Volume estimates
for equiangular hyperbolic Coxeter polyhedra

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An equiangular hyperbolic Coxeter polyhedron is a hyperbolic polyhedron where all dihedral angles are equal to π/n for some fixed $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $n \geq 2$. It is a consequence of Andreev's theorem that either $n = 3$ and the polyhedron has all ideal vertices or that $n = 2$. Volume estimates are given for all equiangular hyperbolic Coxeter polyhedra.

1 Introduction

An orientable 3–orbifold, $\mathcal{Q}$, is determined by an underlying 3–manifold, $X_\mathcal{Q}$ and a trivalent graph, $\Sigma_\mathcal{Q}$, labeled by integers. If $\mathcal{Q}$ carries a hyperbolic structure then it is unique by Mostow rigidity, so the hyperbolic volume of $\mathcal{Q}$ is an invariant of $\mathcal{Q}$. Therefore, for hyperbolic orbifolds with a fixed underlying manifold, the volume is a function of the labeled graph Σ. In this paper, methods for estimating the volume of orbifolds of a restricted type in terms of this labeled graph will be described.

The orbifolds studied in this paper are quotients of $\mathbb{H}^3$ by reflection groups generated by reflections in hyperbolic Coxeter polyhedra. A Coxeter polyhedron is one where each dihedral angle is of the form π/n for some $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $n \geq 2$. Given a hyperbolic Coxeter polyhedron $\mathcal{P}$, consider the group generated by reflections through the geodesic planes determined by its faces, $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$. Then $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ is a Kleinian group which acts on $\mathbb{H}^3$ with fundamental domain $\mathcal{P}$. The quotient, $\mathcal{O} = \mathbb{H}^3/\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$, is a nonorientable orbifold with singular locus $\mathcal{P}^{(2)}$, the 2–skeleton of $\mathcal{P}$. One may think of obtaining $\mathcal{O}$ by "mirroring" the faces of $\mathcal{P}$. It is a consequence of Andreev's theorem that any equiangular hyperbolic Coxeter polyhedron has either all dihedral angles equal to $\pi/3$ and is ideal or has all dihedral angles equal to $\pi/2$ [5; 6]. This paper gives two-sided combinatorial volume estimates for all equiangular hyperbolic Coxeter polyhedra. Only polyhedra with finite volume will be considered.

Lackenby gave volume estimates for hyperbolic alternating link complements in [14] in terms of the twist number of the link. His work was part of what led to this investigation of how geometric data arises from associated combinatorial data. Some

of the techniques used in this paper follow methods used by Lackenby. The lower bound given by Lackenby was improved by Agol, Storm and Thurston in [3]. In his thesis [13], Inoue has identified the two smallest-volume, compact, right-angled hyperbolic polyhedra. He also gave a method to order such polyhedra based on a decomposition into Löbell polyhedra, provided that the volume of any given right-angled polyhedron can be calculated exactly.

The results of this paper can be used to list all equiangular hyperbolic polyhedra with volume not exceeding some fixed value. A sample application of this is to classify all arithmetic Kleinian maximal reflection groups. Agol has shown in [2] that the number of such groups is finite up to conjugacy. Given a maximal reflection group Γ generated by reflections in a polyhedron $\mathcal{P}$, he gives an upper bound, independent of Γ, for the volume of $\mathcal{P}/\Theta$ where Θ is the group of symmetries of $\mathcal{P}$ which are not reflections. One could therefore attempt to classify such groups using the results of this paper by writing down a list of all polyhedra of sufficiently small volume and checking arithmeticity for those for which the quotient by additional symmetries has small enough volume.

2   Summary of results

The results of the paper are outlined in this section. Theorems 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 concern the volumes of right-angled hyperbolic polyhedra. Theorem 2.6 concerns hyperbolic polyhedra with all angles $\pi/3$. Before stating any results, some terminology will be introduced.

An *abstract polyhedron* is a cell complex on S^2 which can be realized by a convex Euclidean polyhedron. A theorem of Steinitz says that realizability as a convex Euclidean polyhedron is equivalent to the 1–skeleton of the cell complex being 3–connected [18]. A graph is 3–connected if the removal of any 2 vertices along with their incident edges leaves the complement connected. A *labeling* of an abstract polyhedron P is a map

$$\Theta\colon \operatorname{Edges}(P) \to (0, \pi/2].$$

For an abstract polyhedron, P, and a labeling, Θ, the pair (P, Θ) is a *labeled abstract polyhedron*. A labeled abstract polyhedron is said to be *realizable as a hyperbolic polyhedron* if there exists a hyperbolic polyhedron, $\mathcal{P}$, such that there is a label-preserving graph isomorphism between $\mathcal{P}^{(1)}$ with edges labeled by dihedral angles

and P with edges labeled by Θ. A *defining plane* for a hyperbolic polyhedron $\mathcal{P}$ is a hyperbolic plane Π such that $\Pi \cap \mathcal{P}$ is a face of $\mathcal{P}$. A labeling Θ which is constantly equal to π/n is π/n–*equiangular*. Suppose G is a graph and G^* is its dual graph. A k–*circuit* is a simple closed curve composed of k edges in G^*. A *prismatic* k–*circuit* is a k–circuit γ so that no two edges of G which correspond to edges traversed by γ share a vertex. The following theorem is a special case of Andreev's Theorem, which gives necessary and sufficient conditions for a labeled abstract polyhedron to be realizable as a hyperbolic polyhedron.

Theorem 2.1 (Andreev's theorem for $\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedra) *A $\pi/2$–equiangular labeled abstract polyhedron (P, Θ) is realizable as a hyperbolic polyhedron, $\mathcal{P}$, if and only if the following conditions hold:*

(1) *P has at least 6 faces.*

(2) *P each vertex has degree 3 or degree 4.*

(3) *For any triple of faces of P, (F_i, F_j, F_k), such that $F_i \cap F_j$ and $F_j \cap F_k$ are edges of P with distinct endpoints, $F_i \cap F_k = \varnothing$.*

(4) *P^* has no prismatic 4 circuits.*

Furthermore, each degree 3 vertex in P corresponds to a finite vertex in $\mathcal{P}$, each degree 4 vertex in P corresponds to an ideal vertex in $\mathcal{P}$, and the realization is unique up to isometry.

The first result gives two-sided volume estimates for ideal, $\pi/2$–equiangular hyperbolic polyhedra.

Theorem 2.2 *If $\mathcal{P}$ is an ideal $\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedron with N vertices, then*

$$(N - 2) \cdot \frac{V_8}{4} \leq \mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}) \leq (N - 4) \cdot \frac{V_8}{2},$$

where V_8 is the volume of a regular ideal hyperbolic octahedron. Both inequalities are equality when $\mathcal{P}$ is the regular ideal hyperbolic octahedron. There is a sequence of ideal $\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedra $\mathcal{P}_i$ with N_i vertices such that $\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}_i)/N_i$ approaches $V_8/2$ as i goes to infinity.

The constant V_8 is the volume of a regular ideal hyperbolic octahedron. In terms of the Lobachevsky function,

$$\Lambda(\theta) = -\int_0^\theta \log |2 \sin t| \, dt,$$

$V_8 = 8\Lambda(\pi/4)$. This volume can also be expressed in terms of Catalan's constant, K, as $V_8 = 4K$, where

$$K = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n+1)^2}.$$

The value of V_8 to five decimal places is 3.66386.

The proof is spread throughout the paper. The lower bound will be shown in Section 3 to be a consequence of the stronger Theorem 3.2, which depends also on information about the number of faces. The upper bound in Theorem 2.2 will be proved in Section 5 and will be shown to be asymptotically sharp in Section 6.

Using similar techniques, the following theorem giving volume estimates for compact $\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedra will be proved:

Theorem 2.3 *If $\mathcal{P}$ is a compact $\pi/2$–equiangular hyperbolic polyhedron with N vertices, then*

$$(N-8) \cdot \frac{V_8}{32} \le \mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}) < (N-10) \cdot \frac{5V_3}{8},$$

where V_3 is the volume of a regular ideal hyperbolic tetrahedron. There is a sequence of compact polyhedra, $\mathcal{P}_i$, with N_i vertices such that $\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}_i)/N_i$ approaches $5V_3/8$ as i goes to infinity.

In terms of the Lobachevsky function, $V_3 = 2\Lambda(\pi/6)$. To five decimal places, V_3 is 1.01494.

Combining the methods of Theorem 2.2 and Theorem 2.3, estimates will be given for $\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedra with both finite and ideal vertices:

Theorem 2.4 *If $\mathcal{P}$ is a $\pi/2$–equiangular hyperbolic polyhedron, $N_\infty \ge 1$ ideal vertices and N_F finite vertices, then*

$$\frac{8N_\infty + N_F - 8}{32} \cdot V_8 \le \mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}) < (N_\infty - 1) \cdot \frac{V_8}{2} + N_F \cdot \frac{5V_3}{8}.$$

The proofs of the lower bounds in Theorem 2.3 and Theorem 2.4 appear in Section 3. The upper bounds will be proved in Section 5.

Two-sided volume estimates for $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedra are also given. First, the special case of Andreev's Theorem for $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedra is stated.

Theorem 2.5 (Andreev's theorem for $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedra) *A $\pi/3$–equiangular abstract polyhedron, (P, Θ), is realizable as a hyperbolic polyhedron, $\mathcal{P}$ if each vertex of P has degree 3 and P^* has no prismatic 3–circuits. Furthermore, each vertex of $\mathcal{P}$ is ideal and $\mathcal{P}$ is unique up to isometry.*

The next theorem gives analogous results to that of Theorem 2.2 for ideal $\pi/3-$ equiangular polyhedra.

Theorem 2.6 *If $\mathcal{P}$ is an ideal $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedron with $N > 4$ vertices, then*

$$N \cdot \frac{V_3}{3} \leq \mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}) \leq (3N - 14) \cdot \frac{V_3}{2},$$

where V_3 is the volume of a regular ideal hyperbolic tetrahedron. The upper bound is sharp for the regular ideal hyperbolic cube. There is a sequence of ideal $\pi/3-$ equiangular polyhedra $\mathcal{P}_i$ with N_i vertices such that $\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}_i)/N_i$ approaches $3V_3/2$ as N_i increases to infinity.

The lower bound in this theorem will be proved in Section 4 by packing horoballs around the vertices. The upper bound will be proved in Section 5 and will be shown to be asymptotically sharp in Section 6, mirroring the proofs in the $\pi/2$ case. In a personal communication, Rivin has indicated how to improve the lower bound to $N \cdot (3V_3/8)$. His argument will be briefly described at the end of Section 4.

3 Lower volume bound for ideal $\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedra

The key result used in proving the lower volume bound in Theorem 2.2 and Theorem 3.2 is a theorem of Miyamoto which says that the volume of a complete hyperbolic 3– manifold with totally geodesic boundary is greater than or equal to a constant multiple of the area of the boundary [15]:

Theorem 3.1 (Miyamoto) *If $\mathcal{O}$ is a complete hyperbolic 3–orbifold with nonempty totally geodesic boundary, then*

$$\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{O}) \geq \mathrm{area}(\partial\mathcal{O}) \cdot \frac{V_8}{4\pi}$$

with equality only if M can be decomposed into regular ideal hyperbolic octahedra.

Miyamoto actually only stated this theorem for manifolds. The orbifold version follows immediately, however. Given a complete hyperbolic 3–orbifold, $\mathcal{O}$, with nonempty totally geodesic boundary, Selberg's lemma implies the existence of an integer m such that an m–fold cover of $\mathcal{O}$ is a manifold M [17]. Then since M is a finite cover, $\mathrm{vol}(M) = m \cdot \mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{O})$ and $\mathrm{area}(\partial M) = m \cdot \mathrm{area}(\partial\mathcal{O})$.

Theorem 2.2 is a consequence of the following stronger theorem which also takes into account information about the faces of the polyhedron. Andreev's theorem for

$\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedra implies that the 1–skeleton of an ideal $\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedron is a four-valent graph on S^2. The faces, therefore, can be partitioned into a collection of black faces, $\mathcal{B}$, and a collection of white faces, $\mathcal{W}$, so that no two faces of the same color share an edge. Denote by $|\mathcal{B}|$ and $|\mathcal{W}|$ the number of black and white faces, respectively.

Theorem 3.2 *Suppose $\mathcal{P}$ is an ideal $\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedron with N vertices. If $\mathcal{P}$ is 2–colored with $|\mathcal{B}| \geq |\mathcal{W}|$, then*

$$(N - |\mathcal{W}|) \cdot \frac{V_8}{2} \leq \mathrm{vol}\,(\mathcal{P}).$$

This inequality is sharp for an infinite family of polyhedra obtained by gluing together regular ideal hyperbolic octahedra.

Proof Let $\mathcal{P}$ be an ideal $\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedron, and consider the orbifold $\mathbb{H}^3 / \Gamma(\mathcal{P})$, where $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ is the reflection group generated by $\mathcal{P}$, as described in the introduction. Denote the generators of $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ by the same symbol denoting the face of $\mathcal{P}$ through which it is a reflection. If A is a face of $\mathcal{P}$, let $\Gamma_A(\mathcal{P})$ be the group obtained from $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ by removing the generator A and all relations involving A. This may be thought of as "un-mirroring" the face A. Then $\mathrm{CC}(\mathbb{H}^3 / \Gamma_A(\mathcal{P}))$, the convex core of $\mathbb{H}^3 / \Gamma_A(\mathcal{P})$, is an orbifold with totally geodesic boundary and the same volume as $\mathcal{P}$. Note that the face A is a suborbifold of $\mathbb{H}^3 / \Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ because all dihedral angles of $\mathcal{P}$ are $\pi/2$. In general, a face of a polyhedron meeting a dihedral angle not equal to $\pi/2$ will not be a suborbifold and removing the generators and relations corresponding to that face from the reflection group will not give a totally geodesic boundary because the preimage of that face in $\mathbb{H}^3$ will not be a collection of disjoint geodesic planes.

To get the best lower bound on volume from [Theorem 3.1], the boundary should be chosen to have the greatest possible area. Given a collection of faces $\mathcal{A} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{M} A_i$, denote the group obtained by removing all generators and relations involving the A_i by $\Gamma_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{P})$. If no two faces in such a collection $\mathcal{A}$ share an edge, the orbifold $\mathrm{CC}(\mathbb{H}^3 / \Gamma_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{P}))$ has totally geodesic boundary.

As described before the statement of the theorem, 2–color the faces of $\mathcal{P}$ black and white so that no two faces of the same color share an edge. Suppose that coloring is chosen so that the number of black faces, $|\mathcal{B}|$, is at least the number of white faces, $|\mathcal{W}|$. This choice will ensure that the sum of the areas of the faces in $\mathcal{W}$ is at least the sum of the areas of the black faces, as will be seen in [Lemma 3.3]. Then, $\mathrm{CC}(\mathbb{H}^3 / \Gamma_{\mathcal{W}}(\mathcal{P}))$ is an orbifold with totally geodesic boundary consisting of the W_i. [Theorem 3.1] applied to this orbifold gives

$$\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}) \geq \mathrm{area}(\mathcal{W}) \cdot \rho_3(0).$$

The following lemma gives the area of $\mathcal{W}$ and completes the proof of the lower bound.

Lemma 3.3 *With $\mathcal{W}$ as above,*

$$\text{area}(\mathcal{W}) = 2\pi(N - |\mathcal{W}|).$$

Proof Consider $D\mathcal{W}$, the double of $\mathcal{W}$ along its boundary. Recall that the orbifold Euler characteristic of a 2–orbifold Q is

$$\chi(Q) = \chi(X_Q) - \sum_i (1 - 1/m_i),$$

where X_Q is the underlying topological space and Q has cone points of orders m_i [9]. The faces in $\mathcal{W}$ meet each of the N vertices and each of the E edges of $\mathcal{P}$. The orbifold $D\mathcal{W}$ is a union over all faces of $\mathcal{W}$ of doubled ideal polygons. Each of these doubled ideal polygons is a 2–sphere with a cone point of order ∞ for each vertex of the polygon. Each vertex of $\mathcal{P}$ contributes a cone point to two of these doubled polygons. Therefore

$$\chi(D\mathcal{W}) = |\mathcal{W}| \cdot \chi(S^2) - 2N = 2(|\mathcal{W}| - N).$$

The punctured surface $D\mathcal{W}$ is hyperbolic, being a union of hyperbolic 2–orbifolds. Therefore, the Gauss–Bonnet theorem for orbifolds implies that

$$\text{area}(D\mathcal{W}) = -2\pi \chi(D\mathcal{W}) = 4\pi(N - |\mathcal{W}|),$$

so that $\text{area}(\mathcal{W}) = 2\pi(N - |\mathcal{W}|)$. $\qquad\square$

The polyhedra which realize the lower bound as claimed in Theorem 3.2 are constructed by gluing together octahedra. Consider a regular ideal hyperbolic octahedron with faces colored white and black, so that no two faces of the same color share an edge. For a single octahedron, $N = 6$ and $|\mathcal{W}| = 4$, so the lower bound is equal to the volume. To obtain an infinite number of polyhedra which satisfy the claim, glue a finite collection of 2–colored regular ideal hyperbolic octahedra together, only gluing black faces to black faces. Each successive gluing results in a polyhedron with 3 more vertices and 1 more white face. Therefore by induction, for each example constructed in this fashion, the lower inequality in Theorem 3.2 will be equality. See Figure 1. Note that gluing octahedra in a different pattern than described yields examples which do not satisfy the claim. This completes the proof of Theorem 3.2. $\qquad\square$

The argument giving the lower bound in Theorem 2.2 as a consequence of Theorem 3.2 is similar to the proof of Theorem 5 in [14]. The idea is to average the estimate coming from the black faces with the estimate coming from the white faces. Consider a sort of
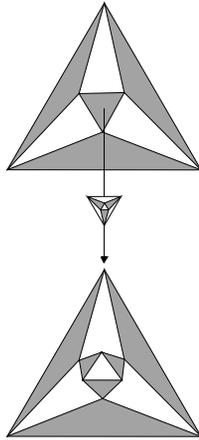
Figure 1: An example of the gluing

dual polyhedron, $\mathcal{G}$, to $\mathcal{P}$. The vertices of $\mathcal{G}$ are the white faces in the specified coloring of $\mathcal{P}$. For any two faces of $\mathcal{P}$ which share a vertex, the corresponding two vertices in $\mathcal{G}$ are connected by an edge. The 2–skeleton is homeomorphic to S^2, so the Euler characteristic of $\mathcal{G}^{(2)}$ is 2. The number of vertices, edges and faces of $\mathcal{G}^{(2)}$ respectively are $|\mathcal{W}|$, N and $|\mathcal{B}|$, where N is the number of vertices of $\mathcal{P}$. Hence $|\mathcal{B}| = 2 - |\mathcal{W}| + N$. An application of Lemma 3.3 yields area$(\mathcal{B}) = 2\pi(N - |\mathcal{B}|) = 2\pi(|\mathcal{W}| - 2)$. Hence

$$\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}) \geq (|\mathcal{W}| - 2) \cdot \frac{V_8}{2}.$$

Therefore, combining this inequality with the inequality from Theorem 3.2,

$$\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}) \geq (N - 2) \cdot \frac{V_8}{4},$$

proving the lower bound of Theorem 2.2.

The lower bound in Theorem 2.4, where $\mathcal{P}$ is a $\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedron with vertices which are either finite or ideal, is proved similarly.

Proposition 3.4 *Suppose $\mathcal{P}$ is a $\pi/2$–equiangular hyperbolic polyhedron with N_∞ ideal vertices, N_F finite vertices and $|\mathcal{F}|$ faces. Then*

$$\frac{8N_\infty + 3N_F - 4|\mathcal{F}|}{32} \cdot V_8 \leq \mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}).$$

Proof By the four color theorem, a 4–coloring of the faces of $\mathcal{P}$ may be found [7; 10]. One of the collections of faces of the same color, say $\mathcal{B}$, has area at least area$(\partial\mathcal{P})/4$, where area$(\partial\mathcal{P})$ should be interpreted as the sum of the areas of all the faces of $\mathcal{P}$.

The area of a hyperbolic k–gon with interior angles summing to S is $(k-2)\pi - S$. The sum of the interior angles of a face of $\mathcal{P}$ is $n_F \cdot \pi/2$, where n_F is the number of finite vertices of the face. Hence the area of a single face is

$$\pi \left(n_\infty + \frac{n_F}{2} - 2 \right),$$

where n_∞ is the number of ideal vertices of the face. Summing over all faces and using the fact that each finite vertex is a vertex of three faces and each ideal vertex is a vertex of four faces gives

$$\text{area}(\partial\mathcal{P}) = \pi \cdot \frac{8N_\infty + 3N_F - 4|\mathcal{F}|}{2}.$$

Then since $\text{area}(\mathcal{B}) \geq \text{area}(\partial\mathcal{P})/4$, applying Miyamoto's theorem to $\mathcal{B}$ finishes the proof of the proposition. $\square$

The lower bound in Theorem 2.3 follows by setting $N_\infty = 0$.

4 Lower volume bound for ideal $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedra

In this section the lower bound given in Theorem 2.6 will be proved:

Proposition 4.1 *If $\mathcal{P}$ is an ideal $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedron with $N > 4$ vertices, then*

$$\text{vol}(\mathcal{P}) > N \cdot \frac{V_3}{3}.$$

Before proving this proposition, a few preliminary results about ideal $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedra with more than 4 vertices are needed. Consider a $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedron, $\mathcal{P}$, in the upper half-space model for $\mathbb{H}^3$ with one vertex placed at the point at infinity. The link of each vertex is Euclidean, so must be an equilateral Euclidean triangle since all dihedral angles are $\pi/3$. Thus the image of $\mathcal{P}$ under the orthogonal projection to the bounding plane of $\mathbb{H}^3$ is an equilateral triangle. This triangle will be referred to as the *base triangle*. The three vertices adjacent to the vertex at infinity will be called *corner vertices*.

The following is a corollary of Andreev's theorem for $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedra.

Corollary 4.2 *If $\mathcal{P}$ is a $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedron which has more than 4 vertices, then each face of $\mathcal{P}$ has at least 4 edges.*

Proof Suppose for contradiction that $\mathcal{P}$ has a triangular face, Δ_1. Andreev's theorem for $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedra (Theorem 2.5) says that the dual graph of $\mathcal{P}^{(1)}$ has no prismatic 3–circuits, so at least two of the edges emanating from Δ_1 share a vertex. Hence $\mathcal{P}$ contains two adjacent triangular faces, Δ_1 and Δ_2. Let v_1 be the vertex of Δ_1 which is not contained in Δ_2 and v_2 the vertex of Δ_2 which is not contained in Δ_1. Let e_1 and e_2 be the edges emanating from v_1 and v_2 respectively which are not contained in Δ_1 or Δ_2. The edges e_1 and e_2 are both contained in two common faces. See Figure 2. Therefore by convexity, e_1 and e_2 must actually be the same edge, which contradicts the fact that $\mathcal{P}$ has more than 4 vertices. □
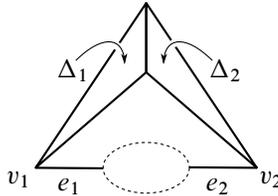

Figure 2: Note that e_1 and e_2 are both part of the "front" face and the "back" face.

Lemma 4.3 *Suppose that $\mathcal{P}$ is an ideal $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedron with $N > 4$ vertices. If coordinates for the upper half-space model of $\mathbb{H}^3$ are chosen so that a vertex of $\mathcal{P}$ is at the point at infinity, then the Euclidean distance from a corner vertex to each of the adjacent vertices in the base triangle are equal.*

Proof The fact that all dihedral angles are equal to $\pi/3$ implies that the arrangement of defining planes for the corner vertex is left invariant under reflection through a geodesic plane through infinity bisecting the angle between the two vertical planes defining the vertex. This proves the lemma. □

The following lemma shows that if $\mathcal{P}$ is a nonobtuse polyhedron, then intersections of faces of $\mathcal{P}$ correspond to intersections of the defining planes of $\mathcal{P}$.

Lemma 4.4 *If $\mathcal{P}$ is a nonobtuse hyperbolic polyhedron, then the closures of two faces F_1 and F_2 of $\mathcal{P}$ intersect if and only if $\overline{\Pi}_1$ and $\overline{\Pi}_2$ intersect in $\overline{\mathbb{H}}^3$ where Π_i is the defining plane for F_i.*

Proof Sufficiency is clear.

For necessity, the contrapositive will be proved. Suppose that F_1 and F_2 are two faces of $\mathcal{P}$ such that their closures do not intersect. A geodesic orthogonal to both F_1

and F_2 will be constructed. This geodesic is also orthogonal to both Π_1 and Π_2, and such a geodesic exists only if the closures of the Π_i are disjoint.

Choose any $x_0 \in F_1$ and $y_0 \in F_2$ and let γ_0 be the geodesic between them. The set

$$K(\gamma_0) = \{(x, y) \in F_1 \times F_2 \mid d(x, y) \leq l(\gamma_0)\}$$

is a closed subset of $F_1 \times F_2$. There exists open subsets N_i of F_i containing all of the ideal vertices of F_i such that for any $z_1 \in N_1$ and $z_2 \in N_2$, $d(z_1, z_2) > l(\gamma_0)$. Hence $K(\gamma_0)$ is also a bounded subset of $F_1 \times F_2$, therefore compact.

It follows from compactness of $K(\gamma_0)$ that

$$d_{\min} = \min\{d(x, y) \mid (x, y) \in K(\gamma_0)\}$$

is achieved for some $(x, y) \in K(\gamma_0)$. The geodesic segment, γ, between x and y must be orthogonal to both F_1 and F_2. If not, suppose γ is not orthogonal to F_1. Since $\mathcal{P}$ is nonobtuse, the orthogonal projection of y to Π_1 is contained in F_1. By the hyperbolic Pythagorean theorem, the geodesic between y and its projection has length less than that of γ. This contradicts the construction of γ. The argument is identical if γ is not orthogonal to F_2. $\square$

There is actually a simpler argument for the previous lemma in the case that $\mathcal{P}$ is a Coxeter polyhedron. The development of $\mathcal{P}$ into $\mathbb{H}^3$ gives a tessellation of $\mathbb{H}^3$ by copies of $\mathcal{P}$, so any intersection of defining planes must correspond to an edge of $\mathcal{P}$.

Corollary 4.5 *Suppose $\mathcal{P}$ is an ideal $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedron with $N > 4$ vertices. Choose coordinates for the upper half-space model of $\mathbb{H}^3$ so that a vertex, v_0, of $\mathcal{P}$ is at the point at infinity. Then if the distance in Lemma 4.3 from the corner vertex, u, to the two adjacent vertices in the base triangle is r and the edge length of the base triangle is a, then $0 < r < \frac{3a}{4}$.*

Proof Suppose that the three defining planes which contain v_0 are Π_1, Π_2 and Π_3 and that the three defining planes containing u are Π_1, Π_2 and Π_4. If $\frac{3a}{4} \leq r < a$, then Π_3 intersects Π_4 with interior dihedral angle less than $\pi/3$. By Lemma 4.4, the corresponding faces, F_3 and F_4, also have intersecting closures, and the interior dihedral angle between F_3 and F_4 will be less than $\pi/3$. If $r = a$, then $\mathcal{P}$ would be a tetrahedron and for $r > a$, $\mathcal{P}$ would have finite vertices at the points $\Pi_1 \cap \Pi_3 \cap \Pi_4$ and $\Pi_2 \cap \Pi_3 \cap \Pi_4$. $\square$

In what follows, the intersection with $\mathcal{P}$ of a closed horoball centered at a vertex u of $\mathcal{P}$ which intersects only faces and edges containing u will be called a *vertex neighborhood*. The next lemma is the main observation which leads to the lower volume bound. This lemma follows the approach of Adams in [1].

Lemma 4.6 *Let $\mathcal{P}$ be an ideal $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedron with more than 4 vertices. Suppose two vertex neighborhoods of equal volume intersect with disjoint interiors. Then the volume of each of the vertex neighborhoods is at least $\sqrt{3}/6$.*

Proof Let B_1 and B_2 about vertices u_1 and u_2, respectively, be vertex neighborhoods which intersect with disjoint interiors. Choose coordinates for the upper half-space model of $\mathbb{H}^3$ so that u_1 is the point at infinity and B_1 intersects B_2 at Euclidean height 1 above the bounding plane. Let $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ be the reflection group generated by $\mathcal{P}$ and $\mathcal{G}_\infty$ the subgroup fixing the point at infinity:

$$\mathcal{G}_\infty = \{\gamma \in \Gamma(\mathcal{P}) \mid \gamma(\{\infty\}) = \{\infty\}\}.$$

Let $H_1 = \mathcal{G}_\infty \cdot B_1$ be the horoball centered at infinity covering B_1 and let H_2 be one of the height 1 horoballs contained in $\Gamma(\mathcal{P}) \cdot B_2$. The projection of $\mathcal{P}$ to the bounding plane of $\mathbb{H}^3$ is an equilateral triangle and the orbit of this triangle under the action of $\mathcal{G}_\infty$ tiles the plane. Let Δ be a triangle in this tiling containing the point of $\overline{\mathbb{H}}^3$ about which H_2 is centered.

The collection of height 1 horoballs covering B_2 is equal to $\mathcal{G}_\infty \cdot H_2$ and, for each pair $g \neq h \in \mathcal{G}_\infty$, either $gH_2 \cap hH_2$ is empty, a single point, or $gH_2 = hH_2$. The proof breaks up into three cases. Either $u_2 \in \operatorname{int} \Delta$, u_2 is contained in the interior of an edge of Δ, or u_2 is a vertex of Δ.

If $u_2 \in \operatorname{int} \Delta$, then the projection of H_2 to the bounding plane must be a closed disk contained in Δ. The minimum possible value of $\operatorname{vol}(B_1) = \operatorname{vol}(B_2)$ occurs when the projection of H_2 to the bounding plane is inscribed in Δ and Δ has edge length $\sqrt{3}$, as shown in the left of Figure 3. Hence the area of Δ is $3\sqrt{3}/4$ and

$$\operatorname{vol}(B_i) = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4} \int_1^\infty \frac{dz}{z^3} = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{8}.$$

If u_2 is contained in the interior of an edge of Δ, then the minimum possible value of the vertex neighborhood volume occurs when Δ has edge length $2\sqrt{3}/3$ and u_2 is at the midpoint of an edge of Δ, as in the right of Figure 3. Calculating as above,

$$\operatorname{vol}(B_i) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}.$$

Now suppose that u_2 is a vertex of Δ. If the edge length of Δ is a, then

$$\operatorname{vol}(B_1) = \frac{a^2\sqrt{3}}{4} \int_1^\infty \frac{dz}{z^3} = \frac{a^2\sqrt{3}}{8}.$$
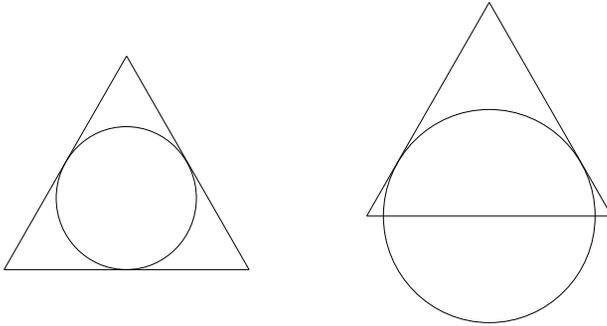
Figure 3: On the left is the projection of H_2 inscribed in Δ. On the right is the projection of H_2 in the case where u_2 is contained in the interior of an edge of Δ.

If r is as in Corollary 4.5, then

$$\mathrm{vol}(B_2) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{8r^2}.$$

By Corollary 4.5, $0 < r < \frac{3a}{4}$, so

$$\mathrm{vol}(B_2) > \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{9a^2}.$$

Equating this lower bound with $\mathrm{vol}(B_1)$ yields $a = 2\sqrt{3}/3$. Therefore we may conclude that

$$\mathrm{vol}(B_i) > \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}. \qquad \square$$

To complete the proof of Proposition 4.1, start with disjoint, equal volume vertex neighborhoods at each vertex. Expand the vertex neighborhoods so that the volumes remain equal at all time until two of the vertex neighborhoods intersect with disjoint interior intersection. Lemma 4.6 then says that there is a vertex neighborhood at each vertex of volume at least $\sqrt{3}/6$. Böröczky and Florian in [8] show that the maximal density of a horoball packing in $\mathbb{H}^3$ is $\sqrt{3}/(2V_3)$. Applying this result gives

$$\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}) > N \cdot \frac{V_3}{3}.$$

In a personal communication, Rivin has indicated how to improve the lower bound to $N \cdot (3V_3/8)$. The idea of the argument is that for any given vertex v in a $\pi/3-$ equiangular polyhedron $\mathcal{P}$, v along with the three vertices of $\mathcal{P}$ with which v shares an edge are the vertices of a regular ideal hyperbolic tetrahedron contained in $\mathcal{P}$. A collection of such tetrahedra with disjoint interiors may be constructed by taking any

independent set of vertices of $\mathcal{P}$. By a result of Heckman and Thomas, a trivalent graph with N vertices contains an independent set of cardinality at least $3N/8$ [12].

5 The upper volume bounds

In this section, the upper volume bounds in Theorems 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.6 will be proved using arguments inspired by an argument of Agol and D Thurston for an upper bound on the volume of an alternating link complement [14]. First, a decomposition of an arbitrary nonobtuse hyperbolic polyhedron into tetrahedra will be described. In each case, the volume contributed by the tetrahedra meeting at each vertex will be analyzed to obtain the volume bounds.

Let $\mathcal{P}$ be a nonobtuse hyperbolic polyhedron and v_0 a vertex of $\mathcal{P}$. For each face, A_i, not containing v_0, let γ_i be the unique geodesic orthogonal to A_i which passes through or limits to v_0, where v_0 is a finite or ideal vertex respectively. Define the nearest point projection, u_i, of v_0 to A_i to be the intersection of γ_i with A_i. The projection u_i will lie on the interior of A_i unless A_i meets one of the faces containing v_0 orthogonally, in which case, u_i will lie in the interior of an edge of A_i or will coincide with a vertex of A_i if A_i meets two faces containing v_0 orthogonally. Cyclically label the vertices of A_i by $v_{i,j}$ where $j \in \{1, 2, \ldots, \deg(A_i)\}$ is taken modulo $\deg(A_i)$. Let $w_{i,j}$ be the nearest point projection of u_i onto the edge of A_i with endpoints $v_{i,j}$ and $v_{i,j+1}$, where the nearest point projection is defined as above. Each face of a nonobtuse polyhedron is a nonobtuse polygon, so the nearest point projection of any point in A_i to an edge A_i actually lies in A_i. See Figure 4.
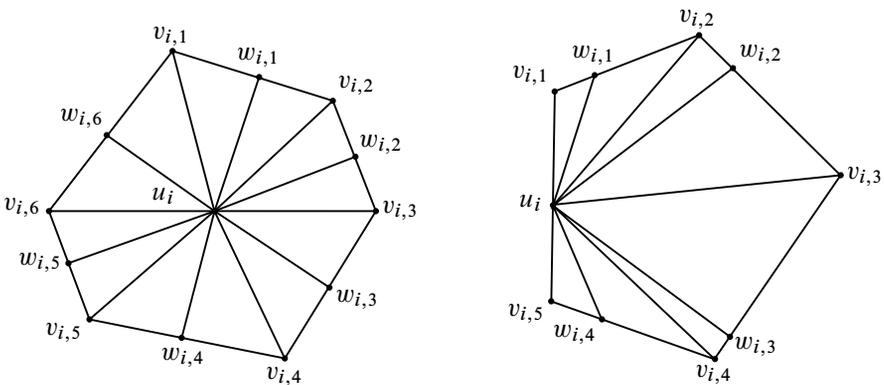

Figure 4: The figure on the left shows the case where u_i is in the interior of a face. The figure on the right is the case where u_i is in the interior of an edge.

Define $\Delta(i, j)$ to be the tetrahedron with vertices v_0, u_i, $w_{i,j}$ and $v_{i,j}$ and $\Delta'(i, j)$ to be the tetrahedron with vertices v_0, u_i, $w_{i,j}$ and $v_{i,j+1}$. In the case where u_i coincides with $w_{i,j}$, both $\Delta(i, j)$ and $\Delta'(i, j)$ will be degenerate tetrahedra. Let $\mathcal{I}$ be the set of (i, j) such that $\Delta(i, j)$ and $\Delta'(i, j)$ are nondegenerate. For each $(i, j) \neq (i', j') \in \mathcal{I}$, $\mathrm{Int}(\Delta(i, j)) \cap \mathrm{Int}(\Delta(i', j')) = \varnothing$ and $\mathrm{Int}(\Delta'(i, j)) \cap \mathrm{Int}(\Delta'(i', j')) = \varnothing$. Also, the interior of each Δ is disjoint from the interior of each Δ'. Then

$$\mathcal{P} = \bigcup_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{I}} \left(\Delta(i, j) \cup \Delta'(i, j) \right).$$

This decomposition of $\mathcal{P}$ into tetrahedra will be analyzed to prove each of the upper bounds in Theorems 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.6. The following technical lemma is needed. It follows directly from the fact that the Lobachevsky function is concave down on the interval $[0, \pi/2]$.

Lemma 5.1 *Suppose $\overrightarrow{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_M)$ where $\alpha_i \in [0, \pi/2]$. Let*

$$f(\overrightarrow{\alpha}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{M} \Lambda(\pi/2 - \alpha_i)$$

and $g(\overrightarrow{\alpha}) = \alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_M$. Then the maximum value of $f(\overrightarrow{\alpha})$ subject to the constraint $g(\overrightarrow{\alpha}) = C$ for some constant $C \in [0, M\pi/2]$ occurs for $\overrightarrow{\alpha} = (C/M, \ldots, C/M)$.

The next proposition gives the upper bound in Theorem 2.2.

Proposition 5.2 *If $\mathcal{P}$ is an ideal $\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedron with N vertices, then*

$$\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}) \leq (N - 4) \cdot \frac{V_8}{2},$$

where V_8 is the volume of the regular ideal hyperbolic octahedron. Equality is achieved when $\mathcal{P}$ is the regular ideal hyperbolic octahedron.

Proof Decompose $\mathcal{P}$ as above. Suppose that $v = v_{i,j}$ is a vertex of $\mathcal{P}$ which is not contained in a face containing v_0. Then v is contained in exactly eight tetrahedra of the decomposition, say $T_1, \ldots, T_8$. Suppose that T_l coincides with $\Delta(m, n)$ in the decomposition. Then T_l is a tetrahedron with 2 ideal vertices, v_0 and v, and two finite vertices, u_m and $w_{m,n}$. The dihedral angles along the edges between v and u_m, between u_m and $w_{m,n}$ and between $w_{m,n}$ and v_0 are all $\pi/2$. Suppose that the dihedral angle along the edge between v and v_0 is α_l. Then the dihedral angles along the remaining two edges are $\pi/2 - \alpha_l$. See Figure 5.
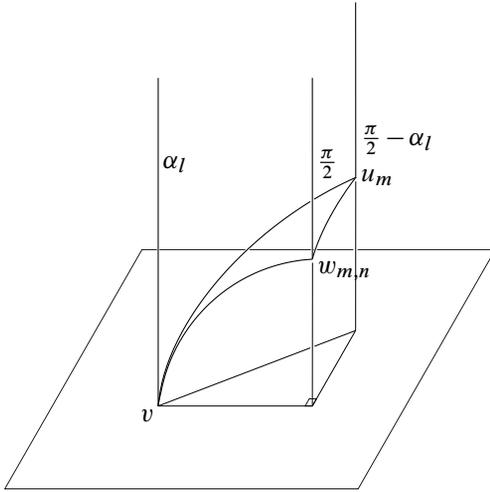
Figure 5: One of the T_l

The volume of T_l is given by $\Lambda(\pi/2 - \alpha_l)/2$, where the Lobachevsky function, Λ, is defined as

$$\Lambda(\theta) = -\int_0^\theta \log|2\sin(t)|\,dt.$$

Therefore, the volume contributed by the tetrahedra adjacent to the vertex v is a function of $\overrightarrow{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_8)$:

$$f(\overrightarrow{\alpha}) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{l=1}^8 \Lambda(\pi/2 - \alpha_l).$$

The α_l must sum to 2π. The maximum of $f(\overrightarrow{\alpha})$, subject to this constraint, occurs when $\overrightarrow{\alpha} = (\pi/4, \pi/4, \ldots, \pi/4)$, by Lemma 5.1. Gluing 16 copies of T_l with $\alpha_l = \pi/4$ together appropriately yields a regular ideal hyperbolic octahedron. Hence $f(\pi/4, \pi/4, \ldots, \pi/4) = V_8/2$.

Only two tetrahedra in the decomposition meet each of the four vertices which share an edge with v_0. A similar analysis as above shows that the volume contributed by the tetrahedra at each of these four vertices is no more than $V_8/8$.

Therefore, accounting for the vertex, v_0, at infinity and the fact that only $V_8/8$ is contributed by each of the tetrahedra at the vertices adjacent to v_0,

$$\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}) \le (N-1)\cdot\frac{V_8}{2} - 4\cdot 3\frac{V_8}{8} = (N-4)\cdot\frac{V_8}{2}.$$

Equality is clearly achieved when $\mathcal{P}$ is the regular ideal hyperbolic octahedron. □

The proof of the upper bound in Theorem 2.6 is similar to the previous argument.

Proposition 5.3 *If $\mathcal{P}$ is an ideal $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedron with N vertices, then*

$$\text{vol}(\mathcal{P}) \leq (3N - 14) \cdot \frac{V_3}{2},$$

where V_3 is the volume of the regular ideal hyperbolic tetrahedron. Equality is achieved when $\mathcal{P}$ is the regular ideal hyperbolic cube.

Proof Decompose $\mathcal{P}$ as described at the beginning of this section. Each vertex of $\mathcal{P}$ which is not contained in a face containing v_0 is a vertex of exactly six tetrahedra of the decomposition. Lemma 5.1 implies that the sum of the volumes of the six tetrahedra around such a vertex is no more than $3V_3/2$.

If v_1 is one of the three vertices adjacent to v_0, then v is a vertex of two tetrahedra, T_1 and T_2, say. The sum of the volumes of T_1 and T_2 is at most $V_3/3$ when $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \pi/6$, again by Lemma 5.1.

By Corollary 4.2 each face containing v_0 has degree at least 4. If v_2 is a vertex of such a face which does not share an edge with v_0, then v_2 is a vertex of four tetrahedra of the decomposition of $\mathcal{P}$. See Figure 6.
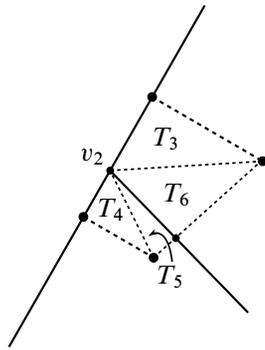

Figure 6: A view of v_2 as seen from v_0. The solid lines are edges of $\mathcal{P}$, and the dashed lines are edges of tetrahedra which are not also edges of $\mathcal{P}$.

The link of v_2 intersected with each of T_i, $i = 3, 4$ is a Euclidean triangle with angles $\pi/2$, $\pi/3$ and α_i. Hence $\alpha_3 = \alpha_4 = \pi/6$. Using Lemma 5.1 and the fact that $\alpha_5 + \alpha_6 = 2\pi/3$, the sum of the volumes of these four tetrahedra is seen to have a maximum value of $5V_3/6$.

The upper bound is computed by assuming that the volume contributed by the tetrahedra containing each vertex other than v_0 is $3V_3/2$ and subtracting the excess for each of

the three vertices which share an edge with v_0 and for the three vertices described in the previous paragraph:

$$\mathrm{Vol}(\mathcal{P}) \leq \left((N-1)\frac{3}{2} - 3\left(\frac{7}{6}\right) - 3\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)\right) \cdot V_3 = \left(\frac{3N-14}{3}\right) \cdot \frac{3V_3}{2}.$$

The regular ideal hyperbolic cube has $N = 8$ and volume $5V_3$. □

The proofs of Theorem 2.3 and Theorem 2.4 require different methods than the previous two theorems because Lemma 5.1 does not apply. The volume of the tetrahedra into which $\mathcal{P}$ is decomposed is given by the sum of three Lobachevsky functions, so the simple Lagrange multiplier analysis fails. The next lemma will play the role of Lemma 5.1 in what follows.

Lemma 5.4 *The regular ideal hyperbolic cube has largest volume among all ideal polyhedra with the same combinatorial type.*

Proof Any ideal polyhedron, $\mathcal{Q}$, with the combinatorial type of the cube can be decomposed into five ideal tetrahedra as follows: Let v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 be a collection of vertices of $\mathcal{Q}$ so that no two share an edge. The five ideal tetrahedra consist of the tetrahedron with vertices v_1, v_2, v_3 and v_4, and the four tetrahedra with vertices consisting of v_i along with the three adjacent vertices, for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$.

Then since the regular ideal tetrahedron is the ideal tetrahedron of maximal volume, $\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{Q}) \leq 5V_3$. The regular ideal hyperbolic cube is decomposed into five copies of the regular ideal tetrahedron when the above decomposition is applied, so has volume $5V_3$. □

The next proposition proves the upper bound in Theorem 2.3.

Proposition 5.5 *If $\mathcal{P}$ is a $\pi/2$–equiangular compact hyperbolic polyhedron with N vertices, then*

$$\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}) < (N-10) \cdot \frac{5V_3}{8}.$$

Proof Decompose $\mathcal{P}$ into tetrahedra as described at the beginning of this section for some choice of v_0. The volume of $\mathcal{P}$ will be bounded above by considering tetrahedra with one ideal vertex. The reason for using tetrahedra with an ideal vertex to estimate the volume of a compact polyhedron is that

$$\max_{v \in \mathrm{Vert}(\mathcal{P})} d(v_0, v)$$

can be made arbitrarily large by choosing polyhedra $\mathcal{P}$ with a large enough number of vertices.

Suppose that $v = v_{i,j}$ is a vertex of $\mathcal{P}$ which is not contained in a face containing v_0. The vertex v is contained in six tetrahedra of the decomposition. Consider S, the union of the six triangular faces of these tetrahedra which are contained in the faces of the polyhedron which contain v. Let $\hat{v}$ be the point at infinity determined by the geodesic ray emanating from v and passing through v_0. Define $\mathcal{T}$ to be the cone of S to $\hat{v}$.

The cone, $\mathcal{T}$, is an octant of an ideal cube, $\mathcal{Q}$. By [Lemma 5.4](#), $\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{Q}) \leq 5V_3$. Then since $\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{Q}) = 8\,\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{T})$, $\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{T}) \leq 5V_3/8$.

By Andreev's theorem, each face of $\mathcal{P}$ must be of degree at least 5. Hence, the three faces of $\mathcal{P}$ containing v_0 contain at least 10 distinct vertices of $\mathcal{P}$, so there are at most $N - 10$ vertices that do not share a face with v_0. Therefore the volume of $\mathcal{P}$ satisfies

$$\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}) < (N - 10) \cdot \frac{5V_3}{8}. \qquad \square$$

[Proposition 5.6](#) combines the techniques of [Proposition 5.2](#) and [Proposition 5.5](#) and gives the upper bound in [Theorem 2.4](#).

Proposition 5.6 *If $\mathcal{P}$ is a $\pi/2$–equiangular hyperbolic polyhedron with $N_\infty \geq 1$ ideal vertices and N_F finite vertices, then*

$$\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}) < (N_\infty - 1) \cdot \frac{V_8}{2} + N_F \cdot \frac{5V_3}{8}.$$

Proof Assign to one of the ideal vertices the role of v_0 in the decomposition described at the beginning of this section. Then each ideal vertex of $\mathcal{P}$ which is not contained in a face of $\mathcal{P}$ containing v_0 will be a vertex of eight tetrahedra in the decomposition. These tetrahedra contribute no more than $V_8/2$ to the volume of $\mathcal{P}$, by [Proposition 5.2](#). Each finite vertex which is not contained in a face containing v_0 is a vertex of six tetrahedra. The volume contributed by these is no more than $5V_3/8$ by [Lemma 5.4](#) and the proof of [Proposition 5.5](#). Putting this all together completes the proof. $\square$

6 Sequences of polyhedra that realize the upper bound estimates

In this section, it is proved that the upper bounds in Theorems [2.2](#), [2.3](#) and [2.6](#) are asymptotically sharp. Results will first be established about the convergence of sequences of

circle patterns in the plane and about the convergence of volumes of polyhedra which correspond to these circle patterns.

Define a *disk pattern* to be a collection of closed round disks in the plane such that no disk is the Hausdorff limit of a sequence of distinct disks and so that the boundary of any disk is not contained in the union of two other disks. Define the angle between two disks to be the angle between a clockwise tangent vector to the boundary of one disk at an intersection point of their boundaries and a counterclockwise tangent vector to the boundary of the other disk at the same point. Suppose that D is a disk pattern such that for any two intersecting disks, the angle between them is in the interval $[0, \pi/2]$. Define $G(D)$ to be the graph with a vertex for each disk and an edge between any two vertices whose corresponding disks have nonempty interior intersection. The graph $G(D)$ inherits an embedding in the plane from the disk pattern. Identify $G(D)$ with its embedding. A face of $G(D)$ is a component of the complement of $G(D)$. Label the edges of $G(D)$ with the angles between the intersecting disks. The graph $G(D)$ along with its edge labels will be referred to as the *labeled 1–skeleton for the disk pattern D*. A disk pattern D is said to be *rigid* if $G(D)$ has only triangular and quadrilateral faces and each quadrilateral face has the property that the four corresponding disks of the disk pattern intersect in exactly one point. See He [11] for more details on disk patterns.

Consider the path metric on $G(D)$ obtained by giving each edge of $G(D)$ length 1. Given a disk d in a disk pattern D, the set of disks corresponding to the ball of radius n in $G(D)$ centered at the vertex corresponding to d will be referred to as *n generations of the pattern about d*. Given disk patterns D and D' and disks $d \in D$ and $d' \in D'$, then (D, d) and (D', d') *agree to generation n* if there is a label preserving graph isomorphism between the balls of radius n centered at the vertices corresponding to d and d'. The following proposition is a slight generalization of the Hexagonal Packing Lemma in [16].

Proposition 6.1 Let c_∞ be a disk in an infinite rigid disk pattern D_∞. For each positive integer n, let D_n be a rigid finite disk pattern containing a disk c_n so that (D_∞, c_∞) and (D_n, c_n) agree to generation n. Then there exists a sequence s_n decreasing to 0 such that the ratios of the radii of any two disks adjacent to c_n differ from 1 by less than s_n.

Proof With Lemma 7.1 from [11] playing the role of the ring lemma in [16], the proof runs exactly the same. The length–area lemma generalizes to this case with no change and any reference to the uniqueness of the hexagonal packing in the plane should be replaced with Rigidity Theorem 1.1 from [11].   □

A *simply connected disk pattern* is a disk pattern so that the union of the disks is simply connected. Disk patterns arising from finite volume hyperbolic polyhedra will all be simply connected, so all disk patterns will be implicitly assumed to be simply connected. If for a simply connected disk pattern D, all labels on $G(D)$ are in the interval $(0, \pi/2]$, Andreev's theorem implies that each face of $G(D)$ will be a triangle or quadrilateral. An *ideal disk pattern*, D, is one where the labels of $G(D)$ are in the interval $(0, \pi/2]$ and the labels around each triangle or quadrilateral in $G(D)$ sum to π or 2π respectively. Ideal disk patterns correspond to ideal polyhedra. A nonideal disk pattern, D, is one where $G(D)$ has only triangular faces and the sum of the labels around each face is greater than π. These disk patterns correspond to compact polyhedra.

Ideal disk patterns and their associated polyhedra will be dealt with first. The analysis for nonideal disk patterns is slightly different and will be deferred until after the proofs of the remaining claims in Theorem 2.2 and Theorem 2.6. The upper half-space model for $\mathbb{H}^3$ will be used here. For each disk d in the circle pattern, let $S(d)$ be the geodesic hyperbolic plane in $\mathbb{H}^3$ bounded by the boundary of d.

Suppose c is a disk in D which intersects l neighboring disks, $d_1, \ldots, d_l$. In the case of an ideal disk pattern, the intersection of $S(c)$ with each of the $S(d_i)$ is a hyperbolic geodesic. These l geodesics bound an ideal polygon, $p(c) \subset \mathbb{H}^3$. If necessary, choose coordinates so that the point at infinity is not contained in c. Cone $p(c)$ to the point at infinity and denote the ideal polyhedron thus obtained by $C(p(c))$.

Lemma 6.2 *Suppose that D_n and D_∞ are simply connected, ideal, rigid, disk patterns such that (D_n, c_n) and (D_∞, c_∞) satisfy Proposition 6.1. Then*

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \mathrm{vol}(C(p(c_n))) = \mathrm{vol}(C(p(c_\infty)))$$

where $C(p(c_\infty))$ is the cone on the polygon determined by the disk c_∞. Moreover, there exists a bounded sequence $0 \le \epsilon_n \le K < \infty$ converging to zero such that $|\mathrm{vol}(C(p(c_n))) - \mathrm{vol}(C(p(c_\infty)))| \le \epsilon_n$.

Proof Suppose the dihedral angle between $S(c_n)$ and the vertical face which is a cone on the intersection of $S(c_n)$ and $S(d_{i,n})$ is α_i^n and that the corresponding dihedral angles in $C(p(c_\infty))$ are α_i^∞. Then by Chapter 7 of [19],

$$\mathrm{vol}(C(p(c_n))) = \sum_{i=1}^{l} \Lambda(\alpha_i^n),$$

where $p(c_n)$ has degree l. For each i, α_i^n converges to α_i^∞ because α_i^n is a continuous function of the angle between c_n and $d_{i,n}$ and the radii of the two disks, which converge

to the radii of the corresponding disks in the infinite packing by Proposition 6.1. The function Λ is continuous, so convergence of the α's implies the first statement of the lemma. The second statement is a consequence of the first and the fact that $\mathrm{vol}(C(p(c_n)))$ is finite for all n including ∞. □

The remaining claims in Theorem 2.2 and Theorem 2.6 can now be proved. First the following proposition is proved:

Proposition 6.3 *There exists a sequence of ideal $\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedra $\mathcal{P}_i$ with N_i vertices such that*

$$\lim_{i \to \infty} \frac{\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}_i)}{N_i} = \frac{V_8}{2}.$$

Proof Let D_∞ be the infinite disk pattern defined as

$$D_\infty = \bigcup d_{(p,q)},$$

where the union ranges over all $(p,q) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ such that both p and q are even or both p and q are odd, and $d_{(p,q)}$ is the disk of radius 1 centered at the point (p,q). Consider the ideal hyperbolic polyhedron with infinitely many vertices, $\mathcal{P}_\infty$, corresponding to D_∞. This polyhedron has all dihedral angles equal to $\pi/2$. Applying the decomposition into tetrahedra described in the proof of Proposition 5.2, it is seen that the sum of the volumes of the tetrahedra meeting each vertex is exactly $V_8/2$. A sequence of polyhedra, $\mathcal{P}_{2k}$, which have volume-to-vertex ratio converging to that of $\mathcal{P}_\infty$ will be constructed.

For each even natural number $2k$, $k \geq 3$, consider the set of lines in the plane $L_{2k} = \{(x,y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid y = 0, \ y = 2k, \text{ or } y = \pm x + z, \ z \in \mathbb{Z}\}$. Now let $\mathcal{P}_{2k}$ be the hyperbolic polyhedron with 1–skeleton given by

$$\mathcal{P}_{2k}^{(1)} = \{(x,y) \in L_{2k} \mid 0 \leq y \leq 2k\}/\{(x,y) \sim (x + 2k, y)\}$$

and all right angles. See Figure 7 for an illustration of $\mathcal{P}_6$. The existence of such a hyperbolic polyhedron is guaranteed by Andreev's theorem. Equivalently, there is a simply connected rigid disk pattern, D_{2k}, in the plane with each disk corresponding to a face and right angles between disks which correspond to intersecting faces. The vertices and faces of $\mathcal{P}_{2k}$ will be referred to in terms of the (x,y) coordinates of the corresponding vertices and faces of L_{2k}.

The polyhedra $\mathcal{P}_{2k}$ will prove the proposition. The volume of $\mathcal{P}_{2k}$ is expressed as the sum of volumes of cones on faces and Lemma 6.2 is used to analyze the limiting volume-to-vertex ratio.

Choose coordinates for the upper half-space model of $\mathbb{H}^3$ so that the vertex $(0,0)$ of $\mathcal{P}_{2k}$ is located at infinity. Then the volume of $\mathcal{P}_{2k}$ may be written

$$\text{vol}(\mathcal{P}_{2k}) = \sum_d \text{vol}(C(p(d))),$$

where the sum is taken over all faces d which do not meet the vertex $(0,0)$. Using Lemma 6.2, the volume of each $C(p(d))$ can be estimated in terms of the number of generations of disks surrounding d which agree with D_∞.

Fix a disk $d_\infty \in D_\infty$. For each $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, $m \geq 0$, define F_m to be the set of disks $d \in D_{2k}$ for which (D_{2k}, d) and (D_∞, d_∞) agree to generation m, but do not agree to generation $m+1$. The $2k$ faces of $\mathcal{P}_{2k}$ centered at the points $(i+1/2, k)$, $0 \leq i \leq 2k-1$ as well as the $4k$ faces which share an edge with them except for the face centered at $(0, k-1/2)$ make up F_{k-1}. Thus

$$|F_{k-1}| = 6k - 1.$$

The set F_{k-2} consists of the face centered at $(0, k-1/2)$ along with the faces centered at the $8k-1$ points with coordinates $(i+1/2, k\pm 1)$ and $(i, k\pm 3/2)$ for $0 \leq i \leq 2k-1$, excluding the face centered at $(0, k-3/2)$. In general, for $2 \leq l \leq k-1$, F_{k-l} consists of the face centered at $(0, k-(2(l-1)-1)/2)$ along with the faces centered at the $8k-1$ points with coordinates $(i+1/2, k\pm(l-1))$ and $(i, k\pm(2l-1)/2)$ for $0 \leq i \leq 2k-1$, excluding the face centered at $(0, k-(2l-1)/2)$. Hence for $2 \leq l \leq k-1$,

$$|F_{k-l}| = 8k.$$

See Figure 7 for an example.

The polyhedron $\mathcal{P}_{2k}$ has $8k^2 + 2k + 2$ faces. In the previous paragraph, it was found that

$$\left| \bigcup_{l=1}^{k-1} F_l \right| = 8k^2 - 10k - 1.$$

The remaining $12k + 3$ faces consist of the following: 4 vertical faces which do not contribute to the volume, one $2k$–gon, $4k-2$ triangular faces and $8k$ rectangular faces in F_0. The maximum value of the Lobachevsky function, $\Lambda(\theta)$, is attained for $\theta = \pi/6$ [19]. Hence, the formula for the volume of a cone on an ideal polygon given in the proof of Lemma 6.2 implies that the volume of the cone on the $2k$–gon is less than or equal to $2k\Lambda(\pi/6)$. Similarly, each of the remaining triangular and rectangular faces have volume less than or equal to $4\Lambda(\pi/6)$. This implies that the leftover faces have cone volume summing to a value $L \leq 14k\Lambda(\pi/6)$.
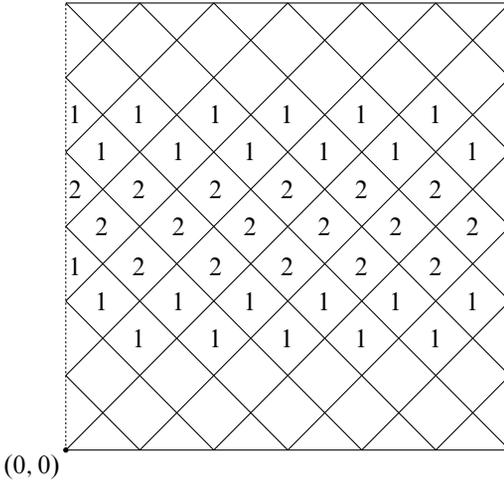
Figure 7: Identify the two vertical sides to obtain $\mathcal{P}_6$. A face labeled by an integer n has n generations of disks about it. Unlabeled faces have 0 generations about them.

The volume of the cone to infinity of any face in D_∞ is $4\Lambda(\pi/4) = V_8/2$. By Lemma 6.2, there exists a real-valued, positive function, δ_m, on F_m such that for each face $f \in F_m$, $0 \leq \delta_m(f) \leq \epsilon_m$ and $\mathrm{vol}(C(f)) = V_8/2 \pm \delta_m(f)$. Therefore, the volume of $\mathcal{P}_{2k}$ can written as

$$\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}_{2k}) = \sum_{l=1}^{k-1} \sum_{f \in F_l} \left(\frac{V_8}{2} \pm \delta_l(f) \right) + L.$$

Using the analysis of the F_m from above, expand the sums and collect terms to get

$$\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}_{2k}) = (8k^2 - 10k - 1)\frac{V_8}{2} + \sum_{l=1}^{k-1} \sum_{f \in F_l} (\pm\delta_l(f)) + L.$$

The polyhedron $\mathcal{P}_{2k}$ has $N_{2k} = 8k^2 + 2k$ vertices. Therefore

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{8k^2 - 10k - 1}{N_{2k}} \frac{V_8}{2} = \frac{V_8}{2}.$$

It remains to show that the ratio of the last two summands to the number of vertices converges to zero. Set $\overline{\delta_l} = \max_{f \in F_l} \delta_l(f)$. Then

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{\left| \sum_{l=1}^{k-1} \sum_{f \in F_l} (\pm\delta_l(f)) \right|}{N_{2k}} \leq \lim_{k \to \infty} \left(\frac{(6k-1)\overline{\delta}_{k-1}}{N_{2k}} + \frac{8k \sum_{l=1}^{k-2} \overline{\delta}_l}{N_{2k}} \right) = 0$$

because $\bar{\delta}_l \to 0$ as $l \to \infty$. Also since $L < 14k\Lambda(\pi/6)$,

$$\lim_{k\to\infty} \frac{L}{N_{2k}} = 0.$$

Therefore,

$$\lim_{k\to\infty} \frac{\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}_{2k})}{N_{2k}} = \frac{V_8}{2}. \qquad \square$$

The argument to prove Proposition 6.3 easily adapts to prove the following:

Proposition 6.4 *There exists a sequence of ideal $\pi/3$–equiangular polyhedra $\mathcal{P}_i$ with N_i vertices such that*

$$\lim_{i\to\infty} \frac{\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}_i)}{N_i} = \frac{3V_3}{2}.$$

Proof Consider the regular hexagon H in the plane formed by the vertices $(0,0)$, $(1,0)$, $(3/2, \sqrt{3}/2)$, $(1, \sqrt{3})$, $(0, \sqrt{3})$ and $(-1/2, \sqrt{3}/2)$. Let G be the lattice of translations generated by $\{(x, y) \mapsto (x + 3, y)\}$ and $\{(x, y) \mapsto (x + 3/2, y + \sqrt{3}/2)\}$. Now define T to be the orbit of the hexagon H under the action of G on the plane. This orbit is a tiling of the plane by regular hexagons. As in the previous construction, define

$$L_{2k} = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid y = 0, \ y = 2k\sqrt{3}, \text{ or } (x, y) \text{ lies on a vertex or edge of } T\}.$$

Let $\mathcal{Q}_{2k}$ be the hyperbolic polyhedron with 1–skeleton

$$\mathcal{Q}_{2k}^{(1)} = \{(x, y) \in L_{2k} \mid 0 \le y \le 2k\sqrt{3}\}/\{(x, y) \sim (x + 3k, y)\}$$

and all dihedral angles $\pi/3$. This is a polyhedron with $4k^2 + k + 2$ faces and $N_{2k} = 8k^2 + 2k$ vertices. Let D_{2k} be the associated simply connected rigid disk pattern and D_∞ to be the infinite circle pattern with $G(D_\infty)$ equal to a tiling of the plane by equilateral triangles with each edge labeled $\pi/3$.

As in the proof of Proposition 6.3, choose coordinates so that the vertex at $(0, 0)$ is at infinity. Recall that for a fixed choice of $d_\infty \in D_\infty$, F_m is defined to be the set of disks $d \in D_{2k}$ for which (D_{2k}, d) and (D_∞, d_∞) agree to generation m, but do not agree to generation $m + 1$. The set F_{k-1} consists of $3k - 1$ faces, while the remaining F_{k-l} for $2 \le l \le k - 1$ consist of $4k$ faces. Again, the faces not contained in F_{k-l} for $1 \le l \le k - 1$ have cone volume summing to a value L bounded above by a constant multiple of k where the bound is independent of k. The volume of the cone to infinity
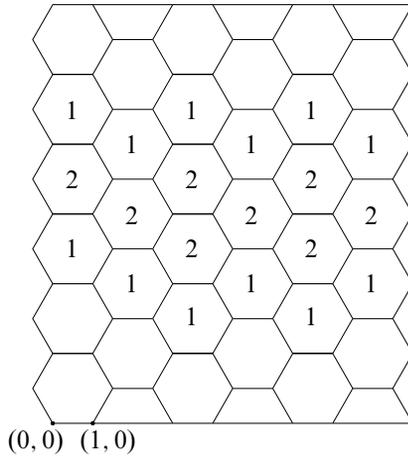
Figure 8: Identify the left and right sides to get $\mathcal{Q}_6$. The labeling is as in the previous figure.

of any face in the regular hexagonal circle pattern is $6\Lambda(\pi/6) = 3V_3$. There exists a function, δ_l, with the same properties as above. The volume of $\mathcal{Q}_{2k}$ is

$$\text{vol}(\mathcal{Q}_{2k}) = \sum_{l=1}^{k-1} \sum_{f \in F_l} (3V_3 \pm \delta_l(f)) + L.$$

The argument finishes exactly as the all right-angled case to give

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{\text{vol}(\mathcal{Q}_{2k})}{N_{2k}} = \frac{3V_3}{2}. \qquad \square$$

To finish the proof of Theorem 2.3, a minor modification to Lemma 6.2 is made.

Recall that for a disk pattern D, $G(D)$ is the graph with a vertex for each disk and an edge connecting two vertices which have corresponding disks with nonempty interior intersection. Suppose that D is a nonideal disk pattern and that c is a disk which intersects l neighboring disks, $d_1, \ldots, d_l$. The intersection of $S(c)$ with each of the $S(d_i)$ is a finite length geodesic segment. The union of the l geodesic segments along with the disk bounded by them in $S(c)$ is a polygon $p(c)$. Let $x_0 \in \mathbb{H}^3$ be a point which is not contained in $S(c)$. Denote by $C(p(c), x_0)$ the cone of $p(c)$ to the point x_0. The cone to the point at infinity in the upper half-space model of $\mathbb{H}^3$ will be denoted by $C(p(c), \{\infty\})$.

Let c be a disk in a simply connected, nonideal, finite disk pattern, D, with associated polyhedron $\mathcal{P}$. Suppose $c_{\max}$ realizes the quantity

$$\max_{c'} d_{G(D)}(c, c').$$

Define a *cut point for c* to be any vertex of $p(c_{\max})$.

Lemma 6.5 *Suppose that D_n and D_∞ are simply connected, nonideal, rigid, disk patterns, such that (D_n, c_n) and (D_∞, c_∞) satisfy Proposition 6.1 and D_∞ fills the entire plane. Suppose also that x_n is a cut point for c_n in D_n. Then*

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \mathrm{vol}(C(p(c_n), x_n)) = \mathrm{vol}(C(p(c_\infty), \{\infty\})).$$

Moreover, there exists a bounded sequence $0 \leq \epsilon_n \leq K < \infty$ converging to zero such that $|\mathrm{vol}(C(p(c_n), x_n)) - \mathrm{vol}(C(p(c_\infty), \{\infty\}))| \leq \epsilon_n$.

Proof Note that for any choice of points $y_n \in S(c_n)$, $d(x_n, y_n) \to \infty$ as $n \to \infty$. Also, since D_∞ fills the entire plane, the distance measured in $G(D_n)$ from c_n to a disk c'_n such that $S(c'_n)$ contains x_n goes to infinity. Hence as n goes to infinity, x_n approaches the point at infinity, so the compact cone $C(p(c_n), x_n)$ approaches the infinite cone $C(p(c_\infty), \{\infty\})$. Therefore it suffices to show that the volume of the compact cones approaches that of the infinite cone.

A 3–*dimensional hyperbolic orthoscheme* is a hyperbolic tetrahedron with a sequence of three edges $v_0 v_1$, $v_1 v_2$ and $v_2 v_3$ such that $v_0 v_1 \perp v_1 v_2 \perp v_2 v_3$. See Figure 9. Suppose that the degree of $p(c_n)$ is a_n. The cone, $C(p(c_n), x_n)$, can be decomposed into $2a_n$ orthoschemes by the procedure described at the beginning of Section 5.
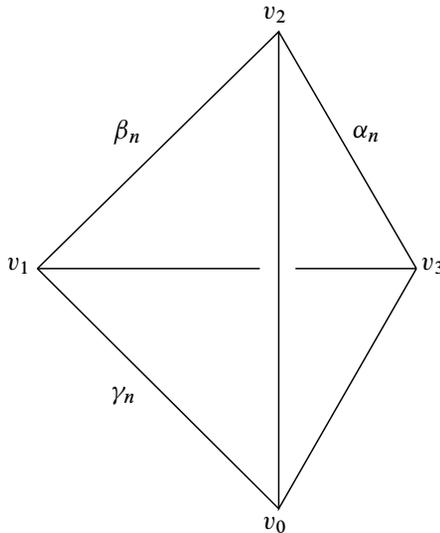

Figure 9: A compact orthoscheme, $T(\alpha_n, \beta_n, \gamma_n)$. The unlabeled edges have dihedral angle $\pi/2$.

The volume of one of the compact orthoschemes, $T(\alpha_n, \beta_n, \gamma_n)$ determined by angles α_n, β_n and γ_n, as shown in Figure 9, is given by

$$\mathrm{vol}(T(\alpha_n, \beta_n, \gamma_n)) = \frac{1}{4}\bigg(\Lambda(\alpha_n + \delta_n) - \Lambda(\alpha_n - \delta_n) + \Lambda(\gamma_n + \delta_n) - \Lambda(\gamma_n - \delta_n)$$
$$- \Lambda\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \beta_n + \delta_n\right) + \Lambda\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \beta_n - \delta_n\right) + 2\Lambda\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \delta_n\right)\bigg),$$

where
$$0 \le \delta_n = \arctan \frac{\sqrt{-\Delta_n}}{\cos \alpha_n \cos \gamma_n} < \frac{\pi}{2},$$

and
$$\Delta_n = \sin^2 \alpha_n \sin^2 \gamma_n - \cos^2 \beta_n.$$

This is due to Lobachevsky. See, for example, page 125 of [4].

Similarly, the cone $C(p(c_\infty), \{\infty\})$ can be decomposed into orthoschemes of the form $T(\alpha_\infty, \pi/2 - \alpha_\infty, \gamma_\infty)$ with one ideal vertex. The volume of this orthoscheme is given by

$$\mathrm{vol}(T(\alpha_\infty, \pi/2 - \alpha_\infty, \gamma_\infty)) = \frac{1}{4}(\Lambda(\alpha_\infty + \gamma_\infty) + \Lambda(\alpha_\infty - \gamma_\infty) + 2\Lambda(\pi/2 - \alpha_\infty)).$$

As $n \to \infty$, $\Delta_n \to -\sin^2 \alpha_n \cos^2 \gamma_n$, so $\delta_n \to \alpha_n$. Therefore the sequence of volumes of the compact orthoschemes converges to that of the orthoscheme with one ideal vertex. Summing over all orthoschemes in the decomposition proves the lemma. $\square$

The next proposition will complete the proof of Theorem 2.3.

Proposition 6.6 *There exists a sequence of compact $\pi/2$–equiangular polyhedra $\mathcal{P}_i$ with N_i vertices such that*
$$\lim_{i \to \infty} \frac{\mathrm{vol}(\mathcal{P}_i)}{N_i} = \frac{5V_3}{8}.$$

Proof Define L'_{2k} to be L_{2k} as in the proof of Proposition 6.4 along with the tripods as shown in Figure 10. The tripods must be added to remove the degree 4 faces. Let $\mathcal{R}_{2k}$ be the polyhedron with 1–skeleton

$$\mathcal{R}_{2k}^{(1)} = \{(x, y) \in L'_{2k} \mid 0 \le y \le 2k\sqrt{3}\}/\{(x, y) \sim (x + 3k, y)\}$$

and all dihedral angles equal to $\pi/2$. For each $k > 2$, this can be realized as a compact hyperbolic polyhedron by Andreev's theorem. The rest of the proof of this proposition mirrors the proof of Proposition 6.4 exactly, using Lemma 6.5 in place of Lemma 6.2. $\square$
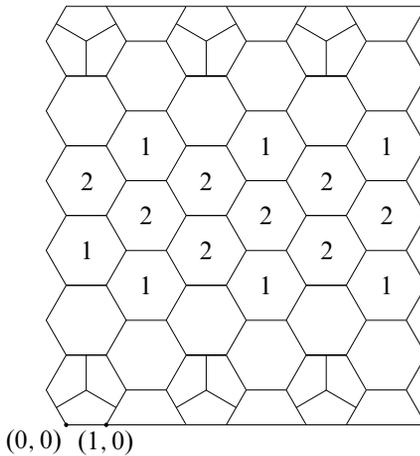
Figure 10: Identify the left and right sides to get $\mathcal{R}_6$. The labeling is as in the previous figures.

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