

## §12. Convex co-compact hyperbolic surfaces

18.118

12-1

We now study a particular example of a hyperbolic dynamical system: the geodesic flow on a convex co-compact hyperbolic surface.

CCC from now on

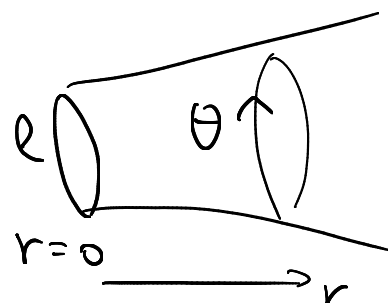
### §12.1. Geometry

A CCC hyperbolic surface is a noncompact complete connected oriented Riemannian manifold  $M$  of  $\dim = 2$  and curvature  $= -1$  whose infinite ends are funnels.

A funnel has the form

$[0, \infty)_r \times (\mathbb{R}/e\mathbb{Z})_\theta$  with the metric

$$g = dr^2 + \cosh^2 r \cdot d\theta^2$$



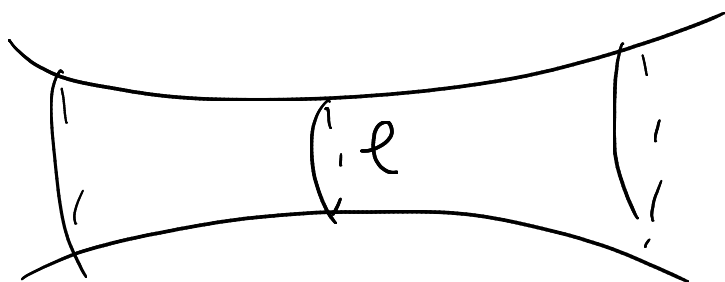
## Basic example:

18.118  
12-2

a hyperbolic cylinder

$$M = \mathbb{R}_r \times \mathbb{S}_\theta^1, \quad \mathbb{S}^1 = \mathbb{R}/\ell\mathbb{Z},$$

$$g = dr^2 + \cosh^2 r \cdot d\theta^2$$



We can also obtain

a hyperbolic cylinder  
as the quotient of  $\mathbb{H}^2$  by  
a subgroup  $\Gamma$  of  $\text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ .

Namely, let  $\Gamma$  be the group  
generated by  $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} e^{1/2} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-1/2} \end{pmatrix} \in \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$

The action of  $\gamma$  on  $\mathbb{H}^2$  is

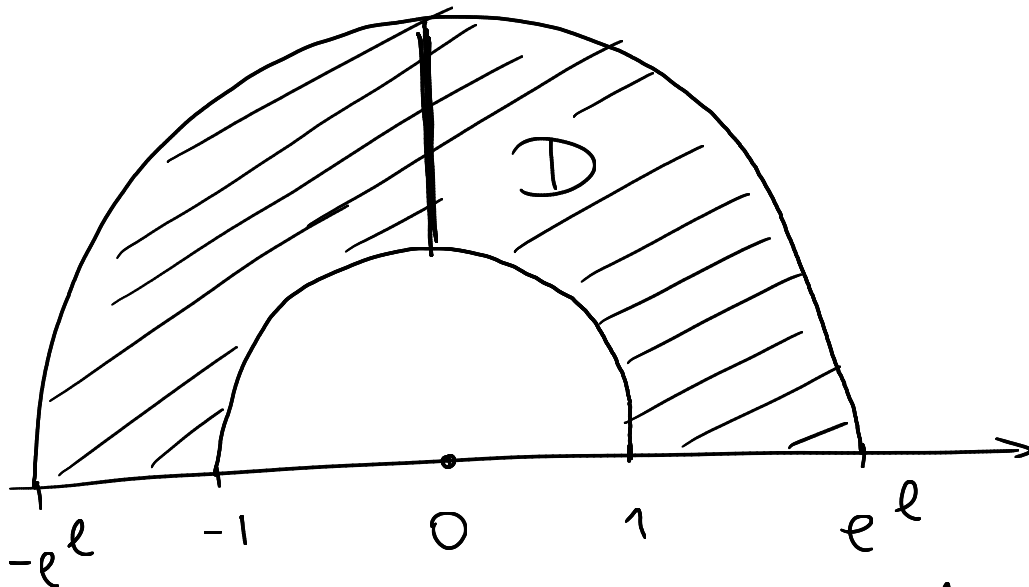
$$\gamma(z) = e^\ell \cdot z$$

A fundamental domain is given  
by an annulus

18.118  
12-3

$$D = \{z \in \mathbb{H}^2 \mid 1 \leq |z| \leq e^l\}:$$

(2)



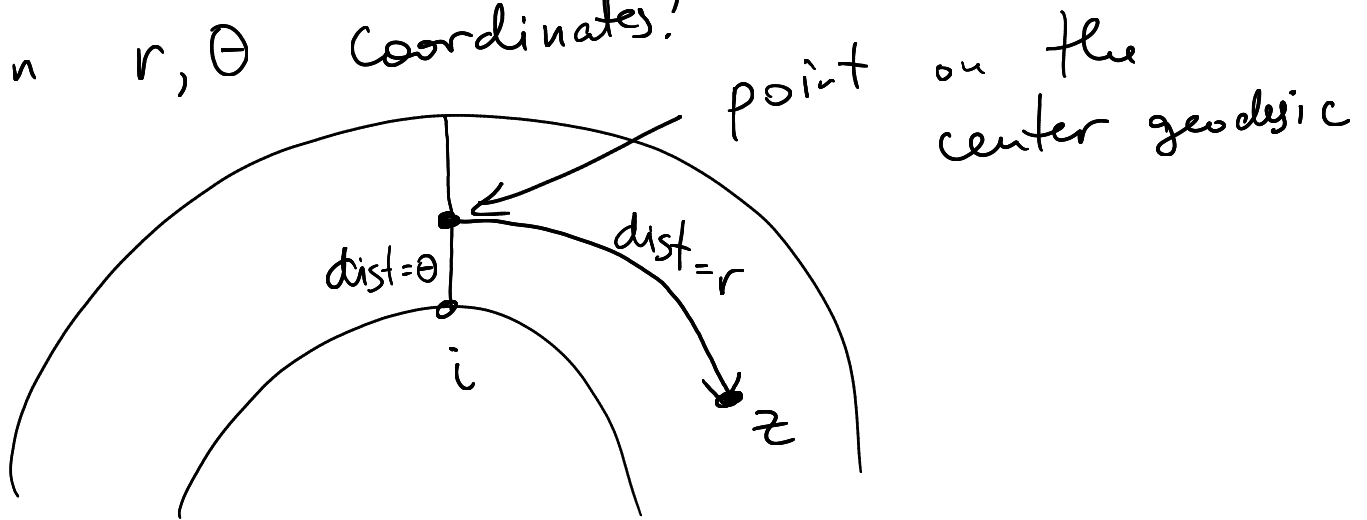
The vertical segment is a closed geodesic  
of length  $l$

(recall that  $t \mapsto e^t \cdot i$  is  
a geodesic on  $\mathbb{H}^2$ )

To get the hyperbolic cylinder from  
this, glue the 2 boundary half-circles  
of  $D$  together.

How to map this to the model  
in  $r, \theta$  coordinates?

18.118  
12-4



This gives the following map

from  $\mathbb{R}_r \times S^1_\theta$  to  $D_z$ :

$$z = \exp(\theta + 2i \operatorname{arccot} e^r)$$

Check:

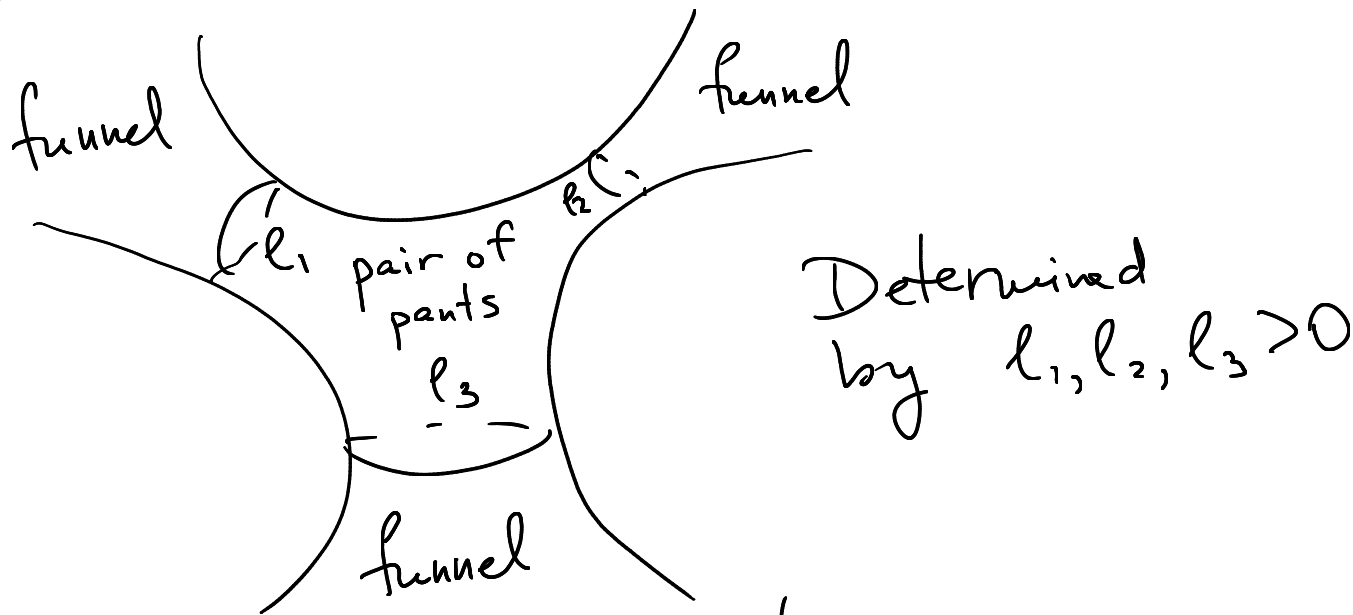
$$\begin{aligned} r=0 &\rightarrow z = ie^\theta \\ r \rightarrow -\infty &\rightarrow z = -e^\theta \\ r \rightarrow \infty &\rightarrow z = e^\theta \end{aligned}$$

Note: the hyperbolic cylinder only

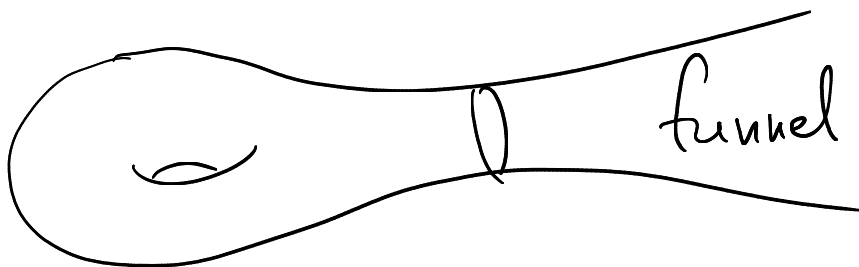
has one closed geodesic  
(of primitive period  $l$ )

More general CCC hyperbolic surfaces 18.118  
12-5  
 are obtained by taking a compact hyperbolic surface with geodesic boundary and gluing funnel ends to each boundary geodesic:

Example: 3-funnel surface:



Another example: funneled torus:

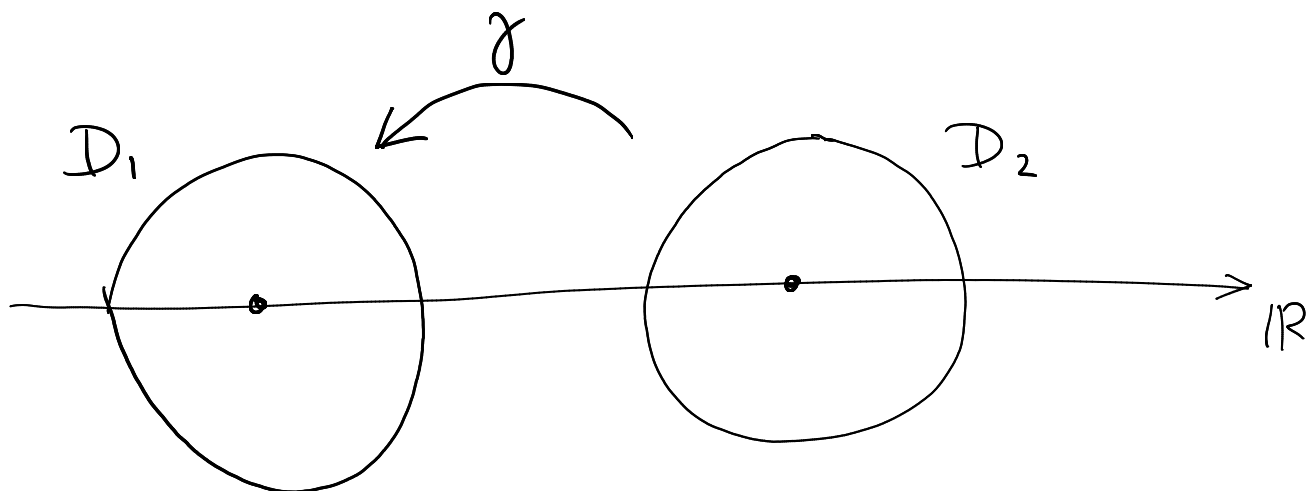


## §12.2. Schottky groups

18.118  
12-6

We will think of ccc hyperbolic surfaces as quotients  $\Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^2$  where  $\Gamma \subset \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R})$  is a (classical) Schottky group, as defined below. We first give a couple of basic lemmas.

Lemma 1 Assume that  $D_1, D_2 \subset \mathbb{C}$  are nonintersecting closed disks centered on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Then there exists  $\gamma \in \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$  such that (with the action of  $\gamma$  on  $\hat{\mathbb{C}} = \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$  by Möbius transformations)

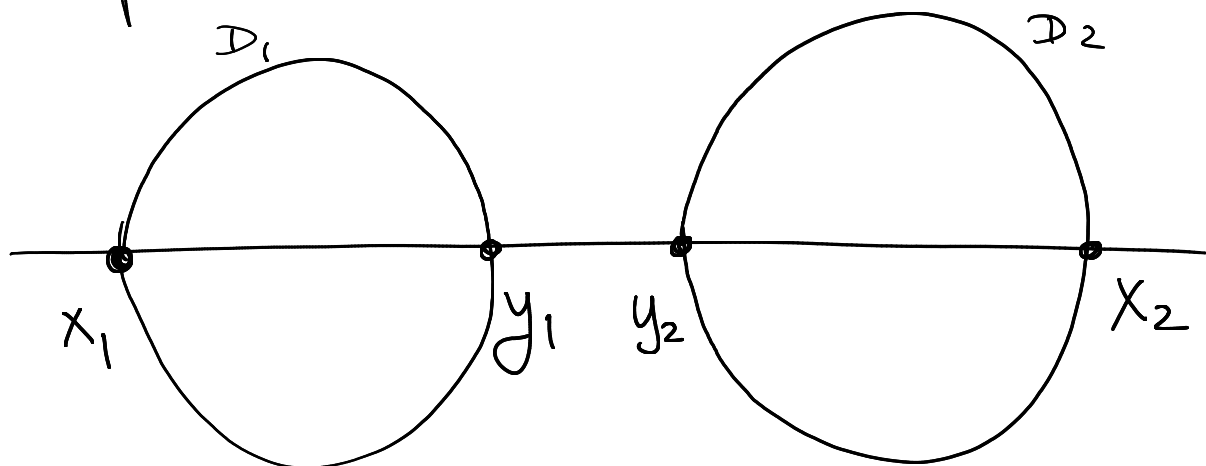
$$\gamma(\overset{\text{interior}}{\hat{\mathbb{C}}} \setminus D_2^\circ) = D_1.$$


Proof Let's label the

18.118

12-7

endpoints of  $D_1 \cap \mathbb{R}$ ,  $D_2 \cap \mathbb{R}$ :



We have  $\delta(\mathbb{C} \setminus D_2^{\circ}) = D_1$  iff

$$\begin{cases} \delta(x_2) = x_1 \\ \delta(y_2) = y_1 \end{cases} \quad (\text{since } \delta \text{ maps } \mathbb{R} \mathbb{S}, \\ \text{circles to circles,} \\ \text{and is conformal})$$

Making an affine change of variables on  $\mathbb{C}$ ,  
we may assume that  $x_1 = 0, x_2 = 1$ .

Writing  $\delta = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $ad - bc = 1$ , we get the equations

$$\frac{a+b}{c+d} = 0, \quad \frac{ay_2 + b}{cy_2 + d} = y_1, \quad \text{i.e.}$$

$$\begin{cases} a+b=0 \\ ay_2 + b = cy_1 y_2 + dy_1 \\ ad - bc = 1 \end{cases}$$

The 1st equation gives  $b = -a$ , so

18.118  
12-8

$$\begin{cases} a(y_2 - 1) = cy_1 y_2 + dy_1 \\ a(c + d) = 1 \end{cases}$$

We have  $0 < y_1 < y_2 < 1$ , in particular  $y_2 \neq 1$ .

So we write  $a = \frac{cy_1 y_2 + dy_1}{y_2 - 1}$ .

The last equation becomes

$$\frac{cy_1 y_2 + dy_1}{y_2 - 1} \cdot (c + d) = 1, \text{ i.e.}$$

$$y_1 (cy_2 + d)(c + d) = y_2 - 1, \text{ i.e.}$$

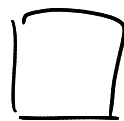
$$(cy_2 + d)(c + d) = \frac{y_2 - 1}{y_1}.$$

There exists a solution  $(c, d)$ ,

in fact a curve of solutions,

since the range of the map

$(c, d) \mapsto (cy_2 + d)(c + d)$  is the whole  $\mathbb{R}$ .





Lemma 2. Assume that  $\gamma \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  18.118  
12-9  
and  $\gamma \neq \pm I$ ,  $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$ .

- If  $\gamma$  is elliptic ( $|a+d| < 2$ ) then it has 2 fixed points on  $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$ , which do not lie on  $\mathbb{R}$ .
- If  $\gamma$  is parabolic ( $|a+d| = 2$ ) then it has 1 fixed point on  $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$ , which lies on  $\mathbb{R}$ .
- If  $\gamma$  is hyperbolic ( $|a+d| > 2$ ) then it has 2 fixed points  $x_-, x_+ \in \hat{\mathbb{C}}$  which both lie on  $\mathbb{R}$ . In this case  $\forall z \in \hat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \{x_+, x_-\}$  we have (in the topology of  $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$ )  
 $\gamma^j(z) \rightarrow x_{\pm}$  as  $j \rightarrow \pm\infty$ .

Proof The fixed point equation for  $\gamma$  is the eqn.  $\frac{az+b}{cz+d} = z$ , which is quadratic:

$$cz^2 + (d-a)z - b = 0.$$

Discriminant:  $D = (d-a)^2 + 4bc = (a+d)^2 - 4$ . ad-bc = 1

This explains the cases:

Elliptic:  $D < 0$

Parabolic:  $D = 0$

Hyperbolic:  $D > 0$

and shows the statements about fixed points.

If  $\gamma$  is hyperbolic, we can conjugate it by some element of  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$

to the diagonal matrix  $\tilde{\gamma} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{r/2} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-r/2} \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $r > 0$ .

For  $\tilde{\gamma}(z) = e^r \cdot z$ , we have the

fixed points  $x_- = 0$ ,  $x_+ = \infty$

and  $\forall z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, \infty\}$  we have

$e^{jr} \cdot z \rightarrow x_{\pm}$  as  $j \rightarrow \pm\infty$ .  $\square$

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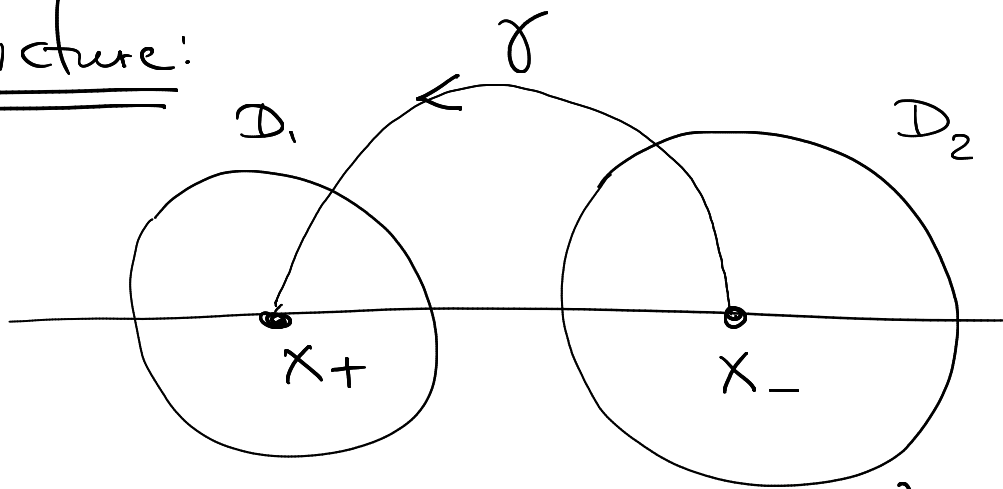
Lemma 3 Any transformation  $\gamma$  from Lemma 1

is hyperbolic, with fixed points

$x_+ \in I_1$ ,  $x_- \in I_2$  where  $I_j = D_j \cap \mathbb{R}$ .

Picture:

18.118  
12-11



Note: the geodesic in  $\mathbb{H}^2$  from  $x_-$  to  $x_+$  is preserved by  $\gamma$

Proof Since  $\gamma(\mathbb{C} \setminus D_2) = D_1$   
we have  $\gamma(I_1) \subset I_1$ .

Also,  $\gamma^{-1}(\mathbb{C} \setminus D_1) = D_2$ , so  
 $\gamma^{-1}(I_2) \subset I_2$ .

Thus (by the Intermediate Value Thm)  
 $\exists$  fixed points of  $\gamma$ ,  $x_+ \in I_1$   
and  $x_- \in I_2$ .

They are both real, so  $\gamma$  is hyperbolic  
and one can check that  $x_-$  is the  
repulsive fixed point and  $x_+$  is the attractive  
one.  $\square$

We are now ready to define

18.118

12-12

## Schottky groups

These depend on the following data:

- $m \geq 1$ , an integer
- Define the alphabet  
 $A = \{1, \dots, 2m\}$ .
- For  $a \in A$ , define  $\bar{a} \in A$  by
$$\bar{a} := \begin{cases} a+m, & \text{if } a \leq m \\ a-m, & \text{if } a > m \end{cases}$$
- Fix nonintersecting closed disks in  $\mathbb{C}$  with centers on  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  
 $(D_a)_{a \in A}$
- Fix group elements  $\gamma_a \in \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ ,  
 $a \in A$ , such that
$$\gamma_a(\mathbb{C} \setminus D_{\bar{a}}) = D_a,$$
$$\gamma_{\bar{a}} = \gamma_a^{-1}.$$

Define the Schottky group

18.118

12-13

$\Gamma \subset \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R})$  as the group

generated by  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_m$ .

It turns out that

①  $M = \Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^2$  is a ccc surface

② Any ccc surface is isometric to  $\Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^2$  for some Schottky group  $\Gamma$ .

We will not give all the details of the proofs here, focusing instead on some basic properties and examples

(See Borthwick, §15.1 for more details)

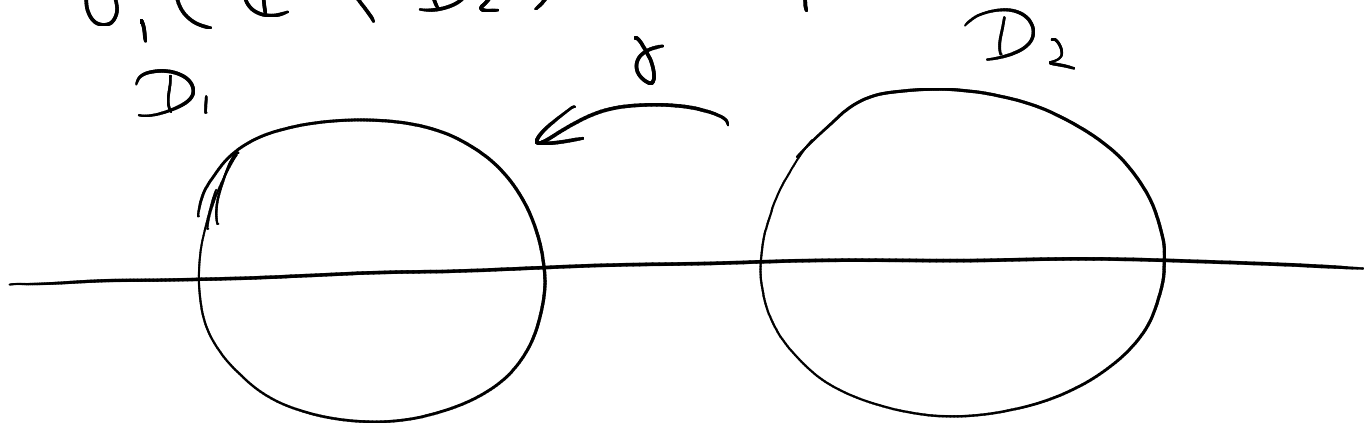


Example 1:  $m=1$ , i.e.

18.118  
12-14

we only have 2 disks  $D_1, D_2$   
and maps  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2 = \gamma_1^{-1}$  s.t.

$$\gamma_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus D_2^\circ) = D_1$$



Then  $\Gamma = \{\gamma_1^j \mid j \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .

We can conjugate  $\gamma_1$  by an element of  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$

to  $\tilde{\gamma}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} e^{r/2} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-r/2} \end{pmatrix}$  for some  $r > 0$

Then  $\Gamma$  is conjugated to

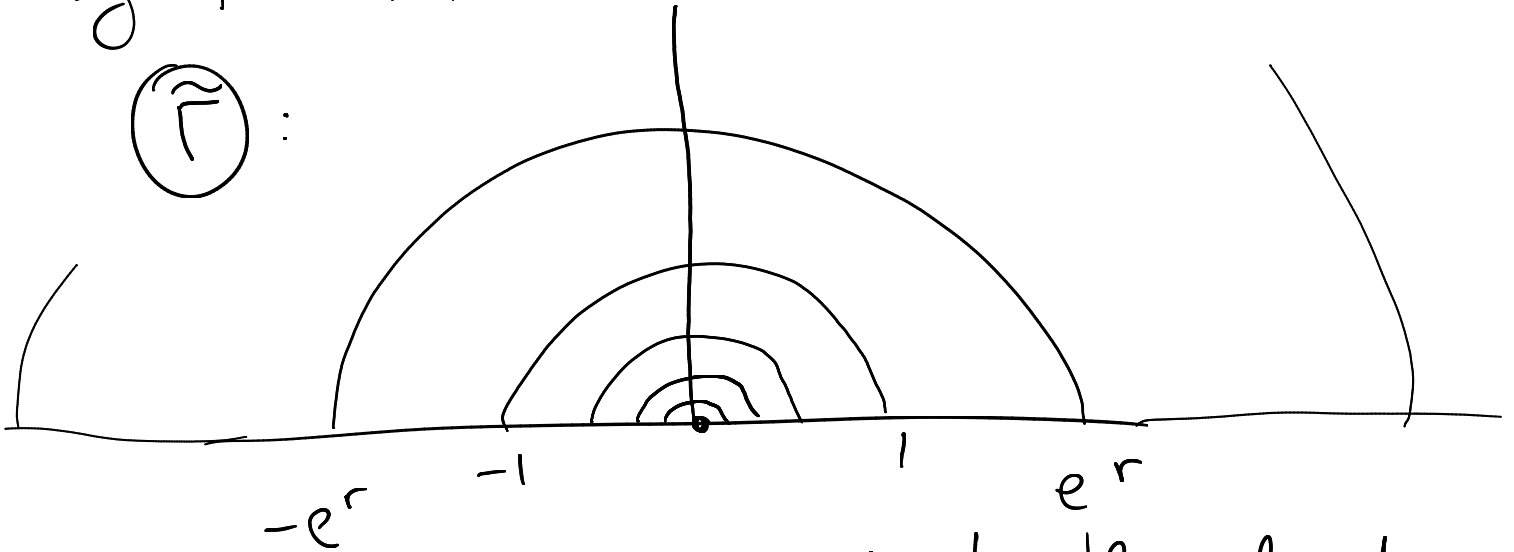
$$\tilde{\Gamma} = \{\tilde{\gamma}_1^j \mid j \in \mathbb{Z}\} \text{ and}$$

$\Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^2 \cong \tilde{\Gamma} \backslash \mathbb{H}^2$  is a hyperbolic cylinder  
with center geodesic of length  $r$ .

Picture of the tessellation of  $\mathbb{H}^2$  by the fundamental domains:

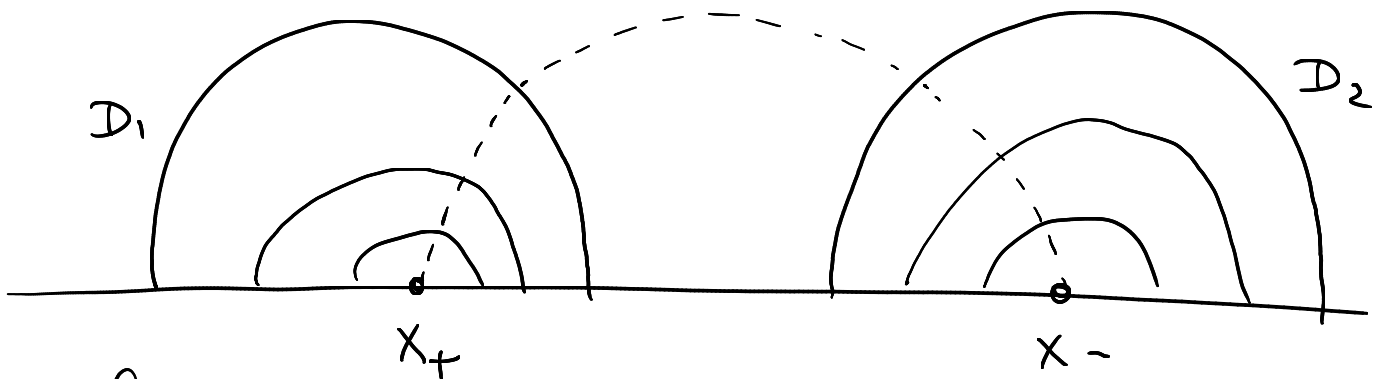
18.118  
12-15

(1):



the vertical geodesic projects to the closed geodesic on the hyperbolic cylinder

(2):

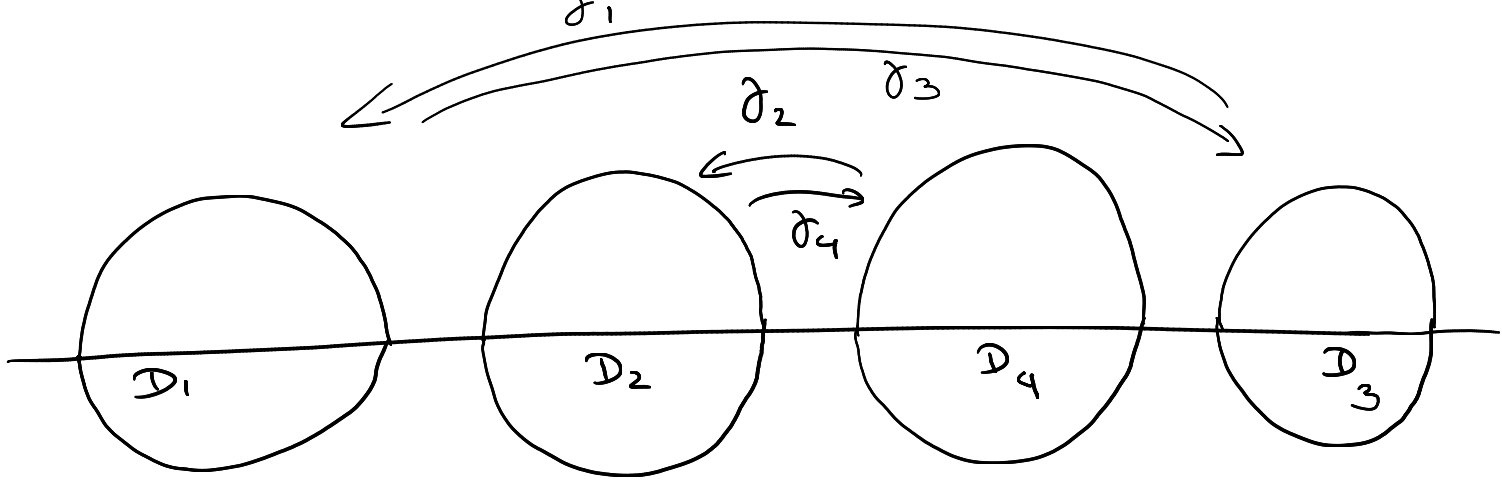


$x_{\pm}$  fixed points of  $\sigma_1$   
the geodesic from  $x_-$  to  $x_+$  projects to the closed geodesic on the cylinder

Example 2:  $m=2$ ,

18.118  
12-16

with 4 disks  $D_1, D_2, D_3, D_4$   
arranged as follows:



A fundamental domain of  $\Gamma$  is given by  
the complement of the disks:

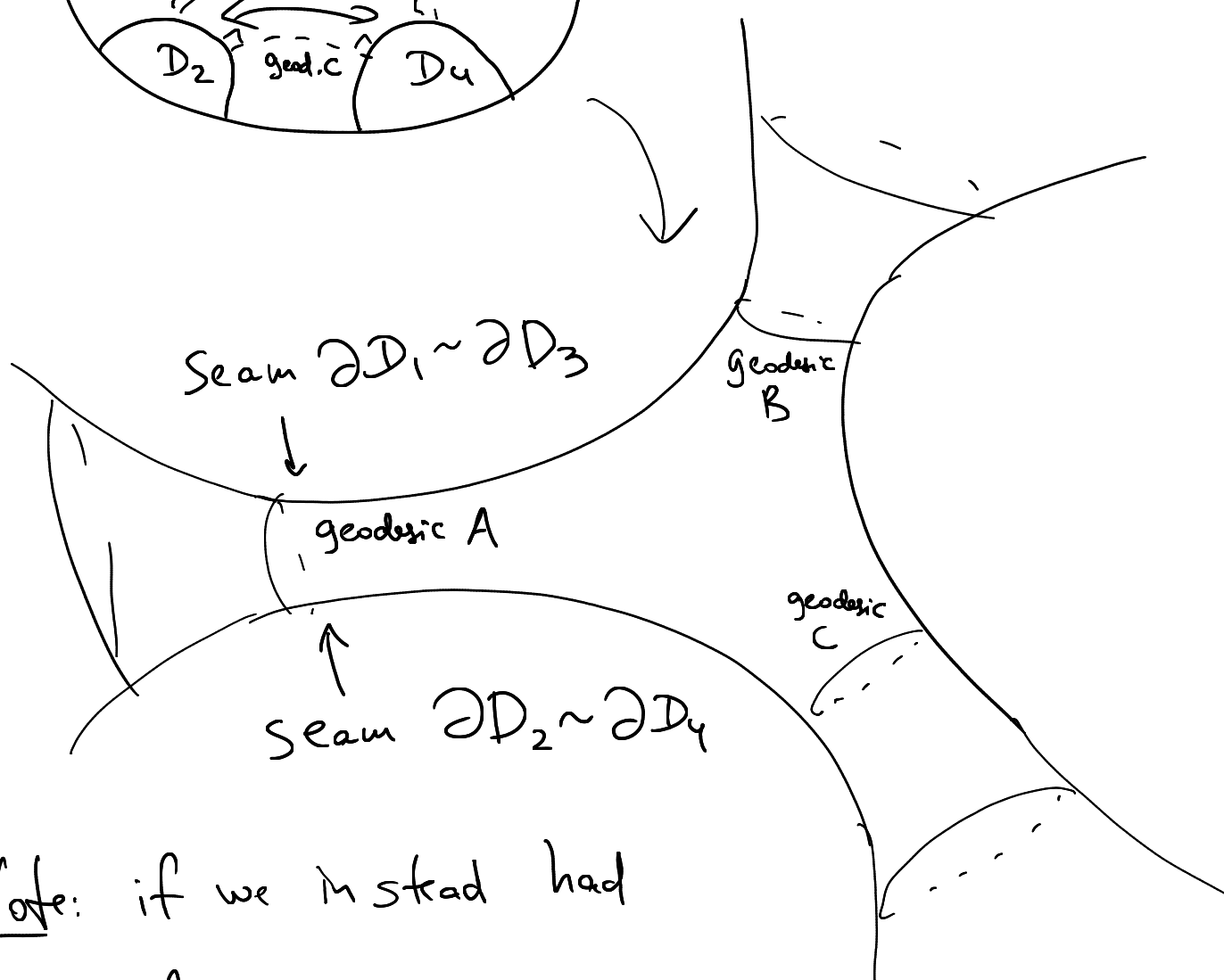
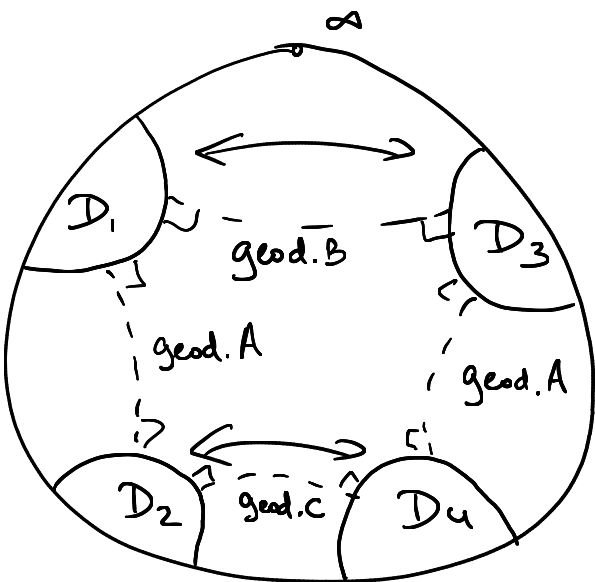
$$\Omega = \mathbb{H}^2 \setminus \bigcup_{a=1}^4 D_a$$

Glue  $\partial D_1$  with  $\partial D_3$  via  $\delta_1$   
 $\partial D_2$  with  $\partial D_4$  via  $\delta_2$

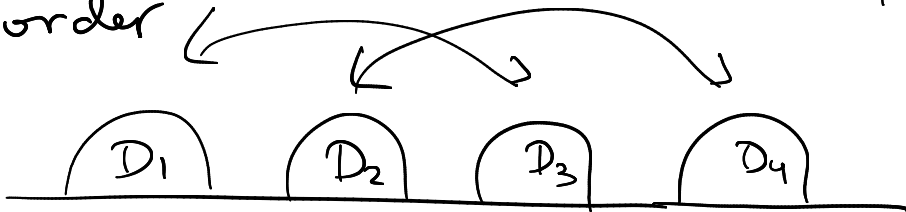
Get a 3-funnel surface:

Look at the  
ball model  
of  $\mathbb{H}^2$

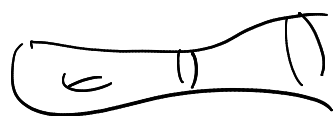




Note: if we instead had the order



then  $\Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^2$  is a funneled torus



## §12.3. Words and the limit set

18.118

12-18

Let  $\Gamma \subset \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R})$  be a Schottky group,  
generated by  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_m \in \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R})$

Put  $A = \{1, \dots, 2m\}$  as before,

recall that  $\gamma_{\bar{a}} = \gamma_a^{-1}$  where  $\bar{a} = a \pm m$ .

For  $n \geq 0$ , define the set of

words  $W^n = \{a_1 \dots a_n \in A^n :$

$$a_{j+1} \neq \bar{a}_j \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, n-1\}.$$

( $W^0 = \{\emptyset\}$  consists of the empty word)

• For  $\vec{a} = a_1 \dots a_n \in W^n$ , define the  
group element  $\gamma_{\vec{a}} := \gamma_{a_1} \dots \gamma_{a_n} \in \Gamma$ .

Note: the condition  $a_{j+1} \neq \bar{a}_j$  makes sure

that  $\gamma_a$  is not put next to  $\gamma_{\bar{a}} = \gamma_a^{-1}$ .

• For  $\vec{a} = a_1 \dots a_n \in W^n$ ,  $n \geq 1$ , define

the disk  $D_{\vec{a}} := \gamma_{a_1 \dots a_{n-1}}(D_{a_n})$ .

Then  $D_{\vec{a}}$  is a <sup>closed</sup> disk in  $\mathbb{C}$   
centered on  $\mathbb{R}$  (since it is orthogonal to  $\mathbb{R}$ ).

18.118

12-19

We have the following "tree" properties  
of the disks  $D_{\vec{a}}$ :

① If  $\vec{a} = a_1 \dots a_n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , then

$$D_{\vec{a}} \subset D_{a_1 \dots a_{n-1}}.$$

Indeed,  $D_{\vec{a}} = \delta_{a_1 \dots a_{n-2}}(\delta_{a_{n-1}}(D_{a_n}))$ ,

$$D_{a_1 \dots a_{n-1}} = \delta_{a_1 \dots a_{n-2}}(D_{a_{n-1}}),$$

So it suffices to show that

$$\delta_{a_{n-1}}(D_{a_n}) \subset D_{a_{n-1}}^{\circ}, \text{ which follows}$$

from the Schottky mapping properties:

$$a_n \neq \bar{a}_{n-1} \Rightarrow D_{a_n} \subset \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{D_{a_{n-1}}},$$

$$\text{and } \delta_{a_{n-1}}(\mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{D_{a_{n-1}}}) = D_{a_{n-1}}^{\circ}.$$



② If  $\vec{a}, \vec{b} \in W^n$   
 and  $\vec{a} \neq \vec{b}$  then  $D_{\vec{a}} \cap D_{\vec{b}} = \emptyset$ .

18.118  
 12-20

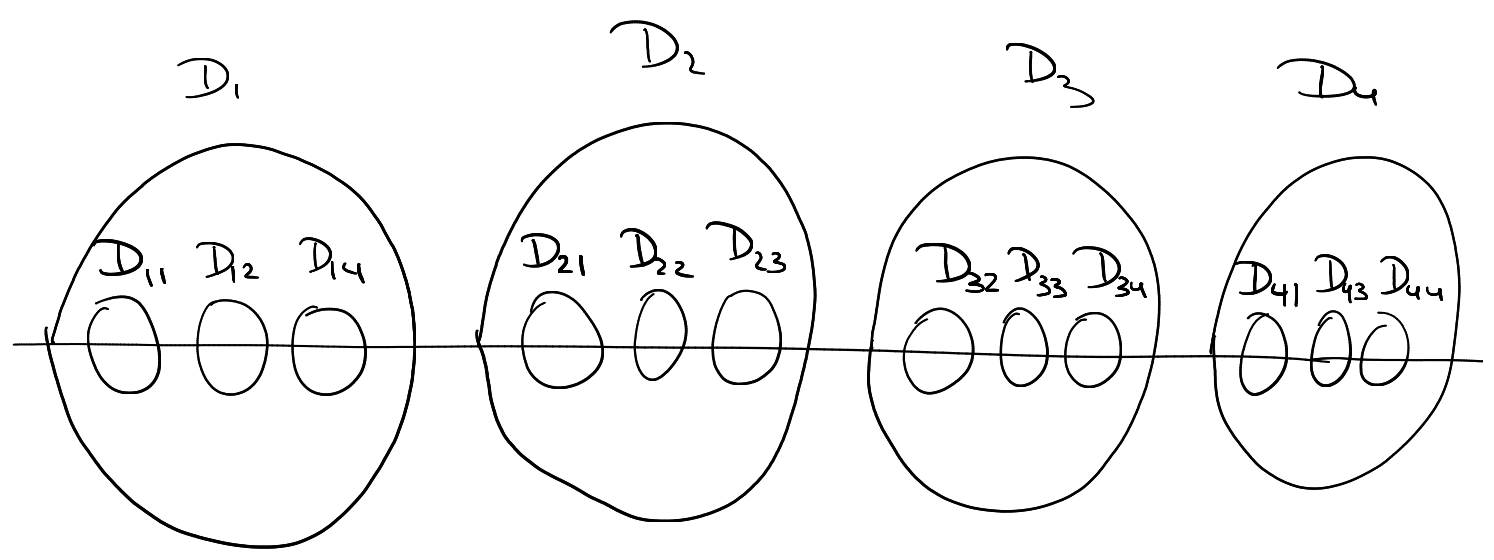
Indeed, by property 1 we may assume  
 that  $\vec{a} = a_1 \dots a_{n-1} a_n$ ,  $\vec{b} = a_1 \dots a_{n-1} b_n$ ,  
 $a_n \neq b_n$ .

Then  $D_{\vec{a}} = \delta_{a_1 \dots a_{n-1}}(D_{a_n})$ ,

$D_{\vec{b}} = \delta_{a_1 \dots a_{n-1}}(D_{b_n})$ , and

$D_{a_n} \cap D_{b_n} = \emptyset$ .

Picture: (the order of sub-disks is  
 not right ...)



Since  $\Gamma$  is generated by  $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_m$ , 18.118  
12-21

we have  $\Gamma = \{ \delta_{\vec{a}} \mid \vec{a} \in W^n, n \geq 0 \}$

This representation is unique:

Lemma Assume that  $\vec{a} \in W^n, \vec{b} \in W^m$  satisfy  $\delta_{\vec{a}} = \delta_{\vec{b}}$ . Then  $\vec{a} = \vec{b}$ .

Proof Rewriting this as  $\delta_{\vec{a}} \delta_{\vec{b}}^{-1} = I$ , enough to show that  $\forall \vec{a} \in W^n, n \geq 1$ , we have  $\delta_{\vec{a}} \neq I$ .

Look at  $\delta_{\vec{a}}(\infty)$ : if  $\vec{a} = a_1 \dots a_n$  then

$$\infty \in \dot{C} \setminus D_{\vec{a}_n} \Rightarrow \delta_{\vec{a}_n}(\infty) \in D_{a_n}.$$

Thus  $\delta_{\vec{a}}(\infty) \in D_{\vec{a}}$ , in particular

$$\delta_{\vec{a}}(\infty) \neq \infty, \text{ so } \vec{a} \neq I. \quad \square$$

Remark Lemma shows that  $\Gamma$  is the free group generated by  $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_m$ .

# Limit set:

18.118

12-22

We can define it as

$$I_{\vec{a}} = D_{\vec{a}} \cap \mathbb{R}$$

$$\Lambda_{\Gamma} = \bigcap_{n \geq 1} \underbrace{\bigcup_{\vec{a} \in W^n} D_{\vec{a}}}_{\text{nested family}} = \bigcap_{n \geq 1} \bigcup_{\vec{a} \in W^n} I_{\vec{a}}$$

Note that this is a nested family of nonempty compact sets, so

$\Lambda_{\Gamma} \subset \mathbb{R}$  is a nonempty compact subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Another, equivalent, definition, is:

$$\forall z \in \mathbb{H}^2,$$

$$\Lambda_{\Gamma} = \overline{\mathbb{R} \cap \{ \gamma(z) \mid \gamma \in \Gamma \}}$$

where the closure is taken in  $\overline{\mathbb{H}^2} = \mathbb{H}^2 \cup \mathbb{R}$ .

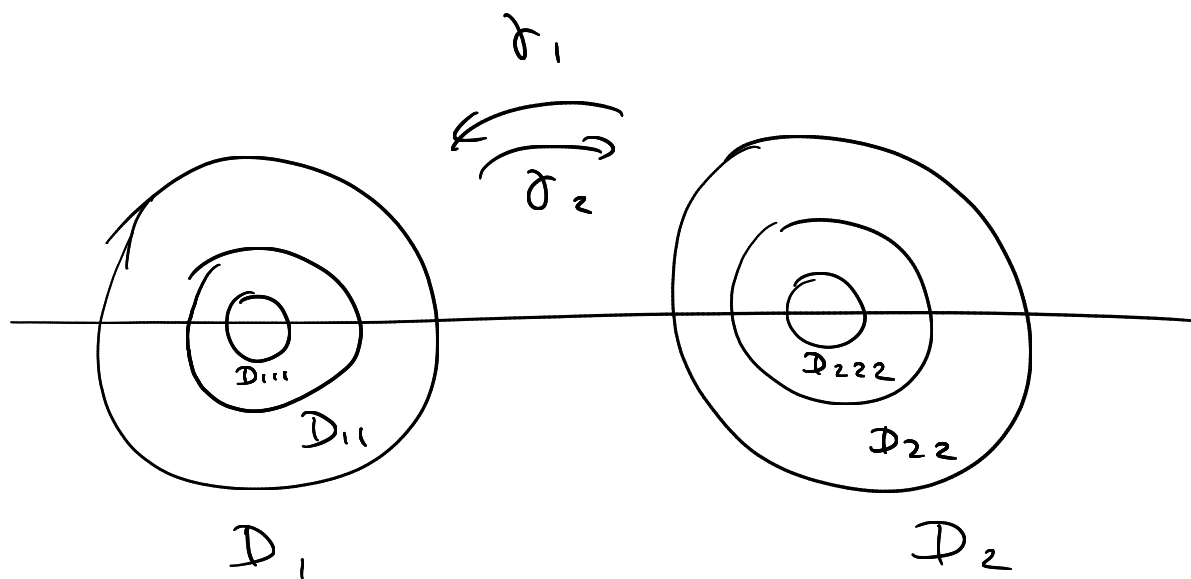
(exercise, possibly on the last pset)

This in particular implies that  
 $\forall \gamma \in \Gamma$ ,  $\gamma$  maps  $\Lambda_{\Gamma}$  to itself  
( $\Gamma$  acts on  $\Lambda_{\Gamma}$ )

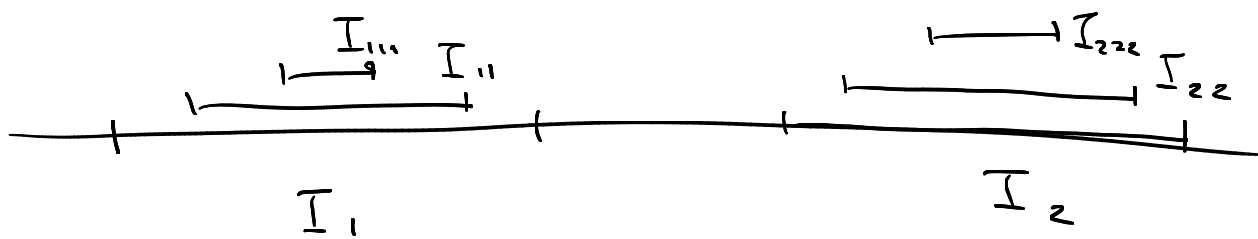
Example : hyperbolic cylinder  
( $m=1$ )

18.118

12-23



Intervals:  $I_{\vec{a}} = D_{\vec{a}} \cap \mathbb{R}$



$\Lambda_P =$  two points,  $\{x_+, x_-\}$ ,  
where  $x_{\pm}$  are the fixed points of  $\delta_1$

Note: if  $\underline{m \geq 2}$  then  
 $\Lambda_T$  is a fractal set of  
dimension  $\delta \in (0, 1)$ .  
More on that later.

## §12.4. Geodesic flow

18.118  
12-24

Let  $M = \Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^2$  be a ccc hyperbolic surface,

where  $\Gamma \subset \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R})$  is a Schottky group.

Denote by  $\varphi^t : SM \rightarrow SM$  the geodesic flow. Under the natural projection  $\pi_\Gamma : S\mathbb{H}^2 \rightarrow SM$ ,  $\varphi^t$  lifts to the geodesic flow on  $\mathbb{H}^2$ .

Recall that geodesics on  $\mathbb{H}^2$  are circles (or lines) orthogonal to  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Each geodesic has limiting points at infinity,  $\gamma_\pm \in \mathbb{R}^\circ = \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ .





We can introduce the following coordinates on  $SH^2$ :

18.118  
12-25

$$(x, v) \in SH^2 \mapsto (\bar{v}_+, \bar{v}_-, s) \in (\dot{\mathbb{R}} \times \dot{\mathbb{R}})_{\Delta} \times \mathbb{R}_s$$

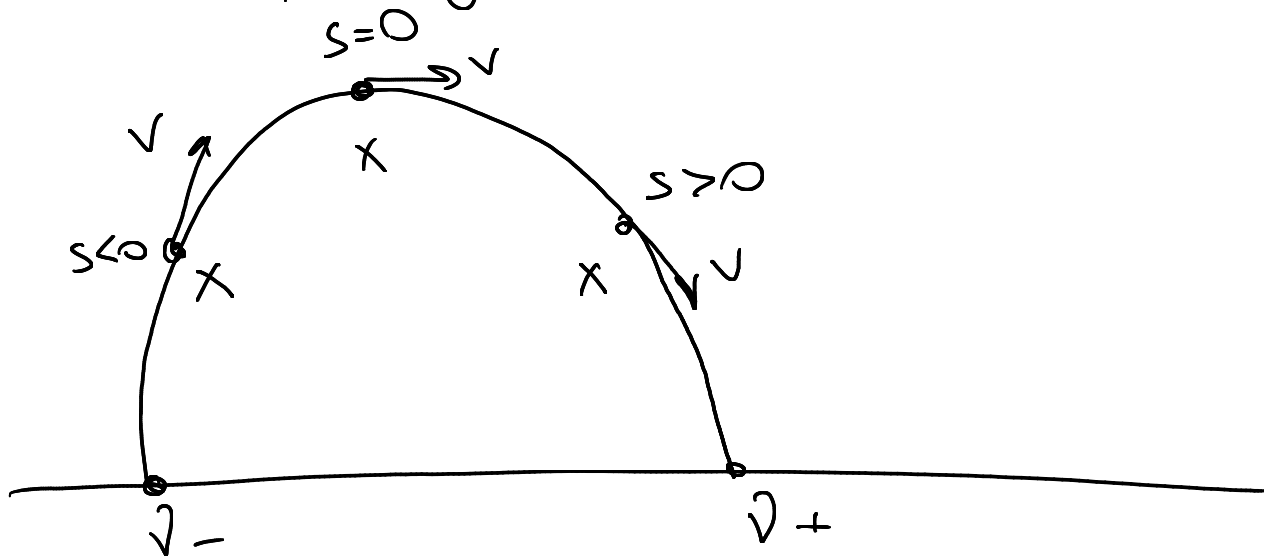
where  $(\dot{\mathbb{R}} \times \dot{\mathbb{R}})_{\Delta} = \{(\bar{v}_+, \bar{v}_-) \in \dot{\mathbb{R}} \times \dot{\mathbb{R}} : \bar{v}_+ \neq \bar{v}_-\}$  and

•  $\bar{v}_{\pm}$  is the limit of the geodesic  $\varphi^t(x, v)$  as  $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$

•  $s$  is defined as follows:

$$s(\varphi^t(x, v)) = s(x, v) + t \text{ and}$$

$s(x, v) = 0 \iff x$  is the closest point to  $i$  (w.r.t.  $d_{\mathbb{H}^2}$ ) on the geodesic  $\varphi^t(x, v)$



The map  $(x, v) \mapsto (v_+, v_-, s)$   
is a diffeomorphism.

18.118

12-26

## Trapped geodesics

Defn. Let  $\gamma: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow M$  be  
a geodesic (here  $M = \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{H}^2$  c.c.c. h.s.  
as before)

We say that  $\gamma$  is forward trapped,

if  $\exists$  compact  $K_\gamma \subset M$  s.t.

$$\forall t \geq 0, \gamma(t) \in K_\gamma.$$

Otherwise we call forward escaping.

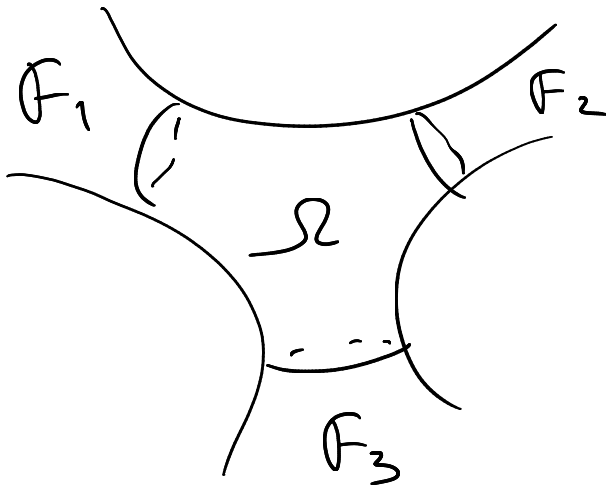
Recall that we can decompose  $M$  as

$$M = \Omega \cup F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_m$$

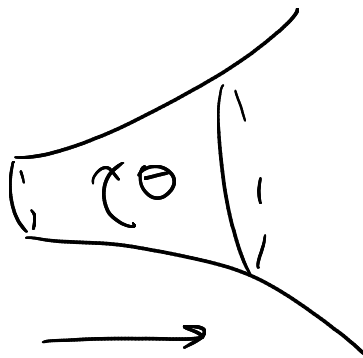
where  $\Omega$ , the convex core, is a compact  
hyperbolic surface with boundary  
(for hyperbolic cylinder,  $\Omega = \text{circle}$ )

and  $F_j$ 's are funnels:

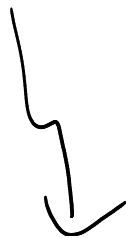
e.g.



In a funnel, the metric is  
 $g = dr^2 + \cosh^2 r d\theta^2$ ,  $r \geq 0$ ,  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}/2\pi$ :



This makes it possible to compute  
 the geodesics in the funnel.  
 We will not do the computation here  
 but will give the important consequences:



① If  $\gamma$  is a geodesic on  $M$  and for some  $t_1 < t_2$  we have

18.118  
12-28

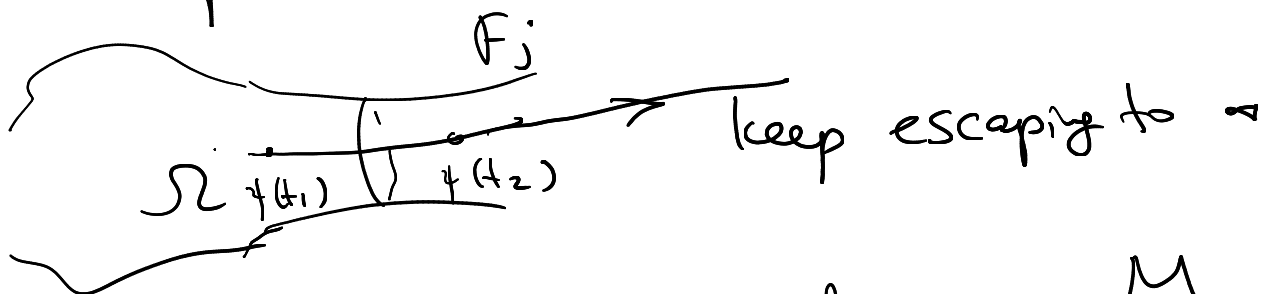
$$\gamma(t_1) \in \Omega, \gamma(t_2) \in F_j^\circ \quad (\cong (0, \infty)_r \times S^1_\theta)$$

convex core

then  $\gamma(t) \in F_j^\circ \quad \forall t \geq t_2$  and

$$r(\gamma(t)) \rightarrow \infty \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty;$$

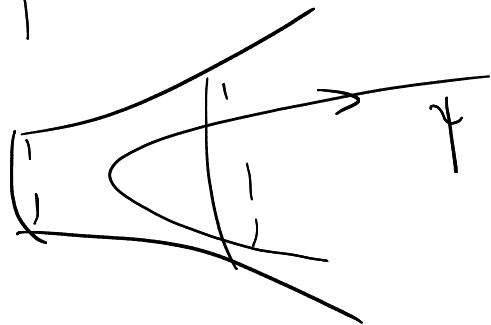
in particular,  $\gamma$  is forward escaping:



② If  $\gamma$  is a geodesic on  $M$  and  $\gamma(t) \in F_j^\circ \quad \forall t \geq 0$ , then

$$r(\gamma(t)) \rightarrow \infty \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty,$$

in particular  $\gamma$  is forward escaping



Together these imply that

18.118  
12-29

$\forall$  geodesic  $\gamma: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow M$ ,

$\gamma$  is forward trapped



$\exists T \forall t \geq T \gamma(t) \in \Omega$

---

Similarly we can define backward trapped geodesics.

We say a geodesic on  $M$  is trapped if it is both forward & backward trapped.

Note: any closed geodesic is trapped.

Denote by  $\boxed{K \subset SM}$  the set of all trapped geodesics:  $(x, v) \in K \Leftrightarrow \gamma^t(x, v)$  is a trapped geodesic.

We note that  $K$  is compact  
(exercise, possibly in Pset 6)  
and  $\varphi^t$ -invariant.

18.118

12-30

By the stable/unstable decomposition  
from §6 we see that

$K$  is a hyperbolic set for  $\varphi^t$

However, (unless  $M = \text{hyperbolic cylinder}$ )

$\varphi^t|_K$  is not an Anosov flow

since  $K$  is a fractal set,  
not a manifold.

Theorem Let  $\gamma: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{H}^2$  be a geodesic

and  $\gamma_{\pm}$  the limiting points at  $\infty$ .

Let  $\pi: \mathbb{H}^2 \rightarrow M = \Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^2$  be the projection map.

Then  $\pi \circ \gamma$  is forward trapped  $(\Leftrightarrow)$

$(\Leftrightarrow) \gamma_{+} \in \Lambda_{\Gamma} \leftarrow \text{the limit set}$

Remark Similarly we have:

18.118

12-31

$\pi_0 \not\subset$  is backward trapped  $\Leftrightarrow$

$\Leftrightarrow \not\subset_- \in \Lambda_\Gamma$

And  $\pi_0 \not\subset$  is trapped  $\Leftrightarrow$

$\Leftrightarrow \not\subset_+, \not\subset_- \in \Lambda_\Gamma$ .

This gives an identification

(via the diffeo.  $(x, v) \mapsto (\not\subset_-, \not\subset_+, s)$ )

$$\tilde{\pi}^{-1}(K) \cong (\Lambda_\Gamma \times \Lambda_\Gamma)_\Delta \times \mathbb{R}$$

( $\tilde{\pi}: \text{SH}^2 \rightarrow \text{SM}$  projection map)

This relates the limit set  $\Lambda_\Gamma$   
of the group  $\Gamma$  with the  
set  $K$  of trapped geodesics on

$$M = \Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^2.$$

Proof We only give a sketch of the proof.

18.118

12-32

Note that the statement stays the same, if we replace  $\varphi$  by its time-shift  $\varphi(\cdot + T)$  for any fixed  $T$ , or if we replace it by  $\delta \circ \varphi$  where  $\delta \in \Gamma$  (as  $\pi \circ \delta = \pi$ )

Assume first that  $\mathbb{V}_+ \notin \Lambda_\Gamma$ .

We will show that  $\varphi$  is forward escaping.

Replacing  $\varphi$  with  $\delta \circ \varphi$  for some  $\delta \in \Gamma$ ,

we may assume that  $\mathbb{V}_+ \notin I_a^\circ$

for all  $a \in \mathcal{A} = \{1, \dots, 2m\}$ , where  $I_a = \mathcal{D}_a \cap \mathbb{R}$ .

Indeed, if  $\mathbb{V}_+ \in I_{a_1 \dots a_n}$  for some  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathcal{A}$

$\forall a_{n+1} \neq \bar{a}_n$ ,  $\mathbb{V}_+ \notin I_{a_1 \dots a_n a_{n+1}}$ , then

$\delta_{a_1 \dots a_n}^{-1}(\mathbb{V}_+) \notin \bigcup_{a \in \mathcal{A}} I_a^\circ$  since  $\delta_{a_1 \dots a_{n-1}}^{-1}(\mathbb{V}_+) \in I_{a_n}$  but not in  $\delta_{a_n}^{-1}(\bigcup_{a \neq \bar{a}_n} I_a)$ .

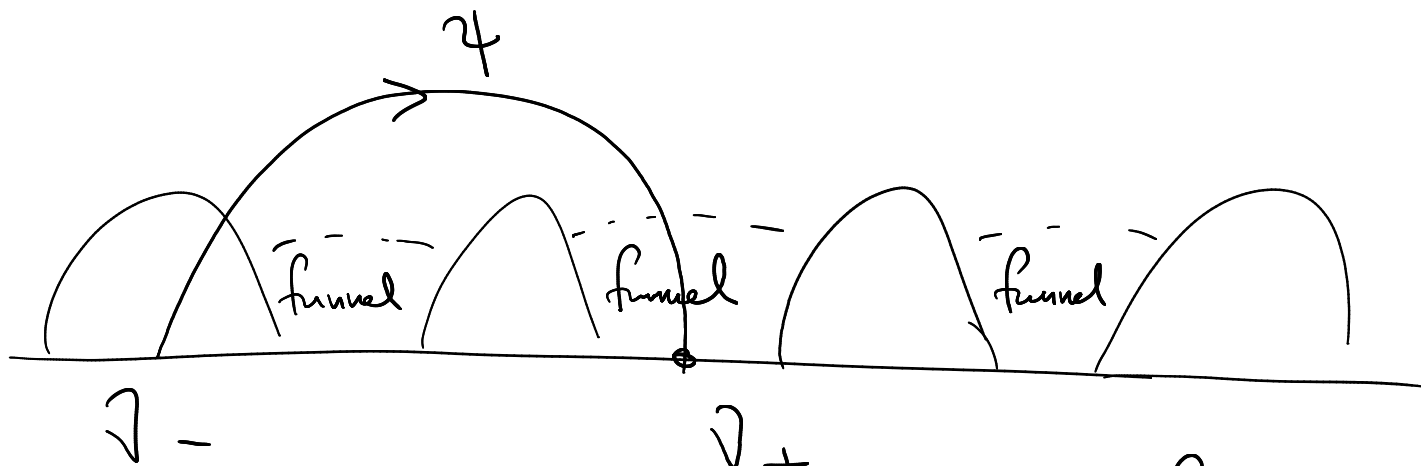


Now, if  $\gamma_+ \notin \bigcup_{a \in \mathcal{A}} I_a^\circ$ ,

18.118

12-33

then  $\gamma_+$  lies in the infinity of one of the funnels:



Then  $\pi \circ \gamma$  escapes through that funnel.

Now, assume that  $\pi \circ \gamma$  forward escapes

Replacing  $\gamma$  by its time-shift,

we may assume that  $\exists$  funnel  $F_j$ :

$$\forall t \geq 0, \pi \circ \gamma(t) \in F_j$$

Looking at the geodesic flow in the funnel

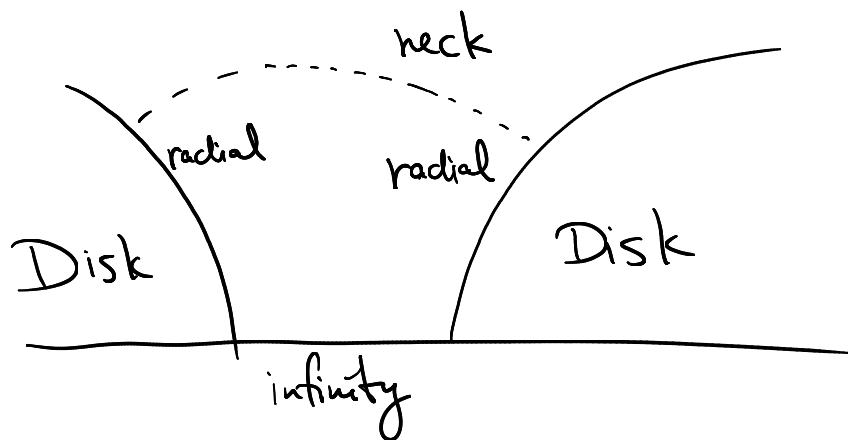
in the  $(r, \theta)$  coordinates, we see that

$$\int_0^{\infty} \dot{\theta}(\pi(\gamma(t))) dt < \infty.$$

So  $\pi = 2$  does not wrap around the funnel much. In particular, it can only intersect any radial geodesic  $\{\theta = \text{const}\}$  finitely many times.

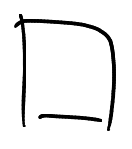
18.118  
12-34

So then for large  $t$ ,  $\psi(t)$  stays in a single fundamental domain  $D$  of  $\Gamma$  (the boundary of the cusp in  $D$  is made of the neck geodesic, which we cannot cross, and two radial geodesics:



Applying some element of  $\Gamma$  to  $\psi$ ,  
 and a time shift, we may assume  
 that  $\psi(t) \notin \bigcup_{a \in A} D_a^\circ \quad \forall t \geq 0$ .

But then  $\mathcal{D}_+ \notin \bigcup_{a \in A} I_a^\circ$ ,  
 which means that  $\mathcal{D}_+ \in \Lambda_\Gamma$  in particular.



Picture:

