External symmetries of regular and orientably regular maps

Jozef Širáň

OU and STU

Workshop on Symmetry in Graphs, Maps and Polytopes

Fields Institute 2011

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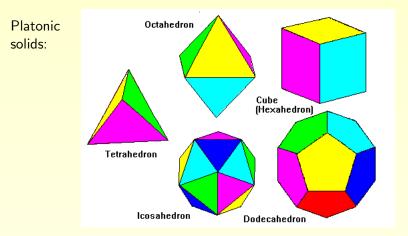
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Platonic solids:

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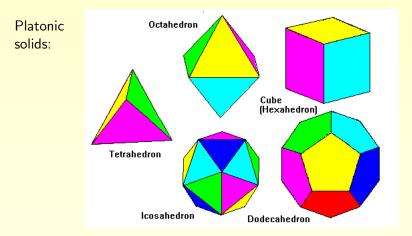
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Regular maps are generalizations of Platonic solids to arbitrary surfaces.

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Maps and tessellations

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A map M is of type (d, ℓ) if d and ℓ are the least common multiples of vertex degrees and face boundary lengths of M.

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The smallest *universal cover* of all maps M of type (d, ℓ) is a tessellation $U(d, \ell)$ of a simply connected surface (a sphere or a plane) formed by ℓ -gons, d of which meet at every vertex.

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The tessellation $U(d, \ell)$ lives on a sphere if and only if $1/d + 1/\ell > 1/2$.

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In the remaining cases, the geometry of the underlying plane for $U(d, \ell)$ is Euclidean if $1/d + 1/\ell = 1/2$, and hyperbolic if $1/d + 1/\ell < 1/2$.

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Tessellations

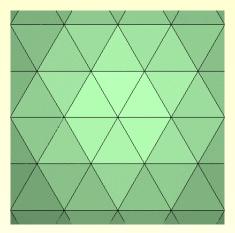
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Tessellations

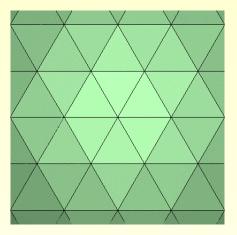
Examples of tessellations $U(d, \ell)$: U(6, 3) and U(5, 4)

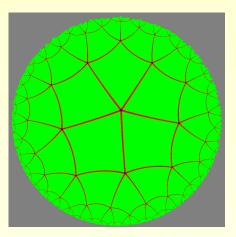


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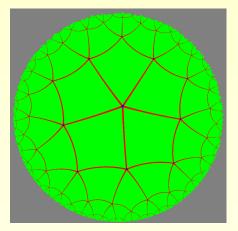


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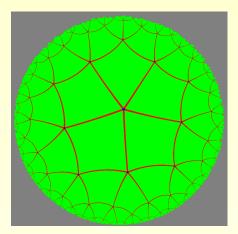
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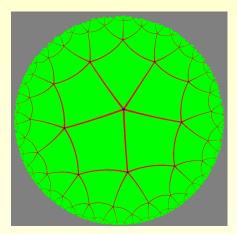
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The group $Aut_{\rm or}(U(d,\ell))$ is the $(2,d,\ell)$ -triangle group $T(d,\ell)$ with presentation

$$\langle X,Y;\ X^d=Y^2=(XY)^\ell=1\rangle$$

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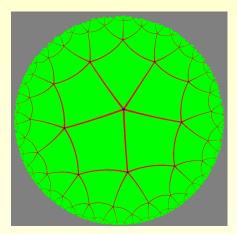


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where X, XY, Y are a rotation about a vertex v, about the centre of a face F incident to v, and about the mid point of an edge incident to v and F, by $2\pi/d$, $2\pi/\ell$, and π .

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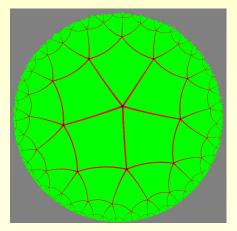
where X, XY, Y are a rotation about a vertex v, about the centre of a face F incident to v, and about the mid point of an edge incident to v and F, by $2\pi/d$, $2\pi/\ell$, and π .

The group acts regularly on directed edges of $U(d, \ell)$.

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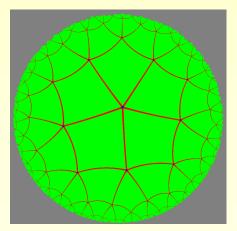
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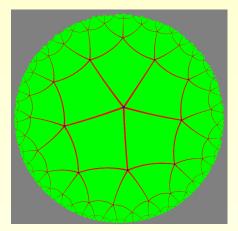


The (full) group $Aut(U(d, \ell))$ is the extended $(2, d, \ell)$ -triangle group $ET(d, \ell)$ with presentation

 $\langle A, B, C; A^2 = B^2 = C^2 = (BC)^2 = (AC)^d = (AB)^\ell = 1 \rangle$

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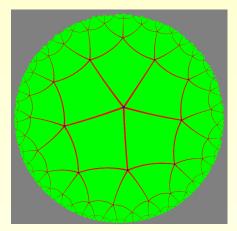
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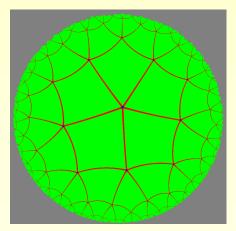


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The group acts regularly on flags, or on edges with longitudinal and transverse directions.

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Note: $T(d, \ell) \triangleleft_2 ET(d, \ell)$.

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Universality of tessellations:

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Universality of tessellations:

For fixed (d, ℓ) , all maps of type (d', ℓ') with $d' \mid d$ and $\ell' \mid \ell$ can be identified with *quotient spaces* $U(d, \ell)/H$ of tessellations by subgroups $H < ET(d, \ell)$.

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Projection of automorphisms:

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If $H < ET(d, \ell)$, then the group $Aut(U(d, \ell)) \cong ET(d, \ell)$ projects onto the map $M = U(d, \ell)/H$ if and only if H is normal in $ET(d, \ell)$, and then $Aut(M) \cong ET(d, \ell)/H$.

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Similarly, orientably regular maps arise as above by replacing $ET(d, \ell)$ with $T(d, \ell)$ throughout, and a map M on an orientable surface is orientably regular if $Aut_{or}(M)$ is regular on darts of M.

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Are regular maps the 'most symmetric maps'?

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Are regular maps the 'most symmetric maps'? External symmetries ?

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External symmetries: Self-dualities

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External symmetries: Self-dualities

A regular map M of type (d, ℓ) is $\cong U(d, \ell)/N$ for $N \triangleleft ET(d, \ell)$ where $ET(d, \ell) = \langle A, B, C; \ A^2 = B^2 = C^2 = (BC)^2 = (CA)^d = (AB)^\ell = 1 \rangle$

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External symmetries: Self-dualities

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and so it can be identified with Aut(M) := G with presentation

$$G = \langle a, b, c; \ a^2 = b^2 = c^2 = (bc)^2 = (ca)^d = (ab)^{\ell} = \dots = 1 \rangle$$

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The map M is self-dual if G admits an automorphism D that fixes a and interchanges b with c.

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The map M is self-dual if G admits an automorphism D that fixes a and interchanges b with c. Further, the map M is self-Petrie-dual if G has an automorphism P interchanging b with bc and fixing a and c.

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If M is self-dual and self-Petrie-dual, we say that M has trinity symmetry. The two self-dualities then generate the group $\langle D, P \rangle \cong Aut \langle b, c \rangle \cong S_3$. Also, then $d = \ell$ and $(abc)^d$ is a relator in the presentation of G.

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Theorem [Richter, Š., Wang, '11] There exist infinitely many finite regular maps with trinity symmetry.

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Proof. We begin with the triangle group

 $ET(\infty,\infty) = \langle A,B,C; \ A^2 = B^2 = C^2 = (BC)^2 = 1 \rangle$

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Since this group is residually finite, it contains infinitely many normal, torsion-free subgroups of finite index.

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Since this group is residually finite, it contains infinitely many normal, torsion-free subgroups of finite index. Let N be such a subgroup and let

$$K = \bigcap_{\pi \in S_3} \pi(N)$$

where $\pi \in S_3$ ranges over all automorphisms of $ET(\infty, \infty)$ fixing A and permuting the set $\{B, C, BC\}$.

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Theorem [Jones, Poulton, '10] There exist infinitely many finite regular maps admitting the external symmetry *PD* (triality) but no duality.

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More external symmetries: Exponents

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More external symmetries: Exponents

Orientably regular maps M come from $U(d, \ell)/N$ by $N \triangleleft T(d, \ell)$,

$$T(d,\ell) = \langle X,Y; \ X^d = Y^2 = (XY)^\ell = 1 \rangle$$

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$$T(d,\ell) = \langle X,Y; \ X^d = Y^2 = (XY)^\ell = 1 \rangle$$

and can be identified with $Aut_{or}(M) := G$ with partial presentation

 $G = \langle x,y; \ x^d = y^2 = (xy)^\ell = \ldots = 1 \rangle$ where x = XN and y = YN.

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Exponents of maps [Nedela and Škoviera, about 20 years ago]:

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Orientably regular maps with the 'full' exp group Z_d^* are kaleidoscopic.

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Proof. Take $T(d, \infty) = \langle X, Y; X^d = Y^2 = 1 \rangle$ and a normal, torsion-free subgroup N of $T(d, \infty)$ of finite index (residual finiteness). Let

$$K = \bigcap_{j \in Z_d^*} \alpha_j(N)$$

where α_j is the automorphism of $T(d,\infty)$ fixing Y and taking X onto X^j .

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$$K = \bigcap_{j \in Z_d^*} \alpha_j(N)$$

where α_j is the automorphism of $T(d, \infty)$ fixing Y and taking X onto X^j . Then, $U(d, \infty)/K$ is a finite kaleidoscopic orientably regular map. \Box

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Kaleidoscopic regular maps with trinity symmetry?

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Kaleidoscopic regular maps with trinity symmetry?

First: Extension of exponents to maps on arbitrary surfaces [Hužvar]:

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A regular map M of type (d, ℓ) identified with the group

$$G = \langle a, b, c; \ a^2 = b^2 = c^2 = (bc)^2 = (ca)^d = (ab)^\ell = \ldots = 1 \rangle$$

is kaleidoscopic if G admits, for any $j \in Z_d^*$, an automorphism E_j that fixes b and c and takes ca onto $(ca)^j$. (M has the 'full' exponent group.)

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Construction of finite kaleidoscopic regular maps with trinity symmetry of degree $d = \ell$ is therefore equivalent to finding finite groups as above that admit the exponent automorphisms E_j for every $j \in Z_d^*$ together with the self-duality and the self-Petrie-duality automorphisms D and P.

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Problem: Incompatibility of the 'universal' groups $ET(\infty, \infty)$ and $(E)T(d, \infty)$;

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Kaleidoscopic maps with trinity symmetry by lifting

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Theorem A. If there is an oriented kaleidoscopic map M of degree d with trinity symmetry, then for any positive integer $n \ge 2$ there is an oriented kaleidoscopic map M_n of degree dn with trinity symmetry.

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Theorem B. For every $n \ge 1$ there is an oriented map of degree 2n with $2n^2$ vertices such that:

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Theorem B. For every $n \ge 1$ there is an oriented map of degree 2n with $2n^2$ vertices such that:

- the map is kaleidoscopic and has trinity symmetry,
- its automorphism group has order $8n^3$ and presentation $\langle a, b, c, z \mid a^2, b^2, c^2, z^2, abc, (az)^{2n}, (bz)^{2n}, (cz)^{2n}, (azbzcz)^2 \rangle$.

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This solves Wilson's conjecture.

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Method and consequences

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Method and consequences

Method:

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Method: Homological voltage assignments mod n on corners of a map,

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Consequences:

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Theorem A and Conder's list give kaleidoscopic regular maps with trinity symmetry for the following degrees and orders of automorphism groups:

2n	6n	8n	8n	10n	12n	16n
$8n^3$	$480n^{121}$	$128n^{33}$	$512n^{129}$	$1000n^{251}$	$960n^{241}$	$1024n^{257}$

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Groups generated by exponents and self-dualities

Jozef Širáň OU and STU External symmetries of regular and orientably regular maps

$$G = \langle a, b, c; \; a^2 = b^2 = c^2 = (bc)^2 = (ca)^d = (ab)^d = \ldots = 1
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what can be said about the group $Ext(M) = \langle D, P, E_j \ (j \in Z_d^*) \rangle$?

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Theorem. [Conder, Kwon, Š., in prep.] Let δ be the number of distinct prime factors of n. The group $Ext(M_n)$ of the Archdeacon-Conder-Š kaleidoscopic regular map of degree d = 2n with trinity symmetry has order $6(\varphi(2n))^3/2^{\alpha}$ where α is equal to $\delta + 2$, $\delta + 1$, and δ , depending on whether $n \equiv 0 \mod 8$, $n \equiv 4 \mod 8$, and $n \equiv 2 \mod 4$ or n is odd. Moreover, $Ext(M_n) \cong F_n \rtimes \langle D, P \rangle$ where F_n is a quotient of $(Z_{2n}^*)^3$.

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Question. Is the order of Ext(M) bounded by a function of d?

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Question. Is the order of Ext(M) bounded by a function of d? NO.

'Unbounded' groups generated by exponents and dualities

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These findings generate a number of open problems, e.g.:

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- Can the above Theorem be extended to every even degree $d \ge 8$?

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THANK YOU.

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