

Inhyeok Choi

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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 problems and counting problems in groups, percolations in vertex-transitive graphs, and dynamics of groups acting on spaces.

Positions

08/2025-	Korea Institute for Advanced Study , Seoul, South Korea KIAS Fellow
07/2024-08/2025	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 (-06/2023), June E Huh Fellow (07/2023-) (Post-doc) Mentor: 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: Giulio Tiozzo

Education

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

Other Educational Experiences

07/2024-08/2025	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

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. Percolation in acylindrically hyperbolic groups
With *Donggyun Seo*.
Preprint (2025), arXiv:2508.08932.
2. Metric weak proper discontinuity for pseudo-Anosov maps
Preprint (2025), arXiv:2506.21214.
3. Acylindrically hyperbolic groups and counting problems
Preprint (2025), arXiv:2504.20985.
4. Pivoting technique for the circle homeomorphism group (translation of: 원의 위상동형사상 군의 자유군과 Tits 대안)
Preprint (2025), arXiv:2504.02788.
5. 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.
6. Counting pseudo-Anosovs as weakly contracting isometries
Inventiones Mathematicae, Vol. 242, pp. 337–386. (2025) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00222-025-01358-5>, arXiv:2408.00603.
7. Confined subgroups in groups with contracting elements
With *Ilya Gekhtman, Wenyuan Yang and Tianyi Zheng*.
Preprint (2024). arXiv:2405.09070.
8. Contracting isometries and differentiability of the escape rate
Preprint (2024). arXiv:2403.09992.
9. 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>.
10. Genericity of contracting geodesics in groups
With *Kunal Chawla and Giulio Tiozzo*.
Preprint (2023). arXiv:2308.01877. **Groups, Geometry, and Dynamics**, online first version. <https://ems.press/journals/ggd/articles/14298985>.
11. Random walks and contracting elements III: Outer space and outer automorphism group
Preprint (2023). arXiv:2212.12122.

12. Random walks and contracting elements II: Translation lengths and quasi-isometric embedding
Groups, Geometry, and Dynamics, Vol. 19, pp. 1373-1423. (2025) <https://doi.org/10.4171/ggd/831>.
13. Random walks and contracting elements I: Deviation inequality and limit laws
Compositio Mathematica, Vol. 161, pp. 1512-1575. (2025) <https://doi.org/10.1112/S0010437X25007511>.
14. Random walks on mapping class groups (survey paper)
With *Hyungryl Baik*.
EMS Surveys in Mathematical Sciences, Vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 279–320. (2022) <https://doi.org/10.4171/EMSS/59>.
15. 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>.
16. 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>.
17. Linear growth of translation lengths of random isometries on Gromov hyperbolic spaces and Teichmüller spaces
With *Hyungryl Baik and Dongryul M. Kim*.
Journal of the Institute of Mathematics of Jussieu, Vol. 23, no. 4, pp. 1751–1795. (2023) <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474748023000373>.
18. 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. To appear in **Annales de l’Institut Fourier**.
19. 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>.
20. 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>
21. 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

- 2025.10.14. Locally finite invariant measures on measured laminations. *KIAS conference on mapping class groups. KIAS, South Korea.*
- 2025.09.29. Nonuniqueness from percolation in acylindrically hyperbolic groups. *Alfred Renyi Insitute, Budapest, Hungary.*
- 2025.09.22. Nonuniqueness from percolation in acylindrically hyperbolic groups. *Autumn School on Probability and Dynamics on Groups, University of Münster, Germany.*

- 2025.09.17. Metric WPD of pseudo-Anosov maps. *Groups, Dynamics and Surfaces in Paris. IMJ-PRG at Sorbonne, Paris, France.*
- 2025.08.27. Many infinite clusters from percolation in many groups. *KIAS-KAIST Workshop on current challenges in mathematics. KIAS, South Korea.*
- 2025.08.18. Metric WPD of pseudo-Anosov maps and quasimorphisms. *Algebraic and analytic methods in group theory in Warsaw. IMPAN, Warsaw, Poland.*
- 2025.08.06. Dynamics of semigroups of circle homeomorphisms. *One-day Festival of Group actions, Geometry and Dynamics. KIAS, South Korea.*
- 2025.06.16. Genericity problem in groups with negative curvature. *Geometric Group Theory and Related Topics. BICMR, Peking University, China.*
- 2025.05.19. Counting pseudo-Anosovs and fully irreducibles. *53rd Barrett Lectures: Recent Development in Geometric Group Theory. TN, USA.*
- 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 $\text{CAT}(0)$ 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, Yangjeong, 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

- 2026.06.07. Young Geometric Group Theory (yGGT) XIV, KIAS (with Giovanni Italiano, Annette Karrer, Sanghoon Kwak)
- 2025.08.29. 2025 2K-GATE One day Geometric Topology Festival, KIAS (with Hyungryul Baik and Sang-hyun Kim)
- 2023.12.18–20. Hyperbolic Geometry of Numbers, KIAS (with Sang-hyun Kim and Ser-Peow Tan)
- 2023.09.27–28. The 1st Korea-Chile Workshop on Dynamical Group Theory, Incheon, Korea. (with 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*, *Forum of Mathematics*, *Sigma* (quick opinion), *Israel Journal of Mathematics*, *Journal of Topology*, *Journal of Topology and Analysis*, *Memoirs of the EMS*, *MathSciNet Mathematical Reviews*.
- Organizer of *Cornell Topology Seminar* for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.
- Published a series of math cartoons on KIAS webzine $\langle \text{Horizon} \rangle$ (in Korean)

References

Hyungryul Baik, KAIST
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`ilyagekh@gmail.com`

Kasra Rafi, University of Toronto
`rafi@math.toronto.edu`

Alessandro Sisto, Heriot-Watt University
`a.sisto@hw.ac.uk`

Giulio Tiozzo, University of Toronto
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(Teaching) Moon-Jin Kang, KAIST
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