

Cutting sequences in other polygons

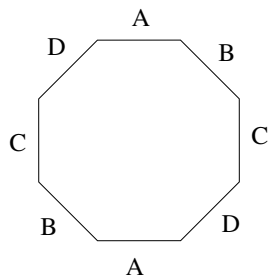
Consider a **regular polygon** with $2n$ sides glued by translations

E.g. the *regular octagon* with opposite sides glued.

Label pairs of sides by an alphabet \mathcal{A} .

E.g. $\mathcal{A} = \{A, B, C, D\}$.

Let φ_t^θ be the *linear flow* in direction θ : trajectories are straight lines in direction θ with sides identifications.



Definition (Cutting sequence)

The *cutting sequence* in $\mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ that codes a bi-infinite linear trajectory of φ_t^θ consists of the sequence of labels of the sides hit by the trajectory.

Example

The cutting sequence of the trajectory in the example is:

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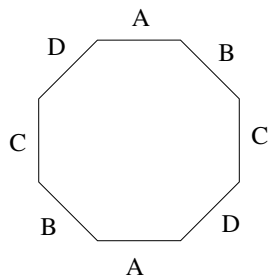
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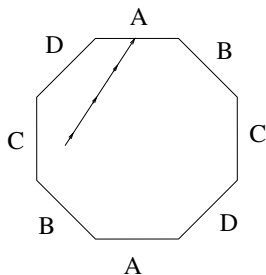
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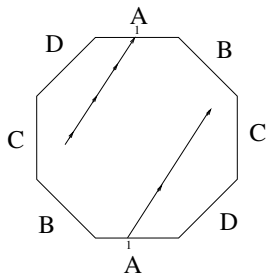
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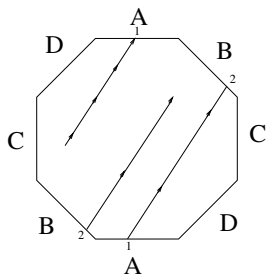
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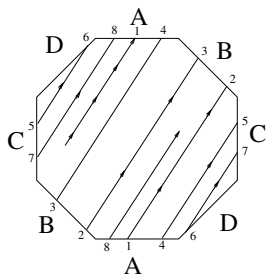
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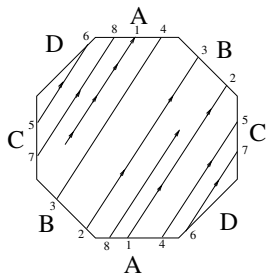
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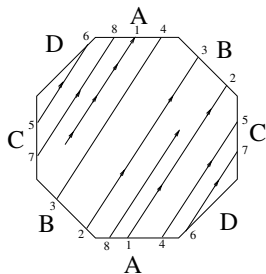
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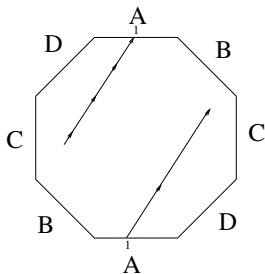
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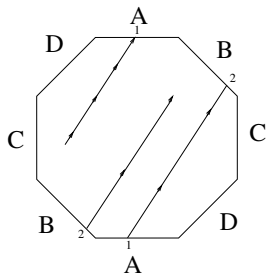
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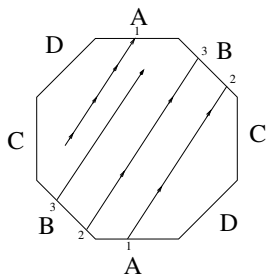
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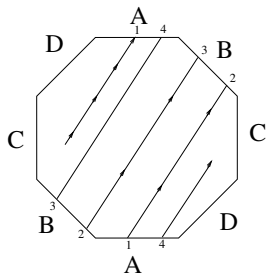
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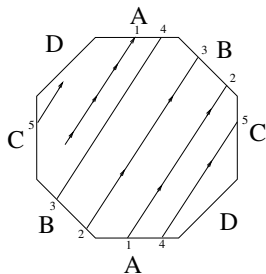
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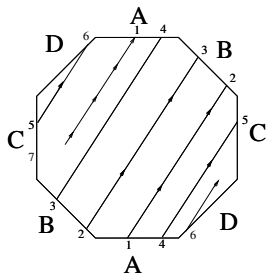
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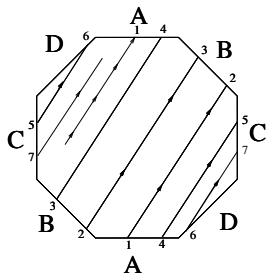
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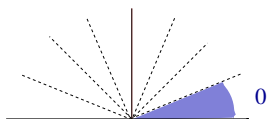
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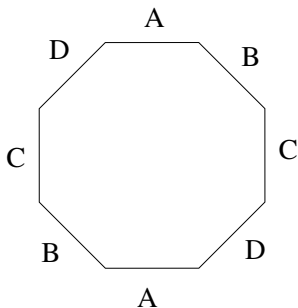
The octagon: admissible sequences for $0 \leq \theta < \pi/8$

Using isometries of the octagon, we can reduce to consider

$$\theta \in [0, \frac{\pi}{8}].$$



The *transitions* (pairs of consecutive letters) which can appear are:

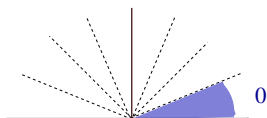


Each octagon cutting sequence of a trajectory in direction $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/8$ determines a path in the diagram in Figure.

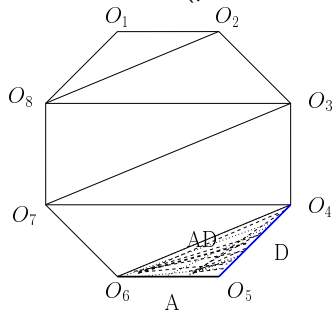
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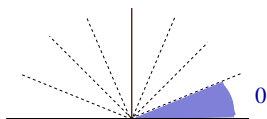


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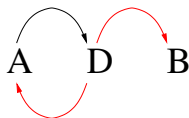
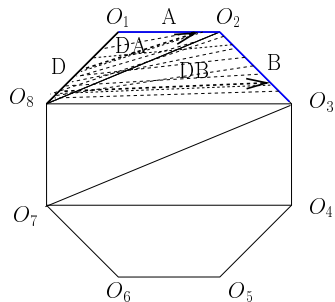
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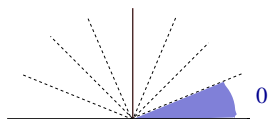


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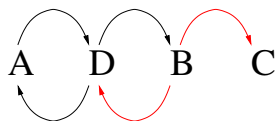
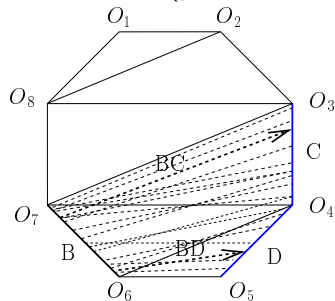
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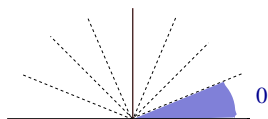


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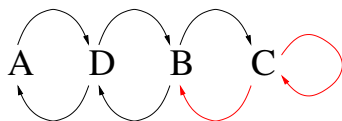
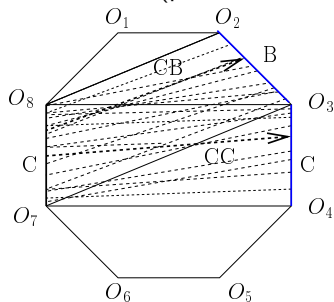
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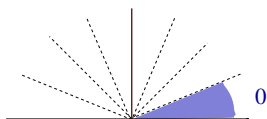


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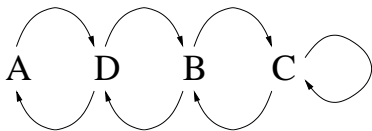
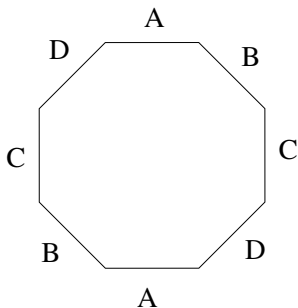
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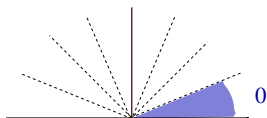


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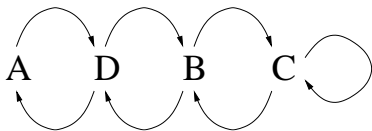
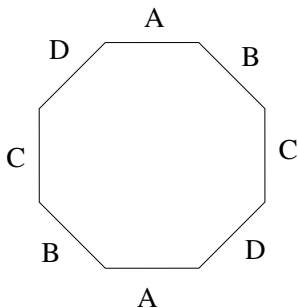
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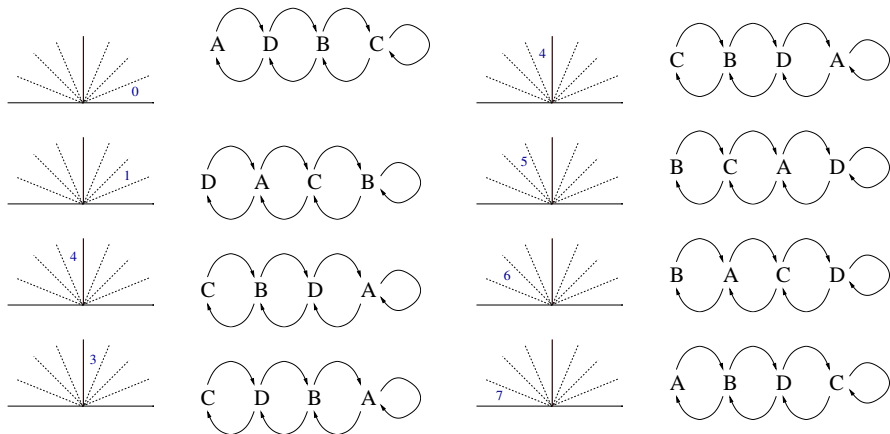


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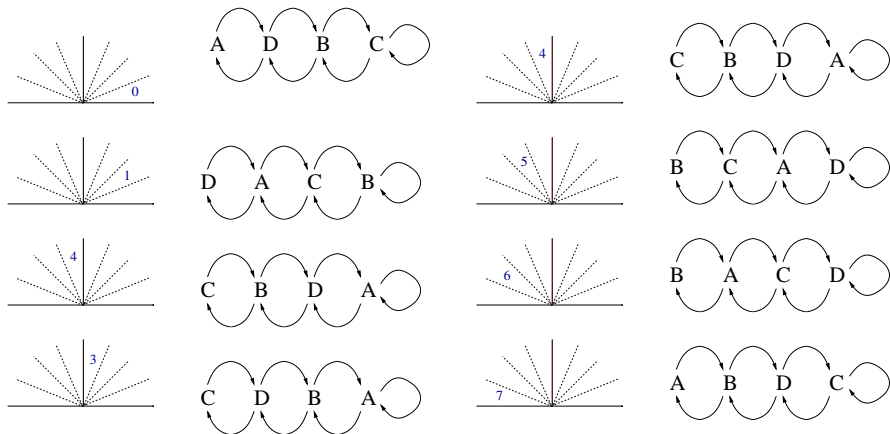


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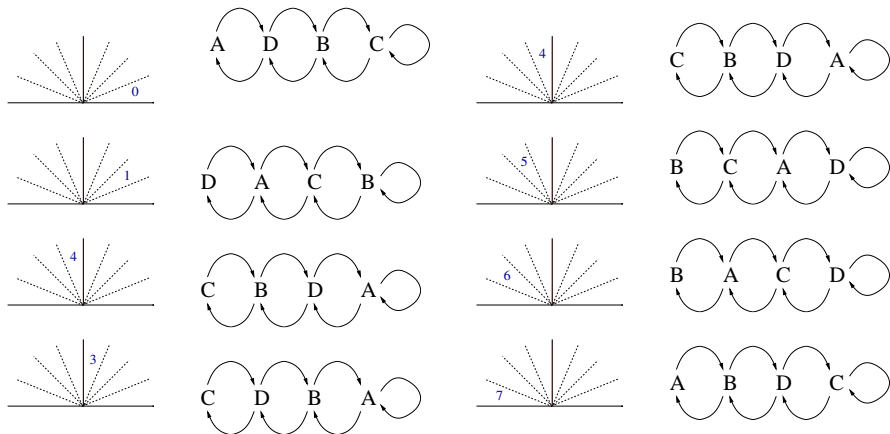


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Definition

A letter in $\{A, B, C, D\}$ is *sandwiched* if it is preceded and followed by the same letter.

Example

In $D B B C B A A D$ the letter C is *sandwiched* between two B s.

Definition (Derived sequence)

If w is an octagon cutting sequence, the derived sequence w' is obtained keeping only letters which are *sandwiched*.

Example

If $w = \dots D \underline{A} D B C C B C C B D A D B C B D B D B C B D \dots$,
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If $w = \dots D \underline{A} D B C C \underline{B} C C B D \underline{A} D B \underline{C} B \underline{D} \underline{B} \underline{D} B \underline{C} B D \dots$,
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Definition (Derivable sequences)

A sequence $w \in \{A, B, C, D\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ is *derivable* if it is admissible and its derivative is still admissible. The sequence w is *infinitely derivable* if each of its derivatives is derivable.

Derived sequences

Definition

A letter in $\{A, B, C, D\}$ is *sandwiched* if it is preceded and followed by the same letter.

Example

In $D B B C B A A D$ the letter C is *sandwiched* between two B s.

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Characterization of octagon cutting sequences

Theorem (Smillie-Ulcigrai)

An octagon cutting sequence is infinitely derivable.

- ▶ *Remark 1:* we prove a similar characterization for every regular $2n$ -gon. It also holds for *double n -gon* (n odd), see [Diana Davis](#).
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[where \mathcal{T}_{i_0} converts sequences in \mathcal{A}' to sequences in \mathcal{A} admissible in sector i_0 .]

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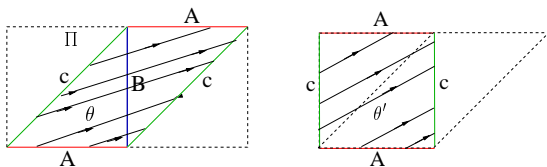
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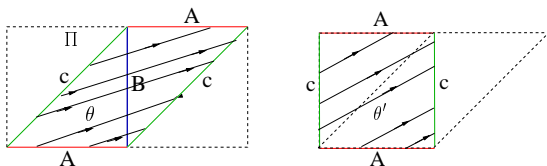
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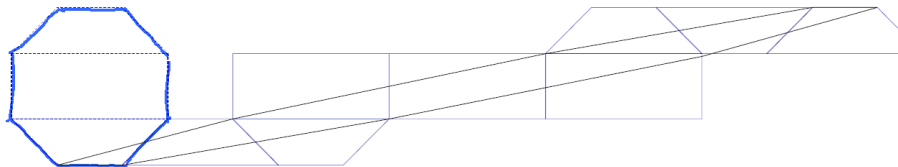
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Let w be the cutting sequence of a trajectory in direction $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/8$.

$$\text{Let } O' = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2(1 + \sqrt{2}) \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} O.$$



The magic of the octagon: Veech showed that O' can be mapped back to O by cutting and pasting by translations.

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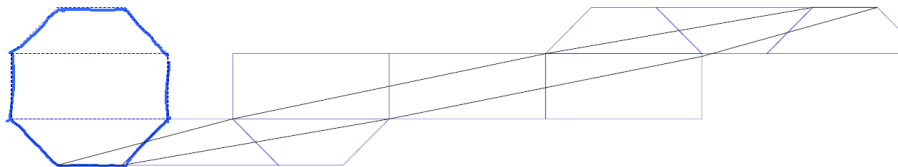
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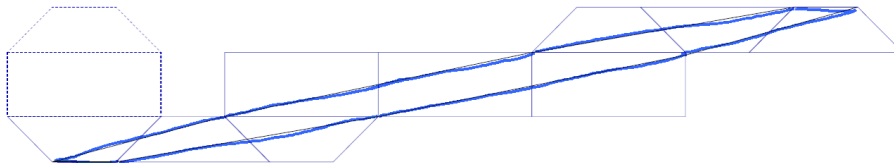
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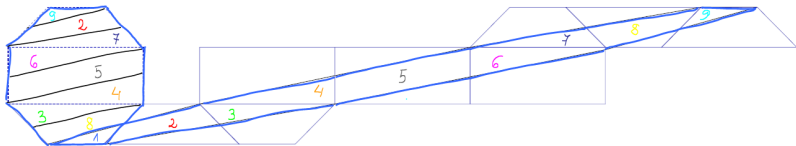
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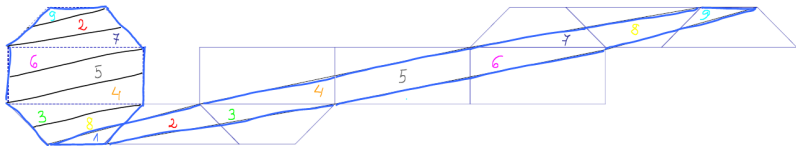
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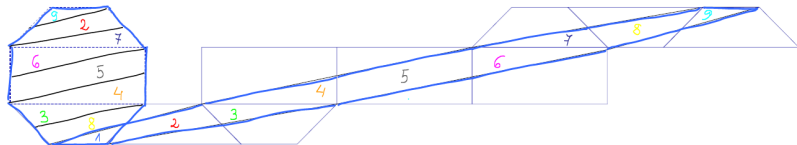
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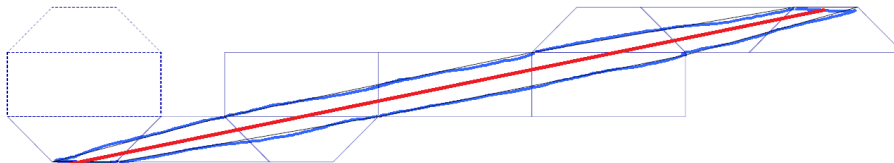
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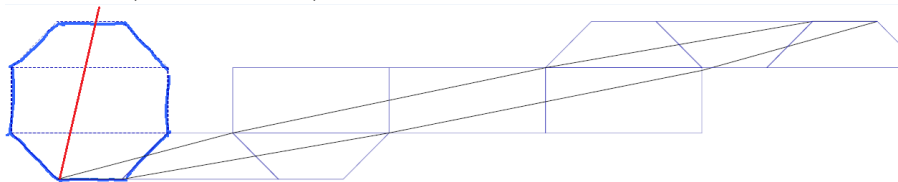
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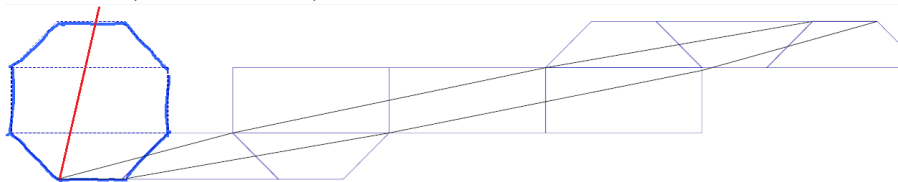
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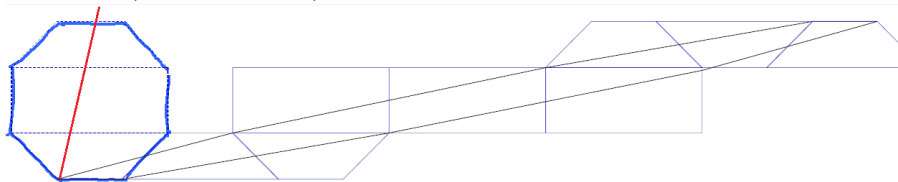
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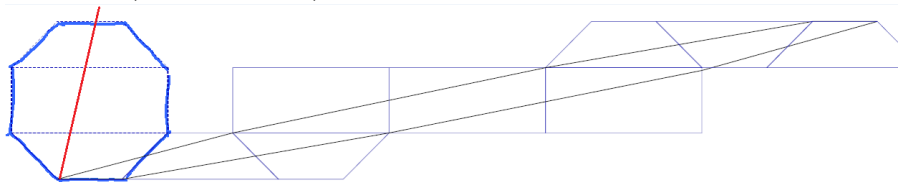
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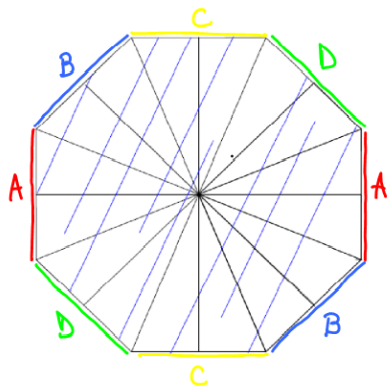
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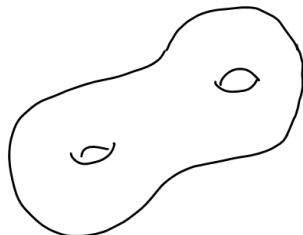
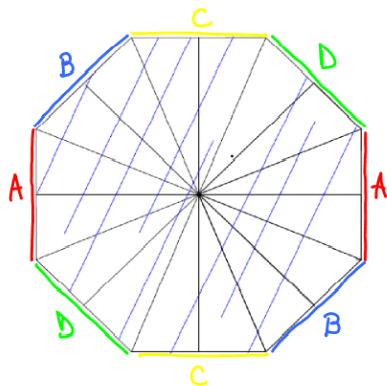
Take a regular octagon O . Identify opposite sides (with same label) by translations:



- ▶ We get a *surface of genus 2* (pretzel).
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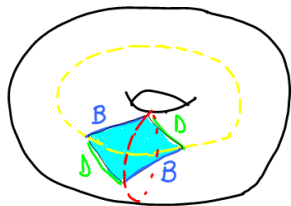
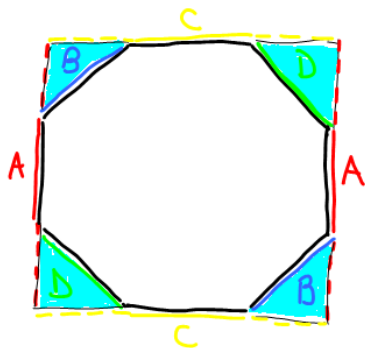
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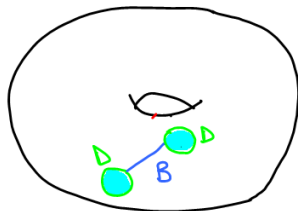
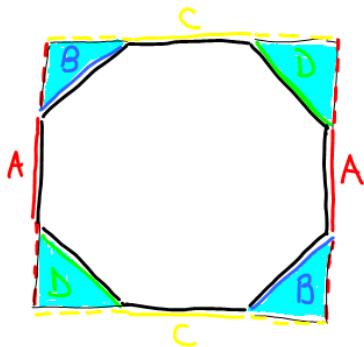
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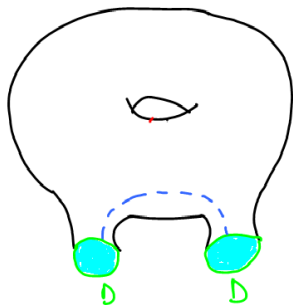
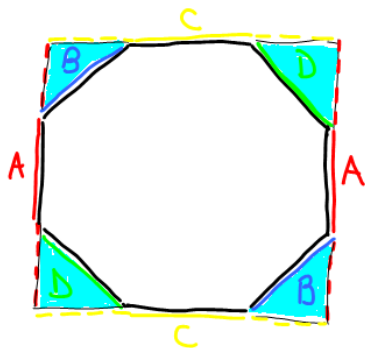
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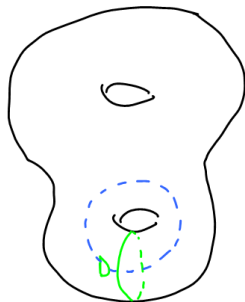
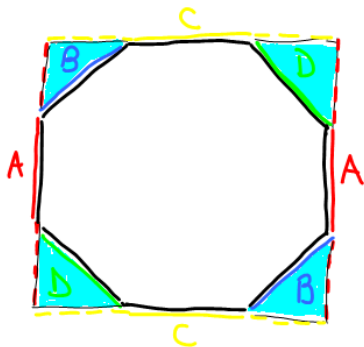
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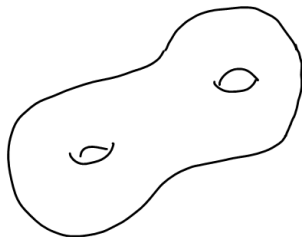
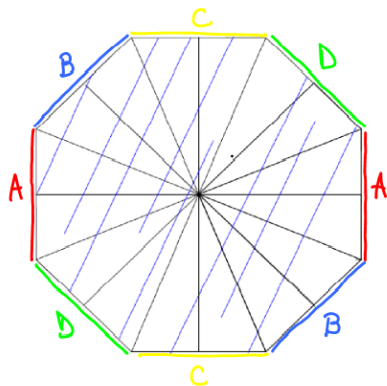
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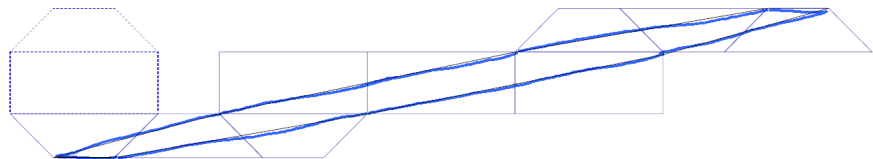
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- ▶ We get a *surface of genus 2* (pretzel).
- ▶ It is a *flat surface* (locally Euclidean)
- ▶ Biiinfinite trajectories of the *linear flow* are *geodesics* for the flat metric.

Cut and paste for the octagon

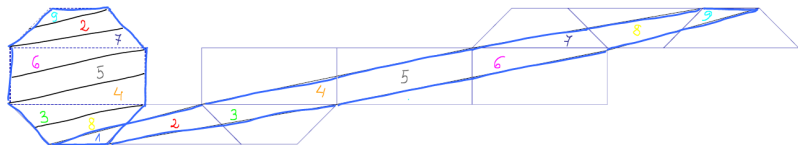
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O and O' can be cut and pasted into each other by translations:
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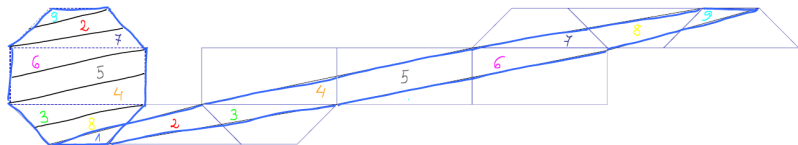
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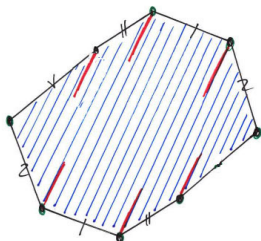
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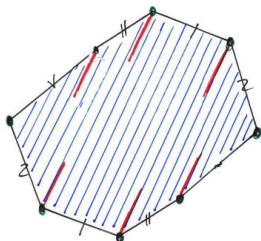
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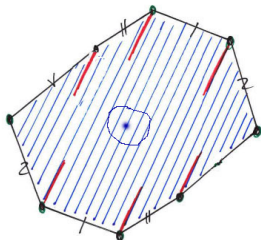
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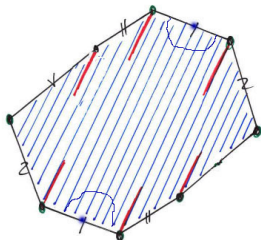
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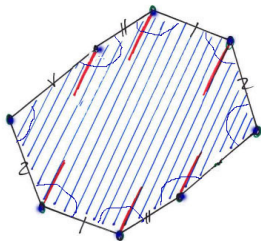
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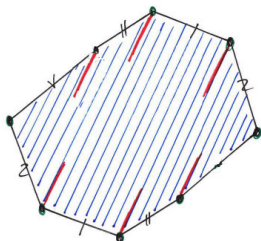
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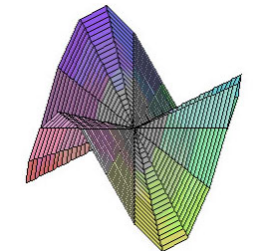
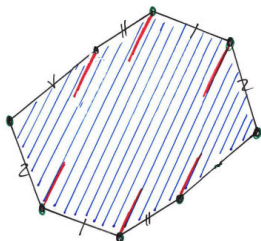
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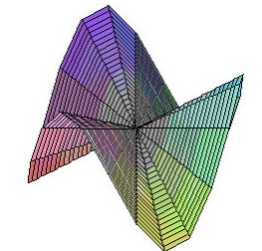
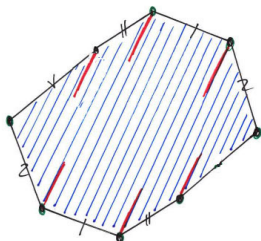
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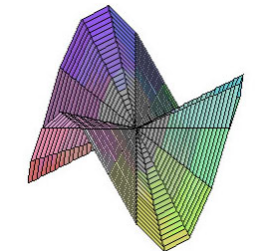
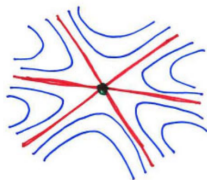
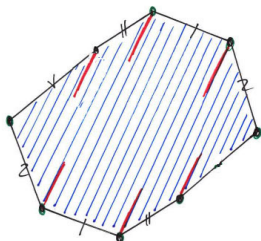
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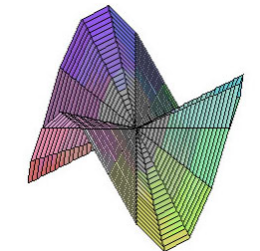
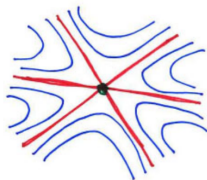
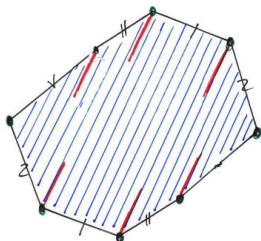
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Affine diffeomorphisms of translation surfaces

Examples of translation surfaces S which have non trivial *affine diffeomorphisms*:

Ex 2 The regular octagon surface S_O :

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2(1 + \sqrt{2}) \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

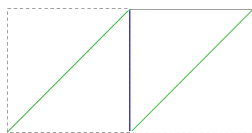
The torus and the octagon surfaces are examples of *Veech surfaces*, i.e. surfaces which are *rich* of affine diffeos.

[Def: A translation surface is a *Veech* (or *lattice*) surface if the *linear parts* of affine diffeos give a lattice in $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$.]

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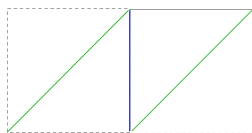
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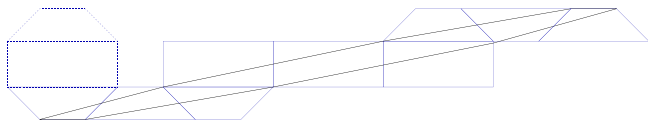
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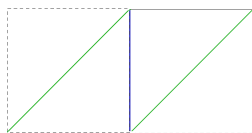
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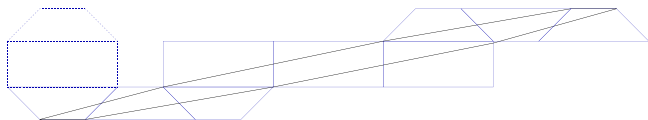
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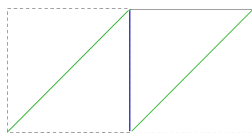
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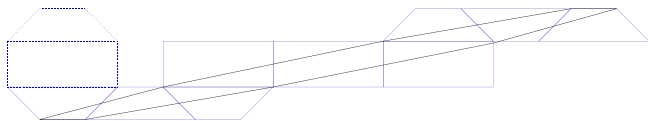
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- ▶ Veech surfaces are *dynamically optimal*, i.e. they satisfy Veech dichotomy:
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Known (primitive) Veech surfaces:

- ▶ The square (and square-tiled surfaces),
- ▶ Regular polygon surfaces ($2n$ -gon and double n -gons) (Veech)
- ▶ Ward surfaces (special case of Bouw Moeller surfaces)
- ▶ Bouw Moeller surfaces (Bouw-Moeller, Hooper)
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- ▶ NEW: Cathedral surfaces in the gothic locus (McMullen, Mukamel, Wright)
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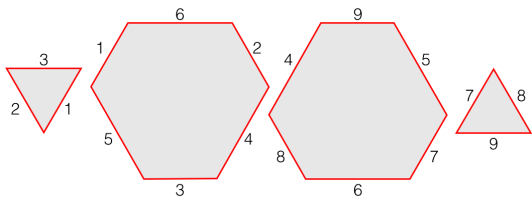
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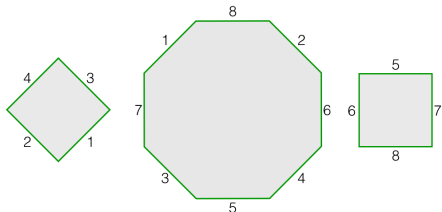
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$S_{m,n}$ has m semi-regular polygons with rotational symmetry $2\pi/n$.



E.g. $S_{3,3}$ has 4 polygons:
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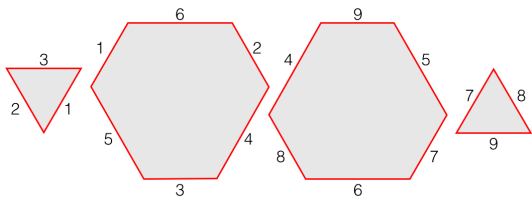
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[Polygonal presentation by Pat Hooper (in some cases by A. Wright)]

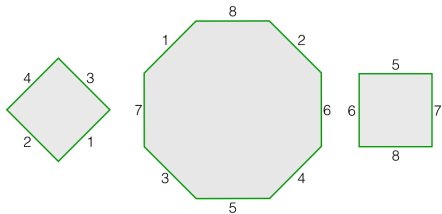
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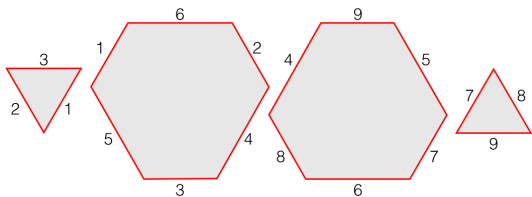
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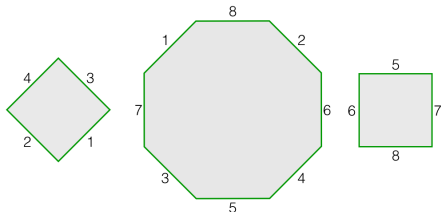
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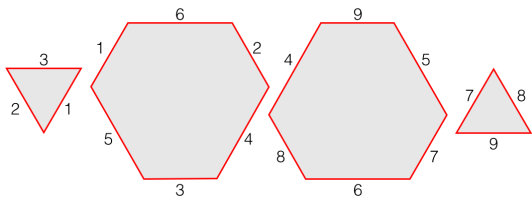
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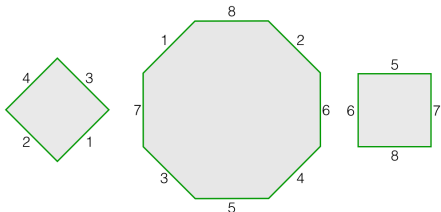
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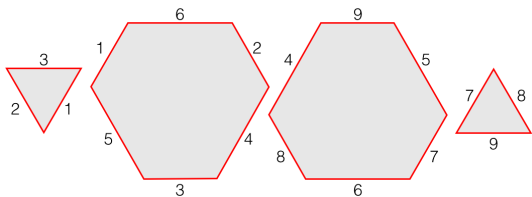
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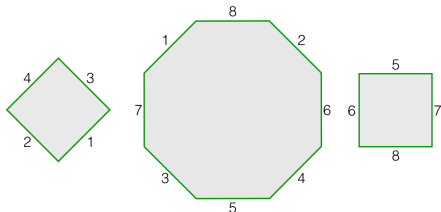
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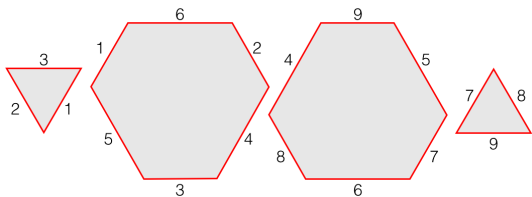
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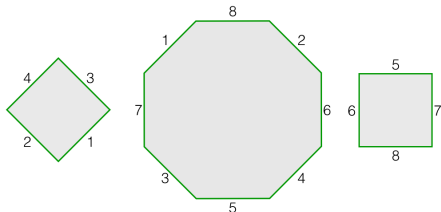
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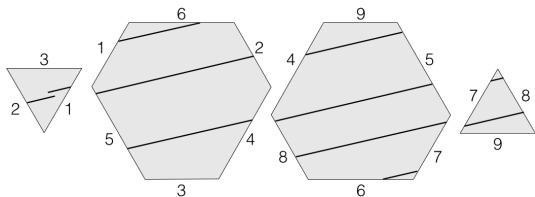


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Characterization of Bouw-Moeller cutting sequences

Consider linear trajectories on the Bouw-Moeller surface $S_{m,n}$.

Labels pairs of sides by
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Theorem (Diana Davis- Irene Pasquinelli-U')

One can write substitutions σ_i , $1 \leq i \leq (m-1)(n-1)$, s.t. w is in the closure of cutting sequences for $S_{m,n}$ iff

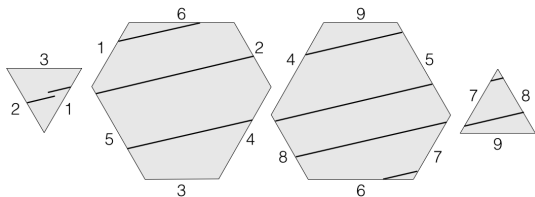
$$\exists (i_k)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}, \text{ s.t. } w \in \bigcap_n \sigma_{i_1} \sigma_{i_2} \cdots \sigma_{i_k} \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}}.$$

► This gives an \mathcal{S} -adic characterization and a *recognition algorithm*;

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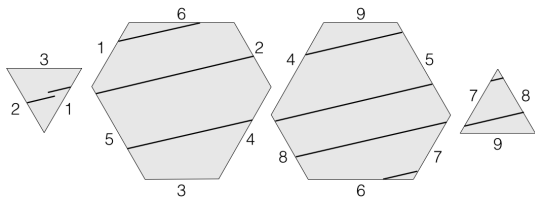
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► This gives an \mathcal{S} -adic characterization and a *recognition algorithm*;

Characterization of Bouw-Moeller cutting sequences

Consider linear trajectories on the Bouw-Moeller surface $S_{m,n}$.

Labels pairs of sides by
an alphabet A .



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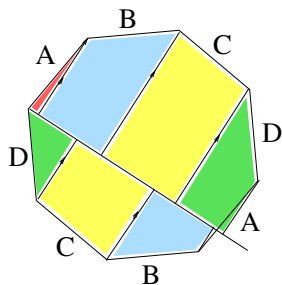
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IETs as Poincaré sections

Consider a linear flow on a translation surface. Take a transverse section.

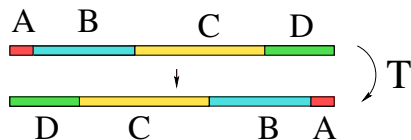
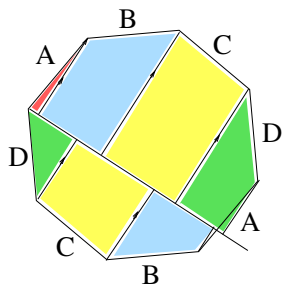


The Poincaré first return map on a section is an interval exchange transformation (IET).

[*Remark:* Linear flows on translation surfaces and IETs have entropy zero. Cutting sequences of linear trajectories and itineraries of IETs have linear complexity.]

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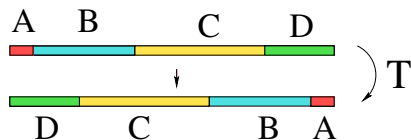
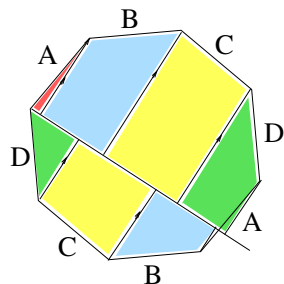


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