

Lecture 3 REFLECTIONS & COXETER GEOMETRIES

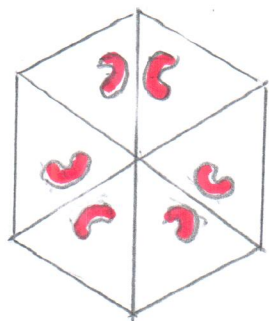
§1. The kaleidoscope ...

... is a children's toy

кал.: капи́тка

and an example of a Coxeter geometry $(X:G)$

$X = \mathbb{R}^2$, $G =$ group, generated by the reflections with fundamental domain \blacktriangle



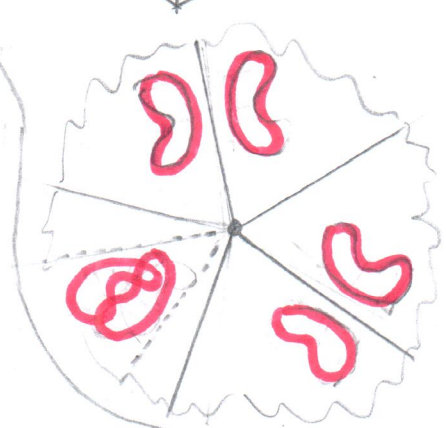
§2. Two-dimensional Coxeter geometries

Let $P \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be a (convex) polygon and G_P be the group generated by the reflections in the sides of P s.t. P is a fundamental domain of G_P ,

i.e., $g \neq id \Rightarrow Pg \cap P = \emptyset$

$\bullet \bigcup_{g \in G} Pg = \mathbb{R}^2$. Then $(\mathbb{R}^2:G_P)$ is called the Coxeter geometry corresponding to P and P

is a Coxeter polygon, provided all angles $= \pi/k_i, k_i \geq 3$. Example \blacktriangle



Theorem 1. There are four Coxeter polygons: , , ,

Proof. (1) All the angles are $\leq \pi/2$. (2) # vertices $= V \leq 4$ (\Leftarrow (1))

Case I: $V=4 \Rightarrow P$ is a rectangle.

Case II: $V=3 \Rightarrow \pi/k + \pi/l + \pi/m = \pi \Rightarrow \frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{l} + \frac{1}{m} = 1, 2 \leq k \leq l \leq m$

$m=2$ \times ; $m=3 \Rightarrow P = \triangle$; $m=4 \Rightarrow \triangle_{\pi/4}$; $m=5$ \times ;

$m=6 \Rightarrow P = \triangle_{\pi/6}$; $m \geq 7 \Rightarrow \times$

We obtain the four two-dimensional Coxeter geometries Puc 5.2 $(\mathbb{R}^2:G_P)$

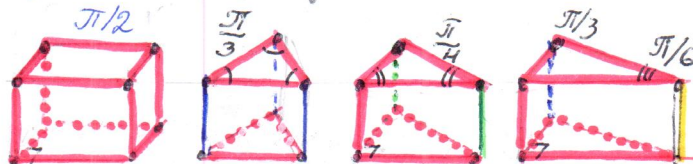
The group G_P acts transitively on P in all 4 cases

§3. Three-dimensional Coxeter geometries

Let $Q \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ be a convex polyhedron all of whose angles between faces are of the form $\alpha_i = \pi/k_i, k_i \geq 3$ and let G_Q be the group generated by the reflections in the planes of the faces such that Q is a fund. domain of G_Q . Then Q is the 3-dimensional Coxeter polyhedron and $(\mathbb{R}^3:G_Q)$ is the Coxeter geometry corresponding to Q . Expl = \emptyset

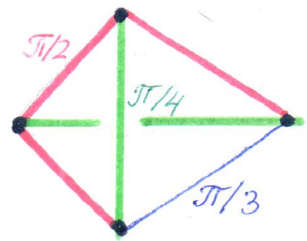
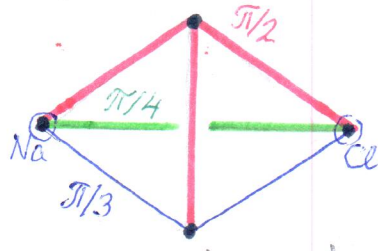
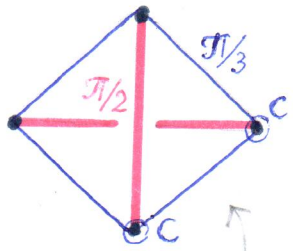
Theorem 2. There are 7 (= 4+3) Coxeter polyhedra.

Here are the 4 simple ones:



§3 (cont'd) The other three are:

3 тетраэдра



They are diamonds and salt
 Proof: linear algebra, Gramin matrix

In higher dimensions -
 Coxeter polytopes

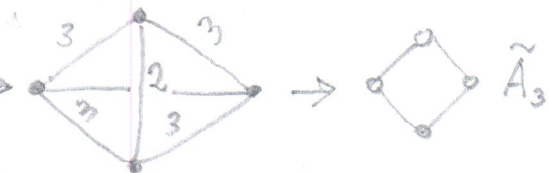
§4. Coxeter diagrams (excurr)

A Coxeter graph is a graph (with integer weights on edges) corresponding to a Coxeter polytope.

vertex = face, $[v, v']$ edge if v, v' have a common side;
 m written on $[v, v']$ if angle between v and v' is π/m

Examples Diamond:

salt



A Coxeter diagram is a modification of a Coxeter graph: instead of writing m , we draw $m-2$ lines

