

Inhyeok Choi

CV updated Apr. 2025

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Research Interests

My research lies in the intersection of geometric topology, geometric group theory and probability theory. Research keywords include Teichmüller space, mapping class groups, Outer space, $\text{Out}(F_N)$, Gromov hyperbolic spaces, $\text{CAT}(0)$ spaces, random walks, growth in groups, and dynamics of groups acting on spaces.

Positions

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| 07/2024- | Cornell University , Ithaca, NY, United States
Harry Kesten Assistant Professor (Post-doc) |
| 03/2023–06/2024 | Korea Institute for Advanced Study , Seoul, South Korea
Project research fellow (–07/2023), June E Huh Fellow (08/2023–) (Post-doc)
Mentor: Prof. Sang-hyun Kim |
| 03/2024–06/2024 | Fields Institute , Toronto, ON, Canada
Marsden Postdoctoral Fellowship (visiting for the program “Thematic program on Randomness and Geometry”)
Mentor: Prof. Giulio Tiozzo |

Education

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| 09/2018–02/2023 | Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology , Daejeon, South Korea
Ph.D. in Mathematical Sciences
Advisor: Prof. Hyungryul Baik |
| 03/2015–08/2018 | Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology , Daejeon, South Korea
B.Sc. in Physics, Mathematical Sciences, and Biological Sciences
Summa Cum Laude |

Other Educational Experiences

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| 07/2024- | June E Huh Visiting fellow, HCMC of KIAS |
| 12/2018–02/2019 | Exchange student, Tokyo Institute of Technology |
| 08/2017–02/2018 | Exchange student, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne |
| 12/2015–06/2017 | Undergraduate researcher, Biomedical Optics Lab, KAIST
Advisor: YongKeun Park |
| 06/2015–08/2015 | Exchange student, University of California, Berkeley |

Awards and Honors

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| 02/2023 | Best Thesis Award, 2023, Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, KAIST |
| 08/2022 | Best TA Award, 2022 Spring semester, Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, KAIST |
| 03/2017 | Dean’s list, 2016 Fall semester, College of Natural Sciences, KAIST |
| 12/2016 | Silver Prize, Korean Undergraduate Mathematics Competition (전국 대학생수학경시대회), Korean Mathematical Society |
| 03/2015–08/2018 | Korea Presidential Science Scholarship (대통령과학장학생), Korea Student Aid Foundation |
| 03/2015–08/2018 | KAIST Presidential Fellowship |

Publications & Preprints

1. Pivoting technique for the circle homeomorphism group (translation of: 원의 위상동형사상 군의 자유군과 Tits 대안)
Preprint (2025), arXiv:2504.02788.
2. Smoothing countable group actions on metrizable spaces
With *Sang-hyun Kim*.
Preprint (2024), to appear in the **Proceedings of the Mathematical Society of Japan, Seasonal Institute**. arXiv:2410.06077.
3. Counting pseudo-Anosovs as weakly contracting isometries
Preprint (2024). arXiv:2408.00603.
4. Confined subgroups in groups with contracting elements
With *Ilya Gekhtman, Wenyan Yang and Tianyi Zheng*.
Preprint (2024). arXiv:2405.09070.
5. Contracting isometries and differentiability of the escape rate
Preprint (2024). arXiv:2403.09992.
6. Random walks on groups and superlinear divergent geodesics
With *Kunal Chawla, Vivian He and Kasra Rafi*.
Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems, Vol. 45, no. 5, pp. 1403–1443 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1017/etds.2024.75>, arXiv:2310.18506.
7. Genericity of contracting geodesics in groups
With *Kunal Chawla and Giulio Tiozzo*.
Preprint (2023). arXiv:2308.01877. To appear in **Groups, Geometry, and Dynamics**.
8. Random walks and contracting elements III: Outer space and outer automorphism group
Preprint (2023). arXiv:2212.12122.
9. Random walks and contracting elements II: Translation lengths and quasi-isometric embedding
Preprint (2023), **Groups, Geometry, and Dynamics**, Online first (2024). <https://doi.org/10.4171/ggd/831>, arXiv:2212.12119.
10. Random walks and contracting elements I: Deviation inequality and limit laws
Preprint (2023). arXiv:2207.06597. To appear in **Compositio Mathematica**.
11. Random walks on mapping class groups (survey paper)
With *Hyungrul Baik*.
EMS Surveys in Mathematical Sciences, Vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 279–320. (2022) <https://doi.org/10.4171/EMSS/59>.
12. Pseudo-Anosovs are exponentially generic in mapping class groups
Geometry & Topology, Vol. 28, pp. 1923–1955. (2024) <https://doi.org/10.2140/gt.2024.28.1923>.
13. Central limit theorem and geodesic tracking on hyperbolic spaces and Teichmüller spaces
Advances in Mathematics, Vol. 431, 109236. (2023) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aim.2023.109236>.
14. Linear growth of translation lengths of random isometries on Gromov hyperbolic spaces and Teichmüller spaces
With *Hyungrul Baik and Dongryul M. Kim*.
Journal of the Institute of Mathematics of Jussieu, Vol. 23, no. 4, pp. 1751–1795. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474748023000373>.

15. Simple length spectra as moduli for hyperbolic surfaces and rigidity of length identities
With *Hyungryl Baik and Dongryul M. Kim*.
Preprint (2020). arXiv:2012.05652.
16. On the surjectivity of the Symplectic representation of the mapping class group
With *Hyungryl Baik and Dongryul M. Kim*.
Topology and its Applications, Vol. 322, 108334. (2022) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.topol.2022.108334>.
17. Topological entropy of pseudo-Anosov maps from a typical Thurston construction
With *Hyungryl Baik and Dongryul M. Kim*.
International Mathematics Research Notices, Vol. 2022, no. 24, pp. 19762–19904. (2022) <https://doi.org/10.1093/imrn/rnab167>
18. Inhyeok Choi, KyeoReh Lee, and YongKeun Park. Compensation of aberration and speckle noise in quantitative phase imaging using lateral shifting and spiral phase integration. **Optics Express**, 25(24) pp. 30771–30779. (2017)

Research Talks

Lecture series

- 2024.07.29. Growth of (sub)groups with hyperbolicity. (3 lectures and 1-week group discussion)
Geometry in Groups 2024. TIFR-ICTS, Bangalore, India.
- 2024.05.03. Hyperbolicity of geodesics, counting and random walks. (4 lectures) *Riverside Workshop on Geometric Group Theory 2024, UC Riverside.*

Invited Talks

- 2025.04.15. Genericity of pseudo-Anosovs and quasi-isometries. *Stanford Topology Seminar. CA, USA.*
- 2025.04.01. Genericity of pseudo-Anosovs and quasi-isometries. *Geometry & Topology Seminar. Rutgers New Brunswick, NJ, USA.*
- 2025.03.14. Dynamics of semigroups of circle homeomorphisms. *The Scottish Dynamics Network. Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, UK.*
- 2025.03.12. Genericity of pseudo-Anosovs and quasi-isometries. *Algebra, Geometry, and Topology Seminar. Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, UK.*
- 2025.03.06. Genericity of pseudo-Anosovs and quasi-isometries. *Binghamton Geometry & Topology Seminar. NY, USA.*
- 2025.02.14. Genericity of pseudo-Anosovs and quasi-isometries. *SUNY at Buffalo Geometry & Topology Seminar. NY, USA.*
- 2024.01.16. Free discrete subgroups of $\text{Homeo}(S)$ and the fine curve graph. *Virtual Seminar in Geometry and Topology (VISGAT), KIAS.*
- 2024.12.03. Metric WPD for $\text{Homeo}(S)$: loxodromics on the fine curve graph. *KAIST Topology Seminar.*
- 2024.11.28. Metric WPD for $\text{Homeo}(S)$: loxodromics on the fine curve graph. *Hyperbolic Lunch, University of Toronto.*
- 2024.10.22. Genericity of pseudo-Anosovs and quasi-isometries. *CUNY Geometry & Topology Seminar, CUNY.*
- 2024.10.15. Genericity of pseudo-Anosovs and quasi-isometries. *Geometry & Topology Seminar, Yale University.*
- 2024.10.14. Growth rate of confined subgroups of a discrete group. *Group Action and Dynamics Seminar, Yale University.*

- 2024.09.24. Genericity of pseudo-Anosovs and quasi-isometries. *KIAS-Rice Workshop on Geometric Topology, KIAS HCMC.*
- 2024.09.05. Genericity of pseudo-Anosovs and quasi-isometries. *Cornell Dynamics Seminar.*
- 2024.06.25. Sullivan’s conjecture, Myrberg limit set and Hausdorff dimension. *One day workshop with Young Geometric Topologists at KAIST.*
- 2024.05.13. Continuity of escape rate of random walks on CAT(0) spaces. *Dynamics of group actions and random walks on groups, Fields Institute.*
- 2024.04.21. Confined subgroups and their growth. *Alfréd Rényi Institute. Budapest, Hungary.*
- 2024.04.08. Genericity of pseudo-Anosov mapping classes. *Young Geometric Group Theory XII, Bristol, UK.*
- 2024.04.04. Genericity of pseudo-Anosovs (and fully irreducibles). *Princeton Topology Seminar.*
- 2024.04.02. Genericity of pseudo-Anosov mapping classes. *Brandeis Topology Seminar, Brandeis University.*
- 2024.03.20. Random walks, superlinear divergence and quasi-isometry. *UBC Probability Seminar, University of British Columbia.*
- 2024.03.15. Growth of normal subgroups of a hyperbolic group. *GT GAPS Seminar. (Online)*
- 2024.02.29. Normal subgroups, confined subgroups and growth. *Korea-France Workshop on Dynamical Group Theory, KIAS.*
- 2024.01.17. Regularity of the escape rate and the asymptotic entropy of a random walk. *KAIST GT Fair 2024, Busan, Korea.*
- 2023.11.03. Genericity of contracting elements in groups. *SNU Rookies Workshop 2023, Yangpeong, Korea.*
- 2023.10.28. Generic mapping classes are pseudo-Anosov. *2023 KMS Fall Meeting, SNU.*
- 2023.10.05. Genericity of contracting elements in groups. *Tokyo-Seoul Conference in Mathematics 2023, The University of Tokyo.*
- 2023.09.11. Random walks on groups without an action on hyperbolic spaces. *Topology seminar, KAIST.*
- 2023.09.04. Genericity of contracting elements in groups. *World of GroupCraft III. (Online)*
- 2023.08.21. Genericity of contracting elements in groups. *The 4th Korea-France Conference in Mathematics, KIAS.*
- 2023.07.14. Geometry and dynamics of a finitely generated group. *Workshop on Quantum Analysis 2023, Sokcho, Korea.*
- 2023.04.20. Random walks on non-positively curved spaces: rate of escape, CLT and large deviation principle. *Conference on Probability and PDE, KAIST.*
- 2023.04.06. Counting pseudo-Anosov mapping classes. (series of 4 talks) *Virtual Seminar on Geometry and Topology, KIAS.*
- 2023.02.09. Asymmetry of a generic outer automorphism of a free group. *The 18th East Asian Conference on Geometric Topology. (Online)*
- 2022.11.08. Random subgroup is quasi-isometrically embedded. *Geometry and Topology Seminar, CUNY.*
- 2022.11.08. The log-regularity of the hitting measure on the Gromov boundary. *Group actions, Geometry and Dynamics Seminar, Yale University.*
- 2022.11.02. Asymmetry of a typical outer automorphism. *Geometry and Topology Seminar, Temple university.*
- 2022.10.27. Simple length spectrum of a hyperbolic surface. *Hyperbolic lunch, University of Toronto.*
- 2022.10.24. Mapping class group, Teichmüller space and Bers’ proof of Nielsen-Thurston’s classification. *Dynamics Seminar, University of Toronto.*
- 2022.05.12. Typical behavior of random mapping classes and outer automorphisms. *Fudan Topology Seminar. (Online)*
- 2022.04.11. Limit laws beyond hyperbolic spaces. *AIM Workshop “Random walks beyond hyperbolic groups”, San Jose, CA United States*

- 2021.12.03. Limit laws for random walks on mapping class groups. *Conformal Dynamics and Groups Seminar, BICMR*. (Online)
- 2021.11.29. Random walks on mapping class groups favor pseudo-Anosovs. *Dynamics Seminar, University of Toronto*. (Online)
- 2021.11.18. Random walks, counting problems and genericity of loxodromics. *Geometry and Topology Seminar, Technion*. (Online)
- 2021.10.06. Random walks on Gromov hyperbolic spaces and Teichmüller spaces. *Tokyo Tech Topology Seminar*. (Online)
- 2021.07.22. Random walks on Gromov hyperbolic spaces and Teichmüller spaces. *Pacific Dynamics Seminar*. (Online)
- 2021.02.03. Simple length spectra of a generic hyperbolic surface determine its isometry class. *Virtual Seminar on Geometry and Topology*. (Online)

Contributed Talks

- 2022.05.31. Frequently contracting geodesics and random mapping class. *PK2 Topology Workshop*.
- 2022.04.25. Limit laws and their consequences on MCG and $\text{Out}(Fn)$. 5-min lightning talk, *IHP Conference "Mapping Class Groups and $\text{Out}(Fn)$ "*.
- 2022.01.18. Random mapping classes are pseudo-Anosov. *The 17th East Asian Conference on Geometric Topology*. (Online)
- 2021.01.26. Rigidity of length Identities of hyperbolic surfaces. *The 16th East Asian Conference on Geometric Topology*. (Online)
- 2020.10.30. Random walks and mapping class groups. 10-minute talk at *Geometric Group Theory in East Asia*. (Online)

Conference organization

- 2023.12.18–20. Hyperbolic Geometry of Numbers, KIAS (with Prof. Sang-hyun Kim, Prof. Ser-Peow Tan)
- 2023.09.27–28. The 1st Korea-Chile Workshop on Dynamical Group Theory, Incheon, Korea. (with Prof. Sang-hyun Kim)

Teaching

At Cornell

- 2025S Instructor, MATH 3040 Prove It!
- 2024F Instructor, MATH 1110 Calculus I

At KAIST

- 2022F TA, MAS102 Calculus II & MAS430 Combinatorial Topology
- 2022S TA, MAS109 Linear algebra and Applications & MAS201 DE and Applications
- 2021F TA, MAS201 DE and Applications & MAS441 Lebesgue Integration Theory
- 2021S TA, MAS109 Linear algebra and Applications & MAS331 Topology
- 2020F TA, MAS102 Calculus II & MAS441 Lebesgue Integration Theory
- 2020S Head TA, MAS201 DE and Applications
- 2019F TA, MAS201 DE and Applications & MAS441 Lebesgue Integration Theory
- 2019S TA, MAS201 DE and Applications & MAS331 Topology
- 2018F TA, MAS355 Mathematical Statistics
- 2017S, 2018S Undergraduate TA, MAS101 Calculus I

Service & Outreach

- Refereed for *Advances in Mathematics*, *Annales Henri Lebesgue*, *Annales de l'IHP (B)*, *Compositio Mathematica (quick opinion)*, *Israel Journal of Mathematics*, *Journal of Topology*, *Journal of Topology and Analysis*, *Memoirs of the EMS*, *Mathematical Reviews*.
- Organizer of *Cornell Topology Seminar* for Fall 2024.
- Published a series of math cartoons on KIAS webzine *⟨Horizon⟩* (in Korean)

References

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