The Geometry and Arithmetic of Sphere Packings

Alex Kontorovich

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Apollonian Circle Packings

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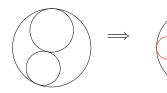
$\begin{array}{c} \mbox{Apollonian Circle Packings} \\ \mbox{Thm: (Apollonius, $\sim 200 \ BCE)} \end{array}$



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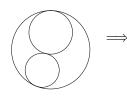
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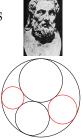


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(Proof by Viète, ~ 1600)

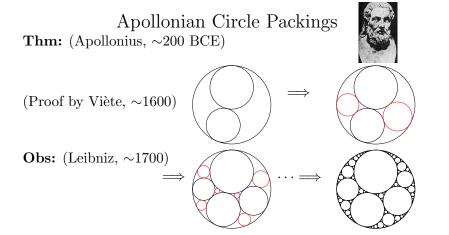




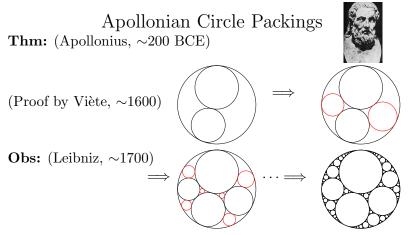
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Apollonian Circle Packings **Thm:** (Apollonius, ~ 200 BCE) (Proof by Viète, ~ 1600) **Obs:** (Leibniz, ~1700)

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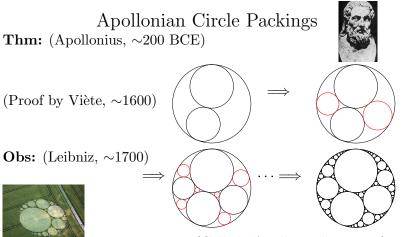


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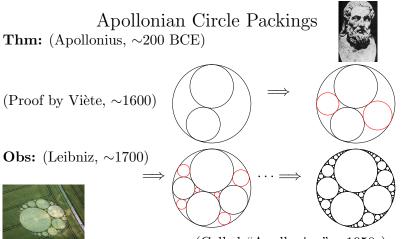


(Called "Apollonian" ~ 1950 s)

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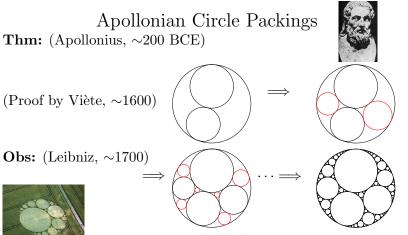
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First Question: What is the typical circle size?

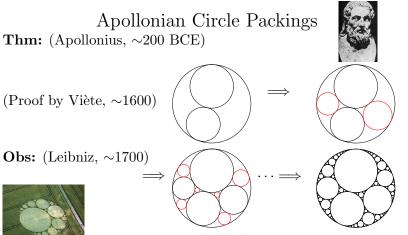


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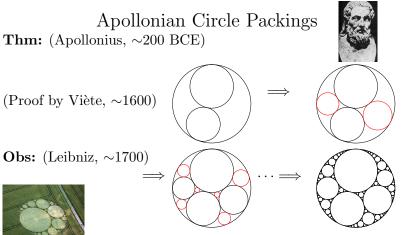
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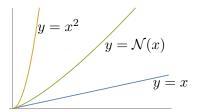
Set $\kappa = 1/r$, so that

$$\mathcal{N}(X) = \#\{C \in \mathcal{P} : \kappa(C) < X\}.$$

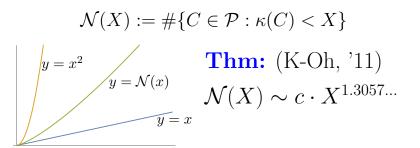
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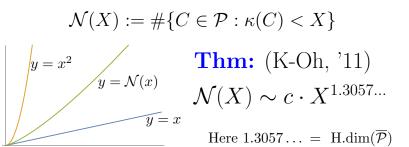
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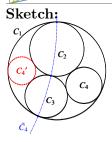
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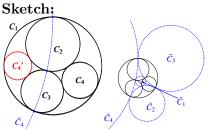
 $\mathcal{N}(X) := \#\{C \in \mathcal{P} : \kappa(C) < X\}$ **Thm:** (K-Oh, '11) $y = x^{2}$ $y = \mathcal{N}(x)$ $\mathcal{N}(X) \sim c \cdot X^{1.3057\ldots}$ y = x

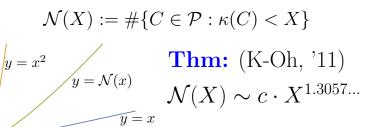
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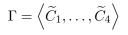


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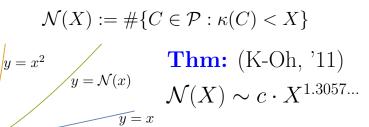






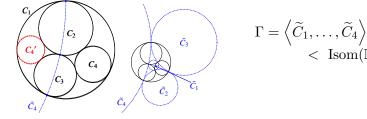
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Sketch: C_1 C_2 C_4 C_4 C_5 C_1 C_2 C_1 C_2 C_2 C_1 C_2 C_2 C_1 C_2 C_1 C_2 C_2 C_2 C_2 C_1 C_2 C_2 C_2

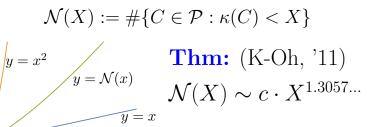


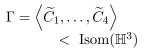
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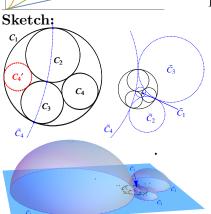


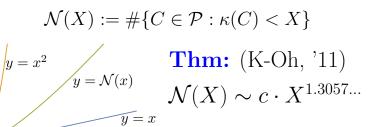
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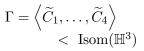




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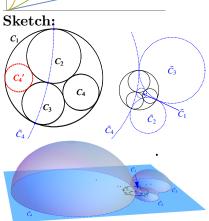


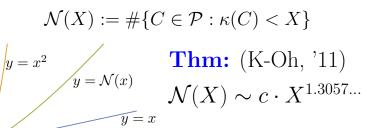


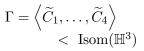


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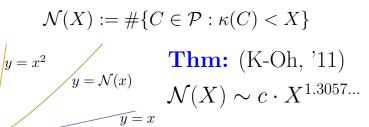


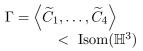


limit set of $\Gamma = \overline{\mathcal{P}}$

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Sketch: C_2 \tilde{C}_3 *C*₄′ C_4 C_3 Ĉ, \tilde{C}_2 Ĉ₄

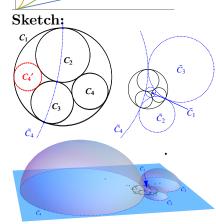


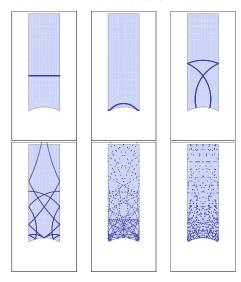


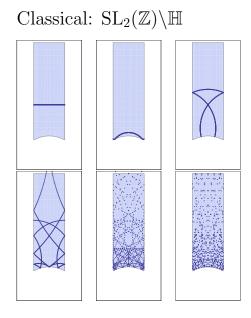
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Key: Equidistribution of low-lying horospheres

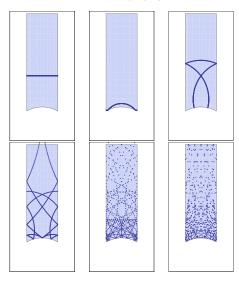
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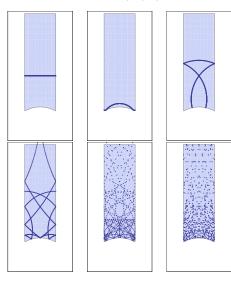


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Note:
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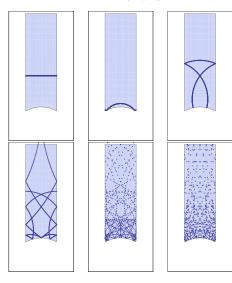


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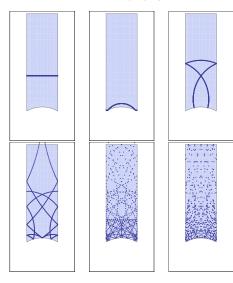
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Thm (Sarnak '81):



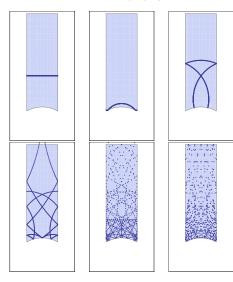
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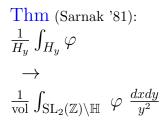
Thm (Sarnak '81): $\frac{1}{H_y} \int_{H_y} \varphi$



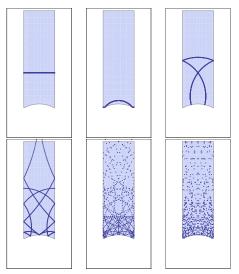
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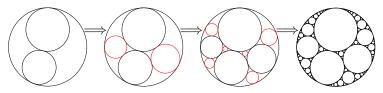
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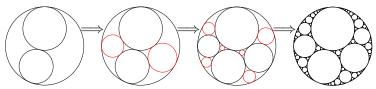
Thm (Sarnak '81): $\frac{1}{H_y} \int_{H_y} \varphi$ \rightarrow $\frac{1}{\text{vol}} \int_{\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \setminus \mathbb{H}} \varphi \frac{dxdy}{y^2}$

Analogue of this to our setting is used to prove $\mathcal{N}(X) = \#\{C \in \mathcal{P} : \kappa(C) < X\}_{\text{constraints}} \sim c \cdot X^{1.3057...}_{\text{constraints}}$

Leibniz:



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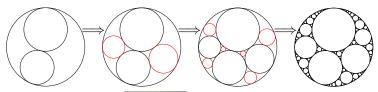


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Soddy (1936):



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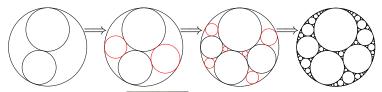


Soddy (1936):



Study the "bends" $\kappa = 1/r!$

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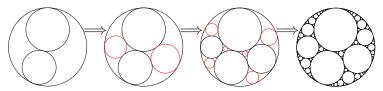
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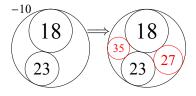


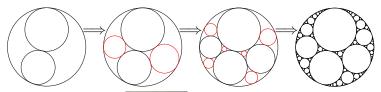
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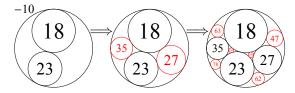




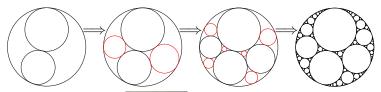
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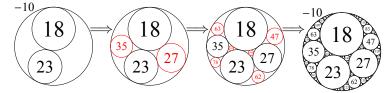
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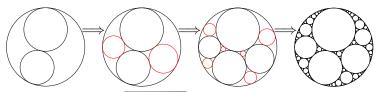


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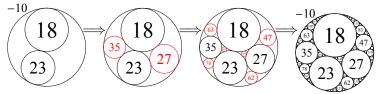




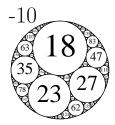
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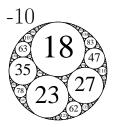


Integral Apollonian Circle Packings

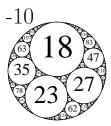




How could this be?



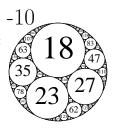
How could this be? Soddy had rediscovered: Thm: (Descartes ~ 1650)

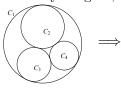


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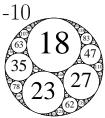
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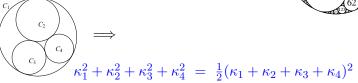
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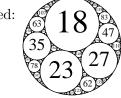




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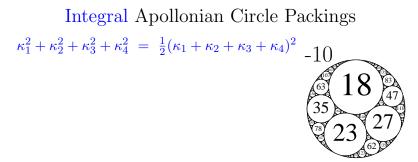
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 $\kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 + \kappa_3^2 + \kappa_4^2 = \frac{1}{2}(\kappa_1 + \kappa_2 + \kappa_3 + \kappa_4)^2$

Four circles to the kissing come. The smaller are the bender. The bend is just the inverse of The distance from the center. Though their intrigue left Euclid dumb There's now no need for rule of thumb. Since zero bend's a dead straight line And concave bends have minus sign, The sum of the squares of all four bends Is half the square of their sum.

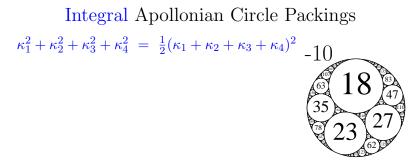
F. Soddy, *Nature* (1936).

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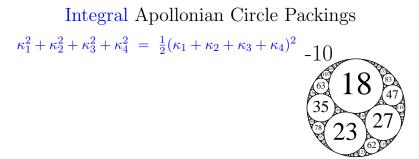
Cor: Given $\kappa_1, \kappa_2, \kappa_3$,





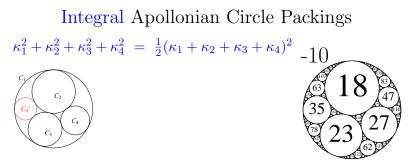
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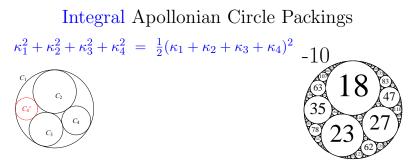
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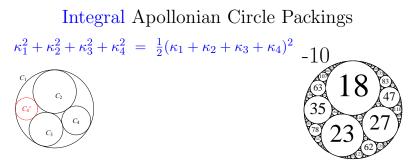
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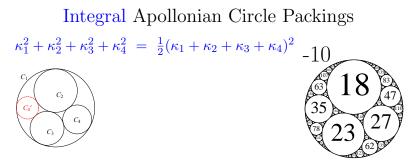
Exercise: $\kappa'_4 = 2(\kappa_1 + \kappa_2 + \kappa_3) - \kappa_4$.



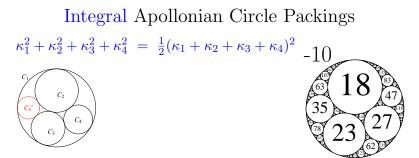
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Exercise: $\kappa'_4 = 2(\kappa_1 + \kappa_2 + \kappa_3) - \kappa_4$. (Viète involution)

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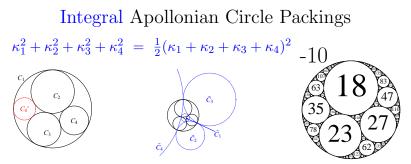
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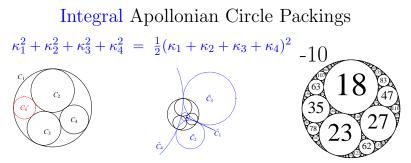
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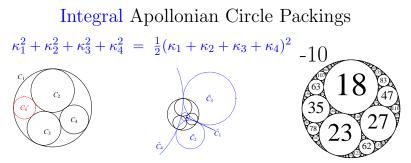


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 \implies (Soddy) If $\kappa_1, \kappa_2, \kappa_3, \kappa_4$ all integral,



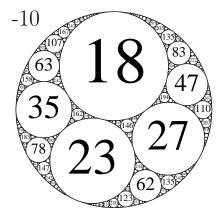
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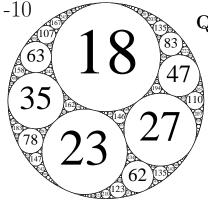
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 $\implies (\text{Soddy}) \text{ If } \kappa_1, \kappa_2, \kappa_3, \kappa_4 \text{ all integral,} \\ \text{then so are } all \text{ curvatures!}$

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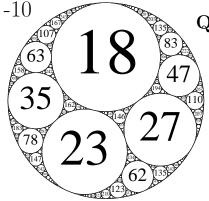
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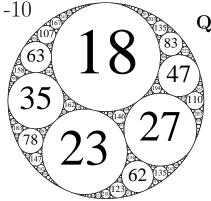
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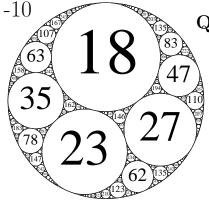


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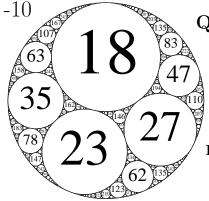


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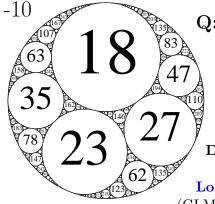
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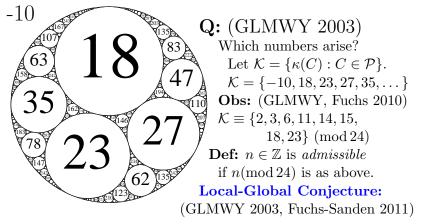
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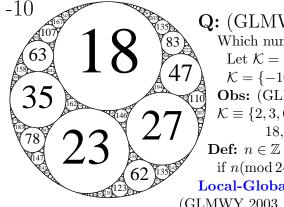


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Every sufficiently large admissible integer arises in \mathcal{K} .

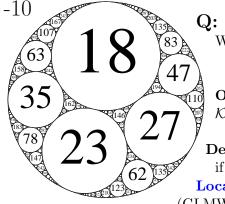


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Thm: (Bourgain-K, 2014) Almost all admissible numbers arise.

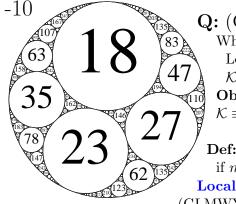


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Thm: (Bourgain-K, 2014) Almost all admissible numbers arise. $\frac{\#\mathcal{K}\cap[1,X]}{\#admissibles\cap[1,X]} \to 1.$ Builds on GLMWY, Sarnak '07, Fuchs '10, Bourgain-Fuchs '11

Sketch: $\frac{\#\mathcal{K}\cap[1,X]}{\#admissibles\cap[1,X]} \to 1.$

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First: Why *should* every (large) admissible number arise?

Sketch:
$$\frac{\#\mathcal{K}\cap[1,X]}{\#admissibles\cap[1,X]} \to 1.$$

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Proof Sketch: Use the Circle Method to prove that the multiplicity is

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Proof Sketch: Use the Circle Method to prove that the multiplicity is *on average* as large as it should be.

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Tools: Expander graphs, Bilinear Forms, Equidistribution in Cosets, Exponential Sums,...

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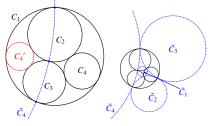
All "old" news...

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- Descartes' Theorem: $\kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 + \kappa_3^2 + \kappa_4^2 = \frac{1}{2}(\kappa_1 + \kappa_2 + \kappa_3 + \kappa_4)^2$

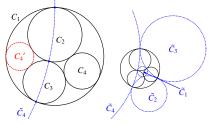
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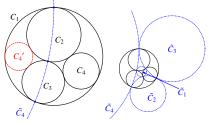


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What is the general setting for this problem?



Def: A packing \mathcal{P} of $\widehat{\mathbb{R}^n} := \mathbb{R}^n \cup \{\infty\}$ is a collection of *oriented* (n-1)-spheres

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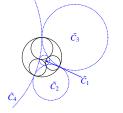
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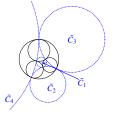
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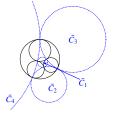


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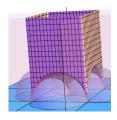
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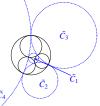
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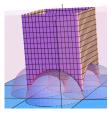
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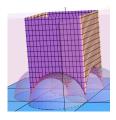
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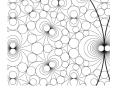
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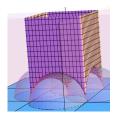


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Problem: Classify all (super-)integral Γ-packings. SuperPAC: (Super-Integral Packing Arithmeticity Conjecture:) (K-Nakamura 2016)

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Corollary: SuperPAC \implies essentially only finitely many super-integral Γ -packings.

Examples of (super-)integral Γ -packings

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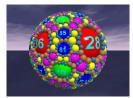






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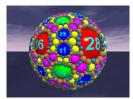




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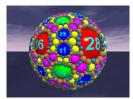




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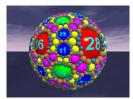


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So most interesting/available/difficult setting for examples is n = 2, i.e., circle packings, ◆□ → ◆□ → ◆ □ → ◆ □ → ◆ □ → ◆ ○ ◆







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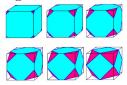
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So most interesting/available/difficult setting for examples is n = 2, i.e., circle packings, thanks to Koebe-Andreev-Thurston.

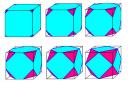
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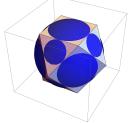
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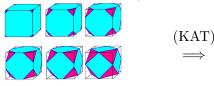


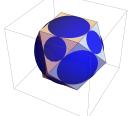
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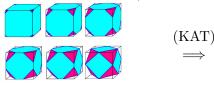


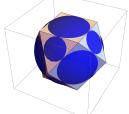


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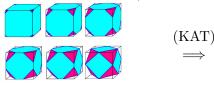


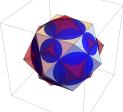


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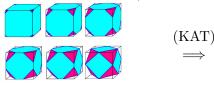


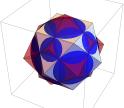


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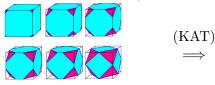
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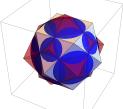




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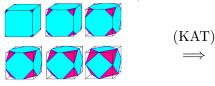


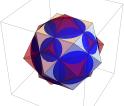


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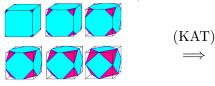
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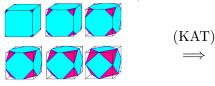


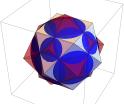


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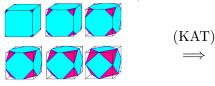
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Theorem (K-Nakamura '16):

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Theorem (K-Nakamura '16): The following is a complete list of integral convex polyhedra:

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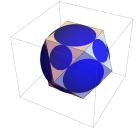
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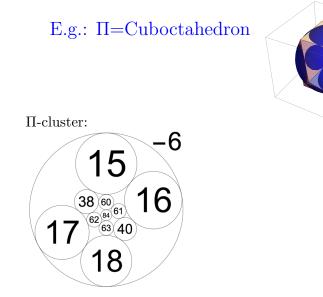
Moreover, the dual is integral (golden/silver) iff the polyhed is. So: rhombic dodecahedron, triakis tetrahedron, tetrakis hexahedron (Catalan solids), and 3-/4-/6-bipyramids and 3-trapezohedra are all integral.

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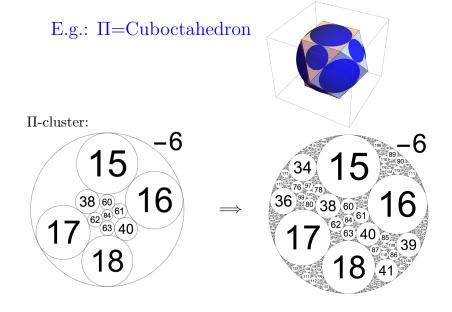
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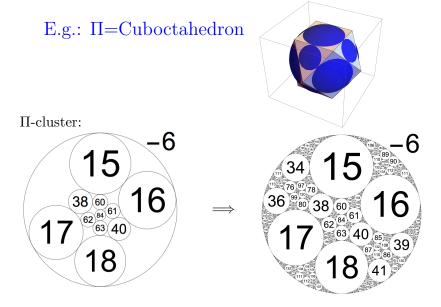


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thm: For all known integral $\mathcal{P}(\Pi), \frac{\#\{\text{bends} < X\}}{\#\{\text{admissible} < X\}} \to 1$

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