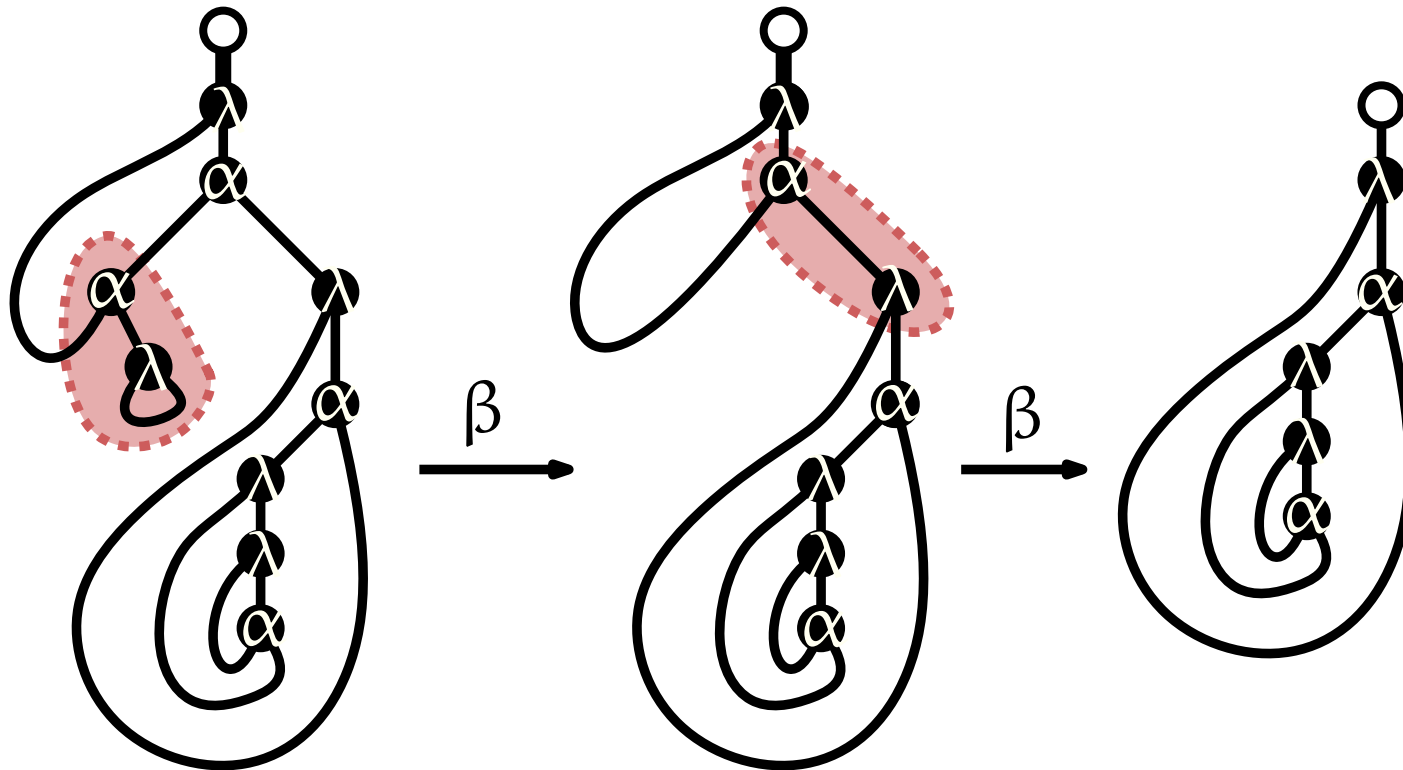


Normalisation of random linear λ -terms



Alexandros Singh

Based on joint work with Olivier Bodini, Bernhard Gittenberger
Michael Wallner, and Noam Zeilberger.

AofA 2023 - Taiwan
Friday, June 30 2023

What is the λ -calculus?

A calculus of functions taking a single argument:

$$f, t ::= x \mid \lambda x. t \mid (f t)$$

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variables 

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abstractions





represent functions “ $x \mapsto t$ ”


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variables  x

abstractions  $\lambda x.t$




applications  $(f t)$
represent "f(t)"

represent functions " $x \mapsto t$ "

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- Introduced by Church around 1928, developed together with Kleene, Rosser.

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represent functions " $x \mapsto t$ "
represent " $f(t)$ "




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- It can encode: arithmetic, data structures, programming ...

Church-Turing thesis: “effectively computable” = definable in λ -calculus (or Turing machines, or recursive functions).

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Church-Turing thesis: “effectively computable” = definable in λ -calculus (or Turing machines, or recursive functions).

- In its typed form: functional programming, proof theory,...

More on the λ -calculus

Examples of terms:

$$f(x) = x \rightsquigarrow \lambda x.x$$

$$g(x, y) = y \rightsquigarrow \lambda x.\lambda y.y$$

$$f \circ g \rightsquigarrow (\lambda x.x)(\lambda x.\lambda y.y)$$

(Currying: $X \times Y \rightarrow Z \rightsquigarrow X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z$)

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Some terminology:

$$(\lambda x.(x y))$$

open term (has *free variables*)

$$(\lambda x.(x x))(\lambda z.z)$$

closed term (no free variables)

$$((\lambda x.\lambda y.(y x)) a)$$

linear term (bound vars. used once)

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Terms are considered up to *careful* renaming of variables:

$$(\lambda x.\lambda y.(x y x)) \stackrel{\alpha}{=} (\lambda z.\lambda y.(z y z)) \stackrel{\alpha}{\neq} (\lambda x.\lambda y.(z y x))$$

Computing with the λ -calculus


Dynamics of the λ -calculus: β -reductions

$$((\lambda x.t_1) t_2) \xrightarrow{\beta} t_1[x := t_2]$$

Computing with the λ -calculus

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redex

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What it means:

Given a function $f = x \mapsto t_1$ and an argument t_2 , to compute $f(t_2)$, replace x with t_2 inside t_1 .

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Examples of reductions:

$$f \circ g = g \rightsquigarrow (\lambda x. x)(\lambda x. \lambda y. y) \xrightarrow{\beta} x[x := (\lambda x. \lambda y. y)] = (\lambda x. \lambda y. y)$$

A term with no redices is called a **normal form**

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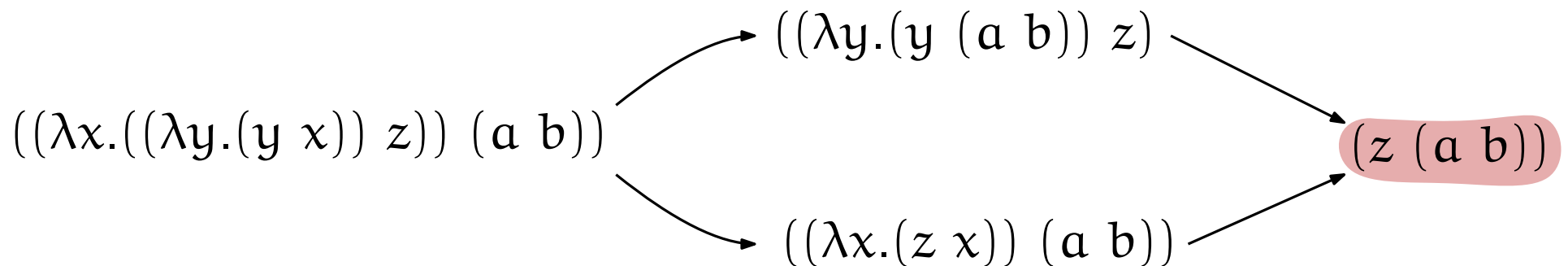
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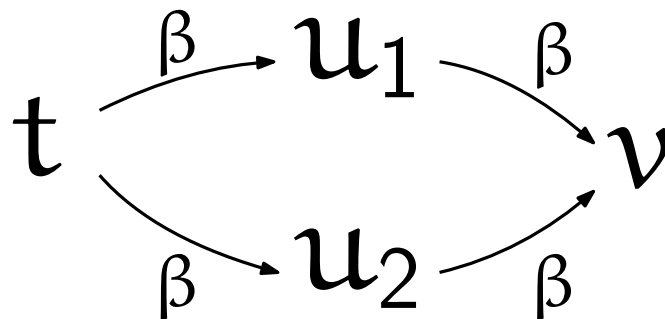
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Given a function $f = x \mapsto t_1$ and an argument t_2 , to compute $f(t_2)$, replace x with t_2 inside t_1 .


For **linear terms**: β -reduction is strongly normalising, has strong diamond property.



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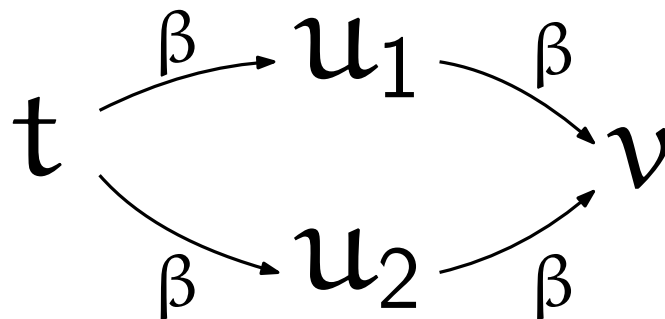
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β -normalisation terminates in deterministic number of steps!

Normalisation of random closed linear terms

Q: How many steps does it take for a random closed linear term to reach normal form, on average?

Normalisation of random closed linear terms

well defined! (strong normalisation + diamond)

Q: How many steps does it take for a random closed linear term to reach normal form, on average?

uniform distribution on terms of size n

Size of a term $t = \#$ of subterms of t .

Equivalently, size defined via recursion:

$$|x| = 1$$

$$|\lambda x.t| = 1 + |t|$$

$$|(f\ g)| = 1 + |f| + |g|$$

$n = 2$

$\lambda x.x$

$n = 5$

$(\lambda x.x)(\lambda y.y)$ $\lambda x.((\lambda y.y)\ x)$
 $\lambda x.\lambda y.(x\ y)$ $\lambda x.(x\ (\lambda y.y))$
 $\lambda x.\lambda y.(y\ x)$

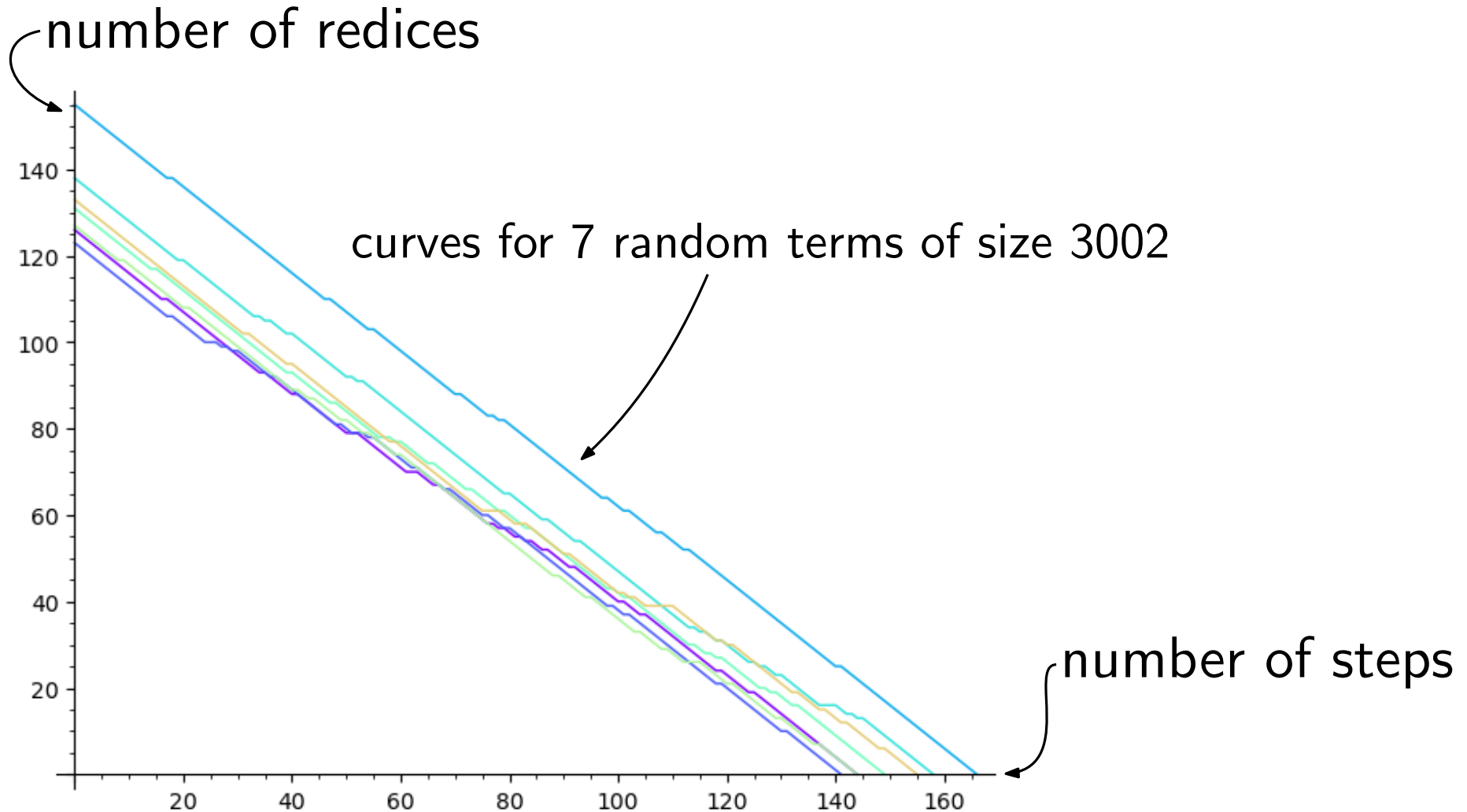
$n = 8$

60 terms

OEIS: A062980 (spoilers!)

Normalisation of random closed linear terms

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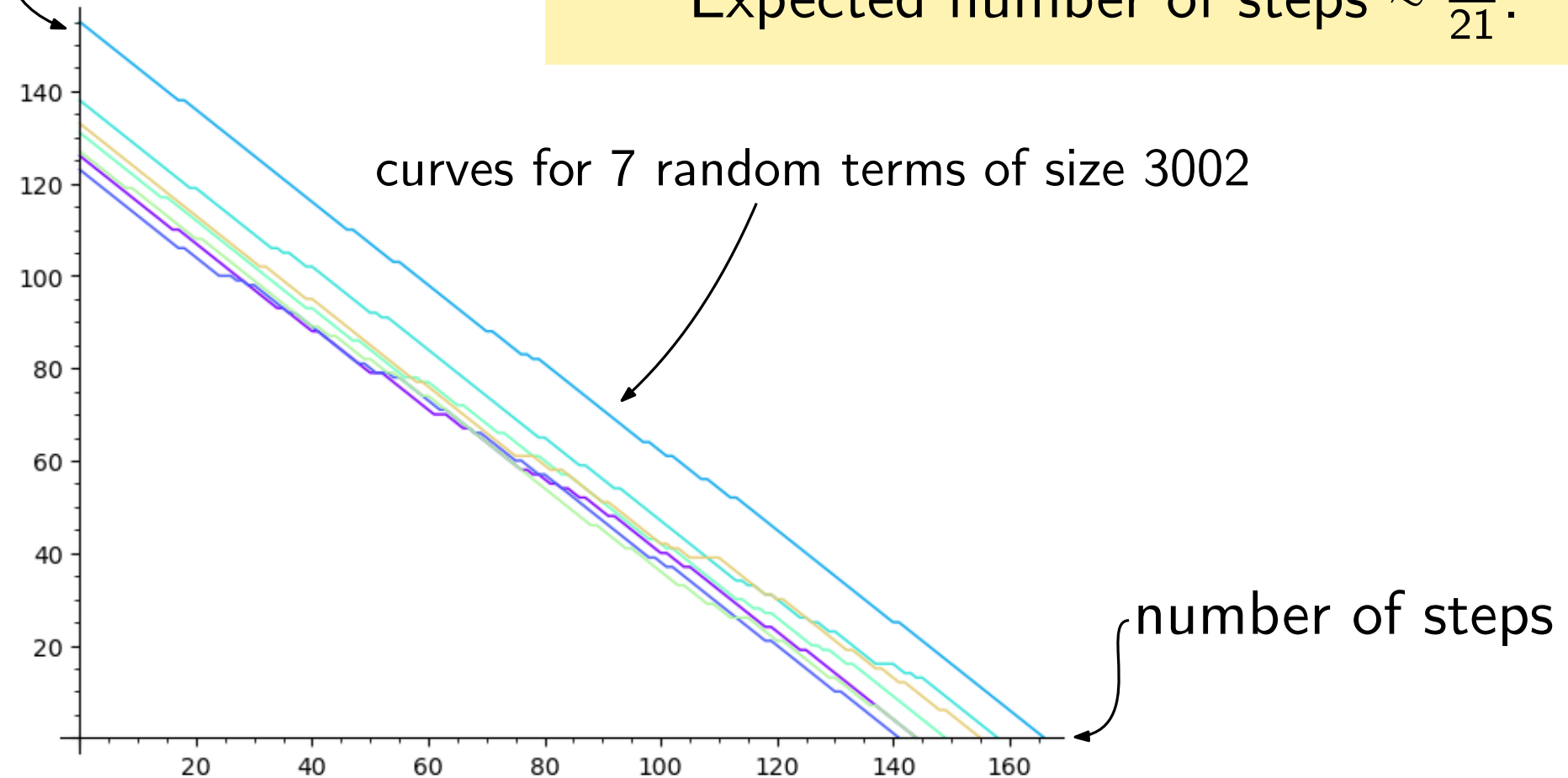


Normalisation of random closed linear terms

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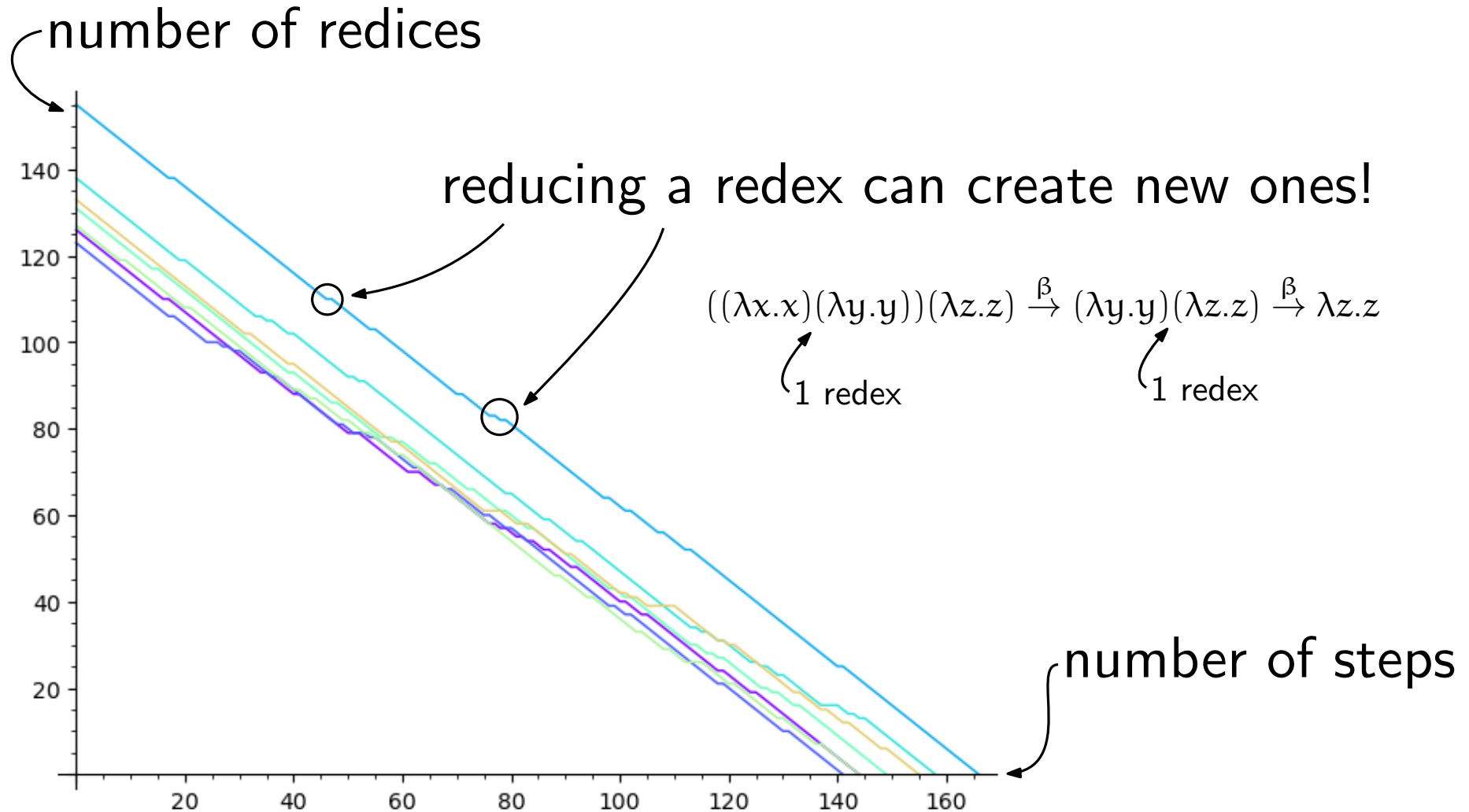
Conjecture of N. Zeilberger during CLA 2020:
Expected number of steps $\sim \frac{n}{21}$.

number of redices



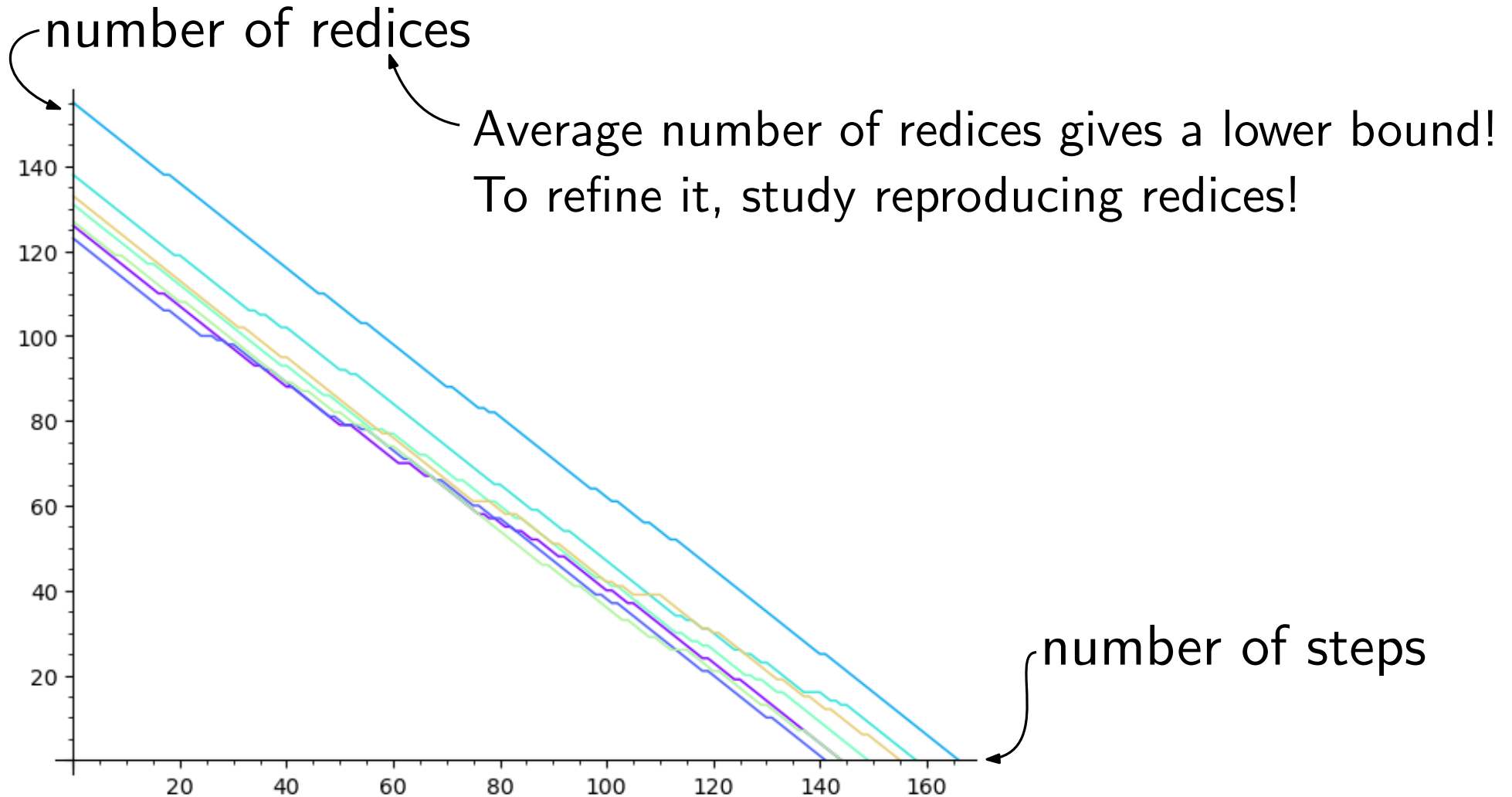
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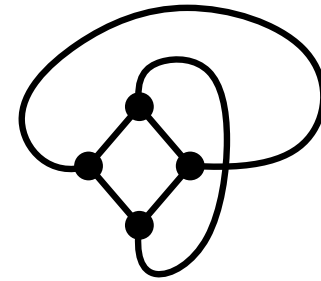
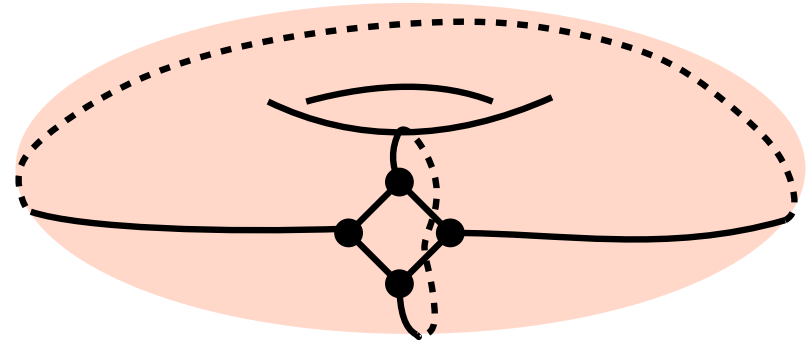
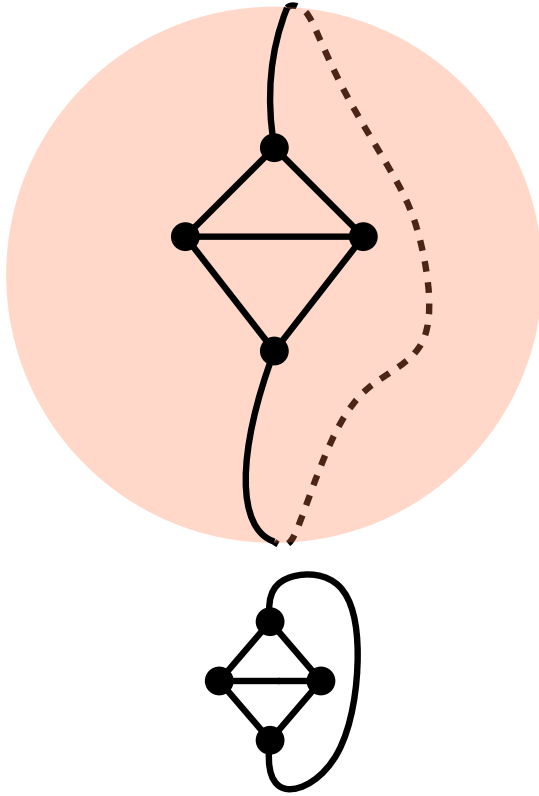


Normalisation of random closed linear terms

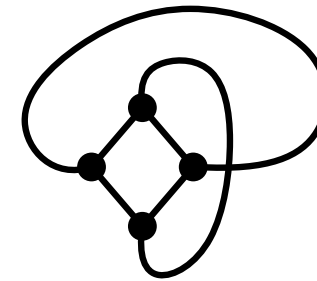
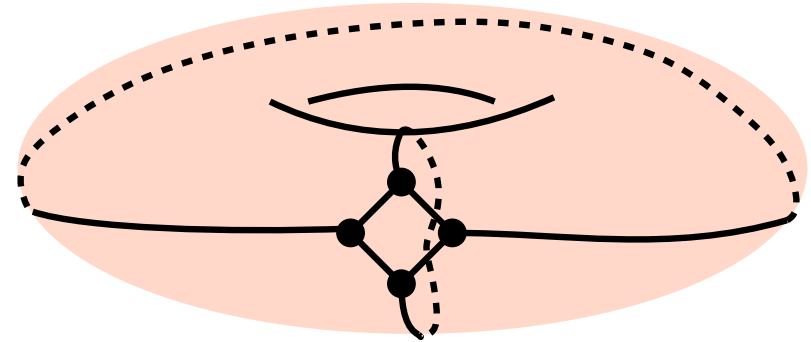
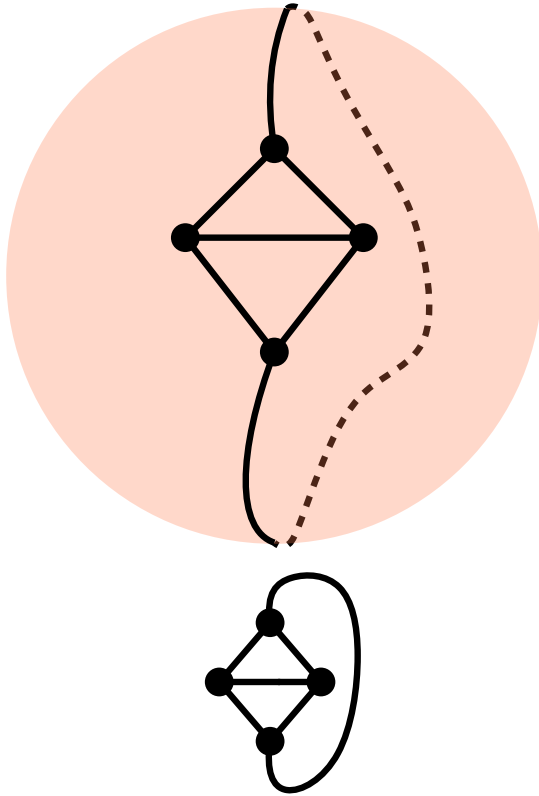
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What are maps?



What are maps?



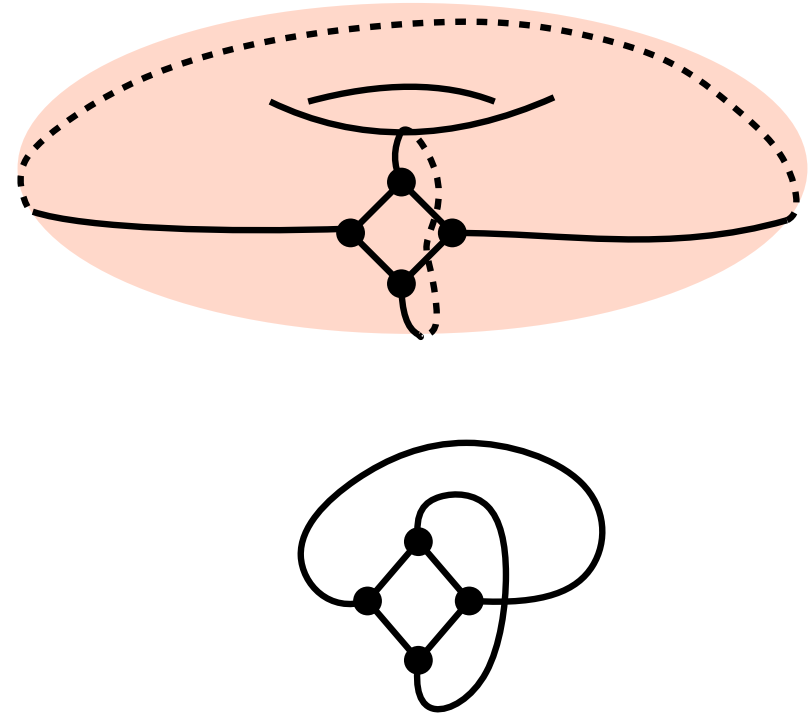
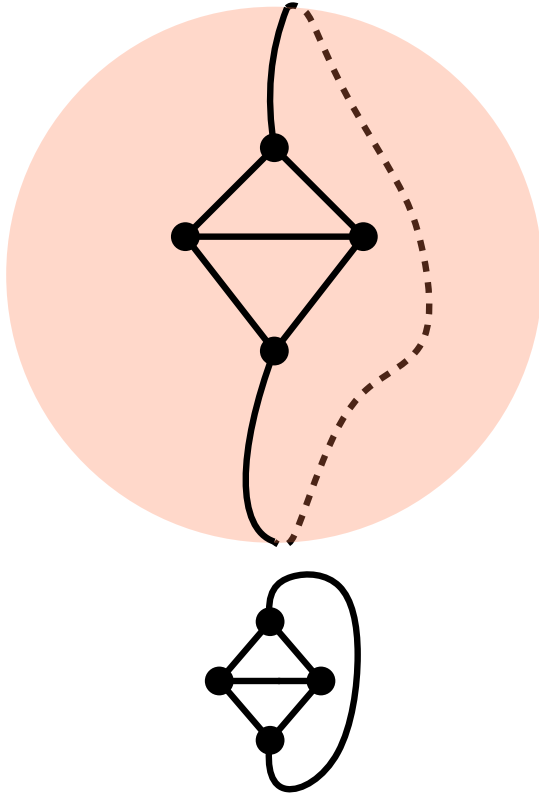
4CT...

- A central object in modern combinatorics, but not only that:
probability, algebraic geometry, theoretical physics...

scaling limits...

matrix integrals, Witten's conjecture, ...

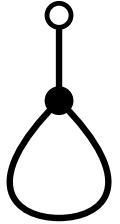
What are maps?




- A central object in modern combinatorics, but not only that: probability, algebraic geometry, theoretical physics...
- Their enumeration was pioneered by Tutte in the 60s, as part of his approach to the four colour theorem.

Decomposing rooted trivalent maps

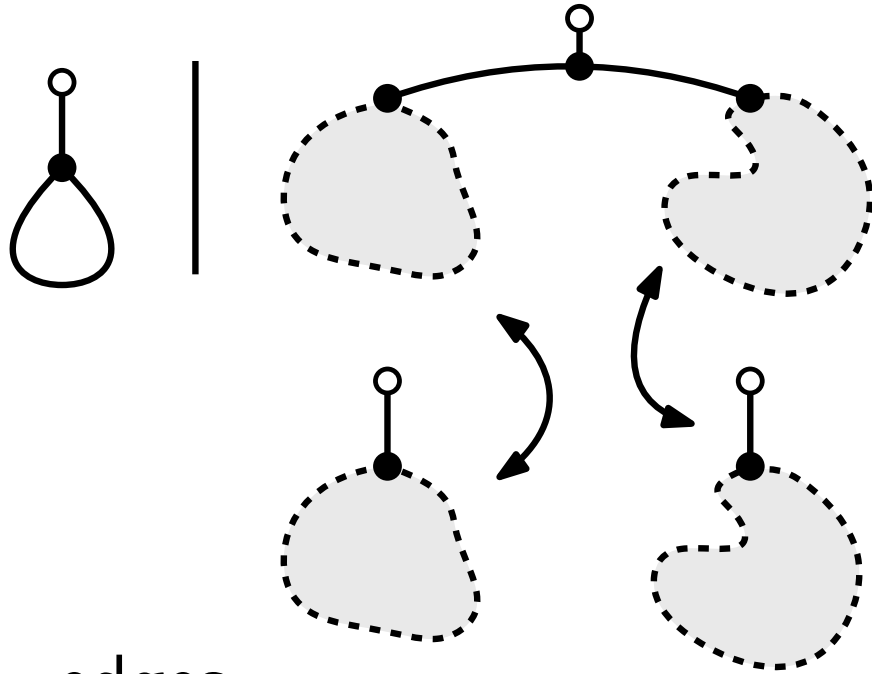
Decomposing rooted trivalent maps



edges

 $T(z) = z^2$

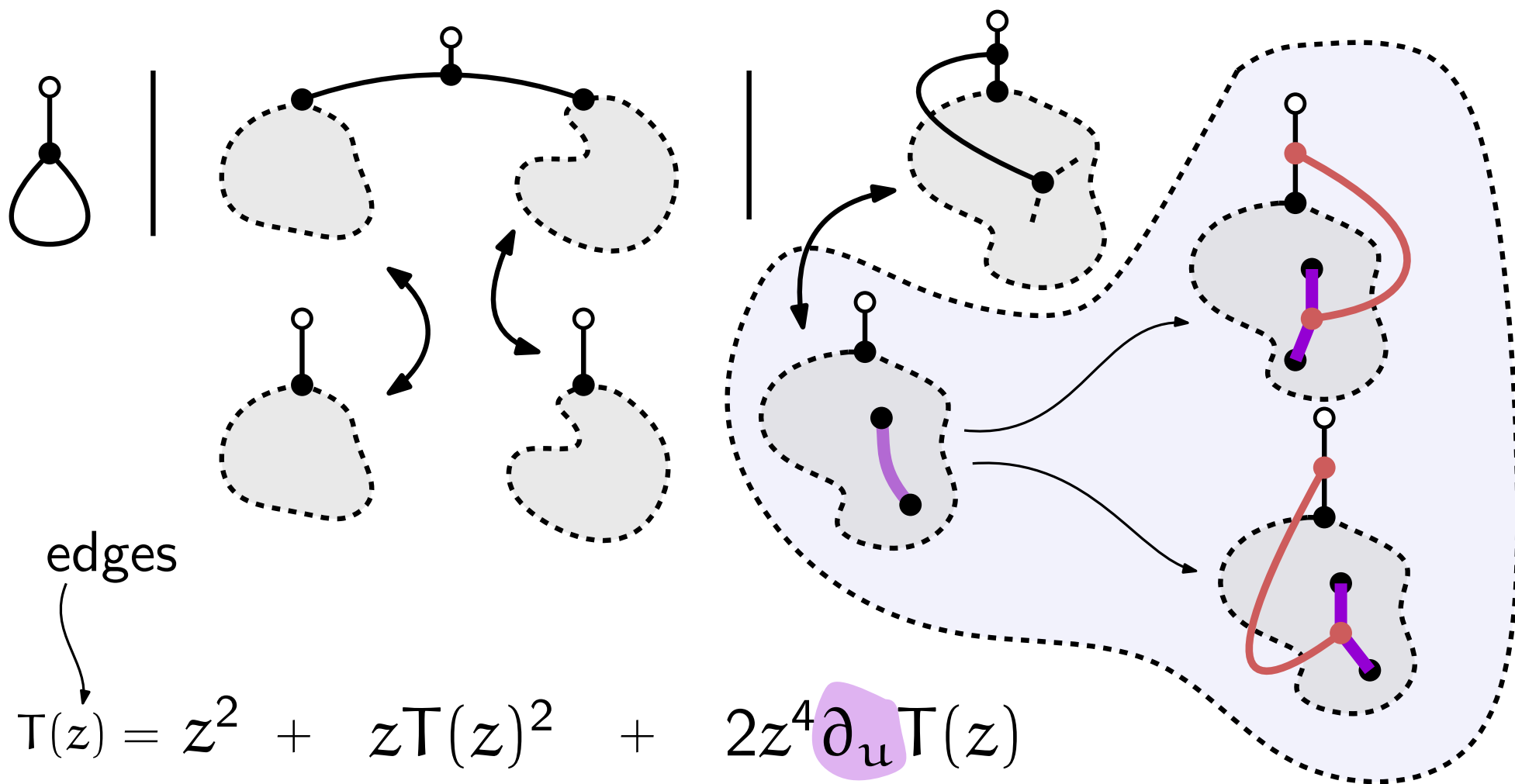
Decomposing rooted trivalent maps



edges

$$T(z) = z^2 + zT(z)^2$$

Decomposing rooted trivalent maps



Decomposing rooted trivalent maps and closed linear terms!

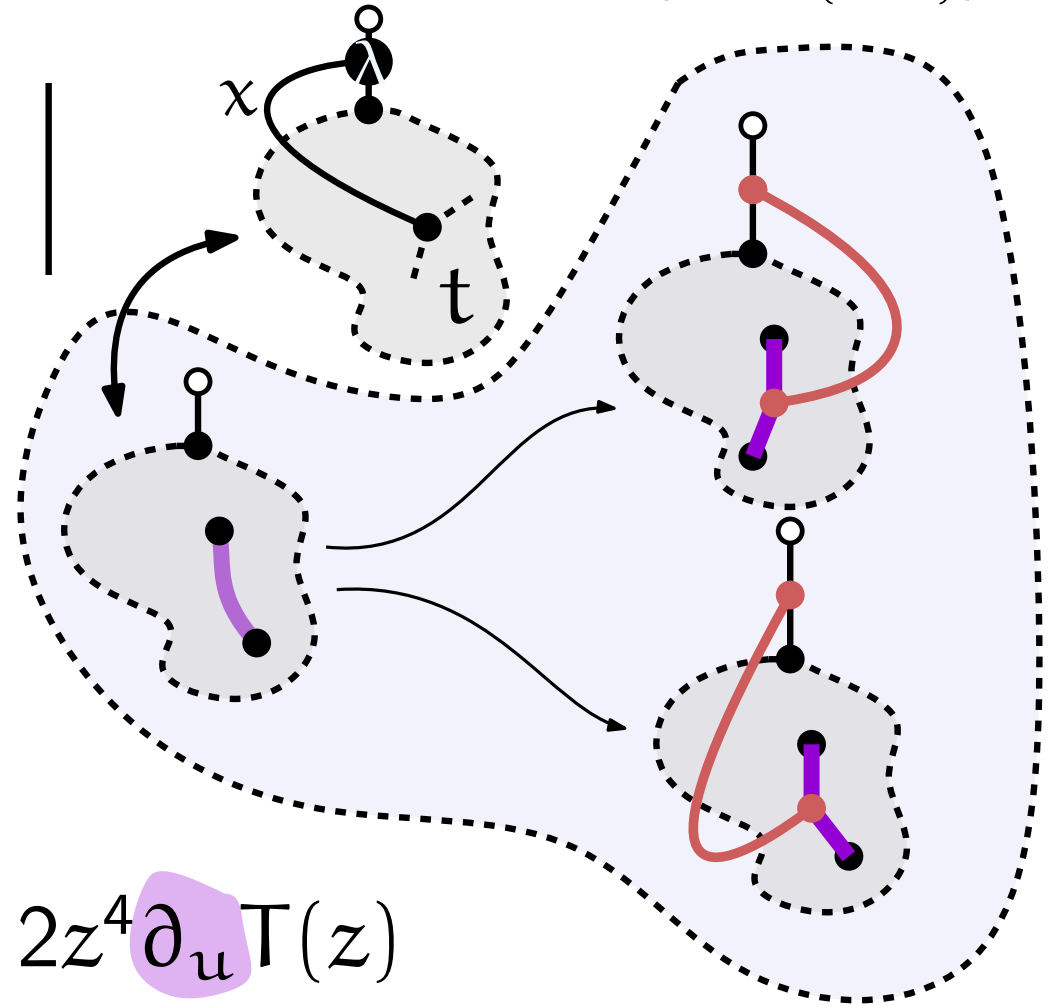
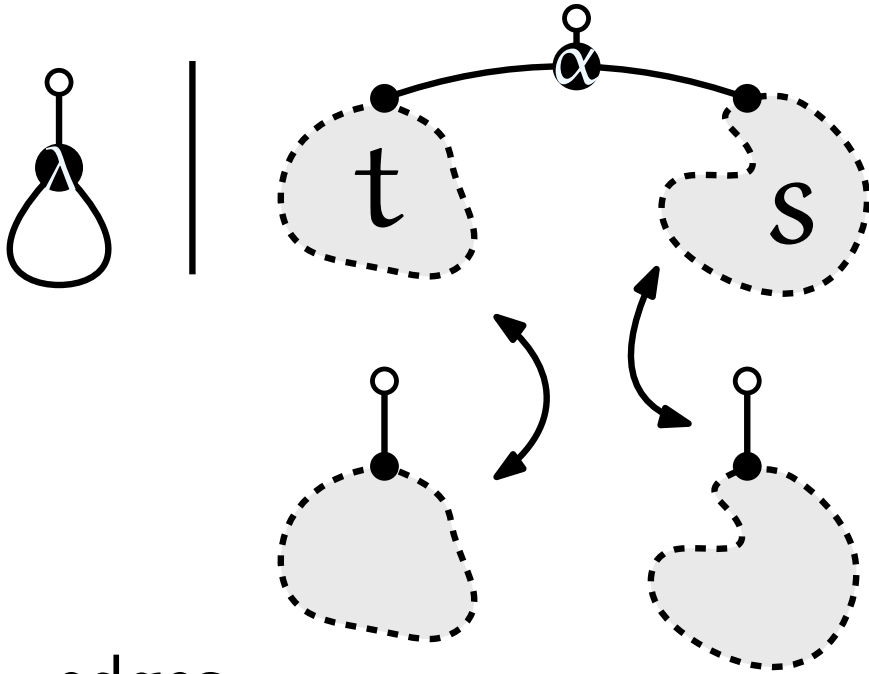
$\lambda x.x$

$(s\ t)$

$\lambda x.t$

$\lambda x.t[u := (x\ u)]$ or

$\lambda x.t[u := (u\ x)]$

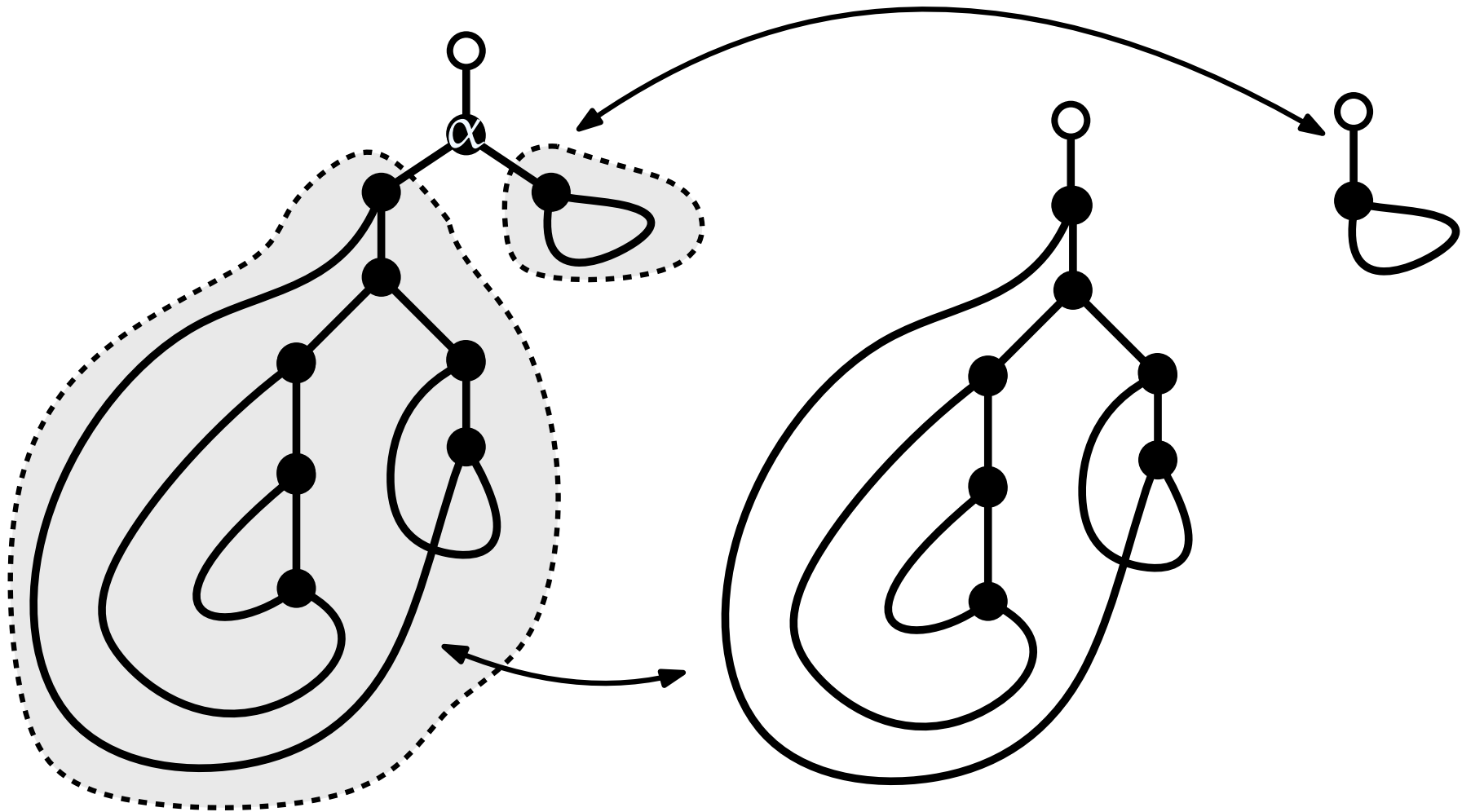


edges

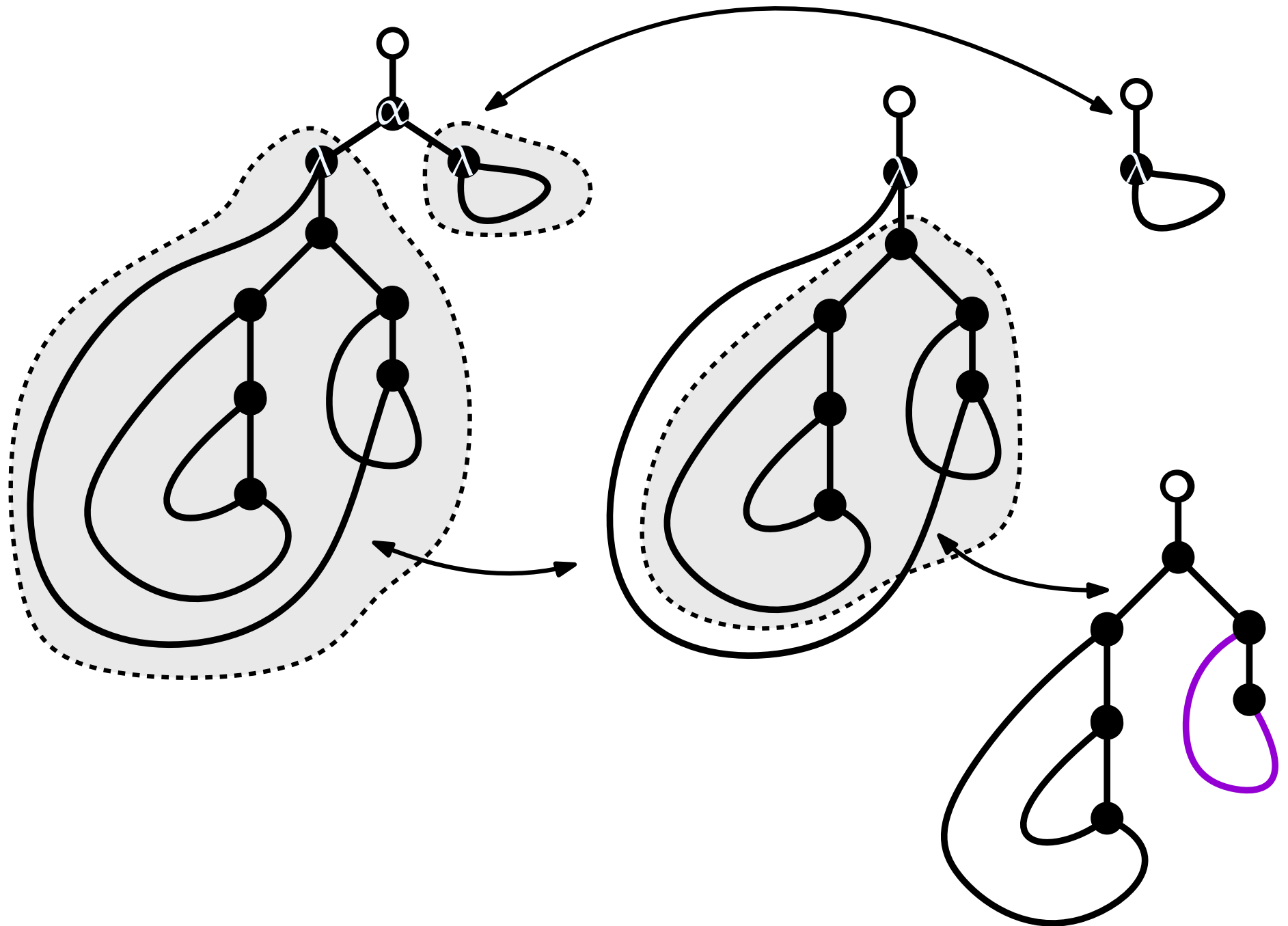
$$T(z) = z^2 + zT(z)^2 + 2z^4 \partial_u T(z)$$

subterms

Decomposing rooted trivalent maps

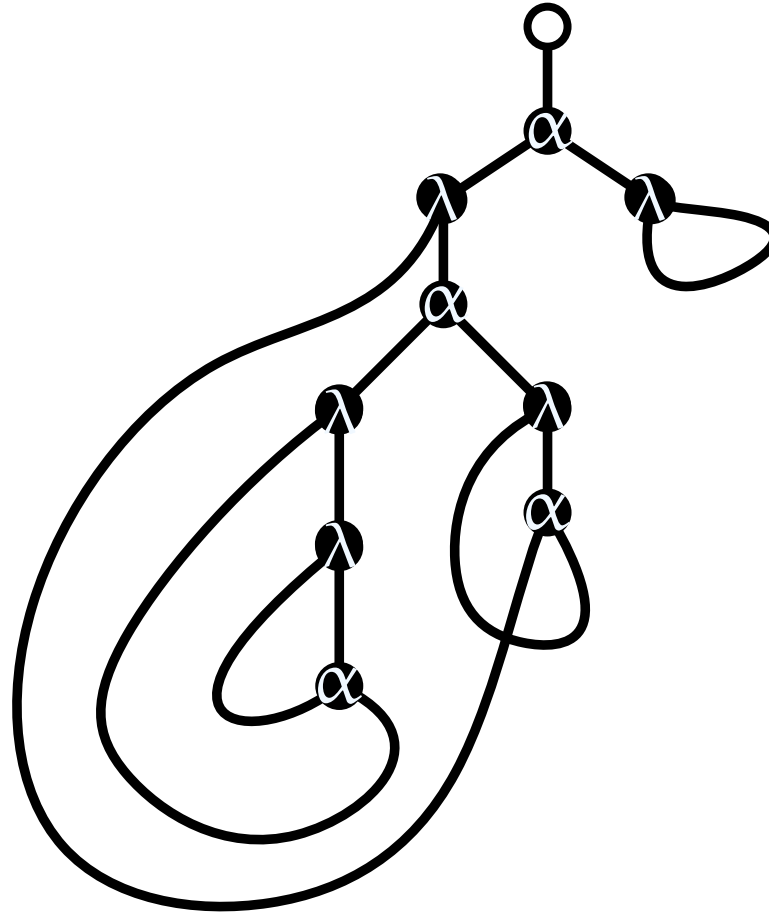


Decomposing rooted trivalent maps



Decomposing rooted trivalent maps

$(\lambda x.x) (\lambda y.(\lambda z.z y) (\lambda w.\lambda u.w u))$



Linking terms and maps

- In 2013, Bodini, Gardy, Jacquot, describe a series of bijections:

rooted trivalent maps \leftrightarrow closed linear terms

rooted (2,3)-valent maps \leftrightarrow closed affine terms

In the same year, together with Gittenberger, they study:

BCI(p) terms (each bound variable appears p times)

general closed λ -terms

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general closed λ -terms

- In 2014, Zeilberger and Giorgetti describe a bijection:

rooted planar maps \leftrightarrow normal planar lambda terms

Both make use of decompositions in the style of Tutte!
(cf. the approach of Arquès-Béraud in 2000)

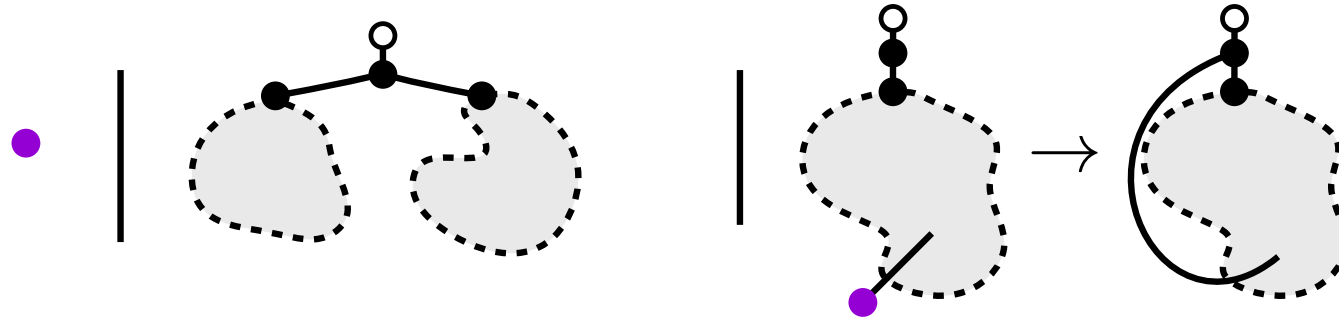
Our strategy:

1) Track evolution of patterns through decompositions of maps/ λ -terms

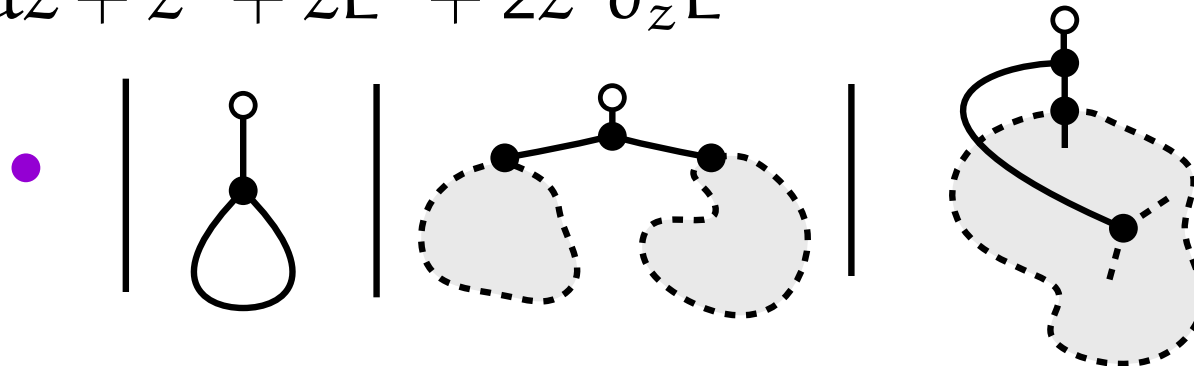
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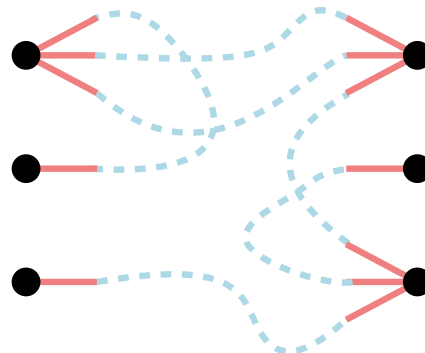
- $T = uz + zL^2 + z\partial_u L$



- $T = uz + z^2 + zL^2 + 2z^4\partial_z L$



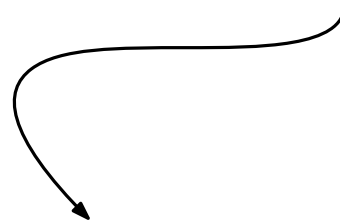
- $T = uz^2 + z^4 + z^5 \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (\ln (\exp(z^2/2) \odot \exp(z^3/3 + uz)))$



Our strategy:

1) Track evolution of patterns through decompositions of maps/ λ -terms

different decompositions \rightsquigarrow differential equations, Hadamard products, ...



generating functions divergent away from 0

2) Develop tools for rapidly growing coefficients, based on:

- Moment pumping
- Bender's theorem for compositions $F(z, G(z))$
- Coefficient asymptotics of Cauchy products

$$[z^n](A(z) \cdot B(z)) \sim a_n b_0 + a_0 b_n + O(a_{n-1} + b_{n-1})$$

for A, B, G divergent and F analytic

Mean number of β -redices in closed terms

Tracking redices: starts off easy...

Mean number of β -redices in closed terms

Tracking redices: starts off easy...

loops



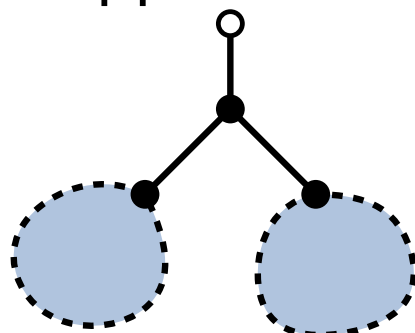
Mean number of β -redices in closed terms

Tracking redices: starts off easy...

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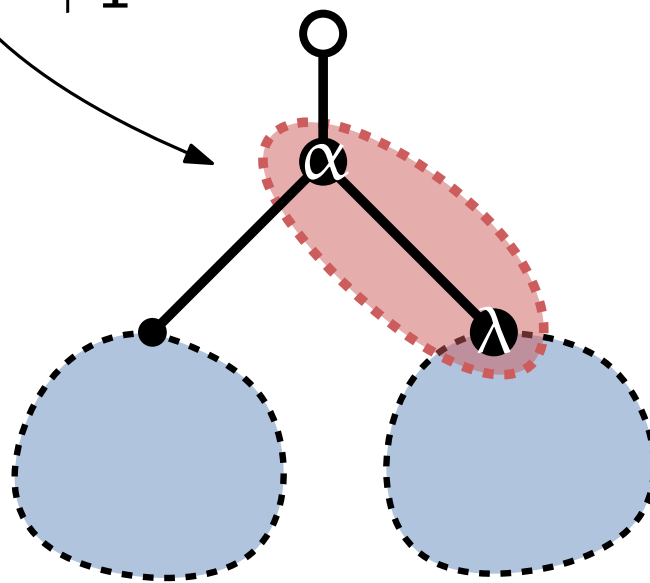
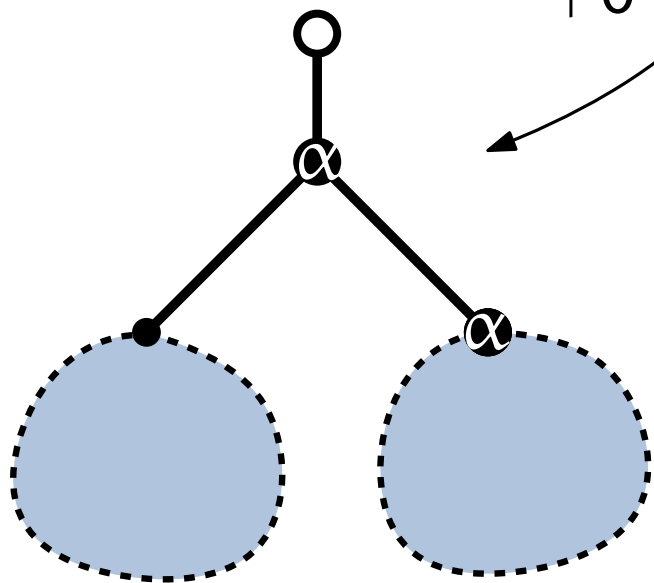


applications



+0

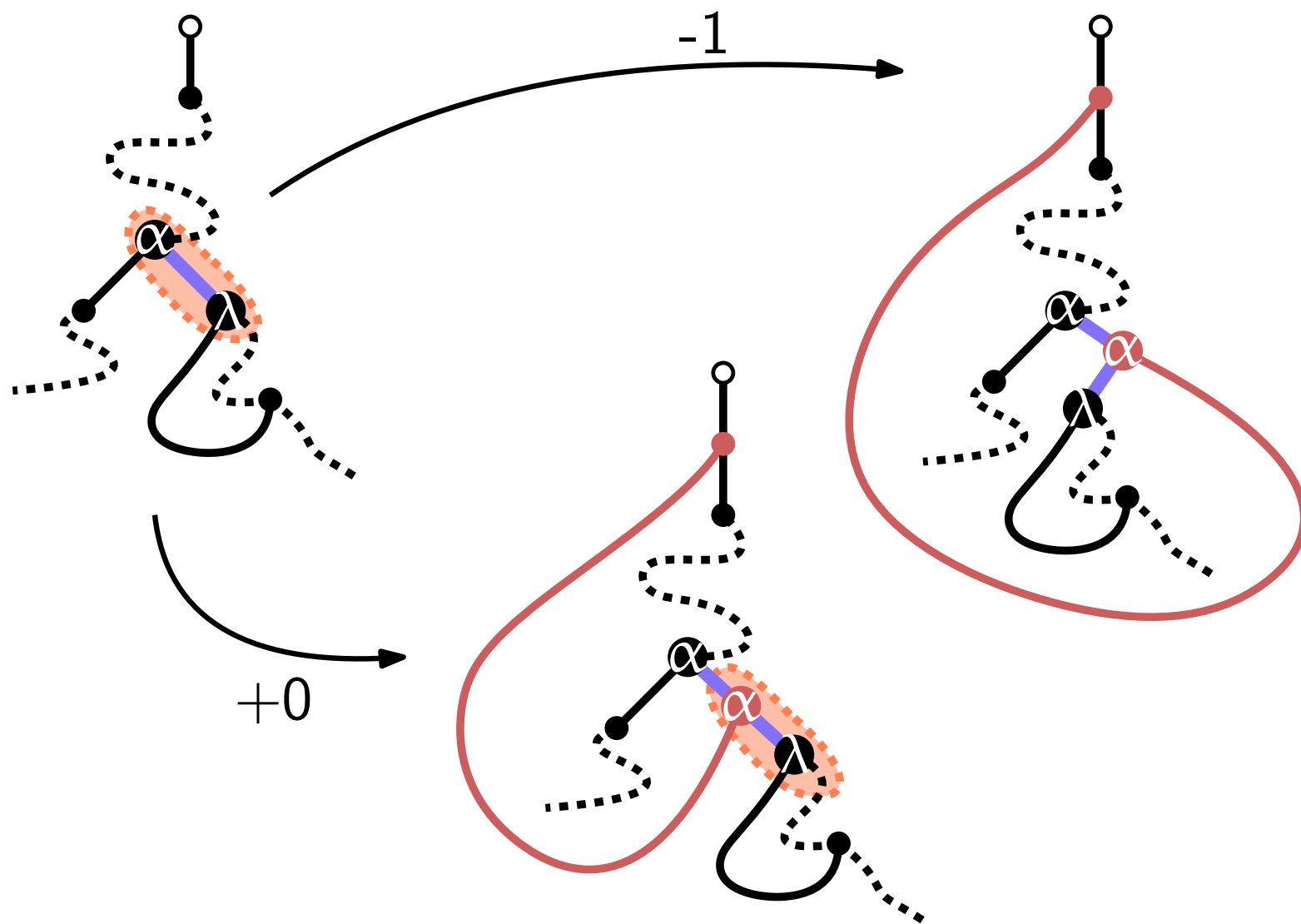
+1



Mean number of β -redices in closed terms

Tracking redices: then gets harder!

Abstractions, subcase 1.1



Mean number of β -redices in closed terms

Translating to a differential equation and pumping

$$T = z^2 + zT^2 + z^3(1 + (r-1)zT) \left(\frac{z(r+5)\partial_z T}{3} - (r^2 - 1)\partial_r T \right) \\ + \frac{z^4(r-1)^2 T^2}{3} + \frac{4z^3(r-1)T}{3}$$

Mean number of β -redices in closed terms

Translating to a differential equation and pumping

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Let X_n be the random variable given by number of redices in a closed linear term of size $n \in 3\mathbb{N} + 2$. Then

$$\mathbb{E}(X_n) \sim \frac{n}{24}$$

$$\mathbb{V}(X_n) \sim \frac{n}{24}$$

Pretty far from $\frac{n}{21}!$

Expect a linear number of reproducing ones.

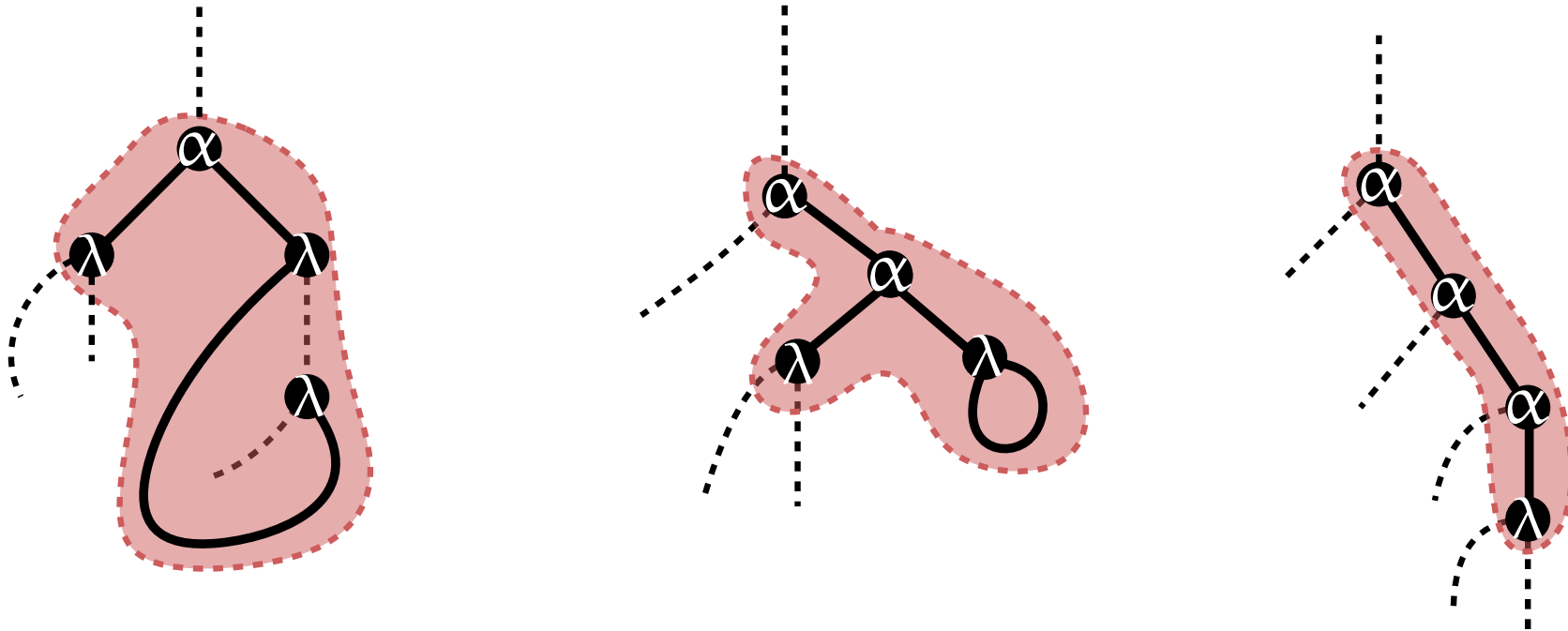
A lower bound for normalisation

Refining our counting to track reproducing redices:

A lower bound for normalisation

(see JJ Lévy's thesis)

Refining our counting to track reproducing redices:



$$p_1 = (\lambda x. C[(x \ u)])(\lambda y. t) \xrightarrow{\beta} C[((\lambda y. t) \ u)]$$

$$p_2 = (\lambda x. x)(\lambda y. t_1) t_2 \xrightarrow{\beta} (\lambda y. t_1) t_2$$

$$p_3 = ((\lambda x. \lambda y. t_1) t_2) t_3 \xrightarrow{\beta} (\lambda y. t_1[x := t_2]) t_3$$

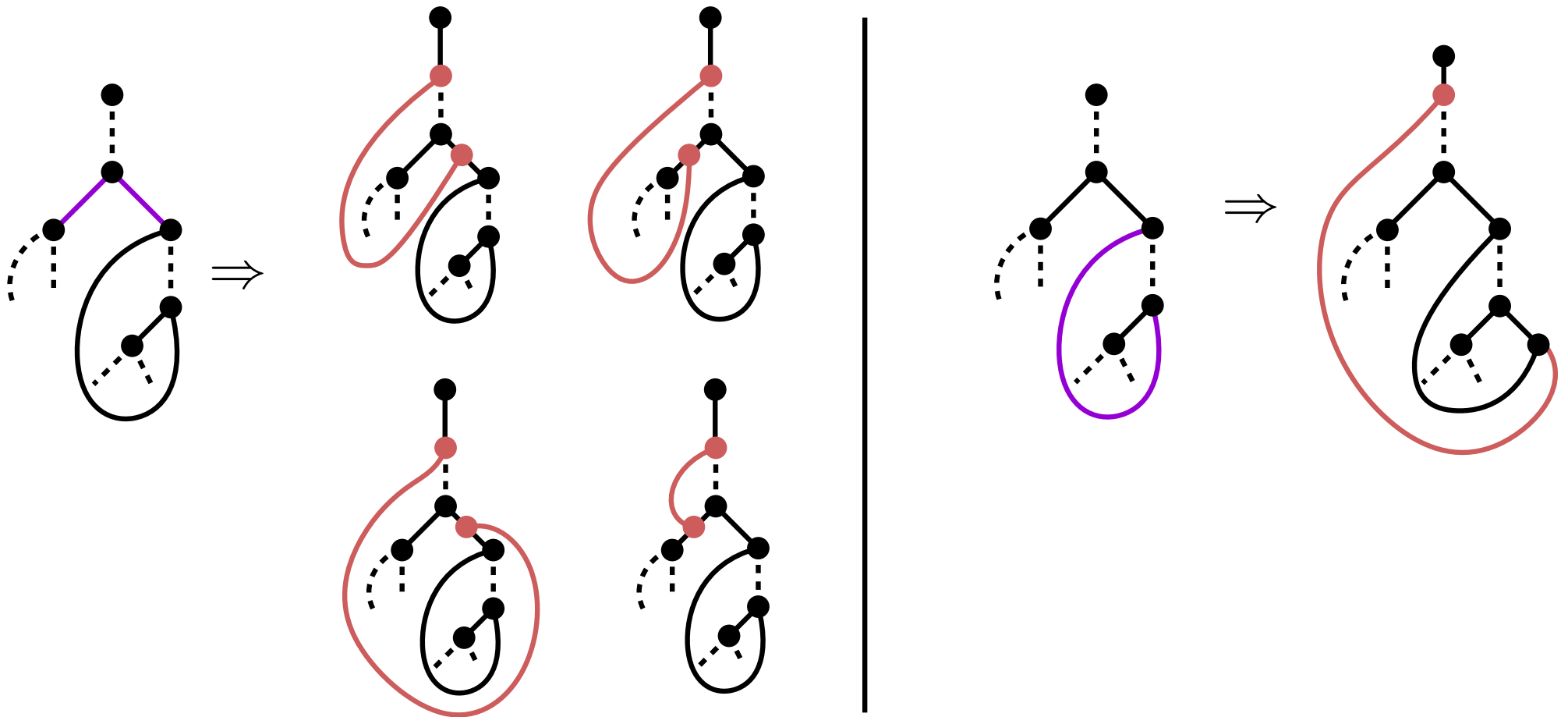
Enumerating p_1 -patterns

- Tracking the creation/destruction of patterns during the recursive decomposition:

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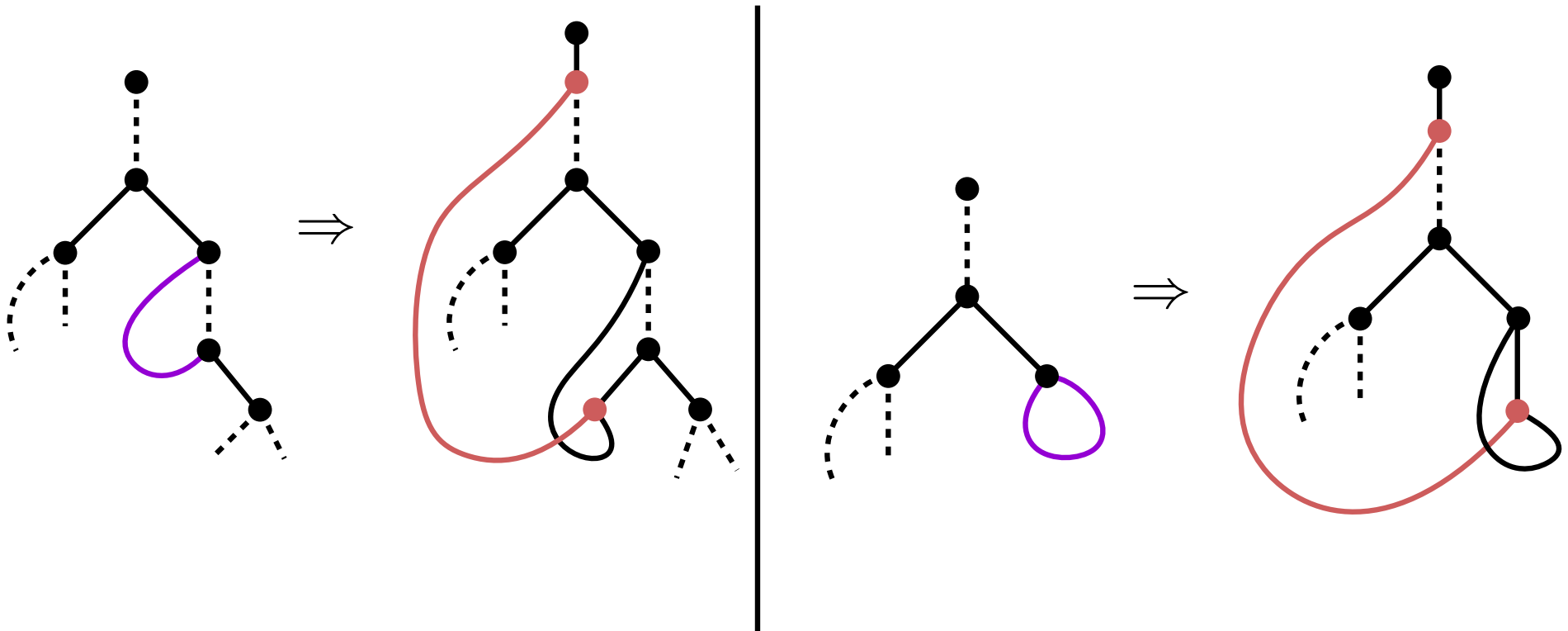
Cuts destroying a p_1 -pattern:



Enumerating p_1 -patterns

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Cuts creating a p_1 -pattern:



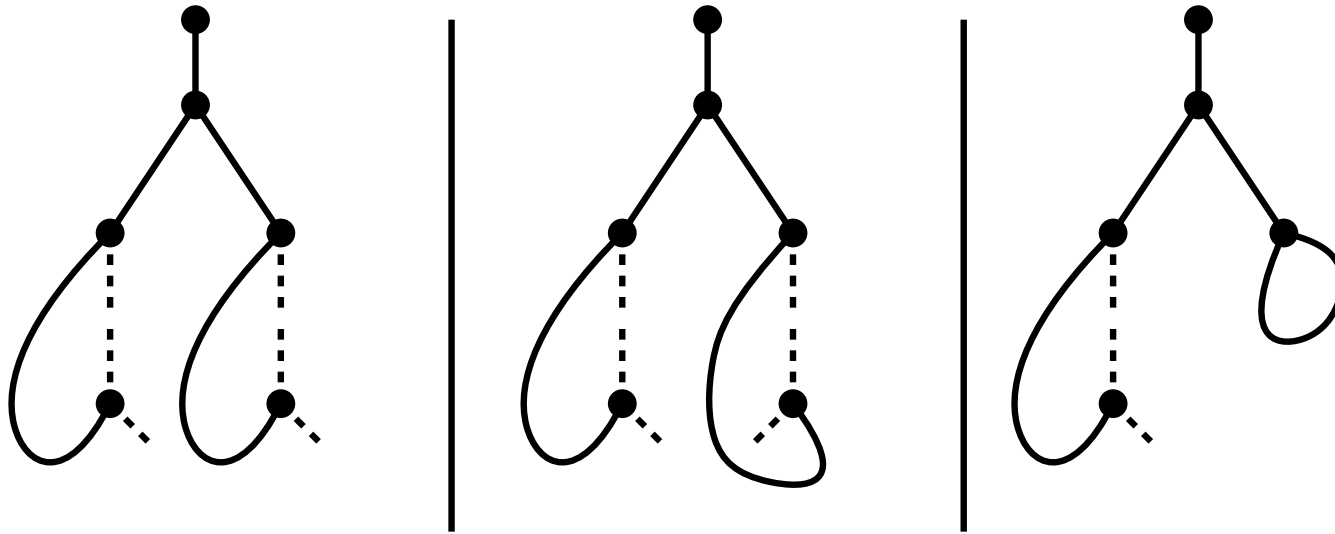
Thus we also need to keep track of:

$$C_1[\lambda x. C_2[(t_1 \ x)]](\lambda y. t_2) \quad C_1[(\lambda x. x)(\lambda y. t_2)]$$

Enumerating p_1 -patterns

- Tracking the creation/destruction of patterns during the recursive decomposition:

Applications creating p_1 and auxiliary patterns:



Thus, for an app. of the form $(l_1 \lambda y.t_1)$ we need to consider how l_1 was formed.

Enumerating p_1 -patterns

- Thus we have the following equations:

$$S = \Lambda + A$$

$$\Lambda = z^2 + 2z^4 S_z + (v - u + 4(1 - u))z^3 S_u + (u - v + 4(1 - v))z^3 S_v$$

$$A = zS^2 + (u - 1)z(z^4 S_z + (v - u + 2(1 - u))z^3 S_u + 2(1 - v)z^3 S_v) \cdot \Lambda \\ + (v - 1)z(z^2 + z^4 S_z + (u - v + 2(1 - v))z^3 S_u + 2(1 - u)z^3 S_u) \cdot \Lambda$$

- Extracting the mean:

$$\partial_u S|_{u=1, v=1} \\ = (2zS\partial_u S + 2z^4\partial_{z,u} S + z^7\partial_z S + 2z^9(\partial_z S)^2 - 5z^3\partial_u S + z^3\partial_v S)|_{u=1, v=1}$$

Enumerating p_1 -patterns

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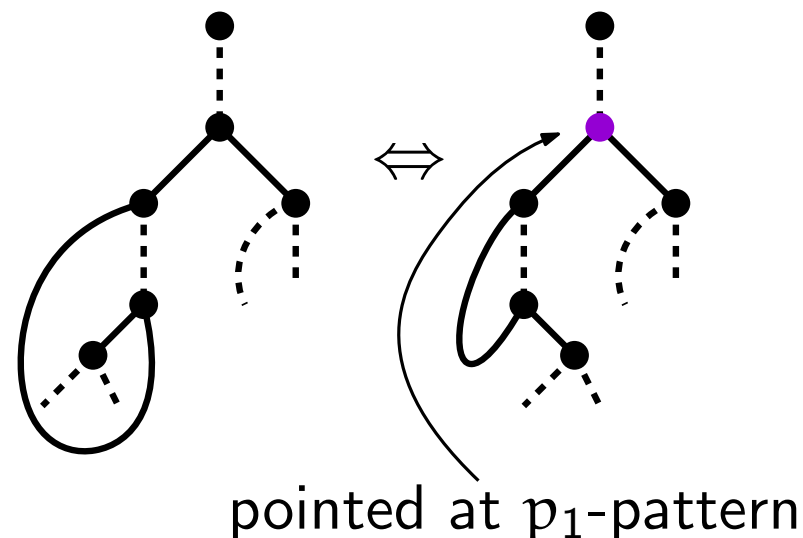
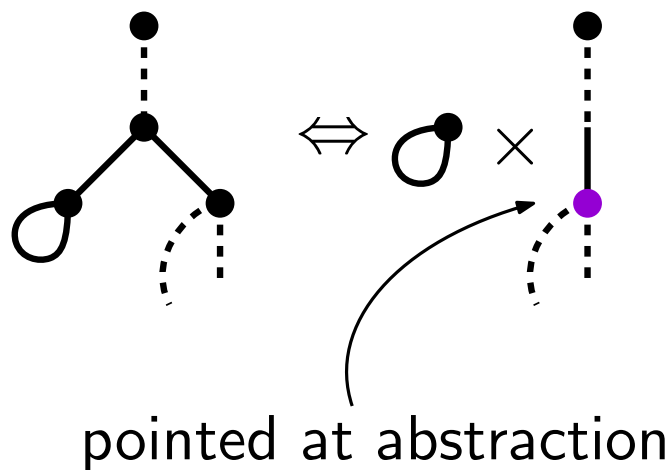
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bijection: $\partial_v \leftrightarrow \partial_u$



Enumerating p_1 -patterns

- Finally we obtain a mean number of occurrences:

$$\mathbb{E}[\# p_1 \text{ patterns}] \sim \frac{1}{6}$$

Enumerating p_1 -patterns and p_2 -patterns

- Finally we obtain a mean number of occurrences:

$$\mathbb{E}[\# p_1 \text{ patterns}] \sim \frac{1}{6}$$

- Analogously, we have a mean number of occurrences for p_2 :

$$\mathbb{E}[\# p_2 \text{ patterns}] \sim \frac{1}{48}$$

Both are asymptotically constant in expectation!

Enumerating p_3 -patterns

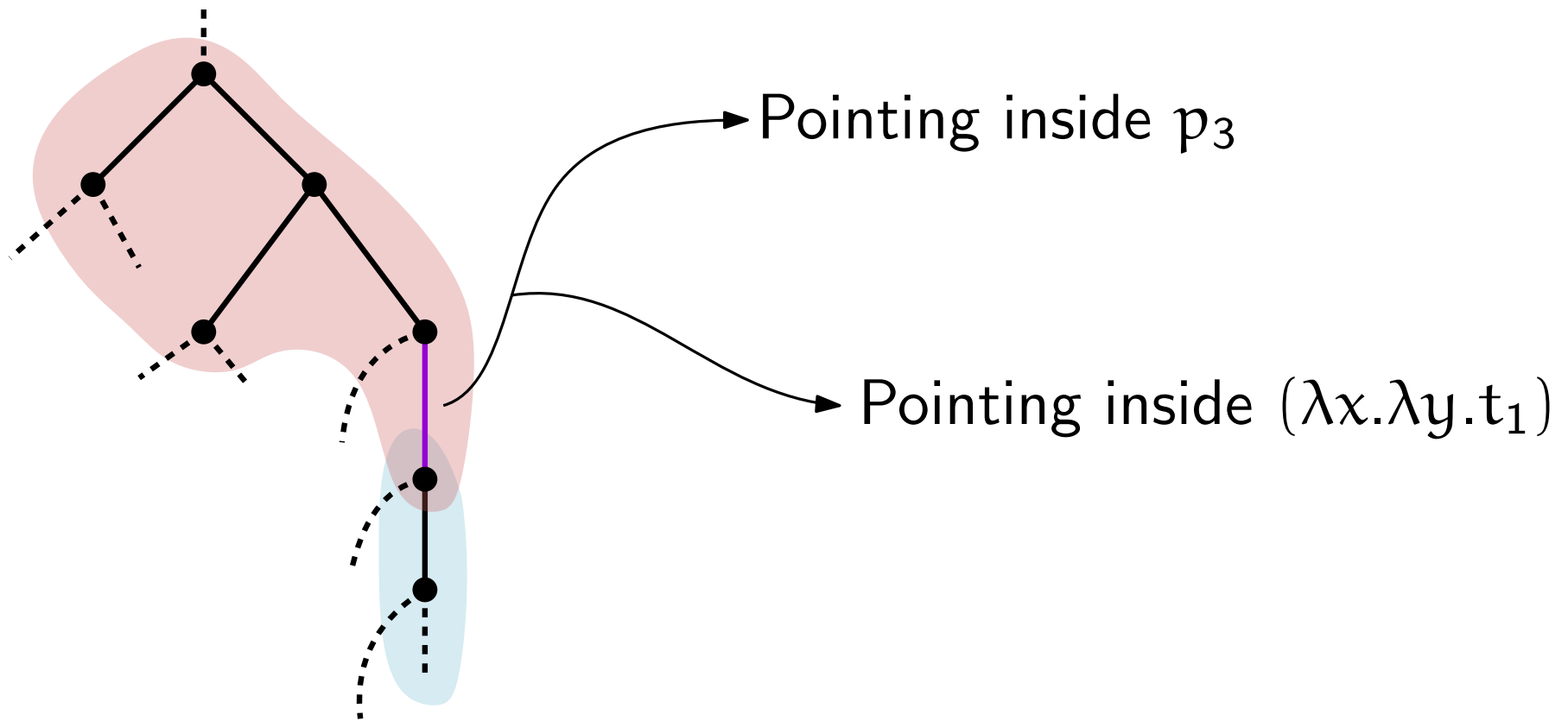
- As before, we'll also need to enumerate auxiliary patterns:

$(\lambda x.\lambda y.t_1)$

$(\lambda x.\lambda y.t_1) t_2 t_3$ (p_3)

$(\lambda x.\lambda y.t_1) t_2$

- However we run into a problem:



Enumerating p_3 -patterns

- Generating functionology fails, we revert to more elementary methods:

$$\mathbb{E}(V_n) = \mathbb{E}(V_n | \Lambda_n) \cdot \frac{|\Lambda_n|}{|L_n|} + \mathbb{E}(V_n | A_n) \cdot \frac{|A_n|}{|L_n|}$$

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↓
Magic: linear over *families* of all possible abstractions created via cuts from a fixed term!

$$\bar{X}_n = (2n - 12)\bar{X}_{n-3} + 2\bar{Y}_{n-3}$$

$$\bar{Y}_n = (2n - 6)Y_{n-3} - 6Y_{n-3}$$

$$\bar{Z}_n = 2(n - 4)(Z + \mathbf{1}_{\Lambda_n})$$

where: X_n counts # of p_3 patt. over terms of size n

Y_n is the same for the pattern $(\lambda x. \lambda y. t_1) t_2$, and

Z is the same for the pattern $(\lambda x. \lambda y. t_1)$

The \bar{V} for $V \in \{X_n, Y_n, Z_n\}$ are cummulative over families of abstractions

The lower bound

Theorem

Let W_n be the random variable given by number of steps required to normalise a linear term of size $n \in 3\mathbb{N} + 2$. Then

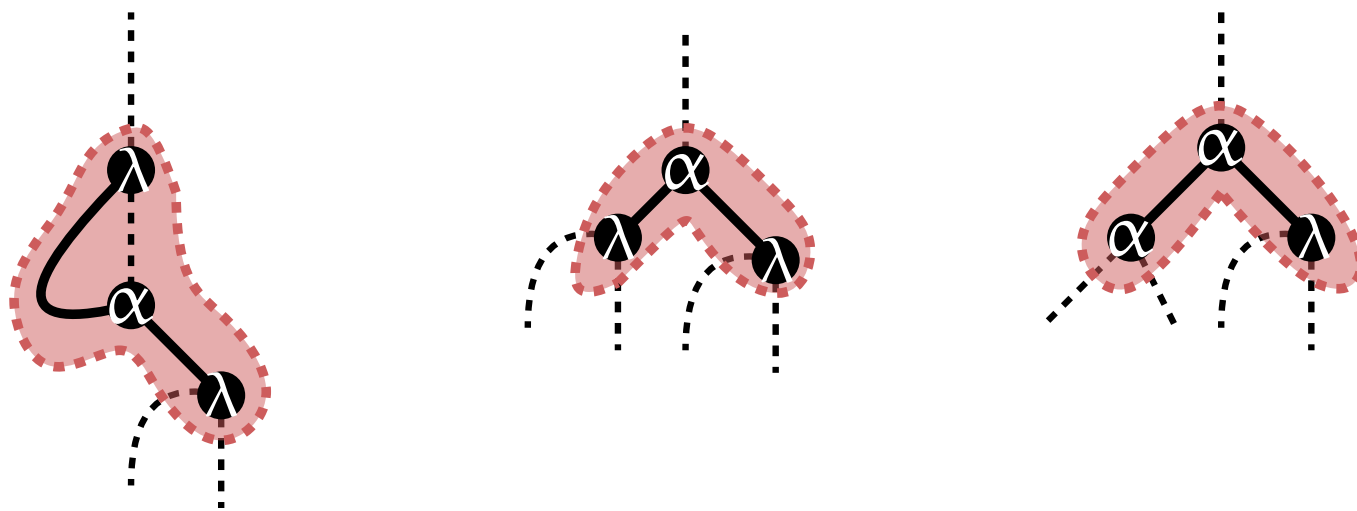
$$\mathbb{E}(W_n) \geq \frac{11n}{240}, \text{ for } n \text{ large enough}$$

Open problems

- Precise asymptotics for mean number of steps.

Open problems

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- Classify patterns according to their expected number of occurrences: constant or linear in n ? Other behaviours?



Theorem

$$\mathbb{E}(\#(\lambda x.t) \ y) \sim \frac{n}{30}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(\#(\lambda x.t) \ (\lambda y.t')) \sim \frac{1}{20}$$

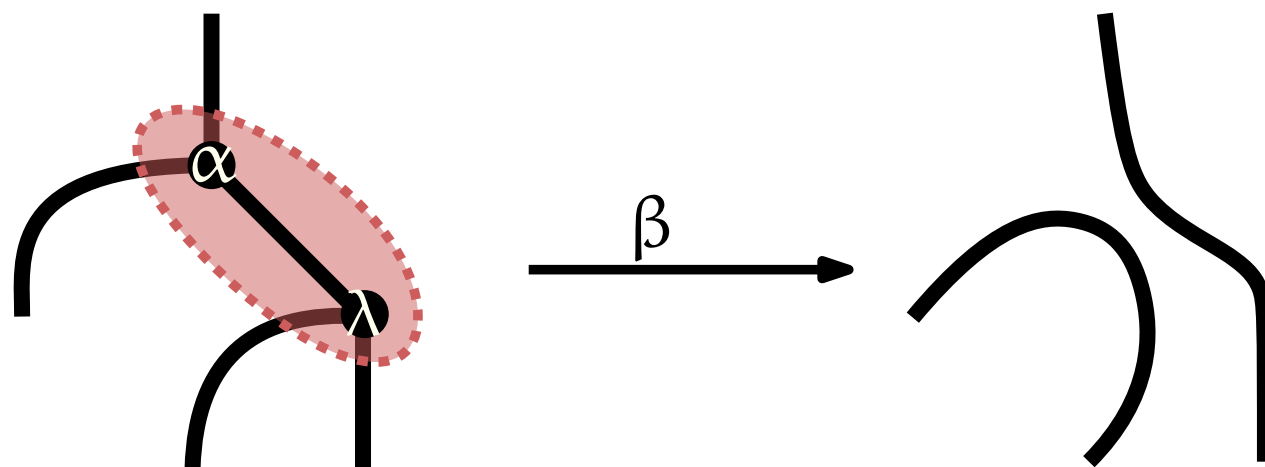
$$\mathbb{E}(\#(a \ b) \ (\lambda y.t')) \sim \frac{n}{120}$$

Open problems

- Precise asymptotics for mean number of steps.
- Classify patterns according to their expected number of occurrences: constant or linear in n ? Other behaviours?
- Automate the process of obtaining specifications tracking occurrences of our desired patterns (differential algebra?).

Open problems

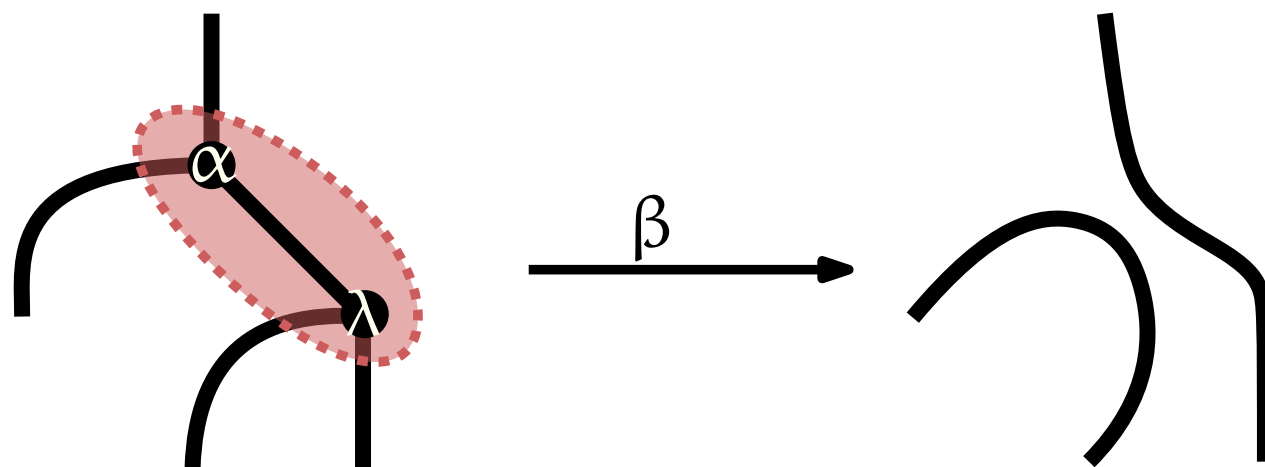
- Precise asymptotics for mean number of steps.
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Thank you!



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