Kevin P. Scannell (scannell@slu.edu), Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, 63103. *Generalized bending laminations for hyperbolic n-manifolds.* Preliminary report.

Let Γ be a cocompact lattice in $SO(n,1)$. We are interested in the deformation theory of Γ when included into the larger group $SO(n+1,1)$ (the theory of quasi-Fuchsian groups when $n = 2$). First order deformations of this kind are parameterized by an appropriate cohomology group of Γ which, for $n > 2$, sometimes vanishes and sometimes does not. We present a construction of a geometric object in the hyperbolic manifold $\Gamma\backslash\mathbb{H}^n$ (generalizing measured geodesic laminations when $n = 2$) associated to a (not necessarily integrable) first order deformation. The construction for $n = 2$ was given by Geoff Mess in 1990.