

A Conjecture about Compact Quotients by Tori

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Let $T \times X \rightarrow X$ be a meromorphic action of $T = (\mathbf{C}^*)^n$ on a reduced compact normal complex analytic space X . The following is a basic problem of geometric invariant theory whose answer is not known even if the above is an algebraic action on a projective variety X .

Problem. *Let $T \times X \rightarrow X$ be as above. Classify all T invariant open sets $\mathcal{U} \subseteq X$ such that geometric quotient*

$$\mathcal{U} \longrightarrow \mathcal{U}/T$$

exists as a compact complex analytic space.

In this paper we define a finite regular k complex, $\mathcal{E}(X)$, that we call **the moment complex**. We give a conjectural answer to the above question in terms of this k complex and a proof of part of the conjecture. We also discuss the classification of semi-geometric quotients in terms of this complex. For simplicity we assume that X is irreducible and that X can be equivariantly embedded into a complex Kähler manifold on which T acts. This latter assumption, which is always true if X is a normal projective variety, allows us to use moment functions to simplify arguments (cf. § 0).

The previous work on this problem consists of 3 parts:

- a) as a special case of his geometric invariant theory [11], Mumford gave a prescription for construction of some of those quotients with \mathcal{U}/T projective,
- b) for $k=1$ a complete and simple answer is given in [2] for very general X [see also 4, 6],
- c) for $k=2$ a complete answer has recently been given [see 3] in the case that X is a compact Kähler manifold.

The answers in b) and c) are given in terms of special cases of the moment complex, $\mathcal{E}(X)$.