Pathways to Equilibria, Pretty Pictures and Diagrams (PPAD)

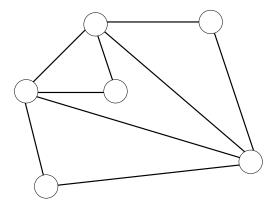
Bernhard von Stengel

joint work with: Marta Casetti, Julian Merschen, Lászlo Végh

> Department of Mathematics London School of Economics

Euler graphs

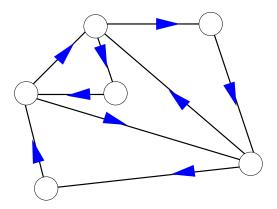
Euler graph = every node has even degree (= number of neighbours)



Euler graphs

Euler graph = every node has even degree (= number of neighbours)

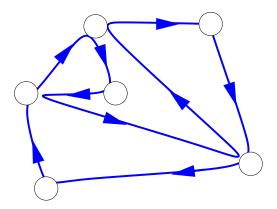
has Eulerian orientation (indegree = outdegree)



Euler graphs ... have tours

Euler graph = every node has even degree (= number of neighbours)

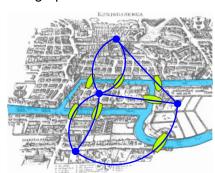
has Eulerian orientation (indegree = outdegree) ... and tour

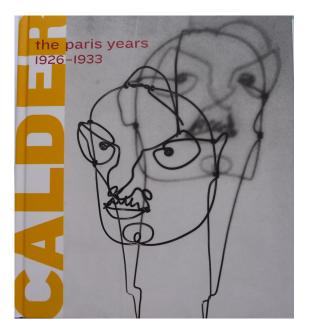


Euler's Königsberg bridges problem

The number of odd-degree nodes of a graph is even:

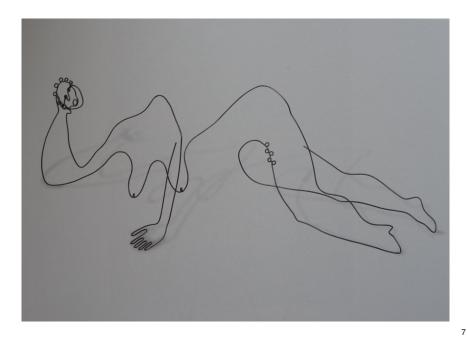




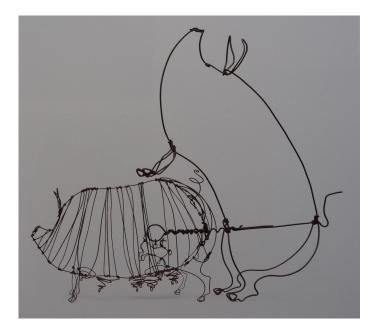




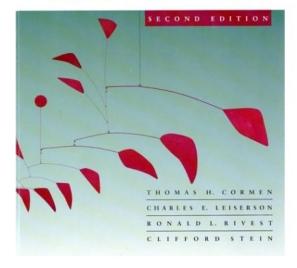






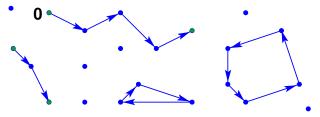


ALGORITHMS



2-player game: find one Nash equilibrium

2-NASH \in PPAD (Polynomial Parity Argument with Direction) Implicit digraph with indegrees and outdegrees \leq 1 is a set of [nodes], paths and cycles:



Parity argument: number of **sources** of paths = number of **sinks**Comput. problem: given one source **0**, find another source or sink

[Chen/Deng 2006] 2-NASH is PPAD-complete.

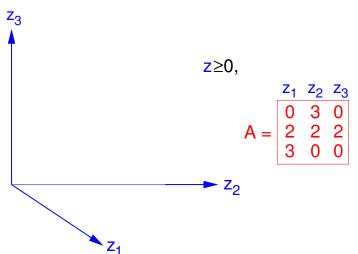
square game matrix A = payoffs to row player

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

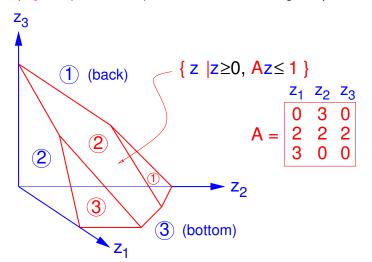
equilibrium: only optimal strategies are played

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 2/3 & \mathbf{0} \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

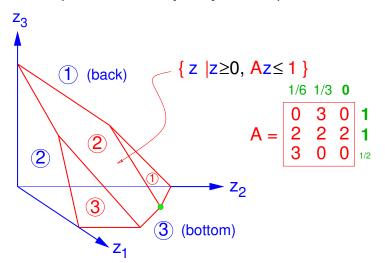
plot polytope with strategy weights z₁, z₂, z₃



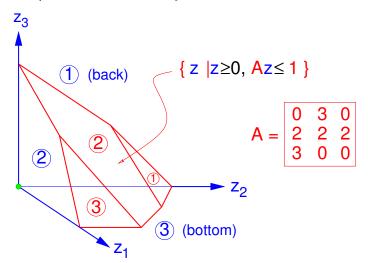
with payoffs (scaled to 1) and labels for binding inequalities



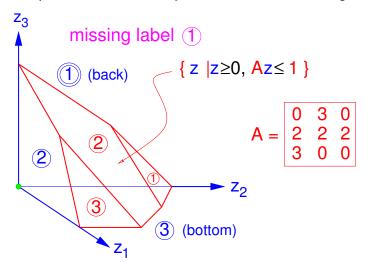
equilibrium = completely labeled point



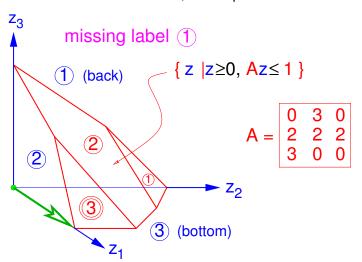
start path with artificial equilibrium z=0



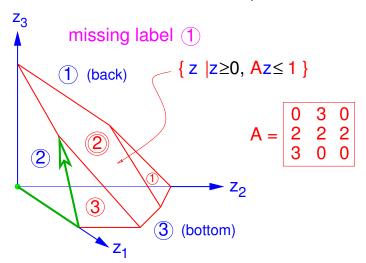
start path with artificial equilibrium z=0, choose e.g.



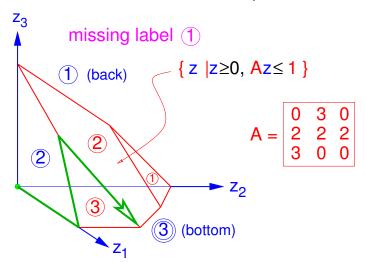
leave facet with label 1, find duplicate label 3



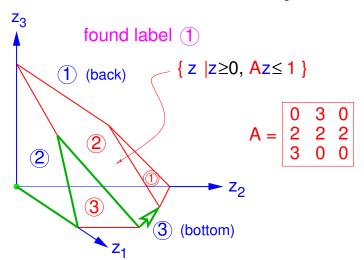
leave facet with old label 3, find duplicate label 2



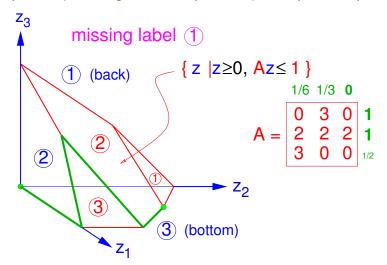
leave facet with old label 2, find duplicate label 3

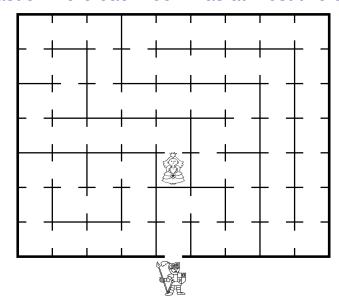


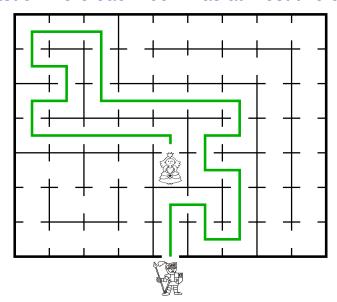
leave facet with old label 3, find missing label 1

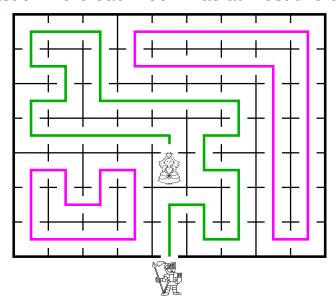


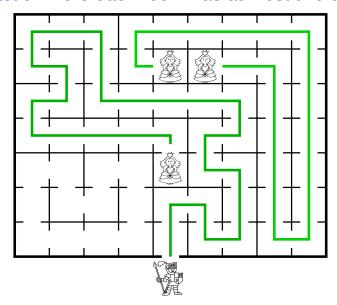
equilibria (including artificial equilibrium) = endpoints of paths



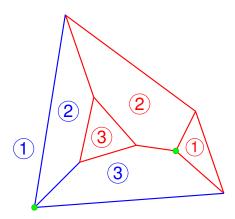




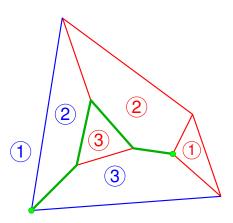




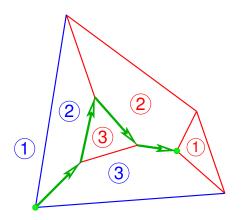
two completely labeled vertices



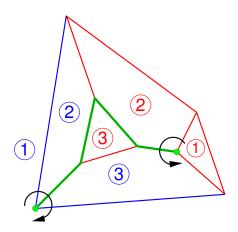
Path of "almost completely labeled" edges path because at most two neighbours ("doors" in castle)



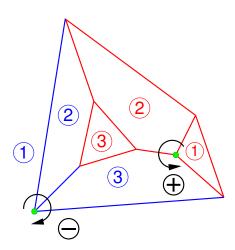
orientation of edges: 2 on left, 3 on right



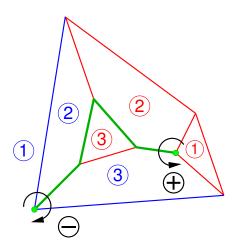
opposite orientation ("sign") of endpoints



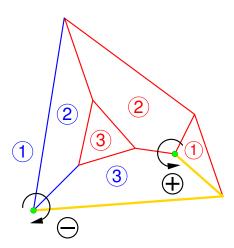
equilibrium sign \bigcirc or \oplus does not depend on path



equilibrium $\mathbf{sign} \bigcirc$ or \oplus does not depend on path

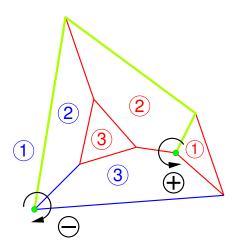


equilibrium sign \bigcirc or \oplus does not depend on path



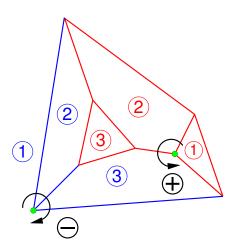
Path of "almost completely labeled" edges

equilibrium $\mathbf{sign} \bigcirc$ or \oplus does not depend on path



Path of "almost completely labeled" edges

equilibrium sign \bigcirc or \oplus does not depend on path



Labeled polytope P

```
Let a_j \in \mathbb{R}^m, \beta_j \in \mathbb{R}, P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid a_j x \leq \beta_j, \ 1 \leq j \leq n\}, let facet F_j = \{x \in P \mid a_j x = \beta_j\} have label I(j) \in \{1, \dots, m\}.
```

Assume P is a **simple** polytope (no $x \in P$ on > m facets) \Rightarrow each vertex x on m facets = m linearly independent equations.

x completely labeled $\Leftrightarrow \{I(j) \mid x \in F_i\} = \{1, \dots, m\}.$

Completely labeled points come in pairs

Theorem [Parity Argument]

Let **P** be a labeled polytope.

Then **P** has an **even** number of completely labeled vertices.

Completely labeled points come in pairs of opposite sign

Theorem [Parity Argument with Direction]

Let **P** be a labeled polytope.

Then P has an **even** number of completely labeled vertices. Half of these have $sign \bigcirc$, half have $sign \bigcirc$.

Completely labeled points come in pairs of opposite sign

Theorem [Parity Argument with Direction]

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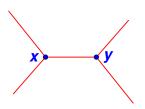
Then P has an **even** number of completely labeled vertices. Half of these have **sign** \bigcirc , half have sign \oplus .

sign of completely labeled x is sign of determinant of facet normal vectors: if (e.g.) facet $a_ix = \beta_i$ has label i = 1, 2, ..., m, then

$$sign(x) = sign |a_1 a_2 \cdots a_m|$$

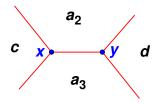
Lemma

Let $\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ be adjacent vertices of a simple polytope \mathbf{P}



Lemma

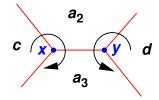
Let $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^m$ be adjacent vertices of a simple polytope P with facet normals c, a_2, \ldots, a_m for x and d, a_2, \ldots, a_m for y.



Lemma

Let $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^m$ be adjacent vertices of a simple polytope P with facet normals c, a_2, \ldots, a_m for x and d, a_2, \ldots, a_m for y.

Then $|c a_2 \cdots a_m|$ and $|d a_2 \cdots a_m|$ have opposite sign.



$$cx = \beta_0$$

$$dy = \beta_1$$

$$a_2x = \beta_2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$a_mx = \beta_m$$

$$a_my = \beta_m$$

$$cx = \beta_0$$

$$dy = \beta_1$$

$$a_2x = \beta_2 \qquad a_2y = \beta_2$$

$$\vdots \qquad \vdots$$

$$a_mx = \beta_m \qquad a_my = \beta_m$$
Let $(\gamma, \delta, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m) \neq (0, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$ with
$$\gamma c + \delta d + \alpha_2 a_2 + \dots + \alpha_m a_m = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \gamma \neq 0, \quad \delta \neq 0,$$

$$(\gamma c + \delta d)x = (\gamma c + \delta d)y$$

$$cx = \beta_0 \qquad cy < \beta_0$$

$$dx < \beta_1 \qquad dy = \beta_1$$

$$a_2x = \beta_2 \qquad a_2y = \beta_2$$

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$$\Rightarrow \gamma \neq 0, \quad \delta \neq 0,$$

$$(\gamma c + \delta d)x = (\gamma c + \delta d)y, \qquad \gamma (cx - cy) = \delta (dy - dx)$$

Proof:

$$cx = \beta_0 \qquad cy < \beta_0$$

$$dx < \beta_1 \qquad dy = \beta_1$$

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$$\Rightarrow \alpha \text{ and } \delta \text{ have same sign}$$

 $\Rightarrow \gamma$ and δ have same sign

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 $\Rightarrow \gamma$ and δ have same sign,

$$|(\gamma c + \delta d) a_2 \cdots a_m| = \gamma |c a_2 \cdots a_m| + \delta |d a_2 \cdots a_m| = 0$$

Proof:

Euler

$$cx = \beta_0$$

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$$a_2x = \beta_2$$

$$\vdots$$

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Let $(\gamma, \delta, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m) \neq (0, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$ with

$$\gamma \mathbf{c} + \delta \mathbf{d} + \alpha_2 \mathbf{a}_2 + \cdots + \alpha_m \mathbf{a}_m = \mathbf{0}$$

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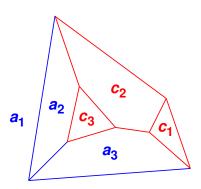
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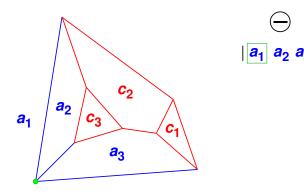
$$|(\gamma c + \delta d) a_2 \cdots a_m| = \gamma |c a_2 \cdots a_m| + \delta |d a_2 \cdots a_m| = 0$$

 \Rightarrow $|c \ a_2 \cdots a_m|$ and $|d \ a_2 \cdots a_m|$ have opposite sign, QED.

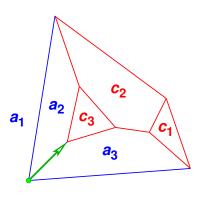
Facet normal vectors a₁ a₂ a₃ c₁ c₂ c₃, labels 1 2 3 1 2 3



Start with a₁ a₂ a₃, sign ⊝

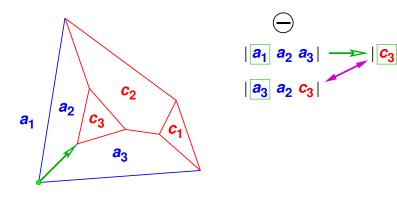


Start with $a_1 \ a_2 \ a_3$, sign \bigcirc , label 1 missing, $a_1 \rightarrow c_3$ gives sign \bigoplus

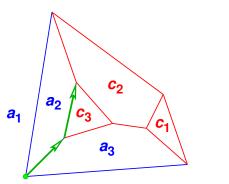


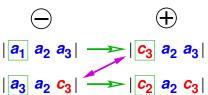


Switch columns c₃ and a₃ in determinant: back to sign \bigcirc

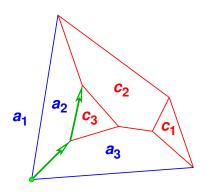


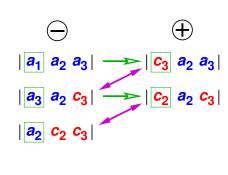
next pivot $a_3 \rightarrow c_2$ gives sign \oplus



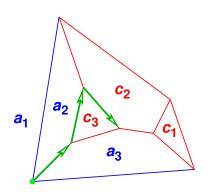


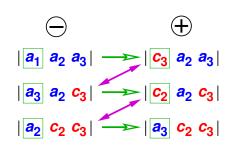
Switch columns c2 and a2 in determinant: back to sign \bigcirc



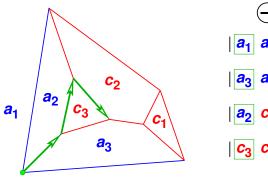


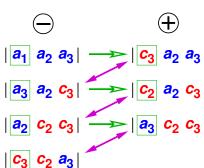
next pivot $a_2 \rightarrow a_3$ gives sign \oplus



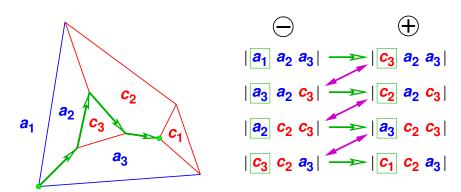


Switch columns a₃ and c₃ in determinant: back to sign \bigcirc

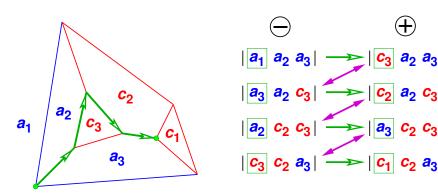




Last pivot $c_3 \rightarrow c_1$ gives sign \oplus , opposite to starting sign \ominus .



Only need: sign-switching of pivots and column exchanges



Nash equilibria of bimatrix games

Recall: $\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{m}$ matrix \mathbf{C} ,

$$P = \{z \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid -z \leq 0, \ Cz \leq 1\}$$

with 2m inequalities labeled $1, \ldots, m, 1, \ldots, m$.

Nash equilibria of bimatrix games

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Completely labeled $z \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow$

Nash equilibrium (z, z) of game (C, C^{\top})

Matchings

Nash equilibria of bimatrix games

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Nash equilibrium (z, z) of game (C, C^{\top})

Normalize sign of "artificial equilibrium" 0 to ⊖, in general

$$index(z) = sign(z) \cdot (-1)^{m+1}$$

Euler

Nash equilibria of bimatrix games

Recall: $\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{m}$ matrix \mathbf{C} ,

$$P = \{z \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid -z < 0, \ Cz < 1\}$$

with 2m inequalities labeled $1, \ldots, m, 1, \ldots, m$.

bimatrix game (A, B):

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & A \\ B^{\top} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad z = (x, y) :$$

Completely labeled $(x, y) \neq (0, 0) \Leftrightarrow$

Nash equilibrium (x, y) of game (A, B)

Index of an equilibrium

Theorem [Shapley 1974]

A nondegenerate bimatrix game (A, B) has an odd number of equilibria, one more of index \oplus than of index \ominus .

Index of an equilibrium

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[*Proof:* Endpoints of pivoting paths have opposite index \bigcirc and \oplus .]

Index of an equilibrium

Theorem [Shapley 1974]

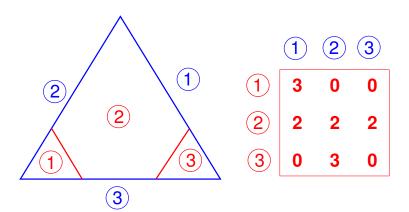
A nondegenerate bimatrix game (A, B) has an odd number of equilibria, one more of index \oplus than of index \ominus .

[*Proof:* Endpoints of pivoting paths have opposite index \bigcirc and \bigoplus .]

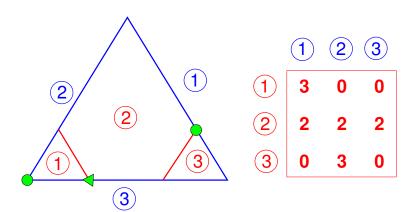
Equilibria of index \oplus include every

- pure-strategy equilibrium
- unique equilibrium
- dynamically stable equilibrium

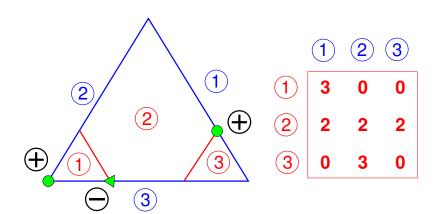
Dynamically stable equilibrium: only if +



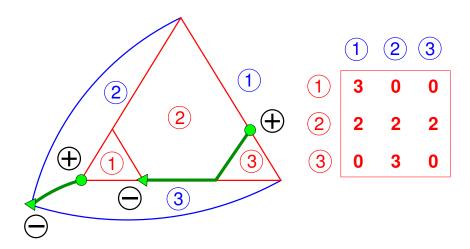
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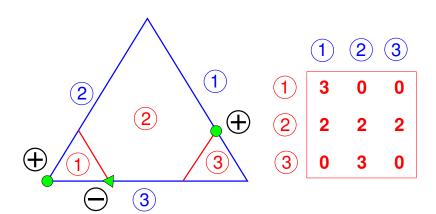
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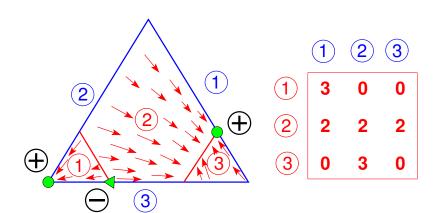
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Literature

[Lemke/Howson 1964] Equilibrium points of bimatrix games. J. SIAM 12, 413–423: Path-following to find Nash equilibrium.

[Shapley 1974] A note on the Lemke–Howson algorithm. *Math. Prog. Study* 1, 175–189: Endpoints of paths have opposite index.

Literature – Generalizations

Euler

[Lemke/Howson 1964] Equilibrium points of bimatrix games. J. SIAM 12, 413–423: Path-following to find Nash equilibrium.

[Shapley 1974] A note on the Lemke–Howson algorithm. *Math. Prog. Study* 1, 175–189: Endpoints of paths have opposite index.

[Lemke/Grotzinger 1976] On generalizing Shapley's index theory to labelled pseudomanifolds. *Math. Progr.* **10**, 245–262.

[Todd 1976] Orientation in complementary pivot algorithms. *Math. Oper. Res.* **1**, 54–66: Abstract pivoting with "duoids".

[Edmonds 2009] Euler complexes. "Oiks", room partitions.

[Edmonds/Gaubert/Gurvich 2010] Sperner oiks. *Elec. Notes Discr. Math.* **36**, 1273–1280: Replacing labels by Sperner oik rooms.

Plan / our results

Manifolds and oiks [Edmonds]:

Plan / our results

Manifolds and oiks [Edmonds]:
 room partitions come in pairs



oik!

- we define an **orientation** for oiks with signs \oplus
- 2-oik = Euler graph, room partition = perfect matching finding a second matching of opposite sign
 - may take exponential time with path-following
 - new polynomial-time algorithm

Definition [Edmonds 2009]

Given: finite set V of nodes. Multiset \mathcal{R} of d-element sets of nodes, called **rooms**, is a d-oik (Euler complex) if every set of d-1 nodes is contained in an **even** number of rooms.

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If every set of d-1 nodes is contained in 0 or 2 rooms then the oik is called a (abstract simplicial pseudo-) **manifold**.

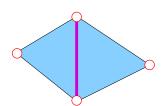
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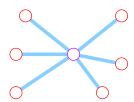
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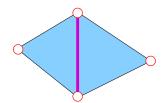
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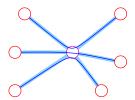
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manifold, d = 3

pivoting

d=2





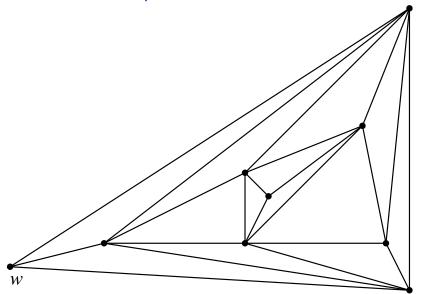
Room partitions come in pairs

Given an oik \mathbb{R} with node set V, a **room partition** is a partition of V into rooms.

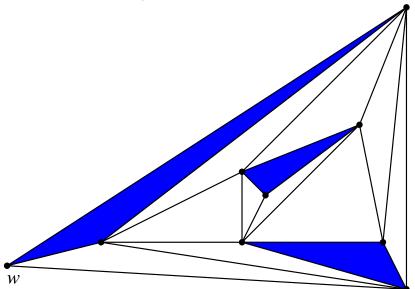
Theorem [Edmonds 2009]

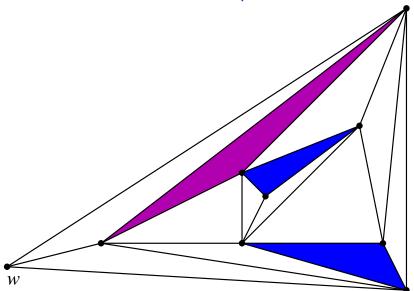
The number of room partitions is **even**.

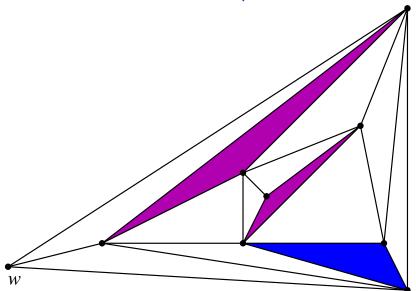
Room partition for 3-manifold

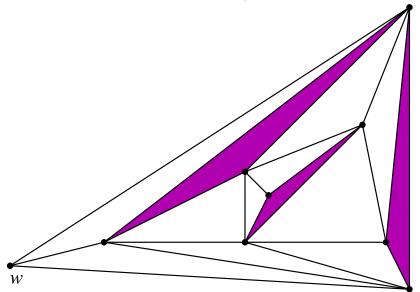


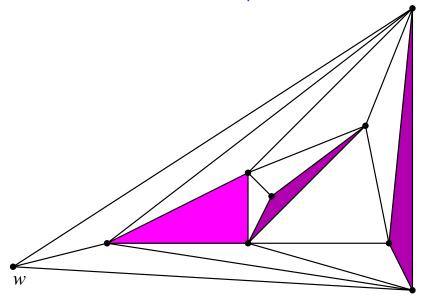
Room partition for 3-manifold

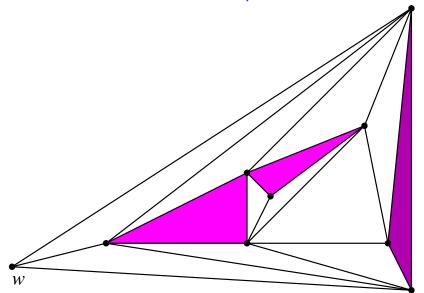


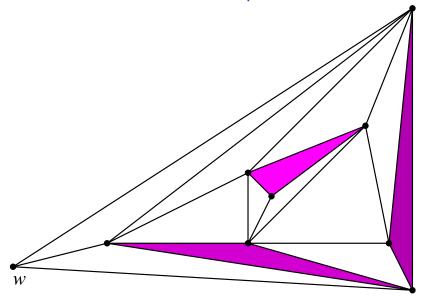


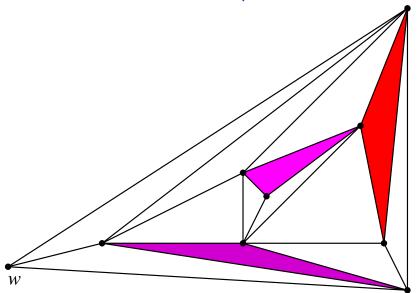


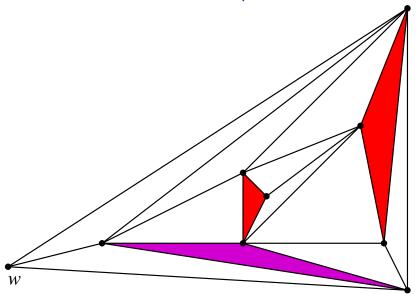




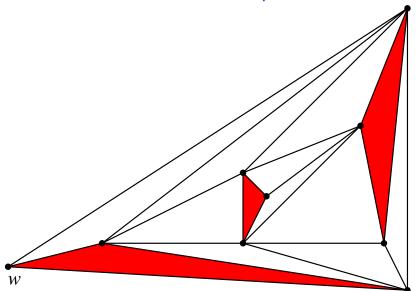


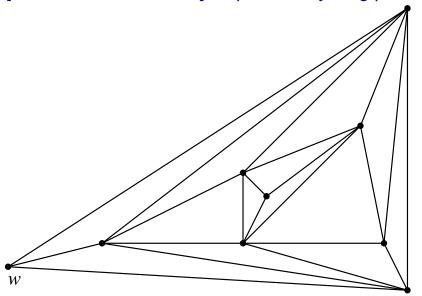


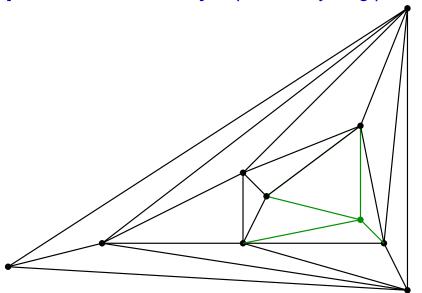


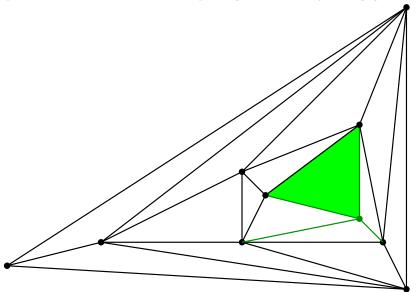


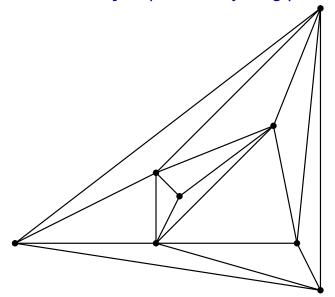
Found second room partition

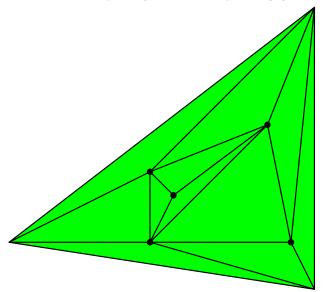


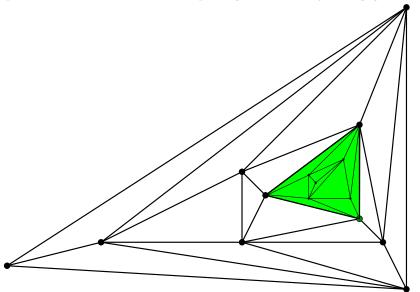




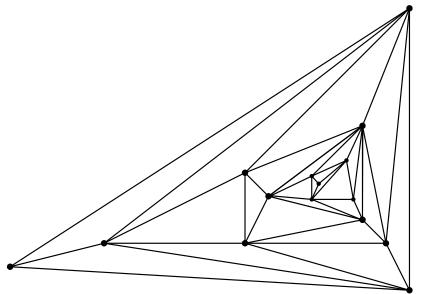




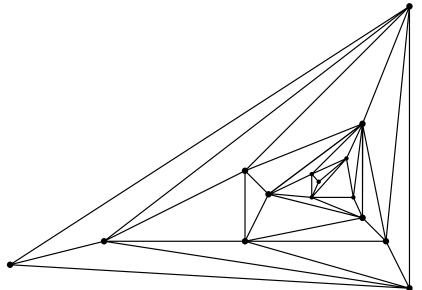




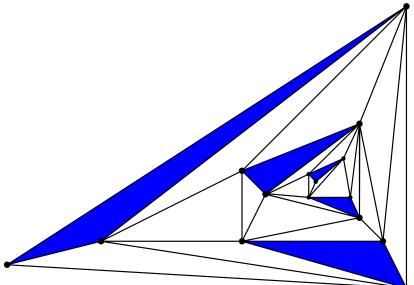
6 extra nodes, 12 extra rooms



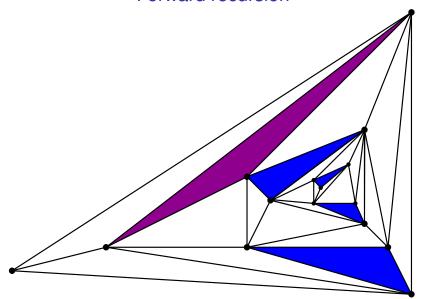
Path length more than doubles



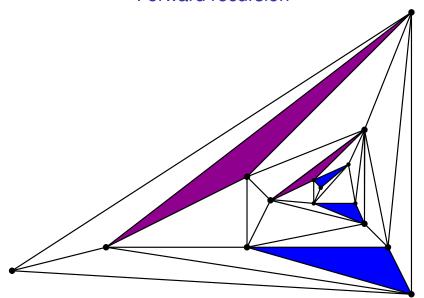
Path length more than doubles



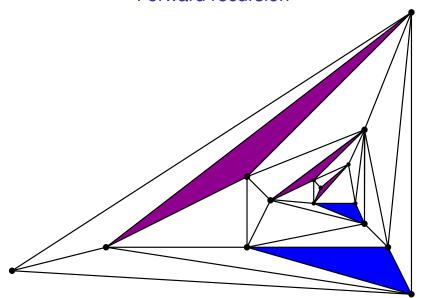
Forward recursion

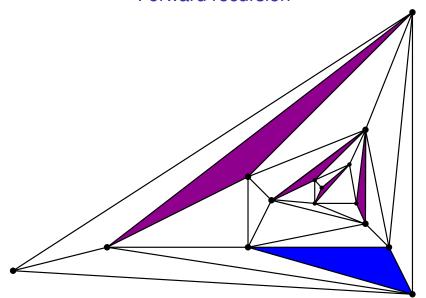


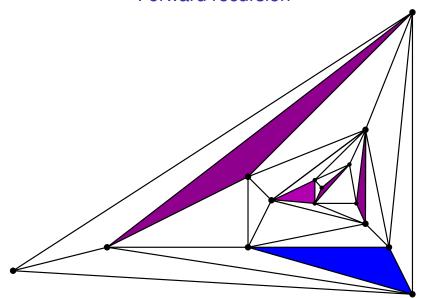
Forward recursion

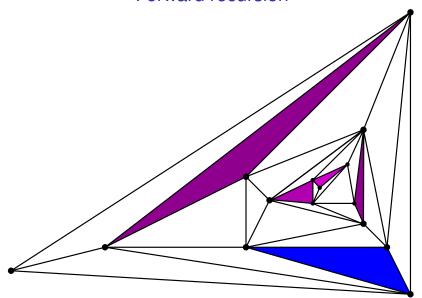


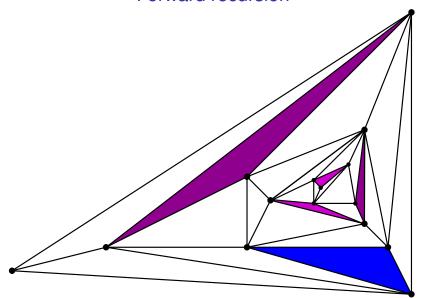
Forward recursion

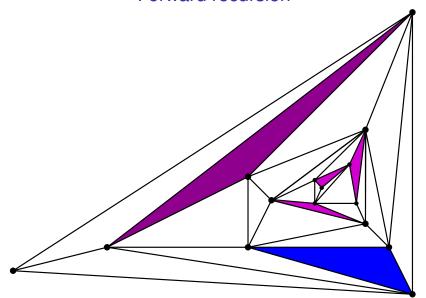


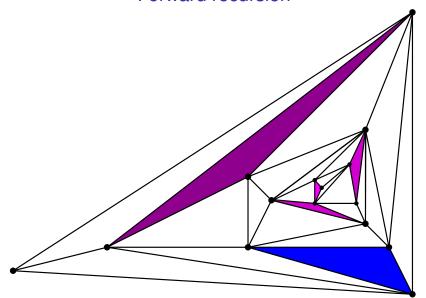


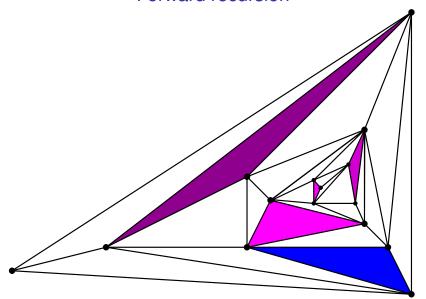


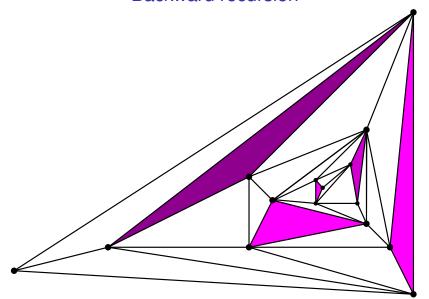


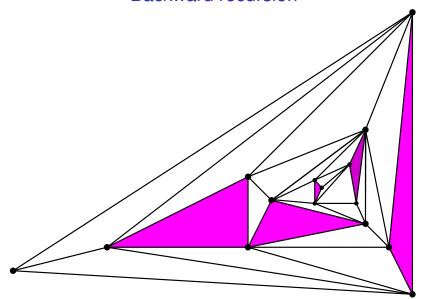


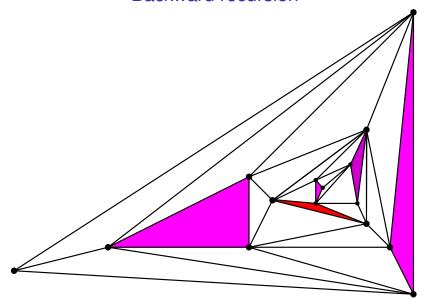


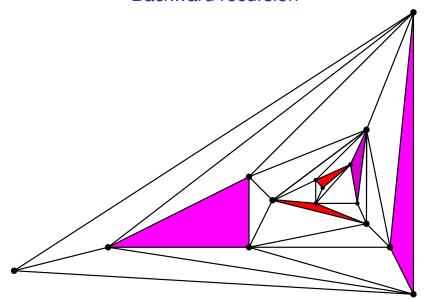


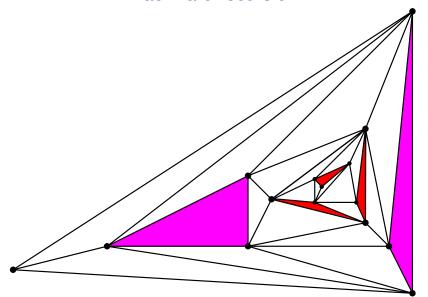


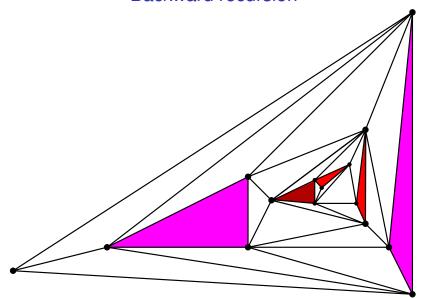


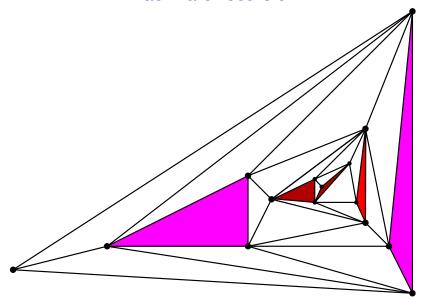


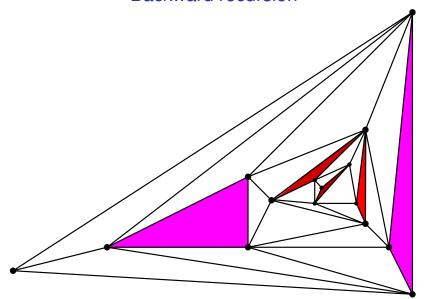


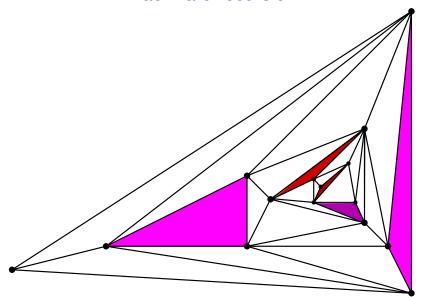


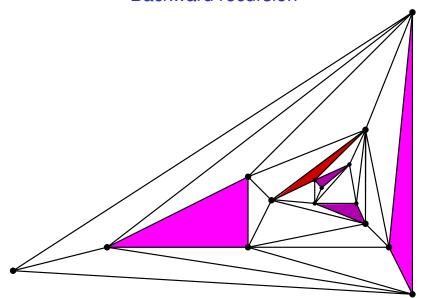


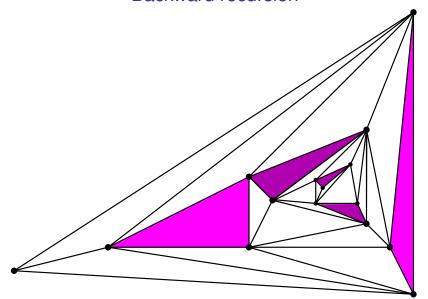




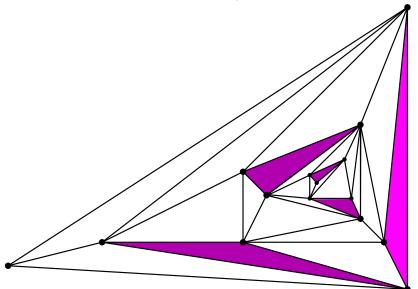




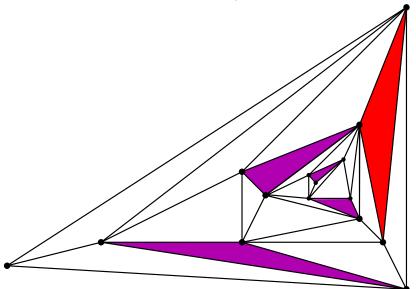




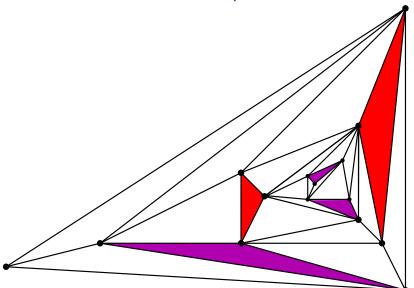
Final steps



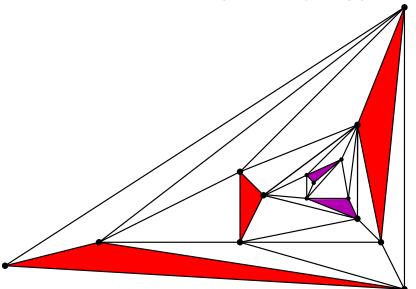
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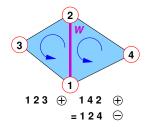
General construction: exponentially long path



 $W = R - \{v\}$ for $v \in R$ is called a wall of a room R

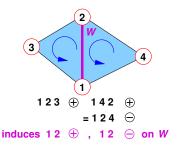
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A **d**-manifold is **orientable** if each room has a sign \oplus or \bigcirc so that any two rooms with a common wall **W** induce **opposite** orientation on **W** (\Leftrightarrow pivoting changes sign).



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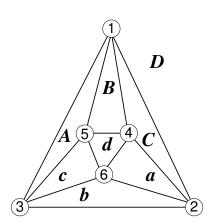
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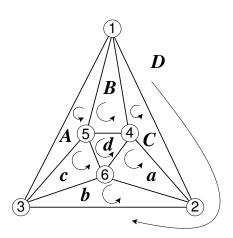
A *d***-oik** is **orientable** if half of the rooms with a common wall W induce sign \oplus on W, the other half sign \bigcirc on W.

Example: orientable manifold

Euler

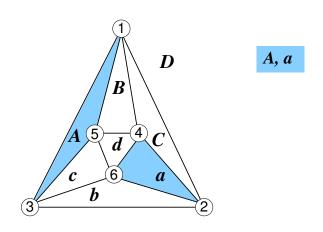


Example: orientable manifold



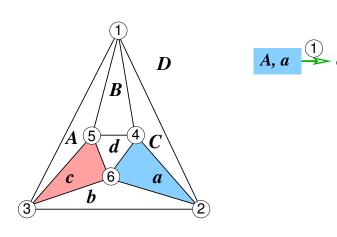
Room partition $A, a = \{1, 3, 5\}, \{2, 4, 6\}$

Euler

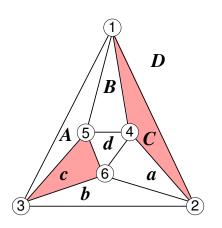


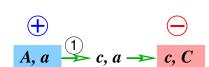
Room partition A, a

: drop node 1

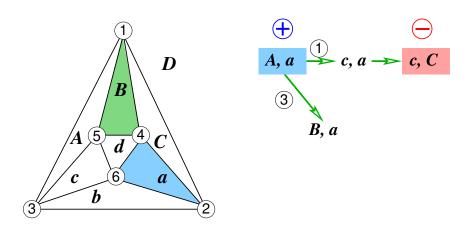


Room partition \boldsymbol{A} , \boldsymbol{a} , sign \oplus : drop node 1 leads to \boldsymbol{c} , \boldsymbol{C} , sign \ominus

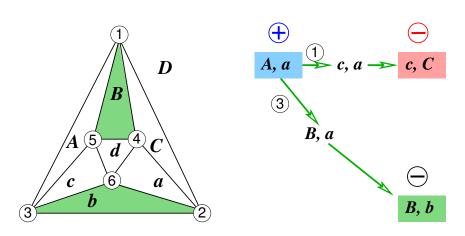




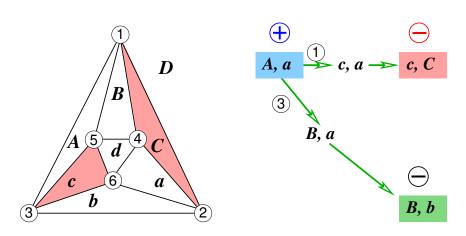
Room partition A, a, sign +: drop node 3



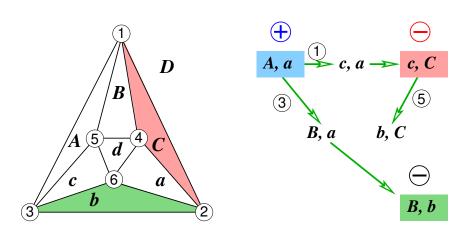
Room partition *A*, *a*, sign ⊕: drop node 3 leads to *B*, *b*, sign ⊝



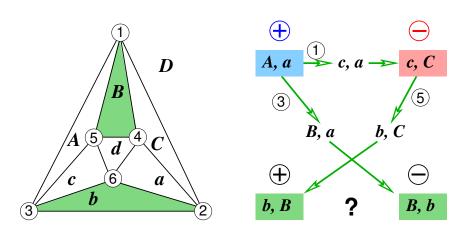
Room partition $\boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{C}$, sign \bigcirc : drop node 5



Room partition $\boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{C}$, sign \bigcirc : drop node 5

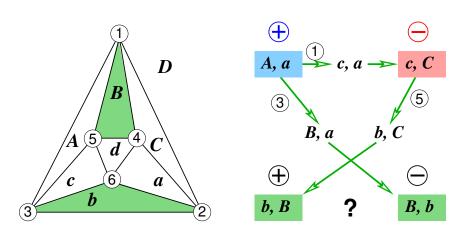


Room partition c, C, sign \bigcirc : drop node $\mathbf{5}$ leads to \mathbf{b} , \mathbf{B} , sign \oplus



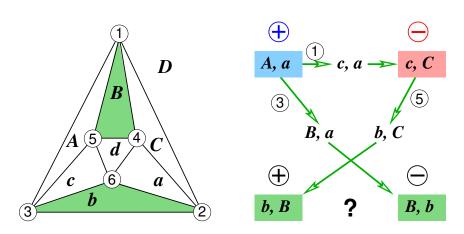
How to orient room partitions?

Which sign for {**b**, **B**}?



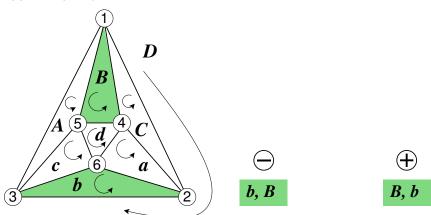
How to orient room partitions?

Which sign for $\{b, B\}$? \oplus for b, B, \bigcirc for B, b!



How to orient room partitions?

 \Rightarrow for odd dimension (here d=3), order of rooms matters: permutations **263 154** (for b, b) and **154 263** (for b, b) have opposite parity.



Ordered room partitions

Theorem [Végh/von Stengel 2012]

Let \mathcal{R} be an oriented d-oik with node set V. Then the number of ordered room partitions $(R_1, \ldots, R_{|V|/d})$ is even.

Any two ordered room partitions connected by a pivoting path have opposite **sign**, and the respective unordered partitions are distinct.

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Ordered room partitions

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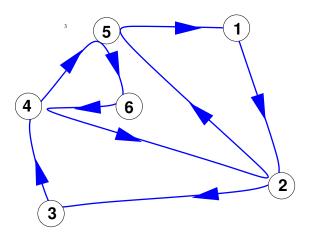
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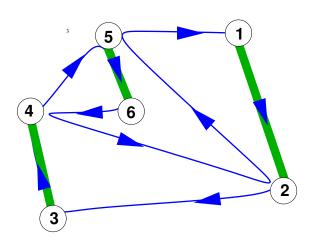
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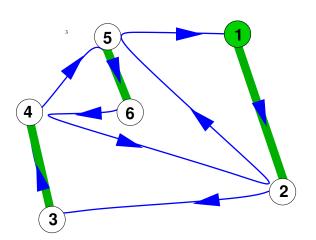
Proof uses "pivoting systems" with **labels** = nodes.

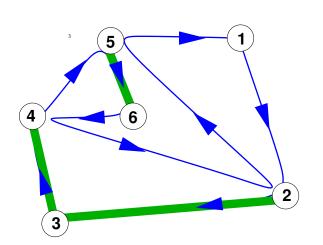
Pivoting systems generalize labeled polytopes, Lemke's algorithm, Sperner's lemma, room partitions in oiks, and more.



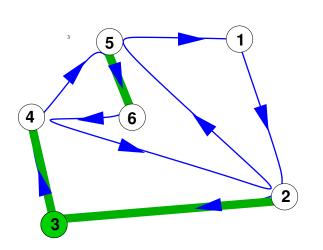


12 34 56



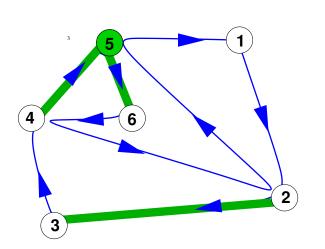


12 34 56



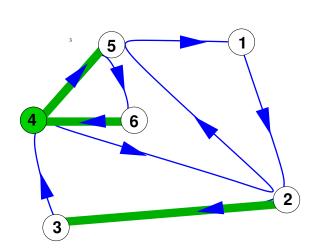
12 34 56

23 34 56



12 34 56 23 34 56

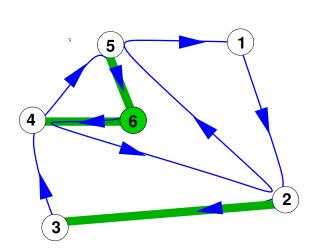
23 45 56



 1
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6

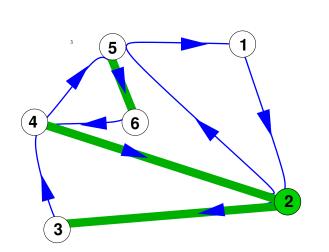
 2
 3
 3
 4
 5
 6

23 4<u>5</u> 56 23 45 64



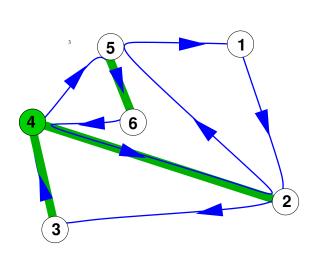
12 34 56 23 34 56 23 45 56 23 45 64

56

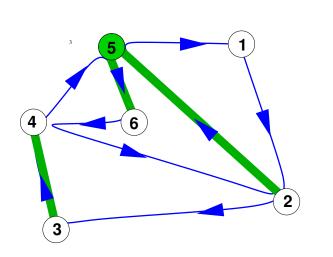


| 12 | 3 4 | 56 |
|----|------------|------------|
| 23 | 3 4 | 56 |
| 23 | 4 <u>5</u> | 5 6 |
| 23 | 4 5 | 6 <u>4</u> |
| 23 | 56 | 6 4 |

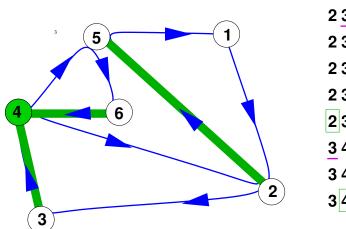
56



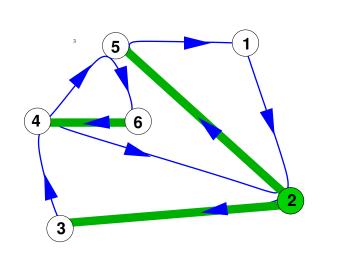
| | _ | |
|-----|------------|------------|
| 1 2 | 3 4 | 56 |
| 23 | 3 4 | 5 6 |
| 23 | 4 <u>5</u> | 5 6 |
| 23 | 4 5 | 6 <u>4</u> |
| 23 | 56 | 6 4 |
| 23 | 56 | 4 2 |
| _ | | |



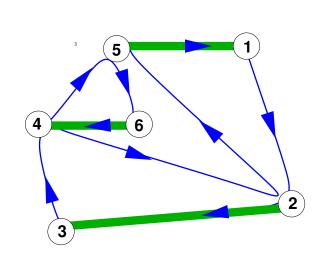
| 1 2 | 3 4 | 56 |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 23 | 3 4 | 56 |
| 23 | 4 <u>5</u> | 5 6 |
| 23 | 4 5 | 6 <u>4</u> |
| 23 | 5 <u>6</u> | 6 4 |
| 23 | 56 | 4 <u>2</u> |
| <u>3</u> 4 | 56 | 4 2 |
| 3 4 | 5 6 | 25 |



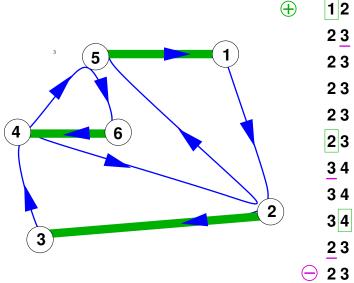
| 1 2 | 3 4 | 56 |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 23 | 3 4 | 56 |
| 23 | 4 <u>5</u> | 56 |
| 23 | 4 5 | 6 <u>4</u> |
| 23 | 5 <u>6</u> | 64 |
| 23 | 56 | 4 <u>2</u> |
| <u>3</u> 4 | 56 | 42 |
| 3 4 | 56 | 2 5 |
| 3 4 | 6 4 | 25 |



| | _ | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 12 | 3 4 | 5 6 |
| 23 | 3 4 | 56 |
| 23 | 4 <u>5</u> | 5 6 |
| 23 | 4 5 | 6 <u>4</u> |
| 23 | 5 <u>6</u> | 6 4 |
| 23 | 56 | 4 <u>2</u> |
| <u>3</u> 4 | 56 | 4 2 |
| 3 4 | 5 6 | 2 <u>5</u> |
| 34 | 6 <u>4</u> | 25 |
| 23 | 6 4 | 25 |
| | | |



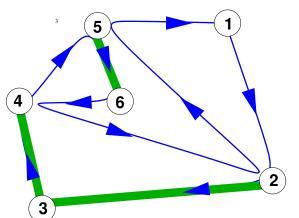
| | _ | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1 2 | 3 4 | 56 |
| 23 | 3 4 | 56 |
| 23 | 4 <u>5</u> | 5 6 |
| 23 | 4 5 | 6 <u>4</u> |
| 23 | 5 <u>6</u> | 6 4 |
| 23 | 56 | 4 <u>2</u> |
| <u>3</u> 4 | 56 | 42 |
| 3 4 | 5 6 | 25 |
| 3 4 | 6 <u>4</u> | 25 |
| 23 | 6 4 | 25 |
| 23 | 6 4 | 5 <u>1</u> |



| 12 | 3 4 | 56 |
|-----|-----|----|
| 2 2 | 2 / | 56 |









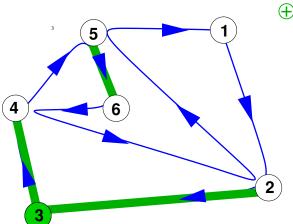
1 2

34 5

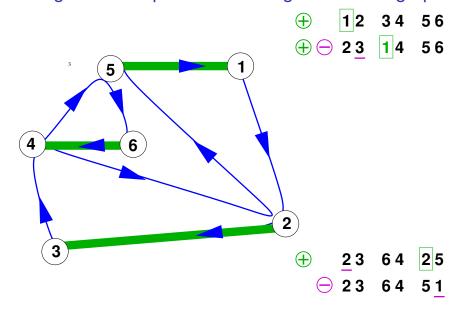


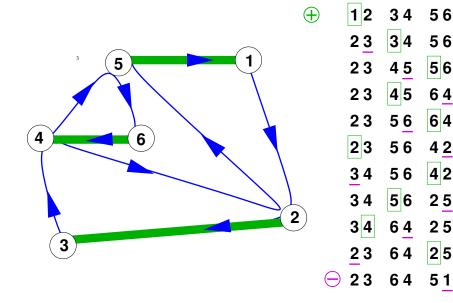






Euler





A computational problem

Input: Graph (V, \mathbb{R}) with Eulerian orientation and perfect

matching of sign \oplus .

Output: A perfect matching with sign \bigcirc .

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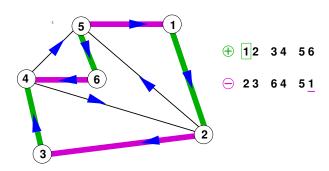
Note: A second matching can be found in polynomial time [Edmonds 1965], but not with sign \bigcirc .

Related difficult problem: Pfaffian orientations of graphs.

Sign-switching cycle (SSC)

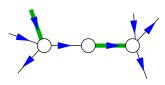
Given an oriented graph and a perfect matching M, a sign-switching cycle is a cycle C with every other edge in M and an even number of forward-pointing edges.

 \Rightarrow $M \triangle C$ is a matching of opposite sign to M.



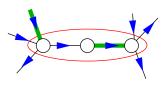
Two reductions which preserve Euler and matching property:

1. contract node of indegree = outdegree = 1 with its two edges



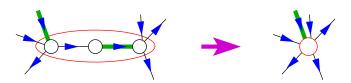
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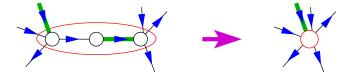
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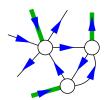


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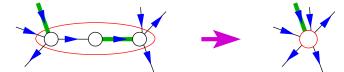


2. delete directed cycle of unmatched edges

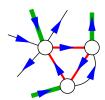


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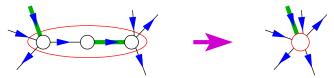


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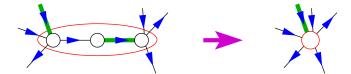


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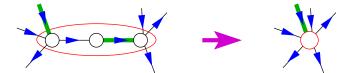
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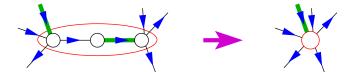
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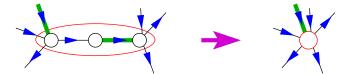
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until trivial SSC found, re-insert contracted edge pairs



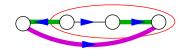
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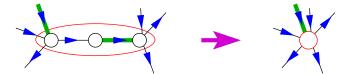
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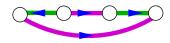
Two reductions which preserve Euler and matching property:

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until trivial SSC found, re-insert contracted edge pairs, switch.



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- exponentially long paths for matchings in Euler graph emulate exponentially long Lemke–Howson paths in games [Morris 1994], [Casetti/Merschen/von Stengel 2010].

