

# Counting closed geodesics

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# Curvature and growth

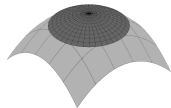
Consider a surface with (constant) Gaussian curvature  $K$ .

- How do circles/discs behave?
- How do nearby geodesics behave?
- How many geodesics are there?

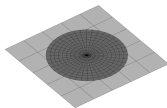
(Growth of length/area)

(Growth of distance)

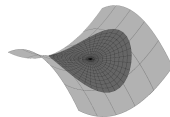
(Growth of cardinality)



$$K > 0$$



$$K = 0$$



$$K < 0$$

How many geodesics?? Infinitely many!

More precisely, count geodesic **segments** of length  $r$  that start at  $x$  and separate by at least  $\epsilon$  (“distinguishable”)

# Curvature and growth

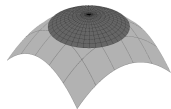
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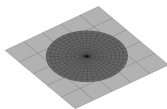
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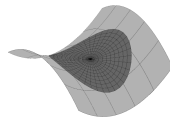
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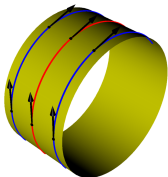
$K > 0$



$K = 0$



$K < 0$



Circumference =  $2\pi r$ , area =  $\pi r^2$

Distance constant (if parallel) or linear

Number =  $2\pi r/\epsilon$

# Curvature and growth

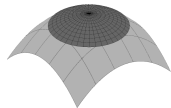
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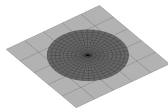
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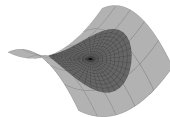
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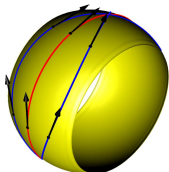
$$K > 0$$



$$K = 0$$



$$K < 0$$



Circumference  $< 2\pi r$ , area  $< \pi r^2$

Distance bounded, conjugate points exist

Number of distinguishable geodesics bounded

# Curvature and growth

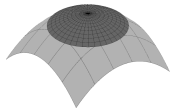
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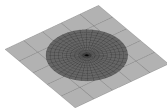
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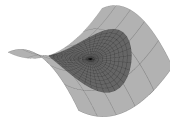
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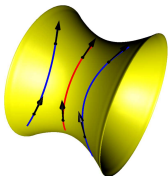
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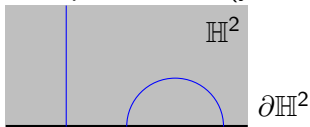
Circumference  $> 2\pi r$ , area  $> \pi r^2$

Distance grows... how fast?

Number grows... how fast?

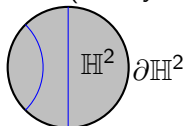
# Hyperbolic geometry ( $K \equiv -1$ ) and exponential growth

Upper half-plane model ( $y > 0$ )



$$ds^2 = \frac{dx^2 + dy^2}{y^2}$$

Disc model ( $x^2 + y^2 < 1$ )



$$ds^2 = 4 \frac{dx^2 + dy^2}{(1 - x^2 - y^2)^2}$$

Geodesics = circles/lines  
orthogonal to  $\partial\mathbb{H}^2$

Exercise: radius  $r$  circle has

- circumference =  $\pi(e^r - e^{-r})$
- area =  $\pi(e^r - 2 + e^{-r})$

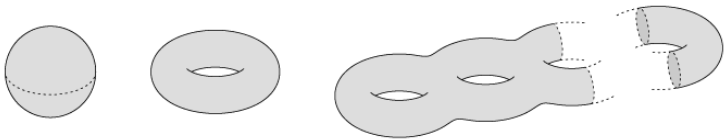
Large scale: send  $r \rightarrow \infty$  and write  $f(r) \sim g(r)$  if  $\frac{f(r)}{g(r)} \rightarrow 1$

$$\text{area}(B(z, r)) \sim \pi e^r \quad \#\{\epsilon\text{-separated } r\text{-geod. from } z\} \sim \frac{\pi}{\epsilon} e^r$$

# Topology and geometry – surfaces as quotients

**Closed surface:** compact, connected, boundaryless, orientable

Every such surface admits a metric of constant curvature.



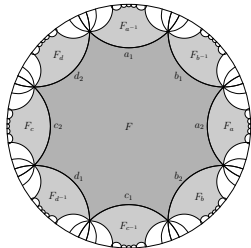
$$S^2 (K = 1)$$

$$\mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2 (K = 0)$$

$$\mathbb{H}^2/\Gamma (K = -1)$$

All octagons shown are isometric; tile  $\mathbb{H}^2$ .

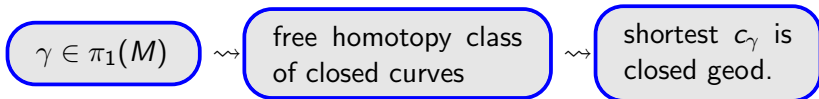
- $\gamma_a \in \text{Isom}^+(\mathbb{H}^2)$  takes  $a_1 \mapsto a_2$
- $\Gamma = \langle \gamma_a, \gamma_b, \gamma_c, \gamma_d \rangle$  discrete
- $M = \mathbb{H}^2/\Gamma$  surface of genus 2
- $\pi_1(M) \cong \Gamma$



# Fundamental group and closed geodesics

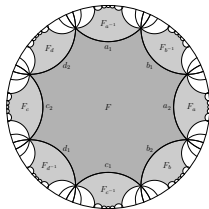
$M = \mathbb{H}^2/\Gamma$  surface of genus 2, with  $\Gamma = \langle \gamma_a, \gamma_b, \gamma_c, \gamma_d \rangle \cong \pi_1(M)$ .

**Fundamental group produces closed geodesics:**



Fix  $p \in F$ . Recall  $\text{area}(B(p, r)) \sim \pi e^r$

- Let  $G_r = \{\gamma \in \Gamma : \gamma F \subset B(p, r)\}$
- Area estimate  $\Rightarrow \#G_r \geq Ce^r$
- For all  $\gamma \in G_r$ , get  $|c_\gamma| \leq d(p, \gamma p) \leq r$ .



Suggests  $\#\{\text{closed geodesics with length} \leq r\}$  grows exponentially.

Warning: conjugate elements of  $\pi_1(M)$  give same closed geodesic.



# Exponential growth associated to $M = \mathbb{H}^2/\Gamma$

Volume growth:  $\text{area}(B(x, t)) \sim \pi e^t$  (Same for all  $\Gamma, M$ )

Geodesic growth on  $M$ :  $\#\{\epsilon\text{-sep. } t\text{-geodesics on } M\} \sim C_{M,\epsilon} e^t$

Closed geodesics on  $M$ :

$\#\{\text{closed geodesics with length} \leq t\}$  grows exponentially in  $t$

- 1 How precise can we make “grows exponentially in  $t$ ”?
- 2 What if  $M$  has *variable* negative curvature?

Also get exponential “word growth” in fundamental group  $\pi_1(M)$

# The first result for closed geodesics

Discrete  $\Gamma \subset \text{Isom}^+(\mathbb{H}^2)$  is **cofinite** if  $M = \mathbb{H}^2/\Gamma$  has finite area.

## Theorem (Huber, 1959)

*Given  $M, \Gamma$  as above, let  $P(t)$  denote the set of closed geodesics on  $M$  with length  $\leq t$ . Then  $\#P(t) \sim \frac{e^t}{t}$ .*

Huber's proof relies on **Selberg trace formula**, which relates lengths of closed geodesics to spectrum of the Laplacian.

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Analogies to prime number theory and Riemann zeta function.

$$\pi(N) \sim \frac{N}{\log N} \quad \xleftrightarrow{T=\log N} \quad \#\{p \text{ prime: } \log p \leq T\} \sim \frac{e^T}{T}$$

*I am the wrong person to tell you about all this...*

# Beyond constant curvature

Let  $M$  be a surface of genus  $\geq 2$  with *variable* curvature

- Still get  $M = X/\Gamma$  where universal cover  $X$  is homeomorphic to disc and  $\Gamma \cong \pi_1(M)$  acts discretely and isometrically on  $X$

Two Riemannian metrics:  $g$  (variable curvature),  $g_0$  (constant)

Compact  $\Rightarrow g = C^{\pm 1}g_0 \Rightarrow B_0(x, C^{-1}r) \subset B(x, r) \subset B_0(x, Cr)$

Still get exponential volume growth, but lose precise formula

Topological entropy of the “geodesic flow” on  $M$  is the number  $h$  such that (# of  $\epsilon$ -distinguishable  $t$ -geodesic segments)  $\approx e^{ht}$ , where “ $\approx$ ” is used quite loosely and is weaker than  $\sim$ . Formally,

$$h := \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \overline{\lim}_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log(\# \text{ of } \epsilon\text{-distinguishable } t\text{-geodesics})$$

# Margulis asymptotic estimates

## Theorem (Margulis, 1970 thesis, published 2004)

*Let  $M$  be a closed Riemannian manifold with negative sectional curvatures, and  $P(t)$  the set of closed geodesics with length  $\leq t$ . Let  $h > 0$  be the topological entropy of geodesic flow on  $M$ . Then*


- $\#P(t) \sim \frac{e^{ht}}{ht}$ , and
- *there is a continuous function  $c$  on the universal cover  $X$  such that for every  $x \in X$  we have  $\text{vol}(B(x, r)) \sim c(x)e^{hr}$ .*

Margulis's approach was publicized by Anatole Katok via the thesis of Charles Toll (1984) and the book with Boris Hasselblatt (1995).

An alternate proof was given by Parry and Pollicott (1983).

# Beyond negative curvature

Margulis asymptotics for closed geodesics now proved for:

- surfaces with  $K < 0$  outside radially symmetric “caps” (Bryce Weaver, *J. Mod. Dyn.* 2014) 
- rank 1 manifolds of nonpositive curvature – in fact CAT(0) (Russell Ricks, arXiv:1903.07635)<sup>1</sup> (Count homotopy classes)
- rank 1 manifolds without focal points (Weisheng Wu, arXiv:2105.01841)
- **surfaces of genus  $\geq 2$  without conjugate points** (C., Knieper, War, *Comm. Cont. Math.*, to appear)

In last 3 settings, volume asymptotics proved by Weisheng Wu (arXiv:2106.07493)

All these results follow the dynamical approach of Margulis

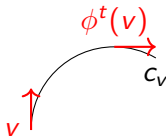
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<sup>1</sup>Also prior unpublished work in 2002 thesis of Roland Gunesch

# Geodesic flow and horocycles

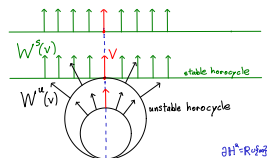
Study geodesic flow  $\phi^t$  on unit tangent bundle  $SM = \{v \in TM : \|v\| = 1\}$

$v \rightsquigarrow$  geodesic  $c_v$  with  $\dot{c}_v(0) = v \rightsquigarrow \phi^t(v) := \dot{c}_v(t)$



Closed geodesics  $\leftrightarrow$  periodic orbits for geodesic flow

For the time being, consider constant negative curvature



Each  $v \in S\mathbb{H}^2$  is normal to two horocycles (horizontal lines or circles tangent to  $\partial\mathbb{H}^2$ )

Normal vector fields  $W^s(v), W^u(v) \subset S\mathbb{H}^2$  give stable/unstable foliations of  $S\mathbb{H}^2$

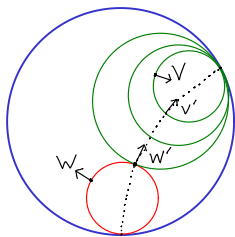
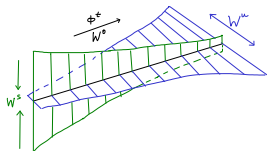
Given  $w \in W^s(v)$ , we have  $d(\phi^t(v), \phi^t(w)) = e^{-t}d(v, w)$

Given  $w \in W^u(v)$ , we have  $d(\phi^t(v), \phi^t(w)) = e^t d(v, w)$

# Product structure on $S\mathbb{H}^2$

Local product structure using  $W^u$ ,  $W^s$ , and orbit foliation  $W^0$

Important idea in hyperbolic dynamics:  
“Any past can be joined to any future”



Can get a global picture too:

- Identify each leaf of  $W^{s,u}$  with  $\partial\mathbb{H}^2$ .
- For all  $(\xi, \eta) \in \partial^2\mathbb{H}^2 := (\partial\mathbb{H}^2)^2 \setminus \text{diag}$  there is a unique geodesic from  $\xi$  to  $\eta$ .
- Parametrizing gives homeomorphism  $S\mathbb{H}^2 \rightarrow \partial^2\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$  (Hopf map).

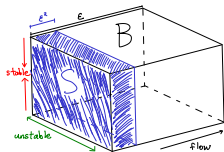


# Setting up the Margulis argument

$$C(t) = \{\text{closed geod. with } |c| \in (t - \epsilon, t]\} \quad P(T) = \bigsqcup_k C(t_k)$$

Estimate  $\#C(t)$  and sum (becomes integral as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ ).

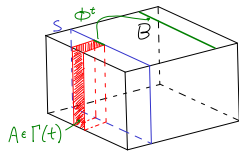
Use probability measure  $\nu_t = \frac{1}{\#C(t)} \sum_{c \in C(t)} \frac{1}{t} \text{Leb}_c$



$B = \text{flow box} \subset SM$

$S = \text{slab/slice}$

$$\nu_t(B) = \frac{\epsilon \cdot (\# \text{ transits})}{t \cdot \#C(t)}$$



$\{\text{transits of } B \text{ by some } c \in C(t)\}$

immediate

Closing Lemma

$$\Gamma(t) = \{\text{conn. components of } S \cap \phi^{-t}B\}$$

$$\nu_t(B) \approx \frac{\epsilon \cdot \#\Gamma(t)}{t \cdot \#C(t)}$$

# Completing the argument using ergodic theory

$$\Gamma(t) = \{\text{conn. components of } S \cap \phi^{-t}B\} \quad \nu_t(B) \approx \frac{\epsilon \#\Gamma(t)}{t \#C(t)}$$

**Liouville measure**  $m$  on  $SM$  given by normalizing  $m^s \times m^u \times \text{Leb}$ , where  $m^{s,u}$  are Lebesgue measure along  $W^{s,u}$ , and satisfy:

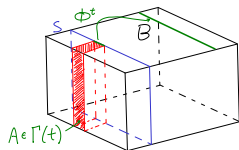
$$m^u(\phi^t A) = e^t m^u(A) \quad \text{and} \quad m^s(\phi^t A) = e^{-t} m^s(A)$$

**Scaling:**  $m(A) \approx e^{-t} m(S)$  for all  $A \in \Gamma(t)$

- $m(S \cap \phi^{-t}B) \approx e^{-t} m(S) \#\Gamma(t)$

**Mixing:**  $\frac{m(S \cap \phi^{-t}B)}{m(S)} \rightarrow m(B)$

- $m(B) \approx e^{-t} \#\Gamma(t)$



**Equidistribution:**  $\nu_t \xrightarrow{\text{wk}^*} m$ , so  $m(B) \approx \frac{\epsilon \#\Gamma(t)}{t \#C(t)} \Rightarrow \#C(t) \approx \frac{\epsilon}{t} e^t$

# Ingredients needed for the Margulis argument

Product structure (for flow and measure)

- Used for flow box, closing lemma, mixing property

Scaling properties of leaf measure  $m^u$

- Relied on fact that contraction rate along  $W^{s,u}$  is constant

Equidistribution property  $\nu_t(B) \rightarrow m(B)$

- Can prove it directly, or use the fact that  $m$  is the unique **measure of maximal entropy**

# Entropy (as analogue of dimension)

**$d$ -dimensional measure**

$$m(B(x, \epsilon)) \approx \epsilon^d$$

$$d = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log m(B(x, \epsilon))}{\log \epsilon}$$

**$d$ -dimensional set  $[0, 1]^d$**

$$N(\epsilon) \approx \epsilon^{-d} \text{ balls to cover}$$

$$d = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log N(\epsilon)}{-\log \epsilon}$$

For **entropy** of geodesic flow, refine *dynamically* via Bowen balls

$$B_t(v, \epsilon) = \{w \in SM : d(c_v(s), c_w(s)) < \epsilon \text{ for all } s \in [0, t]\}$$

**Topological entropy:**  $h = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \Lambda_t(\epsilon)$  ( $\epsilon$  fixed small)

$$\Lambda_t(\epsilon) = \min\{\#E : \bigcup_{v \in E} B_t(v, \epsilon) = SM\} \quad \Lambda_t \approx e^{ht}$$

**Measure-theoretic entropy:**  $\mu$  flow-invariant prob. measure,

$$h_\mu = \int \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{t} \log \mu(B_t(v, \epsilon)) d\mu(v) \quad \mu(B_t) \approx e^{-h_\mu t}$$

# Variational principle

**Topological entropy:** Value of  $h$  such that  
(# of  $\epsilon$ -distinguishable  $t$ -geodesic segments)  $\approx e^{ht}$

Now consider a flow-invariant probability measure  $\mu$ .

**Measure-theoretic entropy:** Value of  $h_\mu$  such that  
 $\mu\{w : c_w \text{ } \epsilon\text{-indistinguishable from } c_v \text{ through time } t\} \approx e^{-h_\mu t}$

**Variational principle:**  $h = \sup\{h_\mu : \mu \text{ flow-inv. prob. meas.}\}$

If  $h_\mu = h$  then  $\mu$  is a **measure of maximal entropy (MME)**

- When  $K \equiv -1$ , Liouville measure  $m$  has  $h_m = 1 = h$
- In fact,  $m$  is the *unique* MME: Adler, Weiss, Bowen (1970s)

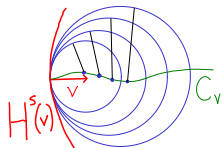
# Anosov flows

Now move to setting of variable negative curvature, so  $M = X/\Gamma$ , where universal cover  $X$  is still homeomorphic to disc.

Still get **stable horocycle** for all  $v \in SX$  by

$$H^s(v) = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \partial B_X(c_v(r), r)$$

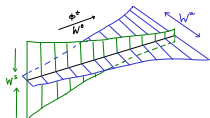
Also **unstable horocycle**  $H^u(v) = H^s(-v)$ .



Normal vec. fields give foliations  $W^{s,u}$  with uniform hyperbolicity:

$$w \in W^s(v) \Rightarrow d(\phi^t v, \phi^t w) \leq C e^{-\lambda t} d(v, w)$$

$$w \in W^u(v) \Rightarrow d(\phi^{-t} v, \phi^{-t} w) \leq C e^{-\lambda t} d(v, w)$$



Here  $\lambda > 0$ , and inequality is for all  $t \geq 0$ .

$(\phi^t: SM \rightarrow SM)_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  is an **Anosov flow**

Anosov flows have local product structure

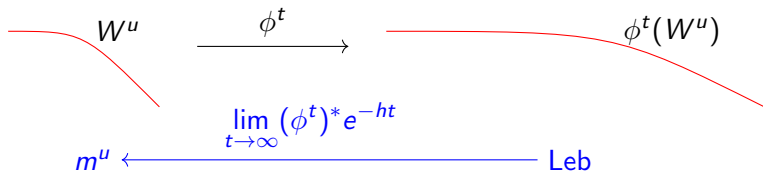
# Margulis leaf measures in variable negative curvature

Surface of genus  $\geq 2 \Rightarrow h > 0$  (by exponential volume growth),  
but Lebesgue measure on leaves may not scale by

$$m^u(\phi^t A) = e^{ht} m^u(A) \quad \text{and} \quad m^s(\phi^t A) = e^{-ht} m^s(A) \quad (*)$$

For **any** Anosov flow, Margulis built  $m^u, m^s$  satisfying  $(*)$

Idea: pull back Leb from  $\phi^t(W^u)$ , scale by  $e^{-ht}$ , take a limit



$m = m^u \times m^s \times \text{Leb}$  is flow-invariant **Bowen–Margulis measure**

- Unique MME,  $\neq$  Liouville unless  $K \equiv \text{constant}$
- Allows to run the Margulis proof and get  $\#P(t) \sim \frac{e^{ht}}{ht}$

# Many constructions of Margulis leaf measures

## Various ways to formalize the details of the construction

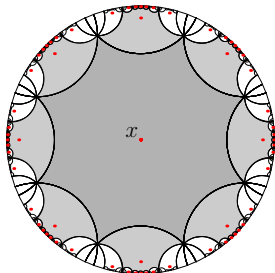
- Fixed point argument on an appropriate space (Margulis 1970)
- Can also use Hausdorff measure in appropriate metric (Hamenstädt 1989, Hasselblatt 1989, ETDS)
- Interpretation via Bowen's alternate definition of entropy (C.–Pesin–Zelerowicz BAMS 2019, also C. arXiv:2009.09260)
- For geodesic flow can also use Patterson–Sullivan approach

Identify leaves of  $W^{s,u}$  with  $\partial X$ . Build family  $\{\nu_p : p \in X\}$  of measures on  $\partial X$ :

$$\nu_p = \lim_{s \searrow h} \left[ \text{normalize} \left( \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} e^{-sd(p, \gamma x)} \delta_{\gamma x} \right) \right]$$

Weights give scaling properties (w.r.t.  $p$ ) corresponding to Margulis measure.

(Patterson and Sullivan 1970s, Kaimanovich 1990)





# No conjugate points

A manifold  $M$  has **no conjugate points** if any two points in the universal cover are joined by a unique geodesic.

$$P(t) = \{\text{free homotopy classes of closed geod. with length} \leq t\}$$

Theorem (C., Knieper, War, to appear in *Comm. Contemp. Math.*)

Let  $M$  be a surface of genus  $\geq 2$  with no conjugate points. Then  $\#P(t) \sim \frac{e^{ht}}{ht}$ .

Margulis's proof works for any closed manifold with negative sectional curvatures, in any dimension. Our proof covers **some** higher-dimensional examples, but a detailed description is rather technical.

# Foliations via horospheres are troublesome

$M$  a manifold without conjugate points,  $X$  universal cover

Horospheres  $H^{s,u}$  and foliations  $W^{s,u}$  as in negative curvature.

- $W^{s,u}(v)$  may not contract under  $\phi^{\pm t}$  or be transverse (e.g.  $\mathbb{R}^2$ )
- Dependence on  $v$  might even be discontinuous (Ballmann, Brin, Burns “dinosaur” example)

*How to define the flow box  $B$ ? Requires product structure. . .*

Define boundary at infinity  $\partial X$  as set of equivalence classes of geodesics, where  $c_1 \sim c_2$  when  $\sup_{t>0} d(c_1(t), c_2(t)) < \infty$

- “Set of possible futures/pasts”
- Can we join every past to every future?

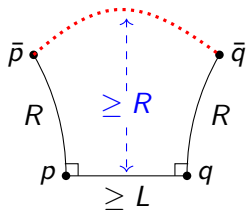
In general, **no**. For surfaces of genus  $\geq 2$ , **yes**.

# The Morse Lemma (not the one about critical points)

$(M, g)$  surface, genus  $\geq 2$ , no conjugate points;  $X$  universal cover  
 $g_0$  constant negative curvature metric  $\Rightarrow g = C^{\pm 1}g_0$

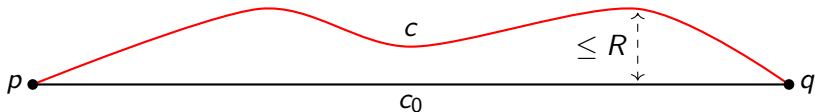
Exercise (Hyperbolic geometry for  $g_0$ )

$\exists L, R$  such that if  $\bar{p}p, pq, q\bar{q}$  in picture are  $g_0$ -geodesics, then  $g_0$ -length of  $\bar{p}\bar{q}$  (red dotted curve) is  $> C^2 d_0(\bar{p}, \bar{q})$



Consequence:  $\bar{p}\bar{q}$  not a  $g$ -geodesic

**Morse Lemma:** If  $d_0(p, q) \geq L$  and  $c_0, c$  are  $g_0, g$ -geodesics from  $p$  to  $q$ , then Hausdorff distance from  $c_0$  to  $c$  is  $\leq R$ .



# A coarse kind of product structure

$(M, g)$  surface, genus  $\geq 2$ , no conjugate points;  $X$  universal cover

**Morse Lemma:** Every  $g_0$ -geodesic is  $R$ -shadowed by a  $g$ -geodesic (may not be unique), and vice versa.

**Can join every past and future.**

(To within  $2R$ )

- $(\xi, \eta) \in \partial^2 X$  represented by  $g$ -geodesics  $c_\xi, c_\eta$
- $R$ -shadow  $c_\xi, c_\eta$  by  $g_0$ -geodesics  $c_\xi^0$  and  $c_\eta^0$
- Join  $c_\xi^0(\infty)$  and  $c_\eta^0(\infty)$  by  $g_0$ -geodesic  $c^0$
- $R$ -shadow  $c^0$  by a  $g$ -geodesic  $c$ , which joins  $(\xi, \eta)$

**Hopf map  $H: SX \rightarrow \partial^2 X \times \mathbb{R}$  is onto and continuous.**

- Not 1-1, which causes technical headaches.
- Define flow box following Ricks:  $B = H^{-1}(\mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{F} \times [0, \epsilon])$  where  $\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{F}$  are disjoint neighborhoods in  $\partial X$

# New challenges for manifolds with no conjugate points

Desired ingredients for the Margulis argument:

- Product structure for flow (Provided by  $\partial X$  and Hopf map)
- Leaf measures  $m^s, m^u$  that scale by  $e^{\pm ht}$  (Patterson–Sullivan)
- $m = m^s \times m^u \times \text{Leb}$  is mixing and is the unique MME (???)

Still get MME, but no proof of mixing or uniqueness

Theorem (C.–Knieper–War 2021, Adv. Math.)

*For surfaces of genus  $\geq 2$  without conjugate points, a “coarse specification” argument establishes uniqueness of the MME.*

With this in hand, Margulis argument (via Ricks) goes through.

# Uniqueness using coarse specification

Joining past to future involves shadowing at some scale  $\delta$

- Formally, talk about “specification property at scale  $\delta$ ”

Argument due to Rufus Bowen (1970s) gives unique MME if

- $\delta$  small w.r.t. injectivity radius of  $M$ , say  $\text{inj } M > 120\delta$ , and
- every pair  $(\xi, \eta) \in \partial^2 X$  joined by **unique** geodesic.

Second condition guarantees an “expansivity” property.

- For surfaces with no conjugate points, this condition can fail, but only on a set of zero entropy.
- C.–Thompson (Adv. Math. 2016): unique MME if “obstructions to specification and expansivity” have small entropy, with  $\text{inj } M > 120\delta$ .

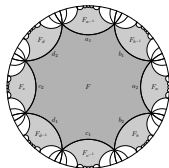
Morse Lemma gives specification at **large** scale  $\delta$  (think  $3R$ ), but this can easily be large compared to  $\text{inj } M$ .

# Salvation via residual finiteness

Specification scale  $\delta$  depends on  $R$  from Morse Lemma, likely large.

Get uniqueness if  $\text{inj } M > 120\delta$ . Probably false.

**Solution:** Replace  $M$  with a finite cover  $N$  with  $\text{inj } N$  big enough.



- Entropy-preserving bijection between flow-invariant measures on  $SM$  and  $SN$ .
- Theorem gives unique MME on  $SN$
- Thus there is a unique MME on  $SM$

Why possible?  $\dim M = 2$  implies  $\pi_1(M)$  is *residually finite*.

# Higher dimensions

Method works for higher-dim  $M$  with no conjugate points **if**

- 1  $\exists$  Riemannian metric  $g_0$  on  $M$  with negative curvature;
- 2 divergence property:  $c_1(0) = c_2(0) \Rightarrow d(c_1(t), c_2(t)) \rightarrow \infty$ ;
- 3  $\pi_1(M)$  is residually finite;
- 4  $\exists h^* < h_{\text{top}}$  such that if  $\mu$ -a.e.  $v$  has non-trivially overlapping horospheres, then  $h_\mu \leq h^*$ .

First is a real topological restriction: rules out Gromov example.

Second and third might be redundant? No example satisfying (1) where they are known to fail

Fourth is true if  $\{v : H_v^s \cap H_v^u \text{ trivial}\}$  contains an open set.  
Unclear if this is always true.



# Some examples where Margulis asymptotics remain open

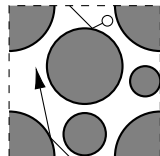
Lorenz flow (the famous “butterfly attractor”)

- Unique MME: Leplaideur (arXiv:1905.06202), Pacifico, Fan Yang, Jiagang Yang (arXiv:2201.06622)



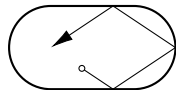
Sinai billiard flow on torus with finite number of convex scatterers

- Unique MME: Baladi, Demers (JAMS, 2020)



Bunimovich stadium billiard

- No results on MME yet



Geodesic flows in positive curvature (?)

- “Biscuit surface” approximates stadium
- Kourganoff relates geodesic flow, billiard



Thank you!