

## APPROXIMATION OF THE HYPERBOLIC DISTANCE ON THE $n$ TIMES PUNCTURED RIEMANN SPHERE

In the thrice punctured Riemann sphere  $\mathbb{C}''$ , the formula of the hyperbolic metric  $\lambda_{\mathbb{C}''}(z)|dz|$  with punctures at  $0, 1, \infty$  was given by Agard in [Ag]. The metric  $\lambda_{\mathbb{C}''}(z)|dz|$  was also studied by Hempel [H], Solynin and Vuorinen [SV]. The density function  $\lambda_{\mathbb{C}''}(z)$  can be treated, while the distance function induced by  $\lambda_{\mathbb{C}''}(z)|dz|$ , denoted by  $d_{\mathbb{C}''}(z_1, z_2)$  for  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}''$ , is too complicated to deal with. Only for special  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ ,  $d_{\mathbb{C}''}(z_1, z_2)$  is explicitly expressed, e.g.  $z_1, z_2$  are both negative numbers. Thus, it is interesting to find a simple distance function, denoted by  $D_{\mathbb{C}''}(z_1, z_2)$ , which is comparable to  $d_{\mathbb{C}''}(z_1, z_2)$ . Explicitly, on  $\mathbb{C}''$ , the new distance  $D_{\mathbb{C}''}(z_1, z_2)$  satisfies

$$k_1 d_{\mathbb{C}''}(z_1, z_2) \leq D_{\mathbb{C}''}(z_1, z_2) \leq k_2 d_{\mathbb{C}''}(z_1, z_2)$$

for two constants  $k_1, k_2 > 0$ . For that purpose, we divide  $\mathbb{C}''$  into four pieces: Three neighborhoods of punctures which are small enough, and their complement. In this talk, we construct a distance on every neighborhood of each puncture, and then extend it into a new distance function on  $\mathbb{C}''$ . The technique above can be generalized on the  $n$  times punctured Riemann sphere  $\widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \{z_1, \dots, z_n\}$ ,  $n \geq 3$ . To establish such a distance, we first give two distance functions on the punctured disk  $N := \{z : 0 < |z| < e^{-1}\}$ , such that inequalities

$$k_1 d_N(z_1, z_2) \leq D_N(z_1, z_2) \leq k_2 d_N(z_1, z_2)$$

are sharp with some  $k_1, k_2 > 0$ . This presentation is based on the ongoing joint work with T. Sugawa (Tohoku University, Japan).

### References

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