

The quasisymmetric Hölder equivalence problem

P. Pansu

September 2nd, 2021

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- a symplectic manifold with convex boundary;
- a complex manifold with strictly pseudoconvex boundary.

Furthermore, it carries a Riemannian metric which is invariant under all holomorphic automorphisms. It becomes *complex hyperbolic plane* $H_{\mathbb{C}}^2$.

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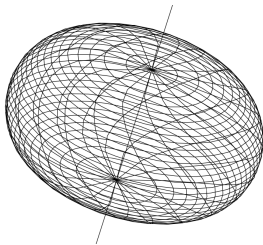
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In B , there are two types of totally geodesic surfaces:

- complex lines, with curvature -1 ,
- lagrangian planes, with curvature $-\frac{1}{4}$.

Lagrangian planes intersect the boundary along Legendrian curves. Therefore the contact structure on the boundary is determined by the Riemannian geometry inside the ball.



W. Goldman

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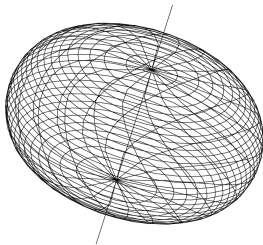
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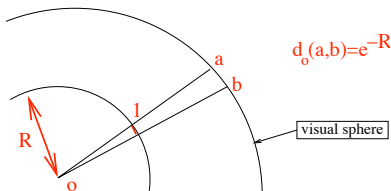


W. Goldman

What if one perturbs the Riemannian metric boundedly (i.e. in a biLipschitz manner), while keeping curvature negative? Is there a smooth boundary? With a contact structure?

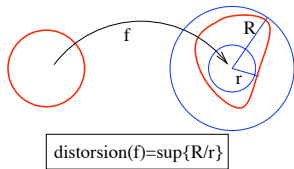
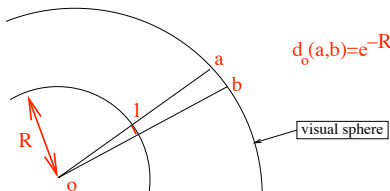
Facts.

- Negatively curved manifolds M have a visual sphere ∂M , equipped with visual metrics (one for each point of M). Two such metrics are conformally related.
- If M is δ -pinched, polar coordinates define a $C^{\sqrt{-\delta}}$ -Hölder homeomorphism from the round sphere $S \rightarrow \partial M$, with 1-Lipschitz inverse.
- Bi-Lipschitz maps between negatively curved Riemannian manifolds induce *quasymmetric* maps between ideal boundaries.



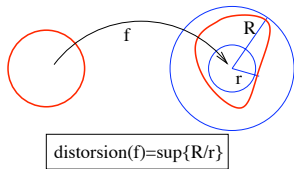
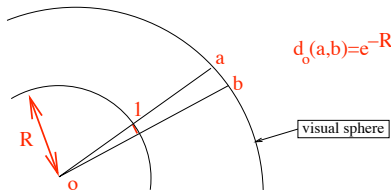
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So, the visual sphere ∂M is a metric space, it is not smooth, it merely has a quasymmetric (weaker than biLipschitz) structure. And a Hölder structure too. One cannot make sense of a contact structure on it.

Definition

Let M be a Riemannian manifold. Let $-1 \leq \delta < 0$. Say M is δ -pinched if sectional curvature ranges between -1 and δ . Define the optimal pinching $\delta(M)$ of M as the least $\delta \geq -1$ such that M is bi-Lipschitz equivalent to a δ -pinched complete simply connected Riemannian manifold.

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Example: Real hyperbolic spaces have $\delta(H_{\mathbb{R}}^n) = -1$. Complex hyperbolic plane $H_{\mathbb{C}}^2$ is $-\frac{1}{4}$ -pinched, so $\delta(H_{\mathbb{C}}^2) \leq -\frac{1}{4}$. Is it true that $\delta(H_{\mathbb{C}}^2) = -\frac{1}{4}$?

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Approach using boundary homeomorphisms:

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$\alpha_{qs}(X) = \sup\{\alpha \in (0, 1) \mid \exists \text{ locally a } C^\alpha \text{ homeomorphism with Lipschitz inverse from Euclidean space to a metric space quasisymmetric to } X\}$

Example: The visual boundary of complex hyperbolic plane is a sub-Riemannian 3-sphere, quasisymmetric to Heisenberg group $Heis$. Note that $\alpha_{qs}(Heis) \geq \frac{1}{2}$.

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Claim. $\sqrt{-\delta(M)} \leq \alpha_{qs}(\partial M)$. Proof on next slide.

Recall definitions

$\delta(M) = \inf$ pinching of Riemannian manifolds N biLipschitz to M

$\alpha_{qs}(\partial M) = \sup$ Hölder exponent α of homeos of round sphere $S \rightarrow X$ with Lipschitz inverse, with X quasymmetric to ∂M .

Proof.

N biLipschitz to $M \implies \partial M$ quasymmetric to ∂N .

N δ -pinched $\implies \exists C^\alpha$ homeomorphism with Lipschitz inverse from round sphere to ∂N with $\alpha = \sqrt{-\delta}$.

Conclusion. $\sqrt{-\delta(M)} \leq \alpha_{qs}(\partial M)$.

Theorem (Pansu 2020)

For all sub-Riemannian n -manifolds X with Hausdorff dimension Q , $\alpha_{qs}(X) \leq \frac{n-1}{Q-1}$.
In particular, $\alpha_{qs}(\text{Heis}) \leq \frac{2}{3}$.

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(The consequence $\delta(H_{\mathbb{C}}^2) \geq -\frac{4}{9}$ was already known).

Remark: The obvious map $\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow Heis = \text{subRiemannian Heisenberg group}$ is $C^{1/2}$ -Hölder continuous.

Question (Hölder equivalence problem, **Gromov 1993**)

Let X be a sub-Riemannian manifold. For which $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ does there exist locally a homeomorphism from Euclidean space to X which is C^α -Hölder continuous ?

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Let X be a $2m+1$ -dimensional contact manifold. Then $\alpha(X) \leq \frac{m+1}{m+2} (\leq \frac{2m}{2m+1})$.

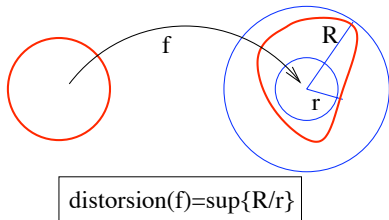
Given a contact structure ξ , pick a smooth sub-Riemannian metric d . Then locally, d is unique up to biLipschitz equivalence. Local becomes global on compact manifolds. Every biLipschitz invariant notion becomes a concept in contact topology.

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① BiLipschitz maps.

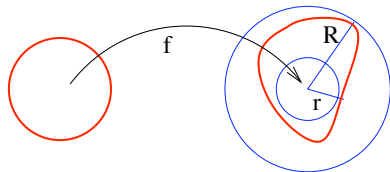
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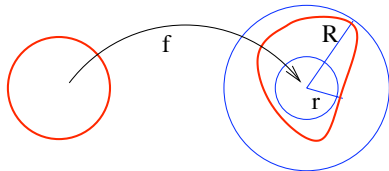
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- 3 Sobolev L_1^p maps for p close to 4 (how close?).
- 4 Hölder C^α maps for $\alpha < 1$ close to 1 (how close?).

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Question

What is the classification of contact structures in each of these categories?

Remark: The obvious map $\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow Heis = \text{subRiemannian Heisenberg group}$ is $C^{1/2}$ -Hölder continuous, and its inverse is Lipschitz, so $\alpha(Heis) \geq \frac{1}{2}$.
Therefore, if $\alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}$, C^α maps are meaningless for contact geometry.

Theorem (Gromov 1993)

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Theorem (Wenger-Young 2018)

There exist proper degree 1 C^α maps $\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow Heis$ for all $\alpha < \frac{2}{3}$.

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Question

If two compact contact 3-dimensional contact manifolds are C^α biHölder-equivalent, for $\alpha \geq \frac{2}{3}$, are they contactomorphic?

Remark. The cohomology of a subRiemannian manifold is filtered by weights

- either by weights of differential forms,
- or by weights of Alexander-Spanier cochains.

Both are easily biLipschitz invariant.

The first one is finer.

The second filtration is C^α biHölder-invariant, for α close enough to 1.

Question

Show that the first one is invariant under Sobolev L_1^p homeomorphisms, for p close enough to Q .

This convers quasisymmetric homeomorphisms.

Unfortunately, the filtration is trivial for contact manifolds (Rumin).

Thus the contact case seems the hardest.

Gromov's slogan:

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\exists k -dimensional subset with Hausdorff dimension $\leq k$

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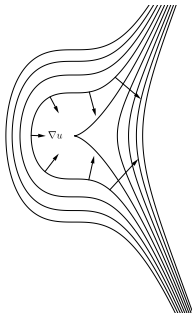
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Furthermore, only quasimetric invariants are used, whence

$$\alpha_{qs}(\text{SubRiemannian}) \leq \frac{k}{k'}.$$

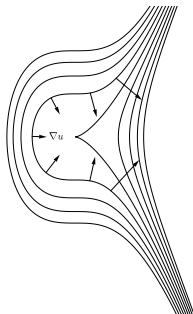
The *coarea formula* amounts to integrating along the level sets of a Lipschitz function $u : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. For every positive function ϕ on \mathbb{R}^n ,

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A special case: $\phi = |\nabla u|^n$.

$$\int_X |\nabla u|^n = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left(\int_{u^{-1}(t)} |\nabla u|^{n-1} \right) dt.$$

Both sides are conformally invariant.

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow X$ be a C^α Hölder homeomorphism with Lipschitz $f^{-1} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$. Let $v : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a coordinate function. Then $u = v \circ f^{-1}$ is Lipschitz. Imagine that a *coarea inequality* holds:

$$\int_X Lip_u^Q \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left(\int_{u^{-1}(t)} Lip_u^{Q-1} \right) dt \leq \text{const.} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathcal{H}^{Q-1}(u^{-1}(t)) dt. \quad (1)$$

Here, Lip_u denotes the local Lipschitz constant. Since, for non constant u , $\int_X Lip_u^Q > 0$, this shows that there exists $t \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\mathcal{H}^{Q-1}(u^{-1}(t)) > 0$, and therefore $u^{-1}(t)$ has Hausdorff dimension at least $Q - 1$.

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Strategy: replace conformally invariant integrals $\int Lip_u^Q$ with *packing energy measures* which are quasisymmetric invariants and satisfy coarea inequality in the right direction. If possible, extend to vector valued maps u .

Here is a global question about noncompact contact manifolds.

A map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ between metric spaces is a *quasiisometry* if it is onto (up to bounded distance) and satisfies the biLipschitz inequality

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Question

Given a bounded geometry Riemannian 3-manifold M and a contact structure ξ on M , does there exist a subRiemannian metric (subordinate to ξ) of bounded geometry which is quasiisometric to M ?

Approach in case M is diffeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^3

Given a bounded geometry Riemannian metric, construct a contact structure with bounded covariant derivatives (a controlled Lutz theorem).

Then the subRiemannian metric obtained by restriction has bounded geometry and is quasiisometric to given Riemannian metric.

This gives a positive answer for the contact structure which is overtwisted in all neighborhoods of infinity.

How can one get the tight contact structure?

Proposition

Let X be a metric space. Let Γ be a family of subsets of X , equipped with a measure $d\gamma$. For each $\gamma \in \Gamma$, a probability measure m_γ is given on γ . Let $p \geq 1$. Assume that

$$\int_{\{\gamma \in \Gamma; \gamma \cap \ell B \neq \emptyset\}} m_\gamma(\gamma \cap \ell B)^{1-p} d\gamma \leq \tau.$$

Then, for every function ϕ on the set of balls of X ,

$$\Phi^p(X) \geq \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{\Gamma} \tilde{\Phi}^1(\gamma)^p d\gamma.$$

Proof Let $1_i(\gamma) = 1$ iff $\gamma \cap B_i \neq \emptyset$. The balls such that $1_i(\gamma) = 1$ cover γ , thus

$$\tilde{\Phi}^{1;\epsilon}(\gamma) \leq \sum_i \phi(B_i) 1_i(\gamma) = \sum_i \phi(B_i) 1_i(\gamma) m_\gamma(\gamma \cap \ell B_i)^{\frac{1-p}{p}} m_\gamma(\gamma \cap \ell B_i)^{\frac{p-1}{p}}.$$

Hölder's inequality gives

$$\tilde{\Phi}^{1;\epsilon}(\gamma)^p \leq \left(\sum_i \phi(B_i)^p 1_i(\gamma) m_\gamma(\gamma \cap \ell B_i)^{1-p} \right) \left(\sum_i m_\gamma(\gamma \cap \ell B_i) \right)^{p-1}.$$

Integrate over Γ .