Abstract. Let M be a manifold (with boundary) of dimension ≥ 3, such that its interior admits a hyperbolic metric of finite volume. We discuss the possible limits arising from sequences of relative fundamental cycles approximating the simplicial volume $\|M, \partial M\|$, using ergodic theory of unipotent actions. As applications, we extend results of Jungreis and Calegari from closed hyperbolic to finite-volume hyperbolic manifolds:

a) Strict subadditivity of simplicial volume with respect to isometric glueing along geodesic surfaces, and

b) nontriviality of the foliated Gromov norm for "most" foliations with two-sided branching.