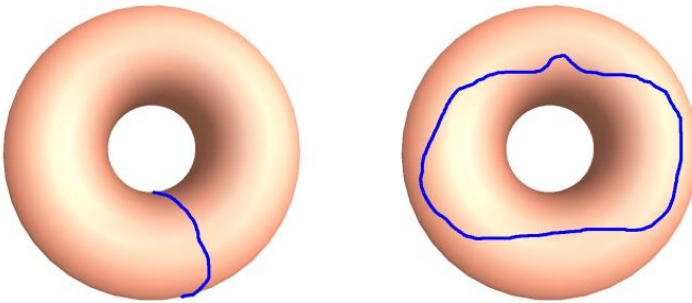


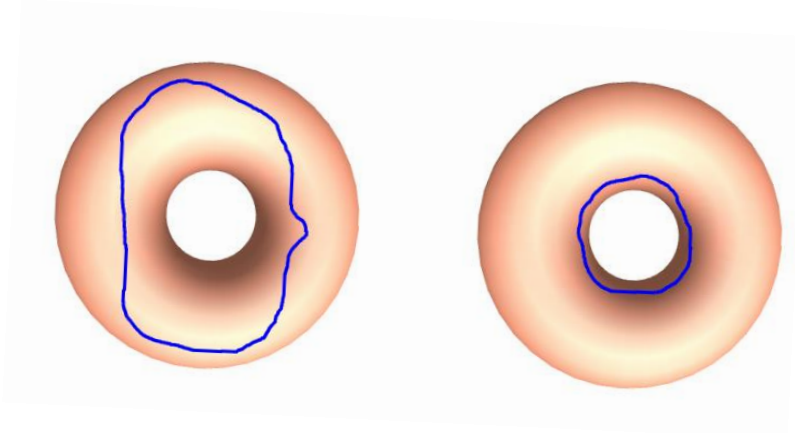
# Topological Algorithms-III

Mustafa Hajij

# Homotopy detection

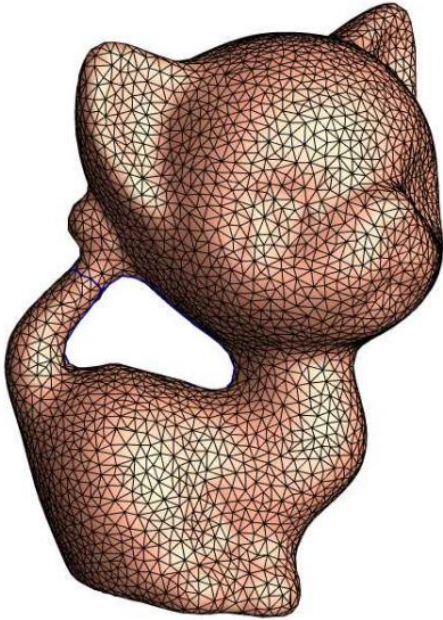


Non-homotopic curves

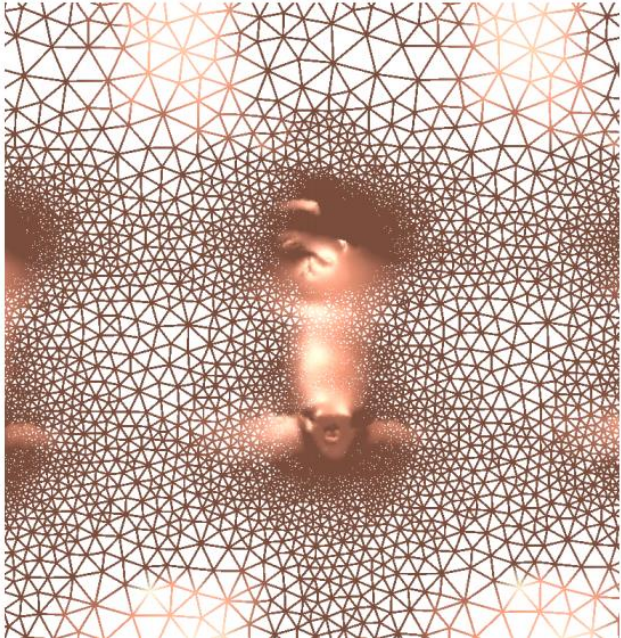


Homotopic curves

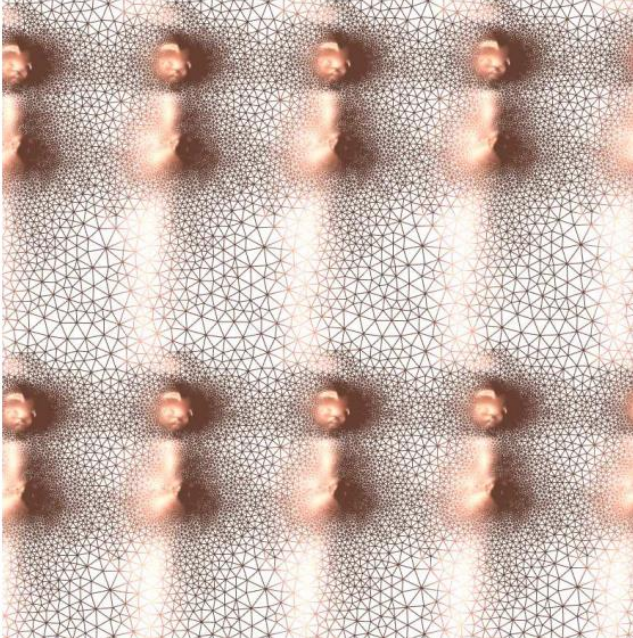
# Constructing the universal cover



Input mesh



Fundamental domain



Finite portion of the universal cover

# Curve lifting

A curve in the original surface can be lifted to the universal covering space

## Curve lifting

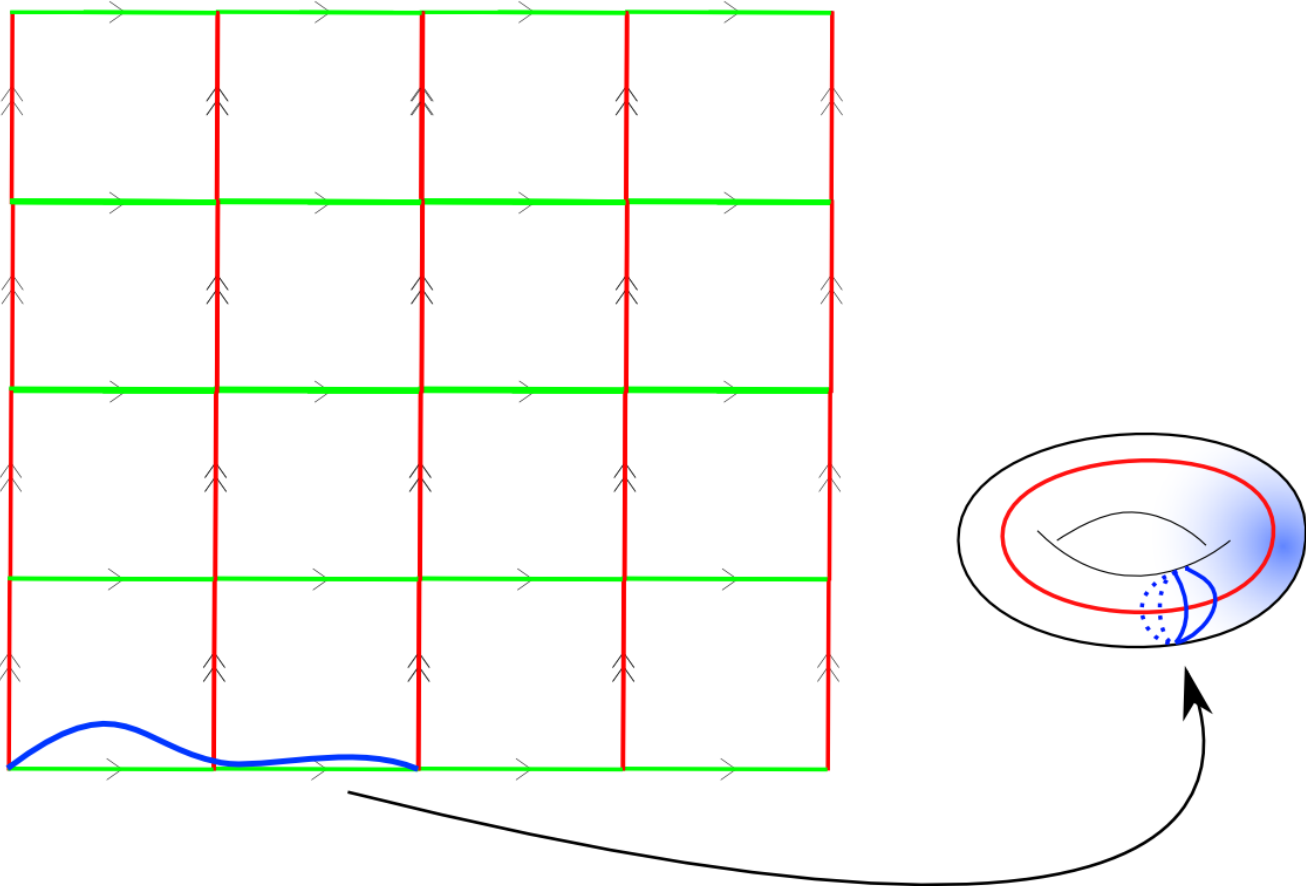
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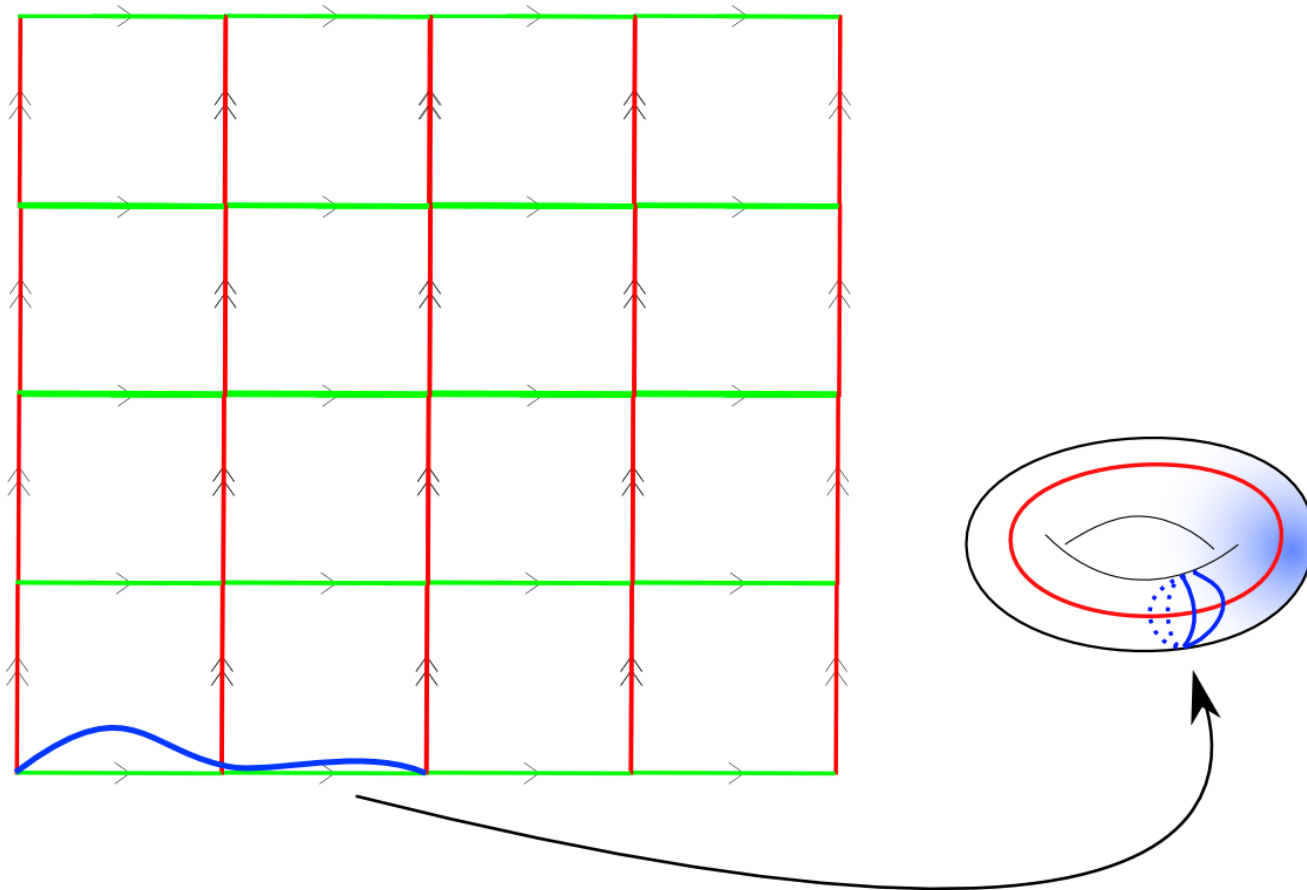
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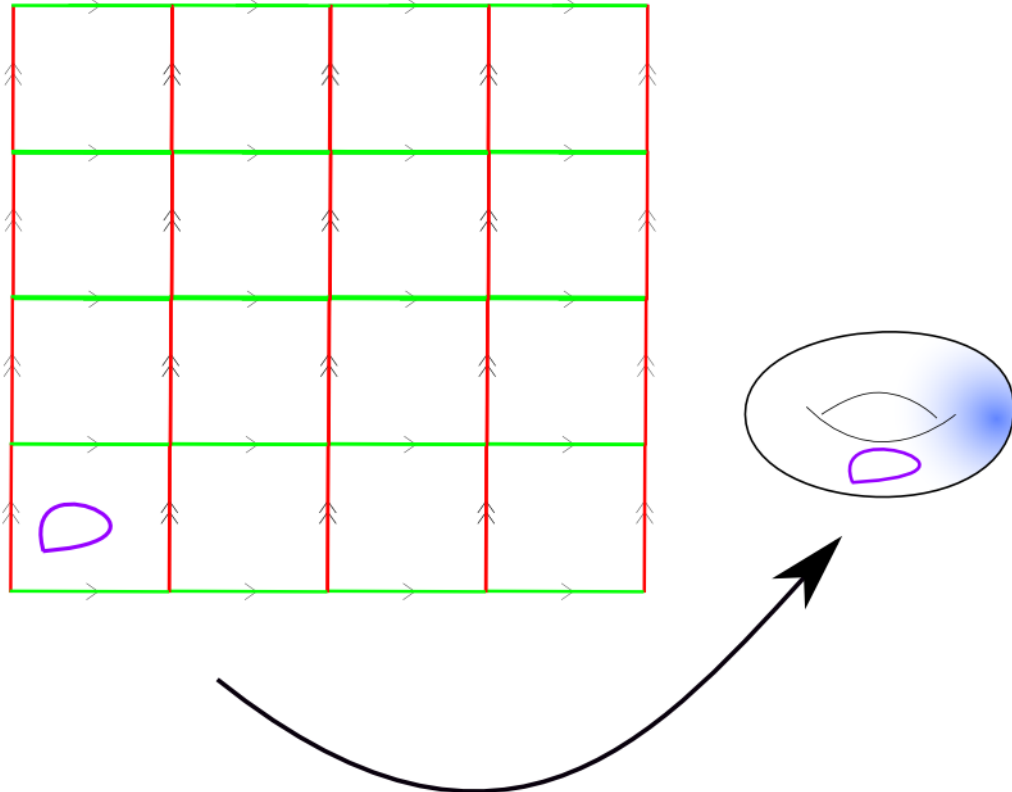
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Key idea : many topological problems can be solved on the universal cover easier than on the original surface.

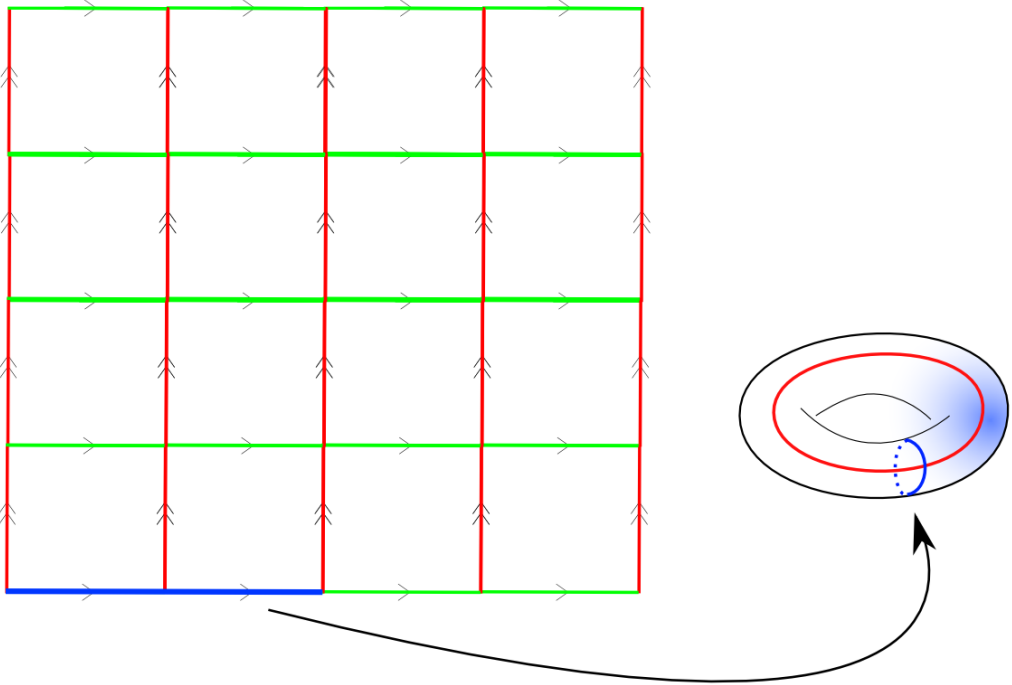
# Homotopy detection



Homotopically trivial loops are lifted to closed loops in the covering space.



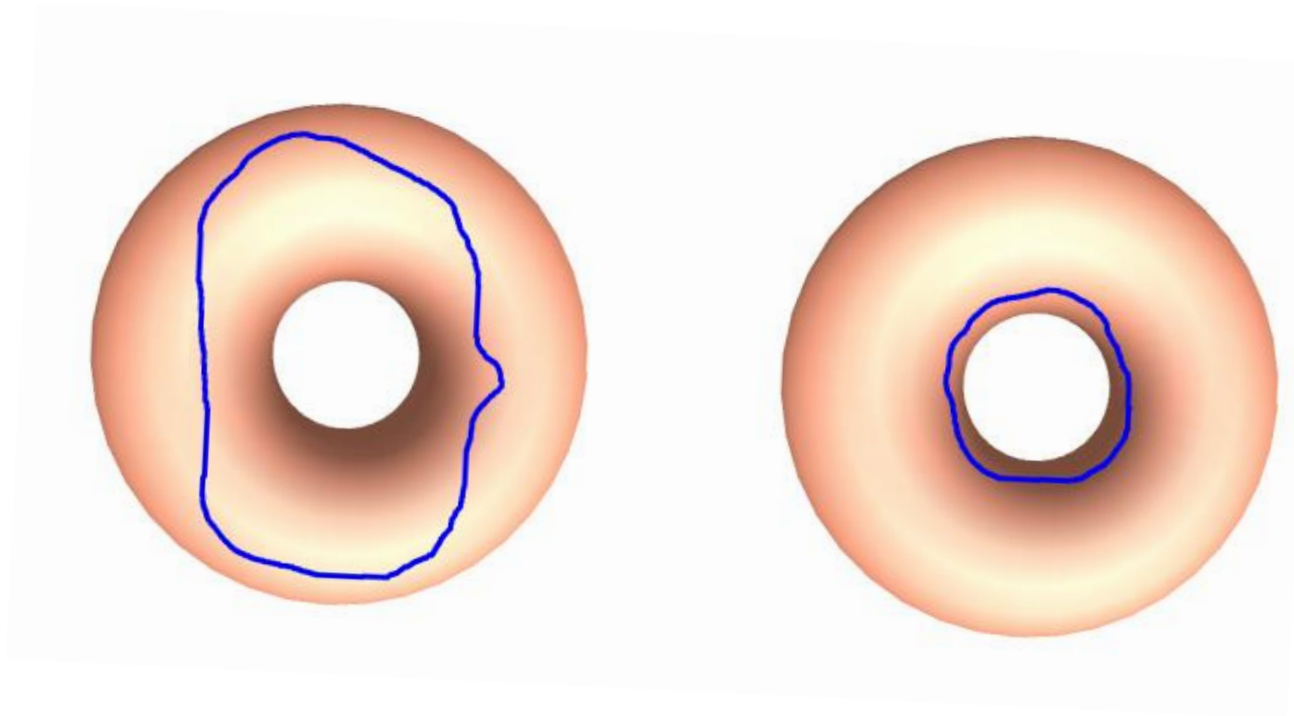
# Homotopy detection



Homotopically non-trivial loops are lifted to open curves in the covering space.

## The Shortest Loop

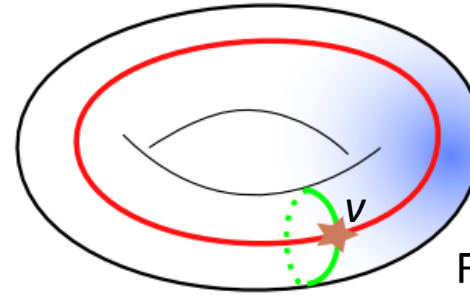
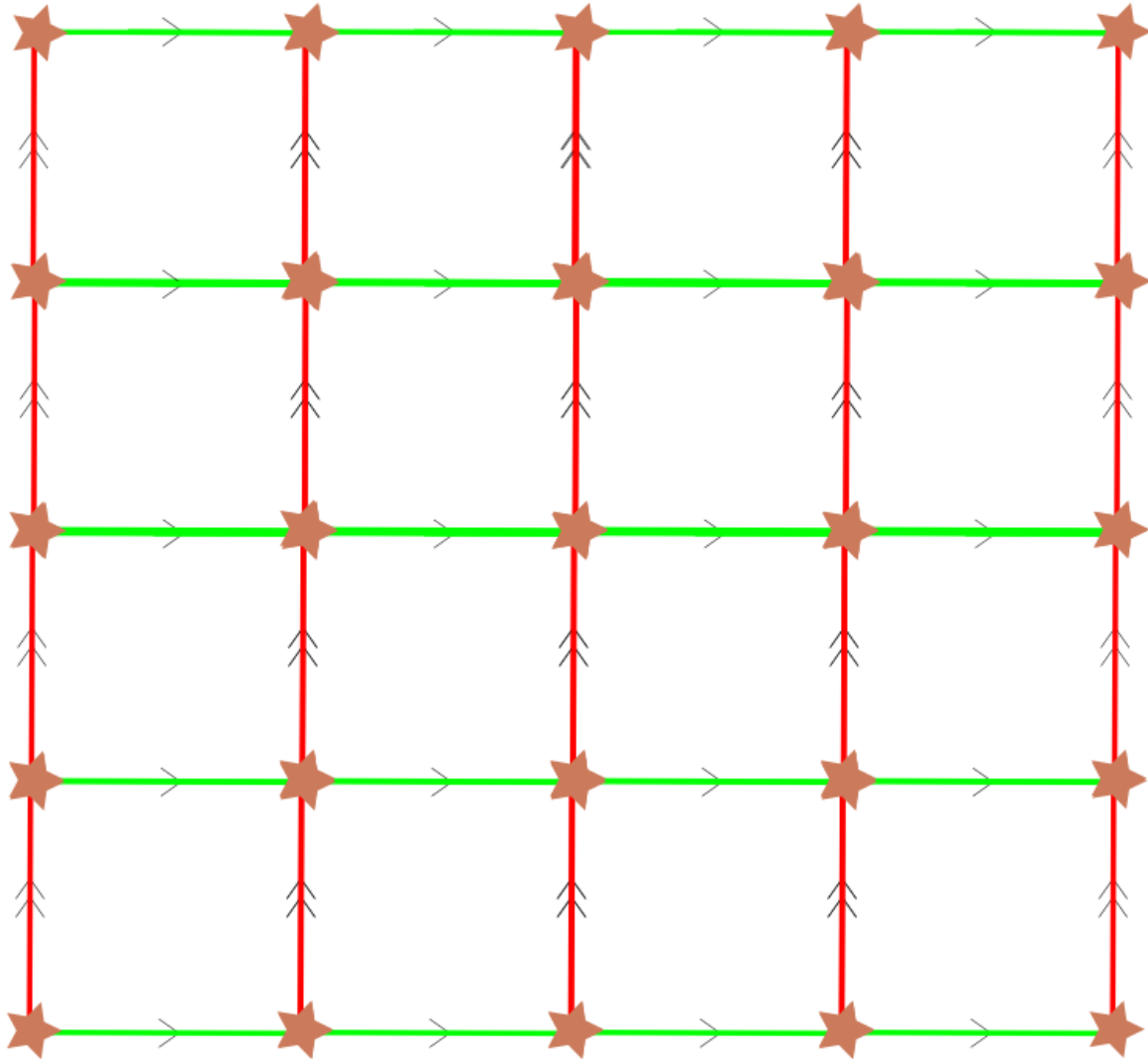
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# The universal cover and the fundamental domain



Fix a vertex  $v$  and loop  $a$  that passes through and we want to find the shortest loop homotopic to  $a$  that passes through  $v$ .

## Key Idea

In general let  $\bar{M}$  be the universal covering space of a surface  $M$  and let  $p : \bar{M} \rightarrow M$  be a covering map.

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$$\phi(\hat{q}_k) = [p(\hat{\gamma})]$$

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The shortest loop through  $v$  corresponds to the shortest path connecting  $\bar{v}_0$  and  $\bar{v}_k$ .

## The shortest loop through a given point

Input : A base vertex  $v$  a non-trivial loop  $\gamma$  through  $v$  on a mesh  $M$

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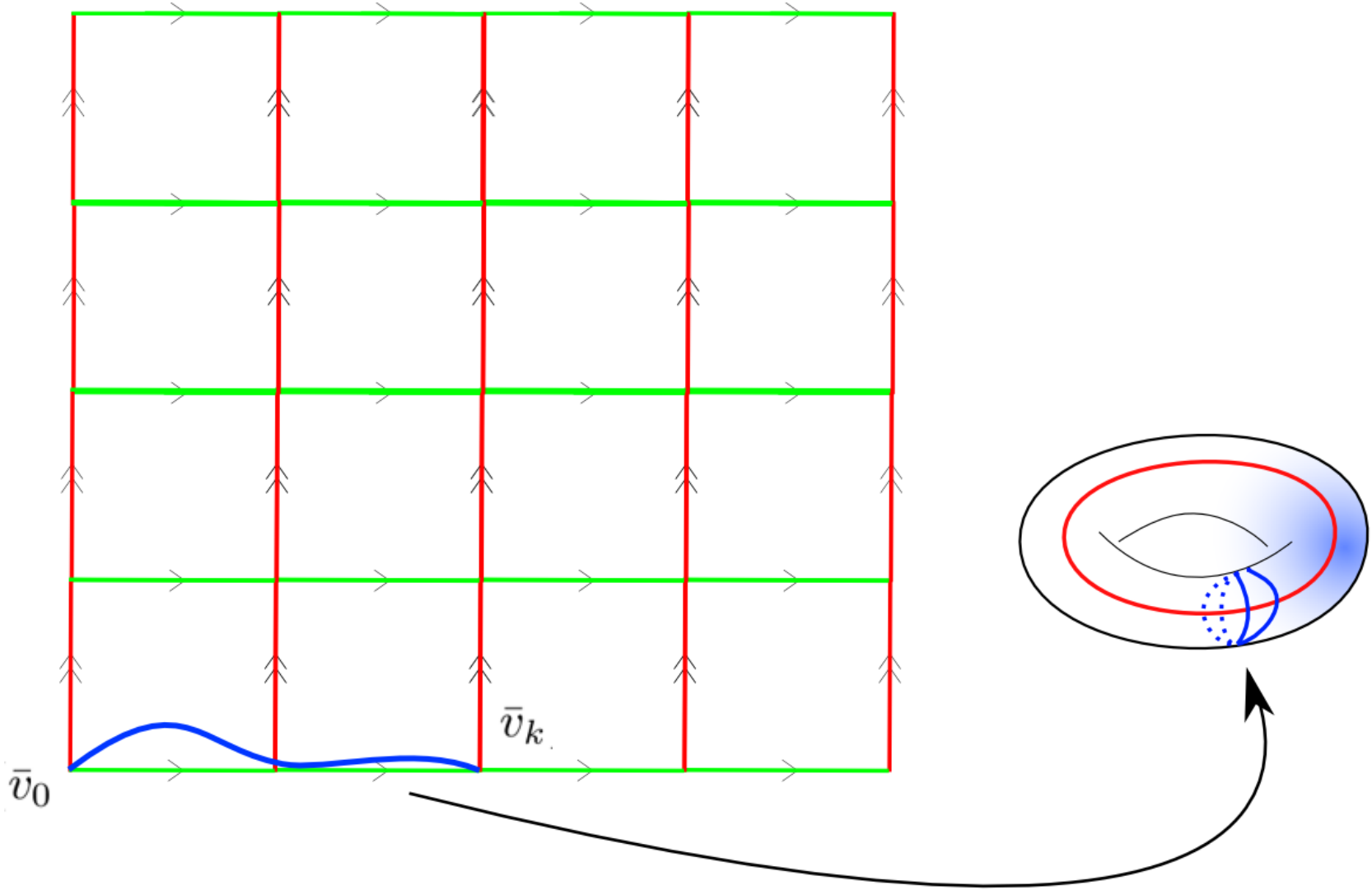
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5-The projection of the shortest path

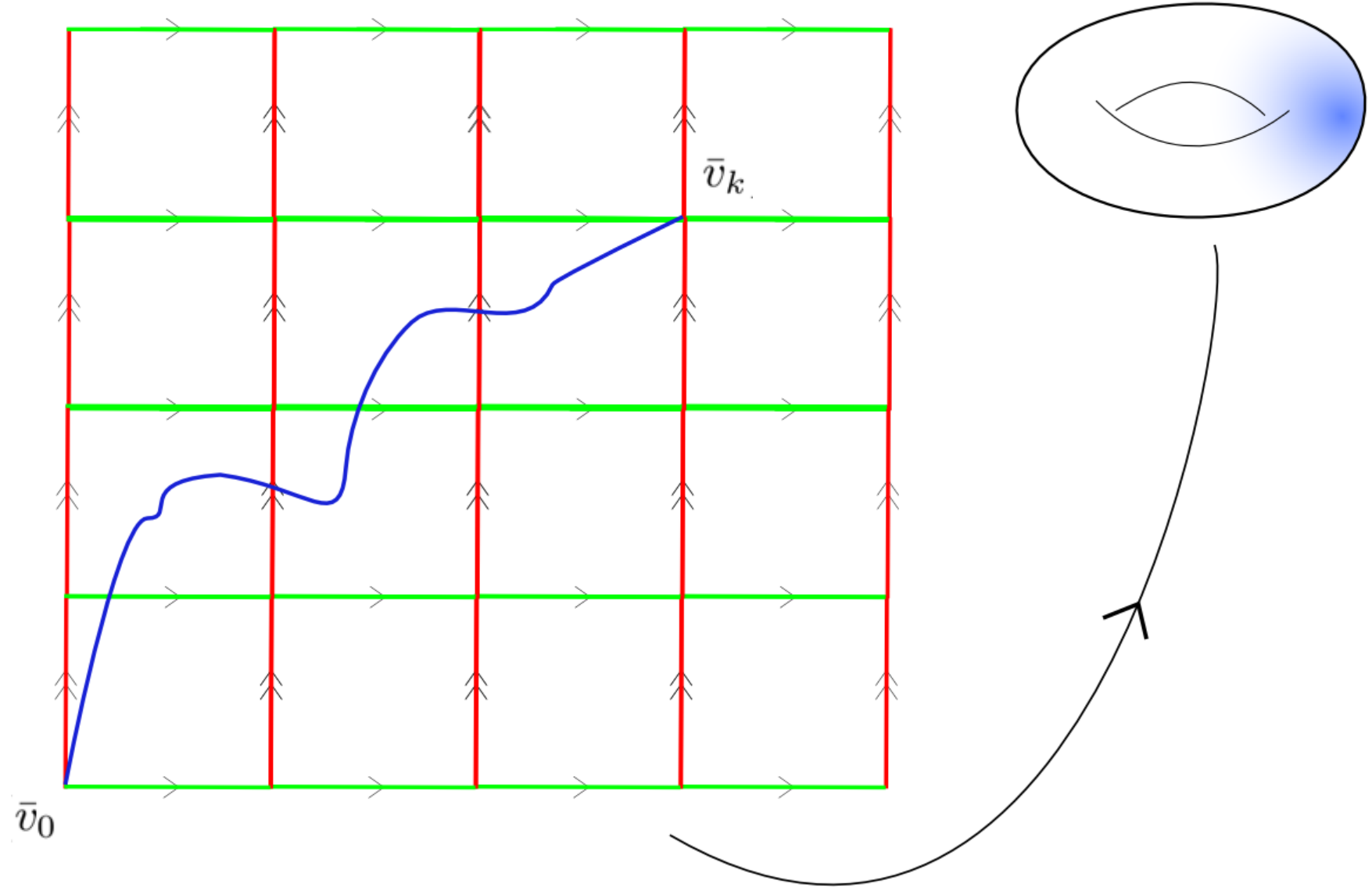
$$\Gamma = p(\bar{\Gamma})$$

is the shortest loop through  $v$  homotopic to  $\gamma$

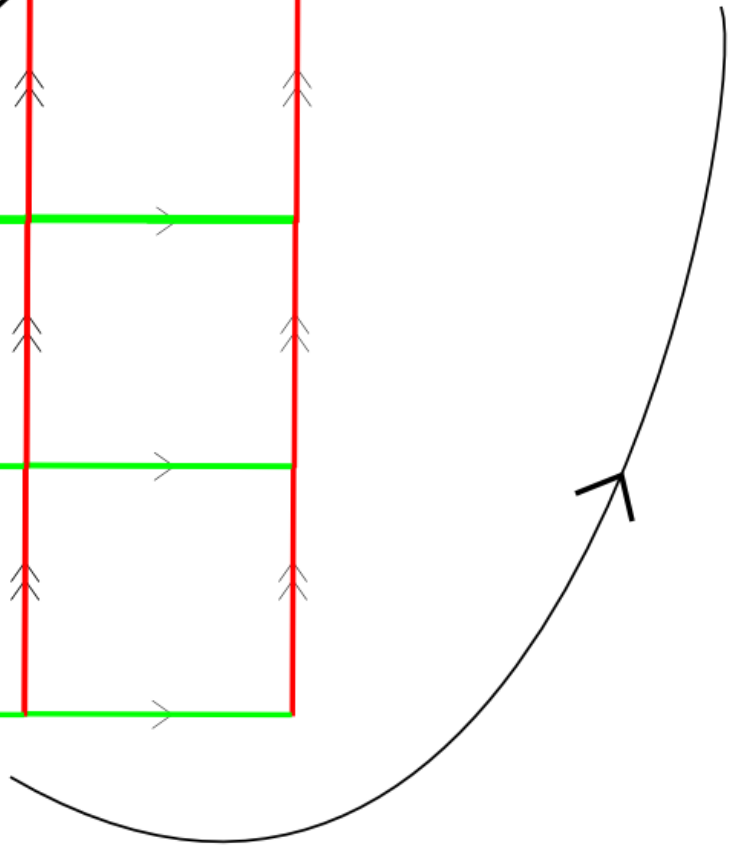
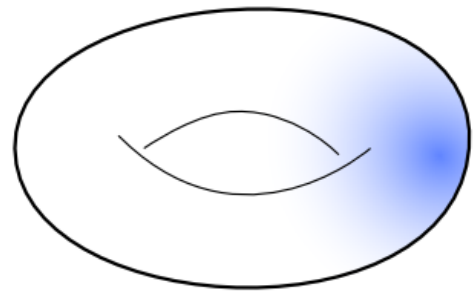
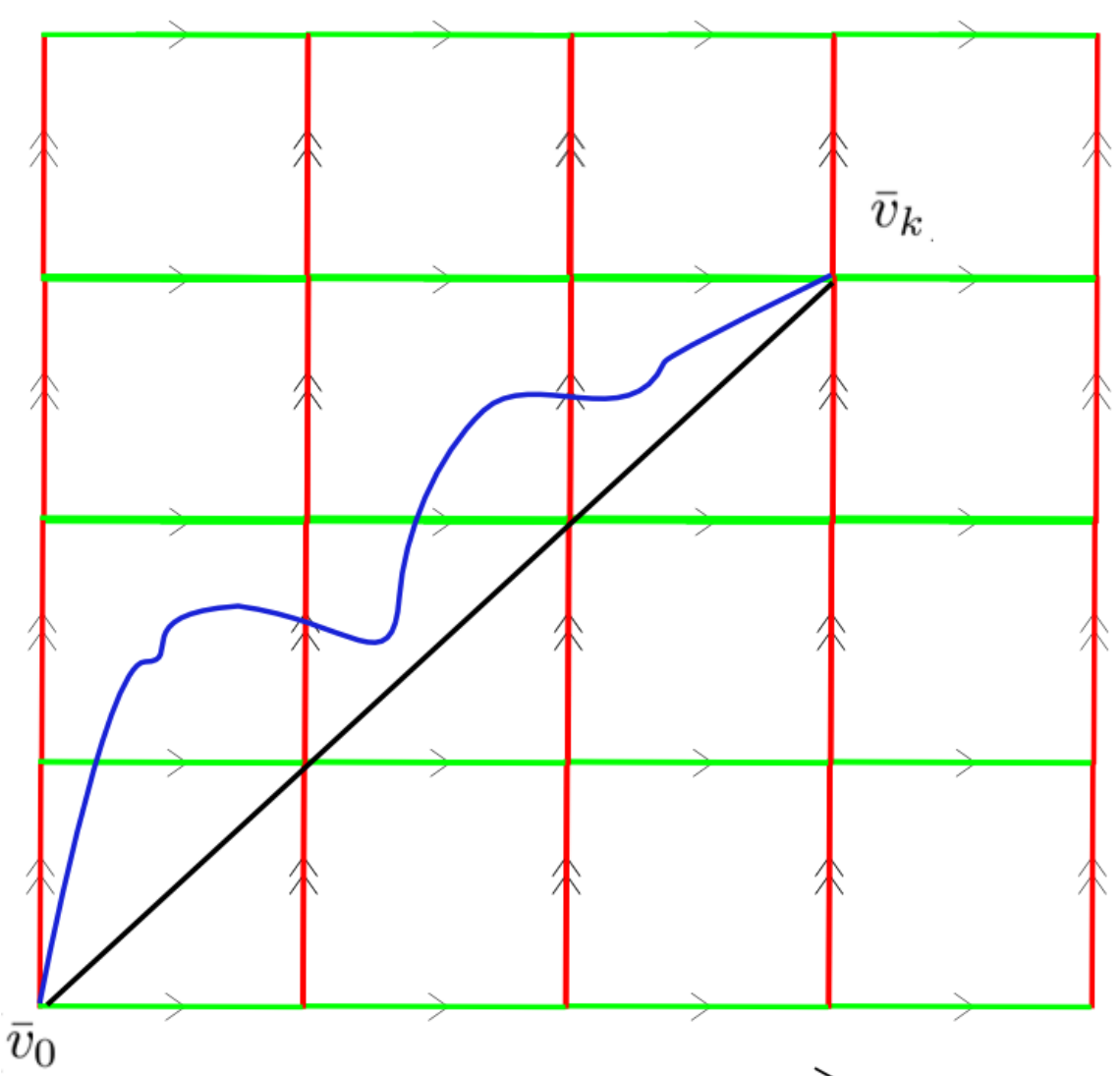
# Example



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Select the loop with the minimal length

$$\Gamma = \min_{w \in M} \Gamma_w$$



# References

Algorithms presented here can be found in :

*D. Gu and S. Yau, Computational conformal geometry.* Somerville, Mass, USA:  
International Press, 2008.