Cluster-additive functions and tropical points

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March 22–24, 2023

Advances in Cluster Algebras 2023

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Frieze patterns

Definition (Frieze pattern)

In mathematics, a frieze or frieze pattern is a two-dimensional design that repeats in one direction. Such patterns occur frequently in architecture and decorative art. — From Wikipedia

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Figure: Examples of frieze patterns

The sequence of integers $\{\ldots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \ldots,\}$ is also a frieze pattern in the sense that we know how to "repeat": $a_{n+1} = a_n + 1$.





Figure: Frieze patterns in architecture

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 $\S1.$ Various frieze patterns associated to a Cartan matrix

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- $A = (a_{i,j})$: $r \times r$ symmetrizable Cartan matrix, e.g., $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -5 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$;
- $[1, r] := \{1, 2, \dots, r\}$ and $[a]_+ := \max(0, a)$ for $a \in \mathbb{R}$;
- A mesh in the infinite strip $\mathbb{Z} \times [1, r]$ is a diagram of the form



where $V_{>i} = \{(m,j) \mid j > i, a_{j,i} \neq 0\}$ and $V_{<i} = \{(m+1,j) \mid j < i, a_{j,i} \neq 0\}$.

We are interested in the maps f : Z × [1, r] → R (ring) associated to A satisfying certain "mesh type" relations.

Generic frieze pattern

The generic frieze pattern associated to A is the (unique) map

$$\boldsymbol{u}^{\boldsymbol{A}}:\mathbb{Z}\times[1,r]\rightarrow\mathbb{Q}(x_1,\ldots,x_r)$$

such that

(a)
$$u^{A}(0, i) = x_{i}$$
 for $i = 1, ..., r$;

(b) for each mesh starting from (m, i), we have a cluster type relation:

Remark

Cluster type relations come from cluster mutations at a source or sink vertex.

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Examples of generic frieze pattern

• Take $A = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix}$. Then the generic frieze pattern u^A is given $u^{A} = \begin{array}{cccc} & & x_{1} & \frac{1+x_{2}}{x_{1}} & \frac{1+x_{1}}{x_{2}} & x_{2} & \dots \\ & & & x_{2} & \frac{1+x_{1}+x_{2}}{x_{2}} & x_{1} & \frac{1+x_{2}}{x_{2}} & \dots \end{array}$ • Take $A = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix}$. Then $u^{A} = \begin{array}{cccc} & \dots & x_{1} & \frac{1+x_{2}}{x_{1}} & \frac{x_{1}^{*}+(1+x_{2})^{2}}{x_{1}^{2}x_{2}} & \frac{1+x_{1}^{*}+x_{2}}{x_{1}x_{2}} & x_{1} & \dots \\ & & & & \\ & \dots & x_{2} & \frac{x_{1}^{3}+(1+x_{2})^{3}}{x_{2}} & \frac{x_{1}^{6}+3x_{1}^{3}x_{2}+2x_{1}^{3}+(1+x_{2})^{3}}{x_{2}} & \frac{1+x_{1}^{3}}{x_{2}} & x_{2} & \dots \end{array}$

• In the finite type case, the generic frieze patterns are periodic.

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Tropical frieze pattern

A tropical frieze pattern associated to A is a map $f : \mathbb{Z} \times [1, r] \to \mathbb{Z}$ such that for each mesh starting from (m, i), we have a tropical type relation:

$$f(m,i) + f(m+1,i) = \left[\sum_{j>i} (-a_{j,i}) \cdot f(m,j) + \sum_{j$$

We can compare it with cluster type relation:

$$u^{A}(m,i) \cdot u^{A}(m+1,i) = 1 + \prod_{j>i} u^{A}(m,j)^{-a_{j,i}} \cdot \prod_{j$$

Remark

- (i) Tropical frieze patterns were introduced and studied in [Guo' 13];
- (ii) Tropical type relations are obtained from the cluster type relations by tropicalization over (Z, +, max);
- (iii) Such relations are closely related with the final-seed mutation rule at sink or source vertices for d-vectors in cluster algebras;

Additive function

An additive function or additive frieze pattern associated to A is a map $f : \mathbb{Z} \times [1, r] \to \mathbb{Z}$ such that for each mesh starting from (m, i), we have an additive relation:

$$f(m,i) + f(m+1,i) = \sum_{j>i} (-a_{j,i}) \cdot f(m,j) + \sum_{j$$

We can compare it with tropical type relation:

$$f(m,i) + f(m+1,i) = \left[\sum_{j>i} (-a_{j,i}) \cdot f(m,j) + \sum_{j$$

Remark

 \mathbb{Z}^r -valued additive functions naturally appear in representation theory by taking Grothendieck group.

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Cluster-additive function

A cluster-additive function associated to A is a map $f : \mathbb{Z} \times [1, r] \to \mathbb{Z}$ such that for each mesh starting from (m, i), we have a cluster-additive relation:

$$f(m,i) + f(m+1,i) = \sum_{j>i} (-a_{j,i}) \cdot [f(m,j)]_{+} + \sum_{j$$

We can compare it with tropical type relation:

$$f(m,i) + f(m+1,i) = \left[\sum_{j>i} (-a_{j,i}) \cdot f(m,j) + \sum_{j$$

Aim (i): Try to understand the cluster-additive relations introduced by [Ringel'12]. Where such relations come from?

Answers: They come from

- (a) sequence of initial-seed mutations for g-vectors;
- (b) sequence of mutations for coefficients row;
- (c) initial-seed mutation rule for *d*-vectors at sink or source vertices.

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§2. Ringel's results and conjectures

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Ringel's bijection and cluster-hammock functions

Theorem (Ringel's bijection, [Ringel'12])

For each given $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, there is a natural bijection between the cluster-additive functions associated to A and the points in \mathbb{Z}^r , given by the restriction to m-th slice

$$f\mapsto (f(m,1),f(m,2),\ldots,f(m,r))^{\mathrm{T}}\in\mathbb{Z}^r.$$

- For each vertex (m, i), we have a unique cluster-additive function $h^{(m,i)}$ such that the restriction of $h^{(m,i)}$ to the *m*-th slice is $-\mathbf{e}_i$, where \mathbf{e}_i is the *i*-th column of the identity matrix I_r .
- We call $h^{(m,i)}$ the cluster-hammock function at vertex (m, i).
- Cluster-hammock functions look like:

$$\dots * 0 * \dots \\ \dots * -1 * \dots \\ \dots * 0 * \dots$$

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"Cone structure" on cluster-additive functions

- Let $f, g: \mathbb{Z} \times [1, r] \to \mathbb{Z}$ be two cluster-additive functions associated to A.
- f and g are said to be compatible (or sign-coherent) if $f(m, i) \cdot g(m, i) \ge 0$ for any $(m, i) \in \mathbb{Z} \times [1, r]$.

Theorem ([Ringel'12])

Let f_1, \ldots, f_m be cluster-additive functions associated to A. Then the sum $f_1 + \ldots + f_m$ is cluster-additive if and only if any two of them are compatible.

- As a set, cluster-additive functions are in bijection with the points in Z^r.
 However, the set of cluster-additive functions has no natural linear structure;
- Ringel's theorem tells us that the set of cluster-additive functions has some "cone structure".
- Aim (ii): try to understand this cone structure from the cluster theory.
- One result is that: under certain bijection, every *g*-vector cone can be identified with a subcone of the cone structure of cluster-additive functions.

Ringel's first conjecture

• Take $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$. The following are two examples of cluster-additive functions associated to A.

• For A above, the generic frieze pattern $u^A : \mathbb{Z} \times [1, r] \to \mathbb{Q}(x_1, \dots, x_r)$ is

$$u^{A} = \begin{array}{cccc} \dots & x_{1} & \frac{1+x_{2}}{x_{1}} & \frac{x_{1}^{3}+(1+x_{2})^{2}}{x_{1}^{2}x_{2}} & \frac{1+x_{1}^{3}+x_{2}}{x_{1}x_{2}} & x_{1} & \dots \\ \dots & x_{2} & \frac{x_{1}^{3}+(1+x_{2})^{3}}{x_{1}^{3}x_{2}} & \frac{x_{1}^{6}+3x_{1}^{3}x_{2}+2x_{1}^{3}+(1+x_{2})^{3}}{x_{1}^{3}x_{2}^{2}} & \frac{1+x_{1}^{3}}{x_{2}} & x_{2} & \dots \end{array}$$

• Ringel's first conjecture: For a finite type Cartan matrix A, if $u^{A}(m,i) = u^{A}(n,j)$, then f(m,i) = f(n,j) for any cluster-additive function f associated to A.

Ringel's second conjecture

• Keep the example before. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ and f_1, f_2 are cluster-additive functions associated to A.

- Easy to check $f_1 = 4h^{(2,2)} + h^{(3,1)}$ and $f_2 = 5h^{(2,2)} + h^{(2,1)}$, where $h^{(m,i)}$ is the cluster-hammock function at vertex (m, i);
- Ringel's second conjecture: For a finite type Cartan matrix *A*, any cluster-additive function *f* associated to *A* is a non-negative linear combination of cluster-hammock functions associated to *A*.
- [Ringel'12] proved his two conjectures in type A and [Guo' 13] proved Ringel's conjectures for type A, D, E.
- Both Ringel and Guo studied the cluster-additive functions from the perspectives of representation theory.

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§3. Cluster algebras part

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Seed pattern

Fix an initial seed $\Sigma = (\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{p}, \widetilde{B})$, where

\$\tilde{B} = \begin{pmatrix} B \\ P \end{pmatrix}\$ is an \$(r+s) \times r\$ integer matrix with \$B\$ skew-symmetrisable.

 \$u = (u_1, \ldots, u_r)\$ unfrozen part and \$p = (p_1, \ldots, p_s)\$ frozen part.

Denote by \mathbb{T}_r the *r*-regular tree rooted at a vertex t_0 .

We can form a seed pattern $\mathcal{S} := \{ \Sigma_t = (\mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{p}, \widetilde{B}_t) \mid t \in \mathbb{T}_r \}$ on \mathbb{T}_r such that

•
$$\Sigma_{t_0} = \Sigma;$$

•
$$\Sigma_{t'} = \mu_k(\Sigma_t)$$
 whenever $t \stackrel{k}{\longrightarrow} t'$ in \mathbb{T}_r .

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Tropical points

Definition (Tropical point)

Given a seed pattern $S = \{\Sigma_t \mid t \in \mathbb{T}_r\}$. A tropical point

$$[\mathbf{g}] = \{\mathbf{g}_t \in \mathbb{Z}^{r+s} \mid t \in T_r\}$$

associated to S is an assignment of a column vector $\mathbf{g}_t \in \mathbb{Z}^{r+s}$ to each vertex $t \in \mathbb{T}_r$ such that we have an relation of matrix mutation

 $[\widetilde{B}_{t'},\mathbf{g}_{t'}]=\mu_k[\widetilde{B}_t,\mathbf{g}_t]$

for any edge $t \stackrel{k}{\longrightarrow} t'$ in \mathbb{T}_r .

Remark

[Nakanishi-Zelevinsky' 2012] proved that the initial-seed mutation rule for (extended) g-vectors of cluster variables in S is the same with the transformation from \mathbf{g}_t to $\mathbf{g}_{t'}$ given above.

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Acyclic skew-symmetrizable matrix B_A

• Let $A = (a_{i,j})$ be a Cartan matrix and denote by

$$B_{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_{1,2} & -a_{1,3} & \dots & -a_{1,r} \\ a_{2,1} & 0 & -a_{2,3} & \dots & -a_{2,r} \\ a_{3,1} & a_{3,2} & 0 & \dots & -a_{3,r} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a_{r,1} & a_{r,2} & a_{r,3} & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \ge 0 \\ \le 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

the acyclic skew-symmetrizable matrix associated to A.

- For the transposed Cartan matrix A^{T} , we have $B_{A^{\mathrm{T}}} = -B_{A}^{\mathrm{T}}$.
- Given a skew-symmetrizable matrix *B*. We say *k* is a source vertex of *B* if the *k*-th column of *B* is non-positive.
- Easy to see B_A = μ_r...μ₂μ₁(B_A) and μ_r...μ₂μ₁(B_A) is a sequence of mutations at source vertices.

Acyclic belt

- Keep A and B_A as before. Let {Σ^(B_A) | t ∈ T_r} be the seed pattern with trivial coefficients associated to B_A.
- The *r*-regular tree \mathbb{T}_r rooted at t_0 has a unique 2-regular sub-tree \mathbb{T}_r^{\dagger} with the following form

$$\cdots \stackrel{r-1}{-} t(-2,r) \stackrel{r}{-} t(-1,1) \stackrel{1}{-} \cdots \stackrel{r-1}{-} t(-1,r) \stackrel{r}{-} \frac{t(0,1)}{-} \frac{1}{-} t(0,2) \stackrel{2}{-} \cdots \stackrel{r-1}{-} t(0,r) \stackrel{r}{-} t(1,1) \stackrel{1}{-} \cdots,$$

where each t(m, i) denotes a vertex of \mathbb{T}_r and $t(0, 1) = t_0$.

 The acyclic belt associated to B_A is the collection of seeds on the 2-regular sub-tree T[†]_r

$$\Sigma_t^{(B_A)} \mid t \in \mathbb{T}_r^{\dagger} \} = \{ \Sigma_{t(m,i)}^{(B_A)} \mid (m,i) \in \mathbb{Z} \times [1,r] \}$$
$$= \cdots \qquad \Sigma_{t(m,1)}^{(B_A)} \qquad \Sigma_{t(m+1,1)}^{(B_A)} \cdots$$
$$= \cdots \qquad \vdots \qquad \vdots \qquad \cdots$$
$$\cdots \qquad \Sigma_{t(m,r)}^{(B_A)} \qquad \Sigma_{t(m+1,r)}^{(B_A)} \cdots$$

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Generic frieze pattern and acyclic belt

Cluster variables on the acyclic belt are exactly the variables appearing in the generic frieze pattern. More precisely,

Proposition

Given $u^A : \mathbb{Z} \times [1, r] \to \mathbb{Q}(u_1, \ldots, u_r)$ and $\{\sum_{t(m,i)}^{(B_A)} | (m, i) \in \mathbb{Z} \times [1, r]\}$. Then (i) $u^{A}(m, i)$ is the *i*-th cluster variable of seed $\sum_{t(m,i)}^{(B_{A})}$; (ii) The cluster $\mathbf{u}_{t(m,i)}$ of $\Sigma_{t(m,i)}^{(B_A)}$ is given by $u^{A}(m+1,1)$ $u^{A}(m+1, i-1)$ $u^A(m,i)$ $u^{A}(m, i+1)$ $u^A(m,r)$ < 17 ▶

$\S4.$ Our results

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Cluster-additive functions and tropical points

- Keep A and B_A as before. Recall $B_{A^{\mathrm{T}}} = -B_A^{\mathrm{T}}$.
- We will use cluster algebra $\mathcal{A}(-B_A^T)$ to study cluster-additive functions associated to A.
- For a tropical point $[\mathbf{g}] = {\mathbf{g}_t \in \mathbb{Z}^r \mid t \in \mathbb{T}_r}$ associated to $-B_A^T$, we denote by $g(m, 1), \ldots, g(m, r)$ the diagonal of the matrix $[\mathbf{g}_{t(m,1)}, \ldots, \mathbf{g}_{t(m,r)}]$.

Theorem (C.-de St. Germain-Lu)

(i) Given tropical point $[\mathbf{g}] = {\mathbf{g}_t \in \mathbb{Z}^r | t \in \mathbb{T}_r}$ associated to $-B_A^T$. The map $T_{[\mathbf{g}]} : (m, i) \mapsto -g(m, i)$ is a cluster-additive function associated to A. Thus

$$(T_{[g]}(m,1),\ldots,T_{[g]}(m,r)) = -(g(m,1),\ldots,g(m,r)).$$

(ii) The map $T : [g] \mapsto T_{[g]}$ induces a bijection between the tropical points associated to $-B_A^T$ and the cluster-additive functions associated to A.

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d-compatibility degree

• For any $0 \neq b \in \mathcal{A}(\widetilde{B})$ and any seed Σ_t , we have the Laurent expansion

$$b = \frac{N(u_{1;t}, \ldots, u_{r;t})}{u_{1;t}^{d_1} \cdots u_{r;t}^{d_r}}$$

where $N \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{p}][\mathbf{u}_t]$ is coprime with each $u_{i;t} \in \mathbf{u}_t$;

- The integer vector $(d_1, \ldots, d_r)^T$ is called the *d*-vector of *b* w.r.t. seed Σ_t ;
- Each d_k only depends on b and u_{k;t}, not depend on the choice of cluster containing u_{k;t}, c.f., [Cao-Li' 20].
- Call d_k the *d*-compatibility degree of *b* w.r.t. $u_{k;t}$ and denote it by

$$(u_{k;t} \parallel b)_d := d_k.$$

• Next result is using *d*-compatibility degree give an realization of all the cluster-addition functions.

Peigen Cao (HKU)

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Cluster-additive functions and *d*-compatibility degree

- Let u^{A^T} : ℤ × [1, r] → ℚ(u₁, ..., u_r) be the generic frieze pattern associated to the transposed Cartan matrix A^T;
- Each $u^{A^{T}}(m,i)$ is actually a cluster variable of $\mathcal{A}(B_{A^{T}}) = \mathcal{A}(-B_{A}^{T})$;

Theorem (C.-de St. Germain-Lu)

Let [g] be a tropical point associated to $-B_A^T$ and $T_{[g]}$ the corresponding cluster-additive function associated to A. Then there is an element $u_{[g]}$ in $\mathcal{A}(-B_A^T)$ such that

$$T_{[\mathbf{g}]}(m,i) = (u^{A^{\mathrm{T}}}(m,i) \mid\mid u_{[\mathbf{g}]})_d.$$

Corollary

Ringel's first conjecture is true for any Cartan matrix A (even infinite type).

Proof:
$$u^{A}(m,i) = u^{A}(n,j) \Longrightarrow u^{A^{\mathrm{T}}}(m,i) = u^{A^{\mathrm{T}}}(n,j) \Longrightarrow T_{[\mathbf{g}]}(m,i) = T_{[\mathbf{g}]}(n,j).$$

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Sign-coherent set of tropical points

- Let *B* be an *r* × *r* skew-symmetrisable matrix and *U* = {[**g**⁽¹⁾], ..., [**g**^(q)]} be a finite (multiple) set of tropical points associated to *B*;
- Write $[\mathbf{g}^{(i)}] = {\{\mathbf{g}_t^{(i)} \in \mathbb{Z}^r \mid t \in \mathbb{T}_r\}}$ for $i = 1, \dots, q$ and take the formal sum

$$\sum_{[\mathbf{g}]\in U} [\mathbf{g}] := \{\sum_{i=1}^q \mathbf{g}_t^{(i)} \mid t \in \mathbb{T}_r\}.$$

- In general, $\sum_{[\mathbf{g}] \in U} [\mathbf{g}]$ does not form a tropical point associated to B.
- We say that U = {[g⁽¹⁾],..., [g^(q)]} is sign-coherent, if each row of the matrix [g⁽¹⁾_t,..., g^(q)_t] is either non-negative, or non-positive for each t ∈ T_r.
- Easy to check: If U is sign-coherent, then the sum ∑_{[g]∈U}[g] is still a tropical point associated to B.

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Sign-coherent decomposition of tropical points

Definition (Sign-coherent decomposition)

Let $[\mathbf{g}] = [\mathbf{g}^{(1)}] + \ldots + [\mathbf{g}^{(q)}]$ be a decomposition of tropical points associated to *B*. We say this decomposition is sign-coherent, if

$$U = \{ [\mathbf{g}^{(1)}], \dots, [\mathbf{g}^{(q)}] \}$$

forms a sign-coherent set of tropical points. In this case, we denote by $[\mathbf{g}] = [\mathbf{g}^{(1)}] \uplus \ldots \uplus [\mathbf{g}^{(q)}].$

Each sign-coherent decomposition of tropical points induces a decomposition of cluster-additive functions. More precisely,

Proposition

If
$$[\mathbf{g}] = [\mathbf{g}^{(1)}] \uplus \ldots \uplus [\mathbf{g}^{(q)}]$$
, then $T_{[\mathbf{g}]} = T_{[\mathbf{g}^{(1)}]} + \ldots + T_{[\mathbf{g}^{(q)}]}$.

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Cluster monomials and tropical points

- A monomial in cluster variables from the same cluster is called a cluster monomial.
- Let w ∈ T_r and a ∈ Z^r. Denote by [(a, w)] := {g_t : t ∈ T_r} the unique tropical point associated to B determined by g_w = a.
- Let b = u^a_w ∈ A(B) be a cluster monomial in seed Σ_w. Then b corresponds to tropical point associated to B via

 $b\mapsto [\mathbf{g}(b)]:=[(\mathbf{a},w)],$

which is well-defined, i.e., it does not depend on the choice of w and a.

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Cluster monomials and cluster-additive functions

Recall that $u^{A^{T}}$: $\mathbb{Z} \times [1, r] \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}(u_1, \dots, u_r)$ denote the generic frieze pattern associated to the transposed Cartan matrix A^{T} .

Proposition

Let $b = \mathbf{u}_t^{\mathbf{a}} = u_{1;t}^{a_1} \cdots u_{r;t}^{a_r}$ a cluster monomial of $\mathcal{A}(-B_A^{\mathrm{T}})$. Then

(i)
$$T_{[g(b)]}(m,i) = (u^{A^{T}}(m,i) || b)_{d}$$
 for any $(m,i) \in \mathbb{Z} \times [1,r];$

(ii)
$$T_{[\mathbf{g}(b)]} = a_1 T_{[\mathbf{g}(u_{1;t})]} + \ldots + a_r T_{[\mathbf{g}(u_{r;t})]}$$

(iii) Suppose that $u_{k;t}$ appears in the generic frieze pattern, say, $u_{k;t} = u^{A^{T}}(n,j)$. Then $T_{[g(u_{k;t})]} = h^{(n,j)}$ is the cluster-hammock function at vertex (n,j).

Corollary

Ringel's second conjecture is true.

Proof: Key reasons: In the finite type case, (i) each cluster-additive function can be given by a cluster monomial of $\mathcal{A}(-B_A^{\mathrm{T}})$ and (ii) each cluster variable of $\mathcal{A}(-B_A^{\mathrm{T}})$ corresponds to a cluster-hammock function.

Duality of *d*-compatibility degree on the acyclic belt

We mainly use cluster algebra $\mathcal{A}(-B_A^T)$ to study the cluster-additive functions associated to A.

Actually, cluster algebra $\mathcal{A}(B_A)$ can be also used to study "some" nice cluster-additive functions associated to A, for example, cluster-hammock functions.

Theorem (C.-de St. Germain-Lu)

Let $h^{(n,j)}$ be the cluster-hammock function associated to A. Then

$$(u^{A^{\mathrm{T}}}(m,i) || u^{A^{\mathrm{T}}}(n,j))_{d} = h^{(n,j)}(m,i) = (u^{A}(n,j) || u^{A}(m,i))_{d}.$$

Namely, for any two cluster variables x, z on the acyclic belt of $\mathcal{A}(B_A)$, we have

$$(x \parallel z)_d = (z^{\vee} \parallel x^{\vee})_d,$$

where x^{\vee} and z^{\vee} are the corresponding cluster variables in $\mathcal{A}(-B_A^{\mathrm{T}})$.

In general, the above duality does not hold for arbitrary cluster variables x and z.

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Thank you!

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