

# Computing the length spectrum of combinatorial graphs on the torus

Matthijs Ebbens

Joint work with Francis Lazarus

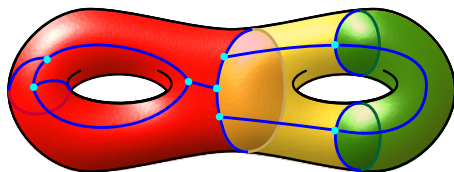


Workshop Structures on Surfaces, CIRM, Marseille  
May 2, 2022

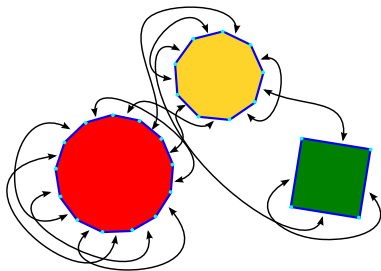
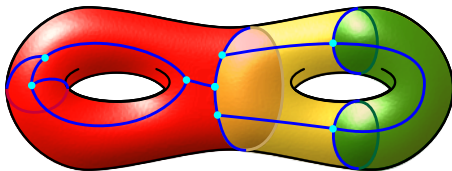
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- Computing the length spectrum of graphs on the torus
- Higher genus?
- Computing a second systole
- Computing a third systole
- Higher genus revisited

# Combinatorial surfaces



# Combinatorial surfaces



# Length of paths

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- The length of a path is sum of the weights of its edges.
- A cycle is a closed walk.

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- The length of a homotopy class is the length of the shortest cycle in that homotopy class.



# Length spectrum

- The length of a homotopy class is the length of the shortest cycle in that homotopy class.
- The length spectrum is the ordered sequence of lengths of free homotopy classes.

# Motivation

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- There exist non-isometric hyperbolic surfaces which have the same length spectrum [Vignéras (1980)],
- but only finitely many [McKean (1972)]
- and they are very rare [Wolpert (1979)].

## Problem statement

**Goal:** Find an algorithm which, given a weighted graph  $G$  cellularly embedded on a surface of genus  $g$  and a positive integer  $k$ , computes the first  $k$  values of the length spectrum of  $G$ .

## Results for the systole ( $k = 1$ )

- [Thomassen (1990)]: unweighted,  $O(n^3)$
- [Erickson, Har-Peled (2004)]: weighted,  $O(n^2 \log n)$ .
- [Cabello, Chambers (2007)]: weighted,  $O(g^3 n \log n)$ .
- [Cabello, Colin de Verdière, Lazarus (2012)]: unweighted,  $O(gn|\ell_1|)$ .

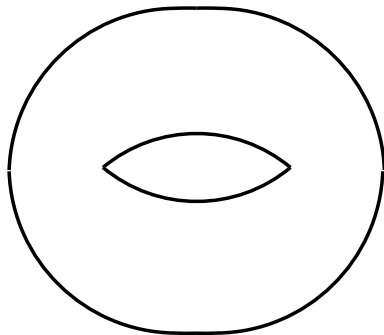
# Computing the length spectrum of graphs on the torus

## Theorem

*The first  $k$  values of the length spectrum of a weighted graph  $G$  of complexity  $n$  cellularly embedded on the torus can be computed in time  $O(kn^2 \log(kn))$ .*

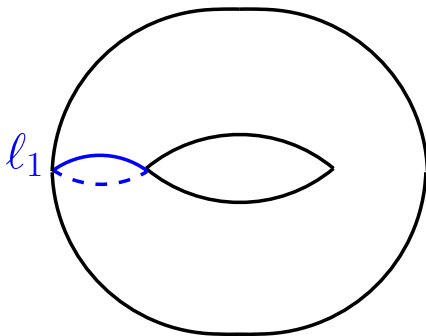


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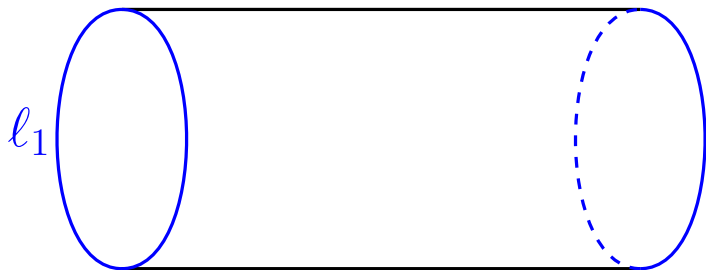


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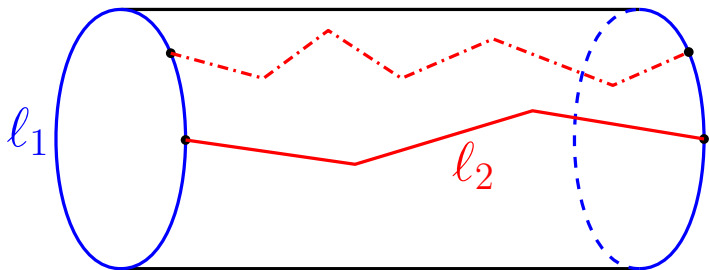
Compute the shortest non-contractible cycle  $\ell_1$  [Erickson, Har-Peled (2004)].



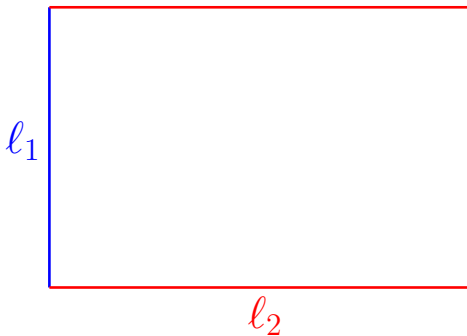
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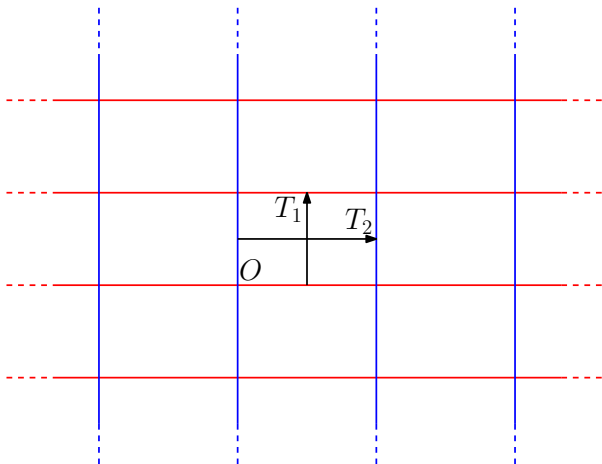
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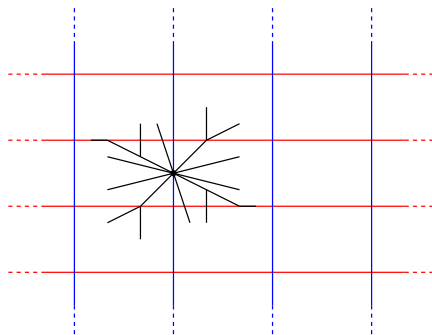


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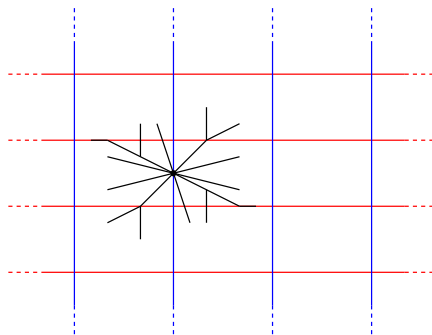
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- Compute the length spectrum of loops based at a vertex  $v$  using Dijkstra's shortest path algorithm with source  $v$ .



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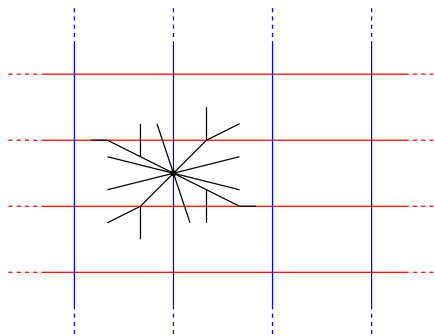
- Compute the length spectrum of loops based at a vertex  $v$  using Dijkstra's shortest path algorithm with source  $v$ .
- Repeat for the other vertices and sort.





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- Repeat for the other vertices and sort.
- Note: sufficient to consider only the vertices on  $\ell_1$ .



# Complexity I

## Lemma

*The  $2k$  closest translates of a vertex  $v$  on  $\ell_1$  have distance  $O(\sqrt{k|\ell_1||\ell_2|})$  from  $v$ .*

# Complexity I

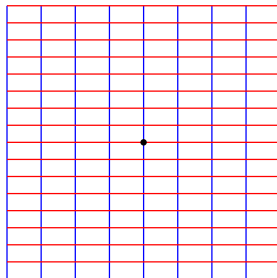
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Equivalent: there are  $\Omega(r^2|\ell_1|^{-1}|\ell_2|^{-1})$  translates within distance  $r$  of  $v$ .

## Complexity I: sketch of proof

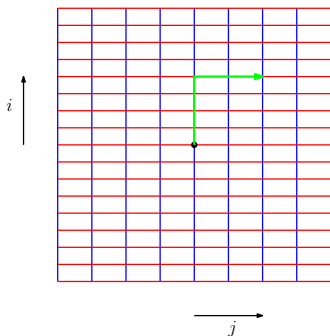
To show: there are  $\Omega(r^2|\ell_1|^{-1}|\ell_2|^{-1})$  translates within distance  $r$  of  $v$ .



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To show: there are  $\Omega(r^2 |l_1|^{-1} |l_2|^{-1})$  translates within distance  $r$  of  $v$ .

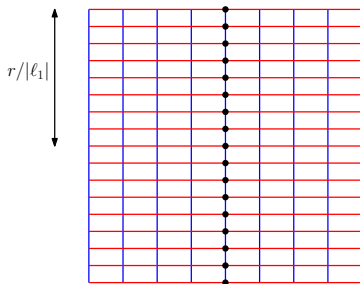
- $d(O, T_1^i T_2^j(O)) \leq |i| |l_1| + |j| |l_2|$ .



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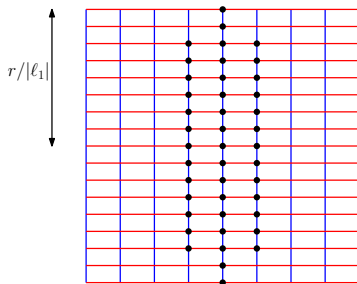
- $d(O, T_1^i T_2^j(O)) \leq |i||\ell_1| + |j||\ell_2|$ .
- If  $j = 0$  and  $|i| \leq r/|\ell_1|$ , then  $d(O, T_1^i T_2^j(O)) \leq r$ .



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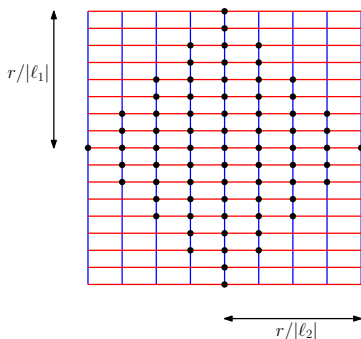
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- Continue until  $j = \lfloor r/|\ell_2| \rfloor$ .





## Complexity II

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*The number of vertices within distance  $r \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  from a given vertex  $v$  is  $O(nr^2|\ell_1|^{-1}|\ell_2|^{-1})$ .*

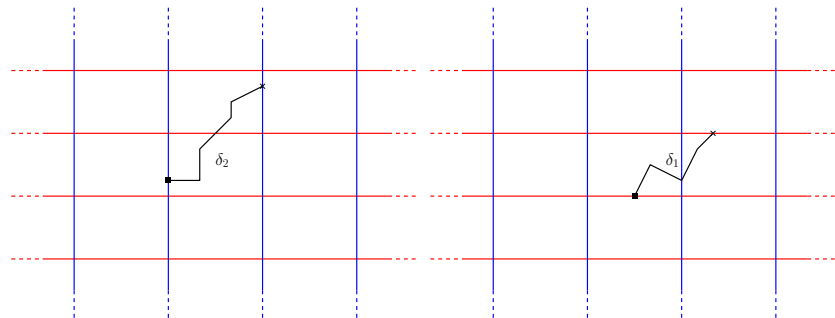
Note:  $n$  is the complexity of the graph.

## Complexity II: proof

## Lemma

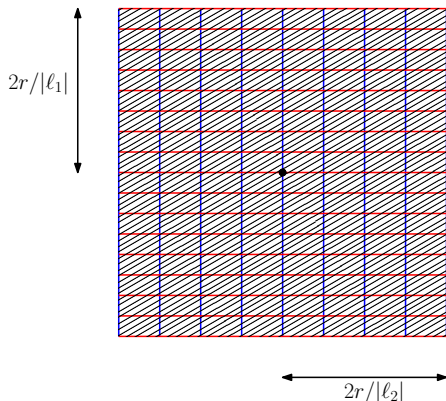
The number of vertices within distance  $r \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  from a given vertex  $v$  is  $O(nr^2|\ell_1|^{-1}|\ell_2|^{-1})$ .

- Claim 1: the distance between vertical lines is at least  $\frac{1}{2}|\ell_2|$ .
- Claim 2: the distance between horizontal lines is at least  $\frac{1}{2}|\ell_1|$ .



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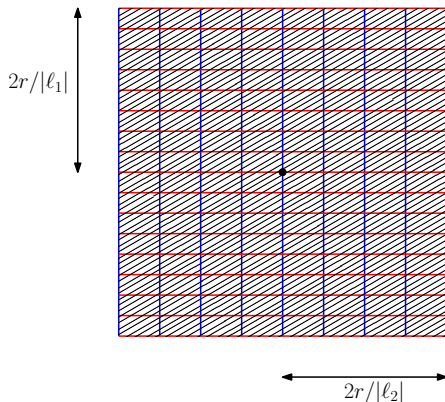
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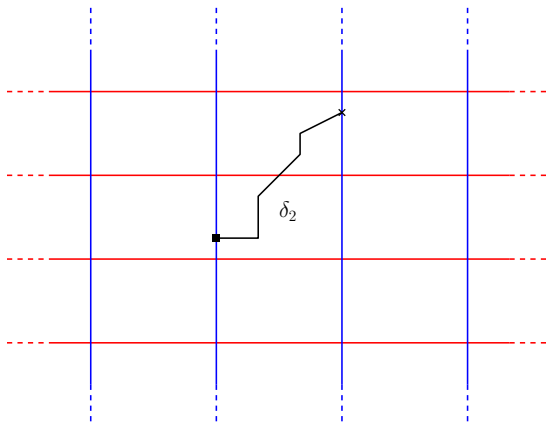
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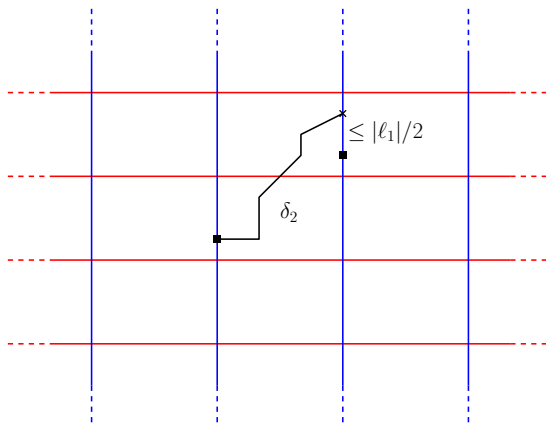
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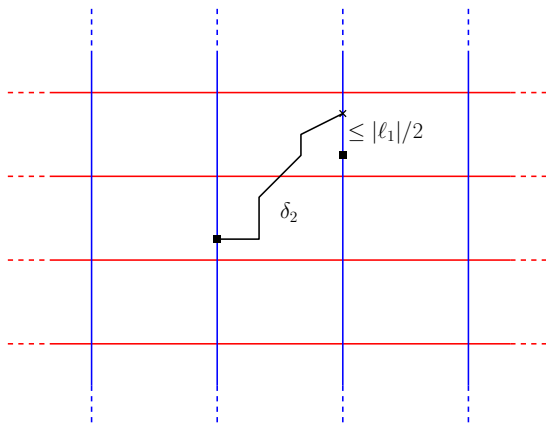
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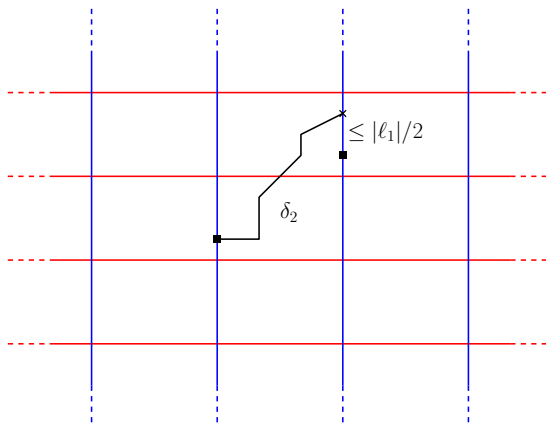
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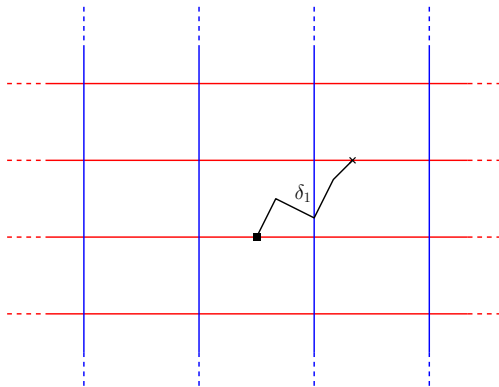
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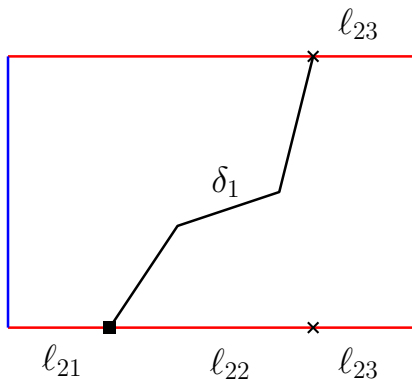
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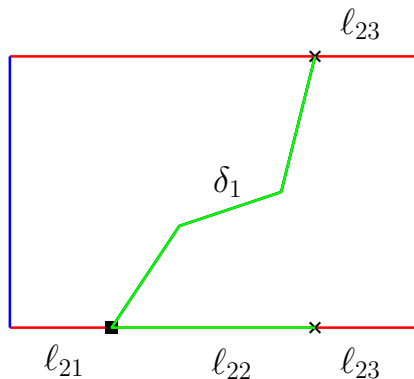
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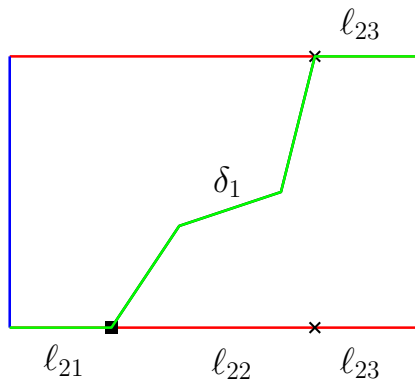
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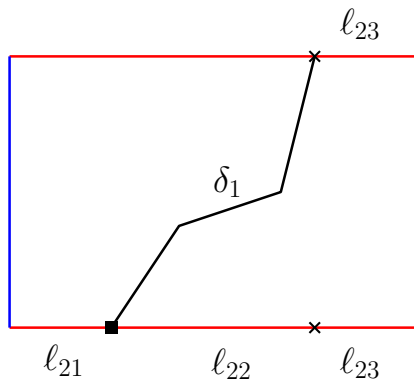
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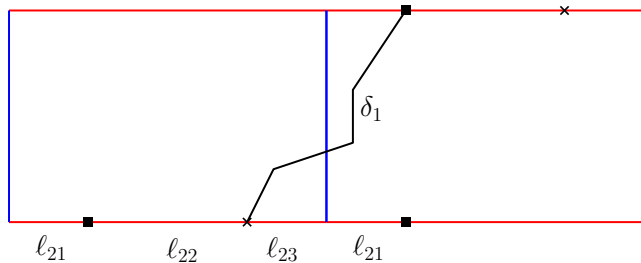
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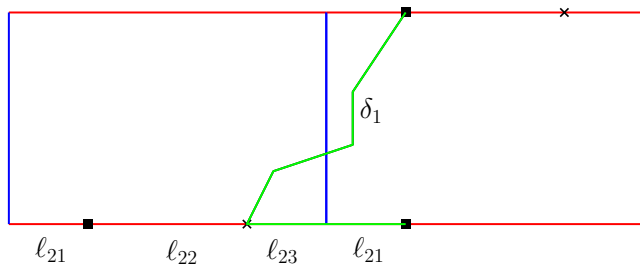
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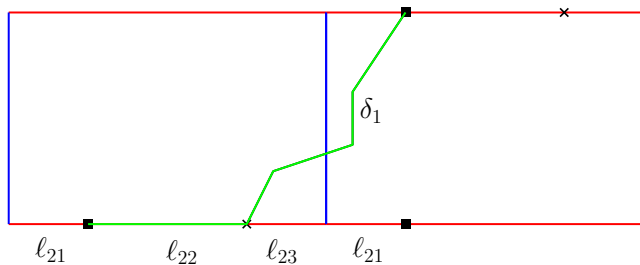
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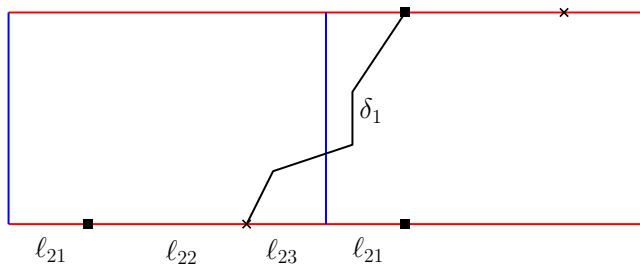




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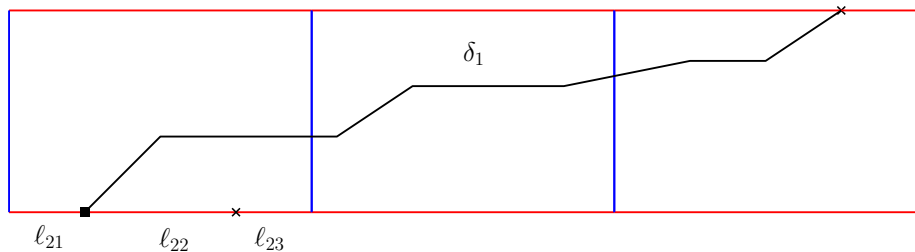
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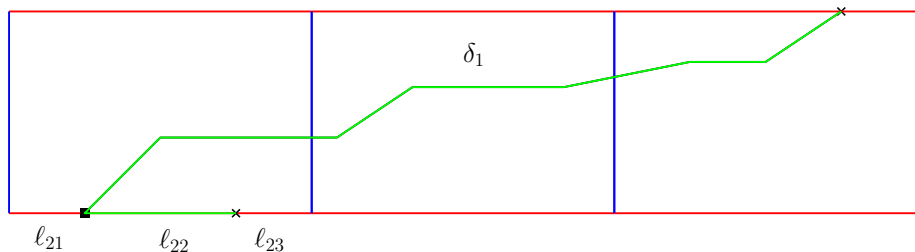
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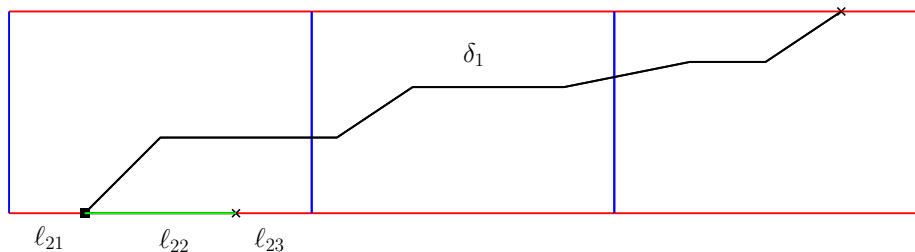
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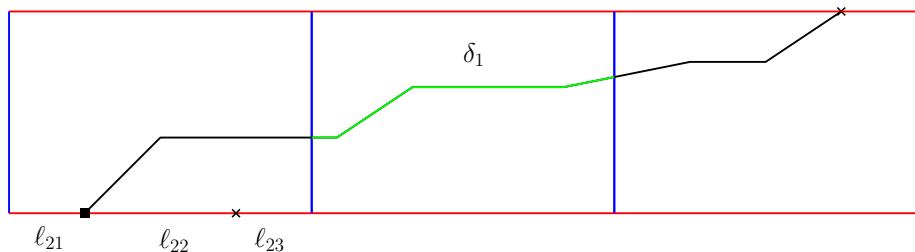
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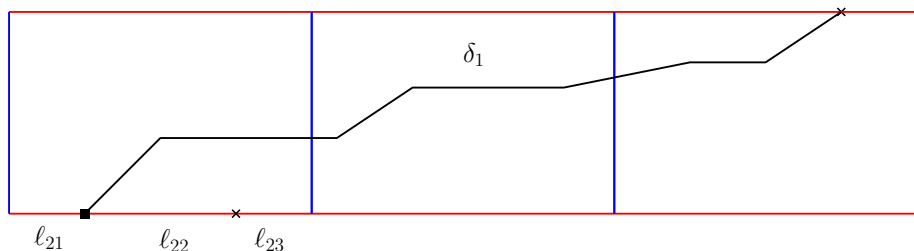
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# Complexity I & II

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# Difficulties with generalizing to surfaces of genus at least 2

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- It is not clear how  $\ell_1, \ell_2, \dots, \ell_{2g}$  should be chosen now.
- $\pi_1(S)$  is no longer commutative, so keeping track of the distance between the source and translates will be more complicated.

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- It is not clear if we can show that the distance between translates of a side is “at least  $\frac{1}{2}|\ell_i|$ ”.
- Even if we can show something like that, we end up with a factor  $2^{2g}$ .



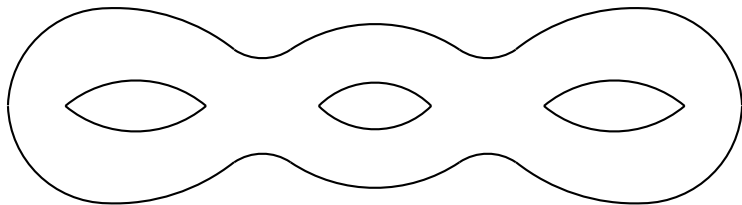
# Computing a second systole

## Theorem

*A second systole of a weighted graph  $G$  of complexity  $n$  cellularly embedded on a surface  $S$  of genus  $g$  can be computed in time  $O(n^2 \log n)$ .*

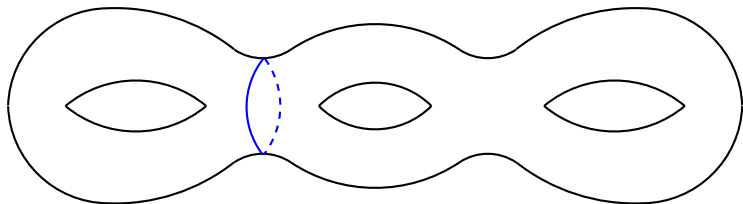
# Algorithm for computing a second systole

Compute a shortest non-contractible cycle  $\ell_1$  [Erickson, Har-Peled (2004)].



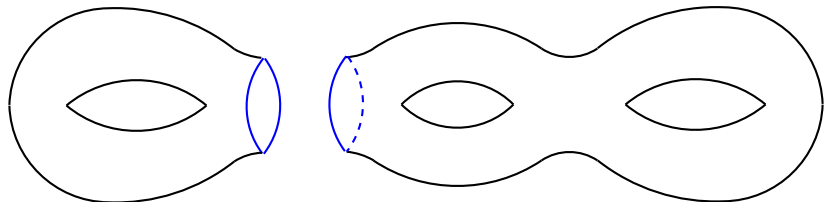
# Algorithm for computing a second systole

If  $l_1$  is separating:



# Algorithm for computing a second systole

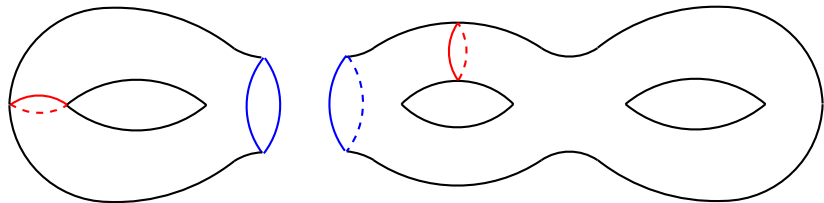
If  $l_1$  is separating:



# Algorithm for computing a second systole

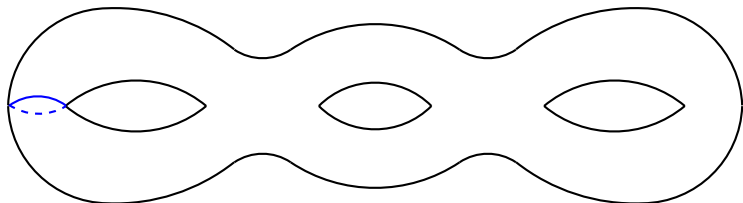
Second systole is the shortest of:

- the shortest essential cycle in both components [Erickson, Worah (2010)],
- $\ell_1^2$ : the cycle obtained by traversing  $\ell_1$  twice.



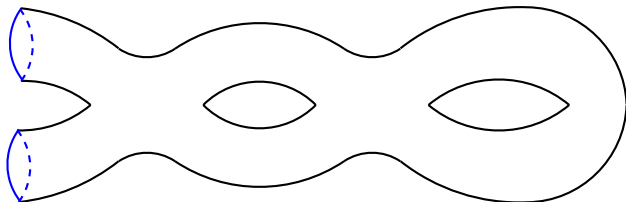
# Algorithm for computing a second systole

If  $l_1$  is non-separating:



# Algorithm for computing a second systole

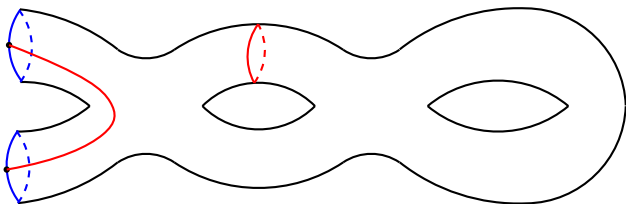
If  $l_1$  is non-separating:



# Algorithm for computing a second systole

Second systole is the shortest of:

- the shortest essential cycle [Erickson, Worah (2010)],
- the shortest path between corresponding vertices on the boundary components,
- $\ell_1^2$ : the cycle obtained by traversing  $\ell_1$  twice.





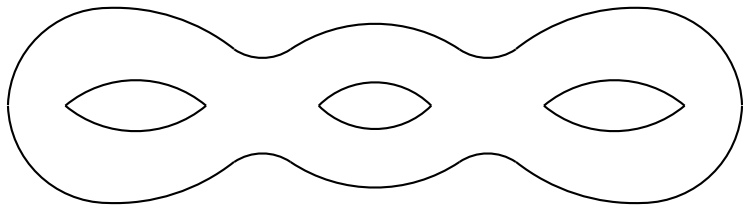
# Computing a third systole

## Theorem

*A third systole of a weighted graph  $G$  of complexity  $n$  cellularly embedded on a surface  $S$  of genus  $g$  can be computed in time  $O(n^2 \log n)$ .*

# Algorithm for computing a third systole

Compute a shortest non-contractible cycle  $\ell_1$  [Erickson, Har-Peled (2004)]  
and second systole  $\ell_2$ .



## Algorithm for computing a third systole

- Case 1:  $l_2 = l_1^2$ ,
- Case 2:  $l_2 \neq l_1^2$ ,  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are separating,
- Case 3:  $l_2 \neq l_1^2$ ,  $l_1$  is separating and  $l_2$  is non-separating (or reversely),
- Case 4:  $l_2 \neq l_1^2$ ,  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are non-separating and do not cross,
- Case 5:  $l_2 \neq l_1^2$ ,  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are non-separating and cross.

# Case 1

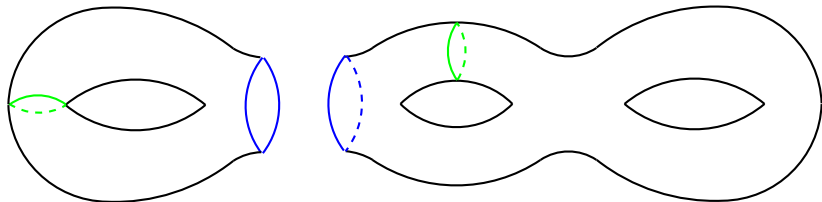
If  $l_2 = l_1^2$ , use the algorithm for the second systole:

# Case 1

If  $l_2 = l_1^2$ , use the algorithm for the second systole:

If  $l_1$  is separating, then a third systole is the shortest of:

- the shortest essential cycle in both components [Erickson, Worah (2010)],
- $l_1^3$ : the cycle obtained by traversing  $l_1$  three times.

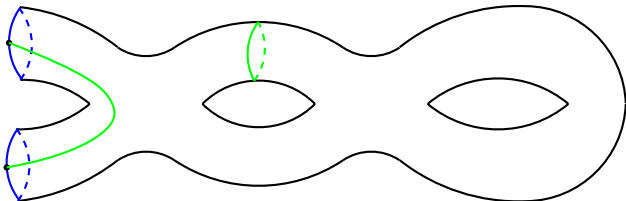


# Case 1

If  $l_2 = l_1^2$ , use the algorithm for the second systole:

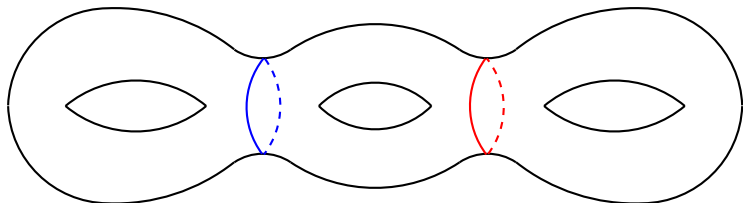
If  $l_1$  is non-separating, then a third systole is the shortest of:

- the shortest essential cycle [Erickson, Worah (2010)],
- the shortest path between corresponding vertices on the boundary components,
- $l_1^3$ : the cycle obtained by traversing  $l_1$  three times.



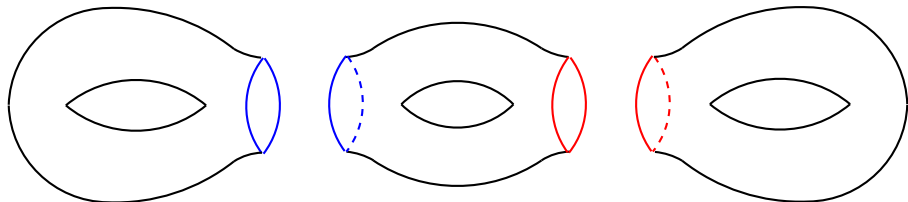
## Case 2

If  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are separating:



## Case 2

If  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are separating:

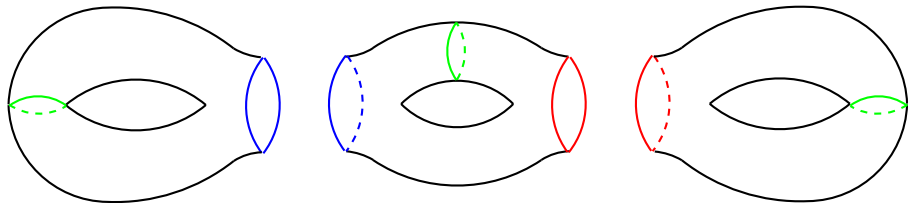




## Case 2

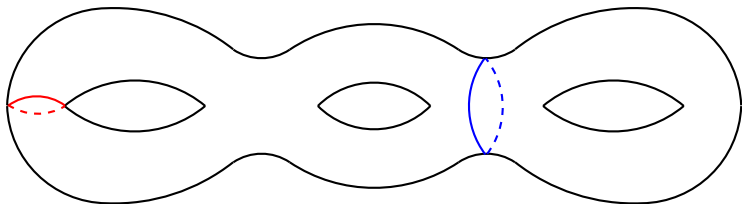
Third systole is the shortest of:

- the shortest essential cycle in all three components [Erickson, Worah (2010)],
- $\ell_1^2$ : the cycle obtained by traversing  $\ell_1$  twice.



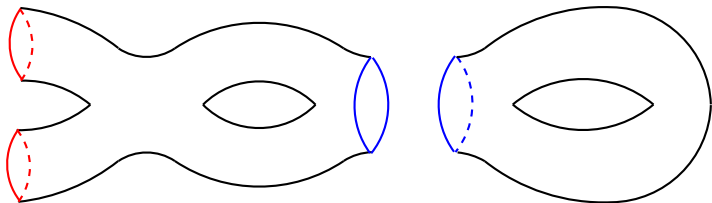
## Case 3

If  $l_1$  is separating and  $l_2$  is non-separating (or the other way around):



## Case 3

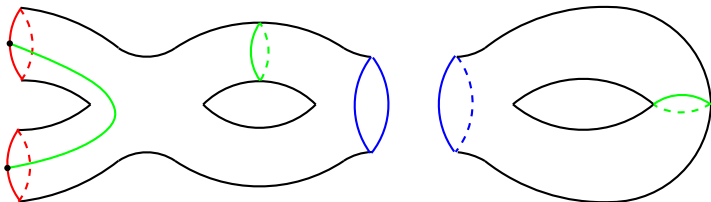
If  $l_1$  is separating and  $l_2$  is non-separating (or the other way around):



## Case 3

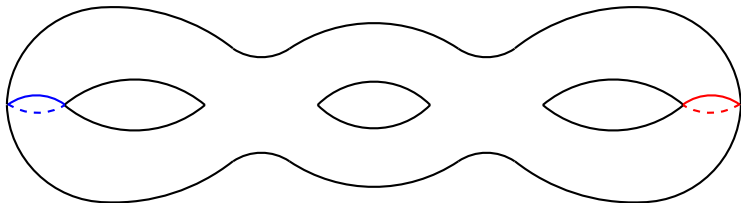
Third systole is the shortest of:

- the shortest essential cycle in both components [Erickson, Worah (2010)],
- the shortest path between corresponding vertices on the boundary components,
- $\ell_1^2$ : the cycle obtained by traversing  $\ell_1$  twice.



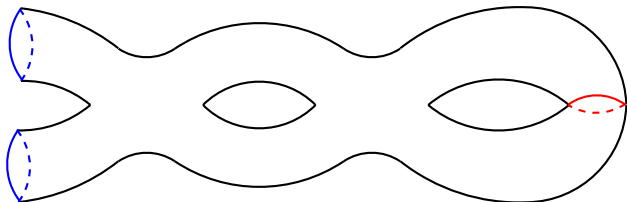
## Case 4

If  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are both non-separating and do not cross:



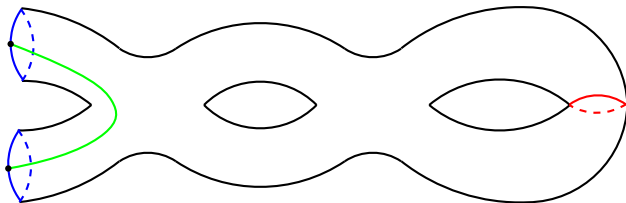
## Case 4

If  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are both non-separating and do not cross:



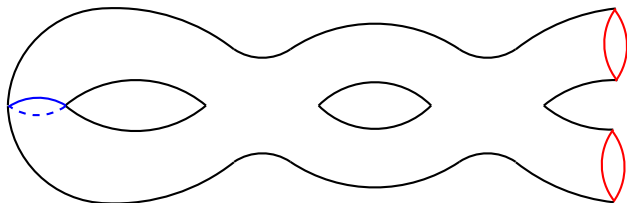
## Case 4

If  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are both non-separating and do not cross:



## Case 4

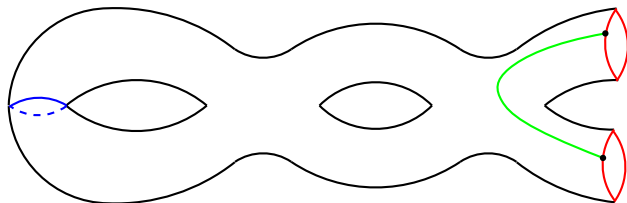
If  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are both non-separating and do not cross:





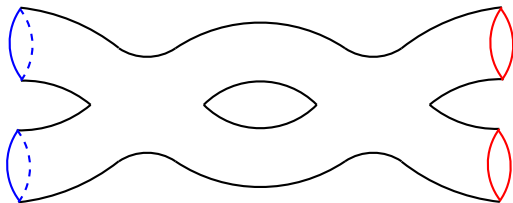
## Case 4

If  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are both non-separating and do not cross:



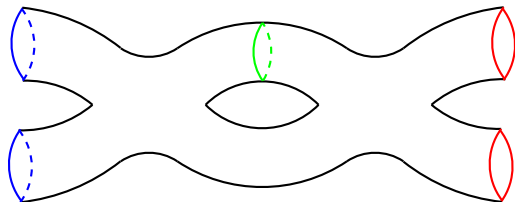
## Case 4

If  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are both non-separating and do not cross:



## Case 4

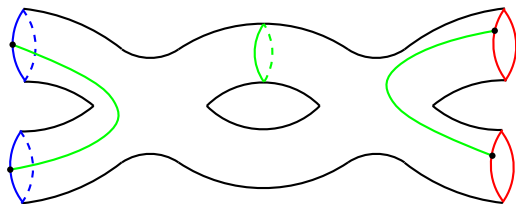
If  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are both non-separating and do not cross:



## Case 4

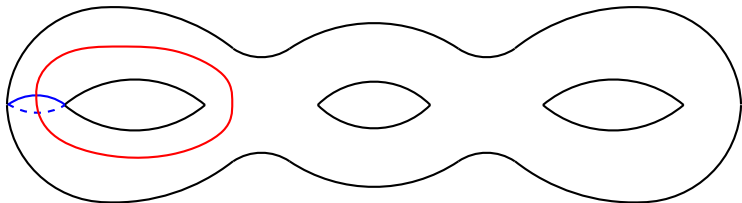
Third systole is the shortest of:

- the shortest essential cycle [Erickson, Worah (2010)],
- the shortest path between corresponding vertices on the boundary components,
- $\ell_1^2$ : the cycle obtained by traversing  $\ell_1$  twice.



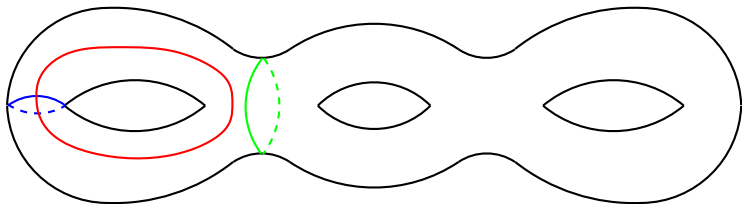
## Case 5

If  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are both non-separating and cross:



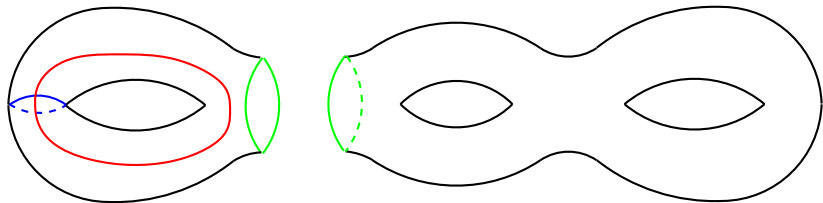
## Case 5

Compute a shortest cycle homotopic to  $l_1 \cdot l_2$  [Colin de Verdière, Erickson (2010)].



## Case 5

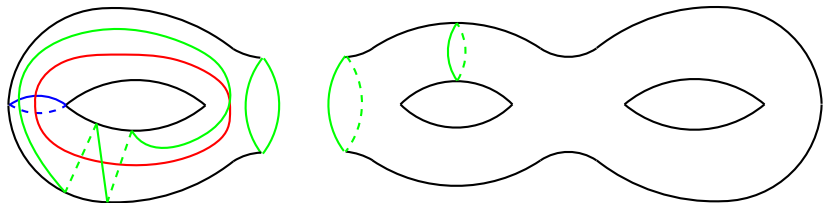
Compute a shortest cycle homotopic to  $l_1 \cdot l_2$  [Colin de Verdière, Erickson (2010)].



## Case 5

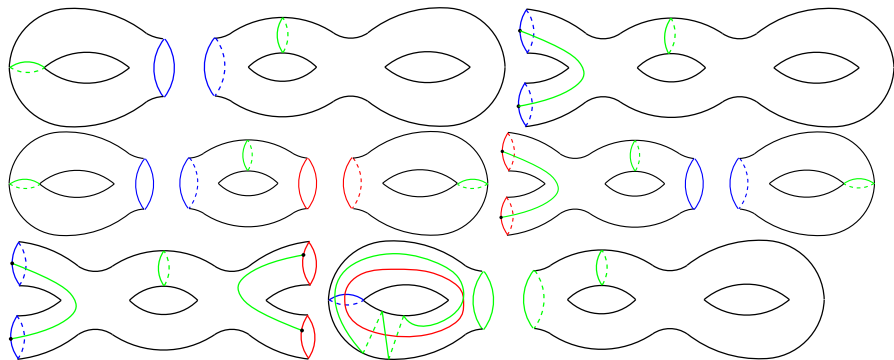
Third systole is the shortest of:

- the shortest essential cycle in the right component [Erickson, Worah (2010)],
- the third shortest cycle in the left component,
- the boundary curve,

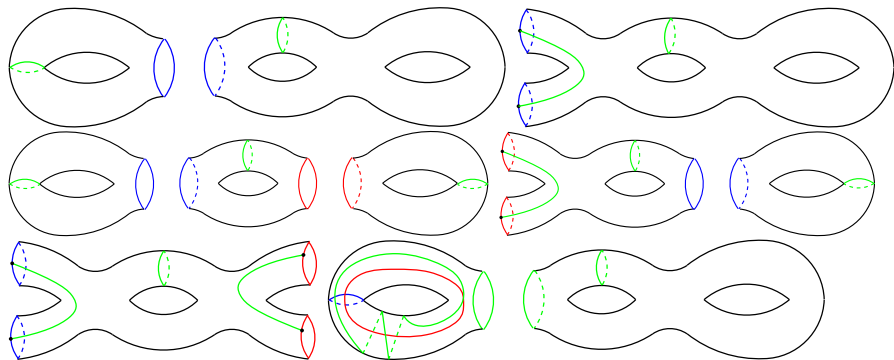




## Third systole



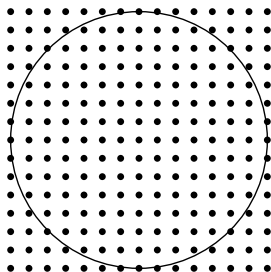
# Third systole



Next values of the length spectrum even more cases?

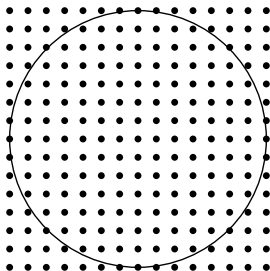
# Gauss circle problem

- Question: how many integer lattice points are there in a circle of radius  $r$  centered at the origin?



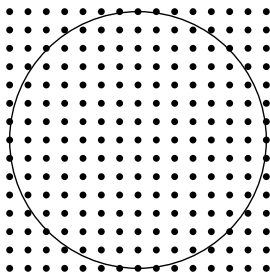
# Gauss circle problem

- Question: how many integer lattice points are there in a circle of radius  $r$  centered at the origin?
- Answer:  $\sim \pi r^2$ .



# Gauss circle problem

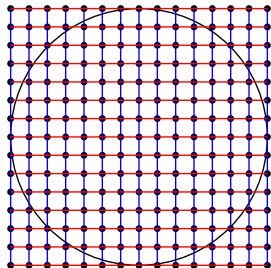
- Question: how many integer lattice points are there in a circle of radius  $r$  centered at the origin?
- Answer:  $\sim \pi r^2$ .
- More general answer:  $\sim \frac{\pi r^2}{\text{area}(F)}$ .



## Relation with torus

### Lemma

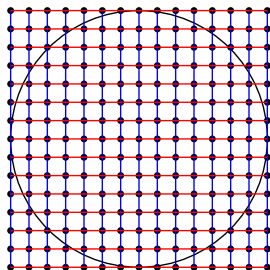
*The number of translates of a vertex  $v$  on  $\ell_1$  within distance  $r$  of  $v$  is  $\Omega(r^2|\ell_1|^{-1}|\ell_2|^{-1})$ .*



## Relation with torus

### Lemma

The number of vertices within distance  $r \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  from a given vertex  $v$  is  $O(nr^2|\ell_1|^{-1}|\ell_2|^{-1})$ .



# Hyperbolic lattice point problem

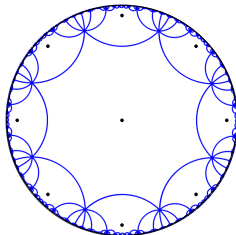
## Theorem (Huber (1956))

$\Gamma$  Fuchsian group such that  $\mathbb{H}/\Gamma$  is a closed hyperbolic surface of genus  $g$ .

$$N(r, z, z_0) := \#\{T \in \Gamma \mid d_{\mathbb{H}}(z_0, T(z)) \leq r\}$$

Then

$$N(r, z, z_0) \sim \frac{e^r}{4\pi(g-1)}.$$





## Lattice point problem in graphs?

$\tilde{G}$  infinite periodic weighted graph embedded on the universal cover of  $S$ , where  $\pi_1(S)$  is the group of covering transformations.

$$N(r, v, v_0) := \#\{T \in \pi_1(S) \mid d_{\tilde{G}}(v_0, T(v)) \leq r\}$$

**Question:** is it true that

$$N(r, v, v_0) \sim \frac{\text{area}(B_r(v_0))}{\text{area}(F)}?$$

Or weaker, is it true that

$$N(r, v, v_0) \sim N(r, v, v_1)?$$