Square Tilings and the Poisson Boundary

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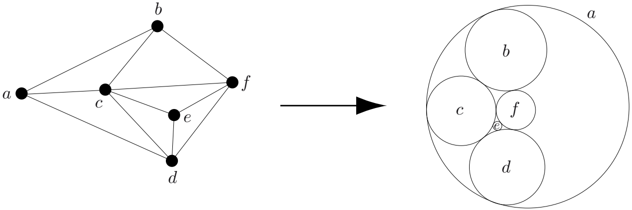
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Eurocomb '13

The Koebe-Andreev-Thurston circle packing theorem

For every finite planar graph G, there is a circle packing in the plane (or S^2) with nerve G.
The packing is unique (up to Möbius transformations) if G is a triangulation of S^2.



The Riemann mapping theorem

Theorem (Riemann? '1851, Carathéodory 1912)

For every simply connected open set $\Omega \subsetneq \mathbb{C}, \Omega \neq \emptyset$*, there is a bijective conformal map from* Ω *onto the open unit disk.*

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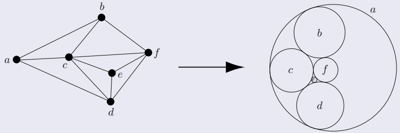
Theorem (Koebe 1908)

For every open set $\Omega \subsetneq \mathbb{C}, \Omega \neq \emptyset$ with finitely many boundary components, there is a bijective conformal map from Ω onto a circle domain.

Circle Packing <=> Conformal map

The Koebe-Andreev-Thurston circle packing theorem



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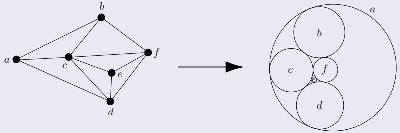

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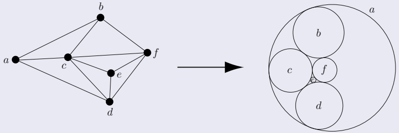

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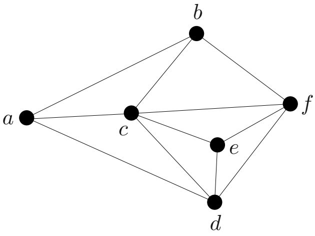

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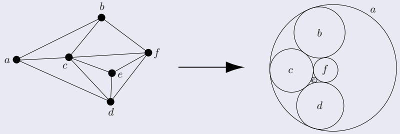

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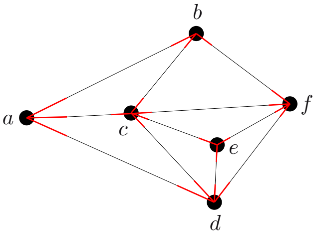

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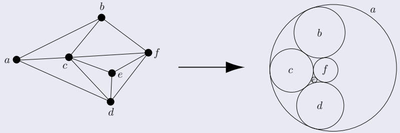

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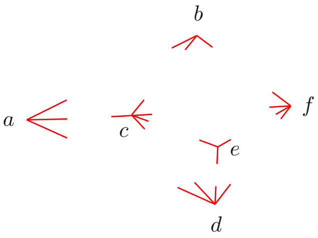

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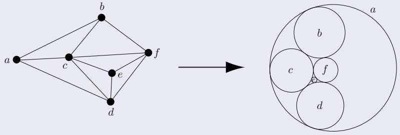

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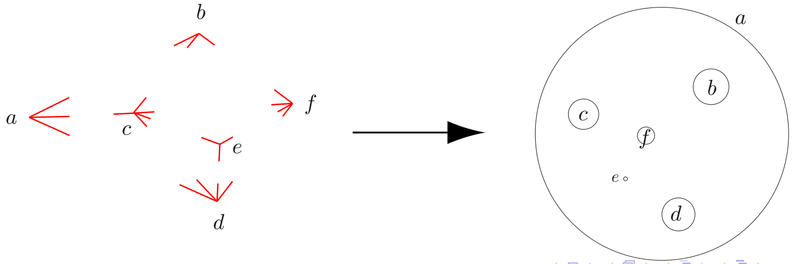

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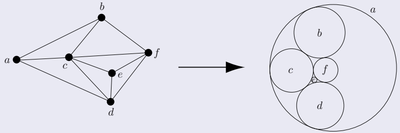

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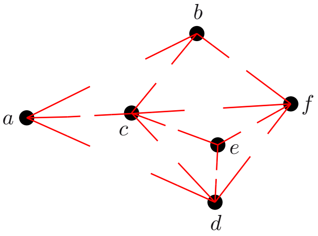

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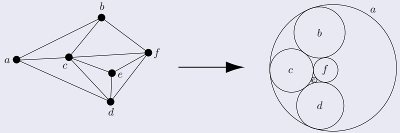

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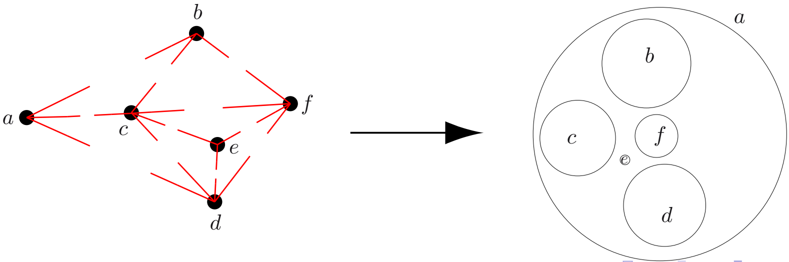

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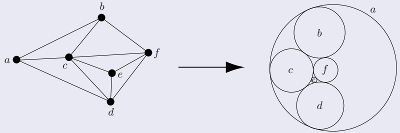

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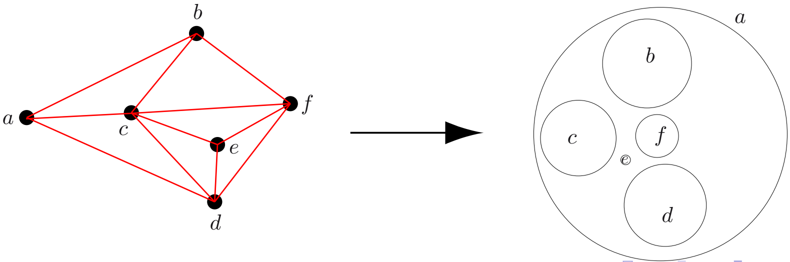

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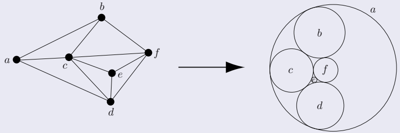

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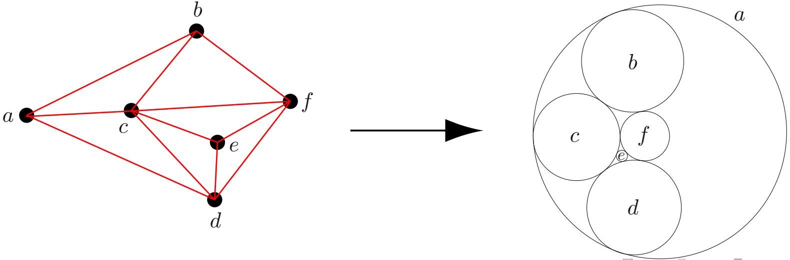

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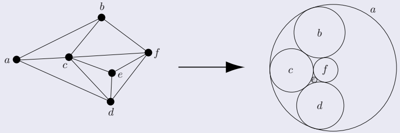

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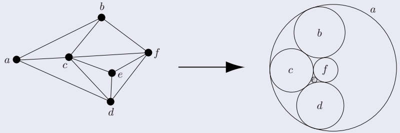

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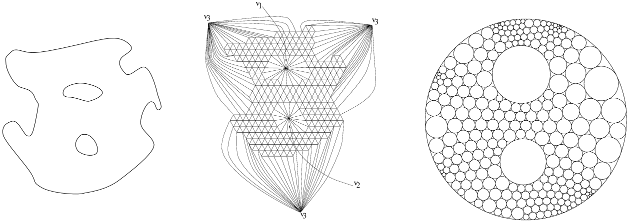

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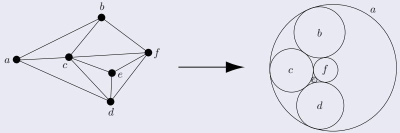

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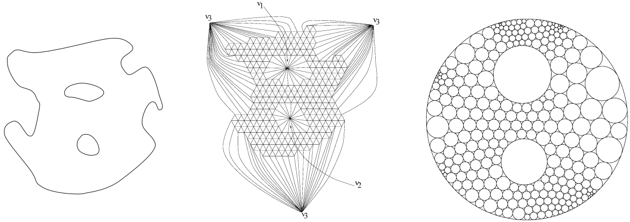
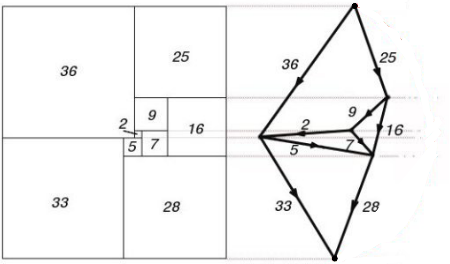


[*S. Rohde: “Oded Schramm: From Circle Packing to SLE”, ’10*]

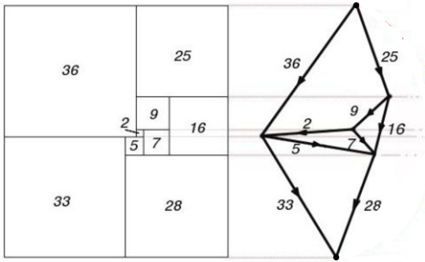
Square Tilings

Theorem (Brooks, Smith, Stone & Tutte '40)

... for every finite planar graph G, there is a square tiling with incidence graph G ...



Properties of square tilings



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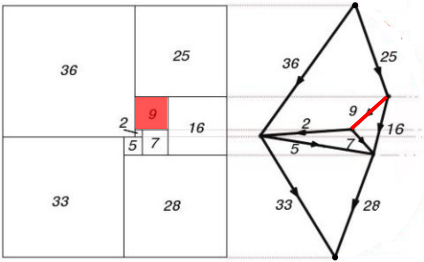

- every edge is mapped to a square;

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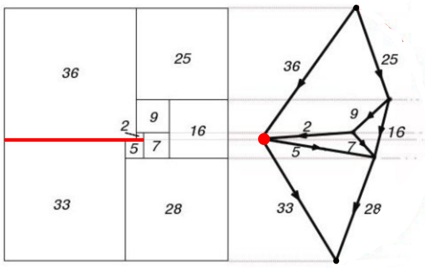

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- vertices correspond to horizontal segments tangent with their edges;

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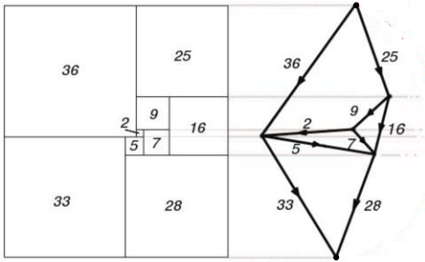

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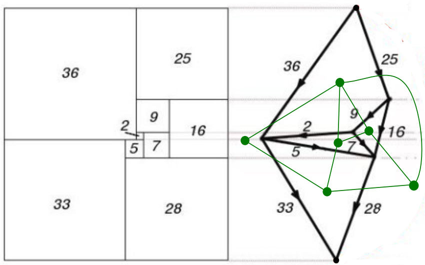

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- the square tiling of the dual of G can be obtained from that of G by a 90° rotation.

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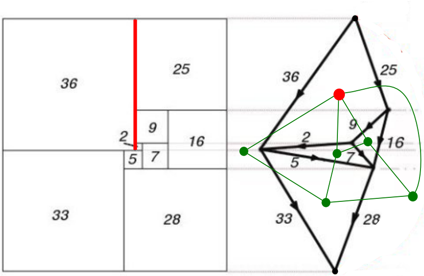

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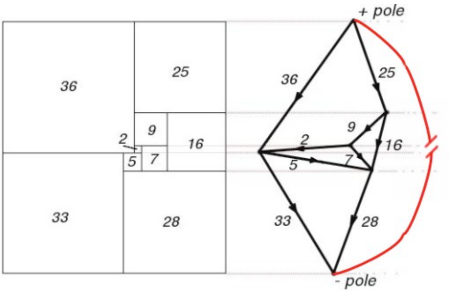
The construction of square tilings



- Think of the graph as an electrical network;

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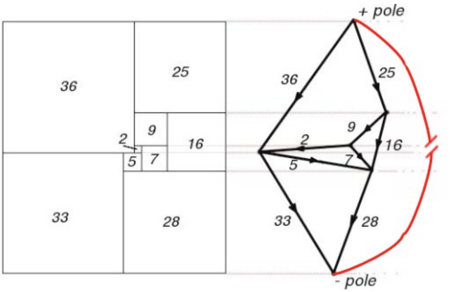

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- impose an electrical current from p to q;

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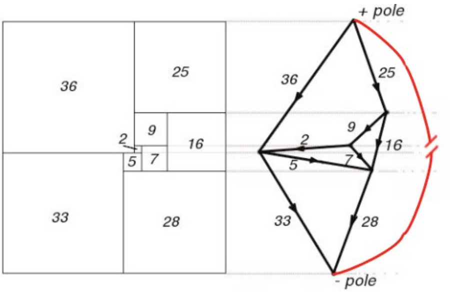

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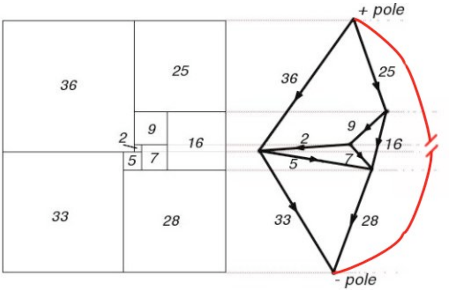

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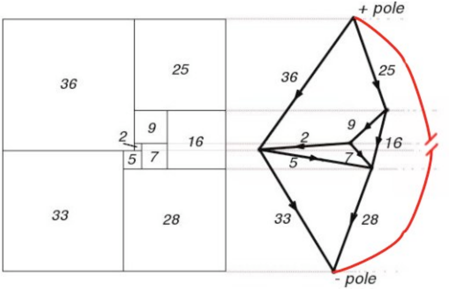

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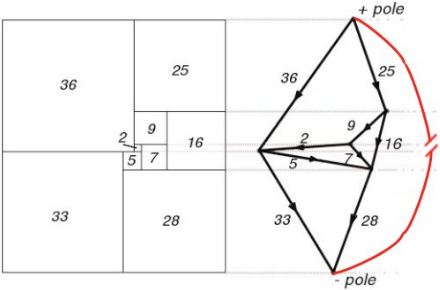

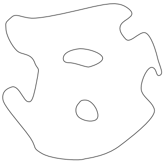

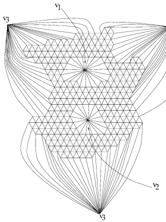

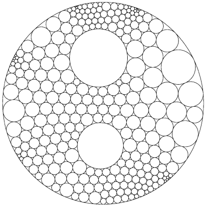

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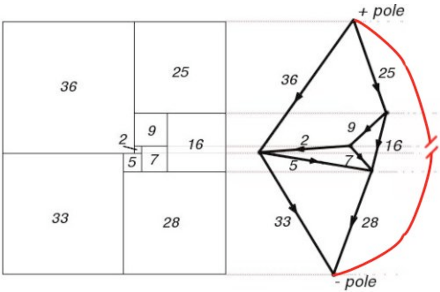

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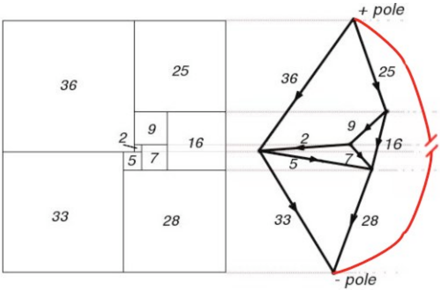
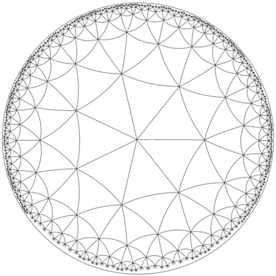


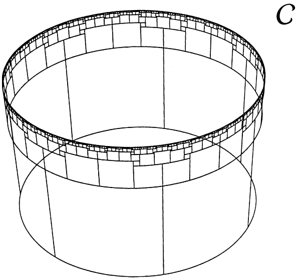
[*J. W. Cannon, W. J. Floyd, and W. R. Parry: "Squaring rectangles: The finite Riemann mapping theorem."*]

The square tilings of Benjamini & Schramm

Theorem (Benjamini & Schramm '96)

Every transient (infinite) graph G of bounded degree that has a uniquely absorbing embedding in the plane admits a square tiling.





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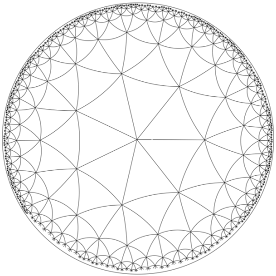

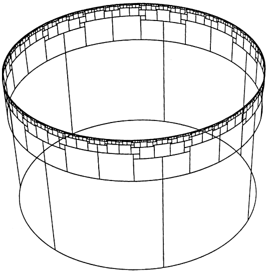

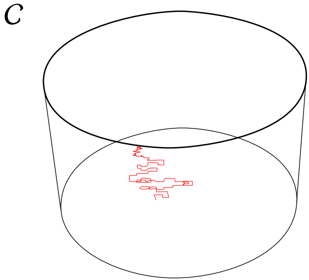

The Poisson integral representation formula

The classical Poisson formula

$$h(z) = \int_0^1 \hat{h}(\theta)P(z,\theta)d\theta$$

where $P(z,\theta) := \frac{1-|z|^2}{|e^{2\pi i\theta}-z|^2}$,

recovers every continuous harmonic function h on $\mathbb{D}$ from its boundary values $\hat{h}$ on the circle $\partial\mathbb{D}$.

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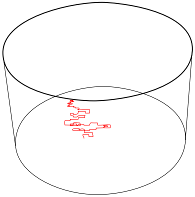
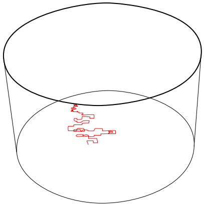


The boundary of the square tiling coincides with the Poisson boundary

Can the bounded harmonic functions on a plane graph G be expressed as a Poisson-like integral using C?



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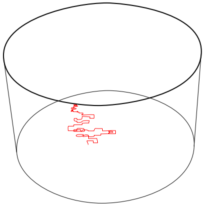

A function $h : V(G) \to \mathbb{R}$,
is **harmonic**, if $h(x) = \sum_{y \sim x} h(y)/d(x)$.

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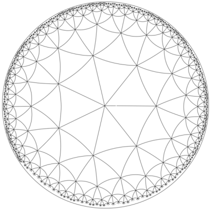
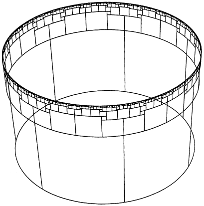
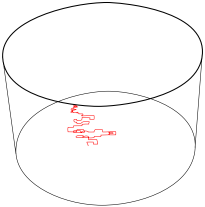
Question (Benjamini & Schramm ’96)

Does the Poisson boundary of every graph as above coincide with the boundary of its square tiling?







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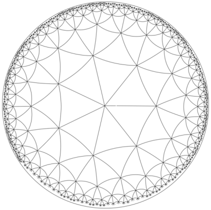

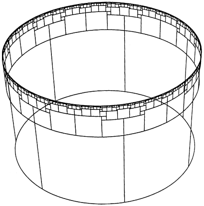

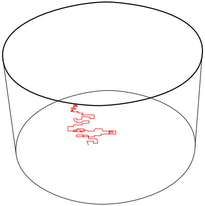

Theorem (G '12)

Yes!

The Poisson-Furstenberg boundary

The Poisson boundary of an (infinite) graph G consists of

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- conversely, for every $\hat{h} \in L^\infty(\mathcal{P}_G)$ the function $z \mapsto \int_{\mathcal{P}_G} \hat{h}(\eta) d\nu_z(\eta)$ is bounded and harmonic.

i.e. there is Poisson-like formula establishing an isometry between the Banach spaces $H^\infty(G)$ and $L^\infty(\mathcal{P}_G)$.

The Poisson-Furstenberg boundary

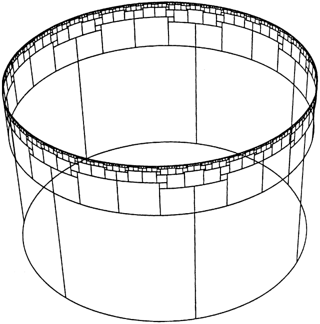
Selected work on the Poisson boundary

- Introduced by Furstenberg to study semi-simple Lie groups [*Annals of Math. '63*]
- Kaimanovich & Vershik give a general criterion using the entropy of random walk [*Annals of Probability '83*]
- Kaimanovich identifies the Poisson boundary of hyperbolic groups, and gives general criteria [*Annals of Math. '00*]

The theorem

Theorem (G '12)

For every bounded degree graph admitting a square tiling, the Poisson boundary coincides with the boundary of the tiling.



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- Nice random graphs can be sampled from the (square of the) Poisson boundary of groups

Summary