

Introduction to cluster algebras and varieties

Lecture 3

Total positivity. Networks

# Laurent phenomenon

- Theorem  $s_0, s_1, \dots, s_d$  Then  $\bar{A}(s_d)$  — Laurent polynomials on  $A(s_0)$  with integer coefficients.

$$A(t_0) = \underbrace{A_1, \dots, A_n}_{\text{unfrozen}}, \underbrace{A_{n+1}, \dots, A_m}_{\text{frozen}}$$

- Theorem  $A(s) \in \mathbb{Z}[A_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, A_n^{\pm 1}, A_{n+1}, \dots, A_m]$

PF Induction on  $d$ . Consider  $A_i(s_d)$  as a function on frozen variable  $A_r$ .

claim Any  $A_i(s_d) \Big|_{A_r=0}$  has form of subtraction free rational function

(i.e.  $\frac{P}{Q}$ , where  $P, Q$  - polynomials with positive coefficients.)

In particular  $A_i(s_d) \neq 0$ ,  $A_i(s_d) \neq \infty$

Induction step:

$$A'_k = \frac{M_1 + M_2}{A_k}$$

$$A_r = 0$$

•  $A_r$  cannot appear both in  $M_1$  and  $M_2$

subtraction free

rational

functions is

subtraction free

rational

function



● Remark

$A(S_d)$  — Laurent polynomial on  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  with coeff in  $\mathbb{Z}$

subtraction free rational function on  $A_1, \dots, A_m$

● Theorem

$A(S_d)$  — Laurent polynomials on  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  with coeff in  $\mathbb{Z}_{>0}$

Example

$$x^2 - xy + y^2 = \frac{x^3 + y^3}{x + y}$$

— subtraction free rational function

Laurent polynomial, but coeff. are not positive

# Totally positive matrices

$M$  —  $n \times n$  matrix

$$M_{\substack{d_1 \dots d_k \\ i_1 \dots i_k}}$$

— columns

— submatrix

— rows numbers

$$\Delta_{\substack{J \\ I}}^J = \Delta_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{d_1 \dots d_k} = \det M_{\substack{d_1 \dots d_k \\ i_1 \dots i_k}}$$

$$d_1 < \dots < d_k$$

$$i_1 < \dots < i_k$$

Def Matrix  $M$  is totally positive if  $\Delta_{\substack{J \\ I}}^J > 0$   
 $\forall I, J, |I|=|J|$

● Th (Perron-Frobenius) If  $M$  s.t.  $M_{i,j}^j > 0$   
 $\lambda$  — eigenvalue with maximal  $|\lambda|$ . Then

①  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$

②  $\lambda$  has no degeneracy

③ If  $v = (v_1, \dots, v_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is eigen vector  
 $Mv = \lambda v$  then all  $v_i$  have the same sign

● Th (Gantmacher-Krein) If  $M$  is totally positive

Ⓐ  $\lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > \dots > \lambda_n > 0$  all eigenvalues of  $M$

Ⓑ If  $v_j = (v_{1j}, \dots, v_{nj}) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is eigen vector  $Mv_j = \lambda_j v_j$   
then  $v_{1j}, \dots, v_{nj}$  has exactly  $l-1$  changes  
of sign.

Problem Prove Ⓐ above.

Example  
2x2

$$\begin{pmatrix} b & bc \\ ab & abc+d \end{pmatrix}$$

Goals

• Parametrize TP matrices

• Efficient test for TP

(much less than  $\binom{2n}{n} - 1$  minors)

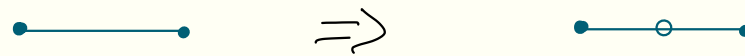
# Networks (in form of bipartite graphs)

- $n$  parallel lines

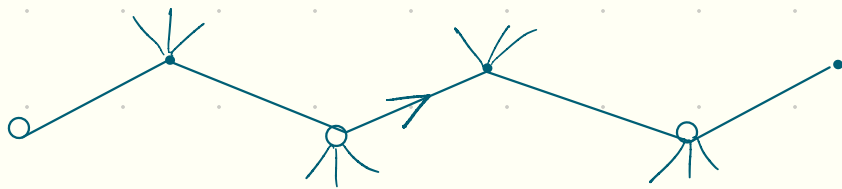
- Between the lines



- Insert vertices to make graph bipartite



- Zig-zag path:

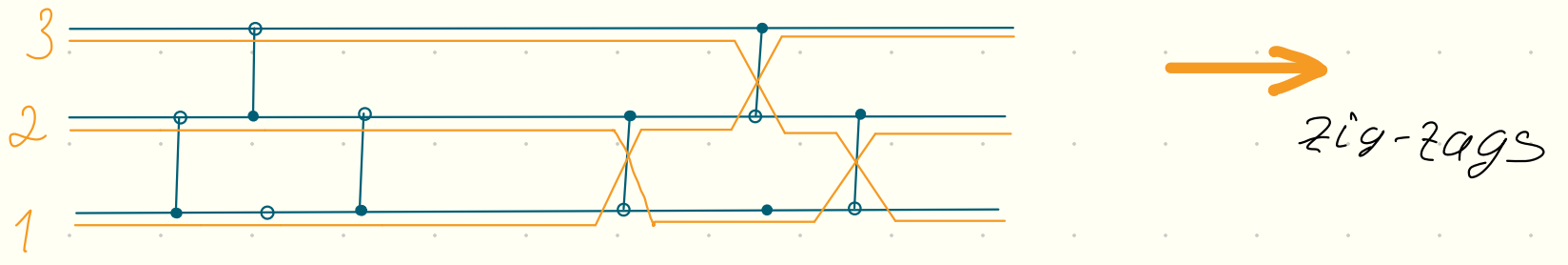


In black vertex move right

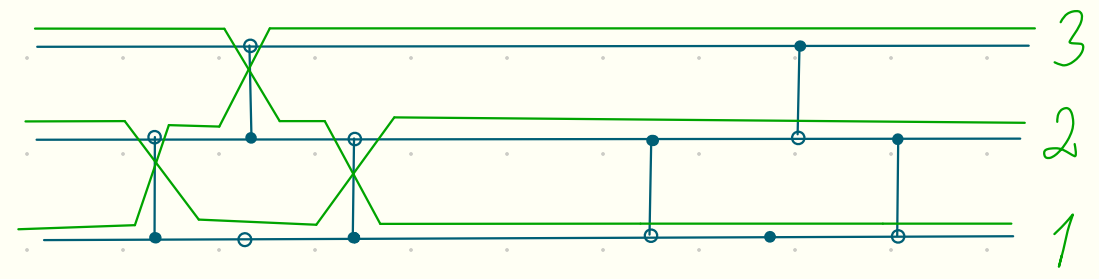
In white vertex move left

Any edge belongs to 2 zig-zags with opposite direction

# Example



← zig-zag



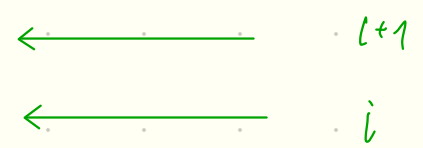
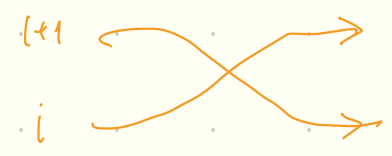
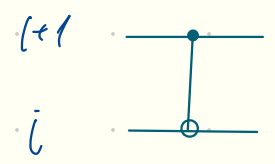
● For our network

$n$  zig-zags →

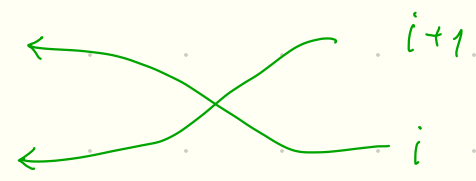
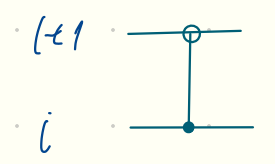
$n$  zig-zags ←

We number zig-zags from bottom to top at their beginning

permutation of orange zig-zags



$\bar{S}_i$



$S_i$

permutation of green zigzags



# Networks

- Assume any two zig-zags of the same color intersect exactly once

zig-zags of any color give permutation  
of the form  $w_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & n \\ n & n-1 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

- Equivalently  $\overline{S}_i$  form reduced decomposition  $w_0$   
and  $S_i$  form reduced decomposition  $w_0$

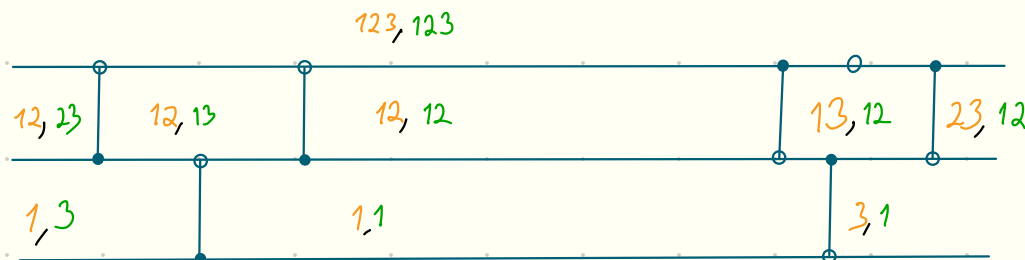
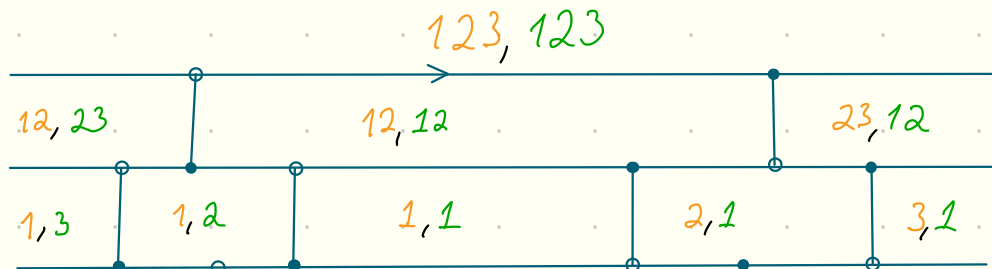
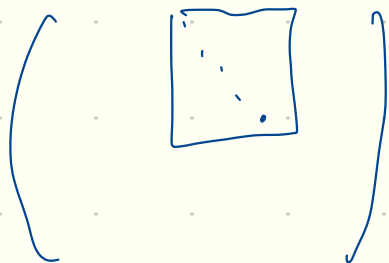
Here  $S_i = (i, i+1) \in S_n$        $w_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & n \\ n & n-1 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in S_n$

# Face variables

- Def To any face we assign  $\triangle$  zig-zags below

## Examples

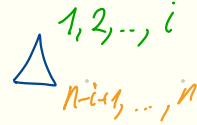
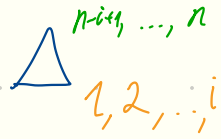
initial microt



# number of faces =  $n^2 = n + \binom{n}{2} + \binom{n}{2}$

number of slanted edges

The minors on the boundary do not depend on network



$$\begin{array}{c} \underline{123, n-2, n-1, n} \\ \underline{12, n-1, n} \\ \underline{1, n} \end{array}$$

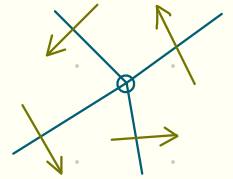
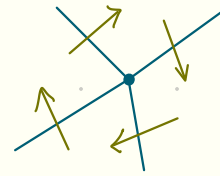
$$\begin{array}{c} \underline{n-2, n-1, n, 123} \\ \underline{n-1, n, 12} \\ \underline{n, 1} \end{array}$$

anti-diagonal principle minors

These will be frozen variables

# Quiver

- Vertices - faces of graph

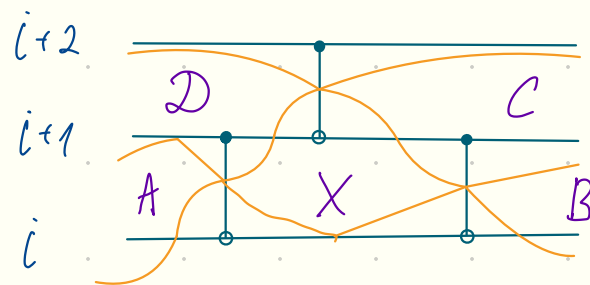
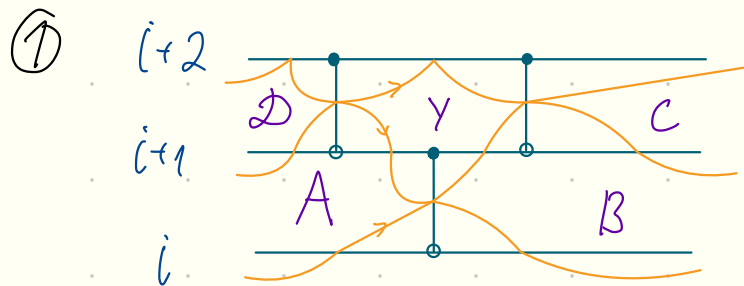


Edges - clockwise around black vertices  
counter-clockwise around white vertices

- To any network we assigned a seed  $(Q, \Delta_I^J)$

Theorem @ Any two networks are connected by sequence of the following transf

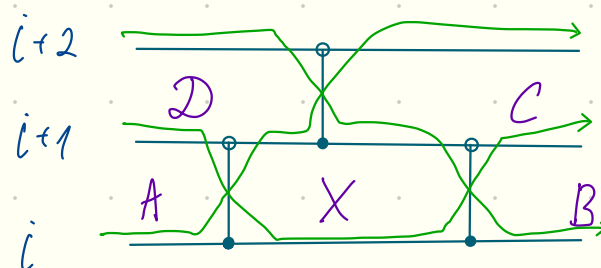
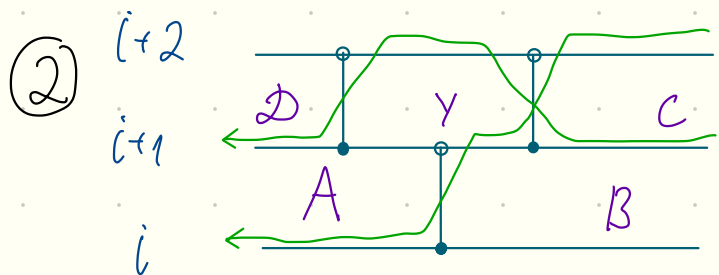
- ③ These transformations correspond to mutations of the seeds



relation on face variables  
In terms reflections

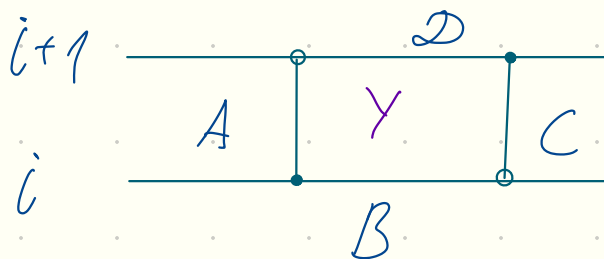
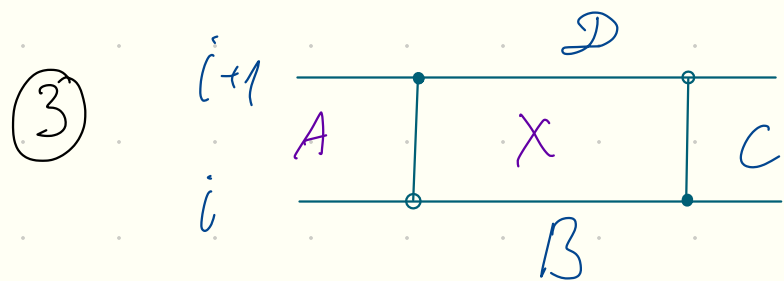
$$XY = AC + BD$$

$$\bar{S}_{i+1} \bar{S}_i \bar{S}_{i+1} = \bar{S}_i \bar{S}_{i+1} \bar{S}_i$$



$$XY = AC + BD$$

$$S_i S_{i+1} S_i = S_{i+1} S_i S_{i+1}$$

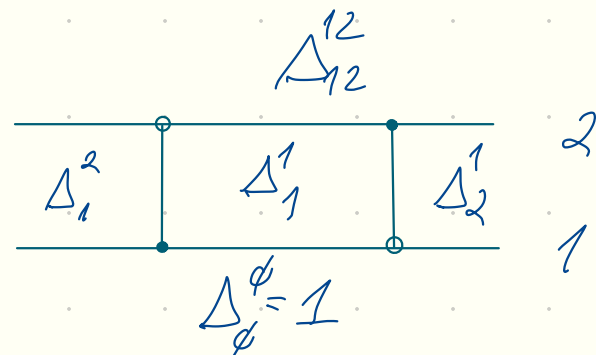
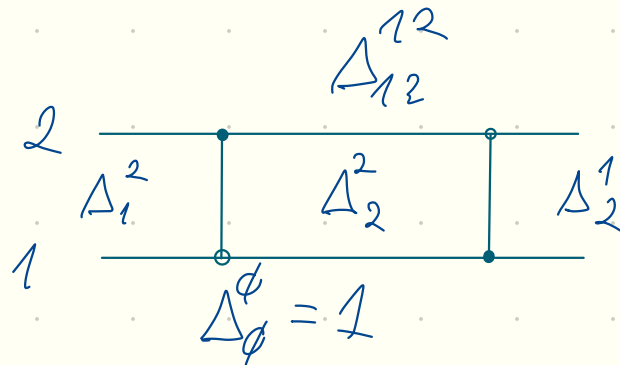


$$XY = AC + BD$$

$$S_i \bar{S}_i = \bar{S}_i S_i$$

## Example

$n=2$



Relation on face variables:  $\Delta_1^1 \Delta_2^2 = \Delta_{12}^{12} + \Delta_1^2 \Delta_2^1$

Problem Prove (b) part of Theorem.

Hint For relations on minors use **Jacobi's** relation on minors of inverse matrix

$$\det(A)_{\mathbf{I}}^{\mathbf{J}} = (-1)^{\sum i_c + \sum j_c - 2 \binom{k+1}{2}} \det A \det(A^{-1})_{\mathbf{I}^c}^{\mathbf{J}^c}, \text{ where } \mathbf{I}^c = \{1, \dots, n \setminus \mathbf{I}\}$$

Remark Relations (1) and (2) are particular cases of **Plucker** relation

Relation (3) is **Desnanot-Jacobi** identity.

Used in **Dodgson** condensation (Lewis Carroll identity)

● Theorem Any  $\Delta_J^I$  appears in seed for some network

● Problem\* Prove this theorem.

● Problem (a) For  $n=3$  show that unfrozen part of quiver is equivalent to  $D_4$  quiver  
(b) Find two cluster variables which are not minors.

● Corollary If for given network all  $\Delta_J^I > 0$   
Then all  $\Delta_J^I > 0$

Test for TP consisting on  $n^2$  minors

## References

- Fomin Zelevinsky Total positivity tests and parametrization