

# Fixed-curve counts in algebraic varieties

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- How many lines in the plane pass through 2 points?
- More generally one could aim to count the number  $N_d$  of degree  $d$  rational curves (genus 0) in the plane passing through  $3d - 1$  general points.

## Kontsevich's recursion

Mathematicians had computed the first few cases

$$N_1 = N_2 = 1, \quad N_3 = 12, \quad N_4 = 620$$

in the late 19th century. It took almost a century to compute  $N_5 = 87304$ .

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Remarkably, in 1994 Kontsevich, motivated by string theory, gave a recursive formula computing all  $N_d$  starting from  $N_1 = 1$ :

$$N_d = \sum_{\substack{d_1+d_2=d \\ d_1, d_2 > 0}} \left( d_1^2 d_2^2 \binom{3d-4}{3d_1-2} - d_1^3 d_2 \binom{3d-4}{3d_1-1} \right) N_{d_1} N_{d_2}$$

for  $d > 1$ .

## Stable maps

Let  $X$  be a smooth, proper and connected algebraic variety of dimension  $r$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ ,  $\beta \in H_2(X, \mathbb{Z})$  an effective curve class,  $g \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  a genus and  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  an integer.

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Define

$$\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(X, \beta) = \left\{ f : (C, p_1, \dots, p_n) \rightarrow X \left| \begin{array}{l} \bullet C \text{ is a connected nodal} \\ \text{genus } g \text{ curve;} \\ \bullet p_1, \dots, p_n \in C \\ \text{are distinct smooth points;} \\ \bullet f_*[C] = \beta; \\ \bullet |\text{Aut}(f)| < \infty. \end{array} \right. \right\}$$

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We will also denote by

$$\mathcal{M}_{g,n}(X, \beta) \subseteq \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(X, \beta)$$

the open substack where the domain curve  $C$  is smooth.

## Stable curves

When  $X = \star$  is a point, we obtain the moduli stack of stable  $n$ -pointed genus  $g$  curves

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remembering the (stabilized) domain curve;

- The moduli stack  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(X, \beta)$  is proper. It can be non-reduced and have several components of different dimension. However, it carries a virtual fundamental class

$$[\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(X, \beta)]^{\text{vir}} \in H_{2\text{vdim}}(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(X, \beta)).$$

# Gromov-Witten invariants

## Definition

For classes  $\gamma_i \in H^*(X)$  and  $\alpha \in H^*(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$  the integral

$$\int_{[\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(X,\beta)]^{\text{vir}}} \prod_{i=1}^n \text{ev}_i^*(\gamma_i) \cdot \pi^*(\alpha)$$

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## Example

We have

$$N_d = \int_{[\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,3d-1}(\mathbb{P}^2,d)]^{\text{vir}}} \prod_{i=1}^{3d-1} \text{ev}_i^*(P)$$

where  $P \in H^2(\mathbb{P}^2)$  is the point class.



## Motivating question

**Fix a general smooth genus  $g$  curve  $\overline{C}$  and  $n$  general distinct points  $p_1, \dots, p_n \in \overline{C}$ . Also fix  $n$  general points  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$ .**

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### Question

How many maps  $f : (\overline{C}, p_1, \dots, p_n) \rightarrow X$  are there such that  $f(p_i) = x_i$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and  $f_*[\overline{C}] = \beta$ ?

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- Projective spaces;
- Hypersurfaces in Projective spaces;
- Point Blow-ups of Projective spaces;
- Hirzebruch surfaces.

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Define the **virtual Tevelev degree**  $\text{vTev}_{g,n,\beta}^X \in \mathbb{Q}$  as the Gromov-Witten invariant

$$\text{vTev}_{g,n,\beta}^X = \int_{[\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(X, \beta)]^{\text{vir}}} \prod_{i=1}^n \text{ev}_i^*(P) \cdot \pi^*(P_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}})$$

where  $P \in H^{2r}(X)$  and  $P_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \in H^{3g-3+n}(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$  are the point classes.

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## Warning

This is a *virtual* count.

# Geometric Tevelev degrees

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The **geometric Tevelev degree**  $\text{TeV}_{g,n,\beta}^X \in \mathbb{Z}$  of  $X$  is defined under the assumption that the map

$$\tau = \pi \times \prod_{i=1}^n \text{ev}_i : \mathcal{M}_{g,n}(X, \beta) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{g,n} \times X^n$$

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## Fact (Lian-Pandharipande)

The geometric degree  $\text{TeV}_{g,n,\beta}^X$  is always defined for  $n \geq g + 1$ .



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## Reduction to genus 0 invariants

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### Theorem (Buch-Pandharipande)

*We have*

$$\nu \text{Tev}_{g,n,\beta}^X = \text{Coeff}(P^{\star n} \star E^{\star g}, q^\beta P)$$

*Here  $E \in QH^*(X)$  is the **quantum Euler class** of  $X$  and  $P$  is the point class on  $X$ .*

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The quantum Euler class of  $X$  is a quantum deformation of the Euler characteristic of  $X$ .



# Virtual Tevelev degrees of Projective spaces

## Example

We have  $\mathrm{QH}^*(\mathbb{P}^r) = \frac{\mathbb{Q}[H, q]}{(H^{r+1} - q)}$  where  $H$  is the hyperplane class. Then

$$E = (r + 1)H^{*r}$$

and

$$\mathrm{vTev}_{g,n,d}^{\mathbb{P}^r} = (r + 1)^g.$$

## Connection with Castelnuovo's classical count of $g_d^1$ 's

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Theorem (Castelnuovo, 1889)

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Consider the Brill-Noether locus

$$G_d^1(C) = \{g_d^1\text{'s on } \overline{C}\}$$

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Assuming  $\rho = 0$  (i.e.  $d = \frac{g}{2} + 1$ ), in one of his celebrated papers of 1889, Castelnuovo computed

$$\deg([G_d^1(\bar{C})]) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{g}} \binom{g}{\frac{g}{2}}$$

which agrees with  $\text{Tev}_{g, 3, \frac{g}{2} + 1}^{\mathbb{P}^1}$ .

# Geometric Tevelev degrees of the projective line

Theorem (J. Tevelev)

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$$\mathrm{Tev}_{g,n,d}^{\mathbb{P}^1} = 2^g - 2 \sum_{j=0}^{g-d-1} \binom{g}{j} + (g-d-1) \binom{g}{g-d} + (d-g-1) \binom{g}{g-d+1}.$$

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This interpolates between Castelnuovo's and Tevelev's results.

## Observation

Note that for  $d > d[g]$  or  $g = 0$ , the formula

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## Question

Is this a case?

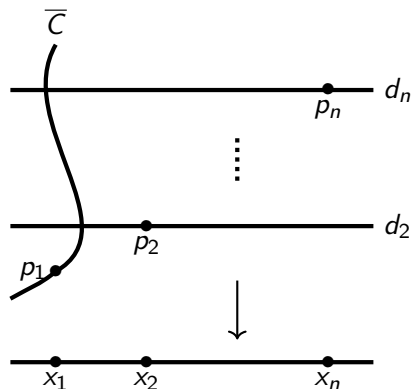
## Failure of enumerativity for small $d$

Why do we have  $\text{Tev}_{g,n,d}^{\mathbb{P}^1} \neq v\text{Tev}_{g,n,d}^{\mathbb{P}^1}$  for small  $d$ ?

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Why do we have  $\text{TeV}_{g,n,d}^{\mathbb{P}^1} \neq v\text{TeV}_{g,n,d}^{\mathbb{P}^1}$  for small  $d$ ?

For  $n-1 \leq d$  (i.e.  $d \leq g$ ) we have the following contribution from the boundary:



where  $d_1 + \dots + d_n = d$  and  $d_i > 0$  for all  $i = 2, \dots, n$ .

## Generalities about hypersurfaces

Let  $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{r+1}$  be a hypersurface of degree  $m$ . Assume  $r \geq 3$  and that  $X$  is Fano (i.e.  $m \leq r + 1$ ).

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Then we have a canonical splitting

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In particular,

$$\beta = dL \in H_2(X, \mathbb{Z})$$

where  $L$  is the class of a line in  $\mathbb{P}^{r+1}$  and  $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ .

# Quantum Euler class of hypersurfaces

## Theorem (Cela)

*The following equalities hold:*

- *(conjectured by Buch-Pandharipande) if  $m \leq r$  then*

$$E = m^{-1}\chi(X)H^{*r} + (r + 2 - m - \chi(X))m^{m-1}qH^{*m-2},$$

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In particular, this expression does not involve the primitive cohomology of  $X$  !

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Let  $m > 2$  and  $r > 2m - 4$  and  $g + n \geq 2$  then

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For higher degree Fano hypersurfaces, an algorithm computing  $\mathrm{vTev}_{g,n,dL}^X$  is known [Cela].

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Theorem ( Lian-Pandharipande)

Suppose  $m \geq 3$  and  $r > (m + 1)(m - 2)$  then

$$\text{Tev}_{g,n,dL}^X = v \text{Tev}_{g,n,dL}^X$$

whenever  $g = 0$  or  $d > d[m, g]$ .

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What about the geometric degrees  $\text{Tev}_{g,n,dL}^X$ ?

Theorem ( Lian-Pandharipande)

Suppose  $m \geq 3$  and  $r > (m + 1)(m - 2)$  then

$$\text{Tev}_{g,n,dL}^X = v \text{Tev}_{g,n,dL}^X$$

whenever  $g = 0$  or  $d > d[m, g]$ .

Comment

Maybe this is not a case!

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In particular, in all the Fano cases  $v\text{Tev}_{g,n,\beta}^X$  is enumerative whenever  $g = 0$  or  $\beta \cdot K_X^\vee > K[X, g]$ .



# Geometric Tevelev degrees of Blow-ups of Projective spaces

Assume  $\ell \leq r + 1$  and write

$$\beta = dH^V + \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} k_i E_i^V.$$

and assume that

$$d - \sum_{i \in I} k_i > 2g - 1 \text{ for all } I \subseteq \{1, \dots, \ell\} \text{ with } |I| \leq r.$$

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## Theorem (Cela-Lian)

Assume further that  $n - d \geq 1$ . Then,

$$\text{Tev}_{0,n,\beta}^X = \sum_{m=0}^{\min(k_1, \dots, k_{r+1}, n)} (-1)^m \binom{n}{m} \prod_{i=1}^{r+1} \binom{n - d + \sum_{j \neq i} k_j - 1 - m}{k_i - m}$$

where we set  $k_{\ell+1} = \dots = k_{r+1} = 0$  when  $\ell < r + 1$ .

# One point Blow-ups of Projective spaces

## Theorem (Cela-Lian)

Let  $X = \text{Bl}_q(\mathbb{P}^r)$  and assume further that  $n - d \geq 1$ . Then,

$$\text{vTev}_{g,n,\beta}^X = \sum_{m=0}^g (2r)^{g-m} (1-r)^m \binom{g}{m} \binom{n-d+g-m-1}{k_1}.$$

If moreover  $n - d \geq g + 1$ , then  $\text{Tev}_{g,n,\beta}^X$  is well-defined and coincides with  $\text{vTev}_{g,n,\beta}^X$ .

## Sketch of proof

We divide the proof in steps:

Step 1: Thinking of  $f : \bar{C} \rightarrow X$  as a map  $f : \bar{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^r$ , which maps divisors  $D_i$  of degree  $k_i$  to the  $i$ -th blown-up point, provides a parametrization of the space of maps  $f : \bar{C} \rightarrow X$  in class  $\beta$  as the 'interior' of a projective bundle

$$\mathbb{P}^0 \subseteq \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \text{Pic}^d(\bar{C}) \times \prod_{i=1}^{\ell} \text{Sym}^{k_i}(\bar{C})$$

## Sketch of proof

Step 2: The class of the closure  $V(x_i)$  in  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E})$  of the locus in  $\mathbb{P}^\circ$  where  $f(p_i) = x_i$

$$[V(x_i)] = \tilde{H}^r + \sigma_1(\eta_1, \dots, \eta_\ell) \tilde{H}^{r-1} + \dots + \sigma_r(\eta_1, \dots, \eta_\ell)$$

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- the  $\sigma_j$  are the symmetric functions in  $\eta_1, \dots, \eta_\ell$ .

## Sketch of proof

Step 3: (Transversality) The intersection

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^n V(x_i)$$

is transverse (i.e. consists of finitely many reduced points) and lies in  $\mathbb{P}^0$ .



## Sketch of proof

Step 4: By the previous steps

$$\mathrm{Tev}_{g,n,\beta}^X = \int_{\mathbb{P}} \left( \tilde{H}^r + \sigma_1(\eta_1, \dots, \eta_\ell) \tilde{H}^{r-1} + \dots + \sigma_r(\eta_1, \dots, \eta_\ell) \right)^n$$

which we computed explicitly in the two stated cases.

# Enumerativity in general

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## Example (Beheshti, Lehmann, Lian, Riedl, Starr, Tanimoto)

- (Certain) Fano splitting projective bundles over  $\mathbb{P}^k$  for  $k > 1$ ;
- Fermat hypersurfaces  $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{r+1}$  ( $r \geq 3$ ) of degree  $m$  such that either  $\frac{r+4}{2} < m < r+1$  or  $m = r+1 > 4$ .

## Failure of enumerativity for Fermat hypersurfaces

For simplicity, assume  $\frac{r+4}{2} < m < r+1$  and let

$$X = \{-X_0^m + X_1^m + \dots + X_{r+1}^m = 0\}.$$



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Then  $X$  contains a point and a divisor

$$p = [1 : 1 : 0 : \dots : 0] \in D = \{-X_0 + X_1 = 0\} \cap X.$$

with the property that for every  $q \in D$  the line  $\overline{pq}$  lies in  $D$ .

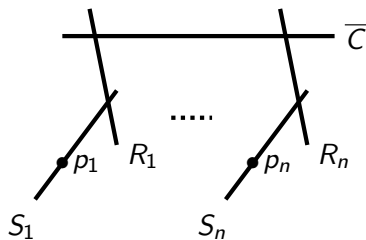
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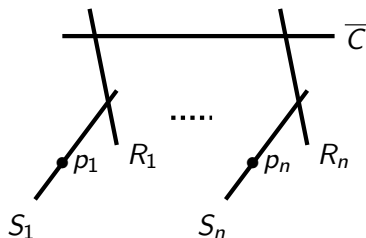
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and the map  $f$  contracts  $\overline{C}$  to  $p$ , sends each rational tail  $S_i$  to lines in  $X$  such that  $f(p_i) = x_i$  and each rational tail  $R_i$  to the line in  $D$  through  $p$  and  $q_i \in f(S_i) \cap D$ .

# Logarithmic Tevelev degrees

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Using the moduli spaces of logarithmic stable maps  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_\Gamma(X)$ , we obtain the notion of **virtual** and **geometric Logarithmic Tevelev degree**, respectively denoted by  $\text{vTev}_\Gamma^X$  and  $\text{Tev}_\Gamma^X$ .

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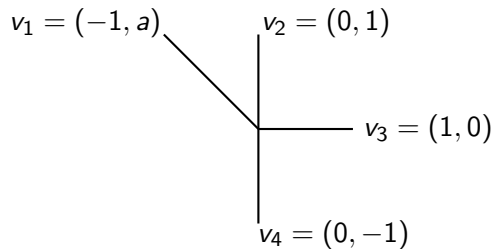
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## Fact

When  $g = 0$ , we always have  $\text{vTev}_\Gamma^X = \text{Tev}_\Gamma^X$ .

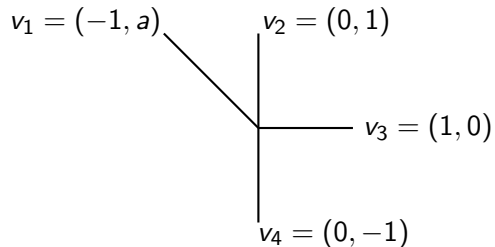
## Hirzebruch surfaces

Let  $\mathcal{H}_a = \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1} \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(-a))$  be the Hirzebruch surface with fan



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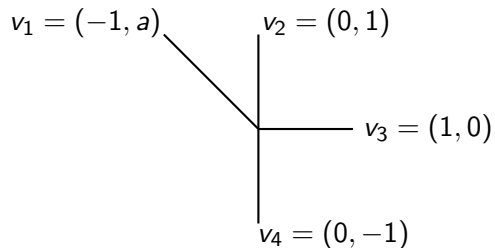
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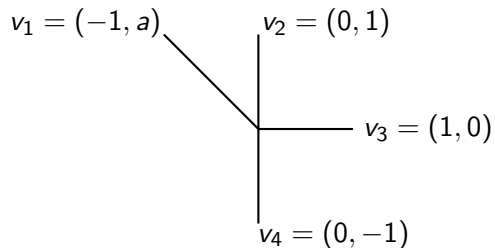


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With this notation, we are requiring that  $[f]$  meets the toric divisor  $D_i$  with multiplicities  $\mu_{i,j}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, 4$  and  $j = 1, \dots, |\mu_i|$ .

## Genus 0 Log Tevelev degrees of Hirzebruch surfaces

Fix  $g = 0$  and assume the dimensional constraint

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Thus

$$\mathbf{v} \operatorname{Tev}_{\Gamma}^{\mathcal{H}_a} = \operatorname{Tev}_{\Gamma}^{\mathcal{H}_a} = \operatorname{Tev}_{0,n,\beta}^{\mathcal{H}_a} = 0$$

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## Application

Let

$$\alpha : \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{\Gamma}(\mathcal{H}_a) \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,n}(\mathcal{H}_a, \beta)$$

be the natural morphism forgetting the log-structure. Then, in general,

$$\alpha_*[\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{\Gamma}(\mathcal{H}_a)]^{\mathrm{vir}} \neq [\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,n}(\mathcal{H}_a, \beta)]^{\mathrm{vir}}$$

## Proof.

The virtual count  $\mathrm{vTev}_{g,n,\beta}^{\mathcal{H}_a} \neq 0$  (by deformation invariance). □

## Correspondence theorem

There exists a moduli space  $M_{g,n}^{\text{trop}}(\mathbb{R}^r, \Gamma)$  parametrizing tropical maps

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This leads to the definition, in genus  $g = 0$ , of **tropical Tevelev degrees**, denoted by

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## Theorem (Cela-Lopez)

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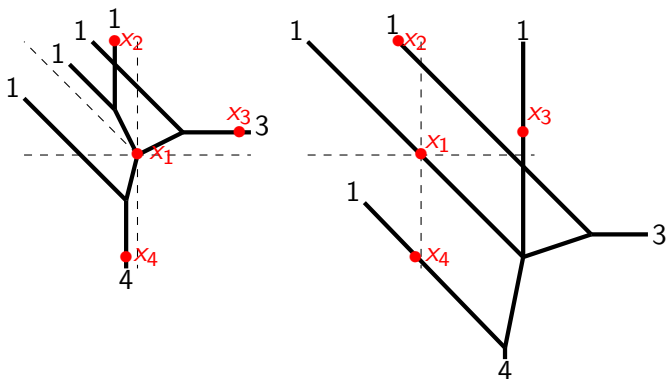
$$\text{tropTev}_{\Gamma}^X = \text{Tev}_{\Gamma}^X.$$

## A tropical example

Suppose  $a = 1$ ,  $n = 4$  and  $\mu_1 = (1, 1, 1)$ ,  $\mu_2 = (1)$ ,  $\mu_3 = (3)$  and  $\mu_4 = (4)$ . Then

$$\text{Tev}_\Gamma^X = (3 \cdot 4) \cdot \binom{2}{1} = 24.$$

Below the two contributing curves each with multiplicity  $3 \cdot 4 = 12$ :



Thank you for the attention!