5]$. One of them is the homology sphere of Poincaré and another is a hyperbolic manifold discovered by Weber and Seifert [11].

1. The Coxeter groups $[3, 3, 5]$ and $[5, 3, 5]$. The Coxeter group with Dynkin diagram,



is generated by four elements a, b, c, d subject to the relations

$$\begin{aligned} a^2 = b^2 = c^2 = d^2 = (ab)^p = (bc)^q = (cd)^r \\ = (ac)^2 = (bd)^2 = (ad)^2 = 1, \end{aligned}$$

and is denoted by $[p, q, r]$.

The group $[3, 3, 5]$ is a central product of two copies of $SL(2, 5)$ extended by an involution which interchanges the two factors. It has order 14400.

John Cannon's group theory package CAYLEY was used to show the following.

(I) The group $[3, 3, 5]$ has nine conjugacy classes of subgroups of index 120, two of which contain subgroups which intersect $\langle b, c, d \rangle$ trivially. Two subgroups which are representative of these two classes are:

$$G_1 = \langle adcbdcabcab, acbdcbcdcab, abcdcbcdcbcb \rangle;$$

$$G_2 = \langle adcb, acbdcbcdabcabc \rangle.$$

As the subgroup $\langle b, c, d \rangle$ has index 120 in $[3, 3, 5]$, it is a complement of each subgroup in each of these classes.

(II) The group $[3, 3, 5]$ is generated by a_1, b, c, d and a_2, b, c, d where

$$a_1 = a(bcd)^5 a (bcd)^5 a,$$

$$a_2 = (bcd)^5 a_1 (bcd)^5.$$

Also, these quadruples satisfy the relations for $[5, 3, 5]$, with a_1 or a_2 in place of a .

It is a consequence of (II) that there are unique homomorphisms,

$$\varphi, \psi: [5, 3, 5] \rightarrow [3, 3, 5],$$

which satisfy

$$\varphi(a) = a_1, \quad \varphi(b) = b, \quad \varphi(c) = c, \quad \varphi(d) = d,$$

$$\psi(a) = a_2, \quad \psi(b) = b, \quad \psi(c) = c, \quad \psi(d) = d.$$

In these equations and much of the following, the letters a, b, c, d represent the generators of both $[3, 3, 5]$ and $[5, 3, 5]$, but it should be clear from the context which group is involved.

As a_1 and a_2 both lead to the same hyperbolic dodecahedral space, only the first of them will be considered in detail.

The subgroups $\psi^{-1}(G_1)$ and $\varphi^{-1}(G_2)$ have the same properties in $[5, 3, 5]$ that G_1 and G_2 have in $[3, 3, 5]$; they have index 120 and intersect $\langle b, c, d \rangle$ trivially.

2. The spherical spaces. In 4-dimensional Euclidean space, the points at distance 1 from the origin form a 3-dimensional manifold, the 3-sphere S^3 ; it inherits its "spherical" metric from the space in which it lies. In much the same way that the 2-sphere, S^2 , can be tessellated by 12 regular pentagons to form a regular dodecahedron, so S^3 can be tessellated by 120 regular dodecahedrons to form the 120-cell. This has 600 vertices, 1200 edges and 720 pentagonal faces.

The group of symmetries of the 120-cell can be described as follows. Let α , β , γ , δ be a flag of the 120-cell, i.e. δ is one of its dodecahedral cells, γ is a pentagonal face in the boundary of δ , β is a boundary edge of γ and α is an end point of β . The 120-cell has symmetries a , b , c , d which are reflections in hyperplanes of the 4-dimensional space in which it lies and satisfy:

- a fixes α , β and γ but not δ ,
- b fixes α , β and δ but not γ ,
- c fixes α , γ and δ but not β ,
- d fixes β , γ and δ but not α .

These reflections are uniquely determined, they generate the full group of symmetries of the 120-cell and they satisfy all the relations for [3, 3, 5]. In fact, these two groups are isomorphic in this interpretation and, for the rest of this section, they will be identified with one another.

In [3, 3, 5], as a group of symmetries of the 120-cell, the stabilizers of the elements α , β , γ , δ are the subgroups $V = \langle a, b, c \rangle$, $E = \langle a, b, d \rangle$, $F = \langle a, c, d \rangle$ and $C = \langle b, c, d \rangle$ respectively.

These subgroups have orders 24, 12, 20 and 120, respectively, and [3, 3, 5] acts sharply transitively on the flags of the 120-cell.

Consider the subgroups G_1 and G_2 defined in §1. As each of them is a complement of C in [3, 3, 5], the interior of δ is a fundamental region for each of the orbit spaces S^3/G_1 and S^3/G_2 , i.e., each point of the interior of δ lies in a different orbit under the action of G_1 and G_2 and each point of S^3 is in the same orbit as at least one point in the closure of δ (see [7, 10]). Thus, the orbit spaces can be identified with the closure of δ with certain identifications among the vertices, edges and faces in its boundary.

The necessary identifications can be calculated using CAYLEY. Those for the subgroups G_1 give rise to the Poincaré homology sphere, a diagram of which can be found in [8, page 125]. Those for G_2 are shown in Figure 1 (see next page), at least for the edges and faces.

CAYLEY also shows that G_1 and G_2 intersect V , E and F trivially. This shows up in Figure 1 where the vertices are identified in 5 lots of 4, the edges are identified in 10 lots of 3 and the faces are identified in 6 lots of 2. Consequently, both orbit spaces are spherical manifolds. Moreover, it follows from [1] that G_1 and G_2 are the fundamental groups of their orbit spaces. It is well known that G_1 is isomorphic to $SL(2, 5)$. On the other hand, G_2 is defined in terms

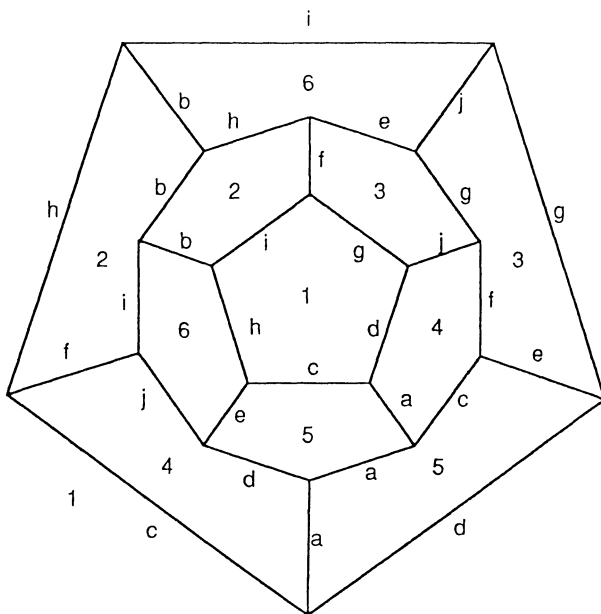


FIGURE 1
The spherical space

of the given generators, rewritten as p and q , by the relations

$$p^2 = q^3 = (pq^2)^3.$$

This is a solvable group of order 120 in which the derived group has index 15. Thus the first homology group of the corresponding manifold is the cyclic group of order 15.

3. The hyperbolic spaces. Three-dimensional hyperbolic space, \mathbb{H}^3 , can be tessellated by regular dodecahedrons with 12 meeting at each vertex and 5 meeting at each edge [2]. The group of symmetries of this tessellation can be described in the same way as the group of the 120-cell. A flag $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ is defined in the same way and in terms of it, reflections a, b, c, d in planes of \mathbb{H}^3 are identified, just as in §1. With a, b, c, d as generators, the group of symmetries of this tessellation of hyperbolic space is $[5, 3, 5]$ and the stabilizers in $[5, 3, 5]$ of $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ are $V = \langle a, b, c \rangle$, $E = \langle a, b, d \rangle$, $F = \langle a, c, d \rangle$ and $C = \langle b, c, d \rangle$, respectively, just as before.

As C is a complement of both $\varphi^{-1}(G_1)$ and $\varphi^{-1}(G_2)$ in $[5, 3, 5]$, the orbit spaces of both these subgroups have the interior of δ as a fundamental region and the resulting manifold can be identified with the closure of δ , with certain elements of its boundary identified with each other. Again, the identifications are easily calculated using

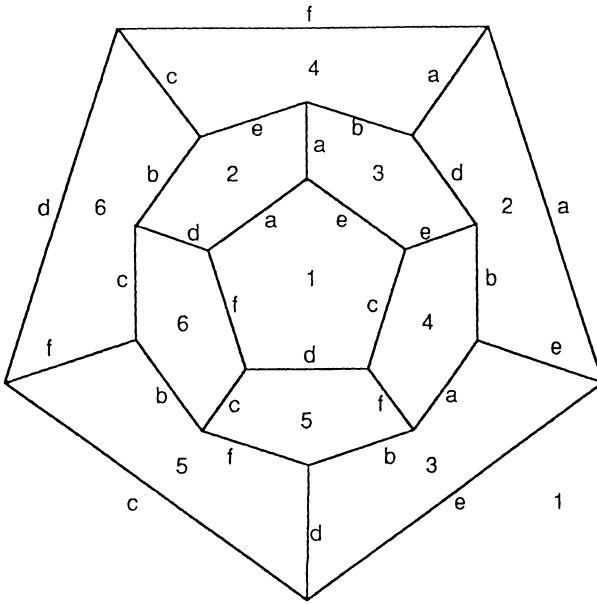


FIGURE 2
The hyperbolic space

CAYLEY. That arising from $\varphi^{-1}(G_1)$ turns out to be the Weber-Seifert manifold [3, 11] and the other is illustrated in Figure 2.

By the Theorem in [1], the groups $\varphi^{-1}(G_1)$ and $\varphi^{-1}(G_2)$ are the fundamental groups of these manifolds. The Reidemeister-Schreier process in CAYLEY shows that $\varphi^{-1}(G_1)$ is generated by

$$\begin{aligned}
 p &= bacbdacdbcbda, & q &= adcbdcbabedc, \\
 r &= ababcdabcbdb, & s &= cdcdbcbcbaba,
 \end{aligned}$$

and has defining relations,

$$\begin{aligned}
 pqsrpr^{-2}s^{-1}qps &= pqr^{-1}pr^{-2}s^{-1}qsr^{-1}s^{-1}q \\
 &= pq^2srspqsr^2p^{-1}s^{-1}q = pqsr^2p^{-1}rs^{-1}r^{-1}s^{-1}q^{-1}p^{-1}s^{-1}q = 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

In the representation of [5, 3, 5] on the left cosets of $\varphi^{-1}(G_1)$, the representation of each of the stabilizers V , E , F and C is faithful and the image of $\varphi^{-1}(G_1)$ intersects their images, and the images of all their conjugates, trivially. Thus, in [5, 3, 5], the subgroup $\varphi^{-1}(G_1)$ contains no element, except the identity, fixing a point of \mathbb{H}^3 . Thus, by the Theorem in [1], $\varphi^{-1}(G_1)$ is the fundamental group of its orbit space, the Weber-Seifert manifold. From the given relations, it is easy to calculate that the quotient group of $\varphi^{-1}(G_1)$ over its derived group

is isomorphic to $C_5 \times C_5 \times C_5$, thus confirming the calculation at the end of [11]. This is the first homology group of the space.

The same is true, in principle, for the other hyperbolic manifold, except that $\varphi^{-1}(G_2)$ is generated by

$$\begin{aligned} p &= babcbabcdbabca, & q &= dcbacdcbab, \\ r &= acbadcdcdcba, & s &= dcdabc, \end{aligned}$$

with defining relations

$$\begin{aligned} pr^2sp^{-1}rs^2 &= pr^2q^{-1}s^{-1}p^{-1}s^{-2}r^{-1}s^{-1}q \\ &= pr^2q^{-1}s^{-1}r^{-1}p^{-1}q^{-1}sp^{-1}q^{-1} \\ &= pr^2q^{-1}sp^{-1}r^{-1}ps^{-1}q^{-1}sp^{-1}r^{-1}q^{-1} = 1. \end{aligned}$$

This is the fundamental group of the second hyperbolic manifold: its derived quotient is $C_{15} \times C_{15}$ and that is the first homology group of the space.

As each of $\varphi^{-1}(G_1)$ and $\varphi^{-1}(G_2)$ intersect each of V , E , F trivially, the manifolds both inherit a hyperbolic metric from \mathbb{H}^3 : they are hyperbolic manifolds.

Everything in this section remains valid with a_2 in place of a_1 and ψ in place of φ . However, the resulting manifolds turn out to be the same.

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Surfaces in the 3-dimensional Lorentz-Minkowski space satisfying $\Delta x = Ax + B$	201
LUIS ALÍAS, ANGEL FERRANDEZ and PASCUAL LUCAS	
Lie algebras of type D_4 over number fields	209
BRUCE ALLISON	
Subsemigroups of completely simple semigroups	251
ANNE ANTONIPPILLAI and FRANCIS PASTIJN	
Studying links via closed braids. VI. A nonfiniteness theorem	265
JOAN BIRMAN and WILLIAM W. MENASCO	
Minimal orbits at infinity in homogeneous spaces of nonpositive curvature	287
MARÍA J. DRUETTA	
Generalized horseshoe maps and inverse limits	297
SARAH ELIZABETH HOLTE	
Determinantal criteria for transversality of morphisms	307
DAN LAKSOV and ROBERT SPEISER	
Four dodecahedral spaces	329
PETER LORIMER	
Semifree actions on spheres	337
MONICA NICOLAU	
Conformal deformations preserving the Gauss map	359
ENALDO VERGASTA	
Hecke eigenforms and representation numbers of arbitrary rank lattices	371
LYNNE WALLING	