

Patchworking of algebraic varieties and tropical geometry

Oleg Viro

February 8, 2008

Patchwork

- Construction of sextics
- Draw equations
- Log paper
- Logarithmic asymptotes
- Picture of logarithmic asymptotes
- In high dimensions
- Combinatorial patchwork
- Combinatorial Patchwork Theorem
- Patchwork in all quadrants
- Addendum to the Patchwork Theorem.
- Patchworking of the Harnack curve of degree 6
- Gudkov's curve
- Curve of degree 10 with 32 odd ovals

Tropical

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Here is how the patchwork works:

Construction of sextics

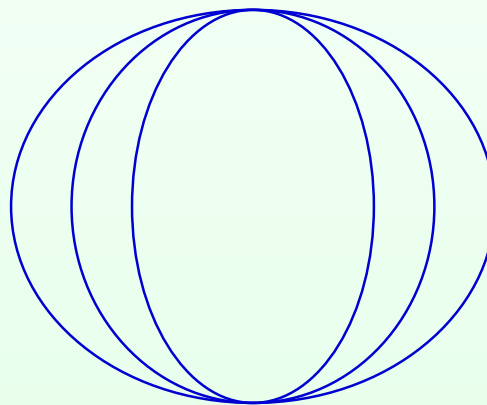
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53 out of 56 topological types of non-singular sextics can be realized by permutation of the union of 3 ellipses tangent to each other at 2 points.



Construction of sextics

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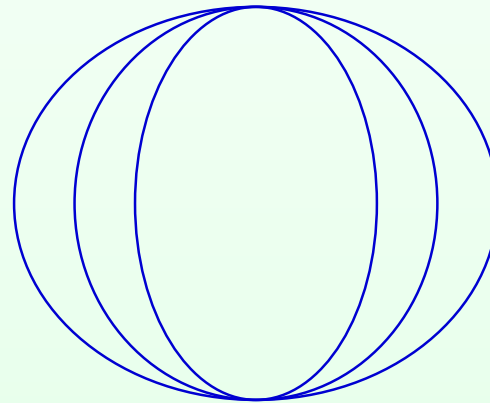
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53 out of 56 topological types of non-singular sextics can be realized by permutation of the union of 3 ellipses tangent to each other at 2 points.

What can jump out of the points of tangency?



Construction of sextics

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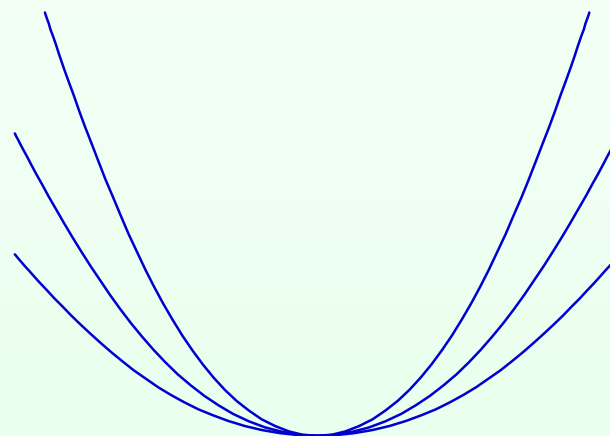
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What can jump out of a point of tangency?



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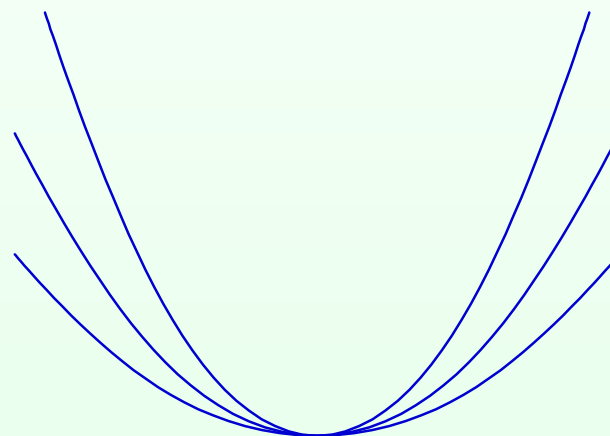
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For example, this:



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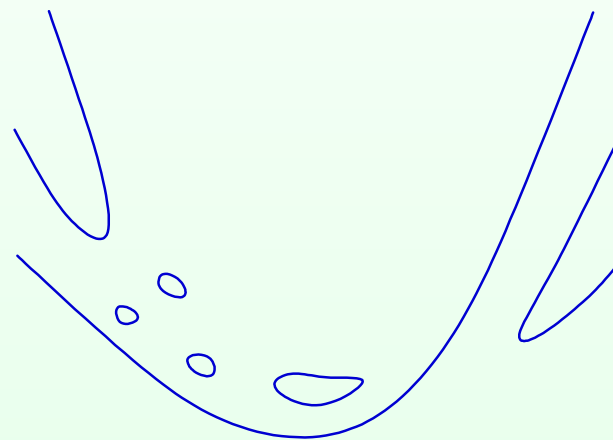
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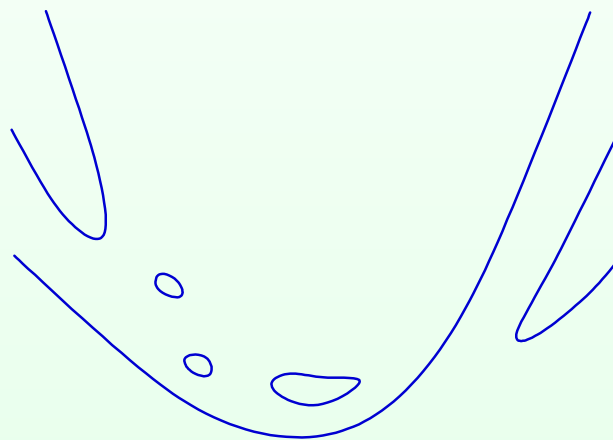
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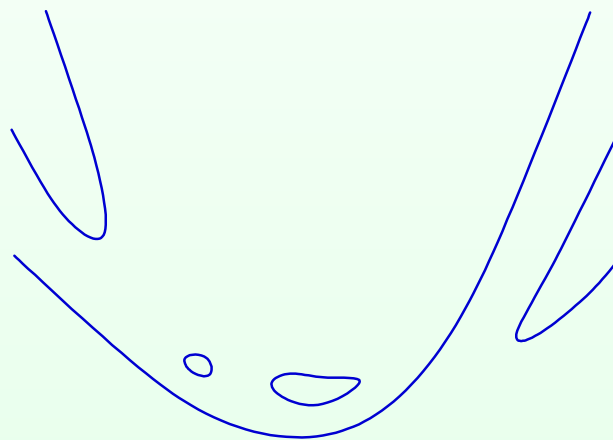
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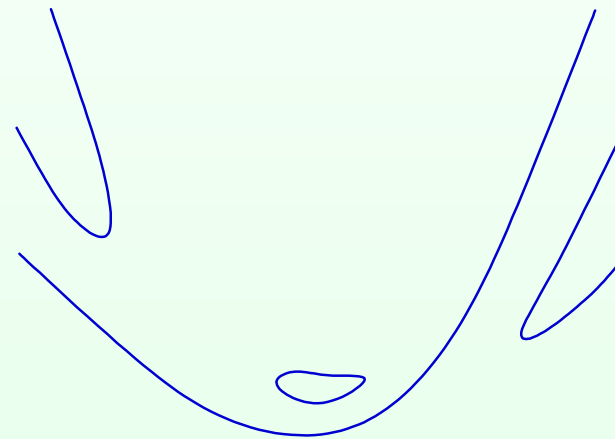
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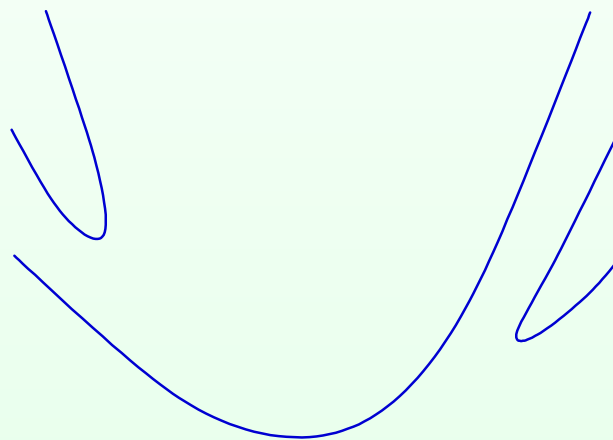
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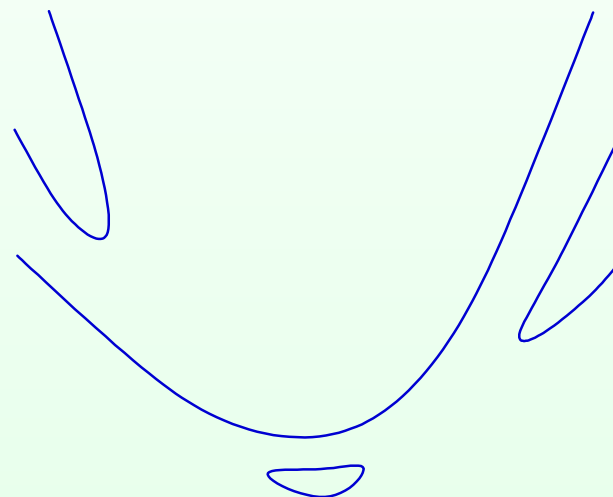
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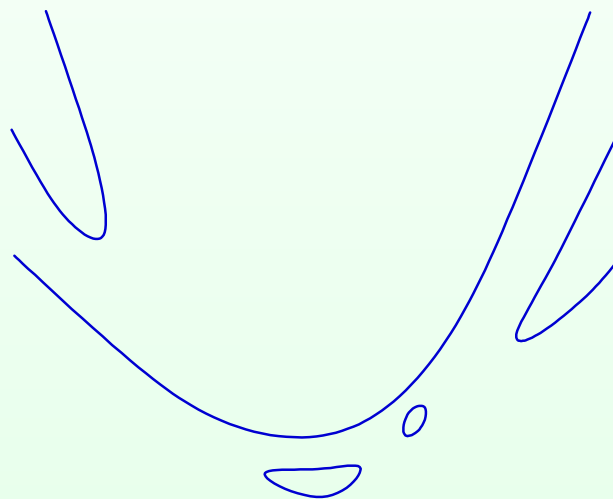
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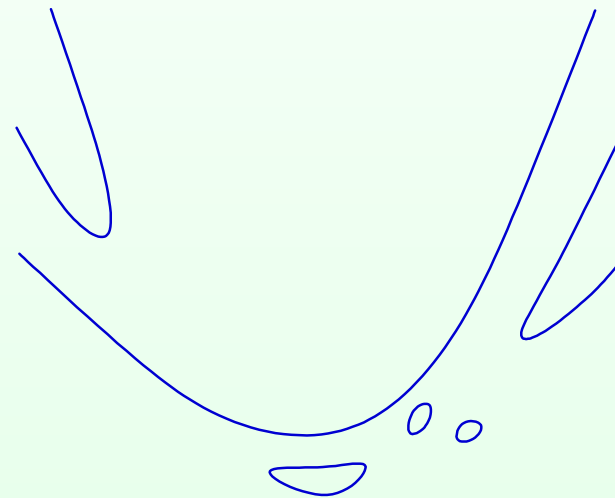
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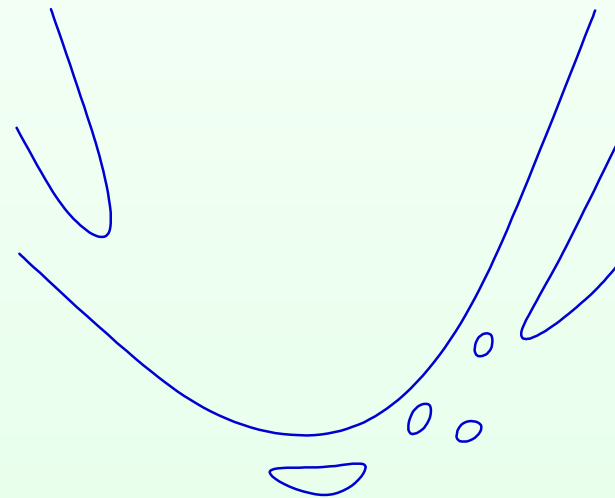
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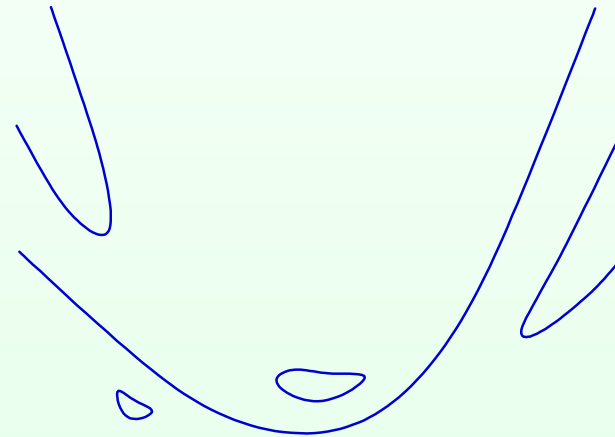
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or even this:



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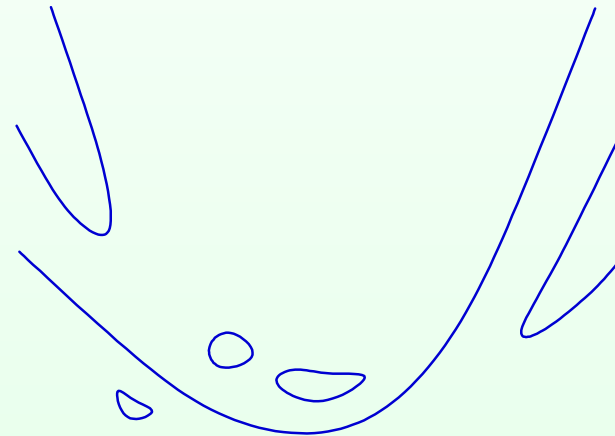
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but **not** like that:



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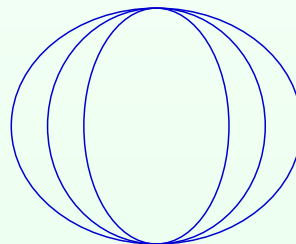
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The two points of tangency can be perturbed simultaneously and independently.



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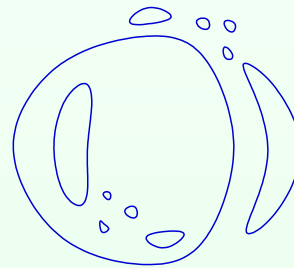
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Gudkov's curve.

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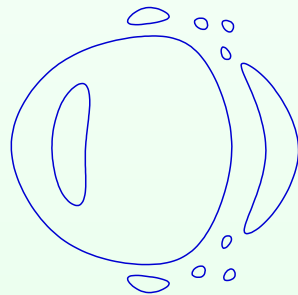
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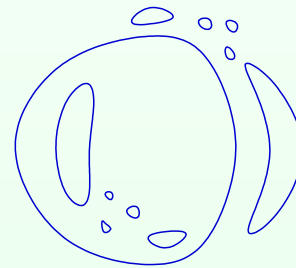
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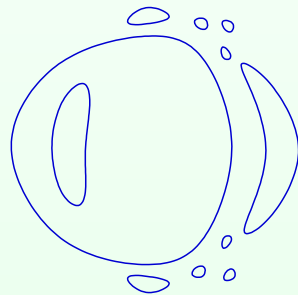
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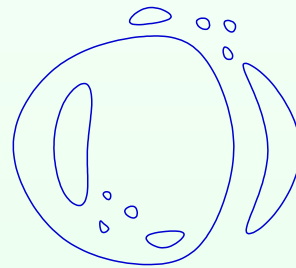
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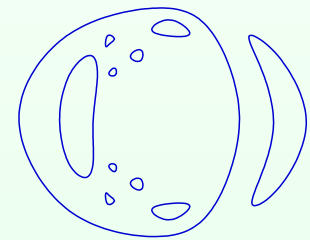
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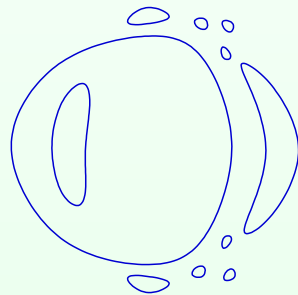
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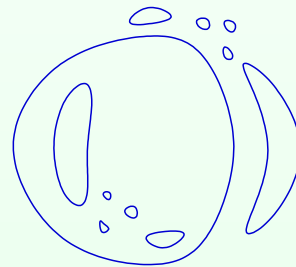
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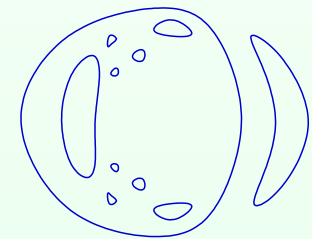
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Harnack's curve.



Gudkov's curve.



Hilbert's curve.

Similarly non-singular curves of degree 7 of all topological types unrealized by 1979 are obtained from four curves with two singular points of the same kind.

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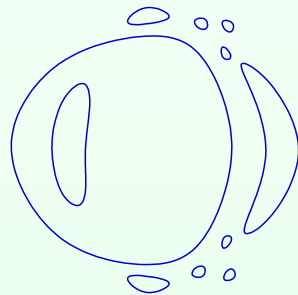
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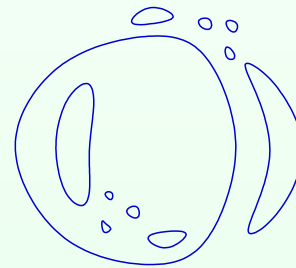
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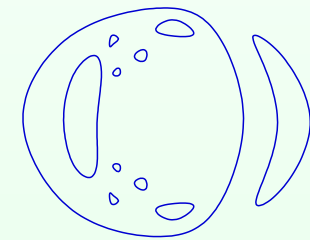
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What lies behind these pictures?

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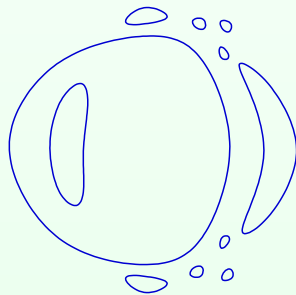
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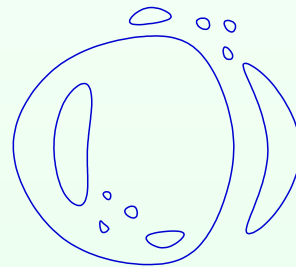
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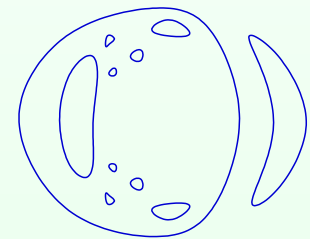
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What are the equations of the curves?

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Equations of curves are to be drawn on plane!

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Monomial $a_{kl}x^k y^l$ should be placed at $(k, l) \in \mathbb{R}^2$.

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Monomial $a_{kl}x^k y^l$ should be placed at $(k, l) \in \mathbb{R}^2$.

Polynomial $a(x, y) = \sum_{kl} a_{kl}x^k y^l$ should sit on its

Newton polygon $\Delta(a) = \text{conv}\{(k, l) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid a_{kl} \neq 0\}$.

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The Newton polygon for a generic polynomial of degree 6:

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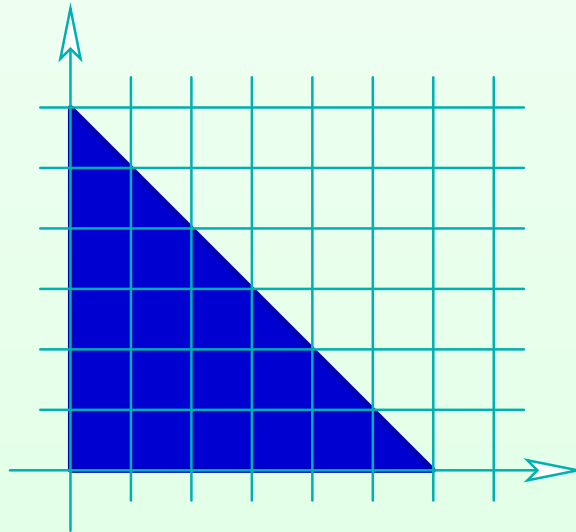
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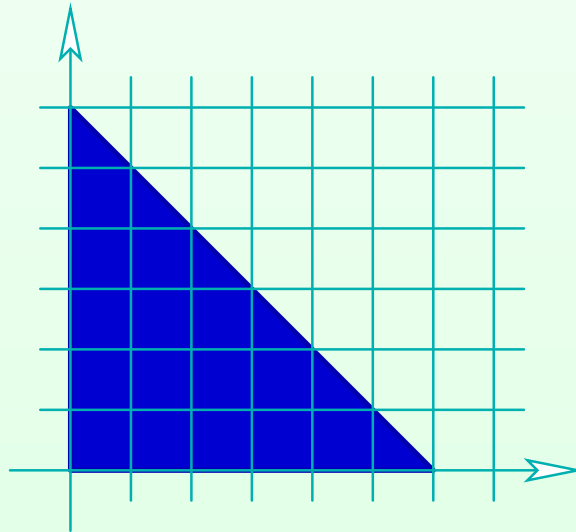
Tropical

Equations of curves are to be drawn on plane!

Monomial $a_{kl}x^k y^l$ should be placed at $(k, l) \in \mathbb{R}^2$.

Polynomial $a(x, y) = \sum_{kl} a_{kl}x^k y^l$ should sit on its **Newton polygon** $\Delta(a) = \text{conv}\{(k, l) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid a_{kl} \neq 0\}$.

However we started from the union of 3 ellipses.



Draw equations

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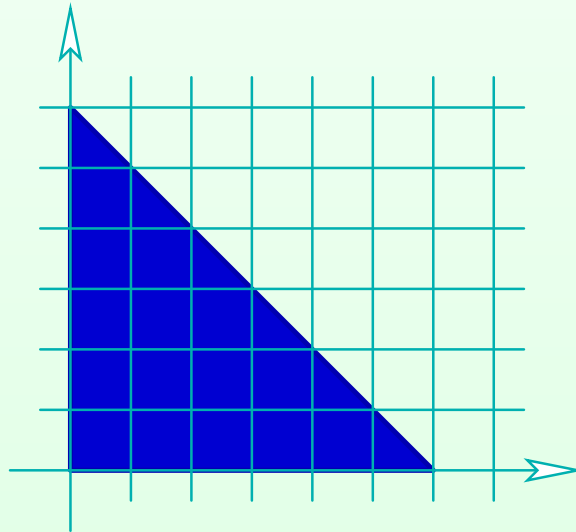
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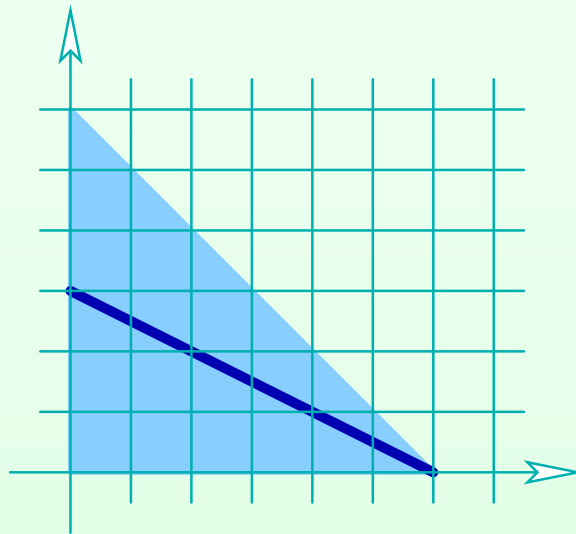
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Then the Newton polygon is $[(6, 0), (0, 3)]$.



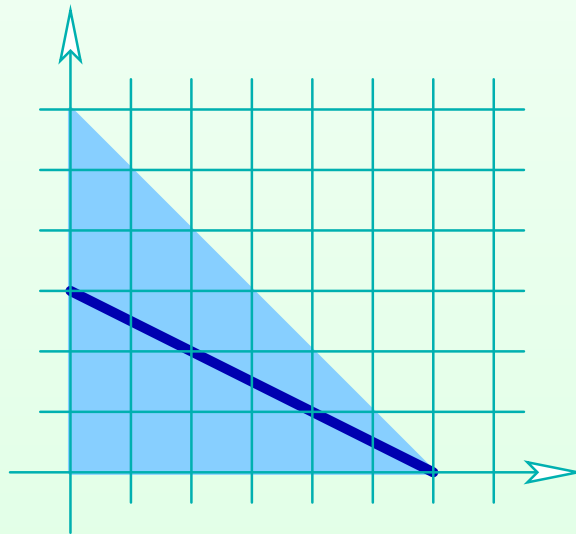
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To perturb, we fill the two missing triangles with equations of curves we want to insert instead of neighborhoods of the singular points.



Draw equations

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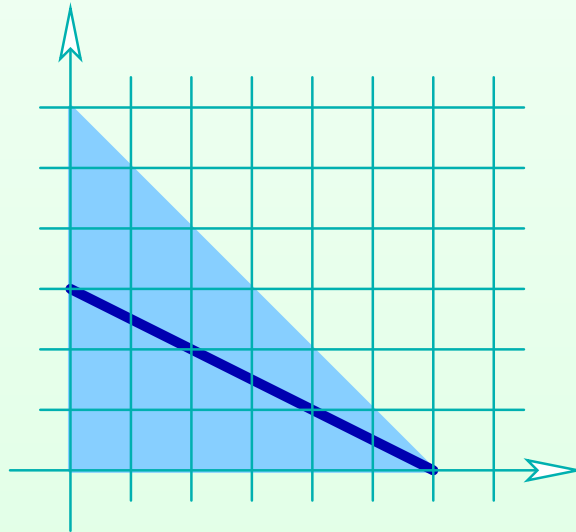
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To perturb, we fill the two missing triangles with equations of curves we want to insert instead of neighborhoods of the singular points.

Introduce a small parameter $t > 0$ to keep the new fragments of the polynomial in peace with each other.



Draw equations

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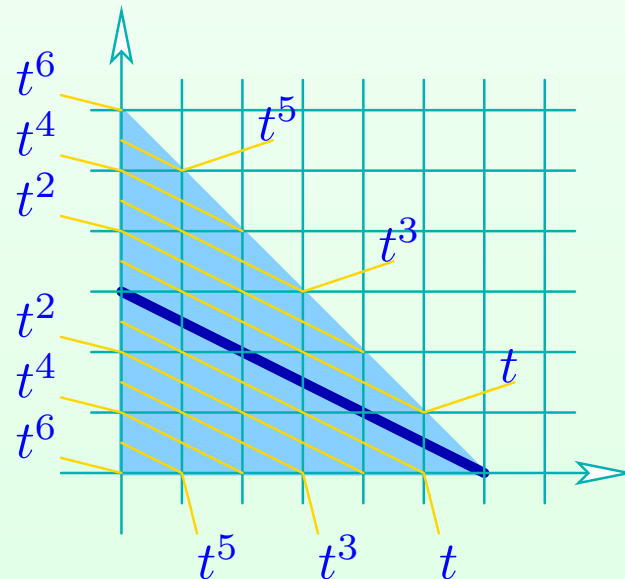
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To perturb, we fill the two missing triangles with equations of curves we want to insert instead of neighborhoods of the singular points.

Introduce a small parameter $t > 0$ to keep the new fragments of the polynomial in peace with each other.

For sufficiently small t , the fragments defined by small terms are small, separated and do not spoil each other.



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How do graphs look on the **log paper**?

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$$v = \ln y = \ln(ax^k)$$

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$$v = \ln y = \ln(ax^k) = k \ln x + \ln a$$

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$$v = \ln y = \ln(ax^k) = k \ln x + \ln a = ku + \ln a,$$

or $v = ku + b,$

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Thus $y = ax^k$ turns into $v = ku + b$.

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Thus $y = ax^k$ turns into $v = ku + b$.

Similarly, any binomial equation $y^l = ax^k$ defines line $lv = ku + b$.

Logarithmic asymptotes

Let a be a real polynomial in x, y .

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Let a be a real polynomial in x, y ,
 V be the curve defined by $a(e^u, e^v) = 0$.

$$a(x, y) = \sum_{kl} a_{kl} x^k y^l$$

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Logarithmic asymptotes

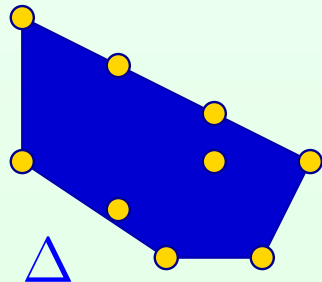
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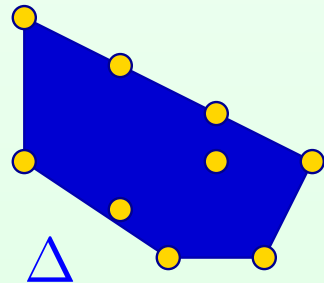
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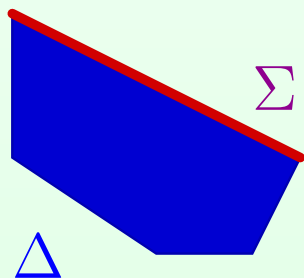
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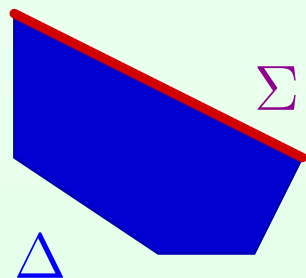
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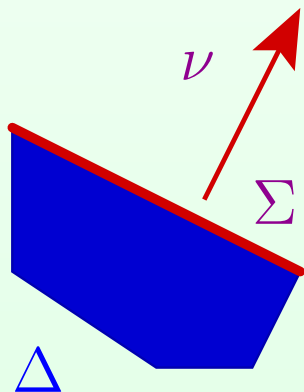
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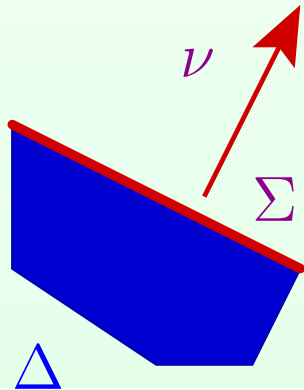
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Go in the direction of ν



Logarithmic asymptotes

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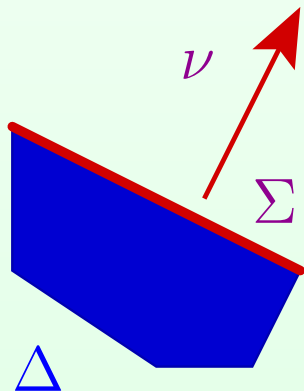
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Go in the direction of ν

$$(u, v) \mapsto (mt + u, nt + v)$$



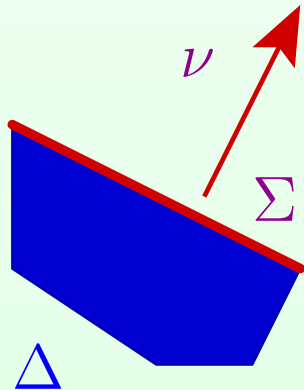
Logarithmic asymptotes

Patchwork

- Construction of sextics
- Draw equations
- Log paper
- **Logarithmic asymptotes**
- Picture of logarithmic asymptotes
- In high dimensions
- Combinatorial patchwork
- Combinatorial Patchwork Theorem
- Patchwork in all quadrants
- Addendum to the Patchwork Theorem.
- Patchworking of the Harnack curve of degree 6
- Gudkov's curve
- Curve of degree 10 with 32 odd ovals

Tropical

Let a be a real polynomial in x, y ,
 V be the curve defined by $a(e^u, e^v) = 0$,
and Δ the Newton polygon of a . Let Σ be a side of Δ ,
 $\nu = (m, n)$ be an integer vector orthogonal to Σ .
Go in the direction of ν looking at V .
 $(u, v) \mapsto (mt + u, nt + v)$



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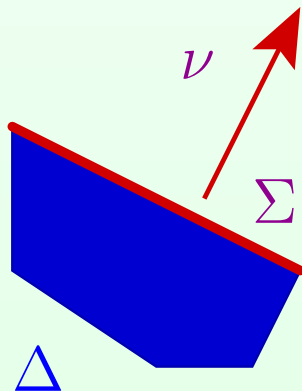
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Go in the direction of ν looking at V .

$$(u, v) \mapsto (mt + u, nt + v)$$

$$a(e^u, e^v) = 0 \mapsto a(e^{mt+u}, e^{nt+v}) = 0$$



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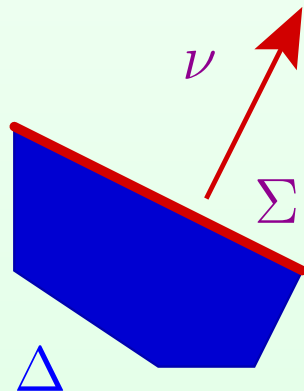
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$$(u, v) \mapsto (mt + u, nt + v)$$

$$\sum a_{k,l} e^{ku+lv} = 0 \mapsto \sum a_{k,l} e^{k(mt+u)+l(nt+v)} = 0$$



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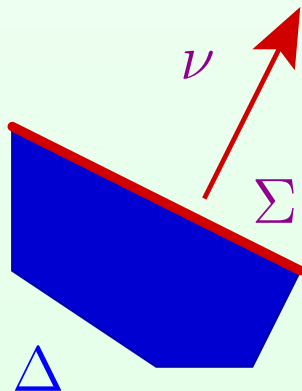
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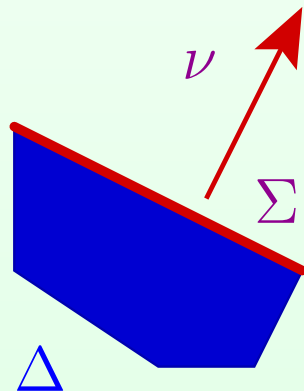
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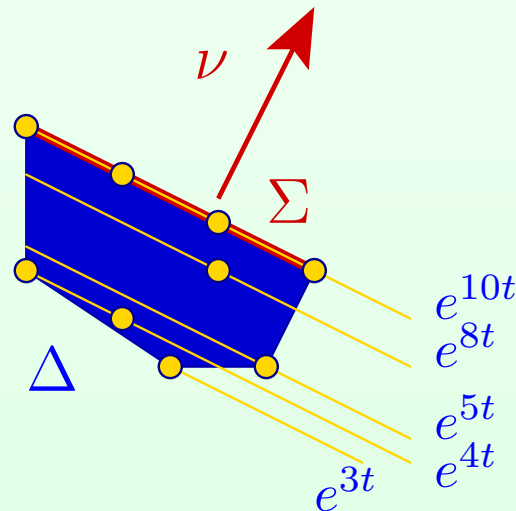
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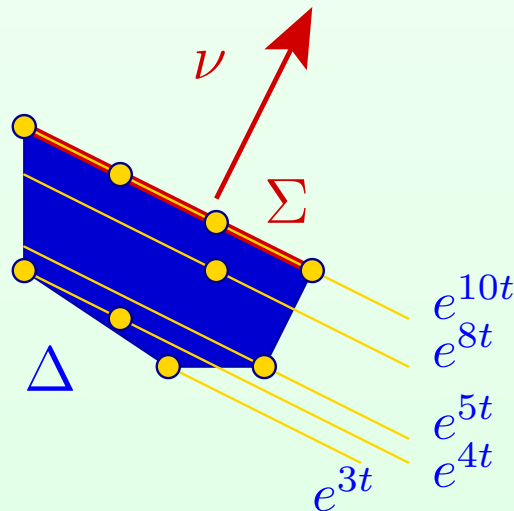
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All the coefficients tend to ∞ .

Logarithmic asymptotes

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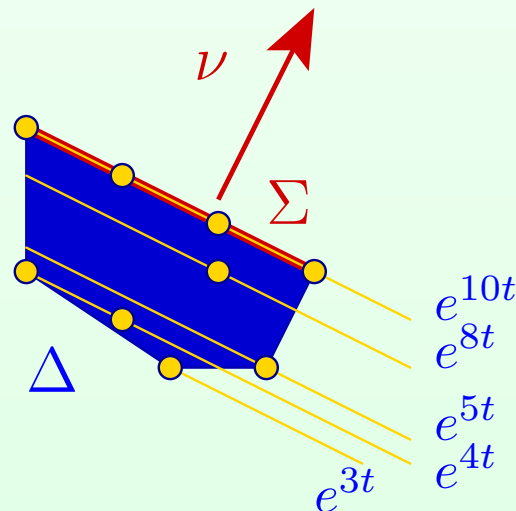
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Calibrate!

Logarithmic asymptotes

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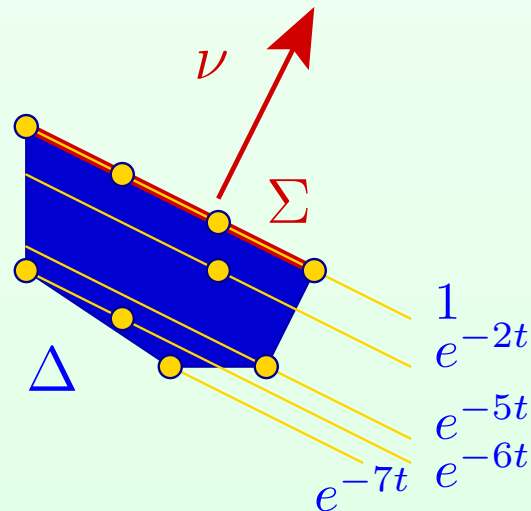
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Logarithmic asymptotes

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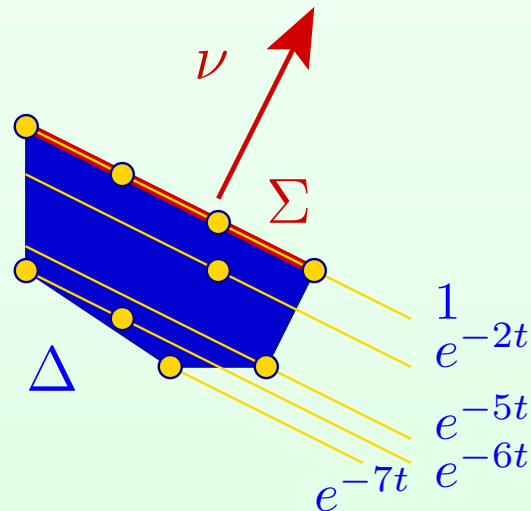
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$$\sum a_{k,l} e^{ku+lv} = 0 \mapsto \sum (a_{k,l} e^{(km+ln)t}) e^{ku+lv} = 0$$



$$a(e^{mt+u}, e^{nt+v}) \text{ tends to } a^\Sigma(u, v) = \sum_{(k,l) \in \Sigma} a_{kl} e^{ku+lv}$$

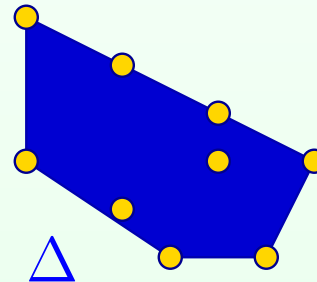
as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

Picture of logarithmic asymptotes

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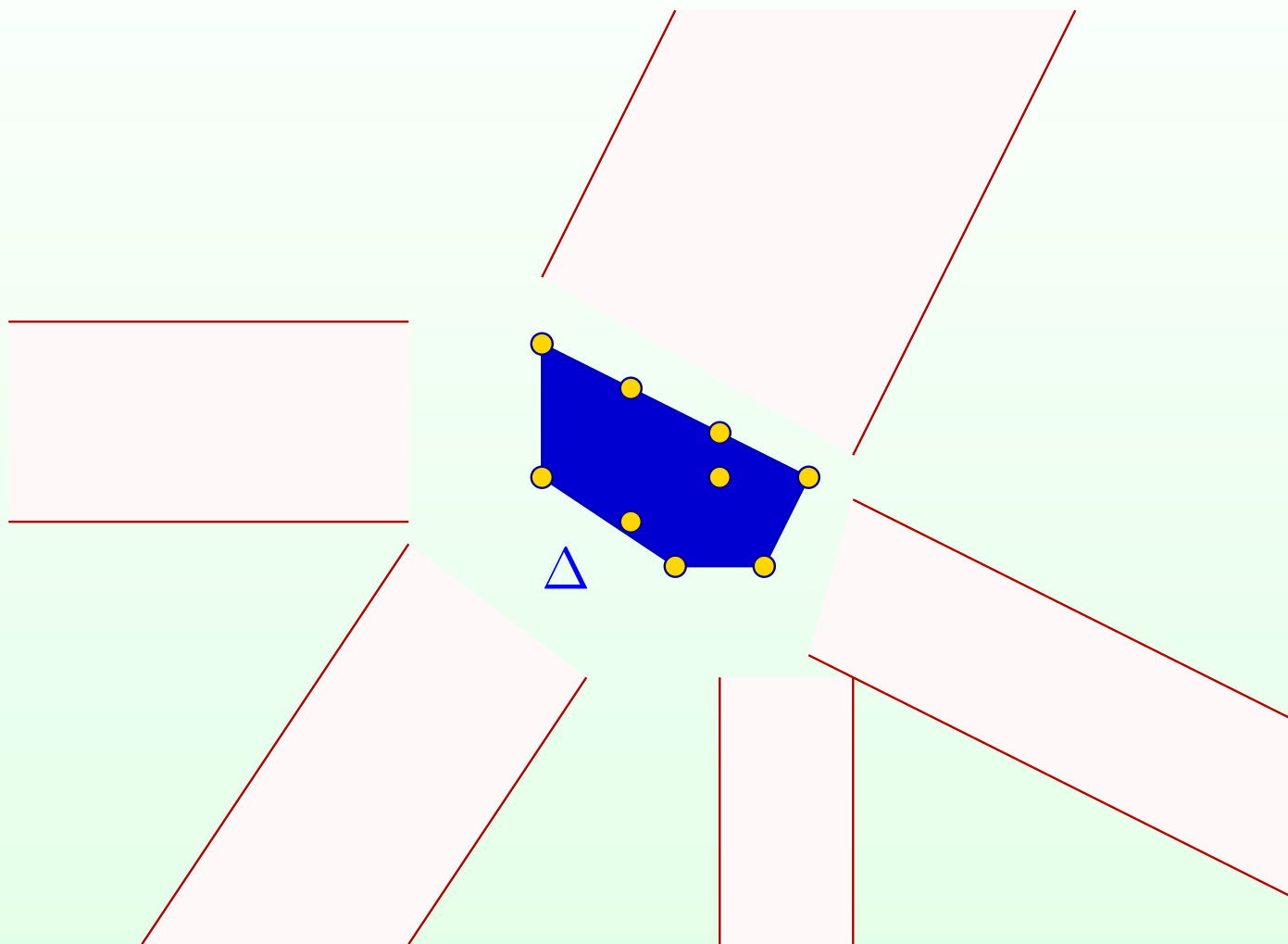
Newton polygon.

Picture of logarithmic asymptotes

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Tropical



Strips in which the curve goes to the infinity.

Picture of logarithmic asymptotes

Patchwork

- Construction of sextics

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- **Picture of logarithmic asymptotes**

- In high dimensions

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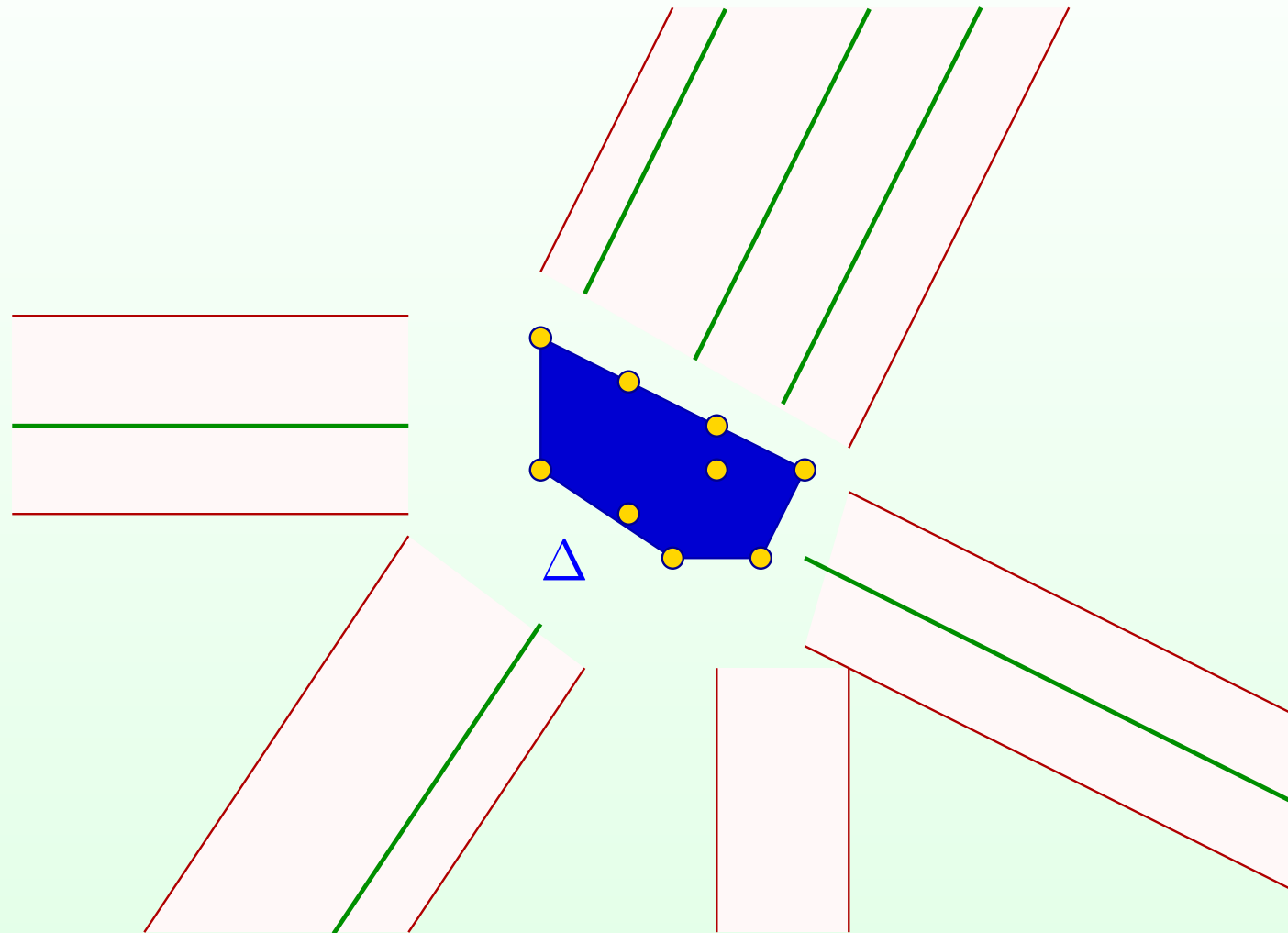
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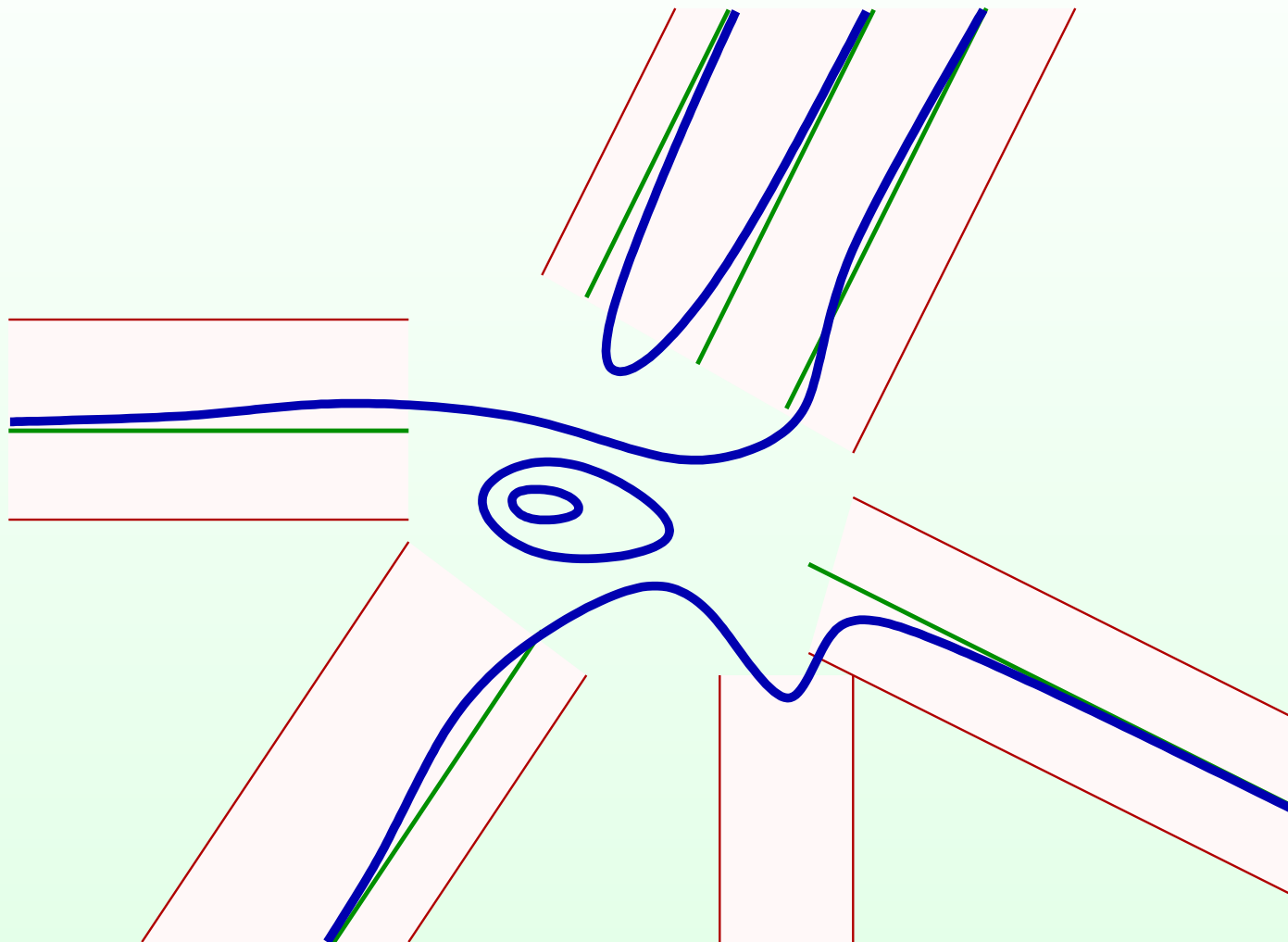
Curves defined by a^Σ where Σ are sides of Δ .

Picture of logarithmic asymptotes

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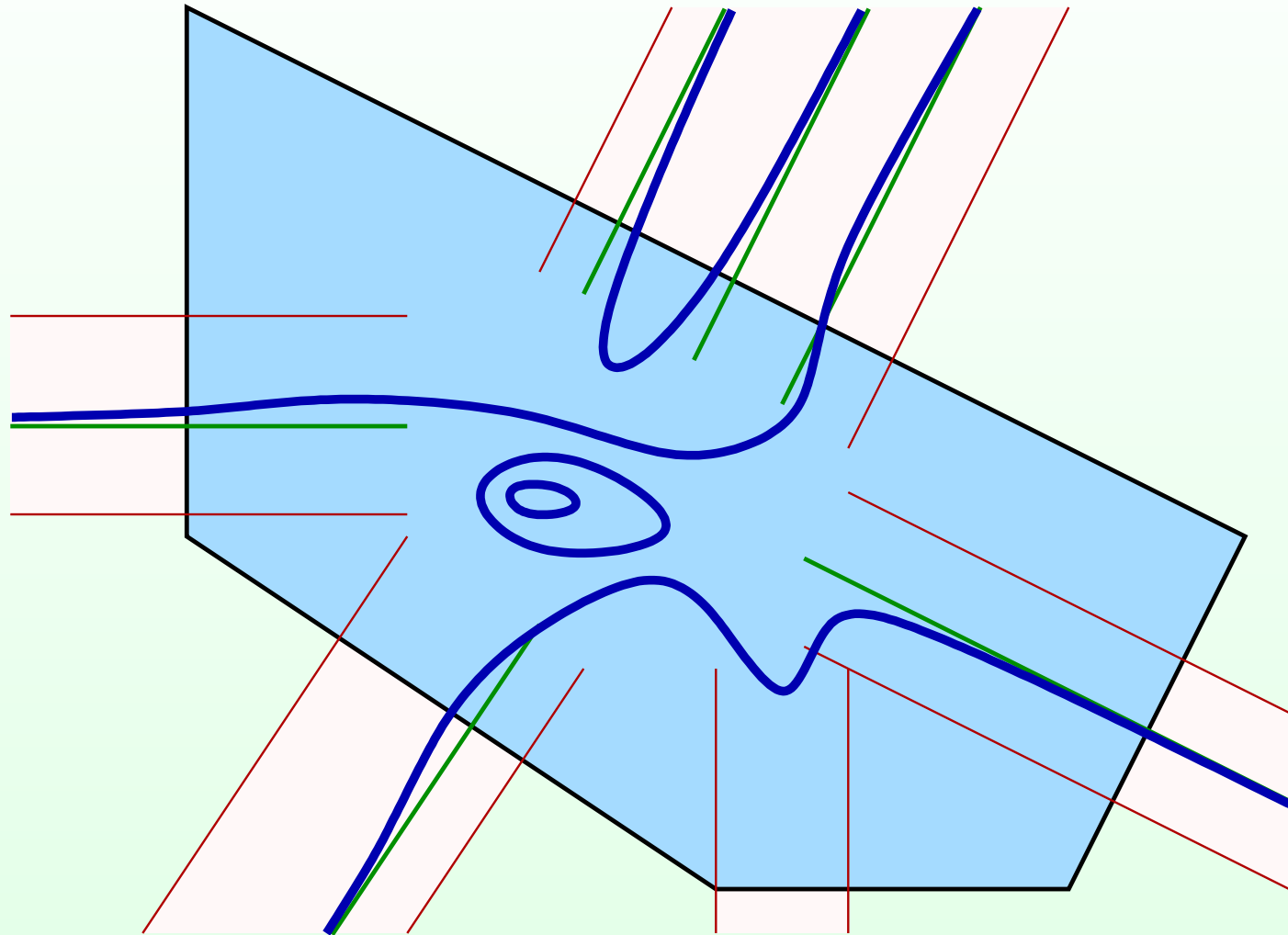
The curve.

Picture of logarithmic asymptotes

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Tropical



A homothetic image of the Newton polygon intersecting the curve asymptotically stable.

In high dimensions

everything goes similarly.

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In high dimensions

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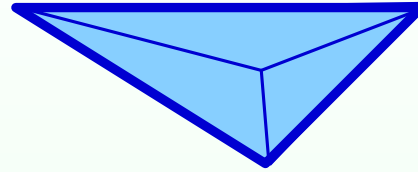
Consider a hypersurface defined by a generic polynomial

In high dimensions

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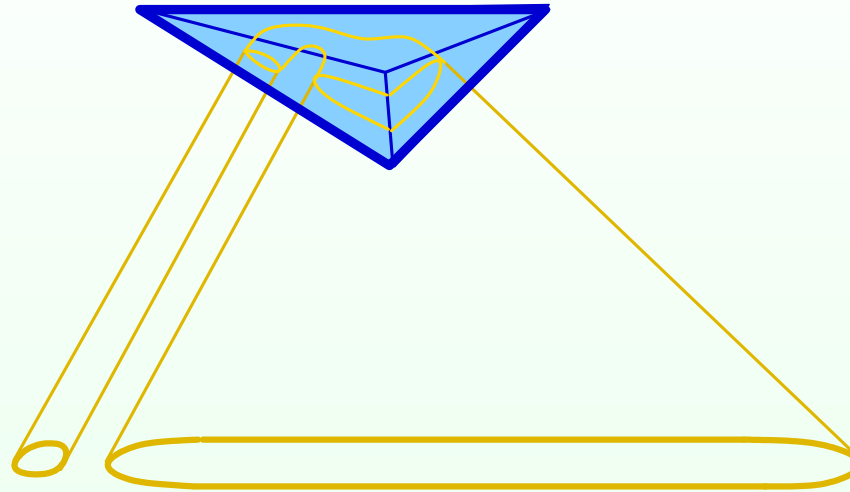
The Newton polyhedron \triangle of the polynomial.

In high dimensions

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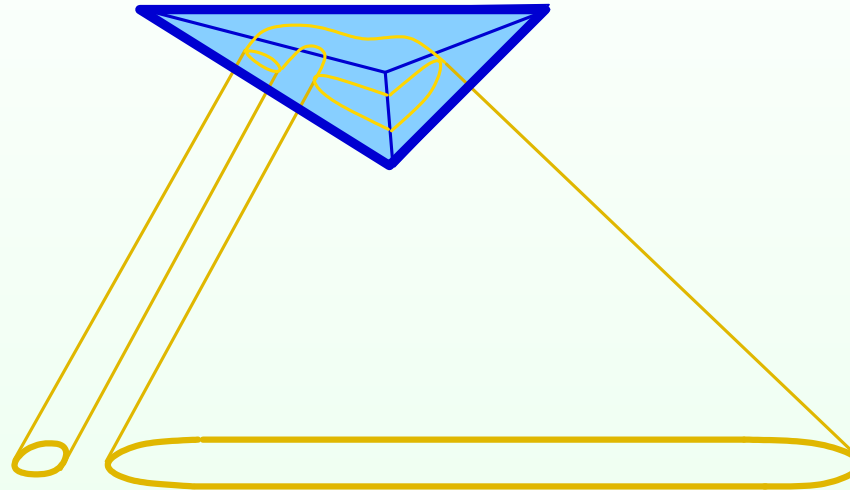
The main part of the hypersurface fits inside of sufficiently expanded Newton polyhedron.

In high dimensions

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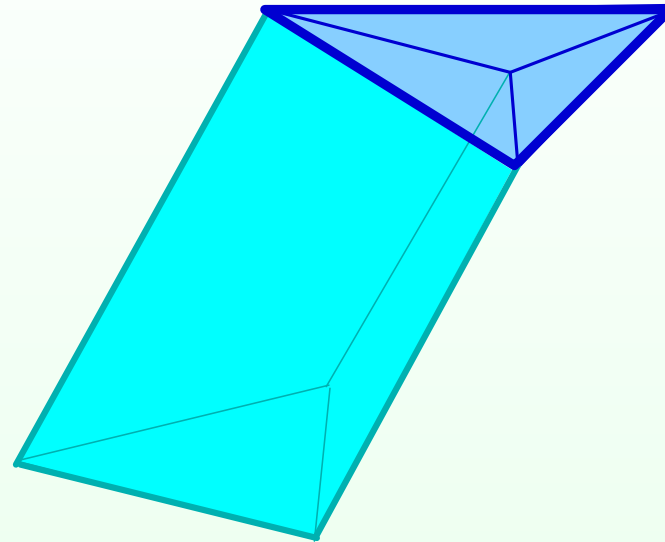
The space outside of \triangle is divided into domains corresponding to the faces \triangle .

In high dimensions

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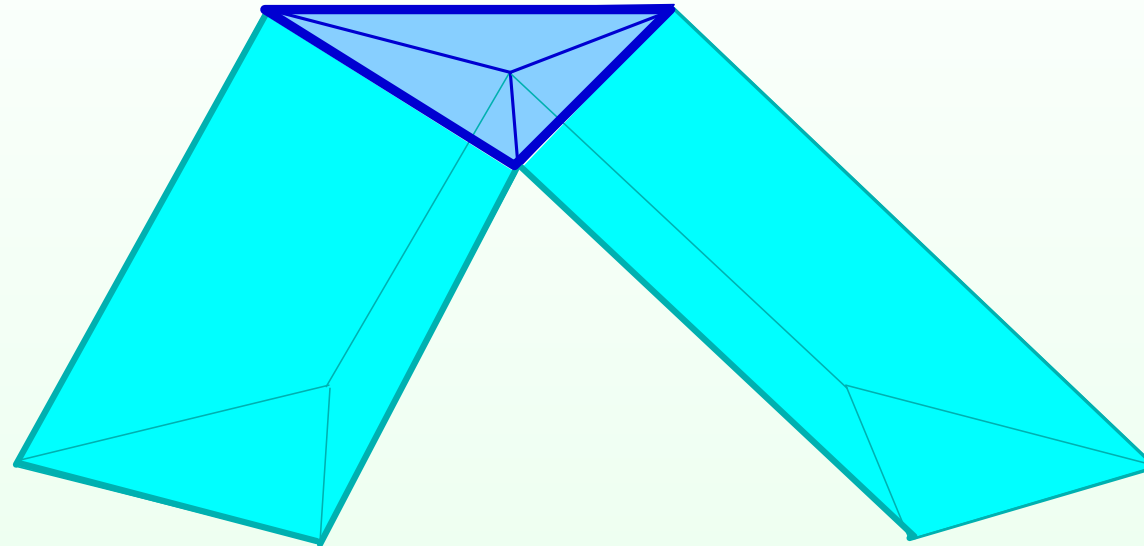
A prism corresponds to a principal face.

In high dimensions

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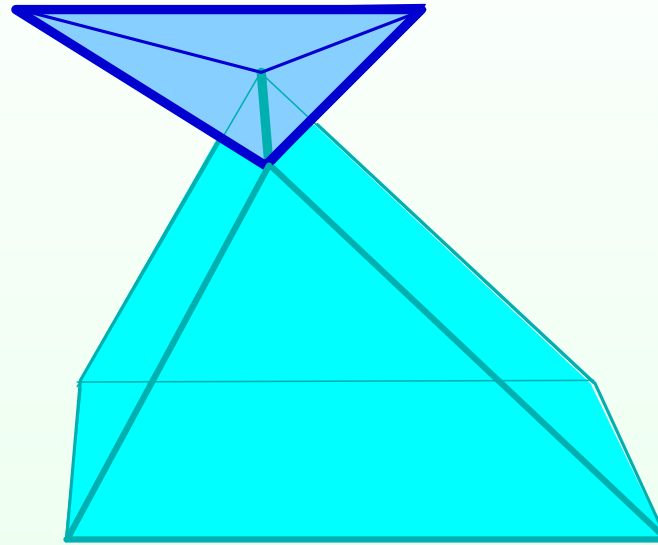
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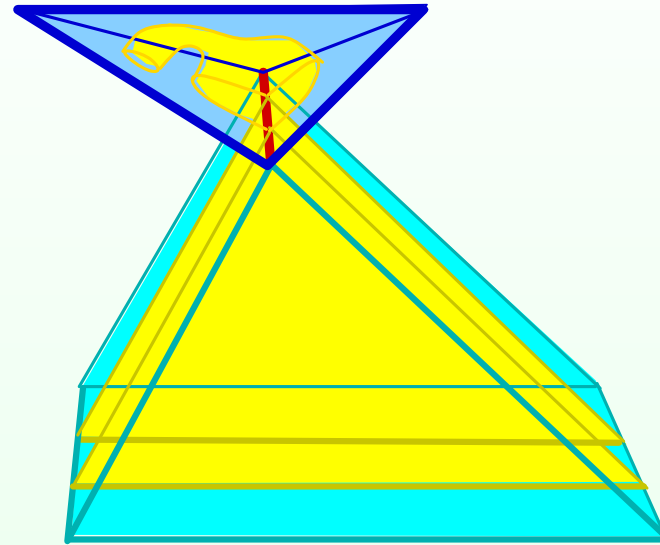
The domain corresponding to Σ has a shape of $\Sigma \times \Sigma^{\wedge}$

In high dimensions

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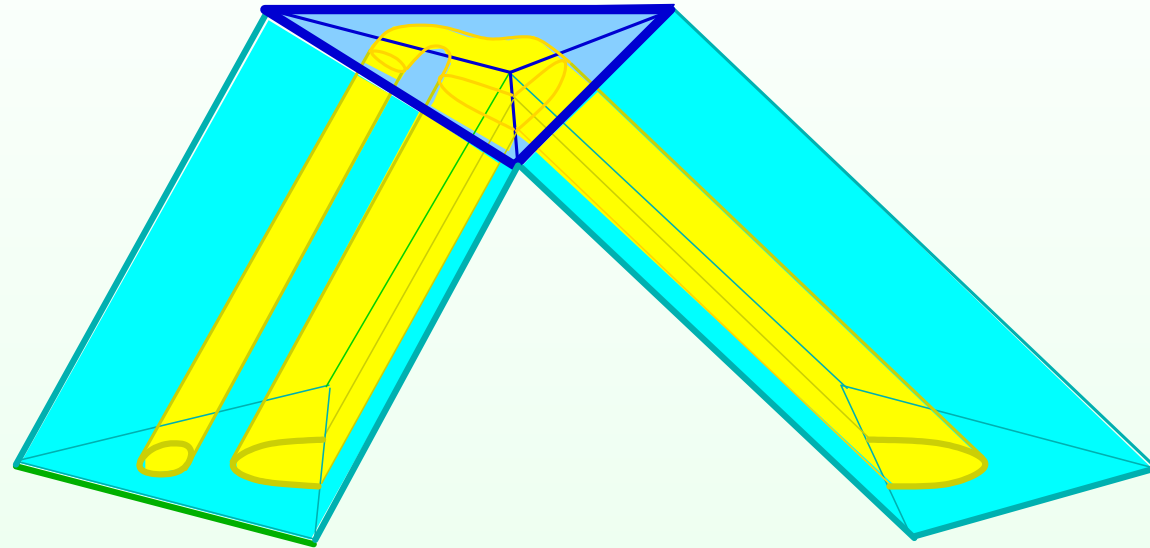
In the domain corresponding to face Σ the hypersurface is approximated by the hypersurface defined by the part of the polynomial sitting on Σ .

In high dimensions

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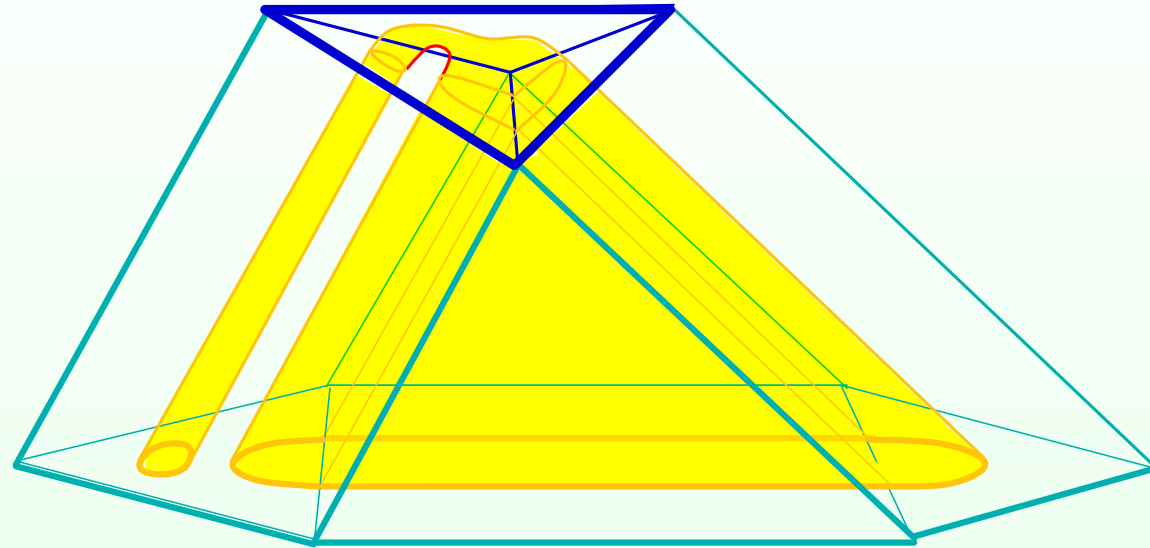
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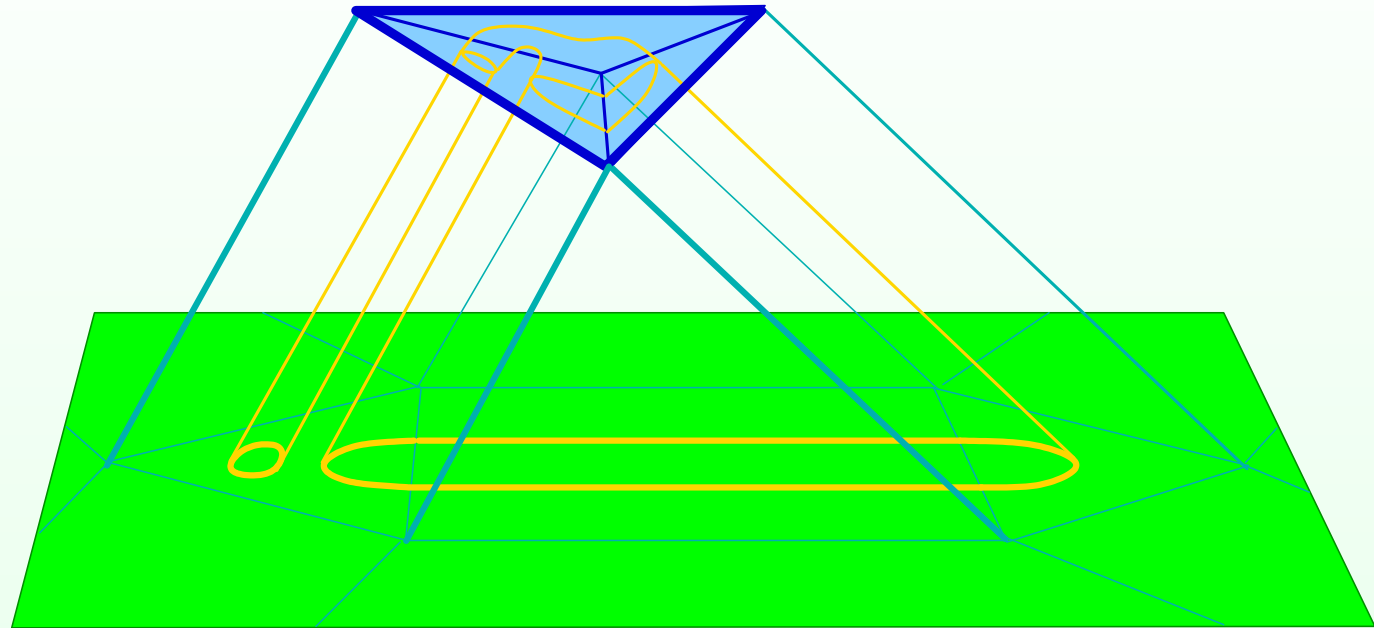
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Tropical



Consider a trace of the picture on a hyperplane which is below the Newton Polyhedron.

In high dimensions

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Tropical



The intersection of the hypersurface with the hyperplane is made of pieces corresponding to the faces of \triangle looking down.

In high dimensions

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Tropical



The intersection of the hypersurface with the hyperplane is made of pieces corresponding to the faces of Δ looking down. This can be used to **patchwork a hypersurface**.

In high dimensions

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The intersection of the hypersurface with the hyperplane is made of pieces corresponding to the faces of Δ looking down. This can be used to **patchwork a hypersurface**. Just prepare pieces matching each other and put them on faces of a polyhedron.

In high dimensions

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Tropical



The intersection of the hypersurface with the hyperplane is made of pieces corresponding to the faces of Δ looking down. This can be used to **patchwork a hypersurface**. Just prepare pieces matching each other and put them on faces of a polyhedron. For **smallest** pieces it's **nothing but combinatorics**.

Combinatorial patchwork

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- Addendum to the Patchwork Theorem.
- Patchworking of the Harnack curve of degree 6
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- Curve of degree 10 with 32 odd ovals

Tropical

Combinatorial patchwork

Patchwork

- Construction of sextics
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Tropical

Initial data for combinatorial patchworking

Combinatorial patchwork

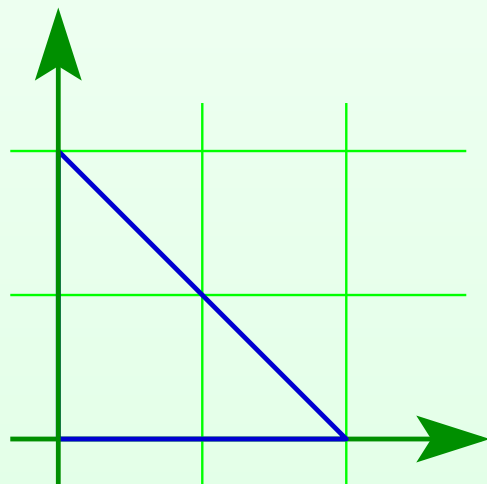
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Tropical

Initial data for combinatorial patchworking

- m a positive **integer** (the degree of the curve),



For our example, $m = 2$.

Combinatorial patchwork

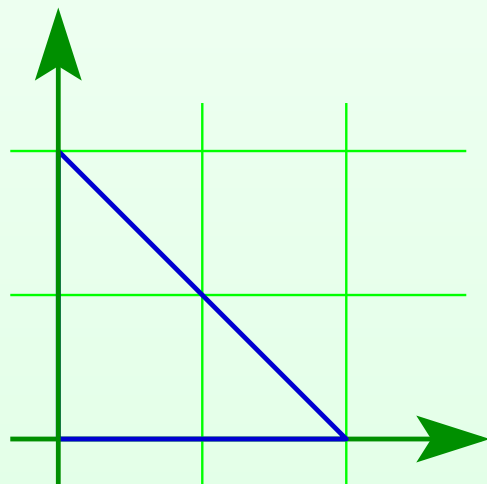
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Tropical

Initial data for combinatorial patchworking

- m a positive **integer** (the degree of the curve),
- Δ the **triangle** with vertices $(0, 0)$, $(m, 0)$, $(0, m)$,



Combinatorial patchwork

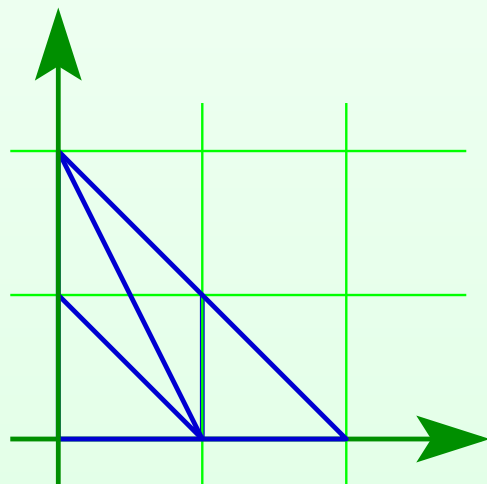
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Initial data for combinatorial patchworking

- m a positive **integer** (the degree of the curve),
- Δ the **triangle** with vertices $(0, 0)$, $(m, 0)$, $(0, m)$,
- τ a **convex triangulation** of Δ with integer vertices.



Combinatorial patchwork

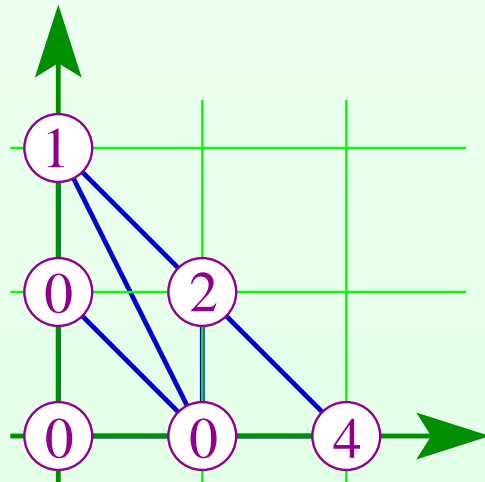
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- $\nu : \Delta \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ a **convex PL-function**, such that triangles of τ are its domains of linearity.



Combinatorial patchwork

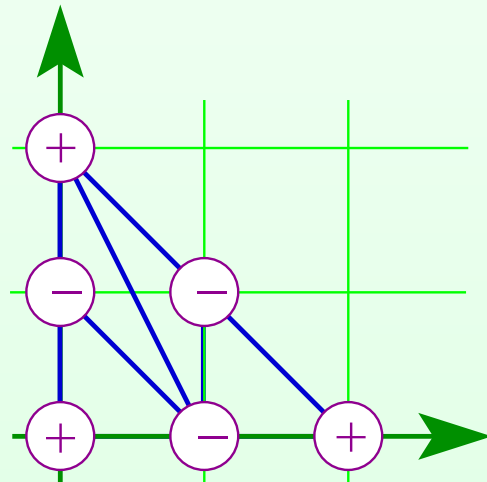
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- $\sigma_{k,l}$ a **sign** ($+$ or $-$) at each vertex (k, l) of τ .



Combinatorial patchwork

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Patchworking of polynomials.

Combinatorial patchwork

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Patchworking of polynomials.

$$b_t(x, y) = \sum_{\substack{(k, l) \text{ runs over} \\ \text{vertices of } \tau}} \sigma_{k,l} t^{\nu(k,l)} x^k y^l.$$

Combinatorial patchwork

Patchwork

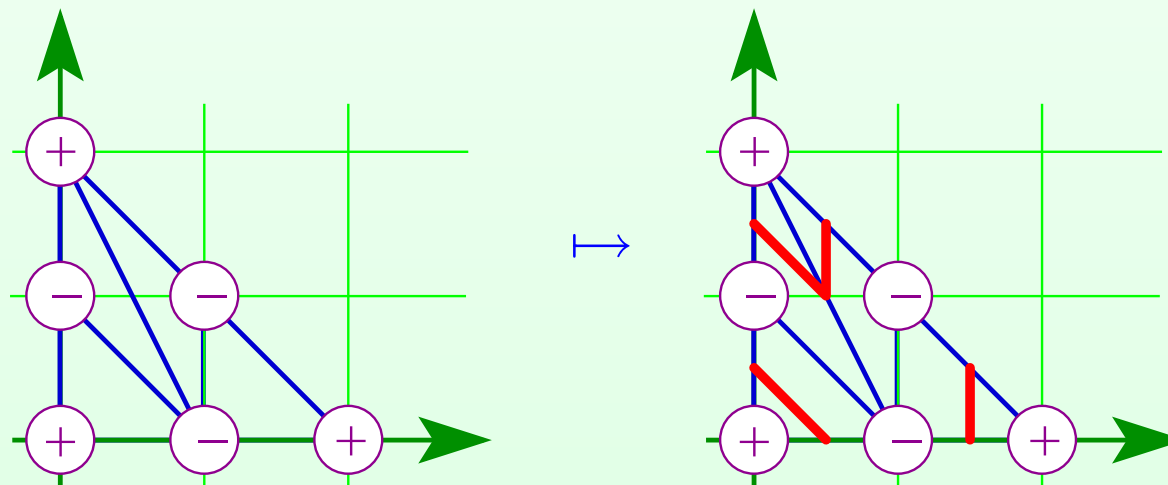
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Patchworking of PL-curve.



Combinatorial Patchwork Theorem

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Tropical

*Let $m, \Delta, \tau, \sigma_{k,l}$ and ν be initial data,
 b_t be the patchworked polynomial
and $L \subset \Delta$ be the patchworked PL-curve.*

Combinatorial Patchwork Theorem

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Tropical

Let $m, \Delta, \tau, \sigma_{k,l}$ and ν be initial data,

b_t be the patchworked polynomial

and $L \subset \Delta$ be the patchworked PL-curve.

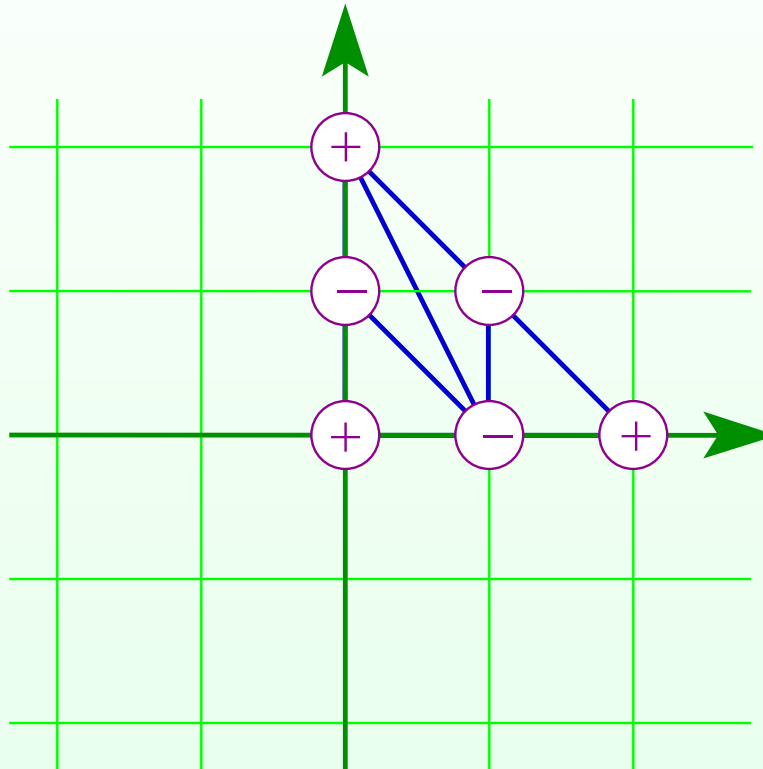
Then for sufficiently small $t > 0$ the polynomial b_t defines in the first quadrant $\mathbb{R}_{++}^2 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x, y > 0\}$ a curve a_t such that the pair (\mathbb{R}_{++}^2, a_t) is homeomorphic to $(\text{Int } \Delta, L \cap \text{Int } \Delta)$.

Patchwork in all quadrants

Patchwork

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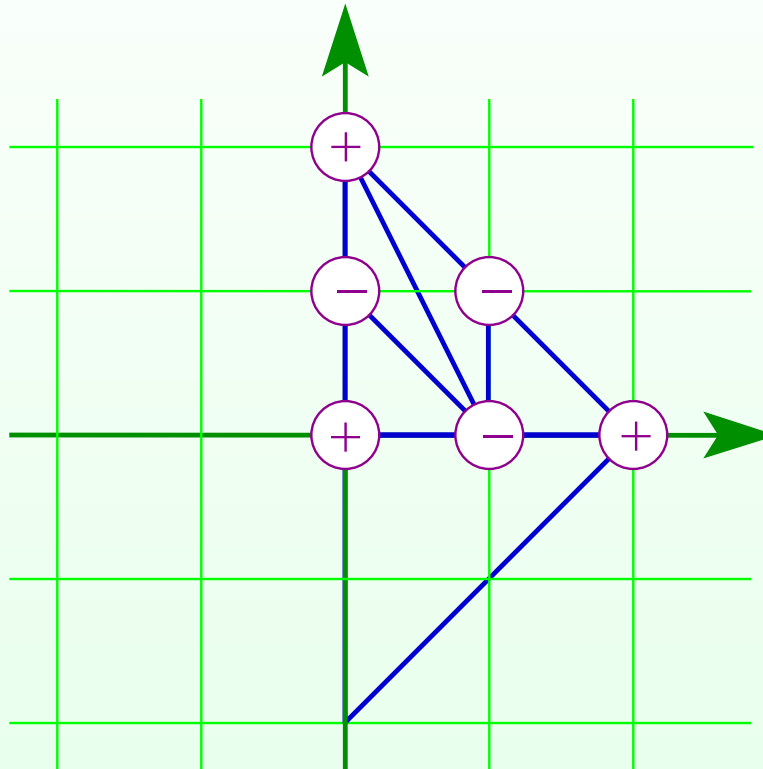
Adjoin to \triangle

Patchwork in all quadrants

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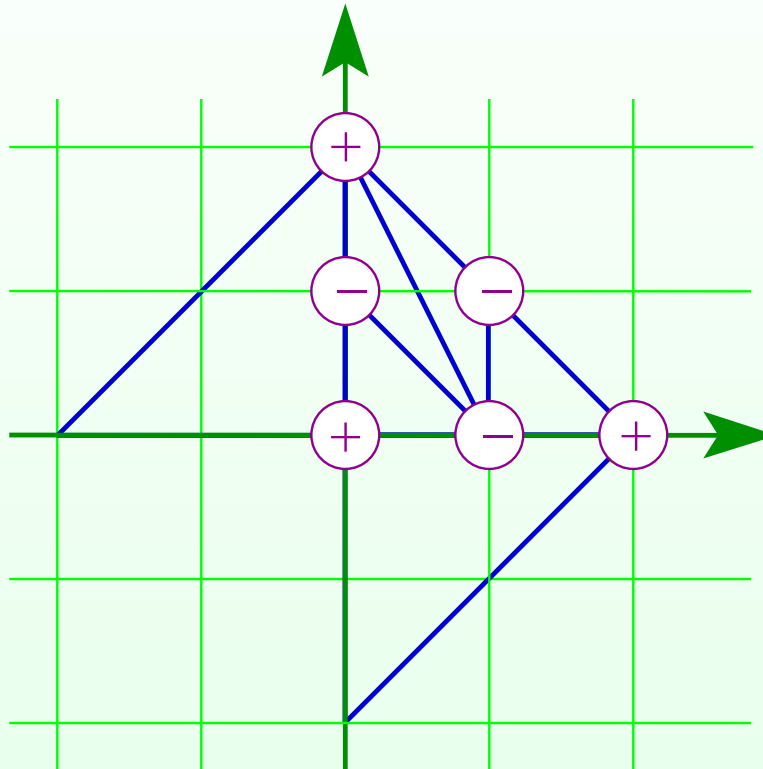
Adjoin to Δ its images $\Delta_x = s_x(\Delta)$,
where s_x, s_y are reflections against the coordinate axes.

Patchwork in all quadrants

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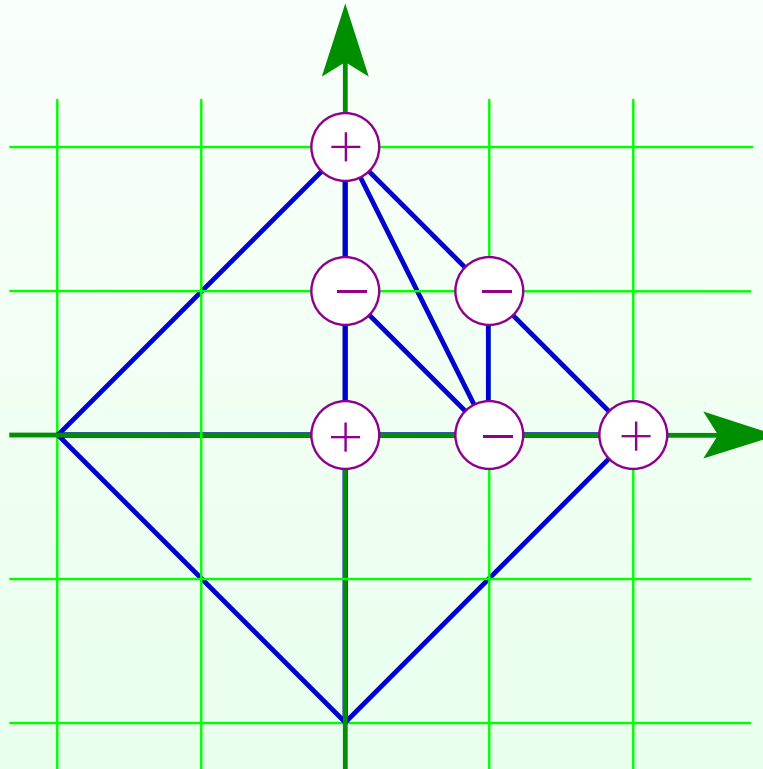
Adjoin to Δ its images $\Delta_x = s_x(\Delta)$, $\Delta_y = s_y(\Delta)$, where s_x, s_y are reflections against the coordinate axes.

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Tropical



Adjoin to Δ its images $\Delta_x = s_x(\Delta)$, $\Delta_y = s_y(\Delta)$,
 $\Delta_{xy} = s_x \circ s_y(\Delta)$,

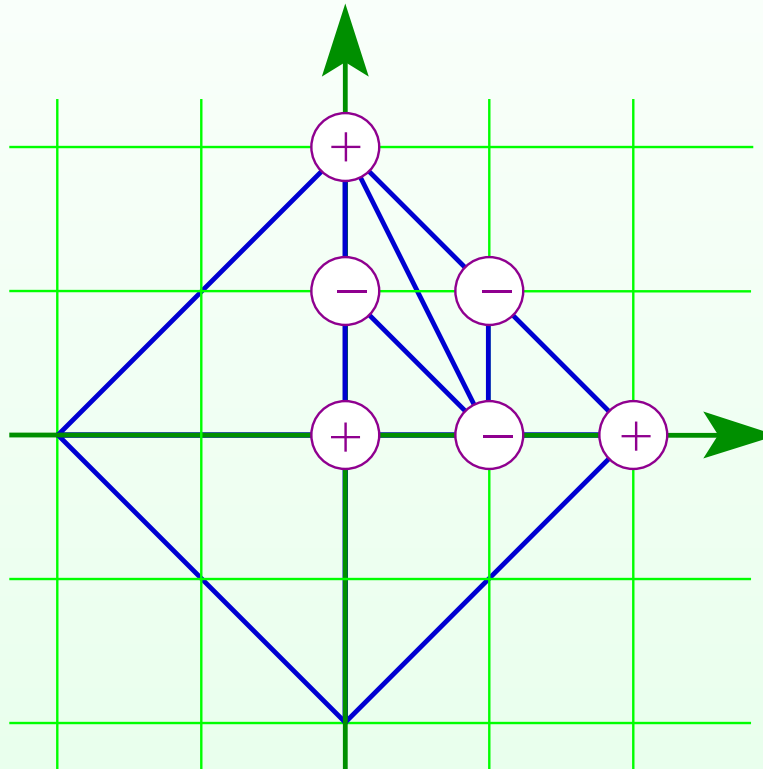
where s_x, s_y are reflections against the coordinate axes.

Patchwork in all quadrants

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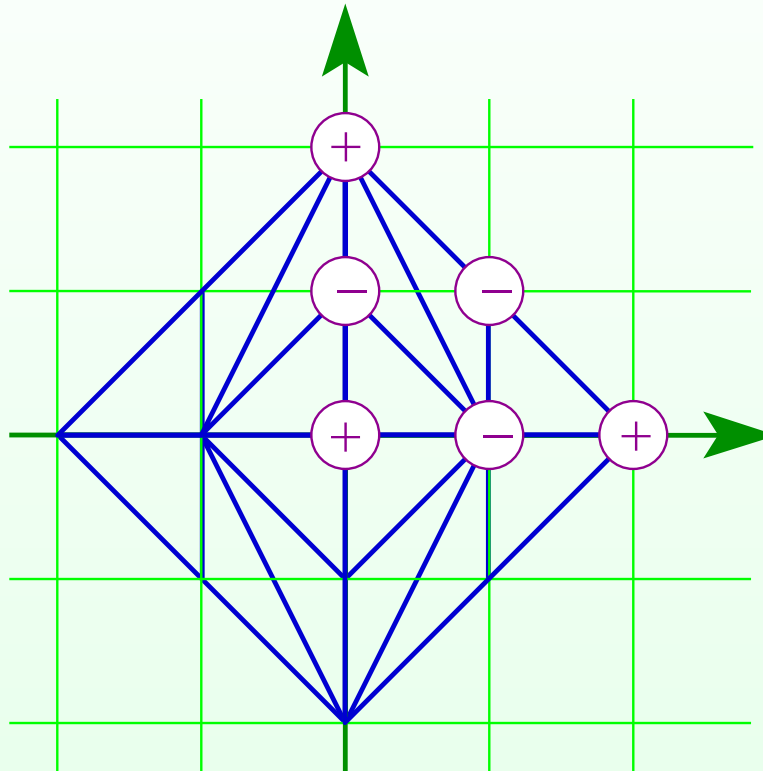
$$\text{Put } A\Delta = \Delta \cup \Delta_x \cup \Delta_y \cup \Delta_{xy} .$$

Patchwork in all quadrants

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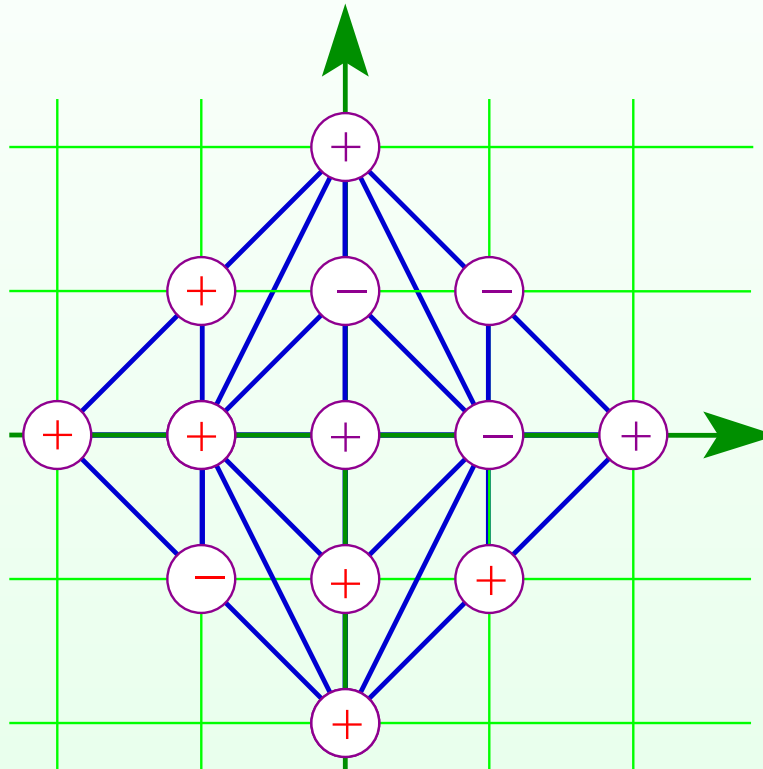
Extend τ to a symmetric triangulation A_τ of $A\Delta$,

Patchwork in all quadrants

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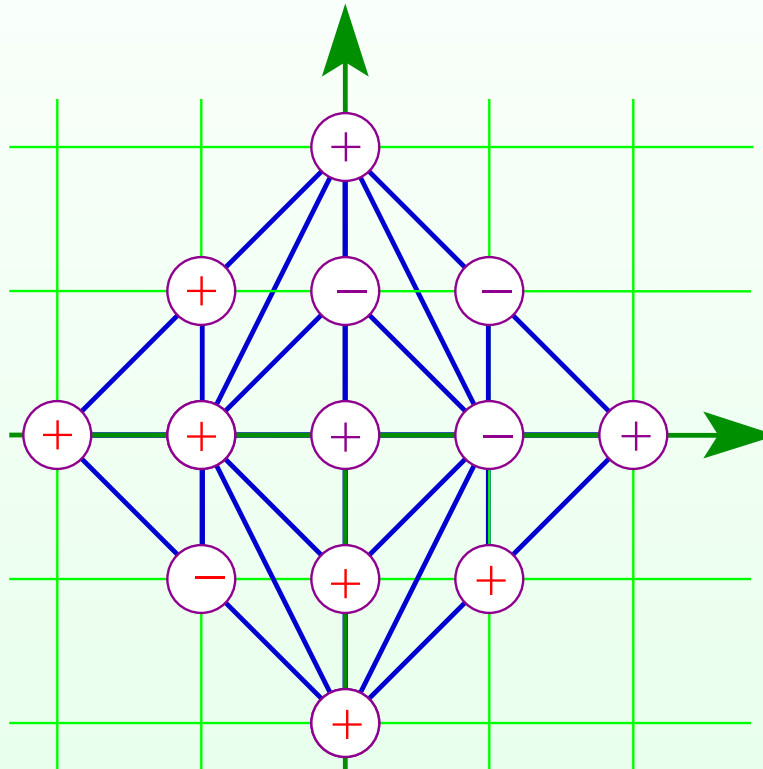
Extend $\sigma_{i,j}$ to a distribution of signs at the vertices of A_τ by the rule: $\sigma_{i,j} \sigma_{\epsilon i, \delta j} \epsilon^i \delta^j = 1$, where $\epsilon, \delta = \pm 1$.

Patchwork in all quadrants

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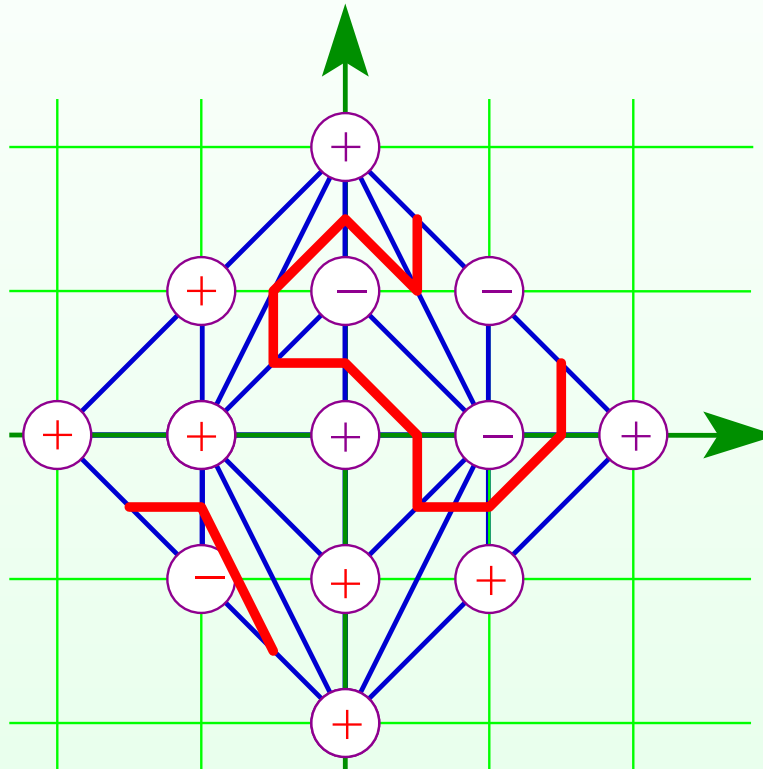
(In other words, passing from a vertex to its mirror image with respect to an axis we preserve its sign if the distance from the vertex to the axis is even, and change the sign otherwise.)

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Tropical



Draw the midlines.

Addendum to the Patchwork Theorem.

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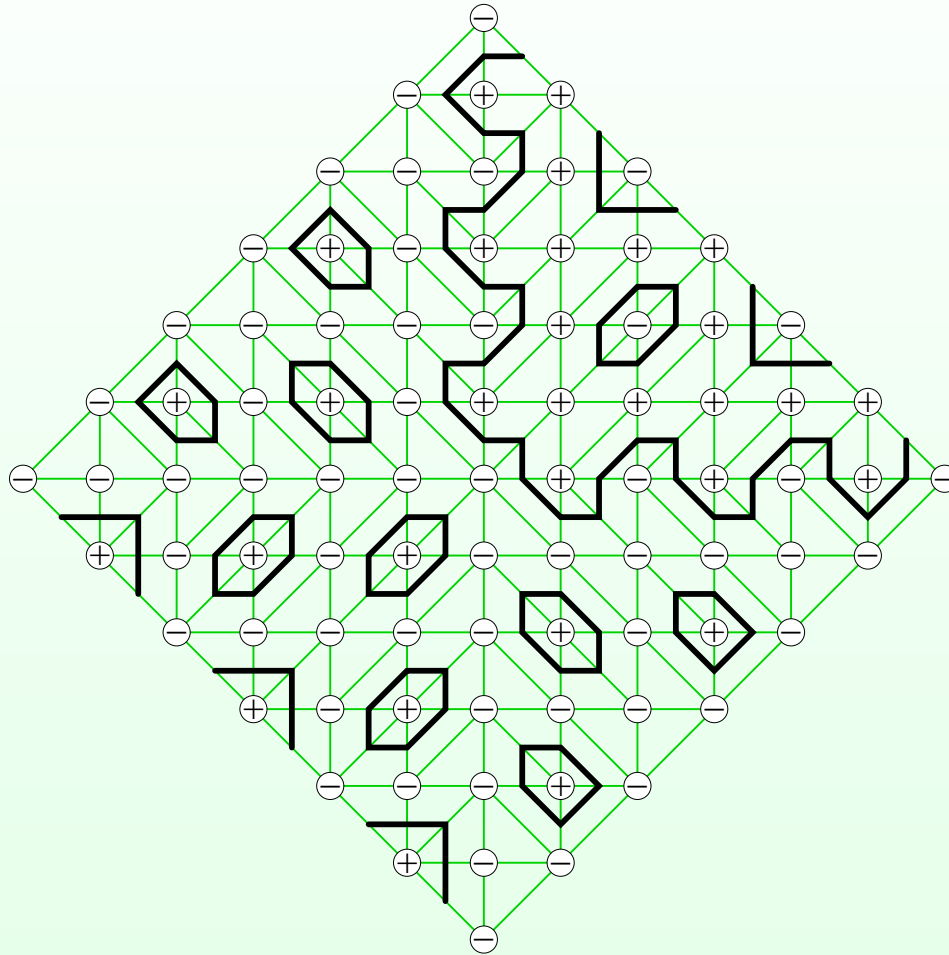
Under the assumptions of Patchwork Theorem, for all sufficiently small $t > 0$ there exist a homeomorphism $A\Delta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ mapping AL onto the the affine curve defined by b_t and a homeomorphism $P\Delta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}P^2$ mapping PL onto the projective closure of this affine curve.

Patchworking of the Harnack curve of degree 6

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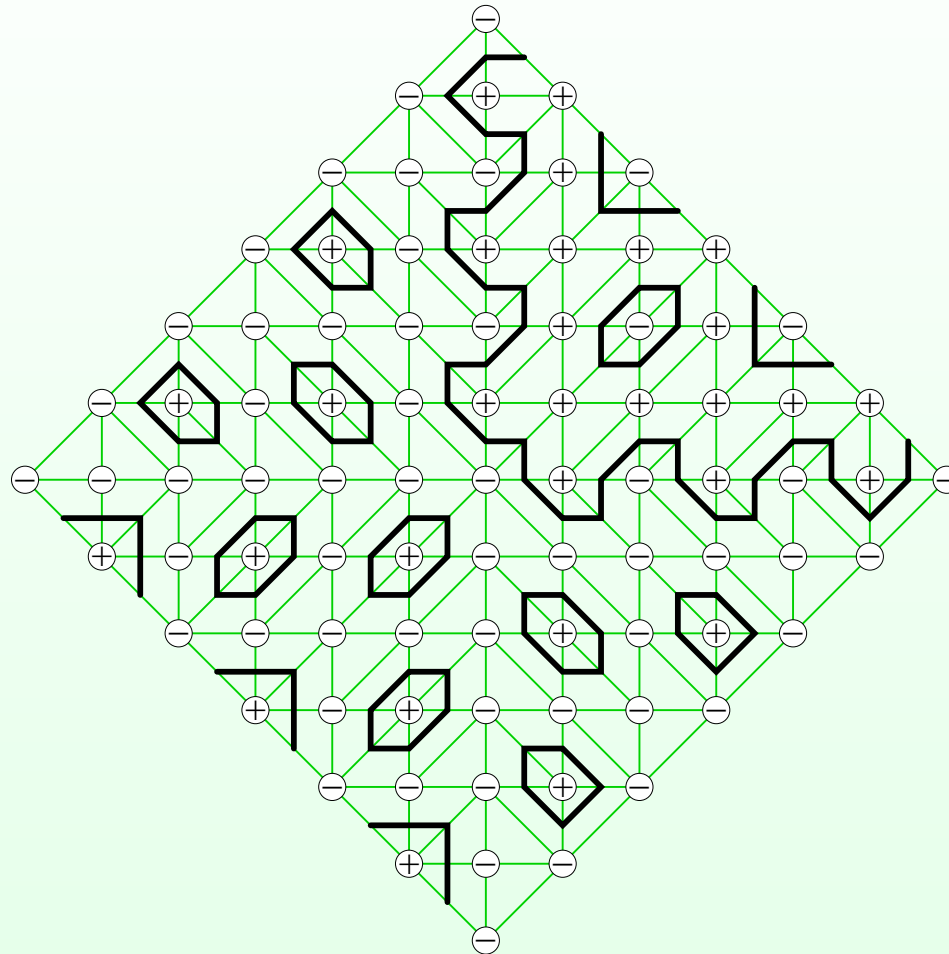


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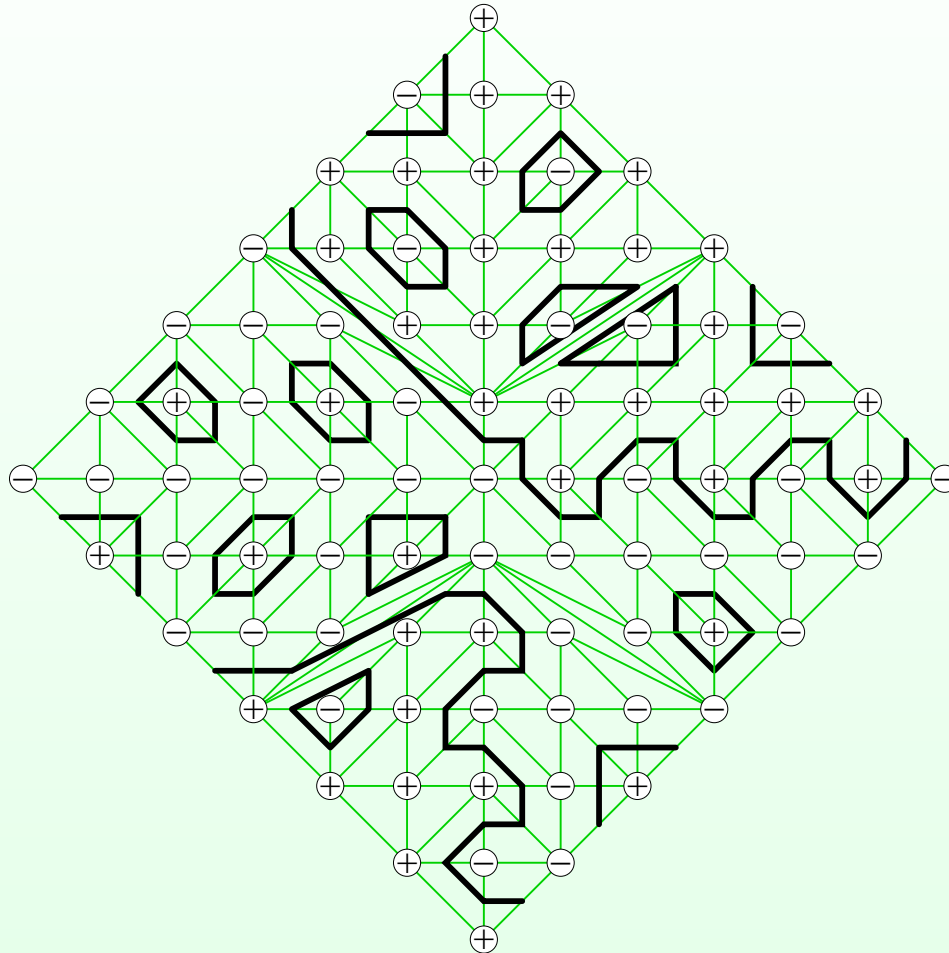
Nine empty ovals and two nested ovals.

Gudkov's curve

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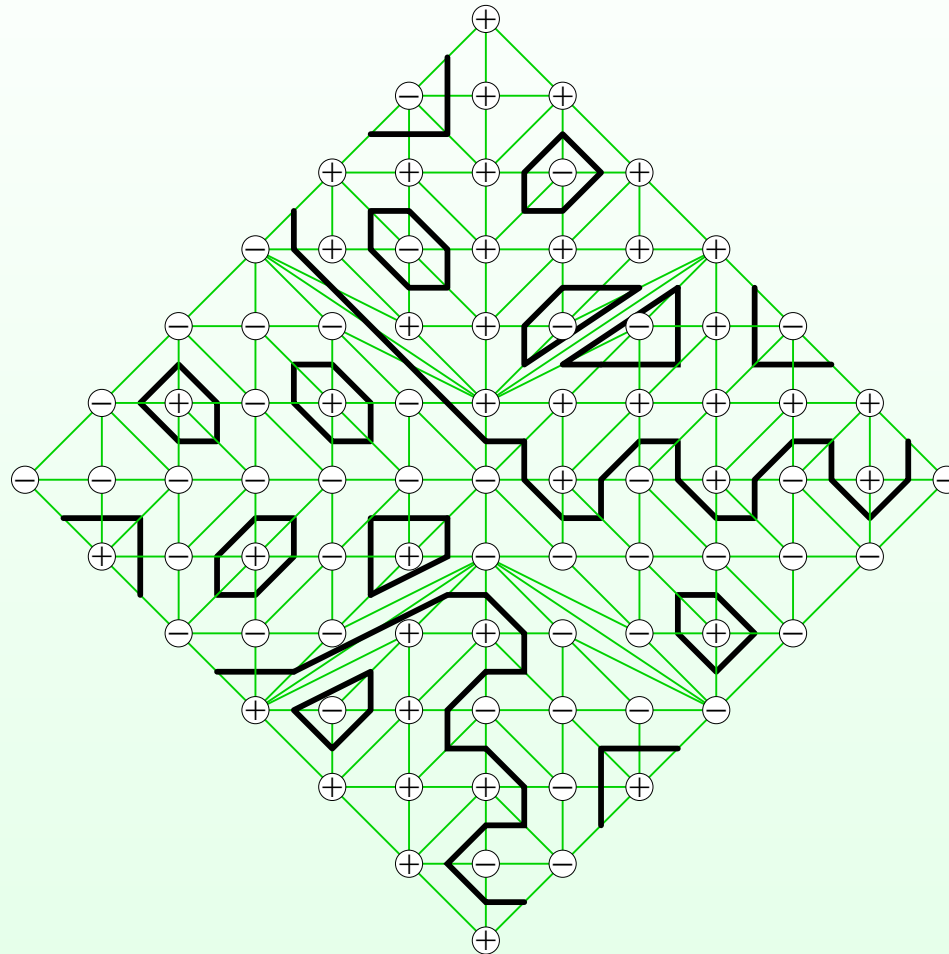


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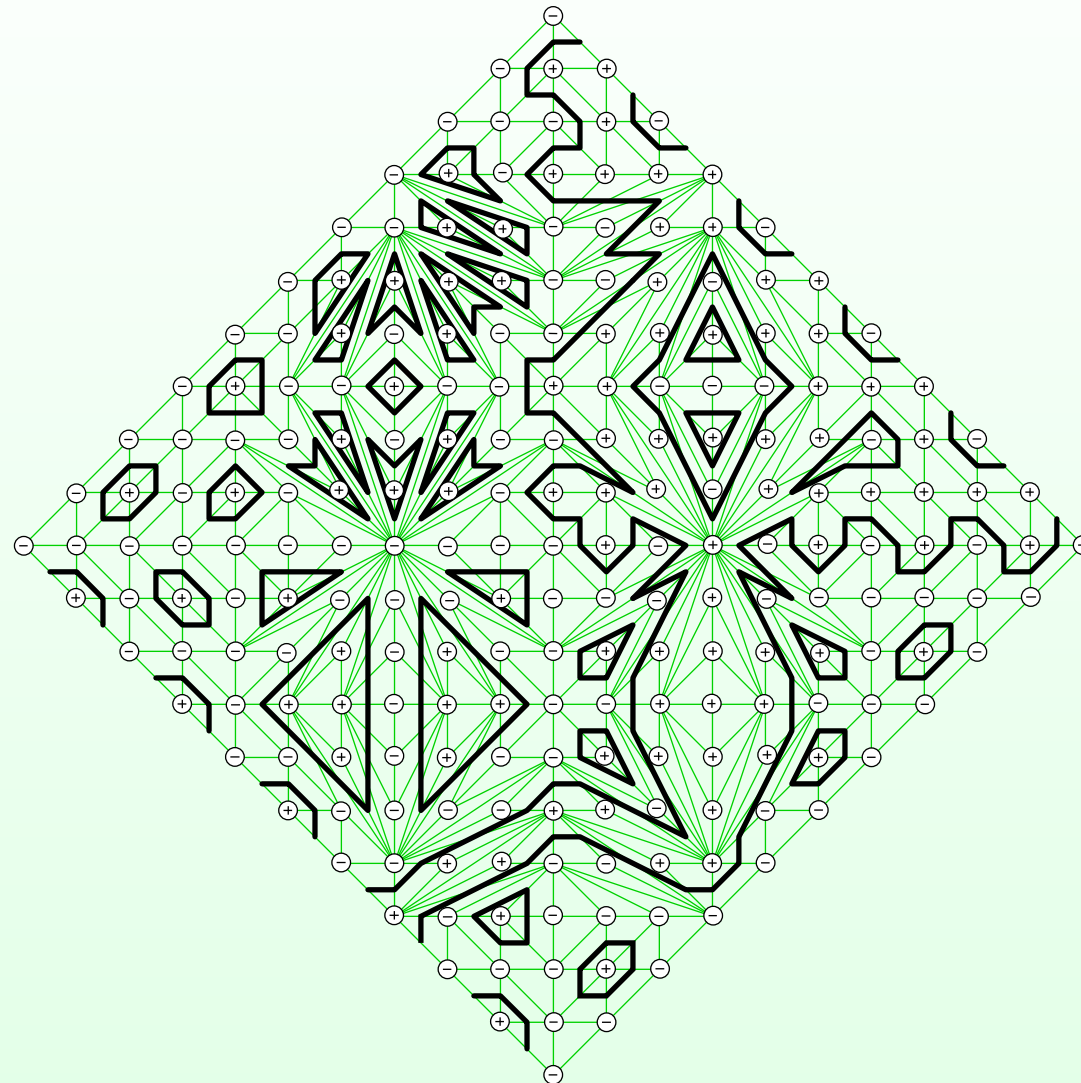
Patchworking of the Gudkov curve of degree 6. Five empty ovals and an oval enclosing five other empty ovals.

Curve of degree 10 with 32 odd ovals

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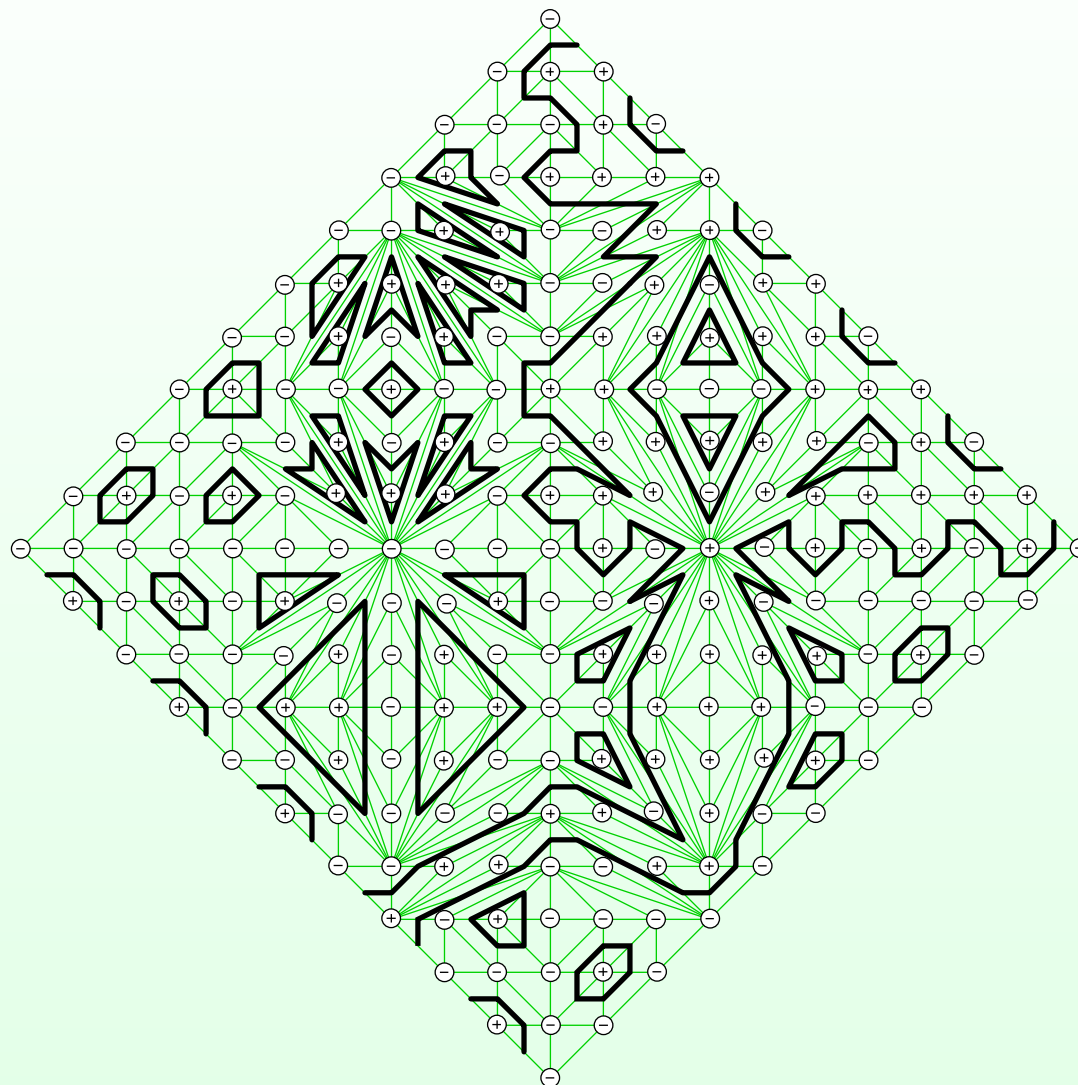


Curve of degree 10 with 32 odd ovals

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Tropical



Ilya Itenberg's patchworking of a counter-example to the Ragsdale Conjecture. A curve of degree 10 with 32 odd ovals.

Patchwork

Tropical

- Arnold's advice
- Dequantization of positive real numbers
- Correspondence Principle
- Correspondences
- Real algebraic geometry as quantized PL-geometry
- Tropical algebra
- Tropical polynomials
- Tropical geometry



Tropical

Arnold's advice

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In late nineties Arnold proposed me to look into papers by Litvinov and Maslov on **idenpotent mathematics**.

Arnold's advice

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He thought it may be related to **integrals against the Euler characteristic**.

Arnold's advice

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I could not find any relation, but was not disappointed.

Dequantization of positive real numbers

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This is a family of semifields $\{S_h\}_{h \in [0, \infty)}$.

Dequantization of positive real numbers

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As a set, $S_h = \mathbb{R}$ for each h .

Dequantization of positive real numbers

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Dequantization of positive real numbers

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$$a \oplus_h b = \begin{cases} h \ln(e^{a/h} + e^{b/h}), & \text{if } h > 0 \\ \max\{a, b\}, & \text{if } h = 0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$$a \odot_h b = a + b \quad (2)$$

Dequantization of positive real numbers

Patchwork

Tropical

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$$a \oplus_h b = \begin{cases} h \ln(e^{a/h} + e^{b/h}), & \text{if } h > 0 \\ \max\{a, b\}, & \text{if } h = 0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$$a \odot_h b = a + b \quad (2)$$

These operations depend **continuously** on h .

Dequantization of positive real numbers

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This is a family of semifields $\{S_h\}_{h \in [0, \infty)}$.

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For $h > 0$ $D_h : \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow S_h : x \mapsto h \ln x$

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For $h > 0$ $D_h : \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow S_h : x \mapsto h \ln x$ is a **semiring isomorphism** of $\{\mathbb{R}_{>0}, +, \cdot\}$ onto $\{S_h, \oplus_h, \odot_h\}$.

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S_h with $h > 0$ is a copy of $\mathbb{R}_{>0}$ with the usual operations.

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Speaking quantum:

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Correspondence Principle (G. L. Litvinov and V. P. Maslov)
*“There exists a (heuristic) correspondence, in the spirit of the
correspondence principle in Quantum Mechanics,
between important, useful and interesting constructions and
results over the field of real (or complex) numbers (or the
semiring of all nonnegative numbers) and similar constructions
and results over idempotent semirings.”*

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$$\text{Integral } \int_X f(x) dx \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \text{Supremum } \sup_X \{f(x)\}$$

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Integral $\int_X f(x) dx \longleftrightarrow$

Supremum $\sup_X \{f(x)\}$

Fourier transform

$\tilde{f}(\xi) = \int e^{ix\xi} f(x) dx \longleftrightarrow$

Legendre transform

$\tilde{f}(\xi) = \sup \{x \cdot \xi - f(x)\} .$

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Integral $\int_X f(x) dx$ \longleftrightarrow

Fourier transform
 $\tilde{f}(\xi) = \int e^{ix\xi} f(x) dx$ \longleftrightarrow

Linear problems \longleftrightarrow

Supremum $\sup_X \{f(x)\}$

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Optimization problems

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Integral $\int_X f(x) dx \longleftrightarrow$

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Linear problems \longleftrightarrow

Polynomial over \mathbb{R}_+
 $p(x) = \sum_k a_k x^k \longleftrightarrow$

Supremum $\sup_X \{f(x)\}$

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Optimization problems

Convex PL-function
 $M_p(u) = \max_k \{ku + \ln a_k\}$

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The dequantization deforms graph Γ_p of p on log paper to the tropical graph of p .

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Integral $\int_X f(x) dx \longleftrightarrow$ Supremum $\sup_X \{f(x)\}$

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Linear problems \longleftrightarrow Optimization problems

Polynomial over \mathbb{R}_+ $p(x) = \sum_k a_k x^k \longleftrightarrow$ Convex PL-function $M_p(u) = \max_k \{ku + \ln a_k\}$

The dequantization deforms graph Γ_p of p on log paper to to the tropical graph of p .

The deformation consists of the graphs of the same polynomial $\sum_k \ln(a_k) x^k$, but on S_h^2 with varying $h \in [0, 1]$.

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Real
polynomials

← quantization

Convex
PL-functions
with integral slopes

Real algebraic geometry as quantized PL-geometry

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Real
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← quantization

Convex
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↓ generate

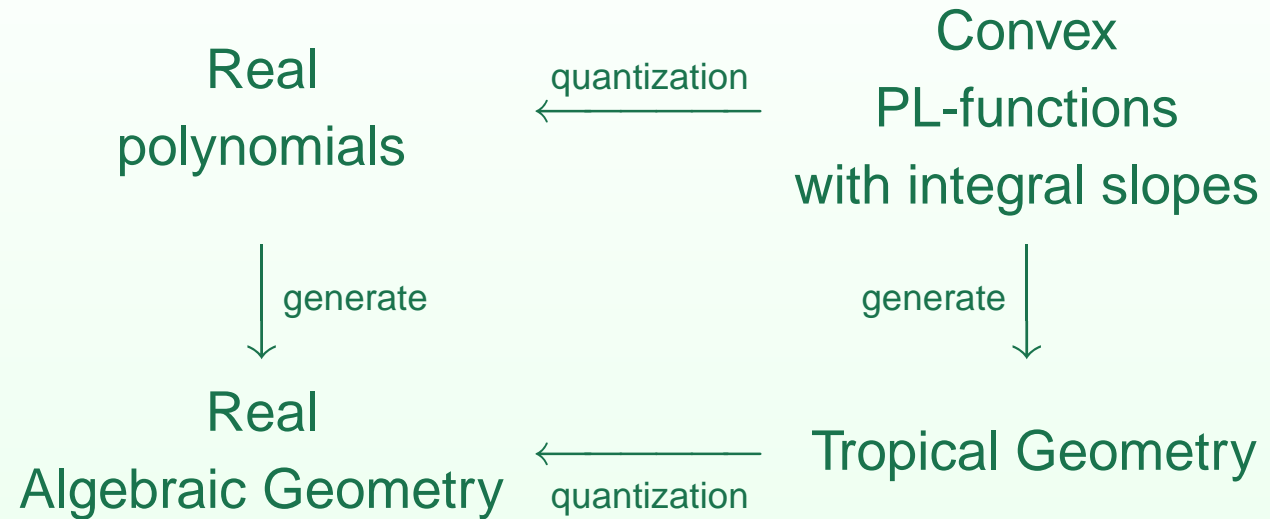
generate ↓

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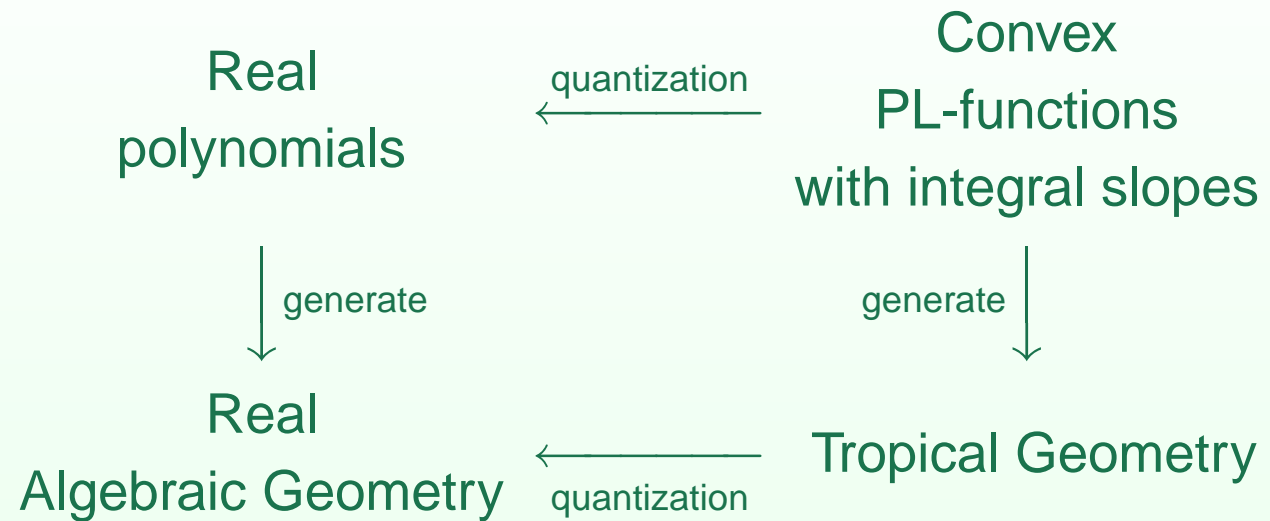


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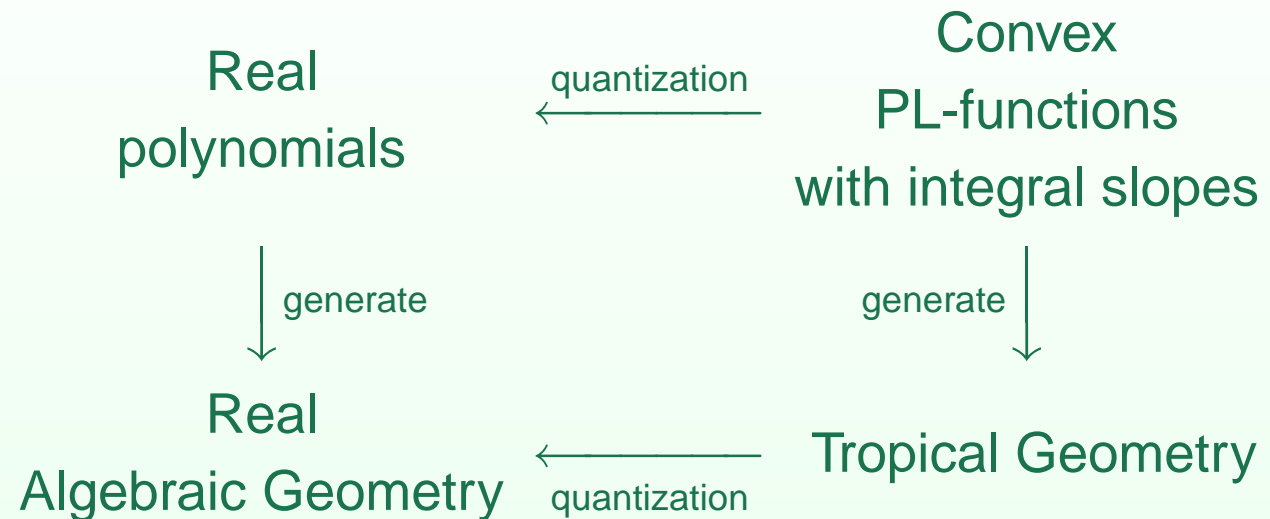
Combinatorial patchworking is a construction of real tropical curve.

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Combinatorial patchworking is a construction of real tropical curve.

I presented this in my talk at European Congress of Mathematicians in 2000.

Tropical algebra

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The set \mathbb{R} with operations

$$(a, b) \mapsto \max\{a, b\} \text{ and } (a, b) \mapsto a + b.$$

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Denoted by $\mathbb{R}_{\max,+}$

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Denoted by $\mathbb{R}_{\max,+}$, called tropical algebra.

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This is a **semi-ring**.



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This is a **semi-ring**. Everything is as in a ring, but **no subtraction**.



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Adjoin $-\infty$ as 0 .

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This is a **semi-ring**. Everything is as in a ring, but **no subtraction**, no 0 .

Adjoin $-\infty$ as 0 , denote by \mathbb{T} .

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This is a **semi-ring**. Everything is as in a ring, but **no subtraction**, no 0 .

Adjoin $-\infty$ as 0 , denote by \mathbb{T} . This is a semi-field.

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A polynomial over \mathbb{T} is a convex PL-function with integral slopes.

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A polynomial over \mathbb{T} is
a convex PL-function with integral slopes.

Indeed, a monomial $ax_1^{k_1}x_2^{k_2}\dots x_n^{k_n}$ is
 $a + k_1x_1 + k_2x_2 + \dots + k_nx_n$.

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A polynomial is a finite sum of monomials

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A polynomial is a finite sum of monomials,
that is the maximum of finite collection of linear functions.

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Tropical geometry is an algebraic geometry over \mathbb{T} .

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Tropical geometry is an algebraic geometry over \mathbb{T} .

Algebraic geometry is based on polynomials.

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Tropical geometry is an algebraic geometry over \mathbb{T} .

Algebraic geometry is based on polynomials.

Hence, tropical geometry is based on convex PL-functions with integral slopes.

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Tropical geometry is an algebraic geometry over \mathbb{T} .

Algebraic geometry is based on polynomials.

Hence, tropical geometry is based on convex PL-functions with integral slopes.

It would be exotic and needless if there was no relations to the classical algebraic geometry, which is provided by Litvinov-Maslov dequantization.

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- Correspondences
- Real algebraic geometry as quantized PL-geometry
- Tropical algebra
- Tropical polynomials
- Tropical geometry

Tropical geometry is an algebraic geometry over \mathbb{T} .

Algebraic geometry is based on polynomials.

Hence, tropical geometry is based on convex PL-functions with integral slopes.

It would be exotic and needless if there was no relations to the classical algebraic geometry, which is provided by Litvinov-Maslov dequantization.

Applications (besides combinatorial patchworking) in enumerative geometry, both real and complex.