

STRAIGHT PROJECTIVE-METRIC SPACES WITH CENTERS

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ABSTRACT. It is proved that a straight projective-metric space has an open set of centers if and only if it is either the hyperbolic or a Minkowskian geometry. It is also shown that if a straight projective-metric space has some finitely many well-placed centers, then it is either the hyperbolic or a Minkowskian geometry.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let (\mathcal{M}, d) be a metric space given in a set \mathcal{M} with the metric d . If \mathcal{M} is a projective space \mathbb{P}^n or an affine space $\mathbb{R}^n \subset \mathbb{P}^n$ or a proper open convex subset of \mathbb{R}^n for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and the metric d is complete, continuous with respect to the standard topology of \mathbb{P}^n , and the geodesic lines of d are exactly the non-empty intersection of \mathcal{M} with the straight lines, then the metric d is called *projective*.

If $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{P}^n$ and the geodesic lines of d are isometric with a Euclidean circle, or $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and the geodesic lines of d are isometric with a Euclidean straight line, then (\mathcal{M}, d) is called a *projective-metric space* of dimension n (see [1, p. 115] and [8, p. 188])

Such projective-metric spaces are called of *elliptic, parabolic or hyperbolic type* according to whether \mathcal{M} is \mathbb{P}^n , \mathbb{R}^n , or a proper convex subset of \mathbb{R}^n . The projective-metric spaces of the latter two types are called *straight* [2, p. 1].

A *metric point reflection* $\rho_{d;O}$ of a projective-metric space (\mathcal{M}, d) is a non-identical, involutive d -isometry of \mathcal{M} onto \mathcal{M} such that it fixes point O and keeps every geodesic line passing through O . A *center* of the projective-metric space (\mathcal{M}, d) is a point $O \in \mathcal{M}$, where there exists a metric point reflection $\rho_{d;O}$. If every point of a projective-metric space is a center, then it is said to be *symmetric*.

What are the symmetric projective-metric spaces?

Working with G -spaces¹, Busemann proved in [2] that a symmetric G -space of elliptic type is elliptic [2, (49.5)]², and a symmetric G -space of dimension 2 is either elliptic, or hyperbolic, or Minkowskian [2, (52.8)].

In this paper we complement Busemann's results for straight projective-metric spaces by proving *directly* in *every dimension* (Theorem 3.1 and Theorem 3.2) that a straight projective-metric space has a non-empty open set of centers if and

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¹Projective-metric spaces are the Desarguesian G -spaces [8, p. 188].

²There is no similar theorem for straight G -spaces³ as Busemann proves on [2, p. 346].

only if it is a Minkowskian or the hyperbolic geometry, respectively. Further, we show (Theorems 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5) that a straight projective-metric space has some finitely many well-placed centers if and only if it is a Minkowskian or the hyperbolic geometry, respectively.

2. NOTATIONS AND PRELIMINARIES

Points of \mathbb{R}^n are denoted as A, B, \dots , vectors are \overrightarrow{AB} or $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \dots$. Latter notations are also used for points if the origin is fixed. Open segment with endpoints A and B is denoted by \overline{AB} and the line through A and B is denoted by AB . The Euclidean scalar product is $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$.

The *affine ratio* $(A, B; C)$ of the collinear points A, B and $C \neq B$ is defined by $(A, B; C)\overrightarrow{BC} = \overrightarrow{AC}$. The *affine cross ratio* of the collinear points $A, B, C \neq B$, and $D \neq A$ is $(A, B; C, D) = (A, B; C)/(A, B; D)$ [1, page 243]. The *affine point reflection* $\bar{\rho}_O$ at point O is defined by $(X, \bar{\rho}_O(X); O) = -1$ for every point $X \neq O$ and by $\bar{\rho}_O(O) = O$.

According to [7, p. 64], a point O is called a *projective center* of the set $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$, if there is a projectivity ϖ such that $\varpi(O)$ is the affine center of $\varpi(\mathcal{S})$.

Fix a point O in the convex open bounded domain $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$. We define O^* as the locus of every point P which is the harmonic conjugate³ of O with respect to points A and B , where $\{A, B\} = \partial\mathcal{D} \cap OP$. It is easy to see that a point O is a projective center of \mathcal{D} if and only if O^* is a straight line that does not intersect \mathcal{D} [7, p. 64].

If a projective-metric space (\mathcal{M}, d) is given, we denote the geodesic line on the projective line ℓ by $\tilde{\ell}$, i.e. $\tilde{\ell} = \ell \cap \mathcal{M}$.

2.1. PROJECTIVELY INVARIANT METRICS ON PROJECTIVE LINES. The following easy, perhaps folkloric results are provided here for the sake of completeness, and because the author could not find a really good reference for them.

Lemma 2.1. *Let the function $h: (a, b) \times (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be such that $h(x, y) + h(y, z) = h(x, z)$ and $h(x, y) = h(\varpi(x), \varpi(y))$ for every $x, y, z \in (a, b)$ and any projectivity $\varpi: (a, b) \rightarrow (a, b)$. If h is bounded on an open subset of $(a, b) \times (a, b)$, then there exists a constant $c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that*

$$h(x, y) = c |\ln(a, b; x, y)|.$$

Proof. Let $\mathbb{R}_+ = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x > 0\}$ and fix the projectivity $\omega: x \in (a, b) \mapsto \frac{x-a}{b-x} \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Then the function $f: (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}_+ \mapsto h(\omega^{-1}(x), \omega^{-1}(y)) \in \mathbb{R}$ clearly satisfies $f(x, y) + f(y, z) = f(x, z)$ and $f(x, y) = f(\hat{\omega}(x), \hat{\omega}(y))$ for every $x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and for any surjective projectivity $\hat{\omega}: \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$, as $\omega^{-1} \circ \hat{\omega} \circ \omega: (a, b) \rightarrow (a, b)$ is a surjective projectivity.

³Point P satisfies $(A, B; O, P) = -1$.

A projectivity of an affine straight line is an affinity. An affinity of a straight line with a fixed point is a dilation, thus we have $f(x, y) = f(bx, by)$ for every $x, y \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Choosing $b = 1/x$ implies $f(x, y) = f(1, y/x)$ for every $x, y \in \mathbb{R}_+$, from which $f(1, y/x) + f(1, z/y) = f(x, y) + f(y, z) = f(x, z) = f(1, z/x)$ follows for every $x, y \in \mathbb{R}_+$, hence $f(1, s) + f(1, t) = f(1, st)$ for every $s, t \in \mathbb{R}_+$.

Let $g(u) = f(1, e^u)$ for every $u \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Then $g(p) + g(q) = g(p + q)$ for every $p, q \in \mathbb{R}_+$, hence, by known properties of Cauchy's functional equation [9], $g(u) = cu$ follows for some $c \in \mathbb{R}$ and every $u \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} h(x, y) &= f(\omega(x), \omega(y)) = f(1, \omega(y)/\omega(x)) = g(\ln(\omega(y)/\omega(x))) \\ &= c \cdot \ln(\omega(y) : \omega(x)) = c \ln \left(\frac{y-a}{b-y} : \frac{x-a}{b-x} \right). \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Lemma 2.2. *Let $m: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function that satisfies $m(x, y) = 0$ if and only if $x = y$, fulfills $m(x, y) + m(y, z) = m(x, z)$ if and only if $y \in [x, z]$, and satisfies $m(x, y) = m(\varpi(x), \varpi(y))$ for every surjective projectivity $\varpi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that has no fixed point. Then there are constants $c_+, c_- \in \mathbb{R}$ such that*

$$m(x, y) = c_{\text{sign}(x-y)} |y - x|.$$

Proof. A projectivity of an affine straight line is an affinity. An affinity of \mathbb{R} has the form $\varpi: x \mapsto ax + b$, where $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$. If $a \neq 1$, then $\frac{b}{1-a}$ is a fixpoint of ϖ , therefore, we have $\varpi: x \mapsto x + b$. Thus we have $m(x, y) = m(x + b, y + b)$ for every $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}$.

Choosing $b = -x$, we obtain $m(x, y) = m(0, y - x)$ for every $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$, from which $m(0, y - x) + m(0, z - y) = m(x, y) + m(y, z) = m(x, z) = m(0, z - x)$, hence $m(0, s) + m(0, t) = m(0, s + t)$ follows for every $s, t \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Let $g(u) = m(0, u)$ for every $u \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Then $g(p) + g(q) = g(p + q)$ for every $p, q \in \mathbb{R}_+$, hence, by known properties of Cauchy's functional equation [9], $g(u) = c_+u$ follows for some $c_+ \in \mathbb{R}$ and every $u \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Thus, $m(x, y) = m(0, y - x) = g(y - x) = c_+(y - x)$ for every $x \leq y$.

Now choose $b = -y$ to obtain $m(x, y) = m(x - y, 0)$ for every $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$, implying $m(x - y, 0) + m(y - z, 0) = m(x, y) + m(y, z) = m(x, z) = m(x - z, 0)$, hence $m(s, 0) + m(t, 0) = m(s + t, 0)$ for every $s, t \in \mathbb{R}_-$. Let $g(u) = m(u, 0)$ for every $u \in \mathbb{R}_-$. Then $g(p) + g(q) = g(p + q)$ for every $p, q \in \mathbb{R}_-$, hence, by known properties of Cauchy's functional equation [9], $g(u) = c_-u$ follows for some $c_- \in \mathbb{R}$ and every $u \in \mathbb{R}_-$. Thus, $m(x, y) = m(y - x, 0) = g(x - y) = c_-(x - y)$ for every $y \leq x$. \square

2.2. STRAIGHT PROJECTIVE-METRIC SPACES. The following two (most) important examples are distinguished among the straight projective-metric spaces by the property that an isometry of one geodesic on another or itself is a projectivity.

2.2.1. MINKOWSKI GEOMETRY. Given an open, strictly convex, bounded domain $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, the *indicatrix*, that is (centrally) symmetric to the origin, the function

$d_{\mathcal{I}}: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$d_{\mathcal{I}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \inf\{\lambda > 0 : (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})/\lambda \in \mathcal{I}\}$$

is a metric on \mathbb{R}^n [1, VI.48], and is called *Minkowski metric* on \mathbb{R}^n . The projective-metric spaces of type $(\mathbb{R}^n, d_{\mathcal{I}})$ are all called *Minkowski geometry*. It is the Euclidean geometry if and only if \mathcal{I} is an ellipsoid [1, (48.7)].

2.2.2. HILBERT GEOMETRY. Given an open, strictly convex, bounded domain $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, that does not contain two coplanar non-collinear segments, the function $d_{\mathcal{I}}: \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$d_{\mathcal{I}}(A, B) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } A = B, \\ \frac{1}{2}|\ln(A, B; C, D)|, & \text{if } A \neq B, \text{ where } \overline{CD} = \mathcal{I} \cap AB, \end{cases}$$

is a projective metric on \mathcal{I} [1, VI.50], and is called the *Hilbert metric* on \mathcal{I} . The projective-metric space $(\mathcal{I}, d_{\mathcal{I}})$ is called *Hilbert geometry* given in \mathcal{I} . It is the hyperbolic geometry if and only if \mathcal{I} is an ellipsoid [1, (50.2)].

2.3. ISOMETRIES AND METRIC POINT REFLECTIONS. Although some of the statements here are valid more generally, we confine ourselves here to straight projective-metric spaces (\mathcal{M}, d) .

An isometry keeps the geodesic lines, therefore, it is the restriction of a collineation [4, Theorem 3.1.]. A collineation is, by Staudt's theorem [5, (ii) Fundamental theorem of projective geometry, p. 30], a projective map of \mathbb{P}^n , so we obtain that

$$\textit{isometries are restrictions of projective maps.} \quad (2.1)$$

If there exists a metric point reflection $\rho_{d;O}$, then O is the metric midpoint of the geodesic segment $\overline{P\rho_{d;O}P} \subset \widetilde{P\rho_{d;O}P}$ for any point $P \neq O$, hence we have that

$$\textit{there is at most one metric point reflection at every point.} \quad (2.2)$$

The easy formal proof of the following statement is left to the reader.

$$\begin{aligned} &\textit{If } O \textit{ is a center, and } \varpi \textit{ is a projective map of } \mathbb{P}^n, \textit{ then } \varpi(O) \\ &\textit{ is a center of the projective-metric space } (\varpi(\mathcal{M}), d_{\varpi}), \textit{ where} \\ &d_{\varpi}(\varpi(P), \varpi(Q)) = d(P, Q) \textit{ for every point } P, Q \in \mathcal{M}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

Lemma 2.3. *We have $\rho_{d;\rho_{d;O}Q} = \rho_{d;O} \circ \rho_{d;Q} \circ \rho_{d;O}$.*

Proof. The map $\iota := \rho_{d;O} \circ \rho_{d;Q} \circ \rho_{d;O}$ is clearly a non-trivial isometry, and fixes point $Q' := \rho_{d;O}Q$, because $\iota Q' = \iota \rho_{d;O}Q = \rho_{d;O} \rho_{d;Q} Q = \rho_{d;O}Q = Q'$. Further, it satisfies $\iota^2 = (\rho_{d;O} \circ \rho_{d;Q} \circ \rho_{d;O}) \circ (\rho_{d;O} \circ \rho_{d;Q} \circ \rho_{d;O}) = \text{id}$.

Assume that points $A', B' \in \mathcal{M}$ are such that $Q' \in \widetilde{A'B'}$. Let $A = \rho_{d;O}A'$ and $B = \rho_{d;O}B'$. Then $Q = \rho_{d;O}Q' \in \rho_{d;O}(\widetilde{A'B'}) = \widetilde{AB}$, hence $\iota(\widetilde{A'B'}) = \iota A' \iota B' = \rho_{d;O} \circ \rho_{d;Q}(\widetilde{AB}) = \rho_{d;O}(\widetilde{BA}) = \widetilde{B'A'}$, i.e. ι keeps every geodesic passing through Q' .

Thus, ι is non-trivial, isometric, fixes Q' , involutive, and keeps the geodesic lines passing through Q' , therefore, by (2.2), it is the metric point reflection $\rho_{d;Q'}$. \square

Lemma 2.4. *The set of the centers is closed.*

Proof. Let O_n be a sequence of centers of the projective-metric space (\mathcal{M}, d) converging to O_∞ . Then we have the sequence of points $P_n = \rho_{d;O_n}(P)$ for any point $P \in \mathcal{M}$.

From $d(P_n, O_n) = d(P, O_n)$, $O_n \rightarrow O_\infty$ and the triangle inequality it follows that $d(P_n, O_\infty) \leq d(P_n, O_n) + d(O_n, O_\infty) = d(P, O_n) + d(O_n, O_\infty) \leq d(P, O_\infty) + d(O_\infty, O_n) + d(O_n, O_\infty) \leq d(P, O_\infty) + \varepsilon$ for any $\varepsilon > 0$ if $n \in \mathbb{N}$ is big enough. Thus, the sequence of points P_n is bounded, hence it has congestion points.

If P_∞ is a congestion point of P_n , then

$$d(P, O_\infty) + d(O_\infty, P_\infty) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (d(P, O_n) + d(O_n, P_n)) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(P, P_n) = d(P, P_\infty)$$

proves that $O_\infty \in \widetilde{PP_\infty}$, and $d(P, O_\infty) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (d(P, O_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (d(P_n, O_n) = d(P_\infty, O_\infty)$ proves that O_∞ is the metric midpoint of the segment $\widetilde{PP_\infty}$. Thus, $P_\infty = \rho_{d;O_\infty}(P)$, hence the Lemma. \square

Two point reflections define an isometry defined by $\tau_{PQ} := \rho_{d;P} \circ \rho_{d;Q}$. We call such isometries *translations*.

Lemma 2.5. *For any three collinear points O, P, Q*

- (1) $O \in \overline{PQ}$ if and only if $O \in \overline{\rho_{d;P}(O)\rho_{d;Q}(O)}$, and
- (2) $d(\tau_{PQ}(O), O) = 2d(P, Q)$.

Proof. To prove (1) we need only to observe that the points P and Q are on the same side of O as the points $\rho_{d;P}(O)$ and $\rho_{d;Q}(O)$, respectively.

For (2) we let $\delta := d(\tau_{PQ}(O), O) = d(\rho_{d;P}(\rho_{d;Q}(O)), O) = d(\rho_{d;Q}(O), \rho_{d;P}(O))$, and consider three cases:

- (a) if $O \in \overline{PQ}$, then $O \in \overline{\rho_{d;P}(O)\rho_{d;Q}(O)}$, hence

$$\delta = d(\rho_{d;Q}(O), O) + d(O, \rho_{d;P}(O)) = 2d(Q, O) + d(O, P) = 2d(P, Q);$$
- (b) if $P \in \overline{OQ}$, then $\rho_{d;P}(O) \in \overline{O\rho_{d;Q}(O)}$, hence

$$\delta = d(\rho_{d;Q}(O), O) - d(O, \rho_{d;P}(O)) = 2d(Q, O) - d(O, P) = 2d(P, Q);$$
- (c) if $Q \in \overline{OP}$, then $\rho_{d;Q}(O) \in \overline{O\rho_{d;P}(O)}$, hence

$$\delta = d(\rho_{d;P}(O), O) - d(O, \rho_{d;Q}(O)) = 2d(P, O) - d(O, Q) = 2d(P, Q). \quad \square$$

Lemma 2.6. *Assume that every point of the geodesic line $\tilde{\ell}$ is a center. Then every isometry of $\tilde{\ell}$ is a restriction of τ_{PQ} or $\rho_{d;P}$, where P, Q are any points on $\tilde{\ell}$.*

Proof. By definition we have an isometry $\iota: \tilde{\ell} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

If j is an isometry on $\tilde{\ell}$, then $\iota \circ j \circ \iota^{-1}$ is an isometry on \mathbb{R} . Every isometry on \mathbb{R} has the form of either $x \mapsto a + x$ or $x \mapsto a - x$ for some $a \in \mathbb{R}$, so we have for a fixed $a \in \mathbb{R}$ either $\iota(j(\iota^{-1}(x))) = a + x$ or $\iota(j(\iota^{-1}(x))) = a - x$ for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

Thus, every isometry j on $\tilde{\ell}$ is either $j(P) = \iota^{-1}(a + \iota(P))$ or $j(P) = \iota^{-1}(a - \iota(P))$, for some $a \in \mathbb{R}$.

If $j(\cdot) = \iota^{-1}(a + \iota(\cdot))$, then $d(j(P), P) = |\iota(j(P)) - \iota(P)| = |a + \iota(P) - \iota(P)| = a$, hence, by Lemma 2.5(2), $j = \tau_{QR}$, where $Q, R \in \tilde{\ell}$ and $d(Q, R) = a/2$.

If $j(\cdot) = \iota^{-1}(a - \iota(\cdot))$, then we have a point $O \in \tilde{\ell}$ such that $\iota(O) = a/2$, and $d(j(P), O) = |\iota(j(P)) - \iota(O)| = |a/2 - \iota(P)| = |\iota(P) - \iota(O)| = d(P, O)$, as well as $d(j(P), P) = |\iota(j(P)) - \iota(P)| = 2|a/2 - \iota(P)| = 2d(P, O)$, hence, by (2.2), $j = \rho_O$. \square

3. OPEN SET OF CENTERS

Firstly, we note the well-known fact that

Minkowski geometries and the hyperbolic geometry are symmetric. (3.1)

Theorem 3.1. *The set of the centers of a projective-metric space of parabolic type contains a non-empty open set of centers if and only if it is Minkowskian geometry.*

Proof. By (3.1) and Lemma 2.3, we only need to prove that if every point of a projective-metric space of parabolic type is a center, then it is a Minkowskian geometry.

First, we prove that

if O is a center of a projective-metric space of parabolic type, then the metric point reflection ρ_O is the affine point reflection $\bar{\rho}_O$. (3.2)

Let the straight line ℓ avoid O and let $\ell' = \rho_O(\ell)$. As ρ_O keeps the straight lines containing O , every straight line l through O and a point P of ℓ coincides $\rho_O l$. As all these lines are in the common plane $\mathbb{R}_{O,\ell}^2$ of O and ℓ , we conclude that ℓ and ℓ' are in $\mathbb{R}_{O,\ell}^2$.

Assume that ℓ intersects ℓ' , i.e. there is a point P in $\ell \cap \ell'$. Then $\rho_O(P)$ is also in $\ell \cap \ell'$ and is different from P as O is the metric midpoint of the segment $\overline{P\rho_O(P)}$, and $d(O, P) > 0$. Thus, ℓ and ℓ' have two different common points, hence $\ell \equiv \ell'$. This is a contradiction as $O \in \overline{P\rho_O(P)} \subset \ell$, but $O \notin \ell'$. Thus, ℓ does not intersect ℓ' , that, as these straight lines are in their common plane $\mathbb{R}_{O,\ell}^2$, implies that $\ell \parallel \ell'$. So, ρ_O maps every straight line into a parallel straight line.

Let O and A be arbitrary different points. Let B be any point outside their common straight line. By the above observation $AB \parallel \rho_O(A)\rho_O(B)$ and $A\rho_O(B) \parallel \rho_O(A)B$, hence quadrangle $\mathcal{P} := AB\rho_O(A)\rho_O(B)\square$ is a parallelogram. As O is the intersection of the diagonals of \mathcal{P} , it follows that O is the affine midpoint of the segments $\overline{A\rho_O(A)}$. This proves (3.2).

Let A and B be arbitrary different points, and let O be the d -metric midpoint of segment \overline{AB} . Then $\rho_O(A) = B$, and by (3.2), O is the affine midpoint of \overline{AB} too.

Thus, the affine midpoint and the d -metric midpoint of any segment coincide which, by [2, (17.9)], implies that d is a Minkowskian metric. \square

Theorem 3.2. *The set of the centers of a projective-metric space of hyperbolic type contains a non-empty open set if and only if it is the hyperbolic geometry.*

Proof. By (3.1) and Lemma 2.3, we only need to prove that if every point of a projective-metric space (\mathcal{M}, d) of hyperbolic type is a center, then it is the hyperbolic geometry.

By [1, Lemma 12.1, pp. 226], a bounded open convex set \mathcal{I} in \mathbb{R}^n ($n \geq 2$) is an ellipsoid if and only if every section of it by any 2-dimensional plane is an ellipse. This means, that we only need to prove the statement in dimension 2.⁴

As it is convex and proper subset of \mathbb{R}^2 , \mathcal{M} cannot contain two intersecting affine straight line, because otherwise it coincides with the affine plane \mathbb{R}^2 .

Assume now that \mathcal{M} contains an affine line.

A convex domain in the plane which contains a straight line is either a half plane or a strip bounded by two parallel lines [1, Exercise [17.8]], therefore, \mathcal{M} is either $\mathcal{P}_{(0,\infty)} := \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 0 < x\}$ or $\mathcal{P}_{(0,1)} := \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 0 < x < 1\}$ in proper linear coordinatizations of \mathbb{R}^2 . As the perspective projectivity $\varpi: (x, y) \mapsto (\frac{x}{x+1}, \frac{y}{x+1})$ maps $\mathcal{P}_{(0,\infty)}$ onto $\mathcal{P}_{(0,1)}$ bijectively, (2.3) immediately implies that it is enough to consider the case $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{P}_{(0,1)}$.

Suppose that every point of a projective-metric space (\mathcal{M}, d) is a center.

By Lemma 2.6 the point reflections of (\mathcal{M}, d) restricted onto a line $\tilde{\ell}$ generate every isometry of $\tilde{\ell}$, and, by (2.1), every point reflection of (\mathcal{M}, d) is the restriction of a projective map of the projective plane onto \mathcal{M} , hence Lemma 2.2 gives that $d((x, y), (x, z)) = c(x)|z - y|$ for a continuous functions $c: (0, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$. Function c is a constant, because the point reflection $\rho_{d;(t,0)}$ maps d -isometrically the lines $\ell_x := \{(x, y) : y \in \mathbb{R}\}$ ($x \in (0, 1)$) onto lines ℓ_z , where $\frac{1}{z} = 1 + (\frac{1-t}{t})^2 \frac{1-x}{x}$.

In the same way as in the above paragraph, Lemma 2.1 gives

$$d((x, \lambda + \sigma x), (\mu x, \lambda + \mu \sigma x)) = \bar{c}(\lambda, \sigma) \left| \ln \left(0, \frac{1}{x}; 1, \mu \right) \right| = \bar{c}(\lambda, \sigma) \left| \ln \frac{1 - \mu x}{\mu(1 - x)} \right|,$$

where $\bar{c}: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ is a continuous function. Function \bar{c} is a constant, because the point reflection $\rho_{d;O}$, where $O = (\frac{\lambda}{2\lambda+\sigma}, \frac{\lambda(\lambda+\sigma)}{2\lambda+\sigma})$, maps the open segment $(0, \lambda)(1, \lambda + \sigma)$ onto $(0, 0)(1, 0)$ d -isometrically.

By the aboves we have

$$d((x, 0), (s, y)) = \begin{cases} \bar{c}(0, 0) \left| \ln \frac{x(1-s)}{s(1-x)} \right|, & \text{if } x \neq s, \\ c(1/2)|y|, & \text{if } x = s, \end{cases}$$

for every $x, s \in (0, 1)$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}$, hence $c(1/2)|y| = \bar{c}(0, 0) \lim_{x \rightarrow s} \left| \ln \frac{x(1-s)}{s(1-x)} \right| = 0$ by the continuity of d . This contradiction proves that a projective-metric space $(\mathcal{P}_{(0,1)}, d)$ cannot be symmetric.

Assume now that \mathcal{M} contains no affine line.

⁴Although this is already proved in [2, (52.8)], we give here a more direct proof.

Then every supporting line ℓ of \mathcal{M} at any point M of $\partial\mathcal{M}$ can intersect $\partial\mathcal{M}$ only in a point, a segment or a ray. Let ℓ^+ be a straight line parallel to ℓ that is in the other side of ℓ than \mathcal{M} is. Now, the projectivity of \mathbb{P}^2 that takes the line at infinity to ℓ^+ maps \mathcal{M} to a bounded, convex domain of \mathbb{R}^2 , so, we can suppose from now on without loss of generality by (2.3), that \mathcal{M} is bounded.

First, we reprove [6, Lemma 1 and Corollary] as

For any inner point O in \mathcal{M} , there exist two (maybe ideal) points P and Q in O^ such that PQ does not intersect \mathcal{M} .* (3.3)

There is at least one chord \overline{AC} of \mathcal{M} which is bisected by O . Then, the harmonic conjugate \hat{P} of O with respect to A and B , is on the line at infinity.

If O^* has a further point at infinity, then let \hat{Q} be that point.

If O^* has only \hat{P} at infinity, then O^* is a connected curve, hence it cannot lie completely within the strip formed by the two supporting lines of \mathcal{M} which are parallel to AC because in that case it would intersect \mathcal{M} . Thus, a point \hat{Q} of O^* exists outside this strip.

Thus, line $\hat{P}\hat{Q}$ does not intersect \mathcal{M} , but intersects O^* in the points \hat{P} and \hat{Q} .

Now we prove that

A point $O \in \mathcal{M}$ is a center of (\mathcal{M}, d) if and only if it is a projective center of \mathcal{M} , and the metric point reflection ρ_O is $\varpi^{-1} \circ \bar{\rho}_{\varpi(O)} \circ \varpi$ for a proper projectivity ϖ . (3.4)

If O is a projective center of \mathcal{M} , then a projectivity ϖ exists such that $\varpi(O)$ is an affine center of $\varpi(\mathcal{M})$. Then $\bar{\rho}_{\varpi(O)}$ is an involutive isometry with respect to $d'(\cdot, \cdot) := d(\varpi(\cdot), \varpi(\cdot))$, that keeps the straight line through $\varpi(O)$ invariant. Thus $\varpi^{-1} \circ \bar{\rho}_{\varpi(O)} \circ \varpi$ is an involutive isometry with respect to d , that keeps the straight line through O invariant. That is, O is a center of (\mathcal{M}, d) .

Assume now that O is a center of (\mathcal{M}, d) . By (3.3) we have two (maybe ideal) points P and Q in O^* such that PQ does not intersect \mathcal{M} .

Let ϖ be the projectivity that maps line PQ into the ideal line. Then $\varpi(O)$ is the affine midpoint of the chords $\overline{AC} := \varpi(OP) \cap \varpi(\mathcal{M})$ and $\overline{BD} := \varpi(OQ) \cap \varpi(\mathcal{M})$. With this in mind, (2.3) allows us to assume without loss of generality that O is the affine midpoint of two chords. Let these chords be \overline{AC} and \overline{BD} .

As $\rho_{d;O}$ and $\bar{\rho}_O$ are both restrictions of their corresponding unique collineations [4, Theorem 3.1.], and these collineations coincide on points A, C, B, D and O three of which are in general position, hence $\rho_{d;O} \equiv \bar{\rho}_O$ follows. This proves (3.4).

As every point of \mathcal{M} is a center of (\mathcal{M}, d) , from (3.4) it follows that every point of \mathcal{M} is a projective center, hence [7, Theorem 3.3(a)] gives that \mathcal{M} is an ellipse.

Lemma 2.6, (3.4), and Lemma 2.1 give that $d(X, Y) = c_\ell h(X, Y)$, where h is the Hilbert metric on \mathcal{M} and c_ℓ is a constant.

Consider the different chords \overline{AB} and \overline{CD} of \mathcal{M} , where $A, B, C, D \in \partial\mathcal{M}$.

If $\overline{AB} \cap \overline{CD} = \emptyset$, then one of the intersections $\overline{AC} \cap \overline{BD}$ or $\overline{AD} \cap \overline{BC}$ is not empty, and that intersection point O is such that $\rho_{d;O}(\overline{AB}) = \overline{CD}$, hence $c_{AB} = c_{CD}$, i.e. $c_\ell = c_{\ell'}$ if $(\ell \cap \ell') \cap \mathcal{M} = \emptyset$. If $\overline{AB} \cap \overline{CD} = \{O\}$, then let \overline{EF} be a chord of \mathcal{M} ($E, F \in \partial\mathcal{M}$) such that it does not intersect the quadrangle $ACBD$. Then $c_{AB} = c_{EF} = c_{CD}$ proves that c_ℓ does not depend on ℓ , hence it is a constant c .

The proof of the theorem is complete. \square

4. FINITELY MANY CENTERS

We prove that some finitely many well-placed centers are enough to deduce the symmetry of the straight projective-metric spaces.

Lemma 4.1. *If $d(O, P)/d(O, Q)$ is an irrational number for the collinear centers O, P, Q of a straight projective-metric space (\mathcal{M}, d) , then every point of the common geodesic $\tilde{\ell}$ of O, P, Q is a center of (\mathcal{M}, d) .*

Proof. By Lemma 2.4 we need only to prove that the set of centers on $\tilde{\ell}$ is dense.

We may assume without loss of generality that $P \in \overline{OQ}$.

As the projective-metric space is straight, there exists an isometry ι from $\tilde{\ell}$ to \mathbb{R} such that $\iota(O) = 0$, and hence $\iota(P) = d(O, P) =: p$ and $\iota(Q) = d(O, Q) =: q$. By our assumption we have $0 < p < q$, and the condition of the lemma gives that p/q is an irrational number. Then, Kronecker's Approximation Theorem [10] gives that for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ there are $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$, such that $|ip - jq - x| < \varepsilon$.

Letting $\tau_{OP} := \rho_{d;P} \circ \rho_{d;O}$ and $\tau_{OQ} := \rho_{d;Q} \circ \rho_{d;O}$ as before, we obtain by Lemma 2.5(2), that $d(\tau_{OP}(X), X) = 2p$ and $d(\tau_{OQ}(X), X) = 2q$ for any point $X \in \tilde{\ell}$. Thus, we obtain $\iota \circ \tau_{OP} \circ \iota^{-1} : x \mapsto x + 2p$ and $\iota \circ \tau_{OQ} \circ \iota^{-1} : x \mapsto x + 2q$. This means that the set $\mathcal{S} := \{\tau_{OP}^i(\tau_{OQ}^j(O)) : i, j \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ is dense in $\tilde{\ell}$. However, Lemma 2.3 implies $\tau_{OX} \circ \rho_{d;Y} \circ \tau_{XO} = \rho_{d;\tau_{OX}(Y)}$ for any centers $X, Y \in \tilde{\ell}$, so every point in \mathcal{S} is a center. This proves the Lemma. \square

We say that the different points O and P_i, Q_i ($i = 1, \dots, k$) form a *pencil* with *tip* O if the points O, P_i, Q_i are collinear for every i . Such a pencil is called *l-dimensional* if the linear space generated by the affine vectors $\overline{OP_i}$ is l -dimensional.

Lemma 4.2. *In a neighborhood of a center O of a straight projective-metric space every point of the affine hyperplane \mathcal{H} spanned by the pencil of centers P_i, Q_i ($i = 1, \dots, k$) and tip O is a center, if $d(O, P_i)/d(O, Q_i)$ is irrational for every i .*

Proof. We prove by induction. We consider the n -dimensional straight projective-metric space (\mathcal{M}, d) .

By Lemma 4.1 we know that all points of the geodesics $\tilde{\ell}_i := OP_i = P_iQ_i$ ($i = 1, \dots, n$) are centers of (\mathcal{M}, d) .

Assume now that for every l -dimensional pencil of the given type the statement of the lemma is fulfilled.

Let the $(l + 1)$ -dimensional pencil \mathcal{P}_{l+1} of centers P_i, Q_i and tip O be such that $d(O, P_i)/d(O, Q_i)$ is irrational ($i = 1, \dots, k \leq n$), where we clearly have $k \geq l + 1$.

If $k > l + 1$, then the pencil of P_i, Q_i and tip O for $i = 1, \dots, k - 1$ can be either of dimension $l + 1$ or of dimension l . In the former case remove the geodesic $\tilde{\ell}_k := OP_k = P_kQ_k$, and continue this procedure until no removing is possible. This way we can assume that the pencil \mathcal{P}_{l+1} is such that the pencil \mathcal{P}_l of P_i, Q_i and tip O ($i = 1, \dots, k - 1$) is of dimension l .

By the hypothesis of the induction there is a neighborhood \mathcal{U}_l of O in the hyperplane \mathcal{H}_l spanned by the pencil \mathcal{P}_l , where every point is a center of the projective-metric space. Further, every point of the geodesic $\tilde{\ell}_k := OP_k = P_kQ_k$ is a center by Lemma 4.1.

Let \mathcal{O} be a suitably small neighborhood of O

Let \mathcal{H}_l^X be the affine subspace spanned by the points of $\rho_X(\mathcal{U}_l)$ for every point $X \in \tilde{\ell}_k \cap \mathcal{O}$. Then every point $P \in \rho_X(\mathcal{U}_l)$ is a center by Lemma 2.3. Let \mathcal{P} be the common plane of $\tilde{\ell}_k$ and P , and let $Q \in \mathcal{P} \cap \mathcal{U}_l$. Then the geodesic \widetilde{QP} contains at least two centers, namely Q and P .

Let \mathcal{O}_l^X be an open set in $\rho_X(\mathcal{U}_l)$ containing $\rho_X(O)$.

Let the points $P \in \mathcal{O}_l^X$ and $Q \in \rho_X(\mathcal{O}_l^X)$ be such that the geodesic \widetilde{QP} contains a point that is not a center. If there are no such points, then the hypothesis of the induction follows for $l + 1$, that proves the statement of the lemma.

As $\rho_\cdot(\cdot)$ is continuous in its subscript and \mathcal{O}_l^X is open, there is a (small) $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $\rho_Y(\mathcal{U}_l)$ intersects \widetilde{QP} in a point P_Y if $Y \in \mathcal{Y} := \{Y \in \tilde{\ell}_k : d(X, Y) < \varepsilon\}$. Observe that P_Y depends on Y continuously, hence it either runs over a closed open segment \mathcal{S} or it is a fixed point P .

As there is a point on \widetilde{QP} that is not a center, the ratio $d(Q, P)/d(Q, P_Y)$ is rational for every P_Y by Lemma 4.2, hence P_Y is a fixed point. Moreover, $P_Y \equiv P$, because $P_X = P$.

Thus, every point Z of the open triangle \mathcal{Z} spanned by \mathcal{Y} and P is a center, hence every point of the geodesics \widetilde{QZ} is a center. If $Z \rightarrow P$ in \mathcal{Z} , the geodesic \widetilde{QZ} tends to \widetilde{QP} , and therefore, every point of \widetilde{QP} is a center by Lemma 2.4. This is a contradiction, hence every point of every geodesic \widetilde{QP} is a center, if $P \in \mathcal{O}_l^X$. This proves the hypothesis of the induction, hence the statement of the lemma. \square

The following result can be seen as a specific generalization of [2, (51.5)].

Theorem 4.3. *The set of the centers of an n -dimensional straight projective-metric space (\mathcal{M}, d) contains an n -dimensional pencil of points P_i, Q_i ($i = 1, \dots, k \geq n$) and tip O such that $d(O, P_i)/d(O, Q_i)$ is irrational for every i if and only if it is either a Minkowskian or the hyperbolic geometry.*

Proof. As every point of a Minkowskian or the hyperbolic geometry is a center, we need only to prove the reverse statement of the theorem.

Assume that the set of the centers of (\mathcal{M}, d) contains an n -dimensional pencil of points P_i, Q_i ($i = 1, \dots, k \geq n$) and tip O .

By Lemma 4.2, this assumption implies that the set of the centers of (\mathcal{M}, d) contains a neighborhood of O , which by theorems 3.1 and 3.2 proves the desired result. \square

For projective-metric spaces of parabolic type or of hyperbolic type containing no affine line we need less centers to deduce that the metric is Minkowskian or hyperbolic.

Theorem 4.4. *The set of the centers of an n -dimensional projective-metric space of parabolic type contains $n + 1$ affinely independent point and an additional one affinely independent from the others over the rational numbers if and only if it is a Minkowski geometry.*

Proof. As every point of any Minkowski geometry is a center, we need only to prove the reverse statement of the theorem.

By (3.2), if O is a center, then $\rho_O \equiv \bar{\rho}_O$. The product of any two affine point reflections is an affine translation, so Kronecker's Approximation Theorem [10] gives that the centers generated by repeated applications of the metric point reflections, form a dense set in \mathbb{R}^n .

Then Lemma 2.4 and Theorem 4.3 imply the statement of the Theorem. \square

Theorem 4.5. *The set of the centers of an n -dimensional projective-metric space of hyperbolic type with no affine line inside contains an $(n - 1)$ -dimensional pencil of points P_i, Q_i ($i = 1, \dots, k \geq n - 1$) and tip O such that $d(O, P_i)/d(O, Q_i)$ is irrational for every i if and only if it is the hyperbolic geometry.*

Proof. As every point of the hyperbolic geometry is a center, we need only to prove the reverse statement of the theorem.

Assume that the set of the centers of the n -dimensional projective-metric space (\mathcal{M}, d) of hyperbolic type with no affine line inside contains an $(n - 1)$ -dimensional pencil of points P_i, Q_i ($i = 1, \dots, k \geq n - 1$) and tip O .

By Lemma 4.2, this assumption implies that the set of the centers of (\mathcal{M}, d) contains a neighborhood of O in an $(n - 1)$ -dimensional hyperplane \mathcal{H} . By Lemma 2.3 this means that every point of $\mathcal{M} \cap \mathcal{H}$ is a center, which, by (3.4), means that every point of $\mathcal{M} \cap \mathcal{H}$ is a projective center of \mathcal{M} . According to [7, Theorem 3.3(a)], this implies that \mathcal{M} is an ellipsoid, hence the theorem. \square

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