

# Geometric Group Theory: Lecture 1

19/01/2023

## I: Combinatorial Group Theory.

1) Free groups  $\cong$  permutation.

Let:  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots\}$  an "alphabet". A group  $F$  is free

on  $A \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \text{(i)} & \exists \text{ map of sets } A \rightarrow F \\ \text{(ii)} & \text{the group } \cong \text{ map } A \rightarrow G, \exists! \text{ hom} \end{cases}$

$F \rightarrow G$  s.t.  $\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\quad F \quad} & G \\ & \downarrow (*) & \\ & \text{commutes. ("Universal Prop")} & \end{array}$

✓ canonical.

Exercise:  $F$  unique up to unique isom.

$\Rightarrow F$  determined by  $A$ , so write  $F = F(A)$ .

Existence: in 2 ways.

① Topologically:  $X = \bigvee_{a \in A} S^1$



By Seifert-Van-Kampen Theorem:  $\pi_1(X) \cong F(A)$ .

② Combinatorial: let  $A^* = \{\text{words in } A \sqcup A^{-1}\}$ .

$(A^{-1} = \{a_1^{-1}, a_2^{-1}, \dots\})$ . Formal inverses.

& say a word is reducible  $\Leftrightarrow$  contains  $aa^{-1}$  or  $a^{-1}a$  as sub-word. Else, called reduced.

Define:  $F(A) = \{\omega \in A^* : \omega \text{ reduced}\}$ .

Group operation is: concatenation then reduction. □

(mult is well-defined, but won't prove it!)

identity  $e$  & obvious inverse.

Presentations: consists of alphabet  $A$  ("generators") and a set  $R \subseteq F(A)$  ("Relations"). Write:  $\langle A | R \rangle$  for group  $F(A) / \langle\langle R \rangle\rangle$ .  $\leftarrow$  Normal closure of  $R$ .

Examples: (i)  $\langle a | a^n \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ . ( $C_n$ )

(ii)  $\langle r, s | r^n, s^2, srsr \rangle \cong D_{2n}$ .

(iii)  $\langle A | \cdot \rangle \cong F(A)$

(iv)  $\langle a, b | aba^{-1}b^{-1} \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$ .

(v)  $\langle a_1, \dots, a_g, b_1, \dots, b_g | \prod_{i=1}^g a_i b_i a_i^{-1} b_i^{-1} \rangle \cong \Sigma_g$

As we will see: presentations arise when we write down fundamental groups of spaces. In fact: All groups arise in this way.

Corollary of SVK: if  $G = \langle a_1, a_2, \dots | r_1, r_2, \dots \rangle$ , let  $X$  be space by taking  $\bigvee_{a \in A} S^1$ , and "gluing" discs whose boundary are  $r_i$ .

Then:  $\pi_1(X) \cong G$ . Called: Presentation Complex of  $G$ .

E.g. for  $\mathbb{Z}^2 = \langle a, b | aba^{-1}b^{-1} \rangle$ , get Torus  $T^2$ .

- Remarks**
- (i) CP is stronger than WP. ( $w=1 \Leftrightarrow w$  conj to 1)
  - (ii) Dehn motivated by topology, but problems ask for algs.  
Often will solve using geometry.
  - (iii) All 3 unsolved in 1950s.
    - Novikov (1955) & Boone (1959) unsolved WP.
    - Adyan (1959) & Rabin (1958) unsolved the IP.
- Nevertheless: positive sols are known for many "reasonable" classes of groups. E.g. free groups.

Let:  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots\}$ .

Example (in WP) for  $w \in A^*$ , if  $w$  reduced then  $w=e$   $\Leftrightarrow w$  empty (length 0). Otherwise,  $w$  contains some  $a a^{-1}$  for  $a \in A \cup A^{-1}$ , and "cancelling" gives  $w' \in A^*$  s.t.  $w' = w$  &  $\text{length}(w') < \text{length}(w)$ . So eventually terminates.

Can also solve CP in free groups!

DEF  $\exists$  natural action  $\alpha$  of  $\mathbb{Z}$  on  $A^*$  that permutes cyclically:

$$\alpha(a_1 \dots a_n) = a_2 \dots a_n a_1. \quad a_i \in A^*.$$

$\Rightarrow$  Elements of  $\mathbb{Z}$  are called: cyclic conjugation of  $w$ .

$\&$   $\mathbb{Z} \setminus A^*$  are called: cyclic words.

A word is cyclically reduced  $\Leftrightarrow$  Every cyclic conjugate is reduced. So, e.g.  $aba^{-1}$  not cyclically reduced.

Note: reduced + not cyclically reduced  $\Leftrightarrow \omega = a\omega a^{-1}$ .

Where:  $\omega'$  reduced & length  $< \text{length}(\omega)$ .

$\Rightarrow$  After finitely many steps/reps: Can assume  $\omega$  cyclically reduced.  
[lemma] (CP in Free groups).

If  $u, v \in F(A)$  cyclically reduced, then  $u$  conj to  $v \Leftrightarrow$  are cycles of each other.

[Proof]  $\Leftarrow$ :  $u, v$  cyclically equal  $\Rightarrow u = g_1 g_2 \dots g_n$

$$v = g_{k+n} - g_n g_1 - g_k.$$

Then  $u = g v g^{-1}$  for  $g = g_1 \dots g_n$ .

$\Rightarrow$ : Say  $u = g v g^{-1}$ . By induction, assume  $g$  has 1 letter.

Say  $g = a \in A \cup A^{-1}$ . Then, if  $u = a v a^{-1}$ , either  $v = a^{-1} v'$  or

In either case,  $u = v' a^{-1}$  or  $u = a v'$ .  $v = \emptyset v' a$ .

$\Rightarrow$  Are cyclic conj's as desired.

## §2: Historical Case Study.

Poincaré figured out: homology classifies 2D compact surfaces.

Motivated: 3D sphere?  $\Rightarrow$  Poincaré conjecture, ~~V1~~.

Let  $M$  compact 3D manifold. If  $H_t(M) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Q}, & t=0,3 \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$

then  $M \cong S^3$ .

Such a 3-manifold  $M$  is called: homology sphere.

Theorem (1914, Poincaré) There is a 3D homology sphere  $P$

s.t.  $\pi_1(P) \rightarrow A_5$ .  $\Rightarrow$  Moral: Homology not enough! Need  $\pi_1$ .

Poincaré Conjecture (V2)]  $M$  compact, connected 3-manifold,  
 $\pi_1(M)$  trivial. Then,  $M \cong_{\text{homeo.}} S^3$

Proved in 2003 using by Perelman!

Are there any more homology spheres?

Theorem] (1910, Dehn) There are infinitely many non-homeo  
3D homology spheres.

Remark] Isomorphism problem needed to make progress, i.e. to  
distinguish these manifolds.

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In 1911, Max Dehn posed 3 problems.

1) Word Problem: Given  $w \in A^*$ , determine if  $w=1$   
in the group  $G = \langle A | R \rangle$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Whether  $w \in \langle\langle R \rangle\rangle$ , in  $F(A)$ .)

2) Conjugacy Problem: Given  $u, v \in A^*$ , determine if  
 $u, v$  are conjugate in  $G$ .

3) Isomorphism Problem: Given  $G = \langle A, | R \rangle \cong H = \langle A', | R' \rangle$ ,  
determine if  $G \cong H$ .

# Geometric Groups: [lecture 3.]

24/01/2024.

Dehn's construction: let  $K$  trefoil knot:  $\text{Trefoil} = K$ .

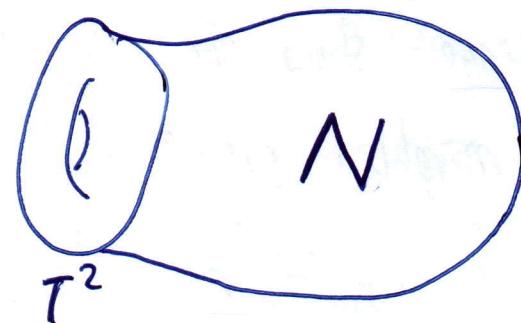
& consider  $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3 \subseteq \mathbb{S}^3$ . Denote  $\overset{\circ}{N}(K) = \text{open, regular nbhd of } K$  (i.e. "fatten up"  $K$  into a cylinder).

& define:  $N = \mathbb{S}^3 \setminus \overset{\circ}{N}(K)$ . Complement.  $\Rightarrow$  compact. &

$$H_1(N) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}, & t=0,1 \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases} \quad (\text{MV}) \qquad \partial N \cong T^2.$$

&  $\pi_1(N) = \langle x, y, z \mid x^2 = y^3 = z \rangle$ .

(redundant  $z$ , but want to name it.)



Know:  $\pi_1(N) \xrightarrow{\text{ab}} H_1(N) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ .

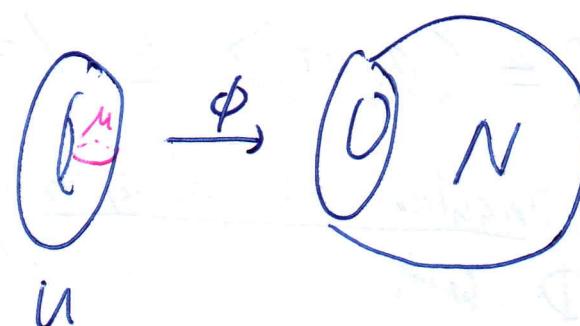
$$\begin{aligned} x &\mapsto 0^2 \\ y &\mapsto 0^3 \\ \Rightarrow z &\mapsto 0^6 \end{aligned}$$

& boundary  $T^2$  is:  $\pi_1(T^2) \cong \mathbb{Z}^2 = \langle x, y \rangle$ .

Idea: Glue  ~~$S^1 \times D^2$~~   $S^1 \times D^2$  to the border of  $N$ , to get a closed manifold.

$$\Rightarrow M_\phi = N \cup_U U.$$

$\Rightarrow M_\phi$  closed



& By SVK:  $\pi_1(M_\phi) = \pi_1(N) / \langle [g] \rangle$ ,  $g = \phi_*(\mu)$ .

&  $H_1(M_\phi) = \mathbb{Z} / \langle [g] \rangle$ .

To produce homology sphere: need to choose  $\phi$  such that:  $\sqrt{1}$

$g = \phi_{\#}(u) \mapsto 1 \text{ in } H_1(N).$   
 $\Leftrightarrow g = (x,y)^a \cdot (z)^b \text{ then: } \mapsto 5a+6b.$   
Choose:  $a = 6m+5, b = -(5m+4) \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$   
 This constructs  $\phi_n$  s.t.  $\phi_n(u) = (x,y)^a z^b = g_n$ .  
 $\Rightarrow$  gives family:  $D_n = N \cup_{\phi_n} U$ , with  $\pi_1(D_n) = \langle x, y, z \mid x^3 = y^3 = z^5 \rangle$   
Challenge: show that  $D_n$  have different  $\pi_1$ .  
 (Isomorphism problem!)

Note If  $G_n \cong G_m$ , then  $g_n$  conj to  $g_m$  in  $\pi_1(N)$  so:  
 $g_n = g_m$  in  $\pi_1(N)$ . So, need to solve CP for  $g_n \in \pi_1(N)$ .

### §3: Van Kampen Diagrams.

DEF] A map of cell complexes  $Y \xrightarrow{f} X$  is combinatorial, if:  
 $\forall k \Leftrightarrow \forall k\text{-cell } e^k \text{ of } Y, f$  maps  $e^k$  homeomorphically  
 to interior of  $k$ -cell of  $X$ .  $\Delta \hookrightarrow \triangle$

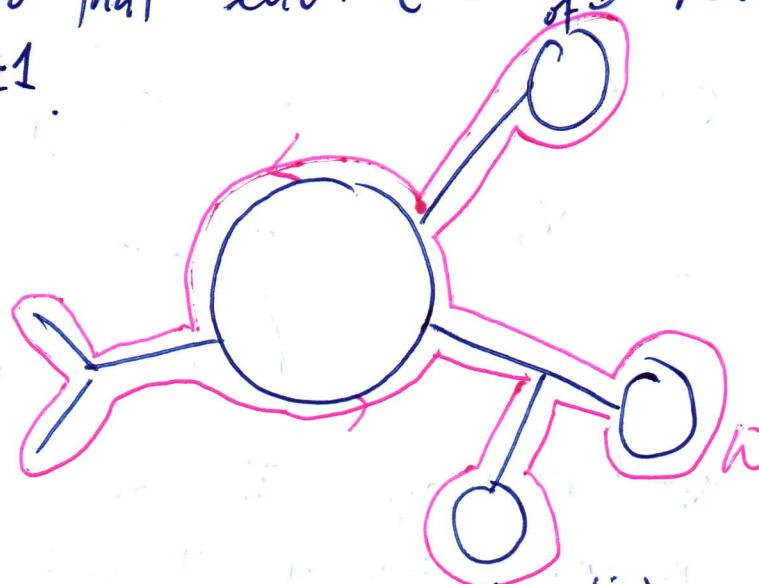
Consider:  $G = \langle a_i \mid r_j \rangle \Leftrightarrow X = \text{associated cell complex.}$

DEF] A singular disc diagram is: compact & contractible  
 $2$ -complex  $D$  with embedding  $D \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ .



Disc diagram  $D$  is over  $X \Leftrightarrow$  equipped with a combinatorial map  $D \rightarrow X$ .

$\Leftrightarrow$  Every oriented 1-cell of  $X$  is labelled with: some  $a_i \in A$ , so that: each 2-cell of  $D$  reads a cyclic conj of some  $r_j^{\pm 1}$ .

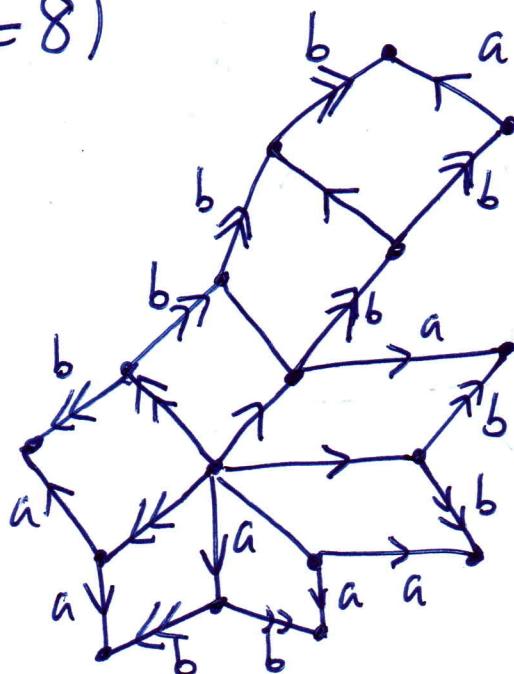


Boundary cycle.

The boundary cycle reads a (cyclic) word  $w \in A^*$ , that reduces to an element  $w' \in \langle\langle r_i \rangle\rangle \leq f(A)$ .  
 $D$  is said to be Van-Kampen diagram for  $w$ .

Example:  $G = \langle a, b \mid aba^{-1}b^{-1} \rangle$ ,  $w = b^{-1}b^3a^{-1}b^{-2}ab^{-1}ba^{-1} - ab^{-1}ba^{-1}a$ .  
 $\Rightarrow$  Has the following Vkt-diagram.

(Area = 8)



# Geometric Group Theory: lecture 4.)

26/01/2024

[let:  $G = \langle A|R \rangle = FA/\langle\langle R \rangle\rangle$ . Group presentation.]

Lemma (VK-lemma) If  $w \in \langle\langle R \rangle\rangle$ :  $\exists$  VK-diagram for  $w$ .

Proof  $w \in \langle\langle R \rangle\rangle \Rightarrow w = \prod_{i=1}^k h_i r_i^{\pm 1} h_i^{-1}$  for  $r_i \in R$  (normal closure)

$\Rightarrow$  Draw the "lollipop diagram":

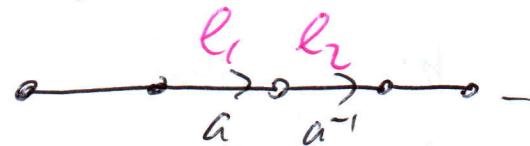
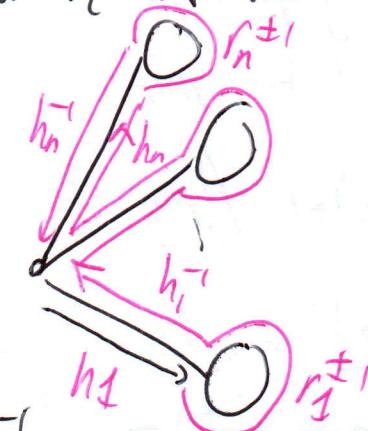
If call this word  $w_0 \in F(A)$ .

If  $w_0$  is reduced:  $\Rightarrow w = w_0$  in  $G$ ,

so have the diagram.

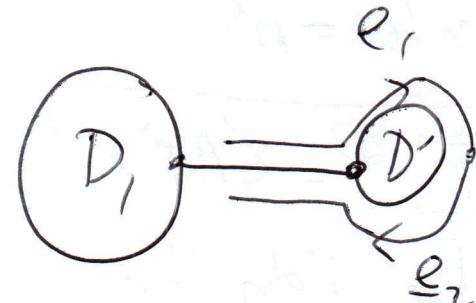
Else:  $w_0$  contains cancelling pair  $a a^{-1}$ .

(for: some  $a, a^{-1} \in A \cup A^{-1}$ ).



There are 2 cases to consider:

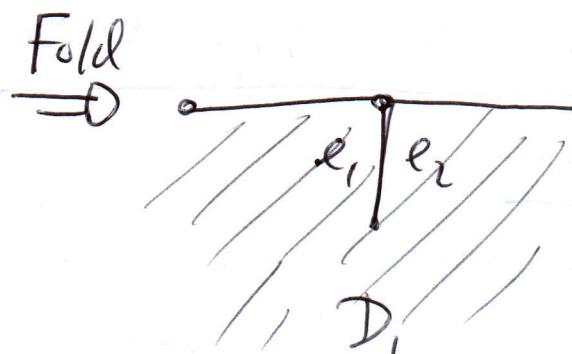
1) If origin of  $e_1$  & terminates:



$\Rightarrow D_0 = D_1 \vee D'$ .

$\Rightarrow D_1$  is VK-diagram for  $w$ .

2) Origin of  $e_1$  is distinct from terminus of  $e_2$ .



$\Rightarrow$  In either case:  $w_1 = 2D_1$  is obtained by cancelling (from  $w_0$ ) a pair. So, can proceed finitely many times □

to get such VK-diagram.

$\Rightarrow$  Construct VK-diagram for  $D_n$  s.t.  $\omega_n = 2D_n$ , and:  
 $\omega_n = \omega \cdot S_0$ ,  $\omega_n = \omega$  in  $G$ , so  $D_n$  is VK-diag for  $\omega$

Remark) Minimal # of 2-cells in VK-diagram for  $\omega$  is equivalent to: minimal  $k$  s.t.  $\omega = \prod_{i=1}^k h_i r_i^{+/-} h_i^{-1}$ .

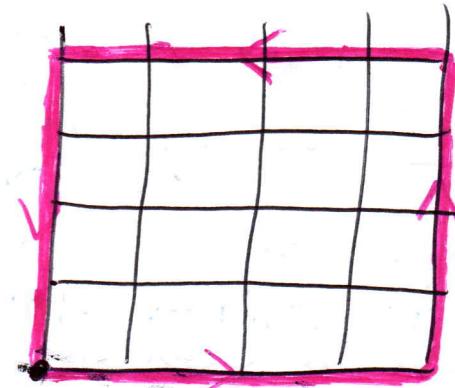
$k$  is called Area for  $\omega$ .

Example]  $G = \mathbb{Z}^2 = \langle a, b \mid [a, b] \rangle$ .  $\Leftrightarrow \omega = a^n b^n a^{-n} b^{-n}$ .

Has:  $\text{area}(D) = n^2 \sim C \cdot \ell(\omega)^2$ .

In fact, this is minimal! So,

$\text{area}(\omega) = n^2$ .



DEF]  $P = \langle A|R \rangle$  finite presentation for  $G$ .

Define Dehn function  $\delta_P: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\ell \mapsto \max(\text{Area}(\omega))$  s.t.  $\omega \in \langle R \rangle$  and  $\ell(\omega) = \ell$ .

Remark] Word problem solvable for  $P$

$\Leftrightarrow$  Dehn function for  $P$  is computable.

## II: Basics of Geometric Group Theory.

### §1: Cayley Graphs.

A graph is a 1-dimensional cell complex.

For  $G$  group:  $\Leftrightarrow S \subset G$  finite generating set.

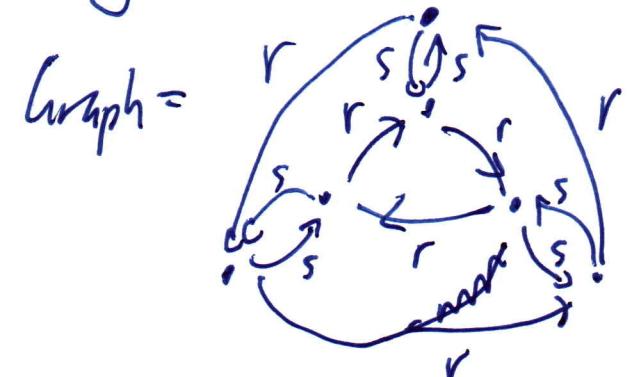
DEF] Cayley graph  $\text{Cay}_S(G)$  defined by:

- Vertices of graph is  $G$
- Edges of graph are: well, they correspond bijectively with  $G \times S \xrightarrow{g} gS$  (action on RIGHT).

Examples •  $1 \cong \langle a, b \mid a, b \rangle$

$$\text{Graph} = \begin{matrix} a \\ \downarrow \\ a \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} b \\ \downarrow \\ b \end{matrix}$$

•  $S_3 = \langle r, s \mid srsr, r^3, s^2 \rangle$



•  $\mathbb{Z} = \langle 1 \rangle$

•  $\mathbb{Z} = \langle 2, 3 \rangle$

Note:  $G \curvearrowright G$  (acting by mult. on left) extends to action

$G \curvearrowright \text{Cays}(G)$  by:

$\cong G \curvearrowright \text{Cays}(G)$  Free, i.e.  $\text{Stab}_G(x) = 1 \forall x \in \text{Cays}(G)$ .

Prop] (Cayley graphs  $\cong$  Pres quots).

Let:  $G = \langle S \mid R \rangle$ ,  $X$  presentation complex. Then,  $\exists$   $G$ -equiv isomorphism of graphs:  $\text{Cays}(G) \cong \tilde{X}_{(1)}$ .

$[\tilde{X}_{(1)} = 1\text{-skeleton of universal cover } \tilde{X}]$

# Geometric Group Theory : [lecture 5]

29/01/2024.

Proof (of Cayley graphs & presentation complexes).

Consider: Natural & Free action of  $\mathcal{G}$  on  $\tilde{X}$  (by deck trans) ( $\mathcal{G} = \pi_1(X)$ ).

Note: this action is by ~~combinations~~ Combinatorial automorphs, so: this restricts to an action on  $\tilde{X}_{(1)}$ .

$\exists h \in \mathcal{G}$ , sending verts  $\rightarrow$  verts & edges  $\rightarrow$  edges.

The action of  $\mathcal{G}$  on  $\tilde{X}_{(0)}$  is: free & Transitive

$\Rightarrow \forall \tilde{x}_0 \in \tilde{X}$  vertex:  $\exists \mathcal{G}$ -equiv bijection  $h \rightarrow \tilde{x}_{(0)}$   
 (by Orbit-Stabiliser).  $g \mapsto g\tilde{x}_0$

This matches up vertices (as claimed).

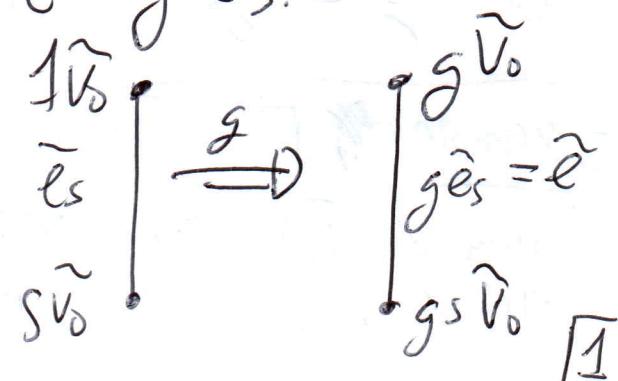
Edges: For each  $s \in S$ : denote  $e_s$  = edge corresponding to  $s$ , on  $X$ .  $\hat{e}_s$  = unique lift of  $e_s$  to  $\tilde{X}$ , starting at  $\tilde{x}_0$ .

$\Rightarrow$  By ~~the~~ def. of action  $\mathcal{G} \curvearrowright \tilde{X}$ :

$\hat{e}_s$  ends at  $\tilde{s}\tilde{x}_0$ .

& An arbitrary edge  $\hat{e}$  of  $\tilde{X}$  maps to some  $e_s$  (under covering map), so:  $\exists g \in \mathcal{G}, \hat{e} = g \cdot \hat{e}_s$ .

$\Rightarrow$   $\mathcal{G}$ -equivariant map  $h \rightarrow \tilde{x}_{(0)}$   
extends to  $\mathcal{G}$ -equivariant isomorphism ✓



The next prop. deepens relation (generating  $\leftrightarrow$  path connectedness).

Prop] let:  $\tilde{X}$  path-connected space.  $\cong G \cap \tilde{X}$  by homeomorph.  
If  $\forall U \subseteq \tilde{X}$  open  $\cong G(U) = \tilde{X}$ , then:  $S = \{ g \in G : gU \cap u \neq \emptyset \}$   
generates  $G$ .

Proof] Fix basepoint  $\tilde{x}_0 \in U \subseteq \tilde{X}$ . For  $g \in G$ , let

$\gamma: [0,1] \rightarrow \tilde{X}$  path from  $\tilde{x}_0$  to  $g\tilde{x}_0$ .

$\Rightarrow$  The set  $\{\gamma^{-1}(hu) : h \in G\}$  is: an open cover of the compact set  $[0,1]$ , hence has finite subcover.

Say  $\{\gamma^{-1}(u_1), \dots, \gamma^{-1}(u_n)\}$ ,  $u_i = h_i U$  & choose indices

so that  $\underset{x_0}{\overset{\tilde{x}_0}{\gamma}} \in \gamma^{-1}(u_1) \& \gamma^{-1}(u_i) \cap \gamma^{-1}(u_{i+1}) \neq \emptyset \ \forall i$ .

$g\tilde{x}_0 \in \gamma^{-1}(u_n)$ .

By def.:  $\tilde{x}_0 \in U \cap u_1 = U \cap g_1 U \Rightarrow g_1 \in S$ .

Similarly:  $\forall i, t_i \in \gamma^{-1}(u_i) \cap \gamma^{-1}(u_{i+1})$ :

$\Rightarrow x_i = \gamma(t_i) \in U_i \cap U_{i+1} = g_i U \cap g_{i+1} U$ .

$= g_i (U \cap g_{i+1}^{-1} g_i U)$ .

So,  $g_i^{-1} g_{i+1} \in S$ . Call it:  $s_i$ .

Then,  $g = (g_1)(g_1^{-1} g_2) - (g_{n-1} \underbrace{g_n}_{\in S}) \in \langle S \rangle \checkmark$

Example  $\Gamma \leq \text{Isom}(\mathbb{R}^2)$  Symmetry group of standard filling of Equilateral triangles.

$\Rightarrow$  Using prop: can show  $\Gamma$  generated by reflections of sides of a single  $\Delta$ .  $\checkmark$

DEF] An action  $G \ni \tilde{x}$  properly discontinuous, if:

$\forall K \subseteq \tilde{X}$  compact,  $|\{g \in G : gK \cap K \neq \emptyset\}| < \infty$ .

$\underline{\text{L}} \underline{\text{e}}$   $G \cap \tilde{X}$  ω-compact  $\Leftrightarrow \exists K$  compact, s.t.  $\{gK\}$  cover  $\tilde{X}$

~~¶~~.  $\underline{\text{L}} \underline{\text{e}}$   $\tilde{X}$  locally compact  $\Leftrightarrow \forall x \in \tilde{X} \ \& \ \forall U \ni x$  nbhood,

~~¶~~  $\exists$  open  $U \ni V \ni x$  s.t.  $\overline{V} \subseteq U$   $\underline{\text{L}} \underline{\text{e}}$   $\overline{V}$  compact.

Corollary] If  $\not\perp G \ni \tilde{x}$  prop discts.  $\underline{\text{L}} \underline{\text{e}}$  cocompact and  
 $\tilde{X}$  is path-connected  $\underline{\text{L}} \underline{\text{e}}$  locally compact, then:  $G$  is f.g.

Proof] Let  $K$  compact, s.t.  $GK = \tilde{X}$ . By locally compact:  
may find  $U$  s.t.  $K \subseteq U$   $\underline{\text{L}} \underline{\text{e}}$   $\overline{U}$  compact.

In particular:  $GU = \tilde{X} \ \underline{\text{L}} \underline{\text{e}} \ S = \{g : gU \cap U \neq \emptyset\}$   
 $\subseteq \{g : g\overline{U} \cap \overline{U} \neq \emptyset\}$  finite (by prop discts)  
 $\Rightarrow S$  is finite + Generating set for  $G$ . ✓

# "Geometric" Group Theory: lecture 6]

31/01/2024.

Corollary] If  $X$  Locally compact & Compact, and has a universal cover (SEMI-Locally SIMPLY CONNECTED) then  $\pi_1(X)$  is finitely generated. [Sheet 1]

## §2: Schwarz - Milner Lemma.]

Cayley graphs not just Combinatorial  $\Rightarrow$  Admit a natural metric (Word metric).

DEF] (Word metric). Say  $S \subseteq G$  generates  $G$ . Then  $l_S(g)$  =  $\min \{n : \exists s_1, s_n \in S, g = s_1^{\pm 1} \cdots s_n^{\pm 1}\}$ .

$\leq$  Metric  $d_S(g, h) = l_S(g^{-1}h)$ . [Obviously a metric.]

The Word Metric is: invariant under LEFT-action of  $G$  on itself.

Example]  $G = \mathbb{Z}^2 \Rightarrow$  Manhattan Distance.

Remark]  $d_S$  extends naturally to  $\mathbb{Q}$ -left  $G$ -invariant metric on  $\text{Cays}(G)$ , where: each edge  $\overset{n}{\underset{\text{interior of locally}}{\sim}}$  isometric to  $[0, 1]$ .

Lemma] Say:  $S, T$  generate  $G$ . Then,  $\exists C, C' \geq 1$ , with:

$$\frac{1}{C} d_T \leq d_S \leq C' d_T. \quad (S, T \text{ FINITE generating sets})$$

Proof] Denote  $C = \max_{S \in S} l_T(S)$ .  $\Rightarrow l_T(g) \leq C \cdot l_S(g) \checkmark$

$\Rightarrow$  For f.g. groups  $G$ : word metric ~~egrio~~ well-defined up to Lipschitz equivalence.

DEF] A map  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  (of Metric spaces) Quasi-isometric P1

embedding if:  $\exists C, \gamma > 1, D \geq 0$  with:

$$\frac{1}{C} d_X(x, x') + -D \leq d_Y(f(x), f(x')) \leq C d_X(x, x') + D.$$

If also  $\exists K$  s.t.  $\forall y \in Y, \exists x \in X, d(y, f(x)) \leq K$ , "Quasi Surjective"  
 $\Leftrightarrow$  write:  $X \xrightarrow{\text{q.i.}} Y$ . (Exercise:  $\xrightarrow{\text{q.i.}}$  is equiv rel!) isometry.

Example: All bounded metric spaces are  $\xrightarrow{\text{q.i.}}$  to a point.

[DEF] Metric  $X$  proper  $\Leftrightarrow$  closed balls of  $X$  are compact.

A Geodesic in  $X$  is isometric embedding  $[o_{11}] \hookrightarrow X$ .

$\Leftrightarrow X$  geodesic if:  $\forall x, y \in X, \exists \gamma: [o_{11}]$  geodesic,  $\gamma(o) = x, \gamma(1) = y$ .

### Theorem (Schwarz-Milner Lemma)

Suppose:  $X$  proper, geodesic metric space.  $\Leftrightarrow$  Let  $G \supset X$  prop-discretely  $\Leftrightarrow$  co-compactly via isometries. Then:  $G$  f.g.  $\Leftrightarrow X \xrightarrow{\text{q.i.}} (G, d_S)$   $\forall$  word metric  $d_S$ . (S finite d.h.)

[PROOF] Fix base point  $x_0 \in X$ .  $\Leftrightarrow B = \overline{B}(x_0, K) \subseteq X$  big enough so  $gB = X$ .

By properness + prop discontinuity:  $\{g \in G : d(x_0, gx_0) \leq 3K\}$  finite  
 $\Rightarrow \exists \varepsilon > 0$  st.  $d(x_0, gx_0) \leq 2K + \varepsilon \Leftrightarrow d(x_0, gx_0) \leq 2K$ .  
 $\Rightarrow gB \cap B \neq \emptyset$  (B closed)

# Geometric Group Theory: lecture 7]

02/02/2024.

Theorem (Schwarz-Milner).

$X$  proper, geodesic MS.  $\Leftrightarrow G \curvearrowright X$  prop. distally  $\Leftrightarrow$  co-compactly  
 (by isometries). Then:  $G$  f.g.  $\Leftrightarrow \boxed{X \cong (G, ds) \forall S \subseteq G}$  finite + generating.

Proof (continued).

Showed:  $\exists \varepsilon > 0$ , s.t.  $\forall g \in G: d(x_0, gx_0) \leq 2K$   
 $\Leftrightarrow d(x_0, gx_0) < 2K + \varepsilon$ .

$\Rightarrow$  For  $U = B(x_0, K + \varepsilon/2)$ :  $\Rightarrow S = \{g \in G : g \cap U \neq \emptyset\} = \{g \in G : d(x_0, gx_0) < \varepsilon\}$

Since  $B$  compact:  $\Rightarrow S$  finite (since  $G \curvearrowright X$  properly distal).

& By earlier prop. applied to  $U$ :  $G = \langle S \rangle$

Since all finite generating sets are Bilipschitz: may prove result for this  $S$ .

Consider: map  $f: G \rightarrow X$  Claim:  $f$  quasi-isometry.  
 $g \mapsto gx_0$ .

Know:  $f$  quasi-surjective, because  $GB = X$ .

$\Rightarrow$  Remains to show:  $f$  is quasi-embedding.

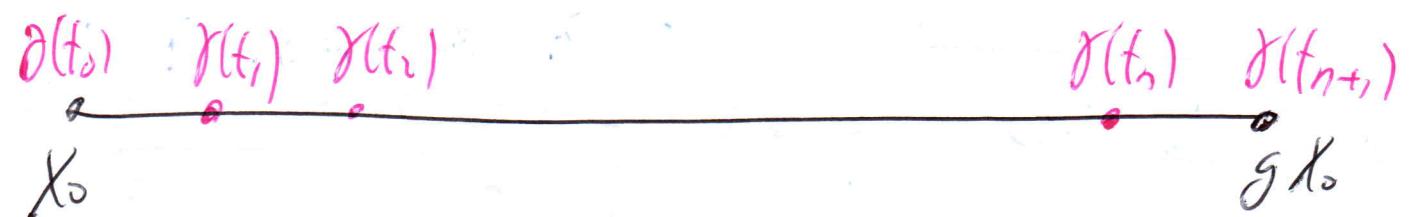
$\Leftarrow$  need: Upper + Lower bounds of  $d(x_0, gx_0)$  wrt  $l_S(g)$

Upper Bound:  $C = \max_{S \subseteq S} d(x_0, gx_0)$

$\Rightarrow \forall g \in G, d(x_0, gx_0) \leq C l_S(g)$  (using  $\Delta$ -ineq)

Lower Bound: Let  $\gamma$  geodesic between  $x_0, gx_0$ . □

i.e.  $\delta: [0, d(x_0, gx_0)] \rightarrow X$ . & Dissect interval:

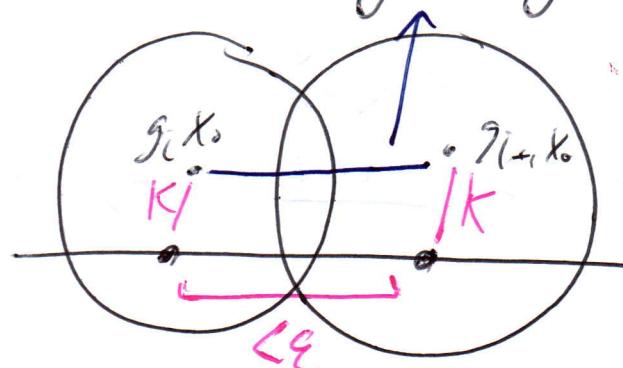


$0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n < t_{n+1} = \delta(x_0, gx_0)$ , s.t.:

$\epsilon > t_i - t_{i-1} \geq \frac{\epsilon}{2} \quad \forall 1 \leq i \leq n$  (Note: nothing said about  $t_{n+1}$ )

Since  $\text{GB} = X \quad \forall 1 \leq i \leq n$ : choose balls  $g_i B$ ,  
 s.t.  $\delta(t_i) \in g_i B \quad \forall 1 \leq i \leq n$ . ( $\Leftrightarrow g_0 = 1, g_{n+1} = g$ )

$\Rightarrow \forall 1 \leq i \leq n+1: d(g_i x_0, g_{i+1} x_0) < 2K + \epsilon$ .



$\Rightarrow g_{i+1}^{-1} g_i \in \{h \in G : \bigcap_{u \in g_i B} h u \neq \emptyset\}$ .

$\Rightarrow l_S(g) \leq n+1$ .

Furthermore:  $t_i - t_{i-1} \geq \frac{\epsilon}{2} \Rightarrow d(x_0, g_i x_0) \geq n\epsilon/2$ .

Combine  $\Rightarrow l_S(g) \leq \frac{n}{\epsilon} d(x_0, gx_0) + 1$ .

Rearrange  $\Rightarrow$  get desired lower bound ✓

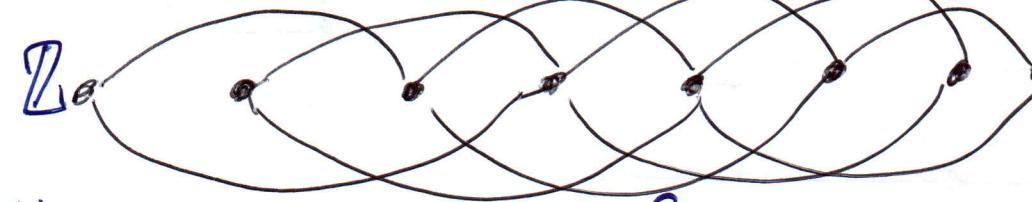
Example Any 2 Cayley graphs for  $G$  with sets  $S_1, S_2$

are quasi-isometric.

In particular:  $\text{Cay}_{\{1\}}(\mathbb{Z}) \cong \text{Cay}_{\{2,3\}}(\mathbb{Z})$ .

$\mathbb{D}$  

$\prod q_i$



"if you look them from far away they look the same"

Corollary] If  $G$  f.g.  $\Leftrightarrow |G:H| < \infty$  then  $H$  f.g. and

Proof] Note  $H \curvearrowright \text{Cay}_{\text{S}}(G)$  co-compact (since  $\frac{G}{H} \cong \mathbb{Z}^n$  and  $|G:H| < \infty$ ). So, it satisfies S-M, so  $H \cong \text{Cays}(G) \cong G$ .  $\checkmark$

Example]  $\Sigma_2 = \text{w w}$   $G = \pi_1(\Sigma_2)$ .

Choose: Riemannian metric on  $\Sigma_2$  with constant curvature  $-1$ .

This pulls back to: Riemannian metric on  $\widetilde{\Sigma}_2$ .

$\Leftrightarrow$  By classic Diff geo:  $\widetilde{\Sigma}_2 \xrightarrow{\text{isom}} \mathbb{H}^2$ . Hence,  $\pi_2(\Sigma_2) \curvearrowright \mathbb{H}^2$  by isom.

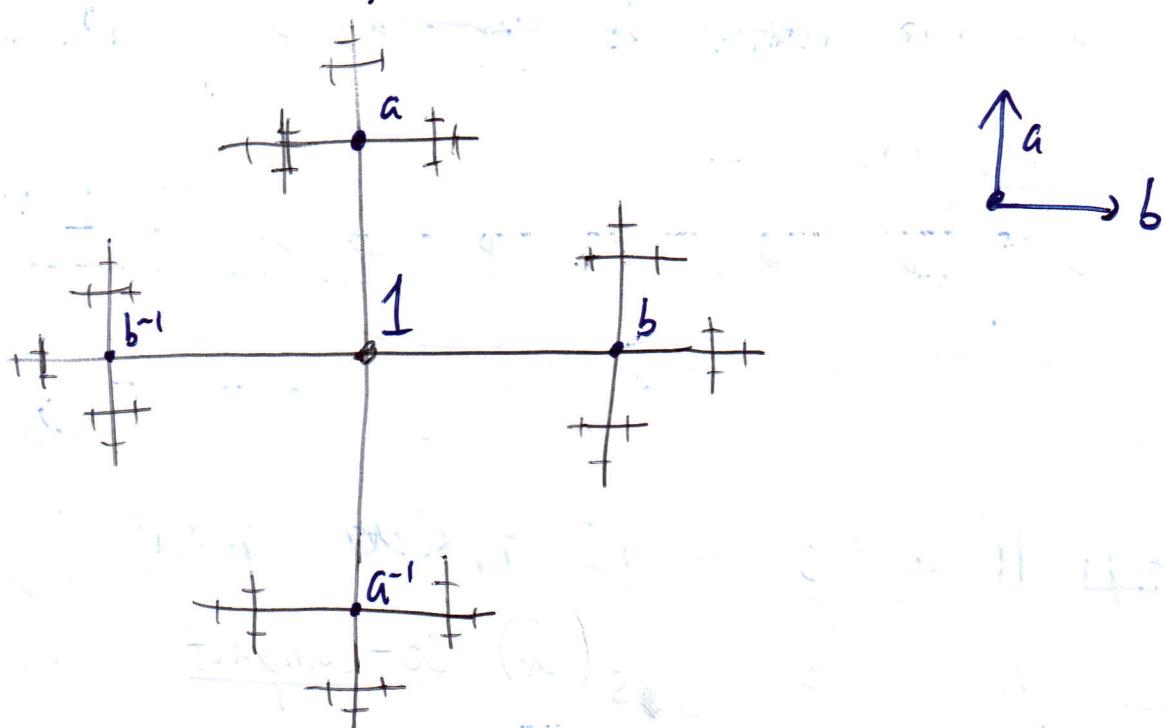
These actions are: properly discrete  $\Leftrightarrow$  co-compact, because  $\Sigma_2$  compact. So, by SM-lemma:  $\pi_1(\Sigma_2)$  quasi-isometric to  $\mathbb{H}^2$ .

§3: Free Groups.] Let  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  finite alphabet,

and:  $F_n = F(A_n)$ . free group.

The Cayley-Tree is: the  $(2n)$ -valent tree  $T_n$ :

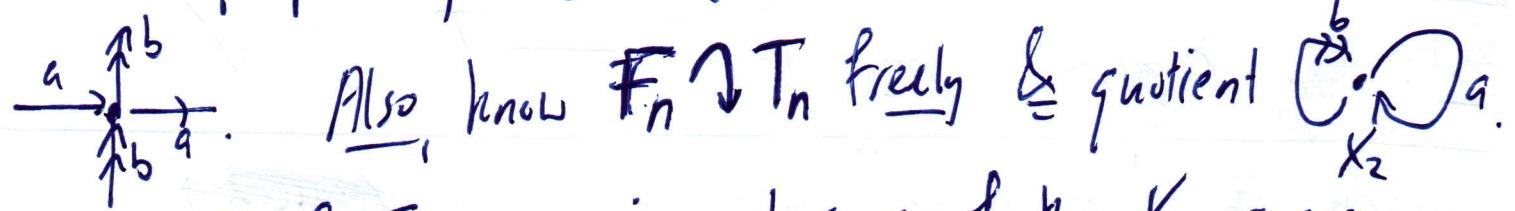
$n=2$ :



# Geometric Group Theory: lecture 8

[05/02/2024]

In free group  $F_2$ ,  $T_2 = \text{Cay}(F_2)$ . Each vertex looks like



Recover  $F_n \cong T_n$  as universal cover of the  $X_n$  spaces.

Can: translate our combinatorial arguments about  $F_n$  with geometric properties about  $T_n$ .

1) Words of  $F_n$ :  $\forall w \in A^*$ , is equivalent to edge path

~~w~~:  $I \rightarrow X_n$  ( $I = \text{some interval}$ ).

$\hookrightarrow$  This edge-path lifts to a unique path in  $T_n$  based at 1.  
[Conversely, any such path projects to path in  $X_n$ .]

2) Reduced Words:  $w \in A^*$  reduced  $\iff$  this path  $w$  is locally injective  $\iff$   $w: I \rightarrow T_n$  locally injective.

(Since: edge path can only fail to be locally injective, at a vertex.)

Clearly: Shortest path in  $T_n$  from  $1 \rightarrow g \in F_n$  is injective, so: every element is represented by a reduced word.

The fact that this representative is unique, follows

from next lemma!

Lemma:  $T$  tree  $\cong$  ~~w~~:  $I \rightarrow T$  locally injective (edge) path.

Then:  $\gamma$  injective (globally).

Proof] Let  $\gamma: [a, b] \rightarrow T$  shortest counterexample.

Then:  $\gamma(a) = \gamma(b)$  (else, shrink to make smaller)

But: then,  $\gamma$  gives a map  $\tilde{\gamma}: S^1 \rightarrow T$   $\cancel{\text{ }} \checkmark$

Similarly, if  $g$  is shortest word that can be ~~reduced~~ represented by 2 distinct reduced words, then get  $S^1 \hookrightarrow T$   $\cancel{\text{ }} \checkmark$   
 $\Rightarrow$  Reduced maps are unique. Denote:  $[1, g]$  unique path  $1 \xrightarrow{g} \text{in } T_n$ .

### 3) Cyclically Reduced WORDS

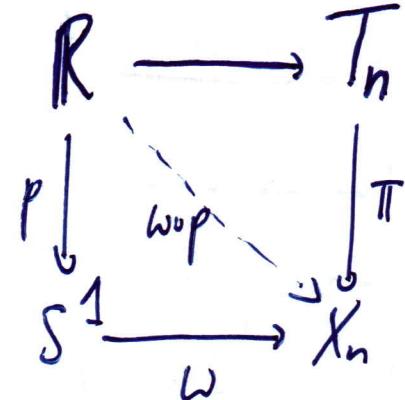
Each word  $w \in A^*$  also defines: (based) edge loop, by gluing endpoints of interval.

$\Rightarrow$  If we forget basepoint of  $S^1$ , then 2 elements  $u, v \in A^*$  determine same cyclic word  $\Leftrightarrow$  Represent same edge loop  $S^1 \xrightarrow{w} X_n$ .  
 $\Rightarrow w \in A^*$  cyclically reduced  $\Leftrightarrow$  Corresponding map  $S^1 \xrightarrow{w} X_n$  is locally injective.

The composition map  $w \circ p: R \rightarrow X_n$

lifts to  $T_n$ .  $\tilde{w}_*: R \xrightarrow{p} T_n$ .

Example  $w = ab^2$ . 



By lemma: since  $\exists$   $\tilde{w}$  locally inj:  $\Rightarrow$  Globally injective  $\tilde{w}$ .

(call: image( $\tilde{w}$ ) axis of  $w$ .  $\tilde{w}$  acts by translating axis.)

By def of Action of  $T_n$  on  $T_n$ : Can think  $w$  as Deck transf. of  $T_n$ , and preserves axis of  $w$ .  $\tilde{w}$  translates axis of  $w$  by  $d(w)$ . This is called: Translation Length of  $w$ ,  $T(w)$ .

# Geometric Group Theory: lecture 9

07/02/2024

A geometric soln. to Conjugacy problem follows from next lemma:

Lemma] let  $u, v \in F_n$  cyclically reduced. If  $u, v$  are conjugate, then  $\exists g \in F_n$ , with  $l(g) \leq \frac{1}{2}(l(u) + l(v))$ , with:  $u = gvg^{-1}$ .

The CP follows, because by lemma, need to check  $u = gvg^{-1}$  for finitely many  $g$ , and: each can be checked by WP.

Remark] Not all  $g$  that satisfy  $u = gvg^{-1}$  has  $l(g) \leq$  bound.

E.g.  $u = (gv^k)v(gv^k)^{-1} \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}$ . ]

$\underline{\&} u = (u^lg)v(a^{lg})^{-1} \quad \forall l \in \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}$ . ]

[In fact, such conjugates form a Double coset  $\langle u \rangle g \langle v \rangle$ .]

Proof of Lemma] Suppose  $\exists g$ ,  $u = gvg^{-1}$ , and pick  $g$  such that  $l(g)$  minimal. First, make 2 remarks:

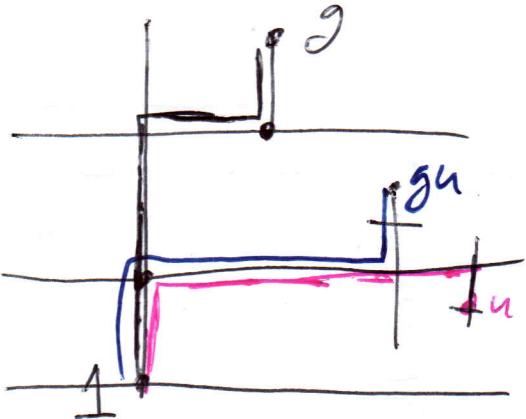
1) If  $u \in [1, g]$  then: ~~g = uh~~  $g = uh$ .

$\Rightarrow u = hvh^{-1} \underline{\&} l(h) < l(g)$  ~~h~~

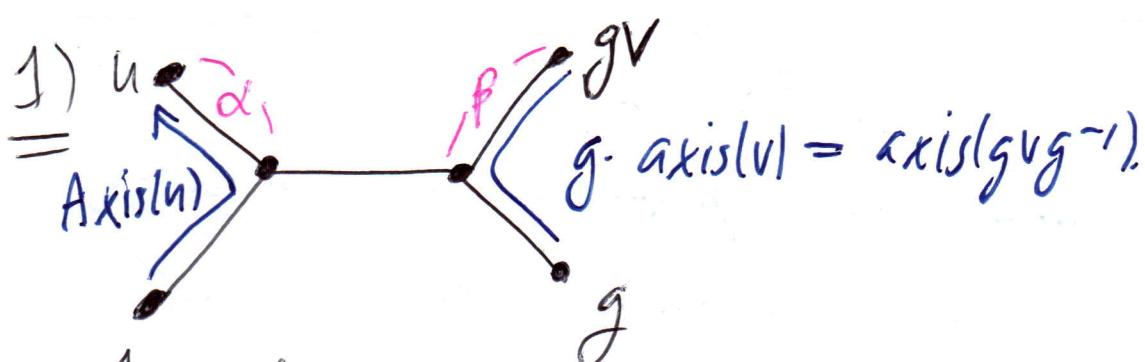
2) Similarly, if  $v \in [1, g^{-1}]$ , then get  $l(g)$  not minimal.

~~Idea~~: Consider Convex hull of  $\{1, g, u, gv\}$ .

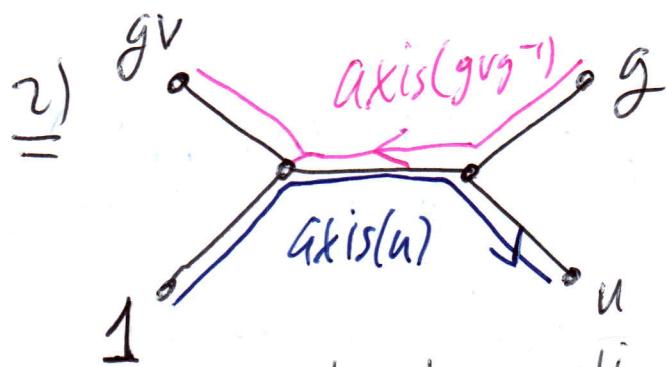
[Convex hull = Union of all shortest paths between the pairs of points in the set] [1]



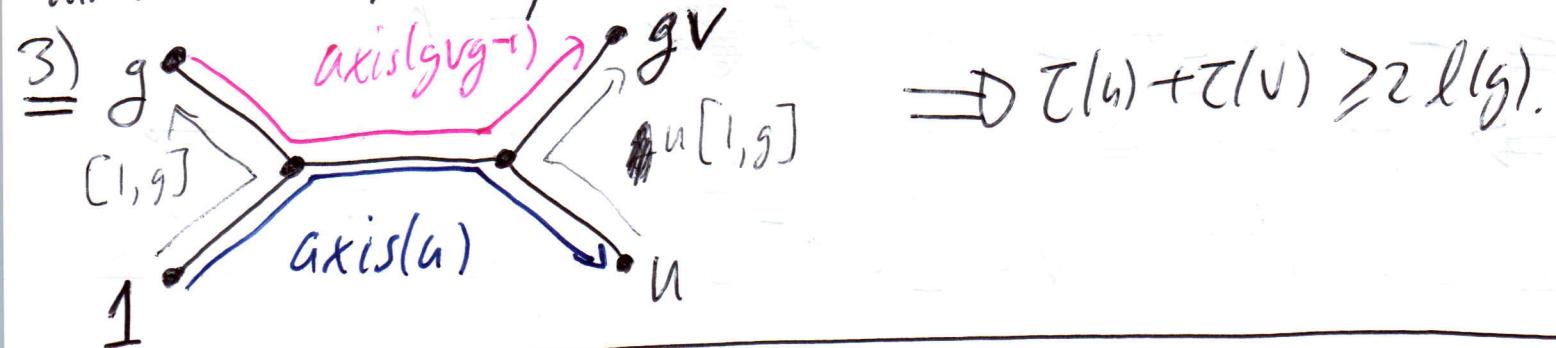
There are only 3 different combinatorial types for the convex hull: (including degenerate cases):



Normality  $\Rightarrow l(\alpha), l(\beta) > 0$ . Hence:  $\text{Axis}(u) \cap \text{Axis}(gvg^{-1}) = \emptyset \Rightarrow u \neq gvg^{-1}$ .



If central interval positive length  $\Rightarrow$  Translates in different directions  $\Rightarrow$  Not equal. (Since, axes should be same!)



#### §4: Subgroups of Free Groups.

Prop]  $X$  undirected Graph, connected. Then  $\pi_1(X)$  free

Proof] ( $X$  countable):  $T \subseteq X$  maximal tree  $\Leftrightarrow \{e_i\}_{i \geq 1}$  edges not in  $T$ .

Let  $X = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} X_n$ ,  $X_n = T \cup \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ .  $\square$

# Geometric Group Theory: lecture 10

09/02/2024

From last time: [Prop] If  $X$  ctable connected graph, then  $\pi_1(X)$  is free. [True if  $X$  not countable.]

Proof [Constructed]:  $T \subseteq X$  maximal free,  $X \setminus T = \{e_1, e_2, \dots\}$ .  
 $\& X_n = X \cup \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  has ~~free~~  $\pi_1(X) = \bigcup_{n \geq 1} \pi_1(X_n)$ .

Denote:  $v_0 \in T$  basepoint.

Note:  $X_{n+1} = X_n \cup e_{n+1} = X_n \cup (\gamma_n \cup \{v_0\})$ .

$\&$  By Seifert VK:  $\pi_1(X_{n+1}) = \pi_1(X_n) * \pi_1(e_{n+1})$ .

$\Rightarrow$  By induction,  $\pi_1(X_n) \cong \langle \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \rangle$ . Finite case ✓

For infinite case, any loop  $\gamma \subseteq X$  compact  $\Rightarrow$  contained in some  $X_n$ .  $\& \pi_1(X)$  generated by  $\langle \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \dots \rangle$ .

$\Rightarrow \exists$  Surjection  $F_{\alpha} = \langle \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots \rangle \xrightarrow{\sim} \pi_1(X)$

Claim:  $\eta$  injective.

$$\alpha_i \mapsto D\alpha_i$$

If  $\gamma \in \ker(\eta)$  (or a loop corresponding to such an element):

then,  $\exists n, \gamma \subseteq X_n \Rightarrow \gamma$  lies in kernel of  $\pi_1(X_n) \rightarrow \pi_1(X)$ .

Since  $X_n$  retract of  $X$ : (i.e. inclusion  $X_n \hookrightarrow X$  has a left-inverse  $r: X \rightarrow X_n$ ): every loop  $\gamma \subseteq X_n$  is null-homotopic in  $X$  is also null-homotopic in  $X_n$

$\Rightarrow \gamma = 1$  in  $\pi_1(X_n) \subseteq F_{\alpha}$  ✓

Corollary] If  $G \curvearrowright T$  ( $T$  tree) is free action then  $G$  free.

Proof] The action  $G \curvearrowright T$  is: Covering space action, so:

$X = G \setminus T$  is a graph.  $\Rightarrow G = \pi_1(X)$ , so  $G$  free ✓

Corollary] (Nielsen-Schreier Thm). If  $H \leq F_n$  then  $H$  free.

Proof] Let  $T = \text{Cayley tree of } F_n$ , so  $F_n \curvearrowright T$  freely.

Restrict action to  ~~$H$~~ :  $H \curvearrowright T$  freely, so  $H$  is ~~free~~ free.

### III: Bass-Serre Theory

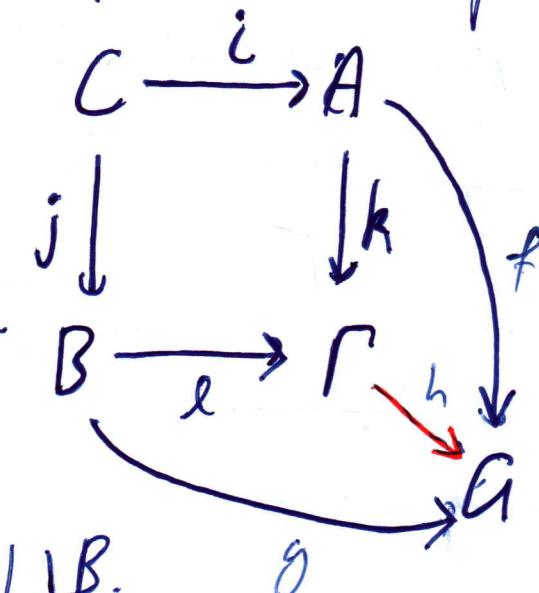
Study: Groups acting on Trees (not necessarily freely)

Will see: how to glue groups together / cut them into pieces.

DEF] A comm diag of groups

is Pushout if:  $f \circ i = g \circ j$

$\Rightarrow \exists ! h: \Gamma \rightarrow G, g = h \circ l, f = h \circ k$ .



Exercise:  $\Gamma$  is Unique map, up

to unique isomorphism. Write:  $\Gamma = A \sqcup B$ .

Theorem] (SVK). Suppose:  $K, L$  sub-complexes of  $X = K \sqcup L$ , s.t.  $K, L, K \cap L$  path-connected. Then:  $\pi_1(X) = \pi_1(K) \sqcup_{\pi_1(K \cap L)} \pi_1(L)$ .

Exercise]  $A = \langle S_A | R_A \rangle, B = \langle S_B | R_B \rangle$ .

$\mathbb{G} = \langle \sum_i 1 \cdot \rangle$ .

Let:  $\hat{i}: \Sigma \rightarrow F(S_A)$  &  $\hat{j}: \Sigma \rightarrow F(S_B)$  represent  $i, j$ .

Then:  $A \sqcup_{\mathbb{G}} B = \langle S_A, S_B | R_A, R_B, \{ \hat{j}\hat{i}(\sigma)\hat{j}(\sigma)^{-1} : \sigma \in \Sigma \} \rangle$ .  $\square$

Example] If  ~~$A \sqcup B \cong 1$~~ , then:  $A \sqcup 1 \cong A / \langle\langle c \rangle\rangle$ .

DEF] If  $i_{i,j}$  injective, then:  $\Gamma = A \underset{c}{\ast} B$  Amalgamated Free Product of  $A, B$ . In particular, if  $c \cong 1$  then  $\Gamma = A \ast B$ .

(Free product)

Theorem] (Britton's Lemma):

The Vertex Group  $A$  (or  $B$ ) inject into  $A \underset{c}{\ast} B$ .

Remark] Not true (in general) for pushouts!

E.g.  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2$   $\Rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2 \underset{\mathbb{Z}}{\sqcup} \mathbb{Z}/3 \cong 1$ .

Next time: Prove it.

# Geometric Group Theory: lecture 11

12/02/2024

From last time:

Theorem (Britton's Lemma). The vertex groups  $A, B$  inject into  $A \underset{C}{\ast} B = G$ .

To prove it: Construct "Graphs of Spaces"  $X_i$  s.t.  $G \cong \pi_1(X)$ .

Let:  $X_A$  presentation cplx for  $A$

$X_B$  presentation cplx for  $B$

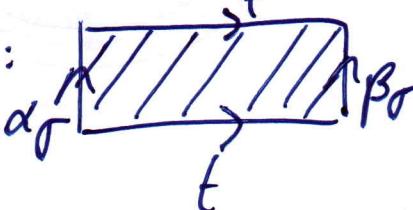
$\Sigma = \text{Generating set, for } C$ .

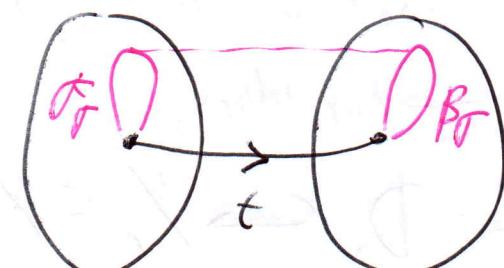
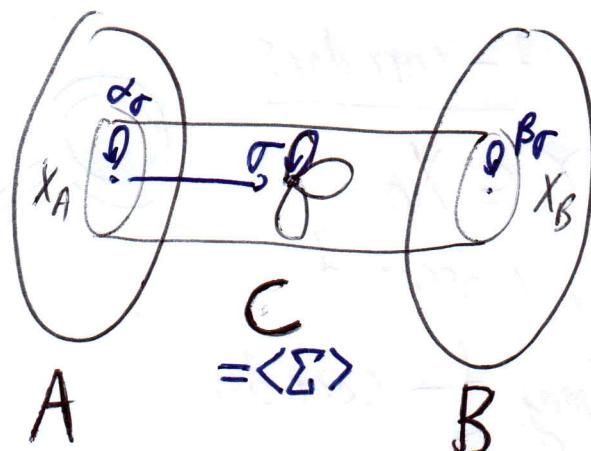
For  $\sigma \in \Sigma$ , let  $\alpha_\sigma$  be: based

edge loop in  $X_A$ , representing  $i(\sigma)$ . Similarly,  $\beta_\sigma$ . (rep  $j(\sigma)$ )

Glue: vertices of  $X_A, X_B$  to either end of an edge,  $t$ .

For each  $\sigma \in \Sigma$ : consider Rectangular

2-cell:  & Attach them as in



Do this for ALL such rectangular 2-cells in this way, get  $X$ .  
 $\Rightarrow$  By SVK:  $\pi_1(X) \cong G \cong A \underset{C}{\ast} B$ .

Proof of Theorem] Suppose  $g \in A$  maps to  $1 \in A \underset{C}{\ast} B$ .

$\Rightarrow g$  represented by Based loop  $\gamma$  in  $X_A$ .

$\gamma$  is Null-homotopic in  $X$ .

By Van-Kampen Theorem:

$\gamma$  bounds singular disc  $D \rightarrow X$ .

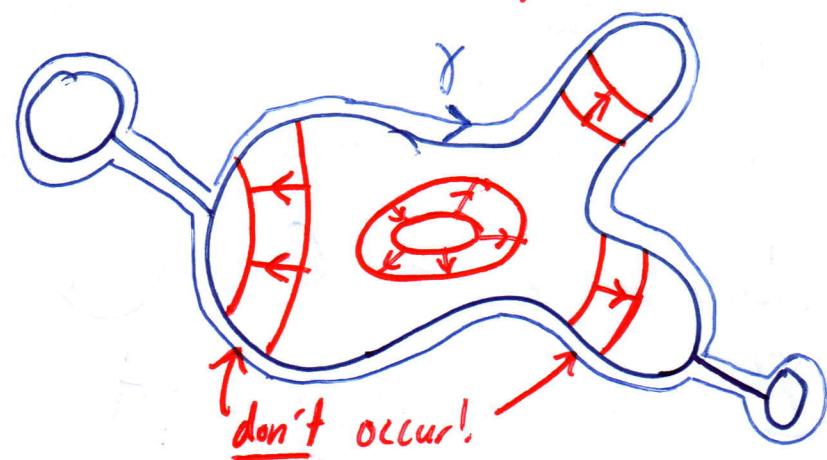
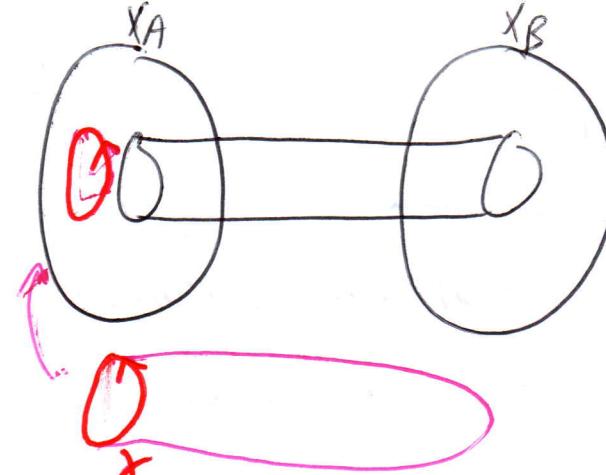
Because  $t$  (edge) appears  $2x$   
in each rectangle  $\&$  Nowhere else:

the rectangular 2-cells in  $D$  are arranged in strips,  
called  $t$ -corridors.

Since  $\gamma \subseteq X_A$ :

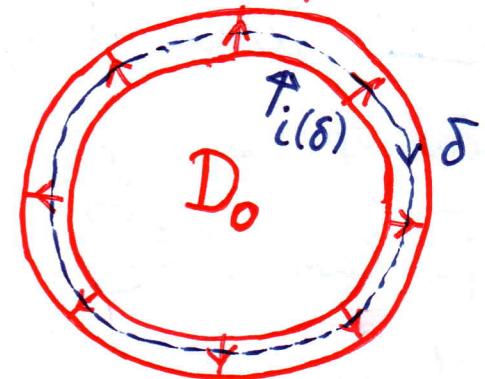
$\gamma$  never crosses  $t$

$\Rightarrow$  Every  $t$ -corridor  
is an Annulus.



Next: look at an Innermost disc  $D_0$ , bounded by  
some  $t$ -corridors.

Wch:  $D_0 \hookrightarrow X_A \subseteq X$ . (Since no  $t$ 's  
on boundary)



The  $t$ -corridor corresponds to: some  
cyclic word  $\delta$  in  $\Sigma \sqcup \Sigma^{-1}$

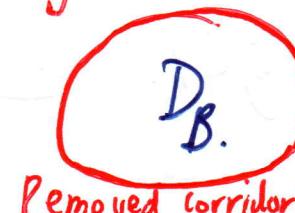
$\& D_0$  is Proof that:  $i(\delta) = 1$ , in  $A$ .

By hypothesis: since  $i$  injective, get  $\delta = 1$  in  $C$ .  $\Rightarrow j(\delta) = 1$

$\Rightarrow$  By VK lemma:  $j(\delta)$  has VK-diagram  $D_B \rightarrow X_B$ .



$\rightsquigarrow$



Removed corridor!

After fin. many replacements:  
Removed ALL  $t$ -corridors. ✓  
 $\Rightarrow$  VK diag for  $\delta$ , in  $X_A$ . ✓

§2: Higman–Neumann–Neumann (HNN) extension.

DEF] (HNN Pushout): Suppose  $i, j : H \rightarrow G$  maps of groups. Then, the ~~HNN Product~~ HNN Pushout is quotient:

$$G \sqcup_H = (G * \langle t \rangle) / \langle t \cdot i(h) \cdot t^{-1} \cdot j(h)^{-1} : h \in H \rangle$$

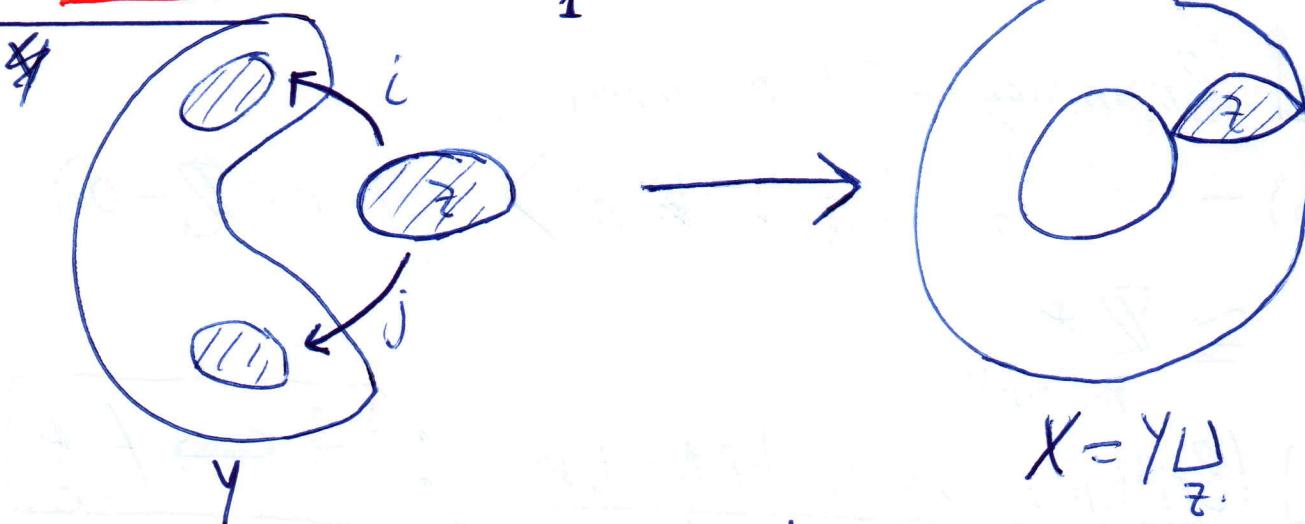
[That is: force  $i(h) \cong j(h)$  conjugate  $\forall h \in H$ .]

Theorem (SUT, for non-Separating Decomp.)

Suppose:  $Y$  Connected cell complex  $\cong i, j : Z \hookrightarrow Y$  inclusions to a connected cell complex  $Z$ .  $Z$ , with disjoint images.

Then: if  $X = Y \sqcup_Z = Y / \{i(z) \sim j(z) \ \forall z \in Z\}$ :

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\pi_1(X) \cong \pi_1(Y) \sqcup_{\pi_1(Z)}}$$



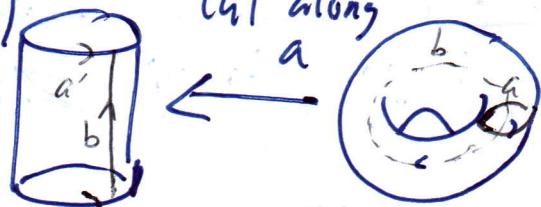
Remark] Let  $G = \langle g_1, \dots, g_m, t \mid r_1, \dots, r_n, p, t q_i^{-1} t^{-1}, p t q_i^{-1} t \rangle$

Then: for  $A = \langle g_1, \dots, g_m \mid r_1, \dots, r_n \rangle$ , have map  $f_e : A \rightarrow G$  given by  $i : x_i \mapsto p_i$  &  $j : x_i \mapsto q_i$ .

Follows that  $G = A \sqcup_{f_e}$

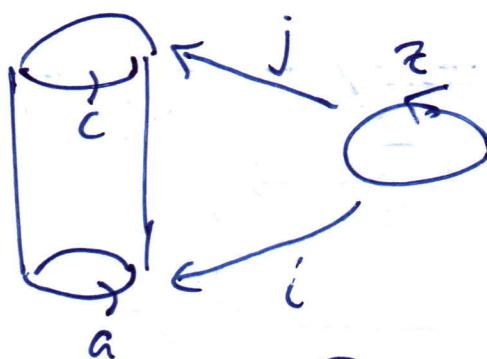
DEF] (HNN Extension). If  $G = A \sqcup_B \cong i, j : B \hookrightarrow A$ , then call  $G$  a HNN-Extension. ( $G = A \ast_B$ )

Example] i)  $\mathbb{D}^2 = \langle a, b \mid aba^{-1}b^{-1} \rangle$



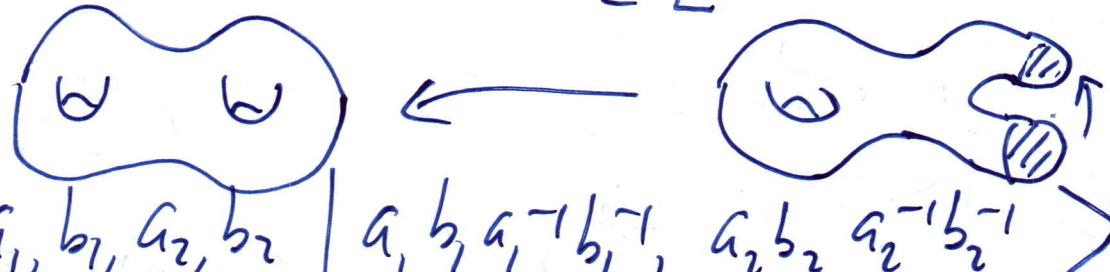
$$\Rightarrow \pi_1(\text{LHS}) = \mathbb{D} = \langle a, c \mid ac^{-1} \rangle, c = \cancel{ab}ba'b^{-1}.$$

So, consider:  $\mathbb{D} = \langle z \rangle \hookrightarrow \mathbb{D}$ , with:  $i(z) = a, j(z) = c$ .



The resulting HNN extension  $\mathbb{D} \ast_{\mathbb{D}}$  has presentation:  $\langle a, c, t \mid ac^{-1}, tat^{-1}c^{-1} \rangle \cong \mathbb{D}^2$ .

Example]



$$\pi_1 = \langle a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2 \mid a_1 b_1 a_1^{-1} b_1^{-1}, a_2 b_2 a_2^{-1} b_2^{-1} \rangle$$

Example] (Baumslag - Solitar Groups)

$$BS(m, n) = \langle a, b \mid ba^m b^{-1} \cancel{ba^n} \rangle \quad (m, n \in \mathbb{Z} - 0)$$

$$\cong \mathbb{D}^*$$

$m \neq -n$

Theorem] (Britton's Lemma, HNN-Exts):  $A \hookrightarrow A \ast_c$

Proof] Same as for AFP proof: Build graph of Spaces

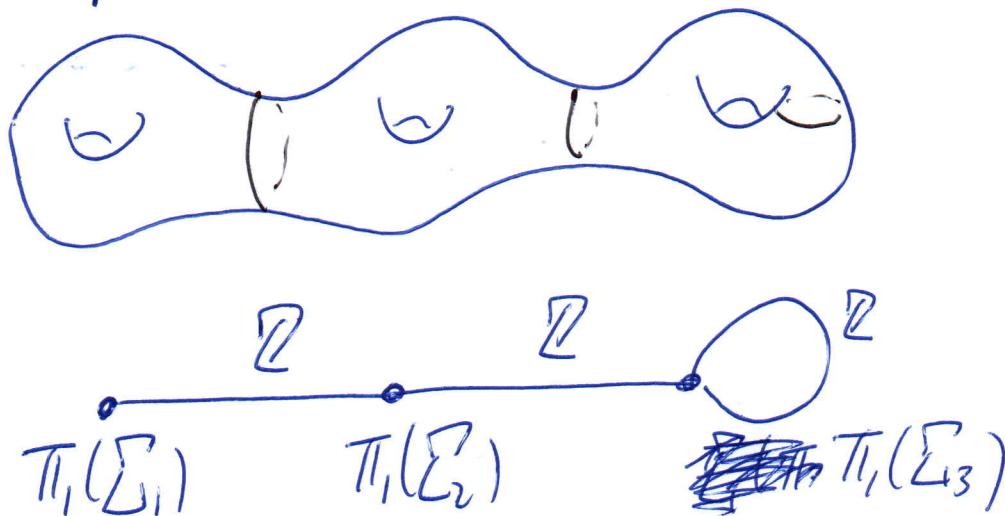
& Apply method of f-Corridors.

## Simple applications of HNN's., AFP's etc.]

- ⊕ ∃ Infinite group with exactly 2 conj classes
- ⊕ ∃ FG (indeed, finitely presented) group,  $f: G \rightarrow G$  with  $\text{Ker}(f) \neq 1$ . ("non-Hopfian")
- ⊕ ∃ Infinite + F.g. Simple group.
- ⊕ Every countable group embeds into a 2-generator group.
- ⊕ ∃ Group with Unsolvable word problem.

What about: cutting surface along Multicurve?  
(i.e. Systems of disjoint curves).

## §3: Graphs of Groups.]

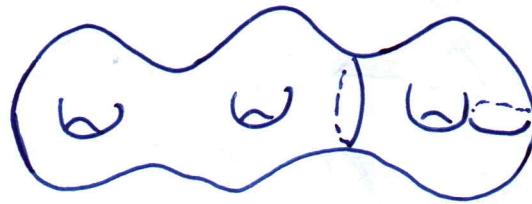


# Geometric Group Theory: [lecture 13]

16/08/2024

## §3: Graphs of Groups.

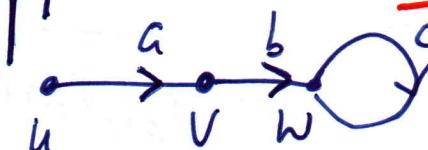
First: should carefully define directed / undirected graphs.



**DEF**] An Oriented / Directed graph  $\Gamma$  is: Pair of sets

$V = V_\Gamma$ ,  $E = E_\Gamma$ , with:  $V$  = Vertices,  $E$  = edges

& Equipped with 2 maps  $i = i_\Gamma : \mathbb{E} \rightarrow V$  "Origin map"  
 $\tau = \tau_\Gamma : E \rightarrow V$  "Terminus map".

**Example**]   $V = \{u, v, w\}$ ,  $E = \{a, b, c\}$

$\tau$ :  $a \mapsto v$ ,  $b \mapsto w$ ,  $c \mapsto w$ .

$i$ :  $a \mapsto u$ ,  $b \mapsto v$ ,  $c \mapsto w$ .

The Realisation  $|\Gamma|$  of  $\Gamma$  is natural 1D cell complex, defined by this data. "Draw it!".

**DEF**] "Graph of Groups":   $G$ , consists of:

⊕ Underlying graph  $\Gamma$ .

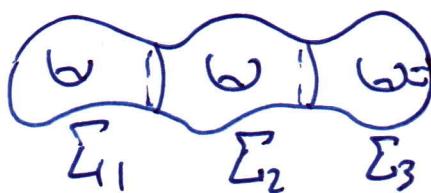
⊕ Assignments:  $V \rightarrow$  Groups,  $v \mapsto$  some group  $g_v$

⊕ Assignments:  $E \rightarrow$  Groups,  $e \mapsto g_e$

⊕ Injective homs ie:  $g_e \mapsto g_{e(e)}$

$\tau_e : g_e \mapsto g_{e(e)}$ .

**Example**]



$$g_u = \pi_1(\Sigma_1)$$

$$g_v = \pi_1(\Sigma_2)$$

$$g_w = \pi_1(\Sigma_3)$$

\*  $i_a: G_a \rightarrow G_u$  Induced by loops  
 $\tau_a: G_a \rightarrow G_v$  1. 4 others included in  $\sum_i$ .  
 (over here, All  $G_e$ 's are  $\emptyset$ , induced by inclusion.)

DEF ( $\pi_1$  of graph of groups)

Given  $G$ , underlying  $\Gamma$ , let  $T \subseteq \Gamma$  spanning tree.

The Fundamental Group of  $G$ , WRT  $T$ , denoted  $\pi_1(G, T)$ , is defined as:

① Take Free Product of vertex groups:  $\left(\underset{v \in V}{\ast} G_v\right) * F(E_\Gamma)$

$[F(E_\Gamma)$  gen set  $\{t_e : eee\}$ .]

$$\left\langle \underset{e \in E_\Gamma}{\cup} \{t_e i_e(h) t_e^{-1} i_e(h)^{-1}\} \right\rangle \oplus \{t_e = 1, e \in T\}$$

Visualise as:



$$(\underset{v \in V}{\ast} G_v) * F(E_\Gamma).$$

$$\pi_1(G) = \left\langle \underset{e \in E_\Gamma}{\cup} \{t_e i_e(h) t_e^{-1} i_e(h)^{-1} : h \in G_e\} \cup \{t_e = 1, e \in T\} \right\rangle$$

Examples 1)  $\Gamma = \begin{array}{c} u \\ \text{---} \\ e \\ \text{---} \\ v \end{array} \Rightarrow G = \frac{G_u \underset{G_e}{\ast} G_v}{G_e}$

$$\Rightarrow \pi_1(G, T) \cong \frac{G_u * G_v}{G_e}$$

$$2) \Gamma = u \text{---} e \text{---} \bullet \Rightarrow G = \frac{G_u \underset{G_e}{\ast} T}{G_e}$$

$$\Rightarrow \pi_1(G, T) \cong \frac{G_u}{G_e}$$

Theorem (SVK, for Graphs of groups)

Let:  $\Gamma$  graph. For each  $v \in V, e \in E$ : denote  $X_v, X_e$  cell cplx's (connected),  $\& i_e: X_e \rightarrow X_{i(e)}$

$$\tau_e: X_e \rightarrow X_{\tau(e)}$$

are:  $\pi_1$ -injective inclusions of sub-complexes.

Let:  $X = \left( \bigsqcup_{v \in V} X_v \right) / \{i_e(x) = \tau_e(x) \ \forall x \in X_e, e \in E\}$ .

Setting  $h_v = \pi_1(X_v)$  &  $h_e = \pi_1(X_e)$ , etc defines:  
graph of groups  $\mathcal{G}$ .

Then:  $\boxed{\pi_1(\mathcal{G}, T) \cong \pi_1(X)} \quad \forall T \text{ spanning of } \Gamma.$

Proof] Use induction on  $\#E_\Gamma$  + two SVK theorems  
we already have (for finite  $E_\Gamma$ ).

Remark] follows:  $\pi_1(\mathcal{G}, T)$  does not depend (up to isom)  
on  $T$ , so write  $\pi_1(\mathcal{G})$ .

Quotients)

Let:  $G$  group &  $G \curvearrowright T$  free (or, any graph).

So,  $G$  acts on vertices of  $T$ , and also edges of  $T$ , and:

$$g(i(e)) = i(ge) \quad \& \quad g(\tau(e)) = \tau(ge) \quad \forall e \in E.$$

$\Rightarrow \exists$  Natural quotient graph  $\Gamma = G \setminus T$ . (Left action)

Defined by:  $V_p = G \backslash V_T$ ,  $E_p = G \backslash E_T$   
 $\& i_p(\tilde{e}) = G \cdot i_p(\tilde{e})$ ,  $T_p(\tilde{e}) = G \cdot T_p(\tilde{e}) \quad \forall e \in E_T$ .  
 This is well-defined by ~~that's an action on  $\tilde{e}$~~ .  
 $G$ -linearity on  $T, i$  as before.

Furthermore:  $G \backslash T = P$  is naturally: a graph of groups.

Let:  $V = G\tilde{v} \in V_p \Rightarrow$  Set:  $G_V = \text{Stab}_G(\tilde{V})$ .

[Note:  $G_V$  well-defined up to Conjugation in  $G$ , hence, up to  $\cong$ ]

Similarly: if  $e = G\tilde{e}$  then  $G_e = \text{Stab}_G(\tilde{e})$ .

Maps: Suppose  $i(e) = V$ , so:  $G_i(\tilde{e}) = G\tilde{V}$ .

$\Rightarrow$  May choose  $\tilde{e}$  s.t.  $i(\tilde{e}) = \tilde{V}$ .

$\Rightarrow G_e = \text{Stab}_G(\tilde{e}) \leq \text{Stab}_G(\tilde{V}) = G_V$ .

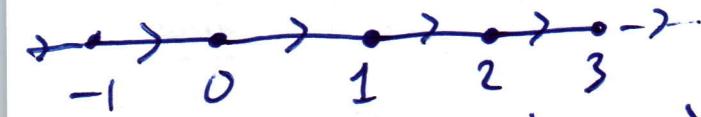
So, this is my map,  $G_e \hookrightarrow G_V$  (so, injective).

Remark:  $i_e$  is determined up to conjugation in  $G$

$\& T_e =$  defined similarly.

Examples: 1)  $\mathbb{Z} = \langle t \rangle \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}$

$$\xrightarrow{\quad t \quad} \Rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \backslash \mathbb{R} = \{\bullet\}. \quad 1 \circlearrowleft 1$$



$\& D_\infty = \langle s, t \mid s^2, t^2 \rangle \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}$ .  $s, t$  reflections on 0, 1.

$$D_\infty \backslash \mathbb{R}: \quad \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \hline 2/2 \\ \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \hline 2/2 \\ \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} (2/2) + (2/2) \\ \hline 1 \end{array}$$

From last time]: Graphs of Groups  $\hookrightarrow$  Graphs of Spaces  
 $\xrightarrow{\text{from}}$  Quotients  $G \setminus T$

### §4: Bass-Serre Theorem.]

[Main theorem of Subject, due to Serre. But: adopt topological approach, due to Scott-Wall]

Theorem [Fundamental Theorem of BS Theory)

Let:  $G$  Connected graph of groups  $\cong G = \pi_1(G)$ .

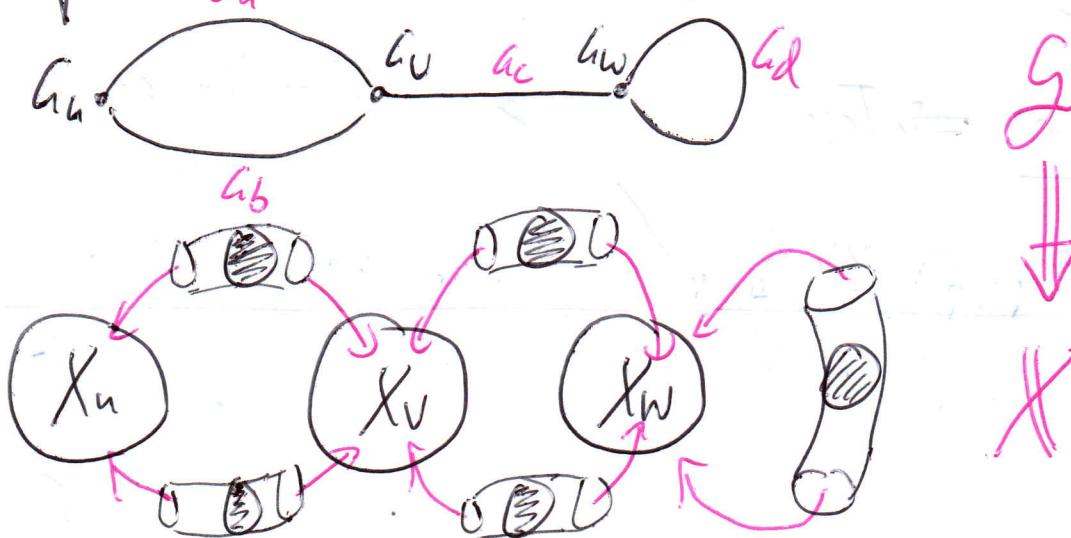
Then:  $G \curvearrowright T$  (tree) s.t.  $G \cong G \setminus T$ . T = BS-tree

Remark] • Hence: letting  $G$  act on tree  $T$  is equivalent to "cutting"  $G$  into pieces.

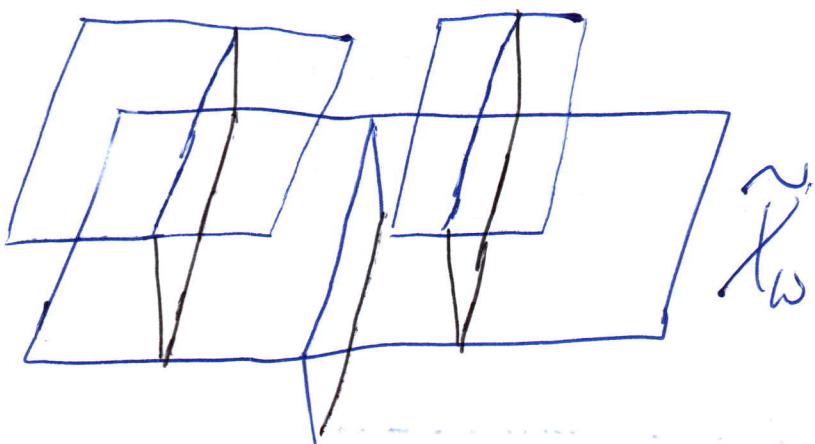
- The theorem says:  $G$  has "Universal Cover"  $T$ , for which  $G = \pi_1(G)$  acts, and recover  $G$  as quotient  $G \setminus T$ .

Proof] (Sketch)

Step 1] Using Presentation Complexes, build "Graph of spaces"  $X$  with correspondence to  $G$ :



Let:  $\hat{X}$  = Universal Cover for  $X$ .



$\Rightarrow$  Result is graph of spaces.  $\tilde{X}$ , with: each vertex space  $\tilde{X}_v$  is universal cover of some  $X_v$

& each edge space is  $[-1, 1] \times \tilde{X}_e$ , for  $\tilde{X}_e$  some universal cover of  $X_e$ .

Let:  $\tilde{\Gamma}$  underlying graph of  $\tilde{X}$ .

$\Rightarrow \tilde{X}$  Retracts onto  $\tilde{\Gamma}$  ("crush all  $X_u, X_e$  into pt")

i.e.  $\exists$  maps  $\tilde{\Gamma} \xrightarrow{r} \tilde{X}$  s.t.  $r \circ i \simeq \text{id}$ .

Apply  $\pi_1$ :  $\Rightarrow i_*: \pi_1(\tilde{\Gamma}) \rightarrow \pi_1(\tilde{X})$  Injective.

$\Rightarrow \tilde{\Gamma}$  simply connected.  $\Rightarrow$  Tree. if  $\tilde{X}$  = Universal Cover

Set  $T = \tilde{\Gamma}$ . Then, it works ✓

---

Prop] Let  $G \triangleright T$ , such that  $S = G \backslash T$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(i)} \quad V_T &\longleftrightarrow \bigsqcup_{v \in V_p} G/G_v \quad \text{$G$-equivariant $\leftrightarrow$'s.} \\
 \text{(ii)} \quad E_T &\longleftrightarrow \bigsqcup_{e \in E_p} G/G_e \quad \{g(f)(a) = f(ga)\}. \\
 &\quad A \xrightarrow{f} B.
 \end{aligned}$$

iii)  $\forall \tilde{v} \in V_T$  mapping  $v \in V_p$ , the set of edges of  $T$  incident at  $\tilde{v}$  is:  $G$ -equivariantly bijective with:

$$\left( \bigsqcup_{\substack{i(e)=v \\ e \in E_p}} G_v / i_e(G_e) \right) \sqcup \left( \bigsqcup_{e \in V_p} G_v / \tau_e(G_e) \right).$$

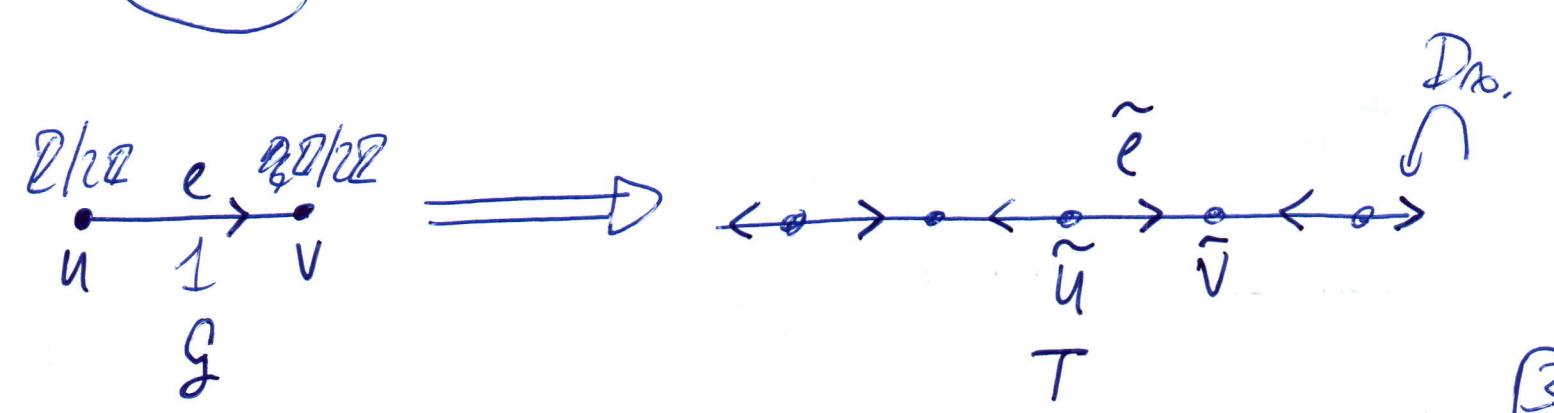
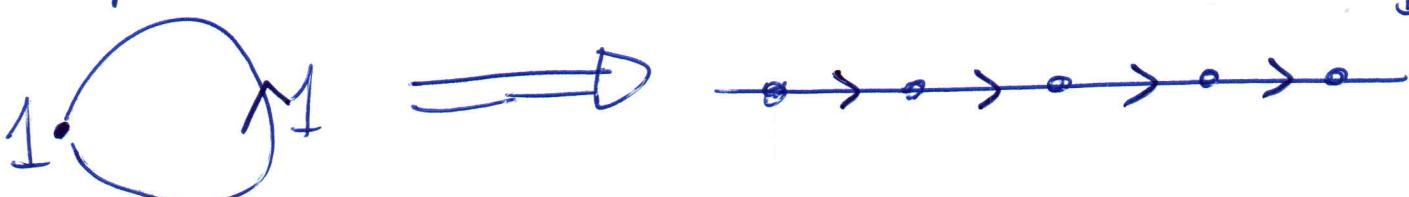
Proof] (i) Choose orbit reps:  $\tilde{v} \in G\tilde{v} = v \in V_p$ .

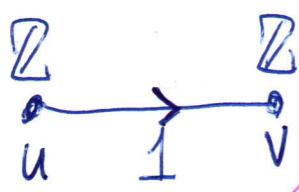
By OS:  $g \mapsto g\tilde{v}$  defines:  $G$ -equiv bijections  
 $g \mapsto g\tilde{v}$  between:  $G/G_v \rightarrow G\tilde{v}$ . ✓

(ii) Same proof, and (iii) same as well.  $\text{Stab}_G(\tilde{v}) \supset \{\text{incident edges}\}$

Remark]  $T$  determined by Algebra of  $G$ , hence Unique.

Example] (i)

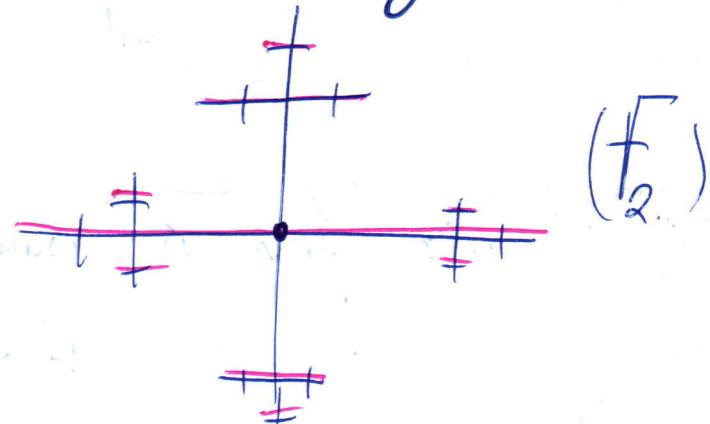
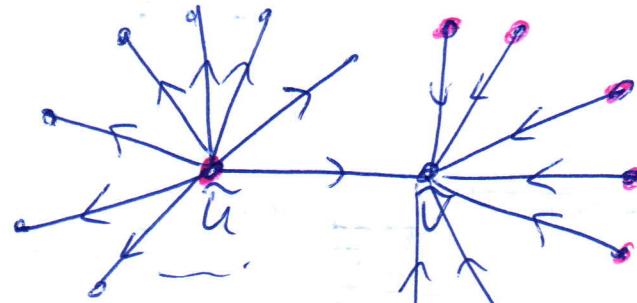




$$F_2 = \pi_1(G) = \mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Tree, with countably infinite valence @ every vertex.

$$\stackrel{\text{iv)}{\equiv} F_2 = \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{1} \\ \textcircled{1} \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{1}} \textcircled{1} \xrightarrow{\text{1}}$$



# Geometric Group Theory: lecture 15.

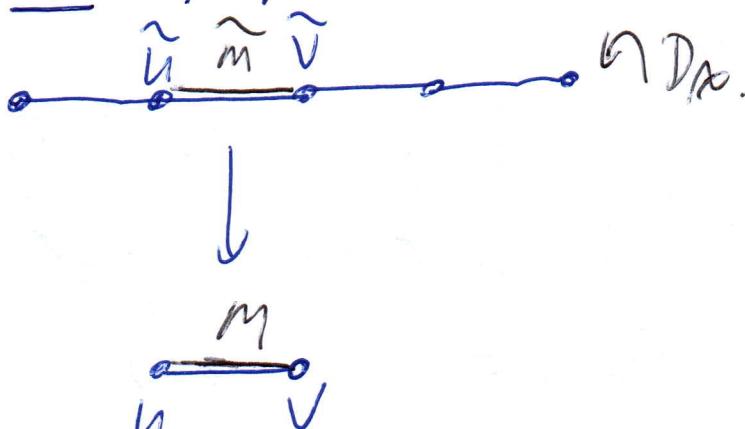
21/02/2024

From last time proved:  $G \cong G \setminus T$ ,  $T = BS$  free.

How do "stable letters"  $t_e \in \pi_1 G$  act on  $T$ ?

$\Rightarrow$  Choose: maximal tree  $M \subseteq F$ . The action of  $G \setminus T$  depends on choice of  $\tilde{M} \subseteq \tilde{T}$ .

Example

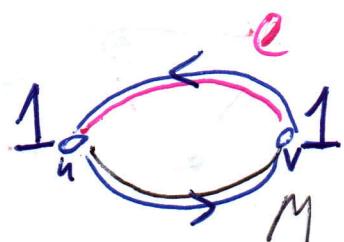
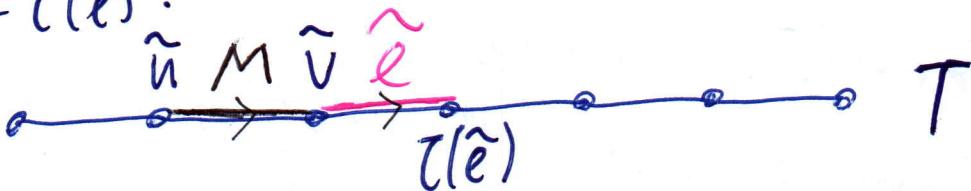


$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tilde{M} & \xrightarrow{\text{incl}} & \tilde{T} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ M & \xrightarrow{\text{incl}} & T \end{array}$$

The choice of  $\tilde{M}$  determines choices of lifts of vertices  $\tilde{u}$  and  $\tilde{v}$ .  $(\tilde{v} \in \tilde{T}) \mapsto v \in T$ .

For each  $e \in E_F$ : not contained in  $M$ , choose lift  $\tilde{e} \in E_{\tilde{T}}$  s.t.  $i(\tilde{e}) = i(e)$ .

Example



$$S^1 = F = M.$$

$\Rightarrow$  The Action of  $\tau_e$  on  $T$  is determined by the fact that:  $\tau_e T(\tilde{e}) = T(\tilde{e})$ .

[Proof: Think about action of  $\pi_1$

Most importantly: Can understand elements of  $\mathcal{L} = \pi_1(G, M)$  via Reduced Words.

DEF] Fix base vertex  $v_0 \in V_P$ . Consider element:

$$\omega = (g_0 t_1^{\pm 1} g_1 \cdots g_{k-1} t_k^{\pm 1} g_k) \in (\bigtimes_{v \in V_P} G_v)^* f(E_P).$$

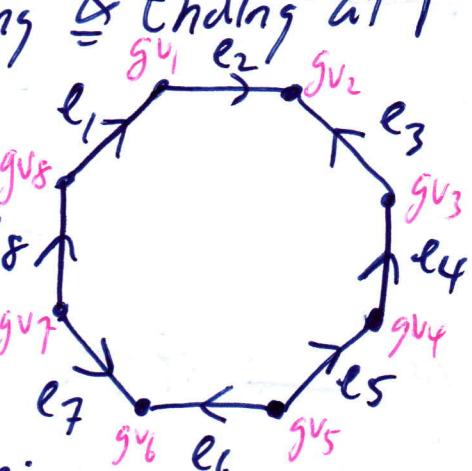
where:  $g_i \in \mathbb{P} G_{v_i}$  &  $t_i = t e_i$ . Then, is  $\omega$  based loop if:

$$(i) \stackrel{(1)}{V_0} = \stackrel{(2)}{V_0} = V_k$$

(ii)  $e_1^{\pm 1} \cdots e_k^{\pm 1}$  loop in  $P$  starting & ending at  $P$

(iii) If " $t_i g_i$ " then  $V_i = T(e_i)$

If " $t_i^{-1} g_i$ " then  $V_i = i(e_i)$ .



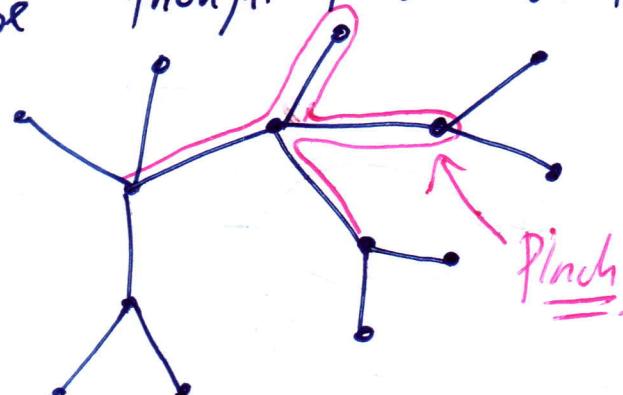
Recall: Relations  $t e_i e(h) t^{-1} = T(e)$ .

A sub-path of loop is pinch if of form:

(i)  $t e_i e(h) t^{-1}$ , some  $h \in G_e$

(ii)  $t^{-1} T_e(h) t$ , some  $h \in G_e$ .

Remark] Loops should be "thought of" as: defining paths along the BS-tree.



Call: based with No pinches of this, reduced.

# Theorem] [Normal form, for Graphs of Groups.]

Let:  $\underline{g}$  graph of groups.

- (i) Any  $g \in T_1(\underline{g})$  is represented by some based  $\gamma$ .  
(ii) If  $\gamma$  reduced, then  $g$  nontrivial.

Remark] (about the proof)

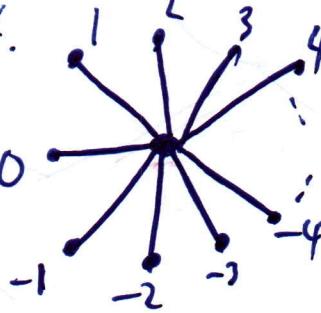
- (i) The unique path  $[\tilde{v}_0, g\tilde{v}_0]$  defines loop representing  $g$ .  
(ii) Reduced loops  $\gamma \Leftrightarrow$  Locally Injective paths  $\gamma: I \rightarrow T$   
& Locally injective  $\Rightarrow$  Globally injective  $\Rightarrow g\tilde{v}_0 \neq \tilde{v}_0$ .  
 $\Rightarrow g \neq 1$ .

Property FA]

Suppose:  $G \cap T \not\cong A$  fixed pt for  $\alpha$  is  $x_0 \in T$ , s.t.

$\text{stab}(x_0) = G$ . & Say:  $G$  acts Trivially on  $T$   
if  $\exists$  globally fixed pt.

Example  $\mathbb{Z} \cap T = 0$



$$\Rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \setminus T = \begin{matrix} 1 \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ 1 \end{matrix}$$

If  $G \cap$  (some tree) Non-trivially, say:  $G$  splits.

Otherwise: Say  $G$  has Property FA. "Fixe Arbres".

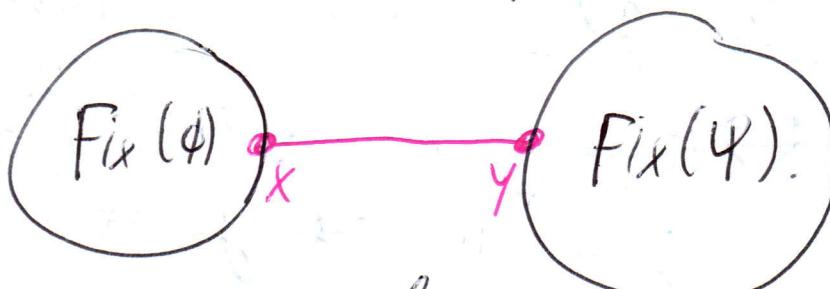
Lemma] If  $T$  tree &  $\phi$  isometry of  $T$ , then: either:

- 1)  $T$  fixes some pt (elliptic)  
2)  $T$  translates some line by some positive distance. (hyperbolic)  $\beta$

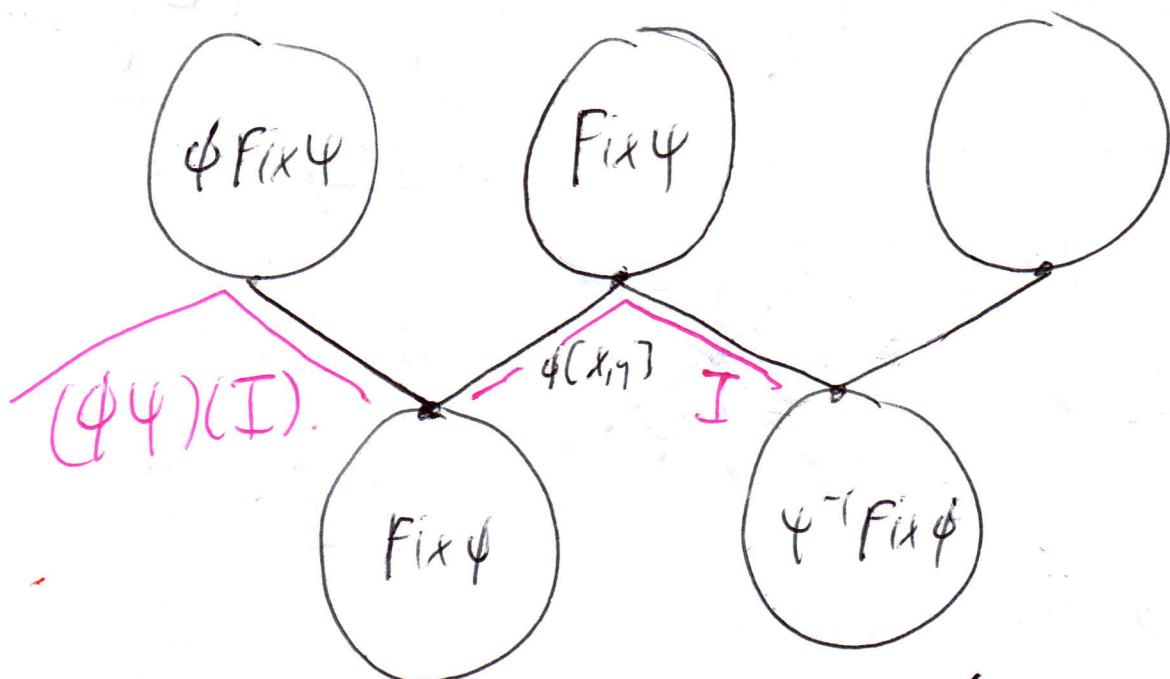
Remark]  $\text{order}(\phi) < \infty \Rightarrow \phi$  elliptic.

Lemma] If  $\phi, \psi$  both isometries of  $T$ , and: (both elliptic)  $\text{Fix}(\phi) \cap \text{Fix}(\psi) = \phi$ , then:  $\phi \circ \psi$  hyperbolic.

Proof] First notice  $\text{Fix}(\phi)$  connected subtrees of  $T$ , because if  $\phi$  fixes  $x, y$  then  $\phi$  fixes all points between  $x$  and  $y$  (since unique path  $x-y$ ).



Let:  $x \in \text{Fix}(\phi) \& y \in \text{Fix}(\psi) \& [x, y]$  unique path  $x-y$ .



$\therefore I$  interval  $\& (\phi \psi)(I) \cap I = \{x =$   
 $\Rightarrow \bigcup (\phi \psi)^n(I)$  is: invariant line preserved by  $\phi \psi$ .

$n \in \mathbb{Z}$

$\Rightarrow$  Translation ✓

From last time Seek: Criterion for proving that  $G$  has property FA. We proved:

Lemma]  $\phi, \psi \in \text{Isom}(T)$  elliptic. If  $\text{Fix}(\phi) \cap \text{Fix}(\psi) = \phi$  then  $\phi \circ \psi$  is hyperbolic.

Next: "Helly property" for Trees.

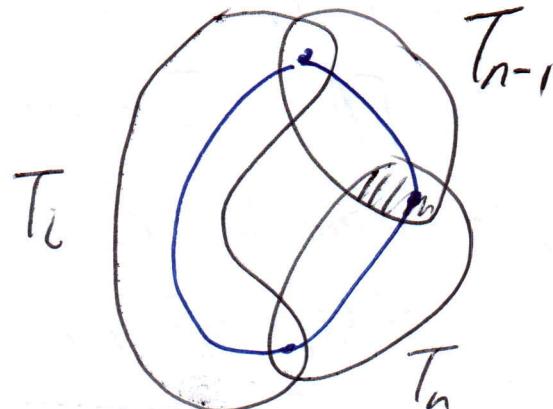
Lemma [Helly Property]. Suppose  $T$  tree  $\not\models T_1, \dots, T_n \subseteq T$  sub-trees with  $T_i \cap T_j \neq \emptyset \forall i, j$ . Then:  $\bigcap_{i \in S_n} T_i \neq \emptyset$ .

Proof: By induction on  $n$ . Trivial for  $n=1, 2$ .

Let:  $T' = T_{n-1} \cap T_n$ . Claim:  $T' \cap T_i \neq \emptyset \forall i < n-1$ .

If not, then:

Contradiction.



Theorem [Criterion for FA].

Let:  $G$  group  $\not\models S \subseteq G$ ,  $S = \{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$  finite gen set.

If i)  $\text{order}(S_i) < \infty \forall i$

ii)  $\text{order}(S_i S_j)$  or  $\text{order}(S_j S_i)$  is  $< \infty$ ,  $\forall i \neq j$ .

Then,  $G$  has FA.

Proof] Let  $T_i = \text{Fix}(S_i)$ .  $\Rightarrow$  Nonempty tree of  $G$ .  
(Assuming:  $G \cap T$ ).

$\Leftarrow$  By ii):  $\text{order}(S_i S_j) < \infty \Rightarrow T_i \cap T_j \neq \emptyset$   $\forall i, j$ .

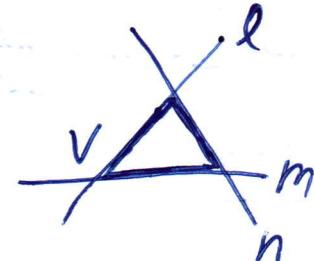
$\Rightarrow$  By Helly Property, have  $\bigcap_{i=1}^n T_i \neq \emptyset$ .

$\Rightarrow \exists$  element Fixed by all of  $G$ .  $\checkmark$  FA.

Example]  $\Gamma$  = Group generated by: reflection of sides of an equilateral  $\triangle$ .

$\langle r_m, r_n, r_\ell \rangle$  as on right

$\Leftarrow r_m^2 = r_n^2 = r_\ell^2 = \text{id}$ .



$\Leftarrow r_m, r_\ell$  generate Dihedral group around  $v$ . So, have finite order (Similarly,  $r_m r_n$  &  $r_n r_\ell$  have finite order).

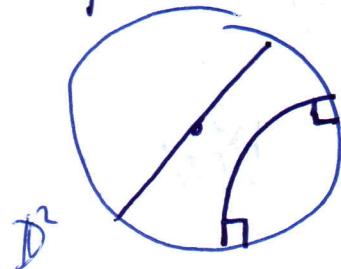
$\Rightarrow \Gamma$  has property FA. (Infinite set with FA)

By Sheet 3: Dehn's examples also have FA.

[Corresponding 3-manifolds are non-Haken]

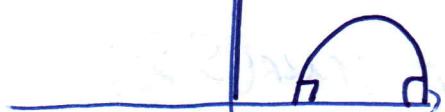
## §4: FUCHSIAN GROUPS.]

1. Hyperbolic Geometry.] Denote  $H^2 \equiv$  Hyperbolic plane:



$l^*$

$$\text{Disc: } ds^2 = \frac{4|dz|^2}{(1-|z|^2)^2}$$



$$H^2 \quad ds^2 = \frac{|dz|^2}{|\text{Im}(z)|^2} \sqrt{2}$$

Geodesics on  $\mathbb{H}^2$ : Are lines/circles, intersecting boundary of  $\mathbb{H}^2$  orthogonally.

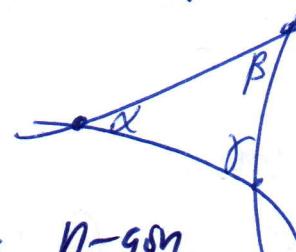
(Examples:  $\ell^+ \subseteq \mathbb{H}^2$ , positive imaginary numbers)

$$\& d(is, it) = \int_t^s \frac{dy}{y} = \log(s/t). \quad (s > t)$$

Gauss Bonnet:

Prop] If  $\Delta \subseteq \mathbb{H}^2$  is Geodesic triangle, with interior angles  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  then  $\text{Area}(\Delta) = \pi - (\alpha + \beta + \gamma)$ .

In particular,  $\alpha + \beta + \gamma < \pi$ .



Corollary] If  $P \subseteq \mathbb{H}^2$  Geodesic  $n$ -gon, then:  $\text{Area}(P) = (n-2)\pi - \sum_{\alpha} \text{int}(\alpha)$ .

Recall:  $\text{Isom}^+(\mathbb{H}^2) \cong \text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ . ( $\curvearrowright \mathbb{H}^2$  by Möbius Trans)

DEF] If  $\Gamma \leq \text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R})$  acts properly discretely on  $\mathbb{H}^2$ , then say  $\Gamma$  is Fuchsian.

Basic Props of  $\text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ . (continuously)

Prop] i)  $\text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R}) \curvearrowright \mathbb{H}^2$  extends naturally to

$\overline{\mathbb{H}^2} = \mathbb{H}^2 \cup \partial \mathbb{H}^2$ . (Proof: Because action by Möbius maps)

ii)  $\text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R})$  Transitive on triples of pts in  $\mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ .

(iii) If  $\phi \in \text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R})$  fixes 3 distinct pts of  $\overline{\mathbb{H}^2}$  then it is identity.

[Corollary] [Classification of Isometries of  $\mathbb{H}^2$ ]

Suppose  $\phi \in \text{Isom}^+(\mathbb{H}^2)$ . Then, one of the following holds:

- 1)  $\phi$  Fixes pt of  $\mathbb{H}^2$  [Unique unless  $\phi = \text{id}$ ] [elliptic]
- 2)  $\phi$  Fixes unique pt of  $\partial\mathbb{H}^2$  [Parabolic]
- 3)  $\phi$  Preserves unique geodesic of  $\mathbb{H}^2$ . Translates it a positive distance. [Hyperbolic]

Prove it next time!

[Remark] If  $\phi$  is fuchsian & elliptic, then: ~~Show~~  
Order of  $\phi$  is finite.

Proof of Corollary]

Recall:  $\phi: \mathbb{H}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{H}^2$  extends continuously to  $\bar{\phi}: \overline{\mathbb{H}^2} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{H}^2}$

(e.g. for  $\mathbb{H} = \text{Disc model}$ ). So, by Brouwer FPT,  $\text{Fix}(\phi) \neq \emptyset$ .  
Also, know if  $\text{Fix}(\phi) \geq 3$ , then  $\phi = \text{identity}$ .

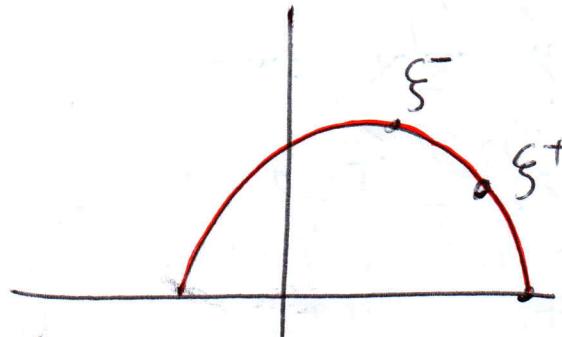
$\Rightarrow$  If  $\phi \neq \text{id}$ , then  $\text{fix}(\phi) \in \{1, 2\}$ .

1)  $\text{Fix}(\phi) = \{\xi\} \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{H}^2}$

$\Rightarrow \xi \in \mathbb{H}^2$  means  $\phi$  elliptic, and  $\xi \in \partial \mathbb{H}^2$  means  $\phi$  parabolic.

2)  $\text{Fix}(\phi) = \{\xi^+, \xi^-\}$

If  $\xi^+ \notin \partial \mathbb{H}^2$ , then: consider geodesic  $[\xi^-, \xi^+]$ .

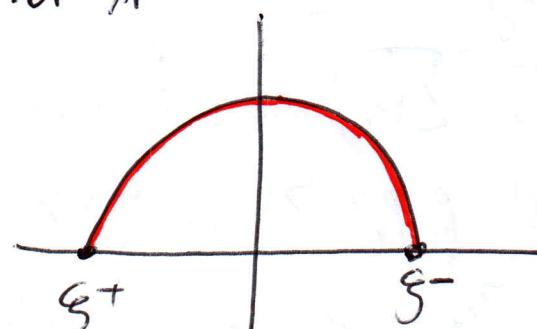


$\Rightarrow$  Since  $\phi$  isometry: must fix this entire geodesic

$\Rightarrow$  # fixed pts  $\geq 3 \Rightarrow \phi = \text{id}$   $\nabla$

So, get:  $\xi^\pm \subseteq \partial \mathbb{H}^2$

$\Rightarrow$   $\phi$  fixes unique geodesic  $[\xi^+, \xi^-] \cong \mathbb{R}$  <sub>isom</sub>

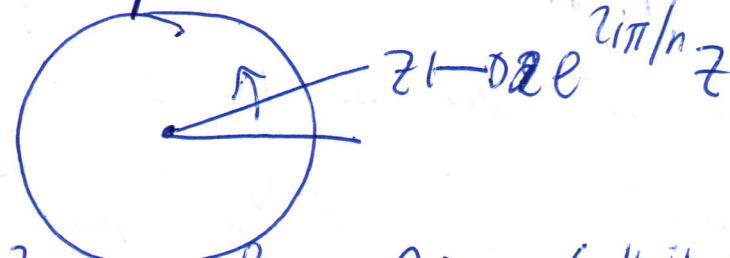


& Since  $\phi$  fixes endpoints pointwise,  $\phi$  must be a translation (on the line)

## 2) Examples of Fuchsian Groups.]

Recall:  $\Gamma \subseteq \text{Isom}^+(\mathbb{H}^2)$  Fuchsian  $\Leftrightarrow \Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^2$  prop disc.  
 [In particular,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{H}^2$ ,  $\text{Stab}_{\Gamma}(x) < \infty$ ]

Examples 1)  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$



2a)  $\mathbb{Z}$ .  $\xrightarrow{\quad z \mapsto \lambda z, \text{ some } \lambda > 1. \text{ Call it } \phi. \quad}$   
 $\Rightarrow \mathbb{Z} = \langle \phi \rangle$ . (Hyperbolic)

2b)  $\mathbb{Z}$ .  $\phi: z \mapsto dz+1$ . (Parabolic)

These examples are "Elementary" fuchsian groups.

3)  $\langle S_1, S_2 \rangle$ .

$$= \langle S_1, S_2 \mid S_1^2, S_2^2, \text{ (composition)} \rangle$$

$\cong D_{\infty}$ . "Also elementary."



4)  $\sum_g$ .   $(g \geq 2) \Rightarrow \widetilde{\sum_g} \cong_{\text{isom}} \mathbb{H}^2$ .

$\Rightarrow \Pi_1(\sum_g)$  is Fuchsian.

5) Let  $p, q, r \geq 1$  integers.

DEF The  $(p, q, r)$ -Triangle group is defined by Pres.

$$\Gamma(p, q, r) = \langle a, b, c \mid a^p, b^q, c^r, abc \rangle.$$

Notice this does not split. since it has property FA.

So, is  $\Gamma(p, q, r)$  nontrivial? Infinite?

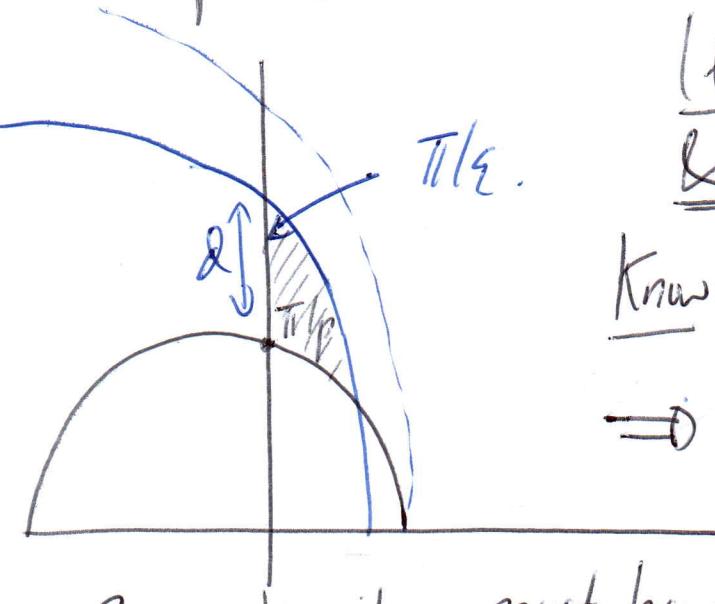
$\Rightarrow$  Not always!  
 E.g.  $p=2, q=3, r=1 \Rightarrow$  still get trivial group.  
 However, many interesting examples arise by Poincare  
Theorem [Poincare Polygon Theorem.]

If  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{r} < 1$ , then:  $P(p, q, r)$  Infinite Fuchsian.

[E.g.  $(2, 3, 7)$ .]

Converse is also true! (Sort of)

Proof] Start off by taking  $\Delta \subseteq \mathbb{H}^2$ , with Interior  
 angles  $\frac{\pi}{p}, \frac{\pi}{q}, \frac{\pi}{r}$ . To construct it, do following:



Let:  $d$  vary around.

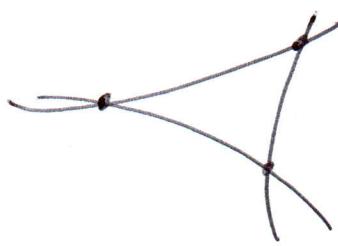
& let  $\Delta_d$  = triangle formed.

Know:  $\text{Area}(\Delta_d) = \pi - \text{Sum of angles}$ .

$$\Rightarrow 0 \leq \text{Area}(\Delta_d) < \pi - \left( \frac{\pi}{p} + \frac{\pi}{q} \right)$$

$\Rightarrow$  By continuity: must have some  $d$  s.t. ~~Δ\_d is valid~~

$\Rightarrow$  Successfully constructed  $\Delta$ .  $O_d = \pi/r$ .



Consider: Group generated by reflections  
 across the sides & Get the Orientation  
 Preserving Isometries.

B

From last time  $\Gamma(p, q, r) = \langle a, b, c \mid a^p, b^q, c^r, abc \rangle$ .

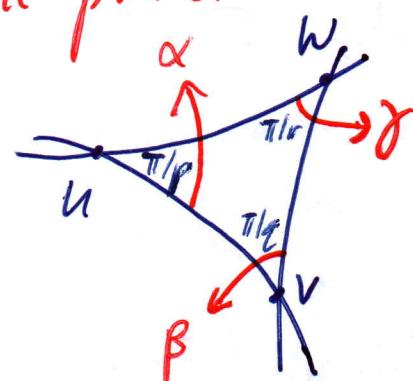
Theorem] If  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{r} < 1$  then  $\Gamma(p, q, r)$  Infinite & Fuchsian.

Proof] From last lecture: Construct  $\Delta$  with interior angles  $\frac{\pi}{p}, \frac{\pi}{q}, \frac{\pi}{r}$  on hyperbolic plane.

$$\text{Let: } \alpha = \text{Rot}(u, \frac{2\pi}{p})$$

$$\beta = \text{Rot}(v, \frac{2\pi}{q})$$

$$\gamma = \text{Rot}(w, \frac{2\pi}{r}).$$



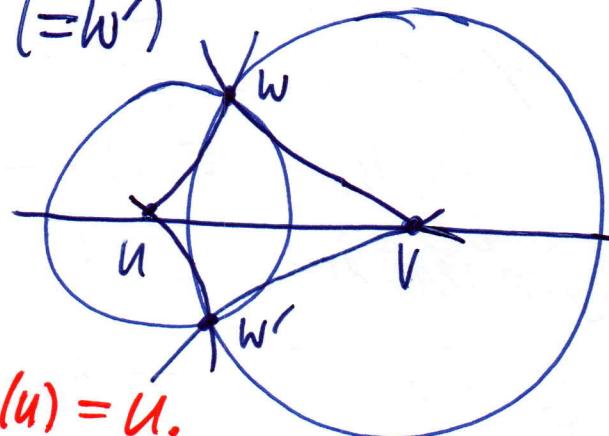
$$\cong G = \langle \alpha, \beta, \gamma \rangle \leq \text{Isom}^+(\mathbb{H}^2) \cong \text{clearly } \alpha^p = \beta^q = \gamma^r.$$

$$\text{By diagram: } \beta(w) = \alpha^{-1}(w). (=w')$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha\beta\gamma(w) = \alpha\beta(w) = w.$$

$$\text{Similarly: } \gamma(u) = \beta^{-1}(u)$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha\beta\gamma(u) = \alpha\beta\beta^{-1}(u) = \alpha(u) = u.$$



$\Rightarrow \alpha\beta\gamma$  is: orientation-preserving isometry of  $\mathbb{H}^2$  that fixes 2 distinct pts on  $\mathbb{H}^2$ , hence  $\alpha\beta\gamma = 1$ .

$\Rightarrow \exists$  Surjective hom  $f: \Gamma \xrightarrow{f} G, (a, b, c) \mapsto \alpha(a, \beta, \gamma)$ .

Aim: f is an isomorphism. By: Ingenious construction!

Denote:  $r_l = \text{Reflection in } l$  & let  $Q = \Delta \cup r_l(\Delta)$ .

Define:  $\tilde{Q} = (\Gamma \times Q) / \sim$

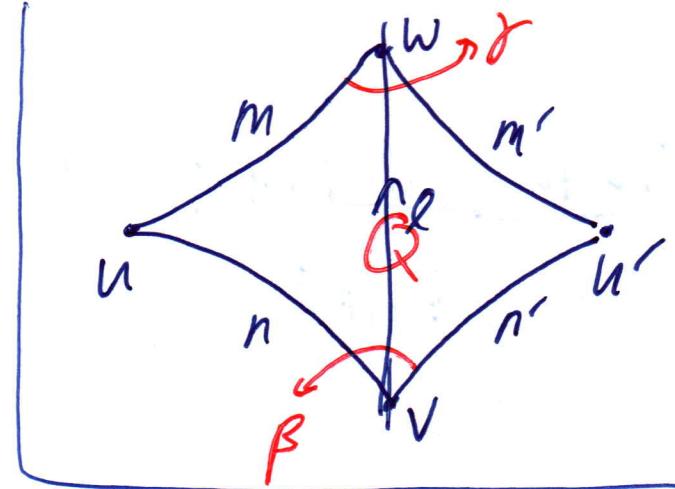
$(g\delta, x) \sim (g, \delta(x)) \quad \forall x \in m$

$(g\beta, x') \sim (g, \beta(x')) \quad \forall x' \in n'$

(This is for:  $g \in \Gamma$ )

& Define:  $F: \tilde{Q} \rightarrow H$

$$(g, x) \mapsto f(g)x.$$



Know:  $\tilde{Q}$  is complete, geodesic metric space. (Haupt-Riemann)

&  $F$  is a local isometry, sending small balls in  $\tilde{Q}$  to small open balls in  $H$  isometrically.

[In fact:  $F$  is isometric embedding].

Indeed:  $x, y \in \tilde{Q} \Leftrightarrow [x, y]$  geodesic. Then:  $F([x, y])$  is local geodesic,  $F(x) \rightarrow F(y)$ .

But: Local geodesics in  $H^2$  are global geodesics.

$$\Rightarrow d_{H^2}(F(x), F(y)) = d_{\tilde{Q}}(x, y).$$

Remains to show:  $F$  surjective.

Know:  $f$  sends open balls to open balls.  $\Rightarrow$  Open map.

But:  $F(\tilde{Q}) \stackrel{\text{isom}}{\cong} \tilde{Q}$  complete  $\Rightarrow$  Closed in  $H^2$ .

$\Rightarrow F$  Surjective, hence, isometry ✓

So,  $\tilde{Q} \stackrel{\text{isom}}{\cong} H^2$ . But:  $\Gamma \cap \tilde{Q}$  properly disjointly (by const.)

$\Rightarrow \Gamma$  is fuchsian, and  $|\Gamma| = \infty$  since we need  $\Gamma$

$\Gamma$ -many compact tiles to cover  $\mathbb{H}^2$ .

Remark] Follows from construction that only  $P_u, P_v, P_w$  have  $\text{Stab} \neq 1$ .

Call  $Q$  a fundamental Domain for  $\Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^2$ .

§3: Centres & Dehn Examples.

Lemma] If  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{r} < 1$ ,  $g \in \Gamma(p, q, r)$  &  $\text{order}(g) < \infty$ .

Then:  $g$  conjugate to  $\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle, \langle c \rangle$ .

Proof] Saw: Finite order elements of  $\mathbb{H}^2$  fix some point  $z$  of  $\mathbb{H}^2$ . If  $g \neq 1$ , then WLOG  $z = h \cdot u$ , some  $h \in \Gamma$ .  
 $ghu = hu \Rightarrow (h^{-1}gh)u = u \Rightarrow h^{-1}gh \in \text{Stab}(u) = \langle a \rangle$ .

Prop] If  $\Gamma$  non-elementary fuchsian, then  $Z(\Gamma) = 1$ .

Proof Suppose  $z \in Z(\Gamma), z \neq 1$ . Consider  $\text{fix}(z) \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{H}^2}$ .

Note  $\forall g \in \Gamma, \forall x \in \text{fix}(z), gx = gzx = zgx$ .  
 $\Rightarrow gx \in \text{Fix}(z)$

Finish next time!

Prop] If  $\Gamma$  Fuchsian  $\Leftrightarrow$  Non-elementary, then  $Z(\Gamma) \cong 1$ .

Proof] If  $\gamma \in Z(\Gamma) - 1$ , then  $g \text{ preserves } \text{Fix}(\gamma) \subset \mathbb{H}^2$  for any  $g \in \Gamma$ .

⊗ If  $\gamma$  elliptic  $\Rightarrow \text{Fix}(\gamma) = \{x\} \subset \mathbb{H}^2$ , wlog  $x=0 \in \mathbb{D}^2$ .

$$\Rightarrow \text{Stab}(x) \cong \{z \mapsto e^{i\theta} z\}.$$

$$\Rightarrow \Gamma \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}, \text{ some } n.$$

⊗ If  $\gamma$  parabolic  $\Rightarrow$  wlog  $\text{Fix}(\gamma) = \{\infty\}$ . (Upper half model)

$$\Rightarrow \text{By direct computation, } g(z) = az + b.$$

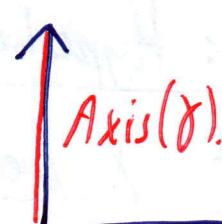
$$\& \text{Fix}(\gamma) = \infty \Rightarrow \gamma(z) = z + c, \text{ some } c.$$

$$\& g \text{ commutes with } \gamma \Leftrightarrow a=1, \text{ i.e. } \Gamma \leq \{z \mapsto dz + b\} \cong \mathbb{Z}.$$

⊗ If  $\gamma$  hyperbolic, wlog:  $\text{Fix}(\gamma) = \{0, \infty\}$ .

$$\Rightarrow \text{By direct computation: } g(z) = \lambda z, \lambda > 0.$$

g preserves  $\mathbb{R}^+$ . So,  $\Gamma$  acts by isometries on some line, so  $\Gamma \leq \mathbb{Z}$  or  $D_\infty$ . (By Prop discos).



Next: Analyse Dehn examples.

$$G_n = \langle x, y, z \mid x^2 = y^3 = z \rangle \cong \langle (xy)^{6n+5} = z^{5n+4} \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow z \in Z(G_n), \text{ so } G_n / \langle z \rangle = \langle x, y \mid x^2, y^3, (xy)^{6n+5} \rangle \\ \Gamma_n = \langle x^2, y^3, (xy)^{6n+5} \rangle \\ = \Gamma(2, 3, 6n+5).$$

$\Rightarrow \Gamma_n$  is fuchsian triangular group, as long as  $n \geq 1$ .

$$\Rightarrow Z(\Gamma_n) = 1 \quad \forall n \geq 1.$$

$\Rightarrow \mathbb{Z}(G_n) = \langle z \rangle$

So, if  $G_n \cong G_m$ , then  $\mathbb{Z}(G_n) \cong \mathbb{Z}(G_m)$

$\& F_n = G_n / \mathbb{Z}(G_n) \cong G_m / \mathbb{Z}(G_m) \cong F_m$ .

But: Look at Torsion. The orders of torsion in  $F_n$  were exactly the divisors of  $2, 3, 6n+5$ .

Hence:  $\{\text{divisors of } 2, 3, 6n+5\} = \{\text{divisors of } 8, 2, 3, 6m+5\}$

$\Rightarrow m=n \checkmark$

$\Rightarrow$  There are infinitely many non-homotopic 3D homology spheres.

## §5: Hyperbolic Groups.

Goal: Define "Coarse" Hyperbolic plane geometry, that is invariant under  $\tilde{q}_i$ .

### 1 : Hyperbolic Metric Spaces.

Let:  $X$  geodesic metric space. (Any 2 pts joined by geodesic)

A Geodesic Triangle is a triple  $[x, y] \cup [y, z] \cup [z, x]$ .

DEF for  $\delta > 0$ , denote  $N_\delta[x, y]$  as  $\delta$ -neighborhood of  $(x, y)$ .

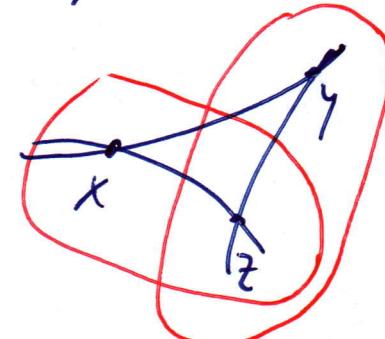
Say:  $\Delta$  is  $\delta$ -slim, if:

$$[x, y] \subset N_\delta[x, z] \cup N_\delta[y, z]$$

$\&$  similar with other ~~the~~ sides.

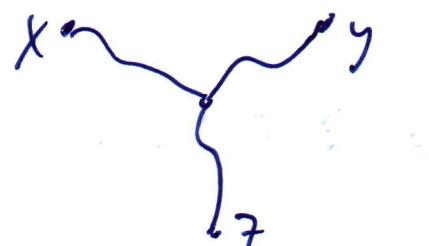
Call:  $X$   $\delta$ -hyperbolic if:  $\forall \Delta \subseteq X$  Geodesic triangle,

$\Delta$  is  $\delta$ -slim.



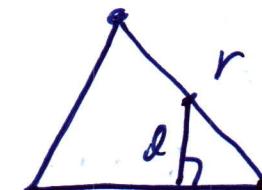
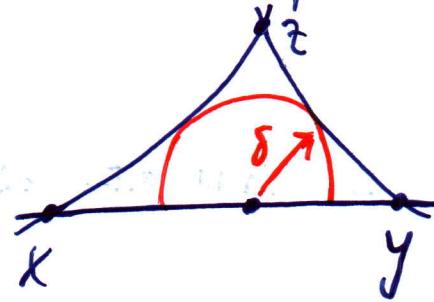
If  $\delta$ -hyperbolic for some  $\delta \Rightarrow$  Gromov-hyperbolic  
(or just Hyperbolic)

Examples 1) If  $X$  has bounded (diameter  $\delta$ ) then  
clearly  $X$  is  $\delta$ -hyperbolic.

2)  $X$  tree   $\Rightarrow$  0-hyperbolic.

3)  $\mathbb{R}^2$  Not Gromov-hyperbolic.

4)  $X = \mathbb{H}^2$ .



Have:  $\Delta$  is  $\delta$ -slim, where:  
 $\delta = \text{Area of Radius of}$   
largest semicircle that fits.

Have:  $\frac{1}{2} \text{Area}(\delta) \leq \text{Area}(\Delta) = \pi - (\alpha + \beta + \gamma) < \pi$

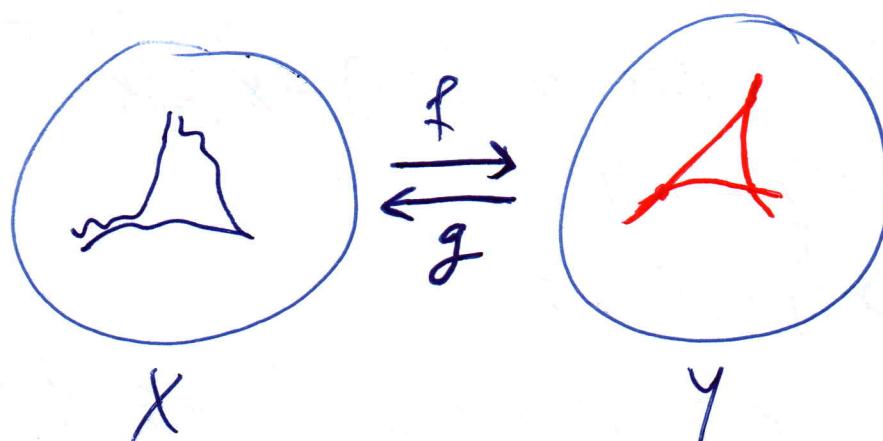
$\Rightarrow \text{Area}(\delta) < 2\pi$ , so  $\delta < A^{-1}(2\pi)$ .

$\Rightarrow \mathbb{H}^2$  is Gromov-hyperbolic.

2] Mostow-Morse Lemma.

Goal: Prove, Gromov-Hyperbolic property is  $g_i$ -invariant  
(possibly for different  $\delta$ ).

Goal: Prove  $\delta$ -hyperbolicity is quasi-isometry invariant.



( $\delta$ -Hyperbolic).

DEF]  $\gamma: [a, b] \rightarrow X$  Path  $(\lambda, \varepsilon)$ -Quasigeodesic,

if:  $\forall s, t \in [a, b], \frac{1}{\lambda} |s-t| - \varepsilon \leq d(\gamma(s), \gamma(t)) \leq \lambda |s-t| + \varepsilon$ .

DEF] Hausdorff Distance.

Let:  $A, B \in X$  ( $X$  Metric Space)  $\Leftrightarrow N_c(A) = \bigcup_{a \in A} B_c(a)$   
 $= \{x \in X : \exists a \in A, d(x, a) < c\}$ .

For  $A, B \neq \emptyset$ , define Hausdorff Distance:

$$d_{\text{Haus}}(A, B) = \inf \{c > 0 : A \subseteq N_c(B) \wedge B \subseteq N_c(A)\}.$$

DEF] [Length].

Let:  $\gamma: [a, b] \rightarrow X$  Continuous path. Then, the length of  $\gamma$  is:  $\ell(\gamma) = \sup_Q \left\{ \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} d(\gamma(t_{i-1}), \gamma(t_i)) \right\}$

Where  $Q$  is Dissection  $a = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n = b$   
 $(\Leftrightarrow \sup \text{ ranges across all such } Q)$ .

Lemma]  $\forall \lambda \geq 1, \varepsilon \geq 0 : \exists \lambda' \geq 1, \varepsilon' \geq 0$  such that:

$\forall X$  Geodesic metric space & Any  $(\lambda, \varepsilon)$ -quasigeodesic,  
 $\exists$  Continuous  $(\lambda', \varepsilon')$ -geodesic  $\alpha' : [a, b] \xrightarrow{(\alpha : [a, b] \rightarrow X)} X$ , with:

$$\underline{\underline{1}}) \quad \underline{\underline{\alpha'(a) = \alpha(a) \& \alpha'(b) = \alpha(b)}}.$$

$$\underline{\underline{2}}) \quad d_{\text{Haus}}(\text{im}(\alpha), \text{im}(\alpha')) \leq \lambda + \varepsilon$$

$$\underline{\underline{3}}) \quad l(\alpha'|_{[s, t]}) \leq \lambda' d(\alpha'(s), \alpha'(t)) + \varepsilon \quad \forall s, t \in [a, b]$$

Proof



Let:  $I = \{a, b\} \cup ((a, b) \cap \mathbb{Q})$ .

Define  $\alpha'$ , by: setting  $\alpha'(t) = \alpha(t)$   $\forall t \in I$ , and then linearly interpolate a geodesic between points of  $I$ .

Continuous: ✓

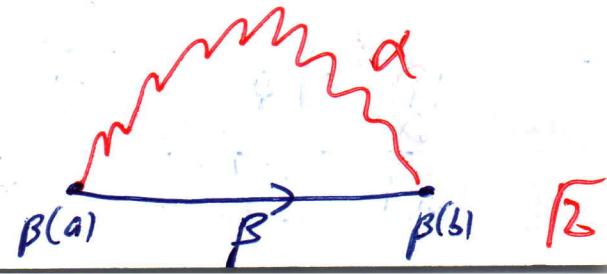
Ends & starts at correct points: ✓

By easy & tedious computations, get proof.

Lemma]  $X$   $\delta$ -Hyperbolic MS. Suppose:  $\beta : [a, b] \rightarrow X$  geodesic, &  $\alpha : [a, b]$  continuous path s.t.  $\alpha(a) = \beta(a)$   
 $\alpha(b) = \beta(b)$ .

Then:  $\forall t \in [a, b]$ :

$$d(\beta(t), \text{im} \alpha) \leq 8 \lceil \log_2(l(a)) \rceil + 1.$$



## Proof Slim Triangles!

Let  $N = \lfloor \log_2(l(\alpha)) \rfloor$ . Proof by Induction on  $N$ .

If  $N=0 \Rightarrow l(\alpha) \leq 1 \Rightarrow d(\beta(t), \text{im}(\alpha)) \leq 1 \checkmark$

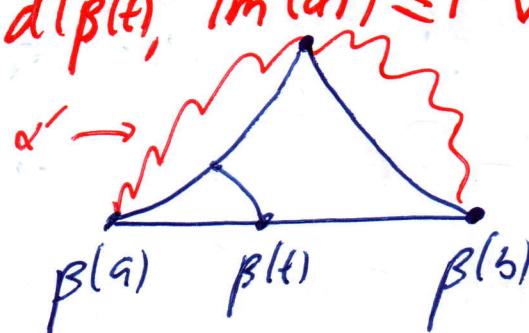
Inductive Step:

There is a Geodesic  $\beta'$

& some subpath  $\alpha' \subseteq \alpha$

such that: has length  $l(\alpha') \leq l(\alpha)/2$  & there's some point  $\beta'(t')$  on  ~~$\beta'$~~  s.t.  $d(\beta(t), d(\beta'(t')) \leq \delta$ .

$\Rightarrow$  By Induction:  $d(\beta(t), \text{im}(\alpha)) \leq d(\beta(t), \beta'(t')) + d(\beta'(t'), \text{im}(\alpha))$   
 $\leq \delta + (\delta(N-1) + 1) = \delta N + 1 \checkmark$



## Theorem (Mostow–Morse Lemma)

Let:  $X$  Geodesic  $\delta$ -Hyperbolic space.

&  ~~$\alpha: [a', b'] \rightarrow X$~~   $(\lambda, \varepsilon)$ -quasi-geodesic

&  $\beta(a) = \alpha(a')$ ,  $\beta(b) = \alpha(b')$  for  $\beta: [a, b] \rightarrow X$  geodesic.

Then:  $\exists C = C(\lambda, \varepsilon, \delta)$  such that:

$$d_{\text{Haus}}(\text{im}(\alpha), \text{im}(\beta)) \leq C$$



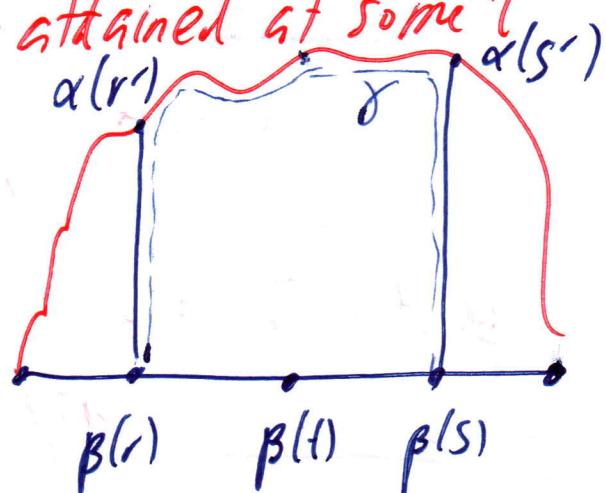
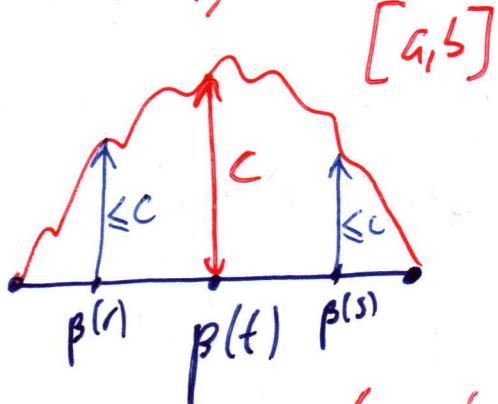
Proof] As above, may assume:  $\alpha$  "tame", i.e. in the sense of previous lemmas. (satisfies 3 properties)  
i.e.  $\alpha$  continuous,  $l(\alpha|_{[s,t]}) \leq \lambda|s-t| + \varepsilon$ .

Need to bound: both  $\inf \{C : \text{im}(\beta) \subset N_C(\text{im} \alpha)\}$  (1)  
 $\leq \inf \{C : \text{im}(\alpha) \subset N_C(\text{im} \beta)\}$ . (2)

(1):  $d(\beta(t), \text{im}(\alpha))$ .  $[\inf(d(\beta(t)), d(\alpha(t')))]$ .  $\forall t' \leq t \leq t'$ .

Let:  $C = \sup \{d(\beta(t), \text{im}(\alpha))\}$

$\Rightarrow$  Exists, since  $\text{im} \alpha$  compact,  $\leq$  attained at some  $t$



Let:  $r = \max \{0, t - 2c\}$ .

$s = \min \{b, t + 2c\}$ .

Let  $\gamma$  be the path illustrated on Right. ~~scratches~~

$\Rightarrow l(\gamma) \leq 2C + l(\alpha|_{[r, s]})$

$$\leq 2C + \lambda |r - s| + \varepsilon$$

$\leq 2C + \lambda(6c) + \varepsilon$ . Linear func on  $C$ !

Combine with Log term from prev lemma.

Mostow-Morse lemma.

Let:  $\alpha: [a', b'] \rightarrow X$   $\delta$ -hyperbolic  $\&$   $(\lambda, \varepsilon)$ -quasi geodesic.

$\&$   $\beta: [a, b] \rightarrow X$  geodesic from  $\alpha(a')$   $\rightarrow \alpha(b')$ .

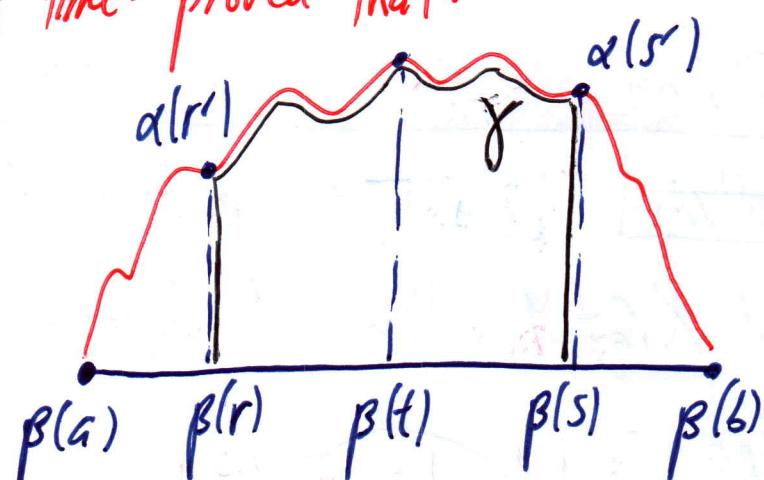
Then:  $d_{\text{Haus}}(\text{im}(\alpha), \text{im}(\beta)) \leq C = C(\lambda, \varepsilon, \delta).$

Proof (Continued). From last time: proved that:

$$l(\gamma) \leq 2C + 6C\lambda + \varepsilon.$$

( $\gamma$  illustrated to the right).

& from last time also, had the bound:



$$C = d(\beta(t), \text{im}(\gamma)) \leq \delta \lfloor \log_2 l(\gamma) \rfloor + 1.$$

$$\text{In conclusion: } C \leq \delta \lfloor \log_2 (2C + 6C\lambda + \varepsilon) \rfloor + 1.$$

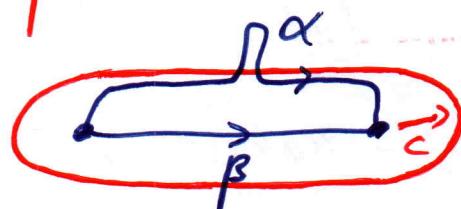
Because LHS linear  $\&$  RHS logarithmic:  $\exists$  Upper Bound for  $C$ . ✓

2): Remains to bound:  $d(\alpha(t), \text{im}(\beta))$ .

"Worried about" picture:

So, find  $[s', t'] \subset [a', b']$

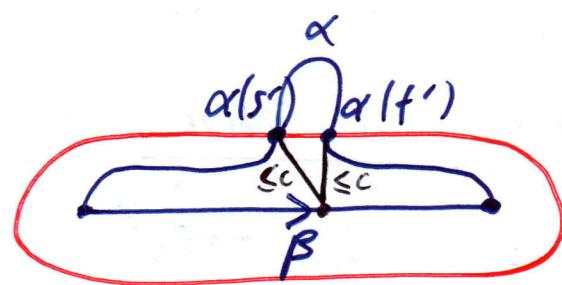
maximal s.t.  $\alpha|_{(s', t')}$  lies Outside  $N_c(\text{im } \beta)$ .



By Continuity:  $\exists t \in [a, b]$ ,  
 $s \in [a', s'] \subseteq r \in [r', b']$

with:  $d(\beta(t), \alpha(s)) \leq c$

$$\Leftrightarrow d(\beta(t), \alpha(r)) \leq c.$$

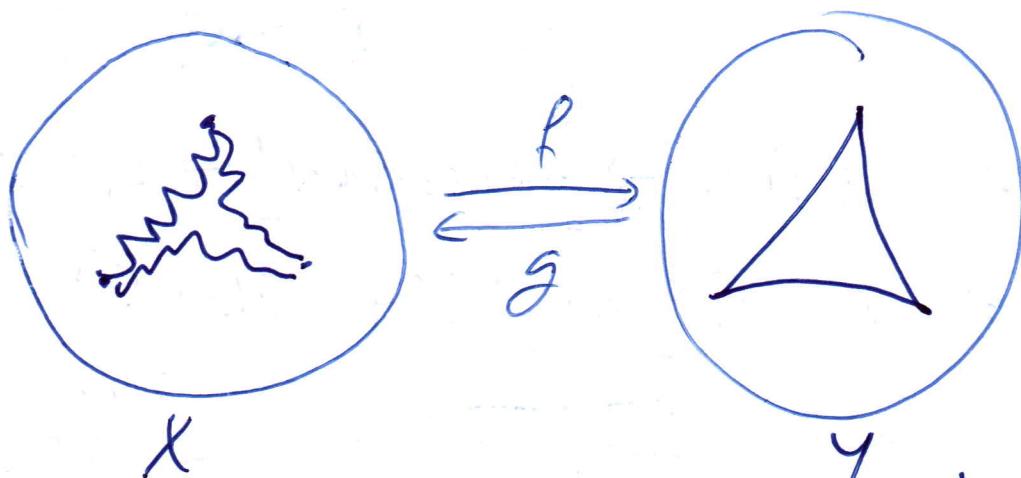


$$\Rightarrow l(\alpha|_{[s', r']}) \leq l(\alpha|_{[s, r]}) \leq 2d(\alpha(s), \alpha(r)) + \epsilon \\ < 2C\lambda + \epsilon.$$

$\Rightarrow$  Any point of  $\alpha$  is distance  $< C(2\lambda + 1) + \epsilon$  from  $\beta$ .

Corollary] Let  $X, Y$  Geodesic MS. If  $X$   $\delta$ -hyperbolic and  $X \cong Y$ , then  $Y$  Gromov-Hyperbolic.

Idea:



Can replace "image" with some close geodesic between them.

Proof Let:  $f: X \rightarrow Y, g: Y \rightarrow X$  quasi-Isometries.

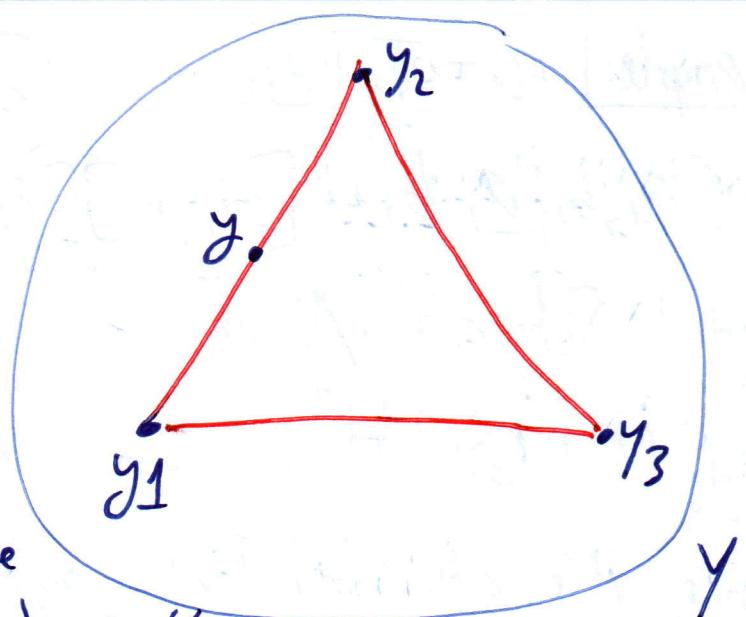
$$[(\lambda, \epsilon)-\text{quasi-isometries} \Leftrightarrow d(f \circ g(y), y) \leq \epsilon] \\ \Leftrightarrow d(g \circ f(x), x) \leq \epsilon.$$

Consider: Geodesic triangle  $(y_1, y_2, y_3) \subset Y$ .

Let:  $y \in [y_1, y_2]$ .

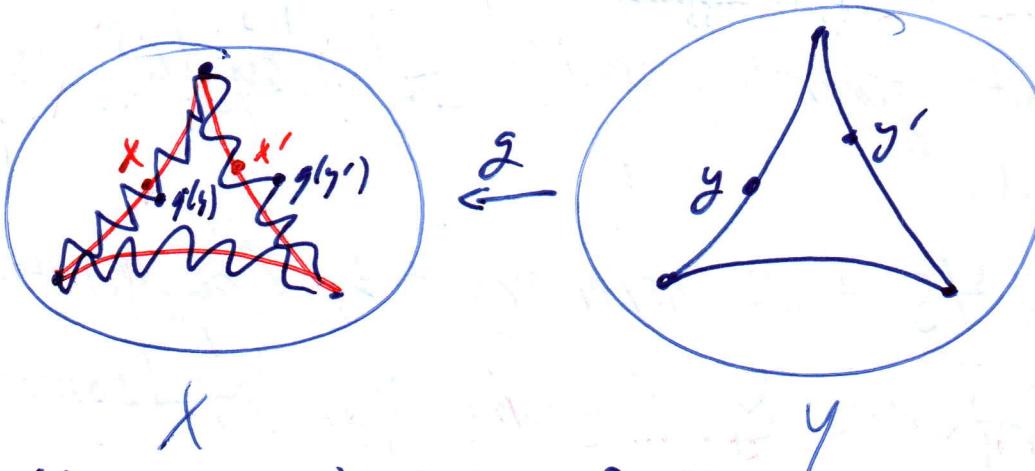
$\Rightarrow$  By M-M lemma:

$\exists x \in [g(y_1), g(y_2)]$ , with  
 $d(x, g(y_1)) \leq c$ .



Apply  $\delta$ -Hyperbolicity to the triangle:  $(g(y_1), g(y_2), g(y_3)) \subset X$ :

$\Rightarrow \exists x' \in [g(y_2), g(y_3)]$  (wlog) s.t.  $d(x, x') \leq \delta$ .



$\Rightarrow d(g(y), g(y')) \leq 2c + \delta$ .

[since: by MM,  $\exists y' \in [y_1, y_2]$ ,  $d(x', g(y')) \leq c$ ]

$\Rightarrow d(f \circ g(y), f \circ g(y')) \leq \lambda(2c + \delta) + \varepsilon$ .

(~~f~~ f is a  $(\lambda, \varepsilon)$ -isometry)

because:

$\Rightarrow d(y, y') \leq 2\varepsilon + d(f \circ g(y), f \circ g(y'))$   
 $\leq \lambda(2c + \delta) + 3\varepsilon$ . Function index of  $\Delta$ .

$\Rightarrow Y$  is indeed Gromov-Hyperbolic. ✓

Example]  $G = \pi_1(\Sigma_2)$



$$= \langle a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2 \mid [a_1, b_1][a_2, b_2] \rangle.$$

Apply: Schwarz-Milner

$\text{Cays}(G) \cong \mathbb{H}^2$ . (Is: Gromov-Hyperbolic)

Hence, it's also true for  $\text{Cays}(G)$ .

### 3: Hyperbolic Groups.

Using previous corollary, TFAE:

- 1)  $G$  has finite generating set  $S$ , s.t.  $\text{Cays}(G)$  is Gromov-Hyperbolic
- 2)  $G$  F.g. & VS finite generating set,  $\text{Cay}_G(S)$  hyp.
- 3)  $G$  acts Prop disc & co-compactly by Isometries, on some Proper geodesic & Gromov-Hyperbolic MS  $X$
- 4) Every (Proper & Geodesic) MS  $X$ , on which  $G$  acts Prop disc & co-compactly, is Gromov-Hyperbolic.

DEF] If ANY of the above is true, then  $G$  is (word)-Hyperbolic.

from last time :

DEF] If  $G$  f.g.  $\cong$  some (any) Cayley graph  $(\text{Cay}_S(G))$  is Hyperbolic (for some finite  $S$ ), then  $G$  is called: word-Hyperbolic.

Examples] 1) Any finite  $G$  is Bounded  $\Rightarrow$  Hyperbolic.

2) If  $G = F_m$ : Standard generating set  $S$  gives  $(\text{Cay}_S(G)) = \text{Tree}$  ( $0$ -hyperbolic). So,  $F_m$  hyperbolic.

3)  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  not hyperbolic: if it were,  $\mathbb{Z}^2 \supset \mathbb{R}^2$  naturally

so (by Schwarz-Milner)  $\mathbb{R}^2$  Hyperbolic  $\#$

4) If  $g \geq 2$ ,  $G = \pi_1(\Sigma_g)$   $\Rightarrow \pi_1(\Sigma_g) \supset \mathbb{H}^2$  geometrically (i.e. prop discs + cocompactly  $\cong$  by isom.)  $\Rightarrow G$  is Hyperbolic.

5) Holds for  $\pi_1(M)$  for any  $M$  closed Riemannian manifold, with Sectional Curvature  $< 0$ .

6)  $G = SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/4 * \mathbb{Z}/6$

$\Rightarrow$  BS tree is 3-valent tree  $T$ , so  $G \supset T$  geometrically and s.  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  is Hyperbolic.

7) Randomly finitely-presented groups!  $\langle a_1, \dots, a_n | r_1, \dots, r_n \rangle$  chosen "At random" (in suitable sense).

$\Rightarrow G$  is infinite & Hyperbolic. (almost always)

## §4: Local Geodesics.

Goal: Solve WP in Hyperbolic Groups.

Key Ingredient is local-to-global statement about geodesics, in Hyperbolic metric Spaces.

DEF] A path  $\gamma: [a, b] \rightarrow X$  is -local geodesic, if  $d(\gamma(s), \gamma(t)) = |s-t|$  whenever  $|s-t| \leq c$ .

Lemma [Local Geodesics, in Hyperbolic Spaces]

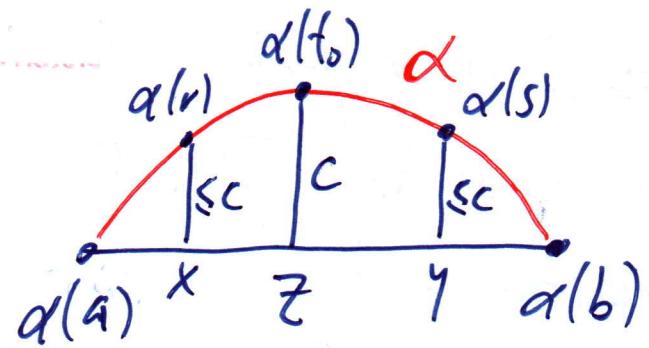
Let  $X$   $\delta$ -Hyperbolic MS. Then, if  $\alpha: [a, b] \rightarrow X$  is a  $(10\delta)$ -Local Geodesic, then:  $\text{im}_\alpha \subseteq N_{2\delta}([\alpha(a), \alpha(b)])$ .

[Holds for ANY choice of geodesic  $\alpha$ !]

Proof]  $C = \sup_t \{d(\alpha(t), [\alpha(a), \alpha(b)])\}$  & say realised at some  $t_0 \in [a, b]$ .

& let  $r = \max(a, t_0 - 5\delta)$

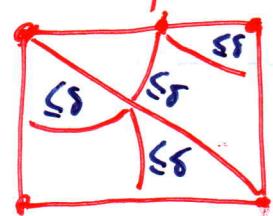
$s = \min(b, t_0 + 5\delta)$



& let:  $z \in [\alpha(a), \alpha(b)]$  minimize distance to  $\alpha(t_0)$

&  $x, y \in [\alpha(a), \alpha(b)]$  defined similarly.

Observe:



Point on Quadrilateral, that is distance  $\leq 2\delta$  from other sides.

Apply observation to  $[\alpha(r), \alpha(s), y, x]$  on side  $[\alpha(r), \alpha(s)]$

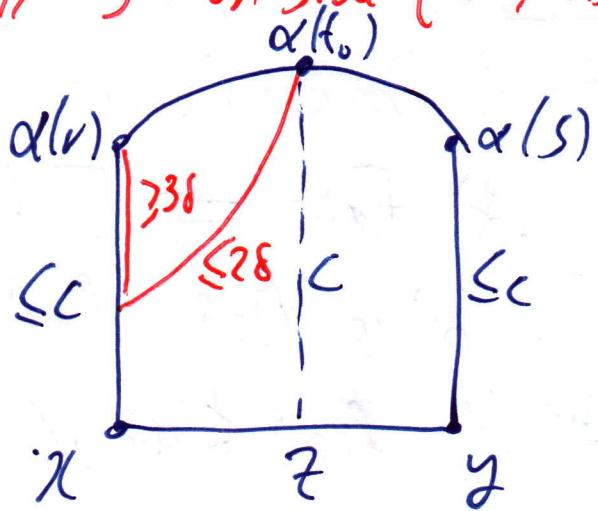
Suppose:  $\exists w \in [\alpha(r), x]$ , with  $d(w, \alpha(t_0)) \leq 2\delta$ .

$$\Rightarrow d(\alpha(r), w) \geq d(\alpha(r), \alpha(t)) - d(\alpha(t), w)$$

$$\geq (5\delta - 2\delta) = 3\delta.$$

$\Rightarrow d(\alpha(r), x) \leq C \Leftrightarrow \geq 3\delta$

$$d(\alpha(t_0), x) \leq (2\delta) + d(w, x) < 3\delta + d(w, x) \leq d(\alpha(r), x) \leq C.$$



Hence, indeed,  $C \leq 3\delta$ .

Remark: Coarse analogue of fact that Local Geodesics in Trees are Global geodesics.

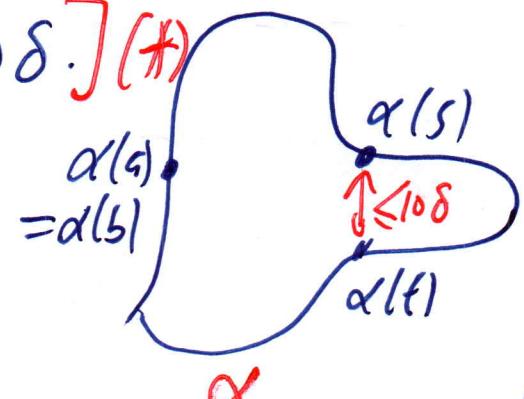
The next consequence of this is key to solving WP:

Lemma: (Shortcuts in Hyperbolic Spaces)

Let:  $X$   $\delta$ -hyperbolic.  $\alpha$  loop  $[a, b] \rightarrow X$ ,

with:  $l(\alpha) \geq 4\delta$ . [Then,  $\alpha$  contains  $a \leq s < t \leq b$ , with:  $d(\alpha(s), \alpha(t)) < l(\alpha|_{[s, t]}) \leq 10\delta$ .] (\*)

( $\Rightarrow \alpha$  not geodesic!)



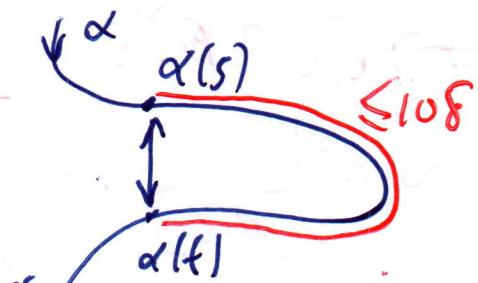
Proof) Unless  $(*)$  is satisfied:  $\alpha$  is  $(10\delta)$ -local Geodesic  
⇒ By Previous Lemma:  $Im(\alpha) \subset N_{2\delta}([\alpha(a), \alpha(b)]) = B_{2\delta}$ .  
So,  $(*)$  fails ⇒  $Im(\alpha)$   
Since  $\alpha$  is  $(10\delta)$ -local Geodesic &  $diam(B_{2\delta}) \leq 4\delta$ ,  
follows:  $\ell(\alpha) \leq 4\delta$  ✓

from last time:

Lemma  $X$  hyperbolic. Any loop  $\alpha: [a, b] \rightarrow X$  s.t.

$l(\alpha) > 48$  contains  $[s, t] \subset [a, b]$  with:

$$d(\alpha(s), \alpha(t)) < l(\alpha|_{[s, t]}) \leq 108.$$



## §5: Dehn's Algorithm.

Will: solve WP in ALL hyperbolic groups.

Use: Algorithm exhibited by Dehn.

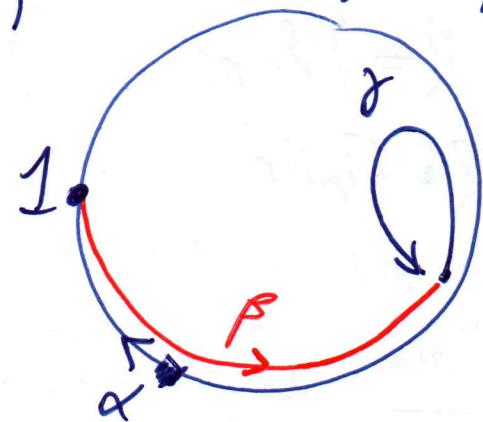
Theorem [Relations in hyperbolic Groups.]

Let:  $P$  hyperbolic group.  $S \subset P$  finite gen set.

For any <sup>nuntrivial</sup> edge loop  $\alpha \subset \text{Cays}(P)$ , there is: edge loop  $\gamma$  of length  $< 208$ , such that:

$$l(\alpha * \beta \gamma \beta^{-1}) < l(\alpha)$$

for some choice of path  $\beta$  from 1 to some point on  $\gamma$ .

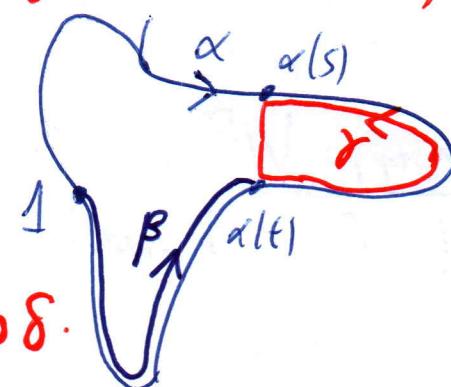


Proof] If  $l(\alpha) \leq 208$  then take  $\gamma = \alpha^{-1}$ . Then,

$$\alpha \gamma \sim * \Rightarrow l(\alpha \gamma) = 0 < l(\alpha).$$

Otherwise: by Lemma: find  $s, t$

$$\text{with } d(\alpha(s), \alpha(t)) < l(\alpha|_{[s, t]}) \leq 108.$$



So, define  $\beta, \gamma$  as in diagram (previous page)

$$\gamma = (\alpha|_{[s,t]})^{-1} \cup [\alpha(s), \alpha(t)] \quad (\text{Any geodesic})$$

$$\beta = \{\alpha|_{[t,b]}\}^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \ell(\alpha\beta\gamma\beta^{-1})$$

$$\sim \alpha|_{[a,s]} \cup [\alpha(s), \alpha(t)] \cup \alpha|_{[t,b]} \quad \ell < \ell(\alpha|_{[s,t]})$$

$$\Rightarrow \ell(\alpha\beta\gamma\beta^{-1}) < \ell(\alpha) \checkmark$$

Corollary Hyperbolic groups are finitely Presented.

Proof Let:  $S$  fin-gen set, for hyperbolic group  $G$ .

Consider:  $\text{Cays}(G)$ . Is:  $\delta$ -hyperbolic (some  $\delta$ )

Let:  $R = \{\text{loops in } \text{Cays}(G), \text{ Based at } 1 \triangleq \begin{cases} \text{length} \\ < 20\delta \end{cases}\}$

$\Rightarrow R$  finite. (Since: All such paths are contained in finite Ball,  $\triangleq$  all degrees finite degree)

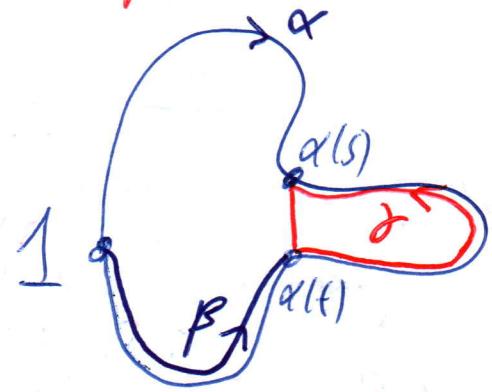
Claim:  $G \cong \langle S, |R\rangle$ .

Indeed: By Theorem:  $\triangleq$  induction on length, any relation (loop) is product of conjugates of elements of  $R$ .  $\checkmark$

Corollary WP is solvable in Hyperbolic groups.

i.e. If  $G$  is Hyperbolic group, then the WP in  $G$  is solvable.

Proof Consider presentation  $\langle S | R \rangle$ , constructed in the previous Corollary.



$\Leftarrow$  Let:  $w \in F(S)$ .

By Theorem: if  $w \underset{G}{=} 1$  then  $\exists$  Cyclic conjugate  $w' \sim w \Leftrightarrow r \in R$ , with:  $l(w' \cdot r) < l(w)$ .

[Theorem says  $l(\alpha \cdot \beta \delta \beta^{-1})$ , but you can "move" the  $\beta^{-1}$  to left, which amounts to change of base pt of loop]

Let:  $\alpha = w$  in theorem,  $\Leftrightarrow w' = \beta^{-1} \alpha \beta$ ,  $r = \delta$ .

$\Rightarrow$  finitely many possibilities  $(w', r)$  to check.

If one found: replace  $w \mapsto w' \cdot r \Leftrightarrow$  Repeat.

If not found:  $w \underset{G}{\neq} 1 \Rightarrow$  Algorithm terminates with this information ✓

Because  $l(w' \cdot r) < l(w)$ : this can only happen finitely many times. So, if reached 1, then follows  $w \underset{G}{=} 1$ . ✓

Remark] A presentation (as in Corollary) is a Dehn presentation:  $\langle S | R \rangle$ , s.t.  $\forall w \underset{G}{=} 1, \exists h \in G$  and  $r^\pm \in R$ , s.t.  $l(w h r h^{-1}) < l(w)$ .

Turns out: a group  $G$  has Dehn Presentation iff  $G$  is hyperbolic!

# Geometric Group Theory: Lecture 24\*

13/03/2024

## §6: Outlook & Further Topics and Open Problems.)

### 1) Random Groups.

Fix: generating set  $S = \{a_1, \dots, a_m\}$ , fix  $n \geq 1$ , and choose  $\{r_1, \dots, r_n\} \subset F(S)$  uniformly at random, with  $l(r_i) = l$  ( $l$  fixed).

Consider:  $G = \langle a_1, \dots, a_m \mid r_1, \dots, r_n \rangle$ . "Random Group"

For any property  $P$  of groups, can ask:  $P(G \in P)$ .

Say random group has property  $P$ , if  $P(G \in P) \rightarrow 1$  as  $l \rightarrow \infty$ .

Theorem [Gromov & Olshanski].

A random group is Infinite & Hyperbolic, for  $m \geq 2, n \geq 1$ .

### 2. Subgroups. Two open problems in area.

Conjecture [Surface Subgroup Conjecture]

Unless  $G$  is ~~not~~ "Virtually free", if  $G$  is word-hyperbolic then  $\exists$  Closed surface  $\Sigma_g$  ( $g \geq 2$ ) with  $\pi_1(\Sigma_g) \subset G$ .

Proved in case  $G = \pi_1(M^3)$  for  $M$  compact manifold

(by Kahn & Markovic, 2009)

### 3. Representations & Residual finiteness.

A group  $G$  is linear if  $G \leq \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$ , some  $n$ .  
(i.e. Has faithful  $\mathbb{C}$ -rep.)

Theorem [M. Kapovich]

There is a Hyperbolic group that is not linear.

But: consider a weaker notion of this.

DEF]  $G$  Residually finite if:  $\forall g \in G - e, \exists f: G \rightarrow Q$   
( $Q$  finite group) s.t.  $f(g) \neq 1$ .

Question: Is every Hyperbolic group Residually finite?

Recent progress includes:

Theorem [Olliner-Wise] Random groups are Residually finite.  
(In fact: are linear!)

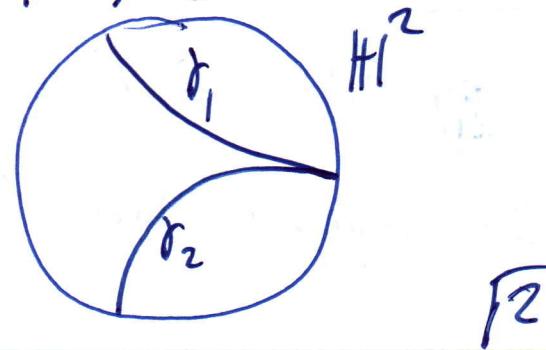
#### 4. Boundaries.

Recall:  $\partial \mathbb{H}^2 \cong S^1$ .

DEF] Let  $X$  Proper (i.e. closed balls are compact)  
Hyperbolic MS. A geodesic ray is Isometric embedding  
 $\gamma: [0, \infty) \rightarrow X$ .

Write:  $\gamma_1 \sim \gamma_2 \Leftrightarrow \exists C > 0$  s.t.  $d(\gamma_1(t), \gamma_2(t)) \leq c \ \forall t$ .

The Gromov Boundary  $\partial_\infty X$  is:  
(Set of geodesic rays of  $X$ )/ $\sim$ .



Rules

- 1)  $\partial_\infty X$  admits natural metrisable topology  
so that  $\partial_\infty X \cong X \cup \partial_\infty X$  are compact.
- 2) A q.i.  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  induces: homeo  $\partial_\infty X \rightarrow \partial_\infty Y$ .  
 $\Rightarrow$  If  $G$  hyperbolic group, define  $\partial_\infty G \cong \partial_\infty \text{Cay}(G)$ .

Example) If  $G$  cocompact  $\cong$  Fuchsian  
(e.g.  $\Sigma_g \cong$  triangle groups), then  $\partial_\infty G \cong \partial_\infty \mathbb{H}^2 = S^1$ .

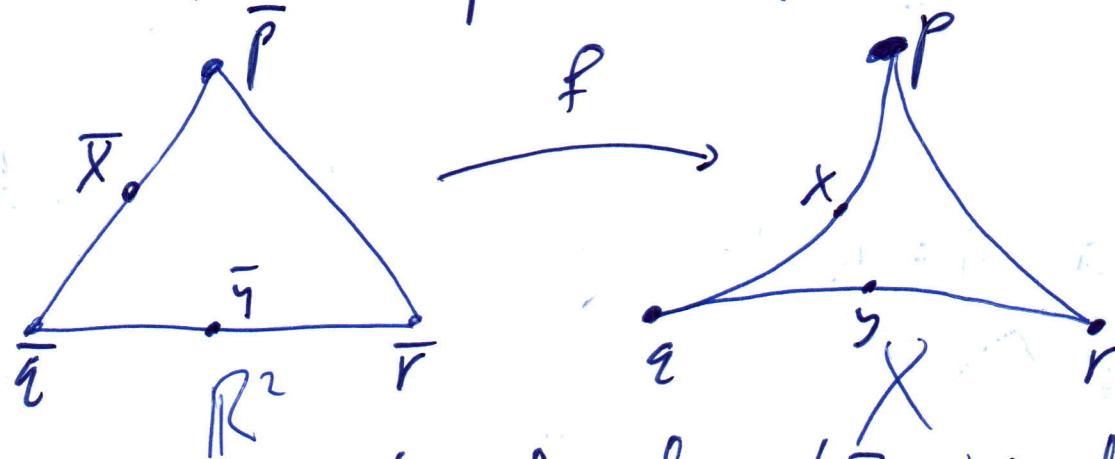
Theorem)

If  $G$  hyperbolic  $\cong \partial_\infty G \cong S^1$ , then  $G$  is virtually Fuchsian.

Cannon Conjecture) If  $G$  hyperbolic  $\cong \partial_\infty G \cong S^2$ ,  
does it follow  $G$  is virtually  $\text{Th}_1(M^3)$ ?

## 5. Non-positive Curvature.

Def)  $X$  geodesic ms. Each geodesic  $\Delta \subset X$  has:  
a well-defined Companion triangle  $\bar{\Delta} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ .



Say  $X$  is CAT(0) if:  $d_{\text{eucl}}(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) \geq d_X(x, y)$ .

Question] Does every hyperbolic group act geometrically  
in a CAT(0) space?