# Exploring flat worlds 

Renato G. Bettiol

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- Find a problem you are passionate about, and study it
"I would not dare to say that there is a direct relation between mathematics and madness, but there is no doubt that great mathematicians suffer from maniacal characteristics, delirium and symptoms of schizophrenia."
J. Nash



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- Once in a while, check if you are still on Earth
- All other things (papers, jobs, grants) sort themselves out
- Have fun doing Mathematics!


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- Recall: $\mathrm{O}(n)=\left\{A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R}): A^{t} A=\mathrm{Id}\right\}$
- In this talk: only compact manifolds and orbifolds.


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- Compact: $\max _{x, y} d(x, y)<+\infty$
- Only possibilities are:


Torus $T^{2}$


Klein bottle $K^{2}$

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Local models: $\mathbb{R}^{2} / \Gamma$, where $\Gamma<O(2)$ is a finite subgroup

Theorem (Leonardo Da Vinci)
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The Vitruvian Man

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$\mathbb{R}^{2} / \mathbb{Z}_{k}$
Cone with angle $\frac{2 \pi}{k}$
Wedge with angle $\frac{\pi}{k}$

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Local models: $\mathbb{R}^{2} / \mathbb{Z}_{k}$, cone with angle $\frac{2 \pi}{k}$ $\mathbb{R}^{2} / D_{k}$, wedge with angle $\frac{\pi}{k}$


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D^{2}(; 2,3,6)
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Theorem

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A: Classify crystallographic and Bieberbach groups!

## Structure of crystallographic groups

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Theorem (Bieberbach, 1911)

1. $L_{\pi} \cong \mathbb{Z}^{n}$ is a lattice and $H_{\pi}<\mathrm{O}(n)$ is finite;

## Structure of crystallographic groups

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T^{2} \quad-\quad Y E S!
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Flat deformations of $\mathbb{R}^{n} / \pi \quad H_{\pi}$-invariant subspaces of $\mathbb{R}^{n}$
Theorem (Hiss, Szczepański, 1991) $\pi<\operatorname{Iso}\left(\mathbb{R}^{n}\right)$ Bieberbach group $\Longrightarrow H_{\pi} \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}^{n}$ is reducible.

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But:
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So:
Not all flat orbifolds have (nonhomothetic) flat deformations.


## If it can be deformed, what is the limit?



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Theorem (B., Derdzinski, Piccione, 2018)
The Gromov-Hausdorff limit of flat manifolds is a flat orbifold. Conversely, every flat orbifold is the Gromov-Hausdorff limit of flat manifolds.

Q: Given a family of flat $n$-manifolds $M_{t}=\mathbb{R}^{n} / \pi_{t}$ that collapses as $t \searrow 0$, compute the resulting orbifold $\mathcal{O}=\lim _{t \searrow 0} M_{t}$.

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Theorem (B., Derdzinski, Mossa, Piccione, 2018)
Collapsing $M=\mathbb{R}^{n} / \pi$ along $V$ results in $\mathcal{O}_{V}=\left(L_{\pi} \cap W\right) \backslash W / H_{\pi}^{W}$.

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A: When $n=2, k=1$ for 10 out of 17 flat 2-orbifolds.

## Moduli space and Teichmüller space

Moduli space of flat metrics:
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Theorem (Wolf, Thurston, Baues, ...)
There exists a Teichmüller space $\mathcal{T}_{\text {flat }}(\mathcal{O}) \cong \mathbb{R}^{d}$ such that

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\mathcal{M}_{\text {flat }}(\mathcal{O})=\mathcal{T}_{\text {flat }}(\mathcal{O}) / \operatorname{MCG}(\mathcal{O})
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where $\operatorname{MCG}(\mathcal{O})=\operatorname{Diff}(\mathcal{O}) / \operatorname{Diff}_{0}(\mathcal{O})$ is the mapping class group, which is countable and discrete.

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$\mathcal{T}_{\text {flat }}(\mathcal{O})$ is the space of flat deformations.

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\frac{\mathrm{GL}\left(m_{i}, \mathbb{K}_{i}\right)}{\mathrm{O}\left(m_{i}, \mathbb{K}_{i}\right)} \cong \mathbb{R}^{d_{i}}, \quad d_{i}= \begin{cases}\frac{1}{2} m_{i}\left(m_{i}+1\right), & \text { if } \mathbb{K}_{i}=\mathbb{R}, \\ m_{i}^{2}, & \text { if } \mathbb{K}_{i}=\mathbb{C}, \\ m_{i}\left(2 m_{i}-1\right), & \text { if } \mathbb{K}_{i}=\mathbb{H}\end{cases}
$$

"Archimedes will be remembered when Aeschylus is forgotten, because languages die and mathematical ideas do not. "Immortality" may be a silly word, but probably a mathematician has the best chance of whatever it may mean."
G. H. Hardy


Thank you for your attention!

