

Lecture 9: What happens if the parallel axiom fails?

What happens if the parallel axiom fails?
(a side for the main course...)



Failure mode 1:

There is more than one line through the point parallel to the given line

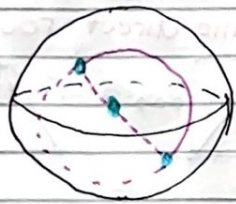


Failure mode 2:

There is no line through the point parallel to the given line.

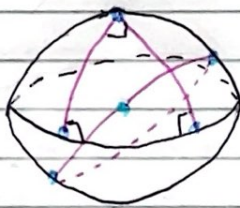


A model of such an "elliptic" geometry:



"points" are opposite pairs of points on the sphere

"lines" are the great circles of the sphere



Sum of the internal angles of a triangle $> 2\pi$
Area of $\triangle ABC = (\text{Sum of the internal angles} - \pi)$

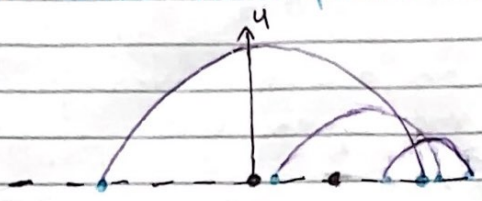
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Failure mode 1: Suppose that there is more than one parallel line.

"Hyperbolic geometry"

Poincaré half-plane model



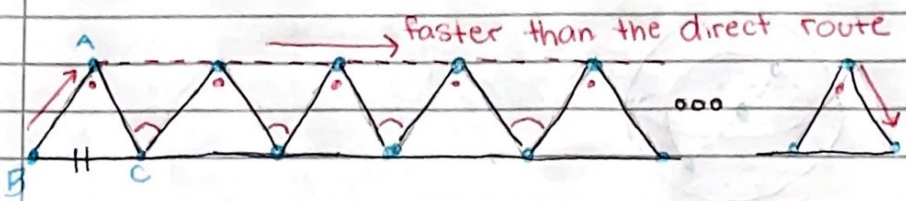
"points" are the points of \mathbb{R}^2 with $y > 0$

"lines" are upper-semi circles with centres on the x-axis

Hence the sum of the internal angles of a triangle is always less than 2π .

Area of $\triangle ABC: \pi - (\text{sum of the internal angles})$

Why postulate II must be modified if there are no parallel lines:



$\Rightarrow \angle > \angle \Rightarrow \dots + \angle - \pi$

