

# Equidistribution of Weierstrass points on tropical curves

Harry Richman

University of Michigan

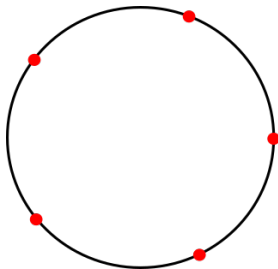
*hrichman@umich.edu*

Michigan Combinatorics Seminar

November 2, 2018

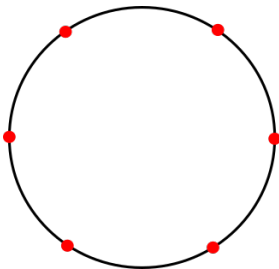
# “Torsion points” on graphs

A circle has  $N$ -torsion points:



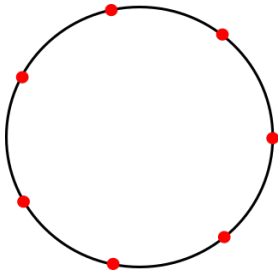
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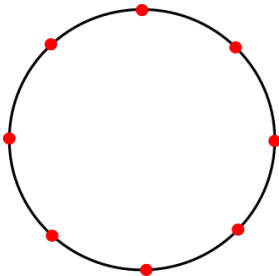
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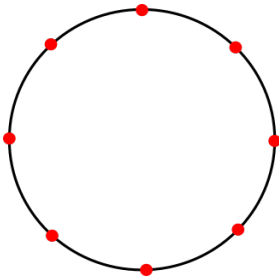


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## Vague Problem

What are the “ $N$ -torsion points” on an arbitrary metric graph  $\Gamma$ ?

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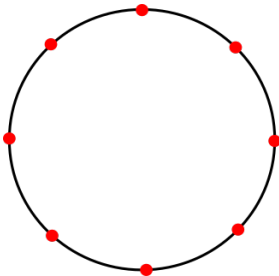


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i.e., How to place  $N$  points on  $\Gamma$  in an “evenly spaced” way?

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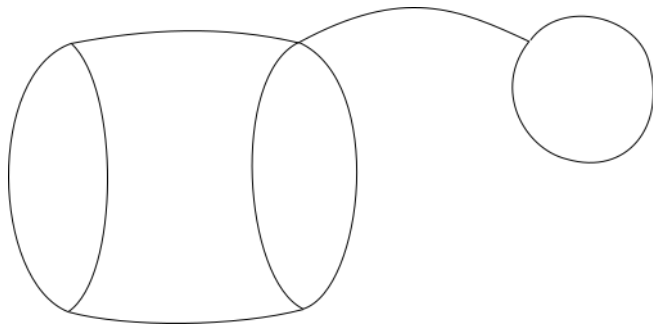


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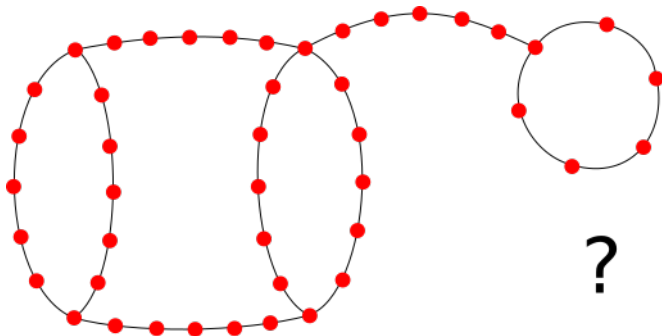


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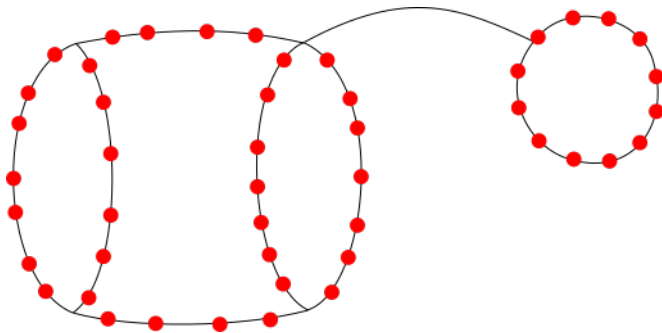


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# Weierstrass points

## Problem

How are Weierstrass points distributed on an algebraic curve?

Definition:  $X$  a curve,  $D_N$  a divisor of degree  $N$   
 $\rightsquigarrow$  projective embedding  $\phi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^r$ .

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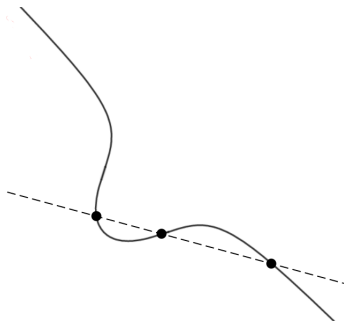
$$\begin{aligned} W(D_N) &= \{x \in X : \exists H \subset \mathbb{P}^r \text{ s.t. } m_x(H \cap X) \geq r + 1\} \\ &= \{x \in X : \text{“higher-than-expected” tangency with } H \text{ at } x\} \end{aligned}$$

# Weierstrass points

## Problem

How are Weierstrass points distributed on an algebraic curve?

Example:  $X = \{xyz + x^3 + y^3 + z^3 = 0\} \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$



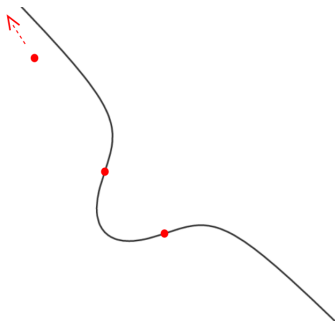
$$N = 3$$

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$$\#W(D) = 9$$

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Intuition (Mumford):

$N$ -torsion points on an elliptic curve  $\leftrightarrow$  Weierstrass points of  $D_N$  on a higher-genus curve

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Numerical “evidence”: as  $N$  grows,

$$\#(\text{Weierstrass points of } D_N) = gN^2 + O(N)$$



# Weierstrass points: genus 1, complex case

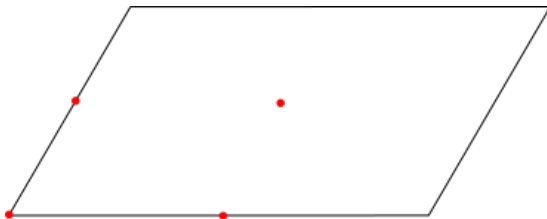
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How are Weierstrass points distributed on genus 1 curve  $X/\mathbb{C}$ ?

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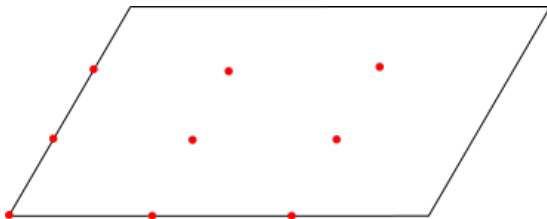
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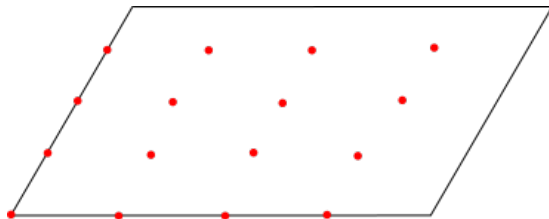
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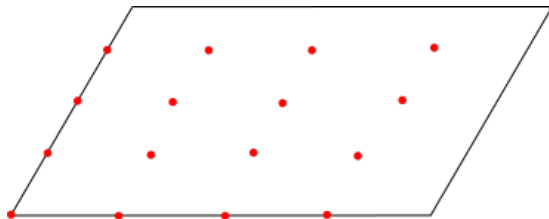
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$\rightsquigarrow$  Weierstrass points distribute **uniformly**, w.r.t.  $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$

# Weierstrass points: genus $\geq 2$ , complex case

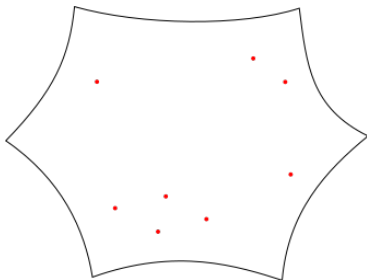
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How are Weierstrass points distributed on **higher** genus curve  $X/\mathbb{C}$ ?

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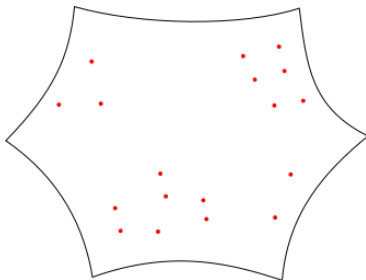
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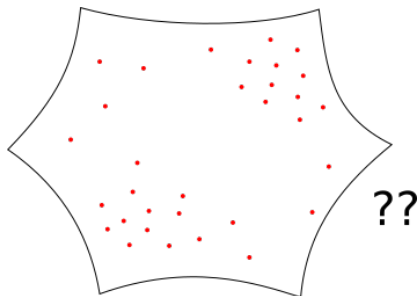




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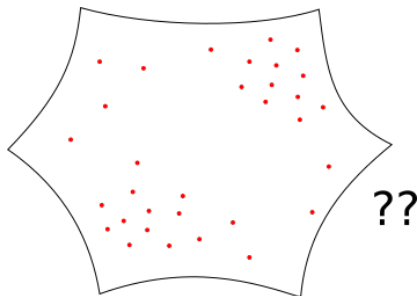
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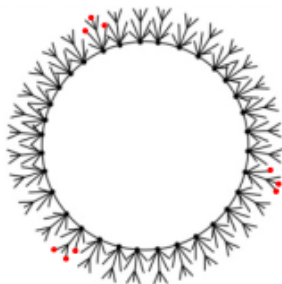
## Theorem (Neeman, 1984)

Suppose  $X$  is a complex algebraic curve of genus  $g \geq 2$ . Then  $W(D_N)$  distributes according to the Bergman measure as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

# Weierstrass points: non-Archimedean case

## Problem

How are Weierstrass points distributed on  $X/\mathbb{K}$ ,  $\text{val} : \mathbb{K}^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ?

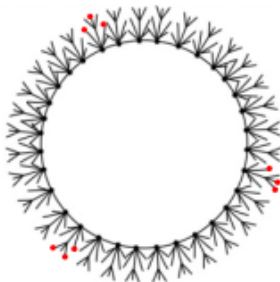


Source: Matt Baker's math blog

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## Problem

How are Weierstrass points distributed on  $X/\mathbb{K}$   $X^{\text{an}}$ ?

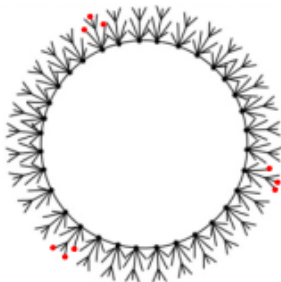


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## Problem

How are Weierstrass points distributed on  $X/\mathbb{K}$   $X^{an}$ ?



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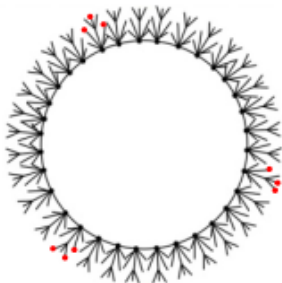
## Theorem (Amini, 2014)

Suppose  $X^{an}$  is a Berkovich curve of genus  $g \geq 2$ . Then  $W(D_N)$  distributes according to the Zhang measure as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

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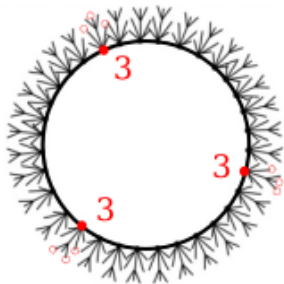
## Problem (Amini, 2014)

Does the distribution follow from considering only the skeleton  $\Gamma \subset X^{\text{an}}$ ?

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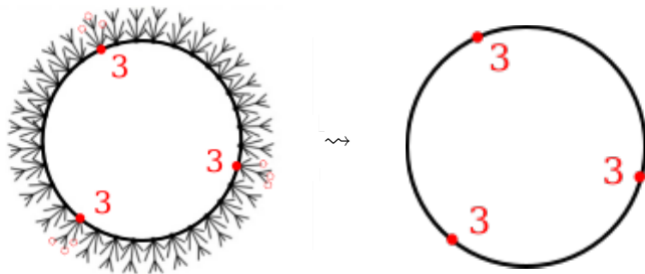
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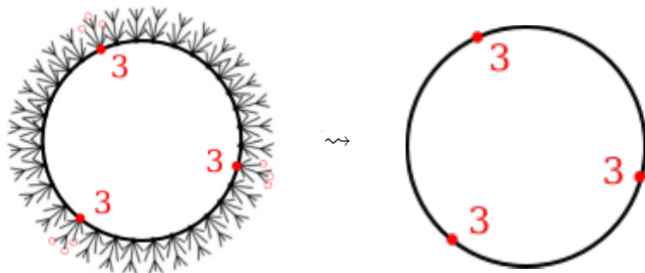
Tropical curve ( = **abstract** tropical curve)





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= a skeleton of  $X^{\text{an}}$

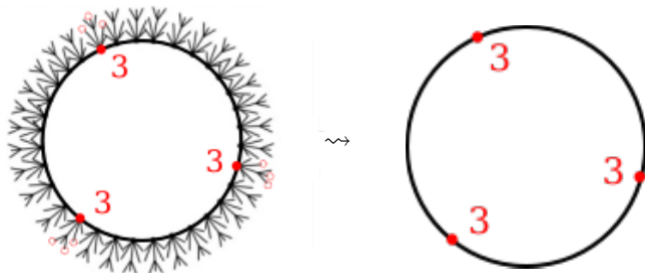


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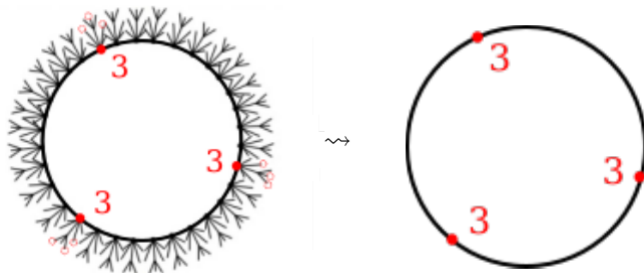
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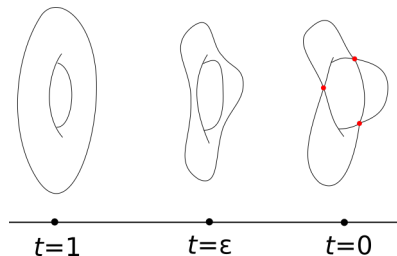
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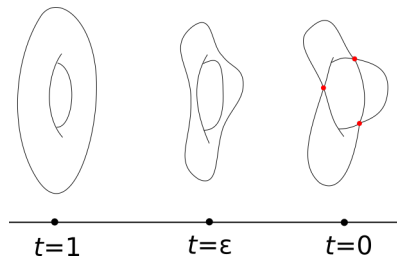
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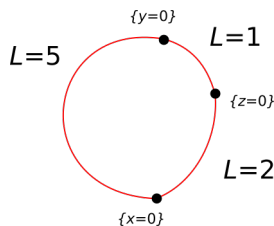
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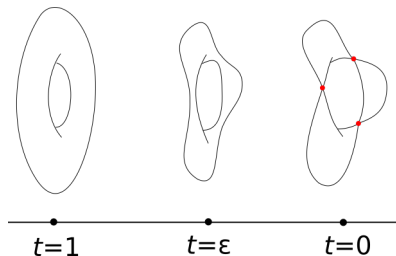
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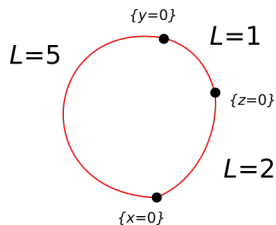
(combinatorics) = metric graph ~~finite graph with edge lengths~~

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# Tropical curves: divisor theory

Tropical curve = metric graph

alg. curve $X$		tropical curve $\Gamma$
divisors $\text{Div}(X)$	$\rightsquigarrow$	divisors $\text{Div}(\Gamma)$
meromorphic functions	$\rightsquigarrow$	piecewise $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear functions
linear system $ D $ = $\mathbb{P}^r$	$\rightsquigarrow$	linear system $ D $ = polyhedral complex of $\dim \geq r$
rank $r = \dim  D $ = $h^0(D) - 1$	$\rightsquigarrow$	rank $r = \text{Baker-Norine rank}$

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Intuition: linear equivalence on  $\Gamma =$  “discrete current flow”

$$|D| = \{E \text{ lin. equiv. to } D, E \geq 0\}$$



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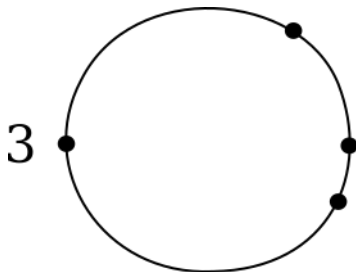
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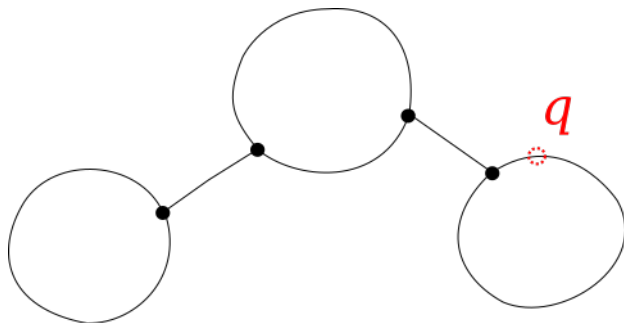
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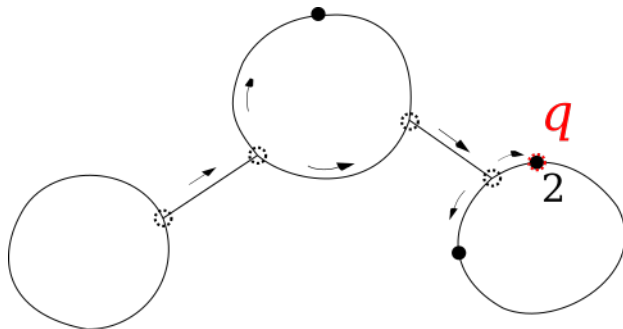
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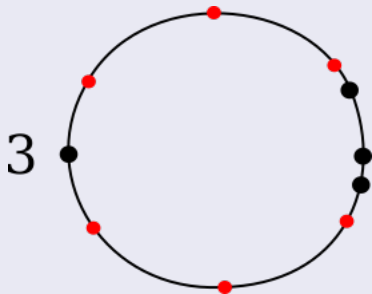
EXCEPT sometimes  $\#(\text{Weierstrass points}) = \infty$



# Weierstrass points: tropical case

## Example

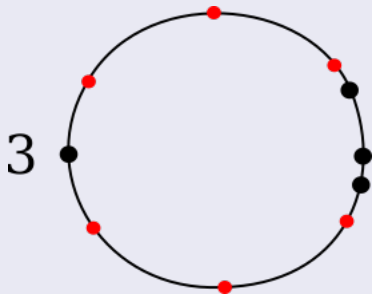
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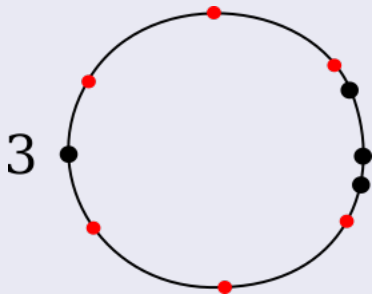


degree  $D = 6$ ,

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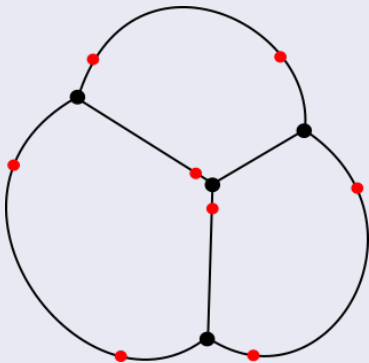
$\rightsquigarrow$

$\#(W(D)) = 6$

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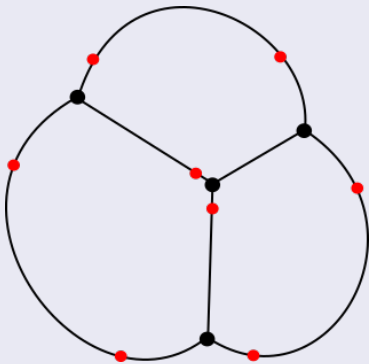
Genus  $g(\Gamma) = 3$ :



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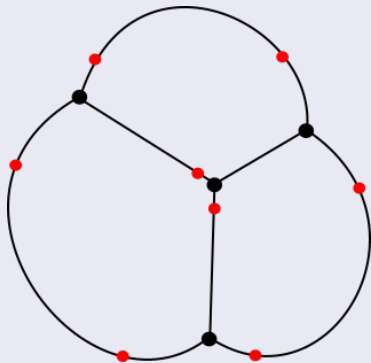


degree  $D = 4$ ,

# Weierstrass points: tropical case

## Example

Genus  $g(\Gamma) = 3$ :



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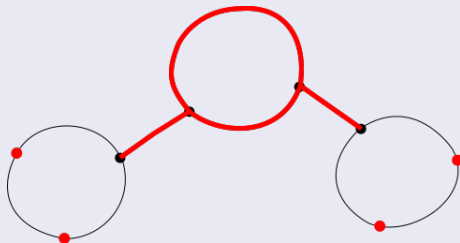
$\rightsquigarrow$

$\#(W(D)) = 8$

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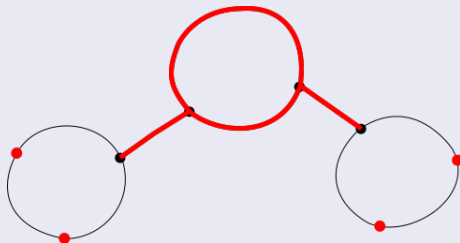
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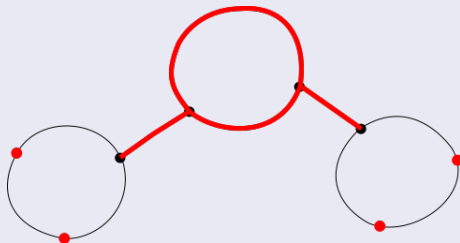
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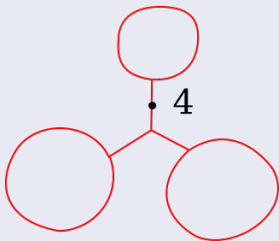
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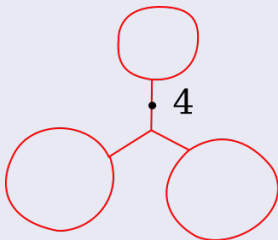
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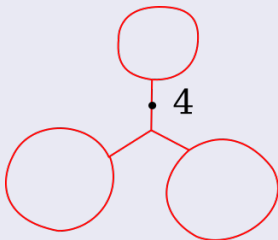


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In general, this problem doesn't happen!

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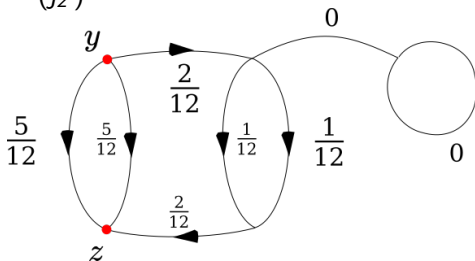
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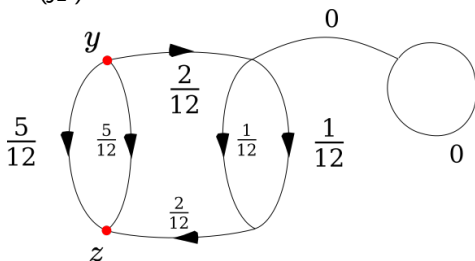
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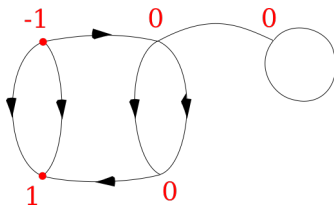


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satisfies Laplacian  $\Delta(j_z^y) = z - y$



# Electrical networks: Canonical measure

$\Gamma$  = electrical network by replacing each edge  $\rightsquigarrow$  resistor

Definition (“electrical” version, Chinburg–Rumely–Baker–Faber)

Zhang’s **canonical measure**  $\mu$  on an edge is the “current defect”

$$\begin{aligned}\mu(e) &= \text{current bypassing } e \text{ when 1 unit sent from } e^- \text{ to } e^+ \\ &= 1 - (\text{current through } e \text{ when } \dots)\end{aligned}$$

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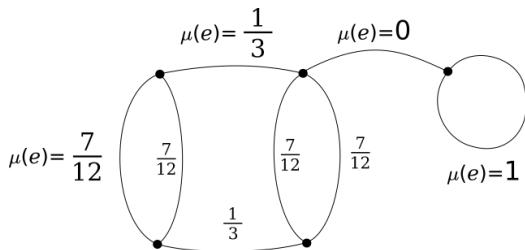
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Generally:

- $0 \leq \mu(e) \leq 1$
- $\mu(e) = 0 \Leftrightarrow e$  a bridge
- $\mu(e) = 1 \Leftrightarrow e$  a loop

Foster’s Theorem:  $\mu(\Gamma) = \sum_{e \in E} \mu(e) = g$

# Tropical Weierstrass distribution: proof idea

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*Namely, for any edge  $e$*

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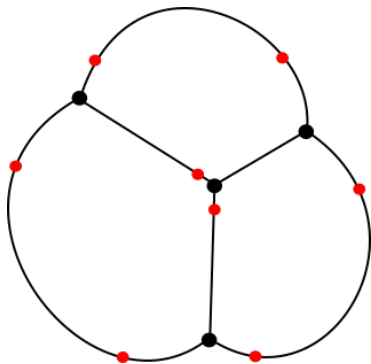
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# Equidistribution of tropical Weierstrass points



Thank you!