Resistive Networks, Linear Spaces and Tutte Polynomials for Systems of Lines: Applications of Algebraic Combinatorics Workshop Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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Old hat: A 1-dimensional linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is the line  $\mathbb{R}(a_1, a_2, \dots a_n)$ .

New hat: Explain exterior algebra and Grassmanians in 4 words? Hint: The rank *r* grade of the exterior algebra over  $\mathbb{R}^n$  has basis the  $\binom{n}{r}$  (multilinear, alternating) products of the *r* coordinate vectors  $e_{i_1} \wedge e_{i_2} \wedge \ldots \wedge e_{i_d}$  with  $i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_d$ .

## Linear subspaces are (certain exterior algebra) lines.

#### extensors code subspaces

The subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  spanned by independent vectors  $v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_d$  is coded by the **line**  $\mathbb{R}(v_{i_1} \wedge v_{i_2} \wedge \ldots \wedge v_{i_d})$ .

The row space of an  $r \times n$  full rank matrix M is uniquely determined by the **line** of  $\mathbb{R}$  multiples of the  $\binom{n}{r}$ -tuple of determinants M[T] of the  $r \times r$  submatrices.

(T is a sequence of r columns.)

Row operations multiply all by a common  $\neq 0$  factor.

#### SPARSENESS:

The space of these lines which represent *d*-dim spaces is a n(r - n)-dimensional non-linear manifold called the Grassmannian. The  $\binom{n}{d}$  coordinates are constrained by the (quadratic) **Grassmann-Plücker relations**:

$$[s_1 s_2 \dots s_d][t_1 t_2 \dots t_d] = \sum_{i=1}^d [t_i s_2 \dots s_d][t_1 t_2 \dots \hat{t}_i s_1 \dots t_d]$$

(swap column  $s_1$  with column  $t_i$  for i = 1, ..., n), and the set i = 1, ..., n

## A basis exchange axiom for matroids

$$[s_1 s_2 \dots s_d][t_1 t_2 \dots t_d] = \sum_{i=1}^d [t_i s_2 \dots s_d][t_1 t_2 \dots \hat{t}_i s_1 \dots t_d]$$

#### Axiom

If  $B_1 = \{s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_d\}$  and  $B_2 = \{t_1, t_2, \ldots, t_d\}$  are bases, then there exists  $i, 1 \leq i \leq d$  for which both sets  $B_1 \setminus s_i \cup t_1 =$  $\{t_1, s_2, \ldots, s_d\}$  and  $B_2 \setminus t_1 \cup s_i = \{t_1, t_2, \ldots, \hat{t}_i, s_i, \ldots, t_d\}$  are bases.

#### A Matroid Definition (one out of dozens)

A matroid coded by its bases is any finite collection of d-sized sets that satisfies the above axiom.

#### Exercise

Discover (chirotope) axioms that define **oriented matroids** by deriving the necessary conditions on the signs of the brackets (determinants) in the Grassmann-Plücker relation.

#### Electrical current is a network flow

The  $\pm 1$  vertex-edge incidence matrix M of a graph  $\mathcal{N}$  fixes an arbitrary direction of each edge.

 $Mi = 0 \iff \{i_e\}_{e \in E}$  is a flow (of conserved current)

Let's make M full row rank by removing redundant rows. Let  $T \subset E$  be any spanning tree.  $T^c = E \setminus T$  is a **cotree**. Each  $\{i_e\}_{e \notin T} \in \mathbb{R}^{T^c}$  extends to a unique flow  $\{i_e\}_{e \in E}$ . How? Take the  $\{i_e\}_{e \in T}$  to **balance the excess at each vertex**. That is: Row operations transform M to

 $\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} I & 0, \pm 1s \end{array} \right]$ 

if and only if T is a spanning tree.

M represents by its columns the (graphic) matroid whose bases are the spanning trees.

## Electrical network problem: Solve for $i, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$

 $M_V i = 0 \Leftarrow$  equivalently  $\Rightarrow i \in \text{Row space}(M_I)$ , flows or 1-cycles.

 $M_I v = 0 \Leftarrow \text{equivalently} \Rightarrow v \in \text{Row space}(M_V), \text{bonds or 1-cocycles.}$ 

F(i, v) = 0 locally rank *n*.

First two are Kirchhoff's two laws: Combinatorial, assumed exact in electrical network applications (geometrical for  $\geq 1$  dim. elastic networks). Total rank = n.

Second are the **constitutive** constraints.

Linear one-port network: For all but one edge, **Ohm's law** is written

$$r_e i_e - g_e v_e = 0$$

For the one **port edge** p, demarking a pair of **terminal vertices**, either  $i_p = 1$  then solve for  $v_p =$  **equivalent resistance** by say eliminating the  $v_e$ ,  $i_e$  for the n - 1 resistors. or  $v_p = 1$  then solve for  $i_p =$  **equivalent conductance** .... Equiv. Resistance :=  $-(v_p/i_p)$  observed at a port p

Theorem (Kirchhoff 1847, called "Maxwell's rule") Let  $g_T$  denote  $\prod_{e \in T} g_e$ , etc. G/p is G with edge p contracted (vertices identified).  $G \setminus p$  is G with edge p deleted.

$$-(\frac{v_{p}}{i_{p}}) = \frac{\sum_{T:spanning tree of (G/p)} g_{T} r_{T^{c}}}{\sum_{T:spanning tree of (G/p)} g_{T} r_{T^{c}}} = \frac{Matrix-Tree \ Det(G/p)}{Matrix-Tree \ Det(G/p)}$$

It's usually proved via the Matrix Tree Thm. on 2 DIFFERENT GRAPHS G/p and  $G \setminus p$ .

#### Theorem (Matrix Tree)

Every  $n - 1 \times n - 1$  subdeterminant of a graph's Laplacian matrix enumerates the graph's spanning trees.

#### A liney consequence of Kirchhoff's solution

Pick any (resistor) edge e; factor the sums: ( $T^c = E \setminus e \setminus T$  below)

$$\frac{\mathsf{WTS}(G/p)}{\mathsf{WTS}(G\backslash p)} =$$

 $\frac{r_e \sum_{T:\text{spanning tree of } ((G \setminus e)/p)}{r_e \sum_{T:\text{spanning tree of } ((G \setminus e)/p)} g_T r_{T^c} + g_e \sum_{T:\text{spanning tree of } ((G/e) \setminus p)} g_T r_{T^c}} g_T r_{T^c} + g_e \sum_{T:\text{spanning tree of } ((G/e) \setminus p)} g_T r_{T^c}} g_T r_{T^c}}$ So, when we express our ratio by **the line** of all non-zero  $\mathbb{R}$ multiples of  $(WTS(G/p), WTS(G \setminus p))$ , carefully picked generators

satisfy **Tutte decomposition**: For "ordinary"  $e \neq p$ 

 $(\mathsf{WTS}(G/p),\mathsf{WTS}(G \setminus p)) =$  $r_e(\mathsf{WTS}((G \setminus e)/p),\mathsf{WTS}((G \setminus e) \setminus p)) +$  $g_e(\mathsf{WTS}((G/e)/p),\mathsf{WTS}((G/e) \setminus p))$ 

#### Multiport Linear electrical network problem

Edge set  $S = E \cup P$ . 2|E| + 2|P| variables  $i, e \in \mathbb{R}^{S}$ . Flow (current) and bond (voltage) eqs. have rank |E| + |P|:

 $M_V i = 0 \leftarrow \text{equivalently} \Rightarrow i \in \text{Row space}(M_I), \text{cycles or flows } C.$ 

 $M_I v = 0 \Leftrightarrow$  equivalently  $\Rightarrow v \in$  Row space $(M_V)$ , cocycles  $\mathcal{C}^{\perp}$ .

For the |E| non-port, resistor edges,

$$g_e v_e = r_e i_e$$

So, the linear solution space has dim. |P|. Project solutions into port voltage and current coordinate space  $\mathbb{R}^{2|P|}$ . Our exterior algebra valued Tutte function

We've seen how a |P|-dim linear space of  $\mathbb{R}^{2|P|}$  is a line. Theorem

(After careful definitions...) For fixed P,

		this extensor in the exte-
each Plücker	and	rior algebra, coding the row
coordinate	and	space of the $p \times 2p$ p-port
		network solution matrix

satisfy weighed Tutte recursion, when /e and  $\backslash e$  are restricted to  $e \notin P$ :

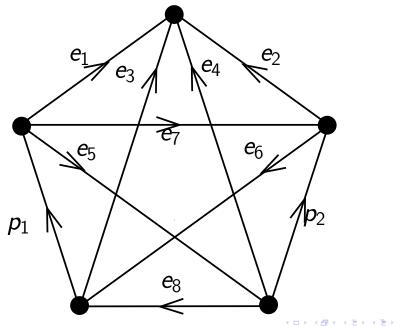
$$Sol(G) = r_eSol(G \setminus e) + g_eSol(G/e).$$

#### This result is about a line of lines.

As as one of the linear resistance values varies from 0 to  $\infty$ , the whole network solution ranges over a suitably defined **line**.

. . . . . .

## Example



## Example

|E| + |P| simplified electrical network equations Nx = 0. Kirchhoff's laws apply to all cycles and cocyles with  $r_i x_{e_i}$  as voltage and and  $g_i x_{e_i}$  as current of resistor (not port) edges. TWO voltage vp and current ip variables are used for each port edge.

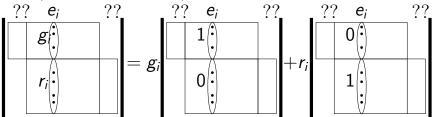
ip <sub>1</sub>	ip <sub>2</sub>	$e_1$	$e_2$	e <sub>3</sub>	$e_4$	<i>e</i> 5	e <sub>6</sub>	e <sub>7</sub>	<i>e</i> 8	$vp_1$	vp <sub>2</sub>
1	0	0	0	$+g_3$	0	0	$-g_6$	0	$-g_8$		
-1	0	$-g_1$	0	0	0	$+g_5$	0	$+g_7$	0		
0	+1	0	0	0	$+g_4$	$-g_5$	0	0	$+g_8$		
0	-1	0	$-g_2$	0	0	0	<b>g</b> 6	$+g_7$	$g_8$		
		$+r_{1}$	0	- <i>r</i> <sub>3</sub>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
		0	$+r_{2}$	0	- <i>r</i> 4	0	0	0	0	0	1
		$-r_1$	0	0	$+r_4$	$+r_{5}$	0	0	0	0	0
		0	$-r_{2}$	$+r_{3}$	0	0	$+r_{6}$	0	0	0	0
		$-r_1$	$+r_{2}$	0	0	0	0	+ <i>r</i> <sub>7</sub>	0	0	0
		0	0	$+r_{3}$	+ <i>r</i> <sub>4</sub>	0	0	0	$+r_{8}$	0	0

Top 4 rows: Basis for cocycle space. Represents graphic matroid. Bot 6 rows: Basis for cycle space. Represents cographic matroid.

## How Tutte Decomposition Emerges

For all choices denoted by ?? of the  $\binom{2|P|}{|P|}$  size |P| subsets of the 2|P| columns  $\{ip_k, vp_k\}$ , the matrices in the equation below are square.

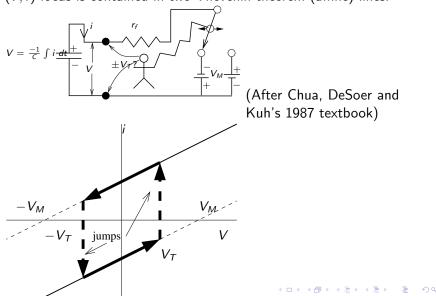
So the elementary multilinearity of determinants means Tutte decompostion holds for all  $e_i \notin P$ :



(Technical detail: Define the Tutte function on all graphs with distinguished or port subset P so the det. signs are consistent with the decomposition.)

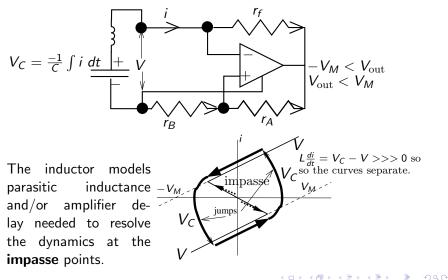
## Non-linear situations (Chua et. al.)

Relaxation oscillator built with a piecewise linear resistor. The (v, i) locus is contained in two Thevenin theorem (affine) lines.



### Operational amplifier realization

Positive feedback via  $r_A$  and  $r_B$  implements the sometimes **negative resistance** driving the capacitor.

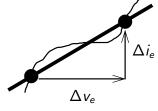


# Oriented matroid (= combinatorics of dependency signs) conditions

Why must the solution of a network with monotone increasing non-linear resistors be unique (Duffin, 1947).

Immediately for linear resistors only: The Matrix Tree Theorem coefficients are all +1.

Suppose there are two solutions. On each resistor's curve there are two points joined by a positive slope line.

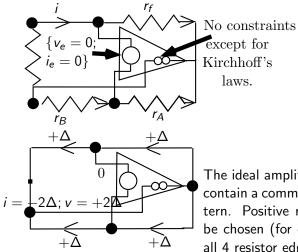


Vector  $\Delta v$  and  $\Delta i$  are separately constrained by Kirchhoff's (linear) laws. A better reason: (1980s EE results abstracted to OM)

- $\Delta v \in \text{linear cycle space } C, \ \Delta i \in C^{\perp},$ so  $\Delta v \cdot \Delta i = 0.$
- Monotonicity ⇔ sign(Δi<sub>e</sub>) = sign(Δv<sub>e</sub>) ∈ {0, +, -} so Δv · Δi > 0 for non-zero Δv or Δi, which is a contradiction.

What if an amplifier structure makes  $C_I$  and  $C_V$  be non-orthogonal? Uniquess is still guaranteed for there are no  $\Delta i \in C_I$  and  $\Delta v \in C_V$  with signs $(\Delta i) = \text{signs}(\Delta v) \neq (0, ..., 0)$ 

An amplifying subsystem simulates a negative resistance; how uniqueness fails (Fosseprez, Hasler, Marthy, Neirynck, Oberlin, de Werra 80-90s



The ideal amplifier makes  $C_V$  and  $C_I$  contain a common non-zero sign pattern. Positive resistance values can be chosen (for example, all 1) so in all 4 resistor edges,  $\Delta v = \Delta i = \Delta$ .

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Time for the ball game!

#### Interesting combinatorial theory emerges when quantities or relations of linear electrical network analysis are expressed as lines or more generally affine linear subspaces.

Our starting point is Thevenin's and Norton's theorems. They conclude that the voltage  $v_p$  and current  $i_p$  at a pair of terminals are characterized by the affine constraint  $av_p + bi_p + c = 0$ . How the load line is used...

## Outline

- 1. Spanning trees and equivalent (linear) resistance.
- 2. An exterior algebra (extensor) Tutte function and a (linear) resistance network's behavior projected on distinguished coordinates.
- 3. Rayleigh's inequalities.
- 4. Tutte polynomials on pairs and (linear) amplifier networks.

5. Distinguished graph vertices and splitting formulas.

#### Next steps

- 1. One (terminal-pair) port  $\rightarrow$  set of ports *P*.
- 2. 1-dim subspace of homogeneous coordinates of solutions  $((v_p, i_p)) \rightarrow p$ -dim subspace of  $k^{2|P|}$ .
- 3. p-dim subspace  $\rightarrow$  EXTENSOR (decomposible exterior algebra, i.e., anti-symmetric tensor) with  $\binom{2p}{p}$  Plucker coordinates (determinants).

## Rayleigh Identity which $\Rightarrow$ inequality, "Neg. Spanning Tree Correlation"

 $\Gamma_e(G)$  is equivalent conductance across *e*. Rayleigh:  $0 \leq \frac{\partial \Gamma_p}{\partial g_f} = \frac{\partial \frac{T_G}{T_{G/e}}}{\partial g_f}$ 

is equivalent to

$$0 \leq \frac{\partial T_G}{\partial g_f} T_{G/e} - T_G \frac{\partial T_{G/e}}{\partial g_f} = T_{G/f} T_{G/e} - T_G T_{G/e/f}$$

#### Theorem

$$T_{G/f}T_{G/e} - T_{G}T_{G/e/f} = \left(T_{G/e \& G/f}^{+} - T_{G/e \& G/f}^{-}\right)^{2}$$

 $T_{G/e \& G/f}^{\pm}$  enumerate the  $\pm$  common spanning trees. Choe, Cibulka, Hladky, Lacroix and Wagner gave bijective proofs; we give det. based proofs and generalizations. Linear Alg./Oriented Matroid Proof of Rayleigh's Identity

Let R be the transfer resistance matrix for 2 ports across e and f. Our result implies that

$$\det R = \left| \begin{array}{c} R_{ee} & R_{ef} \\ R_{fe} & R_{ff} \end{array} \right| = + \frac{T_{G/e/f}}{T_G}$$

It and better-known results tell us

$$R_{ee} = \frac{T_{G/e}}{T_G}; \quad R_{ff} = \frac{T_{G/f}}{T_G}; \quad R_{ef} = R_{fe} = \frac{T_{G/e \& G/f}^+ - T_{G/e \& G/f}^-}{T_G}$$

 $T_{G/f}T_{G/e} - T_GT_{G/e/f} = \left(T_{G/e \& G/f}^+ - T_{G/e \& G/f}^-\right)$  is immediate after substituting these into

$$\det R = R_{ee}R_{ff} - (R_{ef})^2$$

The + follows from physical grounds if the  $g_e, r_e \ge 0$ . Our characterization and proof are combinatorial.

#### New Rayleigh's Identities!

The same method generates identities and inequalities from

$$\begin{vmatrix} R_{ee} & R_{ef} & R_{eg} \\ R_{fe} & R_{ff} & R_{fg} \\ R_{ge} & R_{gf} & R_{gg} \end{vmatrix} = + \frac{T_{G/e/f/g}}{T_G} \ge 0$$

when all  $r_{..}, g_{..} \geq 0$ , ETC...

(Applications???)

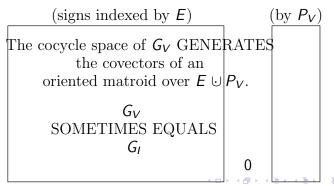
Might the same methods address a much harder problem: The same inequality for forests instead of spanning trees?

Pairs: The Common Covector Model

The cycle space of  $G_I$  GENERATES the covectors of an oriented matroid over  $(E \cup P_I)$ .

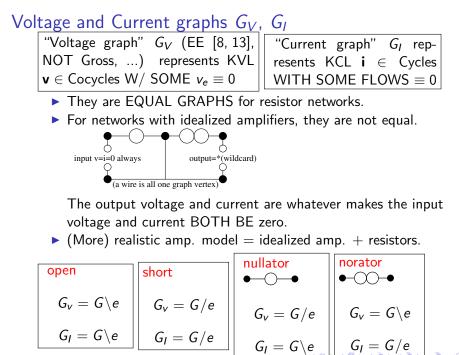
(signs indexed by E) (by  $P_I$ )

Non-linear monotone resistors CONSTRAIN SIGNS of voltage drops (from ↓) and flows (from ↑) TO BE EQUAL



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## Distinguished graph vertices and splitting formulas

Let Q be a set of distinguished, labelled graph VERTICES, analogous to the distinguished port edges P

#### Theorem

Given graph  $G(V \cup Q, E \cup P)$  let T(G, P, Q) be the Tutte polynomial determined by restricting /e and \e to  $e \notin P$  AND carrying along the partition of Q defined by the components of the contracted edges.

Construct  $G^Q(V \cup Q, E \cup P \cup P_Q)$  by adding to G a new vertex Z and the |Q| new port edges from Z to each vertex in Q. Then T(G, P, Q) and  $T(G^Q, P \cup P_Q)$  (the ported Tutte polynomial) determine each other by substitutions.

So we can use ported Tutte polys to express splitting formulas for Tutte polynomials of graph, beginning with Crapo [5] and continuing with Andrzejak [1], Bonin and de Meir [4], and Narayanan [12, 14]. etc

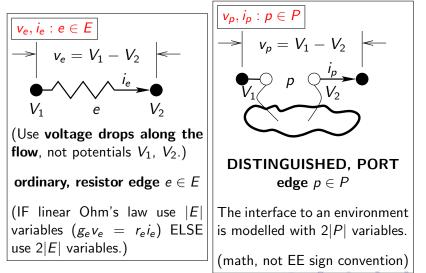
Extra slides...



## Why Electricity, EE?

- Scholarly topic suggested by G.-C. Rota  $\approx$  1980?.
- ➤ ≈ 100 yrs. geometry-like intuition of circuit configurations known by engineers, EE books: "Intuitive Analog Circuit Design (2013)" [15]; "Non-linear Circuits" [8] translates to our Oriented Matroid pair model.
- Geometry of linear spaces and oriented matroids; Tutte decomp. w/ techniques from Barnabi, Brini and Rota's Exterior Calculus [2])
- ▶ Real behavior ≈ ideal plus perturbations, ideal constraints predict intended real behavior,
- Interesting, accessible, intuitively understandable intentential designs, applicable, easy to both simulate and build physically, dimension  $\approx 12$  or 24, depending on formulation
- Analogs to chemical (and real algebraic geometry [11]), biological, elastic/tensegrity strs. etc., random walks ...
- ► Merely one scalar non-linearity can cause chaos.

Kirchhoff (1847) [9] Maxwell (1891) [10] The equivalent resistance PROBLEM IS SOLVED by the Matrix Tree Theorem. (1) POSE! the VARIABLES or COORDINATES



## (2) POSE: EQUATIONS. Preview the consequences.

- (KCL)  $(i_e)_{e \in S}$  is a cycle (a flow).
- (KVL)  $(v_e)_{e \in S}$  is a cocycle
- (constituitive Law) i<sub>e</sub> = g<sub>e</sub>(v<sub>e</sub>) non-linear, usually monotonic increasing R → R.
   (Sometimes use Ohm's approximation i<sub>e</sub> = g<sub>e</sub>v<sub>e</sub>)

#### Combinatorics!

The signs  $\{+, -, 0\}$  have a DUAL-PAIR ORIENTED MATROID structure (combinatorial, geometric, topological).

#### Engineering with amplifiers!

There's good unique solvablility due to STRUCTURE, when the NON-DUAL PAIR (for voltages and currents) is ALMOST DUAL: No common covectors.

## Multiple Ports. (your stereo: **3**=power plug & 2 speakers)

- One formula expresses  $\binom{2|P|}{|P|}$  different Matrix Tree Theorems...
- ... long vertex-based proofs are shortened; Rayleigh inequalities too.
- Interesting non-commutative ranges of new ORIENTED MATROID Tutte invariants with pattern:

 $\mathsf{TF}(N(P \cup E)) = F(N(P \cup E)/E)$ 

(They distinguish DIFFERENT ORIENTATIONS of the SAME MATROID.)

- Ported/Relative OM Tutte Poly. terms embed SPECIFIC
   MINORS as variables, making proofs just with ∂T/∂x<sub>e</sub> easier.
- Formalize composition of systems [12], Tutte poly. splitting formulas.
- Model practical devices (transistors, op amps); Label variables to observe.
- ► Align EE applications with knots [6] (Ported = "Relative") and combinatorial geometry [17] (Ported = "Set Pointed").

#### Constraint/Generator Duals and 2 Results.

(Part 1) Technique:
 Solution Space

∩ Constraint Subspaces

 Result: An exterior algebraic algebraic Tutte function: Each of its (<sup>2|P|</sup>) Plücker coordinates satisfies a Matrix Tree Theorem. This and det. formulas

easily prove Rayleigh inequalities.

(Part 2) Combine with:
 Solution Space
 =

Closure(Set of Generators)

- To apply: An oriented matroid's COVECTOR SET encodes ALL POSSIBLE (+, -, 0) coordinate behaviors or δs.
- ► Result: An oriented matroid pair model for some non-linear problem (AMPLIFIER!) well-posedness. (How? Sign contradictions ⇒ a KERNEL={(0)}.)

## Part 1) Use Matrix M in CONSTRAINTS MX = 0 to get...

The Tutte-like function  $\mathbf{M}_{E}()$ : Extensor  $\mathbf{N} \rightarrow \text{Extensor } \mathbf{M}_{E}(\mathbf{N})$ . (STUDENT NOTE: An EXTENSOR represents the row-space of an  $r \times s$ r-rank matrix M by the  $\binom{s}{r}$ -TUPLE of the DETERMINANTS of M's  $r \times r$  submatrices. Plücker coords.) Given N (matrix), construct  $N^{\perp}$  with orthog. comp. row space.

Construct:  $(G = \text{diag}(g_e), R = \text{diag}(r_e))$ 

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} N(P) & 0 & N(E)G \\ 0 & N^{\perp}(P) & N^{\perp}(E)R \end{bmatrix}$$

with columns labelled by  $P_I \cup P_V \cup E$ .

Extensor **M** over  $k[g_e, r_e](P_V \cup P_I \cup E)$  is the  $\wedge$ -product of *M*'s row vectors. The contraction result  $\mathbf{M}_E(\mathbf{N}) = \mathbf{M}/E$  appears:

$$\mathsf{M} = \mathsf{M}_{E}(\mathsf{N})\mathsf{e}_{1}\mathsf{e}_{2}\cdots\mathsf{e}_{|E|} + (\cdots)$$

 $M_E(N)$  is our Tutte function  $N \rightarrow Ext$ . Alg.

#### Contracting means "Eliminate variables"

ELIMINATE the variables indexed by E, leaving 2|P| variables labelled by  $P_I$  and  $P_V$ . ie, CONTRACT E. **Answer M**<sub>E</sub> IS:

$$\mathbf{M}_{E} = \bigwedge_{\text{JOIN over rows}}^{\text{Exterior}} \left[ \frac{A_{I,I} \mid A_{I,V}}{A_{V_{I}} \mid A_{V,V}} \right] [\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{l}_{1}}, \cdots, \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{l}_{p}}; \mathbf{p}_{V_{1}}, \cdots, \mathbf{p}_{V_{p}}]^{t}$$

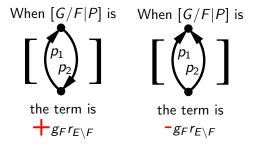
$$= \ldots + C_i \mathbf{XXX} + \ldots$$
; Equiv. Resistance = certain  $C_i / C_j$ 

All the other  $C_k$ 's have similar interpretations.  $\binom{2|P|}{|P|}$  Matr. Tree Theorems: Each  $C_k(N)$  (a PRINCIPAL MINOR of MATRIX *A* ABOVE!) =  $g_e C_k(N/e) + r_e C_k(N \setminus e)$ ( $e \notin P$ , *e* not (co)loop). Each  $C_k$  is a signed weighted enumerator of forests satisfying conditions ...

## Conditions (what sets F are enumerated by one det. $C_i$ )

The **conditions** ... are on the rank, nullity of *F* and, WHAT ORIENTED MINOR is  $G/F \setminus (E \setminus F)$ , the minor with ONLY PORT EDGES from contracting *F* and deleting the other resistor edges, leaving the ports.

The conditions for a given  $C_k$  sometimes make all the signs the same (eg:  $C_i$  and  $C_j$  in 1-port equivalent resistance  $R = C_i/C_j$ ) Othertimes, the oriented **P-minors** in the completed Tutte decomposition of  $C_k$  determine some + and some - signs.



## Application: Rayleigh Identity, "Neg. Spanning Tree Correlation"

 $\Gamma_e(G)$  is equivalent conductance across *e*. Rayleigh:  $0 \leq \frac{\partial \Gamma_p}{\partial g_f} = \frac{\partial \frac{T_G}{T_{G/e}}}{\partial g_f}$ 

is equivalent to

$$0 \leq \frac{\partial T_G}{\partial g_f} T_{G/e} - T_G \frac{\partial T_{G/e}}{\partial g_f} = T_{G/f} T_{G/e} - T_G T_{G/e/f}$$

In fact,

$$T_{G/f}T_{G/e} - T_{G}T_{G/e/f} = \left(T_{G/e \& G/f}^{+} - T_{G/e \& G/f}^{-}\right)^{2}$$

 $T^{\pm}_{G/e \& G/f}$  enumerate the  $\pm$  common spanning trees.

## Known Partial and Full Combinatorial Proofs

$$T_{G/f}T_{G/e} - T_GT_{G/e/f} = \left(T_{G/e \& G/f}^+ - T_{G/e \& G/f}^-\right)^2$$

 $T^{\pm}_{G/e \& G/f}$  enumerate the  $\pm$  common spanning trees.

Choe (2004) proved essentially this using the vertex-based all-minors matrix tree theorem, combinatorial cases and Jacobi's theorem relating the minors of a matrix to the minors of its inverse..

Cibulka, Hladky, Lacroix and Wagner (2008) gave a completely bijective proof that utilizes some natural 2:2 and 2:1 correspondances.

Difficulty: Some terms on the left cancel and some reduce to terms with coefficients  $\pm 2$ .

"Colors" are parameters on every Tutte decomposition step

The Bollobos/Riordan/Zaslavsky [3, 18], Traldi-Ellis-Monaghan [16, 7], (sdc unpub) BRZ theory for well-definedness of "Relative Tutte Polynomials for Colored Graphs" ALL GOES THROUGH (Diao and Hetyei [6]): The 3 BRZ conditions on (colors, initial values) GENERALIZE TO 5; activity theory WORKS TOO, when based on linear orders on the non-port-elements.

#### In a nutshell

The 5 conditions  $\implies$  activities define an unambiguous Tutte function from the deletion/contraction and initial value formulas. Additional conditions  $\implies$  the Tutte function has a rank-nullity expansion.

(The rank-nullity conditions are satisfied in our application.)

To specify the activity/deletion-contraction linear order GLOBALLY is UNNECESSARY.

The Gordon/McMahon computation-tree-based activity theory also generalizes. (sdc).

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