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Exotic maximal surface group representations into $\text{Diff}(\mathbb{S}^1)$

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The Euler class of a surface group representation into $\text{Diff}(\mathbb{S}^1)$ satisfies the Milnor—Wood inequality, and representations with maximal Euler class are semi-conjugated to Fuchsian representations by a theorem of Matsumoto. In higher regularity, Ghys proved a stronger rigidity theorem: for $k \geq 3$, a maximal circle action by diffeomorphisms of class C^k is C^k -conjugated to some Fuchsian action. In particular it is minimal, dilating, and Hölder conjugated to any Fuchsian action. I will explain that all these results fail in regularity C^1 , by associating « exotic » maximal C^1 actions to discrete and faithful surface group representations into $\text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$. This is based on discussions with Selim Ghazouani and Françoise Dal'bo.

Orateur: THOLOZAN, Nicolas (ENS-PSL)