

# Birational $R$ -matrix Formulas

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- Totally nonnegative matrices

# Outline

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## Definition

Let  $M$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix. A *minor* of  $M$  is  $\Delta(M)_{I,J} := \det(M_{I,J})$  where  $M_{I,J}$  is the submatrix of all entries of  $M$  in a row indexed by  $I$  and a column indexed by  $J$ .

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A matrix is *totally positive* if  $\det(M_{I,J}) > 0$  for any  $I, J$  of the same size.

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We could continue checking and see that  $M$  is totally nonnegative.

# Motivation

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- Can be used in functional analysis, ODE's, probability, statistics
- Relates combinatorially to networks
- Led to development of cluster algebras

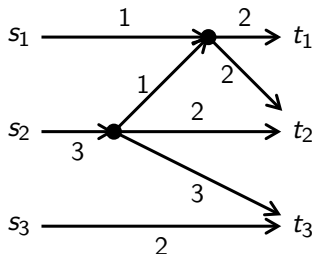
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# Planar Networks

We will be considering planar, directed, acyclic, edge-weighted graphs with  $n$  sources and  $n$  sinks, where the sources and sinks are separated. We will call these *planar networks*.

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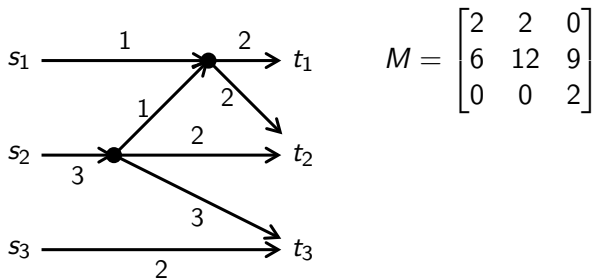
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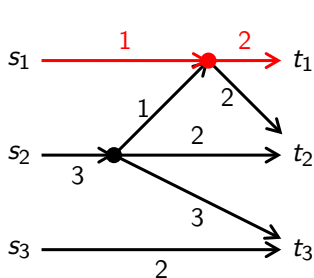
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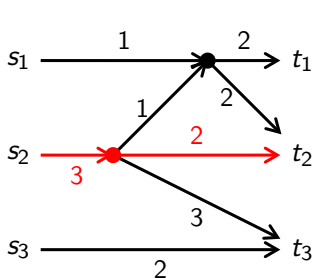
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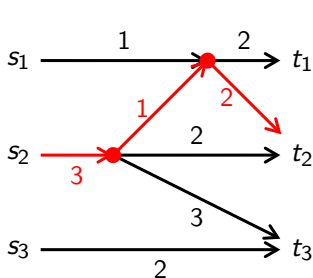
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# Lindström's Lemma

## Theorem (Lindström's Lemma, 1973)

*The weight matrix of a planar network is a totally nonnegative matrix. In particular,*

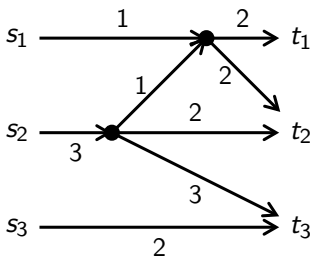
$$\det(M_{I,J}) = \sum_{\substack{\text{families of nonintersecting} \\ \text{paths from sources indexed} \\ \text{by } I \text{ to sinks indexed by } J}} \left( \prod_{\substack{\text{all paths } P \\ \text{in a family}}} \text{wt}(P) \right).$$

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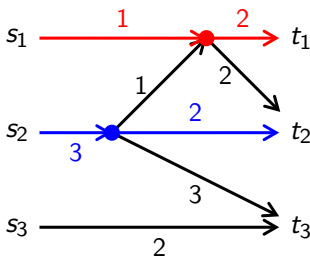
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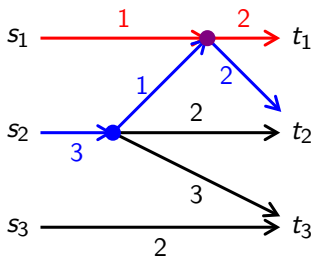
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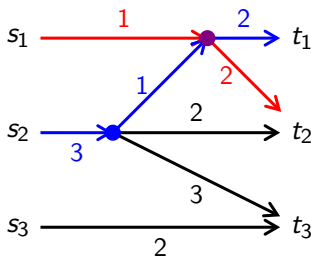
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Theorem (Brenti, 1995)

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## Theorem (Brenti, 1995)

*Every nonnegative matrix is the weight matrix of a planar network.*

For elements of  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ , one way to prove this is by considering factorizations of totally nonnegative matrices.

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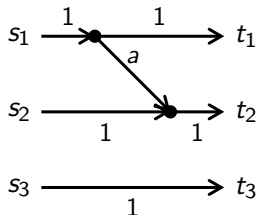
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- $h_i(a)$  is the identity but with  $a$  in the  $i, i$  entry.

Example:  $n = 3$

$$e_1(a) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad f_2(a) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & a & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad h_3(a) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a \end{bmatrix}$$

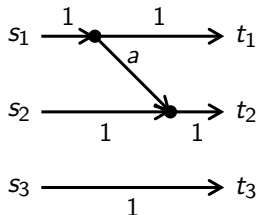


# Networks for Elementary Jacobi Matrices

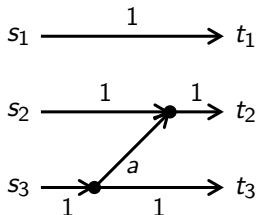


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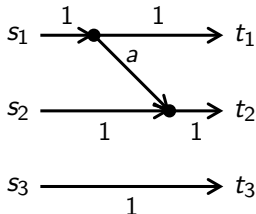


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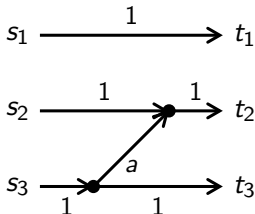


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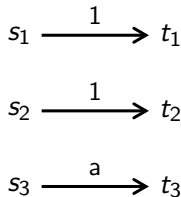
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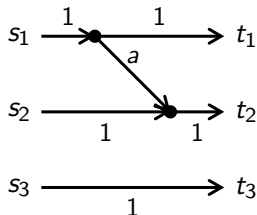
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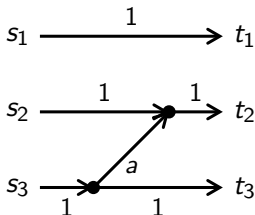
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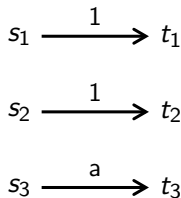
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This proves that every element of  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})_{\geq 0}$  is the weight matrix of a planar network.

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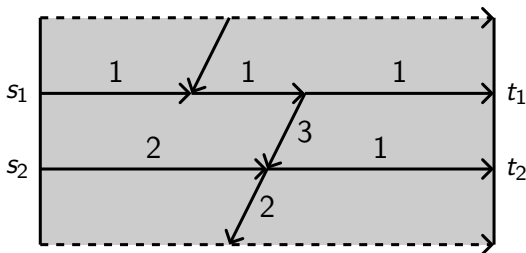
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Let's loosen the planarity condition of our planar networks by embedding them in a cylinder.

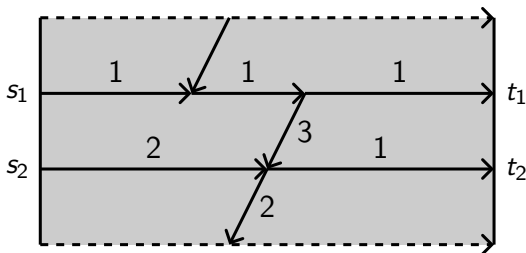
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We'll have a *chord*  $h$  from the left boundary component to the right,  $n$  sources on the left labeled from top to bottom, and  $n$  sinks on the right labeled from top to bottom.

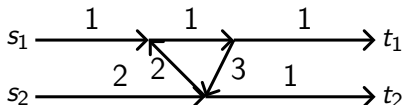
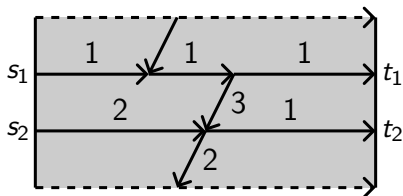


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We want our network to be acyclic in the sense that there are no cycles in the network when drawn on the universal cover of the cylinder.

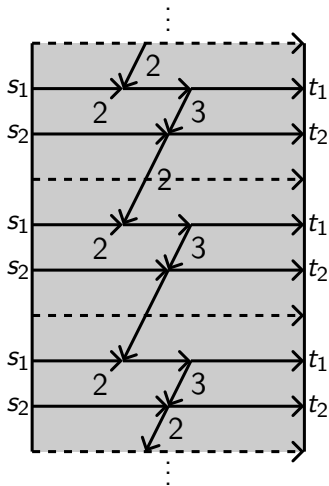
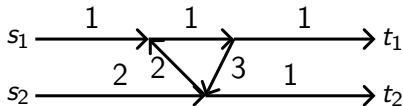
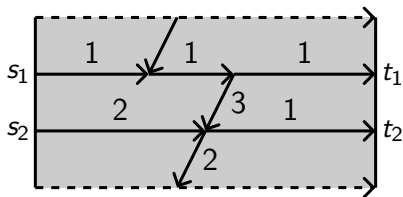
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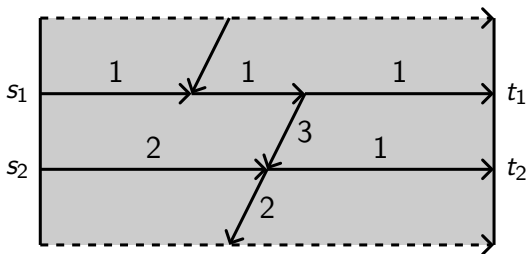


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# Weight Matrix for Cylindric Network



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 + 6t + 36t^2 + \dots & 3 + 18t + 108t^2 \\ 4t + 24t^2 + \dots & 2 + 12t + 72t^2 + \dots \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} \ddots & & & & & & \ddots \\ & 1 & 3 & 6 & 18 & 36 & 108 \\ & 0 & 2 & 4 & 12 & 24 & 72 \\ & 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 18 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 & 12 \\ & \ddots & & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

# Cylindric Lindström's Lemma

## Cylindric Lindström Lemma, Lam–Pylyavskyy 2008

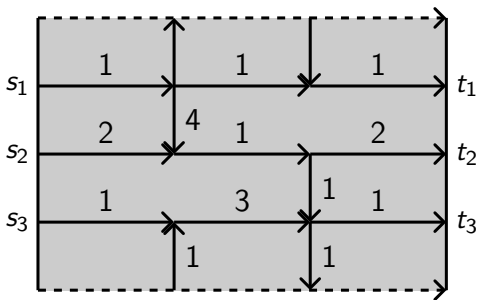
The unfolding of weight matrix of a cylindric network  $N$  is totally nonnegative. In particular,

$$\det(M_{I,J}) = \sum_{\substack{\text{families of nonintersecting} \\ \text{paths from sources indexed} \\ \text{by } I \text{ to sinks indexed by } J \\ \text{in the universal cover of } N}} \left( \prod_{\text{all paths } P \\ \text{in a family}} \text{wt}(P) \right).$$



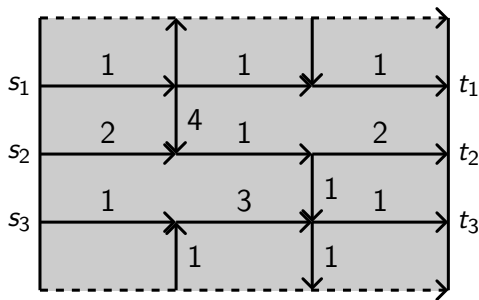
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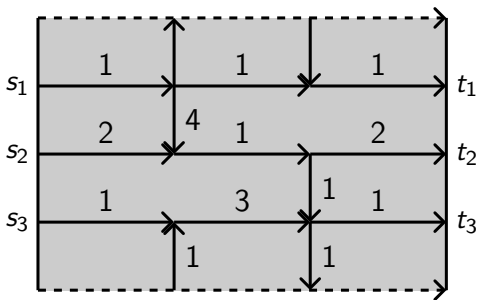


## REU Exercise 2.1

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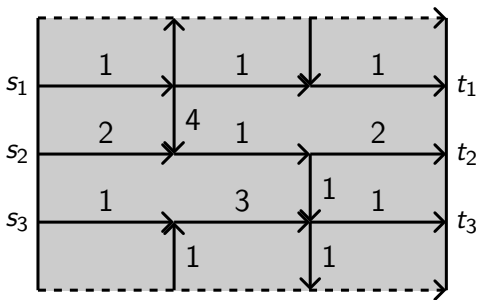


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- Compute the unfolding of the path matrix of  $N$ .
- Check that the Cylindric Lindström Lemma holds for  $N$ .

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Define  $U_{\geq 0} \subseteq U$  as the elements of  $U$  with totally nonnegative unfoldings and  $U_{> 0} \subseteq U$  as the elements of  $U$  with totally positive unfoldings in the sense that all minors that are not forced to be 0 are positive.



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Again, we can prove this by factorizations.

- Totally nonnegative matrices
- Planar networks
- Factorization of TNN matrices
- Cylindric networks
- Factorization of  $U_{\geq 0} \setminus U_{> 0}$
- Birational  $R$ -matrix

# Whirls and Curls

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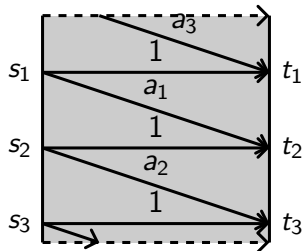
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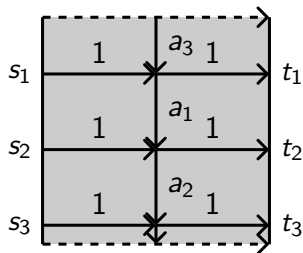
Any element of  $U_{\geq 0} \setminus U_{> 0}$  is a product of whirls and curls with nonnegative parameters.

# Networks for Whirls



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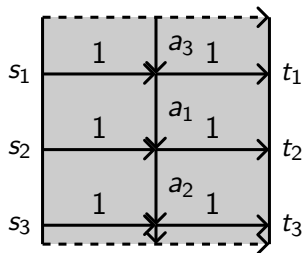
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Since concatenation of networks is multiplication of matrices, this proves that every element of  $U_{\geq 0} \setminus U_{> 0}$  is the weight matrix of a cylindric network.

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In our case: Given an element of  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  or  $U_{\geq 0} \setminus U_{> 0}$  and a factorization, can we recover the parameters of the factorization?

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We will restrict to the set of upper unitriangular matrices in  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ .

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Example:

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 7 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} &= e_1(2)e_2(1)e_1(5) \\ &= e_2\left(\frac{5}{7}\right)e_1(7)e_2\left(\frac{2}{7}\right) \end{aligned}$$

# Birational $R$ -Matrix

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Example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 4t & 1 & 3 \\ 3t & 2t & 1 \end{bmatrix} = M(1, 2, 1)M(2, 1, 2) \\ = M\left(\frac{7}{5}, \frac{16}{7}, \frac{5}{4}\right) M\left(\frac{8}{5}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{7}{4}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 6t + 1 & 2t + 3 & 8 \\ 5t & 3t + 1 & 4t + 3 \\ 8t^2 + 3t & 7t & 12t + 1 \end{bmatrix} = N(2, 1, 2)N(1, 2, 1) \\ = N\left(\frac{8}{5}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{7}{4}\right) N\left(\frac{7}{5}, \frac{16}{7}, \frac{5}{4}\right)$$

# Birational $R$ -Matrix

## Definition

Let  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$ ,  $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_n) \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n$ . Let

$$\kappa_j(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \sum_{j=i}^{i+n-1} \prod_{k=i+1}^j b_k \prod_{k=j+1}^{i+n-1} a_k.$$

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$$b_1 = \frac{b_2 \kappa_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})}{\kappa_1(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})} = \frac{7}{5}$$

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Note that the last two properties implies that  $\eta$  gives an action of the symmetric group on whirls/curls in a matrix factorization.

## REU Exercise 2.2

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## REU Exercise 2.3

Verify that all three properties hold when  $n = 2$ .

## REU Problem 2

The birational  $R$ -matrix formula is a formula for how transpositions act on factorizations. Find a (combinatorial) formula for how the other elements of the symmetric group act.

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What are the formulas for  $\mathbf{a}''$  and  $\mathbf{c}''$  in terms of  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$ ?

## REU Exercise 2.4

For  $n = 2$  and  $n = 3$ , compute formulas for the actions of  $(123)$ ,  $(132)$ , and  $(13)$ .

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Note: This might best be done using software.

- T. Lam and P. Pylyavskyy, *Total positivity in loop groups, I: Whirls and curls*, *Advances in Mathematics*, **230** (2012), no. 3, 1222–1271.
- T. Lam, *Loop symmetric functions and factorizing matrix polynomials*, *Fifth International Congress of Chinese Mathematicians*, **1** (2012), no. 2, 609–627.
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- A. Berenstein, S. Fomin, and A. Zelevinsky, *Parametrizations of Canonical Bases and Totally Positive Matrices*, *Advances in Mathematics*, **122** (1996), no. 1, 49–149.