

# Noncommutative surfaces, clusters and their symmetries

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# Plan

- ① Non-commutative cluster algebras—an informal introduction
- ② Non-commutative polygon
- ③ Non-commutative surfaces and their cluster structures
- ④ Braid group action and their symmetries

## Noncommutative clusters, informal introduction

A (noncommutative) cluster structure on a graded  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  consists of a certain graded group  $Br_{\mathcal{A}}$  together with a collection of homogeneous embeddings  $\iota$  of a given graded group  $G$  into the multiplicative monoid  $\mathcal{A}^{\times}$  (these embeddings are referred to as noncommutative clusters) and a faithful homogeneous action  $\triangleright_{\iota}$  of  $Br_{\mathcal{A}}$  on  $G$  for any  $\iota$  such that:

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- The extensions  $\iota : \mathbb{K}G \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  are injective and their images generate  $\mathcal{A}$  (and  $\mathcal{A}$  is isomorphic to a noncommutative localization of  $\mathbb{K}G$ ).
- (monomial mutation) For any  $\iota$  and  $\iota'$  we expect a (unique) automorphism  $\mu_{\iota, \iota'}$  of  $G$  which intertwines between  $\iota$  and  $\iota'$  as well as between  $Br_{\mathcal{A}}$ -actions  $\triangleright_{\iota}$  and  $\triangleright_{\iota'}$ .

## Noncommutative clusters, informal introduction

- For any cluster homomorphism  $f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}'$  we expect a unique (up to conjugation) group homomorphism  $f_* : G \rightarrow G'$  so that the induced homomorphism  $Br_{\mathcal{A}}^f := \{T \in Br_{\mathcal{A}} : T(Ker f_*) = Ker f_*\} \rightarrow Br_{\mathcal{A}'}$  is injective.

In many cases we expect a (noncommutative) Laurent Phenomenon:

- Given a cluster  $\iota : G \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}^\times$ , for any cluster  $\iota' : G \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}^\times$  there is a submonoid  $M_{\iota'} \subset G$  generating  $G$  such that  $\iota'(M_{\iota'})$  is in the semiring  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}\iota(G)$ , moreover,

$$\iota'(m) = \iota(\mu_{\iota, \iota'}(m)) + \text{lower (upper) terms in } \iota(G)$$

for any  $m \in M_{\iota'}$ .

## Example: Ordinary and quantum cluster structures

The localization  $\mathcal{A}$  of a (quantum) cluster algebra  $\underline{\mathcal{A}}$ , determined by an  $m \times n$  exchange matrix  $\tilde{B}$  (and compatible  $m \times m$  skew-symmetric matrix  $\Lambda$ ), by the set  $X$  of all of its cluster variables satisfies all of the above requirements with  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}^m$  (or its central extension  $G_q$  in quantum case) so that  $\mathbb{Q}G = \mathbb{Q}[x_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, x_m^{\pm 1}]$  for a given cluster  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ . The well-known commutative/quantum Laurent Phenomenon asserts that the set of all (quantum) cluster variables belongs to the group algebra  $\mathbb{Q}G$  which is an instance of its noncommutative counterpart stated above. In these cases,  $Br_{\mathcal{A}}$  is essentially the group of symplectic transvections introduced by B. Shapiro, M. Shapiro, A. Vainshtein, A. Zelevinsky in (2000) and it is always a quotient of an appropriate Artin braid group.

# Non-commutative polygon



# Non-commutative $n$ -gon $\Sigma_n$

$\Sigma_n$ : disk with  $n$  marked points, labeled clockwise by  $1, 2, \dots, n$ , on the boundary;

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### Definition [Berenstein-Retakh]

The *non-commutative  $n$ -gon*  $\mathcal{A}(\Sigma_n)$  is defined to be the non-commutative algebra generated by  $x_{ij}, i \neq j \in [n]$ , subject to

- (triangle relation)  $x_{ij}x_{kj}^{-1}x_{ki} = x_{ik}x_{jk}^{-1}x_{ji}$  for any triangle  $(i, j, k)$ ;
- (Ptolemy relation)  $x_{jl} = x_{ji}x_{ki}^{-1}x_{kl} + x_{jk}x_{ik}^{-1}x_{il}$  for any quadrilateral  $(i, j, k, l)$  on  $\Sigma_n$ .

For any triangle  $(i, j, k)$ , define  $T_i^{jk} := x_{ji}^{-1} x_{jk} x_{ik}^{-1} = x_{ki}^{-1} x_{kj} x_{ij}^{-1}$ .

Call it the *angle* at  $i$ .

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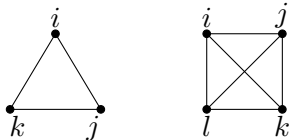
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(Ptolemy relation) Angle is additive

$$x_{ji}^{-1} x_{jl} x_{il}^{-1} = x_{ki}^{-1} x_{kl} x_{il}^{-1} + x_{ji}^{-1} x_{jk} x_{ik}^{-1}, \quad T_i^{jl} = T_i^{jk} + T_i^{kl}.$$



# Non-commutative Laurent phenomenon

For any triangulation  $\Delta$  of  $\Sigma_n$ , the total angle  $T_i(\Delta)$  is defined to be

$$\sum_{(i,j,k)} T_i^{jk},$$

where  $(i, j, k)$  runs over all triangles incident to  $i$  in  $\Delta$ .

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## Proposition.

For any  $i \in [n]$ , the total angle  $T_i(\Delta)$  does not depend on the triangulation, i.e.,  $T_i(\Delta) = x_{i-i}^{-1} x_{i-i+i}^{-1} x_{i+i}^{-1} = T_i^{i^-, i^+}$ .



# Non-commutative Laurent phenomenon

## Theorem [Berenstein-Retakh]

For any triangulation  $\Delta$  of the  $n$ -gon and for any distinct  $i, j \in [1, n]$ , we have

$$x_{ij} = \sum_{\mathbf{i}=(i_1, \dots, i_{2m})} x_{\mathbf{i}},$$

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- an edge  $(i_s, i_{s+1})$  intersects  $(i, j)$  iff  $s$  is even;
- If  $\mathbf{p} := (i_k, i_{k+1}) \cap (i, j) \neq \emptyset$  and  $\mathbf{q} := (i_\ell, i_{\ell+1}) \cap (i, j) \neq \emptyset$  for some  $k < \ell$ , then the point  $\mathbf{p}$  of  $(ij)$  is closer to  $i$  than  $\mathbf{q}$ .

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and  $x_{\mathbf{i}} := x_{i_1, i_2}^{-1} x_{i_3, i_2}^{-1} x_{i_3, i_4} \cdots x_{i_{2m-1}, i_{2m-2}}^{-1} x_{i_{2m-1}, i_{2m}}$

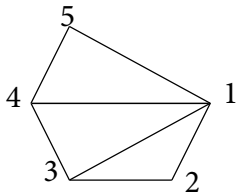
# Non-commutative Laurent phenomenon

## Example

If  $n = 5$  and  $\Delta = \{(1, 3), (3, 1), (1, 4), (4, 1); (i, i \pm 1) | i \in [5]\}$ , then

$$x_{21}^{-1} x_{25} x_{15}^{-1} = x_{21}^{-1} x_{23} x_{13}^{-1} + x_{31}^{-1} x_{34} x_{14}^{-1} + x_{41}^{-1} x_{45} x_{15}^{-1}.$$

$$x_{25} = x_{23} x_{13}^{-1} x_{15} + x_{21} x_{31}^{-1} x_{34} x_{14}^{-1} x_{15} + x_{21} x_{41}^{-1} x_{45}.$$



# Triangle group and braid group action

For any triangulation  $\Delta$  of  $\Sigma_n$ , the *triangle group*  $\mathbb{T}_\Delta$  is defined to be

$\mathbb{T}_\Delta = \langle t_{ij}, (ij) \in \Delta \rangle$  subject to

$$t_{ij}t_{kj}^{-1}t_{ki} = t_{ik}t_{jk}^{-1}t_{ji}$$

for  $i, j, k \in [n]$ .

## Proposition

For any two triangulations  $\Delta, \Delta'$  of  $\Sigma_n$ ,  $\mathbb{T}_\Delta \cong \mathbb{T}_{\Delta'}$ .

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For any two triangulations  $\Delta, \Delta'$  of  $\Sigma_n$ ,  $\mathbb{T}_\Delta \cong \mathbb{T}_{\Delta'}$ .

We denote  $\mathbb{T}_{\Sigma_n} = \mathbb{T}_\Delta$  and call it *triangle group* of  $\Sigma_n$ .

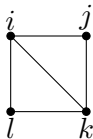


## Triangle group and braid group action

Fix a triangulation  $\Delta$  of  $\Sigma_n$ , define  $T_{ik} \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{T}_\Delta)$

$$T_{ik}(t_\gamma) = \begin{cases} t_{ij}t_{kj}^{-1}t_{kl}t_{il}^{-1}t_\gamma & \text{if } \gamma = (ik) \\ t_\gamma t_{li}^{-1}t_{lk}t_{jk}^{-1}t_{ji} & \text{if } \gamma = (ki) \\ t_\gamma & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for any internal edge  $(ik)$  of  $\Delta$  where  $(ijkl)$  is a cyclic quadrilateral containing  $(ik)$  as a diagonal.



## Triangle group and braid group action

Denote  $Br_\Delta = \langle T_{ik}, (ik) \in \Delta \rangle < Aut(\mathbb{T}_\Delta)$ .

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## Theorem

*For any two triangulations  $\Delta, \Delta'$  of  $\Sigma_n$ ,  $Br_{\Delta} \cong Br_{\Delta'} \cong Br_{n-2}$ .*

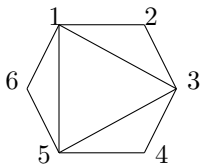
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If  $\Delta$  is a triangulation of the hexagon as in the picture



then  $Br_{\mathcal{A}_6} = Br_4$  is generated by  $T_{13}$ ,  $T_{15}$ , and  $T_{35}$  subject to

$T_{13}T_{35}T_{13} = T_{35}T_{13}T_{35}$ ,  $T_{35}T_{15}T_{35} = T_{15}T_{35}T_{15}$ ,  $T_{35}T_{15}T_{35} = T_{15}T_{35}T_{15}$

and  $T_{13}T_{15}T_{35}T_{13} = T_{15}T_{35}T_{13}T_{15} = T_{35}T_{13}T_{15}T_{35}$ .

# Non-commutative marked surfaces and their cluster structure

# Non-commutative marked orbifolds

$\Sigma = (S, M, U)$  marked orbifold, i.e.,

$S$  Riemann Surface,

$M \subset S$  marked points,  $|M| < \infty$

$U \subset S \setminus \partial S$  orbifold points,  $|U| < \infty, M \cap U = \emptyset$

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$\Gamma(\Sigma)$ : set of curves in  $\Sigma$

# Non-commutative marked orbifolds

## Definition [Berenstein-H-Retakh]

The *non-commutative orbifold*  $\mathcal{A}(\Sigma)$  is defined to be the non-commutative algebra generated by  $x_\gamma, \gamma \in \Gamma(\Sigma)$ , subject to

- (1) (triangle relation)  $x_{\gamma_1} x_{\gamma_2}^{-1} x_{\gamma_3} = x_{\bar{\gamma}_3} x_{\gamma_2}^{-1} x_{\bar{\gamma}_1}$  for any triangle  $(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3)$  in  $\Sigma$ ;
- (2) (Ptolemy relation)  $x_{jl} = x_{ji} x_{ki}^{-1} x_{kl} + x_{jk} x_{ik}^{-1} x_{il}$  for any quadrilateral  $(i, j, k, l)$  in  $\Sigma$ ;
- (3) (Monogon relations)  $x_{\bar{\gamma}} = x_\gamma$  for each loop  $\gamma$  cuts out a monogon which contains only an orbifold point.

# Non-commutative orbifolds

## Definition–continuous

(4) (Bigon orbifold relations)

$x_{\alpha'} = x_{\bar{\alpha}_1} x_{\alpha}^{-1} x_{\alpha_1} + 2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{|p|}\right) x_{\bar{\alpha}_1} x_{\alpha}^{-1} x_{\bar{\alpha}_2} + x_{\alpha_2} x_{\alpha}^{-1} x_{\bar{\alpha}_2}$  for any bigon  $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$  around an orbifold point  $p$ , where  $\alpha$  is the loop around  $p$  such that  $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha)$  is a triangle and  $\alpha'$  is the loop around  $p$  such that  $(\alpha', \alpha_2, \alpha_1)$  is a triangle.

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$\bar{\cdot}: \mathcal{A}_{\Sigma} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{\Sigma}, x_{\gamma} \mapsto x_{\bar{\gamma}}$  is an involution.

## Remark

This is a non-commutative version of (generalized) cluster algebras from orbifolds.

# Total angle

Let  $\Delta$  be a triangulation of  $\Sigma$ .

- For any  $\Delta$  and any cyclic triangle  $(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3)$  in  $\Delta$  denote

$$T_{\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3} := x_{\gamma_3}^{-1} x_{\bar{\gamma}_2} x_{\gamma_1}^{-1} = x_{\bar{\gamma}_1}^{-1} x_{\gamma_2} x_{\bar{\gamma}_3}^{-1}.$$

- For any  $i \in M$ , denote

$$T_i(\Delta) = \sum T_{(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3)} + \sum 2\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{|p|}\right) x_{\ell_p}^{-1},$$

where the first summation is over all clockwise triangles  $(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3)$  in  $\Delta$  such that  $s(\gamma_1) = i$  and  $T_{(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3)} = x_{\bar{\gamma}_1}^{-1} x_{\gamma_2} x_{\bar{\gamma}_3}^{-1}$ , the second summation is over all clockwise loops  $\ell_p$  enclose an orbifold point  $p$  with  $s(\ell_p) = i$ .

# Total angle

## Proposition

Let  $\Delta, \Delta'$  be two triangulations of  $\Sigma$ . We have

$$T_i(\Delta) = T_i(\Delta').$$

We refer it as the *total angle at  $i$* .

An equivalent presentation of  $\mathcal{A}_\Sigma$ :

- Angle at a vertex of any triangle is well-defined.
- Angles at any marked point are additive.

# Noncommutative surfaces – Tagged cluster variables

$i$  puncture,  $\gamma$  is a curve with  $t(\gamma) = i$ , define  $x_{\gamma(i)} = x_{\gamma}T_i$ .

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$i, j$  punctures,  $\gamma$  is a curve with  $s(\gamma) = i, t(\gamma) = j$ , define  
 $x_{\gamma^{(i,j)}} = T_i x_{\gamma} T_j$ .

Call them *tagged (non-commutative) cluster variables*.



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### Theorem

*For any puncture  $i$  the assignments  $x_{\gamma} \mapsto T_i^{\delta_{i,s(\gamma)}} x_{\gamma} T_i^{\delta_{i,t(\gamma)}}$  define an involutive automorphism  $\varphi_i$  of  $\mathcal{A}_{\Sigma}$ , where  $s(\gamma)$  and  $t(\gamma)$  are respectively the starting and terminating point of  $\gamma$ .*

*Moreover, these automorphisms commute so that for any subset  $P$  of punctures the composition  $\varphi_P$  of all  $\varphi_i, i \in P$  is well-defined.*

## Triangle group and braid group action

$\Delta$ : ideal triangulation of  $\Sigma$ , the *triangle group*  $\mathbb{T}_\Delta = \langle t_\gamma, \gamma \in \Delta \rangle$

subject to

$$t_{\gamma_1} t_{\bar{\gamma}_2}^{-1} t_{\gamma_3} = t_{\bar{\gamma}_3} t_{\gamma_2}^{-1} t_{\bar{\gamma}_1}$$

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- $t_{10} t_{01}^{tag} = t_{10}^{tag} t_{01}$ ;
- $t_{21}^+ (t_{10} t_{01}^{tag})^{-1} t_{12}^- = t_{21}^- (t_{10}^{tag} t_{01})^{-1} t_{12}^+$  for any once-punctured digon.

# Triangle groups

## Proposition

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## Theorem (Noncommutative Laurent Phenomenon)

*The extension  $\iota_{\Delta} : \mathbb{Q}\mathbb{T}_{\Delta} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{\Sigma}$  is injective for any tagged triangulation  $\Delta$  of  $\Sigma$  and all  $x_{\gamma}$  ( $\gamma$  is a tagged curve) belong to its image. More precisely, each  $x_{\gamma}$  can be uniquely expressed as a positive sum of elements of  $\iota_{\Delta}(\mathbb{T}_{\Delta})$ .*

# Noncommutative Laurent Phenomenon

$\Delta$ : tagged triangulation of  $\Sigma$ , define a natural embedding

$$\iota_{\Delta} : \mathbb{T}_{\Delta} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{\Sigma}^{\times}, t_{\gamma} \mapsto x_{\gamma},$$

## Theorem (Noncommutative Laurent Phenomenon)

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In fact, the total angles  $T_i$  are in the image of all  $\iota_{\Delta}$ .



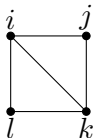
## Triangle group and braid group action

Fix an ideal triangulation  $\Delta$  of  $\Sigma$ , if  $\gamma$  is not a self-folded arc, define

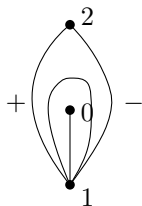
$$T_\gamma \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{T}_\Delta)$$

$$T_\gamma(t_\alpha) = \begin{cases} t_{ij}t_{kj}^{-1}t_{kl}t_{il}^{-1}t_\gamma & \text{if } \gamma = (ik) \\ t_\gamma t_{li}^{-1}t_{lk}t_{jk}^{-1}t_{ji} & \text{if } \gamma = (ki) \\ t_\gamma & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for any internal edge  $(ik)$  of  $\Delta$  where  $(ijkl)$  is a cyclic quadrilateral containing  $(ik)$  as a diagonal.



## Triangle group and braid group action



If  $\gamma = (0, 1)$  is self-folded arc, define  $T_\gamma \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{T}_\Delta)$

$$T_\gamma(t_\alpha) = \begin{cases} t_{12}^+(t_{12}^-)^{-1}t_{10} & \text{if } \gamma = (10) \\ \bar{T}_\gamma(10) & \text{if } \gamma = (01) \\ t_{12}^+(t_{12}^-)^{-1}t_{11} & \text{if } \gamma = (11) \\ t_\gamma & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Triangle group and braid group action

Denote  $Br_\Delta = \langle T_\gamma, \gamma \in \Delta \rangle < Aut(\mathbb{T}_\Delta)$ .

# Triangle group and braid group action

Denote  $Br_\Delta = \langle T_\gamma, \gamma \in \Delta \rangle < Aut(\mathbb{T}_\Delta)$ .

## Theorem

For any two triangulations  $\Delta, \Delta'$  of  $\Sigma$ ,  $Br_\Delta \cong Br_{\Delta'}$ , moreover,

(a) if  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are not two sides of any triangle in  $\Delta$ , then  $T_\alpha T_\beta = T_\beta T_\alpha$ ;

(b) If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are two sides of exactly one triangle in  $\Delta$ , then

$$T_\alpha T_\beta T_\alpha = T_\beta T_\alpha T_\beta;$$

(c) If  $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$  forms a once-punctured bigon with diagonals  $\alpha_3$  and  $\alpha_4$ , assume that  $(\alpha_1, \alpha_3, \alpha_4)$  is a clockwise triangle in  $\Delta$  and  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  are not two sides of any triangle in  $\Delta$ , then

$$T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_4} T_{\alpha_2} T_{\alpha_3} T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_4} = T_{\alpha_4} T_{\alpha_2} T_{\alpha_3} T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_4} T_{\alpha_2};$$

# Continue

## Theorem

For any two triangulations  $\Delta, \Delta'$  of  $\Sigma$ ,  $Br_\Delta \cong Br_{\Delta'}$ , moreover,

(d) If  $(l(\alpha), \alpha_1, \alpha_2)$  and  $(l(\beta), \alpha_1, \alpha_2)$  are two different clockwise cyclic triangles in  $\Delta$  such that  $l(\alpha)$  and  $l(\beta)$  are not two sides of any triangle in  $\Delta$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}T_\alpha T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_2} T_\alpha T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_2} &= T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_2} T_\alpha T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_2} T_\alpha, \\T_\beta T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_2} T_\beta T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_2} &= T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_2} T_\beta T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_2} T_\beta;\end{aligned}$$

(e) If  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) are all the arcs incident to some puncture  $p \in I_p$ , assume that  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$  are in clockwise order and  $\alpha_i \neq \alpha_j$  for any  $i \neq j$ , then

$$T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_2} \dots T_{\alpha_n} T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_2} \dots T_{\alpha_{n-2}} = T_{\alpha_2} T_{\alpha_3} \dots T_{\alpha_n} T_{\alpha_1} T_{\alpha_2} \dots T_{\alpha_{n-1}}.$$

# Triangle group and braid group action

## Remark

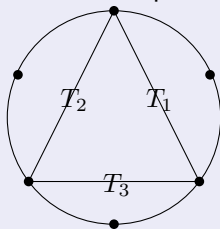
- 1 The groups satisfy relations (a)-(c), (e) appeared in terms of quiver with potential by Qiu, Qiu-Zhou, King-Qiu, etc;
- 2 The automorphisms  $T_\gamma$  is inspired by the symplectic transvection defined by Shapiro-Shapiro-Vainshtein-Zelevinsky.

## Center of the braid groups $Br_A, Br_D$

**Theorem**[Berenstein-H-Retakh] Let  $(S, M)$  be an  $n$ -gon or a once-punctured  $n$ -gon and  $T$  be a triangulation of  $(S, M)$ . Assume that  $\triangleleft$  is a linear order on  $T$  which is compatible with  $Q(T)$ . Then  $(\prod_{i \in T}^{\triangleleft} \tau_i)^c$  is the generator of the center of  $Br_T$ , where  $c$  is the Coxeter number.

## Symmetries for surfaces

**Example** Rotation  $2\pi/3$  gives an automorphism of the hexagon, it induces an automorphism of  $\mathbb{T}_T$  and an automorphism  $\varphi$  of  $Br_4$ .

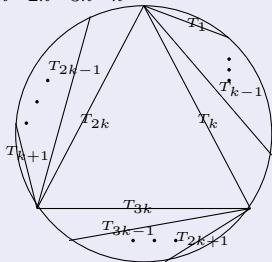


Then  $\varphi$  is inner and  $\varphi(-) = \tau \cdot - \cdot \tau^{-1}$ , where  $\tau = T_1 T_2 T_3 T_1$  and  $\tau^3 \in Z(Br_4) = \langle \tau^3 \rangle$ .



## Symmetries for surfaces

**Example** Rotation  $2\pi/3$  gives an automorphism of the hexagon, it induces an automorphism  $\varphi$  of  $Br_{3k+1}$ . Denote  $\tau_i = T_i T_{k+i} T_{2k+i}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k-1$  and  $\tau_k = T_k T_{2k} T_{3k} T_k$ .



Then  $\varphi$  is inner and  $\varphi(-) = \tau \cdot - \cdot \tau^{-1}$ , where  $\tau = (\tau_1 \cdots \tau_{k-1} \tau_k)^k$  and  $\tau^3 \in Z(Br_{3k+1}) = \langle \tau^3 \rangle$ .

谢谢!