What Is a Map? Multiple Representation

Thomas Tucker

"The difference between algebra and geometry? Well, with algebra it is sort of turning the crank, but with geometry you need an idea" Solomon Lefschetz

"Civilization advances by extending the number of important operations which we can perform without thinking of them." Alfred North Whitehead

April 13, 2021

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Rotation systems: combinatorial map (orientable)

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Gave them via "current graphs", which Gross later saw as branched coverings. So rotations provides a crank to turn but actual rotation provides by complicated diagrams.

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Now view map as obtained by gluing together these flags by pairings r_0 and r_2 for "legs" of right triangle and r_1 for hypotenuse.Notation? a, b, c?

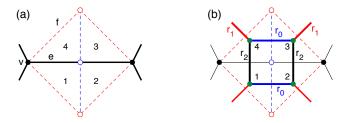


Figure: Four flags lying on an edge

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Called the **flag graph** of the map.

To get the map, just fill in the two-colored cycles by disks (note they are all simple cycles).

Def(algebraic) A map is a permutation group on 4n symbols generated by specified fixed-point free involutions r_0, r_1, r_2 such that $(r_0r_2)^2 = 1$.

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Can view as right action of a group G on the right cosets of a subgroup H of index 4n. The group together with generators r_0, r_1, r_2 is the *monodromy* of the map.

Warning Do not view r_0 , r_1 , r_2 as "reflections", i.e. as symmetries of the map.

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2. No symmetry: graph minors (Robertson-Seymour), genus of a graph, polynomials (Bollobas-Riordan)

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For surfaces where X is closed, actually want **branched** coverings where there is a finite subset B of discrete points such that at each point of $p^{-1}(B)$ the covering is not locally one-to-one but instead looks like $z \to z^n$ in complex plane.

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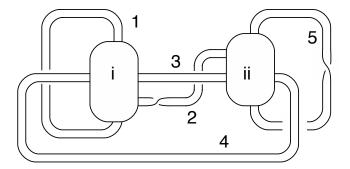
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Example The flags for a regular map of type (7, 3) lifts to tiling of hyperbolic plane by $(\pi/7, \pi/3, \pi/2)$ triangles. The automorphisms of the tiling are generated by reflections r_0, r_1, r_2 in the sides of one of these triangles satisfying $(r_1r_2)^7 = (r_2r_0)^2 = (r_1r_0)^3 = 1$

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The geometry of the universal covering comes down to the surface as a quotient (orbifold) by a discrete subgroup Riemann mapping theorem. Thurston geometrization: gives pieces with 8 possible geometries glued together along torii, or spheres (Field's Medal 1982)

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Riemann surface signature crowd and map crowd don't see things the same way.

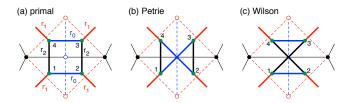
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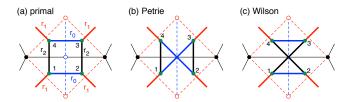
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Partial duality: express duality as multiplying r_0 and r_2 by r_0r_2 .For partial duality on subset A of edges, only multiply by partial permutation $r_0r_2|A$ (GT 2021 - turn the crank with Grey code for polynomials)

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Proof 1:For monodromy of M, we have $\langle r_0r_1, r_1r_2 \rangle = \langle r_0, r_1, r_2 \rangle$ so let N be map with monodromy $(r_0, 1), (r_1, 1), (r_2, 1)$ (for direct product with C_2). Automorphism group is centralizer.

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Proof 3:Go to universal covering U where M = U/C for some subgroup C of universal group. Then go to orientation-preserving subgroup of C.

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