

Veering triangulations and pseudo-Anosov flows

Chi Cheuk Tsang

UC Berkeley

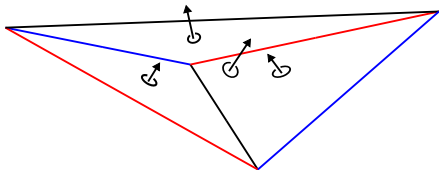
AMS Fall Central Sectional Meeting, 9 Oct 2021

Veering triangulations

Let \overline{M} be an oriented 3-manifold with torus boundary components and $M = \text{int}\overline{M}$.

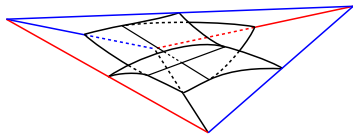
A *veering triangulation* on M is an ideal triangulation along with:

- ▶ face coorientations
- ▶ taut structure
- ▶ edge coloring

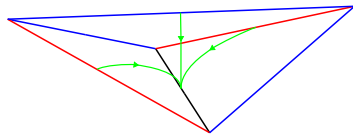


Veering triangulations

Associated to a veering triangulation:



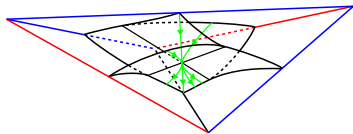
Unstable branched surface B



Flow graph Φ

Veering triangulations

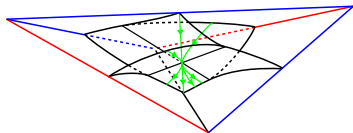
Associated to a veering triangulation:



Unstable branched surface $B \supset$ Flow graph Φ

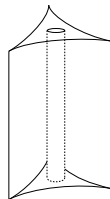
Veering triangulations

Associated to a veering triangulation:



Unstable branched surface $B \supset$ Flow graph Φ

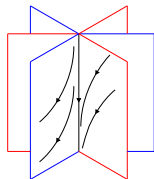
Complementary regions of B are $T^2 \times [0, \infty)$.
Isotopy class of branch locus on $T^2 \times \{0\}$ are called *ladderpole curves*.



Pseudo-Anosov flows

A pseudo-Anosov flow on a closed 3-manifold N is a flow ϕ_t such that:

- ▶ There are two singular foliations Λ^s, Λ^u intersecting transversely along flow lines
- ▶ The flow contracts exponentially along Λ^s and expands exponentially along Λ^u
- ▶ (Technical conditions about Markov partitions & behavior along singular orbits)

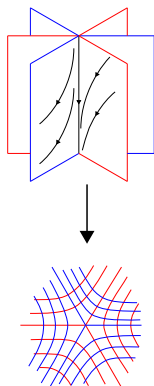


Pseudo-Anosov flows

A pseudo-Anosov flow on a closed 3-manifold N is a flow ϕ_t such that:

- ▶ There are two singular foliations Λ^s, Λ^u intersecting transversely along flow lines
- ▶ The flow contracts exponentially along Λ^s and expands exponentially along Λ^u
- ▶ (Technical conditions about Markov partitions & behavior along singular orbits)

Orbit space of $\tilde{\phi}_t$ on universal cover \tilde{N} is homeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^2 with two singular foliations.

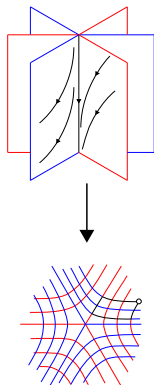


Pseudo-Anosov flows

A pseudo-Anosov flow on a closed 3-manifold N is a flow ϕ_t such that:

- ▶ There are two singular foliations Λ^s, Λ^u intersecting transversely along flow lines
- ▶ The flow contracts exponentially along Λ^s and expands exponentially along Λ^u
- ▶ (Technical conditions about Markov partitions & behavior along singular orbits)

Orbit space of $\tilde{\phi}_t$ on universal cover \tilde{N} is homeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^2 with two singular foliations. ϕ_t is said to be *without perfect fits* if there are no *perfect fit rectangles* on this orbit space.



Correspondence

For $|\langle s, \text{ladderpoles} \rangle| \geq 3$

Veering triangulation on M



Pseudo-Anosov flow without perfect fits on $\overline{M}(s)$

[Schleimer-Segerman, Agol-T.]

For $N^\circ = N \setminus \{\text{singular orbits}\}$

Veering triangulation on N°



Pseudo-Anosov flow without perfect fits on N

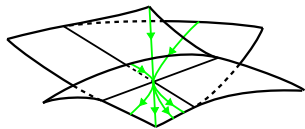
[Agol-Gueritaud, Landry-Minsky-Taylor]

Moreover, in both constructions:

- ▶ The unstable branched surface B carries the unstable foliation
- ▶ The flow graph Φ encodes the orbits

Sketch of \rightsquigarrow

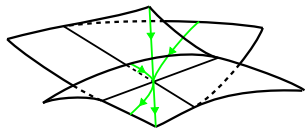
Consider $\Phi \subset B$



Sketch of \rightsquigarrow

Consider $\Phi \subset B$

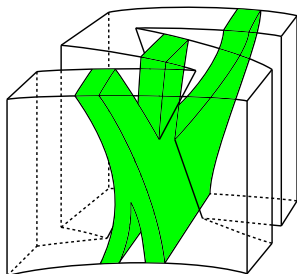
1. Throw away sinks of Φ to get Φ_{red} .



Sketch of \rightsquigarrow

Consider $\Phi \subset B$

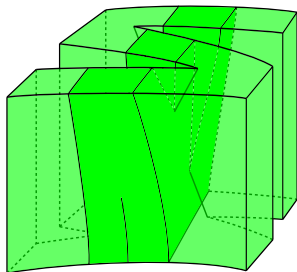
1. Throw away sinks of Φ to get Φ_{red} .
2. Thicken $\Phi_{red} \subset B$ to $N(\Phi_{red}) \subset N(B)$, which carries a natural '1-dimensional foliation'



Sketch of \rightsquigarrow

Consider $\Phi \subset B$

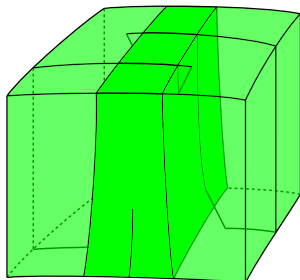
1. Throw away sinks of Φ to get Φ_{red} .
2. Thicken $\Phi_{red} \subset B$ to $N(\Phi_{red}) \subset N(B)$, which carries a natural '1-dimensional foliation'
3. Glue $N(\Phi_{red})$ across $N(B) \setminus N(\Phi_{red})$



Sketch of \rightsquigarrow

Consider $\Phi \subset B$

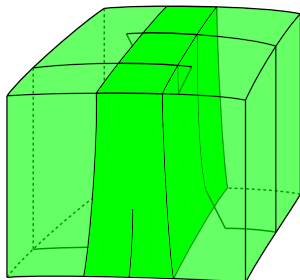
1. Throw away sinks of Φ to get Φ_{red} .
2. Thicken $\Phi_{red} \subset B$ to $N(\Phi_{red}) \subset N(B)$, which carries a natural '1-dimensional foliation'
3. Glue $N(\Phi_{red})$ across $N(B) \setminus N(\Phi_{red})$
4. Glue $N(B)$ across $\overline{M}(s) \setminus N(B)$.



Sketch of \rightsquigarrow

Consider $\Phi \subset B$

1. Throw away sinks of Φ to get Φ_{red} .
2. Thicken $\Phi_{red} \subset B$ to $N(\Phi_{red}) \subset N(B)$, which carries a natural '1-dimensional foliation'
3. Glue $N(\Phi_{red})$ across $N(B) \setminus N(\Phi_{red})$
4. Glue $N(B)$ across $\overline{M}(s) \setminus N(B)$.
5. Parametrize the resulting (honest) 1-dimensional foliation on $\overline{M}(s)$.



Future directions

Veering triangulations	\longleftrightarrow	Pseudo-Anosov flows
Combinatorial invariants (e.g. top-to-bottom loops)	\rightsquigarrow	???
Veering surgery	\rightsquigarrow	???
???	\longleftrightarrow	Construction from finite-depth foliations [Gabai, Mosher] (Ongoing project with Michael Landry)
???	\longleftrightarrow	Construction from \mathbb{R} -covered foliations [Calegari, Fenley]