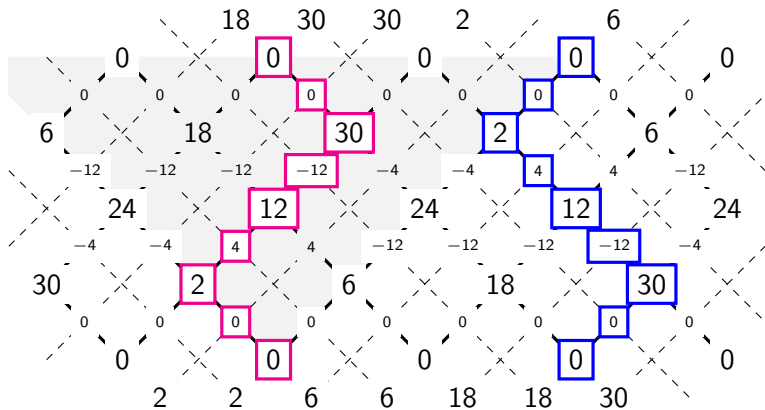


Spherical Heronian frieze patterns



Katie Waddle
University of Michigan

Frieze patterns: an algebraic phenomenon

Survey: [Morier-Genoud, 2015]

Definition [Coxeter, 1971, Conway and Coxeter, 1973]

A frieze pattern is a bi-infinite array of numbers bordered by a row of 0's then a row of 1's, such that for each 2×2 block $\begin{matrix} a & b \\ d & c \end{matrix}$, we have $ac - bd = 1$.

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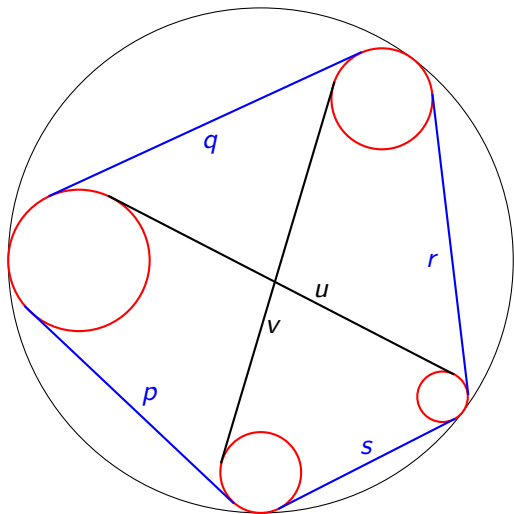
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Frieze patterns: actual geometry

Theorem [Casey, 1866]



$$uv = pr + qs$$

Distance geometry: the setup

Definition

Distance geometry is the study of point configurations via measurements of pairwise distances between the points.

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Question

Let \mathbf{V}_2 be 2D Euclidean space. What $O(n)$ collection of measurements uniquely determines a set of n points in \mathbf{V}_2 , considered up to oriented isometry?

Distance geometry: the setup

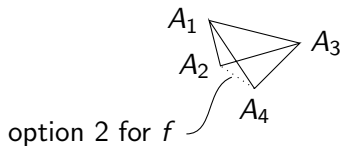
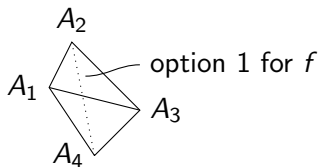
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Can we use data corresponding to a triangulation?

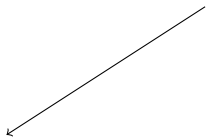


Distance geometry: two solution approaches

How to supplement triangulation data?

Distance geometry: two solution approaches

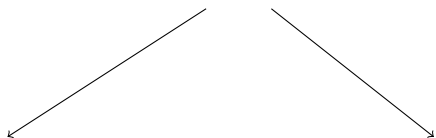
How to supplement triangulation data?



add bracing edges

Distance geometry: two solution approaches

How to supplement triangulation data?



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graph TD; A[How to supplement triangulation data?] --> B[add bracing edges]; A --> C[measure oriented areas of triangles];
```

add bracing edges

measure oriented areas of triangles

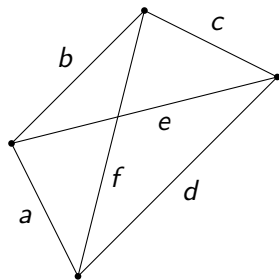
Distance geometry: the Cayley-Menger determinant

What algebraic relations hold for n points in \mathbf{V}_2 ?

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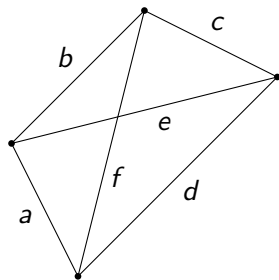
Quadrilateral:



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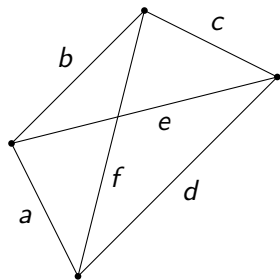


$$\det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & b & e & a \\ 1 & b & 0 & c & f \\ 1 & e & c & 0 & d \\ 1 & a & f & d & 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

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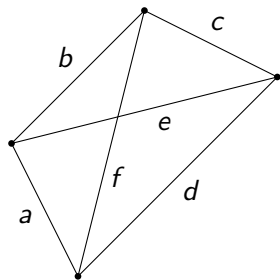
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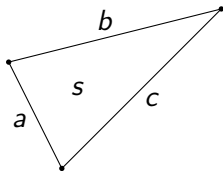
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Triangle [Heron, 60]:

$$\underbrace{(4 \cdot \text{area of } A_1A_2A_3)}_S^2 = - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & b & e \\ 1 & b & 0 & c \\ 1 & e & c & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Distance geometry: unique determination

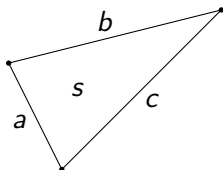


Proposition [Fomin and Setiabrata, 2020]

For a triangle in \mathbf{V}_2 , the measurements a, b, c, s satisfy

$$s^2 = -a^2 - b^2 - c^2 + 2ab + 2ac + 2bc = H(a, b, c).$$

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Distance geometry: general K

Question

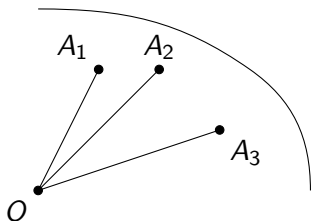
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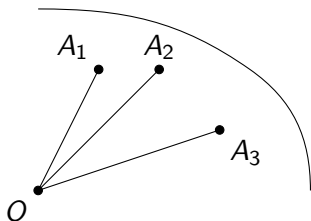
Challenges:

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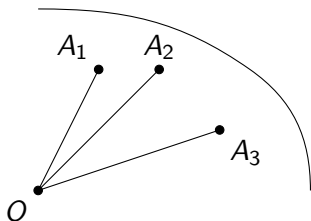
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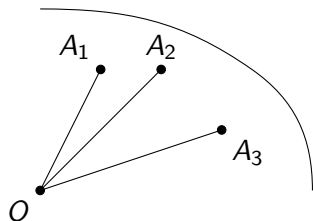
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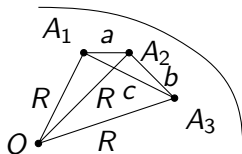
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Definition

$$S^K(A_1, A_2, A_3) = \frac{12}{R} V(OA_1A_2A_3)$$

Distance geometry: unique determination on \mathbf{S}



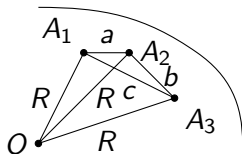
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$$(S^K)^2 = -a^2 - b^2 - c^2 + 2ab + 2ac + 2bc - Kabc = H^K(a, b, c)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2R^2} \det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & a & c & R^2 \\ 1 & a & 0 & b & R^2 \\ 1 & c & b & 0 & R^2 \\ 1 & R^2 & R^2 & R^2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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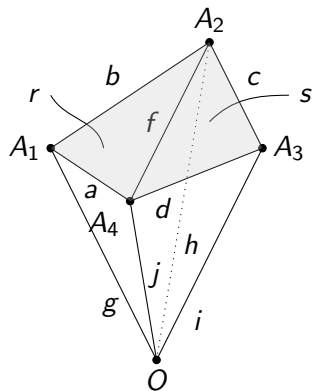
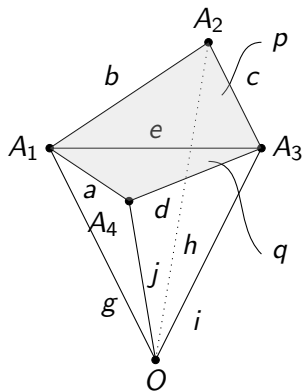
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Such a triangle is unique up to orientation preserving isometry.

Distance geometry: algebraic formulas

Question

Given measurement data corresponding to a triangulation of an n -gon (squared side distances and S^k measurements), what are the (algebraic) formulas for all the other data?



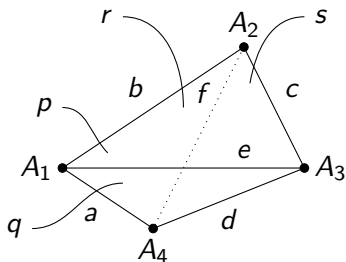
Distance geometry: algebraic formulas (Euclidean case!)

$$p^2 = H(b, c, e)$$

$$q^2 = H(a, d, e)$$

$$r^2 = H(a, f, b)$$

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Distance geometry: algebraic formulas (Euclidean case!)

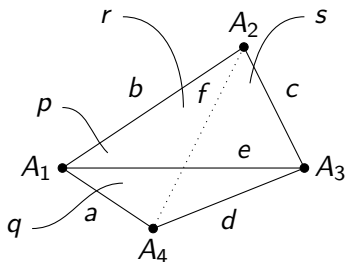
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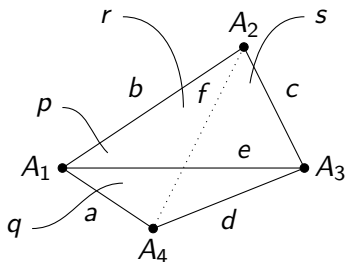
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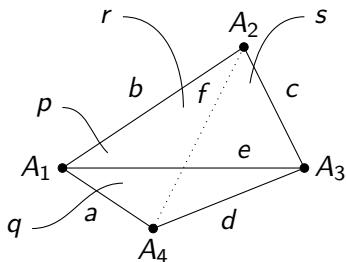
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$$e(r - s) = p(a - d) + q(b - c)$$

$$4ef = (p + q)^2 + (a - b + c - d)^2$$



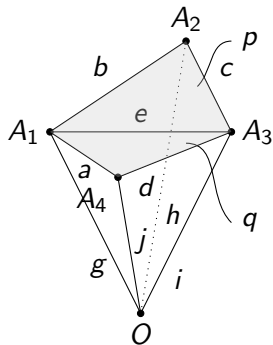
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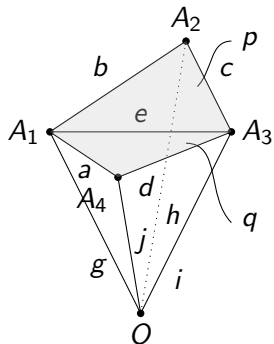
$$s^2 = H^K(c, f, d)$$

$$p + q = r + s + \frac{K}{2}(ap + bq - er)$$

$$p + q = r + s + \frac{K}{2}(fp - cr - bs)$$

$$p + q = r + s + \frac{K}{2}(dp + cq - es)$$

$$p + q = r + s + \frac{K}{2}(fq - dr - as)$$



Distance geometry: algebraic formulas (spherical case!)

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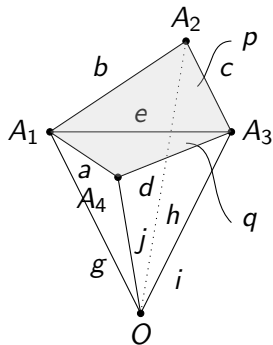
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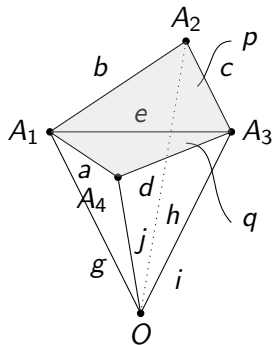
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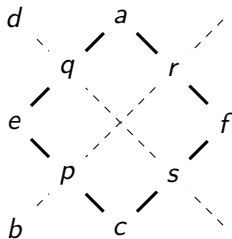
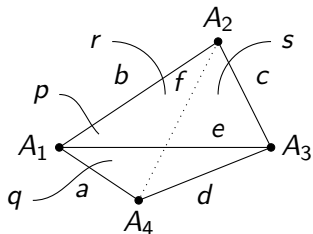
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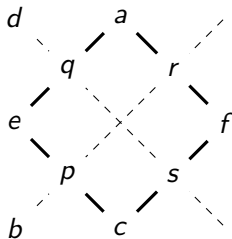
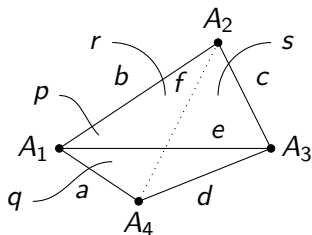
$$4ef = (p + q)^2 + (a - b + c - d)^2 - Ke(a - b)(c - d)$$



Spherical Heronian friezes: an algebraic phenomenon



Spherical Heronian friezes: an algebraic phenomenon



Proposition [W., 2024+]

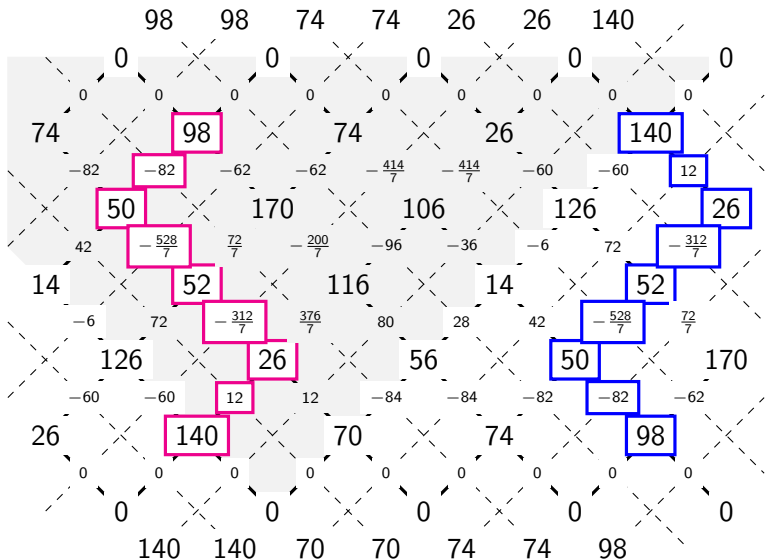
Let (a, b, c, d, e, p, q) be a 7-tuple satisfying $(*)$.

Assuming $e \notin \{0, \frac{4}{K}\}$, there exist unique $f, r, s \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $(a, b, c, d, e, f, p, q, r, s)$ is a spherical Heronian diamond. Namely,

$$f = \frac{(p+q)^2 + (a-b+c-d)^2 - Ke(a-b)(c-d)}{4e(1 - \frac{Ke}{4})},$$

$$r = \frac{p(e+a-d - \frac{Kae}{2}) + q(e-c+b - \frac{Kbe}{2})}{2e(1 - \frac{Ke}{4})} \quad \text{and} \quad s = \frac{p(e-a+d - \frac{Kde}{2}) + q(e+c-b - \frac{Kce}{2})}{2e(1 - \frac{Ke}{4})}.$$

Spherical Heronian friezes: an algebraic phenomenon



A spherical Heronian frieze with $K = \frac{1}{7^2}$.

Spherical Heronian friezes: an algebraic phenomenon

Proposition [W., 2024+] (“entries are nice”)

Let \mathbf{z}_π be the initial data associated with a traversing path π in a spherical Heronian frieze \mathbf{z} . Then each entry of \mathbf{z} can be written as a rational function of \mathbf{z}_π (with nice denominators).

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Proposition [W., 2024+] (“all come from polygons”)

If \mathbf{z} is an order n spherical Heronian frieze of sufficient genericity, there exists a unique n -gon P such that \mathbf{z} arises from P .

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If \mathbf{z} is an order n spherical Heronian frieze of sufficient genericity, there exists a unique n -gon P such that \mathbf{z} arises from P .

Theorem [W., 2024+] (“always get periodicity”)

Let \mathbf{z}_π be a sufficiently generic collection of numbers associated to a traversing path π . Assume these numbers satisfy (*). Propagate outwards using the formulas to obtain a spherical Heronian frieze. Then \mathbf{z} is periodic (glide symmetry) and exhibits a version of the Laurent phenomenon.

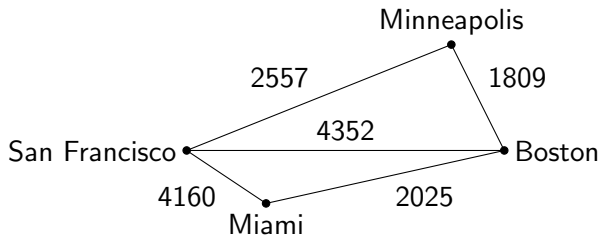
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What next?

Question

One application of spherical Heronian friezes is to measuring and computing distances on a globe.



What if we have a point (or points) on a different sphere, like a satellite?