

# CYLINDER CURVES IN FINITE HOLONOMY FLAT METRICS

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**ABSTRACT.** For an orientable surface of finite type equipped with a flat metric with holonomy of finite order  $q$ , the set of maximal embedded cylinders can be empty, non-empty, finite, or infinite. The case when  $q \leq 2$  is well-studied as such surfaces are (half-)translation surfaces. Not only is the set always infinite, the core curves form an infinite diameter subset of the curve complex. In this paper we focus on the case  $q \geq 3$  and construct examples illustrating a range of behaviors for the embedded cylinder curves. We prove that if  $q \geq 3$  and the surface is *fully punctured*, then the embedded cylinder curves form a finite diameter subset of the curve complex. The proof is then used to characterize the flat metrics for which the embedded cylinder curves have infinite diameter.

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Exm:  $q = 6$

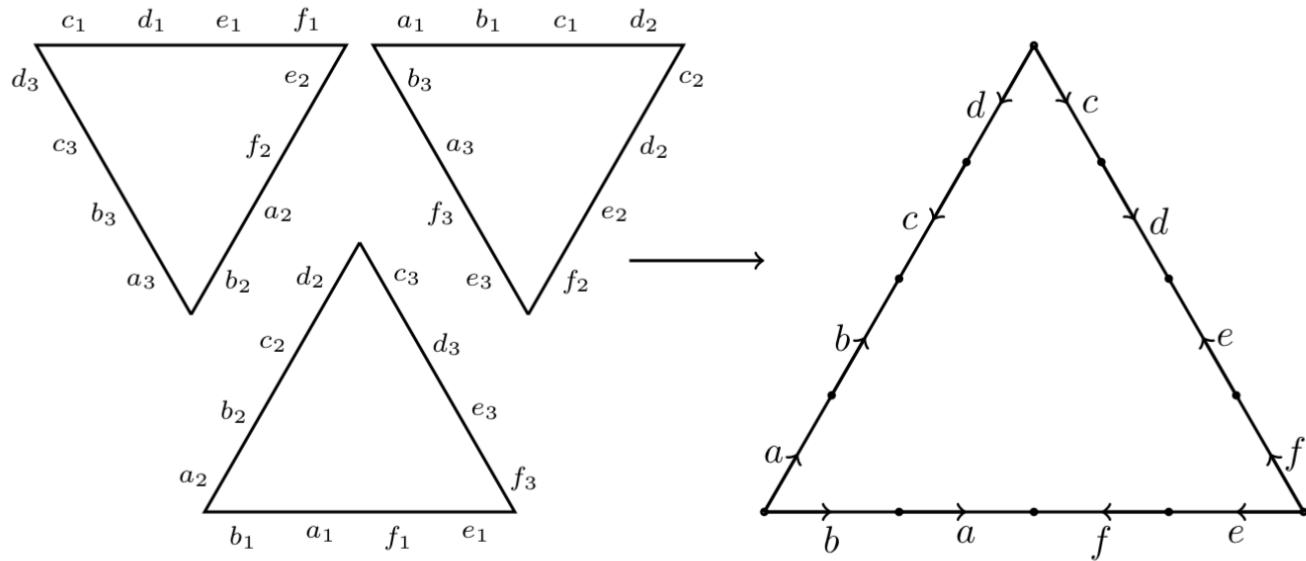
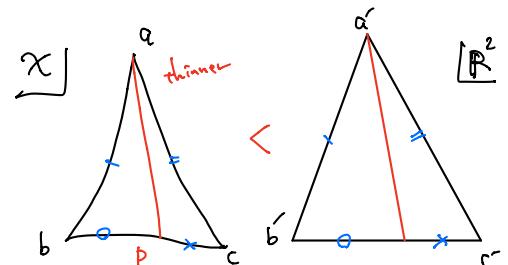


FIGURE 1. A flat metric with holonomy of order 6 and the (degree 3) holonomy almost trivializing cover.

• CAT( $\alpha$ ) - space (cf. [www.math.tohoku.ac.jp/~kera/GDS/2nd/catk.html](http://www.math.tohoku.ac.jp/~kera/GDS/2nd/catk.html))

Consider a metric sp.  $(\mathcal{X}, d)$  on which  $d(x, y) = \min \{l(r) \mid r \subset \mathcal{X} : \text{path joining } x, y\}$  for  $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$ .  
 for  $a, b, c \in \mathcal{X}$ , take  $a', b', c' \in \mathbb{R}^2$  s.t.  $\|a' - b'\| = d(a, b)$ ,  $\|b' - c'\| = d(b, c)$ ,  $\|c' - a'\| = d(c, a)$   
 and call  $\triangle a'b'c' \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  a comparison triangle.

Def  $\mathcal{X}$  is a CAT( $\alpha$ )-sp  $\Leftrightarrow \forall p \in \overline{bc}$  (geodesic).  
 for  $p \in \overline{bc}$  w/  $\|b' - p'\| = d(b, p)$   
 $d(a, p) \leq \|a' - p'\|$  holds.



## §2. Notation

A Euclidean cone metric  $\varphi$  on  $S^{\circ}$  is: a metric which is locally isometric to Eu. plane away from finite numbers of pts. (except for?)

then the metric is non-positively curved (locally CAT(0)) if  $\forall$  cone angle  $> 2\pi$

\* Now we assume that the metric completion of  $S$  is a surface w/ finite area.  
 → we call such a metric a flat metric.

- $\varphi$ : flat metric on  $S^{\circ}$ .

$\varphi^o := \varphi|_{S^{\circ} = S \setminus \text{cone}(\varphi)}$  : associated fully punctured metric  $\times$  special orthogonal grp.

the holonomy homomorphism  $\pi_1(S^{\circ}) \rightarrow SO(2)$  is:

$$[\gamma] \mapsto \text{hol}([\gamma]) := (\text{rotation of lift of } \gamma \text{ via the iso-isomorphisms to } \mathbb{R}^2)$$

→ When  $\text{ord}(\text{hol}) \equiv 1$  or 2.  $S^{\circ}$  comes from trans. surf. or half-trans. surf.

in this paper we focus on the case  $\text{ord}(\text{hol}) \geq 3$ .

Def If  $\text{ord}(\text{hol})$  divides 2 (≥ 1), we say that the metric is a 2-flat metric.

Given  $Q \geq 1$  and a mero  $Q$ -differential on a cl. R.S.  
 w/ poles of order  $\leq Q-1$ .

→ it determines a  $Q$ -flat metric  $\varphi$ . (By puncturing at all poles.)

→  $Z_{p,p_0}(\varphi) = \int_{p_0}^p \sqrt[Q]{\varphi}$  defines an atlas

$\forall p, p_0 \in S^{\circ}$ . whose transition maps are  $z \mapsto e^{\frac{2\pi i}{Q}} z + c$ .

← We call a preferred coordinate.

- We can also describe  $Q$ -flat metrics by gluing sides of finite numbers of Euclidean polygons.

e.g.

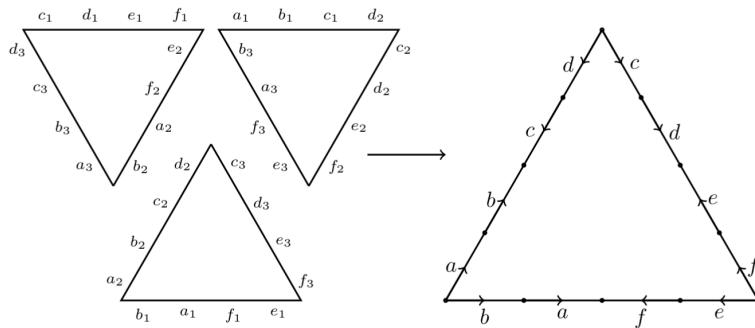


FIGURE 1. A flat metric with holonomy of order 6 and the (degree 3) holonomy almost trivializing cover.

- Given a fully punctured flat metric  $\varphi$  on  $S$ , w/  $\text{ord}(\text{hol}) = 2$ .

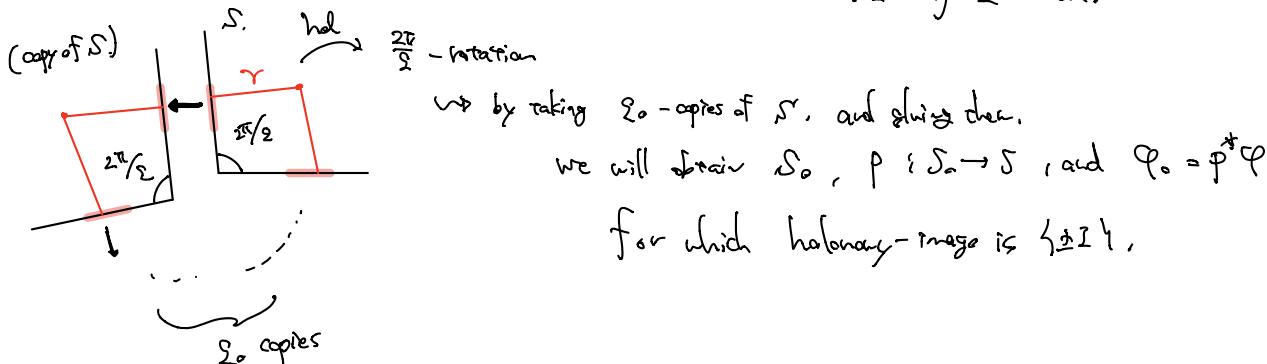
The holonomy almost trivializing cover  $p: (S_0, \varphi_0) \rightarrow (S, \varphi)$  is: the minimum cover which is translation or half-trans. surface.

the Lee-isom cover  $\sim$   $\{\pm I\} \subset \text{hol}(\pi_1(S^\circ)) \subset SO(2)$

$\text{hol} \uparrow \quad \quad \quad \uparrow \text{hol}$

$H = \text{hol}^{-1}(\{\pm I\}) \subset \pi_1(S^\circ)$  ← take a cover from this inclusion.

The cover  $p$  is a cyclic cover of degree  $\mathfrak{L}_0 = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } \mathfrak{L} \text{ odd} \\ \frac{2\mathfrak{L}}{2} & \text{if } \mathfrak{L} \text{ even.} \end{cases}$



If a (simple?) closed curve  $\gamma$  has a geod. rep. containing no conpts.

then  $\gamma$  is called a cylinder curve. : which lies inside a unique maximal immersed Euclidean cylinder.  
... maximal cylinder.

Combining Moser's result of hol. al. triv. cover, it follows that

" $g$ -flat metric has infinitely many homot. classes of cyl. curves."

We focus on  $EC(\varphi) := \left\{ [\gamma] : \begin{array}{l} \text{free} \\ \text{homot. class of embedded cyl. curve } \gamma \subset S \end{array} \right\}$ .

$ESC(\varphi) := \left\{ [\delta] : \begin{array}{l} \text{fixed edge} \\ \text{homot. class of saddle conn. } \delta \subset S \end{array} \right\}$

$C(S)$ : curve graph : vertices are isotopy classes of ess. s.c.c.

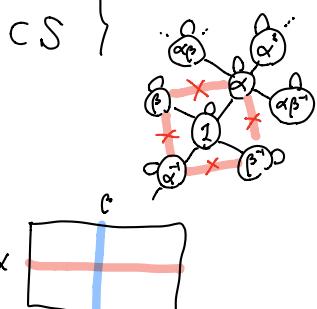
$A(S)$ : arc graph : vertices are isotopy classes of arcs.

In each case, vertices are joined by an edge

of the isotopy classes admit disjoint representatives. (except edges  $A(S)$ )

② We view  $EC(\varphi) \subset C(S)$ ,  $ESC(\varphi) \subset A(S)$  ( $\Rightarrow$  set of vertices.)

and refer to the diameter of them as  $\sup \{ \text{min. number of edges of paths joining 2 vertices} \}$  edge-path distance.

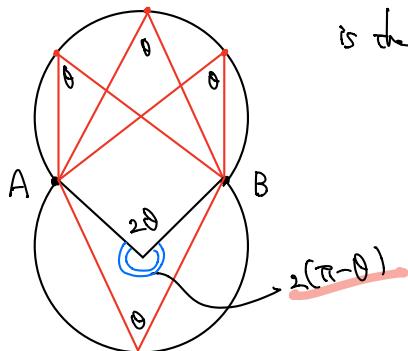


**Theorem 1.** Let  $\varphi$  be a fully punctured flat metric on a surface  $S$  with finite holonomy of order at least 3. Then  $\text{EC}(\varphi) \subset \mathcal{C}(S)$  has finite diameter.

§ 3. Exns

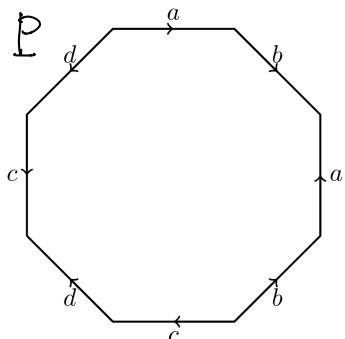
Prop 1  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^2$  : distinct pts. for  $0 < \theta < \pi$ .

$$I_{AB}(\theta) = \{C \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \angle ACB = \theta\}$$



is the two circular arcs of central angle  $2(\pi - \theta)$  joining A and B.

3.1. Octagon



Starting w/ a regular octagon  $P$ , we identify sides by isometry as indicated in left figure.

→ Regarding surf.  $S$  is a genus 2 surf. w/ 4-flat metric  $\varphi$ .  $\varphi$  has a single cone pt of angle  $6\pi$ .

$(S, \varphi)$  has  $\geq 3$  embedded cylinders:

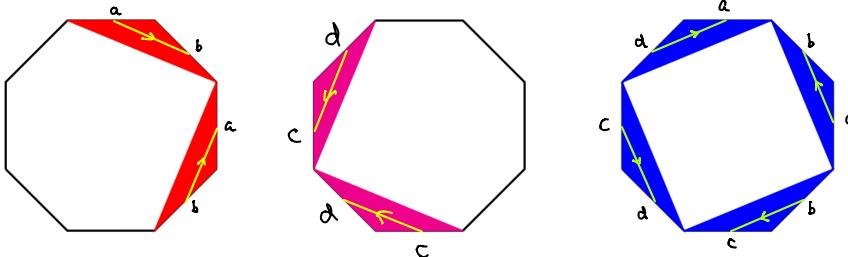


FIGURE 3. Cylinders in the octagon example.

In fact, these are ← the only maximal cylinders.

} i.e.

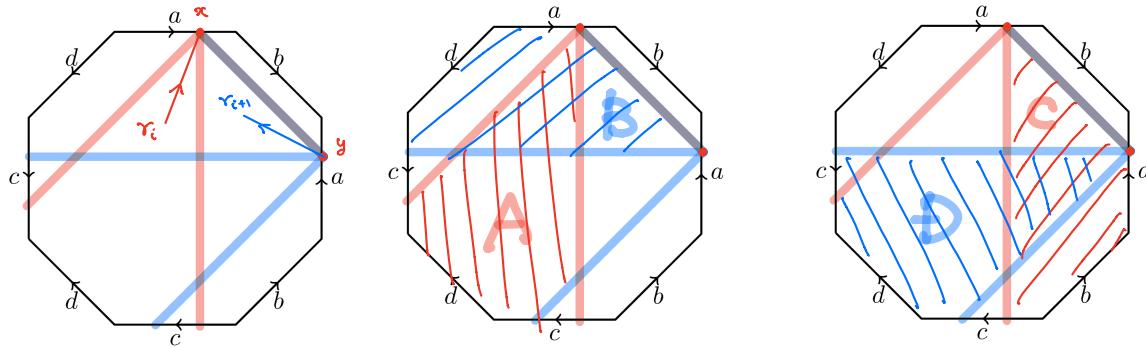
Prop 2  $\text{EC}(\varphi)$  consists of exactly three curves.

p.f.) Suppose  $\gamma$ : core curve of some emb. cylinder in  $S$ .  
i.e. closed geod. containing no cone pts.

claim  $\gamma$  can be embedded only if it is one of the three.

Let  $\gamma$  cuts through  $P$  in  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_k$ : segments in  $P$ , joining sides

Step 1 if  $\gamma_i$  meets a side making angle  $\theta \in [\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ ,  
then  $\gamma$  will have a self-intersection.



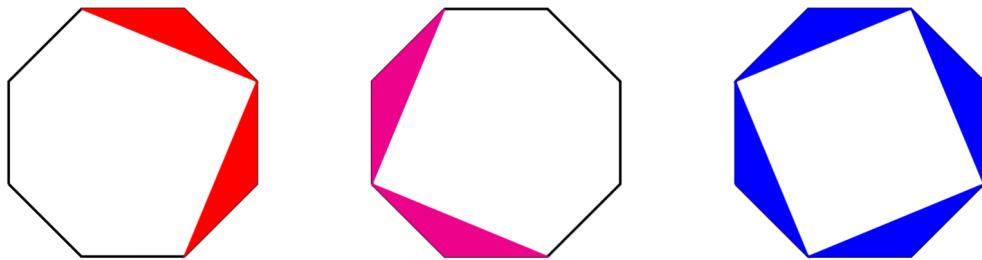
if  $\gamma_i$  lies in  $(A)$ , then  $\gamma_{i+1}$  will lie in  $(B)$ .  
resp.

$\rightarrow \gamma$  should have self-intersection. //  
( $\rightarrow \gamma$  is NOT embedded !!)

Step 2. any line segment that connects non-adjacent sides of  $P$   
makes angle  $\geq \frac{\pi}{4}$ .

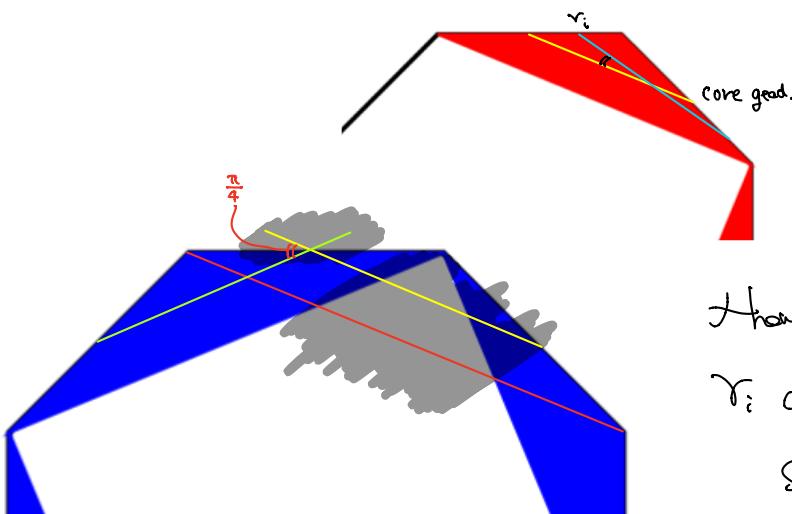
So, if  $\gamma$  is embedded  $\Rightarrow$  each  $\gamma_i$  should join adjacent edges.

Each pair of adjacent sides of  $P$  determines following triangle.



Step 3 each  $\gamma_i$  is embedded in one of these triangles

$\rightarrow \gamma_i$  makes angle  $\leq \frac{\pi}{8}$  w/ the core geodesic.



if  $\gamma$  is entirely contained in  
one of the three  $\rightarrow \text{OK}$ .

otherwise  $\rightarrow$  contained in **two** of the three.  
 $\rightarrow$  switch b/w intersecting cylinders  
happens.

However, core curves of intersecting cylinders meet at angle  $\frac{\pi}{4}$ .

$\gamma_i$  cannot make angle  $\leq \frac{\pi}{8}$  w/ both of core geodesics.

So "otherwise" never happens.



### 3.1.2 cylinder-free region.

Here we construct "building blocks" for 'cylinder-free regions'.

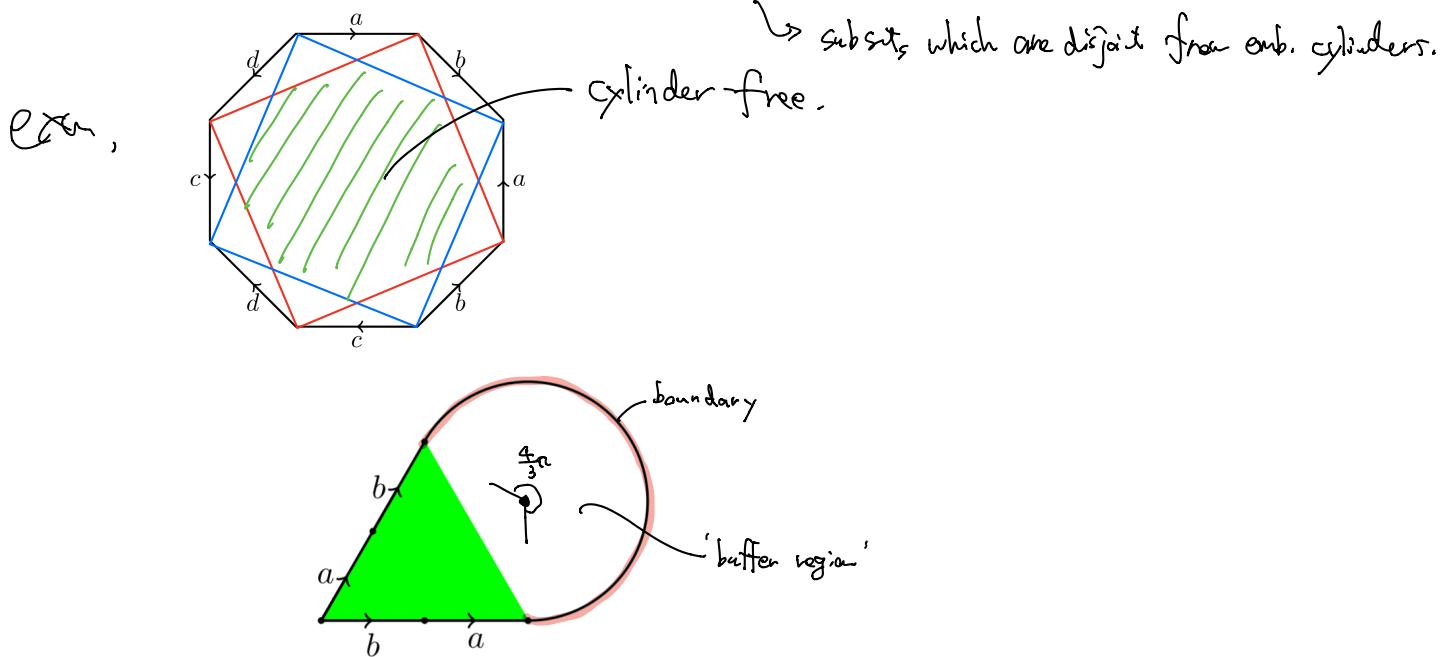


FIGURE 5. The building block  $B$  with a triangular cylinder-free region.

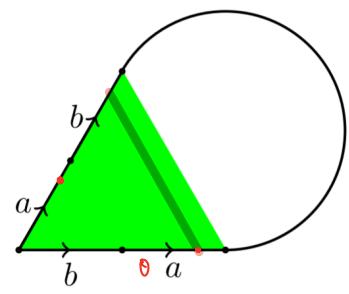
Prop 3 Suppose the building block  $B$  is loc. isom. immersed in  $(S, \varphi)$ .  
then the image of triangle in  $B$  is cylinder-free.

pf) Suppose  $\gamma$ : closed non-singular geod. in  $(S, \varphi)$  that intersects  $B \subset S$ .

claim  $\gamma$  has a self-intersection.

Consider a maximal arc  $\gamma'$  of  $\gamma$ .

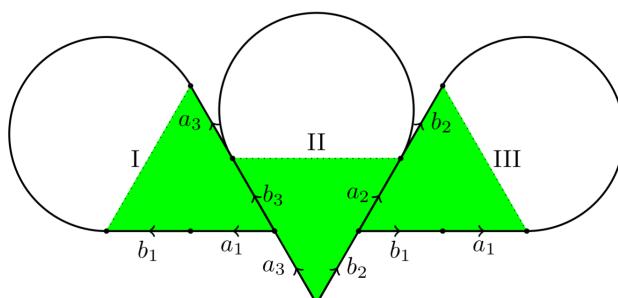
that lifts to  $B$  meeting the triangle.



- (a)  $\gamma'$  enters/leaves  $B$  in  $\partial B$  (circle)
- or
- (b)  $\gamma' = \gamma$

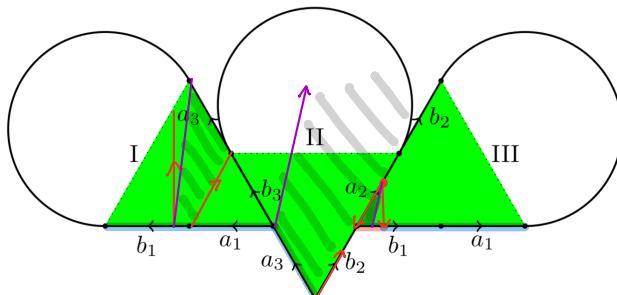
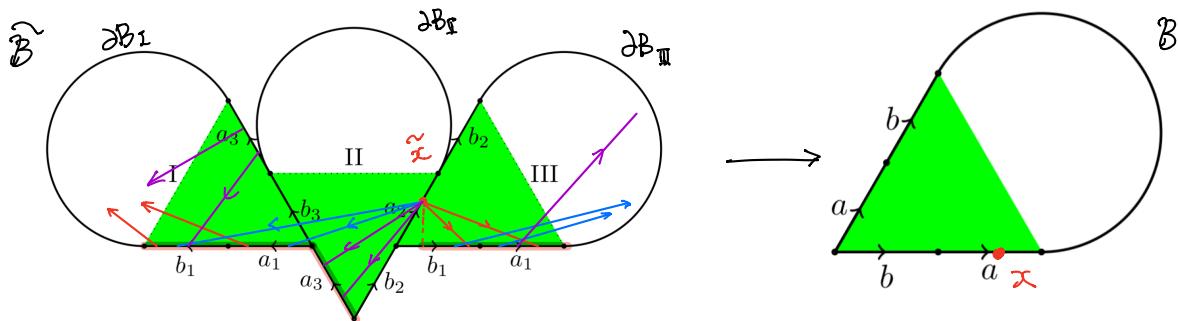
(if  $\gamma'$  cuts through  $B \subset (a, b)$  in  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_k$ ,

we consider further lift of  $\gamma'$  via the hol. adm. triv. cover  $\widetilde{B} \rightarrow B$ .



claim  $\gamma'$  must have endpoints in  $\partial B$  and  $k \leq 5$  ( $r = r_1, r_2, \dots, r_k$ ).

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Consider any intersection pt  $x$  of  $\gamma$  w/  $a \cup b$ .  
↑ we may assume  $x \in r_0$ !

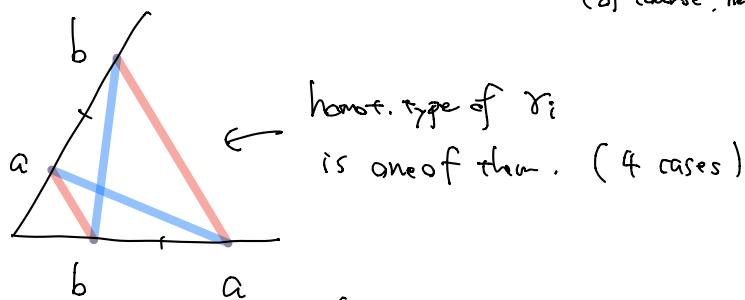


from the pictures, for any direction  $\gamma'$  exits  $\partial B$   
 also we may see  $k \leq 5$  from the pictures.

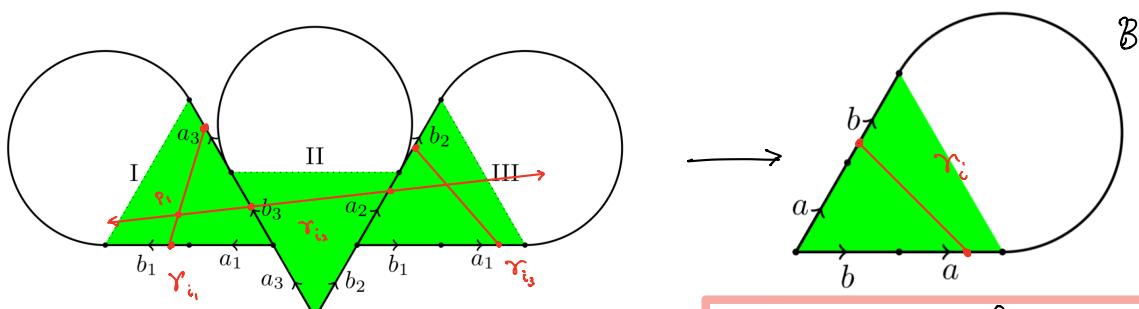
after intersecting w/  $a \cup b$ ?



Next, for each  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $r_i$  is contained in the triangle and  
 joins two of labeled segments.  
 (of course, neither  $\Delta$  nor  $\square$ )



1st, suppose  $r_i \sim \Delta$ . lifting  $r_i$  we see :



$r_{i_1} \sim r_{i_2}$  are preimages of  $r_i$ .

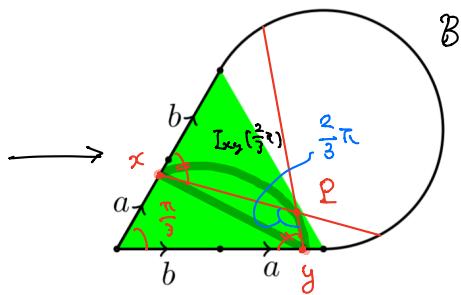
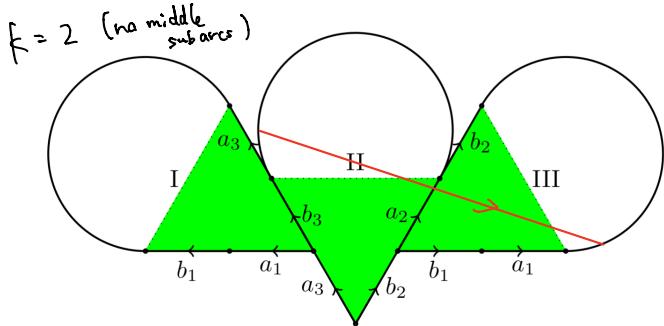
Taking two lifts  $r_i, r_j \in \widehat{B}$  of  $r_i$ .

maximal arc of  $r_{ij}$  intersects  $r_{ii}$  &  $r_{jj}$ .

we'll see that  $V'$  has self-intersection in this case.

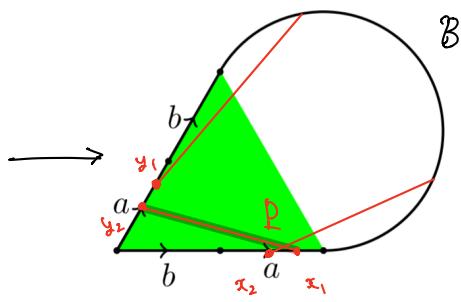
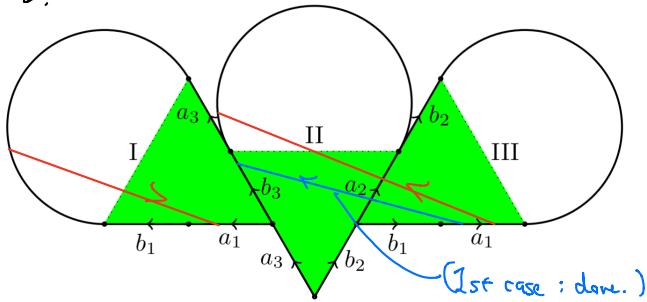
2nd, suppose other cases.

there are 3 possible cases,



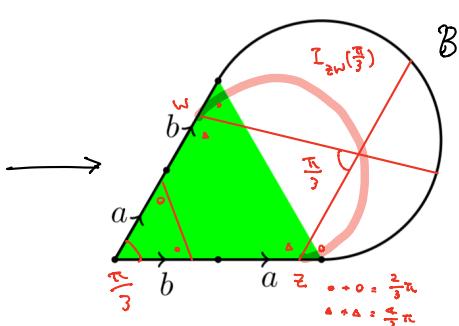
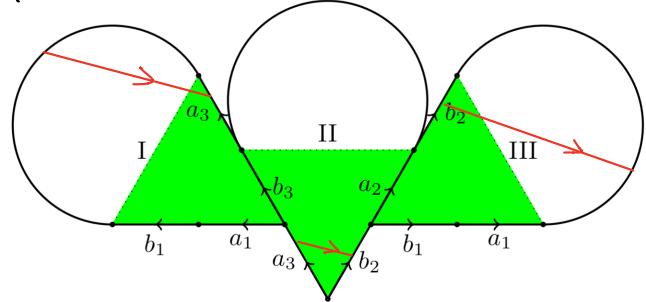
intersection pt  $P$  lies in  $I_{xy}(\frac{2\pi}{3}) \subset B$ !

$f=3$ , ( $a-a$  or  $b-b$ )



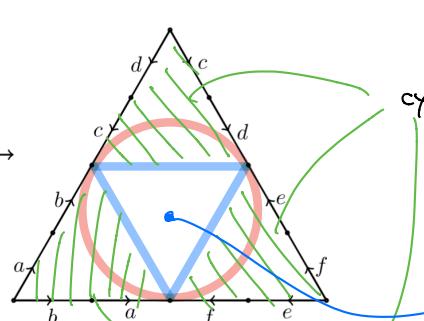
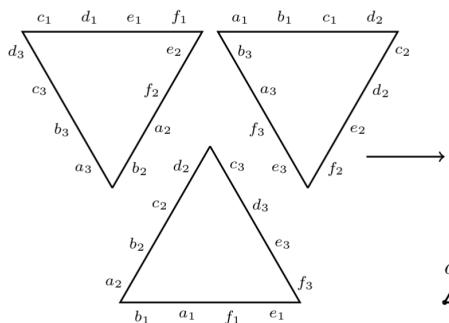
intersection pt  $P$  lies in the triangle.

$f=3$ , (adjacent  $a-b$ )



intersection pt  $P$  lies in  $I_{zw}(\frac{\pi}{3}) \subset B$ !

Exm.



cylinder-free! (from building block)

the rest.

this region clearly contain no cylinders.

totally cylinder-free!

FIGURE 1. A flat metric with holonomy of order 6 and the (degree 3) holonomy almost trivializing cover.

### 3.2. Large diameter sets of cylinder curves

Goal to construct  $(S, \varphi)$  w/ finite holonomy,  
for which  $\text{EC}(\varphi)$  has arbitrary large diameter.

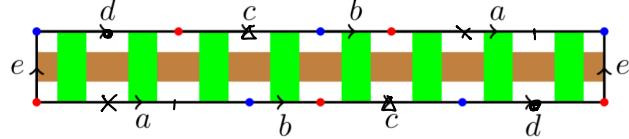
Let  $\alpha, \beta \subset S$ : s.c.c., that fill  $S$  & ... (intersection number?)  
like Strebel's existence thm,

$\rightsquigarrow \exists \varphi$ , square-tiled translation structure

s.t.  $\alpha, \beta$ : horiz/vert. foliation resp.

$\#\text{(cone pts)} \leq 2g-2$  by Poincaré Hgpf.

This is:



(1 horiz. cyl.  
& 1 vert. cyl.)

FIGURE 8. Square-tiled flat metric with a single horizontal cylinder and a single vertical cylinder.

$$\begin{aligned} \delta &= i(\alpha, \beta) \\ n &= \#(\text{vertices}) \end{aligned} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \#(\text{faces}) = \delta, \quad \#(\text{edges}) = 2\delta \\ \chi = n - \delta \quad g = 1 + \frac{\delta - n}{2} \end{array} \right.$$

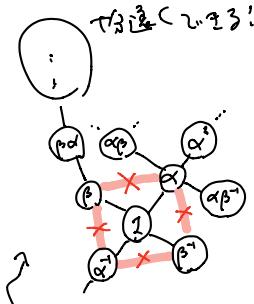
$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} \delta = 8 \quad n = 6 \\ g = 2. \end{array}}$$

Then  $\alpha, \beta$  : curves on  $S^\circ$ .

$\forall d \geq 3$ , we can find  $(\alpha, \beta)$  so that  $d_{C(S^\circ)}(\alpha, \beta) \geq d$

... by replacing  $\beta$  to a deformation of  $\beta$

by sufficiently large power of  $f \in \text{Aff}^+(\mathbb{R}_\varphi)$



e.g.



$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{This is } C_2, g_3! \\ \text{C.} \end{array} \right\}$

$\longrightarrow$  So we can assume  $d(\alpha, \beta) \geq d$ .

Now we deform  $\varphi^\circ \mapsto \hat{\varphi}^\circ$  on  $S^\circ$

so that  $\alpha, \beta$  are still cylinder curves

but they  $\text{ord}(\text{hol}) \geq 3$ .

$\downarrow$   
To do this.

deform the rectangle to a polygon whose angles b/w horizn are (rational)  $\pi$ .

now we keep all segments w/ same label to have same length.

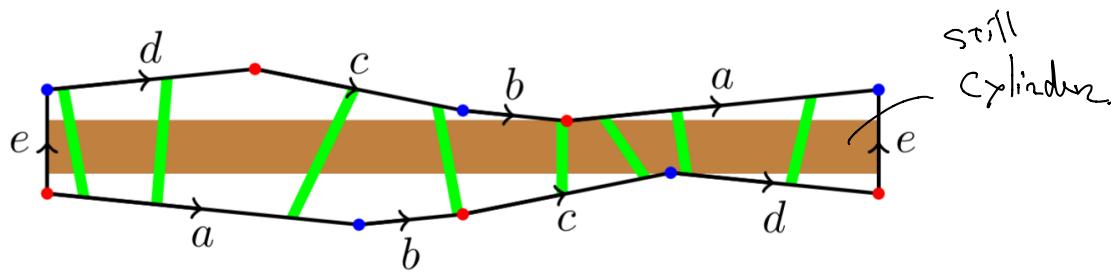


FIGURE 9. Deformed flat metric along with the cylinders.

to ensure that  $\beta$  is still a cylinder curve, we need more care.

let  $\delta_i \sim \delta_F$ :  $\varphi$  - horizontal saddle connections. (before deformation)

$$j=1 \dots k, n_j := i(\beta, \delta_j)$$

we choose  $\psi_i \sim \psi_j \in \mathbb{Q}\pi$ ; small so that  $\sum_j \psi_j = 0$ .

rotate  $\delta_j^+$  by  $\psi_j$  &  $\delta_j^-$  by  $-\psi_j$ .

$\rightarrow$  we will have \_\_\_\_\_.

Therefore, we can construct a fully punctured flat metric w/ finite holonomy on  $S^0$  containing  $\alpha, \beta$  which have arbitrary large distance in  $C(S^0)$

### 3.3 Infinite diameter set of cylinder curves

Goal: construct non-fully-punctured flat metric w/ infinite diameter (w/  $\text{ord}(\text{hol})=4$ )

Consider  $\rightarrow$

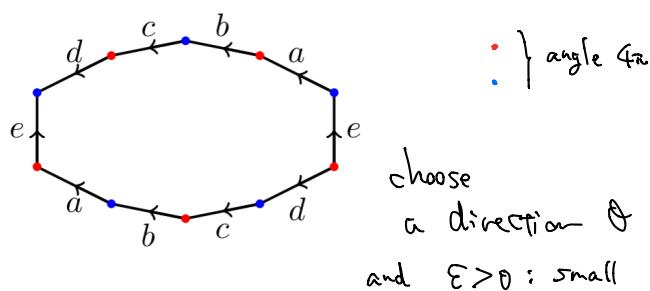


FIGURE 10. Translation surface of genus 2 with 2 cone points.

Starting at a cone point, we cut 4 slits of length  $\epsilon$  to dir.  $\theta$ .

$\rightarrow$  subsurface  $\Sigma \subset S$

We glue  $\Sigma$  w/ a square of length  $2\epsilon \rightsquigarrow 4$  cone pts

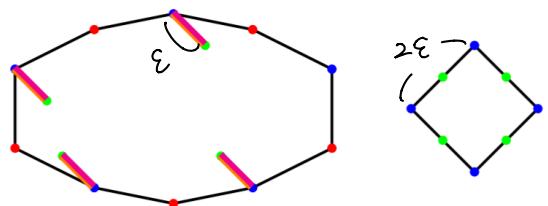


FIGURE 11. Slits and gluing in a square without changing the surface type. The far right shows the picture near the glued in square.

additional assumption:  $\varphi$  has no saddle conn. to direc.  $\theta$ .

$\rightarrow$  foliation  $F_\theta$  is minimal & irrational?

Next, rotate so that  $\theta \mapsto$  vertical. and apply the Teichmüller deformation  $\varphi \mapsto \varphi_t$  ( $t \in \mathbb{D}$ )

We additionally assume flat  $\theta$ : chosen so that  $\varphi_t$  recurs to some fixed thick part of  $C_{\theta, t}$ .

Def: a curve  $\alpha$  on hyp.R.S.  $X$  is a systole  
 $\Leftrightarrow l_X(\alpha)$  is minimal among all non-triv. loops on  $X$

$\forall \varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\varepsilon$ -thick part of  $M_{g,n}$  is  
 $M_{g,n}^\varepsilon := \{X \in M_{g,n} \mid l(X) \geq \varepsilon\}$   
 where  $l(X)$  is the length of systole.

Teichmüller space?

at a sequence  $\{t_n\}$

(i.e., the convergence to a nodal surface  
does not happen.)

Prop 4 For the flat metric  $\hat{\varphi}$  on the closed surface of genus 2 just defined,  
 $EC(\varphi) \subset C(S)$  has infinite diameter.

... consequence of Masur's work. (in 1986)

## 4. Main Theorem

**Theorem 1** Let  $\varphi$  be a fully punctured flat metric on a surface  $S$  with finite holonomy of order at least 3. Then  $\text{EC}(\varphi)$  has finite diameter in  $\mathcal{C}(S)$ .

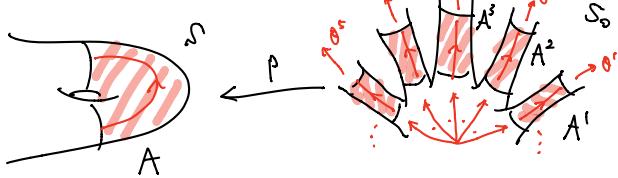
Suppose  $\varphi$ : fully punctured  $\mathbb{Z}$ -flat metric on  $S$  w/  $\mathbb{Z} \geq 3$

and  $p: (S_0, \varphi_0) \rightarrow (S, \varphi)$ : the hol. alm. triv. cover  
h.a.t. cover of degree  $\mathbb{Z}_0$

- $\varphi$ : full-punctured  $\Rightarrow \varphi_0$  so is.

Consider:  $p^{-1}(A)$  for a maximal embedded cylinder  $A \subset S$ .

$\hookrightarrow p^{-1}(A)$  is the union of pairwise disjoint open cylinders  
in equally spaced directions  $\theta^1, \dots, \theta^{q_0} \in \mathbb{RP}^1$



≠ directions of  $A^1, A^2, \dots, A^{q_0} \subset S_0$  are pairwise distinct  
 $\rightarrow \overline{A^1}, \overline{A^2}, \dots, \overline{A^{q_0}}$  are pairwise disjoint  
but note that each  $\overline{A^j}$  may self-intersect  
by a subtle curr.

**Lemma 1.** Let  $\varphi$  be a fully punctured flat metric on a surface  $S$  with holonomy of order  $q \geq 3$  and  $p: (S_0, \varphi_0) \rightarrow (S, \varphi)$  the holonomy almost trivializing cover of degree  $q_0$ . Given a sequence  $\{A_n\}$  of distinct, embedded maximal cylinders in  $(S, \varphi)$ , let  $\{A_n^1, \dots, A_n^{q_0}\}$  be the sequence of components of the preimage in  $S_0$ .

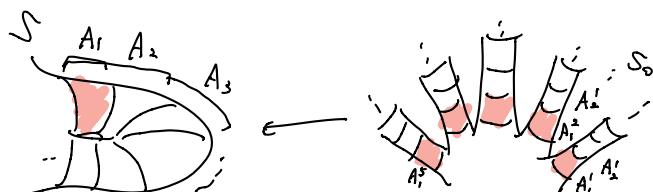
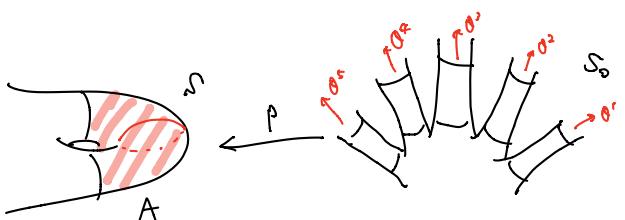
Then, there are pairwise disjoint closed subsurfaces  $Z_1^1, \dots, Z_{q_0}^1$  of  $S_0$ , foliated in equally spaced directions  $\theta^1, \dots, \theta^{q_0}$  in  $\mathbb{RP}^1$ , and a subsequence of  $\{A_n\}$  so that for each  $j$ , (any choice of) a core geodesic  $\{a_n^j \subset A_n^j\}$  Hausdorff converges to  $Z^j$ . Moreover, for sufficiently large  $n$ ,  $a_n^j$  is contained in  $Z^j$ .

then Hausdorff converge  $\Leftrightarrow$  conv. w.r.t. the Hausdorff distance on  $S$

$$d_H: P(S) \times P(S) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$$

$$d_H(X, Y) = \max \left\{ \sup_{x \in X} d(x, Y), \sup_{y \in Y} d(y, X) \right\}$$

$$= \inf \left\{ \varepsilon > 0 \mid X \subset N_\varepsilon(Y), Y \subset N_\varepsilon(X) \right\}$$





# CYLINDER CURVES IN FINITE HOLONOMY FLAT METRICS

SER-WEI FU AND CHRISTOPHER LEININGER

arXiv: 1903.13769 (2019)

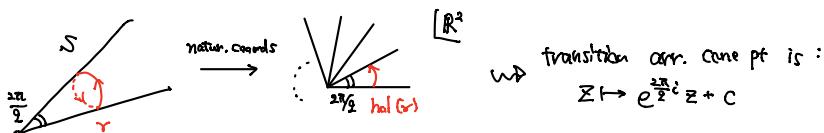
- Masur & Minsky (1999), Bowditch (2006) : connection b/w flat metrics and  $C(S)$ .  
 arising naturally in cpx anal.  
 via extremal probs.
- Leininger, Duchin & Rafi (2010) : rigidity result w.r.t. the  $\mathbb{L}$ -length-spectrum  
 for a set of metrics  
 w/ this work  $EC(\varphi)$  is an important tool in identifying the metric  
 $\swarrow$   $Q$ . Is a metric determined by lengths of curves?  
 $\searrow$   $Aff(S, \varphi)$

- embedded cylinders  $\hookrightarrow$  ori. surf.  $S$  equipped w/ a flat metric  $\varphi$  {
  - finite type,
  - finite area,
  - finite holonomy
}

↪ The set  $EC(\varphi)$  of embedded cylinder curves

$\cap$  homot. classes of core curves of  
 $C(S)$  : curve graph  
 w/ distance (related to intersections of curves)

The holonomy  $hol : \pi_1(S^0) \xrightarrow{\text{hom}} SO(2)$   
 $[r] \mapsto$  rotation in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  w.r.t. a lift of  $r$ .



so, e.g.  $\text{ord}(hol) = 1 \text{ or } 2 \Rightarrow \varphi \text{ comes from half-translational structure}$

• Masur's work (1986) implies that:  $EC(\varphi) \subset C(S)$  has infinite diameter.

In this paper we focus on the cases ' $\text{ord}(hol) \geq 3$ ', for which  $EC(\varphi)$  exhibits a variety of behaviors.

↪ In §3 we construct exams where  $EC(\varphi)$  is {
 

- empty
- no-empty
- finite
- infinite

}

especially in these cases:

↪ We find some for which  $EC(\varphi)$  has infinite diameter in  $C(S)$

Despite this fact, the authors shows that

**Theorem 1.** Let  $\varphi$  be a fully punctured flat metric on a surface  $S$  with finite holonomy of order at least 3. Then  $EC(\varphi) \subset C(S)$  has finite diameter.

## §2. Notation

A Euclidean cone metric  $\varphi$  on  $S^1$  is: a metric which is locally isometric to Eucl. plane away from finite numbers of pts. (except for?)

then the metric is non-positively curved (locally CAT(0))  
if  $\forall$  cone angle  $> 2\pi$

at these pts. the metric has a cone singularity.

\* Now we assume that the metric completion of  $S^1$  is a surface w/ finite area.  
 → we call such a metric a flat metric.

- $\varphi$ : flat metric on  $S^1$ .

$\varphi^\circ := \varphi|_{S^1 = S^1 \setminus \text{cone}(\varphi)}$  : associated fully punctured metric  $\curvearrowleft$  special orthogonal grp.

the holonomy homomorphism  $\pi_1(S^1) \rightarrow SO(2)$  is:

$$[r] \mapsto \text{hol}(r) := (\text{rotation of lift of } r \text{ via the iso-isomorphisms to } \mathbb{R}^2)$$

→ When  $\text{ord}(\text{hol}) = 1$  or 2.  $S^1$  comes from trans. surf. or half-trans. surf.

in this paper we focus on the case  $\text{ord}(\text{hol}) \geq 3$ .

Def If  $\text{ord}(\text{hol})$  divides 2 ( $\geq 1$ ), we say that the metric is a 2-flat metric.

Given  $2 \geq 1$  and a mero 2-differential on a cl. R.S.

w/ poles of order  $\leq 2-1$ .

→ it determines a 2-flat metric  $\varphi$ . (By puncturing at all poles.)

→  $Z_{p,p_0}(\varphi) = \int_{p_0}^p \sqrt{\varphi}$  defines an atlas

$\forall p, p_0 \in S^1$ . whose transition maps are  $z \mapsto e^{\frac{2\pi i}{2} z} z + c$ .

← We call a preferred coordinate.

- We can also describe 2-flat metrics by gluing sides of finite numbers of Euclidean polygons.

e.g.

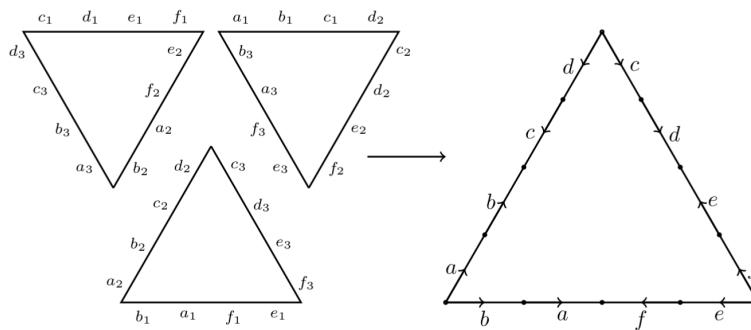


FIGURE 1. A flat metric with holonomy of order 6 and the (degree 3) holonomy almost trivializing cover.

Given a fully punctured flat metric  $\varphi$  on  $S$ .  $\text{ord}(\text{hol}) = 2$ .

The holonomy almost trivializing cover  $p: (S_0, \varphi_0) \rightarrow (S, \varphi)$  is: minimum cover which is translation or half-trans. surface.

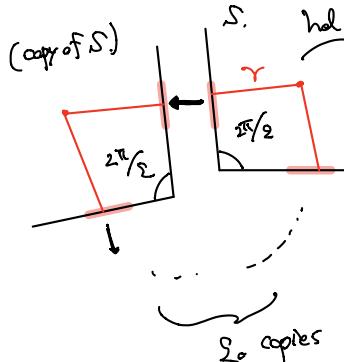
the Lee-isom cover  $\overset{\text{comes}}{\sim} \{ \pm I \} < \text{hol}(\pi_1(S^\circ)) \subset SO(2)$

$\text{hol} \uparrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \uparrow \text{hol}$

$H = \text{hol}^*(\{ \pm I \}) < \pi_1(S^\circ)$

← take a cover from this inclusion.

The cover  $p$  is a cyclic cover of degree  $\mathfrak{L}_0 = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } \mathfrak{L} \text{ odd} \\ 2/2 & \text{if } \mathfrak{L} \text{ even.} \end{cases}$



↑ by taking  $\mathfrak{L}_0$ -copies of  $S'$ , and gluing them.

we will obtain  $S_0$ ,  $p: S_0 \rightarrow S$ , and  $\varphi_0 = p^*\varphi$

for which holonomy-image is  $\{ \pm I \}$ ,

If if a (simple?) closed curve  $\gamma$  has a geod. rep. containing no conpts.

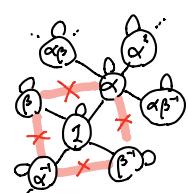
then  $\gamma$  is called a cylinder curve: which lies inside a unique maximal immersed Euclidean cylinder.  
.. maximal cylinder.

Combining Moser's result of hol. al. triv. cover, it follows that

" $g$ -flat metric has infinitely many homot. classes of cyl. curves."

We focus on  $EC(\varphi) := \left\{ [\gamma] : \begin{array}{l} \text{free} \\ \text{homot. class of embedded cyl. curve } \gamma \subset S \end{array} \right\}$ .

$ESC(\varphi) := \left\{ [\delta] : \begin{array}{l} \text{fixed edge} \\ \text{homot. class of saddle conn. } \delta \subset S \end{array} \right\}$



$C(S)$ : curve graph: vertices are isotopy classes of ess. s.c.c..

$A(S)$ : arc graph: vertices are isotopy classes of arcs.

In each case, vertices are joined by an edge

of the isotopy classes admit disjoint representatives. (except edges:  $A(S)$ )

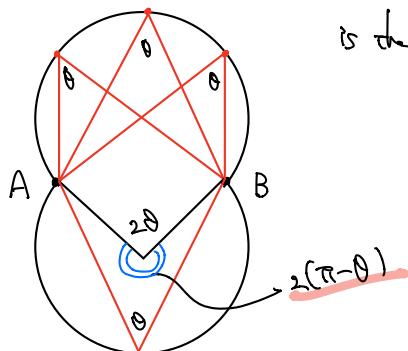
② We view  $EC(\varphi) \subset C(S)$ ,  $ESC(\varphi) \subset A(S)$  ( $\Rightarrow$  set of vertices.)

and refer to the diameter of them as  $\sup \{ \text{min. numbers of edges of paths joining 2 vertices} \}$  edge-path distance.

### Q3. Exms

Prop 1  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^2$  : distinct pts. for  $0 < \theta < \pi$ .

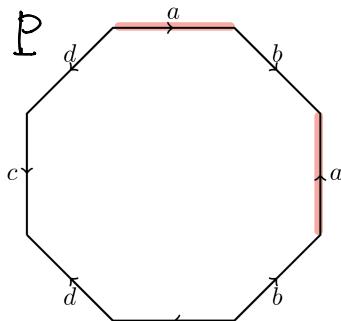
$$I_{AB}(\theta) = \{C \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \angle ACB = \theta\}$$



is the two circular arcs of central angle  $2(\pi - \theta)$  joining A and B.

.. 375 ..

### 3.1. Octagon



Starting w/ a regular octagon  $P$ , we identify sides by isometry as indicated in left Figure.

→ Regarding surf.  $S$  is a genus 2 surf. w/ 4-flat metric  $\varphi$ .  
 $\varphi$  has a single cone pt of angle  $6\pi$ .

$(S, \varphi)$  has 3 embedded cylinders:

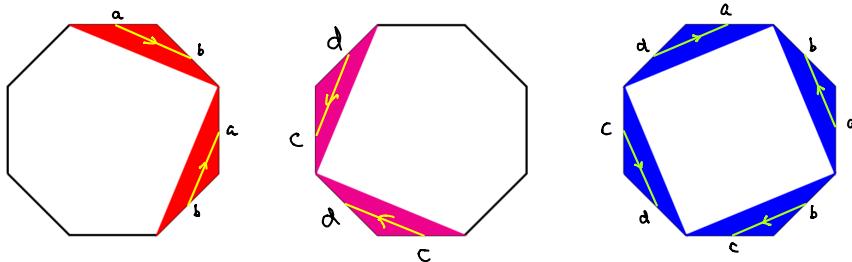


FIGURE 3. Cylinders in the octagon example.

In fact, these are ←

the only maximal cylinders.

} i.e.

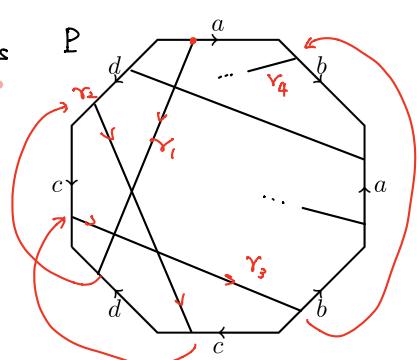
Prop 2  $EC(\varphi)$  consists of exactly three curves.

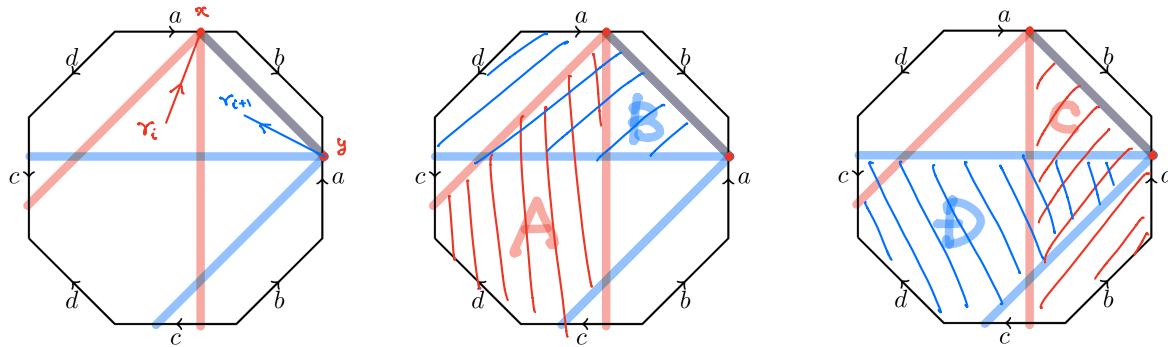
pf) Suppose  $\gamma$ : core curve of some emb. cylinder in  $S$ .  
 i.e. closed geod. containing no cone pts.

claim  $\gamma$  can be embedded only if it is one of the three.

Let  $\gamma$  cuts through  $P$  in  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_k$ : segments in  $P$ , joining sides

Step 1 if  $\gamma_i$  meets a side making angle  $\theta \in [\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ ,  
 then  $\gamma$  will have a self-intersection.





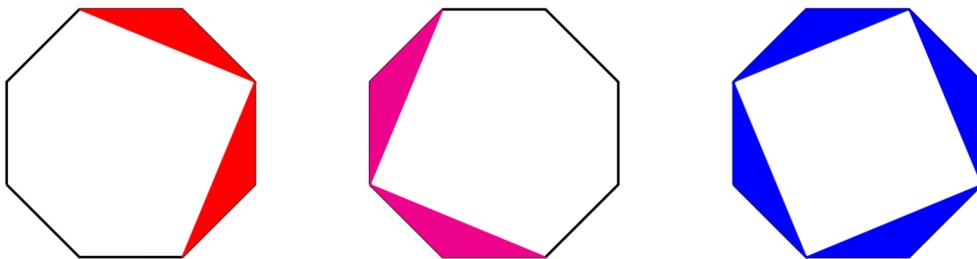
if  $r_i$  lies in  $A$  ( $C$ ), then  $r_{i+1}$  will lie in  $B$ .  
(P, resp.)

$\rightarrow r$  should have self-intersection. //  
( $\rightarrow r$  is NOT embedded !!)

Step 2. any line segment that connects non-adjacent sides of  $P$  makes angle  $\geq \frac{\pi}{4}$ .

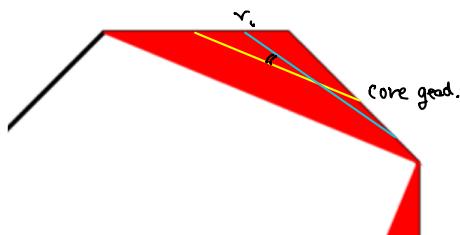
So, if  $r$  is embedded  $\Rightarrow$  each  $r_i$  should join adjacent edges.

Each pair of adjacent sides of  $P$  determines following triangle.



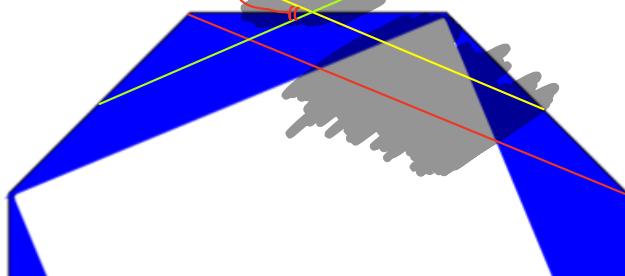
Step 3 each  $r_i$  is embedded in one of these triangles

$\rightarrow r_i$  makes angle  $\leq \frac{\pi}{8}$  w/ the core geodesic.



if  $r$  is entirely contained in one of the three  $\rightarrow$  OK.

otherwise  $\rightarrow$  contained in <sup>(at least)</sup>  $\text{two}$  of the three.  
 $\rightarrow$  switch b/w intersecting cylinders happens.



However, core curves of intersecting cylinders meet at angle  $\frac{\pi}{4}$ .

cannot make angle  $\leq \frac{\pi}{8}$  w/ both of core geodesics.

So "otherwise" never happens. X

### 3.1.2 cylinder-free region.

Here we construct "building blocks" for 'cylinder-free regions'.

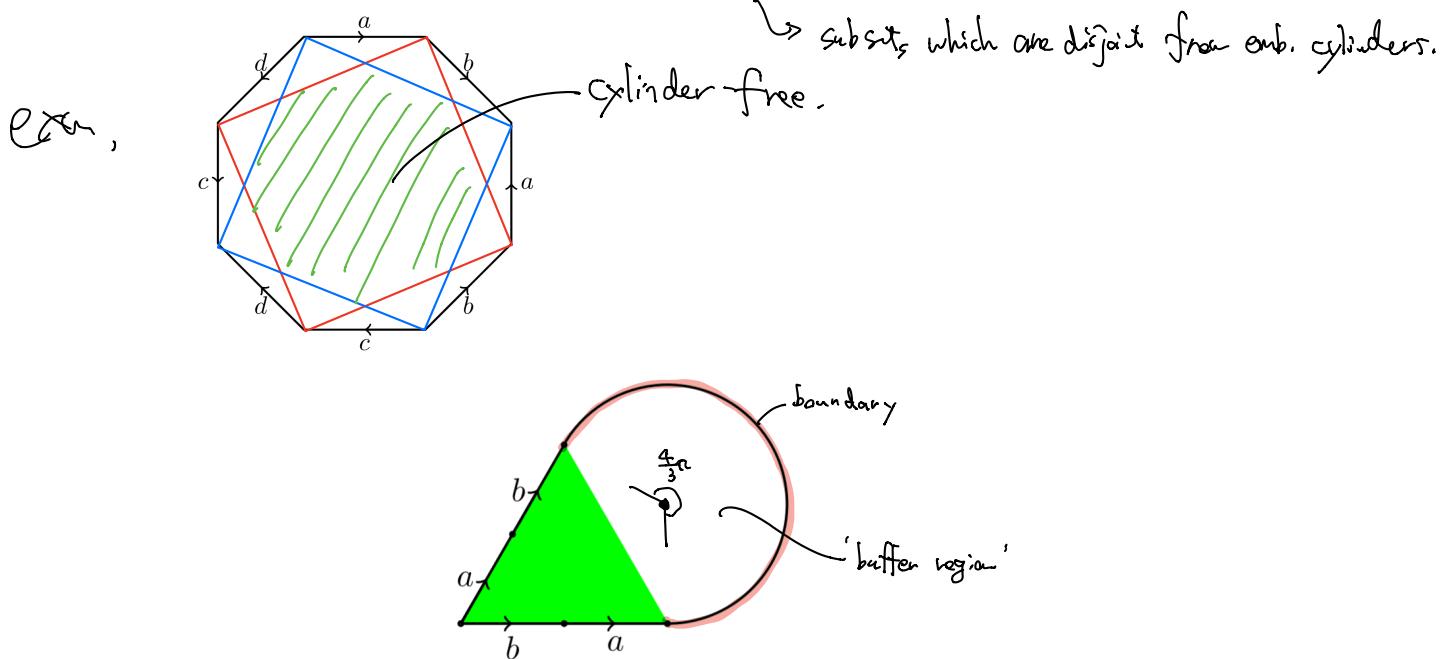


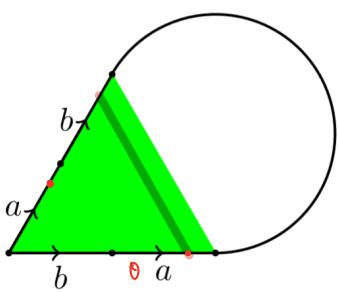
FIGURE 5. The building block  $\mathcal{B}$  with a triangular cylinder-free region.

Prop 3 Suppose the building block  $\mathcal{B}$  is loc. isom. immersed in  $(S, \varphi)$ .  
then the image of triangle in  $\mathcal{B}$  is cylinder-free.

if) Suppose  $\gamma$ : closed non-singular geod. in  $(S, \varphi)$  that intersects  $\mathcal{B} \subset S$   
claim  $\gamma$  has a self-intersection.

Consider a maximal arc  $\gamma'$  of  $\gamma$ .

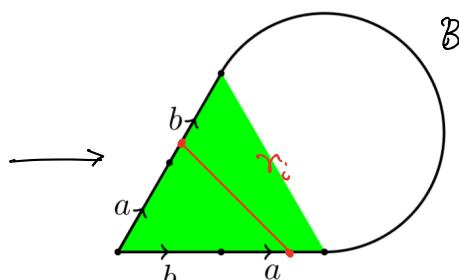
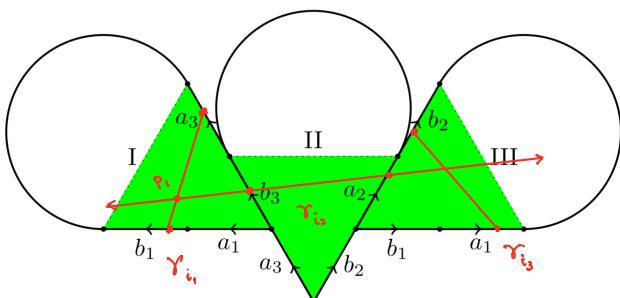
that lifts to  $\mathcal{B}$  meeting the triangle.



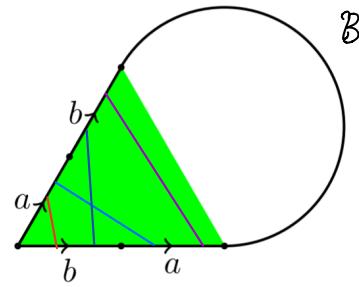
- (a)  $\gamma'$  enters/exits  $\mathcal{B}$  in  $\partial\mathcal{B}$  (circle.)
- or
- (b)  $\gamma' = \gamma$

Let  $\gamma'$  cut through  $\mathcal{B} \cap (\text{aub})$  in  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_k$ .

We consider further lift of  $\gamma'$  via the hol. adm. triv. cover  $\widetilde{\mathcal{B}} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ .



possible patterns of  $\gamma_i$ :



by lifting via  $\widehat{\mathcal{B}} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ , we will see that  $\gamma$  self-intersects.  $\otimes$

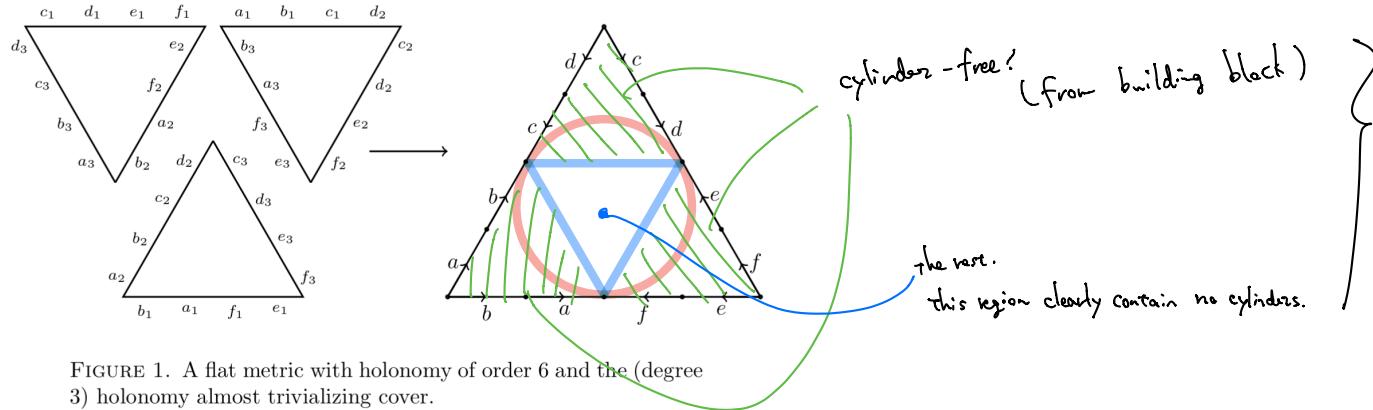


FIGURE 1. A flat metric with holonomy of order 6 and the (degree 3) holonomy almost trivializing cover.

$$ECC(\rho) = \oint$$

### 3.2. Large diameter sets of cylinder curves

Goal to construct  $(S, \varphi)$  w/ finite holonomy,  
for which  $\text{EC}(\varphi)$  has arbitrary large diameter.

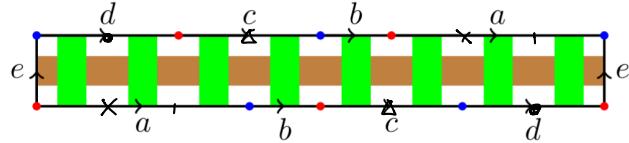
Let  $\alpha, \beta \subset S$ : s.c.c., that fill  $S$  & ... (intersection number?)  
like Strebel's existence thm,

$\rightsquigarrow \exists \varphi$ , square-tiled translation structure

s.t.  $\alpha, \beta$ : horiz/vert. foliation resp.

$\#\text{(cone pts)} \leq 2g-2$  by Poincaré Hgpf.

This is:



(1 horiz. cyl.  
& 1 vert. cyl.)

FIGURE 8. Square-tiled flat metric with a single horizontal cylinder and a single vertical cylinder.

$$\begin{aligned} \delta &= i(\alpha, \beta) \\ n &= \#(\text{vertices}) \end{aligned} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \#(\text{faces}) = \delta, \quad \#(\text{edges}) = 2\delta \\ \chi = n - \delta \quad g = 1 + \frac{\delta - n}{2} \end{array} \right.$$

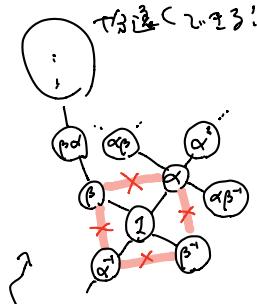
$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} \delta = 8 \quad n = 6 \\ g = 2. \end{array}}$$

Then  $\alpha, \beta$  : curves on  $S^\circ$ .

$\forall d \geq 3$ , we can find  $(\alpha, \beta)$  so that  $d_{C(S^\circ)}(\alpha, \beta) \geq d$

... by replacing  $\beta$  to a deformation of  $\beta$

by sufficiently large power of  $f \in \text{Aff}^+(\mathbb{R}_\varphi)$



e.g.



$\rightarrow$  So we can assume  $d(\alpha, \beta) \geq d$ .

Now we define  $\varphi^\circ \mapsto \hat{\varphi}^\alpha$  on  $S^\circ$

so that  $\alpha, \beta$  are still cylinder curves

but they  $\text{ord}(\text{hol}) \geq 3$ .

$\downarrow$   
To do this.

deform the rectangle to a polygon whose angles b/w horizn are (rational)  $\pi$ .

now we keep all segments w/ same label to have same length.

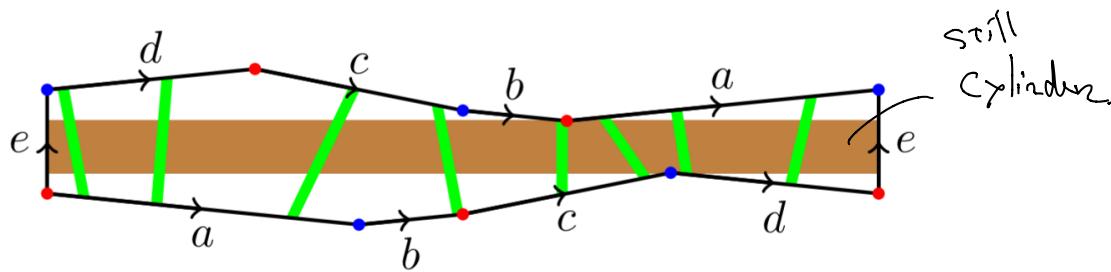


FIGURE 9. Deformed flat metric along with the cylinders.

to ensure that  $\beta$  is still a cylinder curve, we need more care.

let  $\delta_i \sim \delta_F$ :  $\varphi$  - horizontal saddle connections. (before deformation)

$$j=1 \dots k, n_j := i(\beta, \delta_j)$$

we choose  $\psi_i \sim \psi_j \in \mathbb{Q}\pi$ ; small so that  $\sum_j \psi_j = 0$ .

rotate  $\delta_j^+$  by  $\psi_j$  &  $\delta_j^-$  by  $-\psi_j$ .

$\rightarrow$  we will have \_\_\_\_\_.

Therefore, we can construct a fully punctured flat metric w/ finite holonomy on  $S^0$  containing  $\alpha, \beta$  which have arbitrary large distance in  $C(S^0)$

### 3.3 Infinite diameter set of cylinder curves

Goal: construct non-fully-punctured flat metric w/ infinite diameter (w/  $\text{ord}(\text{hol})=4$ )

Consider  $\rightarrow$

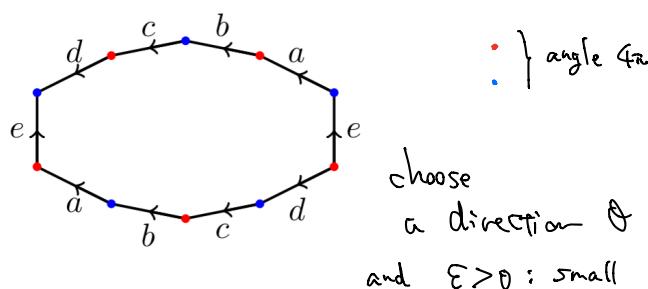


FIGURE 10. Translation surface of genus 2 with 2 cone points.

Starting at a core point, we cut 4 slits of length  $\varepsilon$  to dir.  $\theta$ .

$\rightarrow$  subsurface  $\Sigma \subset S$

We glue  $\Sigma$  w/ a square of length  $2\varepsilon \rightsquigarrow 4$  core pts

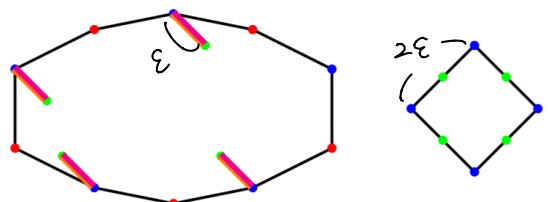


FIGURE 11. Slits and gluing in a square without changing the surface type. The far right shows the picture near the glued in square.

additional assumption:  $\varphi$  has no saddle conn. to direc.  $\theta$ .

$\rightarrow$  foliation  $F_\theta$  is minimal & irrational?

Next, rotate so that  $\theta \mapsto$  vertical. and apply the Teichmüller deformation  $\varphi \mapsto \varphi_t$  ( $t \in \mathbb{D}$ )

We additionally assume flat  $\theta$ : chosen so that  $\varphi_t$  recurs to some fixed thick part of  $C_{\theta, t}$ .

Def: a curve  $\alpha$  on hyp.R.S.  $X$  is a systole  
 $\Leftrightarrow l_X(\alpha)$  is minimal among all non-triv. loops on  $X$

$\forall \varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\varepsilon$ -thick part of  $M_{g,n}$  is  
 $M_{g,n}^\varepsilon := \{X \in M_{g,n} \mid l(X) \geq \varepsilon\}$   
 where  $l(X)$  is the length of systole.

Teichmüller space?

at a sequence  $\{t_n\}$

(i.e., the convergence to a nodal surface  
does not happen.)

Prop 4 For the flat metric  $\hat{\varphi}$  on the closed surface of genus 2 just defined,  
 $EC(\varphi) \subset C(S')$  has infinite diameter.

... consequence of Masur's work. (in 1986)

## 4. Main Theorem

**Theorem 1** Let  $\varphi$  be a fully punctured flat metric on a surface  $S$  with finite holonomy of order at least 3. Then  $\text{EC}(\varphi)$  has finite diameter in  $\mathcal{C}(S)$ .

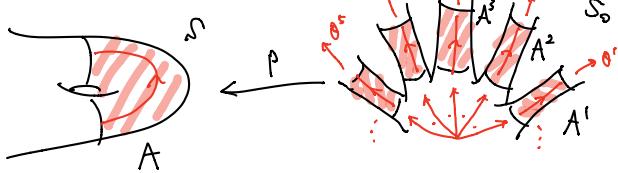
Suppose  $\varphi$ : fully punctured  $\mathbb{Z}$ -flat metric on  $S$  w/  $\mathbb{Z} \geq 3$

and  $p: (S_0, \varphi_0) \rightarrow (S, \varphi)$ : the hol. alm. triv. cover  
h.a.t. cover of degree  $\mathbb{Z}_0$

- $\varphi$ : full-punctured  $\Rightarrow \varphi_0$  so is.

Consider:  $p^{-1}(A)$  for a maximal embedded cylinder  $A \subset S$ .

$\hookrightarrow p^{-1}(A)$  is the union of pairwise disjoint open cylinders  
in equally spaced directions  $\theta^1, \dots, \theta^{q_0} \in \mathbb{RP}^1$



Directions of  $A^1, A^2, \dots, A^{q_0} \subset S_0$  are pairwise distinct  
 $\rightarrow \overline{A^1}, \overline{A^2}, \dots, \overline{A^{q_0}}$  are pairwise disjoint  
but note that each  $\overline{A^j}$  may self-intersect  
by a subtle curr.

**Lemma 1.** Let  $\varphi$  be a fully punctured flat metric on a surface  $S$  with holonomy of order  $q \geq 3$  and  $p: (S_0, \varphi_0) \rightarrow (S, \varphi)$  the holonomy almost trivializing cover of degree  $q_0$ . Given a sequence  $\{A_n\}$  of distinct, embedded maximal cylinders in  $(S, \varphi)$ , let  $\{A_n^1, \dots, A_n^{q_0}\}$  be the sequence of components of the preimage in  $S_0$ .

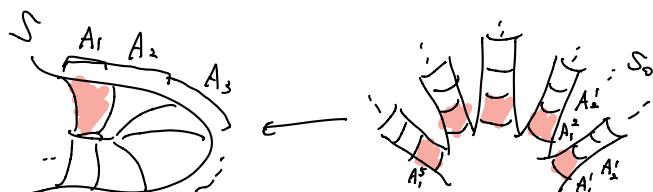
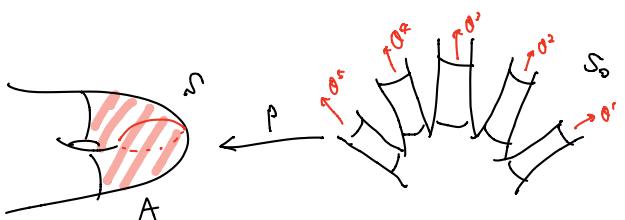
Then, there are pairwise disjoint closed subsurfaces  $Z_1^1, \dots, Z_{q_0}^1$  of  $S_0$ , foliated in equally spaced directions  $\theta^1, \dots, \theta^{q_0}$  in  $\mathbb{RP}^1$ , and a subsequence of  $\{A_n\}$  so that for each  $j$ , (any choice of) a core geodesic  $\{a_n^j \subset A_n^j\}$  Hausdorff converges to  $Z^j$ . Moreover, for sufficiently large  $n$ ,  $a_n^j$  is contained in  $Z^j$ .

then Hausdorff converge  $\Leftrightarrow$  conv. w.r.t. the Hausdorff distance on  $S$

$$d_H: P(S) \times P(S) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$$

$$d_H(X, Y) = \max \left\{ \sup_{x \in X} d(x, Y), \sup_{y \in Y} d(y, X) \right\}$$

$$= \inf \left\{ \varepsilon > 0 \mid X \subset N_\varepsilon(Y), Y \subset N_\varepsilon(X) \right\}$$



for each  $A_n \subset S$ ,  $\xleftarrow{\rho} A_n^1, A_n^2 \dots A_n^{2n}$  w/ direction  $\theta_n^1, \theta_n^2, \dots, \theta_n^{2n} \in \mathbb{RP}^1$

by passing to subseq., we may assume  $\theta_n^j \rightarrow \theta^j \in \mathbb{RP}^1$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{d}_H} Z^j \subset S.$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} x_n^j & \rightarrow & x^j \\ \cap & & \cap \\ \text{core geod.} & \rightarrow & \text{geod.} \\ \text{to direc. } \theta_n^j & & \text{to direc. } \theta^j \end{array}$$

**Theorem 2.** Suppose  $\varphi$  is a flat metric on a closed surface with holonomy of finite order  $q \geq 3$  and that  $\{A_n\}$  is a collection of maximal cylinders for which the set of core curves  $\{a_n\}$  has infinite diameter in  $\mathcal{C}(S)$ . Then there is a subsurface  $Z \subset S$  with a singular foliation by geodesics so that the complement is a collection of disks.

In this theorem, the surface  $Z$  may not be embedded, but only fails to be so at a finite number of cone points. That is, there is a surface with boundary and map  $Z \rightarrow S$  so that  $Z$  is injective except possibly at a finite number of points in  $\partial Z$  which all map to cone points.

Duchin, Leininger, Raffi (2010) §9

$\Sigma$ : finite-type surface

$C(\Sigma) = \{ \text{homot. classes of curves on } \Sigma \}$

$S(\Sigma) = \{ \text{homot. classes of simple closed curves on } \Sigma \}$

for  $\rho$ : isotopy class of metrics on  $\Sigma$ ,  $\alpha \in C(\Sigma)$ ,

$$l_\rho(\alpha) = \inf_{r \in \alpha} L_\rho(r)$$

for  $\rho$ : isotopy class of metrics on  $\Sigma$ ,  $\Gamma \subset C(\Sigma)$ ,

$$\lambda_\Gamma(\rho) := (l_\rho(\alpha))_{\alpha \in \Gamma} \in \mathbb{R}^\Gamma : \Gamma\text{-length spectrum}$$

Q. Let  $G(\Sigma) = \{ \text{isot. classes of metrics on } \Sigma \}$ .

Is the map  $G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\Sigma : \rho \mapsto \lambda_\Gamma(\rho)$  an injection?

(If so, we say that  $\Gamma$  is spectrally rigid over  $G$ ).

e.g.  $\Gamma = S(\Sigma)$ .  $G = T(\Sigma) : \text{Teich.sp. of complete, finite-area, hyperbolic metrics on } \Sigma$ .

classical fact:  $T(\Sigma) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{S(\Sigma)}$  is injective (Fricke).

$S(\Sigma)$  is spectrally rigid over  $T(\Sigma)$ .

another family :  $\text{Flat}(\Sigma) = \{ \rho_Q : \text{the Q-metric} \mid Q : \text{q.d. on } \Sigma, \|Q\|=1 \}$

$$= Q^1(\Sigma) / Q \sim e^{i\theta} Q.$$

$\dot{X}(\Sigma, \rho_Q)$  is loc. flat away from finite cone pts. of angle  $k\pi$

Theorem 1 (D., L., R.)

For any finite-type surface  $\Sigma$ ,  $S(\Sigma)$  is spectrally rigid over  $\text{Flat}(\Sigma)$ .

Theorem 2 (D., L., R.)

Thurston's space of proj. meas. foliations

Let  $3g-3+n \geq 2$ .  $S' \subset S(\Sigma) \subset PMF$  is spec. rigid over  $\text{Flat}(\Sigma)$

$\Leftrightarrow S' \subset PMF$  dense

$$MF = \left\{ k i_\alpha : \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^S \mid i_\alpha(\beta) = \min_{\alpha \in \beta} i(\alpha, \beta) \right\}$$