

# Workshop on Geometric Group Theory

Peking University, Beijing, China  
December 16-17, 2017



Supported by  
Beijing International Center for Mathematical Research(BICMR)

**Speakers:**

Xiaoming Du (South China University of Technology)

Huabin Ge (Beijing Jiaotong University)

Sang-Hyun Kim (Seoul National University)

Yi Liu (BICMR)

Jiming Ma (Fudan University)

Yunhui Wu (Tsinghua University)

Yilong Yang (Tsinghua University)

Shengkui Ye (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)

**Organization Committee:**

Xiang Fu (BICMR)

Wenyuan Yang (BICMR)

**Workshop venue:**

Room 82J12, Jiayibing Building, Jingchunyuan 82, BICMR (镜春园82号甲乙丙楼82J12教室)

**Hotel:**

FX Hotel ZhongGuanCun(富驿时尚酒店中关村店).

Address: No.68 North 4th Ring West Road (South of Haidian Bridge) Haidian District, Beijing 100080 China.

## Schedule

	Saturday (Dec. 16)	Sunday (Dec. 17)
8:30-8:50	Registration	
8:50-9:40	Sang-Hyun Kim (1)	Yi Liu (2)
9:40-9:50	Coffee break	
9:50-10:40	Sang-Hyun Kim (2)	Yi Liu (3)
10:40-11:10	Coffee break	
11:10-12:00	Yi Liu (1)	Sang-Hyun Kim (3)
	Lunch	
14:00-14:50	Yunhui Wu	Yilong Yang
14:50-15:10	Coffee break	
15:10-16:00	Shengkui Ye	Xiaoming Du
16:00-16:20	Coffee break	
16:20-17:10	Jiming Ma	Huabin Ge
	Free discussion	
18:00	Dinner	

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## **Mini-courses:**

**Sang-hyun Kim** (Seoul National University)

**Title:** Diffeomorphism Groups of One-Manifolds

**Abstract:**

Let  $M$  be a compact interval or a circle. We study algebraic properties of  $\text{Diff}^r(M)$ , the group of  $C^r$  diffeomorphisms of  $M$ . In the first half of the mini-course, we investigate  $r=0$  (homeomorphisms), particularly on the cohomological aspects. For the second half, we focus on the following question: which finitely generated groups arise as subgroups of  $\text{Diff}^r(M)$ ? We survey classical theories of Hölder, Denjoy, Kopell and Thurston regarding this matter, along with some new results (joint with Thomas Koberda).

**Yi Liu** (BICMR)

**Title:** Special cube complexes and hyperbolic 3-manifolds

**Abstract:**

In this mini-course, we discuss special cube complexes and their applications in the study of hyperbolic 3-manifolds. In the first part, we will introduce special cube complexes following Haglund--Wise, and recall their relation with right-angled Artin groups (RAAGs). The second part will be a brief introduction to the Virtual Special Cubulation of (closed) hyperbolic 3-manifolds (due to Agol and Wise). The introduction will mostly be on the framework level. At the end we will survey on more recent results which use closely related techniques.

## **Research talks:**

**Xiaoming Du** (South China University of Technology)

**Title:** On the torsion generating sets of the mapping class groups of surfaces

**Abstract:**

The mapping class groups of surfaces can be generated by only torsion elements. This talk will discuss how to reduce the number and the order of such torsion elements. In the case of extended mapping class groups, which include the orientation reversing mapping classes, we prove that such groups can be generated by two torsion elements when the genus of the surface is no less than 5. The order of these two generating elements are 2 and  $4g+2$ .

**Huabin Ge** (Beijing Jiaotong University)

**Title:** Characterizing 3-ideal hyperbolic polyhedra in hyperbolic 3-space by combinatorial Ricci flow.

**Abstract:**

Around 1980, Thurston showed that “almost every” 3-manifold admits a complete hyperbolic metric. To get such a metric, he proposed to ideally triangulate the manifold and realize each tetrahedron as a hyperbolic ideal tetrahedron. He also gave a system of gluing equations in the shape parameter of these ideal tetrahedrons, whose solution corresponds to the complete hyperbolic metric.

In the 1990s, Casson discovered a powerful technique for solving Thurston's gluing equations. The main idea is to study the combinatorial structure of the triangulation and the dihedral angle structure of each tetrahedron. Following Casson's program, Rivin completely describes all convex ideal polyhedra by combinatorial and angle structures. In this talk, we shall use combinatorial Ricci flow methods, initiated by Bennett Chow and Luo Feng, to approach Casson-Rivin's program.

We shall extend Koebe-Andreev-Thurston's Circle Pattern Theorem, Rivin's theorem on ideal hyperbolic polyhedra and Chow-Luo's theory on combinatorial Ricci flows. Our results suggest an algorithm exponentially fast to find (ideal) circle patterns and ideal hyperbolic tetrahedrons with the given combinatorial type and dihedral angles. This is joint work with Bobo Hua and Ze Zhou.

**Jiming Ma** (Fudan University)

**Title:** Hyperbolic 4-manifolds over the 120-cell

**Abstract:**

Since there is no hyperbolic Dehn filling theorem in higher dimension, it is difficult to construct concrete hyperbolic manifolds in dimension at least four. We will talk about eight-colorable small covers over the 120-cell, which give us a set of closed hyperbolic 4-manifolds. This is a joint work with Fangting Zheng.

**Yunhui Wu** (Tsinghua University)

**Title:** Translation lengths of parabolic isometries of CAT(0) spaces and their applications

**Abstract:**

In this talk we will give a sufficient and necessary condition on parabolic isometries of positive translation lengths on complete visibility CAT(0) spaces. One consequence is that each parabolic isometry of a complete simply connected visibility manifold of nonpositive sectional curvature has zero translation length. Applications on the geometry of open negatively curved manifolds will also be discussed.

**Yilong Yang** (Tsinghua University)

**Title:** Expansion in finite simple groups

**Abstract:**

In this talk we explore various expansion type phenomena in finite simple groups. We shall talk about the diameter bounds of the Cayley graphs of finite simple groups, various types of product theorems, and some related results on ultraproducts of finite groups.

**Shengkui Ye** (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)

**Title:** The action of  $\text{Aut}(F_n)$  on manifolds and Euler characteristics

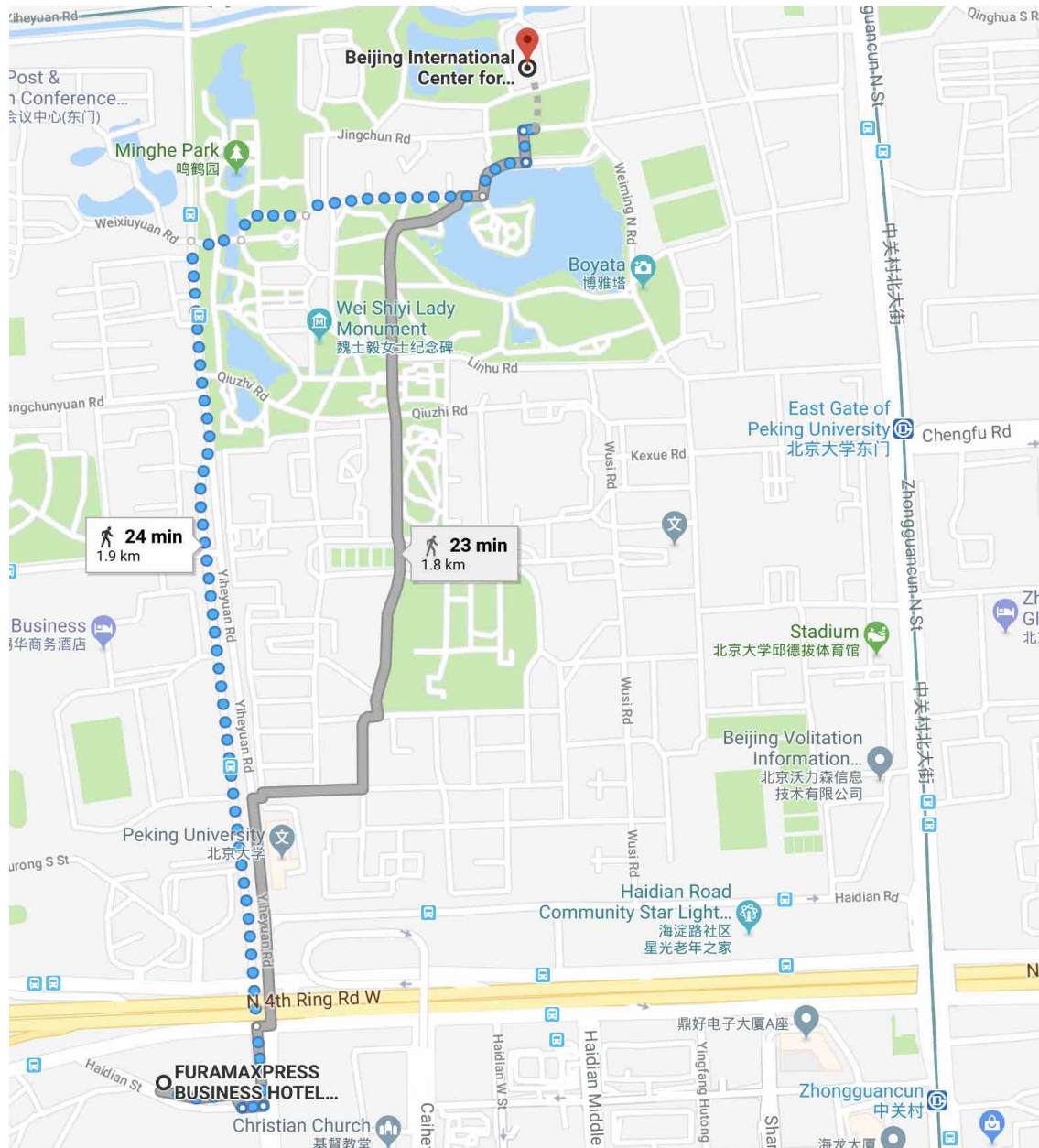
**Abstract:**

Let  $M$  be an orientable manifold of Euler characteristic not divisible by six. Then any group action of the automorphisms group  $\text{Aut}(F_n)$  of the free group  $F_n$  on  $M$  is trivial, when the dimension of  $M$  is less than  $n-1$ .

## Maps:

### **Arrive to BICMR (from hotel):**

Walk from FX Hotel ZhongGuanCun to BICMR.



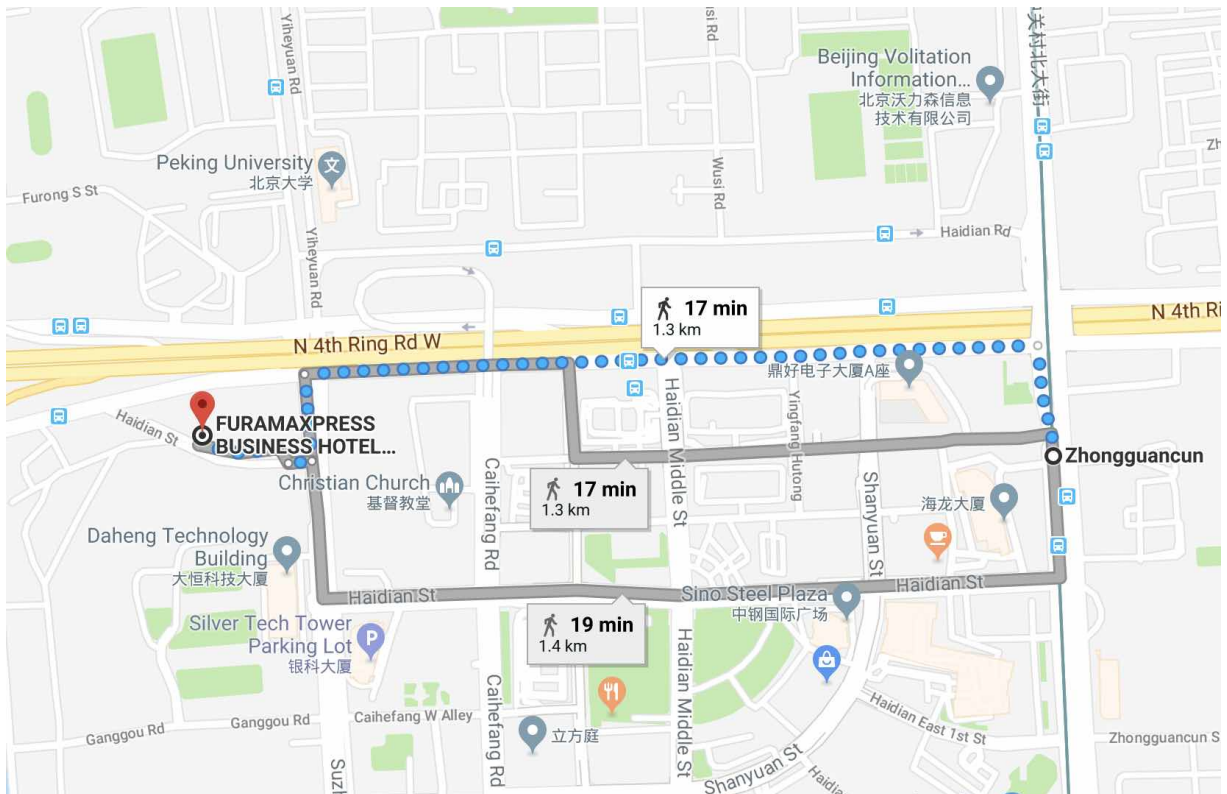
Here is some tips on how to arrive to BICMR from Airport and Railway station:

<http://bicmr.pku.edu.cn/content/page/9.html>



## Arrive to Hotel (from Zhongguancun station):

Walk from **Zhongguancun Station** (Subway Line 4, Exit A1) to our hotel “**FX Hotel ZhongGuanCun**”.



**Participants :**

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