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# Tree bijections for Riemann surfaces

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Random planar map



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Liouville quantum gravity



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 $\left\{\begin{array}{c} \text{rooted quadrangulations} \\ \text{with a distinguished vertex} \end{array}\right\} \leftrightarrow \left\{\begin{array}{c} \text{rooted plane trees with labels} \\ \text{in } \mathbb{Z} \text{ that vary by at most } 1 \end{array}\right\}$ 



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► uniform random quadrangulations with n faces → uniform plane tree with n edges with a uniform label assignment.



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► Scaling limit:  $({\text{vertices}}, n^{-1/4}d(\cdot, \cdot)) \xrightarrow[n \to \infty]{(d)}$  Brownian sphere [Le Gall, '10][Miermont, '10]



Consider a punctured Riemann surface X: sphere with n ≥ 3 labeled points removed and equipped with a complex structure.

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- Moduli space:

$$\mathcal{M}_{0,n} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Riemann surfaces} \\ \text{with } n \text{ punctures} \end{array} \right\}_{\text{/biholomorphism}} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{hyperbolic surfaces} \\ \text{with } n \text{ cusps} \end{array} \right\}_{\text{/isometry}}$$





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$$\blacktriangleright \dim(\mathcal{M}_{0,n}) = 2n - 6$$





▶ Weil-Petersson symplectic 2-form  $\omega$  on  $\mathcal{M}_{0,n}$ 

 $\longrightarrow$  non-degenerate (2*n* - 6)-form  $\mu_n = \frac{\omega^{n-3}}{(n-3)!}$ .

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• Weil-Petersson volume:  $V_n = \int_{\mathcal{M}_{0,n}} \mu_n < \infty$ .

• Wolpert '83, Penner '92:  $V_4 = \pi^2$ 

- ► Zograf '95:  $\mathcal{Z}(x) = \sum_{n \ge 3} \frac{x^{n-2}}{(n-2)!} V_n, \quad x = \frac{\sqrt{\mathcal{Z}(x)}}{\pi} J_1(2\pi\sqrt{\mathcal{Z}(x)}).$
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• Growth of  $V_n$  similar to quadrangulations:

$$\frac{V_n}{n!} \sim c \, n^{-7/2} \, x_*^{-n}, \quad x_* = 0.063 \dots$$

#{rooted quadrangulations}/ $n \sim c' n^{-7/2} 12^n$ .

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- Also consider grand-canonical partition function:  $\mathcal{Z}(x) = \sum_{n \ge 3} \frac{x^{n-2}}{(n-2)!} V_n, \quad (x \approx e^{-2\pi\Lambda}) \quad \text{distribution } \mathbb{P}_x(\,\cdot\,).$

Several results on random Riemann surfaces for large genus g:

Mirzakhani, '13:

 $\langle \text{ Diameter} \rangle \approx \langle \text{length shortest separating curve} \rangle \approx \log g$  as  $g \to \infty$ .

▶ Guth, Parlier, Young, '11: total length of pants  $\geq g^{7/6}$  with high probability as  $g \to \infty$ .


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   total length of pants ≥ g<sup>7/6</sup> with high probability as g → ∞.
- ▶ Little known about random Riemann surfaces as  $n \to \infty$  beyond enumeration.
- Problem: until now no good algorithm to sample random Riemann surfaces.



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- Main result:



Theorem (TB, '19+)

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► Open problem:  $(\{1, ..., n\}, n^{-1/4}(D_{ij}^{\epsilon})_{i,j}) \xrightarrow[n \to \infty]{(d)}$  Brownian sphere?

Quadrangulations: gluing of identical squares. Riemann surfaces: gluing of ???.



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  - each surface admits  $\infty^{ly}$  many triangulations;
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- Determine a canonical triangulation!







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- ► The dual geodesics determine an ideal triangulation.
- Gluing is unique if triangles are decorated by horocycle of \*.
- A decorated triangle is determined by distances ℓ<sub>1</sub>, ℓ<sub>2</sub>, ℓ<sub>3</sub>, and two triangles can be glued iff ℓ<sub>1</sub> = ℓ'<sub>1</sub>.



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- ▶ It has n 3 cubic vertices. Introduce set of admissible angles

 $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{T}} = \{(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{2n-6}) : \text{sum of opposing angles} > \pi\} \subset (0, \pi)^{2n-6}.$ 



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#### Theorem (TB)

This is an isomorphism  $(\mathcal{M}_{0,n}, \mu_n) \longrightarrow (\mathcal{B}_n, d^{2n-6}\alpha)$  of measure spaces.


- Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a labeled plane binary tree with n-1 leaves.
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• Corollary: random balanced tree  $\leftrightarrow$  random Riemann surface.



Bijection:

 $\left\{\begin{array}{l} \text{ideal triangles with horocycles} \\ \text{that admit equidistant point} \end{array}\right\} \leftrightarrow \left\{\text{Euclidean triangles}\right\}$ 

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• Exercise using sine rule:  $\mu_n = \frac{\omega^{n-3}}{(n-3)!} = \ldots = d^{2n-6}\alpha$ .







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▶  $\mathcal{M}_{0,n} \longleftrightarrow \{ \text{treelike gluings of } n-3 \text{ Eucl. triangles} \} / \text{scaling}$ 



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Zograf's formula: 
$$\mathcal{Z}(x) = \sum_{n \ge 3} V_n \frac{x^{n-2}}{(n-2)!}, \quad \frac{\sqrt{\mathcal{Z}(x)}}{\pi} J_1(2\pi\sqrt{\mathcal{Z}(x)}) \stackrel{?}{=} x$$

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Statistics in grand-canonical ensemble with three marked cusps.



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In the grand-canonical ensemble with  $x \in (0, x_*)$ ,

•  $(\theta_t)$  has the law of a Markov process with slope 1 and downward jumps  $\theta \to \beta$  at rate  $2F(\theta - \beta) \frac{F_{\bullet}(\beta)}{F_{\bullet}(\theta)}$ ;

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Singularity analysis:  $\operatorname{Var}_{n}[D_{01}^{\epsilon} - D_{02}^{\epsilon}] = \frac{[x^{n}]F_{\bullet}(\pi)\operatorname{Var}^{x}[D_{01}^{\epsilon} - D_{02}^{\epsilon}]}{[x^{n}]F_{\bullet}(\pi)} \overset{n \to \infty}{\sim} 3.429137077... \cdot \sqrt{n}$ 





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$$\int_0^\tau \cot \theta_t \, \mathrm{d}t = \sum_{i=1}^k \log \frac{\sin \alpha_i}{\sin \beta_i}$$



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## Importance for (2+1)-dimensional (quantum) gravity?

• Einstein eqs in 2+1D with  $\Lambda = 0 \implies$  locally Minkowski space.

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big bang singularity

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- Einstein eqs in 2+1D with  $\Lambda = 0 \implies$  locally Minkowski space.
- Non-trivial topology S × ℝ<sub>+</sub>: solutions determined by ISO(2, 1)-holonomies along cycles of S

 $\text{Phase space:} \quad \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_{2+1} = \operatorname{Hom}(\pi_1(\mathcal{S}), \operatorname{ISO}(2, 1)) \, / \, \operatorname{ISO}(2, 1), \quad \mathcal{P}_{2+1} = \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_{2+1} / \operatorname{MCG}.$ 

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▶ Relation to Riemann surfaces:  $ISO(2,1) \equiv T PSL(2,\mathbb{R})$ 

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- Quantizing 2+1D gravity  $\leftrightarrow$  quantizing balanced trees.



#### Conclusion

- The bijection between genus-0 punctured Riemann surfaces and balanced trees provides
  - a convenient way to compute Weil-Petersson volumes;
  - detailed information on global distance statistics;
  - a potential avenue to tree bijections in higher dimensions;
  - efficient simulation of random Riemann surfaces via Boltzmann sampling of balanced trees!

