

The positive tropical Grassmannian, the hypersimplex, and the $m = 2$ amplituhedron

Lauren K. Williams, Harvard

Slides at

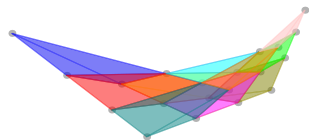
<http://people.math.harvard.edu/~williams/Zoomplitudes.pdf>

Based on:

- “The positive tropical Grassmannian, the hypersimplex, and the $m = 2$ amplituhedron,” with Tomasz Lukowski and Matteo Parisi, arXiv:2002.06164
- “The positive Dressian equals the positive tropical Grassmannian,” with David Speyer, arXiv:2003.10231

Overview of the talk

I. Amplituhedron '13
Arkani-Hamed–Trnka
 $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

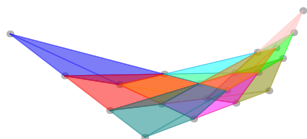


II. Hypersimplex and moment map '87
Gelfand–Goresky–MacPherson–Serganova
matroids, torus orbits on $Gr_{k,n}$

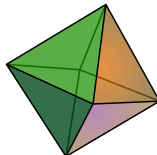
III. Positive tropical Grassmannian '05
Speyer–W.
associahedron, cluster algebras
connected to amplitudes, “pos. configuration space”

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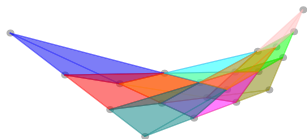
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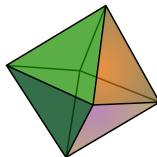
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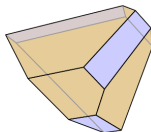
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- T-duality map connects amplituhedron triangulations and hypersimplex triangulations
- Conjecture, results, and summary

Background on the (TNN) Grassmannian

The **Grassmannian** $Gr_{k,n} = Gr_{k,n}(\mathbb{R}) := \{V \mid V \subset \mathbb{R}^n, \dim V = k\}$
Represent an element of $Gr_{k,n}(\mathbb{R})$ by a full-rank $k \times n$ matrix A .

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Can think of $Gr_{k,n}(\mathbb{R})$ as $Mat_{k,n}/\sim$.

Given $I \in \binom{[n]}{k}$, the **Plücker coordinate** $p_I(A)$ is the minor of the $k \times k$ submatrix of A in column set I .

The **TNN (totally nonnegative) Grassmannian** $(Gr_{k,n})_{\geq 0}$ is the subset of $Gr_{k,n}(\mathbb{R})$ where $p_I(A) \geq 0$.

Def due to Postnikov from early 2000's. Earlier Lusztig defined $(G/P)_{\geq 0}$. Not obvious that Lusztig's definition – in the case of $Gr_{k,n}$ – agrees with Postnikov's – but this is true (Rietsch 2007).

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$(Gr_{k,n})_{\geq 0}$ is the subset of $Gr_{k,n}$ where $p_I \geq 0$ for all I .

One can partition $(Gr_{k,n})_{\geq 0}$ into pieces based on which Plücker coordinates are positive and which are 0.

Let $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \binom{[n]}{k}$. Let $S_{\mathcal{M}}^{tnn} := \{A \in (Gr_{k,n})_{\geq 0} \mid p_I(A) > 0 \text{ iff } I \in \mathcal{M}\}$.

(Postnikov) If $S_{\mathcal{M}}^{tnn}$ is non-empty it is a (positroid) cell, i.e. homeomorphic to an open ball. Positroid cells S_{π} of $(Gr_{k,n})_{\geq 0}$ are in bijection with:

- Decorated permutations π on $[n]$ with k antiexcedances.
- other combinatorial objects such as on-shell diagrams.

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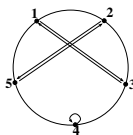
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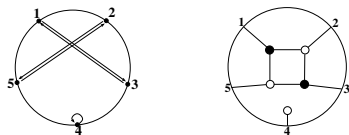
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- The amplituhedron $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,m}$ was introduced by Arkani-Hamed and Trnka in 2013.
- $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,m}$ is the image of the TNN Grassmannian under a simple map.

The amplituhedron $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,m}$

Fix n, k, m with $k + m \leq n$.

Let Z be a $n \times (k + m)$ matrix with maximal minors positive.

Let \tilde{Z} be map $(Gr_{k,n})_{\geq 0} \rightarrow Gr_{k,k+m}$ sending a $k \times n$ matrix A to AZ .

Set $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,m}(Z) := \tilde{Z}((Gr_{k,n})_{\geq 0}) \subset Gr_{k,k+m}$.

- $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,m}$ has full dimension km inside $Gr_{k,k+m}$.
- When $m = 4$, its “volume” computes scattering amplitudes in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super Yang Mills theory.

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- $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,m}$ has full dimension km inside $Gr_{k,k+m}$.
- When $m = 4$, its “volume” computes scattering amplitudes in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super Yang Mills theory.

Background and Motivation for the amplituhedron

The amplituhedron $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,m}$

Fix n, k, m with $k + m \leq n$, let $Z \in \text{Mat}_{n,k+m}^+$ (max minors > 0).

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- If $m = n - k$, $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,m} = (Gr_{k,n})_{\geq 0}$.
- If $k = 1$, $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,m} \subset Gr_{1,1+m}$ is equivalent to a cyclic polytope with n vertices in \mathbb{P}^m (Arkani-Hamed – Trnka).
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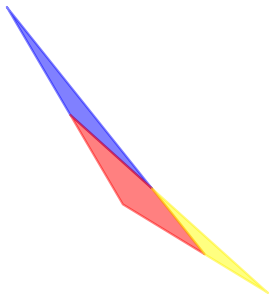
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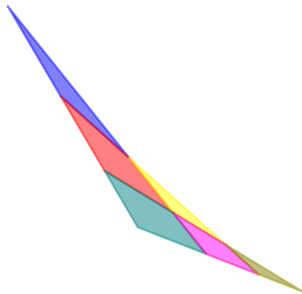
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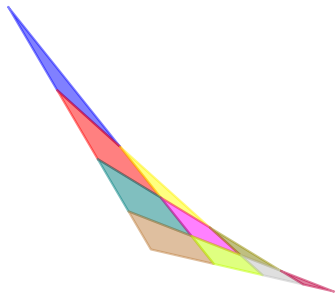
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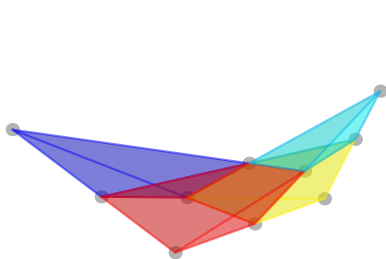
$\mathcal{A}_{4,2,1}$



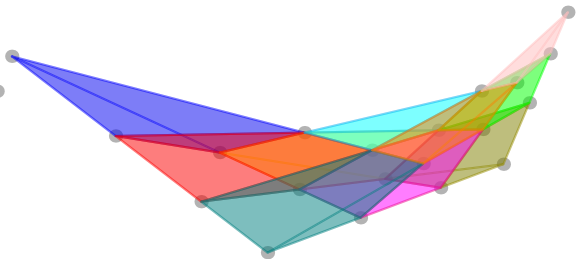
$\mathcal{A}_{5,2,1}$



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Say that a triangulation is **good** if whenever $Z_{\pi(i)} \cap Z_{\pi(j)}$ has codimension 1, it equals Z_{π} , the image of a cell S_{π} in the closure of both $S_{\pi(i)}$ and $S_{\pi(j)}$.

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Why is $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,2}$ connected to $\text{Trop}^+ Gr_{k+1,n}$? This weird coincidence was starting point of joint work with Lukowski and Parisi.

Moreover: if we generalize the notion of *good triangulation* to *good dissection* (no longer require injectivity of \tilde{Z}) and look at poset of good dissections of $\mathcal{A}_{7,2,2}$, we get f -vector (693, 2163, 2583, 1463, 392, 42, 1). This is precisely the f -vector of $\text{Trop}^+ Gr_{3,7}$!

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Simpler way to describe it (subset of $\mathbb{R}^{\binom{[n]}{k}}$ with fan structure):

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Recap: $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,2}$ versus $\text{Trop}^+ Gr_{k+1,n}$

- Let $Z \in \text{Mat}_{n,k+2}^+$.
 $\tilde{Z}: (Gr_{k,n})_{\geq 0} \rightarrow Gr_{k,k+2}$ sends matrix A to AZ .
Set $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,2} := \tilde{Z}((Gr_{k,n})_{\geq 0}) \subset Gr_{k,k+2}$.
 - Meanwhile, $\text{Trop}^+ Gr_{k+1,n}$ is the set of **positive tropical Plücker vectors** $\{P_I\}_I \in \mathbb{R}^{\binom{[n]}{k+1}}$.
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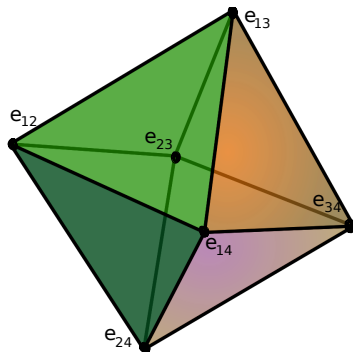
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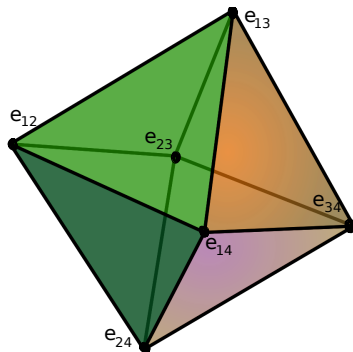
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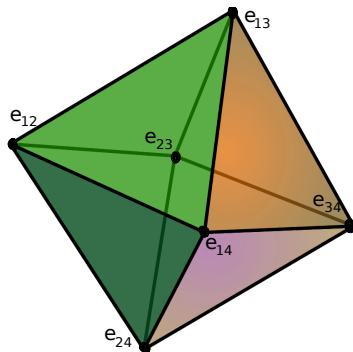
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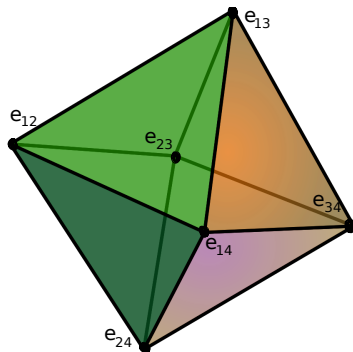
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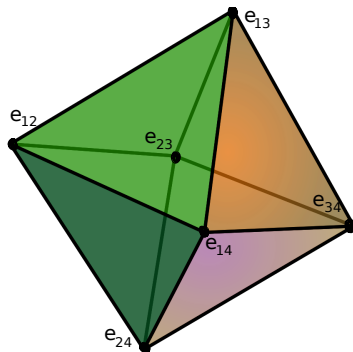
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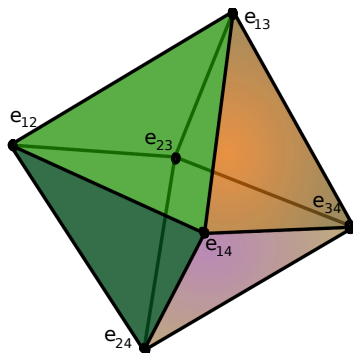
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To construct regular subdivision of $\Delta_{k,n}$, choose some $P := \{P_I\}_I \in \mathbb{R}^{\binom{[n]}{k}}$, thought of as *height function* on the vertices e_I of $\Delta_{k,n}$. Projecting “lower faces” of $\text{Conv}\{(e_I, P_I)\}$ to $\Delta_{k,n}$ gives regular subdivision \mathcal{D}_P .

Theorem (Lukowski–Parisi–W, Arkani-Hamed–Lam–Spradlin 2020)

Let $P = \{P_I\}_I \in \mathbb{R}^{\binom{[n]}{k}}$. The following are equivalent.

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Rk: Theorem is pos. analogue of result of Speyer '05 (see also Kapranov '93).
Theorem was anticipated/known by others including Speyer, Early, Rincon, Olarte.

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Numerology for two types of positroid triangulations

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Karp–W.–Zhang conj: there are $\binom{n-2}{k}$ cells in any triangulation of $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,2}$.
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Theorem (Speyer–W. 2020)

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Small data: max cones of $\text{Trop}^+ Gr_{k+1,n} \leftrightarrow$ good triangulations of $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,2}$.
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where any fixed points are declared to be loops. Call it **T-duality map**.^a

^aThe generalization of this map to $m = 4$ is what physicists have already observed as a duality between the formulations of scattering amplitudes for $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM in momentum space and in momentum twistor space.

Lemma (Lukowski–Parisi–W.)

The T-duality map gives a bijection

loopless cells of $(Gr_{k+1,n})_{\geq 0} \leftrightarrow$ coloopless cells of $(Gr_{k,n})_{\geq 0}$.

Moreover, $\dim(S_{\hat{\pi}}) = \dim(S_{\pi}) + 2k - (n - 1)$.

So it maps cells of $\dim n - 1$ to cells of dimension $2k$.

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Given loopless decorated permutation $\pi = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$ on $[n]$, define $\hat{\pi} := (a_n, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-1})$, where any fixed points declared to be loops.

Conjecture (Lukowski–Parisi–W.)

A collection $\{S_\pi\}$ of cells of $Gr_{k+1,n}^+$ gives a triangulation of $\Delta_{k+1,n}$ if and only if the collection $\{S_{\hat{\pi}}\}$ of cells of $Gr_{k,n}^+$ gives a triangulation of $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,2}$.

Regular triangulations of $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,2}$ (Lukowski–Parisi–W.)

- We define a triangulation of $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,2}$ to be **regular** if it comes from $\text{Trop}^+ Gr_{k+1,n}$ – i.e. it is the T-duality image of a regular positroid triangulation of $\Delta_{k+1,n}$.
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- We define a triangulation of $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,2}$ to be **regular** if it comes from $\text{Trop}^+ Gr_{k+1,n}$ – i.e. it is the T-duality image of a regular positroid triangulation of $\Delta_{k+1,n}$.
- The regular triangulations of $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,2}$ behave well at the boundary, i.e. they are good.

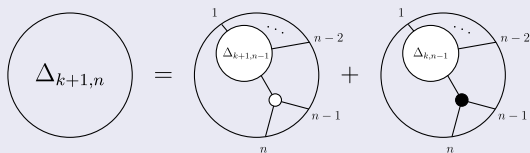
Results (Lukowski–Parisi–W.)

- There is recursion giving many triangulations of $\Delta_{k+1,n}$, and a recursion giving many triangulations of $\mathcal{A}_{n,k,2}$ (Bao-He), and they are in bijection via T-duality.
- We introduce a **momentum amplituhedron** $\mathcal{M}_{n,k,m}^a$ which should give analogous story to what I've explained today, but for any even m .

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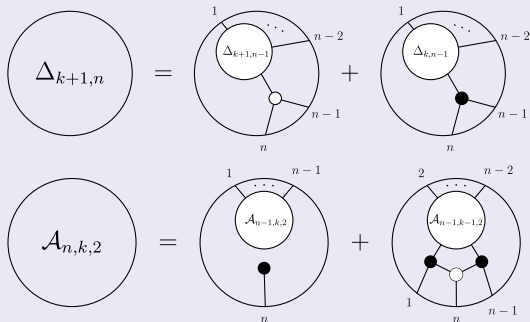


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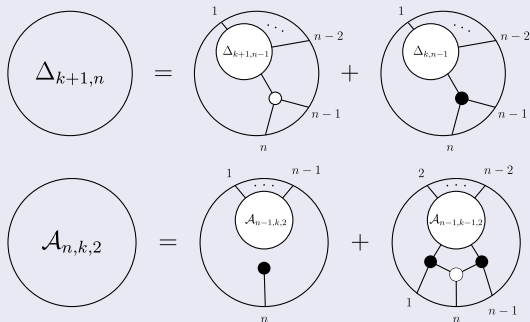


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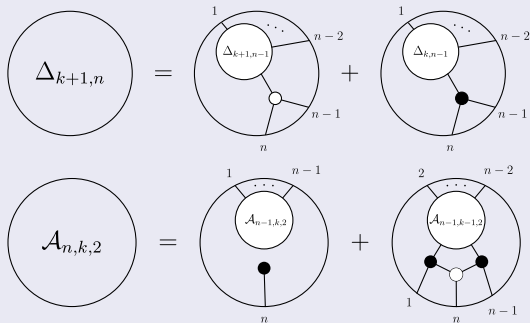


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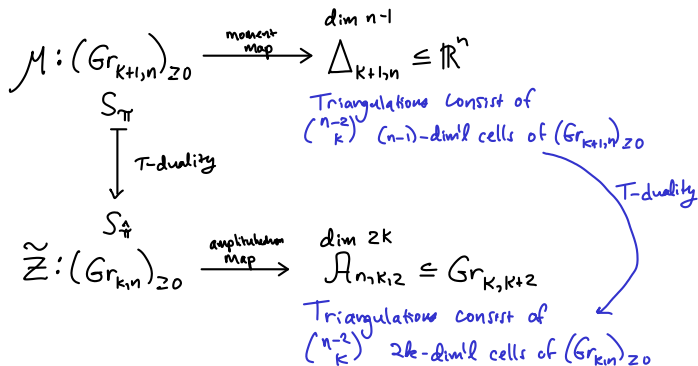
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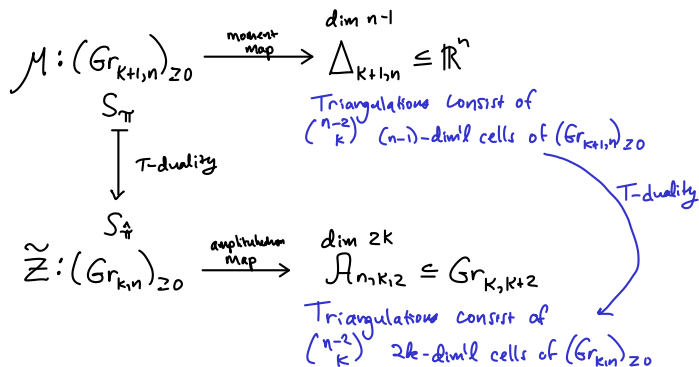
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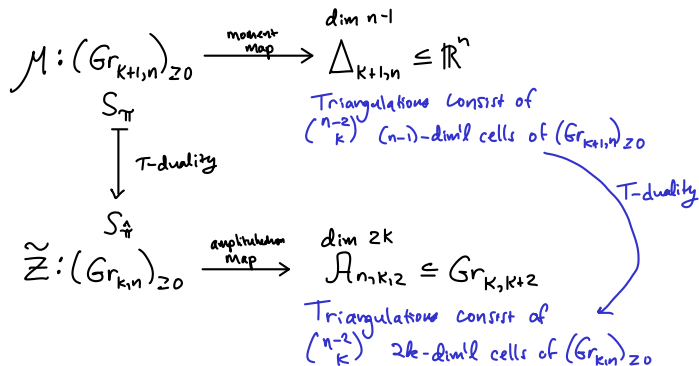
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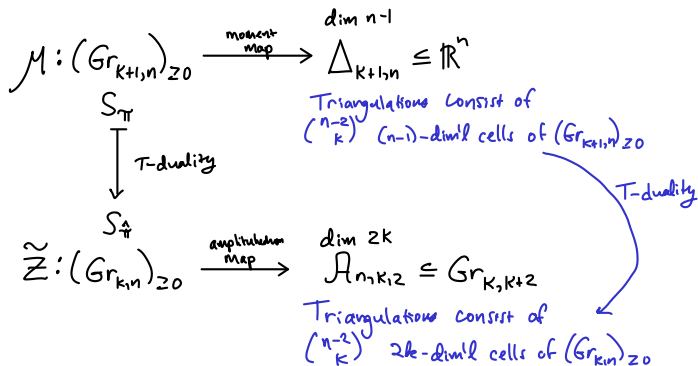
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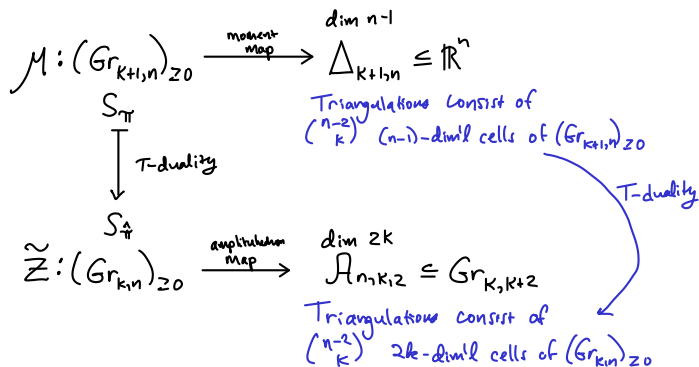
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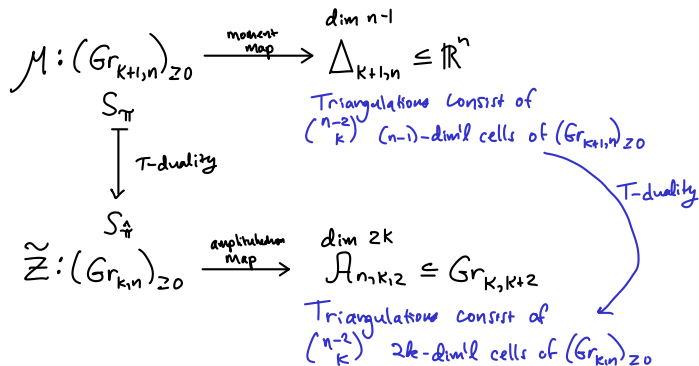
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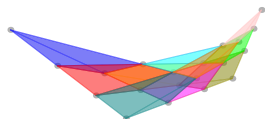
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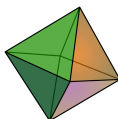
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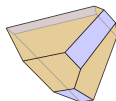
I. Amplituhedron '13



II. Hypersimplex and moment map '87



III. Positive tropical Grassmannian '05



- “The positive tropical Grassmannian, the hypersimplex, and the $m = 2$ amplituhedron,” with Lukowski and Parisi, arXiv:2002.06164
- “The positive Dressian equals the positive tropical Grassmannian,” with Speyer, arXiv:2003.10231.
- “The tropical totally positive Grassmannian,” with Speyer, arXiv:math/0312297, J. Algebraic Combinatorics, Sept 2005.

How positroid cells are encoded by decorated permutations

Given a $k \times n$ matrix $C = (c_1, \dots, c_n)$ (representing a point of $(Gr_{k,n})_{\geq 0}$) written as a list of its columns, we associate a decorated permutation π as follows.

- Given $i, j \in [n]$, let $r[i, j]$ denote the rank of $\langle c_i, c_{i+1}, \dots, c_j \rangle$, where we list the columns in cyclic order, going from c_n to c_1 if $i > j$.
- We set $\pi(i) := j$ to be the label of the first column j such that $c_i \in \text{span}\{c_{i+1}, c_{i+2}, \dots, c_j\}$.
- If c_i is the all-zero vector, we call i a loop or black fixed point, and if c_i is not in the span of the other column vectors, we call i a coloop or white fixed point.

We define S_{π}^{tnn} to be the set of all elements $C \in (Gr_{k,n})_{\geq 0}$ which give rise to this π .

What is the positive tropical Grassmannian?

Theorem (Speyer –W. 2005)

Given ideal $I \subset \mathcal{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, there are two equivalent ways of defining the positive tropical variety $\text{Trop}^+ V(I)$:

- compute the vanishing set over *positive Puiseux series* $V(I) \subset (\mathcal{C}^+)^n$ and apply a *valuation map* (and take closure);
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- So we can define $\text{Trop}^+ Gr_{k,n} = \bigcap \text{Trop}^+(f)$, where f ranges over all elements in the Plücker ideal I .

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Any positive tropical variety $\text{Trop}^+ V(I)$ equals the intersection of the positive tropical hypersurfaces $\text{Trop}^+(f)$ where f ranges over all elements in the ideal I .

More precise defn of the positive tropical Grassmannian

Let $\mathcal{C} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{C}((t^{1/n}))$.

If $f \in \mathcal{C}^*$, with lowest term at^u , define $\text{val}(f) := u$.

Valuation map $\text{val} : (\mathcal{C}^*)^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}^n$, $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (\text{val}(x_1), \dots, \text{val}(x_n))$.

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