

Géométrie & Spectres



des Surfaces Hyperboliques Aléatoires



Aussois

12, 2025



Laplacian Δ (M, m) Riem mfd. $f \in C^\infty(M)$

$$\Delta f = \operatorname{div}(\operatorname{grad} f)$$

measures how average of f
over small spheres around p
differs from $f(p)$

$$M = \mathcal{H} = \{x + yi \in \mathbb{C} \mid y > 0\} \quad m = \frac{dx^2 + dy^2}{y^2}$$

$$\Delta_{\mathcal{H}} f = -y^2 \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \right) f$$

$$\operatorname{Isom}(\mathcal{H}) = \operatorname{PSL}_2 \mathbb{R}$$

Δ commutes with all isometries

$\Rightarrow \Delta$ descends to all $X = \Gamma \backslash \mathcal{H}$

Spec(Δ)

X hyperbolic surfaces

$\Delta_X: \mathcal{C}_c^\infty(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_c^\infty(X)$ extends uniquely to a densely def
domain(Δ_X) $\rightarrow L^2(X)$ self-adjoint, non-negative
unbounded linear operator

$$\text{Spec}(\Delta_X) = \{ \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \Delta_X - \lambda \text{ is not invertible} \}$$

If X is closed $\equiv 0$ if $\text{area}(X) < \infty$: $f \equiv \text{cst}$ is eigenfct

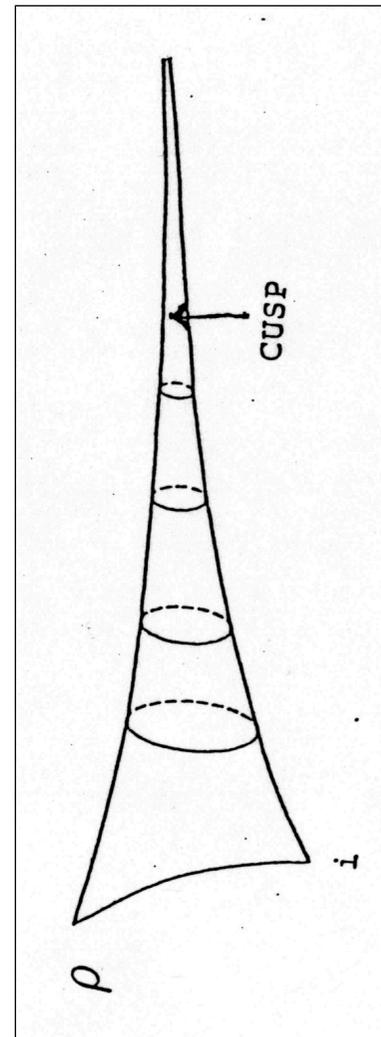
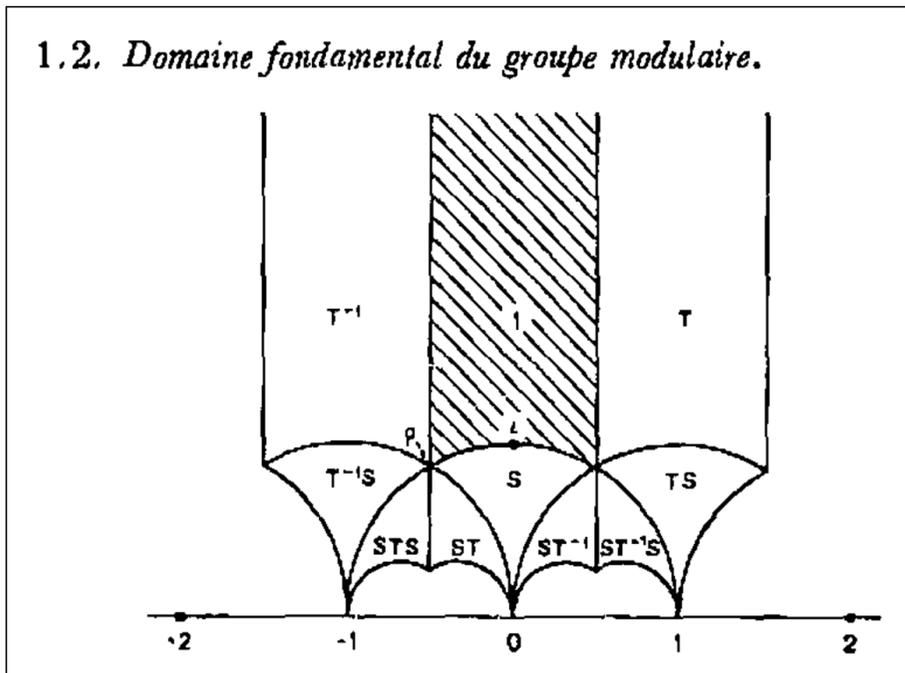
$$\text{Spec}(\Delta_X): \lambda_0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \rightarrow \infty$$

$0 < \lambda_1$ if X is connected

NO Example there is **no** hyp surf for which the entire spec is known ☹️

except $\mathcal{H} : \text{spec}(\mathcal{H}) = [\frac{1}{4}, +\infty)$

$X(1) = \text{SL}_2\mathbb{Z} \backslash \mathcal{H} : \text{Nothing exact is known}$

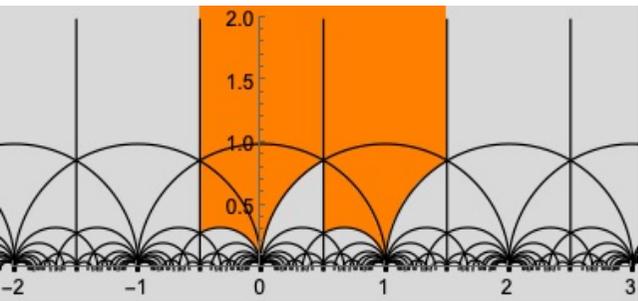


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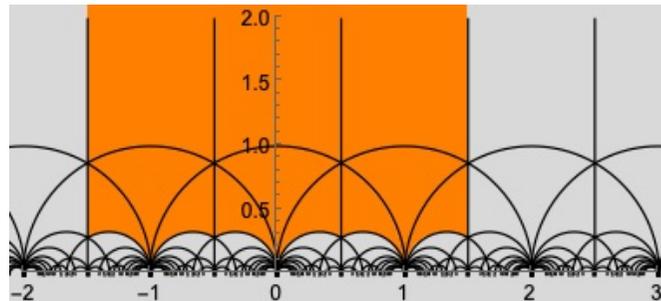
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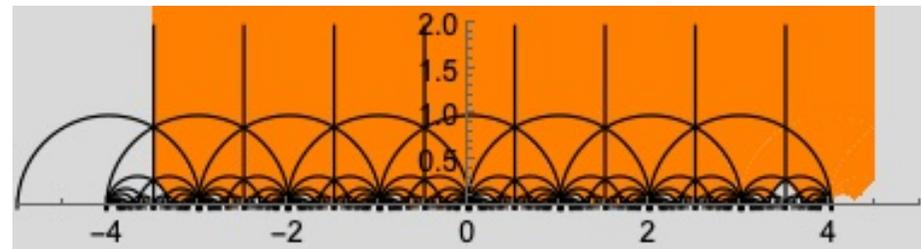
$X(N) = \Gamma(N) \backslash \mathcal{H}, \Gamma(N) = \left\{ m \in \text{SL}_2\mathbb{Z} \mid m \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \pmod{N} \right\}$



$X(2) \quad g=0$
 $n=3$



$X(3) \quad g=0$
 $n=4$



$X(8) \quad g=5$
 $n=24$

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Maass

For $X(8) : \forall k \geq 1, \frac{1}{4} + \left(\frac{\pi k}{\log(1+\sqrt{2})} \right)^2$ is an eigenvalue

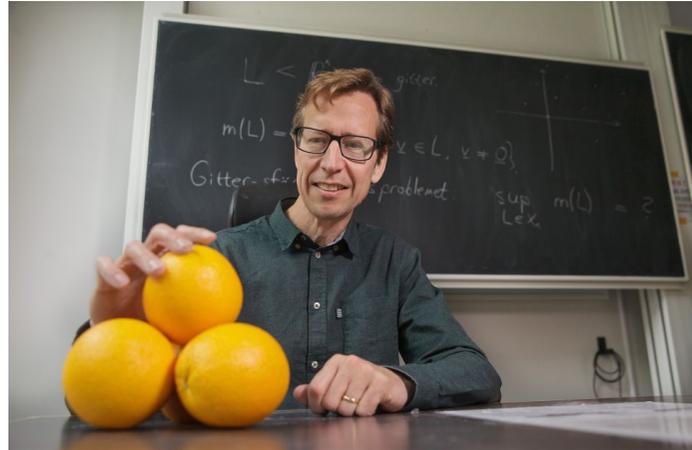
nothing is known for any closed surface 😞

Numerics

$$X(1) = \mathrm{SL}_2 \mathbb{Z} \backslash \mathcal{H}$$

A. BOOKER, A. STRÖMBERGSSON, A. VENKATESH

λ_1	91.14134533635527808180977380712054599169397081569090 24779657001959542423895651247275628962288096291166...
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Numerics

$$X(1) = SL_2 \mathbb{Z} \backslash \mathcal{H}$$

Bolza surface : the most symmetric surface $\in M_2$

$$|\text{Aut}| = 48$$

A. BOOKER, A. STRÖMBERGSSON, A. VENKATESH

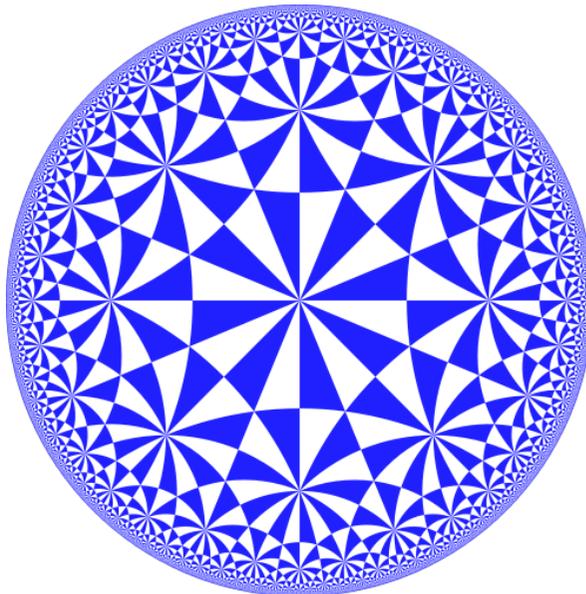
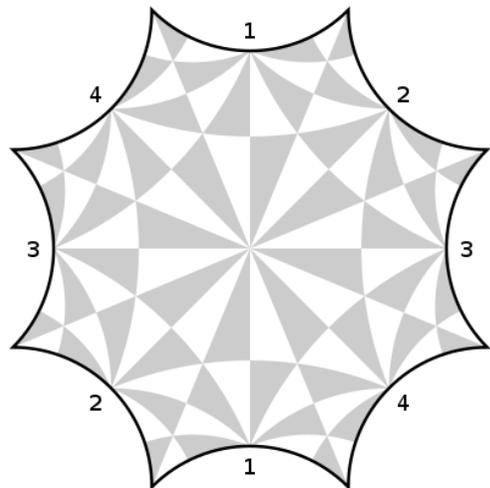
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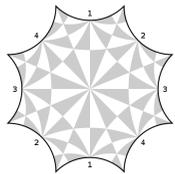
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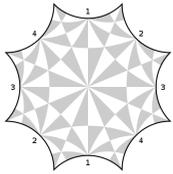
Numerical computations of the first ten positive eigenvalues of the Bolza surface

Eigenvalue	Numerical value	Multiplicity
λ_0	0	1
λ_1	3.8388872588421995185866224504354645970819150157	3
λ_2	5.353601341189050410918048311031446376357372198	4
λ_3	8.249554815200658121890106450682456568390578132	2
λ_4	14.72621678778883204128931844218483598373384446932	4
λ_5	15.04891613326704874618158434025881127570452711372	3

$$|Aut| = 48$$

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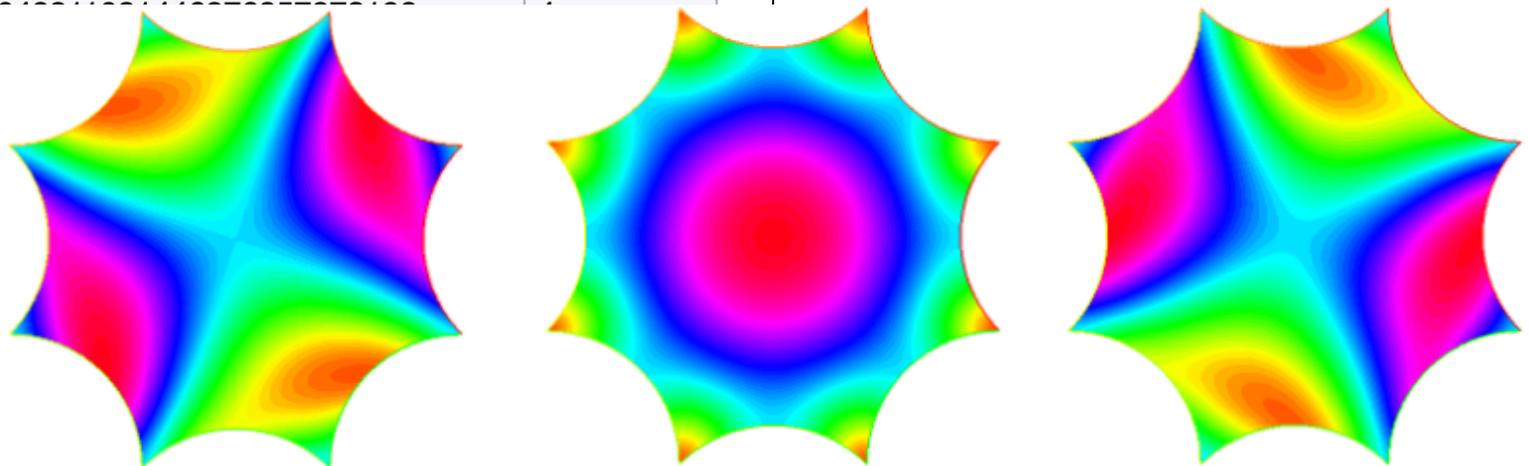
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Length Spectrum

$$t_0 + \sqrt{D} u_0$$

where $t_0, u_0 > 0$
and form a fundamental solution
to the Pell equation $t^2 - Du^2 = 4$

Proposition 4.22 *The lengths of closed oriented geodesics in the modular surface $\Gamma \backslash \mathcal{H}$ are the numbers*

$$\{2 \log \varepsilon_D \mid D \in \mathbf{N}, D \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}, \sqrt{D} \notin \mathbf{N}^2\}.$$

Each length appears with finite non-zero multiplicity equal to $h(D)$, the number of $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbf{Z})$ -classes of primitive integral quadratic forms of discriminant D .

The n^{th} element ℓ_n of the length spectrum for the Bolza surface is given by

$$\ell_n = 2 \operatorname{arcosh}(m + n\sqrt{2}),$$

where n runs through the **positive integers** (but omitting 4, 24, 48, 72, 140, and various higher values) (**Aurich, Bogomolny & Steiner 1991**) and where m is the unique odd integer that minimizes

$$|m - n\sqrt{2}|.$$

$X(1)$
 $\cong \mathcal{H}$
 \backslash
 $\mathrm{SL}_2 \mathbf{Z}$

$X = \mathbb{H}^2 / \Gamma$ closed hyp surf

$$\pi_1(X) \cong \Gamma < \mathrm{PSL}_2\mathbb{R}$$

{ conjugacy classes of $\pi_1(X)$ } $\xleftrightarrow{\text{bij}}$

{ free homotopy classes of closed curves on X }

$\xleftrightarrow{\text{bij}}$

{ closed geodesics on X }

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma \Rightarrow l(\gamma_M) = 2 \cosh^{-1} \left(\frac{|\mathrm{tr} M|}{2} \right)$$

Spectral gap = $\lambda_1 - \lambda_0 = \lambda_1$ Ratner '87

Why? *Diffusion* \circ mixing speed of the geod flow φ

$$\sigma = \sqrt{1 - \max(1 - 4\lambda_1, 0)}$$



$\exists C > 0$ s.t. $\forall f, g \in C^1(T^1X)$

$$\left| \int_{T^1X} f(v) g(\varphi_t(v)) dv - \left(\int_{T^1X} f(v) dv \right) \left(\int_{T^1X} g(v) dv \right) \right| \leq C \|f\|_{C^1} \|g\|_{C^1} t e^{-\sigma t}$$

$$\underline{\text{Spectral gap}} = \lambda_1 - \lambda_0 = \lambda_1$$

Why? *Diffusion* • mixing speed of the geod flow φ

• counting of geodesics

$$\# \{ \text{primitive geod} \mid e^{l(r)} \leq N \} =$$

$$\int_2^N \frac{dt}{\log t} \sim \frac{N}{\log N} = \text{li}(N) + \sum_{0 < \lambda_j < \frac{3}{16}} \text{li} \left(N^{\frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} - \lambda_j}} \right) + O \left(\frac{N^{3/4}}{\log N} \right)$$

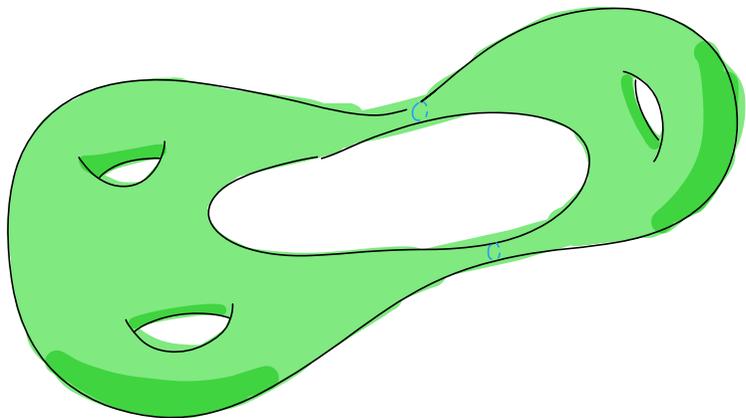
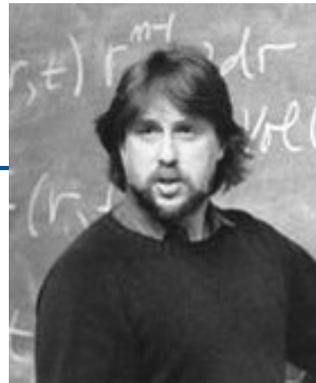
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Connectivity \circ Cheeger constant

X closed $h(X) = \inf_{\substack{Y \\ X \setminus Y = A \cup B}} \frac{l(Y)}{\min(\text{area } A, \text{area } B)}$



$$\frac{\sqrt{1 + 10\lambda_1} - 1}{10} \leq h(X) \leq 2\sqrt{\lambda_1}$$

Buser Cheeger

Can λ_1 be very small?

Yes! Randol '74

λ_1 can be arbitrarily small

Can λ_1 be very big?

Muber '74

$$\lambda_1 \leq \frac{1}{4} + O\left(\frac{1}{\log^2 g}\right) \quad \text{spec}(\mathcal{H}) = \left[\frac{1}{4}, +\infty\right)$$

How big can λ_1 be?

Conjecture (Buser '84) $\exists (X_i)_i$ closed hyp surf

s.t. $g(X_i) \rightarrow \infty$ and $\lambda_1(X_i) \rightarrow \frac{1}{4}$



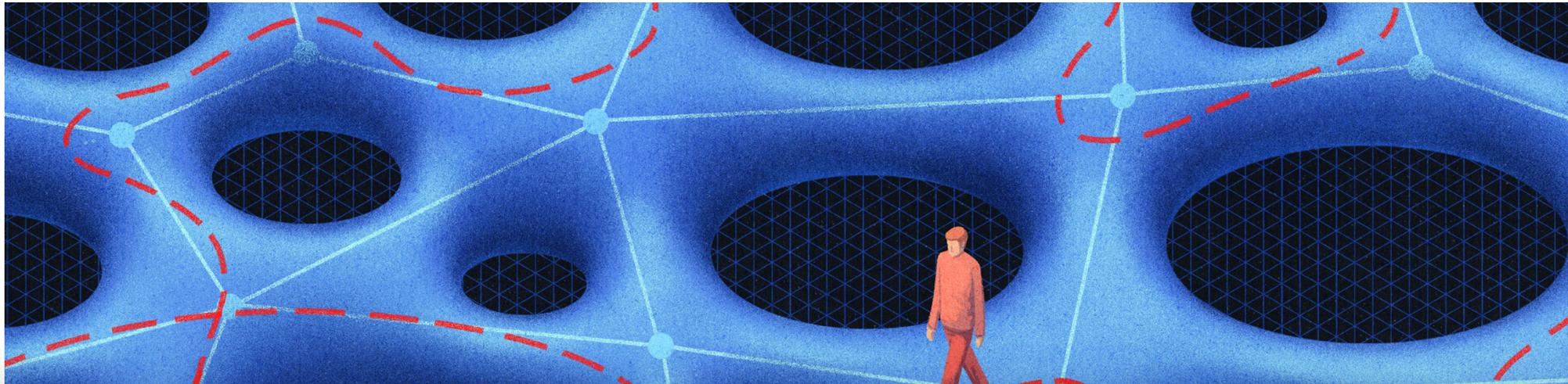
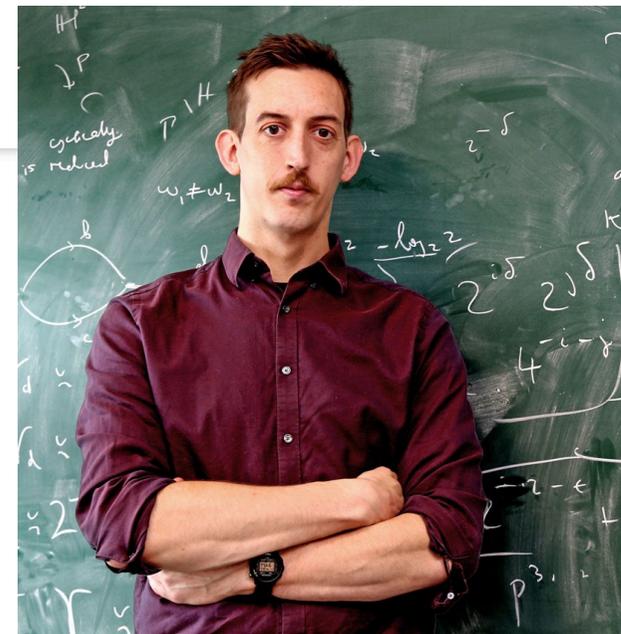


TOPOLOGY

Surfaces Beyond Imagination Are Discovered After Decades-Long Search

19 |

Using ideas borrowed from graph theory, two mathematicians have shown that extremely complex surfaces are easy to traverse.



Number Theory

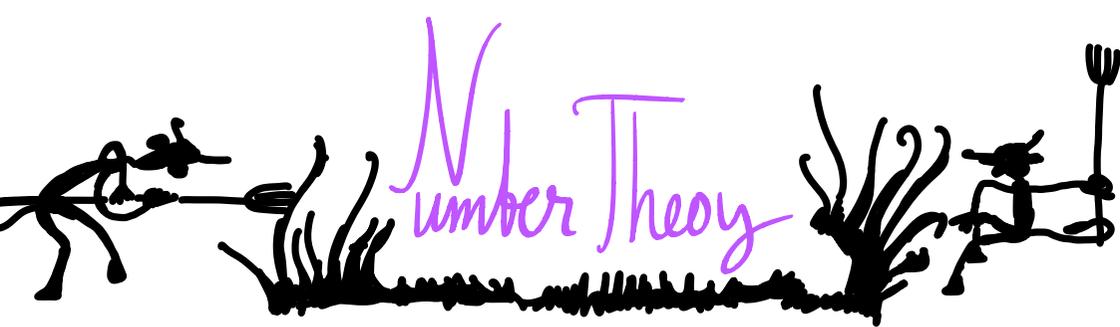
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$$X(N) = \Gamma(N) \backslash \mathcal{H}$$

$$\lambda_1(X(N)) \geq \frac{1}{4}, \quad \forall N$$

Conjecture (Selberg '65)





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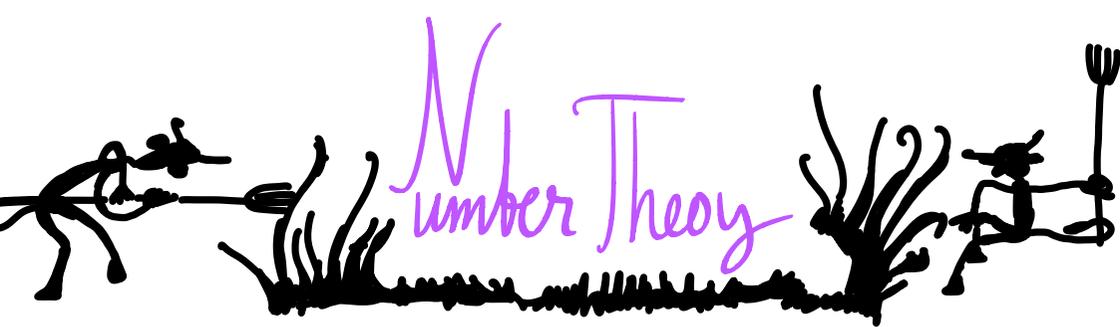
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- true if replace $1/4$ by $3/16$ (Selberg, same paper)
- true for $N \leq 856$ (Booker-Strömbergsson '07)
- analogue of Riemann Hypothesis for $X(N)$
- implied by Langlands functoriality

Record: Kim-Sarnak '03: $\frac{975}{4096} = \frac{1}{4} - \left(\frac{7}{64}\right)^2 \approx 0.238$





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Closed surfaces? Jacquet-Langlands correspondence

Graphs $G = (V, E)$, $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ d -reg d

$$(\Delta f)(v) := \sum_{x \sim v} (f(v) - f(x)) = [(\cancel{D} - A)f](v)$$

Labelled graph	Degree matrix	Adjacency matrix	Laplacian matrix
	$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$\lambda_0 = 0$

$\lambda_1 > 0$

iff G conn

Alon-Boppana '85 $\lambda_1(G) \leq d - \sqrt{d-1} + O\left(\frac{1}{\log|V|}\right)$



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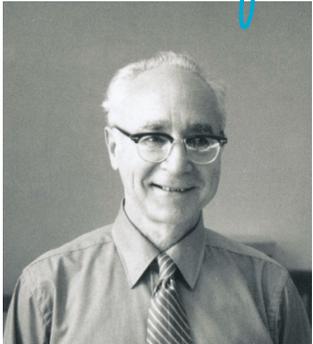
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Lubotzky-Phillips-Sarnak, Margulis '86



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d -reg graphs with $\lambda_1 \geq d - \sqrt{d-1}$

$d = \mu + 1$

Cayley graphs of $\text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})$

$\mu \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ prime

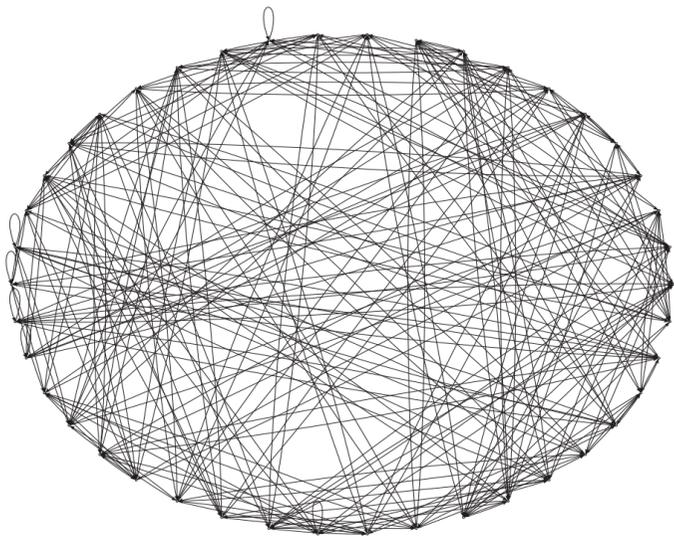


Fig. 1. Non-bipartite LPS Ramanujan graph with number of vertices $N = 42$ and degree $d = 6$ (figure generated using software Pajek.)

E. LUBETZKY AND Y. PERES

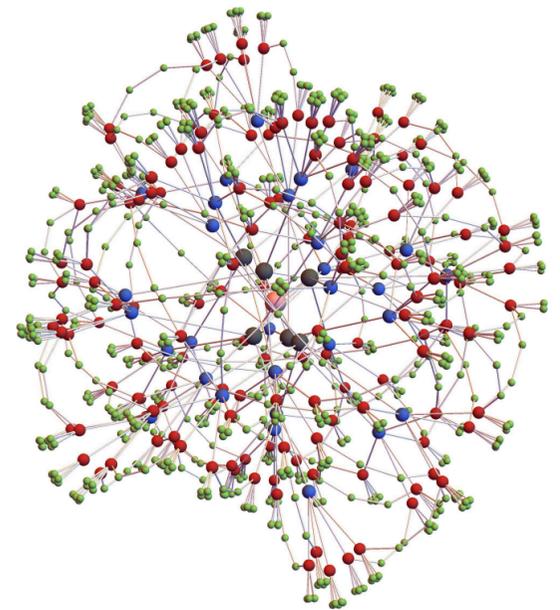
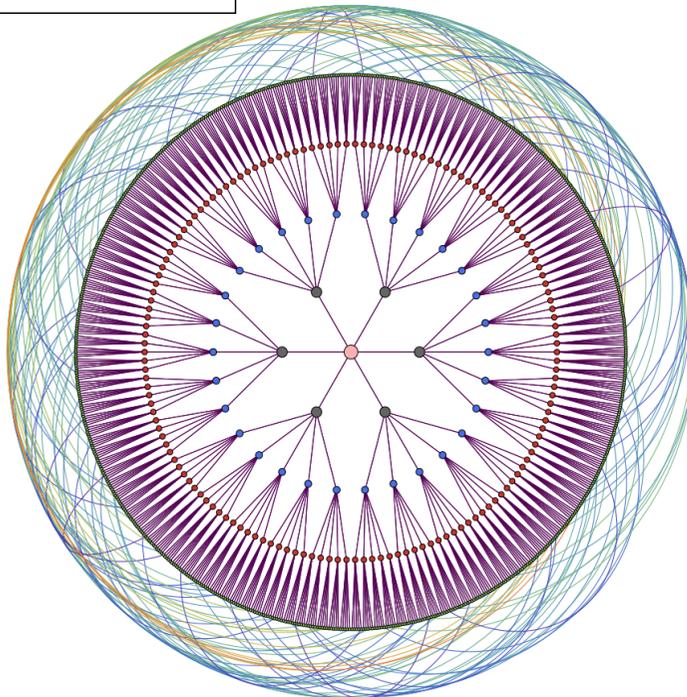


FIGURE 1. A ball of radius 4 in the Lubotzky–Phillips–Sarnak 6-regular Ramanujan graph on $n = 12180$ vertices via $\text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{F}_{29})$.

Graphs $G = (V, E)$, $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ d -reg

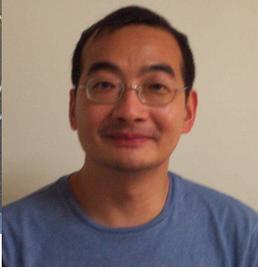
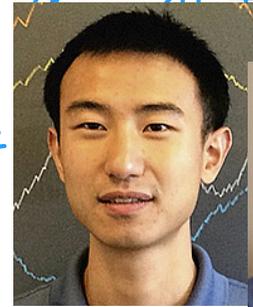
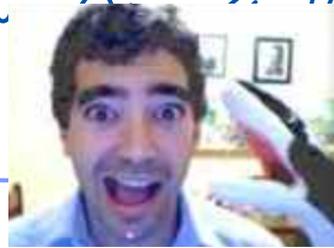
$$(\Delta f)(v) := \sum_{x \sim v} (f(v) - f(x)) = [(\cancel{D} - A)f](v)$$

Alon-Boppana '85 $\lambda_1(G) \leq d - \sqrt{d-1} + O\left(\frac{1}{\log|V|}\right)$

Lubotzky-Phillips-Sarnak, Margulis '86

d -reg graphs with $\lambda > d - \sqrt{d-1}$

Cayley graphs of PSL



Conjecture (Alon '86) Friedman '08. Bordenave '17. Huang-Yau...

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \mathbb{P}(\lambda_1(G_n) \geq d - \sqrt{d-1} - \varepsilon) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 1$$

Weil-Petersson random surfaces

Theorem (Mirzakhani '10) X_g une WP random surface

$$\mathbb{P}(\lambda_1(X_g) > 0.002) \xrightarrow{g \rightarrow \infty} 1$$

Wu-Xue, Lipnowski-Wright '21 : $\frac{3}{16} - \varepsilon$

Anantharaman - Monk '23 : $\frac{2}{9} - \varepsilon$

'25 : $\frac{1}{4} - \varepsilon$

Hide - Mecera - Thomas '25 : $\frac{1}{4} - O(\frac{1}{g^c})$

Selberg trace formula

Let $h: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a C_c^∞ even function

X be a closed hyperbolic surface of genus g

We have

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \hat{h}(r_j(x)) = (g-1) \int_{\mathbb{R}} \hat{h}(r) \tanh(\pi r) r \, dr$$

Fourier transform

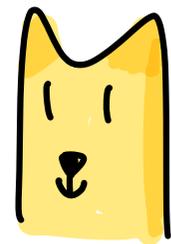
$\mathbb{R} \cup i[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$

$$+ \sum_{\gamma \text{ prim geod}} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{l(\gamma) h(k \cdot l(\gamma))}{2 \sinh\left(\frac{k l(\gamma)}{2}\right)}$$

is a solution of

$$\lambda_j = \frac{1}{4} + r_j^2$$

Thank you!

 merci!