

# A brief overview of tropical geometry

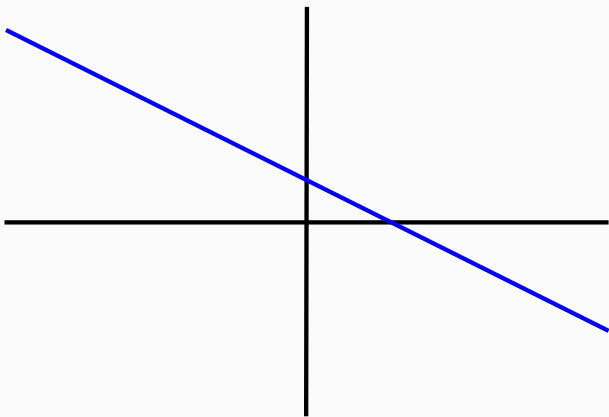
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Erwan Brugallé

September 15th 2023

Laboratoire de Mathématiques Jean Leray  
Nantes Université





$$x + 2y - 2 = 0$$

- Tropical addition : " $a + b$ " =  $\max(a, b)$

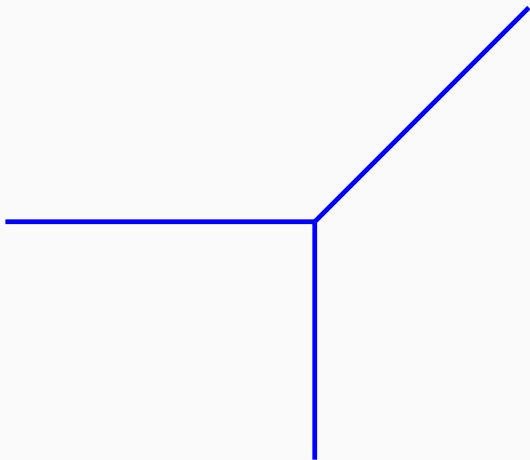
Ex : " $3 + 2$ " = 3

- Tropical multiplication : " $ab$ " =  $a + b$

Ex : " $3 \times 2$ " = 5

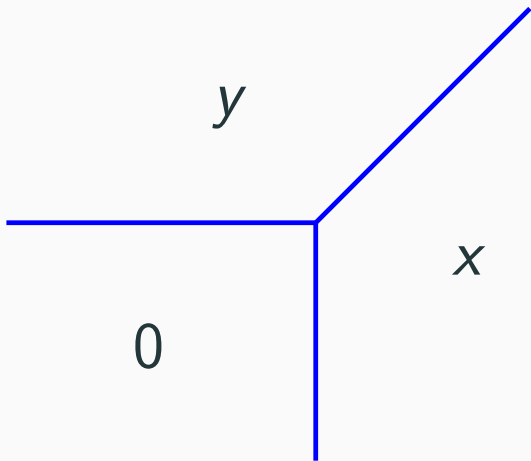
## Tropical geometry

$$"x + y + 0" = \max(x, y, 0)$$



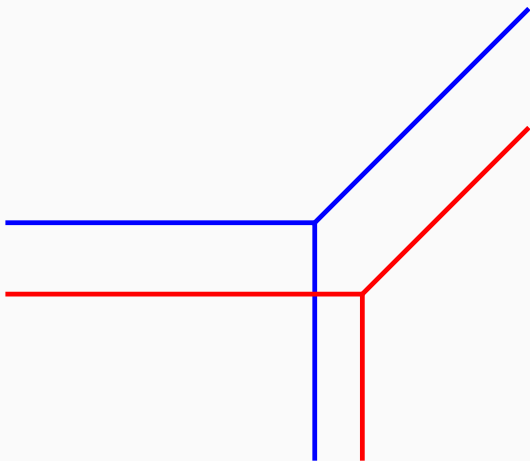
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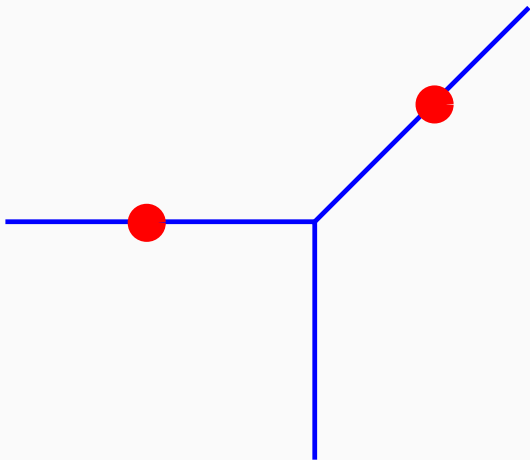
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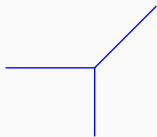
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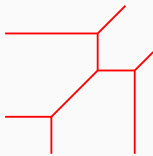




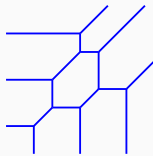
# Tropical geometry



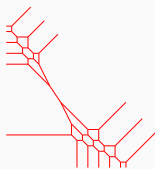
A line



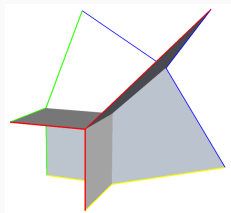
A conic



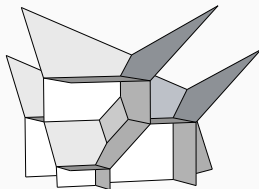
A cubic



A sextic



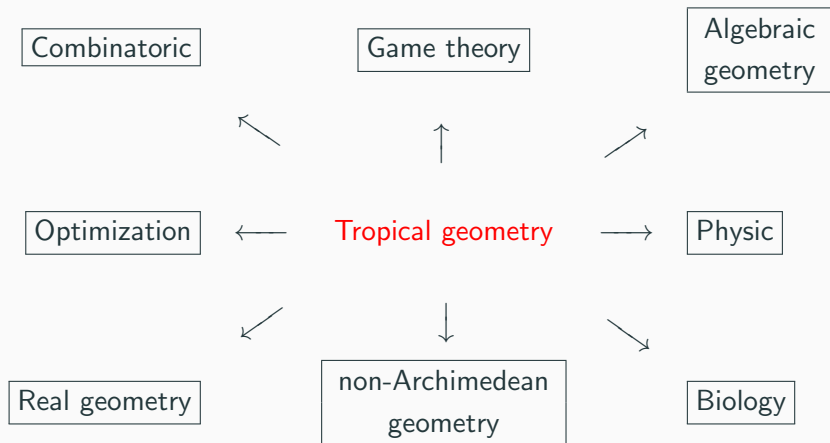
A plane



A quadric

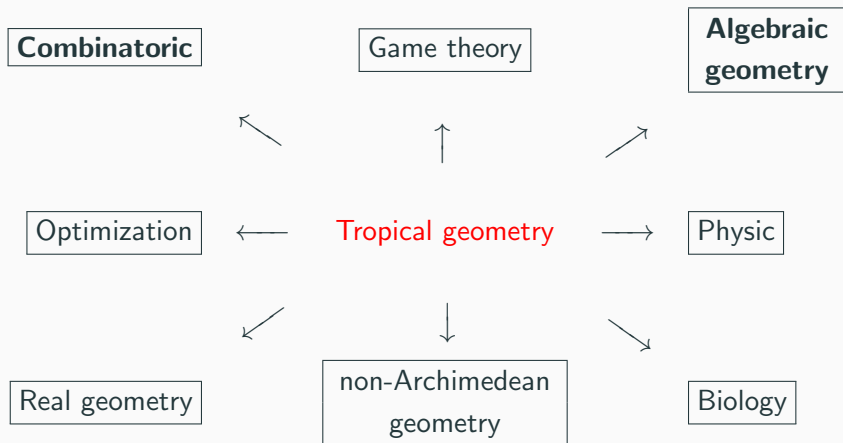
# Applications

The tropical world sits at the frontier of the classical world



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$$\log_t : \mathbb{R}_{>0} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{R}$$

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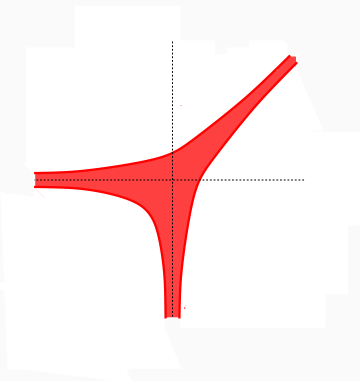
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$$"x + y" = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} "x +_t y"$$

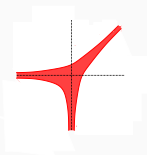
# Amoeba of the line $L$ defined by $z - w + 1 = 0$



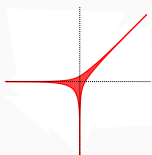
$\text{Log}(L)$

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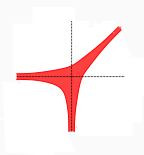
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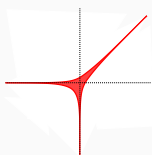
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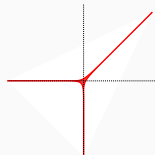
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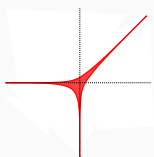
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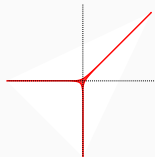
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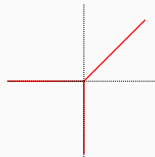
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$\text{Log}_t(L)$



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$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{Log}_t(L)$

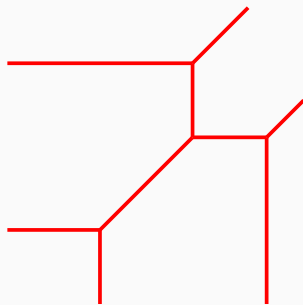
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Amoeba of the conic  $C_t$  defined by

$$-1 + z + w - t^{-2}z^2 + t^{-1}zw - t^{-2}w^2 = 0$$



$\text{Log}_t(C_t)$



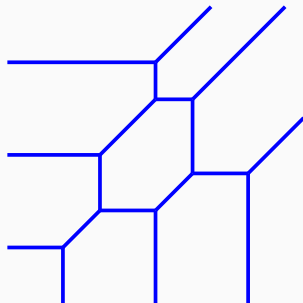
$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{Log}_t(C_t)$

## Amoeba of a cubic $C_t$ defined by

$$-1 + z + w - t^{-2}z^2 + t^{-1}zw - t^{-2}y^2 + t^{-8}z^3 + t^{-5}z^2w + t^{-5}zw^2 + t^{-8}w^3 = 0$$



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## Tropical curves : combinatorial description

### **Définition**

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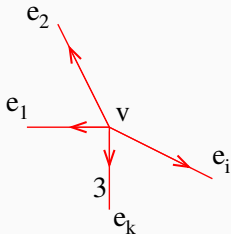
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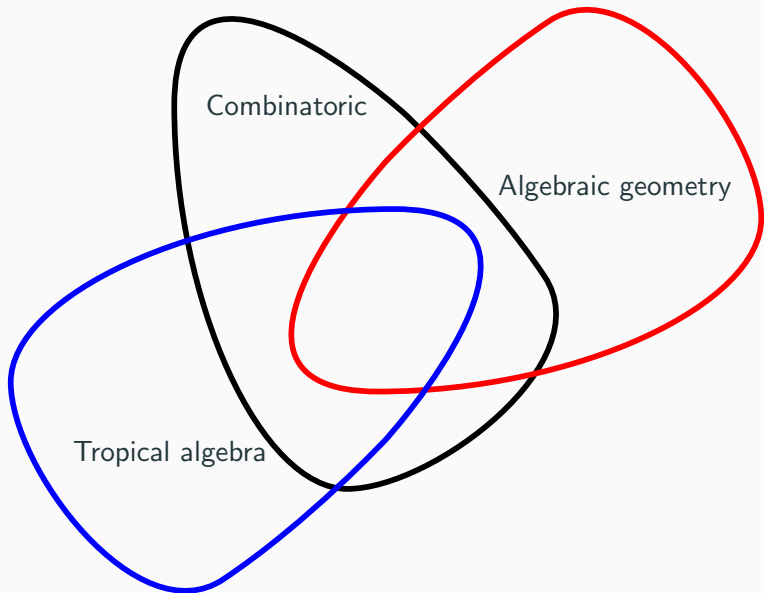
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$\vec{v}_{e_i} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  primitive

$$\sum w_{e_i} \vec{v}_{e_i} = 0$$

# What is tropical geometry ?



## **Theorem (Mikhalkin, 2004)**

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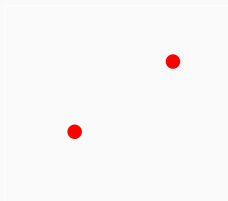
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## **Theorem (B-Mikhalkin, 2007)**

*Tropical curves enumeration using floor diagrams.*

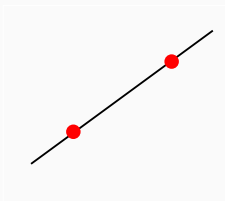


How many lines through 2 points in the plane?



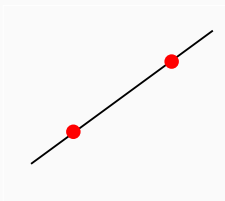
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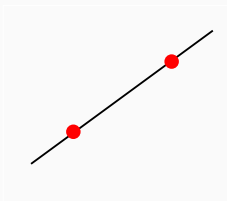
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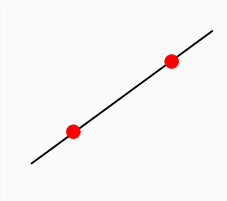
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## Rational curves

$P(x), Q(x), R(x) \in \mathbb{C}[x]$  of degree  $d$ ,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \phi : \mathbb{C} \setminus \{R(x) = 0\} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{C}^2 \\ x & \longmapsto & \left( \frac{P(x)}{R(x)}, \frac{Q(x)}{R(x)} \right) \end{array}$$

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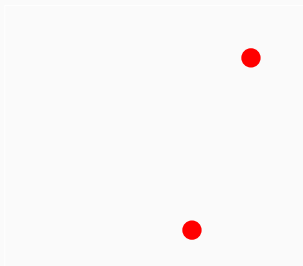
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$GW_{\mathbb{C}P^2}(d) =$  number of rational curves of degree  $d$   
passing through  $3d-1$  points.

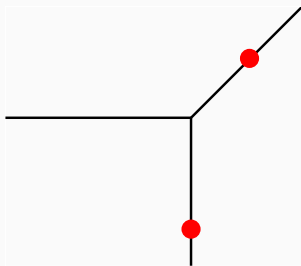
# Enumeration of rational tropical curves

How many lines through 2 points?



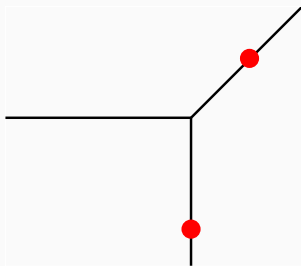
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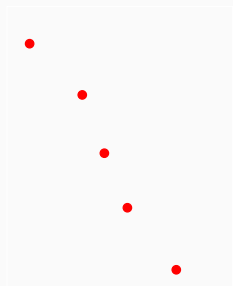
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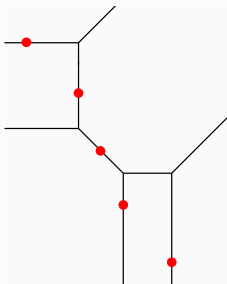
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How many conics through 5 points?



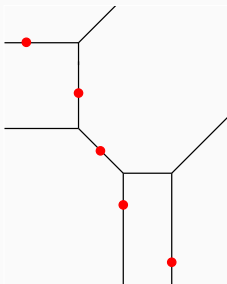
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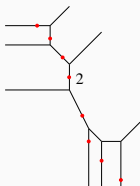
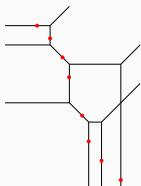
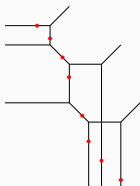
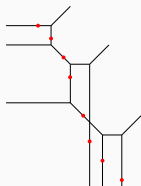
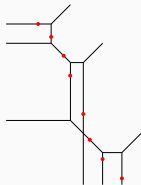
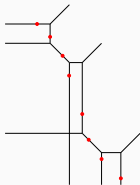
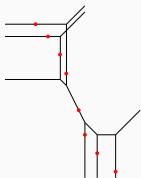
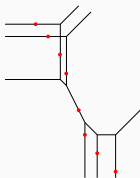
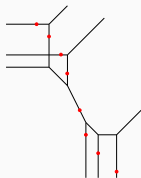
How many cubics through 8 points?

## Enumeration of rational tropical curves

How many cubics through 8 points? 12

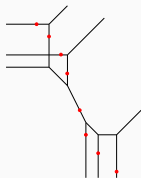
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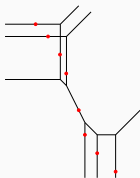


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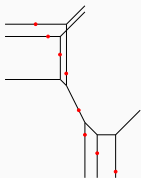
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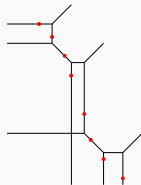
1



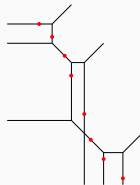
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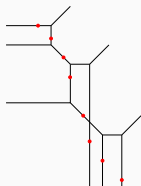
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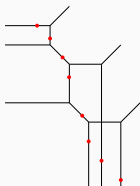
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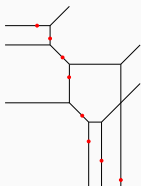
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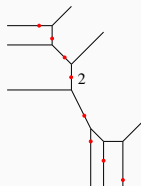
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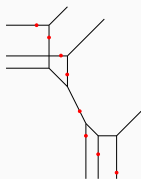
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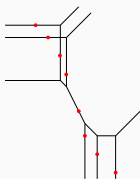
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# Quantum tropical invariants (Block-Göttsche)

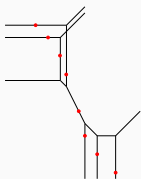
How many cubics through 8 points?



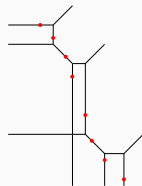
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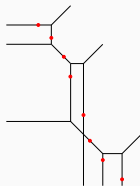
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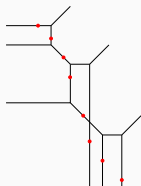
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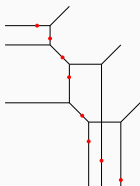
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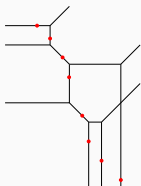
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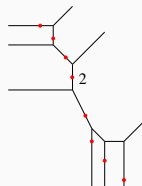
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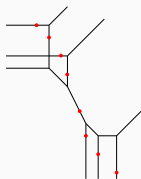
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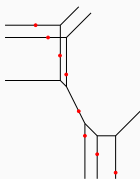
$q^{-1} + 2 + q$

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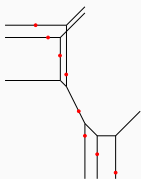
How many cubics through 8 points?  $q^{-1} + 10 + q$



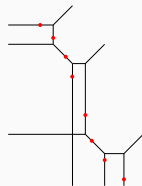
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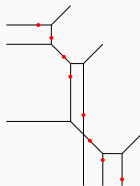
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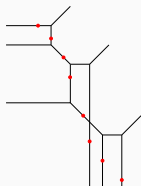
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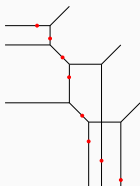
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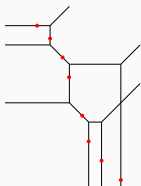
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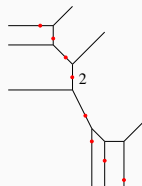
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1



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$q^{-1} + 2 + q$

## Heron-Rota-Welsch conjecture

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*The coefficients  $a_k$  of  $\chi_M(q)$  form a log-concave sequence, i.e.*

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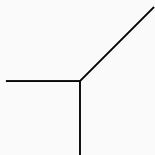
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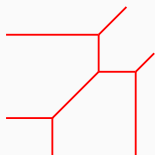
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All matroid are realizable in tropical geometry.

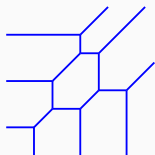
# Topology of tropical curves



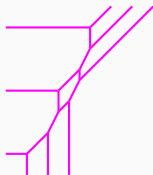
A line



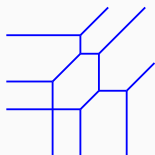
A conic



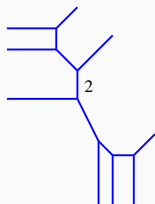
A cubic



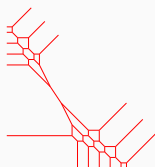
Another cubic



One more cubic



A cubic again



A sextic

## **Problem**

*What is the maximal value of the genus of a tropical curve of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  ?*

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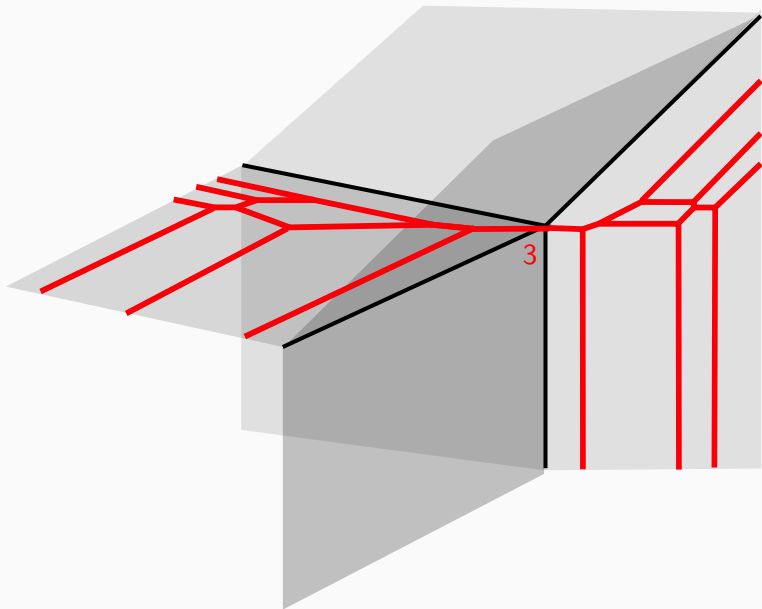
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## **Theorem (Mikhalkin-Sturmfels, ~2000)**

*The maximal genus of a tropical curve of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is*

$$\frac{(d-1)(d-2)}{2}.$$

## A cubic of genus 2



**Theorem (Bertrand-B-López de Medrano)**

*There exists a tropical plane  $L \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  such that for any  $d \geq 1$ ,  $L$  contains a tropical curve  $C \subset L$  of degree  $d$  with*

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+ Higher dimensional generalizations.