Goldberg-Coxeter construction

## for 3- or 4-valent plane graphs

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Mathematics: construction of planar graphs

M. Goldberg, *A class of multisymmetric polyhedra*, Tohoku Math. Journal, **43** (1937) 104–108.

Objective was to maximize the interior volume of the polytope, i.e. to find 3-dimensional analogs of regular polygons.

search of equidistributed systems of points on the sphere for application to Numerical Analysis.

Biology: explanation of structure of icosahedral viruses
D.Caspar and A.Klug, *Physical Principles in the Construction of Regular Viruses*, Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol., 27 (1962) 1-24.

(k,l)	symmetry	capsid of virion
(1,0)	$I_h$	gemini virus
(2,0)	$I_h$	hepathite B
(2, 1)	I, laevo	HK97, rabbit papilloma virus
(3,1)	I, laevo	rotavirus
(4, 0)	$I_h$	herpes virus, varicella
(5,0)	$I_h$	adenovirus
(6,3)?	I, laevo	HIV-1

#### Architecture: construction of geodesic domes Patent by Buckminster Fuller



EPCOT in Disneyland.

#### Mathematics:

H.S.M. Coxeter, *Virus macromolecules and geodesic domes*, in *A spectrum of mathematics*; ed. by J.C.Butcher, Oxford University Press/Auckland University Press: Oxford, U.K./Auckland New-Zealand, (1971) 98–107.

**Chemistry:** Buckminsterfullerene  $C_{60}$  (football, Truncated Icosahedron)

Kroto, Kurl, Smalley (Nobel prize 1996) synthetized in 1985 a new molecule, whose graph is  $GC_{1,1}(Dodecahedron)$ .

Osawa constructed theoretically  $C_{60}$  in 1984.





## I. ZigZags and

## central circuits

#### A 4-valent plane graph G



#### Take an edge of G



Continue it straight ahead ...



#### ... until the end



#### A self-intersecting central circuit



#### A partition of edges of G



Zig Zags

#### A plane graph G



Zig Zags

#### take two edges



Zig Zags

Continue it left–right alternatively ....



Zig Zags

#### ... until we come back.



Zig Zags

#### A self-intersecting zigzag



**Zig Zags** 

#### A double covering of 18 edges: 10+10+16



#### **Notations**

ZC-circuit stands for "zigzag or central circuit" in 3- or 4-valent plane graphs.

The length of a ZC-circuit is the number of its edges.

• The ZC-vector of a 3- or 4-valent plane graph  $G_0$  is the vector  $\ldots, c_k^{m_k}, \ldots$  where  $m_k$  is the number of ZC-circuits of length  $c_k$ .

# I. Goldberg-Coxeter construction

#### **The construction**

- Take a 3- or 4-valent plane graph  $G_0$ . The graph  $G_0^*$  is formed of triangles or squares.
- Break the triangles or squares into pieces:



- Glue the pieces together in a coherent way.
- We obtain another triangulation or quadrangulation of the plane.





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(3, 0): 4-valent

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#### **Final steps**

- Go to the dual and obtain a 3- or 4-valent plane graph, which is denoted GC<sub>k,l</sub>(G<sub>0</sub>) and called "Goldberg-Coxeter construction".
- The construction works for any 3- or 4-valent map on oriented surface.







Operation  $GC_{2,0}$ 


















#### **Example of** $GC_{3,2}(Octahedron)$



## **Example of** $GC_{3,2}(Octahedron)$



### **Properties**

- One associates  $z = k + le^{i\frac{\pi}{3}}$  (Eisenstein integer) or z = k + li (Gaussian integer) to the pair (k, l) in 3- or 4-valent case.
- If one writes  $GC_z(G_0)$  instead of  $GC_{k,l}(G_0)$ , then one has:

 $GC_z(GC_{z'}(G_0)) = GC_{zz'}(G_0)$ 

• If  $G_0$  has n vertices, then  $GC_{k,l}(G_0)$  has

$$n(k^2 + kl + l^2) = n|z|^2$$
 vertices if  $G_0$  is 3-valent,  
 $n(k^2 + l^2) = n|z|^2$  vertices if  $G_0$  is 4-valent.

- If  $G_0$  has a plane of symmetry, we reduce to  $0 \le l \le k$ .
- $GC_{k,l}(G_0)$  has all rotational symmetries of  $G_0$  and all symmetries if l = 0 or l = k.

### **The case** (k, l) = (1, 1)





#### Case 3-valent

Case 4-valent

#### **The case** (k, l) = (1, 1)





#### Case 4-valent

#### **The case** (k, l) = (1, 1)





Case 3-valent  $GC_{1,1}$  is called leapfrog (=Truncation of the dual)

Case 4-valent  $GC_{1,1}$  is called medial

### **Goldberg Theorem**

- $q_n$  is the class of 3-valent plane graphs having only q-and 6-gonal faces.
- The class of 4-valent plane graphs having only 3- and 4-gonal faces is called Octahedrites.

Class		Groups	Construction
$3_n$	$p_3 = 4$	$T$ , $T_d$	$GC_{k,l}$ (Tetrahedron)
$4_n$	$p_4 = 6$	$O$ , $O_h$	$GC_{k,l}(Cube)$
$4_n$	$p_4 = 6$	$D_{6}, D_{6h}$	$GC_{k,l}(Prism_6)$
$5_n$	$p_5 = 12$	$I, I_h$	$GC_{k,l}(Dodecahedron)$
Octahedrites	$p_3 = 8$	$O, O_h$	$GC_{k,l}(Octahedron)$

#### The special case $GC_{k,0}$

- Any ZC-circuit of  $G_0$  corresponds to k ZC-circuits of  $GC_{k,0}(G_0)$  with length multiplied by k.
- If the ZC-vector of  $G_0$  is  $\ldots, c_l^{m_l}, \ldots$ , then the ZC-vector of  $GC_{k,0}(G_0)$  is  $\ldots, (kc_l)^{km_l}, \ldots$ .



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# III. The (k, l)-product

### **The mapping** $\phi_{k,l}$

We always assume gcd(k, l) = 1

$$\begin{cases} \phi_{k,l} : \{1, \dots, k+l\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k+l\} \\ u \mapsto \begin{cases} u+l & \text{if } u \in \{1, \dots, k\} \\ u-k & \text{if } u \in \{k+1, \dots, k+l\} \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

is bijective and periodic with period k + l.

**Example:** Case k = 5, l = 2:

 $\phi^{(s)}(1) = 1, 3, 5, 7, 2, 4, 6, 1, \dots$ operations: (+2), (+2), (+2), (-5), (+2), (+2), (-5)

## The (k, l)-product

• Definition 1 (The (k, l)-product) If L and R are two elements of a group,  $k, l \ge 0$  and gcd(k, l) = 1; we define  $(p_0, \ldots, p_{k+l})$  by  $p_0 = 1$  and  $p_i = \phi_{k,l}(p_{i-1})$ . Set  $S_i = L$  if  $p_i - p_{i-1} = l$  and  $S_i = R$  if  $p_i - p_{i-1} = -k$ ; then set

$$L \odot_{k,l} R = S_{k+l} \dots S_2 \cdot S_1.$$

By convention, set  $L \odot_{1,0} R = L$  and  $L \odot_{0,1} R = R$ . For k = 5, l = 2, one gets the expression

$$L \odot_{5,2} R = RLLRLLL$$

A similar notion is introduced by Norton (1987) in "Generalized Moonshine" for the Monster group.

#### **Properties**

- If L and R commute,  $L \odot_{k,l} R = L^k R^l$
- Euclidean algorithm formula

$$\begin{cases} L \odot_{k,l} R = L \odot_{k-ql, l} RL^{q} & \text{if } k-ql \ge 0 \\ L \odot_{k,l} R = R^{q}L \odot_{k, l-qk} R & \text{if } l-qk \ge 0 \end{cases}$$

If L and R do not commute, then  $L \odot_{k,l} R \neq Id$ .

# IV. ZC-circuits in

 $GC_{k,l}(G_0)$ 









– p. 22/4





#### Iteration

- "Position mapping" is denoted  $PM(\overrightarrow{e}, p) = (\overrightarrow{f}_1, \phi_{k,l}(p))$ or  $(\overrightarrow{f}_2, \phi_{k,l}(p))$
- PM<sup>k+l</sup>( $\overrightarrow{e}$ , 1)=( $\overrightarrow{e}'$ , 1). So, one defines "Iterated position mapping" as IPM( $\overrightarrow{e}$ ) =  $\overrightarrow{e}'$ .
- $\mathcal{DE}$  is the set of directed edges of  $G_0^*$ . IPM is a permutation of  $\mathcal{DE}$ .
- For every ZC-circuit with pair  $(\vec{e}, 1)$  denote Ord(ZC) the smallest s > 0, such that  $IPM^{s}(\vec{e}) = \vec{e}$ .
- For any ZC-circuit of  $GC_{k,l}(G_0)$  one has:  $length(ZC)=2(k^2+kl+l^2)Ord(ZC)$  3-valent case  $length(ZC)=(k^2+l^2)Ord(ZC)$  4-valent case The [ZC]-vector of  $GC_{k,l}(G_0)$  is the vector  $\ldots, c_k^{m_k}, \ldots$ where  $m_k$  is the number of ZC-circuits with order  $c_k$ .

• L and R are the following permutation of  $\mathcal{DE}$ 

$$L: \overrightarrow{e} \to \overrightarrow{f}_1 \qquad \qquad R: \overrightarrow{e} \to \overrightarrow{f}_2$$

with  $\overrightarrow{f}_1$  and  $\overrightarrow{f}_2$  being the first and second choice. Example of Cube









#### **Moving group and Key Theorem**

- $Mov(G_0) = \langle L, R \rangle$  is the moving group In Cube: a subgroup of Sym(24).
- For  $u \in Mov(G_0)$ , denote ZC(u) the vector  $\ldots, c_k^{m_k}, \ldots$ with multiplicities  $m_k$  being the half of the number of cycles of length  $c_k$  in the permutation u acting on the set  $\mathcal{DE}$ . In Cube:  $ZC(L) = ZC(R) = 3^4$
- Key Theorem One has for all 3- or 4-valent plane graphs  $G_0$  and all k, l > 0

 $[ZC] - vector \text{ of } GC_{k,l}(G_0) = ZC(L \odot_{k,l} R)$ 

#### **Solution of the Cube case**

▶ L and R do not commute  $\blacksquare$   $L \odot_{k,l} R \neq Id$ .

$$Mov(Cube) = \langle L, R \rangle = Alt(4)$$

•  $K = \langle (1,2)(3,4), (1,3)(2,4) \rangle$  normal subgroup of index 3 of Alt(4).  $\overline{L}$  is of order 3.

$$\begin{cases} \overline{L} \odot_{k,l} \overline{R} = \overline{L}^k \overline{R}^l = \overline{L}^{k-l} \\ L \odot_{k,l} R \in K \Leftrightarrow k-l \text{ divisible by } 3 \end{cases}$$

- Elements of Alt(4) K have order 3. Elements of  $K \{Id\}$  have order 2.
- →  $GC_{k,l}$ (Cube) has [ZC]=2<sup>6</sup> if  $k \equiv l \pmod{3}$  and [ZC]=3<sup>4</sup>, otherwise

#### **Possible** [ZC]-vectors

- Denote  $\mathcal{P}(G_0)$  the set of all pairs  $(g_1, g_2)$  with  $g_i \in Mov(G_0)$ .
- Denote  $U_{L,R}$  the smallest subset of  $\mathcal{P}(G_0)$ , which contains the pair (L, R) and is stable by the two operations

$$(x,y)\mapsto (x,yx)$$
 and  $(x,y)\mapsto (yx,y)$ 

- Theorem: The set of possible [ZC]-vectors of  $GC_{k,l}(G_0)$ is equal to the set of all vectors ZC(v), ZC(w) with  $(v,w) \in U_{L,R}$ .
- Computable in finite time for a given  $G_0$ .

#### **Examples**

- Mov(Dodecahedron) = Alt(5) of order 60. Order of elements different from Id are 2, 3 or 5.
   Possible [ZC] are 2<sup>15</sup> or 3<sup>10</sup> or 5<sup>6</sup>.
- $Mov(Klein Map) = PSL_{F_7}(2)$  of order 168. Order of elements different from Id are 2, 3, 4 or 7. Possible [ZC] are  $3^{28}$  or  $4^{21}$ .
- Mov(Truncated Icosidodecahedron) has size 139968000000

$2^{30}, 3^{40}$	$2^{30}, 5^{24}$	$3^{20}, 5^{24}$
$2^{60}, 3^{20}$	$2^{60}, 5^{12}$	$3^{40}, 5^{12}$
$2^{90}$	$3^{60}$	$5^{36}$
$9^{20}$	$6^{30}$	$15^{12}$

# V. $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ action

#### $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ action?

 $\mathcal{P}(G_0)$  is the set of pairs  $(g_1, g_2)$ . One has

 $L \odot_{k,l} R = L \odot_{k-l,l} RL$  and  $L \odot_{k,l} R = RL \odot_{k,l-k} R$ 

The matrices  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  generate  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ . We want to define  $\phi$ , such that

(i)  $\phi$  is a group action of  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  on  $\mathcal{P}(G_0)$ 

(ii) If  $M \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ , then the mapping  $\phi(M) : \mathcal{P}(G_0) \to \mathcal{P}(G_0)$  satisfies

 $\phi(M)(g_1, g_2) = (h_1, h_2) \Rightarrow g_1 \odot_{(k,l)M} g_2 = h_1 \odot_{k,l} h_2$ 

This is in fact not possible!

 $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  action

●  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  is generated by matrices

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } U = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

all relations between T and U are generated by the relations

$$T^4 = I_2, \quad U^3 = I_2 \text{ and } T^2 U = UT^2$$

We write

$$\phi(T)(g_1, g_2) = (g_2, g_2 g_1^{-1} g_2^{-1}) 
\phi(U)(g_1, g_2) = (g_2, g_2 g_1^{-1} g_2^{-2})$$

#### $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ action (continued)

By computation

$$\phi(T)^4(g_1, g_2) = \phi(U)^3(g_1, g_2) = Int_{g_1g_2^{-1}g_1^{-1}g_2}(g_1, g_2),$$
  
$$\phi(T)^2\phi(U)(g_1, g_2) = \phi(U)\phi(T)^2(g_1, g_2).$$

- Group action of  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  on  $\mathcal{P}(G_0)/D(Mov(G_0))$ .
- If *M* preserve the element (L, R) in  $\mathcal{P}(G_0)/D(Mov(G_0))$ , then for all pairs (k, l):

$$GC_{k,l}(G_0)$$
 and  $GC_{(k,l)M}(G_0)$ 

have the same [ZC]-vector. This define a

finite index subgroup of  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ 

#### **Conjectured generators**

Graph G <sub>0</sub>	Generators of $Stab(G_0)$		
Dodecahedron	$\left(\begin{array}{rrr}1 & -1\\1 & 0\end{array}\right), \left(\begin{array}{rrr}-4 & -3\\3 & 2\end{array}\right), \left(\begin{array}{rrr}-4 & -1\\1 & 0\end{array}\right)$		
Cube	$\left(\begin{array}{ccc} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{array}\right), \left(\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{array}\right)$		
Octahedron	$\left(\begin{array}{rrr} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{array}\right), \left(\begin{array}{rrr} -4 & -3 \\ 3 & 2 \end{array}\right), \left(\begin{array}{rrr} -4 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{array}\right)$		

# VI. Remarks
## $Rot(G_0)$ transitive

 $\mathcal{DE}$  is the set of all directed edges of  $G_0$ .

- ▶  $Rot(G_0)$ : all rotations in automorphism group  $Aut(G_0)$ .
  - its action on  $\mathcal{DE}$  is free.
  - action of  $Rot(G_0)$  and  $Mov(G_0)$  on  $\mathcal{DE}$  commute.
- If  $Rot(G_0)$  is transitive on  $\mathcal{DE}$ , then its action on ZC-circuit is transitive too and

$$\begin{cases} \phi_{\overrightarrow{e}} : Mov(G_0) \to Rot(G_0) \\ u \mapsto \phi_{\overrightarrow{e}}(u) \end{cases}$$

defined by  $u^{-1}(\overrightarrow{e}) = \phi_{\overrightarrow{e}}(u)(\overrightarrow{e})$ , is an injective group morphism.  $\phi_{\overrightarrow{e}}(Mov(G_0))$  is normal in  $Rot(G_0)$ .

#### **Extremal cases**

- $Rot(G_0)$  non-trivial  $\Rightarrow$  restrictions on  $Mov(G_0)$ .
- $Rot(G_0)$  transitive on  $\mathcal{DE} \Rightarrow |Mov(G_0)|=3n$  (3-valent case) or = 4n (4-valent case).
- Mov( $G_0$ ) is formed of even permutation on 3n or 4n directed edges.
- In some cases  $Mov(G_0) = Alt(3n)$ .



• We have no example of 4-valent plane graph  $G_0$  with  $Mov(G_0) = Alt(4n)$ .

# $Mov(G_0)$ commutative

- $Mov(G_0)$  commutative  $\Leftrightarrow G_0$  is either a graph  $2_n$ , a graph  $3_n$  or a 4-hedrite.
- Class  $2_n$  (Grunbaum-Zaks): Goldberg-Coxeter of the Bundle



No other classes of graphs  $q_n$  or *i*-hedrites is known to admit such simple descriptions.

# **VII.** Parametrizing

graphs  $q_n$ 

## **Parametrizing graphs** $q_n$

Idea: the hexagons are of zero curvature, it suffices to give relative positions of faces of non-zero curvature.

- Goldberg (1937): All  $3_n$ ,  $4_n$  or  $5_n$  of symmetry (T,  $T_d$ ), (O,  $O_h$ ) or (I,  $I_h$ ) are given by Goldberg-Coxeter construction  $GC_{k,l}$ .
- Fowler and al. (1988) All  $5_n$  of symmetry  $D_5$ ,  $D_6$  or T are described in terms of 4 parameters.
- Graver (1999) All  $5_n$  can be encoded by 20 integer parameters.
- Thurston (1998) The  $5_n$  are parametrized by 10 complex parameters.
- Sah (1994) Thurston's result implies that the Nrs of  $3_n$ ,  $4_n$ ,  $5_n \sim n$ ,  $n^3$ ,  $n^9$ .

### The structure of graphs $3_n$





The graph  $3_{20}(D_{2d})$ 

## **Tightness**

A railroad in a 3-valent plane graph G is a circuit of hexagons with any two of them adjacent on opposite edges.



They are bounded by two zigzags.

- A graph is called tight if and only if it has no railroads.
- If a 3- (or 4-)valent plane graph  $G_0$  has no q-gonal faces with q=6 (or 4) and gcd(k,l) = 1 then  $GC_{k,l}(G_0)$  is tight.

#### *z*- and railroad-structure of graphs $3_n$

All zigzags are simple.

The z-vector is of the form

 $(4s_1)^{m_1}, (4s_2)^{m_2}, (4s_3)^{m_3}$  with  $s_i m_i = \frac{n}{4};$ 

the number of railroads is  $m_1 + m_2 + m_3 - 3$ .

- G has  $\geq 3$  zigzags with equality if and only if it is tight.
- If G is tight, then  $z(G) = n^3$  (so, each zigzag is a Hamiltonian circuit).
- All  $3_n$  are tight if and only if  $\frac{n}{4}$  is prime.
- There exists a tight  $3_n$  if and only if  $\frac{n}{4}$  is odd.

## **Conjecture on** $4_n(D_{3h}, D_{3d} \text{ or } D_3)$

↓

  $4_n(D_3 \subset D_{3h}, D_{3d}, D_6, D_{6h}, O, O_h)$  are described by two complex parameters. They exists if and only if  $n \equiv 0, 2$  (mod 6) and  $n \geq 8$ .



 $4_n(D_3)$  with one zigzag The defining triangles

- $4_n(D_{3d} \subset O_h, D_{6h})$  exists if and only if  $n \equiv 0, 8 \pmod{12}$ ,  $n \ge 8$ .
- If *n* increases, then part of  $4_n(D_3)$  amongst  $4_n(D_{3h}, D_{3d}, D_3)$  goes to 100%

## **More conjectures**

- All  $4_n$  with only simple zigzags are:
  - $GC_{k,0}(Cube)$ ,  $GC_{k,k}(Cube)$  and
  - the family of  $4_n(D_3 \subset ...)$  with parameters (m, 0) and (i, m - 2i) with n = 4m(2m - 3i) and  $z = (6m - 6i)^{3m-3i}, (6m)^{m-2i}, (12m - 18i)^i$ They have symmetry  $D_{3d}$  or  $O_h$  or  $D_{6h}$
- Any  $4_n(D_3 \subset \ldots)$  with one zigzag is a  $4_n(D_3)$ .
- For tight graphs  $4_n(D_3 \subset ...)$  the *z*-vector is of the form  $a^k$  with  $k \in \{1, 2, 3, 6\}$  or  $a^k, b^l$  with  $k, l \in \{1, 3\}$
- Tight  $4_n(D_{3d})$  exist if and only if  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{12}$ , they are z-transitive with
  - $z = (n/2)_{n/36,0}^{6}$  iff  $n \equiv 24 \pmod{36}$  and, otherwise,

• 
$$z = (3n/2)_{n/4,0}^2$$
 iff  $n \equiv 0, 12 \pmod{36}$ 

