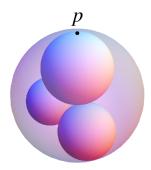
# A local-global principle for integral Kleinian sphere packings

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



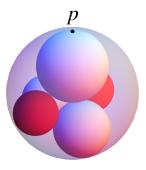


Figure: Four tangent spheres.

Figure: Four tangent spheres with two additional tangent spheres.





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Figure: More tangent spheres.

Figure: A Soddy sphere packing.



Label on sphere: bend = 1/radius

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



Figure: An integral Soddy sphere packing made by Nicolas Hannachi. Label on sphere: bend = 1/radius

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



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Which integers appear as bends?



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

Which integers appear as bends?

Are there any congruence or local obstructions?

## Definition (Admissible integers for Soddy sphere packings)

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be an integral Soddy sphere packing. An integer m is **admissible (or locally represented)** if for every  $q \ge 1$ 

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

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

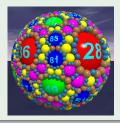
## Theorem (Kontorovich, 2019)

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

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

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

#### Example



*m* is admissible  $\iff$   $m \equiv 0$  or 1 (mod 3).

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## Theorem (Kontorovich, 2019)

The bends of a fixed primitive integral Soddy sphere packing  $\mathcal{P}$  satisfy a local-global principle. That is, there is an  $N_0 = N_0(\mathcal{P})$  so that, if  $m > N_0$  and m is

admissible, then m is the bend of a sphere in the packing.

#### Example



If  $m \equiv 0$  or 1 (mod 3) and m is sufficiently large, then m is the bend of a sphere in the packing.

# Proof outline for Soddy sphere packing result

Show that the automorphism/symmetry group of the Soddy sphere packing contains a congruence subgroup of PSL<sub>2</sub>(ℤ[e<sup>πi/3</sup>]), and this congruence subgroup maps a particular sphere to itself. This implies that the set of bends contains "primitive" values of a shifted quaternary quadratic form.

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- The shifted quaternary quadratic form gives you enough to work with so that you can quote the result of the circle method to say that every sufficiently large admissible number is represented by the quadratic form without the primitivity restriction.

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- The shifted quaternary quadratic form gives you enough to work with so that you can quote the result of the circle method to say that every sufficiently large admissible number is represented by the quadratic form without the primitivity restriction.
- Show that the singular series (with the primitivity restriction) is bounded away from zero when *m* is admissible.

# Congruence subgroup of $PSL_2(\mathcal{O}_K)$

#### Definition (Principal congruence subgroup of $PSL_2(\mathcal{O}_K)$ )

For an imaginary quadratic field K, a **principal congruence subgroup** of  $PSL_2(\mathcal{O}_K)$  is a subgroup of  $PSL_2(\mathcal{O}_K)$  of the form

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

for a fixed element  $\varrho$  of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{K}}$ .

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for a fixed element  $\rho$  of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{K}}$ .

#### Example (Soddy sphere packing, Kontorovich, 2019)

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

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

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

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## Definition (Kleinian sphere packing)

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

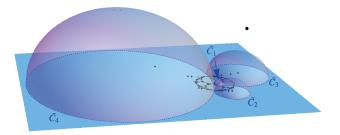


Figure: Apollonian circle packing as the limit set of  $\Gamma$ . Figure created by Alex Kontorovich.

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

## Examples of integral Kleinian sphere packings



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

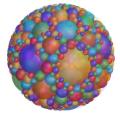


Figure: An integral Kleinian (more specifically, an orthoplicial) sphere packing made by Kei Nakamura.

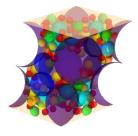


Figure: A fundamental domain of an integral Kleinian sphere packing made by Arseniy (Senia) Sheydvasser. We want to prove local-global principles for certain integral Kleinian sphere packings, that is, we want to prove the following: If m is admissible and sufficiently large, then m is a bend of an (n-1)-sphere in the packing.

#### Definition (Admissible integers)

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be an integral Kleinian sphere packing. An integer m is **admissible (or locally represented)** if for every  $q \ge 1$ 

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

Suppose that

- n ≥ 3,
- *P* is a primitive integral Kleinian (n 1)-sphere packing in R<sup>n</sup> with an orientation-preserving automorphism group Γ of Möbius transformations,

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Then every sufficiently large admissible integer is a bend of an (n-1)-sphere in  $\Gamma \cdot S_1 \subseteq \mathcal{P}$ .

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#### Theorem (Kim, 2015)

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

For us,

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

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

# Proof outline of my theorem in progress

The assumptions that the stabilizer of S<sub>0</sub> in Γ contains (up to conjugacy) a congruence subgroup of PSL<sub>2</sub>(O<sub>K</sub>) and that S<sub>1</sub> ∈ P is tangent to S<sub>0</sub> imply that the set of bends of P contains "primitive" values of a quadratic polynomial in 4 variables.

# Proof outline of my theorem in progress

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- This quadratic polynomial in 4 variables should give you enough to work with so that you can apply the circle method to show that every sufficiently large admissible number is represented as a bend.

## Isometries of $\mathcal{H}^{n+1}$

- $\operatorname{Isom}^0(\mathcal{H}^{n+1})$ : group of orientation-preserving isometries of  $\mathcal{H}^{n+1}$
- $M\"ob^0(\widehat{\mathbb{R}^n})$ : group of orientation-preserving Möbius transformations acting on  $\widehat{\mathbb{R}^n}$
- $\mathsf{M\"ob}^0(\widehat{\mathbb{R}^n}) \cong \mathsf{Isom}^0(\mathcal{H}^{n+1})$

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$$\mathsf{M\"ob}^0(\widehat{\mathbb{R}^n}) \cong \mathsf{Isom}^0(\mathcal{H}^{n+1})$$

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{Isom}^0(\mathcal{H}^{n+1}) &: \mathcal{H}^{n+1} \to \mathcal{H}^{n+1} \\ \mathsf{M\"ob}^0(\widehat{\mathbb{R}^n}) &: \widehat{\mathbb{R}^n} \to \widehat{\mathbb{R}^n} \\ z &\mapsto g(z) = (az+b)(cz+d)^{-1}, \\ g &= \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \mathsf{PSL}(2, C_{n-1}) \end{split}$$

a, b, c, d in a Clifford algebra  $C_{n-1}$  with some restrictions.

## Definition (Clifford algebra)

The **Clifford algebra**  $C_m$  is the real associative algebra generated by *m* elements  $i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_m$  subject to the relations:

• 
$$i_{\ell}^2 = -1 \ (1 \le \ell \le m)$$

• 
$$i_h i_\ell = -i_\ell i_h \ (1 \le h, \ell \le m, \ h \ne \ell)$$

#### Examples ( $C_m$ for some m)

• 
$$C_0 = \mathbb{R}$$

• 
$$C_1 \cong \mathbb{C}, \ z_0 + z_1 i_1 \leftrightarrow z_0 + z_1 i$$

• 
$$C_2 \cong \mathbb{H}, \ z_0 + z_1 i_1 + z_2 i_2 + z_{12} i_1 i_2 \leftrightarrow z_0 + z_1 i + z_2 j + z_{12} k$$

• 
$$C_3 \cong \mathbb{H} \oplus \mathbb{H}$$

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$$V_{n-1} := \{ v_0 + v_1 i_1 + \dots + v_{n-1} i_{n-1} \} \cong \mathbb{R}^n$$
  
$$v_0 + v_1 i_1 + \dots + v_{n-1} i_{n-1} \leftrightarrow (v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1})$$

$$\widehat{V_{n-1}} := V_{n-1} \cup \{\infty\} \cong \mathbb{R}^n \cup \{\infty\} = \widehat{\mathbb{R}^n}$$

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## Example (n = 2)

$$\mathsf{M\ddot{o}b}(\widehat{\mathbb{R}^2})\cong\mathsf{PSL}_2(\mathbb{C})$$
 acts on  $\widehat{\mathbb{R}^2}\cong\widehat{\mathbb{C}}$  via

$$z \mapsto g(z) = (az + b)(cz + d)^{-1},$$
  
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Restrictions make explicitly stating what  $M\"{o}b(\widehat{\mathbb{R}^n})$  is isomorphic to trickier for n > 2. (For example,  $M\"{o}b(\widehat{\mathbb{R}^3}) \ncong PSL_2(\mathbb{H})$ , even though  $C_2 \cong \mathbb{H}$ .)

## Definition (Inversive coordinates)

Given an oriented generalized (n-1)-sphere S, we define the **inversive coordinates** of S to be the ordered triple  $(\beta(S), \hat{\beta}(S), \xi(S))$ , where they are defined as follows:

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If S is an oriented (n - 1)-sphere, then the bend β(S) of S is 1/(radius of S), taken to be positive if S is positively oriented and negative otherwise.

If S is a hyperplane, then its bend is  $\beta(S) = 0$ .

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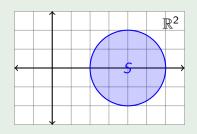
- The **co-bend**  $\hat{\beta}(S)$  of S is the bend of the reflection of S in the unit (n-1)-sphere.
- If S is an oriented (n − 1)-sphere, then the bend-center ξ(S) ∈ ℝ<sup>n</sup> of S is β(S) × (center of S).
  If S is a hyperplane, then its bend-center is the unique unit normal vector to S pointing in the direction of the interior of S.

Given an oriented generalized (n-1)-sphere *S*, the **inversive-coordinate matrix** of *S* is the 2 × 2 matrix

$$M_S := egin{pmatrix} \hat{eta}(S) & \xi(S) \ \overline{\xi(S)} & eta(S) \end{pmatrix}.$$

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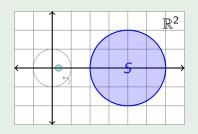
$$M_{\mathcal{S}} := \begin{pmatrix} \hat{eta}(\mathcal{S}) & \xi(\mathcal{S}) \\ \overline{\xi(\mathcal{S})} & \beta(\mathcal{S}) \end{pmatrix}.$$



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$$\beta(S) = \frac{1}{2}$$

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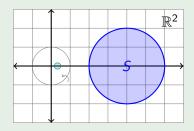
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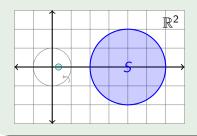
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•  $\xi(S) = \frac{1}{2}(4,0) = (2,0)$   
 $\sim 2 + 0i = 0$   
•  $M_S = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & 2 \\ 2 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$ 

#### Lemma (J., 2021+, proved)

The group  $SL(2, C_{n-1})$  acts on the set of inversive-coordinate matrices by

$$g.M := gM\overline{g}^{\top}$$

for an inversive-coordinate matrix M and  $g \in SL(2, C_{n-1})$ . The group action of  $SL(2, C_{n-1})$  on the set of inversive-coordinate matrices is equivalent to the group action of  $SL(2, C_{n-1})$  on the set of oriented generalized (n-1)-spheres. That is, if S is an oriented generalized (n-1)-sphere and  $g \in SL(2, C_{n-1})$ , then

$$M_{gS} = g.M_S.$$

Extends work of Stange (n = 2), Sheydvasser (n = 3), and Litman & Sheydvasser (n = 4).

### Corollary (J., 2021+, proved)

Let

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \mathsf{SL}(2, C_{n-1}),$$

and let  $S_0$  be an oriented generalized (n-1)-sphere with the inversive coordinates  $(\beta, \hat{\beta}, \xi)$ .

Then  $gS_0$  has the following inversive coordinates:

- bend  $\beta(gS_0) = \hat{\beta}|c|^2 + d\overline{\xi}\overline{c} + c\xi\overline{d} + \beta|d|^2$
- co-bend  $\hat{\beta}(gS_0) = \hat{\beta}|a|^2 + b\overline{\xi}\overline{a} + a\overline{\xi}\overline{b} + \beta|b|^2$
- bend-center  $\xi(gS_0) = a\hat{\beta}\overline{c} + b\overline{\xi}\overline{c} + a\overline{\xi}\overline{d} + b\beta\overline{d}$

The assumptions that the stabilizer of  $S_0$  in  $\Gamma$  contains (up to conjugacy) a congruence subgroup of  $PSL_2(\mathcal{O}_K)$  and that  $S_1 \in \mathcal{P}$  is tangent to  $S_0$  imply that the set of bends of  $\mathcal{P}$  contains "primitive" values of a quadratic polynomial in 4 variables.

Assume  $S_0$  is the hyperplane with inversive coordinates  $(0, 0, -i_{n-1})$ and  $S_1$  is a hyperplane with inversive coordinates  $(0, \hat{\beta}_1, i_{n-1})$ ,  $\hat{\beta}_1 > 0$ .

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{K}} &= \mathbb{Z}[\omega], & \varrho \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{K}}, & \gamma = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \in \mathsf{\Gamma}, \\ g &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 + \varrho(a_0 + a_1\omega) & \varrho(b_0 + b_1\omega) \\ \varrho(c_0 + c_1\omega) & 1 + \varrho(d_0 + d_1\omega) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathsf{\Lambda}[\varrho] < \mathsf{PSL}_2(\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{K}}) \cap \mathsf{\Gamma} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\beta(\gamma g S_1) = \hat{\beta}_1 |C(1 + \varrho(a_0 + a_1\omega)) + D\varrho(c_0 + c_1\omega)|^2 - Di_{n-1}\bar{C} + Ci_{n-1}\bar{D}$$

$$\beta(\gamma g S_1) = \hat{\beta}_1 |C(1 + \varrho(a_0 + a_1\omega)) + D\varrho(c_0 + c_1\omega)|^2 - Di_{n-1}\bar{C} + Ci_{n-1}\bar{D}$$

 $\sim \rightarrow$ 

$$f_{\gamma}(a_0, a_1, c_0, c_1) = \hat{\beta}_1 |C(1 + \varrho(a_0 + a_1\omega)) + D\varrho(c_0 + c_1\omega)|^2 - Di_{n-1}\bar{C} + Ci_{n-1}\bar{D}$$

with  $a_0, a_1, c_0, c_1 \in \mathbb{Z}$  and

$$(1+\varrho(a_0+a_1\omega))\mathcal{O}_K+\varrho(c_0+c_1\omega)\mathcal{O}_K=\mathcal{O}_K. \qquad (*)$$

$$\beta(\gamma g S_1) = \hat{\beta}_1 |C(1 + \varrho(a_0 + a_1\omega)) + D\varrho(c_0 + c_1\omega)|^2 - Di_{n-1}\bar{C} + Ci_{n-1}\bar{D}$$

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 (\*)

Want to know which integers are represented by  $f_{\gamma}(a_0, a_1, c_0, c_1)$  as  $\gamma, a_0, a_1, c_0, c_1$  vary subject to coprimality condition (\*)

$$R_{N}(m) = \sum_{\substack{\gamma \in \Gamma \\ \|\gamma\| \leq T}} \sum_{\substack{a_{0}, a_{1}, c_{0}, c_{1} \in \mathbb{Z} \\ \|\gamma\| \leq T}} \mathbf{1}_{\{m = f_{\gamma}(a_{0}, a_{1}, c_{0}, c_{1})\}} \Upsilon_{X}(a_{0}, a_{1}, c_{0}, c_{1}),$$

where  $N = T^2 X^2$ , T is very small compared to X,  $\Upsilon_X$  is a nonnegative bump function so that  $a_0, a_1, c_0, c_1$  are of size X, and

$$\mathbf{1}_{\{m=f_{\gamma}(a_{0},a_{1},c_{0},c_{1})\}} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } m = f_{\gamma}(a_{0},a_{1},c_{0},c_{1}), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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## Want to know when $R_N(m) > 0$

$$R_{N}(m) = \sum_{\substack{\gamma \in \Gamma \\ \|\gamma\| \leq \mathcal{T}}} \sum_{\substack{a_{0}, a_{1}, c_{0}, c_{1} \in \mathbb{Z} \\ \|\gamma\| \leq \mathcal{T}}} \mathbf{1}_{\{m = f_{\gamma}(a_{0}, a_{1}, c_{0}, c_{1})\}} \Upsilon_{X}(a_{0}, a_{1}, c_{0}, c_{1})$$

- Addresses admissibility conditions (make sure singular series isn't too small when *m* is admissible)
- Uses spectral theory and expander graphs

$$R_{N}(m) = \sum_{\substack{\gamma \in \Gamma \\ \|\gamma\| \leq \mathcal{T}}} \sum_{\substack{a_{0}, a_{1}, c_{0}, c_{1} \in \mathbb{Z} \\ (1+\varrho(a_{0}+a_{1}\omega))\mathcal{O}_{K}+\varrho(c_{0}+c_{1}\omega)\mathcal{O}_{K}=\mathcal{O}_{K}}} \mathbf{1}_{\{m=f_{\gamma}(a_{0}, a_{1}, c_{0}, c_{1})\}} \Upsilon_{X}(a_{0}, a_{1}, c_{0}, c_{1})$$

- Can be removed using the Möbius function on ideals
- Removal currently uses the fact that O<sub>K</sub> is a PID since f<sub>γ</sub> is not invariant over elements of an ideal.

$$R_{\mathcal{N}}(m) = \sum_{\substack{\gamma \in \Gamma \\ \|\gamma\| \leq \mathcal{T}}} \sum_{\substack{a_0, a_1, c_0, c_1 \in \mathbb{Z} \\ (1+\varrho(a_0+a_1\omega))\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{K}}+\varrho(c_0+c_1\omega)\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{K}}=\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{K}}}} \mathbf{1}_{\{m=f_{\gamma}(a_0,a_1,c_0,c_1)\}} \Upsilon_X(a_0,a_1,c_0,c_1)$$

• Circle method with a Kloosterman refinement obtains the bulk of the main term and the error term.

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• Remove the condition that  $\mathcal{O}_K$  is a PID.

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- Remove the condition that  $\mathcal{O}_K$  is a PID.
- Remove condition about  $S_1 \in \mathcal{P}$  is tangent to  $S_0$ .

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- Remove condition about  $S_1 \in \mathcal{P}$  is tangent to  $S_0$ .
  - Have quadratic polynomial with 8 variables instead of 4.

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  - The coprimality condition becomes a determinant condition.

- Remove the condition that  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{K}}$  is a PID.
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  - Have quadratic polynomial with 8 variables instead of 4.
  - The coprimality condition becomes a determinant condition.
- How large is sufficiently large?

Besides the illustrations previously credited and a few circle illustrations created by the presenter, the illustrations for this talk came from the following paper:

Alex Kontorovich, "The Local-Global Principle for Integral Soddy Sphere Packings," *Journal of Modern Dynamics*, volume 15, pp. 209-236, 2019, https://www.aimsciences.org/article/doi/ 10.3934/jmd.2019019.

# Thank you for listening!

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