

# Blossoming trees and planar maps

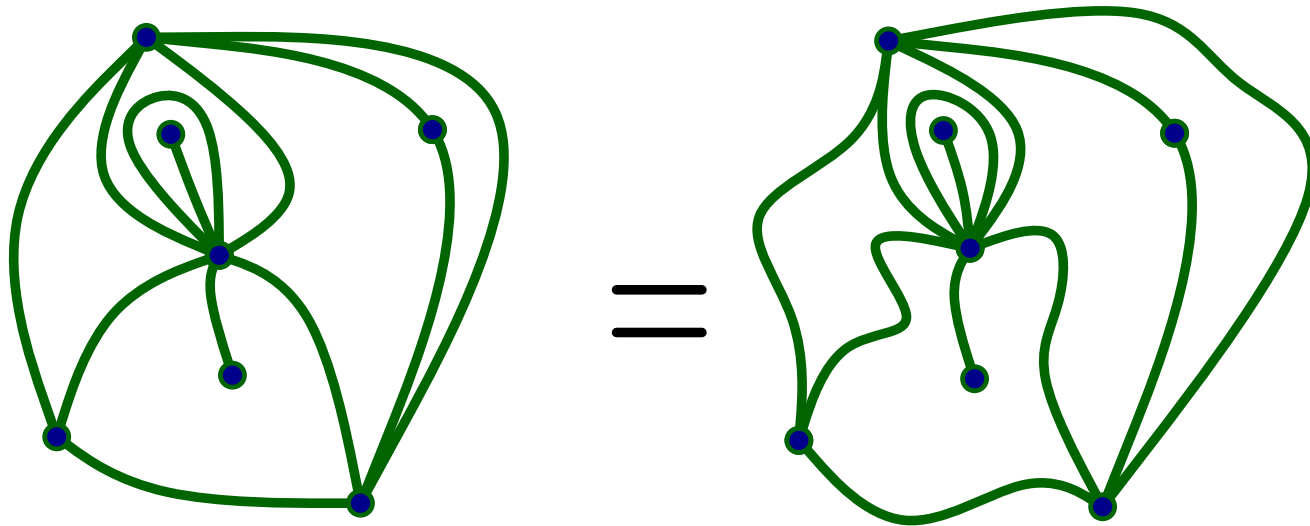
Marie Albenque (LIX, École Polytechnique)

joint work with Louigi Addario-Berry (McGill University Montréal)  
and Dominique Poulalhon (LIAFA)

Journées EGOS,  
February, 2nd 2016

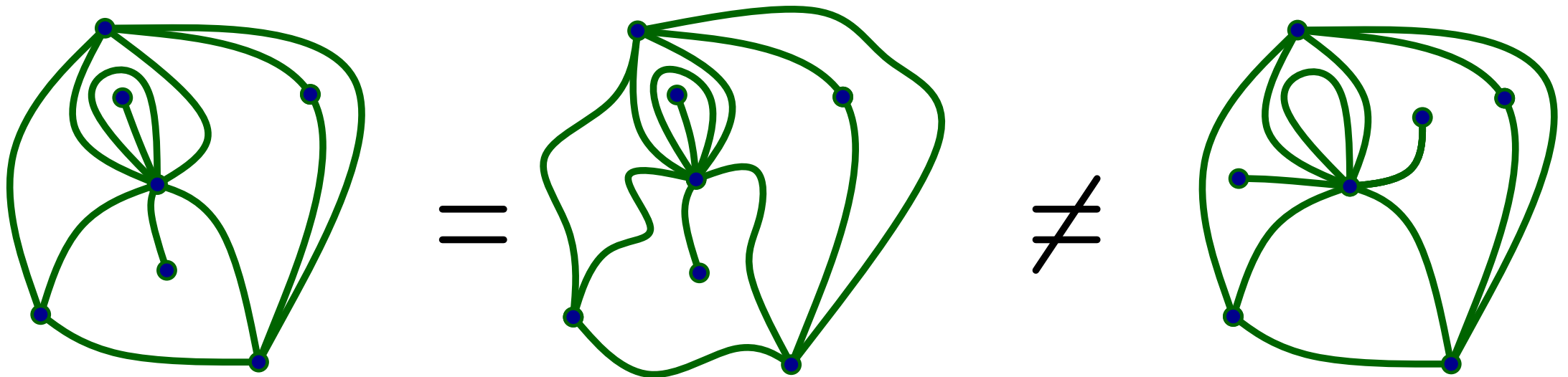
## Plane Maps – Definition.

A **plane map** is the proper embedding of a finite connected graph in the plane seen up to continuous deformations.



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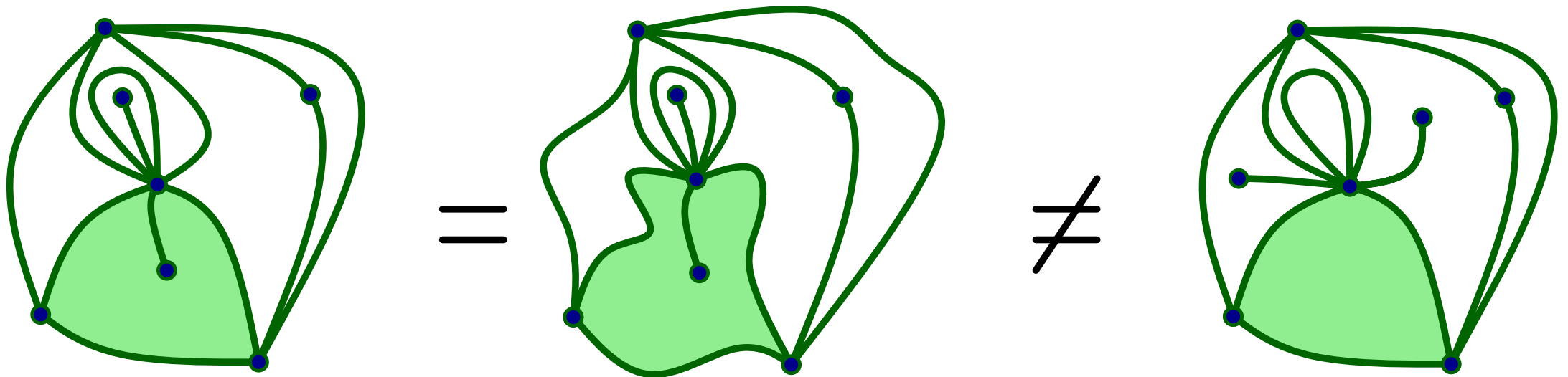
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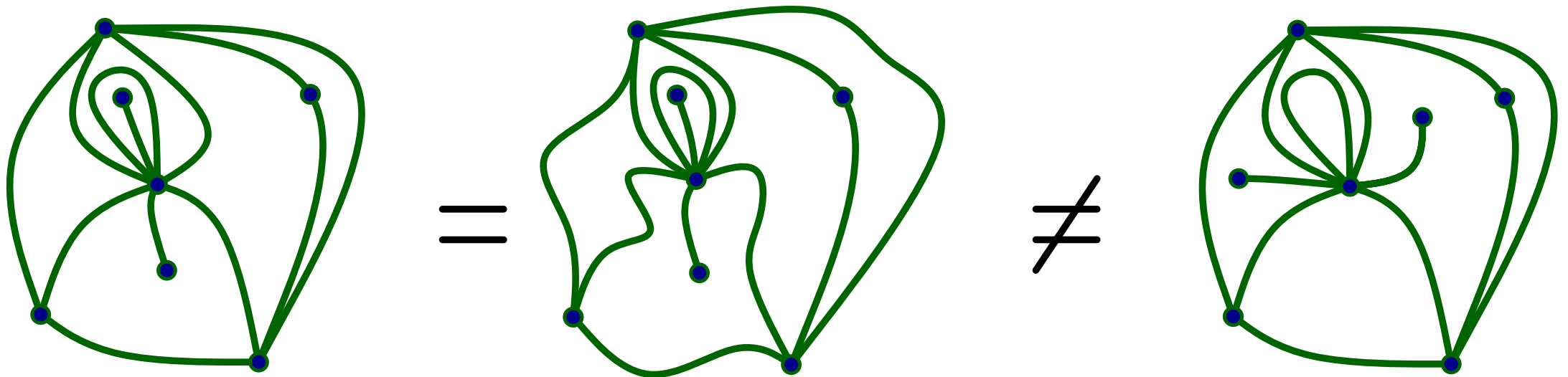


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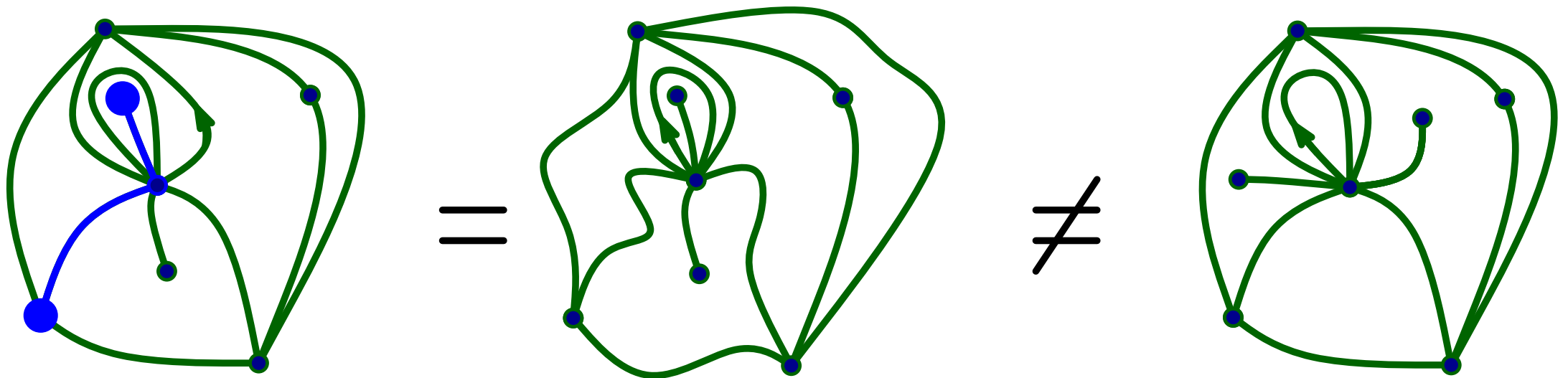


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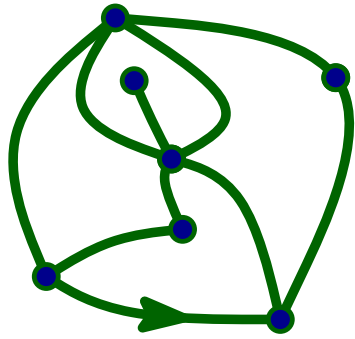
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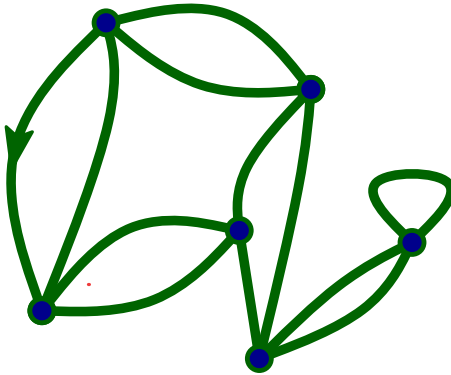
Distance between two vertices = number of edges between them.

Plane map = **Metric space**

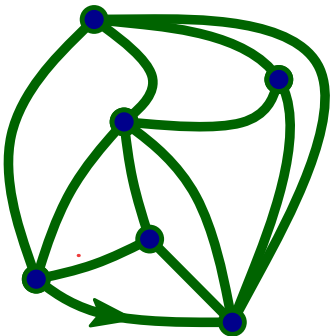
# Which maps ?



Quadrangulations



4-regular maps



Simple triangulations (no loops nor multiple edges)

# Maps enumeration 101

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Euler Formula :  $\# \text{ vertices} + \# \text{ faces} = 2 + \# \text{ edges}$

A quadrangulation with  $n$  faces has  $2n$  edges and  $n + 2$  vertices.

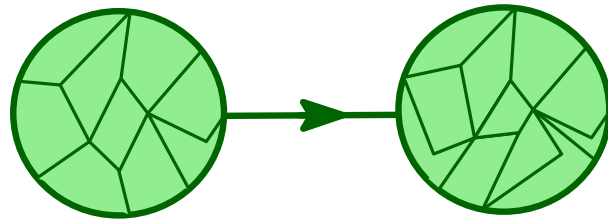
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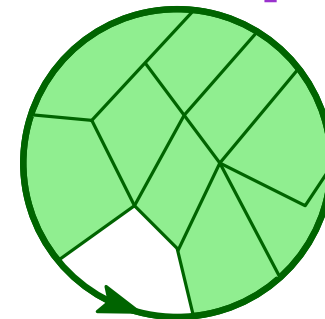
Structure allows recursive decomposition  $\Rightarrow$  enumeration [Tutte, '60s].

Two possibilities:



The root edge is an isthmus

OR



The root edge is NOT an isthmus

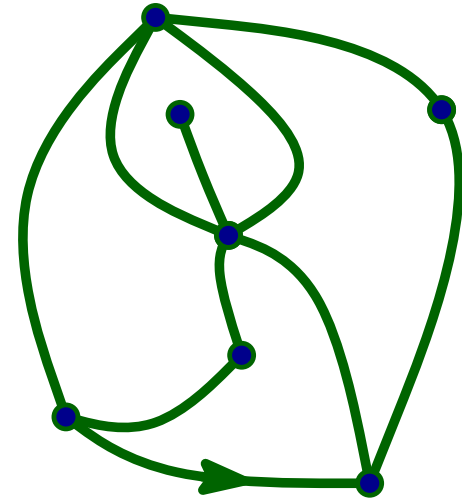
$$q_n = \text{number of quadrangulations with } n \text{ faces} = \frac{2}{n+2} \frac{3^n}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$$

# Random maps

$\mathcal{Q}_n = \{\text{Quadrangulations of size } n\}$   
 $= n + 2$  vertices,  $n$  faces,  $2n$  edges

$Q_n = \text{Random element of } \mathcal{Q}_n$

$(V(Q_n), d_{gr})$  is a random compact metric space



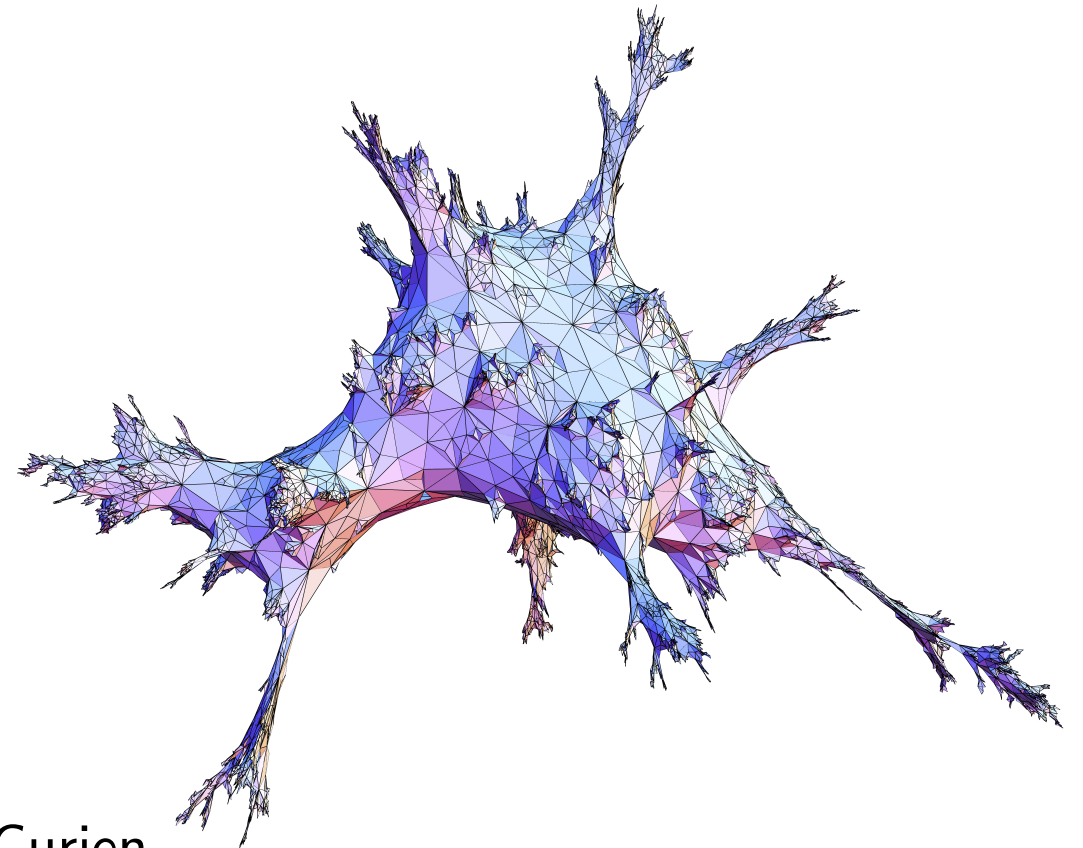
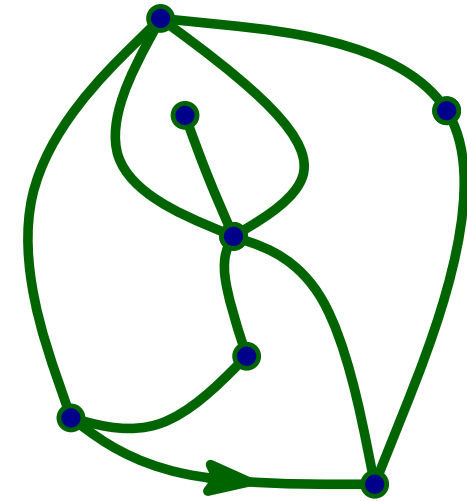
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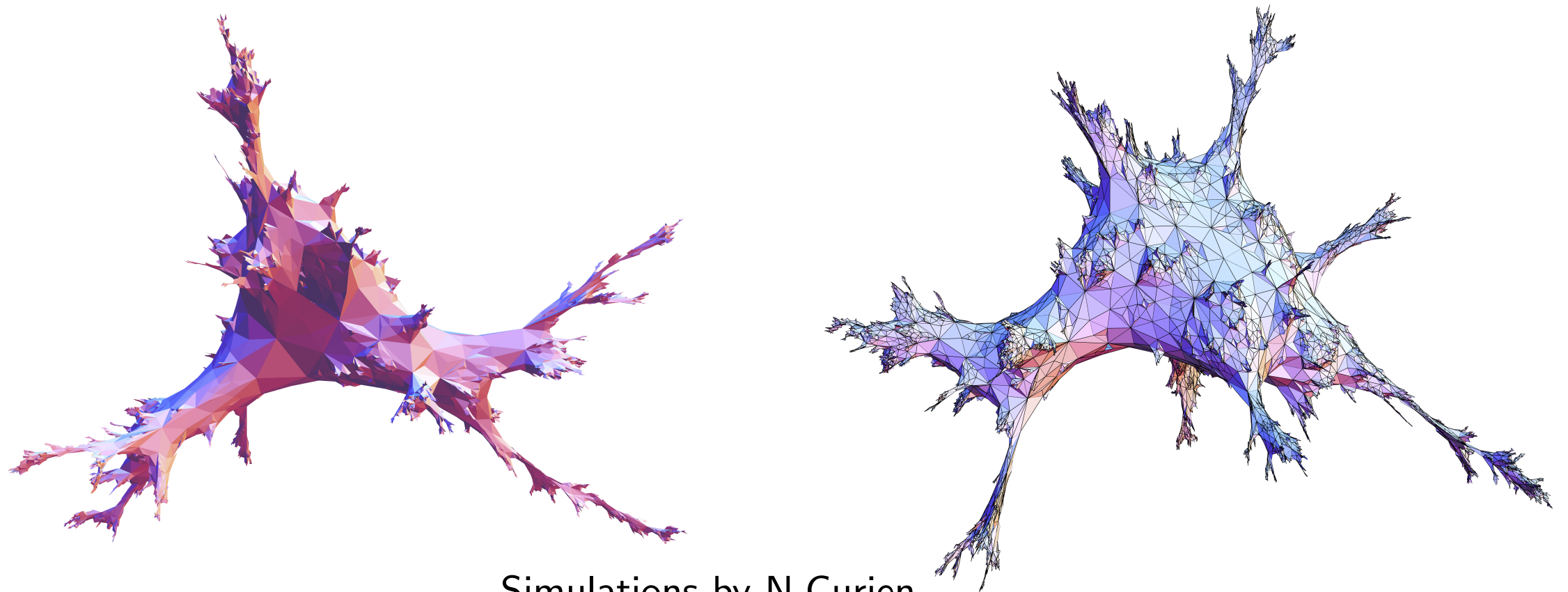


Simulations by N.Curien



# Random maps

What is the behavior of  $Q_n$  when  $n$  goes to infinity ?  
typical distances?  
convergence towards a continuous object ?



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# Random maps

What is the behavior of  $Q_n$  when  $n$  goes to infinity ?  
typical distances?  
convergence towards a continuous object ?

well understood:

- Schaeffer's bijection : quadrangulations  $\leftrightarrow$  labeled trees.

Labels in the trees = distances in the map.

- distance between two random points  $\sim n^{1/4}$  + law of the distance

[Chassaing-Schaeffer '04]

- cvgence of normalized quadrangulations + limiting object: Brownian map.

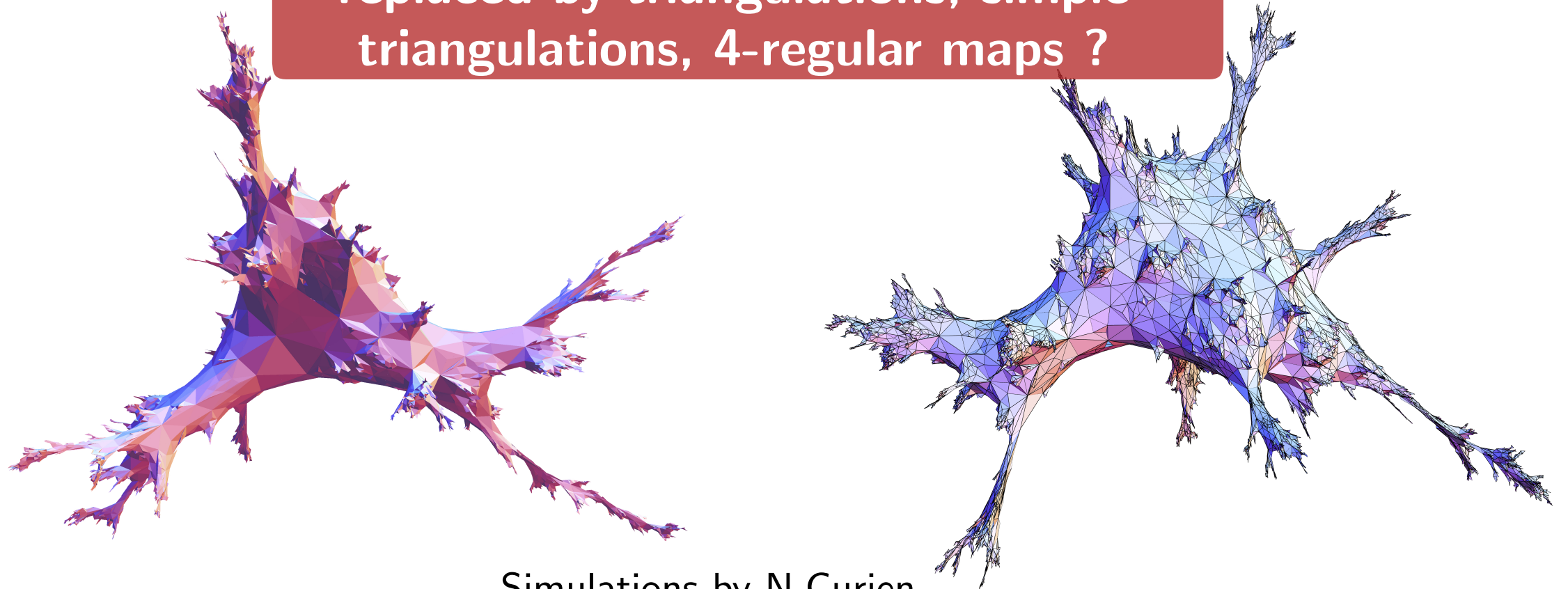
[Marckert-Mokkadem '06], [Le Gall '07], [Miermont '08],

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+ what if quadrangulations are replaced by triangulations, simple triangulations, 4-regular maps ?



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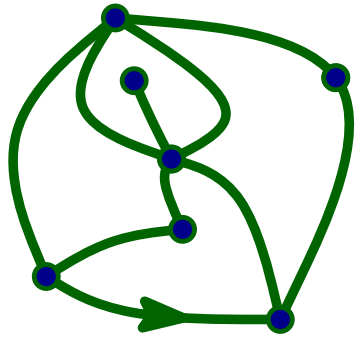
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**Idea :** The Brownian map is a **universal** limiting object.  
All "reasonable models" of maps (properly rescaled) are expected to converge towards it.

**Problem :** These results rely on nice bijections between maps and labeled trees [Schaeffer '98], [Bouttier-Di Francesco-Guitter '04].

# Which maps ?

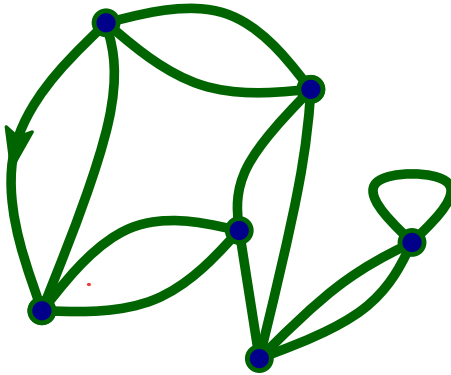


## Quadrangulations

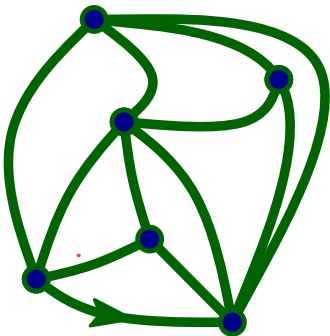
Number of quadrangulations with  $n$  faces:

$$q_n = \frac{2 \cdot 3^n}{(n+2)(n+1)} \binom{2n}{n}$$

[Tutte, 60], [Cori-Vauquelin '81],  
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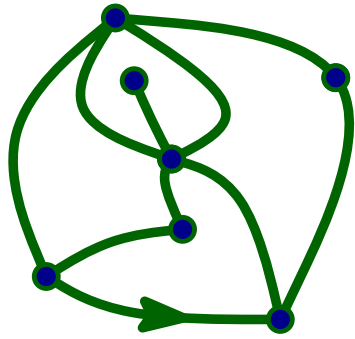


## 4-regular maps



**Simple triangulations** (no loops nor multiple edges)

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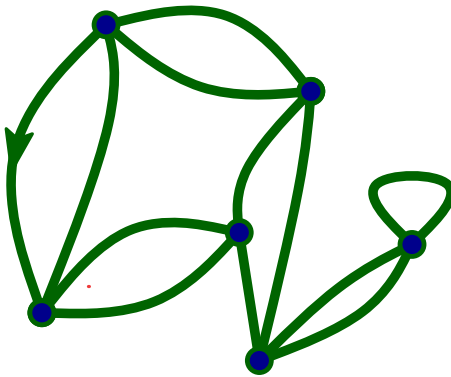


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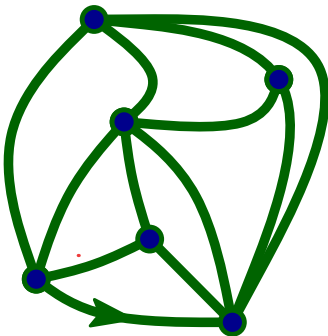


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Number of rooted 4-regular maps with  $n$  vertices:

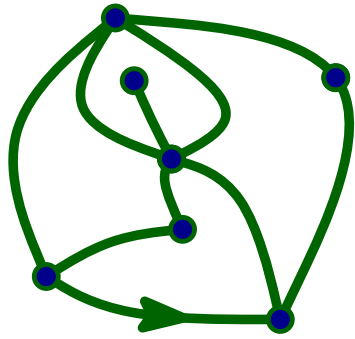
$$R_n = \frac{2 \cdot 3^n}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$$

[Tutte, 62], [Schaeffer '97]



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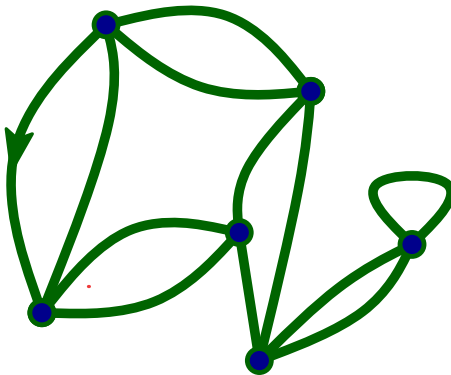
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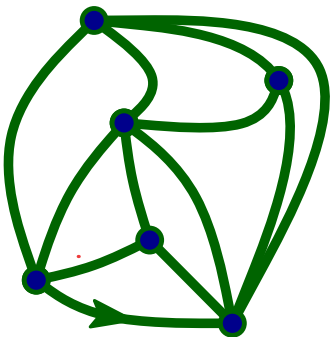
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## Simple triangulations (no loops nor multiple edges)

Number of simple triangulations with  $n+2$  vertices:

$$\Delta_n = \frac{2 \cdot (4n-3)!}{n!(3n-1)!} \quad [\text{Tutte, 62}], [\text{Poulalhon-Schaeffer '05}]$$

# History : what questions about maps ?

- **Enumerate them** : a lot of different techniques

Recursive decomposition: [Tutte, '60]

Matrix integrals: [t'Hooft, '74], [Brézin, Itzykson, Parisi and Zuber '78]

Representation of the symmetric group: [Goulden and Jackson '87].

Bijjective approach with labeled trees: [Cori-Vauquelin '81], [Schaeffer '98], [Bouttier, Di Francesco and Guitter '04], [Bernardi and Fusy], ...

Bijjective approach with blossoming trees: [Schaeffer '98], [Schaeffer and Bousquet-Mélou '00], [Poulalhon and Schaeffer '05], [Fusy, Poulalhon and Schaeffer '06], [Bernardi and Fusy]



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Bijjective approach with **blossoming trees**.

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# Today: what's the plan ?

What is a blossoming tree ?

Can we unify the constructions involving blossoming trees ?

Can we prove some convergence results to the Brownian map using blossoming trees ?

i.e. can we put "distances" on trees ?

# Today: what's the plan ?

What is a blossoming tree ?      **Wait a second**

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**Yes, cf also** [Bernardi, Fusy]

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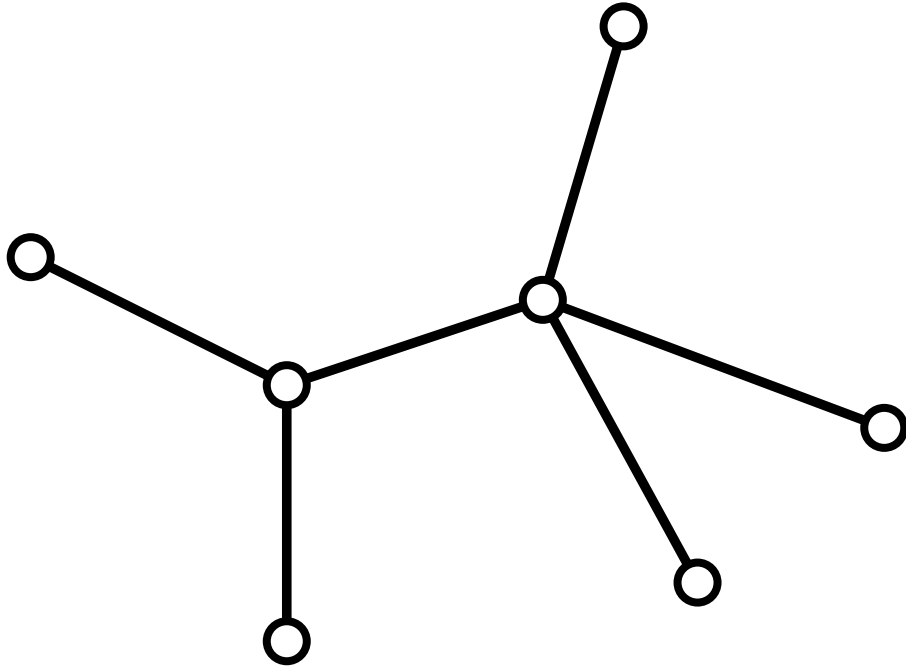
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**Yes ... for some models**

# What is a blossoming tree ?

A **blossoming tree** is a plane tree where vertices can carry **opening stems** or **closing stems**, such that :

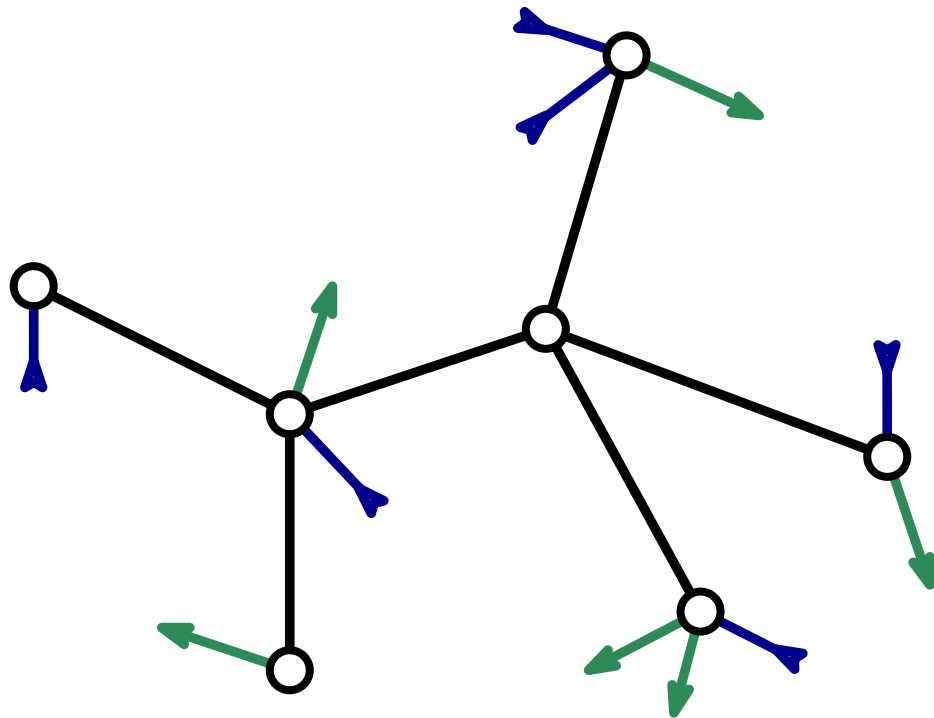
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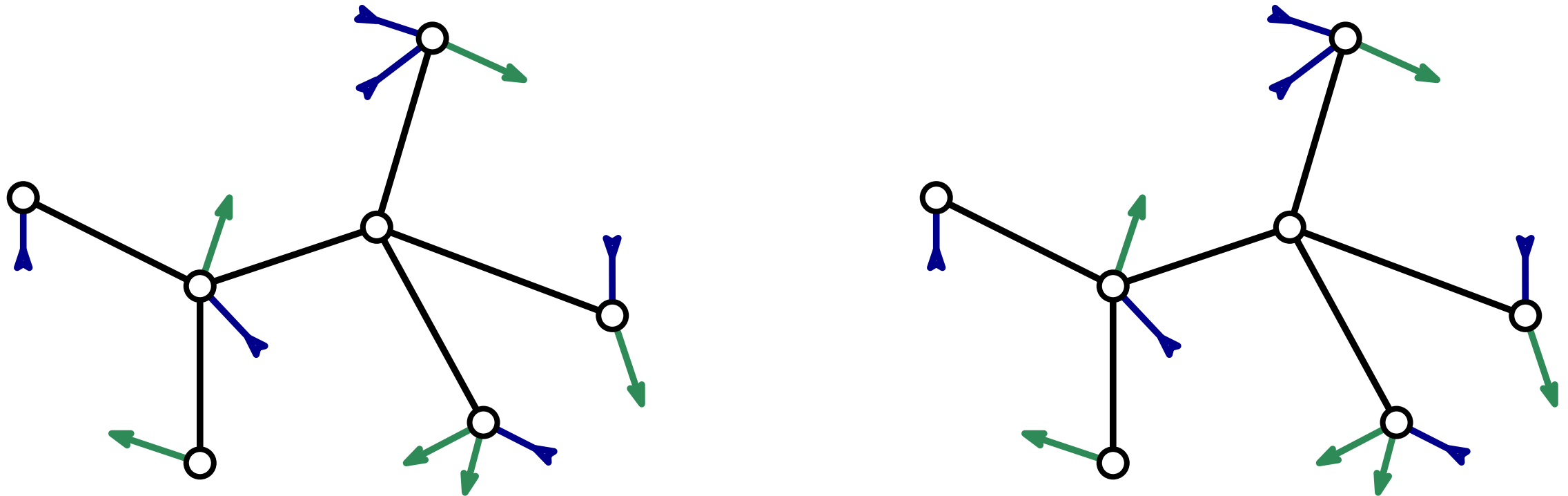




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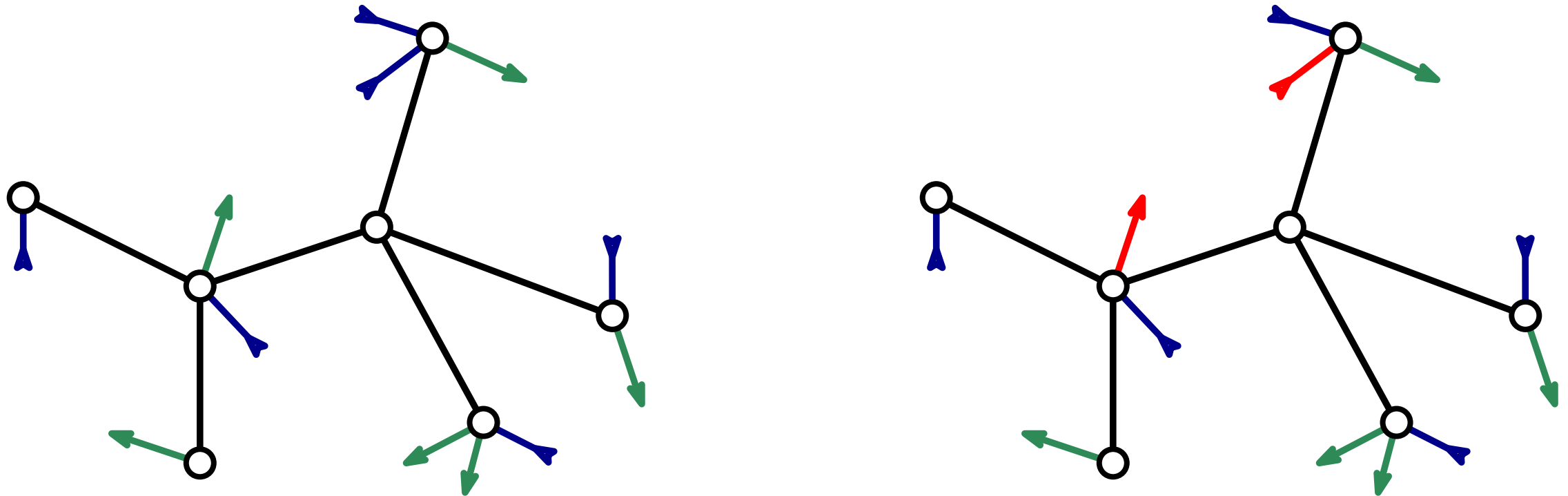
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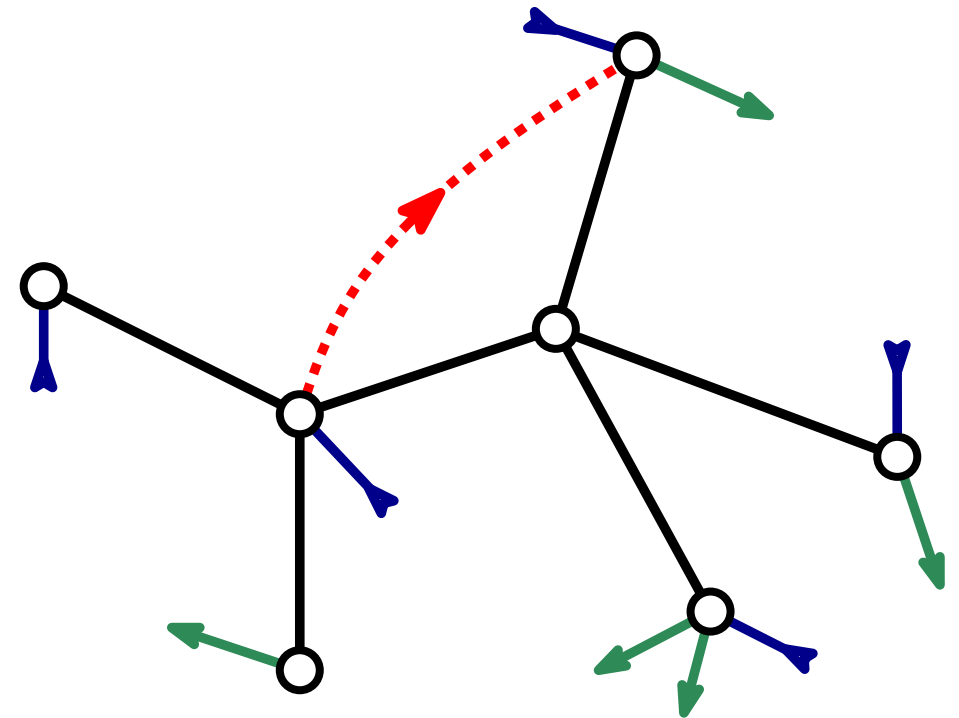
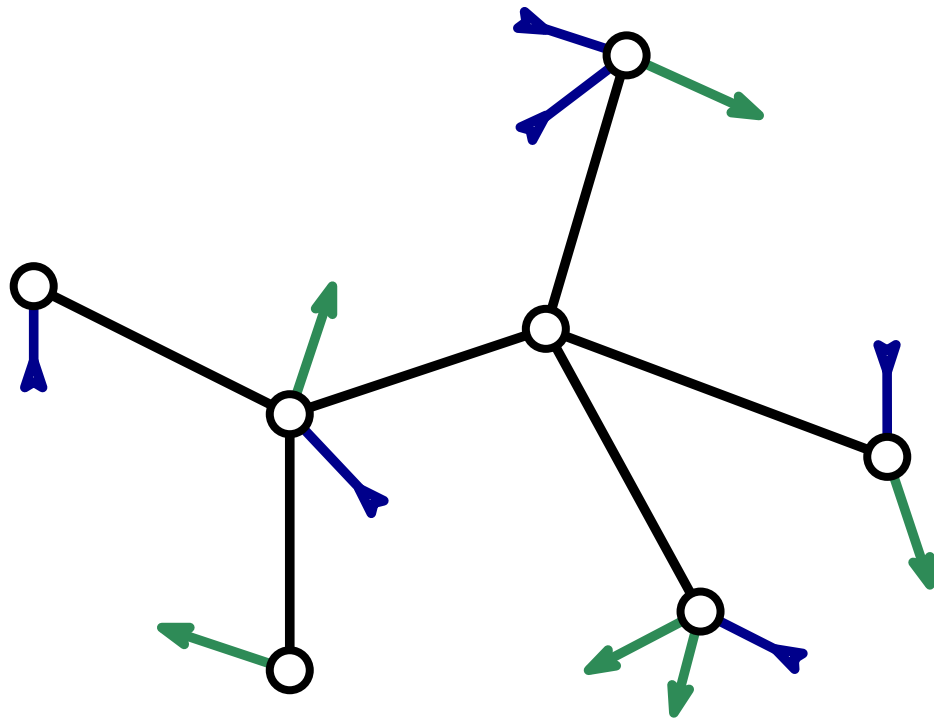
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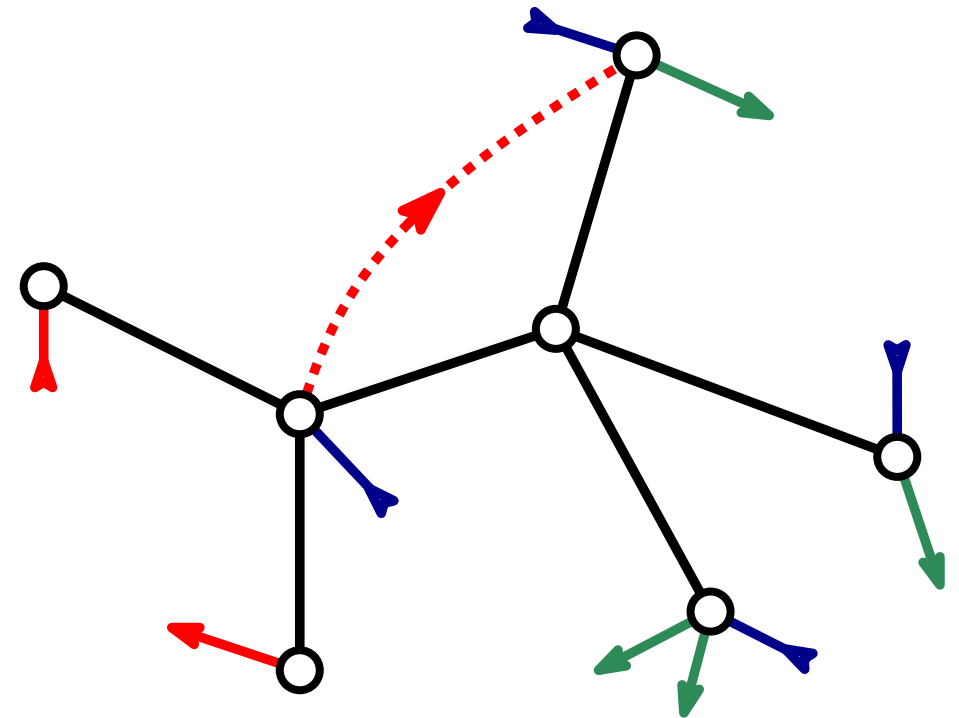
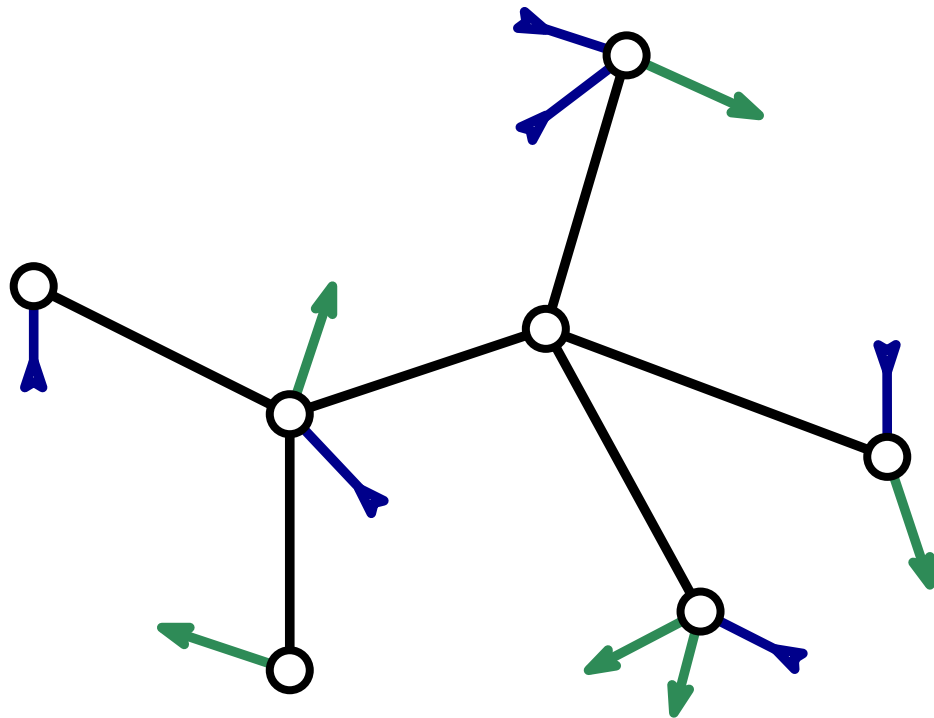
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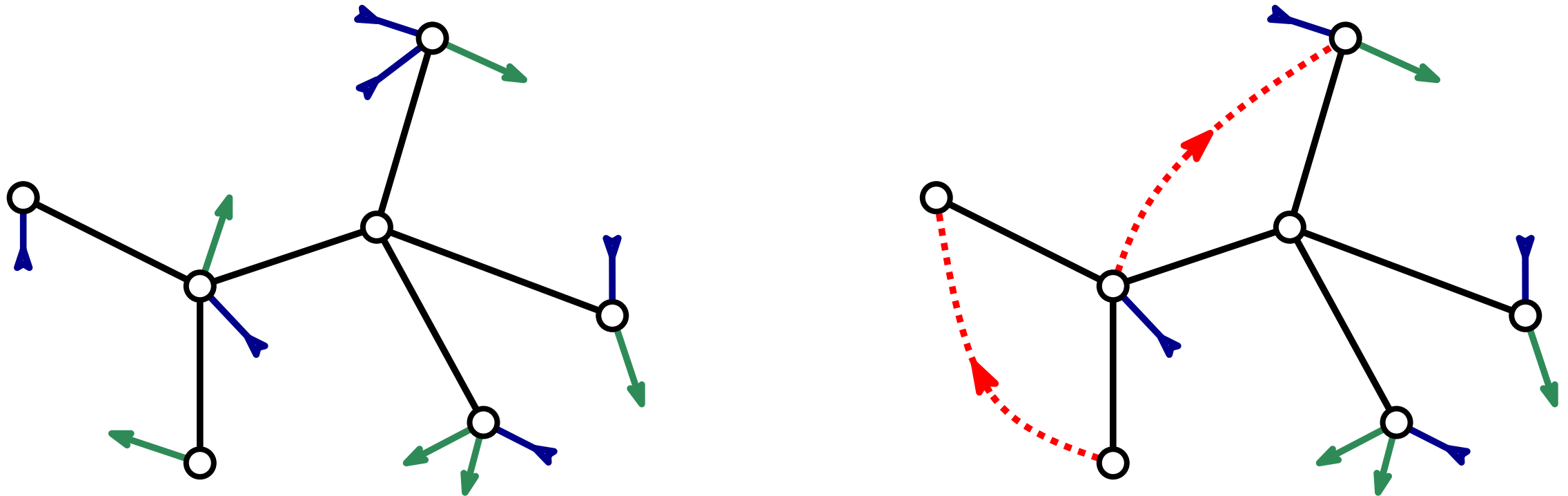
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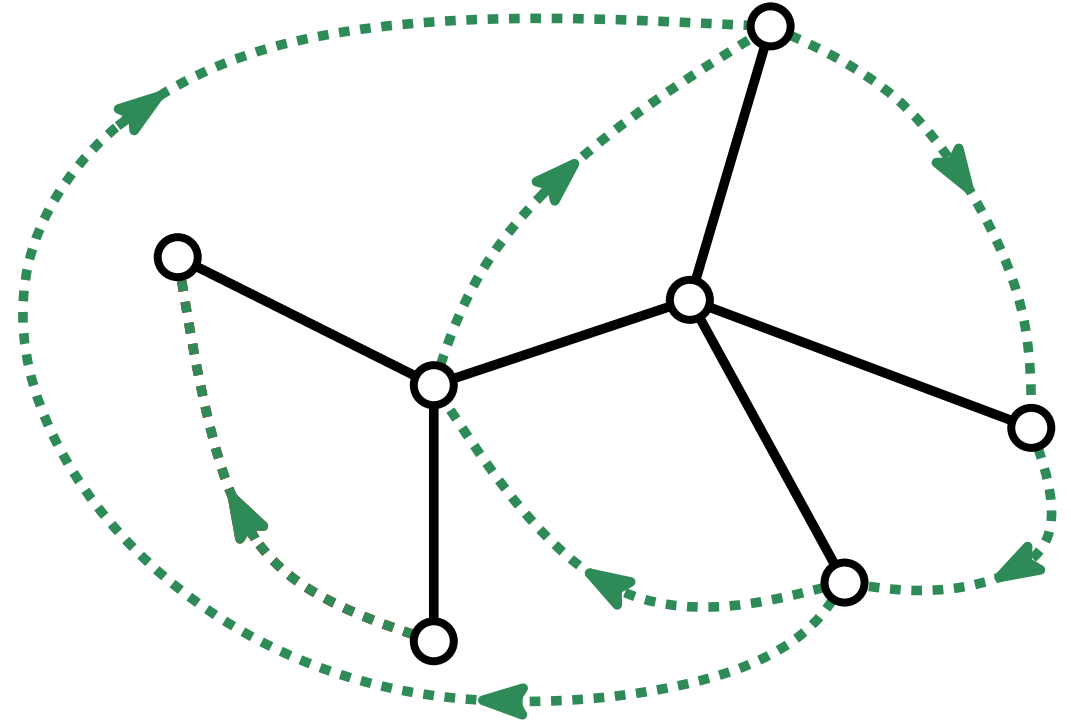
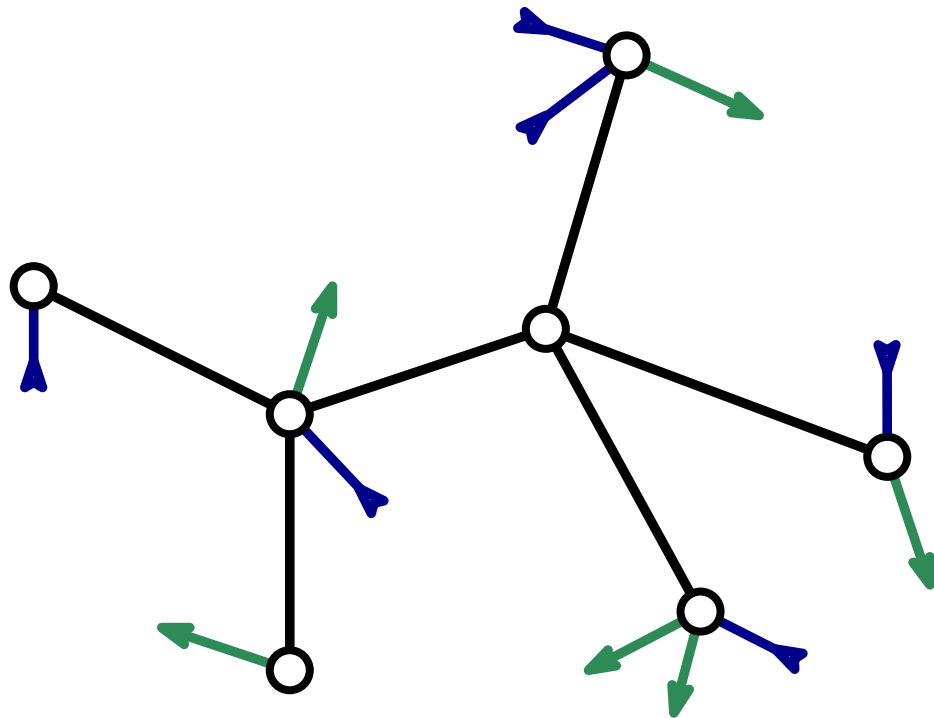
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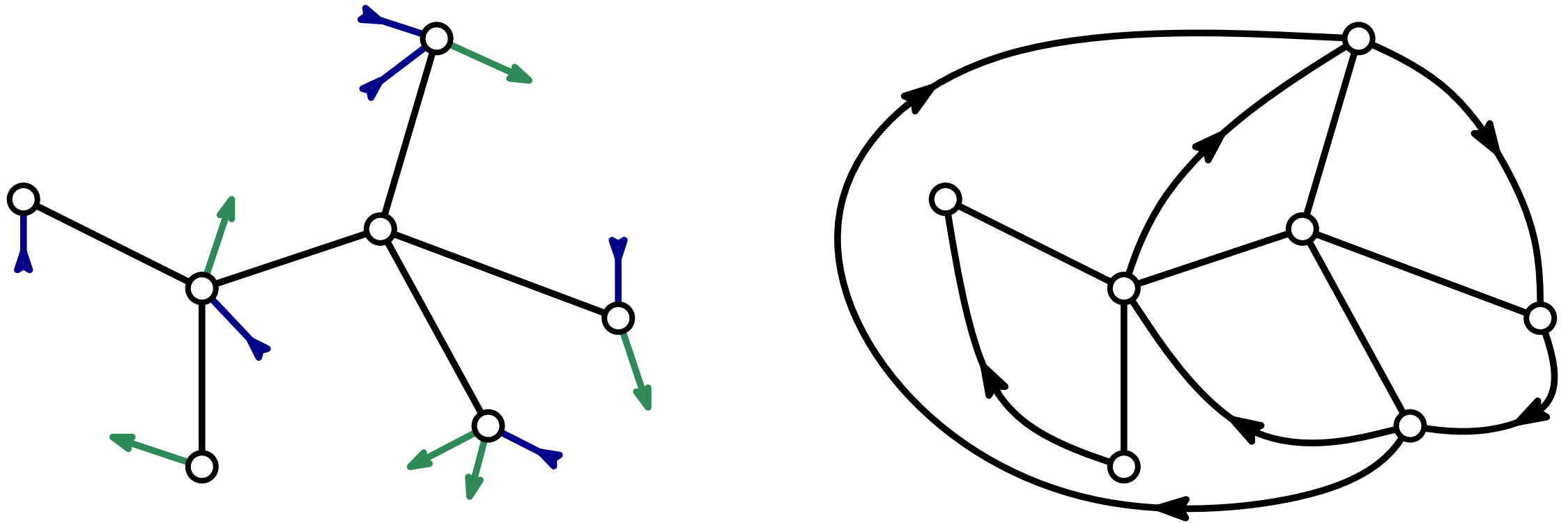
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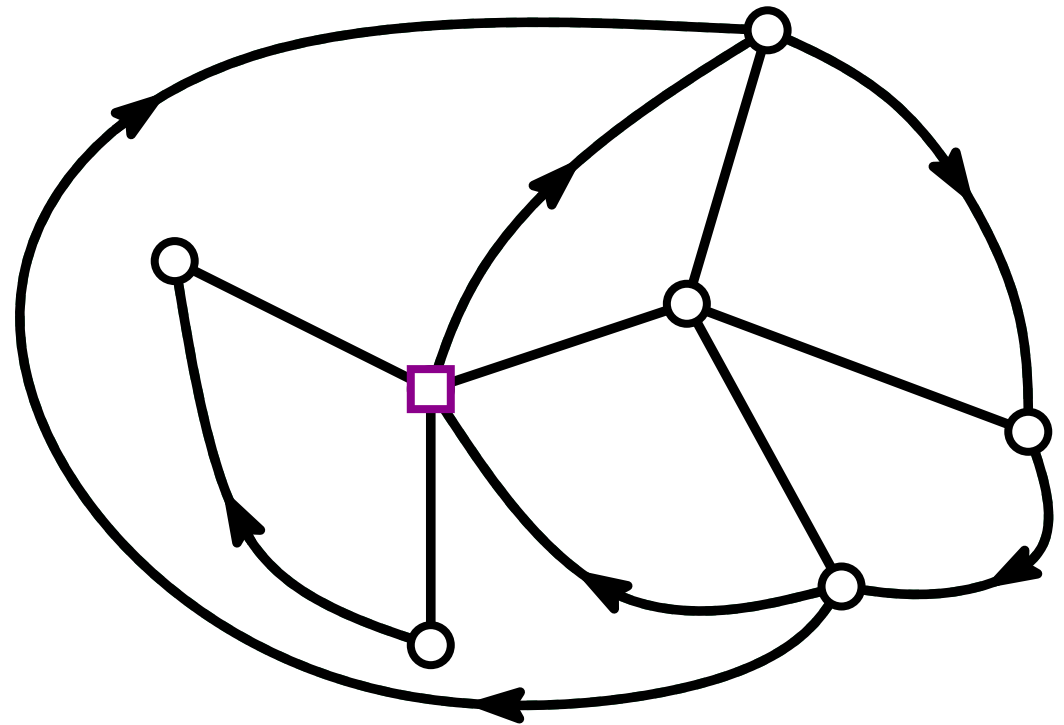
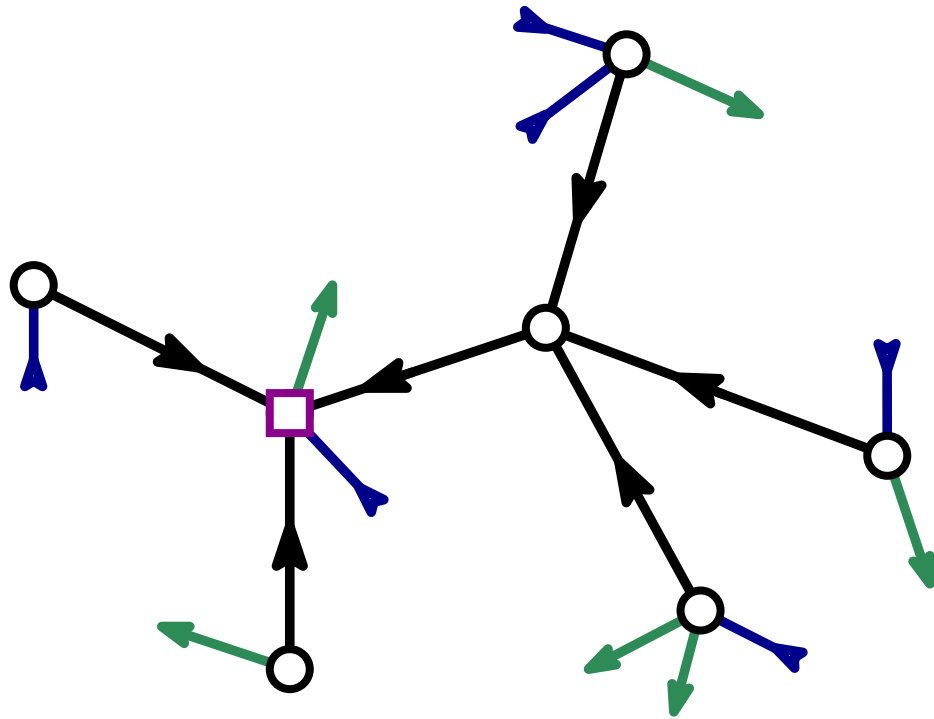
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A plane map can be canonically associated to any blossoming tree by making all closures clockwise.

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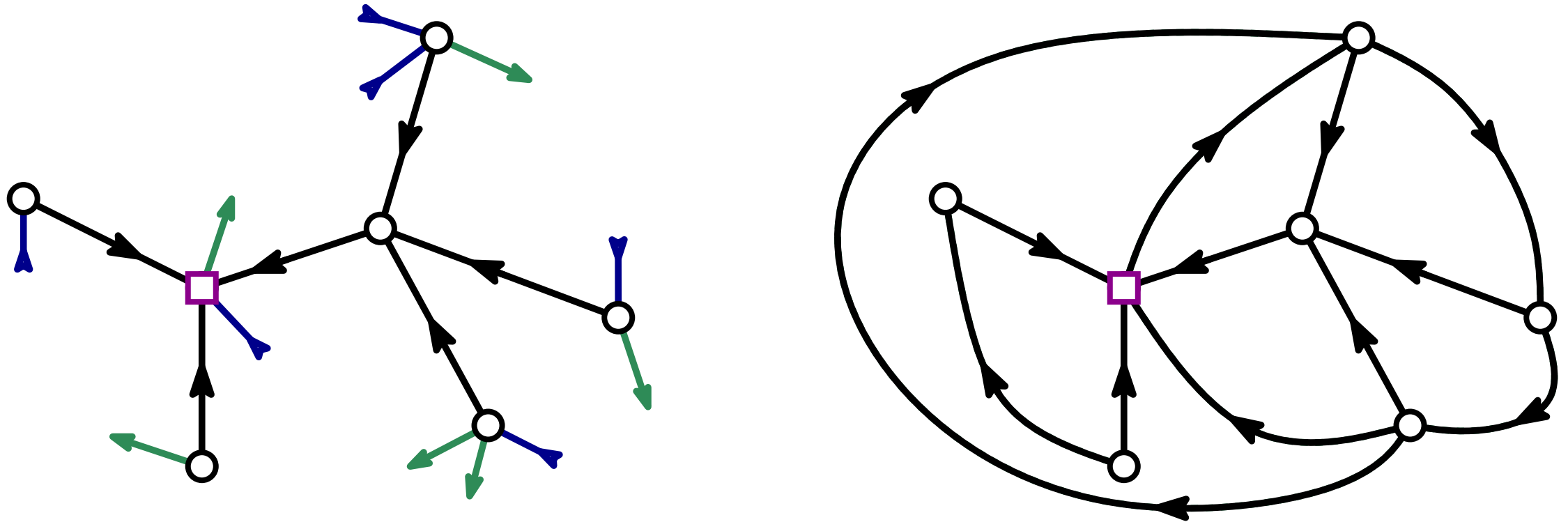
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If the tree is rooted and its edges oriented towards the root + closure edges oriented naturally

⇒ Accessible orientation of the map without ccw cycles.



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# Can we transform a plane map into a blossoming tree ?

**Theorem** : [Bernardi '07], [A., Poulalhon 14+]

If a plane map  $M$  has a marked vertex  $v$  is endowed with an orientation such that :

- there exists a directed path from any vertex to  $v$ ,
- there is no counterclockwise cycle,

then there exists a **unique** blossoming tree rooted at  $v$  whose closure is  $M$  endowed with the same orientation.

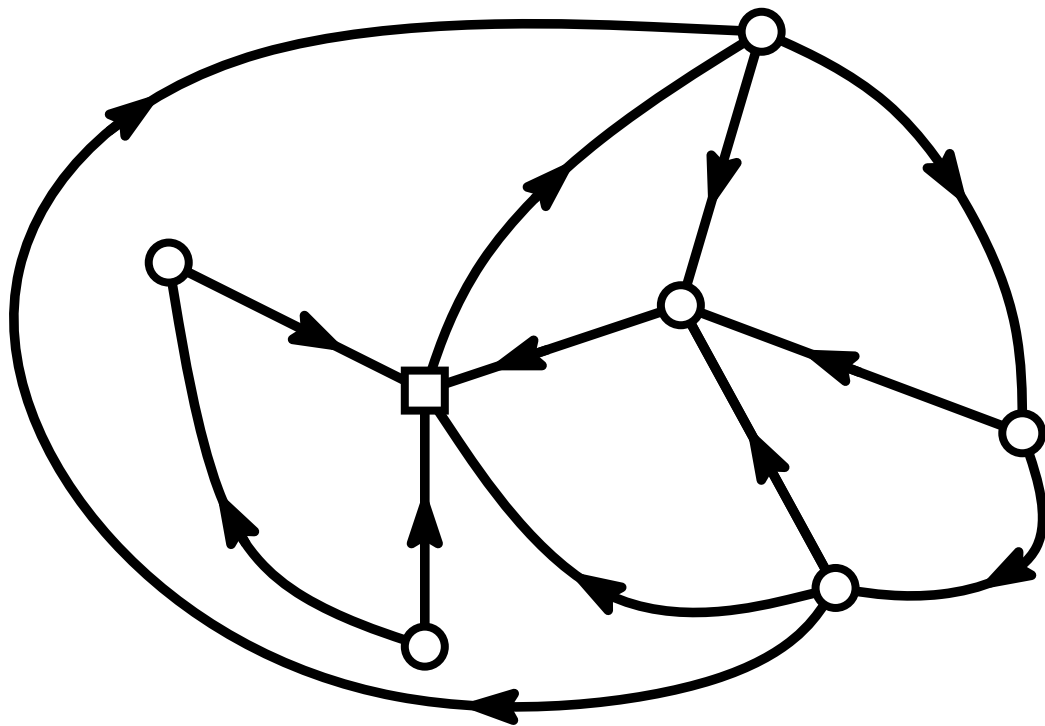
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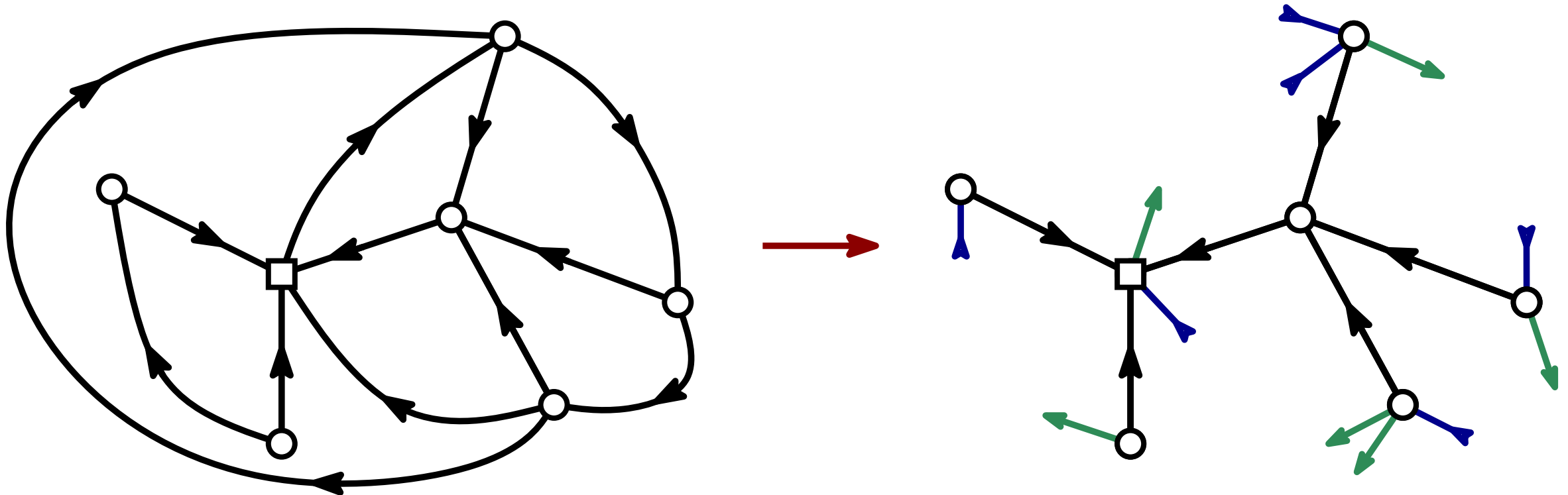
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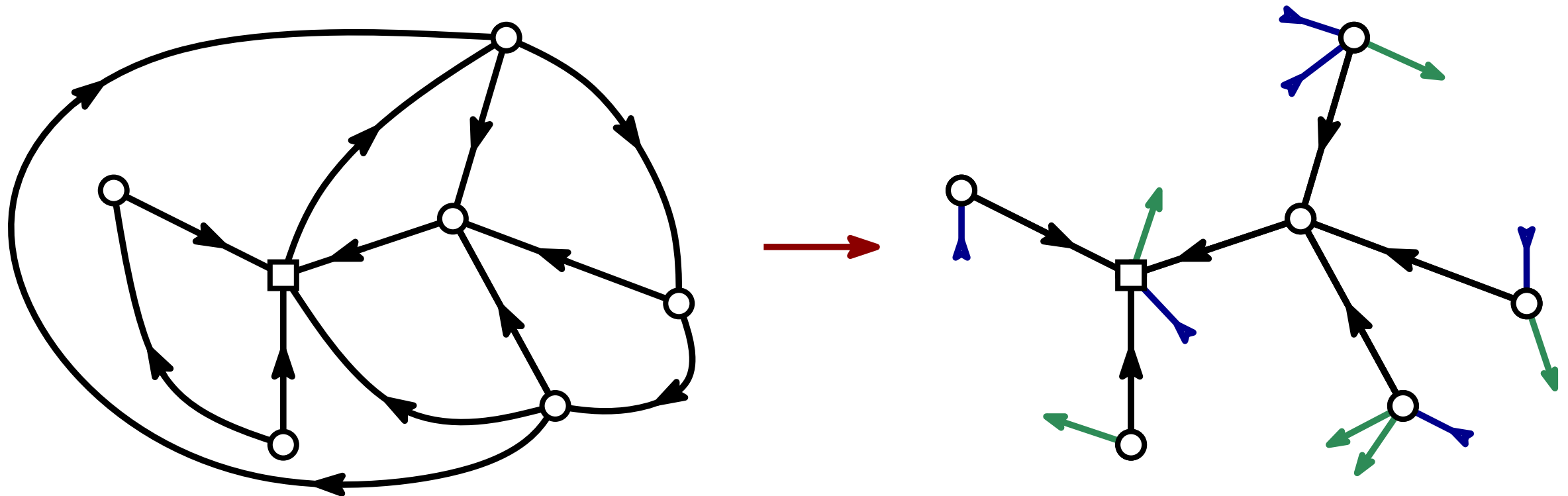
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Proof by induction on  
the number of faces +  
identification of closure  
edges .....



# Orientations

**Orientation** = orientation of the edges of the map.

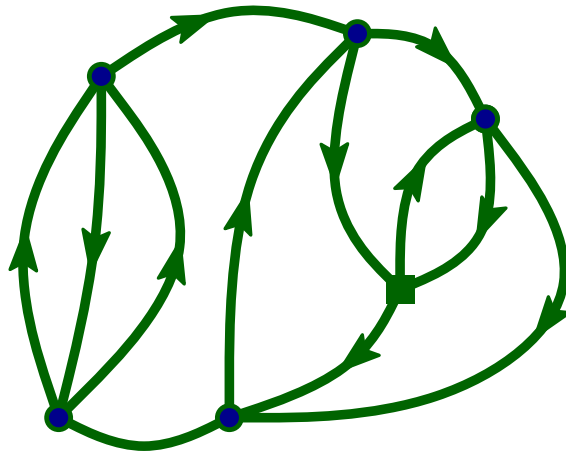
To apply the construction: need to find **canonical orientations**

# Orientations

**Orientation** = orientation of the edges of the map.

To apply the construction: need to find **canonical orientations**

## 4-regular maps



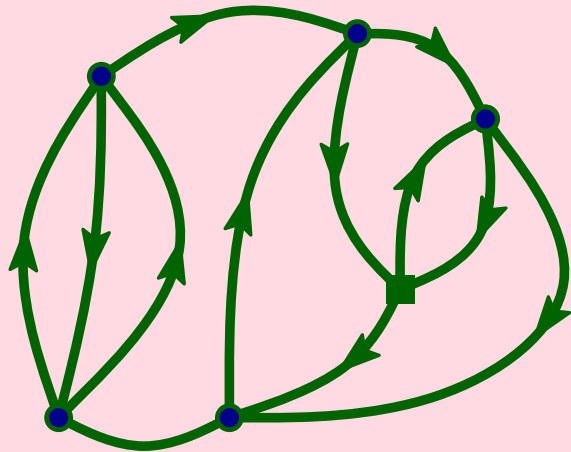
2 outgoing edges/vertex  
2 ingoing edges/vertex

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To apply the construction: need to find **canonical orientations**

## 4-regular maps



2 outgoing edges/vertex  
2 ingoing edges/vertex

**A map is 4-regular iff it admits an orientation with indegree 2 and outdegree 2 for each vertex.**

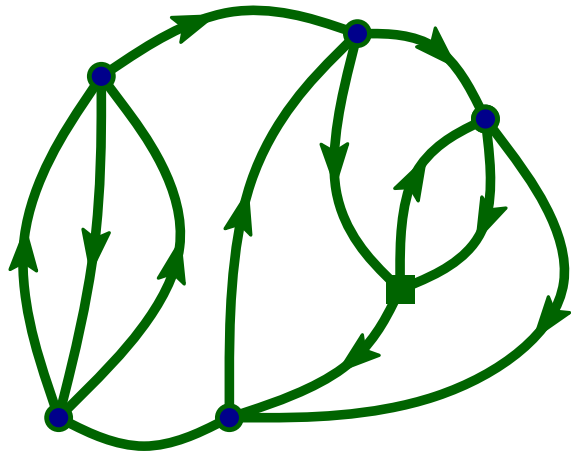


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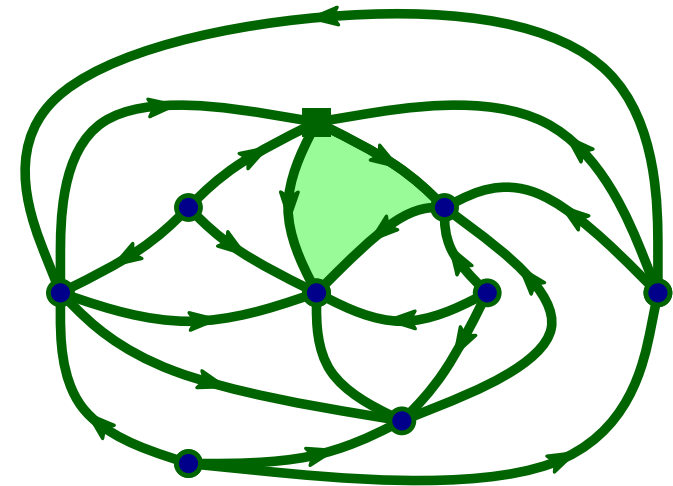
## 4-regular maps



2 outgoing edges/vertex  
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## Simple triangulations



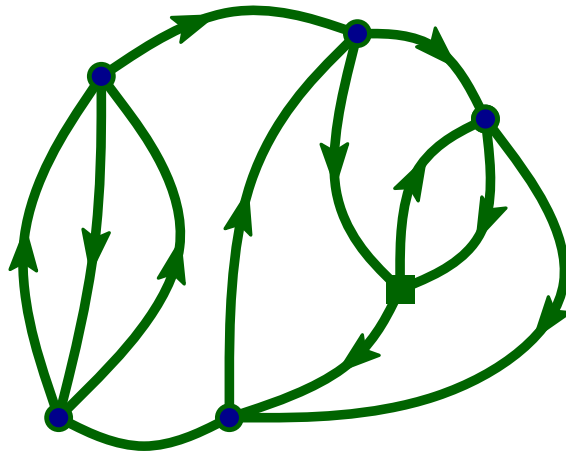
3 outgoing edges / non-root vertex  
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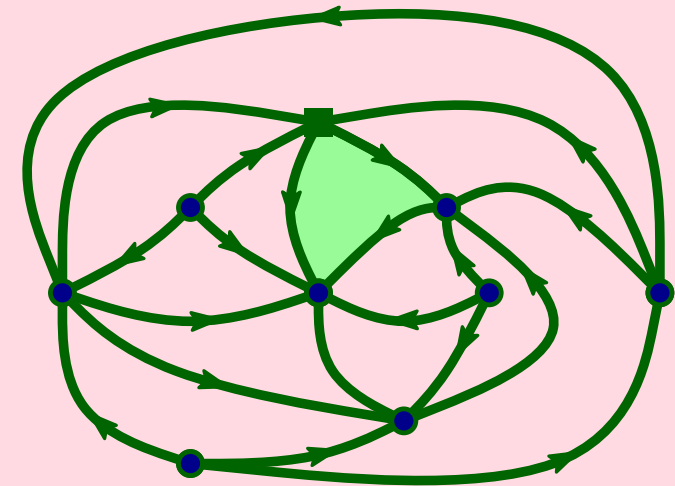
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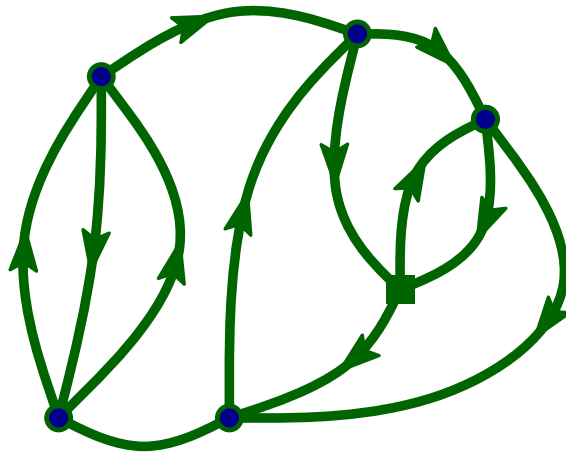


3 outgoing edges / non-root vertex  
1 outgoing edge / root vertex

**A triangulation is simple iff it admits an orientation with:  
outdegree 3 for each non-root vertex  
outdegree 1 for each vertex on the root face.**

# Orientations

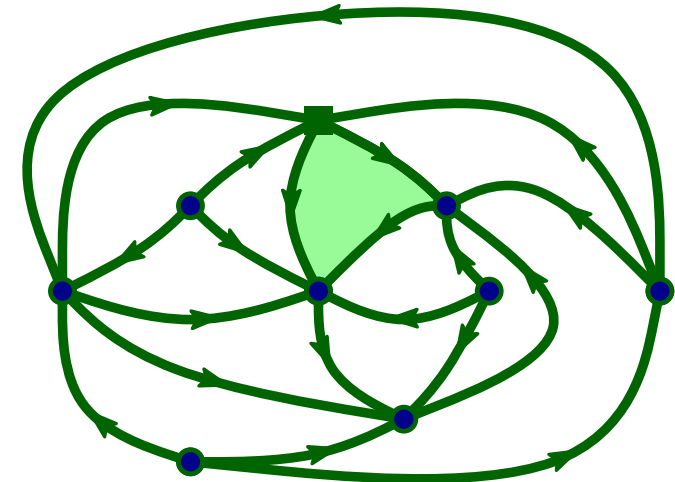
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## Simple triangulations



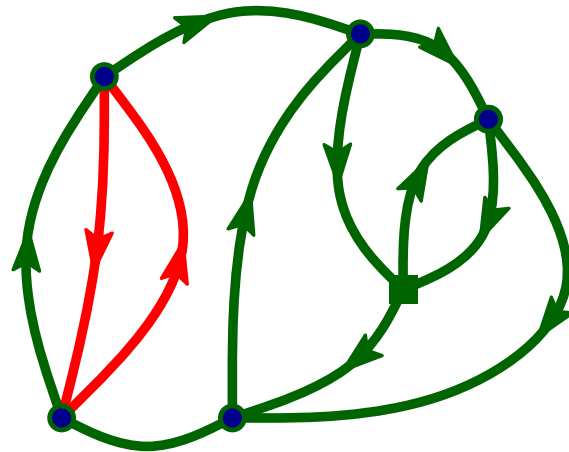
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**Many families admit a characterization via orientations**

(description of the orientation = outdegree for each vertex is prescribed)

# Orientations

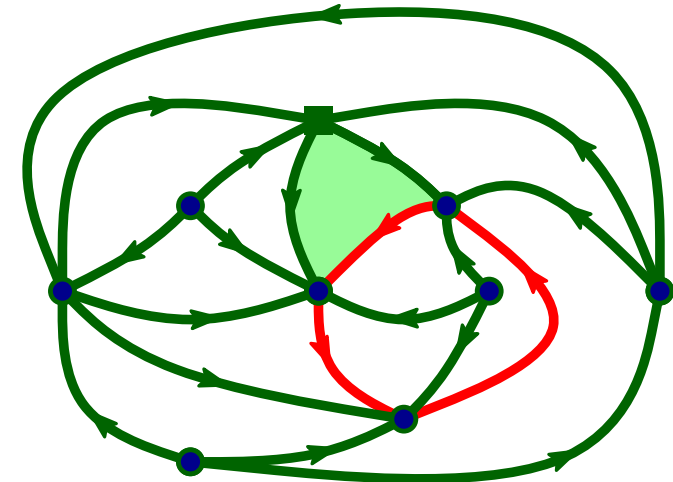
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## Simple triangulations



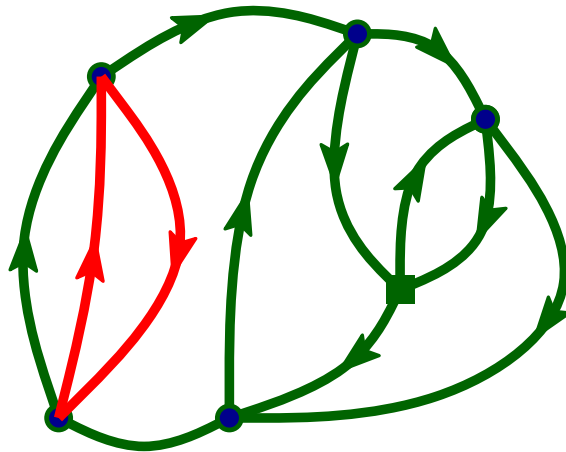
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Theorem requires accessible orientation without ccw cycles:

Too much to ask ?

# Orientations

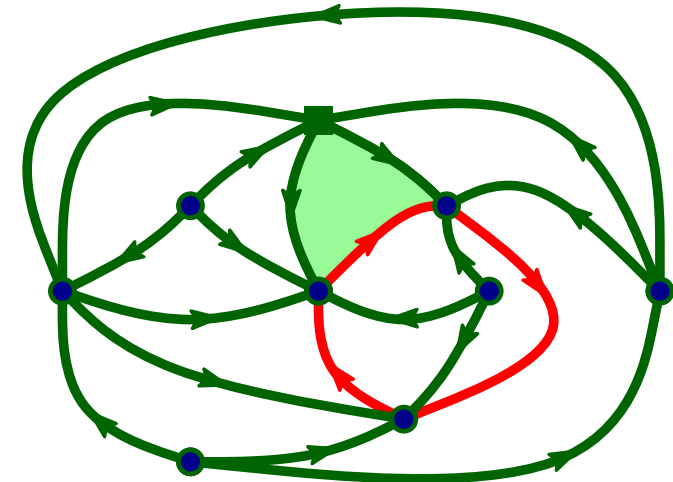
## 4-regular maps



2 outgoing edges/vertex  
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## Simple triangulations



3 outgoing edges / non-root vertex  
1 outgoing edge / root vertex

Theorem requires accessible orientation without ccw cycles: **NO !**

Too much to ask ?

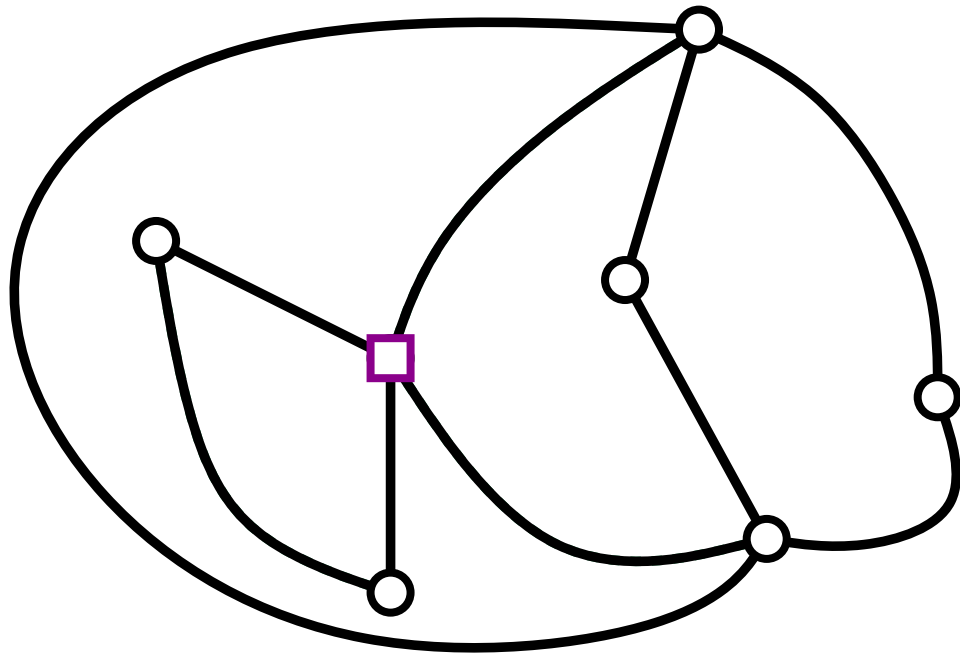
**Proposition:** [Felsner '04]

For a given map and orientation, there exists a unique orientation with the same outdegrees and without ccw cycles.

If there exists one accessible such orientation, all of them are accessible.

# Summary

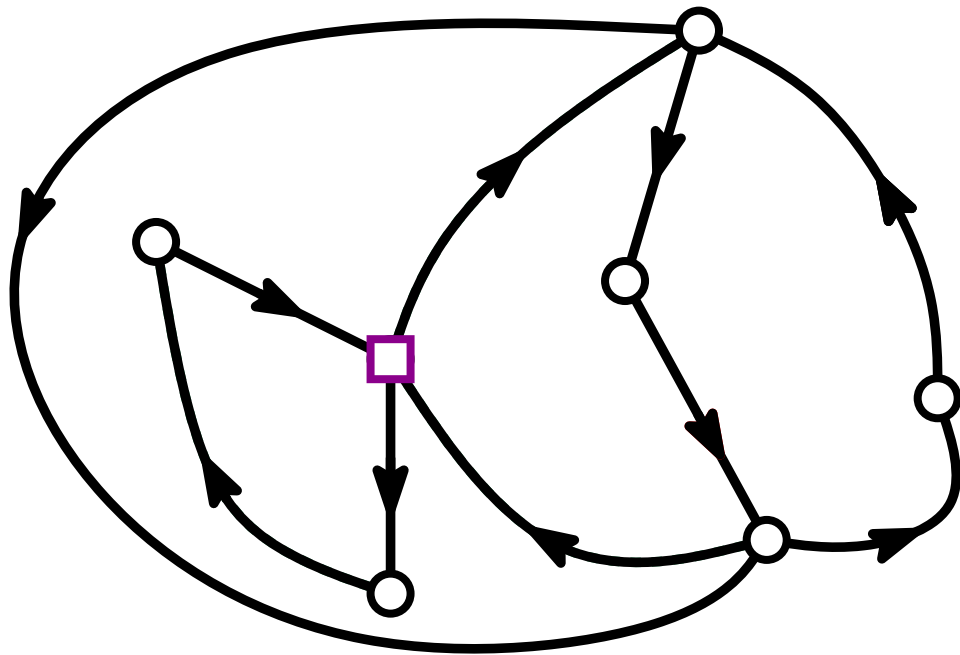
- Take a family of maps,



Maps with even degrees.

# Summary

- Take a family of maps,
- Try to find a characterization of the family by an orientation,

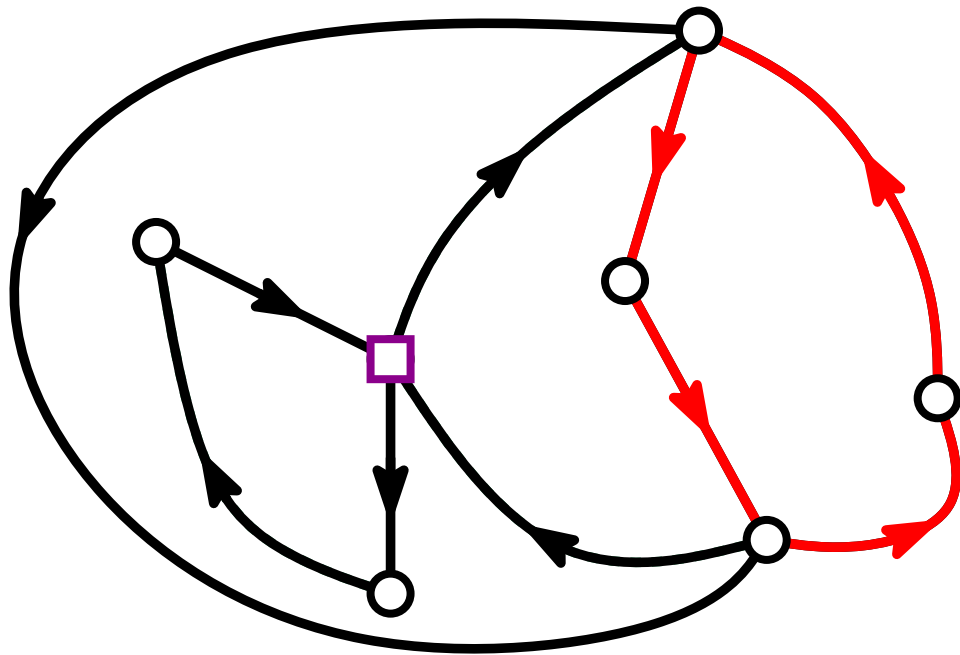


Maps with even degrees.

Orientations with same out/in degrees

## Summary

- Take a family of maps,
- Try to find a characterization of the family by an orientation,
- Consider the unique orientation without counterclockwise cycles,



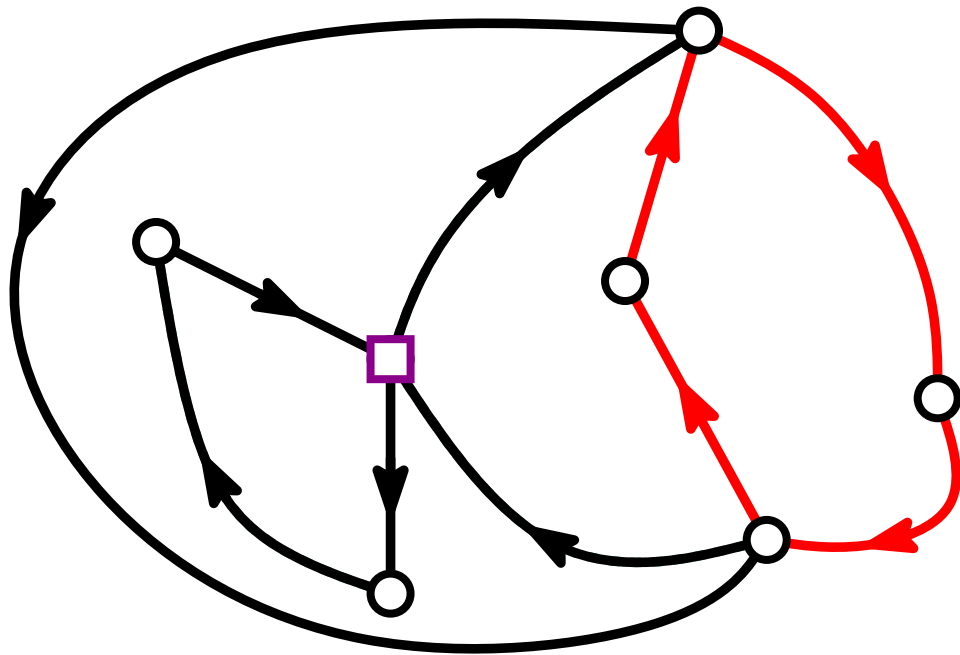
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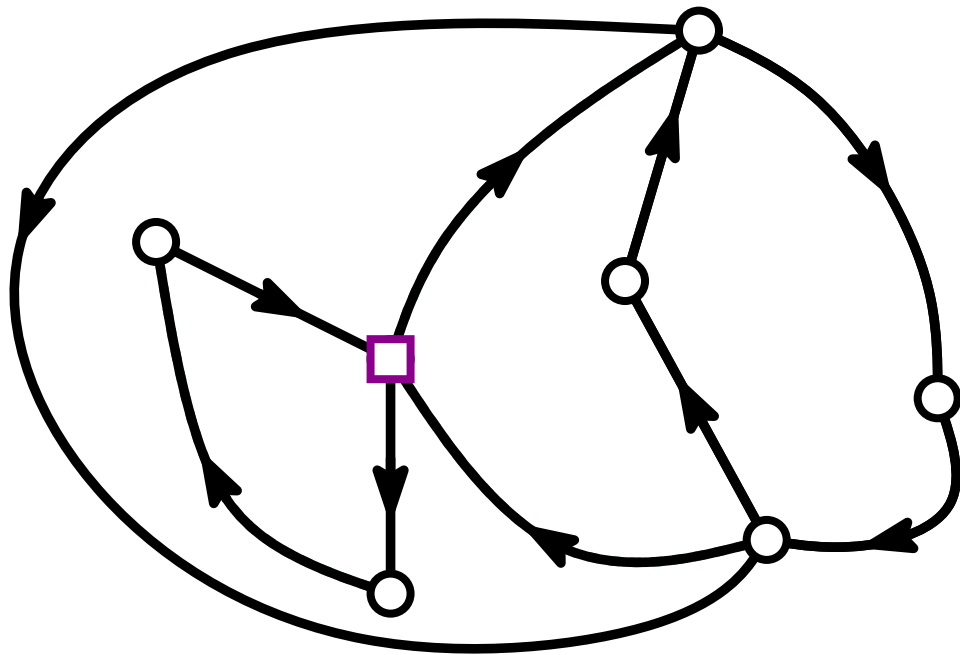


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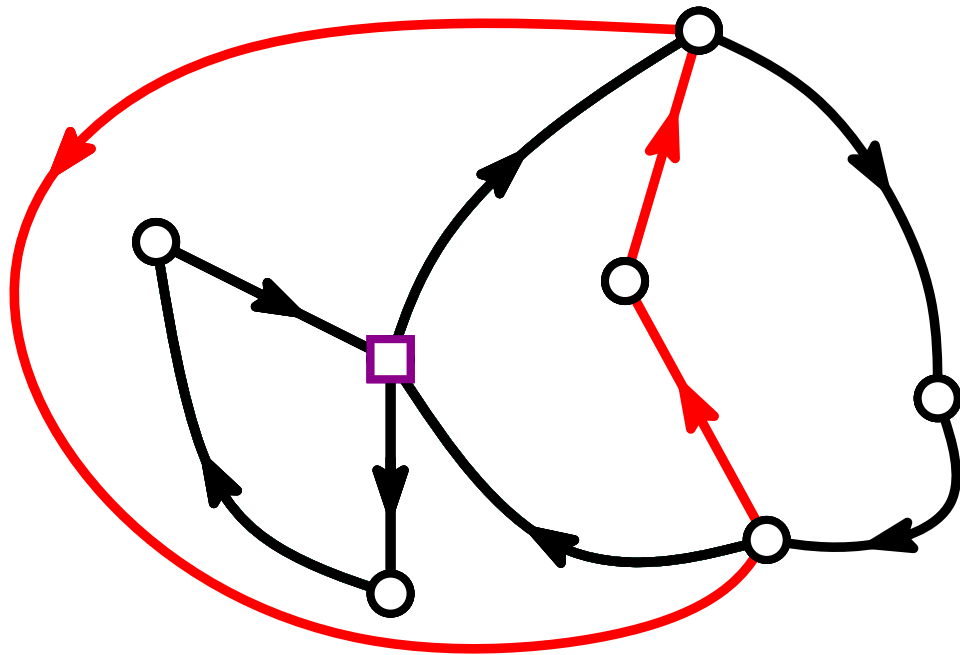


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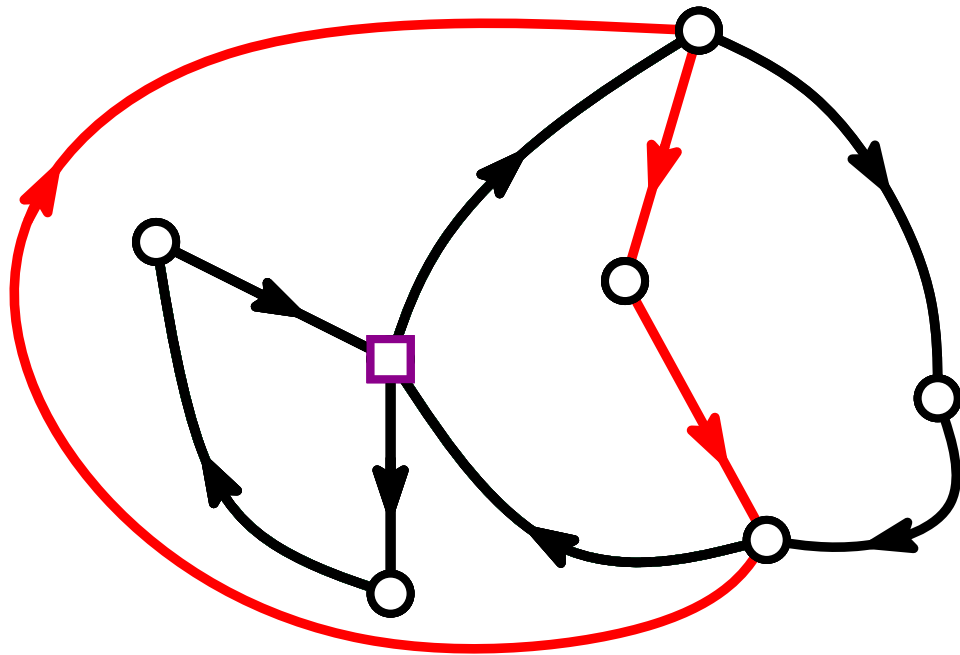


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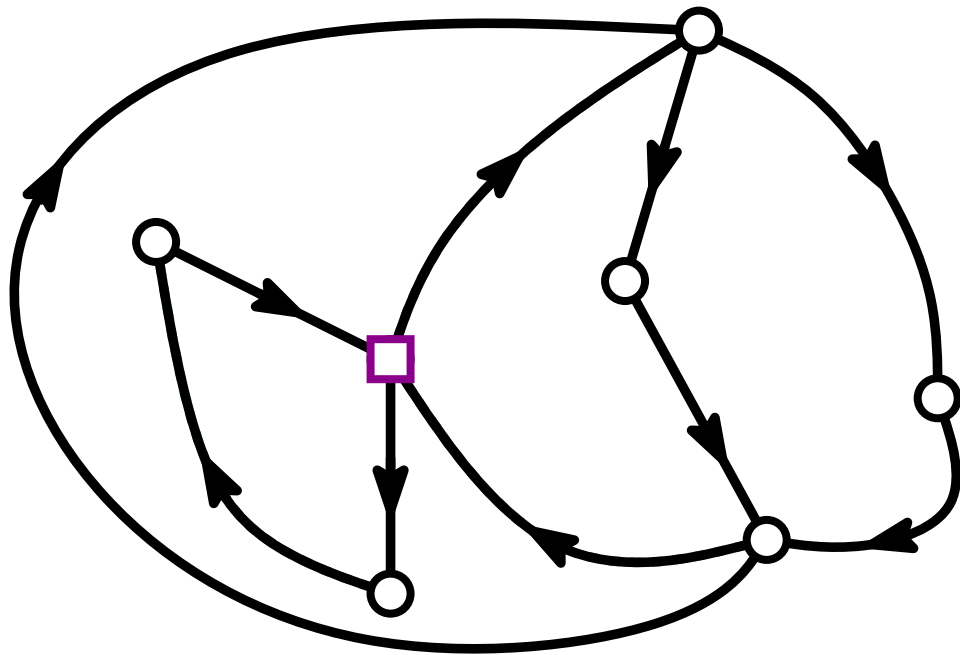


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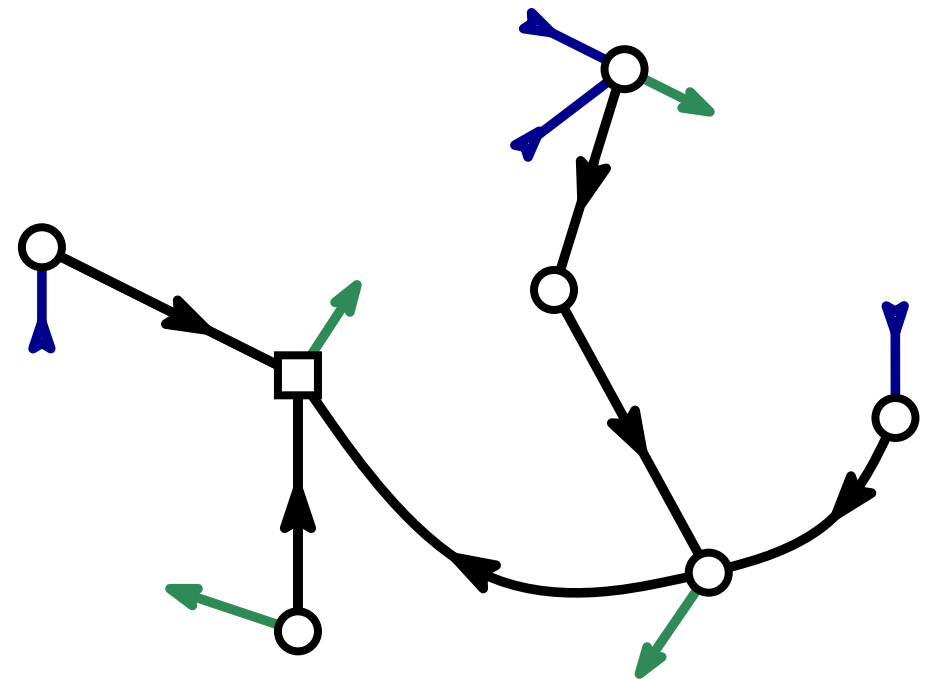
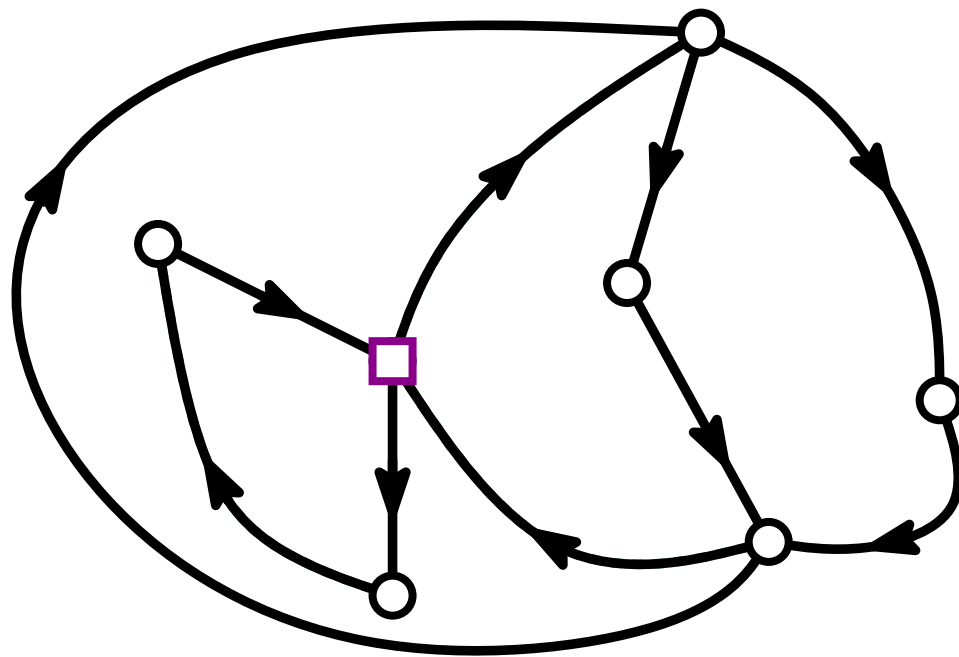


Maps with even degrees.

Orientations with same out/in degrees

## Summary

- Take a family of maps,
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- Consider the unique orientation without counterclockwise cycles,
- Apply the bijection,

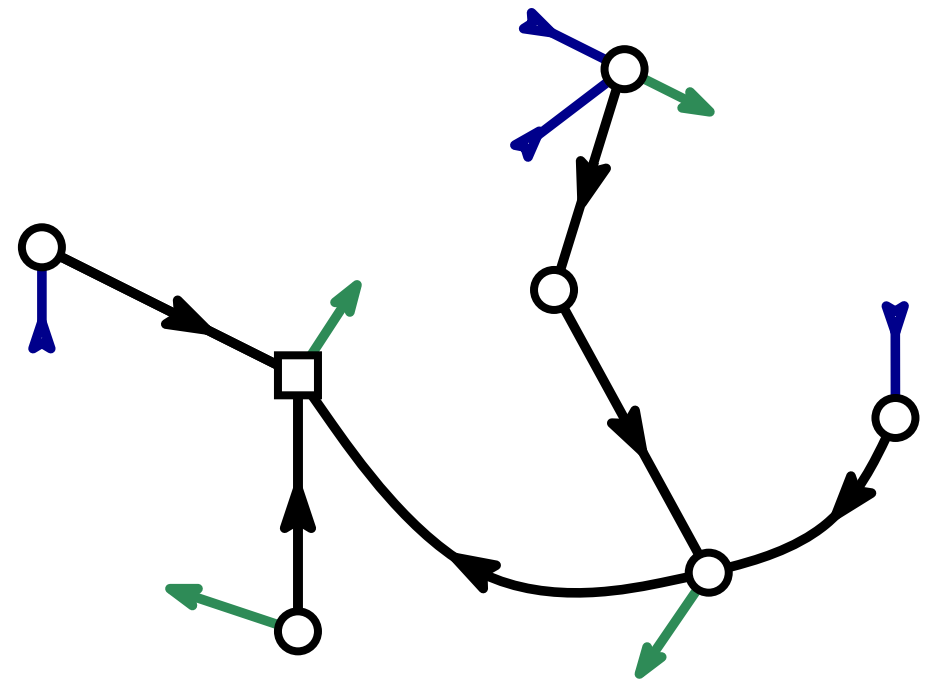
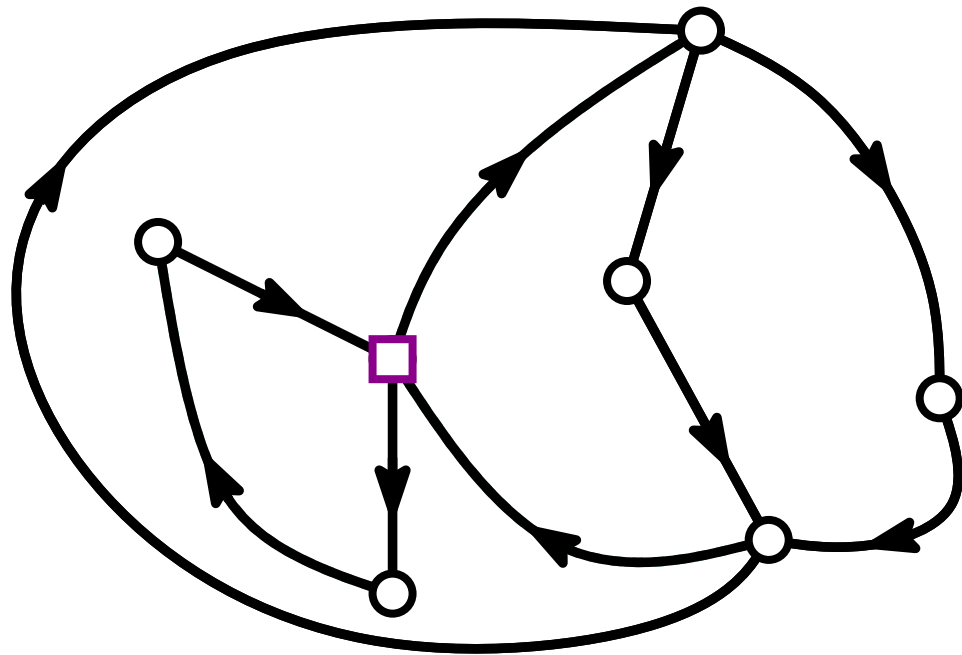


Maps with even degrees.

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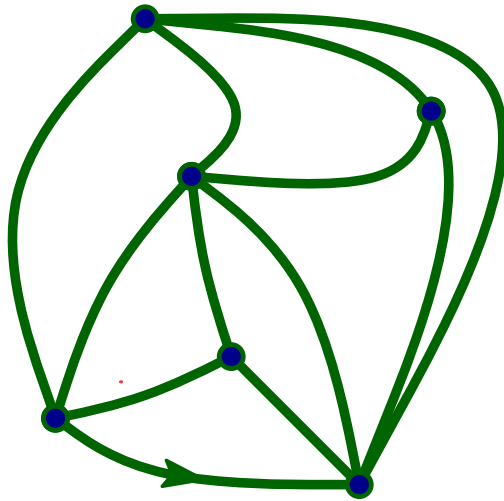
- Take a family of maps,
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- Apply the bijection,
- Study the family of blossoming trees.



Maps with even degrees.  
Orientations with same out/in degrees

Trees with same out/in degrees

# Distances in blossoming trees: simple triangulations



Simple Triangulation :  
no multiple edges  
no loops

Euler Formula :  $v + f = 2 + e$

Triangulation :  $2e = 3f$

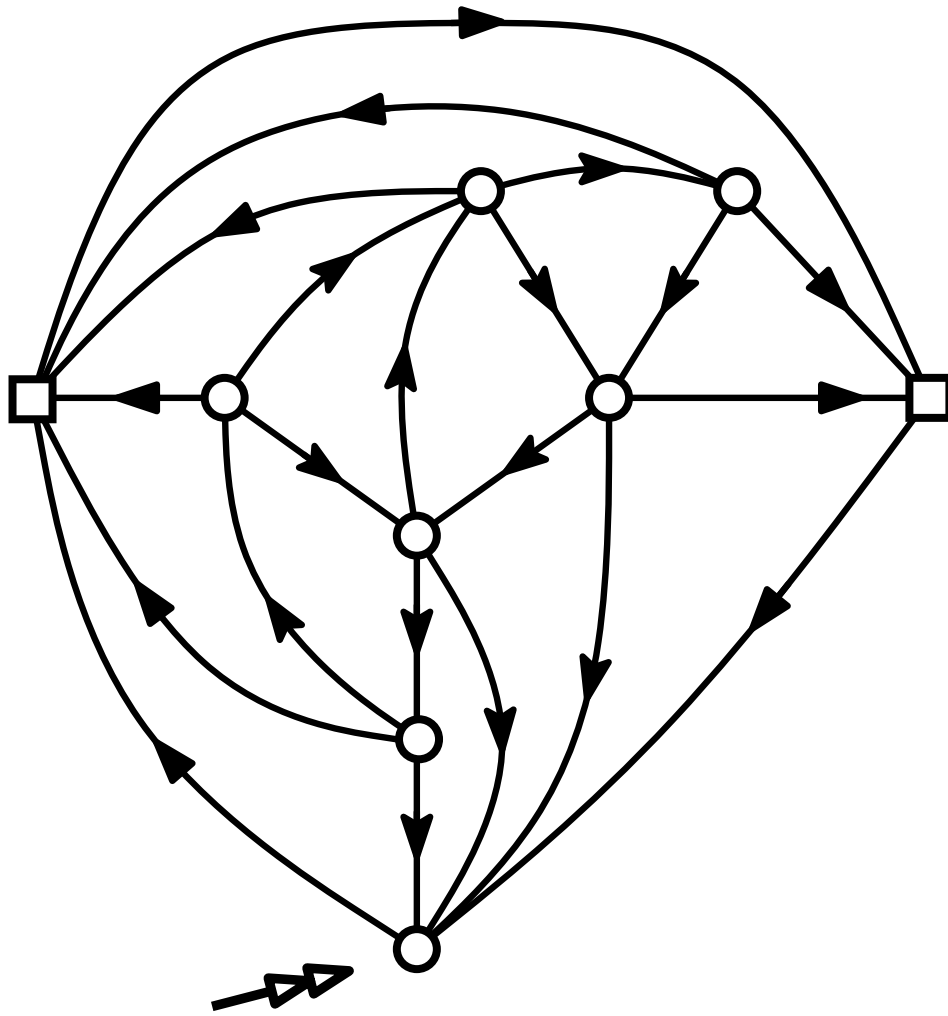
$\mathcal{M}_n = \{\text{Simple triangulations of size } n\}$   
=  $n + 2$  vertices,  $2n$  faces,  $3n$  edges

$M_n = \text{Random element of } \mathcal{M}_n$

What is the behavior of  $M_n$  when  $n$  goes to infinity ?  
typical distances ? Scaling limit of  $M_n$  ?



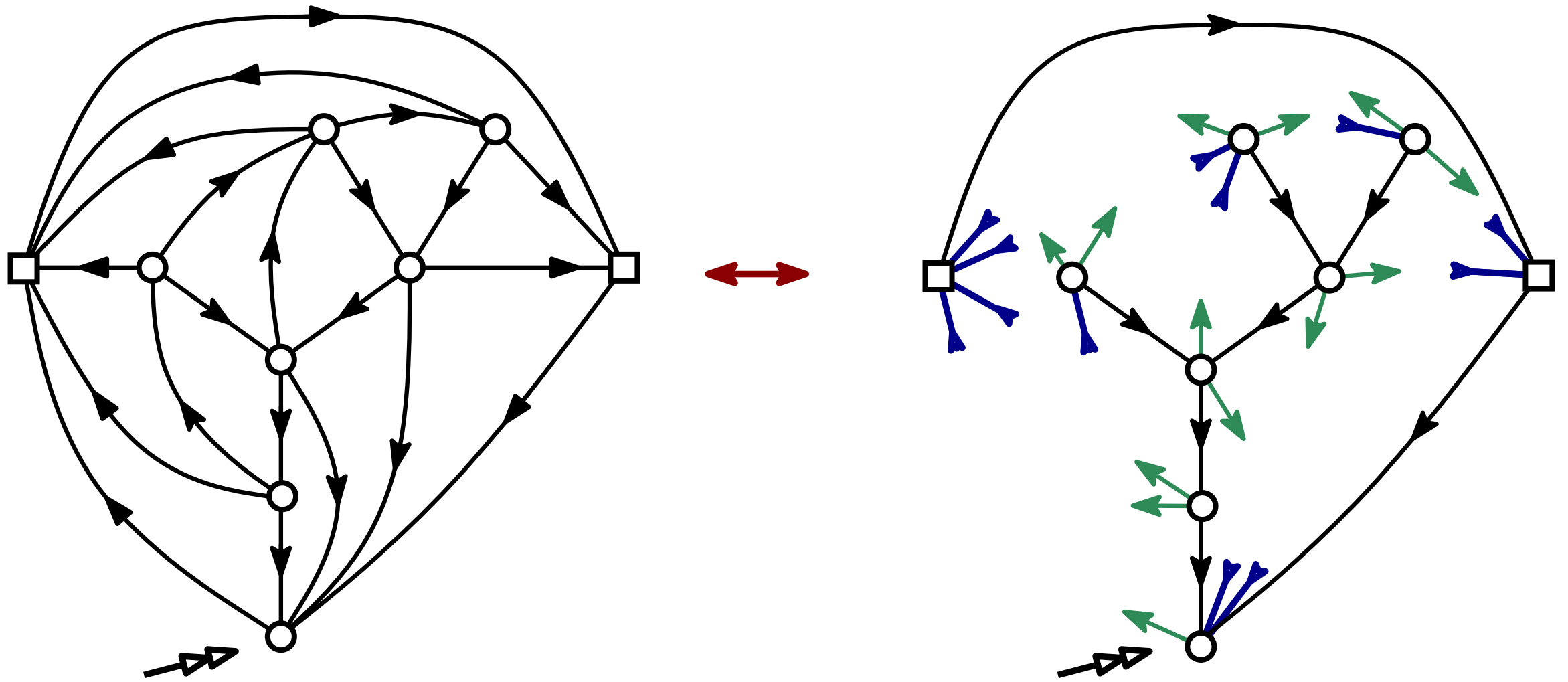
# From simple triangulations to blossoming trees



Simple triangulation endowed with its unique orientation such that :

- no counterclockwise cycle
- $\text{out}(v) = 3$  for  $v$  an inner vertex
- $\text{out}(v) = 1$  for  $v$  an outer vertex

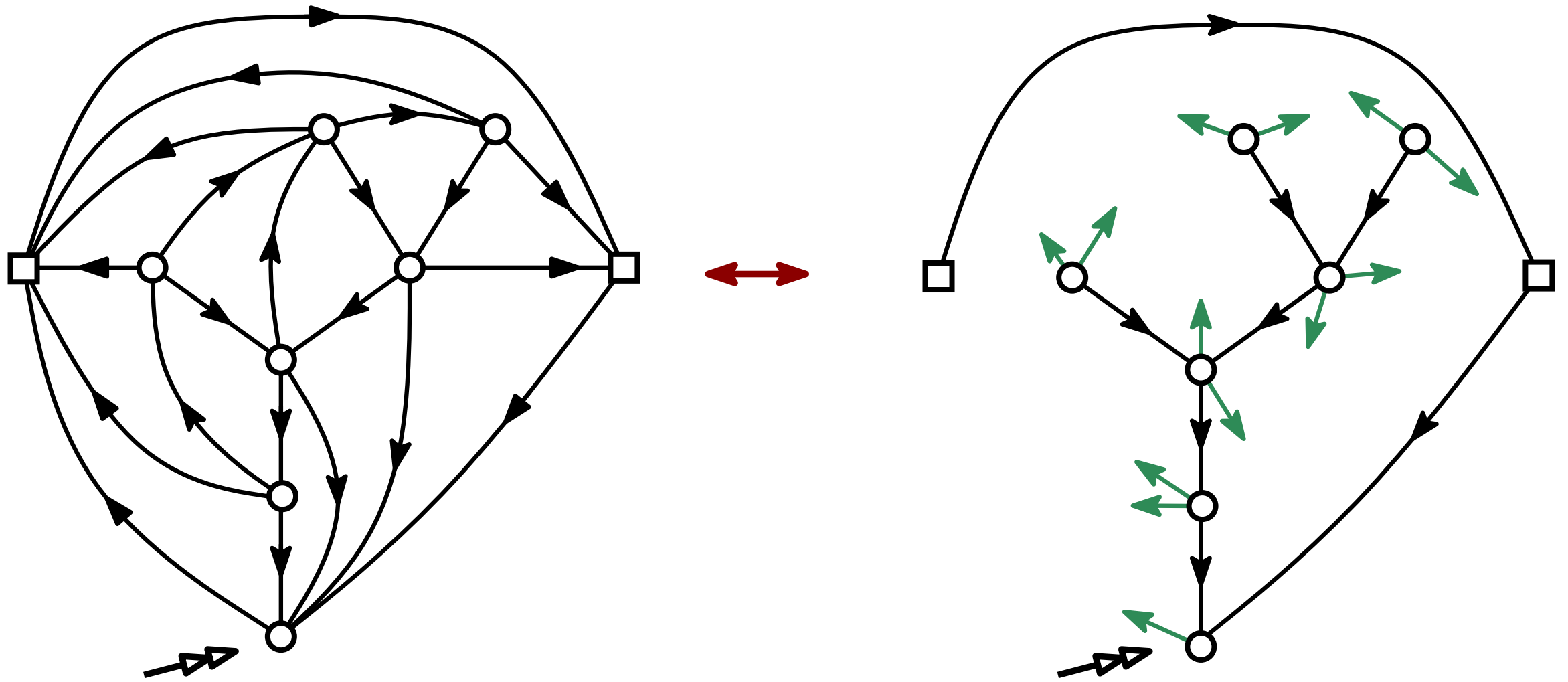
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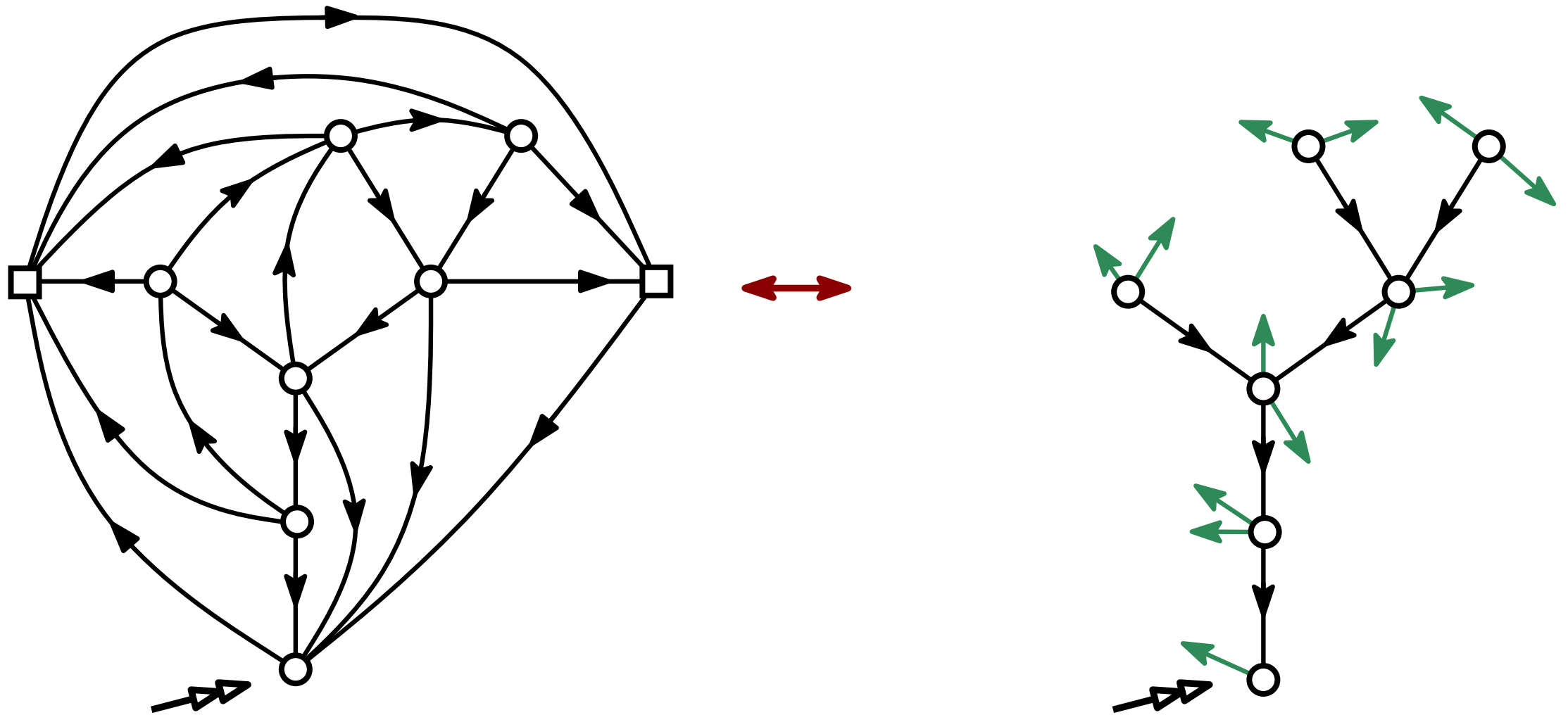
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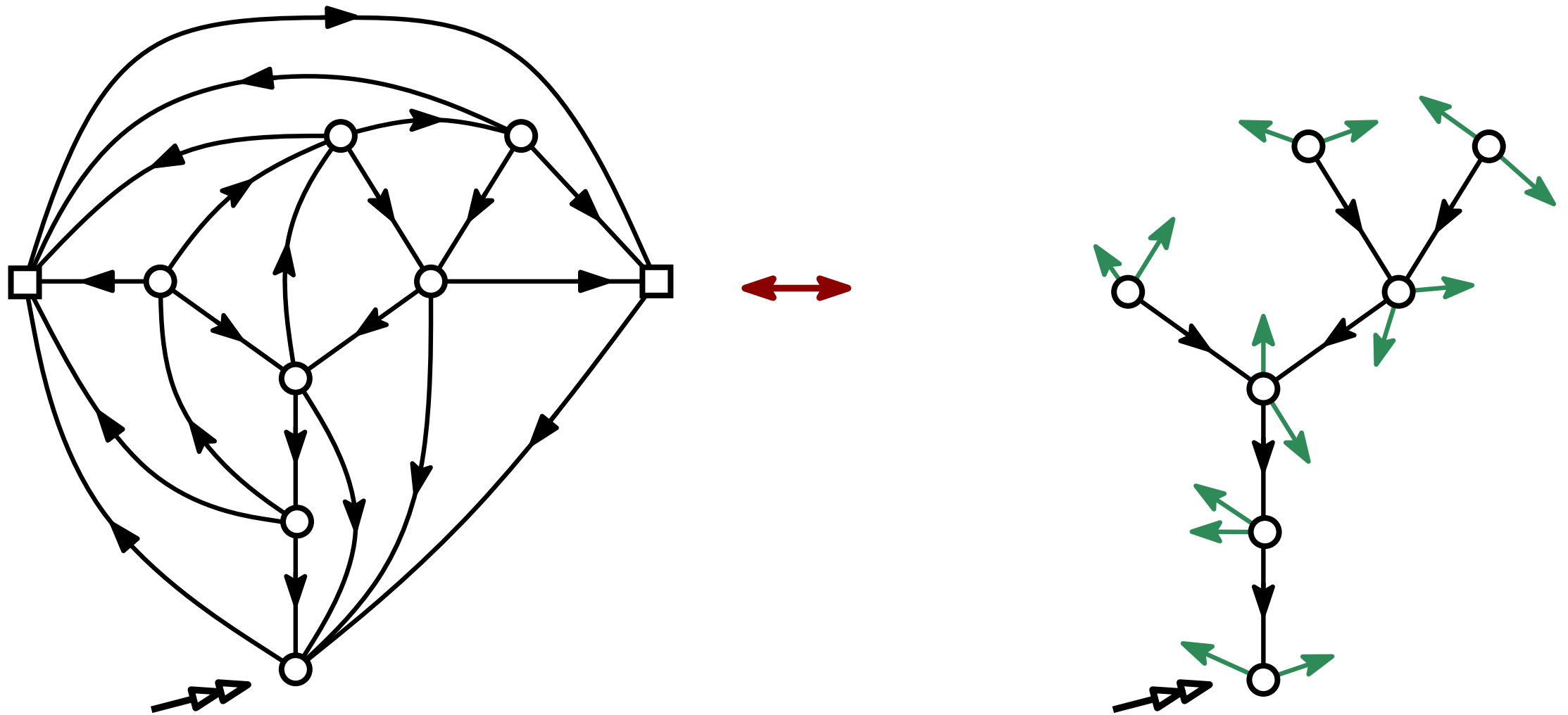
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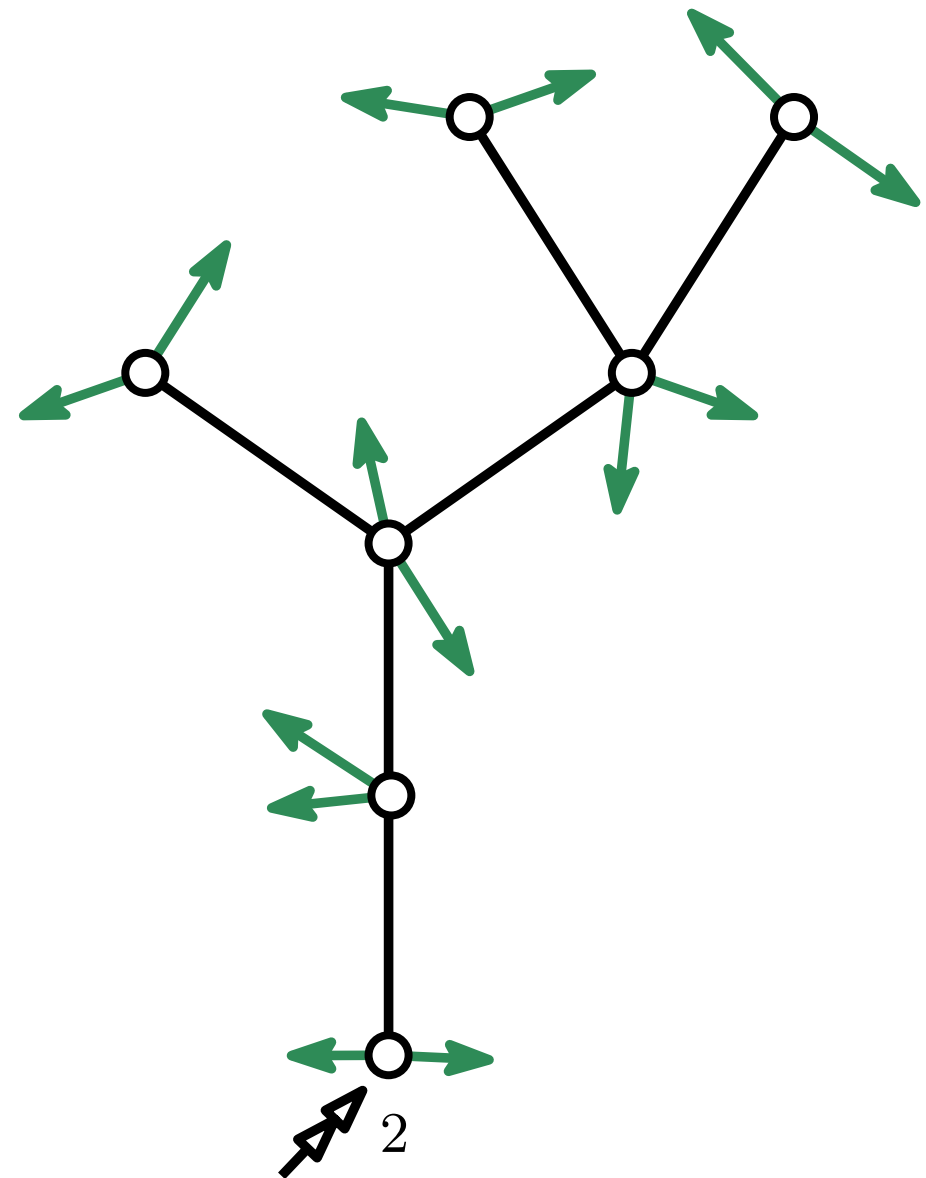


**Theorem:** [Poulalhon, Schaeffer '05]

The closure operation is a bijection between balanced 2-blossoming trees and simple triangulations.

# Same bijection with corner labels

- Start with a planted 2-blossoming tree.
- Give the root corner label 2.

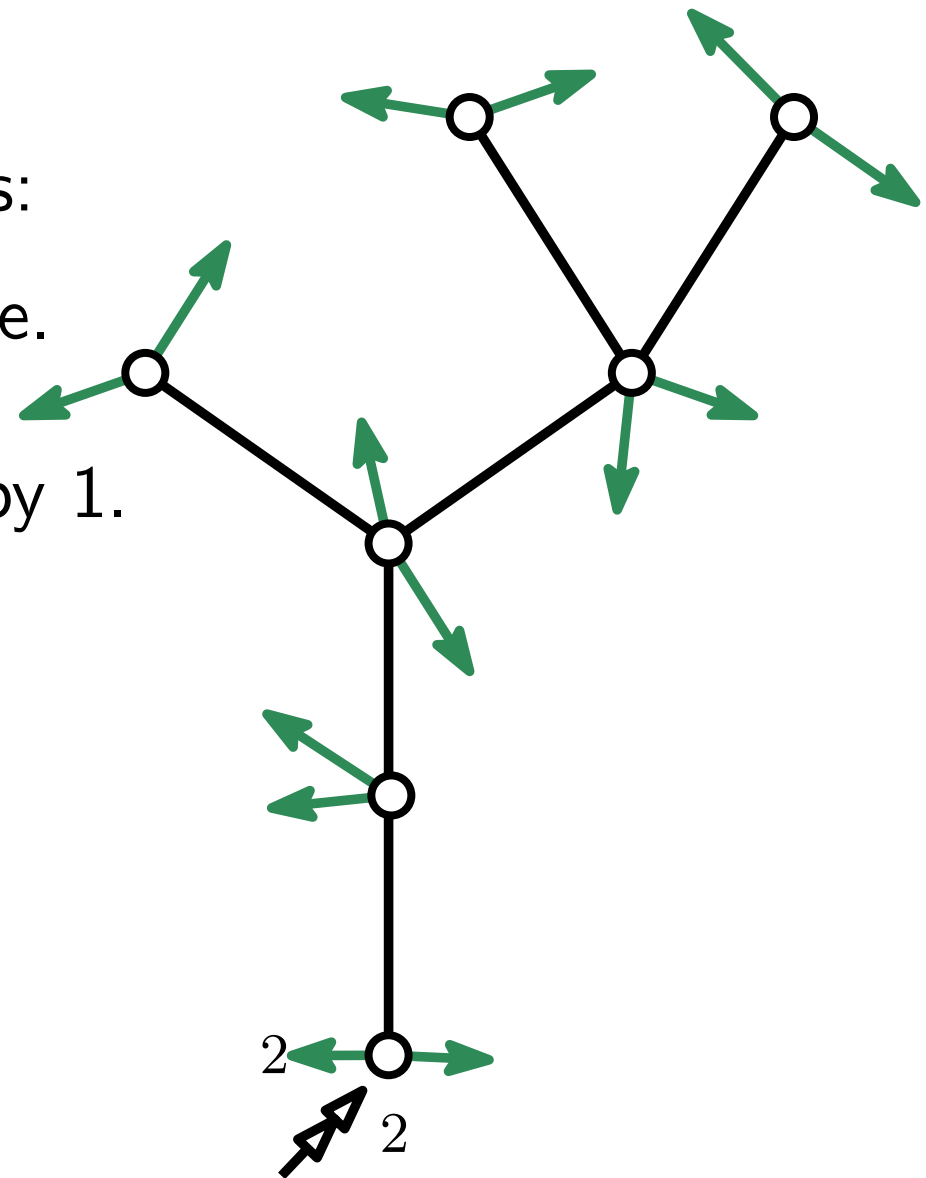


# Same bijection with corner labels

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In contour order, apply the following rules:

- Non-leaf to leaf, label does not change.
- Leaf to non-leaf, label increases by 1.
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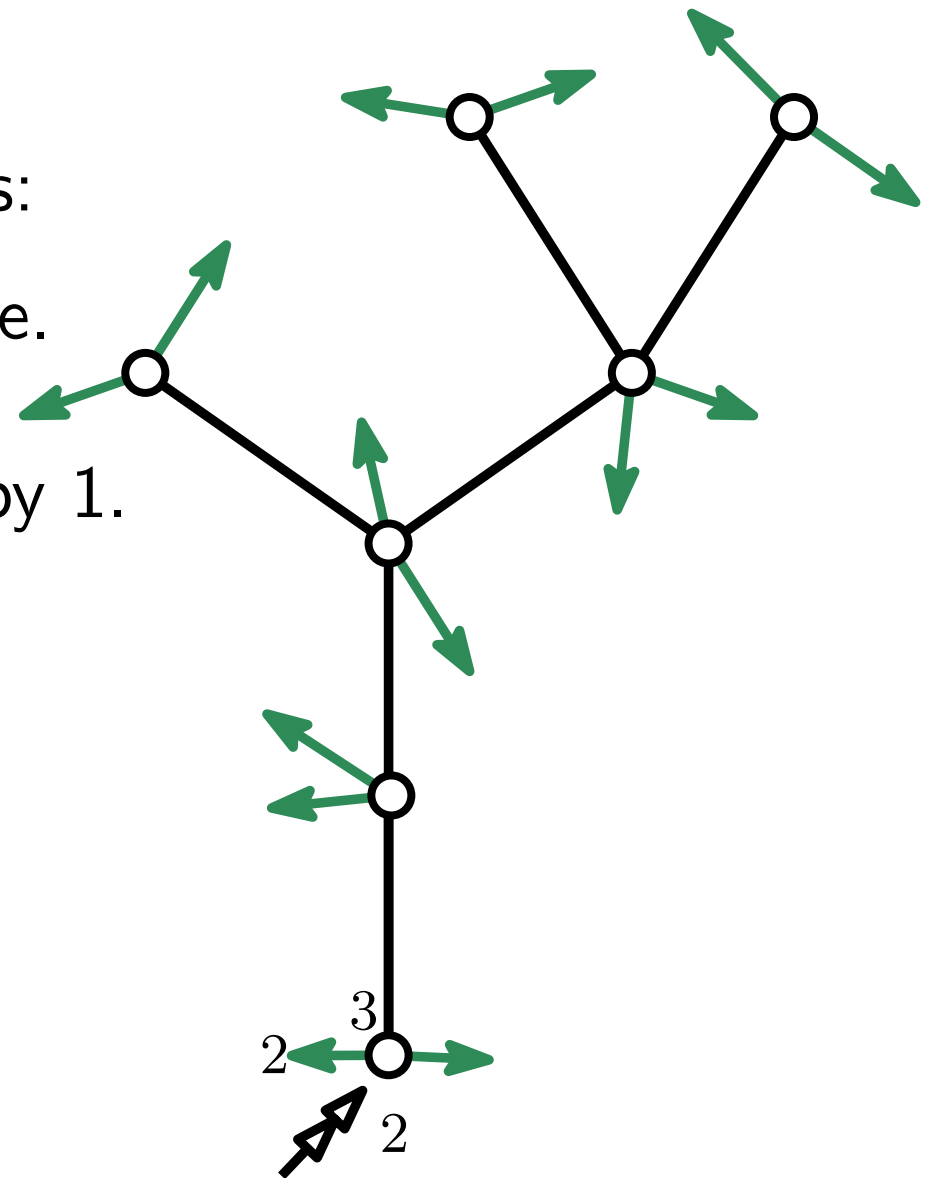


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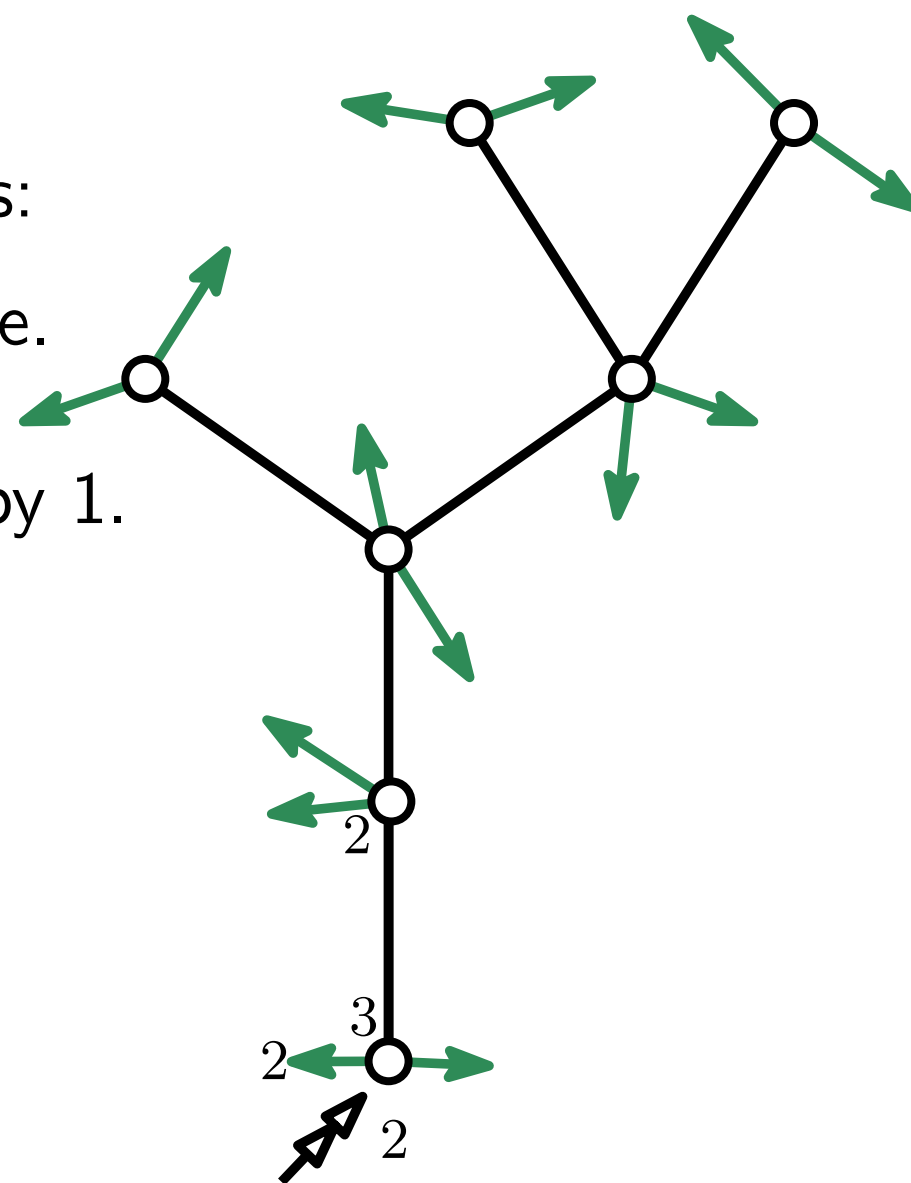


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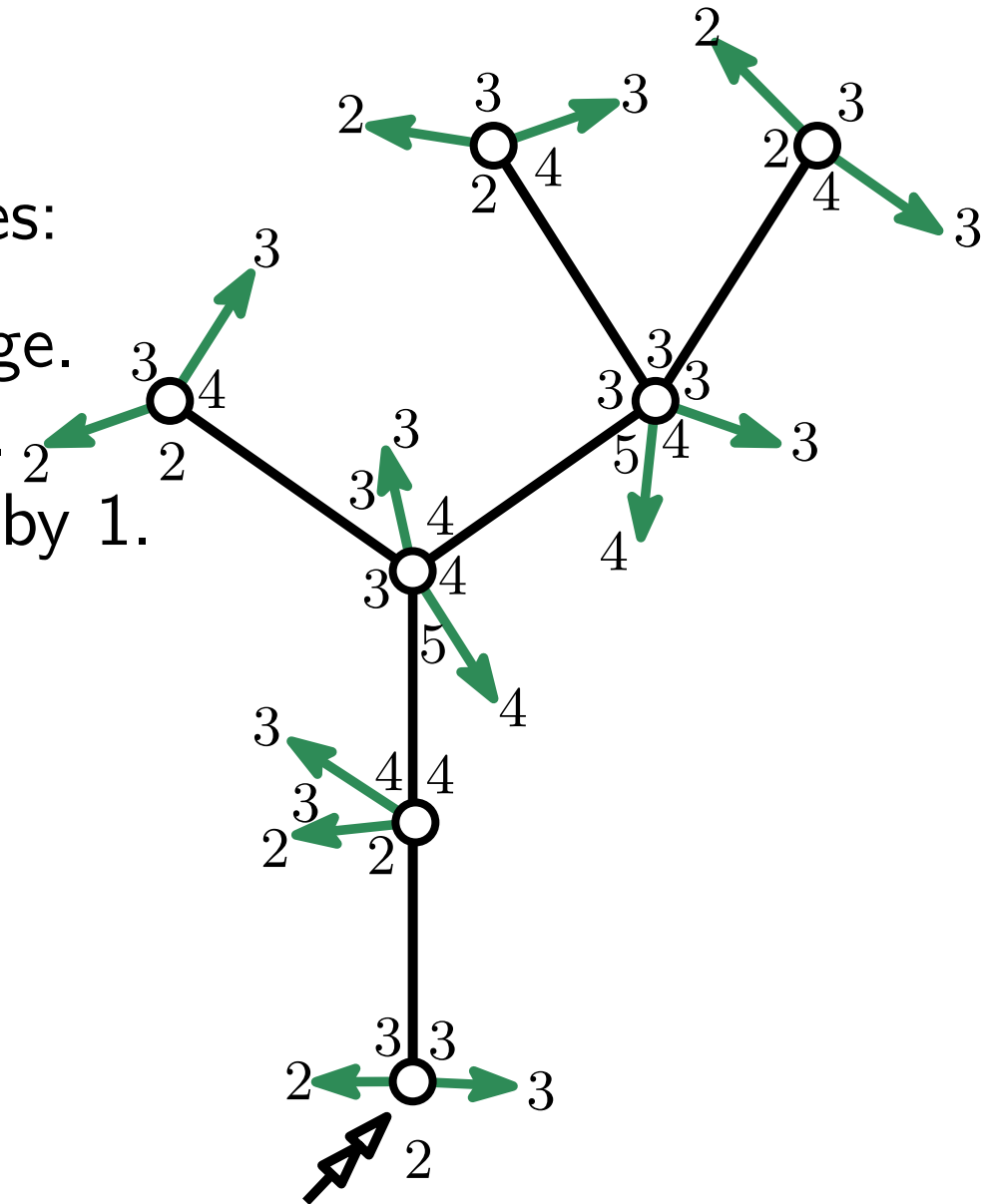


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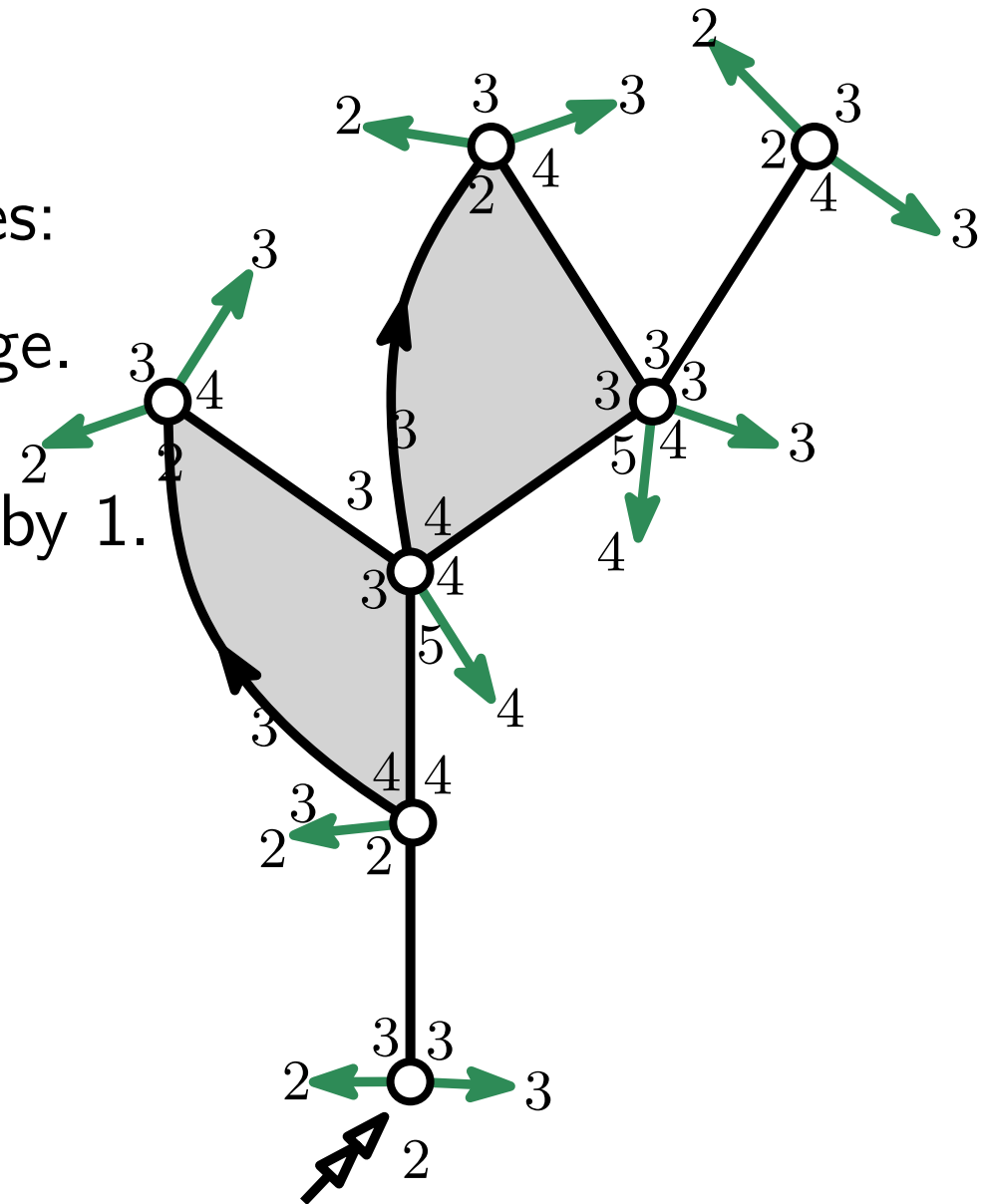
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Aside: Tree is balanced  $\Leftrightarrow$

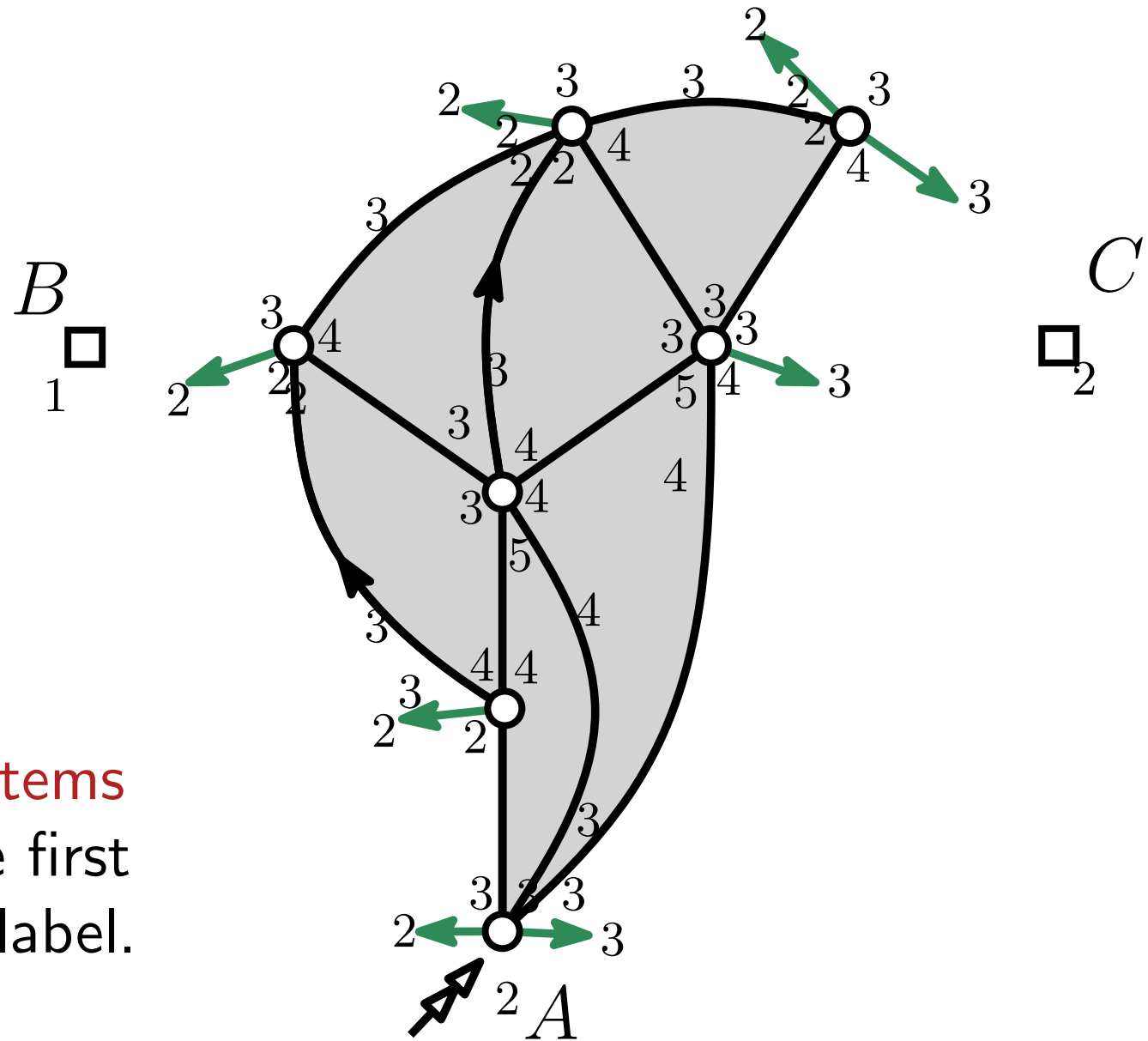
all labels  $\geq 2$

+root corner incident to two stems

Closure: Merge each leaf with the first subsequent corner with a smaller label.



# Same bijection with corner labels



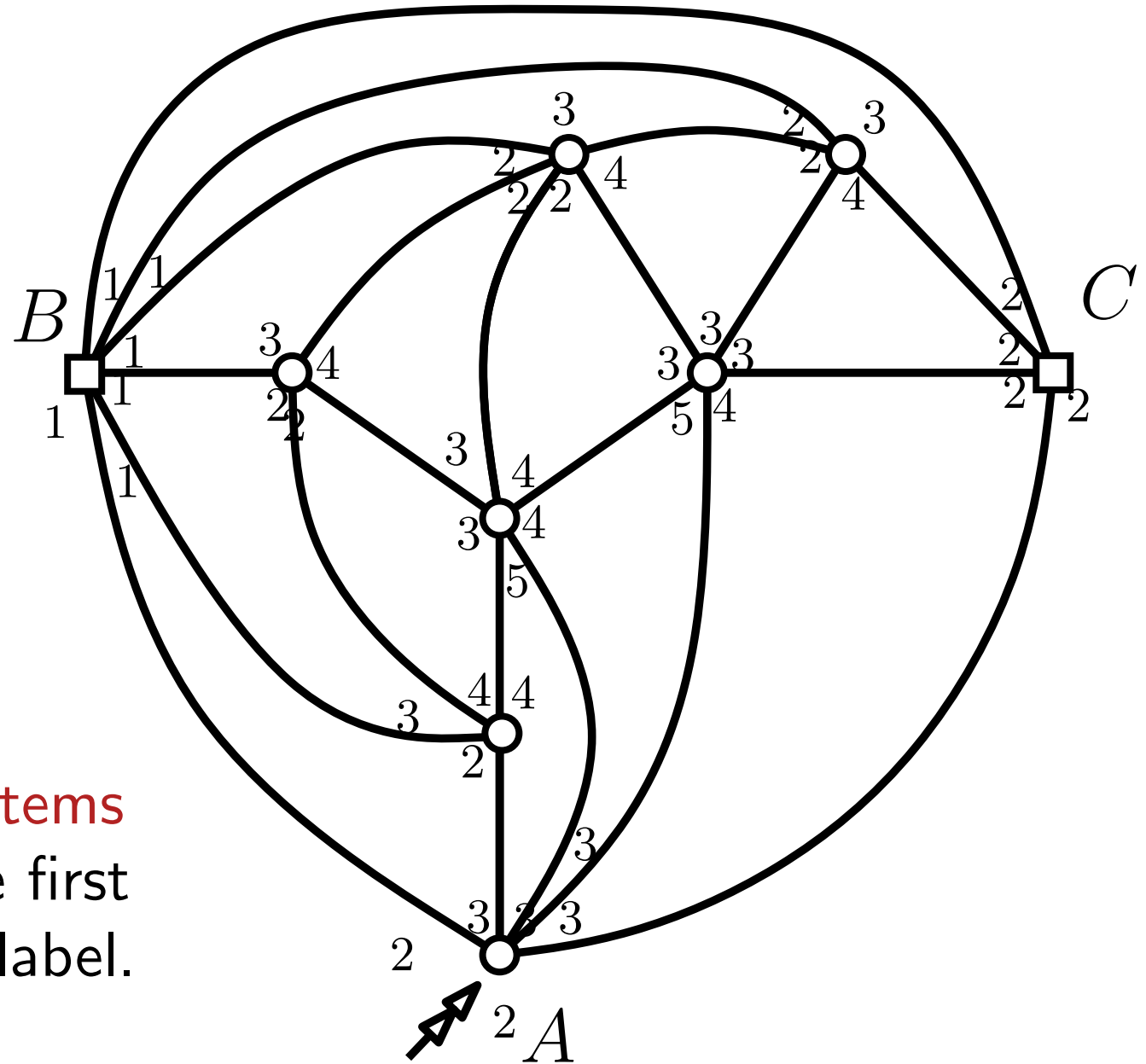
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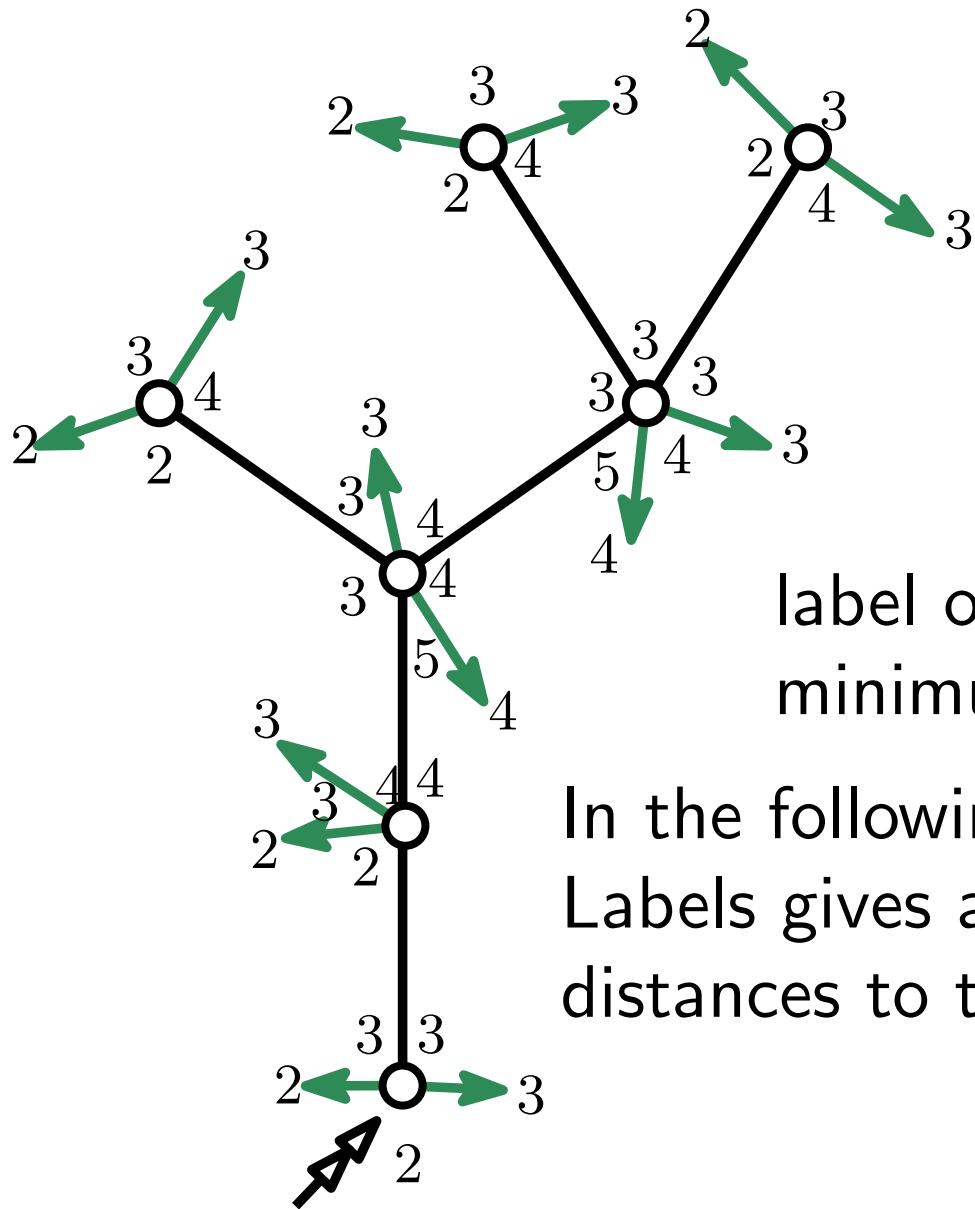
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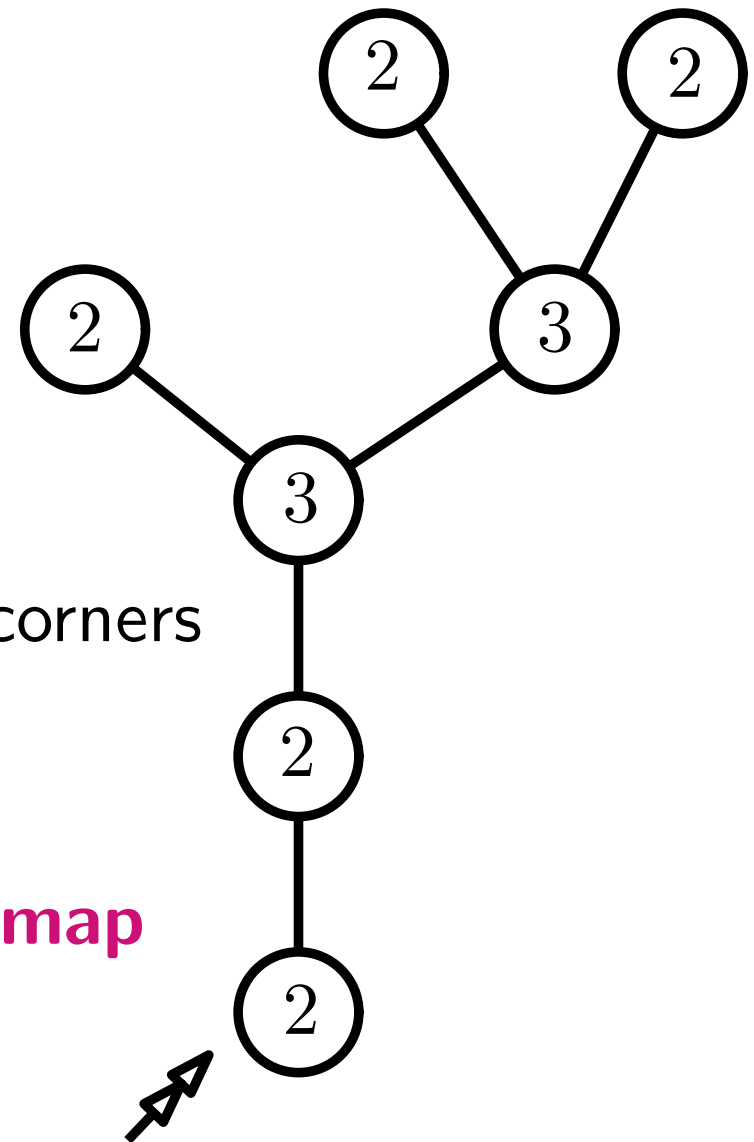
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# From blossoming trees to labeled trees

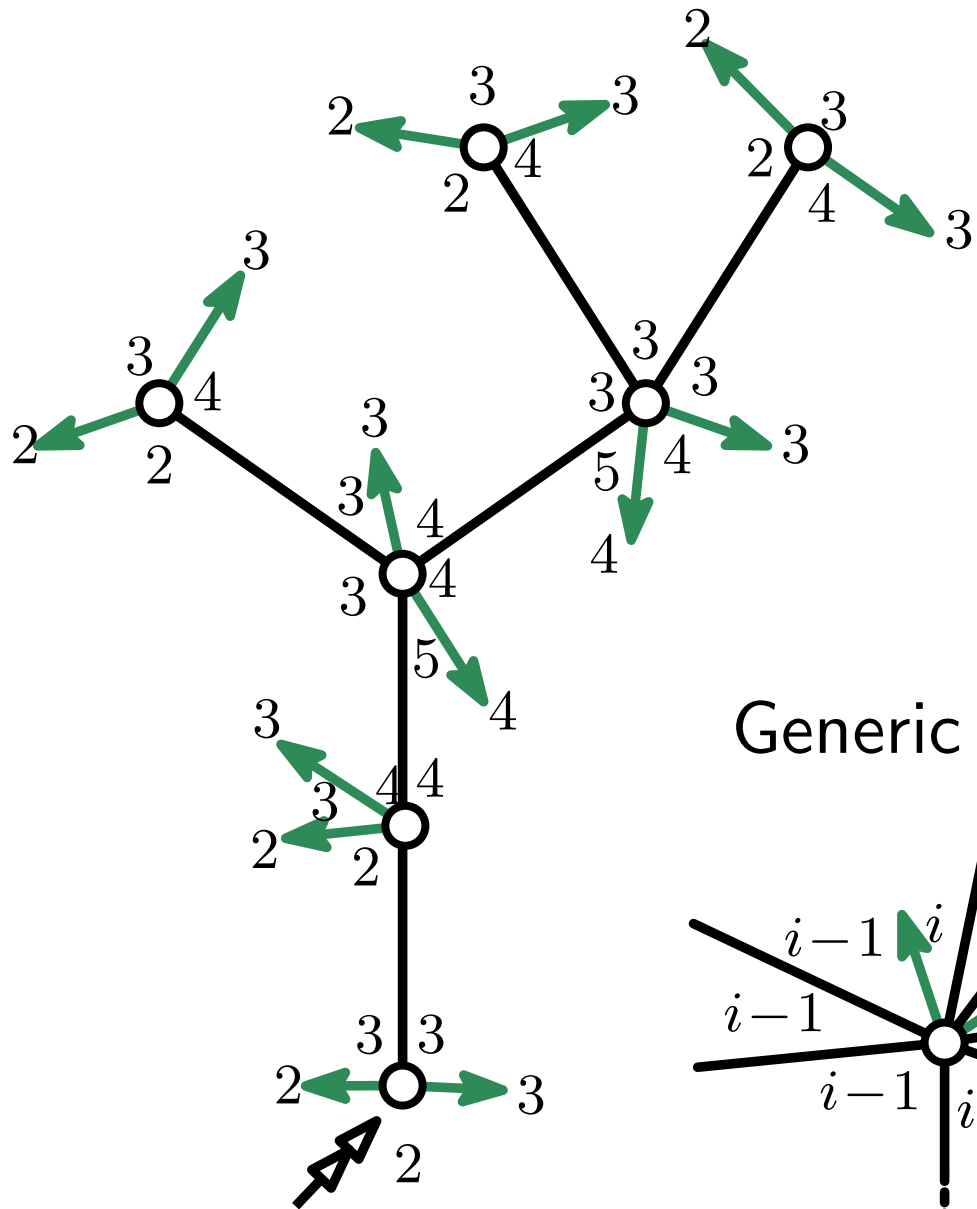


label of a vertex =  
minimum label of its corners

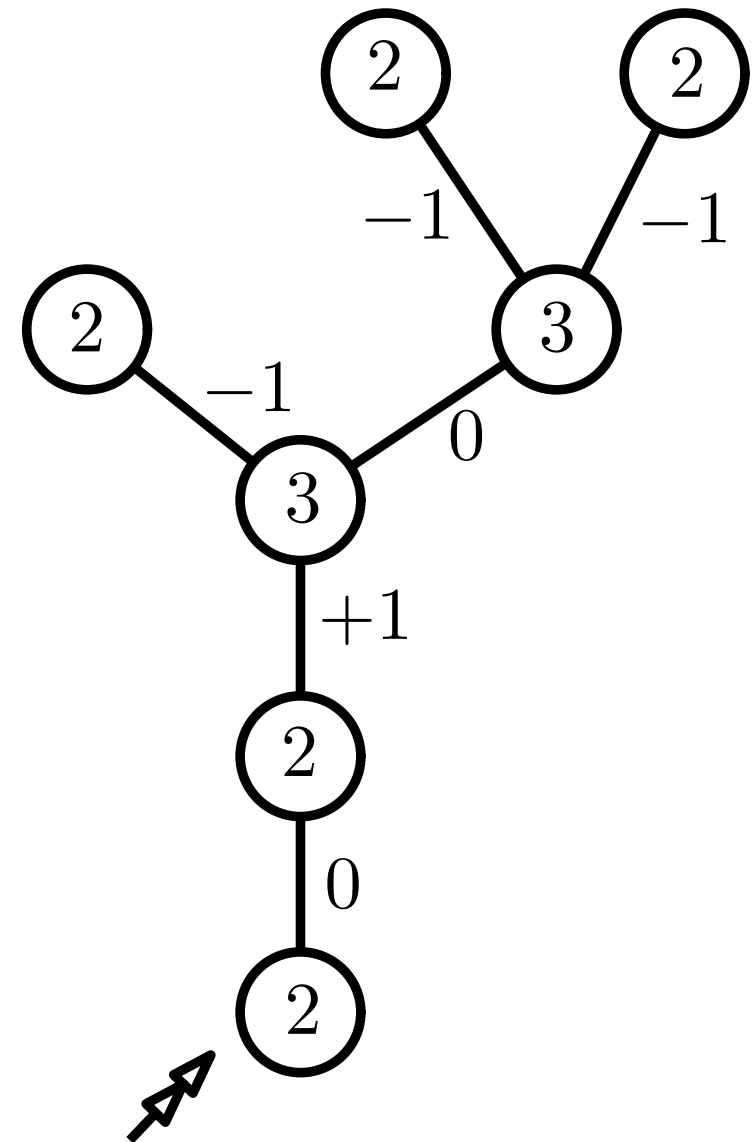
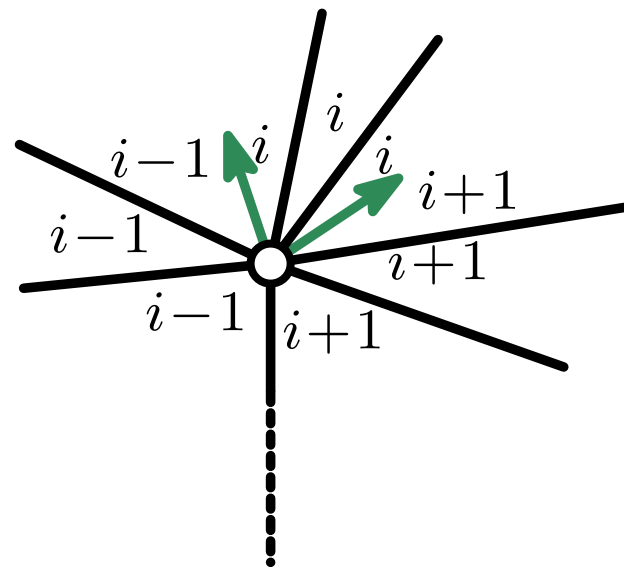
In the following:  
Labels gives approximate  
distances to the root **in the map**



# From blossoming trees to labeled trees

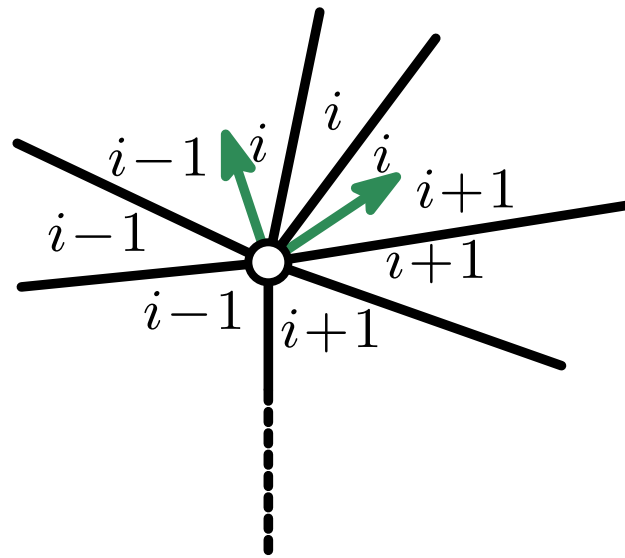


Generic vertex :

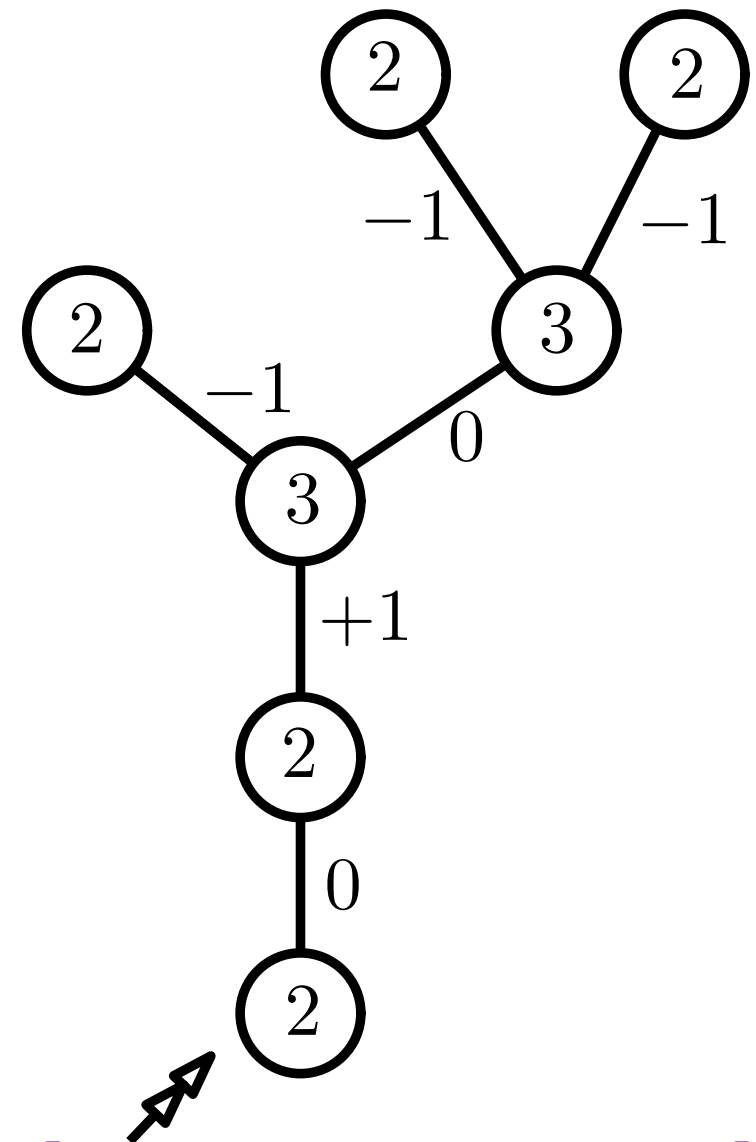


# From blossoming trees to labeled trees

Generic vertex :



- Can retrieve the blossoming tree from the labeled tree.
- Labeled tree = GW trees + random displacements on edges uniform on  $\{(-1, -1, \dots, -1, 0, 0, \dots, 0, 1, 1, \dots, 1)\}$ .



**almost the setting of [Janson-Marckert] and [Marckert-Miermont] but r.v are not "locally centered"  $\Rightarrow$  symmetrization required**



# Distances in simple triangulations

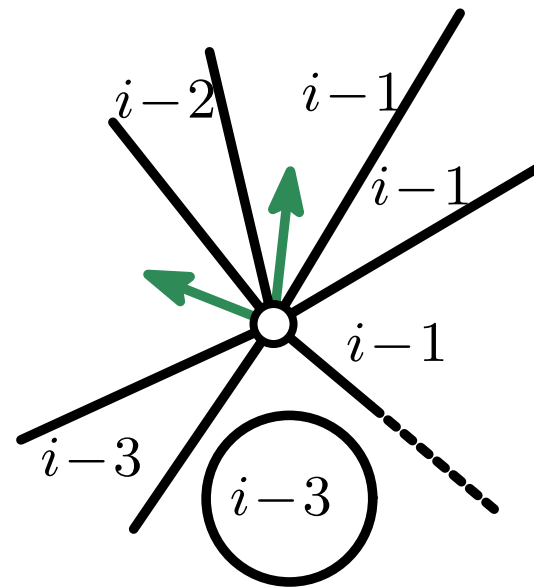
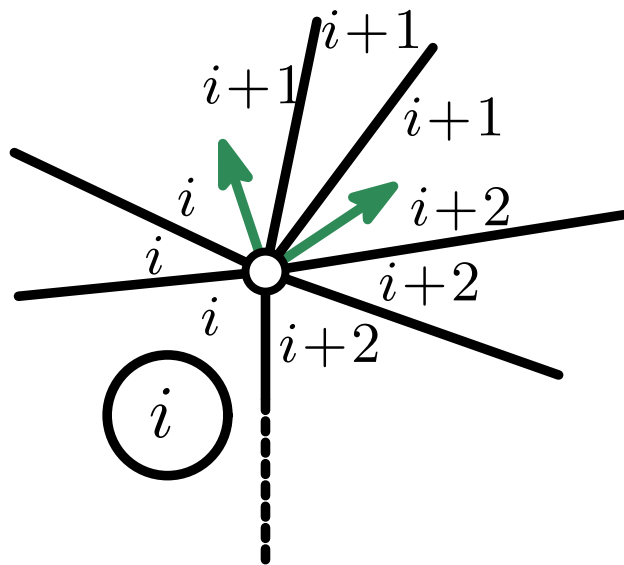
**Claim 1:**  $3d_M(\text{root}, u) \geq \text{Label of } u$

First observation : In the tree, the labels of two adjacent vertices differ by at most 1. **What can go wrong with closures ?**

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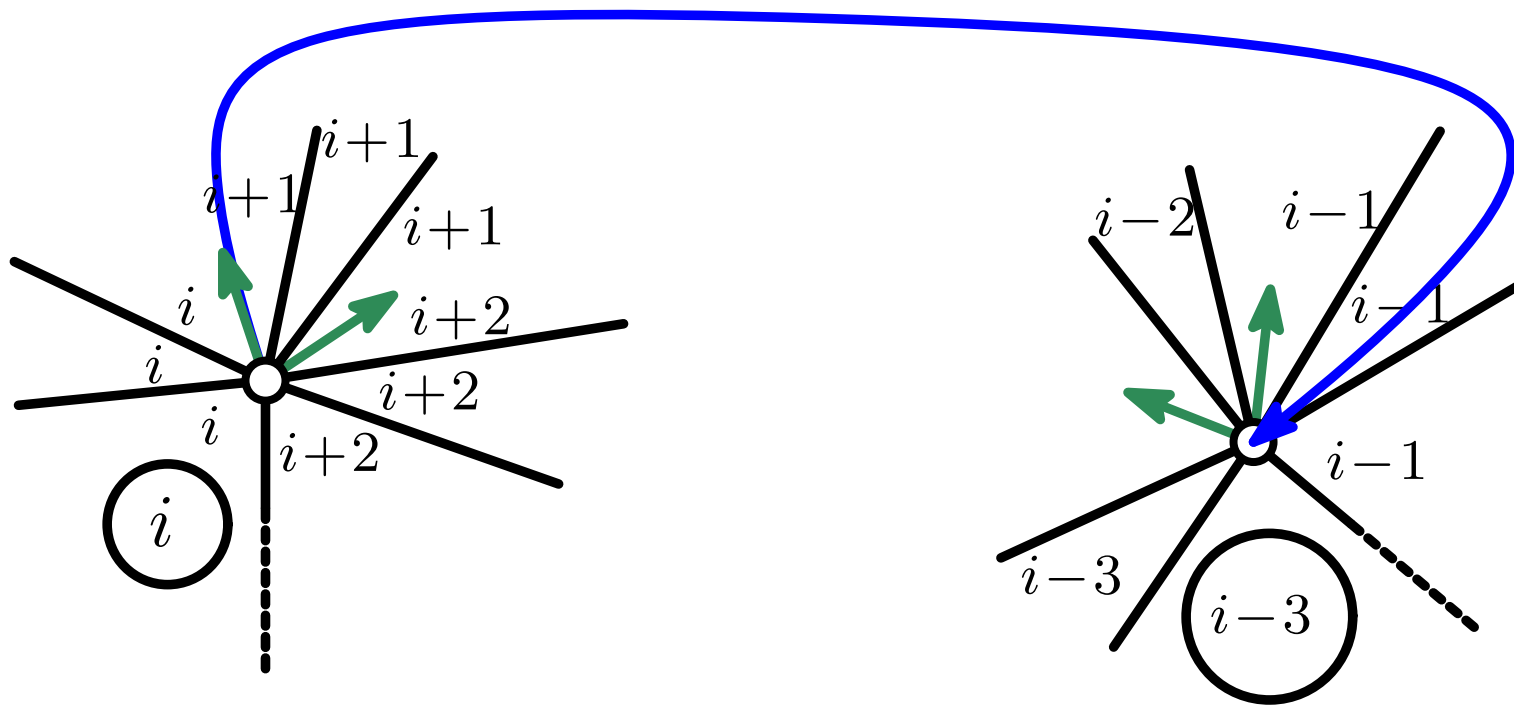
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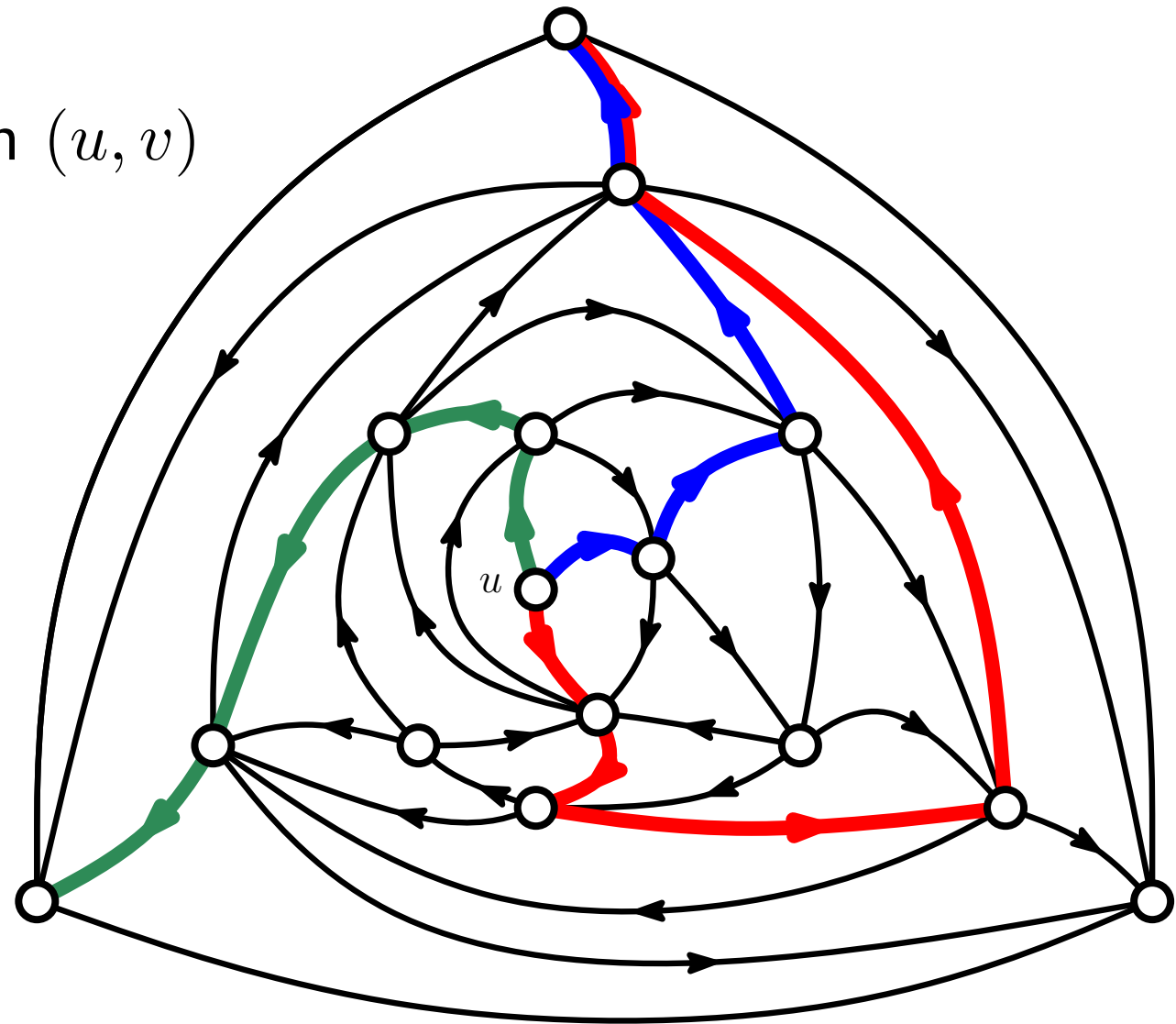
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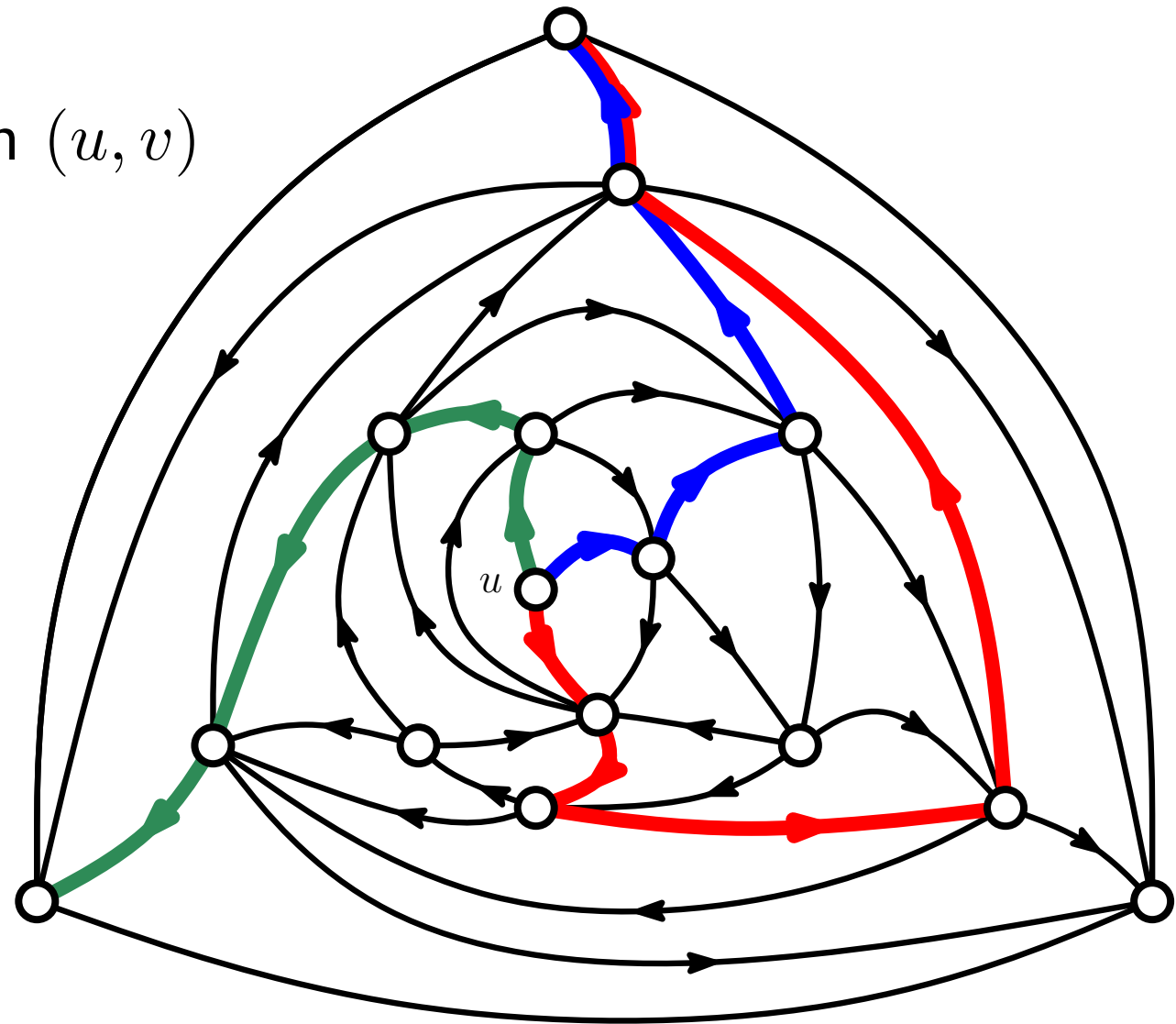


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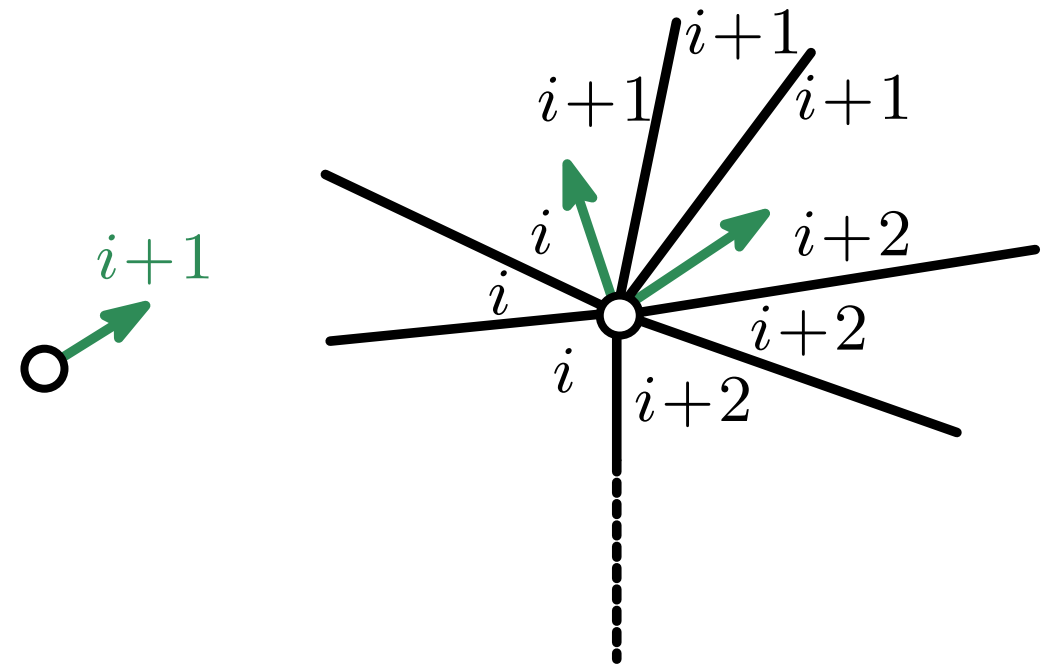


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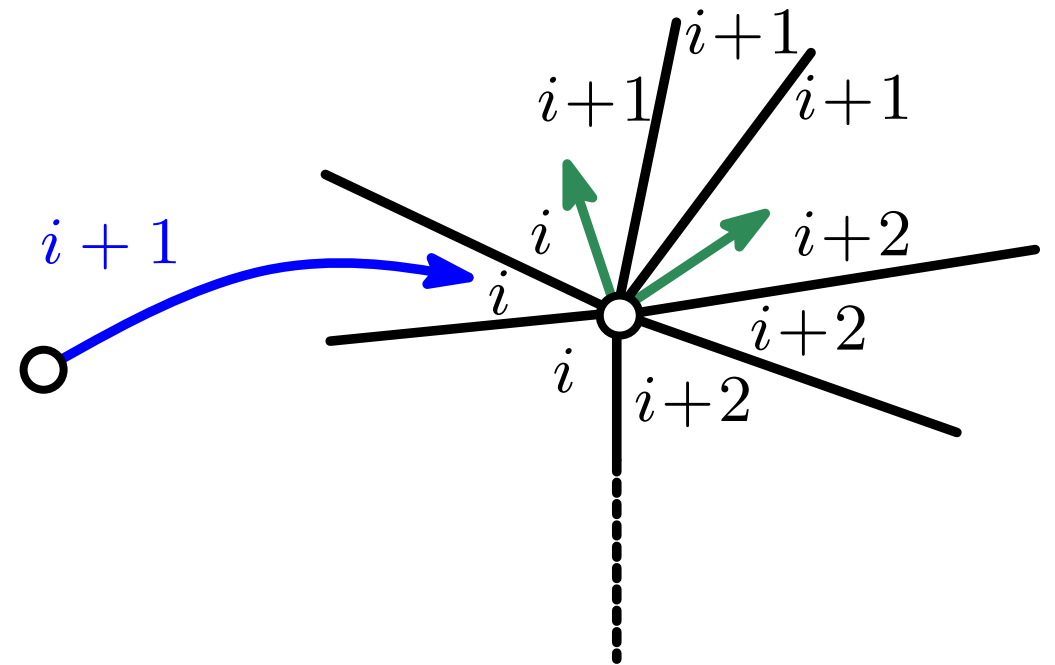


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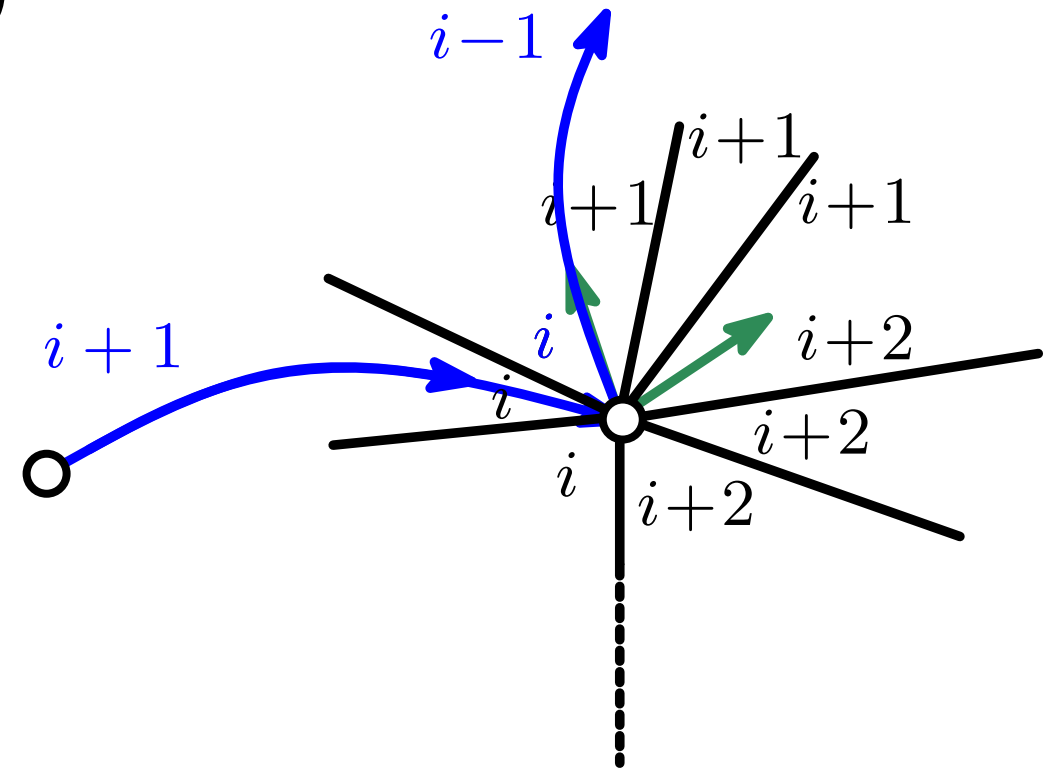


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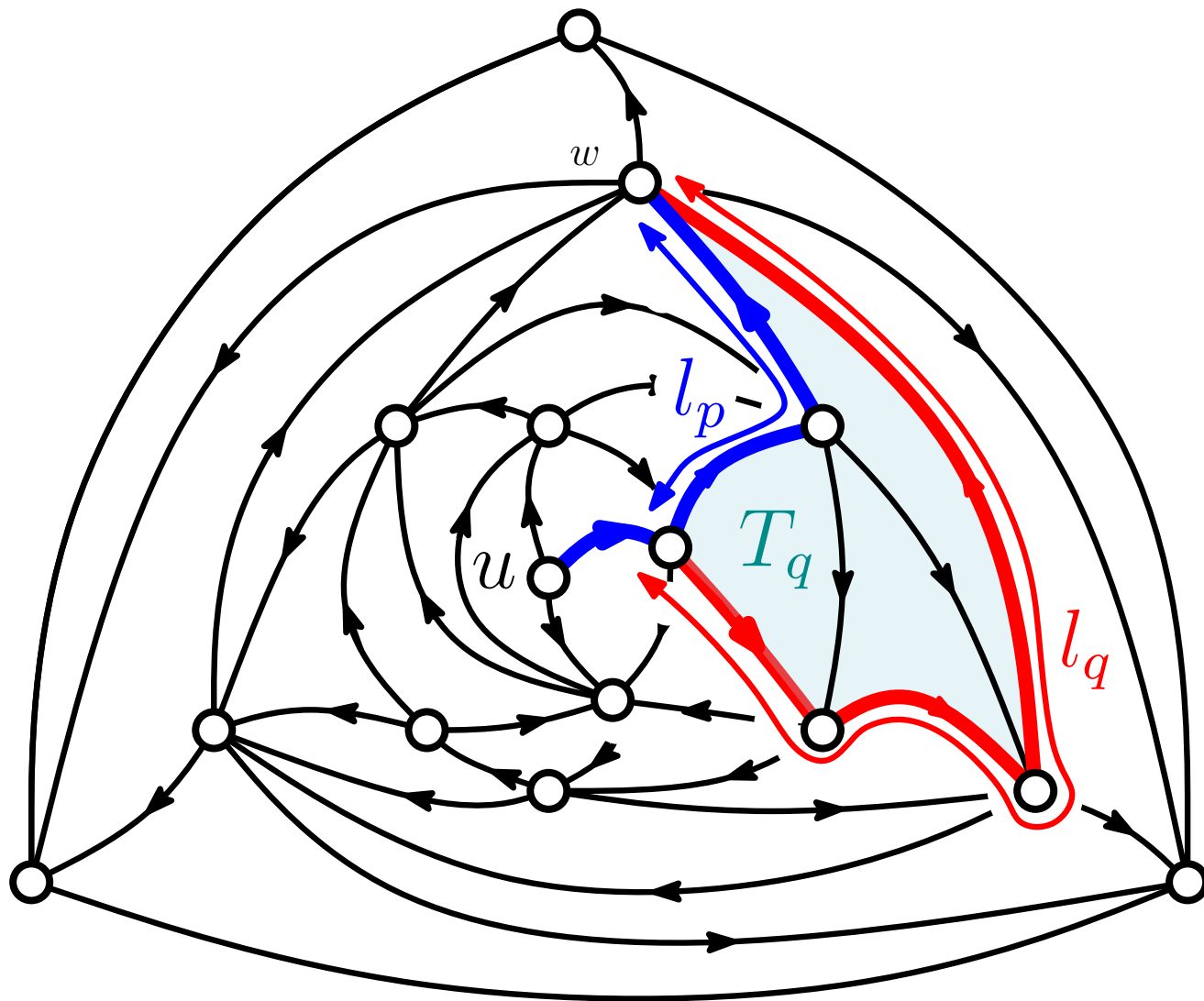
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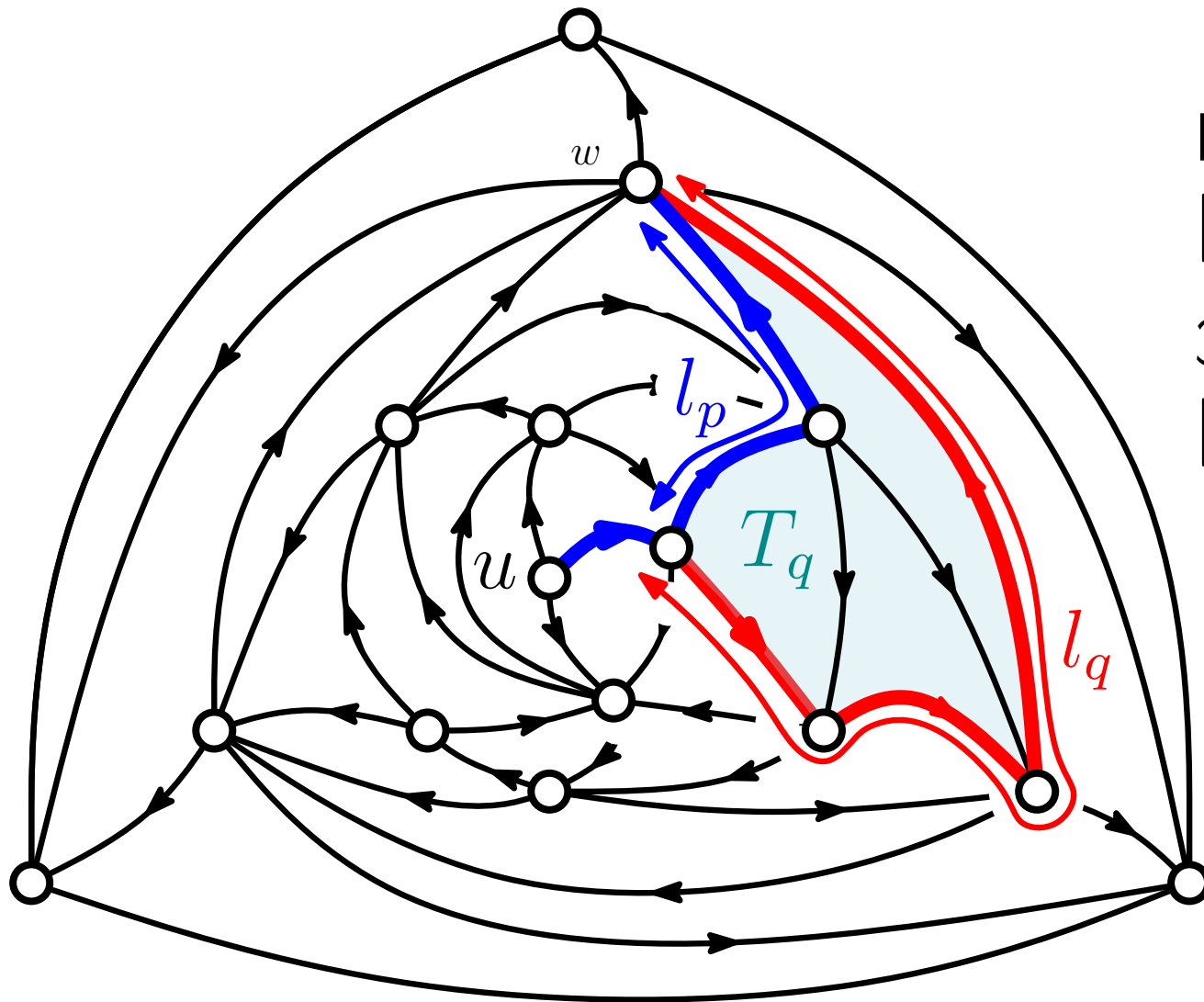
# LMP are almost geodesic



Leftmost path

Another path: can it be shorter ?

# LMP are almost geodesic



Leftmost path

Another path: can it be shorter ?

Euler Formula :

$$|E(T_q)| = 3|V(T_q)| - 3 - (\ell_p + \ell_q)$$

3-orientation + LMP :

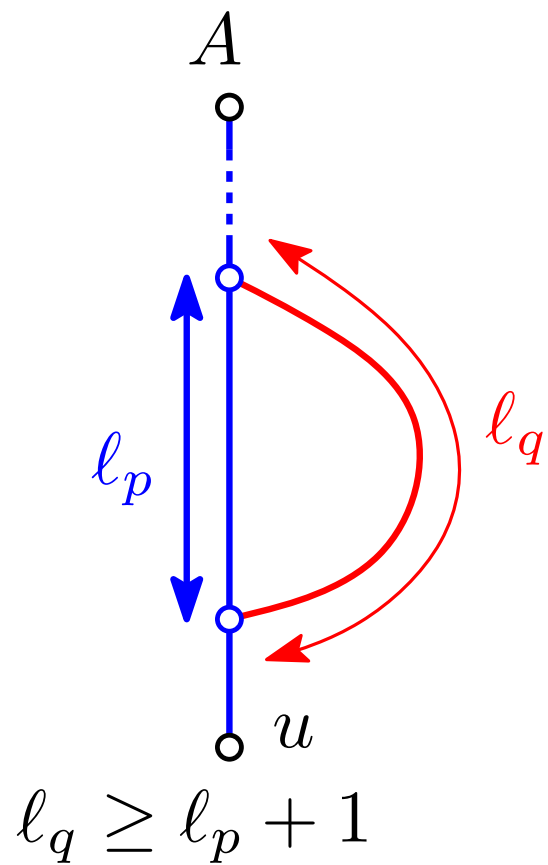
$$|E(T_q)| \geq 3|V(T_q)| - 2\ell_q - 2$$

$$\implies \ell_q \geq \ell_p + 1$$

# LMP are almost geodesic

Leftmost path

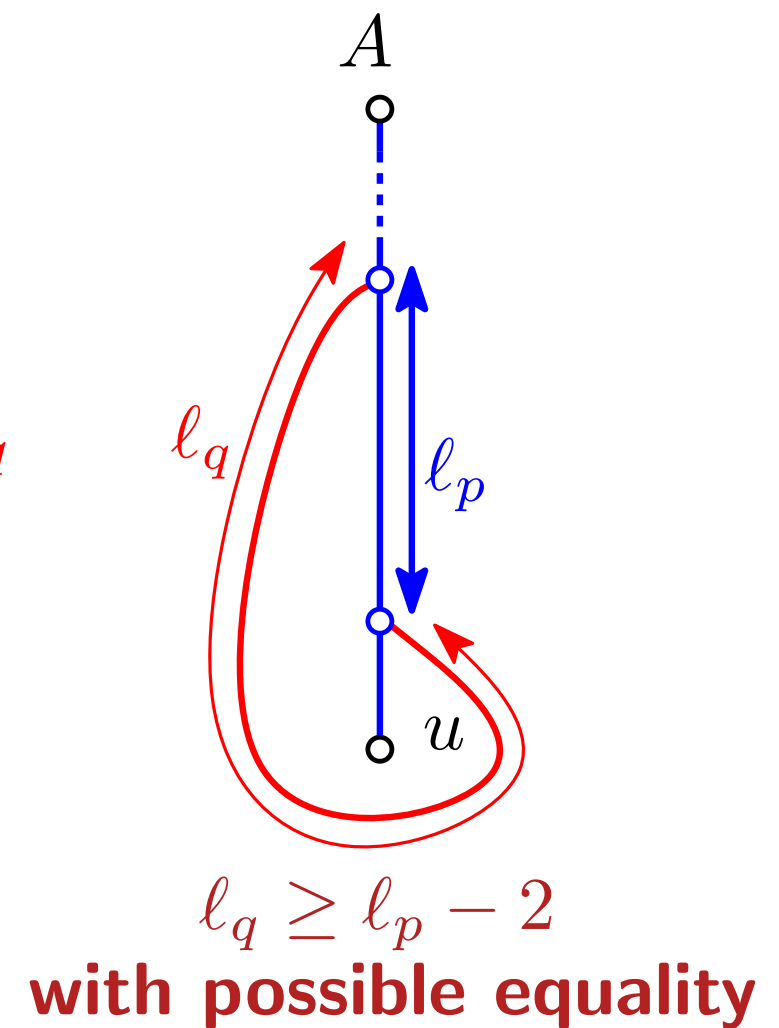
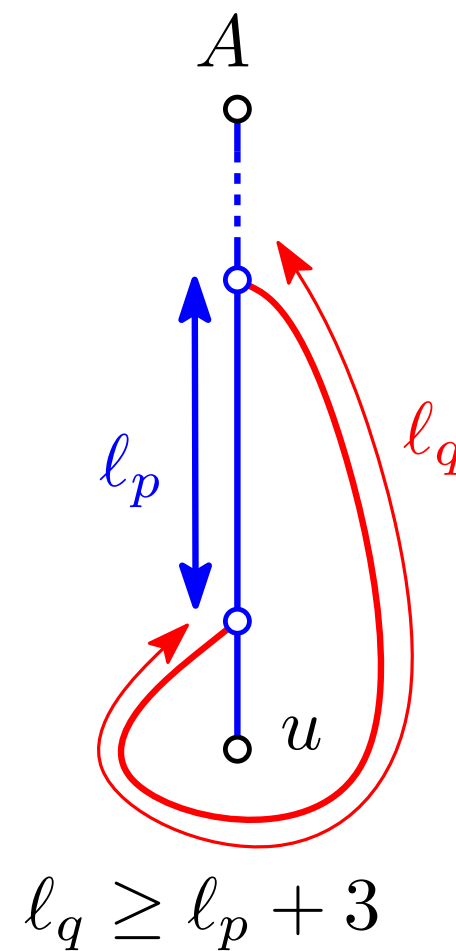
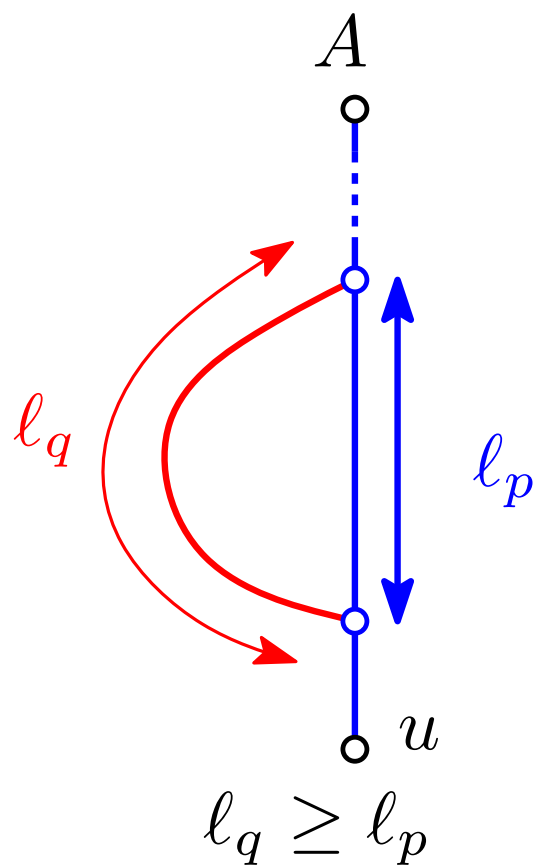
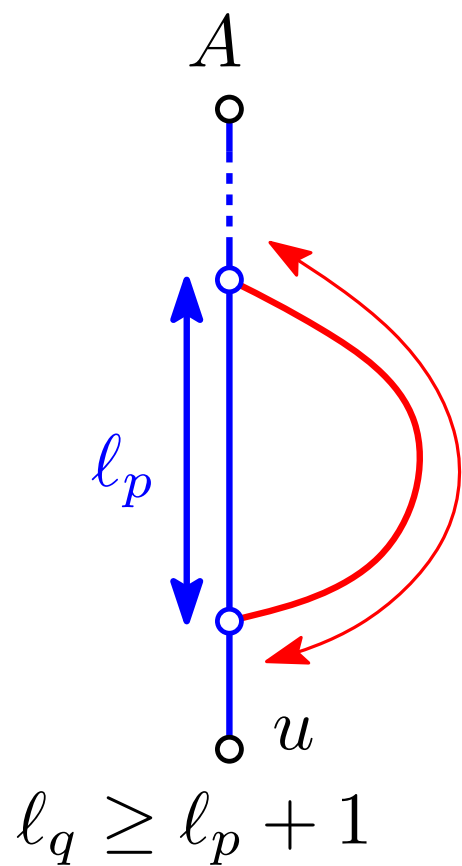
Another path: can it be shorter ?



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Another path: can it be shorter ? YES



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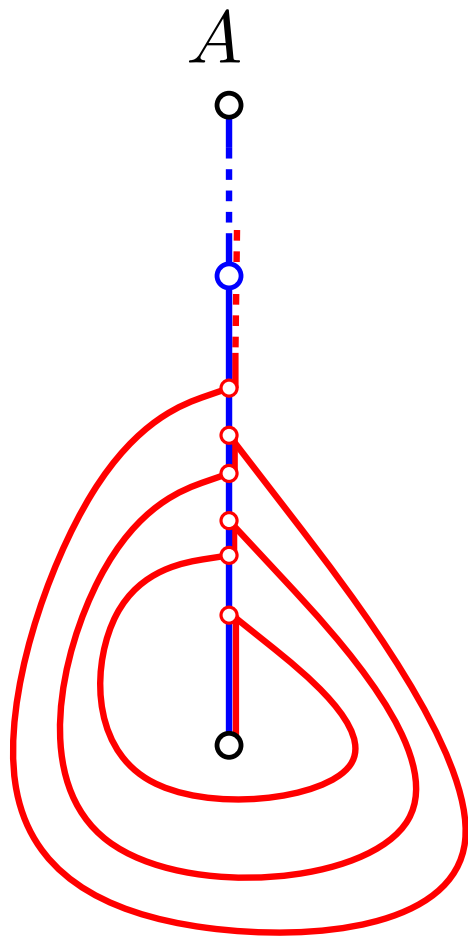
Leftmost path

Another path: can it be shorter? YES ... but not too often

Bad configuration =  
too many **windings** around the LMP

But w.h.p a winding cannot be too short.

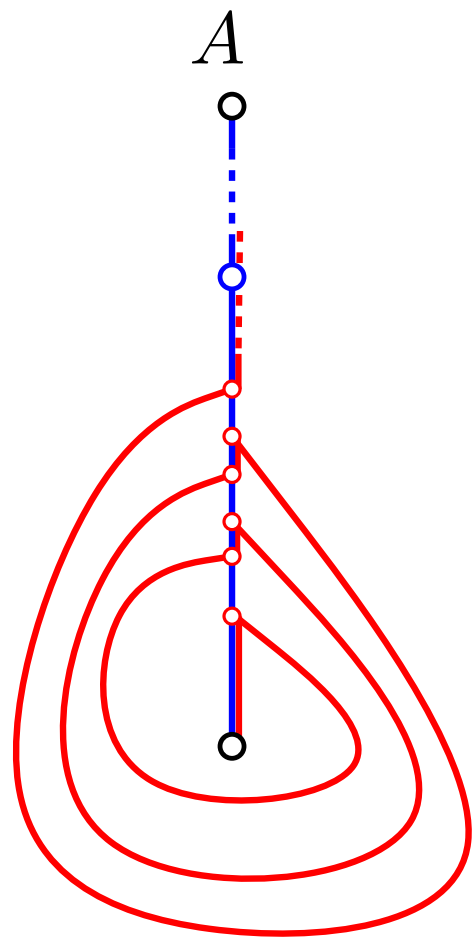
$\implies$  w.h.p the number of windings is  $o(n^{1/4})$ .



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$\implies$  w.h.p the number of windings is  $o(n^{1/4})$ .

## Proposition:

For  $\varepsilon > 0$ , let  $A_{n,\varepsilon}$  be the event that there exists  $u \in M_n$  such that

Label of  $u \geq d_{M_n}(u, root) + \varepsilon n^{1/4}$ .

Then under the uniform law on  $\mathcal{M}_n$ , for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ :

$$\mathbb{P}(A_{n,\varepsilon}) \rightarrow 0.$$

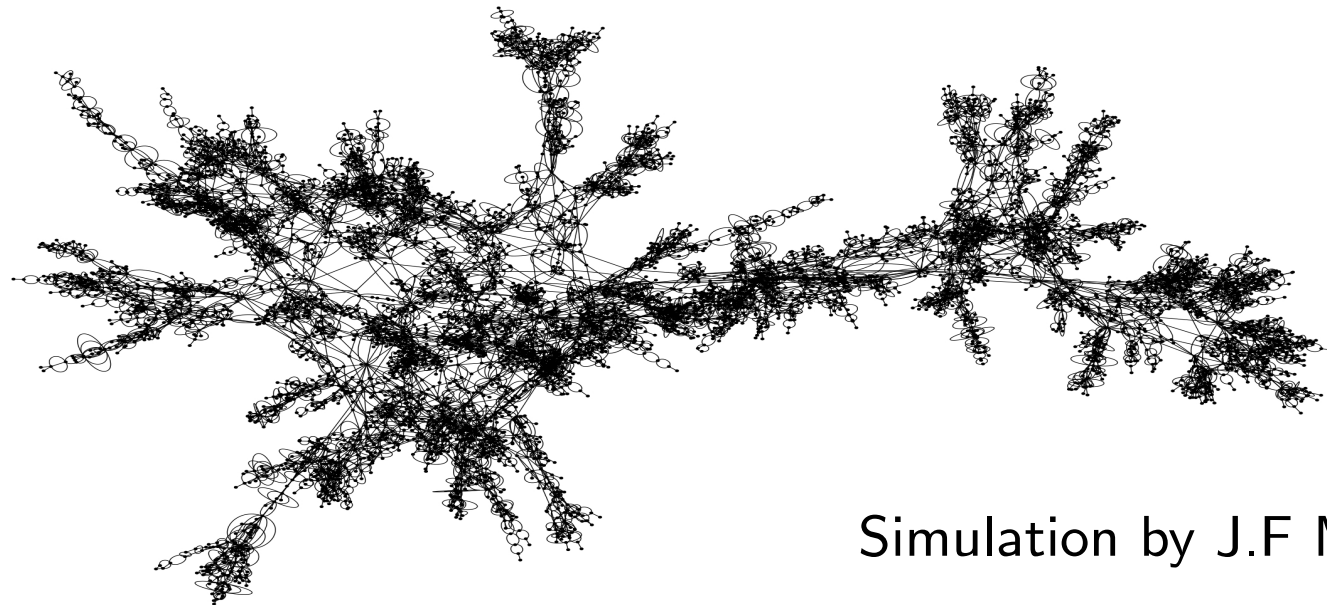
# The result

**Theorem** : [Addario-Berry, A.]

$(M_n)$  = sequence of random **simple** triangulations, then:

$$\left( M_n, \left( \frac{3}{4n} \right)^{1/4} d_{M_n} \right) \xrightarrow{(d)} \text{Brownian map}$$

for the distance of Gromov-Hausdorff on the isometry classes of compact metric spaces.



Simulation by J.F Marckert



## Beyond the universality

Simple triangulations converge to the Brownian map

⇒ properties of the Brownian map from the simple triangulations ?

# Beyond the universality

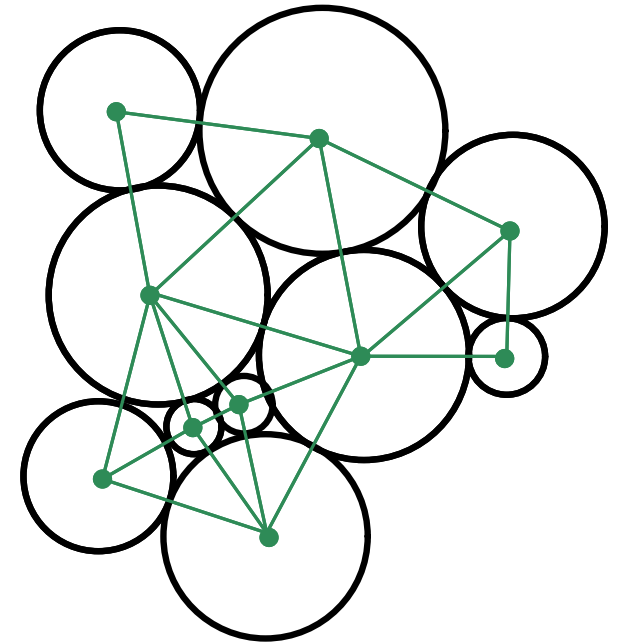
Simple triangulations converge to the Brownian map  
 $\Rightarrow$  properties of the Brownian map from the simple triangulations ?

One motivation : Circle-packing theorem

Each simple triangulation  $M$  has a unique (up to Möbius transformations and reflections) circle packing whose tangency graph is  $M$ .

[Koebe-Andreev-Thurston]

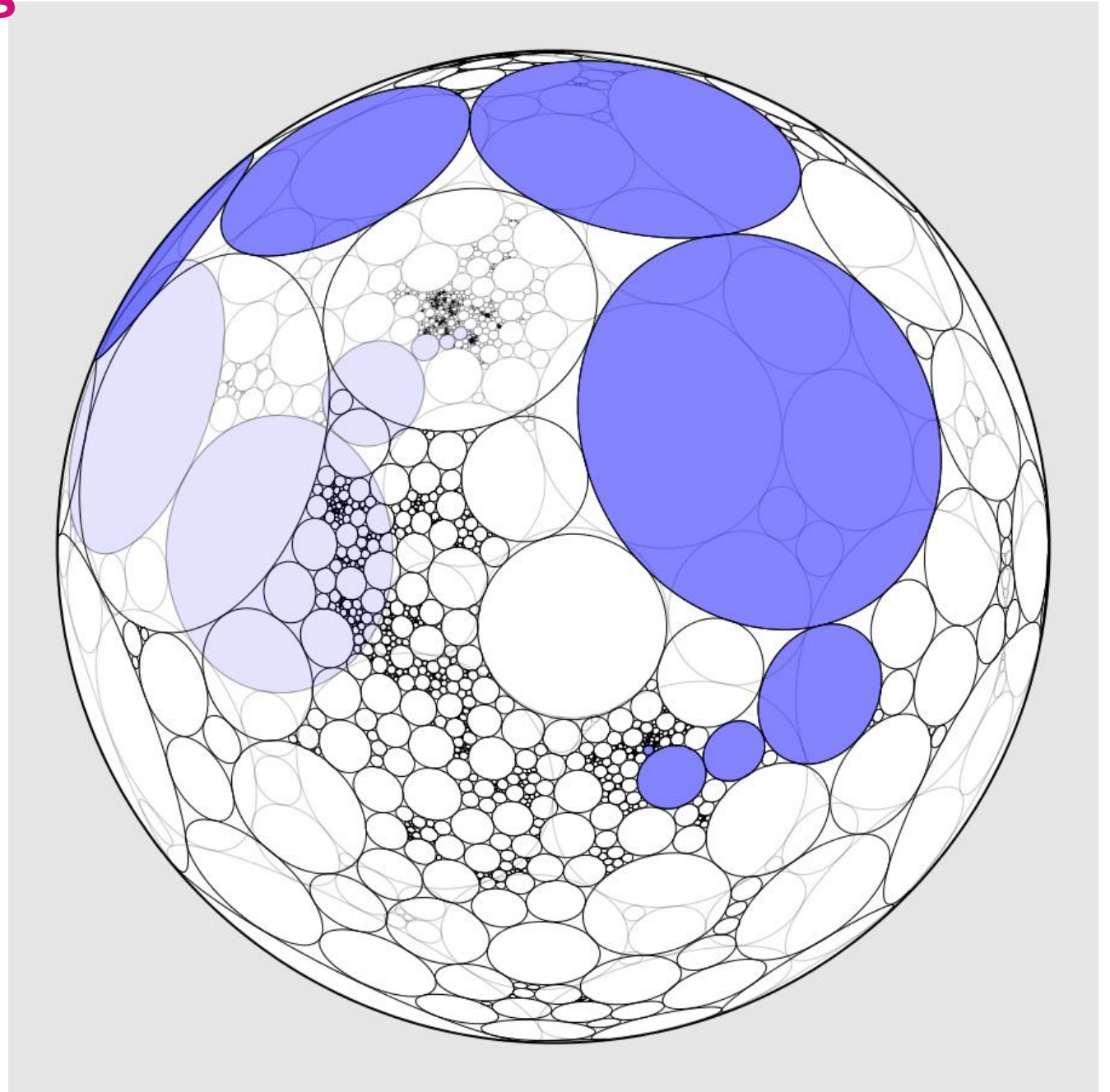
Gives a canonical embedding of simple triangulations in the sphere and possibly of their limit.



# Random circle packing

Random circle packing =  
canonical embedding of  
random simple triangulation in  
the sphere.

Gives a way to define a  
canonical embedding of their  
limit ?



Team effort : code by Kenneth Stephenson, Eric Fusy and our own.

# Perspectives

Same approach works also for simple quadrangulations, and also for simple maps (ongoing work with Bernardi, Collet, Fusy).

Can we make this approach work for the general setting of bijections developed in [A., Poulalhon] and in [Bernardi, Fusy] or for triangulations on the torus (cf next talk !)?

Can we say something about a random circle packing ?

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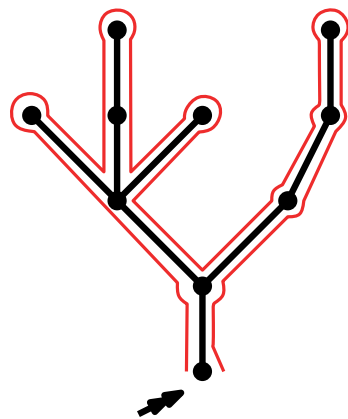
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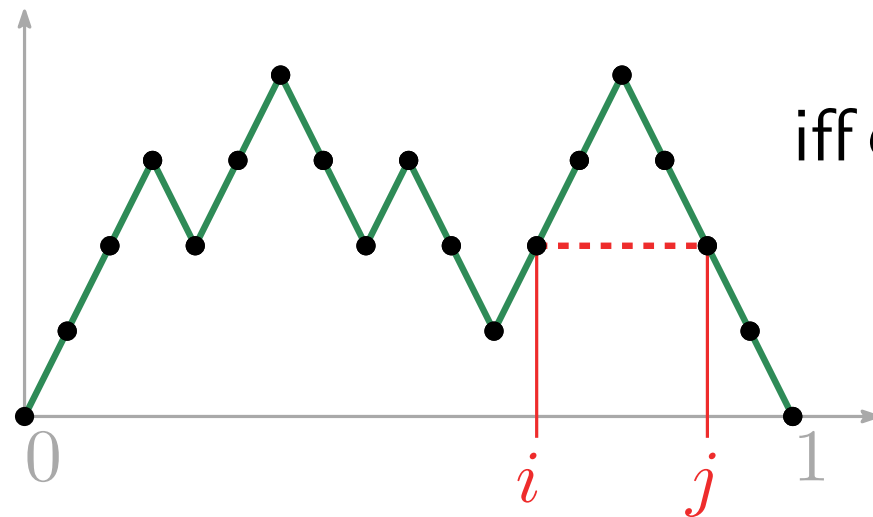
**Thank you !**

# Brownian snake $(e_t, Z_t)_{0 \leq t \leq 1}$

## 1st step : the Brownian tree [Aldous]



$T$

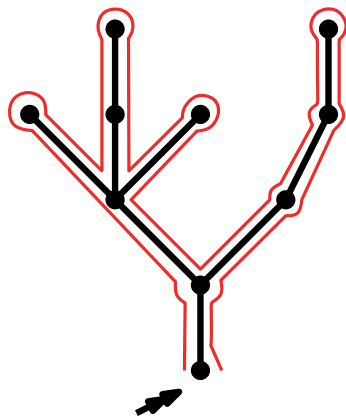


$C_n^T$  (or  $C_n$ ) = contour process

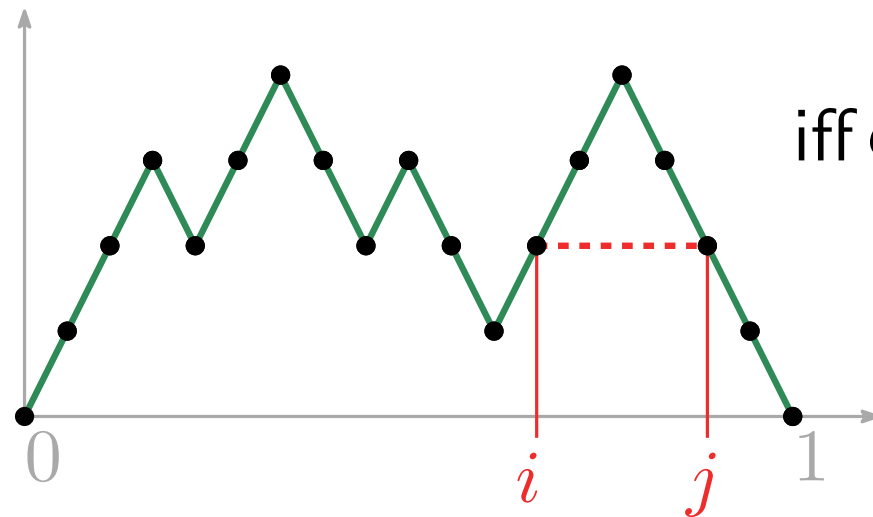
$i$  and  $j$  = same vertex of  $T$   
iff  $C_n(i) = C_n(j) = \min_{i \leq k \leq j} C_n(k)$

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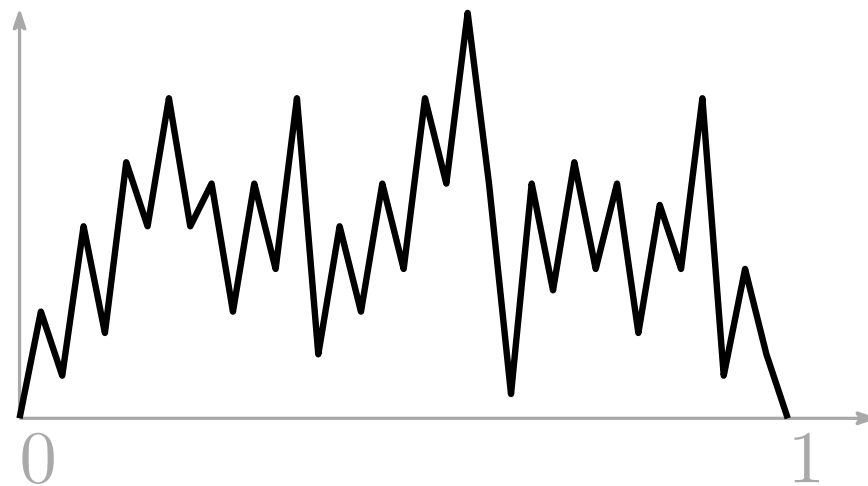
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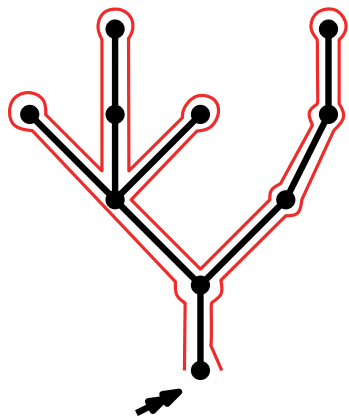
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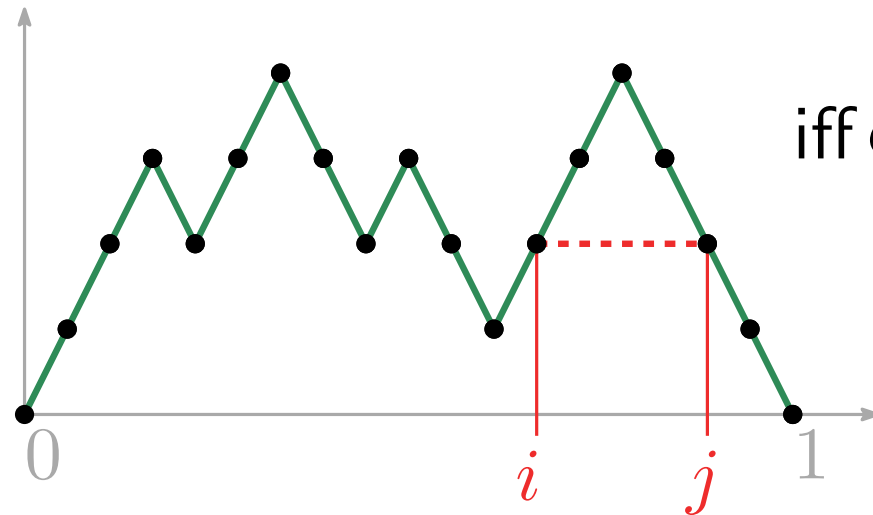


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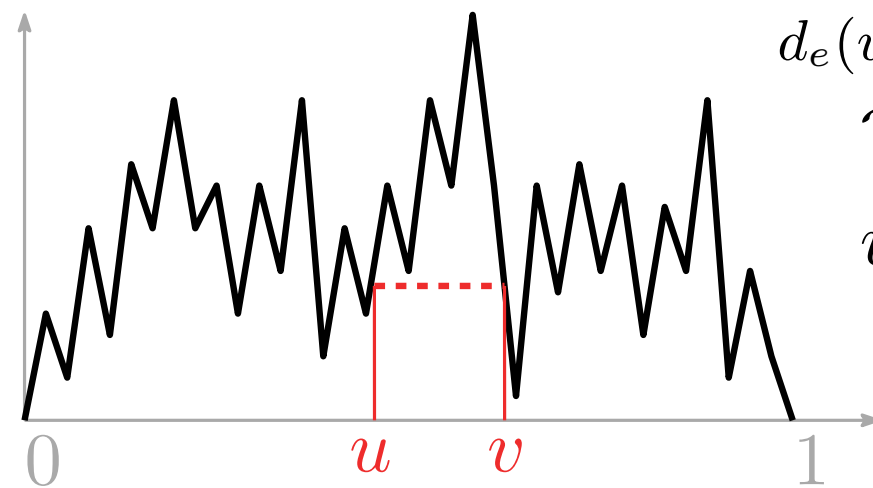
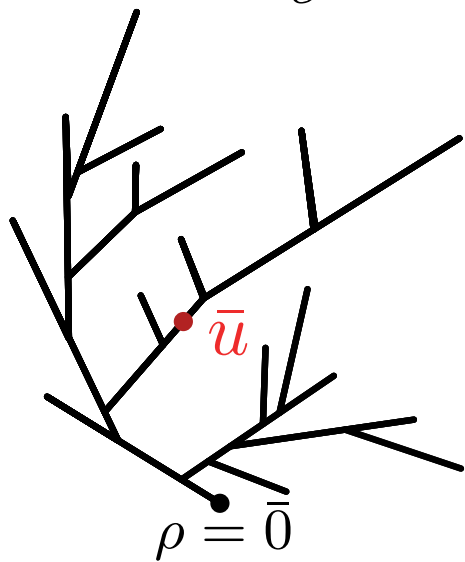
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$\mathcal{T}_e$



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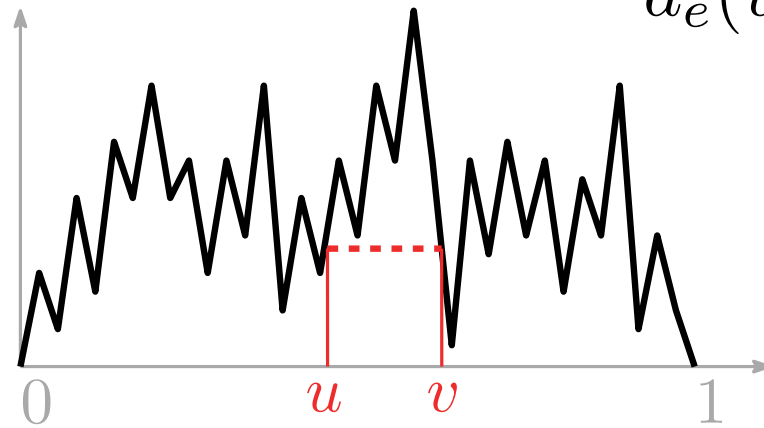
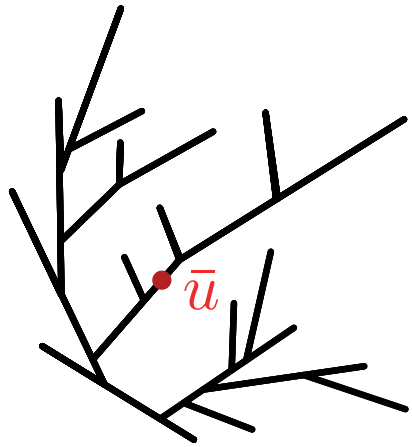
$$d_e(u, v) = e_u + e_v - 2 \min_{u \leq s \leq v} e_s$$

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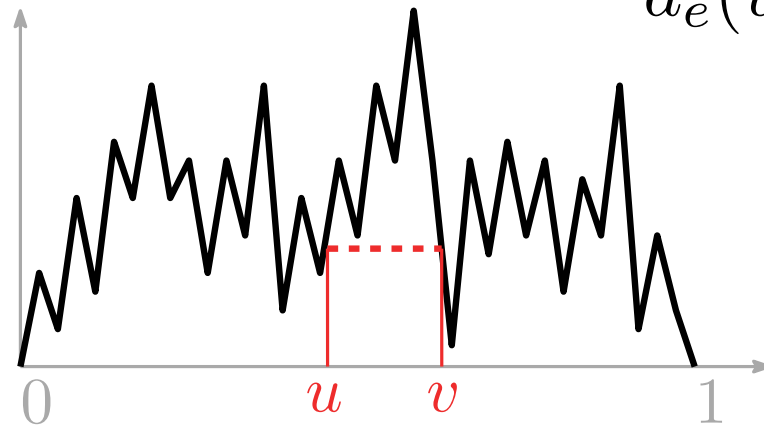
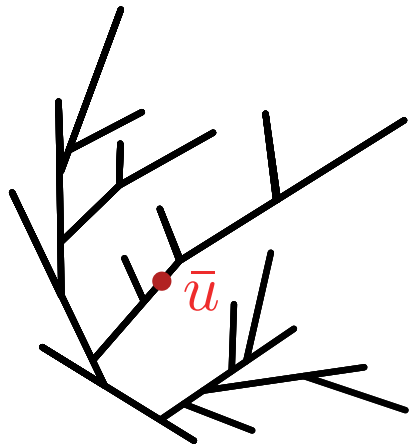
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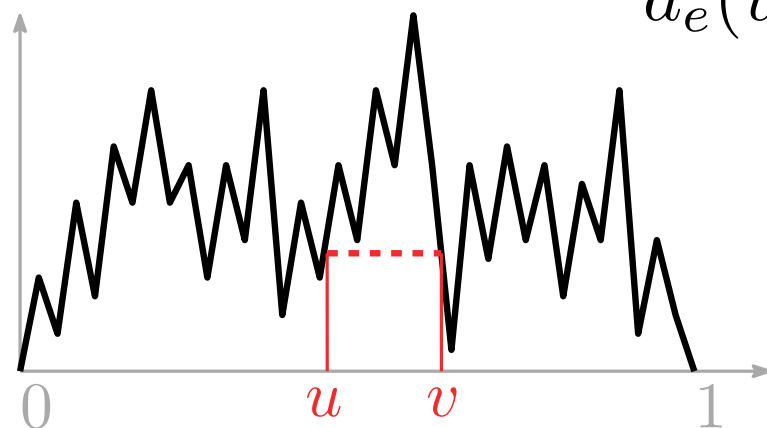
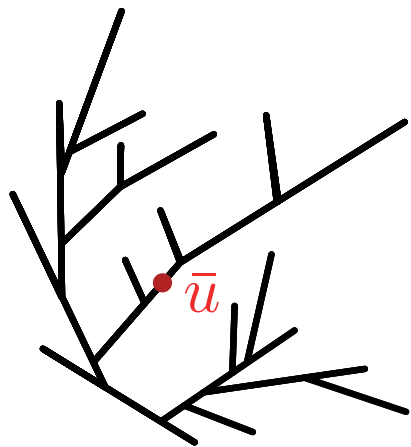
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## 2nd step : Brownian labels

Conditional on  $\mathcal{T}_e$ ,  $Z$  a centered Gaussian process with  $Z_\rho = 0$  and  $E[(Z_s - Z_t)^2] = d_e(s, t)$

$Z \sim$  **Brownian motion on the tree**

# The Brownian map



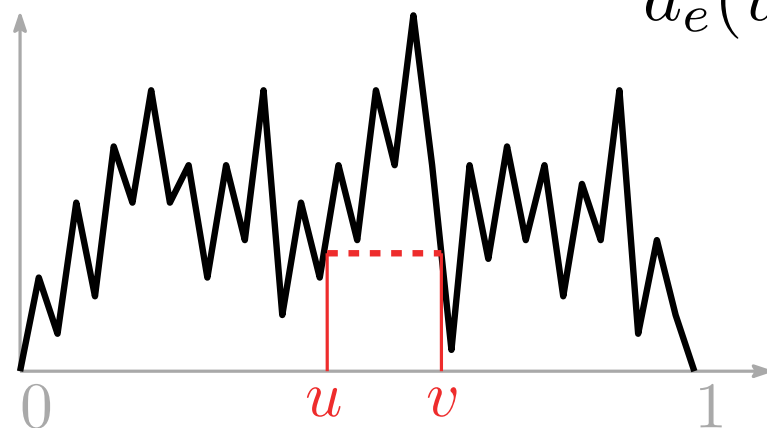
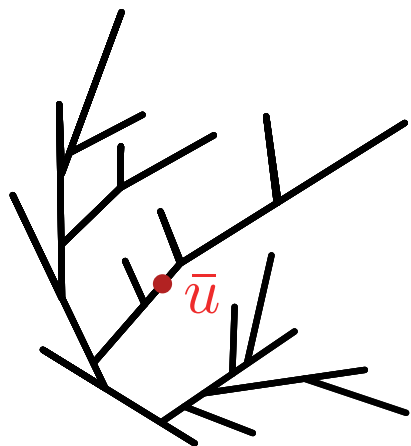
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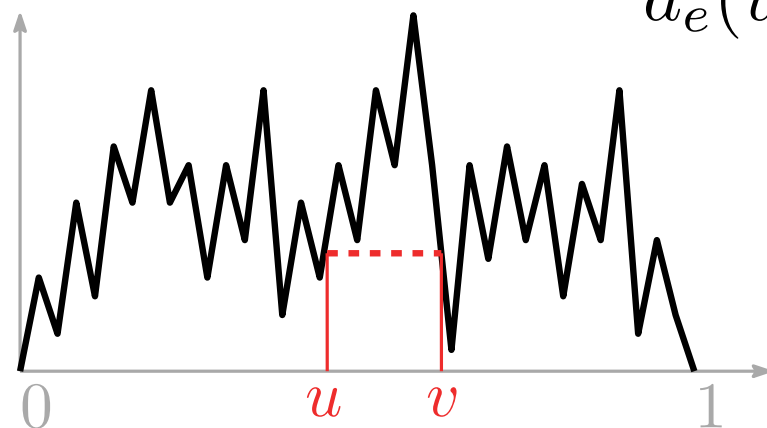
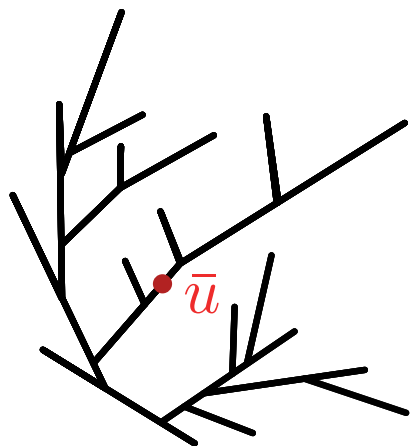
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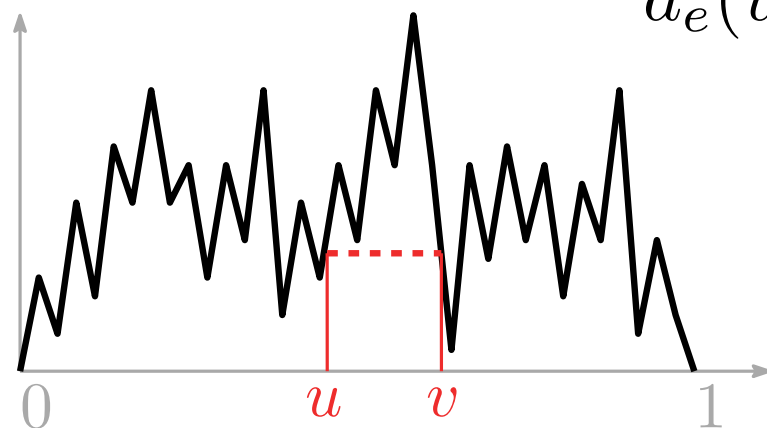
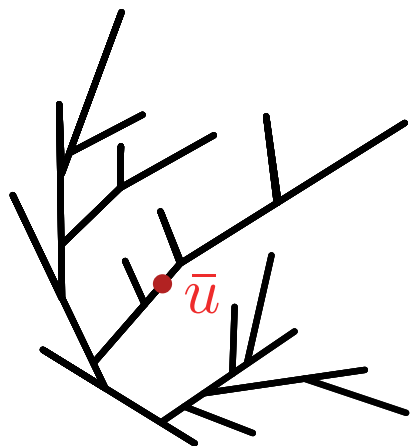
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$$D^*(a, b) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} D^\circ(a_i, a_{i+1}) : k \geq 1, a = a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-1}, a_k = b \right\},$$

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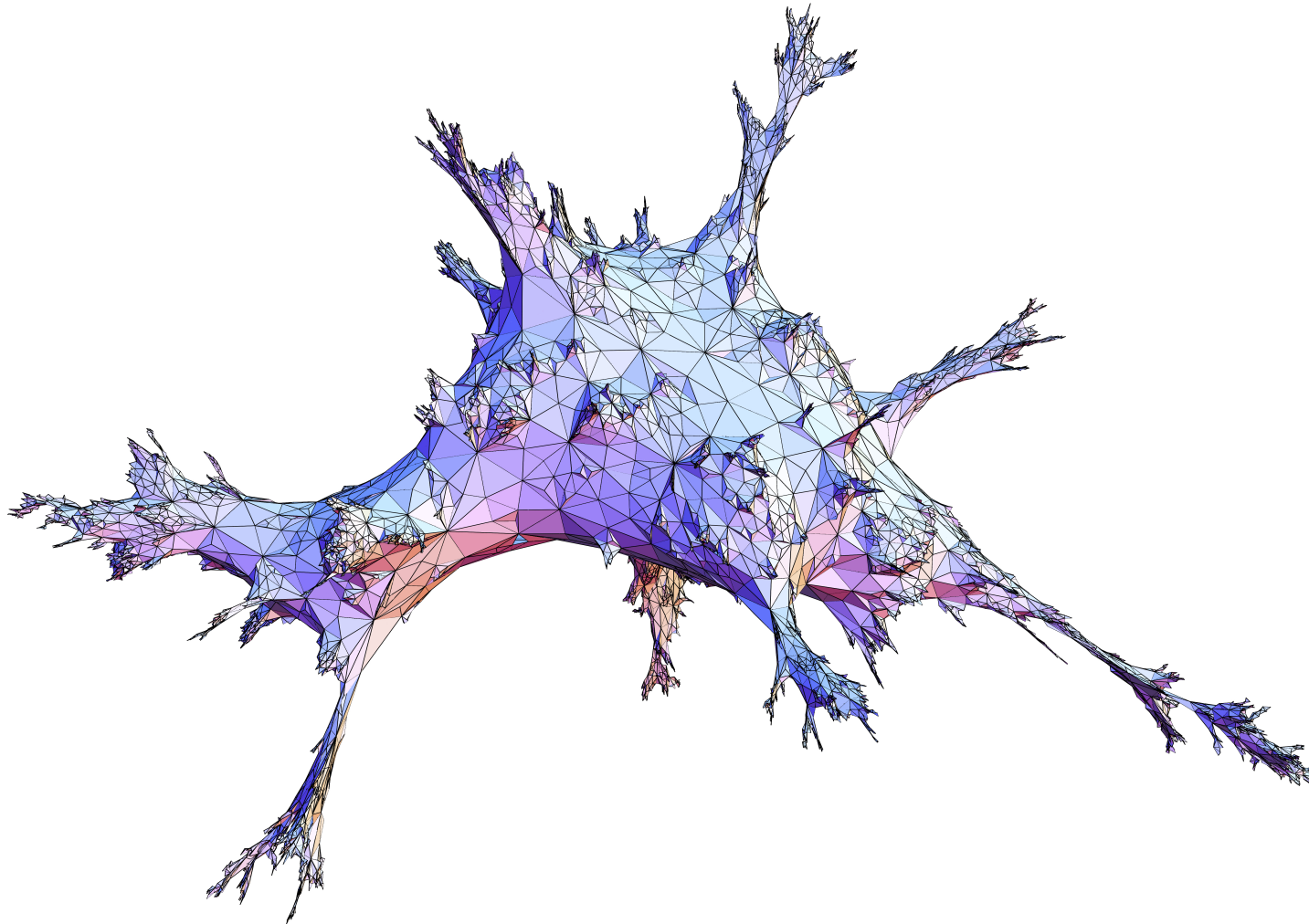
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Then  $M = (\mathcal{T}_e / \sim_{D^*}, D^*)$  is the **Brownian map**.

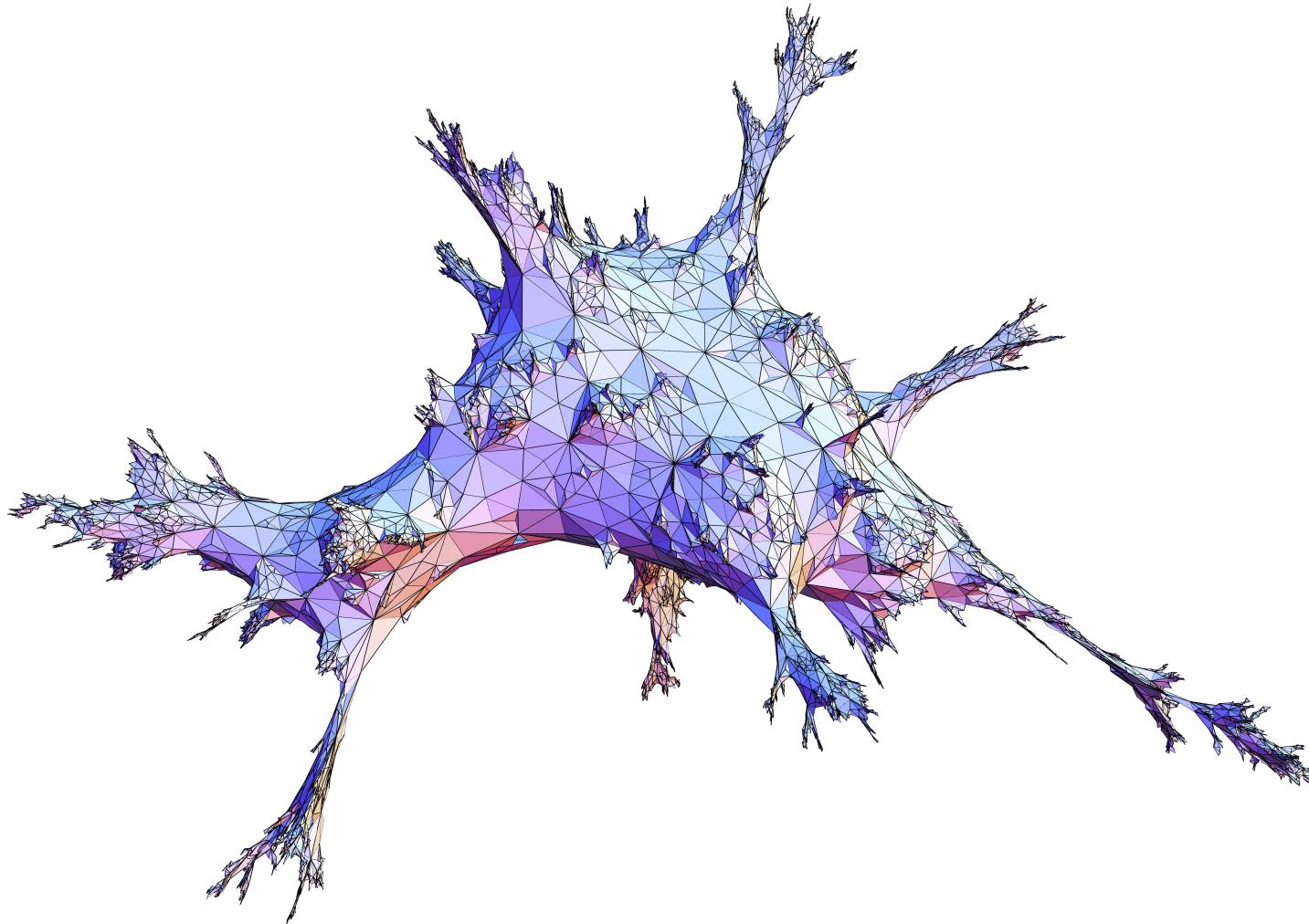
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