

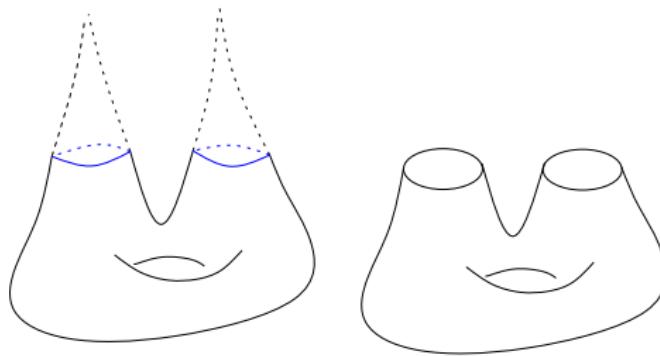
Webs and their intersections

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Webs in Algebra, Geometry, Topology and Combinatorics
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Conjecture (Fock–Goncharov 03')

*The **tropical integral points** of X parameterize the **canonical basis** of the regular function ring of the mirror X^V .*



$$\mathcal{X}_{\mathrm{PGL}_n, \hat{S}}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{SL}_n, \hat{S}}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{PGL}_n, \hat{S}} \quad \mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{PGL}_n, \hat{S}}$$

- The *marked surface* \hat{S} is the connected oriented topological surface S with punctures m_p and finitely many marked points $m_b \subset \partial S$ considered up to isotopy.

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- Framing(decoration): The flat section of $\rho \times_G G/B$ ($\rho \times_G G/U$) around m .

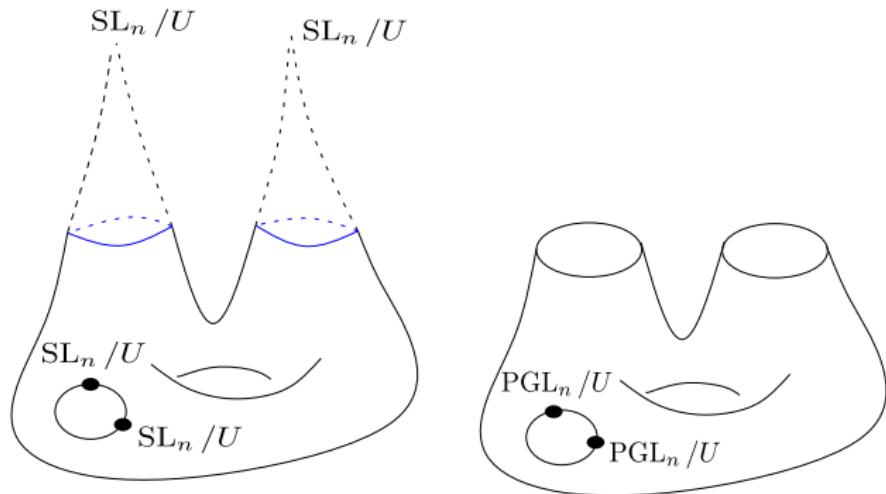
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- $\mathcal{A}_{G,\hat{S}}$ consists of pairs (ρ, ξ) where unipotent bordered twisted representation $\rho \in \text{Hom}(\pi_1(T^1S), G)/G$ with $\rho(\epsilon) = s_G$ and ξ is the decorations at $m_p \cup m_b$.
- $(\rho, \xi) \sim (g\rho g^{-1}, g\xi)$, $\forall g$.

- $\mathcal{X}_{G^L, \hat{S}}$ consists of pairs (ρ, ξ) where $\rho \in \text{Hom}(\pi_1(S), G^L)/G^L$ and ξ is the framings at $m_p \cup m_b$.
- To match up with the dimension of $\mathcal{A}_{G, \hat{S}}$, Goncharov–Shen changed $\mathcal{X}_{G^L, \hat{S}}$ into $\mathcal{P}_{G^L, \hat{S}}$ where ξ is the decorations at m_b and framings at m_p .

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- The character variety $\mathcal{L}_{G^L, \hat{S}}$ consists of pairs (ρ, ξ) where $\rho \in \text{Hom}(\pi_1(S), G^L)/G^L$ and ξ is the decorations at m_b .
- $X = \mathcal{A}_{G, \hat{S}}$ then $X^\vee = \mathcal{P}_{G^L, \hat{S}}$ or $\mathcal{L}_{G^L, \hat{S}}$, and vice versa.

Goncharov–Shen Conjecture



$$\mathcal{A}_{SL_n, \hat{S}} \quad \textcolor{blue}{P}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{PGL_n, \hat{S}}$$

Goncharov–Shen adjusted the original Fock–Goncharov duality conjecture by adding the potential P .

Conjecture (Goncharov–Shen 13')

Let $\mathcal{L}_{G^L, \hat{S}}$ be the character variety. There is a holomological mirror symmetry between $(\mathcal{A}_{G, \hat{S}}, P)$ and $\mathcal{L}_{G^L, \hat{S}}$.

The tropical integral points $\mathcal{A}_{G, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t)$ parameterize the canonical basis of $\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{L}_{G^L, \hat{S}})$.

It has a beautiful **explicit** solution for PGL_2 after Fock and Goncharov using Thurston's transversely measured laminations.

Lamination

A **positive integer lamination** l on \hat{S} is a formal sum

$$l = \sum n_i[\alpha_i] + \sum m_j[\beta_j], \quad n_i, m_j \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}.$$

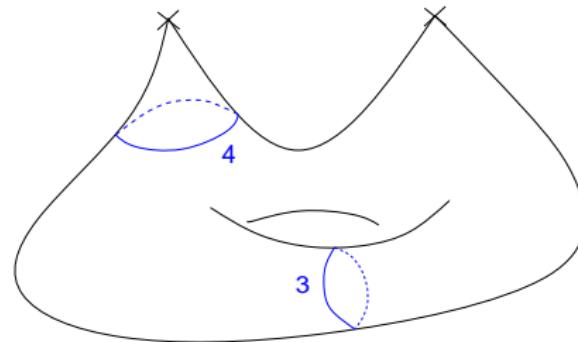


Figure: $3[\alpha_1] + 4[\beta_1]$

Theorem (Hoste–Przytycki 93')

All $M_l = \prod_i \text{Tr} \rho(\alpha_i)^{n_i} \prod_j \text{Tr} \rho(\beta_j)^{m_j}$ form a linear basis of $\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{L}_{\text{SL}_2, \hat{S}})$.

Given an **ideal triangulation**,

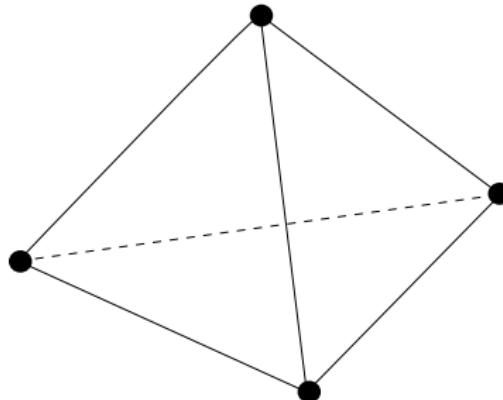


Figure: 4th punctured sphere case.

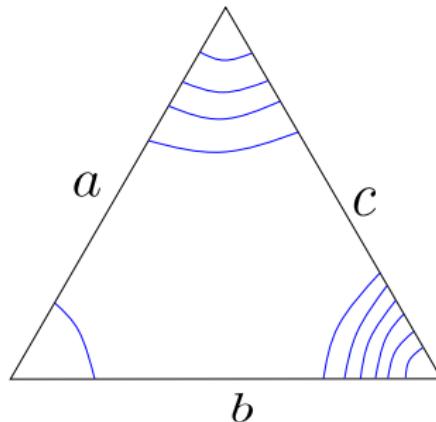


Figure: $a = \frac{1}{2} * 5 = \frac{5}{2}$, $b = \frac{1}{2} * 7 = \frac{7}{2}$, $c = \frac{1}{2} * 10 = 5$.

Lamination λ intersects the ideal triangulation of \hat{S} **minimally**.
We assign $1/2$ of the intersection number to each edge to obtain
an element in $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{SL}_2, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{R}^t)\mathcal{T}$.

Mutation for \mathcal{A} coordinates

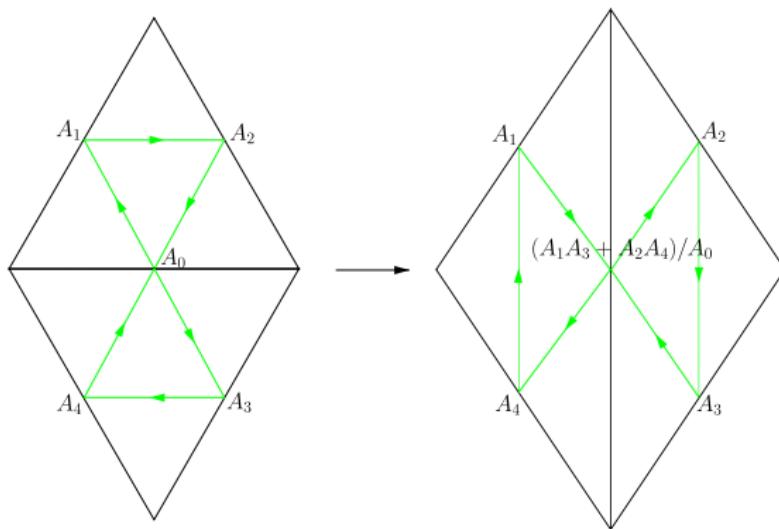


Figure: Mutation.

Mutation for tropical \mathcal{A} coordinates

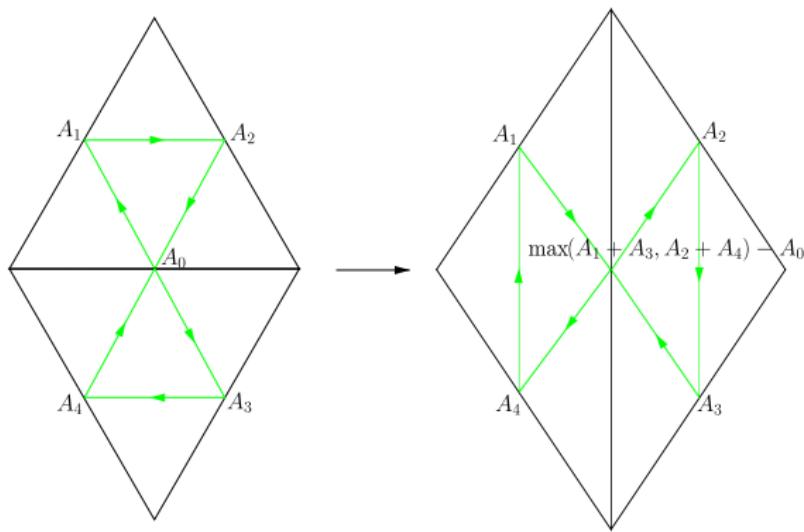


Figure: Tropical mutation.

Laminations and tropical \mathcal{A} coordinates

- $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{PGL}_2, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t)$ is the subset of $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{SL}_2, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{R}^t)$ such that for a given chart and any angle $a - b - c \in \mathbb{Z}_{\leq 0}$.

Theorem (Fock–Goncharov 03', Goncharov–Shen 13')

There is a $\mathrm{Mod}(\hat{S})$ -equivariant bijection Φ from the space of positive integer laminations $\mathcal{W}_{\hat{S}}$ to $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{PGL}_2, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t)$.

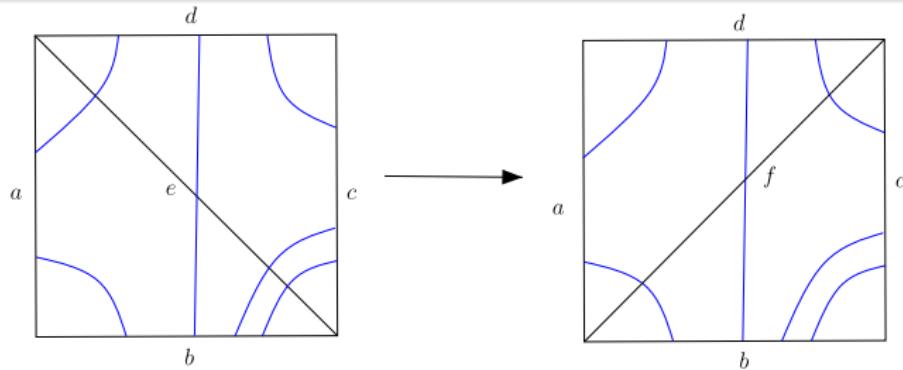


Figure: Proof: $a = 1, b = 2, c = 3/2, d = 3/2, e = 2, f = 3/2 = \max\{a + c, b + d\} - e$.

Counting multicurves

$\mathcal{ML}_{g,n}$ space of geodesic measure laminations on $\hat{S} = S_{g,n}$, which is the $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ completion of the space of multicurves.

$\mathcal{T}_{g,n}$ and $\mathcal{ML}_{g,n}$ embedded into space of currents

$\mathcal{C}(S) = \{\pi_1(S) - \text{invariant measure on } \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1 \setminus \Delta\}$.

μ the unique $\text{Mod}(S_{g,n})$ -invariant Thurston measure on $\mathcal{ML}_{g,n}$.

$$m(a) = \mu(\{x \in \mathcal{ML}_{g,n} \mid i(a, x) \leq 1\}).$$

$$B_{g,n} = \int_{\mathcal{ML}_{g,n}} m(X) dX.$$

Theorem (Mirzakhani 08')

γ_0 multicurve on $S_{g,n}$. ρ hyperbolic metric on $S_{g,n}$.

Let $N_L^\rho = \#\{\gamma \in \text{Mod}(S_{g,n}) \cdot \gamma_0 \mid \ell_\rho(\gamma) \leq L\}$. Then

$$\lim_{L \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{N_L^\rho}{L^{6g-6+2n}} = \frac{m(\rho)m(\gamma_0)}{B_{g,n}}.$$

Webs as integer higher laminations

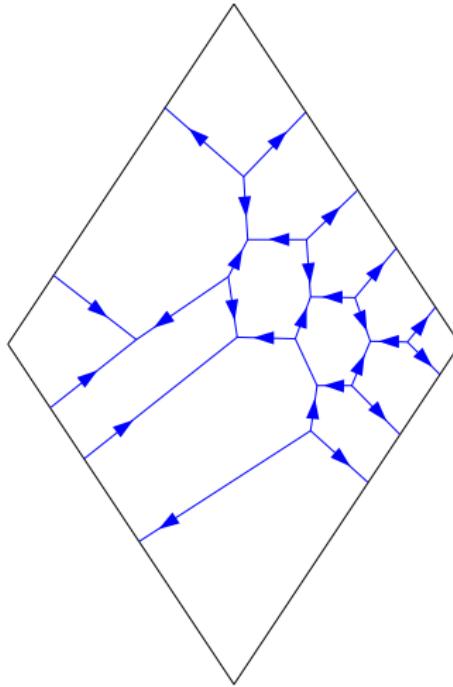


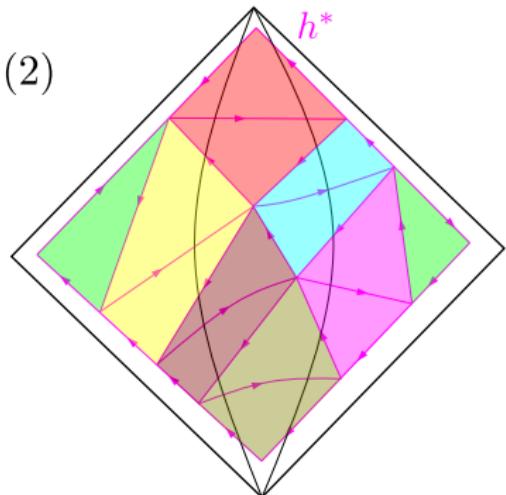
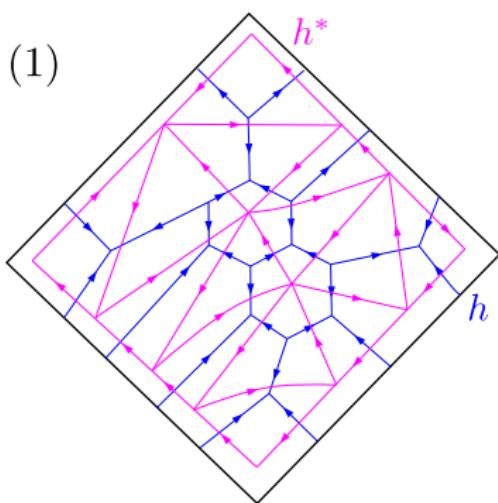
Figure: (Kuperberg, CMP 96') A **SL₃-web** is an oriented graph on the surface with 3-valent interior vertices such that the three oriented edges at any interior vertex point inward or outward.

- A SL_3 -web is **non-elliptic** if it does not contain 0-, 2-, 4-faces (cannot be decomposed by the skein relation any more).
- On \hat{S} , a non-elliptic SL_3 -web is **reduced** if the edge on the boundary is 1-valence. And we do not have any path of ≤ 3 edges parallel to a boundary interval:



- Dual graph of a non-elliptic SL_3 -web is triangulation of the surface.
- Non-elliptic = the dual graph is combinatorial $CAT(0)$ —each interior vertex has valence ≥ 6 .

Dual graph of a web



SL₃-skein algebra

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1: } \text{X-shaped web with two arrows} = q^{-\frac{2}{3}} \uparrow + q^{\frac{1}{3}} \text{ (Y-shaped web with one arrow)} \\ \text{Diagram 2: } \text{X-shaped web with two arrows} = q^{\frac{2}{3}} \uparrow + q^{-\frac{1}{3}} \text{ (Y-shaped web with one arrow)} \\ \text{Diagram 3: } \text{Circle with one arrow} = \text{Circle with one arrow} = q^2 + 1 + q^{-2} \\ \text{Diagram 4: } \text{Diamond-shaped web with one arrow} = -q - q^{-1} \\ \text{Diagram 5: } \text{Vertical line with one arrow} = \text{Diagram 6: } \text{Square web with four arrows} = \text{Diagram 7: } \text{Vertical line with one arrow} + \text{Diagram 8: } \text{Vertical line with one arrow} \end{array}$$

Figure: SL₃ skein relation

Theorem (Kuperberg 96' for polygon, Sikora–Westbury 07')

Reduced SL₃-webs form a linear basis of the reduced SL₃ skein algebra.

The classical limit of the web is the trace function of the web.

Theorem (Turaev 91')

The SL_n-skein algebra is (almost) the quantization of $\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{L}_{SL_n, \hat{S}})$ with respect to the Goldman Poisson structure.

Good position after Kuperberg

Given a split ideal triangulation \mathcal{T} of the surface S ,

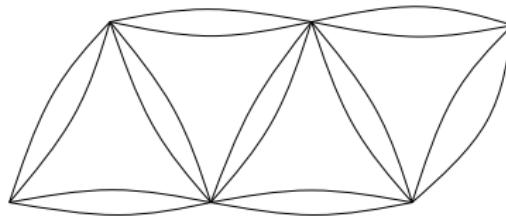
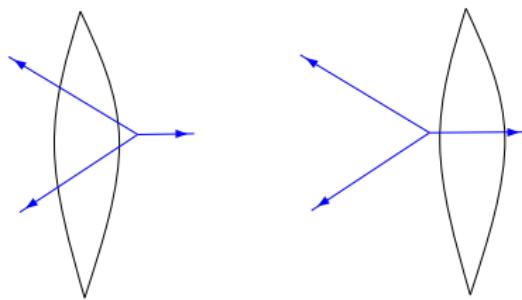


Figure: Split ideal triangulation.

we could put reduced 3-web W in **good position** such that

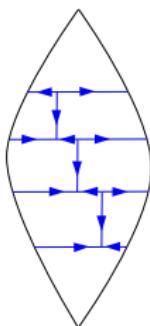
- W intersects \mathcal{T} minimally,



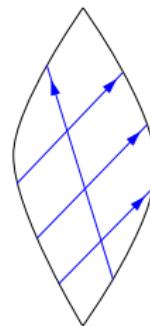
Honeycomb

- the restriction of W to each bigon is a **minimal ladder**,

(1)

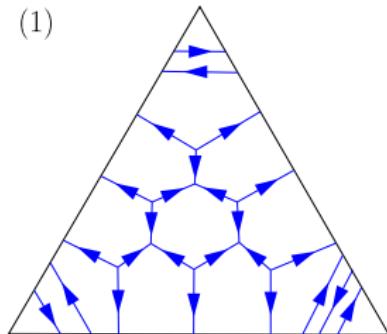


(2)

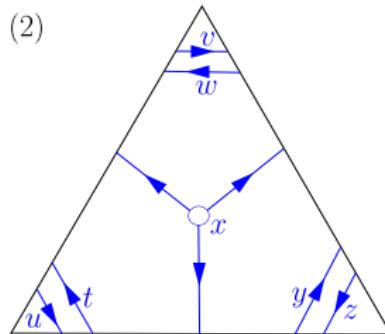


- the restriction of W to each ideal triangle is an **oriented honeycomb** with oriented arcs.

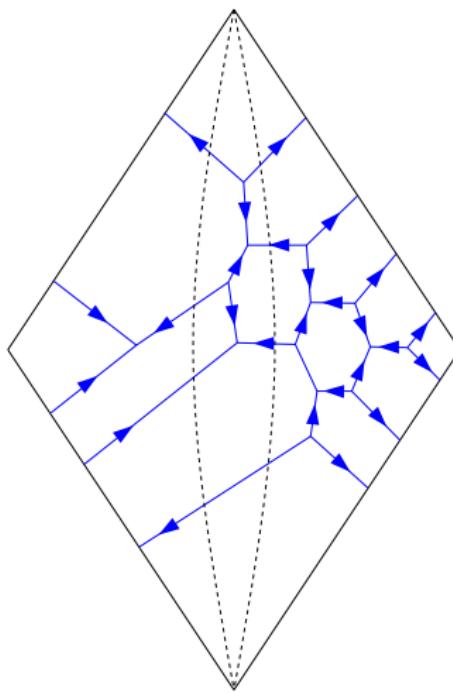
(1)



(2)



Web in good position



Basis assignments

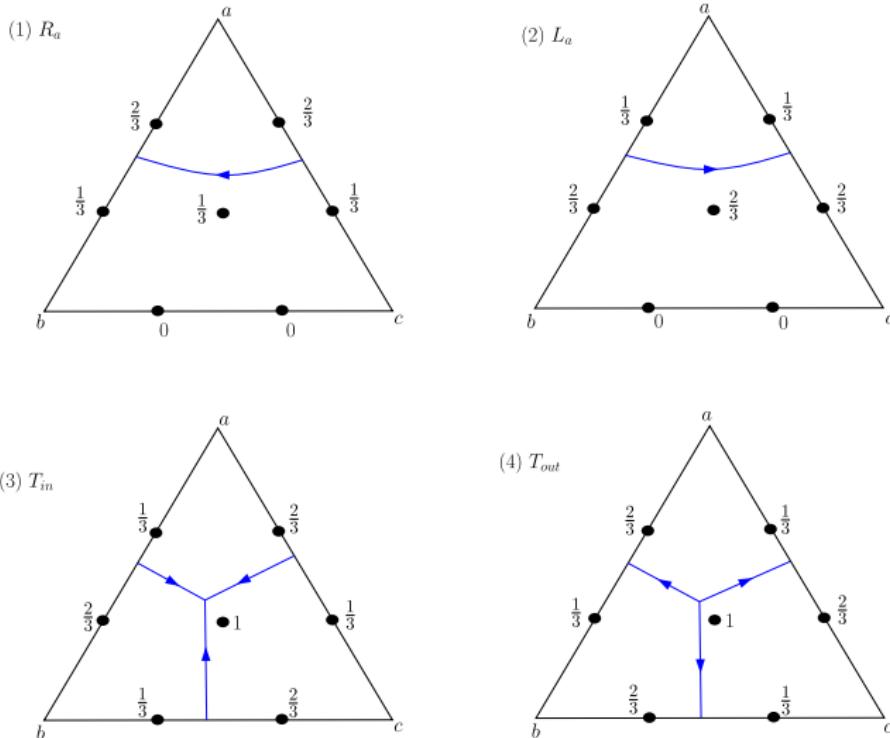


Figure: Tropical coordinate in triangle is linear combination of above basis elements with coefficients $(x, y, z, t, u, v, w) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^7$.

Gluing along the ideal edges

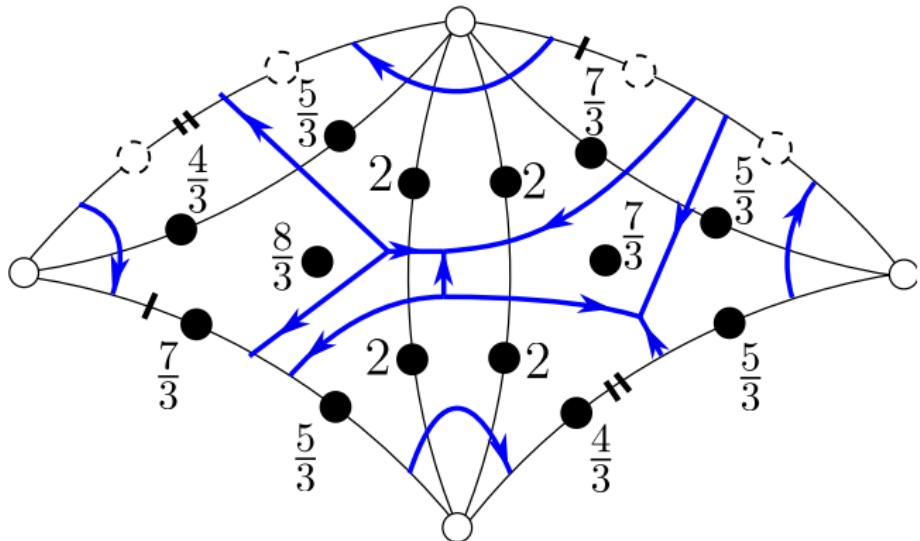


Figure: Example on $S_{1,1}$.

Webs and tropical \mathcal{A} coordinates

Let $\mathcal{W}_{\hat{S}}$ be the space of reduced 3-webs up to homotopy.

Theorem (Douglas–S. 20')

$$\Phi : \mathcal{W}_{\hat{S}} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{PGL}_3, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t).$$

More explicitly, we define $\Phi_{\mathcal{T}} : \mathcal{W}_{\hat{S}} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{PGL}_3, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t)_{\mathcal{T}}$ for any ideal triangulation \mathcal{T} and $\Phi_{\mathcal{T}'} = \mu_{\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}'} \circ \Phi_{\mathcal{T}}$.

Theorem (Kim 20')

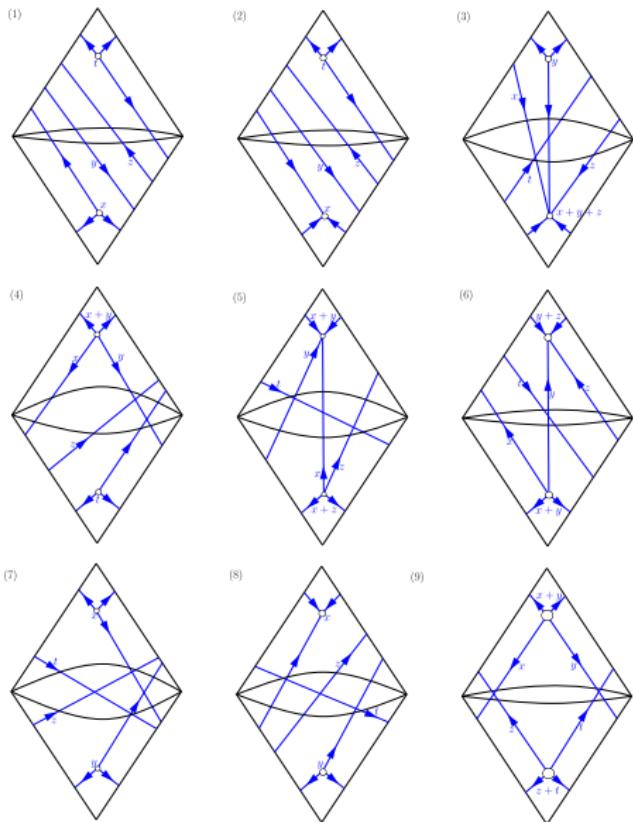
For $\hat{S} = S_{g, m}$, there is a quantum trace map

$$\mathrm{Tr}_q : \mathcal{RS}_q(\hat{S}) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{PGL}_3, \hat{S}})$$

where the highest term degree of $\mathrm{Tr}_q(W)$ is the same as $\Phi(W)$.

Generalizing Bonahon–Wong 11's quantum trace map for SL_2 . Lê and Yu 23' constructed the quantum trace map for SL_n .

Proof of flip equivariance 20'



Meaning of $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{PGL}_3, S}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t)$: Goncharov–Shen potential

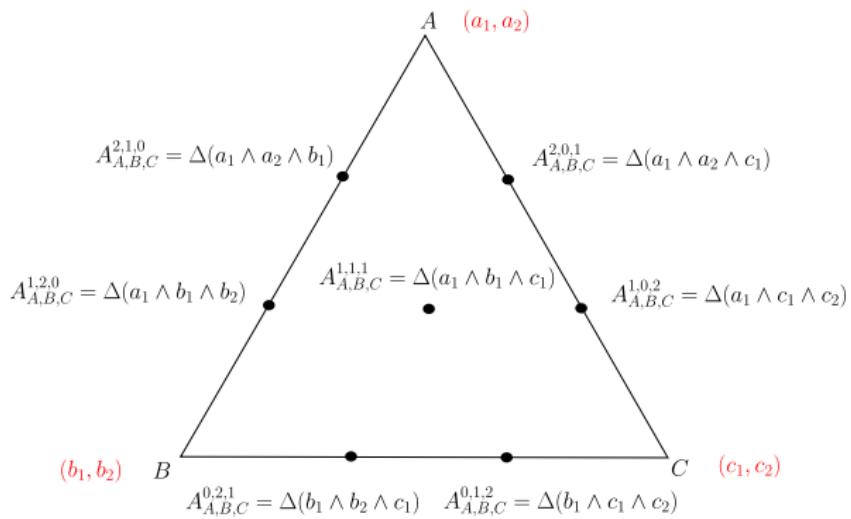


Figure: \mathcal{A} coordinates for $n = 3$.

Meaning of $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{PGL}_3, S}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t)$: Goncharov–Shen potential

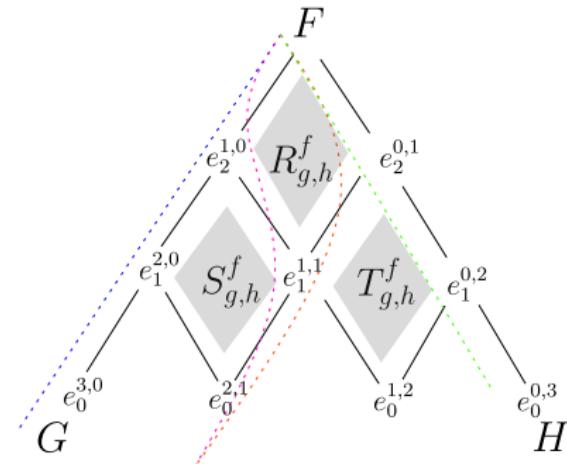


Figure: $\pi : G/U \rightarrow G/B$, $(F, \pi(H)) = u(F, \pi(G))$.

$$u = E_1(S_f^{g,h}) \cdot E_2(R_f^{g,h}) \cdot E_1(T_f^{g,h}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & S_f^{g,h} + T_f^{g,h} & S_f^{g,h} R_f^{g,h} \\ 0 & 1 & R_f^{g,h} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

Meaning of $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{PGL}_3, S}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t)$: Goncharov–Shen potential

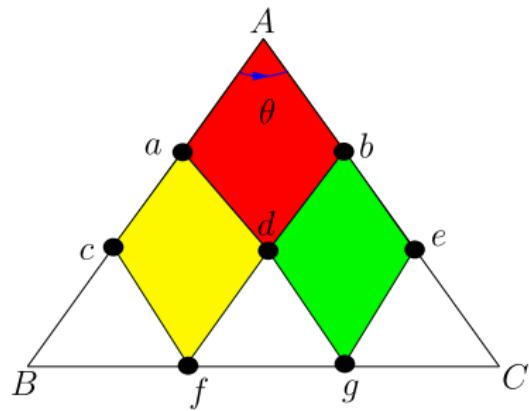


Figure: Rhombus terms.

The **Goncharov–Shen potential** for the marked ideal triangle $\theta = (A, B, C)$ is

$$P(\theta) = \frac{d}{ab} + \frac{af}{cd} + \frac{bg}{de}.$$

Meaning of $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{PGL}_3, S}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t)$: Goncharov–Shen potential

- The **Goncharov–Shen potential** is the $\mathrm{Mod}(S)$ equivariant regular function

$$P = \sum_{\theta} P(\theta)$$

summing over all the anticlockwise oriented marked ideal triangles on the surface.

- $P^t(\theta) = \max\{d - a - b, a + f - c - d, b + g - d - e\}$ where $a, b, c, d, e, f, g \in \mathbb{R}$.

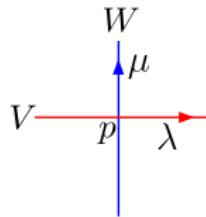
Theorem (Goncharov–Shen, 13')

Let $\mathcal{A}_{G, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{R}^t)$ be the subset of $\mathcal{A}_{G, \hat{S}}(\mathbb{R}^t)$ with $P^t \leq 0$. Then $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{GL}_n, \Delta}^+(\mathbb{R}^t)$ coincides with the Knutson–Tao's hives.

$\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{PGL}_3, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t)$ is the subset of $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{SL}_3, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{R}^t)$ such that for a given chart and any rhombus $\alpha^t \in \mathbb{Z}_{\leq 0}$. Here any rhombus $\alpha^t \in \mathbb{Z}_{\leq 0}$ holds for any triangulation.

- ① (Goncharov–Shen 19') The Goncharov–Shen partial potentials play important roles in the quantization of the moduli spaces of G -local systems.
- ② (Huang-S., 19') For each simple root and each puncture, the Goncharov–Shen partial potential is understood as generalized horocycle length which provides a family of McShane-type identities.
- ③ (Goncharov–S., 24') The Goncharov–Shen partial potentials is essential in the exponential volume of the moduli space of ideal hyperbolic surfaces with marked points on the boundary.

- G -web: oriented graph with only 3-valent pointing inward (outward resp.) interior vertices where three edges colored by λ, μ, ν such that $\dim (V_\lambda \otimes V_\mu \otimes V_\nu)^G = 1$ ($\dim (V_\lambda^* \otimes V_\mu^* \otimes V_\nu^*)^G = 1$ resp.).
- (G, \mathcal{A}) -web W : ends at boundary intervals, (G^L, \mathcal{X}) -web V : ends at punctures or marked points,
- intersecting transversely, the **intersection number** of the **ordered** pair (W, V) at a point p



$$\epsilon_p(W, V) = \langle \lambda, \mu \rangle$$

Intersection between two dual webs

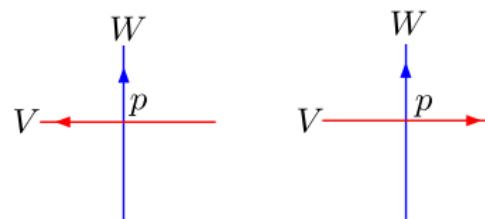
Then the **intersection number** of (W, V)

$$i(W, V) := \sum_{p \in W \cap V} \epsilon_p(W, V).$$

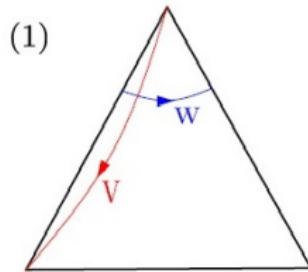
The **intersection number** of $([W], [V])$

$$i([W], [V]) := \inf_{w \in [W], v \in [V]} \{i(w, v)\}.$$

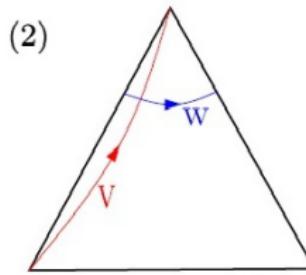
SL_3 case



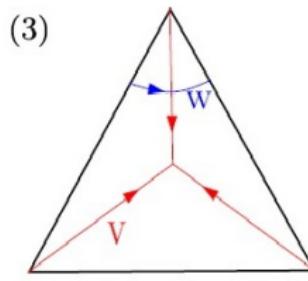
$$\epsilon_p(W, V) = 1/3 \quad \epsilon_p(W, V) = 2/3$$



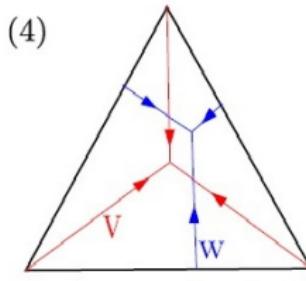
$$i(W, V) = \frac{2}{3}$$



$$i(W, V) = \frac{1}{3}$$



$$i(W, V) = \frac{2}{3}$$



$$i(W, V) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{3} = 1$$

SL₃ intersection number coordinates

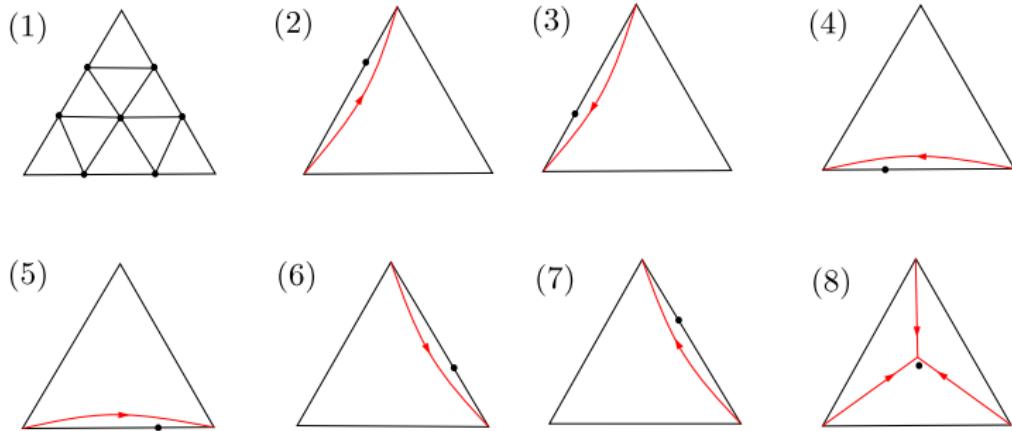


Figure: The $(\text{SL}_3, \mathcal{X})$ -webs V_a corresponding to a in seed \mathbf{s} .

For any seed \mathbf{s} (collection of these \mathcal{A} coordinates),

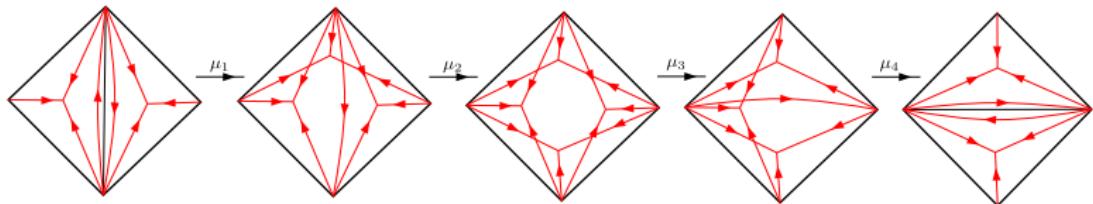
$$i_{\mathbf{s}} : \mathcal{W}_{\hat{\mathcal{S}}} \rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{3} \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \right)^N, \quad i_{\mathbf{s}}(W) := (i([W], [V_a]))_{a \in \mathbf{s}}.$$

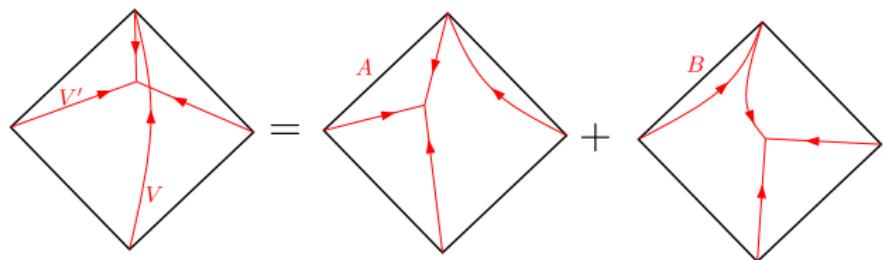
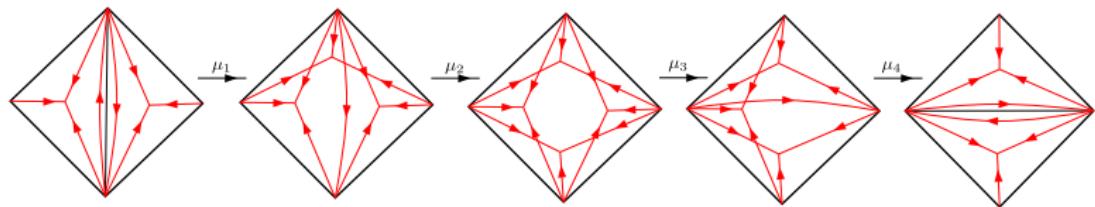
Theorem (Shen–S.–Weng 23')

$i_{\mathfrak{s}} = \Phi_{\mathfrak{s}}$ in (Douglas–S. 20'). For any two seeds \mathfrak{s} and \mathfrak{s}' related by the mutation μ in the sequence of flip of diagonal of ideal triangulation \mathcal{T} , we have

$$\mu \circ i_{\mathfrak{s}} = i_{\mathfrak{s}'}.$$

Particularly, applying to the seeds in the flip sequence of the square \square implies mapping class group equivariance.





Simple examples:

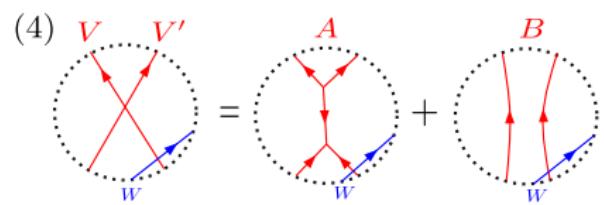
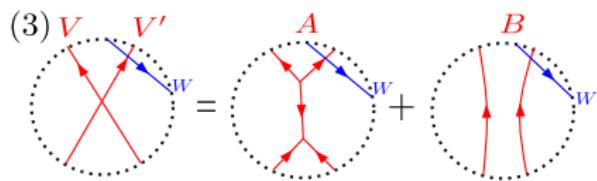
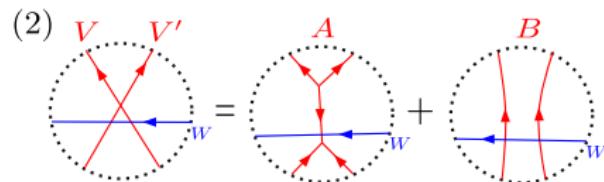
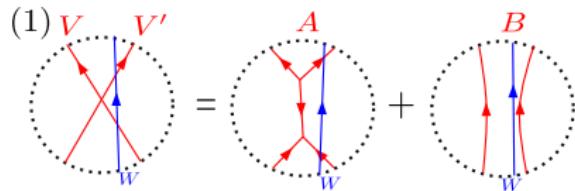
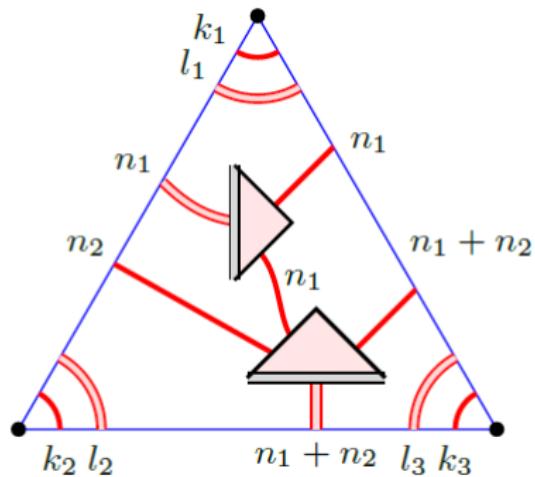


Figure: $i([W], [V]) + i([W], [V']) = \max\{i([W], [A]), i([W], [B])\}.$



Reduced Sp₄-webs in a triangle.

Flattening the reduced Sp₄-webs by

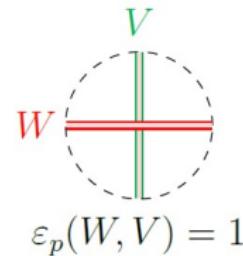
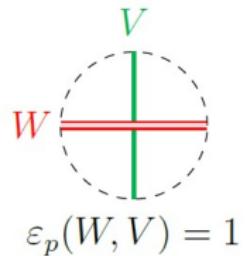
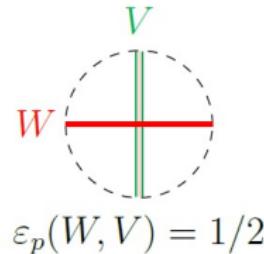
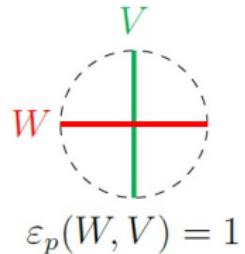
$$\text{Diagram 1} := \text{Diagram 2} - \frac{1}{[2]} \text{Diagram 3} = \text{Diagram 4} - \frac{1}{[2]} \text{Diagram 5}.$$

Obtaining reduced Sp₄-crossroad webs.

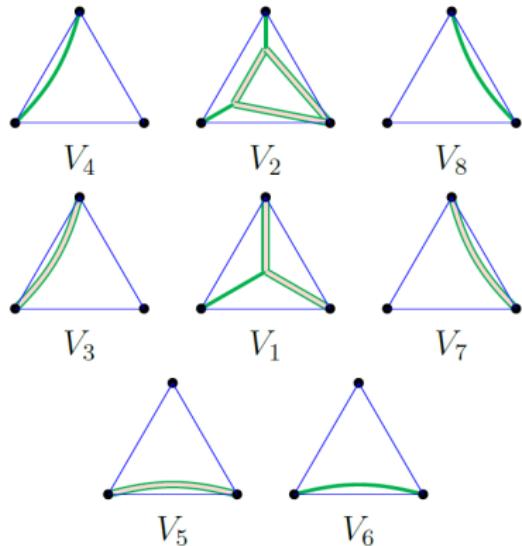
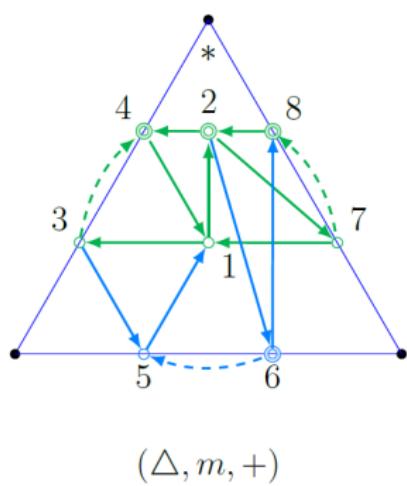
Theorem (Ishibashi–Yuasa 22')

Reduced Sp₄-crossroad webs form a linear basis of clasped Sp₄-skein algebra.

Sp_4 intersection number coordinates



Sp₄ intersection number coordinates



For any seed \mathbf{s} (collection of these \mathcal{A} coordinates),

$$i_{\mathbf{s}} : \mathcal{W}_{\hat{S}} \rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \right)^N, \quad i_{\mathbf{s}}(W) := (i([W], [V_a]))_{a \in \mathbf{s}}.$$

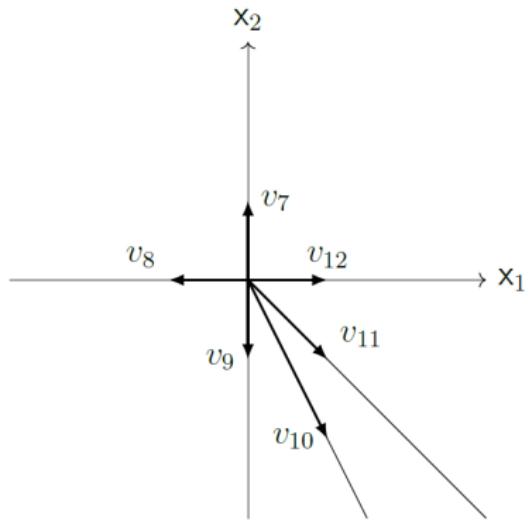
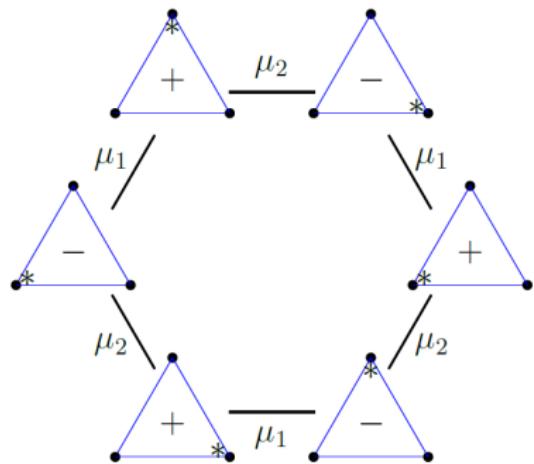
Let $\mathcal{L}_{\text{Sp}_4}^{\mathcal{A}}(\hat{S}, \mathbb{Q})$ be the collection of disjoint unions of \mathbb{Q} -weighted peripheral elements and $\mathbb{Q}_{>0}$ -weighted reduced Sp₄-crossroad webs.

Theorem (Ishibashi–S.–Yuasa arXiv:2509.25014)

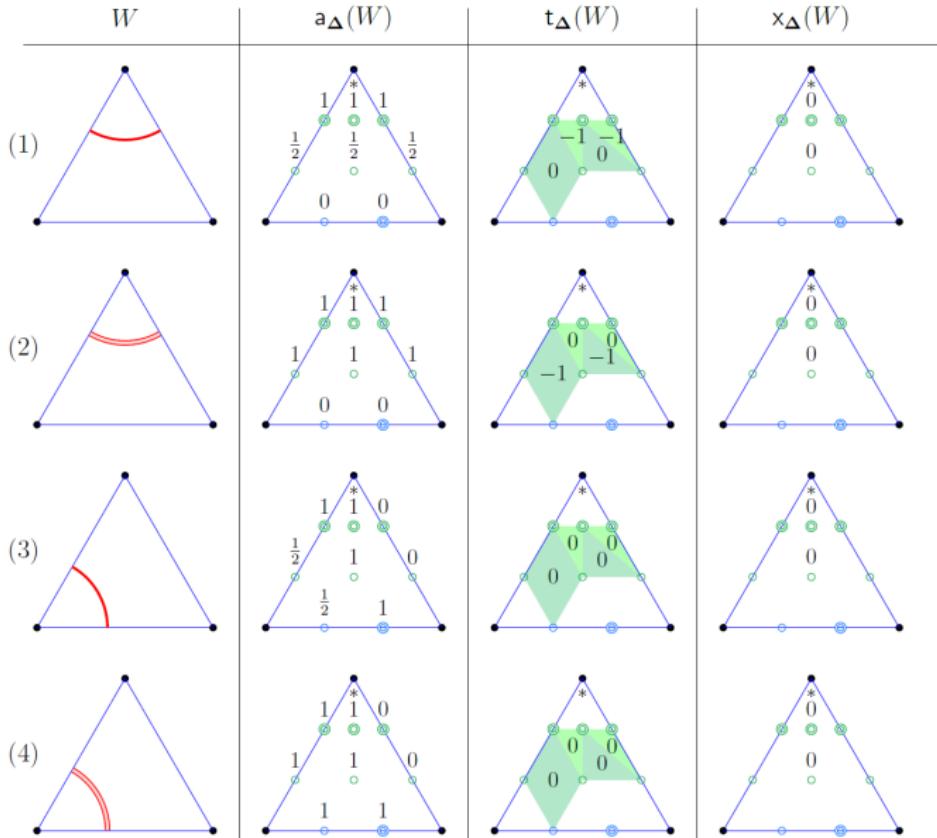
$i_s : \mathcal{L}_{\text{Sp}_4}^{\mathcal{A}}(\hat{S}, \mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}^N$ is a bijection.

In our sequel paper, we will show that $i_s : \mathcal{W}_{\hat{S}} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{\text{SO}_5, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t)$ is a bijection.

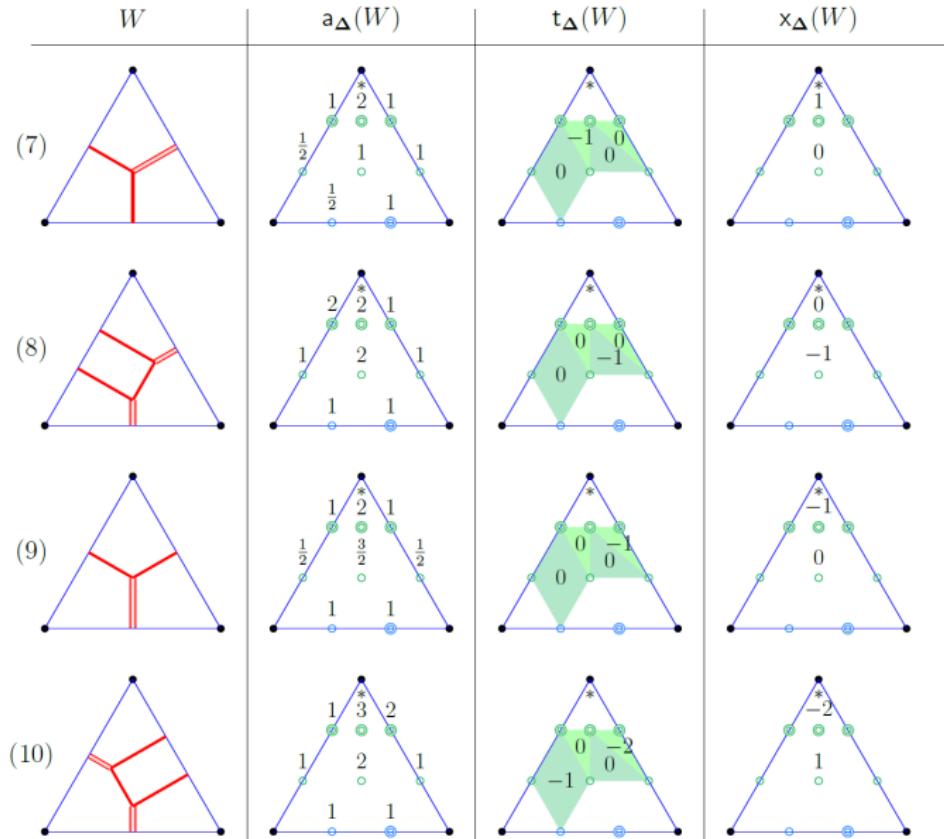
Sp₄ triangle case



Sp₄ elementary webs



Sp₄ elementary webs



Webs and cluster algebra

Theorem (Gross–Hacking–Keel–Kontsevich, 14')

The Fock–Goncharov duality conjecture holds for certain cluster algebras under certain convexity condition.

Theorem (Goncharov–Shen 16' + Fraser–Pylyavskyy 22')

Fock–Goncharov duality conjecture holds for $(\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{SL}_n, \hat{S}}, \mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{PGL}_n, \hat{S}})$ for $(\hat{S}, n) \neq (S_{g,1}, 2)$ after the existence of the Donaldson–Thomas transformation.

Theorem (Mandel–Qin 23')

GHKK's theta basis is the same as bracelet basis for PGL_2 .

Conjecture

GHKK's theta basis is the same as reduced web bracelet basis for PGL_3 ?

Webs and cluster algebra

Theorem (Ishibashi–Kano, 24')

There is a natural bijection: $\mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{PGL}_3, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t) \cong \mathcal{W}_{\hat{S}}^{\mathcal{X}}$.

① The intersection pairing between webs induces a pairing:

$$I : \mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{PGL}_3, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t) \times \mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{PGL}_3, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t) \rightarrow \frac{1}{3}\mathbb{Z}.$$

② By Fock–Goncharov duality, there is a pairing:

$$I_{FG} : \mathcal{A}(\mathbb{Z}^t) \times \mathcal{P}^V(\mathbb{Z}^t) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}.$$

③ Given seed \mathbf{s} and $(l, m) \in \mathcal{A}(\mathbb{Z}^t) \times \mathcal{P}^V(\mathbb{Z}^t)$, coordinates $(a_i)_i$ and $(x_i)_i$ for \mathbf{s} has pairing: $\langle l, m \rangle_{\mathbf{s}} := \sum_i a_i x_i$.

Conjecture (Shen–S.–Weng 23')

$$I(l, m) = I_{FG}(l, m) = \max_{\mathbf{s}} \langle l, m \rangle_{\mathbf{s}}.$$

$$\forall l \in \mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{SL}_3, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t), \forall m \in \mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{PGL}_3, \hat{S}}^+(\mathbb{Z}^t).$$

- ① **Positivity** for the Laurent polynomials under this Fock–Goncharov duality and the structure constants.
- ② **Log concave** conjecture for coefficients of trace functions and structure constants. Zhichao Chen and Guanhua Huang have some progress on some examples arXiv:2408.03792.
- ③ Relation between webs and **n -graph weavings** (related to bipartite graphs, Legendrian links, spetral networks).

- ① Relation between k -**differentials** and webs.
- ② Generalize Thurston's transversely measured laminations into **higher laminations** containing webs as integral points.
- ③ Generalize Mirzakhani's **counting problem** on multi-curves to webs. Distribution of webs. Random webs.

Thank you for your attention!

Daniel Douglas and Zhe Sun, Tropical Fock-Goncharov coordinates for SL3-webs on surfaces I: construction, *Forum of Mathematics, Sigma* (2024), Vol. 12:e5 1–55.

Daniel Douglas and Zhe Sun, Tropical Fock-Goncharov coordinates for SL3-webs on surfaces II: naturality, *Algebr. Comb.* 8 (2025), no. 1, 101–156.

Linhui Shen, Zhe Sun and Daping Weng, Intersections of Dual SL3-Webs, *Trans. Am. Math. Soc.* 378 (2025), No. 8, 5513–5549.

Tsukasa Ishibashi, Zhe Sun and Wataru Yuasa, Bounded $sp(4)$ -laminations and their intersection coordinates, preprint, arXiv:2509.25014, 56 pages.