

On the local–global conjecture for 3-dimensional Kleinian sphere packings

Edna Jones

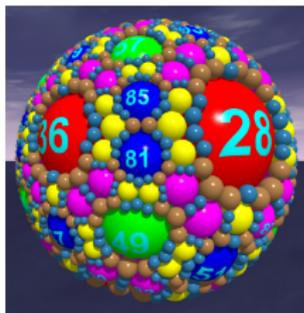
Tulane University

Algebra and Number Theory Seminar

Pennsylvania State University

October 21, 2025

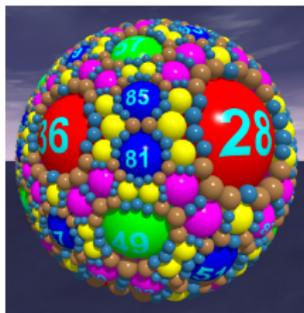
Kleinian sphere packings and the integers



Label on sphere:
 $\text{bend} = 1/(\text{signed radius})$



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All of the bends of spheres in these (Kleinian) sphere packing are integers.



Soddy sphere packings: The construction

Given four pairwise tangent spheres with disjoint points of tangency, there are exactly two spheres tangent to the given ones.

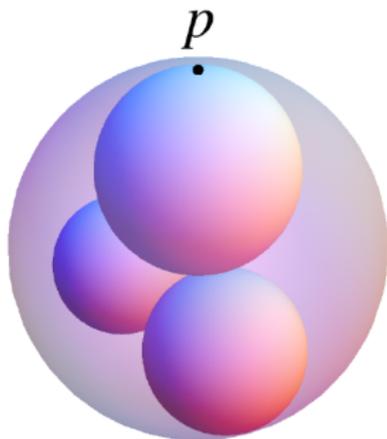


Figure: Four pairwise tangent spheres.

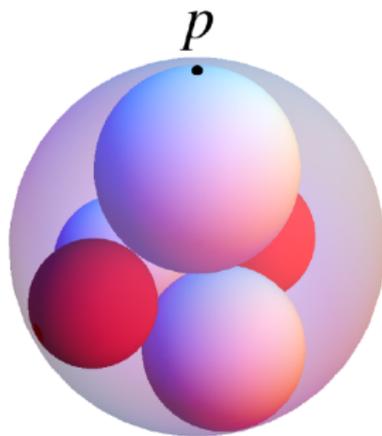


Figure: Four pairwise tangent spheres with two additional tangent spheres.

Soddy sphere packings: The construction

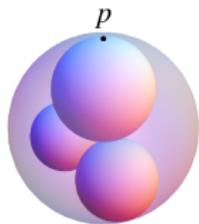


Figure: Four
pairwise
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Soddy sphere packings: The construction

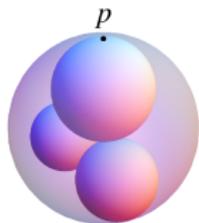


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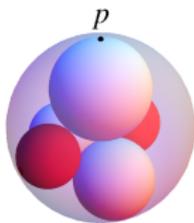


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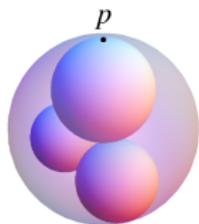


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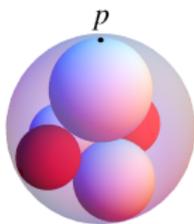


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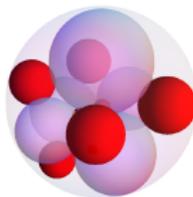


Figure: More tangent spheres.

Soddy sphere packings: The construction

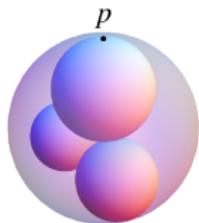


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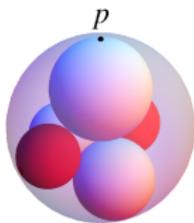


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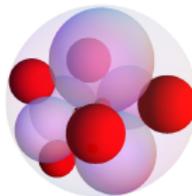


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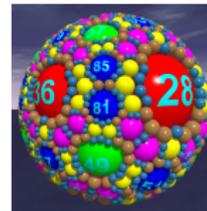


Figure: A Soddy sphere packing.

Soddy sphere packings and the integers

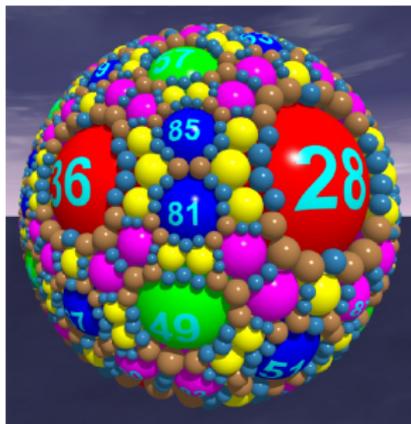


Figure: An integral Soddy sphere packing. Image by Nicolas Hannachi.

Label on sphere:

$$\text{bend} = 1/(\text{signed radius})$$

All of the bends of spheres in this Soddy sphere packing are integers.

Soddy sphere packings and the integers

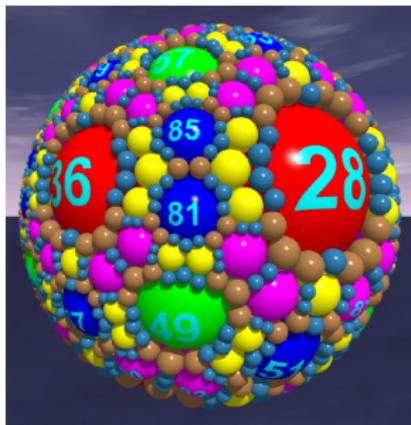


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Which integers appear as bends?

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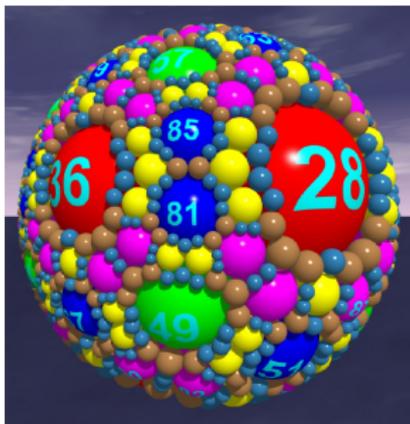


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$$\text{bend} = 1/(\text{signed radius})$$

All of the bends of spheres in this Soddy sphere packing are integers.

Which integers appear as bends?

Are there any congruence or local obstructions?

Definition (Admissible integers for Soddy sphere packings)

Let \mathcal{P} be an integral Soddy sphere packing.

An integer m is **admissible (or locally represented)** if for every $q \geq 1$

$$m \equiv \text{bend of some sphere in } \mathcal{P} \pmod{q}.$$

Equivalently, m is admissible if m has no local obstructions.

Admissible integers

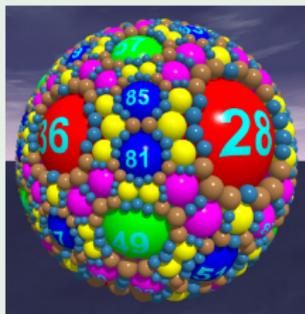
Theorem (Kontorovich, 2019)

m is admissible in a primitive integral Soddy sphere packing \mathcal{P} if and only if

$$m \equiv 0 \text{ or } \varepsilon(\mathcal{P}) \pmod{3},$$

where $\varepsilon(\mathcal{P}) \in \{\pm 1\}$ depends only on the packing.

Example



m is admissible \iff
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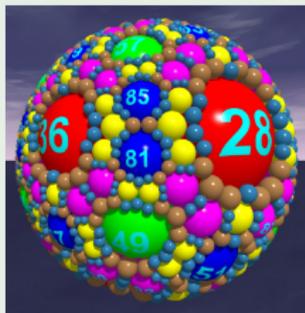
The (strong asymptotic) local–global theorem for Soddy sphere packings

Theorem (Kontorovich, 2019)

The bends of a fixed primitive integral Soddy sphere packing \mathcal{P} satisfy a (strong asymptotic) local–global principle.

That is, there is an $N_0 = N_0(\mathcal{P})$ so that, if $m > N_0$ and m is admissible, then m is the bend of a sphere in the packing.

Example



If $m \equiv 0$ or $1 \pmod{3}$ and m is sufficiently large, then m is the bend of a sphere in the packing.

Proof outline for Soddy sphere packing result

- 1 Show that the automorphism/symmetry group of the Soddy sphere packing contains a congruence subgroup of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}[e^{\pi i/3}])$, and this congruence subgroup maps a particular sphere to itself. This implies that the set of bends contains “primitive” values of a quaternary quadratic polynomial.

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- 2 The quaternary quadratic polynomial gives you enough to work with so that you can quote the result of the circle method to give an asymptotic formula involving a singular series.

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- 2 The quaternary quadratic polynomial gives you enough to work with so that you can quote the result of the circle method to give an asymptotic formula involving a singular series.
- 3 Show that the singular series (with the primitivity restriction) is bounded away from zero when m is admissible.

Congruence subgroup of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathcal{O}_K)$

Definition (Principal congruence subgroup of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathcal{O}_K)$)

For an imaginary quadratic field K , a **principal congruence subgroup** of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathcal{O}_K)$ is a subgroup of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathcal{O}_K)$ of the form

$$\Lambda(\varrho) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathcal{O}_K) : \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \pmod{\varrho} \right\}$$

for a fixed element ϱ of \mathcal{O}_K .

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for a fixed element ϱ of \mathcal{O}_K .

Example (Soddy sphere packing, Kontorovich, 2019)

There exists a sphere $S_0 \in \mathcal{P}$ such that the stabilizer of S_0 in Γ contains (up to conjugacy) the congruence subgroup

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathcal{O}) : b, c \equiv 0 \pmod{\varrho} \right\} \supset \Lambda(\varrho),$$

where $\mathcal{O} = \mathbb{Z}[e^{\pi i/3}]$ and $\varrho = 1 + e^{\pi i/3}$.

Kleinian sphere packings

Definition (Kleinian sphere packing)

An $(n - 1)$ -sphere packing \mathcal{P} is **Kleinian** if its limit set is that of a geometrically finite group $\Gamma < \text{Isom}(\mathcal{H}^{n+1})$.

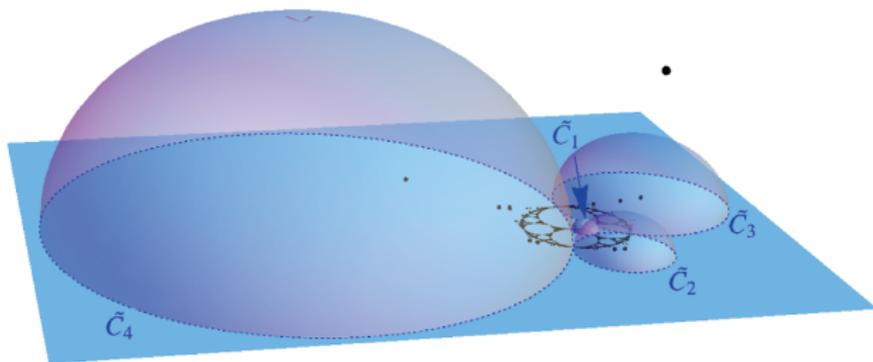


Figure: Apollonian circle packing as the limit set of Γ . Image by Alex Kontorovich.

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- Action of $\text{Isom}(\mathcal{H}^{n+1})$ extends continuously to $\widehat{\mathbb{R}^n} = \mathbb{R}^n \cup \{\infty\}$, the boundary of \mathcal{H}^{n+1} .
- Γ stabilizes \mathcal{P} (i.e., Γ maps \mathcal{P} to itself).
- Γ is a thin group.

Examples of integral Kleinian sphere packings

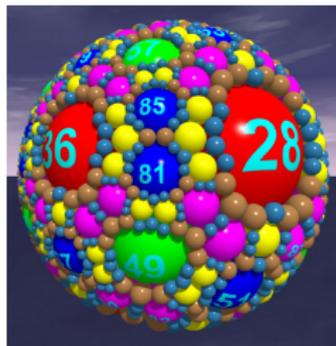


Figure: An integral Soddy sphere packing. Image by Nicolas Hannachi.

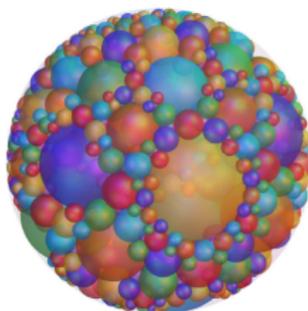


Figure: An integral Kleinian (more specifically, an orthoplicial) sphere packing. Image by Kei Nakamura.

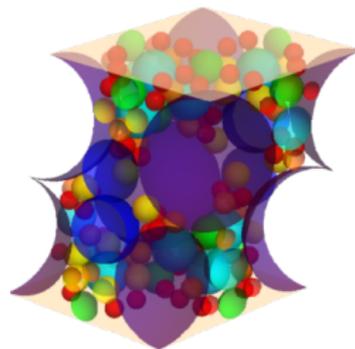


Figure: A fundamental domain of an integral Kleinian sphere packing. Image by Arseniy (Senia) Sheydvasser.

(Strong asymptotic) local–global principles

Goal: Prove (strong asymptotic) local–global principles for certain integral Kleinian sphere packings, that is, prove:

If m is admissible and sufficiently large, then m is the bend of an $(n - 1)$ -sphere in the packing.

Definition (Admissible integers)

Let \mathcal{P} be an integral Kleinian sphere packing.

An integer m is **admissible (or locally represented)** if for every $q \geq 1$

$$m \equiv \text{bend of some } (n - 1)\text{-sphere in } \mathcal{P} \pmod{q}.$$

Why should we have (strong asymptotic) local–global principles?

Theorem (Kim, 2015)

Let \mathcal{P} be a Kleinian $(n - 1)$ -sphere packing with $n \geq 2$. The number of spheres in \mathcal{P} with bend at most N (counted with multiplicity) is asymptotically equal to a constant times N^δ , where $\delta =$ the Hausdorff dimension of the closure of \mathcal{P} .

For $n \geq 3$,

$$\delta > n - 1 \geq 2.$$

Thus, we would expect that the multiplicity of a given admissible bend up to N is roughly $N^{\delta-1} \gg N$, so we should expect that every sufficiently large admissible number to be represented.

Progress towards (strong asymptotic) local–global conjectures for Kleinian sphere packings

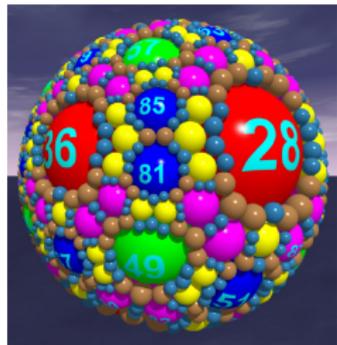


Figure: (Strong asymptotic) local–global principle proven for Soddy sphere packings by Alex Kontorovich in 2019 (arXiv 2012).

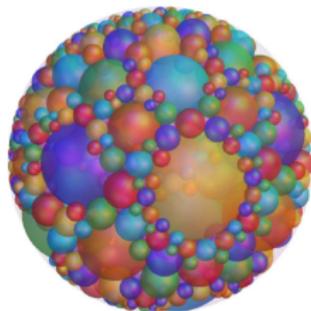
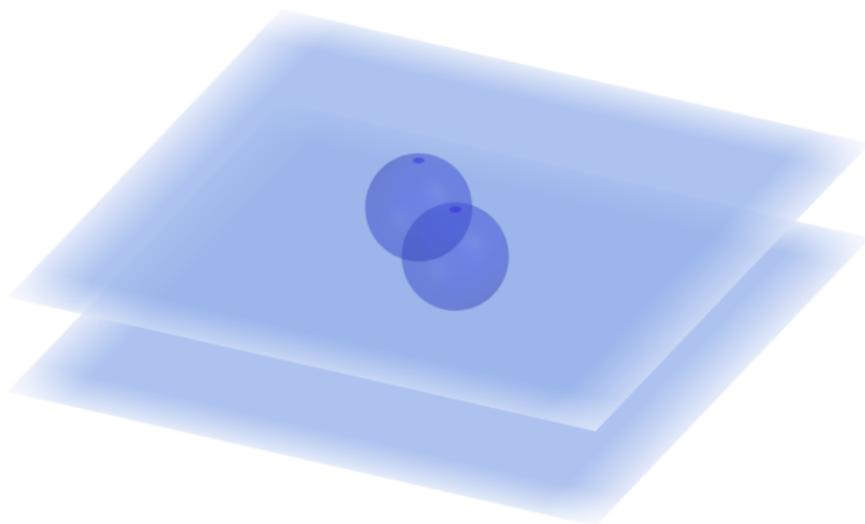


Figure: Partial local–global results for orthoplicial sphere packings independently proven by Kei Nakamura (arXiv 2014) and Dimitri Dias (arXiv 2014). I am also working on this.

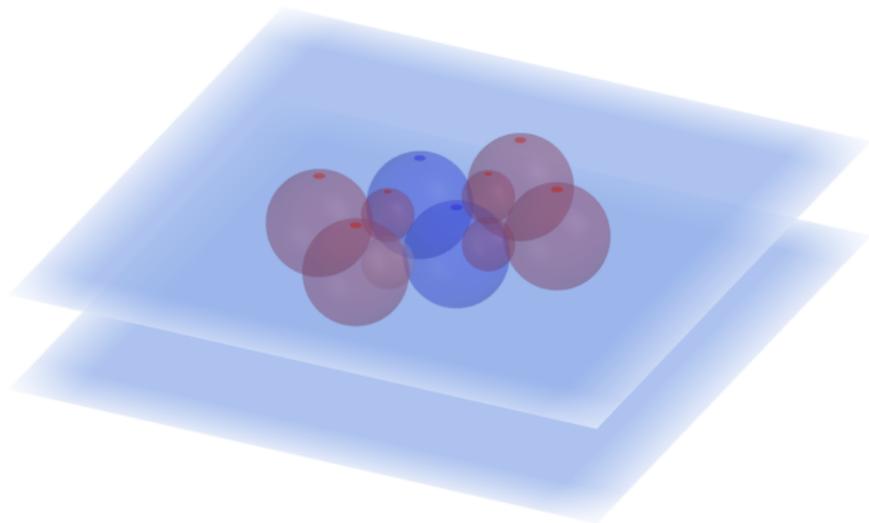
Orthoptical sphere packings: The construction

Given four pairwise tangent spheres, there are exactly two ways to inscribe four pairwise tangent spheres such that each inscribed sphere is tangent to exactly three of the original spheres.



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Figure: An orthoptical sphere octuple.

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Figure: An orthoptical sphere octuple.



Figure: Adding more spheres.

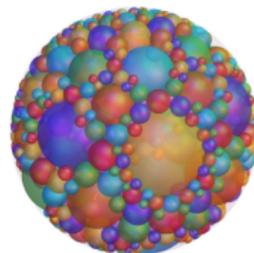


Figure: An integral orthoptical sphere packing.

Orthoplicial sphere packings

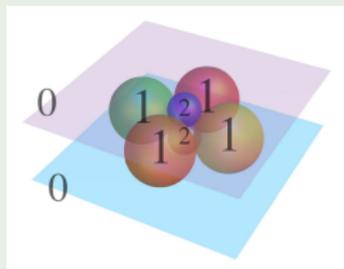
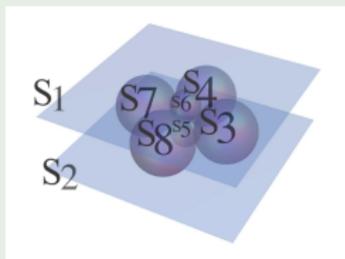
For $1 \leq j \leq 8$, let S_j be spheres in an integral orthoplicial octuple such that S_j and S_k are tangent if $j \not\equiv k \pmod{4}$.

Let b_j be the bend of S_j .

$$b_1 + b_5 = b_2 + b_6 = b_3 + b_7 = b_4 + b_8 = 2\mu_{\mathbf{b}},$$

where $\mu_{\mathbf{b}} \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Example



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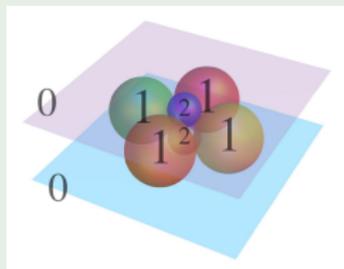
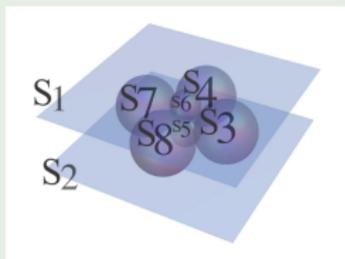
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Example



$$\begin{aligned} 0 + 2 &= 0 + 2 \\ &= 1 + 1 \\ &= 1 + 1 \\ &= 2 \cdot 1 \end{aligned}$$

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where $\mu_{\mathbf{b}} \in \mathbb{Z}$.

\implies We just need b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4 , and $\mu_{\mathbf{b}}$ to obtain all the bends in an orthoplicial octuple.

(S_1, S_2, S_3 , and S_4 are pairwise tangent.)

A congruence restriction for orthoplicial sphere packings

Theorem (Nakamura, 2014; Dias, 2014)

For a primitive integral orthoplicial sphere packing \mathcal{P} , there exists $\varepsilon(\mathcal{P}) \in \{\pm 1\}$ such that the bend b of any sphere in \mathcal{P} satisfies

$$b \equiv 0, 2, \text{ or } \varepsilon(\mathcal{P}) \pmod{4}.$$

Example



Every bend in this packing is congruent to 0, 1, or 2 (mod 4).

Partial local–global principle for orthoplicial sphere packings

Theorem (Dias, 2014)

Let b_1 and b_2 be the bends of two tangent spheres in a primitive integral orthoplicial sphere packing \mathcal{P} such that b_1 is nonzero and even and b_2 is odd.

Every sufficiently large integer m that satisfies $\gcd(m, b_1) = 1$ is the bend of a sphere in \mathcal{P} if and only if $m \equiv b_2 \pmod{4}$.

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Theorem (J., 2025+)

Let b_1 and b_2 be the bends of two tangent spheres in a primitive integral orthoplicial sphere packing \mathcal{P} such that $b_1 + b_2$ is odd and $b_1 \neq 0$.

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Corollary (J., 2025+)

The bends of a fixed primitive integral orthoptical sphere packing \mathcal{P} satisfy a (strong asymptotic) local–global principle.

That is, there is an $N_0 = N_0(\mathcal{P})$ so that, if $m > N_0$ and m is admissible, then m is the bend of a sphere in the packing.

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Example



In this orthoptical sphere packing, every sufficiently large $m \equiv 0, 1, \text{ or } 2 \pmod{4}$ is the bend of a sphere in this packing.

Local–global principle for orthoptical sphere packings

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That is, there is an $N_0 = N_0(\mathcal{P})$ so that, if $m > N_0$ and m is admissible, then m is the bend of a sphere in the packing.

Example



Let \mathcal{P}_1 be the orthoptical sphere packing generated by the octuple on the left. Every sufficiently large integer $m \equiv -1, 0, \text{ or } 2 \pmod{4}$ is the bend of a sphere in \mathcal{P}_1 .

Proof sketch for orthoplicial sphere packing results

Let b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4 , and $\mu_{\mathbf{b}}$ be associated with an orthoplicial octuple in \mathcal{P} . It can be shown that the stabilizer of S_1 in Γ contains (up to conjugacy) the congruence subgroup

$$\Lambda = \left\{ g \in \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}[i]) : g \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \pm 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \pm 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } \begin{pmatrix} \pm i & 0 \\ 0 & \mp i \end{pmatrix} \pmod{2} \right\}.$$

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\implies When $\alpha = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 i$ and $2\beta = 2(\beta_1 + \beta_2 i)$ are coprime in $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ and $\alpha \equiv \pm 1$ or $\pm i \pmod{2}$, there is $\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & 2\beta \\ 2\gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix} \in \Lambda$,

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$$F(\alpha, 2\beta) = A(\alpha_1^2 + \alpha_2^2) + 4B(\alpha_1\beta_2 - \alpha_2\beta_1) \\ + 4C(\alpha_1\beta_1 + \alpha_2\beta_2) + 4D(\beta_1^2 + \beta_2^2) - b_1$$

is the bend of a sphere in \mathcal{P} tangent to S_1 , where

$$A = b_1 + b_2, \quad B = -\frac{b_1 + b_2 + b_3 + b_4 - 2\mu_{\mathbf{b}}}{2}, \\ C = -\frac{b_1 + b_2 + b_3 - b_4}{2}, \quad D = b_1 + b_3.$$

Have quaternary quadratic form

$$\begin{aligned}f(\alpha, 2\beta) &= F(\alpha, 2\beta) + b_1 \\ &= A(\alpha_1^2 + \alpha_2^2) + 4B(\alpha_1\beta_2 - \alpha_2\beta_1) \\ &\quad + 4C(\alpha_1\beta_1 + \alpha_2\beta_2) + 4D(\beta_1^2 + \beta_2^2)\end{aligned}$$

with $\alpha\mathbb{Z}[i] + 2\beta\mathbb{Z}[i] = \mathbb{Z}[i]$ and $\alpha \equiv \pm 1$ or $\pm i \pmod{2}$.

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\implies Assuming A is odd, if $m + b_1 = f(\alpha, 2\beta)$ with $\alpha\mathbb{Z}[i] + 2\beta\mathbb{Z}[i] = \mathbb{Z}[i]$ and $m + b_1$ odd, then m is a bend of sphere in \mathcal{P} tangent to S_1 .

Proof sketch for orthoplicial sphere packing results (cont.)

A lower bound on the count of the number of times that m is a bend when $m + b_1$ is odd:

$$\begin{aligned} R(m + b_1) &= \sum_{\substack{\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}[i] \\ \alpha\mathbb{Z}[i] + 2\beta\mathbb{Z}[i] = \mathbb{Z}[i]}} \mathbf{1}_{\{F(\alpha, 2\beta) = m\}} \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}[i] \\ \alpha\mathbb{Z}[i] + 2\beta\mathbb{Z}[i] = \mathbb{Z}[i]}} \mathbf{1}_{\{f(\alpha, 2\beta) = m + b_1\}}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mathbf{1}_{\{Y\}} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } Y \text{ holds,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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Want $R(m + b_1) > 0$ when m is admissible.

Proof sketch for orthoplicial sphere packing result (cont.)

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 - I have done the cases when $\gcd(m, b_1) > 1$.

I am working on (strong asymptotic) local–global principles for certain integral Kleinian sphere packings.

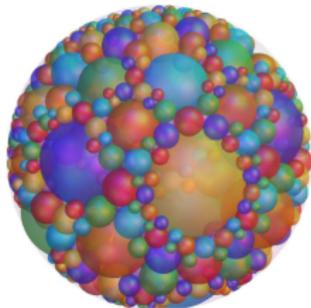


Figure: An integral orthoplicial sphere packing. Image by Kei Nakamura.

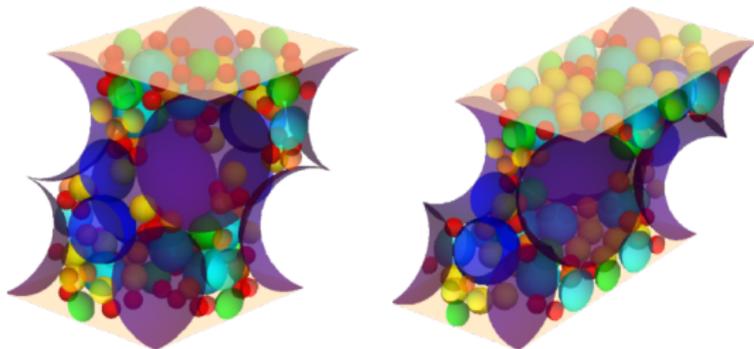


Figure: A fundamental domains of two conformally inequivalent integral Kleinian sphere packing. Images by Arseniy (Senia) Sheydvasser.

Besides the illustrations previously credited and a few orthoplicial octuple illustrations created by the presenter, the illustrations for this talk came from the following papers:

- Alex Kontorovich, “The Local–global Principle for Integral Soddy Sphere Packings,” *Journal of Modern Dynamics*, volume 15, pp. 209-236, 2019, <https://www.aims sciences.org/article/doi/10.3934/jmd.2019019>
- Kei Nakamura, “The local–global principle for integral bends in orthoplicial Apollonian sphere packings,” preprint, arXiv:1401.2980

Thank you for listening!

