

# Deformation spaces of 3-dimensional affine space forms

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# Complete affine 3-manifolds

- A complete affine manifold  $M^n$  is a quotient  $M = \mathbb{R}^n/\Gamma$  where  $\Gamma$  is a discrete group of affine transformations acting properly and freely.
- Which kind of groups  $\Gamma$  can occur?
- Two types when  $n = 3$ :
  - $\Gamma$  is solvable:  $M^3$  is finitely covered by an iterated fibration of circles and cells.
  - $\Gamma$  is free:  $M^3$  is (conjecturally) an open solid handlebody with complete flat Lorentzian structure.
- First examples discovered by Margulis in early 1980's
- Closely related to hyperbolic geometry on surfaces

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# Euclidean manifolds

- If  $M$  compact, then  $\Gamma$  finite extension of a subgroup of translations  $\Gamma \cap \mathbb{R}^n = \Lambda \cong \mathbb{Z}^n$  ( Bieberbach 1912);
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# Consequences of Bieberbach theorems

- Only finitely many topological types in each dimension.
- Only one *commensurability* class.
- $\pi_1(M)$  is finitely generated.
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## Example: Hyperbolic torus bundles

- Mapping torus  $M^3$  of automorphism of  $\mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2$  induced by hyperbolic  $A \in \mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z})$  inherits a complete affine structure.
  - Flat Lorentz metric ( $A$ -invariant quadratic form).
- Extend  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  to  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $A$  to one-parameter subgroup  $\exp(t \log(A))$  to get solvable Lie group  $G \cong \mathbb{R}^2 \rtimes \mathbb{R}$  acting simply transitively on  $E$ .
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# Proper affine actions

- Suppose  $M = \mathbb{R}^n / G$  is a complete affine manifold:
- 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  $\infty$  in  $G \implies$  go to  $\infty$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n / G$ ).
- Discreteness does **not** imply properness.

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More precisely, the map

$$\begin{aligned} G \times X &\rightarrow X \times X \\ (g, x) &\rightarrow (gx, x) \end{aligned}$$

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# Margulis Spacetimes

- Most interesting examples: Margulis ( $\sim 1980$ ):
  - $G$  is a free group acting isometrically on  $\mathbb{E}^{2+1}$ 
    - $\Gamma(G) \subset \mathrm{SO}(2, 1)$  is isomorphic to  $G$ .
    - $M^3$  noncompact complete, but Lorentz 3-manifold.
- Associated to every Margulis spacetime  $M^3$  is a noncompact complete hyperbolic surface  $\Sigma^2$ .
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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?"*

Dimension 1:  $\mathbb{R}^1$  simply covered by repeated translations

Dimension 2:  $\mathbb{R}^2$  compact  $\Rightarrow$   $\mathbb{R}^2$  simply covered by

Tilings over  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  (Poincaré 1883)



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# Evidence?

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

- The Lorentz metric tensor is  $dx^2 + dy^2 - dz^2$ .
- $\text{Isom}(E^{2,1})$  is the semidirect product of  $\mathbb{R}^{2,1}$  (the vector group of translations) with the orthogonal group  $O(2, 1)$ .
- The stabilizer of the origin is the group  $O(2, 1)$  which preserves the hyperbolic plane

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

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

- The Lorentz metric tensor is  $dx^2 + dy^2 - dz^2$ .
- $\text{Isom}(E^{2,1})$  is the semidirect product of  $\mathbb{R}^{2,1}$  (the vector group of translations) with the orthogonal group  $O(2, 1)$ .
- The stabilizer of the origin is the group  $O(2, 1)$  which preserves the hyperbolic plane

$$H^2 := \{v \in \mathbb{R}^{2,1} \mid v \cdot v = -1, z > 0\}.$$

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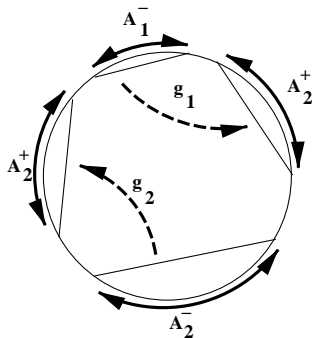
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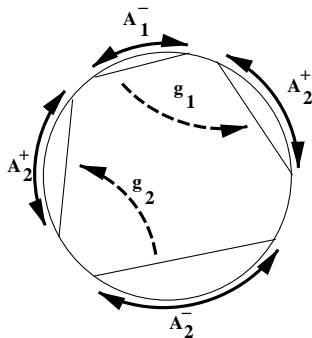
# A Schottky group



- Generators  $g_1, g_2$  pair half-spaces  $A_i^- \longrightarrow H^2 \setminus A_i^+$ .
- $g_1, g_2$  freely generate discrete group.
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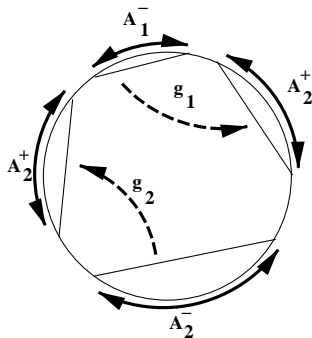


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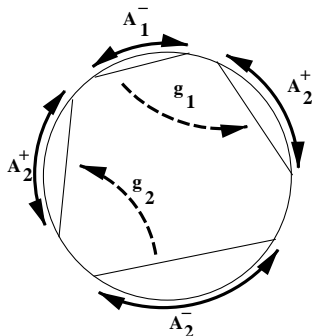
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# Flat Lorentz manifolds

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

- (Fried-G 1983): Let  $\Gamma \xrightarrow{L} \text{GL}(3, \mathbb{R})$  be the *linear part*.  
 Then  $\Gamma$  is conjugate to a discrete subgroup of  $\text{O}(2, 1)$  if and only if  $L(\Gamma)$  is discrete.

- Homotopy equivalence

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

where  $\Sigma$  complete hyperbolic surface.

- (Milnor (1990): *Discrete Groups*)
- $\Gamma$  free;
- Milnor's suggestion is the *only* way to construct examples in dimension three.

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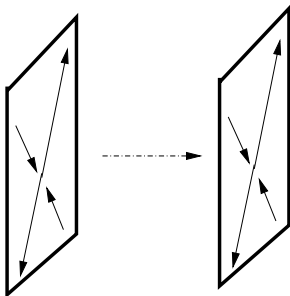
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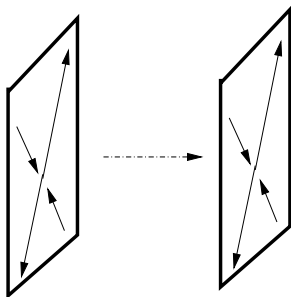
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- Most elements  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  are *boosts*, affine deformations of hyperbolic elements of  $O(2, 1)$ . A fundamental domain is the *slab* bounded by two parallel planes.



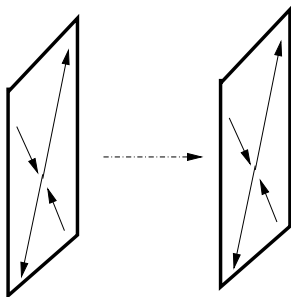
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A boost identifying two parallel planes

## Closed geodesics and holonomy

- Each such element leaves invariant a unique (spacelike) line, whose image in  $E^{2,1}/\Gamma$  is a *closed geodesic*. Like hyperbolic surfaces, most loops are freely homotopic to (unique) 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  $\gamma$  in  $\Sigma^2$
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# Geodesics on $\Sigma$

- The unique  $\gamma$ -invariant geodesic  $C_\gamma$  inherits a natural orientation and metric.
  - $\gamma$  translates along  $C_\gamma$  by  $\alpha(\gamma)$ .
- Closed geodesics on  $\Sigma \iff$  closed *spacelike* geodesics on  $M^3$ .
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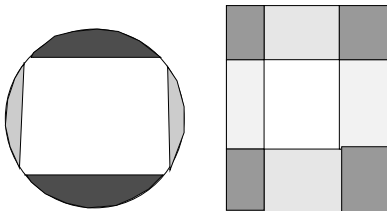
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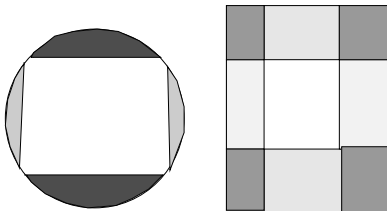


# Slabs don't work!



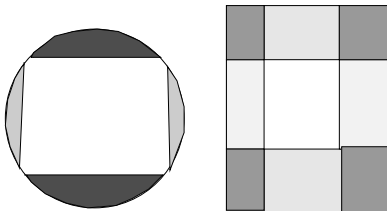
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- Their complement is a fundamental domain.
- In affine space, half-spaces disjoint  $\Rightarrow$  parallel!
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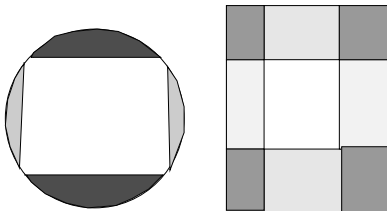
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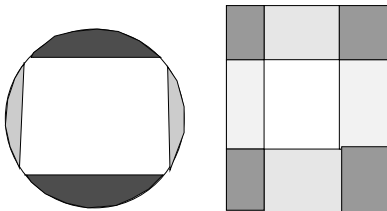
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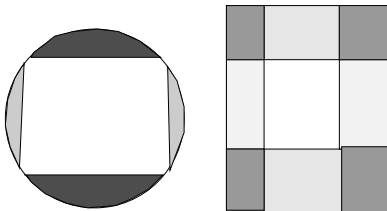
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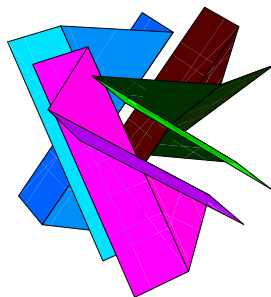
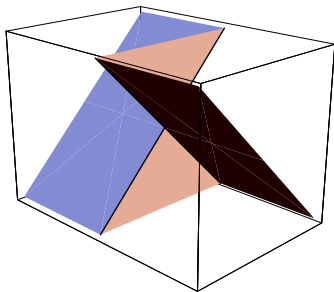
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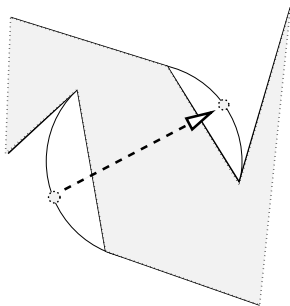
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## Drumm's Schottky groups

The classical construction of Schottky groups fails using affine half-spaces and slabs. Drumm's geometric construction uses *crooked planes*, PL hypersurfaces adapted to the Lorentz geometry which bound fundamental polyhedra for Schottky groups.



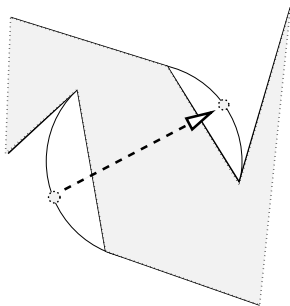
# Crooked polyhedron for a boost



- Start with a *hyperbolic slab* in  $H^2$ .
- Extend into light cone in  $E^{2,1}$ ;
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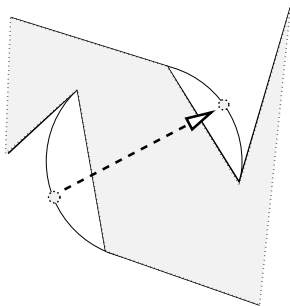


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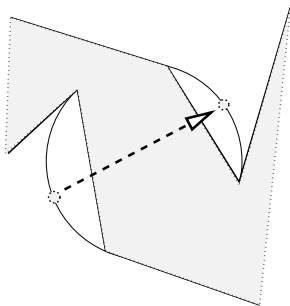
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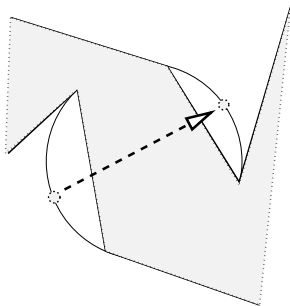
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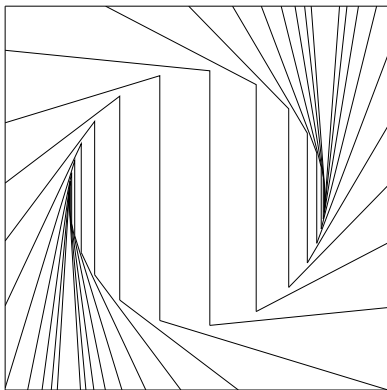
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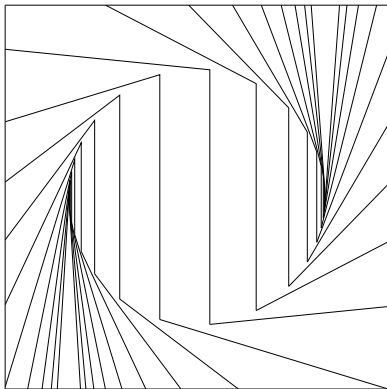
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# Images of crooked planes under a linear cyclic group



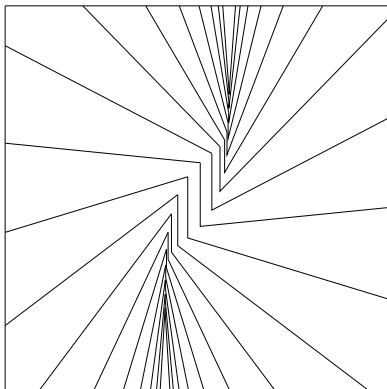
The resulting tessellation for a linear boost.

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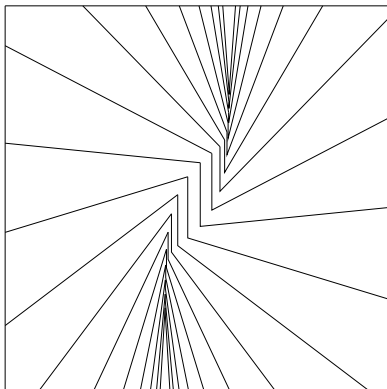
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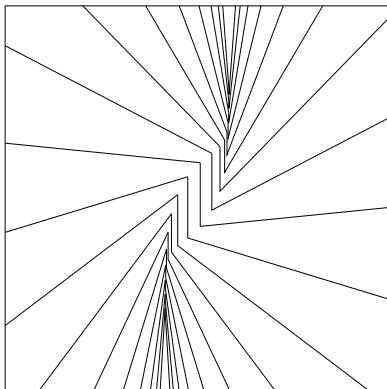
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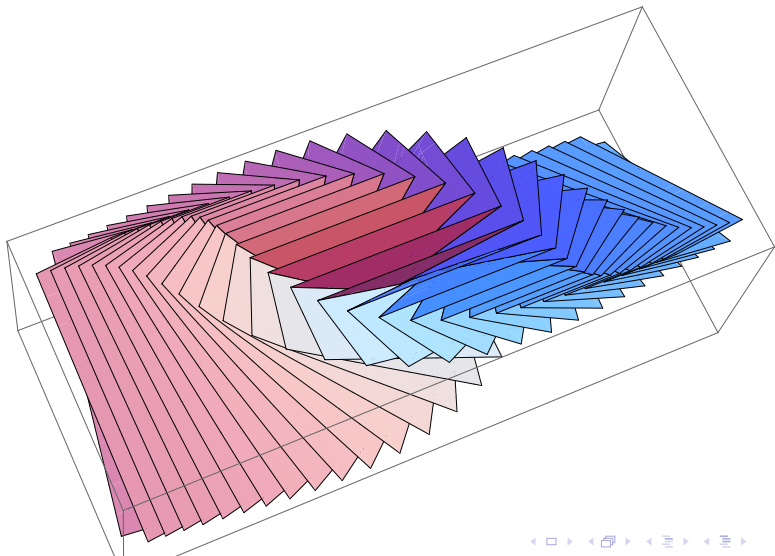


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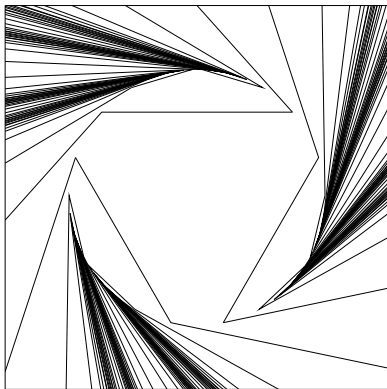


- Adding translations frees up the action
- — which is now proper on *all* of  $E^{2,1}$ .

## A foliation by crooked planes

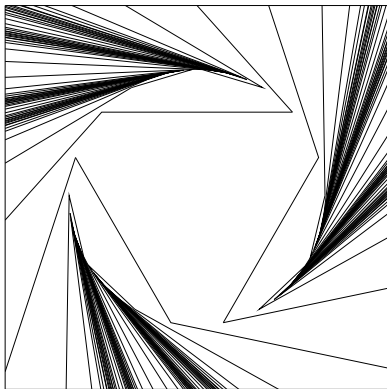


# Linear action of Schottky group



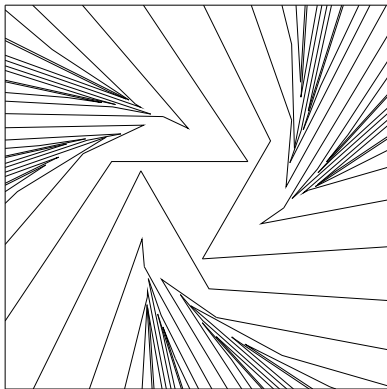
Crooked polyhedra tile  $\mathbb{H}^2$  for subgroup of  $O(2,1)$ .

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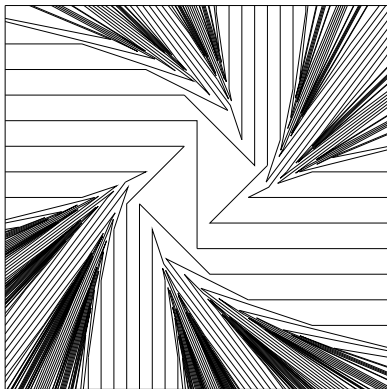


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# Affine action of Schottky group



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

Affine action of level 2 congruence subgroup of  $GL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ 

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

# An arithmetic example

- Minkowski space compactifies into the space of Lagrangian 2-planes in a 4-dimensional symplectic  $\mathbb{R}$ -vector space  $(V, \omega)$ .
- Choose two transverse Lagrangian 2-planes  $L_0$  and  $L_\infty$ .
- Minkowski 2 + 1-space  $E^{2,1}$  is the space of Lagrangian 2-planes  $L \subset V$  transverse to  $L_\infty$ .
  - Graphs of *symmetric* maps  $L_0 \xrightarrow{f} L_\infty$ .
  - Lorentzian inner product defined by  $f \mapsto \text{Det}(f)$
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# Minkowski space inside $\mathrm{Sp}(4, \mathbb{R})$

- $L_0$  and  $L_\infty$  dual under symplectic form  $L_0 \times L_\infty \xrightarrow{\omega} \mathbb{R}$
- $g \in \mathrm{GL}(L_\infty)$  induces *linear symplectomorphism* of  $V = L_\infty \oplus L_0$ , represented as block upper-triangular matrices:

$$g \oplus (g^\dagger)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} g & 0 \\ 0 & (g^\dagger)^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Translations of Minkowski space correspond to *shears*: (fixing  $L_\infty$  and  $L/L_\infty$ ):

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_2 & f \\ 0 & I_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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- For  $i = 1, 2, 3$  choose three positive integers  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3$ . Then the subgroup  $\Gamma$  of  $Sp(4, \mathbb{Z})$  generated by

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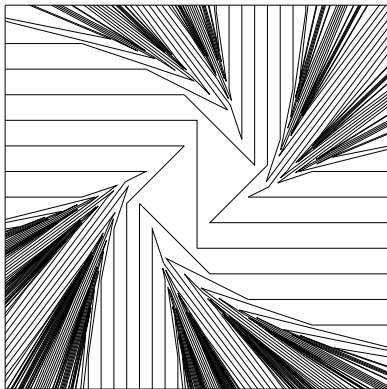
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Symmetrical example:  $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3 = 1$ .

# The linear part

- Mess's theorem ( $\Sigma$  noncompact) is the only obstruction for the existence of a proper affine deformation:
- (Drumm 1990) Every *noncompact* complete hyperbolic surface  $\Sigma$  (with  $\pi_1(\Sigma)$  finitely generated) admits a *proper* affine deformation.
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# Marked Signed Lorentzian Length Spectrum

- For every affine deformation  $\Gamma \xrightarrow{\rho=(L,u)} \text{Isom}(\mathbb{E}^{2,1})^0$ , define  $\alpha_u(\gamma) \in \mathbb{R}$  as the (signed) displacement of  $\gamma$  along the unique  $\gamma$ -invariant geodesic  $C_\gamma$ , when  $L(\gamma)$  is hyperbolic.
- $\alpha_u$  is a class function on  $\Gamma$ ;
- When  $\rho$  acts properly,  $|\alpha_u(\gamma)|$  is the *Lorentzian length* of the closed geodesic in  $M^3$  corresponding to  $\gamma$ ;
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# Opposite Sign Lemma

(Margulis 1983) Let  $\rho$  be a *proper* affine deformation.

- $\alpha_u(\gamma) > 0 \forall \gamma \neq 1$ , or
- $\alpha_u(\gamma) < 0 \forall \gamma \neq 1$ .



# Affine deformations

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

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \text{Isom}(\mathbb{R}^{2,1}) & \\
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determined by its translational part

$$u \in Z^1(\Gamma_0, \mathbb{R}^{2,1}).$$

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# Deformation-theoretic interpretation of Margulis invariant

- Suppose  $u \in Z^1(\Gamma_0, \mathbb{R}^{2,1})$  defines an *infinitesimal deformation* tangent to a smooth deformation  $\Sigma_t$  of  $\Sigma$ .
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(G-Margulis 2000).

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# Extensions of the Margulis invariant

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# The Deformation Space

- Deformation space of marked Margulis space-times corresponding to surface  $S$  fibers over space of marked hyperbolic structures  $S \rightarrow \Sigma$  on  $S$ .
- Fiber is subspace of  $H^1(\Sigma, \mathbb{R}^{2,1})$  (all affine deformations) consisting of *proper* affine deformations  $\Sigma$ .
  - Nonempty (Drumm 1989).
- (G-Labourie-Margulis 2010) Convex domain in  $H^1(\Sigma, \mathbb{R}^{2,1})$  defined by generalized Margulis functionals of measured geodesic laminations on  $\Sigma$ .

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# The Crooked Plane Conjecture

- Conjecture: Every Margulis spacetime  $M^3$  admits a fundamental polyhedron bounded by disjoint crooked planes.
  - Corollary: (Tameness)  $M^3 \approx$  open solid handlebody.
- Proved when  $\chi(\Sigma) = -1$  (that is,  $\text{rank}(\pi_1(\Sigma)) = 2$ ).  
(Charette-Drumm-G 2010)
- Four possible topologies for  $\Sigma$ :
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$$\mathfrak{F}(\Sigma) \approx [0, \infty)^b \times (0, \infty)^{3-b}.$$

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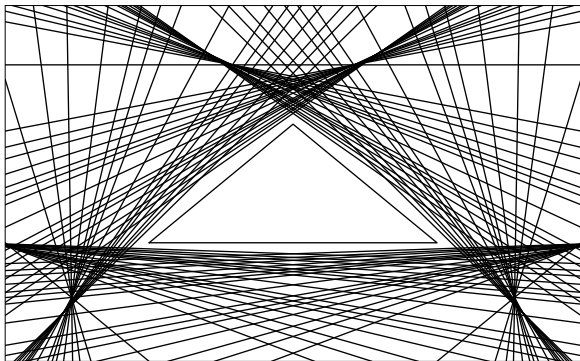
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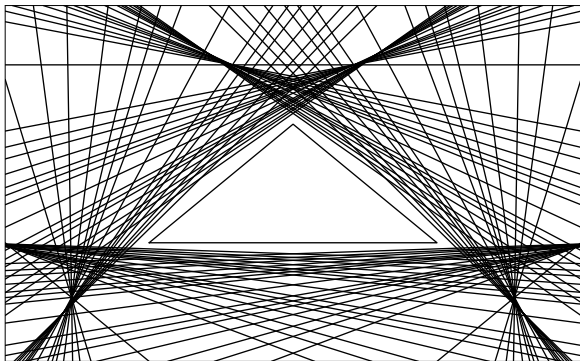
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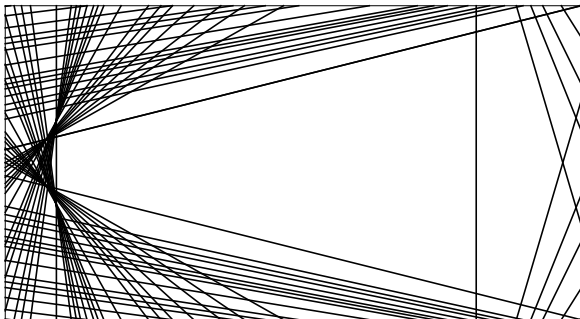
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Functionals  $\alpha(\gamma)$  when  $\Sigma \approx$  three-holed sphere

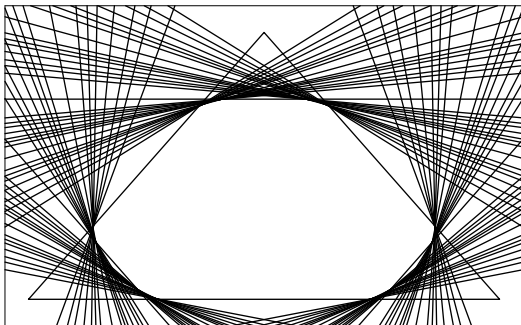
Charette-Drumm-Margulis functionals of  $\partial\Sigma$  completely describe deformation space as  $(0, \infty)^3$ .

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Functionals  $\alpha(\gamma)$  when  $\Sigma \approx$  two-holed  $\mathbb{R}P^2$ .

Deformation space is quadrilateral bounded by the four lines defined by CDM-functionals of  $\partial\Sigma$  and the two orientation-reversing interior simple loops.

Functionals  $\alpha(\gamma)$  when  $\Sigma \approx$  one-holed torus

Properness region bounded by infinitely many intervals, each corresponding to simple loop.



# Structure of the boundary

- $\partial$ -points lie on intervals or are points of strict convexity (irrational laminations) (G-Margulis-Minsky).
- Birman-Series argument  $\implies$  For 1-holed torus, these points of strict convexity have Hausdorff dimension zero.

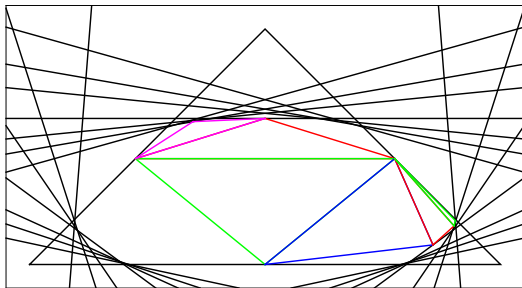
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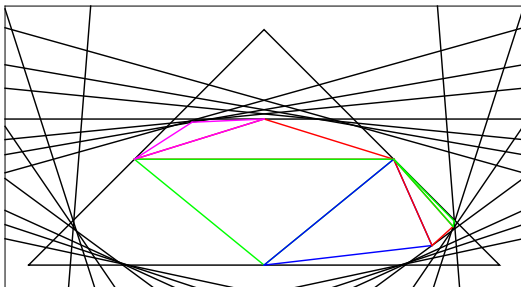
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# Realizing an ideal triangulation by crooked planes



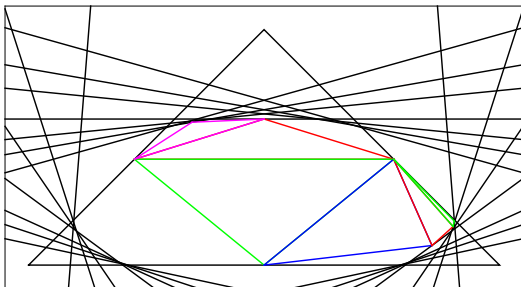
- Properness region tiled by triangles.
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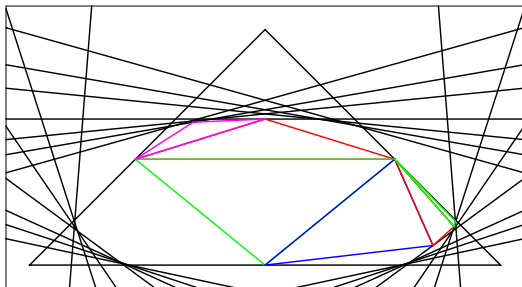
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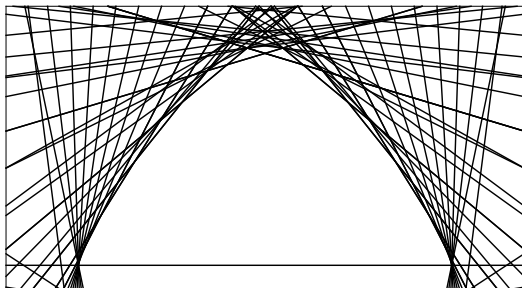
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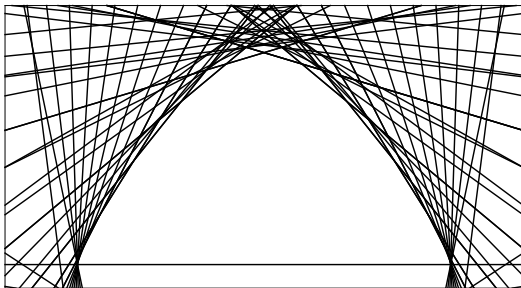
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# Functionals $\alpha(\gamma)$ when $\Sigma \approx$ one-holed Klein bottle



Properness region bounded by infinitely many intervals, each defined by CDM-invariants of simple orientation-reversing loops, arranged cyclically, and the one orientation-preserving interior simple loop.



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**Happy Birthday,  
Caroline!!!**