



Title	A real variable characterization of Gromov hyperbolicity of flute surfaces
Author(s)	Portilla, Ana; Rodríguez, José M.; Tourís, Eva
Citation	Osaka Journal of Mathematics. 2011, 48(1), p. 179–207
Version Type	VoR
URL	https://doi.org/10.18910/9158
rights	
Note	

The University of Osaka Institutional Knowledge Archive : OUKA

<https://ir.library.osaka-u.ac.jp/>

The University of Osaka

A REAL VARIABLE CHARACTERIZATION OF GROMOV HYPERBOLICITY OF FLUTE SURFACES

ANA PORTILLA^{*,†}, JOSÉ M. RODRÍGUEZ[†] and EVA TOURÍS^{*,†,‡}

(Received May 1, 2009, revised October 20, 2009)

Abstract

In this paper we give a characterization of the Gromov hyperbolicity of trains (a large class of Denjoy domains which contains the flute surfaces) in terms of the behavior of a real function. This function describes somehow the distances between some remarkable geodesics in the train. This theorem has several consequences; in particular, it allows to deduce a result about stability of hyperbolicity, even though the original surface and the modified one are not quasi-isometric. In order to obtain these results we also prove some trigonometric lemmas that are interesting by themselves, since they provide very simple estimates on some hyperbolic distances.

1. Introduction

The theory of Gromov hyperbolic spaces is a useful tool in order to understand the connections between graphs and potential theory (see e.g. [4], [10], [13], [25], [26], [27], [28], [35], [36], [40]). Besides, the concept of Gromov hyperbolicity grasps the essence of negatively curved spaces, and has been successfully used in the theory of groups (see e.g. [15], [17], [18] and the references therein).

A geodesic metric space is called hyperbolic (in the Gromov sense) if there exists an upper bound of the distance of every point in a side of any geodesic triangle to the union of the two other sides (see Definition 2.2). The latter condition is known as Rips condition.

But, it is not easy to determine whether a given space is Gromov hyperbolic or not. Recently, there has been some research aimed to show that metrics used in geometric function theory are Gromov hyperbolic. Some specific examples are showing that the Klein–Hilbert metric ([8], [29]) is Gromov hyperbolic (under particular conditions on the domain of definition), that the Gehring–Osgood metric ([20]) is Gromov hyperbolic, and that the Vuorinen metric ([20]) is not Gromov hyperbolic (except for

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification. 41A10, 46E35, 46G10.

^{*}Supported in part by a grant from Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (MTM 2009-12740-C03-01), Spain.

[†]Supported in part by two grants from M.E.C. (MTM 2006-13000-C03-02 and MTM 2006-11976) and two grants from Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (MTM 2009-07800 and MTM 2008-02829-E), Spain.

[‡]Supported in part by a grant from U.C.III M./C.A.M. (CCG08-UC3M/ESP-4516), Spain.

a particular case). Recently, some interesting results by Balogh and Buckley [5] about the hyperbolicity of Euclidean bounded domains with their quasihyperbolic metric have made significant progress in this direction (see also [9], [41] and the references therein). Another interesting instance is that of a Riemann surface endowed with the Poincaré metric. With such metric structure a Riemann surface is always negatively curved, but not every Riemann surface is Gromov hyperbolic, since topological obstacles may impede it: for instance, the two-dimensional jungle-gym (a \mathbb{Z}^2 -covering of a torus with genus two) is not hyperbolic.

We are interested in studying when Riemann surfaces equipped with their Poincaré metric are Gromov hyperbolic (see e.g. [3], [21], [22], [23], [24], [30], [31], [32], [33], [34], [37], [38], [39]). To be more precise, in the current paper our main aim is to study the hyperbolicity of Denjoy domains, that is to say, plane domains Ω with $\partial\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}$. This kind of surfaces are becoming more and more important in geometric theory of functions, since, on the one hand, they are a very general type of Riemann surfaces, and, on the other hand, they are more manageable due to its symmetry. For instance, Garnett and Jones have proved the Corona theorem for Denjoy domains ([14]), and in [2] the authors have got the characterization of Denjoy domains which satisfy a linear isoperimetric inequality.

Denjoy domains are such a wide class of Riemann surfaces that characterization criteria are not straightforward to apply. That is the main reason that led us to focus on a particular type of Denjoy domain, which we have called *train*. A train can be defined as the complement of a sequence of ordered closed intervals (see Definition 2.3). Trains do include a especially important case of surfaces which are the flute surfaces (see, e.g. [6], [7]). These ones are the simplest examples of infinite ends, and besides, in a flute surface it is possible to give a fairly precise description of the ending geometry (see, e.g. [19]). In [3] there are some results on hyperbolicity of trains.

This paper is a natural continuation of [3]. Although some of the theorems in the current work might seem alike to some of the results in the preceding paper, the truth is that they are much more powerful and the proofs developed are completely new. Without a doubt, the main contribution of this paper is Theorem 3.2, that provides a characterization of the hyperbolicity of trains in terms of the behavior of a real function with two integer parameters. (In [3] we give either necessary or sufficient conditions, and there is a characterization, but much more difficult to apply than the one presented here). This function describes somehow the distances between some remarkable geodesics (called *fundamental geodesics*) in the train. At first sight, Theorem 3.2 might not seem very user-friendly. However, in practice, this tool let us deduce a result about stability of hyperbolicity, even for cases when the original surface and the modified one are not quasi-isometric (see Theorem 3.8).

Theorem 3.2 also allows to deduce both sufficient and necessary conditions that either guarantee or discard hyperbolicity (see Corollary 3.14, Theorems 3.16 and 3.17). Besides, these three theorems give a much simpler characterization than Theorem 3.2 for

an interesting case of trains: those for which the lengths of their fundamental geodesics are a quasi-increasing sequence. We are talking about Theorem 3.18, another crucial result in this paper.

In order to obtain these results we also prove some trigonometric lemmas that are interesting by themselves, since they provide very simple estimates on some hyperbolic distances (see Propositions 4.8 and 4.9).

For the sake of clarity and readability, we have opted for moving all the technical lemmas to the last section of the paper. This makes the proof of Theorem 3.2, our main result, much more understandable.

NOTATIONS. We denote by X a geodesic metric space. By d_X and L_X we shall denote, respectively, the distance and the length in the metric of X . From now on, when there is no possible confusion, we will not write the subindex X .

We denote by Ω a train with its Poincaré metric.

Given a subset F of the complex plane, we define $F^+ = F \cap \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \Im z \geq 0\}$, where $\Im z$ is the imaginary part of z .

If E is either a function or a constant related to a domain Ω , we will denote by E' or E^j the same function or constant related to a domain Ω' or Ω^j , respectively.

As usual, we denote by x_+ the positive part of x : $x_+ := x$ if $x \geq 0$ and $x_+ := 0$ if $x < 0$.

If “ a is comparable to b ”, i.e. if there exists a constant c such that $c^{-1}a \leq b \leq ca$, we will denote it by $a \asymp b$.

Finally, we denote by c and c_i , positive constants which can assume different values in different theorems.

2. Background in Gromov spaces and Riemann surfaces

In our study of hyperbolic Gromov spaces we use the notations of [15]. We give now the basic facts about these spaces. We refer to [15] for more background and further results.

DEFINITION 2.1. If $\gamma: [a, b] \rightarrow X$ is a continuous curve in a metric space (X, d) , the *length* of γ is

$$L(\gamma) := \sup \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n d(\gamma(t_{i-1}), \gamma(t_i)) : a = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n = b \right\}.$$

We say that γ is a *geodesic* if it is an isometry, i.e. $L(\gamma|_{[t,s]}) = d(\gamma(t), \gamma(s)) = |t - s|$ for every $s, t \in [a, b]$. We say that X is a *geodesic metric space* if for every $x, y \in X$ there exists a geodesic joining x and y ; we denote by $[x, y]$ any of such geodesics (since we do not require uniqueness of geodesics, this notation is ambiguous, but convenient as well).

DEFINITION 2.2. Consider a geodesic metric space X . If $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in X$, a *geodesic triangle* $T = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$ is the union of three geodesics $[x_1, x_2]$, $[x_2, x_3]$ and $[x_3, x_1]$. We say that T is δ -thin if for every $x \in [x_i, x_j]$ we have that $d(x, [x_j, x_k] \cup [x_k, x_i]) \leq \delta$. The space X is δ -hyperbolic if every geodesic triangle in X is δ -thin.

We would like to point out that deciding whether or not a space is hyperbolic is usually extraordinarily difficult: Notice that, first of all, we have to consider an arbitrary geodesic triangle T , and calculate the minimum distance from an arbitrary point P of T to the union of the other two sides of the triangle to which P does not belong to. And then we have to take supremum over all the possible choices for P and then over all the possible choices for T . It means that if our space is, for instance, an n -dimensional manifold and we select two points P and Q on different sides of a triangle T , the function F that measures the distance between P and Q is a $(3n + 2)$ -variable function. In order to prove that our space is hyperbolic we would have to take the minimum of F over the variable that describes Q , and then the supremum over the remaining $3n + 1$ variables, or at least prove that it is finite. Without disregarding the difficulty of solving a $(3n + 2)$ -variable minimax problem, notice that the main obstacle is that we do not even know in an approximate way the location of geodesics in the space.

EXAMPLES. (1) Every bounded metric space X is $(\text{diam } X)$ -hyperbolic (see e.g. [15, p. 29]).

(2) Every complete simply connected Riemannian manifold with sectional curvature which is bounded from above by $-k$, with $k > 0$, is hyperbolic (see e.g. [15, p. 52]).

(3) Every tree with edges of arbitrary length is 0-hyperbolic (see e.g. [15, p. 29]).

A *non-exceptional* Riemann surface S is a Riemann surface whose universal covering space is the unit disk $\mathbb{D} = \{z \in \mathbb{C}: |z| < 1\}$, endowed with its Poincaré metric, i.e. the metric obtained by projecting the Poincaré metric of the unit disk $ds = 2|dz|/(1 - |z|^2)$. Therefore, any simply connected subset of S is isometric to a subset of \mathbb{D} . With this metric, S is a geodesically complete Riemannian manifold with constant curvature -1 , and therefore S is a geodesic metric space. The only Riemann surfaces which are left out are the *exceptional* Riemann surfaces, that is to say, the sphere, the plane, the punctured plane and the tori. It is easy to study the hyperbolicity of these particular cases. The Poincaré metric is natural and useful in complex analysis: for instance, any holomorphic function between two domains is Lipschitz with constant 1, when we consider the respective Poincaré metrics.

A *Denjoy domain* is a domain Ω in the Riemann sphere with $\partial\Omega \subset \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$. As we mentioned in the introduction of this paper, Denjoy domains are becoming more and more interesting in geometric function theory (see e.g. [1], [2], [14], [16]).

It is obvious that as we focus on more particular kind of surfaces, we can obtain more powerful results. For this reason we introduce now a new type of space.

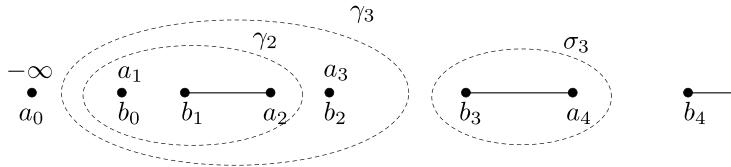


Fig. 1. Train seen as a subset of the complex plane.

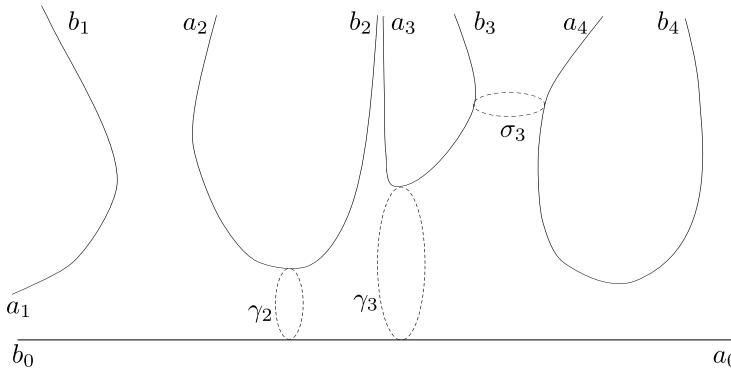


Fig. 2. The same train seen with ‘Euclidean eyes’.

We have used the word *geodesic* in the sense of Definition 2.1, that is to say, as a global geodesic or a minimizing geodesic; however, we need now to deal with a special type of local geodesics: simple closed geodesics, which obviously can not be minimizing geodesics. We will continue using the word geodesic with the meaning of Definition 2.1, unless we are dealing with closed geodesics.

DEFINITION 2.3. A *train* is a Denjoy domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ with $\Omega \cap \mathbb{R} = \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} (a_n, b_n)$, such that $-\infty \leq a_0$ and $b_n \leq a_{n+1}$ for every n . A *flute surface* is a train with $b_n = a_{n+1}$ for every n .

We say that a curve in a train Ω is a *fundamental geodesic* if it is a simple closed geodesic which just intersects \mathbb{R} in (a_0, b_0) and (a_n, b_n) for some $n > 0$; we denote by γ_n the fundamental geodesic corresponding to n and $2l_n := L_{\Omega}(\gamma_n)$. A curve in a train Ω is a *second fundamental geodesic* if it is a simple closed geodesic which just intersects \mathbb{R} in (a_n, b_n) and (a_{n+1}, b_{n+1}) for some $n \geq 0$; we denote by σ_n the second fundamental geodesic corresponding to n and $2r_n := L_{\Omega}(\sigma_n)$ (see the figures above). If $b_n = a_{n+1}$, we define σ_n as the puncture at this point and $r_n = 0$. Given $z \in \Omega$, we define the *height* of z as $h(z) := d_{\Omega}(z, (a_0, b_0))$.

REMARK. Recall that in every free homotopy class there exists a single simple closed geodesic, assuming that punctures are simple closed geodesics with length equal

to zero. That is why both the fundamental geodesic and the second fundamental geodesic are unique for every n .

A train is a flute surface if and only if every second fundamental geodesic is a puncture.

Flute surfaces are the simplest examples of infinite ends; furthermore, in a flute surface it is possible to give a fairly precise description of the ending geometry (see, e.g. [19]).

3. The main results

It is not difficult to see that the values of $\{l_n\}$ and $\{r_n\}$ determine a train, since for every n there exists a single fundamental geodesic and a single second fundamental geodesic (see Remark to Definition 2.3). Then, there must exist a characterization of hyperbolicity in terms of the lengths of the fundamental geodesics. It would be desirable to obtain such a characterization, since these lengths describe the Denjoy domain from a simple geometric viewpoint.

In order to obtain this characterization, we need to introduce the following functions.

(We refer to the next section for the details of the proofs of technical lemmas. We think that this structure makes the paper more readable, because it shortens considerably the proof of Theorem 3.2).

DEFINITION 3.1. Let us consider a sequence of positive numbers $\{l_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ and a sequence of non-negative numbers $\{r_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$. Denote by x_+ the positive part of x : $x_+ := \max\{x, 0\}$. Consider $n \geq 1$ and $0 \leq h \leq l_n$. We define $A_n(h) := \max\{m < n : l_m \leq h\}$ if this set is non-empty and $A_n(h) := 1$ in other case, $B_n(h) := \min\{m > n : l_m \leq h\}$ if this set is non-empty and $B_n(h) := \infty$ in other case,

$$\Delta(k) := e^{-l_k} + e^{-l_{k+1}} + e^{-(1/2)(l_k + l_{k+1} - r_k)_+} + (r_k - l_k - l_{k+1})_+,$$

and

$$\Gamma_{nm}(h) := \begin{cases} (r_m + h - l_{m+1})_+ + e^h \sum_{k=m+1}^{n-1} \Delta(k), & \text{if } m < n \text{ and } l_m \leq h, \\ l_m - h + e^h \sum_{k=m}^{n-1} \Delta(k), & \text{if } m < n \text{ and } l_m > h, \\ \min\{h, l_n - h\}, & \text{if } m = n, \\ l_m - h + e^h \sum_{k=n}^{m-1} \Delta(k), & \text{if } m > n \text{ and } l_m > h, \\ (r_{m-1} + h - l_{m-1})_+ + e^h \sum_{k=n}^{m-2} \Delta(k), & \text{if } m > n \text{ and } l_m \leq h. \end{cases}$$

The functions $\Gamma_{nm}(h)$ are naturally associated to trains by taking $\{l_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ and $\{r_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ as the half-lengths of their fundamental geodesics.

Theorem 3.2. *A train Ω is hyperbolic if and only if*

$$K := \sup_{n \geq 1} \sup_{h \in [0, l_n]} \min_{m \in [A_n(h), B_n(h)]} \Gamma_{nm}(h) < \infty.$$

Furthermore, if Ω is δ -hyperbolic, then K is bounded by a constant which only depends on δ ; if $K < \infty$, then Ω is δ -hyperbolic, with δ a constant which only depends on K .

REMARKS. (1) Notice that this is a real variable characterization of the hyperbolicity.

(2) Theorem 3.2 clearly improves [3, Theorem 5.3]: we need to know the lengths of the fundamental geodesics instead of the precise location of these geodesics and the distances to \mathbb{R} from their points.

(3) The proof of Theorem 3.2 gives that its conclusion also holds if we replace K by

$$K(l_0) := \sup_{n \geq 1} \sup_{h \in [l_0, l_n]} \min_{m \in [A_n(h), B_n(h)]} \Gamma_{nm}(h) < \infty,$$

for any fixed $l_0 > 0$. In this case, the constant δ depends on $K(l_0)$ and l_0 .

Proof. By [3, Theorem 5.3], Ω is δ -hyperbolic if and only if

$$K_1 := \sup_{n \geq 1} \sup_{z \in \gamma_n} \inf_{m \geq 0} d_\Omega(z, (a_m, b_m)) < \infty,$$

with the appropriate dependence of the constants (if Ω is δ -hyperbolic, then K_1 is bounded by a constant which only depends on δ ; if $K_1 < \infty$, then Ω is δ -hyperbolic, with δ a constant which only depends on K_1).

Fix any constant $l_0 > 0$. Notice that:

(1) $d_\Omega(z, (a_0, b_0)) = h(z)$ and $d_\Omega(z, (a_n, b_n)) = l_n - h(z)$. Since any z with $h(z) < l_0$ verifies

$$\inf_{m \geq 0} d_\Omega(z, (a_m, b_m)) \leq d_\Omega(z, (a_0, b_0)) = h(z) < l_0,$$

we only need to consider z with $l_0 \leq h(z) \leq l_n$.

From now on, let us fix $n \geq 1$ and $z \in \gamma_n$ with $l_0 \leq h(z) \leq l_n$.

(2) If $k < m < n$, with $l_m \leq h(z)$, let us consider the geodesic σ which gives the minimum distance between z and (a_k, b_k) . Define the point $w := \sigma \cap \gamma_m$; hence $d_\Omega(z, w) < d_\Omega(z, (a_k, b_k))$ and Lemma 4.3 give

$$d_\Omega(z, (a_m, b_m)) \leq d_2(z, (a_m, b_m) \cap \gamma_m) \leq d_2(z, w) \leq 3d_\Omega(z, w) < 3d_\Omega(z, (a_k, b_k)),$$

where d_2 is the function in Definition 4.2. In a similar way, if $k > m > n$, with $l_m \leq h(z)$, then $d_\Omega(z, (a_m, b_m)) < 3d_\Omega(z, (a_k, b_k))$. Hence we only need to consider $d_\Omega(z, (a_m, b_m))$ with $m \in \{0\} \cup [A_n(h(z)), B_n(h(z))]$, in order to study if K_1 is finite.

(3) If $m \in (A_n(h(z)), n)$, then $l_0 \leq h(z) < l_m$. By Lemma 4.4, we can replace $d_\Omega(z, (a_m, b_m))$ by $d_1(z, \gamma_m \cap (a_m, b_m))$, where d_1 is the function in Definition 4.2. If z_m is the point in γ_m with $h(z_m) = h(z)$, then $d_1(z, \gamma_m \cap (a_m, b_m)) := d_\Omega(z, z_m) + l_m - h(z)$. Standard hyperbolic trigonometry in quadrilaterals (see e.g. [12, p. 88]) gives that

$$d_\Omega(z, z_m) = 2 \operatorname{Arcsinh} \left(\sinh \frac{1}{2} d_\Omega(\gamma_m, \gamma_n) \cosh h(z) \right).$$

Recall that (a_0, b_0) contains the shortest geodesic joining γ_m and γ_n . By Corollary 4.7 we can replace $d_\Omega(z, z_m)$ by $d_\Omega(\gamma_m, \gamma_n) e^{h(z)}$, and therefore $d_1(z, \gamma_m \cap (a_m, b_m))$ by $d_\Omega(\gamma_m, \gamma_n) e^{h(z)} + l_m - h(z)$. Standard hyperbolic trigonometry in right-angled hexagons (see e.g. [12, p. 86]) gives that

$$d_\Omega(\gamma_k, \gamma_{k+1}) = \operatorname{Arccosh} \frac{\cosh r_k + \cosh l_k \cosh l_{k+1}}{\sinh l_k \sinh l_{k+1}}$$

for every $k \geq 1$. Proposition 4.8 gives

$$\begin{aligned} d_\Omega(\gamma_k, \gamma_{k+1}) &= f(l_k, l_{k+1}, r_k) \\ &\asymp e^{-l_k} + e^{-l_{k+1}} + e^{-(1/2)(l_k + l_{k+1} - r_k)_+} + (r_k - l_k - l_{k+1})_+ = \Delta(k), \end{aligned}$$

for every $k \in (A_n(h(z)), n)$, since then $l_k, l_{k+1} \geq h(z) \geq l_0$. Therefore we can replace $d_\Omega(z, (a_m, b_m))$ by

$$l_m - h(z) + e^{h(z)} \sum_{k=m}^{n-1} \Delta(k).$$

A symmetric argument gives that if $m \in (n, B_n(h(z)))$, then we can replace $d_\Omega(z, (a_m, b_m))$ by

$$l_m - h(z) + e^{h(z)} \sum_{k=n}^{m-1} \Delta(k).$$

(4) If $m = A_n(h(z))$, then $h(z) \geq l_m$. If z_{m+1} is the point in γ_{m+1} with $h(z_{m+1}) = h(z)$, by Lemma 4.5, we can replace $d_\Omega(z, (a_m, b_m))$ by $d_\Omega(z, z_{m+1}) + d_\Omega(z_{m+1}, (a_m, b_m))$. We have seen in (3) that we can replace $d_\Omega(z, z_{m+1})$ by

$$e^{h(z)} \sum_{k=m+1}^{n-1} \Delta(k).$$

Standard hyperbolic trigonometry in pentagons (see e.g. [12, p. 87]) gives that

$$\sinh d_\Omega(z_{m+1}, (a_m, b_m)) = -\cosh l_m \sinh h(z) + \sinh l_m \cosh h(z) \cosh d_\Omega(\gamma_m, \gamma_{m+1}).$$

Standard hyperbolic trigonometry in right-angled hexagons (see e.g. [12, p. 86]) gives that

$$\cosh d_\Omega(\gamma_m, \gamma_{m+1}) = \frac{\cosh r_m + \cosh l_m \cosh l_{m+1}}{\sinh l_m \sinh l_{m+1}},$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} & \sinh d_\Omega(z_{m+1}, (a_m, b_m)) \\ &= -\cosh l_m \sinh h(z) + \cosh h(z) \frac{\cosh r_m + \cosh l_m \cosh l_{m+1}}{\sinh l_{m+1}} \\ &= \frac{\cosh l_m (\cosh l_{m+1} \cosh h(z) - \sinh l_{m+1} \sinh h(z)) + \cosh r_m \cosh h(z)}{\sinh l_{m+1}} \\ &= \frac{\cosh l_m \cosh(l_{m+1} - h(z)) + \cosh r_m \cosh h(z)}{\sinh l_{m+1}} = \sinh F(l_m, l_{m+1}, r_m, h(z)), \end{aligned}$$

where F is the function in Proposition 4.9. Therefore, Corollary 4.10 gives that we can replace $d_\Omega(z_{m+1}, (a_m, b_m))$ by $(r_m + h(z) - l_{m+1})_+$. Consequently, we can substitute $d_\Omega(z, (a_m, b_m))$ by

$$(r_m + h(z) - l_{m+1})_+ + e^{h(z)} \sum_{k=m+1}^{n-1} \Delta(k).$$

A symmetric argument gives that if $m = B_n(h(z))$, then we can replace $d_\Omega(z, (a_m, b_m))$ by

$$(r_{m-1} + h(z) - l_{m-1})_+ + e^{h(z)} \sum_{k=n}^{m-2} \Delta(k).$$

Notice that each time that we replace a quantity by another in this proof, the constants are under control. Let us remark that (1), (2), (3) and (4) give the result, with $\inf_{m \in [A_n(h), B_n(h)]} \Gamma_{nm}(h)$ instead of $\min_{m \in [A_n(h), B_n(h)]} \Gamma_{nm}(h)$.

Let us see now that this infimum is attained. Seeking for a contradiction, suppose that the latest statement is not true. Therefore, $B_n(h) = \infty$ and $l_m > h$ for every $m > n$. Then, there exists an increasing sequence of integer numbers $\{m_j\}$ with $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \Gamma_{nm_j}(h) = \inf_{m \in [A_n(h), \infty)} \Gamma_{nm}(h)$. By choosing a subsequence if it is necessary, we can assume that $\{\Gamma_{nm_j}(h)\}_j$ is a decreasing sequence. Hence,

$$\Gamma_{nm_{j+1}}(h) = l_{m_{j+1}} - h + e^h \sum_{k=n}^{m_{j+1}-1} \Delta(k) < \Gamma_{nm_j}(h) = l_{m_j} - h + e^h \sum_{k=n}^{m_j-1} \Delta(k).$$

Consequently, we have that $l_{m_{j+1}} < l_{m_j} < l_{m_1}$ for every j , and

$$\Gamma_{nm_j}(h) = l_{m_j} - h + e^h \sum_{k=n}^{m_j-1} \Delta(k) \geq e^h \sum_{k=n}^{m_j} e^{-l_k} \geq e^h \sum_{k=1}^j e^{-l_{m_k}} \geq e^h j e^{-l_{m_1}}.$$

Hence, $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \Gamma_{nm_j}(h) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} e^h j e^{-l_{m_1}} = \infty$, which is a contradiction. This finishes the proof. \square

Lemma 3.3. *For every $r_k \geq 0$ and $0 < l_k \leq h \leq l_{k+1}$, we have*

$$(r_k + h - l_{k+1})_+ < e^h \Delta(k).$$

Proof. Let us remark that it is sufficient to prove

$$r_k + h - l_{k+1} < e^h (e^{-(1/2)(l_k + l_{k+1} - r_k)_+} + (r_k - l_k - l_{k+1})_+),$$

for every $r_k \geq 0$ and $0 < l_k \leq h \leq l_{k+1}$.

Since the left hand side of the inequality does not depend on l_k and the right hand side is a decreasing function on l_k , it is sufficient to prove

$$r_k + h - l_{k+1} < e^h (e^{-(1/2)(h + l_{k+1} - r_k)_+} + (r_k - h - l_{k+1})_+),$$

for every $r_k \geq 0$ and $0 < h \leq l_{k+1}$.

If $r_k \leq h + l_{k+1}$, then the inequality is

$$r_k + h - l_{k+1} < e^h e^{-(1/2)(h + l_{k+1} - r_k)} = e^{(1/2)(r_k + h - l_{k+1})},$$

which trivially holds since $t < e^{t/2}$ for every real number t .

If $r_k \geq h + l_{k+1}$, then the inequality is

$$r_k + h - l_{k+1} < e^h (1 + r_k - h - l_{k+1}).$$

Since $e^h \geq 1$, it is clear that the function

$$U(r_k) := e^h (1 + r_k - h - l_{k+1}) - r_k - h + l_{k+1}$$

is increasing in $r_k \in [h + l_{k+1}, \infty)$. Then $U(r_k) \geq U(h + l_{k+1}) = e^h - 2h > 0$, and the inequality holds. \square

Proposition 3.4. *In any train Ω we have*

$$\min_{m \in [A_n(h), B_n(h)]} \Gamma_{nm}(h) = \min_{m \geq 1} \Gamma_{nm}(h),$$

for every $n \geq 1$ and $0 \leq h \leq l_n$.

Proof. Fix $n \geq 1$ and $0 \leq h \leq l_n$. If $m < A_n(h)$, then Lemma 3.3 gives $\Gamma_{nm}(h) > \Gamma_{nA_n(h)}(h)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{nm}(h) &\geq e^h \sum_{k=m+1}^{n-1} \Delta(k) \geq e^h \sum_{k=A_n(h)}^{n-1} \Delta(k) = e^h \Delta(A_n(h)) + e^h \sum_{k=A_n(h)+1}^{n-1} \Delta(k) \\ &> (r_{A_n(h)} + h - l_{A_n(h)+1})_+ + e^h \sum_{k=A_n(h)+1}^{n-1} \Delta(k) = \Gamma_{nA_n(h)}(h). \end{aligned}$$

The case $m > B_n(h)$ is similar. \square

Proposition 3.5. *If for some n we have $l_m \geq l_n$ for every $m \geq n$, then the conclusion of Theorem 3.2 also holds if we replace $[A_n(h), B_n(h)]$ by $[A_n(h), n]$ for this n .*

Proof. It suffices to remark that for every $z \in \gamma_n$ and $m > n$, we have $d_\Omega(z, (a_n, b_n)) = l_n - h(z) \leq l_m - h(z) < d_\Omega(z, (a_m, b_m))$. \square

Although to compute the minimum and the supremum in Theorem 3.2 can be difficult in the general case, Theorem 3.2 is the main tool in order to obtain the remaining results of this paper. We start with an elementary corollary.

Proposition 3.6. *Let us consider a train Ω with $l_n \leq c$ for every n . Then Ω is δ -hyperbolic, where δ is a constant which only depends on c .*

Proof. For each positive integer n , we have $\Gamma_{nn}(h) := \min\{h, l_n - h\} \leq l_n \leq c$ for every $h \in [0, l_n]$. Hence, $K \leq c$ and Theorem 3.2 finishes the proof. \square

One of the important problems in the study of any property is to obtain its stability under appropriate deformations. Theorem 3.2 allows to prove a result which shows that hyperbolicity is stable under bounded perturbations of the lengths of the fundamental geodesics. Theorem 3.8 is particularly remarkable since there are very few results on hyperbolic stability which do not involve quasi-isometries. We need a previous lemma; it deals with some kind of reverse inequality to the one in Lemma 3.3.

Lemma 3.7. *For every $r_k, l_{k+1} \geq 0$ and $0 \leq h \leq l_k$, we have*

$$e^h (e^{-(1/2)(l_k + l_{k+1} - r_k)_+} + (r_k - l_k - l_{k+1})_+) \leq (1 + (r_k + h - l_{k+1})_+) e^{(1/2)(r_k + h - l_{k+1})_+}.$$

Proof. Since the right hand side of the inequality does not depend on l_k and the left hand side is a decreasing function on l_k , it is sufficient to prove

$$e^h (e^{-(1/2)(h + l_{k+1} - r_k)_+} + (r_k - h - l_{k+1})_+) \leq (1 + (r_k + h - l_{k+1})_+) e^{(1/2)(r_k + h - l_{k+1})_+},$$

for every $r_k, l_{k+1}, h \geq 0$.

If $h + l_{k+1} - r_k \geq 0$, the inequality is direct since

$$e^h(e^{-(1/2)(h+l_{k+1}-r_k)_+} + (r_k - h - l_{k+1})_+) = e^h e^{-(1/2)(h+l_{k+1}-r_k)} = e^{(1/2)(r_k+h-l_{k+1})}.$$

If $h + l_{k+1} - r_k < 0$, then $r_k - l_{k+1} > h$ and $(r_k + h - l_{k+1})_+ > 2h$; consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} & e^h(e^{-(1/2)(h+l_{k+1}-r_k)_+} + (r_k - h - l_{k+1})_+) \\ &= e^h(1 + r_k - h - l_{k+1}) \\ &< (1 + (r_k + h - l_{k+1})_+)e^{(1/2)(r_k+h-l_{k+1})_+}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Next, the result about stability that we have talked about before Lemma 3.7. Theorem 3.8 is both a qualitative and a quantitative result.

Theorem 3.8. *Let us consider two trains Ω , Ω' and a constant c such that $|r'_n - r_n| \leq c$, and $|l'_n - l_n| \leq c$ for every $n \geq 1$. Then Ω is hyperbolic if and only if Ω' is hyperbolic. Furthermore, if Ω is δ -hyperbolic, then Ω' is δ' -hyperbolic, with δ' a constant which only depends on δ and c .*

This result is a significant improvement with respect to [3, Theorem 5.33], since, in that paper, the lengths r_n and r'_n were required to be bounded, whereas Theorem 3.8 only requires $r_n - r'_n$ to be bounded. Notice that this is a much weaker condition. Furthermore, the argument in the proof is completely new.

REMARKS. (1) Notice that in many cases Ω and Ω' are not quasi-isometric (for example, if there exists a subsequence $\{n_k\}_k$ with $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} l_{n_k} = 0$ and $l'_{n_k} \geq c_0 > 0$). (2) We have examples which show that Theorem 3.8 is sharp: if we change the constants in Theorem 3.8 by any function growing slowly to infinity, then the conclusion of Theorem 3.8 does not hold. For instance, if $\{r_n\}$ is bounded and $\{r'_n\}$ is not bounded, then there exists $\{l_n\} = \{l'_n\}$ with Ω hyperbolic and Ω' not hyperbolic.

Proof. By symmetry, it is sufficient to prove that if Ω is δ -hyperbolic, then Ω' is δ' -hyperbolic, with δ' a constant which only depends on δ and c . Therefore, let us assume that Ω is δ -hyperbolic.

Notice that $e^{-l_k} + e^{-l_{k+1}} \leq e^c(e^{-l'_k} + e^{-l'_{k+1}})$.

If $l_k + l_{k+1} \leq r_k$, then $e^{-(1/2)(l_k+l_{k+1}-r_k)_+} + (r_k - l_k - l_{k+1})_+ = 1 + r_k - l_k - l_{k+1}$ and

$$\begin{aligned} & e^{-(1/2)(l'_k+l'_{k+1}-r'_k)_+} + (r'_k - l'_k - l'_{k+1})_+ \\ & \leq 1 + 3c + r_k - l_k - l_{k+1} \\ & \leq (1 + 3c)(e^{-(1/2)(l_k+l_{k+1}-r_k)_+} + (r_k - l_k - l_{k+1})_+). \end{aligned}$$

If $l'_k + l'_{k+1} \geq r'_k$, then

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-(1/2)(l'_k + l'_{k+1} - r'_k)_+} + (r'_k - l'_k - l'_{k+1})_+ &= e^{-(1/2)(l'_k + l'_{k+1} - r'_k)_+} \\ &\leq e^{3c/2}(e^{-(1/2)(l_k + l_{k+1} - r_k)_+} + (r_k - l_k - l_{k+1})_+). \end{aligned}$$

If $l_k + l_{k+1} > r_k$ and $l'_k + l'_{k+1} < r'_k$, then

$$\begin{aligned} l_k + l_{k+1} - r_k &\leq l'_k + l'_{k+1} - r'_k + 3c < 3c, \\ r'_k - l'_k - l'_{k+1} &\leq r_k - l_k - l_{k+1} + 3c < 3c, \end{aligned}$$

and consequently

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-(1/2)(l'_k + l'_{k+1} - r'_k)_+} + (r'_k - l'_k - l'_{k+1})_+ \\ = 1 + r'_k - l'_k - l'_{k+1} < (1 + 3c)e^{3c/2}e^{-3c/2} \\ < (1 + 3c)e^{3c/2}(e^{-(1/2)(l_k + l_{k+1} - r_k)_+} + (r_k - l_k - l_{k+1})_+). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-l_k} + e^{-l'_{k+1}} + e^{-(1/2)(l'_k + l'_{k+1} - r'_k)_+} + (r'_k - l'_k - l'_{k+1})_+ \\ \leq (1 + 3c)e^{3c/2}(e^{-l_k} + e^{-l'_{k+1}} + e^{-(1/2)(l_k + l_{k+1} - r_k)_+} + (r_k - l_k - l_{k+1})_+), \end{aligned}$$

i.e. $\Delta'(k) \leq (1 + 3c)e^{3c/2}\Delta(k)$. We also have

$$\begin{aligned} (r'_m + h - l'_{m+1})_+ &\leq 2c + (r_m + h - l_{m+1})_+, \\ l'_m - h &\leq c + l_m - h, \\ \min\{h, l'_n - h\} &\leq c + \min\{h, l_n - h\}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we conclude

$$(\Gamma_{nm})'(h) \leq (1 + 3c)e^{3c/2}\Gamma_{nm}(h) + 2c,$$

for every $n, m \geq 1$ and $h \geq 0$ with either $m = n$ or $l_m, l'_m \leq h$ or $l_m, l'_m > h$.

We deal now with the other cases. Let us assume that $m \in [A'_n(h), n)$. The case $m \in (n, B'_n(h)]$ is similar.

If $l'_m \leq h < l_m$, then $m = A'_n(h)$ and $l'_m \leq h < l'_{m+1}$. Applying Lemma 3.3 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (\Gamma_{nm})'(h) &= (r'_m + h - l'_{m+1})_+ + e^h \sum_{k=m+1}^{n-1} \Delta'(k) < e^h \sum_{k=m}^{n-1} \Delta'(k) \\ &\leq l_m - h + (1 + 3c)e^{3c/2}e^h \sum_{k=m}^{n-1} \Delta(k) \leq (1 + 3c)e^{3c/2}\Gamma_{nm}(h). \end{aligned}$$

If $l_m \leq h < l'_m$, then $m > A'_n(h)$ and $h < l'_{m+1}$. We also have $l'_m - h \leq l'_m - l_m \leq c$. Applying Lemma 3.7 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\Gamma_{nm})'(h) \\
&= l'_m - h + e^{h-l'_m} + e^{h-l'_{m+1}} + e^h (e^{-(1/2)(l'_m + l'_{m+1} - r'_m)_+} + (r'_m - l'_m - l'_{m+1})_+) + e^h \sum_{k=m+1}^{n-1} \Delta'(k) \\
&\leq c + 2 + (1 + (r'_m + h - l'_{m+1})_+) e^{(1/2)(r'_m + h - l'_{m+1})_+} + (1 + 3c) e^{3c/2} e^h \sum_{k=m+1}^{n-1} \Delta(k) \\
&\leq c + 2 + (1 + 2c + (r_m + h - l_{m+1})_+) e^c e^{(1/2)(r_m + h - l_{m+1})_+} + (1 + 3c) e^{3c/2} e^h \sum_{k=m+1}^{n-1} \Delta(k) \\
&\leq c + 2 + (1 + 2c + \Gamma_{nm}(h)) e^c e^{(1/2)\Gamma_{nm}(h)} + (1 + 3c) e^{3c/2} \Gamma_{nm}(h).
\end{aligned}$$

We can conclude in any case

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sup_{h \in [0, \min\{l_n, l'_n\}]} \min_{m \in [A'_n(h), B'_n(h)]} (\Gamma_{nm})'(h) \\
&= \sup_{h \in [0, \min\{l_n, l'_n\}]} \min_{m \geq 1} (\Gamma_{nm})'(h) \\
&\leq \sup_{h \in [0, l_n]} \min_{m \geq 1} (c + 2 + (1 + 2c + \Gamma_{nm}(h)) e^c e^{(1/2)\Gamma_{nm}(h)} + (1 + 3c) e^{3c/2} \Gamma_{nm}(h)) \\
&\leq c + 2 + (1 + 2c + K) e^c e^{(1/2)K} + (1 + 3c) e^{3c/2} K,
\end{aligned}$$

for every $n \geq 1$, where K only depends on δ , by Theorem 3.2 and Proposition 3.4.

If for some n we have $l_n < l'_n$ and $h \in [l_n, l'_n]$, then $(\Gamma_{nn})'(h) \leq l'_n - h \leq l'_n - l_n \leq c$ and

$$\sup_{h \in [l_n, l'_n]} \min_{m \in [A'_n(h), B'_n(h)]} (\Gamma_{nm})'(h) \leq c.$$

Therefore, $K' \leq c + 2 + (1 + 2c + K) e^c e^{(1/2)K} + (1 + 3c) e^{3c/2} K$, and the conclusion holds by Theorem 3.2. \square

Theorem 3.8 has the following direct consequence.

Corollary 3.9. *Let us consider two trains Ω, Ω' such that $r'_n = r_n$, and $l'_n = l_n$ for every $n \geq N$. Then Ω is hyperbolic if and only if Ω' is hyperbolic.*

Theorems 3.11 and 3.12 are simpler versions of Theorem 3.2, which can be applied in many occasions, and are obtained by replacing $\Gamma_{nm}(h)$ for $\Gamma_{nm}^*(h)$ and $\Gamma_{nm}^0(h)$, respectively. We define now these functions.

DEFINITION 3.10. Let us consider a sequence of positive numbers $\{l_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ and a sequence of non-negative numbers $\{r_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$. Consider $n \geq 1$ and $0 \leq h \leq l_n$. We define

$$\Gamma_{nm}^*(h) := \begin{cases} (r_m + h - l_{m+1})_+ + e^h \sum_{k=m+1}^n e^{-l_k}, & \text{if } m < n \text{ and } l_m \leq h, \\ l_m - h + e^h \sum_{k=m}^n e^{-l_k}, & \text{if } m < n \text{ and } l_m > h, \\ \min\{h, l_n - h\}, & \text{if } m = n, \\ l_m - h + e^h \sum_{k=n}^m e^{-l_k}, & \text{if } m > n \text{ and } l_m > h, \\ (r_{m-1} + h - l_{m-1})_+ + e^h \sum_{k=n}^{m-1} e^{-l_k}, & \text{if } m > n \text{ and } l_m \leq h, \end{cases}$$

and

$$\Gamma_{nm}^0(h) := \begin{cases} e^h \sum_{k=m+1}^n e^{-l_k}, & \text{if } m < n \text{ and } l_m \leq h, \\ e^h \sum_{k=n}^{m-1} e^{-l_k}, & \text{if } m > n \text{ and } l_m \leq h, \\ \Gamma_{nm}^*(h), & \text{in other case.} \end{cases}$$

The functions $\Gamma_{nm}^*(h)$ and $\Gamma_{nm}^0(h)$ are naturally associated to trains by taking $\{l_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ and $\{r_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ as the half-lengths of their fundamental geodesics.

Theorem 3.11. *Let us consider a train Ω such that there exists a constant $c > 0$ with $r_n \leq 2c + |l_n - l_{n+1}|$ for every $n \geq 1$. Then Ω is hyperbolic if and only if*

$$K^* := \sup_{n \geq 1} \sup_{h \in [0, l_n]} \min_{m \in [A_n(h), B_n(h)]} \Gamma_{nm}^*(h) < \infty.$$

Furthermore, if Ω is δ -hyperbolic, then K^* is bounded by a constant which only depends on δ and c ; if $K^* < \infty$, then Ω is δ -hyperbolic, with δ a constant which only depends on K^* and c .

Proof. First, let us consider the integer numbers k with $l_k + l_{k+1} \geq r_k$. The inequality $r_k - l_k - l_{k+1} \leq 2c - 2 \min\{l_k, l_{k+1}\}$ (which is equivalent to $r_k \leq 2c + |l_k - l_{k+1}|$) gives

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-(1/2)(l_k + l_{k+1} - r_k)_+} + (r_k - l_k - l_{k+1})_+ &= e^{(1/2)(r_k - l_k - l_{k+1})} \\ &\leq e^{c - \min\{l_k, l_{k+1}\}} \leq e^c (e^{-l_k} + e^{-l_{k+1}}). \end{aligned}$$

And now, consider the integer numbers k with $l_k + l_{k+1} \leq r_k$. The inequality $0 \leq r_k - l_k - l_{k+1} \leq 2c - 2 \min\{l_k, l_{k+1}\}$ gives $\min\{l_k, l_{k+1}\} \leq c$, and consequently

$$e^{-c} \leq e^{-\min\{l_k, l_{k+1}\}}, \quad 1 \leq e^c(e^{-l_k} + e^{-l_{k+1}}).$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-(1/2)(l_k + l_{k+1} - r_k)_+} + (r_k - l_k - l_{k+1})_+ &= 1 + r_k - l_k - l_{k+1} \\ &\leq 1 + 2c \leq (1 + 2c)e^c(e^{-l_k} + e^{-l_{k+1}}). \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-(1/2)(l_k + l_{k+1} - r_k)_+} + (r_k - l_k - l_{k+1})_+ &\leq (1 + 2c)e^c(e^{-l_k} + e^{-l_{k+1}}), \\ e^{-l_k} + e^{-l_{k+1}} &\leq \Delta(k) \leq (1 + (1 + 2c)e^c)(e^{-l_k} + e^{-l_{k+1}}), \end{aligned}$$

for every $k \geq 1$. Hence, if we apply Theorem 3.2 we obtain the conclusion, with $\inf_{m \in [A_n(h), B_n(h)]} \Gamma_{nm}^*(h)$ instead of $\min_{m \in [A_n(h), B_n(h)]} \Gamma_{nm}^*(h)$. In order to see that the infimum is attained we can follow an argument similar to the one at the end of the proof of Theorem 3.2. \square

Theorem 3.12. *Let us consider a train Ω such that there exists a constant $c > 0$ with $r_n \leq c$ for every $n \geq 1$. Then Ω is hyperbolic if and only if*

$$K^0 := \sup_{n \geq 1} \sup_{h \in [0, l_n]} \min_{m \in [A_n(h), B_n(h)]} \Gamma_{nm}^0(h) < \infty.$$

Furthermore, if Ω is δ -hyperbolic, then K^0 is bounded by a constant which only depends on δ and c ; if $K^0 < \infty$, then Ω is δ -hyperbolic, with δ a constant which only depends on K^0 and c .

REMARK. Notice that Γ_{nm}^0 is much simpler than Γ_{nm} :

Firstly, the four terms in the definition of $\Delta(k)$ are replaced by its first term.

Furthermore, in the first and fifth cases in the definition of Γ_{nm}^0 we remove the first term in the corresponding definition of Γ_{nm} .

In order to obtain these simplifications, we must pay with the hypothesis $r_n \leq c$, but this is a usual hypothesis: for instance, every flute surface satisfies it.

Proof. Notice that $(r_m + h - l_{m+1})_+ \leq r_m \leq c$ if $m = A_n(h)$ (since $l_{m+1} > h$) and $(r_{m-1} + h - l_{m-1})_+ \leq r_{m-1} \leq c$ if $m = B_n(h)$.

Hence, if we apply Theorem 3.11 we obtain the conclusion, with $\inf_{m \in [A_n(h), B_n(h)]} \Gamma_{nm}^0(h)$ instead of $\min_{m \in [A_n(h), B_n(h)]} \Gamma_{nm}^0(h)$.

In order to see that the infimum is attained we can follow an argument similar to the one at the end of the proof of Theorem 3.2. \square

Proposition 3.13. *In any train Ω we have*

$$\min_{m \in [A_n(h), B_n(h)]} \Gamma_{nm}^0(h) = \min_{m \geq 1} \Gamma_{nm}^0(h),$$

for every $n \geq 1$ and $0 \leq h \leq l_n$.

Proof. Fix $n \geq 1$ and $0 \leq h \leq l_n$. If $m < A_n(h)$, then $\Gamma_{nm}^0(h) > \Gamma_{nA_n(h)}^0(h)$:

$$\Gamma_{nm}^0(h) \geq e^h \sum_{k=m+1}^n e^{-l_k} > e^h \sum_{k=A_n(h)+1}^n e^{-l_k} = \Gamma_{nA_n(h)}^0(h).$$

The case $m > B_n(h)$ is similar. \square

Theorem 3.12 let us obtain an alternative proof of a result that appears in [3], but using now a completely new argument. It is a simple sufficient condition for the hyperbolicity.

Corollary 3.14. *Let us consider a train Ω with $l_1 \leq l^0$, $r_n \leq c_1$ for every n and*

$$(3.1) \quad \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} e^{-l_k} \leq c_2 e^{-l_n}, \quad \text{for every } n > 1.$$

Then Ω is δ -hyperbolic, where δ is a constant which only depends on c_1 , c_2 and l^0 .

EXAMPLES. Let us consider an increasing C^1 function f with $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \infty$, and define $l_n := f(n)$ for every n . A direct computation gives that $\{l_n\}$ satisfies (3.1) if and only if there exist constants c, M with $f'(x) \geq c > 0$ for every $x \geq M$.

Consequently, for $a, b > 0$ and $c \in \mathbb{R}$, the sequence $l_n := an^b + c$ satisfies (3.1) if and only if $b \geq 1$.

Proof. Let us consider $n \geq 1$ and $h \in [l^0, l_n]$. Since $l_1 \leq l^0 \leq h$, we have that $m = A_n(h)$ satisfies $l_m \leq h < l_{m+1}$ and

$$\Gamma_{nm}^0(h) = e^h \sum_{k=m+1}^n e^{-l_k} \leq e^h c_2 e^{-l_{m+1}} < c_2.$$

If $h \in [0, l^0]$, then $\Gamma_{nn}^0(h) \leq h \leq l^0$. Hence, $K^0 \leq \max\{c_2, l^0\}$, and Theorem 3.12 gives the result. \square

Lemma 3.15. (1) *Let us consider a sequence $\{l_n\}$ such that $l_m \leq l_n + c$ for every positive integer number $m \leq n$. Then there exists a non-decreasing sequence $\{l'_n\}$, such that $|l_n - l'_n| \leq c$ for every n .*

(2) Let us consider a non-decreasing sequence $\{l'_n\}$. If $\{l_n\}$ is a sequence with $|l_n - l'_n| \leq c$ for every n , then $l_m \leq l_n + 2c$ for every positive integer number $m \leq n$.

Proof. We prove now the first part of the lemma. We define a sequence $\{l'_n\}$ in the following way: $l'_n := \max\{l_1, l_2, \dots, l_n\}$. It is clear that $\{l'_n\}$ is a non-decreasing sequence. Since $l_m \leq l_n + c$ for every $m = 1, 2, \dots, n$, we have $l_n \leq l'_n \leq l_n + c$. Consequently, $|l_n - l'_n| \leq c$ for every n .

In order to prove the second part, notice that if $m \leq n$, then $l_m \leq l'_m + c \leq l'_n + c \leq l_n + 2c$. \square

The two following theorems provide necessary conditions for hyperbolicity.

Theorem 3.16. *Let us consider a hyperbolic train Ω with $l_m \leq l_n + c_1$ for every positive integer number $m \leq n$. If K is the constant defined in Theorem 3.2, then*

$$r_n \leq 2 \max\{K, 1\} + 2 \log \max\{K, 1\} + 3c_1, \quad \text{for every } n \quad \text{with} \quad l_{n+1} > 4(K + c_1).$$

Proof. Let us define $M := \max\{K, 1\}$ and fix n with $l_{n+1} > 4(K + c_1)$.

Let us assume that $r_n \leq l_{n+1}$. Consider $\varepsilon \in (0, 1/2)$ and $h_{n+1} := l_{n+1} - \varepsilon r_n$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{n+1,n+1}(h_{n+1}) &= \min\{l_{n+1} - \varepsilon r_n, \varepsilon r_n\} = \varepsilon r_n, \\ \Gamma_{n+1,m}(h_{n+1}) &\geq l_m - h_{n+1} \geq l_{n+1} - c_1 - h_{n+1} = \varepsilon r_n - c_1, \quad \text{if } m > n + 1, \\ \Gamma_{n+1,n}(h_{n+1}) &\geq (r_n + h_{n+1} - l_{n+1})_+ = (1 - \varepsilon)r_n, \quad \text{if } l_n \leq h_{n+1}, \\ \Gamma_{n+1,m}(h_{n+1}) &\geq e^{h_{n+1}} \Delta(n) \geq e^{l_{n+1} - \varepsilon r_n} e^{-(1/2)(l_n + l_{n+1} - r_n)} \geq e^{l_{n+1} - \varepsilon r_n} e^{-(1/2)(l_{n+1} + l_{n+1} + c_1 - r_n)} \\ &= e^{-(1/2)c_1 + ((1/2) - \varepsilon)r_n}, \quad \text{if either } m < n \quad \text{or} \quad m = n \quad \text{and} \quad l_n > h_{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\varepsilon \in (0, 1/2)$

$$\begin{aligned} M &\geq \min\{\varepsilon r_n, \varepsilon r_n - c_1, (1 - \varepsilon)r_n, e^{-(1/2)c_1 + ((1/2) - \varepsilon)r_n}\} \\ &= \min\{\varepsilon r_n - c_1, e^{-(1/2)c_1 + ((1/2) - \varepsilon)r_n}\}, \end{aligned}$$

and we deduce

$$r_n \leq \max\left\{\frac{M + c_1}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\log M + c_1/2}{1/2 - \varepsilon}\right\}.$$

Taking $\varepsilon = (M + c_1)/(2M + 2 \log M + 3c_1)$ (notice that $\varepsilon \in (0, 1/2)$, since $\log M \geq 0$), we obtain the equality of the two terms inside the maximum, and therefore $r_n \leq 2M + 2 \log M + 3c_1$.

We prove now that $r_n \leq l_{n+1}$. Seeking for a contradiction, assume that $r_n > l_{n+1}$, and consider $h^{n+1} := (3/4)l_{n+1}$. A similar argument, with h^{n+1} instead of h_{n+1} , gives:

If $l_n + l_{n+1} < r_n$, since $l_{n+1} > 4(K + c_1)$,

$$K \geq \min \left\{ \frac{1}{4}l_{n+1}, \frac{1}{4}l_{n+1} - c_1, \frac{3}{4}l_{n+1}, e^{(3/4)l_{n+1}} \right\} = \frac{1}{4}l_{n+1} - c_1 > K,$$

since $l_{n+1} > 4(K + c_1)$, and this is a contradiction. If $l_n + l_{n+1} \geq r_n$, we obtain with a similar argument

$$\begin{aligned} K &\geq \min \left\{ \frac{1}{4}l_{n+1}, \frac{1}{4}l_{n+1} - c_1, \frac{3}{4}l_{n+1}, e^{(1/4)l_{n+1} - (1/2)c_1} \right\} \\ &= \min \left\{ \frac{1}{4}l_{n+1} - c_1, e^{(1/4)l_{n+1} - (1/2)c_1} \right\} > K, \end{aligned}$$

and this is the contradiction we are looking for. \square

Condition $l_m \leq l_n + c_1$ for every positive integer number $m \leq n$ in Theorem 3.16 can seem superfluous, but we have examples which prove that, in fact, if it is removed, then the conclusion of the theorem is not true.

The following theorem obtains a similar inequality to (3.1) but with an explicit control of the constants involved.

Theorem 3.17. *Let us consider a hyperbolic train Ω with $l_m \leq l_n + c_1$ for every positive integer number $m \leq n$. If K is the constant defined in Theorem 3.2, then*

$$\sum_{k=n}^{\infty} e^{-l_k} \leq K e^{K+c_1} e^{-l_n}, \quad \text{for every } n \text{ with } l_n > 2K + c_1.$$

Proof. Theorem 3.2 and Proposition 3.4 give that

$$\min_{m \geq 1} \Gamma_{nm}(h) \leq K, \quad \text{for every } n \geq 1 \text{ and } h \in [0, l_n].$$

Let us fix n with $l_n > 2K + c_1$ and $n_0 \geq n$. Consider $\varepsilon > 0$ with $l_n \geq 2K + c_1 + \varepsilon$. If we define $h := l_n - K - c_1 - \varepsilon/2 \geq K + \varepsilon/2 > K$, then for any $m \geq n$ we have $l_m - h \geq l_n - h - c_1 = K + \varepsilon/2 > K$ and

$$\Gamma_{n_0m}(h) \geq \Gamma_{n_0m}^0(h) \geq K + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} > K.$$

If $m < n$, we obtain

$$\Gamma_{n_0m}(h) \geq \Gamma_{n_0m}^0(h) \geq e^h \sum_{k=n}^{n_0} e^{-l_k}.$$

Consequently,

$$K \geq \min_{m \geq 1} \Gamma_{n_0 m}(h) = \min_{1 \leq m < n} \Gamma_{n_0 m}(h) \geq e^{l_n - K - c_1 - \varepsilon/2} \sum_{k=n}^{n_0} e^{-l_k},$$

for every $n_0 \geq n$ and ε small enough. Therefore

$$K \geq e^{l_n - K - c_1} \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} e^{-l_k},$$

which finishes the proof. \square

Corollary 3.14, Theorems 3.16, 3.17, 3.2 and Proposition 3.6 give the following powerful and simple characterization. In particular, this result characterizes hyperbolicity of trains for which l_n is a non-decreasing sequence.

Theorem 3.18. *Let us consider a train Ω with $l_m \leq l_n + c_1$ for every positive integer number $m \leq n$.*

- (1) *If $\{l_n\}$ is a bounded sequence, then Ω is hyperbolic.*
- (2) *If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} l_n = \infty$, then Ω is hyperbolic if and only if $\{r_n\}$ is a bounded sequence and (3.1) holds for some constant c_2 .*

REMARK. Note that Theorem 3.18 deals with every case under the hypothesis “ $l_m \leq l_n + c_1$ for $m \leq n$ ”: $\{l_n\}$ is either a bounded sequence or a sequence with limit ∞ .

4. Trigonometric lemmas

In this section some technical lemmas are collected. All of them have been used in Section 3 in order to simplify the proof of Theorem 3.2.

DEFINITION 4.1. Given a surface M , a geodesic γ in M , and a continuous unit vector field ξ along γ , orthogonal to γ , we define the *Fermi coordinates* based on γ as the map $E(u, v) := \exp_{\gamma(u)} v \xi(u)$.

It is well known that the Riemannian metric can be expressed in Fermi coordinates as $ds^2 = dv^2 + \eta^2(u, v) du^2$, where $\eta(u, v)$ is the solution of the scalar equation $\partial^2 \eta / \partial v^2 + K \eta = 0$, $\eta(u, 0) = 1$, $\partial \eta / \partial v(u, 0) = 0$, and K is the curvature of M (see e.g. [11, p. 247]). Consequently, if M is a non-exceptional Riemann surface, the Poincaré metric in Fermi coordinates (based on any geodesic γ) is $ds^2 = dv^2 + \cosh^2 v du^2$, since $K = -1$ in the Poincaré metric. We always consider in a train the Fermi coordinates based on (a_0, b_0) .

DEFINITION 4.2. Let us consider Fermi coordinates (u, v) in \mathbb{D} . We define the distances $d_1((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2))$, $d_2((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2))$ as follows: without loss of generality we can assume that $v_1 \geq v_2$; then

$$\begin{aligned} d_1((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2)) &:= d((u_1, v_1), (u_1, v_2)) + d((u_1, v_2), (u_2, v_2)) \\ &= v_1 - v_2 + d((u_1, v_2), (u_2, v_2)), \\ d_2((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2)) &:= d((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_1)) + d((u_2, v_1), (u_2, v_2)) \\ &= d((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_1)) + v_1 - v_2. \end{aligned}$$

The following lemma shows that the “cartesian distances” d_1 and d_2 are comparable to d .

Lemma 4.3. *Let us consider Fermi coordinates (u, v) in \mathbb{D} and the distances d_1 and d_2 . Then*

$$\frac{1}{2}d_1 \leq d \leq d_1, \quad \frac{1}{3}d_2 \leq d \leq d_2.$$

Proof. Triangle inequality gives directly $d \leq d_1$ and $d \leq d_2$. Let us consider $v_1 \geq v_2$. It is easy to check that

$$d((u_1, v_1), (u_1, v_2)) \leq d((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2)), \quad d((u_1, v_2), (u_2, v_2)) \leq d((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2))$$

and this implies $d_1 \leq 2d$.

We also have $d((u_2, v_1), (u_2, v_2)) \leq d((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2))$, and then

$$\begin{aligned} d((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_1)) &\leq d((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2)) + d((u_2, v_1), (u_2, v_2)) \\ &\leq 2d((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2)), \\ d_2((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2)) &= d((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_1)) + d((u_2, v_1), (u_2, v_2)) \\ &\leq 3d((u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2)). \end{aligned}$$

□

Lemma 4.4. *Let Ω be a train and l_0 any positive constant. We have*

$$d_1(z, \gamma_n \cap (a_n, b_n)) \leq 2d_\Omega(z, (a_n, b_n)) + 2 \operatorname{Arcsinh} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2} \tanh l_0},$$

for every $n > 0$ and $z \in \Omega$ with $l_0 \leq h(z) \leq l_n$.

Proof. Let w be the nearest point in (a_n, b_n) to z , and define $v := \gamma_n \cap (a_n, b_n)$, let v_0 be the nearest point in (a_0, b_0) to v and w_0 the nearest point in (a_0, b_0) to w .

Consider the geodesic quadrilateral in Ω^+ with vertices v , w , w_0 and v_0 . Standard hyperbolic trigonometry gives that

$$\tanh d_\Omega(w, w_0) = \tanh d_\Omega(v, v_0) \cosh d_\Omega(v_0, w_0) = \tanh l_n \cosh d_\Omega(v_0, w_0).$$

Denote by v' (respectively w') the point in $\gamma_n^+ = [v, v_0] \subset \Omega^+$ (respectively in $[w, w_0] \subset \Omega^+$) with $h(v') = h(z)$ (respectively $h(w') = h(z)$). Consider the geodesic quadrilateral in Ω with vertices v' , w' , w_0 and v_0 . Standard hyperbolic trigonometry (see e.g. [12, p. 88]) gives that

$$\begin{aligned} \sinh \frac{d_\Omega(v', w')}{2} &= \sinh \frac{d_\Omega(v_0, w_0)}{2} \cosh h(z) = \cosh h(z) \sqrt{\frac{\cosh d_\Omega(v_0, w_0) - 1}{2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \cosh h(z) \sqrt{\frac{\tanh d_\Omega(w, w_0)}{\tanh l_n} - 1} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \cosh h(z) \sqrt{\frac{1}{\tanh h(z)} - 1} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \cosh h(z) \sqrt{\frac{1 - \tanh^2 h(z)}{\tanh h(z)}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2} \tanh h(z)} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2} \tanh l_0}. \end{aligned}$$

This fact and Lemma 4.3 imply

$$\begin{aligned} d_1(z, v) &= d_\Omega(z, v') + d_\Omega(v', v) \leq d_\Omega(v', w') + d_\Omega(z, w') + d_\Omega(w', w) \\ &\leq 2 \operatorname{Arcsinh} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2} \tanh l_0} + d_1(z, w) \leq 2d_\Omega(z, w) + 2 \operatorname{Arcsinh} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2} \tanh l_0}. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 4.5. *Let us consider Fermi coordinates (u, v) in \mathbb{D} . Fix $u_1 < u_4$, $g_1 := \{(u, v): u = u_1, 0 \leq v \leq x\}$, $g_4 := \{(u, v): u = u_4, v \geq 0\}$, and g_2 the (infinite) geodesic orthogonal to g_1 in (u_1, x) . We assume that g_2 does not intersect g_4 . Consider $(u_4, h) \in g_4$, with $h \geq x$, and $(u_2, v_2) \in g_2$, with $d((u_2, v_2), (u_4, h)) = d(g_2, (u_4, h))$. Then*

$$d(g_2, (u_4, h)) \leq d(g_2, (u_3, h)) + d((u_3, h), (u_4, h)) \leq 6d(g_2, (u_4, h)),$$

for every $u_2 \leq u_3 \leq u_4$.

Proof. We only need to prove the second inequality. Fix $u_3 \in [u_2, u_4]$.

Let us assume that $v_2 \leq h$. Then Lemma 4.3 implies

$$\begin{aligned} &d(g_2, (u_3, h)) + d((u_3, h), (u_4, h)) \\ &\leq d((u_2, v_2), (u_2, h)) + d((u_2, h), (u_3, h)) + d((u_3, h), (u_4, h)) \\ &\leq d((u_2, v_2), (u_2, h)) + 2d((u_2, h), (u_4, h)) \\ &\leq 2d_2((u_2, v_2), (u_4, h)) \leq 6d((u_2, v_2), (u_4, h)) = 6d(g_2, (u_4, h)). \end{aligned}$$

Let us assume now that $v_2 \geq h$. Lemma 4.3 also implies

$$\begin{aligned}
 & d(g_2, (u_3, h)) + d((u_3, h), (u_4, h)) \\
 & \leq d((u_2, v_2), (u_2, h)) + d((u_2, h), (u_3, h)) + d((u_3, h), (u_4, h)) \\
 & \leq d((u_2, v_2), (u_2, h)) + 2d((u_2, h), (u_4, h)) \\
 & \leq 2d_1((u_2, v_2), (u_4, h)) \leq 4d((u_2, v_2), (u_4, h)) = 4d(g_2, (u_4, h)). \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 4.6. *Let us define F as*

$$F(a, x) := \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sinh 1} \sinh a \cosh x, & \text{if } 0 \leq a \leq 1, \\ \log(\sinh a \cosh x), & \text{if } a \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Then

$$F(a, x) \leq ae^x \leq 2 \sinh a \cosh x,$$

for every $a, x \geq 0$.

Proof. The last inequality is a direct consequence of $a \leq \sinh a$ and $e^x \leq 2 \cosh x$.

If $a \geq 1$, the function $h(x) := ae^x - a - x$ satisfies $h'(x) = ae^x - 1 \geq a - 1 \geq 0$ for every $x \geq 0$. Hence, $h(x) \geq h(0) = 0$ for every $x \geq 0$, and we conclude

$$ae^x \geq a + x = \log(e^a e^x) \geq \log(\sinh a \cosh x),$$

for $a \geq 1$ and $x \geq 0$.

Since the function $H(a) := \sinh a - a \sinh 1$ is convex in $[0, 1]$, it satisfies $H(a) \leq \max\{H(0), H(1)\} = 0$ for every $0 \leq a \leq 1$. Hence,

$$ae^x \geq \frac{1}{\sinh 1} \sinh a e^x \geq \frac{1}{\sinh 1} \sinh a \cosh x,$$

for $0 \leq a \leq 1$ and $x \geq 0$. \square

This result has the following direct corollary.

Corollary 4.7. *For a set $E \subset \{(a, x) : a, x \geq 0\}$, we have $\text{Arcsinh}(\sinh a \cosh x) \leq c_1$, for every $(a, x) \in E$ and some constant c_1 , if and only if $ae^x \leq c_2$, for every $(a, x) \in E$ and some constant c_2 .*

Furthermore, if one of the inequalities holds, the constant in the other inequality only depends on the first constant.

Proposition 4.8. (1) *There exists a universal constant c_1 such that*

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, y, t) &:= \operatorname{Arccosh} \frac{\cosh t + \cosh x \cosh y}{\sinh x \sinh y} \\ &\geq c_1(e^{-x} + e^{-y} + e^{-(1/2)(x+y-t)_+} + (t - x - y)_+), \end{aligned}$$

for every $x, y, t \geq 0$.

(2) *For each $l_0 > 0$, there exists a constant c_2 , which only depends on l_0 , such that*

$$\operatorname{Arccosh} \frac{\cosh t + \cosh x \cosh y}{\sinh x \sinh y} \leq c_2(e^{-x} + e^{-y} + e^{-(1/2)(x+y-t)_+} + (t - x - y)_+),$$

for every $t \geq 0$ and $x, y \geq l_0$.

REMARK. This result is interesting by itself: if H is a right-angled hexagon in the unit disk for which three pairwise non-adjacent sides X, Y, T are given (with respective lengths x, y, t), then the opposite side of T in H has length $f(x, y, t)$ (see e.g. [12, p. 86], or the proof of Theorem 3.2).

Proof. First, we remark that if $x \geq l_0$, then $e^{-2l_0}e^{2x} \geq 1$ and $e^{2x} - 1 \geq (1 - e^{-2l_0})e^{2x}$. Therefore, if we define $c_3^{-1} := (1 - e^{-2l_0})/2$, we have for every $x \geq l_0$,

$$e^{2x} - 1 \geq 2c_3^{-1}e^{2x}, \quad \sinh x \geq c_3^{-1}e^x, \quad \coth x = 1 + \frac{2}{e^{2x} - 1} \leq 1 + c_3e^{-2x}.$$

We also have

$$\coth x = 1 + \frac{2}{e^{2x} - 1} \geq 1 + 2e^{-2x}, \quad \text{for every } x > 0.$$

Let us start with the proof of item (1).

If $f \geq 3$, then $f \geq e^{-x} + e^{-y} + e^{-(1/2)(x+y-t)_+}$. If $f \leq 3$, then $1 + (2/3)c_4^{-2}f^2 \geq \cosh f$, for some universal constant $c_4 \leq 1$, and

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + \frac{2}{3}c_4^{-2}f^2 &\geq \cosh f \geq 2e^{t-x-y} + \coth x \coth y \\ &\geq 2e^{-(x+y-t)} + (1 + 2e^{-2x})(1 + 2e^{-2y}), \\ 1 + \frac{2}{3}c_4^{-2}f^2 &\geq 1 + 2(e^{-2x} + e^{-2y} + e^{-(x+y-t)_+}), \\ c_4^{-1}f &\geq \sqrt{3}\sqrt{e^{-2x} + e^{-2y} + e^{-(x+y-t)_+}} \geq e^{-x} + e^{-y} + e^{-(1/2)(x+y-t)_+}, \\ f &\geq c_4(e^{-x} + e^{-y} + e^{-(1/2)(x+y-t)_+}), \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the inequality $\sqrt{3}\sqrt{a+b+c} \geq \sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b} + \sqrt{c}$, for every $a, b, c \geq 0$.

This inequality is (1) if $t \leq x + y$. If $t \geq x + y$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \cosh f &> \frac{\cosh t}{\sinh x \sinh y} + 1 \geq 2e^{t-x-y} + 1 \\ &> \frac{4}{2}e^{t-x-y} + \frac{1}{4 \cdot 2}e^{-(t-x-y)} = \cosh(t - x - y + \log 4) \end{aligned}$$

and $f > t - x - y + \log 4 > (t - x - y)_+ + e^{-(1/2)(x+y-t)_+}$.

Consequently we have

$$f \geq c_1(e^{-x} + e^{-y} + e^{-(1/2)(x+y-t)_+} + (t - x - y)_+),$$

for every $x, y, t \geq 0$, with $c_1 := c_4/2$, since $c_4 \leq 1$.

Next, let us prove item (2). Fix $l_0 > 0$. We have seen that $\sinh x \geq c_3^{-1}e^x$ and $\coth x \leq 1 + c_3e^{-2x}$, for every $x \geq l_0$.

Let us assume $t \geq x + y$. If $x, y \geq l_0$, then

$$\frac{1}{2}e^f \leq \cosh f = \frac{\cosh t + \cosh x \cosh y}{\sinh x \sinh y} \leq c_3^2 e^{t-x-y} + \coth^2 l_0.$$

Consequently,

$$e^f \leq 2c_3^2 e^{t-x-y} + 2\coth^2 l_0 \leq e^{t-x-y+c_5},$$

with $c_5 := \log(2c_3^2 + 2\coth^2 l_0)$, since $t - x - y \geq 0$. Hence, $f \leq t - x - y + c_5 = (t - x - y)_+ + c_5 e^{-(1/2)(x+y-t)_+}$, for every $t \geq 0$ and $x, y \geq l_0$ with $t \geq x + y$.

Let us assume $t \leq x + y$. If $x, y \geq l_0$, then

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + \frac{1}{2}f^2 &\leq \cosh f \leq c_3^2 e^{t-x-y} + \coth x \coth y \leq c_3^2 e^{t-x-y} + (1 + c_3 e^{-2x})(1 + c_3 e^{-2y}), \\ \frac{1}{2}f^2 &\leq c_3^2 e^{t-x-y} + c_3 e^{-2x} + c_3 e^{-2y} + c_3^2 e^{-2x-2y}, \\ \frac{1}{2}f^2 &\leq c_3^2 e^{t-x-y} + c_3 e^{-2x} + c_3 e^{-2y} + \frac{1}{2}c_3^2(e^{-2x} + e^{-2y}), \\ f^2 &\leq 2c_3^2 e^{-(x+y-t)} + (2c_3 + c_3^2)e^{-2x} + (2c_3 + c_3^2)e^{-2y}, \\ f^2 &\leq c_6^2(e^{-2x} + e^{-2y} + e^{-(x+y-t)_+}), \\ f &\leq c_6(e^{-x} + e^{-y} + e^{-(x+y-t)_+} + (t - x - y)_+), \end{aligned}$$

where $c_6^2 := \max\{2c_3^2, 2c_3 + c_3^2\}$, for every $t \geq 0$ and $x, y \geq l_0$ with $t \leq x + y$. Then we have (2) with $c_2 := \max\{1, c_5, c_6\}$. \square

Proposition 4.9. *For each $l_0 > 0$, we have*

$$F(x, y, t, h) := \operatorname{Arcsinh} \frac{\cosh x \cosh(y - h) + \cosh t \cosh h}{\sinh y} \\ \asymp e^{-h+x} + e^{-(y-h-t)_+} + (t + h - y)_+,$$

for every $x, y, t, h \geq 0$, verifying $y \geq h \geq x$ and $y \geq l_0$. Furthermore, the constants in the inequalities only depend on l_0 .

REMARK. This result is interesting by itself: if H is a right-angled hexagon in the unit disk for which three pairwise non-adjacent sides X, Y, T are given (with respective lengths x, y, t), P is the nearest point to X in Y , and P_h is the point in Y with $d(P_h, P) = h$, then $F(x, y, t, h)$ is the distance between P_h and the opposite side of Y in H (see the proof of Theorem 3.2).

Proof. We have seen that if $y \geq l_0$, and $c_3^{-1} := (1 - e^{-2l_0})/2$, we have $c_3^{-1}e^y \leq \sinh y \leq e^y/2$. We also have $e^z/2 \leq \cosh z \leq e^z$, for every $z \geq 0$.

Then $\sinh F \asymp e^{-h+x} + e^{-y+h+t}$, since $y \geq l_0$ and $y \geq h$, and the constants in the inequalities only depend on l_0 .

If $h + t \leq y$, then $e^{-h+x} + e^{-y+h+t} \leq 2$, and

$$F \asymp \sinh F \asymp e^{-h+x} + e^{-(y-h-t)} = e^{-h+x} + e^{-(y-h-t)_+} + (t + h - y)_+.$$

If $h + t \geq y$, then $e^{-h+x} + e^{-y+h+t} \geq 1$, and

$$e^F \asymp \sinh F \asymp e^{-h+x} + e^{-y+h+t} \asymp e^{t+h-y} = e^{-1}e^{1+(t+h-y)_+}.$$

Since

$$F \geq \operatorname{Arcsinh} \frac{(e^x e^{y-h} + e^t e^h)/4}{e^y/2} \geq \operatorname{Arcsinh} \frac{1}{2}(e^{-h+x} + e^{-y+h+t}) \geq \operatorname{Arcsinh} \frac{1}{2} > 0,$$

and $1 + (t + h - y)_+ \geq 1 > 0$ for every $x, y, t, h \geq 0$, and $e^F \asymp e^{1+(t+h-y)_+}$ for every $x, y, t, h \geq 0$, verifying $h + t \geq y \geq h \geq x$ and $y \geq l_0$, we obtain that $F \asymp 1 + (t + h - y)_+$. Since $1 \leq e^{-h+x} + 1 = e^{-h+x} + e^{-(y-h-t)_+} \leq 2$, we also conclude that $F \asymp e^{-h+x} + e^{-(y-h-t)_+} + (t + h - y)_+$, if $h + t \geq y$. \square

The following corollary can be directly deduced from this result.

Corollary 4.10. *For each $l_0 > 0$, let us consider a set $E \subset \{(x, y, t, h): x, y, t, h \geq 0, y \geq h \geq x, y \geq l_0\}$. We have $F(x, y, t, h) \leq c_1$, for every $(x, y, t, h) \in E$ and some constant c_1 , if and only if $(t + h - y)_+ \leq c_2$, for every $(x, y, t, h) \in E$ and some constant c_2 .*

Furthermore, if one of the inequalities holds, the constant in the other inequality only depends on the first constant and l_0 .

Obviously, we can replace condition $(t + h - y)_+ \leq c_2$ by $t + h - y \leq c_2$. We prefer the first one since F will be a distance and $(t + h - y)_+ \geq 0$.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. We would like to thank Professor J.L. Fernández for some useful discussions. Also, we would like to thank the referee for his/her careful reading of the manuscript and several useful comments.

References

- [1] H. Aikawa: *Positive harmonic functions of finite order in a Denjoy type domain*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **131** (2003), no. 12, 3873–3881.
- [2] V. Alvarez, D. Pestana and J.M. Rodríguez: *Isoperimetric inequalities in Riemann surfaces of infinite type*, Rev. Mat. Iberoamericana **15** (1999), 353–427.
- [3] V. Alvarez, A. Portilla, J.M. Rodríguez, E. Tourís: *Gromov hyperbolicity of Denjoy domains*, Geom. Dedicata **121** (2006), 221–245.
- [4] V. Alvarez, J.M. Rodríguez and D.V. Yakubovich: *Estimates for nonlinear harmonic “measures” on trees*, Michigan Math. J. **49** (2001), 47–64.
- [5] Z.M. Balogh and S.M. Buckley: *Geometric characterizations of Gromov hyperbolicity*, Invent. Math. **153** (2003), 261–301.
- [6] A. Basmajian: *Constructing pairs of pants*, Ann. Acad. Sci. Fenn. Ser. A I Math. **15** (1990), 65–74.
- [7] A. Basmajian: *Hyperbolic structures for surfaces of infinite type*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **336** (1993), 421–444.
- [8] Y. Benoist: *Convexes hyperboliques et fonctions quasisymétriques*, Publ. Math. Inst. Hautes Études Sci. **97** (2003), 181–237.
- [9] M. Bonk, J. Heinonen and P. Koskela: *Uniformizing Gromov hyperbolic spaces*, Astérisque **270** (2001).
- [10] A. Cantón, J.L. Fernández, D. Pestana, J.M. Rodríguez: *On harmonic functions on trees*, Potential Anal. **15** (2001), 199–244.
- [11] I. Chavel: *Eigenvalues in Riemannian Geometry*, Academic Press, Orlando, FL, 1984.
- [12] W. Fenchel: *Elementary Geometry in Hyperbolic Space*, de Gruyter, Berlin, 1989.
- [13] J.L. Fernández and J.M. Rodríguez: *Area growth and Green’s function of Riemann surfaces*, Ark. Mat. **30** (1992), 83–92.
- [14] J.B. Garnett and P.W. Jones: *The Corona theorem for Denjoy domains*, Acta Math. **155** (1985), 27–40.
- [15] E. Ghys, P. de la Harpe: *Sur les Groupes Hyperboliques d’après Mikhael Gromov*, Progress in Mathematics **83**, Birkhäuser Boston, Boston, MA, 1990.
- [16] M.J. González: *An estimate on the distortion of the logarithmic capacity*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **126** (1998), 1429–1431.
- [17] M. Gromov: *Hyperbolic groups*; in *Essays in Group Theory*, Math. Sci. Res. Inst. Publ. **8**, Springer, New York, 1987, 75–263.
- [18] M. Gromov: *Metric Structures for Riemannian and non-Riemannian Spaces*, Progress in Mathematics **152**, Birkhäuser Boston, Boston, MA, 1999.
- [19] A. Haas: *Dirichlet points, Garnett points, and infinite ends of hyperbolic surfaces*, I, Ann. Acad. Sci. Fenn. Math. **21** (1996), 3–29.
- [20] P. Hästö: *Gromov hyperbolicity of the j_G and \tilde{j}_G metrics*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **134** (2006), 1137–1142.
- [21] P. Hästö, H. Linden, A. Portilla, J.M. Rodríguez, E. Tourís: *Gromov hyperbolicity of Denjoy domains with hyperbolic and quasihyperbolic metrics*, to appear in J. Math. Soc. Japan.

- [22] P. Hästö, A. Portilla, J.M. Rodríguez, E. Tourís: *Comparative Gromov hyperbolicity results for the hyperbolic and quasihyperbolic metrics*, Complex Var. Elliptic Equ. **55** (2010), 127–135.
- [23] P. Hästö, A. Portilla, J.M. Rodríguez, E. Tourís: *Gromov hyperbolic equivalence of the hyperbolic and quasihyperbolic metrics in Denjoy domains*, Bull. Lond. Math. Soc. **42** (2010), 282–294.
- [24] P. Hästö, A. Portilla, J.M. Rodríguez, E. Tourís: *Uniformly separated sets and Gromov hyperbolicity of domains with the quasihyperbolicity metric*, preprint.
- [25] I. Holopainen and P.M. Soardi: *p -harmonic functions on graphs and manifolds*, Manuscripta Math. **94** (1997), 95–110.
- [26] M. Kanai: *Rough isometries, and combinatorial approximations of geometries of noncompact Riemannian manifolds*, J. Math. Soc. Japan **37** (1985), 391–413.
- [27] M. Kanai: *Rough isometries and the parabolicity of Riemannian manifolds*, J. Math. Soc. Japan **38** (1986), 227–238.
- [28] M. Kanai: *Analytic inequalities, and rough isometries between noncompact Riemannian manifolds*; in Curvature and Topology of Riemannian Manifolds (Katata, 1985), Lecture Notes in Math. **1201**, Springer, Berlin, 1986, 122–137.
- [29] A. Karlsson and G.A. Noskov: *The Hilbert metric and Gromov hyperbolicity*, Enseign. Math. (2) **48** (2002), 73–89.
- [30] A. Portilla, J.M. Rodríguez and E. Tourís: *Gromov hyperbolicity through decomposition of metric spaces*, II, J. Geom. Anal. **14** (2004), 123–149.
- [31] A. Portilla, J.M. Rodríguez and E. Tourís: *The topology of balls and Gromov hyperbolicity of Riemann surfaces*, Differential Geom. Appl. **21** (2004), 317–335.
- [32] A. Portilla, J.M. Rodríguez and E. Tourís: *The role of funnels and punctures in the Gromov hyperbolicity of Riemann surfaces*, Proc. Edinb. Math. Soc. (2) **49** (2006), 399–425.
- [33] A. Portilla, J.M. Rodríguez and E. Tourís: *Stability of Gromov hyperbolicity*, J. Adv. Math. Stud. **2** (2009), 77–96.
- [34] A. Portilla and E. Tourís: *A characterization of Gromov hyperbolicity of surfaces with variable negative curvature*, Publ. Mat. **53** (2009), 83–110.
- [35] J.M. Rodríguez: *Isoperimetric inequalities and Dirichlet functions of Riemann surfaces*, Publ. Mat. **38** (1994), 243–253.
- [36] J.M. Rodríguez: *Two remarks on Riemann surfaces*, Publ. Mat. **38** (1994), 463–477.
- [37] J.M. Rodríguez and E. Tourís: *Gromov hyperbolicity through decomposition of metric spaces*, Acta Math. Hungar. **103** (2004), 107–138.
- [38] J.M. Rodríguez and E. Tourís: *A new characterization of Gromov hyperbolicity for negatively curved surfaces*, Publ. Mat. **50** (2006), 249–278.
- [39] J.M. Rodríguez and E. Tourís: *Gromov hyperbolicity of Riemann surfaces*, Acta Math. Sin. (Engl. Ser.) **23** (2007), 209–228.
- [40] P.M. Soardi: *Rough isometries and Dirichlet finite harmonic functions on graphs*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **119** (1993), 1239–1248.
- [41] J. Väisälä: *Hyperbolic and uniform domains in Banach spaces*, Ann. Acad. Sci. Fenn. Math. **30** (2005), 261–302.

Ana Portilla
St. Louis University (Madrid Campus)
Avenida del Valle 34, 28003 Madrid
Spain
e-mail: aportil2@slu.edu

José M. Rodríguez
Departamento de Matemáticas
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Avenida de la Universidad 30
28911 Leganés, Madrid
Spain
e-mail: jomaro@math.uc3m.es

Eva Tourís
Departamento de Matemáticas
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Avenida de la Universidad 30
28911 Leganés, Madrid
Spain
e-mail: etouris@math.uc3m.es

Current address:
Departamento de Matemáticas
Facultad de Ciencias
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid Campus de Cantoblanco
28049 Madrid
Spain
e-mail: eva.touris@uam.es