



## Braid combinatorics, permutations, and noncrossing partitions

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## Braid combinatorics, permutations, and noncrossing partitions

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Nicolas Oresme, Université de Caen

- A few combinatorial questions involving braids and their Garside structures:





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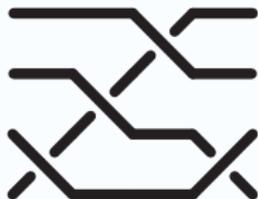
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- a 4-strand braid diagram

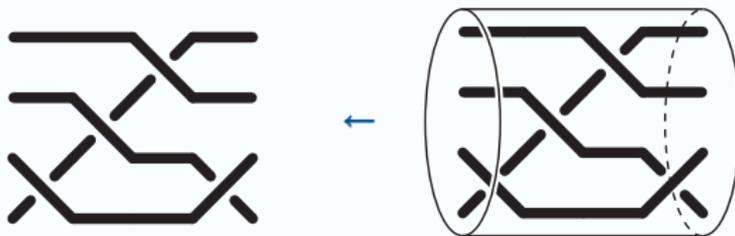
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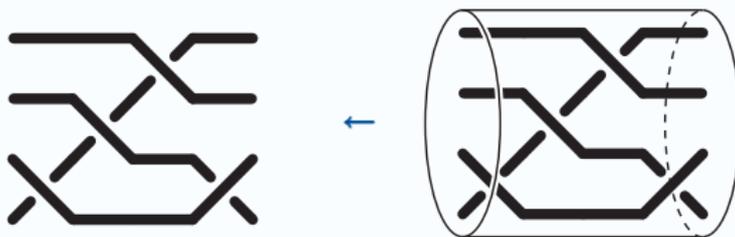
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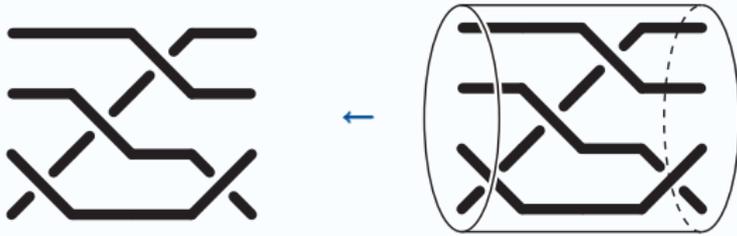


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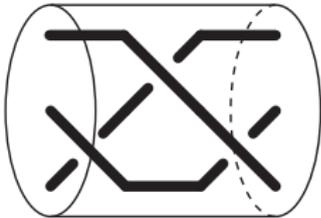


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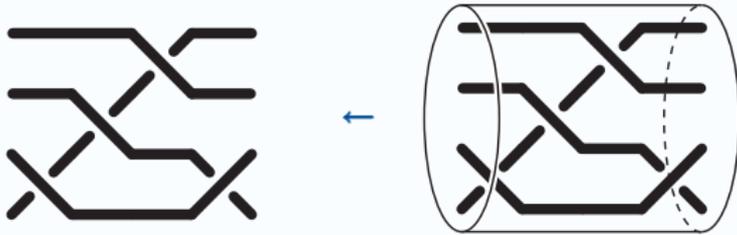
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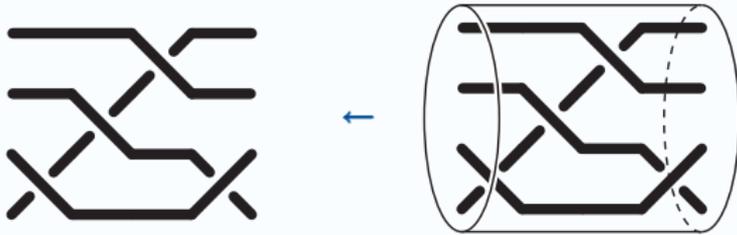
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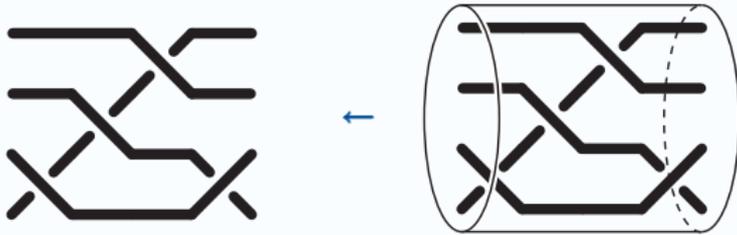
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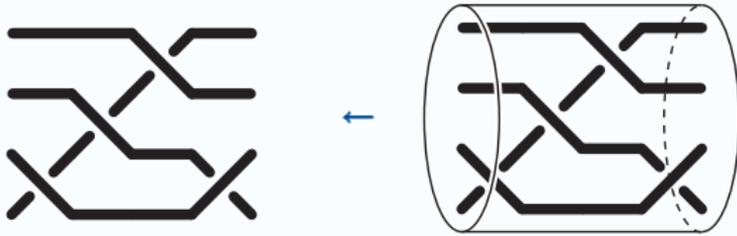
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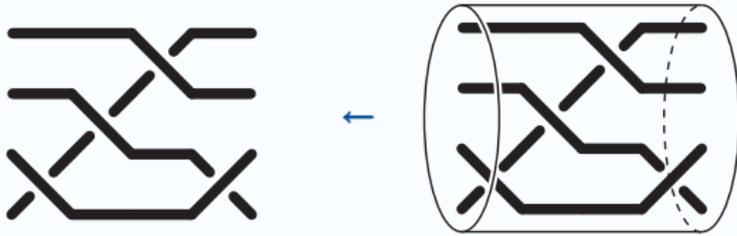
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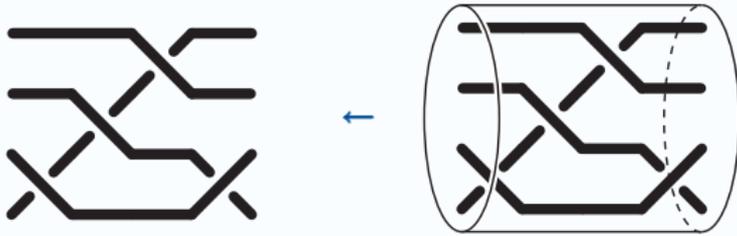
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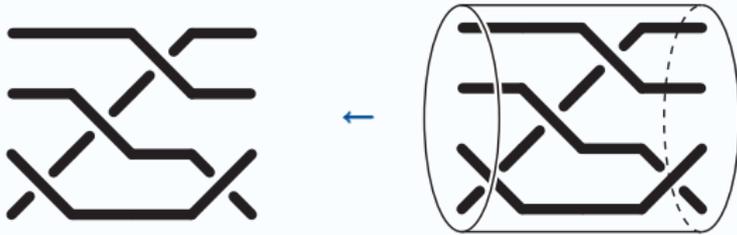
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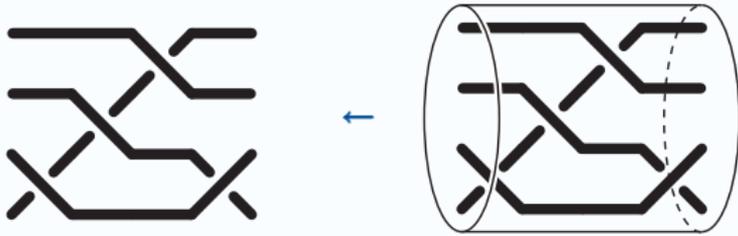
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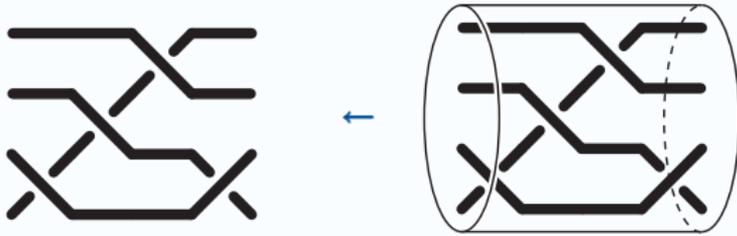
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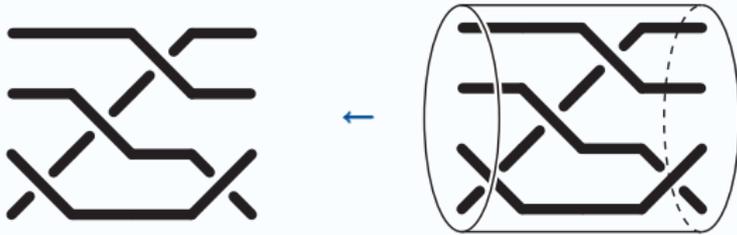
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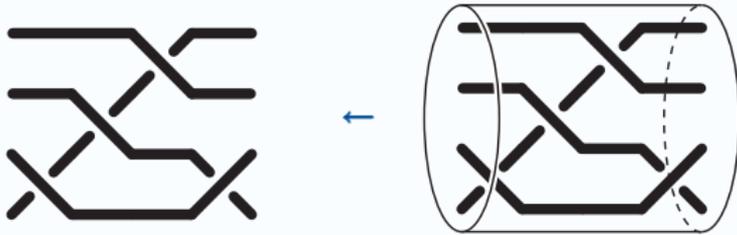
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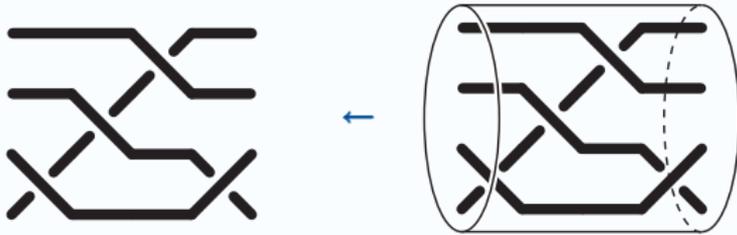
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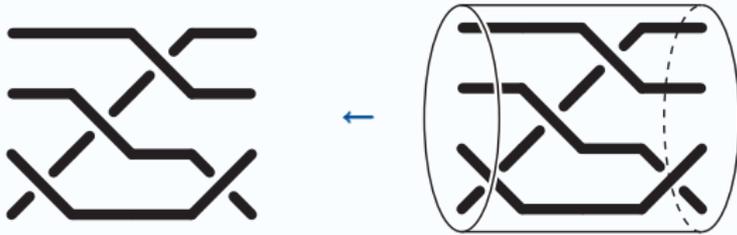
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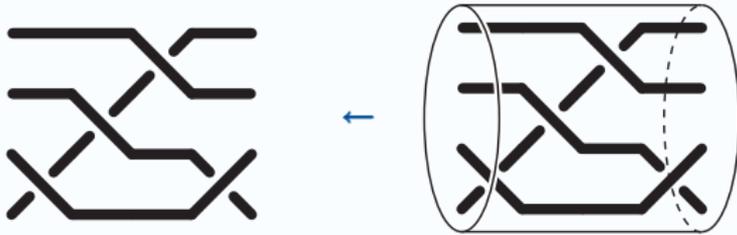
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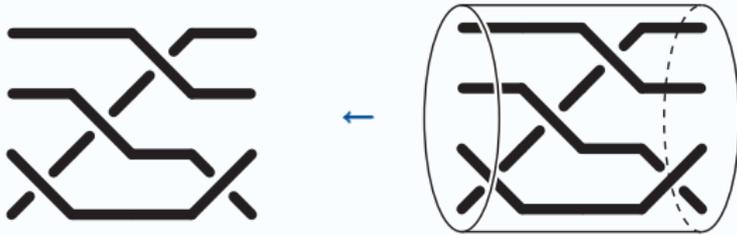


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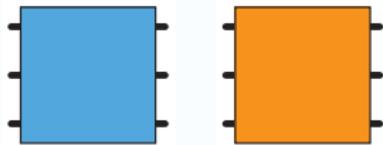


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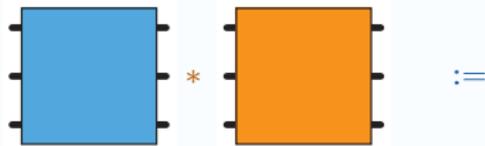


- a **braid** := an isotopy class ▶ represented by 2D-diagram, **but** different 2D-diagrams may give rise to the same braid.

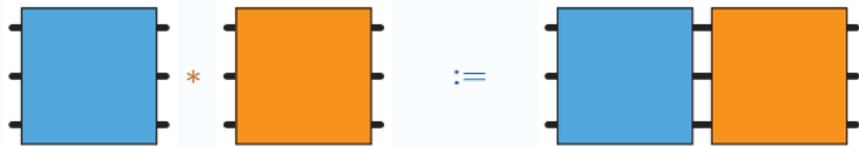
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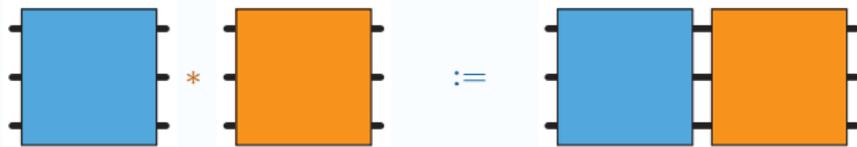
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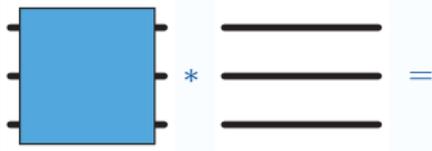
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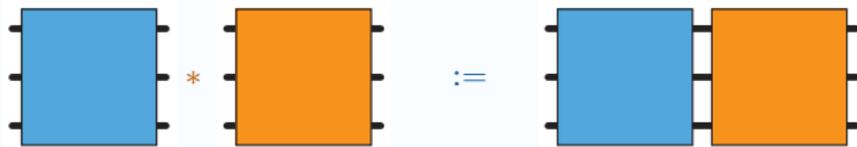
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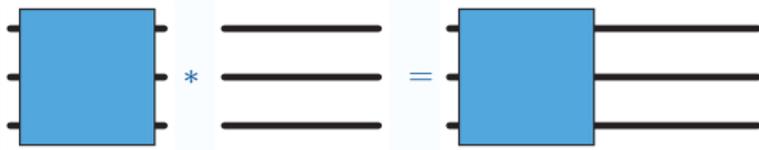
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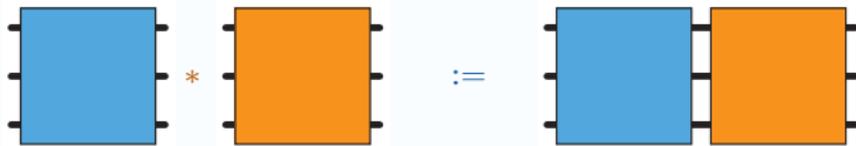
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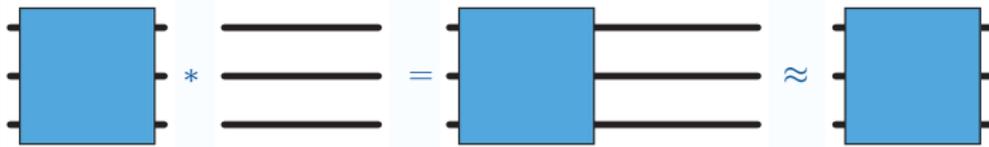
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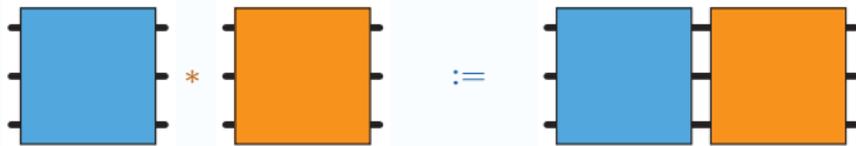
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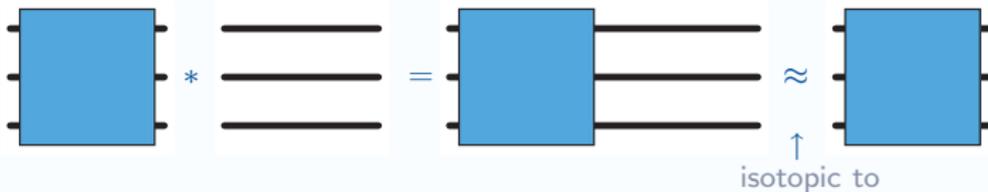
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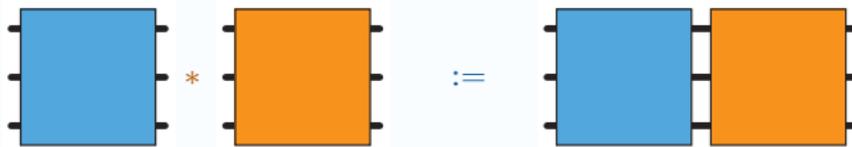
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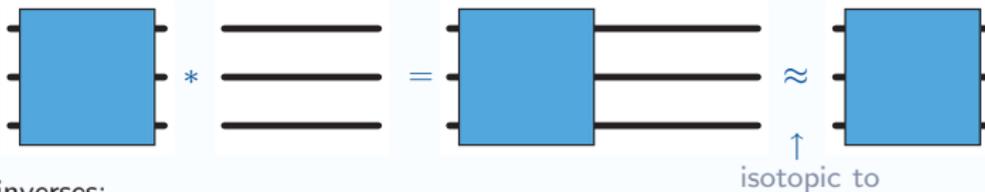
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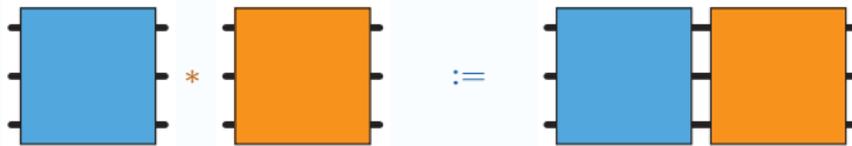
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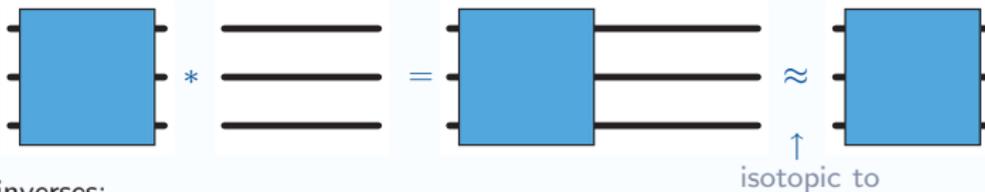
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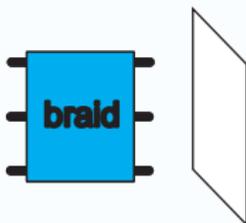
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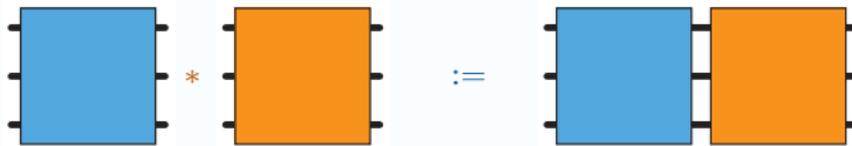
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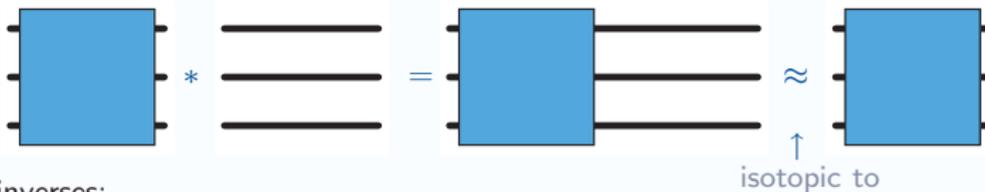
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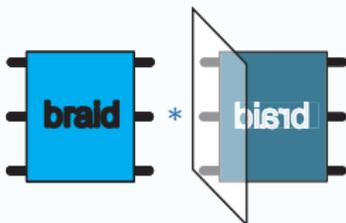
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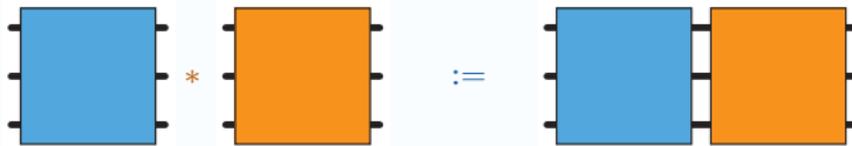
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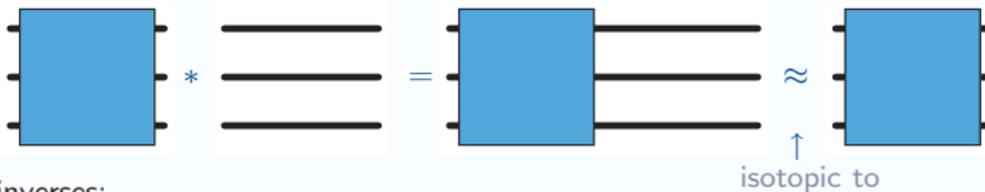
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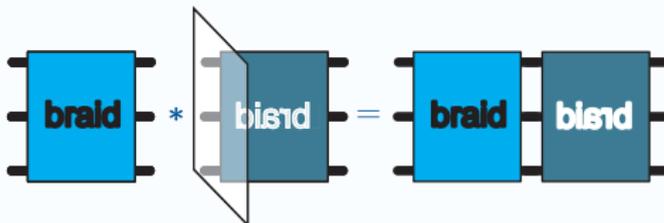
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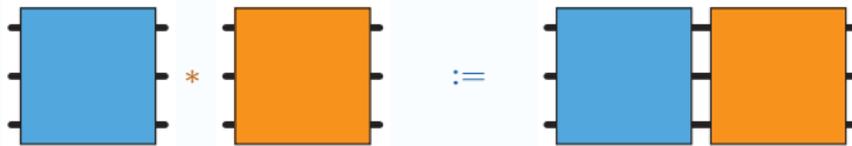
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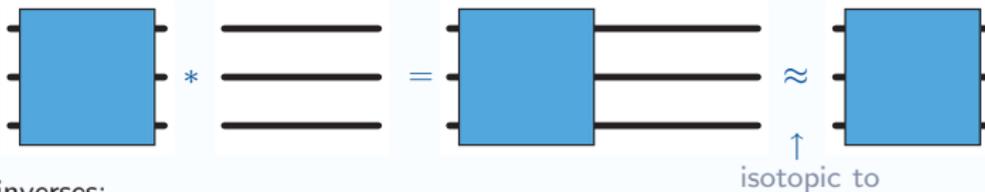
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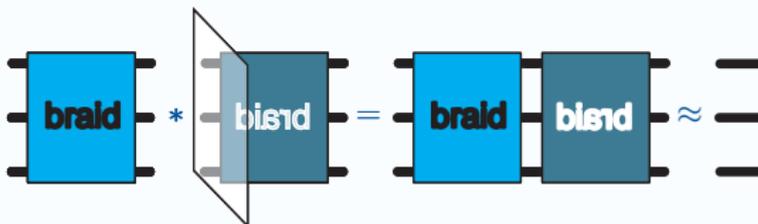
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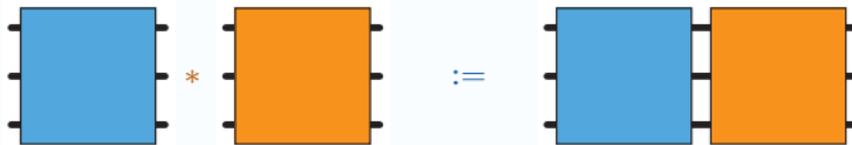
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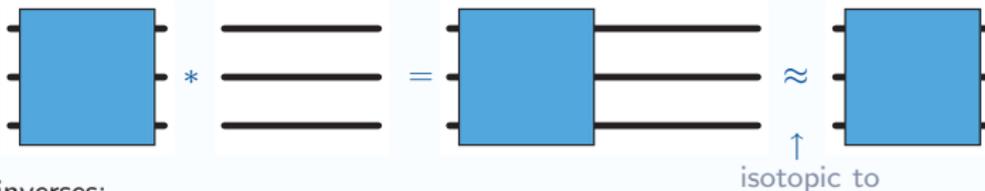
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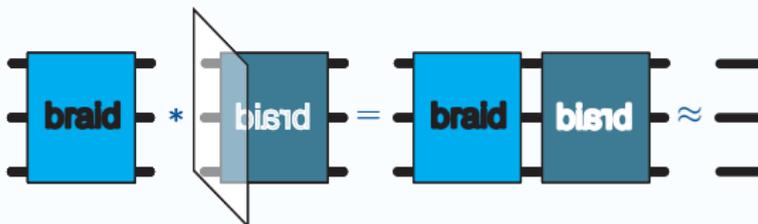
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- For each  $n$ , the group  $B_n$  of  $n$ -strand braids (E. Artin, 1925).

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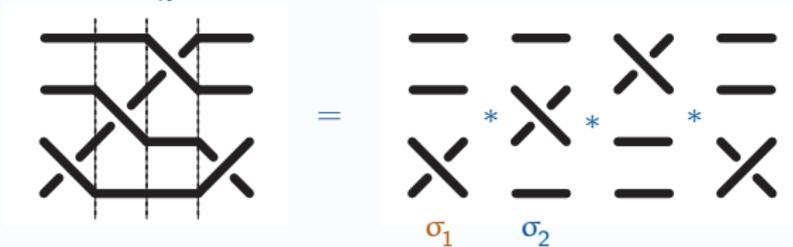
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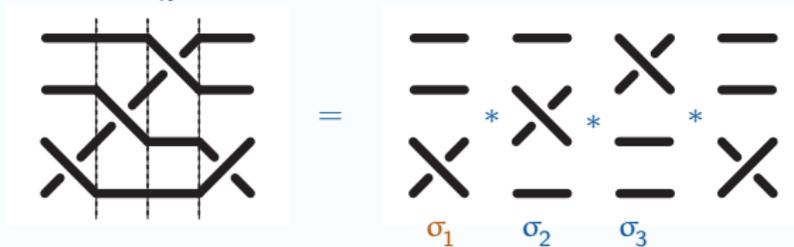
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The diagram illustrates the Artin generator  $\sigma_1$  in the braid group  $B_n$ . On the left, a braid with three strands is shown, with three vertical dashed lines representing the strands. The braid is composed of three crossings. On the right, the same braid is shown, but the crossings are separated and marked with blue asterisks. The first crossing is labeled  $\sigma_1$  in orange. The equation is represented by an equals sign between the two diagrams.

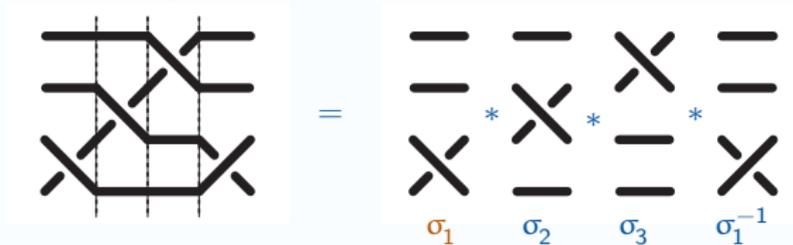
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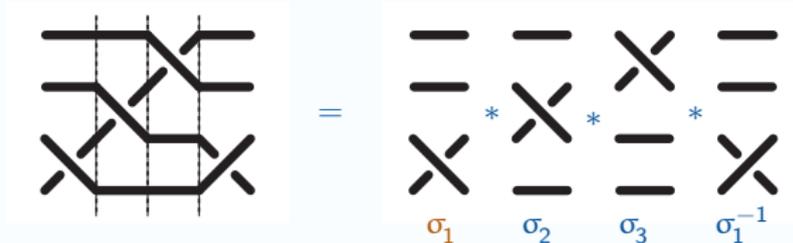
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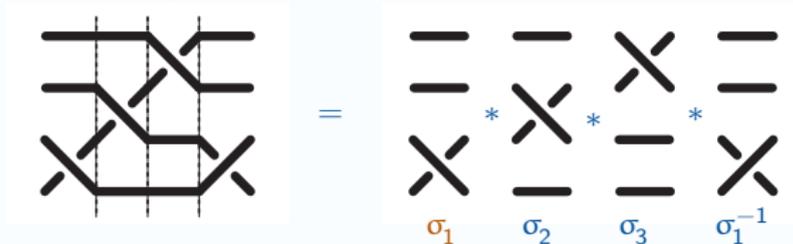


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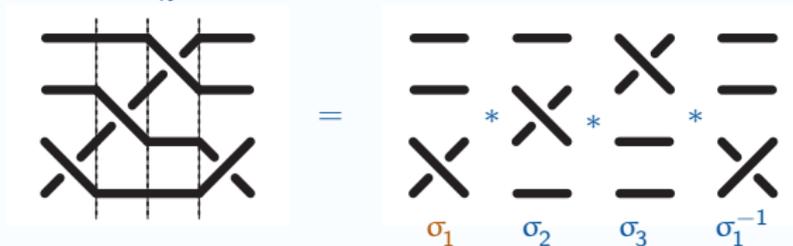
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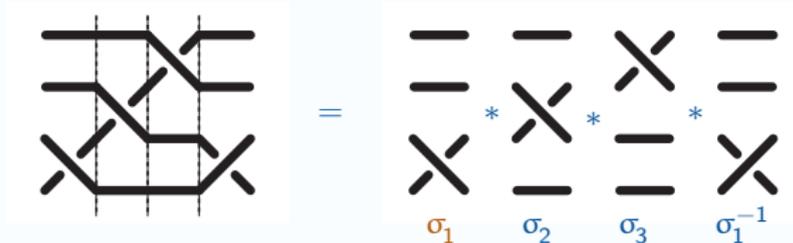
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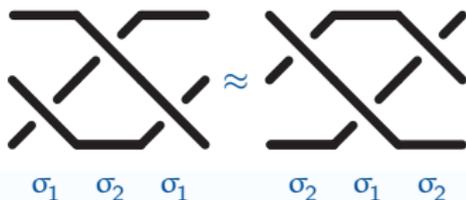
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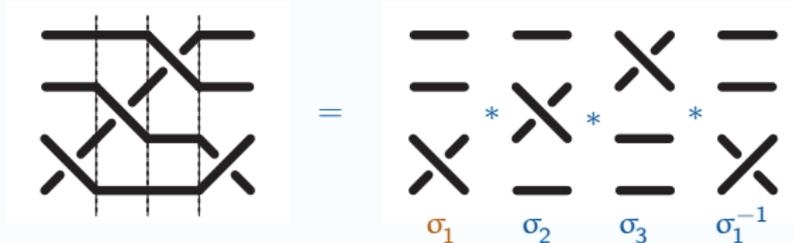


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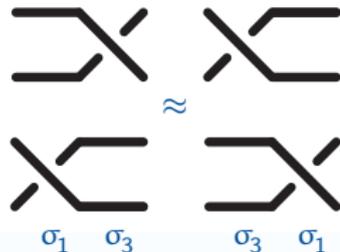
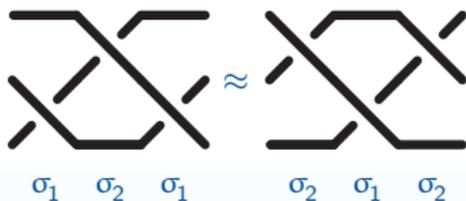


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- Plan :

1. Braid combinatorics: Artin generators
2. Braid combinatorics: Garside generators
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- **Definition:** A **Garside structure** in a group  $G$  is a subset  $S$  of  $G$  s.t. every element  $g$  of  $G$  admits an  **$S$ -normal** decomposition, meaning  $g = s_p^{-1} \dots s_1^{-1} t_1 \dots t_q$  with  $s_1, \dots, s_p, t_1, \dots, t_q$  in  $S$  and, using “ $f$  left-divides  $g$ ” for “ $f^{-1}g$  lies in the submonoid  $\widehat{S}$  of  $G$  generated by  $S$ ”,
  - ▶ every element of  $S$  left-dividing  $s_i s_{i+1}$  left-divides  $s_i$ ,
  - ▶ every element of  $S$  left-dividing  $t_i t_{i+1}$  left-divides  $t_i$ ,
  - ▶  $1$  is the only element of  $S$  left-dividing  $s_1$  and  $t_1$ .
- When it exists, an  $S$ -normal decomposition is (essentially) unique, and geodesic.
- Every group is a Garside structure in itself: interesting only when  $S$  is small.
- Normality is **local**: if  $S$  is finite,  $S$ -normal sequences make a rational language
  - ▶ automatic structure, solution of the word and conjugacy problems, ...
  - ▶ counting problems:  $\#$  elements with  $S$ -normal decompositions of length  $\ell$ .
- **Definition:** A Garside structure  $S$  in a group  $G$  is **bounded** if there exists an element  $\Delta$  (“**Garside element**”) such that  $S$  consists of the left-divisors of  $\Delta$  in  $\widehat{S}$ .
- In this case:
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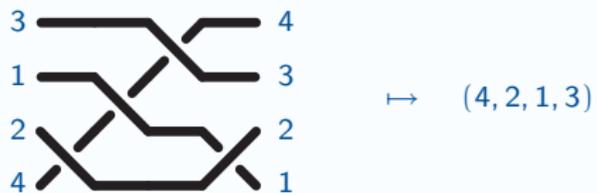
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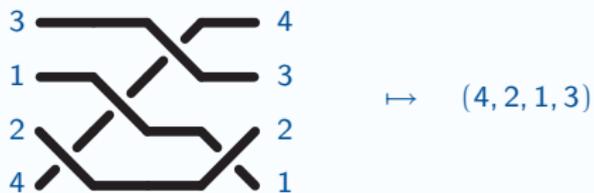
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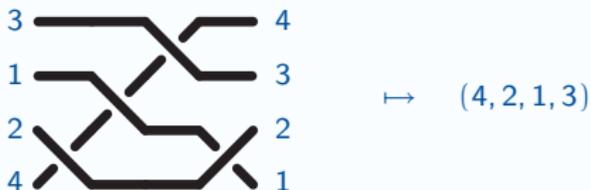


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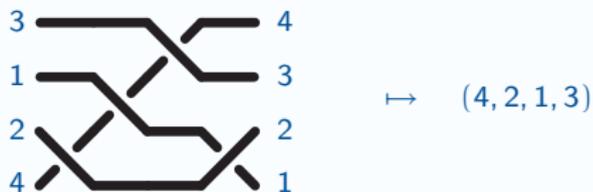


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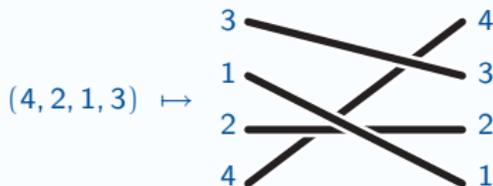
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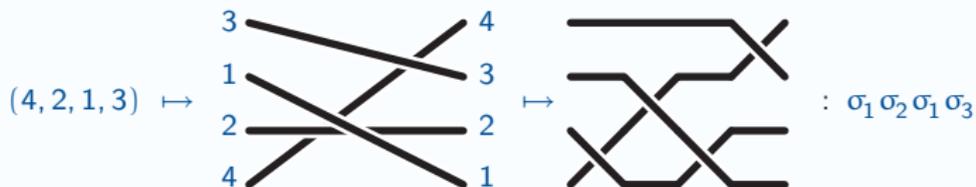


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- ▶ The family  $\mathcal{S}_n$  of all simple  $n$ -strand braids is a copy of  $\mathcal{S}_n$ .

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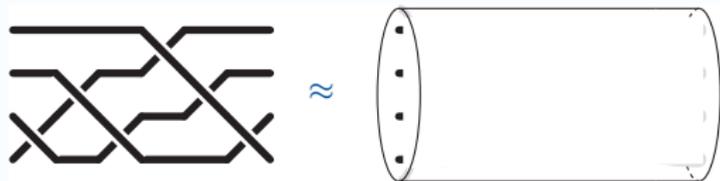
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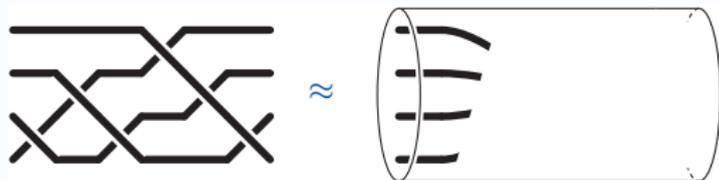
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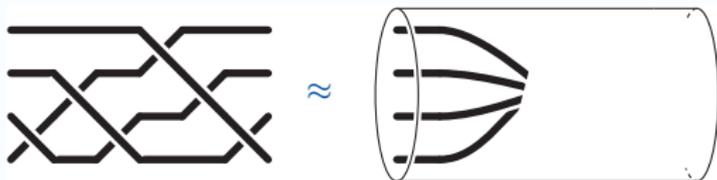
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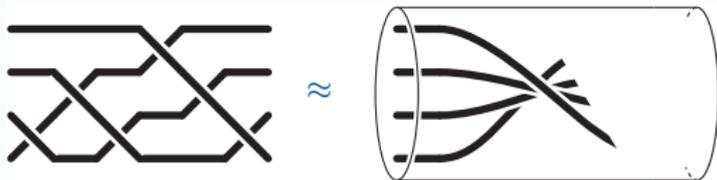
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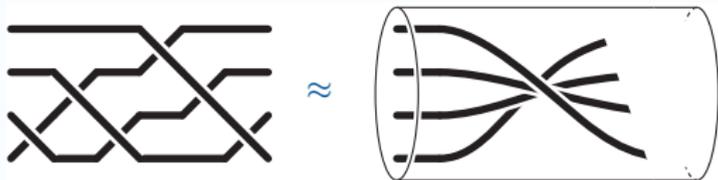
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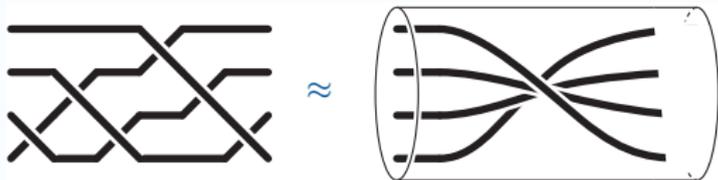
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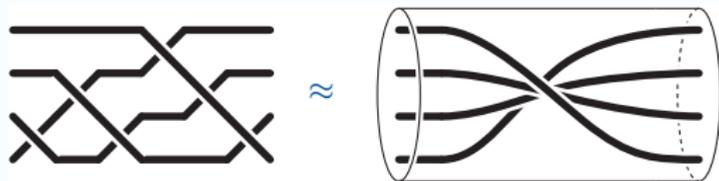
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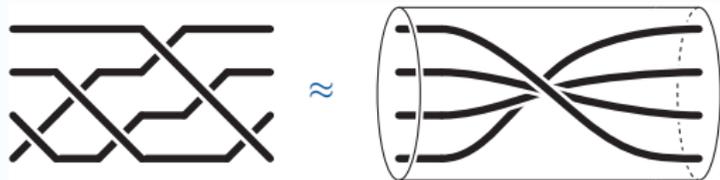
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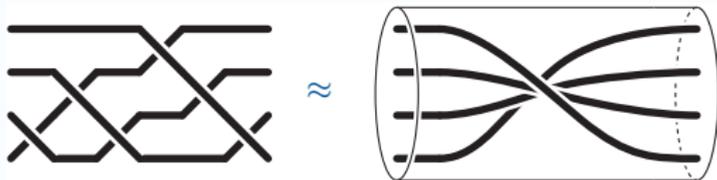
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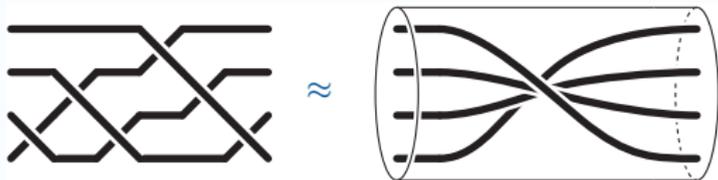
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$\uparrow$   
**length** of  $f := \#$  of inversions in  $f$



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Then  $N_{n,\ell}^{\text{Gar}+}$  is the  $\ell$ th entry in  $(1, \dots, 1) \cdot M_n^\ell$ .

- ▶ For each  $n$ , the generating series of  $N_{n,\ell}^{\text{Gar}+}$  is rational.

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(another) form of **Solomon's** result about the descent algebra.

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- What is the asymptotic behaviour?

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- Conclusion: Braid combinatorics w.r.t. Garside generators  
leads to new, interesting (?) questions about permutation combinatorics.

- Braid groups are countable, braids can be encoded in integers, and most of their (algebraic) properties can be proved in the logical framework of Peano arithmetic, and even of weaker subsystems, like  $I\Sigma_1$  where induction is limited to formulas involving at most one unbounded quantifier.

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- Plan :

1. Braid combinatorics: Artin generators
2. Braid combinatorics: Garside generators
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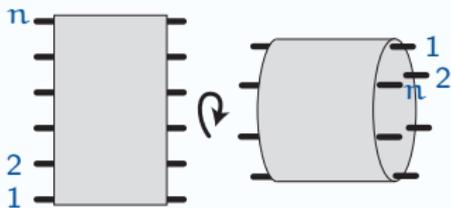


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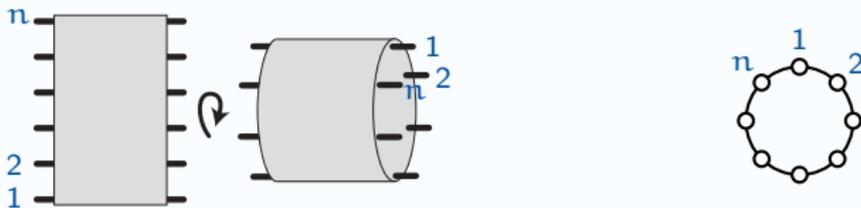
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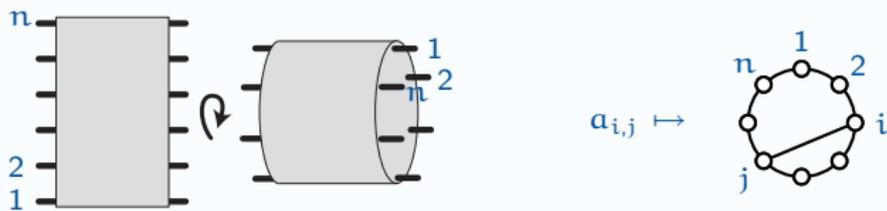
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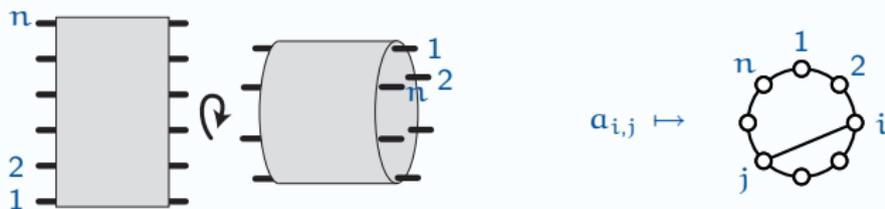
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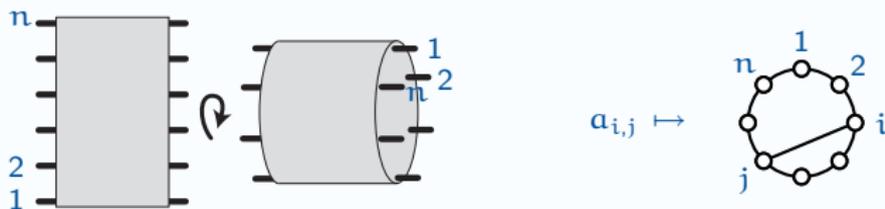


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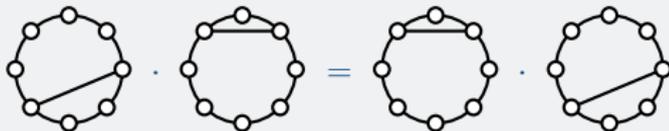


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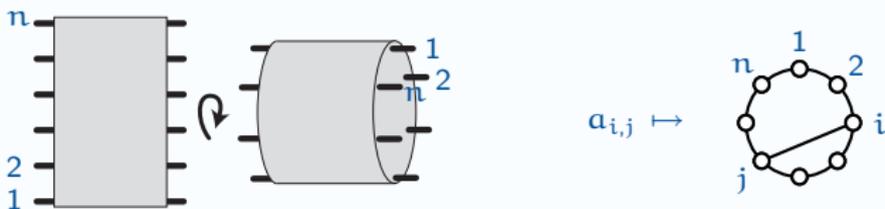


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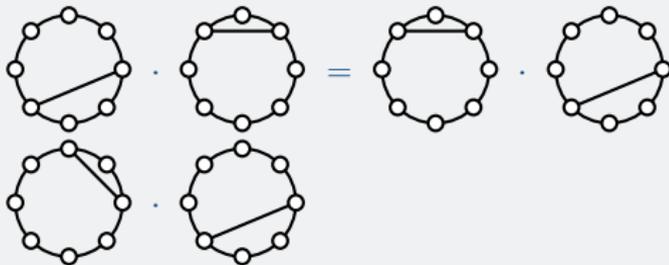


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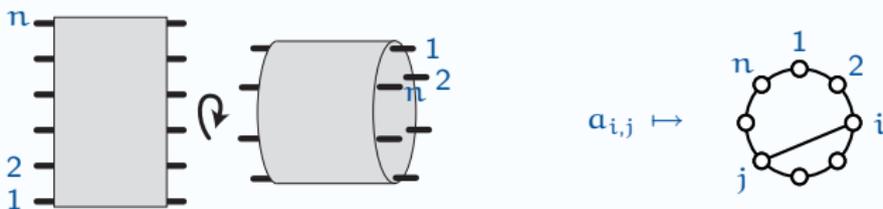


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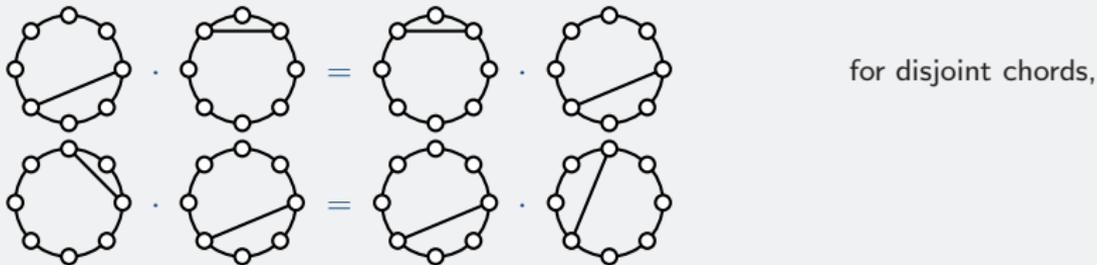


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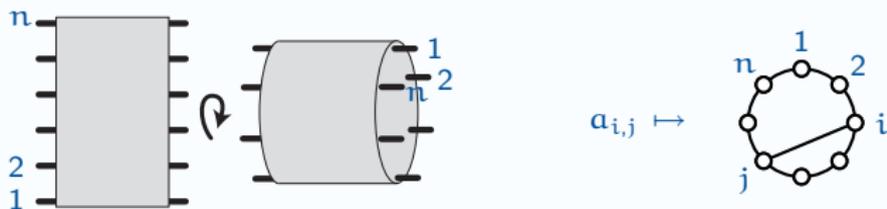
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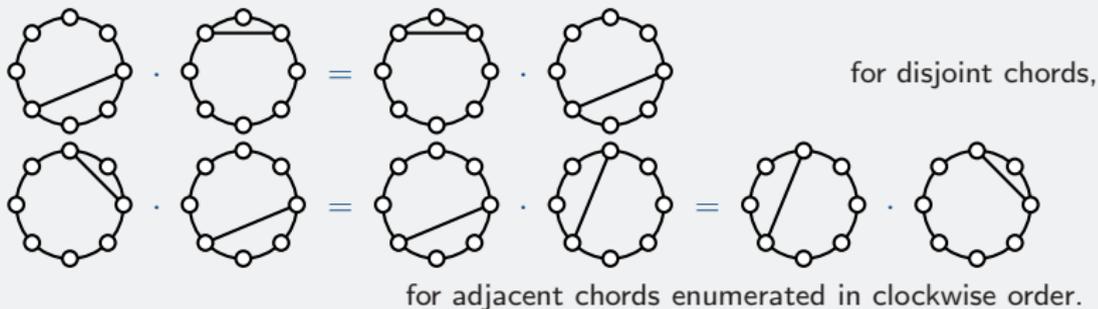
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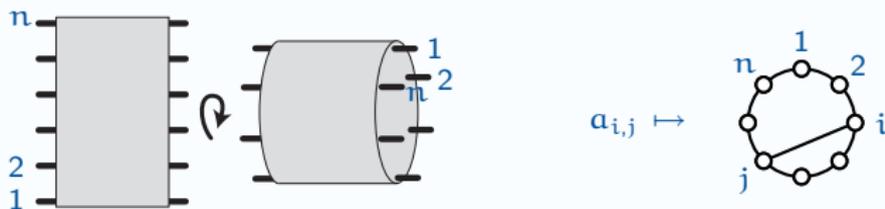
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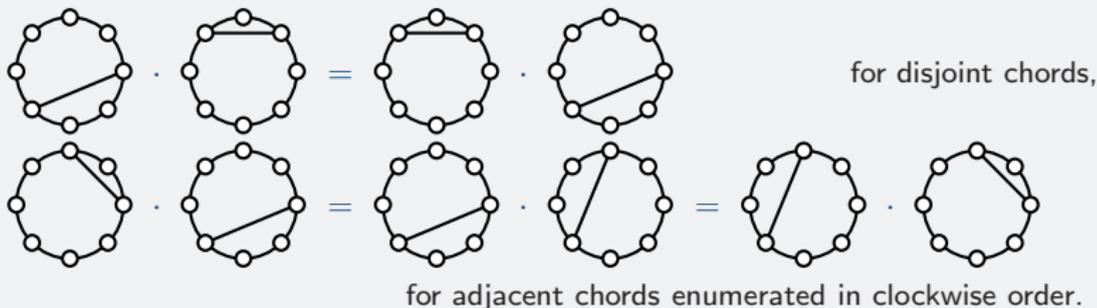
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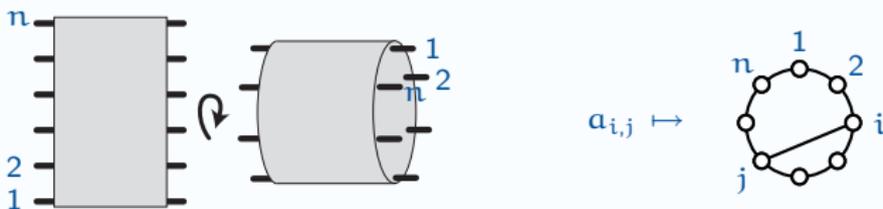


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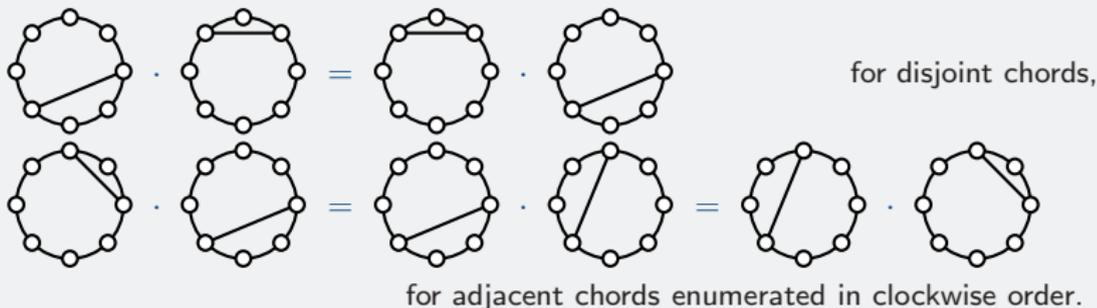


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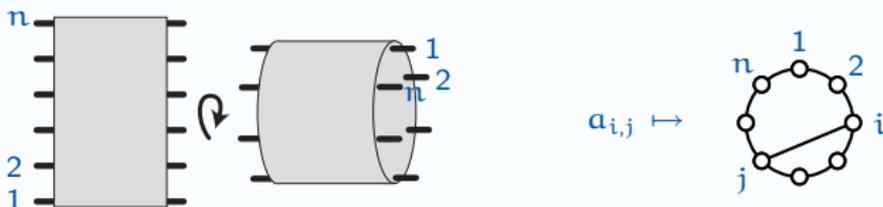


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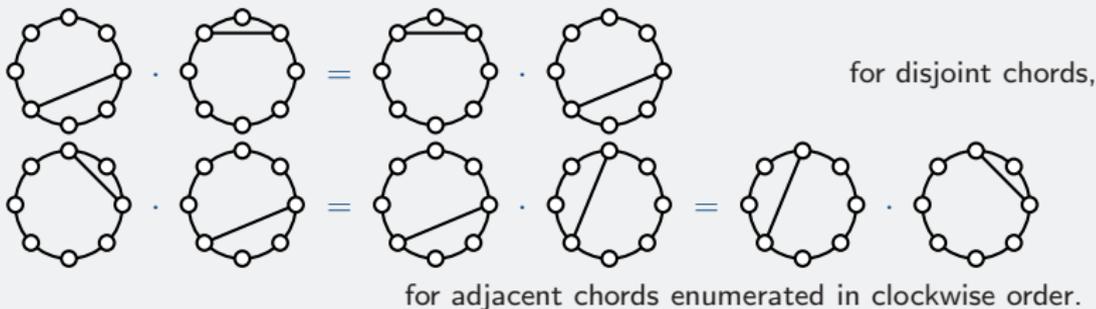


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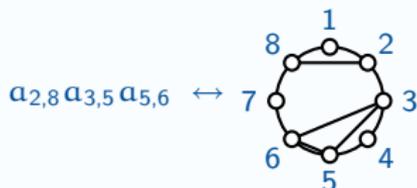
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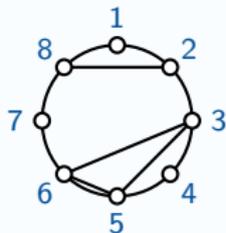


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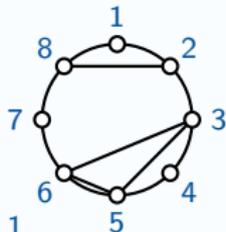
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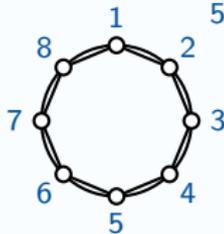
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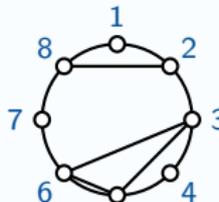
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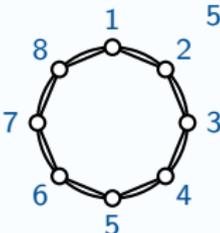


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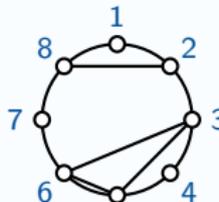
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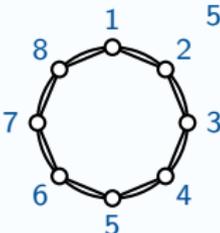
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• Remark: The permutation of the braid  $\mathbf{a}_\lambda$  is the permutation associated with  $\lambda$   
(product of cycles of the parts)

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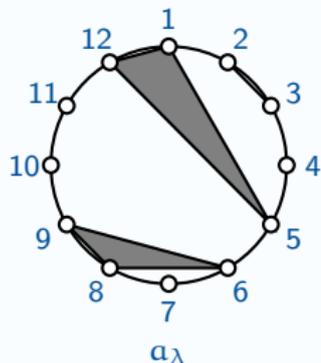


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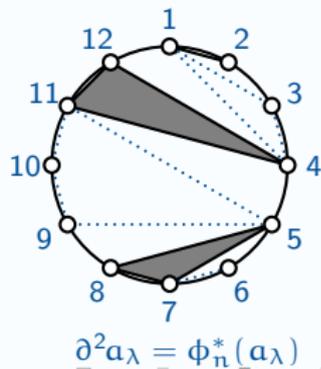
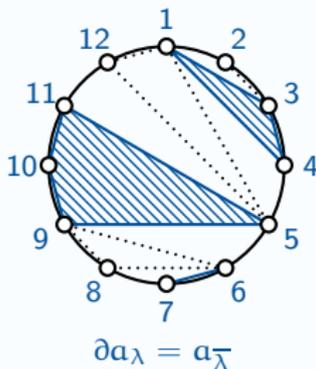
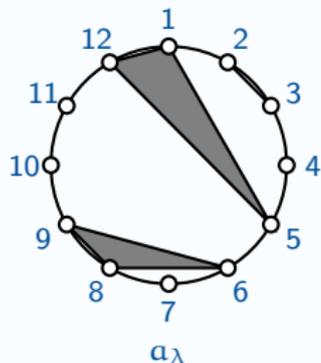


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- ▶ Hence connected to the g.f.  $F$  of pairs of noncrossing partitions under  $(\#)$ .  $\square$

- First values:

d	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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$\text{tr}(M_n^*)$	1	2	5	14	42	132	429

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$\text{tr}(M_n^*)$	1	2	5	14	42	132	429
$\det(M_n^*)$	1	1	2	$2^4 \cdot 5$	$2^{16} \cdot 5^5 \cdot 7$	$2^{63} \cdot 3 \cdot 5^{21} \cdot 7^7$	$2^{247} \cdot 3^8 \cdot 5^{84} \cdot 7^{35} \cdot 11$

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d	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$N_{2,d}^{\text{BKL}+}$	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$N_{3,d}^{\text{BKL}+}$	5	15	83	177	367	749	1 515
$N_{4,d}^{\text{BKL}+}$	14	99	556	2 856	14 122	68 927	334 632
$N_{5,d}^{\text{BKL}+}$	42	773	11 124	147 855	1 917 046	24 672 817	
$N_{6,d}^{\text{BKL}+}$	132	6 743	266 944	9 845 829	356 470 124		

- **Questions** about columns (OK for  $d \leq 2$ ):

▶ What is the behaviour of  $N_{n,3}^{\text{BKL}+}$ , etc.?

- **Questions** about rows (OK for  $n \leq 3$ ):

▶ Can one reduce the size of  $M_n^*$ ?

▶ Is  $M_n^*$  always invertible?

▶ What is the asymptotic behaviour of the spectral radius of  $M_n^*$ ?

n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$\text{tr}(M_n^*)$	1	2	5	14	42	132	429
$\det(M_n^*)$	1	1	2	$2^4 \cdot 5$	$2^{16} \cdot 5^5 \cdot 7$	$2^{63} \cdot 3 \cdot 5^{21} \cdot 7^7$	$2^{247} \cdot 3^8 \cdot 5^{84} \cdot 7^{35} \cdot 11$
$\rho(M_n^*)$	1	1	2	4.83...	12.83...	35.98...	104.87...

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