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**Gangotryi Sorcar\***, sorcar@math.binghamton.edu. *Non-contractibility of the Teichmüller space of negatively curved metrics on certain non-locally symmetric negatively curved manifolds.* Preliminary report.

My results concern certain manifolds  $M$  that are not hyperbolic, but support Riemannian metrics of negative curvature (Gromov-Thurston branched covers), in other words manifolds that do not have the homotopy type of a locally symmetric space and prove that  $\mathcal{T}^\infty(M)$  is non contractible by constructing a non trivial element in  $\pi_1(\mathcal{T}^\infty(M))$ , where  $\mathcal{T}^\infty(M)$  denotes the Teichmüller space of all negatively curved Riemannian metrics on  $M$ , which is the quotient space of the space of all negatively curved Riemannian metrics on  $M$  modulo the space of all isotopies of  $M$  that are homotopic to the identity. (Received September 17, 2013)