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**Allan L. Edmonds\*** (edmonds@indiana.edu), Department of Mathematics, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, and **Steven Klee** (klees@seattleu.edu), Department of Mathematics, Seattle University, Seattle, WA 98122. *The combinatorics of hyperbolized manifolds.*

A topological version of a longstanding conjecture of H. Hopf, originally proposed by W. Thurston, states that the sign of the Euler characteristic of a closed aspherical manifold of dimension  $d = 2m$  depends only on the parity of  $m$ . Gromov defined several hyperbolization functors which produce an aspherical manifold from a given simplicial or cubical manifold. We investigate the combinatorics of several of these hyperbolizations and verify the Euler Characteristic Sign Conjecture for each of them. (Received December 03, 2012)