Uniqueness of currents in a network of finite total resistance

Agelos Georgakopoulos

Technische Universität Graz and Mathematisches Seminar Universität Hamburg

Graz, 2.7.09



Electrical networks have many applications in mathematics:

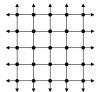
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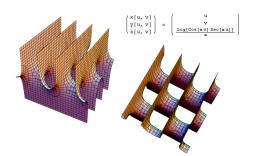
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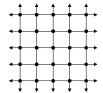
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- in the study of Riemannian manifolds

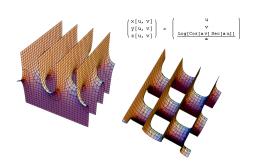


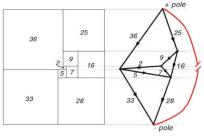


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- in the study of Random Walks
- in the study of Riemannian manifolds
- in Combinatorics







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Finite Networks

Unique solution

Networks of finite total resistance

2

Infinite Networks

Not necessarily unique solution



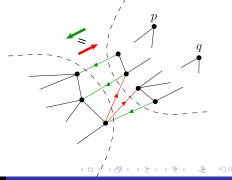




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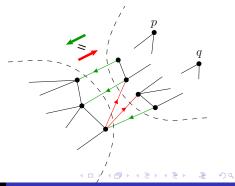




The solution is not necessarily unique!

Non-elusive flow:

The net flow along any such cut must be zero:



Theorem (G '08)

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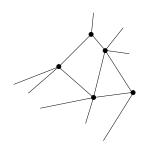
Theorem (G '08)

Energy of
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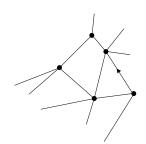
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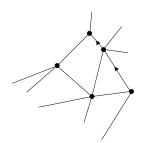
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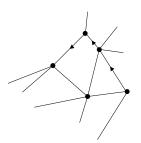
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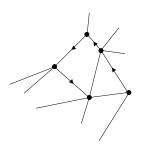
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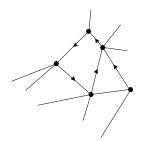
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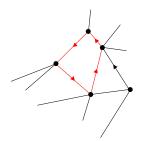
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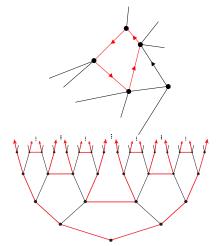
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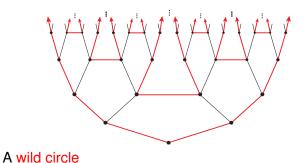


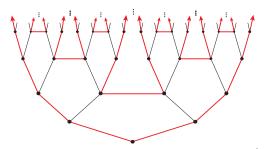
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Finite case:

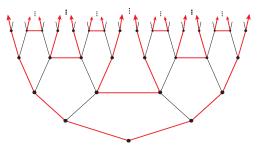
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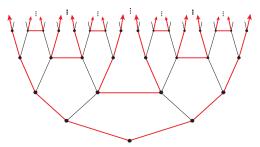


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The "gaps" between the double-rays are filled by a Cantor set of ends

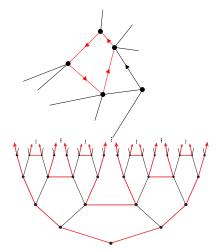


The proof

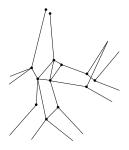
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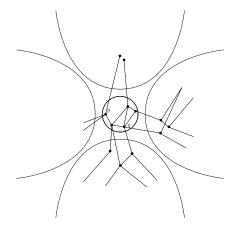
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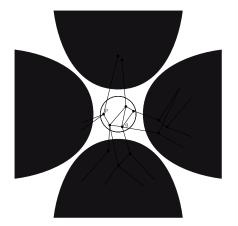
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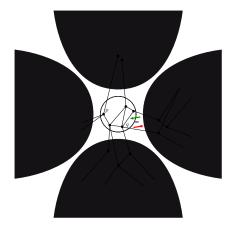
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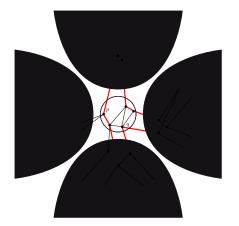
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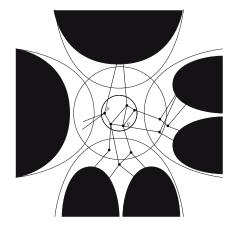
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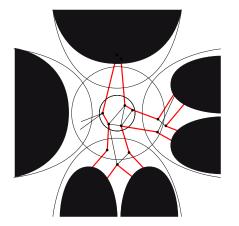
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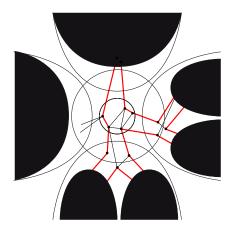
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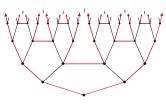


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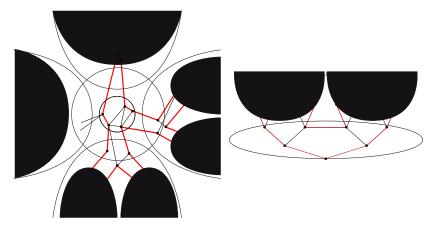


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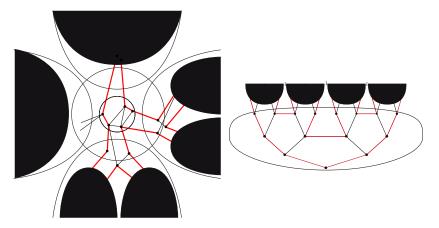


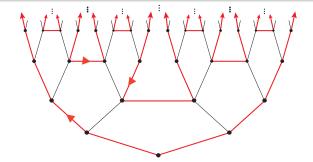


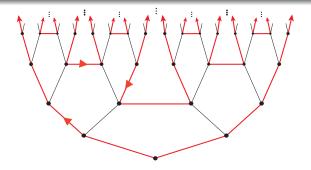
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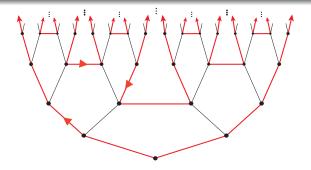
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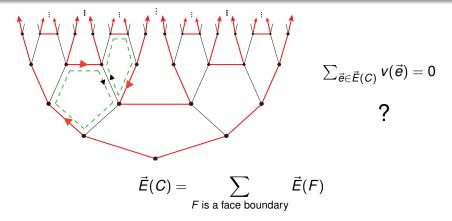


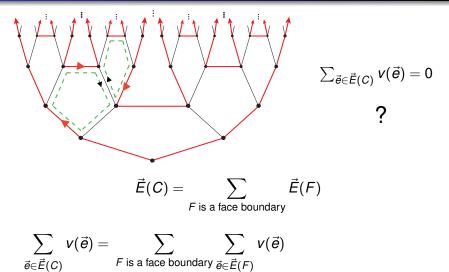


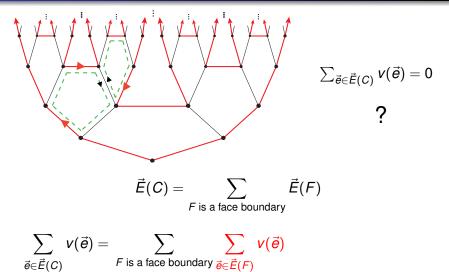
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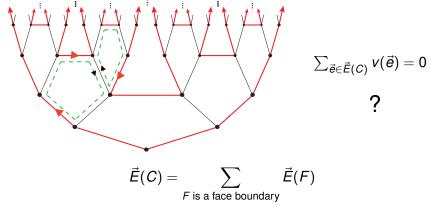


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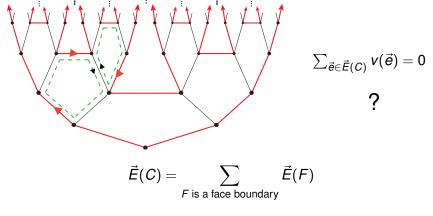




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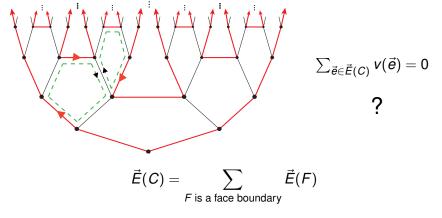




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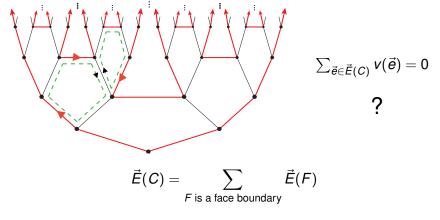




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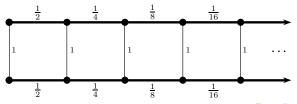
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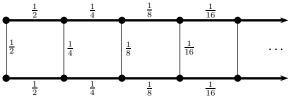
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If
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Kirchhoff's cycle law for wild circles

Theorem (Diestel & G)

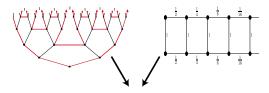
The circles of an electrical network N satisfy Kirchhoff's cycle law if the sum of the resistances in N is finite.

The Theorem

Theorem (G '08)

In a network with $\sum_{e \in E} r(e) < \infty$ there is a unique non-elusive flow with finite energy that satisfies Kirchhoff's cycle law.

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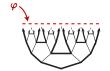
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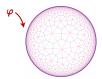
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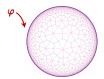
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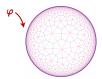
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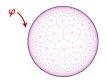
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Extend to $\varphi': G \to \mathbb{R}$ that is harmonic in G i.e. satisfies Kirchhoff's node law Studied intensively (Woess, Kaimanovich, Benjamini & Schramm)



Problem

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Interesting because:

Theorem (Gromov '87 (indirect proof))

For every compact metric space X there is a locally finite graph G and $r: E \to \mathbb{R}_+$ such that $X = \partial |G|_r$.



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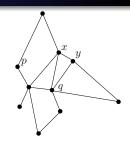
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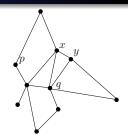
The converse works:

Theorem

If $f: \vec{E} \to \mathbb{R}$ is a flow of finite energy in G satisfying Kirchhoff's cycle law then it is possible to extend the corresponding potentials continuously to $\partial |G|_r$.



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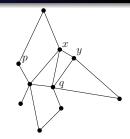


Every edge e has a weight c(e)

Go from x to y with probability

$$P_{X \to y} := \frac{c(xy)}{c(x)}$$

where $c(x) := \sum_{xv \in E} c(xv)$

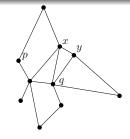


Every edge e has a weight c(e)

Go from x to y with probability

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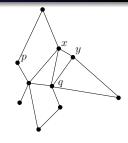
 $\mathbb{P}_{pq}(x) :=$ the probability that if you start in x you will hit p before q.

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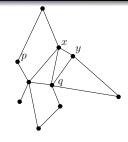
$$c(e) <=> \frac{1}{r(e)}$$

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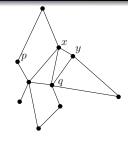
Connect a source of voltage 1 to p, q

Every edge e has a weight c(e)

Go from x to y with probability

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where $c(x) := \sum_{vv \in F} c(xv)$

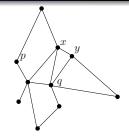


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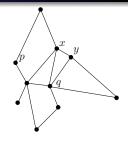
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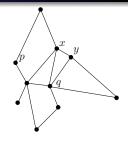
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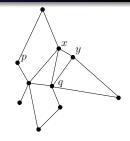




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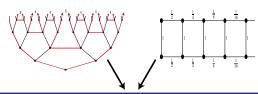


Problem

Define brownian motion on $|G|_{\ell}$



Summary



Theorem (G '08)

In a network with $\sum_{e \in F} r(e) < \infty$ there is a unique 'good' current

Problem

Define brownian motion on $|G|_{\ell}$

Problem

Solve the Dirichlet Problem at the $|G|_{\ell}$ boundary

