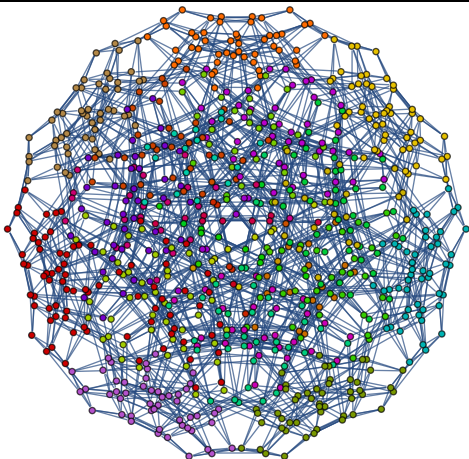

Cluster Algebra Structures for Scattering Amplitudes in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ Super Yang-Mills



Daniel PARKER

Berkeley PHYSICS

2 November 2015

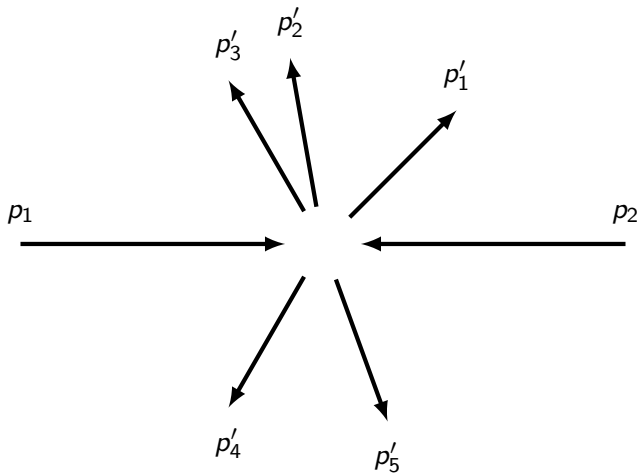
Acknowledgements

- ▶ Undergraduate thesis advisor:
Prof. Anastasia Volovich, Brown University Physics
- ▶ Team: Prof. Marcus Spradlin, Brown University Physics,
Adam Scherlis, Physics PhD Candidate Stanford University
- ▶ Paper: *Hedgehog Bases for A_n Cluster Polylogarithms and An Application to Six-Point Amplitudes*
 - ▶ arXiv: 1507.01950
 - ▶ Journal of High Energy Physics, to appear.
- ▶ Dr. John Golden, Prof. Alexander Goncharov
- ▶ The amplitudes community.

Scattering Amplitudes

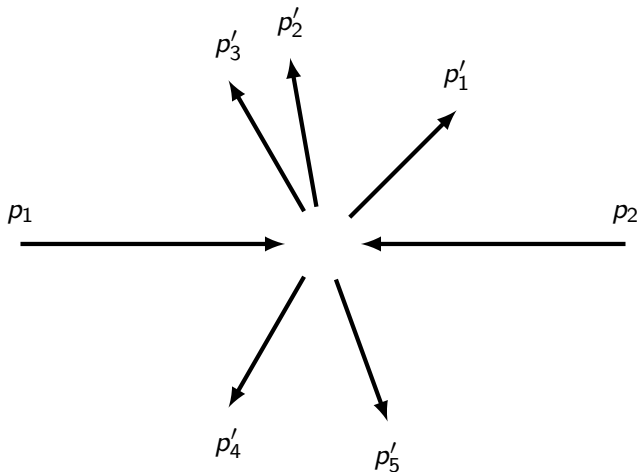


Scattering Amplitudes



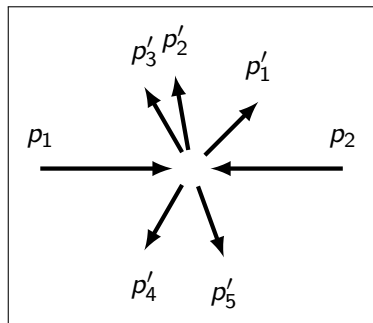
Scattering Amplitudes

If p_1 and p_2 go in, what is the *probability* of getting p'_1, \dots, p'_5 out?



Scattering Amplitudes

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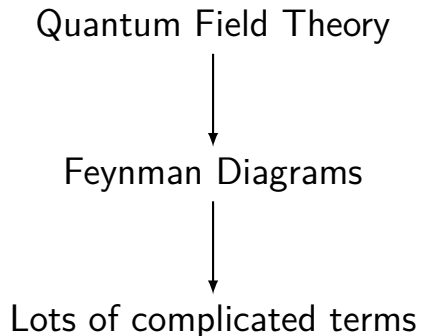
\implies

Scattering Amplitude

$$\mathcal{A}(p_1, p_2; p'_1, p'_2, p'_3, p'_4, p'_5)$$

$$\mathcal{A} : \mathbb{M}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

Computing Amplitudes



GSVV Formula

$$R_6^{(2)}(u_1, u_2, u_3) = \sum_{i=1}^3 \left(L_4(x_i^+, x_i^-) + \frac{1}{2} \text{Li}_4 \left(1 - \frac{1}{u_i} \right) \right) - \frac{1}{8} \left(\sum_{i=1}^3 \text{Li}_2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{u_i} \right) \right)^2 + \frac{1}{24} J^4 + \frac{\pi^2}{12} J^2 + \frac{\pi^4}{72}$$

where

$$L_4(x^+, x^-) = \frac{1}{8!!} \log(x^+ x^-)^4 + \sum_{m=0}^3 \frac{(-1)^m}{(2m)!!} \log(x^+ x^-)^m (\ell_{4-m}(x^+) + \ell_{4-m}(x^-))$$

as well as

$$\ell_n = \frac{1}{2} \left(\text{Li}_n(x) - (-1)^n \text{Li}_n \left(\frac{1}{x} \right) \right) \quad \text{and} \quad J = \sum_{i=1}^3 \left(\ell_1(x_i^+) - \ell_1(x_i^-) \right).$$

Computing Amplitudes

Quantum Field Theory

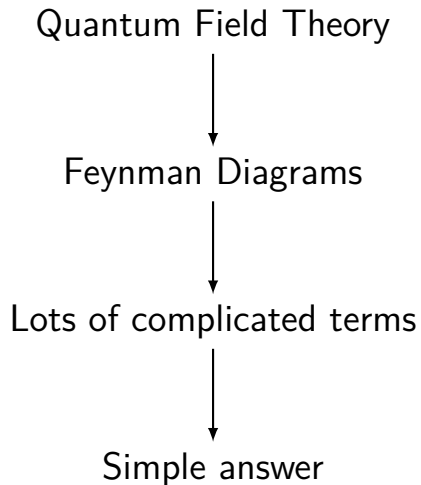


Feynman Diagrams

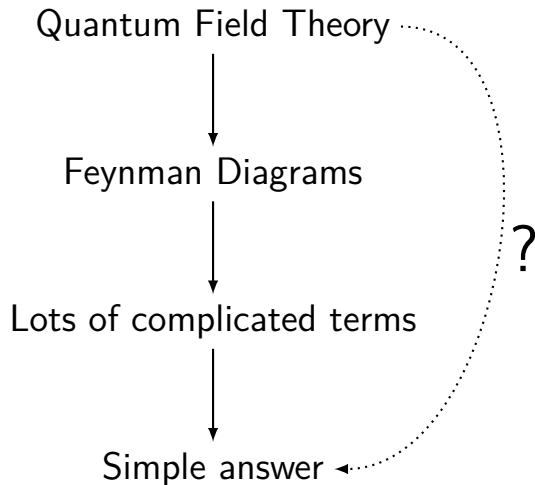


Lots of complicated terms

Computing Amplitudes



Computing Amplitudes



Theme

Particular scattering amplitudes in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ Super Yang-Mills can be written as sums of **polylogarithms** in variables with a **cluster algebra** structure.

$$“\mathcal{A}(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \sum G(x_i, x_j, \dots, x_k; x_\ell)”$$

Classical Polylogarithms

What are **polylogarithms**?

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Then iterate the integral:

$$\text{Li}_k(z) = \int_0^z \text{Li}_{k-1}(w) \frac{dw}{w} = \int_0^z \int_0^{w_n} \cdots \int_0^{w_2} \frac{dw_1}{1-w_1} \frac{dw_2}{w_2} \cdots \frac{dw_n}{w_n}.$$

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These are *classical* polylogarithms.

Generalized Polylogarithms

Scattering amplitudes involve **Goncharov polylogarithms**.

The base cases is

$$G(a_1; a_2) = \int_0^{a_2} \frac{dt}{t - a_1}.$$

The rest are defined recursively by

$$\begin{aligned} G(a_1, \dots, a_k; a_{k+1}) &= \int_0^{a_{k+1}} G(a_2, \dots, a_k; w_k) \frac{dw_k}{w_k - a_1} \\ &= \int_0^{a_{k+1}} \int_0^{w_k} \dots \int_0^{w_2} \frac{dw_1}{w_1 - a_1} \frac{dw_2}{w_2 - a_2} \dots \frac{dw_n}{w_n - a_k}. \end{aligned}$$

These are related by

$$\text{Li}_k(z) = G(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{k-1}, 1, z).$$

Cluster Algebras

Cluster Algebras are a new area of mathematics.

- ▶ Discovered in 2002 by Fomin and Zelevinsky.
- ▶ A new and exciting field!
- ▶ Applications to dozens of areas, including physics.

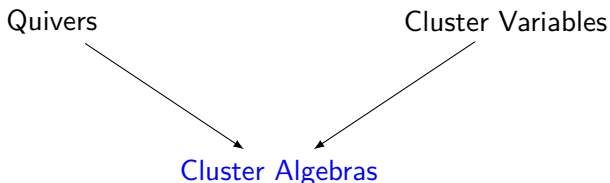
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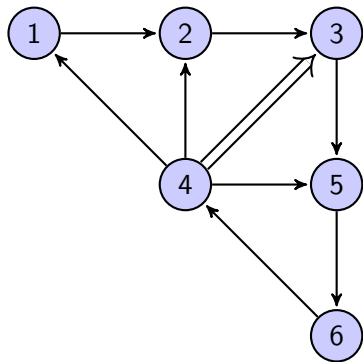


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Quivers

Quivers are directed graphs.

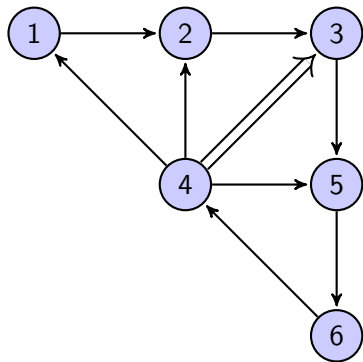


Quivers

Quivers are directed graphs.

Quiver Mutation on node k

1. Complete all triangles $i \rightarrow k \rightarrow j$.
2. Reverse arrows into or out of k .
3. Remove new 2-cycles.

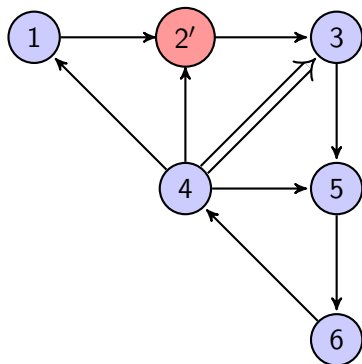


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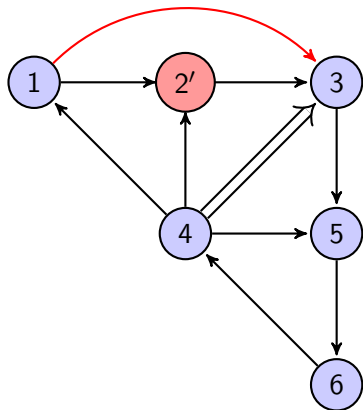


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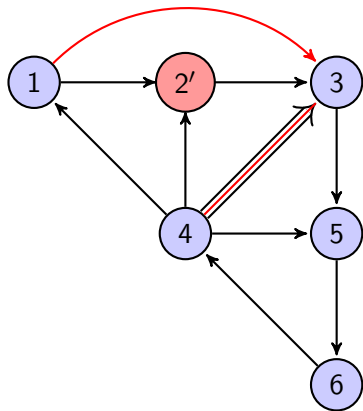


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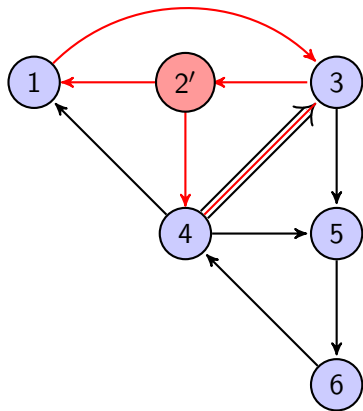


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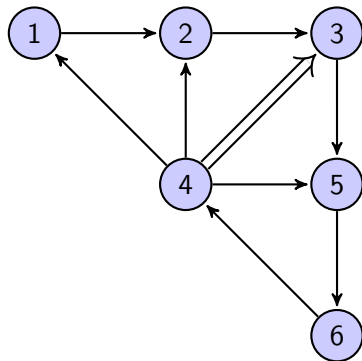
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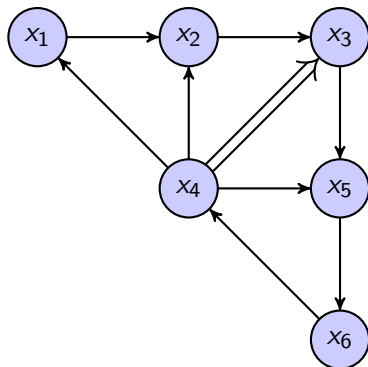
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Attach **cluster variables** to nodes.



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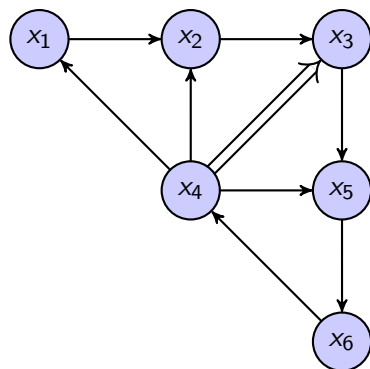
Attach **cluster variables** to nodes.

Cluster Variable Mutation on node k :

$$x'_i = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x_k} & i = k \\ x_i \left(1 + x_k^{\text{sgn } b(i,k)}\right)^{b(i,k)} & i \neq k \end{cases}$$

where

$$b(i, k) = \# \text{arrows from } i \text{ to } k.$$



Cluster Variables

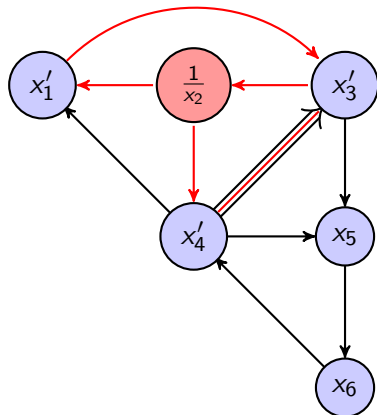
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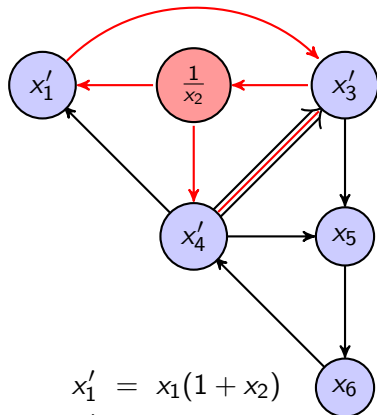
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$$x'_1 = x_1(1 + x_2)$$

$$x'_3 = x_3(1 + x_2)$$

$$x'_4 = x_4(1 + x_2^{-1})$$

Cluster Variables

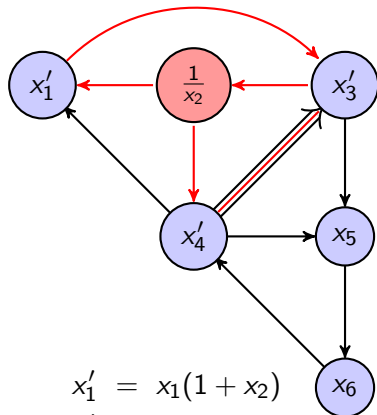
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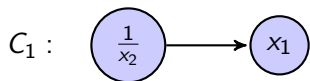
$$x'_4 = x_4 \left(1 + x_2^{-1}\right)$$

Cluster Algebras

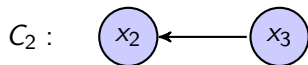
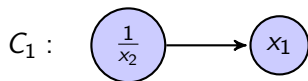
Cluster Algebras are defined iteratively.

1. Choose an initial quiver labelled with cluster variables.
2. Form new clusters by mutating on all nodes.
3. Repeat until no new clusters appear.

The A_2 Cluster Algebra

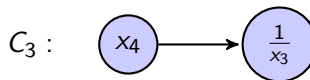
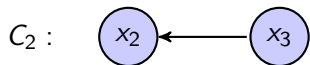
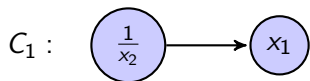


The A_2 Cluster Algebra



$$x_3 = x_1 \left(1 + \left(\frac{1}{x_2} \right)^{-1} \right)^{-1} = \frac{x_1}{1+x_2}$$

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The A_2 Cluster Algebra

$$C_1 : \left(\frac{1}{x_2} \right) \longrightarrow x_1$$

$$C_2 : x_2 \longleftarrow x_3$$

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$$x_6 = \frac{1}{x_4} \left(1 + x_5^{-1} \right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{x_1}$$

$$x_7 = x_5 \left(1 + x_1 \right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{x_2}$$

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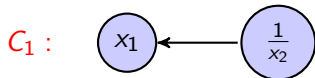
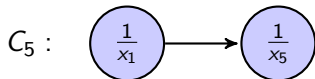
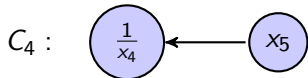
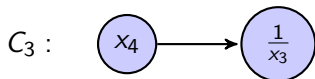
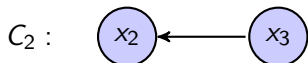
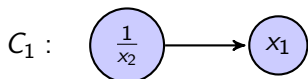
$$x_7 = x_5 \left(1 + x_1 \right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{x_2}$$

A_2 Exchange Graph

Exchange graph: join two clusters with an edge if you can mutate between them.

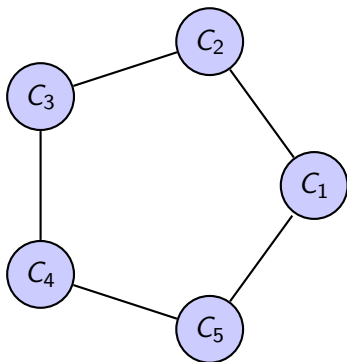
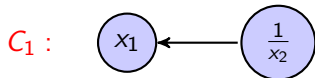
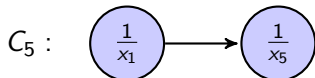
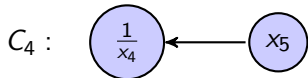
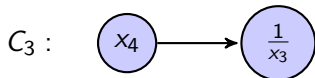
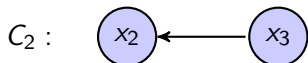
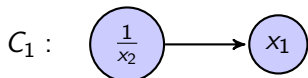
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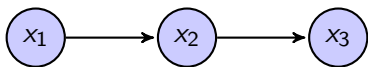


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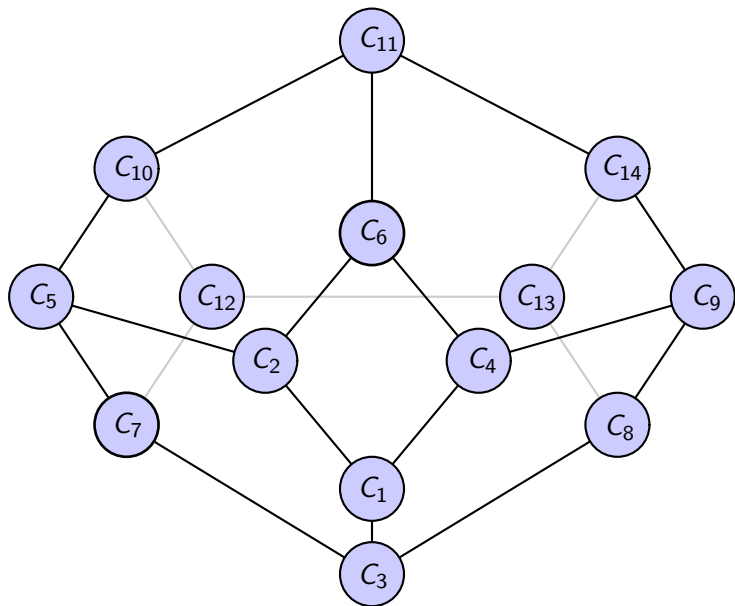
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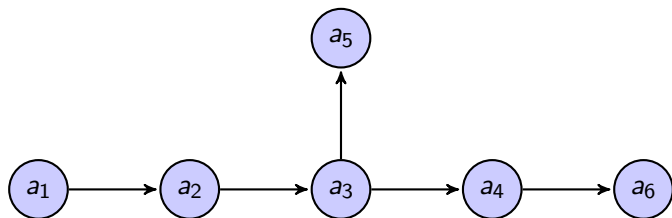
A_3 Exchange Graph



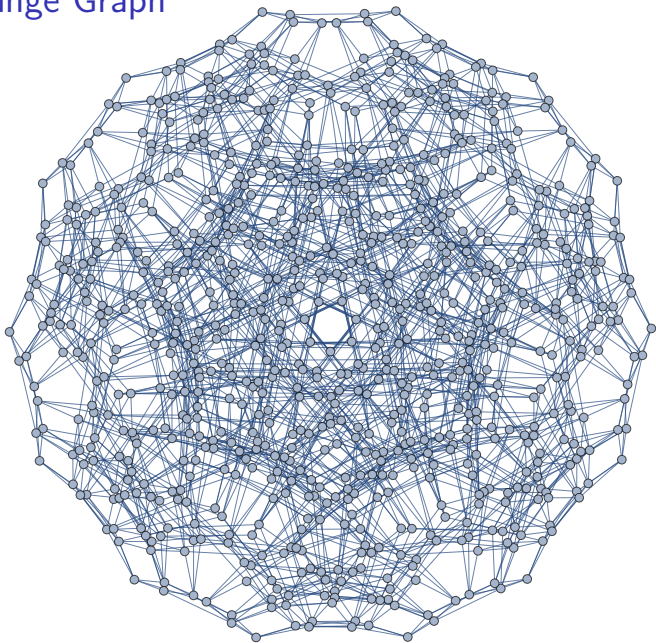
A_3 Exchange Graph



E_6 Exchange Graph



E_6 Exchange Graph



Theme Redux

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Theme Redux

Particular scattering amplitudes in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ Super Yang-Mills can be written as sums of **polylogarithms** in variables with a **cluster algebra** structure.

$$“\mathcal{A}(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \sum G(x_i, x_j, \dots, x_k, x_\ell)”$$

How are the x_i 's and p_i 's related?

The p_i 's are 4-momenta, vectors in Minkowski space. Amplitudes are defined on a complicated subvariety of \mathbb{M}^n :

$$K_n = \left\{ (p_1, \dots, p_n) \in \mathbb{M}^n : \sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 0, p_k^2 = 0 \quad \forall 1 \leq k \leq n \right\}.$$

Easier to complexify and compactify Minkowski space:

$$K_n \hookrightarrow \mathbf{Gr}(4, n) / ((\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-1})$$

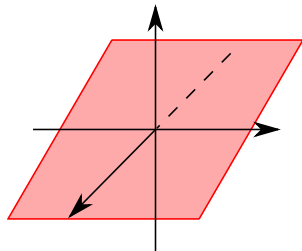
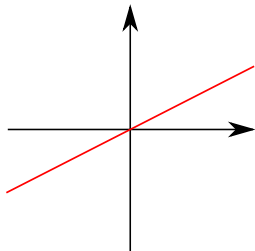
where $\mathbf{Gr}(k, n)$ is the **Grassmannian**: the set of k -plane in (real or complex) n -dimensional space.

We promote scattering amplitudes to complex-valued functions on this Grassmannian quotient.

Grassmannians

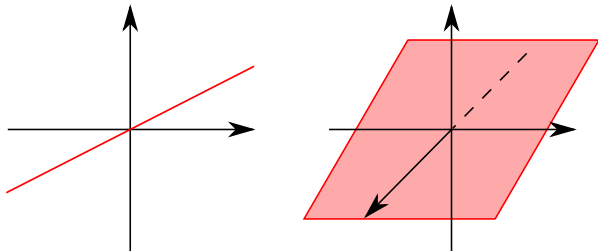
Grassmannians

- ▶ $\mathbf{Gr}(1, 2)$ is the set of lines through $(0, 0)$ in a plane
- ▶ $\mathbf{Gr}(2, 3)$ is the set of planes through $(0, 0, 0)$ in 3D space



Grassmannians

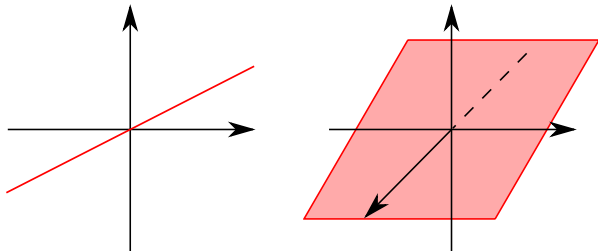
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- ▶ There is a **cluster algebra** associated with $\mathbf{Gr}(k, n)$

Grassmannians

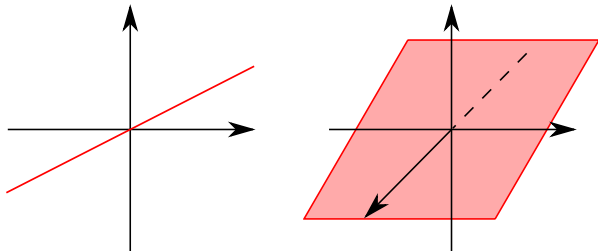
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- ▶ **Cluster variables** describe the orientation of a k -plane

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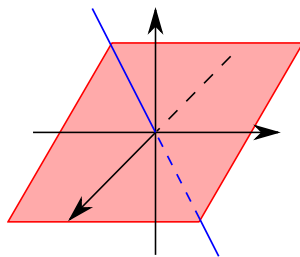
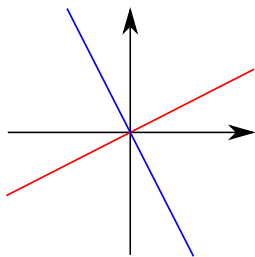


- ▶ There is a **cluster algebra** associated with $\mathbf{Gr}(k, n)$
- ▶ **Cluster variables** describe the orientation of a k -plane
- ▶ $\mathbf{Gr}(1, 2) \cong A_1$: Two clusters $\{m\}, \{1/m\}$

Grassmannians

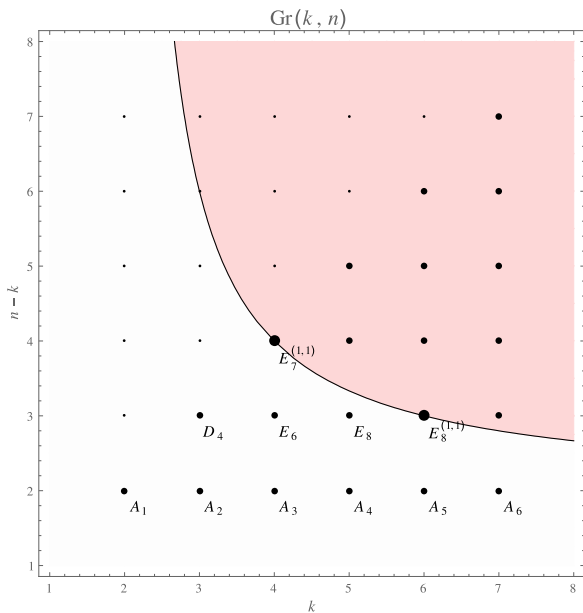
Grassmannians

- ▶ Orthogonal complement: k -planes $\leftrightarrow (n - k)$ -planes
- ▶ $\mathbf{Gr}(k, n) \cong \mathbf{Gr}(n - k, n)$

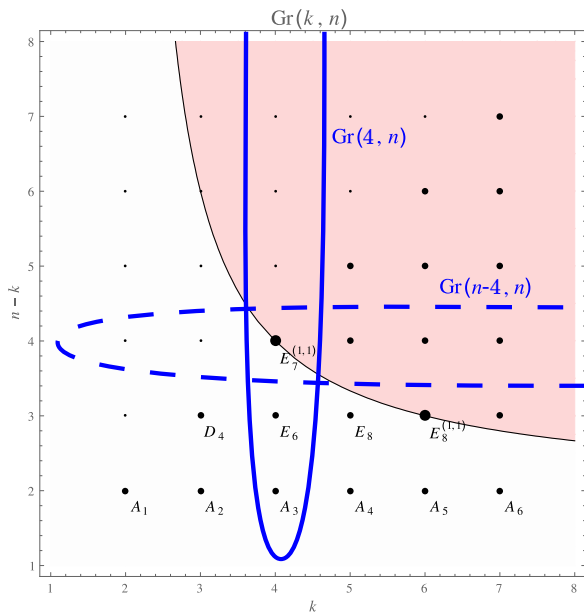


- ▶ $\mathbf{Gr}(1, 2) \cong \mathbf{Gr}(1, 2)$
- ▶ $\mathbf{Gr}(2, 3) \cong \mathbf{Gr}(1, 3)$

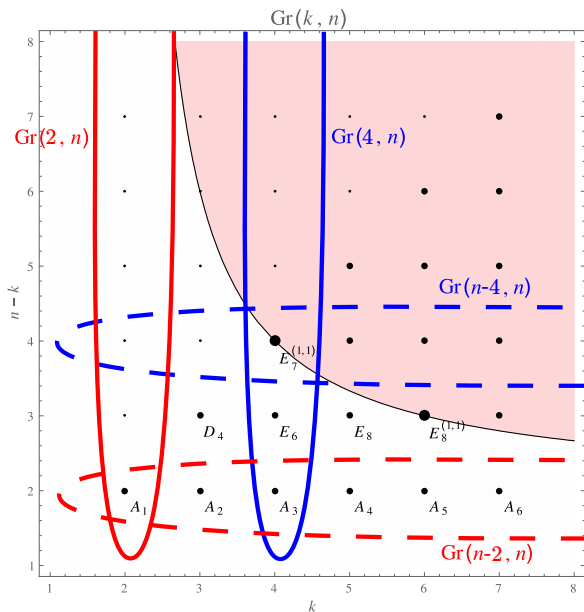
The Cluster Algebra of $\mathbf{Gr}(k, n)$



The Cluster Algebra of $\mathbf{Gr}(4, n)$



The Cluster Algebra of $\mathbf{Gr}(2, n + 3) \cong A_n$



Theme Redux

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$$\mathcal{A}(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \sum G(\dots, x_i, \dots, x_j, \dots)$$

where x_i is a cluster variable for the $\mathbf{Gr}(4, n)$ cluster algebra.

Central Question

Question (physicists): what possible terms can appear?

$$“\mathcal{A}(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \sum G(\dots, x_i, \dots, x_j, \dots)”$$

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$$“\mathcal{A}(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \sum G(\dots, x_i, \dots, x_j, \dots)”$$

Question (mathematicians): what is the structure of the space of **cluster polylogarithm** functions

$$\mathcal{A}_n = \left\{ \mathcal{A} : \mathbf{Gr}(4, n) / ((\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-1}) \xrightarrow{\text{cluster algebra}} \mathbb{C}^n \xrightarrow{\text{polylog}} \mathbb{C} \right\}?$$

Can we find a “basis”?

Cliques

$$\text{“}\mathcal{A}(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \sum G(\dots, x_i, \dots, x_j, \dots)\text{”}$$

Which x_i or $\frac{1}{x_i}$ can actually appear? The **rule** is *the difference must factor*:

$$x_i - x_j = \prod_k x_k^{c_k}, \quad \forall x_i, x_j$$

where $c_k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and k indexes all cluster variables for **Gr**(4, n).

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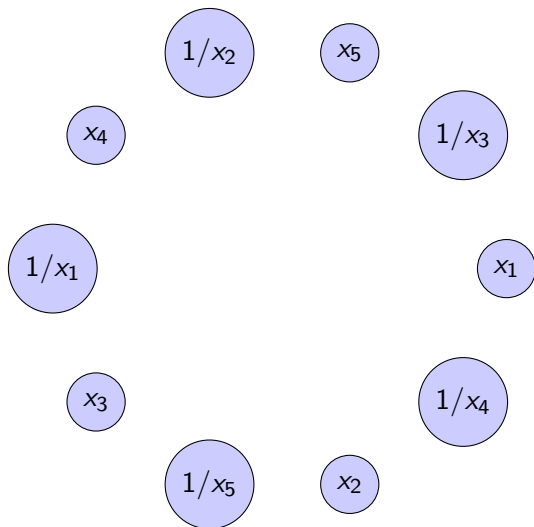
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where $c_k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and k indexes all cluster variables for **Gr**(4, n).

A **clique** is a maximal set of compatible x_i 's.

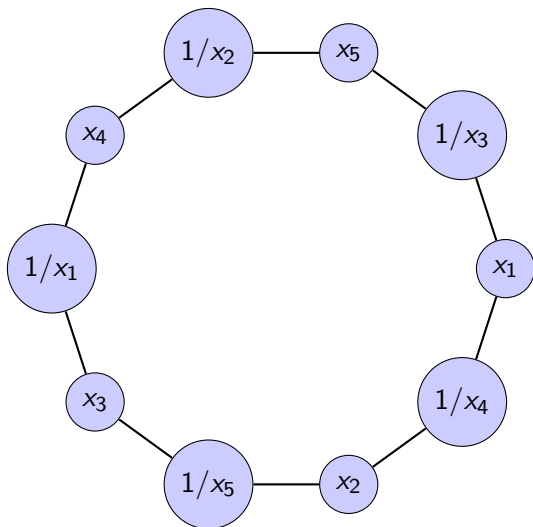
The Factorization Graph

Vertices: all x_i and $y_i = \frac{1}{x_i}$ for a cluster algebra. Connect x_i and x_j if $x_i - x_j$ factors.



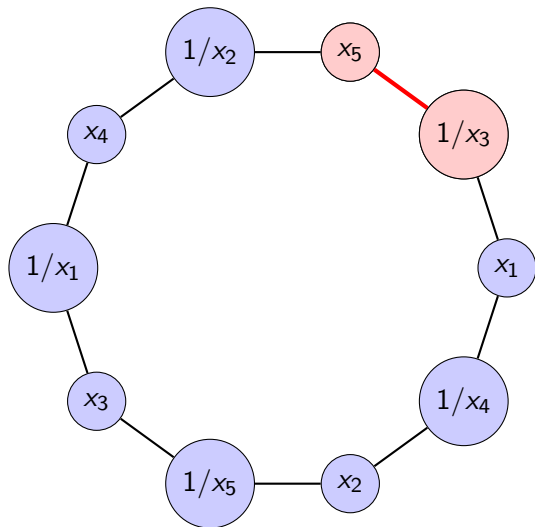
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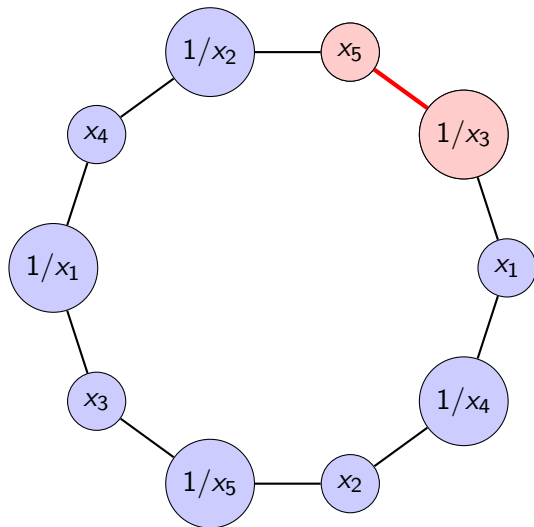
Cliques

What does this mean?



Cliques

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Permitted polylogs:

$$G(1/x_3; x_5)$$

$$G(x_5; 1/x_3)$$

$$G(1/x_3, 1/x_3; 1/x_3)$$

$$G(1/x_3, 1/x_3; x_5)$$

$$G(1/x_3, x_5; x_5)$$

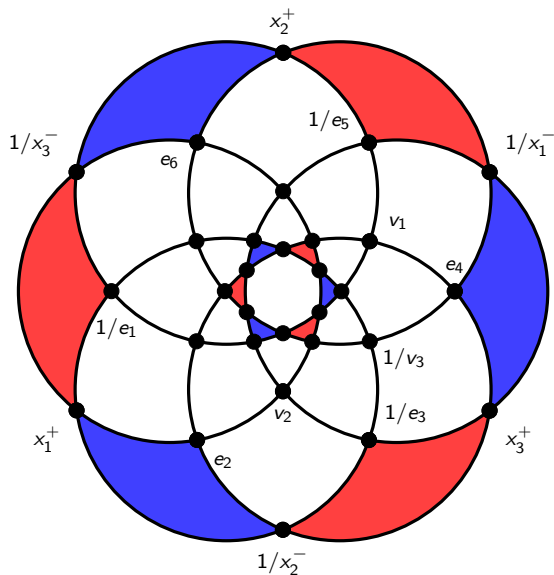
$$G(x_5, x_5; 1/x_3)$$

$$G(x_5, 1/x_3; 1/x_3)$$

$$G(x_5, 1/x_3; x_5)$$

⋮

Cliques for the A_3 Cluster Algebra



Cluster Variables:

$$\{x_k^\pm, e_k, v_k : 1 \leq k \leq 3\}$$

Cliques:

$$\{1/x_1^-, x_2^+, 1/e_5\}$$

$$\{1/x_3^-, x_2^+, e_6\}$$

$$\{1/x_3^-, x_1^+, 1/e_1\}$$

etc.

Brown's Theorem

Francis Brown worked on regular functions over the moduli space of marked points on the Riemann sphere, $\mathfrak{M}_{0,n}$. Correspondance:

$$A_n \text{ cluster algebra} \longleftrightarrow \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{M}_{0,n+3}]$$

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Theorem (Brown): If there is a clique of size n in the A_n cluster algebra, then there exists a minimal algebraic generating set for the space of cluster polylogarithms \mathcal{A} .

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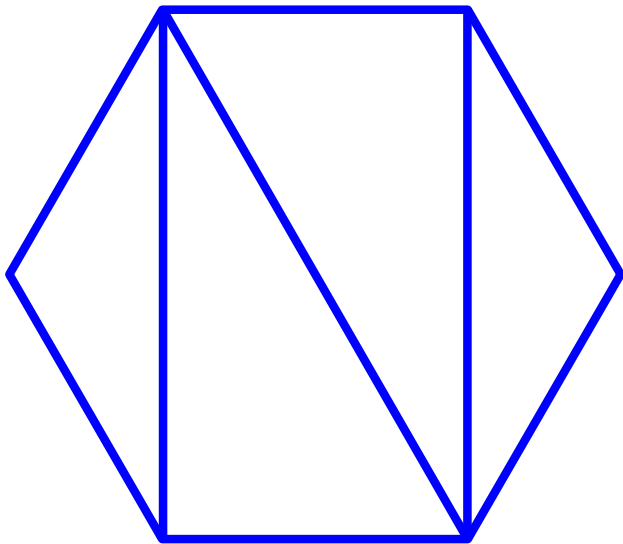
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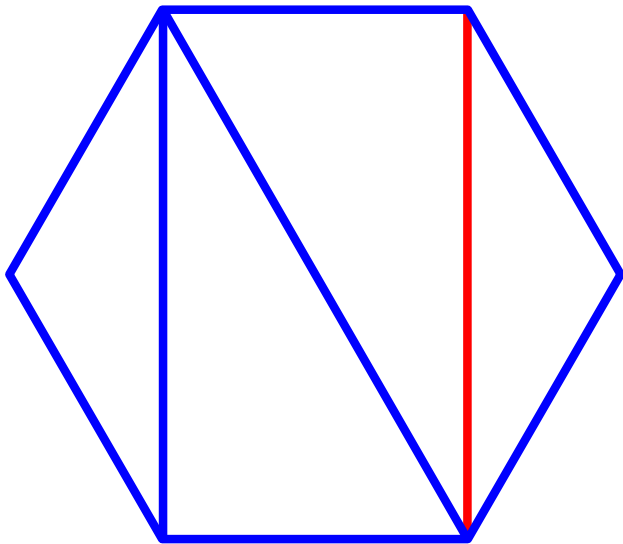
Clique \longrightarrow “Basis” \longrightarrow Cluster Polylogs \longrightarrow Scattering Amplitudes

All we need is one n -clique!

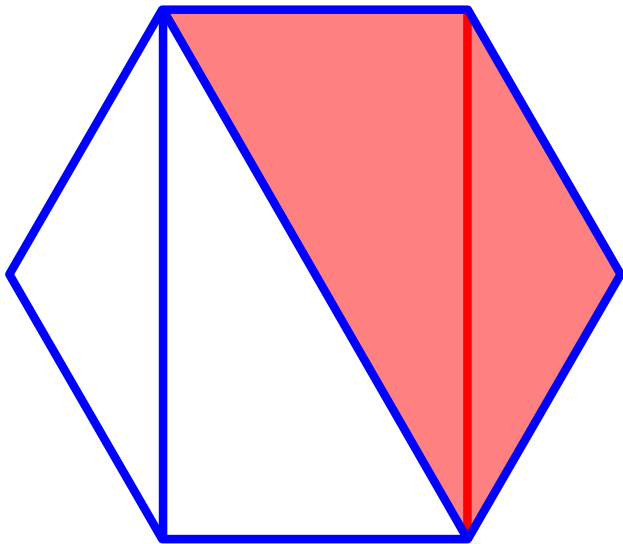
Triangulations



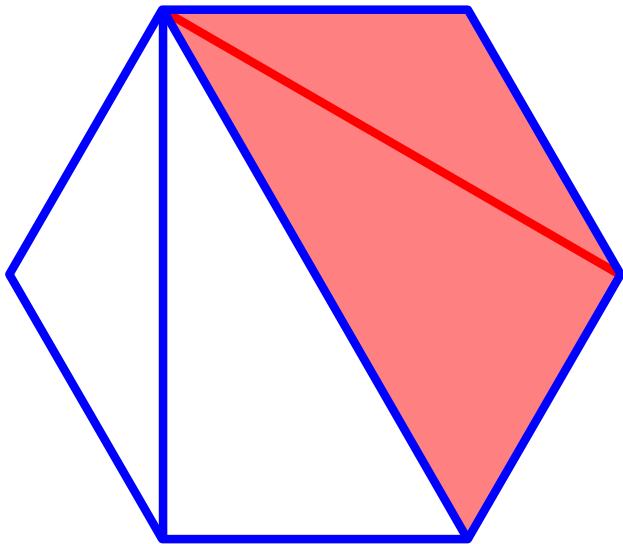
Triangulations



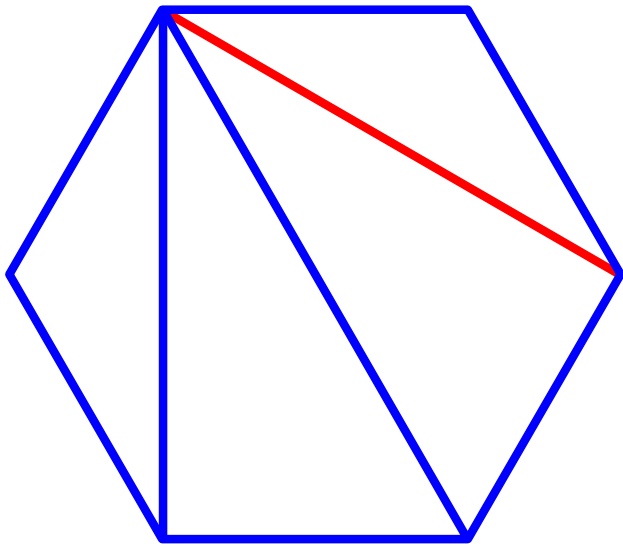
Triangulations



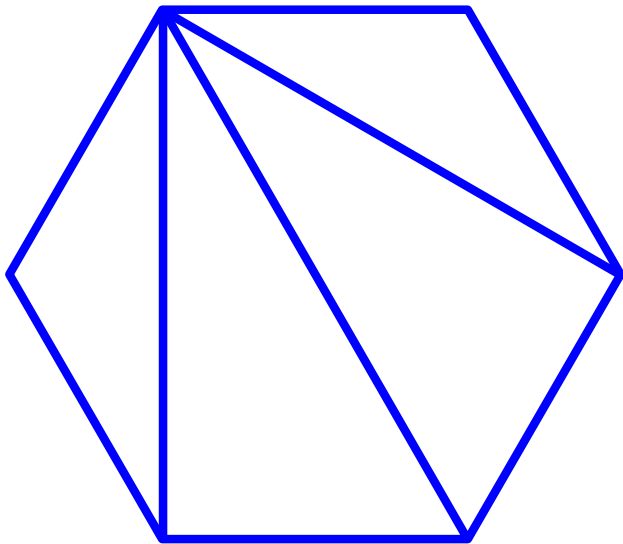
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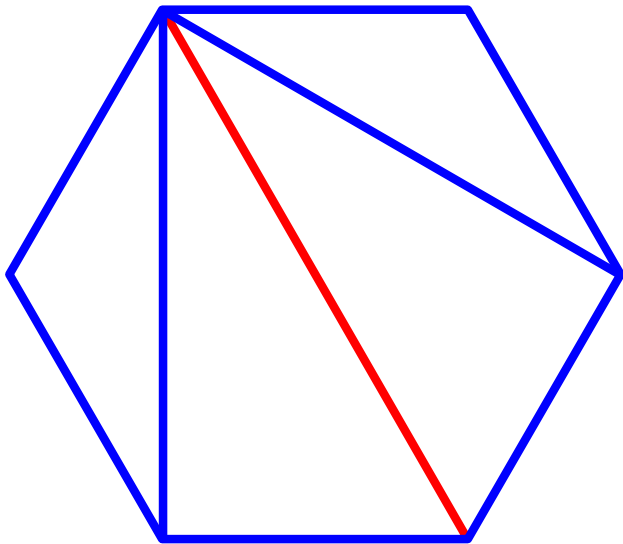
Triangulations



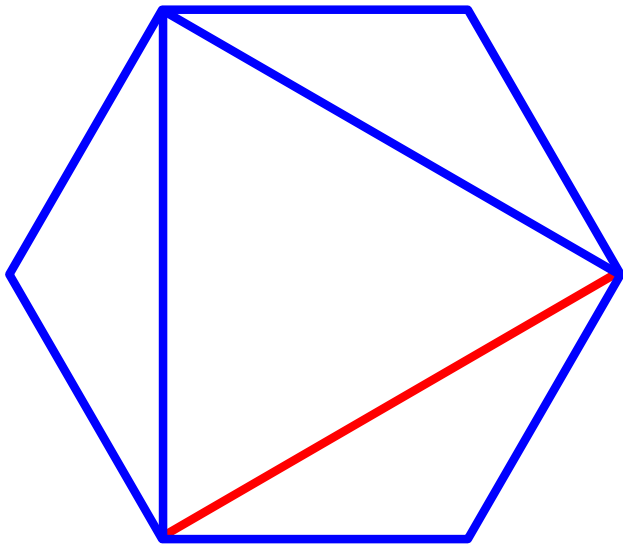
Triangulations



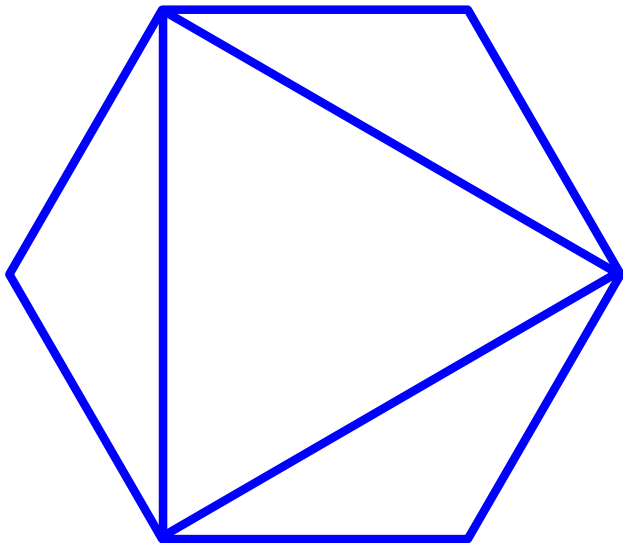
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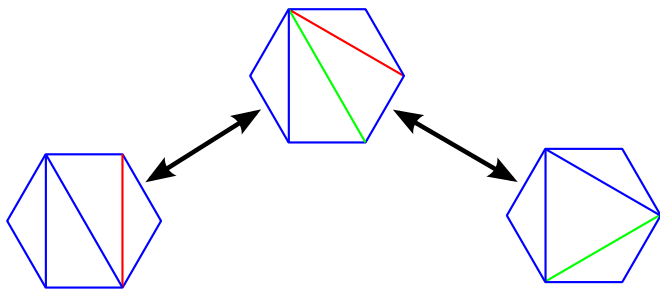
Triangulations



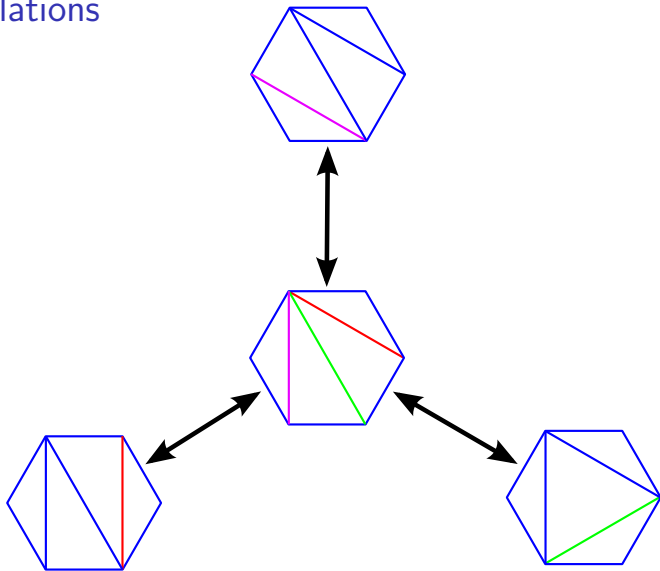
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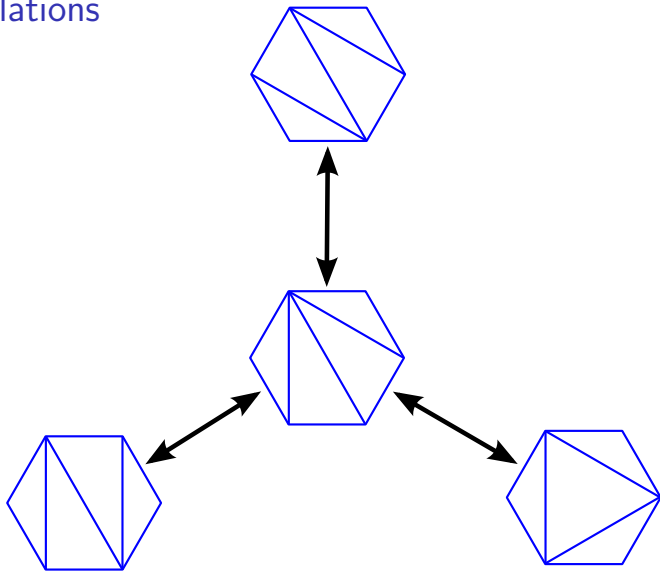
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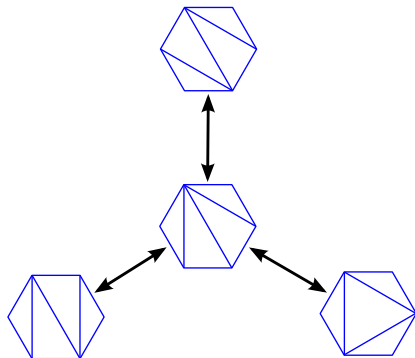
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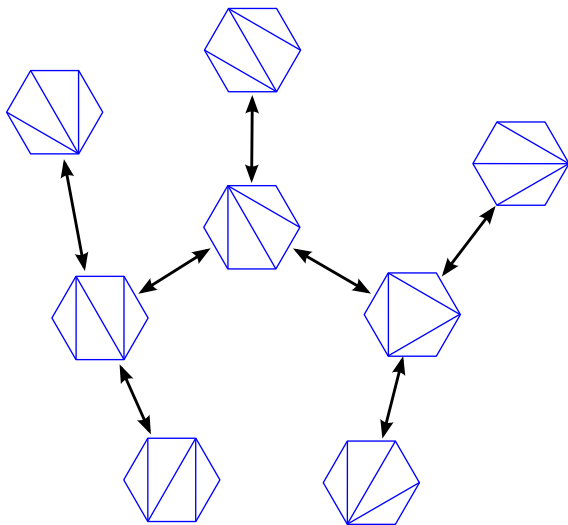
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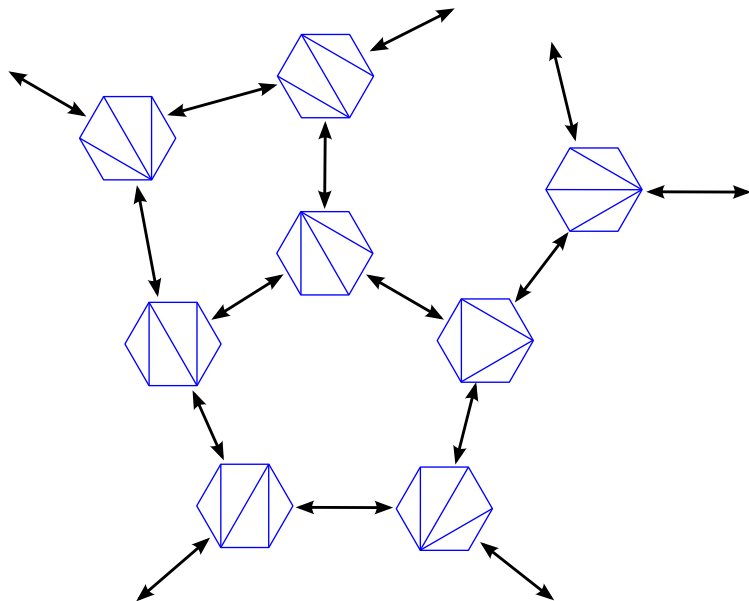
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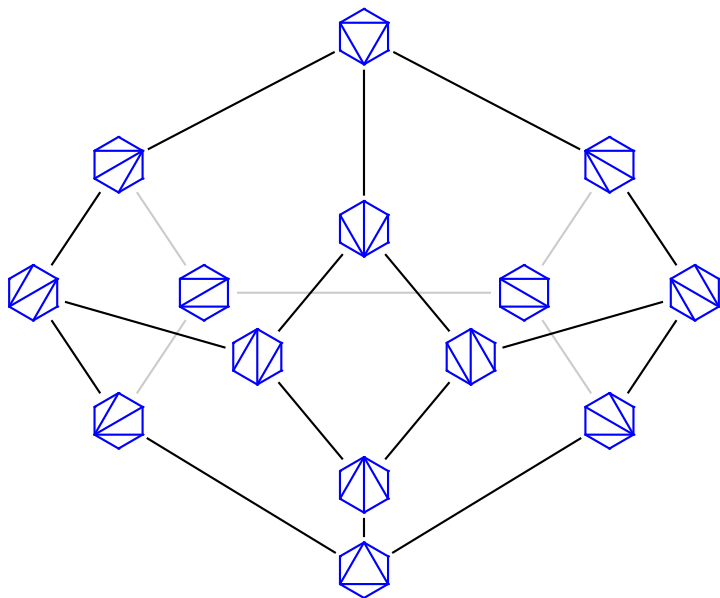
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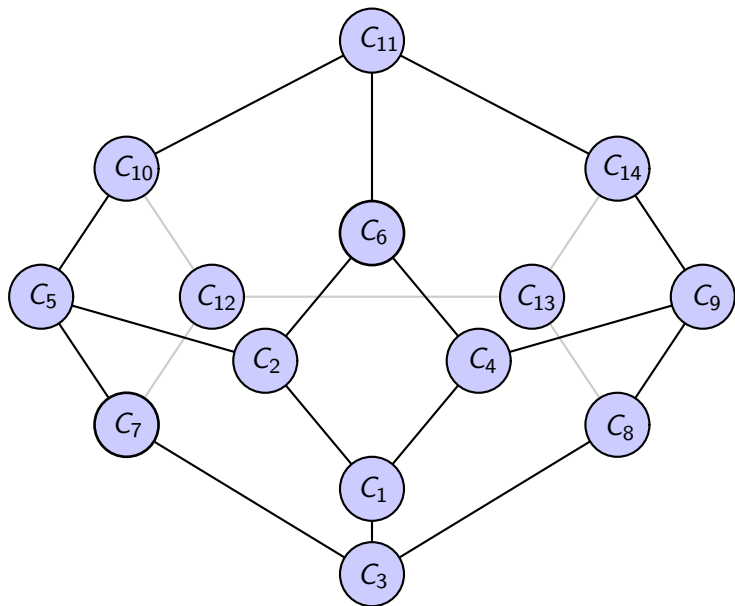
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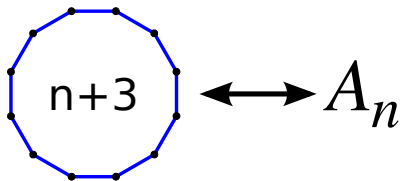
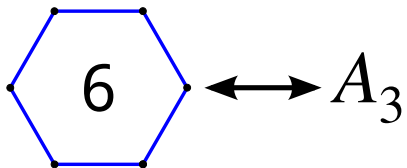
The Hexagon Triangulation Graph



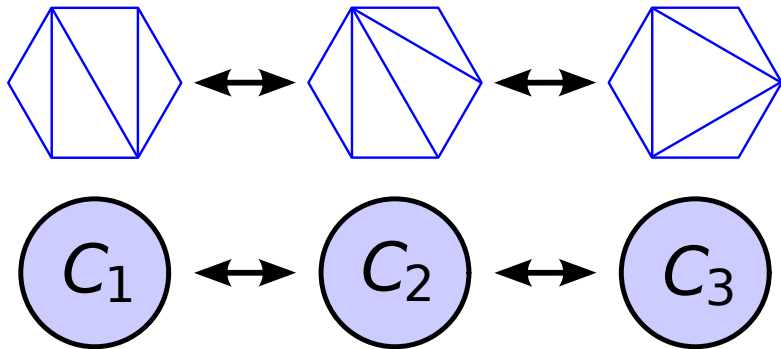
The A_3 Exchange Graph



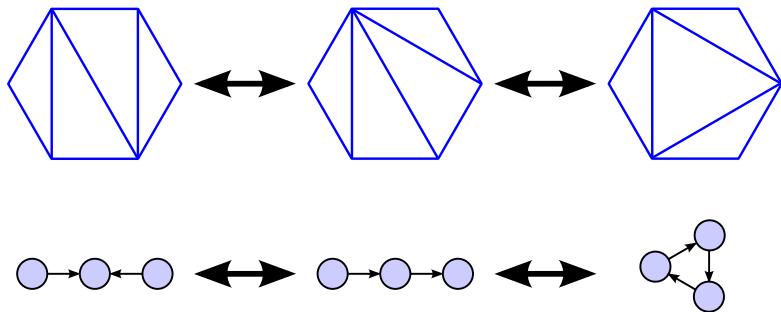
Triangulations and A_n



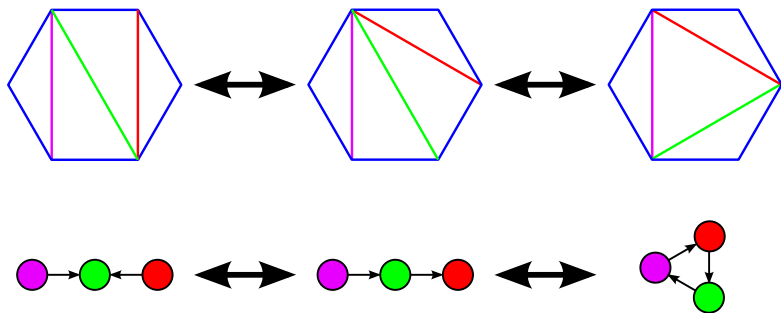
Triangulations and A_n



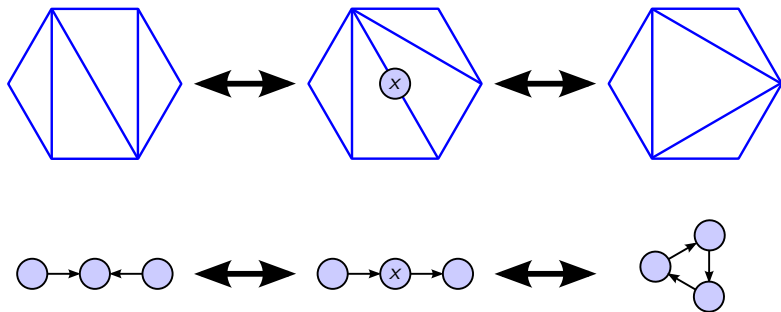
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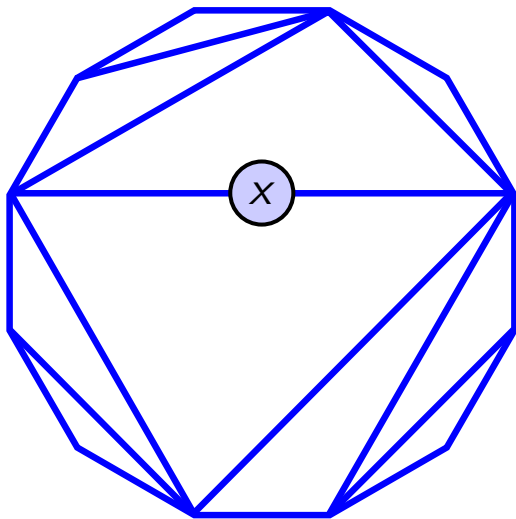
Triangulations and A_n



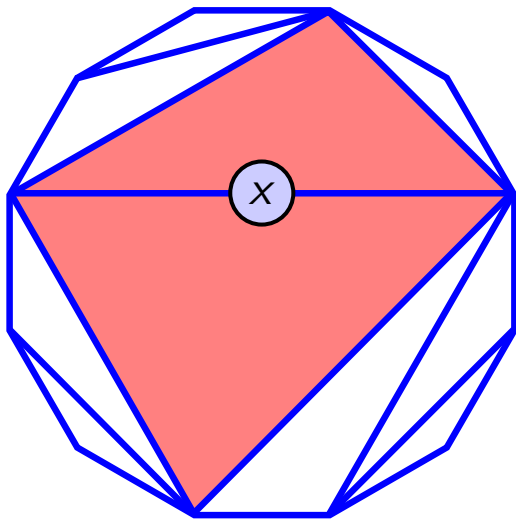
Triangulations and Cluster Variables



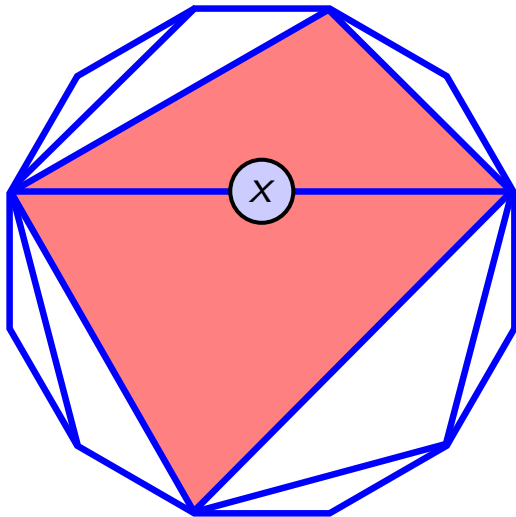
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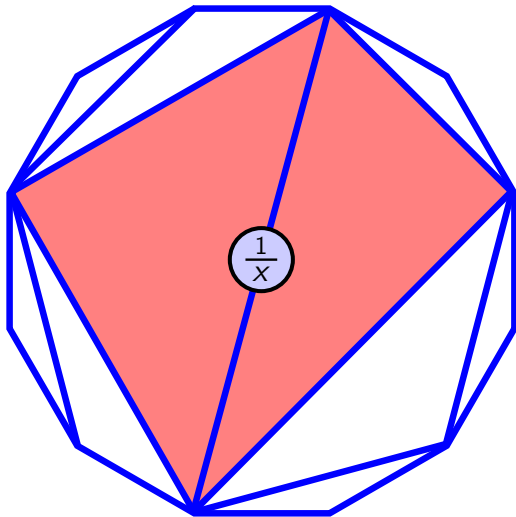
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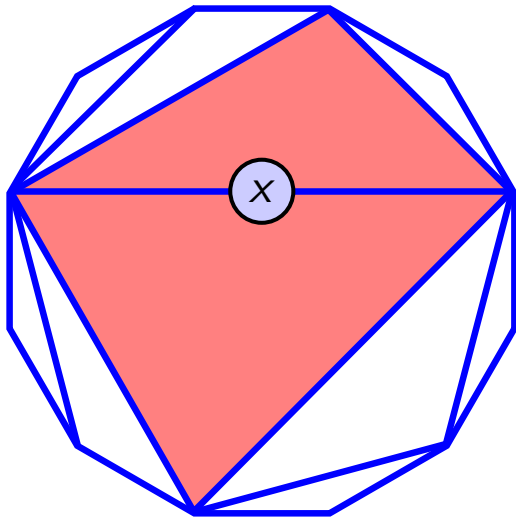
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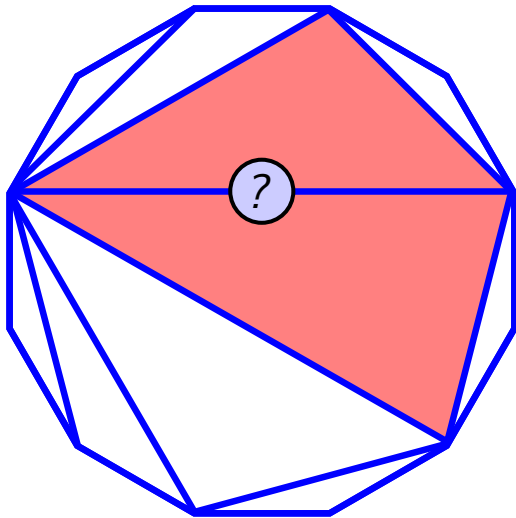
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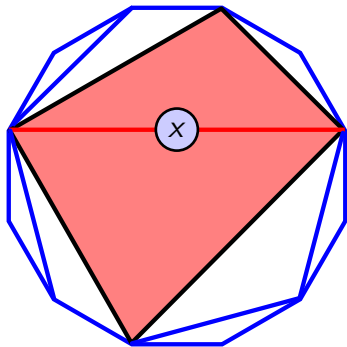
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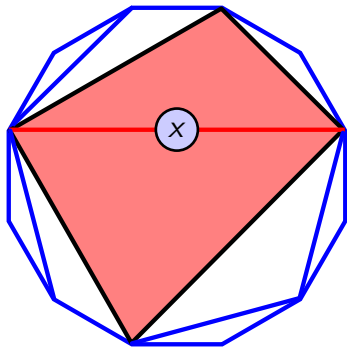
Triangulations and Cluster Variables



Triangulations and Cluster Variables – Recap



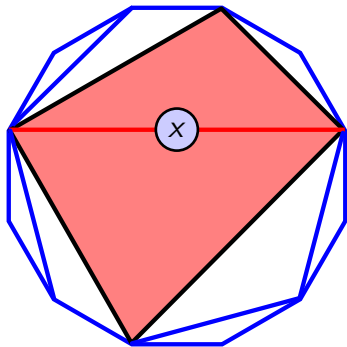
Triangulations and Cluster Variables – Recap



► Flip x chord:

$$x \mapsto 1/x$$

Triangulations and Cluster Variables – Recap



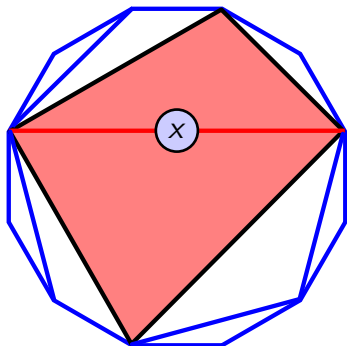
► Flip x chord:

$$x \mapsto 1/x$$

► Flip nonadjacent chord:

$$x \mapsto x$$

Triangulations and Cluster Variables – Recap



- ▶ Flip x chord:
- ▶ Flip nonadjacent chord:
- ▶ Flip adjacent chord:

$$x \mapsto 1/x$$

$$x \mapsto x$$

$$x \mapsto ?$$

Brown's Theorem Redux

Theorem (Brown): If there is a clique of size n in the A_n cluster algebra, then there exists a minimal algebraic generating set for the space of cluster polylogarithms \mathcal{A} .

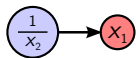
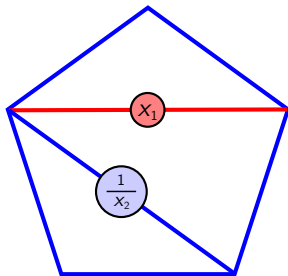
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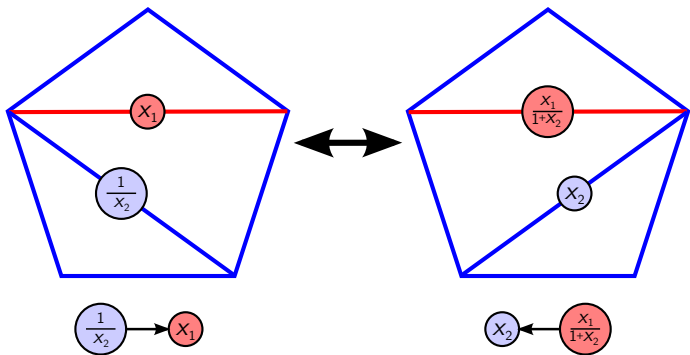
Clique \longrightarrow "Basis" \longrightarrow Cluster Polylogs \longrightarrow Scattering Amplitudes

All we need is one n -clique!

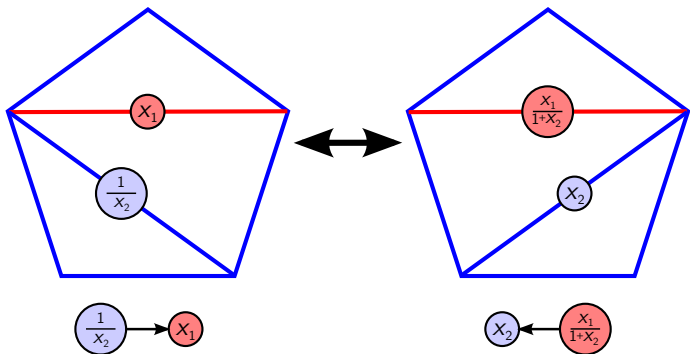
Cliques on A_2



Cliques on A_2

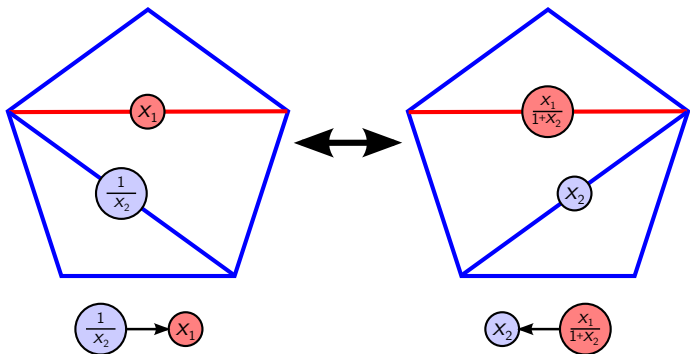


Cliques on A_2



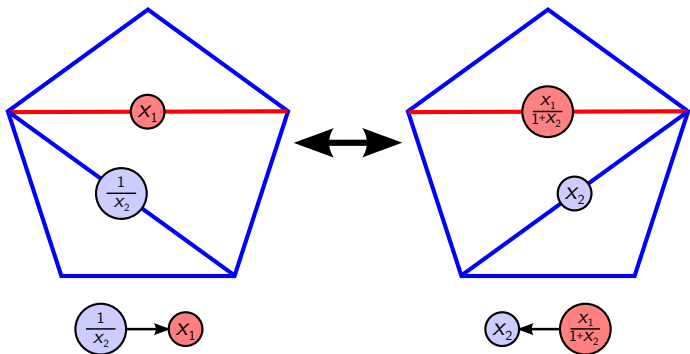
$$\boxed{x_1} - \boxed{\frac{x_1}{1+x_2}} = ?$$

Cliques on A_2



$$\boxed{x_1} - \boxed{\frac{x_1}{1+x_2}} = \frac{x_1(1+x_2) - x_1}{1+x_2} = \frac{x_1 x_2}{1+x_2} = \boxed{x_2} \times \boxed{\frac{x_1}{1+x_2}}$$

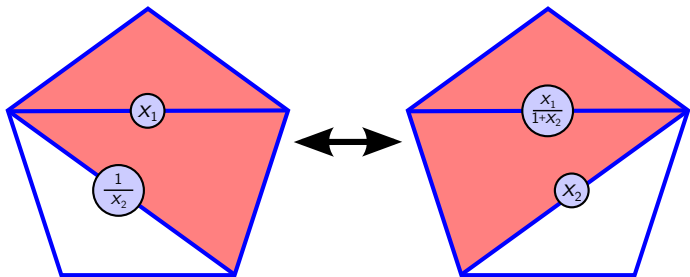
Cliques on A_2



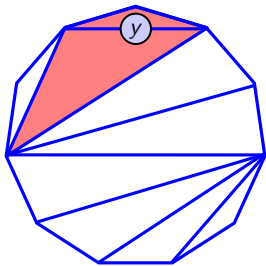
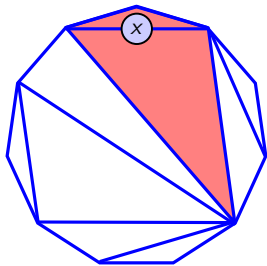
$$\boxed{x_1} - \boxed{\frac{x_1}{1+x_2}} = \frac{x_1(1+x_2) - x_1}{1+x_2} = \frac{x_1 x_2}{1+x_2} = \boxed{x_2} \times \boxed{\frac{x_1}{1+x_2}}$$

$\left\{ x_1, \frac{x_1}{1+x_2} \right\}$ is a 2-clique of A_2

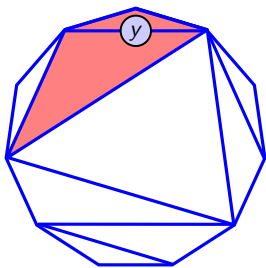
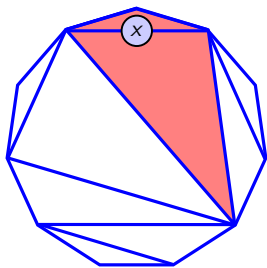
Cliques on A_2



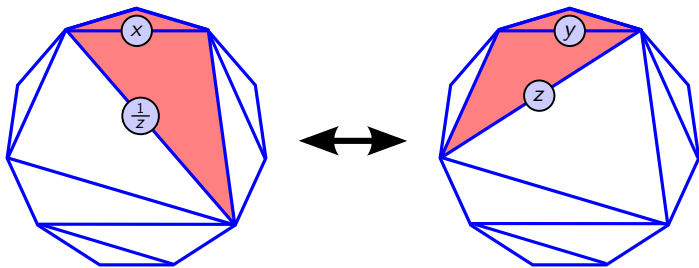
Cliques on A_n



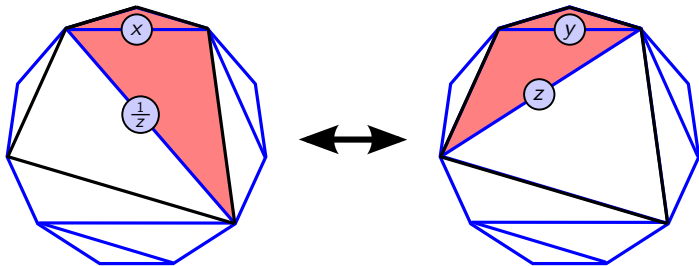
Cliques on A_n



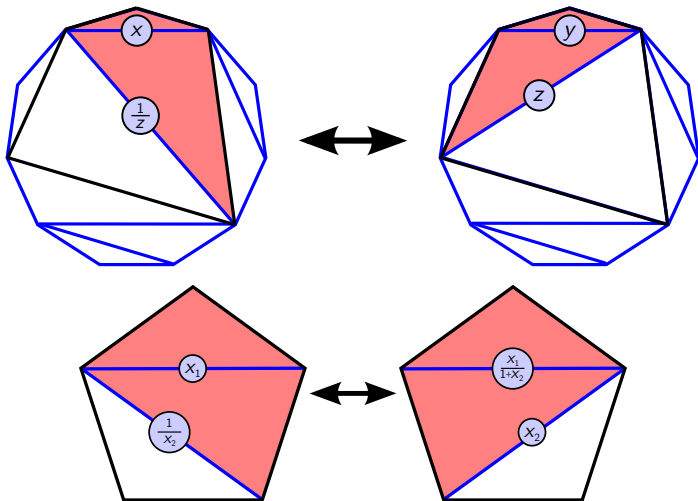
Cliques on A_n



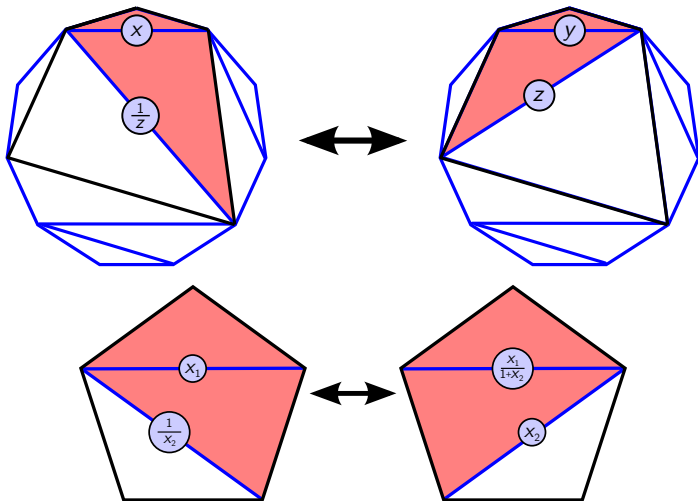
Cliques on A_n



Cliques on A_n

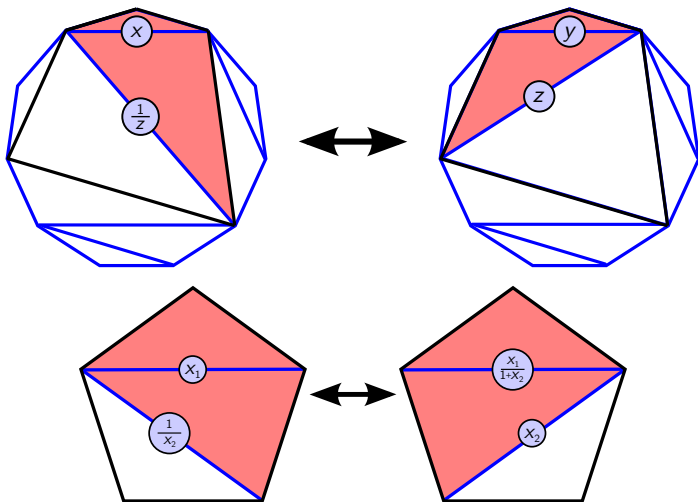


Cliques on A_n



$$\boxed{x} - \boxed{y} = \boxed{z} \times \boxed{y}$$

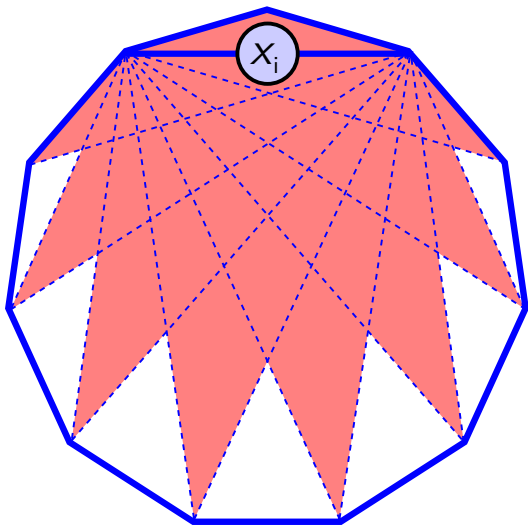
Cliques on A_n



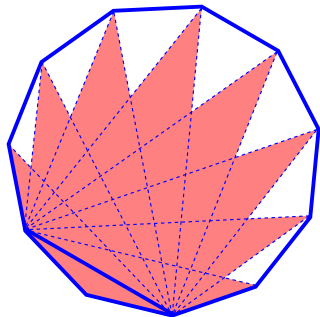
$$\boxed{x} - \boxed{y} = \boxed{z} \times \boxed{y}$$

$$\left\{ \dots, \boxed{x}, \dots ? \dots, \boxed{y}, \dots \right\}$$

The Hedgehog Theorem: n -Cliques on A_n

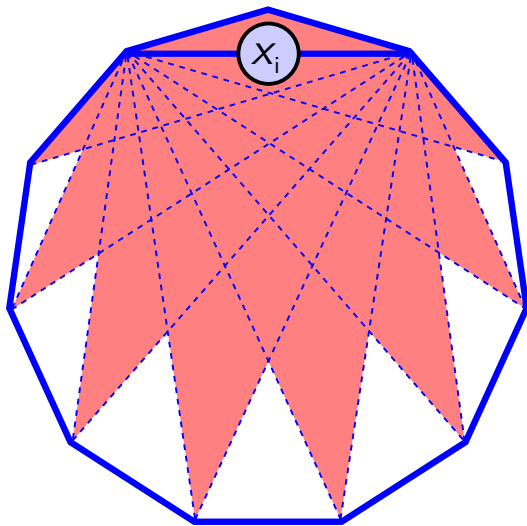


The Hedgehog Theorem: n -Cliques on A_n



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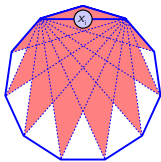
The Hedgehog Theorem: n -Cliques on A_n



$\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ is an n -clique on A_n !

Recap

Clique

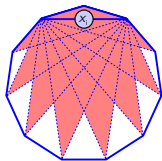


Recap

Clique



Hedgehog Basis for A_n



$$\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{K}} \bigcup_{i=1}^n G_k [\{A_n \text{ clique}\}]$$

Recap

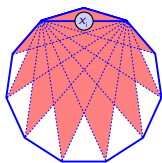
Clique



Hedgehog Basis for A_n



Cluster Polylogarithms



$$\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{K}} \bigcup_{i=1}^n G_k [\{A_n \text{ clique}\}]$$

$$\mathcal{A}_n = \left\{ \mathcal{A} : \mathbf{Gr}(4, n) / ((\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-1}) \xrightarrow{\text{cluster algebra}} \mathbb{C}^n \xrightarrow{\text{polylog}} \mathbb{C} \right\}$$

Recap

Clique



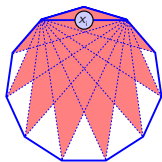
Hedgehog Basis for A_n



Cluster Polylogarithms

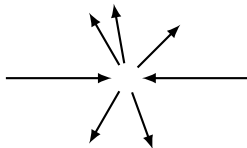


Scattering Amplitudes

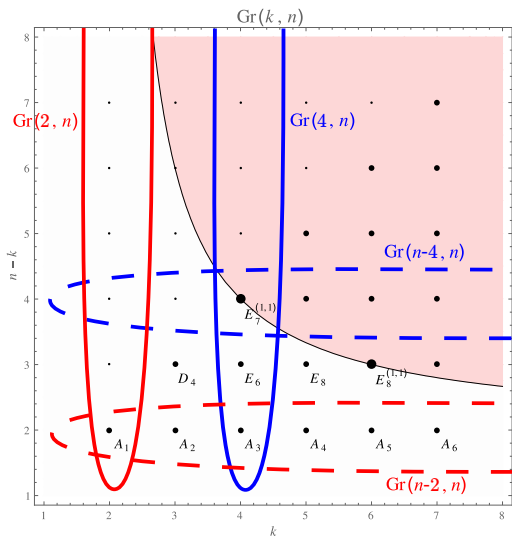


$$\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{K}} \bigcup_{i=1}^n G_k [\{A_n \text{ clique}\}]$$

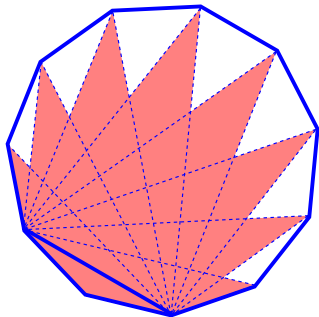
$$\mathcal{A}_n = \left\{ \mathcal{A} : \mathbf{Gr}(4, n) / ((\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-1}) \xrightarrow{\text{cluster algebra}} \mathbb{C}^n \xrightarrow{\text{polylog}} \mathbb{C} \right\}$$



Future Research



Thank You!



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