

A proof of Pilgrim's conjecture

Nikita Selinger, Jacobs University

Let f be a postcritically finite branched self-cover of a 2-dimensional topological sphere. Such a map induces an analytic self-map σ_f of a finite-dimensional Teichmüller space. We prove that this map extends continuously to the augmented Teichmüller space and give an explicit construction for this extension. This allows us to characterize the dynamics of Thurston's pullback map near invariant strata of the boundary of the augmented Teichmüller space. The resulting classification of invariant boundary strata is used to prove a conjecture by Pilgrim.