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A SPHERE THEOREM FOR 2-DIMENSIONAL
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We study sphere theorems for compact, geodesically complete 2-dimensional CAT(1)-spaces. As one of the main results, for compact, geodesically complete, 2-dimensional CAT(1)-spaces, we obtain the optimal volume condition to ensure being homeomorphic to the 2-sphere.

1. Introduction.

The problems of sphere theorems in Riemannian geometry have yielded the beautiful results and the fruitful techniques for the study of global geometry (cf. [22]). The main purpose of this paper is to study sphere theorems for CAT(1)-spaces: When are CAT(1)-spaces homeomorphic to the sphere?

The notion of CAT(κ)-spaces is introduced by Gromov ([11]) based on Alexandrov's original notion, i.e., spaces with curvature bounded above by $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}$. The research for CAT(1)-spaces is important since the space of directions at a given point in a CAT(κ)-space, which has the most local geometric information, is a CAT(1)-space. Furthermore, the ideal boundary of a given CAT(0)-space (the so-called, Hadamard space), which has the most global one, is a CAT(1)-space. In addition, all spherical buildings are CAT(1)-spaces (cf. [13], [23]).

Throughout this paper, we always assume that CAT(κ)-spaces have the local compactness and the geodesical completeness. Nevertheless, the local metric structure may be complicated. For example, it is known by Kleiner that a CAT(κ)-space X may admit no triangulation even if X is 2-dimensional (cf. [12], [14]). We require the careful treatment of the local structure.

If X is a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space, then the diameter of X is not smaller than π . There exist many examples of compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-spaces possessing the minimal diameter π which are not homeomorphic to each other: Ballmann and Brin [5] have classified the isometry classes of the 2-dimensional spherical polyhedra in some sense which are such CAT(1)-spaces of the minimal diameter π .

In this paper, we shall study volume sphere theorems for compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-spaces.

1.1. CAT(κ)-spaces. We first state the precise definition of CAT(κ)-spaces in this paper. We refer to [1], [2], [3], and [7] for the fundamental properties of CAT(κ)-spaces, more generally, of spaces with curvature bounded above.

For $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}$, we set $D_\kappa := \text{diam}M_\kappa^n$, i.e., the diameter of the n -dimensional, complete, simply connected model space M_κ^n with constant sectional curvature κ .

Let (X, d_X) be a complete metric space. We say that X is a CAT(κ)-space if X satisfies the following:

- (i) (*D_κ -geodesic*) Every two points $x, y \in X$ with $d_X(x, y) < D_\kappa$ are joined by a minimizing geodesic xy .
- (ii) (*CAT(κ)-property*) For an arbitrary geodesic triangle $\Delta \subset X$ with perimeter $< 2D_\kappa$, we have the comparison triangle $\tilde{\Delta} \subset M_\kappa^2$ (with the same side lengths as Δ) such that $d_X(x, y) \leq d_{M_\kappa^2}(\tilde{x}, \tilde{y})$ for every pair $x, y \in \Delta$ and the corresponding points $\tilde{x}, \tilde{y} \in \tilde{\Delta}$.

We now note the following important properties of CAT(κ)-spaces:

- (i) The convexity radii of all points are not smaller than $D_\kappa/2$.
- (ii) The injectivity radii of all points are not smaller than D_κ . In particular, the D_κ -neighborhood of a given point is contractible.

The first one is also related to the property that d_X is (semi) convex.

1.2. Simple examples of CAT(1)-spaces. Next, we provide simple examples of CAT(1)-spaces. We remark that, if X is a CAT(κ)-space for some $\kappa > 0$, then $\sqrt{\kappa}X := (X, \sqrt{\kappa}d_X)$ is a CAT(1)-space.

We here recall Reshetnyak’s gluing lemma ([19], cf. [7]): The space constructed by gluing CAT(κ)-spaces isometrically along proper convex subsets is again a CAT(κ)-space.

Example 1.1. Here, all X in (i)–(v) are compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-spaces:

- (i) Let X be the n -dimensional sphere $\mathbb{S}^n(r)$ with radius $r > 0$. Then, for any $r \geq 1$, the space $X = \mathbb{S}^n(r)$ is a CAT(1)-space.
- (ii) We take mutually antipodal points $p, \hat{p} \in \mathbb{S}^n(1)$ and the closed interval $[0, \pi]$. Let X be the quotient space obtained by gluing $\mathbb{S}^n(1)$ and $[0, \pi]$ along $p = \{0\}$ and $\hat{p} = \{\pi\}$. Then, X is a CAT(1)-space. (cf. Figure 1.)
- (iii) We prepare $\mathbb{S}^n(1)$ and the (distinct) closed unit n -hemisphere $\mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^n(1)$. Let X be the quotient space obtained by gluing $\mathbb{S}^n(1)$ and $\mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^n(1)$ along their equators. Then, $X := \mathbb{S}^n(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^n(1) /_{\text{equator}}$ is a CAT(1)-space. (cf. Figure 2.)
- (iv) Let X be the n -dimensional real projective space $\mathbb{R}\mathbb{P}^n(r)$ as the quotient for $\mathbb{S}^n(r)$ by the standard \mathbb{Z}_2 -action. Then, for any $r \geq 2$, the space $X = \mathbb{R}\mathbb{P}^n(r)$ is a CAT(1)-space.

- (v) Let $X = \mathbb{T}^2(2\pi \times 2\pi) = \mathbb{S}^1(1) \times \mathbb{S}^1(1)$ be the flat torus whose universal covering space has the fundamental domain of the flat $(2\pi \times 2\pi)$ -square. Then, X is a CAT(1)-space.

More generally, complete, smooth Riemannian manifolds with sectional curvature uniformly bounded above by 1 and of injectivity radii bounded below by D_1 are CAT(1)-spaces.

1.3. Main theorems. Let X be a locally compact, geodesically complete CAT(κ)-space. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we denote by $\overline{X}^n \subset X$ the set of all points whose open t -balls have the Hausdorff dimension n for any sufficiently small $t > 0$.

Throughout this paper, \dim denotes the Hausdorff dimension, and $\mathcal{H}^n(\cdot)$ the n -dimensional Hausdorff measure. In addition, the symbol $\vartheta_{\alpha, \beta, \dots}(\epsilon)$ denotes the positive function depending only on α, β, \dots with $\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \vartheta_{\alpha, \beta, \dots}(\epsilon) = 0$.

In [15], from the CAT(1)-property, the author shows the following: For given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let X be a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space satisfying $X = \overline{X}^n$. Then, $\mathcal{H}^n(X) \geq \mathcal{H}^n(\mathbb{S}^n(1))$. Moreover, the equality holds if and only if X is isometric to $\mathbb{S}^n(1)$.

Furthermore, the author proves the following sphere theorem ([15]): For given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we have a positive number $\bar{\epsilon}_n > 0$ satisfying the following: We assume that X is a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space such that:

- (i) $X = \overline{X}^n$.
- (ii) The following holds for $\epsilon \in (0, \bar{\epsilon}_n)$:

$$(1.1) \quad \mathcal{H}^n(X) < \mathcal{H}^n(\mathbb{S}^n(1)) + \epsilon.$$

Then, there exists a bi-Lipschitz homeomorphism between X and $\mathbb{S}^n(1)$ such that the Lipschitz constants are contained in $(1 - \vartheta_n(\epsilon), 1 + \vartheta_n(\epsilon))$.

We remark that the above Assumption (i) is essential because of Example 1.1.(ii).

We now concentrate on the case $n = 2$. We consider how much the above volume condition (1.1) can be relaxed.

As one of the main results, we prove the following sphere theorem for 2-dimensional CAT(1)-spaces:

Theorem A. *Let X be a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space satisfying $X = \overline{X}^2$ and*

$$(1.2) \quad \mathcal{H}^2(X) < (3/2)\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1)).$$

Then, X is homeomorphic to a 2-dimensional sphere \mathbb{S}^2 .

Remark 1.2. The condition (1.2) is optimal for Theorem A because, for $X = \mathbb{S}^2(1) \sqcup \text{HS}^2(1) /_{\text{equator}}$ as in Example 1.1.(iii), we see that $X = \overline{X}^2$, $\mathcal{H}^2(X) = (3/2)\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1))$, and that X is not homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^2 .

Remark 1.3. Without the assumption $X = \overline{X}^2$, we can observe an embedding of \mathbb{S}^2 into a CAT(1)-space of the Hausdorff dimension ≤ 2 . In Section 5, we shall prove the following: Let X be a locally compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space of the Hausdorff dimension ≤ 2 with $\overline{X}^2 \neq \emptyset$ such that $\mathcal{H}^2(X) < (3/2)\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1))$. Then, there exists a locally convex subset $Y \subset X$ such that Y is a 2-dimensional Lipschitz manifold homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^2 . Actually, $Y = \overline{X}^2$, and Y is a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space with respect to the interior distance in Y .

Remark 1.4. At the same time proving Theorem A, we observe the following for smooth Riemannian manifolds: Let M be a compact, smooth Riemannian manifold of dimension n which is also a CAT(1)-space. Assume that $\mathcal{H}^n(M) < (3/2)\mathcal{H}^n(\mathbb{S}^n(1))$. Then, M is homeomorphic to an n -dimensional sphere \mathbb{S}^n .

In smooth Riemannian case, Coghlan and Itokawa [9] have obtained the result related to Theorem A as follows: Let M be a compact, simply connected Riemannian manifold of even dimension m . Assume that M has positive sectional curvature with uniformly bounded above by κ , and that its volume $\text{vol}(M)$ satisfies $\text{vol}(M) \leq (3/2)\text{vol}(\mathbb{S}^m(1)) / \kappa^{m/2}$. Then, M is homeomorphic to $\mathbb{S}^m(1)$.

In our general case, we furthermore obtain the following:

Theorem B. *Let X be a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space satisfying $X = \overline{X}^2$ and $\mathcal{H}^2(X) = (3/2)\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1))$. Then, X is either homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^2 or isometric to $\mathbb{S}^2(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^2(1) /_{\text{equator}}$.*

In Section 5, we also investigate the number of the homotopy types of CAT(1)-spaces: For $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $V > 0$, let us denote by $\mathcal{C}(n, V)$ the isometry classes of all compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-spaces such that $X = \overline{X}^n$ and $\mathcal{H}^n(X) \leq V$. Then, the number of the homotopy types of $\mathcal{C}(n, V)$ is bounded above by a constant depending only on n and V .

1.4. The outline of our proofs of main theorems. First, we simply review the convergence theorem, which is studied in [15], for compact, geodesically complete CAT(κ)-spaces: For a given CAT(κ)-space with weak singularities in some sense, let us consider the other CAT(κ)-space sufficiently close to it with respect to the Gromov-Hausdorff distance. Then, we have an almost isometry, and hence a bi-Lipschitz homeomorphism between them. (See Section 2.)

We also have volume comparison for CAT(κ)-spaces (cf. [15]), i.e., the opposite inequalities to the well-known of Bishop type and of Bishop-Gromov type for smooth Riemannian manifolds with curvature bounded below.

Let X be the 2-dimensional one as in Theorem A. Then, using the volume comparison, (1.2), and the convergence theorem ([15]), we can prove

the following: Every point in X as in Theorem A has a neighborhood homeomorphic to a 2-dimensional open disk, in particular, X is a 2-dimensional topological manifold. More generally, for a given point, we also obtain the optimal local volume growth condition to possess a neighborhood homeomorphic to a 2-disk in Section 3. Namely, we obtain the following:

Proposition C. *For $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}$, let us denote by X a locally compact, geodesically complete CAT(κ)-space. Assume that a point $x \in \overline{X}^2$ satisfies the following: $\mathcal{H}^2(B_x(T; X)) / \omega_\kappa^2(T) < 3/2$ for some $T \in (0, D_\kappa]$. Then, there exists a positive number $t = t_x > 0$ such that $B_x(t; X)$ is homeomorphic to a 2-dimensional, Euclidean open disk $B^2 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$.*

Here, we denote by $B_x(t; X)$ the open t -ball centered at $x \in X$, and by $\omega_\kappa^2(T)$ the 2-dimensional Hausdorff measure of a T -ball in M_κ^2 .

Remark 1.5. The local structure of locally compact, geodesically complete CAT(κ)-spaces, especially of dimension 2, has been already studied by Kleiner, Burago and Buyalo [8]. Proposition C can be also proved by using their studies mentioned in Section 3 in [8].

Furthermore, (1.2) implies that X as in Theorem A can be covered by two contractible open balls. Then, the Jordan curve theorem concludes that X is homeomorphic to a 2-sphere. Thereby, we prove Theorem A.

We next consider X as in Theorem B. We denote by $\{z_i\} \subset X$ a maximal π -discrete set, i.e., $d_X(z_i, z_j) \geq \pi$ for $i \neq j$. Then, the volume comparison and the assumption $\mathcal{H}^2(X) = (3/2)\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1))$ in Theorem B imply that $\#\{z_i\} = 2$ or 3 for any maximal π -discrete set $\{z_i\} \subset X$. If $\#\{z_i\} = 2$ for any such $\{z_i\} \subset X$, then X is homeomorphic to a 2-sphere from the similar idea to that in the proof of Theorem A. Assume that $\#\{z_i\} = 3$ for some maximal π -discrete set $\{z_i\} \subset X$. Then, from a volume rigidity, X is the union of the closed convex subsets isometric to the unit hemisphere with pole $z_i, i = 1, 2, 3$. Considering how the boundaries of the unit hemispheres meet each other, we can show that X is either homeomorphic to a 2-sphere or isometric to $\mathbb{S}^2(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^2(1) /_{\text{equator}}$. In this way, we prove Theorem B.

1.5. The organization of this paper. The organization of this paper is as follows:

Section 2: We discuss the fundamental properties and the known facts for CAT(κ)-spaces.

Section 3: We observe the existence of 2-disk neighborhoods in CAT(κ)-spaces, and show Proposition C.

Section 4: We prove Theorems A and B.

Section 5: We research some topological embeddings into CAT(κ)-spaces of the Hausdorff dimension ≤ 2 .

Section 6: We provide some prospects for the study of $\text{CAT}(\kappa)$ -spaces from a topological viewpoint.

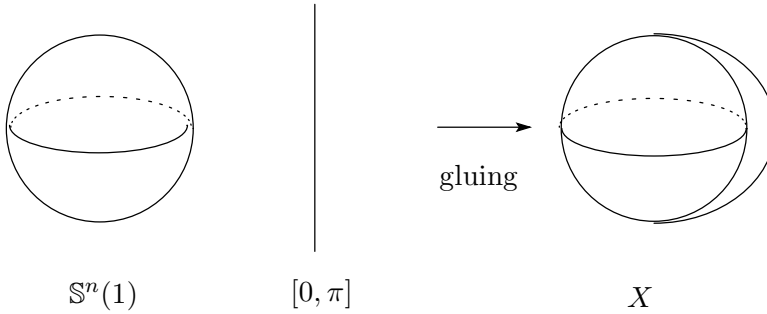


Figure 1. Example 1.1.(ii).

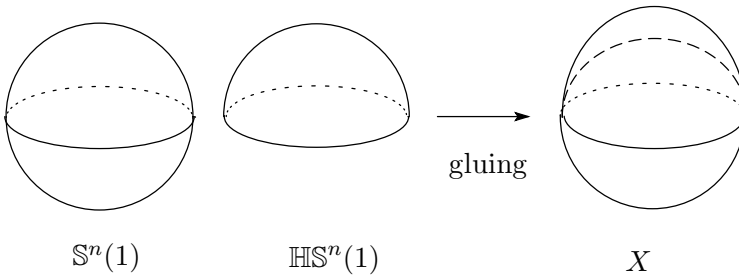


Figure 2. Example 1.1.(iii).

2. Preliminaries.

In this section, we list the basic properties and the known facts of $\text{CAT}(\kappa)$ -spaces, spaces with curvature bounded above, which will be needed in the subsequent sections.

Let (X, d_X) be a complete metric space. We denote by $B_x(t; X)$ (resp. $\overline{B}_x(t; X)$) the open (resp. closed) metric ball with radius $t > 0$ centered at $x \in X$.

2.1. Spaces with curvature bounded above and various radii. For $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}$, we say that X is an *Alexandrov space with curvature bounded above by κ* if X is locally $\text{CAT}(\kappa)$, i.e., if for every $x \in X$ there exists a positive number $R = R_x \in (0, D_\kappa/2]$ such that $\overline{B}_x(R; X)$ is a $\text{CAT}(\kappa)$ -space. Then, we remark that, $\overline{B}_x(R; X)$ is a convex subset in X for $R \in (0, D_\kappa/2]$.

Let $x \in X$ be a point in an Alexandrov spaces with curvature $\leq \kappa$. We then define various radii at x as follows:

- *The injectivity radius at x* , $\text{InjRad}(x)$, is defined as the supremum of $R > 0$ satisfying the following: For every $y \in B_x(R; X)$, x and y are joined by the unique minimizing geodesic xy .
- *The CAT(κ)-radius at x* , $\text{CAT}_\kappa\text{Rad}(x)$, the supremum of $R \in (0, D_\kappa/2]$ satisfying: $\overline{B}_x(R; X)$ is a CAT(κ)-space.
- *The comparable radius at x* , $\text{Comp}_\kappa\text{Rad}(x)$, the supremum of $R \in (0, D_\kappa]$ satisfying: For every two points $y, z \in B_x(R; X)$ which satisfy $d_X(x, y) + d_X(y, z) + d_X(z, x) < 2D_\kappa$, there exists a geodesic triangle $\Delta(x, y, z) \subset X$ with the vertices x, y, z such that $\Delta(x, y, z)$ has the CAT(κ)-property.

Then, by definition, we have

$$0 < \text{CAT}_\kappa\text{Rad}(x) \leq \text{Comp}_\kappa\text{Rad}(x) \leq \text{InjRad}(x).$$

Moreover, if X itself is a CAT(κ)-space, then for any $x \in X$ we have

$$2\text{CAT}_\kappa\text{Rad}(x) = \text{Comp}_\kappa\text{Rad}(x) = D_\kappa.$$

2.2. Spaces of directions and the tangent cones. For complete metric space X , we say that X is *geodesically complete* if every (nontrivial) geodesic is contained in a geodesic whose domain of the parameterization is a whole real line.

For a while, let X denote a locally compact, geodesically complete Alexandrov space with curvature $\leq \kappa$.

For $x \in X$, we write $\Sigma_x X := \{xy | y \in X \setminus \{x\}\} / \angle_x = 0$, called the *space of directions at x* , where \angle_x is the angle at x . The direction $v_{xy} \in \Sigma_x X$ often denotes $[xy] \in \Sigma_x X$. We write $C_x X$, called the *tangent cone at x* , as the Euclidean cone $\Sigma_x X \times [0, \infty) / \Sigma_x X \times \{0\}$. Note that $\Sigma_x X$ is a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space, and that $C_x X$ is a locally compact, geodesically complete CAT(0)-space ([1], [2]). We also remark that $(C_x X, \star)$ is isometric to the (pointed) Gromov-Hausdorff limit of $(\frac{1}{t} X, x)$ as $t \searrow 0$, where $\star \in C_x X$ is the vertex of the cone.

2.3. Branch points and their measure. We here introduce the notion of branch points by Otsu and Tanoue ([17]) for representing singularities in spaces with curvature bounded above.

For $\delta > 0$ and $x \in X$, a point $z \in X$ is a δ -branch point of x if the following holds: $\text{diam}\{v \in \Sigma_z X | \angle_z(v_{zx}, v) = \pi\} \geq \delta$. We denote by $S_{x,\delta}$ the set of all δ -branch points of x . Furthermore, we define $S_\delta(X) := \cup\{S_{x,\delta} | x \in X\}$, called δ -branch points in X . Note that both $S_{x,\delta}$ and $S_\delta(X)$ are closed in X for any $x \in X$ and $\delta > 0$ ([17], [15]).

For given positive integer $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we write

$$X^n := \{x \in X | \dim \Sigma_x X = n - 1\},$$

$$\overline{X}^n := \{x \in X | \dim B_x(t; X) = n \text{ for any sufficiently small } t > 0\},$$

$$\widehat{X}^n := \{x \in X \mid \dim B_x(t; X) \leq n \text{ for some } t > 0\},$$

where \overline{X}^n is the same one as that defined in Section 1. Furthermore, as some singular sets, we write $S_X^n := \{x \in \widehat{X}^n \mid \Sigma_x X \neq \mathbb{S}^{n-1}(1)\}$.

Otsu and Tanoue ([16], [17]) study the Hausdorff measures of singular points as follows:

Theorem 2.1 ([16], [17]). *For a given positive integer $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we assume that $B_x(T; X) \subset \widehat{X}^n$ for some $T \in (0, \text{CAT}_\kappa \text{Rad}(x))$. Then, we obtain the following:*

- (i) $\mathcal{H}^n(S_{x,\delta} \cap B_x(T; X)) = 0$ for any $\delta > 0$.
- (ii) $\mathcal{H}^n(S_X^n \cap B_x(T; X)) = 0$.

In particular, if $\mathcal{H}^n(B_x(t; X)) > 0$ also holds for $t \in (0, T)$, then there exists a point $y \in B_x(t; X)$ in an \mathcal{H}^n -full measure subset in $B_x(t; X)$ such that $\Sigma_y X = \mathbb{S}^{n-1}(1)$.

Here, we remark the following ([15]): $\overline{X}^n \subset X^n$ holds for given $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Moreover, if $X = \widehat{X}^n$ also holds, then $\overline{X}^n = X^n$.

Furthermore, the author ([15]) verifies the following:

Lemma 2.2 ([15]). *For given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, assume that $B_x(T; X) \subset \overline{X}^n$ for some $x \in X$ and $T > 0$. Then, we obtain $\Sigma_x X = \overline{(\Sigma_x X)^{n-1}}$ and $C_x X = \overline{(C_x X)^n}$.*

2.4. Convention. For metric spaces Y and Z , a map $f_1 : Y \rightarrow Z$ is called an *expanding map* if $d_Z(f_1(y_1), f_1(y_2)) \geq d_Y(y_1, y_2)$ holds for every $y_1, y_2 \in Y$.

For $\vartheta > 0$, a surjective map $f_2 : Y \rightarrow Z$ is said to be a ϑ -almost isometry if $\left| d_Z(f_2(y_1), f_2(y_2)) - d_Y(y_1, y_2) \right| < \vartheta d_Y(y_1, y_2)$ for every $y_1, y_2 \in Y$. We note that: If $\vartheta < 1$, then the map f_2 is a bi-Lipschitz homeomorphism. Furthermore, if f_2 is a ϑ -almost isometry for any $\vartheta > 0$, then f_2 is an isometry.

2.5. Convergence theorems. We now denote by d_{GH} the Gromov-Hausdorff distance (cf. [10]).

The following is the convergence theorem which is mentioned in Section 1 for spaces with only weak singularities:

Theorem 2.3 ([15]). *For given constants $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}, n \in \mathbb{N}$, and $R_0 > 0$, we find a positive constant $\bar{\delta} = \bar{\delta}_n > 0$ with the following properties: Let X denote a compact, geodesically complete Alexandrov space with curvature $\leq \kappa$ satisfying $X = \overline{X}^n$ and $S_\delta(X) = \emptyset$ for $\delta \in (0, \bar{\delta})$. We then find an $\bar{\epsilon} = \bar{\epsilon}_{\kappa, n, R_0, \delta, X} > 0$ satisfying the following: If Y is a compact, geodesically complete Alexandrov space with curvature $\leq \kappa$ such that $\text{CAT}_\kappa \text{Rad}(y) \geq R_0$ for any $y \in Y$, and that $d_{GH}(X, Y) < \epsilon$ for $\epsilon \in (0, \bar{\epsilon})$, then there exists a $(\vartheta_n(\delta) + \vartheta_{\kappa, n, R_0, X}(\epsilon))$ -almost isometry $\Psi : Y \rightarrow X$.*

Remark 2.4. The construction of the almost isometry discussed in [15] guarantees that there also exists an almost isometry between some d_{GH} -close local parts with only weak singularities.

In [15], using Theorem 2.3, the author studies volume convergence theorems for Alexandrov spaces with curvature bounded above. As one of them, we obtain the following local volume regularity:

Theorem 2.5 ([15]). *Let X be a locally compact, geodesically complete Alexandrov space with curvature $\leq \kappa$. If $x \in \overline{X}^n$ holds for given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then we have*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathcal{H}^n(B_x(t; X))}{t^n} = \mathcal{H}^n(B_{\star}(1; C_x X)) \in (0, \infty).$$

Here, $\star \in C_x X$ is the vertex of the Euclidean cone.

2.6. Volume comparison for spaces with curvature bounded above.

For $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we denote by $\omega_\kappa^n(t)$ the n -dimensional Hausdorff measure of a t -ball in M_κ^n . Let X be a locally compact, geodesically complete Alexandrov space with curvature $\leq \kappa$.

The following absolute volume comparison can be obtained by the CAT(κ)-property ([15]):

Proposition 2.6 ([15]). *For given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we have*

$$(2.1) \quad \mathcal{H}^n(B_x(t; X)) \geq \omega_\kappa^n(t)$$

for any $x \in \overline{X}^n$ and $t \in [0, \text{Comp}_\kappa \text{Rad}(x)]$.

Furthermore, assume that $B_x(t; X) \subset \overline{X}^n$ for $t \in [0, \text{CAT}_\kappa \text{Rad}(x)]$. Then, the equality in (2.1) holds if and only if the convex set $B_x(t; X)$ is isometric to $B_{\bar{x}}(t; M_\kappa^n)$ for a given point $\bar{x} \in M_\kappa^n$.

In fact, the inequality (2.1) is obtained by the following:

Lemma 2.7 ([15]). *For given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we take a point $x \in \overline{X}^n$. Then, there exists an expanding map $g_x : \mathbb{S}^{n-1}(1) \rightarrow \Sigma_x X$.*

We now define $\partial B_x(t; X) := \{y \in X \mid d_X(x, y) = t\}$. We then provide the coarea formula for the distance functions (cf. [15]):

Lemma 2.8. *For given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, assume that $\mathcal{H}^n(B_x(T; X)) < \infty$ for $x \in X$ and $T \in (0, \text{Comp}_\kappa \text{Rad}(x))$. Then, we have*

$$\mathcal{H}^n(B_x(T; X)) = \int_0^T \mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\partial B_x(t; X)) dt.$$

The following relative volume comparison can be also obtained by Lemma 2.8 and the CAT(κ)-property ([15]):

Proposition 2.9 ([15]). *For given $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $x \in \overline{X}^n$, let us define the function $F : (0, \text{Comp}_\kappa \text{Rad}(x)] \rightarrow [1, +\infty]$ as*

$$F(t) := \mathcal{H}^n(B_x(t; X)) / \omega_\kappa^n(t).$$

Then, F is monotone non-decreasing as $t \nearrow$.

Remark 2.10. In general, $F(t)$ as in Proposition 2.9 does not necessarily converge to 1 as $t \searrow 0$. More precisely, by Lemma 2.8 and Theorem 2.5, we obtain the following (cf. [15]):

$$(2.2) \quad F(t) = \frac{\mathcal{H}^n(B_x(t; X))}{t^n} \frac{t^n}{\omega_\kappa^n(t)} \rightarrow \frac{\mathcal{H}^n(B_\star(1; C_x X))}{\omega_0^n(1)} = \frac{\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\Sigma_x X)}{\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\mathbb{S}^{n-1}(1))}$$

as $t \searrow 0$, where \star is the vertex of $C_x X$.

3. Two dimensional disk neighborhoods in spaces with curvature bounded above.

In this section, we observe some topological properties of spaces with curvature bounded above. We also prove Proposition C.

For $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}$, let X denote a locally compact, geodesically complete Alexandrov space with curvature $\leq \kappa$, and let $x \in X$ satisfy $x \in \overline{X}^2$. We now consider its space of directions $\Sigma_x X$. Then, $\dim \Sigma_x X = 1$, and hence $\Sigma_x X$ has a structure of finite graph equipped with the vertex set containing $S_\pi(\Sigma_x X)$ (cf. Lemma 2.9 in [14]). If $\Sigma_x X$ is homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^1 and its length is sufficiently close to 2π , then we see that $x \in X$ has a 2-dimensional disk neighborhood. This follows from Theorem 3.1 in [8], which is obtained by Kleiner, stated by Burago and Buyalo.

More generally, we obtain the following:

Proposition 3.1. *Let $x \in X$ be a point in a locally compact, geodesically complete Alexandrov space X with curvature $\leq \kappa$ such that $\Sigma_x X$ is homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^1 . Then, we have a positive number $t = t_x > 0$ such that $B_x(t; X)$ is bi-Lipschitz homeomorphic to $B_\star(t; C_x X)$; in particular, $B_x(t; X)$ is homeomorphic to a 2-dimensional open disk $B^2 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$.*

Remark 3.2. Let $x \in X$ be as in Proposition 3.1. Then, as a consequence, we see that $x \in \overline{X}^2$.

Remark 3.3. Proposition 3.1 can be proved by using Theorem 3.1 in [8] since $C_x X$ is the Euclidean cone over a circle. The details are omitted.

Remark 3.4. Now, let us consider an Alexandrov space X with curvature $\leq \kappa$ so that X is a 2-dimensional topological manifold without boundary. Then, it is known by Alexandrov that X is locally geodesically complete. In particular, $\Sigma_x X$ is also compact and geodesically complete for every $x \in X$. In this case, Proposition 3.1 in [8] shows that $\Sigma_x X$ is homeomorphic to

\mathbb{S}^1 . Therefore, we see that X is locally bi-Lipschitz homeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^2 . Namely, X is a 2-dimensional Lipschitz manifold.

For $0 < t < T$, we denote by $A_x(T, t; X) := B_x(T; X) \setminus \overline{B}_x(t; X)$ the metric annulus around x .

In this paper, we show Proposition 3.1 by applying Theorem 2.3 adequately since $C_x X$ is of 2-dimension:

Proof of Proposition 3.1. Now, we note that every point in $C_x X \setminus \{\star\}$ has the space of directions isometric to $\mathbb{S}^1(1)$ since $\Sigma_x X$ is a circle, Also, $B_\star(1; C_x X)$ is an open 2-disk. We consider the (topological) annulus $A_\star(1, 1/2; C_x X)$.

Since $\overline{B}_x(1; \lambda X)$ converges to $\overline{B}_\star(1; C_x X)$ as $\lambda \nearrow \infty$, we obtain the following: For any $\epsilon > 0$, we have a sufficiently large number $J \gg 1$ such that, for each $j \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$, $d_{GH}(\overline{B}_x(1; 2^{J+j} X), \overline{B}_\star(1; C_x X)) < \epsilon$. Considering $A_\star(1, 1/2; C_x X)$, we obtain the following from the arguments discussed in [15] (cf. Theorem 2.3, Remark 2.4):

Claim 3.5. For each j , we have a $\vartheta(\epsilon)$ -almost isometry

$$\widehat{h}_j : 2^{J+j} X \supset \widehat{U}_j \rightarrow A_\star(1, 1/2; C_x X)$$

for some open set \widehat{U}_j satisfying:

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{aligned} A_x(1 - \vartheta(\epsilon), (1/2) + \vartheta(\epsilon); 2^{J+j} X) &\subset \widehat{U}_j \\ &\subset A_x(1 + \vartheta(\epsilon), (1/2) - \vartheta(\epsilon); 2^{J+j} X). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by Claim 3.5, we obtain a homeomorphism

$$h_j : X \supset U_j := (1/2^{J+j})\widehat{U}_j \rightarrow A_{\mathbf{o}}(1/2^{J+j}, 1/2^{J+j+2}; \mathbb{R}^2),$$

where $\mathbf{o} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is the origin.

Next, assume that we have a homeomorphism

$$H_j : \bigcup_{k=0}^j U_k \rightarrow A_{\mathbf{o}}(1/2^j, 1/2^{J+j+2}; \mathbb{R}^2).$$

Then, using h_{j+1} , we can construct a homeomorphism

$$H_{j+1} : \bigcup_{k=0}^{j+1} U_k \rightarrow A_{\mathbf{o}}(1/2^j, 1/2^{J+j+3}; \mathbb{R}^2)$$

such that $H_{j+1}|_{\bigcup_{k=0}^j U_k} = H_j$, which is guaranteed by (3.1). Hence, we can define the map

$$H_\infty : B_x(1/2^J; X) = \bigcup_{k=0}^\infty U_k \rightarrow B_{\mathbf{o}}(1/2^J; \mathbb{R}^2)$$

with $H_\infty(x) := \mathbf{o}$ such that $H_\infty|_{\cup_{k=0}^j U_k} = H_j, j = 0, \dots, \infty$. Then, H_∞ is a homeomorphism, which completes the Proof of Proposition 3.1. \square

Now, for a given point, we provide the following local volume growth condition to ensure a 2-disk neighborhood, which is a generalization of Proposition C:

Proposition 3.6. *For $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}$, let us denote by X a locally compact, geodesically complete Alexandrov space with curvature $\leq \kappa$. Assume that a point $x \in \overline{X}^2$ satisfies the following:*

$$(3.2) \quad \mathcal{H}^2(B_x(T; X)) / \omega_\kappa^2(T) < 3/2$$

for some $T \in (0, \text{Comp}_\kappa \text{Rad}(x)]$. Then, we have a positive number $t = t_x > 0$ such that $B_x(t; X)$ is homeomorphic to a 2-dimensional open disk $B^2 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$.

Remark 3.7. The above local volume growth condition (3.2) is optimal for Proposition 3.6: Actually, consider $X = \mathbb{S}^2(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^2(1)/_{\text{equator}}$, as in Example 1.1, which is a CAT(1)-space. Then, every point $x \in \overline{X}^2$ in the attached equator satisfies $\mathcal{H}^2(B_x(T; X)) / \omega_1^2(T) = 3/2$ for any $T \in (0, \pi]$, and x never possess a neighborhood homeomorphic to a 2-disk.

Proof of Proposition 3.6. By Proposition 2.9 and the assumption (3.2), we have

$$\frac{\mathcal{H}^n(B_x(t; X))}{\omega_1^n(t)} \leq \frac{\mathcal{H}^n(B_x(T; X))}{\omega_1^n(T)} < \frac{3}{2}$$

for any $t \in (0, T], n = 2$. It then follows from Lemma 2.7 and (2.10) that

$$\frac{3}{2} > \frac{\mathcal{H}^n(B_x(t; X))}{\omega_1^n(t)} \rightarrow \frac{\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\Sigma_x X)}{\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\mathbb{S}^{n-1}(1))} \geq 1$$

as $t \searrow 0$. Now, note that $\Sigma_x X = \overline{(\Sigma_x X)}^1$ by Lemma 2.2.

Next, we investigate the following 1-dimensional case:

Proposition 3.8. *Let X be a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space satisfying $X = \overline{X}^1$ and*

$$\mathcal{H}^1(X) < (3/2)\mathcal{H}^1(\mathbb{S}^1(1)).$$

Then, X is homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^1 .

Proof. Since $X = \overline{X}^1$, we see that X has a structure of finite graph equipped with the vertex set containing $S_\pi(X)$ (cf. Lemma 2.9 in [14]).

Suppose that $S_\pi(X) \neq \emptyset$. Taking $x \in S_\pi(X)$, we have (at least three) minimizing geodesics $\gamma_{x,i} : [0, \pi] \rightarrow X, i = 1, 2, 3$, with $\gamma_{x,i}(0) = x$ such that $\gamma_{x,i}((0, \pi)) \cap \gamma_{x,j}((0, \pi)) = \emptyset$ for $i \neq j$ since $\text{InjRad}(x) \geq \pi$. This implies

that $\mathcal{H}^1(X) \geq (3/2)\mathcal{H}^1(\mathbb{S}^1(1))$, which contradicts to the present assumption. Hence, $S_\pi(X) = \emptyset$, and hence X is homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^1 . \square

Recall that the point $x \in \overline{X}^2$ in Proposition 3.6 has the space of directions $\Sigma_x X$ which is a CAT(1)-space as researched in Proposition 3.8. Therefore, Propositions 3.1 and 3.8 conclude Proposition 3.6. \square

Thus, we have shown Proposition C. \square

4. A sphere theorem for 2-dimensional CAT(1)-spaces.

In this section, we prove Theorems A and B.

4.1. Proof of Theorem A. First, we observe the following metric properties:

Lemma 4.1. *For given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let X be a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space with $X = \overline{X}^n$ such that $\mathcal{H}^n(X) < (3/2)\mathcal{H}^n(\mathbb{S}^n(1))$. Then, the following hold:*

- (i) *For any $x \in X$, we have $\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\Sigma_x X) < (3/2)\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\mathbb{S}^{n-1}(1))$.*
- (ii) *For $z_1, z_2 \in X$ with $d_X(z_1, z_2) = \text{diam}X$, we obtain*

$$X = B_{z_1}(\pi; X) \cup B_{z_2}(\pi; X).$$

Proof. (i): Now, (i) follows from the similar argument as that discussed in the Proof of Proposition 3.6.

(ii): Suppose that, $X \neq B_{z_1}(\pi; X) \cup B_{z_2}(\pi; X)$, i.e., we have a point $z_3 \in X$ satisfying $d_X(z_i, z_3) \geq \pi, i = 1, 2$. Then, since X is geodesically complete, we have $d_X(z_1, z_2) = \text{diam}X \geq \pi$. Hence, we obtain $B_{z_i}(\pi/2; X) \cap B_{z_j}(\pi/2; X) = \emptyset$ for $i \neq j, i, j = 1, 2, 3$. Then, by Proposition 2.6, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}^n(X) &\geq \mathcal{H}^n\left(\bigsqcup_{i=1}^3 B_{z_i}(\pi/2; X)\right) = \sum_{i=1}^3 \mathcal{H}^n(B_{z_i}(\pi/2; X)) \\ &\geq 3\omega_1^n(\pi/2) = (3/2)\mathcal{H}^n(\mathbb{S}^n(1)). \end{aligned}$$

This contradicts to the present assumption $\mathcal{H}^n(X) < (3/2)\mathcal{H}^n(\mathbb{S}^n(1))$, which proves (ii). \square

Here, we prove Theorem A:

Proof of Theorem A. Let X denote a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space satisfying $X = \overline{X}^2$ and $\mathcal{H}^2(X) < (3/2)\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1))$. Then, by Proposition 3.6 and Lemma 4.1.(i), X is a 2-dimensional topological manifold.

Now, we note that X can be covered by two contractible open sets by Lemma 4.1.(ii). Hence, since X is 2-dimensional, we obtain

$$X = B_1^2 \cup B_2^2$$

for some open 2-disks B_1^2, B_2^2 . Then, the Jordan curve theorem concludes that X is homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^2 .

In this way, we have completed the Proof of Theorem A. □

4.2. Proof of Theorem B. First, we study the 1-dimensional case:

Proposition 4.2. *Let X be a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space with $X = \overline{X}^1$ such that $\mathcal{H}^1(X) = (3/2)\mathcal{H}^1(\mathbb{S}^1(1))$. Then, X is either a circle or isometric to $\mathbb{S}^1(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^1(1)_{\text{equator}}$.*

Then, we again recall that X has a structure of finite graph equipped with the vertex set containing $S_\pi(X)$ since $X = \overline{X}^1$.

Here, let $\mathbb{S}^1(1) \sqcup [0, \pi]_{/p=\{0\}, \hat{p}=\{\pi\}}$ denote the CAT(1)-space as in Example 1.1.(ii). Then, note that $\mathbb{S}^1(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^1(1)_{\text{equator}}$ is isometric to $\mathbb{S}^1(1) \sqcup [0, \pi]_{/p=\{0\}, \hat{p}=\{\pi\}}$.

Proof of Proposition 4.2. Let us denote by $\{z_i\}$ a maximal π -discrete set in X , i.e., $d_X(z_i, z_j) \geq \pi$ for $i \neq j$.

First, note that $\#\{z_i\} \geq 2$ for any maximal π -discrete set $\{z_i\} \subset X$ since X is geodesically complete. On the other hand, from Proposition 2.6 and the present assumption $\mathcal{H}^1(X) = (3/2)\mathcal{H}^1(\mathbb{S}^1(1))$, we can conclude that $\#\{z_i\} \leq 3$ for any such $\{z_i\} \subset X$.

Claim 4.3. Let X be as in Proposition 4.2. If $\#\{z_i\} = 2$ for any maximal π -discrete set $\{z_i\} \subset X$, then X is a circle.

Proof. Take a maximal π -discrete set $\{z_1, z_2\} \subset X$. It then follows from the maximality of $\{z_1, z_2\} \subset X$ that $X = B_{z_1}(\pi; X) \cup B_{z_2}(\pi; X)$.

Suppose that some point $x \in X$ is contained in $S_\pi(X)$, i.e., x is the vertex of X . Then, since $\text{InjRad}(x) \geq \pi$, we have at least three minimizing geodesics $\gamma_{x,k} : [0, \pi] \rightarrow X$, $k = 1, 2, 3$, with $\gamma_{x,k}(0) = x$ such that $\gamma_{x,k}((0, \pi)) \cap \gamma_{x,l}((0, \pi)) = \emptyset$ for $k \neq l$. Hence, we obtain a π -discrete set $\{\gamma_{x,k}(\pi/2)\}_{k=1,2,3} \subset X$. This is a contradiction to the assumption in Claim 4.3. Hence, X is a circle. □

Claim 4.4. Let X be as in Proposition 4.2. If $\#\{z_i\} = 3$ for some maximal π -discrete set $\{z_i\} \subset X$, then X is isometric to the CAT(1)-space $\mathbb{S}^1(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^1(1)_{\text{equator}}$.

Proof. In this case, by Proposition 2.6 and the present volume assumption $\mathcal{H}^1(X) = (3/2)\mathcal{H}^1(\mathbb{S}^1(1))$, we see that $\overline{B}_{z_i}(\pi/2; X)$ is isometric to $[0, \pi]$ for each $i = 1, 2, 3$. Considering how $\overline{B}_{z_i}(\pi/2; X), i = 1, 2, 3$, meet each other, we can show that $X = \mathbb{S}^1(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^1(1)_{\text{equator}}$. □

Therefore, Claims 4.3 and 4.4 conclude Proposition 4.2. □

Here, let us begin proving Theorem B:

Proof of Theorem B. For a while, we denote by X , as in Theorem B, a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space with $X = \overline{X}^2$ such that $\mathcal{H}^2(X) = (3/2)\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1))$. Then, similarly to the Proof of Proposition 4.2, we see that $\#\{z_i\} = 2$ or 3 for any maximal π -discrete set $\{z_i\} \subset X$ from Proposition 2.6 and the present assumption $\mathcal{H}^2(X) = (3/2)\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1))$. We now note that, for any $x \in X$, the space of directions $\Sigma_x X$ is either a circle or isometric to $\mathbb{S}^1(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^1(1)_{\text{equator}}$ by Lemma 2.2, (2.2), Propositions 3.8 and 4.2.

Lemma 4.5. *Let X be as in Theorem B. If $\#\{z_i\} = 2$ for any maximal π -discrete set $\{z_i\} \subset X$, then X is homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^2 .*

Proof. For a maximal π -discrete set $\{z_1, z_2\} \subset X$, we have

$$X = B_{z_1}(\pi; X) \cup B_{z_2}(\pi; X)$$

from the maximality of $\{z_1, z_2\} \subset X$.

We next show that $\Sigma_x X$ is a circle for every $x \in X$. Suppose that $\Sigma_x X$ is isometric to $\mathbb{S}^1(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^1(1)_{\text{equator}}$, and hence, isometric to $\mathbb{S}^1(1) \sqcup [0, \pi]_{/p=\{0\}, \hat{p}=\{\pi\}}$. Then, consider the three minimizing geodesics $\gamma_k : [0, \pi] \rightarrow \Sigma_x X$, $k = 1, 2, 3$, such that $\gamma_k(0) = p$, $\gamma_k(\pi) = \hat{p}$, and that $\gamma_k((0, \pi)) \cap \gamma_l((0, \pi)) = \emptyset$ for $k \neq l$. We now take the direction $v_k := \gamma_k(\pi/2) \in \Sigma_x X$, and a point $y_k \in X$ satisfying $v_{xy_k} = v_k \in \Sigma_x X$ and $d_X(x, y_k) = \pi/2$. Since $\angle_x(y_k, y_l) = \pi$ for $k \neq l$ in this case, $\{y_k\}_{k=1,2,3} \subset X$ forms a π -discrete set in X . This is a contradiction to the assumption in Lemma 4.5. Hence, $\Sigma_x X$ is a circle for every $x \in X$.

Therefore, by Proposition 3.1, the space X is a 2-dimensional topological manifold. Similarly to the Proof of Theorem A, we can show that X is homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^2 . □

Lemma 4.6. *Let X be as in Theorem B. If $\#\{z_i\} = 3$ for some maximal π -discrete set $\{z_i\} \subset X$, then X is either homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^2 or isometric to $\mathbb{S}^2(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^2(1)_{\text{equator}}$.*

Proof of Lemma 4.6. In this case, by Proposition 2.6 and the assumption $\mathcal{H}^2(X) = (3/2)\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1))$, we also see that $\overline{B}_{z_i}(\pi/2; X)$ is isometric to $\mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^2(1)$ for each $i = 1, 2, 3$, and that $X = \cup\{\overline{B}_{z_i}(\pi/2; X) | i = 1, 2, 3\}$.

Next, we observe how $\overline{B}_{z_i}(\pi/2; X)$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, meet each other along their boundaries $\mathbb{S}_i^1(1) := \partial B_{z_i}(\pi/2; X)$.

Claim 4.7. $\overline{B}_{z_i}(\pi/2; X) \cap \overline{B}_{z_j}(\pi/2; X) = \mathbb{S}_i^1(1) \cap \mathbb{S}_j^1(1)$ is a nonempty subset of X for each $i \neq j$.

Proof. We here only verify that $\overline{B}_{z_i}(\pi/2; X) \cap \overline{B}_{z_j}(\pi/2; X) \neq \emptyset$ for each $i \neq j$.

Suppose that $\overline{B}_{z_i}(\pi/2; X) \cap \overline{B}_{z_j}(\pi/2; X) = \emptyset$ for some $i \neq j$. Then, for such i , we have $\overline{B}_{z_i}(\pi/2; X) \cap \overline{B}_{z_k}(\pi/2; X) \neq \emptyset$, in particular, we see that $\overline{B}_{z_i}(\pi/2; X) \cap \overline{B}_{z_k}(\pi/2; X)$ is a closed, convex subset isometric to $\mathbb{S}^1(1)$ since X is geodesically complete.

On the other hand, for such j , the set $\overline{B}_{z_j}(\pi/2; X) \cap \overline{B}_{z_k}(\pi/2; X)$ is also a closed, convex subset isometric to $\mathbb{S}^1(1)$, which yields a contradiction. \square

Now, the connected finite graph $\cup \mathbb{S}_i^1(1) = \cup \{\mathbb{S}_i^1(1) | i = 1, 2, 3\}$ equips the interior distance d_X because $\mathbb{S}_i^1(1)$ is isometrically embedded in X . Hence, the injectivity radius of $\cup \mathbb{S}_i^1(1)$ is not smaller than π .

Furthermore, the diameter of $\cup \mathbb{S}_i^1(1)$ is equal to π : Actually, we only verify the following essential case: Some points $x_i \in \mathbb{S}_i^1(1)$ and $x_j \in \mathbb{S}_j^1(1)$ satisfy $x_i \notin \mathbb{S}_j^1(1)$ and $x_j \notin \mathbb{S}_i^1(1)$. Then, by Claim 4.7, we have $x_i, x_j \in \mathbb{S}_k^1(1)$, and hence $d_X(x_i, x_j) \leq \pi$.

It is seen by Lemma 6.1 in [4] (cf. [6]) that such a graph $\cup \mathbb{S}_i^1(1)$ is isometric to either $\mathbb{S}^1(1)$ or $\mathbb{S}^1(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^1(1)_{\text{equator}}$.

If $\cup \mathbb{S}_i^1(1) = \mathbb{S}^1(1)$, then X is isometric to $\mathbb{S}^2(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^2(1)_{\text{equator}}$. If $\cup \mathbb{S}_i^1(1) = \mathbb{S}^1(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^1(1)_{\text{equator}}$, then X is homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^2 . This completes the Proof of Lemma 4.6. \square

Thereby, we have proved Theorem B. \square

5. Topological embeddings of CAT(κ)-spaces of dimension not greater than 2.

5.1. On the local structure of 2-dimensional spaces with curvature bounded above. The local structure of spaces with curvature bounded above has been studied by Burago and Buyalo [8], Kleiner [12], and others. We here observe the local structure of spaces of the Hausdorff dimension not greater than 2.

Let us denote by X a locally compact, geodesically complete Alexandrov space with curvature $\leq \kappa$ satisfying $X = \widehat{X}^2$. Then, we obtain the following:

Proposition 5.1. $X = \overline{X}^2 \cup \overline{X}^1 \cup \overline{X}^0$. In particular, $\overline{X}^2, \overline{X}^0$ are closed, and \overline{X}^1 is open in X .

A direction $v \in \Sigma_x X$ is said to be *isolated* if $\angle_x(u, v) = \pi$ for any $u \in \Sigma_x X$. In this case, the subset $\{v\}$ itself is a connected component of $\Sigma_x X$.

To show Proposition 5.1, we first study isolated directions:

Lemma 5.2. Let $x \in X$ be a point possessing an isolated direction $v \in \Sigma_x X$. Then, we have a positive number $\bar{t} = \bar{t}_{x,v} > 0$ satisfying the following: If γ_1 and γ_2 are minimizing geodesics emanating from x directed by v , then $\gamma_1(t) = \gamma_2(t)$ holds for any $t \in (0, \bar{t})$.

Proof. Suppose that this claim is not true. We may now assume the following: There exist $y_i, z_i, w_i \in X \setminus \{x\}$ with $y_i, z_i, w_i \rightarrow x$ such that:

- (i) $t_i := d_X(x, y_i) = d_X(x, z_i)$,
- (ii) $y_i \in xw_i, y_i \neq z_i$,
- (iii) $v = v_{xy_i} = v_{xz_i} = v_{xw_i} \in \Sigma_x X$.

Let $p_i \in X$ be a point with $z_i \in y_i p_i$ so that $d_X(y_i, p_i)$ is uniformly constant. Then, we may assume that there is $p_0 \neq x$ satisfying $p_i \rightarrow p_0, xp_i \rightarrow xp_0$, and $v_{xp_i} \rightarrow v_{xp_0} \in \Sigma_x X$. Since $\angle_x(y_i, z_i) = 0$, the inequality $\angle_{y_i}(w_i, p_i) \geq \pi/2 - \vartheta(t_i)$ follows from comparison geometry. Because $v \in \Sigma_x X$ is isolated, we have $\angle_x(y_i, p_0) = \pi$ from the upper semi-continuity of angles. The choice of p_i, p_0 implies that v_{xp_i}, v_{xp_0} are uniformly contained in the same connected component of $\Sigma_x X$, which also implies $\angle_x(y_i, p_i) = \pi$. Since $x \notin y_i p_i$, we obtain a contradiction. \square

Remark 5.3. Lemma 5.2 also holds independently of the assumption $X = \widehat{X}^2$.

Proof of Proposition 5.1. Let us consider the essential case $\overline{X}^0 = \emptyset$. Assume that we have a point $x \in X$ with $x \notin \overline{X}^2$. Then, since $X = \widehat{X}^2$, there exists $t > 0$ such that $\mathcal{H}^2(B_x(t; X)) = 0$. Because of the existence of the Lipschitz onto map

$$\log_x : B_x(t; X) \ni y \mapsto (v_{xy}, d_X(x, y)) \in B_\star(t; C_x X)$$

($\log_x(x) := \star$), we have $\mathcal{H}^1(\Sigma_x X) = 0$. This implies that $\Sigma_x X$ is composed of at most finitely many isolated points. Hence, by Lemma 5.2, we have $x \in \overline{X}^1$.

Furthermore, it is known by [15] that \overline{X}^2 is closed. Therefore, we obtain Proposition 5.1. \square

Next, we investigate the 2-dimensional part. Let us define

$$R_x^2(t) := \{y \in X \mid y \in \overline{X}^2, d_X(x, y) < t\},$$

$$\overline{R}_x^2(t) := \{y \in X \setminus \{x\} \mid v_{xy} \in (\overline{\Sigma_x X})^1, d_X(x, y) < t\} \cup \{x\}.$$

Lemma 5.4. *For any $x \in \overline{X}^2$, there exists a positive number $t_x > 0$ such that $R_x^2(t) = \overline{R}_x^2(t)$ for any $t \in (0, t_x)$.*

Proof. To show $R_x^2(t) \subset \overline{R}_x^2(t)$, suppose that we have some points $y_i, i = 1, 2, \dots$, converging to x with $y_i \in \overline{X}^2$ such that $v_{xy_i} \in \Sigma_x X$ are isolated. Since $\Sigma_x X$ is compact, we may assume $v_{xy_i} = v$ for some isolated direction v . Then, Lemma 5.2 yields that $y_i \in \overline{X}^1$ for any sufficiently large i , which is a contradiction.

On the other hand, suppose that we have a point $y \in \overline{R}_x^2(t)$ such that $y \notin \overline{X}^2$. Now, $y \in \overline{X}^1$ follows from Proposition 5.1. Then, the existence of

\log_x implies that v_{xy} is isolated, which is a contradiction. Hence, we obtain $\overline{R}_x^2(t) \subset R_x^2(t)$. □

We here claim the local convexity of the 2-dimensional part.

Proposition 5.5. *For any $x \in \overline{X}^2$, there exists $t_x > 0$ such that $R_x^2(t)$ is convex in X for any $t \in (0, t_x)$. In other words, \overline{X}^2 is locally convex in X .*

Proof. Suppose this claim is not true, i.e., suppose that there exist points $y_i, z_i \in \overline{X}^2$ with $y_i, z_i \rightarrow x$ such that we have a point $w_i \in y_i z_i \cap \overline{X}^1$.

If $x \notin y_i z_i$ for infinitely many i , then v_{xw_i} are isolated by Lemma 5.4. This implies that $\angle_x(y_i, w_i) = \pi$, which yields a contradiction.

If $x \in y_i z_i$ for infinitely many i , then without loss of generality we may assume that $w_i \neq x$ is contained in xy_i . Then, by Lemma 5.4, $v_{xy_i} = v_{xw_i} \in (\Sigma_x X)^1$, and hence $w_i \in \overline{X}^2$. This is a contradiction. We thus prove Proposition 5.5. □

Remark 5.6. Let $x \in \overline{X}^2$ be a point such that the space of directions $\Sigma_x X$ is composed of a circle and finitely many points. Then, by Propositions 3.1 and 5.5, we completely understand the local topological structure around x . Namely, $R_x^2(t)$ is homeomorphic to B^2 , and $B_x(t; X)$ is composed of $R_x^2(t)$ and the finitely many minimizing geodesics emanating from x directed by the isolated directions for sufficiently small $t > 0$. This proposition can be also proved by the results of Kleiner, Burago and Buyalo [8].

5.2. A topological embedding into CAT(1)-spaces of dimension ≤ 2 . Next, we prove the following which is a generalization of Theorem A:

Theorem 5.7. *Let X be a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space with $X = \widehat{X}^2$, $\overline{X}^2 \neq \emptyset$ satisfying $\mathcal{H}^2(X) < (3/2)\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1))$. Then, the compact, locally convex subset $Y := \overline{X}^2 \subset X$ is a Lipschitz manifold homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^2 . Moreover, Y is a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space with respect to the interior distance in Y .*

Proof. Now, we define $Y := \overline{X}^2$. Then, $\Sigma_x X$ is composed of a circle and at most finitely many points for every $x \in Y$ from the assumption $\mathcal{H}^2(X) < (3/2)\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1))$ and the same argument as that discussed in Propositions 3.6 and 3.8. Hence, by Remark 5.6, $R_x^2(t)$ is homeomorphic to B^2 , and $B_x(t; X)$ is the union of $R_x^2(t)$ and the finitely many minimizing geodesics emanating from x for sufficiently small $t > 0$. Therefore, we see that Y is a compact, 2-dimensional Lipschitz manifold without boundary.

Let us consider the interior distance d_Y in Y induced from d_X . Then, by Proposition 5.5, d_Y locally coincides with d_X . Hence, Y is an Alexandrov space with curvature ≤ 1 . Furthermore, for any $y_1, y_2 \in Y$ with $d_X(y_1, y_2) < \pi$, we have $d_Y(y_1, y_2) = d_X(y_1, y_2)$ from the CAT(1)-property of X . Since

$\text{InjRad}(Y) \geq \pi$, we can show that Y is a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space with $Y = \bar{Y}^2$ such that $\mathcal{H}^2(Y) < (3/2)\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1))$. Therefore, Theorem A implies Theorem 5.7. \square

Remark 5.8. The set Y as that stated in Theorem 5.7 is not necessarily globally convex in X since a minimizing geodesic in X joining $y_1, y_2 \in Y$ possibly passes through some 1-dimensional part.

6. Addendum from a topological view point

From the preceding observation, it is perspective to be shown that:

Conjecture 6.1. *For given positive integer $n \geq 3$, let X be a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space satisfying $X = \overline{X}^n$ and the following: $\mathcal{H}^n(X) < (3/2)\mathcal{H}^n(\mathbb{S}^n(1))$. Then, X is homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^n .*

The author does not know an example of X as in the assumption in 6.1, which is not homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^n .

Actually, by the arguments discussed above and the generalized Schoenflies theorem (cf. [21]), we can show the following which has been essentially proved by Coghlan and Itokawa [9]:

Theorem 6.2. *Let M be a compact, smooth Riemannian manifold of dimension n which is also a CAT(1)-space. Assume that the following holds: $\mathcal{H}^n(M) < (3/2)\mathcal{H}^n(\mathbb{S}^n(1))$. Then, M is homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^n .*

Also, in the previous section, Proposition 3.1 plays an important role to study spaces with curvature bounded above from a topological view point. As a natural question, we provide:

Conjecture 6.3. *Let $x \in X$ be a point in a locally compact, geodesically complete Alexandrov space with curvature $\leq \kappa$ such that $\Sigma_x X$ is homeomorphic to \mathbb{S}^{n-1} for given $n \geq 3$. Then, x has a neighborhood homeomorphic to some n -dimensional open disk.*

The essential part of the problem in 6.3 is to observe singular points with serious singularities because of Theorem 3.1 in [8].

For finite dimensional Alexandrov spaces with curvature bounded below, it is known that the proposition as in 6.3 is affirmative from Perelman’s stability theorem ([18]): For a given space, if the other space of the same dimension is sufficiently close to it with respect to d_{GH} , then they are homeomorphic.

Our problem in 6.3 is different from that of the stability theorem. Kleiner ([12]) points out that, in general, the stability theorem does not hold for locally compact, geodesically complete spaces with curvature bounded above (cf. Example 2.7 in [14]).

In fact, for an arbitrary $\epsilon > 0$, we can construct an example of compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space X_ϵ with $X_\epsilon = \overline{X}_\epsilon^2$ satisfying the following:

- (i) $\mathcal{H}^2(X_\epsilon) \in \left(2\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1)), 2\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1)) + \epsilon\right)$.
- (ii) X_ϵ admits no triangulation.
- (iii) X_ϵ converges to $\mathbb{S}^2(1) \sqcup \mathbb{S}^2(1)_{/equator}$ with respect to d_{GH} as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$.

Here, $\mathbb{S}^2(1) \sqcup \mathbb{S}^2(1)_{/equator}$ denotes the quotient space obtained by gluing $\mathbb{S}^2(1)$ and $\mathbb{S}^2(1)$ along their equators. This example X_ϵ can be constructed

by the similar way to that stated in Example 2.7 in [14]. Roughly speaking, the construction of X_ϵ is as follows:

First, we construct a region $C_\epsilon \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ as in Figure 3, composed of a sequence of quadrangles whose size tend to 0, surrounded by two piecewise broken curves c_ϵ and \bar{c}_ϵ joining p_ϵ and the limit point \hat{p}_ϵ , such that the lengths of c_ϵ and \bar{c}_ϵ is not greater than π , and that the area of C_ϵ is bounded above by $\vartheta(\epsilon)$.

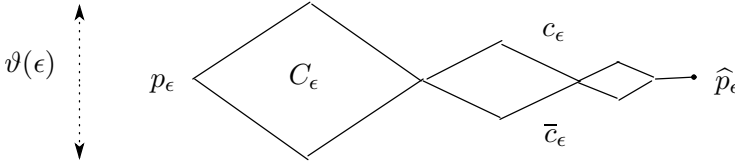


Figure 3. A region $C_\epsilon \subset \mathbb{R}^2$.

Next, we prepare a region $W_\epsilon^1 \subset \mathbb{S}^2(1) = \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^2(1) \sqcup \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^2(1)/_{\text{equator}}$ as in Figure 4 with its boundary ∂W_ϵ^1 such that:

- (i) $\mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^2(1)$ is a proper subset of W_ϵ^1 .
- (ii) The area of $W_\epsilon^1 \setminus \mathbb{H}\mathbb{S}^2(1)$ is bounded above by $\vartheta(\epsilon)$.
- (iii) Let us also prepare another three regions $W_\epsilon^i, i = 2, 3, 4$, isometric to W_ϵ^1 . If we choose an appreciate subarc $\tau_\epsilon^i (i = 1, 2, 3, 4)$ of ∂W_ϵ^i , then the quotient space $X_\epsilon := C_\epsilon \sqcup (\sqcup_{i=1}^4 W_\epsilon^i) / \sim$ made by the relations $\tau_\epsilon^1 = c_\epsilon = \tau_\epsilon^2$ and $\tau_\epsilon^3 = \bar{c}_\epsilon = \tau_\epsilon^4$ is a compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space.

To realize this, we must be careful of the “geodesic curvature” (in a generalized sense) of $c_\epsilon, \bar{c}_\epsilon, \tau_\epsilon^i$, and ∂W_ϵ^i .

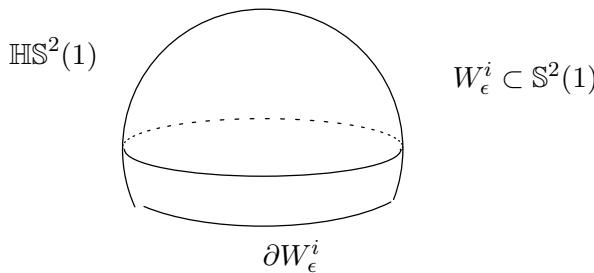


Figure 4. A region $W_\epsilon^i \subset \mathbb{S}^2(1)$.

In this way, we can obtain such a wild example X_ϵ which admits no triangulation around $\hat{p}_\epsilon \in C_\epsilon \subset X_\epsilon$. Furthermore, its construction implies that X_ϵ converges to $\mathbb{S}^2(1) \sqcup \mathbb{S}^2(1)/_{\text{equator}}$ with respect to d_{GH} as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$, and then, $\mathcal{H}^2(X_\epsilon) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1) \sqcup \mathbb{S}^2(1)/_{\text{equator}})$.

We hence mention that the following problem is still open:

Problem 6.4. Describe the homeomorphism type of a given, compact, geodesically complete CAT(1)-space X satisfying $X = \overline{X}^2$ and

$$\mathcal{H}^2(X) \in \left((3/2)\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1)), 2\mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{S}^2(1)) \right].$$

On the other hand, we can observe the number of the homotopy types of such CAT(1)-spaces. We now discuss it more generally as follows:

For given constants $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $V > 0$, and $R > 0$, let us denote by $\mathcal{A}(\kappa, n, V, R)$ the isometry classes of all compact, geodesically complete Alexandrov spaces with curvature $\leq \kappa$ such that $X = \overline{X}^n$, $\mathcal{H}^n(X) \leq V$, and that $\text{CAT}_\kappa \text{Rad}(x) \geq R$ for every $x \in X$.

For $X \in \mathcal{A}(\kappa, n, V, R)$, the compactness of X and the condition that $\text{CAT}_\kappa \text{Rad}(x) \geq R$ for every $x \in X$ guarantee the following ([20], cf. Lemma I.7A.15 in [7]): X is homotopy equivalent to a finite Euclidean simplicial complex K which is the nerve obtained by a finite covering

$$\mathcal{U} = \{B_{x_i}(R/10; X) \mid i \in I_X\}$$

of X such that $\{x_i\}_{i \in I_X}$ is a maximal $(R/20)$ -discrete set in X .

Now, by Proposition 2.6, the number of its covering I_X is bounded above by a constant depending only on κ, n, V , and R . Therefore, we have the following:

Proposition 6.5. *For given constants $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $V > 0$, and $R > 0$, the number of the homotopy types of $\mathcal{A}(\kappa, n, V, R)$ is bounded above by a constant depending only on κ, n, V , and R .*

In particular, the number of those of the isometry classes $\mathcal{C}(n, V)$ of CAT(1)-spaces defined in Section 1 is bounded above by a constant depending only on n and V .

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