

# Billiards, Pretzels



... and  
Chaos

**Inaugural lecture**  
**Professor Corinna Ulcigrai**  
**Wednesday 30 November 2016**

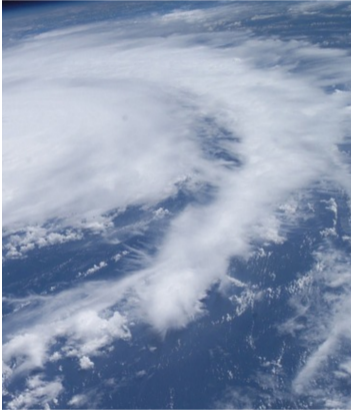
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Please note the building's fire exits. There are no planned fire alarms taking place today, so if you hear the alarm sound, please leave via the fire exits and gather at the meeting point outside the Merchant Venturers' Building.

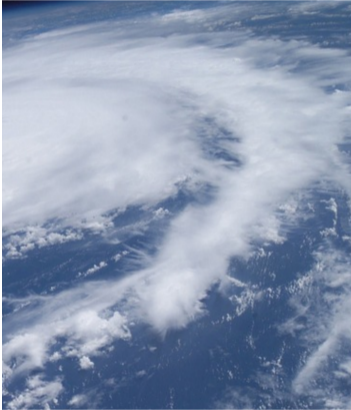
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the weather...

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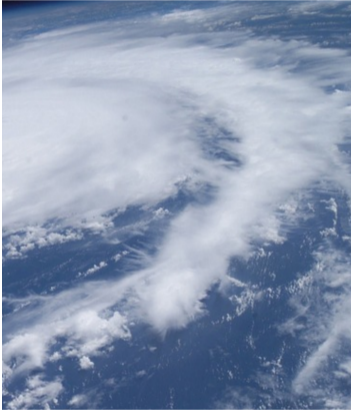


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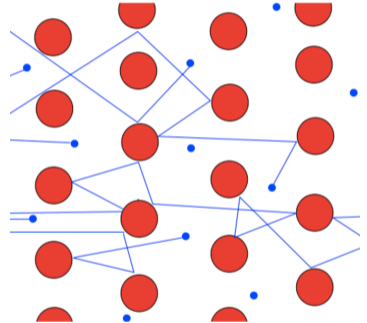
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molecules of a gas,  
electrons in a metal...

# Deterministic Systems

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(1747-1827)

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*“An intellect which at a certain moment would know all forces that set nature in motion, and all positions of all items of which nature is composed, if this intellect were also vast enough to submit these data to analysis, [...] for such an intellect nothing would be uncertain and the future just like the past would be present before its eyes.”*

Laplace, *A Philosophical Essay on Probabilities*



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# Sensitive dependence: the “Butterfly effect”



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A key feature of chaotic systems is the **Butterfly Effect**:

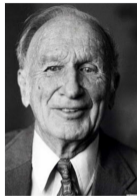
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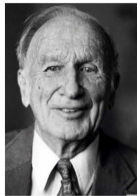
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*aka in Mathematics as:*

**Sensitive dependence on Initial Conditions**

a small variations in the initial conditions  
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How *quickly* does divergence in the Butterfly Effect happen?



*My research:* understand mathematical properties of *Slow Chaos*

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Fastly chaotic systems

Slowly chaotic systems

► divergence happens *quickly*

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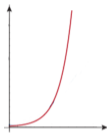
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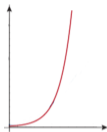
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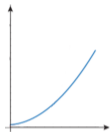


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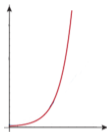
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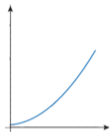


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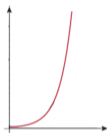
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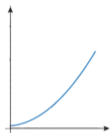


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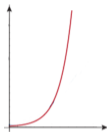
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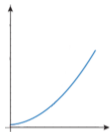


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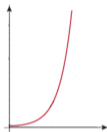
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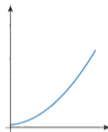
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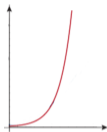
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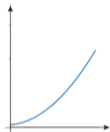
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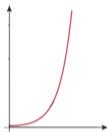
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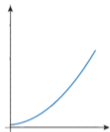


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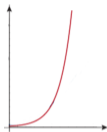
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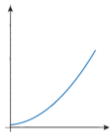


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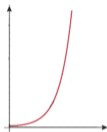
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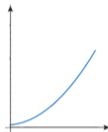
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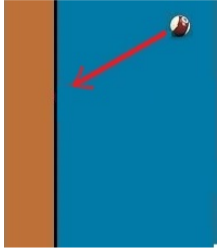


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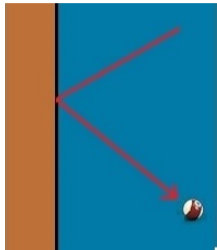
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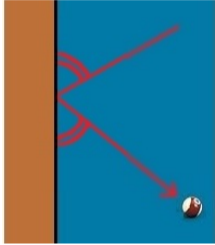
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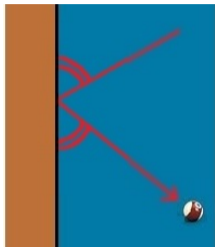
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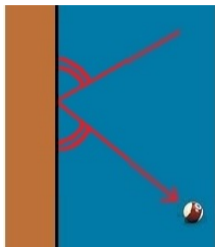
angle of incidence

=

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# Mathematical Billiards



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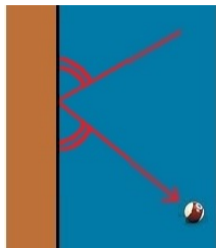
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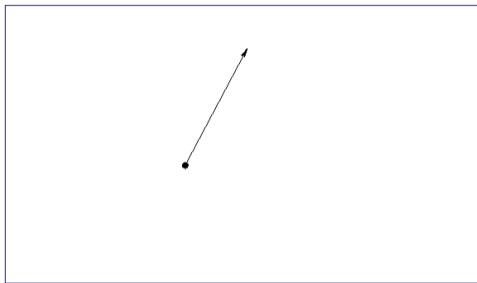
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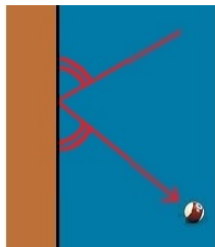
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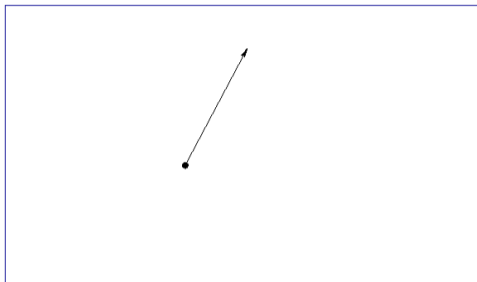


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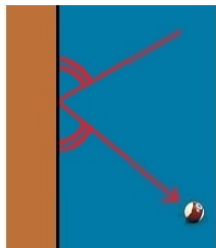
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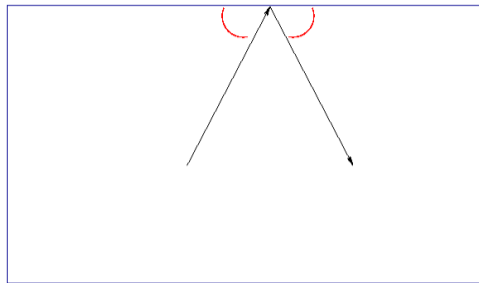
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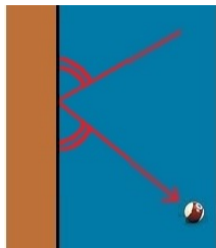


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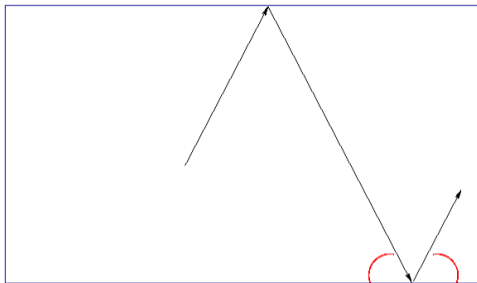


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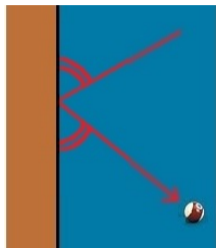


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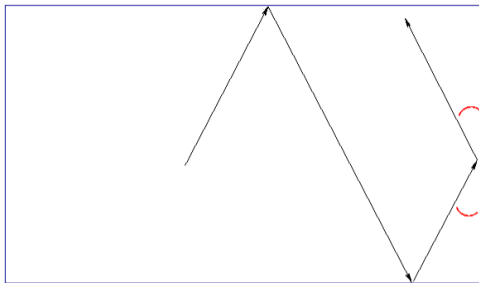


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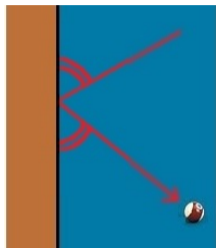


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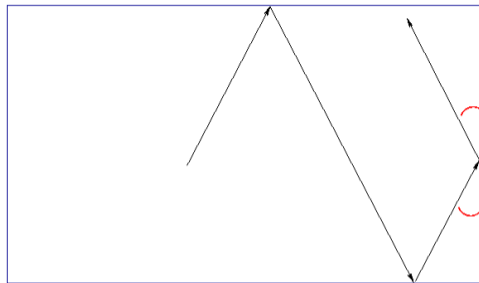


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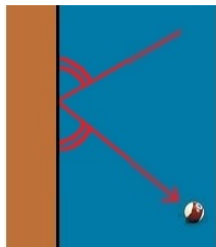


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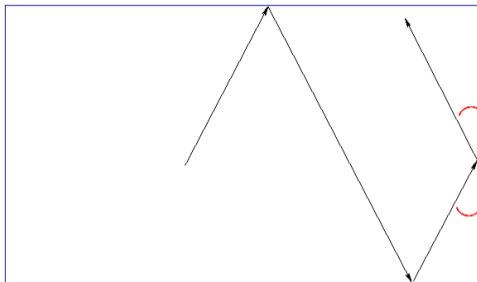


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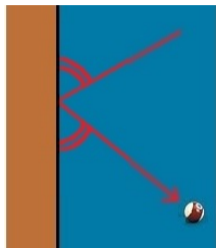


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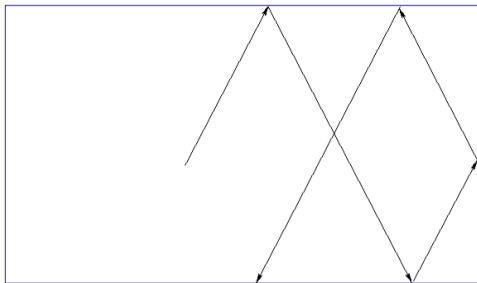
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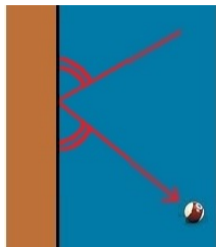
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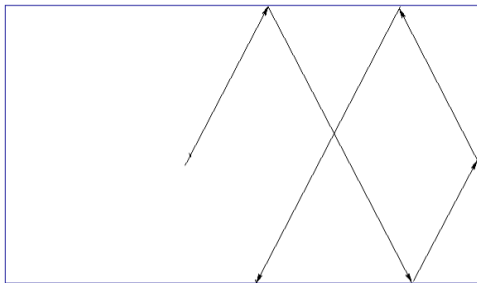
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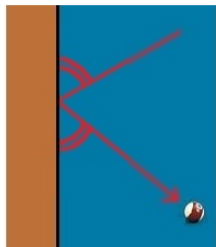


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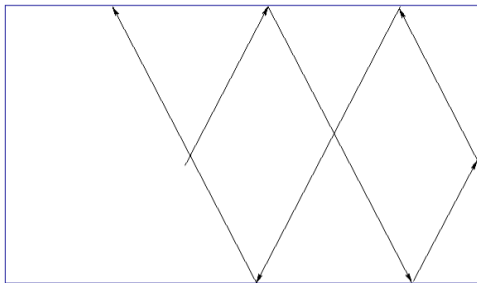
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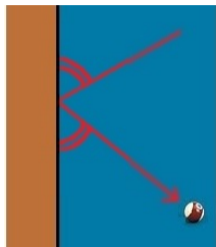
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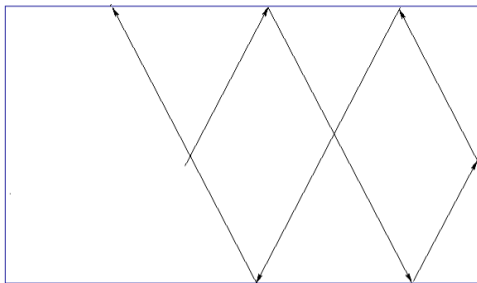
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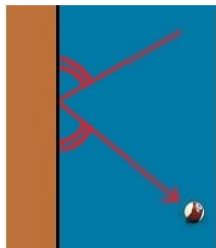
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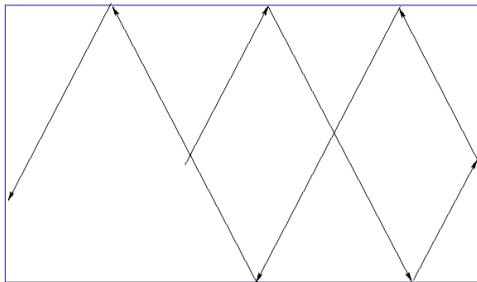
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# Mathematical Billiards



*law of optics:*

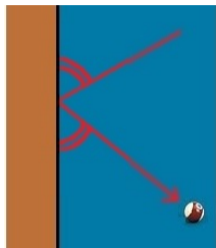
angle of incidence  
=  
angle of reflection



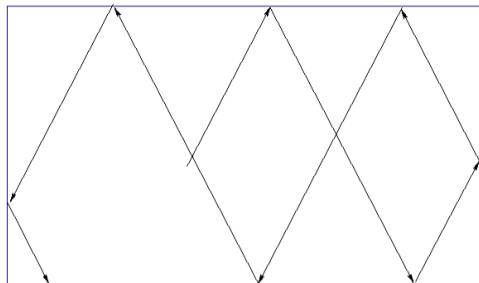
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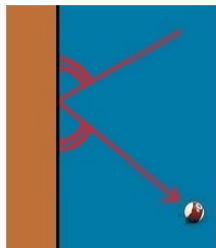


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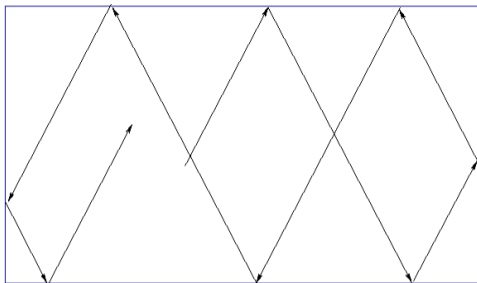
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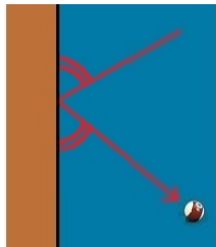
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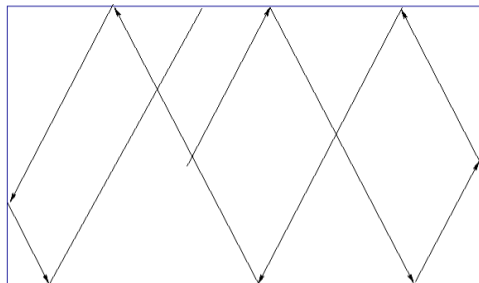
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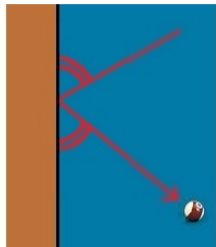


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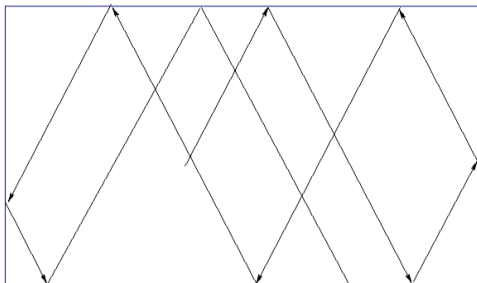


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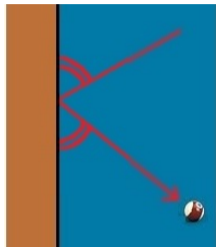
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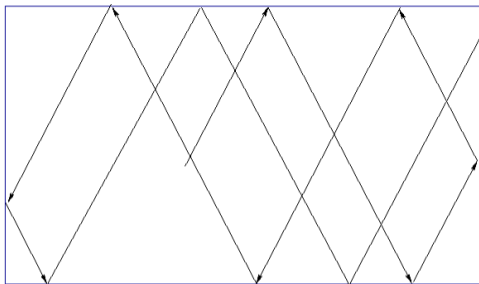
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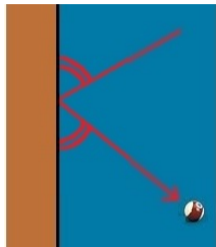
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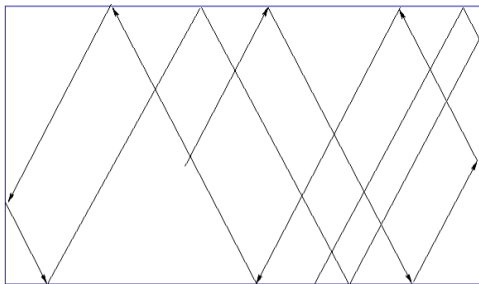
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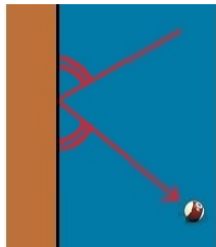
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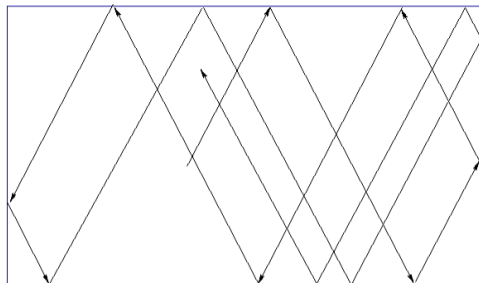
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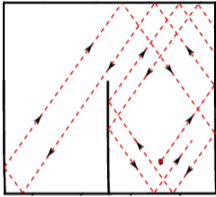
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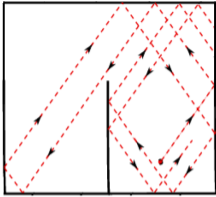
Tables can have various shapes... some examples

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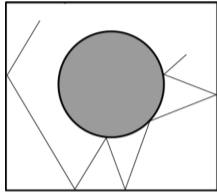


with barrier

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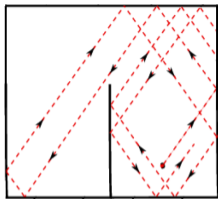


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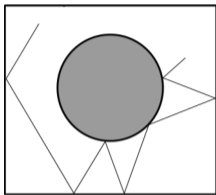


with obstacle

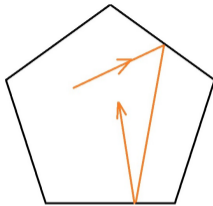
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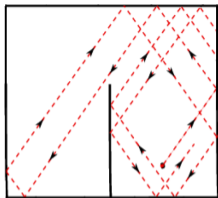


with obstacle

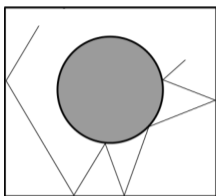


polygonal

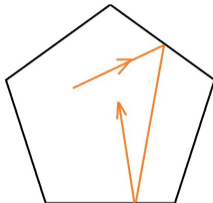
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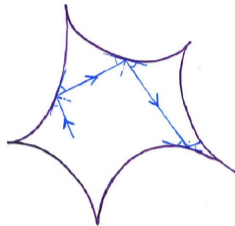
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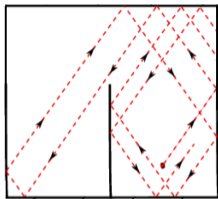


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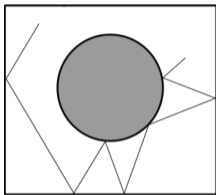


concave

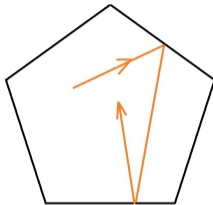
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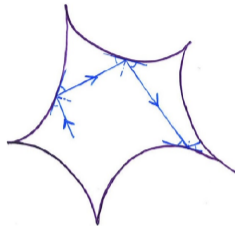
with barrier



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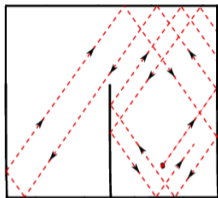


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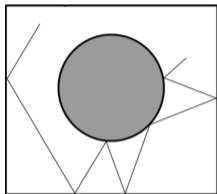


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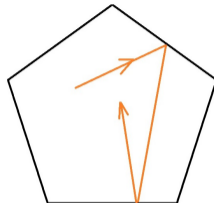
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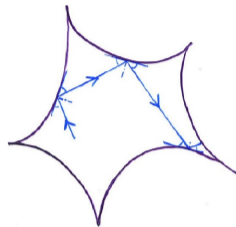
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# Motivation to study Mathematical Billiards

Billiards are models of many systems in mechanics, optics, acoustics, thermodynamics . . .

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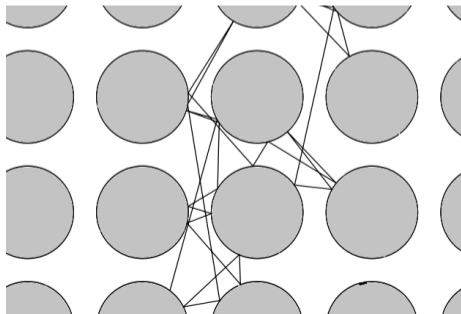
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## Periodic Lorentz Gas

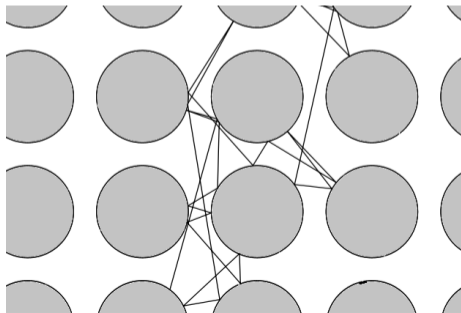
1905, H. A. Lorentz



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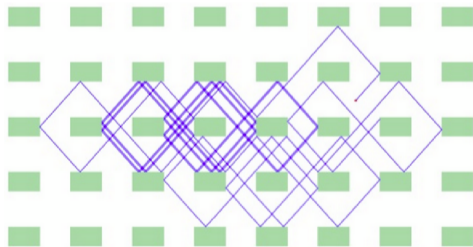
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Ehrenfest Model, 1912

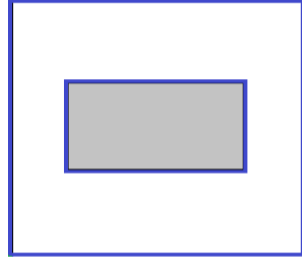
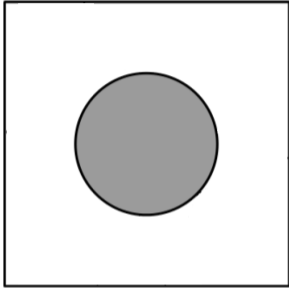
Tatjana and Paul Ehrenfest

Periodic version: Hardy-Weber

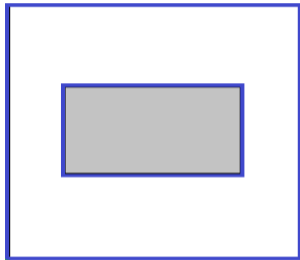
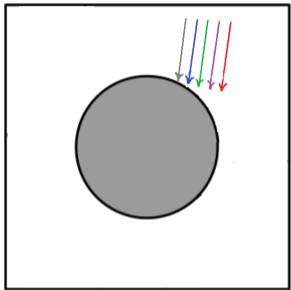


(image by V. Delecroix)

# Sensitive Dependence: circular vs rectangular scatters



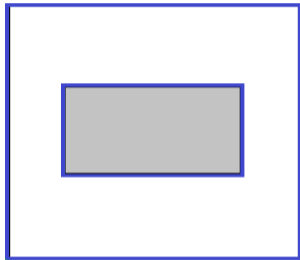
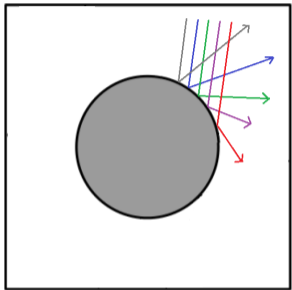
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defocusing mechanism:

fast chaos (*hyperbolic* billiard)

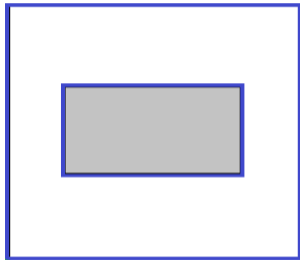
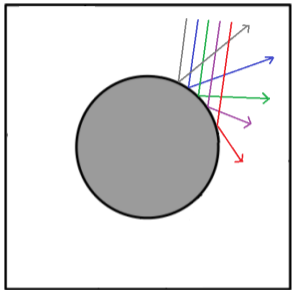
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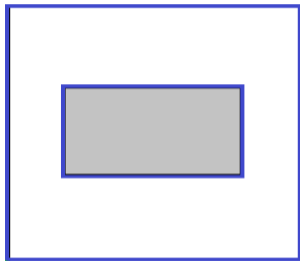
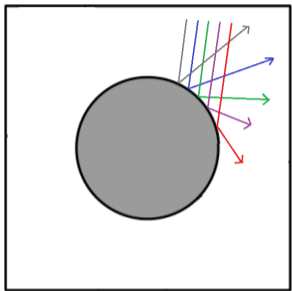
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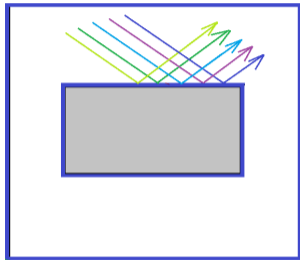
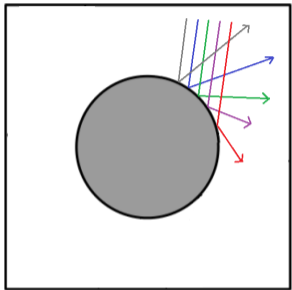


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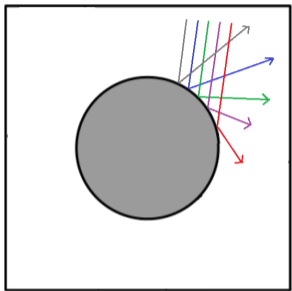


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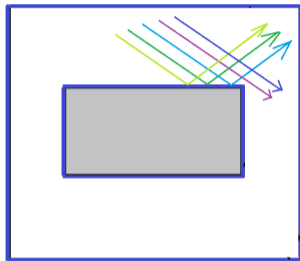


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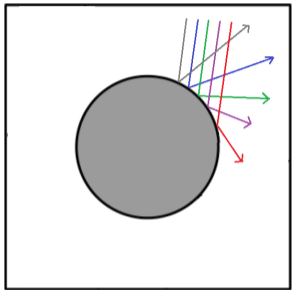
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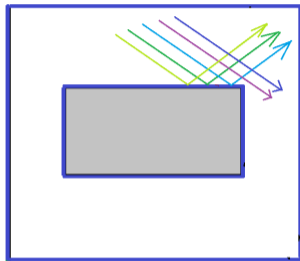
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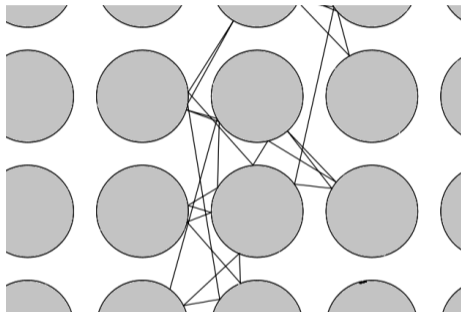
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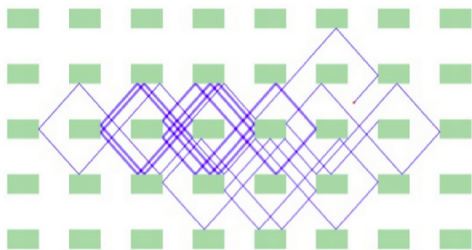
Periodic Lorentz Gas, 1905



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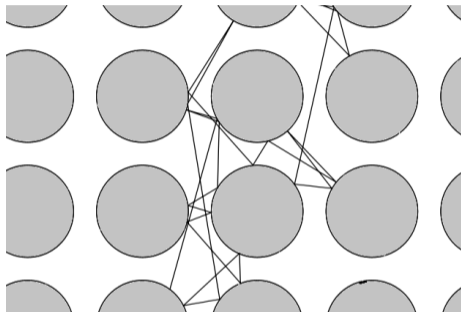


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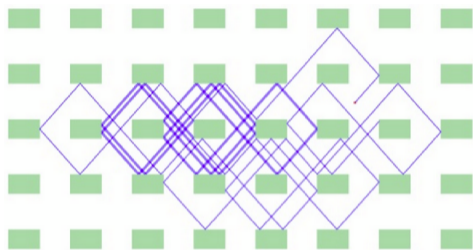
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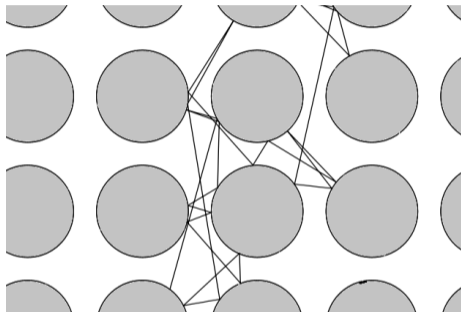


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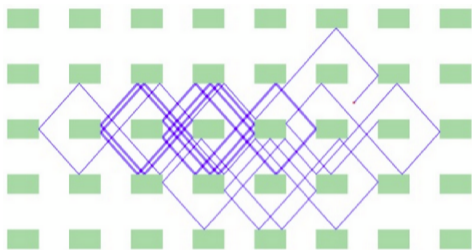
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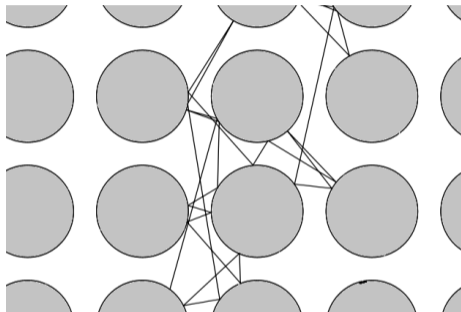


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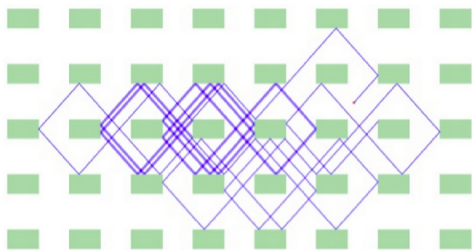
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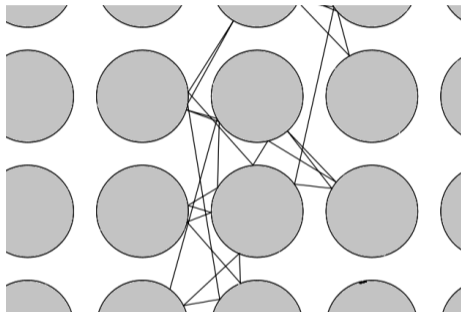


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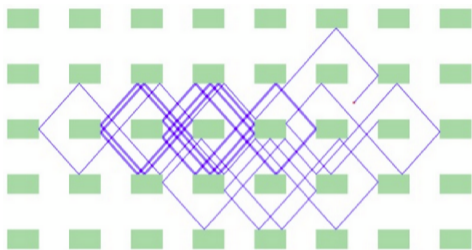
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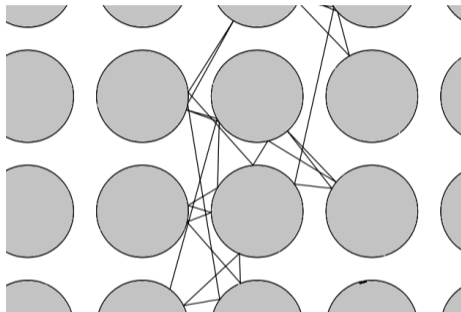


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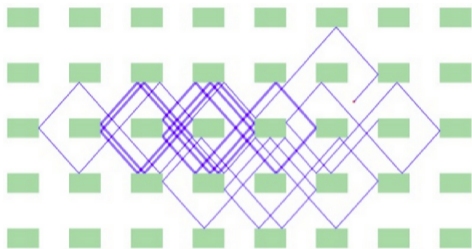
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# Dense trajectories

Feature of chaotic systems: *most* “trajectories” explore *all space*

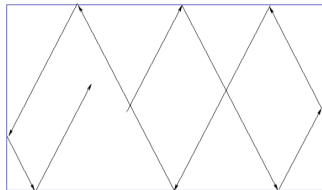
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Billiard trajectories “bal” motion) can e.g.

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A trajectory in a *random* direction is dense.



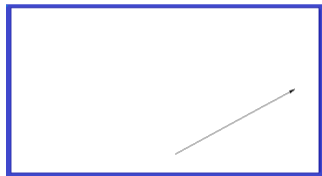
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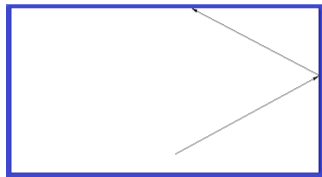
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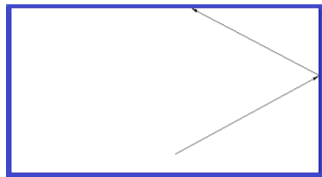
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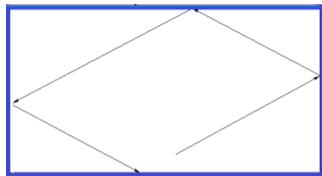
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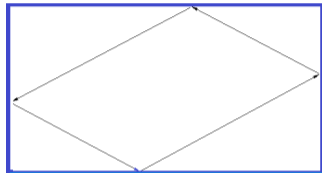
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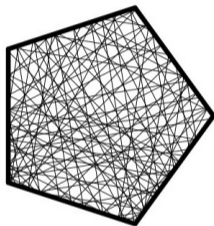
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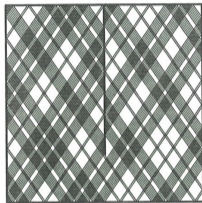
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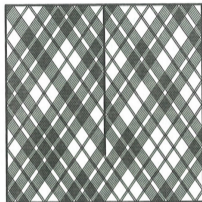
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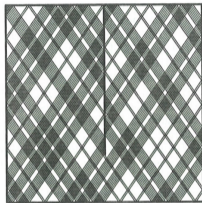
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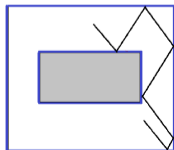
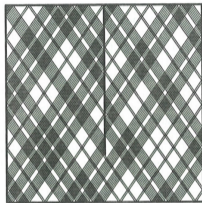
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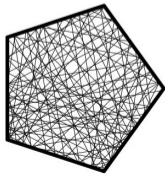
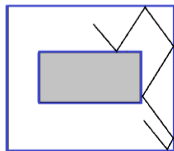
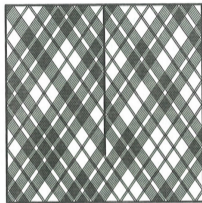
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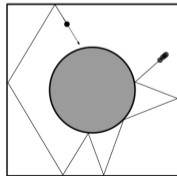
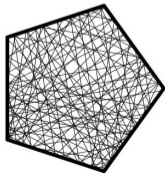
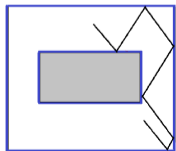
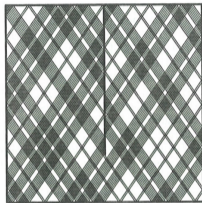
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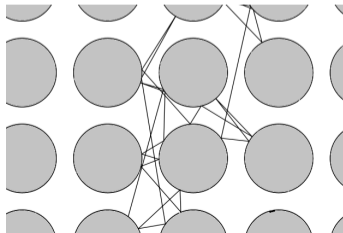
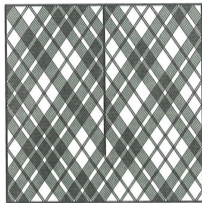
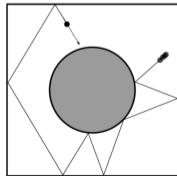
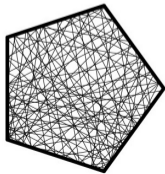
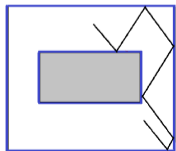
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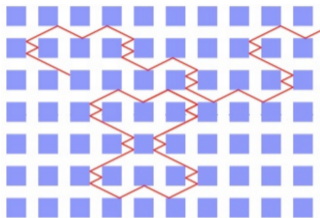
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# Recent results on the Ehrenfest model

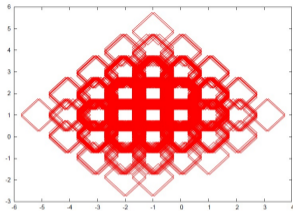


*courtesy of V. Delecroix*

- ▶ [[Fraczek-Ulcigrai](#), *Inventiones*, 2014]

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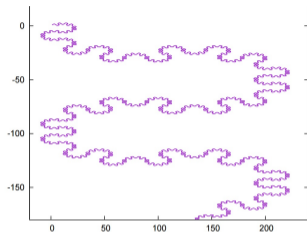


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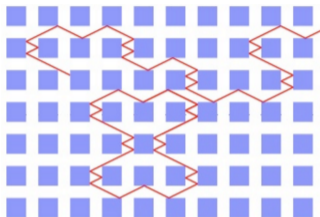


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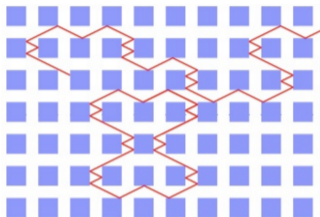
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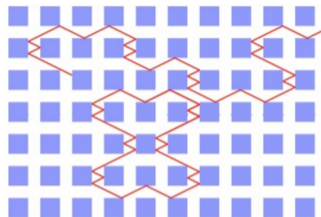


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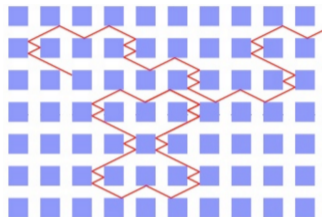


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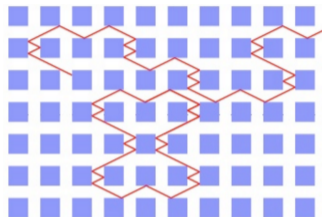
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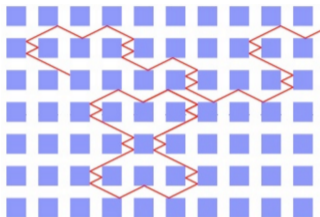
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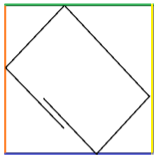
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# Pretzels

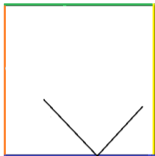
# From a rectangular billiard to a bagel...

Unfolding:



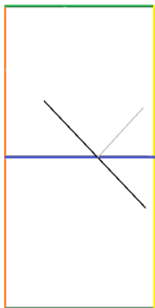
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Unfolding: don't reflect the trajectory, REFLECT the TABLE!



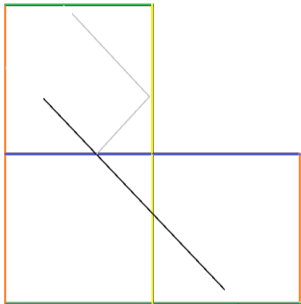
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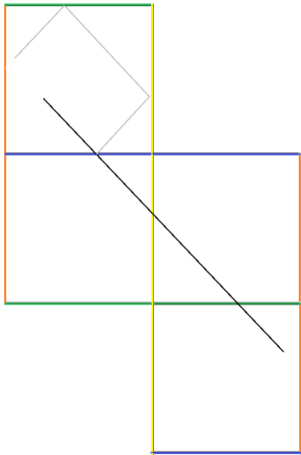
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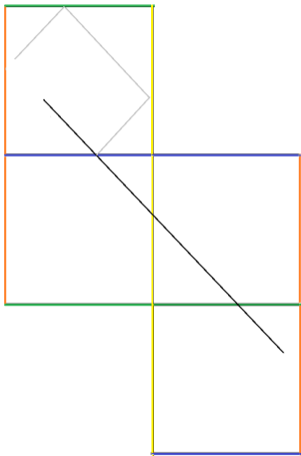
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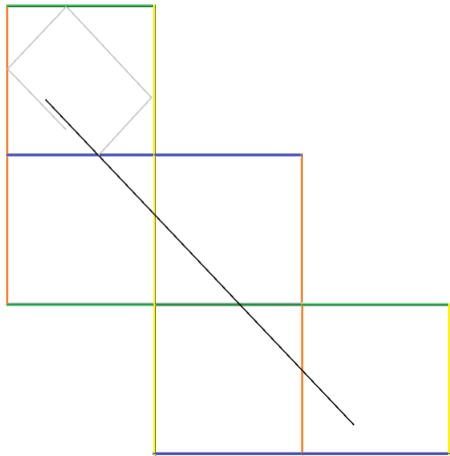
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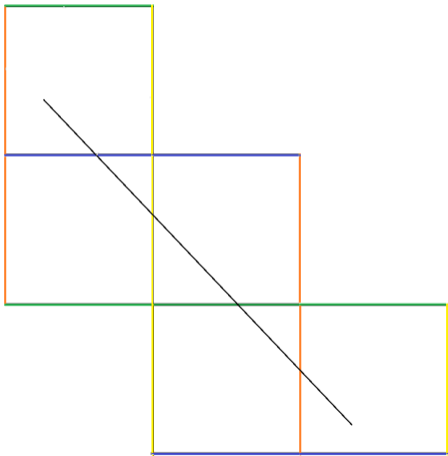
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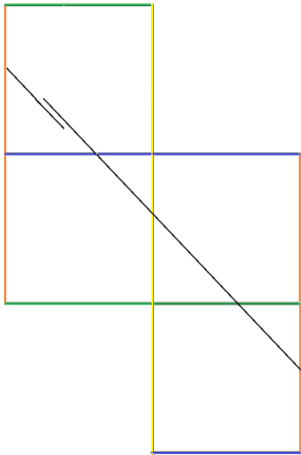
4 copies are enough;



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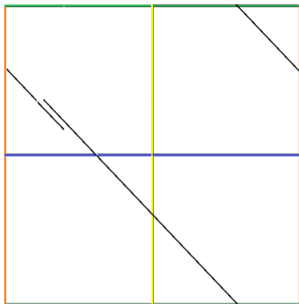
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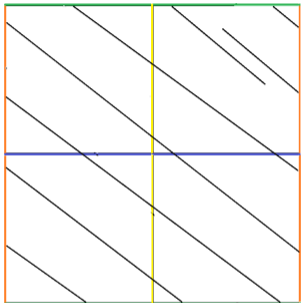


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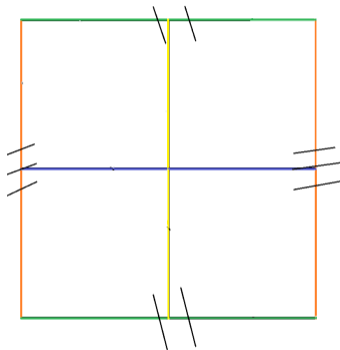
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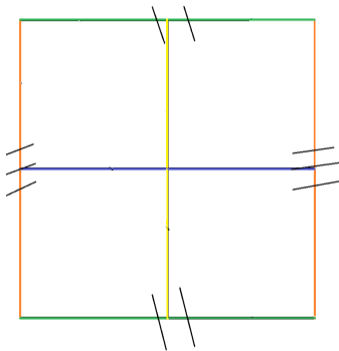
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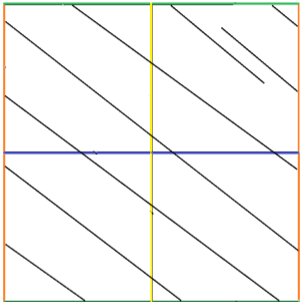
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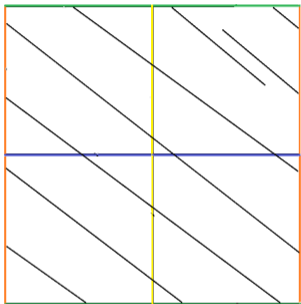
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surface of a bagel!

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*Gain:* one can show trajectories are either closed or dense;

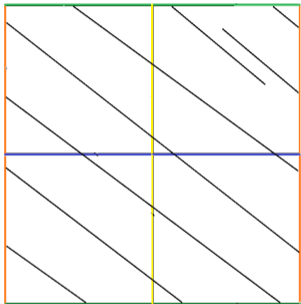
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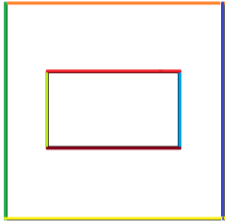
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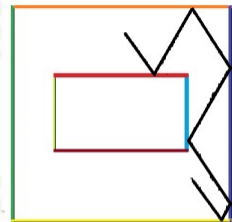
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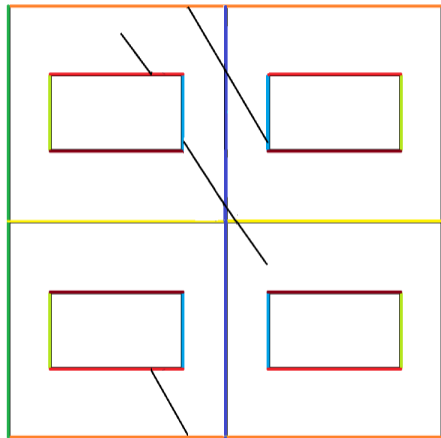


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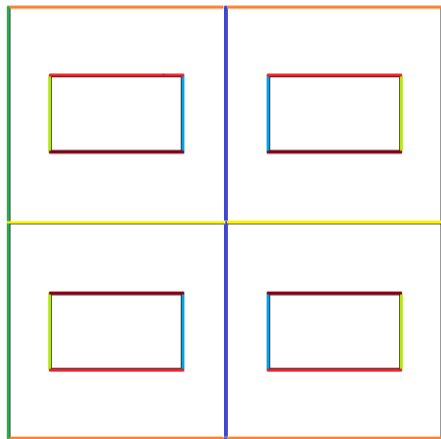
Unfolding, then glueing sides...

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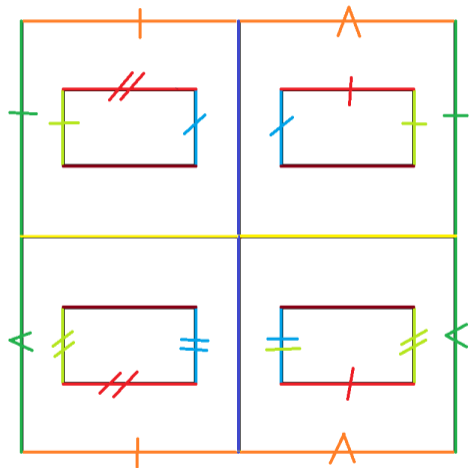
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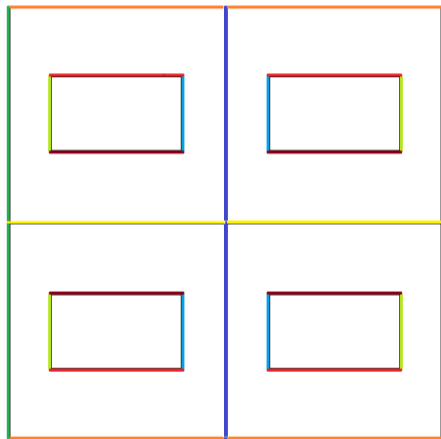
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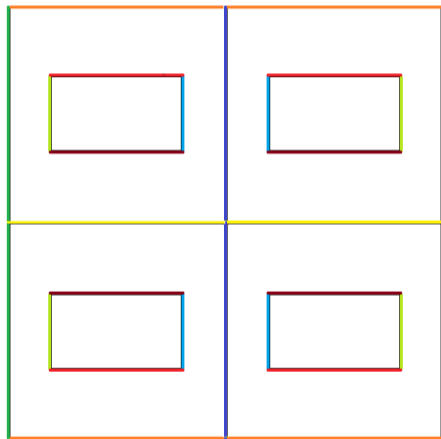


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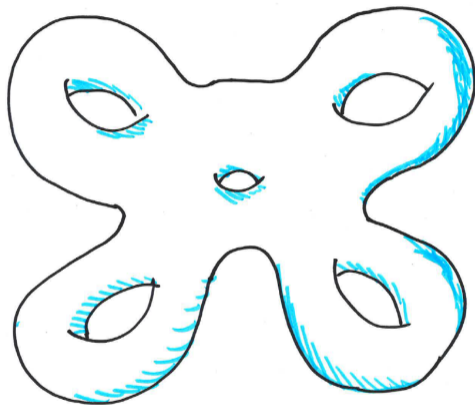


...surface of pretzel with 5 *holes*!

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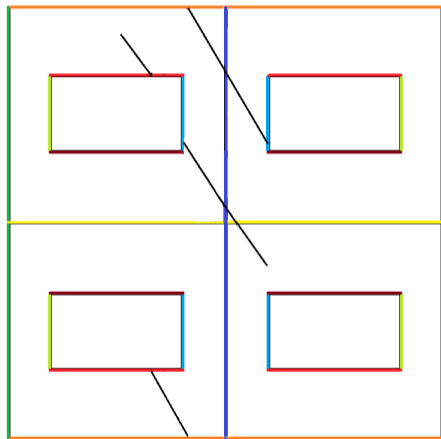


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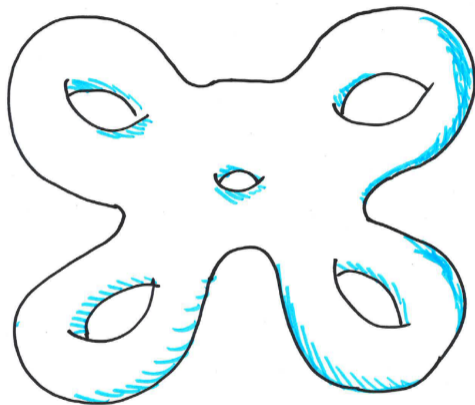


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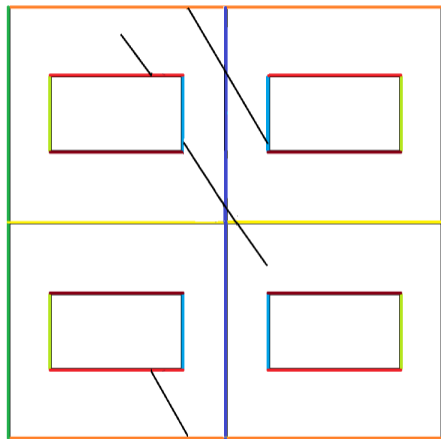


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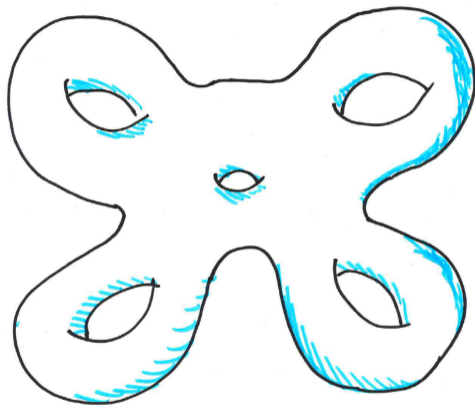


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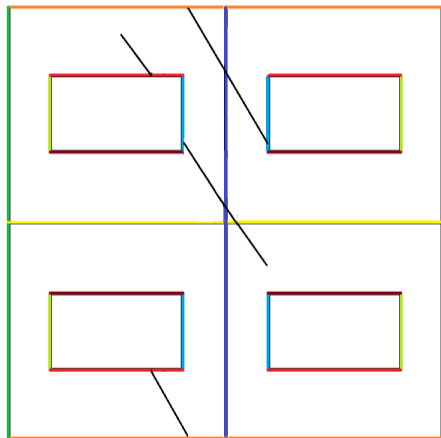


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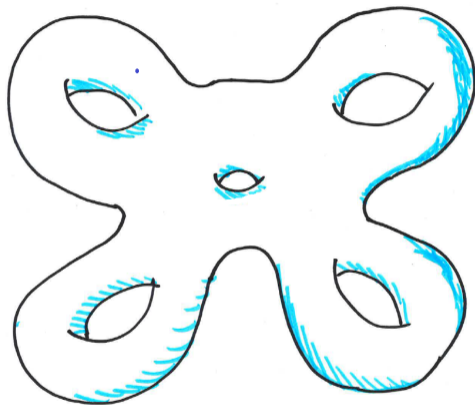


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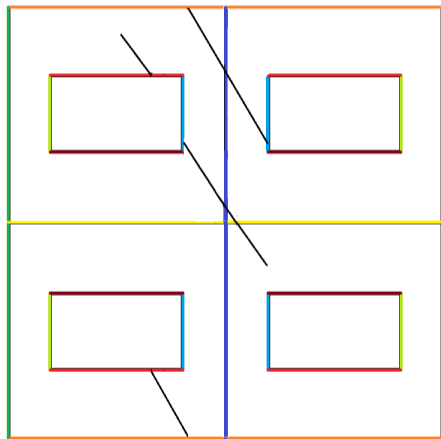


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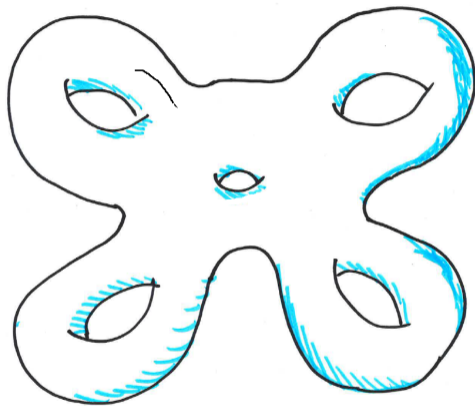


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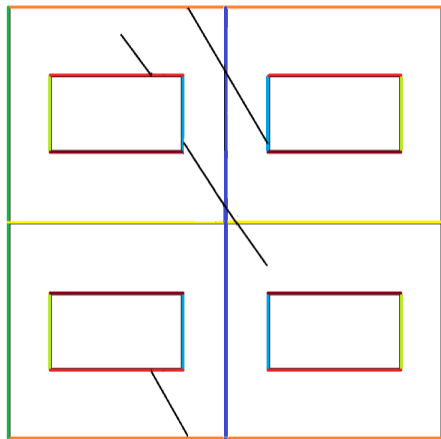


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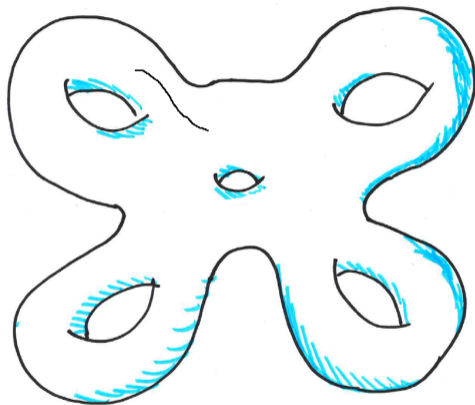


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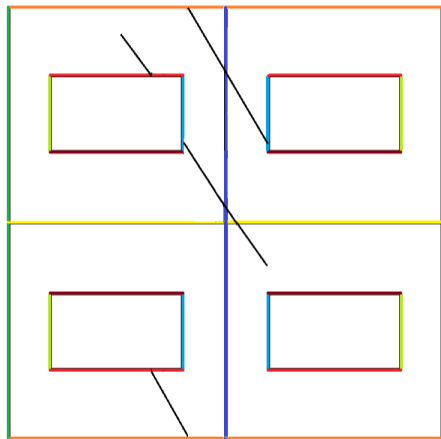


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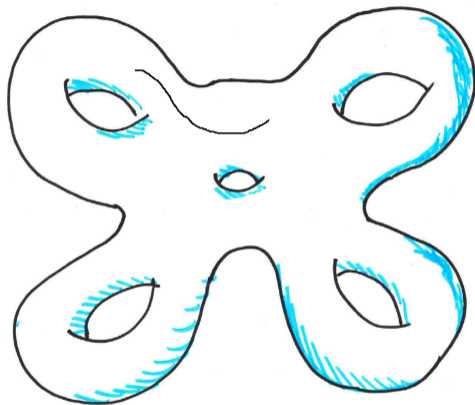


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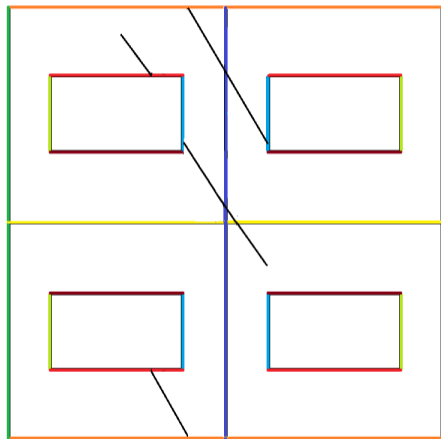


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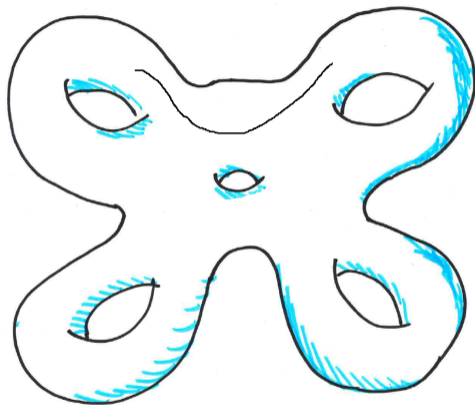


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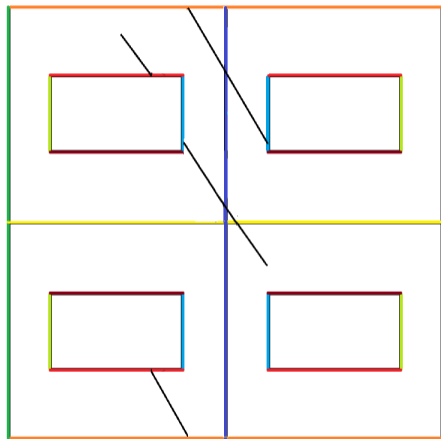


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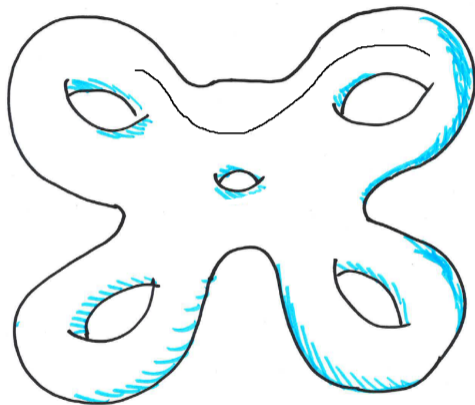


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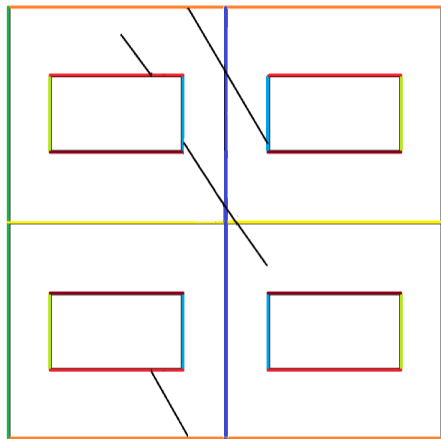


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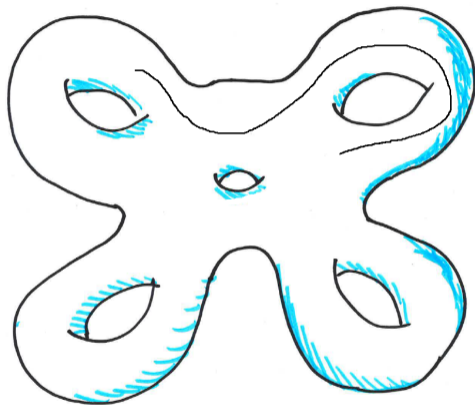


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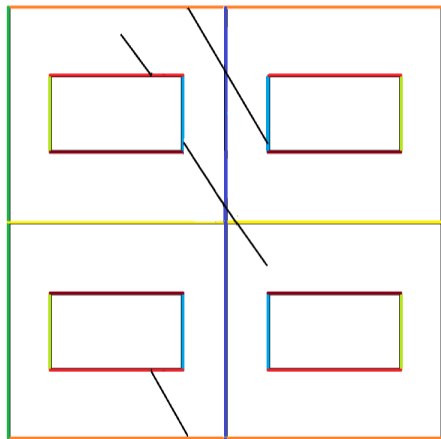


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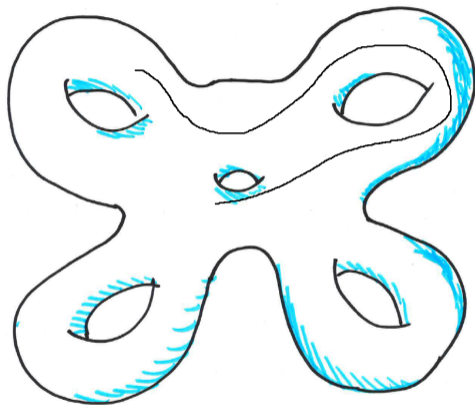


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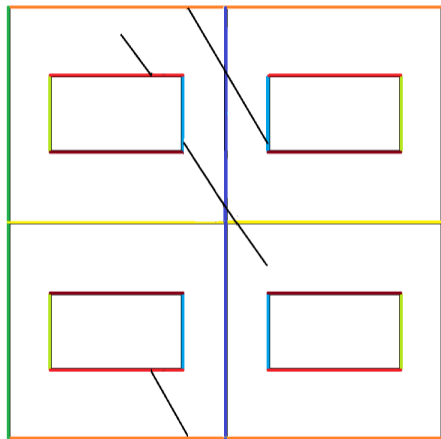


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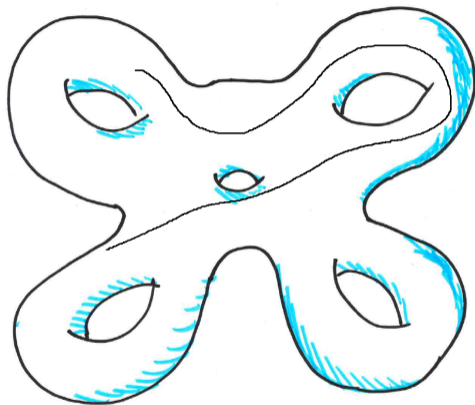


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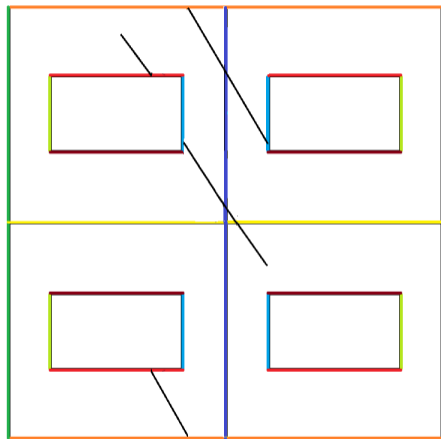


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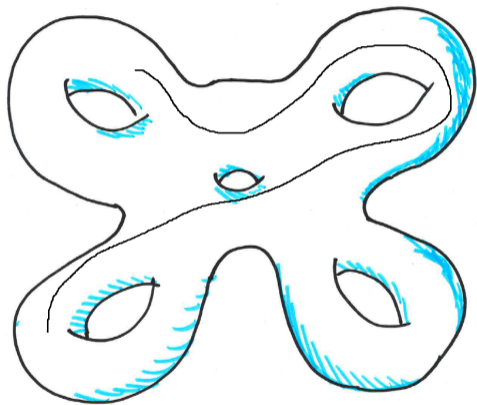


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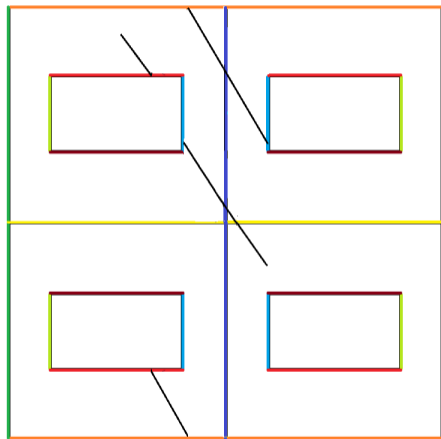


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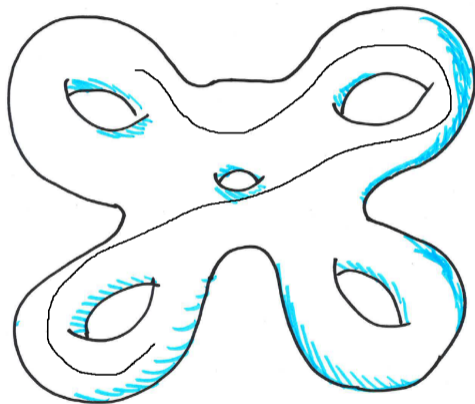


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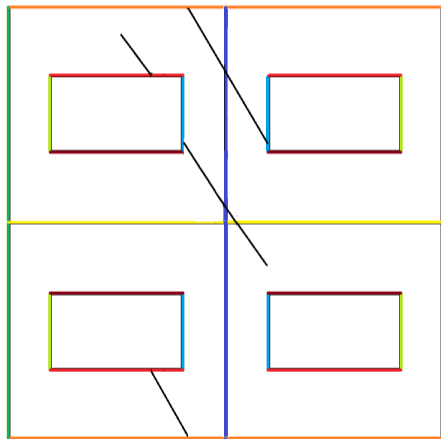


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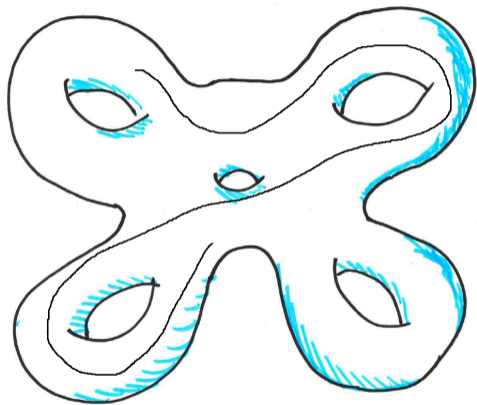


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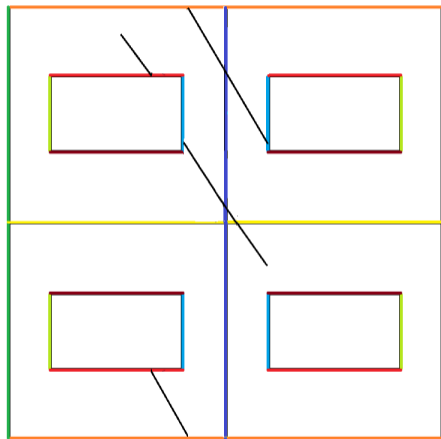


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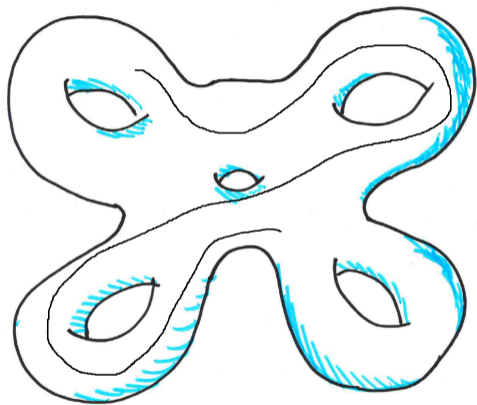


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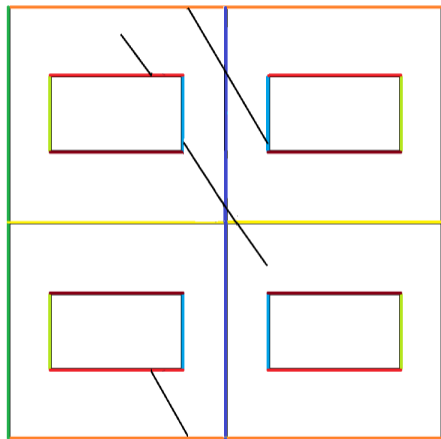


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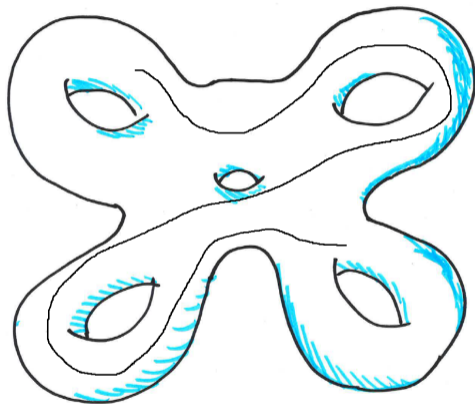


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Unfolding (rational) polygonal billiards one gets surfaces:

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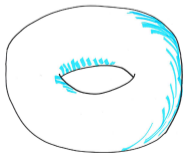
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genus 1



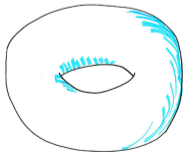
genus 2



genus 3

...

...



...

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genus 1

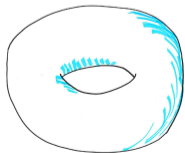


genus 2



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Pretezzels and bagels in the presentation by T. Hansson of the 2016 *Physics Nobel Prize* work by Thouless, Haldane and Kosterlitz

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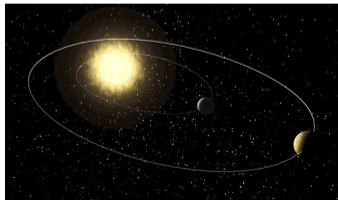


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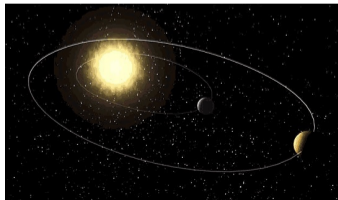
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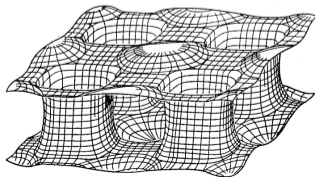
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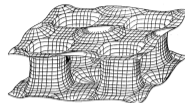
electrons in metals in  
solid state physics  
(Fermi surfaces)



Novikov  
model  
(1990s)

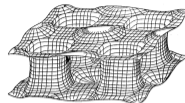
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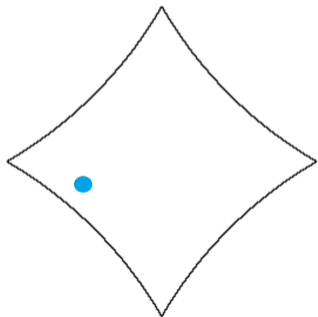
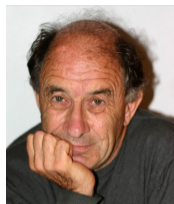
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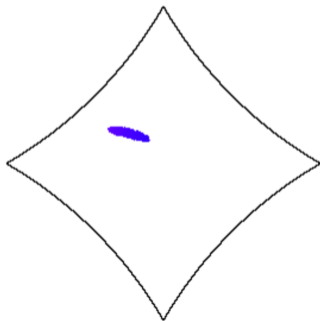
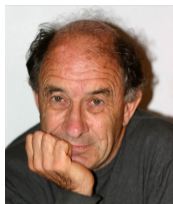
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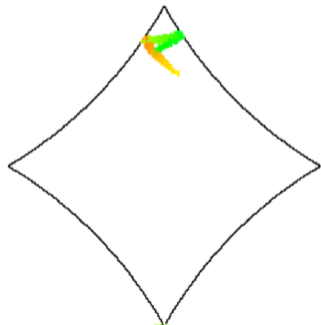
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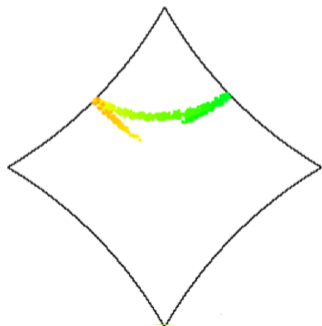
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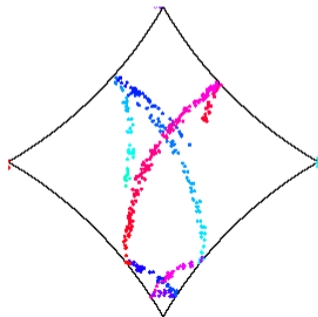
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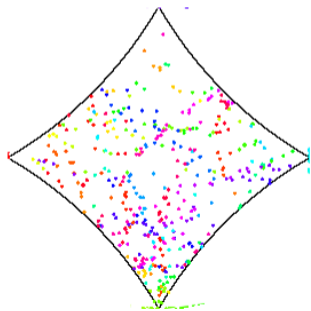


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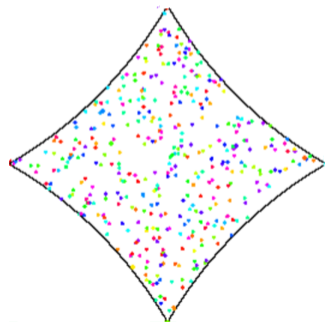
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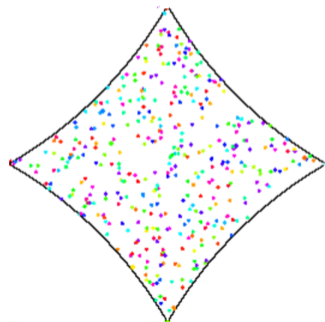
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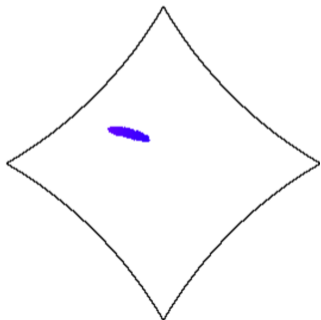
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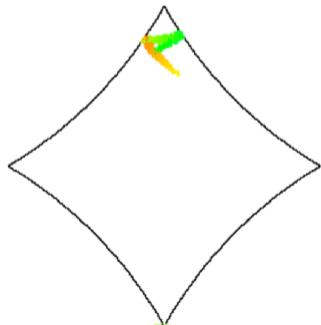
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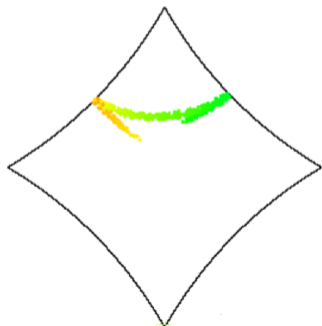
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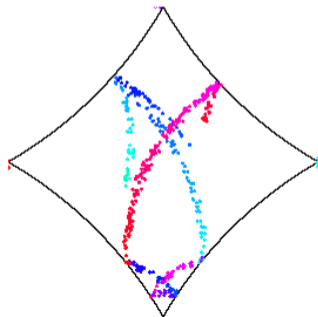
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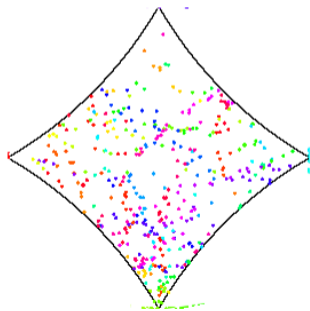


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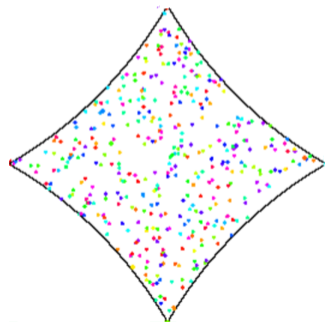
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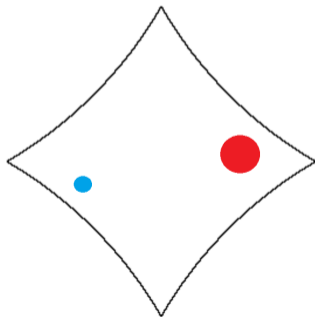
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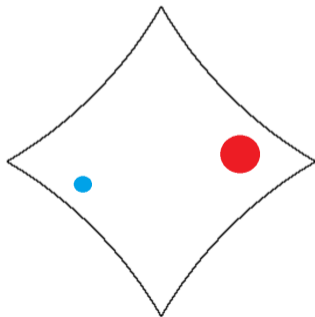
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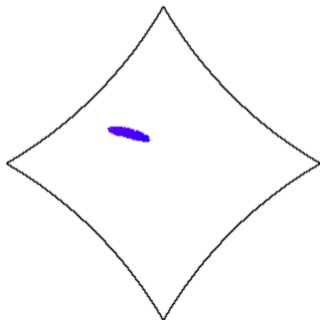
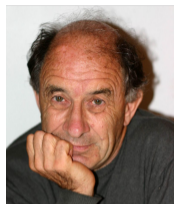
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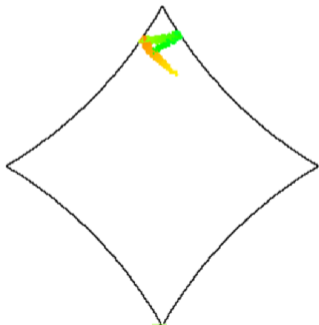
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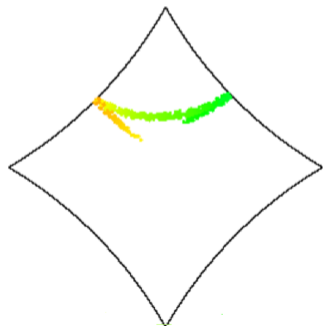
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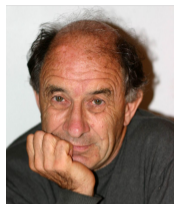


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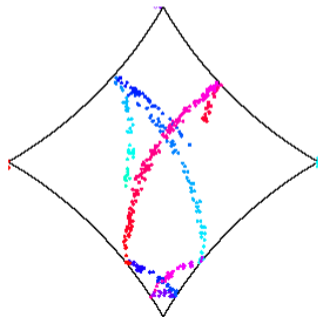
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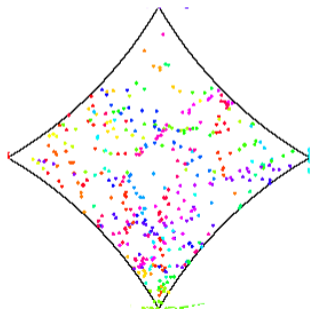
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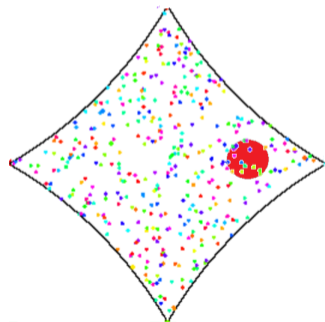


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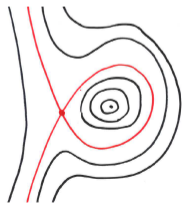


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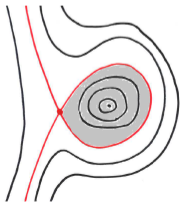


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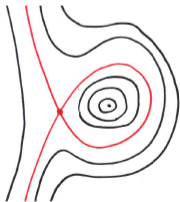


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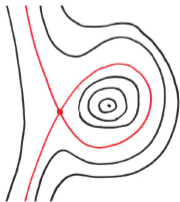


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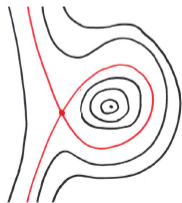


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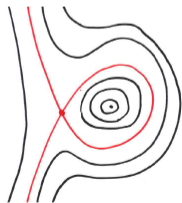


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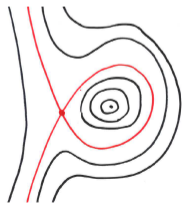


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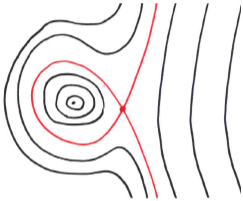


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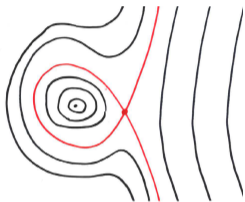
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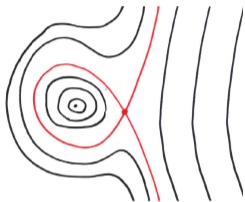
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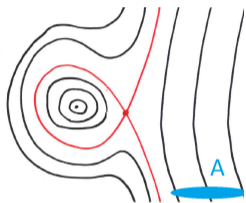
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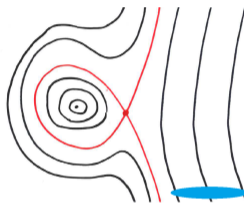
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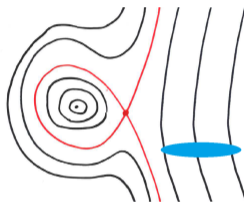
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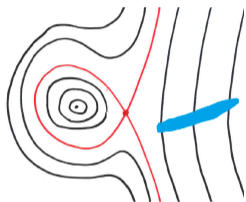
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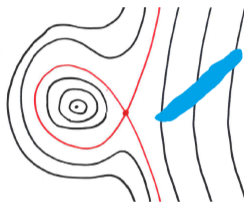
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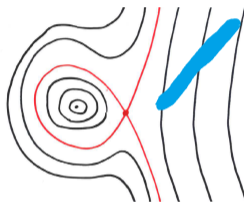
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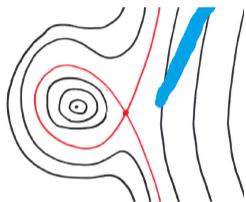
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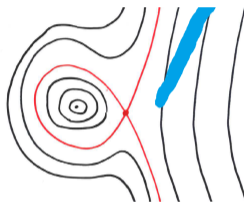
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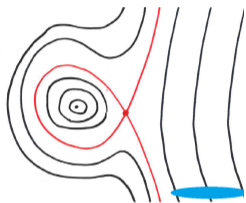
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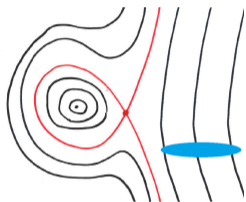
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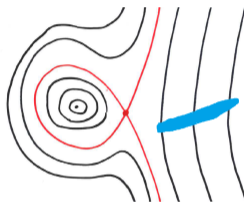
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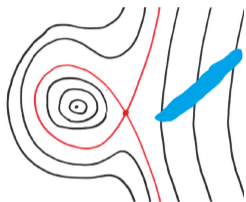
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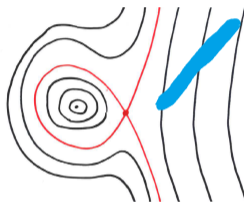
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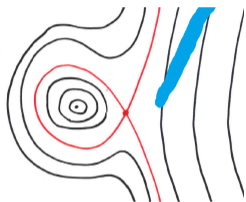
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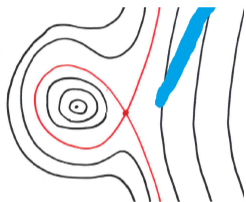
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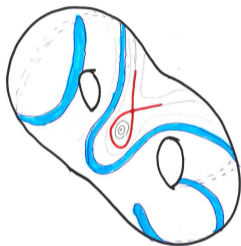
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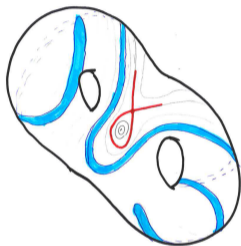
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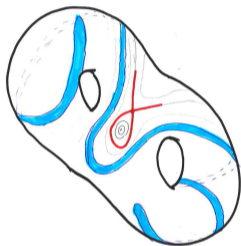
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*Remark:* even **stronger chaotic properties** can be deduced **from shearing**!

Eg: **Katok-Thouvenot** conjecture, on *Lebesgue spectrum* for certain parabolic flows (time-changes of horocycle flows) [**Forni-Ulcigrai**, JMD 2012].

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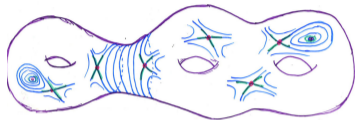
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Eg: **Katok-Thouvenot** conjecture, on *Lebesgue spectrum* for certain parabolic flows (time-changes of horocycle flows) [**Forni-Ulcigrai**, JMD 2012].

The mathematical world behind...

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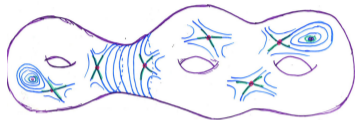
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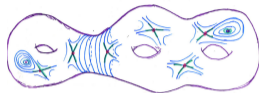
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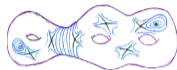
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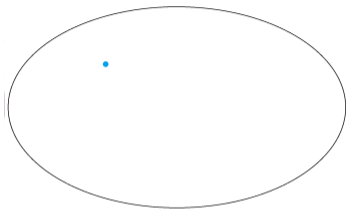
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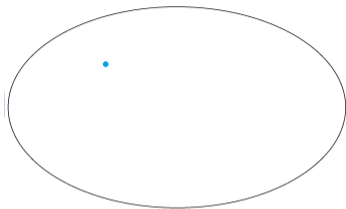
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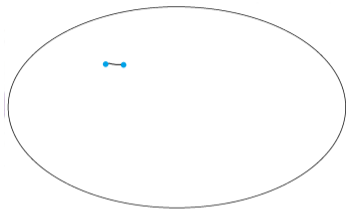
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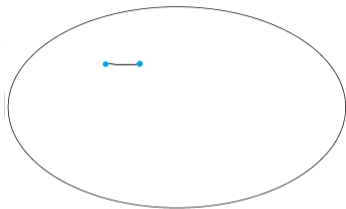
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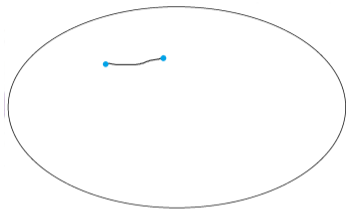
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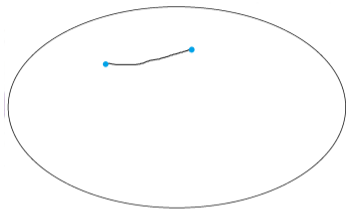
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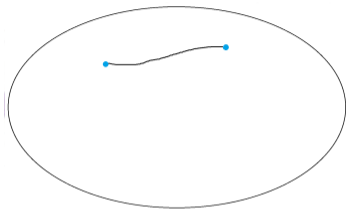
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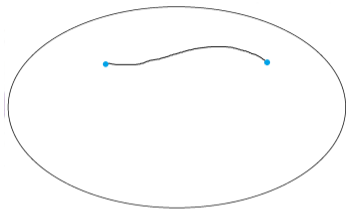
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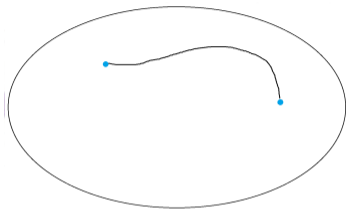
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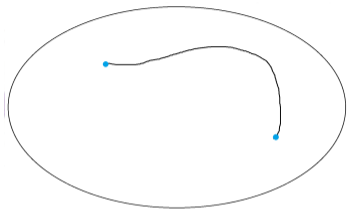
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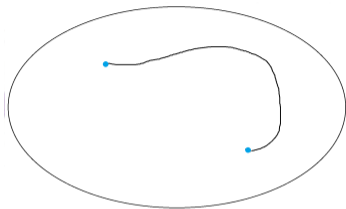
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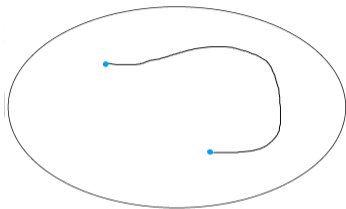
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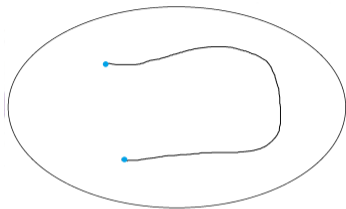
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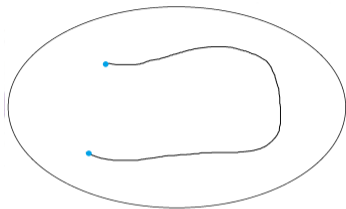
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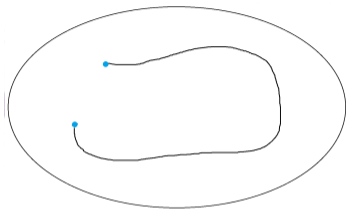
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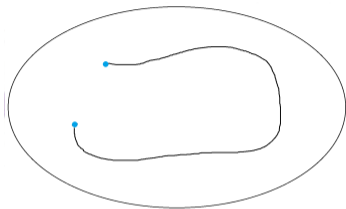
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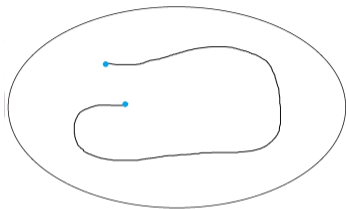
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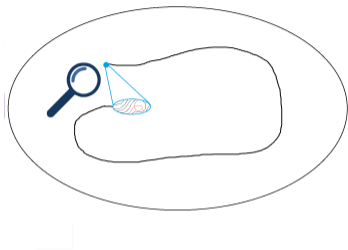
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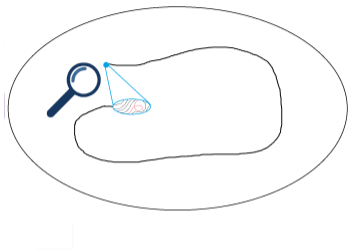


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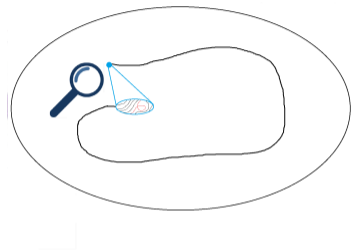
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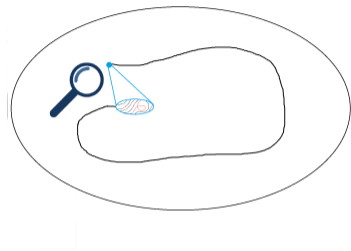
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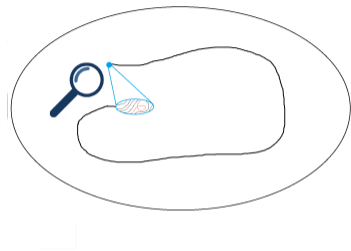
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- ▶ develop **new** abstract (*beautiful!*) **mathematical tools**...

# Further reading



+plus magazine articles by Marianne Freiberg,  
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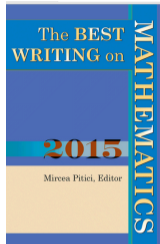
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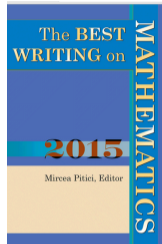
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doughnut pool table  
by **Cleon Daniel**