

Hyperbolic triangle chains and finite mapping class group orbits

j.w. Samuel Brenstein

Armand Maret
Strasbourg University

Painlevé seminar
14/05/2025

algebraic solutions to
homogeneous
differential
equations
(Painlevé VI,
Schlesinger system)

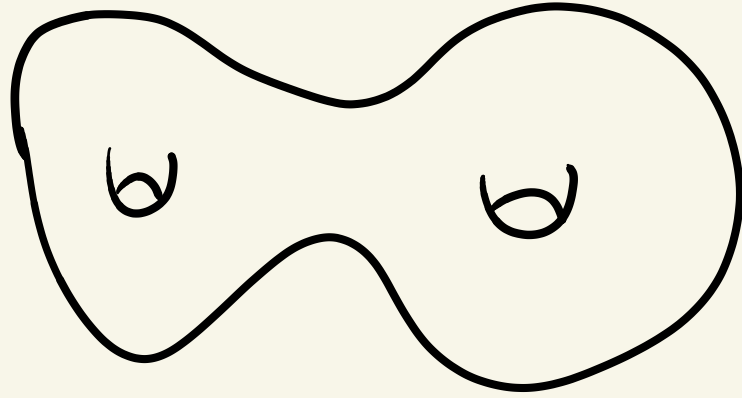
$\rightsquigarrow$

finite mapping
class group
arbitrarily on $SL_2\mathbb{C}$
character varieties

(1) Set-up and history

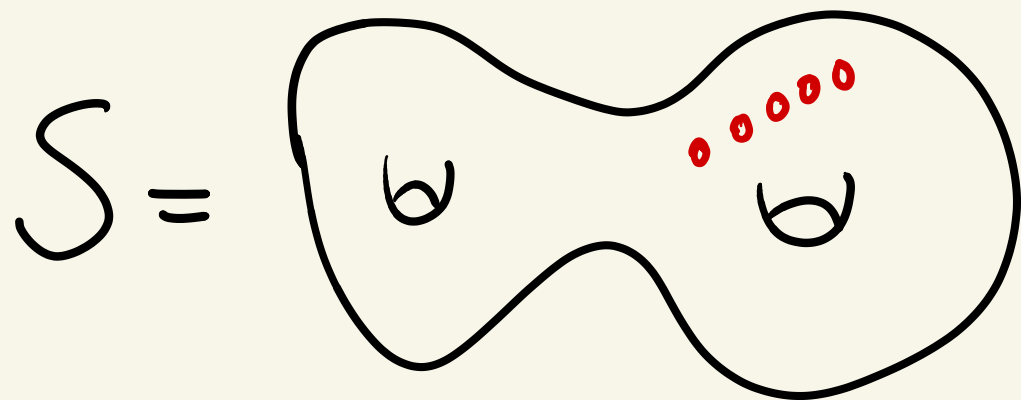
(2) Constructing / classifying finite abels

(1) set-up and history

$S =$  : oriented surface
 $g \geq 0$

mapping class group
of S : $\text{Mod}(S)$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \pi_0(\text{Homeo}_+(S)) & \cong & \text{Out}(\pi_1(S)) & \cong & \pi_1 \mathcal{M}_g \\ \text{(topological)} & & \text{(algebraic)} & & \text{(geometric)} \end{array}$$



: oriented surface
 $g \geq 0$, $n \geq 0$ punctures

pure mapping
class group of S

: $\mathcal{P} \text{Mod}(S)$

$$\pi_0(\text{Homeo}_+^*(S)) \underset{\text{(topological)}}{\cong} \underset{\text{(algebraic)}}{\text{Out}^*(\pi_1(S))} \underset{\text{(geometric)}}{\cong} \pi_1 \mathcal{M}_{g,n}$$

G : Lie / algebraic group

character variety of (S, G) : $\text{Rep}(S, G) = \text{Hom}(\pi_1 S, G) / G$
(topological quotient)

$\text{PMod}(S) \hookrightarrow \text{Rep}(S, G)$
(by precomposition)

goal: understand finite orbits of
 $\mathcal{PMed}(S) \hookrightarrow \text{Rep}(S, \text{SL}_2\mathbb{C})$

example 0:

$\rho: \pi_1 S \longrightarrow \text{SL}_2\mathbb{C} : \text{finite image}$

$\Rightarrow [\rho] \in \text{Rep}(S, \text{SL}_2\mathbb{C})$ has finite orbit

$$\underline{g \geq 1, n \geq 0}$$

$[p] \in \text{Rep}(S, \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{C}))$ has finite orbit
 $\Rightarrow^* p$ has finite image

* not completely true for $g=1$ (infinite dihedral group)

[Biswas - Gupta - Mj - Whang 22', Cornin - Hen 21']

$$\underline{g=0}$$

* $n=3$: $\mathcal{M}od(S)$ is trivial

$\Rightarrow$ every $[p]$ is a finite orbit

* $n=4$:

algebraic solutions
to Painlevé VI

$\Leftrightarrow$

finite orbits in
 $\text{Rep}(S, \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{C}))$

examples: Fuchs, Hitchin, Dubrovin, Mazzocco,
Andreev, Kitaev, Boalch, ...

full list : Boalch 06' + Usouy - Tykhov 14'

* $n \geq 5$:

examples : Diana, Calligaris, Mazzocco, Tykhyy, ...

Tykhyy's Conjecture

* $n = 5, 6$: list of finite orbits

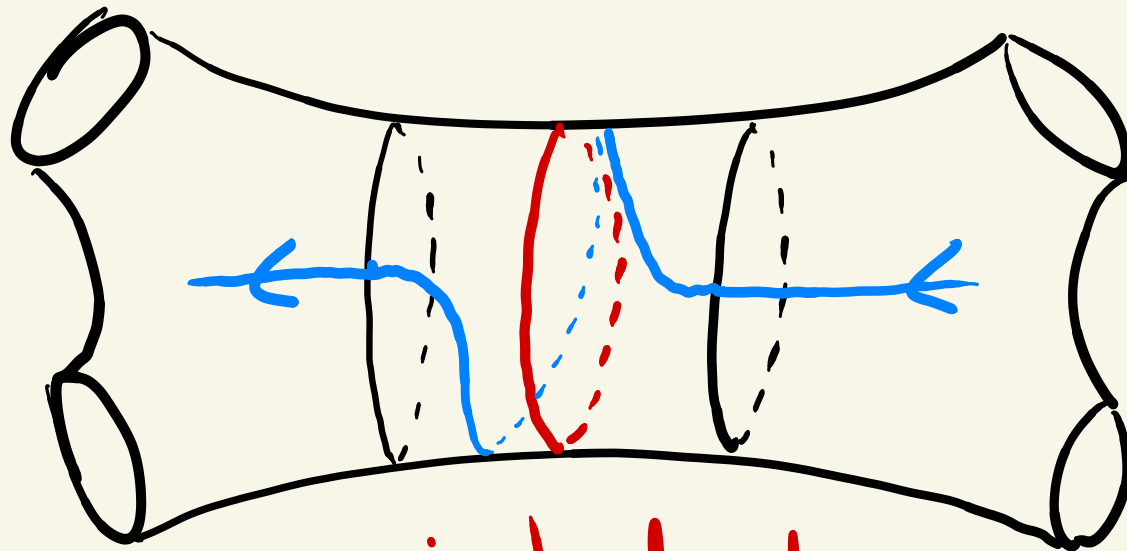
* $n \geq 7$: $\nexists$ "new" finite orbits

Theorem (Bronstein-M. 24', Lam-Landesman-Litt 23')

Tykhyy's Conjecture is true

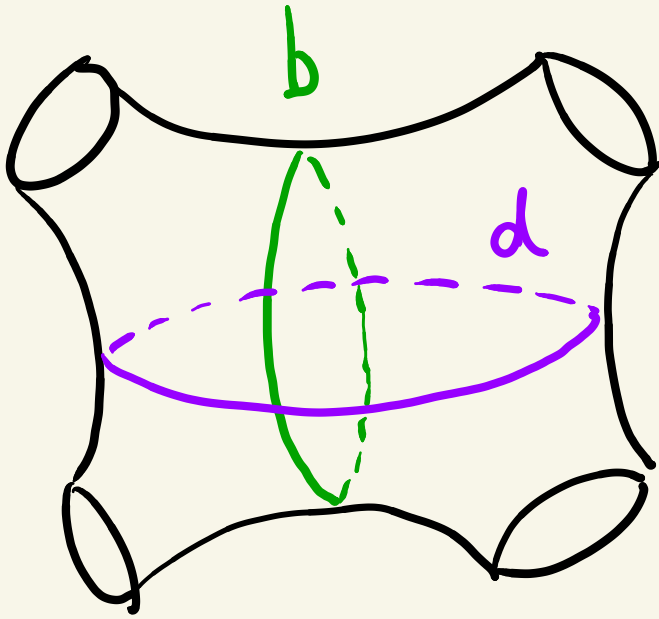
(2) Constructing / classifying finite algebras

$$\mathcal{PMed}(S) = \langle \text{Dehn twists} \rangle$$



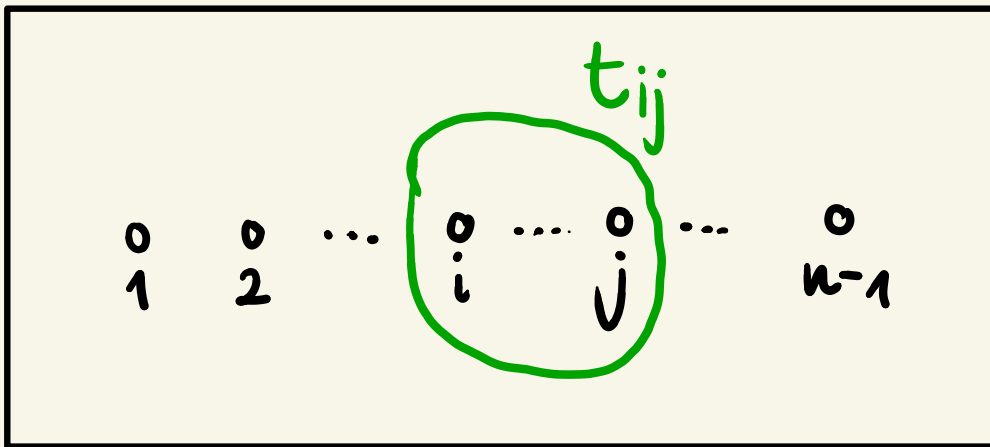
Simple closed
curve a

$n=4$



$$\mathcal{PMod}(S) = \langle \tau_b, \tau_d \rangle$$

general



$$\mathcal{PMod}(S) = \langle \tau_{ij} \mid i < j, (i, j) \neq (1, n-1) \rangle$$

[Ghaswala - Winanski 17']

Heuristic

$[\rho] \in \text{Rep}(S, \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{C}))$
finite orbit

$\text{Tr}(\rho(a)) \in (-2, 2)$
" $\Rightarrow$ " $\rho(a)$ is elliptic
 $\forall$ a simple closed curve
i.e. ρ is totally elliptic

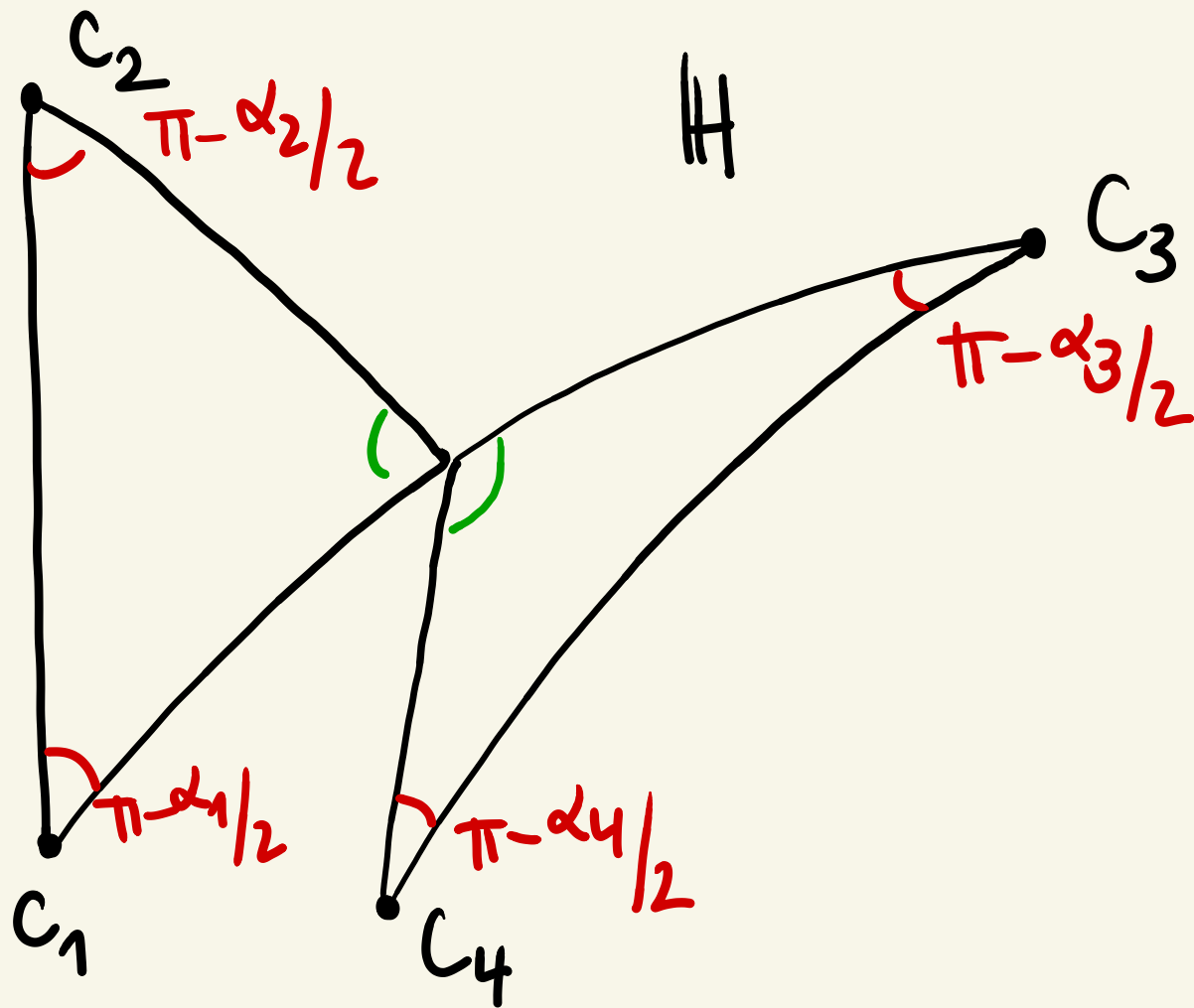
" $\Rightarrow$ " ρ is real
i.e. $\rho: \pi_1 S \rightarrow \text{SU}(2), \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$

[Poeni, Goldman - Xia]

manal: to find finite orbits,
look for totally elliptic
 $\rho: \pi_1 S \rightarrow SL_2 \mathbb{K}$

Triangle chains (M.22')

$$\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_4) \in (0, 2\pi)^4$$
$$\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_4 > 6\pi$$



Conditions:

(1) $\angle C_i = \pi - \alpha_i/2$

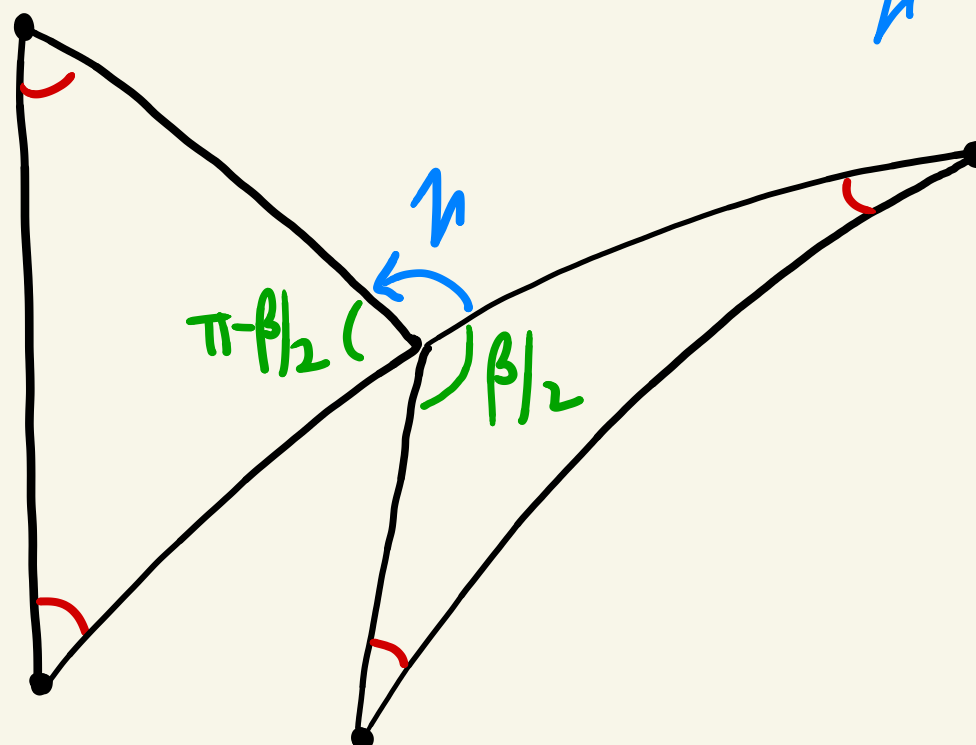
(2) $\angle + \angle = \pi$

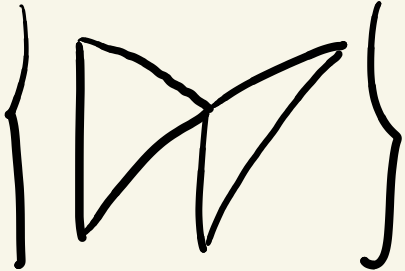
$$TC_{\alpha}^{n=4} := \left\{ \text{Diagram} \right\} / \text{PSL}_2\mathbb{R} = ?$$

The diagram inside the braces is a triangulation of a quadrilateral with four red arcs indicating angles. It consists of two triangles sharing a diagonal. The top triangle has red arcs at its top-left and top-right vertices. The bottom triangle has red arcs at its bottom-left and bottom-right vertices.

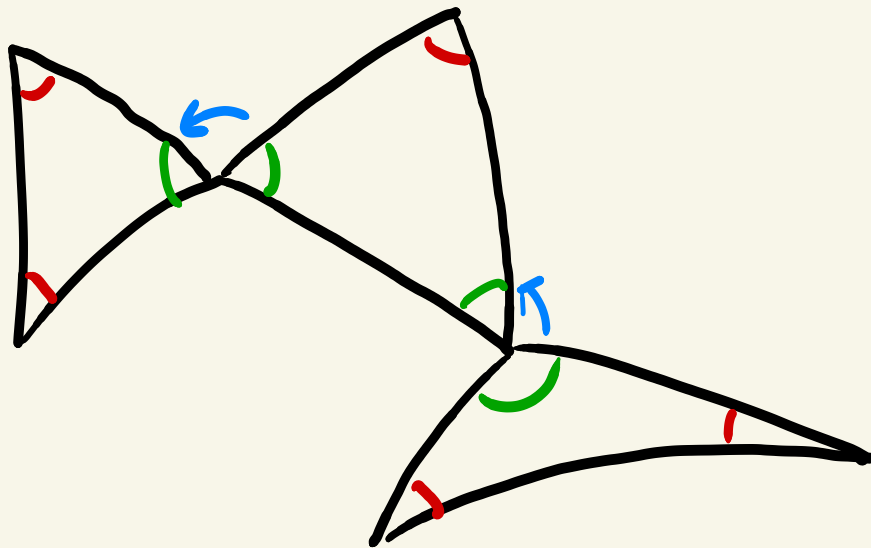
$$TC_{\alpha}^{n=4} := \left\{ \text{Diagram} \right\} / \text{PSL}_2 \mathbb{C} \cong \begin{array}{c} \bullet^{\beta} \\ \text{O} \\ \text{O} \\ \bullet^{\gamma} \end{array} \cong \mathbb{CP}^1$$

The diagram in the set is a quadrilateral with one diagonal and one side extended, forming a self-intersecting shape.



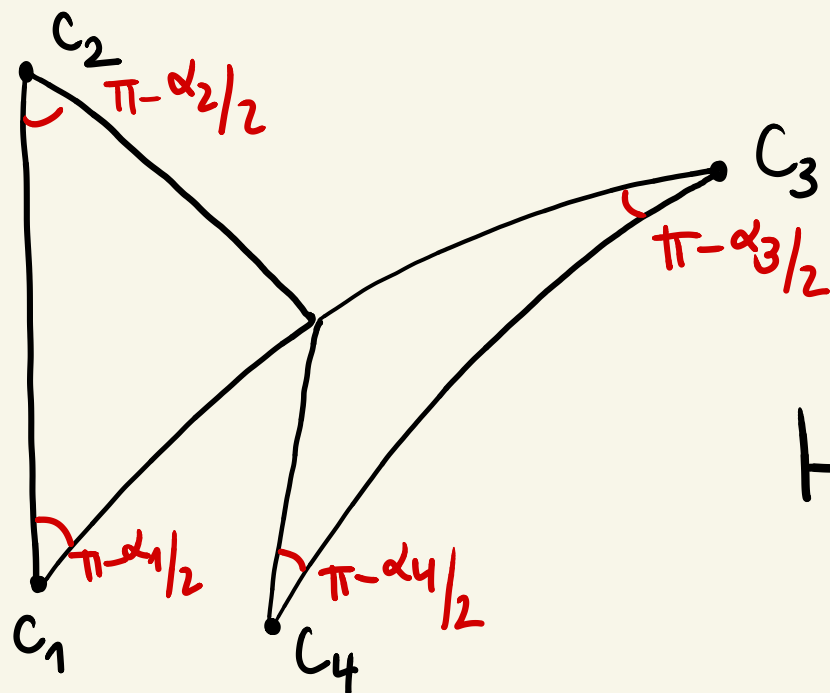
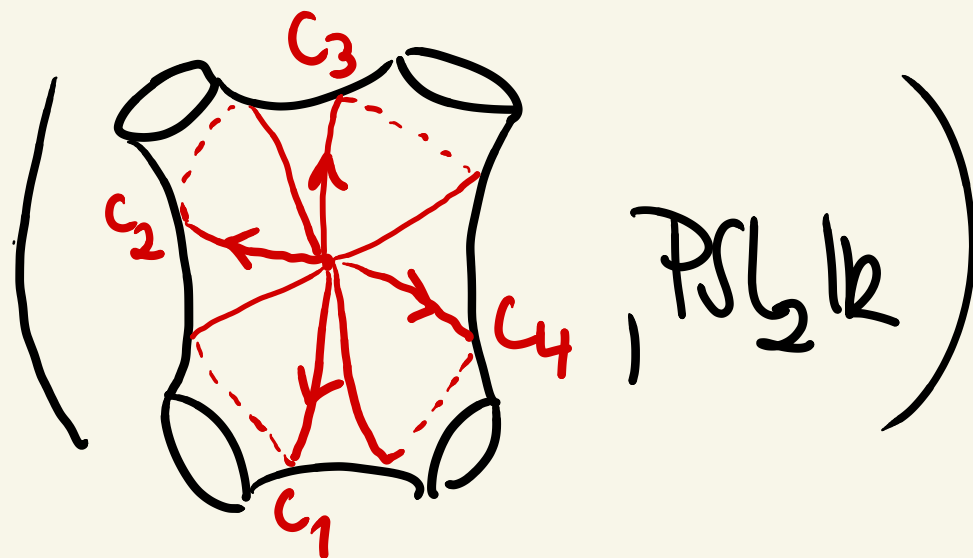
$$TC_{\alpha}^{n=4} := \left\{ \text{triangle with internal lines} \right\} / \text{PSL}_2 \mathbb{R} \cong \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \bullet \end{array} \stackrel{\beta}{\cong} \mathbb{CP}^1$$



more generally : $TC_{\alpha}^n \cong \mathbb{CP}^{n-3}$



$$TC_{\alpha}^{h=4}$$

$\longrightarrow$ Rep



$\mapsto$

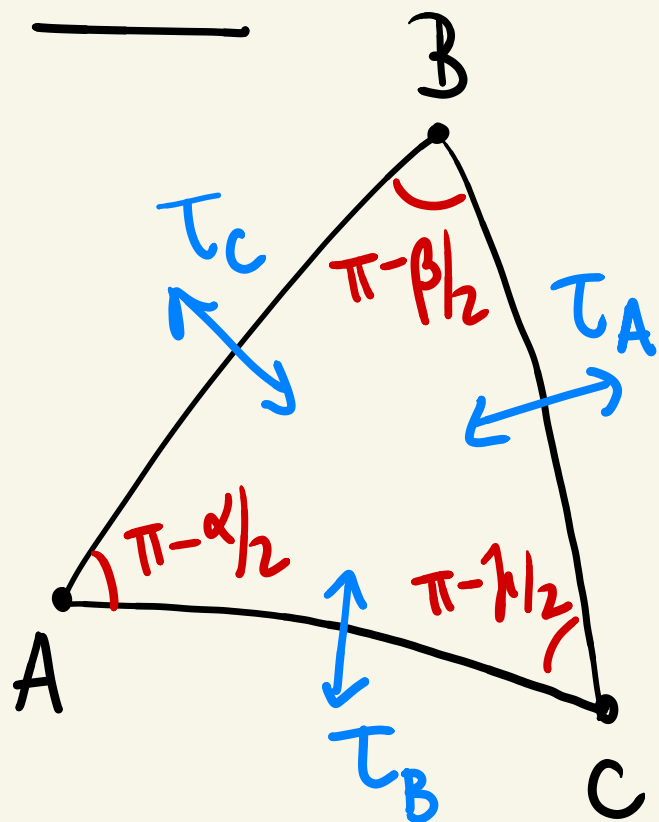
$$\langle c_1, \dots, c_4 \mid \pi c_i = 1 \rangle$$

$\parallel$

$$\rho: \pi_1 S \longrightarrow \mathrm{PSL}_2 \mathbb{R}$$

$$c_i \mapsto \mathrm{rot}_{\alpha_i}(c_i)$$

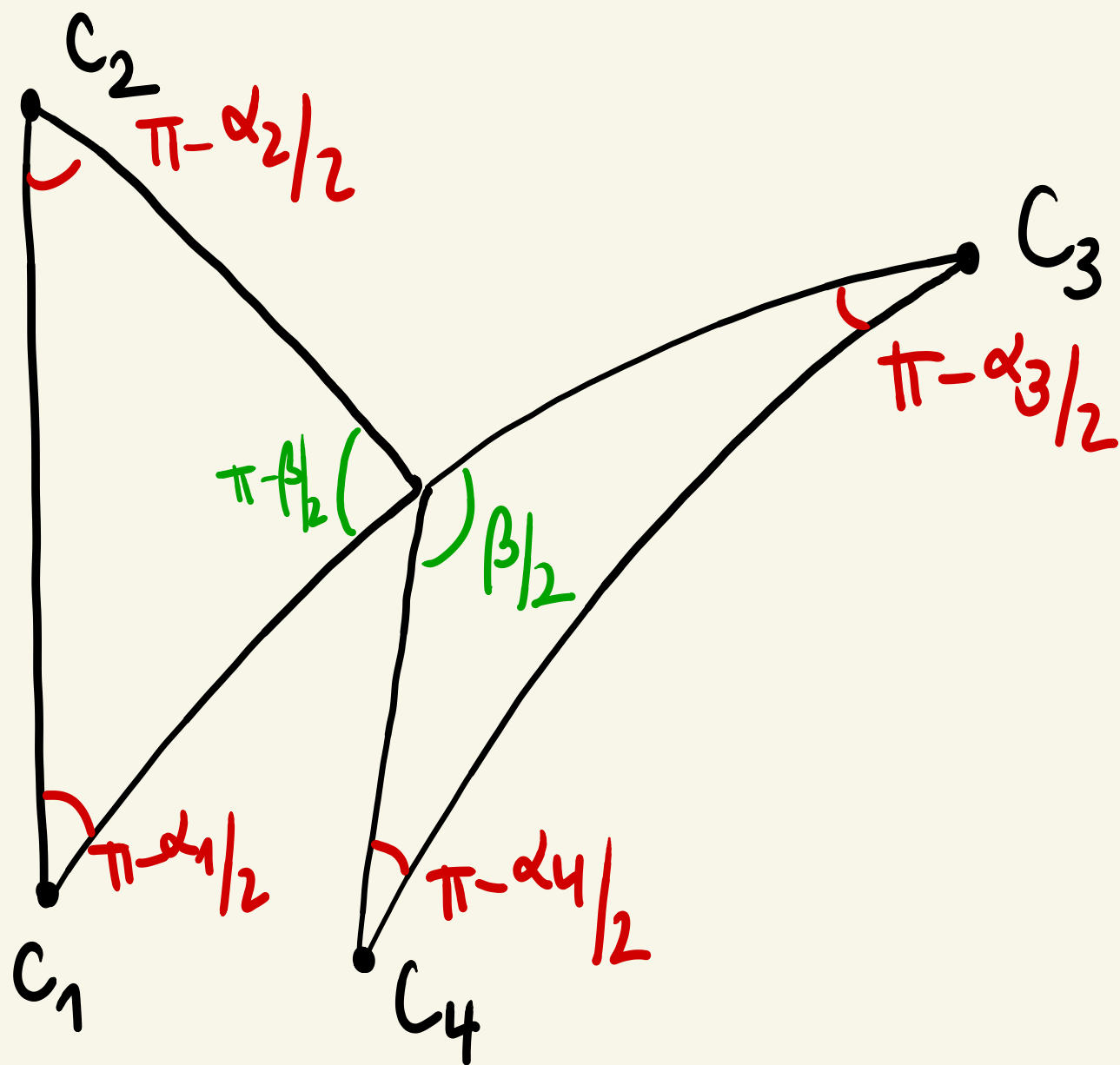
lemma



$\Rightarrow$

$$\underbrace{\sec_{\alpha}(A)}_{\tau_B \tau_C} \cdot \underbrace{\sec_{\beta}(B)}_{\tau_C \tau_A} \cdot \underbrace{\sec_{\gamma}(C)}_{\tau_A \tau_B} = 1$$

□



$g=0, n \geq 4$

$$\text{Rep}(S, \text{PSL}_2\mathbb{R}) \supseteq \text{Rep}_\alpha(S, \text{PSL}_2\mathbb{R})$$

$p(x_i)$ is
elliptic of
angle α_i

character
variety

$g=0, n \geq 4$

$$\text{Rep}(S, \text{PSL}_2\mathbb{R}) \supseteq \text{Rep}_\alpha(S, \text{PSL}_2\mathbb{R})$$

character
variety

α -relative
character
variety

$g=0, n \geq 4$

$$\text{Rep}(S, \text{PSL}_2\mathbb{R}) \supseteq \text{Rep}_\alpha(S, \text{PSL}_2\mathbb{R}) \supseteq \text{Rep}_\alpha^{\text{DT}}$$

character
variety

α -relative
character
variety

[Densin-Tholezon 19']

$\exists$ compact
connected
component

DT component

$g=0, n \geq 4$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Rep}(S, \text{PSL}_2\mathbb{R}) & \cong & \text{Rep}_{\alpha}(S, \text{PSL}_2\mathbb{R}) & \cong & \text{Rep}_{\alpha}^{\text{DT}} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \mathcal{P}\text{Med}(S) & & \mathcal{P}\text{Med}(S) & & \mathcal{P}\text{Med}(S) \end{array}$$

$g=0, n \geq 4$

$$\text{Rep}(S, \text{PSL}_2\mathbb{R}) \supseteq \text{Rep}_\alpha(S, \text{PSL}_2\mathbb{R}) \supseteq \text{Rep}_\alpha^{\text{DT}} \cong \text{TC}_\alpha$$

$\hookrightarrow$
 $\mathcal{P}\text{Med}(S)$

character
variety

$\hookrightarrow$
 $\mathcal{P}\text{Med}(S)$

α -relative
character
variety

$\hookrightarrow$
 $\mathcal{P}\text{Med}(S)$

DT component
totally elliptic!

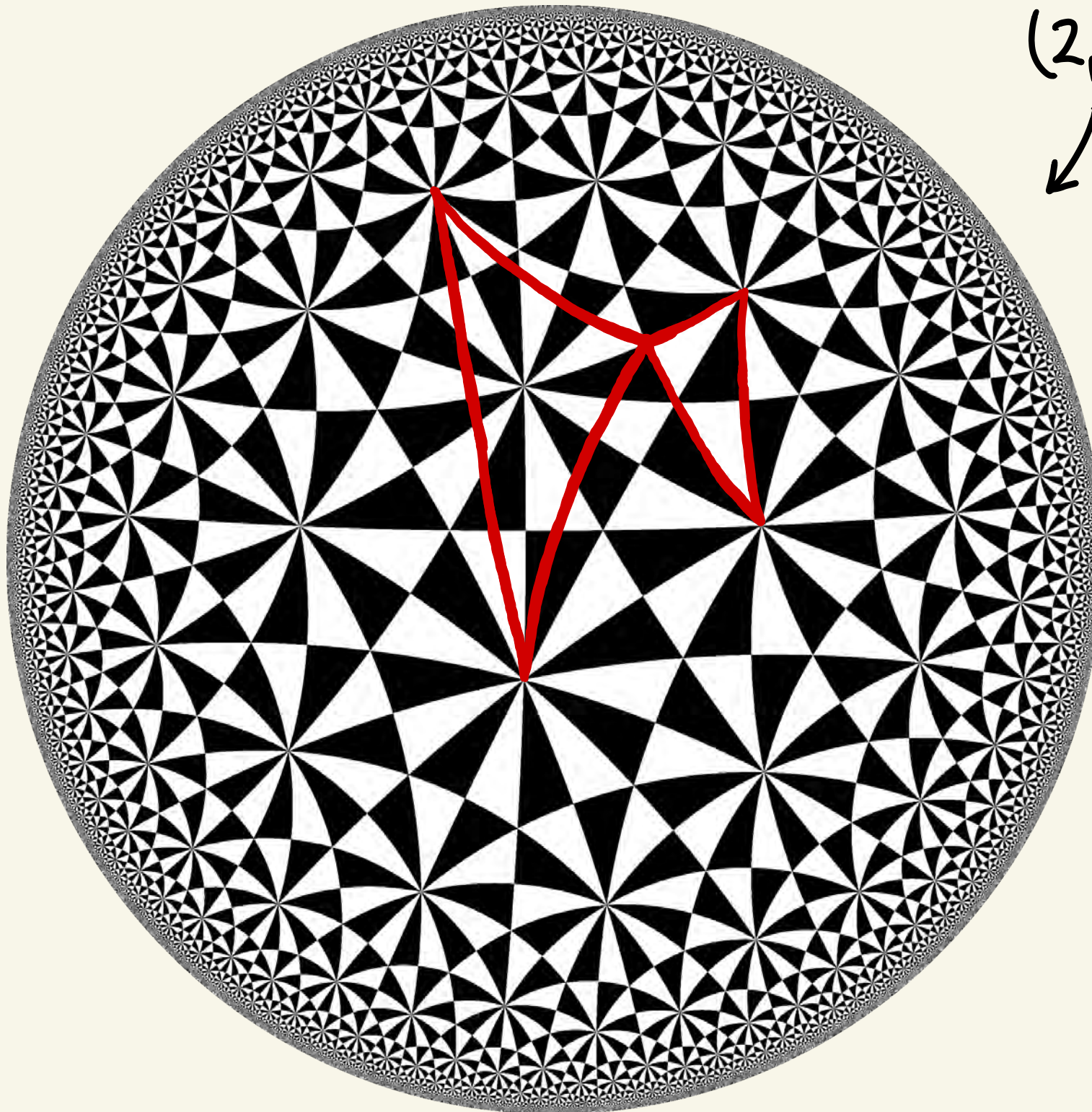
(M.24')

example 1

$[p] \in \text{Rep}_{\alpha}^{\text{DT}}$ + p has discrete image

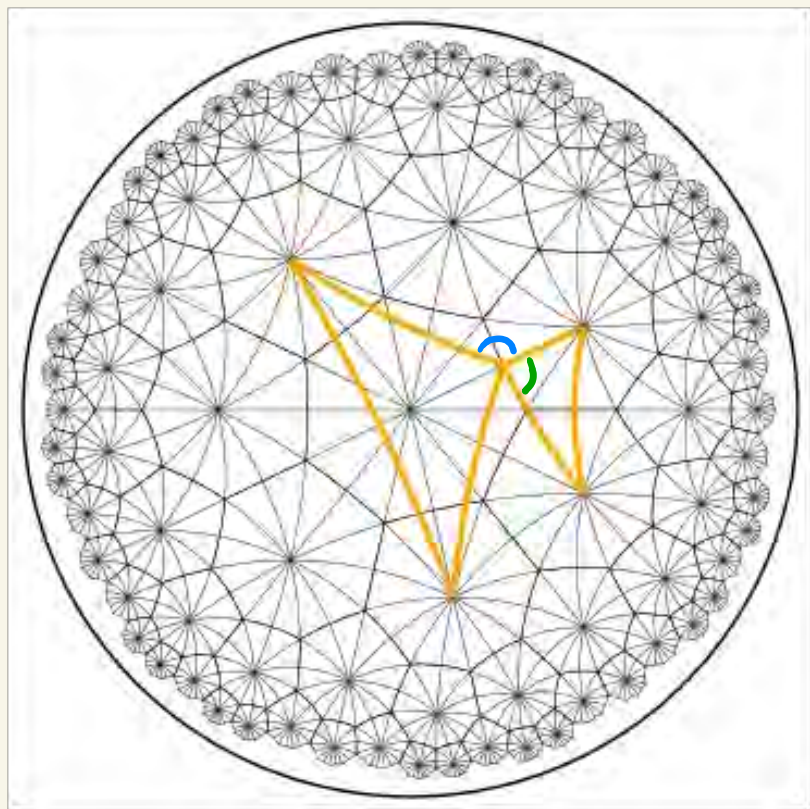
$\Rightarrow$ orbit of $[p]$ is discrete in $\text{Rep}_{\alpha}^{\text{DT}}$

$\Rightarrow$ orbit of $[p]$ is finite!



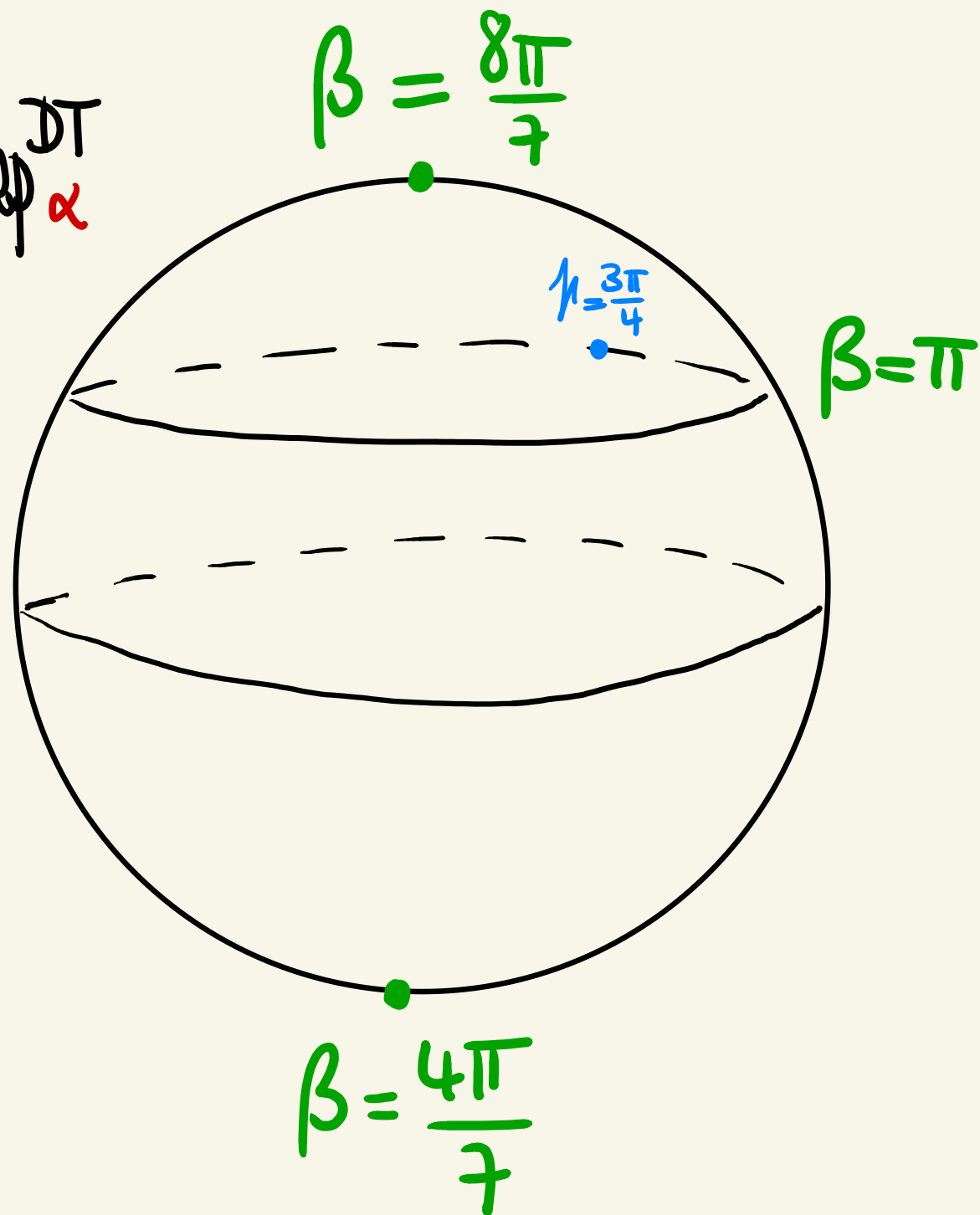
$(2,3,7)$



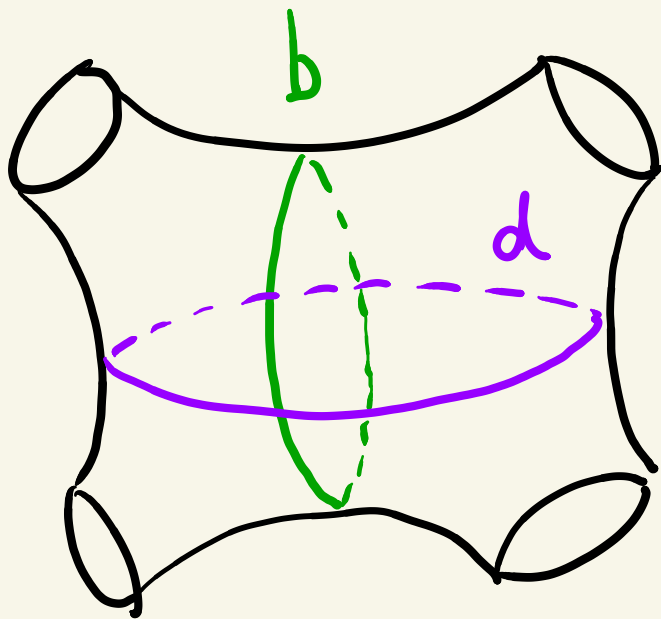


$$\beta = \pi \quad \gamma = \frac{3\pi}{4}$$

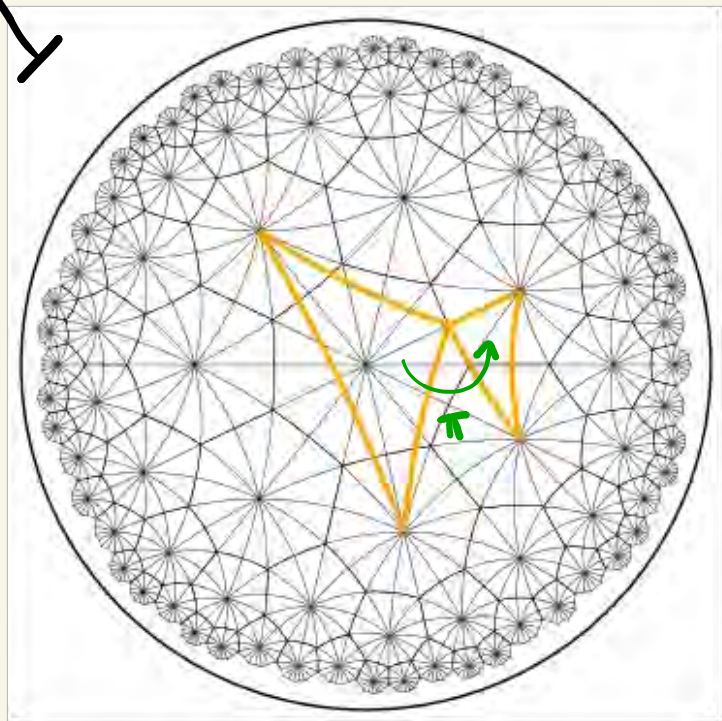
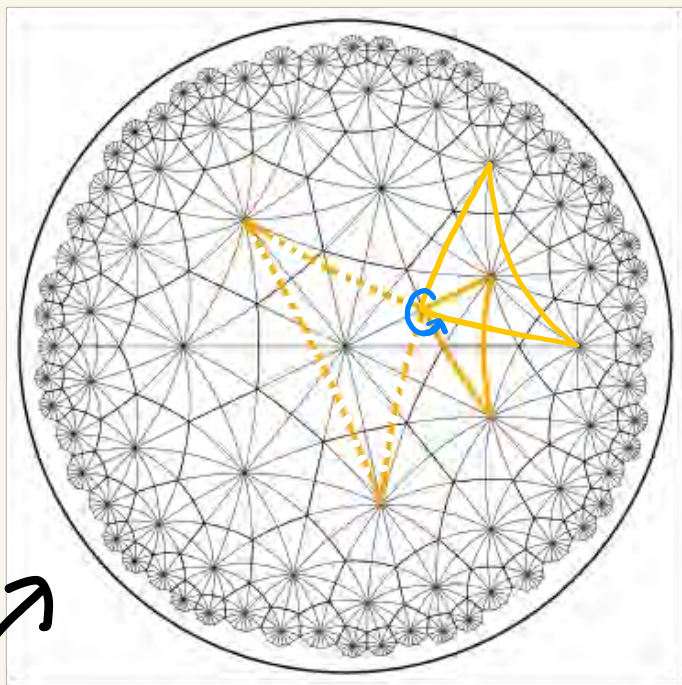
$\mathbb{R}P^2$



$$\underline{n=4}$$



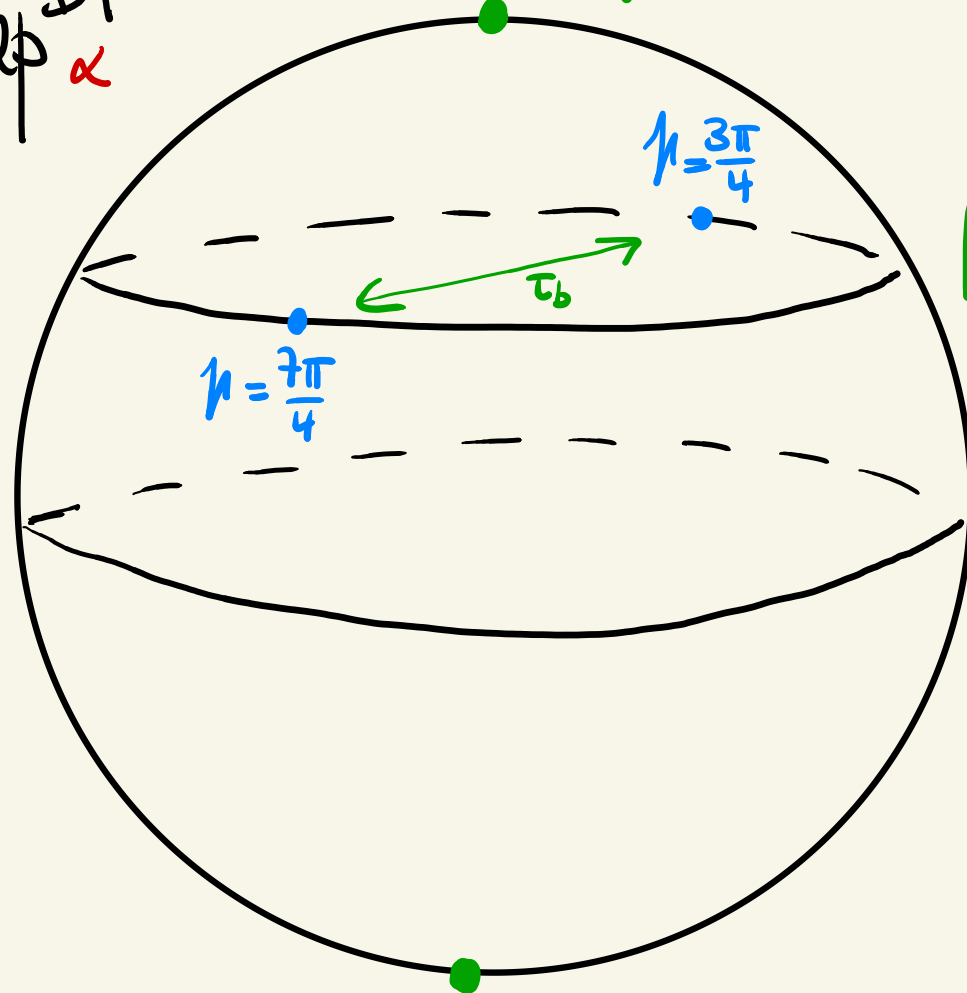
$$\mathcal{P}\text{Mod}(S) = \langle \tau_b, \tau_d \rangle$$



τ_b

$\text{Rep}_{\alpha}^{\text{DT}}$

$$\beta = \frac{8\pi}{7}$$



$$\beta = \pi$$

$$\mu = \frac{7\pi}{4}$$

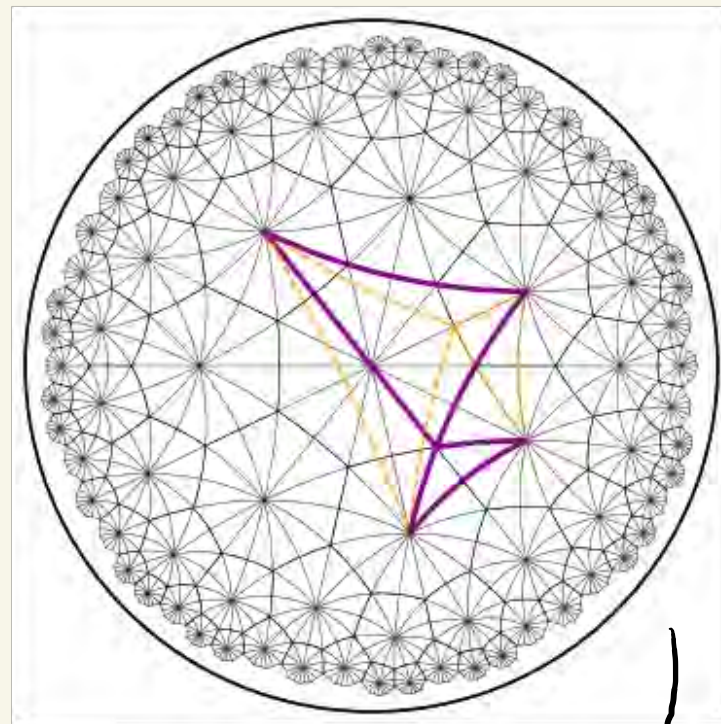
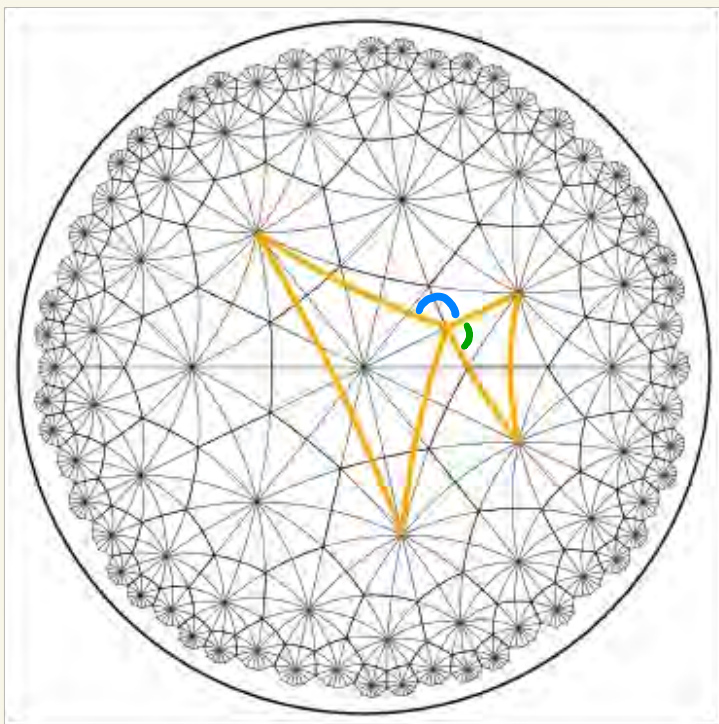
$$\mu = \frac{3\pi}{4}$$

$$\beta = \frac{4\pi}{7}$$

$$\beta = \pi$$

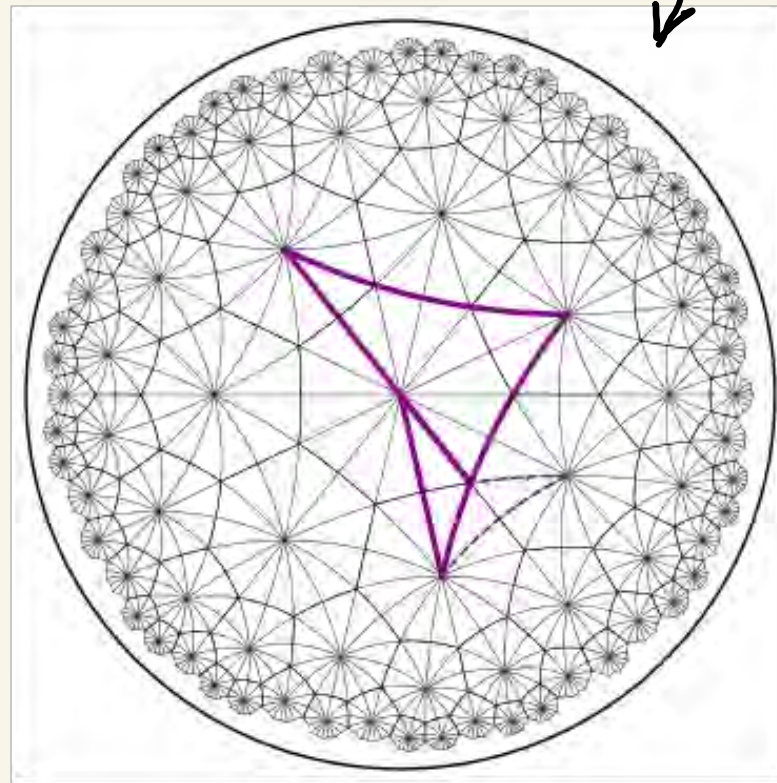
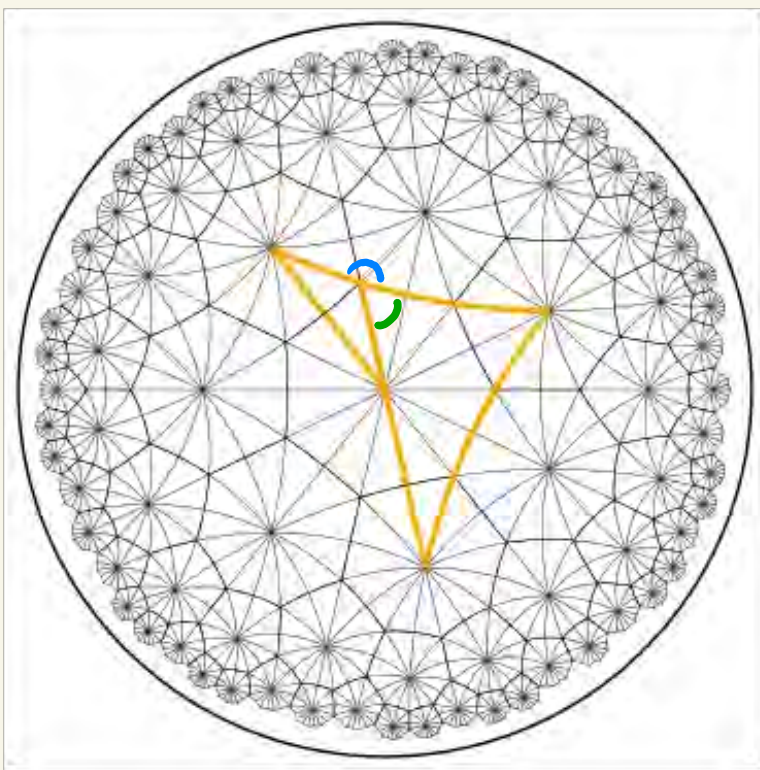
$$\gamma = \frac{3\pi}{4}$$

$$\tau_d$$

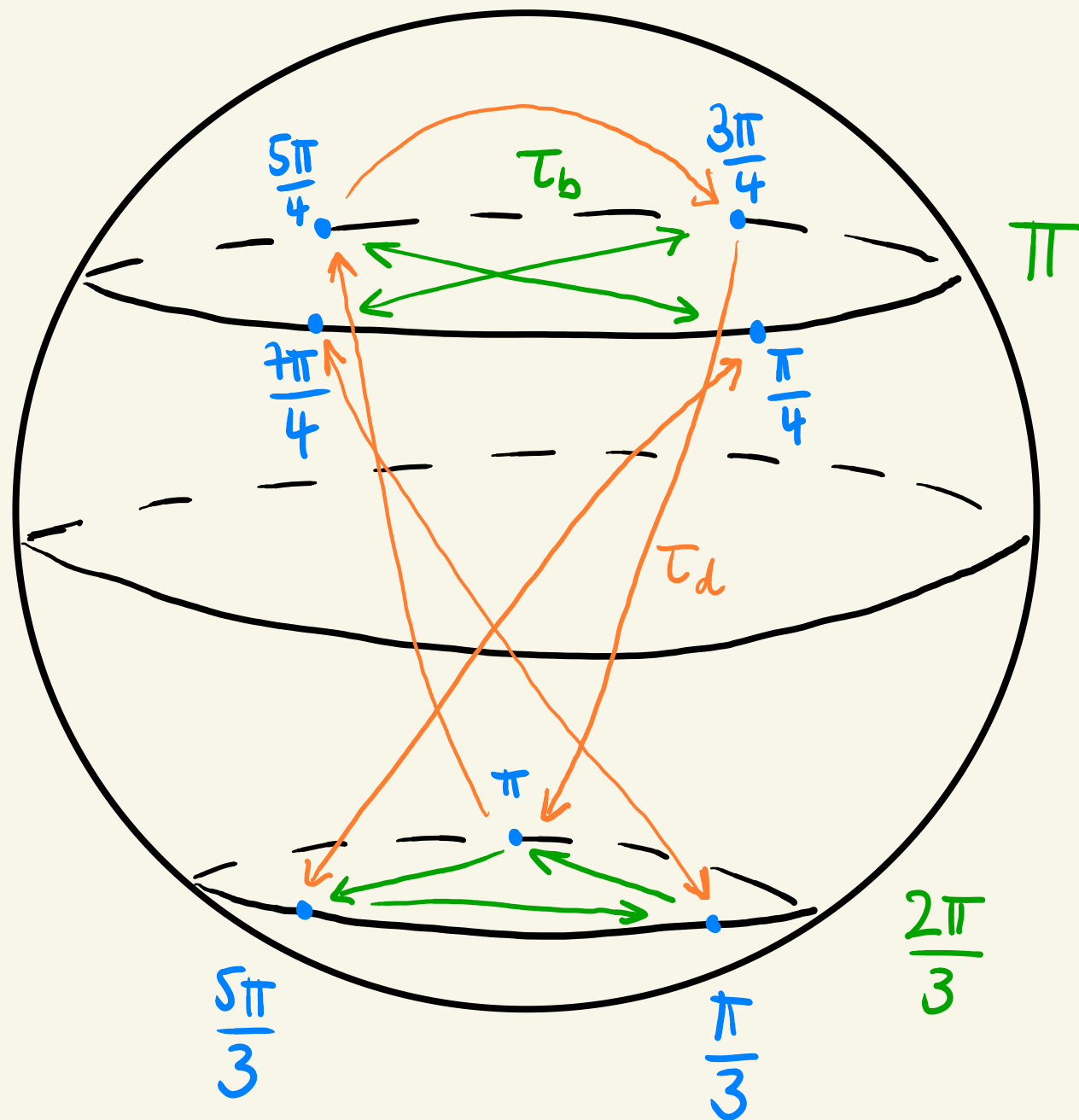


$$\beta = \frac{2\pi}{3}$$

$$\gamma = \pi$$



length = 7
 "Klein orbit"
 (Boalch 05')



Lisovyy-Tykhyy's classification	Orbit length	Angle vector α	Non-peripheral trace field
Sol. II	2	$\{\theta_1, \theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_2\}, \theta_1 + \theta_2 > 3\pi$	
Sol. III	3	$\{\frac{4\pi}{3}, 2\theta - 2\pi, \theta, \theta\}, \theta > 5\pi/3$	
Sol. IV	4	$\{\pi, \theta, \theta, \theta\}, \theta > 5\pi/3$	
Sol. IV*	4	$\{\theta, \theta, \theta, 3\theta - 4\pi\}, \theta > 5\pi/3$	
Sol. 1	5	$\{\frac{22\pi}{15}, \frac{8\pi}{5}, \frac{8\pi}{5}, \frac{28\pi}{15}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}$
Sol. 4	6	$\{\frac{19\pi}{12}, \frac{19\pi}{12}, \frac{23\pi}{12}, \frac{23\pi}{12}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$
Sol. 6	6	$\{\frac{23\pi}{15}, \frac{23\pi}{15}, \frac{5\pi}{3}, \frac{29\pi}{15}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 7	6	$\{\frac{17\pi}{15}, \frac{5\pi}{3}, \frac{29\pi}{15}, \frac{29\pi}{15}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 8	7	$\{\frac{10\pi}{7}, \frac{12\pi}{7}, \frac{12\pi}{7}, \frac{12\pi}{7}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}$
Sol. 10	8	$\{\frac{17\pi}{12}, \frac{7\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4}, \frac{23\pi}{12}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$
Sol. 11	8	$\{\frac{13\pi}{10}, \frac{3\pi}{2}, \frac{19\pi}{10}, \frac{19\pi}{10}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 12	8	$\{\frac{3\pi}{2}, \frac{17\pi}{10}, \frac{17\pi}{10}, \frac{19\pi}{10}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 13	9	$\{\frac{26\pi}{15}, \frac{26\pi}{15}, \frac{26\pi}{15}, \frac{28\pi}{15}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 14	9	$\{\frac{14\pi}{15}, \frac{28\pi}{15}, \frac{28\pi}{15}, \frac{28\pi}{15}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 15	10	$\{\frac{8\pi}{5}, \frac{8\pi}{5}, \frac{9\pi}{5}, \frac{9\pi}{5}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}$
Sol. 18	10	$\{\frac{23\pi}{15}, \frac{23\pi}{15}, \frac{23\pi}{15}, \frac{9\pi}{5}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 19	10	$\{\frac{7\pi}{5}, \frac{29\pi}{15}, \frac{29\pi}{15}, \frac{29\pi}{15}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 20	12	$\{\frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$
Sol. 22	12	$\{\frac{19\pi}{15}, \frac{9\pi}{5}, \frac{9\pi}{5}, \frac{29\pi}{15}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 23	12	$\{\frac{37\pi}{30}, \frac{47\pi}{30}, \frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 24	12	$\{\frac{49\pi}{30}, \frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{59\pi}{30}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 25	12	$\{\frac{43\pi}{30}, \frac{49\pi}{30}, \frac{53\pi}{30}, \frac{59\pi}{30}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 26	15	$\{\frac{8\pi}{5}, \frac{26\pi}{15}, \frac{26\pi}{15}, \frac{26\pi}{15}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 27	15	$\{\frac{6\pi}{5}, \frac{28\pi}{15}, \frac{28\pi}{15}, \frac{28\pi}{15}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 30	16	$\{\frac{7\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}$
Sol. 32	18	$\{\frac{37\pi}{21}, \frac{37\pi}{21}, \frac{37\pi}{21}, \frac{41\pi}{21}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\cos(\pi/7))$
Sol. 33	18	$\{\frac{4\pi}{3}, \frac{12\pi}{7}, \frac{12\pi}{7}, \frac{12\pi}{7}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\cos(\pi/7))$
Sol. 34	18	$\{\frac{25\pi}{21}, \frac{41\pi}{21}, \frac{41\pi}{21}, \frac{41\pi}{21}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\cos(\pi/7))$
Sol. 37	20	$\{\frac{47\pi}{30}, \frac{53\pi}{30}, \frac{19\pi}{10}, \frac{19\pi}{10}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 38	20	$\{\frac{41\pi}{30}, \frac{17\pi}{10}, \frac{17\pi}{10}, \frac{59\pi}{30}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 39	24	$\{\frac{3\pi}{2}, \frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 40	30	$\{\frac{23\pi}{15}, \frac{23\pi}{15}, \frac{28\pi}{15}, \frac{28\pi}{15}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 41	30	$\{\frac{26\pi}{15}, \frac{26\pi}{15}, \frac{29\pi}{15}, \frac{29\pi}{15}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 43	40	$\{\frac{17\pi}{10}, \frac{17\pi}{10}, \frac{17\pi}{10}, \frac{17\pi}{10}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 44	40	$\{\frac{19\pi}{10}, \frac{19\pi}{10}, \frac{19\pi}{10}, \frac{19\pi}{10}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$
Sol. 45	72	$\{\frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}\}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$

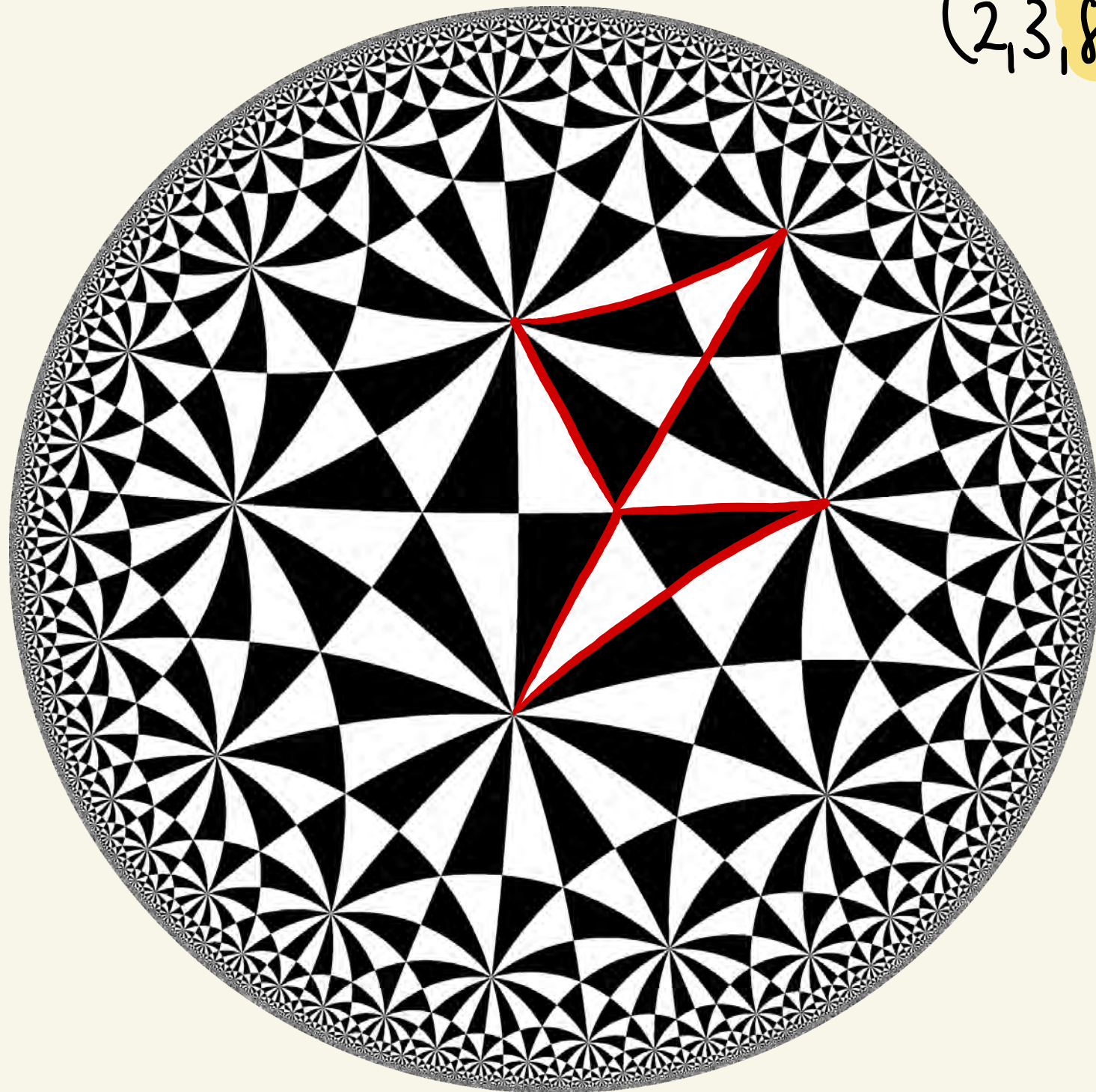
TABLE 4. Lisovyy-Tykhyy's classification of finite orbits of DT representations.

Sol. II	2	$\{\theta_1, \theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_2\}, \theta_1 + \theta_2 > 3\pi$
Sol. III	3	$\{\frac{4\pi}{3}, 2\theta - 2\pi, \theta, \theta\}, \theta > 5\pi/3$
Sol. IV	4	$\{\pi, \theta, \theta, \theta\}, \theta > 5\pi/3$
Sol. IV*	4	$\{\theta, \theta, \theta, 3\theta - 4\pi\}, \theta > 5\pi/3$
Sol. 1	5	$\{\frac{22\pi}{15}, \frac{8\pi}{5}, \frac{8\pi}{5}, \frac{28\pi}{15}\}$
Sol. 4	6	$\{\frac{19\pi}{12}, \frac{19\pi}{12}, \frac{23\pi}{12}, \frac{23\pi}{12}\}$
Sol. 6	6	$\{\frac{23\pi}{15}, \frac{23\pi}{15}, \frac{5\pi}{3}, \frac{29\pi}{15}\}$
Sol. 7	6	$\{\frac{17\pi}{15}, \frac{5\pi}{3}, \frac{29\pi}{15}, \frac{29\pi}{15}\}$
Sol. 8	7	$\{\frac{10\pi}{7}, \frac{12\pi}{7}, \frac{12\pi}{7}, \frac{12\pi}{7}\}$

Sol. 34	18	$\{\frac{25\pi}{21}, \frac{41\pi}{21}, \frac{41\pi}{21}, \frac{41\pi}{21}\}$
Sol. 37	20	$\{\frac{47\pi}{30}, \frac{53\pi}{30}, \frac{19\pi}{10}, \frac{19\pi}{10}\}$
Sol. 38	20	$\{\frac{41\pi}{30}, \frac{17\pi}{10}, \frac{17\pi}{10}, \frac{59\pi}{30}\}$
Sol. 39	24	$\{\frac{3\pi}{2}, \frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}\}$
Sol. 40	30	$\{\frac{23\pi}{15}, \frac{23\pi}{15}, \frac{28\pi}{15}, \frac{28\pi}{15}\}$
Sol. 41	30	$\{\frac{26\pi}{15}, \frac{26\pi}{15}, \frac{29\pi}{15}, \frac{29\pi}{15}\}$
Sol. 43	40	$\{\frac{17\pi}{10}, \frac{17\pi}{10}, \frac{17\pi}{10}, \frac{17\pi}{10}\}$
Sol. 44	40	$\{\frac{19\pi}{10}, \frac{19\pi}{10}, \frac{19\pi}{10}, \frac{19\pi}{10}\}$
Sol. 45	72	$\{\frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}\}$

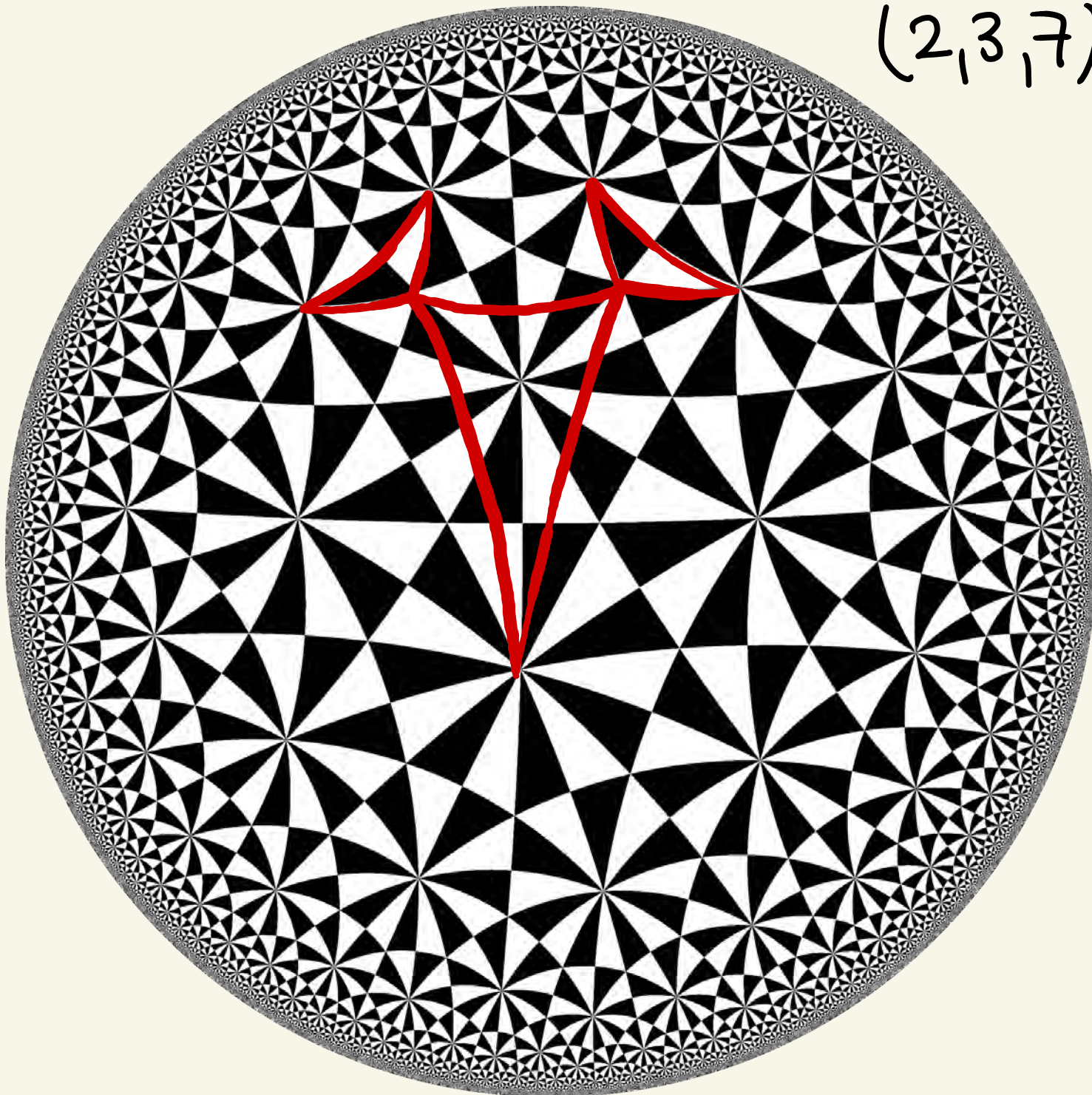
$(2, 3, 8)$

length = 4
Type IV^*
(Dubreil 96!)

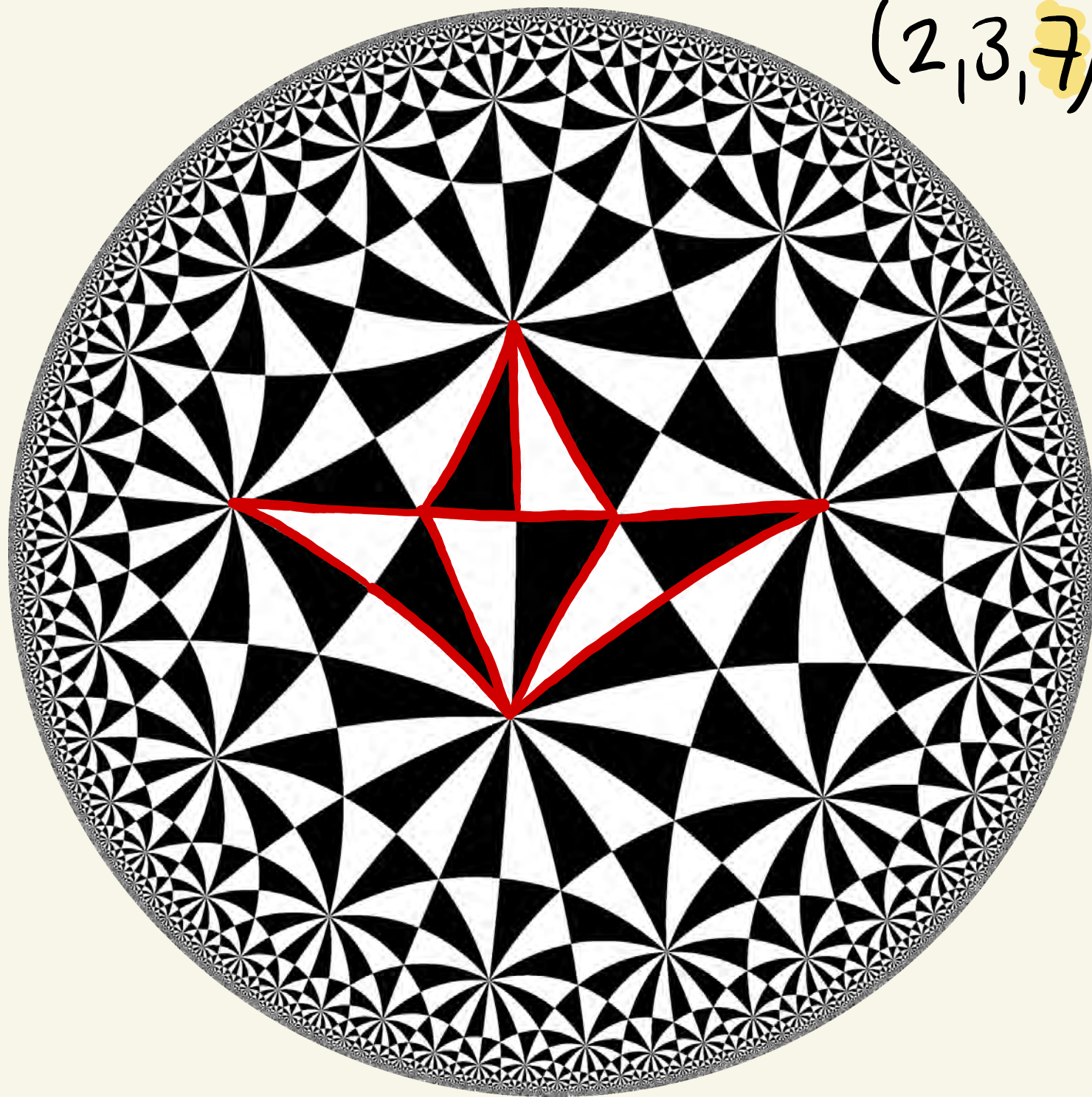


$n=5$
length = 105

$(2,3,7)$

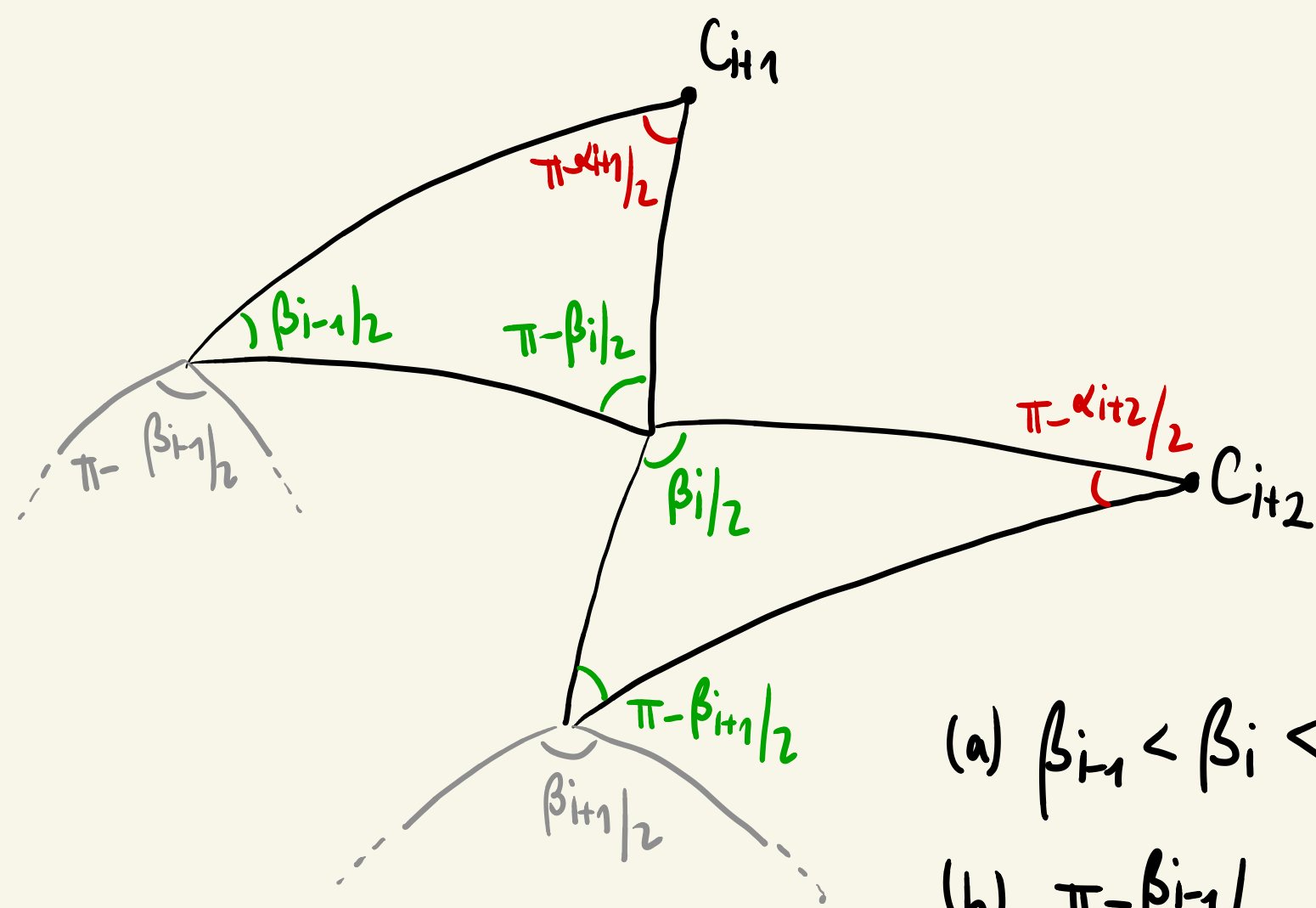


$n=6$
length=40



Cash/ying finite orbits arising from triangle chains
(not necessarily discrete)

- * 2 triangles ($n=4$) $\leadsto$ Boalch / Wörry-Tykhov
- * $n-2$ triangles ($n \geq 5$)
 - each consecutive pair of triangles belongs to B/LT's list



(a) $\beta_{i-1} < \beta_i < \beta_{i+1}$

(b) $\pi - \beta_{i-1}/2, \beta_{i-1}/2$ are both exterior angles

$\leadsto$ a chain has at most 4 triangles, i.e. $n \leq 6$

Thank you!