

Deforming foliations and commuting diffeomorphisms

Hélène Eynard-Bontemps
Université Grenoble Alpes

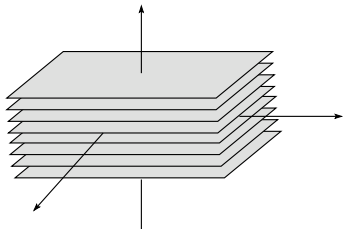
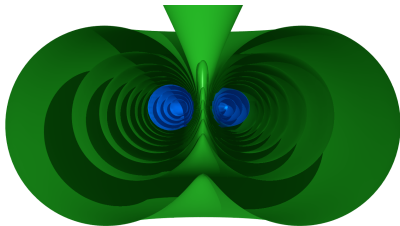
La Sapienza, 11/06/25

Let M be an n dimensional manifold.

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Definition

A *codimension 1 foliation* of M is a partition of M by injectively immersed hypersurfaces (called the *leaves*) which is locally modeled on the partition of \mathbb{R}^n by the parallel affine hyperplanes $\mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times \{\cdot\}$.



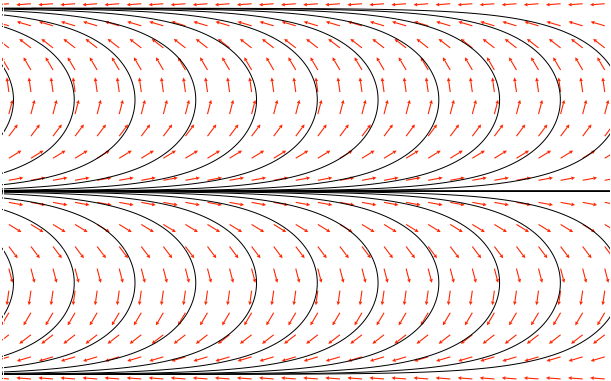
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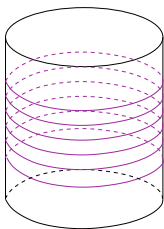
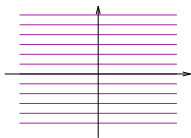
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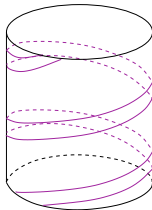
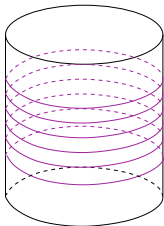
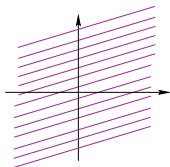
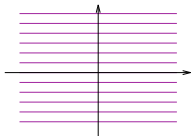
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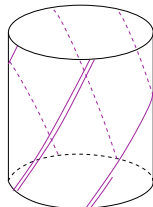
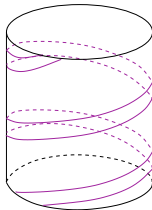
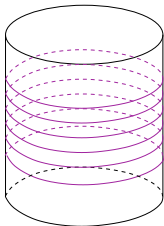
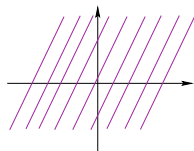
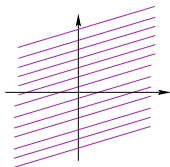
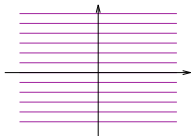
Linear foliations of \mathbb{R}^2 and \mathbb{T}^2



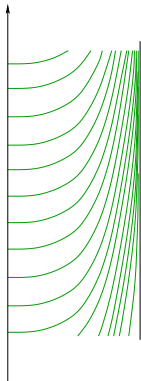
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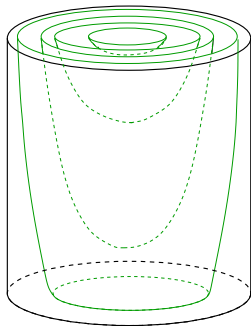
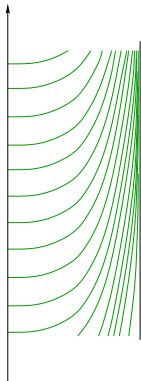
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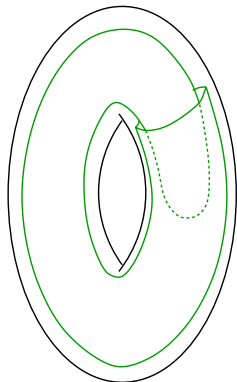
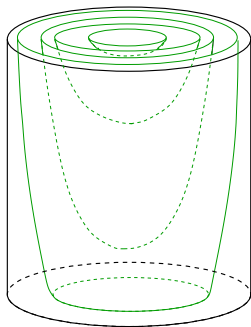
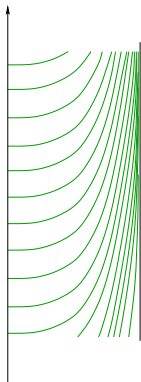
Reeb foliation of the solid torus and the 3-sphere S^3



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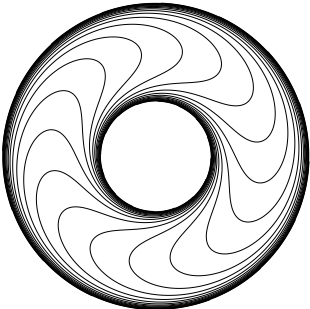
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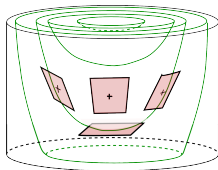
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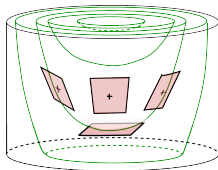
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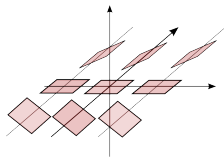
- Foliation \rightsquigarrow tangent hyperplane field



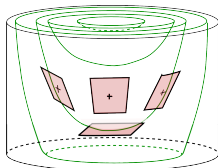
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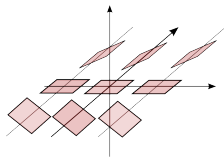
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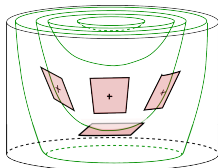


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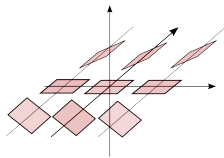


$$\xi = \ker(dz - ydx) \text{ sur } \mathbb{R}^3$$

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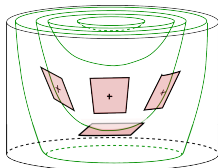
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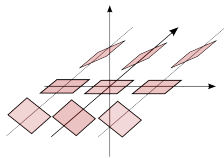
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A plane field tangent to a foliation is called *integrable*.

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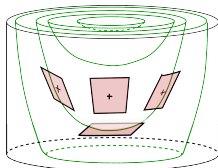


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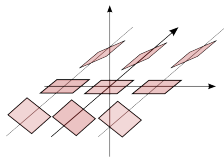
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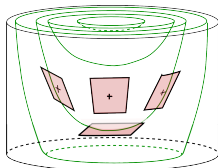
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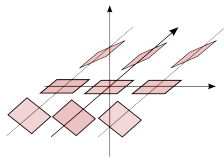
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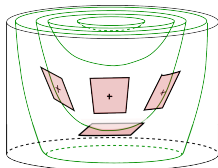
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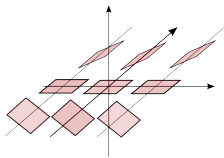
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$$\Leftrightarrow \forall \text{ vector field } \nu \text{ tangent to } \xi, \quad (\phi_\nu^t)_* \xi = \xi.$$

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Theorem (Wood)

Every plane field on a closed 3-manifold can be deformed to an integrable one.

Question

If two foliations have homotopic tangent plane fields, can they be connected by a path of foliations?

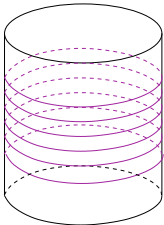
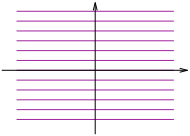
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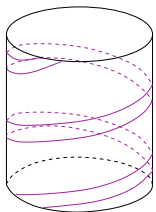
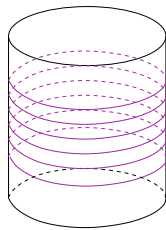
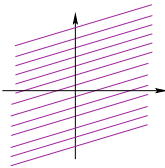
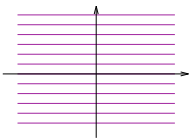
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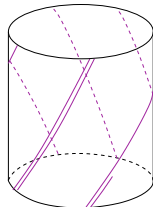
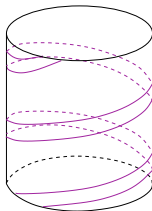
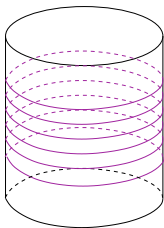
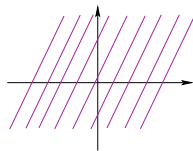
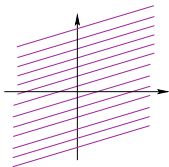
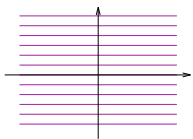
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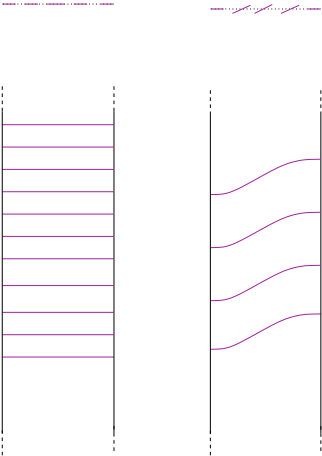
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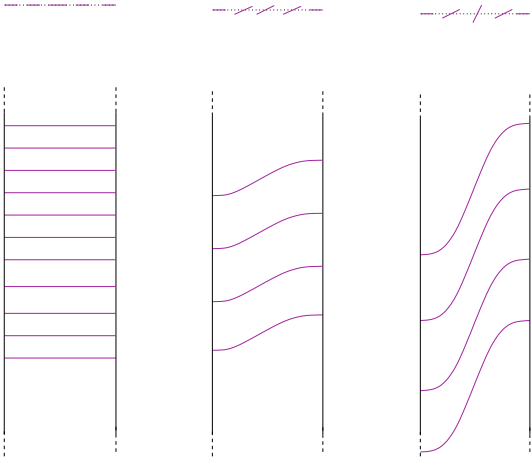
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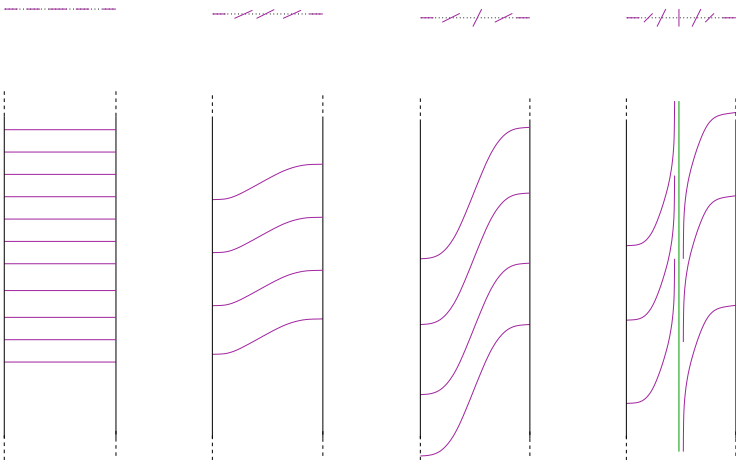
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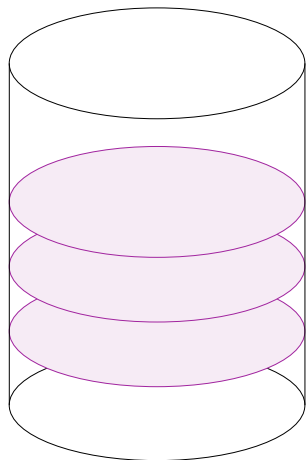
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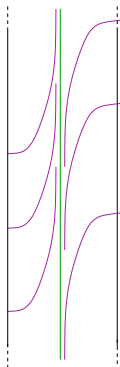
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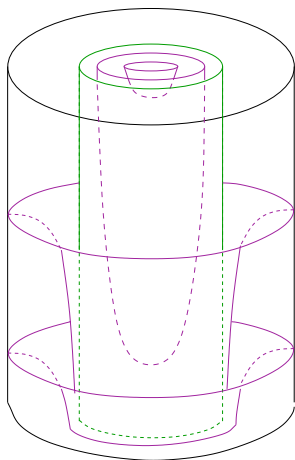
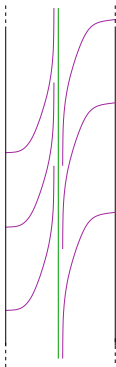
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EB, 2009 + **Bonatti–EB, 2012** :

Theorem

If two foliations have homotopic tangent plane fields, they belong to the same connected component of $\mathcal{F}(M)$.

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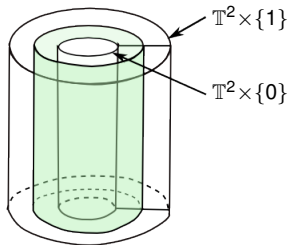
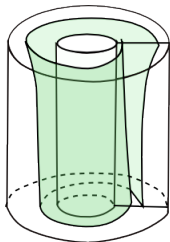
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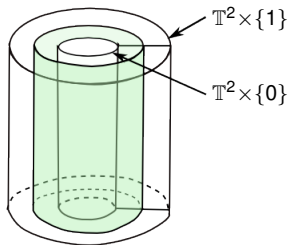
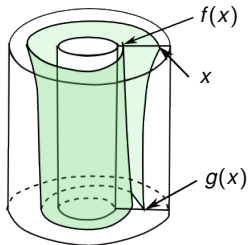
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EB, 2015: the maps $\pi_k \mathcal{F}(M) \rightarrow \pi_k \mathcal{P}(M)$ are surjective.

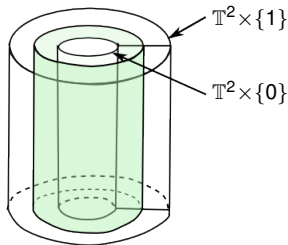
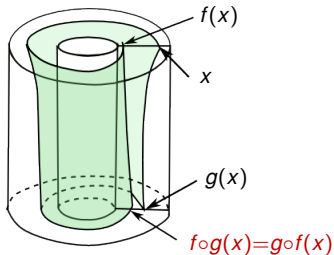
Problem: connect two foliations of $\mathbb{T}^2 \times [0, 1]$ tangent to the boundary and transverse to $[0, 1]$.



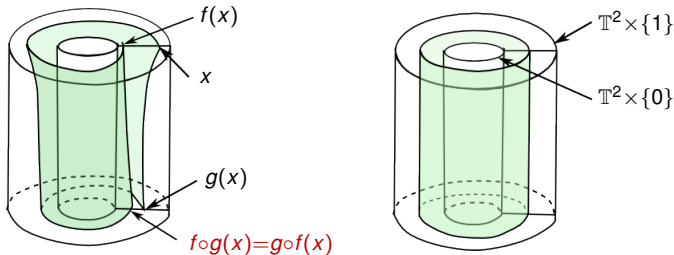
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Equivalent problem : deform (f, g) to (Id, Id) among pairs of commuting diffeomorphisms.

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Is the space of pairs of (orientation preserving) commuting diffeomorphisms of $[0, 1]$ path-connected?

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In regularity C^∞ , this space is connected.

We do not know whether it is **path**-connected.

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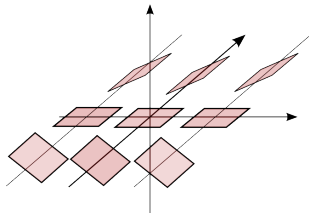
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Theorem (EB – Navas, 2023)

*In regularity C^{1+ac} , this space is **path**-connected.*

Theorem (Wood, Thurston)

Every plane field is homotopic to a foliation.



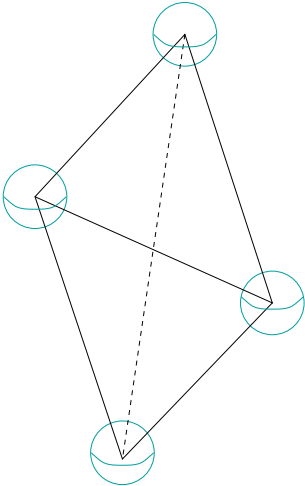
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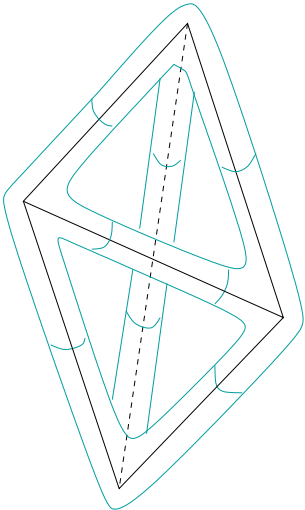
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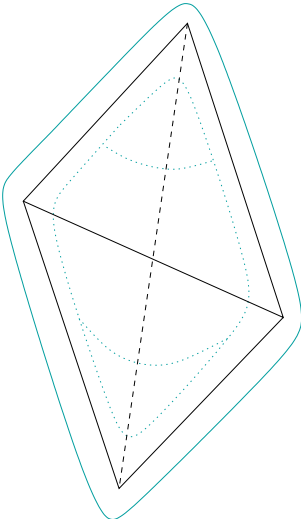
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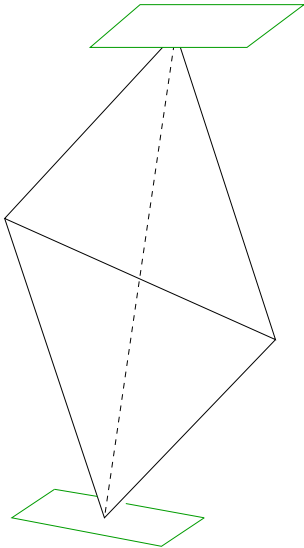
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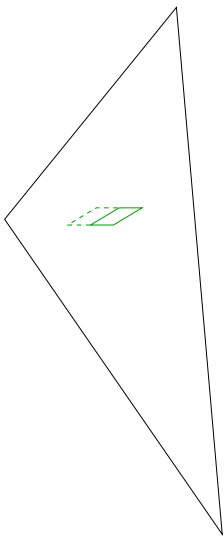
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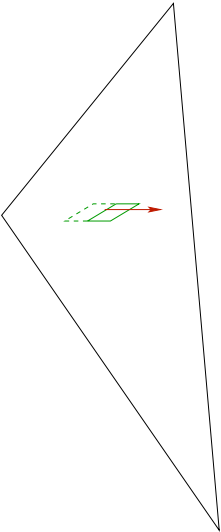
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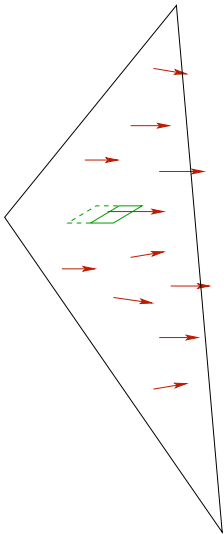
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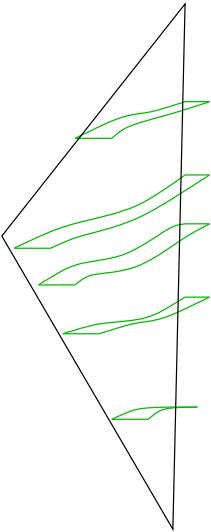
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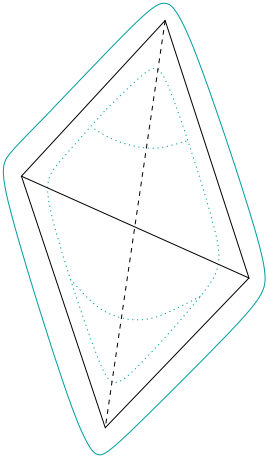
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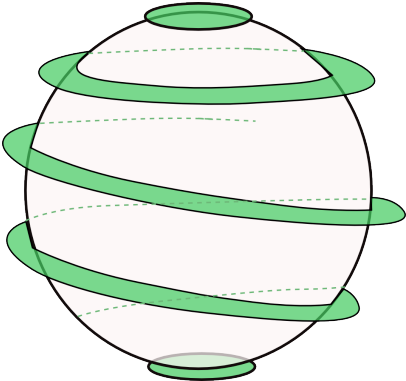
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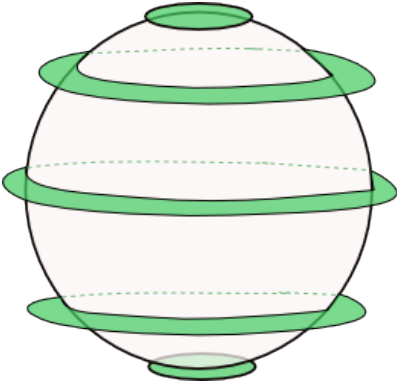
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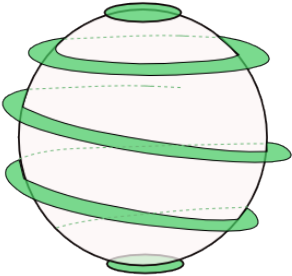
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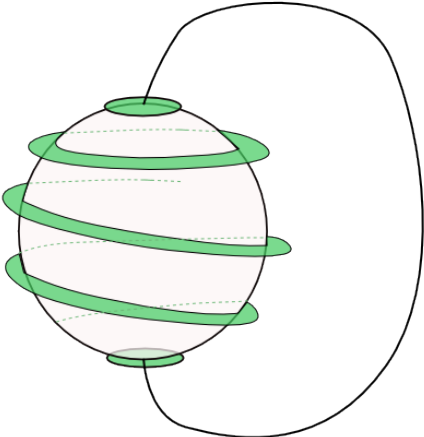
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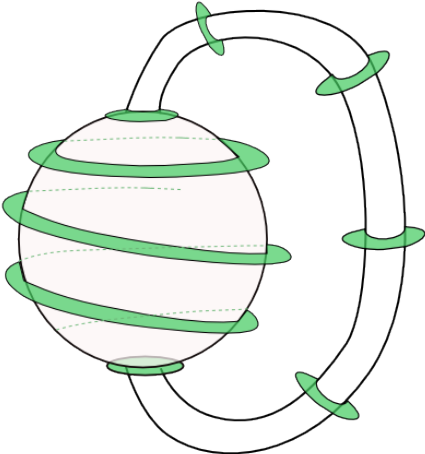
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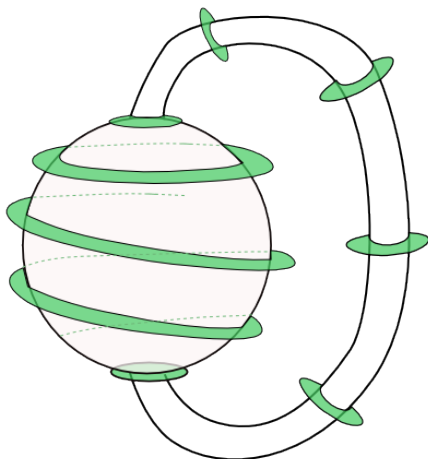
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Proposition (Thurston)

Every foliation of $\partial\mathbb{D}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^1$ transverse to \mathbb{S}^1 extends to a foliation of $\mathbb{D}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^1$.

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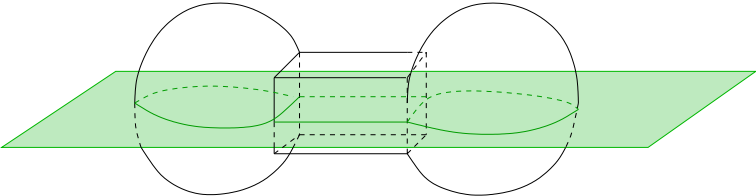
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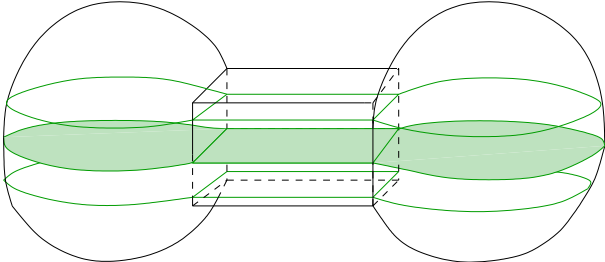
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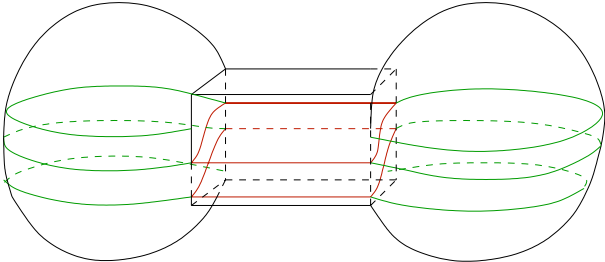
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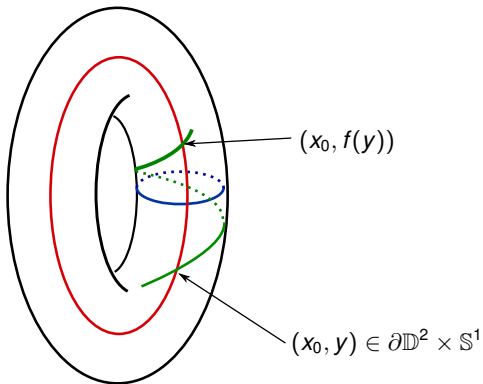
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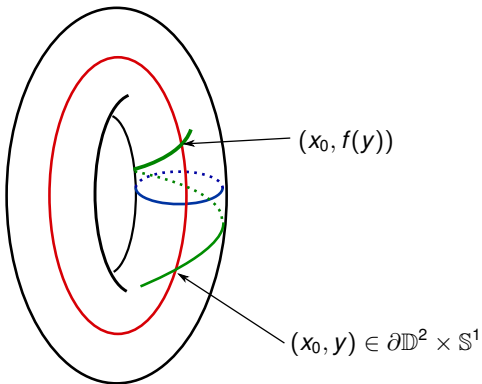


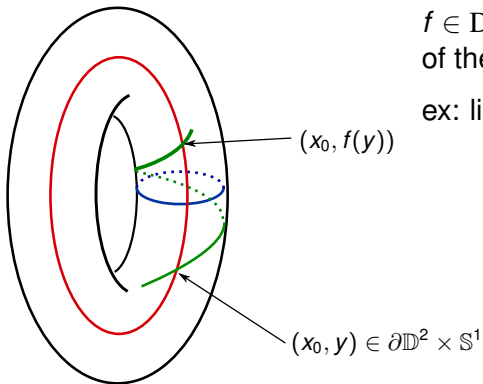
Theorem (Thurston)

Every foliation of $\partial\mathbb{D}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^1$ transverse to \mathbb{S}^1 extends to $\mathbb{D}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^1$.



$f : \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1$ first return map.

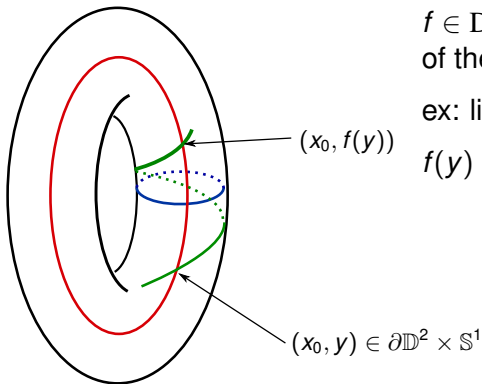




$f : \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1$ first return map.

$f \in \text{Diff}_+(\mathbb{S}^1)$ is the *holonomy*
of the foliation.

ex: linear foliation of slope α



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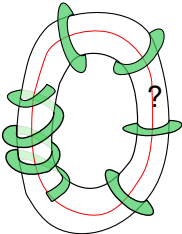
$f \in \text{Diff}_+(\mathbb{S}^1)$ is the *holonomy*
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ex: linear foliation of slope α

$$f(y) = y + \alpha \pmod{\mathbb{Z}}.$$

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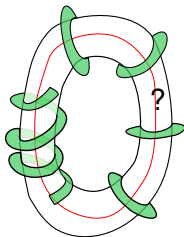
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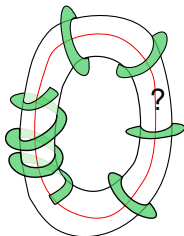
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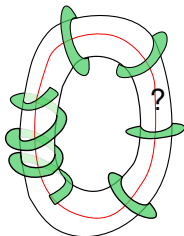


Proof 1: If the holonomy on the boundary is a product of commutators, there exists an extension.



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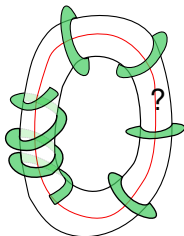


Proof 1: If the holonomy on the boundary is a product of commutators, there exists an extension.

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Proof 2 : If $\mathcal{H} := \{\text{hol. fro which } \exists \text{ extension}\}$

$$\{\text{Id}\} \neq \mathcal{H} \triangleleft \text{Diff}(\mathbb{S}^1)$$



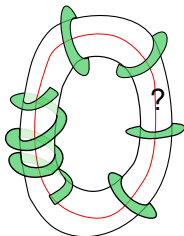
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Proof 3 : (Schweitzer, Larcanché) gives in addition continuity w.r.t. boundary condition.

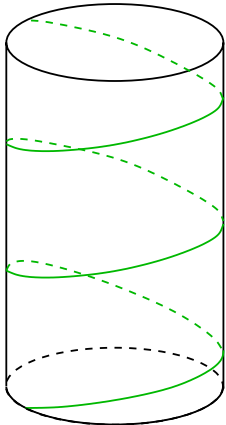
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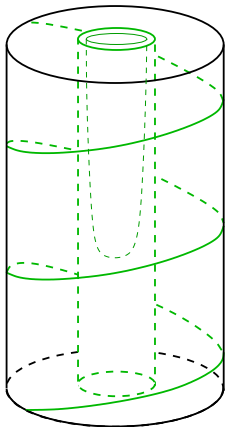
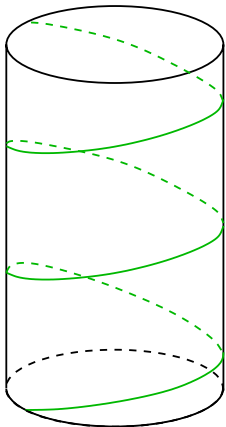
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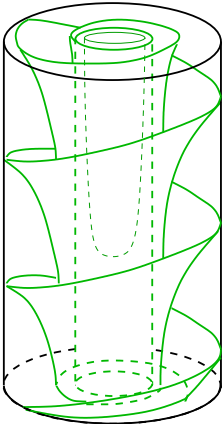
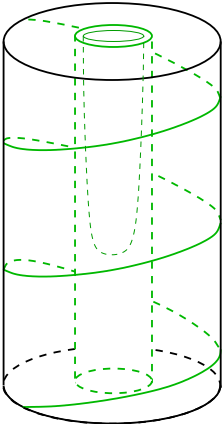
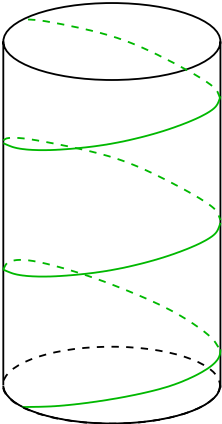
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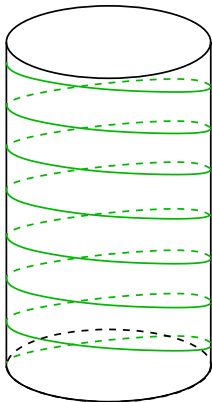
Theorem (Herman)

Let μ be a diophantine number (e.g. the golden ratio). Then every $f \in \text{Diff}_+(\mathbb{S}^1)$ can be decomposed as

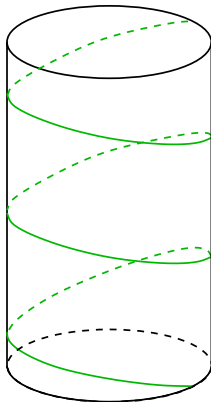
$$f = R_{\lambda_f} \circ (g_f^{-1} \circ R_{\mu} \circ g_f)$$

with $(\lambda_f, g_f) \in \mathbb{R} \times \text{Diff}_+(\mathbb{S}^1)$ depending continuously on f .

$$R_{\lambda_f}$$



$$g_f^{-1} \circ R_\mu \circ g_f$$



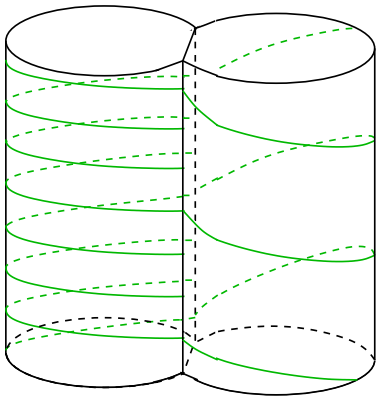
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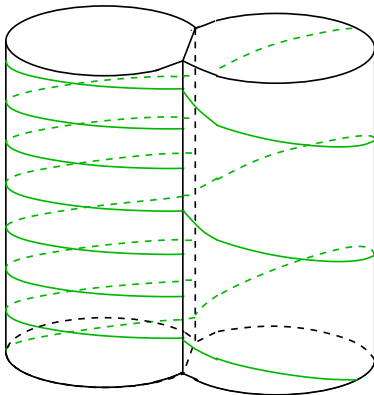
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$$R_{\lambda_f} \circ (g_f^{-1} \circ R_\mu \circ g_f) = f$$



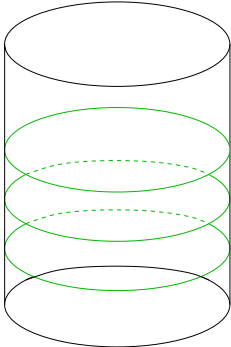
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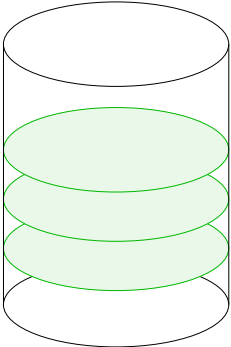
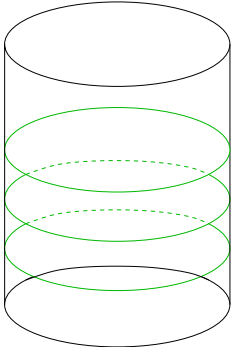
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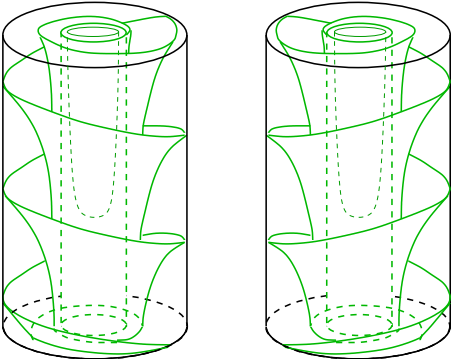
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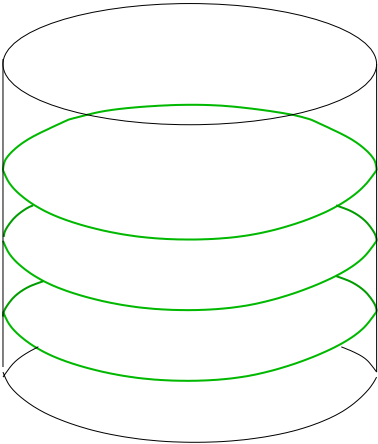
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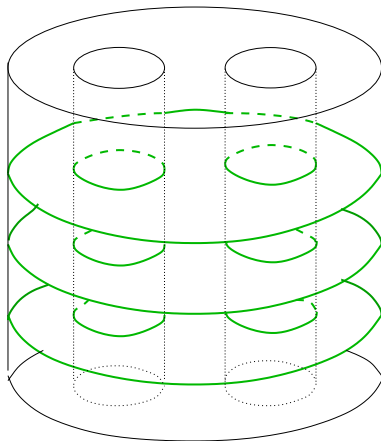
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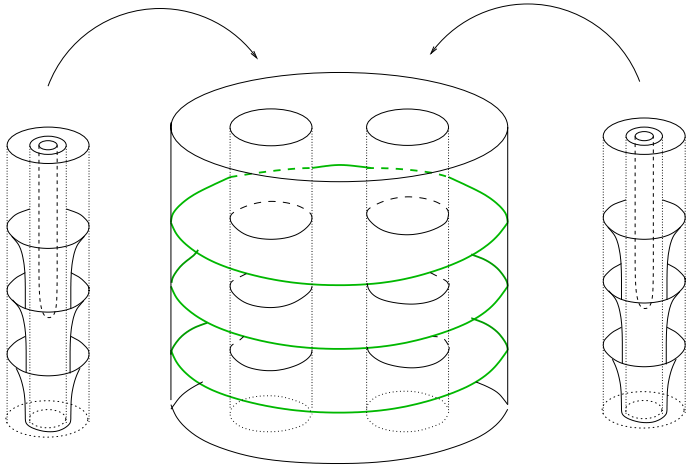
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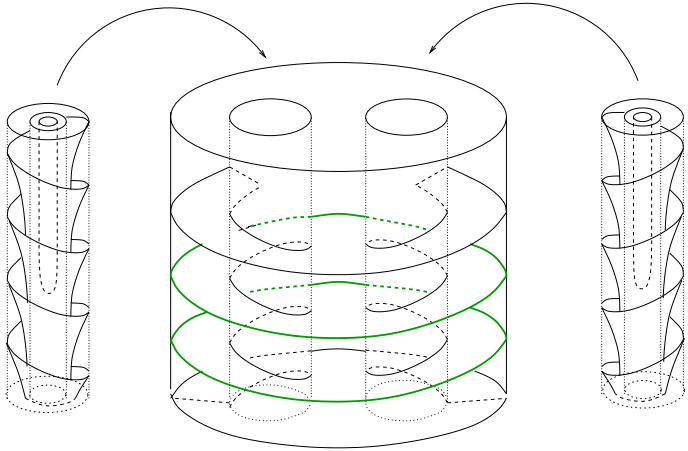
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Deforming foliations and commuting diffeomorphisms

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Let ξ_0 and ξ_1 be foliations connected by a path of plane fields $(\xi_t)_{t \in [0,1]}$.

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Recap on Thurston's construction:

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Recap on Thurston's construction:

- find a triangulation in good position and make integrable in neighborhood of 2-skeleton;

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- find a triangulation in good position and make integrable in neighborhood of 2-skeleton;
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Recap on Thurston's construction:

- find a triangulation in good position and make integrable in neighborhood of 2-skeleton;
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- enlarge the holes along transverse arcs connecting the poles and fill the new toric holes.

There are problems at every stage! Because of the parameter, and of the relative character of the pb ($t = 0, 1$)

"Enlarge the holes along transverse arcs connecting the poles and fill the new toric holes".

"Enlarge the holes along transverse arcs connecting the poles and fill the new toric holes".

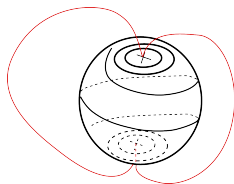
- If we have transverse arcs varying continuously with t , Schweitzer-Larcanché's fillings also do.

"Enlarge the holes along transverse arcs connecting the poles and fill the new toric holes".

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- The initial foliations and their "fillings after digging" are connected by paths of foliations.

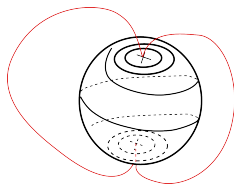
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- And if the arcs do not vary continuously...



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- If we have transverse arcs varying continuously with t , Schweitzer-Larcanché's fillings also do.
- The initial foliations and their "fillings after digging" are connected by paths of foliations.
- And if the arcs do not vary continuously...



Siphon Lemma

The two foliations obtained by digging along one arc or the other are connected by a path of foliations.

Find a triangulation in good position and make integrable in neighborhood of 2-skeleton.

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Find a triangulation in good position and make integrable in neighborhood of 2-skeleton.

One cannot ask a triangulation to have its faces and edges transverse to every ξ_t !

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Find a triangulation in good position and make integrable in neighborhood of 2-skeleton.

One cannot ask a triangulation to have its faces and edges transverse to every ξ_t !

- One can find one such that all the ξ_t are “almost constant” on each 3-simplex;

Find a triangulation in good position and make integrable in neighborhood of 2-skeleton.

One cannot ask a triangulation to have its faces and edges transverse to every ξ_t !

- One can find one such that all the ξ_t are “almost constant” on each 3-simplex;
- One first deals with the simplices which are almost tangent to some ξ_t (they must be isolated);

Find a triangulation in good position and make integrable in neighborhood of 2-skeleton.

One cannot ask a triangulation to have its faces and edges transverse to every ξ_t !

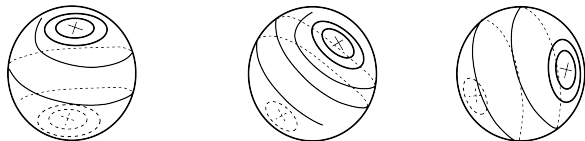
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- One first deals with the simplices which are almost tangent to some ξ_t (they must be isolated);
- Quantitative: one must be able to embed a sufficiently curved sphere in the foliated zone near the boundary of each 3-simplex so that the fol. on this sphere has the desired type.

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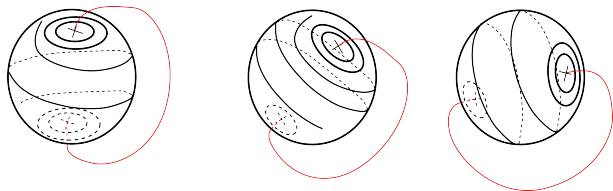
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"Break compact leaves"

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Two taut foliations whose plane fields are homotopic can be connected by a path of foliations (generally not taut!).

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Theorem

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Actually works for a bigger class: foliations called **malleable** (every leaf meets a closed loop, *except* maybe finitely many torus leaves which lie in "Schweitzer solid tori").

Question

Is every foliation connected to a malleable one by a path of foliations?

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Every non torus leaf meets a transverse loop.

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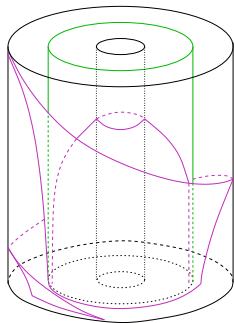
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Question

Can any foliation be deformed to a neat one?

Theorem

*Deux feuilletages nets homotopes comme champs de plans
le sont parmi les feuilletages nets.*



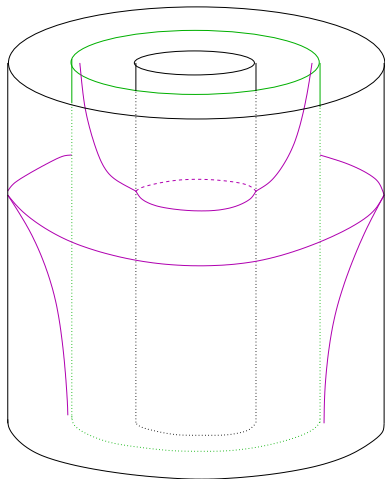
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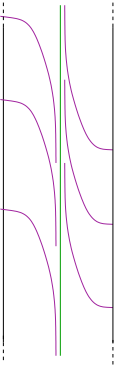
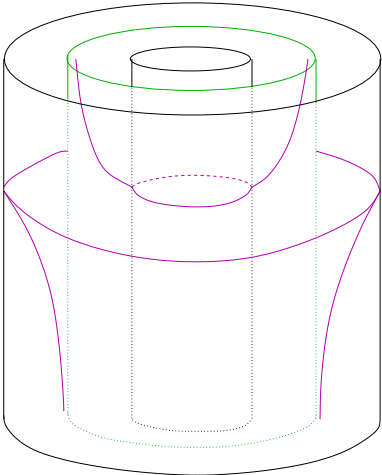
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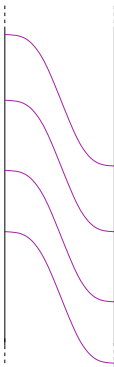
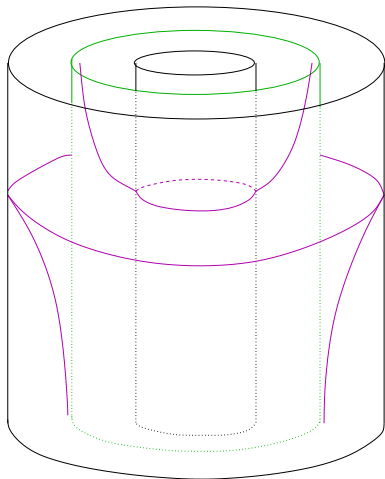
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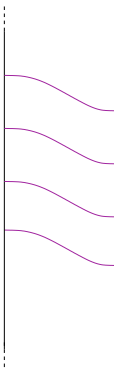
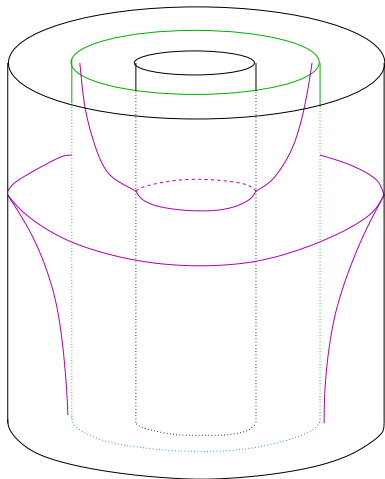
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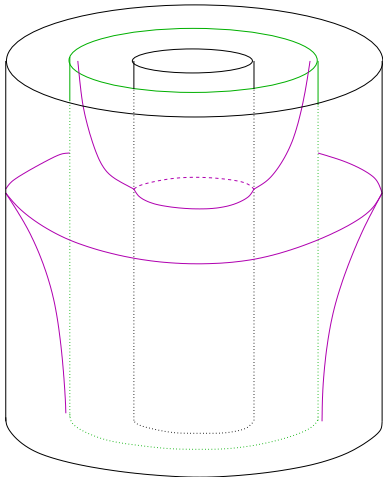
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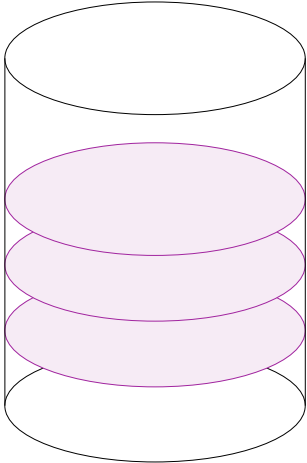
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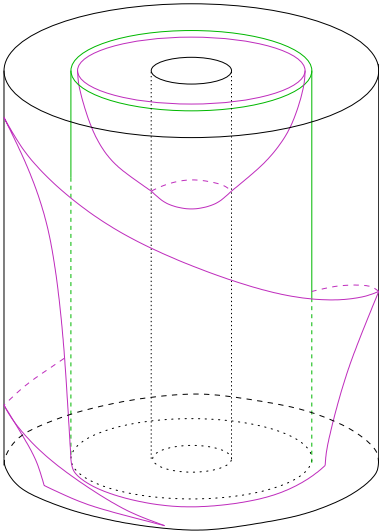
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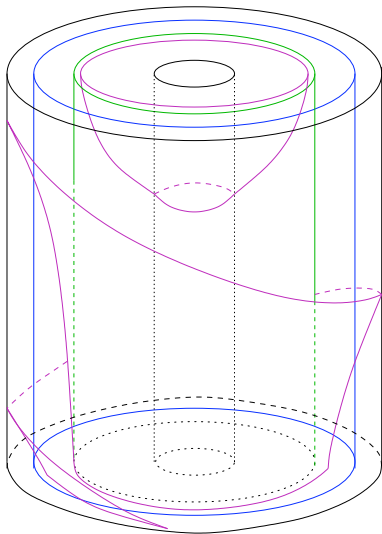
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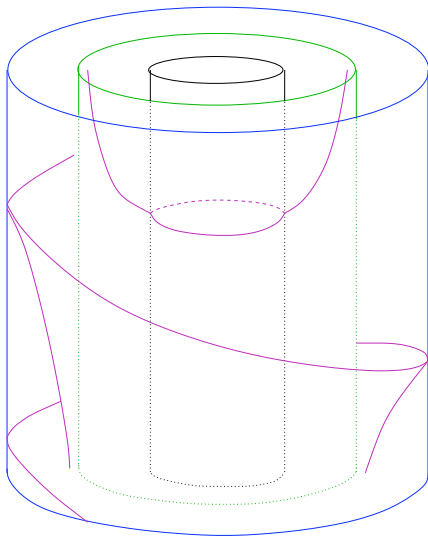
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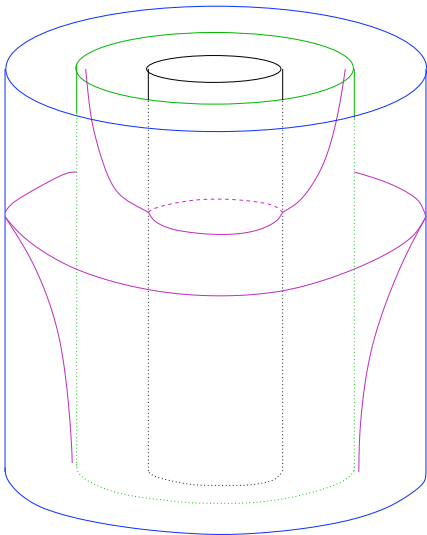
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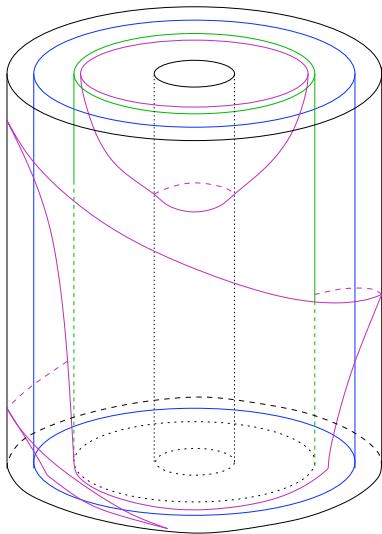
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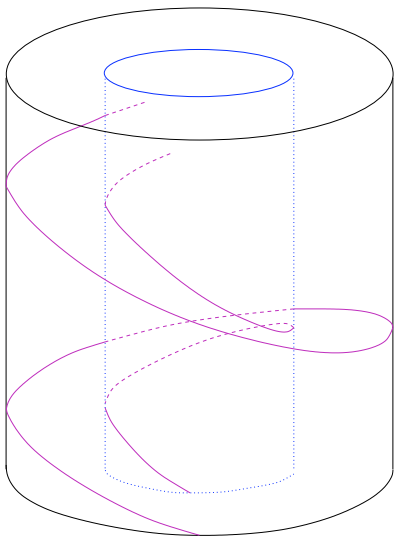
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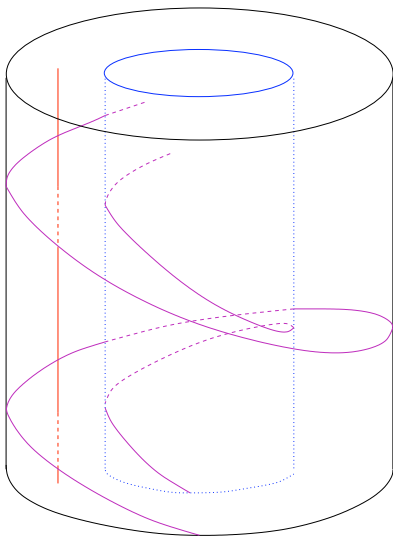
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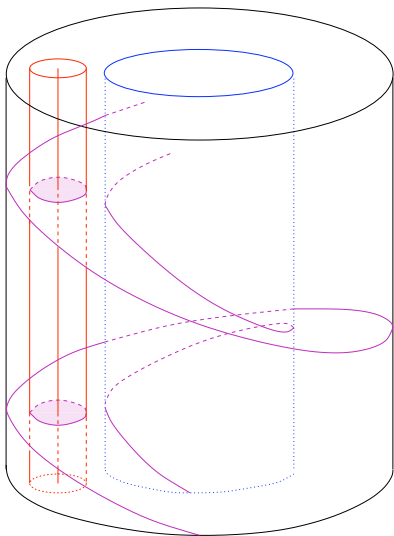
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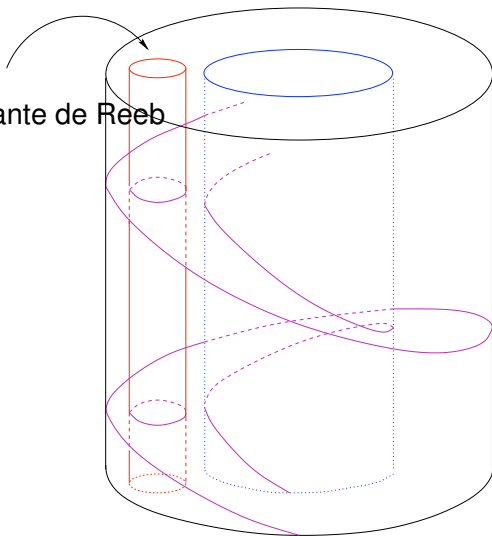
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Composante de Reeb



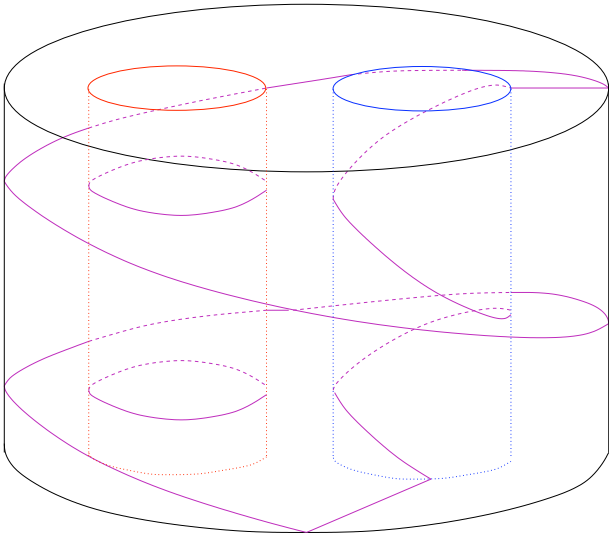
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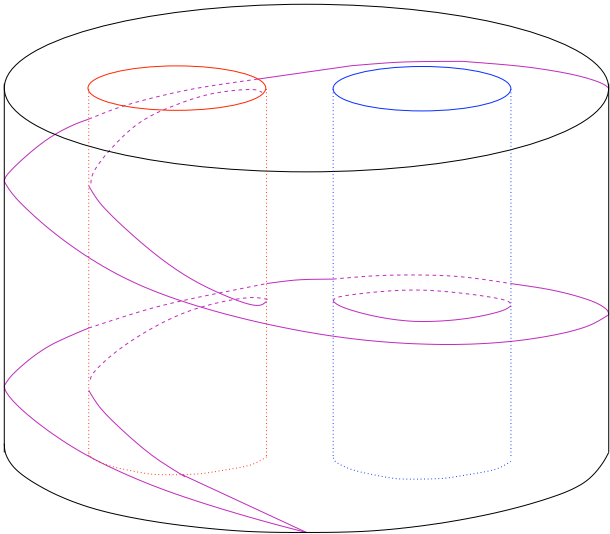
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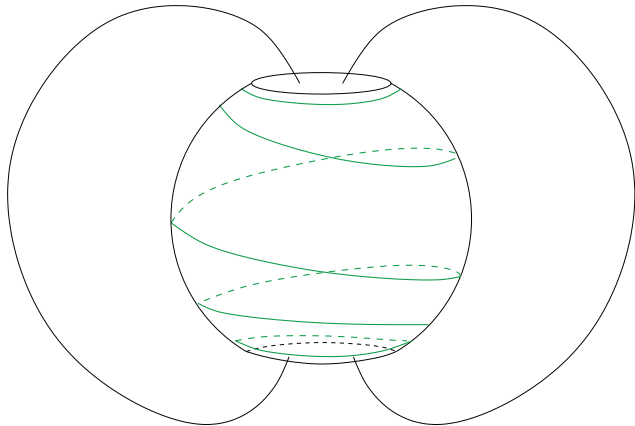
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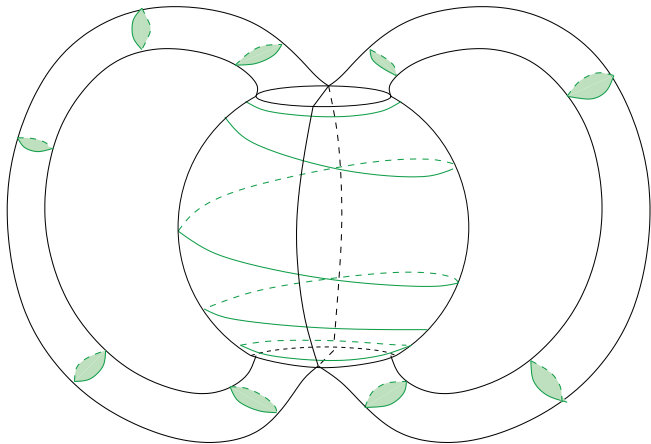
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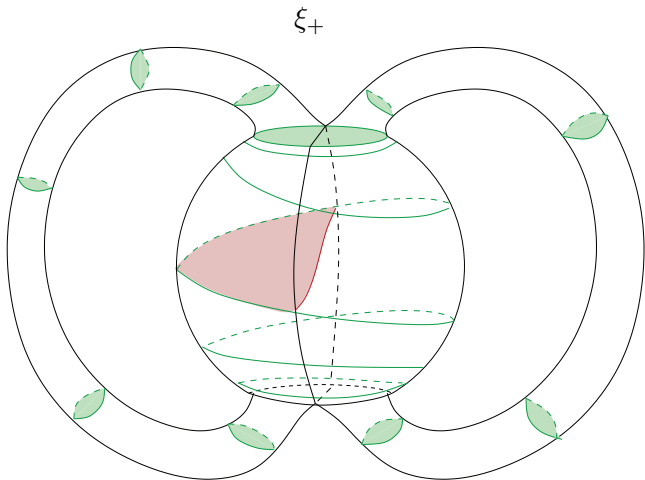
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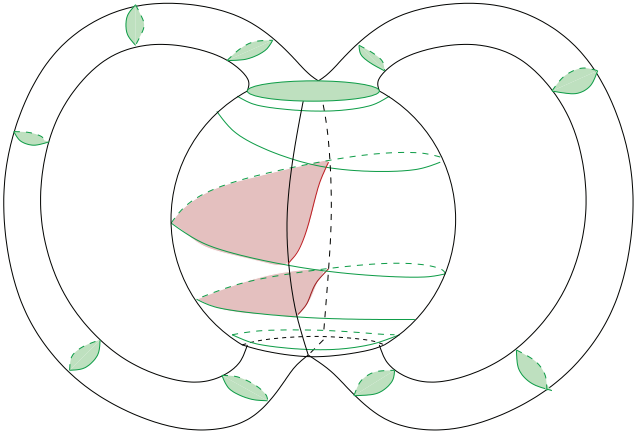
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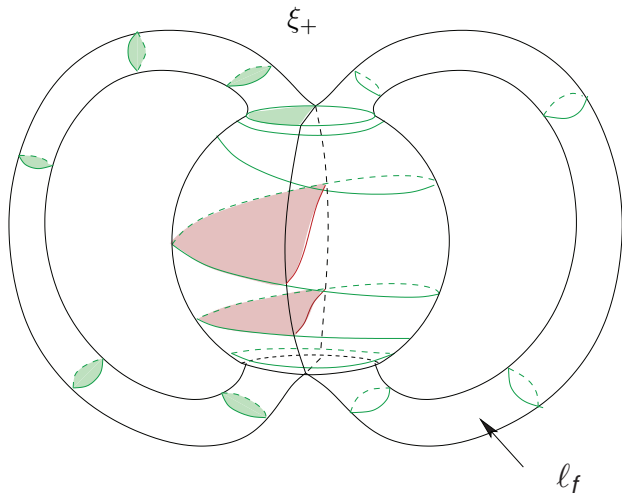
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ξ_+





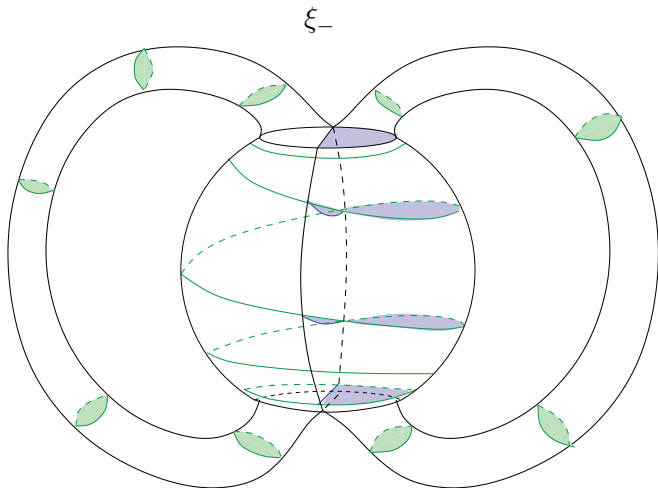
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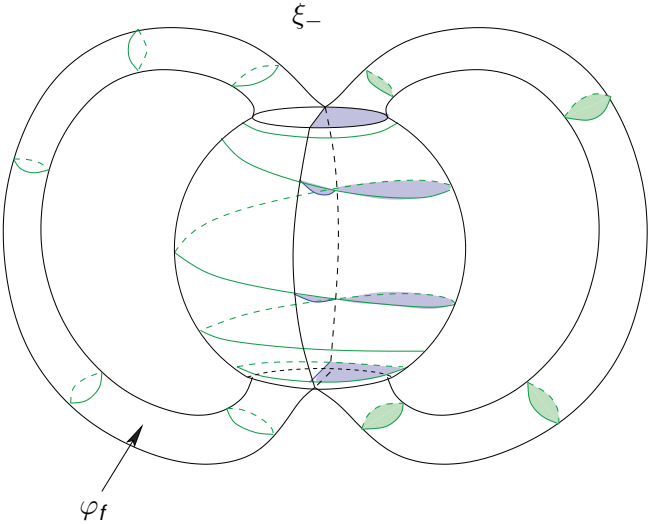
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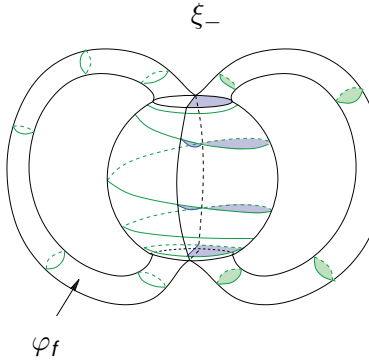
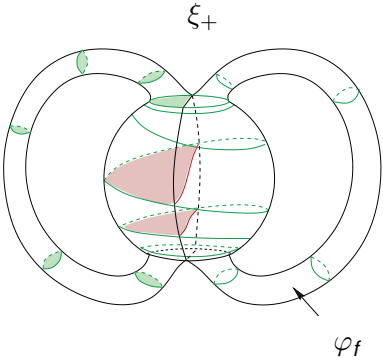
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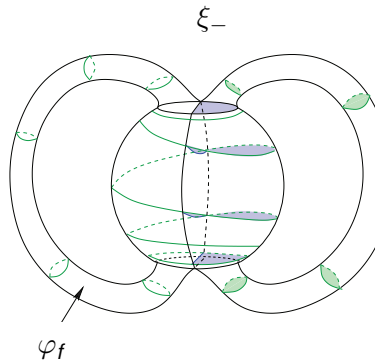
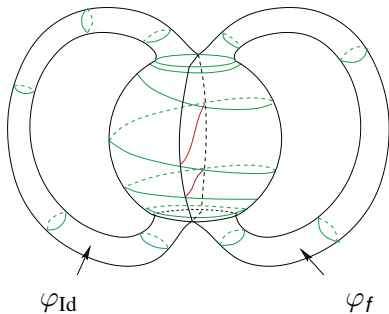
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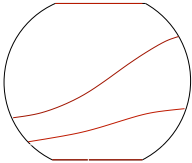
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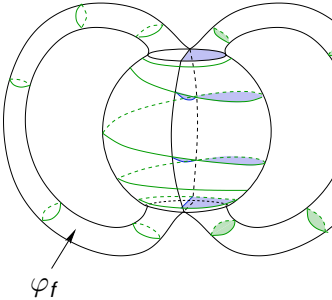
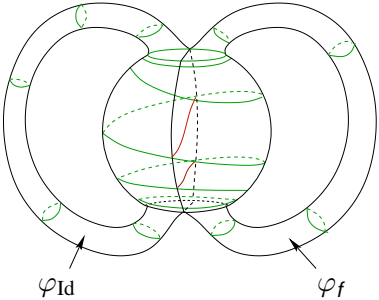
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