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Toric varieties vs. horofunction compactifications of polyhedral norms

Lizhen Ji and Anna-Sofie SCHILLING

Abstract. We establish a natural and geometric 1-1 correspondence between projective toric varieties of dimension n and horofunction compactifications of \mathbb{R}^n with respect to rational polyhedral norms. For this purpose, we explain a topological model of toric varieties. Consequently, toric varieties in algebraic geometry, normed spaces in convex analysis, and horofunction compactifications in metric geometry are directly and explicitly related.

Mathematics Subject Classification (2010). Primary: 14M25, 14M27, 53C23.

Keywords. Toric varieties, horofunctions, compactifications.

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1. Introduction

In this paper we give a correspondence between the three seemingly different concepts: *toric varieties*, *horofunction compactifications* and *polyhedral norms*. Toric varieties provide a basic class of algebraic varieties which are relatively simple. The nonnegative part and the moment map of toric varieties are essential

ingredients of the rich structure of toric varieties. The horofunction compactification of metric spaces is a general method to construct compactifications of metric spaces introduced by Gromov [Gro1, §1.2] in 1981 (see §4 below). Finally, polyhedral norms on \mathbb{R}^n give a special class of normed linear spaces (or Minkowski spaces [Tho]) and metric spaces (see §3 below).

In this paper we establish an explicit geometric connection between projective toric varieties of dimension n and horofunction compactifications of \mathbb{R}^n with respect to rational polyhedral norms.

Theorem 1.1. *In every dimension $n \geq 1$, there exists a bijective correspondence between projective toric varieties X of dimension n and rational polyhedral norms $\|\cdot\|$ on \mathbb{R}^n up to scaling such that:*

- (1) *The nonnegative part $X_{\geq 0}$ of a projective toric variety X is homeomorphic to the horofunction compactification $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}^{hor}$ of \mathbb{R}^n with respect to the distance induced by the corresponding polyhedral norm $\|\cdot\|$. This homeomorphism maps the canonical stratification of $X_{\geq 0}$ coming from the toric variety structure to the canonical stratification of $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}^{hor}$ from the polyhedral norm. The preservation of the stratifications can also be stated as follows: when the nonnegative part of the complex torus in X is naturally identified with \mathbb{R}^n , this map extends to a homeomorphism between $X_{\geq 0}$ and $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}^{hor}$.*
- (2) *Equivalently, the image of the moment map of the toric variety X is homeomorphic to the horofunction compactification $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}^{hor}$ of \mathbb{R}^n with respect to the distance induced by the corresponding polyhedral norm $\|\cdot\|$, and this homeomorphism preserves the canonical stratifications mentioned above.*

As we shall see below, any toric variety X has a canonical decomposition in terms of orbits of the torus action, which induces a canonical stratification of the nonnegative part $X_{\geq 0}$, and the horofunction compactification of \mathbb{R}^n induced by a polyhedral norm $\|\cdot\|$ also has a canonical stratification determined by the faces of the associated polytope. These are the stratifications mentioned in the theorem.

The correspondence in the theorem above is canonical and given as follows: The unit ball of a rational polyhedral norm $\|\cdot\|$ is a rational convex polytope P in \mathbb{R}^n which contains the origin as an interior point, which in turn gives a fan $\Sigma = \Sigma_P$ in \mathbb{R}^n by taking cones over the faces of P , and hence gives a toric variety $X = X_\Sigma$. Note that the fan Σ_P does not change when the polytope P is scaled, and hence the correspondence is up to scaling on the polyhedral norms $\|\cdot\|$.

This result adds another perspective on the close relations between integral convex polytopes and toric projective varieties, and for a detailed description see [Oda1, Chap 2].

Theorem 1.1 implies the following.

Corollary 1.2. *Let $\|\cdot\|$ be a rational polyhedral norm on \mathbb{R}^n , and P its unit ball. Let P° be the polar set¹ of P , a polytope dual to P . Then the horofunction compactification of \mathbb{R}^n with respect to $\|\cdot\|$ is homeomorphic P° .*

This gives a bounded realization of the horofunction compactification of \mathbb{R}^n . The same result holds for the horofunction compactification of any polyhedral norm on \mathbb{R}^n whether it is rational or not and is proven in [JS, Theorem 1.2].

It is well-known that algebro-geometric and cohomology properties of toric varieties X_Σ are determined by combinatorial and convexity properties of their fans Σ (see [Ful] [CLS] [Oda]). Consequently, the existence of a correspondence between toric varieties and polyhedral norms is not surprising. But it is probably not obvious that there exists such a direct and explicit connection between *horofunction compactifications of \mathbb{R}^n in metric geometry* and *important parts of toric varieties X_Σ* : the nonnegative part $X_{\Sigma, \geq 0}$ and the image of the moment map of X_Σ .

The correspondence in Theorem 1.1 can give numerical invariants to toric varieties. As mentioned above, for every rational polytope P , scaling it to cP , for any $c \in \mathbb{Q}^+$, does not change the associated fan $\Sigma = \Sigma_P$ and its toric variety X_Σ . It turns out that for every norm $\|\cdot\|$ on \mathbb{R}^n , the volume of its unit ball $B_{\|\cdot\|}$ with respect to measures induced from the norm is independent of the scaling too, see §3 below for the definition of $B_{\|\cdot\|}$. Let $\text{vol}_{\|\cdot\|}$ be a measure on \mathbb{R}^n determined by $\|\cdot\|$. For any $c > 0$, let $c\|\cdot\|$ be the norm scaled by c . Then the unit ball is scaled by c^{-1} :

$$B_{c\|\cdot\|} = c^{-1} B_{\|\cdot\|}.$$

Since the measure is scaled by

$$\text{vol}_{c\|\cdot\|} = c^n \text{vol}_{\|\cdot\|},$$

we have

$$\text{vol}_{c\|\cdot\|}(B_{c\|\cdot\|}) = c^n \text{vol}_{\|\cdot\|}(B_{c\|\cdot\|}) = c^n \text{vol}_{\|\cdot\|}(c^{-1} B_{\|\cdot\|}) = c^n c^{-n} \text{vol}_{\|\cdot\|}(B_{\|\cdot\|}).$$

In the last equality, we have used $\text{vol}_{\|\cdot\|}(cB_{\|\cdot\|}) = c^n \text{vol}_{\|\cdot\|}(B_{\|\cdot\|})$. This proves that the volume $\text{vol}_{\|\cdot\|}(B_{\|\cdot\|})$ is independent of the scaling.

For normed vector spaces of finite dimensions, there are several choices of measures. According to [AT], there are four commonly used definitions of volumes on normed vector spaces: Busemann volume, Holmes–Thompson volume, Gromov volume and Benson volume.

¹ For a definition see Equation 2.4 on page 389.

By definition, the Busemann volume of the unit ball $B_{\|\cdot\|}$ for any norm $\|\cdot\|$ on \mathbb{R}^n is equal to the volume of the Euclidean unit ball in dimension n , and hence is independent of the choice of the norm $\|\cdot\|$. On the other hand, the volume of the unit ball with respect to the other three measures are more complicated [AT, §3.2] and hence more interesting.

By Theorem 1.1, each projective toric variety X_Σ gives a unique polyhedral norm $\|\cdot\|$ and its associated unit ball $B_{\|\cdot\|}$, which is a polytope P in \mathbb{R}^n . Consequently, we obtain the following corollary:

Corollary 1.3. *Choose one of the three volumes: Holmes–Thompson volume, Gromov volume or Benson volume. Then for each projective toric variety X , the volume of the unit ball P of the associated polyhedral norm corresponding to the toric variety X gives a numerical invariant of X .*

One natural question is the meaning of such volumes for toric varieties. Note that if we use the standard Euclidean metric on \mathbb{R}^n , then the volume of the convex polytope P is related to the implicit degree of the projective toric variety X_{Σ_P} . See [Sot, §5, Theorem 5.4].

The correspondence in Theorem 1.1 also raises the question of how to understand toric varieties by using metric geometry and to understand and use the horofunctions for toric varieties.

Horofunction compactification and noncommutative geometry

Before we explain some detailed definitions of toric varieties and horofunction compactifications in later sections, we point out a connection between horofunction compactifications of normed vector spaces and reduced C^* -algebras of discrete groups and consequently the noncommutative geometry.

After the horofunction compactification of a proper metric space was introduced by Gromov [Gro1, §1.2] in 1981, the horofunction compactification of a complete simply connected nonpositively curved manifold was identified with the geodesic compactification in [BGS, §3]. This gives a direct connection between the geometry of geodesics and analysis, or rather a class of special functions, on the manifold. Among nonpositively curved simply connected Riemannian manifolds, horofunctions are difficult to compute except for symmetric spaces of noncompact type and Euclidean spaces (see [Hat], [GJT]). For noncompact locally symmetric spaces of nonpositive curvature, the horofunction compactification was identified in [JM] and [DFS]. It will be seen below that \mathbb{R}^n with polyhedral norms provide another class of spaces for which all horofunctions can be computed or identified [Wal1].

It turned out that the horofunction compactifications of \mathbb{R}^n with respect to norms are unexpectedly related to the noncommutative geometry developed by Alain Connes (see [Con], [Rie1] and [Rei2]). This brought another perspective to horofunction compactifications and motivated the work in this paper.

Let Γ be a countable discrete group such as \mathbb{Z}^n and $SL(n, \mathbb{Z})$. Let $C_c(\Gamma)$ be the convolution \star -algebra of complex valued functions of finite support, i.e., of compact support, on Γ . Let π be the usual \star -representation of $C_c(\Gamma)$ on $\ell^2(\Gamma)$. Then the norm-completion of $\pi(C_c(\Gamma))$ in the space of operators of $\ell^2(\Gamma)$ is the *reduced C^* -algebra* of Γ , denoted by $C_r^*(\Gamma)$.

Let ℓ be a *length function* of Γ , i.e., a function $\ell : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ such that (1) $\ell(e) = 0$, (2) for all $g \in \Gamma$, $\ell(g^{-1}) = \ell(g)$, (3) for all $g_1, g_2 \in \Gamma$, $\ell(g_1 g_2) \leq \ell(g_1) + \ell(g_2)$.

For example, the word length on Γ with respect to a set of generators gives rise to such a length function.

Let M_ℓ be the multiplication operator on $\ell^2(\Gamma)$ defined by the length function ℓ , which is usually unbounded. Then M_ℓ serves as a Dirac operator in the noncommutative geometry of $C_r^*(\Gamma)$. The following fact is true: *For every $f \in C_c(\Gamma)$, the commutator $[M_\ell, \pi(f)]$ is a bounded operator on $\ell^2(\Gamma)$.* This allows one to define a *semi-norm* on $C_c(\Gamma)$:

$$L_\ell(f) = \|[M_\ell, \pi(f)]\|.$$

In general, if L is a semi-norm on a dense sub- \star -algebra A of a unital C^* -algebra \bar{A} such that $L(1) = 0$, then Connes [Con] (see [Rie1, p. 606]) defined a metric ρ_L on the state space $S(\bar{A})$ of \bar{A} as follows: For any two states $\mu, \nu \in S(\bar{A})$,

$$\rho_L(\mu, \nu) := \sup \{ |\mu(a) - \nu(a)| \mid a \in A, L(a) \leq 1 \}.$$

We recall that a state on a C^* -algebra \bar{A} is a positive linear functional of norm 1. The set of all states of a C^* -algebra \bar{A} is denoted by $S(\bar{A})$, and is a convex subset of the space of linear functionals of \bar{A} . Extreme points of $S(\bar{A})$ are called pure states of \bar{A} . When $\bar{A} = C^0(X)$, the space of continuous functions on a compact topological space X , then states on \bar{A} correspond to probability measures on X , and pure states correspond to evaluations on X .

In [Rie1, p. 606], Rieffel called a semi-norm L on A a *Lip-norm* if the topology on $S(\bar{A})$ induced from ρ_L coincides with the weak \star -topology, and he called a unital C^* -algebra \bar{A} equipped with a Lip-norm a *compact quantum metric space*.

In [Rie1], Rieffel asked the question: *Given a discrete group Γ , is the seminorm L_ℓ on $C_c(\Gamma)$ coming from a length function on Γ a Lip-norm?*

He could only handle the case $\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}^n$ and proved the following result:

Proposition 1.4 ([Rie1], Thm 0.1). *Let ℓ be a length function on \mathbb{Z}^n which is either the word length for some finite generating set or the restriction to \mathbb{Z}^n of some norm on \mathbb{R}^n . Then the induced seminorm L_ℓ is a Lip-norm on $C_c(\mathbb{Z}^n)$, and hence $C_r^*(\mathbb{Z}^n)$ is a compact quantum metric space.*

In proving this result, Rieffel made crucial use of horofunction compactifications of \mathbb{R}^n with respect to norms. In this paper, he also raised the following question ([Rie1, Question 6.5]): *Is it true that, for every finite-dimensional vector space and every norm on it, every horofunction (i.e., a boundary point of the horofunction compactification of \mathbb{R}^n) is a Busemann function, i.e., the limit of an almost-geodesic ray?*

This question motivated the paper [KMN] and was settled completely in [Wal1]. It also motivated the other papers [Wal2], [Wal3], [Wal5], [AGW], [WW1], [WW2], [And], [Dev] and [LS] on horofunction compactifications.

2. Toric varieties

In this section, we give a summary of several results on toric varieties which are needed to understand and prove Theorem 1.1. The basic references for this section are [Ful], [CLS], [Oda1], [Oda2], [AMRT], [Cox] and [Sot].

Definition 2.1. A toric variety over \mathbb{C} is an irreducible variety V over \mathbb{C} such that

- (1) the complex torus $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ is a Zariski dense subvariety of V , where $\mathbb{C}^* = \mathbb{C} - \{0\}$, and
- (2) the action of $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ on itself by multiplication extends to an action of $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ to V .

We fix the *standard lattice* \mathbb{Z}^n in \mathbb{R}^n , which gives \mathbb{R}^n an *integral structure*, and also a \mathbb{Q} -structure, $\mathbb{Q}^n \subset \mathbb{R}^n$.

Recall that a *rational polyhedral cone* $\sigma \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is a cone generated by finitely many elements u_1, \dots, u_m of \mathbb{Z}^n , or equivalently of \mathbb{Q}^n :

$$\sigma = \{\lambda_1 u_1 + \dots + \lambda_m u_m \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \geq 0\}.$$

Usually, σ is assumed to be *strongly convex*: $\sigma \cap -\sigma = \{0\}$, i.e., σ does not contain any line through the origin. A *face* of a cone σ is the intersection of σ with the 0-level set of a linear functional which is nonnegative on σ . The *relative interior* and *relative boundary* of a cone σ are the interior and respectively boundary of σ in the linear subspace spanned by σ .

For each strongly convex rational polyhedral cone σ , define its *dual cone* σ^\vee by

$$(2.1) \quad \sigma^\vee := \{v \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \langle v, u \rangle \geq 0, \text{ for all } u \in \sigma\}.$$

Then σ^\vee is also a convex rational polyhedral cone, though it is not strongly convex anymore unless $\dim \sigma = n$.

Definition 2.2. A fan Σ in \mathbb{R}^n is a collection of strongly convex rational polyhedral cones such that

- (1) if $\sigma \in \Sigma$, then every face of σ also belongs to Σ ;
- (2) if $\sigma, \tau \in \Sigma$, then their intersection $\sigma \cap \tau$ is a common face of both of them, and hence belongs to Σ .

In this paper, we only deal with fans which consist of finitely many polyhedral cones.

It is known that there is a strong correspondence between fans $\Sigma \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and toric varieties, namely:

- (1) For every fan Σ of \mathbb{R}^n , there is an associated toric variety X_Σ , which is a normal algebraic variety.
- (2) If a toric variety X is a normal variety, then V is of the form X_Σ for some fan Σ in \mathbb{R}^n .

Because of this correspondence, toric varieties are often required to be normal, for example in [Ful]. In this paper, we follow this convention and require toric varieties to be normal.

The construction of a toric variety X_Σ from a fan Σ and a description of its topology in terms of Σ is crucial to the proof of Theorem 1.1. Therefore we give a short description here:

Given a fan Σ in \mathbb{R}^n , its associated *toric variety* X_Σ is constructed as follows:

- (1) Each cone $\sigma \in \Sigma$ gives rise to an affine toric variety U_σ . Specifically, $\sigma^\vee \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ is a finitely generated semigroup. Let $\mathbf{m}_1, \dots, \mathbf{m}_k \in \sigma^\vee \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ be a set of generators of this semigroup, i.e., every element of $\sigma^\vee \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ is of the form $a_1 \mathbf{m}_1 + \dots + a_k \mathbf{m}_k$, with a_i being non-negative integers. Then the Zariski closure of the image of $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ in \mathbb{C}^k under the embedding

$$\varphi : (\mathbb{C}^*)^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^k, \quad \mathbf{t} \mapsto (\mathbf{t}^{\mathbf{m}_1}, \dots, \mathbf{t}^{\mathbf{m}_k})$$

is the affine toric variety U_σ . Note that we use Laurent monomials for the notation: $\mathbf{t}^{\mathbf{m}_j} = \prod_{l=1}^n t_l^{m_{j,l}}$ for all $\mathbf{t} = (t_1, \dots, t_n) \in (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ where $m_{j,l}$ denotes the l -th component of \mathbf{m}_j .

- (2) For any two cones σ_1, σ_2 in Σ , if σ_1 is a face of σ_2 , then U_{σ_1} is a Zariski dense subvariety of U_{σ_2} .
- (3) The toric variety X_Σ is obtained by gluing these affine toric varieties U_σ together:

$$X_\Sigma = \cup_{\sigma \in \Sigma} U_\sigma / \sim,$$

where the relation \sim is given by the inclusion relation in (2): Note that for any two cones $\tau, \sigma \in \Sigma$, the intersection $\tau \cap \sigma$, if nonempty, is a common face of both τ and σ , and hence $U_{\tau \cap \sigma}$ can be identified with a subvariety of both U_τ and U_σ .

Many properties of X_Σ can be expressed in terms of the combinatorial properties of the fan Σ . We state one about the orbits of $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ in X_Σ , and details can be found for example in [CLS, p. 119], [Cox, §9] or [Ful, §3.1].

Proposition 2.3. *For every toric variety X_Σ , there is a bijective correspondence between orbits of the torus $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ in X_Σ and cones σ in the fan Σ . Denote the orbit in X_Σ corresponding to σ by $\text{orb}(\sigma) \subset X_\Sigma$. Then $\text{orb}(\sigma)$ is a complex torus isomorphic to $(\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-\dim \sigma}$. In particular, the open and dense orbit $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ corresponds to the trivial cone $\{0\}$.*

2.1. A topological model of toric varieties. In order to better understand the toric variety X_Σ as a compactification of $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$, we want to give a topological description of X_Σ which exhibits its dependence on Σ clearly and also describes explicitly sequences in $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ which converge to points in the complement $X_\Sigma - (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$.

To do so, note that in terms of the standard integral structure $i\mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{C}$, we can realize \mathbb{C}^* by:

$$i\mathbb{Z} \backslash \mathbb{C} \cong \mathbb{C}^*, \quad z \mapsto e^{-2\pi z},$$

and when $\text{Re}(z) \rightarrow +\infty$, it holds $e^{-2\pi z} \rightarrow 0$. Then the exponential map $e^{-2\pi \mathbf{z}} = (e^{-2\pi z_1}, \dots, e^{-2\pi z_n})$ gives an identification

$$i\mathbb{Z}^n \backslash \mathbb{C}^n \cong (\mathbb{C}^*)^n.$$

Conversely, using the logarithmic function $-\frac{1}{2\pi} \ln$, we get an identification

$$(2.2) \quad (\mathbb{C}^*)^n \cong i\mathbb{Z}^n \backslash \mathbb{C}^n.$$

In the following, we denote the complex torus $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ by T .

Given any fan Σ in \mathbb{R}^n , we will now define a *bordification* \overline{T}_Σ of $T = (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ and show in Proposition 2.10 below that \overline{T}_Σ is homeomorphic to the toric variety X_Σ as T -topological spaces.

Definition 2.4. For each cone $\sigma \in \Sigma$, define the *boundary component*

$$O(\sigma) = i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n / \text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\sigma).$$

Note that this is a complex torus $(\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-\dim \sigma}$ of dimension $n - \dim \sigma$. When $\sigma = \{0\}$, then $O(\sigma) = T$. Later we will identify $O(\sigma)$ with $\text{orb}(\sigma)$.

Definition 2.5. Define a *topological bordification* \overline{T}_{Σ} by

$$(2.3) \quad \overline{T}_{\Sigma} = T \cup \coprod_{\substack{\sigma \in \Sigma, \\ \sigma \neq \{0\}}} O(\sigma)$$

with the following topology: A sequence $\mathbf{z}_j = \mathbf{x}_j + i\mathbf{y}_j \in T = i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n$, where $\mathbf{x}_j \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbf{y}_j \in \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{R}^n$, converges to a point $\mathbf{z}_{\infty} \in O(\sigma)$ for some $\sigma \in \Sigma$ if and only if the following conditions hold:

- (1) The real part \mathbf{x}_j can be written as $\mathbf{x}_j = \mathbf{x}'_j + \mathbf{x}''_j$ such that when $j \rightarrow +\infty$ it holds
 - (a) the first part \mathbf{x}'_j is contained in the relative interior of the cone σ and its distance to the relative boundary of σ goes to infinity,
 - (b) the second part \mathbf{x}''_j is bounded.
- (2) the image of \mathbf{z}_j in $O(\sigma) = i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n / \text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\sigma)$ under the projection

$$i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n / \text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\sigma)$$

converges to the point \mathbf{z}_{∞} .

Note that the imaginary part \mathbf{y}_j of \mathbf{z}_j lies in the compact torus $\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{R}^n = (S^1)^n$, and the second condition controls both the imaginary part \mathbf{y}_j and the bounded component \mathbf{x}''_j of the real part \mathbf{x}_j .

The behavior of converging sequences is schemetically shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

Remark 2.6. The above definition of \overline{T}_{Σ} and the identification of X_{Σ} with \overline{T}_{Σ} in Proposition 2.10 follows the construction and discussion in [AMRT, pp. 1-6]. We note that there is one difference with the convention there: On page 2 in [AMRT], the complex torus $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ is identified with $\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n$, and the real part is the compact torus $(S^1)^n$, and the imaginary part is $i\mathbb{R}^n$, which can be identified with \mathbb{R}^n .

Remark 2.7. The toric variety X_{Σ} is compact if and only if the support of Σ is equal to \mathbb{R}^n , i.e., Σ gives a rational polyhedral decomposition of \mathbb{R}^n . Similarly, it is clear from the definition that the bordification \overline{T}_{Σ} is a compactification of T if and only if the support of Σ is equal to \mathbb{R}^n .

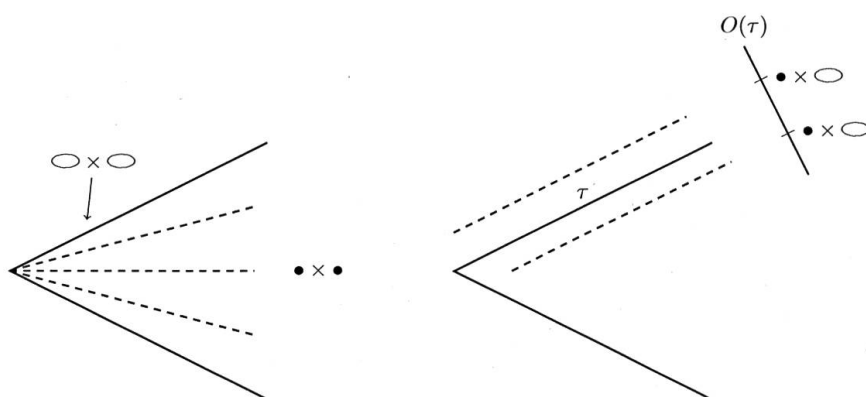


FIGURE 1

Left: Within a chamber all fibers $S^1 \times S^1$ (the imaginary part) collapse in the same way: Both circles are collapsed to points. Right: Fibers parallel to a wall collapse differently, depending on the wall and the distance to it. Only one circle is collapsed to a point.

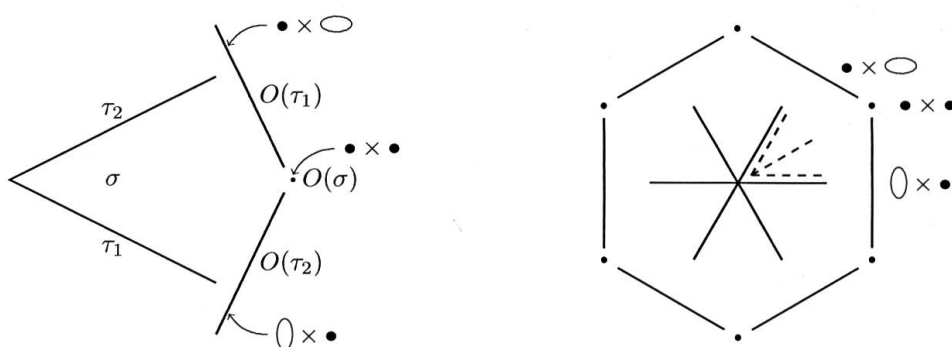


FIGURE 2

Left: Collapsing behaviour of the fibers when the base point moves to infinity. Depending on the direction of movement either one or both circles are collapsed. Right: Global picture of collapsing of a whole toric variety.

To obtain a continuous action of T on \overline{T}_Σ , we note that \mathbb{C}^n or $i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n$ acts on T and on every boundary component $O(\sigma)$ by translation. These translations are compatible in the following sense.

Lemma 2.8. *For any sequence $\mathbf{z}_j \in T = i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n$, if \mathbf{z}_j is convergent in \overline{T}_Σ , then for any vector $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{C}^n$, or rather its image in $i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n$, the shifted sequence $\mathbf{z}_j + \mathbf{z}$ is also convergent. Furthermore,*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{z}_j = \mathbf{z} + \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbf{z}_j.$$

This implies the following result.

Proposition 2.9. *The action of $T = (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ on itself by multiplication extends to a continuous action on \overline{T}_Σ , and the decomposition in Equation 2.3 into $O(\sigma)$ gives the orbit decomposition of \overline{T}_Σ with respect to the action of T .*

Proof. We note that the multiplication of the torus T on itself and on the boundary components $O(\sigma)$ corresponds to translation in \mathbb{C}^n and $i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n$. Then the proposition follows from Lemma 2.8. \square

One key result we need for the proof of Theorem 1.1 is the following description of the toric variety X_Σ as a *topological T -space*. Since this proposition and its proof are not explicitly written down in literature, we give an outline of the proof on page 387 for the convenience of the reader.

Proposition 2.10. *The identity map on $T = (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ extends to a homeomorphism $X_\Sigma \rightarrow \overline{T}_\Sigma$, which is equivariant with respect to the action of $T = (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$, and the T -orbits $\text{orb}(\sigma)$ in the toric variety X_Σ are mapped homeomorphically to the boundary components $O(\sigma)$.*

The identification between X_Σ and \overline{T}_Σ allows one to see that when a sequence $(\mathbf{x}_j)_j$ of points in the real part \mathbb{R}^n of the complex torus $i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n$ goes to infinity along the directions contained in a cone σ of the fan Σ , the sequence \mathbf{x}_j will converge to a point of a complex torus $i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n / \text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\sigma)$ of smaller dimension. Hence the compact torus $(S^1)^n$, which is the fiber over x_j in the toric variety, will collapse to a torus of smaller real dimension $\dim \sigma$.

Remark 2.11. This result is well-known and can be found for example in [AMRT, pp. 1-6] [Oda2, §10] [Cox, p. 211] or [Ful, p. 54]. Such a picture of toric varieties including also the compact part of the torus $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ is often described in connection with the moment map of toric varieties (for a reference see [Ful, p. 79] or [Mi]). We will come back to this map later. But first we need a description of it as a bordification of T instead of a bounded realization via the image of the moment map. A bordification of the noncompact part of the torus $\mathbb{R}^n \subset (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ is described in this way in [AMRT, p. 6] (see also [Oda2, §10]) together with a map from the toric variety to this bordification.

First, we recall some properties of orbits of T in a toric variety X_Σ . The 1-1 correspondence between T -orbits in X_Σ and cones in Σ mentioned in Proposition 2.3 above can be described more explicitly (see [Ful, p. 28], [CLS, p. 118] and [Cox, p. 212]):

Proposition 2.12. *For every cone $\sigma \in \Sigma$, there is a **distinguished point** x_σ in the affine toric variety $U_\sigma \subset X_\Sigma$. It is contained in the orbit $\text{orb}(\sigma)$ of $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ in X_Σ corresponding to σ (see Proposition 2.3), and hence the orbit $\text{orb}(\sigma)$ is equal to the orbit $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n \cdot x_\sigma$.*

The distinguished point x_σ can be described as follows: The smallest cone $\{0\}$ of the fan Σ corresponds to the affine toric variety $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$, and the distinguished point is $(1, \dots, 1)$ in this case. The T -orbit through this point gives T .

In general, we note that every one-parameter subgroup $\lambda : \mathbb{C}^* \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ is of the form

$$\lambda_{\mathbf{m}}(z) = (z^{m_1}, \dots, z^{m_n}),$$

where $\mathbf{m} = (m_1, \dots, m_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n$. Let \mathbf{m} be an integral vector contained in the relative interior of the cone σ . By [Ful, p. 37] [CLS, Proposition 3.2.2] (see also [Cox, p. 212]), the distinguished point is given by

$$x_\sigma = \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \lambda_{\mathbf{m}}(z) \in X_\Sigma.$$

We need to identify this distinguished point $x_\sigma \in U_\sigma \subset X_\Sigma$ with a corresponding distinguished point in the bordification \overline{T}_Σ .

Lemma 2.13. *Under the identification of X_Σ with \overline{T}_Σ in Proposition 2.10, this distinguished point x_σ in X_Σ corresponds to the image 0_σ of the origin of \mathbb{C}^n in \overline{T}_Σ under the projection $\mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow O(\sigma) = i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n / \text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\sigma)$. When the orbit $O(\sigma)$ is identified with $(\mathbb{C}^*)^r$, where $r = \text{codim}(\sigma) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{C}^n / \text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\sigma))$, then 0_σ corresponds to $(1, \dots, 1)$.*

Proof. As mentioned before, for the trivial cone $\sigma = \{0\}$ of the fan Σ , the distinguished point is $(1, \dots, 1)$. Under the identification $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n = i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n$ in Equation 2.2 on page 382, the distinguished point x_σ corresponds to the image of the origin of \mathbb{C}^n under the projection $\mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n$.

Therefore, x_σ corresponds to 0_σ in $O(\sigma) \subset \overline{T}_\Sigma$. For any nontrivial cone $\sigma \subset \Sigma$, the distinguished point x_σ in the orbit $\text{orb}(\sigma)$ is equal to the limit $\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \lambda_{\mathbf{m}}(z)$ in X_Σ , where \mathbf{m} is an integral vector contained in the relative interior of the cone σ .

We need to determine the limit $\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \lambda_{\mathbf{m}}(z)$ in the bordification \overline{T}_Σ . When we identify $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ with $\mathbb{R}^n \times i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{R}^n = i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n$ as above in Equation 2.2, the complex curve $z \mapsto \lambda_{\mathbf{m}}(z)$ ($z \in \mathbb{C}$) in $i\mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \mathbb{C}^n$ is the image of a complex line in \mathbb{C}^n with slope given by \mathbf{m} , and hence its real part is a straight line in \mathbb{R}^n through the origin with slope \mathbf{m} , i.e., $t \mapsto (m_1 t, \dots, m_n t)$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\lambda_{\mathbf{m}}(z)$ is contained in $\text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\sigma)$.

By the definition of the topology of \overline{T}_Σ above, $\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \lambda_{\mathbf{m}}(z)$ converges to the distinguished point 0_Σ in $O(\sigma)$, i.e., to the image of the origin of \mathbb{C}^n in $O(\sigma)$. This proves Lemma 2.13. \square

Lemma 2.14. *For any cone $\sigma \in \Sigma$, a sequence \mathbf{z}_j in $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n = T$ converges to the distinguished point x_σ in the toric variety X_Σ if and only if it converges to the distinguished point 0_σ in the topological model \overline{T}_Σ .*

Proof. We note that for the open subset $U_\sigma \subset X_\Sigma$, under the embedding of $U_\sigma \subset \mathbb{C}^k$ in Equation 2.1 on page 381, the coordinates $\mathbf{t}^{\mathbf{m}_i}$ of the distinguished point x_σ are either 0 or 1 depending on whether the element \mathbf{m}_i in $\sigma^\vee \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ is zero or positive on σ . This implies that a sequence $\mathbf{z}_j \in (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ converges to the distinguished point x_σ if and only if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) for any $\mathbf{m} \in \sigma^\vee \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ with $\mathbf{m}|_\sigma > 0$, it holds $\mathbf{z}_j^{\mathbf{m}} \rightarrow 0$ as $j \rightarrow +\infty$,
- (2) for any $\mathbf{m} \in \sigma^\vee \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ with $\mathbf{m}|_\sigma = 0$, it holds $\mathbf{z}_j^{\mathbf{m}} \rightarrow 1$ as $j \rightarrow +\infty$.

Note that the vectors in $\sigma^\vee \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ with $\mathbf{m}|_\sigma \geq 0$ span the dual cone σ^\vee , i.e., linear combinations of these vectors with nonpositive coefficients give σ^\vee . In terms of the identification $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n = i\mathbb{Z}^n \backslash \mathbb{C}^n$, write $\mathbf{z}_j = \mathbf{x}_j + i\mathbf{y}_j$ with $\mathbf{x}_j, \mathbf{y}_j \in \mathbb{R}^n$ as in the definition of the topology of \overline{T}_Σ , then the above condition on \mathbf{z}_j is equivalent to the following conditions:

- (1) The real part \mathbf{x}_j can be written as $\mathbf{x}_j = \mathbf{x}'_j + \mathbf{x}''_j$ such that when $j \rightarrow +\infty$,
 - (a) the first part \mathbf{x}'_j is contained in the interior of the cone σ and its distance to the relative boundary of σ goes to infinity,
 - (b) the second part \mathbf{x}''_j is bounded.
- (2) The image of \mathbf{z}_j in $O(\sigma) = i\mathbb{Z}^n \backslash \mathbb{C}^n / \text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\sigma)$ under the projection

$$i\mathbb{Z}^n \backslash \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow i\mathbb{Z}^n \backslash \mathbb{C}^n / \text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\sigma)$$

converges to the image in $O(\sigma)$ of the zero vector in \mathbb{C}^n .

By the definition of \overline{T}_Σ , this is exactly the conditions for the sequence \mathbf{z}_j to converge to the distinguished point 0_σ in \overline{T}_Σ . This proves Lemma 2.14. \square

Proof of Proposition 2.10. The idea of the proof is to use the continuous actions of T on X_Σ and \overline{T}_Σ to extend the equivalence of convergence of interior sequences to the distinguished point $x_\sigma = 0_\sigma$ in Lemma 2.14 to other boundary points.

Under the action of T , the orbit $T \cdot 0_\sigma$ in \overline{T}_Σ gives $O(\sigma)$. As pointed out in Proposition 2.3 on page 382 and Proposition 2.12, the orbit $T \cdot x_\sigma$ in X_Σ gives the orbit corresponding to σ . It can be seen that the stabilizer of

the distinguished point $x_\sigma \in \text{orb}(\sigma)$ in $T = i\mathbb{Z}^n \backslash \mathbb{C}^n$ is equal to the subgroup $i\text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\sigma) \cap \mathbb{Z}^n \backslash \text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\sigma)$ (see [CLS, Lemma 3.2.5]). By the definition of \overline{T}_Σ , the stabilizer of the point $o_\sigma \in O(\sigma)$ is also equal to $i\text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\sigma) \cap \mathbb{Z}^n \backslash \text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\sigma)$. Therefore, there is a canonical identification between $\text{orb}(\sigma)$ and $O(\sigma)$.

By Lemma 2.14, for any sequence \mathbf{z}_j in T , $\mathbf{z}_j \rightarrow x_\sigma$ in X_Σ if and only if $\mathbf{z}_j \rightarrow 0_\sigma$ in \overline{T}_Σ . Take any such sequence $\mathbf{z}_j \in (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ with $\lim_{j \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbf{z}_j = x_\sigma$. Let $\mathbf{t}_j \in (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ be any converging sequence with $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{t}_j = \mathbf{t}_\infty$. For both the toric variety X_Σ and the bordification \overline{T}_Σ , the continuous actions of T on X_Σ and \overline{T}_Σ in Proposition 2.9 imply that the sequence $\mathbf{t}_j \mathbf{z}_j$ converges to $\mathbf{t}_\infty \cdot x_\sigma$ in X_Σ , and to $\mathbf{t}_\infty \cdot 0_\sigma \in O(\sigma)$ in \overline{T}_Σ respectively. This implies that a sequence of interior points \mathbf{z}_j in T converges to a boundary point in the orbit $\text{orb}(\sigma) \subset X_\Sigma$ if and only if it converges to a corresponding point in $O(\sigma) \subset \overline{T}_\Sigma$. Since σ is an arbitrary cone in Σ and \mathbf{t}_j is an arbitrary convergent sequence in $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$, this proves the topological description of toric varieties in Proposition 2.10. \square

2.2. Fans coming from convex polytopes. One way to construct fans in \mathbb{R}^n is to start with a rational convex polytope P which contains the origin as an interior point. For a more detailed reference for this construction, see [Ful, Section 1.5].

Recall that a convex polytope P in \mathbb{R}^n is the convex hull of finitely many points of \mathbb{R}^n . If the vertices of P are contained in \mathbb{Z}^n , then P is called a *rational convex polytope*².

Assume that P is a rational convex polytope in \mathbb{R}^n and contains the origin as an interior point. Then each face F of P spans a rational polyhedral cone

$$\sigma_F = \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \cdot F,$$

i.e., the face F is a section of the cone σ_F , and these cones σ_F form a fan in \mathbb{R}^n , denoted by Σ_P . See for example Figure 3 below. Denote the toric variety defined by the fan Σ_P by X_{Σ_P} . Since the support of the fan Σ_P is equal to \mathbb{R}^n , X_{Σ_P} is compact. Note that for any positive integer k , the scaled polytope kP is also a rational polytope and gives the same fan, $\Sigma_{kP} = \Sigma_P$.

It is known that not every fan Σ in \mathbb{R}^n comes from such a rational convex polytope P , as the following example shows.

Example 2.15. [Ful, p.25] Start with the fan over the faces of the cube with vertices at $(\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1)$. There are eight vertices and hence eight half-lines issued from the origin which appear as edges of the fans. Now we move the half-line from the origin to the vertex $(1, 1, 1)$ to the half-line from the origin to $(1, 2, 3)$

²This definition is due to [Ful, p. 24]. At some other places, P is called a rational convex polytope if the vertices of P are contained in \mathbb{Q}^n , and P is called an integral convex polytope if the vertices of P are contained in \mathbb{Z}^n .

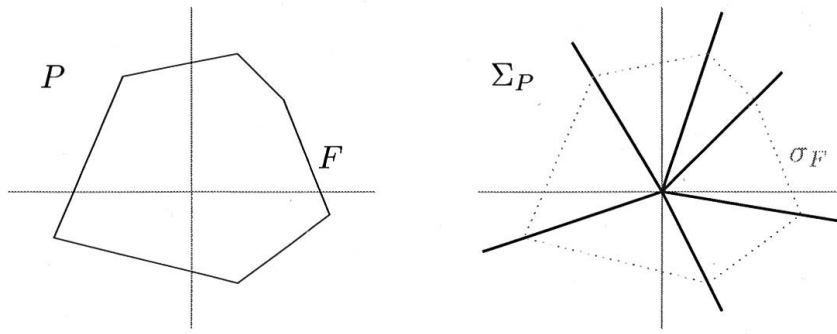


FIGURE 3

A rational convex polytope P and its corresponding fan Σ_P in \mathbb{R}^2

and obtain a new fan. It still has six top dimensional cones and eight half-lines as edges, i.e., the eight half-lines through the origin and one of the following eight points:

$$(-1, \pm 1, \pm 1), (1, -1, \pm 1), (1, 1, -1), (1, 2, 3).$$

But now it is not possible to find eight points, one on each of the half-lines, such that for each of the six cones the four corresponding generating points lie on one affine hyperplane.

The toric varieties defined by fans Σ_P which do come from rational convex polytopes P as above have a simple characterization:

Proposition 2.16. *A toric variety X_Σ is a projective variety if and only if the fan Σ is equal to the fan Σ_P induced from a rational convex polytope P containing the origin as an interior point as above.*

In [Ful, p. 26] and [Cox, p. 219], a rational polytope dual to P is used to construct a toric variety.

Definition 2.17. The *polar set* P° of a convex polytope P is defined by

$$(2.4) \quad P^\circ = \{v \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \langle v, u \rangle \geq -1, \text{ for all } u \in P\}.$$

Remark 2.18. • If P is a rational convex polytope containing the origin as an interior point, then P° is also a rational convex polytope containing the origin as an interior point.

- If P is symmetric with respect to the origin, then P° is equivalent to another common definition of polar set:

$$\{v \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \langle v, u \rangle \leq 1, \text{ for all } u \in P\}.$$

The following fact is well-known, for a reference see for example [Ful, p. 24] or [HSW, Lemma 3.7] for a proof.

Proposition 2.19. *There is a duality between P and P° which is given by a one-to-one correspondence between the set of faces of P and the set of faces of P° which reverses the inclusion relation.*

The correspondence is as follows: Let F be a face of P . Then there is exactly one face F° of P° , called the *dual face of F* , which satisfies the following two conditions:

- (1) for any $x \in F$ and $y \in F^\circ$ it holds: $\langle x, y \rangle = -1$,
- (2) $\dim(F) + \dim(F^\circ) = n - 1$.

Proof of Proposition 2.16. The fan Σ_{P° associated with the dual polytope P° above is called the *normal fan* of the polytope P and is defined for example in [Cox, pp. 217-218] or [Ful, Proposition, p. 26]. The toric varieties there are defined by the normal fans Σ_{P° of P and not by the fans $\Sigma = \Sigma_P$ as in this paper. But since the polar set of P° is equal to P , $(P^\circ)^\circ = P$, the above statement in Proposition 2.16 is equivalent to that in [Cox, Theorem 12.2] which is stated in terms of normal fans of rational polytopes. \square

2.3. Real and nonnegative part of toric varieties and the moment map. For every toric variety X_Σ , there is the notion of the nonnegative part $X_{\Sigma, \geq 0}$ (see also [Ful, p. 78], [Oda1, §1.3] and [Sot, §6]).

In \mathbb{C}^* , the real part is $\mathbb{R}^* = \mathbb{R}_{>0} \cup \mathbb{R}_{<0}$, and in the complex torus $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$, the real part is $(\mathbb{R}^*)^n$, which has 2^n -connected components. The positive part of \mathbb{C}^* is $\mathbb{R}_{>0}$, and the positive part of $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ is $(\mathbb{R}_{>0})^n$.

Under the identification (Equation 2.2 on page 382)

$$(\mathbb{C}^*)^n \cong i\mathbb{Z}^n \backslash \mathbb{C}^n = \mathbb{R}^n \times i\mathbb{Z}^n \backslash \mathbb{R}^n$$

the positive part $(\mathbb{R}_{>0})^n$ corresponds to $\mathbb{R}^n \times i0 \cong \mathbb{R}^n$.

Definition 2.20. [Sot, Definition 6.2] For any toric variety X_Σ , the closure of the positive part $(\mathbb{R}_{>0})^n$ is called the *nonnegative part* of X_Σ , denoted by $X_{\Sigma, \geq 0}$.

Under the identification in Proposition 2.10, $X_{\Sigma, \geq 0}$ can be described as follows:

Proposition 2.21. *For any fan Σ of \mathbb{R}^n , the nonnegative part $X_{\Sigma, \geq 0}$ is homeomorphic to the space*

$$\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}_\Sigma = \mathbb{R}^n \cup \coprod_{\substack{\sigma \in \Sigma, \\ \sigma \neq \{0\}}} \mathbb{R}^n / \text{Span}_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma)$$

with the following topology: An unbounded sequence $\mathbf{x}_j \in \mathbb{R}^n$ converges to a boundary point \mathbf{x}_∞ in $\mathbb{R}^n/\text{Span}_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma)$ for a cone σ if and only if one can write $\mathbf{x}_j = \mathbf{x}'_j + \mathbf{x}''_j$ such that the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) when $j \rightarrow +\infty$, \mathbf{x}'_j is contained in the cone σ and its distance to the relative boundary of σ goes to infinity,
- (2) \mathbf{x}''_j is bounded,
- (3) the image of \mathbf{x}_j in $\mathbb{R}^n/\text{Span}_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma)$ under the projection $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n/\text{Span}_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma)$ converges to \mathbf{x}_∞ .

This proposition was explained in detail and proved in [AMRT, pp. 2-6] and motivated Proposition 2.10 above.

If we denote $\mathbb{R}^n/\text{Span}_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma)$ by $O_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma)$, then for any two cones σ_1, σ_2 of the fan Σ , it holds that $O_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma_1)$ is contained in the closure of $O_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma_2)$ if and only if σ_2 is a face of σ_1 . Therefore, the nonnegative part $X_{\Sigma, \geq 0}$ can be rewritten as

$$(2.5) \quad X_{\Sigma, \geq 0} = \mathbb{R}^n \cup \coprod_{\substack{\sigma \in \Sigma, \\ \sigma \neq \{0\}}} O_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma).$$

Consequently, we have

Corollary 2.22. *The translation action of \mathbb{R}^n on \mathbb{R}^n extends to a continuous action on $X_{\Sigma, \geq 0}$, and the decomposition of $X_{\Sigma, \geq 0}$ in Equation 2.5 is the decomposition into \mathbb{R}^n -orbits. This decomposition of the nonnegative part of the toric variety $X_{\Sigma, \geq 0}$ is a cell complex dual to the fan Σ . If $\Sigma = \Sigma_P$ for a rational convex polytope P containing the origin as an interior point, then this cell complex structure is isomorphic to the cell structure of the polar set P° .*

Using the moment map for projective toric varieties, we can realize this cell complex of $X_{\Sigma, \geq 0}$ and hence the compactification $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}_\Sigma$ by a bounded convex polytope:

Let P be a rational convex polytope containing the origin as an interior point, and X_{Σ_P} the associated projective variety. By definition, each cone σ of Σ_P corresponds to a unique face F_σ of P , which gives a dual face F_σ° of the polar set P° by Proposition 2.19.

Proposition 2.23. *The moment map induces a homeomorphism*

$$\mu : X_{\Sigma_P, \geq 0} \rightarrow P^\circ$$

such that for every cone $\sigma \in \Sigma_P$, the positive part of the orbit $O(\sigma)$ as a complex torus, or equivalently the orbit $O_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma)$ in Proposition 2.21, is mapped homeomorphically to the relative interior of the face F_σ° corresponding to the cone σ .

For more details about the moment map and the induced homeomorphism, see [Oda1, p. 94], [Ful, §4.2], [Sot, §8] and [JS, Theorem 1.2].

3. Polyhedral metrics

In this section, we recall the definition of polyhedral norms on \mathbb{R}^n . They are rather special among norms of vector spaces in view of the Minkowski geometry of normed real vector spaces \mathbb{R}^n and the Hilbert geometry of bounded convex subsets of real vector spaces.

Let $\|\cdot\|$ be an *asymmetric norm* on \mathbb{R}^n , i.e., a function $\|\cdot\| : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ satisfying:

- (1) For any $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, if $\|x\| = 0$, then $x = 0$.
- (2) For any $\alpha \geq 0$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\|\alpha x\| = \alpha\|x\|$.
- (3) For any two vectors $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\|x + y\| \leq \|x\| + \|y\|$.

In particular, $\|x\|$ and $\|-x\|$ may not be equal to each other. If the second condition is replaced by the stronger condition: $\|\alpha x\| = |\alpha|\|x\|$ for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, then $\|\cdot\|$ is symmetric and is a usual norm on \mathbb{R}^n .

Normed vector spaces have been extensively studied. They are also called Minkowski geometry in [Tho]. Asymmetric norms on vector spaces have also been studied systematically, see [Cob]. In terms of their connection with convex domains below, they are natural.

Given an asymmetric norm on \mathbb{R}^n , the unit ball $B_{\|\cdot\|}$ of $\|\cdot\|$,

$$B_{\|\cdot\|} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \|x\| \leq 1\},$$

is a closed convex subset of \mathbb{R}^n which contains the origin as an interior point. Conversely, given any convex closed subset P of \mathbb{R}^n which contains the origin as an interior point, we can define the *Minkowski functional* on \mathbb{R}^n by

$$\|x\|_P = \inf \{\lambda > 0 \mid x \in \lambda P\}.$$

It can be checked easily that $\|\cdot\|_P$ defines an asymmetric norm on \mathbb{R}^n . If P is symmetric with respect to the origin, i.e., $-P = P$, then $\|x\|_P$ is a norm on \mathbb{R}^n .

It is also easy to see that the unit ball of $\|\cdot\|_P$ is equal to P . Since any asymmetric norm $\|\cdot\|$ on \mathbb{R}^n is uniquely determined by its unit ball, it is of the form $\|\cdot\|_P$ for some closed convex domain P in \mathbb{R}^n containing the origin in its interior.

Definition 3.1. When P is a polytope, the asymmetric norm $\|\cdot\|_P$ is called a *polyhedral norm*. If P is a rational polytope (with the origin as an interior point) with respect to the integral structure $\mathbb{Z}^n \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, the norm $\|\cdot\|_P$ is also called a *rational polyhedral norm*.

Remark 3.2 (Connections to the Minkowski and Hilbert geometry). This interplay between convex subsets of \mathbb{R}^n and norms on \mathbb{R}^n plays a foundational role in the convex analysis of Minkowski geometry, see for example [Gru] and [Tho]. If the lattice $\mathbb{Z}^n \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is taken into account, connections with number theory and counting of lattice points are established and the structure becomes richer. The geometry of numbers relies crucially on these connections, see also [GL] and [Bar].

There is another metric space associated with a convex open domain Ω of \mathbb{R}^n . It is the domain Ω itself equipped with the Hilbert metric defined on it. When Ω is the unit ball of \mathbb{R}^2 , this is Klein's model of the hyperbolic plane. In general, the Hilbert metric is a complete metric on Ω defined through the cross-ratio. See [deL] for details. Since Ω is diffeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^n , the Hilbert metric induces a metric on \mathbb{R}^n .

When Ω is the interior of a convex polytope P , the Hilbert metric on Ω is quasi-isometric to a polyhedral norm [Ber] [Ver]. The polyhedral Hilbert metric associated with a polytope P is isometric to a normed vector space if and only if the polytope P is the simplex [FK, Theorem 2]. Furthermore, polyhedral Hilbert metrics have also special isometry groups [LW]. See also [LN] for other special properties of these Hilbert metrics.

These discussions show that polyhedral norms on \mathbb{R}^n , in particular rational polyhedral norms, are very special in the context of the Minkowski geometry [Tho] and the Hilbert geometry [deL].

4. Horofunction compactification of metric spaces

In this section we recall briefly the horofunction compactification of metric spaces, which was first introduced in [Gro1, §1.2].

Let (X, d) be a proper metric space, in particular, a locally compact metric space. (Note that a locally compact metric space may not be proper). The metric $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ can be asymmetric, i.e., it satisfies all conditions of a usual metric except for the symmetry: $d(x, y) \neq d(y, x)$ is possible. Such metrics arise naturally in view of polyhedral norms on \mathbb{R}^n as we saw in the previous subsection.

Let $C(X)$ be the space of real valued continuous functions on X with the compact-open topology. Let $\widetilde{C}(X)$ be the quotient space $C(X)/\{\text{constant functions}\}$. Denote the image of a function $f \in C(X)$ in $\widetilde{C}(X)$ by $[f]$.

Define a map

$$\psi : X \rightarrow \widetilde{C}(X), \quad x \mapsto [d(\cdot, x)].$$

If we fix a basepoint $x_0 \in X$, then we can consider functions normalized to take value 0 at x_0 , and get a map

$$\psi : X \rightarrow C(X), \quad x \mapsto d(\cdot, x) - d(x_0, x).$$

It can be shown (see [BGS, §3]) that the closure of $\psi(X)$ in $C(X)$ is compact and that if X is a geodesic metric space and d is symmetric with respect to convergence³, then ψ is an embedding. This compact closure is called the *horofunction compactification* of X and denoted by \overline{X}^{hor} . Functions in the boundary $\overline{X}^{hor} \setminus X$ are called *horofunctions* of X . Limits of points $\psi(x_j)$ in the horofunction compactification \overline{X}^{hor} when x_j moves along an almost geodesic are called *Busemann functions*.

Remark 4.1. There are other embeddings of compact Riemann manifolds into function spaces, in particular using the heat kernel in [BBG] [KK]. See also [Gro2, §1.1]. In comparison, the horofunction compactification is simple and direct and applies to all metric spaces which are not necessarily Riemannian manifolds. It also establishes a connection between the metric and function properties of the space.

Example 4.2. When X is the Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^n with the standard Euclidean metric, it can be shown that horofunctions are linear functions of the form $-\langle \cdot, \mathbf{v} \rangle$, where $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a unit vector, and this horofunction is the Busemann function corresponding to the geodesic $t\mathbf{v}$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$. Consequently, the horofunction compactification $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}^{hor}$ is homeomorphic to the geodesic (or visual) compactification of \mathbb{R}^n which is obtained by adding the unit sphere at infinity.

Remark 4.3 (Horofunction compactification of certain spaces). When X is a simply connected complete Riemannian manifold of nonpositive curvature, the compactification \overline{X}^{hor} was also shown in [BGS] to be homeomorphic to the geodesic compactification, whose boundary is the set of equivalence classes of geodesics. More generally, when X is a complete CAT(0)-space, the same result holds [BH, Theorem 8.13]. In these cases, every horofunction is a Busemann function. When X is a symmetric space of noncompact type, horofunctions can be computed explicitly and they are related to the horospherical coordinates of X with respect to parabolic subgroups and hence to functions in the harmonic analysis on symmetric spaces (see [GJT] or [Hat]).

If a metric space is not a CAT(0)-space, then it is in general difficult to determine its horofunction compactification. One special class of contractible metric spaces which are not CAT(0)-spaces are \mathbb{R}^n with polyhedral norms. Horofunctions of \mathbb{R}^n with respect to polyhedral norms were computed in [KMN], [Wall] and [JS]. See the next section for more details.

³ Symmetric with respect to convergence means that for any sequence $(x_n)_n$ and $x \in X$ it holds: $d(x_n, x) \rightarrow 0$ if and only if $d(x, x_n) \rightarrow 0$.

The Hilbert metric on the interior of a polytope P in \mathbb{R}^n also gives a contractible metric space which is not a CAT(0)-space either. The horofunctions of such metric spaces were computed in [Wal3] and [Wal4].

Besides the application to the noncommutative geometry mentioned in the introduction, another important application of horofunctions is that they give rise to horoballs of the boundary points. They are special subsets attached to points at infinity and have various applications:

- (1) The geometry of nonpositively curved manifolds, in particular the structure of the thin part and compactifications of nonpositively curved Riemannian manifolds of finite volume [BGS]. This application was the motivation to study horofunctions in [BGS].
- (2) The dynamics of certain classes of nonlinear self-maps of convex cones [KMN].
- (3) The multiplicative ergodic theory and the law of large numbers for random walks [KL, Theorem 1.1].

5. Horofunction compactification of polyhedral normed spaces

In this section, we recall results on the horofunction compactification of \mathbb{R}^n with respect to a polyhedral norm given in [JS]. Together with the characterization of the nonnegative part of the toric varieties in Proposition 2.21, it will be used to prove Theorem 1.1.

Let P be a convex polytope of \mathbb{R}^n which contains the origin as an interior point. Let $\|\cdot\|_P$ be the polyhedral norm on \mathbb{R}^n whose unit ball is equal to P . This defines an asymmetric metric on \mathbb{R}^n by

$$d_P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|_P.$$

Since $\|\cdot\|_P$ is an asymmetric norm, $d_P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \neq d_P(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x})$ in general.

For each face F of P , let $\sigma_F = \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \cdot F$ be the cone in \mathbb{R}^n spanned by F , and $V(F)$ the linear subspace spanned by σ_F . Let

$$\Pi_F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow V(F)$$

denote the orthogonal projection onto the subspace $V(F)$.

The result [JS, Theorem 3.10] on the horofunction compactification of $(\mathbb{R}^n, d_P(\cdot, \cdot))$ can be stated as follows.

Proposition 5.1. *Let $\|\cdot\|_P$ be a polyhedral norm on \mathbb{R}^n as above. Then an unbounded sequence of points \mathbf{x}_j in \mathbb{R}^n converges to a boundary point in the horofunction compactification $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}^{hor}$ of $(\mathbb{R}^n, d_P(\cdot, \cdot))$ if and only if there exists a proper face F of P and a point $\mathbf{x}_\infty \in \mathbb{R}^n/V(F)$ such that the following conditions are satisfied:*

- (1) *When $j \gg 1$, $\Pi_F(\mathbf{x}_j)$ is contained in the cone σ_F .*
- (2) *Let $\partial_{\text{rel}}\sigma_F$ be the relative boundary of the cone σ_F , i.e., the boundary points of σ_F in $V(F)$. Then the distance $d(\Pi_F(\mathbf{x}_j), \partial_{\text{rel}}\sigma_F) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $j \rightarrow +\infty$.*
- (3) *$\mathbf{x}_j \rightarrow \mathbf{x}_\infty$ in $\mathbb{R}^n/V(F)$ as $j \rightarrow +\infty$.*

The horofunctions of $(\mathbb{R}^n, d_P(\cdot, \cdot))$ can be described explicitly in terms of convergent sequences in the above proposition.

Recall that P° is the polar set of P , which is also a polytope containing the origin as an interior point. For a convex set $C \subset (\mathbb{R}^n)^*$, we can define a *pseudo-norm*:

$$|x|_C := - \inf_{q \in C} \langle q, x \rangle.$$

Using this pseudo-norm, we define functions for each face $E \subset P^\circ$ and $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{R}^n$:

$$\begin{aligned} h_{E, \mathbf{p}} : \mathbb{R}^n &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R}, \\ \mathbf{y} &\longmapsto |\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{y}|_E - |\mathbf{p}|_E. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 5.2 ([JS], Lemma 2.16). *Let F be the face of P dual to the face E of P° . Then the function $h_{E, \mathbf{p}}$ only depends on the image of \mathbf{p} in $\mathbb{R}^n/V(F)$.*

Then the horofunction compactification of \mathbb{R}^n with respect to the polyhedral norm $\|\cdot\|_P$ in Proposition 5.1 can be described more explicitly as follows. More details are also provided in [JS, Theorem 3.10].

Proposition 5.3. *Under the conditions and notations in Proposition 5.1, let E be the face of the polar set P° which is dual to F , and \mathbf{x}_j a convergent sequence in $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}^{hor}$ defined there. Then \mathbf{x}_j converges to the function h_{E, \mathbf{x}_∞} , i.e., the function $d_P(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_j) - d_P(0, \mathbf{x}_j)$ converges to $h_{E, \mathbf{x}_\infty}(\mathbf{z})$ uniformly over compact subsets of \mathbb{R}^n .*

Note that h_{E, \mathbf{x}_∞} is well-defined by Lemma 5.2. The paper [JS] relies on the computation of horofunctions of normed vector spaces \mathbb{R}^n in [Wal1] (see also [JS, Theorem 3.6]). One basic ingredient is that the pseudo-norm with respect to P° is the polyhedral norm with respect to P :

$$|\cdot|_{P^\circ} = \|\cdot\|_P.$$

Therefore $d_P(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_j) - d_P(0, \mathbf{x}_j) = |\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{z}|_{P^\circ} - |\mathbf{x}_j|_{P^\circ} = h_{P^\circ, \mathbf{x}_j}(\mathbf{z})$ and so it is reasonable to expect that when a sequence of points \mathbf{x}_j in \mathbb{R}^n goes to the boundary (or infinity) as in Proposition 5.1, the limit of $d_P(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_j) - d_P(0, \mathbf{x}_j)$ is related to h_{E, \mathbf{x}_∞} for some face E of P° . The detailed computation is crucial to Proposition 5.1 and worked out in the proof of Theorem 3.10 in [JS].

Remark 5.4. Horofunctions of \mathbb{R}^n with respect to polyhedral norms are also computed in [KMN, Theorem 4.2], or more precisely, horoballs are computed there. They are not expressed in terms of the $h_{E, \mathbf{x}}$ described above.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Let P be a rational polytope containing the origin as an interior point. Let $\Sigma = \Sigma_P$ be the fan obtained by taking cones over the faces of P . By Propositions 2.21 and 5.1, an unbounded sequence of \mathbb{R}^n converges to a boundary point in the compactification $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}_\Sigma$ if and only if it converges in the horofunction compactification $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}^{hor}$ with respect to the polyhedral norm $\|\cdot\|_P$ or rather the metric d_P . Therefore, the two compactifications $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}_\Sigma$ and $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}^{hor}$ of \mathbb{R}^n are homeomorphic. Then Proposition 2.21 again implies that the nonnegative part $X_{\Sigma, \geq 0}$ of the toric variety is homeomorphic to the horofunction compactification $\overline{\mathbb{R}^n}^{hor}$. \square

Remark 5.5. Given the one-to-one correspondence between the toric varieties and rational polyhedral norms in Theorem 1.1 and the fact that each polytope P also determines a Hilbert metric $d_H(\cdot, \cdot)$ on the interior $\text{int}(P)$ of P , one natural question is whether there exists a similar relation between $X_{\Sigma_P, \geq 0}$ and the horofunction compactification of $(\text{int}(P), d_H(\cdot, \cdot))$. The results in [Wal4] and [Wal5] show that besides the Hilbert metric, the Funk metric and the reverse Funk metric should also be considered, and that the horofunction compactification of the Funk metric seems to be related to $X_{\Sigma_{P^\circ}, \geq 0}$, the toric variety associated to the polar set P° , and the horofunction compactification of the Hilbert metric is more complicated. This question will be treated elsewhere.

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