

3-dimensional affine space forms and hyperbolic geometry

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Euclidean manifolds

- When can a group G act on \mathbb{R}^n with quotient $M^n = \mathbb{R}^n/G$ a (Hausdorff) manifold?
- G acts by Euclidean isometries $\implies G$ finite extension of a subgroup of *translations* $G \cap \mathbb{R}^n \cong \mathbb{Z}^k$ (Bieberbach 1912);
- A Euclidean isometry is an *affine transformation*

$$\vec{x} \mapsto A\vec{x} + \vec{b}$$

$$A \in \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}), \vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

where the *linear part* $\mathbb{L}(\gamma) = A$ is *orthogonal*. ($A \in \text{O}(n)$)

- Only finitely many topological types in each dimension.
- Only one *commensurability* class.

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Complete affine manifolds

- A *complete affine manifold* M^n is a quotient \mathbb{R}^n/G where G is a discrete group of affine transformations.
- For M to be a (Hausdorff) smooth manifold, G must act:
 - **Discretely:** ($G \subset \text{Homeo}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ discrete);
 - **Freely:** (No fixed points);
 - **Properly:** (Go to ∞ in $G \implies$ go to ∞ in every orbit Gx).
 - More precisely, the map

$$G \times X \longrightarrow X \times X$$

$$(g, x) \longmapsto (gx, x)$$

is a proper map (preimages of compacta are compact).

- Unlike Riemannian isometries, discreteness does **not** imply properness.
- Equivalently this structure is a geodesically complete torsionfree affine connection on M .

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Margulis Spacetimes

- Most interesting examples: Margulis (~ 1980):
 - G is a free group acting isometrically on \mathbb{E}^{2+1}
 - $\mathbb{L}(G) \subset O(2, 1)$ is isomorphic to G .
 - M^3 noncompact complete flat Lorentz 3-manifold.
 - Associated to every Margulis spacetime M^3 is a noncompact complete hyperbolic surface Σ^2 .
 - Closely related to the geometry of M^3 is a *deformation* of the hyperbolic structure on Σ^2 .
- Conjecture: *Every Margulis spacetime is diffeomorphic to a solid handlebody.*

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Geometric 3-manifolds

- Unlike the 8 geometries of Thurston's Geometrization, affine structures are *not Riemannian*.
 - No obvious metrics.
 - Usual tools (distance, angle, metric convexity, completeness, volume) **NOT** available.

Conjecture:

A complete affine 3-manifold $M^3 = \mathbb{R}^3/\Gamma$ is finitely covered by:

- *An iterated fibration by cells and circles; **or***
- *An open solid handlebody (Margulis, Drumm examples).*

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Milnor's Question (1977)

Can a nonabelian free group act properly, freely and discretely by affine transformations on \mathbb{R}^n ?

- Equivalently (Tits 1971): *“Are there discrete groups other than virtually polycyclic groups which act properly, affinely?”*
 - If **NO**, M^n finitely covered by iterated fibration by cells and circles.
 - Dimension 3: M^3 compact $\implies M^3$ finitely covered by T^2 -bundle over S^1 (Fried-G 1983),
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Milnor offers the following results as possible “evidence” for a negative answer to this question.

- *Connected Lie group G admits a proper affine action $\iff G$ is amenable (compact-by-solvable).*
- *Every virtually polycyclic group admits a proper affine action.*

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An idea for a counterexample...

- Clearly a geometric problem: free groups act properly by isometries on H^3 hence by diffeomorphisms of \mathbb{E}^3
- These actions are *not* affine.
- Milnor suggests:

Start with a free discrete subgroup of $O(2, 1)$ and add translation components to obtain a group of affine transformations which acts freely.

However it seems difficult to decide whether the resulting group action is properly discontinuous.”

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Lorentzian and Hyperbolic Geometry

- $\mathbb{R}^{2,1}$ is the 3-dimensional real vector space with inner product:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \\ z_2 \end{bmatrix} := x_1x_2 + y_1y_2 - z_1z_2$$

and Minkowski space $\mathbb{E}^{2,1}$ is the corresponding *affine space*, a simply connected geodesically complete Lorentzian manifold.

- The Lorentz metric tensor is $dx^2 + dy^2 - dz^2$.
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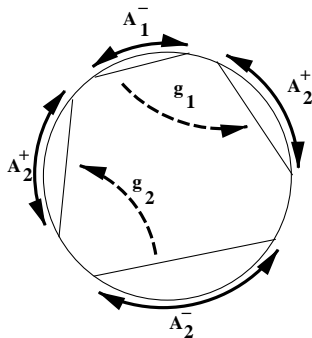
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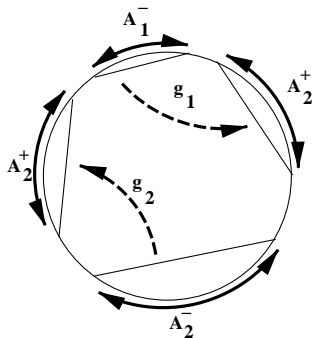
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A Schottky group



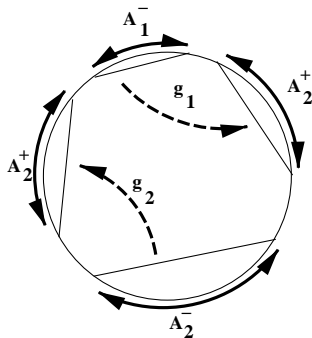
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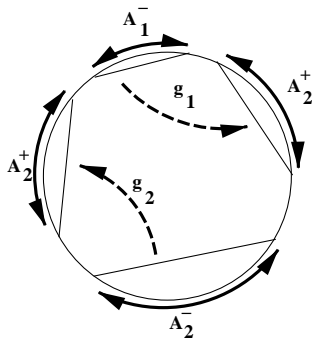
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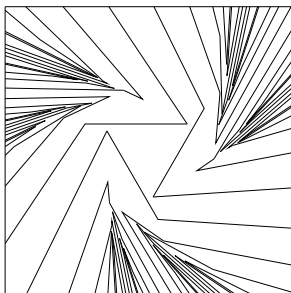
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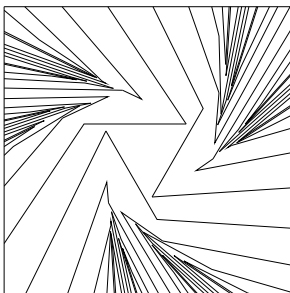
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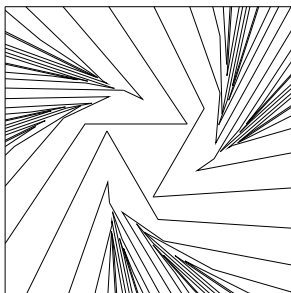
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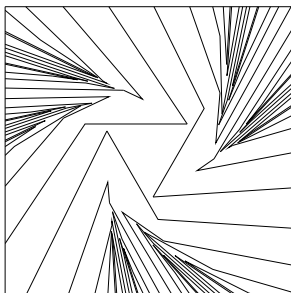
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Flat Lorentz manifolds

Suppose that $\Gamma \subset \text{Aff}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ acts properly and is not solvable.

- Let $\Gamma \xrightarrow{\mathbb{L}} \text{GL}(3, \mathbb{R})$ be the *linear part*.
 - $\mathbb{L}(\Gamma)$ (conjugate to) a *discrete* subgroup of $\text{O}(2, 1)$;
 - \mathbb{L} injective. (Fried-G 1983).
- Homotopy equivalence

$$M^3 := \mathbb{E}^{2,1}/\Gamma \longrightarrow \Sigma := \mathbb{H}^2/\mathbb{L}(\Gamma)$$

where Σ complete hyperbolic surface.

- Mess (1990): Σ not compact .
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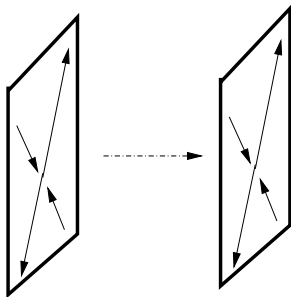
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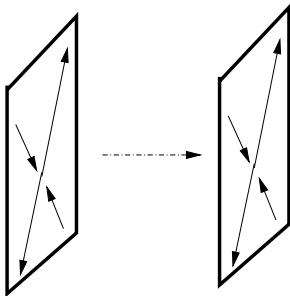
Cyclic groups

- Most elements $\gamma \in \Gamma$ are *boosts*, affine deformations of hyperbolic elements of $O(2, 1)$. A fundamental domain is the *slab* bounded by two parallel planes.



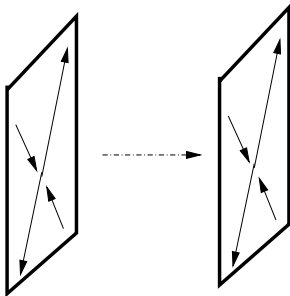
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A boost identifying two parallel planes

Closed geodesics and holonomy

- Each such element leaves invariant a unique (spacelike) line, whose image in $\mathbb{E}^{2,1}/\Gamma$ is a *closed geodesic*. Just as for hyperbolic surfaces, most loops are freely homotopic to closed geodesics.

$$\gamma = \begin{bmatrix} e^{\ell(\gamma)} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{-\ell(\gamma)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \alpha(\gamma) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- $\ell(\gamma) \in \mathbb{R}^+$: *geodesic length* of γ
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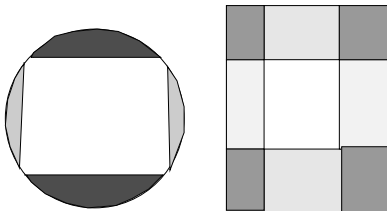
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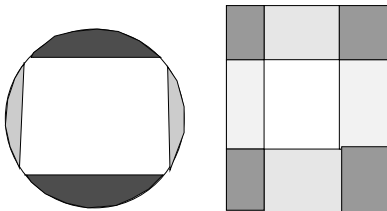
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Slabs don't work!



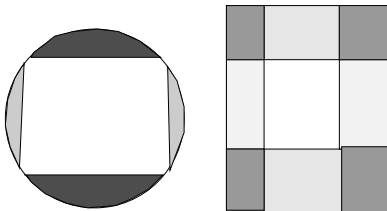
- In H^2 , the half-spaces A_i^\pm are disjoint;
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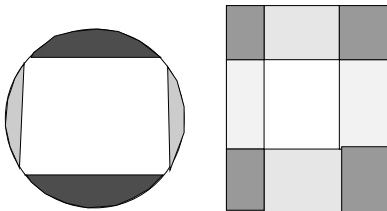
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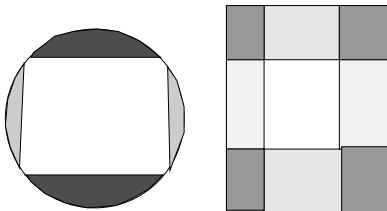
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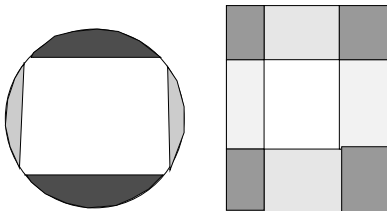
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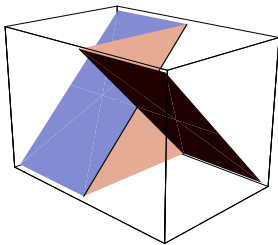
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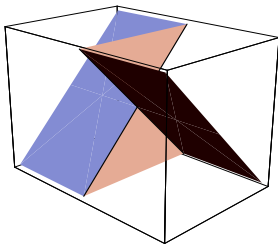
- *Crooked Planes*: Flexible polyhedral surfaces bound fundamental polyhedra for free affine groups.



- Two null half-planes connected by lines inside light-cone.

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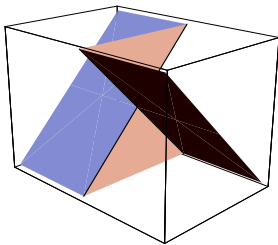
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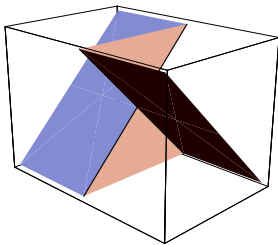
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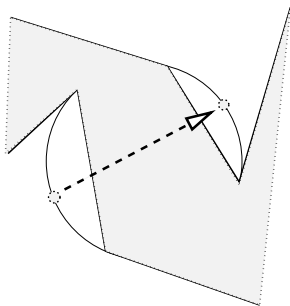
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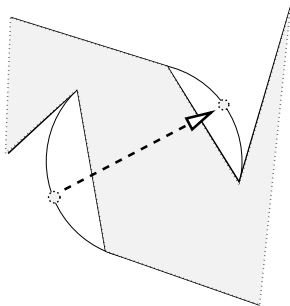
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Crooked polyhedron for a boost



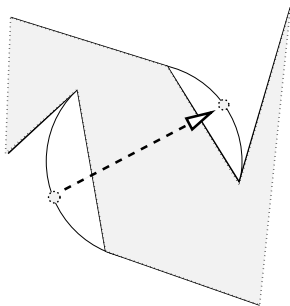
- Start with a *hyperbolic slab* in H^2 .
- Extend into light cone in $\mathbb{E}^{2,1}$;
- Extend outside light cone in $\mathbb{E}^{2,1}$;
- Action proper except at the origin and two null half-planes.

Crooked polyhedron for a boost



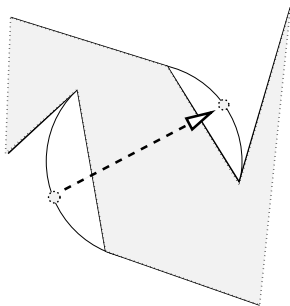
- Start with a *hyperbolic slab* in \mathbb{H}^2 .
- Extend into light cone in $\mathbb{E}^{2,1}$;
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- Action proper except at the origin and two null half-planes.

Crooked polyhedron for a boost



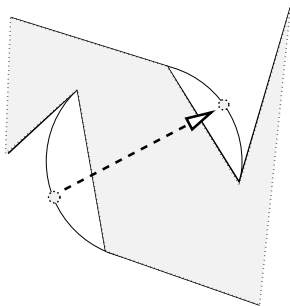
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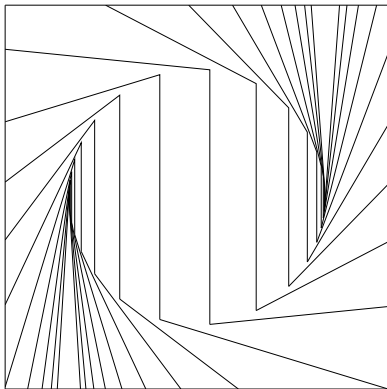
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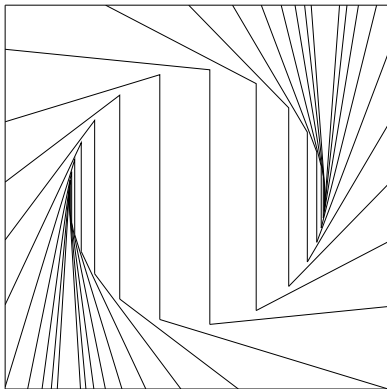
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Images of crooked planes under a linear cyclic group



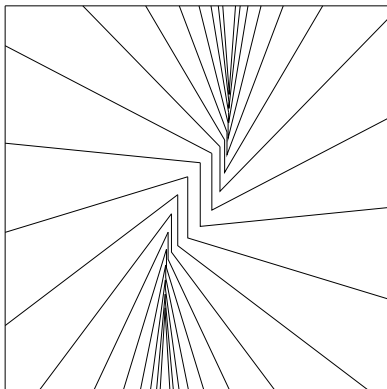
The resulting tessellation for a linear boost.

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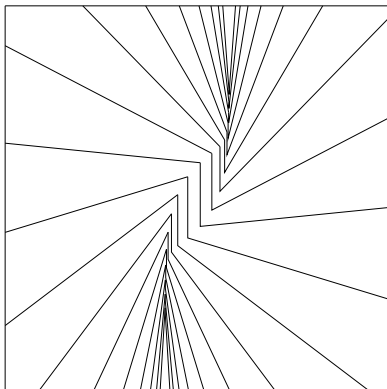
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Images of crooked planes under an affine deformation



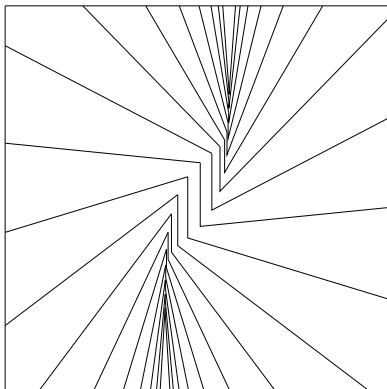
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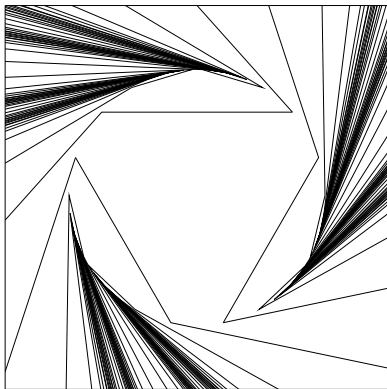
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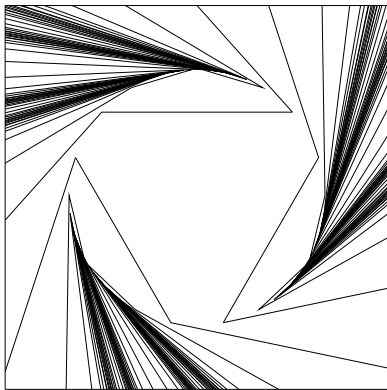
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Linear action of Schottky group



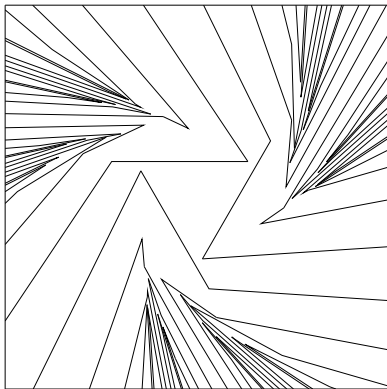
Crooked polyhedra tile \mathbb{H}^2 for subgroup of $O(2,1)$.

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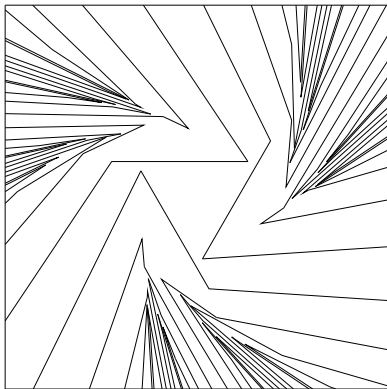
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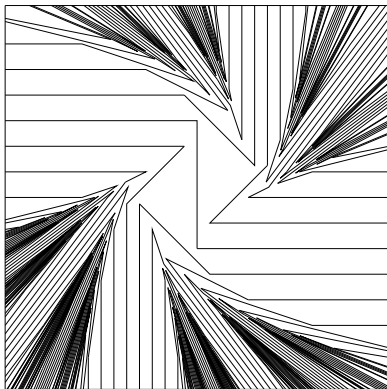


Carefully chosen affine deformation acts properly on $\mathbb{E}^{2,1}$.

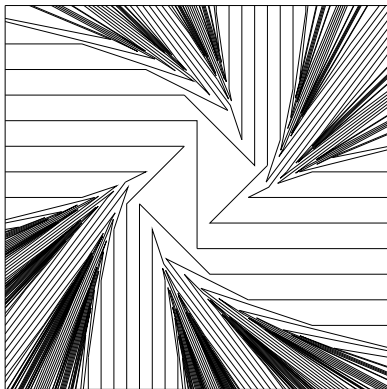
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Proper affine deformations exist even for *lattices* (Drumm).

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- Mess's theorem (Σ noncompact) is the only obstruction for the existence of a proper affine deformation:
- (Drumm 1990) Let Σ be a *noncompact* complete hyperbolic surface. Then its holonomy group admits a proper affine deformation and M^3 is a solid handlebody.
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Classify, both geometrically and topologically, **all** proper affine deformations of a non-cocompact Fuchsian group.

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Marked Signed Lorentzian Length Spectrum

- \forall affine deformation $\Gamma \xrightarrow{\rho=(\mathbb{L}, u)} \text{Isom}(\mathbb{E}^{2,1})^0$, define $\alpha_u(\gamma) \in \mathbb{R}$ as the (signed) displacement of γ along the unique γ -invariant geodesic C_γ , when $\mathbb{L}(\gamma)$ is hyperbolic.
- α_u is a class function on Γ ;
- When ρ acts properly, $|\alpha_u(\gamma)|$ is the *Lorentzian length* of the closed geodesic in M^3 corresponding to γ ;
- (Margulis 1983) If ρ acts properly, either
 - $\alpha_u(\gamma) > 0 \forall \gamma \neq 1$, or
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Affine deformations

- Start with a Fuchsian group $\Gamma_0 \subset O(2, 1)$. An *affine deformation* is a representation $\rho = \rho_u$ with image $\Gamma = \Gamma_u$

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determined by its translational part

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Deformations of hyperbolic structures

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 \longleftrightarrow infinitesimal deformations of the hyperbolic surface Σ .
 - The Lorentzian vector space $\mathbb{R}^{2,1}$ corresponds to the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})$ with the Killing form, and the action of $O(2, 1)$ is the adjoint representation.
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- Suppose $u \in Z^1(\Gamma_0, \mathbb{R}^{2,1})$ defines an *infinitesimal deformation* tangent to a smooth deformation Σ_t of Σ .
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 - Therefore $\alpha_u(\gamma)/\ell(\gamma)$ is *constant* on cyclic (hyperbolic) subgroups of Γ .
 - Such cyclic subgroups correspond to periodic orbits of the geodesic flow Φ of $U\Sigma$.
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The Deformation Space

- The deformation space of marked Margulis space-times arising from a topological surface S is a bundle over the Fricke space $\mathfrak{F}(S)$ of marked hyperbolic structures $S \rightarrow \Sigma$ on S .
 - The fiber is the subspace of $H^1(\Sigma, \mathbb{R}^{2,1})$ (equivalence classes of *all* affine deformations) consisting of *proper* deformations.
 - Consists of equivalence classes of proper affine deformations of a fixed hyperbolic surface Σ and is nonempty (Drumm 1990).
 - (G-Labourie-Margulis 2010) Convex domain in $H^1(\Sigma, \mathbb{R}^{2,1})$ defined by the generalized CDM-invariants of measured geodesic laminations on Σ .
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The three-holed sphere (Charette-Drumm-G 2009)

- Suppose Σ is a three-holed sphere with boundary $\partial_1, \partial_2, \partial_3$.
- CDM-invariants of $\partial\Sigma$ identify the deformation space $H^1(\Gamma_0, \mathbb{R}^{2,1})$ of equivalence classes of **all** affine deformations with \mathbb{R}^3 .
- If $\alpha(\partial_i) > 0$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$. then Γ admits a crooked fundamental polyhedron:
 - Γ acts properly;
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- Corollary (in hyperbolic geometry): If each component of $\partial\Sigma$ lengthens, then *every curve* lengthens under a deformation of the hyperbolic surface Σ .

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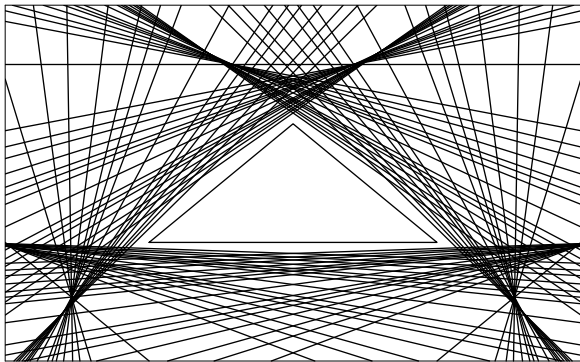
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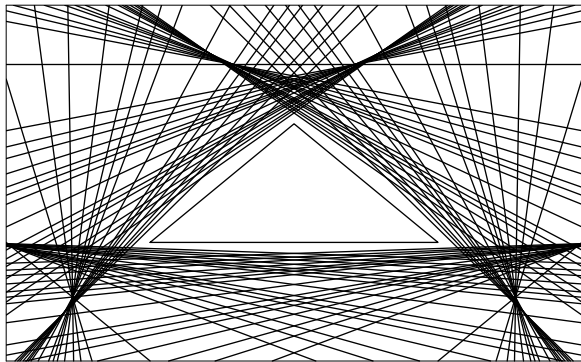
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Linear functionals $\alpha(\gamma)$ when Σ is a three-holed sphere

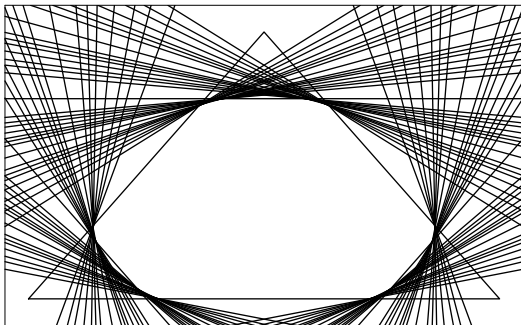


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 Its interior parametrizes proper affine deformations.

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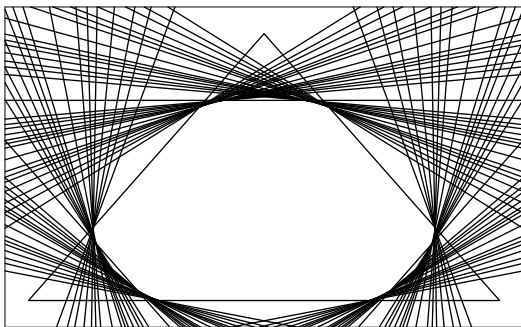
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Linear functionals $\alpha(\gamma)$ when Σ is a one-holed torus



Properness region bounded by infinitely many intervals, each corresponding to a simple loop on Σ . Boundary points lie on intervals or are points of strict convexity (irrational laminations) (G-Margulis-Minsky).

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Questions for the future

- Does every proper affine deformation admit a crooked fundamental polyhedron?
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- Which $\mu \in \mathcal{C}(\Sigma)$ maximize (minimize) the generalized Margulis invariant?
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