

FACETS of COHERENCE

on { CW-complexes
polyhedral complexes
nestohedra

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joint work with

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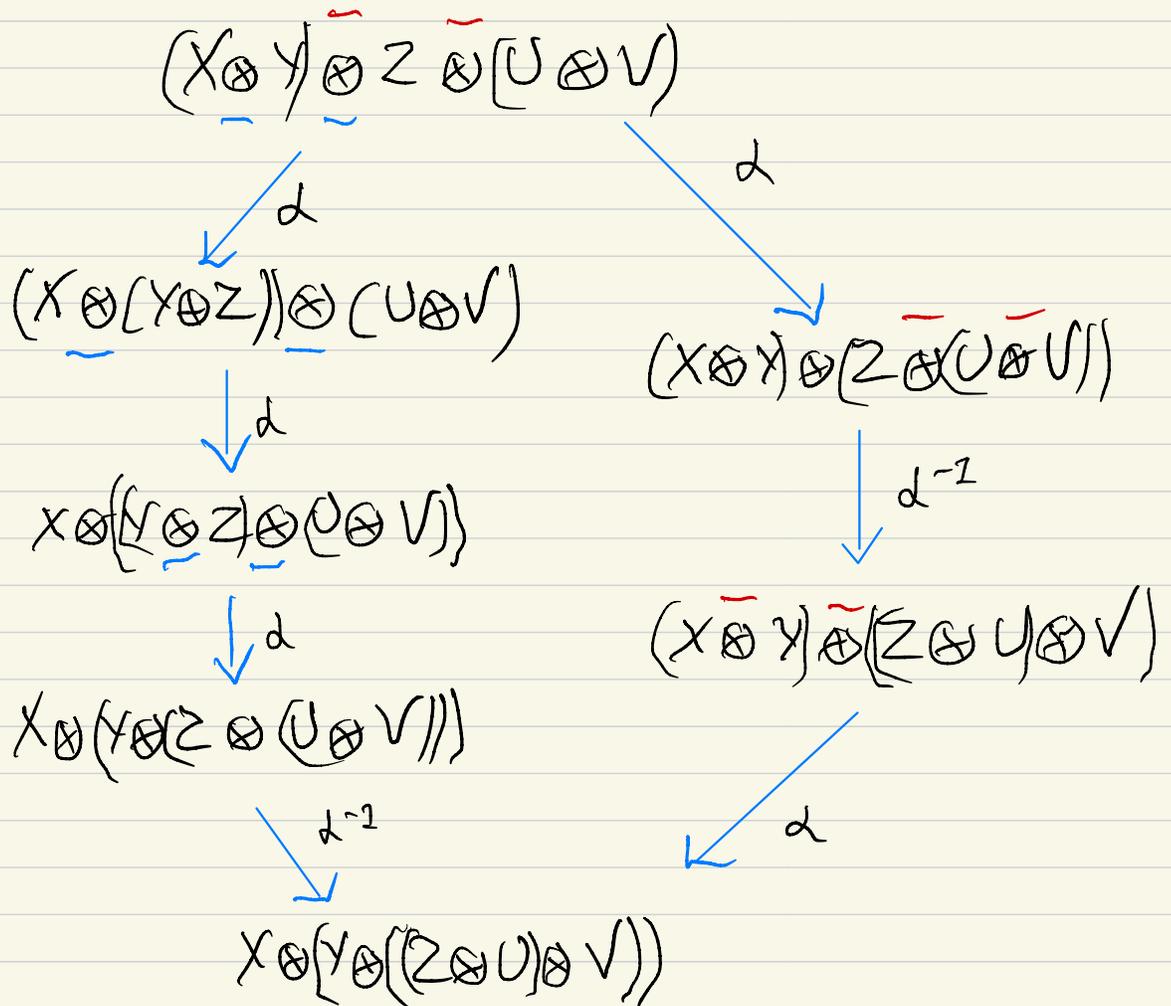
Belgrade, October 2023

Montpellier, November 2023

PROLOGUE



Coherence in monoidal categories

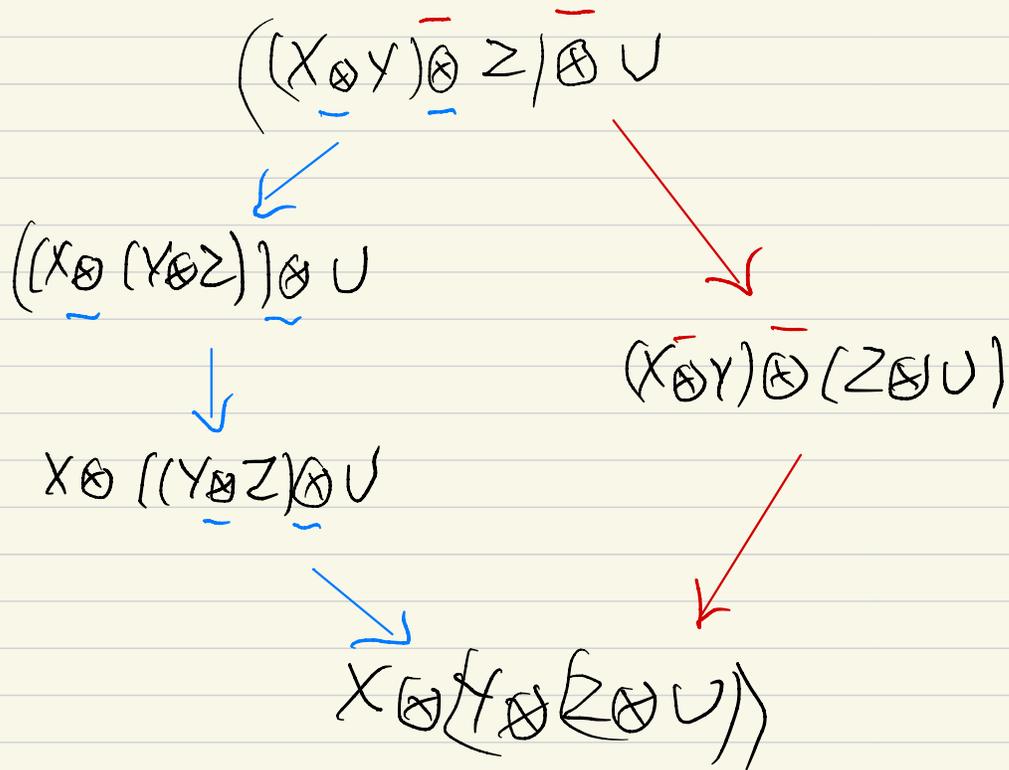


VARIOUS ITERATES of \otimes

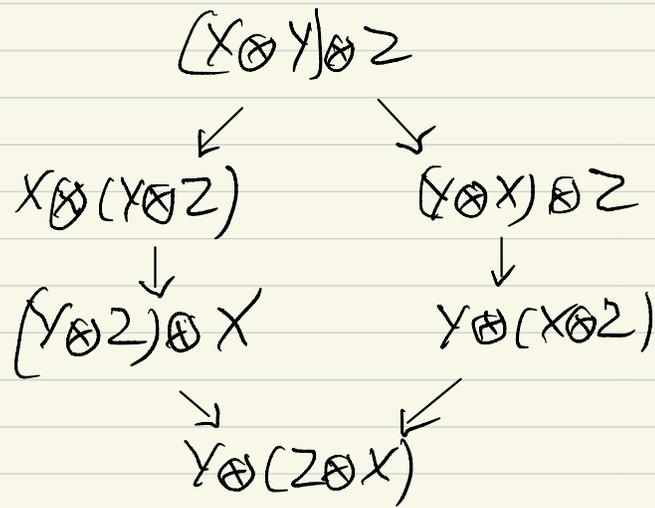
- Read all vertices, as functors $\mathbb{C}^S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$
- Reads all d as instances, in context

$$d = (-(\otimes) =) \otimes \equiv \rightarrow - \otimes (=(\otimes) \equiv)$$

Pentagon



Hexagon



Non-symmetric Categorified operads (weak)

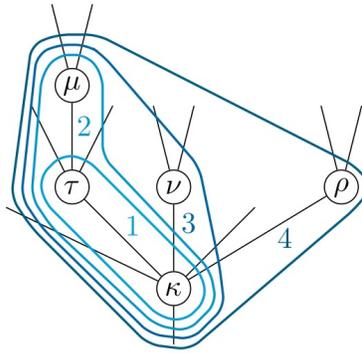
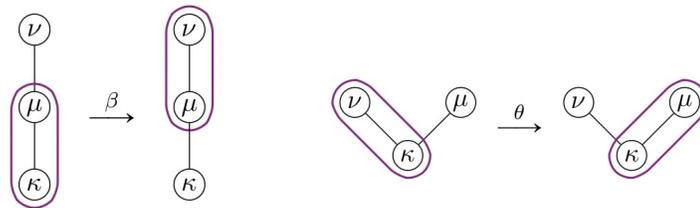
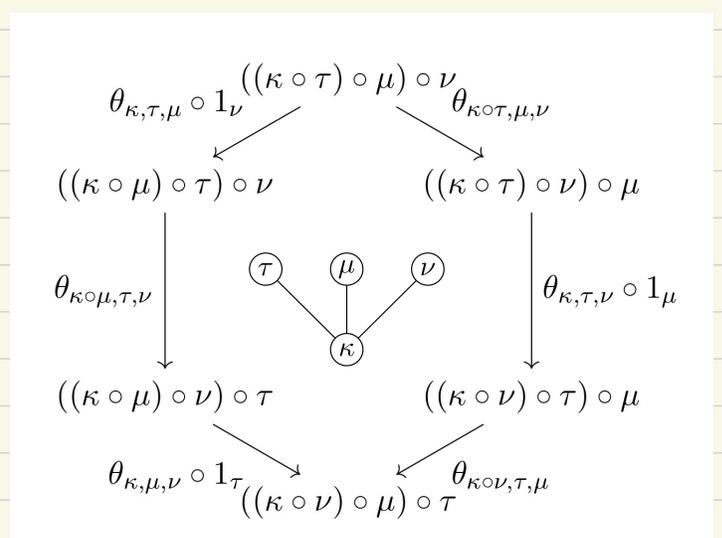
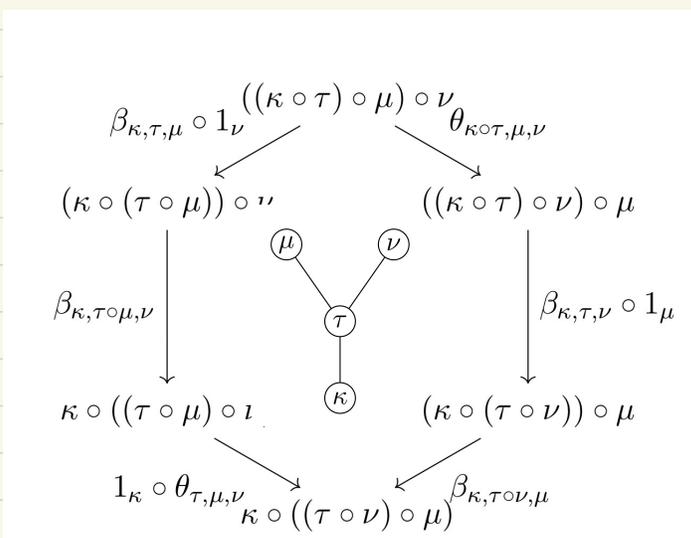
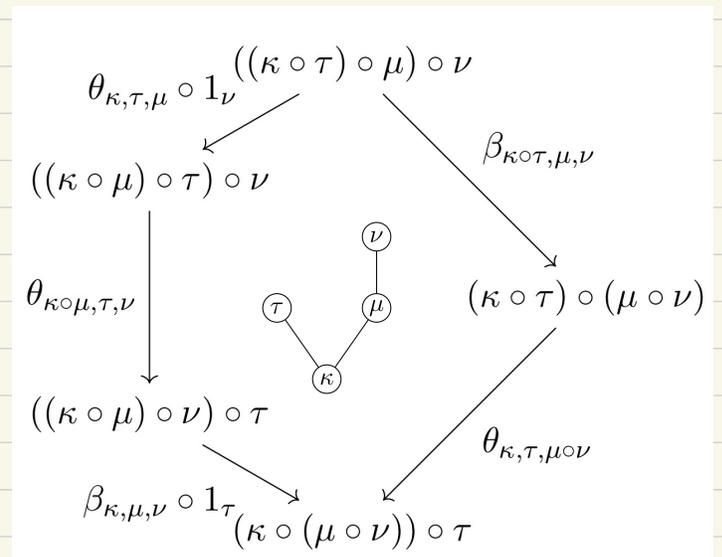
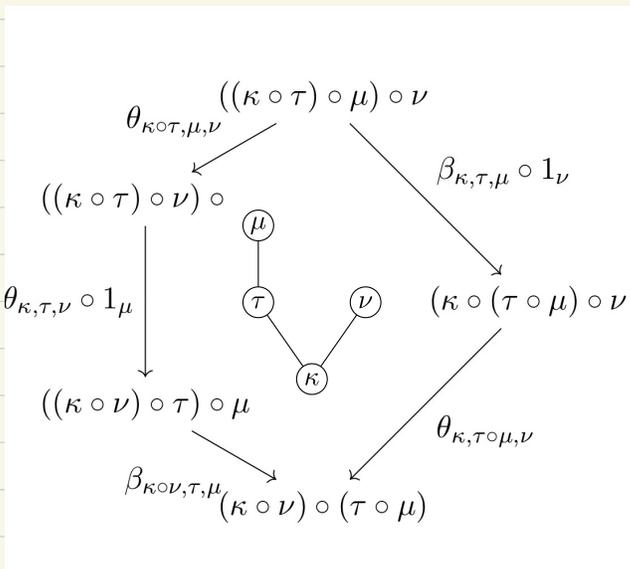
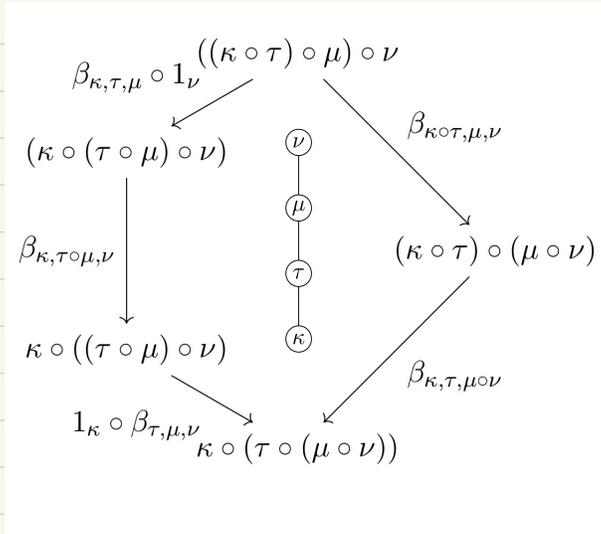


FIGURE 2. A fully nested planar tree.



\leadsto 3 pentagons and 2 hexagons
Dopen and Petrić

Coherence for categorified operads



How to prove coherence theorems

- Rewriting techniques [Mac Lane 53 "revisited" by Squier - Otto - Kobayashi 94]
(Mae on this later in this talk)
- Strictification [Joyal-Street 1993]
(based on the existence of a faithful functor from a monoidal category to an associated strict monoidal category)
(Not covered here)
- "Instant one step proof" [Kapranov 1993]
Translate the data into geometry/topology
→ general coherence theorem for CW-complexes [C-Laplante-Anfossi 2022]
(Coming next)

PART I

Regular CW-complexes

The low-dimensional data of a CW-complex

● A set K_0 of 0-cells (points) x, y, \dots

● A set K_1 of 1-cells (edges) $d: x \rightarrow y$
(and formal $d^{-1}: y \rightarrow x$)

\leadsto free category K_2^*

(morphism = paths $x \xrightarrow{d} x_1 \xrightarrow{B^{-2}} x_2 \xrightarrow{B} x_2$)

↓
(CELLULAR, COMBINATORIAL)

● A set of 2-cells A , given by attachment of 2-balls along a closed walk of 1-cells

(if edges are distinct = path \leadsto regular)

Thus with a 2-cell A , up to

the choice of $x \in K_0 \cap A$ there is an associated boundary $\gamma_A: x \rightarrow x$ in K_2^* .

● K_3, \dots

From Bonnie Brown's Topology and groupoids... (2006)

Notation: X top. space, $Y \subseteq X \rightarrow \pi_1(X) \curvearrowright Y$

full subcategory of the fundamental groupoid of X spanned by Y

Combinatorial characterisation of $\pi_1(K)K_0$ (for K CW-complex):

Notation • $\mathcal{F}(K) = K_1^* / d_1^{-2} = \text{id}$ (free groupoid)

• $\mathcal{C}(K) = \mathcal{F}(K) / \gamma_A = \text{id}$

Three steps in the characterisation

• $\pi_1(K_2)K_0 \simeq \mathcal{F}(K)$

(all taken from

BROWN'S book

Topology and groupoids)

• $\pi_1(K_2)K_0 \simeq \mathcal{C}(K)$

||

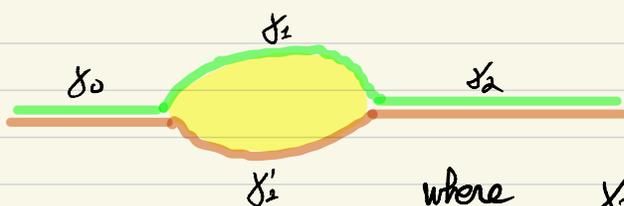
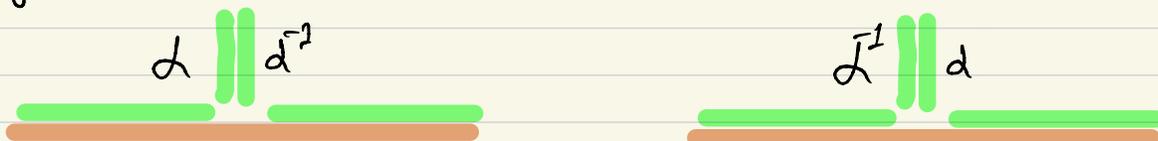
• $\pi_1(K)K_0$

\simeq

Proof: repeated use of Van Kampen

... to a general coherence theorem

Say that two parallel paths $\gamma, \gamma' \in K_2^{\rightarrow}(x, y)$ are combinatorially homotopic if they get equated in $C(K)$. Concretely, this means that one can go from γ to γ' by repeated use of



where $\gamma_2(\gamma_1^{-1})^{-2} = \gamma_A$ for some A

Theorem 1 ("instant one step coherence") γ_4^{-2}

The following holds in a (regular) CW-complex K :

- (1) all parallel combinatorial paths are combinatorially homotopic.
- ↑↑
- (2) all path components are simply connected.

Proof: (1) reformulates as $C(K)(x, y)$ is a singleton

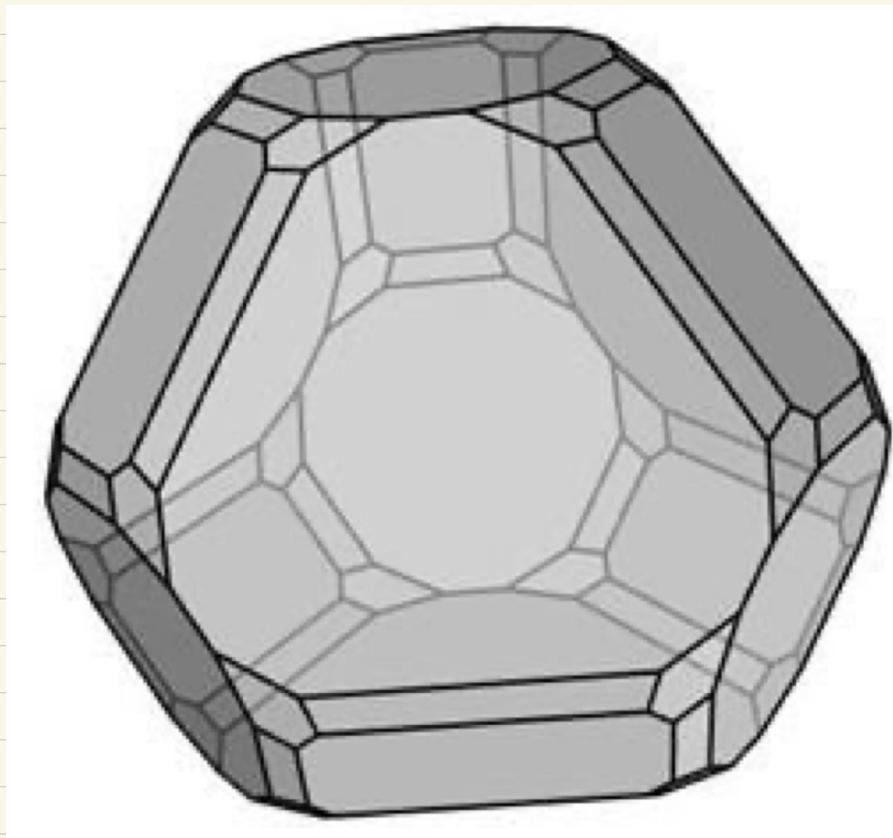
(2) reformulates as $\pi(K)(x, y)$ is a singleton

What goes well without saying,
goes even better when you say it!

Coherence for d and σ

(non-unital symmetric monoidal)

All the data decorate the vertices,
the edges, and the 2-faces of a
polytope:



simple permutahedron
(Barolić-Ivanović-Petric' 2019)

PART II

polyhedral complexes

polyhedral complexes

We now turn to a (less) general proof of coherence in polyhedral complexes that retains most aspects of Mac Lane's original proof.

Polyhedron = intersection of closed half spaces

Definition 5.1. A polyhedral complex \mathcal{C} is a finite collection of polyhedra in \mathbb{R}^d such that

- (i) the empty polyhedron is in \mathcal{C} ,
- (ii) if $P \in \mathcal{C}$, then all the faces of P are also in \mathcal{C} ,
- (iii) the intersection $P \cap Q$ of two polyhedra $P, Q \in \mathcal{C}$ is a face both of P and of Q .

$\bigcup \{P \mid P \in \mathcal{C}\} =$ the space described

ONE CAN VIEW POLYHEDRAL COMPLEXES

AS CW-COMPLEXES

● A generic vector $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is a vector p.t.

$\forall a: x \rightarrow y$ edge of \mathcal{C} $\langle \vec{v} | x \rangle \neq \langle \vec{v} | y \rangle$. This provides

an orientation of edges: $x \longrightarrow y$ if $\langle \vec{v} | x \rangle < \langle \vec{v} | y \rangle$.

Outgoing link of a vertex

For each vertex x , choose $\varepsilon > 0$ small enough so that for all outgoing edge $d: x \rightarrow y$ from x , x and y are separated by the hyperplane

$$\{y \mid \langle \vec{v}, z \rangle = \langle \vec{v}, x \rangle + \varepsilon\}$$

The outgoing link of x is the intersection of the complex with that hyperplane.

Adapting from **Ziegler (vertex figure)**, we have

- The outgoing link is a polyhedral complex $C|_x$
- There is a (subface preserving) bijection

correspondence between the k -dimensional faces of $C|_x$ and the $(k+2)$ -dimensional faces of C that contain x and have a non-empty intersection with the outgoing link (for all k).

Coherence based on orientation

Theorem 2 (C-Laplante-Anfossi 2022) THESE CONDITIONS HOLD if C is a

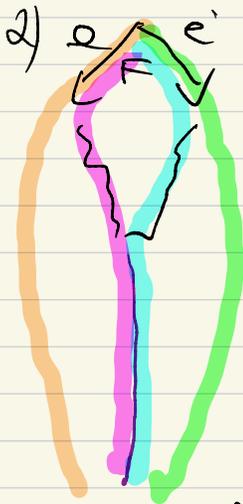
let C be a polyhedral complex. If \checkmark POLYTOPE

- There is a unique global sink (NORMAL FORM) (i.e., a vertex without any outgoing edge), and
- the 1-skeleton of the outgoing link of every vertex is connected.

then every two parallel combinatorial paths are combinatorially homotopic.

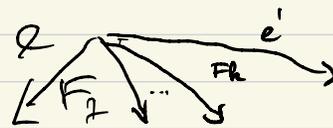
Proof plan • A) Assume paths oriented to go to the sink.

1) $e \leq e'$
induction



global sink

2) $e \leq e'$ 3) Otherwise, by the second assumption, there exists a sequence of faces



and we apply 2) repetitively



• B) General case: note

(cf. Mac Lane)

Theorem 2 is strictly less general than Theorem 1

Proposition If the 1-skeleton of the outgoing link of every vertex is connected, then every path connected component of C is simply connected.

Proof idea: $\langle \vec{v} | - \rangle$ defines a Morse function.

Let $C_t = \{x \in C \mid \langle \vec{v} | x \rangle \geq t\}$.

- At each h s.t. $\langle \vec{v} | x \rangle = h$ for some vertex, we get that C_h is homotopically equivalent to the pushout of $C_{h+\varepsilon}$ with the cone from x to the outgoing link of x connected.
simply connected
simply connected (VAN KEMPEN)

Muro-Torho 2014

Regular CW-complexes

monoidal categories
(unital)

polyhedral complexes

"nestohedra-like" polytopes

multiplihedra
strong monoidal functors

(simple) permuto-associahedra
symmetric monoidal categories
(non unital)

nestohedra
operahedra
categorified operads
(non unital, non-symmetric)
Associahedra
monoidal categories
(non unital)

PART III

"nestohedra-like" polytopes

multiplihedra

strong monoidal functors

(simple) permuto-associahedra

symmetric monoidal categories
(non unital)

nestohedra

operahedra

categorified operads
(non unital, non-symmetric)

Associahedra

monoidal categories
(non unital)

Two flavours of rewriting

We have seen • the "one-line proof"

- an oriented proof, depending on the choice of an orientation vector (a Morse function), that "looks like" Mac Lane's proof. But there is still a distance to that proof - the one which separates

abstract rewriting from term rewriting

In term rewriting, we have ¹rewriting rules

$$(x \otimes y) \otimes z \rightarrow x \otimes (y \otimes z)$$

(preferably a finite number of them) which are

²instantiated $((A \otimes B) \otimes C) \otimes D \otimes (E \otimes F)$

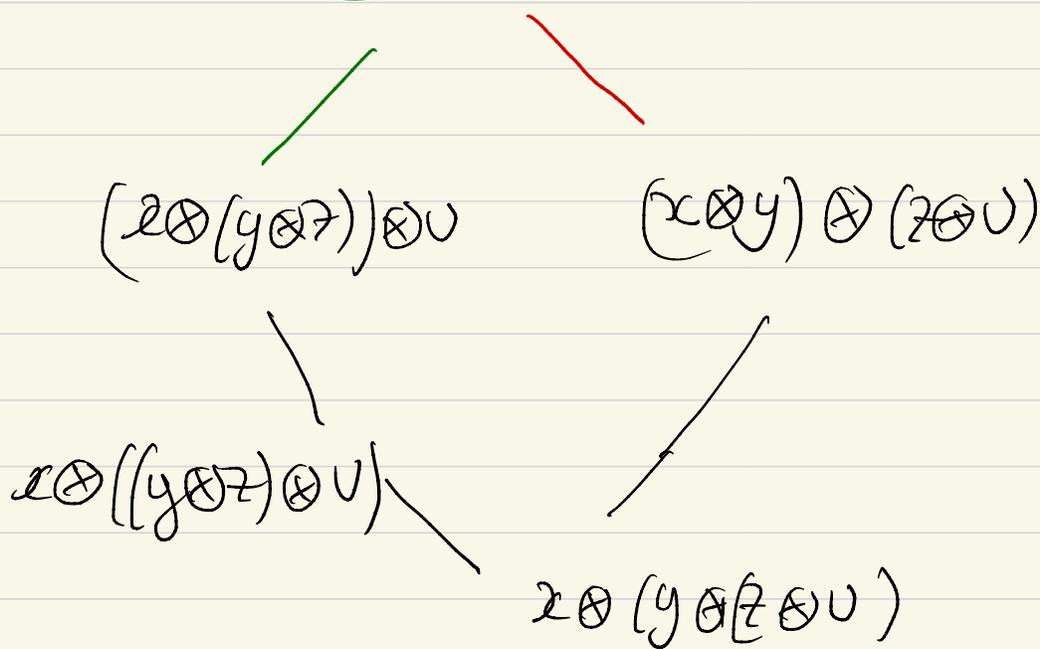
³in context $(Z \otimes (((A \otimes B) \otimes C) \otimes (D \otimes (E \otimes F)))) \otimes G$

The same remarks apply to Mac Lane's pentagons

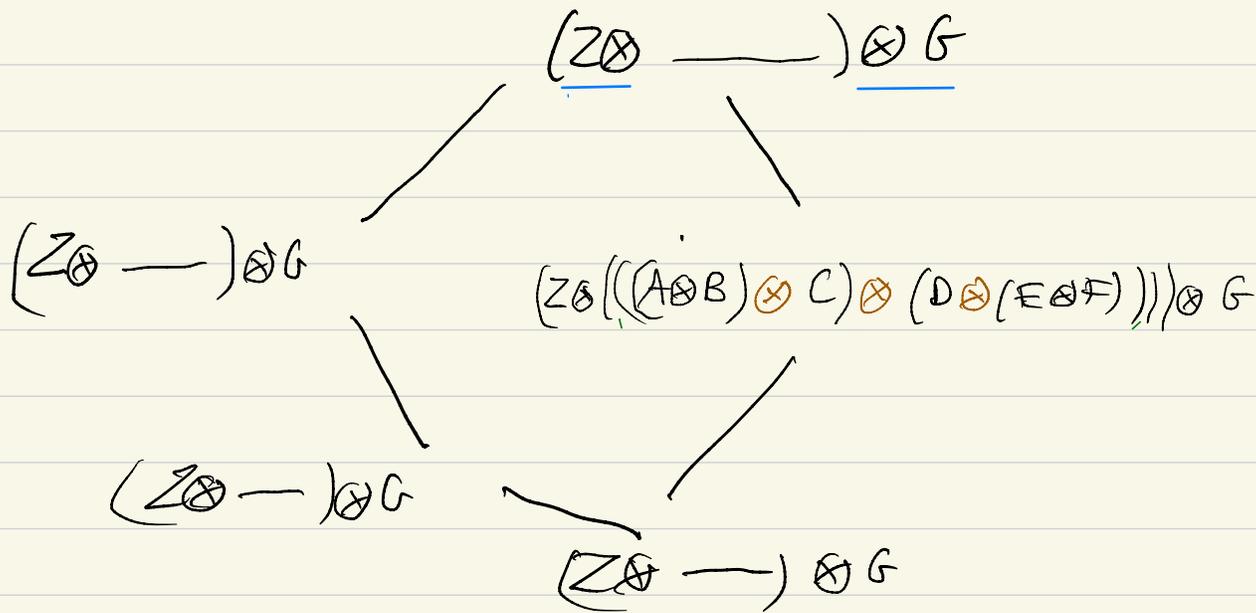
• 1 one generic coherence condition

$$((x \otimes y) \otimes z) \otimes u$$

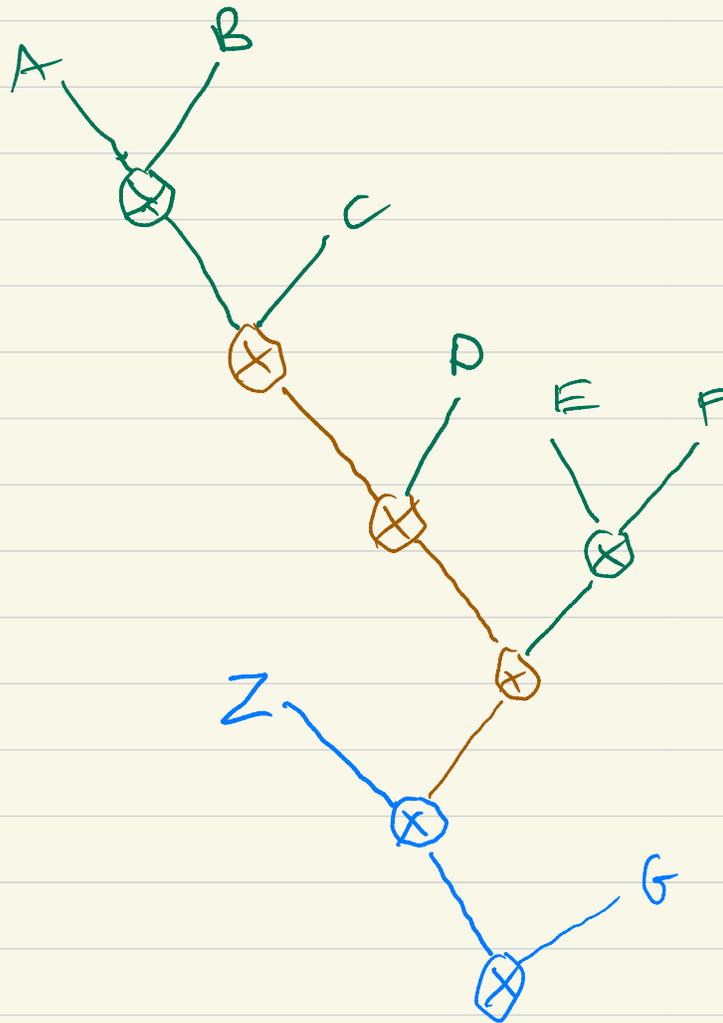
CRITICAL PAIR



- 2 instantiated: $x \mapsto \underline{A \otimes B}$, $y \mapsto \underline{C}$, $z \mapsto \underline{D}$, $u \mapsto \underline{E \otimes F}$
- 3 in context



Z \otimes [((A \otimes B) \otimes C) \otimes D] \otimes [E \otimes F] \otimes G



Looking for polytopes

"displaying instantiation and context"

DOŠEN-PETRIC

We'll see that in the class of nestohedra, there is a flavour of \bullet^1 and \bullet^2 , but not of \bullet^3 in general.

We give a counterexample.

We give a condition on nestohedra, which we call the contextuality condition,

- that accounts for \bullet^3
- that is satisfied by operahedra

All of this makes sense also without orientation

Building sets

A building set \mathcal{H} (a.k.a. as atomic and saturated hypergraph) is given by a finite set H of vertices and a subset

$$(\mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathcal{P}^*(H) \text{ p.t. } \begin{cases} \bullet \forall E \in \mathcal{H}, E \neq \emptyset \\ \bullet \text{ If } E_1, E_2 \in \mathcal{H} \text{ and } E_1 \cap E_2 \neq \emptyset, \text{ then } E_1 \cup E_2 \in \mathcal{H} \end{cases}$$

It is called connected if $H \in \mathcal{H}$.

If it is not connected, the maximal elements of \mathcal{H} form the connected components of \mathcal{H} .

Two notions of restriction are relevant. Let $X \subseteq H$.

PLAIN RESTRICTION

- $\mathcal{H}_X = \{E \mid E \in \mathcal{H} \text{ and } E \subseteq X\}$ (we write $\mathcal{H} \setminus X$ for $\mathcal{H}_{H \setminus X}$)

For a connected building set, we write $\mathcal{H} \setminus X \simeq \mathcal{H}_2 \dots \mathcal{H}_n$ where $\mathcal{H}_2, \dots, \mathcal{H}_n$ are the connected components of $\mathcal{H} \setminus X$

- $\mathcal{H}_{\cap X} = \{E \cap X \mid E \in \mathcal{H}\}$ RECONNECTED RESTRICTION

Example: The set $\text{Conn}(G)$ of connected subsets of a graph is a building set. Let $G = x - y - z$

$$\text{Conn}(G) = \{\{x\}, \{y\}, \{z\}, \{x, y\}, \{y, z\}, \{x, y, z\}\}$$

$$\text{Conn}(G)_{\{x, z\}} = \{\{x\}, \{z\}\} = \text{Conn}(x - z)$$

$$\text{Conn}(G) \cap \{x, z\} = \{\{x\}, \{z\}, \{x, z\}\} = \text{Conn}(x - z)$$

↑ reconnected

Nestohedra (a.k.a hypergraph polytopes)

Let H be a connected building set. $\neq H$ and $\{x\}$

The elements of H (hyperedges) are interpreted as instructions for truncating a simplex. Specifically, naming the facets of a simplex by the elements of H , $E \in H$ as ∂E for truncating the face of the simplex which is the intersection of all facets $\alpha \in E$.

Combinatorially, the faces of the resulting polytope, called nestohedron are described or named by constructs:

Let $\emptyset \neq Y \subseteq H$:

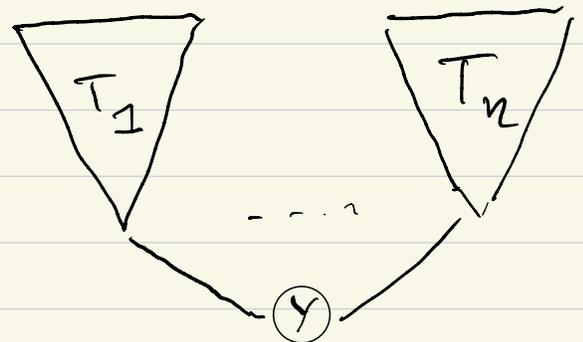
ALSO CALLED TUBINGS

$(Y=H)$ H is a construct of H

(H)

$(Y \neq H)$ Let H_1, \dots, H_n be the connected components of $H \setminus Y$. If T_1, \dots, T_n are constructs of $H|_{H_1}, \dots, H|_{H_n}$, then

$Y(T_1, \dots, T_n)$ is a construct of H :

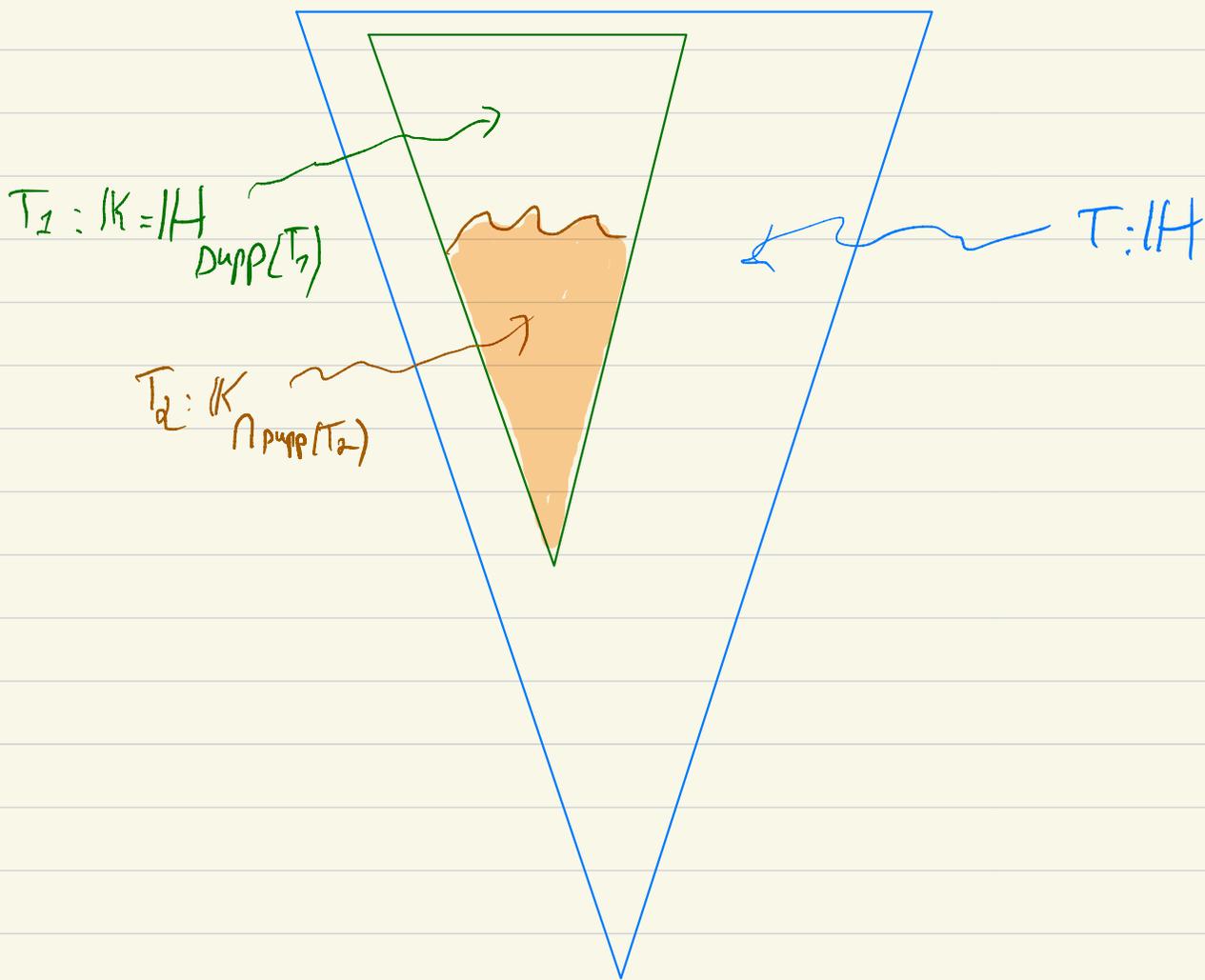


Notation $T: H$

A construct all of whose labels are singletons is called a construction.

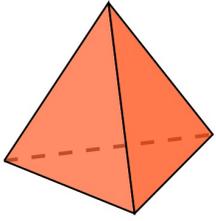
Subtrees of constructs

If T is a tree whose vertices are labeled by (disjoint) subsets of some set H , we write $\text{Supp}(T)$ for the union of these labels.



Think of T as " T_1 in some context"
and of T_1 as "an instance of T_2 ".

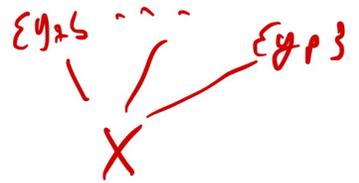
Simplices



$$\sim \{\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4\}\}$$

Let \mathcal{X} be a (finite) set. We take

$$S_{\mathcal{X}} = \{\{x\} \mid x \in \mathcal{X}\} \cup \{\mathcal{X}\}$$



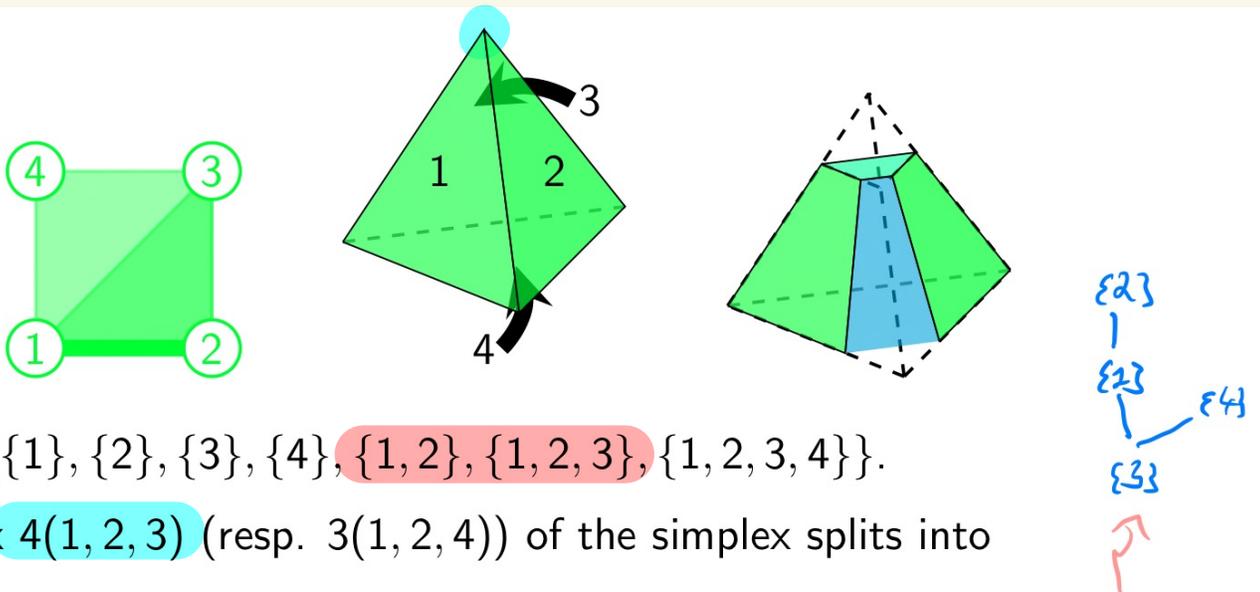
All of the constructs have the form $X(y_1, \dots, y_p)$, where $\{y_1, \dots, y_p\} = \mathcal{X} \setminus X$.

Hence they are in one-to-one correspondence with non-empty subsets $X \subseteq \mathcal{X}$,

Each x "is" a vertex, and its opposite facet is $\mathcal{X} \setminus \{x\}$

(which we also identify as x)

Truncating simplices in action



Let $H = \{\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4\}\}$.

The vertex $4(1, 2, 3)$ (resp. $3(1, 2, 4)$) of the simplex splits into

$4(2(1, 3))$, $4(3(2(1)))$, $4(3(1(2)))$, $4(1(2, 3))$ (resp. $3(2(1), 4)$, $3(1(2), 4)$)

The other faces of the truncation of edge $\{3, 4\}(1, 2)$ are

$4(3(\{1, 2\}))$, $\{3, 4\}(1(2))$, $3(\{1, 2\}, 4)$, $\{3, 4\}(2(1))$, and $\{3, 4\}(\{1, 2\})$

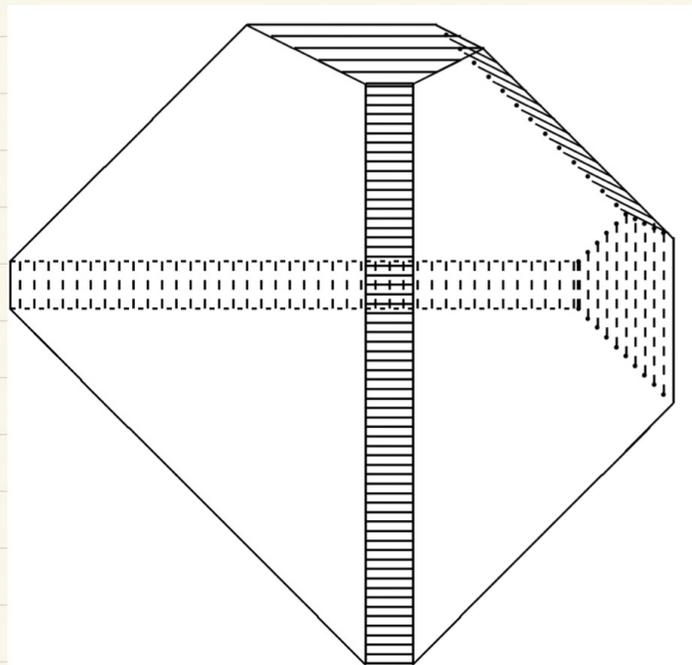
WHAT WE GET HERE is the **3-CUBE**

Associated

Let $X = \{x_1 < \dots < x_n\}$. Then

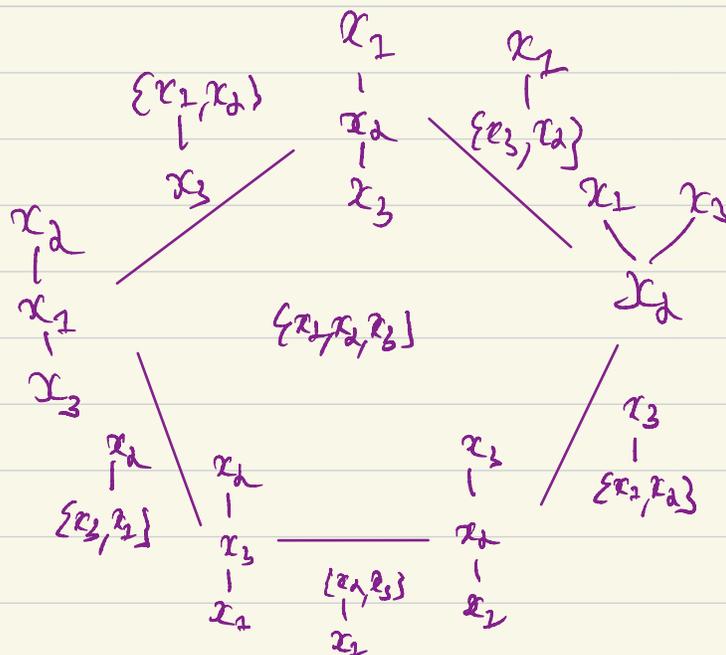
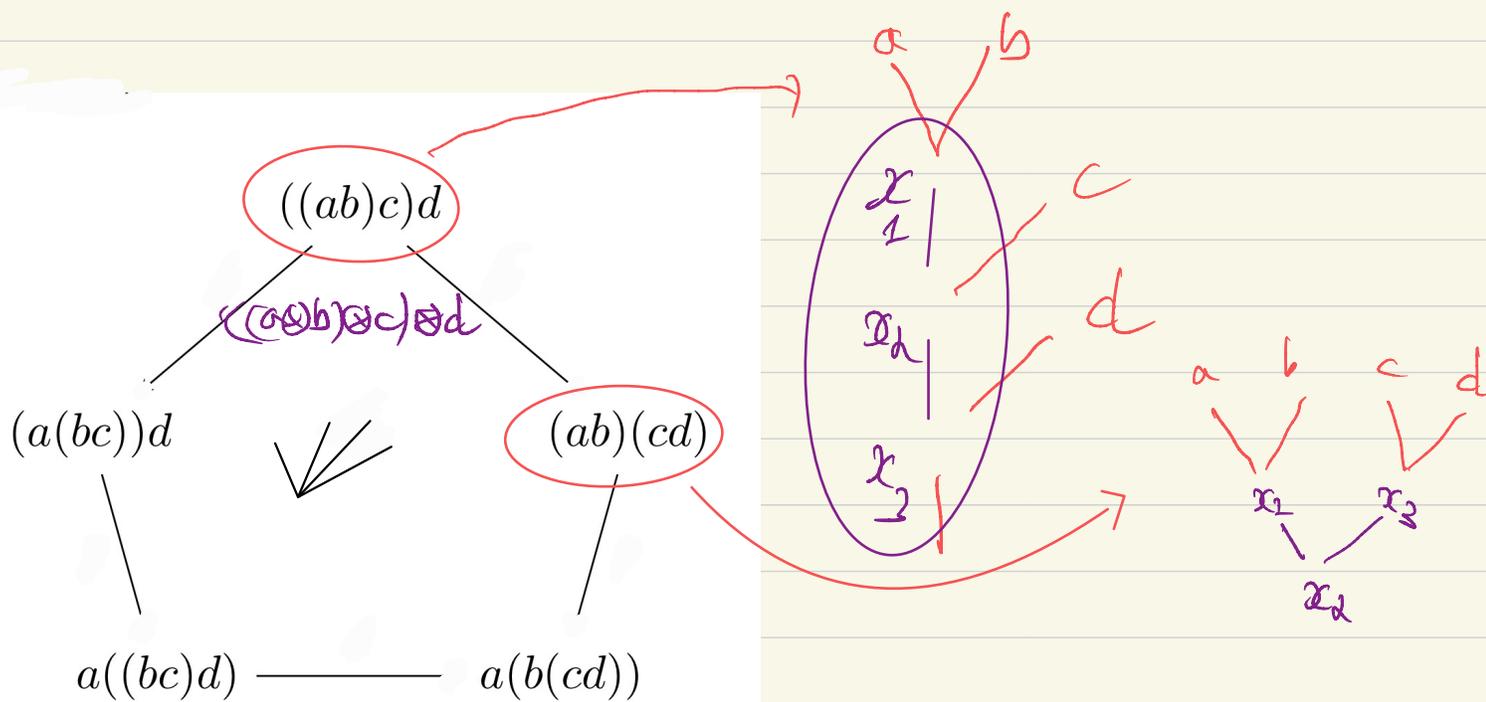
$$K_X = \{\{x_1\}, \dots, \{x_n\}, \{x_1, x_2\}, \dots, \{x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}\}, \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}\}$$

(linear graph $x_1 - x_2 - \dots - x_n$)



Recasting Mac Lane's pentagon in the language of constructs

Dictionary: $a \quad b \quad c \quad d$
 $x_1 \text{ --- } x_2 \text{ --- } x_3$

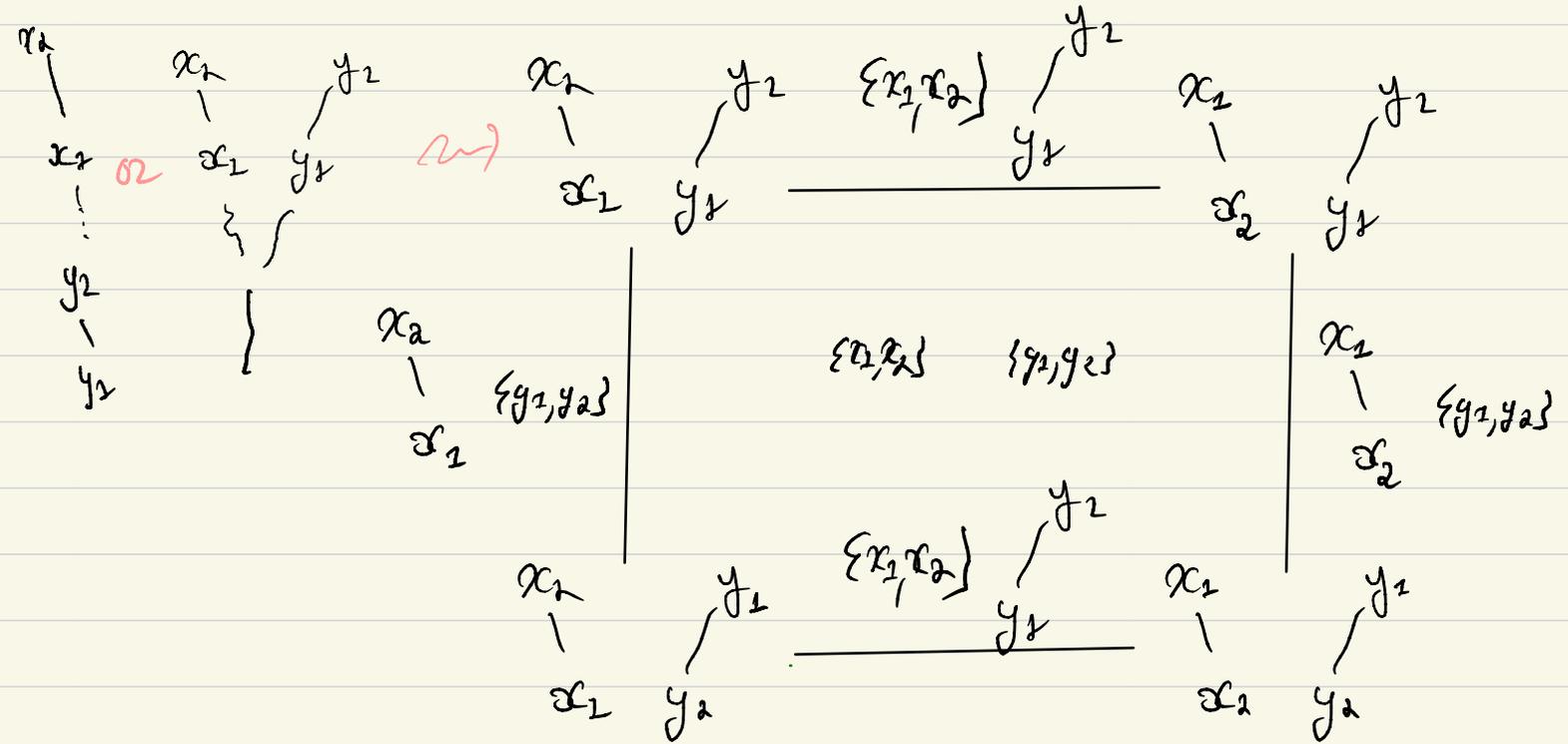


0- and 1-faces of nestohedra

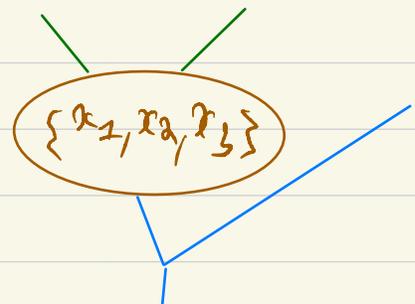
- One can read the dimension of (the face associated to) a construct as the sum of the cardinals $|X|-1$ of all decorations X appearing in the construct. In particular
- Every construction is of dimension 0.
- Edges have a single non-singleton node which has cardinal 2: it is obtained by contracting an edge in a construction.

The two kinds of 2-faces of nestohedra

- the "boring" ones with exactly two non-singleton nodes, each of cardinal 2. Schematically,



- the "interesting" ones, with exactly one non-singleton node, of cardinal 3. There are four shapes of such 2-faces (next two slides)



Towards charting the 2-face of vertexes

Notation if $x, y, z \in H$, then

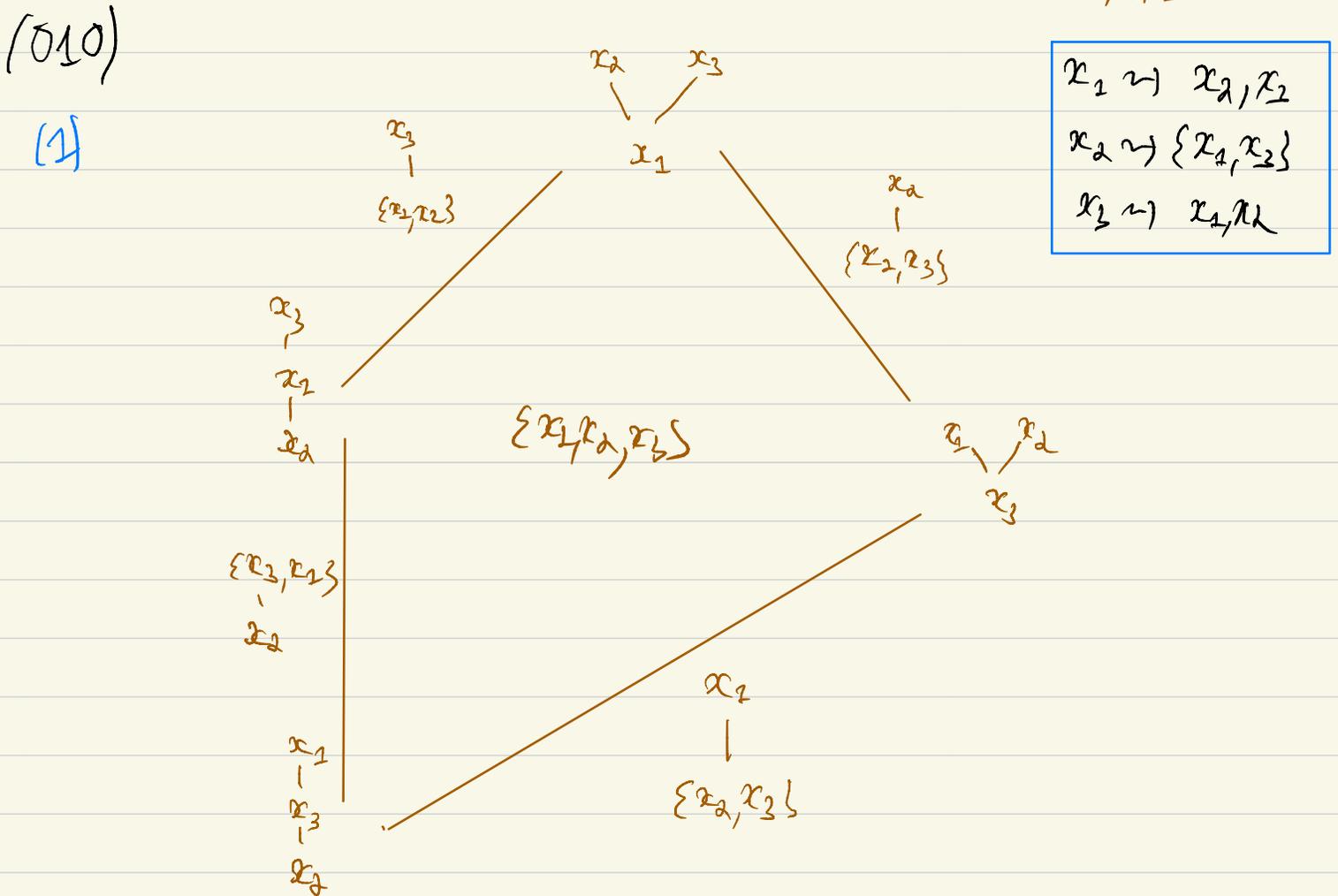
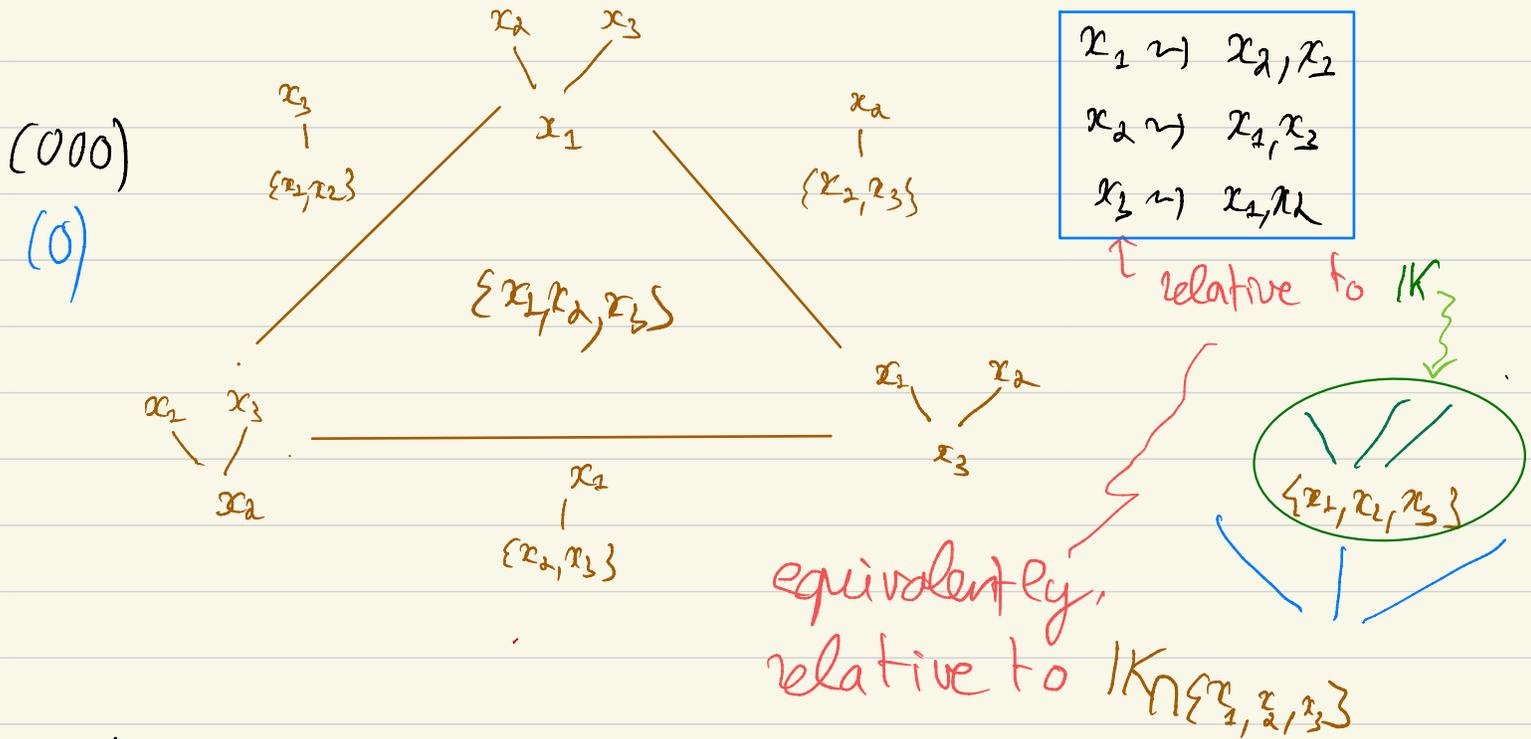
- if y, z are in different connected components of $H \setminus \{x\}$,

then we write

$$x \underset{H}{\sim} y, z$$

- otherwise we write

$$x \underset{H}{\sim} \{y, z\}$$



(001) , (100) are the same by permutation

The contextuality issue

So we have only four shapes of 2 faces / coherence conditions)

- triangles (think of the simplex!)
- cubes (both as "boxy" and "interesting") (think of hypercubes (which are n-cuboids))
- pentagons (think of hyperbolic)
- hexagons

However, two 2-dimensional contexts with the same label $\{\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3\}$, e.g.

WE CALL THEM $\{\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3\}$ -FACES



do not have the same shape in general!

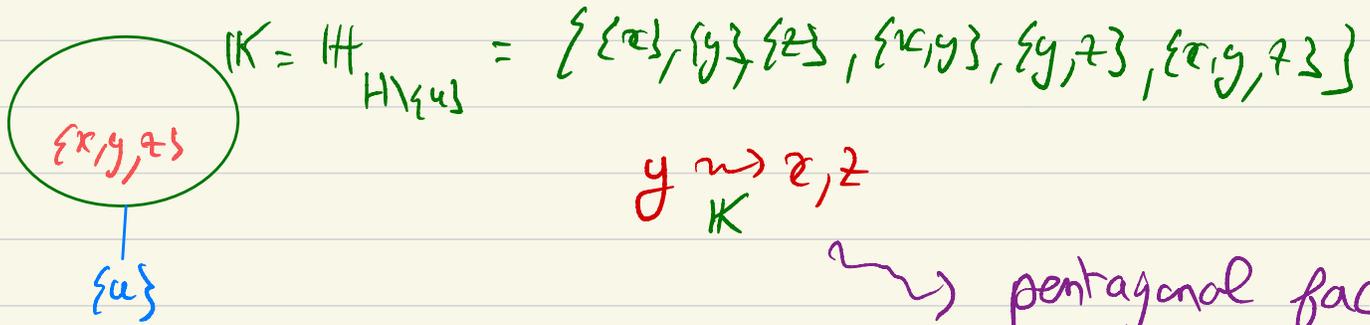
Counter-example

Consider

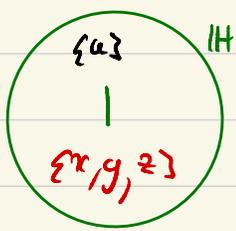
$$H = \{ \{x\}, \{y\}, \{z\}, \{u\}, \{x,y\}, \{y,z\}, \{x,y,z\}, \{u,x,z\}, \{u,x,y,z\} \}$$

$$= \text{Conn} \left(\begin{array}{ccc} x & y & z \\ & u & \end{array} \right)$$

Consider the construct



$y \rightsquigarrow_{K} z, z$
 \rightsquigarrow pentagonal face



$y \rightsquigarrow_H \{x,y,z\}$
 \rightsquigarrow hexagonal face

Contextual building sets

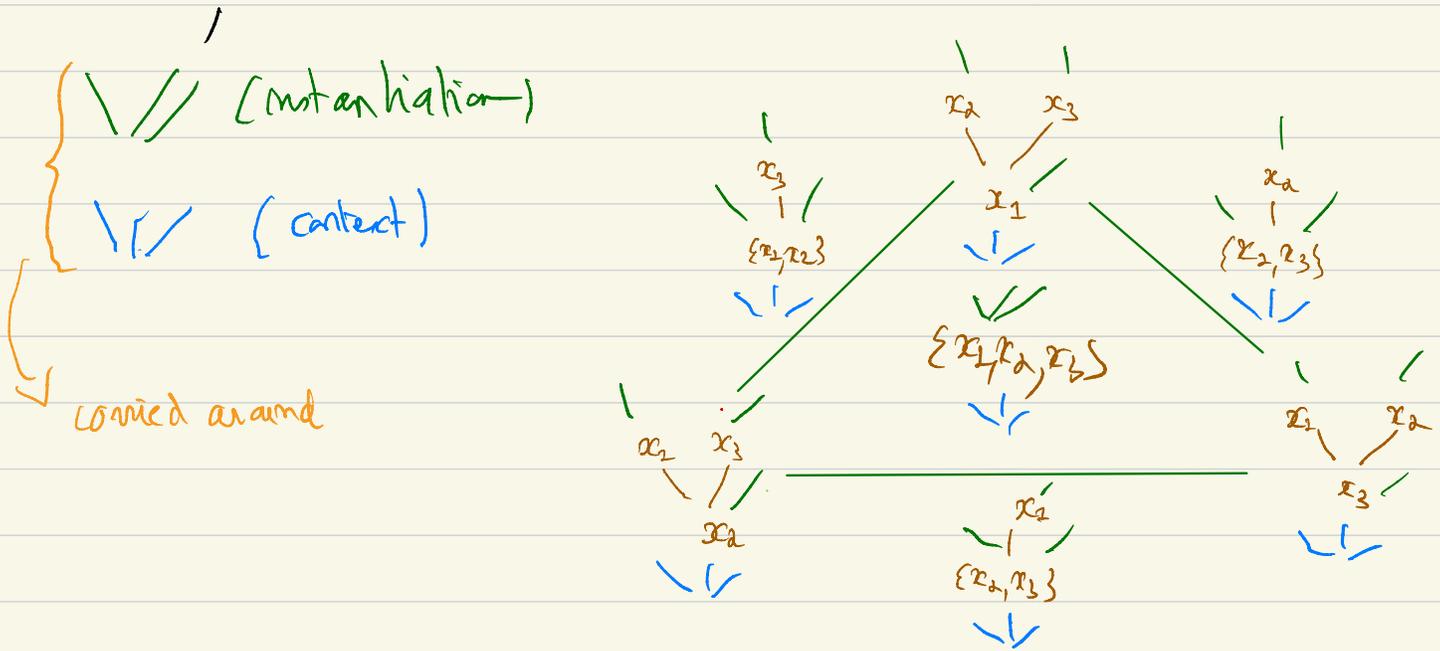
← connected

A building set H is called contextual if $\forall E \in H, \forall x, y, z \in E$

$$x \rightsquigarrow_{H_E} \{y, z\} \iff x \rightsquigarrow_H \{y, z\}$$

(and hence $x \rightsquigarrow_{H_E} y, z \iff x \rightsquigarrow_H y, z$)

This condition ensures that for any $\{x, y, z\} \subseteq H$ all $\{x, y, z\}$ -faces are instances in context of $H \cap \{x, y, z\}$



Moreover, we have $x \rightsquigarrow_{H_E} \{y, z\}$ if and only if $H \cap \{x, y, z\} \rightsquigarrow \{y, z\}$ ($\forall E \in H$ connected) by definition. The "rules" are $x \rightsquigarrow_H \{y, z\}$.

The bestiary of contextual nestohedra

The four shapes of 2-faces correspond to
(and are determined by)

the four connected building sets on three vertices
(up to permutation)

simplex

triangle $\{\{x\}, \{y\}, \{z\}, \{x, y, z\}\}$

cube

rectangle $\{\{x\}, \{y\}, \{z\}, \{x, y\}, \{x, y, z\}\}$

associahedron

pentagon $\{\{x\}, \{y\}, \{z\}, \{x, y\}, \{y, z\}, \{x, y, z\}\}$

permutahedron

hexagon $\{\{x\}, \{y\}, \{z\}, \{x, y\}, \{y, z\}, \{x, z\}, \{x, y, z\}\}$

complete graph

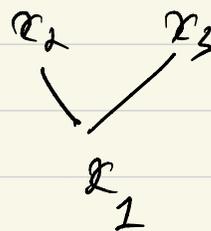
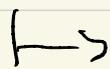
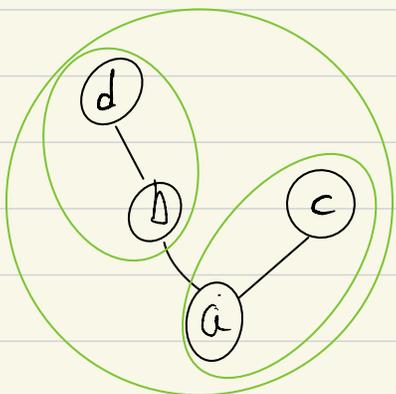
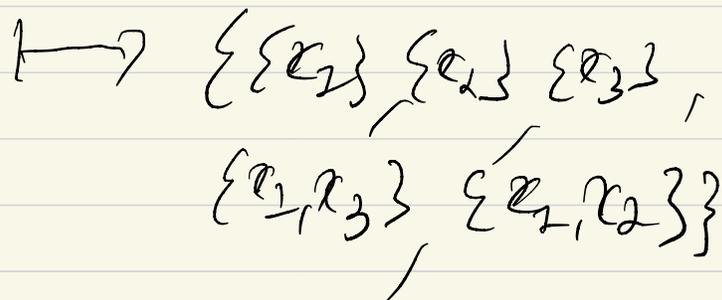
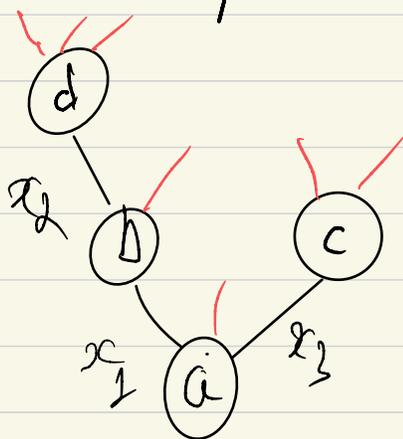
Operads as Building sets

Given an operadic tree \mathcal{T} , we can define a hypergraph (actually a graph) $G(\mathcal{T})$ as follows:

- vertices of $G(\mathcal{T})$ are internal edges of \mathcal{T}
- edges of $G(\mathcal{T})$ witness the incidence of those internal edges.

Proposition. Given \mathcal{T} , the connected components of $G(\mathcal{T})$ are in one-to-one correspondence with nestings on \mathcal{T} .

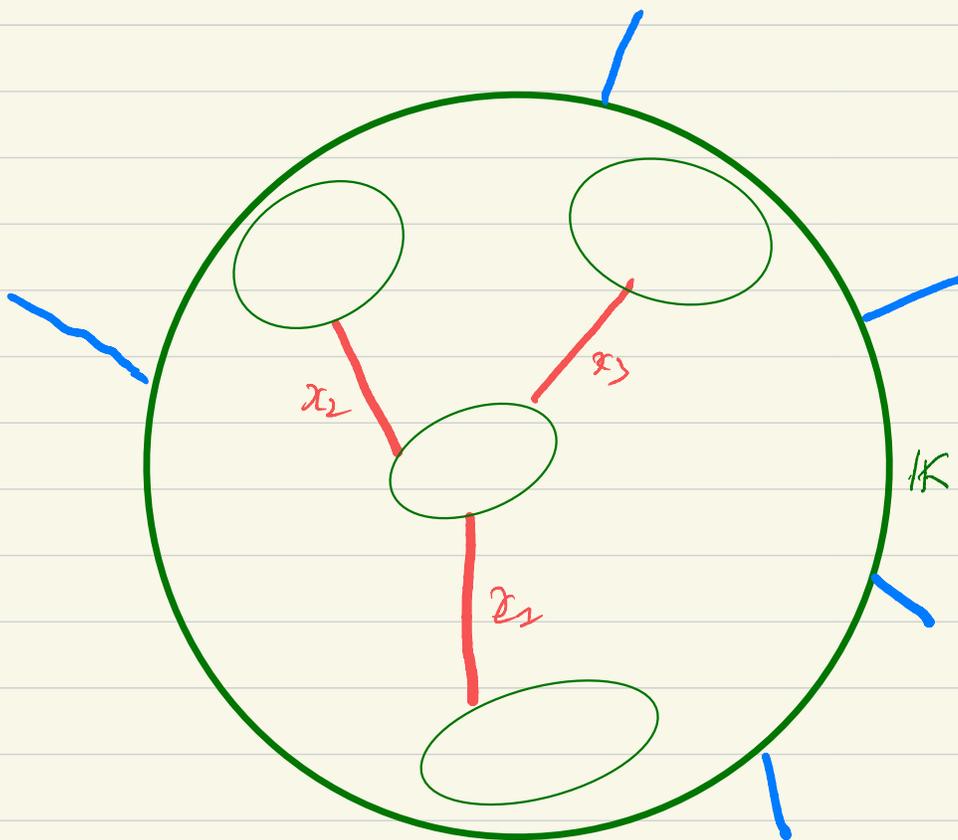
Example



Remark. If \mathcal{T}_1 and \mathcal{T}_2 have the same underlying (non-planar) tree, then $G(\mathcal{T}_1) = G(\mathcal{T}_2)$.

Operatedra are contextual

Proof "by picture"

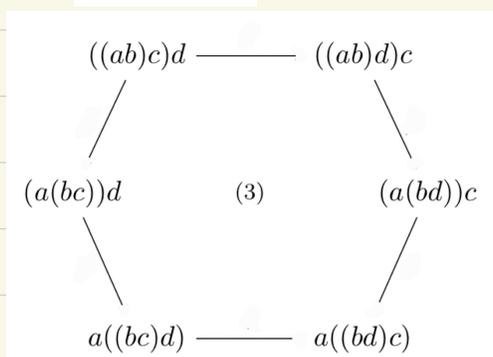


The relative position of x_1, x_2, x_3 in the subtree of \mathcal{T} corresponding to \mathcal{K} is the same as in \mathcal{T}

Moreover, with these positions, we have

$$\mathbb{H}_{\cap \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}} = \mathbb{K}_{\cap \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}} = \mathbf{G} \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{c} \quad \text{d} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \text{b} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{a} \end{array} \right), \text{ corresponding to}$$

the coherence condition



Another example of contextual nestohedra

$$\mathcal{H}_n = \{ \{2\} \dots \{n\}, \{1,2\}, \{2,2,3\} \dots \{1 \dots n\} \}$$

One sees easily that E is connected in \mathcal{H}_n iff $E \in \mathcal{H}_n$

(follows from $e_1, e_2 \in \mathcal{H}$, $e_1 \cap e_2 \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow e_1 \subseteq e_2$ or $e_2 \subseteq e_1$)

Therefore $E = \{1 \dots m\}$ for some $m \leq n$ and $\mathcal{H}_E = \mathcal{H}_m$

then pick $i, j, k \leq m$. We have

for all $p \geq m$, $k \rightsquigarrow \{i, j\}$ iff $i < k$ and $j < k$
 \mathcal{H}_p

and hence in particular

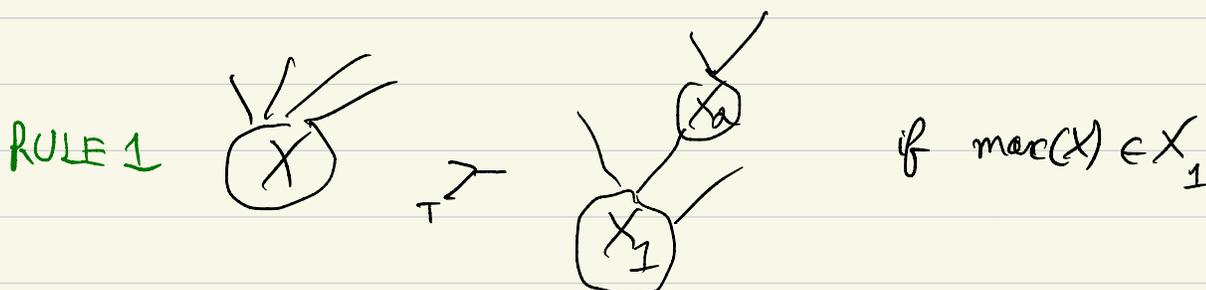
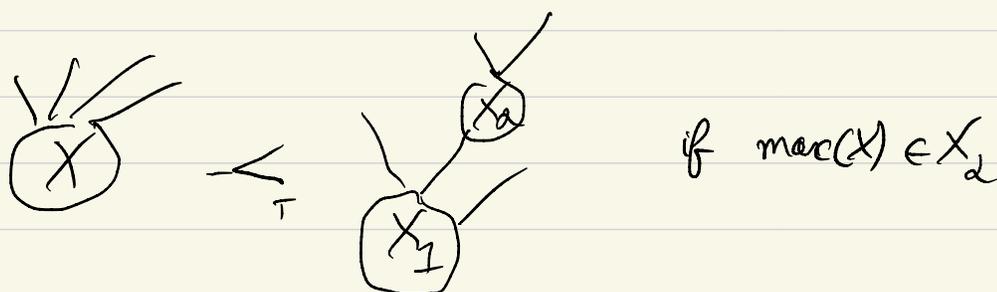
$$k \rightsquigarrow \{i, j\} \quad \text{iff} \quad k \rightsquigarrow \{i, j\}$$
$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_n \quad \quad \quad \mathcal{H}_E = \mathcal{H}_m$$

For the road : a generalized Tamari order

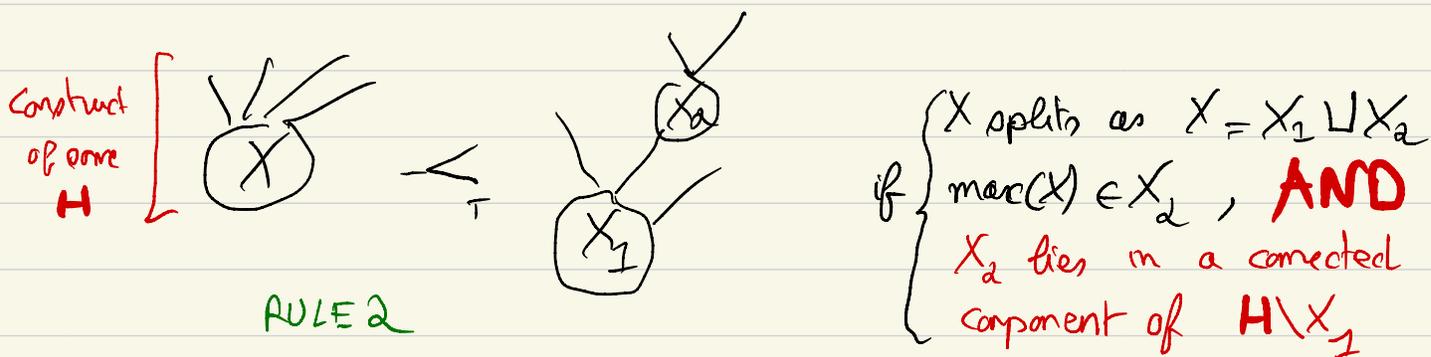
Let H be a building set, and let (H, \leq) be a total order on H .

The Generalized Tamari Order (GTO) is the transitive closure \leq_T of the relation \prec_T defined locally on constructs by

For $X = X_1 \cup X_2$ (disjoint)

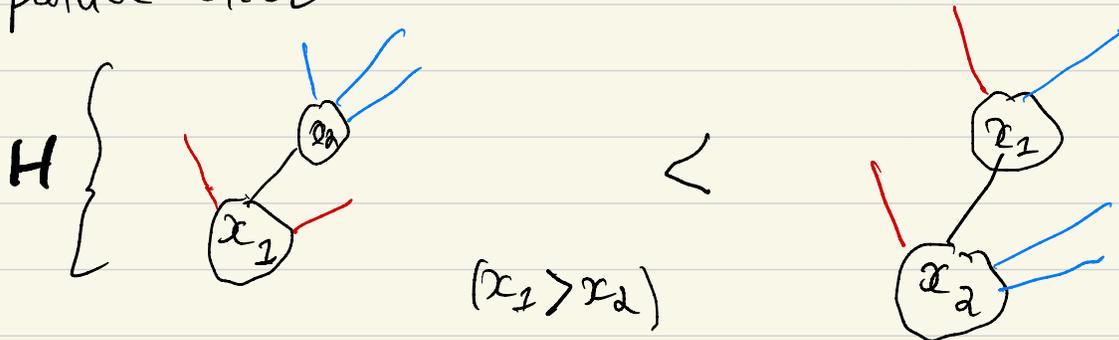


This definition is not as symmetric as it looks at first sight. If we view $S \prec T$ as a rule applied to S , the first case above, written more carefully, is



Reduction to vertices

The restriction of GTO on vertices is the flip partial order



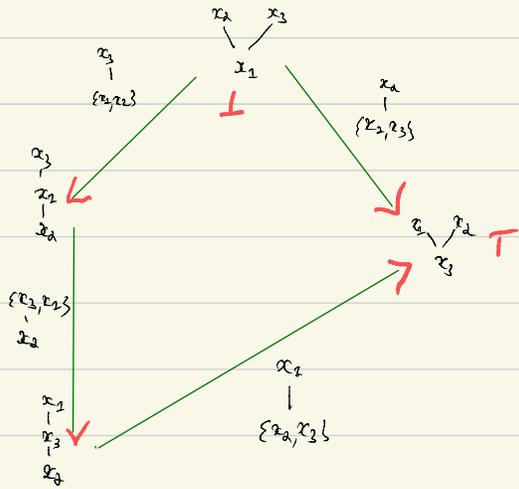
(with some permutation on the $|$ and $|$ edges dictated by the connectivity of H)

Thanks to this order, we can define a confluent and terminating rewriting system on constructions (for contextual nestohedra)

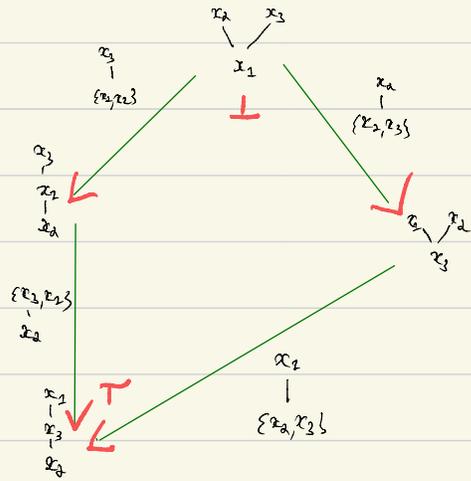
= adding directions in the considerations

We do this next in detail for situation (1).

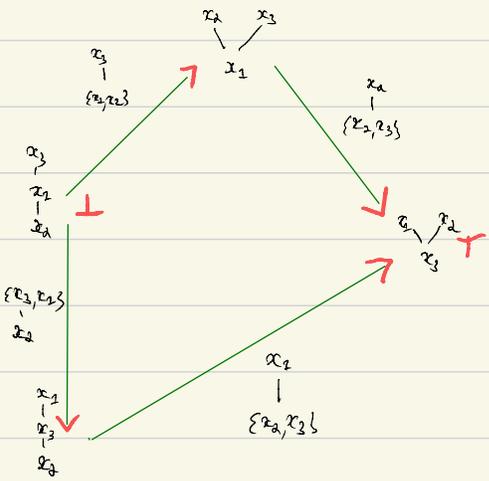
$x_2 > x_1 > x_3$



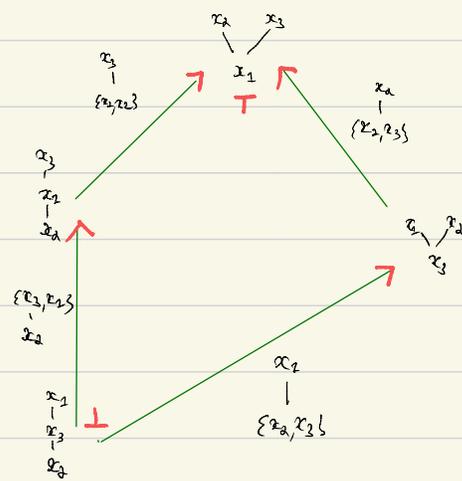
$x_2 > x_3 > x_1$



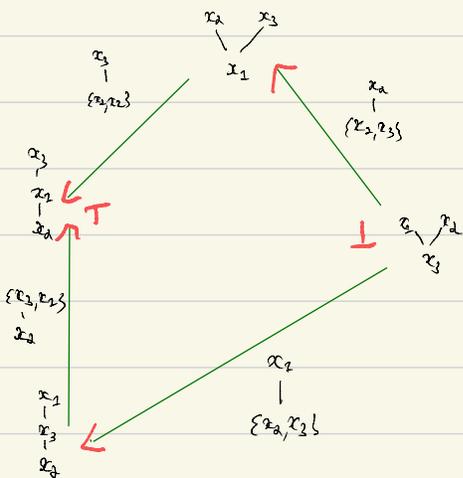
$x_2 > x_3 > x_1$



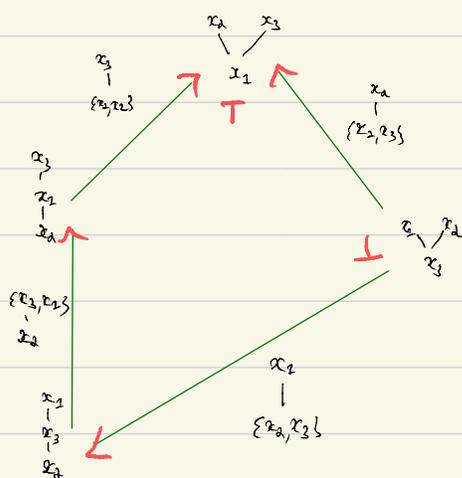
$x_3 > x_2 > x_1$



$x_3 > x_1 > x_2$



$x_3 > x_2 > x_1$



A question

Can we recover the generalised Tamari order on constructions for any nestohedron from some orientation vector?

The answer is yes (Fuller me) for operahedra and their today-type realisation.

Can we get a "Tamari" orientation vector for

- The Došen-Petrić realisation?
- The Postnikov realisation?