## Accepted Manuscript

 $PSL_2(\mathbb{C})$ -character varieties and Seifert fibered cosmetic surgeries

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PII:S0166-8641(18)30307-9DOI:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.topol.2018.07.006Reference:TOPOL 6504To appear in:Topology and its Applications

Received date:22 April 2017Revised date:5 July 2018Accepted date:5 July 2018



Please cite this article in press as: H.C. Ravelomanana,  $PSL_2(\mathbb{C})$ -character varieties and Seifert fibered cosmetic surgeries, *Topol. Appl.* (2018), https://doi.org/10.1016/j.topol.2018.07.006

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

### $PSL_2(\mathbb{C})$ -character varieties and Seifert fibered cosmetic surgeries

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#### 4 Abstract

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We study small Seifert possibly chiral cosmetic surgeries on not necessarily null-homologous knot in rational homology spheres. We define an absolute semi-norm derived from the Culler-Shalen semi-norm of  $PSL_2(\mathbb{C})$ -character variety theory. We prove that two cosmetic slopes must have the same absolute semi-norm and use this result to give a sharp bound on the number of slopes producing the same small Seifert manifold if the ambient manifold satisfies some representation theoretic conditions.

- 5 Keywords: Dehn surgeries, cosmetic surgeries, character variety.
- 6 2000 MSC: 57M99, 57M25, 57M27, 57M50

#### 7 1. Introduction

<sup>8</sup> Let Y be a rational homology sphere and K be a knot in Y such that  $Y_K := Y \setminus int(\mathcal{N}(K))$  is

<sup>9</sup> boundary irreducible and irreducible. Two Dehn surgeries  $Y_K(r)$  and  $Y_K(s)$  with distinct slopes

<sup>10</sup> are called *cosmetic* if they are homeomorphic. They are called *truly cosmetic* if the homeo-

morphism preserve orientation and *chirally cosmetic* if the homeomorphism reverse orientation.
The main conjecture about cosmetic surgery is the following [11].

<sup>13</sup> Conjecture 1.1 (Cosmetic surgery conjecture). If two Dehn surgeries  $Y_K(r)$  and  $Y_K(s)$ <sup>14</sup> with distinct slopes r and s are homeomorphic, then the homeomorphism reverses orientation.

In this paper we will focus on *general* cosmetic surgery and will not distinguish between chiral
 and truly cosmetic surgeries.

Let's fix a slope s and define

$$C_K(s) = \{ \text{slope } r \neq s | Y_K(r) \cong Y_K(s) \}.$$

<sup>17</sup> Here we allow the homeomorphism to reverse the orientation. If  $C_K(s) \neq \emptyset$  then we have a

- 18 cosmetic surgery (possibly chiral). The following theorem then gives a bound on the number
- 19 of element in  $C_K(s)$ .

**Theorem 1.2.** Let K be a small knot in Y and  $Y_K(s)$  be small-Seifert. If Hom  $(\pi_1(Y), PSL_2(\mathbb{C}))$ 

<sup>21</sup> contains only diagonalisable representations and ||s|| is not a multiple of  $s \cdot \lambda$  then  $\sharp C_K(s) \leq 1$ .

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