

Introduction to cluster algebras and varieties

Lecture 11

Geometric approach to cluster varieties

- Lattice

$$N = \mathbb{Z}^n, \quad M = \text{Hom}(N, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}^n$$

$$(\cdot, \cdot) : N \times M \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^n$$

- TORUS  $T_N = N \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} G_m = \text{Spec } \mathbb{C}[M]$

$G_m$ -multiplicative group of base field (i.e.  $\mathbb{C}^*$ )

$$\mathbb{C}[M] = \langle z^m \mid m \in M \rangle \quad z^m \cdot z^{m'} = z^{m+m'}$$

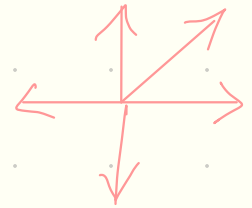
in coordinates  $T_N = G_m^n = (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$

$M = \langle f_1, \dots, f_n \rangle$  functions on  $T_N$  Laurent polynomials  
on  $z^{f_1}, \dots, z^{f_n}$

● Toric varieties (up to codim 2)

Fan in  $M$  — set of rays  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} v_i$   
 $\sum$   $0$ ,  $i=1, \dots, k$ .

• Example  $n=2$  figure like



•  $TV_{\Sigma} =$  <sup>up to codim 2</sup>  $T_N \cup \bigcup_i T_{\langle v \rangle^\perp}$

Here  $\langle v \rangle^\perp \subset N$  sublattice of codim 1

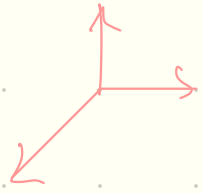
$T_{\langle v \rangle^\perp}$  — torus of dimension  $n-1$  glued to  $T_N$   
 as a set  $\{z^{v_i} = 0\}$

Example  $n=1$  (a)  $\rightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \cup \{z^v = 0\} = \mathbb{C}$

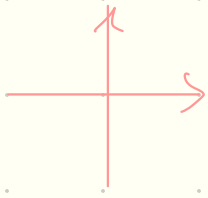
(b)  $\leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \cup \{z^v = 0\} \cup \{z^{-v} = 0\} = \mathbb{P}^1$

Problem Find  $TV_{\Sigma}$  for the following  $\Sigma$

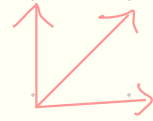
(a)



(b)



(c)



# Date for cluster variety

## Fixed date

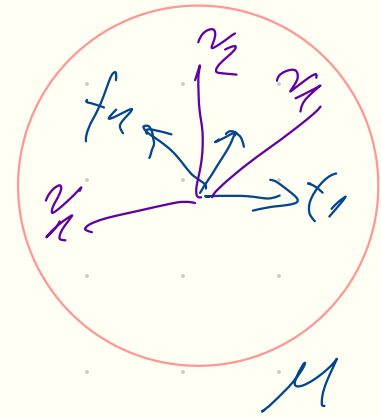
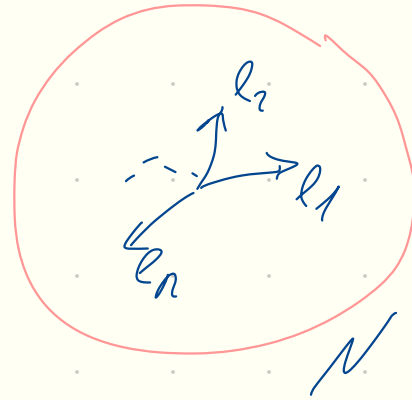
- Lattice  $N$
- Skew-symmetric pairing  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : N \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} N \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$
- $N_{uf} \subset N$  - unfrozen sublattice  
s.t.  $\langle N_{uf}, N \rangle \subset \mathbb{Z}$
- Index set  $I$  s.t.  $|I| = \text{rank } N$   
subset  $I_{uf} \subset I$  s.t.  $|I_{uf}| = \text{rank } N_{uf}$      $I_{fr} = I \setminus I_{uf}$
- $M = \text{Hom}(M, \mathbb{Z})$

## Seed date $S = \{e_i \in N \mid i \in I\}$ s.t.

- $e_i$   $i \in I$  form a basis in  $N$
  - $e_i$   $i \in I_{un}$  form a basis in  $N_{un}$
- Remark  $\theta_{ij} = \langle e_i, e_j \rangle$  - antisymm

# ● Notations

- $f_i = e_i^* \in M$  s.t.  $(e_i, f_j) = \delta_{ij}$   
dual basis



- $v_i = \langle \cdot, e_i \rangle \in M$

- To each seed  $S$  we associate  
 $X_S = T_M$        $A_S = T_N$

- Coordinates       $x_i = z^{e_i}$        $A_i = z^{f_i}$

● Mutation Let  $k \in I_{uf}$

notation

$$e_i' = \begin{cases} -e_k & i=k \\ e_i + [b_{ki}]_+ e_k & i \neq k \end{cases}$$

$$[r]_+ = \begin{cases} r & r \geq 0 \\ 0 & r < 0 \end{cases} = \max(r, 0)$$

$$f_i' = \begin{cases} -f_k + \sum_j [b_{kj}]_+ f_j & i=k \\ f_i & i \neq k \end{cases} \quad \Downarrow \text{Hence on dual basis}$$

Remark  $b_{ij} \mapsto b_{ij}'$

● Algebraic (Geometric date)

$$\mu_k: X_S \rightarrow X_{S'}$$

$$\mu_k: A_S \rightarrow A_{S'}$$

$$\mu_k^*(z^n) = z^n (1 + z^{e_k})^{\langle n, e_k \rangle}$$

$$\mu_k^*(z^m) = z^m (1 + z^{v_k})^{\langle e_k, m \rangle}$$

Problem This is equivalent to the standard formulas

$$\mu_k^* A_k' = \frac{\prod_{j, b_{jk} > 0} A_j^{b_{jk}} + \prod_{j, b_{jk} < 0} A_j^{b_{kj}}}{A_k} \quad \mu_k^* A_i' = A_i \quad i \neq k$$

$$\mu_k^* x_i' = \begin{cases} x_k^{-1} & j=k \\ x_j (1 + x_k^{\operatorname{sgn} b_{jk}})^{b_{jk}} & \end{cases} \quad \begin{matrix} A_i = z^{f_i} & A_i' = z^{f_i'} \\ x_i = z^{e_i} & x_i' = z^{e_i'} \end{matrix}$$

● Remark  $\mu_k^2$

$$e_k \mapsto -e_k \mapsto e_k$$

$$e_i' = \begin{cases} -e_k & i=k \\ e_i + [\beta_{ki}]_+ e_k & i \neq k \end{cases}$$

$$e_i \mapsto e_i + [\beta_{ki}]_+ e_k \mapsto e_i + [\beta_{ki}]_+ e_k + [-\beta_{ki}]_+ (-e_k) = e_i + \beta_{ki} e_k = e_i + \langle e_k, e_i \rangle e_k$$

Hence

- linear transformation

$$\mu_k^2 = \operatorname{id} \quad \text{on } \{e_i\}$$

$$\mu_k^2 = \operatorname{id} \quad \text{on coordinates } x_i, A_i \text{ and preserves } b_{ij}$$



●  $\mathcal{X}$  (or  $A$ ) cluster varieties (schemes) are gluing of all  $\mathcal{X}_S, A_S$  obtained from  $S'$  by mutations

● Remark Often we do not want to invert  $A_i$  corresp. to  $i \in I_{fr} = I \setminus I_{uf}$ .

In order to do so geometrically

$$A_S \rightsquigarrow (\mathbb{C}^*)^{I_{uf}} \times (\mathbb{C})^{I_{fr}} - \text{toric variety}$$

corresp  $\{\mathbb{R}_{\geq} e_i \mid i \in I_{fr}\}$ .

All gluing definitions remain the same.

## Elementary transformations

- $N$  lattice  $e \in N$  primitive

$$\pi: N \rightarrow N/\mathbb{Z}e$$

$$\pi: T_N \rightarrow T_{N/\mathbb{Z}e}$$

in coordinates if  $e = e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n$ ,  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  - dual basis  $x_i = \mathbb{Z}^{f_i}$

$$\pi: (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

- Let  $F \in \mathbb{C}[T_{N/\mathbb{Z}e}]$  in coord.  $F$  - Laurent polynomial on  $x_2, \dots, x_n$

- we can consider  $F$  as a map  $T_N \rightarrow T_N$  given by

composition  $T_N \rightarrow T_{N/\mathbb{Z}e} \xrightarrow{F} \mathbb{C} \rightarrow T_{\mathbb{Z}e} \hookrightarrow T_N$

- Introduce  $\mathcal{M}_F: T_N \dashrightarrow T_N$   
 $t \mapsto F(\pi(t))^{-1} \cdot t$

In coordinates as above  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (F^{-1}x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$

- Let  $X_f$  be a gluing of two  $T_N$  via  $\mathcal{M}_F$

- $\Sigma_{e,+} = \{ \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} e, 0 \}$  fan in  $N$

$$TV_{\Sigma_{e,+}} = \mathbb{A}^1 \times T_{N/\mathbb{Z}e}$$

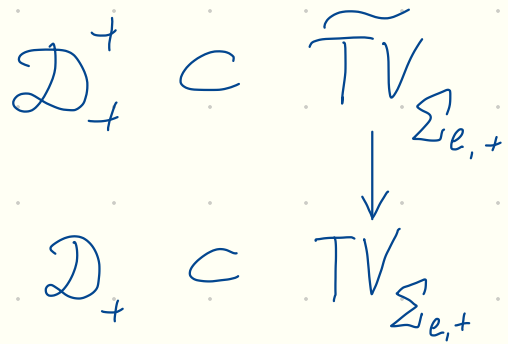
in coord.

$$TV_{\Sigma_{v,+}} = \{ (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid x_1 \in \mathbb{Q}, x_2, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{C}^* \}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_+ = \{ x_1 = 0 \} \subset TV_{\Sigma_{e,+}} \quad \text{- divisor}$$

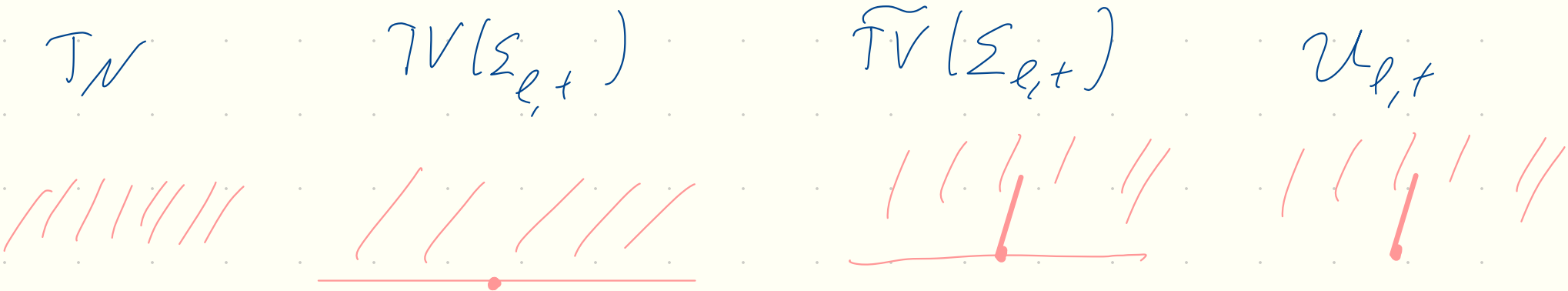
$$\mathcal{Z}_+ = \pi^{-1}(V(F)) \cap \mathcal{D}_+, \quad \text{here } V(F) \text{ subscheme} \\ \text{corresp. to } (F).$$

$\widetilde{TV}_{\Sigma_{e,t}}$  — blowup of  $Z_+$   
 $\mathcal{D}_+$  — proper transform  $\mathcal{D}_+$



$$\mathcal{U}_{e,t} = \widetilde{TV}_{\Sigma_{e,t}} \setminus \mathcal{D}_+^+ \\ T_N = TV_{\Sigma_{e,t}} \setminus \mathcal{D}_+$$

• Example



• Lemma 1 There is an open immersion  $X_F \hookrightarrow \mathcal{U}_{e,t}$   
 s.t.  $\mathcal{U}_{e,t} \setminus X_F$  is codim  $\geq 2$ .

• Example Typically mutation

$$(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) \longleftrightarrow (x_1, (1+x_2^{-1})^{-1}, x_2^{-1}, x_3, \dots, x_n)$$

in terms of first chart in gluing we add points  $x_1=0, x_2=-1, x_1/(1+x_2^{-1}) - \text{const} \longleftrightarrow \text{blow up}$

in terms of second chart in gluing we add points  $x_1'=\infty, x_2'=-1, x_1(1+x_1') - \text{const}$

• Introduce fan  $\Sigma_e = \{ \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} e, \mathbb{R}_{\leq 0} e, 0 \}$   
it would correspond to two charts.

$$TV_{\Sigma_e} = \mathbb{P}^1 \times (\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-1}$$

DIVISORS

Codim 2 subsets

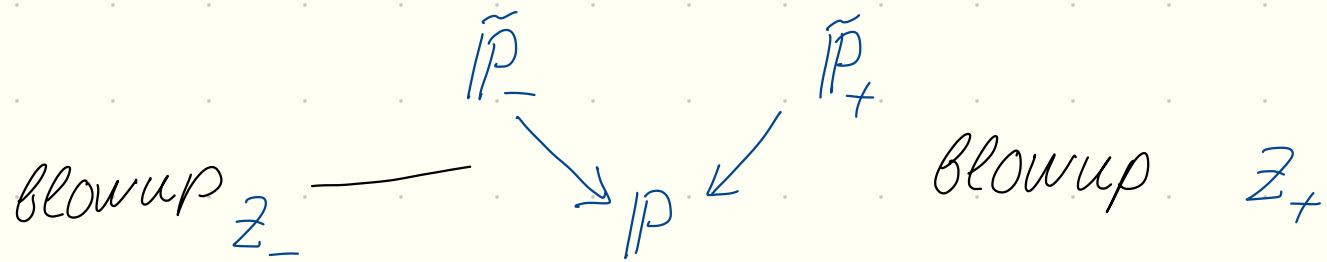
$$\mathcal{D}_+ = \{x_1=0\}$$

$$\mathcal{Z}_+ = \mathcal{D}_+ \cap V(F \circ \pi)$$

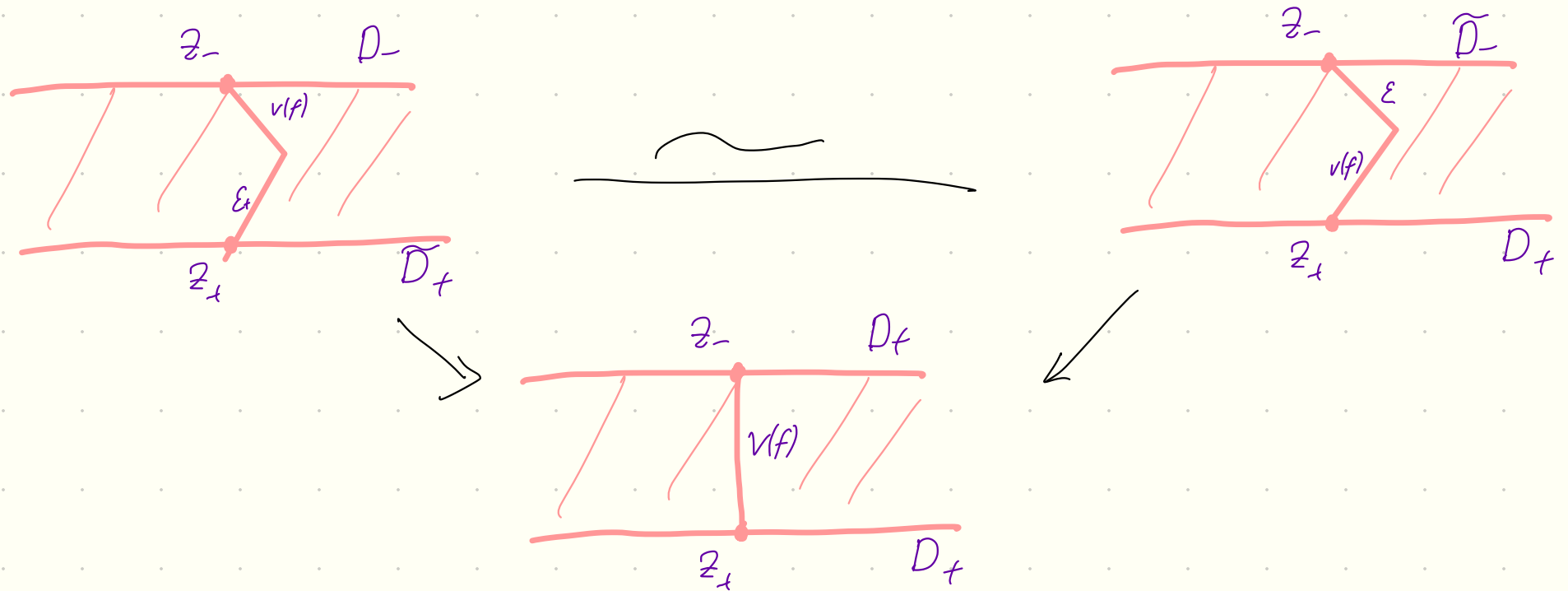
$$\mathcal{D}_- = \{x_1^{-1}=0\}$$

$$\mathcal{Z}_- = \mathcal{D}_- \cap V(F \circ \pi)$$

# Blowups



• Lemma 2 The birational map  $M_F: X_N \dashrightarrow X_N$  extends to isomorphism  $M_f: \tilde{P}_+ \rightarrow \tilde{P}_-$



- Corollary Denote by  $\tilde{\mathcal{D}}_+, \tilde{\mathcal{D}}_-$  proper transforms of  $\mathcal{D}_+, \mathcal{D}_-$ . Then  $X_F$  is up to codim 2 isomorphic to both  $\hat{\mathbb{P}}_+ \setminus (\tilde{\mathcal{D}}_+ \cup \tilde{\mathcal{D}}_-)$  and  $\hat{\mathbb{P}}_- \setminus (\tilde{\mathcal{D}}_- \cup \tilde{\mathcal{D}}_+)$ .

● Problem Prove Lemma 1.

● Problem Prove Lemma 2

# More general construction

- Fan  $\Sigma = \{ \mathbb{R}_{>0} v_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq e \} \cup \{ 0 \} \subset \mathbb{N}$ , vectors  $v_i$  primitive  
 $w_1, \dots, w_e \in M \quad (w_i, v_i) = 0$

Let  $a_1, \dots, a_e \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ ,  $c_1, \dots, c_e \in \mathbb{C}^*$ ,  $F_i = (1 + c_i z^{w_i})^{a_i}$   
and  $\mu_i = \mu_{F_i}: T_{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow T_{\mathbb{N}}$  defined by  $v_i, F_i$  as above

$T_{\Sigma}$  - toric variety,  
 $\mathcal{D}_i$  - divisor corresp  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} v_i$

$$Z_i = \mathcal{D}_i \cap V(F_i)$$

$\pi: \tilde{T}_{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow T_{\mathbb{N}}(\Sigma)$  the blowup along  $\bigcup_{i=1}^e Z_i$

$\tilde{\mathcal{D}}_j$  the proper transform of  $\mathcal{D}_j$

- Remark We allow some of the  $v_i$ -s coincide.



## Two main examples

- $\sum_{S,A} := \{0 \in U \cup \{ \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} e_i \mid i \in I_{uf} \}$  fan in  $N$   
vectors in dual lattice —  $v_i = \langle \cdot, e_i \rangle \in M$

$$Z_{A,i} = \mathcal{D}_i \cap V(1+z^{v_i}) \subset TV_{S,A}$$

- $\sum_{S,X} := \{0 \in U \cup \{ -\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} v_i \mid i \in I_{uf} \}$  fan in  $M$   
vectors in dual lattice —  $e_i \in M$   
(N.B. roles of  $N$  and  $M$  are interchanged)

$$Z_{X,i} = \mathcal{D}_i \cap V(1+z^{e_i})^{\text{ind } v_i} \subset TV_{S,X} \quad \text{here } \text{ind } v \text{ is g.c.d. of components of } v.$$

- Let  $T_0, T_1, \dots, T_e$  - copies of  $T_N$   
 Let  $X$  be gluing of  $T_0, \dots, T_e$  via  $M_i = M_{F_i}: T_0 \rightarrow T_i$

Lemma 3 There is a natural morphism  $\psi: X \rightarrow U_\Sigma = \widehat{TV}_\Sigma \setminus \cup \widehat{D}_i$   
 s.t. if  $\dim z_i \cap \dim z_j < \dim z_i \quad \forall i \neq j$  then  $\psi$  is  
 an isomorphism up to  $\text{codim} \geq 2$ .

- Remark (a) In case of  $\Sigma_{S, A}$  above, for  $i \neq j$   
 $D_i \cap D_j = \{z^{e_i} = 0, z^{e_j} = 0, 1+z^{v_i} = 0, 1+z^{v_j} = 0\}$  has  $\text{codim} \geq 3$   
 (Actually since  $\Sigma$  is 1dim fan  $D_i \cap D_j = \emptyset$  on  $TV_\Sigma$ )

(b) In case of  $\Sigma_{S, \chi}$  above, for  $i \neq j$   
 $D_i \cap D_j = \{z^{-v_i} = 0, z^{-v_j} = 0, 1+z^{e_i} = 0, 1+z^{e_j} = 0\}$  has  $\text{codim} \geq 3$   
 (N.B. we might have  $v_i$  proportional to  $v_j$ )

# ● Mutation

For given  $v \in N$ ,  $w \in M$  with  $(v, w) = 0$  we define  
 $T_{v, w}: N_{\mathbb{R}} \rightarrow N_{\mathbb{R}}$   $n \mapsto n + [(n, w)] \cdot v$

Fix some  $k$  and let

$$\Sigma_+ = \Sigma \cup \{ \mathbb{R}_{\leq 0} v_k \} \quad \Sigma_- = T_{-v_k, a_k w_k}(\Sigma_+)$$

Divisors  $\mathcal{D}_{k,+} \subseteq TV(\Sigma_+)$  corresp  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} v_k$  in  $\Sigma_+$   
 $\mathcal{D}_{k,-} \subseteq TV(\Sigma_-)$  corresp  $\mathbb{R}_{\leq 0} v_k$  in  $\Sigma_-$

for  $k \neq j$   $\mathcal{D}_{j,+} \subseteq TV(\Sigma_+)$  corresp  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} v_j$  in  $\Sigma_+$   
 $\mathcal{D}_{j,-} \subseteq TV(\Sigma_-)$  corresp  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} T_{-v_k, a_k w_k} v_j$  in  $\Sigma_-$

blowup  
centers

$$Z_{j,+} = V(F_j) \cap \mathcal{D}_{j,+}$$

$$Z_{j,-} = \begin{cases} V(F_j) \cap \mathcal{D}_{j,-} & \text{if } (w_k, v_j) \geq 0 \\ V((1 + c_j c_k^{a_k(w_j, v_k)} z^{w_j + a_k(w_j, v_k) w_k})^{a_j}) \cap \mathcal{D}_{j,-} & \text{if } (w_k, v_j) \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

$\widetilde{TV}_{\Sigma_+}, \widetilde{TV}_{\Sigma_-}$  blowups of  $TV_{\Sigma_+}, TV_{\Sigma_-}$  on  $Uz_{j,+}, Uz_{j,-}$  correspondingly

Lemma 4  $\mu_k = \mu_{F_k}: T_N \dashrightarrow T_N$  defines a birational map  $\mu_k: \widetilde{TV}_{\Sigma_+} \dashrightarrow \widetilde{TV}_{\Sigma_-}$ . If  $\dim V(F_k) \cap z_{j,+} < \dim z_{j,+}$

whenever  $(w_k, v_j) = 0$ , then this  $\mu_k$  is isomorphism up to  $\text{codim} \geq 2$ .

● Remark (a) In case of  $\Sigma_{S,A}$  above, for  $i \neq j$   
 $V(F_k) \cap z_j = \{1+z^{v_k}=0, 1+z^{v_j}=0, z^{e_k}=0\}$  has  $\text{codim } 3$  if  $v_k$  and  $v_j$  are not proportional. Hence if seed is coprime conditions of the lemma holds

(b) In case of  $\Sigma_{S,K}$  above, for  $i \neq j$   
 $V(F_k) \cap z_j = \{z^{-v_j}=0, 1+z^{e_j}=0, 1+z^{e_k}=0\}$  has  $\text{codim} \geq 3$

As a corollary we have description of cluster variety up to codim 2.

- For any  $S$  let  $U_{S,x}$  be gluing tori  $T_N, T_{N_i} \quad i \in I_{uf}$  via  $\mu_i: T_N \rightarrow T_{N_i}$ . Due to Lemma 3 above  $U_{S,x} = \widetilde{T}_{\Sigma_{S,x}} \setminus \cup \widetilde{D}_i$  isomorphism up to codim  $\geq 2$ . Due to Lemma 4  $S \xrightarrow{k} S'$  map  $\mu_k: U_{S,x} \xrightarrow{\sim} U_{S',x}$  isomorphism up to codim  $\geq 2$ .

Theorem Up to codim  $\geq 2$   $X$  cluster variety is isomorphic to  $U_{S,x}$

- Similarly we define  $U_{S,A}$ . If seed is totally coprime (e.g. matrix  $B$  is non-degenerate) we can similarly apply Lemmas 3, 4

Theorem Up to  $\text{codim} \geq 2$  A cluster variety is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{U}_{S,A}$  if seed is totally coprime.

● Corollary (a) If  $F$  is Laurent polynomial in  $\chi(S)$  as well in  $\chi(S^{(k)})$  for any mutation  $\mu_k: S \xrightarrow{-k} S^{(k)}$  then  $F$  is Laurent in  $\chi(S')$  for any seed  $S'$  connected to  $S$  by sequence of mutations

(b) Any cluster variable  $A_i \in A(S)$  is Laurent in  $A(S')$  for any seed  $S'$  connected to  $S$  by sequence of mutations

Pf (a) Follows from Theorem,  $F$  is regular on  $\mathcal{U}_{S,\chi}$  hence regular on whole  $\chi$  variety. (b) Add frozen variables s.t.  $B$  is non degenerate, then the same argument  $\square$

• This is Laurent phenomenon again.

## References

- Gross, Hacking, Keel. Birational Geometry of Cluster Algebras.