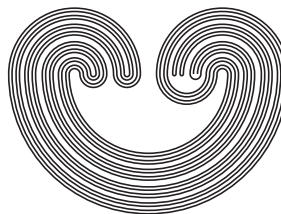


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by

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BAKUL SATHAYE

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THE BOUNDARY RIGIDITY OF LATTICES IN PRODUCTS OF TREES

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AND BAKUL SATHAYE

ABSTRACT. We show that every group acting properly and cocompactly by isometries on a product of n bounded valance, bushy trees is boundary rigid. That means that every $\text{CAT}(0)$ space that admits a geometric action of any such group has the visual boundary homeomorphic to a join of n copies of the Cantor set.

1. INTRODUCTION

A visual boundary is a particular type of compactification of a proper $\text{CAT}(0)$ metric space. The boundary is defined as a set of equivalence classes of asymptotic rays endowed with an appropriate topology. For hyperbolic spaces X and Y , any quasi-isometry $X \rightarrow Y$ between them extends to a homeomorphism of their visual boundaries. Consequently, the homeomorphism type of the boundary of a hyperbolic group is a well-defined group invariant. This is not true for $\text{CAT}(0)$ groups, i.e., groups that act geometrically on $\text{CAT}(0)$ spaces.

Bowers and Ruane [BR96] give an example of a group G acting geometrically on $\text{CAT}(0)$ spaces X and Y , such that the associated G -equivariant quasi-isometry between the spaces does not extend to a homeomorphism

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