

**Discrete Abel-Jacobi Maps
and
Albanese maps in graph theory**

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The purpose of this talk

To give a relationship between the notion of **discrete Abel-Jacobi maps**, which has been introduced in algebraic graph theory, and the notion of **Albanese maps** in graph theory, which is related to random walks on crystal lattices.

For an illustration, we look at two examples of Albanese maps, which have something to do with the **diamond crystal** and **its twin**.

Background

Abel-Jacobi maps, Albanese maps in algebraic geometry
⇐ The studies of algebraic functions by Gauss, Abel, Jacobi, Riemann, and others in 19th century.

Gauss, Abel, and Jacobi studied the (complex) integral of the form

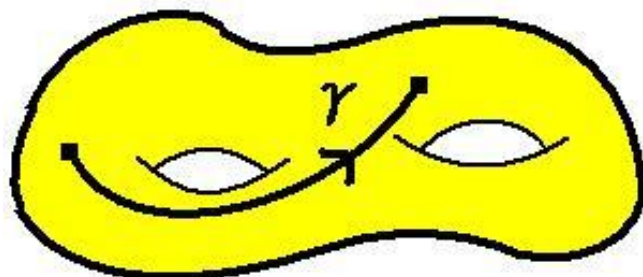
$$\int_{\gamma} R(z, \sqrt{\varphi(z)}) dz,$$

where $R(z, w)$ is a rational function, and $\varphi(z)$ is a polynomial of degree 3 or 4. This is what you call an elliptic integrals.

Riemann introduced what we call “Riemann surfaces” today, with which the integral above is written as

$$\int_{\gamma} \omega,$$

where ω is a meromorphic 1-form on the Riemann surface (algebraic curve) defined by $w^2 = \varphi(z)$. This view led to the study of integrals over more general algebraic curves.



Notations and conventions

○ A **graph** is denoted as $X = (V, E)$, where

V = the set of **vertices**,

E = the set of all **oriented edges**

$o(e)$ = the **origin** of $e \in E$,

$t(e)$ = the **terminus** of $e \in E$,

\bar{e} = the **inversion** of $e \in E$.



$$E_x = \{e \in E; o(e) = x\}$$

I. Abel's Theorem in Graph Theory

Abel-Jacobi maps in graph theory

Abel-Jacobi maps in the original sense are canonical holomorphic mapping of algebraic varieties into certain abelian varieties.

- An Abel-Jacobi map in graph theory is a canonical **harmonic function** on a finite graph with values in a certain **finite abelian group**, thus a purely discrete object, introduced by R. Bacher, P. de la Harpe and T. Nagnibeda.

References

- [1] **R. Bacher, P. de la Harpe and T. Nagnibeda**, The lattice of integral flows and the lattice of integral cuts on a finite graph, *Bull. Soc. math. France*, 125, 1997, p. 167-198.
- [2] **N. Biggs**. Algebraic potential theory on graphs. *Bull. London Math. Soc.*, 29(6):641-682, 1997.
- [3] **M. Baker and S. Norine**, Riemann-Roch and Abel-Jacobi theory on a finite graph, *Adv. in Math.*, 215(2007), 766-788.

Abel-Jacobi maps in algebraic geometry

Given a non-singular complete **algebraic curve** V/\mathbb{C} , we write

$$\mathrm{Div}^0(V) = \left\{ \sum_{x \in V}^{finite} a_x x \mid a_x \in \mathbb{Z}, \sum a_x = 0 \right\},$$

and let $P(V)$ be the subgroup of $\mathrm{Div}^0(V)$ consisting of divisors associated with meromorphic functions on V . say

$$\mathrm{Prin}(V) = \left\{ \sum_x \mathrm{ord}_x(f) x \mid f \text{ meromorphic function} \right\}$$

Then define the **Picard variety**

$$\mathrm{Pic}(V) := \mathrm{Div}^0(V) / \mathrm{Prin}(V).$$

The **Abel-Jacobi map** $\Phi : V \longrightarrow \mathrm{Pic}(V)$ is defined by

$$\Phi(x) = [x - x_0] \in \mathrm{Div}^0(V) / \mathrm{Prin}(V).$$

Abel-Jacobi maps for finite graphs

Let $X = (V, E)$ be a finite graph, where V is the set of vertices, and E is the set of all oriented edges. Define

$$\text{Div}^0(X) = \left\{ \sum_{x \in V} a_x x \in C_0(X, \mathbb{Z}) \mid \sum_x a_x = 0 \right\}$$

$$\text{Prin}(X) = \partial \partial^*(C_0(X, \mathbb{Z}))$$

where $\partial : C_1(X, \mathbb{Z}) \longrightarrow C_0(X, \mathbb{Z})$ is the **boundary operator** of chain groups, and ∂^* is the adjoint of ∂ with respect to the inner products on $C_0(X, \mathbb{R})$ and $C_1(X, \mathbb{R})$

$$x \cdot y = \begin{cases} 1 & (x = y) \\ 0 & (x \neq y) \end{cases} \quad e \cdot e' = \begin{cases} 1 & (e = e') \\ -1 & (e = \bar{e}') \\ 0 & (\textit{otherwise}), \end{cases}$$

The **Picard group** is defined as

$$\text{Pic}(X) = \text{Div}^0(X)/\text{Prin}(X)$$

$\text{Pic}(X)$ is a finite abelian group whose order is $\kappa(X)$, the number of spanning trees of X (the **tree number**).

The **Abel-Jacobi map** $\Phi : V \longrightarrow \text{Pic}(X)$ is defined as

$$\Phi(x) = [x - x_0].$$

Usually the tree number is very big. For instance, $\kappa(K_n) = n^{n-2}$ (Cayley, 1839). Therefore the Picard group is very big finite abelian group.

Why putting $\text{Prin}(X) = \partial\partial^*(C_0(X, \mathbb{Z}))$?

In the case of algebraic curves,

$$\Delta \log |f| = 2\pi \sum \text{ord}_p(f) \delta_p$$

for a meromorphic function f .

If we identify $C_0(X, \mathbb{R})$ with $C^0(X, \mathbb{R})$, the group of 0-cochains (= the space of functions on the set of vertices), then

$$\text{Prin}(X) = \Delta(C^0(X, \mathbb{Z})),$$

where Δ is the **combinatorial Laplacian** defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta f(x) &= d^*df(x) = - \sum_{e \in E_x} f(te) + (\deg x) f(x) \\ &= - \sum_{e \in E_x} (f(te) - f(oe)). \end{aligned}$$

Φ is a harmonic function in the sense that

$$\Delta\Phi(x) = \sum_{e \in E_x} [\Phi(t(e)) - \Phi(o(e))] = 0$$

Abel-Jacobi maps have the **universal property**: If $\varphi : V \longrightarrow G$ be a harmonic function with values in a finite abelian group G , then there exists a unique homomorphism $f : \text{Pic}(X) \longrightarrow G$ such that $f \circ \Phi = \varphi$.

Albanese maps in graph theory

Albanese maps in the original sense are also canonical holomorphic mapping of algebraic varieties into certain abelian varieties.

- An Albanese map in graph theory is a canonical **harmonic map** from a finite graph (as a 1-dimensional singular space) into a certain **flat torus**.

[4] **M. Kotani and T. Sunada**, Standard realizations of crystal lattices via harmonic maps, Trans. A.M.S. 353 (2000), 1-20.

Albanese maps in algebraic geometry

Given a non-singular complete **algebraic curve** V/\mathbb{C} , we let

$$A(V) = (\Omega^1(V))^* / H_1(V, \mathbb{Z}),$$

where

$\Omega^1(V)$ = the space of holomorphic 1-forms on V ,

and $H_1(V, \mathbb{Z})$ is considered as the subgroup of $(\Omega^1(V))^*$ by using the pairing map

$$([\alpha], \omega) = \int_{\alpha} \omega.$$

$A(V)$ is a complex torus, and called the **Albanese torus**.

The **Albanese map** Φ is a holomorphic map of V into $J(V)$ defined by the paring map

$$(\Phi(x), \omega) = \int_{x_0}^x \omega \pmod{H_1(V, \mathbb{Z})},$$

where

$x_0 \in V$ is a reference point, and

$$\omega \in \Omega^1(V).$$

The symbol “mod” implies that the linear functional $\omega \mapsto \int_{x_0}^x \omega$ in the right hand side is determined only “modulo elements in $H_1(V, \mathbb{Z})$ ”.

Abel's theorem

- The correspondence $[x - x_0] \mapsto \Phi(x)$ gives an isomorphism of $\text{Pic}(V)$ onto $A(M)$. Thus under the identification between $\text{Pic}(V)$ and $A(M)$, the Abel-Jacobi map coincides with the Albanese map.

Albanese maps for finite graphs

Consider the flat torus (**Albanese torus**)

$$\mathbb{A}(X) = H_1(X, \mathbb{R})/H_1(X, \mathbb{Z}),$$

with the flat metric induced from the inner product on $C_1(X, \mathbb{R})$.

Let $X^{ab} = (V^{ab}, E^{ab})$ be the **maximal abelian covering graph**; in other words, X^{ab} is the covering graph over X with the covering transformation group $H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$. Let $P : C_1(X, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H_1(X, \mathbb{R}) = \text{Ker } \partial$ be the orthogonal projection. Fix a reference point $x_0 \in V^{ab}$, and let $\tilde{c} = (\tilde{e}_1, \dots, \tilde{e}_n)$ be a path in X^{ab} with $o(\tilde{c}) = x_0, t(\tilde{c}) = x$. Then put $\tilde{\Phi}(x_0) = 0$ and

$$\tilde{\Phi}(x) = P(e_1 + \dots + e_n) = P(e_1) + \dots + P(e_n),$$

where $e_i \in E$ is the image of \tilde{e}_i by the covering map.

- $\tilde{\Phi} : V^{ab} \longrightarrow H_1(X, \mathbb{R})$ is well-defined.
- Φ is also defined as

$$(\Phi(x), \omega) = \int_{x_0}^x \omega \pmod{H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})},$$

where ω is a “harmonic form”, that is, $\omega \in C^1(X, \mathbb{R})$ with

$$d^* \omega(x) = - \sum_{e \in E_x} \omega(e) = 0.$$

- The map $\tilde{\Phi}$ is **harmonic** in the sense that

$$\Delta \tilde{\Phi}(x) = - \sum_{e \in E_x} [\tilde{\Phi}(te) - \tilde{\Phi}(oe)] = 0.$$

We extend $\tilde{\Phi}$ to X^{ab} as a piecewise linear map. Then $\tilde{\Phi}$ satisfies $\tilde{\Phi}(\sigma x) = \tilde{\Phi}(x) + \sigma$ for $\sigma \in H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$

Therefore $\tilde{\Phi}$ induces a map $\Phi : X \longrightarrow H_1(X, \mathbb{R})/H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$, which is a **harmonic map** of X into the flat torus.

$\Phi : X \longrightarrow \mathbb{A}(X)$ is said to be the **Albanese map**, and $\tilde{\Phi}$ will be called the **standard realization** of X^{ab}

Albanese maps have also the universal property.

What is a relation between Abel-Jacobi maps and Albanese maps ?

1. The homology group $H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$ is an integral lattice in $H_1(X, \mathbb{R})$ in the sense that $\alpha \cdot \beta \in \mathbb{Z}$ for $\alpha, \beta \in H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$.

2. Therefore the dual lattice

$H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})^\# = \{\alpha \in H_1(X, \mathbb{R}); \alpha \cdot \beta \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ for every } \beta \in H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})\}$
contains $H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$.

3. The **discrete Albanese torus** $A(X)$, a finite subgroup of $\mathbb{A}(X)$, is defined to be the quotient group

$$H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})^\# / H_1(X, \mathbb{Z}).$$

Analogue of Abel's theorem

Theorem (M. Kotani and Sunada) $\Phi(V) \subset A(X)$, and that $A(X)$ is isomorphic to $\text{Pic}(X)$ in a canonical way. Under the identification $A(X) = \text{Pic}(X)$, the Albanese map as a map of V into $A(X)$ coincides with the Abel-Jacobi map.

How to construct $\tilde{\Phi}$

1. Take a \mathbb{Z} -basis c_1, \dots, c_b of $H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$, say consisting of closed paths in X ($b = \text{rank } H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$).
2. Compute $\lambda_{ij} = c_i \cdot c_j$, which gives a complete description of the lattice group $H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$ in the Euclidean space $H_1(X, \mathbb{R})$. Note λ_{ij} is an integer.
3. For $e \in E$, express $P(e)$ as a linear combination of c_i 's:

$$P(e) = \sum_{i=1}^b a_i(e) c_i.$$

To obtain $a_i(e)$, compute

$$b_j(e) = P(e) \cdot c_j = e \cdot P(c_j) = e \cdot c_j \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Then

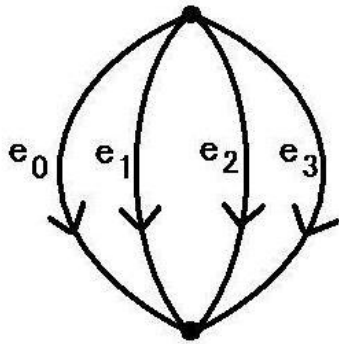
$$b_i(e) = \sum_{i=1}^b a_i(e) \lambda_{ij}$$

from which we obtain $a_i(e)$.

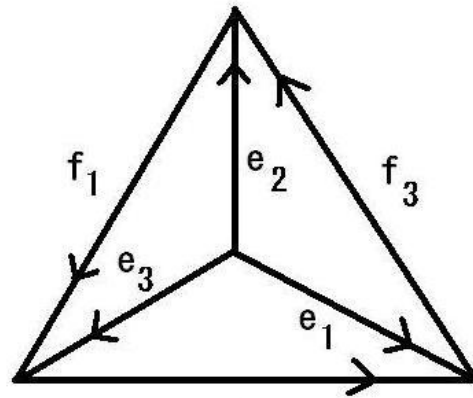
The map $\tilde{\Phi}$ helps us to understand how the maximal abel cover X^{ab} looks like.

Examples

Consider the graphs (A) and (B). The graph (B) is nothing but the **complete graph** K_4 .



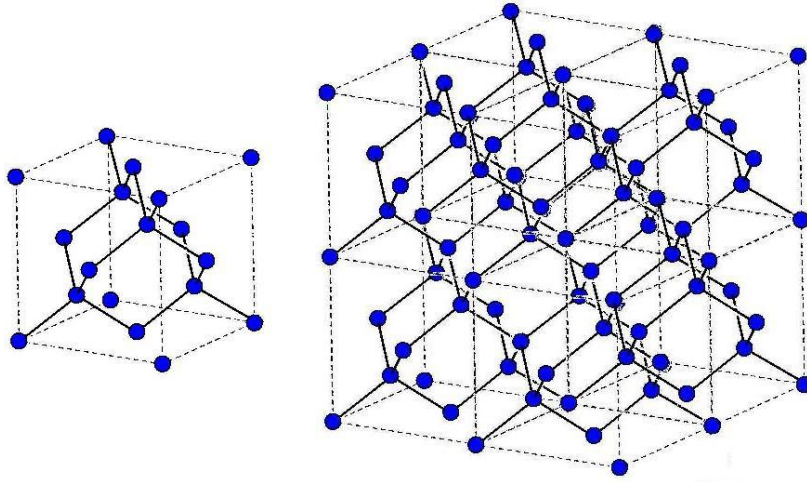
(A)



f_2

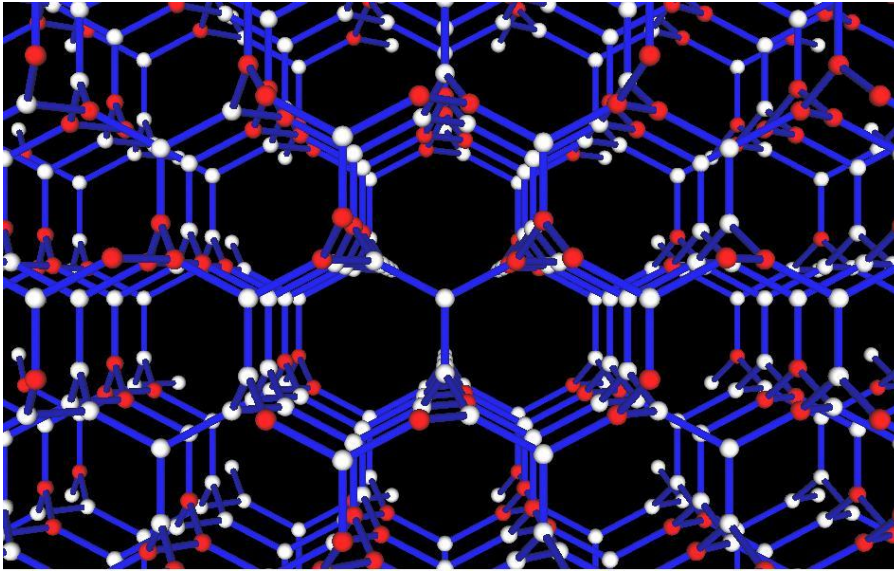
(B)

(A) The image $\tilde{\Phi}(X^{ab})$ which turns out to be the **diamond crystal** describes the arrangement of carbon atoms (corresponding to vertices) together with their bondings (corresponding to edges) in the diamond.



Diamond crystal (formed by a web of hexagonal rings)

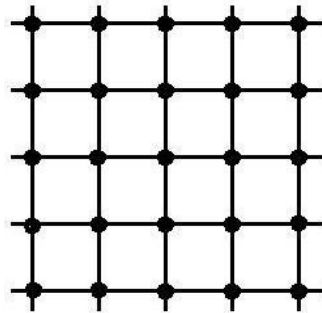
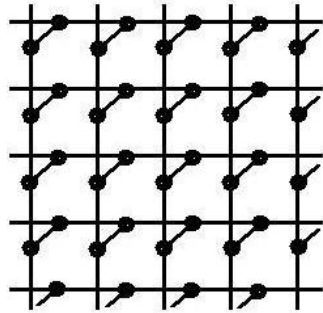
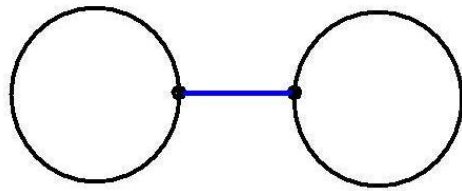
(B) The image $\tilde{\Phi}(X^{ab})$ is what we call the K_4 crystal.



K_4 crystal (formed by a web of decagonal ring)

Properties of $\tilde{\Phi}$

An edge e **degenerates** in $H_1(X, \mathbb{R})$ (i.e. $P(e) = 0$) if and only if e is a **separating edge** (meaning that if we remove e from X , then the resulting graph is not connected).



Suppose that X has no separating edges. Then

(1) $\tilde{\Phi} : V^{ab} \longrightarrow H_1(X, \mathbb{R})$ is injective.

(2) $\tilde{\Phi} : E_x^{ab} \longrightarrow H_1(X, \mathbb{R})$ given by

$$e \mapsto P(e)/\|P(e)\|$$

is injective for every $x \in V^{ab}$.

Automorphism group of the maximal abel cover

If X has no separating edges, then the automorphism group $\text{Aut}(X^{ab})$ is a **crystallographic group**.

A group G is said to be a crystallographic group if it contains a subgroup H isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^d such that

- (1) H is a normal subgroup, and G/H is finite, and
- (2) H is the maximal abelian subgroup of G .

H is called the **maximal lattice group**.

$H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$ is the maximal lattice in $\text{Aut}(X^{ab})$, and the factor group $\text{Aut}(X^{ab})/H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$ is isomorphic to the automorphism group of X , $\text{Aut}(X)$.

We thus have the exact sequence:

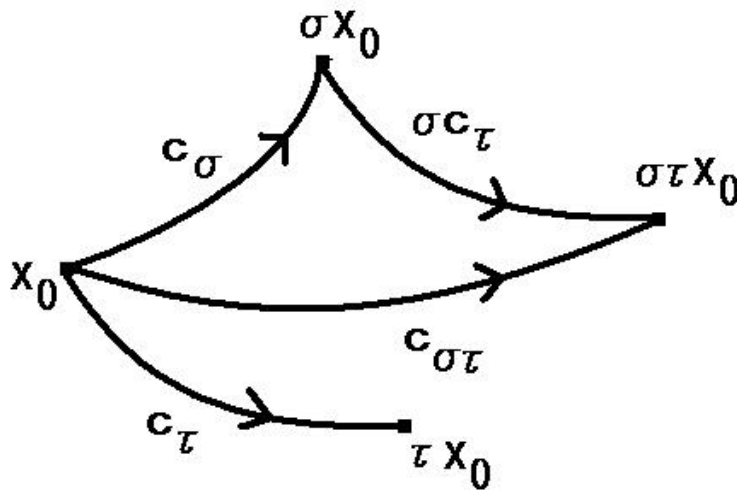
$$0 \rightarrow H_1(X, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X^{ab}) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X) \rightarrow 1.$$

In other words, $\text{Aut}(X^{ab})$ is an extension of $H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$ by the finite group $\text{Aut}(X)$, and hence it is determined by a group cohomology class $\Theta \in H^2(\text{Aut}(X), H_1(X, \mathbb{Z}))$.

More explicitly, Θ is represented by the 2-cocycle $\theta \in C^1(\text{Aut}(X), H_1(X, \mathbb{Z}))$ defined by

$$\theta(\sigma, \tau) = [c_\sigma \cdot \sigma c_\tau \cdot \overline{c_{\sigma\tau}}], \quad (\sigma, \tau \in \text{Aut}(X))$$

where c_σ is a path in X joining $x_0, \sigma x_0$.



II. The K_4 crystal –Diamond Twin–

How special are diamond and K_4 crystals ?

The diamond and K_4 crystals have **maximal symmetry** and the **strong isotropic property**.

Theorem A crystal in \mathbb{R}^3 with **maximal symmetry** and **strong isotropic property** is either the **diamond crystal** or the **K_4 crystal** (and its mirror image).

Thus the K_4 crystal is entitled to be called a **diamond twin**.

Remark The K_4 crystal has chirality.

Crystals

A **crystal in physical sense** is a periodic arrangement of atoms together with the bonding (depicted usually by virtual lines) of atoms provoked by atomic force.

A **crystal in mathematical sense** is a **1 dimensional figure in space** with **periodicity** with respect to a lattice group action by translations (thus ignoring the physical characters of atoms and atomic forces in a crystal which may be different one by one).

Crystals with maximal symmetry

Definition A crystal is said to have **maximal symmetry** if every automorphism of the crystal as an abstract graph extends to a congruent transformation.

Note that every congruent transformation leaving the crystal invariant induces an automorphism, but not vice versa.

Strong isotropic property

Definition A crystal is said to have **strong isotropic property** if it is **regular**, say, of degree n , and if, for edges e_1, \dots, e_n with the same origin and f_1, \dots, f_n with another same origin, there exists a congruent transformation T such that $T(e_i) = f_i$, whatever order of edges you choose.

History of (Re)Discovery of the K_4 crystal

Chemical crystallographers have been trying to list (hypothetical) crystals with small “unit” set of vertices and small valence (degree).

- It is believed that the crystallographer who discovered the crystal structure for the first time is **Laves** (1922).
- The crystal structure was called “**(10,3)-a**” by **A. F. Wells** (unclear whether he knew Laves’s work).
A. F. Wells, *Acta Cryst.* 7 (1954), 535
A. F. Wells, *Three Dimensional Nets and Polyhedra*, Wiley (1977).
- **H. S. M. Coxeter** called it “**Laves’ graph of girth ten**” (1955).
- **M. O’Keeffe** and his colleagues discussed this structure

in some details and renamed it “**srs**” (2003). The structure is realized as the silicon net in a compound of silicon and strontium.

- **L. Danzer** discovered the structure once again around 1994.

- It was pinned down by **Sunada** in the study of random walks on topological crystals.

T. Sunada, Notices of the AMS, 55, 208 (2008).

I called it the **K_4 crystal** due to its mathematical relevance.

- **J. H. Conway** calls the structure the “**trimond**” in his book published in 2008.

The K_4 crystal is still “hypothetical” as a crystal composed of homo nuclei.

Possible physical properties of the K_4 crystal

Computations by a supercomputer are ongoing.

Masahiro Itoh, Tadafumi Adschiri, Yoshiyuki Kawazoe
in Tohoku University.

C: Carbon

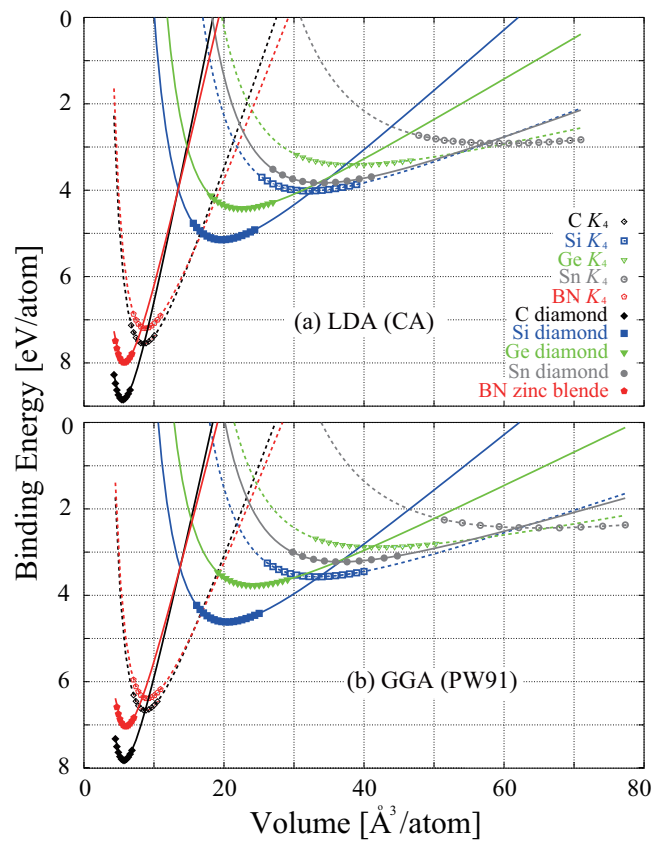
Si: Silicon

BN: Boron-Nitrogen

Ge: Germanium

Sn: Tin

The results imply the possibility of existence for the K_4 crystal structure as **meta-stable** ones for all cases.



II. Standard realizations

Topological Crystals

Consider now crystals of general dimension.

Definition A d -dimensional **topological crystal** (or **crystal lattice**) is a regular covering graph over a finite graph, say X_0 , with covering transformation group L isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^d . L is said to be a **periodic lattice**.

A **periodic realization** of X is a piecewise linear map $\Phi : X \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ such that there exists an injective homomorphism $\rho : L \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ satisfying

- (1) $\Phi(\sigma x) = \Phi(x) + \rho(\sigma)$,
- (2) $\rho(L)$ is a lattice group in \mathbb{R}^d .

The image $\Phi(X)$ is regarded as a “crystal” in \mathbb{R}^d .

Standard realizations

Among periodic realizations of a topological crystal, there is a “standard” one, which we shall call the **standard realizations**.

The standard realization is a generalization of $\tilde{\Phi}$ for the Albanese map.

The canonical homomorphism $\mu : H_1(X_0, \mathbb{Z}) \longrightarrow L$ induces a linear map $\mu_{\mathbb{R}} : H_1(X_0, \mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow L \otimes \mathbb{R}$.

Equip $L \otimes \mathbb{R}$ with the inner product induced from the one on $H_1(X_0, \mathbb{R})$.

Define $v : C_1(X_0, \mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow L \otimes \mathbb{R}$ by $v = \mu_{\mathbb{R}} \circ P$ (remember that $P : C_1(X_0, \mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow H_1(X_0, \mathbb{R})$ is the projection).

Let $\tilde{c} = (\tilde{e}_1, \dots, \tilde{e}_n)$ be a path in X with $o(\tilde{c}) = x_0, t(\tilde{c}) = x$. Then put $\tilde{\Phi}(x_0) = 0$ and

$$\tilde{\Phi}(x) = v(e_1 + \dots + e_n) = v(e_1) + \dots + v(e_n),$$

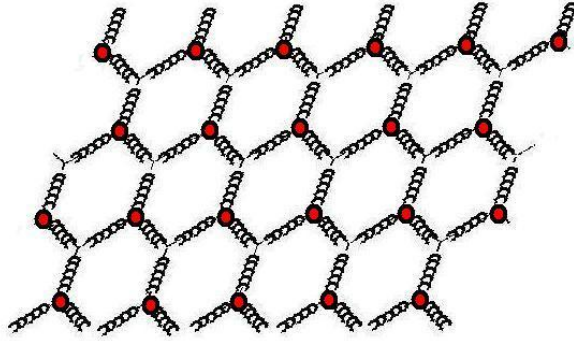
where $e_i \in E$ is the image of \tilde{e}_i by the covering map.

$\tilde{\Phi} : X \longrightarrow L \otimes \mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R}^d$ is a periodic realization which we call the **standard realization**.

Energy minimizing property

The standard realization is characterized by **energy minimizing property**.

Think a crystal as a system of **harmonic oscillators**.



Each edge represents a harmonic oscillator whose **energy** is defined to be the square of its length.

We shall define the energy of a crystal “per a unit cell”.

1. Given a bounded domain D in \mathbb{R}^d , denote by $\mathcal{E}(D)$ the sum of the energy of harmonic oscillators whose end points are in D , and normalize it in such a way as

$$\mathcal{E}_0(D) = \frac{\mathcal{E}(D)}{\deg(D)^{1-2/d} \text{vol}(D)^{2/d}},$$

where $\deg(D)$ is the sum of degree of vertices in D .

2. Take an increasing sequence of bounded domains $\{D_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$ with $\cup_{i=1}^\infty D_i = \mathbb{R}^d$ (for example, a family of concentric balls).

The **energy** of the crystal is defined as the limit

$$E = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}_0(D_i).$$

- The limit exists under a mild condition on $\{D_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$, and E does not depend on the choice of $\{D_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$.
- E is invariant under any homothetic transformation.

Theorems

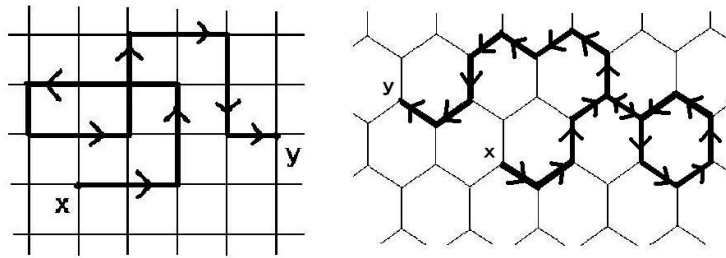
For a fixed topological crystal, the minimum of E is attained by a periodic realization, which coincides with **the standard realization**.

The standard realization has **maximal symmetry**.

Why the standard realization has maximal symmetry

The standard realization has a close relation with **asymptotic behavior of random walks** on a topological crystal.

“A random walker can detect the most natural way for the topological crystal to sit in space”.



Let $p(n, x, y)$ be the **n th step transition probability** for the **simple random walk** on a topological crystal X .

Simple random walk

A **simple random walk** on a graph in general is the random walk such that a particle moves in **equal probability** to a nearest neighbor along an edge.

$p(n, x, y)$ is the probability that a particle starting to move from x is found at y after n step movement.

Note that $p(n, x, y)$ is determined by the graph structure of X thus having nothing to do with its realization.

Relation between transition probabilities and standard realizations

Let $\Phi : X \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be the standard realization. There exists a positive constant C such that

$$C\|\Phi(x) - \Phi(y)\|^2 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2n \left\{ \frac{p(n, x, x)}{p(n, y, x)} + \frac{p(n, y, y)}{p(n, x, y)} - 2 \right\}$$

- This is a consequence of the asymptotic expansion of $p(n, x, y)$ as n goes to infinity.
- This is used when we prove that the standard realization yields a realization with maximal symmetry.

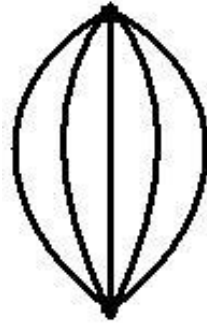
Problem

List all crystals in \mathbb{R}^d with the strong isotropic property and maximal symmetry

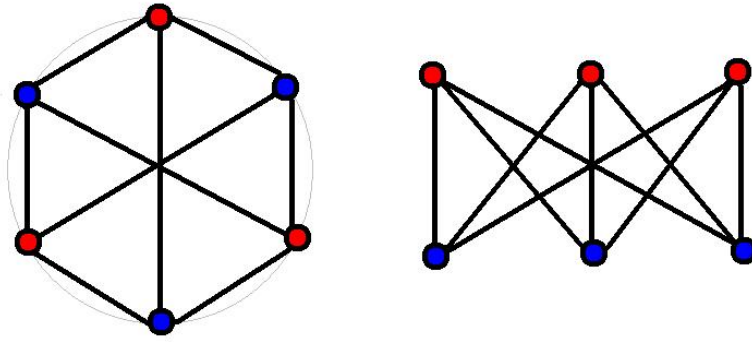
In every dimension, there is at least one crystal with these properties, that is, a generalization of the diamond crystal, the standard realization of the maximal abelian covering of the graph consisting of two vertices joined by $d + 1$ multiple edges.

Examples of 4D strongly isotropic crystals

1) 4-dimensional diamond



2) The standard realization of the maximal abelian covering graph of the bipartite complete graph $K_{3,3}$



Problem Is there a strongly isotropic crystal of degree 4 ?