
Simply transitive quaternionic lattices of rank 2 over $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$ and a non-classical fake quadric

JAKOB STIX AND ALINA VDOVINA

Abstract — We construct an infinite series of simply transitive irreducible lattices in $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((t))) \times \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((t)))$ by means of a quaternion algebra over $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$. The lattices depend on an odd prime power $q = p^r$ and a parameter $\tau \in \mathbb{F}_q^*$, $\tau \neq 1$, and are the fundamental group of a square complex with just one vertex and universal covering $T_{q+1} \times T_{q+1}$, a product of trees with constant valency $q + 1$.

Our lattices give rise via non-archimedean uniformization to smooth projective surfaces of general type over $\mathbb{F}_q((t))$ with ample canonical class, Chern ratio $c_1^2/c_2 = 2$, trivial Albanese variety and non-reduced Picard scheme. For $q = 3$, the Zariski-Euler characteristic attains its minimal value $\chi = 1$: the surface is a non-classical fake quadric.

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Preliminaries on groups acting on products of trees	5
3. The quaternionic lattice	10
4. Geometry of the quaternionic lattice	18
5. Group theory of the quaternionic lattice	23
6. Classification — consequences of rigidity	26
7. Construction of a non-classical fake quadric	29
References	37

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper explores the overlap of two different worlds: simply transitive lattices in products of trees and arithmetic lattices of rank 2 in positive characteristic. These lattices allow the construction of interesting smooth projective surfaces of general type in positive characteristic among which there is a non-classical fake quadric. The lattices that we construct share the properties of both worlds and as such are the first of their kind:

- (i) they are arithmetic quaternionic lattices of rank 2 in positive characteristic, and
- (ii) their action on the product of two trees with the same valency in both factors is simply transitive on vertices, and
- (iii) we are able to describe explicitly a finite presentation of our lattices.

Lattices in products of trees provide examples for many interesting group theoretic properties, for example there are finitely presented infinite simple groups [BM97], and many are not residually finite. If we restrict to torsion free lattices that act simply transitively on the vertices of the product of trees (not interchanging the factors), then those lattices are fundamental groups of square complexes with just one vertex, complete bipartite link and a VH-structure, see Section §2.1.4. This is combinatorially well understood and there are plenty of such lattices, see Section §2.3 for a mass formula.

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Let T_n denote the tree of constant valency n . For different odd prime numbers $p \neq \ell$, Mozes [Mo95] §3, Burger and Mozes [BM97] and [BM00b] §2.4 for p and ℓ congruent to 1 mod 4, and later in general Rattaggi [Ra04] §3 found a lattice of arithmetic origin acting on $T_{p+1} \times T_{\ell+1}$ with simply transitive action on the vertices. This lattice is a $\{p, \ell\}$ -arithmetic group for the Hamiltonian quaternions over \mathbb{Q} , and its local permutation structure in the sense of Section §5.1 served in [LPS88] to construct Ramanujan graphs.

Now we take the point of view from the arithmetic side. Let D be a quaternion algebra over a global function field K/\mathbb{F}_q of a smooth curve over \mathbb{F}_q , and let S consist of the ramified places of D together with two distinct unramified \mathbb{F}_q -rational places τ and ∞ . An S -arithmetic subgroup Γ of the projective linear group $G = \mathrm{PGL}_{1,D}$ of D acts as a cocompact lattice on the product of trees $T_{q+1} \times T_{q+1}$ that are the Bruhat–Tits buildings for G locally at τ and ∞ . There are plenty of such arithmetic lattices, however, in general the action of Γ on the set of vertices will not be simply transitive.

We now sketch the construction of our lattices. Let q be an odd prime power and let $c \in \mathbb{F}_q^*$ be a non-square. Consider the $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -algebra with non-commuting variables Z, F

$$\mathfrak{D} = \mathbb{F}_q[t]\{Z, F\}/(Z^2 = c, F^2 = t(t-1), ZF = -FZ),$$

an $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -order in the quaternion algebra $D = \mathfrak{D} \otimes \mathbb{F}_q(t)$ over $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$ ramified in $t = 0, 1$. Let

$$G = \mathrm{PGL}_{1,\mathfrak{D}} \tag{1.1}$$

be the algebraic group over $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ of units in \mathfrak{D} modulo the center, a twisted form of PGL_2 , at least generically over $\mathbb{F}_q[t, \frac{1}{t(t-1)}]$.

Theorem A (see Theorem 29). *Let q be an odd prime power, and choose a generator δ of the cyclic group $\mathbb{F}_{q^2}^*$. Let $\tau \neq 1$ be an element of \mathbb{F}_q^* , and $\zeta \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}^*$ be an element with norm $\zeta^{1+q} = (\tau - 1)/\tau$. Let $G/\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ be the algebraic group of (1.1).*

The irreducible arithmetic lattice $G(\mathbb{F}_q[t, \frac{1}{t(t-\tau)}])$ has the following presentation:

$$G(\mathbb{F}_q[t, \frac{1}{t(t-\tau)}]) \simeq \left\langle d, a, b \left| \begin{array}{l} d^{q+1} = a^2 = b^2 = 1 \\ (d^i a d^{-i})(d^j b d^{-j}) = (d^l b d^{-l})(d^k a d^{-k}) \\ \text{for all } 0 \leq i, l \leq q \text{ and } j, k \text{ determined by } (\star) \end{array} \right. \right\rangle,$$

where (\star) is the system of equations in the quotient group $\mathbb{F}_{q^2}^*/\mathbb{F}_q^*$

$$\delta^{j-l} = (1 - \zeta \delta^{(i-l)(1-q)}) \cdot \delta^{(q+1)/2} \quad \text{and} \quad \delta^{k-i} = (1 - \frac{1}{\zeta \delta^{(i-l)(1-q)}}) \cdot \delta^{(q+1)/2}.$$

We also establish a presentation of the arithmetic group $\Lambda_\tau = G(\mathbb{F}_q[t, \frac{1}{t(t-1)(t-\tau)}])$. The group Λ_τ is a semidirect product of a dihedral group of order $2(q+1)$ with a normal subgroup Γ_τ which has the following properties:

- (i) Γ_τ is an irreducible torsion free arithmetic lattice of rank 2 with explicit finite presentation described in Theorem 28.
- (ii) Γ_τ acts simply transitively on $T_{q+1} \times T_{q+1}$ as the product of the Bruhat–Tits trees at τ and ∞ as above (Theorem 28).
- (iii) Γ_τ is residually finite, in fact even residually pro- p by Proposition 36.
- (iv) Γ_τ is a FAB-group (all finite index subgroups have finite abelianization), more precisely, all non-trivial normal subgroups of Γ_τ have finite index (Proposition 41).
- (v) Γ_τ has cohomological dimension 2 being the fundamental group of the square complex with one vertex

$$S_{\Gamma_\tau} = \Gamma_\tau \backslash T_{q+1} \times T_{q+1}.$$

In fact, the group Γ_τ has a finite classifying space $S_{\Gamma_\tau} = \mathrm{K}(\Gamma_\tau, 1)$ of dimension 2, hence is a group of type *WFL*, since S_{Γ_τ} has a contractible universal covering space, see Corollary 31.

The lattices Γ_τ are remarkable in several ways: as arithmetic lattices they have the rare property of being torsion free and acting simply transitively on the product of trees; as a fundamental group of a one vertex square complex they are special by being of arithmetic origin. Moreover, unlike previous known lattices sharing both properties, see [Mo95] §3, [BM97] and [Ra04] §3, the action is on a product of trees of the same valency¹ and the arithmetic is not p -adic but purely of positive characteristic. It turns out that its local permutation structure in the sense of Section §5.1 served in [Mo94] to construct Ramanujan graphs.

The elements δ and ζ are necessary for the description of Γ_τ but do not change the group; however, the element τ is a true parameter of the construction.

Theorem B (see Corollary 40). *Lattices of the form Γ_τ are commensurable if and only if they are isomorphic. They are isomorphic if and only if suitable Galois conjugates of the parameters τ agree or add up to 1.*

The question to explicitly determine a presentation of an arithmetic group is an old one. It is theoretically known which arithmetic lattices (in reductive groups) admit a finite presentation, see [Bh98], and it has been algorithmically solved for Fuchsian groups (lattices in $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R})$) with an algorithm described in Voight [Vo09]. Presentations of $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathfrak{o}_k)$ for k imaginary quadratic (a double cover of Bianchi groups) were determined by Swan in [Sw71] §4, even explicitly for a few small discriminants. Böckle and Butenuth [BB12] §6 describe an algorithm that computes a fundamental domain and thus a presentation of a quaternionic lattice in the rank 1 case over global function fields, see also Gekeler and Nonnengardt [GN95] for congruence subgroups of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q[t])$. The analogous isotropic case of PSL_2 is treated in Serre [Se80] II §2 but also only in the rank 1 case in terms of the geometry of trees (not finitely generated by Nagao's theorem). All these explicit results are in the rank 1 case.

In contrast, for arithmetic lattices of rank 2 like our Λ_τ the (explicit) results are limited so far. To some extent Hilbert modular groups $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathfrak{o}_k)$ for a real quadratic number field k are (split) analogues of Λ_τ . Even though finite presentations of Hilbert modular groups follow from the work of Blumenthal [Bl03], Maaß [Ma40] and Herrmann [He54], the combinatorial geometry describing these presentations are quite involved so that explicit finite presentations are only known for small discriminants, and an algorithm is given in [KW80] when the class number of the real quadratic field is 1. In [Pa11] Papikian computes the Betti numbers of the quotient simplicial complex for certain quaternionic lattices in $\mathrm{PGL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q((t)))$ and general n .

Theorem A provides explicit presentations for a family of arithmetic quaternionic lattices of rank 2 over positive characteristic function fields $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$ depending on a geometric parameter τ and an odd prime power parameter q .

Here is an application of our lattices Γ_τ to the theory of algebraic surfaces in characteristic p . In [Mu79] Mumford constructed the first fake \mathbb{P}^2 by means of p -adic uniformization based on a torsion free lattice that acts simply transitively on the building of $\mathrm{PGL}_3(\mathbb{Q}_2)$ with quotient complex of Euler characteristic 1. Our lattice Γ acts simply transitively on the building of $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((y))) \times \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((t)))$, and for $q = 3$ (and necessarily $\tau = 2$) allows the construction of a non-classical fake quadric in characteristic 3, because the quotient square complex has Euler characteristic $\chi = (q - 1)^2/4 = 1$.

Fake quadrics are minimal surfaces of general type S that have the same numerical invariants $c_1^2 = 8$, $c_2 = 4$, and $h^1(S, \mathcal{O}_S) = 0$ as the quadric $\{XY = Z^2\} \simeq \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ in \mathbb{P}^3 . The first examples of fake quadrics have been constructed by Kuga and his student Shavel [Sh78] by means of complex uniformisation using quaternionic lattices in $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R}) \times \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R})$. The construction here is a characteristic p analogue and for $q = 3$ yields a non-classical fake quadric. By definition a non-classical fake quadric is a minimal smooth projective surface S of general type with the

¹The valency here is an odd prime power plus 1. The previous examples of loc. cit. come from $\{p, \ell\}$ -integers in Hamilton quaternions over \mathbb{Q} and thus must act on $T_{p+1} \times T_{\ell+1}$ for two distinct primes $p \neq \ell$: the field \mathbb{Q} has only one place of norm p for each prime p .

same Chern numbers as $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ and trivial Albanese variety but non-vanishing $h^1(S, \mathcal{O}_S)$. Unlike classical fake quadrics with $h^1(S, \mathcal{O}_S) = 0$ and therefore trivial Pic_S^0 , the non-classical fake quadrics show the non-classical property of a non-reduced Pic_S^0 of dimension 0 which of course is only possible in positive characteristic. The choice of terminology² is similar to the terminology used for Enriques surfaces in characteristic 2 that are divided following Bombieri and Mumford into classical and non-classical (these more precisely further divide into singular and supersingular) Enriques surfaces depending on the structure group scheme of the canonical flat double cover, namely μ_2 (classical) or $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ (singular) or α_2 (supersingular), see [Li12] for a recent account on moduli spaces of Enriques surfaces.

Let $\overline{\pi}_1^{\text{ét}}(-)$ denote the étale fundamental group of a variety base changed to the algebraic closure of its field of definition, and let $\widehat{\Gamma}$ denote the pro-finite completion of a group Γ .

Theorem C (see Theorem 49). *Let Γ_τ be one of the lattices described above. There is a smooth projective surface of general type X_τ over $\mathbb{F}_q((t))$ with ample canonical bundle, Chern ratio $c_1^2/c_2 = 2$, trivial Albanese variety, non-reduced Picard scheme and geometric étale fundamental group with an infinite continuous quotient*

$$\overline{\pi}_1^{\text{ét}}(X_\tau) \twoheadrightarrow \widehat{\Gamma}_\tau.$$

For $q = 3$, the surface X_τ is a non-classical fake quadric over $\mathbb{F}_3((t))$.

It is a quite natural question³ to ask whether the surfaces of Theorem C, and in particular the non-classical fake quadric in characteristic $p = 3$, lift to characteristic 0. Our guess is that none of them lifts which would provide further reason to call these surfaces non-classical.

1.1. Outline of paper. In Section §2 we recall well known facts on the geometry of square complexes, define the notion of a VH-structure in a group, and prove a criterion (Proposition 7) that detects if a VH-structure in a group is actually "universal".

Section §3 contains the arithmetic construction of the quaternionic lattice Γ_τ culminating in Proposition 22 that establishes a VH-structure in Γ_τ . In Section §4 we determine vertex stabilizers and the geometry of the action of the arithmetic lattice Γ_τ on the product of Bruhat–Tits trees, we prove Theorem A and determine presentations of all arithmetic lattices dealt with in this paper.

In Section §5 we determine the local structure of the quotient square complex $\Gamma_\tau \backslash T_{q+1} \times T_{q+1}$, describe a certain abelian quotient of Γ_τ and show that Γ_τ is residually pro- p . Section §6 contains classification results up to commensurability and up to isomorphism. Here we prove Theorem B.

Section §7 is devoted to the application to algebraic surfaces in positive characteristic. We use the simply transitive lattices for the construction of non-classical fake quadrics by non-archimedean uniformization thereby proving Theorem C.

1.2. Notation, terminology. By a lattice we mean a discrete group that acts with finite covolume on a space, here a product of trees, and thus finite covolume means with compact quotient space. The action of an element g or a set of group elements A on v will be denoted by $g.v$ or by $A.v$ respectively.

The following table lists non-standard notation (sorted by order of appearance) which is kept in use throughout more than one section:

$V(S)$	set of vertices of a square complex S
$E(S)$	set of oriented edges of a square complex S
$S(S)$	set of squares of a square complex S
$\overline{E}(S)$	set of unoriented edges of a square complex S

²We thank Burt Totaro for suggesting the analogy with Enriques surfaces to motivate the description "non-classical".

³We thank Burt Totaro for emphasizing this question.

T_n	infinite tree of constant valency n
$S_{A,B}$	square complex associated to VH-structure A, B in a group
p	an odd prime number
q	a power of p
τ	parameter of the construction $\tau \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_q)$ different from $0, 1, \infty$
c	a non-zero parameter in $\mathbb{F}_q \setminus \mathbb{F}_q^2$
K	the function field $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$ in one variable t
D	quaternion algebra over K with invariants c and $t(t-1)$
Z, F	anticommuting generators of D with $Z^2 = c$ and $F^2 = t(t-1)$
$\mathbb{F}_q(z)$	quadratic extension of $K = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$ splitting D such that $\mathbb{F}_q((z)) = \mathbb{F}_q((t^{-1}))$
$M_2(-)$	the 2 by 2 matrix algebra over a ring
ρ_z	explicit choice of splitting $D \hookrightarrow M_2(\mathbb{F}_q(z))$
G	the group $G = \mathrm{PGL}_{1,D}$ as an algebraic group over K
$R' \subset R$	explicit Dedekind rings with fraction field K
$\mathfrak{O}' \subset \mathfrak{O}$	explicit maximal R' (resp. R) orders in D
$\mathbb{F}_q[Z]$	subfield in D , quadratic over \mathbb{F}_q
δ	fixed generator of the multiplicative group $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*$
Δ	dihedral group of order $2(q+1)$ in $G(K)$
d, s	rotation and reflection in Δ : images of δ and F
\wp	the map $\wp(w) = w/\bar{w}$
N	norm map $N : \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^* \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^*$
\mathbb{T}	the torus of norm 1 for the extension $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]/\mathbb{F}_q$ as an algebraic group over \mathbb{F}_q
\mathbb{T}_u	the smooth projective conic that completes the \mathbb{T} -torsor of elements of norm u
$\sigma_\xi(w)$	automorphism $\sigma_\xi(w) = \bar{w} \cdot \wp(w - \xi)$ of \mathbb{T}_u
ζ	fixed choice of an element in $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]$ of norm $N(\zeta) = \frac{\tau-1}{\tau}$
$\mathbb{F}_q(y)$	quadratic extension of $K = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$ splitting D such that $\mathbb{F}_q((y)) = \mathbb{F}_q((t-\tau))$
ρ_y	explicit choice of splitting $D \hookrightarrow M_2(\mathbb{F}_q(y))$
γ_ξ	quaternion $\gamma_\xi = tZ + \xi F$
N_c	the set of $\xi \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]$ of norm $N(\xi) = -c$
M_τ	the set of $\eta \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]$ of norm $N(\eta) = \frac{c\tau}{1-\tau}$
α_ξ	quaternion $\alpha_\xi = (tZ + \xi F)Z$
a_ξ	image of α_ξ in $G(R')$
β_η	quaternion $\beta_\eta = (tZ + \eta F)Z$
b_η	image of β_η in $G(R')$
$A = A_\tau$	the set of all a_ξ for $\xi \in N_c$
$B = B_\tau$	the set of all b_η for $\eta \in M_\tau$
α	the element $\gamma_Z = tZ + ZF$
β	the element $\gamma_{Z/\zeta} = tZ + \zeta^{-1}ZF$
$\Gamma = \Gamma_\tau$	the group generated by the sets A and B in $G(K)$
$\Lambda' \subseteq \Lambda$	the subgroups generated by d, a, b respectively d, s, a, b in $G(K)$
$\mathrm{Sym}(M)$	Symmetric group of the set M
P_A, P_B	local permutation groups for a VH-structure A, B in a group
S_{Γ_τ}	the one vertex square complex $\Gamma_\tau \backslash T_{q+1} \times T_{q+1}$, a finite classifying space for Γ_τ

2. PRELIMINARIES ON GROUPS ACTING ON PRODUCTS OF TREES

We give a quick introduction to the geometry of square complexes and fix the terminology.

2.1. Square complexes. Recall that a square complex S consists of a graph $S^1 = (V(S), E(S))$ with set of vertices $V(S)$, and set of oriented edges $E(S)$, together with a set of squares $S(S)$ that are combinatorially attached to the graph S^1 as explained below. Reversing the orientation

of an edge $e \in E(S)$ is written as $e \mapsto e^{-1}$ and the set of unoriented edges is the quotient set

$$\overline{E}(S) = E(S)/(e \sim e^{-1}).$$

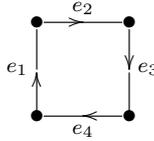
More precisely, a square \square is described by a 4-tuple of oriented edges $e_i \in E(S)$

$$\square = (e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4)$$

where the origin of e_{i+1} is the terminus of e_i (with i modulo 4). Such 4-tuples describe the same square if and only if they belong to the same orbit under the dihedral action generated by cyclically permuting the edges e_i and by the reverse orientation map

$$(e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4) \mapsto (e_4^{-1}, e_3^{-1}, e_2^{-1}, e_1^{-1}).$$

We visualize squares (e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4) as



For $x \in V(S)$ let $E(x)$ denote the set of oriented edges originating in the vertex x . For more details on square complexes we refer for example to [BM00b] §1.

2.1.1. *Products of trees.* Let T_n denote the n -valent tree. The product of trees

$$M = T_m \times T_n$$

is a Euclidean building of rank 2 and a square complex. In this note we are interested in lattices, i.e., groups Γ acting discretely and cocompactly on M respecting the structure as square complex. The quotient $S = \Gamma \backslash M$ is a finite square complex, typically with orbifold structure coming from the stabilizers of cells.

2.1.2. *Torsion free lattices.* We are especially interested in the case where Γ is torsion free and acts simply transitively on the set of vertices of M . These yield the smallest quotients S without non-trivial orbifold structure. Since M is a CAT(0) space, any finite group stabilizes a cell of M . Moreover, the stabilizer of a cell is pro-finite, hence compact, so that a discrete group Γ acts with trivial stabilizers on M if and only if Γ is torsion free.

2.1.3. *Link.* The **link** at a vertex x in a square complex S is the (undirected multi-)graph Lk_x whose set of vertices is $E(x)$ and edges in Lk_x are squares in S containing the respective edges of S , see [BM00b] §1.

Proposition 1. *The universal cover of a finite square complex S is a product of trees if and only if the link Lk_x at each vertex $x \in S$ is a complete bipartite graph.*

Proof. This is well known and follows for example from [BB95] Theorem C. □

2.1.4. *VH-structure.* A **vertical/horizontal structure**, in short a **VH-structure**, on a square complex S consists on a bipartite structure $\overline{E}(S) = E_v \sqcup E_h$ on the set of unoriented edges of S such that for every vertex $x \in S$ the link Lk_x at x is the complete bipartite graph on the induced partition of $E(x) = E(x)_v \sqcup E(x)_h$. Edges in E_v (resp. in E_h) are called vertical (resp. horizontal) edges. See [Wi96] for general facts on VH-structures. The **partition size** of the VH-structure is the function $V(S) \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ on the set of vertices

$$x \mapsto (\#E(x)_v, \#E(x)_h)$$

or just the corresponding tuple of integers if the function is constant. Here $\#(-)$ denotes the cardinality of a finite set.

We record the following basic fact, see [BM00b] after Proposition 1.1:

Proposition 2. *Let S be a square complex. The following are equivalent.*

- (a) The universal cover of S is a product of trees $T_m \times T_n$ and the group of covering transformations does not interchange the factors.
- (b) There is a VH-structure on S of constant partition size (m, n) . \square

Corollary 3. *Torsion free cocompact lattices Γ in $\text{Aut}(T_m) \times \text{Aut}(T_n)$ not interchanging the factors and up to conjugation correspond uniquely to finite square complexes with a VH-structure of partition size (m, n) up to isomorphism.*

Proof. A lattice Γ yields a finite square complex $S = \Gamma \backslash T_m \times T_n$ of the desired type. Conversely, a finite square complex S with VH-structure of constant partition size (m, n) has universal covering space $M = T_m \times T_n$ by Proposition 2, and the choice of a base point vertex $\tilde{x} \in M$ above the vertex $x \in S$ identifies $\pi_1(S, x)$ with the lattice $\Gamma = \text{Aut}(M/S) \subseteq \text{Aut}(T_m) \times \text{Aut}(T_n)$. The lattice depends on the chosen base points only up to conjugation. \square

Simply transitive torsion free lattices not interchanging the factors as in Corollary 3 correspond to square complexes with only one vertex and a VH-structure, necessarily of constant partition size. These will be studied in the next section.

2.2. One vertex square complexes. Let S be a square complex with just one vertex $x \in S$ and a VH-structure $\overline{E}(S) = E_v \sqcup E_h$. Passing from the origin to the terminus of an oriented edge induces a fixed point free involution on $E(x)_v$ and on $E(x)_h$. Therefore the partition size is necessarily a tuple of even integers.

Definition 4. A **vertical/horizontal structure**, in short **VH-structure**, in a group G is an ordered pair (A, B) of finite subsets $A, B \subseteq G$ such that the following holds.

- (i) Taking inverses induces fixed point free involutions on A and B .
- (ii) The union $A \cup B$ generates G .
- (iii) The product sets AB and BA have size $\#A \cdot \#B$ and $AB = BA$.
- (iv) The sets AB and BA do not contain 2-torsion.

The tuple $(\#A, \#B)$ is called the **valency vector** of the VH-structure in G .

2.2.1. Construction. Similar to the construction in [BM00b] §6.1 starting from a VH-datum, the following construction

$$(A, B) \rightsquigarrow S_{A,B} \tag{2.1}$$

yields a square complex $S_{A,B}$ with one vertex and VH-structure starting from a VH-structure (A, B) in a group G . The vertex set $V(S_{A,B})$ contains just one vertex x . The set of oriented edges of $S_{A,B}$ is the disjoint union

$$E(S_{A,B}) = A \sqcup B$$

with the orientation reversion map given by $e \mapsto e^{-1}$. Since A and B are preserved under taking inverses, there is a natural vertical/horizontal structure such that $E(x)_h = A$ and $E(x)_v = B$.

The squares of $S_{A,B}$ are constructed as follows. Every relation in G of the form

$$ab = b'a' \tag{2.2}$$

with $a, a' \in A$ and $b, b' \in B$ (not necessarily distinct) gives rise to a square

$$\square = (a, b, a'^{-1}, b'^{-1}).$$

The following relations are equivalent to (2.2) and also yield the same square:

$$\begin{aligned} a'b^{-1} &= b'^{-1}a, \\ a^{-1}b' &= ba'^{-1}, \\ a'^{-1}b'^{-1} &= b^{-1}a^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Of these four squares the square complex $S_{A,B}$ contains only one.

Lemma 5. *The link Lk_x of $S_{A,B}$ in x is the complete bipartite graph $L_{A,B}$ with vertical vertices labelled by A and horizontal vertices labelled by B .*

Proof. By (iii) of Definition 4 every pair $(a, b) \in A \times B$ occurs on the left hand side in a relation of the form (2.2) and therefore the link Lk_x contains $L_{A,B}$.

If (2.2) holds, then the set of left hand sides of equivalent relations

$$\{ab, a'b^{-1}, a^{-1}b', a'^{-1}b'^{-1}\}$$

is a set of cardinality 4, because A and B and AB do not contain 2-torsion by Definition 4 (i) + (iv) and the right hand sides of the equations are unique by Definition 4 (iii). Therefore $S_{A,B}$ only contains $(\#A \cdot \#B)/4$ squares. It follows that Lk_x has at most as many edges as $L_{A,B}$, and, since it contains $L_{A,B}$, must agree with it. \square

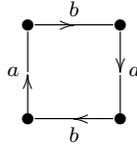
Remark 6. Property (iv) in Definition 4 avoids the following example that lead in the construction (2.1) above to degenerate squares in $S_{A,B}$. Let G be the group with presentation

$$G = \langle a, b \mid (ab)^2 = (a^{-1}b)^2 = 1 \rangle$$

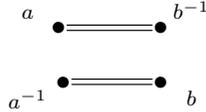
which is isomorphic to the iterated semi-direct product

$$(\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} = (\langle a^2 \rangle \times \langle b \rangle) \rtimes \langle ab \rangle$$

due to $ba^2b^{-1} = a^{-2}$, and $(ab)a^2(ab)^{-1} = a^{-2}$ and $(ab)b(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-2}$. It is easy to check that the sets $A = \{a, a^{-1}\}$ and $B = \{b, b^{-1}\}$ satisfy all properties of Definition 4 except (2.1). However, the corresponding square in $S_{A,B}$ has the shape



and the link Lk_x is not complete bipartite containing double edges of the form:



2.2.2. *Universal VH-structure.* The presentation of certain arithmetic lattices will be determined in Section §4.4 based on the following proposition which states a criterion for a VH-structure in a group to be universal among all VH-structures in groups sharing the same one vertex square complex.

Proposition 7. *Let G be a group with a VH-structure A, B in G and a cellular action of G on $M = T_{2m} \times T_{2n}$ such that for a distinguished vertex $v \in M$ the orbit $A.v$ (resp. $B.v$) agrees with the set of vertical (resp. horizontal) neighbours of v . Then the following holds.*

- (1) G acts transitively on vertices of M .
- (2) If the valency vector of the VH-structure is $(\#A, \#B) = (2m, 2n)$, then
 - (i) the action of G on the vertices of M is free and simply transitive,
 - (ii) there is a canonical isomorphism of the quotient square complex

$$G \backslash M \simeq S_{A,B}$$

with the square complex $S_{A,B}$ of construction (2.1), and

- (iii) with the vertex $\bar{v} \in S_{A,B}$, the group $G \simeq \pi_1(S_{A,B}, \bar{v})$ has the presentation

$$\pi_1(S_{A,B}, \bar{v}) = \left\langle x_a, x_b \text{ for } a \in A, b \in B \left| \begin{array}{l} x_a x_{a^{-1}} = x_b x_{b^{-1}} = 1 \text{ for } a \in A, b \in B \\ x_a x_b = x_{b'} x_{a'} \text{ for } a, a' \in A, \text{ and } b, b' \in B \\ \text{such that } ab = b'a' \text{ in } G \end{array} \right. \right\rangle$$

mapping $x_a \mapsto a$ and $x_b \mapsto b$.

Proof. Since v has all its neighbours in its orbit $G.v$, same same holds by structure transport via conjugation for all vertices in $G.v$. The only subsets of the set of vertices closed under taking neighbours are M itself and the empty set because M is connected. This proves assertion (1).

We now prove assertion (2). Consider the square complex $S_{A,B}$ of construction (2.1) with one vertex and a VH-structure. By Proposition 2 its universal cover is isomorphic to

$$M' = T_{2m} \times T_{2n}$$

(we use a different notation to distinguish the two copies of products of trees). The fundamental group $\pi_1(S_{A,B}, \bar{v})$ is generated by elements x_a and x_b for $a \in A$ and $b \in B$ representing loops along the corresponding oriented edges, and has the given presentation by construction, since squares in $S_{A,B}$ correspond to relations of the form $ab = b'a'$ in G . It follows that the maps $x_a \mapsto a$ and $x_b \mapsto b$ induce a well defined homomorphism

$$\varphi : \pi_1(S_{A,B}, \bar{v}) \rightarrow G$$

that is surjective because $A \cup B$ generates G . In this way $\pi_1(S_{A,B}, \bar{v})$ acts twice on a product of trees, namely on M via G and on M' via identification with $\text{Aut}(M'/S_{A,B})$ by means of a distinguished vertex $v' \in M'$.

The map $v' \mapsto v \in M$ extends uniquely to a $\pi_1(S_{A,B}, \bar{v})$ -equivariant map $f : M' \rightarrow M$ as follows. The action on M' is free and transitive on vertices, so the definition of f is clear on the 0-skeleton. The definition on the 1-skeleton is by translating to an edge linking v' with a neighbour and is consistent by the assumption on how $A, B \subset G$ moves v to its neighbours. Extending f to the 2-skeleton, hence all of M' , works because G has the same relations of length 4 corresponding to squares at v' resp. v . The induced map

$$f : M' \rightarrow M$$

must be a covering map since this is true locally near $v' \mapsto v$ by construction and therefore by homogeneity everywhere. Because M is simply connected and M' is connected we conclude that $M' \simeq M$ equivariantly by means of f . In particular, the map φ must be an isomorphism which shows (iii). Furthermore, the G action on M is isomorphic via (φ, f) to the action on M' of

$$\pi_1(S_{A,B}, \bar{v}) \simeq \text{Aut}(M'/S_{A,B})$$

proving (i) and also inducing an isomorphism $G \backslash M \simeq S_{A,B}$ that verifies (ii). \square

2.3. Mass formula for one vertex square complexes with VH-structure. Let A (resp. B) be a set with fixed point free involution of size $2m$ (resp. $2n$). In order to count one vertex square complexes S with VH-structure with vertical/horizontal partition $A \sqcup B$ of oriented edges we introduce the generic matrix

$$X = (x_{ab})_{a \in A, b \in B}$$

with rows indexed by A and columns indexed by B and with (a, b) -entry a formal variable x_{ab} . Let X^t be the transpose of X , let τ_A (resp. τ_B) be the permutation matrix for $e \mapsto e^{-1}$ for A (resp. B). For a square \square we set

$$x_{\square} = \prod_{e \in \square} x_e$$

where the product ranges over the edges $e = (a, b)$ in the link of S originating from \square and $x_e = x_{ab}$. Then the sum of the x_{\square} , when \square ranges over all possible squares with edges from $A \sqcup B$, reads

$$\sum_{\square} x_{\square} = \frac{1}{4} \text{tr}((\tau_A X \tau_B X^t)^2),$$

and the number of one vertex square complexes S with VH-structure of partition size $(2m, 2n)$ and edges labelled by A and B is given by

$$\widetilde{\text{BM}}_{m,n} = \frac{1}{(mn)!} \cdot \frac{\partial^{4mn}}{\prod_{a,b} \partial x_{ab}} \left(\frac{1}{4} \text{tr}((\tau_A X \tau_B X^t)^2) \right)^{mn}. \quad (2.3)$$

Note that this is a constant polynomial.

We can turn this into a mass formula for the number of one vertex square complexes with VH-structure up to isomorphism where each square complex is counted with the inverse order of its group of automorphisms as its weight. We simply need to divide by the order of the universal relabelling

$$\#(\text{Aut}(A, \tau_A) \times \text{Aut}(B, \tau_B)) = 2^n(n)! \cdot 2^m(m)!.$$

Hence the mass of one vertex square complexes with VH-structure is given by

$$\text{BM}_{m,n} = \frac{1}{2^{n+m+2nm}(n)! \cdot (m)! \cdot (mn)!} \cdot \frac{\partial^{4mn}}{\prod_{a,b} \partial x_{ab}} \left(\text{tr}((\tau_A X \tau_B X^t)^2) \right)^{mn}. \quad (2.4)$$

Our formula (2.3) reproduces the numerical values of $\widetilde{\text{BM}}_{m,n}$ for small values $(2m, 2n)$ that were computed by Rattaggi in [Ra04] table B.3. Here small means $mn \leq 10$.

3. THE QUATERNIONIC LATTICE

In this section we construct the quaternionic lattice Γ in positive characteristic. Throughout the section q will be a power of an odd prime $p > 2$. The construction is explicit and algebraic with some mild arithmetic input. It depends on a parameter

$$\tau \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_q) \setminus \{0, 1, \infty\} = \mathbb{F}_q^* \setminus \{1\}.$$

3.1. Enters the quaternion algebra. We fix once and for all a non-square

$$c \in \mathbb{F}_q^* \setminus (\mathbb{F}_q^*)^2,$$

and let $K = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$ denote the rational function field over \mathbb{F}_q in the parameter t . Let D be the quaternion algebra over K given as

$$D = \left(\frac{c, t(t-1)}{K} \right)$$

which in terms of non-commuting variables Z, F has the presentation as an associative algebra

$$D = K\{Z, F\} / (Z^2 = c, F^2 = t(t-1), ZF = -FZ).$$

In fact, the quaternion algebra D does not depend on the particular choice of the non-square c up to isomorphism.

Lemma 8. *The quaternion algebra D ramifies exactly in $t = 0$ and $t = 1$.*

Proof. The algebra D ramifies at most in $\{0, 1, \infty\}$, the locus where the parameters c and $t(t-1)$ are not both units. The local Hilbert symbol at the place v either $t = 0$ or $t = 1$ computes as

$$(c, t(t-1))_v = c^{(q+1)/2} = -1,$$

so D ramifies there. The number of ramified places being even, D is unramified at $t = \infty$. \square

3.1.1. *The first splitting of D .* In order to compute with localizations of D later, we introduce a splitting of D . Let $\mathbb{F}_q(z)$ be the quadratic extension of $K = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$ determined by

$$(z - 1)^2 = \frac{t - 1}{t}.$$

The non-trivial Galois automorphism is given by $z \mapsto 2 - z$ and

$$t = \frac{1}{z(2 - z)}.$$

Lemma 9. *The quaternion algebra D splits over $\mathbb{F}_q(z)$, i.e., D has a 2-dimensional representation $\rho_z : D \rightarrow \mathrm{M}_2(\mathbb{F}_q(z))$ over $\mathbb{F}_q(z)$ as follows:*

$$\begin{aligned} Z &\mapsto \rho_z(Z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & c \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ F &\mapsto \rho_z(F) = \begin{pmatrix} t(z - 1) & 0 \\ 0 & t(1 - z) \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. This is an elementary computation in $\mathrm{M}_2(\mathbb{F}_q(z))$. □

3.1.2. *The algebraic group.* In the following, we will be concerned with arithmetic lattices for the algebraic group over K

$$G = \mathrm{PGL}_{1,D}$$

of the projective linear group of rank 1 of D , a twisted form of the adjoint form PGL_2 of SL_2 .

3.1.3. *Choice of orders.* Let us introduce the Dedekind ring

$$R' = \mathbb{F}_q[t, \frac{1}{t(t - \tau)}]$$

of S' -integers of $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$ where S' is the set of places $\{0, \tau, \infty\}$, note that $\tau \neq 0, 1$. The quaternion algebra D contains the R' -order

$$\mathfrak{D}' = R' \oplus R' \cdot Z \oplus R' \cdot F \oplus R' \cdot ZF.$$

In this basis $1, Z, F, ZF$ the trace form has discriminant $16c^2t^2(t - 1)^2$, so that the reduced discriminant of \mathfrak{D}' is the square-free ideal $(t(t - 1))$ and \mathfrak{D}' is a maximal R' -order of D . We further set

$$R = R'[\frac{1}{t - 1}]$$

and consider the scalar extension $\mathfrak{D} = \mathfrak{D}' \otimes_{R'} R$ which is even an Azumaya algebra over R , because both parameters $c, t(t - 1) \in R^*$ are units in R (and p is odd).

The choice of the basis $1, Z, F, ZF$ introduces naturally an integral structure on G and thus arithmetic subgroups

$$\mathfrak{D}'^*/R'^* = G(R') \subseteq \mathfrak{D}^*/R^* = G(R) \subseteq G(K) = \mathrm{PGL}_{1,D}(K) = D^*/K^*.$$

The equalities follow because R' and R are principal ideal domains.

3.2. A constant quadratic subfield. Since c is not a square in \mathbb{F}_q , the element Z generates a finite subfield of q^2 elements

$$\mathbb{F}_q[Z] \subset \mathfrak{D}'.$$

3.2.1. *Dihedral group.* The multiplicative group of a finite field is cyclic, and we choose a generator

$$\delta \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*.$$

The quotient group $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^*$ is cyclic of order $q+1$ with generator d the image δ .

Since $F \in \mathfrak{D}$ and $F(Z)F^{-1} = -Z$, the induced map

$$F(-)F^{-1} : \mathbb{F}_p[Z] \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p[Z]$$

describes the non-trivial Galois automorphism of the quadratic field extension $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]/\mathbb{F}_q$, hence the q -Frobenius automorphism

$$F(\delta_1 + \delta_2 Z)F^{-1} = (\delta_1 + \delta_2 Z)^q = \delta_1 - \delta_2 Z \quad (3.1)$$

for δ_1, δ_2 in \mathbb{F}_q . Let s be the image of F in $G(R) = \mathfrak{D}^*/R^*$.

Lemma 10. *The subgroup*

$$\Delta := \langle d, s \rangle \subset G(R)$$

is a dihedral group of order $2(q+1)$ with rotation d and reflection s .

Proof. The relations $d^{q+1} = 1$ and $s^2 = 1$ are clear, and $sds = s(d)s^{-1} = d^q = d^{-1}$ by (3.1). \square

3.2.2. *Elements of norm 1 and Hilbert's Theorem 90.* Let us introduce homogeneous coordinates $[W_0 : W_1]$ on \mathbb{P}^1 and set formally $W = W_0 + W_1 Z$. We parametrize the projective space $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$ of the 2-dimensional \mathbb{F}_q -vector space $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_q) &= \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z]) = \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^*, \\ [w_0 : w_1] &\leftrightarrow w_0 + w_1 Z \leftrightarrow w. \end{aligned}$$

The Galois conjugation automorphism $w \mapsto \bar{w}$ of $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*$ is the linear map

$$W = [W_0 : W_1] \mapsto \bar{W} = [W_0 : -W_1].$$

Let us further introduce the map

$$\begin{aligned} \wp : \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^* &\rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*, \\ w_0 + w_1 Z &\mapsto \wp(w_0 + w_1 Z) = \frac{w_0 + w_1 Z}{w_0 - w_1 Z}, \end{aligned}$$

or in short $\wp(w) = w/\bar{w}$, and let $w \mapsto N(w) = w \cdot \bar{w} = w^{1+q}$ be the norm map

$$N = N_{\mathbb{F}_q[Z]/\mathbb{F}_q} : \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^* \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^*.$$

Lemma 11. *We have a short exact sequence*

$$1 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^* \xrightarrow{\wp} \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^* \xrightarrow{N} \mathbb{F}_q^* \rightarrow 1.$$

Proof. Field extensions of finite fields are all Galois with cyclic Galois groups. So the assertion is an immediate consequence of Hilbert's Theorem 90 and counting of orders of cyclic groups. \square

The norm-1 torus \mathbb{T} of the quadratic field extension $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]/\mathbb{F}_q$ is the algebraic torus

$$\mathbb{T} = \{U_0 + U_1 Z ; U_0^2 - cU_1^2 = 1\}.$$

Lemma 11 provides an explicit parametrization of its rational points

$$\mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^* = \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z]) \xrightarrow{\wp} \ker(N) = \mathbb{T}(\mathbb{F}_q).$$

3.2.3. *Elements of fixed norm.* Let $u \in \mathbb{F}_q^*$ be a fixed element. The projective variety

$$\mathbb{T}_u = \{[W_0 : W_1 : V] ; W_0^2 - cW_1^2 = uV^2\} \subseteq \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^2,$$

is a smooth conic over \mathbb{F}_q and thus isomorphic to the projective line $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^1$. Because c is not a square in \mathbb{F}_q , the rational points of \mathbb{T}_u have $V \neq 0$ and thus

$$\mathbb{T}_u(\mathbb{F}_q) = \{w = w_0 + w_1Z \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z] ; N(w_0 + w_1Z) = u\}$$

describes the set of elements of $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]$ of fixed norm u .

We set formally $W = W_0 + W_1Z$ and $\bar{W} = W_0 - W_1Z$, so that the norm map becomes the multiplicative map

$$N(W) = W \cdot \bar{W} = W_0^2 - cW_1^2$$

and

$$\mathbb{T}_u = \{[W : V] ; N(W) = uV^2\}.$$

Conjugation $w \mapsto \bar{w}$ reads in this description in algebraic coordinates

$$[W : V] = [W_0 : W_1 : V] \mapsto [\bar{W} : V] = [W_0 : -W_1 : V]$$

and yields an automorphism of \mathbb{T}_u due to $N(W) = N(\bar{W})$.

Lemma 12. *For $u \in \mathbb{F}_q^*$ and $\xi \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]$, the map*

$$\sigma_\xi : \mathbb{T}_u \rightarrow \mathbb{T}_u$$

given in the formal variable $W = W_0 + W_1Z$ by

$$[W : V] \mapsto [\bar{W} \cdot \frac{W - \xi V}{\bar{W} - \xi V} : V]$$

defines an automorphism which on \mathbb{F}_q -rational points $w = [w : 1]$ induces the map

$$w \mapsto \bar{w} \cdot \wp(w - \xi) = w^q(w - \xi)^{1-q} = \bar{w} \cdot \frac{w - \xi}{\bar{w} - \xi}.$$

Proof. The map is well defined because

$$N\left(\bar{W} \cdot \frac{W - \xi V}{\bar{W} - \xi V}\right) = N(W)$$

and by

$$[\bar{W} \cdot \frac{W - \xi V}{\bar{W} - \xi V} : V] = \left[\frac{uV - \xi\bar{W}}{\bar{W} - \xi V} : 1\right]$$

of degree 1, hence indeed an automorphism of \mathbb{T}_u . The rest is obvious. \square

3.2.4. *Choice of coordinates.* Let $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]$ be an element with $N(\mu) = u$. Then the map

$$w \mapsto \mu\wp(w), \tag{3.2}$$

or in homogeneous coordinates

$$[W_0 : W_1] \mapsto [\mu \cdot \wp(W) : 1] = [\mu \cdot W^2 : N(W)],$$

defines an algebraic isomorphism

$$\mathbb{P}^1 \simeq \underline{\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])} \simeq \mathbb{T}_u.$$

Here $\underline{\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])}$ denotes the projective space variety associated to the \mathbb{F}_q -vector space $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]$. Associated with the choice of ω and the associated coordinate w on \mathbb{T}_u is an isomorphism

$$\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\mathbb{T}_u) = \text{PGL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z]).$$

Lemma 13. *In the coordinate W introduced in (3.2) the map σ_ξ of Lemma 12 has the form*

$$\sigma_\xi : W \mapsto W - \frac{\xi}{\mu} \cdot \bar{W}$$

and determinant modulo squares represented by

$$\det(\sigma_\xi) = 1 - N(\xi/\mu).$$

Proof. We compute in terms of the homogeneous coordinate W on $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$ with $\mu\wp(W)$ on \mathbb{T}_u

$$\sigma_\xi([\mu \cdot \wp(W) : 1]) = [\bar{\mu} \cdot \bar{W}^2 \cdot \wp(\mu W^2 - \xi N(W)) : N(W)] = [\mu \cdot \wp(W - \frac{\xi}{\mu} \bar{W}) : 1]$$

so that in terms of the coordinate W the automorphism σ_ξ has the claimed form.

We write $\xi/\mu = \omega_0 + \omega_1 Z$ and lift σ_ξ to the linear map

$$w \mapsto w - \frac{\xi}{\mu} \bar{w}$$

in $\mathrm{GL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$. Its determinant is computed via the matrix with respect to the basis $1, Z$ as

$$\det(\sigma_\xi) \equiv \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \omega_0 & -\omega_1 \\ c \cdot \omega_1 & 1 + \omega_0 \end{pmatrix} = 1 - (\omega_0^2 - c\omega_1^2) = 1 - N(\xi/\mu).$$

This completes the proof. \square

3.2.5. *Second splitting of D .* We fix once and for all an element $\zeta = \zeta_0 + \zeta_1 Z \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]$ such that

$$N(\zeta_0 + \zeta_1 Z) = \frac{\tau - 1}{\tau}.$$

Note that $\tau \neq 0, 1$, so such a choice can be made by Lemma 11.

Let $\mathbb{F}_q(y)/\mathbb{F}_q(t)$ be the quadratic extension determined by

$$(y - 1)^2 = \frac{\tau}{\tau - 1} \cdot \frac{t - 1}{t}.$$

The non-trivial Galois automorphism is again given by $y \mapsto 2 - y$ and

$$t = \frac{\tau}{\tau - (\tau - 1)(y - 1)^2}.$$

Lemma 14. *The quaternion algebra D splits over $\mathbb{F}_q(y)$, i.e., D has a 2-dimensional representation over $\mathbb{F}_q(y)$ as follows:*

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_y : D &\rightarrow \mathrm{M}_2(\mathbb{F}_q(y)), \\ Z &\mapsto \rho_y(Z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & c \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ F &\mapsto \rho_y(F) = \begin{pmatrix} \zeta_0 t(y - 1) & c\zeta_1 t(1 - y) \\ \zeta_1 t(y - 1) & \zeta_0 t(1 - y) \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. This is an elementary computation in $\mathrm{M}_2(\mathbb{F}_q(y))$. \square

3.3. **Enters the lattice.** Crucially for the whole construction are the properties of the following quaternions, for $\xi \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]$,

$$\gamma_\xi = tZ + \xi F$$

of reduced norm

$$\mathrm{Nrd}(\gamma_\xi) = t(N(\xi) - (N(\xi) + c)t). \quad (3.3)$$

Since γ_ξ is purely imaginary, its square belongs to the center of D and so its image in $G(K)$ is a 2-torsion element.

Definition 15. (1) We set $N_c = \mathbb{T}_{-c}(\mathbb{F}_q) = \{\xi \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^* ; N(\xi) = -c\}$ and

$$M_\tau = \mathbb{T}_{\frac{c\tau}{1-\tau}}(\mathbb{F}_q) = \{\eta \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^* ; N(\eta) = \frac{c\tau}{1-\tau}\}.$$

(2) First, for $\xi \in N_c$ (resp. $\eta \in M_\tau$) we set

$$\alpha_\xi = \gamma_\xi Z \quad (\text{resp. } \beta_\eta = \gamma_\eta Z)$$

and set a_ξ (resp. b_η) for its image in $G(K)$. Secondly, we define the sets

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \{a_\xi ; \xi \in N_c\}, \\ B &= \{b_\eta ; \eta \in M_\tau\}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

considered as subsets of $G(K) = D^*/K^*$. If we want to emphasize the dependence on τ we write $A = A_\tau$ and $B = B_\tau$.

By (3.3) and $\text{Nrd}(Z) = -c$ the reduced norms

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Nrd}(\alpha_\xi) &= c^2 \cdot t, \\ \text{Nrd}(\beta_\eta) &= \frac{c^2}{1-\tau} \cdot (t-\tau) \cdot t \end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

are units in R' , hence $\alpha_\xi, \beta_\eta \in \mathfrak{D}'^*$ and therefore

$$A, B \subset G(R').$$

Lemma 16. *The sets A and B are disjoint and of size $q+1$.*

Proof. Since $c \neq 0$ we never have $c\tau/(1-\tau) = -c$ and thus $N_c \cap M_\tau = \emptyset$. Since both N_c and M_τ are the sets of \mathbb{F}_q -rational points of an algebraic curve isomorphic to \mathbb{P}^1 , the lemma follows if the map

$$\xi \mapsto \gamma_\xi$$

is injective as a map $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]^* \rightarrow D^*/K^*$. By assuming the contrary we have $f(t) \in K^*$ and $\xi \neq \eta$ in $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*$ with

$$tZ + \xi F = f(t) \cdot (tZ + \eta F).$$

This implies $f(t) = 1$ and thus a contradiction. \square

Proposition 17. *The following describes the dihedral group Δ relative the sets A and B :*

- (1) *The set A (resp. B) is closed under taking inverses.*
- (2) *The dihedral group Δ acts by conjugation on A (resp. B) as on the regular $(q+1)$ -gon.*
- (3) *For $\xi \in N_c$ and $\eta \in M_\tau$*

$$\begin{aligned} sa_\xi s &= a_{-\bar{\xi}}, \\ sb_\eta s &= b_{-\bar{\eta}}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.6}$$

- (4) *The centralizer of a_ξ (resp. b_η) in Δ is the subgroup $\langle sd^r \rangle$ with $r \in \mathbb{Z}/(q+1)\mathbb{Z}$ determined by $\wp(\xi\delta^r) = -1$ (resp. $\wp(\eta\delta^r) = -1$).*

Proof. (1) The sets N_c and M_τ are closed under the map $w \mapsto -w$. We compute for $\xi \in N_c$

$$\alpha_\xi \alpha_{-\xi} = (tZ + \xi F)Z(tZ - \xi F)Z = (tZ + \xi F)^2 \cdot Z^2 \in K^*$$

and similarly $\beta_\eta \beta_{-\eta} \in K^*$ for $\eta \in M_\tau$. This proves assertion (1).

(2) For $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*$ and $\xi \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]$ we have

$$\lambda(\gamma_\xi Z)\lambda^{-1} = \lambda(tZ + \xi F)Z\lambda^{-1} = (tZ + \xi\wp(\lambda)F)Z = \gamma_{\xi\wp(\lambda)}Z. \tag{3.7}$$

Clearly the map $\xi \mapsto \xi\wp(\lambda)$ identifies N_c (resp. M_τ) as a principal homogeneous set under $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^*$ and so A (resp. B) forms an orbit under conjugation by the cyclic group $\langle d \rangle = \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^*$. By Lemma 16 this orbit has size $q+1$ and thus forms the vertices of a regular $(q+1)$ -gon. It remains to show that $s \in \Delta$ acts as a reflection. Hence (3) implies (2).

(3) The sets N_c and M_τ are closed under the map $w \mapsto -\bar{w}$ so that the claim (3.6) is well posed. Conjugation by s lifts in D^* to

$$F(\gamma_\xi Z)F^{-1} = F(tZ + \xi F)ZF^{-1} = (tZ - \bar{\xi}F)Z = \gamma_{-\bar{\xi}}Z$$

which confirms (3.6).

(4) Using (3) and (3.7) we compute in $G(R)$ that

$$sd^r(\gamma_\xi Z)(sd^r)^{-1} = s(\gamma_{\xi\wp(\delta^r)}Z)s = \gamma_{-\bar{\xi}/\wp(\delta^r)}Z$$

which agrees by Lemma 16 with $\gamma_\xi Z$ in $G(R)$ if and only if

$$\xi = -\bar{\xi}/\wp(\delta^r),$$

or equivalently $\wp(\xi\delta^r) = -1$. □

Remark 18. Computations using SAGE with small values of q and τ yields that the conjugacy classes of reflections stabilizing elements of A or B sometimes coincide and sometimes does not.

Definition 19. (1) Recall that $\zeta \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]$ has norm $(\tau - 1)/\tau$. We have natural choice of elements in N_c and M_τ , namely

$$\begin{aligned} Z &\in N_c \\ Z/\zeta &\in M_\tau \end{aligned}$$

due to $N(Z) = -Z^2 = -c$ and $N(Z/\zeta) = c\tau/(1 - \tau)$. We abbreviate

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= \gamma_Z = tZ + ZF, \\ \beta &= \gamma_{Z/\zeta} = tZ + \zeta^{-1}ZF \end{aligned}$$

and furthermore a (resp. b) for the image of α (resp. β) in $G(K)$.

(2) With the notation from above we define the following finitely generated subgroups of $G(K)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda &= \langle d, s, a, b \rangle \subseteq G(R), \\ \Lambda' &= \langle d, a, b \rangle \subseteq G(R'), \\ \Gamma &= \langle A, B \rangle \subseteq G(R'). \end{aligned}$$

If we want to emphasize the dependence on τ we write $\Lambda = \Lambda_\tau$, $\Lambda' = \Lambda'_\tau$ and $\Gamma = \Gamma_\tau$.

Remark 20. Clearly there are inclusions $\Gamma \subseteq \Lambda' \subseteq \Lambda$, and we will see later in Section §4 that these groups are indeed S -arithmetic lattices for the group $G = \mathrm{PGL}_{1,D}$ over $K = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$.

Proposition 21. *The group Γ is a normal subgroup of finite index in Λ .*

Proof. Since Λ is generated by $d, s, a_Z = aZ$ and $b_{Z/\zeta} = bZ$, we have $\Lambda = \Delta \cdot \Gamma$ and it suffices to study the action of d and s by conjugation on A and B . The assertion then follows from Proposition 17. □

3.4. Relations of length 4 in the lattice. In this section we establish that $A, B \subset \Gamma$ determines a VH-structure in Γ in the sense of Definition 4. This result is reminiscent of Dickson's theory of prime factorization in integral Hamiltonian quaternions, see [Di22] Theorem 8.

Proposition 22. *With the notation from above the following holds.*

- (1) *The sets of products $AB = BA$ agree and have cardinality $(q + 1)^2$.*
- (2) *The equation*

$$a_\xi b_\eta = b_\lambda a_\mu$$

has for every $(\xi, \eta) \in N_c \times M_\tau$ a unique solution $(\mu, \lambda) \in N_c \times M_\tau$ and conversely for every $(\mu, \lambda) \in N_c \times M_\tau$ a unique solution $(\xi, \eta) \in N_c \times M_\tau$.

- (3) *None of the elements $a_\xi b_\eta$ and $b_\eta a_\xi$ for all $\xi \in N_c$ and $\eta \in M_\tau$ is 2-torsion.*
- (4) *The sets $A, B \subset \Gamma$ form a VH-structure in Γ .*

Proof. Assertion (1) follows directly from assertion (2). In order to prove (2) we compute in D rather than in D^*/K^* , namely

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_\xi\beta_\eta &= (tZ + \xi F)Z(tZ + \eta F)Z = c(tZ + \xi F)(tZ - \eta F) \\ &= c^2t^2 - c\xi\eta^qt(t-1) - c(\xi + \eta)tZF \\ \beta_\lambda\alpha_\mu &= (tZ + \lambda F)Z(tZ + \mu F)Z = c(tZ + \lambda F)(tZ - \mu F) \\ &= c^2t^2 - c\lambda\mu^qt(t-1) - c(\lambda + \mu)tZF\end{aligned}\tag{3.8}$$

Since $D = \mathbb{F}_q[Z](t) \oplus \mathbb{F}_q[Z](t) \cdot ZF$ the equation in D^*

$$\alpha_\xi\beta_\eta = f(t) \cdot \beta_\lambda\alpha_\mu$$

with $f(t) \in K^*$ can only hold (consider the ZF -component) with a constant

$$f = f(t) \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z] \cap \mathbb{F}_q(t) = \mathbb{F}_q.$$

Evaluating at $t = 1$ yields

$$c^2 - c(\xi + \eta)ZF = f \cdot (c^2 - c(\lambda + \mu)ZF)$$

so that $f = 1$ is forced. Now comparison of coefficients yields the system of equations

$$\begin{aligned}\xi\eta^q &= \lambda\mu^q, \\ \xi + \eta &= \lambda + \mu.\end{aligned}\tag{3.9}$$

Note that the sums in the second equation are non-zero since otherwise $0 = N(-\xi/\eta) = \frac{\tau-1}{\tau}$ contradicting $\tau \neq 0, 1$. Because of $\mu^{q+1} = c = \xi^{q+1}$, the first equation is equivalent to $(\eta/\xi)^q = \lambda/\mu$. So the second equation reads

$$\mu(1 + \bar{\eta}/\bar{\xi}) = \mu(1 + \lambda/\mu) = \mu + \lambda = \xi + \eta$$

and finally (3.9) is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda &= \bar{\eta} \cdot \wp(\xi + \eta), \\ \mu &= \bar{\xi} \cdot \wp(\xi + \eta).\end{aligned}\tag{3.10}$$

Similarly, (3.9) is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned}\xi &= \bar{\mu} \cdot \wp(\lambda + \mu), \\ \eta &= \bar{\lambda} \cdot \wp(\lambda + \mu).\end{aligned}\tag{3.11}$$

Note that the constraints on the norms of λ , μ and of ξ and η are satisfied automatically. This completes the proof of (2).

Assertion (4) follows by definition from (1) and (3). In order to show (3) we write

$$\alpha_\xi\beta_\eta = w_0 + w_1Z + w_2F + w_3ZF = w_0 + \vec{w}$$

and read from (3.8) that the imaginary part $\vec{w} \neq 0$ does not vanish and, by evaluating at $t = 1$,

$$2w_0|_{t=1} = \text{trd}(\alpha_\xi\beta_\eta|_{t=1}) = \text{trd}(c^2 - c(\xi + \eta)ZF) = 2c^2 \neq 0$$

that $w_0 \neq 0$. We therefore compute the square as

$$(\alpha_\xi\beta_\eta)^2 = (w_0 + \vec{w})^2 = w_0^2 - \text{Nrd}(\vec{w}) + 2w_0\vec{w} \notin K,$$

so that $(a_\xi b_\eta)^2 \neq 1$. The claim for $b_\eta a_\xi$ follows from $AB = BA$. This completes the proof. \square

Corollary 23. For $(\xi, \lambda) \in N_c \times M_\tau$ and with the notation of Section §3.2.3 the relation

$$a_\xi b_{\sigma_\xi(\lambda)} = b_\lambda a_{\sigma_\lambda(\xi)}$$

holds in Γ .

Proof. It suffices to check the equations (3.9). The first equation holds due to

$$\xi\eta^q = \xi\bar{\eta} = \xi \cdot \lambda \frac{\bar{\lambda} - \bar{\xi}}{\lambda - \xi} = \lambda \cdot \xi \frac{\bar{\xi} - \bar{\lambda}}{\xi - \lambda} = \lambda\bar{\mu} = \lambda\mu^q,$$

and

$$\xi + \eta = \xi + \bar{\lambda} \cdot \frac{\lambda - \xi}{\bar{\lambda} - \bar{\xi}} = \lambda + (\xi - \lambda) \left(1 + \frac{\bar{\lambda}}{\bar{\xi} - \bar{\lambda}}\right) = \lambda + \bar{\xi} \cdot \frac{\xi - \lambda}{\bar{\xi} - \bar{\lambda}} = \lambda + \mu.$$

verifies the second equation. \square

4. GEOMETRY OF THE QUATERNIONIC LATTICE

In this section we keep the notation from Section §3 and study the group Γ via geometric group theory unfolding in its action on products of trees.

4.1. Reminder on the Bruhat Tits action. Let K_x denote the completion of K at $t = x$ with valuation ord_x and uniformizer π_x . We denote the ring of integers $\{f ; \text{ord}_x(f) \geq 0\}$ in the local field K_x by \mathfrak{o}_x . Let us recall that the vertices in the Bruhat Tits tree T_x for $\text{PGL}_2(K_x)$ are homothety classes of \mathfrak{o}_x -lattices in $(K_x)^2$. The tree T_x has constant valency equal to the norm $N(x)$ which equals the cardinality of the residue field $\kappa(x)$ at $t = x$. The group $\text{PGL}_2(K_x)$ acts on T_x simplicially by representatives in $\text{GL}_2(K_x)$.

$$\text{PGL}_2(K_x) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(T_x)$$

We denote the vertex corresponding to the standard lattice $(\mathfrak{o}_x)^2$ with both coordinates in \mathfrak{o}_x by $v_x \in T_x$ and call it the **standard vertex**. The stabilizer of v_x is the group

$$\text{PGL}_2(\mathfrak{o}_x)$$

of elements that can be lifted to $\text{GL}_2(\mathfrak{o}_x)$.

Lemma 24. *There are canonical bijections of the following three sets:*

- (a) *The set of neighbours of $v_x \in T_x$.*
- (b) $\{M \in \text{GL}_2(K_x) \cap \text{M}_2(\mathfrak{o}_x) ; \text{ord}_x(\det(M)) = 1\} / \text{GL}_2(\mathfrak{o}_x)$.
- (c) $\mathbb{P}^1(\kappa(x))$.

Proof. A neighbour of v_x can be uniquely represented by a lattice L with $\pi(\mathfrak{o}_x)^2 \subsetneq L \subsetneq (\mathfrak{o}_x)^2$, hence corresponds uniquely by reduction modulo π_x to a line in $\kappa(x)^2$, in fact a point in $\mathbb{P}^1(\kappa(x))$.

The bijection from (b) to (a) is obtained by mapping M to $L = M((\mathfrak{o}_x)^2)$ which is well defined since M as an endomorphism of $(\mathfrak{o}_x)^2$ has $\text{coker}(M)$ with \mathfrak{o}_x -length equal to $\text{ord}_x(\det(M))$. \square

By definition $G(R)$ is an S -arithmetic lattice for the set of places $S = \{0, 1, \tau, \infty\}$:

$$G(R) \hookrightarrow G(K_0) \times G(K_1) \times G(K_\tau) \times G(K_\infty).$$

Hence $G(R)$ is discrete and cocompact by Behr and Harder, see [Ma91] I Theorem 3.2.4, because $G = \text{PGL}_{1,D}$ is semisimple and anisotropic over K . Since D ramifies at $t = 0, 1$, the local factors $G(K_0)$ and $G(K_1)$ are compact, and

$$G(R) \hookrightarrow G(K_\tau) \times G(K_\infty) \tag{4.1}$$

is still discrete and cocompact.

At $t = \tau$ and $t = \infty$ the quaternion algebra splits. The field extension $\mathbb{F}_q(z)/K$ used in Lemma 9 maps the place $z = 0$ to $t = \infty$, so

$$K_\infty \simeq \mathbb{F}_q((z))$$

and the splitting of Lemma 9 yields an isomorphism

$$G(K_\infty) \simeq \text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((z)))$$

Similarly, the field extension $\mathbb{F}_q(y)/K$ used in Lemma 14 maps the place $y = 0$ to $t = \tau$, so

$$K_\tau \simeq \mathbb{F}_q((y))$$

and the splitting of Lemma 14 yields an isomorphism

$$G(K_\tau) \simeq \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((y)))$$

The Bruhat Tits building of the two split factors $G(K_\tau)$ and $G(K_\infty)$ is a tree T_τ resp. T_∞ with constant valency $q + 1$. It follows that the diagonal embedding (4.1) defines a simplicial action

$$\rho : G(R) \rightarrow \mathrm{Aut}(T_\tau) \times \mathrm{Aut}(T_\infty).$$

that we call the Bruhat Tits action of $G(R)$ or its subgroups Γ , Λ' and Λ .

4.2. Vertex stabilizers. For a group H acting on a square complex such as a product of trees we denote the stabilizer of the vertex v by H_v .

Proposition 25. *The following holds for the standard vertex $v_0 = (v_\tau, v_\infty) \in T_\tau \times T_\infty$.*

- (1) *The stabilizer $G(R)_{v_0}$ agrees with the dihedral group $\Delta = \langle d, s \rangle \subset G(R)$ of Lemma 10.*
- (2) *The stabilizer $G(R)_{v_0}$ acts on the set of neighbours of $v_\tau \in T_\tau$ (resp. of $v_\infty \in T_\infty$) as the normalizer of a non-split torus in $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$ with its natural action on $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_q)$ under the identification of Lemma 24.*
- (3) *The action of $\langle d \rangle$ is free and transitive on the set of neighbours of v_τ (resp. of v_∞).*

Proof. For ease of legibility we write $v = v_0$. We must determine representatives for d and s in $\mathrm{M}_2(\mathfrak{o}_x)$ for x the places $t = c - 1$ and $t = \infty$. Under both ρ_y and ρ_z we have

$$Z \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & c \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (4.2)$$

so that $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*$ maps isomorphically onto a non-split torus in the constant subgroup

$$\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q) \subset \mathrm{GL}_2(K_\tau) \quad (\text{resp. } \mathrm{GL}_2(K_\infty)).$$

In view of Lemma 24 this shows $d \in G(R)_v$, and also that (2) and (3) are consequences of (1).

Concerning s , or more precisely its lift F , the formula in Lemma 9 shows

$$z \cdot \rho_z(F) = z \cdot \begin{pmatrix} t(z-1) & 0 \\ 0 & t(1-z) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{O}(z) \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q[[z]])$$

and the formula of Lemma 14 shows

$$\rho_y(F) = t(y-1) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \zeta_0 & -c\zeta_1 \\ \zeta_1 & -\zeta_0 \end{pmatrix} = \tau \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -\zeta_0 & c\zeta_1 \\ -\zeta_1 & \zeta_0 \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{O}(y) \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q[[y]]).$$

This proves $s \in G(R)_v$ and so $\Delta = \langle d, s \rangle \subseteq G(R)_v$.

For the converse inclusion $G(R)_v \subseteq \Delta$ we argue as follows. Since

$$(\rho_y, \rho_z)(G(R)) \subset \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((y))) \times \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((z)))$$

is a discrete subgroup, and $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q[[y]]) \times \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q[[z]])$ is compact, it follows that the stabilizer

$$G(R)_v = (\rho_y, \rho_z)^{-1}(\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q[[y]]) \times \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q[[z]]))$$

is finite. The explicit splitting of Lemma 9 shows that $G(R)_v$ is a finite subgroup of $\mathrm{PGL}_2(k)$ for the field $k = \mathbb{F}_q(z)$. Moreover, since it is contained in a stabilizer of a vertex we also have an inclusion

$$G(R)_v \subseteq \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q[[z]]).$$

The kernel of $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q[[z]]) \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$, the evaluation in $z = 0$, is a pro- p -group so that

$$N = G(R)_v \cap \ker\left(\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q[[z]]) \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)\right)$$

is a normal p -subgroup of $G(R)_v$.

We first assume that $N \neq \mathbf{1}$, so that $p \mid \#G(R)_v$. Resorting to Dickson's classification of finite subgroups of $\mathrm{PGL}_2(k)$ for a field k (Dickson [Di58] actually classifies subgroups of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$),

see for example [Fa12] Theorem B, the presence of the (non-cyclic, but prime to p) dihedral group Δ in $G(R)_v$ shows that $G(R)_v$ is neither p -semi-elementary (in the sense of [Fa12]) nor isomorphic to A_5 (the only dihedral subgroups of A_5 are of order 2, 4, 6 and 10, so not of order $2(q+1)$). It remains the cases of $G(R)_v$ equal to

$$\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}), \quad \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F})$$

for a subfield $\mathbb{F} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q$. These groups have no non-trivial normal p -subgroup. In particular, in all cases $N = \mathbf{1}$. We thus search a group (by projecting to the constant part)

$$\Delta \subseteq G(R)_v \subseteq \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q).$$

By [Gi07] Theorem 3.5 ([Gi07] treats $q > 3$; for $q = 3$ the group Δ has order 8 inside $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_3)$ of order 24, and so is maximal) Δ is a maximal subgroup, so that it remains only to contradict $G(R)_v = \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$.

For a group H we denote by $H^{\mathrm{ab}}/2$ the maximal abelian quotient of exponent 2. We argue by contradiction and assume $G(R)_v = \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$. The reduced norm induces a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^* & \longrightarrow & \Delta & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q) & \longrightarrow & G(R) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \mathrm{Nrd} \\ \mathbb{F}_q^*/(\mathbb{F}_q^*)^2 & \longrightarrow & \Delta^{\mathrm{ab}}/2 & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)^{\mathrm{ab}}/2 & \longrightarrow & R^*/(R^*)^2. \end{array}$$

Here $\Delta^{\mathrm{ab}}/2$ has dimension 2 as a vector space over \mathbb{F}_2 generated by the classes of d and s that are represented by δ and F . Since $\mathrm{Nrd}(\delta)$ is a generator of \mathbb{F}_q^* and $\mathrm{Nrd}(F) = t - t^2$ has odd valuation at $t = 0, 1$, the induced map

$$\Delta^{\mathrm{ab}}/2 \hookrightarrow R^*/(R^*)^2$$

is injective. However, the group $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)^{\mathrm{ab}}/2$ is cyclic of order 2, a contradiction. \square

4.3. The lattice is arithmetic. We next show that Γ is in fact of finite index in $G(R)$ and thus an arithmetic lattice.

Proposition 26. *By means of the Bruhat Tits action, the set $A \subset \Gamma$ (resp. $B \subset \Gamma$) maps the distinguished vertex $v_0 = (v_\tau, v_\infty) \in T \times T$ to the set of vertical (resp. horizontal) neighbours:*

$$\begin{aligned} A.v_0 &= \{(v_\tau, w) ; \text{ with } w \in T_\infty \text{ a neighbour of } v_\infty\}, \\ B.v_0 &= \{(w, v_\infty) ; \text{ with } w \in T_\tau \text{ a neighbour of } v_\tau\}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. In view of Lemma 24 we must determine good representatives for $g \in A \cup B$ in $M_2(\mathfrak{o}_x)$ for x the places $t = \tau$ and $t = \infty$. We set $\tilde{\alpha} = \alpha/t$ and $\tilde{\beta} = \zeta\beta/t$, and choose representatives

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\alpha}_\xi &= \xi\tilde{\alpha}Z\xi^{-1} = t^{-1}\alpha_{Z\varphi(\xi)}, \\ \tilde{\beta}_\eta &= \eta\tilde{\beta}Z\eta^{-1} = t^{-1}\zeta\beta_{Z\varphi(\eta)/\zeta}. \end{aligned}$$

Here we used the identity (3.7) and the fact that $Z\varphi(\xi)$ ranges over N_c (resp. $Z\varphi(\eta)/\zeta$ ranges over M_τ). Because $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^*$ maps by Proposition 25 under both ρ_y and ρ_z isomorphically onto a non-split torus in the constant subgroup $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$, it suffices to analyse $\tilde{\alpha}$ and $\tilde{\beta}$ in order for $\tilde{\alpha}_\xi$ and $\tilde{\beta}_\eta$ to be good representatives. Now by the formula in Lemma 9

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_z(\tilde{\alpha}) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & c(2-z) \\ z & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \rho_z(\tilde{\beta}) &= \begin{pmatrix} c\zeta_1 & c(\zeta_0 + 1 - z) \\ \zeta_0 + z - 1 & c\zeta_1 \end{pmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

and in Lemma 14

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_y(\tilde{\alpha}) &= \begin{pmatrix} c\zeta_1(y-1) & c(1+\zeta_0(1-y)) \\ 1+\zeta_0(y-1) & c\zeta_1(1-y) \end{pmatrix}, \\ \rho_y(\tilde{\beta}) &= \begin{pmatrix} c\zeta_1 y & c\zeta_0(2-y) \\ \zeta_0 y & c\zeta_1(2-y) \end{pmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

This confirms the necessary integrality condition:

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_z(\tilde{\alpha}_\xi), \rho_z(\tilde{\beta}_\eta) &\in M_2(\mathbb{F}_q[[z]]), \\ \rho_y(\tilde{\alpha}_\xi), \rho_y(\tilde{\beta}_\eta) &\in M_2(\mathbb{F}_q[[y]]).\end{aligned}$$

Since the reduced Norm transforms into the determinant when the quaternion algebra is split, we compute the valuation ord_x for x the places $t = \tau$ and $t = \infty$ of the determinants of these chosen integral representatives by means of (3.5) through

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Nrd}(\tilde{\alpha}_\xi) &= \frac{c^2}{t}, \\ \text{Nrd}(\tilde{\beta}_\eta) &= \frac{c^2}{\tau} \cdot \frac{\tau - t}{t}.\end{aligned}$$

Indeed, we find

$$\begin{aligned}A.v_\tau &= v_\tau \text{ and } A.v_\infty \subseteq \{\text{neighbours of } v_\infty\}, \\ B.v_\tau &\subseteq \{\text{neighbours of } v_\tau\} \text{ and } B.v_\infty = v_\infty.\end{aligned}$$

It remains to show that $A.v_\infty$ and $B.v_\tau$ contain all the respective neighbours.

For this we exploit the action by conjugation with $\langle d \rangle \subset G(R)_{v_0}$, see Proposition 25, under which A and B are orbits, see Proposition 17. For $g \in A \cup B$ it follows that

$$d(g)d^{-1}.v_0 = d.(g.v_0)$$

so that we conclude by Proposition 25 (3). \square

Corollary 27. (1) *The Bruhat Tits action of Γ on $T_\tau \times T_\infty$ is transitive on vertices.*

(2) *We have $G(R) = \Lambda$.*

(3) *The group Γ is a normal subgroup of finite index in $G(R)$ and thus an arithmetic lattice.*

Proof. Assertion (1) follows from Proposition 26 together with the abstract criterion of Proposition 7 (1). Since the subgroup $\Gamma \subset G(R)$ acts transitively on $T_\tau \times T_\infty$, by Proposition 25 we have

$$G(R) = \Gamma \cdot G(R)_v = \Gamma \cdot \Delta = \Lambda \quad (4.3)$$

which is assertion (2). Proposition 21 and (2) then show (3). \square

4.4. Presentations of the arithmetic lattices. Using VH-structures in groups we are now prepared to establish presentations for the arithmetic lattices of interest. That the groups $G(R) = \Lambda$, Λ' and Γ are finitely presented follows for example from [Bh98] §3.1. Indeed, the global rank of $G = \text{PGL}_{1,D}$ is 0 since our quaternion algebra D is indeed ramified. Here we give explicit finite presentations of these groups.

Theorem 28. *Let $1 \neq \tau \in \mathbb{F}_q^*$, let $c \in \mathbb{F}_q^*$ be a non-square and let $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]/\mathbb{F}_q$ be the quadratic field extension with $Z^2 = c$. The group Γ_τ of Definition 19 is a torsion free arithmetic lattice in $G(K)$ with finite presentation*

$$\Gamma_\tau = \left\langle \begin{array}{l} a_\xi, b_\eta \text{ for } \xi, \eta \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z] \text{ with} \\ N(\xi) = -c \text{ and } N(\eta) = \frac{c\tau}{1-\tau} \end{array} \left| \begin{array}{l} a_\xi a_{-\xi} = 1, \quad b_\eta b_{-\eta} = 1 \\ \text{and } a_\xi b_\eta = b_\lambda a_\mu \text{ if in } \mathbb{F}_q[Z] : \\ \eta = \lambda^q(\lambda + \xi)^{1-q} \text{ and } \mu = \xi^q(\xi + \lambda)^{1-q} \end{array} \right. \right\rangle$$

which acts simply transitively via the Bruhat Tits action on the vertices of $T_{q+1} \times T_{q+1}$.

Proof. This follows from Proposition 26 together with the abstract criterion of Proposition 7 (i) and (iii). The explicit shape of the relations of length 4 was established in Corollary 23. \square

Recall that δ is a fixed chosen generator of the multiplicative group $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*$, and d is its image in $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^* \subset D^*/K^*$.

Theorem 29. *The arithmetic lattices $G(R)$ and $G(R')$ have finite presentations as follows: with a generator $\delta \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*$ and $\zeta \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*$ such that $N(\zeta) = \frac{\tau-1}{\tau}$ we have*

$$G(R) = \left\langle d, s, a, b \left| \begin{array}{l} d^{q+1} = s^2 = (ds)^2 = 1, \quad a^2 = b^2 = (sa)^2 = (s\zeta b)^2 = 1 \\ (d^i ad^{-i})(d^j bd^{-j}) = (d^l bd^{-l})(d^k ad^{-k}) \\ \text{if } 0 \leq i, j, k, l \leq q \text{ satisfy } (\star) \end{array} \right. \right\rangle, \quad (4.4)$$

$$G(R') = \left\langle d, a, b \left| \begin{array}{l} d^{q+1} = a^2 = b^2 = 1 \\ (d^i ad^{-i})(d^j bd^{-j}) = (d^l bd^{-l})(d^k ad^{-k}) \\ \text{if } 0 \leq i, j, k, l \leq q \text{ satisfy } (\star) \end{array} \right. \right\rangle, \quad (4.5)$$

where (\star) is the condition in $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^*$:

$$(\star) = \left\{ \delta^j = (\delta^l - \zeta \wp(\delta^i) \cdot \delta^{ql})Z \quad \text{and} \quad \delta^k = (\delta^i - \zeta^{-1} \wp(\delta^l) \cdot \delta^{qi})Z \right\}.$$

In particular, $G(R) = \Lambda_\tau = \Gamma_\tau \rtimes \Delta$ and $G(R') = \Lambda'_\tau = \Gamma_\tau \rtimes \langle d \rangle$.

Proof. By (4.3) of Corollary 27 we know that

$$G(R) = \Gamma \cdot \Delta = \Lambda.$$

Since Γ is torsion free, we have $\Gamma \cap \Delta = \mathbf{1}$, and since further Γ is normal in Λ by Corollary 27 (3), we conclude that $G(R) = \Lambda$ is the semi direct product of Δ acting on Γ as claimed.

The semi-direct product structure for $\Lambda' = \Gamma \rtimes \langle d \rangle$ follows similarly. To show that $\Lambda' \subseteq G(R')$ is in fact an equality we estimate the index as $(\Lambda : \Lambda') \leq \#\langle s \rangle = 2$. But s lifts to F and

$$\text{Nrd}(F) = t(t-1) \in K^*/(K^*)^2$$

is nontrivial at $t = 1$ so that $s \notin G(R')$. Therefore

$$(G(R) : G(R')) = 2$$

and $\Lambda' = G(R')$.

The relations mixing d, s and a, b follow from the description of how the dihedral group Δ acts on Γ given in Proposition 17, for example computing in $G(K)$:

$$\begin{aligned} (sa)^2 &= sa_Z Zsa = a_{-\bar{Z}}(sZs)a = a_Z Za = a^2 = 1, \\ (s\zeta b)^2 &= s\zeta b_{Z/\zeta} Zs\zeta b = s(\zeta b_{Z/\zeta} \zeta^{-1})sZb = sb_{Z/\bar{\zeta}} sZb = b_{Z/\zeta} Zb = b^2 = 1. \end{aligned}$$

The remaining relations follow by translating Theorem 28: since $Z^2 = c$ is central we can lift

$$(d^i ad^{-i})(d^j bd^{-j})$$

to D^* as, using (3.7) and $\wp(Z) = -1$,

$$(\delta^i a_Z Z \delta^{-i})(\delta^j b_{Z/\zeta} Z \delta^{-j})/Z^2 = a_{Z\wp(\delta^i)} Z b_{Z\wp(\delta^j)/\zeta} Z^{-1} = a_{Z\wp(\delta^i)} \cdot b_{-Z\wp(\delta^j)/\zeta}.$$

Therefore the four term relation

$$(d^i ad^{-i})(d^j bd^{-j}) = (d^l bd^{-l})(d^k ad^{-k})$$

holds if and only if

$$a_{Z\wp(\delta^i)} \cdot b_{-Z\wp(\delta^j)/\zeta} = b_{Z\wp(\delta^l)/\zeta} \cdot a_{-Z\wp(\delta^k)},$$

by Corollary 23 if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} -Z\wp(\delta^j)/\zeta &= \overline{Z\wp(\delta^l)/\zeta} \cdot (Z\wp(\delta^l)/\zeta - Z\wp(\delta^i))^{1-q}, \\ -Z\wp(\delta^k) &= \overline{Z\wp(\delta^i)} \cdot (Z\wp(\delta^i) - Z\wp(\delta^l)/\zeta)^{1-q}. \end{aligned}$$

These equations are equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} \wp(\delta^{j+l}/\zeta) &= \wp(Z\wp(\delta^l)/\zeta - Z\wp(\delta^i)), \\ \wp(\delta^{k+i}) &= \wp(Z\wp(\delta^i) - Z\wp(\delta^l)/\zeta), \end{aligned}$$

and further to condition (\star) in $\mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^*$ due to Lemma 11 and $\delta^{1+q} \in \mathbb{F}_q^*$. \square

5. GROUP THEORY OF THE QUATERNIONIC LATTICE

In this section we collect various group theoretic information on our arithmetic lattices.

5.1. Local structure. The VH-structure A, B in Γ determines two permutation groups as follows. There are unique maps of sets

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow \text{Aut}(B), & a &\mapsto \sigma_a^B, \\ B &\rightarrow \text{Aut}(A), & b &\mapsto \sigma_b^A. \end{aligned}$$

such that in Γ :

$$a\sigma_a^B(b) = b\sigma_b^A(a).$$

In the corresponding square complex we find squares

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{\sigma_a^B(b)} & \\ \uparrow a & & \uparrow \sigma_b^A(a) \\ & \xrightarrow{b} & \end{array}$$

The maps $a \mapsto \sigma_a^B$ and $b \mapsto \sigma_b^A$ are called the **local permutation structure** of the VH-structure $A, B \subset \Gamma$, and the **local structure** is given by the permutation groups generated by the images

$$\begin{aligned} P_A &= \langle \sigma_b^A ; \text{all } b \in B \rangle \\ P_B &= \langle \sigma_a^B ; \text{all } a \in A \rangle \end{aligned}$$

together with the permutation action on B respectively on A . These two permutation groups are nothing but the local groups in the sense of [BM00b] §6.1 associated to Γ as a lattice in $\text{Aut}(T_{q+1}) \times \text{Aut}(T_{q+1})$.

5.1.1. The local permutations. The algebraic origin of our lattice allows us to determine these permutation groups. Recall that the sets A, B of the VH-structure of Γ are parametrized by the set of rational points of a variety isomorphic to \mathbb{P}^1 :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{T}_{-c}(\mathbb{F}_q) &= A, \\ \mathbb{T}_{\frac{c\tau}{1-\tau}}(\mathbb{F}_q) &= B \end{aligned}$$

via $\xi \mapsto a_\xi$ and $\eta \mapsto b_\eta$, see Definition 19.

Proposition 30. (1) *The local permutation structure of the VH-structure $A, B \subset \Gamma$ is given by the maps $\xi \mapsto \sigma_\xi^B$ and $\eta \mapsto \sigma_\eta^A$ defined by the following elements of $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{T}_{\frac{c\tau}{1-\tau}})$ respectively $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{T}_{-c})$:*

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_\eta^A : w &\mapsto \sigma_\eta(w) = \bar{w} \cdot \wp(w - \eta), \\ \sigma_\xi^B : w &\mapsto \sigma_\xi(w) = \bar{w} \cdot \wp(w - \xi), \end{aligned}$$

(2) For $\lambda \in \mathbb{T}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ we have the following conjugation relations

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{\lambda\xi}^B &= \lambda\sigma_\xi^B\lambda^{-1}, \\ \sigma_{\lambda\eta}^A &= \lambda\sigma_\eta^A\lambda^{-1},\end{aligned}$$

where λ and λ^{-1} are the multiplication maps by λ and λ^{-1} respectively.

(3) As elements of $\mathbb{F}_q^*/(\mathbb{F}_q^*)^2$ we have determinants, for $\xi \in \mathbb{T}_{-c}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ and $\eta \in \mathbb{T}_{\frac{c\tau}{1-\tau}}$

$$\begin{aligned}\det(\sigma_\eta^A) &= \frac{1}{1-\tau}, \\ \det(\sigma_\xi^B) &= \frac{1}{\tau}.\end{aligned}$$

Proof. Assertion (1) recalls Corollary 23, and assertion (2) is an elementary computation in $\mathrm{GL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$.

By assertion (2) all local permutations for $\xi \in A$ (resp. $\eta \in B$) are conjugate and thus share the same determinant. It thus suffices to compute one of them by Lemma 13 as

$$\begin{aligned}\det(\sigma_\eta^A) &= \det(\sigma_{Z/\zeta}) = \det(w \mapsto w - \frac{Z/\zeta}{Z}\bar{w}) = 1 - N(1/\zeta) = 1 - \frac{\tau}{\tau-1} = \frac{1}{1-\tau}, \\ \det(\sigma_\xi^B) &= \det(\sigma_Z) = \det(w \mapsto w - \frac{Z}{Z/\zeta}\bar{w}) = 1 - N(\zeta) = 1 - \frac{\tau-1}{\tau} = \frac{1}{\tau},\end{aligned}$$

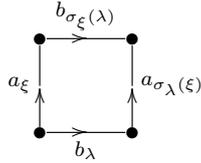
and assertion (3) follows. \square

Corollary 31. *The classifying space of Γ_τ has a realization as the finite square complex*

$$S_{\Gamma_\tau} = \Gamma_\tau \backslash T_{q+1} \times T_{q+1}$$

with the following explicit description.

- (1) *Vertices:* There is only one vertex.
- (2) *Edges:* There is a vertical oriented edge a_ξ for every $\xi \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]$ of norm $N(\xi) = -c$, a horizontal oriented edge b_η for every $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]$ of norm $N(\lambda) = \frac{c\tau}{1-\tau}$. The orientation reversion map is $a_\xi \mapsto a_{-\xi}$ and $b_\lambda \mapsto b_{-\lambda}$.
- (3) *Squares:* For every pair a_ξ, b_λ of an oriented horizontal and an oriented vertical edge there is a square in S_{Γ_τ}



each of which is constructed four times, but in fact occurs in S_{Γ_τ} only once.

Proof. This follows immediately from Proposition 30 (1) and the fact recalled in [BM00b] §6.1 page 181 that the local permutation structure encodes the underlying square complex with one vertex. \square

5.1.2. *The local groups.* So far our lattices Γ_τ have been quite uniform in the parameter τ . The local groups attached to the combinatorial structure of a VH-structure in a group shows some mild diophantine dependence on τ .

Proposition 32. *The local structure of the VH-structure $A, B \subset \Gamma_\tau$ is as follows:*

$$\begin{aligned}P_A &= \begin{cases} \mathrm{PGL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z]) \\ \mathrm{PSL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z]) \end{cases} \text{ if } 1-\tau \text{ is } \begin{cases} \text{not a square} \\ \text{a square} \end{cases} \text{ in } \mathbb{F}_q^* \\ P_B &= \begin{cases} \mathrm{PGL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z]) \\ \mathrm{PSL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z]) \end{cases} \text{ if } \tau \text{ is } \begin{cases} \text{not a square} \\ \text{a square} \end{cases} \text{ in } \mathbb{F}_q^*\end{aligned}$$

as permutation groups acting naturally on $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$ when identified with A (resp. B).

Proof. Let us abbreviate $H = P_A$ or P_B . By Proposition 30 this is a subgroup

$$H \subseteq \mathrm{PGL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$$

is generated by the orbit of a non-trivial element under conjugation by the non-split torus

$$C := \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^* \subseteq \mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{T}_u) \simeq \mathrm{PGL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$$

for $u = -c$ (resp. $u = \frac{c\tau}{1-\tau}$). Let $N \subseteq \mathrm{PGL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$ be the normalizer of H . It follows that $C \subseteq N$. By inspection of the list of maximal subgroups [Gi07] Theorem 3.5, it follows that N is either contained in the normalizer of C or $N = \mathrm{PGL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$.

If N is contained in the normalizer of C , a dihedral group, then in N conjugacy classes have size ≤ 2 . On the other hand, the natural generating set of H has size $q + 1$ and is contained in a conjugacy class of N , a contradiction.

We conclude that H is a normal subgroup of $\mathrm{PGL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$. This leaves $H = \mathrm{PGL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$ or $H = \mathrm{PSL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$ because $\mathrm{PSL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$ is simple if $q > 3$ (and if $q = 3$ by inspection of the normal subgroups of $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_3) \simeq S_4$ with at least $4 = q + 1$ non-zero elements).

In order to distinguish between PGL and PSL we simply have to evaluate the homomorphism

$$\overline{\det} : \mathrm{PGL}(\mathbb{F}_q[Z]) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^*/(\mathbb{F}_q^*)^2$$

induced by the determinant. This was done in Proposition 30 which completes the proof. \square

Remark 33. (1) Proposition 32 shows that the local permutation groups of the defining VH-structure in Γ are 2-transitive, hence quasi-primitive, see [BM00b] §0.1.

(2) All four possibilities that Proposition 32 gives for the pair (P_A, P_B) actually occur for suitable parameter q and τ .

5.2. Some abelian quotients. Here are two finite abelian quotients of Γ that occur uniformly through our series of examples.

Proposition 34. *The group Γ has the following finite abelian quotients.*

(1) *The assignment $a_\xi \mapsto \xi$ and $b_\eta \mapsto \eta$ defines a surjective map*

$$\Gamma \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{F}_p[Z].$$

(2) *The assignment $a_\xi \mapsto \binom{1}{0}$ and $b_\eta \mapsto \binom{0}{1}$ defines a surjective map*

$$\Gamma \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{F}_2 \oplus \mathbb{F}_2.$$

Proof. (1) We need to check the relations of Γ . First we check

$$a_\xi a_{-\xi} \mapsto \xi - \xi = 0,$$

$$b_\eta b_{-\eta} \mapsto \eta - \eta = 0.$$

Next, if $a_\xi b_\eta = b_\lambda a_\mu$, then ξ, η, λ, μ are linked in particular by the second equation of (3.9):

$$\xi + \eta = \lambda + \mu,$$

so the words $a_\xi b_\eta$ and $b_\lambda a_\mu$ are mapped to the same element. This finishes the proof of (1).

(2) Checking the relations for (2) is obvious. The resulting homomorphism counts the parity of the number of generators a_ξ and the parity of the number of generators b_η occurring in a word representing an element of Γ . This is clearly well defined. \square

Remark 35. (1) By Proposition 34, the maximal abelian quotient of Γ has a quotient isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/2p\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2p\mathbb{Z}$ and, at least experimentally, is at most by a factor of 2 larger. The additional factor 2, if it occurs at all, comes from either an extra factor or by doubling a factor of the above quotient.

(2) The homomorphism of Proposition 34 (2) can also be described as the reduced norm modulo squares

$$\text{Nrd} : \Gamma \twoheadrightarrow \langle t, t \frac{t-\tau}{1-\tau} \rangle \subset R'^*/(R'^*)^2,$$

see (3.5), the kernel of which describes the maximal subgroup $\Gamma^1 \subset \Gamma$ that lifts to the universal cover $\text{SL}_{1,D} \rightarrow \text{PGL}_{1,D}$.

5.3. Residually pro- p . As an arithmetic lattice in characteristic p the group Γ is virtually residually pro- p . In fact, Γ itself is residually pro- p already.

Proposition 36. *The group Γ is residually pro- p .*

Proof. We complete at $t = 1$ and consider the $\mathbb{F}_q[[t-1]]$ -order in the skew-field $D \otimes_K \mathbb{F}_q((t-1))$

$$\hat{\mathfrak{D}}' = \mathfrak{D}' \otimes_{R'} \mathbb{F}_q[[t-1]].$$

Since $F^2 = t(t-1)$, the two-sided ideals $(F^n) \subseteq \hat{\mathfrak{D}}'$ form an exhausting $(t-1)$ -adic filtration of $\hat{\mathfrak{D}}'$ with successive quotients isomorphic as $\hat{\mathfrak{D}}'$ -module to $\hat{\mathfrak{D}}'/(F)$ which itself is isomorphic to

$$\hat{\mathfrak{D}}'/(F) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{F}_q[Z]$$

via $Z \mapsto Z$ and $F \mapsto 0$. It follows that the kernel of the modulo F reduction map

$$\ker(\hat{\mathfrak{D}}'^* \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*)$$

is a pro- p group. An easy snake lemma shows that also

$$\ker(\hat{\mathfrak{D}}'^*/\mathbb{F}_q[[t-1]]^* \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^*)$$

is a pro- p group. We furthermore know that

$$\Gamma \subset \Lambda' = G(R') \subseteq \hat{\mathfrak{D}}'^*/\mathbb{F}_q[[t-1]]^*$$

so that it remains to show the vanishing of the composite

$$\Gamma \rightarrow \Lambda' \rightarrow \hat{\mathfrak{D}}'^*/\mathbb{F}_q[[t-1]]^* \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*/\mathbb{F}_q^*.$$

This follows from

$$\begin{aligned} a_\xi &= (tZ + \xi F)Z \mapsto Z^2 = c, \\ b_\eta &= (tZ + \eta F)Z \mapsto Z^2 = c \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof. \square

6. CLASSIFICATION — CONSEQUENCES OF RIGIDITY

In this section we spell out the consequences of Margulis rigidity theory as in [Ma91] for the groups Γ_τ of Section §3.3. By Corollary 27 (3) and Theorem 28 the Γ_τ are torsion free arithmetic lattices for the group $G = \text{PGL}_{1,D}$ with an explicit finite presentation. As an immediate consequence of strong approximation (for SL_2) the lattices Γ_τ are irreducible.

6.1. Commensurability classification. Recall that two groups are commensurable if they share isomorphic finite index subgroups.

Proposition 37. *The lattice Γ_τ is commensurable with $\Gamma_{\tau'}$ if and only if τ' is in the $\text{Gal}(\bar{\mathbb{F}}_p/\mathbb{F}_p)$ -orbit of τ or $1 - \tau$, i.e., if there is an $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $\tau' = \tau^{p^k}$ or $\tau' = 1 - \tau^{p^k}$.*

Proof. We will decorate all notation with a hat when it refers to $\Gamma_{\tau'}$. Let us start with a finite index subgroup $\Gamma_0 \subset \Gamma_\tau$ and a nontrivial homomorphism $\varphi : \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \Gamma_{\tau'}$. By [Ma91] Chapter VIII Theorem C the homomorphism gives rise to an embedding of fields

$$\sigma : K \hookrightarrow K'$$

and a homomorphism

$$f : \mathrm{PGL}_{1,D} \otimes_{K,\sigma} K' \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}_{1,D'}$$

such that the following commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{PGL}_{1,D}(K) & \xrightarrow{f(K')} & \mathrm{PGL}_{1,D'}(K') \\ \cup & & \cup \\ \Gamma_0 & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & \Gamma_{\tau'}. \end{array}$$

(Note that a central twist is necessarily trivial because $\mathrm{PGL}_{1,D}$ has trivial center.)

Now we assume that φ is an isomorphism onto a finite index subgroup $\Gamma'_0 \subseteq \Gamma_{\tau'}$, so that the inverse $\varphi^{-1} : \Gamma'_0 \rightarrow \Gamma_{\tau}$ gives rise to the inverse embedding

$$\sigma^{-1} : K' \hookrightarrow K$$

Composing φ with φ^{-1} yields the identity, so that by uniqueness the maps σ and σ^{-1} must be inverses of each other. The map σ induces an automorphism Frob^k on the field of constants $\mathbb{F}_q \subset K, K'$, and σ itself then encodes a semi-linear automorphism $\sigma : \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^1$, that maps

$$S' = \{0, 1, \tau', \infty\}$$

to $S = \{0, 1, \tau, \infty\}$. Changing the \mathbb{F}_q structure on one copy of \mathbb{P}^1 by a suitable power of Frobenius we obtain a linear automorphism of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^1$ that maps S' to $\{0, 1, \tau^{p^k}, \infty\}$ and, since furthermore the places $0, 1$ encode the isomorphism type of D , hence $\mathrm{PGL}_{1,D}$, must also preserve $\{0, 1\}$ as a set. It follows that up to applying a suitable power of Frobenius, the commensurability class of Γ_{τ} determines a rational partitioned 4-tuple

$$((r_1, r_2); (t_1, t_2))$$

of distinct elements of $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_q)$ up to permutations that preserve the partition in (r_1, r_2) and (t_1, t_2) . The moduli problem of such structured 4-tuples is covered by $\mathcal{M}_{0,4}$, the moduli space of genus 0 curves with an ordered set of 4 distinct points, and via the double ratio

$$\lambda = \mathrm{DV}(r_1, r_2; t_1, t_2) = \frac{r_1 - t_1}{r_2 - t_1} : \frac{r_1 - t_2}{r_2 - t_2}$$

isomorphic to $\mathbb{P}^1 - \{0, 1, \infty\}$. The remaining freedom is a Klein-four-group generated by transpositions $r_1 \leftrightarrow r_2$ and $t_1 \leftrightarrow t_2$. This group acts on the double ratio λ through the single involution

$$\lambda \mapsto 1/\lambda.$$

Because of

$$\mathrm{DV}(0, 1; \tau, \infty) = \frac{\tau}{\tau - 1}$$

the effect on τ is therefore

$$\tau \mapsto 1 - \tau.$$

This shows that commensurable groups Γ_{τ} and $\Gamma_{\tau'}$ have their parameters τ and τ' linked as predicted by the proposition. The converse is clear by the discussion above. \square

6.2. Isomorphism classification. We establish two explicit isomorphisms of lattices thereby showing that for the Γ_{τ} the commensurability classification agrees with the a priori finer classification up to isomorphism.

Proposition 38. *There is an isomorphism*

$$\Gamma_{\tau} \simeq \Gamma_{1-\tau}$$

coming from an isomorphism of the defining presentations.

Proof. The isomorphism will interchange vertical with horizontal edges. We thus have to find maps

$$\begin{aligned} A_\tau &= \mathbb{T}_{-c}(\mathbb{F}_q) \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathbb{T}_{\frac{c(1-\tau)}{\tau}}(\mathbb{F}_q) = B_{1-\tau} \\ B_\tau &= \mathbb{T}_{\frac{c\tau}{1-\tau}}(\mathbb{F}_q) \xrightarrow{\psi} \mathbb{T}_{-c}(\mathbb{F}_q) = A_\tau \end{aligned}$$

such that (φ, ψ) preserves the local permutation structure, i.e., the following diagrams commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_\tau & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & B_{1-\tau} & & B_\tau & \xrightarrow{\psi} & A_{1-\tau} \\ \sigma^{B_\tau} \downarrow & & \downarrow \sigma^{A_{1-\tau}} & & \sigma^{A_\tau} \downarrow & & \downarrow \sigma^{B_{1-\tau}} \\ \text{Sym}(B_\tau) & \xrightarrow{\psi(-)\psi^{-1}} & \text{Sym}(A_{1-\tau}) & & \text{Sym}(A_\tau) & \xrightarrow{\varphi(-)\varphi^{-1}} & \text{Sym}(B_{1-\tau}) \end{array}$$

It follows that the map of generators

$$A_\tau \sqcup B_\tau \xrightarrow{\varphi \sqcup \psi} B_{1-\tau} \sqcup A_{1-\tau}$$

induces an isomorphism $\Gamma_\tau \simeq \Gamma_{1-\tau}$.

In view of Proposition 30 the maps φ and ψ must satisfy for all $\xi \in A_\tau$ and $\eta \in B_\tau$

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(\bar{\eta} \cdot \wp(\eta - \xi)) &= \overline{\psi(\eta)} \cdot \wp(\psi(\eta) - \varphi(\xi)), \\ \varphi(\bar{\xi} \cdot \wp(\xi - \eta)) &= \overline{\varphi(\xi)} \cdot \wp(\varphi(\xi) - \psi(\eta)). \end{aligned} \tag{6.1}$$

Let $\zeta \in \mathbb{F}_q[Z]^*$ be an element of norm

$$N(\zeta) = \frac{\tau - 1}{\tau}$$

which exists by Lemma 11. We make the ansatz

$$\varphi(\xi) = \zeta \cdot \xi \quad \text{and} \quad \psi(\eta) = \zeta \cdot \eta$$

which indeed defines well defined maps between the respective sets. The trivial verification of (6.1) for these choices of φ and ψ based on the multiplicativity of \wp completes the proof. \square

Proposition 39. *There is an isomorphism*

$$\Gamma_\tau \simeq \Gamma_{\tau^p}$$

coming from an isomorphism of the defining presentations.

Proof. We argue as in Proposition 38 that there are maps

$$\begin{aligned} A_\tau &= \mathbb{T}_{-c}(\mathbb{F}_q) \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathbb{T}_{-c}(\mathbb{F}_q) = A_{\tau^p} \\ B_\tau &= \mathbb{T}_{\frac{c\tau}{1-\tau}}(\mathbb{F}_q) \xrightarrow{\psi} \mathbb{T}_{\frac{c\tau^p}{1-\tau^p}}(\mathbb{F}_q) = B_{\tau^p} \end{aligned}$$

such that (φ, ψ) preserves the local permutation structure. Here this amounts for all $\xi \in A_\tau$ and $\eta \in B_\tau$ to

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(\bar{\eta} \cdot \wp(\eta - \xi)) &= \overline{\psi(\eta)} \cdot \wp(\psi(\eta) - \varphi(\xi)), \\ \varphi(\bar{\xi} \cdot \wp(\xi - \eta)) &= \overline{\varphi(\xi)} \cdot \wp(\varphi(\xi) - \psi(\eta)). \end{aligned} \tag{6.2}$$

Define φ and ψ as

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(\xi) &= \frac{\xi^p}{c^{(p-1)/2}}, \\ \psi(\eta) &= \frac{\eta^p}{c^{(p-1)/2}} \end{aligned}$$

which indeed defines well defined maps between the respective sets. Again, the trivial verification of (6.2) for these choices of φ and ψ based on $\wp((-)^p) = \wp(-)^p$ completes the proof. \square

Corollary 40. *Lattices of the form Γ_τ are commensurable if and only if they are isomorphic. They are isomorphic if and only if suitable Galois conjugates of the parameters τ agree or add up to 1.*

Proof. This follows immediately from Proposition 38, Proposition 39 and Proposition 37. \square

6.3. Rank and finiteness properties. The lattice Γ_τ is an S -arithmetic lattice for the adjoint group $G = \mathrm{PGL}_{1,D}$ over $K = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$ and

$$S = \{0, 1, \tau, \infty\},$$

hence an S -arithmetic lattice in $\prod_{v \in S} G(K_v)$ of rank

$$\sum_{v \in S} \mathrm{rank}_v(G) = 2.$$

Indeed, the ramified places of D have anisotropic $G(K_v)$ and the local factor at the other two places are isomorphic to $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((t)))$ and thus each contribute rank 1.

Recall that a group is called FAB if all finite index subgroups H have finite maximal abelian quotient H^{ab} .

Proposition 41. *The non-trivial normal subgroups of Γ_τ are of finite index. In particular the following holds.*

- (1) *The maximal abelian quotient $\Gamma_\tau^{\mathrm{ab}}$ is finite.*
- (2) *The group Γ_τ is a FAB group.*

Proof. The lattice Γ_τ has rank 2. Therefore, by [Ma91] Chapter VIII Theorem A, non-trivial normal subgroups are either of finite index or central, hence finite. The proposition follows because Γ_τ is torsion free. Note that assertion (1) of the proposition is a special case of [Ma91] Proposition IX.5.3, and assertion (2) follows because the same reference applies also to all finite index subgroups of Γ_τ . \square

7. CONSTRUCTION OF A NON-CLASSICAL FAKE QUADRIC

7.1. Fake quadrics. The motivating question that leads to the notion of a **fake quadric** asks for compact complex Kähler manifolds with the same Betti numbers $b_1 = 0$ and $b_2 = 2$ as $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ and with geometric genus $p_g = 0$. These surfaces are either Hirzebruch surfaces $\Sigma_n = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O} \oplus \mathcal{O}(n)) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ or algebraic surfaces of general type. In the latter case these surfaces are either the blow-up of a closed point on a fake \mathbb{P}^2 or are called fake quadric if they are minimal. In characteristic 0 the numerical conditions are equivalent to

$$c_1^2 = 8, \quad c_2 = 4, \quad \text{and trivial Albanese variety,}$$

and the assumption of being minimal of general type translates into the canonical bundle being ample. In characteristic 0 then also Pic^0 and $H^1(\mathcal{O})$ vanish.

All known examples of fake quadrics X are \mathbb{C} -analytically uniformized by $\mathbb{H} \times \mathbb{H}$, the product of two copies of the upper half plane \mathbb{H} , so that $\pi_1(X) \subset \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R}) \times \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ is a cocompact lattice.

- (a) **Reducible lattices:** these are Beauville surfaces $X = (C_1 \times C_2)/G$ for suitable smooth projective curves C_i of genus ≥ 2 and a suitable finite group G . The first such surface was found by Beauville [Be96] exercise X.13 (4) with $G = (\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^2$ acting on a product of Fermat quintic curves, and all such fake quadrics have been classified by Bauer, Catanese and Grunewald [BCG05].
- (b) **Irreducible lattices:** here $\pi_1(X) \subset \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R}) \times \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ is an irreducible quaternionic lattice of suitable covolume, see Kuga and Shavel [Sh78], and Džambić [Dz12].

It remains an open question very much in the spirit of the motivation above whether there is a complex fake quadric homeomorphic to $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$ or at least with finite or trivial π_1 , see Hirzebruch [Hi87] subproblem of Problem 25 on page 779.

7.2. Non-classical fake quadrics. We will work in positive characteristic and deal with smooth projective surfaces with non-classical properties.

Following [Mu79] we construct smooth projective surfaces in characteristic $p \geq 3$ by uniformization in formal geometry over $\mathrm{Spf}(\mathbb{F}_q[[t]])$. For $q = 3$ the construction yields a **non-classical fake quadric** X in characteristic 3, i.e., a smooth projective surface with ample canonical bundle, trivial Albanese variety and the same Chern numbers as $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$

$$c_1^2 = 8, \quad c_2 = 4.$$

The fake quadric will be non-classical because $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \neq 0$ and so the Picard scheme Pic_X^0 is non-reduced of dimension 0.

7.3. The wonderful scheme. In this section we reset notation and choose a complete discrete valuation ring R with uniformizer π , **finite** residue field $k = R/(\pi)$ with q elements, and field of fractions $K = R[\frac{1}{\pi}]$.

For $L = (L_{ij})_{0 \leq i, j \leq 1} \in \mathrm{GL}_2(K)$ we define linear forms $\ell_i = \ell_i^L$ in the variables x_0, x_1 by matrix multiplication as

$$L \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \ell_0 \\ \ell_1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The affine R -scheme defined by the subring $R \left[\frac{\ell_0}{\ell_1}, \pi \frac{\ell_1}{\ell_0} \right] \subset K \left(\frac{x_0}{x_1} \right)$ is

$$\tilde{Y}_L = \mathrm{Spec} \left(R \left[\frac{\ell_0}{\ell_1}, \pi \frac{\ell_1}{\ell_0} \right] \right) \simeq \mathrm{Spec} R[u, v]/(uv - \pi),$$

hence is a regular scheme and semistable over $\mathrm{Spec}(R)$. The special fibre $\mathrm{Spec} k[u, v]/(uv)$ is a union of affine lines transversally glued in $(0, 0)$. We set

$$Y_L \subset \tilde{Y}_L$$

for the complement of all the finitely many k -rational points of the special fibre but keeping the singular point $(0, 0)$. Then Y_L actually only depends on the image of L in $\mathrm{PGL}_2(K)$, and we set

$$Y = \bigcup_{L \in \mathrm{PGL}_2(K)} Y_L$$

as the separated R -scheme obtained by glueing the Y_L respecting the function field $K \left(\frac{x_0}{x_1} \right)$. The generic fibre $Y_K = Y \otimes_R K$ is via the coordinate x_0/x_1 a projective line

$$Y_K \simeq \mathbb{P}_K^1,$$

but as an R -scheme Y/R is only locally of finite type.

An alternative, but less symmetric, way to construct Y starts with $Y_0 = \mathbb{P}_R^1$ and blows up all k -rational points of the special fibre to obtain $Y_1 \rightarrow Y_0$. This Y_1 has extra components in the special fibre above every k -rational point. Inductively we define Y_{n+1} as the blow up of Y_n in all k -rational points that do not lie on the strict transform of a component of Y_{n-1} . In this way, the *old* part of Y_n becomes stable and $Y = \varprojlim_n Y_n$ is locally of finite type.

7.3.1. *The group action.* The R -scheme Y carries an action

$$\mathrm{PGL}_2(K) \rightarrow \mathrm{Aut}_R(Y)$$

defined as follows. We let $S = (S_{ij}) \in \mathrm{GL}_2(K)$ act in the standard way on $\mathbb{P}_K^1 = Y_K$ via the linear action on homogeneous coordinates x_0, x_1 with $x = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \end{pmatrix}$ by

$$S^*(x) := S^{-1}x.$$

This action of the generic fibre Y_K extends to the model Y by permuting the open patches as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y_L & \xrightarrow{S} & Y_{LS} \\ \cup & & \cup \\ Y_K & \xrightarrow{S} & Y_K \end{array}$$

since

$$S^* \begin{pmatrix} \ell_0^{LS} \\ \ell_1^{LS} \end{pmatrix} = S^*(LSx) = LS(S^*x) = LS(S^{-1}x) = Lx = \begin{pmatrix} \ell_0^L \\ \ell_1^L \end{pmatrix}.$$

This action by $\mathrm{GL}_2(K)$ descends to an action by $\mathrm{PGL}_2(K)$ on Y/R .

7.3.2. *The dual graph.* The *dual graph* of the special fibre Y_s of Y/R has a vertex v_C for each irreducible component C of Y_s and an unoriented edge for each double point P that joins the two vertices $v_C, v_{C'}$ representing the components C, C' with $\{P\} = C \cap C'$.

Lemma 42. *The dual graph of Y_s is isomorphic to the Bruhat Tits tree T of $\mathrm{PGL}_2(K)$ as a graph with action by $\mathrm{PGL}_2(K)$.*

Proof. There is a natural $\mathrm{PGL}_2(K)$ -equivariant bijection between the following three sets:

- (a) Irreducible components of the special fibre Y_s .
- (b) R -lattices M in $\mathrm{H}^0(\mathbb{P}_K^1, \mathcal{O}(1)) = K \cdot x_0 \oplus K \cdot x_1$ up to homothety, i.e., free R -submodules of rank 2 up to scaling by K^* .
- (c) Vertices of T .

Indeed, a component of Y_s is given via $L \in \mathrm{GL}_2(K)$ with $Lx = \begin{pmatrix} \ell_0 \\ \ell_1 \end{pmatrix}$ as the strict transform of the special fibre of

$$Y \rightarrow P_L = \mathrm{Proj} R[\ell_0, \ell_1] \simeq \mathbb{P}_R^1$$

where the map is the identity on function fields $K(\frac{x_0}{x_1}) = K(\frac{\ell_0}{\ell_1})$. This depends on L only through its class in

$$\mathrm{GL}_2(K)/K^* \cdot \mathrm{GL}_2(R) = \mathrm{PGL}_2(K)/\mathrm{PGL}_2(R).$$

The corresponding homothety class of lattices is

$$M_L = R \cdot \ell_0 \oplus R \cdot \ell_1 = \mathrm{H}^0(P_L, \mathcal{O}(1)) \subset \mathrm{H}^0(\mathbb{P}_K^1, \mathcal{O}(1)).$$

Two components $C_1, C_2 \subset Y_s$ intersect in a point P if and only if Y is given in a neighbourhood of P by Y_L with the two components of the special fibre $Y_{L,s}$ having C_1 and C_2 as closure. This holds if and only if the corresponding lattices are of the form

$$\pi M_1 \subsetneq M_2 = R \cdot \pi \ell_1 \oplus R \cdot \ell_0 \subsetneq M_1 = R \cdot \ell_0 \oplus R \cdot \ell_1$$

for ℓ_0, ℓ_1 as above determined by L , if and only if the corresponding vertices in the Bruhat Tits tree are joined by an edge.

Equivariance under $\mathrm{PGL}_2(K)$ is obvious by the naturality of the construction. \square

7.4. **The wonderful scheme squared.** We are actually interested in $Y \times_R Y$.

7.4.1. *Local structure.* The R -scheme $Y \times_R Y$ is locally isomorphic to

$$R[u, v, w, z]/(uv = \pi = wz) = R[u, v]/(uv - \pi) \otimes_R R[w, z]/(wz - \pi).$$

Since $R[u, v]/(uv - \pi)$ is regular and even smooth over R outside of $(0, 0)$, the only singular points of $Y \times_R Y$ correspond in the local model to $(u, v, w, z) = (0, 0, 0, 0)$. There $u, v, w + z$ forms a regular sequence of length $3 = \dim(Y \times_R Y)$, so that $Y \times_R Y$ is normal, Cohen-Macaulay, and even regular outside the k -rational points of its special fibre.

If we blow-up the singular locus, then every singular point is replaced by a copy of $\mathbb{P}_k^1 \times \mathbb{P}_k^1$ and the special fibre of the blow-up has normal crossing.

7.4.2. *The dual square complex.* We define a *dual square complex* Σ describing the combinatorics of the components of its special fibre.

(a) Vertices of Σ are irreducible components of the special fibre

$$(Y \times_R Y)_s = Y_s \times_k Y_s.$$

These are isomorphic to $\mathbb{P}_k^1 \times \mathbb{P}_k^1$.

(b) Unoriented edges of Σ are irreducible curves in the intersection of irreducible components of Y_s and the edge joins the corresponding vertices. Such intersections occur precisely along the grid of vertical and horizontal lines

$$\mathbb{P}_k^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1(k) \cup \mathbb{P}^1(k) \times \mathbb{P}_k^1 \subset \mathbb{P}_k^1 \times \mathbb{P}_k^1$$

with the intersection being transversal outside of $\mathbb{P}^1(k) \times \mathbb{P}^1(k)$.

(c) Squares of Σ are defined by singular points of $Y \times_R Y$. These are the k -rational points of the special fibre, i.e., on a component the points $P \in \mathbb{P}^1(k) \times \mathbb{P}^1(k)$. There are four components of $Y_s \times_k Y_s$ passing through each P and there $Y \times_R Y$ is locally isomorphic to

$$\text{Spec}(R[u, v, w, z]/(uv = \pi = wz))$$

with P mapping to the non-regular point $(0, 0, 0, 0)$.

Lemma 43. *The product $Y \times_R Y$ carries a natural action by $\text{PGL}_2(K) \times \text{PGL}_2(K)$ such that the dual square complex of its special fibre agrees with the square complex $T \times T$ together with its Bruhat Tits action by $\text{PGL}_2(K) \times \text{PGL}_2(K)$.*

Proof. The dual square complex Σ is the product of the dual graph of Y_s with itself. \square

7.5. **The formal geometric quotient.** Consider the formal scheme

$$\mathcal{Y} \times_R \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \text{Spf}(R)$$

obtained by completing $Y \times_R Y$ along its special fibre. The generic fibre, in the sense of rigid geometry over K , is $\mathbb{P}_K^1 \times \mathbb{P}_K^1$, hence a smooth projective rigid variety.

Now let $\Gamma \subset \text{PGL}_2(K) \times \text{PGL}_2(K)$ be a discrete torsion free group that acts cocompactly on $T \times T$ via the Bruhat Tits action. The induced action on $\mathcal{Y} \times_R \mathcal{Y}$ is free and discontinuously on the underlying Zariski topology, namely the Zariski topology of $Y_s \times_k Y_s$. Indeed, the underlying dual square complex is $\Sigma = T \times T$ and Γ acts already with trivial stabilizers on vertices, edges or squares of Σ . It is thus trivially possible to pass to the quotient

$$\mathcal{X}_\Gamma = \Gamma \backslash \mathcal{Y} \times_R \mathcal{Y}$$

as a formal scheme over $\text{Spf}(R)$. The dual square complex of \mathcal{X} is the finite quotient complex

$$\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma) = \Gamma \backslash \Sigma.$$

Thus \mathcal{X} is of finite type and proper as a formal scheme over $\text{Spf}(R)$. Let N be the number of vertices (in some sense the volume) of $\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma)$.

Lemma 44. *The number of unoriented edges and squares in the square complex $\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma)$ is*

$$(1) \quad \#\bar{E}(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma)) = N(q + 1),$$

$$(2) \quad \#S(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma)) = N(q+1)^2/4,$$

and the geometric realization $\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma)$ has Euler-characteristic

$$\chi(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma)) = N(q-1)^2/4.$$

Proof. The formulae for the number of edges and squares follow by counting in two ways the number of "vertices in the boundary of edges":

$$2\#\bar{E}(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma)) = 2(q+1)N,$$

and of "edges in the boundary of squares":

$$4\#S(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma)) = (q+1)^2N.$$

Then the Euler characteristic is

$$\chi(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma)) = N - N(q+1) + N(q+1)^2/4 = N(q-1)^2/4.$$

□

7.6. Algebraization. The sheaf of relative log-differentials (with respect to the log structure defined by the special fibre)

$$\Omega_{Y/R}^{1,\log}$$

is a line bundle on Y that locally on Y_L is generated in $\Omega_{K(x_0/x_1)/K}^1$ by

$$d \log \left(\frac{\ell_0}{\ell_1} \right), \quad d \log \left(\frac{\pi \ell_1}{\ell_0} \right)$$

and the action by $\mathrm{PGL}_2(K)$ on Y extends to an action on $\Omega_{Y/R}^{1,\log}$. The restriction of $\Omega_{Y/R}^{1,\log}$ to a component \mathbb{P}_k^1 of Y_s takes the form

$$\Omega_{\mathbb{P}_k^1/k}^1(\mathbb{P}^1(k)) \simeq \mathcal{O}(q-1).$$

Let us consider the exterior tensor product on $Y \times_R Y$

$$\Omega_{Y \times_R Y/R}^{2,\log} = \Omega_{Y/R}^{1,\log} \boxtimes \Omega_{Y/R}^{1,\log},$$

that, when restricted to an irreducible component $\mathbb{P}_k^1 \times_k \mathbb{P}_k^1 \simeq C \subset Y_s \times_k Y_s$, becomes

$$\Omega_{Y \times_R Y/R}^{2,\log}|_C \simeq \mathcal{O}(q-1) \boxtimes \mathcal{O}(q-1). \quad (7.1)$$

Proposition 45. (1) *The formal scheme \mathcal{X}_Γ/R is the formal completion along the special fibre of a projective R -scheme X_Γ/R .*

(2) *The generic fibre $X_{\Gamma,K} = X_\Gamma \otimes_R K$ is smooth projective with ample canonical bundle.*

(3) *In particular, $X_{\Gamma,K}$ is a minimal surface of general type without smooth rational curves $E \subset X_{\Gamma,K}$ with self intersection $(E^2) = -1$ or -2 .*

Proof. (1) Since $\mathcal{X}_\Gamma/\mathrm{Spf}(R)$ is proper, it suffices by Grothendieck's formal GAGA to find a relatively ample line bundle on \mathcal{X}_Γ . The pull back to the formal completion $\Omega_{Y \times_R Y/R}^{2,\log}|_{\mathcal{Y} \times_R \mathcal{Y}}$ descends to a line bundle

$$\Omega_{\mathcal{X}_\Gamma/R}^{2,\log}$$

on \mathcal{X}_Γ which is ample, because it restricts to an ample line bundle $\mathcal{O}(q-1) \boxtimes \mathcal{O}(q-1)$ on the normalization of every irreducible component of \mathcal{X}_Γ by (7.1). It follows that \mathcal{X}_Γ can be algebraized to a projective scheme X_Γ/R .

(2) The generic fibre $(Y \times_R Y)_K$ is smooth over K . Therefore also the generic fibre $X_{\Gamma,K}/K$ is smooth, because $\mathcal{Y} \times_R \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_\Gamma$ is a Zariski locally trivial covering map and smoothness of the generic fibre can be tested locally on the formal completion along the special fibre. Moreover, the canonical sheaf $\omega_{X_{\Gamma,K}/K} = \Omega_{X_\Gamma/R}^{2,\log}|_{X_{\Gamma,K}}$ is ample as the restriction of the relatively ample line bundle $\Omega_{\mathcal{X}_\Gamma/R}^{2,\log}$.

Assertion (3) follows at once from (2) since smooth rational curves E with $(E^2) = -1, -2$ are precisely those which are contracted in the map to the canonical model. \square

7.7. Chern numbers. We compute the Chern numbers of X_Γ by degeneration to the special fibre $X_{\Gamma,s} = X_\Gamma \otimes_R k$, a proper k -variety. The result is reminiscent of Hirzebruch's proportionality principle [Hi56] for a compact locally symmetric variety in comparison with its compact dual: also here the Chern ratio of $X_{\Gamma,K}$ turns out to agree with the Chern ratio for a sort of compact dual $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$. Let

- (1) $\pi_E : \tilde{E} \rightarrow E$ be the normalization of an irreducible component $E \subset X_{\Gamma,s}$, hence a vertex $E \in V(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))$, and $\tilde{E} \simeq \mathbb{P}_k^1 \times_k \mathbb{P}_k^1$,
- (2) $\pi_C : \tilde{C} \rightarrow C$ be the normalization of an irreducible curve in $X_{\Gamma,s}$ that represents an unoriented edge $C \in \bar{E}(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))$, and $\tilde{C} \simeq \mathbb{P}_k^1$,
- (3) $i_P : P \hookrightarrow X_{\Gamma,s}$ be the k -rational point corresponding to a square $P \in S(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))$.

If the vertices E_1, E_2 are joined by an edge C , then there are natural immersions

$$\tilde{E}_1 \hookrightarrow \tilde{C} \hookrightarrow \tilde{E}_2, \quad (7.2)$$

one as vertical and the other as horizontal line. If C is an edge in the boundary of a square P , then associated to this is an inclusion

$$P \hookrightarrow \tilde{C}. \quad (7.3)$$

We now choose an orientation on $\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma)$. This induces signs for every incidence relation, a vertex in an edge, an edge in a square, such that the complex

$$\bigoplus_{E \in V(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\pm \text{res}} \bigoplus_{C \in \bar{E}(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\pm \text{res}} \bigoplus_{P \in S(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))} \mathbb{Z} \quad (7.4)$$

becomes the cellular complex of the CW-complex $\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma)$.

Proposition 46. *With signs as in (7.4) and restriction induced by the inclusions (7.2) and (7.3) the following sequence is exact:*

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{X_{\Gamma,s}} \rightarrow \bigoplus_{E \in V(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))} \pi_{E,*} \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{E}} \xrightarrow{\pm \text{res}} \bigoplus_{C \in \bar{E}(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))} \pi_{C,*} \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{C}} \xrightarrow{\pm \text{res}} \bigoplus_{P \in S(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))} i_{P,*} \mathcal{O}_P \rightarrow 0.$$

Proof. The sequence lives on $X_{\Gamma,s} = \mathcal{X}_{\Gamma,0}$, the special fibre of the formal R -scheme \mathcal{X}_Γ . Being a Zariski local issue exactness can be checked after pull back to $(\mathcal{Y} \times_R \mathcal{Y})_0 = Y_s \times_k Y_s$. There exactness is clear in the locus where the components meet as normal crossing divisors on Y . It remains to check exactness in a singular point P .

In P we exploit the product structure: locally we need to consider the spectrum of

$$k[u, v, x, y]/(uv, xy) = k[u, v]/(uv) \otimes_k k[x, y]/(xy).$$

Now the sequence built from restriction maps

$$0 \rightarrow k[u, v]/(uv) \rightarrow k[u] \oplus k[v] \xrightarrow{\pm} k \rightarrow 0$$

is exact, so that

$$k[u, v, x, y]/(uv, xy) \rightarrow \text{Tot} \left(\left[k[u] \oplus k[v] \xrightarrow{\pm} k \right] \otimes_k \left[k[x] \oplus k[y] \xrightarrow{\pm} k \right] \right)$$

is a quasi-isomorphism. The corresponding resolution of $k[u, v, x, y]/(uv, xy)$ is precisely our complex locally in a neighbourhood of P resp. $(0, 0, 0, 0)$. \square

Since X_Γ/R is flat and projective, the Euler characteristic of its fibres is constant. We conclude by Proposition 46 and Lemma 44 that

$$\begin{aligned}\chi(X_{\Gamma,K}, \mathcal{O}_{X_{\Gamma,K}}) &= \chi(X_{\Gamma,s}, \mathcal{O}_{X_{\Gamma,s}}) \\ &= \#V(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))\chi(\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}) - \#\bar{E}(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))\chi(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}) + \#S(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))\chi(P, \mathcal{O}) \\ &= \chi(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma)) = N(q-1)^2/4.\end{aligned}\tag{7.5}$$

Similarly, we compute the square of the canonical class

$$\begin{aligned}c_1(X_{\Gamma,K})^2 &= (c_1(\Omega_{\mathcal{X}_\Gamma/R}^{2,\log})|_{X_{\Gamma,s}})^2 \\ &= \sum_{E \in V(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))} (c_1(\Omega_{\mathcal{X}_\Gamma/R}^{2,\log})|_{\tilde{E}})^2 = N \cdot ((\mathcal{O}(q-1) \boxtimes \mathcal{O}(q-1))^2) \\ &= 2N(q-1)^2.\end{aligned}\tag{7.6}$$

Noether's formula then yields

$$c_2(X_{\Gamma,K}) = 12\chi(X_{\Gamma,K}, \mathcal{O}_{X_{\Gamma,K}}) - c_1(X_{\Gamma,K})^2 = N(q-1)^2.\tag{7.7}$$

7.8. The Albanese variety via Kummer étale cohomology. We endow X_Γ/R with the fs-log structure in the sense of Fontaine and Illusie determined by its special fibre. The resulting log-scheme is log-smooth and projective over $\text{Spec}(R)$ endowed with its canonical log-structure. Let \bar{K} be an algebraic closure of K and $X_{\Gamma,\bar{K}}$ the corresponding geometric generic fibre. Let $\tilde{s} \rightarrow \text{Spec}(R)$ be a log-geometric point over the closed point and $X_{\Gamma,\tilde{s}}$ the corresponding log geometric special fibre.

Let Λ be a finite ring of order prime to p , for example $\Lambda = \mathbb{F}_\ell$ for a prime $\ell \neq p$. Since X_Γ/R is log-smooth, the Kummer-étale cospecialisation map is an isomorphism

$$H_{\text{ét}}^1(X_{\Gamma,\bar{K}}, \Lambda) \simeq H_{\text{két}}^1(X_{\Gamma,\tilde{s}}, \Lambda).$$

We compute $H_{\text{két}}^1(X_{\Gamma,\tilde{s}}, \Lambda)$ by means of a resolution in sheaves on the Kummer étale site $(X_{\Gamma,s})_{\text{két}}$

$$0 \rightarrow \Lambda \rightarrow \bigoplus_{E \in V(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))} \pi_{E,*} \Lambda \xrightarrow{\pm \text{res}} \bigoplus_{C \in \bar{E}(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))} \pi_{C,*} \Lambda \xrightarrow{\pm \text{res}} \bigoplus_{P \in S(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))} i_{P,*} \Lambda \rightarrow 0$$

with signs coming from (7.4) and using the hypercohomology spectral sequence as:

$$0 \rightarrow H_{\text{Sing}}^1(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma), \Lambda) \rightarrow H_{\text{két}}^1(X_{\Gamma,\tilde{s}}, \Lambda) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{E \in V(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))} H_{\text{két}}^1(\tilde{E}_{\tilde{s}}, \Lambda) \xrightarrow{\pm \text{res}} \bigoplus_{C \in E(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma))} H_{\text{két}}^1(\tilde{C}_{\tilde{s}}, \Lambda).\tag{7.8}$$

Starting from now we assume that $K = \mathbb{F}_q((t))$ is in odd equi-characteristic p and

$$\Gamma = \Gamma_\tau$$

is one of the irreducible arithmetic lattices described by Theorem 28. Hence

$$\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma) = S_{\Gamma_\tau}$$

has only one vertex and a VH-structure coming from a VH-structure A, B in the group Γ . Implicitly we have chosen an identification $A = \mathbb{P}^1(k) = B$, and then

$$\begin{aligned}H_{\text{két}}^1(\tilde{E}_{\tilde{s}}, \Lambda) &= \left(\bigoplus_{a \in A} \Lambda(-1) \right)^0 \oplus \left(\bigoplus_{b \in B} \Lambda(-1) \right)^0, \\ H_{\text{két}}^1(\tilde{C}_{\tilde{s}}, \Lambda) &= \left(\bigoplus_{\xi \in \mathbb{P}^1(k)} \Lambda(-1) \right)^0.\end{aligned}$$

Here $\Lambda(-1)$ is the inverse Tate-twist and $(-)^0$ denotes the kernel of the summation map.

Lemma 47. *If $q+1 \in \Lambda^*$, then $H_{\text{ét}}^1(X_{\Gamma,\bar{K}}, \Lambda) \simeq \text{Hom}(\Gamma^{\text{ab}}, \Lambda)$.*

Proof. The maps $\pm \text{res}$ in (7.8) impose invariance under local permutation groups P_A and P_B , see Section §5.1, so that we find an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H_{\text{Sing}}^1(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma), \Lambda) \rightarrow H_{\text{két}}^1(X_{\Gamma, \bar{s}}, \Lambda) \rightarrow H^0(P_A, \left(\bigoplus_{a \in A} \Lambda(-1)\right)^0) \oplus H^0(P_B, \left(\bigoplus_{b \in B} \Lambda(-1)\right)^0) \rightarrow 0.$$

Since the local permutation groups are 2-transitive by Proposition 32, the right hand side vanishes if $q+1 \in \Lambda^*$, and finally under this additional assumption

$$H_{\text{ét}}^1(X_{\Gamma, \bar{K}}, \Lambda) \simeq H_{\text{két}}^1(X_{\Gamma, \bar{s}}, \Lambda) \simeq H_{\text{Sing}}^1(\Sigma(\mathcal{X}_\Gamma), \Lambda) \simeq \text{Hom}(\Gamma^{\text{ab}}, \Lambda)$$

as claimed. \square

Proposition 48. *The Albanese variety of $X_{\Gamma_\tau, K}$ is trivial.*

Proof. By Lemma 47 the prime to $p(q+1)$ maximal abelian quotients of $\pi_1^{\text{ét}}(X_{\Gamma, \bar{K}})$ and Γ agree. Since the latter is finite by Proposition 41 the Albanese variety of $X_{\Gamma, K}$ must be trivial. \square

7.9. On the étale fundamentalgroup. In order to prove Theorem C of the introduction we must analyse the étale fundamental group of $X_{\Gamma_\tau, K}$.

Theorem 49. *Let Γ_τ be one of the lattices described in Theorem 28 above. The surface*

$$X_\tau = X_{\Gamma_\tau}$$

is a minimal smooth projective surface of general type over $\mathbb{F}_q((t))$ with

- (a) *ample canonical bundle,*
- (b) *Chern ratio $c_1^2 / c_2 = 2$,*
- (c) *trivial Albanese variety,*
- (d) *non-reduced Picard scheme of dimension 0, and*
- (e) *geometric étale fundamental group with an infinite continuous quotient*

$$\bar{\pi}_1^{\text{ét}}(X_\tau) \twoheadrightarrow \hat{\Gamma}_\tau.$$

For $q = 3$, the surface X_τ is a non-classical fake quadric over $\mathbb{F}_3((t))$.

Proof. The existence of X_τ as a minimal smooth projective surface of general type was proven in Proposition 45, the Chern numbers are computed in (7.6) and (7.7), and Proposition 48 deals with the claim on the Albanese variety. It remains to show (e) and (d).

Consider $\mathcal{X}_\tau = \mathcal{X}_{\Gamma_\tau}$ with geometric special fibre $X_{\tau, \bar{s}}$. Since \mathcal{X}_τ has generically a reduced semistable geometrically connected special fibre, the geometric specialisation map

$$\text{sp} : \bar{\pi}_1^{\text{ét}}(X_\tau) = \pi_1^{\text{ét}}(X_{\tau, \bar{K}}) \twoheadrightarrow \pi_1^{\text{ét}}(X_{\tau, \bar{s}})$$

is surjective. The formal Zariski-trivial cover $\mathcal{Y} \times_R \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_\tau$ induces a continuous quotient map

$$\pi_1^{\text{ét}}(X_{\tau, \bar{s}}) \twoheadrightarrow \hat{\Gamma}_\tau$$

to the profinite completion $\hat{\Gamma}_\tau$ of Γ_τ . The composition of these two quotient maps yields the map in (e), and $\hat{\Gamma}_\tau$ is infinite because Γ_τ is residually pro- p due to Proposition 36.

For (d) we note that $\dim(\text{Pic}_{X_\tau}^0)$ equals the dimension of the Albanese variety, but that Pic^0 is nontrivial due to non-trivial p -torsion quotients, i.e., by Proposition 34,

$$\pi_1^{\text{ab}}(X_{\tau, \bar{K}}) \twoheadrightarrow \Gamma^{\text{ab}} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{F}_q[Z]$$

which leads to non-trivial multiplicative torsion in Pic_{X_τ} hence in $\text{Pic}_{X_\tau}^0$. In particular

$$\dim H^1(X_{\tau, K}, \mathcal{O}_{X_\tau}) = \dim(\text{T}_0 \text{Pic}_{X_\tau}^0) \geq 2 \log_p(q) \geq 2$$

is nontrivial.

If $q = 3$, then $\chi = 1$ by Lemma 44 and thus $c_1^2 = 8$ and $c_2 = 4$, so that indeed X_τ is a non-classical fake quadric in this case. \square

Remark 50. In principle the construction of a (non-classical) fake quadric via non-archimedean uniformization works in all characteristics and similarly over $\mathbb{F}_q((t))$ as (even better) over p -adic fields. Nevertheless, the method will not produce further examples besides the surface of Theorem 49 if applied to a simply transitive action of a lattice on a product of trees. The numerical constraints require $q = 3$. A computer search through all finite geometries of square complexes S with one vertex and a VH-structure of partition size $(4, 4)$ shows that only one such S admits a fundamental group that potentially is an arithmetic lattice, and truly it is, giving rise to our surface. Rigidity dashes all hopes to find the same lattice also in a 3-adic group.

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JAKOB STIX, MATCH - MATHEMATISCHES INSTITUT, UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG, IM NEUENHEIMER FELD
288, 69120 HEIDELBERG, GERMANY

E-mail address: stix@mathi.uni-heidelberg.de

URL: <http://www.mathi.uni-heidelberg.de/~stix/>

ALINA VDOVINA, SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS, NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY, NEWCASTLE UPON
TYNE, NE1 7RU, UK

E-mail address: alina.vdovina@ncl.ac.uk

URL: <http://www.staff.ncl.ac.uk/alina.vdovina/>