Statistical Hyperbolicity of Relatively Hyperbolic Groups

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STATISTICAL HYPERBOLICITY
of Relatively Hyperbolic Groups

by

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ABSTRACT

Statistical Hyperbolicity
of Relatively Hyperbolic Groups

by

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The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2014
Under the Supervision of G. Christopher Hruska

In this work, we begin by defining what it means for a group to be statistically hyperbolic. We then give several examples of groups, including non-elementary $\delta$-hyperbolic groups, which either are statistically hyperbolic or are not. Following that, we define what it means for a group to be relatively hyperbolic. Finally, in the main portion of this work, we show that groups which are relatively hyperbolic, with a few additional conditions in place, must also be statistically hyperbolic.
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Chapter 1

Introduction

The idea of statistical hyperbolicity was first introduced by Moon Duchin, Samuel Lelièvre, and Christopher Mooney in [DLM12]. The intuitive meaning of statistical hyperbolicity of a group can be summed up as follows: On average, random pairs of points $x, y$ on a sphere of the Cayley graph of the group almost always have the property that $d(x, y)$ is nearly equal to $d(x, e) + d(e, y)$ where $e$ is the origin. More precisely, for a group $G$ with finite generating set $\mathcal{S}$, let the function

$$ E(G, \mathcal{S}) := \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{|S_n|^2} \sum_{x, y \in S_n} \frac{1}{n} d(x, y) $$

Then a finitely generated group $G$ with finite generating set $\mathcal{S}$ is statistically hyperbolic when

$$ E(G, \mathcal{S}) = 2, $$

as in Definitions 2.1 and 2.2.

In some cases, an analogous definition to that above can be used for spaces which do not necessarily represent the Cayley graph of a group. Many results were found to this end in [DLM12]. Specifically, it was found that the following are statistically hyperbolic:

- Non-elementary hyperbolic groups with any finite generating set.

- $(H \times K, \mathcal{S})$ when $H$ is non-elementary hyperbolic, $K$ is finitely generated, $\mathcal{S}$ is a split finite generating set for $H \times K$, and with generators projected to the
factors from $\mathcal{S}$ that $\lambda_H > \lambda_K$. (We define the growth rate, $\lambda_G$, for a group $G$ in the beginning of Chapter 5.)

- For any $m, p \geq 2$, the Diestel-Leader graph $DL(m, p)$.

- The lamplighter groups $\mathbb{Z}_m \wr \mathbb{Z}$ where $m \geq 2$ is finite for certain generating sets.

- Teichmüller spaces with the Teichmüller metric. This result was due to Dowdall, Duchin, and Masur in [DDM14].

In [DLM12], Duchin, Lelièvre, and Mooney found that $\mathbb{Z}^d$ is not statistically hyperbolic for all $d \geq 1$ and any finite generating set $\mathcal{S}$. Duchin and Mooney also discovered in [DM11] that the integer Heisenberg group $H(\mathbb{Z})$ with any finite generating set is not statistically hyperbolic. They further showed that $E(H(\mathbb{Z}), \mathcal{S}) = \frac{19}{31}$ using the standard generating set $\mathcal{S}$.

Of particular interest is that groups which are non-elementary hyperbolic are also statistically hyperbolic. However, it was not known whether relatively hyperbolic groups were also statistically hyperbolic. So, in the Main Theorem of this work we see that non-elementary relatively hyperbolic groups, with one additional condition, are indeed also statistically hyperbolic. Thus, the Main Theorem generalizes the result for non-elementary hyperbolic groups from [DLM12].

**Main Theorem.** *If $G$ is a non-elementary relatively hyperbolic group with finite generating set $\mathcal{S}$ and a finite set of peripheral subgroups $\mathfrak{P}$ having the parabolic gap property, then $G$ is statistically hyperbolic.*

For a definition of the parabolic gap property, see Definition 5.1.
Chapter 2

Foundational Definitions and Examples

We will begin by defining the formula for sprawl, which allows us to define statistical hyperbolicity in groups.

**Definition 2.1.** [DLM12] Let $G$ be a group with finite generating set $\mathcal{S}$. The sprawl of $(G, \mathcal{S})$ is

$$E(G, \mathcal{S}) := \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{|S_n|^2} \sum_{x,y \in S_n} \frac{1}{n} d(x, y)$$

when the limit exists, where $S_n$ is a sphere centered at the origin $e \in G$ of radius $n$ in the Cayley graph of $G$. When the limit does not exist, we say that the sprawl does not exist.

It is clear that $0 \leq E(G, \mathcal{S}) \leq 2$ for any finitely generated group $(G, \mathcal{S})$ since $0 \leq d(x, y) \leq 2n$ for all $x, y \in S_n$. The value of $E$ is not quasi-isometry invariant and could vary depending on the choice of generating set, as shown in [DLM12].

**Definition 2.2.** [DLM12] We say a finitely generated group $(G, \mathcal{S})$ is *statistically hyperbolic* if the sprawl is maximal, or in other words, $E(G, \mathcal{S}) = 2$.

To help give a sense of statistical hyperbolicity, $E(G, \mathcal{S}) = 2$ means that, for almost every random pair of points $x, y$ on a sphere of the Cayley graph of the group, $d(x, y)$ is nearly equal to $d(x, e) + d(e, y)$ where $e$ is the origin.
We now present a few examples of calculating the sprawl of a group. To begin, we intentionally chose groups for which the calculation of the sprawl is straightforward, and then progress to the proof for non-elementary hyperbolic groups being statistically hyperbolic.

**Example 2.3.** The sprawl of a free group on one generator is 1. In other words, $E(\mathbb{Z}, \{1\}) = 1$.

*Proof.* Notice that for $n \geq 1$, there are only two elements in the sphere $S_n$. Thus, it is clear that

$$E(\mathbb{Z}, \{1\}) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{|S_n|^2} \sum_{x,y \in S_n} \frac{1}{n} d(x, y)$$

$$= \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{n} (4n)$$

$$= 1 \quad \Box$$

**Example 2.4.** The free group on two generators with the standard generating set is statistically hyperbolic, i.e. $E(F_2, \{a, b\}) = 2$.

*Proof.* Let $n \geq 1$ and fix $x \in S_n$. Also, observe that there are four main “branches” emanating from the origin. With $x \in S_n$ being fixed, we see that for $y \in S_n$, $d(x, y) = 2n$ if $y$ is on one of the three main branches that does not contain $x$. If $y \in S_n$ is on the main branch which also contains $x$, we see that $d(x, y) = 2n - 2$ on two out of the three “sub-branches.” Similarly, if $y \in S_n$ is on the sub-branch which also contains $x$, we see that $d(x, y) = 2n - 4$ on two out of three of “sub-sub-branches.” Continuing this pattern and keeping $x$ fixed, we find that

$$\sum_{y \in S_n} d(x, y) = |S_n| \left( \frac{3}{4} (2n) + \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{2}{3} (2n - 2) + \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{3} (2n - 4) + \cdots + 0 \right)$$

$$= |S_n| \left( \frac{3}{2} n + \frac{1}{6} (2n - 2) + \frac{1}{18} (2n - 4) + \cdots + 0 \right)$$

$$= |S_n| \left( \frac{3}{2} n + \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left( \frac{1}{3} \right)^k (n - k) \right)$$
Thus, we have

\[ \sum_{x,y \in S_n} d(x,y) = |S_n|^2 \left( \frac{3}{2} n + \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left( \frac{1}{3} \right)^k (n-k) \right) \]

Hence,

\[ E(\mathbb{F}_2, \{a, b\}) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{|S_n|^2} \sum_{x,y \in S_n} \frac{1}{n} d(x,y) \]

\[ = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{|S_n|^2} \cdot |S_n|^2 \cdot \frac{1}{n} \cdot \left( \frac{3}{2} n + \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left( \frac{1}{3} \right)^k (n-k) \right) \]

\[ = \lim_{n \to \infty} \left( \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{n} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left( \frac{1}{3} \right)^k (n-k) \right) \]

\[ = \lim_{n \to \infty} \left( \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{n} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{n - k}{3^k} - \frac{1}{n} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{k}{3^k} \right) \]

Since \( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{k}{3^k} = \frac{3}{4} \), we see that

\[ E(\mathbb{F}_2, \{a, b\}) \geq \frac{3}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{3} \right)^k = 2 \]

Therefore, since \( E(\mathbb{F}_2, \{a, b\}) \geq 2 \) and \( 0 \leq E(G, S) \leq 2 \) for all groups \( G \), we
Figure 2.2: A $\delta$-thin triangle, $\Delta = xyz$, mapped to a tripod, $T$.

We now wish to define hyperbolicity for groups and observe that non-elementary $\delta$-hyperbolic groups are, in fact, statistically hyperbolic. The following is the definition of $\delta$-thin, which leads directly to the definition of $\delta$-hyperbolic.

**Definition 2.5.** Given a geodesic triangle $\Delta = xyz$ in a geodesic space $X$, by Definition 2.16 of [GdlH90], there exists a unique tripod $T = x'y'z'$ with points labeled as in Figure 2.2 where the following equations hold:

\[
\begin{align*}
    d(x, p_y) &= d(x, p_z) = d(x', w') \\
    d(y, p_z) &= d(y, p_x) = d(y', w') \\
    d(z, p_x) &= d(z, p_y) = d(z', w')
\end{align*}
\]

Let $f : \Delta \to T$ be the natural map as in Definition 2.16 of [GdlH90]. We say that $\Delta$ is $\delta$-thin if, for all $p' \in T$, $\text{diam}(f^{-1}(p')) \leq \delta$.

Now, using the definition of $\delta$-thin, we can define a hyperbolic space, and consequently, a hyperbolic group.

**Definition 2.6.** A geodesic space $X$ is $\delta$-hyperbolic for $\delta \geq 0$ if all geodesic triangles in $X$ are $\delta$-thin. A finitely generated group $G$ with generators $S$ is *word hyperbolic* if its Cayley graph, $\Gamma = \text{Cayley}(G, S)$ is a hyperbolic metric space.
Definition 2.7. A hyperbolic group $G$ is said to be non-elementary if it is not virtually cyclic. (A group is virtually cyclic if it contains a finite index cyclic subgroup.)

Notice that as a result of the next theorem, if a group is a non-elementary hyperbolic group, then it is statistically hyperbolic. We provide a more detailed proof here than that which can be found in [DLM12]. The proof also gives a flavor of what the proof of the Main Theorem will entail.

Theorem 2.8. [DLM12] Let $G$ be a non-elementary $\delta$-hyperbolic group. Then $E(G, S) = 2$ for any finite generating set $S$.

Proof. A point $z$ is (metrically) between two points $x$ and $y$ if $d(x, z) + d(z, y) = d(x, y)$. A set $Z$ is between two points $x$ and $y$ if there exists a point $z \in Z$ such that $z$ is between $x$ and $y$.

Choose $r$ such that $0 < r < 1$ and choose $x \in S_n$. Let $x' \in S_{\lfloor r\lfloor n \rfloor}$ be between $e$ and $x$. We wish to bound the number of $w \in S_n$ which are “close” to $x$. We will specifically consider any point $w \in S_n$ to be close to $x$ when the ball $B_{2\delta}(x')$ is between $e$ and $w$. In other words, $w$ is close to $x$ if there exists $w' \in B_{2\delta}(x') \cap S_{\lfloor r\lfloor n \rfloor}$ which is between $e$ and $w$. Clearly, the number of such $w'$ is at most $|B_{2\delta}(x')|$. Also, since such a $w' \in S_{\lfloor r\lfloor n \rfloor}$ is between $e$ and $w$, we know $d(w', w) = n - \lfloor r\lfloor n \rfloor \rfloor$. For a fixed $w'$ of this type, we then know that the number of $w \in S_n$ where the geodesic from $e$ to $w$ passes through $w'$ can be no more than $|B_{2\delta}(x')|$. Hence, the total number of $w \in S_n$ which are close to $x$ is at most $|B_{2\delta}| \cdot |S_{n - \lfloor r\lfloor n \rfloor \rfloor}|$.

Assume $v \in S_n$ is not close to $x$. So, the geodesics $[e, x]$ and $[e, v]$ are separated by a distance of at least $2\delta$ at time $\lfloor r\lfloor n \rfloor \rfloor$. By the definition of $\delta$-thin on triangle $ex$v, this implies that there exist points $t_x, t_v$ on the geodesic $[x, v]$ such that $d(v', t_v) \leq \delta$ and $d(x', t_x) \leq \delta$. Also, since we know that $d(x', v') > 2\delta$, the point $t_x$ must be between $x$ and $t_v$ on $[x, v]$ as in Figure 2.3. Additionally, since $d(v, v') > n - \lfloor r\lfloor n \rfloor \rfloor$ and $d(v', t_v) \leq \delta$, we know that $d(v, t_v) \geq n - \lfloor r\lfloor n \rfloor \rfloor - \delta$. Similarly, $d(x, t_x) \geq n - \lfloor r\lfloor n \rfloor \rfloor - \delta$. Thus, $d(x, v) \geq d(x, t_x) + d(v, t_v) \geq 2(n - \lfloor r\lfloor n \rfloor \rfloor - \delta) \geq 2(n - r\lfloor n \rfloor - \delta)$. Hence,
Coornaert proved in [Coo93] that for every non-elementary hyperbolic group with a fixed, finite generating set, there are bounded coefficients of exponential growth. Specifically, there exist $c_1, c_2 > 0$ and $\lambda > 1$ such that $c_1 \lambda^n \leq \beta(n) \leq c_2 \lambda^n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ where $\beta(n) = |B(e, n)|$ is the growth function of the group in question (growth function is defined in the beginning of Chapter 5). A group meeting the conditions above is said to have **definite exponential growth**. Clearly, we can choose $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $c_1 \lambda^k > c_2$. Then that gives us $\beta(n + k) \geq c_1 \lambda^{n+k} > c_2 \lambda^n$. By Coornaert’s result, we have $\beta(n - 1) \leq c_2 \lambda^{n-1}$. Let $B$ be an annulus such that $B = B(e, n+k) - B(e, n-1)$ as in Figure 2.4. Then we can see that $|B| \geq c_2 \lambda^n - c_2 \lambda^{n-1}$.

For each $x \in B$, choose a geodesic $[e, x]$. Clearly, this geodesic $[e, x]$ and $S_n$ have a single point of intersection which we will call $x_n$. This process defines a surjective map $\varphi : B \to S_n$ by $\varphi(x) = x_n$. Let $N = |B(e, k)|$. Then $\varphi$ is at most $N$-to-1. So, $|S_n| \geq \frac{1}{N} |B| \geq \frac{1}{N} (c_2 \lambda^n - c_2 \lambda^{n-1})$. Thus we see that
Figure 2.4: The annulus, $B$.

\[
\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{|S_{n-\lfloor rn \rfloor}|}{|S_n|} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\beta(n - \lfloor rn \rfloor) - \beta(n - \lfloor rn \rfloor - 1)}{|S_n|}
\leq \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{c_2 \lambda^{n-\lfloor rn \rfloor} - c_1 \lambda^{n-\lfloor rn \rfloor-1}}{1 - c_2 \lambda^{n-\lfloor rn \rfloor}}
\leq \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\lambda^{n-\lfloor rn \rfloor-1} (c_2 \lambda - c_1)}{\lambda^{n-1} (c_2 / N (\lambda - 1))}
= \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{\lambda^{\lfloor rn \rfloor}} \cdot \frac{c_2 \lambda - c_1}{c_2 / N (\lambda - 1)}
= 0
\]

The previous two inequalities now give us
\[ E(G, \mathcal{S}) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{|S_n|^2} \sum_{x,y \in S_n} \frac{1}{n} d(x,y) \]
\[
\geq \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{2(n - rn - \delta)}{n |S_n|^2} \left( |S_n| - |B_{2\delta}| \cdot |S_{n-[rn]}| \right) \cdot |S_n| \\
= \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{2(1 - r - \delta/n)}{|S_n|} \left( |S_n| - |B_{2\delta}| \cdot |S_{n-[rn]}| \right) \\
= \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{2(1 - r - \delta/n)}{|S_n|} - \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{2(1 - r - \delta/n) \cdot |B_{2\delta}| \cdot |S_{n-[rn]}|}{|S_n|} \\
= 2(1 - r) \\
\]

Since \( r \in (0, 1) \) was arbitrary, let \( r \to 0 \). Therefore, \( E(G, \mathcal{S}) = 2 \). \( \Box \)
Chapter 3

Relatively hyperbolic groups.

Now that we have dealt with the concepts of sprawl and statistical hyperbolicity, we turn our attention to relatively hyperbolic groups. It should be noted that there are several equivalent definitions of relative hyperbolicity for groups. In this work, we will outline the definition we believe is the simplest to present.

Definition 3.1. [Far98] Let $G$ be a finitely generated group with generating set $S$ where $\mathcal{P}$ is a finite set of subgroups of $G$. For each $g \in G$ and $P \in \mathcal{P}$, we have a left coset $gP$. For each such left coset, we will add a vertex $v(gP)$ to $\Gamma = \text{Cayley}(G, S)$. We then add edges connecting each element of $gP$ to $v(gP)$. The resulting graph, $\hat{\Gamma}$, is known as the coned-off Cayley graph.

Definition 3.2. A graph $K$ is fine if each edge of $K$ is contained in only finitely many circuits of length $n$ for each value of $n$. Here, a circuit is a closed path where there are exactly two edges ending at each vertex. In other words, it is a closed path where each vertex is crossed over only once. The length of a circuit is the total number of edges in the circuit.

Definition 3.3. [Bow12] A finitely generated group $G$ with generating set $S$ is relatively hyperbolic with respect to a finite set of subgroups $\mathcal{P}$ if the coned-off Cayley graph $\hat{\Gamma}$ is $\delta$-hyperbolic and fine. The subgroups $P \in \mathcal{P}$ are the peripheral subgroups of $G$ and the left cosets $gP$ where $g \in G$ and $P \in \mathcal{P}$ are peripheral cosets.
**Definition 3.4.** A relatively hyperbolic group $G$ with generating set $S$ and finite set of peripheral subgroups $\mathcal{P}$ is said to be *non-elementary* if it is not virtually cyclic (see Definition 2.7) and $G \notin \mathcal{P}$.

Now that we have defined what a relatively hyperbolic group is, we provide a concrete example so the reader may more clearly visualize what such a group is like.

**Example 3.5.** $\mathbb{Z}^2 \ast \mathbb{Z} \cong \pi_1(T^2 \land S^1)$, where $T^2$ is a torus and $S^1$ a circle, is hyperbolic relative to $\mathbb{Z}^2$. It is one of the simplest examples of a group that is relatively hyperbolic and tree-like, but not hyperbolic.
Chapter 4

Showing $\mathbb{Z}^2 \ast \mathbb{Z}$ to be Statistically Hyperbolic

In this chapter, we will show that $\mathbb{Z}^2 \ast \mathbb{Z}$ is statistically hyperbolic using its standard generating set. This result is a special case of the Main Theorem in which we can give a more direct, elementary argument that does not rely on definite exponential growth, as does the proof of Theorem 2.8 for the $\delta$-hyperbolic case, nor does it rely on Yang’s result in Theorem 5.2, as does the proof of the Main Theorem.

Consider the universal cover of $T^2 \wedge S^1$ and suppose we have $B(e, n)$, a ball of radius $n$ centered at the origin as shown in Figure 4.1. Define $S_n$ to be the sphere which is the boundary of $B(e, n)$. We wish to define types of “planes” found in this ball and then count the number of each type of “plane” we find. Let a plane of type $k$ be a bounded copy of $\mathbb{Z}^2$ within the universal cover of $T^2 \wedge S^1$ where the number of points of the plane which intersect $S_n$ is exactly $4k$. In this section, we will refer to a plane of type $k$ as $P_k$ as in Figure 4.2. We also wish to make one exception, in the case of $P_0$. We define $P_0$ as above where the number of points of the plane intersecting $S_n$ is exactly 1. We use the notation $|P_k|$ to mean the number of planes of type $k$ in $B(e, n)$. In order to somewhat simplify the notation in the following proofs, let us define $a_k = |P_{n-k}|$ when $n \in \mathbb{N}$ is fixed.

Lemma 4.1. For the group $\mathbb{Z}^2 \ast \mathbb{Z}$ with the standard generating set $\mathcal{S}$ where $n \in \mathbb{N}$
Figure 4.1: Balls of radius $n$ in universal cover of $T^2 \wedge S^1$ for $n = 0, 1, 2$

Figure 4.2: Planes of type $k$ for $k = 0, 1, 2$
is fixed, we can find the recursive formula

\[ a_k = a_{k-1} + 8a_{k-2} + 16a_{k-3} + \cdots + 8(k-2)a_1 + 8(k-1)a_0 \]

for \( k \geq 4 \) for the number of planes of each type in the universal cover of \( T^2 \wedge S^1 \) where \( a_k = |P_{n-k}| \).

**Proof.** Let \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) be fixed. The first observation we make is that \( a_0 = 1 \), and that \( P_n \) has the identity at its center. We will refer to this plane as the “main plane.” Additionally, we also see that \( a_1 = 2 \), since there are two planes of type \( n-1 \) emanating from the main plane. We will refer to the set of all planes emanating from one of the \( P_{n-1} \), including the plane \( P_{n-1} \) in question, as a “stem.” There are eight planes of type \( n-2 \) which emanate from the main plane and only one plane of type \( n-2 \) emanating from each stem. Thus, \( a_2 = 10 \). All of the previous observations can be made by simply looking at a ball of radius 2. From this point forward, \( a_k \) where \( k > 2 \) can be found by realizing that each \( P_{n-(k-1)} \) will have one \( P_{n-k} \) emanating from it, each \( P_{n-(k-2)} \) will have 8 of the \( P_{n-k} \) emanating from it, each \( P_{n-(k-3)} \) will have 16 of the \( P_{n-k} \) emanating from it, and so on, so that each \( P_{n-(k-j)} \) where \( j \leq k \) will have \( 8(j-1) \) of the \( P_{n-k} \) emanating from it.

Using the steps outlined above, we can find that for \( k \geq 4 \) we have

\[ a_k = a_{k-1} + 8a_{k-2} + 16a_{k-3} + \cdots + 8(k-2)a_1 + 8(k-1)a_0 \]

\( \square \)

**Corollary 4.2.** For the group \( \mathbb{Z}^2 \ast \mathbb{Z} \) with the standard generating set \( S \), \( a_k = 3a_{k-1} + 5a_{k-2} + a_{k-3} \) for \( k \geq 4 \).

**Proof.** (Induction on \( k \).) Fix \( n \in \mathbb{N} \). As our base case, let \( k = 4 \). Then,

\[ a_4 = 3a_3 + 5a_2 + a_1 \]

\[ = 3 \cdot 42 + 5 \cdot 10 + 2 \]

\[ = 178 \]

Now assume the claim is true for all values of \( k \leq m-1 \). So, we know by Lemma 4.1.
\[a_m = a_{m-1} + 8a_{m-2} + 16a_{m-3} + \cdots + 8(m-2)a_1 + 8(m-1)a_0\]

Thus, we see that

\[a_m - a_{m-1} = a_{m-1} + 8a_{m-2} + 16a_{m-3} + \cdots + 8(m-2)a_1 + 8(m-1)a_0\]
\[- a_{m-2} - 8a_{m-3} - \cdots - 8(m-3)a_1 - 8(m-2)a_0\]
\[= a_{m-1} + 7a_{m-2} + 8a_{m-3} + \cdots + 8a_1 + 8a_0\]

Hence,

\[a_m = 2a_{m-1} + 7a_{m-2} + 8a_{m-3} + \cdots + 8a_1 + 8a_0\]

Now we see that by using our induction hypothesis and the equation above, we have

\[a_m = 2a_{m-1} + 7a_{m-2} + 8a_{m-3} + \cdots + 8a_1 + 8a_0\]

\[= 2a_{m-1} + 7a_{m-2} + 8a_{m-3} + \cdots + 8a_1 + 8a_0\]
\[= 3a_{m-1} + 5a_{m-2} + a_{m-3}\]
\[= 3a_{m-1} + 5a_{m-2} + a_{m-3}\]

\[\square\]

**Corollary 4.3.** For the group \(\mathbb{Z}^2 * \mathbb{Z}\) with the standard generating set \(S\), there exist \(\lambda > 1\) and \(c > 0\) such that \(c\lambda^n \leq |S_n| \leq (8n^2 + 2)\lambda^n\). (Specifically, \(\lambda = 2 + \sqrt{5}\).)

**Proof.** From Lemma 4.1 and Corollary 4.2, we have \(|P_{n-k}| = a_k = 3a_{k-1} + 5a_{k-2} + a_{k-3}\) for \(k \geq 4\) where \(a_1 = 2\), \(a_2 = 10\), and \(a_3 = 42\). Thus, the characteristic equation of \(a_k\) is \(x^3 = 3x^2 + 5x + 1\). Hence, the roots of the equation are \(x = -1, 2 + \sqrt{5}, 2 - \sqrt{5}\). Thus, we know that

\[|P_{n-k}| = a_k = c_1(-1)^k + c_2(2 + \sqrt{5})^k + c_3(2 - \sqrt{5})^k\]
for some \( c_1, c_2, c_3 \in \mathbb{R} \). Using the initial conditions, we find that

\[
|P_{n-k}| = a_k = \frac{5 - \sqrt{5}}{5}(2 + \sqrt{5})^k + \frac{5 + \sqrt{5}}{5}(2 - \sqrt{5})^k
\]

Putting it all together, we now see that for a sphere of radius \( n \),

\[
|S_n| = 4n|P_n| + 4(n-1)|P_{n-1}| + \cdots + 4(n-k)|P_{n-k}|
\]
\[
+ \cdots + 4|P_1| + |P_0|
\]
\[
= |P_0| + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} 4(n-k)|P_{n-k}|
\]
\[
= \frac{5 - \sqrt{5}}{5}(2 + \sqrt{5})^n + \frac{5 + \sqrt{5}}{5}(2 - \sqrt{5})^n
\]
\[
+ \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} 4(n-k) \left( \frac{5 - \sqrt{5}}{5}(2 + \sqrt{5})^k + \frac{5 + \sqrt{5}}{5}(2 - \sqrt{5})^k \right)
\]
\[
\leq \frac{5 - \sqrt{5}}{5}(2 + \sqrt{5})^n + \frac{5 + \sqrt{5}}{5}(2 + \sqrt{5})^n
\]
\[
+ \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} 4(n-k) \left( \frac{5 - \sqrt{5}}{5}(2 + \sqrt{5})^k + \frac{5 + \sqrt{5}}{5}(2 + \sqrt{5})^k \right)
\]
\[
= 2(2 + \sqrt{5})^n + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} 4(n-k) \left( 2(2 + \sqrt{5})^k \right)
\]
\[
\leq 2(2 + \sqrt{5})^n + 8n^2(2 + \sqrt{5})^n
\]
\[
= (8n^2 + 2)(2 + \sqrt{5})^n
\]

Clearly, we also see that

\[
|S_n| \geq \frac{5 - \sqrt{5}}{5}(2 + \sqrt{5})^n \geq \frac{1}{2}(2 + \sqrt{5})^n
\]

\[\square\]

**Theorem 4.4.** The group \( \mathbb{Z}^2 * \mathbb{Z} \) with standard generating set \( S \) is statistically hyperbolic.
Proof. Choose $r \in (0, 1)$ and $x \in S_n$. For each $g \in S_n$, we define the set $A_g = \{ g' \in S_{\lfloor rn \rfloor} | d(e, g') + d(g', g) = d(e, g) \}$. Note that $\Gamma(G, S)$ has a tree-like structure. So, every embedded loop must lie in a single copy of $\mathbb{Z}^2$. This gives us that $A_g$ must lie in a single copy of $\mathbb{Z}^2$ for all $g \in S_n$.

Now choose $y \in S_n$ such that $A_x$ and $A_y$ are contained in different peripheral cosets and consider the triangle $\triangle exy$. Let $H$ be the set of all peripheral cosets which intersect both $[e, x]$ and $[e, y]$. Define $H \in \mathbb{H}$ to be the peripheral coset where $d(x, H) \leq d(x, H')$ and $d(y, H) \leq d(y, H')$ for all $H' \in \mathbb{H}$.

Let $\Gamma(G, S) = \text{Cayley}(G, S)$ be the Cayley graph of $G$ with standard generating set $S$ and let $\pi : \Gamma \to H$ be the nearest point projection map. We know this map exists due to the tree-like structure of $\Gamma(G, S)$. So, $\pi(x)$, $\pi(y)$, and $\pi(e)$ are as labeled in Figure 4.3.

By way of contradiction, suppose $\pi(e) \notin B(e, \lfloor rn \rfloor)$. Then $A_x = A_y = A_{\pi(e)}$. This contradicts the assumption that $A_x$ and $A_y$ are contained in different peripheral cosets. Also by way of contradiction, suppose $\pi(e) \in B(e, \lfloor rn \rfloor)$ and that $\pi(x), \pi(y) \notin B(e, \lfloor rn \rfloor)$. Thus, $A_x \subseteq H$ and $A_y \subseteq H$. This also contradicts our assumption of the choice of $y \in S_n$. Hence, assuming that $A_x$ and $A_y$ are in different peripheral cosets implies that $\pi(e) \in B(e, \lfloor rn \rfloor)$ and that at least one of $\{\pi(x), \pi(y)\}$ is in $B(e, \lfloor rn \rfloor)$.

Without loss of generality, assume $\pi(x) \in B(e, \lfloor rn \rfloor)$. Thus, any geodesic between $x$ and $y$ must pass through $x' \in S_{\lfloor rn \rfloor}$ for some $x' \in A_x$. So, assuming that
$A_x$ and $A_y$ are in different peripheral cosets gives us

$$d(x, y) \geq d(x, x') + d(x', y)$$

$$\geq n - \lfloor rn \rfloor + n - \lfloor rn \rfloor$$

$$\geq 2(n - rn)$$

Assuming that $x \in S_n$ is fixed, we wish to set a lower bound on the number of choices for $y \in S_n$ where $A_x$ and $A_y$ are in different peripheral cosets. We will accomplish this by bounding the number of $z \in S_n$ for which $A_x$ and $A_z$ are in the same peripheral coset. Let $B(e, n)$ denote a ball of radius $n$ with its center at $e$. Let $\beta_G(n) = |B(e, n)|$ and $\beta_P(n) = |B(e, n)|$ when we restrict our ball to be contained in just one peripheral coset of our group. We see that $|A_x| \leq \beta_P(\lfloor rn \rfloor)$ where equality is only attained if $e \in H$. Thus, assuming $A_x$ and $A_z$ are in the same peripheral coset, we see that $|A_z| \leq \beta_P(\lfloor rn \rfloor)$. For each $z' \in A_z$, the number of elements $z \in S_n$ for which $e$, $z'$, and $z$ lie on a geodesic is bounded by $|S_n - \lfloor rn \rfloor|$. Thus, the total number of possible $z \in S_n$ for which $A_x$ and $A_z$ lie on the same peripheral coset is bounded above by $\beta_P(\lfloor rn \rfloor)|S_n - \lfloor rn \rfloor|$. Therefore, the number of choices for $y \in S_n$ such that $A_x$ and $A_y$ are in different peripheral cosets is bounded below by $|S_n| - \beta_P(\lfloor rn \rfloor)|S_n - \lfloor rn \rfloor|$.

From Corollary 4.3, $c\lambda^n \leq |S_n| \leq (8n^2 + 2)\lambda^n$ for all $n$ for some $\lambda > 1$ and $c > 0$. Hence, we see that
\[ E(G, S) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\sum_{x,y \in S_n} d(x, y)}{n \cdot |S_n|^2} \]
\[ \geq \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{2(n - rn) \cdot |S_n| \cdot (|S_n| - \beta_p([rn]) \cdot |S_n - [rn]|)}{n \cdot |S_n|^2} \]
\[ = \lim_{n \to \infty} 2(1 - r) - \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{2(1 - r)\beta_p([rn])|S_n - [rn]|}{|S_n|} \]
\[ \geq 2(1 - r) - 2(1 - r) \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{(4rn)^2(8n^2 + 2)\lambda^{n-[rn]}}{e\lambda^n} \]
\[ = 2(1 - r) - \frac{64r^2(1 - r)}{c} \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{(4n^4 + n^2)\lambda^{n-[rn]}}{\lambda^{[rn]}} \]
\[ = 2(1 - r) - \frac{64r^2(1 - r)}{c} \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{(4n^4 + n^2)}{\lambda^{[rn]}} \]

Since \( r \in (0, 1) \) was arbitrary, letting \( r \to 0 \) gives \( E(G, S) = 2 \). \qed
Chapter 5

Proof of the Main Theorem

We now wish to have a fixed setup for an arbitrary relatively hyperbolic group which we can utilize for the remainder of this work. Let \((G, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{P})\) denote a non-elementary relatively hyperbolic group \(G\) with finite generating set \(\mathcal{S}\) and a finite set of peripheral subgroups \(\mathcal{P}\). Let \(\beta_G(n)\) be the growth function for the entire group \(G\) defined as the number of elements \(g \in G\) such that the word length of \(g\), using the generating set \(\mathcal{S}\), is no more than \(n\). In other words, the growth function is the size of a ball of radius \(n\), or equivalently \(\beta_G(n) = |B(e, n)|\). Now consider the induced growth function of each \(P \in \mathcal{P}\), denoted as \(\beta_P(n)\), where we are continuing to use the word metric based on the generating set \(\mathcal{S}\). We define \(\beta_P(n) = \max_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \beta_P(n)\).

The growth rate of \(\beta_G(n)\) is defined to be \(\lambda_G = \lim_{n \to \infty} \sqrt[n]{\beta_G(n)}\) and the growth rate of \(\beta_P(n)\) is \(\lambda_P = \lim_{n \to \infty} \sqrt[n]{\beta_P(n)}\). Note that the preceding limits exist due to the submultiplicativity of the growth functions, as can be seen in Chapter VI, Section C of [dIH00].

**Definition 5.1.** \((G, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{P})\) has the parabolic gap property if \(\lambda_G > \lambda_P\).

**Theorem 5.2.** [Yan13] Given \((G, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{P})\), there exists \(C > 0\) such that

\[
\frac{1}{C} \lambda_G^n < \beta_G(n) < C \lambda_G^n \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0
\]

**Lemma 5.3.** [DS05b] Given \((G, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{P})\), for each \(L < \infty\) there is a constant \(K = \)
\( K(L) < \infty \) such that for any two peripheral cosets \( gP \neq g'P' \) we have

\[
\text{diam}(N_L(gP) \cap N_L(g'P')) < K
\]

with respect to the metric \( d_S \).

**Definition 5.4.** Let \((G, S)\) be a group with generating set \( S \). For a fixed \( x \in G \) and \( N \in \mathbb{N} \), we call the set \( \{ x' \in S_N | d(e, x') + d(x', x) = d(e, x) \} \) the \( N^{th} \) geodesic layer of \( x \), or simply the geodesic layer when \( N \) and \( x \) are understood. In other words, each \( x' \) in the geodesic layer lies on a geodesic between \( e \) and \( x \) at a distance \( N \) from \( e \).

After choosing \( r \in \mathbb{R} \) such that \( 0 < r < 1 \), we define \( A_x \) to be the \( \lfloor rn \rfloor^{th} \) geodesic layer of \( x \) for a given \( n \in \mathbb{N} \).

**Lemma 5.5.** Given \((G, S, P)\) and \( x \in G \), the geodesic layer \( A_x \) either is a bounded set, or \( A_x \) is within an \( L \)-neighborhood of a single peripheral coset \( gP \) for a fixed constant \( L \).

**Proof.** Let \( x \in G \) and choose a geodesic \( c \) from \( e \) to \( x \). Fix a constant \( L > 0 \). Let \( K \) be a constant for the given \( L \), so that for any pair of peripheral cosets \( gP \neq g'P' \) in \( G \), we have \( \text{diam}(N_L(gP) \cap N_L(g'P')) < K \) as in Lemma 5.3. Clearly, if \( \text{diam}(A_x) < K \) then \( A_x \) is a bounded set. However, if \( \text{diam}(A_x) \geq K \) then \( A_x \) must be within the \( L \)-neighborhood of a unique peripheral coset \( gP \), by our choice of \( K \). \( \square \)

**Definition 5.6.** [DS05a] Let \( G \) be a group and let \( \mathbb{P} \) be a finite set of subgroups in \( G \). Then \( G \) is \((*)\)-relatively hyperbolic with respect to \( \mathbb{P} \) if there exist a finite generating set \( S \) of \( G \), and two constants \( \sigma \) and \( \delta \) such that the following property holds.

\( (*) \) For every geodesic triangle \( ABC \) in the Cayley graph of \( G \) with respect to \( S \), there exists a coset \( gP \) such that the closed \( \sigma \)-neighborhood \( \overline{N}_\sigma(gP) \) intersects each of the sides of the triangle, and the entrance (and exit) points \( A_1, B_1, C_1 \) (and \( B_2, C_2, A_2 \)) of the sides \([A, B], [B, C], [C, A]\) in \( \overline{N}_\sigma(gP) \) satisfy

\[
d(A_1, A_2) < \delta, \quad d(B_1, B_2) < \delta, \quad d(C_1, C_2) < \delta
\]

as in Figure 5.1.
Lemma 5.7. [DS05a] Every group $G$ that is relatively hyperbolic with respect to a finite set of finitely generated subgroups $\mathcal{P}$ is also ($\ast$)-relatively hyperbolic with respect to $\mathcal{P}$.

Theorem 5.8 (Main Theorem). If $G$ is a non-elementary relatively hyperbolic group with finite generating set $S$ and a finite set of peripheral subgroups $\mathcal{P}$ having the parabolic gap property, then $G$ is statistically hyperbolic.

Proof. Using the assumption that $G$ has the parabolic gap property and Theorem 5.2, we will choose constants $\lambda > 1$, $C > 0$ and $C' > 0$ where $\frac{1}{C} \lambda_G^n < \beta_G(n) < C \lambda_G^n$ for all $n \geq 0$ and $\lambda_P < \lambda < \lambda_G$ such that $\beta_P(n) \leq C' \lambda^n$ holds for sufficiently large $n$ as described at the beginning of this chapter. Fix a value of $n \in \mathbb{N}$ so that the above inequalities hold. Choose $x \in S_n$ and $r \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $0 < r < 1$. Let $A_x = \{ x' \in S_{[rn]} \mid d(e, x') + d(x', x) = d(e, x) \}$ be the $[rn]$th geodesic layer of $x$. Fix a geodesic from $e$ to $x$ and let $x' \in [e, x] \cap A_x$. Consider any triangle $\Delta_{exy}$ having the chosen geodesic $[e, x]$ as one of its sides. We now use the setup from Definition 5.6 to have a peripheral coset $gP$ which lies in the “center” of $\Delta_{exy}$ and proceed to simplify our work by “thinning down” $\Delta_{exy}$ until it is nearly a tripod, as in Figure 5.2. In order to accomplish this, choose $u, v, w \in gP$ such that

Figure 5.1: A triangle which meets the conditions for ($\ast$)-relative hyperbolicity.
Figure 5.2: A triangle “thinned down” almost to a tripod.

$d(u, A_2) < \sigma$, $d(v, C_1) < \sigma$, and $d(w, B_2) < \sigma$. Then we know that $d(u, A_1) < \sigma + \delta$, $d(v, C_2) < \sigma + \delta$, and $d(w, B_1) < \sigma + \delta$. We will now show that when the geodesic $[e, x]$ is fixed in this way, then either $d(x, y)$ has a lower bound, or the number of choices for $y$ has an upper bound where $d(x, y)$ is not sufficient for our purposes here.

**Case 1: $\lfloor rn \rfloor \leq d(e, u)$.

We know by Definition 5.6 that $d(A_1, A_2) < \delta$. So, $d(A_1, e) \geq d(A_2, e) - \delta$ by the triangle inequality. Thus, $d(A_1, y) = d(e, y) - d(e, A_1) \leq n - d(A_2, e) + \delta$. We also see that $d(x', A_2) = d(A_2, e) - d(x', e) = d(A_2, e) - \lfloor rn \rfloor$. Thus, $d(x', y) \leq (d(A_2, e) - \lfloor rn \rfloor) + \delta + (n - d(A_2, e) + \delta) \leq n - \lfloor rn \rfloor + 2\delta$. Therefore, $y \in B_{n - \lfloor rn \rfloor + 2\delta}(x')$, so there is a bounded number of choices for $y$. Specifically, for $J$ equal to the number of choices for such a $y$, we see that

$$J \leq |A_x| \cdot |S_{n - \lfloor rn \rfloor + 2\delta}|$$

Further, we know from Lemma 5.5 that $A_x$ is either a bounded set or within an $L$-neighborhood of a unique peripheral coset. Choose a constant $L$ which satisfies Lemma 5.5. If $A_x$ is bounded, let $\text{diam}(A_x) = M$ for some constant $M \geq 0$. Then, we would have $|A_x| \leq \beta_G(M) \leq C\lambda_G^M$. Alternately, if $A_x$ is not bounded, then
it must be within an $L$-neighborhood of a single peripheral coset. In this case, $|A_x| \leq \beta_p([rn]) \cdot \beta_G(L) \leq C'\lambda^{[rn]} \cdot C\lambda_G^L$. For sufficiently large $n$, we observe that $C'\lambda^{[rn]} \cdot C\lambda_G^L > C\lambda_G^M$. Therefore, we find that

$$J \leq |A_x| \cdot |S_{n-[rn]+2\delta}|$$

$$\leq C C'\lambda^{[rn]} \cdot \lambda_G^L \cdot \left(\beta_G(n - [rn] + 2\delta) - \beta_G(n - [rn] + 2\delta - 1)\right)$$

$$\leq C C'\lambda^{[rn]} \cdot \lambda_G^{n-[rn]+2\delta-1} \left(C^2\lambda_G - 1\right)$$

Case 2: $d(e, u) < [rn] \leq d(e, u) + \min\{d(u, v), d(u, w)\}$.

Let $N$ be the number of peripheral cosets which intersect the ball $B_{2\sigma+2\delta}(x')$. Choose one of these $N$ cosets, $gP$. Notice that for each choice of $y$, and each choice of geodesic triangle $\Delta exy$ there are corresponding points $u, v, w$ as described above.

One might, at first, think that we could get a different point $u$ for each choice of $y$. However, $A_2$ is the point at which our chosen geodesic $[e, x]$ first enters the closed $\sigma$-neighborhood of $gP$, where $gP$ is one of the $N$ peripheral cosets intersecting the ball $B_{2\sigma+2\delta}(x')$. And $u$ is a point chosen arbitrarily from the ball $B_\sigma(A_2)$. Therefore, the number of choices for $u$ is at most $N$ times the size of the ball $B_\sigma(e)$.
We note that for \( y' \in A_y \), if \( y' \notin [A_1, B_2] \) but \( y' \in \{e, A_1\} \cup [B_2, y] \), then \( d(y', A_1) < \sigma + \delta \). Thus, \( d(y', gP) < 2\sigma + 2\delta \). However, if \( y' \in [A_1, B_2] \), then \( d(y', gP) < \sigma \). So, we can say that in any case, \( d(y', gP) < 2\sigma + 2\delta \). Let \( y'' \in gP \cap B_{[rn]} + 2\sigma + 2\delta(e) \). Then we see that \( d(u, y'') \leq d(u, A_1) + d(A_1, y') + d(y', y'') \leq \sigma + |rn| + 2\sigma + 2\delta = |rn| + 3\sigma + 3\delta \).

Thus, there is a bounded number of choices for such \( y'' \), which in turn gives us a bounded number of choices for \( y \). Specifically, for \( J \) equal to the number of choices for such a \( y \), we see that

\[
J \leq N \cdot \beta_G(\sigma) \cdot \beta_P(|rn| + 3\sigma + 3\delta) \cdot \beta_G(2\sigma + 2\delta) \cdot |S_{n-[rn]}|
\]

The above formulation is due to first choosing \( u \), then allowing \( y'' \) to be any point in the same peripheral coset within the requisite radius, then choosing any point \( y' \) within a radius \( 2\sigma + 2\delta \) of \( y'' \), followed by any point \( y \) on the sphere centered at \( y' \) with radius \( n - |rn| \). Further, we find that

\[
J \leq N \cdot \beta_G(\sigma) \cdot \beta_P(|rn| + 3\sigma + 3\delta) \cdot \beta_G(2\sigma + 2\delta) \cdot |S_{n-[rn]}| \\
\leq N \cdot C\lambda_G^n \cdot C'\lambda^{[rn] + 3\sigma + 3\delta} \cdot C\lambda_G^{2\sigma + 2\delta} \cdot (\beta_G(n - |rn|) - \beta_G(n - |rn| - 1)) \\
\leq N \cdot C\lambda_G^n \cdot C'\lambda^{[rn] + 3\sigma + 3\delta} \cdot C\lambda_G^{2\sigma + 2\delta} \cdot \left( C\lambda_G^{n-[rn]} - \frac{1}{C}\lambda_G^{n-[rn]-1} \right) \\
\leq N \cdot C \cdot C'\lambda^{[rn] + 3\sigma + 3\delta} \cdot \lambda_G^{n+3\sigma+2\delta-[rn]-1} \cdot (C^2\lambda_G - 1)
\]

**Case 3:** \( |rn| > d(e, u) + \min\{d(u, v), d(u, w)\} \).

In this case, at least one of \( v, w \) lies in \( B_{[rn]}(e) \). Without loss of generality, assume \( v \in B_{[rn]}(e) \). From above, \( d(v, C_2) < \sigma + \delta \). Thus, in this case,

\[
d(x, y) = d(x, C_2) + d(C_2, y) \\
\geq d(x, v) - d(v, C_2) + d(v, y) - d(v, C_2) \\
\geq (n - |rn|) - (\sigma + \delta) + (n - |rn|) - (\sigma + \delta) \\
\geq 2(n - rn - \sigma - \delta)
\]

So now we have established that either \( d(x, y) \) has a lower bound as in Case 3, or the number of choices for \( y \) has an upper bound as in Cases 1 and 2. To simplify our notation a bit, we will combine the results of Cases 1 and 2 in the following way.
Let $K$ be a constant so that $\geq 2N \cdot C \cdot C' \lambda^{3\sigma+3\delta} \cdot \lambda_G^{3\sigma+2\delta+1} \cdot (C^2 \lambda_G - 1)$. Then we observe that

$$J \leq K \cdot \lambda^{|rn|} \cdot \lambda_G^{n-|rn|}$$

Now when we calculate the sprawl, we will leave out all the choices for $y$ for which we did not observe a lower bound on $d(x, y)$. Thus, we have $|S_n|$ choices for $x \in S_n$ and $|S_n| - J$ choices for a corresponding $y \in S_n$ so that the distance from Case 3 above is satisfied. Hence,

$$E(G, S) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\sum_{x,y \in S_n} d(x, y)}{n \cdot |S_n|^2}$$

$$\geq \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{2(n - rn - \sigma - \delta) \cdot |S_n| \cdot (|S_n| - J)}{n \cdot |S_n|^2}$$

$$\geq \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{2(1 - r - \sigma/n - \delta/n) \cdot \left(|S_n| - K \cdot \lambda^{|rn|} \cdot \lambda_G^{n-|rn|}\right)}{|S_n|}$$

$$= \left(\lim_{n \to \infty} 2(1 - r - \sigma/n - \delta/n)\right) \left(\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{|S_n| - K \cdot \lambda^{|rn|} \cdot \lambda_G^{n-|rn|}}{|S_n|}\right)$$

$$= 2(1 - r) \cdot \lim_{n \to \infty} \left(1 - \frac{K \cdot \lambda^{|rn|} \cdot \lambda_G^{n-|rn|}}{|S_n|}\right)$$

$$= 2(1 - r) - 2K(1 - r) \cdot \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\lambda^{|rn|} \cdot \lambda_G^{n-|rn|}}{\beta_G(n) - \beta_G(n - 1)}$$

$$\geq 2(1 - r) - 2K(1 - r) \cdot \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\lambda^{|rn|} \cdot \lambda_G^{n-|rn|}}{C \lambda_G - 1}$$

$$= 2(1 - r) - 2K(1 - r) \cdot \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\lambda^{|rn|} \cdot \lambda_G^{n-|rn|}}{\lambda_G^C \cdot (C - 1/\lambda_G^C)}$$

$$= 2(1 - r) - \frac{2K(1 - r)}{C - 1/\lambda_G^C} \cdot \lim_{n \to \infty} \left(\frac{\lambda}{\lambda_G}\right)^{|rn|}$$

The final line above is due to the assumption that $G$ has the parabolic gap property and our choice of $\lambda$, which gives us that $\lambda < \lambda_G$. Finally, since $r \in (0, 1)$
was arbitrary, letting $r \to 0$ gives $E(G,S) = 2$. 

So, in conclusion, we now observe that statistical hyperbolicity is a generalization of relative hyperbolicity, assuming the group in question is non-elementary and has the parabolic gap property.
Bibliography


Jeremy A. Osborne

Personal Statement

I am an excellent mathematics instructor who consistently receives outstanding teaching reviews from students, peers, and administrators. I am well-qualified for the position at your institution, both through my teaching experience and educational background. If hired, I would be an asset to the school and community in which the school is located.

Education

2008-2014 University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI)
○ Earned Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics
○ Achieved 3.8 GPA Overall
○ Recipient of GAANN Fellowship for five years (funded by U.S. Department of Education)

2012 Oregon State University (Corvallis, OR)
○ Attended a three-day workshop on Geometric Topology

2006-2007 Truman State University (Kirksville, MO)
○ Attended an interdisciplinary curriculum retreat (Topic: Incorporating Research into Undergraduate Curricula)
○ Participated in ten-week summer research program (funded by the National Science Foundation) during which I researched Integer Sequences (Fibonacci, Lucas, and Lucas-like sequences), wrote several enrichment projects for College Algebra students, began writing a College Algebra text, developed proficiency with LaTeX software, and developed familiarity with Mathematica software

2005 University of Central Oklahoma (Edmond, OK)
○ Attended a two-day conference on Cryptology
2001-2004 *Missouri State University* (Springfield, MO)
- Earned Master of Science in Mathematics
- Achieved 4.0 GPA Overall

1996-2001 *Evangel University* (Springfield, MO)
- Earned Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
- Completed Minor in Physics
- Achieved 3.5 GPA Overall (3.9 GPA in Mathematics courses)
- Member of Kappa Mu Epsilon National Mathematics Honor Society
- Member of Evangel University Math Club (President for one year)

**Teaching Experience**

2008-2014 **Teaching Assistant** at the *University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee* (Milwaukee, WI)
- Courses taught:
  - Intermediate Algebra
  - Beginning/Intermediate Algebra (using ALEKS computer program)
  - Contemporary Mathematics (as a course assistant)
  - College Algebra
  - Trigonometry
  - Elementary Statistics
  - Calculus I
- Other: held office hours; tutored undergraduate mathematics
- Received “First Year Student Success Award” for dedication to the academic success of first year students

2004-2008 **Assistant Professor** at *Moberly Area Community College* (Kirksville, MO)
- Courses taught:
- Fundamentals of Algebra
- Intermediate Algebra (including several internet-television courses)
- College Algebra (including several internet-television courses)
- Dual-credit College Algebra (all internet-television courses)
- Trigonometry
- Elementary Statistics (including one internet-television course)
- Calculus I

○ Other: held office hours; carried out student advising; attended Department and Faculty Meetings; member of Faculty Forum; mentored a new faculty member; member of President’s Faculty and Staff Advisory Council; member of Wellness Committee

2002-2004 Adjunct Instructor at Ozarks Technical Community College (Springfield, MO)

○ Courses taught:
  - Intermediate Algebra
  - College Algebra
  - Trigonometry

○ Other: held office hours; assisted in writing department core final exams for Intermediate Algebra

2001-2003 Graduate Assistant at Missouri State University (Springfield, MO)

○ Taught Intermediate Algebra

○ Other: held office hours; tutored Intermediate and College Algebra

Other Work Experience

2003-2004 Math Tutor at Bellwether Learning Center (Springfield, MO)

○ Tutored Basic, Intermediate, and College Algebra as well as Geometry
○ Prepared students for the Math and Science Reasoning portions of ACT
○ Prepared students for the Math portion of other standardized tests (GMAT, etc.)

1998-2001  **OSP Technician** at *Stine Consulting* (Dillsburg, PA)
○ Worked as crew leader of survey team (diagramming telecommunications)
○ Developed proficiency in spreadsheets, word processors, and file management
○ Developed familiarity with AutoCAD software
○ Assisted in troubleshooting in-house software development

**Technological Skills**

**Computer Software**
○ Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
○ Open Office
○ ALEKS
○ MathType
○ TI-interactive
○ LaTeX
○ Mathematica
○ AutoCAD

**Computer Hardware**
○ Install external devices such as printers, scanners, etc.
○ Install internal devices such ROM drives, hard drives, sound/video cards, RAM, etc.

**Calculators**
○ Proficient in using all Texas Instruments calculators, including writing programs for the TI-92 and TI-89
○ Proficient in using all Casio calculators
Personal Interests

- Church involvement (children’s ministries, music, audio/visual technology)
- Playing piano, guitar and singing
- Reading
- Baseball
- Computers