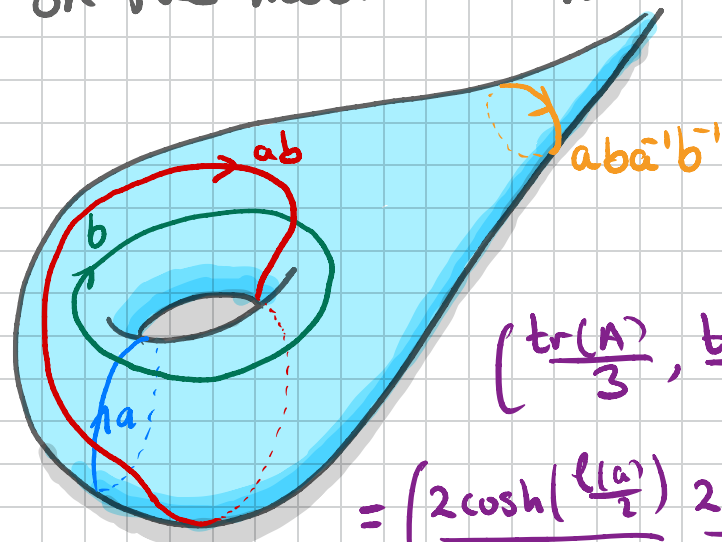


# TCC: Hyperbolic surfaces, their length spectra and connections to Markov triples

Recall that we established a one-to-one correspondence between Markoff triples; i.e. triples  $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}^3$ , satisfying Markoff's equation:

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 3xyz,$$

and triples of simple closed geodesics on the modular torus:



$$\left( \frac{\text{tr}(A)}{3}, \frac{\text{tr}(B)}{3}, \frac{\text{tr}(AB)}{3} \right) \\ = \left( \frac{2 \cosh\left(\frac{\ell(a)}{2}\right)}{3}, \frac{2 \cosh\left(\frac{\ell(b)}{2}\right)}{3}, \frac{2 \cosh\left(\frac{\ell(ab)}{2}\right)}{3} \right)$$

We also discussed Markoff's uniqueness conjecture:

**Conjecture (Frobenius)**

Let  $(x, y, z)$ ,  $x \leq y \leq z$ , be a Markoff triple, then  $z$  uniquely determines  $x$  and  $y$ . That is, if  $(x, y, z)$  and  $(x', y', z)$ ,  $x \leq y \leq z$  and  $x' \leq y' \leq z$ , are Markoff triples, then  $x = x'$  and  $y = y'$ .

From now on, we will assume that all Markoff triples  $(x, y, z)$  are ordered  $x \leq y \leq z$ .

In 1975, Borosh performed a computer check and verified the conjecture for all Markoff triples  $(x, y, z)$  with  $z \leq 10^{105}$ .

In the same work Borosh also noticed that

$$M(R) := |\{ \text{Markoff triples } (x, y, z) \mid z \leq R \}|$$

seemed to grow like  $\log^2 R$ .

Today we will present a proof due to Lang-Tan of the following result of Button and Schmutz

**Theorem** (Button, Schmutz)

Markoff's uniqueness conjecture is true when  $z$  is a prime power.

The proof will use hyperbolic geometry.

We shall also prove the following result of McShane-Rivin:

**Theorem** (McShane-Rivin)

$\exists$  a constant  $c > 0$ , so that

$$M(R) = c \cdot \log^2 R + O(\log R \log \log R).$$

They prove this by determining a similar count

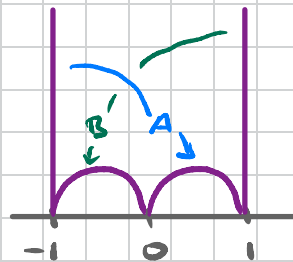
for

$$N(L) = \left| \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{simple closed} \\ \text{geodesics } \gamma \text{ on} \\ \text{the modular torus} \end{array} \mid \ell(\gamma) \leq L \right\} \right|.$$

# I. MARKHOFF MATRICES

Let  $\Gamma = [\text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{Z}), \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{Z})]$

$$= \left\langle A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle$$



so that the modular torus is the hyperbolic surface  $\mathbb{H}^2 / \Gamma$ .

A matrix  $M \in \Gamma$  is **primitive** if its corresponding geodesic on  $\mathbb{H}^2$  is primitive; i.e.  $M \neq N^n$  for some  $N \in \Gamma$ ,  $n \neq \pm 1$ .

A primitive matrix  $M$  is a **Markoff matrix** if

- i) its corresponding geodesic  $\gamma$  on  $\mathbb{H}^2$  is **simple**;
- ii) its fixed axis  $\alpha_M \subset \mathbb{H}^1$  is a lift of  $\gamma$  with **maximal height** in  $\mathbb{H}^1$ .

N.B.  $M$  Markoff  $\Leftrightarrow M^{-1}$  Markoff.

Let  $T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  so that  $T^b = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Recall

that  $[B^{-1}, A^{-1}] = B^{-1} A^{-1} B A = -T^b$

We have the following:

### Proposition

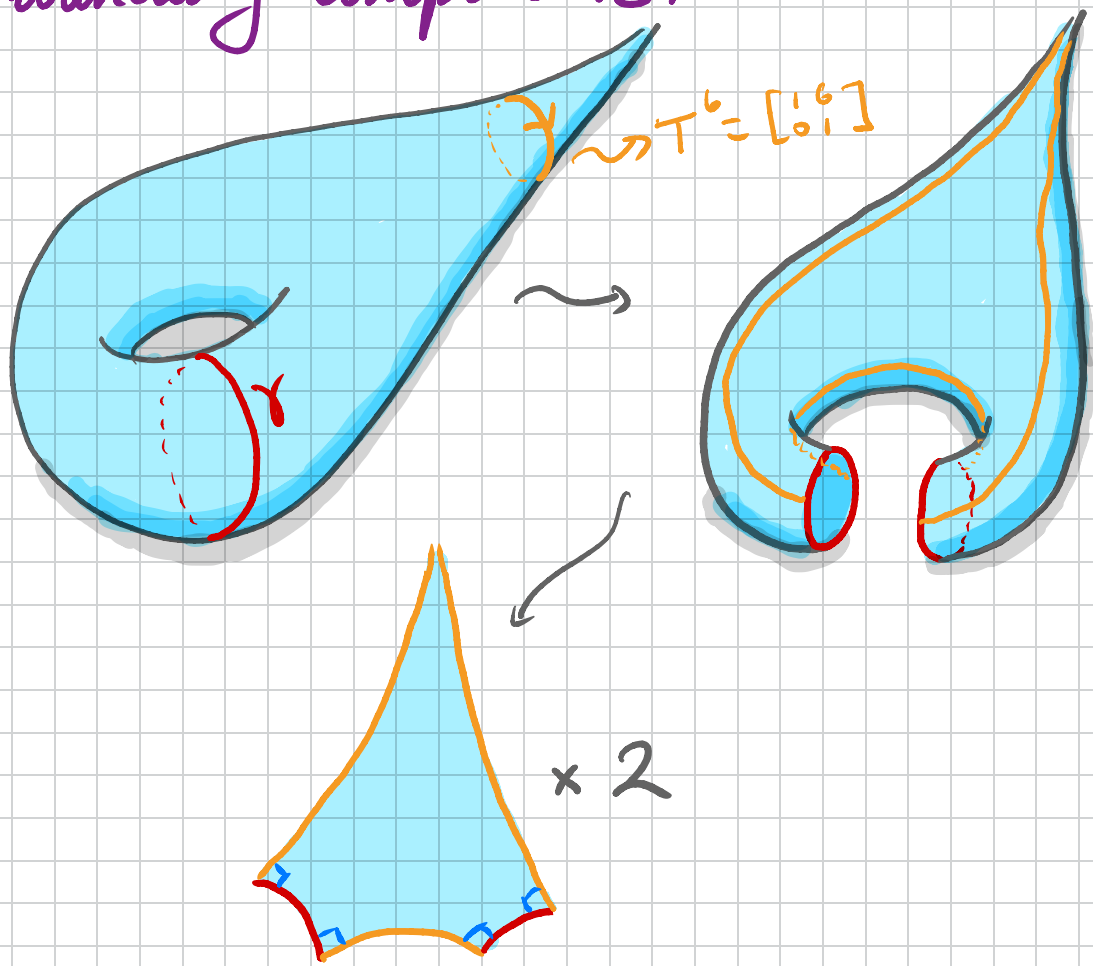
- i) If  $M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  is a Markoff matrix, then  $|c|$  is a Markoff number and  $\text{tr} M = a + d = 3|c|$ .
- ii) Conversely, for any Markoff number  $c$ ,  $\exists$  a Markoff matrix  $M$  with  $\text{tr} M = 3c$  and  $m_{21} = c$ .
- iii) Two Markoff matrices  $M$  and  $N$  correspond to the same simple closed geodesic in  $\mathbb{H}$   
 $\Leftrightarrow M^{\pm 1} = T^{3n} N T^{-3n}$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

### Proof

- i) Suppose  $M$  is a Markoff matrix. Since  $M$  does not fix  $\infty$  (i.e. it corresponds to a closed geodesic

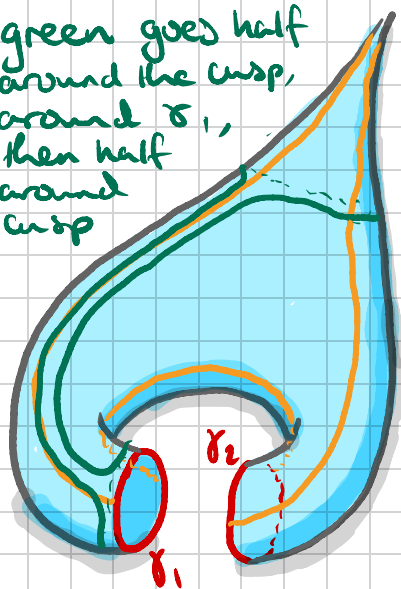
not bounding the cusp),  $c \neq 0$ . So, up to inverses, we can assume that  $c > 0$ .

Cut the torus along the corresponding geodesic  $\gamma$  on  $\mathbb{H}$ , then once again along the perpendicular geodesics between the boundary components:

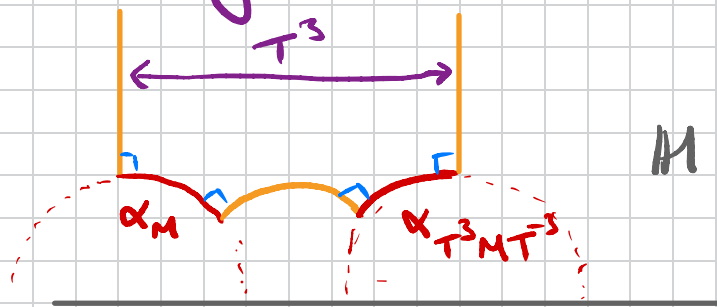


We get two hyperbolic right-angled pentagons.

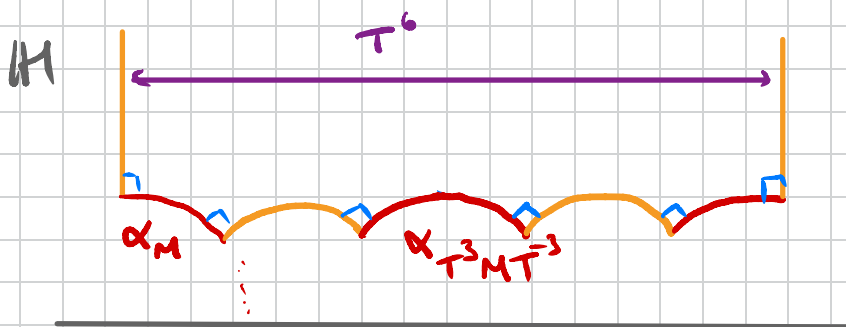
green goes half  
around the cusp,  
around  $\delta_1$ ,  
then half  
around  
cusp



The green curve is homotopic  
to  $\delta_2$  and so we  
can draw the right-angled  
pentagon in  $\mathbb{H}$  as:



Since  $T^6 \in \Gamma$  and fixes  $\infty$ , we can get  
a fundamental domain for  $\mathbb{H}$  by adding  
the translation of this pentagon to the right  
by 3:



By considering the loops around the boundary components of  $\mathbb{H} \setminus \{0\}$ , we get

$$(T^{-6})(T^3 M T^{-3})M = \pm I$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \pm 1 & \pm 6 \\ 0 & \pm 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a+3c & b+3d \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \pm 1 & \pm 6 \\ 0 & \pm 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a+3c & -3a-9c+b+3d \\ c & d-3c \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \pm 1 & \pm 6 \\ 0 & \pm 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Considering the (2,1) entry forces  $a+d=3c$ , since  $c \neq 0$ .  $c$  is a Markoff number by the correspondence with simple closed geodesics.

ii) We have seen that Markoff numbers can be realized as  $\frac{b \pm M}{3}$  for some  $M$

the matrix associated to a simple closed geodesic  $\gamma$  on  $\mathbb{H}$ ; i.e.  $\text{tr} M = 3c$  for  $c$  the Markoff number. Conjugation preserves trace and so the Markoff matrix associated to  $\gamma$  has trace  $3c$  and by i) has  $(2,1)$  entry equal to  $\pm c$ .

iii) For the lift of  $\gamma$  corresponding to  $N$  to have maximal height, it must be an image of  $x_M$  or  $T^3 x_M T^{-3}$  by  $T^{6n}$  for some  $n$ . Hence,  $N$  must equal  $T^{6n} M^{\pm 1} T^{-6n}$  or  $T^{6n+3} M^{\pm 1} T^{-6n-3}$ .  $\square$

Let  $M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  be a Markoff matrix. The endpoints of its geodesic axis are

$$z = \frac{a-d \pm \sqrt{\text{tr}(M)^2 - 4}}{2c}.$$

Hence, the geodesic has height

$$\frac{\sqrt{\text{tr}(M)^2 - 4}}{2c} = \frac{\sqrt{(3c)^2 - 4}}{2c} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{9 - \frac{4}{c^2}}.$$

Compare to the elements of the Markoff spectrum.

Let  $M'$  be the matrix obtained from  $M$  by interchanging diagonal entries. Since the  $\text{Isom}(\mathbb{H}) \cong D_6$  action on  $\mathbb{H}$  is generated by reflection across  $i\mathbb{R}$  and  $T$ , two Markoff matrices  $M$  and  $N$  correspond to the same geodesic up to isometry  $\Leftrightarrow$

$$N^{\pm 1} = T^n M T^{-n} \quad \text{or} \quad N^{\pm 1} = T^n M' T^{-n}.$$

In such a case, say that  $M \sim N$ .

Markoff's uniqueness conjecture is then equivalent to saying  $M \sim N \Leftrightarrow |m_{21}| = |n_{21}| \Leftrightarrow \text{tr} M = \text{tr} N$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Define } M_k &:= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & k/c \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -k/c \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} a+k & b + \frac{k}{c}(d-a-k) \\ c & d-k \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Then  $M_k \in \text{Sh}(2, \mathbb{Z}) \Leftrightarrow c \mid k(d-a-k)$ .

**Proposition** Let  $M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  be a Markoff matrix with  $c > 0$ . Then  $4 \nmid c$  and all the odd prime divisors of  $c$  are of the form  $4m+1$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Proof

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Since } 1 &= ad - bc = (3c - d)d - bc \\ &= 3cd - d^2 - bc, \end{aligned}$$

we have  $d^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{c}$ . But  $x^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{c}$  is only solvable if  $c$  satisfies the conditions of the hypothesis.  $\square$

**Proposition** Let  $M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  be a Markoff matrix and let  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $\gcd(c, k, d - a - k)$  is 1 or 2. Hence, if  $M_k \in \text{ShL}(\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z})$ , then any exact odd prime power divisor  $p^m$  of  $c$  is relatively prime to  $k$  or  $d - a - k$ .

Proof Suppose that  $\gcd(c, k, d - a - k) \neq 1$ .

Let  $f \neq 1$  divide  $c$ ,  $b$  and  $d-a-b$ . Then  $f$  divides  $d-a$ . Since  $a+d=3c$  and  $f$  divides  $c$ ,  $f$  also divides  $a+d$ . Hence,  $f$  divides  $2a = (a+d) - (d-a)$ . Since  $f|c$  and  $f|2a$ ,  $\gcd(a, c) = 1 \Rightarrow f|2 \Rightarrow f=2$ .  $\square$

since  $ad-bc=1$ .

## II. UNIQUENESS FOR PRIME POWERS

We can now prove the following equivalent statement of the uniqueness conjecture for prime powers.

**Theorem** Suppose  $M$  and  $N$  are two Markoff matrices with  $\text{tr} M = \text{tr} N = 3p^n$ , where  $p$  is prime. Then  $M \sim N$ .

Proof

Let  $M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  and  $N = \begin{pmatrix} a' & b' \\ c' & d' \end{pmatrix}$ . Up to merges, we may assume that  $c = c' > 0$  and that  $a+d = a'+d' = 3c$ .

Hence,  $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $a' = a + k$  and  $d' = d - k$ . Being Markoff matrices of the same trace and with axes of the same height,  $M$  and  $N$  are conjugate by some parabolic fixing  $\infty$ . In fact, we must have

$$N = M_k = \begin{pmatrix} a+k & b + \frac{k}{c}(d-a-k) \\ c & d-k \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since  $N \in \mathcal{SH}(2, \mathbb{Z})$ ,  $c \mid k(d-a-k)$ . Since  $4 \nmid c$ ,  $p = 2 \Rightarrow c = 2$  and the proof follows from the uniqueness of  $(1, 1, 2)$ . Hence, we may assume  $p$  is odd. By the previous proposition,  $p^n$  divides  $k$  or  $d-a-k$ . In the first case,  $N = T^l M T^{-l}$  for some  $l \in \mathbb{Z}$ . In the latter,  $N = T^l M' T^{-l}$  for some  $l \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Either way  $M \sim N$ .  $\square$

### III. GEODESICS ON THE MODULAR TORUS

Recall the following results from two lectures ago:

$$\bullet \pi_1(\mathbb{T}) \cong F_2 = \langle a, b \rangle$$

$$\bullet H_1(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{Z}) := \pi_1(\mathbb{T})^{ab} = \langle a, b \mid [a, b] \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma: F_2 &\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^2 \\ a &\mapsto (1, 0) \\ b &\mapsto (0, 1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\bullet \text{Out}(F_2) \cong \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}^2) \cong \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \text{Mod}^{\pm}(\mathbb{T})$$

$$\bullet c \in F_2 \text{ primitive (i.e. } \exists d \text{ st. } F_2 = \langle c, d \rangle) \iff \gamma \text{ simple closed curve on } \mathbb{T}.$$

We will require the following lemma.

**Lemma** Let  $p_1, p_2 \in F_2$  be primitive. Then  $\psi(p_1) = \psi(p_2) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \iff p_1$  is conjugate to  $p_2$  in  $F_2$ .

Proof:

$\Leftarrow$ : Let  $p_1 = t p_2 t^{-1}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(p_1) &= \psi(t p_2 t^{-1}) = \psi(t) \psi(p_2) \psi(t^{-1}) = \psi(p_2) \psi(t) \psi(t^{-1}) \\ &= \psi(p_2).\end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$ : Since  $p_1$  is primitive,  $\exists q_1 \in F_2$  so that  $F_2 = \langle p_1, q_1 \rangle$ . Let  $\alpha: F_2 \rightarrow F_2$  be an automorphism taking  $p_1$  to  $p_2$ . Let  $\bar{\alpha}: \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^2$  be the induced automorphism of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ . We have

$$\bar{\alpha}(\psi(p_1)) = \psi(\alpha(p_1)) = \psi(p_2) = \psi(p_1).$$

Hence, on the basis  $\langle \psi(p_1), \psi(q_1) \rangle = \mathbb{Z}^2$ ,

$\bar{\alpha} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & l \\ 0 & \varepsilon \end{pmatrix}$  for some  $l \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\varepsilon = \pm 1$ . That

is,  $\bar{\alpha}(\psi(q_1)) = \psi(p_1)^l \psi(q_1)^\varepsilon$ .

Define  $\beta: F_2 \rightarrow F_2$  by  $\beta(p_1) = p_1$ ,  $\beta(q_1) = p_1^{-\varepsilon} q_1^\varepsilon$ .

Then  $\alpha\beta: \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^2$  equals

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \varepsilon \\ 0 & \varepsilon \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\varepsilon \\ 0 & \varepsilon \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \varepsilon^2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

So  $\alpha\beta \in \ker(\text{Aut}(F_2) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}^2)) = \text{Inn}(F_2)$ .

Hence, since  $\alpha\beta(p_1) = p_2$ , they are conjugate.  $\square$

**Corollary** Every homotopy class of simple closed curves on  $\mathbb{T}$  corresponds to a conjugacy class of primitive elements in  $\pi_1(F_2)$  which corresponds to a unique generator of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  (i.e. a primitive vector  $(m, n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ ,  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ ).

Given an element  $h \in H_1(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{Z})$ , we would like to discuss its length. The following result allows us to do this.

A multicurve is a map  $\bigsqcup_{i=1}^k S^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$ . Image not necessarily disjoint.

A multicurve gives rise to an element of  $H_1(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{Z})$  and  $(m, n) \in H_1(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{Z})$  can be represented by a multicurve:  $\bigsqcup_{i=1}^m a \cup \bigsqcup_{j=1}^n b \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$ .

**Theorem** Let  $h = (m, n) \in H_1(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{Z})$  be a non-trivial element. Then  $\exists$  a unique shortest multicurve representing  $h$ . If  $h = d \cdot v$  with  $d = \gcd(m, n)$  and  $v$  primitive, then  $h$  is represented by  $d$  copies of the unique geodesic  $\gamma_v$  corresponding to  $v$ .

Proof

$h$  is represented by  $d \cdot v$ . So the shortest rep. of  $h$  has length at most  $d \cdot l(\gamma_v)$ . Let  $C$  be another multicurve representing  $h$ . Replace each component of  $C$  by its geodesic representative. This still represents  $h$ . If one component

self-intersects or two components intersect, we can shorten  $C$  by smoothing:



Hence, all components are simple closed geodesics that are disjoint from one another. They must then be copies of the same simple closed geodesic.

Hence,  $C$  must be  $d \cdot \gamma$ . This forces  $d \cdot \gamma$  to be minimal and unique.  $\square$

#### IV. A NORM ON HOMOLOGY

We now define a norm  $l$  on  $H_1(\Sigma, \mathbb{Z})$ . Let  $l(h)$  be the length of the shortest multicurve representing  $h$ . By the previous theorem,

$$l(nh) = n l(h)$$

and

$$l(h+g) \leq l(h) + l(g).$$

union of two curves is not simple so smooth and shorten

So we can extend  $l$  to  $H_1(\Sigma, \mathbb{Q})$  by linearity

and to  $H_1(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{R})$  by continuity. This gives a pseudo-norm  $l$  on  $H_1(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{R})$ .

Consider the norm  $\|\cdot\|_1$  on  $H_1(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{R})$  induced by  $\|(m, n)\|_1 = |m| + |n|$  on  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ . This also equals the word length of the element of  $F_2$  representing  $(m, n) \in H_1(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{Z})$ .

Recall that no simple closed curve on  $\mathbb{I}$  has height greater than  $\frac{3}{2}$ . We can therefore remove a neighbourhood of  $\infty$  in  $H^1$  (and its images under  $\Gamma$ ). The quotient is the compact torus with boundary.

$F_2$  acts on  $H^1 \setminus U$  neighbourhoods properly discontinuously and cocompactly. Hence, by Milnor-Schwarz,  $F_2$  with word length  $\frac{1}{K}\|\cdot\|_1 - C \leq d_X(\cdot) \leq K\|\cdot\|_1 + C$  is quasi-isometric to  $H^1 \setminus U$  neighbourhoods.

The simple closed geodesics avoid the truncated

parts and so have no additive errors.

In other words, we have

$$0 < c_1 < \frac{l(h)}{\|h\|_1} < c_2 < \infty.$$

This implies that  $l$  is a norm whose unit ball  $B_l$  is a compact convex subset of  $H_1(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R}^2$ .

## IV. THE FINAL COUNT

Finally, to count the simple closed curves on  $\mathbb{T}$  with length  $\leq L$ , we count the primitive elements  $h \in H_1(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{Z})$  with  $l(h) \leq L$ . This equals the number of primitive elements in  $L \cdot B_l$ .

A standard argument (see the appendix) gives us that

$$\left| \left\{ (m, n) \in L \cdot B_l \mid (m, n) = 1 \right\} \right| = \frac{\text{area}(B_l)}{3(2)} \cdot L^2 + O(L \log L).$$

For a geodesic of length  $L$  the Markoff number has size

$$\frac{2 \cosh\left(\frac{L}{2}\right)}{3} \sim e^L.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} & |\{\text{Markoff triples } (x, y, z) \mid x \leq y \leq z \leq R\}| \\ &= C \cdot \log^2 R + O(\log R \log \log R). \end{aligned}$$

## APPENDIX A. MIKNOB-SCHWARZ

**Theorem** (Miknor-Schwarz lemma)

Let  $G$  be a group acting by isometries on a proper length space  $X$  properly discontinuously and cocompactly. Then  $G$  is finitely generated and for every finite generating set  $S$  of  $G$  and every  $x_0 \in X$  the orbit

$$\text{map } f: (G, d_S) \rightarrow (X, d_X)$$

$$g \mapsto g \cdot x_0$$

is a quasi-isometry. That is,  $\exists K \geq 1$  and  $C > 0$ , such that

$$\frac{1}{K} d_S(g, h) - C \leq d_X(f(g), f(h)) \leq K d_S(g, h) + C$$

$\forall g, h \in G$ .  $d_S$  is the word metric determined by  $S$ .

## APPENDIX B. LATTICE POINT COUNTS

First, consider a bounded convex domain  $B \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ .

$$\text{let } N(B) = |\mathbb{Z}^2 \cap B|. \quad [0, 1]^2$$

let  $I_L$  be the set of unit squares in  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  entirely contained in  $L \cdot B$  and  $O_L$  be the set of unit squares of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  intersecting  $\partial(L \cdot B)$ .

Then  $N(L) \leq |I_L| + |O_L|$  and

$$|I_L| \leq \text{area}(L \cdot B) = \text{area}(B) \cdot L^2.$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} N(L) &\geq |I_L| \geq \text{area}(L \cdot B) - |O_L| \\ &= \text{area}(B) \cdot L^2 - |O_L|. \end{aligned}$$

Now, since  $B$  is convex and bounded every column of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  meets  $\partial(L \cdot B)$  in a uniformly bounded number of squares but  $L \cdot B$  covers  $O(L)$  columns. Hence,

$|O_L| = O(L)$  and we get

$$N(L) = \text{area}(B) \cdot L^2 + O(L).$$

Recall the definition of the Möbius function

$$\mu: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{-1, 0, 1\}$$

by 
$$\mu(n) = \begin{cases} 1, & n = 1 \\ (-1)^k, & n = p_1 \cdots p_k \text{ a product of } k \text{ distinct primes} \\ 0, & p^2 \mid n \text{ for some prime } p. \end{cases}$$

It satisfies:

$$\sum_{d \mid n} \mu(d) = \begin{cases} 1, & n = 1 \\ 0, & n > 1. \end{cases}$$

Indeed, if  $n = p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_r^{a_r} \neq 1$ , then

$\mu(d) = 0$  unless  $d = p_{i_1} \cdots p_{i_k}$  for

some  $\{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \subseteq \{1, \dots, r\}$ . Hence,

$$\sum_{d \mid n} \mu(d) = \sum_{k=0}^r (-1)^k \binom{r}{k} = 0.$$

Hence, for  $(m, n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ ,

$$\sum_{d \mid \gcd(m, n)} \mu(d) = \begin{cases} 1, & \gcd(m, n) = 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

That is, this sum detects primitivity.

Define

$$N_{\text{prim}}(\mathcal{B}) = \left| \left\{ (m, n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \cap \mathcal{B} \mid \gcd(m, n) = 1 \right\} \right|.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} N_{\text{prim}}(h \cdot \mathcal{B}) &= \sum_{(m, n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \cap h \cdot \mathcal{B}} \sum_{d \mid \gcd(m, n)} \mu(d) \\ &= \sum_{d \geq 1} \mu(d) \sum_{\substack{(m, n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \cap h \cdot \mathcal{B} \\ d \mid \gcd(m, n)}} 1. \end{aligned}$$

But  $d \mid \gcd(m, n)$  for  $(m, n) \in h \cdot \mathcal{B}$  if and only if  $\left(\frac{m}{d}, \frac{n}{d}\right) \in \frac{h}{d} \cdot \mathcal{B}$ .

Hence,

$$N_{\text{prim}}(h \cdot \mathcal{B}) = \sum_{d \geq 1} \mu(d) N\left(\frac{h}{d} \cdot \mathcal{B}\right)$$

$$= \sum_{d \geq 1} \mu(d) \left( \text{area}(B) \frac{L^2}{d^2} + O\left(\frac{L}{d}\right) \right)$$

$$= \text{area}(B) \cdot L^2 \cdot \sum_{d \geq 1} \frac{\mu(d)}{d^2} + \sum_{d \geq 1} \mu(d) \cdot O\left(\frac{L}{d}\right).$$

Now,

$$\sum_{d \geq 1} \frac{\mu(d)}{d^2} = \prod_p \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p^2} \right) = \frac{1}{\zeta(2)}$$

while the error term can be handled by a finite sum (since  $N(\frac{L}{d}, B) = O(1)$  for  $d$  larger than some  $L' = O(L)$ )

giving

$$\left| \sum_{d \leq O(L)} \mu(d) \cdot O\left(\frac{L}{d}\right) \right| \leq C \cdot \sum_{d \leq O(L)} \frac{L}{d}$$

$$= C \cdot L \cdot \sum_{d \leq O(L)} \frac{1}{d}$$

$$= C \cdot L \cdot O(\log L)$$

$$= O(L \log L).$$

for some  $C > 0$ .

So, we finally obtain

$$N_{\text{prim}}(L; B) = \frac{\text{area}(B)}{3(2)} \cdot L^2 + O(L \log L).$$