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Divergence, thick groups, and morse geodesics

In a metric space the divergence of a pair of rays is a way to measure how quickly they separate from each other. Understanding what divergence rates are possible in the presence of non-positive curvature was raised as a question by Gromov and then refined by Gersten. We will describe a construction of groups with several interesting properties, some of which shed light on the above question. (This will be on joint work with Cornelia Drutu and with Mark Hagen.)