

Work of D. Kraus shows that every maximal conformal pseudo-metric with constant negative curvature and zeros of integer order is related to an essentially unique indestructible Blaschke product. These Blaschke products, which we call *maximal* Blaschke products, behave in many respects like infinite branched coverings of the unit disk and share many properties of canonical divisors in Bergman space theory. In this talk we discuss a number of properties of maximal Blaschke products including the solution of an old problem due to Heins, an analogue of the Duren–Khavinson–Shapiro–Sundberg theorem about analytic continuability of Bergman space inner functions and the semigroup property of maximal functions. Joint work with Daniela Kraus.