

# Polynomial Invariants on Stranded Graphs

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## Outline

- 1 Introduction: From “Tutte to Tensor” polynomials
- 2 Stranded graph structures
- 3 Polynomial invariants on rank 3 weakly colored stranded graph
- 4 Conclusion: Open questions

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## Tutte's graph polynomial

- Tutte polynomial is a “Universal Invariant” for polynomials defined on simple graphs  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$

$$T_{\mathcal{G}}(x, y) = \sum_{A \subset \mathcal{G}} (x-1)^{r(\mathcal{G})-r(A)} (y-1)^{n(A)}, \quad r(A) = V - k(A), \quad n(A) = E(A) - r(A) \quad (1)$$

satisfying a contraction/deletion rule for a regular edge  $e$

$$T_{\mathcal{G}} = T_{\mathcal{G}-e} + T_{\mathcal{G}/e}. \quad (2)$$

~ Special edges (bridges and self-loops) play the role of boundary conditions of this rec-rel.

$$\text{For a bridge: } T_{\mathcal{G}} = xT_{\mathcal{G}-e} \quad (3)$$

$$\text{For a loop: } T_{\mathcal{G}} = yT_{\mathcal{G}-e}. \quad (4)$$

- Tutte polynomial is “universal” in the sense that any other invariant satisfying the same rec-rel must be an evaluation of this polynomial [Brylawski, '70];

### Definition (Ribbon graphs, Bollobàs-Riordan, Math. Ann. '02)

- Neighborhood of graph (cellularly) embedded in a surface.
- A ribbon graph  $\mathcal{G}$  is a (not necessarily orientable) surface with boundary represented as the union of two sets of closed topological discs called vertices  $\mathcal{V}$  and edges  $\mathcal{E}$ . These sets satisfy the following:
  - ~ Vertices and edges intersect by disjoint line segment,
  - ~ each such line segment lies on the boundary of precisely one vertex and one edge,
  - ~ every edge contains exactly two such line segments.
- Face: a component of a boundary of  $\mathcal{G}$  considered as a geometric ribbon graph, and hence as surface with boundary. As an embedded graph, a face of  $\mathcal{G}$  is simply a face of the embedding.
- Edges/Loops: can be twisted or not.
- Operations  $\mathcal{G} - e$  and  $\mathcal{G}/e$ .
- Contraction of a trivial untwisted loop  $e$ :  $\mathcal{G}/e = (\mathcal{G} - e) \sqcup \{v_0\}$ .

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## ... and the Bollobàs-Riordan polynomial

- The BR polynomial:

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a ribbon graph. We define the ribbon graph polynomial of  $\mathcal{G}$  to be an element of  $\mathbb{Z}[x, y, z, w]$  quotiented by the ideal generated by  $w^2 - w$  as:

$$R_{\mathcal{G}}(x, y, z, w) = \sum_{A \in \mathcal{G}} (x-1)^{r(\mathcal{G})-r(A)} (y-1)^{n(A)} z^{k(A)-F(A)+n(A)} w^{o(A)}, \quad (5)$$

where  $F(A)$  is the number of faces of  $A$ ,  $o(A) = 0$  if  $A$  is orientable and  $o(A) = 1$  if not.

- Why the exponent of  $z$  ?

$$k(A) - F(A) + n(A) = 2k(A) - (|\mathcal{V}| - |\mathcal{E}_A| - F(A)) = \kappa(A) \quad (6)$$

is nothing but the genus or twice the genus (for oriented surfaces) of the subgraph  $A$ .

- Recurrence rule

$$\text{For a regular edge :} \quad R_{\mathcal{G}} = R_{\mathcal{G}/e} + R_{\mathcal{G}-e}, \quad (7)$$

$$\text{For a bridge :} \quad R_{\mathcal{G}} = x R_{\mathcal{G}/e}, \quad (8)$$

$$\text{For a trivial untwisted loop :} \quad R_{\mathcal{G}} = y R_{\mathcal{G}-e} \quad (9)$$

$$\text{For a trivial twisted loop :} \quad R_{\mathcal{G}} = (1 + (y-1)zw) R_{\mathcal{G}-e}. \quad (10)$$

What about higher dimensional space?

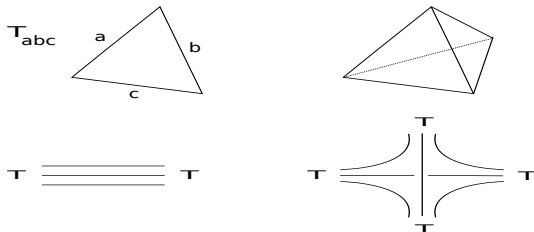


## Krushkal & Renardy polynomial [2010]

- Krushkal-Renardy (KR) '10: A 2-variable polynomial  $T_{\mathcal{G}}^n$  for  $\mathcal{G}$  a higher dimensional simplicial or CW-complex generalizing Tutte using homology group  $\chi^{H_{n-1}(L)-H_{n-1}(\mathcal{G})} \gamma^{H_n(L)}$  for  $L \in \mathcal{G}$  subcomplex of dimension  $n$ .

## Tensor graphs

- Feynman graph for Tensor Models for Quantum Gravity
- A rank  $d$  tensor  $T_{p_1, \dots, p_d}$  + A Geometrical/Physical input.
- Basic building blocks  $(d-1)$ -simplexes & Interaction forms a  $D$ -simplex;  
For e.g. in 3D:

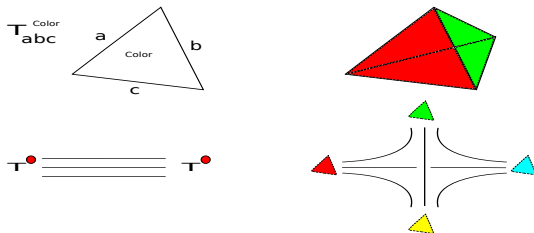


- Simplicial complex with boundaries.
- There is another vertex prescription in 3D [Tanasa, '10] the multi-orientable **complex** model.
- There exists for this prescription a polynomial invariant under “contraction/deletion” rules.

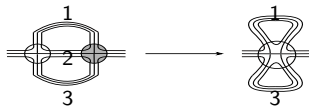
$$T_a \mathcal{G} = \sum_{A \in \mathcal{G}} \chi^r(\mathcal{G})^{-r(A)} \gamma^{n(A)} z^{k(A) - bc(A) + n(A)} T^{2 \sum_b g_b} \quad (11)$$

## Colored Tensor Models

- '10 Gurau's  $1/N$  expansion for colored TM [Gurau, AHP, '11]
- 3D:



- They admit a cellular homology and even a boundary cellular homology.
  - There exists a polynomial for these colored graphs encoding even the boundary data.
- BUT the notion of contraction is dramatically modified** (passive/active lines).  $\sim$  Colored theory is not “stable” contraction:



- Gurau polynomial need a new contraction rule involving the so-called passive line.

## Several questions, some answers

- Combinatorial vs Geom./Topological approaches. Combinatorics has a little advantage: you don't need to learn Hatcher's book! 😊
- $\exists$  Richer structures that are not seen or taking into account in the above formulation of the Krushkal and Renardy.
- Stranded Graphs ? Combinatoric approach is enough.
- The issue of contraction and deletion in a stranded/colored structures.

Today:

- Goal: Define stranded graphs and Introduce a new invariant for 3D colored simplicial complex with boundaries or colored stranded graphs.
- Method can be extended in any dimension.
- Upon reduction to simple/ribbon graphs, we reduce to Tutte/BR.

This is a compilation of works by Avohou R. Cocou, JBG, Etera Livine, M. Norbert Hounkonnou, S. Ramgoolam, R. Toriumi, arXiv:1301.1987, 1409.0398, 1310.3708, 1307.6490, 1212.5961.

Ackn: Bonzom, Gurau, Krajewski, Rivasseau, Tanasa.

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- 2 **Stranded graph structures**
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## Stranded graph

### Definition (Stranded vertex and edge)

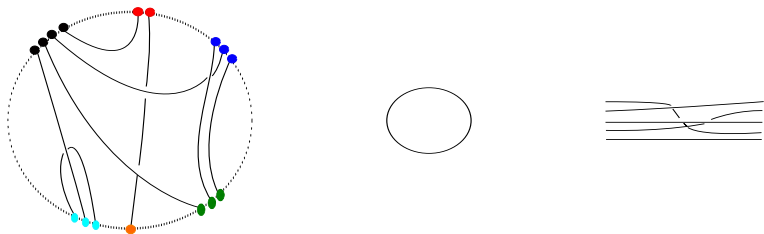
- A rank  $D$  stranded vertex is a chord diagram that is a collection of  $2n$  points on the unit circle (called the vertex frontier) paired by  $n$  chords, satisfying:
  - (a) the chords are not intersecting;
  - (b) the chords end points can be partitioned in sets called pre-edges with  $0, 1, 2, \dots, D$  elements. These points should lie on a single arc on the frontier with no other end points on this arc;
  - (c) the pre-edges should form a connected collection that is, by merging all points in each pre-edge and by removing the vertex frontier, the reduced graph obtained is connected.

The coordination (also called valence or degree) of a rank  $D > 0$  stranded vertex is the number of its non-empty pre-edges. By convention: (C1) we include a particular vertex made with one disc and assume that it is a stranded vertex of any rank made with a unique closed chord and (C2) a point is a rank 0 stranded vertex.

- A rank  $D$  stranded edge is a collection of segments called strands such that:
  - (a') the strands are not intersecting (but can cross without intersecting, i.e. cannot lie in the same plane);
  - (b') the end points of the strands can be partitioned in two disjoint parts called sets of end segments of the edge such that a strand cannot have its end points in the same set of end segments;
  - (c') the number of strands is  $D$ .

## Stranded vertex and edge

- Rank  $D$  str. vertex and rank  $D$  str. edge



**Figure:** A rank 4 stranded vertex of coordination 6, with connected pre-edges (highlighted with different colors) with crossing chords; a trivial disc vertex; a rank 5 edge with non parallel strands.

- Rank  $D > 0$  stranded vertices just enforce that any entering strand in the vertex should be exiting by another point at the frontier of the vertex.
- Degree or valence.

### Definition (Stranded and tensor graphs)

- A rank  $D$  stranded graph  $\mathcal{G}$  is a graph  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$  which admits:
  - (i) rank  $D$  stranded vertices;
  - (ii) rank at most  $D$  stranded edges;
  - (iii) One vertex and one edge intersect by one set of end segments of the edge which should coincide with a pre-edge at the vertex frontier. All intersections of vertices and edges are pairwise distinct.
- A rank  $D$  tensor graph  $\mathcal{G}$  is a rank  $D$  stranded graph such that:
  - (i') the vertices of  $\mathcal{G}$  have a fixed coordination  $D + 1$  and their pre-edges have a fixed cardinal  $D$ . From the point of view of the pre-edges, the pattern followed by each stranded vertex is that of the complete graph  $K_{D+1}$ ;
  - (ii') the edges of  $\mathcal{G}$  are of rank  $D$ .
- The notion of connectedness should be clarified.



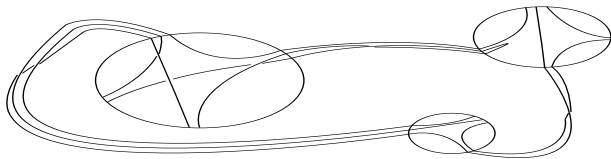


Figure: A rank 3 stranded graph.

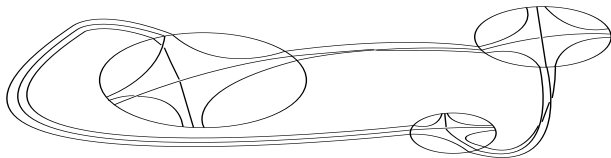
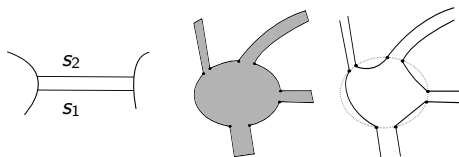


Figure: A rank 3 tensor graph with rank 3 vertices as with fixed coordination 4, pre-edges with 3 points linked by chords according to the pattern of  $K_4$ ; edges are rank 3.

## Lower rank reduction

- Rank 0 and 1 stranded/tensor graph are not very interesting.
- Ribbon graphs are one-to-one with particular rank 2 stranded graphs.



**Figure:** Ribbon edge and vertex of a ribbon graph as a rank 2 stranded edge and vertex of a stranded graph (the frontier vertex appears in dash).

## Half-edges and cut

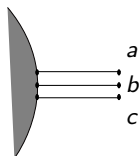


Figure: A rank 3 str half edge with its external points  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$ .

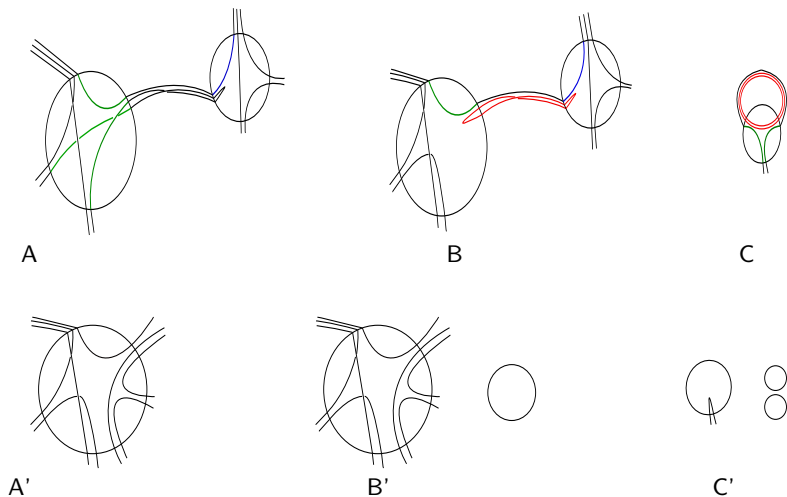
- Cut of an edge



Figure: Cutting a rank 3 stranded edge.

- New category of graphs: Half-edge stranded graphs.

## Contraction of a stranded edge



**Figure:** Graphs A', B' and C' obtained after edge contraction of A, B and C, respectively.

## Colored tensor graphs.

### Definition (Colored tensor graph)

A rank  $D \geq 1$  colored tensor graph  $\mathcal{G}$  is a graph such that:

- $\mathcal{G}$  is  $(D + 1)$  colored and bipartite;
- $\mathcal{G}$  is a rank  $D$  tensor graph.

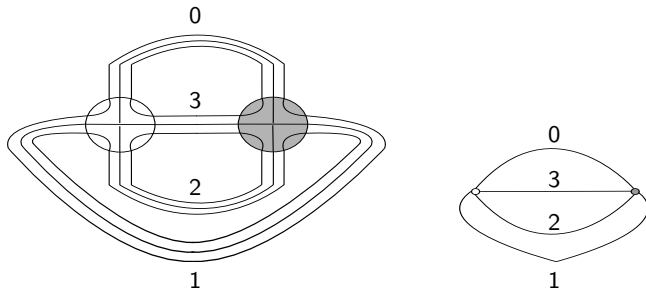


Figure: A rank 3 colored tensor graph and its compact representation.

Definition ( $p$ -bubbles, Gurau, '09)

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a rank  $D$  colored tensor graph. A  $p$ -bubble is a connected component made with edges with  $p$  colors.

- 2-bubbles = faces of the graph. 3-bubbles = bubbles in  $D = 3$ ;

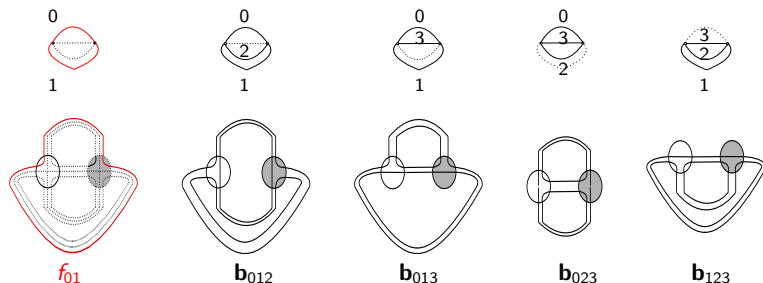


Figure: The face  $f_{01}$  and bubbles of the graph of the previous graph.

## Open and boundary graphs

- Introduce colored stranded half edges: Open graphs

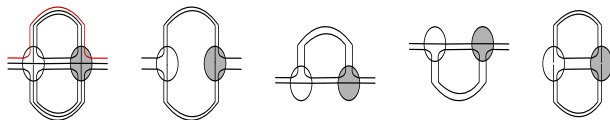


Figure: An open rank 3 colored tensor graph and its bubbles;  $f_{01}$  is an open face;  $b_{012}$  is an open bubble and  $b_{023}$  is closed.

- Boundary graph:  $\partial\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{V}_\partial, \mathcal{E}_\partial)$  of a rank  $D$  HEcTG  $\mathcal{G}$  is a graph encoding the boundary of the simplicial complex.

## Weakly colored graphs

- Equivalence up to trivial discs:  $\mathcal{G}_1 \sim \mathcal{G}_2$  if after removing their trivial discs they are isomorphic.

### Definition (Rank $D$ w-colored graph)

A rank  $D$  weakly colored or w-colored graph is the equivalence class (up to trivial discs) of a rank  $D$  half-edged stranded graph obtained by successive edge contractions of some rank  $D$  half-edged colored tensor graph.

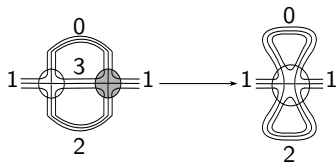


Figure: Contraction of an edge in a rank 3 HEcTG.

- Face are bi-colored, bubble tri-colored objects. This will allow to keep track of their numbers.



Hope you're still ok !



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## A new invariant on rank 3 weakly-colored graphs [Avohou et al., '13]

- Consider  $\mathcal{G}$  a weakly colored graph. Choose a subset of edges in  $\mathcal{G}$ , and define  $A$  a spanning cutting subgraph by cutting all the rest of edges in  $\mathcal{G}$ .

### A new invariant

The following function is well defined on rank 3  $W$ -colored graphs:

$$\mathfrak{I}_{\mathcal{G}}(X, Y, Z, S, W, Q, T) = \sum_{A \subset \mathcal{G}} (X-1)^{r(\mathcal{G})-r(A)} Y^{n(A)} \times \\ Z^{5k(A) - (3V - E(A) + 2(F_{\text{int}}(A) - B_{\text{int}}(A) - B_{\text{ext}}(A)))} S^{C_{\partial}(A)} W^{F_{\partial}(A)} Q^{E_{\partial}(A)} T^{f(A)}. \quad (12)$$

$k(A)$  its number of connected components,  $F_{\text{int}/\text{ext}}(A)$  its number of internal/external or closed/open faces,  $B_{\text{int}/\text{ext}}(A)$  its number of closed/open bubbles;  $C_{\partial}(A)$  the number of connected component of the boundary of  $A$ ,  $F_{\partial}(A)$  the number of face of the boundary graph,  $E_{\partial}(A) = F_{\text{ext}}(A)$  the number of external faces or number of lines of the boundary graph, and  $V_{\partial}(A) = f(A)$  the number of vertices of the boundary graph or number of half-edge of  $A$ .

- $5k(A) - (3V + 2F_{\text{int}}(A))$  is independent of the representative of a  $w$ -colored stranded graphs.

## Proposition

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a representative of a  $w$ -colored graph. Then

$$\zeta(\mathcal{G}) = 3(E(\mathcal{G}) - V(\mathcal{G})) + 2[B_{\text{int}}(\mathcal{G}) + B_{\text{ext}}(\mathcal{G}) - F_{\text{int}}(\mathcal{G})] \geq -5D. \quad (13)$$

- Consider the set of closed and open bubbles  $\mathcal{B}_{\text{int}}$  and  $\mathcal{B}_{\text{ext}}$  of  $\mathcal{G}$ , with cardinal  $B_{\text{int}}$  and  $B_{\text{ext}}$ , resp.
- for any  $\mathbf{b}_i \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{int}}$

$$2 - \kappa_{\mathbf{b}_i} = V_{\mathbf{b}_i} - E_{\mathbf{b}_i} + F_{\text{int};\mathbf{b}_i}, \quad (14)$$

where  $\kappa_{\mathbf{b}_i}$  refers to the genus of  $\mathbf{b}_i$  or twice its genus if  $\mathbf{b}_i$  is oriented. Summing over all internal bubbles, we get

$$2B_{\text{int}} - \sum_{\mathbf{b}_i \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{int}}} \kappa_{\mathbf{b}_i} = \sum_{\mathbf{b}_i \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{int}}} [V_{\mathbf{b}_i} - E_{\mathbf{b}_i} + F_{\text{int};\mathbf{b}_i}]. \quad (15)$$

Using the colors,

$$\sum_{\mathbf{b}_i \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{int}}} E_{\mathbf{b}_i} + \sum_{\mathbf{b}_x \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{ext}}} E_{\mathbf{b}_x} = 3E, \quad \sum_{\mathbf{b}_i \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{int}}} F_{\text{int};\mathbf{b}_i} + \sum_{\mathbf{b}_x \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{ext}}} F_{\text{int};\mathbf{b}_x} = 2(F_{\text{int}} - D). \quad (16)$$

In addition, each vertex of the graph can be decomposed, at least, in three vertices (3 vertices is the minimum given by the simplest vertex of the form  $\mathcal{G}_1$ ) which could belong to an open or closed bubble, we have

$$\sum_{\mathbf{b}_i \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{int}}} V_{\mathbf{b}_i} + \sum_{\mathbf{b}_x \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{ext}}} V_{\mathbf{b}_x} \geq 3(V - D). \quad (17)$$

Combining (16) and (17), we re-write (15) as

$$3V - 3E + 2F_{\text{int}} - 2B_{\text{int}} - 5D - \sum_{\mathbf{b}_x \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{ext}}} [V_{\mathbf{b}_x} - E_{\mathbf{b}_x} + F_{\text{int};\mathbf{b}_x}] \leq - \sum_{\mathbf{b}_i \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{int}}} \kappa_{\mathbf{b}_i}. \quad (18)$$

We complete the last sum involving  $\mathcal{B}_{\text{ext}}$  by adding  $C_{\partial}(\mathbf{b}_x)$  in order to get

$$\sum_{\mathbf{b}_x \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{ext}}} [V_{\mathbf{b}_x} - E_{\mathbf{b}_x} + F_{\text{int};\mathbf{b}_x} + C_{\partial}(\mathbf{b}_x)] = \sum_{\mathbf{b}_x \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{ext}}} (2 - \kappa_{\mathbf{b}_x}^-), \quad (19)$$

which, substituted in (18), leads us to

$$3V - 3E + 2F_{\text{int}} - 2B_{\text{int}} - 2B_{\text{ext}} - 5D \leq - \sum_{\mathbf{b}_i \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{int}}} \kappa_{\mathbf{b}_i} - \sum_{\mathbf{b}_x \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{ext}}} (C_{\partial}(\mathbf{b}_x) + \kappa_{\mathbf{b}_x}^-) \quad (20)$$

from which the lemma results.

- Ccl:  $5k(A) + \zeta(A) \geq 5k(A) - 5D \geq 0 \Rightarrow \mathfrak{F}_{\mathcal{G}}(X, Y, Z, S, W, Q, T)$  is a polynomial.

## Contraction/Cut rule

### Theorem (Contraction/cut rule for $w$ -colored graphs)

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a rank 3  $w$ -colored graph. Then, for a regular edge  $e$  of any of  $\mathcal{G}$ , we have

$$\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G}} = \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G} \vee e} + \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G}/e}, \quad (21)$$

for a bridge  $e$ , we have  $\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G} \vee e} = z^8 s(wq)^3 t^2 \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G}/e}$  and

$$\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G}} = [(x-1)z^8 s(wq)^3 t^2 + 1] \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G}/e}; \quad (22)$$

for a trivial  $p$ -inner loop  $e$ ,  $p = 0, 1, 2$ , we have

$$\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G}} = \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G} \vee e} + (y-1)z^{4p-7} \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G}/e}. \quad (23)$$

- Again like the proof of the contraction/deletion of Tutte, one must prove that the subset of  $\mathcal{G}$  divides into those which do not contain  $e$  (these will involve  $\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G} \vee e}$ ) and those which do (involving  $\mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G}/e}$ ).
- Reduced to  $T_{\mathcal{G}}$  but not “naively” to  $BR$ ;
- Several reductions.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G}}(x, y, z, z^{-2} s^2, s^{-1}, s, s^{-1}) &= \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G}}''(x, y, z, s) && \text{Euler characteristics for the boundary} \\ \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G}}(x, y, z, z^2 z^{-2}, z^{-1}, z, z^{-1}) &= \mathfrak{T}_{\mathcal{G}}'''(x, y, z) && \text{Combine both in a single exponent.} \end{aligned}$$

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## Open questions

- Tensor graphs have a rich combinatorics.
- The coloring allows to keep track of most of the topological ingredients, like  $p$ -bubbles or  $p$ -cells.
- We have identify a rank 3 invariant on colored simplicial complex. Is it universal ?
- A Rank 2 invariant extending Bollobàs-Riordan to half-edged ribbon graphs:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{G}}(x, y, z, s, w, t) = \sum_{A \in \mathcal{G}} (x-1)^{r(\mathcal{G})-r(A)} (y-1)^{n(A)} z^{k(A)-F_{\text{int}}(A)+n(A)} s^{C_{\partial}(A)} w^{o(A)} t^{f(A)}, \quad (24)$$

where  $C_{\partial}(A)$  is the number of connected component of the boundary of  $A$ .

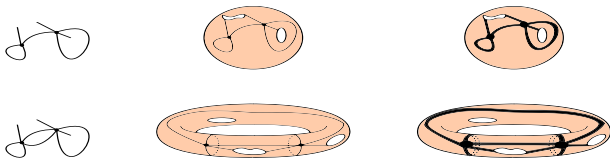
- $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{G}}(x, y, z, z^{-1}, w, t = 1) = R_{\mathcal{G}}(x, y, z, w)$
- Higher  $D$  ?
- What do those objects count ? (Tutte and BR counting specific tree in the graphs).

Thank You for Your Attention!



## The meaning of $\partial\mathcal{G}$ for half-edge ribbon graphs (HERG)

- Cellular embedding: A HERG is half-edge graph  $\mathcal{G}$  “cellularly embedded” in a surface  $\Sigma$  with punctures in the following sense:
  - Remove all half-edges from  $\mathcal{G}$  we get  $\mathcal{G}'$  which is then cellularly embedded in  $\Sigma$  such that each connected component of  $\Sigma \setminus \mathcal{G}'$  is homeomorphic either to a disc or to discs with holes;
  - Each of the half-edges of  $\mathcal{G}$  is embedded in  $\Sigma$  and ends on a different puncture (but can be on the same boundary circle).



**Figure:** A half-edged graph, some possible cellular embeddings in punctured surfaces (a sphere top, a torus bottom) and corresponding HERGs (in bold).

- A closed face  $f$  corresponds to a component homeomorphic to a disc or to a disc with holes in  $\Sigma \setminus \mathcal{G}$  such that  $\partial\Sigma \cap f = \emptyset$ . If  $\partial\Sigma \cap f \neq \emptyset$ , then it is an external face.
- An additional closed face introduced by the pinching corresponds to a component homeomorphic to a disc or to a disc with holes only after capping off some punctures in  $\Sigma$ . Thus pinching a HERG corresponds exactly to capping some puncture in  $\Sigma$ .

## Multivariate form

The multivariate form associated with  $\mathfrak{T}$  is defined by:

$$\begin{aligned} & \tilde{\mathfrak{T}}_{\mathcal{G}}(x, \{\beta_e\}, \{z_i\}_{i=1,2,3}, s, w, q, t) \\ &= \sum_{A \in \mathcal{G}} x^{r(A)} \left( \prod_{e \in A} \beta_e \right) z_1^{F_{\text{int}}(A)} z_2^{B_{\text{int}}(A)} z_3^{B_{\text{ext}}(A)} s^{C_{\partial}(A)} w^{F_{\partial}(A)} q^{E_{\partial}(A)} t^{f(A)}, \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

for  $\{\beta_e\}_{e \in \mathcal{E}}$  labeling the edges of the graph  $\mathcal{G}$ .

- Relation with Gurau polynomial but only on rank 3 stranded colored graph:

$$\tilde{\mathfrak{T}}_{\mathcal{G}}(x, \{\beta_e\}, z_1, z_2, z_3 = 1, s, w, q, t) = G_{\mathcal{G}}(x, \{\beta_e\}, z_1, z_2, s, q, w, t), \quad (26)$$