

# THE BRICK POLYTOPE

Vincent PILAUD

(CNRS & École Polytechnique)

Christian STUMP

(Freie Universität Berlin)

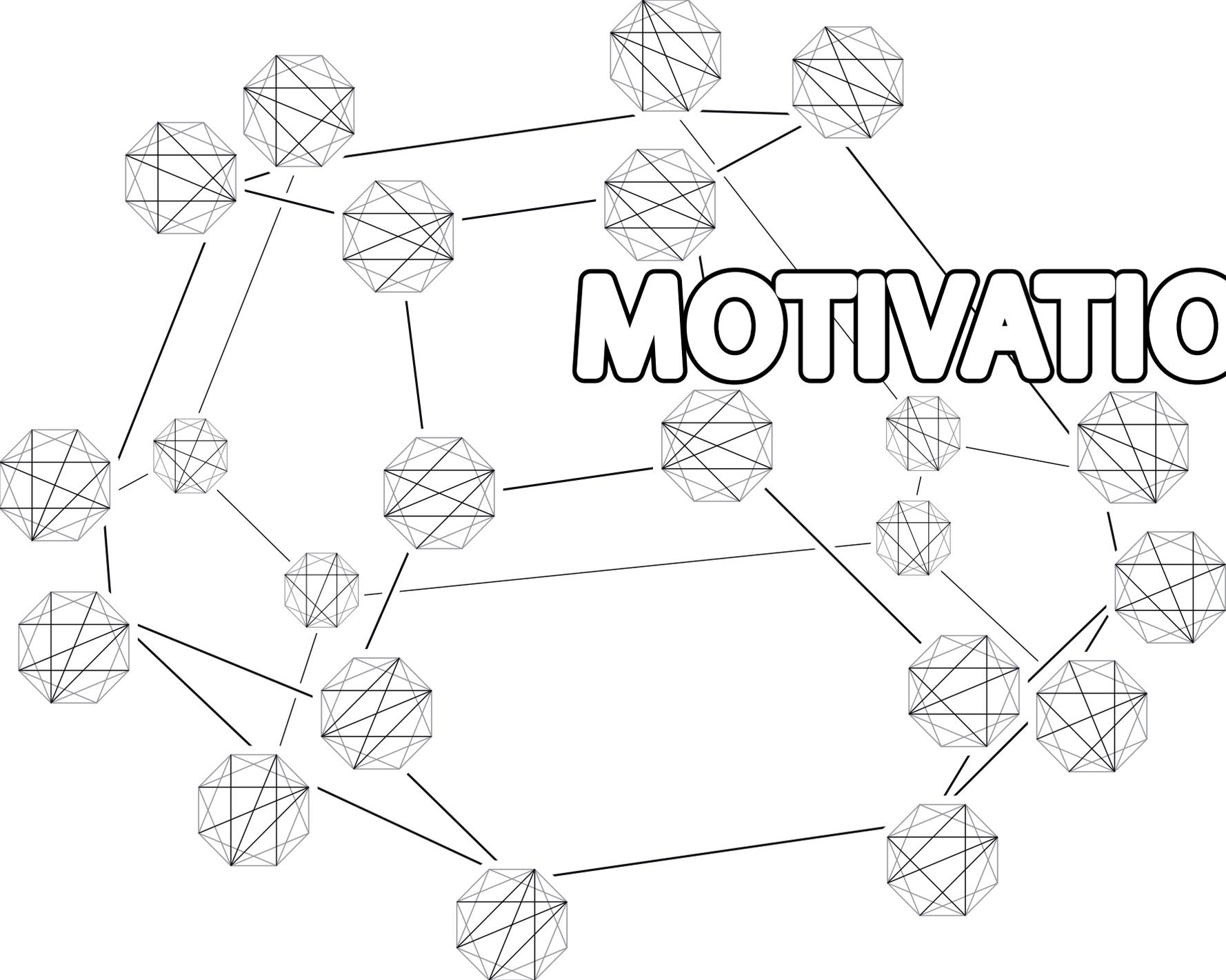
Michel POCCHIOLA

(Université Paris 6)

Francisco SANTOS

(Universidad de Cantabria)

# MOTIVATION

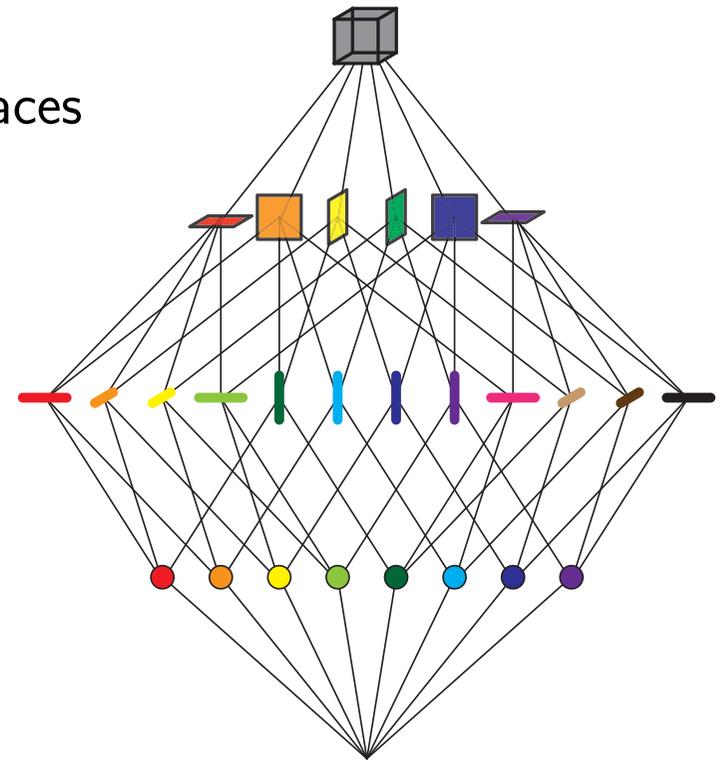
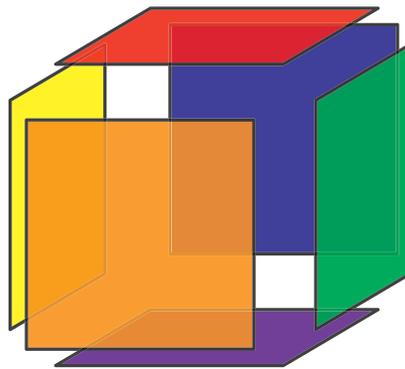
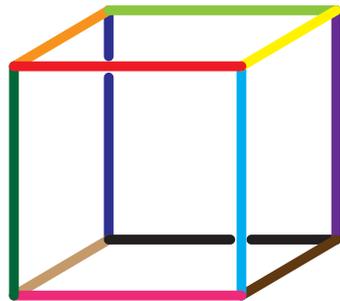
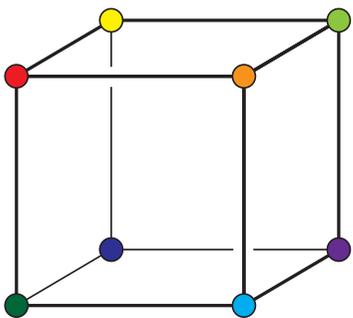


# POLYTOPES WITH PRESCRIBED COMBINATORICS

**polytope** = convex hull of a finite set of  $\mathbb{R}^d$   
= bounded intersection of finitely many half-spaces

**face** = intersection with a supporting hyperplane

**face lattice** = all the faces with their inclusion relations



Given a set of points, determine the face lattice of its convex hull.

Given a lattice, is there a **polytope which realizes it**?

# POLYTOPES OF DIMENSION $\geq 4$

Polytopes of dimension 3  $\longleftrightarrow$  planar 3-connected graphs

Various open conjectures in dimension 4:

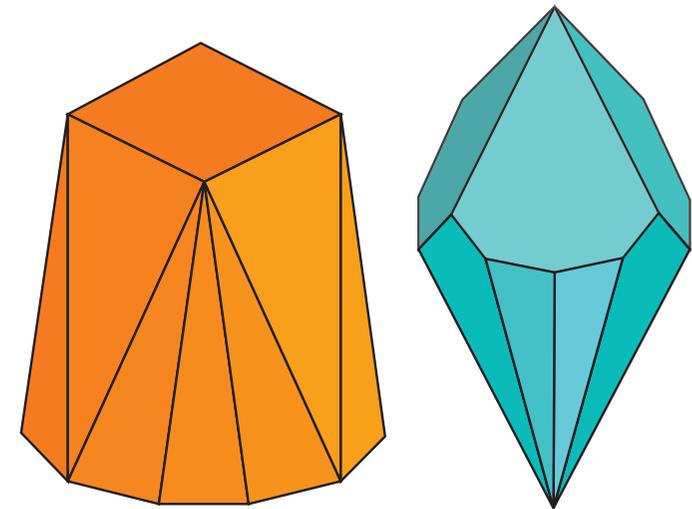
Hirsch conjecture

diameter  $\leq$  #facets – dimension (Santos)

complexity of the simplex algorithm

$3^d$  Conjecture (Kalai)

$f$ -vecteur shape (Barany, Ziegler)



Prismatoïdes

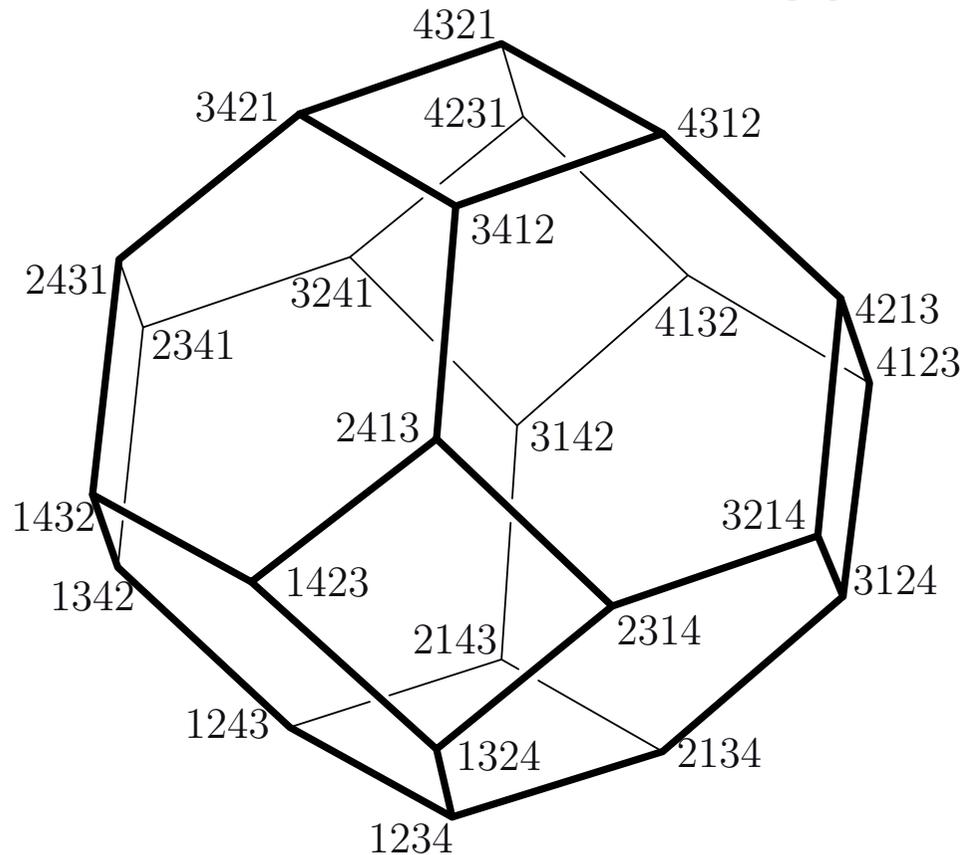
“Our main limits in understanding the combinatorial structure of polytopes still lie in our ability to raise the good questions and in the **lack of examples, methods of constructing them, and means of classifying them.**”

Kalai. Handbook of Discrete and Computational Geometry, 2004.

## PERMUTAHEDRON

$$\Pi_n = \text{conv} \{ (\sigma(1), \dots, \sigma(n))^T \mid \sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n \}$$

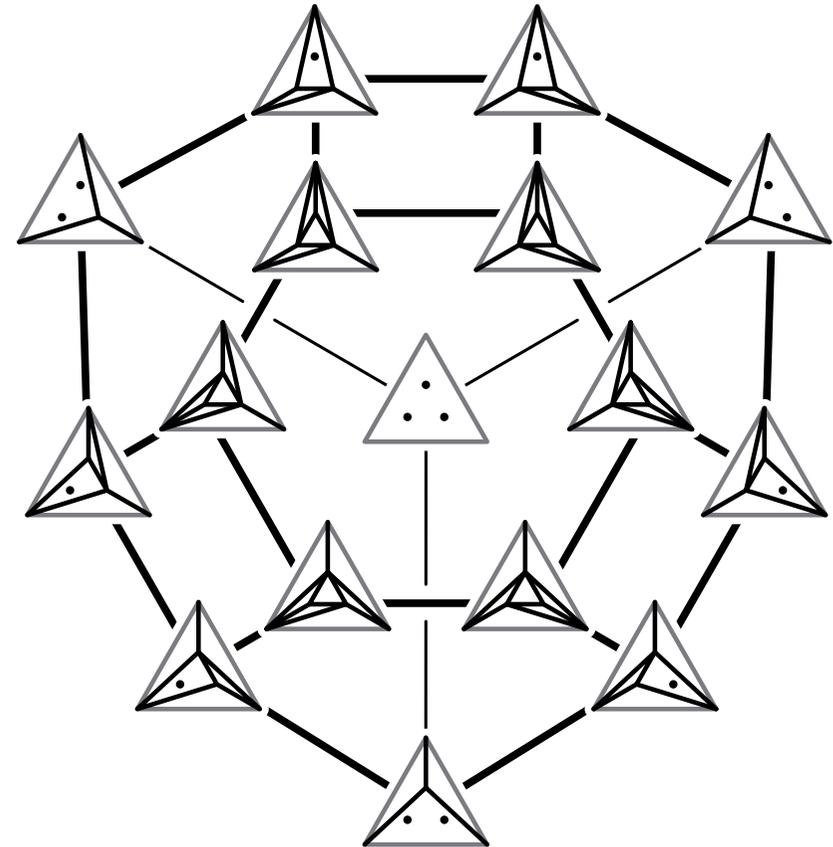
$\partial\Pi_n =$  refinement poset on ordered partitions of  $[n]$



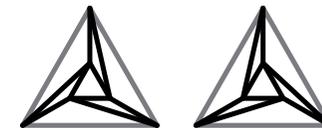
## SECONDARY POLYTOPE

$$\Sigma(P) = \text{conv} \{ \sum_{p \in P} \text{vol}(T, p) e_p \mid T \text{ triang. } P \}$$

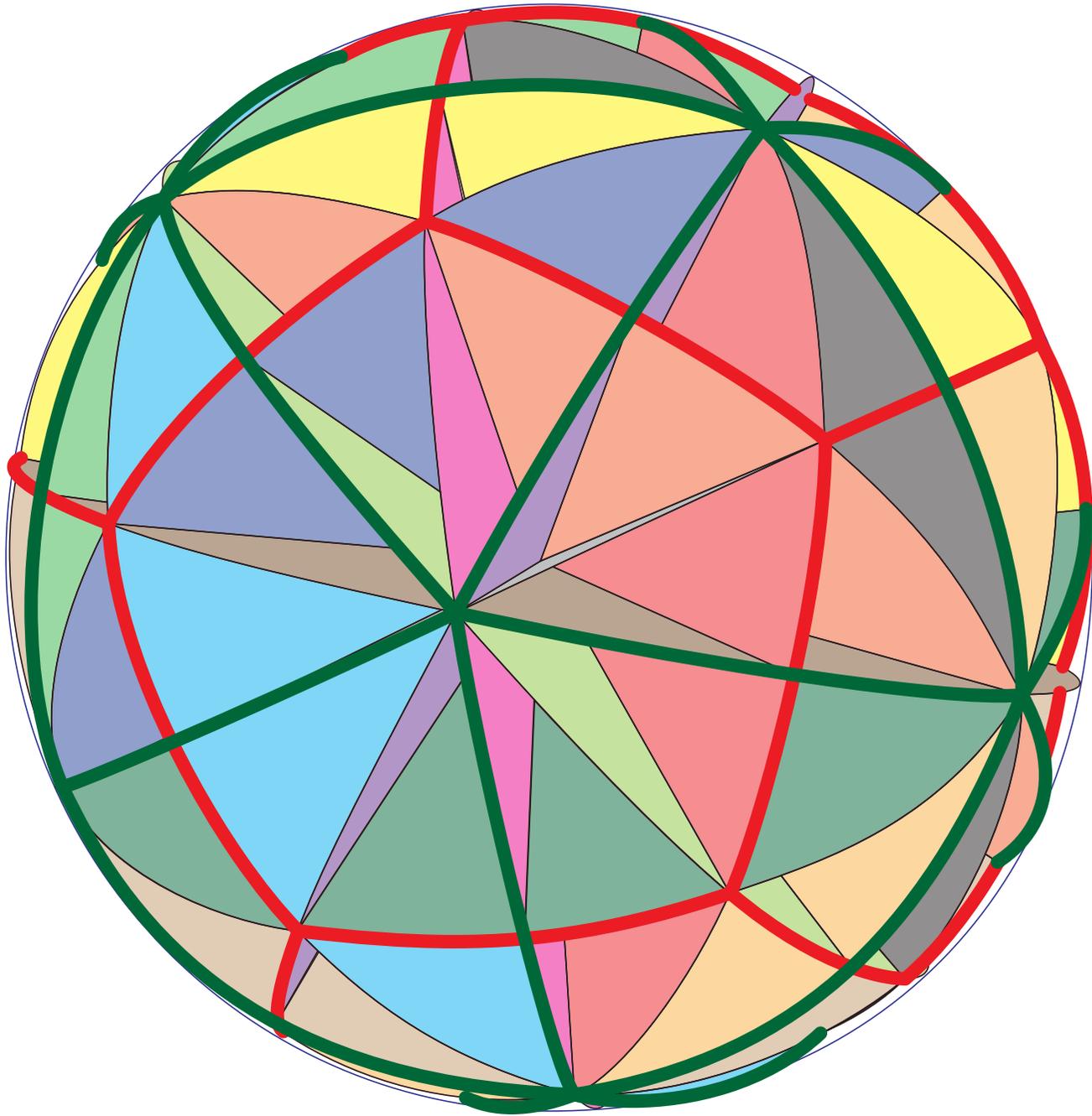
$\partial\Sigma(P) =$  refinement poset on regular polyhedral subdivisions of  $P$



Triangulations



are non-regular



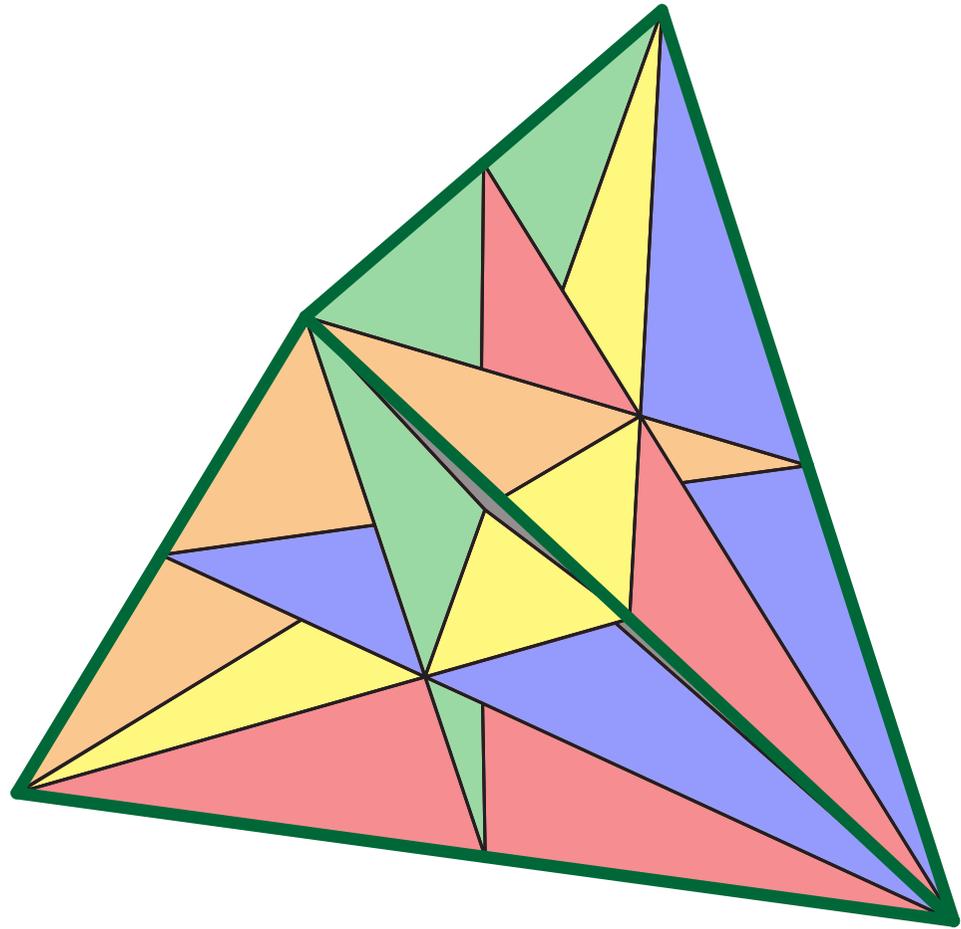
# FINITE COXETER GROUPS

J. Humphreys, Reflection groups and Coxeter groups, 1990.

# FINITE COXETER GROUPS

---

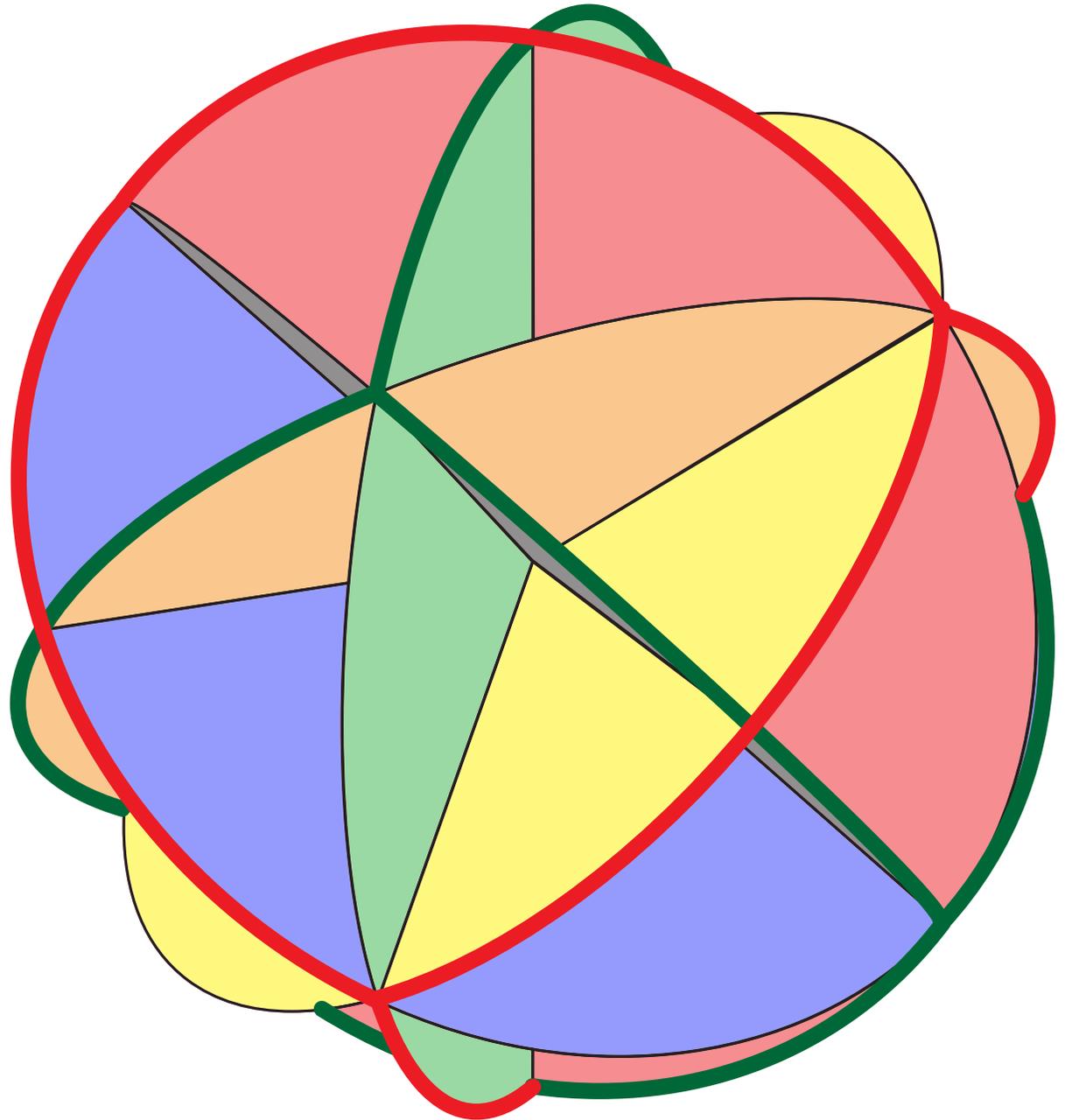
$W =$  finite Coxeter group



# FINITE COXETER GROUPS

---

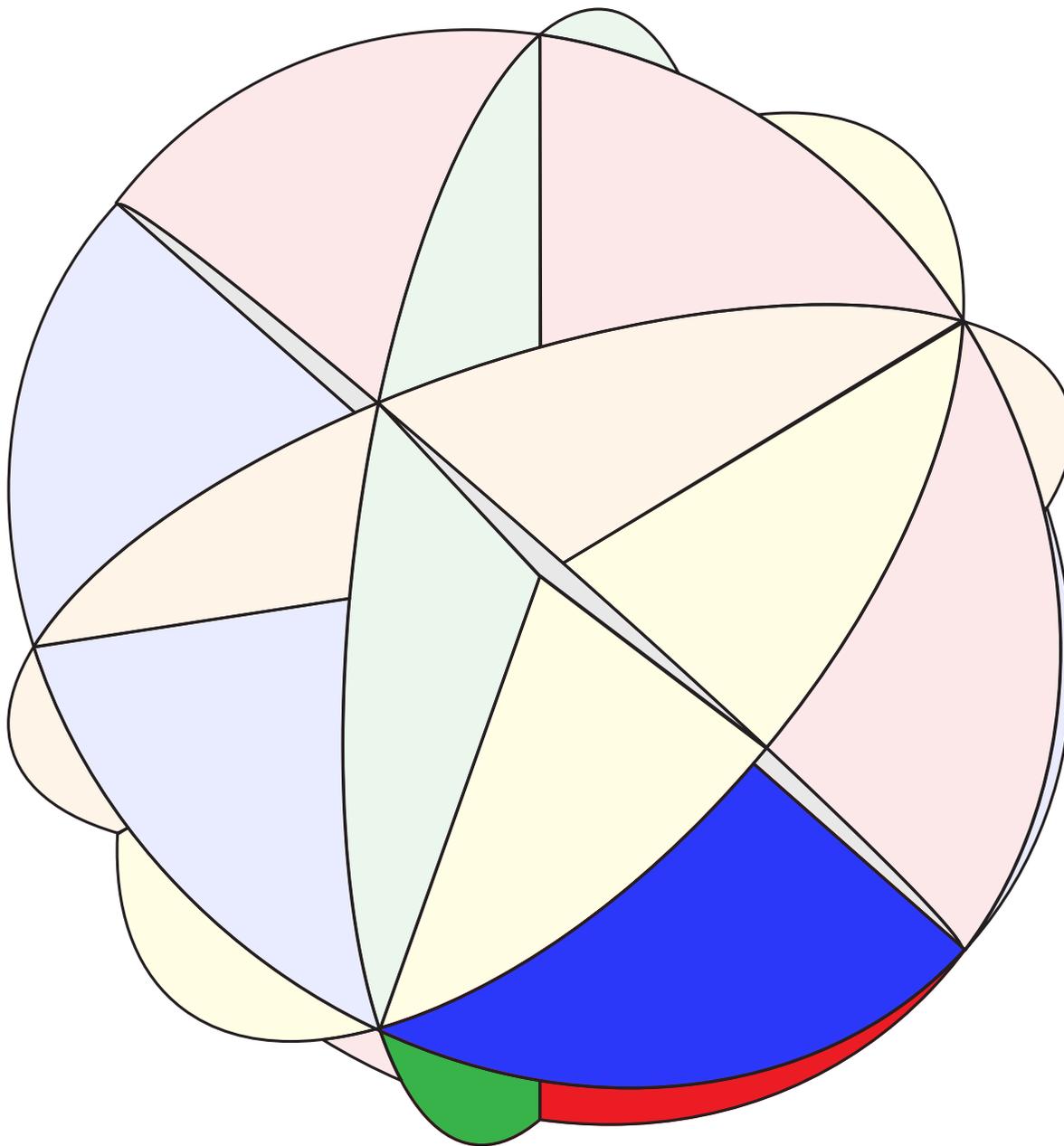
$W =$  finite Coxeter group  
Coxeter fan



# FINITE COXETER GROUPS

---

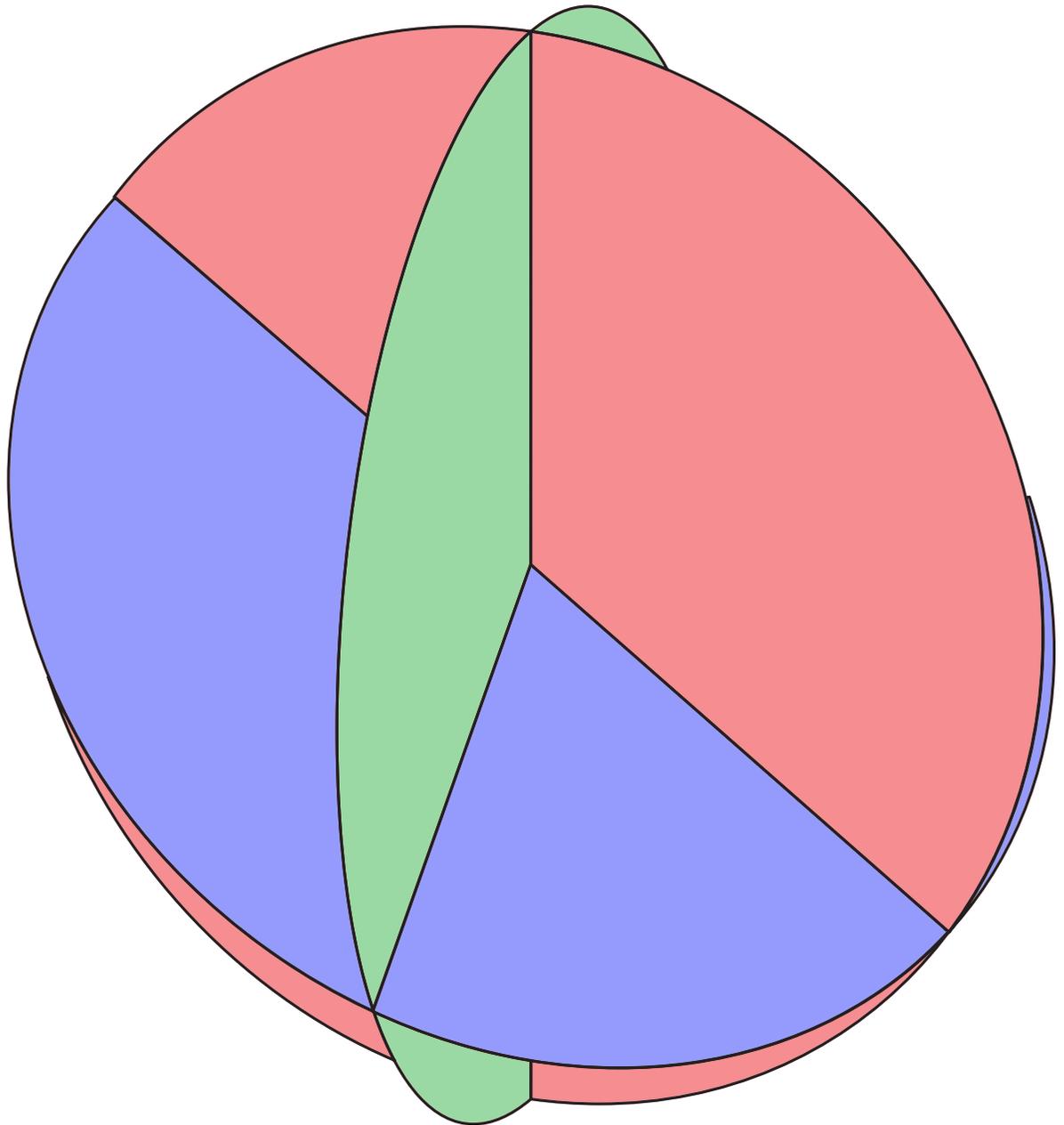
$W$  = finite Coxeter group  
Coxeter fan  
fundamental chamber



# FINITE COXETER GROUPS

---

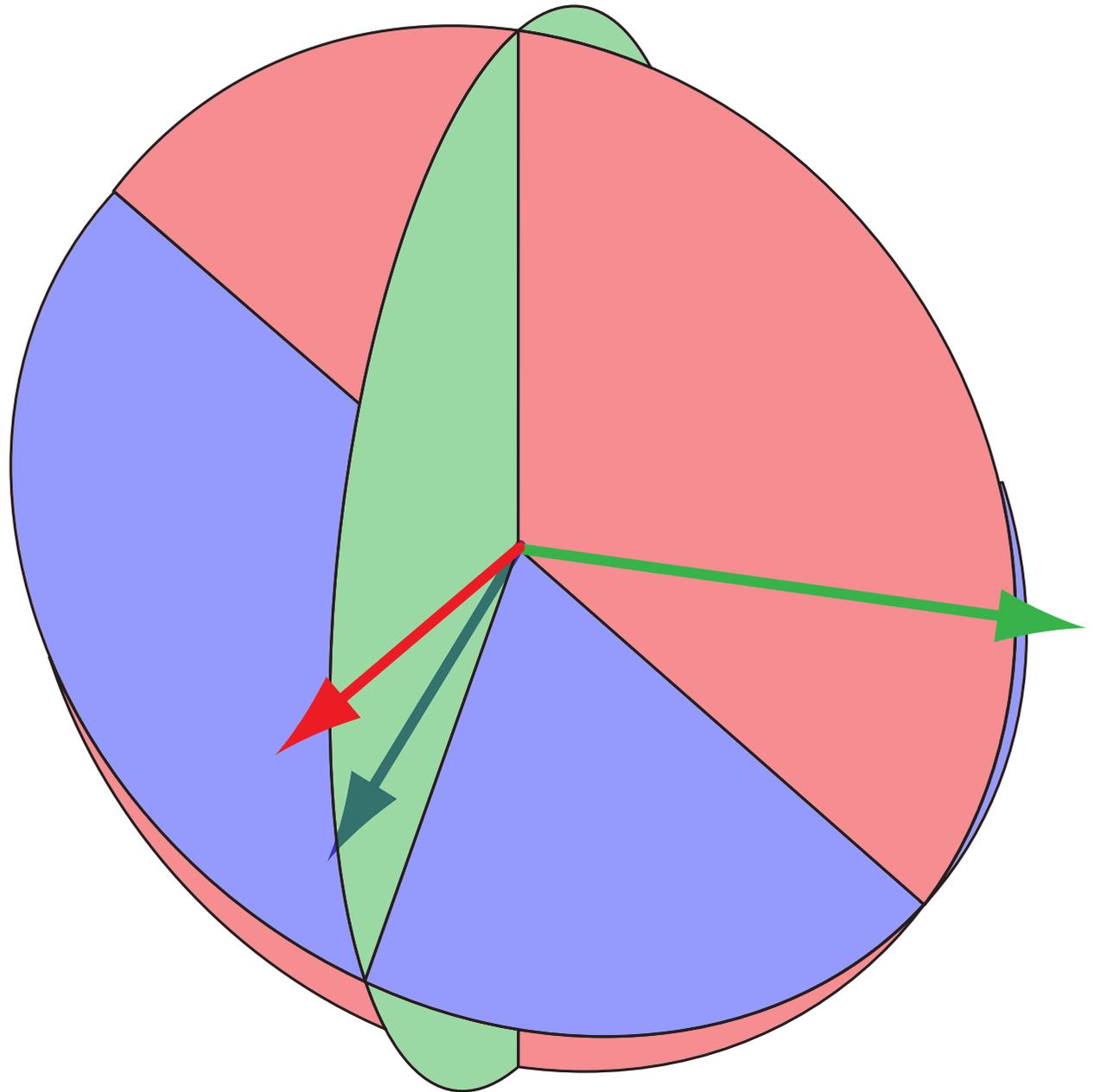
$W$  = finite Coxeter group  
Coxeter fan  
fundamental chamber  
 $S$  = simple reflections



# FINITE COXETER GROUPS

---

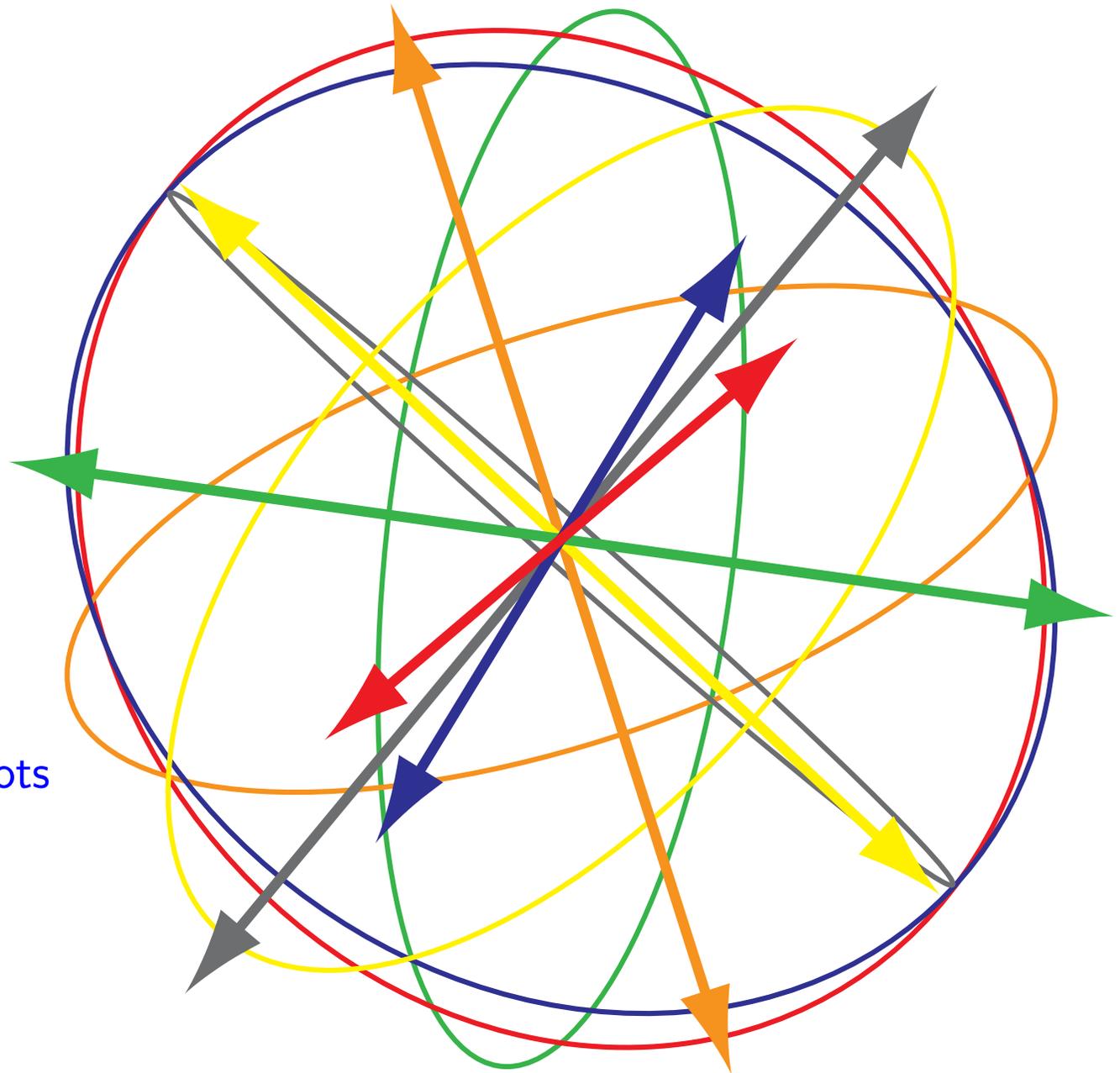
$W$  = finite Coxeter group  
Coxeter fan  
fundamental chamber  
 $\mathcal{S}$  = simple reflections  
 $\Delta = \{\alpha_s \mid s \in \mathcal{S}\}$  = simple roots



# FINITE COXETER GROUPS

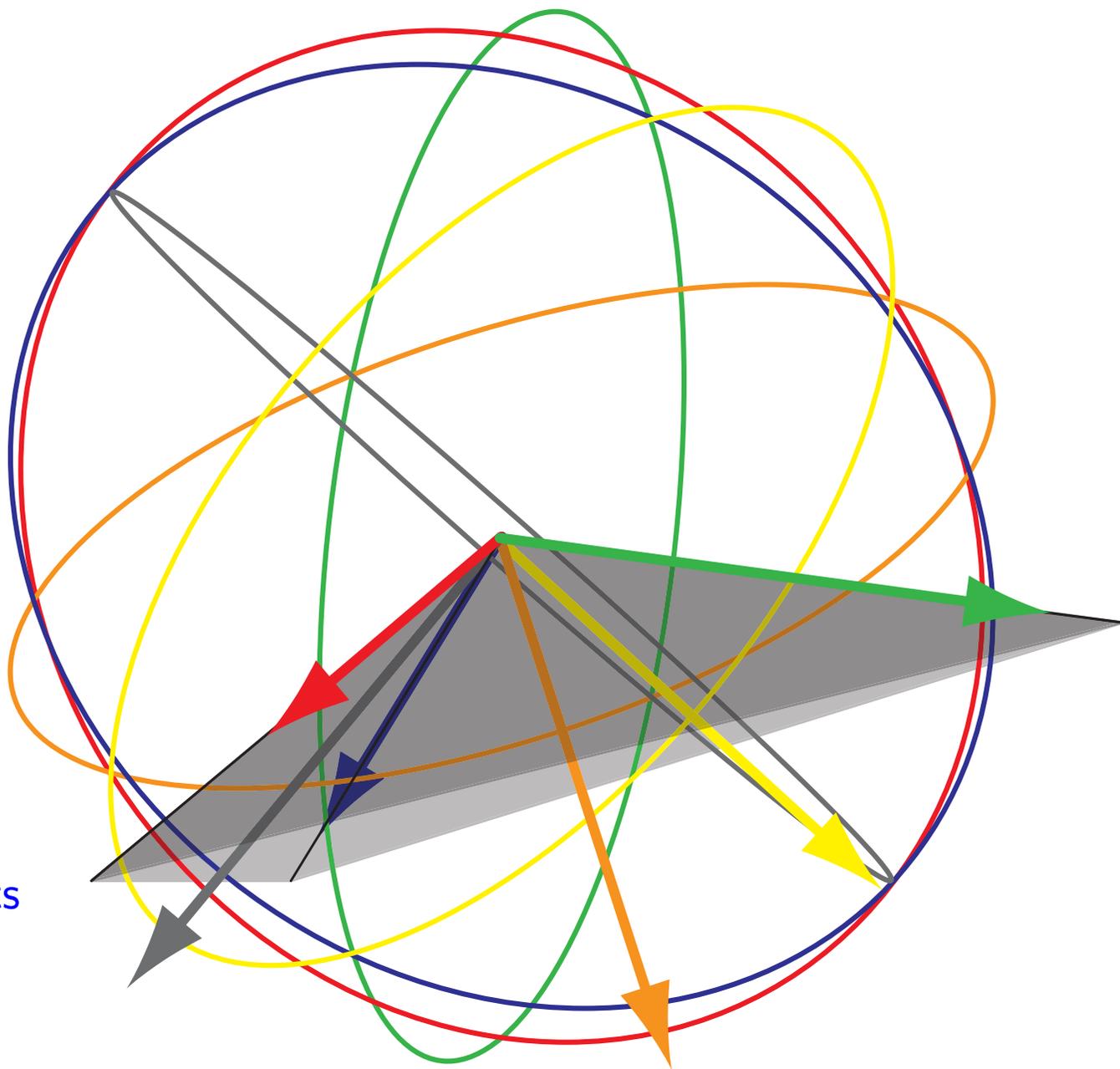
---

$W$  = finite Coxeter group  
Coxeter fan  
fundamental chamber  
 $\mathcal{S}$  = simple reflections  
 $\Delta = \{\alpha_s \mid s \in \mathcal{S}\}$  = simple roots  
 $\Phi = W(\Delta)$  = root system



# FINITE COXETER GROUPS

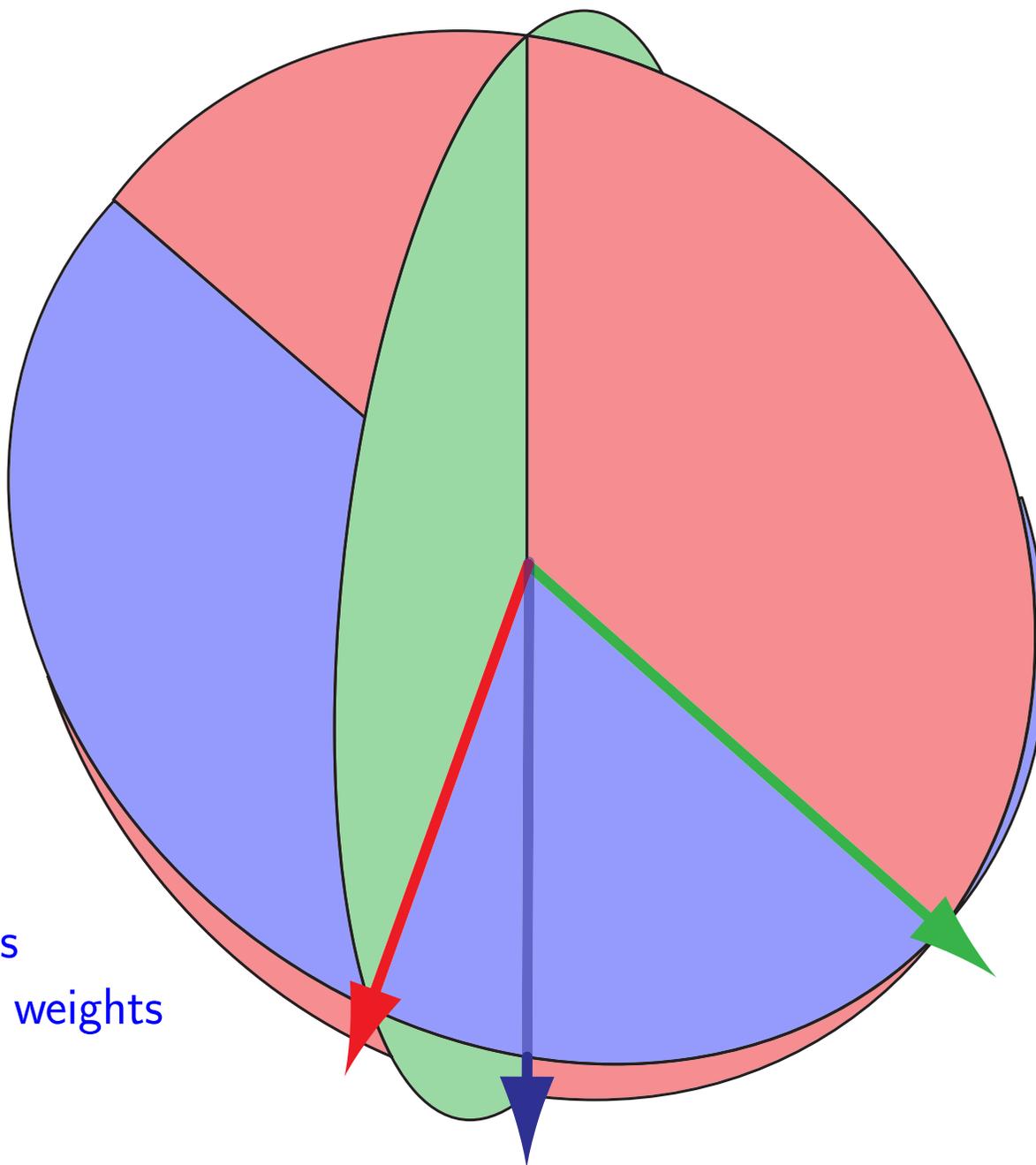
$W$  = finite Coxeter group  
Coxeter fan  
fundamental chamber  
 $S$  = simple reflections  
 $\Delta = \{\alpha_s \mid s \in S\}$  = simple roots  
 $\Phi = W(\Delta)$  = root system  
 $\Phi^+ = \Phi \cap \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}[\Delta]$  = positive roots



# FINITE COXETER GROUPS

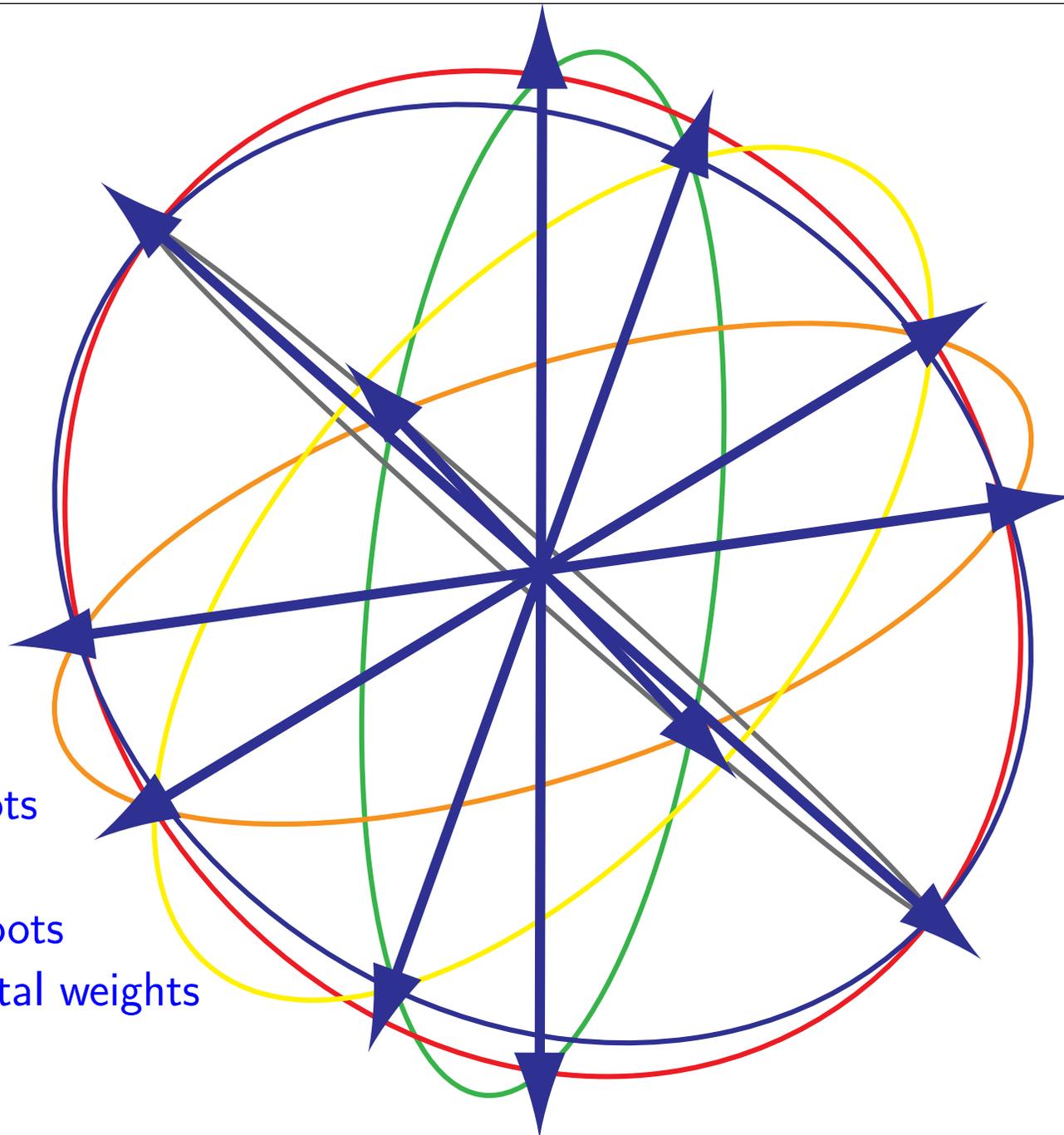
---

$W$  = finite Coxeter group  
Coxeter fan  
fundamental chamber  
 $S$  = simple reflections  
 $\Delta = \{\alpha_s \mid s \in S\}$  = simple roots  
 $\Phi = W(\Delta)$  = root system  
 $\Phi^+ = \Phi \cap \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}[\Delta]$  = positive roots  
 $\nabla = \{\omega_s \mid s \in S\}$  = fundamental weights



# FINITE COXETER GROUPS

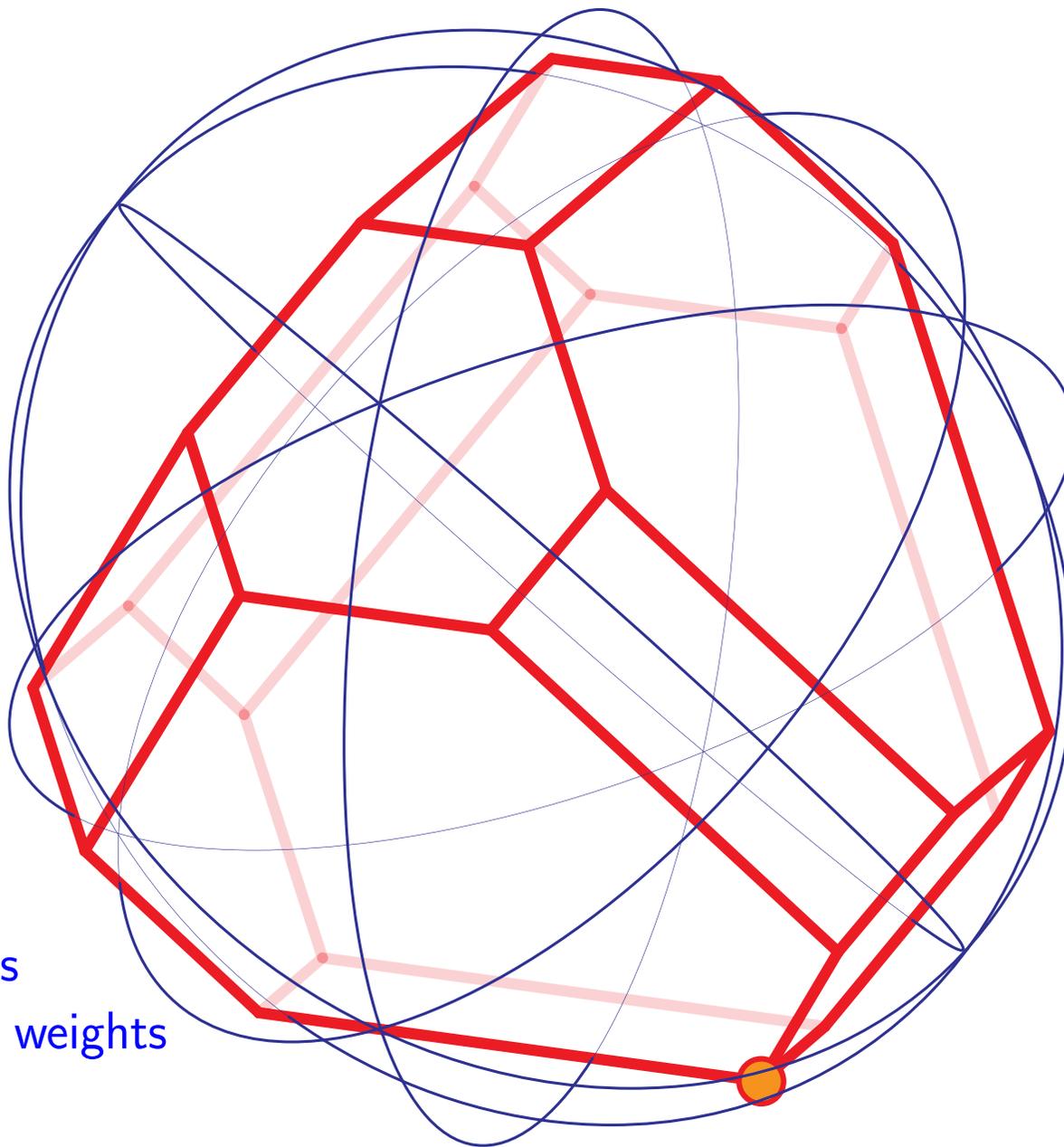
$W$  = finite Coxeter group  
Coxeter fan  
fundamental chamber  
 $S$  = simple reflections  
 $\Delta = \{\alpha_s \mid s \in S\}$  = simple roots  
 $\Phi = W(\Delta)$  = root system  
 $\Phi^+ = \Phi \cap \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}[\Delta]$  = positive roots  
 $\nabla = \{\omega_s \mid s \in S\}$  = fundamental weights



# FINITE COXETER GROUPS

---

$W$  = finite Coxeter group  
Coxeter fan  
fundamental chamber  
 $S$  = simple reflections  
 $\Delta = \{\alpha_s \mid s \in S\}$  = simple roots  
 $\Phi = W(\Delta)$  = root system  
 $\Phi^+ = \Phi \cap \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}[\Delta]$  = positive roots  
 $\nabla = \{\omega_s \mid s \in S\}$  = fundamental weights  
permutahedron



# FINITE COXETER GROUPS

$W$  = finite Coxeter group

Coxeter fan

fundamental chamber

$S$  = simple reflections

$\Delta = \{\alpha_s \mid s \in S\}$  = simple roots

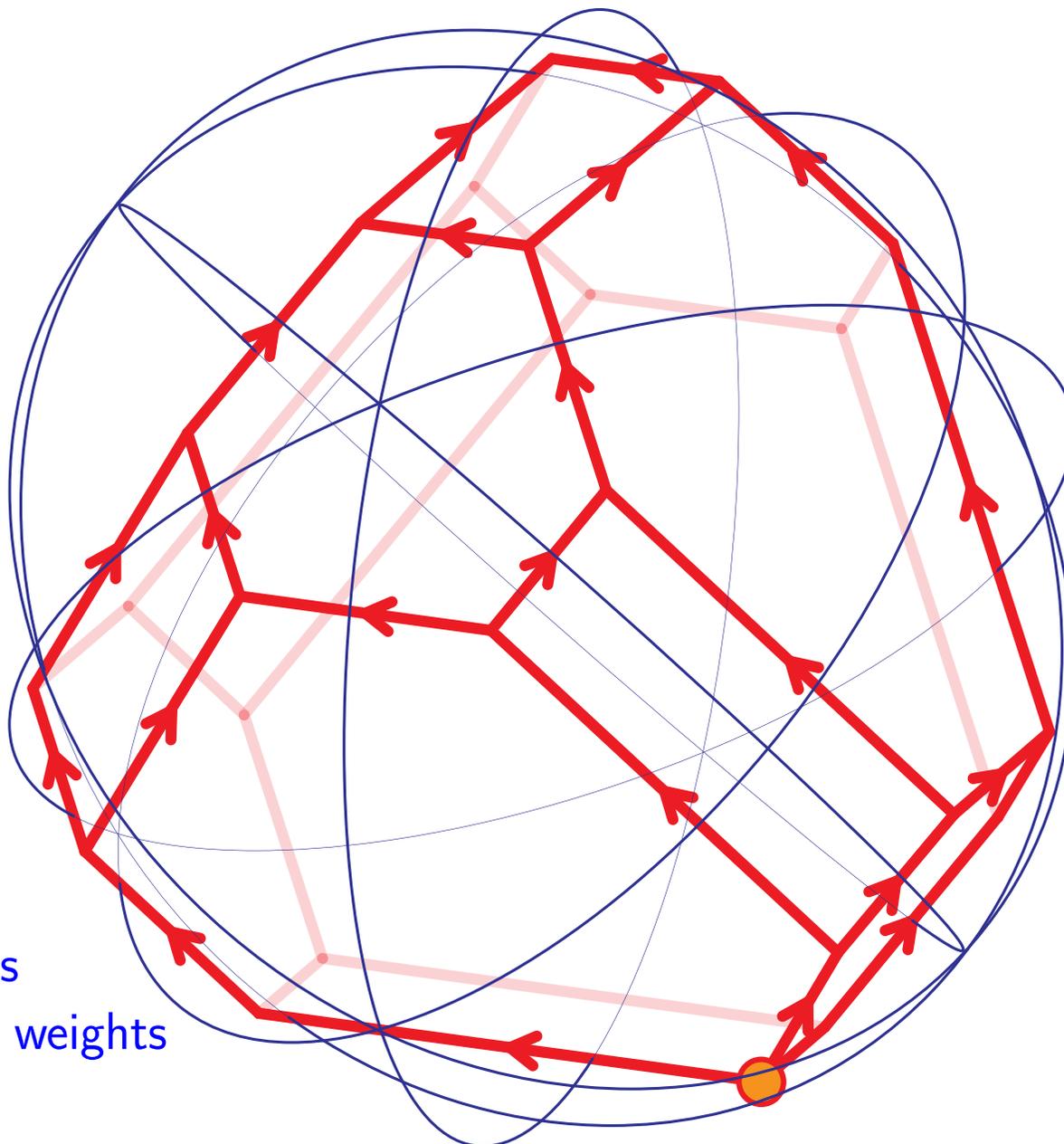
$\Phi = W(\Delta)$  = root system

$\Phi^+ = \Phi \cap \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}[\Delta]$  = positive roots

$\nabla = \{\omega_s \mid s \in S\}$  = fundamental weights

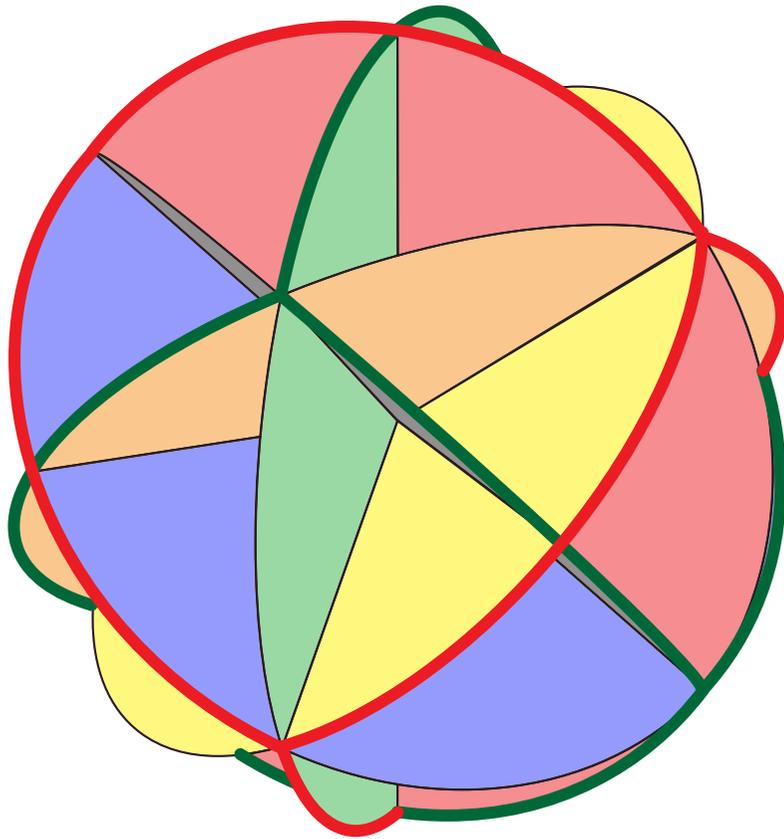
permutahedron

weak order =  $u \leq w \iff \exists v \in W, uv = w$  and  $\ell(u) + \ell(v) = \ell(w)$



# EXAMPLES: TYPE A AND B

TYPE  $A_n =$  symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_{n+1}$



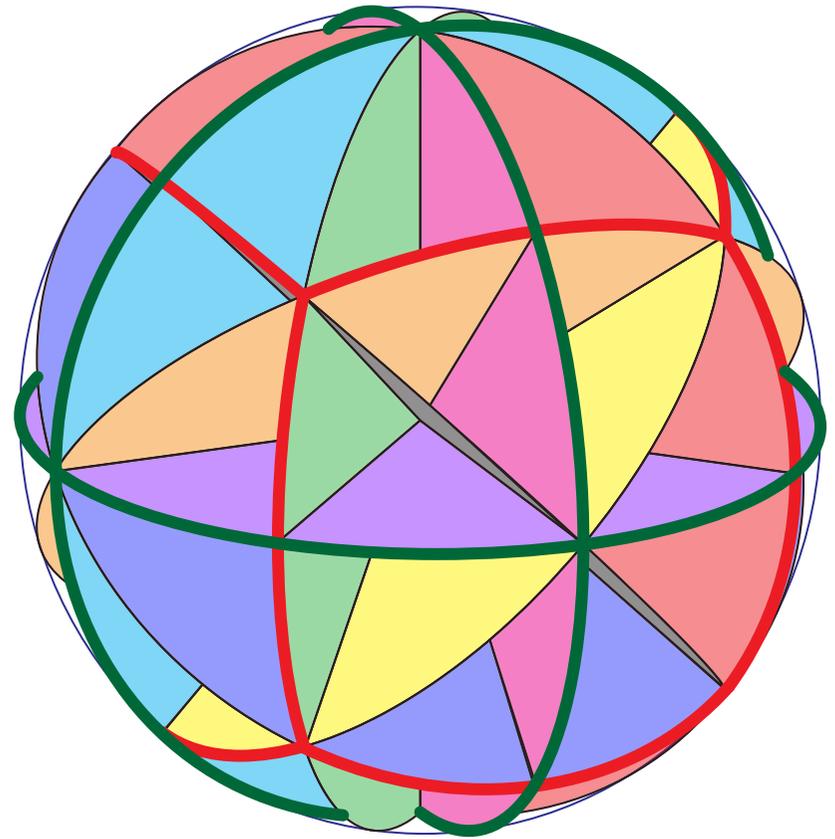
$$S = \{(i, i + 1) \mid i \in [n]\}$$

$$\Delta = \{e_{i+1} - e_i \mid i \in [n]\}$$

$$\text{roots} = \{e_i - e_j \mid i, j \in [n + 1]\}$$

$$\nabla = \left\{ \sum_{j>i} e_j \mid i \in [n] \right\}$$

TYPE  $B_n =$  semidirect product  $\mathfrak{S}_n \rtimes (\mathbb{Z}_2)^n$

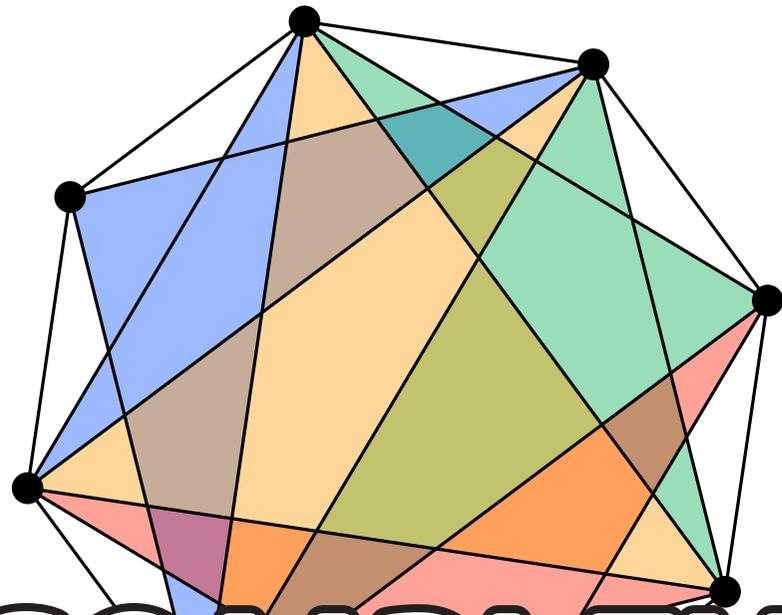
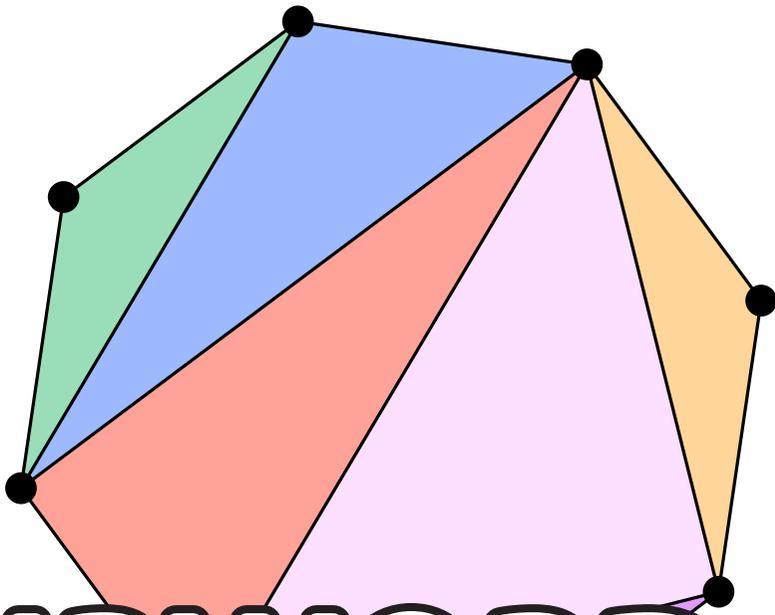


$$S = \{(i, i + 1) \mid i \in [n - 1]\} \cup \{\chi\}$$

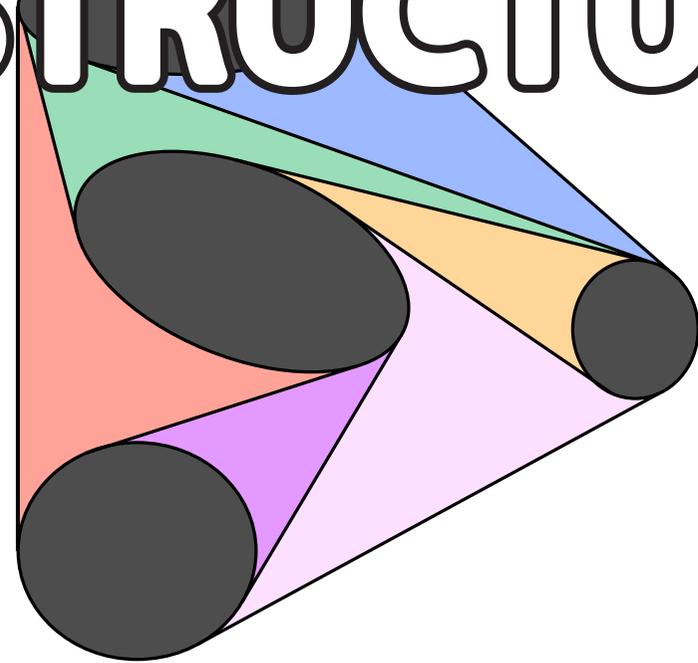
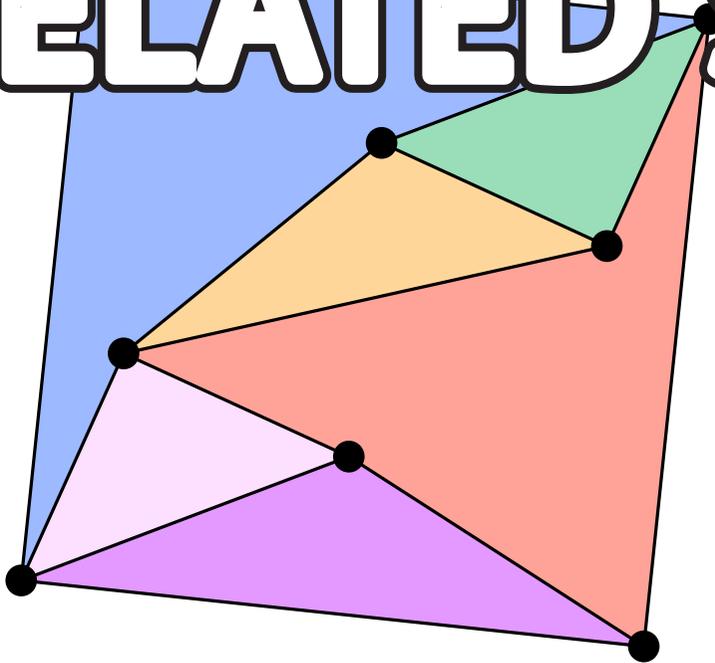
$$\Delta = \{e_{i+1} - e_i \mid i \in [n - 1]\} \cup \{e_1\}$$

$$\text{roots} = \{\pm e_i \pm e_j \mid i, j \in [n]\} \cup \{\pm e_i \mid i \in [n]\}$$

$$\nabla = \left\{ \sum_{j \geq i} e_j \mid i \in [n] \right\}$$



# SUBWORD COMPLEXES & RELATED STRUCTURES



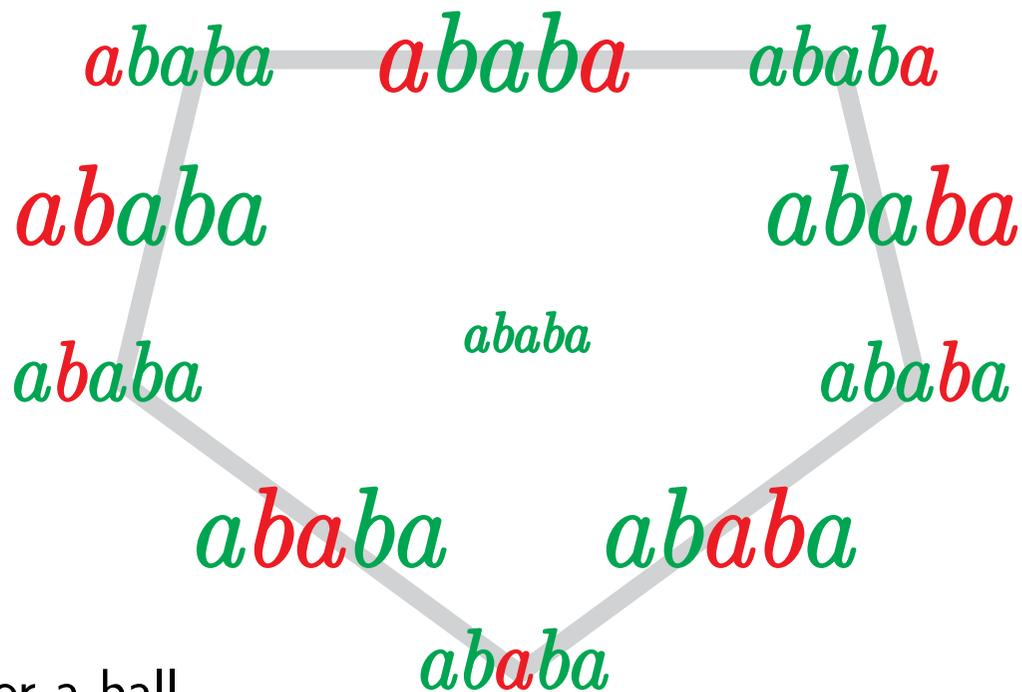
# SUBWORD COMPLEX

$(W, S)$  a finite Coxeter system,  $Q = q_1q_2 \cdots q_m$  a word on  $S$ ,  $\rho$  an element of  $W$ .

**Subword complex**  $\mathcal{S}(Q, \rho)$  = simplicial complex of subsets of positions of  $Q$  whose complement contains a reduced expression of  $\rho$ .

A. Knutson & E. Miller, Subword complexes in Coxeter groups, 2004.

$W = \mathfrak{S}_3$   
 $S = \{(1\ 2), (2\ 3)\} = \{a, b\}$   
 $Q = ababa$   
 $\rho = aba = bab$



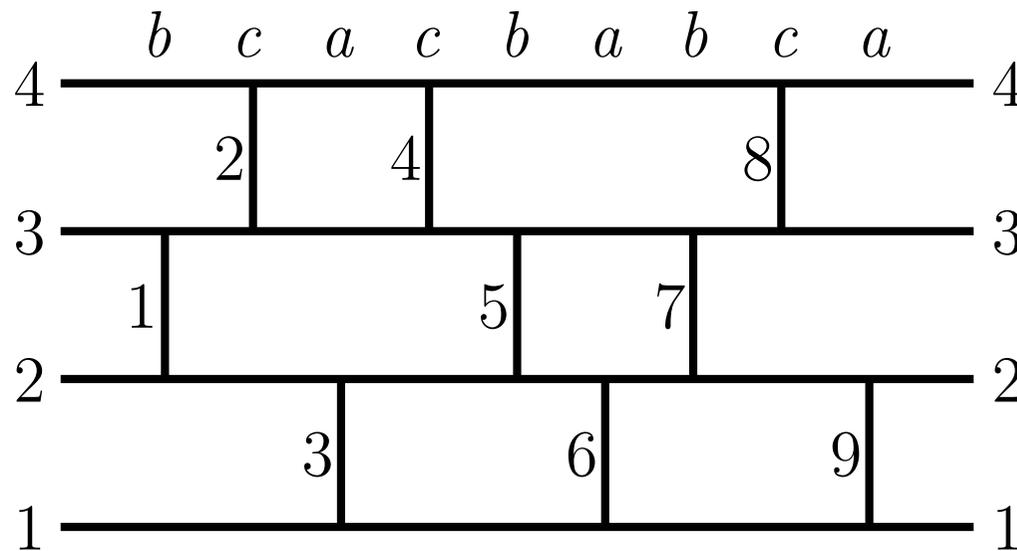
The subword complex is either a sphere (when the Demazure product of  $Q$  is  $\rho$ ) or a ball.

**QUESTION.** Are all spherical subword complexes polytopal?

# TYPE A: PRIMITIVE SORTING NETWORKS

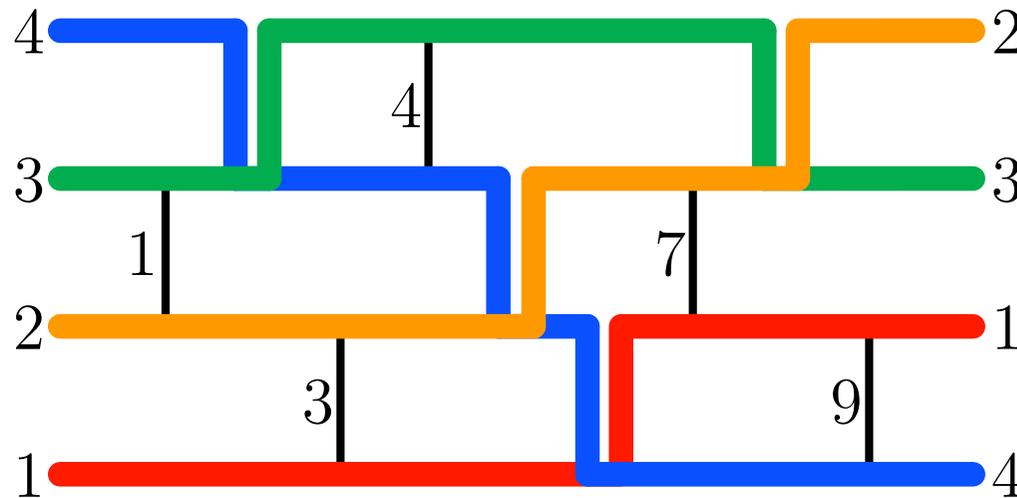
Classical situation of type A:

- Coxeter group  $W = \mathfrak{S}_{n+1}$
- simple system  $S = \{\tau_i \mid i \in [n]\}$ ,  
where  $\tau_i = (i \ i+1)$
- word  $Q = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_m$  on  $S$
- $w$  element of  $W$



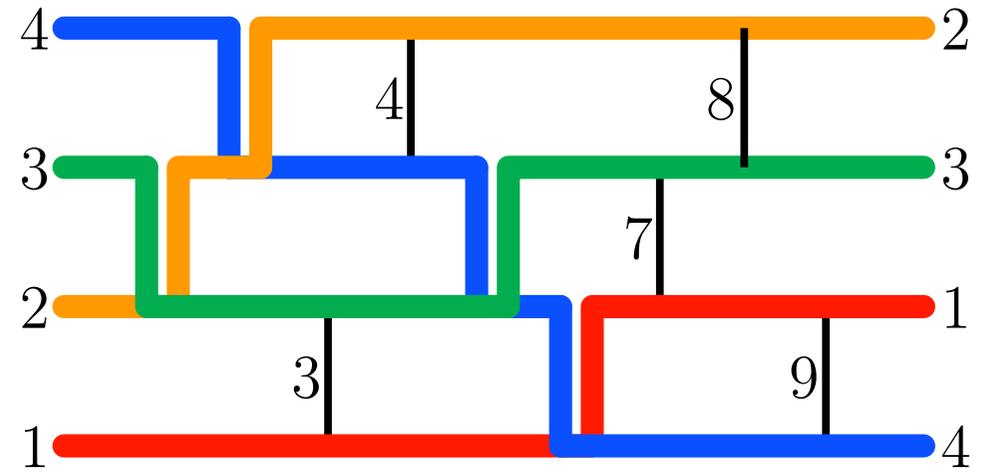
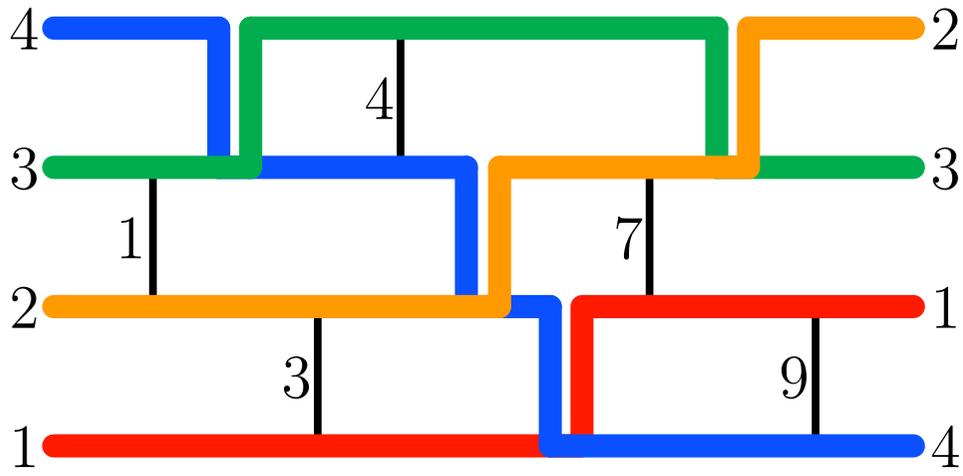
The subword complex can be interpreted with a primitive sorting network:

- $\mathcal{N}_Q$  formed by  $n + 1$  levels and  $m$  commutators
- facets of  $\mathcal{S}(Q, w) \longleftrightarrow$   
pseudoline arrangements on  $\mathcal{N}_Q$



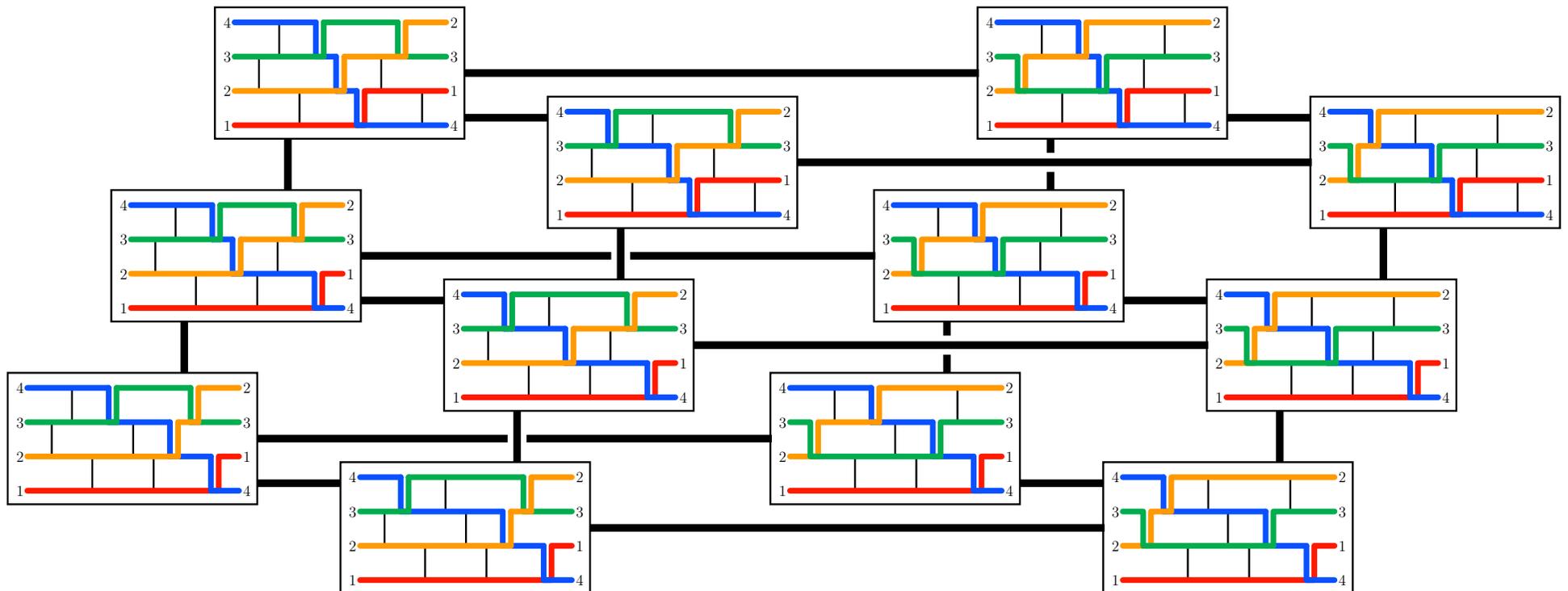
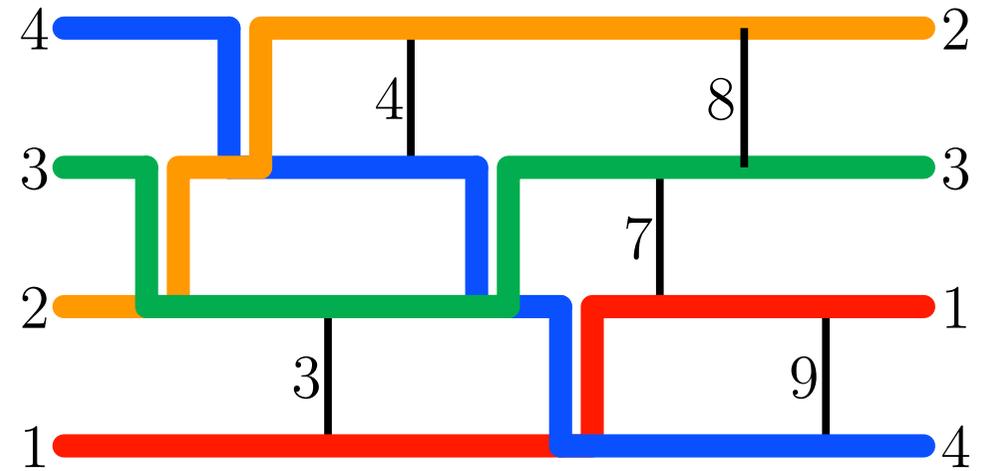
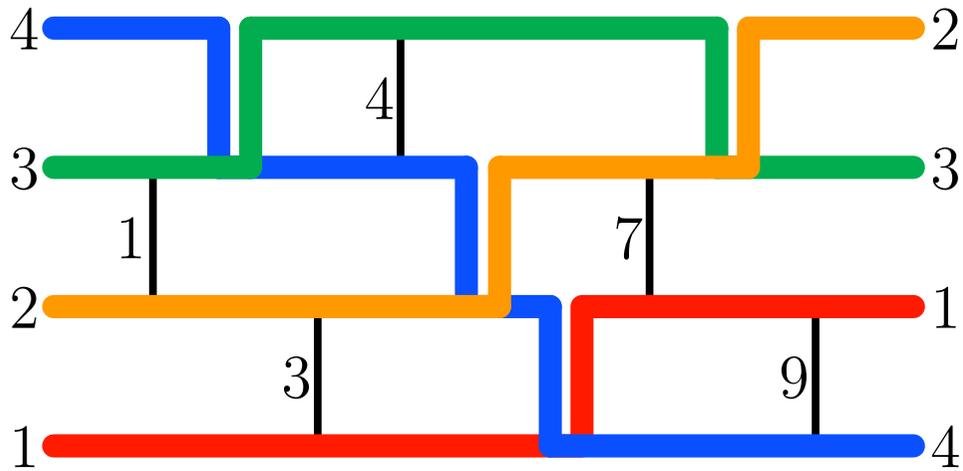
# FLIPS

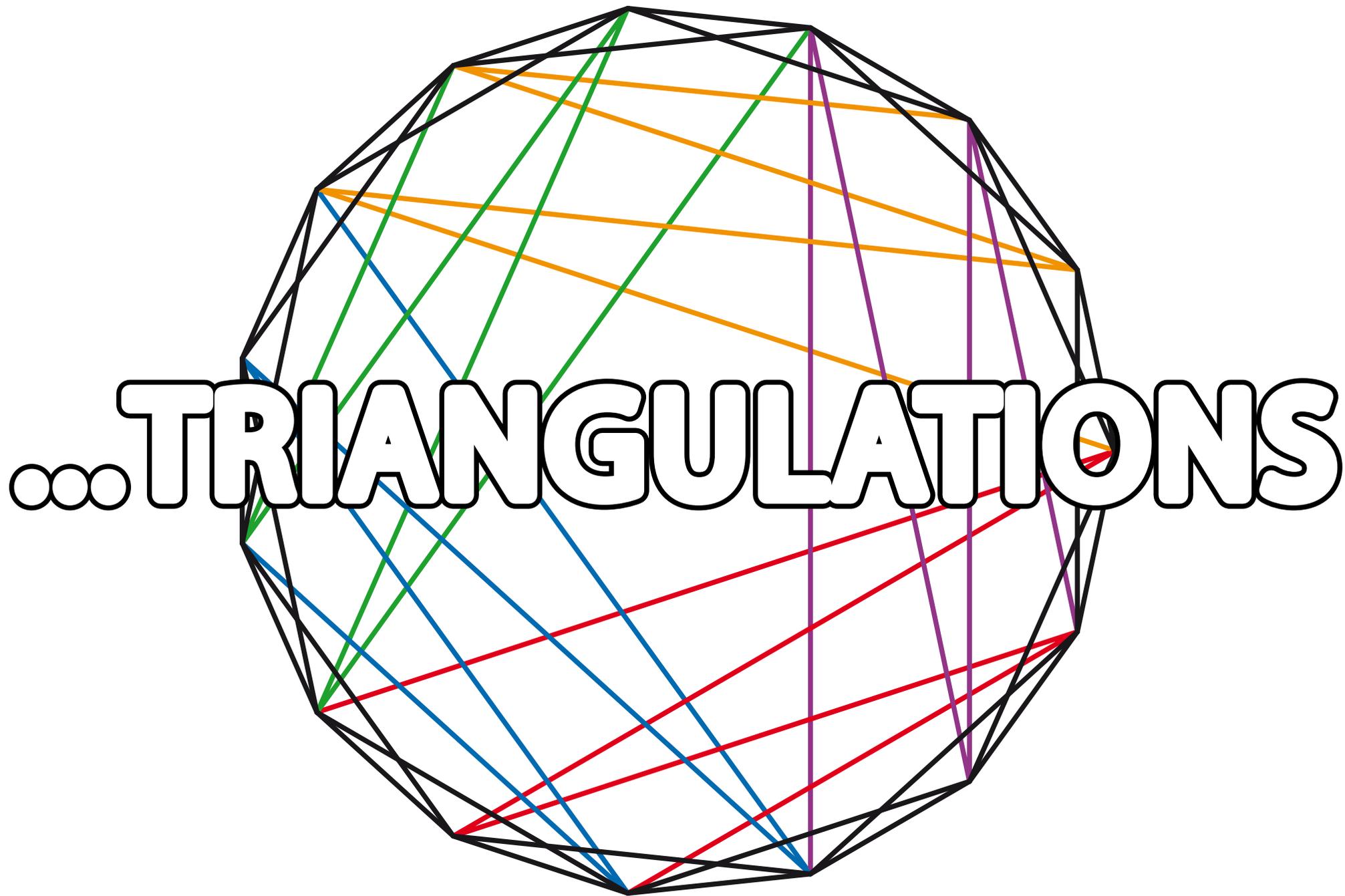
flip = exchange a contact with the corresponding crossing



# FLIPS

flip = exchange a contact with the corresponding crossing

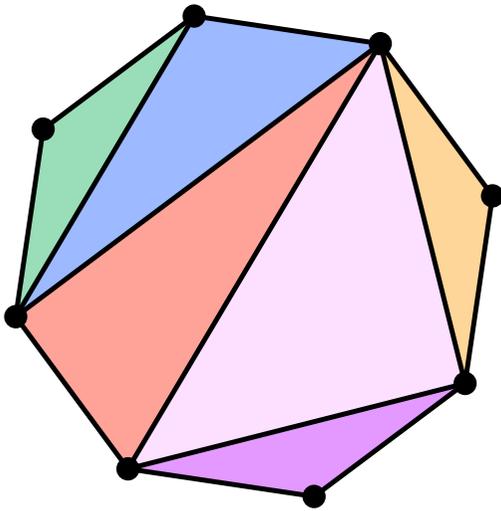




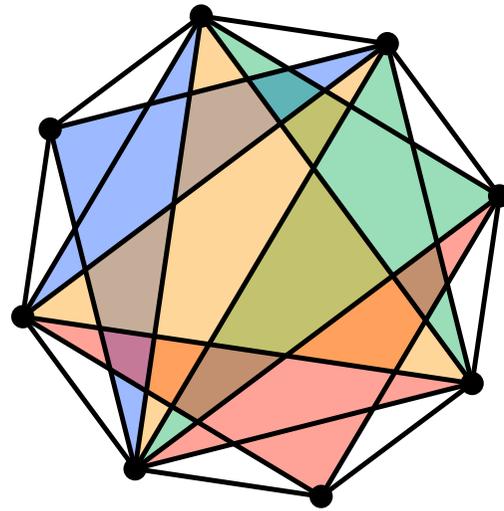
# COMBINATORIAL MODELS FOR GEOMETRIC GRAPHS

---

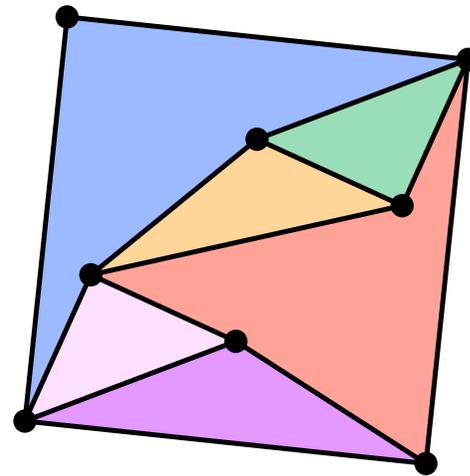
Type *A* subword complexes give combinatorial models for:



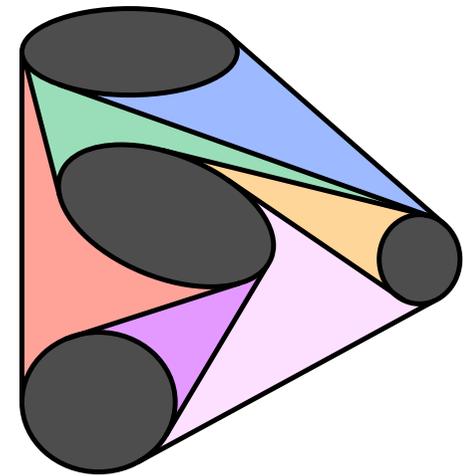
triangulations  
of convex polygons



multitriangulations  
of convex polygons



pseudotriangulations  
of point sets in  
general position



pseudotriangulations  
of sets of disjoint  
convex bodies

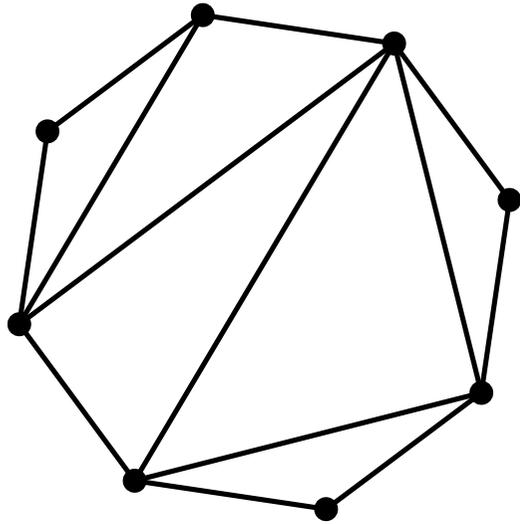
VP & M. Pocchiola, Pseudotriangulations, multitriangulations, and primitive sorting networks, 2012.

C. Stump, A new perspective on multitriangulations, 2011.

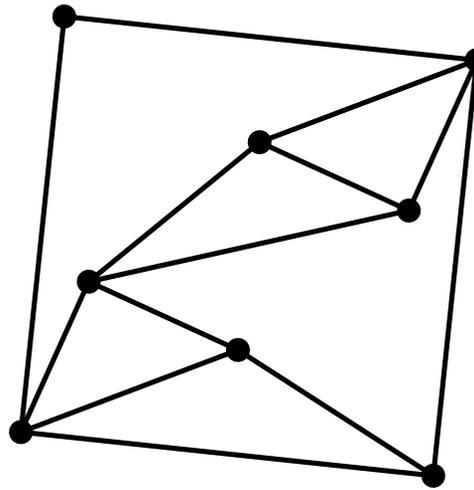
# THREE GEOMETRIC STRUCTURES

---

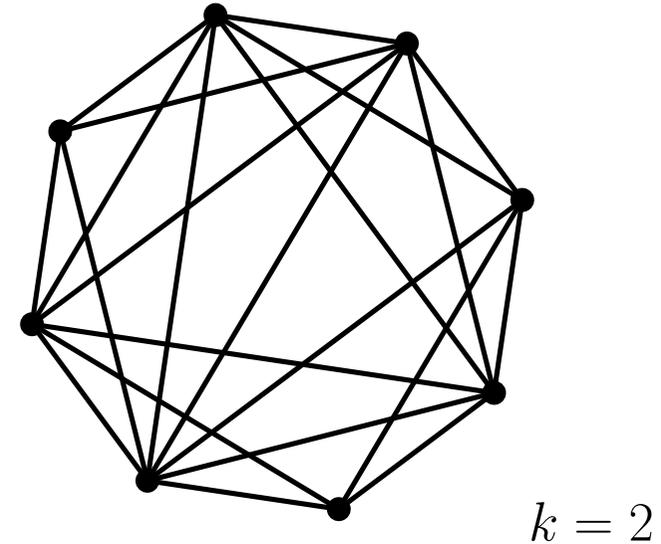
Triangulations



Pseudotriangulations



Multitriangulations



**triangulation** = maximal crossing-free set of edges

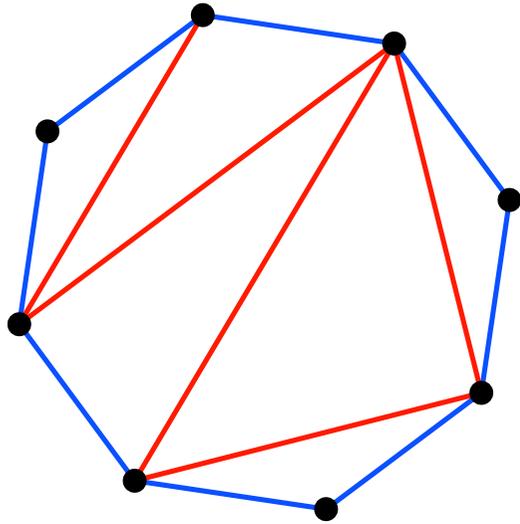
**pseudotriangulation** = maximal crossing-free pointed set of edges

**$k$ -triangulation** = maximal  $(k + 1)$ -crossing-free set of edges

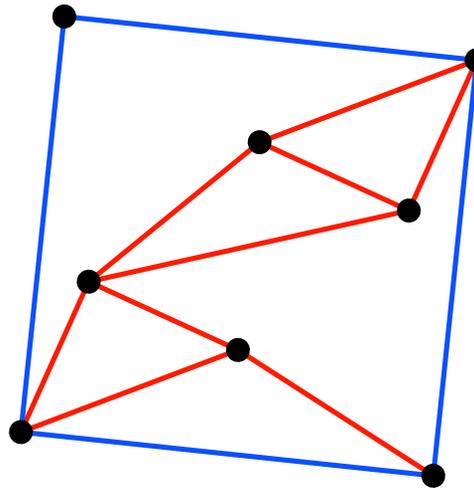
# THREE GEOMETRIC STRUCTURES

---

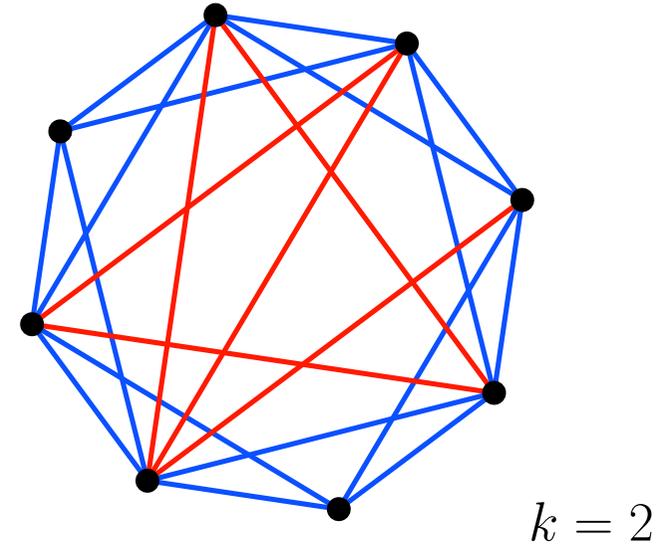
Triangulations



Pseudotriangulations



Multitriangulations



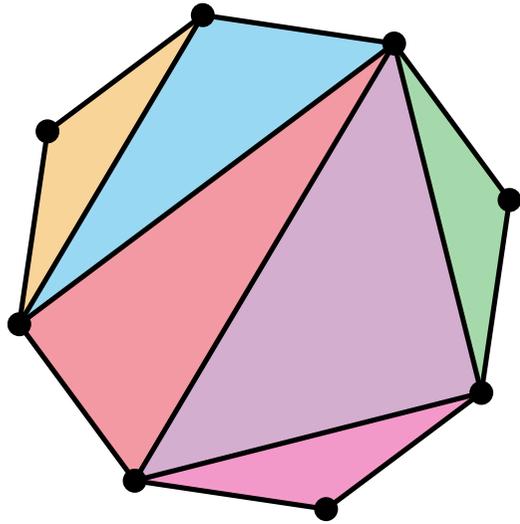
triangulation = maximal crossing-free set of edges

pseudotriangulation = maximal crossing-free pointed set of edges

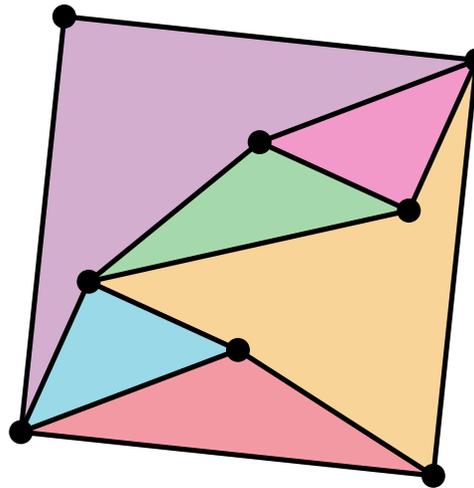
$k$ -triangulation = maximal  $(k + 1)$ -crossing-free set of edges

# THREE GEOMETRIC STRUCTURES

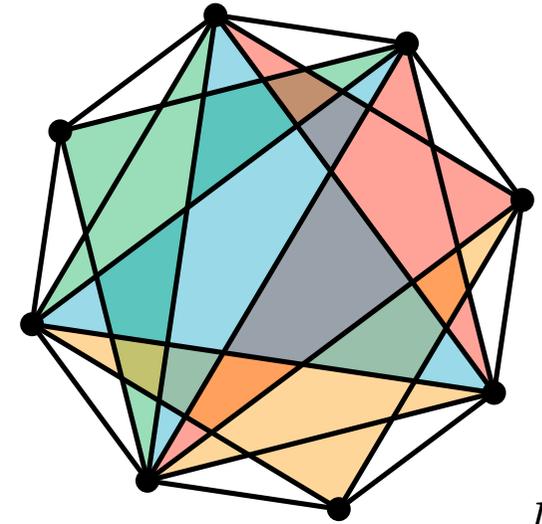
Triangulations



Pseudotriangulations



Multitriangulations



$k = 2$

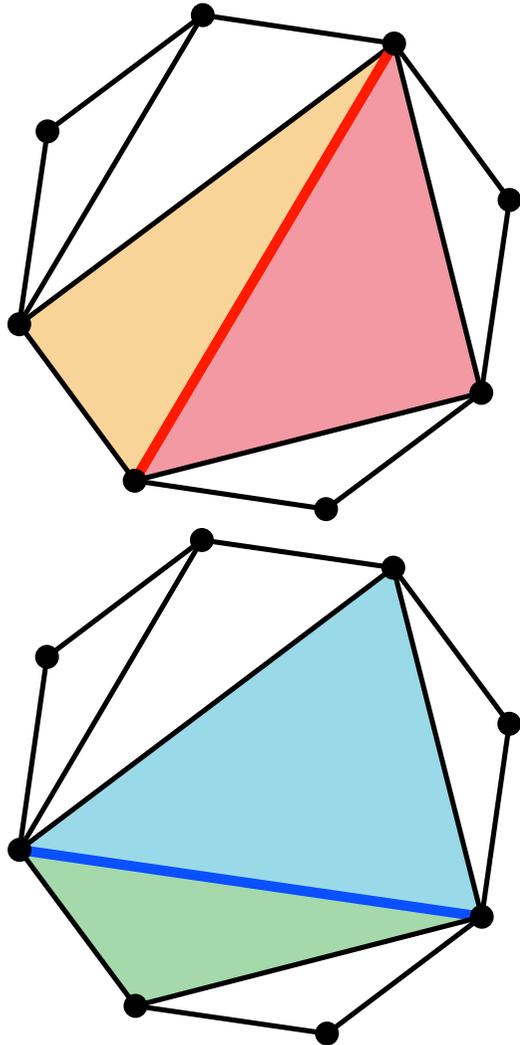
**triangulation** = maximal crossing-free set of edges  
= decomposition into triangles

**pseudotriangulation** = maximal crossing-free pointed set of edges  
= decomposition into pseudotriangles

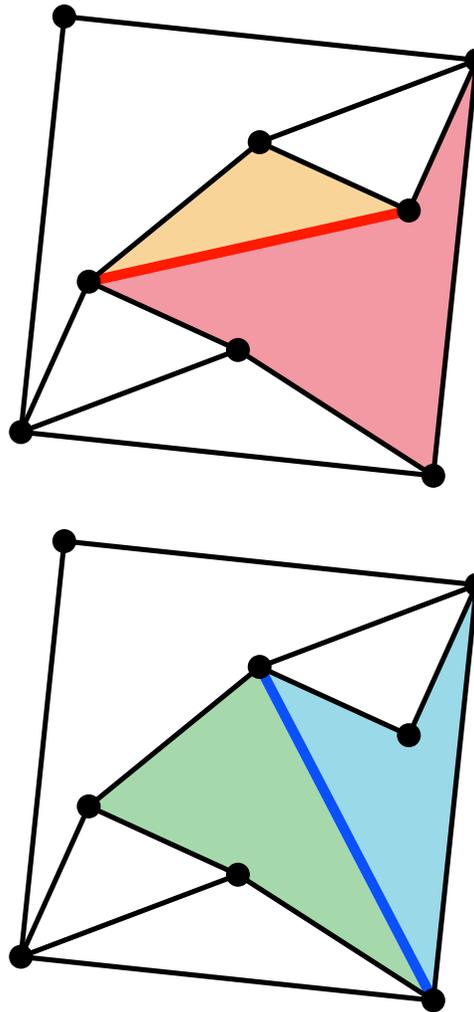
**$k$ -triangulation** = maximal  $(k + 1)$ -crossing-free set of edges  
= decomposition into  $k$ -stars

# THREE GEOMETRIC STRUCTURES

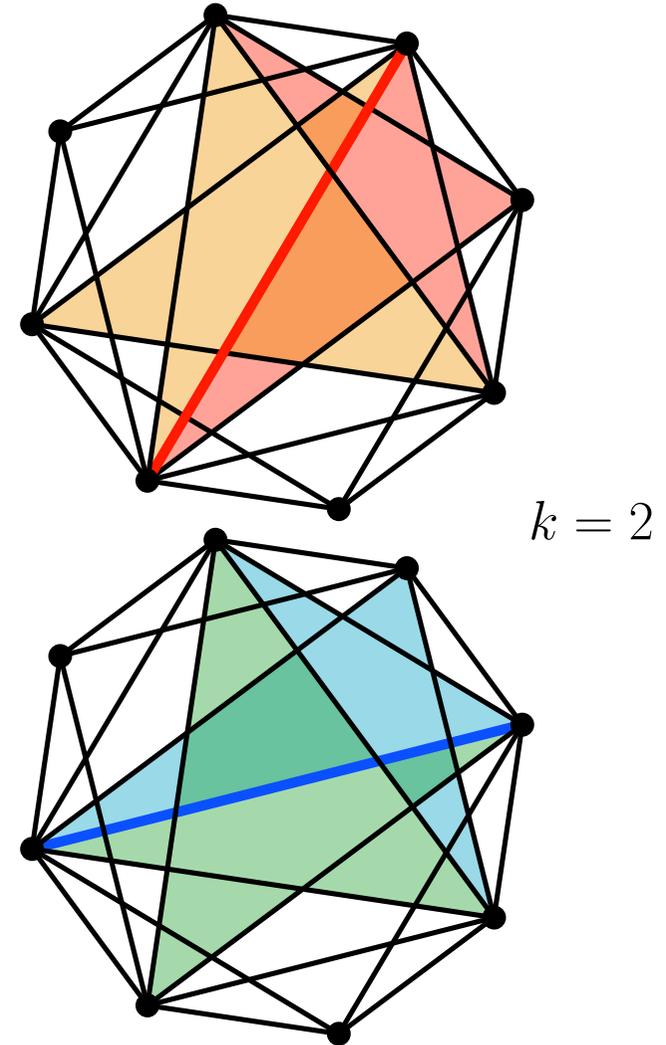
Triangulations



Pseudotriangulations



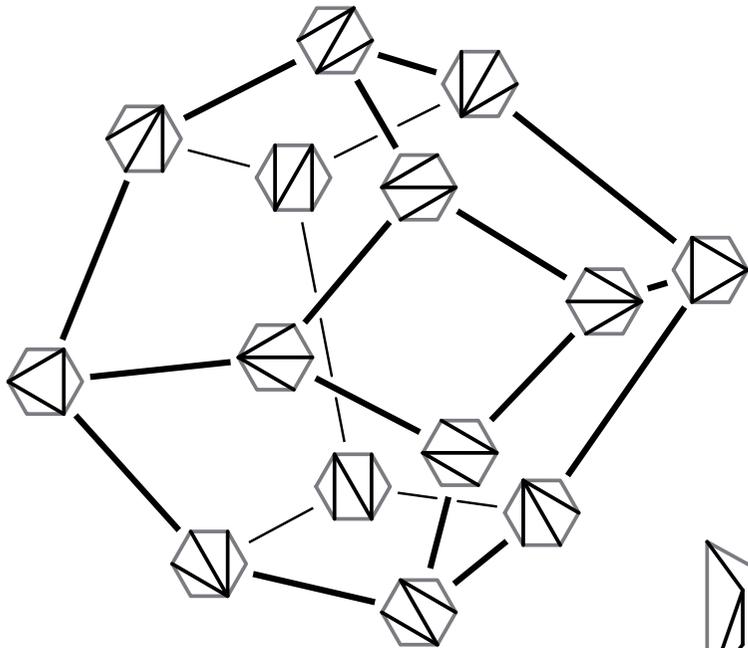
Multitriangulations



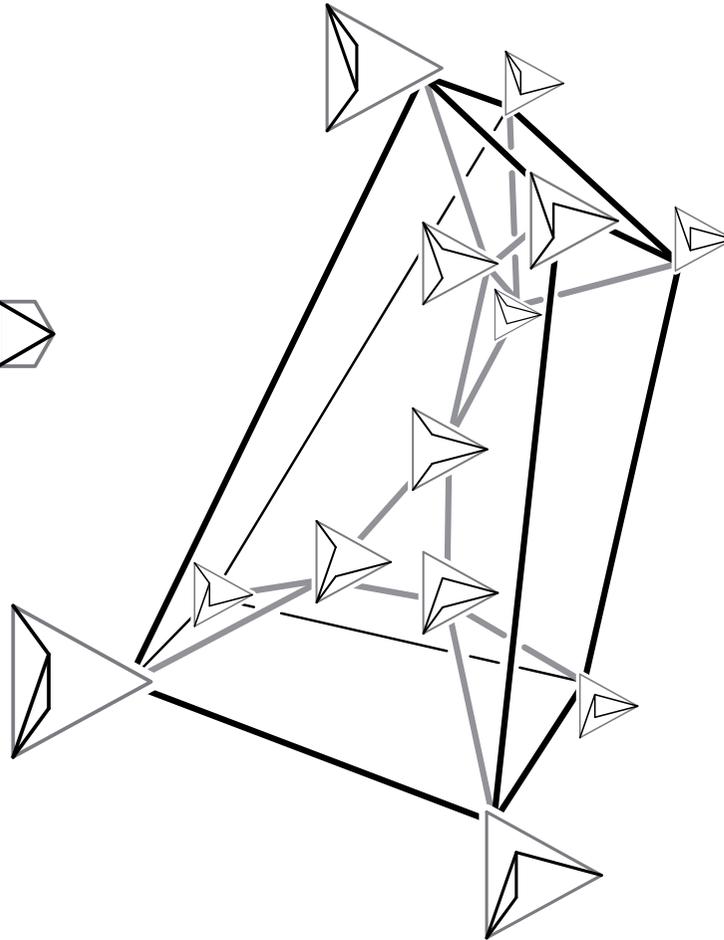
**flip** = exchange an internal edge with the common bisector of the two adjacent cells

# THREE GEOMETRIC STRUCTURES

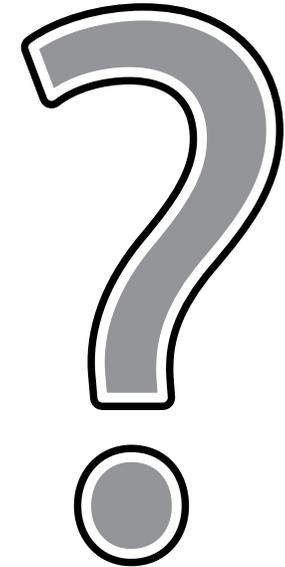
Triangulations



Pseudotriangulations



Multitriangulations



associahedron



crossing-free sets of internal edges

pseudotriangulations polytope

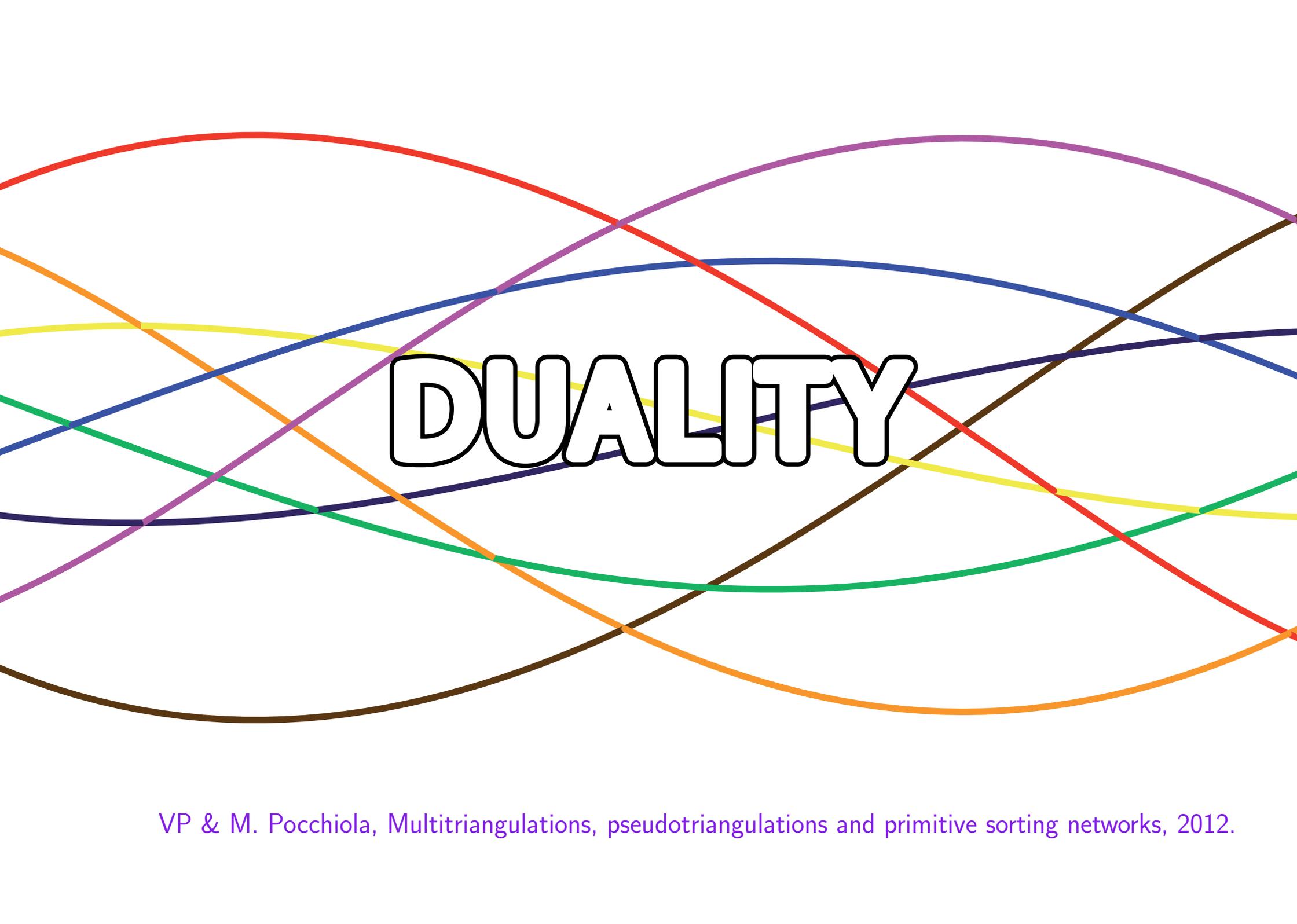


pointed crossing-free sets of internal edges

multiassociahedron



$(k + 1)$ -crossing-free sets of  $k$ -internal edges



# DUALITY

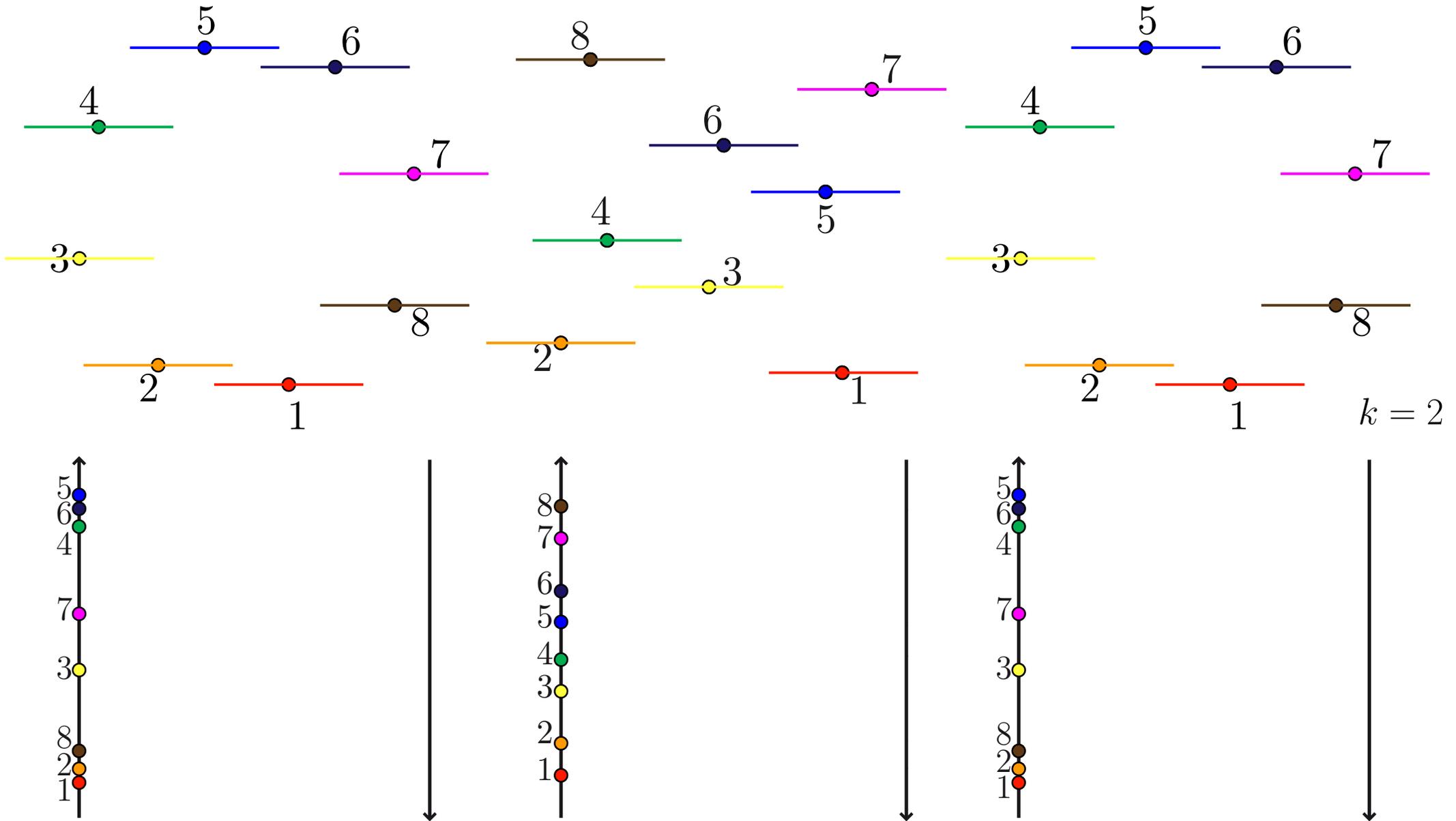
VP & M. Pocchiola, Multitriangulations, pseudotriangulations and primitive sorting networks, 2012.

# DUALITY

## Triangulations

## Pseudotriangulations

## Multitriangulations

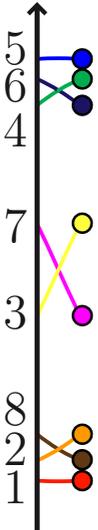
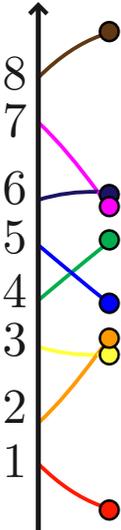
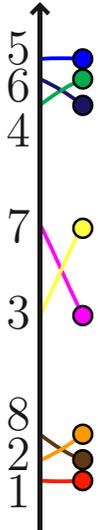
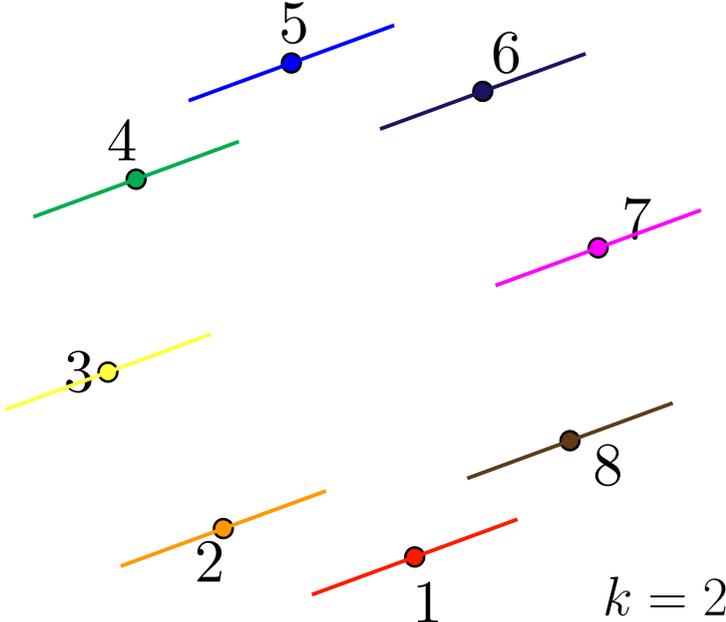
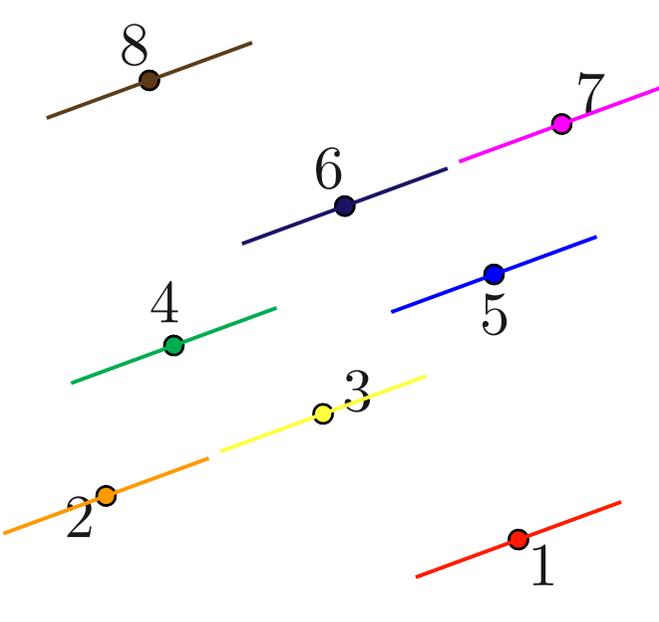
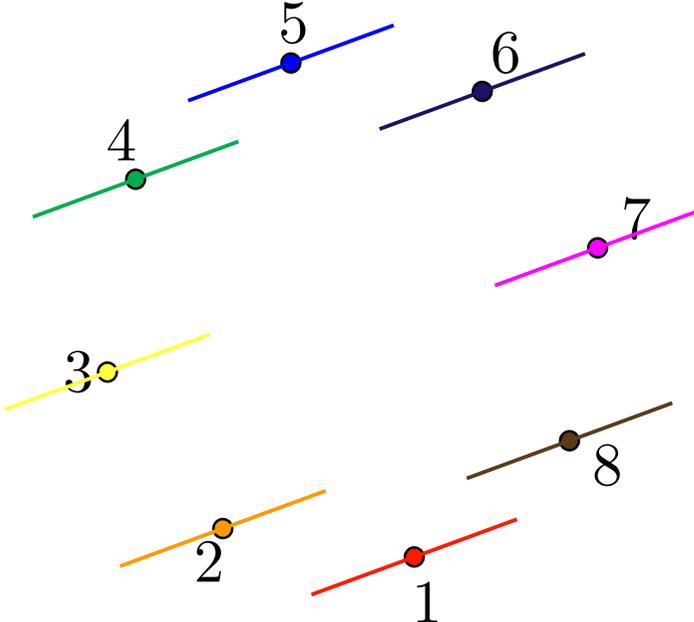


# DUALITY

Triangulations

Pseudotriangulations

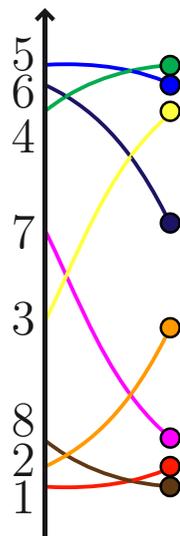
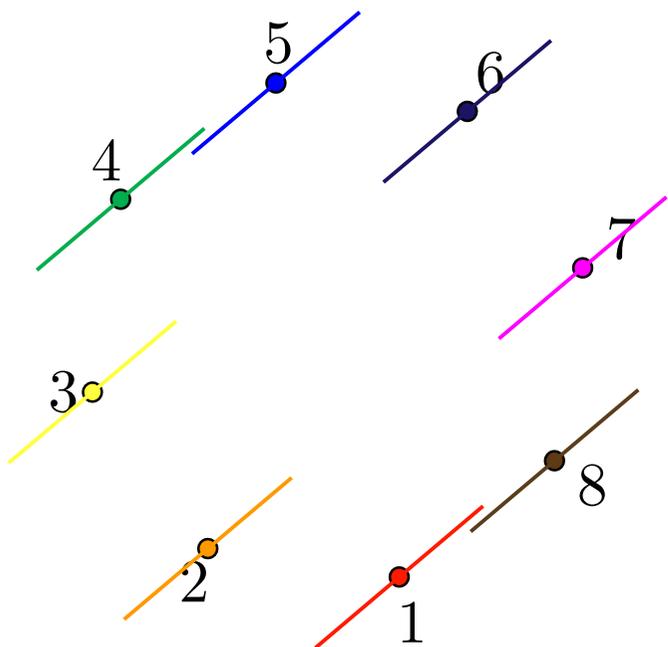
Multitriangulations



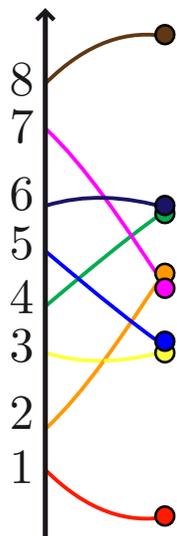
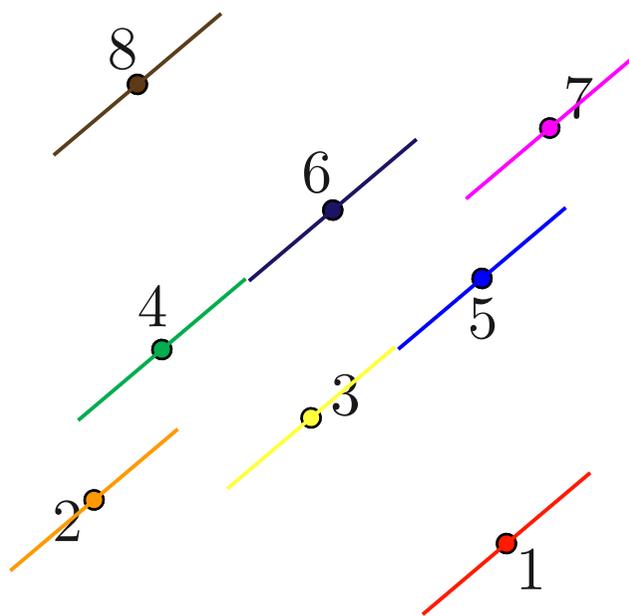
$k = 2$

# DUALITY

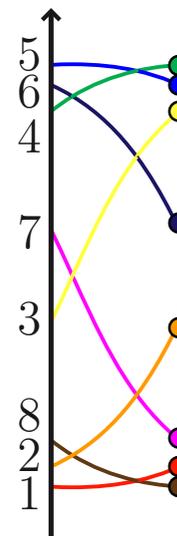
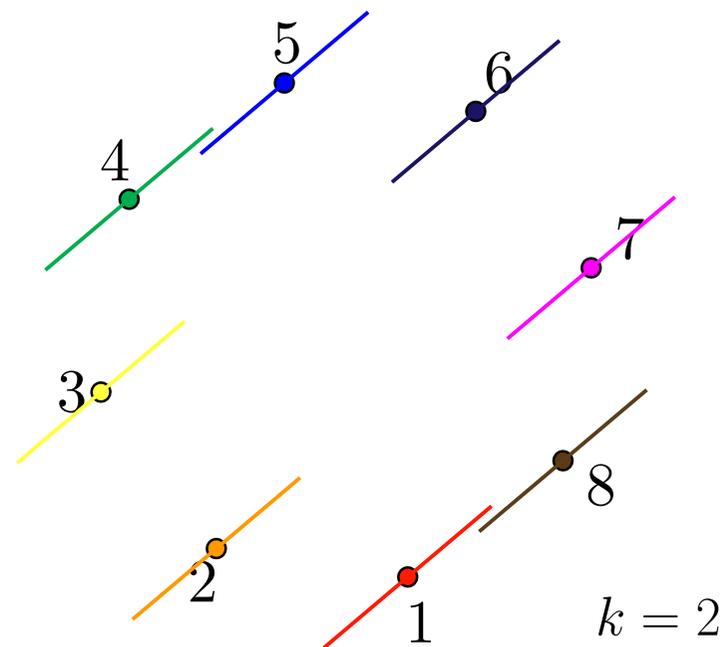
## Triangulations



## Pseudotriangulations



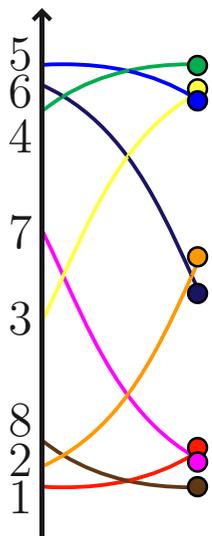
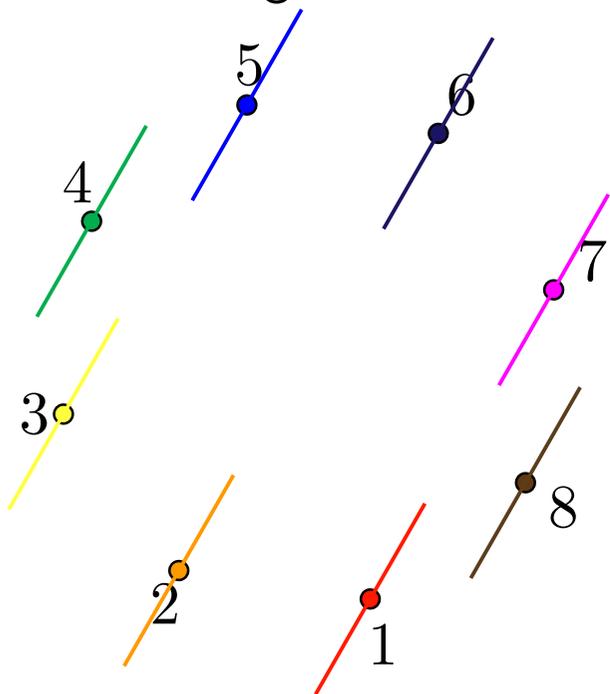
## Multitriangulations



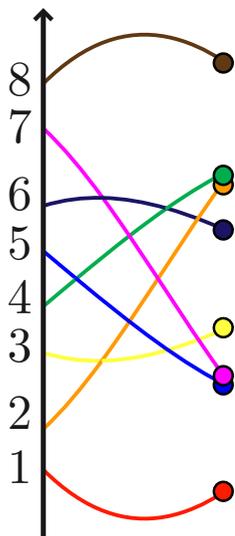
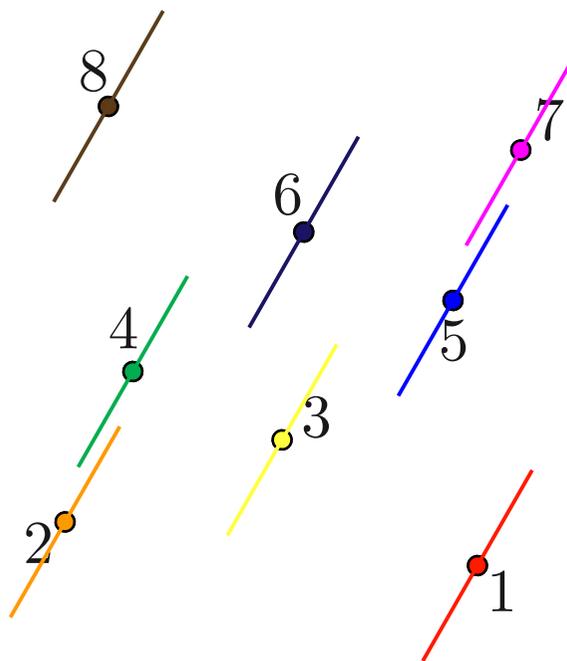
$k = 2$

# DUALITY

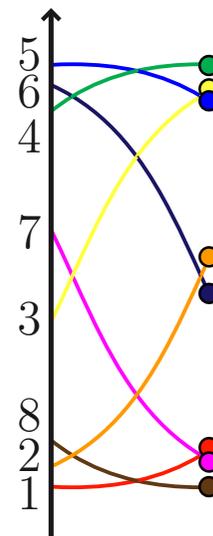
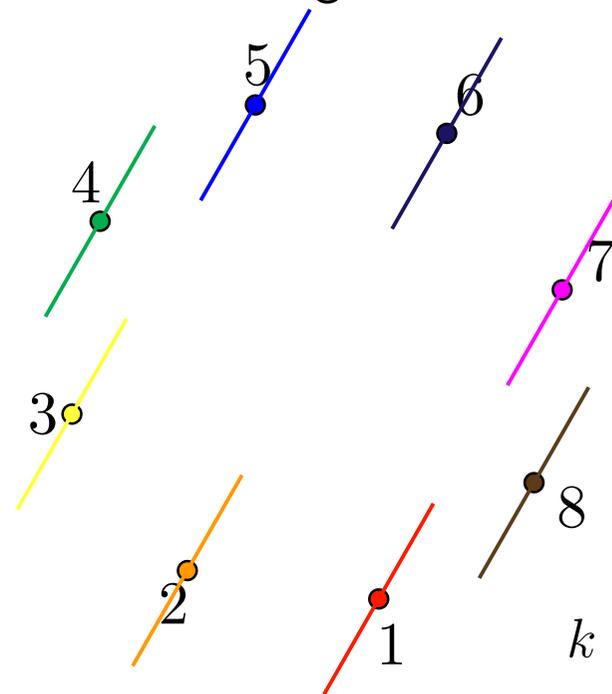
## Triangulations



## Pseudotriangulations



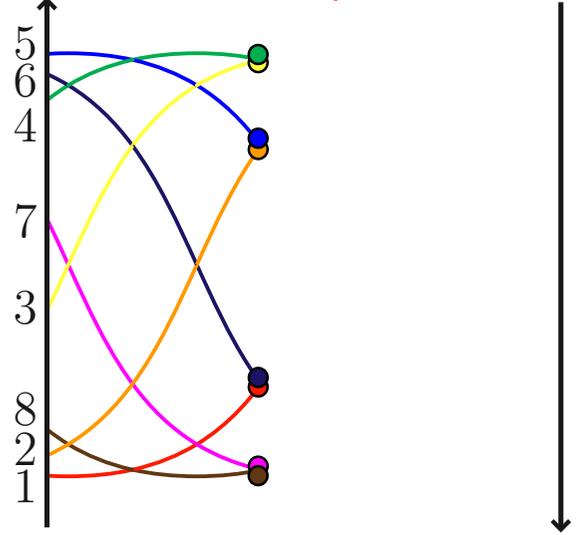
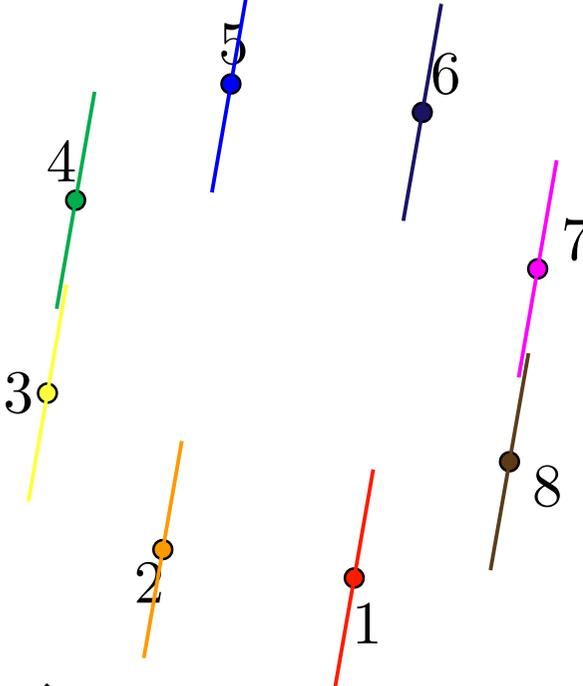
## Multitriangulations



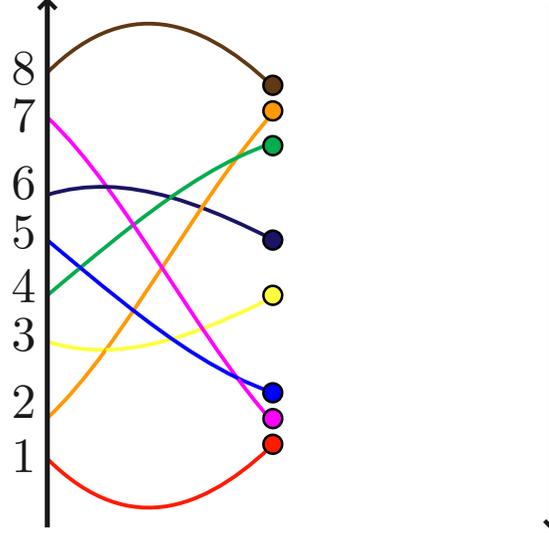
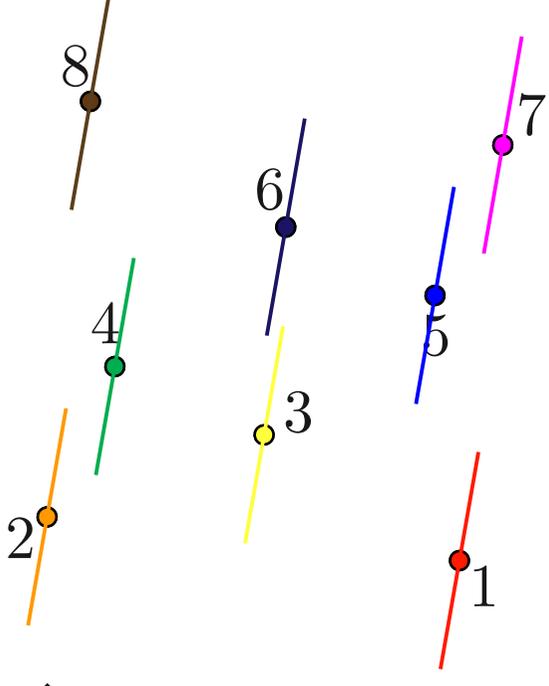
$k = 2$

# DUALITY

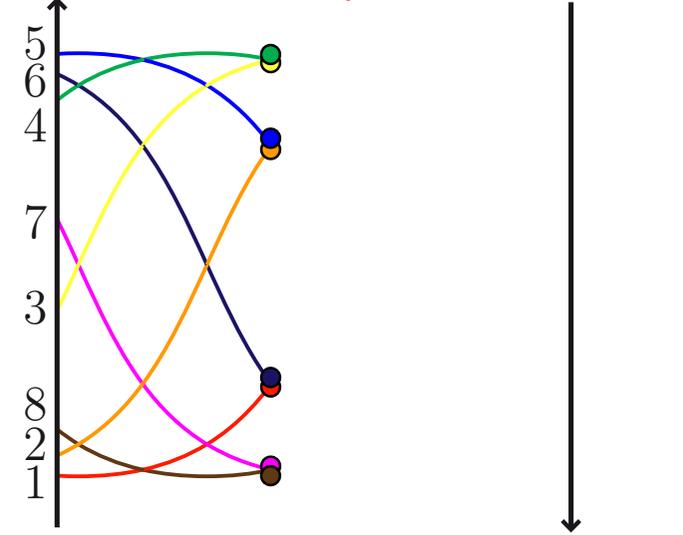
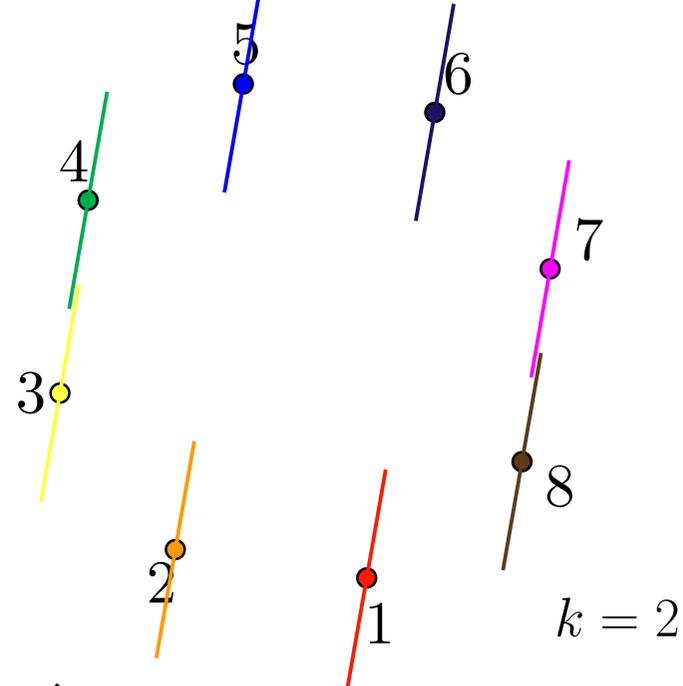
Triangulations



Pseudotriangulations

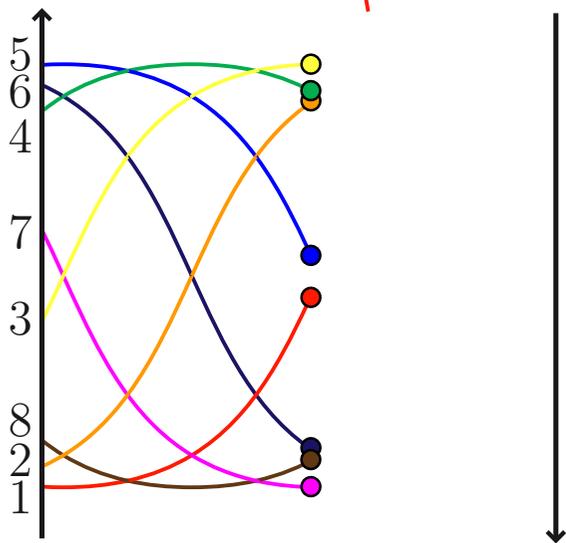
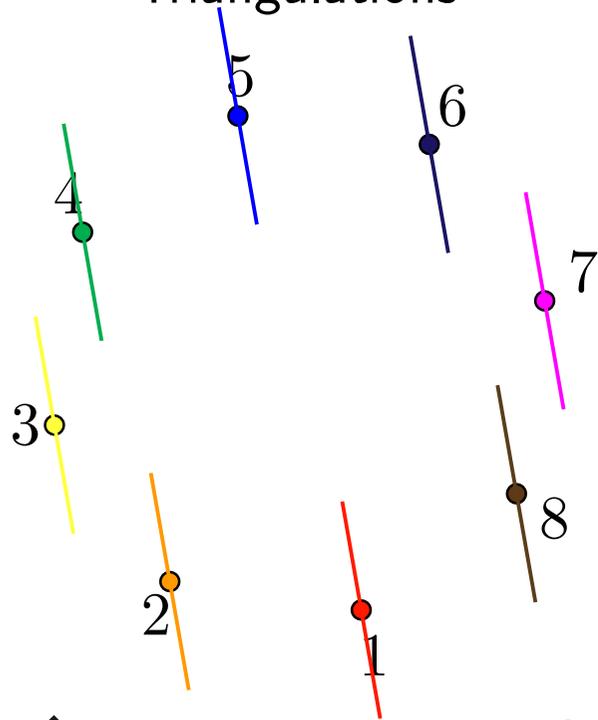


Multitriangulations

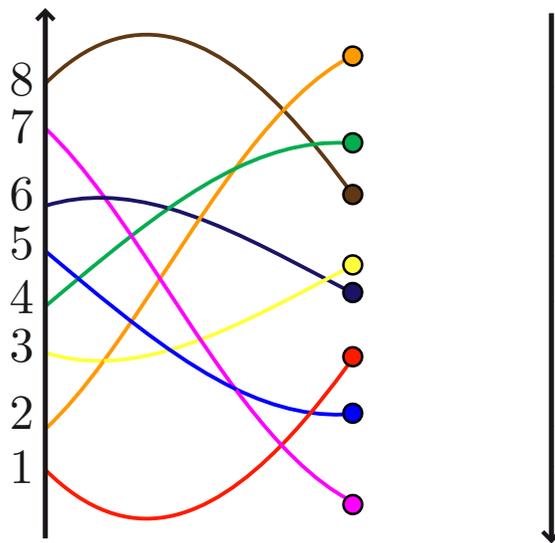
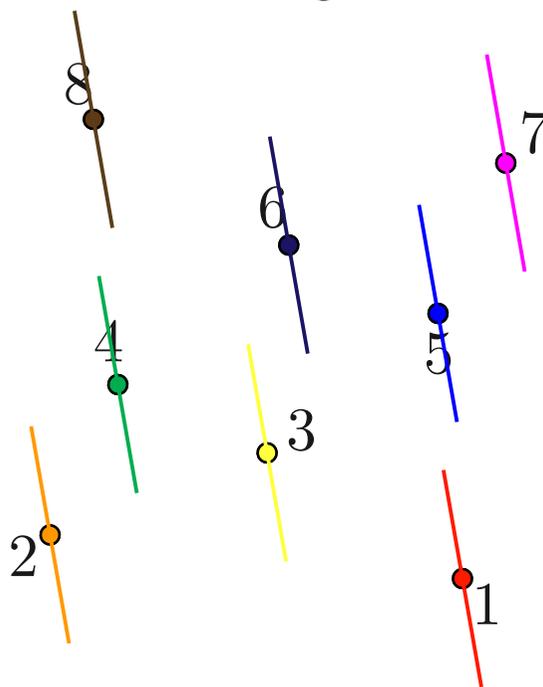


# DUALITY

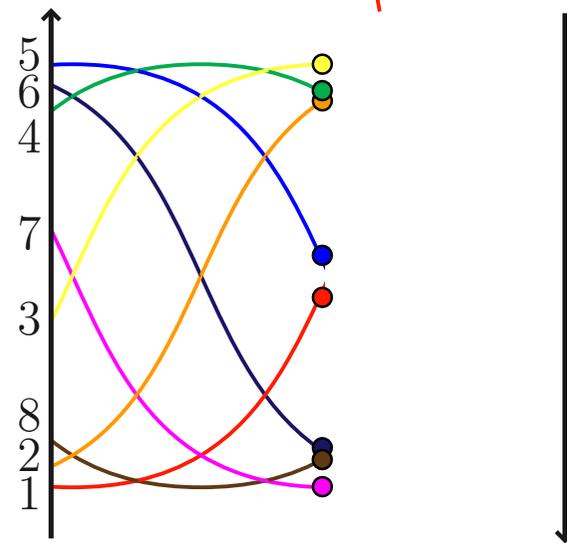
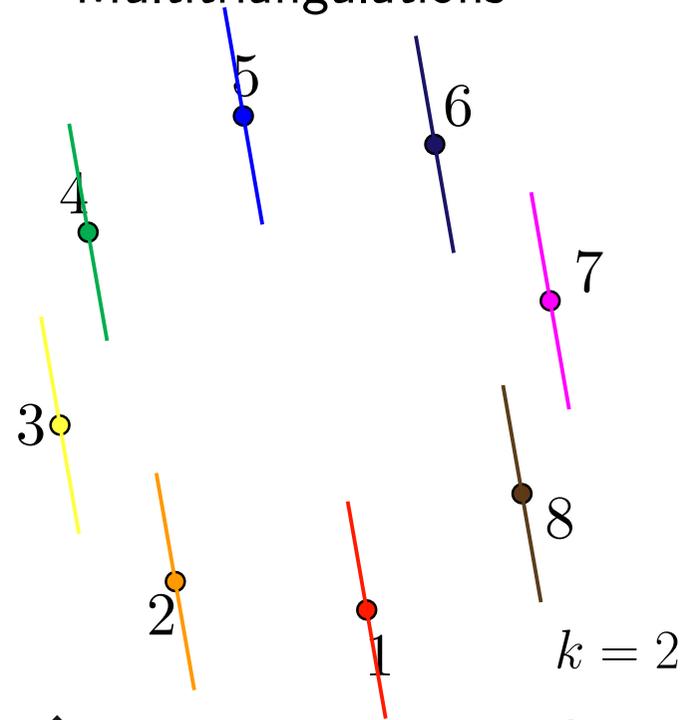
## Triangulations



## Pseudotriangulations

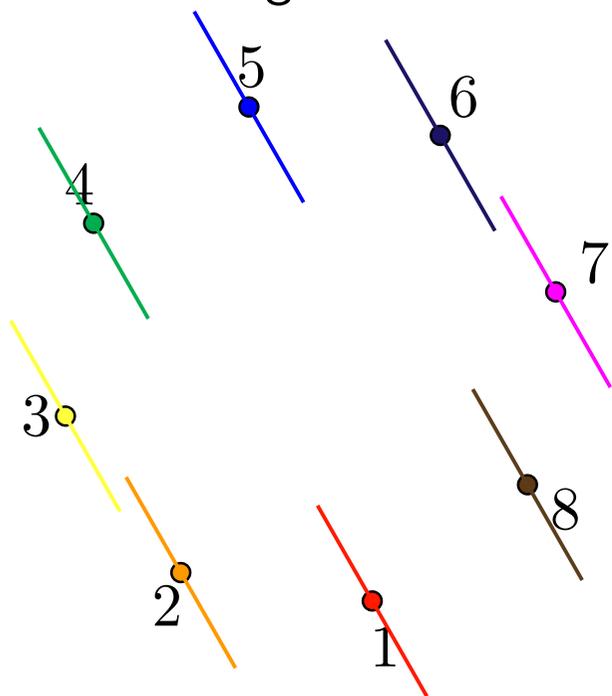


## Multitriangulations

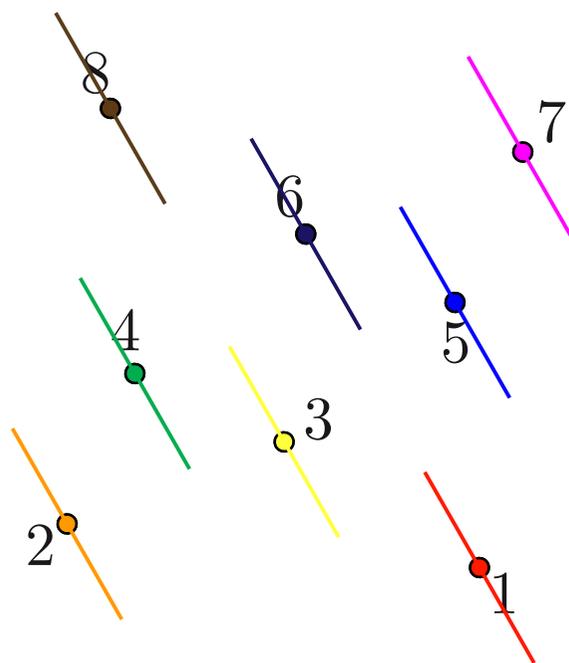


# DUALITY

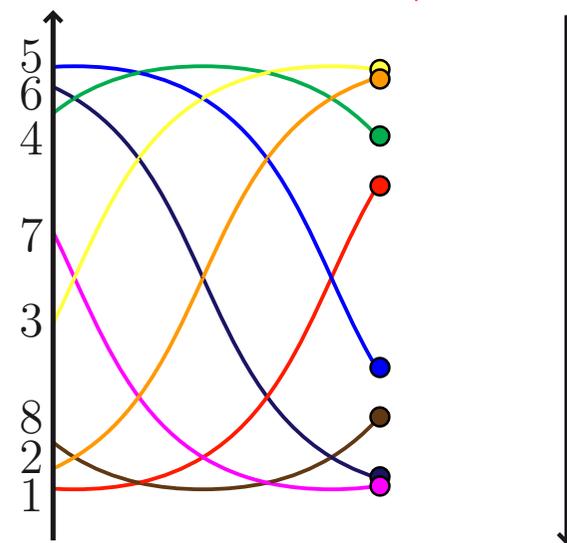
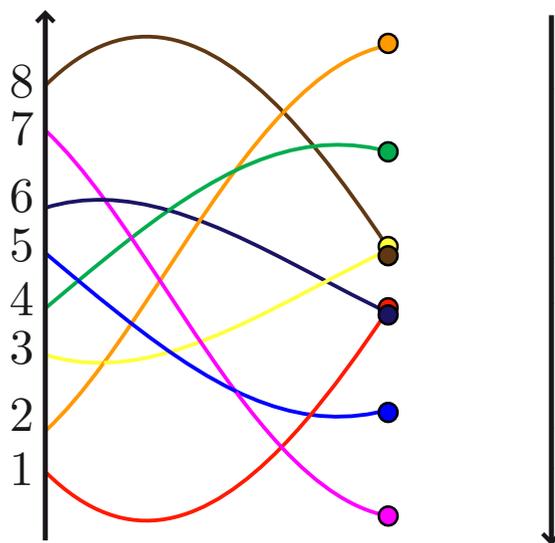
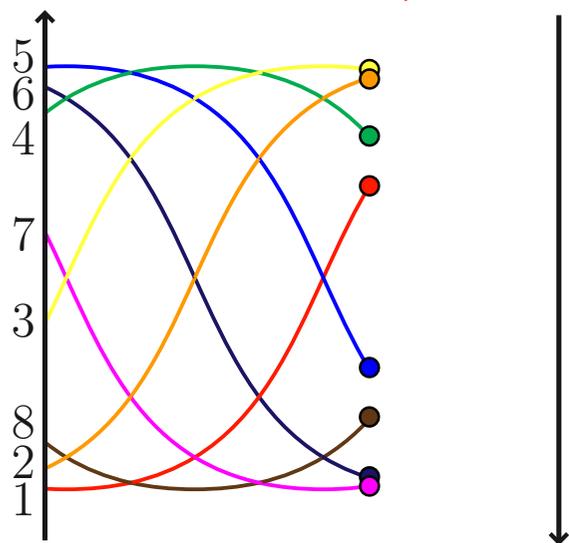
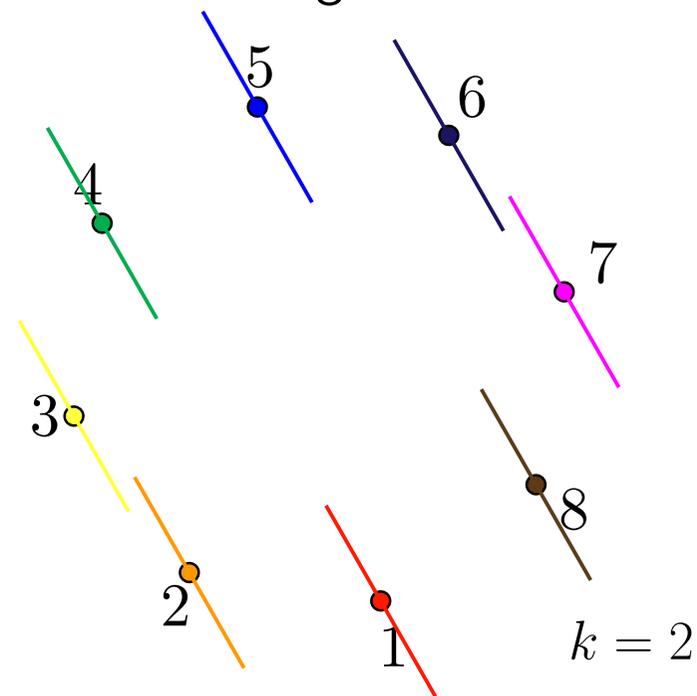
## Triangulations



## Pseudotriangulations

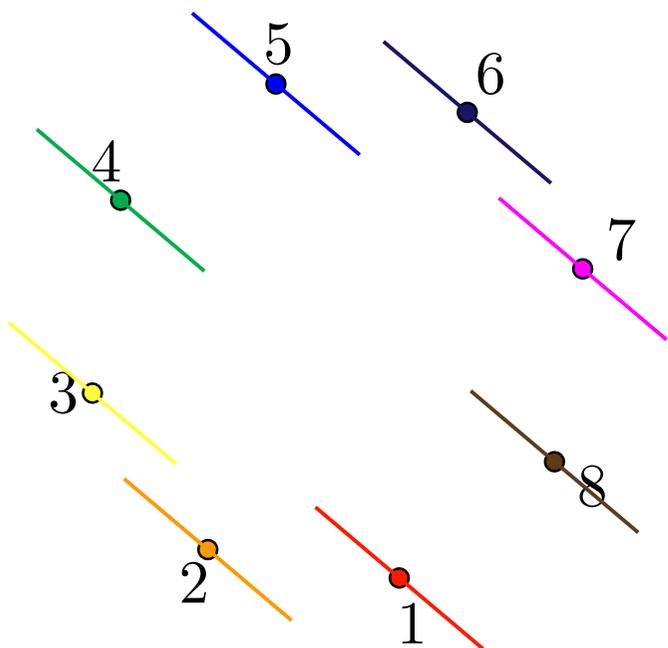


## Multitriangulations

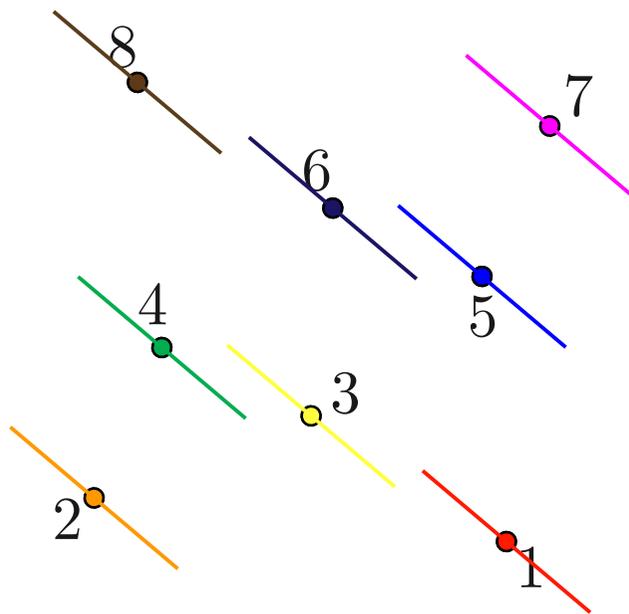


# DUALITY

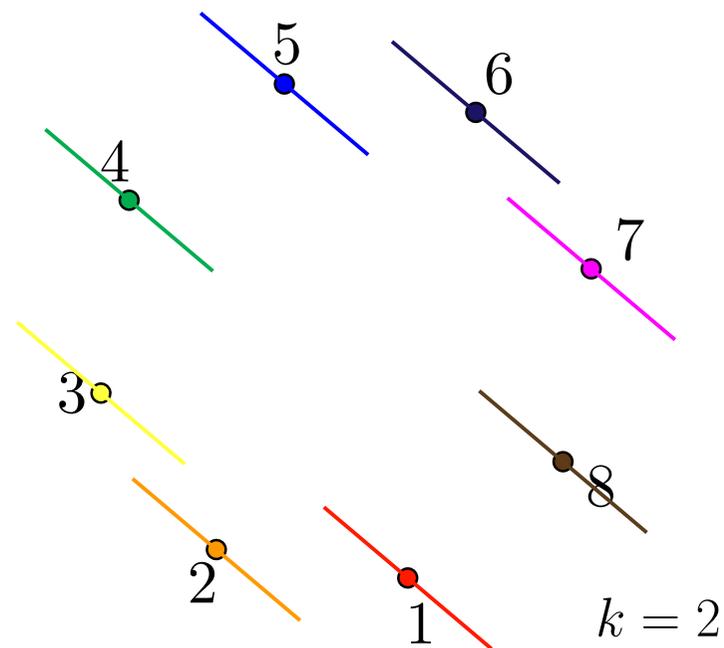
## Triangulations



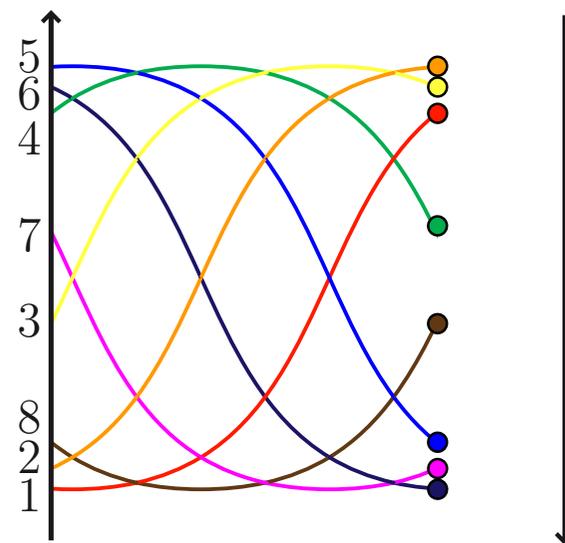
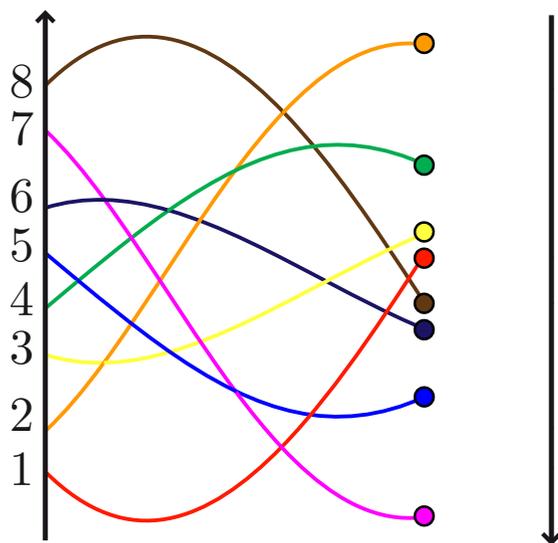
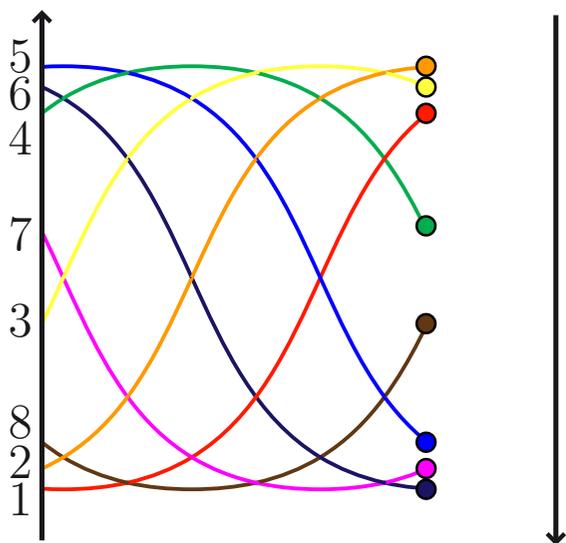
## Pseudotriangulations



## Multitriangulations

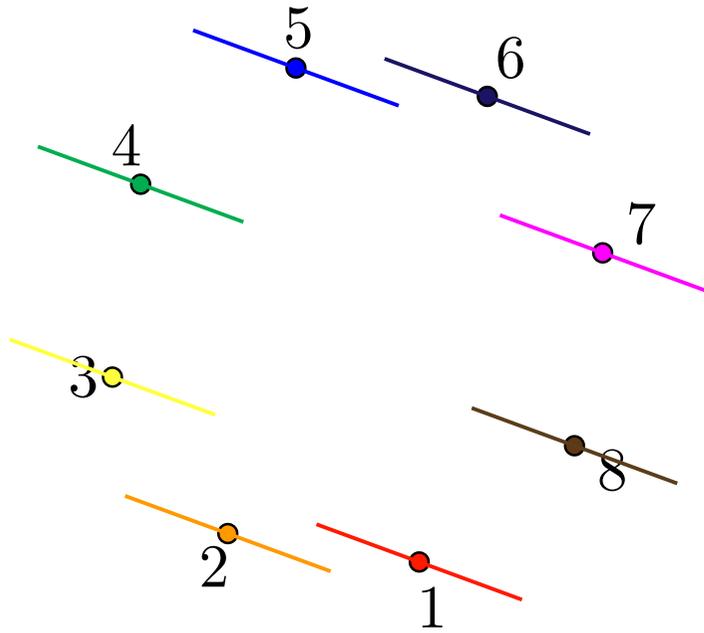


$k = 2$

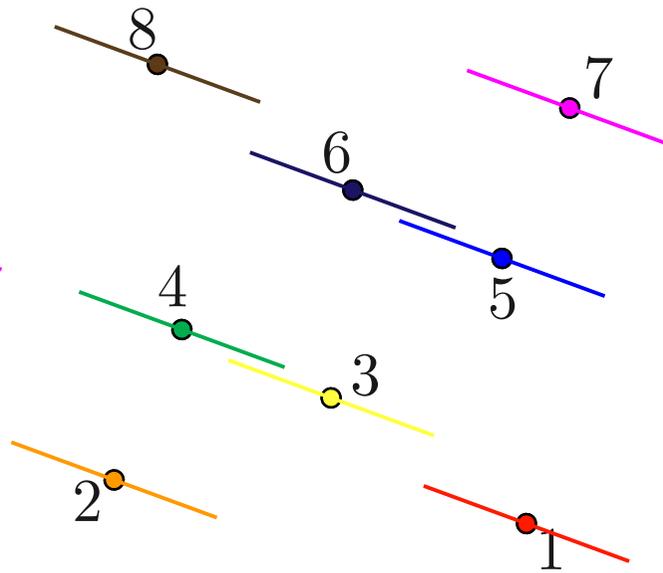


# DUALITY

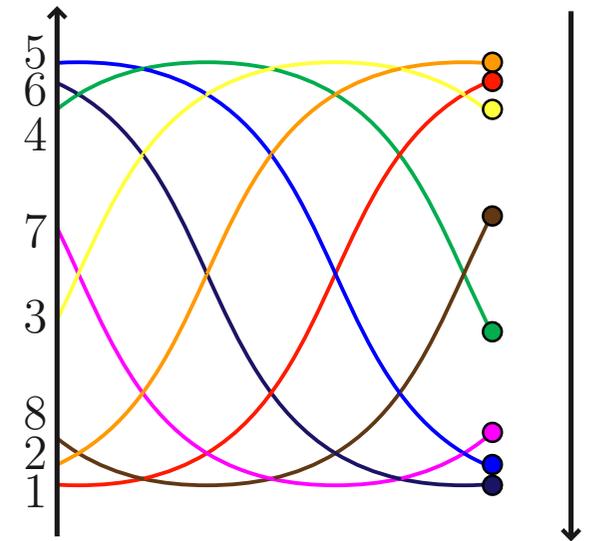
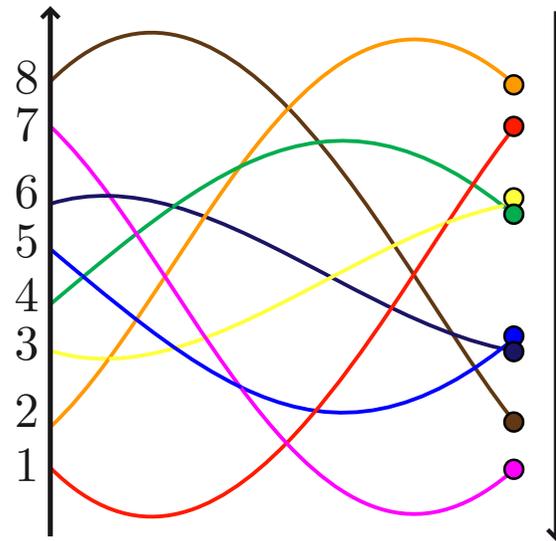
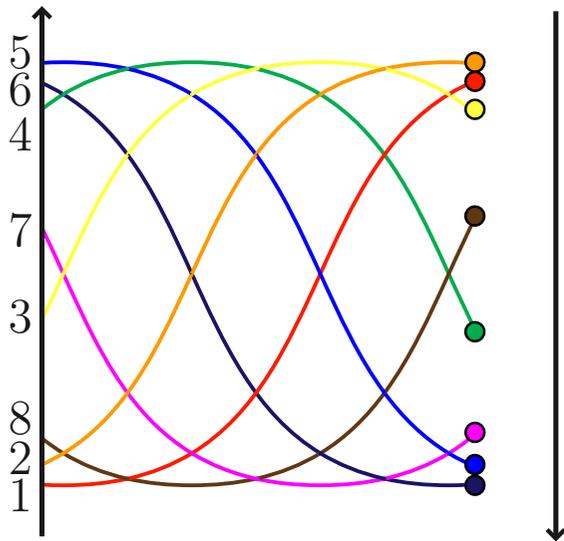
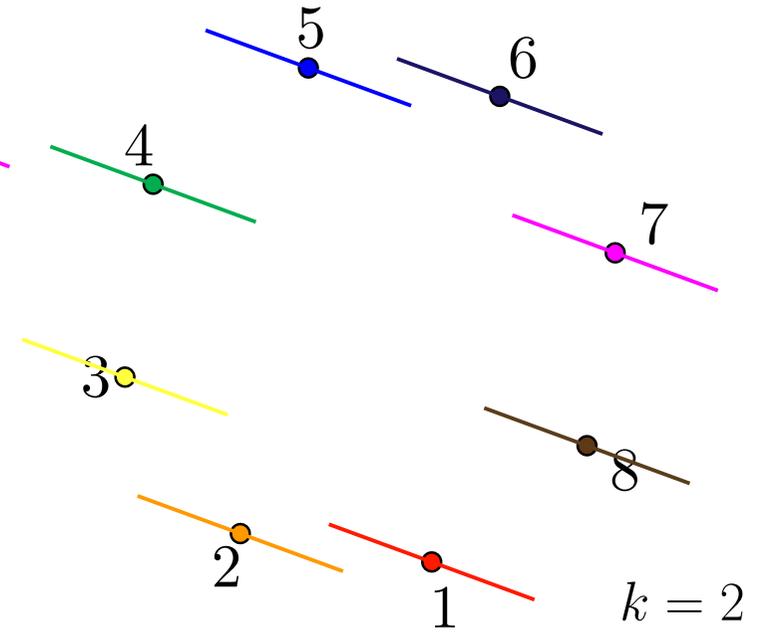
## Triangulations



## Pseudotriangulations

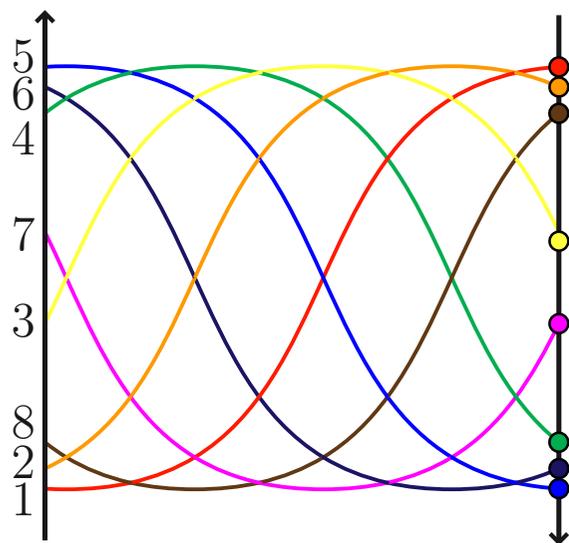
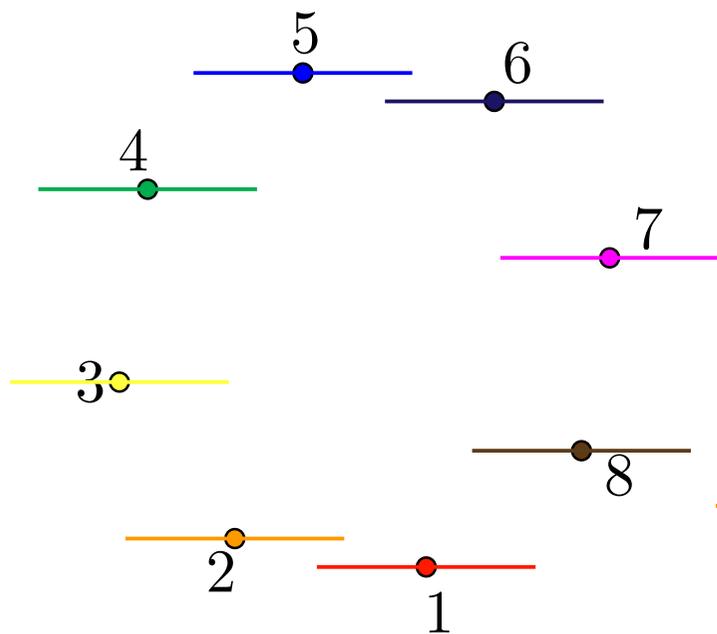


## Multitriangulations

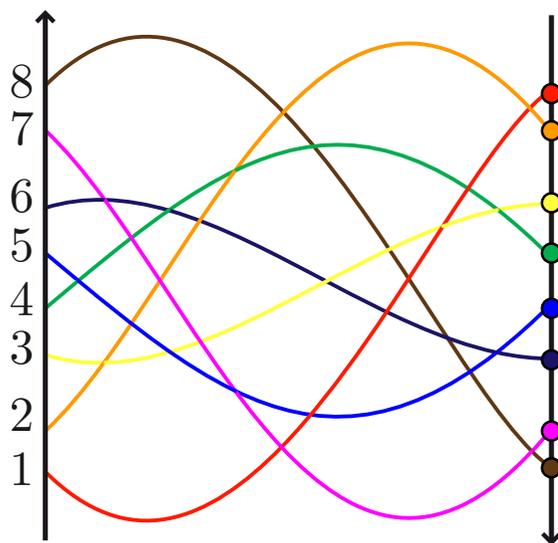
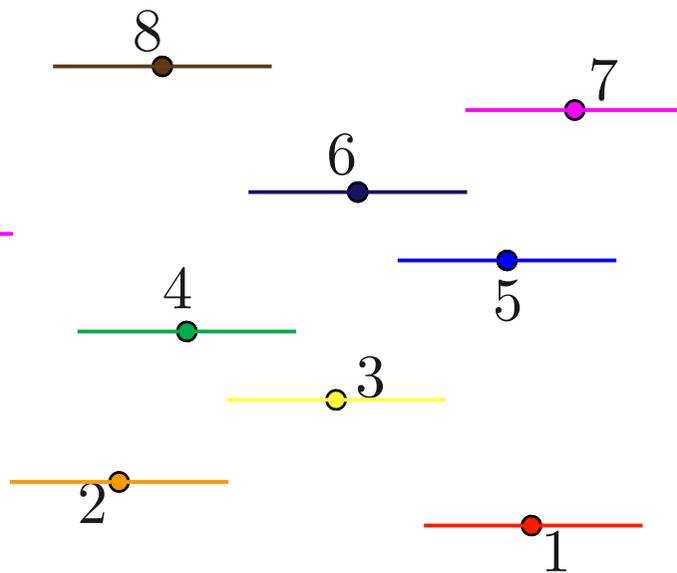


# DUALITY

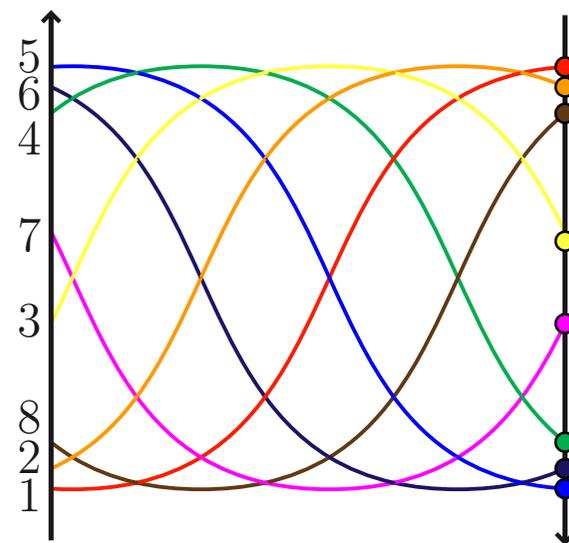
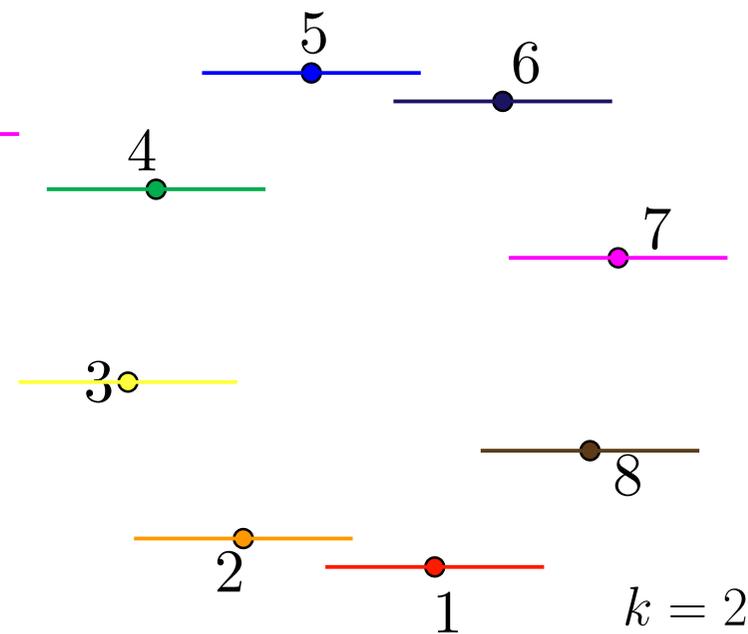
## Triangulations



## Pseudotriangulations

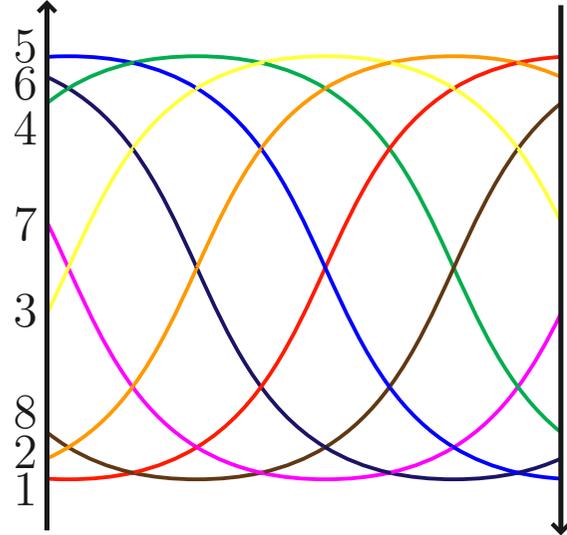
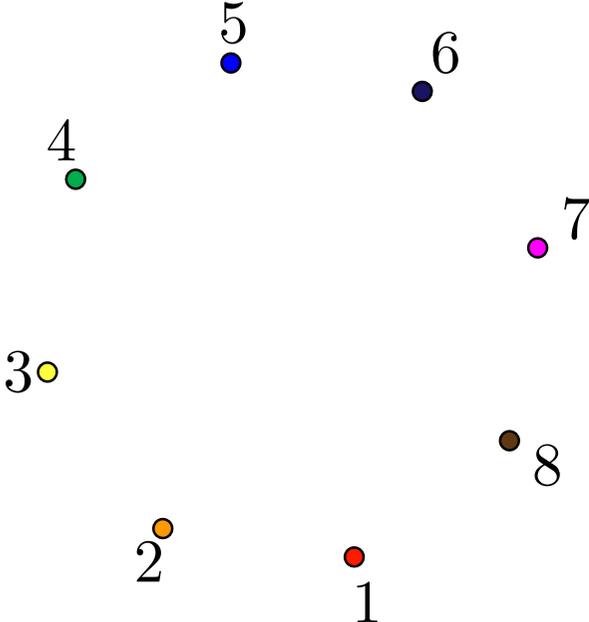


## Multitriangulations

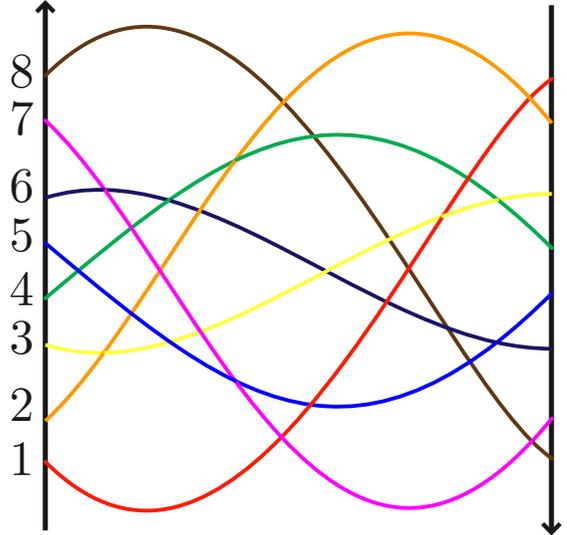
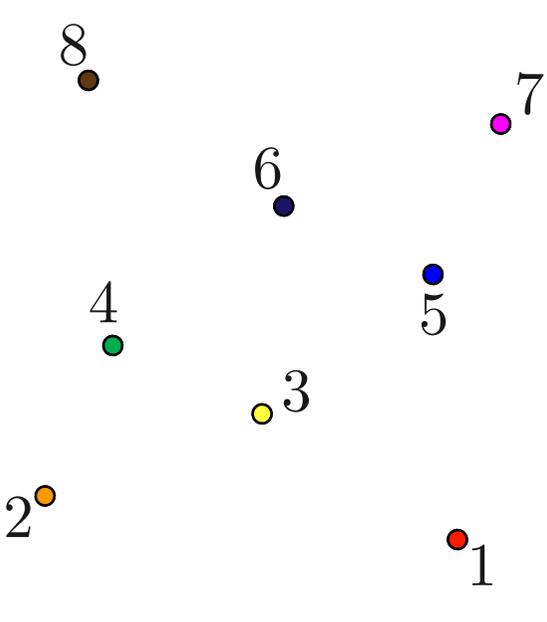


# DUALITY

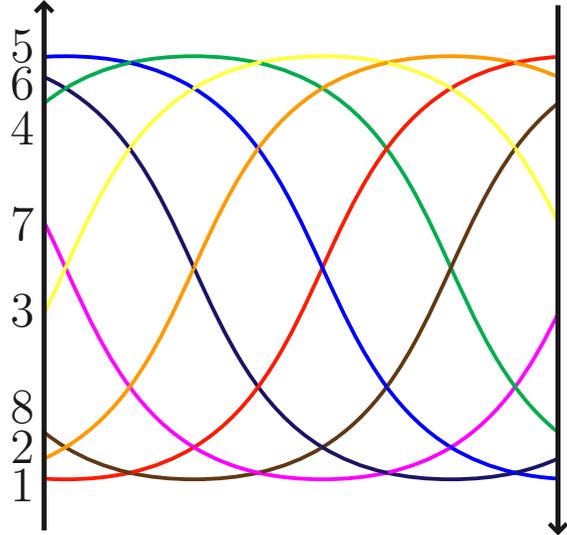
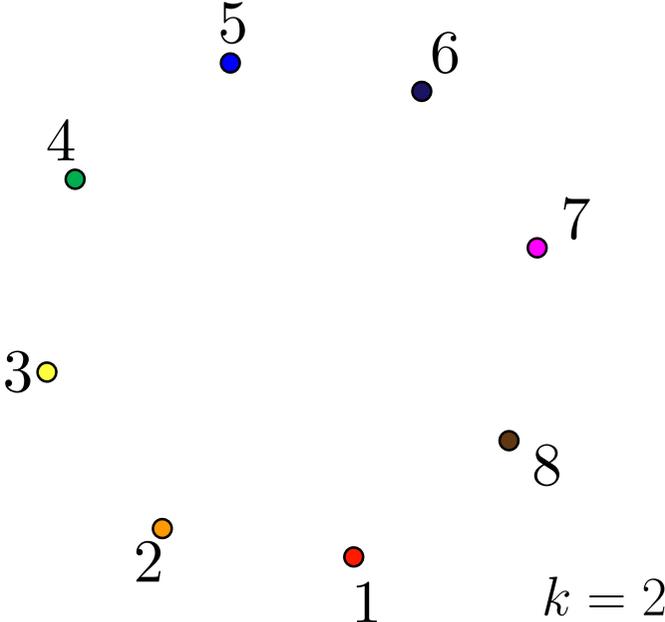
Triangulations



Pseudotriangulations

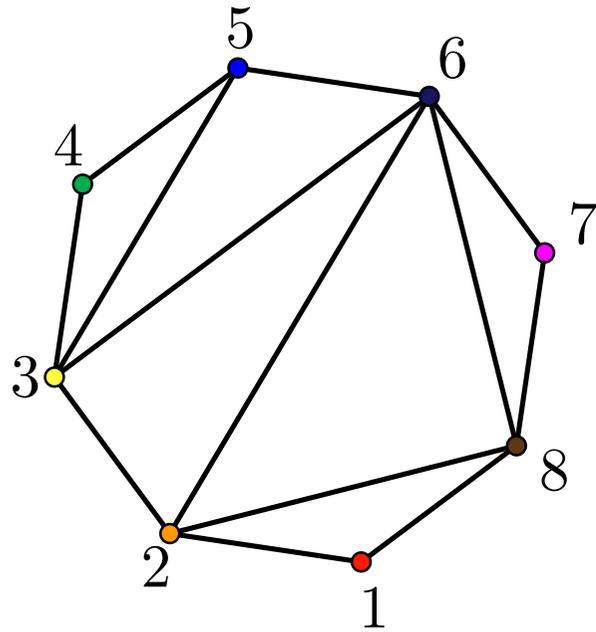


Multitriangulations

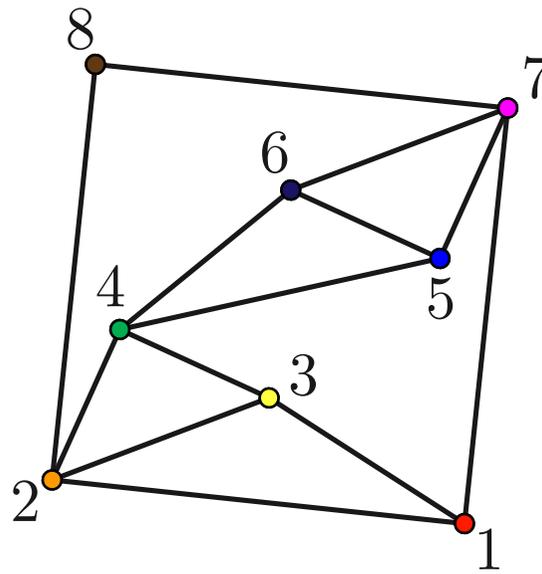


# DUALITY

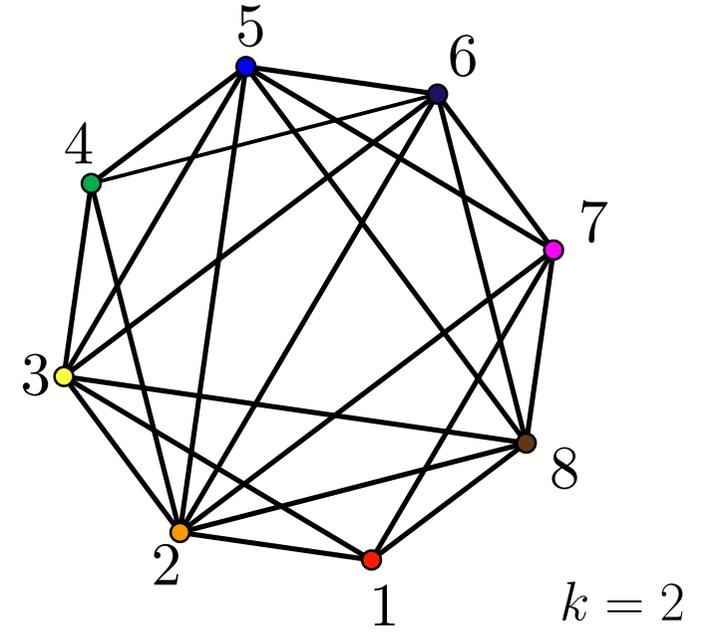
Triangulations



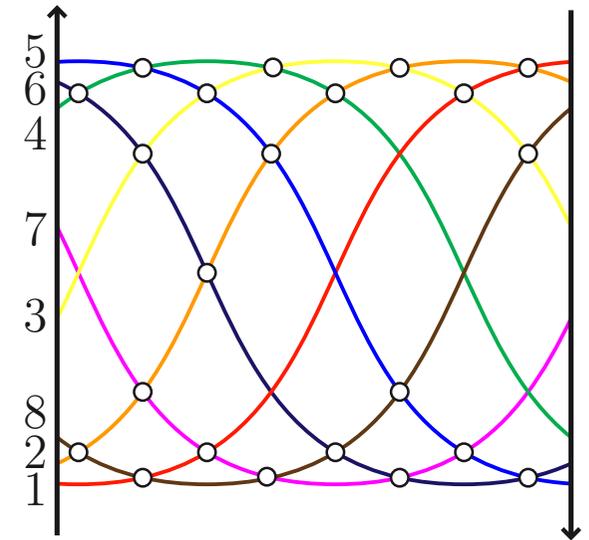
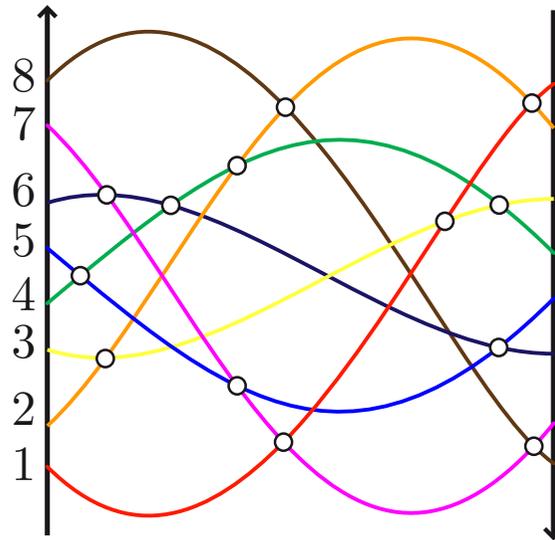
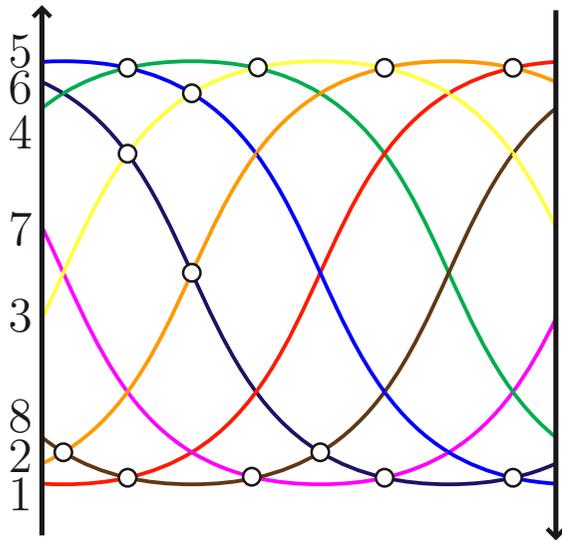
Pseudotriangulations



Multitriangulations



$k = 2$

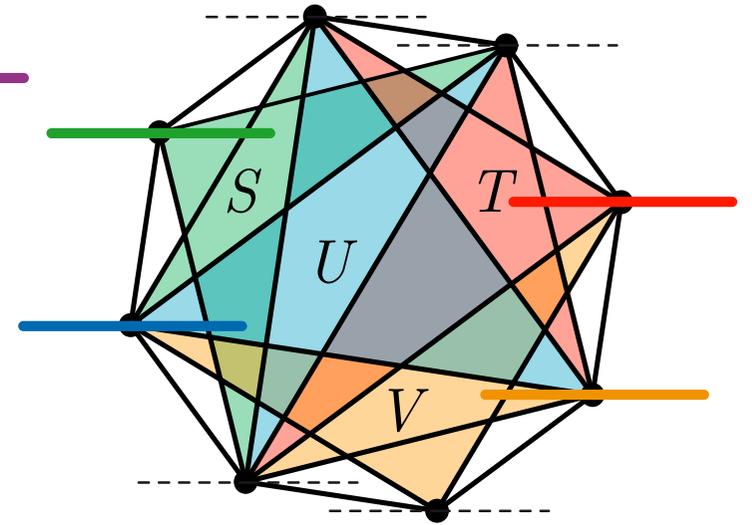
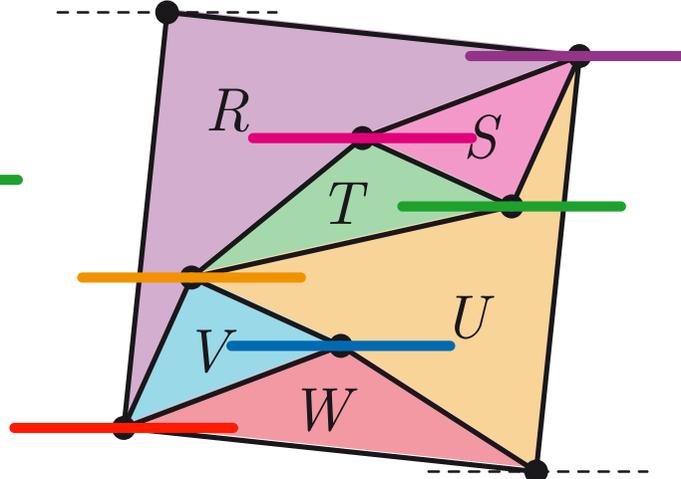
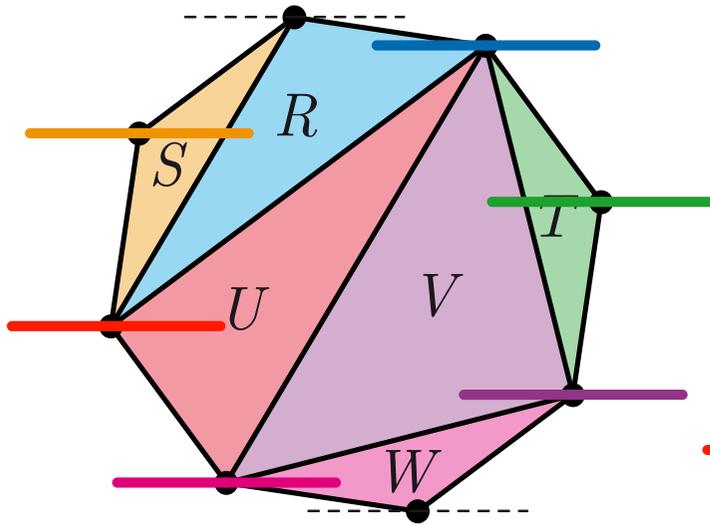


# DUALITY

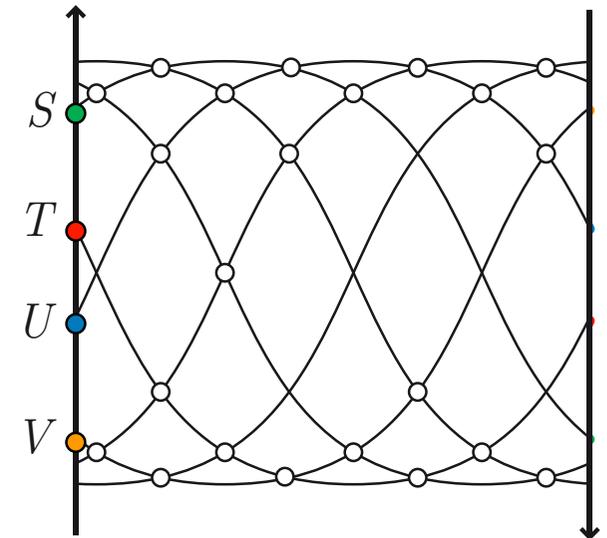
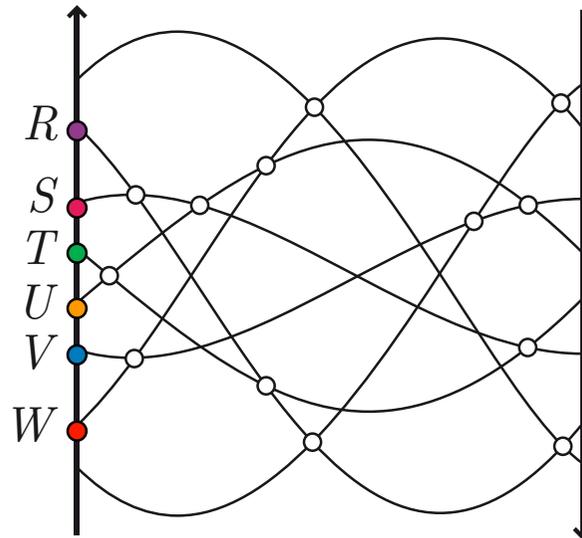
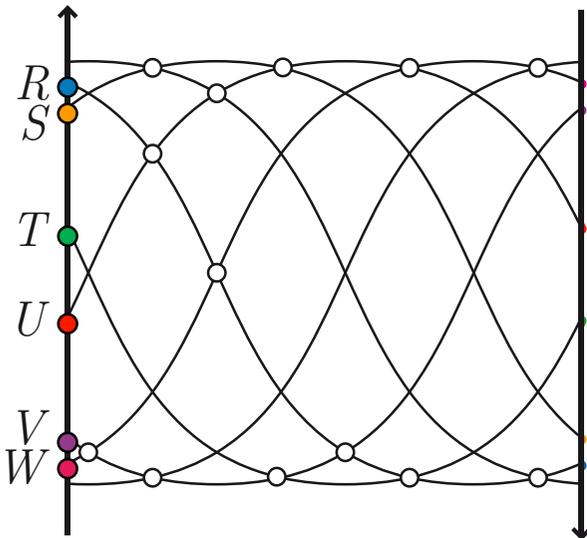
Triangulations

Pseudotriangulations

Multitriangulations

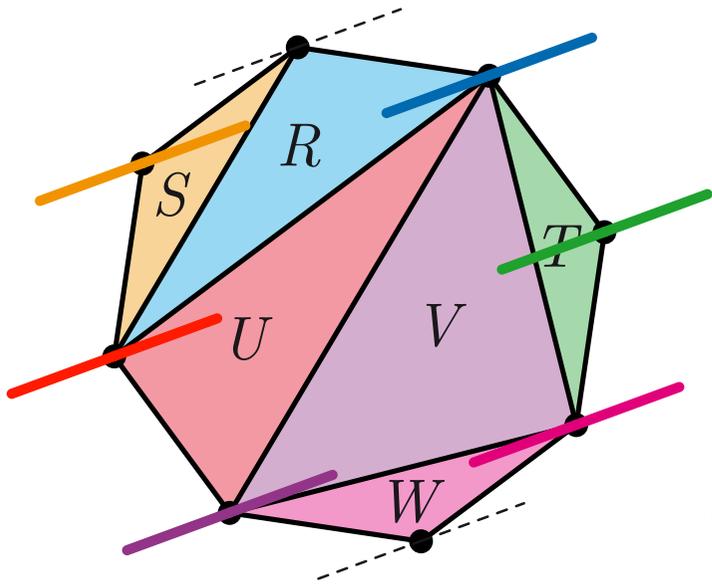


$k = 2$

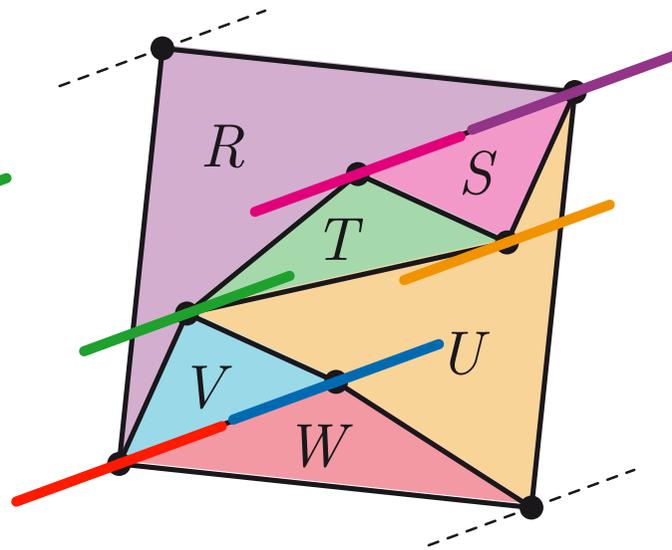


# DUALITY

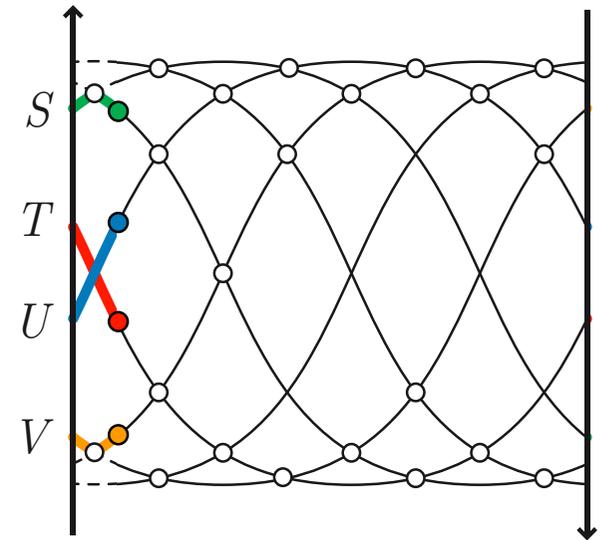
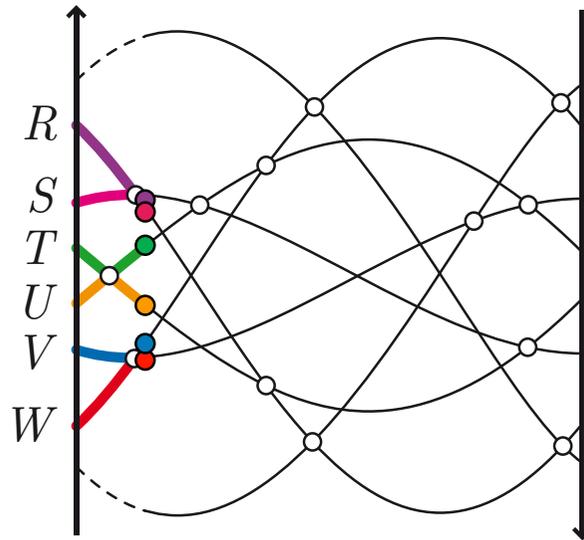
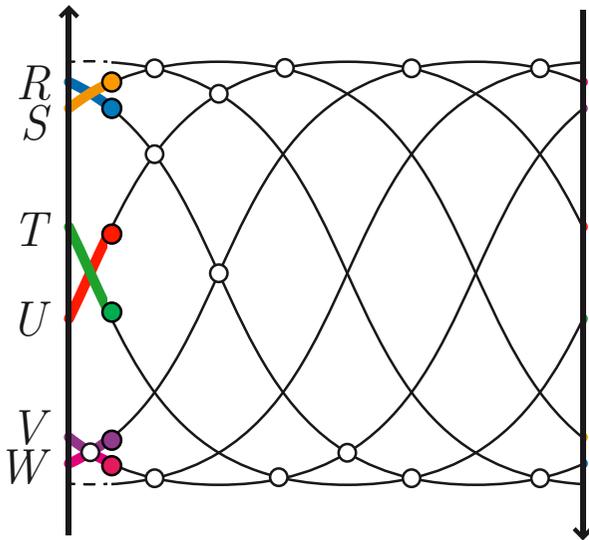
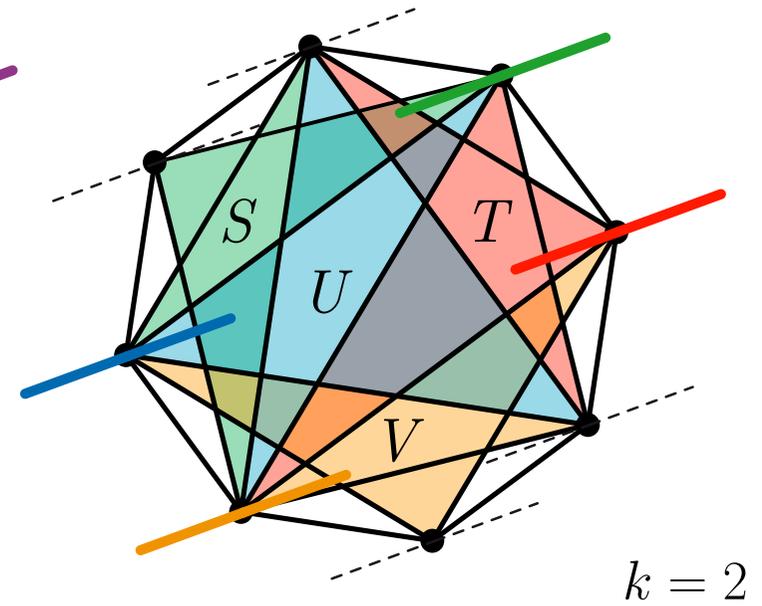
Triangulations



Pseudotriangulations

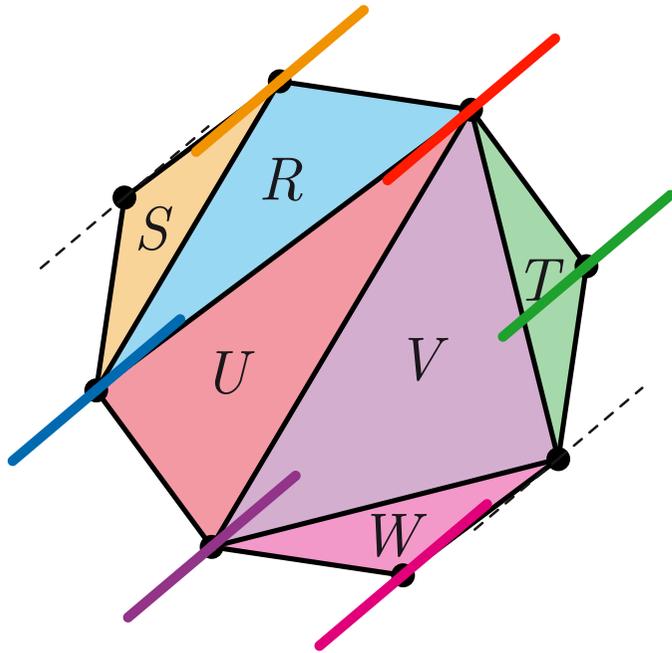


Multitriangulations

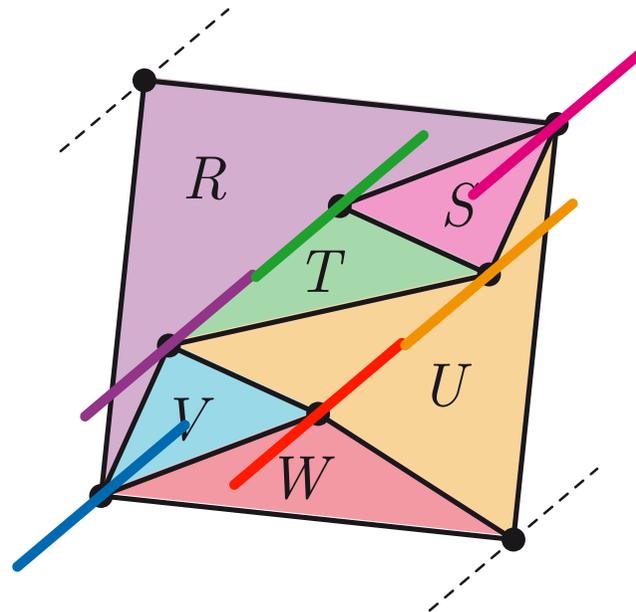


# DUALITY

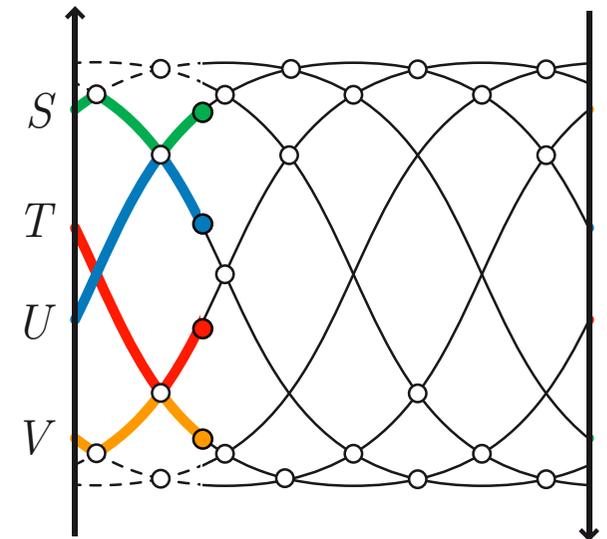
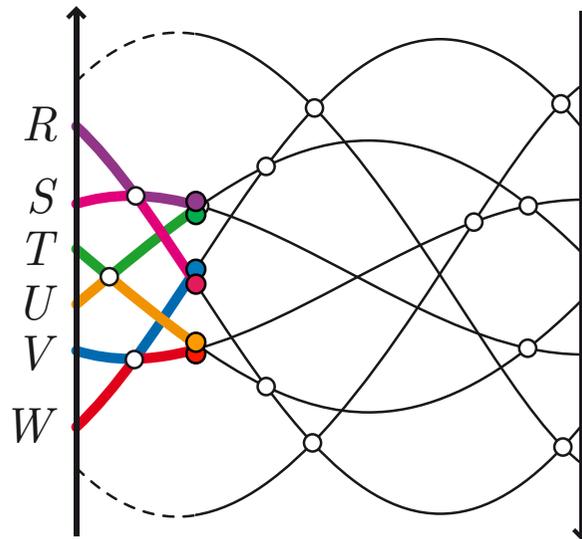
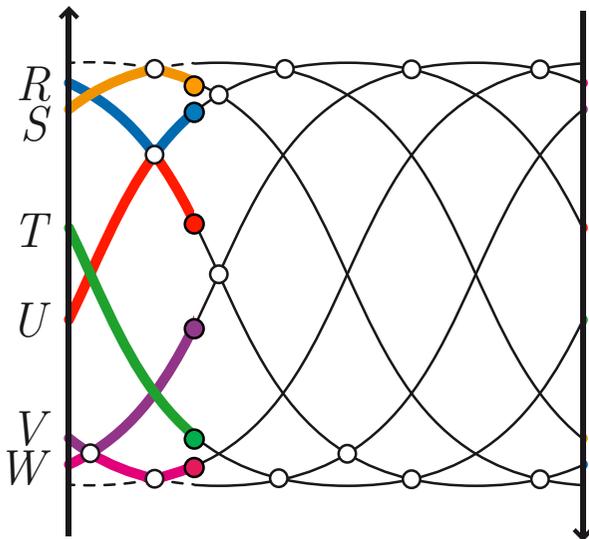
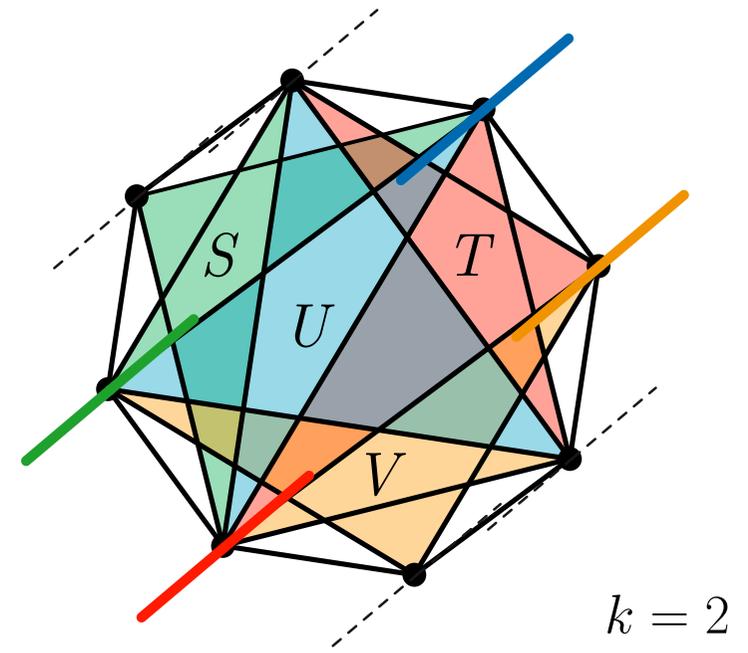
Triangulations



Pseudotriangulations

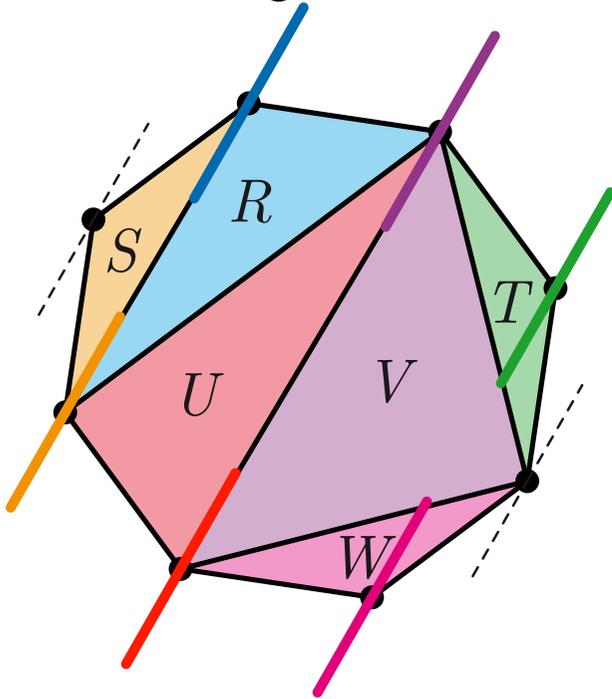


Multitriangulations

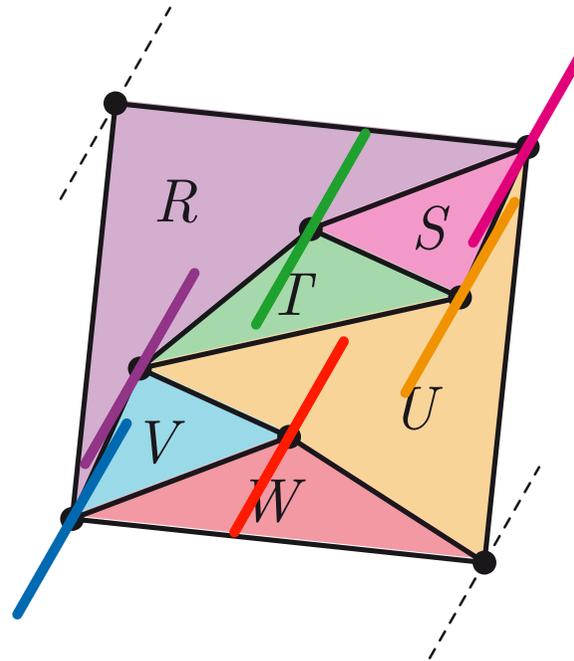


# DUALITY

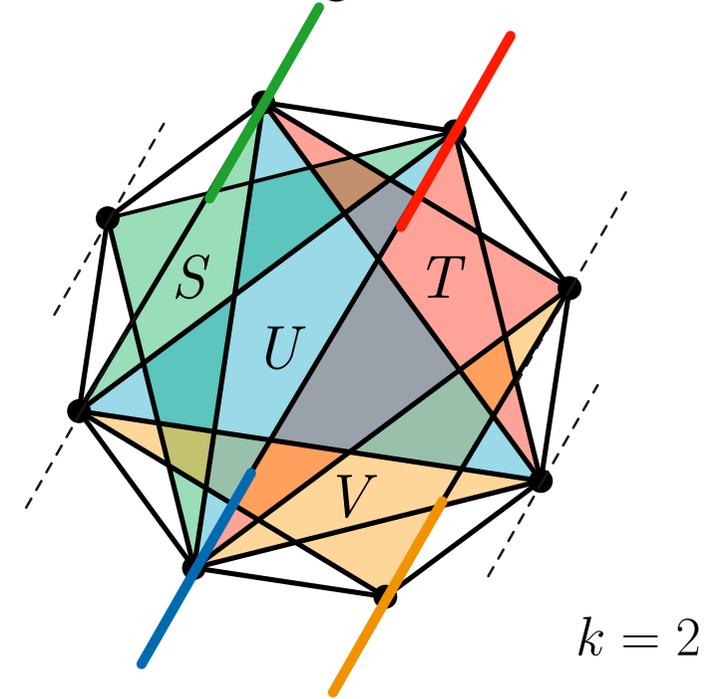
Triangulations



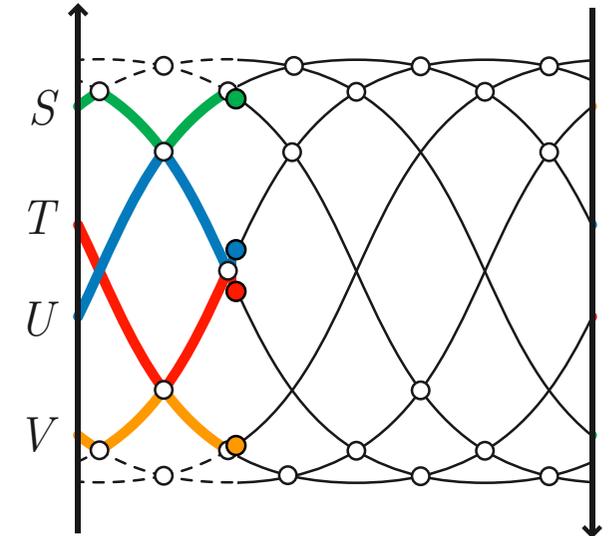
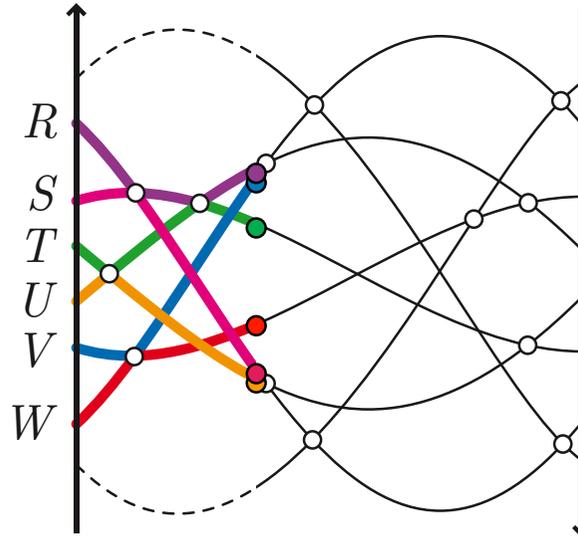
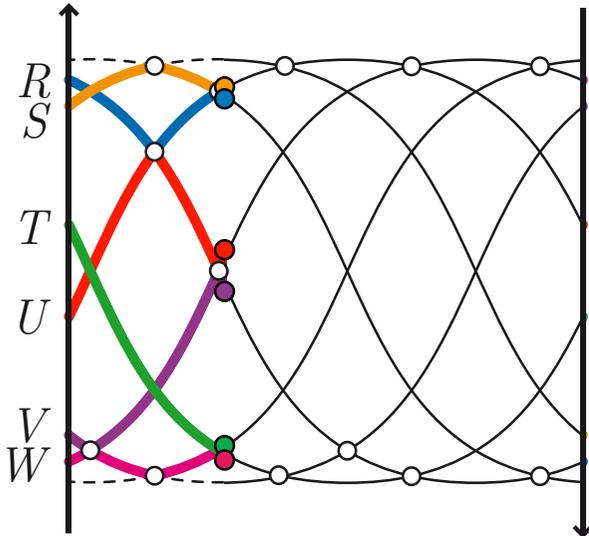
Pseudotriangulations



Multitriangulations

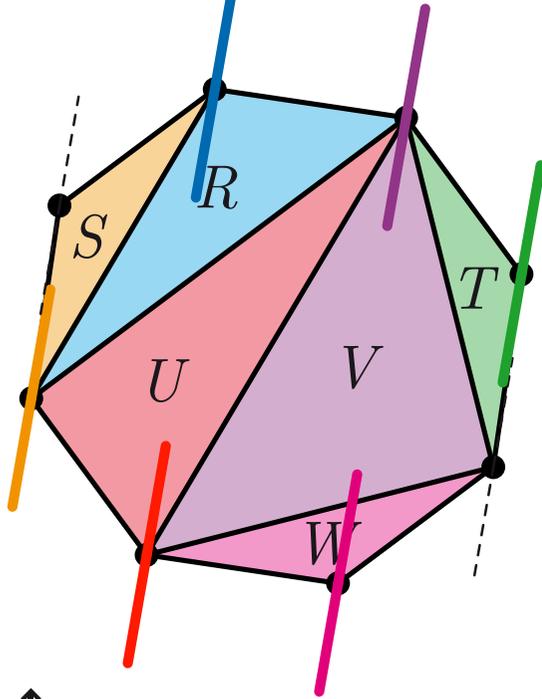


$k = 2$

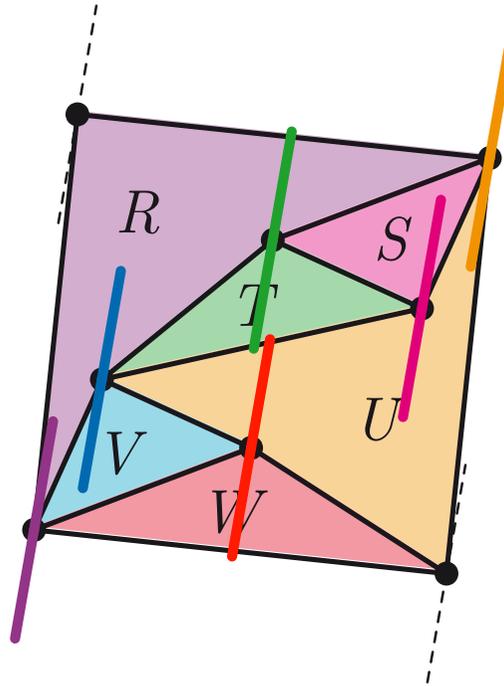


# DUALITY

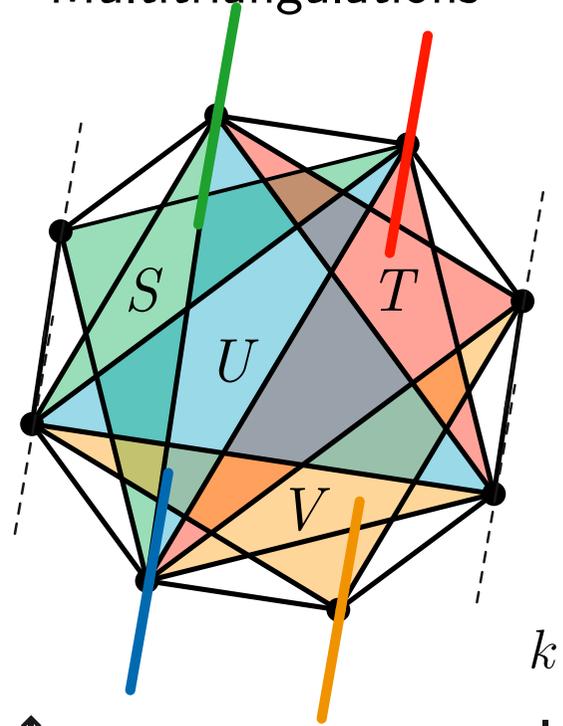
## Triangulations



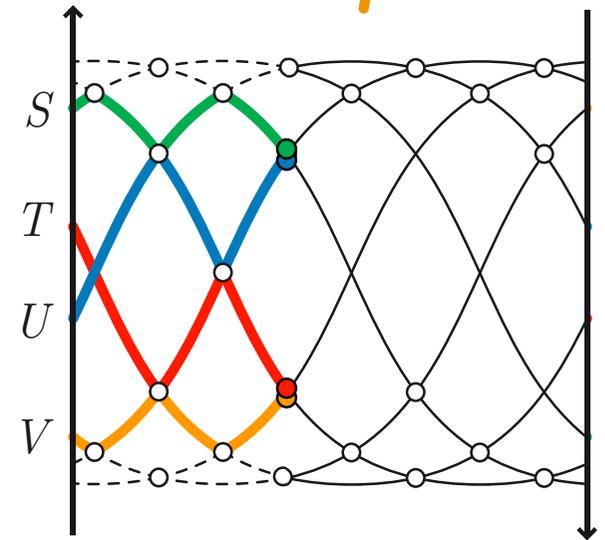
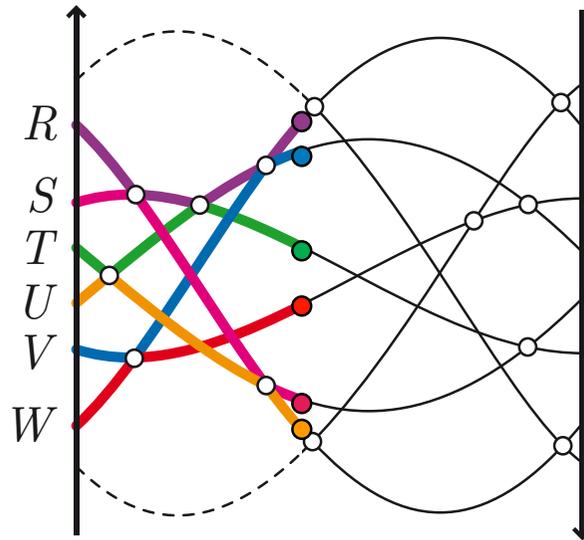
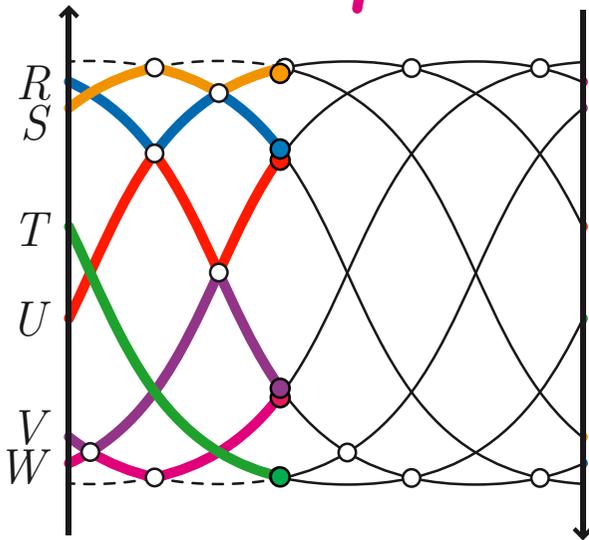
## Pseudotriangulations



## Multitriangulations

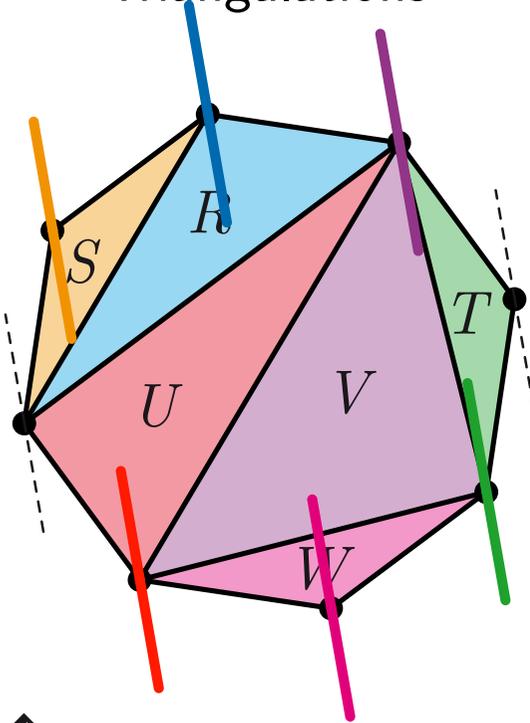


$k = 2$

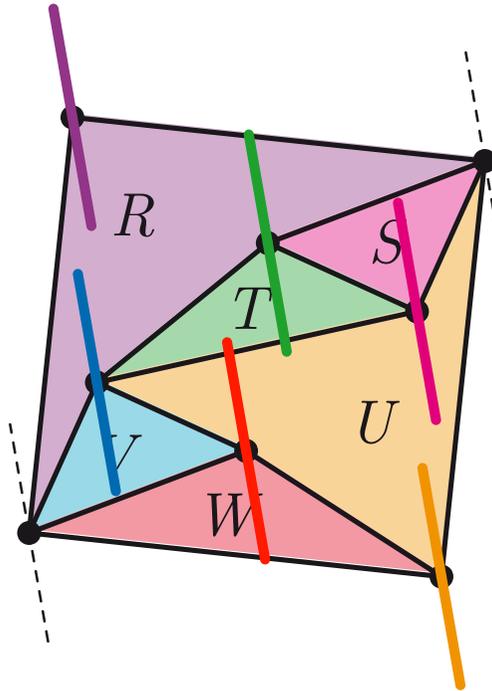


# DUALITY

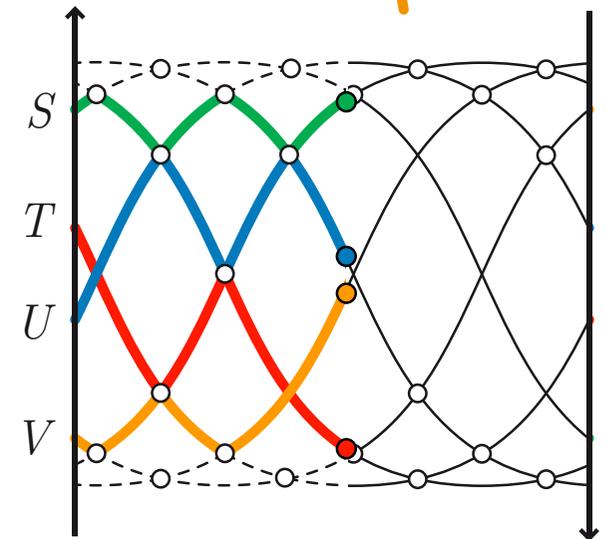
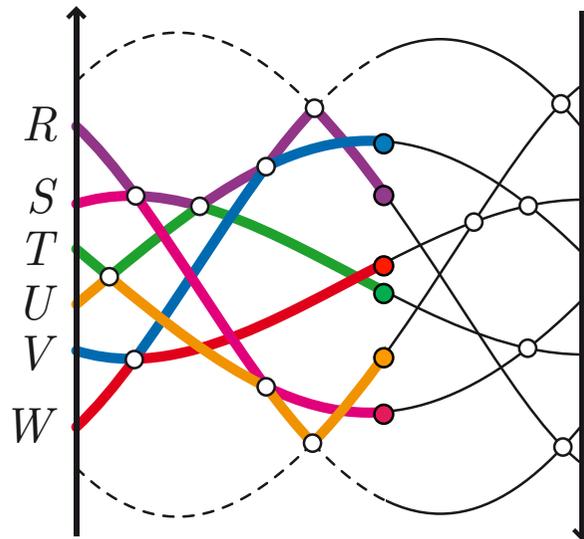
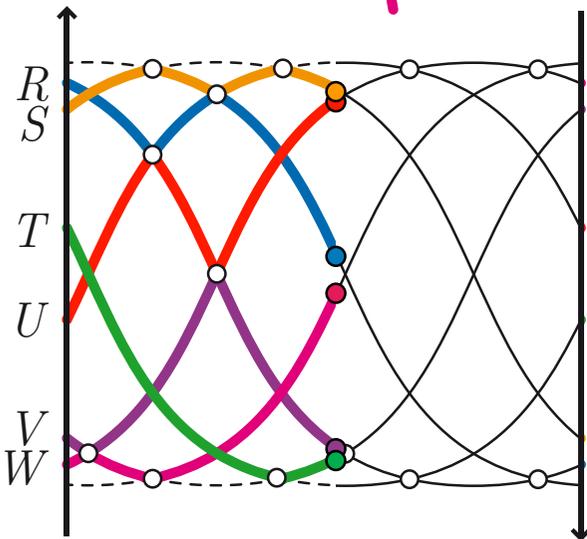
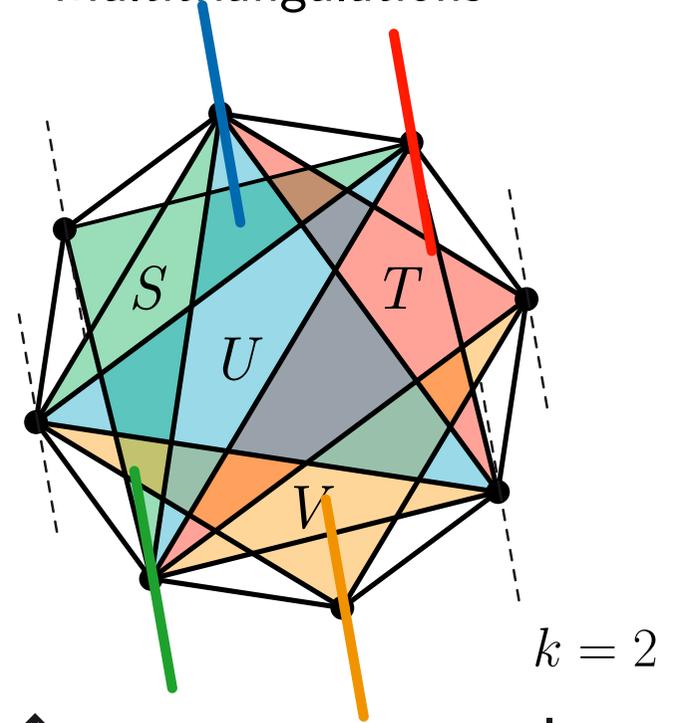
## Triangulations



## Pseudotriangulations

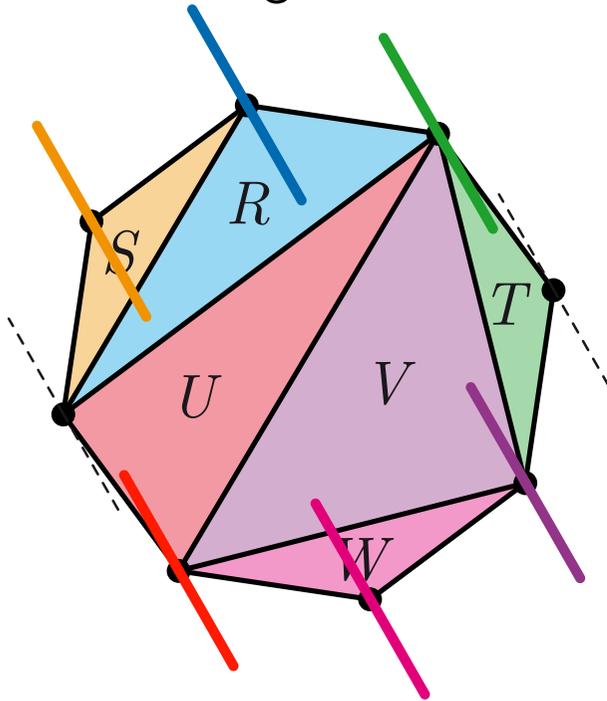


## Multitriangulations

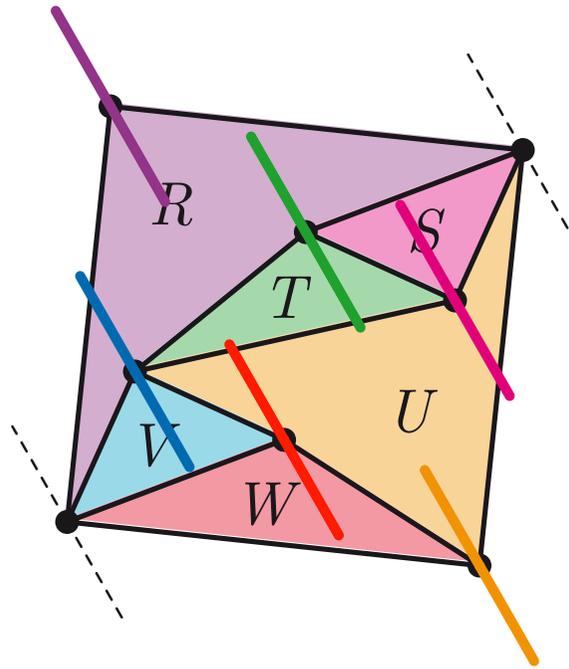


# DUALITY

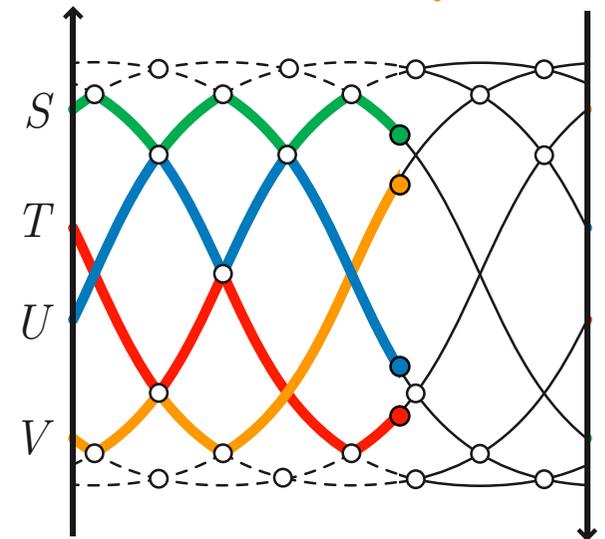
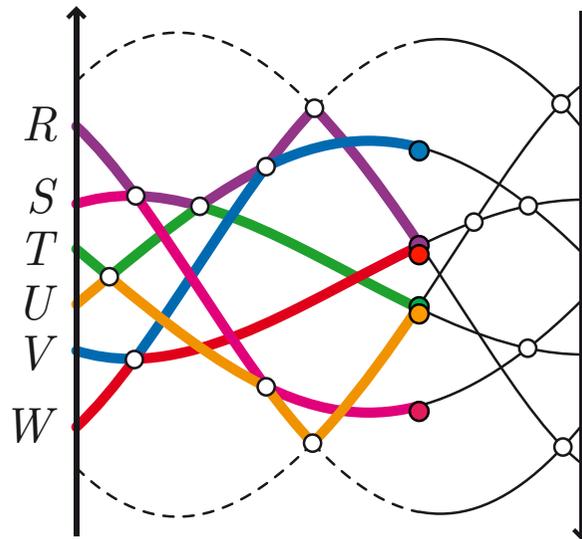
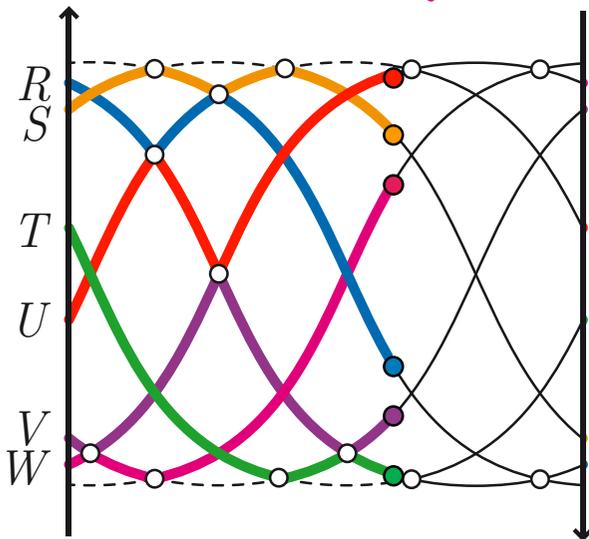
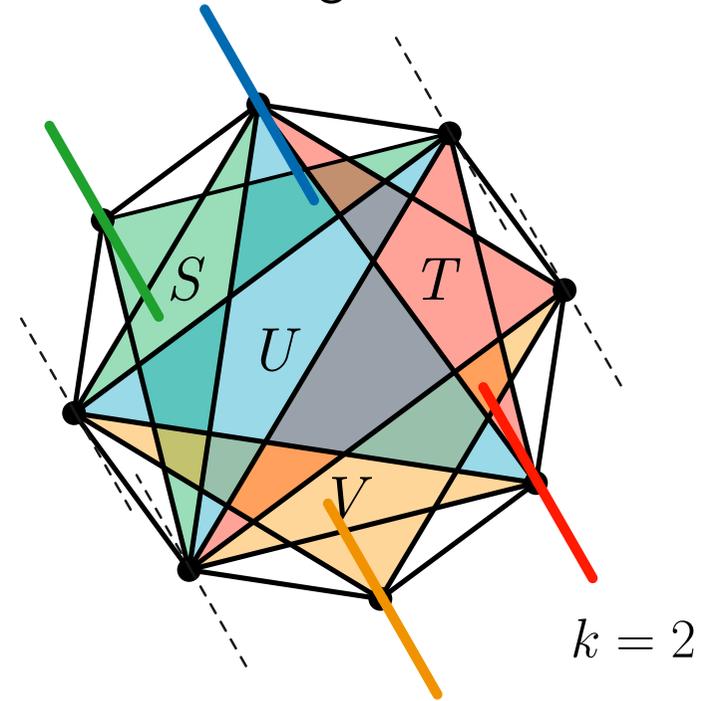
## Triangulations



## Pseudotriangulations

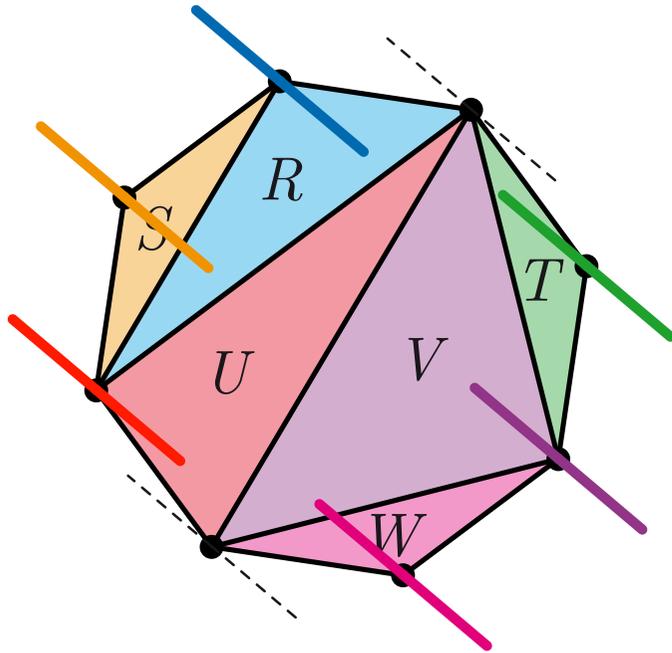


## Multitriangulations

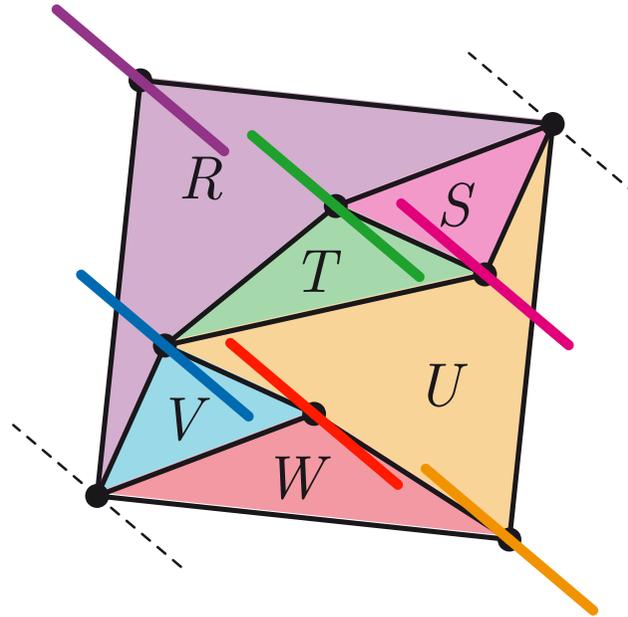


# DUALITY

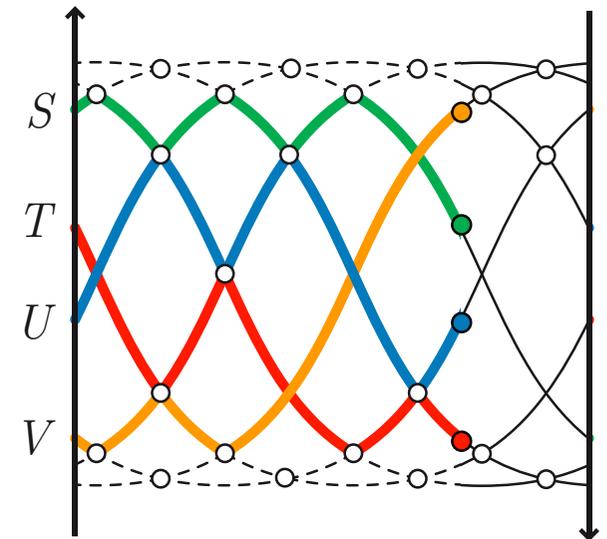
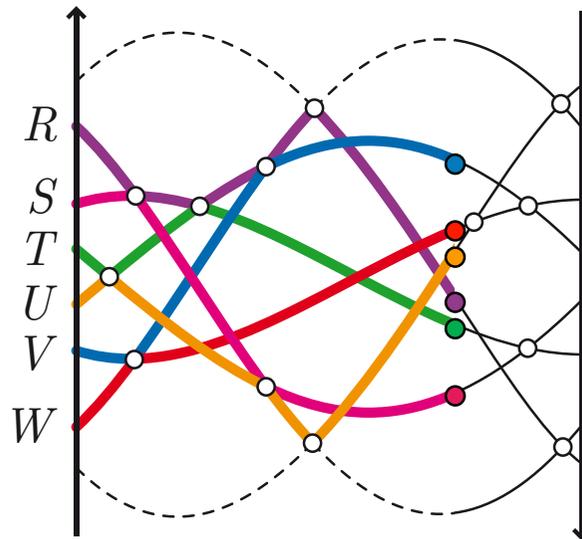
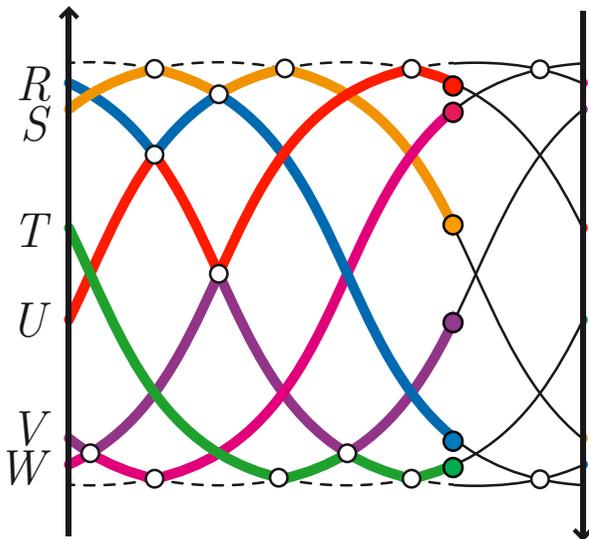
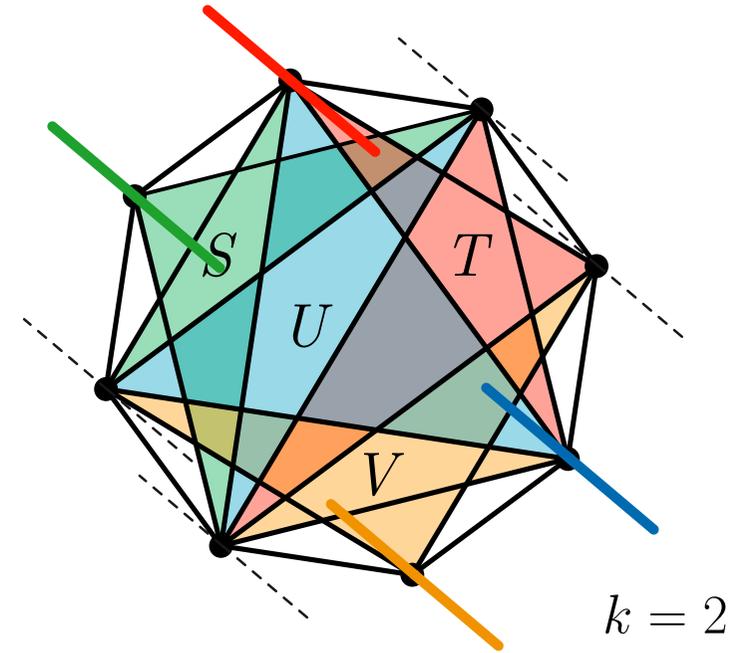
Triangulations



Pseudotriangulations

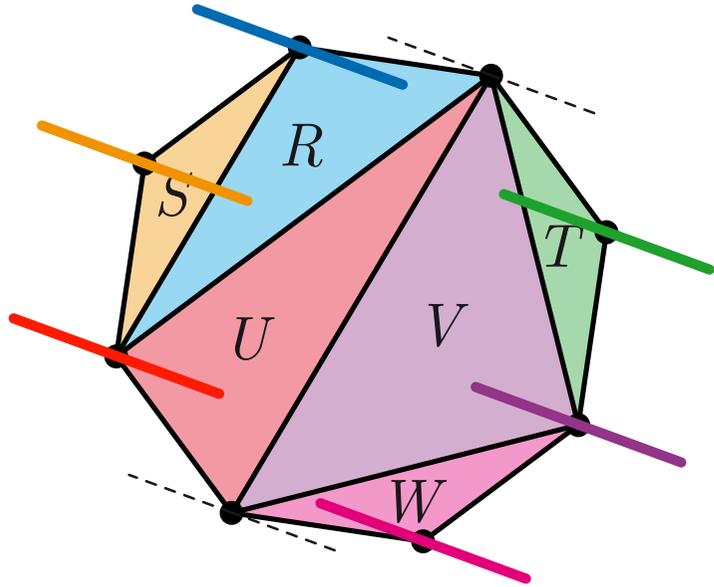


Multitriangulations

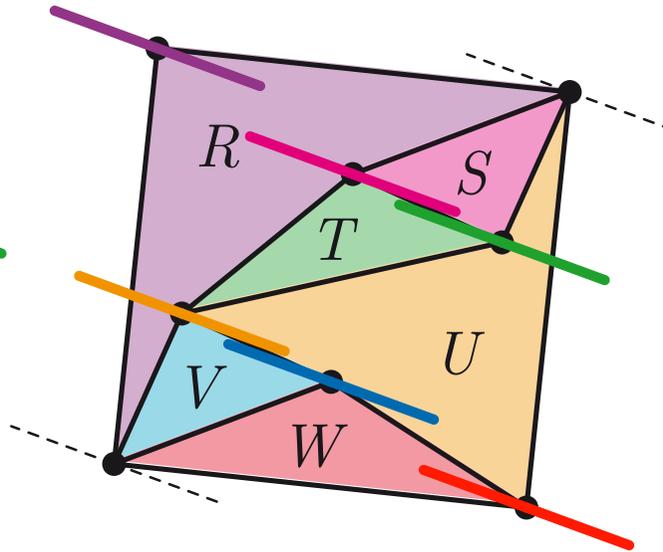


# DUALITY

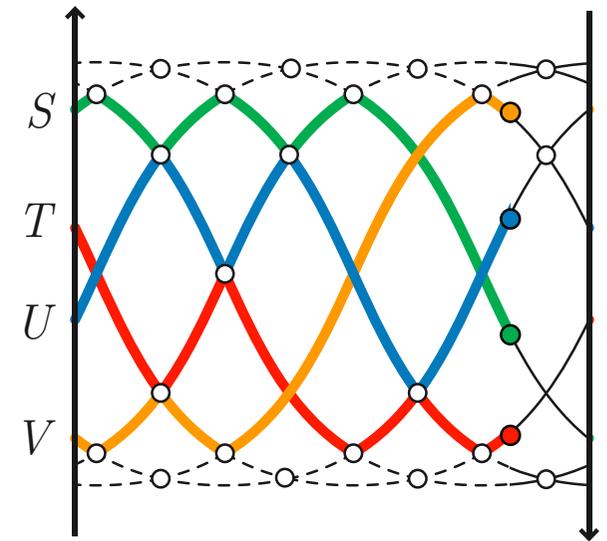
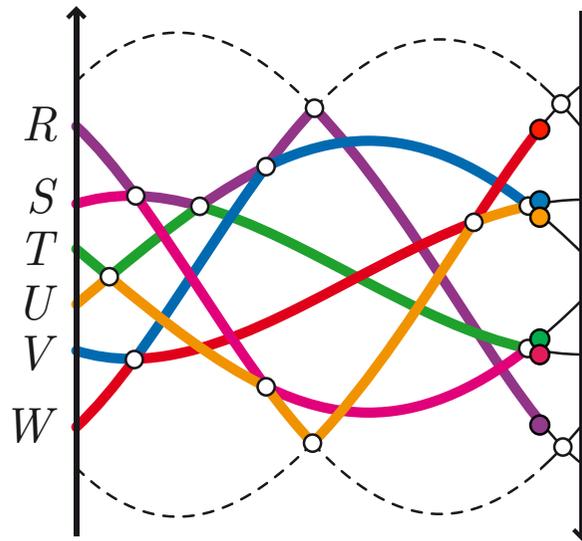
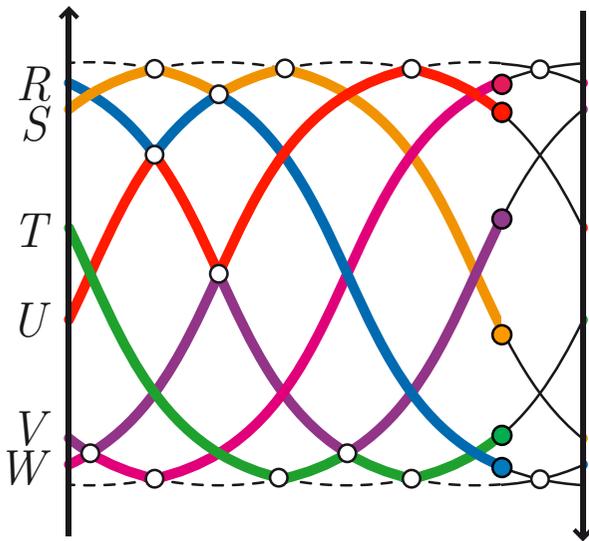
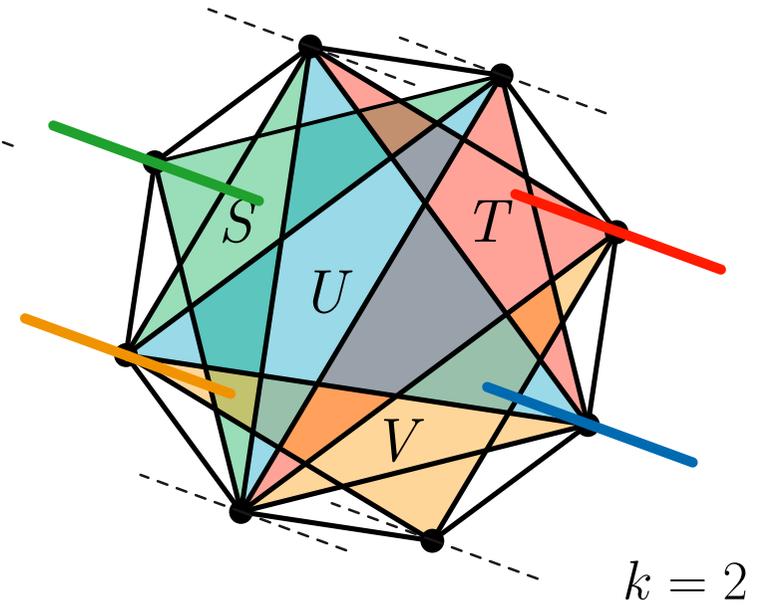
Triangulations



Pseudotriangulations

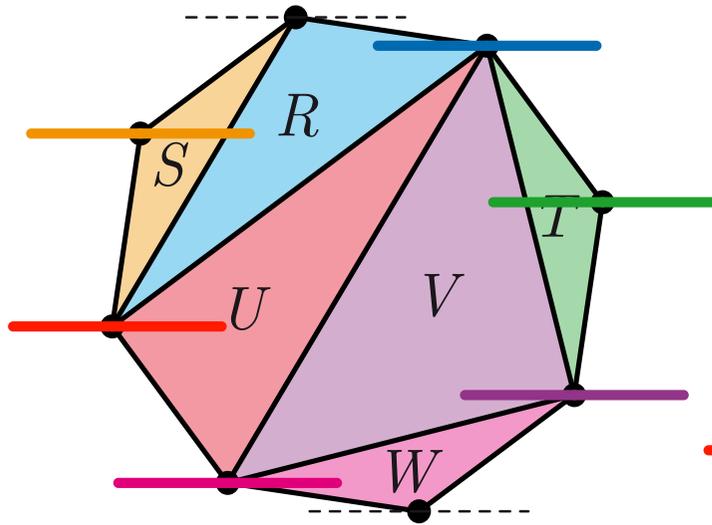


Multitriangulations

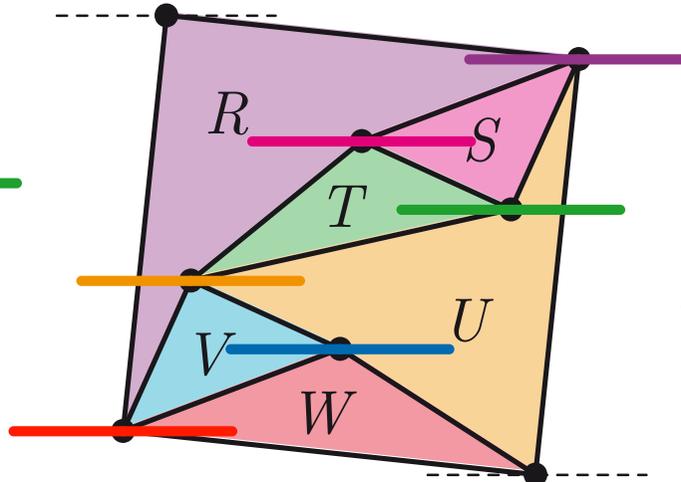


# DUALITY

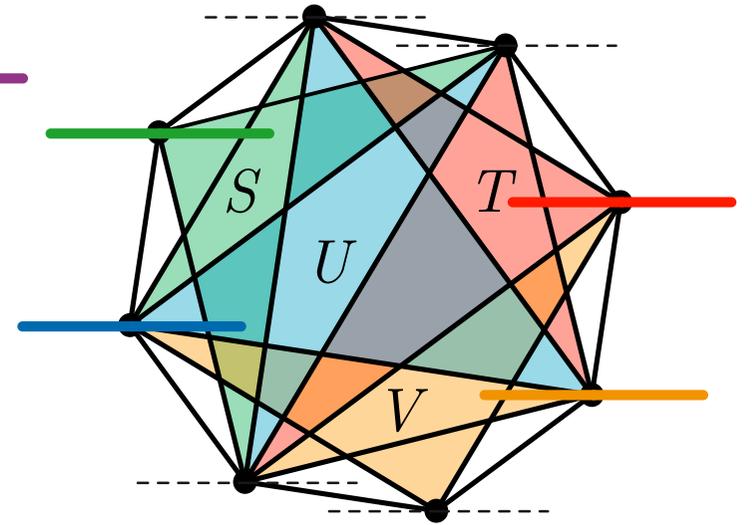
Triangulations



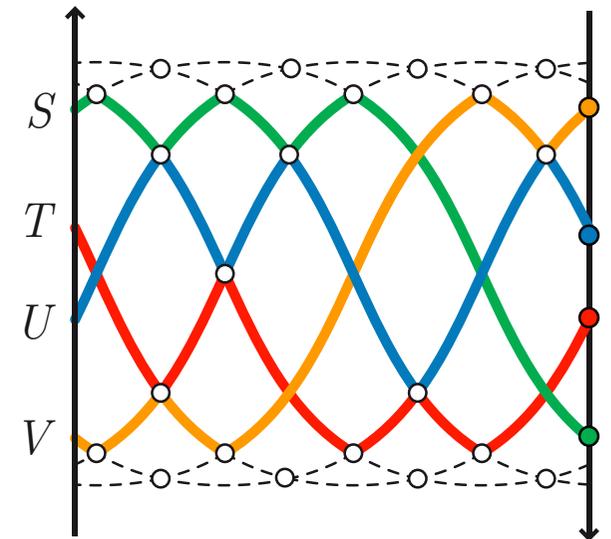
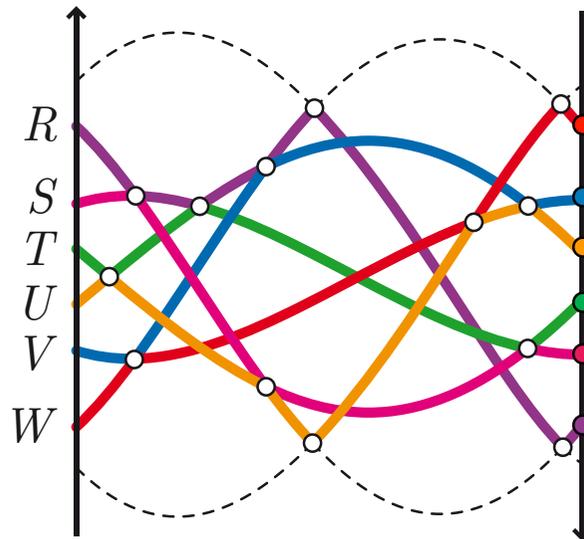
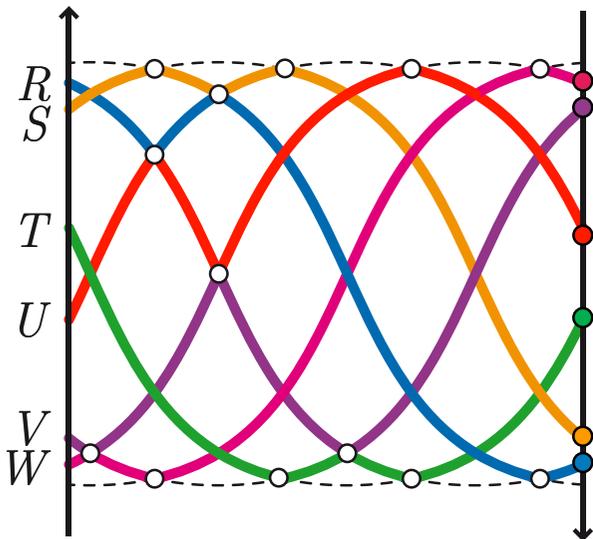
Pseudotriangulations



Multitriangulations

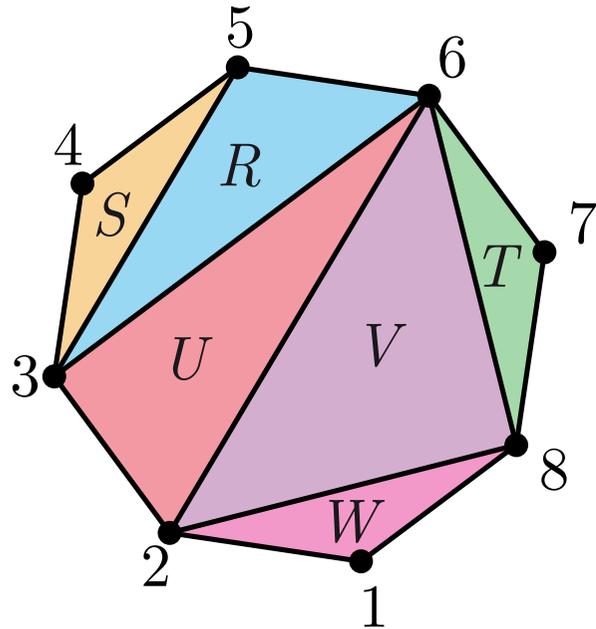


$k = 2$

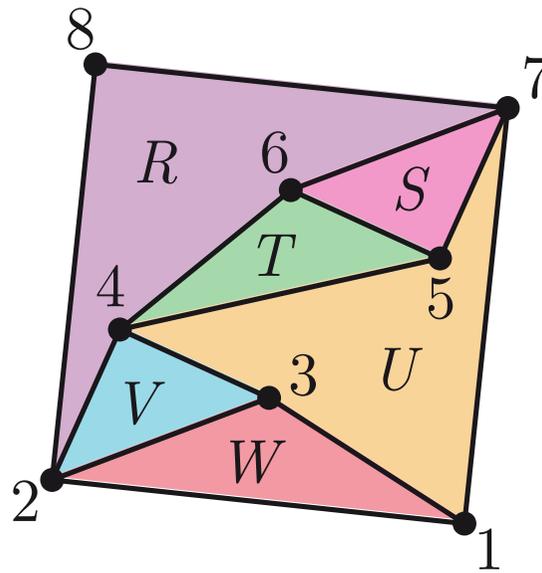


# DUALITY

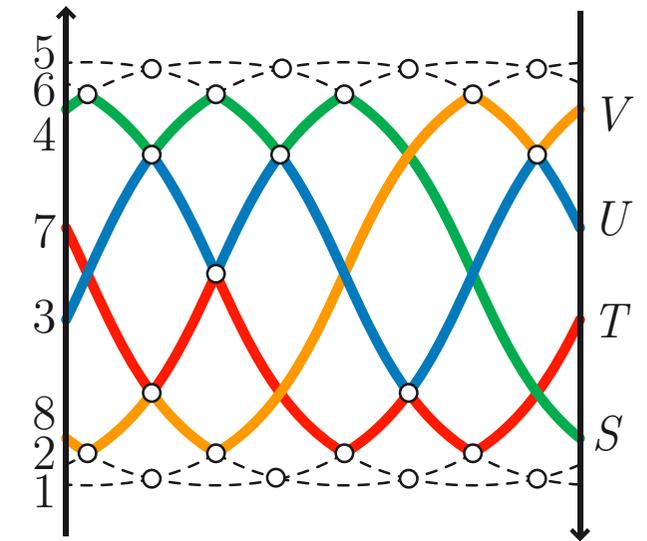
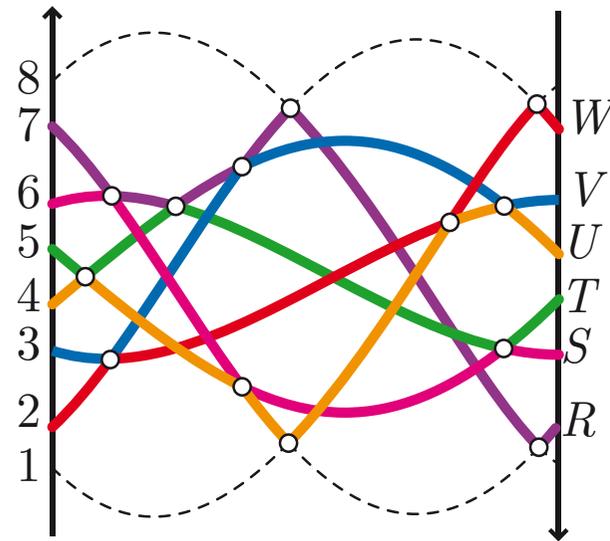
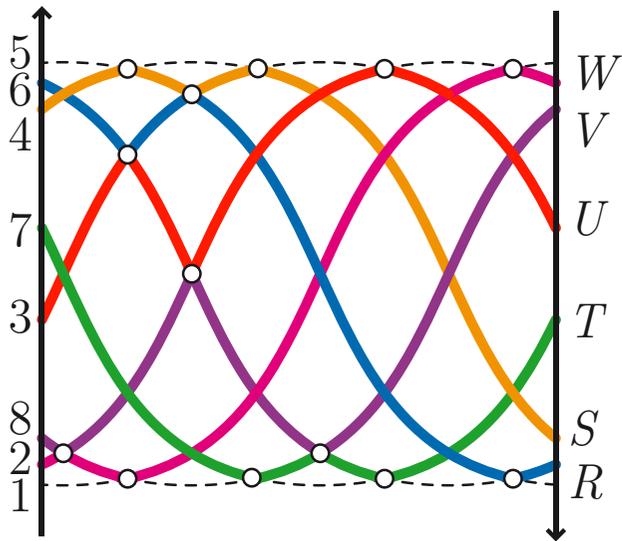
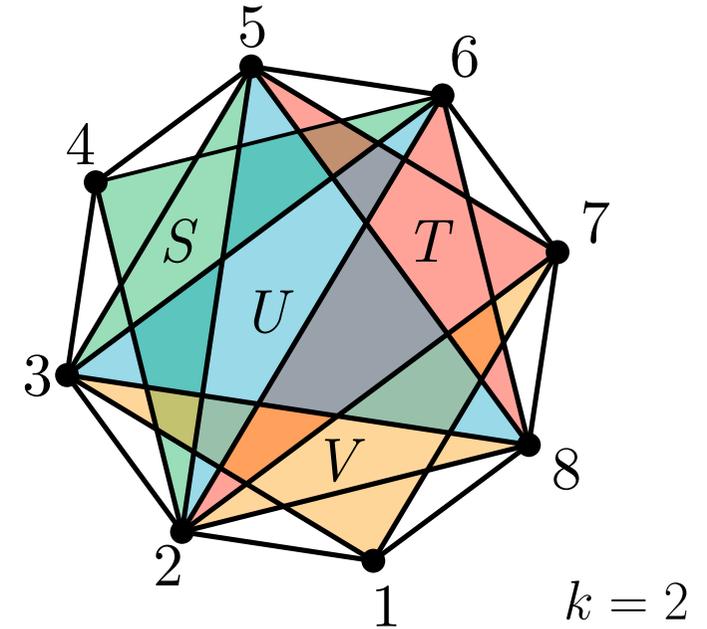
Triangulations



Pseudotriangulations

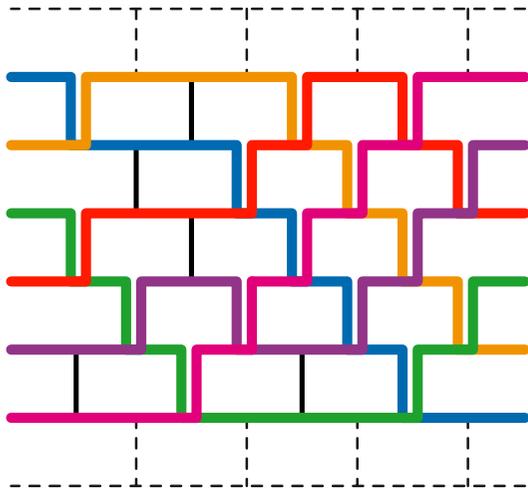
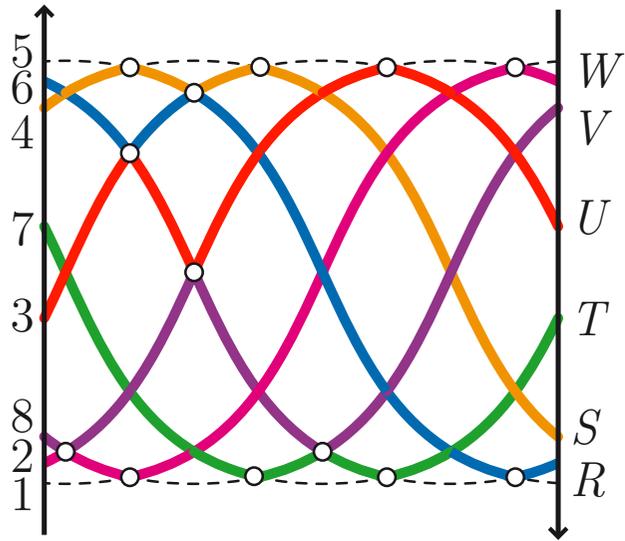


Multitriangulations

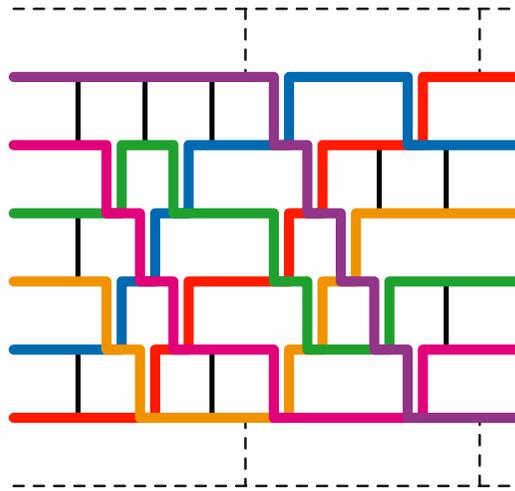
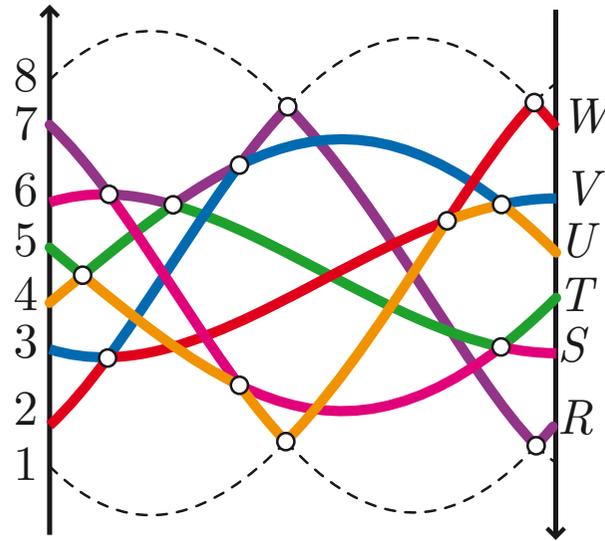


# DUALITY

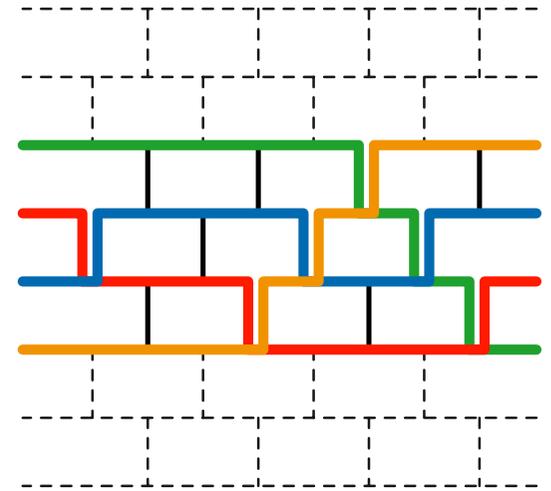
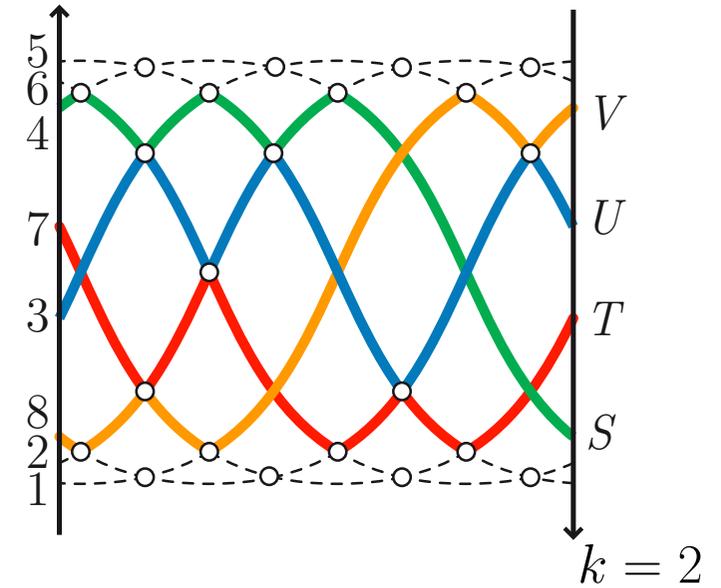
## Triangulations



## Pseudotriangulations



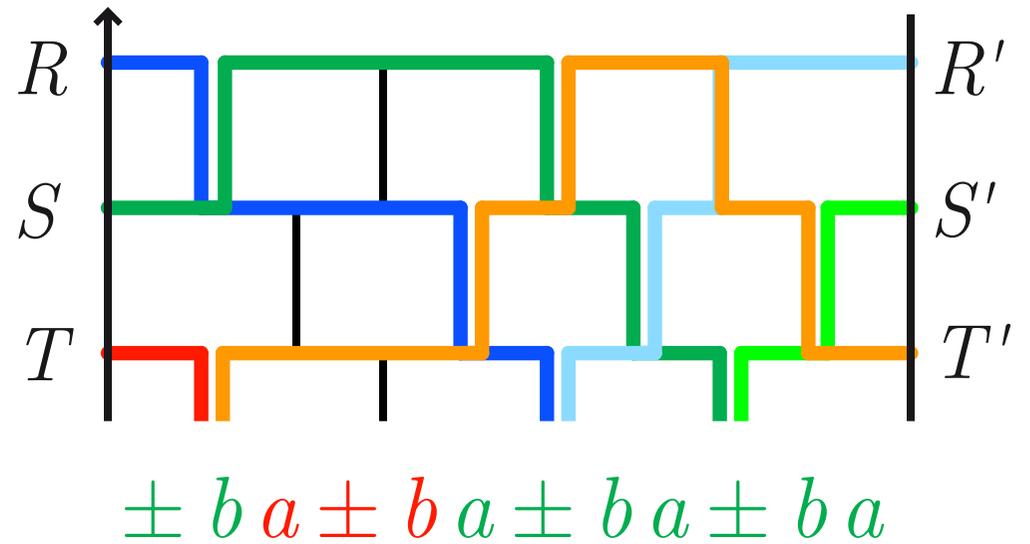
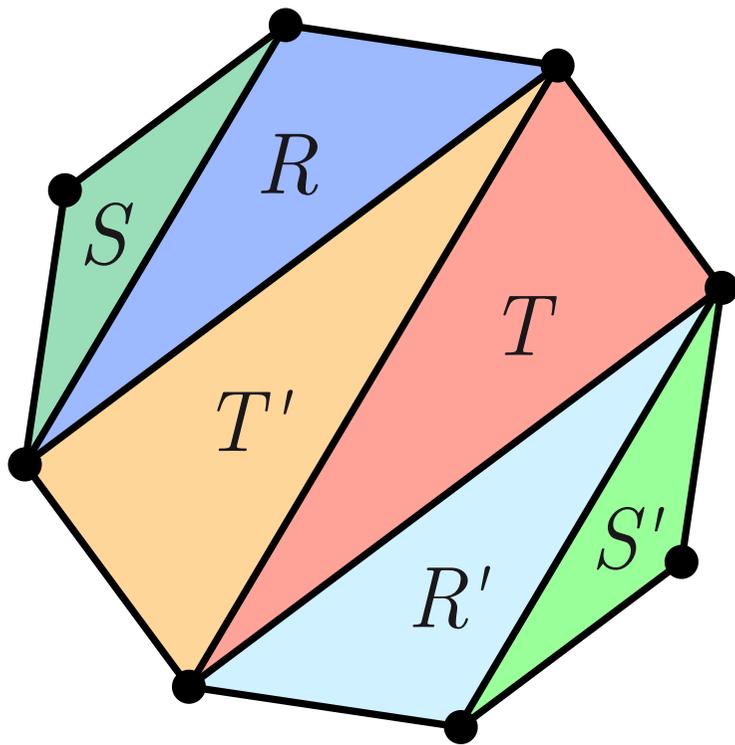
## Multitriangulations

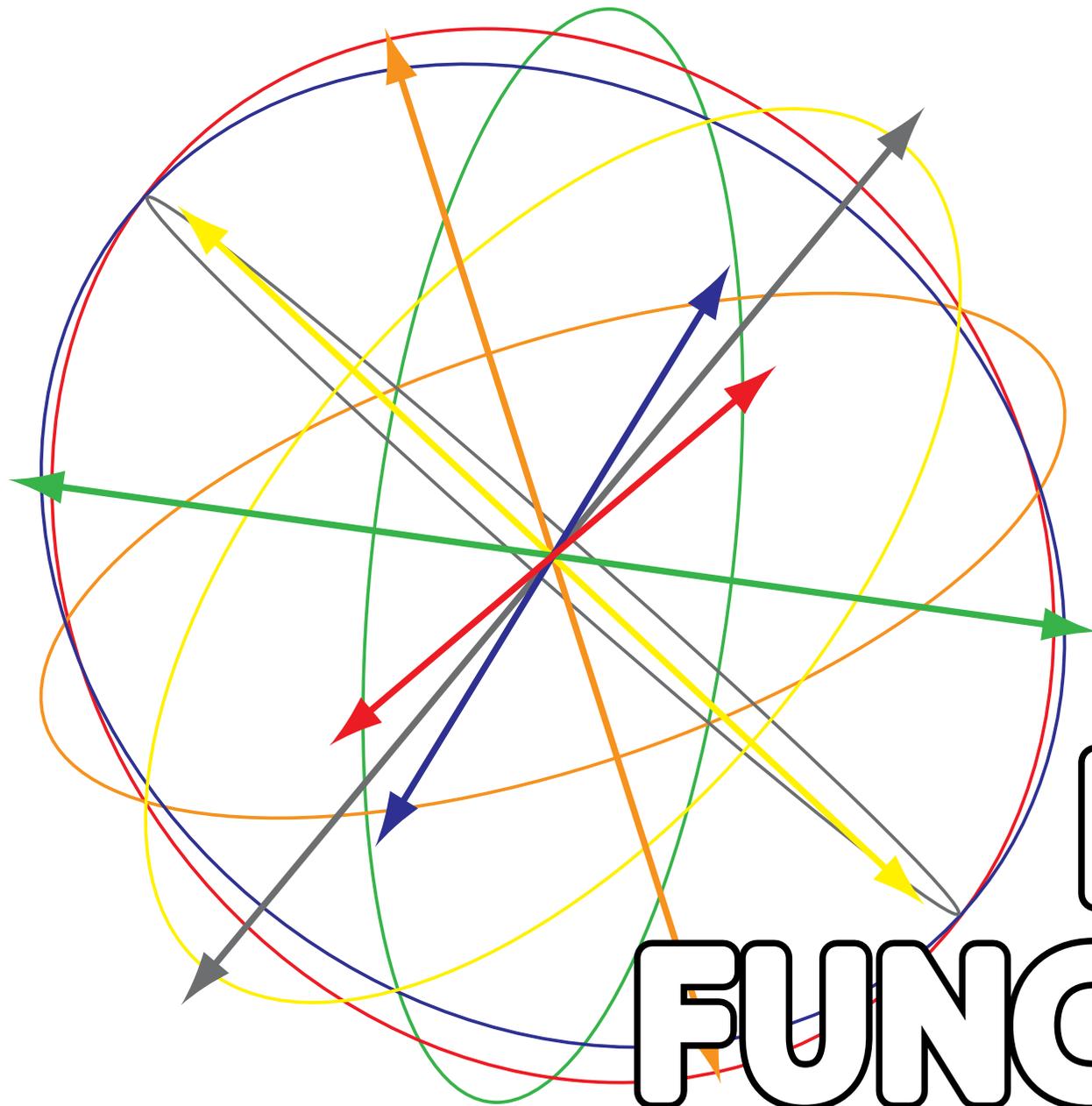




# CENTRALLY SYMMETRIC GEOMETRIC GRAPHS

Type  $B$  subword complexes give models for centrally symmetric triangulations:



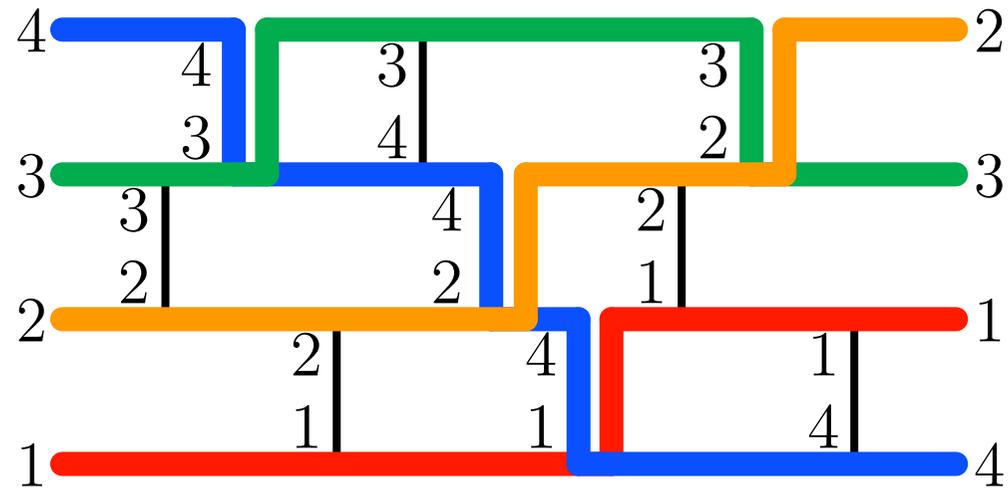


# ROOT FUNCTION

C. Ceballos, JP. Labbé & C. Stump, Subword complexes, cluster complexes, & gener. multiassoc., 2011.

VP & C. Stump, Brick polytopes of spherical subword complexes, 2012<sup>+</sup>.

# ROOT FUNCTION

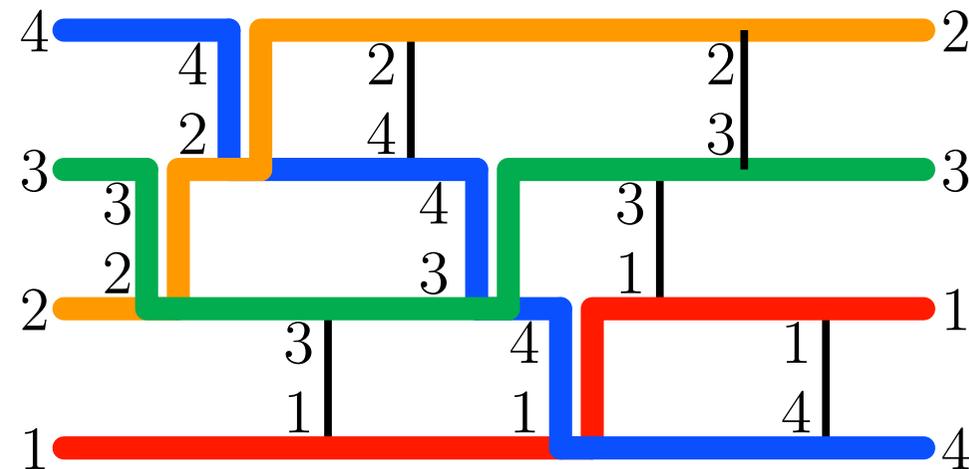
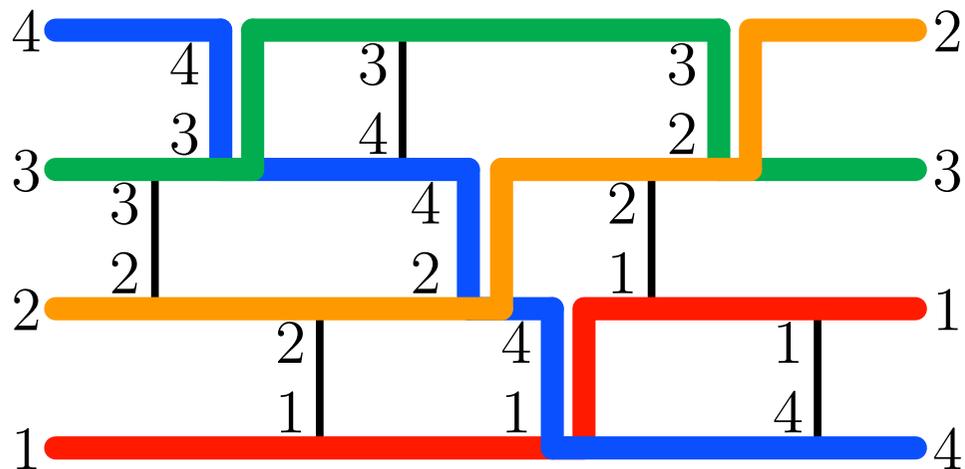


For a facet  $I$  of  $\mathcal{S}(Q, \rho)$  and a position  $k \in [m]$ , define the root  $r(I, k) = Q_{[k-1] \setminus I}(\alpha_{q_k})$ , where  $Q_{[k-1] \setminus I}$  is the product of all reflections  $q_j$  for  $j$  from 1 to  $k-1$  but not in  $I$ .

The **root function** of the facet  $I$  is  $r(I, \cdot) : [m] \rightarrow \Phi$

The **root configuration** of  $I$  is  $R(I) = \{r(I, i) \mid i \in I\}$

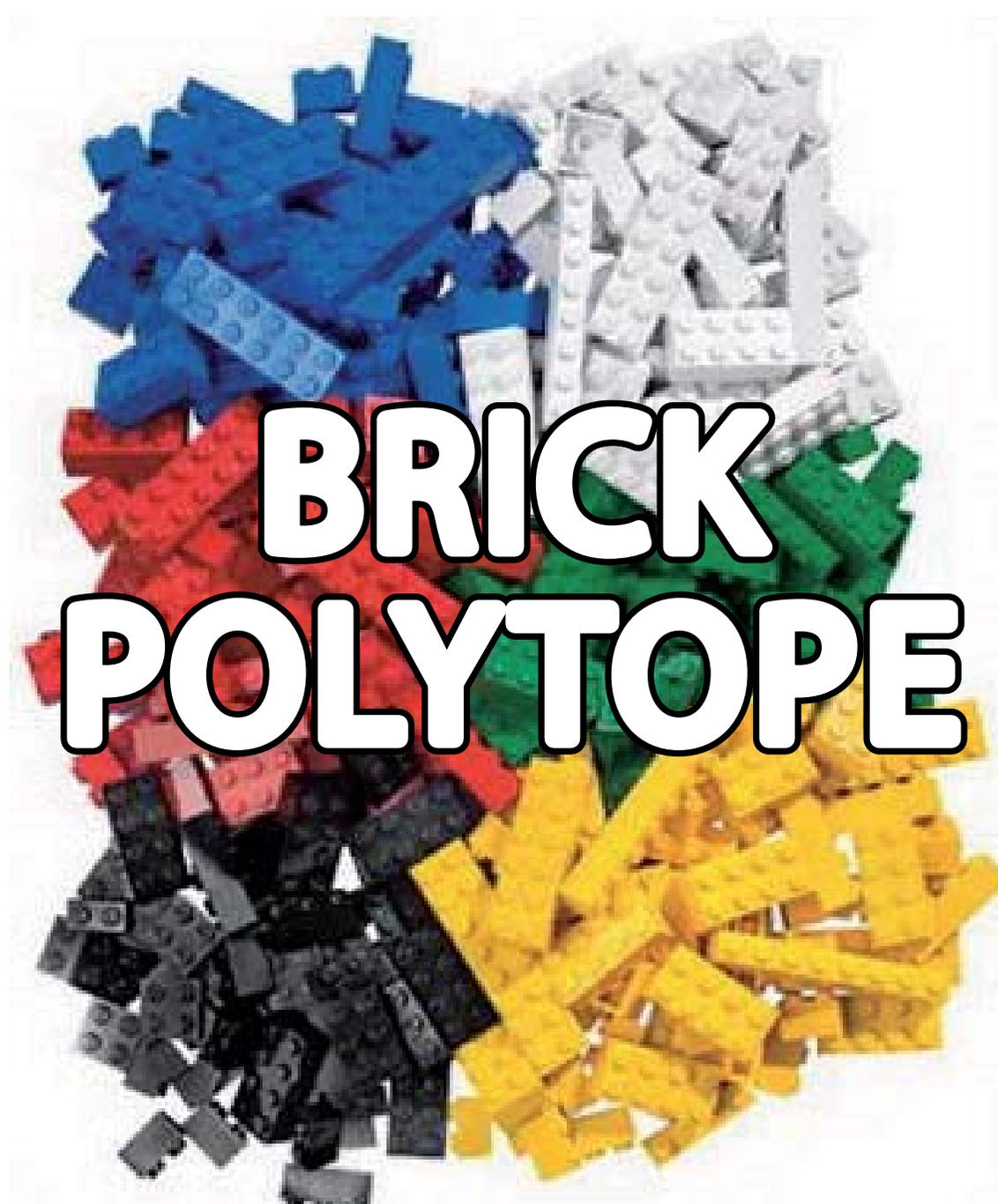
# ROOT FUNCTION & FLIPS



**PROPOSITION.** The root function encodes flips in subword complexes:

1. The map  $r(I, \cdot)$  is a bijection from the complement of  $I$  to  $\text{inv}(\rho)$ .
2. If  $I$  and  $J$  are two adjacent facets of  $\mathcal{S}(Q)$  with  $I \setminus i = J \setminus j$ , then  $j$  is the unique position in the complement of  $I$  such that  $r(I, i) = \pm r(I, j)$ .
3. In the situation of 2, the root function of  $J$  is obtained from that of  $I$  by

$$r(J, k) = \begin{cases} s_{r(I, i)}(r(I, k)) & \text{if } \min(i, j) < k \leq \max(i, j), \\ r(I, k) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

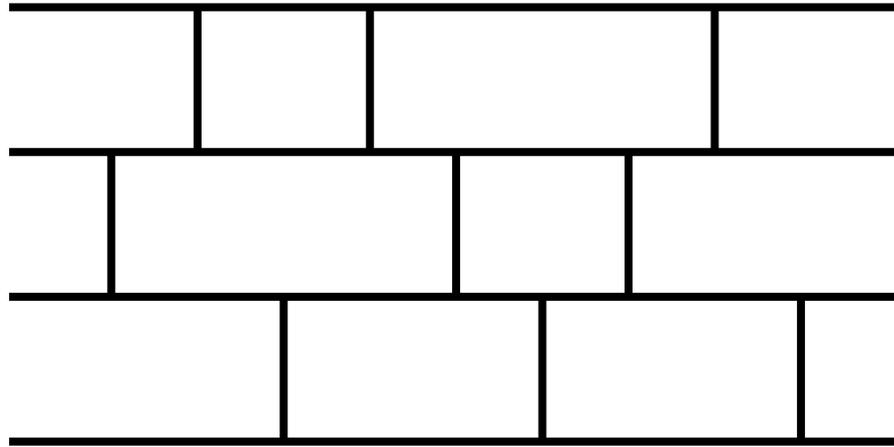


VP & F. Santos, The brick polytope of a sorting network, 2012.

VP & C. Stump, Brick polytopes of spherical subword complexes, 2012<sup>+</sup>.

# BRICK POLYTOPE

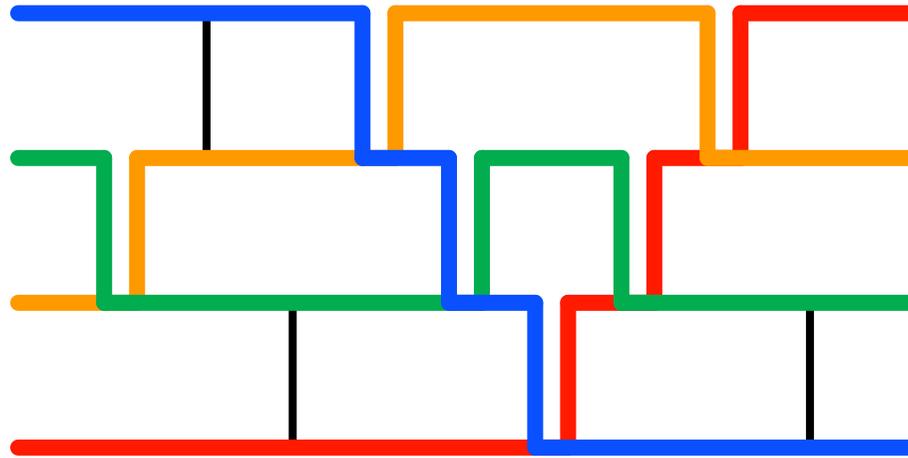
---



$\mathcal{N}$  a sorting network with  $n + 1$  levels

# BRICK POLYTOPE

---

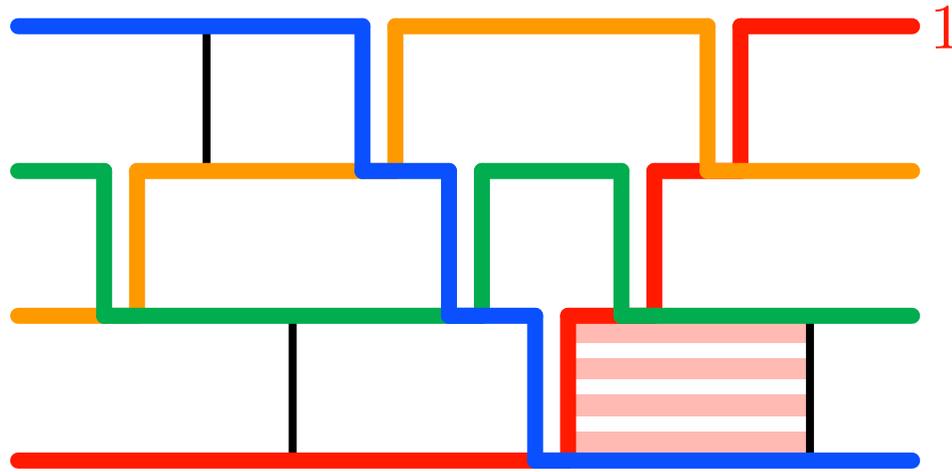


$\mathcal{N}$  a sorting network with  $n + 1$  levels

$\Lambda$  pseudoline arrangement supported by  $\mathcal{N}$   $\mapsto$  brick vector  $B(\Lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$

# BRICK POLYTOPE

---



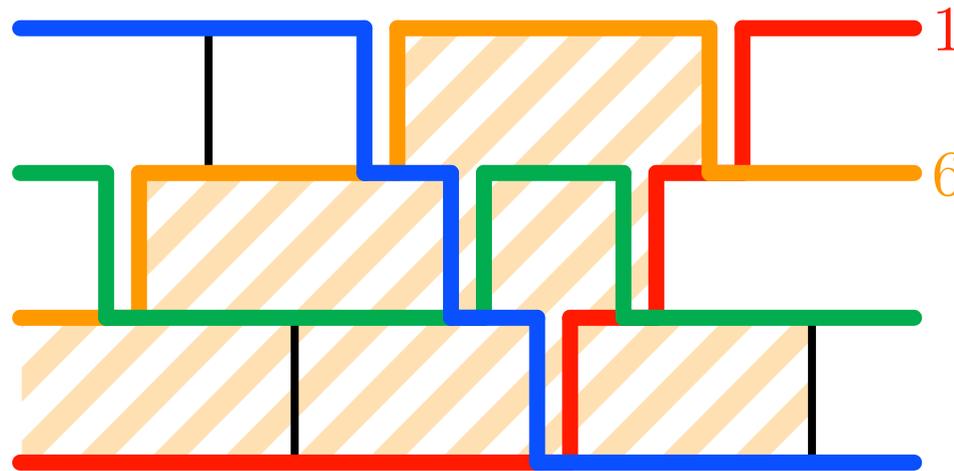
$\mathcal{N}$  a sorting network with  $n + 1$  levels

$\Lambda$  pseudoline arrangement supported by  $\mathcal{N}$   $\mapsto$  brick vector  $B(\Lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$

$B(\Lambda)_j =$  number of bricks of  $\mathcal{N}$  below the  $j$ th pseudoline of  $\Lambda$

# BRICK POLYTOPE

---



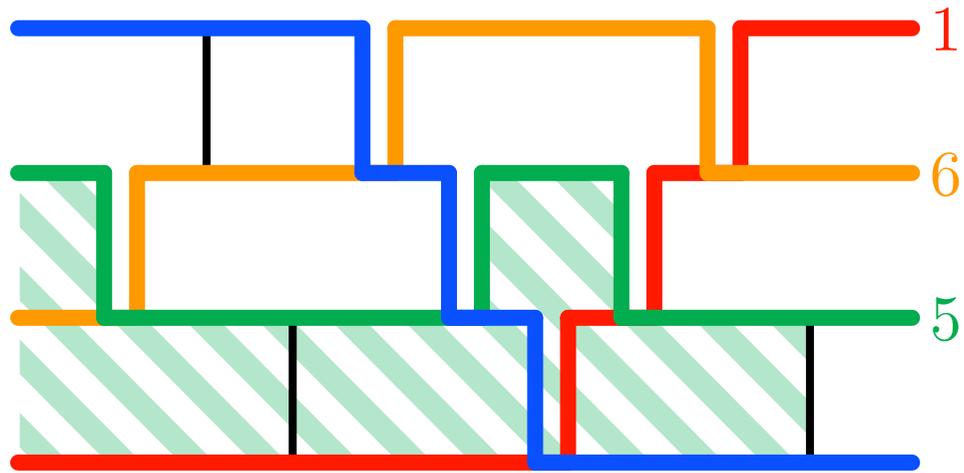
$\mathcal{N}$  a sorting network with  $n + 1$  levels

$\Lambda$  pseudoline arrangement supported by  $\mathcal{N}$   $\mapsto$  brick vector  $B(\Lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$

$B(\Lambda)_j =$  number of bricks of  $\mathcal{N}$  below the  $j$ th pseudoline of  $\Lambda$

# BRICK POLYTOPE

---



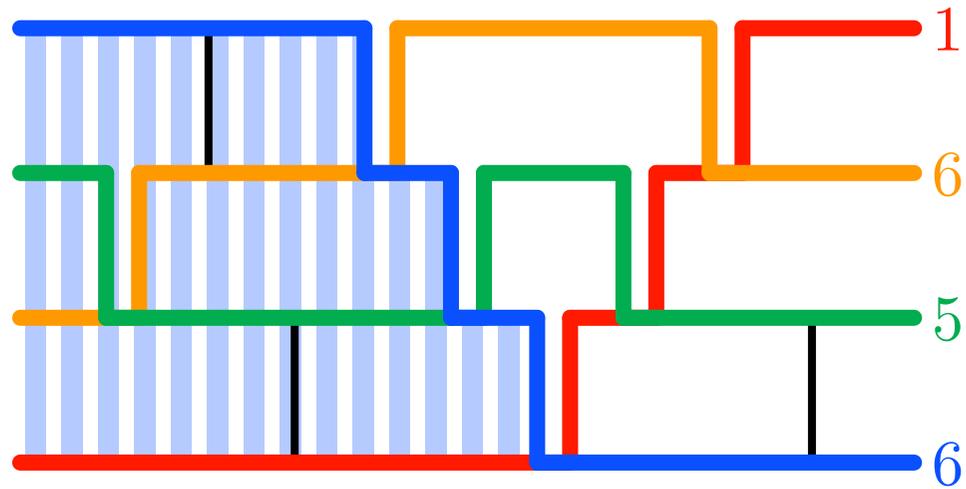
$\mathcal{N}$  a sorting network with  $n + 1$  levels

$\Lambda$  pseudoline arrangement supported by  $\mathcal{N}$   $\mapsto$  brick vector  $B(\Lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$

$B(\Lambda)_j =$  number of bricks of  $\mathcal{N}$  below the  $j$ th pseudoline of  $\Lambda$

# BRICK POLYTOPE

---



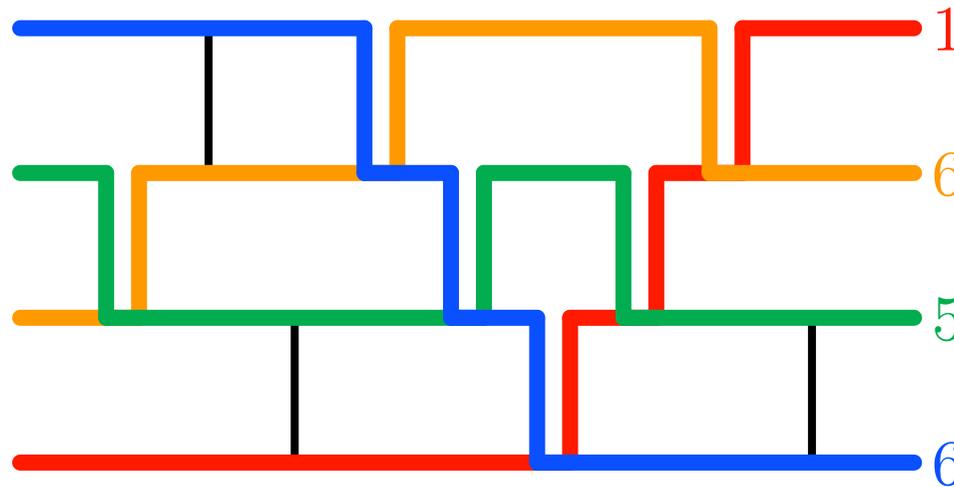
$\mathcal{N}$  a sorting network with  $n + 1$  levels

$\Lambda$  pseudoline arrangement supported by  $\mathcal{N}$   $\mapsto$  brick vector  $B(\Lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$

$B(\Lambda)_j =$  number of bricks of  $\mathcal{N}$  below the  $j$ th pseudoline of  $\Lambda$

# BRICK POLYTOPE

---



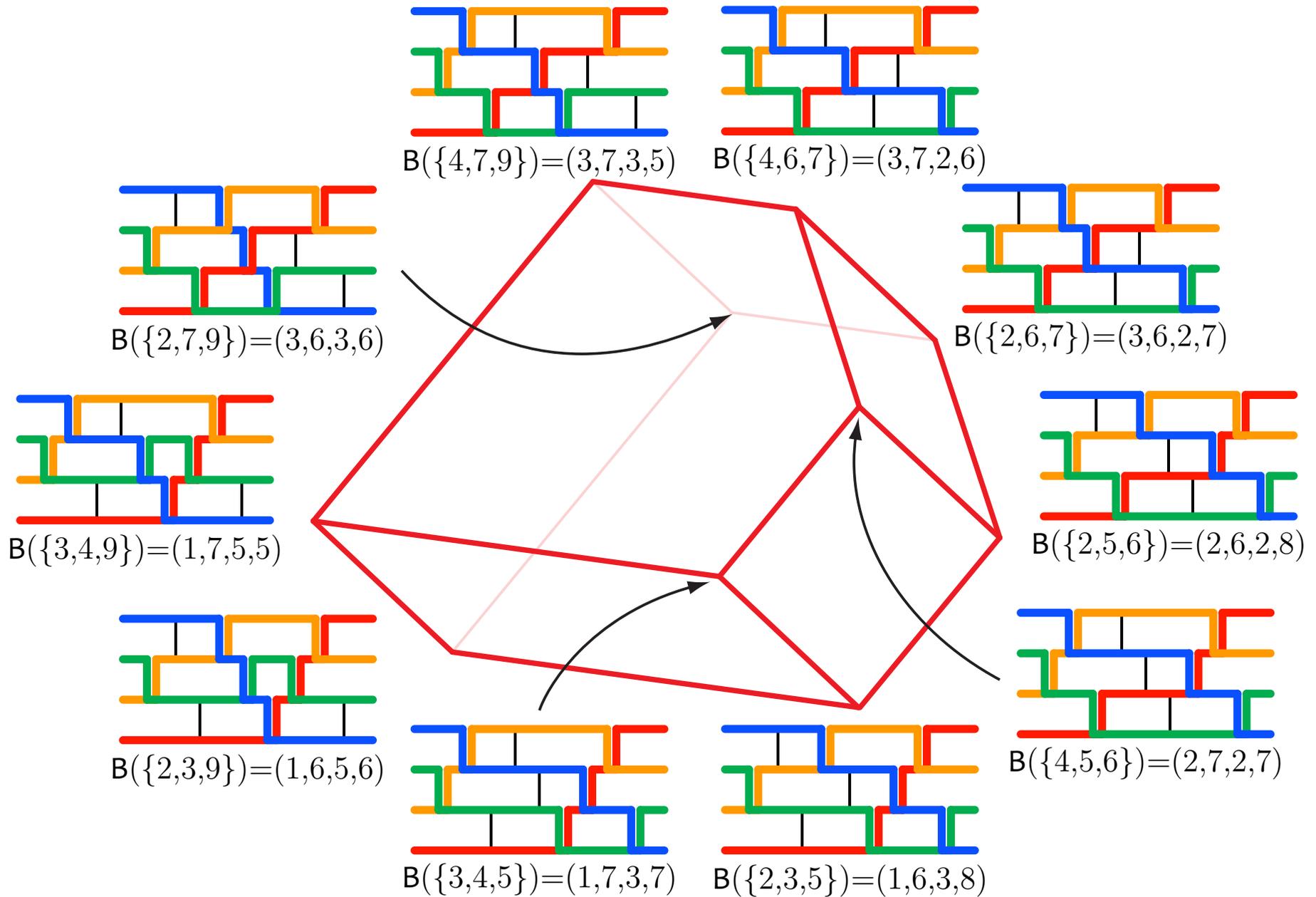
$\mathcal{N}$  a sorting network with  $n + 1$  levels

$\Lambda$  pseudoline arrangement supported by  $\mathcal{N}$   $\mapsto$  brick vector  $B(\Lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$

$B(\Lambda)_j =$  number of bricks of  $\mathcal{N}$  below the  $j$ th pseudoline of  $\Lambda$

Brick polytope  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{N}) = \text{conv} \{B(\Lambda) \mid \Lambda \text{ pseudoline arrangement supported by } \mathcal{N}\}$

# BRICK POLYTOPE



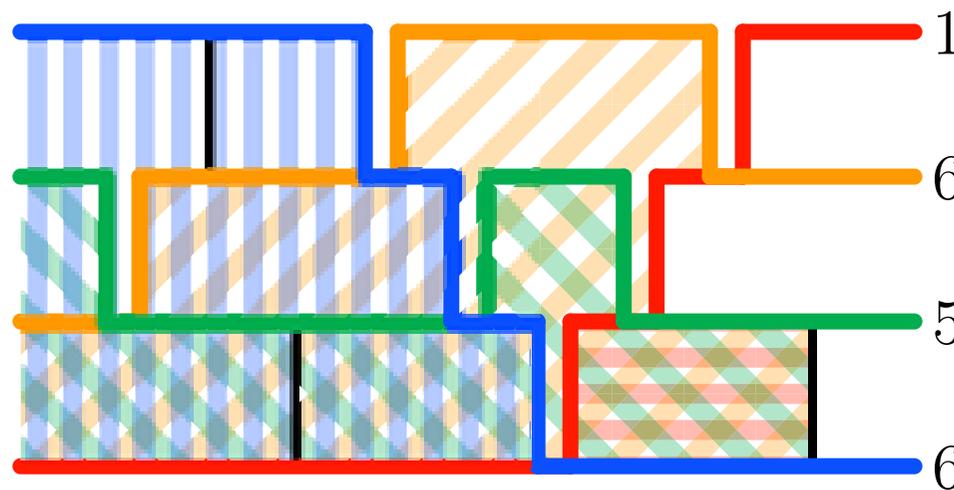
# WEIGHT FUNCTION, BRICK VECTOR & BRICK POLYTOPE

$(W, S)$  a finite Coxeter system,  $Q = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_m$  a word on  $S$ ,  $w_o$  longest element of  $W$ .  
 $\mathcal{S}(Q) = \mathcal{S}(Q, w_o)$  spherical subword complex.

To a facet  $I$  of  $\mathcal{S}(Q)$  and a position  $k \in [m]$ , associate a weight  $w(I, k) = Q_{[k-1] \setminus I}(\omega_{q_k})$ , where  $Q_{[k-1] \setminus I}$  is the product of all reflections  $q_j$  for  $j$  from 1 to  $k-1$  but not in  $I$ .

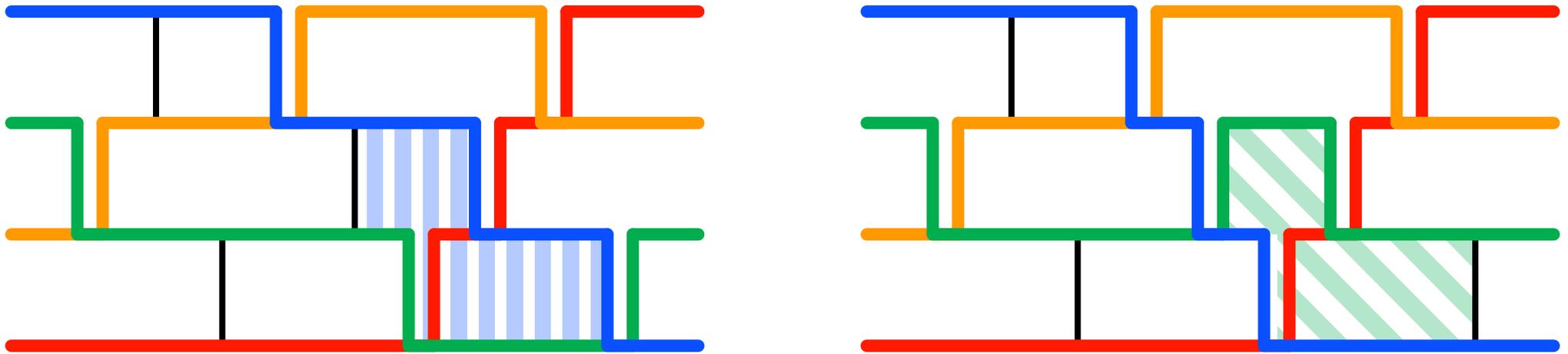
The **brick vector** of  $I$  is the vector  $B(I) = \sum_{k \in [m]} w(I, k)$ .

The **brick polytope** is the convex polytope  $\mathcal{B}(Q) = \text{conv} \{B(I) \mid I \text{ facet of } \mathcal{S}(Q)\}$ .



In type  $A$ ,  $w(I, k) =$  characteristic vector of the pseudolines passing above the  $k$ th brick.  
 $B(I) = (\text{number of bricks below the } j\text{th pseudoline of } I)_{j \in [n+1]}$

# BRICK VECTORS AND FLIPS



If  $\Lambda$  and  $\Lambda'$  are two pseudoline arrangements supported by  $\mathcal{N}$  and related by a flip between their  $i$ th and  $j$ th pseudolines, then  $B(\Lambda) - B(\Lambda') \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}(e_j - e_i)$ .

**THEOREM.** The cone of the brick polytope  $\mathcal{B}(Q)$  at the brick vector  $B(I)$  is generated by  $-R(I)$ , for any facet  $I$  of  $\mathcal{S}(Q)$ .

# BRICK POLYTOPE

---

The **brick polytope** is the convex polytope  $\mathcal{B}(Q) = \text{conv} \{B(I) \mid I \text{ facet of } \mathcal{S}(Q)\}$ .

**THEOREM.** The polar of the brick polytope  $\mathcal{B}(Q)$  realizes the subword complex  $\mathcal{S}(Q)$   
 $\iff Q$  is such that  $R(I)$  is linearly independent, for  $I$  facet of  $\mathcal{S}(Q)$ .

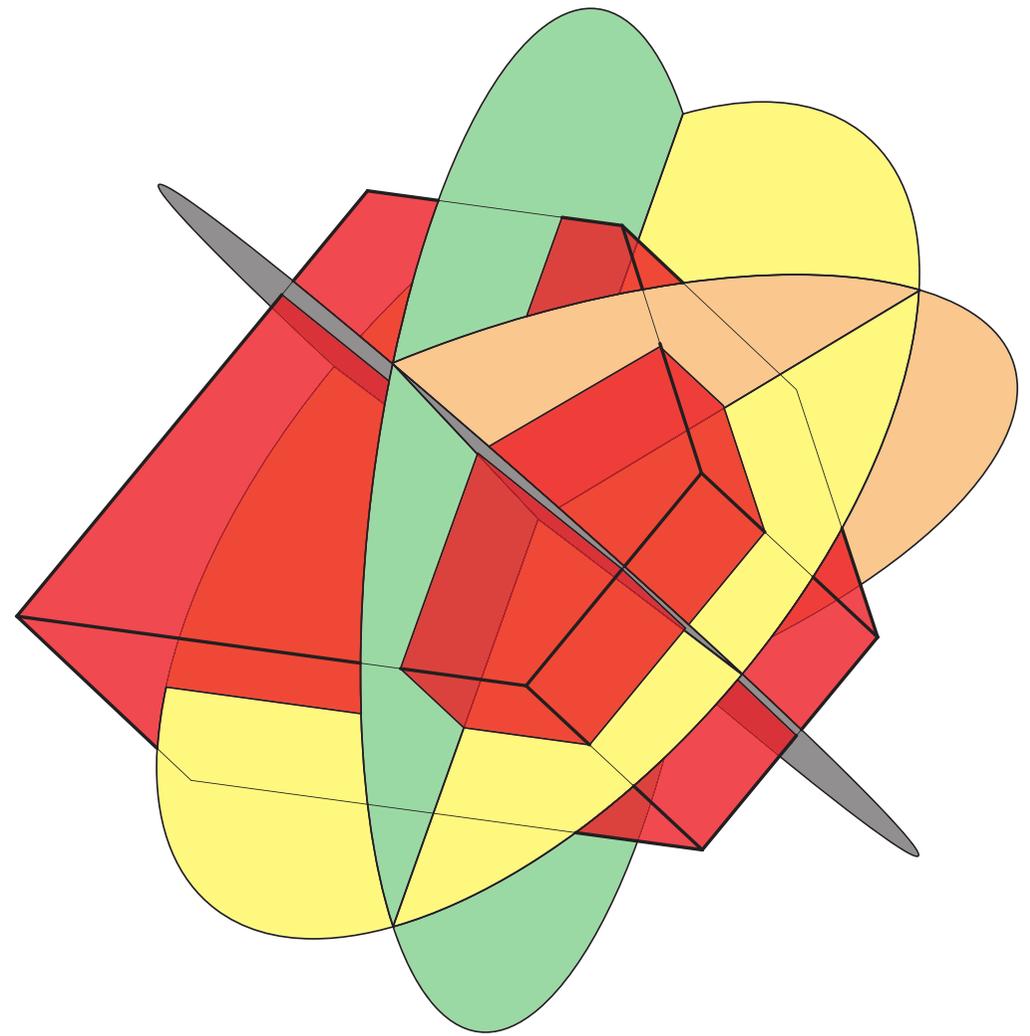
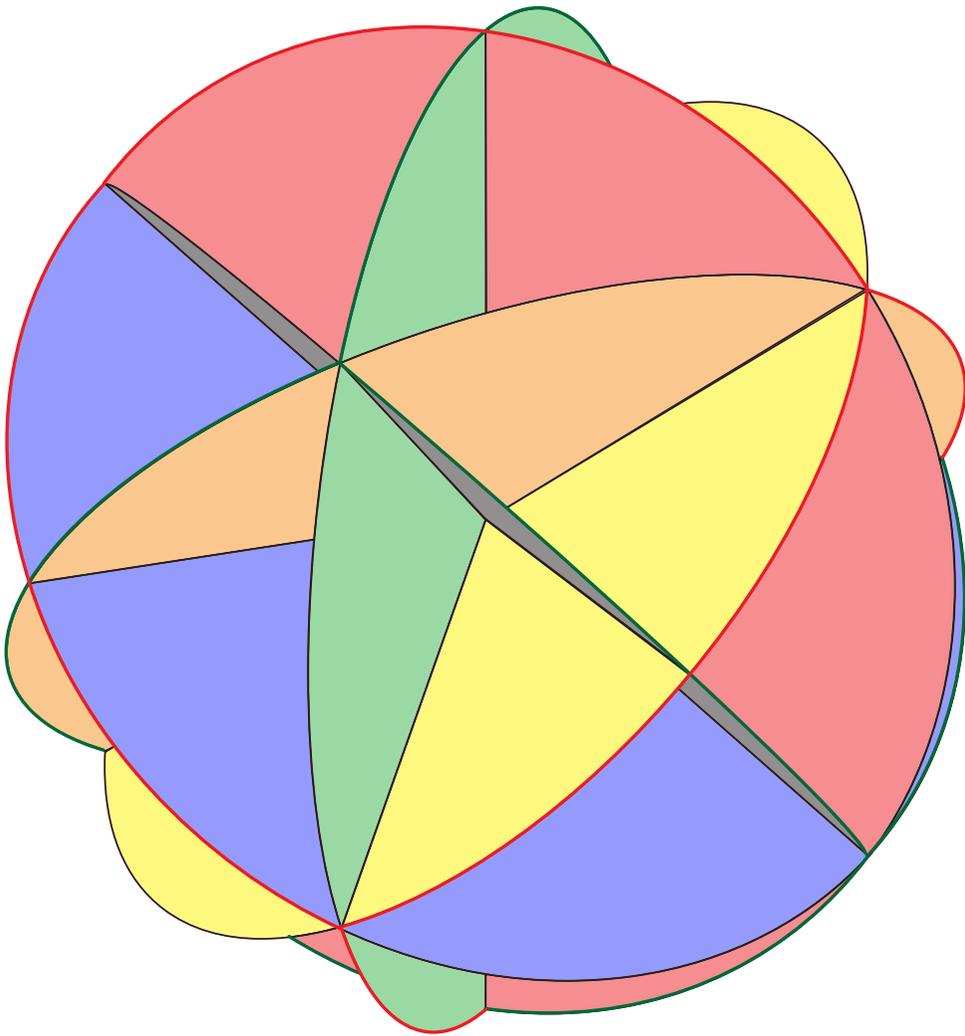
**THEOREM.** If  $Q$  is realizing, the cone of the brick polytope  $\mathcal{B}(Q)$  at the brick vector  $B(I)$  is generated by  $-R(I)$ , for any facet  $I$  of  $\mathcal{S}(Q)$ .

**THEOREM.** If  $Q$  is realizing, the Coxeter fan refines the normal fan of the brick polytope.  
More precisely,

$$\text{normal cone of } B(I) \text{ in } \mathcal{B}(Q) = \bigcup_{\substack{w \in W \\ R(I) \subset w(\Phi^+)}} w(\text{fundamental cone}).$$

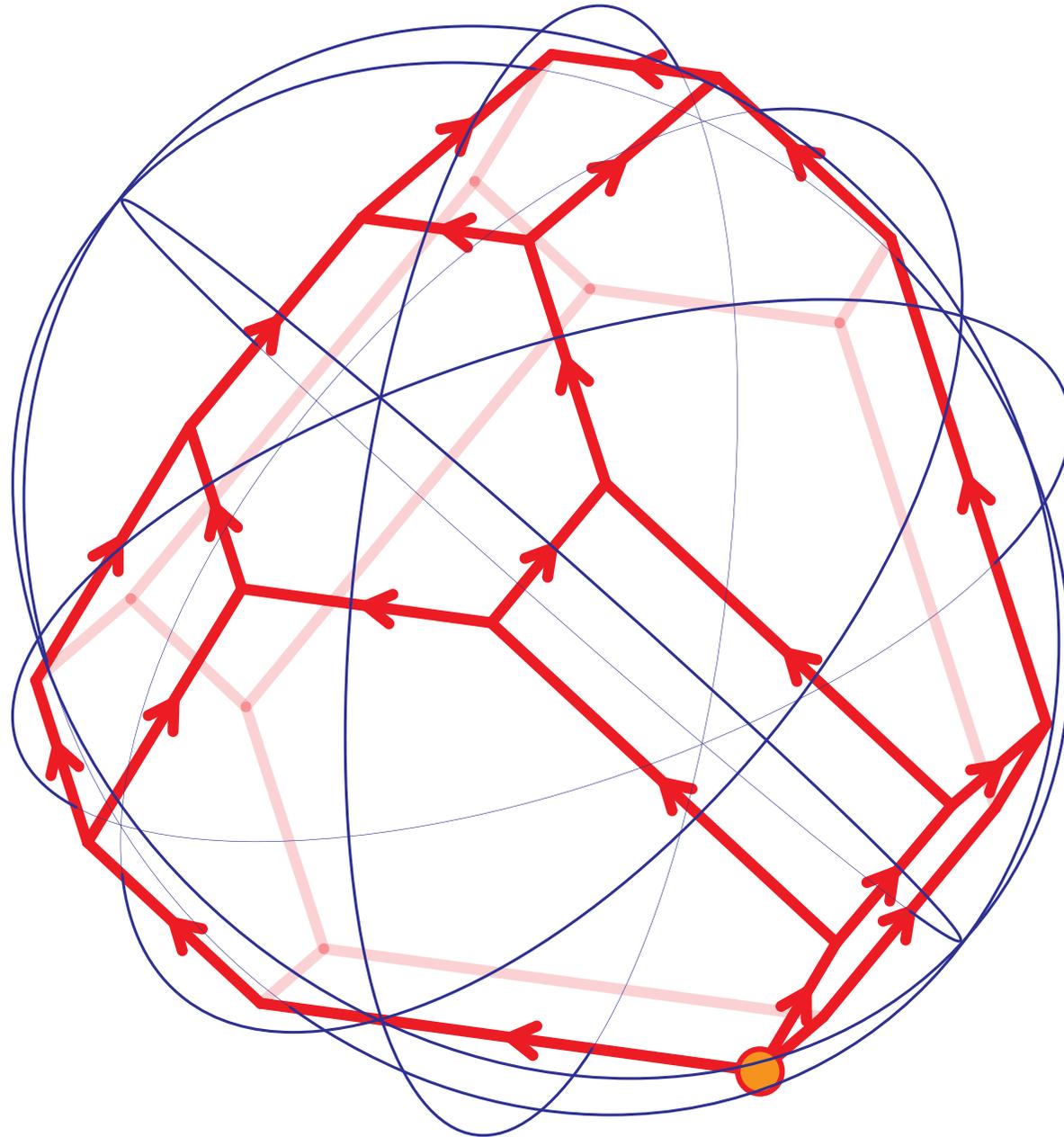
# NORMAL FAN

**THEOREM.** If  $Q$  is realizing, the Coxeter fan refines the normal fan of the brick polytope.



# REMEMBER THE RIGHT WEAK ORDER

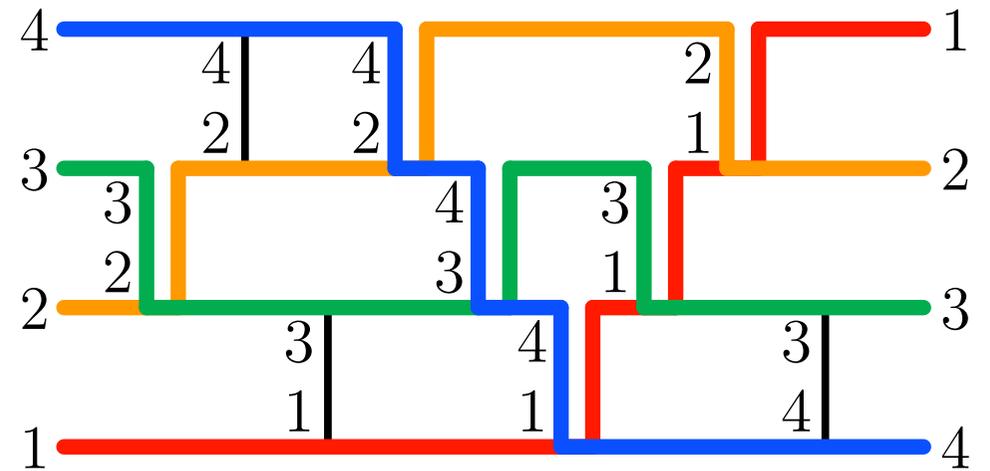
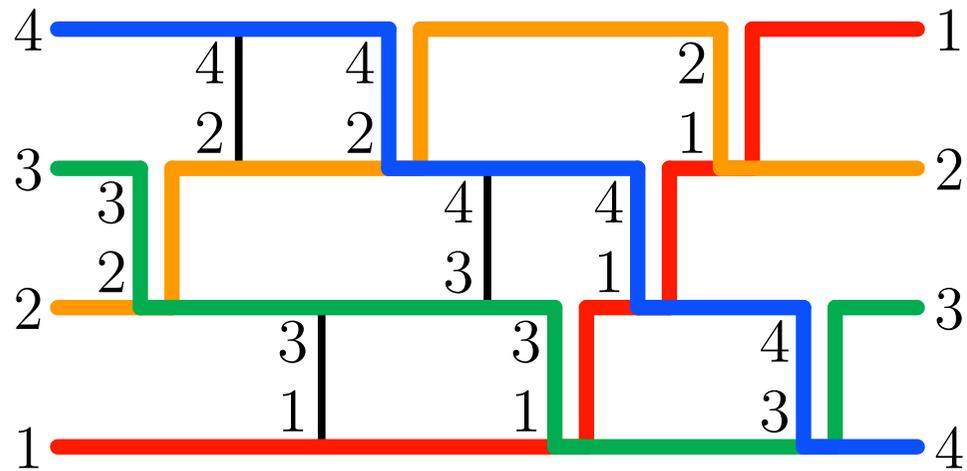
---



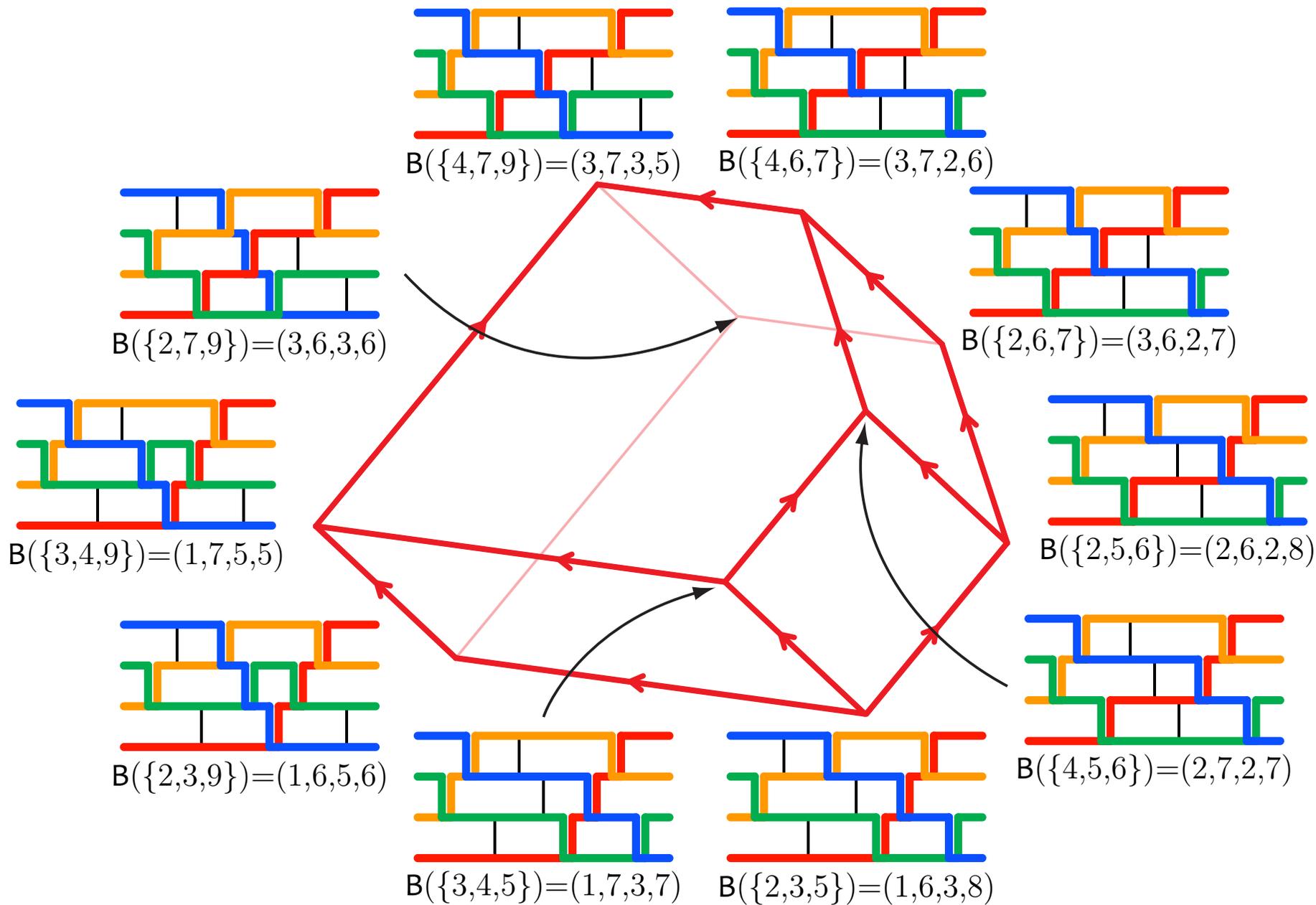
# INCREASING FLIP GRAPH

$I, J$  two adjacent facets of  $\mathcal{S}(Q)$ , with  $I \setminus i = J \setminus j$ .

The flip from  $I$  to  $J$  is **increasing** if  $i < j$ .



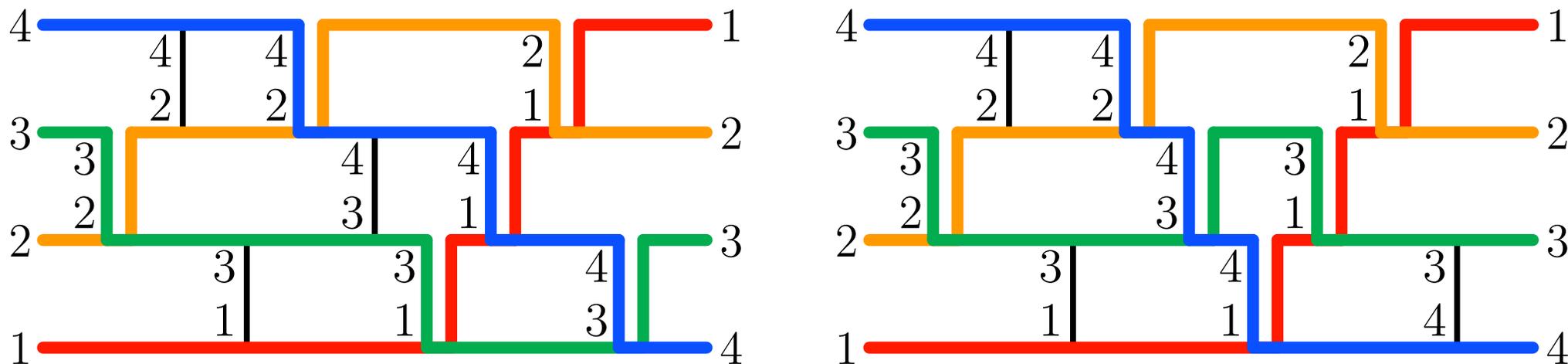
# INCREASING FLIP GRAPH



# INCREASING FLIP GRAPH

$I, J$  two adjacent facets of  $\mathcal{S}(Q)$ , with  $I \setminus i = J \setminus j$ .

The flip from  $I$  to  $J$  is **increasing** if  $i < j$ .

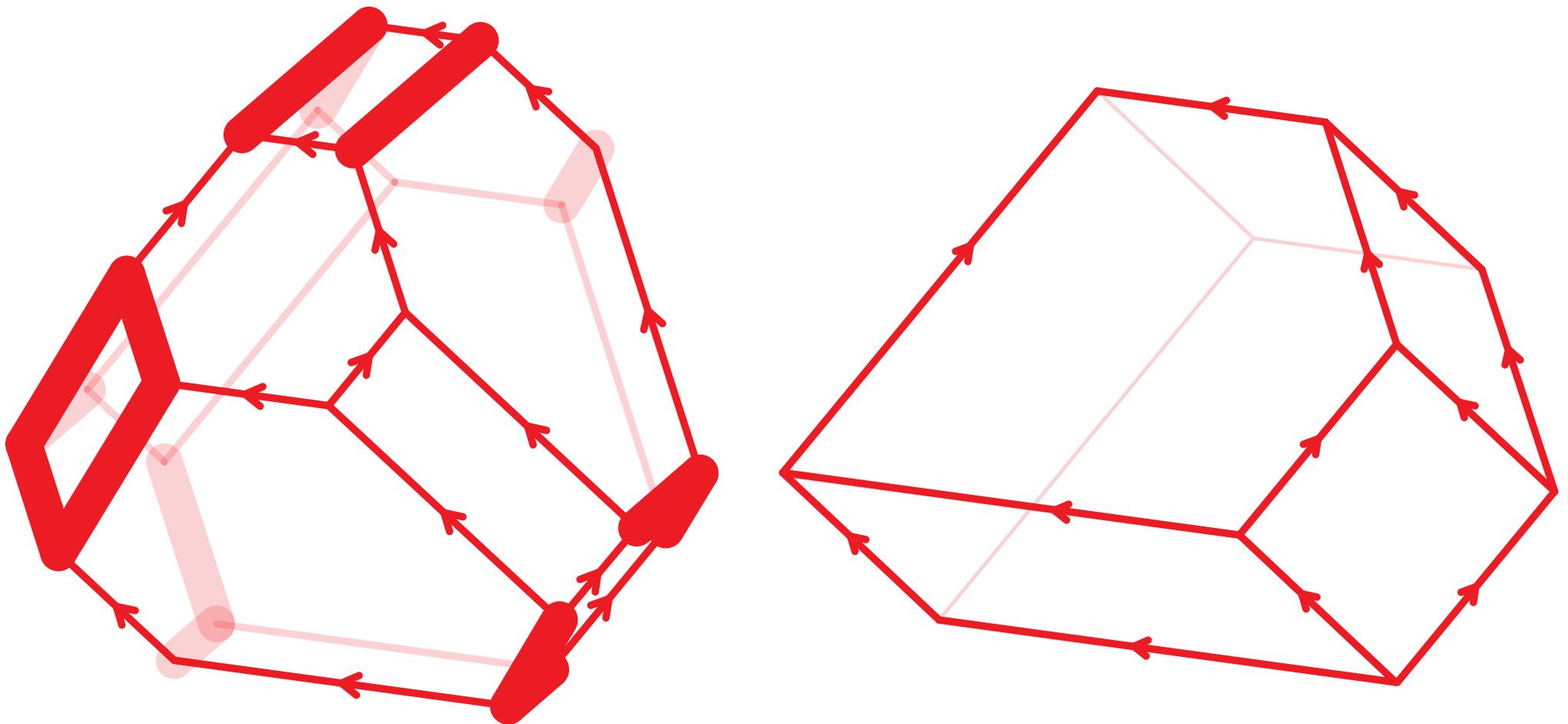


**THEOREM.** Assume that  $Q$  is realizing. Then  $I$  is covered by  $J$  in increasing flip order iff there exists  $w_I, w_J \in W$  with  $R(I) \subset w_I(\Phi^+)$ ,  $R(J) \subset w_J(\Phi^+)$  and  $w_I$  is covered by  $w_J$  in weak order.

In other words, the oriented graph of the brick polytope is a quotient of the oriented graph of the permutohedron.

# INCREASING FLIP GRAPH

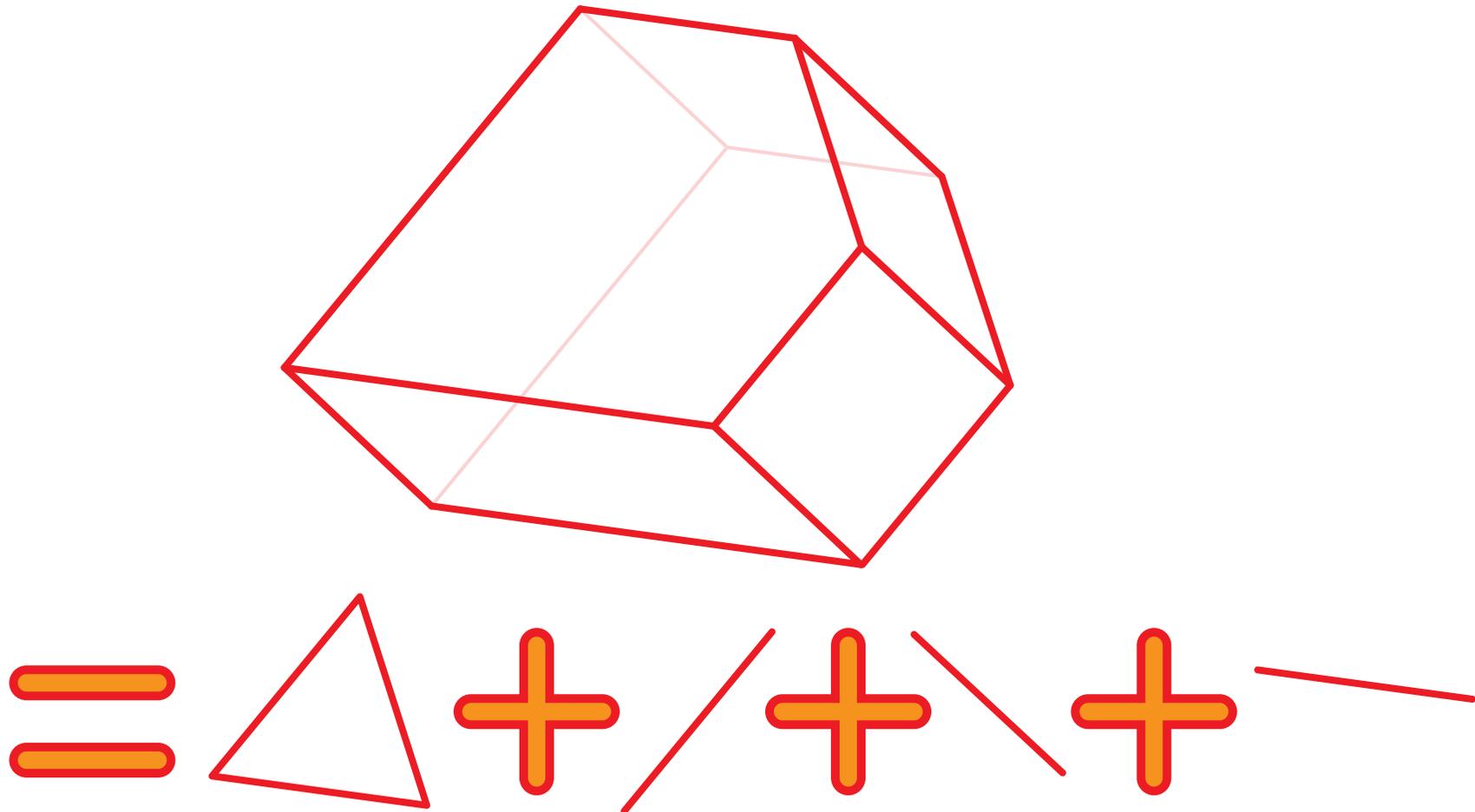
**THEOREM.** If  $Q$  is realizing, the Hasse diagram of the increasing flip order is a quotient of the Hasse diagram of the weak order.



# MINKOWSKI SUM

**THEOREM.** If  $Q$  is realizing, the brick polytope  $\mathcal{B}(Q)$  is the Minkowski sum of the polytopes  $\mathcal{B}(Q, k) = \text{conv} \{w(I, k) \mid I \text{ facet of } \mathcal{S}(Q)\}$ . In other words,

$$\mathcal{B}(Q) = \text{conv}_I \sum_k w(I, k) = \sum_k \text{conv}_I w(I, k) = \sum_k \mathcal{B}(Q, k).$$





F. Chapoton, S. Fomin & A. Zelevinsky, Polytopal realizations of generalized associahedra, 2002.

C. Hohlweg, C. Lange & H. Thomas, Permutohedra and generalized associahedra, 2011.

S. Stella, Polyhedral models for generalized associahedra via Coxeter elements, 2011.

VP & C. Stump, Brick polytopes of spherical subword complexes, 2012<sup>+</sup>.

C. Hohlweg, Permutohedra and associahedra, 2013.

# CLUSTER ALGEBRAS

---

**cluster algebra** = commutative ring generated by distinguished **cluster variables** grouped into overlapping **clusters**

clusters computed by a **mutation process** :

**cluster seed** = algebraic data  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ , combinatorial data  $B$  (matrix or quiver)

**cluster mutation** =  $(\{x_1, \dots, x_k, \dots, x_n\}, B) \xleftrightarrow{\mu_k} (\{x_1, \dots, x'_k, \dots, x_n, \mu_k(B)\})$

$$x_k \cdot x'_k = \prod_{i, b_{ik} > 0} x_i^{b_{ik}} + \prod_{i, b_{ik} < 0} x_i^{-b_{ik}}$$

$$(\mu_k(B))_{ij} = \begin{cases} -b_{ij} & \text{if } k \in \{i, j\} \\ b_{ij} + |b_{ik}| \cdot b_{kj} & \text{if } k \notin \{i, j\} \text{ and } b_{ik} \cdot b_{kj} > 0 \\ b_{ij} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**cluster complex** = simplicial complex w/ vertices = cluster variables & facets = clusters

# CLUSTER ALGEBRAS

**THEOREM.** (Laurent phenomenon)

All cluster variables are Laurent polynomials in the variables of the initial cluster seed.

S. Fomin & A. Zelevinsky, *Cluster algebras I: Foundations*, 2002.

**THEOREM.** (Classification)

Finite type cluster algebras are classified by the Cartan-Killing classification for crystallographic root systems.

S. Fomin & A. Zelevinsky, *Cluster algebras II: Finite type classification*, 2003.

In fact, for a root system  $\Phi$ , there is a bijection

cluster variables	$\longleftrightarrow$	$\Phi_{\geq -1} = \Phi^+ \cup -\Delta$
$y = \frac{F(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{x_1^{d_1} \cdots x_n^{d_n}}$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$\beta = d_1\alpha_1 + \cdots + d_n\alpha_n$
cluster	$\longleftrightarrow$	c-cluster
cluster complex	$\longleftrightarrow$	c-cluster complex

# GENERALIZED ASSOCIAHEDRA

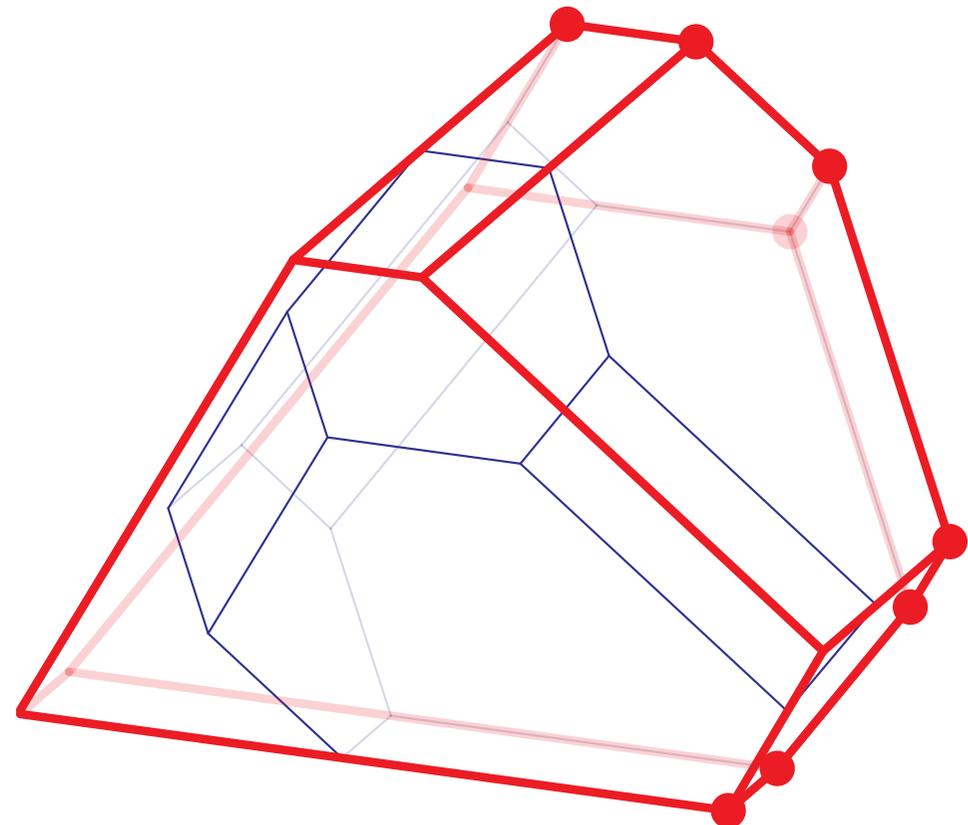
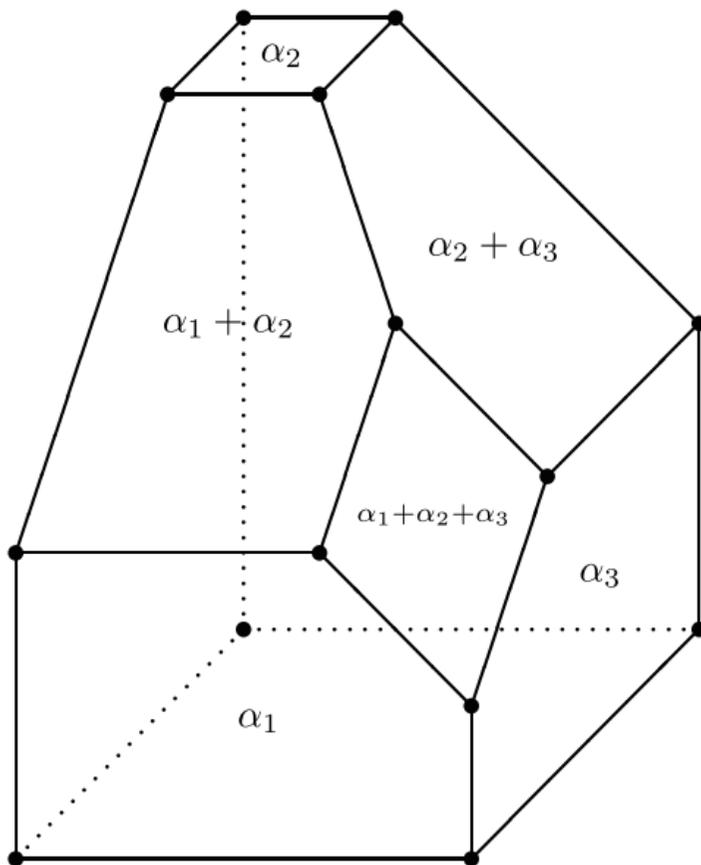
**THEOREM.** The cluster complex is polytopal.

F. Chapoton, S. Fomin & A. Zelevinsky, Polytopal realizations of generalized associahedra, 2002.

C. Hohlweg, C. Lange & H. Thomas, Permutohedra and generalized associahedra, 2011.

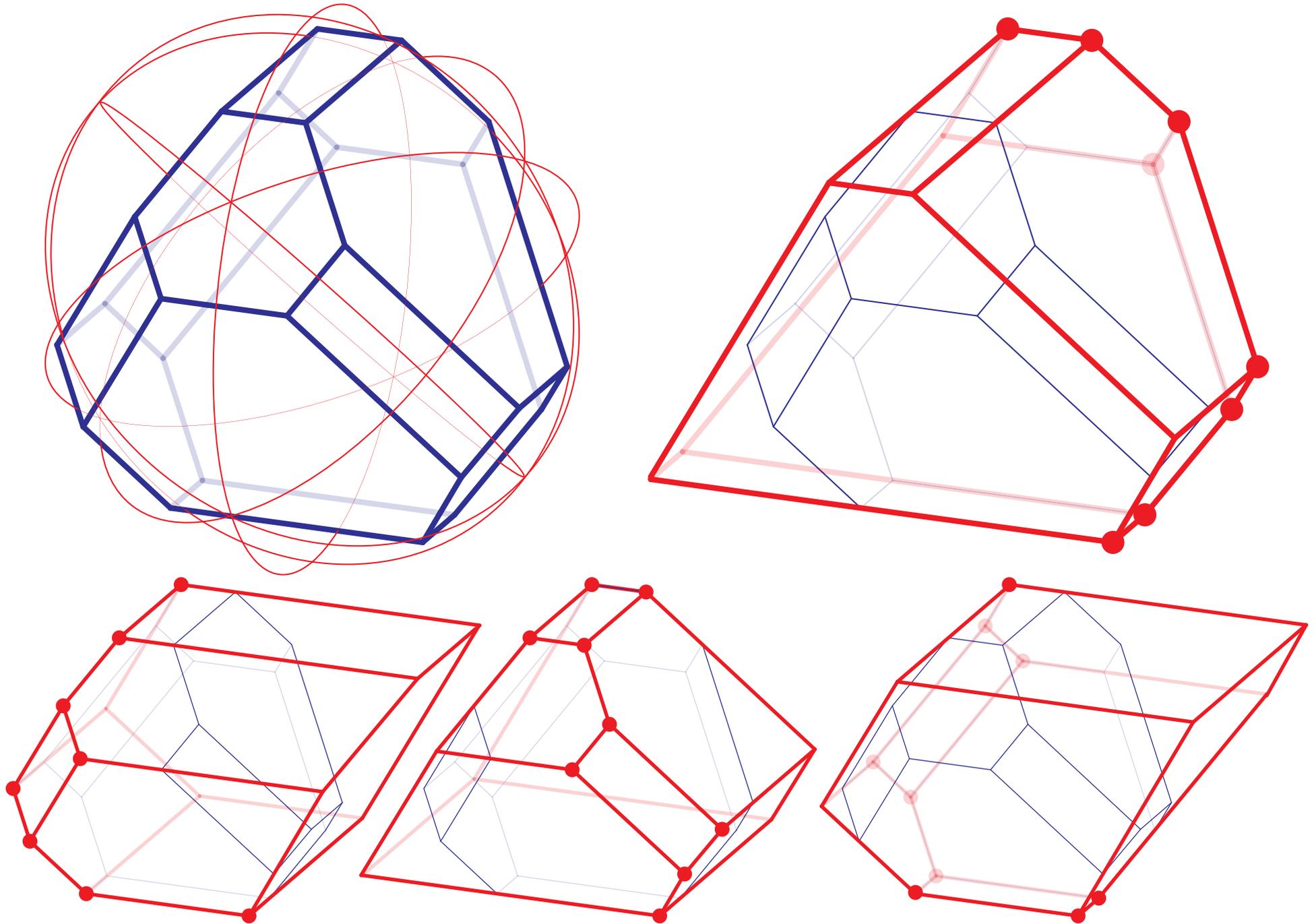
S. Stella, Polyhedral models for generalized associahedra via Coxeter elements, 2013.

C. Hohlweg, Permutohedra and associahedra, 2013.



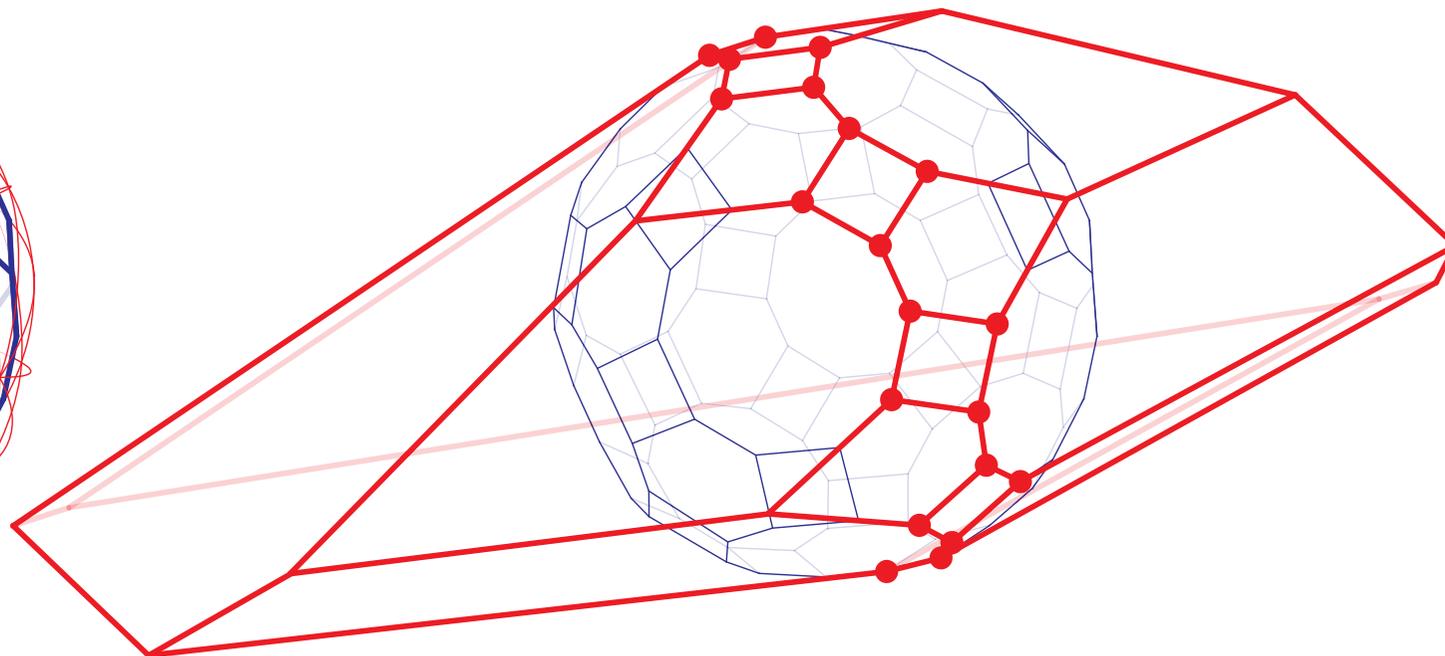
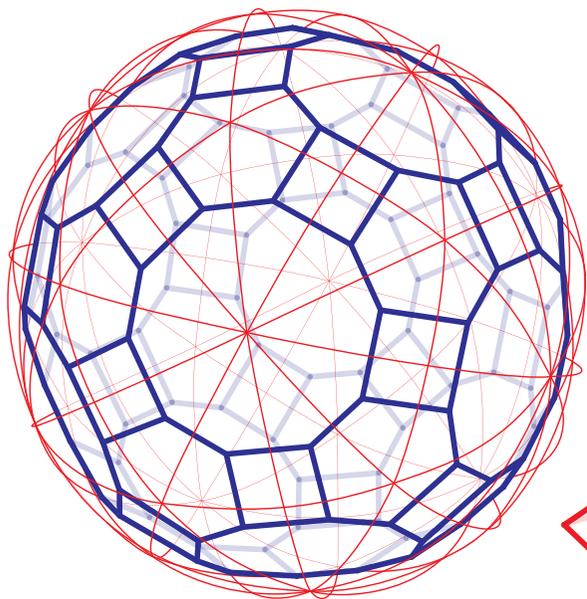
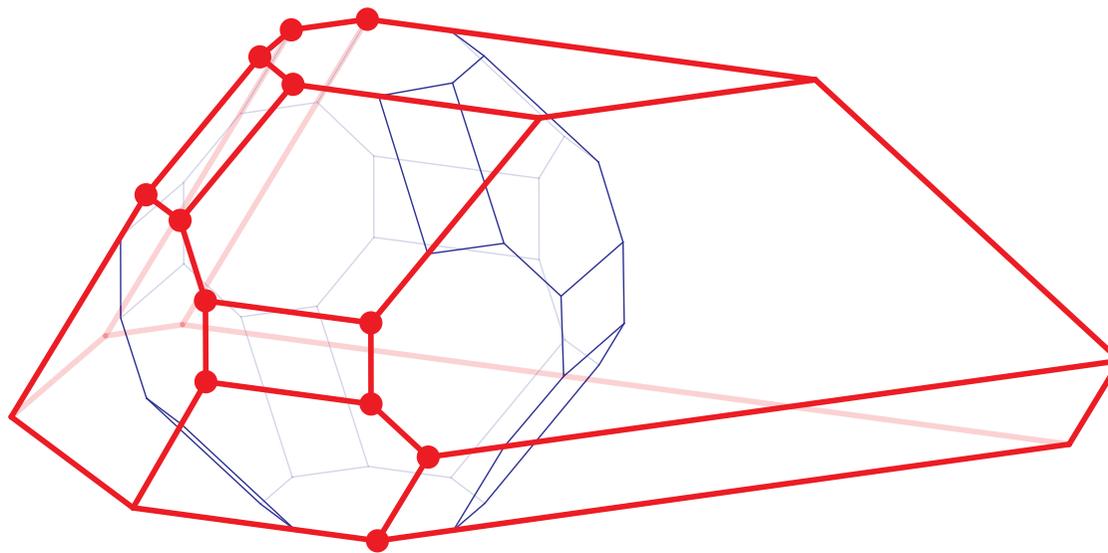
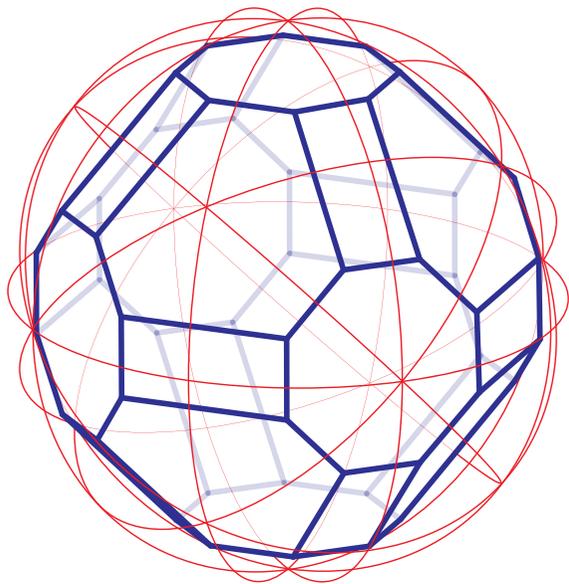
# GENERALIZED ASSOCIAHEDRA

---



# GENERALIZED ASSOCIAHEDRA

---



# GENERALIZED ASSOCIAHEDRA ARE BRICK POLYTOPES

New approach to the combinatorics and geometry of the cluster complex:

**THEOREM.** The subword complex  $\mathcal{S}(cw_o(c))$  is isomorphic to the cluster complex.

C. Ceballos, JP. Labbé & C. Stump, Subword complexes, cluster complexes, & gener. multiassoc., 2011.

cluster variables	$\longleftrightarrow$	$\Phi_{\geq -1} = \Phi^+ \cup -\Delta$	$\longleftrightarrow$	position in $cw_o(c)$
$y = \frac{F(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{x_1^{d_1} \cdots x_n^{d_n}}$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$\beta = d_1\alpha_1 + \cdots + d_n\alpha_n$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$\begin{cases} i & \text{if } \beta = -\alpha_{c_i} \\ j & \text{if } \beta = r([n], j) \end{cases}$
cluster	$\longleftrightarrow$	c-cluster	$\longleftrightarrow$	facet of $\mathcal{S}(cw_o(c))$
cluster complex	$\longleftrightarrow$	c-cluster complex	$\longleftrightarrow$	subword complex $\mathcal{S}(cw_o(c))$

**THEOREM.** The brick polytope  $\mathcal{B}(cw_o(c))$  realizes the subword complex  $\mathcal{S}(cw_o(c))$ .

**THEOREM.** The brick polytope  $\mathcal{B}(cw_o(c))$  is a translate of the known realizations of the generalized associahedron.

# FURTHER PROPERTIES OF GENERALIZED ASSOCIAHEDRA

**CAMBRIAN LATTICES & FANS.** The graph of the associahedron  $\text{Asso}_c(W)$ , oriented from  $e$  to  $w_\circ$  is the Hasse diagram of the  $c$ -Cambrian lattice.

The normal fan of the associahedron  $\text{Asso}_c(W)$  is the  $c$ -Cambrian fan, obtained by coarsening the braid fan.

Reading, Sortable elements and Cambrian lattices, 2007.

Reading & Speyer, Cambrian fans, 2009.

**DIAMETER.** The diameter of the

type $A_n$	associahedron is	$2n - 4$ for $n \geq 9$ .
type $D_n$		$2n - 2$ for all $n$ .

All type  $A_n, B/C_n, D_n, H_3, H_4, F_4, E_6$  associahedra fulfill the **non-leaving face property**: every geodesic connecting two vertices stays in the minimal face containing them.

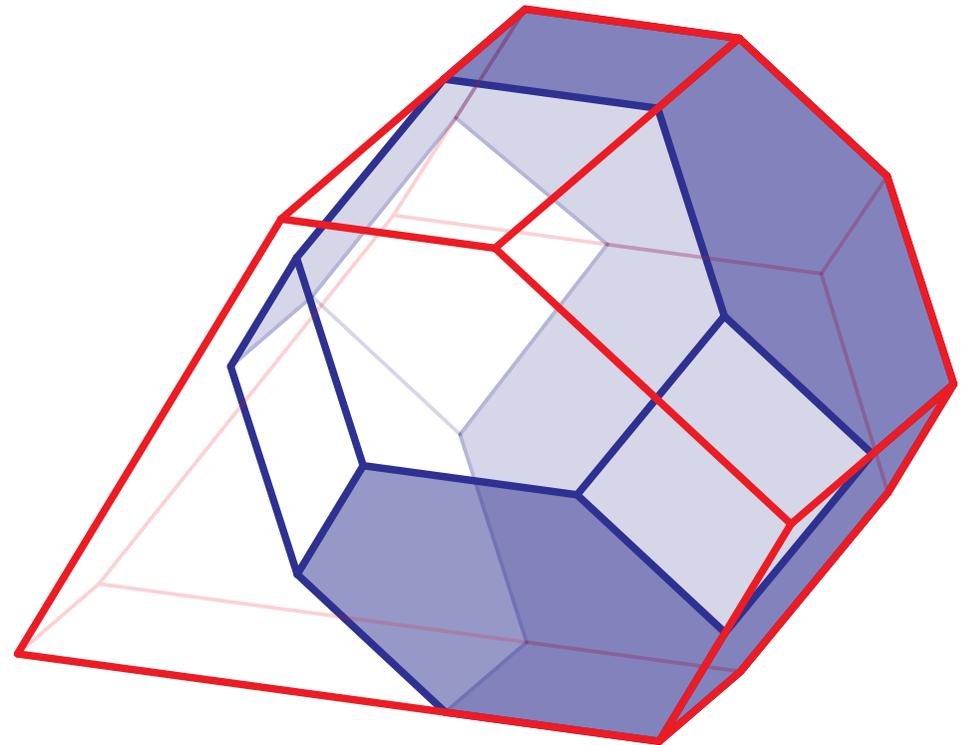
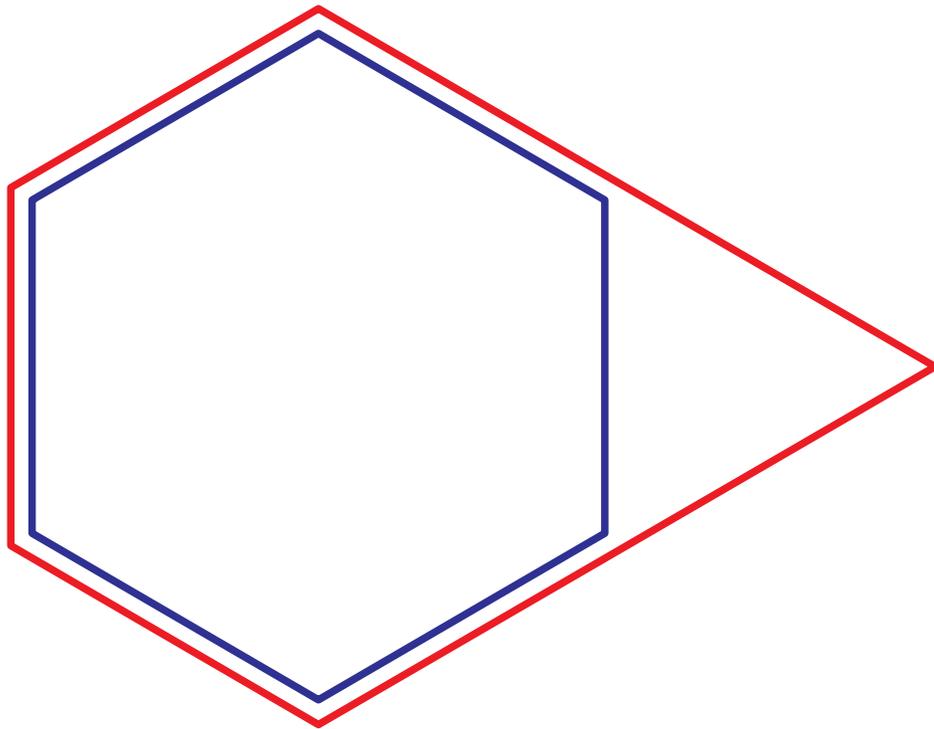
L. Pournin, The diameter of associahedra, 2014.

VP & C. Ceballos, The diameter of type  $D$  associahedra and the non-leaving face property, 2014<sup>+</sup>.

**BARYCENTER.** The vertex barycenters of the permutahedron and associahedron coincide.

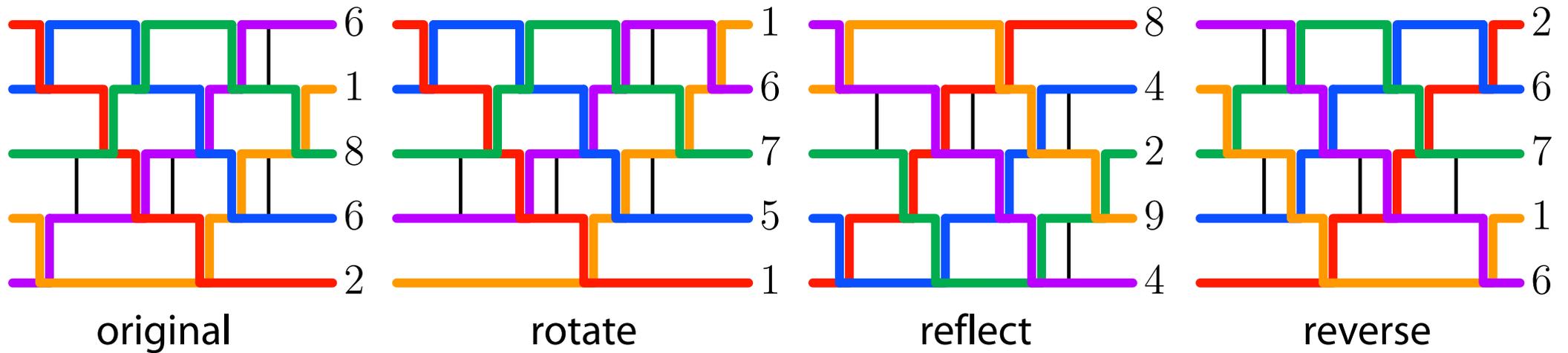
VP & C. Stump, Vertex barycenter of generalized associahedra, 2013.

# BARYCENTER



# THREE OPERATIONS

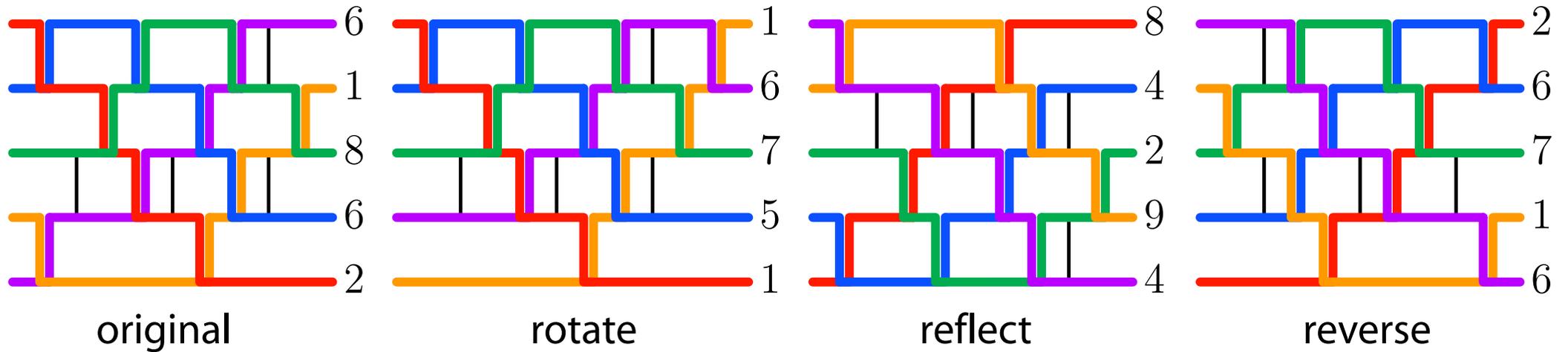
Evolution of the brick vector  $B_{\mathcal{N}}(\Lambda)$  under three operations:



1. Rotate:  $B_{\mathcal{N}^\circ}(\Lambda^\circ) - B_{\mathcal{N}}(\Lambda) \in \omega_i + \mathbb{R}(e_{i+1} - e_i)$
2. Reflect:  $B_{\mathcal{N}^\uparrow}(\Lambda^\uparrow) = \#\{\text{bricks of } \mathcal{N}\} \cdot \mathbb{1} - (B_{\mathcal{N}}(\Lambda))^{\leftrightarrow}$
3. Reverse:  $B_{\mathcal{N}^{\leftarrow}}(\Lambda^{\leftarrow}) = (B_{\mathcal{N}}(\Lambda))^{\leftarrow}$

# THREE OPERATIONS

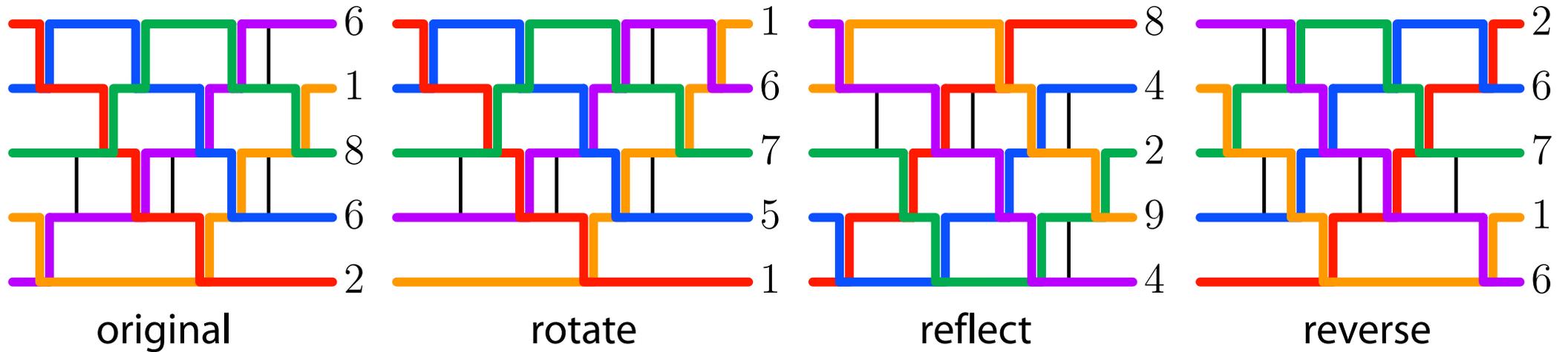
Evolution of the translated brick vector  $\bar{B}_c(\Lambda) = B_c(\Lambda) - \Omega_c$  under three operations:



1. Rotate:  $\bar{B}_{c^\circ}(\Lambda^\circ) - \bar{B}_c(\Lambda) \in \mathbb{R}(e_{i+1} - e_i)$
2. Reflect:  $\bar{B}_{c^\downarrow}(\Lambda^\downarrow) = -(\bar{B}_c(\Lambda))^{\leftarrow}$
3. Reverse:  $\bar{B}_{c^\leftrightarrow}(\Lambda^\leftrightarrow) = (\bar{B}_c(\Lambda))^{\leftarrow}$

# THREE OPERATIONS

Evolution of the translated brick vector  $\bar{B}_c(\Lambda) = B_c(\Lambda) - \Omega_c$  under three operations:

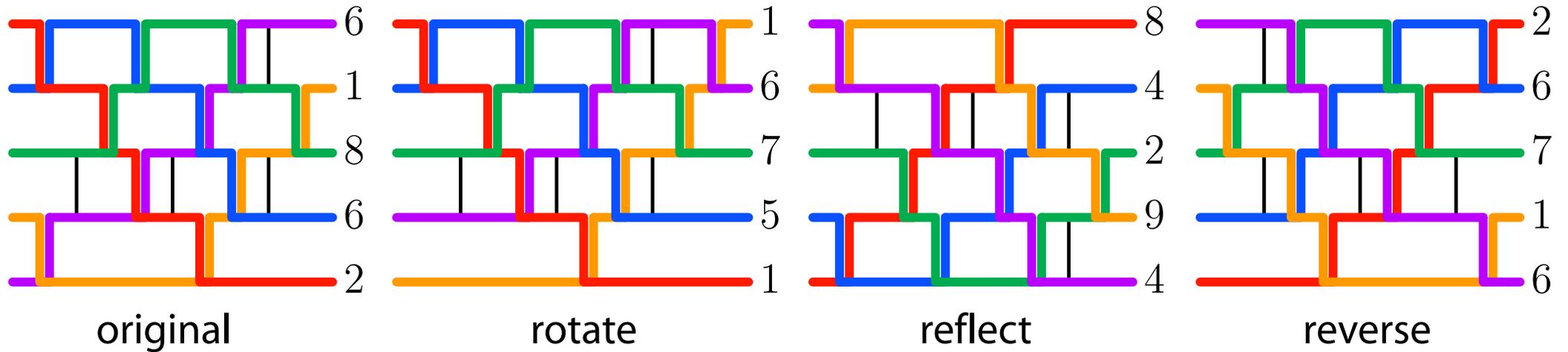


1. Rotate:  $\bar{B}_{c^\circ}(\Lambda^\circ) - \bar{B}_c(\Lambda) \in \mathbb{R}(e_{i+1} - e_i)$

All associahedra  $\text{Ass}_{\Omega_c}$  have the same barycenter

# THREE OPERATIONS

Evolution of the translated brick vector  $\bar{B}_c(\Lambda) = B_c(\Lambda) - \Omega_c$  under three operations:



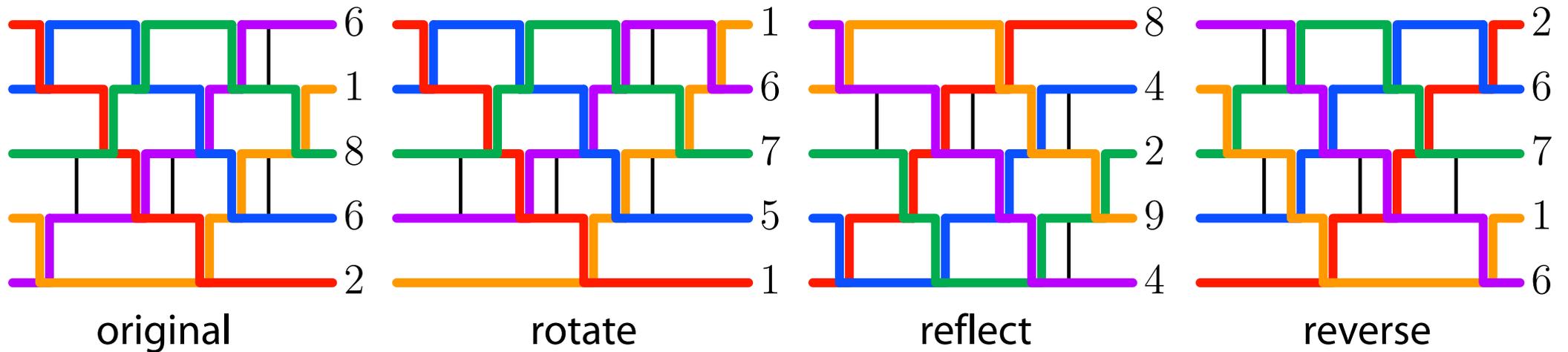
2. Reflect:  $\bar{B}_{c\downarrow}(\Lambda^\downarrow) = -(\bar{B}_c(\Lambda))^{\leftrightarrow}$

3. Reverse:  $\bar{B}_{c\leftrightarrow}(\Lambda^{\leftrightarrow}) = (\bar{B}_c(\Lambda))^{\leftrightarrow}$

The barycenter of the superposition of the vertices of  $Ass_{c\downarrow}$  and  $Ass_{c\leftrightarrow}$  is the origin

# THREE OPERATIONS

Evolution of the translated brick vector  $\bar{B}_c(\Lambda) = B_c(\Lambda) - \Omega_c$  under three operations:



All associahedra  $Assoc_c$  have the same barycenter

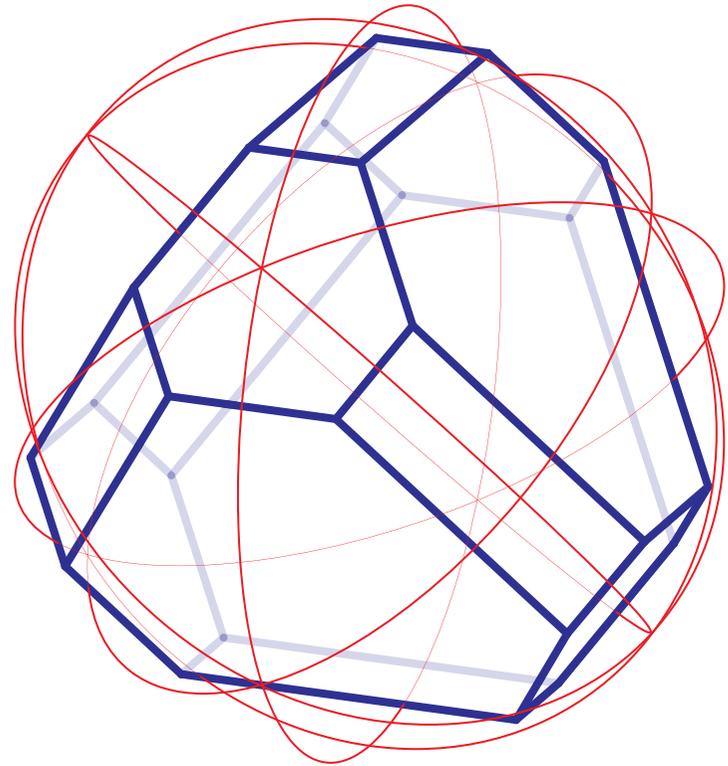
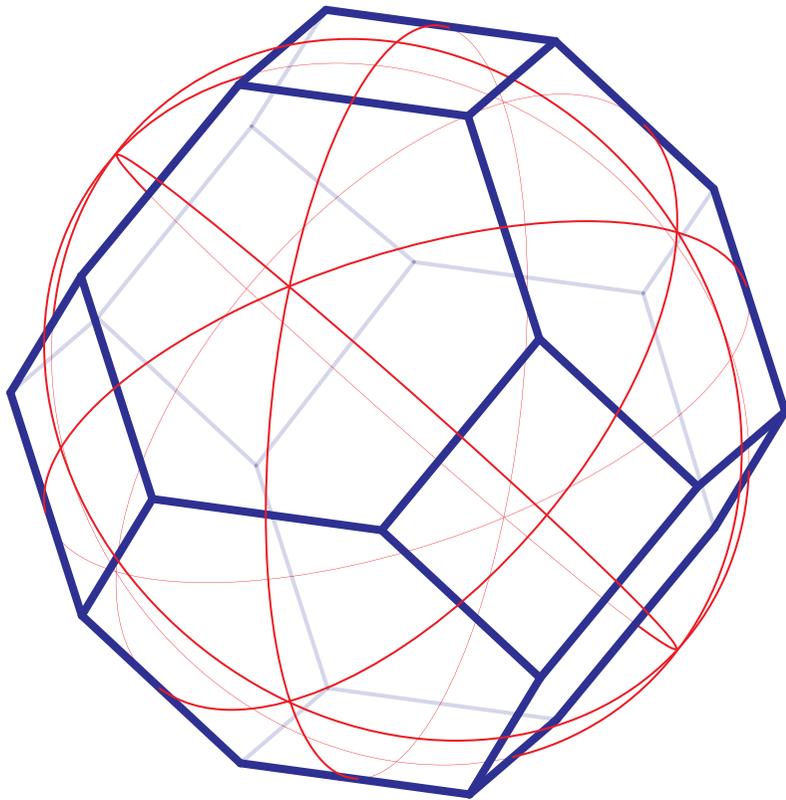
The barycenter of the superposition of the vertices of  $Assoc_{c\downarrow}$  and  $Assoc_{c\leftrightarrow}$  is the origin

**THEOREM.** All associahedra  $Assoc_c$  have vertex barycenter at the origin

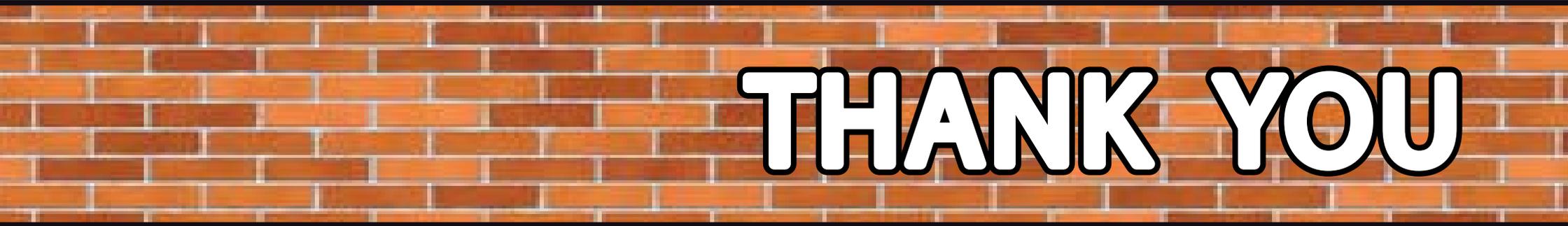
... and the same method works for fairly balanced and generalized associahedra.

# BARYCENTER

THEOREM. For any finite Coxeter group  $W$ ,  
any Coxeter element  $c$ , any fairly-balanced point  $u$ ,  
the vertex barycenters of the generalized  
associahedron  $\text{Asso}_c^u(W)$  and of the permutahedron  $\text{Perm}^u(W)$  coincide.



The point  $u$  is **fairly balanced** if  $w_o(u) = -u$ , where  $w_o$  is the longest element in  $W$ .

A horizontal band of a brick wall texture, featuring reddish-brown bricks with light-colored mortar lines, spanning the width of the image.

**THANK YOU**