

Cusps of Hilbert modular varieties

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Abstract

Let M denote a virtual n -torus bundle over an m -torus. In this article we give a necessary and sufficient condition for M to be diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of a Hilbert modular variety. One application of this classification theorem answers an implicit question of Hirzebruch on the possible isomorphism types of the fundamental group of a cusp cross-section of a Hilbert modular variety. Specialized to Hilbert modular surfaces, this proves that every Sol 3-manifold is diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of a (generalized) Hilbert modular surface. We conclude this article by proving that certain Sol 3-manifolds cannot arise as a cusp cross-section of a 1-cusped nonsingular Hilbert modular surface.

1 Introduction

Main results

Let k be a totally real number field with $[k : \mathbf{Q}] = n$, \mathcal{O}_k the ring of integers of k , and $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$ denote the n real embeddings of k . The group $\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k)$ is an arithmetic subgroup of the n -fold product $(\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathbf{R}))^n$ (see [5]) via the embedding $\xi \mapsto (\sigma_1(\xi), \dots, \sigma_n(\xi))$ for $\xi \in \mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k)$. Through this embedding, $\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k)$ acts with finite volume on the n -fold product of real hyperbolic planes $(\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^2)^n$. The group $\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k)$ is called *the Hilbert modular group*. More generally, we call any subgroup Λ of $\mathrm{PSL}(2; k)$ which is commensurable with $\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k)$ a *Hilbert modular group* and the quotients $(\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^2)^n / \Lambda$, *Hilbert modular varieties*. In the case that k is a real quadratic number field, these quotients are called *Hilbert modular surfaces*. For more on Hilbert modular surfaces, see [10] or [26].

The primary focus of this article is cusp cross-sections of Hilbert modular varieties. These manifolds are virtual n -torus bundles over $(n-1)$ -tori where $[k : \mathbf{Q}] = n$ and

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$\text{rank } \mathcal{O}_k^\times = n - 1$. For brevity, we simply call these *virtual $(n, n - 1)$ -torus bundles*. Recall that an n -torus bundle over an m -torus is the total space of a fiber bundle with base manifold T^m and fiber T^n (see [24]). We call such manifolds simply *(n, m) -torus bundles*. We say that N is a *virtual (n, m) -torus bundle* if N is finitely covered by an (n, m) -torus bundle.

In [14], cusp cross-sections of real, complex, and quaternionic arithmetic hyperbolic n -orbifolds were classified. In this article, we continue this theme by classifying cusp cross-sections of Hilbert modular varieties. Before stating our first classification result, we introduce an additional piece of terminology.

For a totally real number field k , we say $\beta \in k$ is *totally positive* if $\sigma_j(\beta) > 0$ for $j = 1, \dots, n$. We denote the set of totally positive elements and totally positive integers by k_+ and $\mathcal{O}_{k,+}$, and define the sets $k_+^\times = k_+ \cap k^\times$, $\mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times = \mathcal{O}_k^\times \cap \mathcal{O}_{k,+}$. We say that a virtual torus bundle N is *k -defined* if there exists a faithful representation $\rho: \pi_1(N) \rightarrow k \rtimes k_+^\times$. If in addition $\rho(\pi_1(N))$ is commensurable with $\mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$, we say that N is *k -arithmetic*.

Our first result is:

Theorem 1.1. *A virtual $(n, n - 1)$ -torus bundle N is diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of a Hilbert modular variety over k if and only if $\pi_1(N)$ is k -arithmetic.*

One direction of Theorem 1.1 is clear. The proof of the reverse implication makes use of techniques in [14] to lift an injective representation to be maximal peripheral. Theorem 1.1 answers a question of Hirzebruch [10, page 203] who implicitly asked (in our terminology) which k -arithmetic torus bundles arise as cusp cross-sections of Hilbert modular varieties. See Subsection 3.3 for more on this.

Every $(2, 1)$ -torus bundle admits either a Euclidean, Nil, or Sol geometry. Long and Reid [13] proved that the $(2, 1)$ -torus bundles which admit a Euclidean structure are diffeomorphic to cusp cross-sections of arithmetic real hyperbolic 4-orbifolds. In [14], we proved that those that admit Nil structures are diffeomorphic to cusp cross-sections of arithmetic complex hyperbolic 2-orbifolds. In this article, we prove (see §5 for the definitions):

Theorem 1.2. *Every Sol 3-manifold is diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of a generalized Hilbert modular surface.*

As in [14], where we showed in higher dimensions there are always infranil manifolds which cannot be diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of any arithmetic complex hyperbolic n -orbifold, this smallest dimension is exceptional. Specifically, we can show that for $(n, n - 1)$ with $n > 2$, there are $(n, n - 1)$ -torus bundles which admit a solvable structure and cannot be diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of any (generalized) Hilbert modular variety.

Using the Atiyah-Patodi-Singer signature formula [2, 3, 4], Long and Reid [12] showed that a flat 3-manifold which arises as a cusp cross-section of a 1-cusped real hyperbolic 4-manifold must have integral η -invariant. Together with Ouyang's work [18], this proves that certain flat 3-manifolds cannot be the cusp cross-section of a 1-cusped real hyperbolic 4-manifold. We conclude this article with a similar result. Specifically, using the work of Hirzebruch [10], Atiyah-Donnelly-Singer [1], and Cheeger-Gromov [6], we prove:

Theorem 1.3. *There exists a Sol 3-manifold which cannot be diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of any 1-cusped Hilbert modular surface with torsion free fundamental group.*

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2 Preliminary material

2.1 Stabilizer groups

We refer the reader to [20] for the basics of $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^n$ and its group of isometries.

For $v \in \partial\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^n$, the group $\text{Stab}(v) = \{\gamma \in \text{Isom}(\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^n) : \gamma v = v\}$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{R}^{n-1} \rtimes (\mathbf{R}^+ \times \text{O}(n-1))$. For $v \in \partial\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^n$ and $H < \text{Isom}(\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^n)$, we define the *stabilizer group of H at v* to be $\Delta_v(H) = \text{Stab}(v) \cap H$. When $\Delta_v(H)$ contains a parabolic isometry, we call $\Delta_v(H)$ the *maximal peripheral subgroup of H at v* and say that H has a *cusp at v* . Often, we simply write $\Delta(H)$.

2.2 Infrasolv manifolds and smooth rigidity

For a simply connected, connected solvable Lie group S , the affine group of S is $\text{Aff}(S) = S \rtimes \text{Aut}(S)$. We say that a discrete subgroup $\Gamma < \text{Aff}(S)$ is an *infrasolv group modelled on S* if $\Gamma \cap S$ is finite index in Γ and S/Γ is compact. An infrasolv group which is a subgroup of S will be called a *solvable group modelled on S* . Any smooth manifold which is diffeomorphic to S/Γ for some infrasolv group will be

called an *infrasolv manifold modelled on S* . When Γ is a solv group, we call the manifold S/Γ a *solv manifold modelled on S* .

We require the following rigidity result of Mostow [16].

Theorem 2.1 (Mostow; [16]). *Let M_1 and M_2 be infrasolv manifolds. If $\pi_1(M_1) \cong \pi_1(M_2)$, then M_1 is diffeomorphic to M_2 .*

3 Cusps of Hilbert modular varieties

In this section, we prove Theorem 1.1. The philosophy for the proof is simple. Using the arithmeticity assumption on the torus bundle N , we construct an injective homomorphism $\rho: \pi_1(N) \rightarrow \Delta(\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k))$. To find a Hilbert modular group Λ for which $\Delta(\Lambda) = \rho(\pi_1(N))$, we are reduced to making a subgroup separability argument. The proof is completed by applying Theorem 2.1. The remainder of this section is devoted to the details.

3.1 Subgroup separability

Recall that if G is a group, $H < G$ and $g \in G \setminus H$, we say H and g are *separated* if there exists a subgroup K of finite index in G which contains H but not g . We say that $H < G$ is *separable* in G if every $g \in G \setminus H$ and H can be separated.

As in [14], the main technical result we make use of is:

Theorem 3.1. *Let Λ be a Hilbert modular group and $\Delta(\Lambda)$, a maximal peripheral subgroup. Then every subgroup of $\Delta(\Lambda)$ is separable in Λ .*

3.2 Proof of Theorem 1.1

In this subsection, we prove Theorem 1.1. The following establishes a correspondence between k -arithmetic torus bundle groups and maximal peripheral subgroups of Hilbert modular groups.

Theorem 3.2 (Correspondence theorem). *Let N be a k -arithmetic torus bundle. Then there exists a faithful representation $\psi: \pi_1(N) \rightarrow \Delta(\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k))$ such that $\psi(\pi_1(N))$ is a finite index subgroup of $\Delta(\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k))$. Moreover, there exists a finite index subgroup Λ of $\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k)$ such that $\Delta(\Lambda) = \psi(\pi_1(N))$.*

We defer the proof of Theorem 3.2 for the moment in order to prove Theorem 1.1.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. For the direct implication, since N is diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of a Hilbert modular variety, there exists a Hilbert modular group Λ and an isomorphism $\psi: \pi_1(N) \longrightarrow \Delta(\Lambda)$. To obtain an injective homomorphism $\rho: \pi_1(N) \longrightarrow k \rtimes k_+^\times$ such that $\rho(\pi_1(N))$ is commensurable with $\mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$, we argue as follows. By conjugating by an element γ of $\mathrm{PSL}(2; k)$, we can assume that

$$\gamma^{-1}\psi(\pi_1(N))\gamma \subset B_k = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \beta^{-1} & \alpha \\ 0 & \beta \end{pmatrix} : \alpha \in k, \beta \in k_+^\times \right\}.$$

As $\gamma \in \mathrm{PSL}(2; k)$, $\gamma^{-1}\Lambda\gamma$ remains a Hilbert modular group, and moreover, $\gamma^{-1}\psi(\pi_1(N))\gamma$ is commensurable with

$$\Delta(\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k)) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \beta^{-1} & \alpha \\ 0 & \beta \end{pmatrix} : \alpha \in \mathcal{O}_k, \beta \in \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times \right\}.$$

To obtain the faithful representation ρ , we simply compose $\mu_\gamma \circ \psi$ with the isomorphism $\iota: B_k \longrightarrow k \rtimes k_+^\times$ given by $\iota\left(\begin{pmatrix} \beta^{-1} & \alpha \\ 0 & \beta \end{pmatrix}\right) = (\alpha, \beta)$.

For the reverse implication, we apply Theorem 3.2 and Theorem 2.1. Specifically, let Λ be the Hilbert modular group guaranteed by Theorem 3.2 and let N' denote an embedded cusp cross-section associated with $\Delta(\Lambda)$. As a smooth manifold, N' is of the form $\mathbf{R}^{2n-1}/\Delta(\Lambda)$. By Theorem 3.2, we have an isomorphism $\psi: \pi_1(N) \longrightarrow \pi_1(N')$. Applying Theorem 2.1, we obtain the desired diffeomorphism between N and N' . \square

In the proof of Theorem 3.2, the following lemma is required.

Lemma 3.3. *Let N be a k -arithmetic torus bundle. Then there exists an injective homomorphism $\rho: \pi_1(N) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$. Moreover, $\rho(\pi_1(N))$ is a finite index subgroup of $\mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$.*

Proof. Since N is k -arithmetic, we have a faithful representation $\theta: \pi_1(N) \longrightarrow k \rtimes k_+^\times$ such that $\theta(\pi_1(N))$ is commensurable with $\mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$. Hence, given $(\alpha, \beta) \in \theta(\pi_1(N))$, we have for some $m \in \mathbf{N}$,

$$(\alpha + \beta\alpha + \beta^2\alpha + \cdots + \beta^{m-1}\alpha, \beta^m) \in \mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times.$$

Consequently, $\beta^m \in \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$ and thus $\beta \in \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$. Even so, it may be the case that (α, β) is not contained in $\mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$. This is rectified as follows. Select a generating set for $\pi_1(N)$, say g_1, \dots, g_u . For each generator, we have $\theta(g_j) = (\alpha_j, \beta_j)$ with $\alpha_j \in k$

and $\beta_j \in \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$. Since k is the field of fractions of \mathcal{O}_k , we can select $\lambda_j \in \mathcal{O}_k$ such that $(0, \lambda_j)\theta(g_j)(0, \lambda_j)^{-1} \in \mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$. Note that

$$(0, \lambda_j)\theta(g_j)(0, \lambda_j)^{-1} = (\lambda_j\alpha_j, \beta_j),$$

and so the second coordinate β_j is unchanged. Finally, for $\lambda = \lambda_1 \dots \lambda_u$, define $\rho = \mu_{(0,\lambda)} \circ \theta$, where $\mu_{(0,\lambda)}$ denotes the inner automorphism determined by $(0, \lambda)$. By construction, ρ is a faithful representation of $\pi_1(N)$ onto a finite index subgroup of $\mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$. \square

With Lemma 3.3 in hand, we prove Theorem 3.2.

Proof of Theorem 3.2. By Lemma 3.3, we have an injective homomorphism $\rho: \pi_1(N) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$ such that $\rho(\pi_1(N))$ is a finite index subgroup. To obtain the injective homomorphism ψ , we compose ρ with the isomorphism

$$\iota^{-1}: \mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times \longrightarrow \Delta(\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k))$$

where $\iota^{-1}(\alpha, \beta) = \begin{pmatrix} \beta^{-1} & \alpha \\ 0 & \beta \end{pmatrix}$. That ψ is faithful and $\psi(\pi_1(N))$ is a finite index subgroup of $\Delta(\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k))$ follow immediately from the properties of ρ and ι .

To find the desired subgroup Λ , we apply Theorem 3.1. Specifically, select a complete set of coset representatives $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_s$ for $\Delta(\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k))/\psi(\pi_1(N))$. By Theorem 3.1, $\psi(\pi_1(N))$ is separable. Therefore for each j we can find finite index subgroups Λ_j such that $\gamma_j \notin \Lambda_j$ and $\psi(\pi_1(N)) < \Lambda_j$. To get the desired Λ , take $\Lambda = \bigcap_{j=1}^s \Lambda_j$. \square

3.3 A question of Hirzebruch

Let k be a totally real number field, $M < k$ an additive group of rank n (the degree of k over \mathbf{Q}), and $V < \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$ a finite index subgroup such that for all $\lambda \in V$, $\lambda M \subset M$. For each pair (M, V) , we define the peripheral group

$$\Delta(M, V) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \beta^{-1} & \alpha \\ 0 & \beta \end{pmatrix} : \alpha \in M, \beta \in V \right\} < \mathrm{PSL}(2; k).$$

For any Hilbert modular variety, the peripheral groups $\Delta(\Lambda)$ are conjugate (in $\mathrm{PSL}(2; k)$) to groups of the form $\Delta(M, V)$. In [10, p. 203], Hirzebruch mentions that it is apparently unknown whether or not every $\Delta(M, V)$ can occur as a maximal peripheral subgroup of a Hilbert modular group. The following corollary gives an affirmative answer.

Corollary 3.4. *For every pair (M, V) , there exists a Hilbert modular group Λ such that $\Delta(\Lambda) = \Delta(M, V)$.*

Proof. As in the proof of Lemma 3.3, we can conjugate $\Delta(M, V)$ by an element of the form $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix}$, with $\lambda \in \mathcal{O}_k$, such that $\gamma^{-1}\Delta(M, V)\gamma$ is contained in $\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k)$. Since M and V are finite index subgroups of \mathcal{O}_k and $\mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$, respectively, $\gamma^{-1}\Delta(M, V)\gamma$ is a finite index subgroup of $\Delta(\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k))$. Thus there exists a finite index subgroup $\Lambda_1 < \mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k)$ such that $\Delta(\Lambda_1) = \gamma^{-1}\Delta(M, V)\gamma$. Hence, for $\Lambda = \gamma\Lambda_1\gamma^{-1}$, we have $\Delta(\Lambda) = \Delta(M, V)$. As $\gamma \in \mathrm{PSL}(2; k)$, Λ is a Hilbert modular group, as required. \square

4 A simple criterion for arithmeticity

In this section, we give a simple criterion for the arithmeticity of (n, m) -torus bundles. The need for such a result is practical, as it allows one to establish the arithmeticity of a torus bundle computationally. We encourage the reader to compare the results of this section with Corollary 5.5 in [14].

4.1 Linear equations and presentations of torus bundle groups

For an (orientable) $(n, n-1)$ -torus bundle M , since both the base and fiber are aspherical, we have the short exact sequence induced by the long exact sequence of the fiber bundle

$$1 \longrightarrow \mathbf{Z}^n \longrightarrow \pi_1(M) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Z}^{n-1} \longrightarrow 1.$$

The action of \mathbf{Z}^{n-1} on \mathbf{Z}^n induces a homomorphism $\varphi: \mathbf{Z}^{n-1} \longrightarrow \mathrm{SL}(n; \mathbf{Z})$ called the *holonomy representation*. Since peripheral subgroups in Hilbert modular groups have faithful holonomy representation, we assume throughout that φ is faithful. In particular, we obtain a faithful representation of $\pi_1(M)$ into $\mathbf{Z}^n \rtimes \mathrm{SL}(n; \mathbf{Z})$.

Of primary importance for us here is that the holonomy representation together with any finite presentation yields a homogenous linear system of equations with coefficients in \mathbf{Z} . This system arises as follows. For ease, select a presentation of the form

$$\langle x_1, \dots, x_n, \overline{y_1}, \dots, \overline{y_{n-1}} : R \rangle$$

where x_1, \dots, x_n generate \mathbf{Z}^n , $\overline{y_1}, \dots, \overline{y_{n-1}}$ are lifts of a generating set y_1, \dots, y_{n-1} for \mathbf{Z}^{n-1} , and R is a finite set of relations of the form

$$x_j \overline{y_k} = \overline{y_k} w_{j,k}, \quad w_{j,k} \in \langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle.$$

Using the holonomy representation, we can write

$$x_j = (a_j, I), \quad \bar{y}_j = (b_j, \varphi(y_j)) \in \mathbf{R}^n \rtimes \mathrm{SL}(n; \mathbf{R}).$$

Each relation in the presentation yields a linear homogenous equation in the vector variables a_j and b_j (see below for an explicit example of how these equations arise). Namely, we insert the above forms for x_j and \bar{y}_k into the relation and consider only the first coordinate. The equations we obtain are of the form

$$a_j + b_k - \varphi(y_k) - v_{j,k} = 0$$

where $w_{j,k} = (v_{j,k}, I)$. That this system has integral solutions which yield faithful representations follows from the fact that φ is faithful and induces a faithful representation of $\pi_1(M)$ into $\mathbf{Z}^n \rtimes \mathrm{SL}(n; \mathbf{Z})$.

4.2 A simple criterion for arithmeticity

The main result of this section is a simple criterion for arithmeticity based on the structure of the holonomy representation. In the statement and proof, let $\mathrm{Res}_{k/\mathbf{Q}}$ denotes restriction of scalars from k to \mathbf{Q} and assume that $[k : \mathbf{Q}] = n$ and $\mathrm{rank} \mathcal{O}_k^\times = n - 1$. In particular, k is totally real.

Theorem 4.1. *Let M be an orientable $(n, n - 1)$ -torus bundle. Then M is diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of a Hilbert modular variety defined over k if and only if $\varphi = \mathrm{Res}_{k/\mathbf{Q}}(\chi)$, for some faithful character $\chi : \mathbf{Z}^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$, where φ is some holonomy representation.*

Proof. For the direct implication, since M is diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of a Hilbert modular variety, by Theorem 1.1, we have a faithful representation

$$\rho : \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$$

By restricting scalars from k to \mathbf{Q} , we obtain a faithful representation

$$\mathrm{Res}_{k/\mathbf{Q}}(\rho) : \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}^n \rtimes \mathrm{SL}(n; \mathbf{Z}).$$

The proof is completed by noting that the holonomy map induced by this representation is simply $\mathrm{Res}_{k/\mathbf{Q}}(\chi)$, where $\chi : \mathbf{Z}^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$ is the holonomy representation induced by the representation ρ .

For the converse, we seek a faithful representation $\rho : \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$. Note that since $[k : \mathbf{Q}] = n$ and $\mathrm{rank} \mathcal{O}_k^\times = n - 1$, the image of $\pi_1(M)$ would necessarily be a finite index subgroup. By assumption, we have a faithful character

$\chi: \mathbf{Z}^{n-1} \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$. We extend this to a faithful representation of $\pi_1(M)$ into $\mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$ as follows. Select a presentation as above for $\pi_1(M)$ with generators $x_1, \dots, x_n, \overline{y_1}, \dots, \overline{y_{n-1}}$. Write

$$x_i = (\alpha_i, 1), \overline{y_i} = (\gamma_i, \chi(y_i)) \in k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times \quad (1)$$

where α_i and γ_i are to be determined. Using our presentation for $\pi_1(M)$, we obtain a system of linear homogenous equations \mathcal{L} with coefficients in \mathcal{O}_k . Note, as above, solutions to \mathcal{L} yield representations of $\pi_1(M)$ into $k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$. We assert that there is a solution which yields a faithful representation. To see this, by restricting scalars from k to \mathbf{Q} , we obtain a linear system $\text{Res}_{k/\mathbf{Q}}(\mathcal{L})$ with coefficients in \mathbf{Z} . Solutions to the system $\text{Res}_{k/\mathbf{Q}}(\mathcal{L})$ yield representations of $\pi_1(M)$ into $\mathbf{Z}^n \rtimes \text{SL}(n; \mathbf{Z})$. Moreover, a solution to $\text{Res}_{k/\mathbf{Q}}(\mathcal{L})$ which yields a faithful representation is equivalent to a solution of \mathcal{L} which yields a faithful representation into $\mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$. That such a solution exists with integral coefficients for $\text{Res}_{k/\mathbf{Q}}(\mathcal{L})$ follows from the faithfulness of $\text{Res}_{k/\mathbf{Q}}(\chi)$ and our discussion in the previous subsection. This yields a solution for \mathcal{L} with coefficients in \mathcal{O}_k which yields a faithful representation. Therefore, M is k -arithmetic, since there exists a faithful representation $\psi: \pi_1(M) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$ such that $\psi(\pi_1(M))$ is a finite index subgroup of $\mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_k^\times$. \square

Remark. If the character χ only maps into \mathcal{O}_k^\times , the above proof yields a faithful representation $\rho: \pi_1(M) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_k^\times$.

5 Sol 3-manifolds

Before proving Theorem 1.2, we give a brief review of Sol 3-manifolds (see [22]). Let $\text{Sol} = \mathbf{R}^2 \times \mathbf{R}^+$ with group operation defined by

$$(x_1, y_1, t_1) \cdot (x_2, y_2, t_2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (x_1 + e^{t_1}x_2, y_1 + e^{-t_1}y_2, t_1 + t_2).$$

By a Sol 3-orbifold, we mean a manifold M which is diffeomorphic to Sol/Γ , where Γ is a discrete subgroup of $\text{Aff}(\text{Sol})$ such that Sol/Γ is compact and $[\Gamma : \Gamma \cap \text{Sol}] < \infty$. These manifolds, in the terminology from §2, are infrasolv manifolds modelled on Sol. However, the terminology used in this section for these manifolds is more prevalent (see [22] or [25]).

In [22], Scott proved that every $(2, 1)$ -torus bundles admits either a Euclidean, Nil, or Sol structure. The following result is easily derived from [22]. We include a proof here for completeness.

Proposition 5.1. *Let M be an orientable $(2, 1)$ -torus bundle which admits a Sol structure. Then there exists a faithful representation $\rho : \pi_1(M) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_k^\times$ for some real quadratic number field k .*

Proof. For any $(2, 1)$ -torus bundle M , let the \mathbf{Z} -action be given by $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$. If the order of A is finite, then $\pi_1(M)$ is a Bieberbach group and M admits a Euclidean structure. Therefore we may assume that the order of A is infinite. If A is not diagonalizable, then some power of A is conjugate to $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ with $\alpha \neq 0$. In this case, M admits a Nil structure. Thus, we may assume that A is diagonalizable. In this case we have $\begin{pmatrix} \beta & 0 \\ 0 & \beta^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$ for a conjugate of A . It follows, since $A \in \mathrm{SL}(2; \mathbf{Z})$, that β and β^{-1} are algebraic integers in the real quadratic field $\mathbf{Q}(\beta)$. Thus the representation $\varphi : \mathbf{Z} \longrightarrow \mathrm{GL}(2; \mathbf{Z})$ is conjugate to $\mathrm{Res}_{k/\mathbf{Q}}(\chi)$, where $\chi : \mathbf{Z} \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_k^\times$ is given by $\chi(1) = \beta$. Therefore by the remark following Theorem 4.1, we have a faithful representation $\rho : \pi_1(M) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_k^\times$, as asserted. \square

Via Proposition 5.1, note every Sol 3-manifold group does faithfully represent into $\mathrm{Isom}((\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^2)^2)$. Those that arise as cusp cross-sections of Hilbert modular surfaces are precisely the ones whose fundamental group faithfully represents into the identity component of $\mathrm{Isom}((\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^2)^2)$. However, the quotients of those groups which fail to map into the identity component do produce finite volume quotients which possess 2-fold covers which are Hilbert modular surfaces. For this reason, we call such quotients *generalized Hilbert modular varieties*. Given this, Theorem 1.2 follows from this discussion in combination with Theorem 1.1.

6 Two examples

The following example illustrates the ideas in the proofs of Theorem 4.1 and Theorem 1.2.

Example 6.1. Let M be a $(2, 1)$ -torus bundle with \mathbf{Z} -action given by $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$. With this action, $\pi_1(M)$ has a presentation of the form (we are assuming that $\pi_1(M)$ is a split extension which is always the case; see [22])

$$\langle a_1, a_2, b : [a_1, a_2] = 1, ba_1 = a_1a_2b, ba_2 = a_1^2a_2^3b \rangle.$$

To obtain a faithful representation $\rho : \pi_1(M) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_k^\times$ for some quadratic number field k , we first compute the eigenvalues of A . The characteristic polynomial for A is $p(t) = t^2 - 4t + 1$, which has roots $2 \pm \sqrt{3}$. Let $k = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{3})$ and write

$$\rho(a_1) = (x_1 + y_1\sqrt{3}, 1), \quad \rho(a_2) = (x_2 + y_2\sqrt{3}, 1), \quad \rho(b) = (0, 2 + \sqrt{3})$$

where x_1, x_2, x_3 , and x_4 are to be determined. Using the presentation above, we are now reduced to solving a system of equations in x_1, x_2, x_3 , and x_4 to ensure that ρ is an injective homomorphism. By construction $\rho([a_1, a_2]) = 1$. The other two relations yield the equations

$$\begin{aligned} (2 + \sqrt{3})(x_1 + y_1\sqrt{3}) &= x_1 + y_1\sqrt{3} + x_2 + y_2\sqrt{3} \\ (2 + \sqrt{3})(x_2 + y_2\sqrt{3}) &= 2(x_1 + y_1\sqrt{3}) + 3(x_2 + y_2\sqrt{3}). \end{aligned}$$

Solving, we get the faithful representation

$$\rho(a_1) = (1, 1), \quad \rho(a_2) = (1 + \sqrt{3}, 1), \quad \rho(b) = (0, 2 + \sqrt{3}).$$

In fact such solutions abound. This is evident from the fact that a dense set of solvable structures on M arise as cusp cross-sections of Hilbert modular surfaces.

Let k be a totally real, cubic Galois extension of \mathbf{Q} and $\beta \in \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$ be of infinite order. By restricting scalars, we can view β as an element of $\mathrm{SL}(3; \mathbf{Z})$. Let M be a $(3, 1)$ -torus bundle with \mathbf{Z} -action given by β . Following the proof of Theorem 4.1, we can construct a faithful representation of $\pi_1(M)$ into $\mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_{k,+}^\times$. On the other hand, any Hilbert modular group defined over k cannot contain $\pi_1(M)$ as a finite index subgroup, since $\mathrm{rank} \mathcal{O}_k^\times = 2$.

The following example is a specific case of the above.

Example 6.2. Define $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and let M be the $(3, 1)$ -torus bundle with \mathbf{Z} -action given by A . The characteristic polynomial for A is $c_A(t) = t^3 + t^2 - 2t - 1$. This polynomial is irreducible over \mathbf{Q} and has totally real cubic splitting field. Thus, M is a $(3, 1)$ -torus bundle which is not diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of any generalized Hilbert modular variety. However, for the splitting field k of A , we do have an injection $\rho: \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \Delta(\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k))$.

More generally, for any pair (n, m) with $n > 2$ and $m > 0$ we can construct an (n, m) -torus bundle which cannot be diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of any Hilbert-Blumenthal modular variety (see [15] and §8).

7 Geometric bounding

For a Hilbert modular surface W with torsion free $\pi_1(W)$, we call W a *Hilbert modular manifold*. In this case, W has finitely many cusp ends (or parabolic singularities). Following Long and Reid [12], we say that a Sol 3-manifold S *geometrically*

bounds if it occurs as a cusp cross-section of a 1-cusped Hilbert modular manifold. Note that by neutering W (see [21] and [8]), we obtain a manifold \tilde{W} with $\partial\tilde{W} = S$. Moreover, the locally symmetric metric \tilde{g} on W restricted to S endows S with a complete Sol metric g such that \tilde{g} is a complete, finite volume metric in the interior of \tilde{W} and (S, g) is a totally geodesic boundary.

For a closed $4n$ -manifold M the Hirzebruch signature formula (see [11]) relates the signature of M with a certain polynomial (which depends only on n) evaluated on the Pontrjagin classes of M . In [10], Hirzebruch extended the signature formula to Hilbert modular surfaces. The formula relates the signature of the neutered manifold \tilde{W} again to a Hirzebruch L -polynomial evaluated on the Pontrjagin classes of \tilde{W} but with a correction term associated to $\partial\tilde{W}$. When $\pi_1(W)$ contains torsion the elliptic singularities also contribute nontrivially to this correction term. For simplicity, we assume throughout that $\pi_1(W)$ is torsion free. Then $\sigma(\tilde{W}) = \delta(x_1) + \dots + \delta(x_r)$ where x_1, \dots, x_r is a complete set of parabolic singularities and $\sigma(\tilde{W})$ denotes the signature of \tilde{W} . The terms $\delta(x_j)$ are defined as follows. Each parabolic singularity is associated to a $\pi_1(W)$ -conjugacy class Γ_j , where Γ_j is a maximal peripheral subgroup. The group Γ_j can be conjugated (in $\mathrm{PSL}(2; k)$) to a subgroup of the form $\Delta(M, V)$ (see §3.3). For the pair (M, V) , we have the associated Shimizu L -function $L(M, V, s)$ (see [23]) defined by

$$L(M, V, s) = \sum_{\beta \in (M \setminus \{0\})/V} \frac{\mathrm{sign}(N_{k/\mathbf{Q}}(\beta))}{(N_{k/\mathbf{Q}}(\beta))^s}$$

where $N_{k/\mathbf{Q}}$ is the norm map. The invariant $\delta(x_j)$ is then given by

$$\delta(x_j) = \frac{-\mathrm{vol}(M)}{\pi^2} L(M, V, 1)$$

where $\mathrm{vol}(M)$ is the volume of \mathbf{R}^2/M with respect to the pairing $\mathrm{Tr}_{k/\mathbf{Q}}$. Equivalently, $\mathrm{vol}(M) = \left| \det(\beta_i^{(j)}) \right|$, where β_1, β_2 is a \mathbf{Z} -module basis for M and $\beta_i^{(1)}$ and $\beta_i^{(2)}$ denote the image of β_i under the two real embeddings of $k \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$.

Theorem 7.1 (Hirzebruch; [10]). *Let W be a Hilbert modular manifold with exactly one cusp. Then*

$$\sigma(\tilde{W}) = \frac{-\mathrm{vol}(M)}{\pi^2} L(M, V, 1)$$

for the unique $\pi_1(W)$ -conjugacy class $\Delta(M, V)$.

Associated to the \mathbf{Z} -module M is the so-called *dual lattice* M^* defined to be the image of M under the duality pairing provided by $\mathrm{Tr}_{k/\mathbf{Q}}$.

Proposition 7.2. *For a horosphere \mathcal{H} stabilized by $\Delta(M, V)$ and $\Delta(M^*, V)$, $\mathcal{H}/\Delta(M, V)$ and $\mathcal{H}/\Delta(M^*, V)$ are diffeomorphic Sol 3-manifolds.*

Proof. Let $\varphi_M, \varphi_{M^*} : V \rightarrow \mathrm{SL}(2; \mathbf{Z})$ be the holonomy representations for $\Delta(M, V)$ and $\Delta(M^*, V)$. The pairing Tr_k/\mathbf{Q} can be viewed as an element of $\lambda \in \mathrm{SL}(2; \mathbf{Z})$ such that $\lambda M = M^*$. By construction $\varphi_{M^*} = \lambda(\varphi_M)\lambda^{-1}$. Thus, we have an isomorphism $\rho : \Delta(M, V) \rightarrow \Delta(M^*, V)$ given by

$$\rho(\beta, \varphi_M(\alpha)) = (\lambda\beta, \lambda\varphi_M(\alpha)\lambda^{-1}).$$

The proof is completed by appealing to Theorem 2.1. \square

Hecke [9] related the L -functions $L(M, V, s)$ and $L(M^*, V, s)$ by a functional equation. Specifically, for

$$H(M, V, s) = \left[\Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \right]^2 \pi^{-(s+1)} [\mathrm{vol}(M)]^s L(M, V, s),$$

Hecke [9] proved that $H(M, V, s) = (-1)^s H(M^*, V, 1-s)$. Thus for $s = 1$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (\Gamma(1))^2 \pi^{-2} \mathrm{vol}(M) L(M, V, 1) &= - \left(\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \right)^2 \pi^{-1} L(M^*, V, 0) \\ L(M^*, V, 0) &= - \frac{\mathrm{vol}(M)}{\pi^2} L(M, V, 1), \end{aligned}$$

and by Theorem 7.1, $\sigma(\tilde{W}) = L(M^*, V, 0)$. Indeed, this was shown in [1] (see also [17]) where $L(M^*, V, 0)$ was reinterpreted as the η -invariant of an adiabatic limit. For this, we require some more terminology. As it is not required here, we do not define the η -invariant and refer the reader to [1].

Given a peripheral group $\Delta(M, V)$ and stabilized horosphere \mathcal{H} , the metric structure on the symmetric space $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^2 \times \mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^2$ endows \mathcal{H} with a metric structure which is visibly invariant under the action of $\Delta(M, V)$. Consequently the metric $g_{\mathcal{H}, M, V}$ descends to quotient $\mathcal{H}/\Delta(M, V)$ and endows $\mathcal{H}/\Delta(M, V)$ with a complete Sol structure. In [1], the following was shown:

Theorem 7.3 (Atiyah-Donnelly-Singer; [1]).

$$L(M^*, V, 0) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \eta(\mathcal{H}/\Delta(M^*, V), g_{\mathcal{H}, M^*, V}/\varepsilon).$$

More generally, given any Sol structure g on S , we can define $\delta(S, g) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \eta(S, g/\varepsilon)$. Critical in our proof of Theorem 1.3 is the independence of $\delta(S, g)$ from g shown by Cheeger and Gromov [6] (see [7] for a treatment specific to Sol). Specifically,

Theorem 7.4 (Cheeger-Gromov;[6]). $\delta(S, g)$ is a topological invariant of the Sol 3–manifold S .

We are now in position to state and prove the principal observation needed in the proof of Theorem 1.3 (compare with [12]).

Theorem 7.5. *If S is diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of a 1–cusped Hilbert modular manifold, then $\delta(S) \in \mathbf{Z}$.*

Proof. Assume that (S, g) arises as a cusp cross-section of a 1–cusped Hilbert modular manifold W . Then there is an isometric embedding $f: (S, g) \rightarrow W$ onto a cusp cross-section of W . Let $f_*(\pi_1(S)) = \Delta(M, V)$ with associated horosphere \mathcal{H} selected such that $\mathcal{H}/\Delta(M, V)$ is embedded in W . By Proposition 7.2, $\mathcal{H}/\Delta(M^*, V)$ is diffeomorphic to S , though equipped with the metric $g_{\mathcal{H}, M^*, V}$. From the computation above in combination with Theorem 7.3, $\sigma(\tilde{W}) = \delta(S, g_{\mathcal{H}, M^*, V})$ and by Theorem 7.4, the right hand side depends only on the topological type of S . Since $\sigma(\tilde{W}) \in \mathbf{Z}$, $\delta(S) \in \mathbf{Z}$ as asserted. \square

With Theorem 7.5 in hand, we now prove Theorem 1.3.

Proof of Theorem 1.3. To prove Theorem 1.3, by Theorem 7.5, it suffices to find a Sol 3–manifold S for which $\delta(S) \notin \mathbf{Z}$. For $k = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{3})$, the standard Hilbert modular surface W over k has precisely one cusp, since the number of cusps of a standard Hilbert modular surface is precisely the ideal class number of the number field. Setting S to be an embedding cusp cross-section of W , the proof is completed by appealing to [10]. Specifically, Hirzebruch showed $\delta(S) = -1/3$. \square

Remark. The number fields $\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{6})$, $\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{21})$ and $\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{33})$ also have standard Hilbert modular surfaces with precisely one cusp for which the associated invariant $\delta(S) \notin \mathbf{Z}$. In each of these cases, $\delta(S) = -2/3$ (see [10, p. 236]).

It is unknown to the author whether or not there exist 1–cusped Hilbert modular manifolds. Using the generalized Riemann hypothesis, K. Petersen [19] constructed infinite many 1–cusped Hilbert modular surfaces. However, the nature of the construction likely produces Hilbert modular surface groups with 2–torsion.

8 Final remarks and generalizations

As it requires no more work, we mention the case when k is any algebraic number field. Our interest is in subgroups of $\mathrm{PSL}(2; k)$ which are commensurable with $\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k)$. As above for Hilbert modular groups, these groups are arithmetic

subgroups of $(\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathbf{R}))^{r_1} \times (\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathbf{C}))^{r_2}$, where r_1 is the number of real embeddings of k and r_2 is the number of complex embeddings of k , up to conjugation. These groups act on $(\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^2)^{r_1} \times (\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^3)^{r_2}$ and yield finite volume quotients. We call any subgroup of $\mathrm{PSL}(2; k)$ which is commensurable with $\mathrm{PSL}(2; \mathcal{O}_k)$ a *Hilbert-Blumenthal modular group* and call the quotients *Hilbert-Blumenthal modular varieties*.

The cusps of these quotients are (n, m) -torus bundles, where $n = [k : \mathbf{Q}]$ and $m = \mathrm{rank} \mathcal{O}_k^\times$. Before stating our next result, we require some terminology. Let $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{r_1}$ and $\tau_1, \dots, \tau_{r_2}$ denote the real and complex embeddings of k , respectively. For each embedding, define $\tilde{\sigma}_j: k^\times \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^\times / \langle \pm 1 \rangle$ and $\tilde{\tau}_j: k^\times \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^\times / \langle \pm 1 \rangle$. The product of these maps yields

$$\rho: k^\times \rightarrow \prod_{j=1}^{r_1} \mathbf{R}^\times / \langle \pm 1 \rangle \times \prod_{j=1}^{r_2} \mathbf{C}^\times / \langle \pm 1 \rangle.$$

We say that $V \subset k^\times$ is *positive* if $\rho|_V$ is an injective homomorphism. Note when k is totally real such a V consists of totally positive numbers.

We say that an (n, m) -torus bundle is *k -defined* if there exists a positive subgroup V in k^\times and a faithful representation of $\pi_1(N)$ into $k \rtimes V$. If in addition, $\pi_1(N)$ is commensurable with $\mathcal{O}_k \rtimes \mathcal{O}_k^\times$ under this representation, we say that N is *k -arithmetic*.

Theorem 8.1. *A virtual (n, m) -torus bundle N is diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of a Hilbert-Blumenthal modular variety defined over k if and only if N is k -arithmetic.*

The proof of Theorem 8.1 is identical to Theorem 1.1, as is Theorem 4.1 in this more general setting. As before, for any pair (n, m) with $n > 2$ and $m > 0$ we can construct an (n, m) -torus bundle which cannot be diffeomorphic to a cusp cross-section of any Hilbert-Blumenthal modular variety (see [15]).

Using techniques identical to those in [14], we can classify cusp cross-sections of irreducible (noncocompact) lattices in the n -fold product ($n > 1$)

$$\mathbf{G}_{m_1, \dots, m_n} = \prod_{j=1}^n \mathrm{Isom}(\mathbf{H}_X^{m_j})$$

where $X = \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{C},$ or \mathbf{H} . Irreducible lattices in $\mathbf{G}_{m_1, \dots, m_n}$ exist if and only if each $m_j = 2$ or 3 and $X = \mathbf{R}$, or $m_j = m_k$ for all j and k .

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