## k-triangulations on Surfaces

Saskia Solotko, Katherine Tung, Philip Yang, Yuchong Zhang Mentor: Pasha Pylyavskyy TA: Joe McDonough UMN Twin Cities REU

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Image: A matrix

# k-triangulation definition

#### Definition (k-triangulation of a convex polygon)

A k-triangulation of a convex n-gon is a maximal set of edges such that no k + 1 pairwise intersect.



Figure 1: A 2-triangulation of the 8-gon. Note there are no 3-crossings.

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## k-stars: relevant for k-triangulations



Figure 2: A 2-star, a 3-star, and a 4 star

A k-star consists of 2k + 1 vertices and 2k + 1 edges of length k.

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#### Theorem (Pilaud-Santos '04)

Any k-triangulation of the n-gon contains exactly n - 2k k-stars, k(n - 2k - 1) k edges of length > k, and k(2n - 2k - 1) total edges.



Figure 3: A 2-triangulation of the 8-gon has 6 edges of length > 2 and 22 total edges.

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#### Definition

A k-relevant angle of a k-triangulation consists of edges of length  $\geq k$  and has no intermediate "bisector" edges.

## Theorem (Pilaud-Santos '04)

In a k-triangulation, every k-relevant angle is contained in a unique k-star:

- length > k (relevant) edges: in exactly 2 k-stars
- length = k (boundary) edges: in exactly 1 k-star
- length < k (irrelevant) edges: in exactly 0</p>

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length > k edge: in exactly 2 k-stars

Ex: length 3 edge, k = 2-triangulation



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length = k edge: in exactly 1 k-star

Ex: length 2 edge



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length < k edge: in 0 k-stars

Ex: length 1 edge



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Let S denote a surface and  $\overline{S}$  its universal cover with natural projection  $\pi: \overline{S} \to S$ .

#### Definition

A k-triangulation T on a surface S with marked points on boundaries is a maximal set of edges such that  $\pi^{-1}(T)$  is (k + 1)-crossing free.

For convenience, we say  $\pi^{-1}(T)$  is a *k*-triangulation of  $\overline{S}$  denoted  $\overline{T}$ .



Figure 4: A 2-triangulation on the universal cover of the (2 + 1)-annulus

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## Results for 2-triangulations on the (n + 0)-annulus

Let T denote a 2-triangulation on the (n + 0) annulus corresponding to  $\overline{T}$  on the universal cover.

#### Lemma

Every such T has exactly one edge of length 2n.

#### Definition

An angle of T is 2-relevant if it contains at least one edge of length > 2 and < 2n and additionally has no intermediate "bisector" edges.

#### Theorem (STYZ 24)

Every 2-relevant angle of T is contained in a unique 2-star.

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## star decomposition example



Figure 5: A 2-triangulation on the universal cover of the (3 + 0)-annulus and the stars that comprise it

## Theorem (STYZ 24)

There is a bijection between 2-triangulations of the (n + 0)-annulus and 2-triangulations of the 4n-gon invariant under rotation by  $\pi/n$ .



Figure 6: A 2-triangulation on the universal cover of the (3 + 0)-annulus and the corresponding 2-triangulation of the 4n-gon

#### Corollary

For k = 2, any k-triangulation of the (n + 0)-annulus contains exactly n - 1 k-stars, k(n - 1) k-relevant edges, and k(2n - 1) edges.

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## Lemma (Pilaud-Santos '04)

A pair of stars in T has a unique bisector edge.



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## Theorem (Pilaud-Santos '04)

For any k-relevant edge  $e \in T$  there is a unique flip edge f such that  $(T \setminus e) \cup \{f\}$  is a k-triangulation.



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# Cylindrical Polyominoes

## Definition (STYZ '24+)

A cylindrical polyomino  $\mathbb{Y}$  of type (n, k) is an infinite skew Young diagram (reflected along the y-axis) with a box centered at every point in  $\{(i,j) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \mid k \leq j-i \leq kn\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^2$ .



## Definition (STYZ '24+)

A cylindrical pipe dream of type (n, k) is a tiling of the cylindrical polyomino  $\mathbb{Y}$  of type (n, k) by four kinds of pieces , , , , and , and , such that

- The pipe dream is *n*-cylindrical, that is, all the piles at the position (*i* + *rn*, *j* + *rn*) for arbitrary *r* ∈ Z<sub>≥0</sub> is the same as a pile at the position (*i*, *j*);
- ▶ There is a tiled at the position (i, k i) for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ ;
- For every pipe, the number of k = 1, or k = 1; it passes through is 2k + 1;
- ▶ Each pipe connects (i, kn i) and (i + kn, -i) for some  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ ;
- For every pair of pipes, they do not cross twice, that is, the number of piles both pipes pass through is no more than 1;
- There is exactly one in each successive n rows, tiled at the position (i, kn − i) for some i ∈ Z<sub>≥0</sub>.

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# Cylindrical Pipe Dreams: Correspondence with Multi-Triangulations

#### Theorem (STYZ '24+)

For k = 2, there is a bijection between k-triangulation of the (n + 0)-annulus and cylindrical pipe dreams of type (n, k):

▶ a length k edge connects i and j: tile  $\frown$  at (i, j)

▶ a length kn edge connects i and j: tile at (i,j)

> an edge of length between k and kn connects i and j: tile  $i \in [i,j]$ 

tile a in every other

Moreover, in this bijection, each pipe corresponds to a k-star on  $\overline{T}$ .

#### Conjecture (STYZ '24+)

The previous theorem can be generalized to arbitrary k.

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# Cylindrical Pipe Dreams: Correspondence with Multi-Triangulations

#### Example



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Given a cylindrical pipe dream of type (n, k):

Lemma (STYZ '24+)	Lemma (STYZ '24+)
Two pipes cross once if and only if they have distance $\leq kn$ .	There are exactly $2k \cdot (n-1)$ pipes intersects with a given pipe.

#### Theorem (STYZ '24+)

The number of  $\$  and  $\$  in each n-period is  $k \cdot (n-1)$ .

## Corollary (STYZ '24+)

The number of 2-relevant edges in a 2-triangulation of (n + 0)-annulus is 2n - 2.

Solotko,	Tung,	Yang,	Zhang
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## Definition (STYZ '24)

Regular pipe flip: A flip for 📉 . Select the two pipes passing through 📉 ,	
identify their intersection 🛄 , mutate from 📉 to 🛄 for every translation.	



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## Definition (STYZ '24+)

*Exceptional pipe flip*: A flip for  $\frown$  . Select the pipe passing through  $\frown$  and its "+*kn*" translation, mutate from  $\frown$  to their intersection  $\Box$  for every translation.



## Definition (STYZ '24+)

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## Theorem (STYZ '24+)

Cylindrical pipe dreams of type (n, k) have flip property.

#### Theorem (STYZ '24+)

2-triangulations of (n + 0) annulus have flip property.

#### Conjecture (STYZ '24+)

k-triangulations of (n + 0) annulus have flip property.

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# Cylindrical Pipe Dreams: Regular Cylindrical Pipe Dreams

## Definition (STYZ '24+)

Regular cylindrical pipe dream: for every  $\mathbf{N}$ , there exists a  $\mathbf{N}$  at the same row.



## Lemma (STYZ '24+)

Cylindrical pipe dreams can be flipped to regular cylindrical pipe dreams.



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### Lemma (STYZ '24+)

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### Theorem (STYZ '24+)

Cylindrical pipe dreams have connected flip graph.



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2-triangulations of (n + 0) annulus have connected flip graph.

### Conjecture (STYZ '24+)

*k*-triangulations of (n + 0) annulus have connected flip graph.

### Cylindrical Pipe Dreams: Enumeration

### Theorem (STYZ '24+)

There exists a canonical bijection between cylindrical pipe dreams of type (n, k) and nonnegative integer k-tuples valuations  $v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_{n-1}$  on n vertices such that

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} v_i = (n-1, n-1, \dots, n-1).$$



### Cylindrical Pipe Dreams: Enumeration

### Lemma (STYZ '24+)

There are  $\binom{2(n-1)}{(n-1)}^k$  nonnegative k-tuples valuations  $v_0, v_1, \ldots v_{n-1}$  such that

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} v_i = (n-1, n-1, \dots, n-1).$$

### Corollary (STYZ 24+)

The number of cylindrical pipe dreams of type (n, k) is  $\binom{2(n-1)}{(n-1)}^{k}$ .

### Corollary (STYZ '24+)

The number of 2-triangulations of (n + 0) annulus is  $\binom{2(n-1)}{(n-1)}^2$ .

### Conjecture (STYZ '24+)

The number of k-triangulations of (n + 0) annulus is  $\binom{2(n-1)}{(n-1)}^{k}$ .

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#### Triangulations

#### Definition

A *q*-analog is a mathematical expression parameterized by *q* that generalizes some expression and reduces to it when we take the limit as  $q \rightarrow 1$ .

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#### Definition

A q-analog is a mathematical expression parameterized by q that generalizes some expression and reduces to it when we take the limit as  $q \rightarrow 1$ .

#### Example

• *n* and  $[n]_q = 1 + q + \dots + q^{n-1}$ 

#### Definition

A q-analog is a mathematical expression parameterized by q that generalizes some expression and reduces to it when we take the limit as  $q \rightarrow 1$ .

- *n* and  $[n]_q = 1 + q + \dots + q^{n-1}$
- n! and  $[n]_q! = [1]_q[2]_q \cdots [n]_q$

#### Definition

A q-analog is a mathematical expression parameterized by q that generalizes some expression and reduces to it when we take the limit as  $q \rightarrow 1$ .

▶ n and 
$$[n]_q = 1 + q + \dots + q^{n-1}$$
  
▶ n! and  $[n]_q! = [1]_q[2]_q \dots [n]_q$   
▶  $\begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q = \frac{[n]_q!}{[n-k]_q![k]_q!}$ 

#### Definition

A q-analog is a mathematical expression parameterized by q that generalizes some expression and reduces to it when we take the limit as  $q \rightarrow 1$ .

#### Example

▶ n and 
$$[n]_q = 1 + q + \dots + q^{n-1}$$
  
▶ n! and  $[n]_q! = [1]_q[2]_q \dots [n]_q$   
▶  $\begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q = \frac{[n]_q!}{[n-k]_q![k]_q!}$ 

$$\prod_{1 \le a \le b \le 2nk-2k-1} \frac{a+b+2k}{a+b}$$

and

$$\prod_{1 \le a \le b \le 2nk-2k-1} \frac{[a+b+2k]_q}{[a+b]_q}$$

(secretly q-analog for cardinality of set)

#### Definition (Reiner-Stanton-White '04)

If we have

- ▶ a finite set X,
- with a cyclic group  $C = \{1, c, c^2, \dots, c^{n-1}\}$  permuting X,
- ▶ and a *q*-analog polynomial  $X(q) \in \mathbb{Z}[q]$ ,

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#### Definition (Reiner-Stanton-White '04)

If we have

- ▶ a finite set X,
- with a cyclic group  $C = \{1, c, c^2, \dots, c^{n-1}\}$  permuting X,
- ▶ and a *q*-analog polynomial  $X(q) \in \mathbb{Z}[q]$ ,

such that

$$\forall c^d \in C, |\{x \in X : c^d(x) = x\}| = X\left(\exp\left(\frac{2\pi i d}{n}\right)\right)$$

then (X, C, X(q)) is said to exhibit CSP.

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### Cyclic sieving results

(X, C, X(q)) is CSP for

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#### (X, C, X(q)) is CSP for

▶ (Reiner-Stanton-White '04) X = k-element subsets of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ ,  $C = \langle c \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_n$ where *c* acts on *k*-element set by adding 1 to each element,  $X(q) = \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_{q}$ .

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#### (X, C, X(q)) is CSP for

- ▶ (Reiner-Stanton-White '04) X = k-element subsets of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ ,  $C = \langle c \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_n$ where *c* acts on *k*-element set by adding 1 to each element,  $X(q) = \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q$
- ► (Stanton '04) X = set of n × n ASMs, C = ⟨c⟩ = Z₄ where c acts on an ASM by rotating it 90 degrees, X(q) = q-analog of enumeration formula for ASMs.

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- ▶ (Reiner-Stanton-White '04) X = k-element subsets of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ ,  $C = \langle c \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_n$ where *c* acts on *k*-element set by adding 1 to each element,  $X(q) = \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q$
- ► (Stanton '04) X = set of n × n ASMs, C = ⟨c⟩ = Z₄ where c acts on an ASM by rotating it 90 degrees, X(q) = q-analog of enumeration formula for ASMs.
- ► (Reiner-Stanton-White '04) X = triangulations of (n + 2)-gon,  $C = \langle c \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_{n+2}$  where c is rotation by  $\frac{2\pi}{n+2}$  radians,  $X(q) = \frac{1}{[n+1]_q} \begin{bmatrix} 2n \\ n \end{bmatrix}_q$ (q-Catalan)

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 $X = \text{triangulations of 6-gon}, \ C = \langle \exp(2\pi i/6) \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_6, \ X(q) = \frac{1}{[5]_q} \begin{bmatrix} 8\\ 4 \end{bmatrix}_q.$ 

 $X = \text{triangulations of 6-gon}, \ C = \langle \exp(2\pi i/6) \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_6, \ X(q) = \frac{1}{[5]_q} \begin{bmatrix} 8\\ 4 \end{bmatrix}_q.$ 



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X = triangulations of 6-gon,  $C = \langle \exp(2\pi i/6) \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_6, X(q) = \frac{1}{[5]_q} \begin{bmatrix} 8\\ 4 \end{bmatrix}_2$ .

$$X(1) = 14$$

X = triangulations of 6-gon,  $C = \langle \exp(2\pi i/6) \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_6$ ,  $X(q) = \frac{1}{[5]_q} \begin{bmatrix} 8\\ 4 \end{bmatrix}_2$ .

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X = triangulations of 6-gon,  $C = \langle \exp(2\pi i/6) \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_6$ ,  $X(q) = \frac{1}{[5]_q} \begin{bmatrix} 8\\ 4 \end{bmatrix}_{-}$ .

$$\blacktriangleright X(\exp(2\pi i/6)) = 0$$

•  $X(\exp(4\pi i/6)) = 2$ 

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 $X = \text{triangulations of 6-gon}, \ C = \langle \exp(2\pi i/6) \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_6, \ X(q) = \frac{1}{[5]_q} \begin{bmatrix} 8\\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$ .

X(1) = 14

$$\blacktriangleright X(\exp(2\pi i/6)) = 0$$

- $X(\exp(4\pi i/6)) = 2$
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X(1) = 14

$$\blacktriangleright X(\exp(2\pi i/6)) = 0$$

 $X(\exp(4\pi i/6)) = 2$ 

 $X(\exp(6\pi i/6)) = 6$ 

### Cyclic sieving for 2-triangulation of (n + 0)-annulus

#### Definition

Let  $M_{2nk,k}$  be the set of k-triangulations of a 2nk-gon. Let  $C = \langle \exp(\pi i/k) \rangle$  act on these triangulations.

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# Cyclic sieving for 2-triangulation of (n + 0)-annulus

#### Definition

Let  $M_{2nk,k}$  be the set of k-triangulations of a 2nk-gon. Let  $C = \langle \exp(\pi i/k) \rangle$  act on these triangulations.

#### Lemma

When k = 2, the triple  $(M_{2nk,k}, C, M_{2nk,k}(q))$  is CSP.

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# Cyclic sieving for 2-triangulation of (n + 0)-annulus

#### Definition

Let  $M_{2nk,k}$  be the set of k-triangulations of a 2nk-gon. Let  $C = \langle \exp(\pi i/k) \rangle$  act on these triangulations.

#### Lemma

When k = 2, the triple  $(M_{2nk,k}, C, M_{2nk,k}(q))$  is CSP.

#### Proof.

It suffices to show that  
(a) 
$$M_{2nk,k}(i) = {\binom{2(n-1)}{n-1}}^2$$
.  
(b)  $M_{2nk,k}(-1) = (4n-3) \left(\frac{(4n-4)!}{(2n-1)!(2n-2)!}\right)^2$ .  
(c)  $M_{2nk,k}(-i) = {\binom{2(n-1)}{n-1}}^2$ 

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### Cyclic sieving for k-triangulation of (n + 0)-annulus

#### Definition

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# Cyclic sieving for k-triangulation of (n + 0)-annulus

#### Definition

Let  $M_{2nk,k}$  be the set of k-triangulations of a 2nk-gon. Let  $C = \langle \exp(\pi i/k) \rangle$  act on these triangulations.

#### Conjecture

The number of k-triangulations of 2kn-gon invariant under rotation by  $\frac{2\pi}{2k} \cdot j$  radians is

$$\prod_{a=1}^{k} \frac{((2n-1)d - \lceil \frac{2a}{m} \rceil)!}{((n-1)d + \lceil \frac{a}{m} \rceil - 1)!} \cdot \frac{(\lceil \frac{2a}{m} \rceil - 1)!}{(nd - \lceil \frac{a}{m} \rceil)!}$$

where  $d = \operatorname{gcd}(2k, j)$  and m = 2k/d.

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# Cyclic sieving for k-triangulation of (n + 0)-annulus

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$$\prod_{a=1}^{k} \frac{((2n-1)d - \lceil \frac{2a}{m} \rceil)!}{((n-1)d + \lceil \frac{a}{m} \rceil - 1)!} \cdot \frac{(\lceil \frac{2a}{m} \rceil - 1)!}{(nd - \lceil \frac{a}{m} \rceil)!}$$

where  $d = \gcd(2k, j)$  and m = 2k/d.

#### Corollary

The triple  $(M_{2nk,k}, C, M_{2nk,k}(q))$  is CSP.

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Let  $\Delta_{n,k}$  denote the simplicial complex for the *k*-triangulations of the (n, 0)-annulus.

#### Conjecture

 $\Delta_{n,k}$  is a piecewise linear sphere.

Vertex Decomposable  $\Rightarrow$  Shellable  $\Rightarrow$  Spheric

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#### Conjecture

The *h*-polynomial of  $\Delta_{n,k}$  is  $\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} {\binom{n-1}{i}}^2 t^i\right)^k$ .

	n=1	2	3	4	5	6
k=1	[1]	[1, 1]	[1, 4, 1]	[1, 9, 9, 1]	[1, 16, 36, 16, 1]	[1, 25, 100, 100, 25, 1]
2	[1]	[1, 2, 1]	[1, 8, 18, 8, 1]	[1, 18, 99, 164, 99, 18, 1]		
3	[1]	[1, 3, 3, 1]	[1, 12, 51, 88, 51, 12, 1]			
4	[1]	[1, 4, 6, 4, 1]	[1, 16, 100, 304, 454, 304, 100, 16, 1]			

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This project was supported in large part by a grant from the D.E. Shaw group, and also by NSF grant DMS-2053288. It was supervised as part of the University of Minnesota School of Mathematics Summer 2024 REU program. The authors would also like to thank Pasha Pylyavskyy and Joe McDonough for their invaluable guidance and expertise throughout the program. The authors also thank Kieran Favazza and Molly MacDonald for insightful discussion on the topic of this report.

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## Group Photo



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