

# Convergence of simple Triangulations

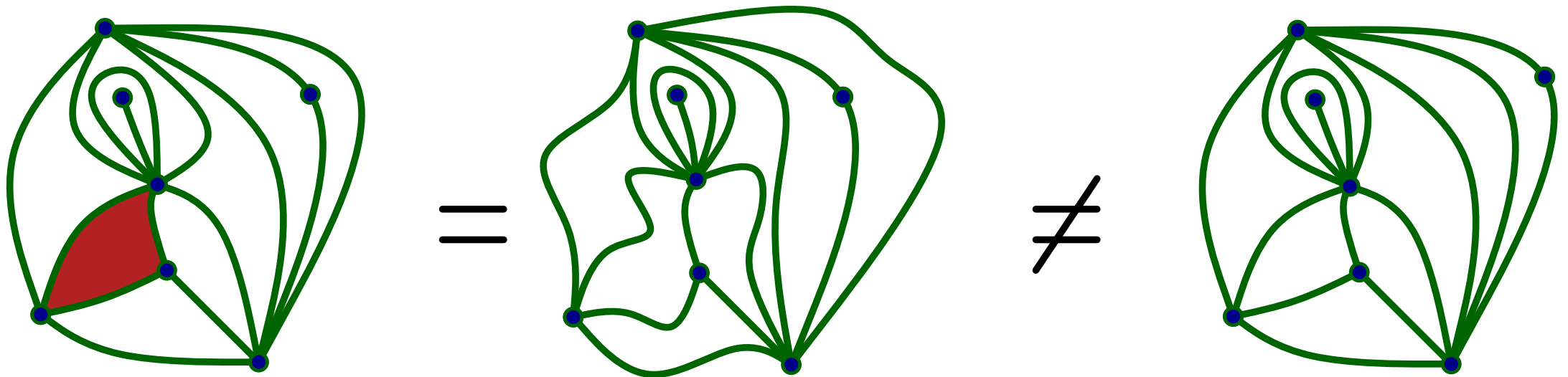
Marie Albenque (CNRS, LIX, École Polytechnique)

Louigi Addario-Berry (McGill University Montréal)

Journées Cartes, 20th June 2013

# Planar Maps – Triangulations.

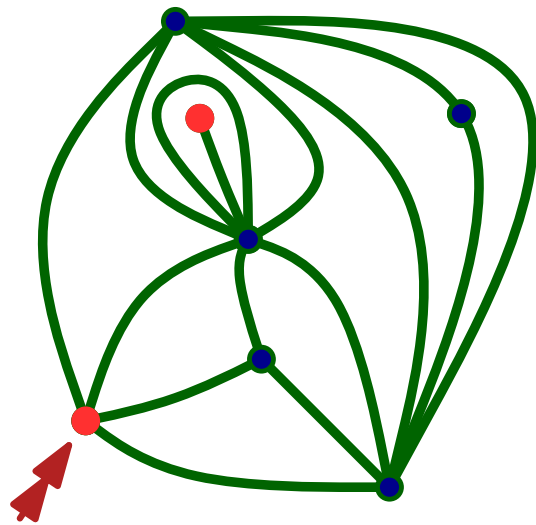
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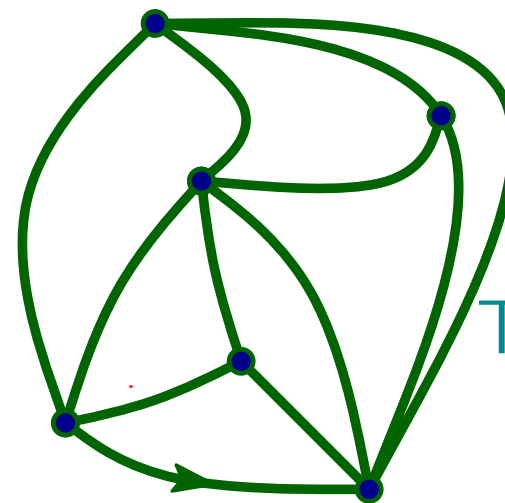
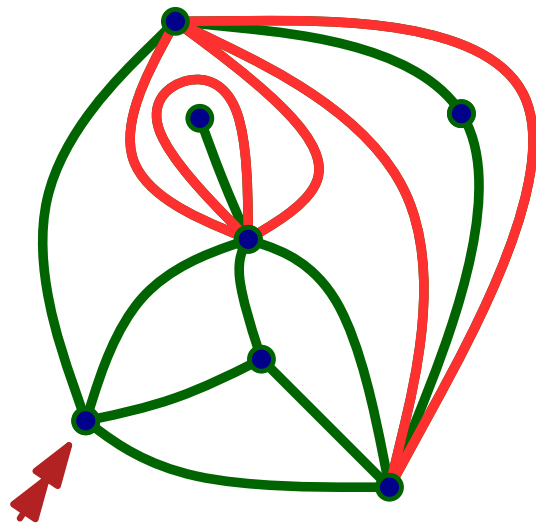
Plane maps are **rooted**. Face that contains the root = **outer face**

Distance between two vertices = number of edges between them.

Planar map = **Metric space**

# Planar Maps – Triangulations.

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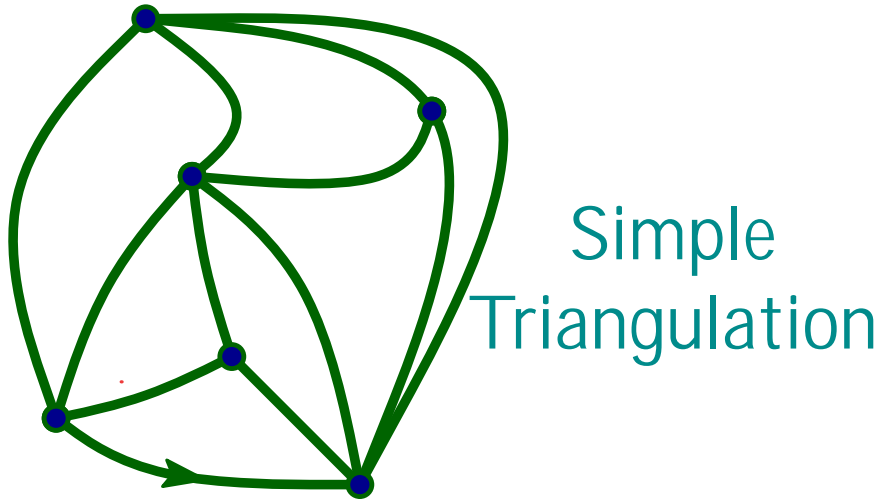


Simple  
Triangulation

**Triangulation** = all faces are triangles.

**Simple** map = no loops nor multiple edges

## Model + Motivation



Euler Formula :  $v + f = 2 + e$

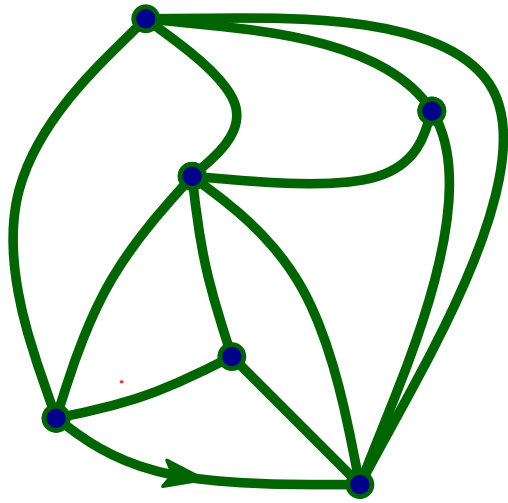
Triangulation :  $2e = 3f$

$\mathcal{M}_n = \{\text{Simple triangulations of size } n\}$   
=  $n + 2$  vertices,  $2n$  faces,  $3n$  edges

$M_n = \text{Random element of } \mathcal{M}_n$

What is the behavior of  $M_n$  when  $n$  goes to infinity ?  
typical distances ? convergence towards a continuous object ?

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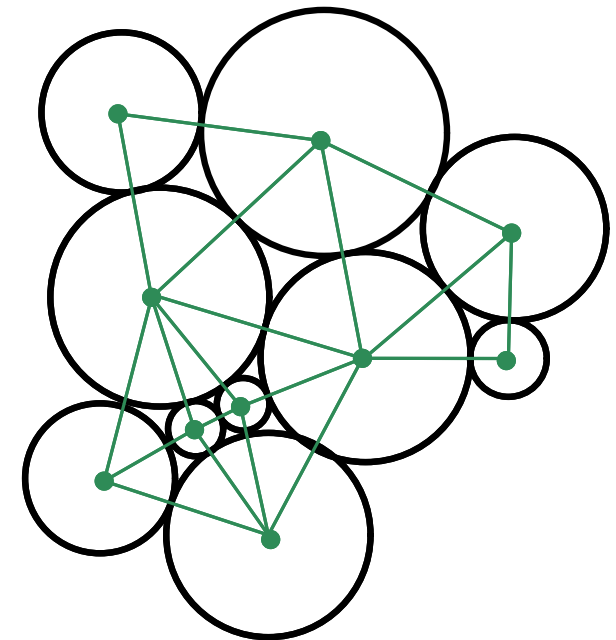
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One motivation : Circle-packing theorem

Each simple triangulation  $M$  has a unique (up to Möbius transformations and reflections) circle packing whose tangency graph is  $M$ .

[Koebe-Andreev-Thurston]

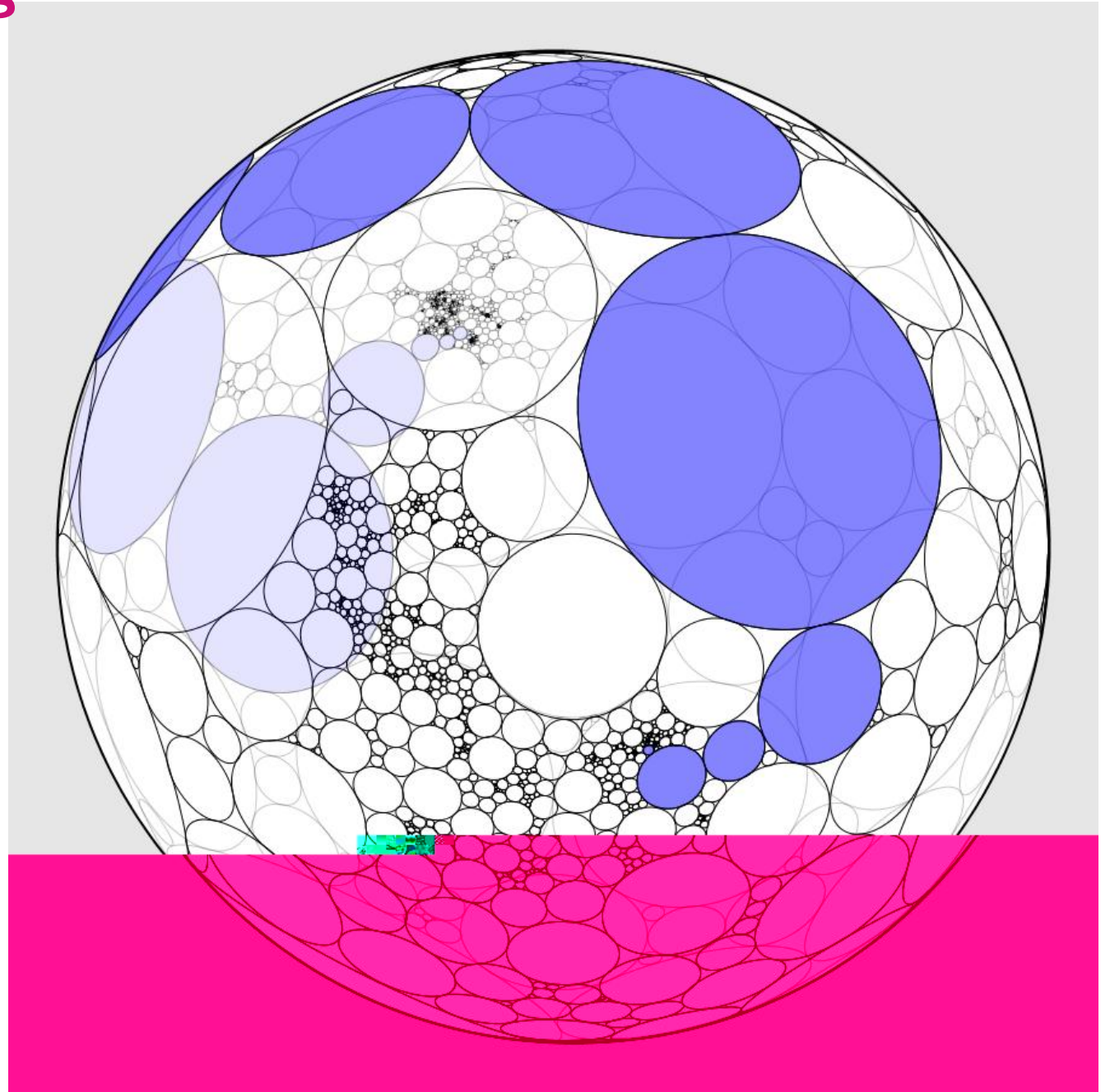
Gives a canonical embedding of simple triangulations in the sphere and possibly of their limit.



# Random circle packing

Random circle packing =  
canonical embedding of  
random simple triangulation in  
the sphere.

Gives a way to define a  
canonical embedding of their  
limit ?



Team effort : code by Kenneth Stephenson, Eric Fusy and our own.

# Convergence of uniform quadrangulations

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Typical distance is  $n^{1/4}$  + convergence of the profile



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general maps  
NOT simple maps

**Problem :** These results rely on nice bijections between **maps** and labeled trees [Schaefer '98], [Bouttier-Di Francesco-Guitter '04].

## The result

**Theorem** : [Addario-Berry, A.]

$(M_n)$  = sequence of random **simple** triangulations, then:

$$\left( M_n; \left( \frac{3}{4n} \right)^{1/4} d_{M_n} \right) \xrightarrow{(d)} (M; D^*);$$

for the distance of Gromov-Hausdorff on the isometry classes of compact metric spaces.

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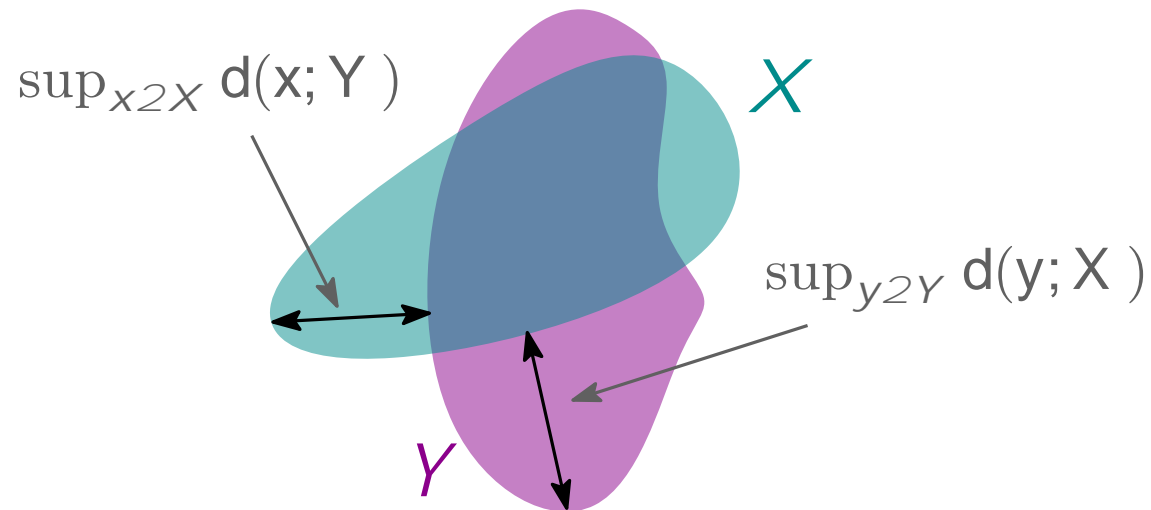
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**Exactly the same kind of result as Le Gall and Miermont's.**

# Gromov-Hausdorff distance

**Hausdorff distance** between  $X$  and  $Y$  two compact sets of  $(E; d)$  :

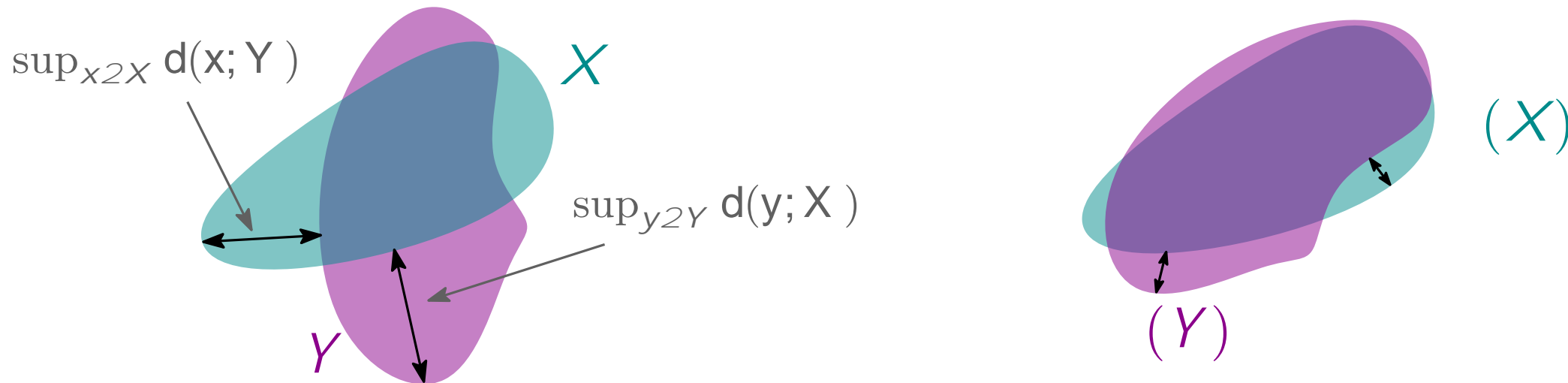
$$d_H(X; Y) = \max\left\{\sup_{x \in X} d(x; Y); \sup_{y \in Y} d(y; X)\right\}$$



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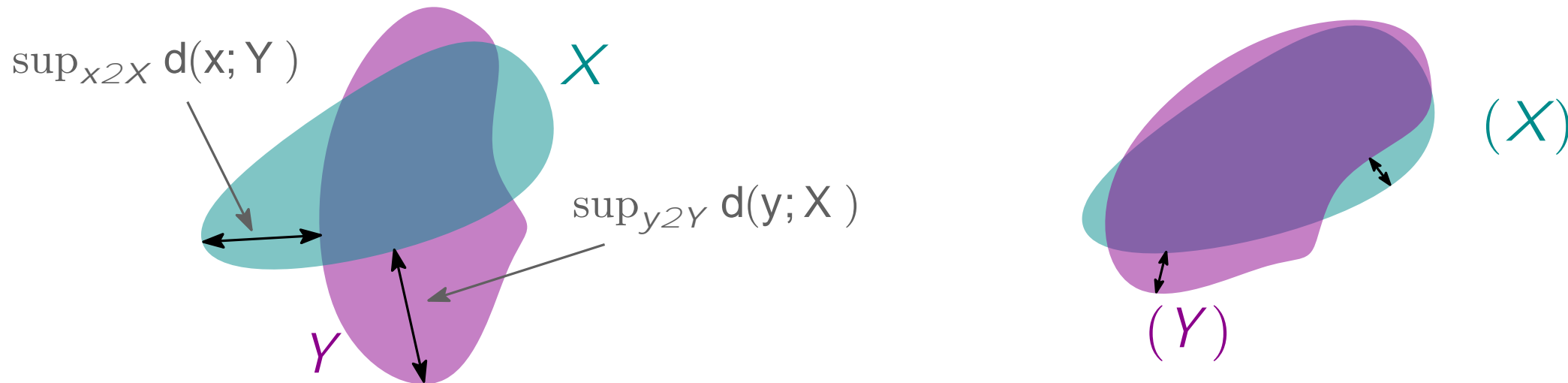
$$d_{GH}(E; F) = \inf d_H(\mathbf{(E)}; \mathbf{(F)})$$

- In mum taken on :
- all the metric spaces  $M$
  - all the isometric embeddings  $\mathbf{(E)}; \mathbf{(F)} \rightarrow M$ .

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{isometry classes of compact metric spaces with GH distance}  
 = complete and separable (= "Polish" ) space.

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Idea of proof :

- encode the simple triangulations by some trees,
- **study the limits of trees**,
- interpret the **distance in the maps by some function of the tree**.

# From blossoming trees to simple triangulations

## plane tree:

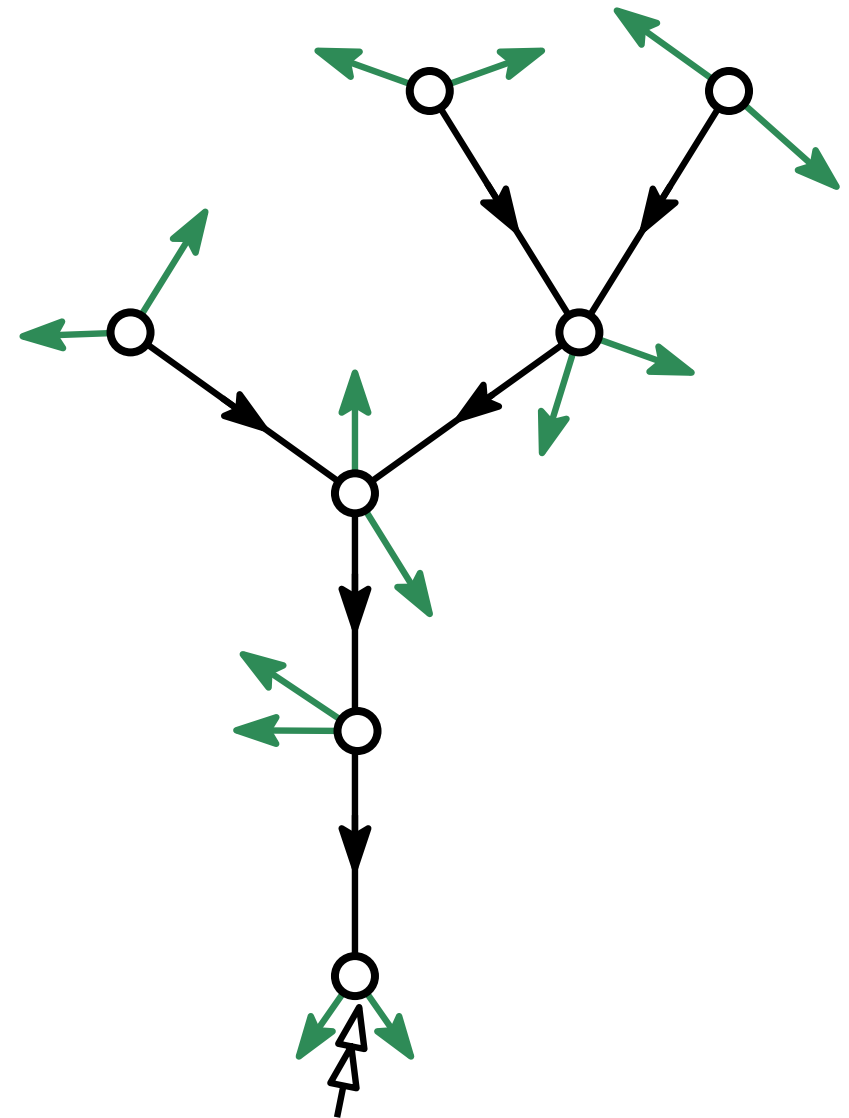
plane map that is a tree

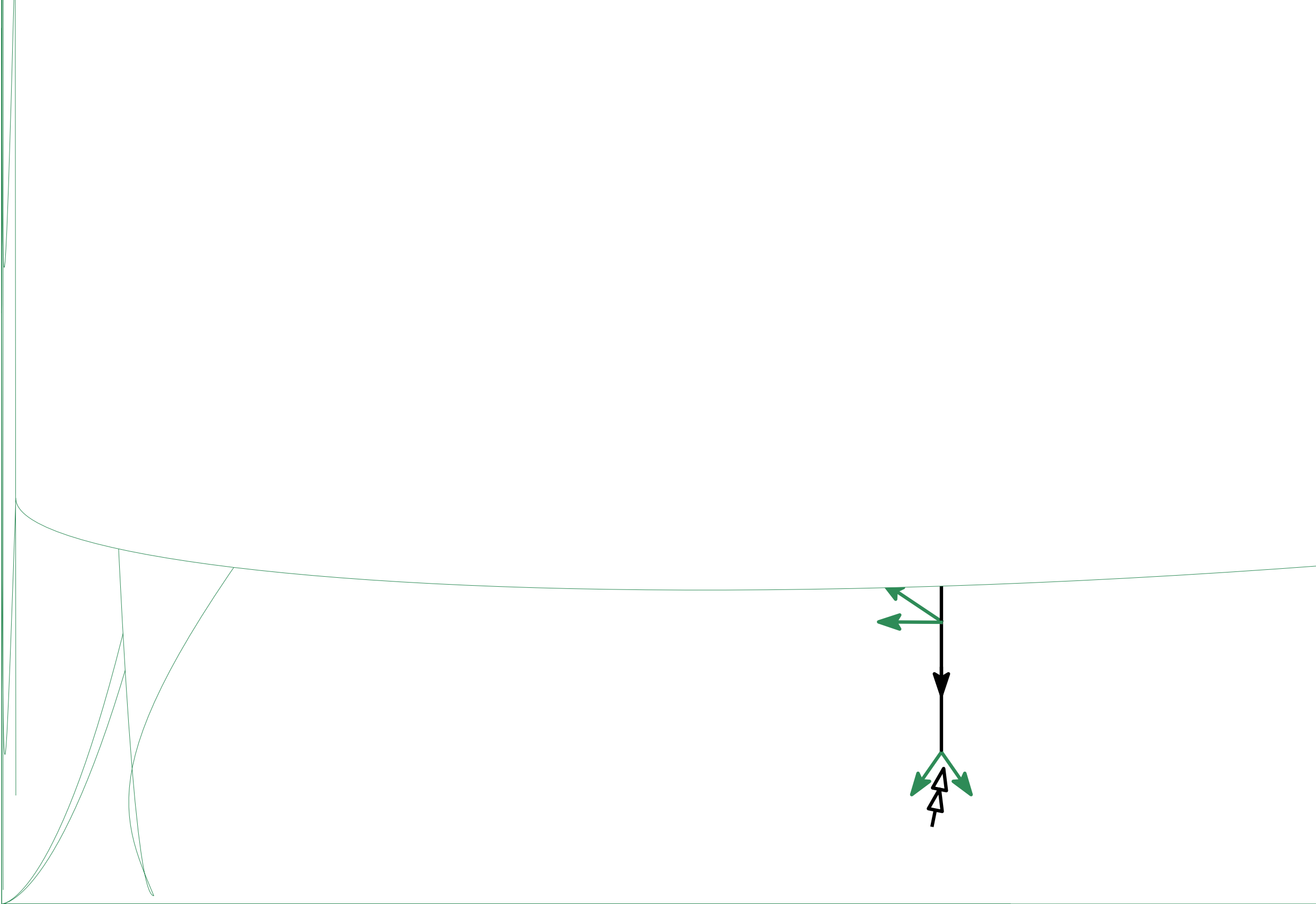
## rooted plane tree:

one corner is distinguished

## 2-blossoming tree:

planted plane tree such that each vertex carries two leaves



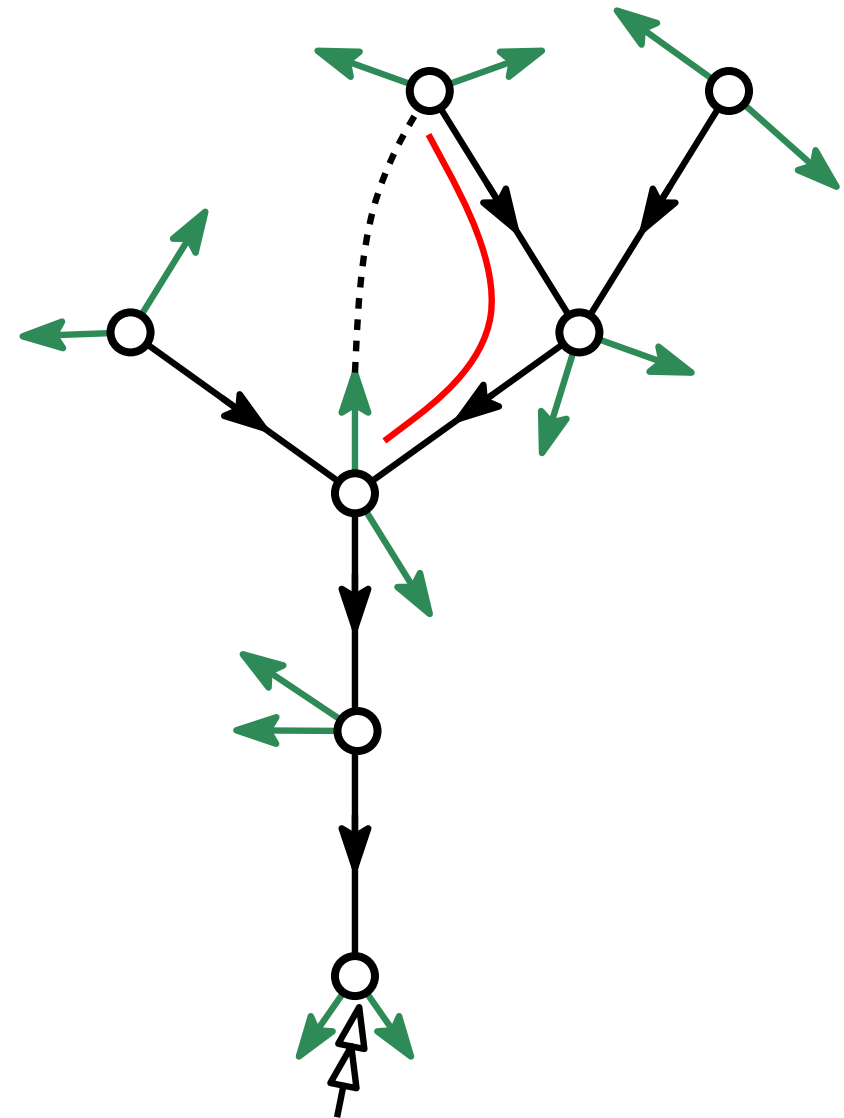




# From blossoming trees to simple triangulations

Given a planted 2-blossoming tree:

- If a leaf is followed by two internal edges,
- close it to make a triangle.

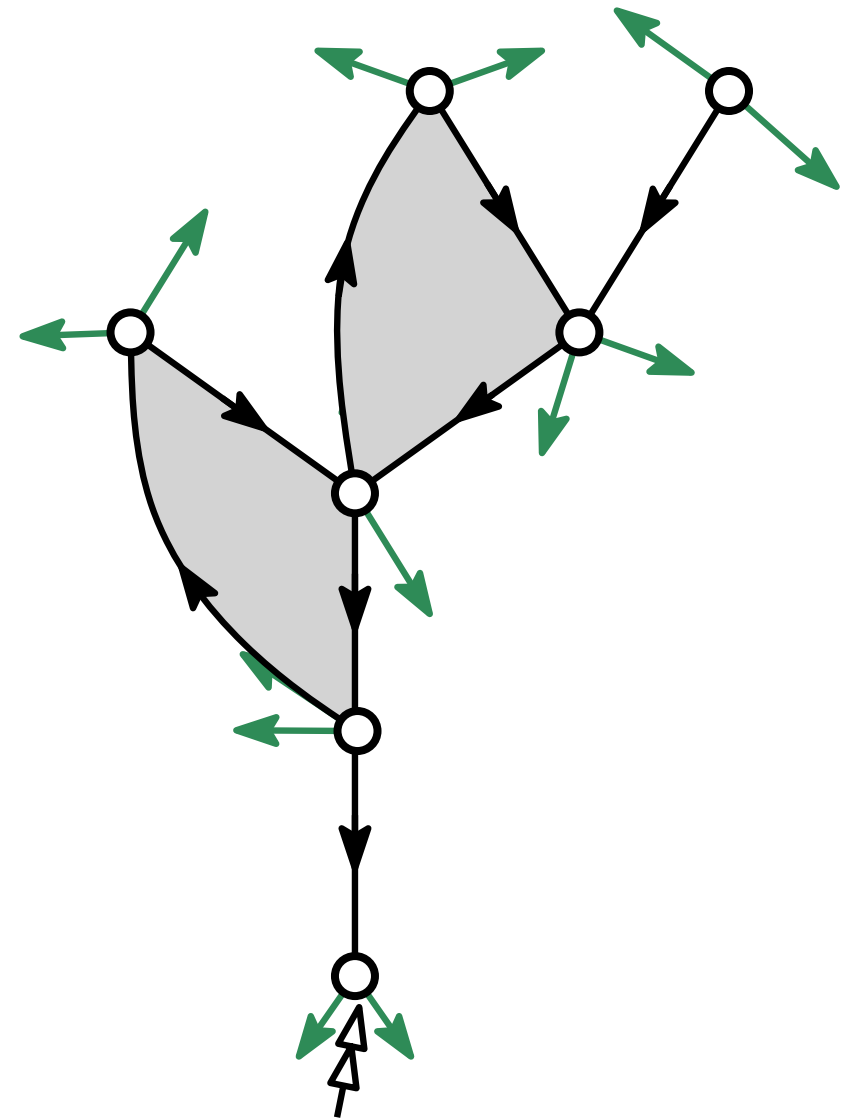




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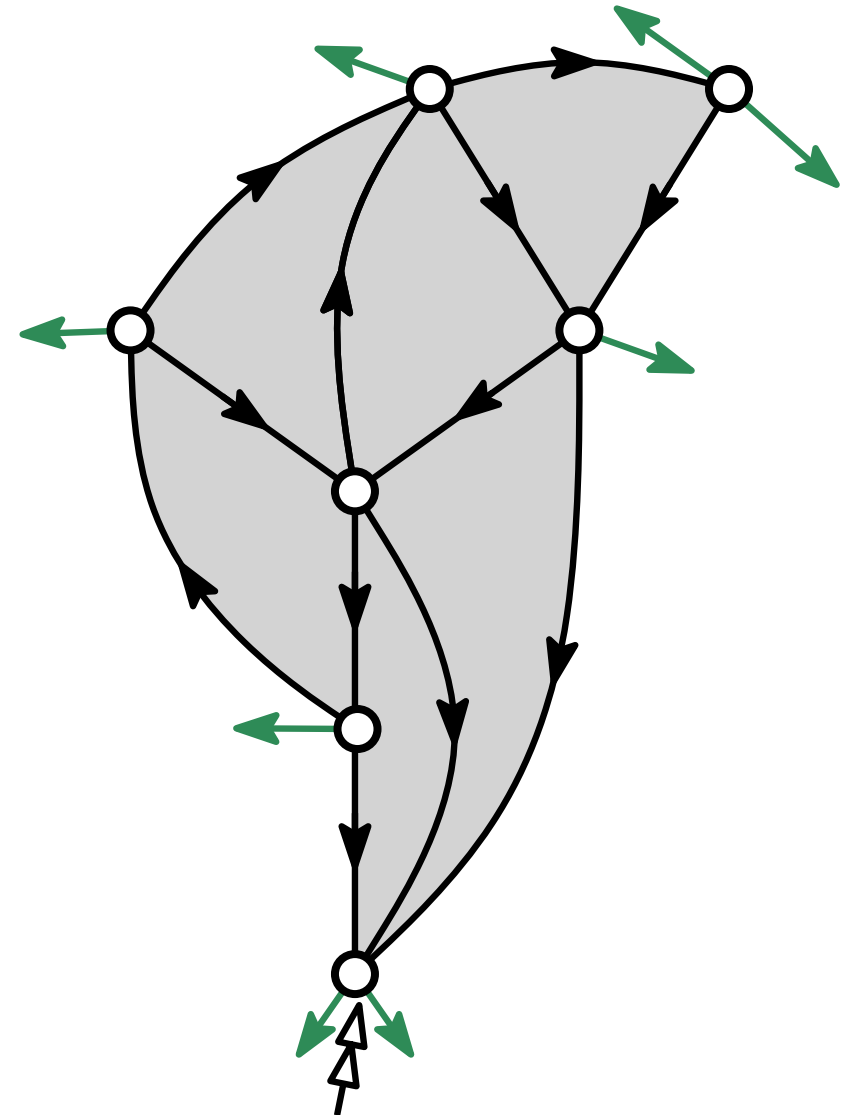
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When finished two vertices have still two leaves and others have one.

Tree **balanced** = root corner has two leaves



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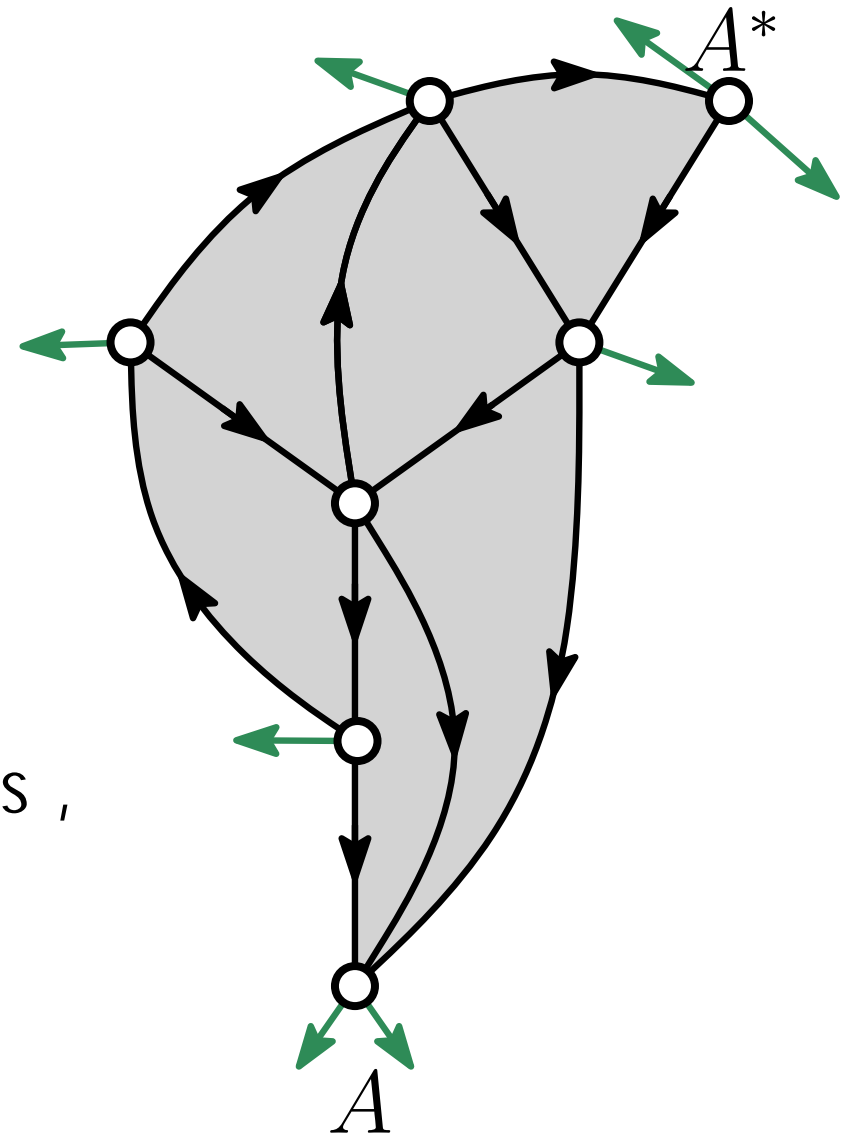
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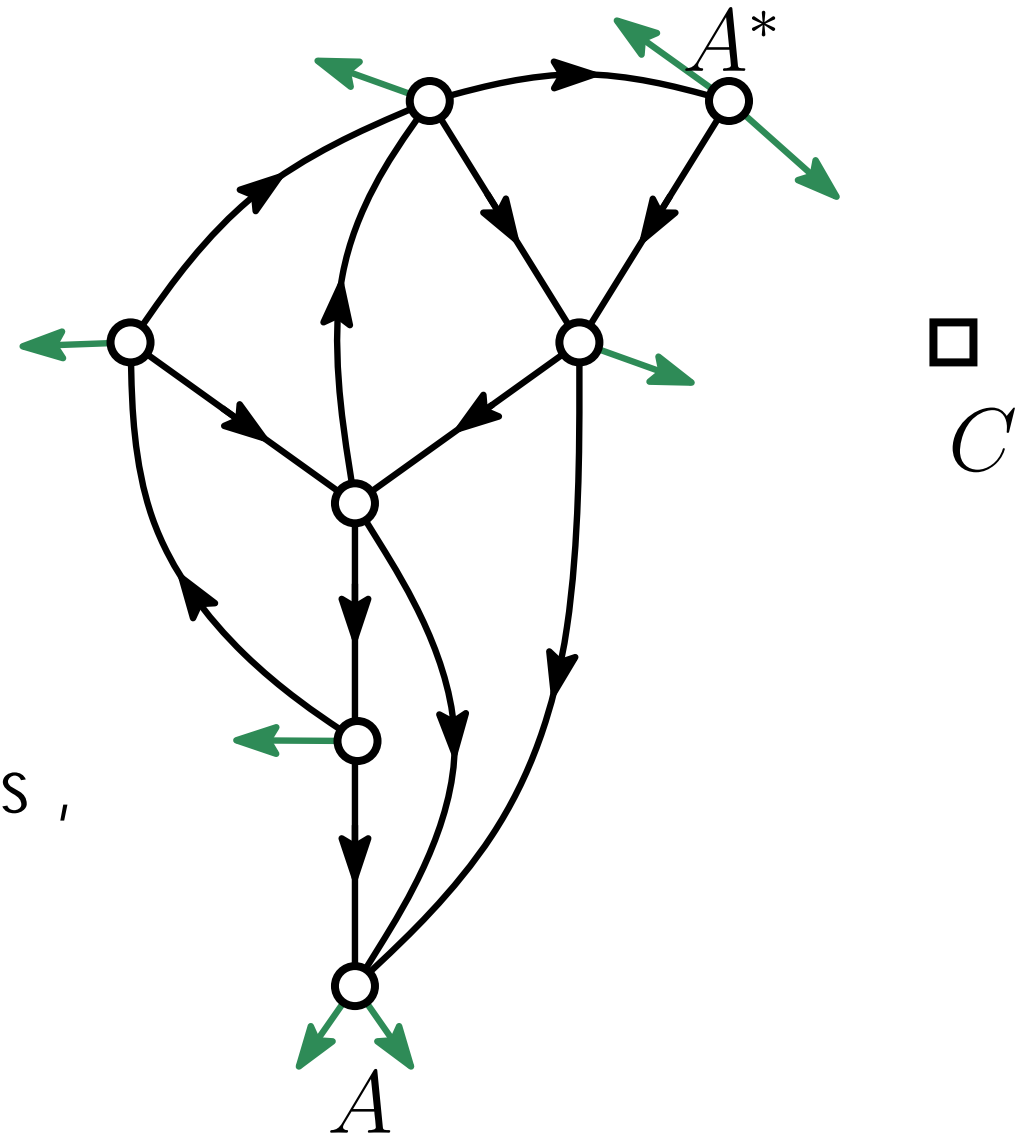
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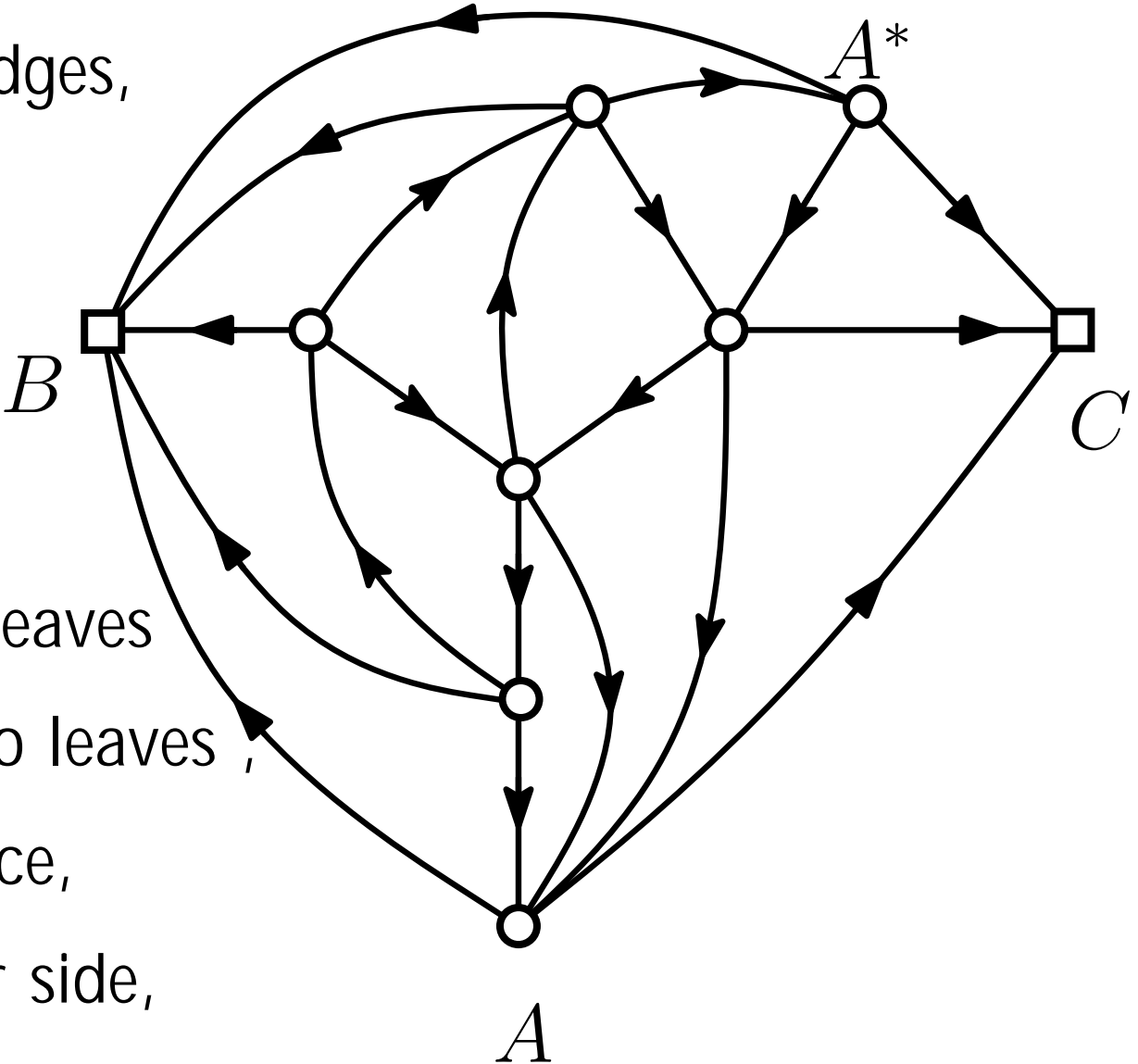
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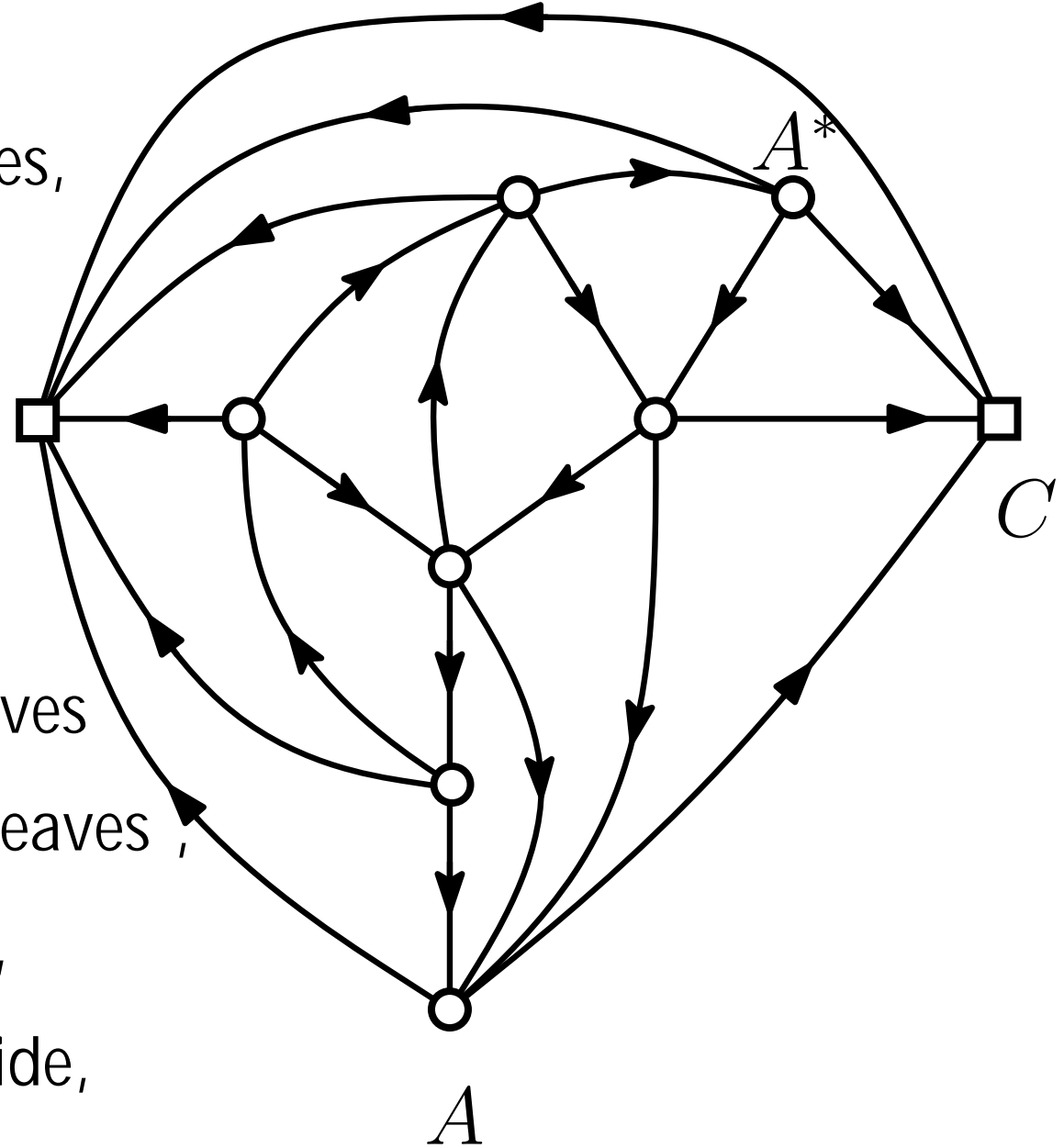
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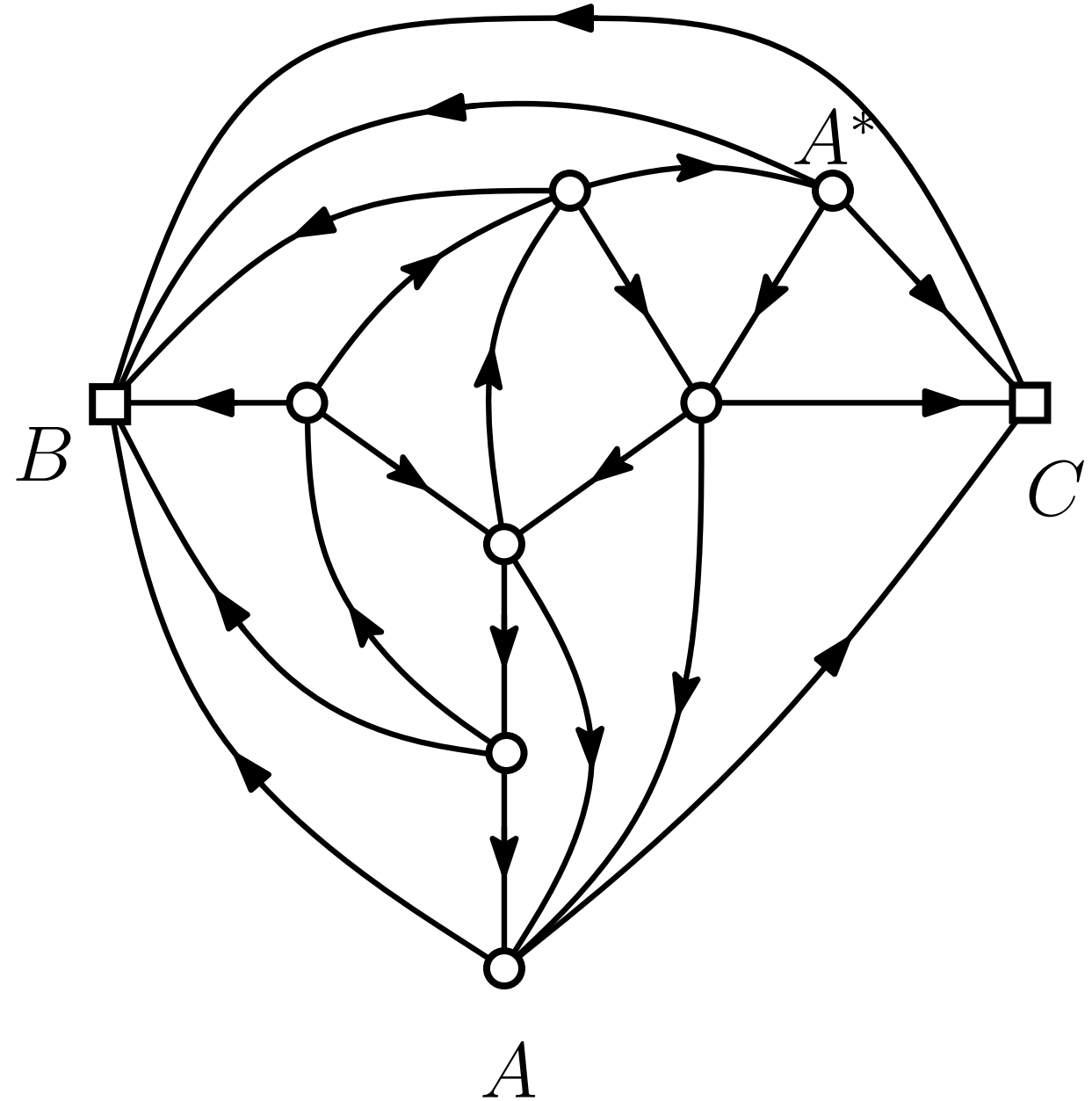




# From blossoming trees to simple triangulations

Simple triangulation endowed with its unique orientation such that :

- $\text{out}(v) = 3$  for  $v$  an inner vertex
- $\text{out}(A) = 2$ ,  $\text{out}(B) = 1$  and  $\text{out}(C) = 0$
- no counterclockwise cycle

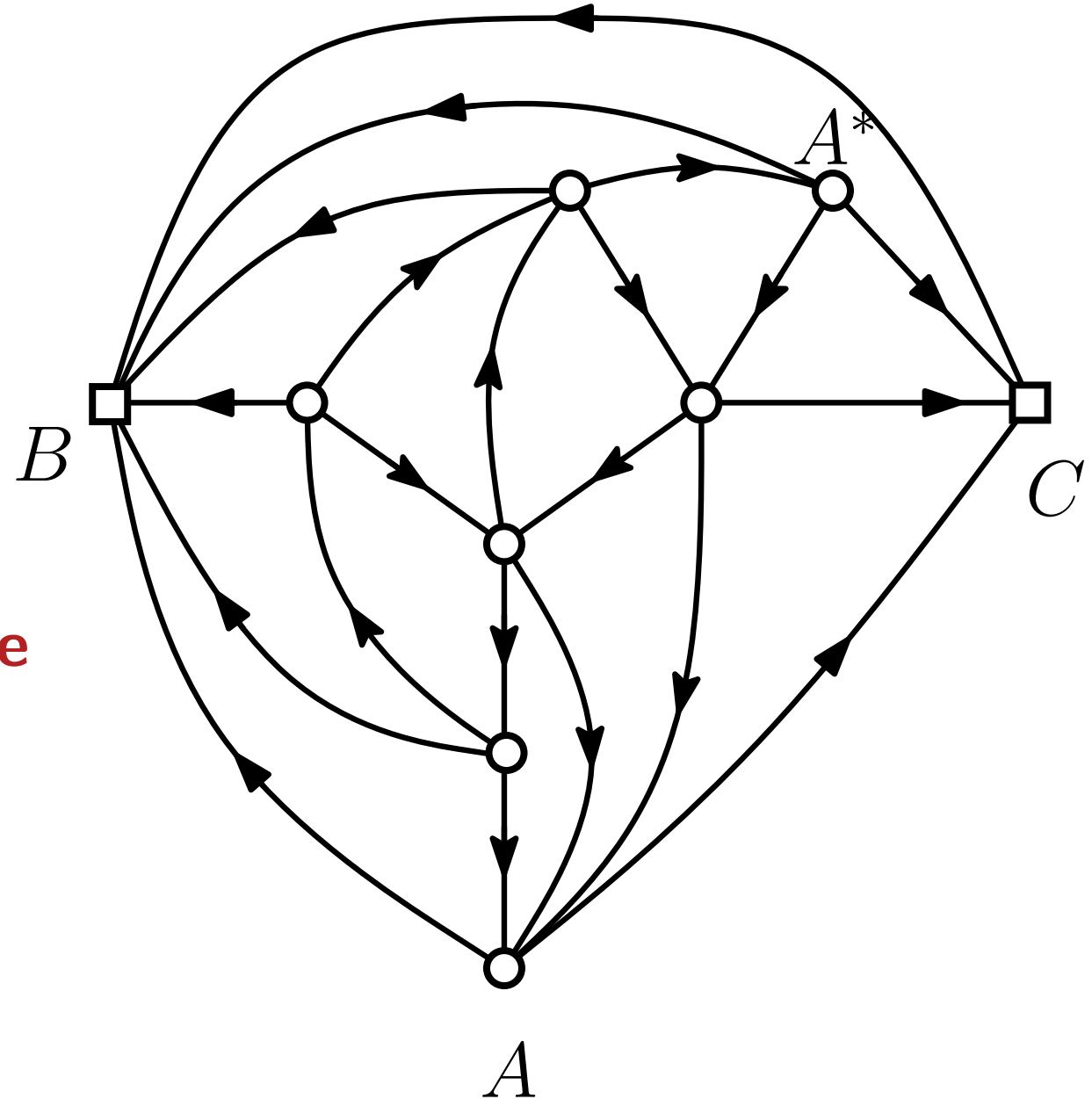


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**The orientations characterize simple triangulations** [Schnyder]



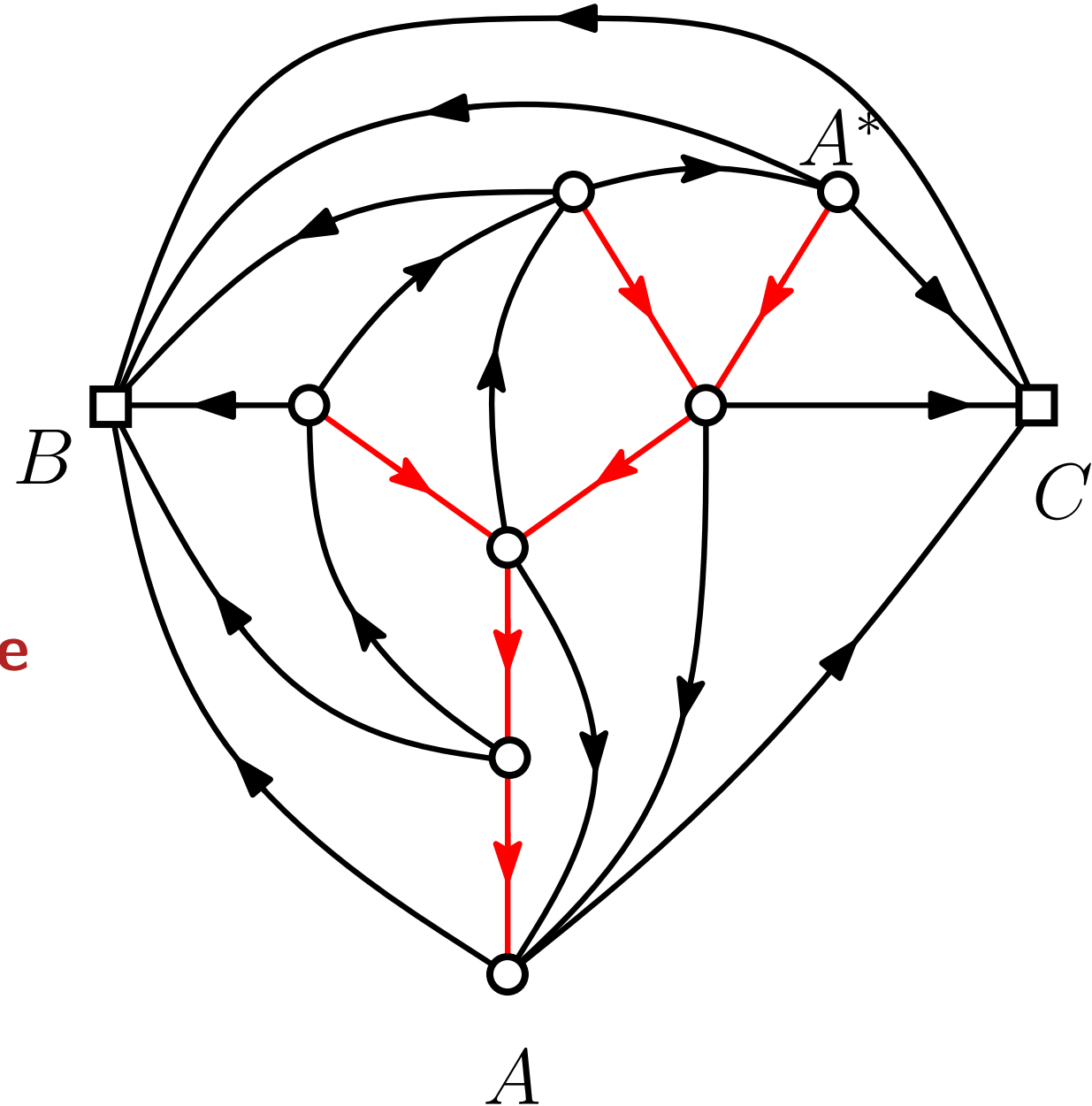
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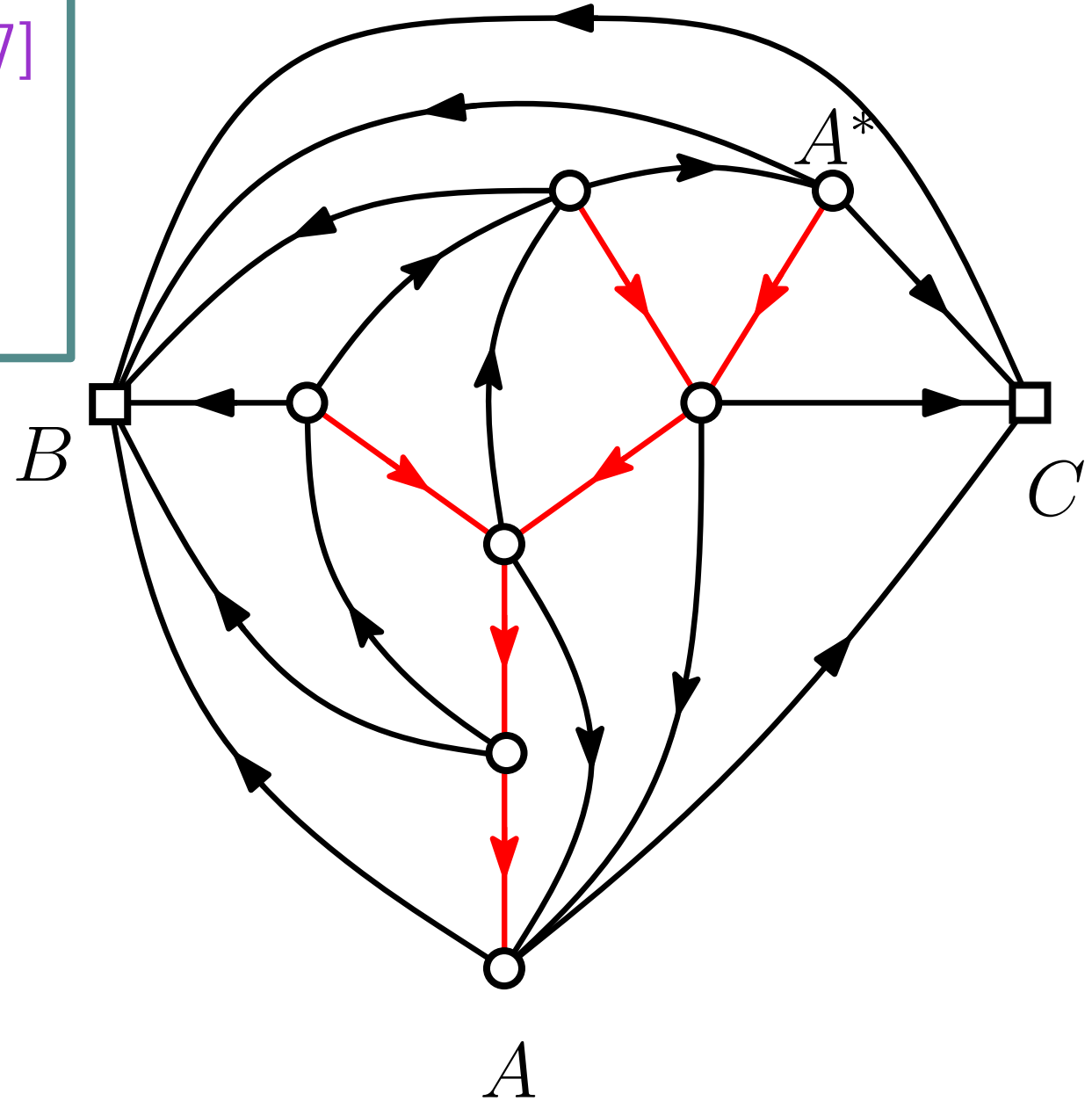
Given the orientation the blossoming tree is the leftmost spanning tree of the map (after removing  $B$  and  $C$ ).



# From blossoming trees to simple triangulations

**Proposition:** [Poulalhon, Schaefer '07]

The closure operation is a bijection between balanced 2-blossoming trees and simple triangulations.



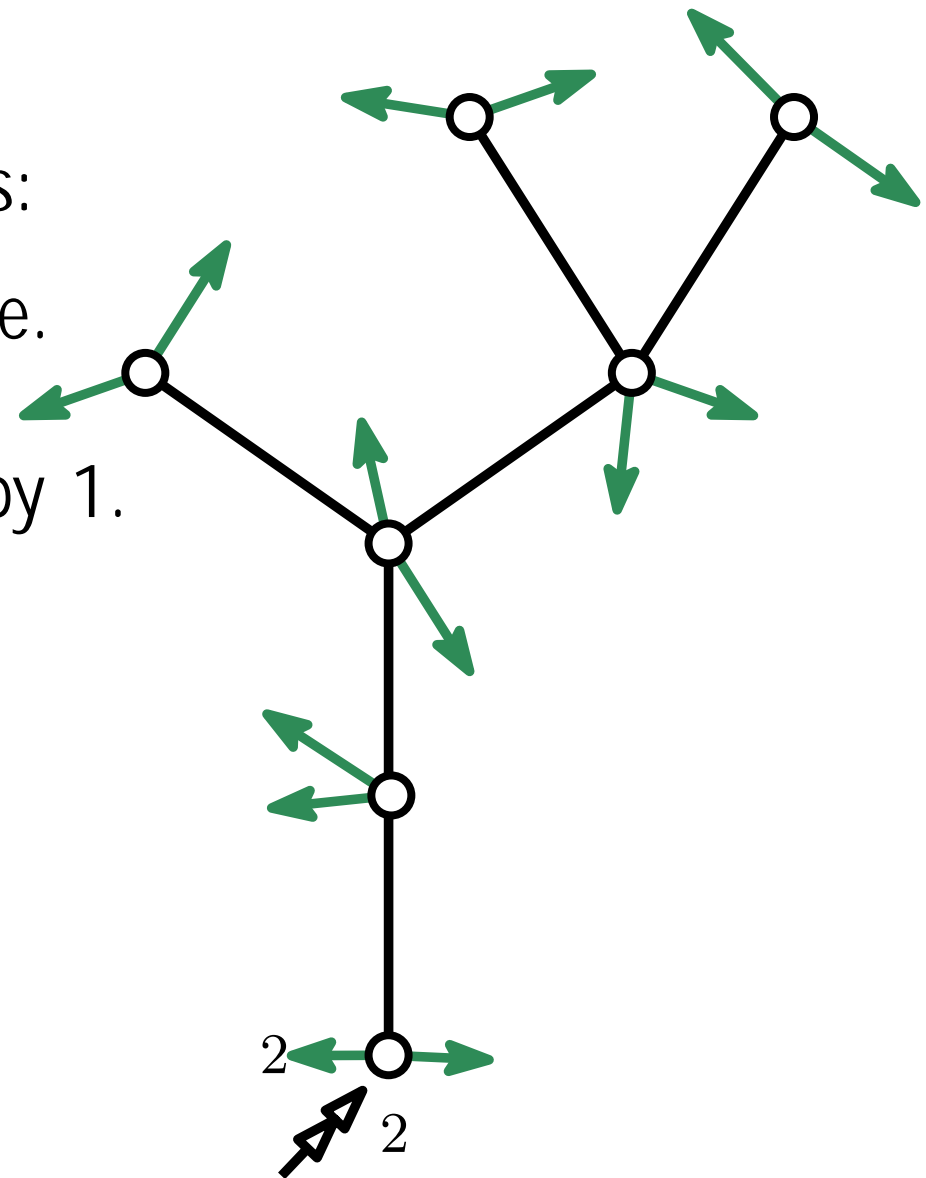


## Same bijection with corner labels

- Start with a planted 2-blossoming tree.
- Give the root corner label 2.

In contour order, apply the following rules:

- Non-leaf to leaf, label does not change.
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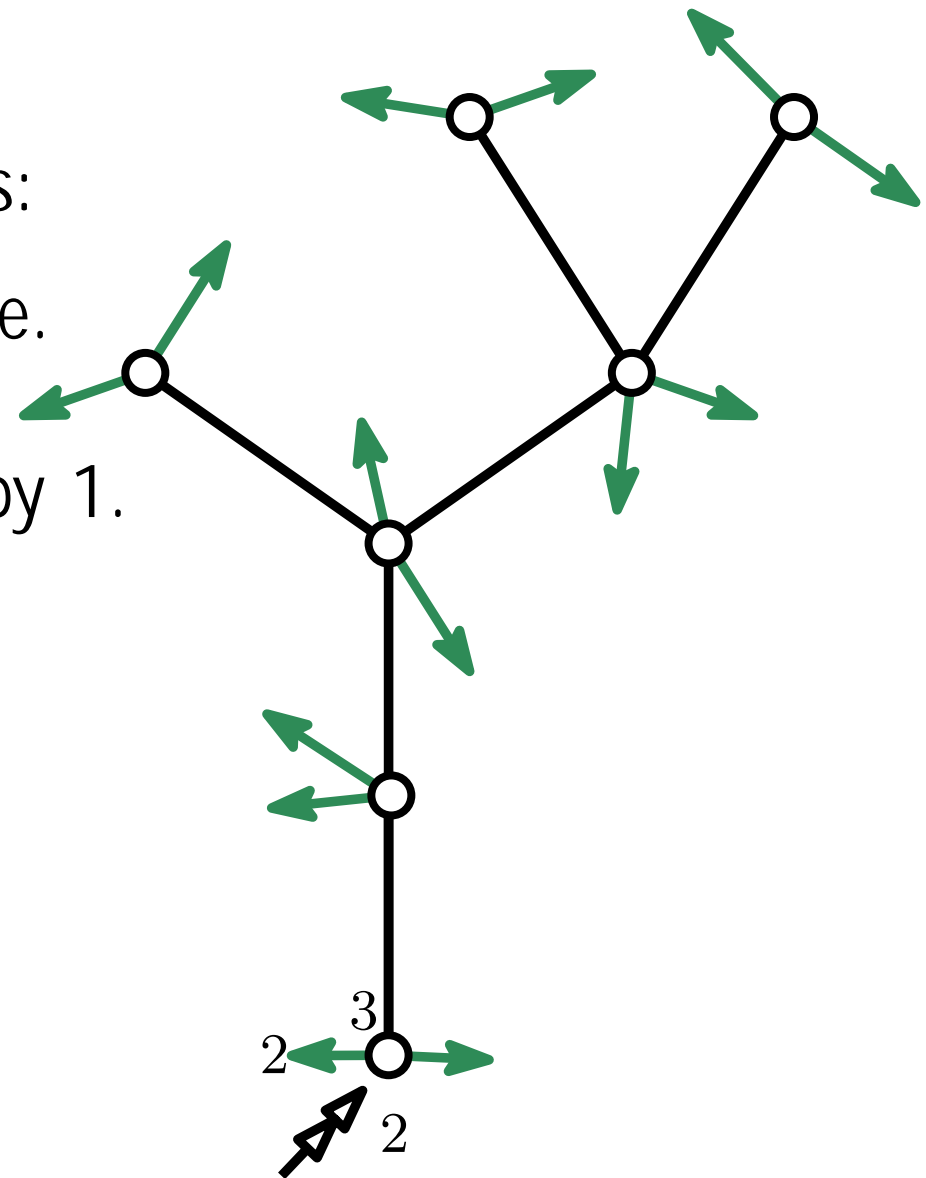


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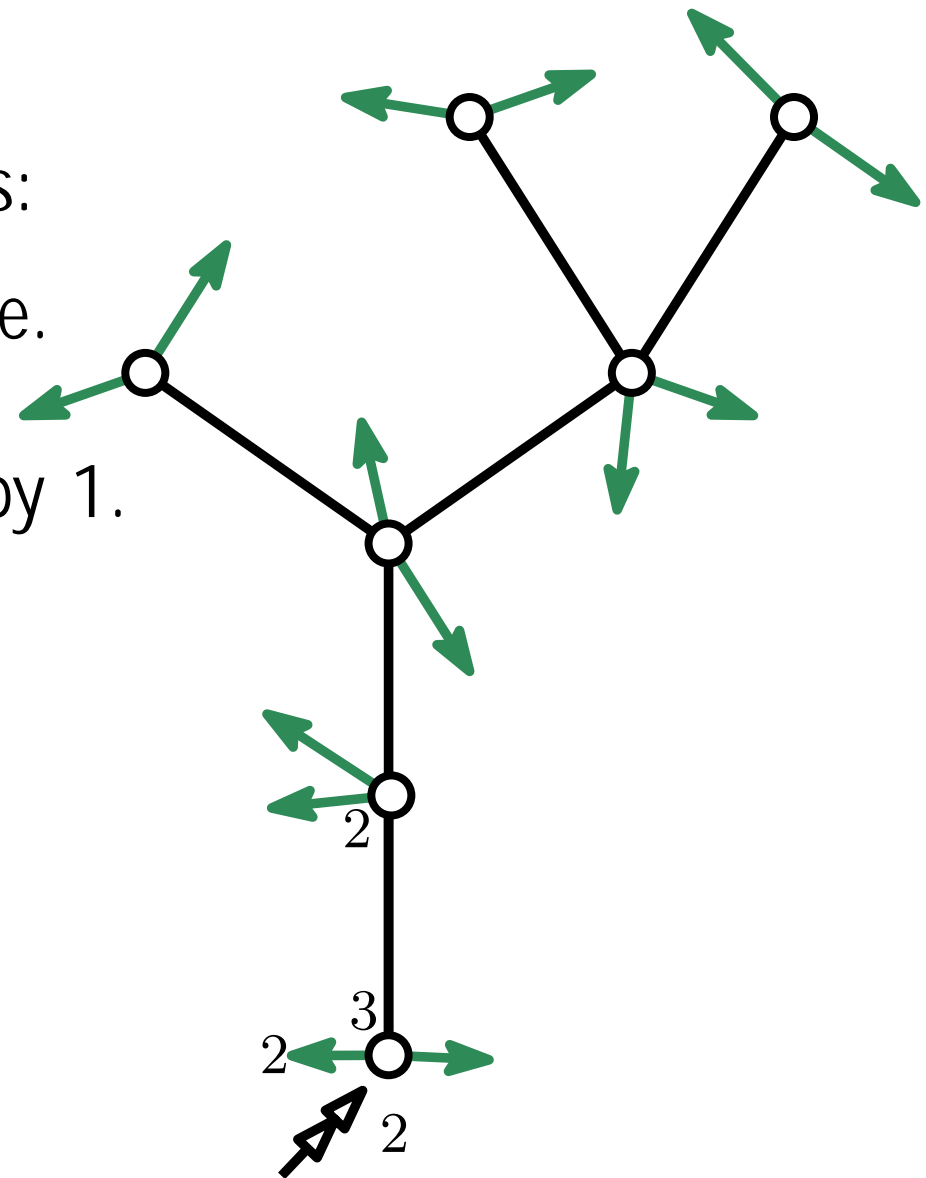
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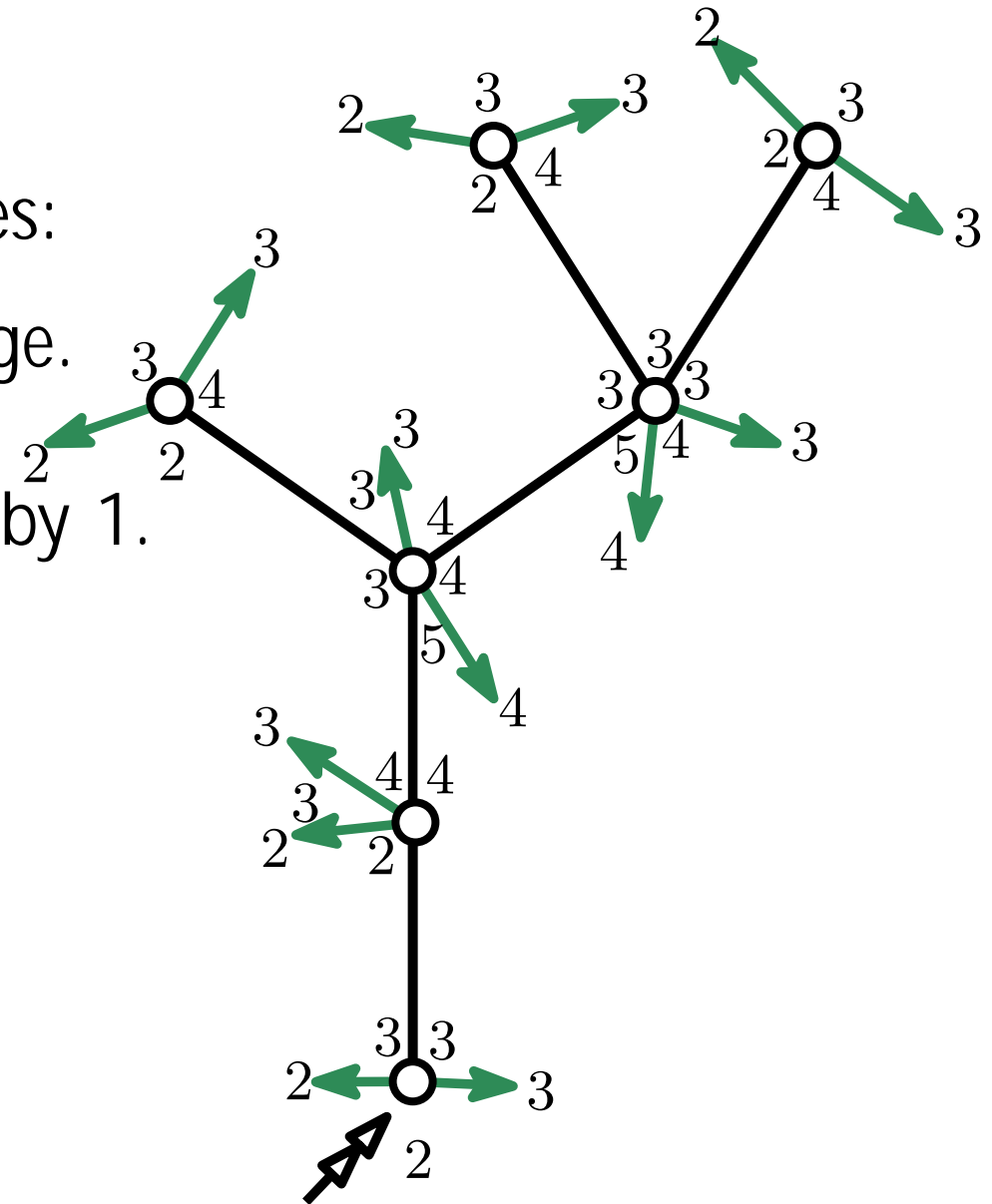


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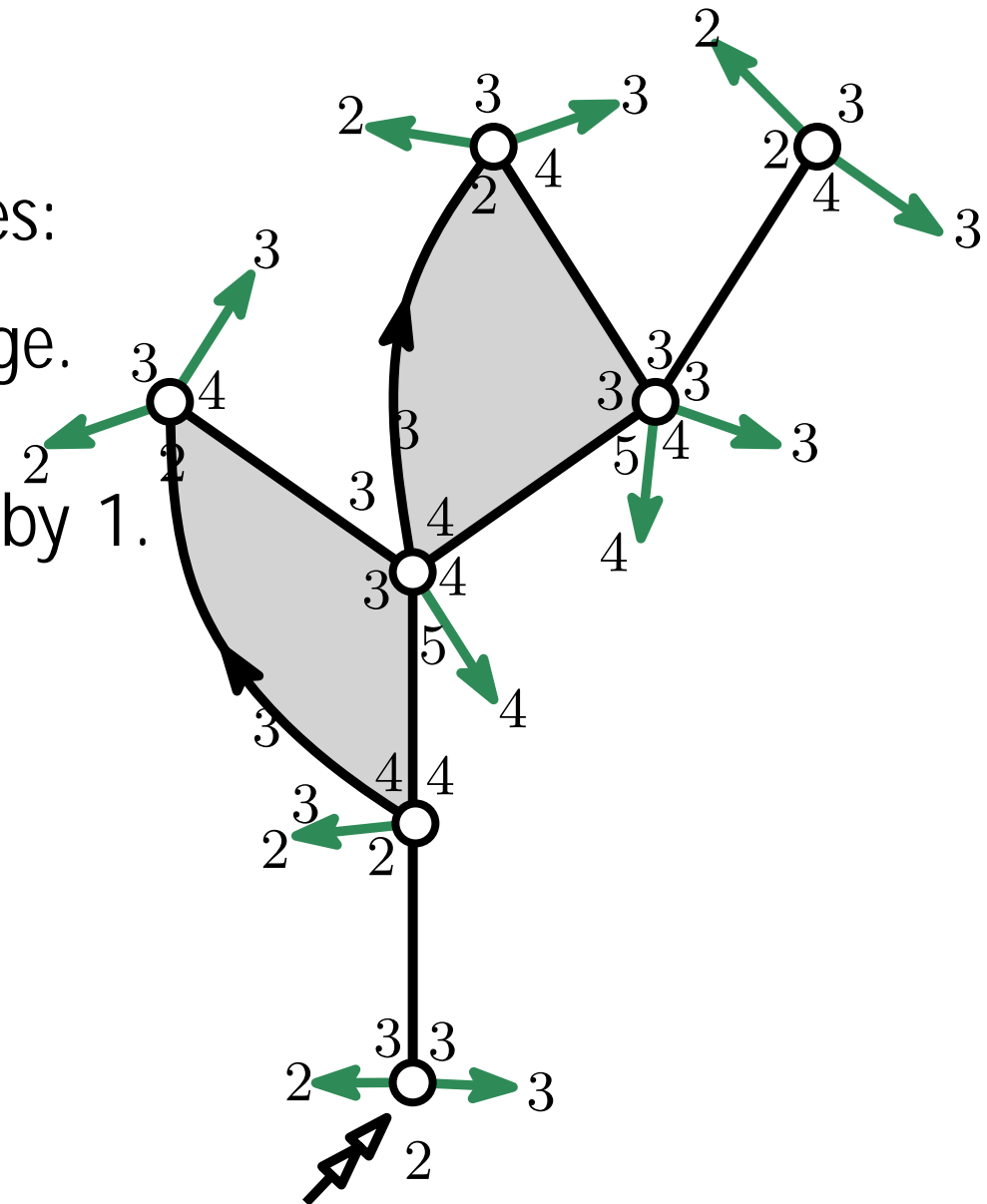
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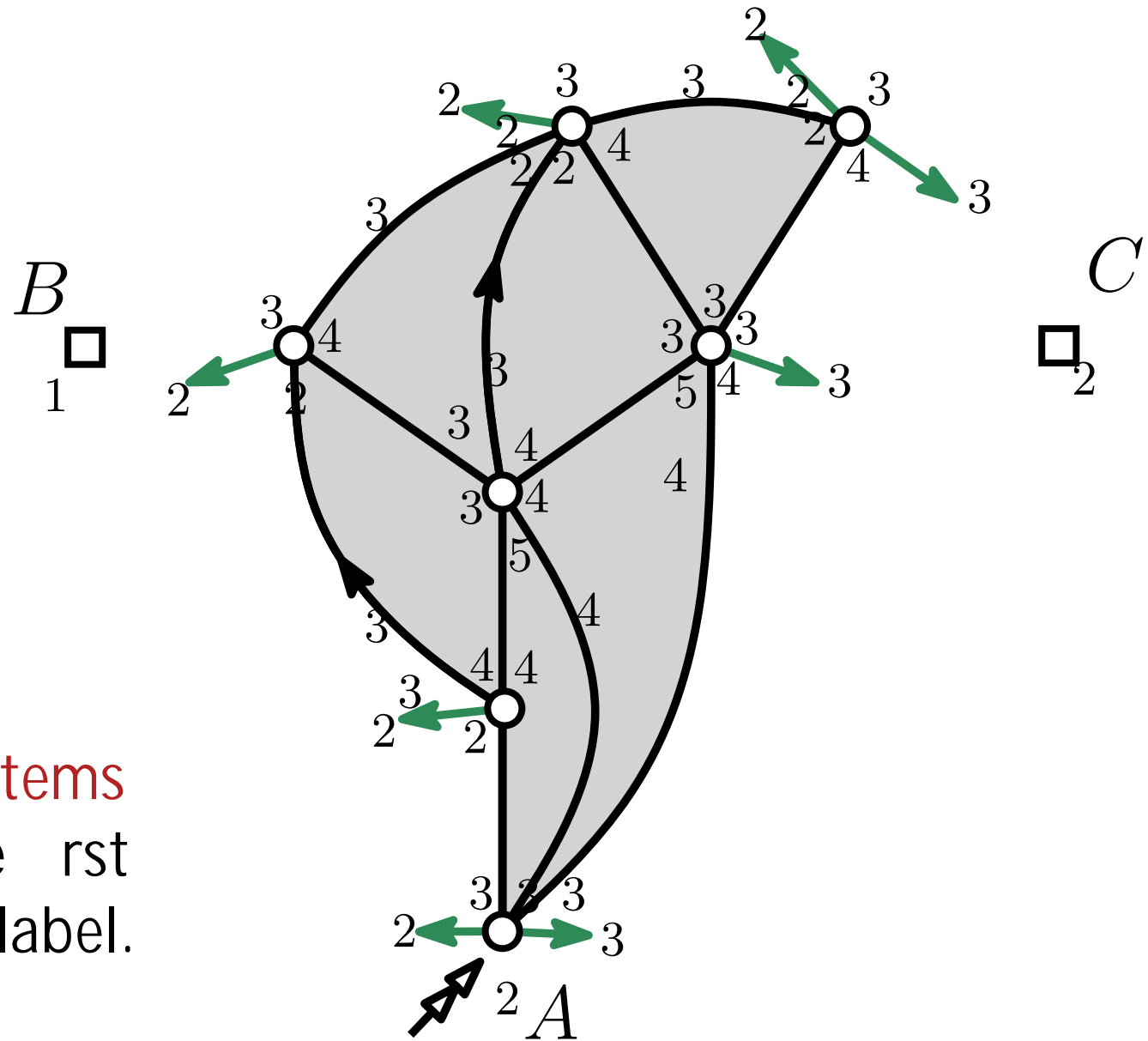
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+root corner incident to two stems

Closure: Merge each leaf with the first subsequent corner with a smaller label.



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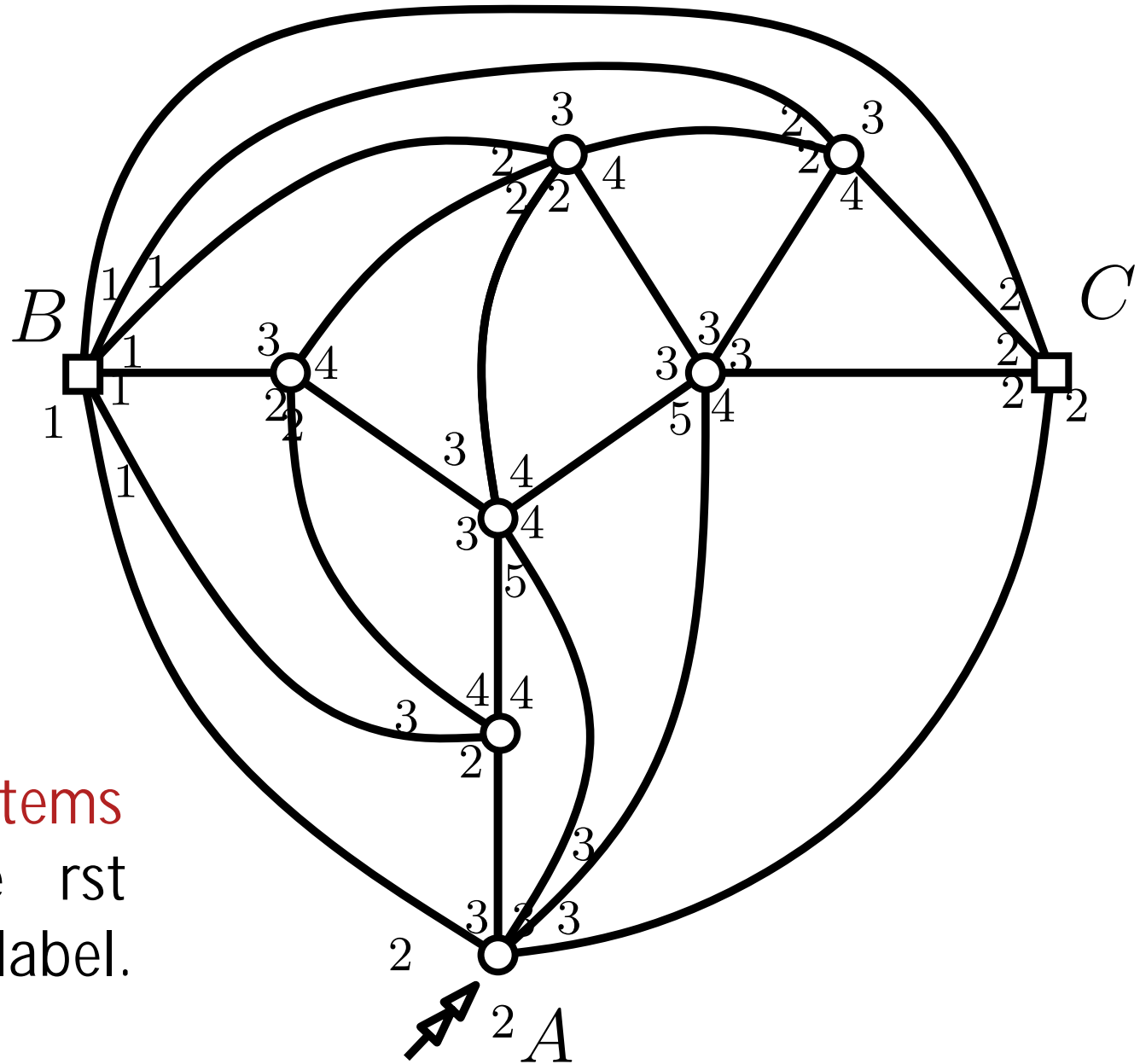
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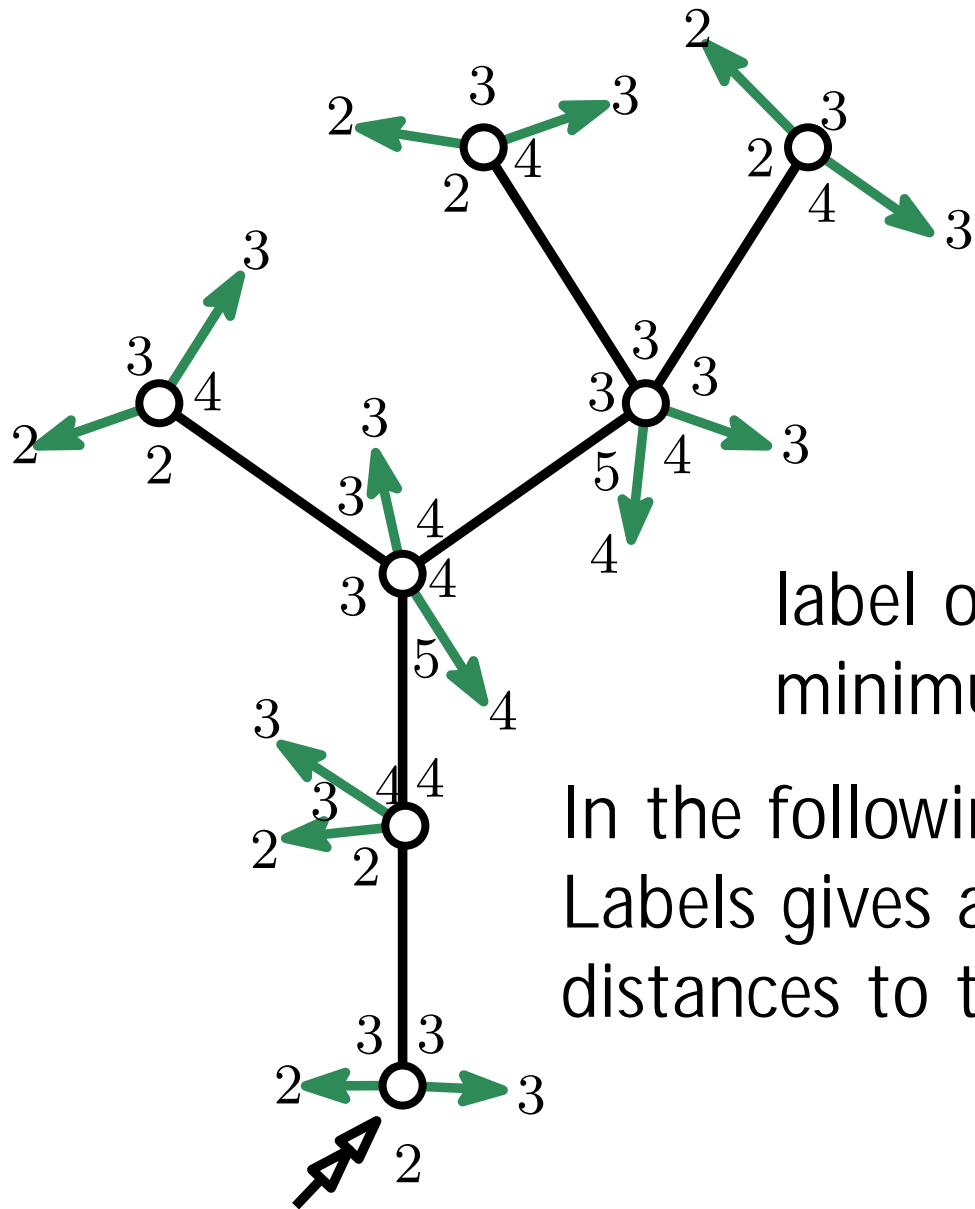
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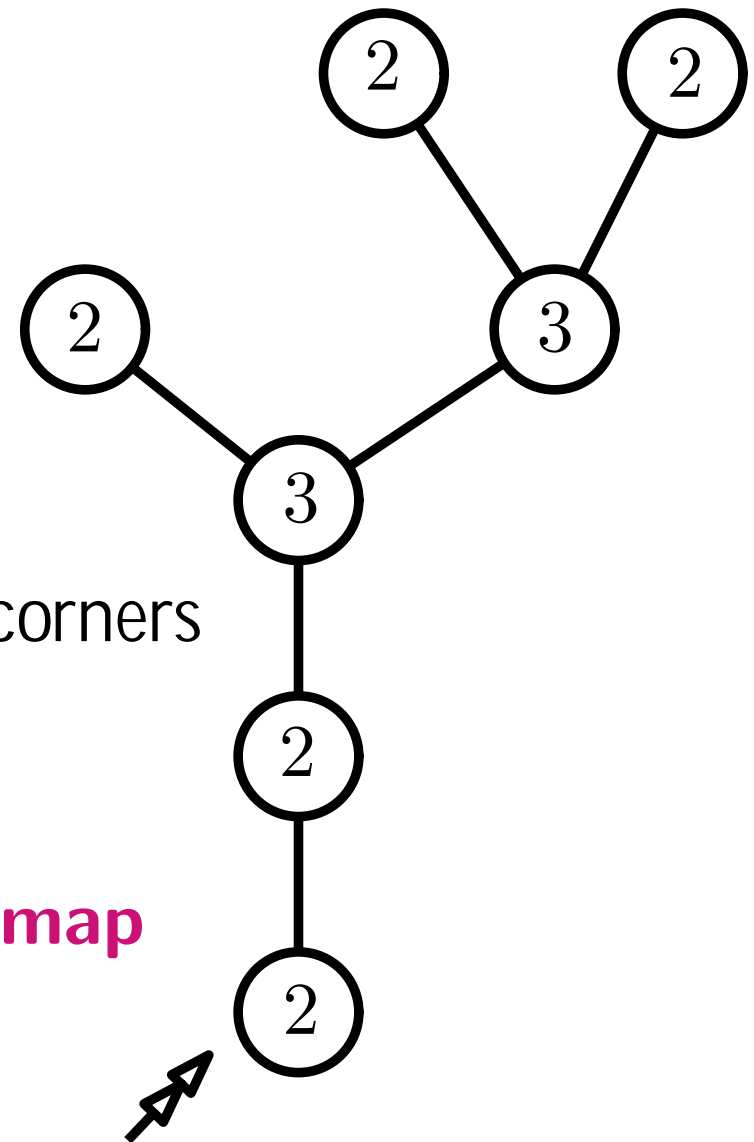
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# From blossoming trees to labeled trees

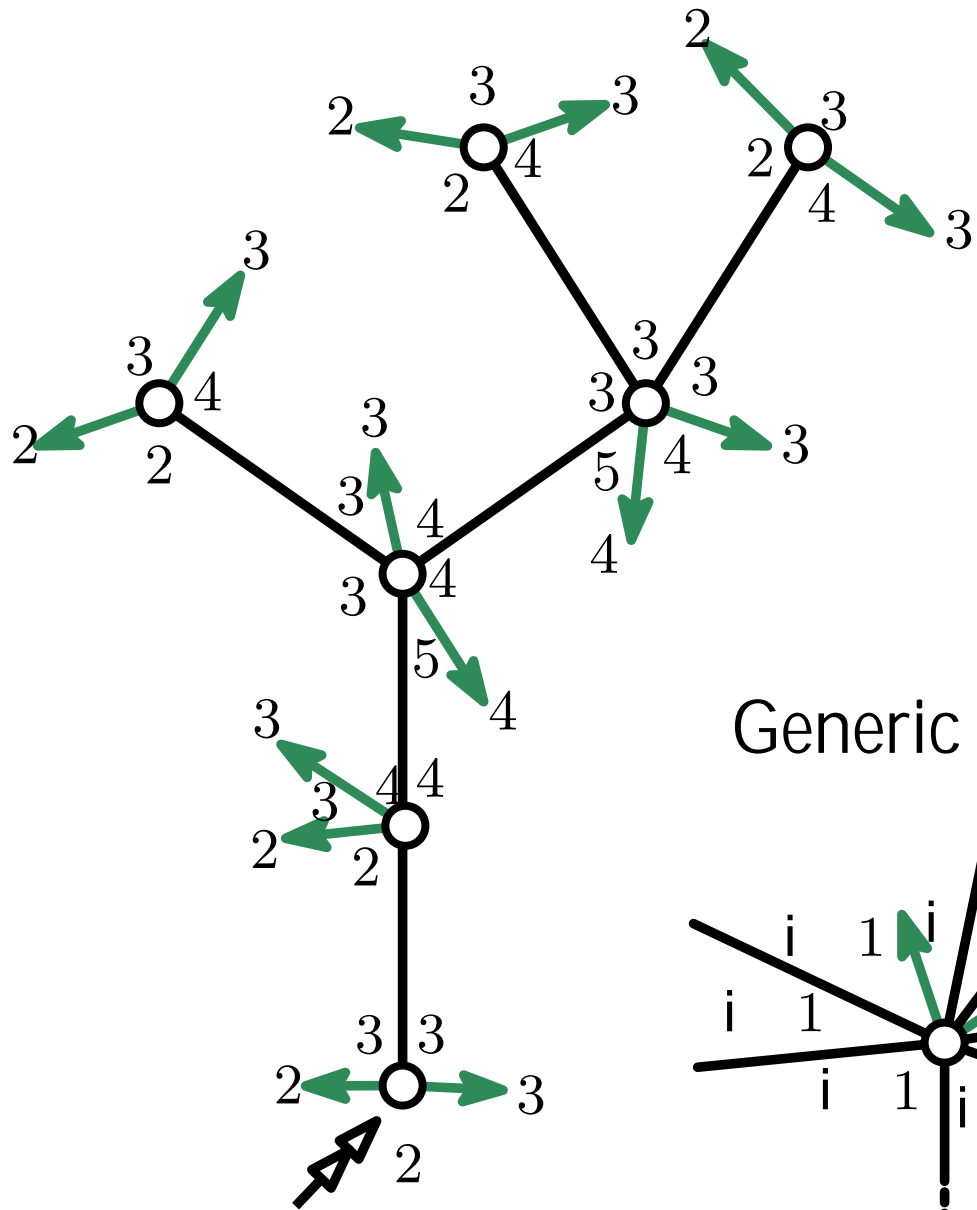


label of a vertex =  
minimum label of its corners

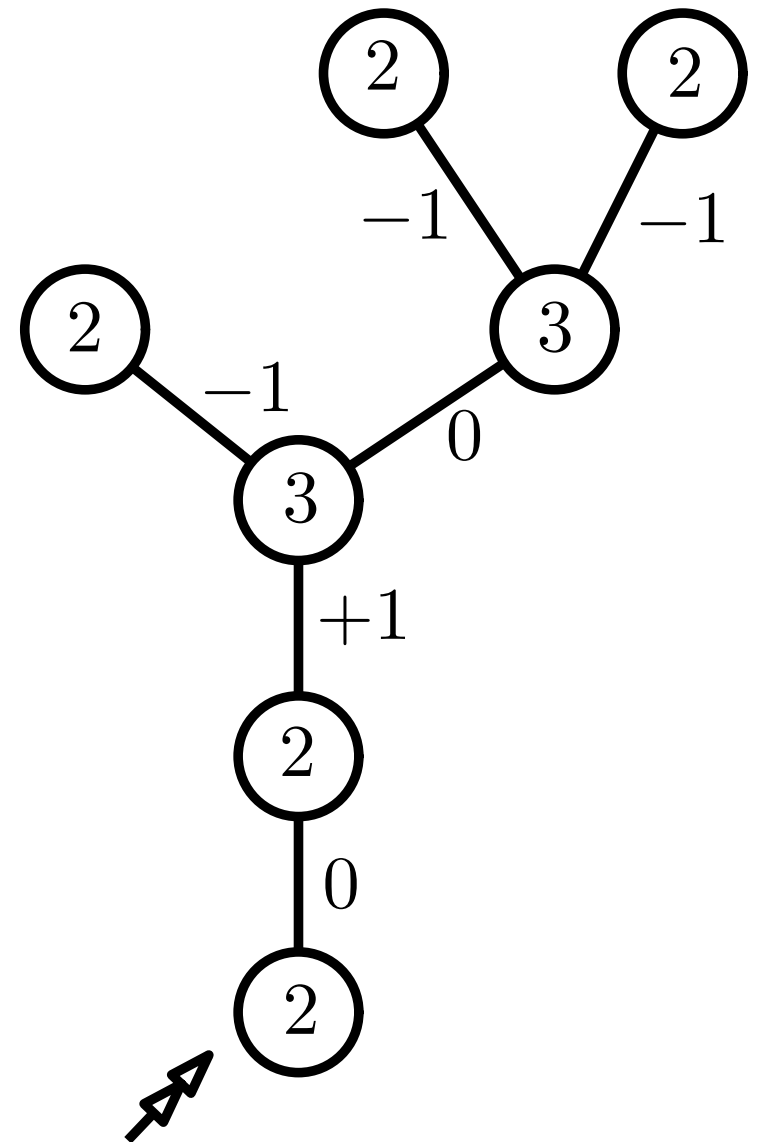
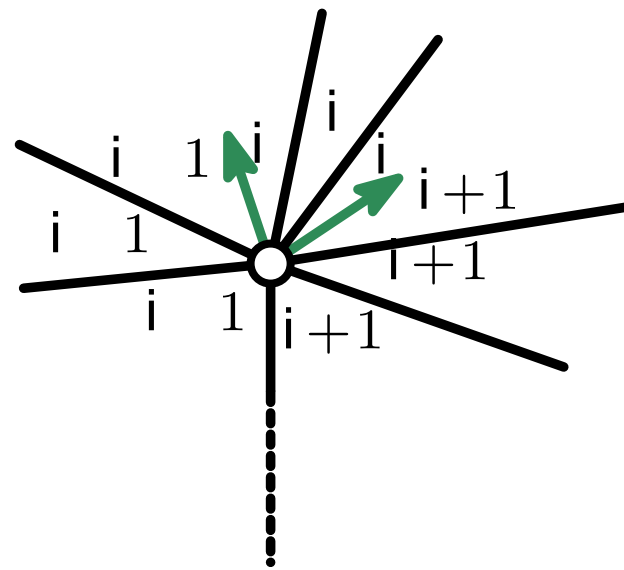
In the following:  
Labels gives approximate  
distances to the root **in the map**



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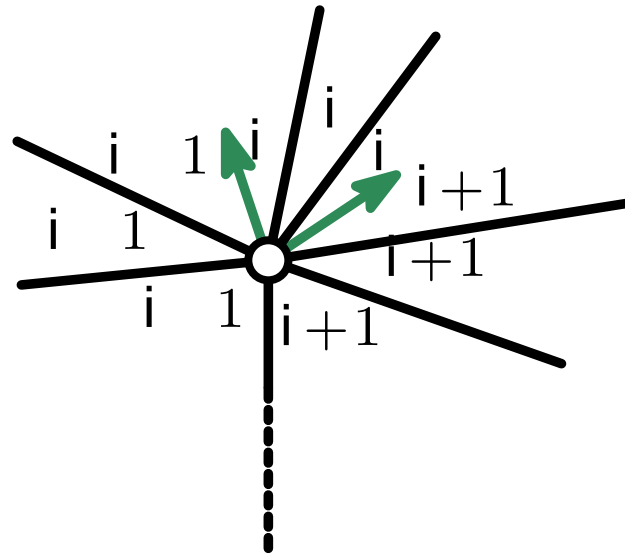


Generic vertex :

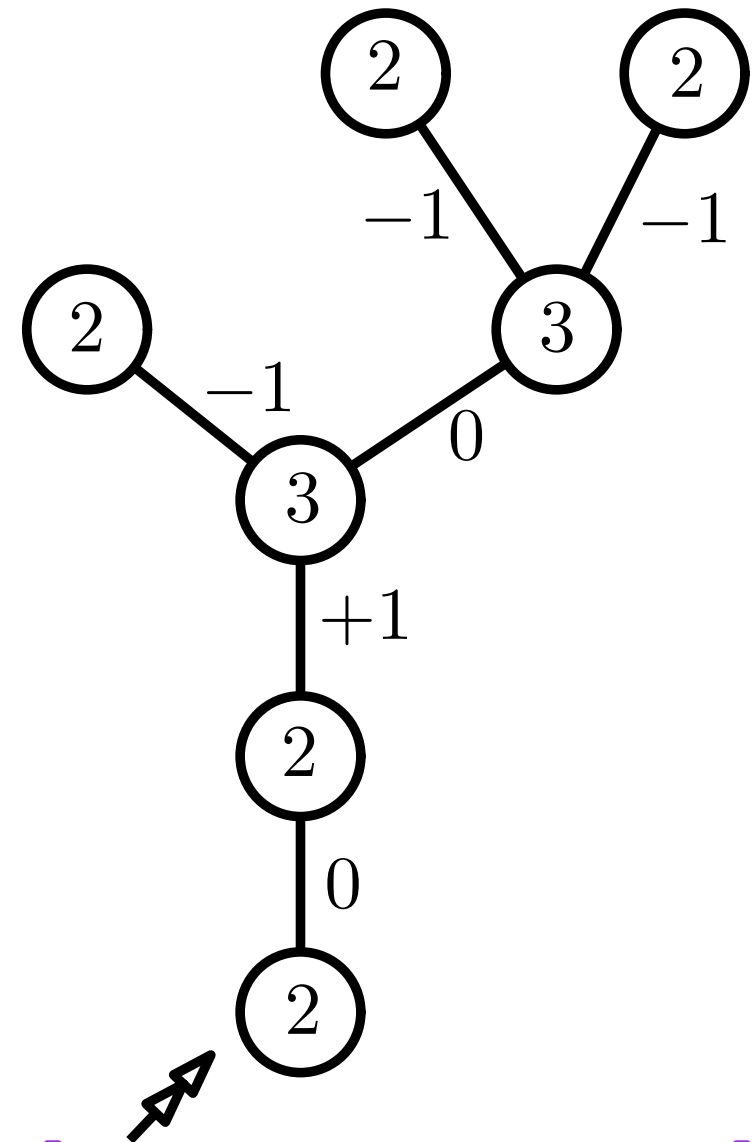


# From blossoming trees to labeled trees

Generic vertex :



- Can retrieve the blossoming tree from the labeled tree.
- Labeled tree = GW trees + random displacements on edges uniform on  $\{(-1; -1; \dots; -1; 0; 0; \dots; 0; 1; 1; \dots; 1)\}$ .



**almost the setting of [Janson-Marckert] and [Marckert-Miermont] but r.v are not "locally centered"  $\Rightarrow$  symmetrization required**

## Convergence of labeled trees

**Theorem :** [Addario-Berry, A.]

For a sequence of simple random triangulations  $(M_n)$ , the contour and label process of the associated labeled tree satisfies:

$$\left( (3n)^{-1/2} C_{\lfloor nt \rfloor}; (4n-3)^{-1/4} \tilde{Z}_{\lfloor nt \rfloor} \right)_{0 \leq t \leq 1} \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{(d)} (e_t; Z_t)_{0 \leq t \leq 1};$$

Contour and label processes of a labeled tree



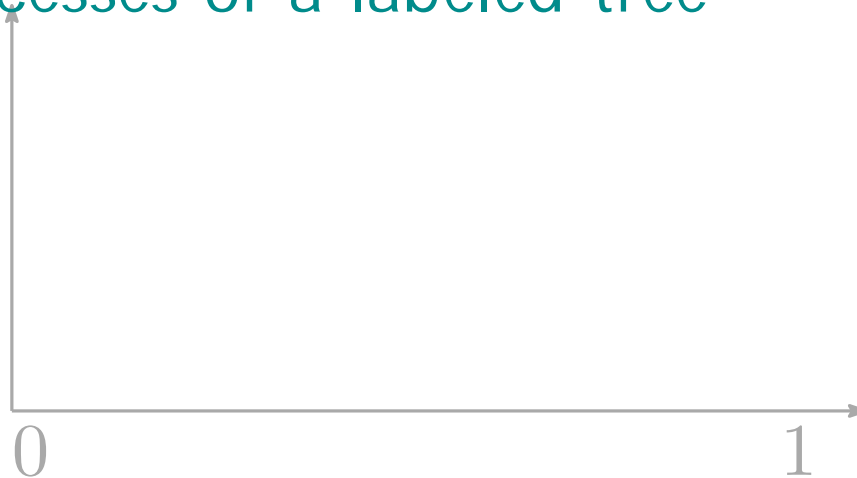
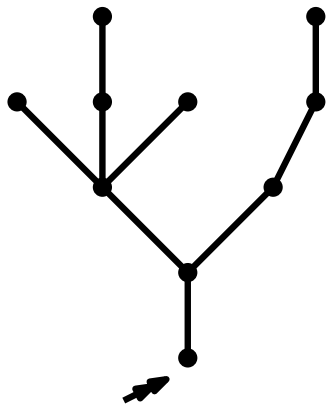
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Contour and label processes of a labeled tree



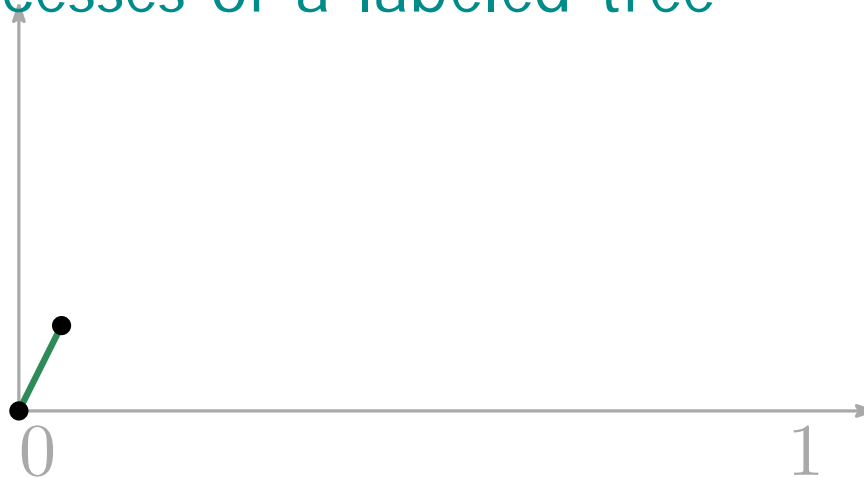
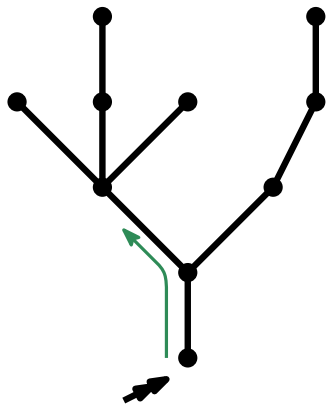
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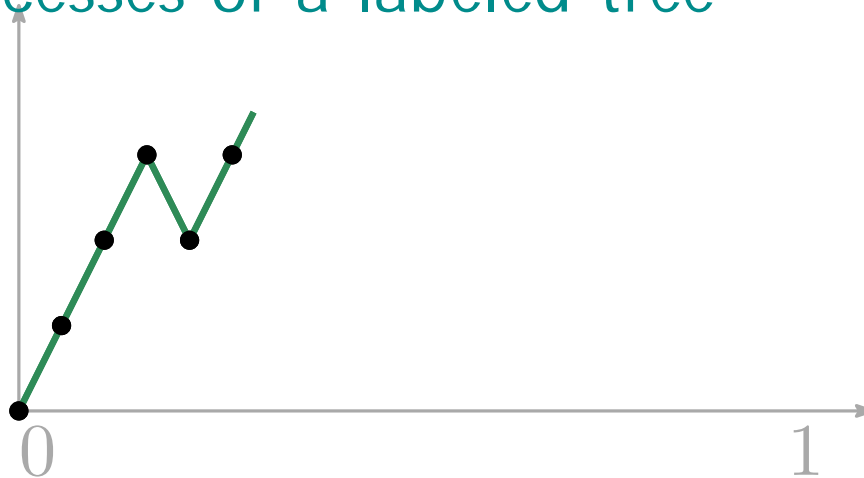
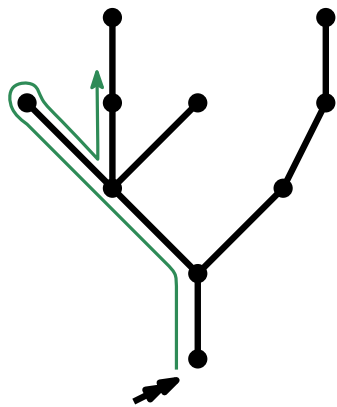
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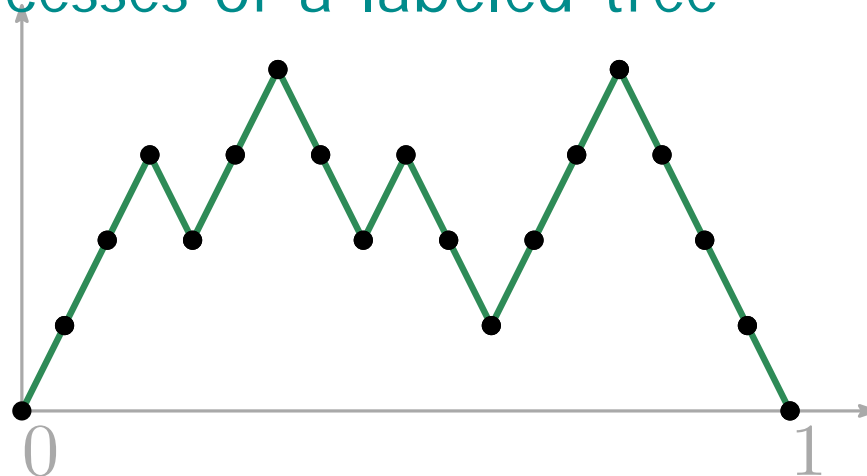
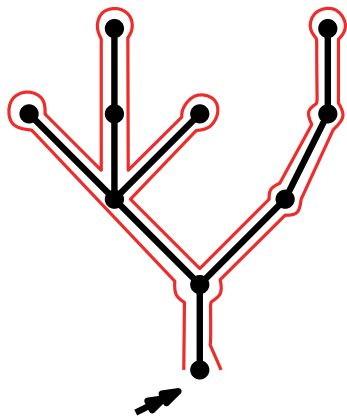
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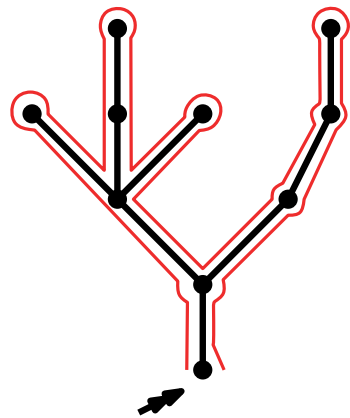
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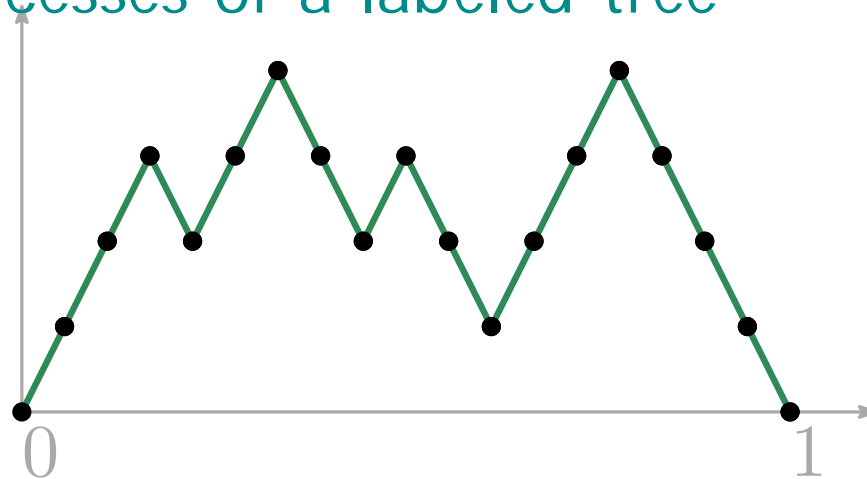
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$T$



$C_n^T$  (or  $C_n$ ) = contour process

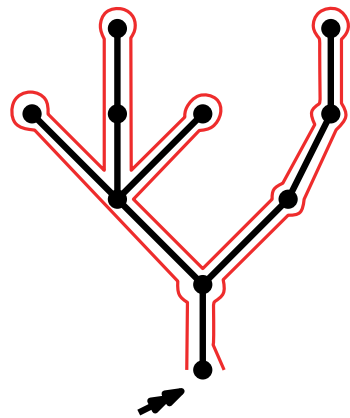
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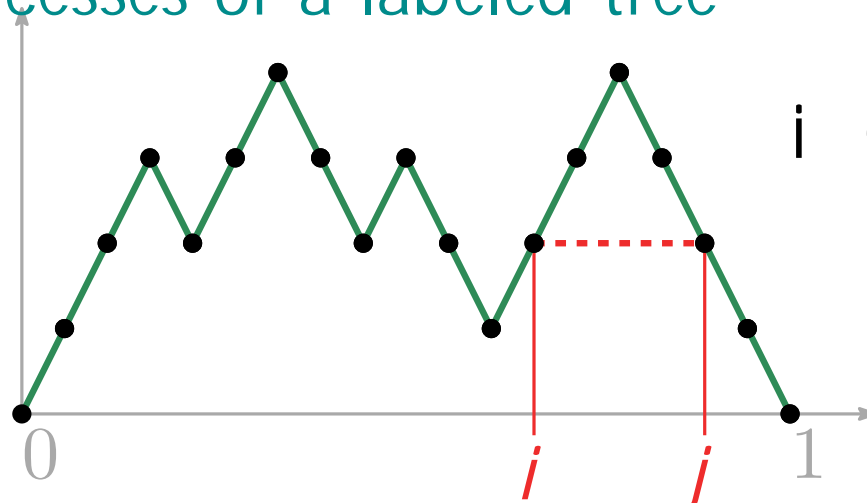
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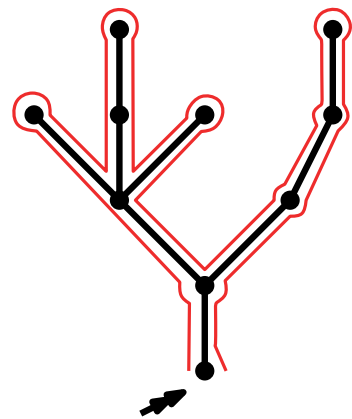
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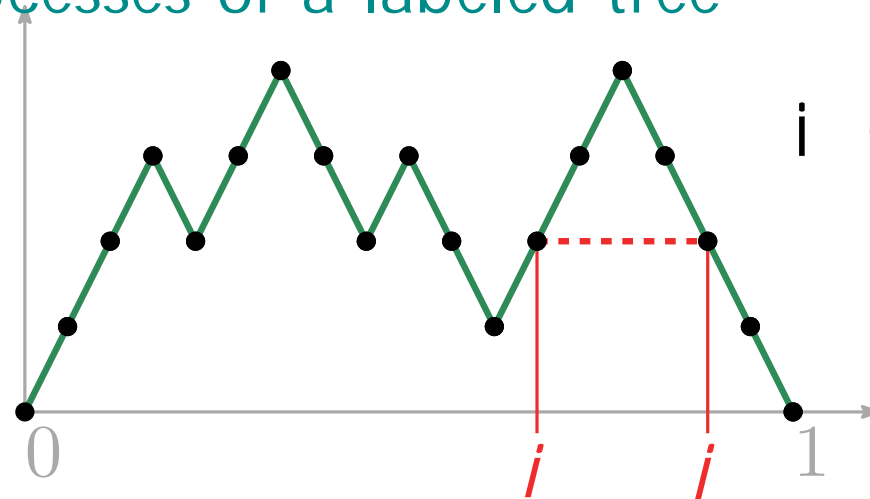
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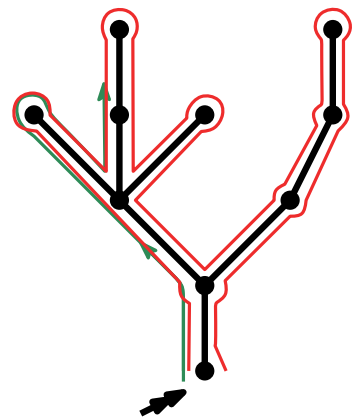
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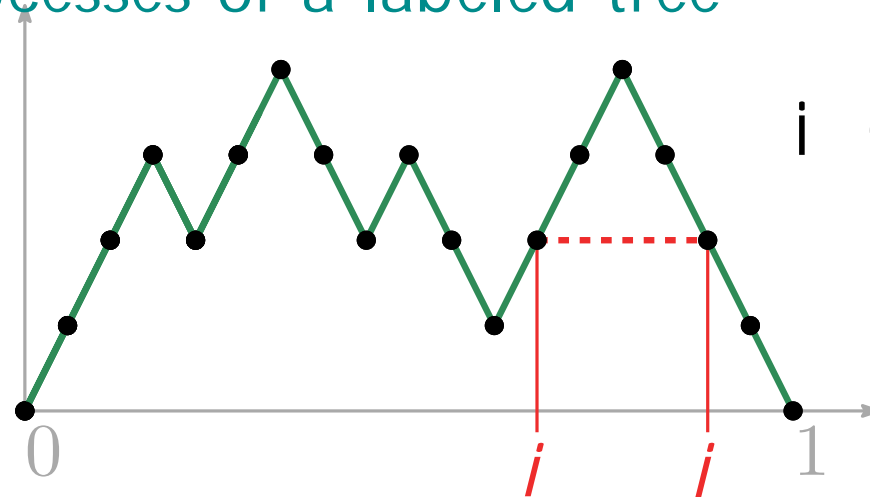
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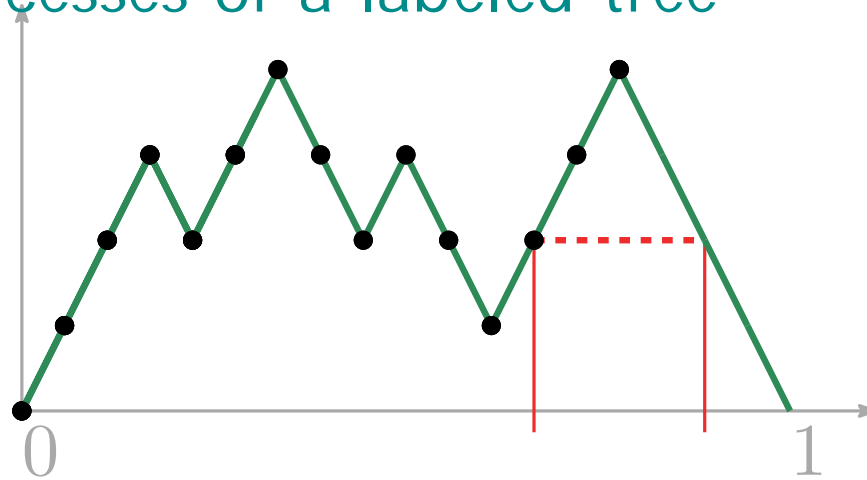
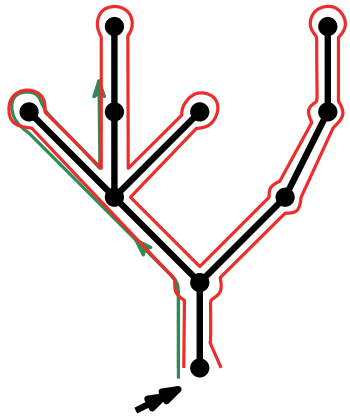
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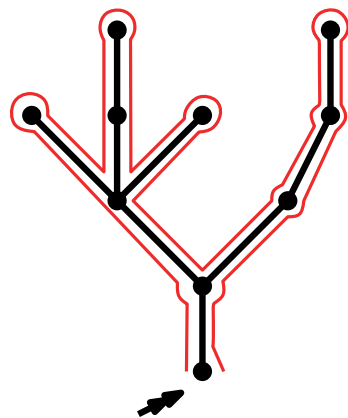
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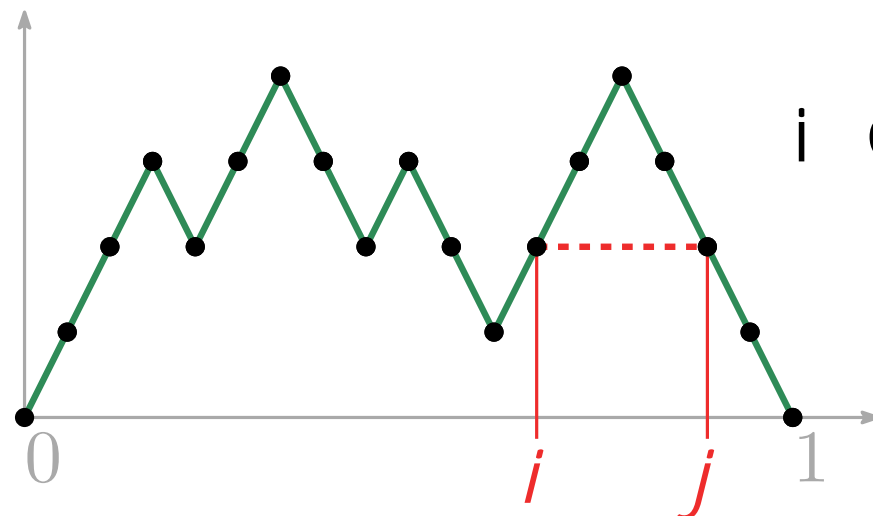


# Brownian snake $(e_t, Z_t)_{0 \leq t \leq 1}$

## 1st step : the Brownian tree [Aldous]



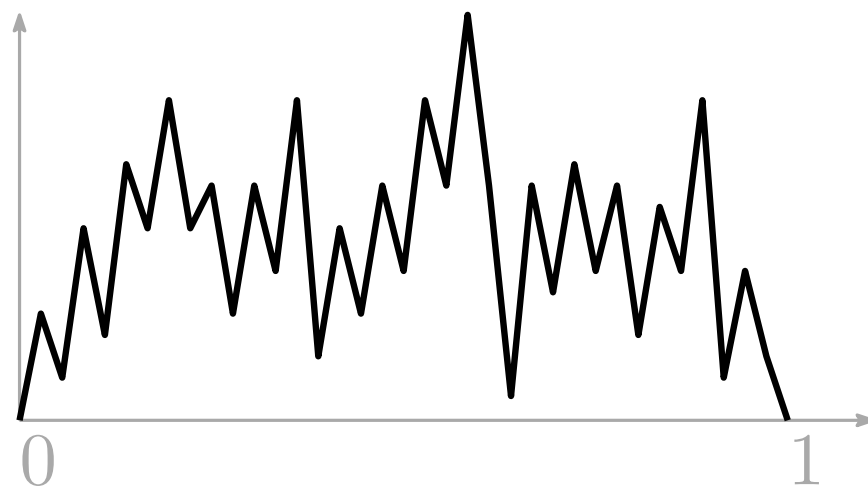
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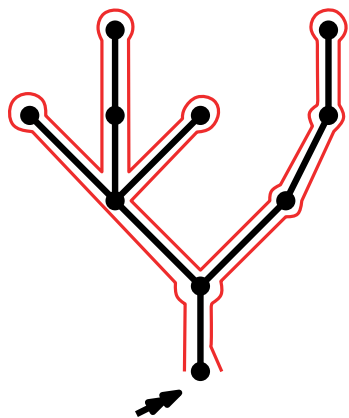
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$(e_t)_{0 \leq t \leq 1} =$  Brownian excursion

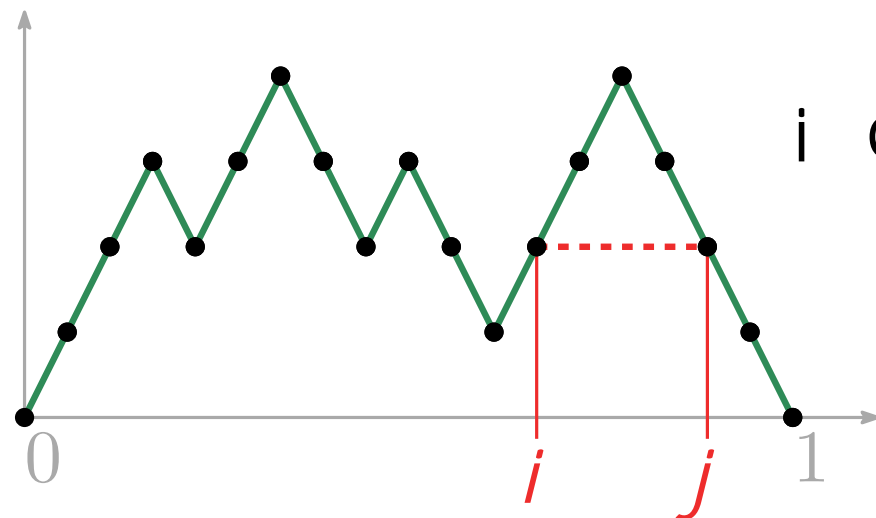


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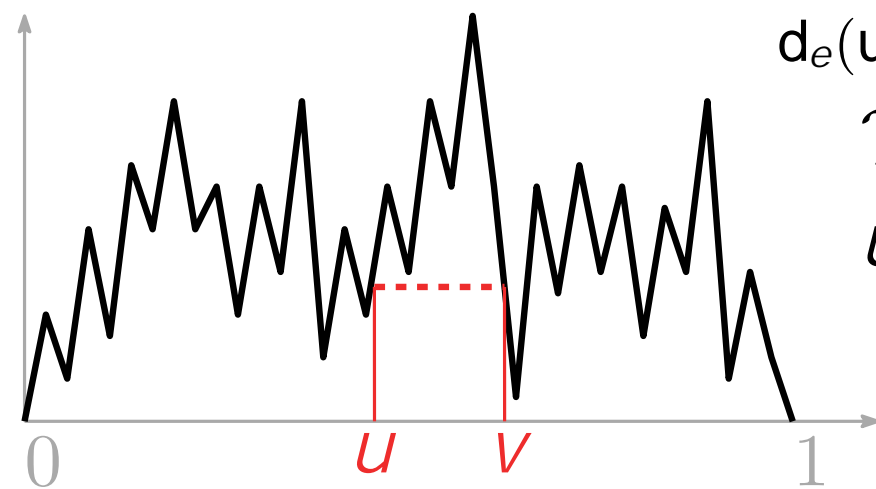
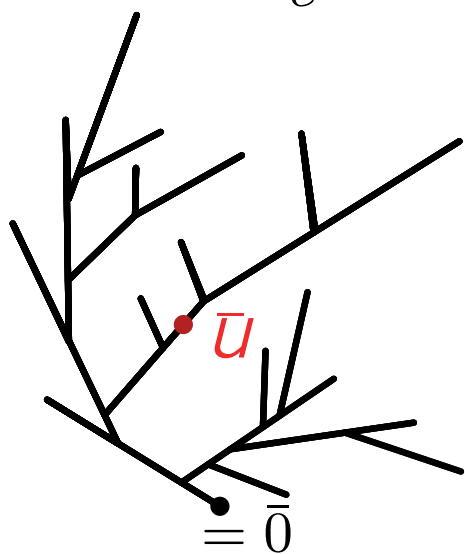
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$\mathcal{T}_e$



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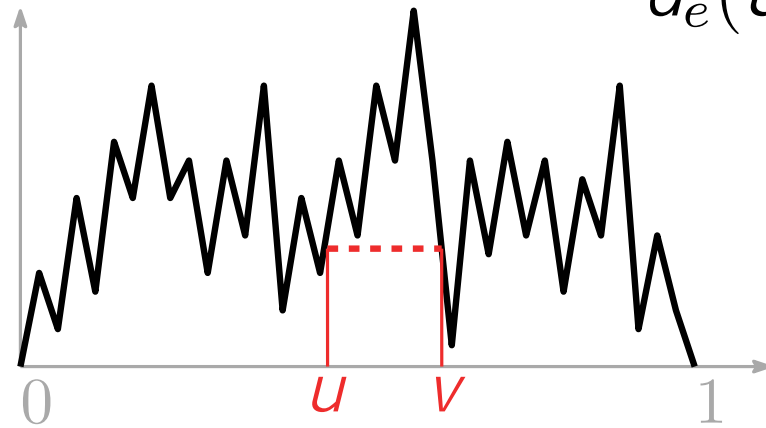
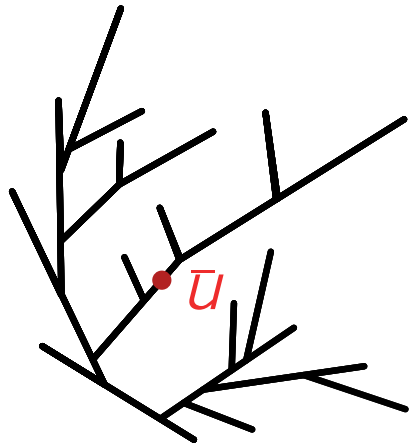
$$d_e(u; v) = e_u + e_v - 2 \min_{u \leq s \leq v} e_s$$

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$$u \sim_e v \text{ if } d_e(u; v) = 0$$

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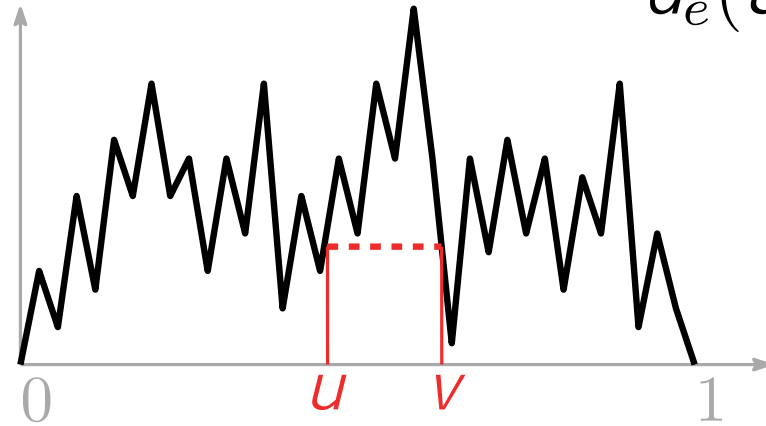
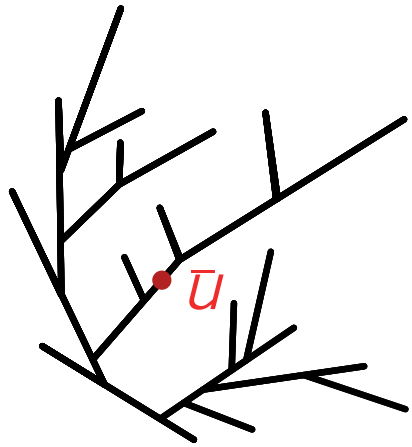
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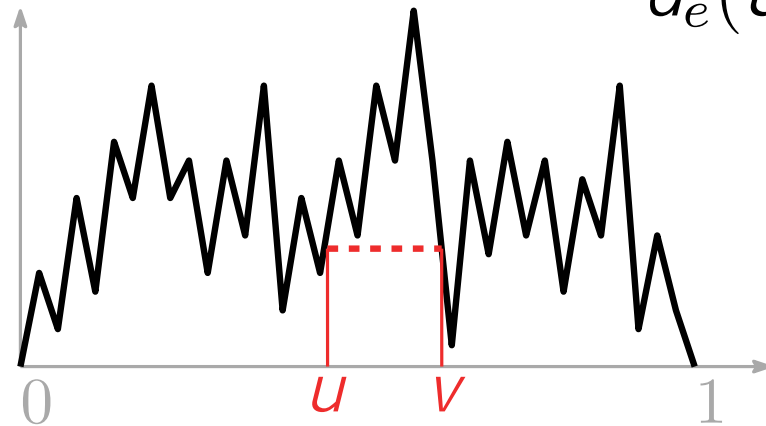
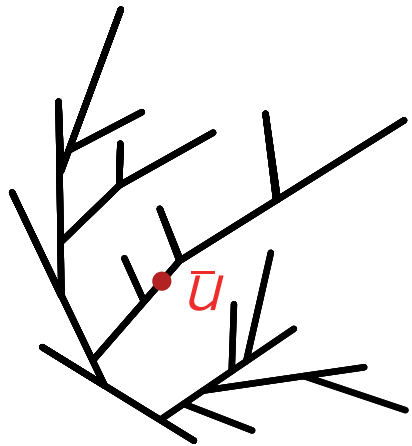
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Conditional on  $\mathcal{T}_e$ ,  $Z$  a centered Gaussian process with  $Z_\rho = 0$  and  $E[(Z_s - Z_t)^2] = d_e(s; t)$

$Z \sim$  **Brownian motion on the tree**

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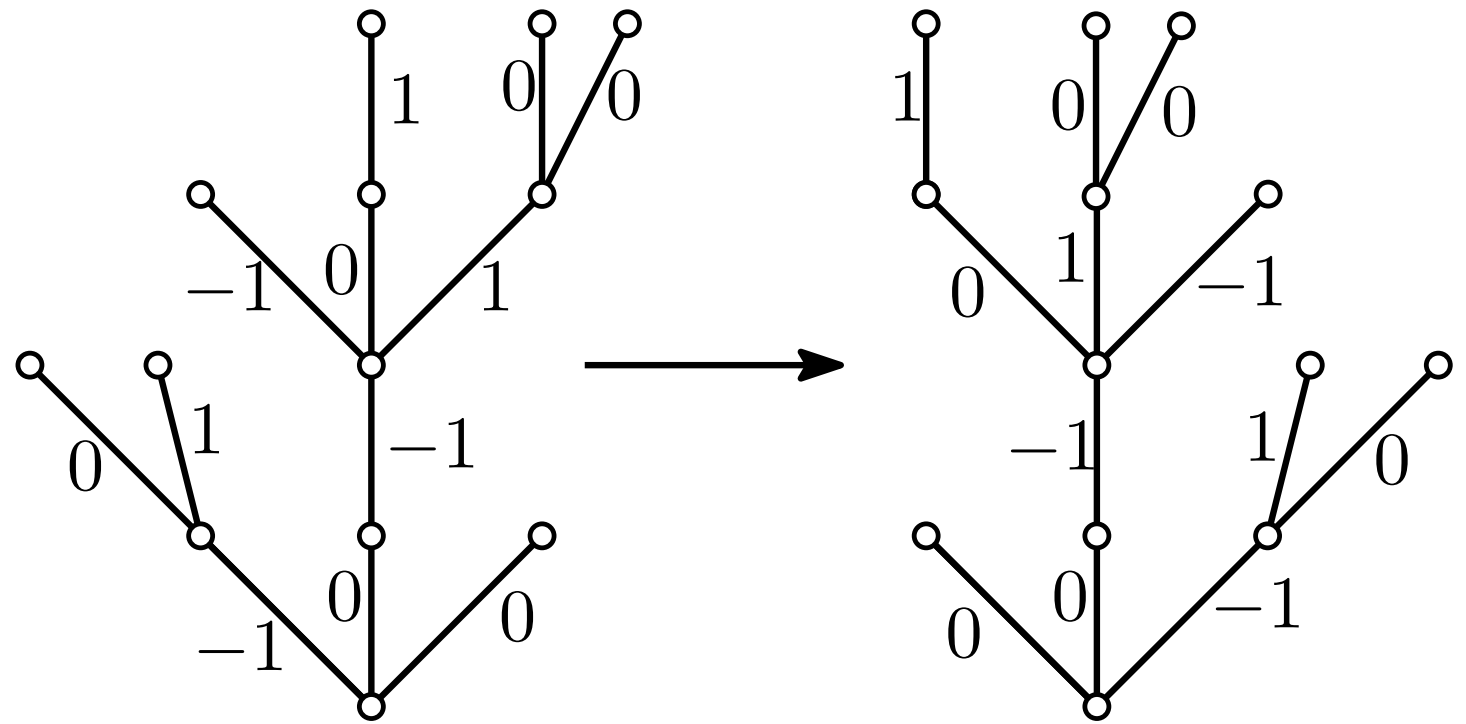
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Start with one of "our" tree and apply a random permutation at each vertex





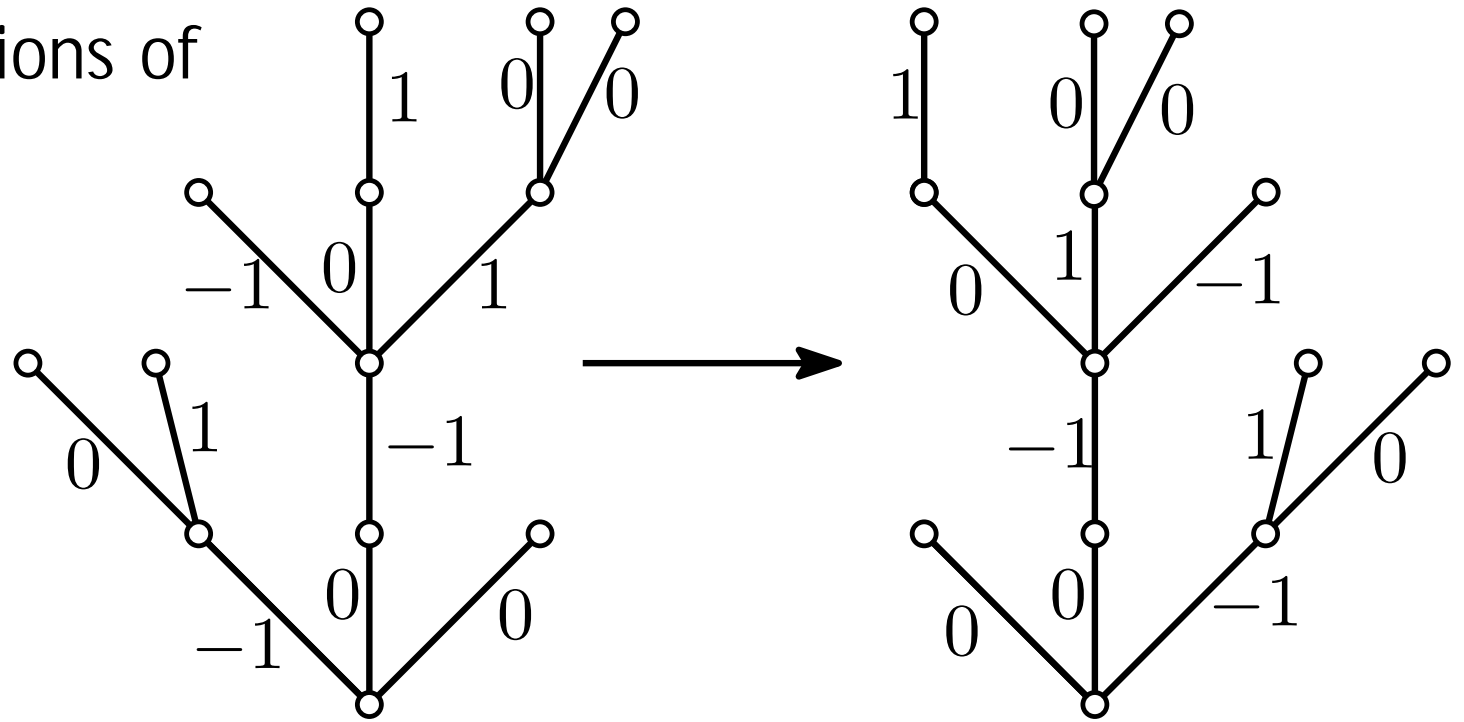
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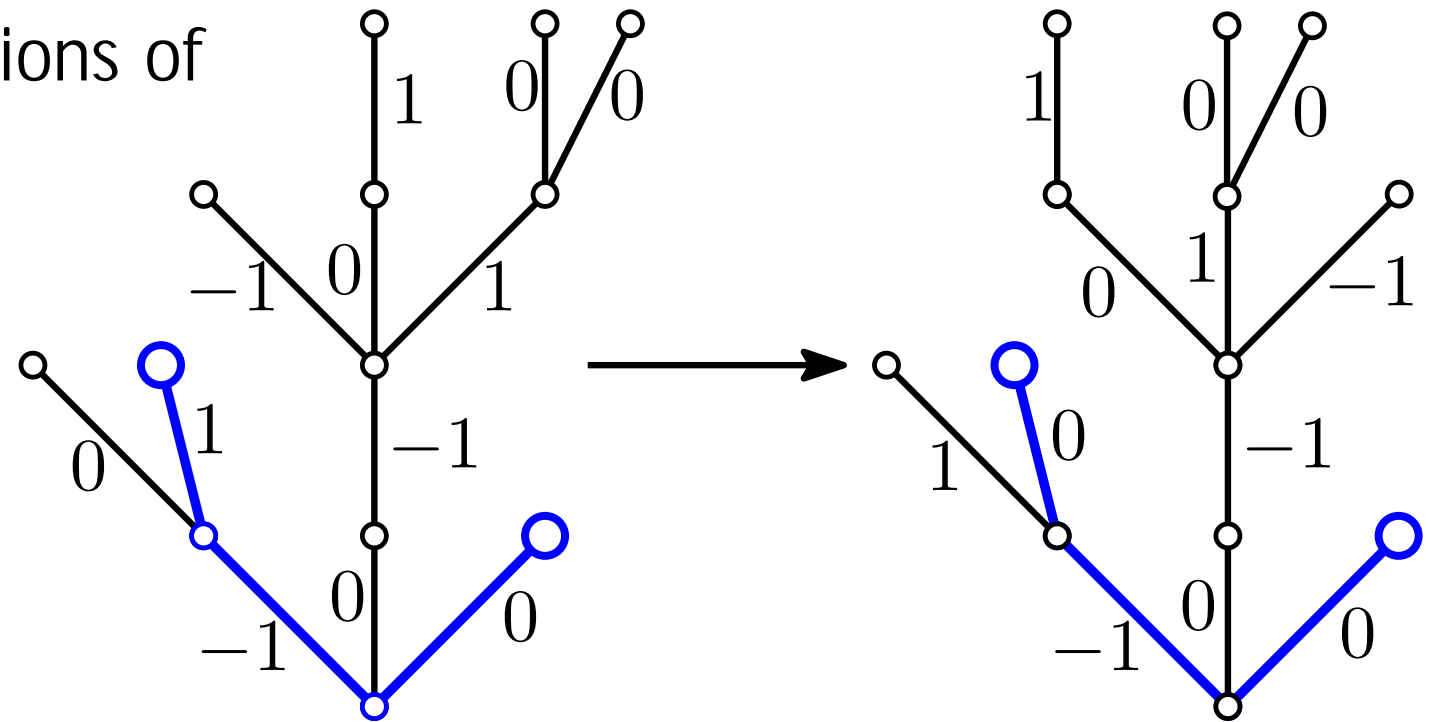
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- Solution:**
- consider subtree  $T\langle k \rangle$  spanned by  $k$  random vertices
  - permute displacements and edges only outside  $\langle T \rangle$ .
  - permute only displacements on  $\langle T \rangle$ .

**Gives a coupling between "our" model and the fully permuted model:  
sufficient control to prove convergence for the true model.**

# Distances in simple triangulations

$M_n$  = simple triangulation

$(C_{\lfloor nt \rfloor}; \tilde{Z}_{\lfloor nt \rfloor})$  = contour and label process of the associated tree

$Z_{\lfloor nt \rfloor}$  = distance **in the map** between vertex " $\lfloor nt \rfloor$ " and the root.

**Theorem** : [Addario-Berry, A.]

$M_n$  = random simple triangulation, then for all  $\epsilon > 0$ :

$$\mathbb{P} \left( \sup_{0 \leq t \leq 1} \left\{ \left| \tilde{Z}_{\lfloor nt \rfloor} - Z_{\lfloor nt \rfloor} \right| \right\} \geq \epsilon n^{1/4} \right) \rightarrow 0:$$

**i.e. the label process of the tree gives the distance to the root in the map.**

# Distances in simple triangulations

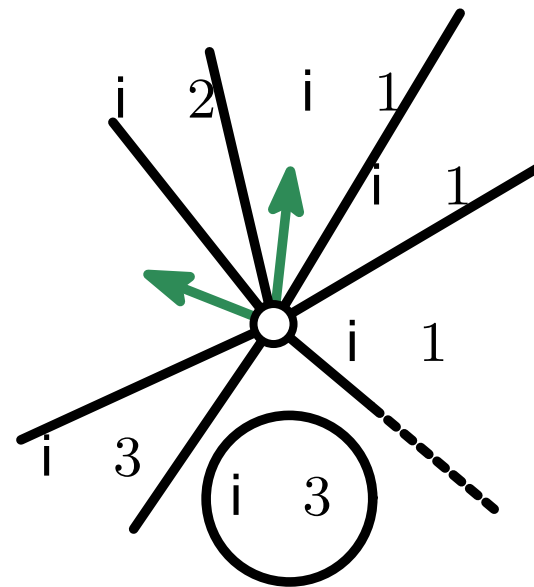
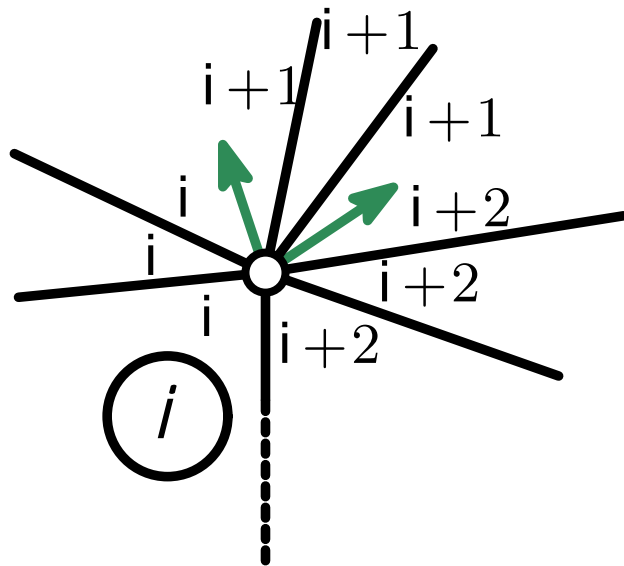
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First observation : In the tree, the labels of two adjacent vertices differ by at most 1. **What can go wrong with closures ?**

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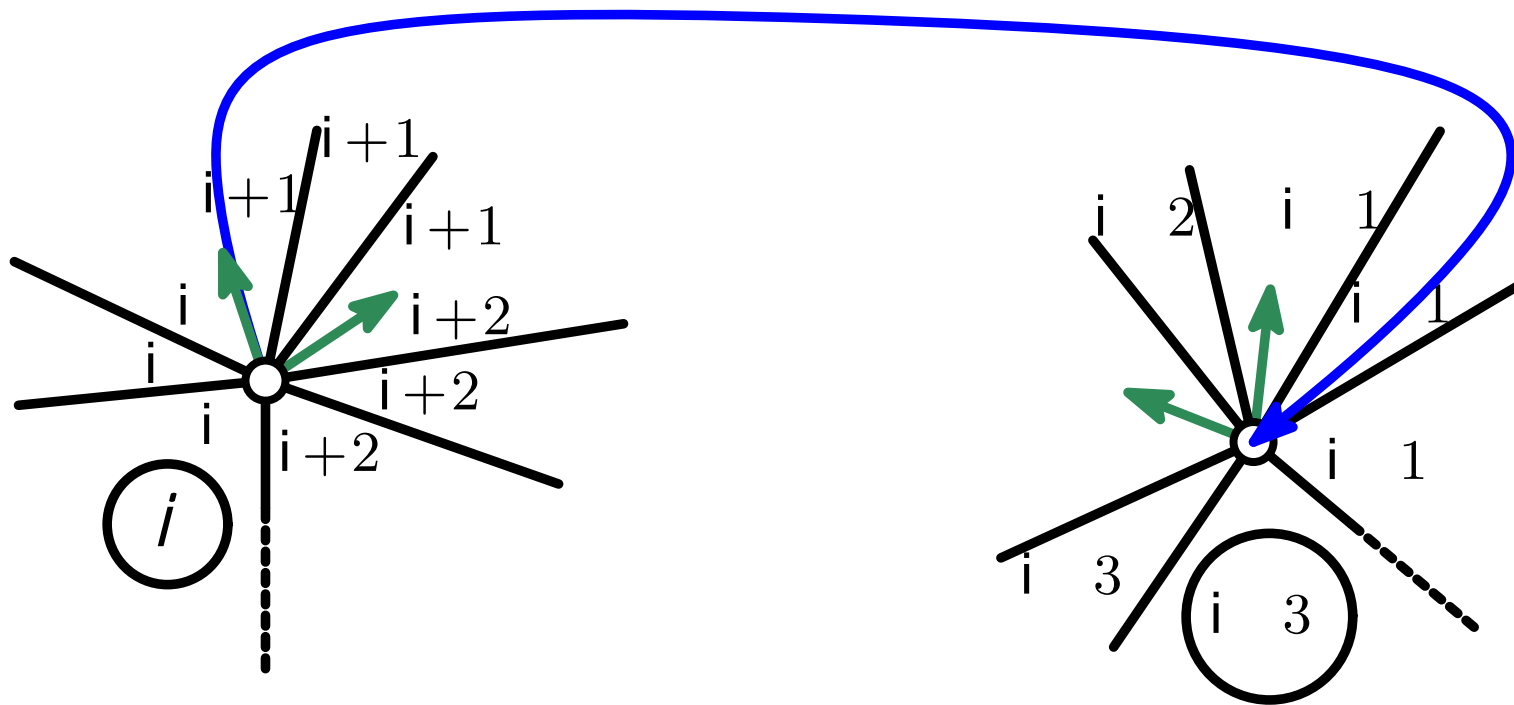
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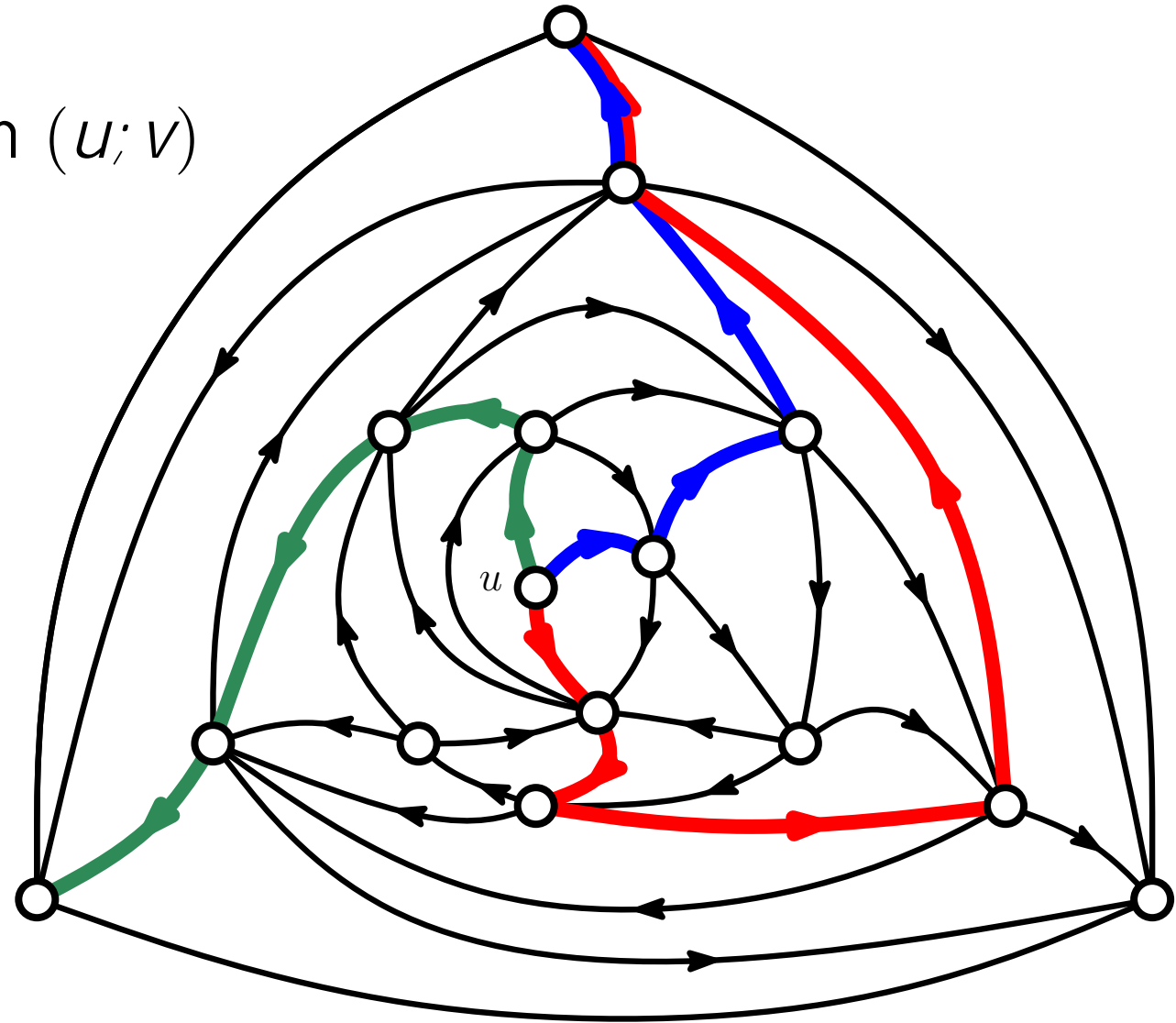
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- For each inner vertex : 3 LMP





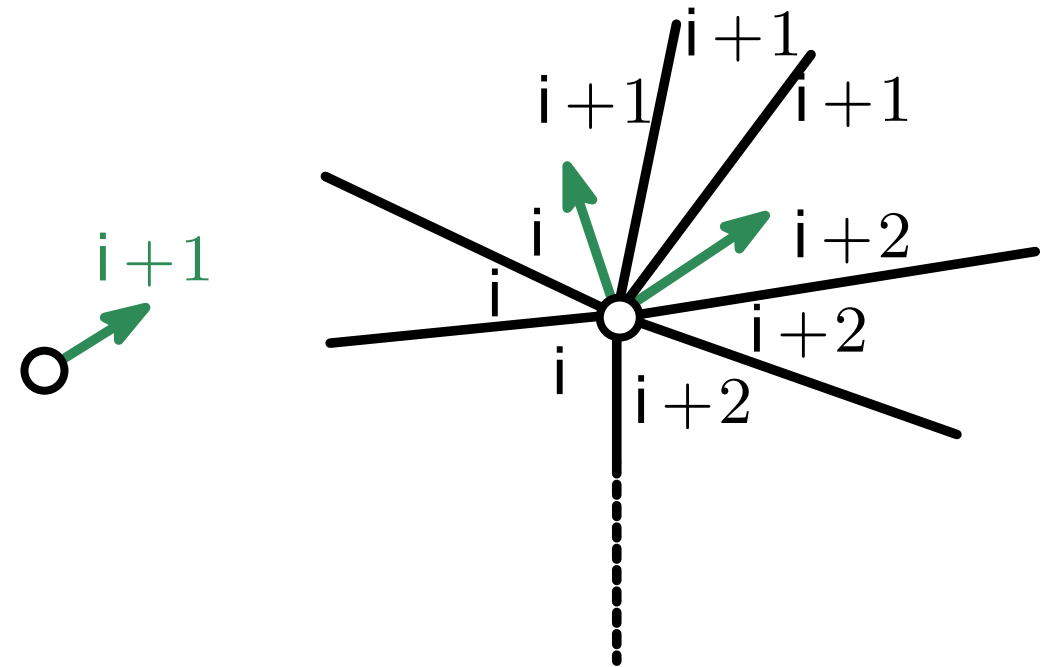


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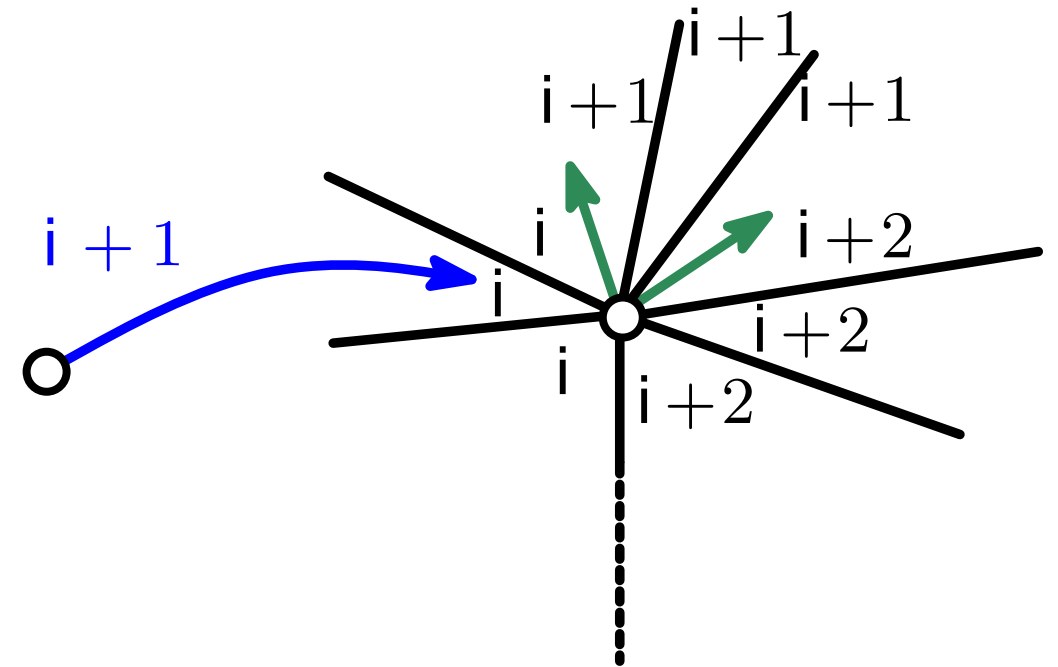


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# Edges in simple triangulations

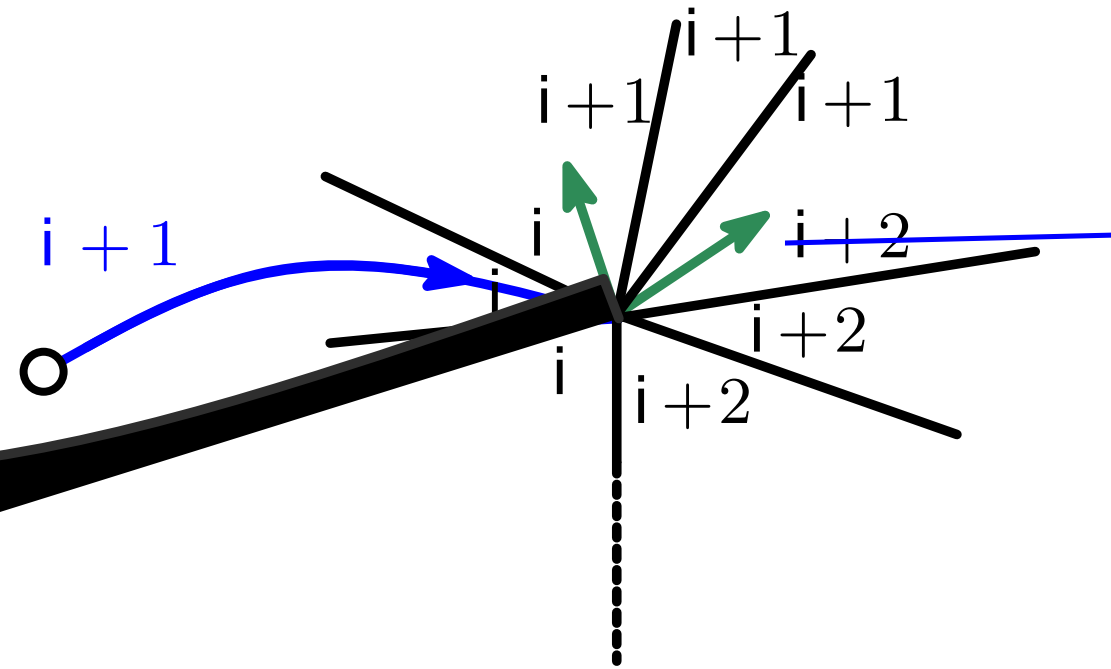
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**Left Most Path** from  $(u; v)$

ex : 3 LMP

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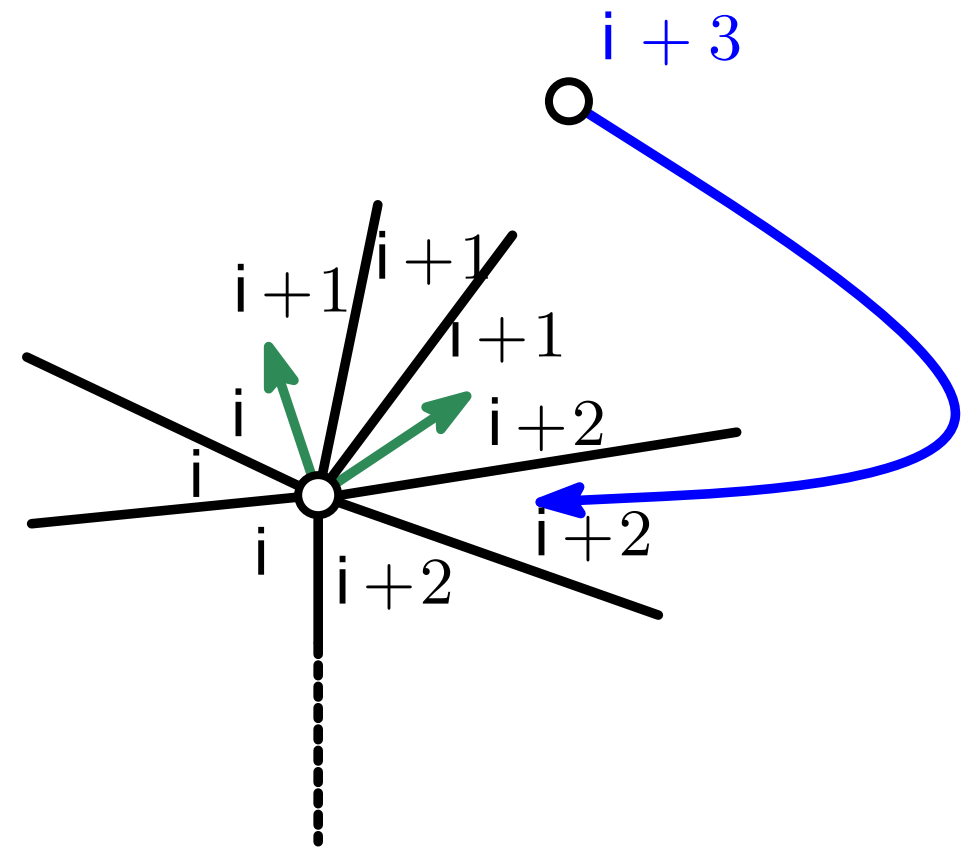


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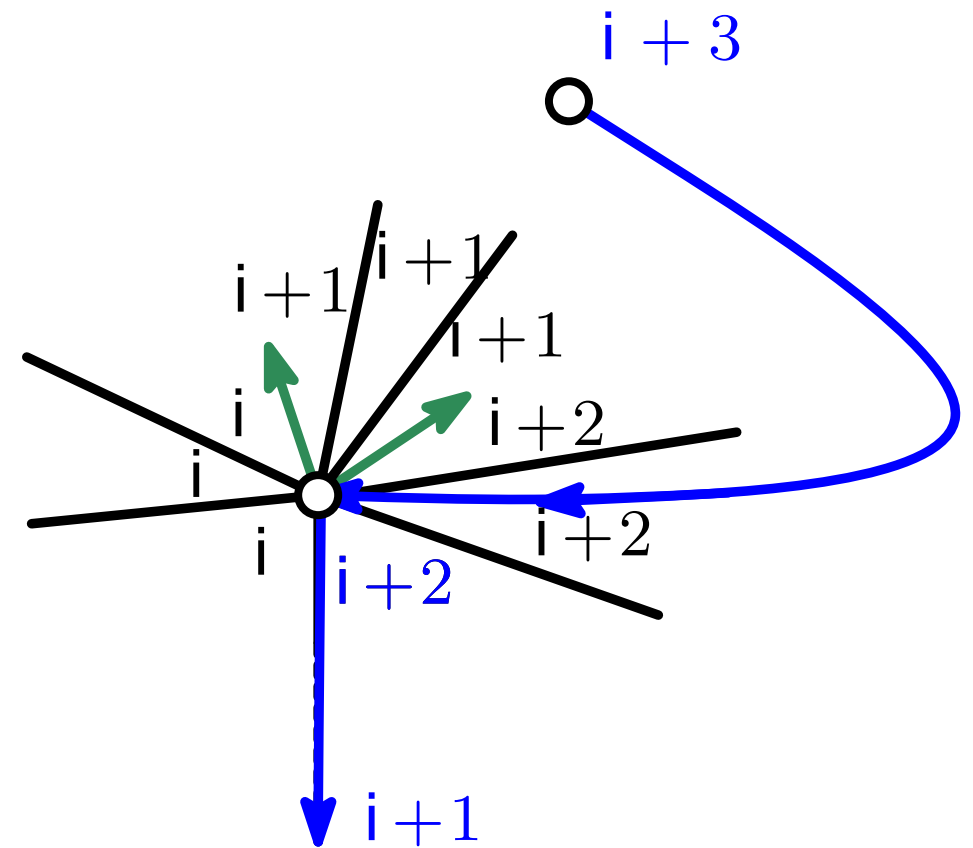


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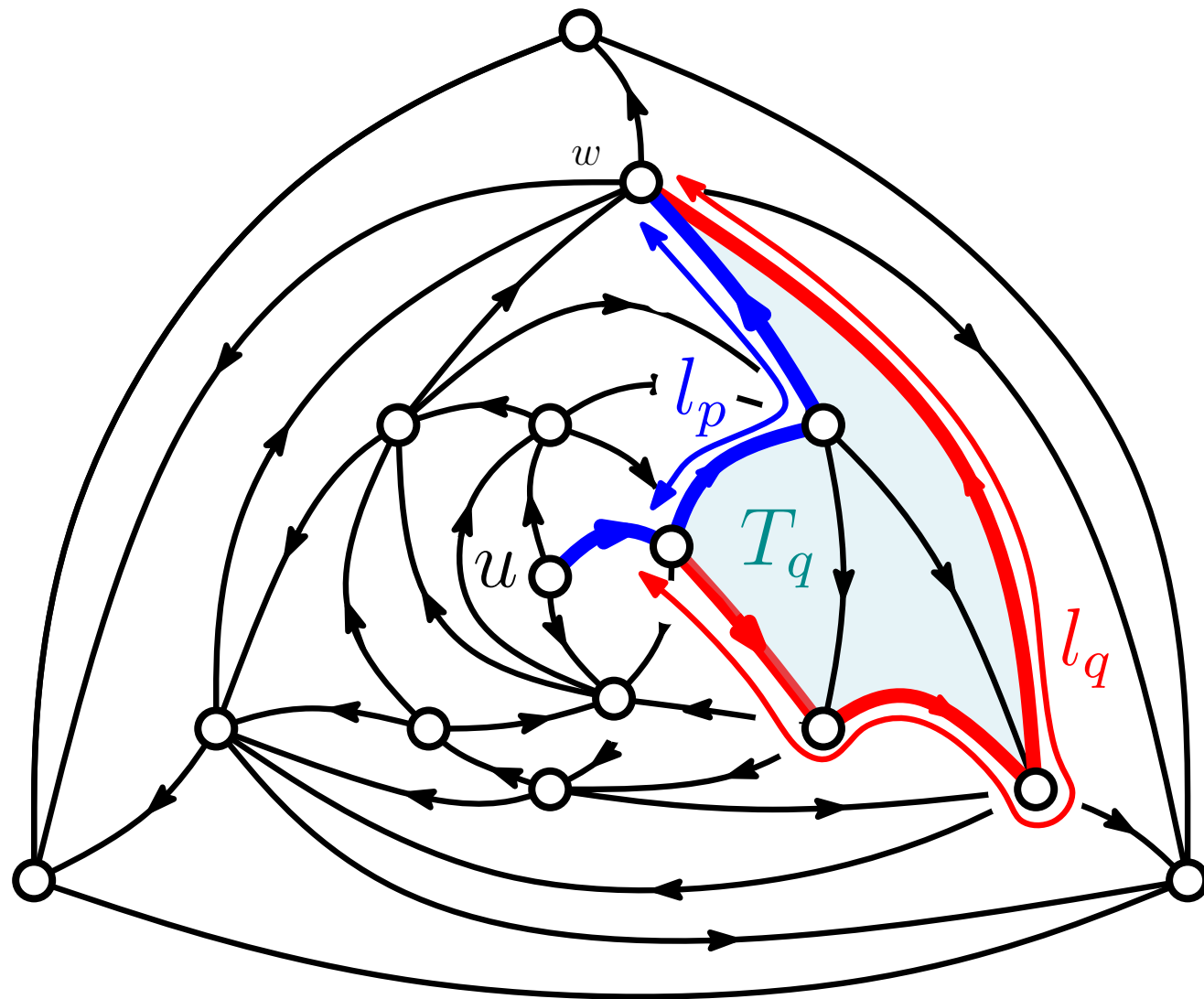
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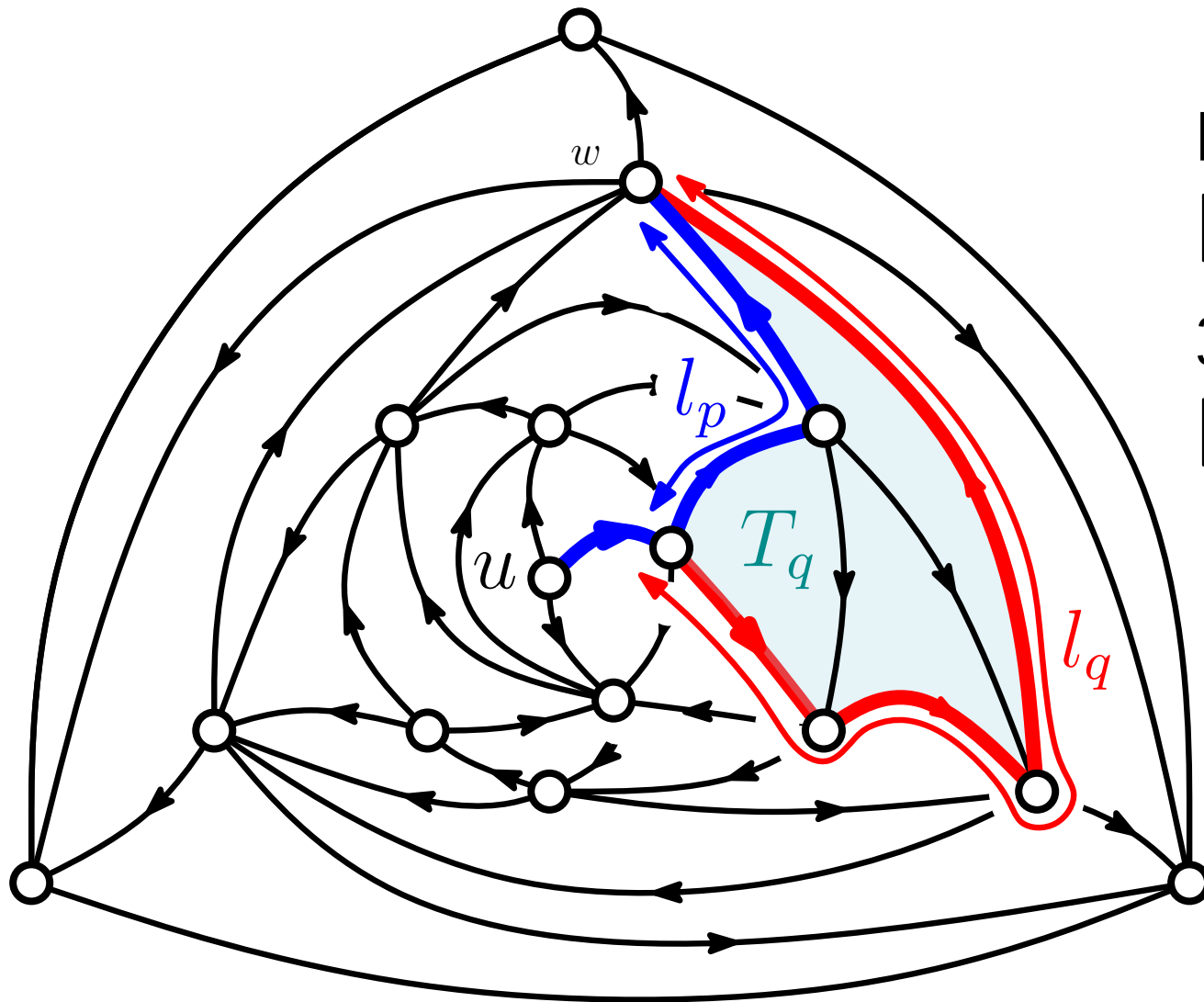
# LMP are almost geodesic



Leftmost path

Another path: can it be shorter ?

# LMP are almost geodesic



Leftmost path

Another path: can it be shorter ?

Euler Formula :

$$|E(T_q)| = 3|V(T_q)| - 3 - (\ell_p + \ell_q)$$

3-orientation + LMP :

$$|E(T_q)| \geq 3|V(T_q)| - 2\ell_q - 2$$

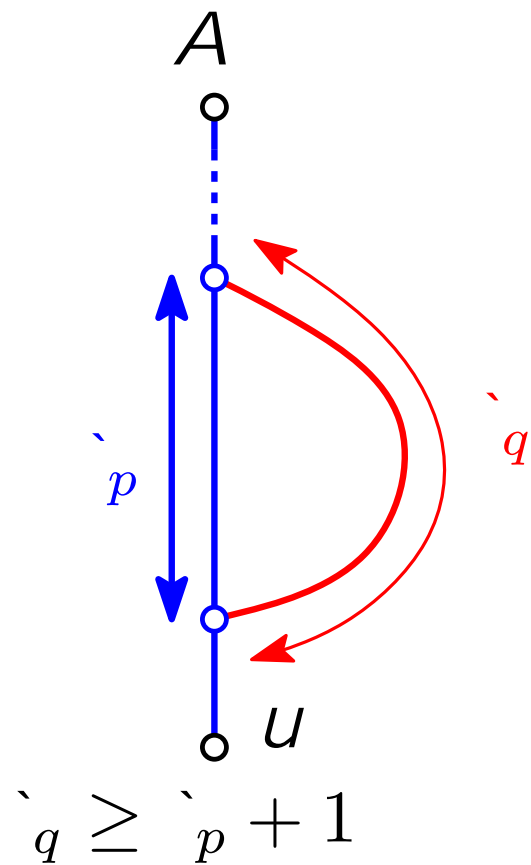
$$\implies \ell_q \geq \ell_p + 1$$



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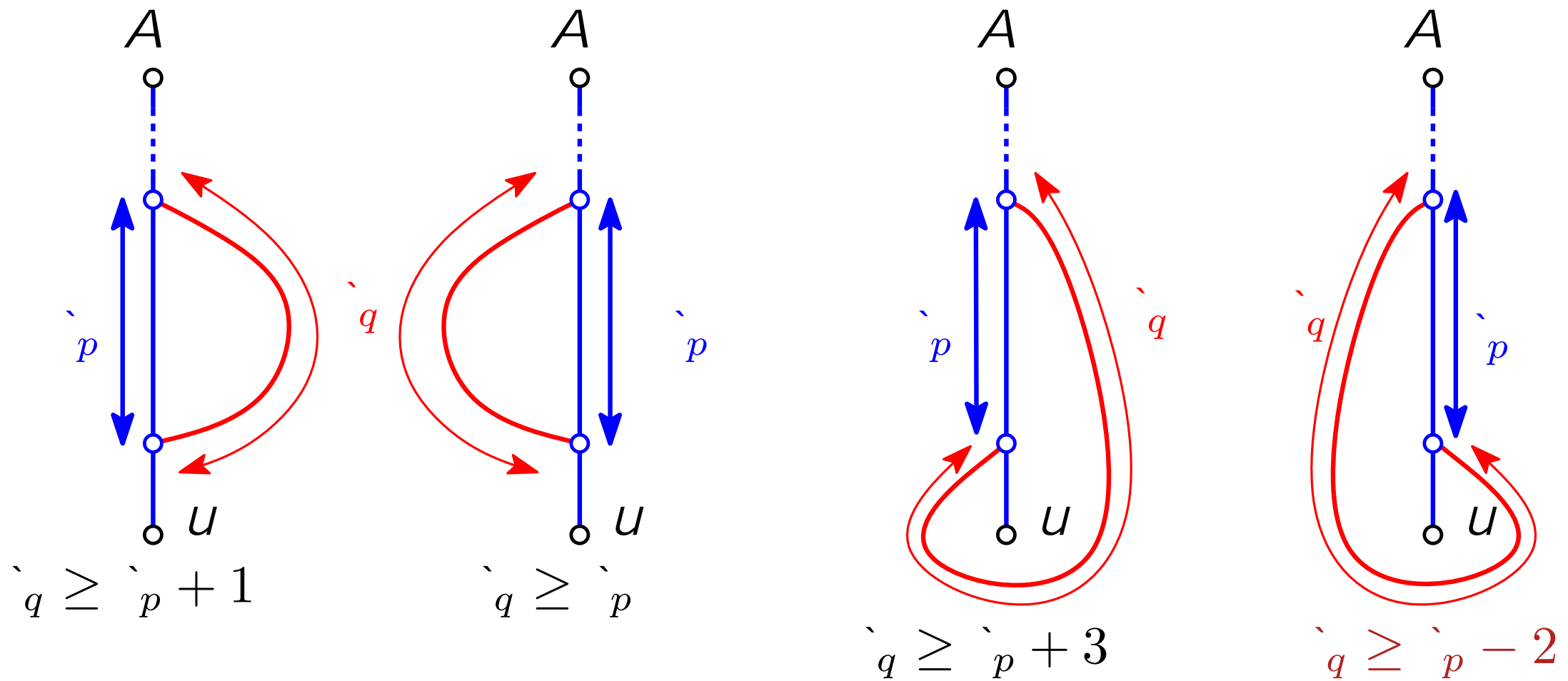
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Another path: can it be shorter? YES



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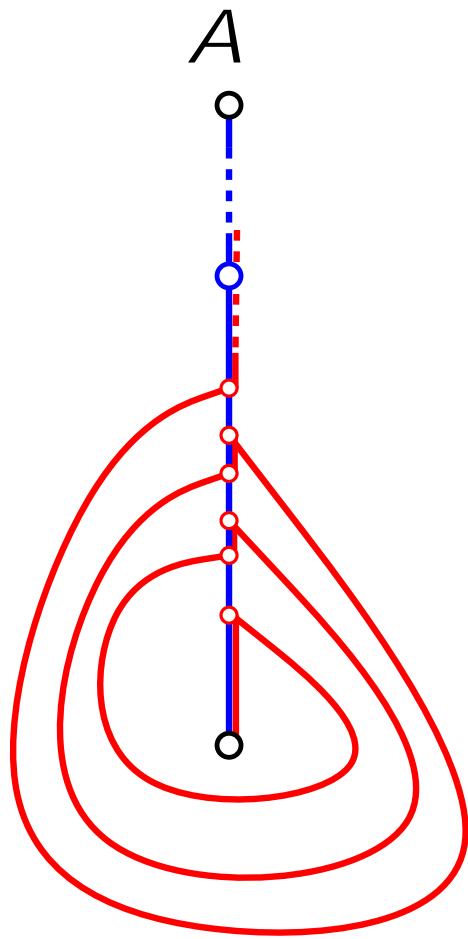
Leftmost path

Another path: can it be shorter? YES ... but not too often

Bad configuration =  
too many **windings** around the LMP

But w.h.p a winding cannot be too short.

$\implies$  w.h.p the number of windings is  $o(n^{1/4})$ .



# LMP are almost geodesic

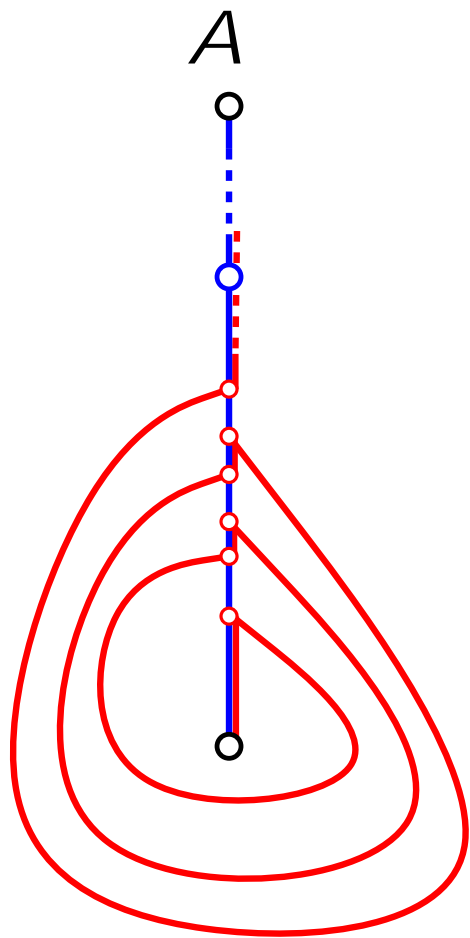
Leftmost path

Another path: can it be shorter? YES ... but not too often

Bad configuration =  
too many **windings** around the LMP

But w.h.p a winding cannot be too short.

$\implies$  w.h.p the number of windings is  $o(n^{1/4})$ .

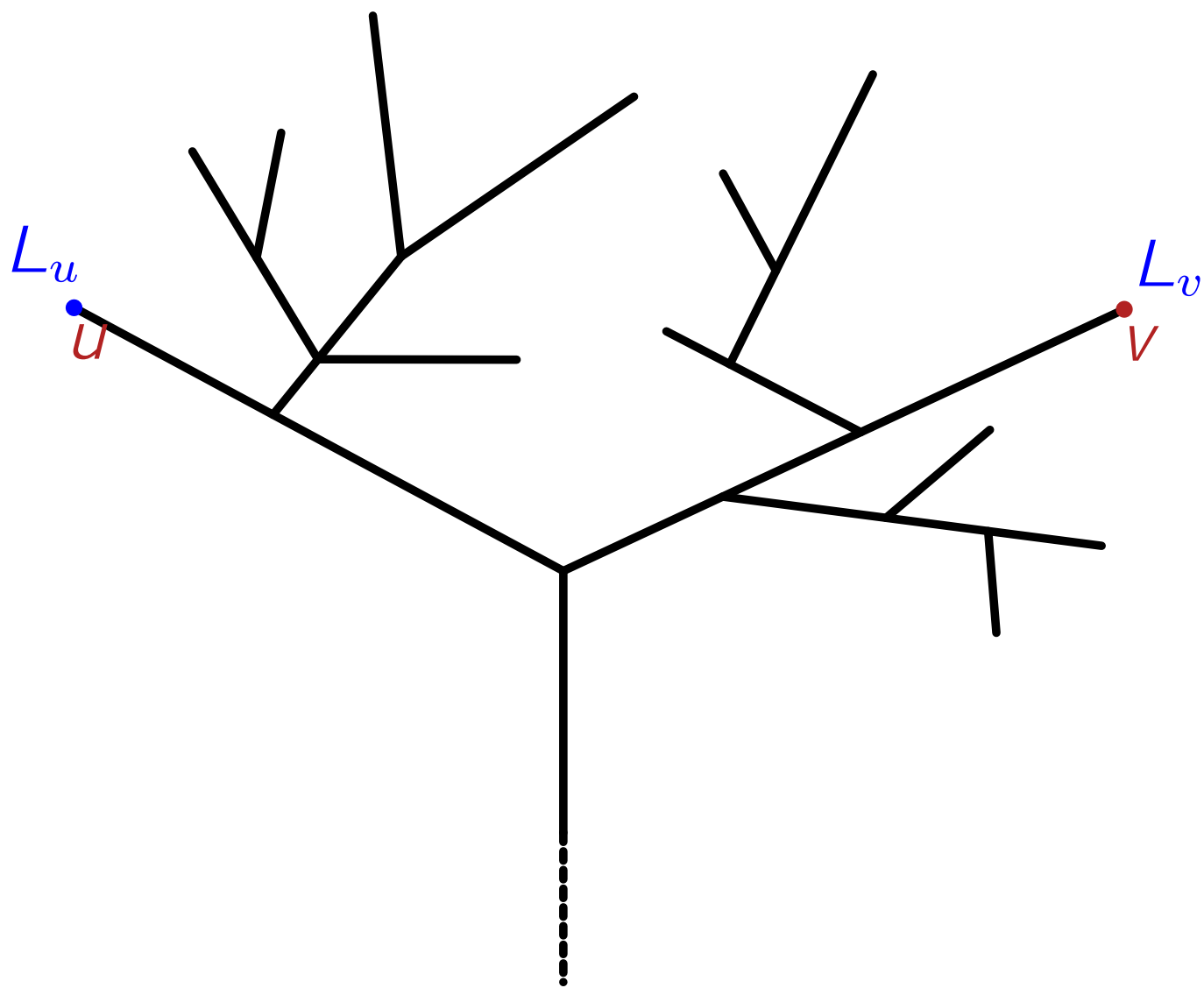


## Proposition:

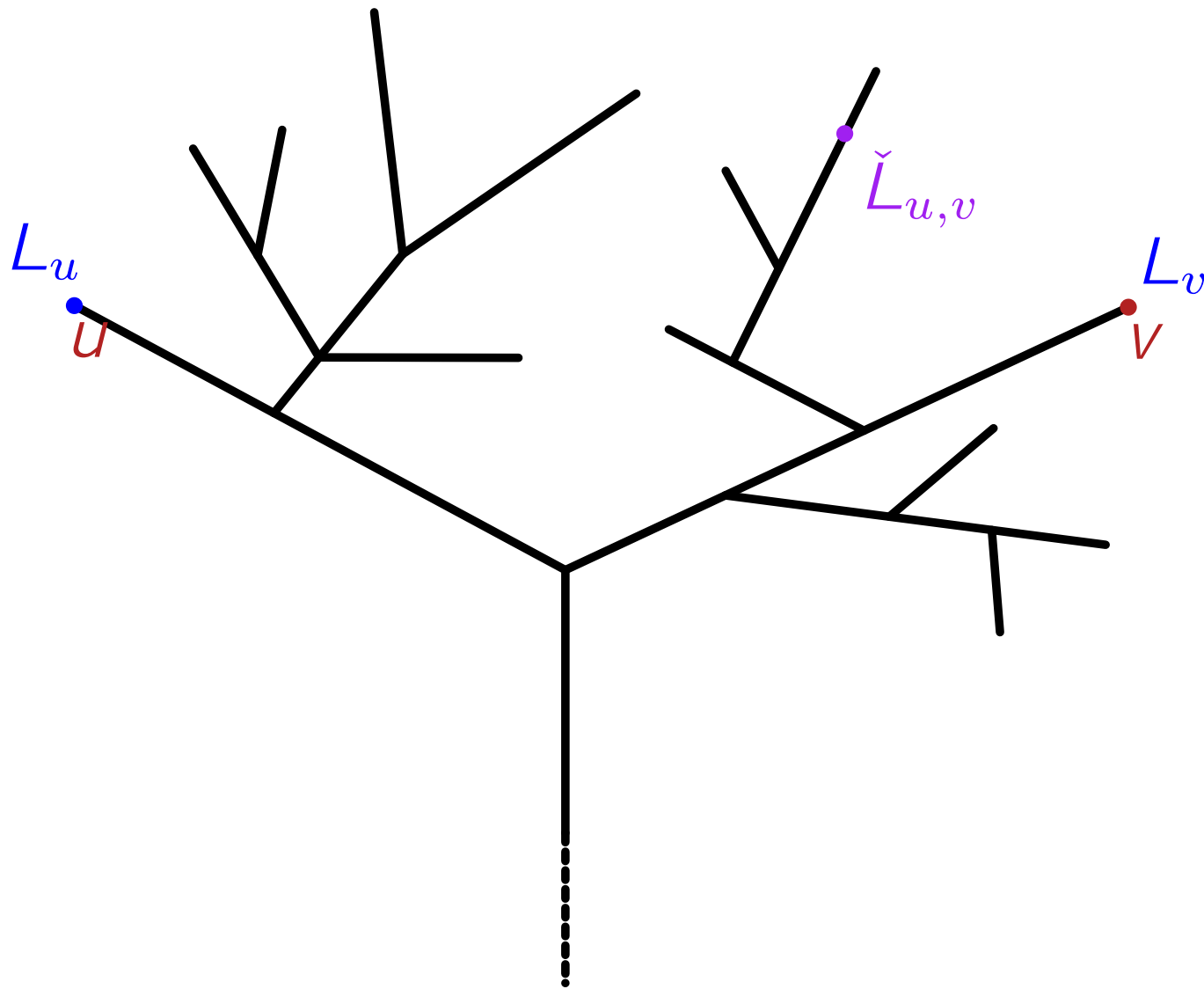
For  $\epsilon > 0$ , let  $A_{n,\epsilon}$  be the event that there exists  $u \in M_n$  such that  $L_n(u) \geq d_{M_n}(u; \text{root}) + \epsilon n^{1/4}$ .  
Then under the uniform law on  $\mathcal{M}_n$ , for all  $\epsilon > 0$ :

$$\mathbb{P}(A_{n,\epsilon}) \rightarrow 0:$$

# Distances are tight

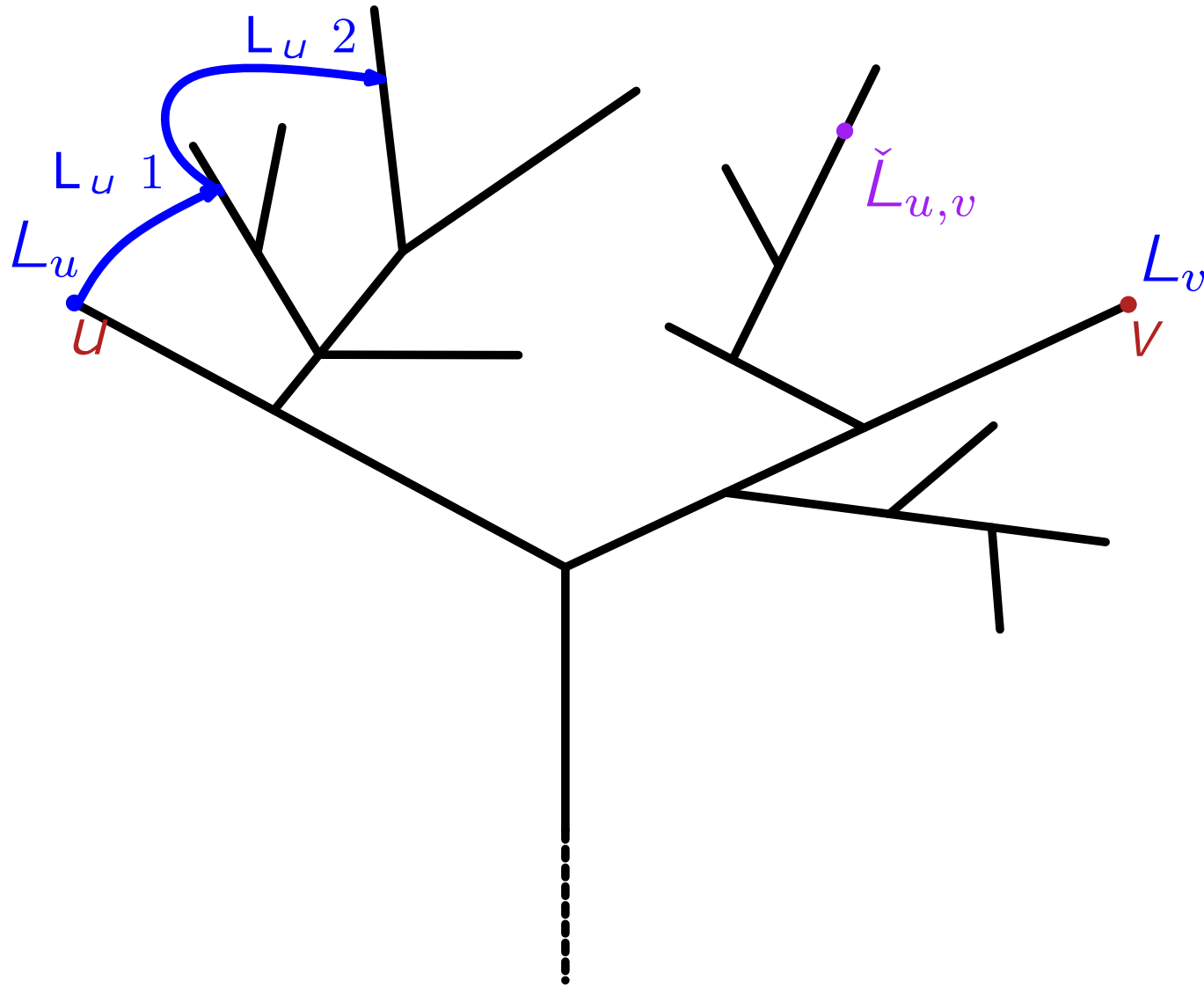


# Distances are tight



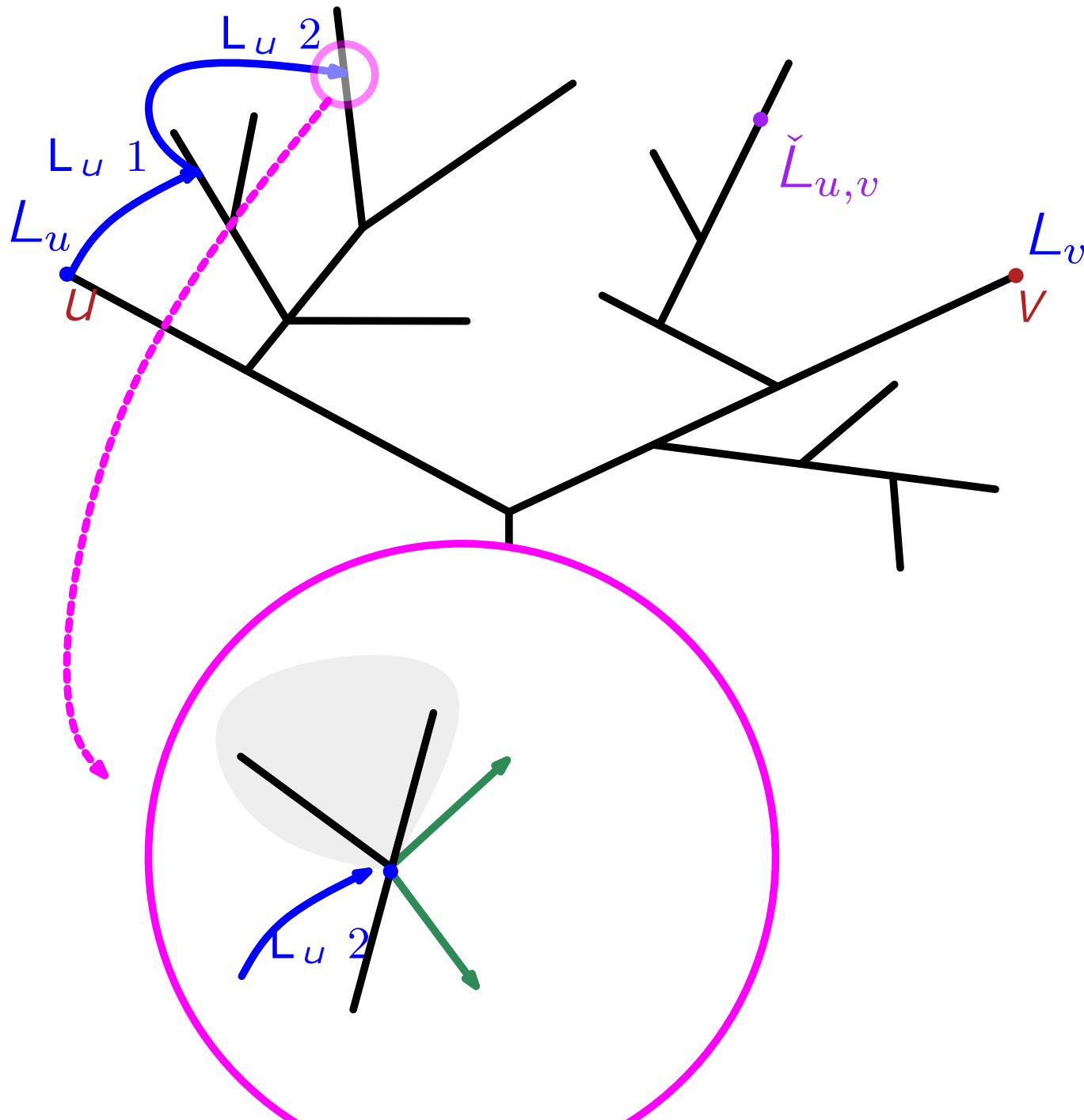
$$\check{L}_{u,v} = \min\{L_s; u \leq s \leq v\}$$

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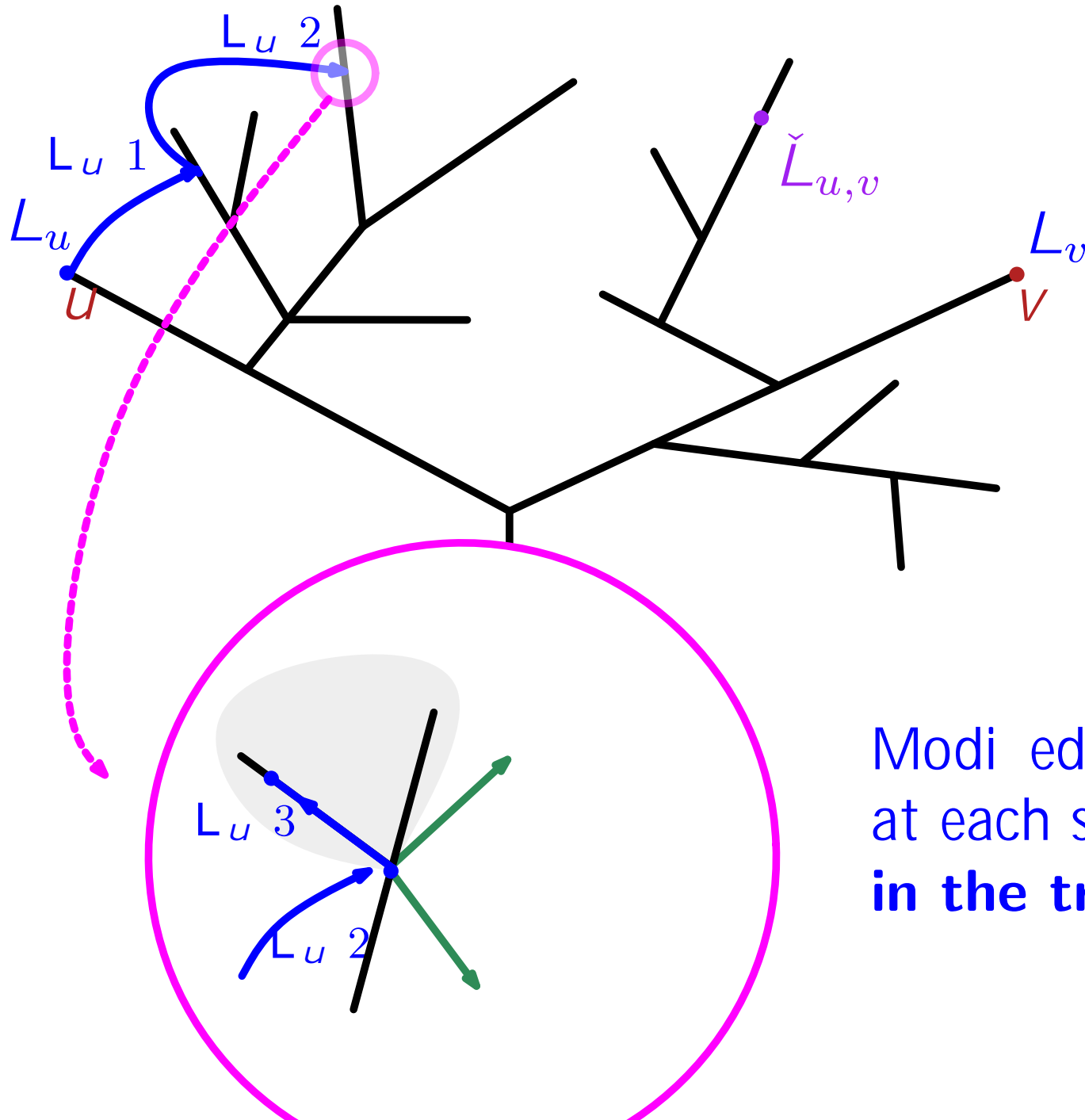
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$$\check{L}_{u,v} = \min\{L_s; u \leq s \leq v\}$$



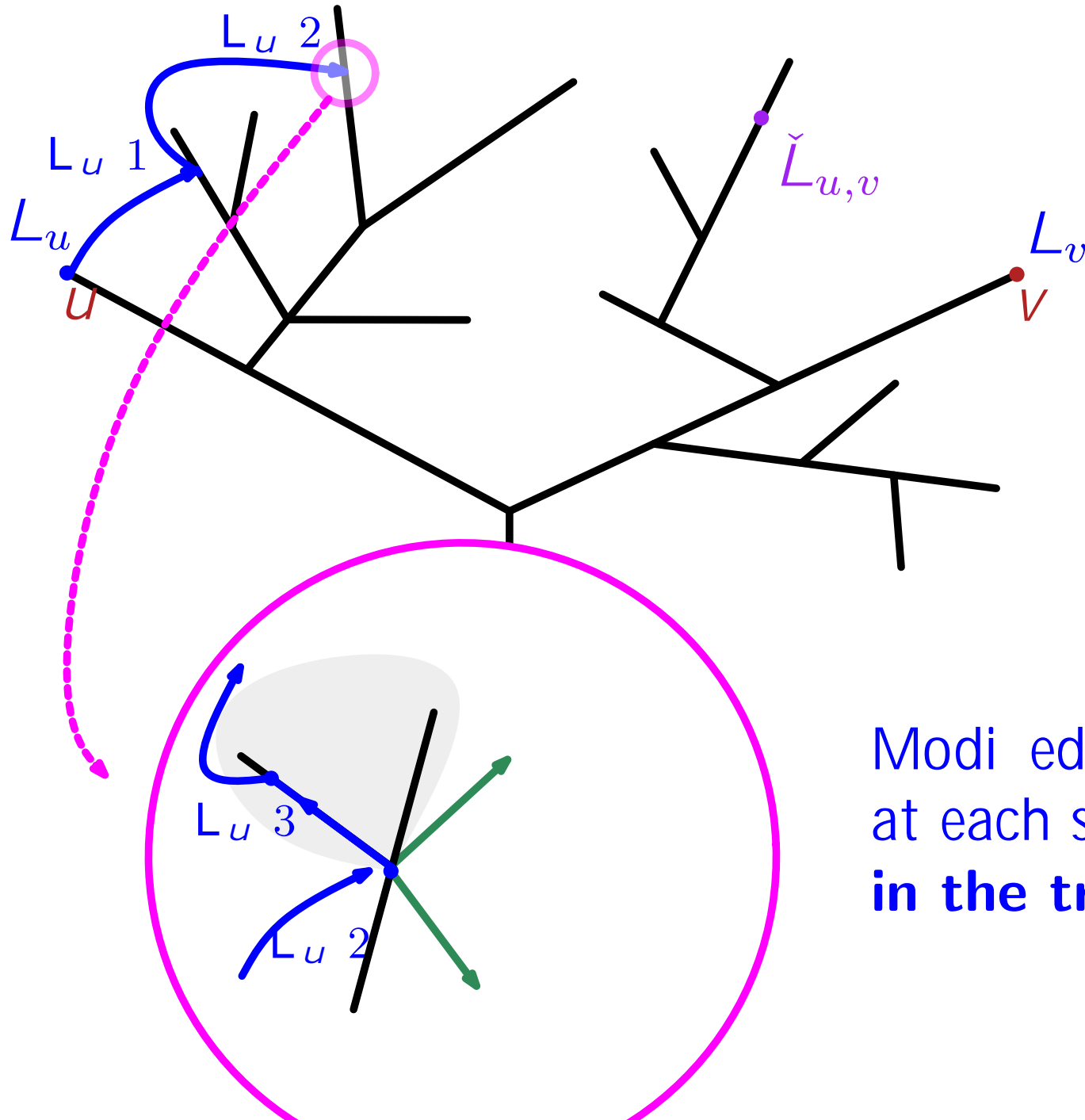
# Distances are tight



$$\check{L}_{u,v} = \min\{L_s; u \leq s \leq v\}$$

Modified LMP:  
at each step, we take the first edge  
**in the tree**

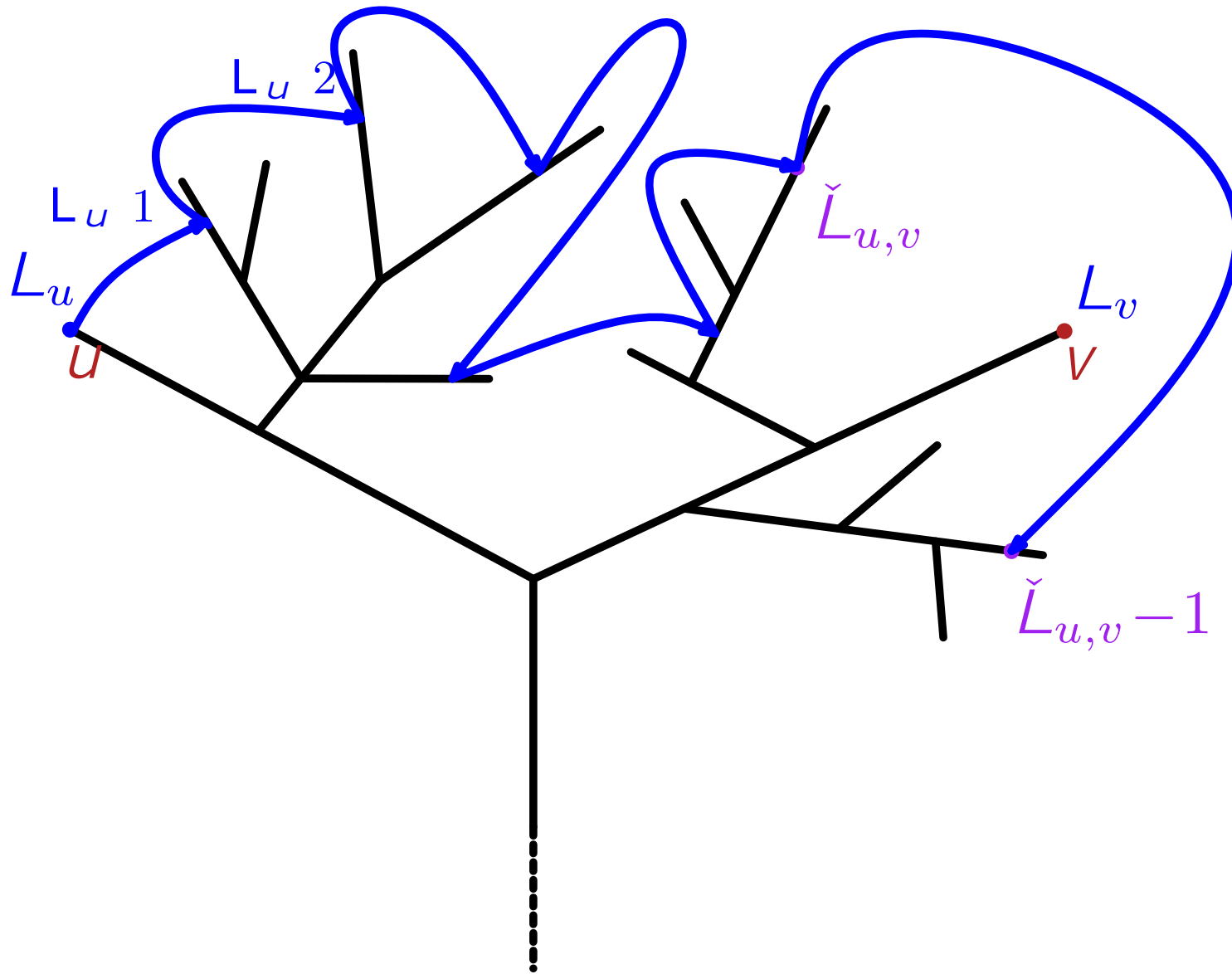
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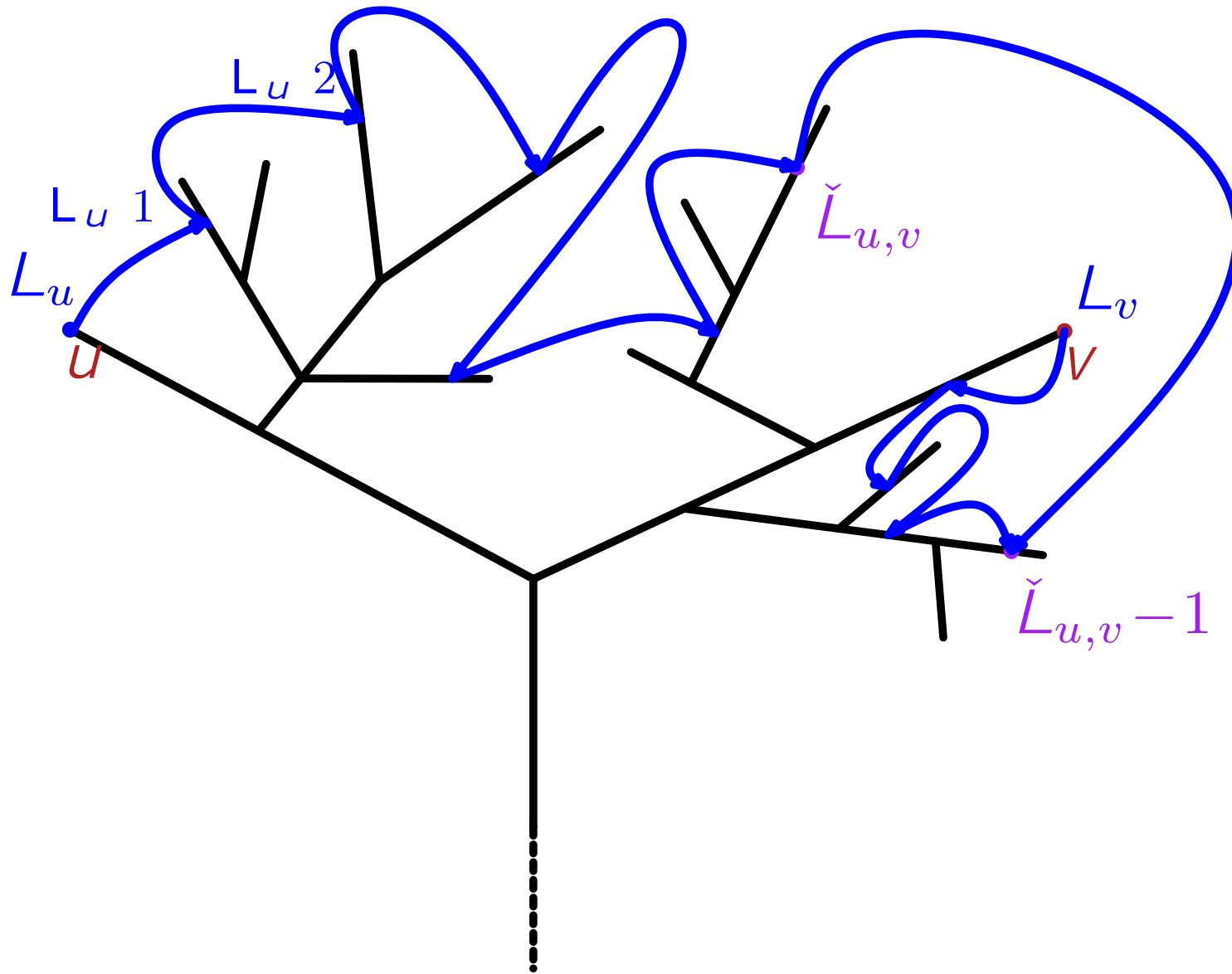
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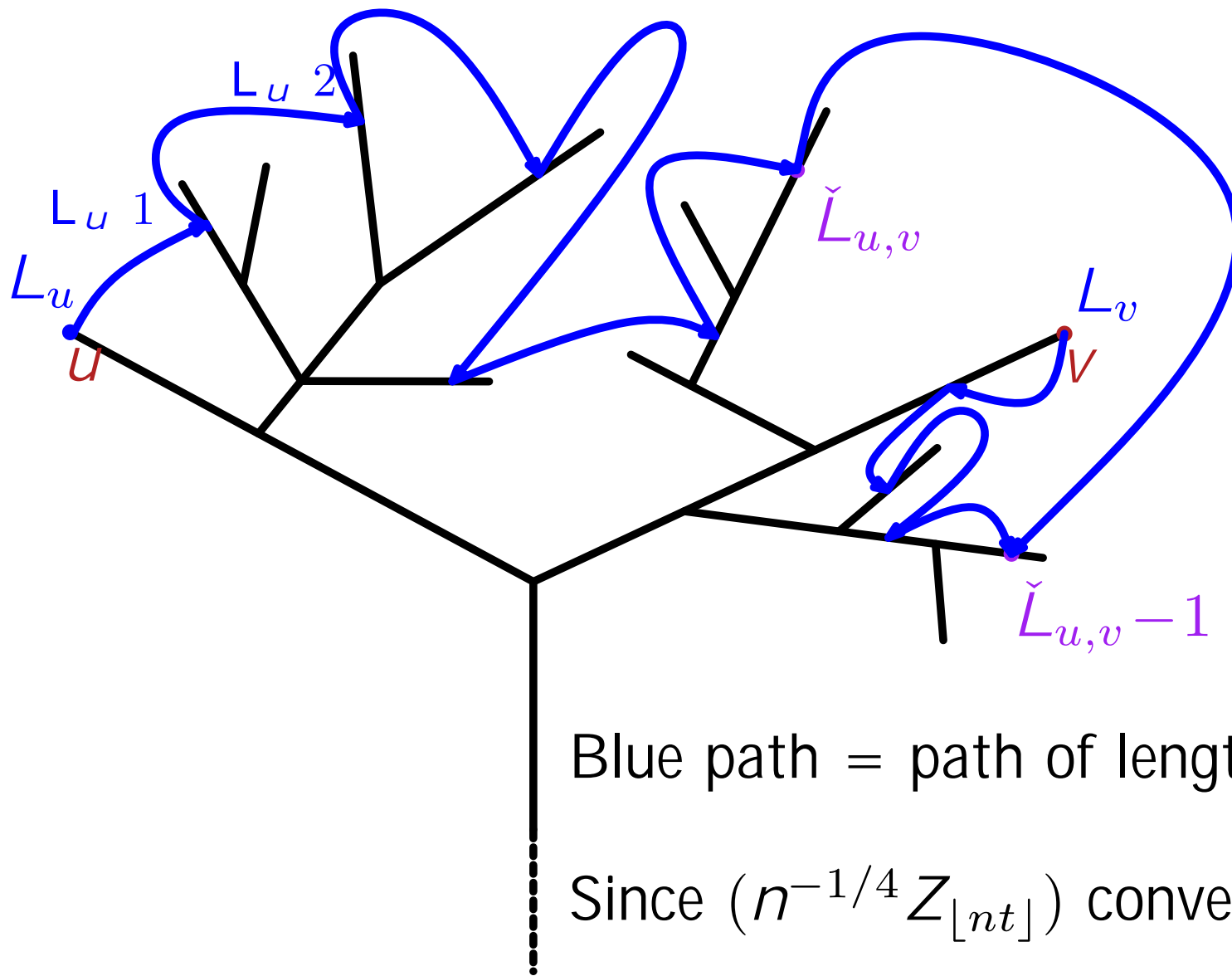
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# Distances are tight



$$\check{L}_{u,v} = \min\{L_s; u \leq s \leq v\}$$

Blue path = path of length  $L_u + L_v - 2\check{L}_{u,v} + 2$

Since  $(n^{-1/4} Z_{\lfloor nt \rfloor})$  converges  $\Rightarrow (d_n)$  tight

## The result for the last time

**Theorem** : [Addario-Berry, A.]

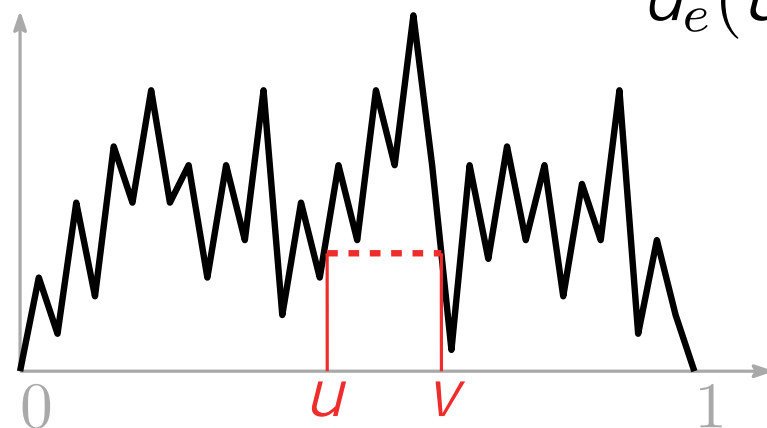
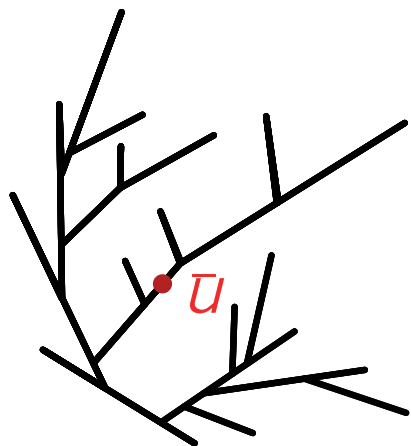
$(M_n)$  = sequence of random **simple** triangulations, then:

$$\left( M_n; \left( \frac{3}{4n} \right)^{1/4} d_{M_n} \right) \xrightarrow{(d)} (M; D^*);$$

for the distance of Gromov-Hausdorff on the isometry classes of compact metric spaces.

### The Brownian Map ??

# The Brownian map

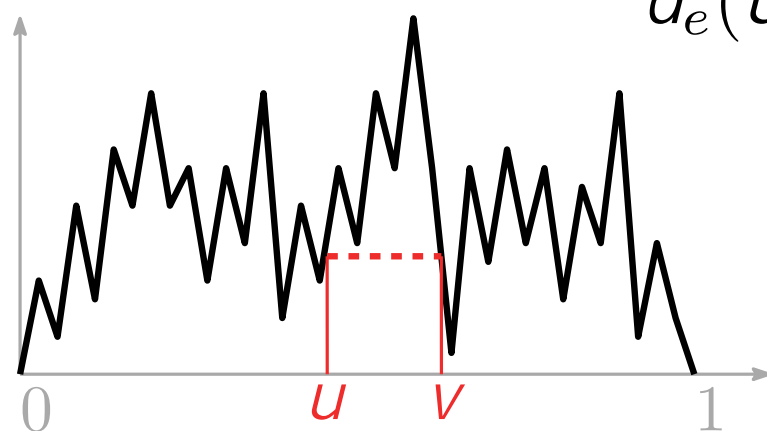
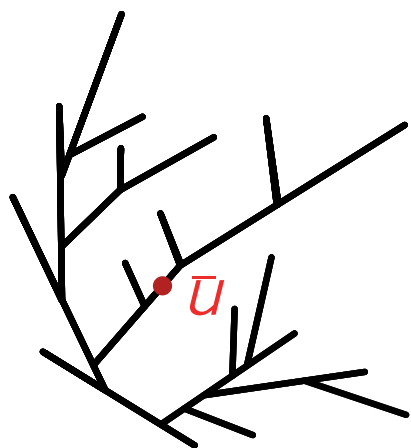


$$d_e(u; v) = e_u + e_v - 2 \min_{u \leq s \leq v} e_s$$

$$\mathcal{T}_e = [0; 1] \stackrel{\sim}{=} \sim_e$$

$$u \sim_e v \iff d_e(u; v) = 0$$

Conditional on  $\mathcal{T}_e$ ,  $Z$  a centered Gaussian process with  $Z_\rho = 0$  and  $E[(Z_s - Z_t)^2] = d_e(s; t)$   $Z \sim$  **Brownian motion on the tree**



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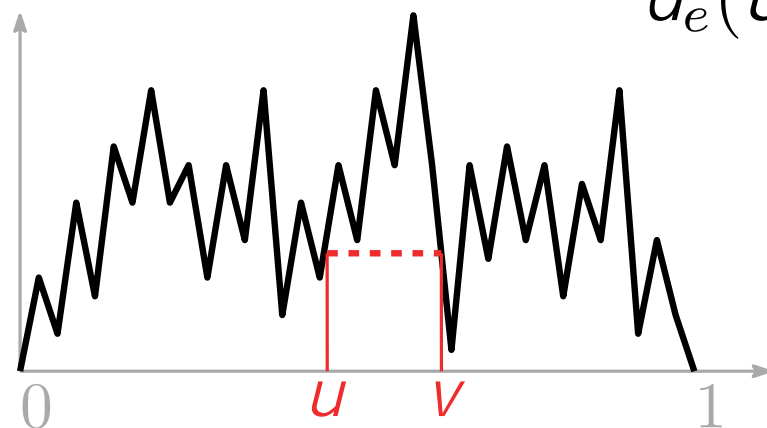
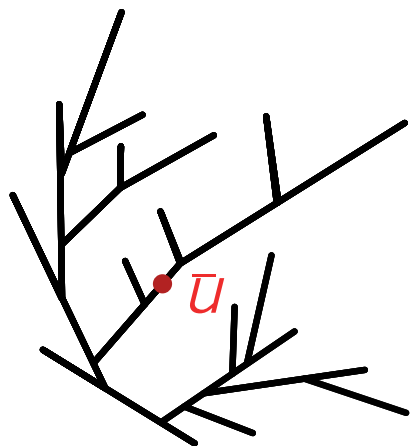
$$\mathcal{T}_e = [0; 1] = \sim_e$$

$$u \sim_e v \text{ i } d_e(u; v) = 0$$

Conditional on  $\mathcal{T}_e$ ,  $Z$  a centered Gaussian process with  $Z_\rho = 0$  and  $E[(Z_s - Z_t)^2] = 2e$



# The Brownian map



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$$\mathcal{T}_e = [0; 1] \simeq \sim_e$$

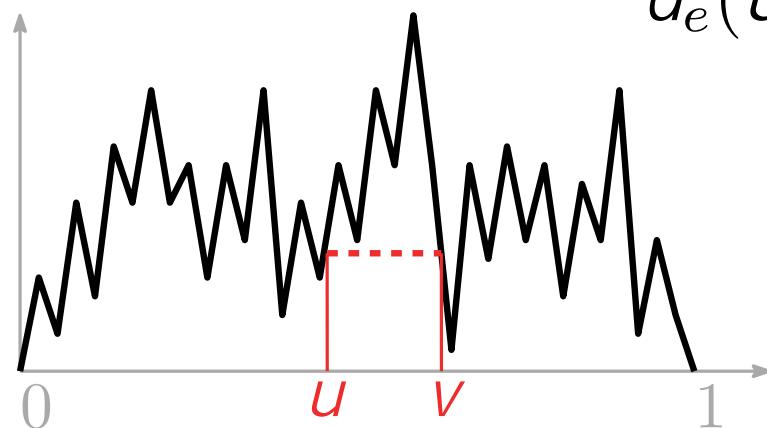
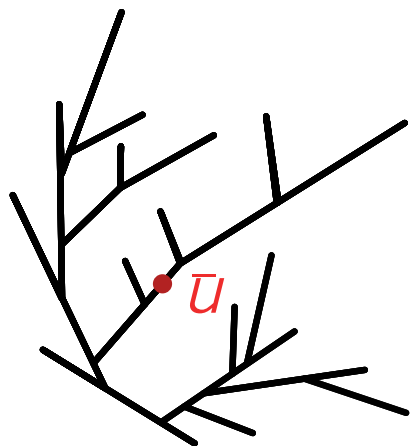
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Conditional on  $\mathcal{T}_e$ ,  $Z$  a centered Gaussian process with  $Z_\rho = 0$  and  $E[(Z_s - Z_t)^2] = d_e(s; t)$   **$Z \sim$  Brownian motion on the tree**

$$D^\circ(s; t) = Z_s + Z_t - 2 \max \left( \inf_{s \leq u \leq t} Z_u; \inf_{t \leq u \leq s} Z_u \right); \quad s, t \in [0; 1]:$$

$$D^*(a; b) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} D^\circ(a_i; a_{i+1}) : k \geq 1; a = a_1; a_2; \dots; a_{k-1}; a_k = b \right\};$$

# The Brownian map



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Then  $M = (\mathcal{T}_e \simeq \sim_D; D^*)$  is the **Brownian map**.

# Perspectives

Same approach works also for simple quadrangulations.

Can it be generalized to other families of maps ?

- Generic bijection between blossoming trees and maps [Bernardi, Fusy] [A., Poulalhon].

Can we say something about distances ?

- Convergence of Hurwitz maps: bijection also with blossoming trees [Duchi, Poulalhon, Schaefer].

Can we say something about the embedding of the Brownian map in the sphere via circle packing ?

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