

# RNA folding and tree growth models

François David <sup>(1)</sup>, C. Hagendorf <sup>(2)</sup> & K. J. Wiese <sup>(2)</sup>

[arXiv:0711.3421](https://arxiv.org/abs/0711.3421) [q-bio.BM]

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# Plan of the talk

1. RNA folding & the random RNA model
2. Greedy approximation
3. Arch deposition model
4. Tree growth model
5. Conclusion

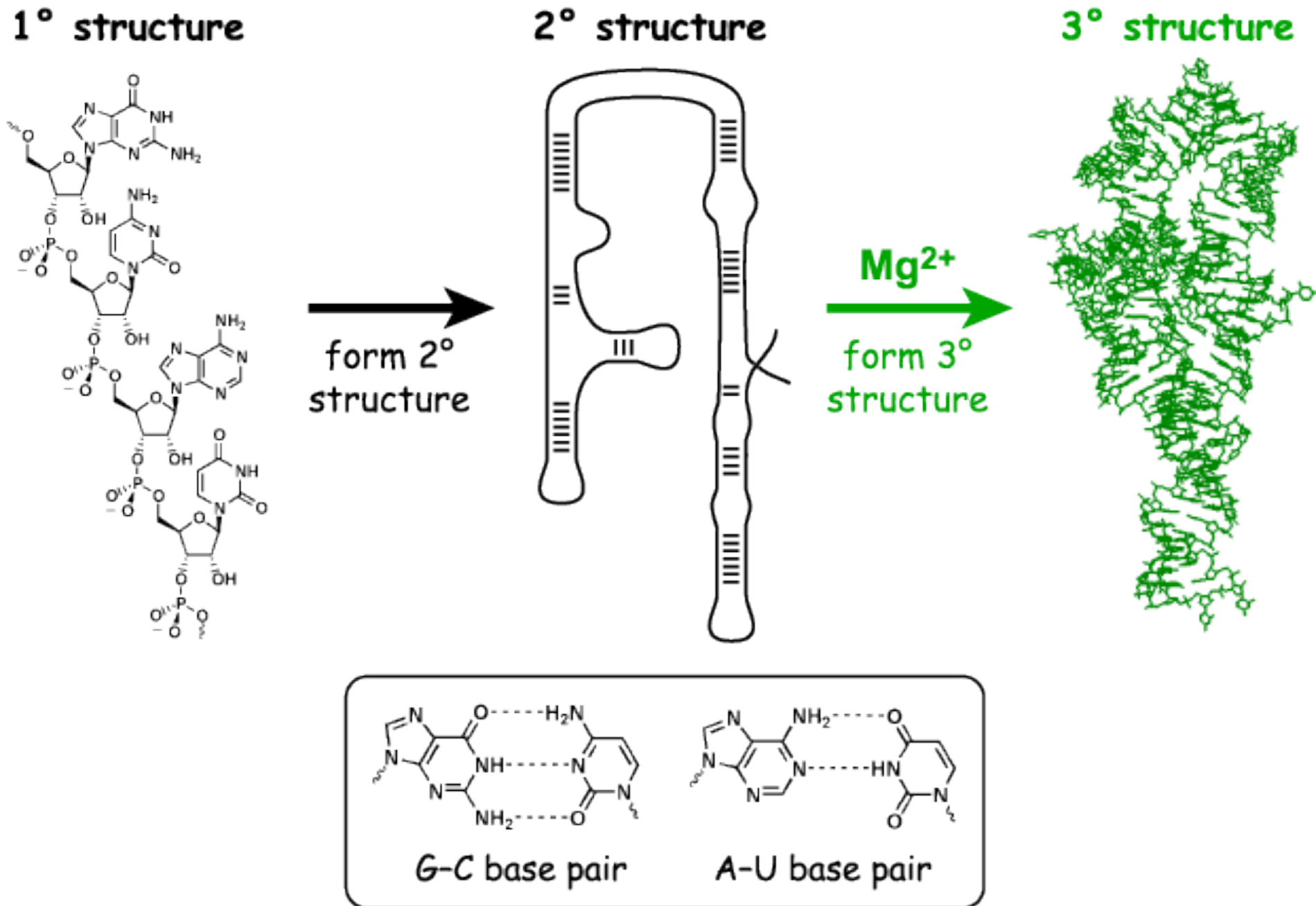
# RNA folding

biological(ly inspired) physics: secondary structure of RNA strand

one-dimensional disordered system with long range interactions (pairing) & frustration (topology: planar or almost-planar structure)

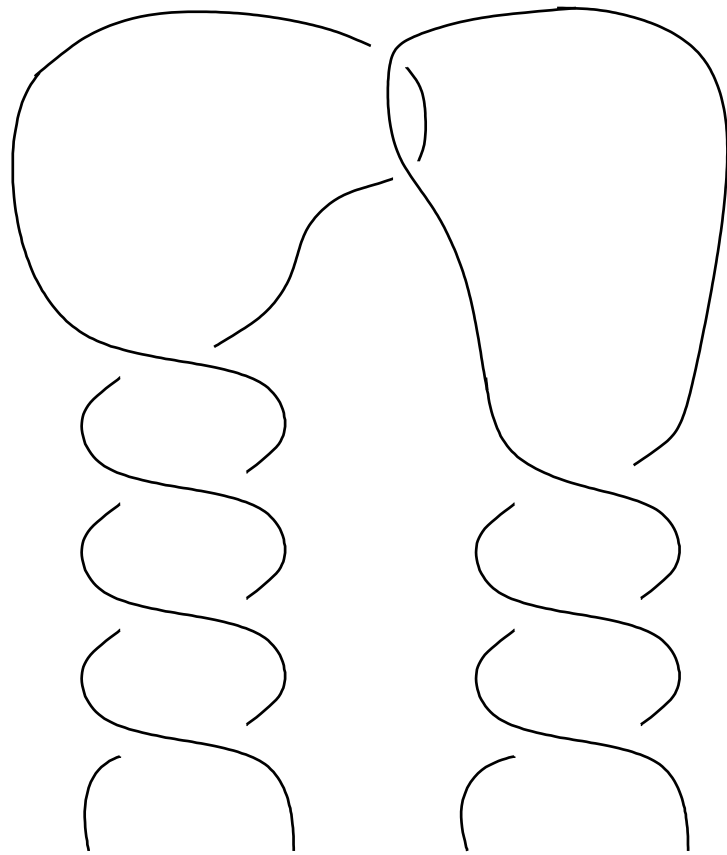
freezing transition, glass-like phase with non-trivial ground-state(s)

# RNA primary, secondary and tertiary structure

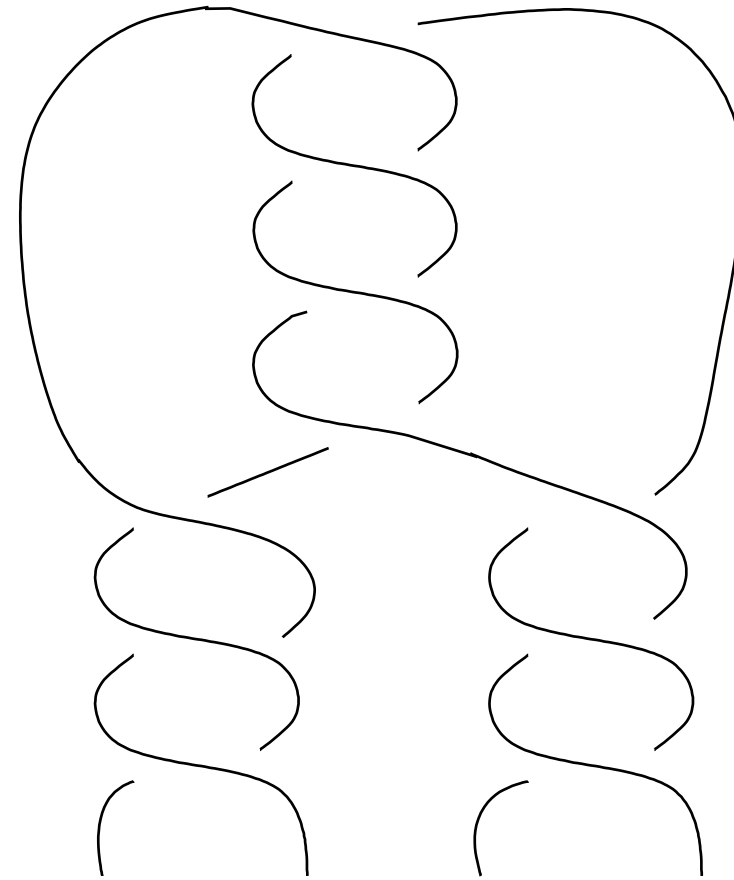


(borrowed from Scott K. Silverman [scott@scs.uiuc.edu](mailto:scott@scs.uiuc.edu))

# Not so poor approximation

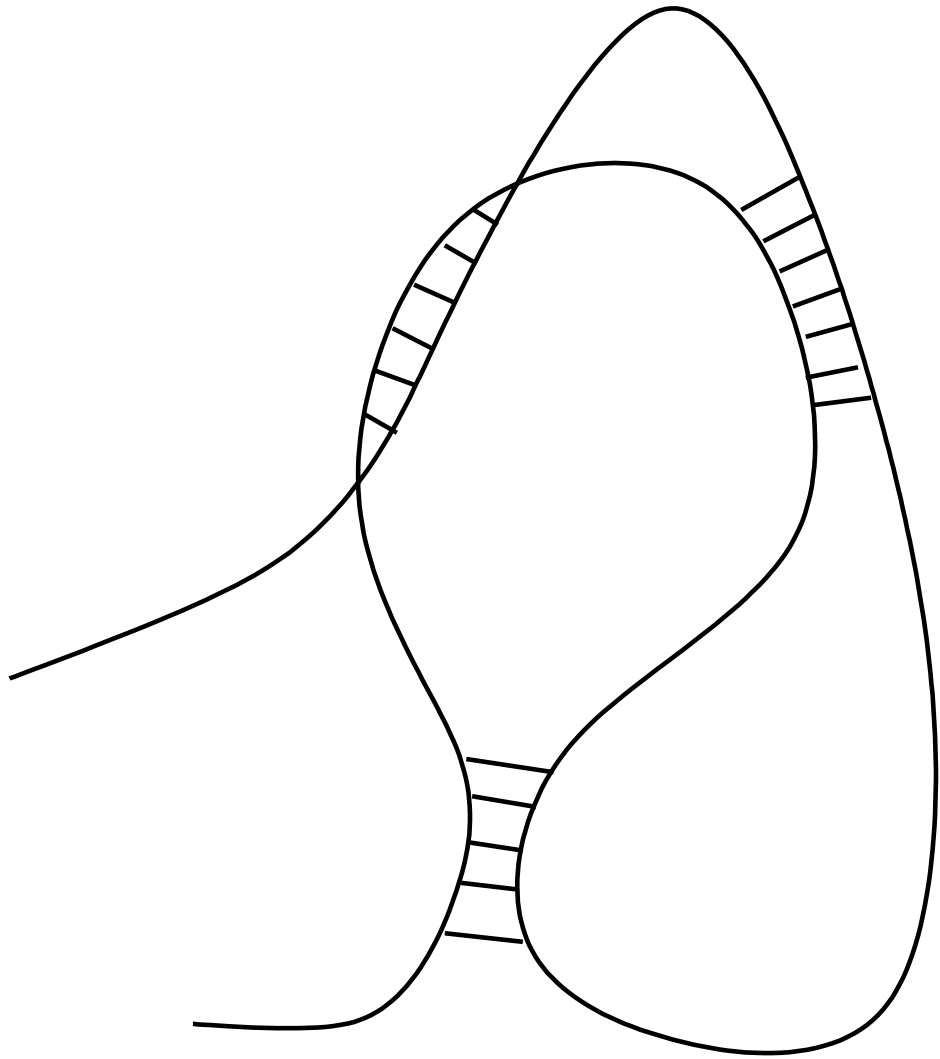


**no** pseudo-knot

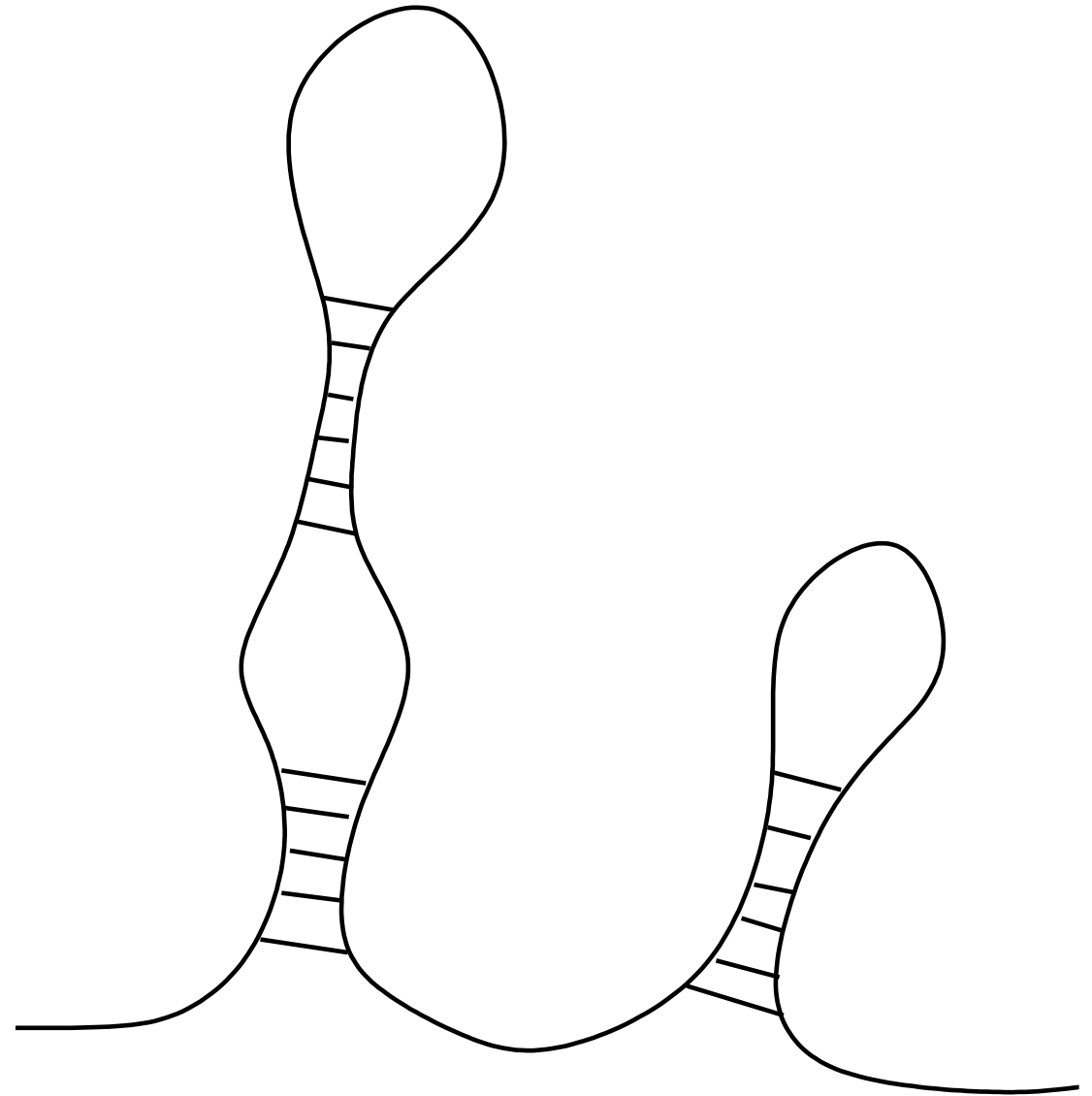


**no** knot

# only planar configurations



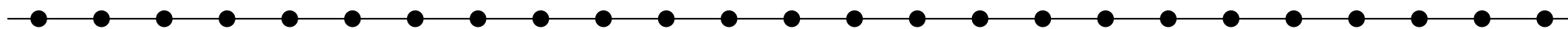
~~non-planar~~



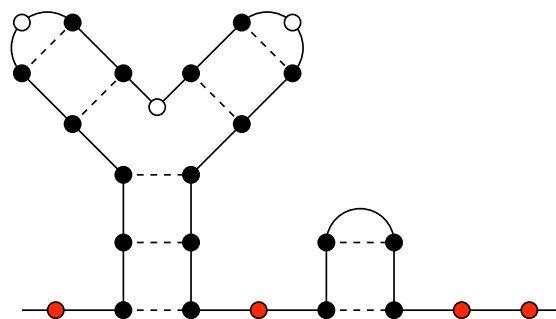
planar = tree

# The random bond RNA folding model

1) Start from a strand made of  $L$  monomers



2) Fold it in a **planar** way (neither knots nor pseudo-knots)



3) Assign to each configuration an energy sum of an energy for each bond

$$\mathcal{E} = \sum_{\text{pairs } (ij)} e(i, j)$$

4) Take the bond energies to be independent Gaussian **quenched** random variables

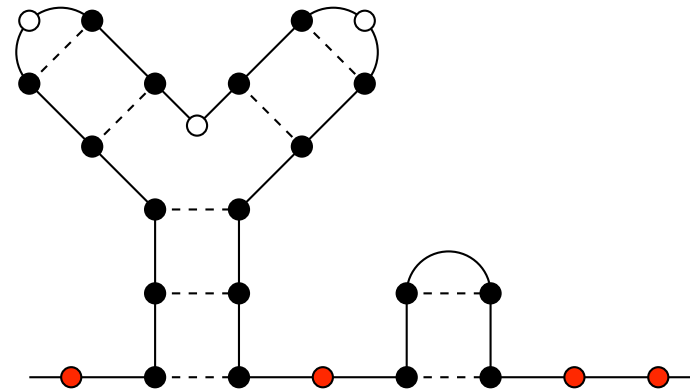
$$\overline{e(i, j)e(k, l)} = \sigma \delta_{ik} \delta_{jl}$$

Pairings = Trees = Arch systems = Dyck-like paths

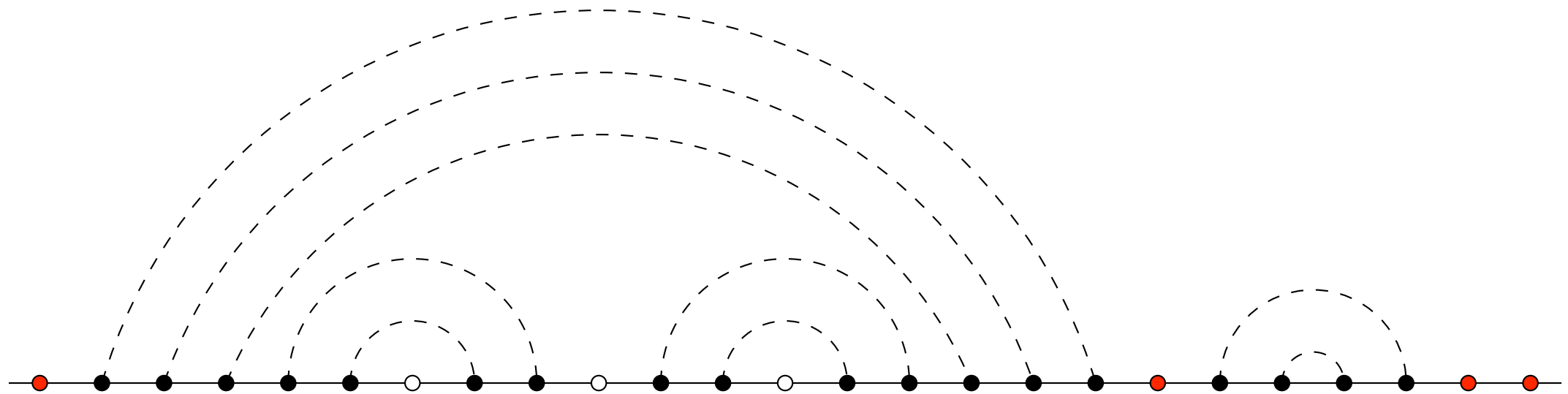




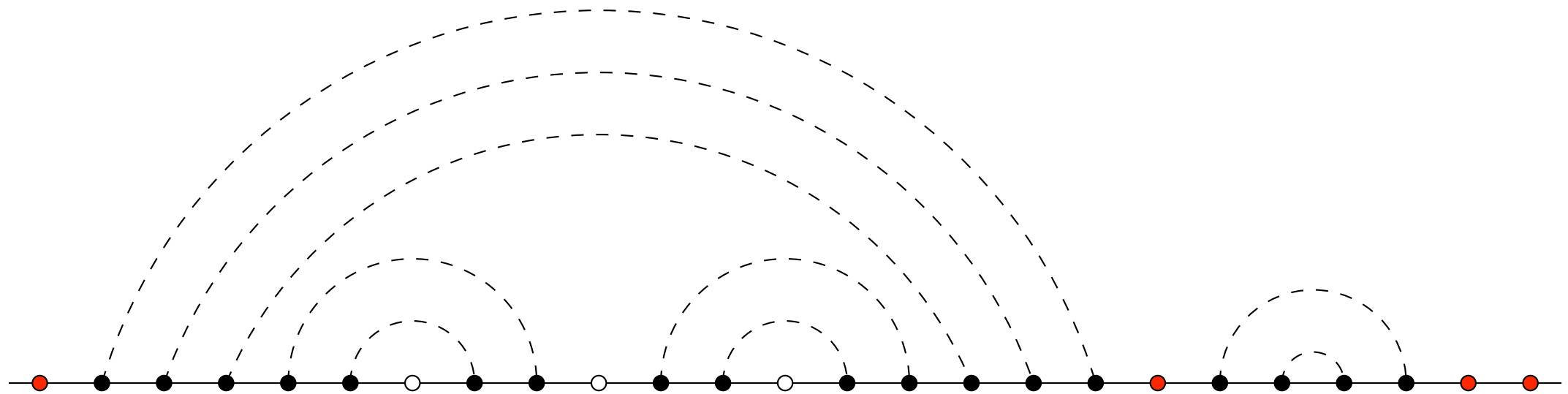
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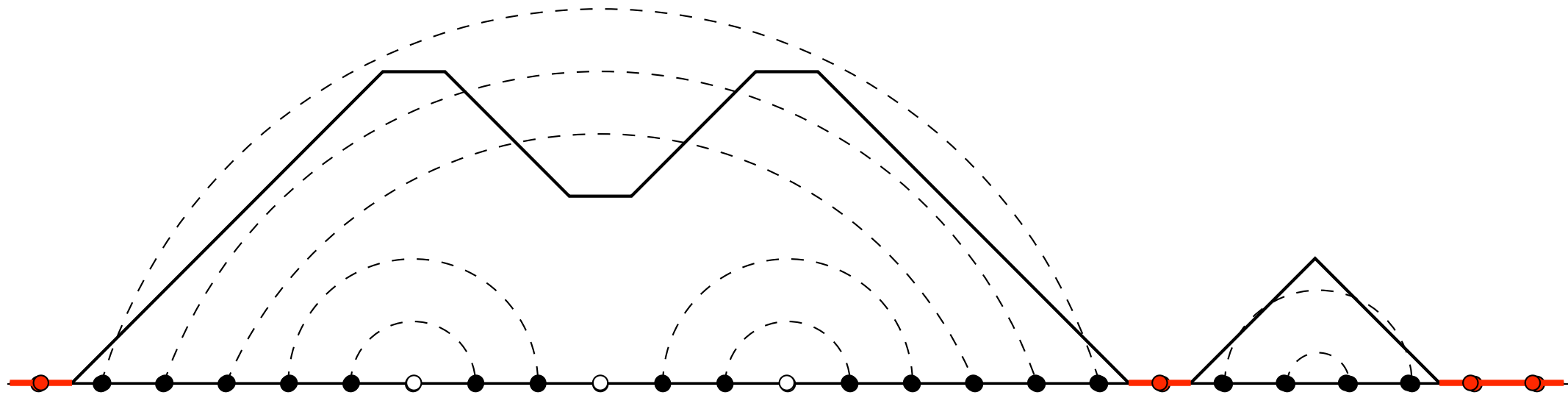
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pairing probabilities

$$\Phi(i, j) \propto |i - j|^{-\rho}$$

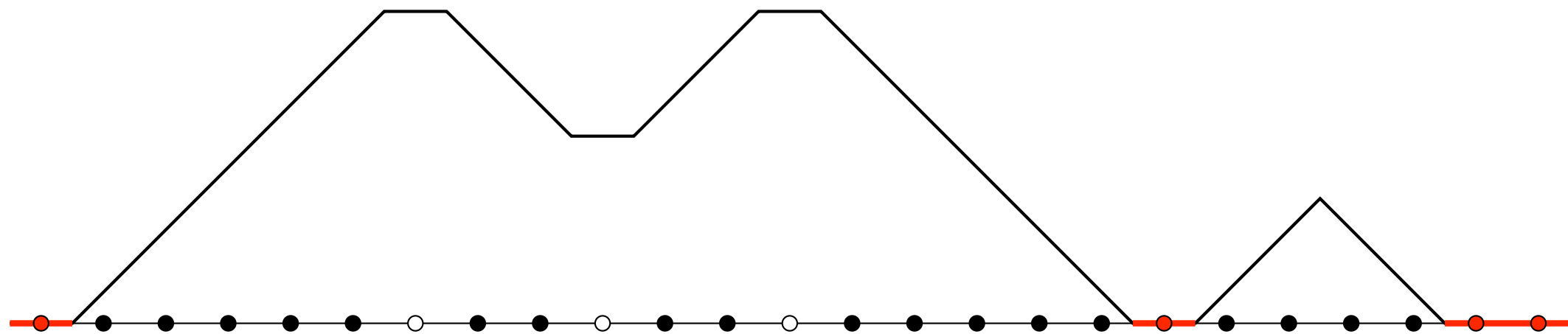
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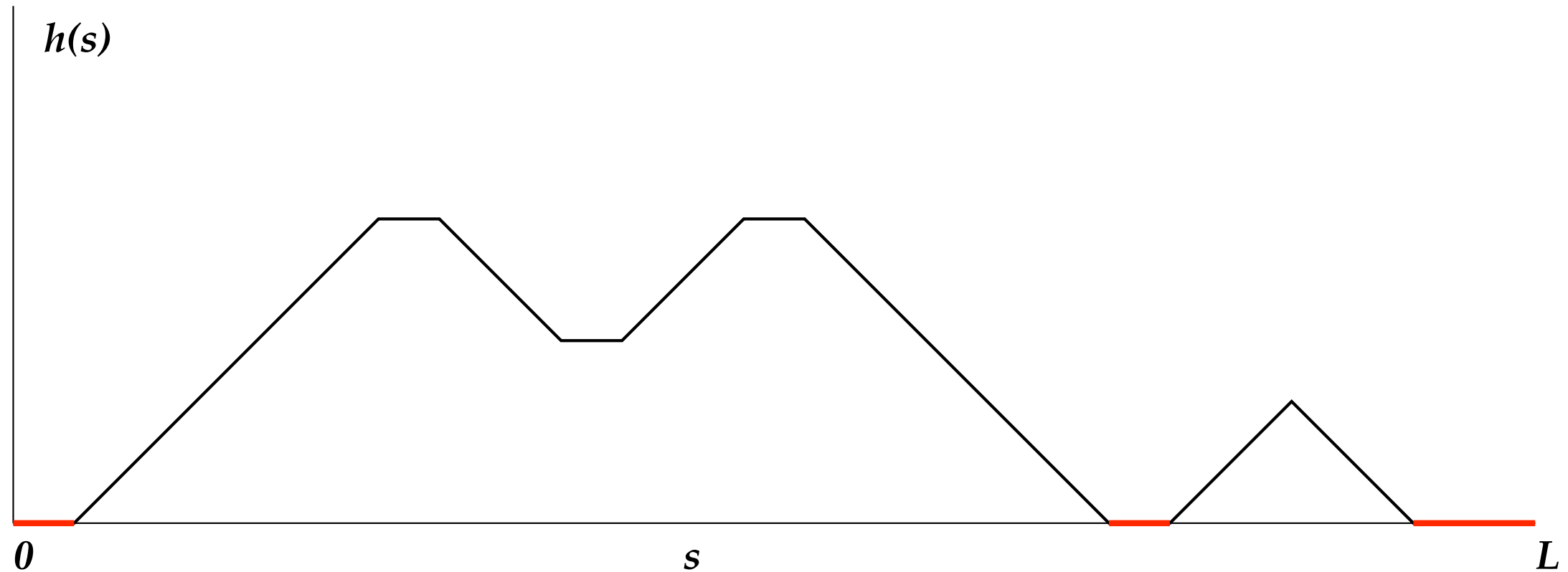
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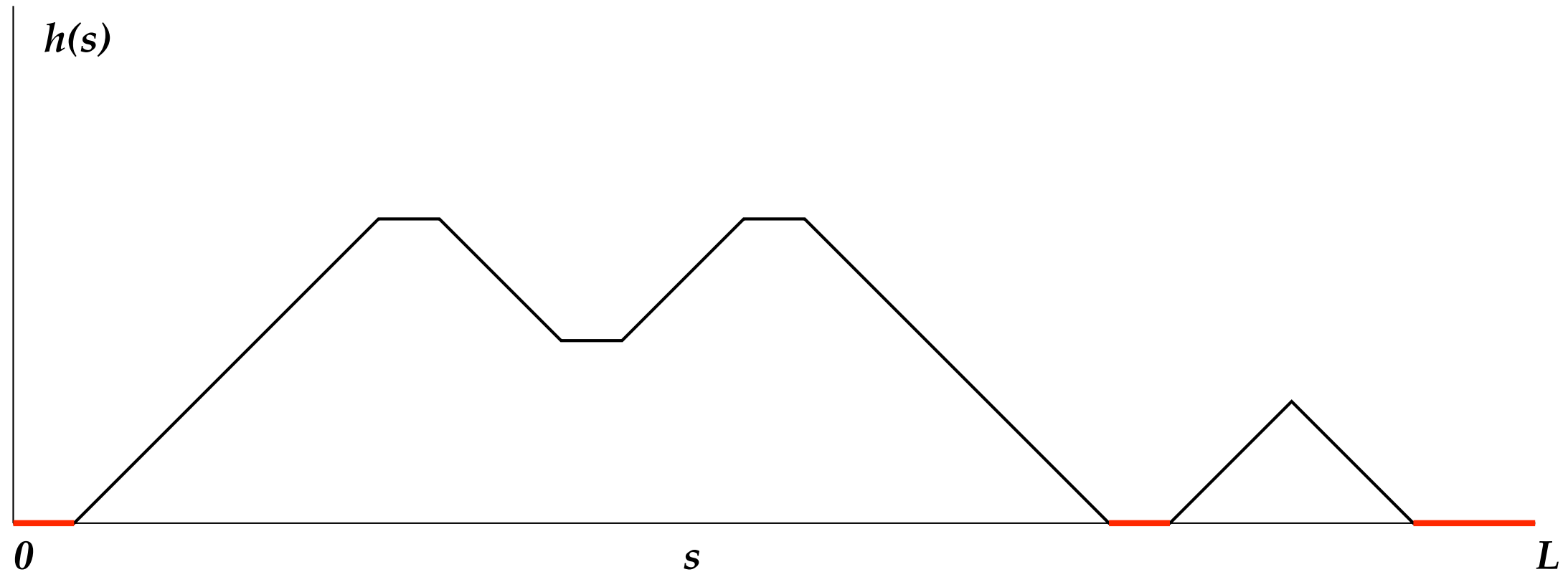
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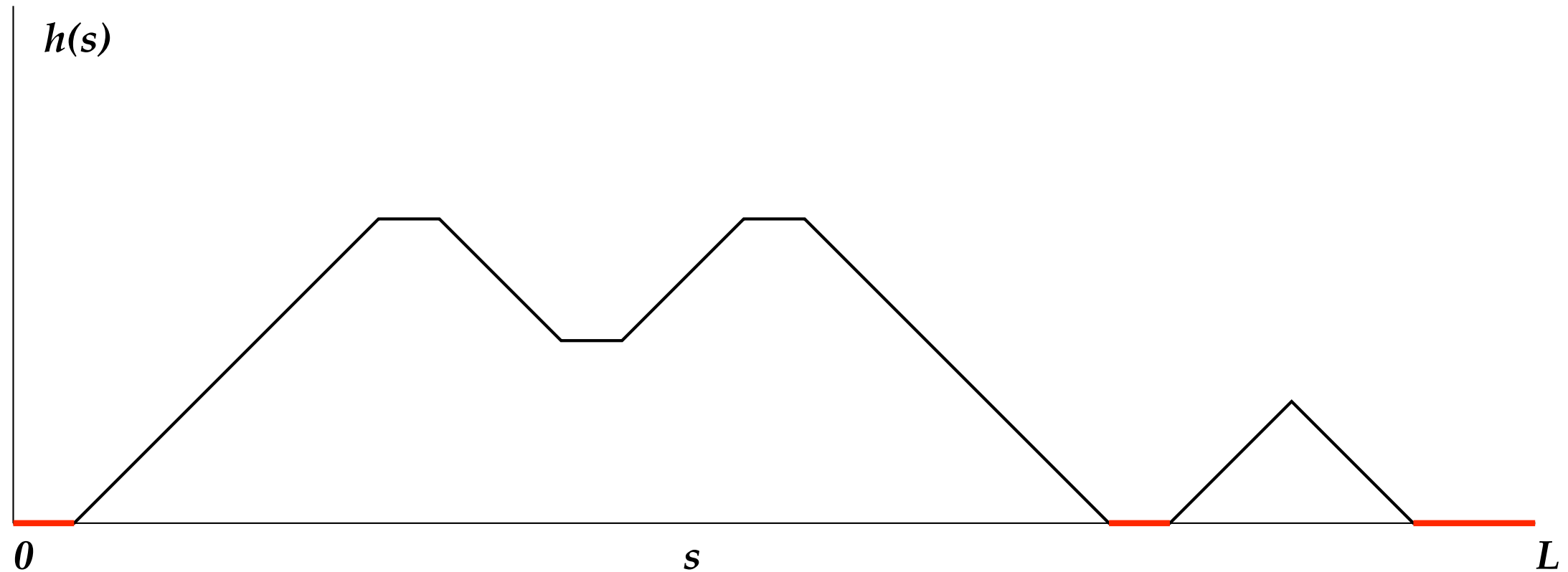
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height function

$$h(i) \propto i^{\zeta}$$

$$\rho + \zeta = 2$$

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fractal dimension of the tree

$$d_f = \frac{1}{\zeta}$$



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\* already considered in Markus Müller's thesis (2002)

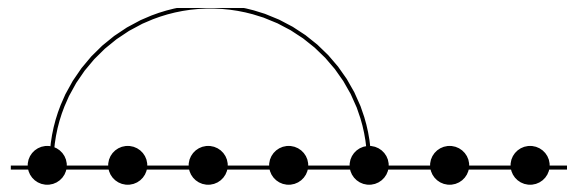
# Random planar arch deposition



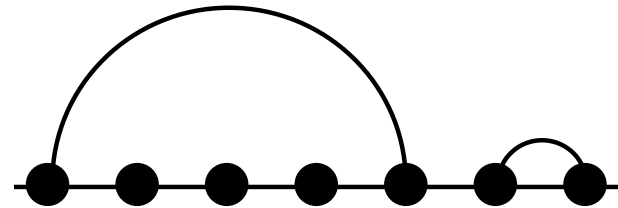
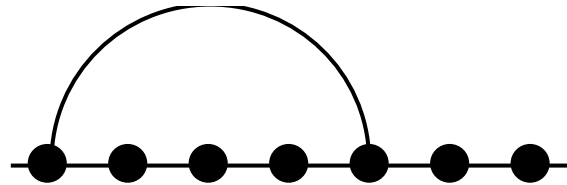
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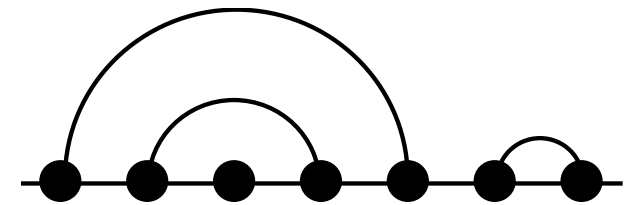
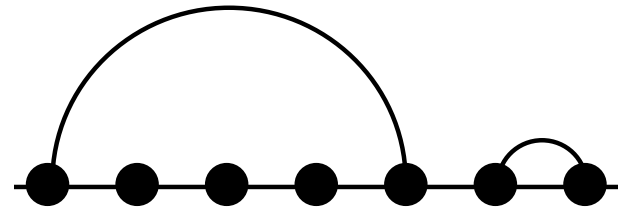
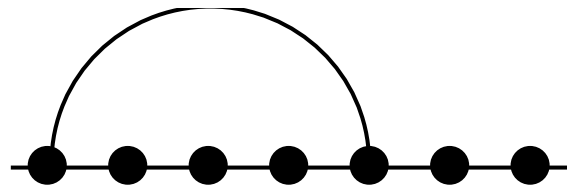
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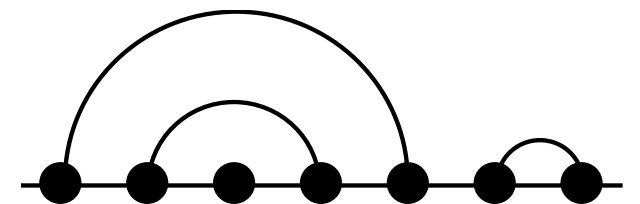
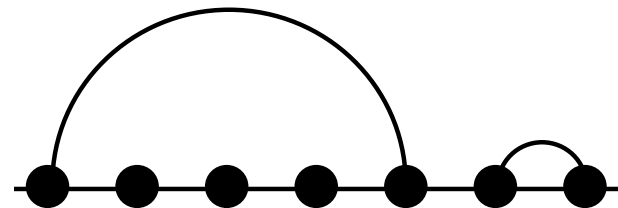
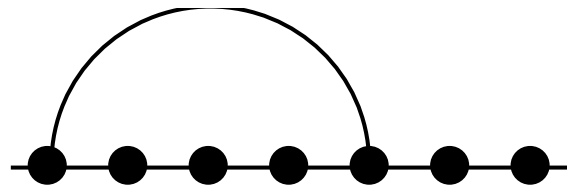
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Relation to fragmentation models?

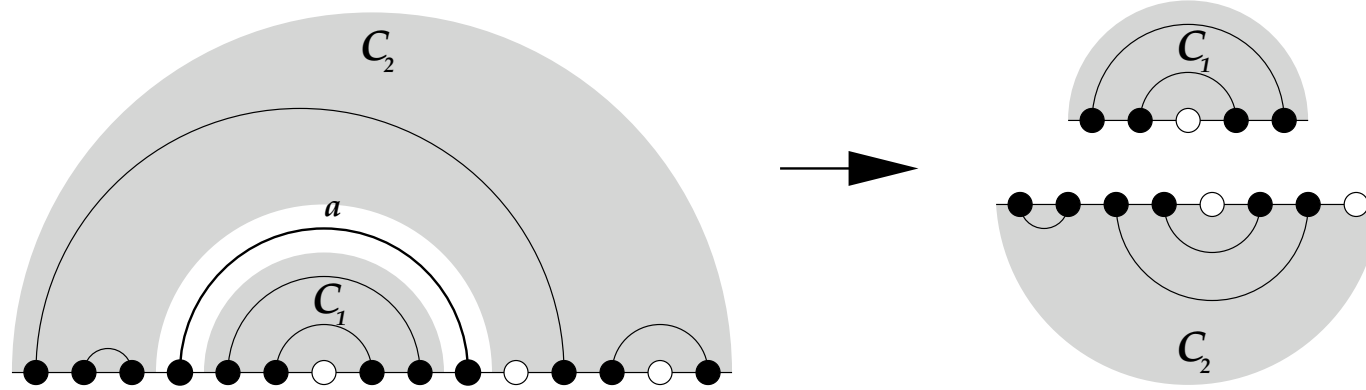
# Recursion relations

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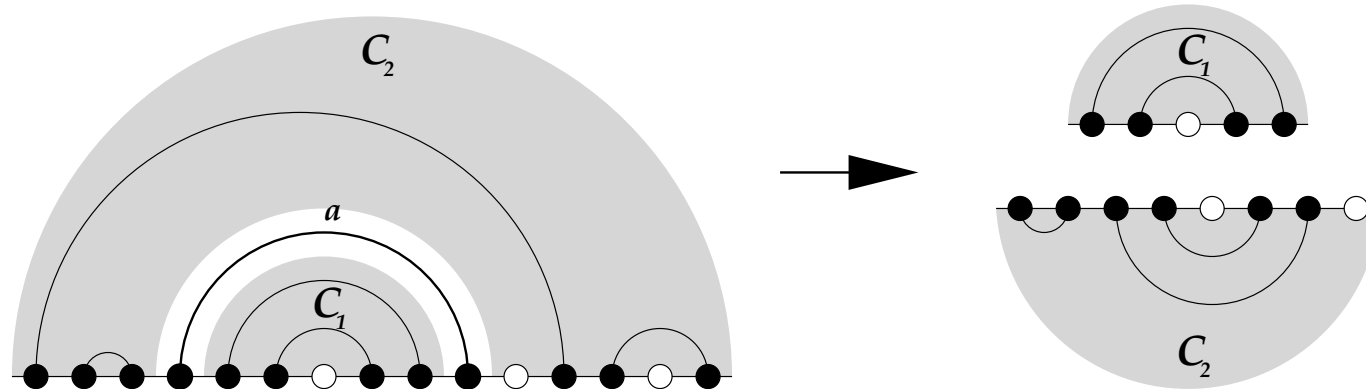


$$P(\mathcal{C}) = \sum_{\substack{\text{first arch} \\ a \in \mathcal{C}}} \sum_{\substack{\text{substructures} \\ \mathcal{C}_1 \& \mathcal{C}_2}} \frac{2}{n(n-1)} P(\mathcal{C}_1) P(\mathcal{C}_2)$$



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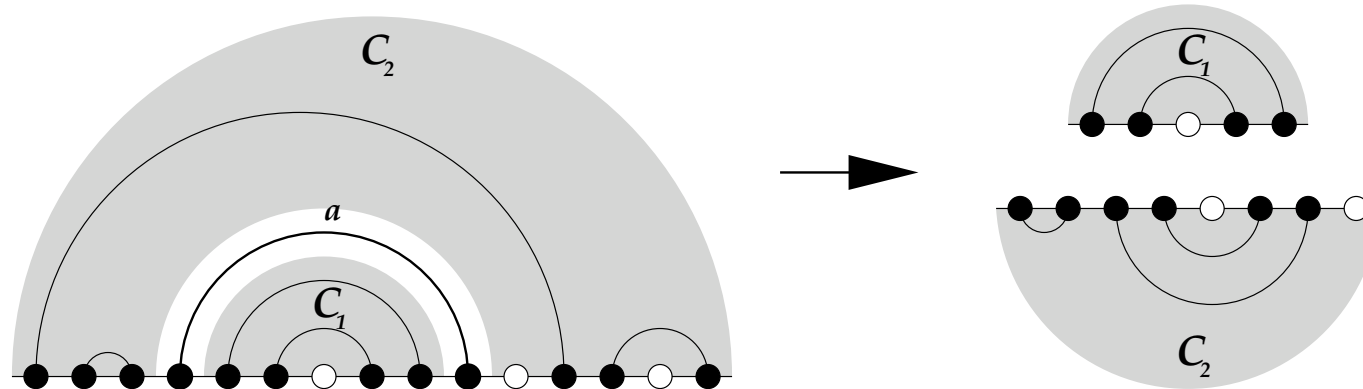


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for heights = number of arches above a point

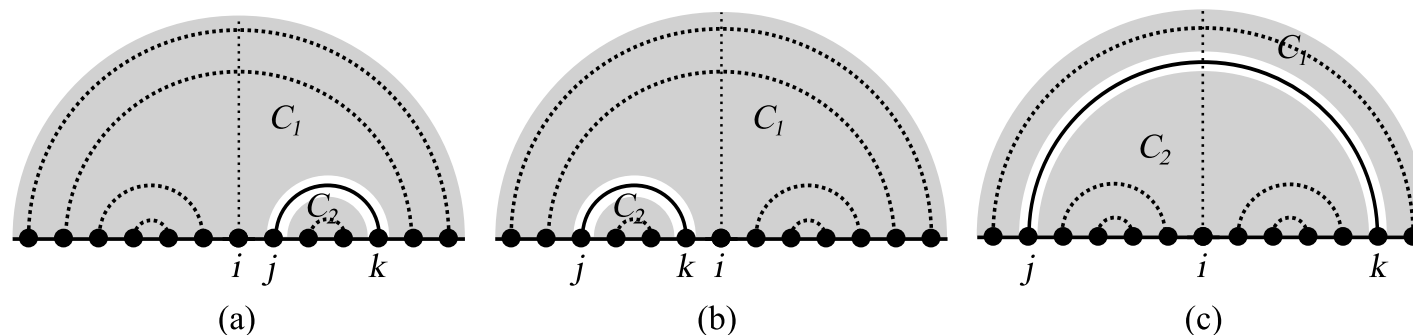
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for heights = number of arches above a point



$$\begin{aligned} \frac{n(n-1)}{2} h(i, n) &= \sum_{i < j < k < n} h(i, n - k + j - 1) + \sum_{0 < j < k \leq i} h(i - k + j - 1, n - k + j - 1) \\ &+ \sum_{0 < j \leq i < k < n} [h(j - 1, n - k + j - 1) + h(i - j, k - j - 1) + 1] \end{aligned}$$

# PDE for generating functions

$$G(u, v; z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=0}^n \langle e^{z h_C(i,n)} \rangle u^i v^{n-i}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( u^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial u^2} + v^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial v^2} \right) + uv \frac{\partial^2}{\partial u \partial v} \right] G(u, v; z) \\ &= \left[ \frac{u^2}{(1-u)} \left( u \frac{\partial}{\partial u} + 1 \right) + \frac{v^2}{(1-v)} \left( v \frac{\partial}{\partial v} + 1 \right) \right] G(u, v; z) + uv e^z G(u, v; z)^2 \end{aligned}$$

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for the average mean height

$$K(t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} G(t, t, z) \Big|_{z=0} = \sum_n t^n \sum_{i=0}^n \langle h(i, n) \rangle$$

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Scaling

$$K(t) \underset{t \rightarrow 1}{\propto} (1-t)^{-2-\zeta} \quad \implies \quad \zeta^2 + 3\zeta = 2 \quad \implies \quad \zeta = \frac{\sqrt{17} - 3}{2} = 0.561 \dots$$

NB: value for  $\zeta$  obtained in M. Müller's PhD thesis (2002), assuming scaling

## Scaling function for average height

$$\langle h(i, n) \rangle_{n \rightarrow \infty} = n^\zeta \mathcal{H}(x), \quad x = i/n$$

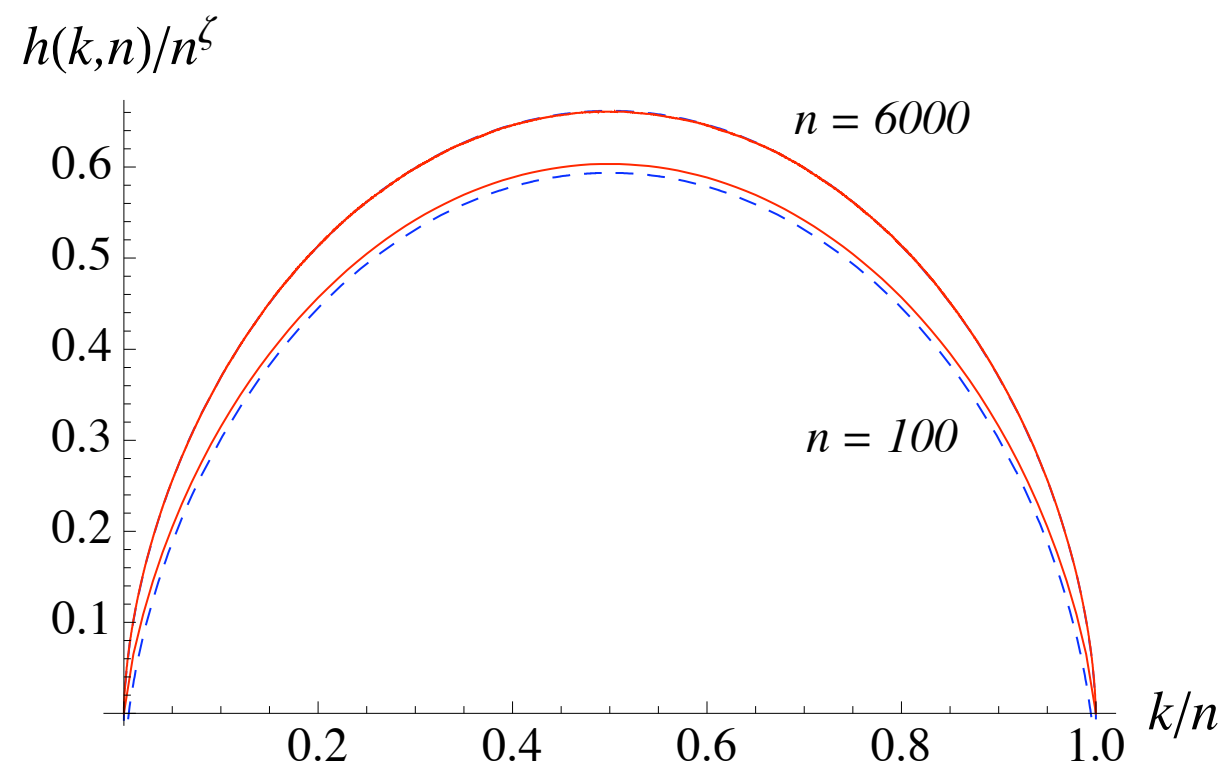
$$\mathcal{H}(x) = \mathbf{E} x^\zeta (1-x)^\zeta, \quad \zeta = \frac{\sqrt{17} - 3}{2}, \quad \mathbf{E} = 0.888309\dots$$

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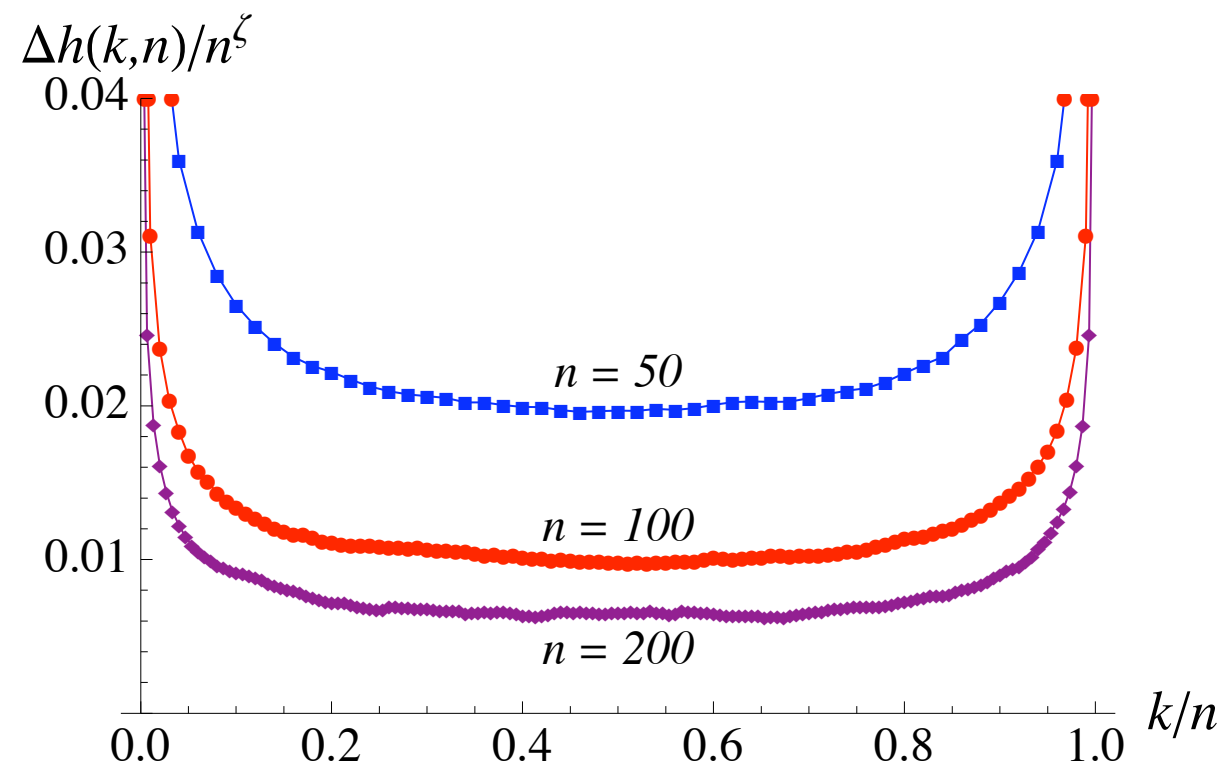
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## Numerical checks



(a)



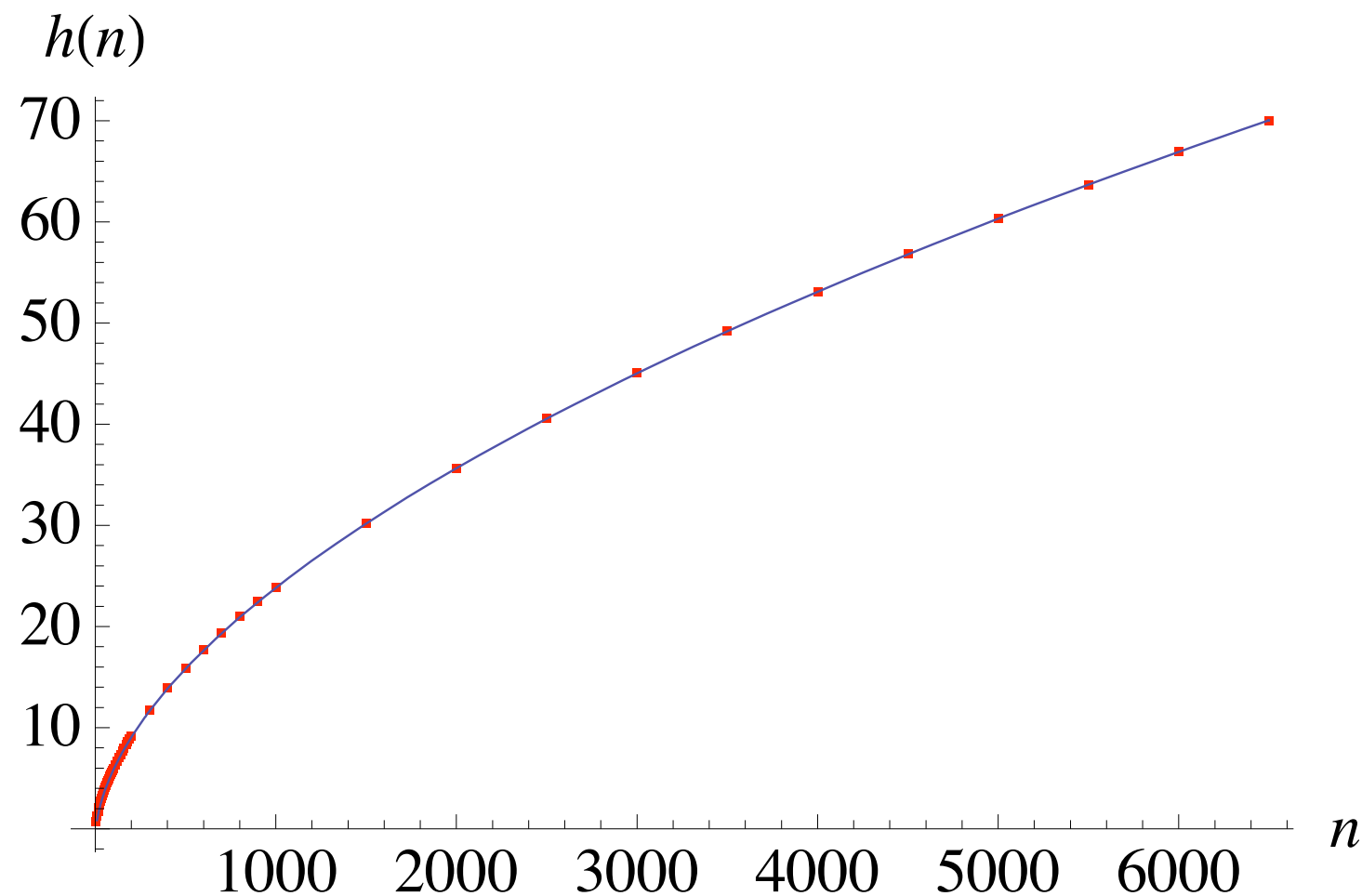
(b)

# Hypergeometric equations for many observables

## example: mean height

$$K(v) = \frac{C_+}{(1-v)^{\zeta+2}} M(-\zeta, -2-2\zeta; 2-2v) - \frac{1}{(1-v)^2} + \frac{C_-}{(1-v)^{-1-\zeta}} M(\zeta+3, 2\zeta+4; 2-2v)$$

$C_+ = 0.713263\dots$     $C_- = 0.519299\dots$     $M$  confluent hypergeometric function (Kummer)

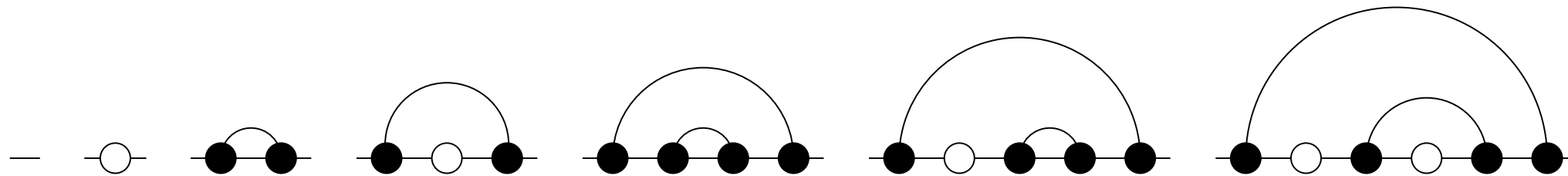


Allows to estimate finite size effects



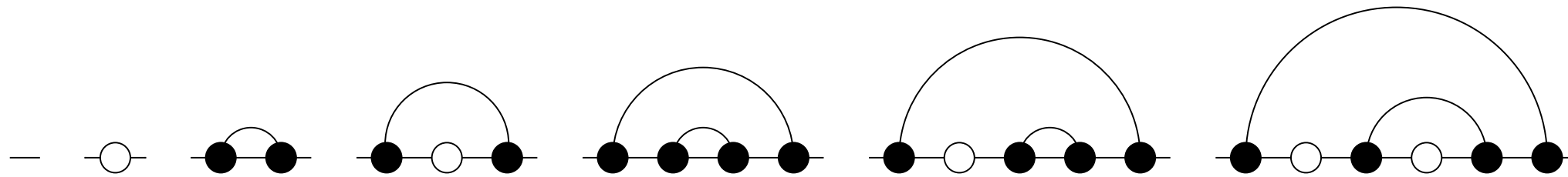
# This model is equivalent to a tree growth model !

Random deposition point model: successive deposition of points on intervals & create an arch whenever it is possible

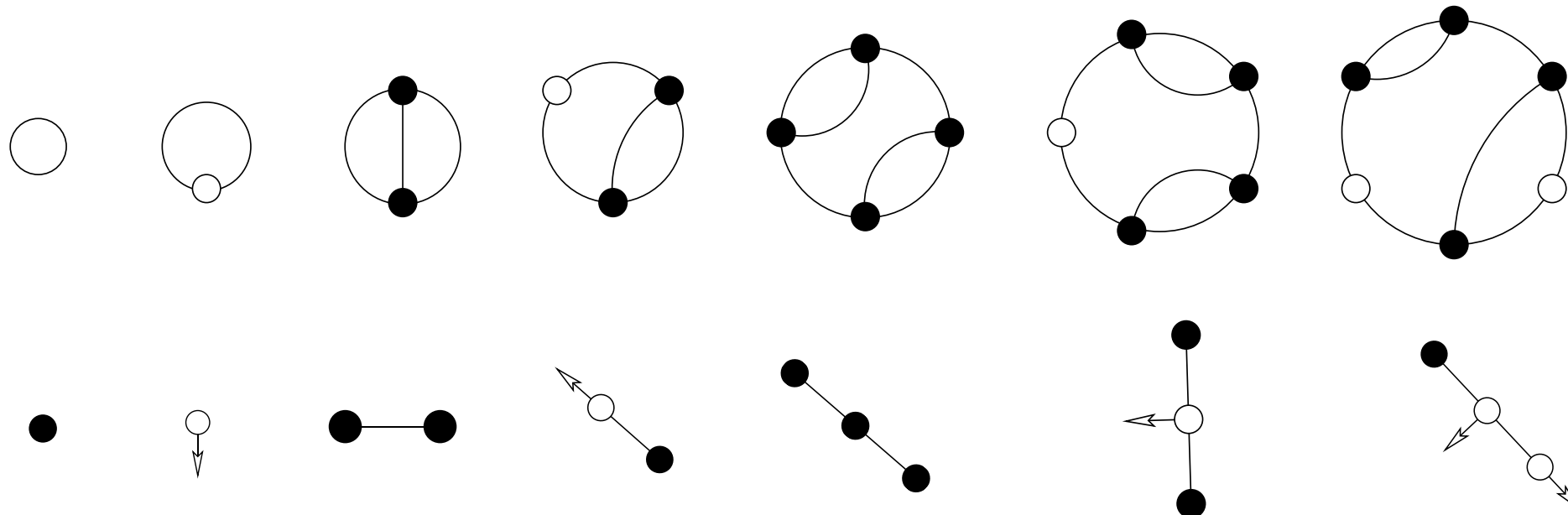


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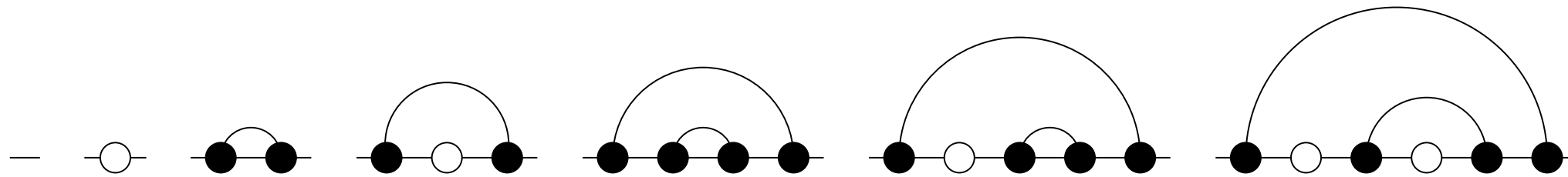


Closing + duality gives a decorated tree growth model

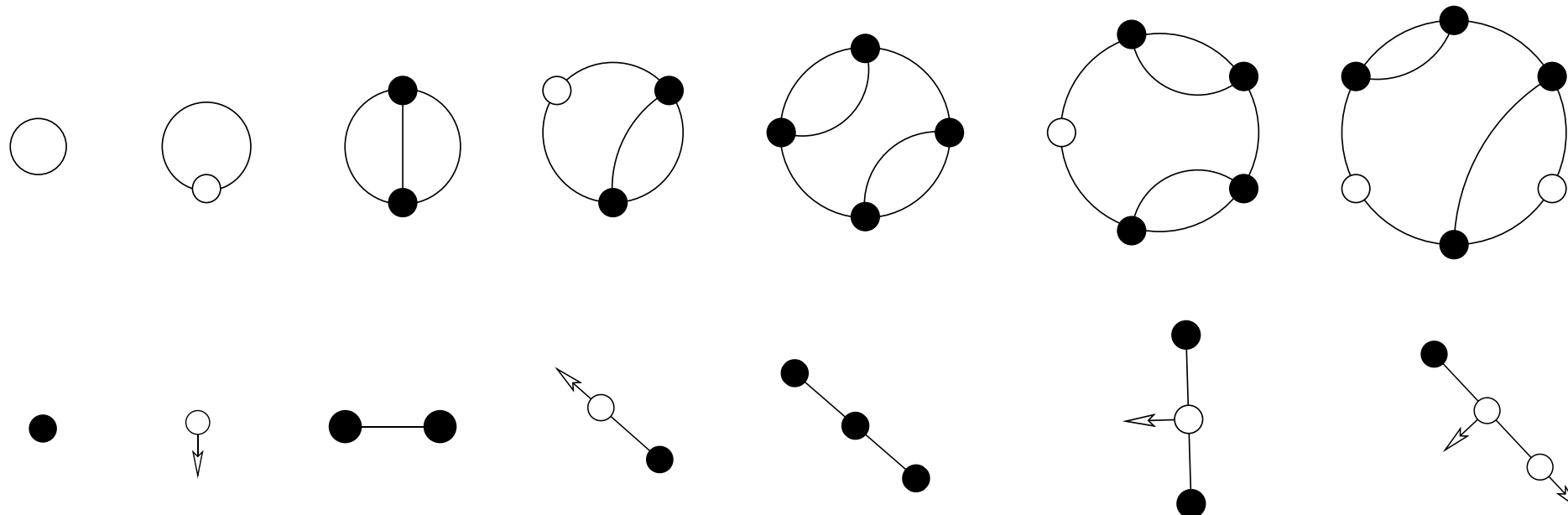


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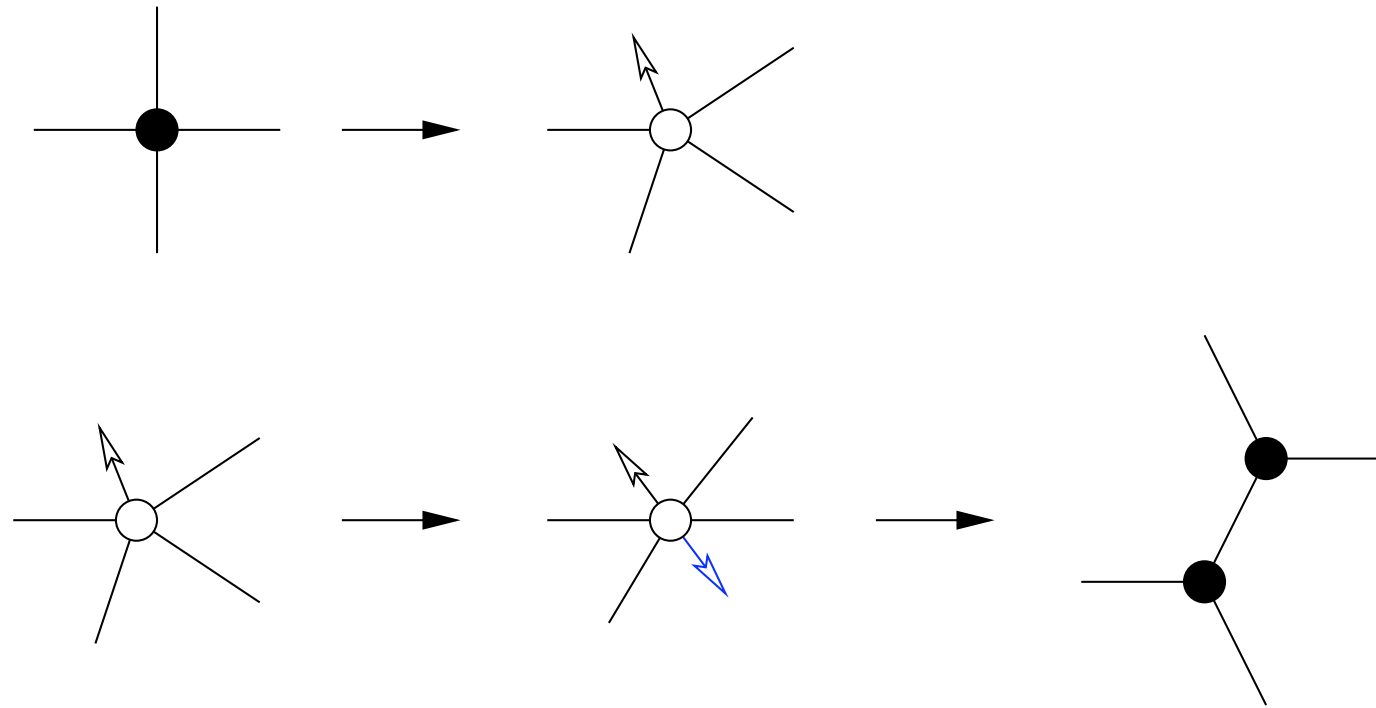
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arch/tree growth at time  $t$  = arch deposition for size  $n=t$  !

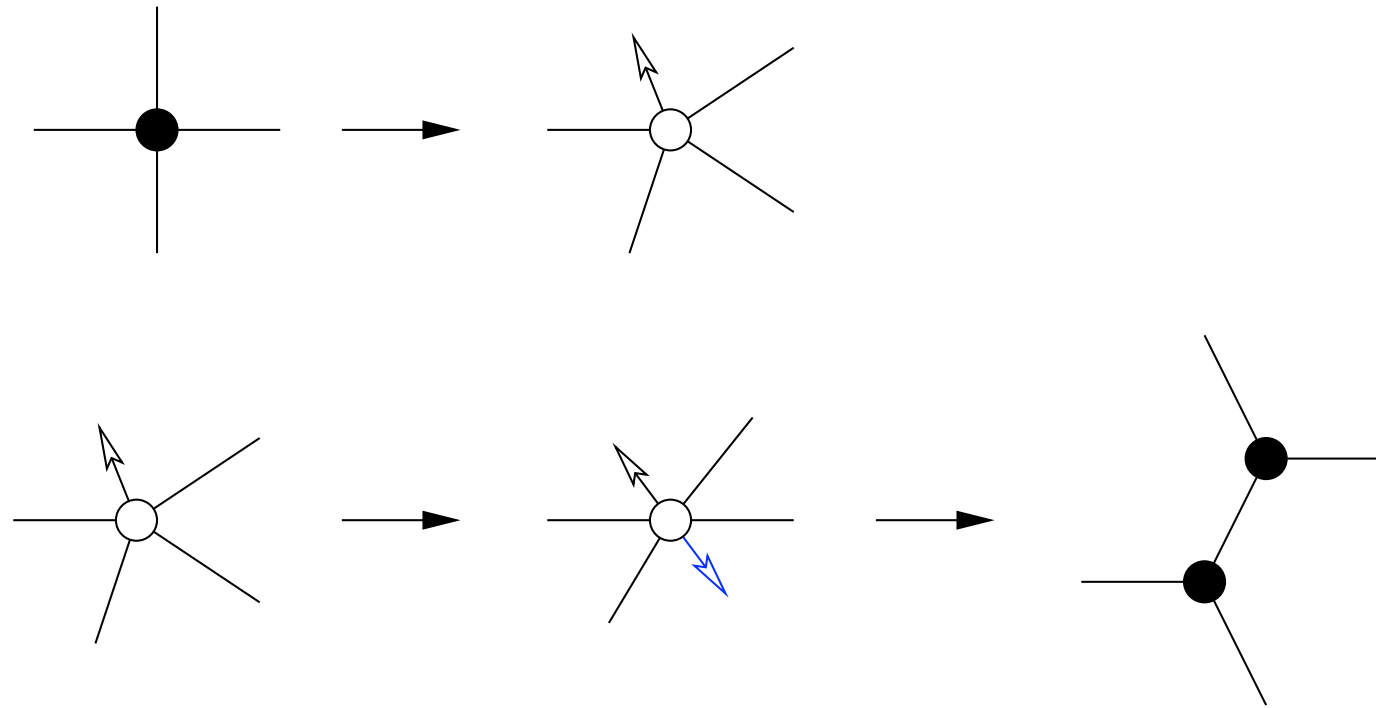
## 2 steps growth process:

- add a leaf to a vertex
- add a second leaf = “budding” i.e. 1 vertex  $\longrightarrow$  2 vertices



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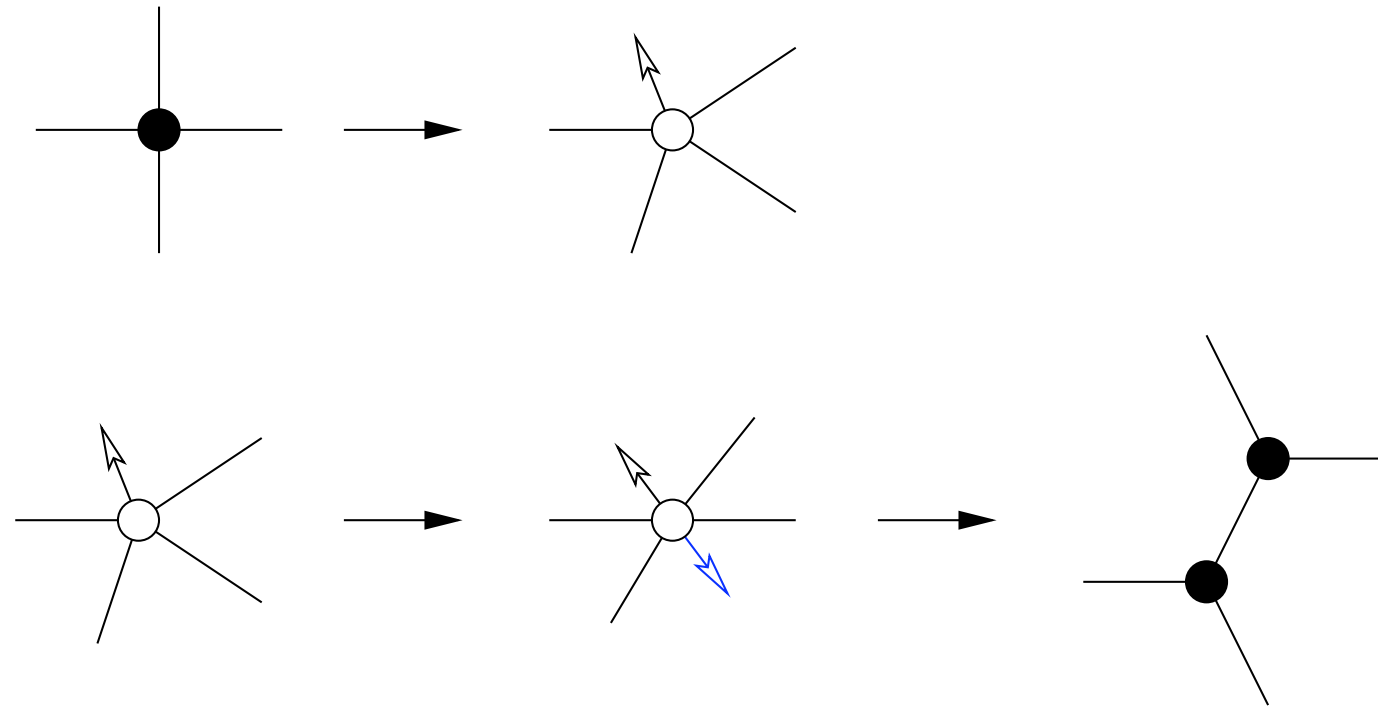
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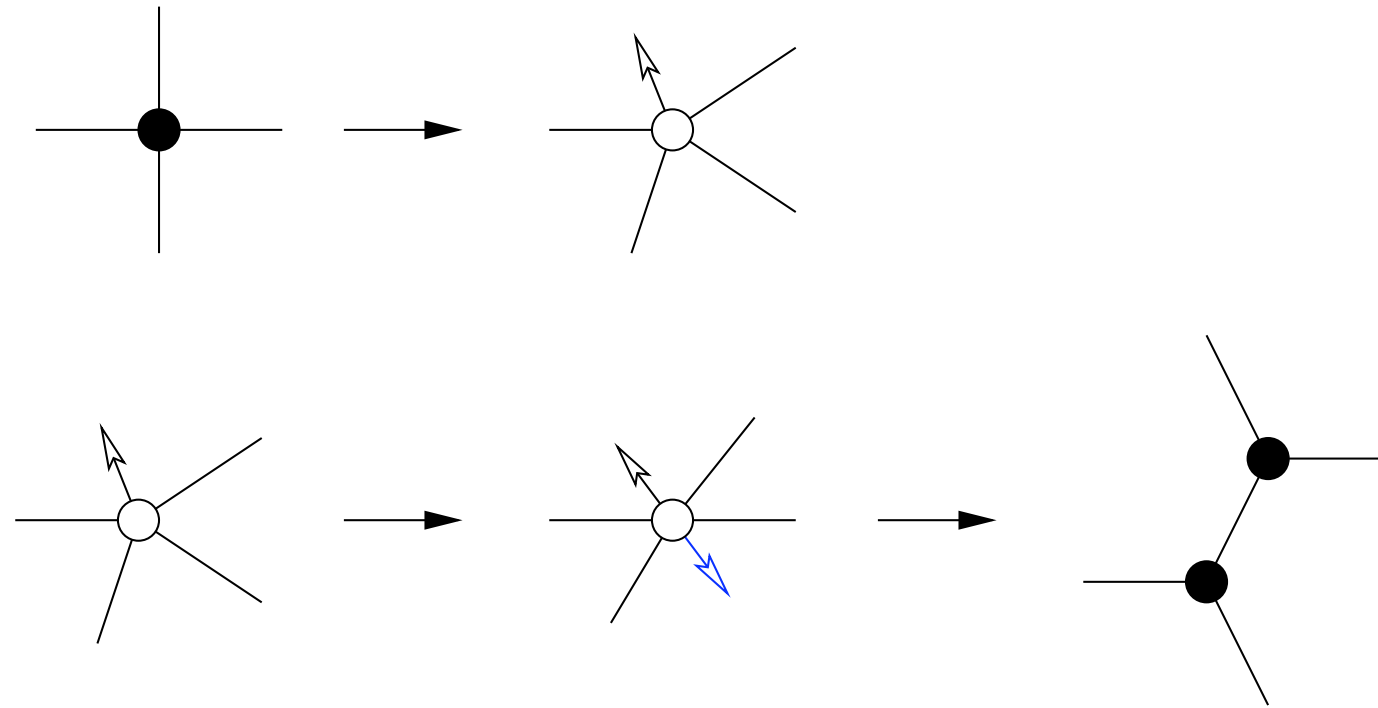


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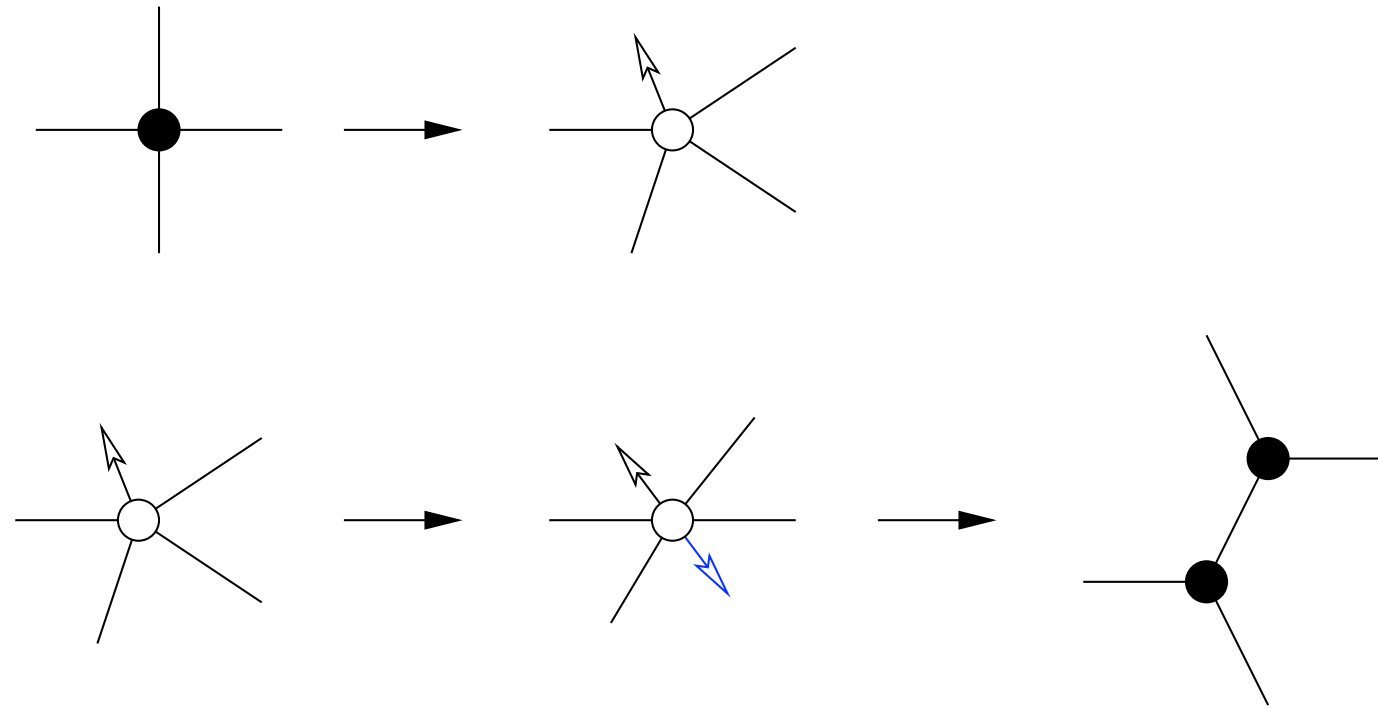
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$$\beta_k = \frac{1}{e^2} \frac{2^k}{(k+1)!} \quad , \quad \omega_k = \frac{1}{e^2} \frac{k 2^k}{(k+2)!}$$

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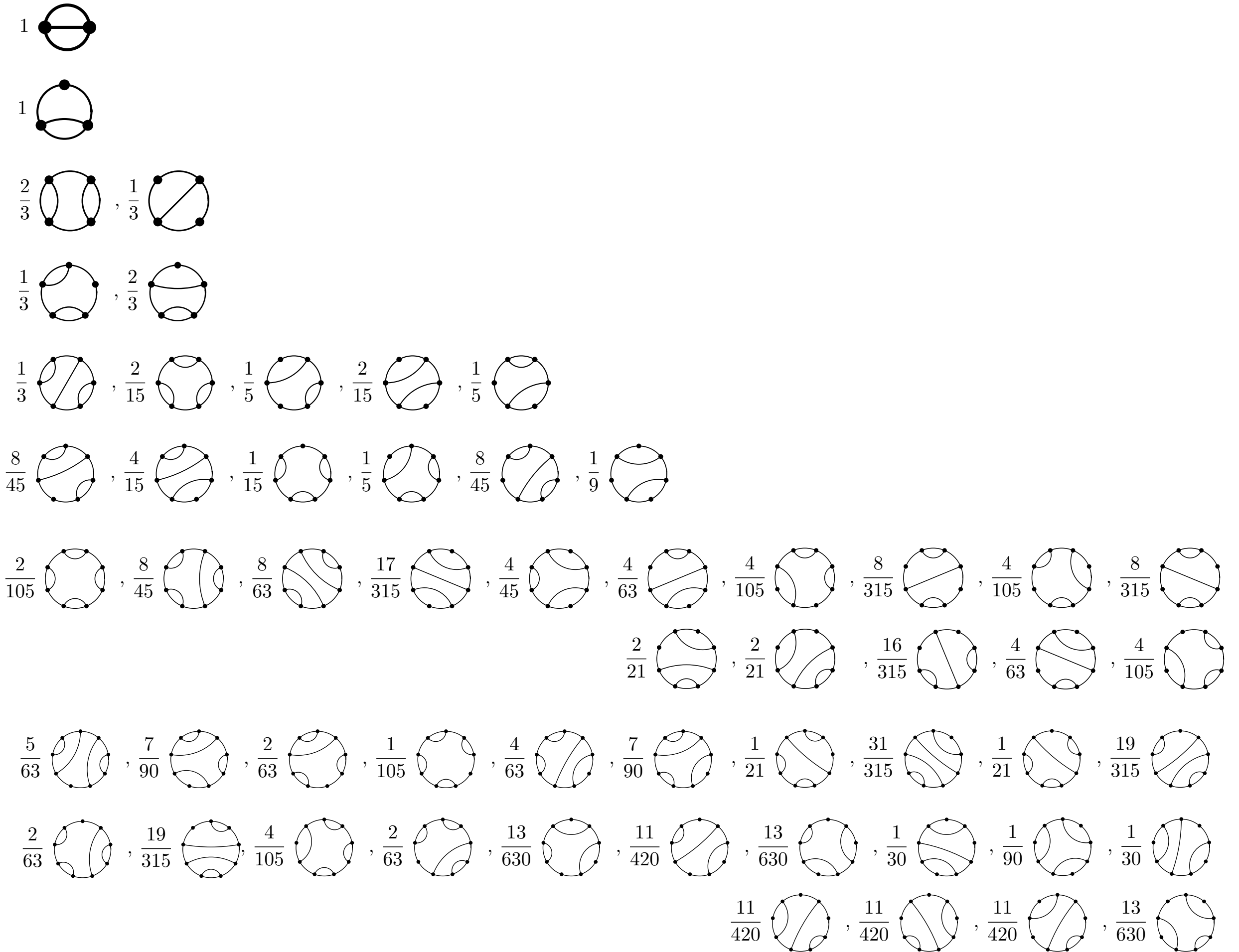
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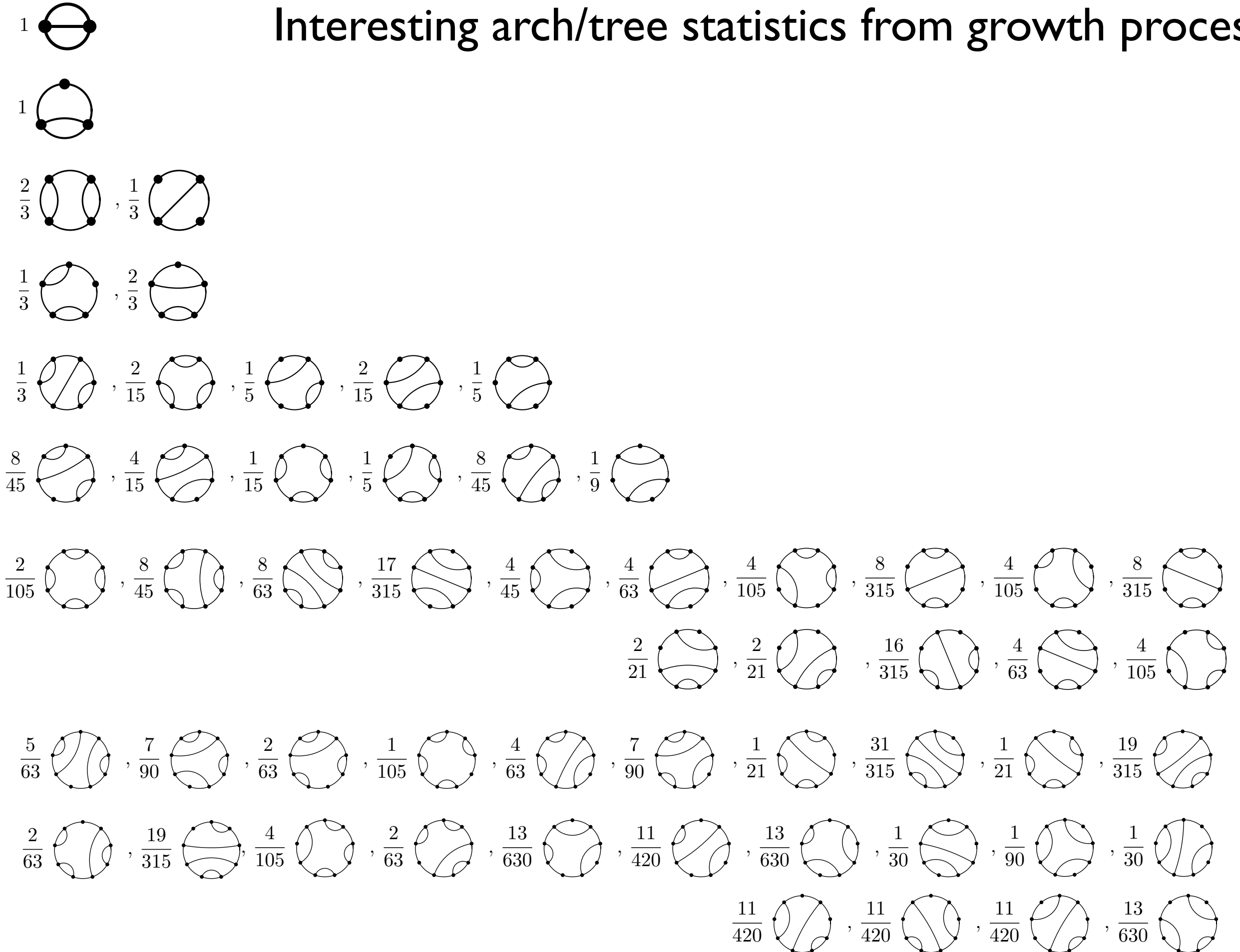
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and for what more ? ....

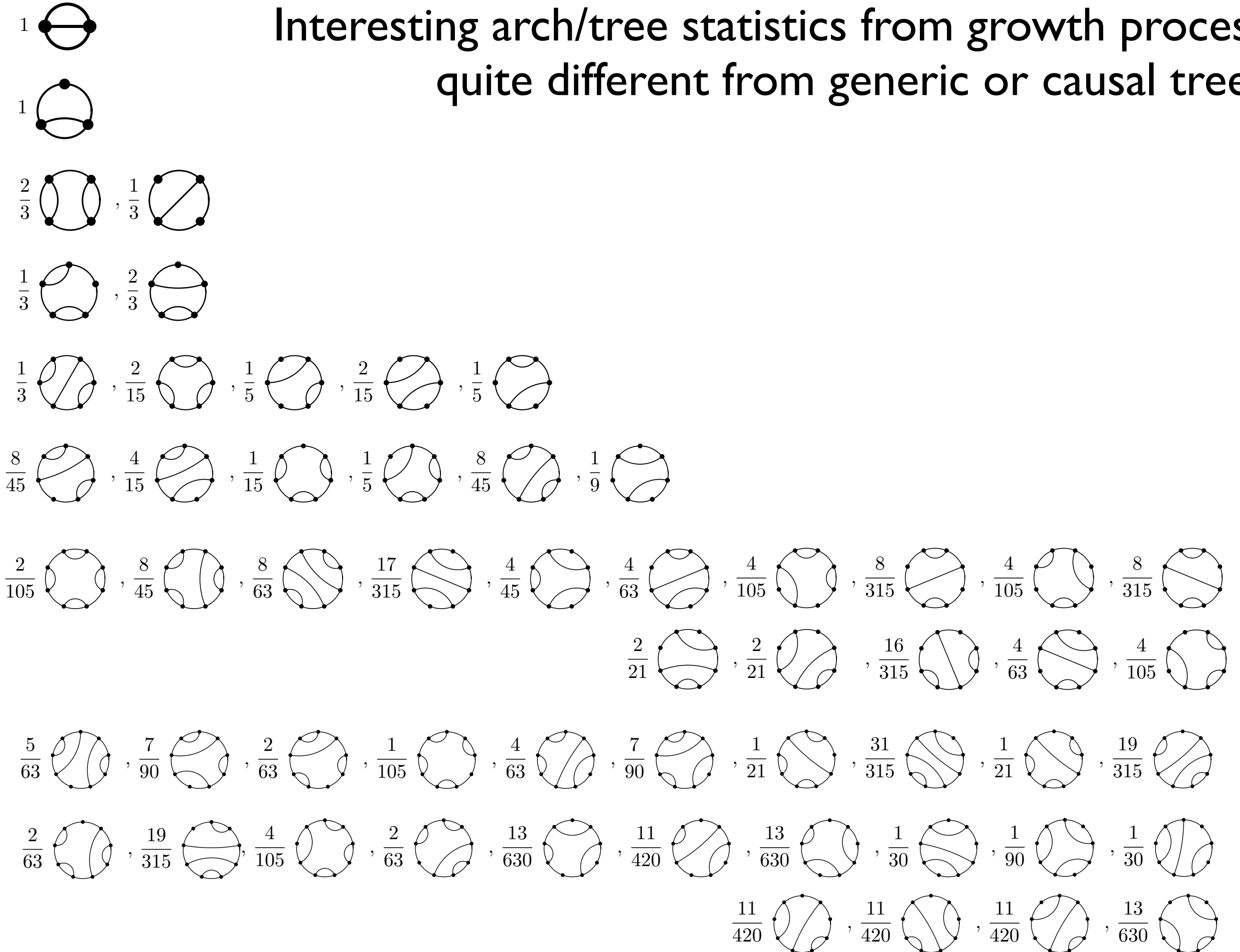




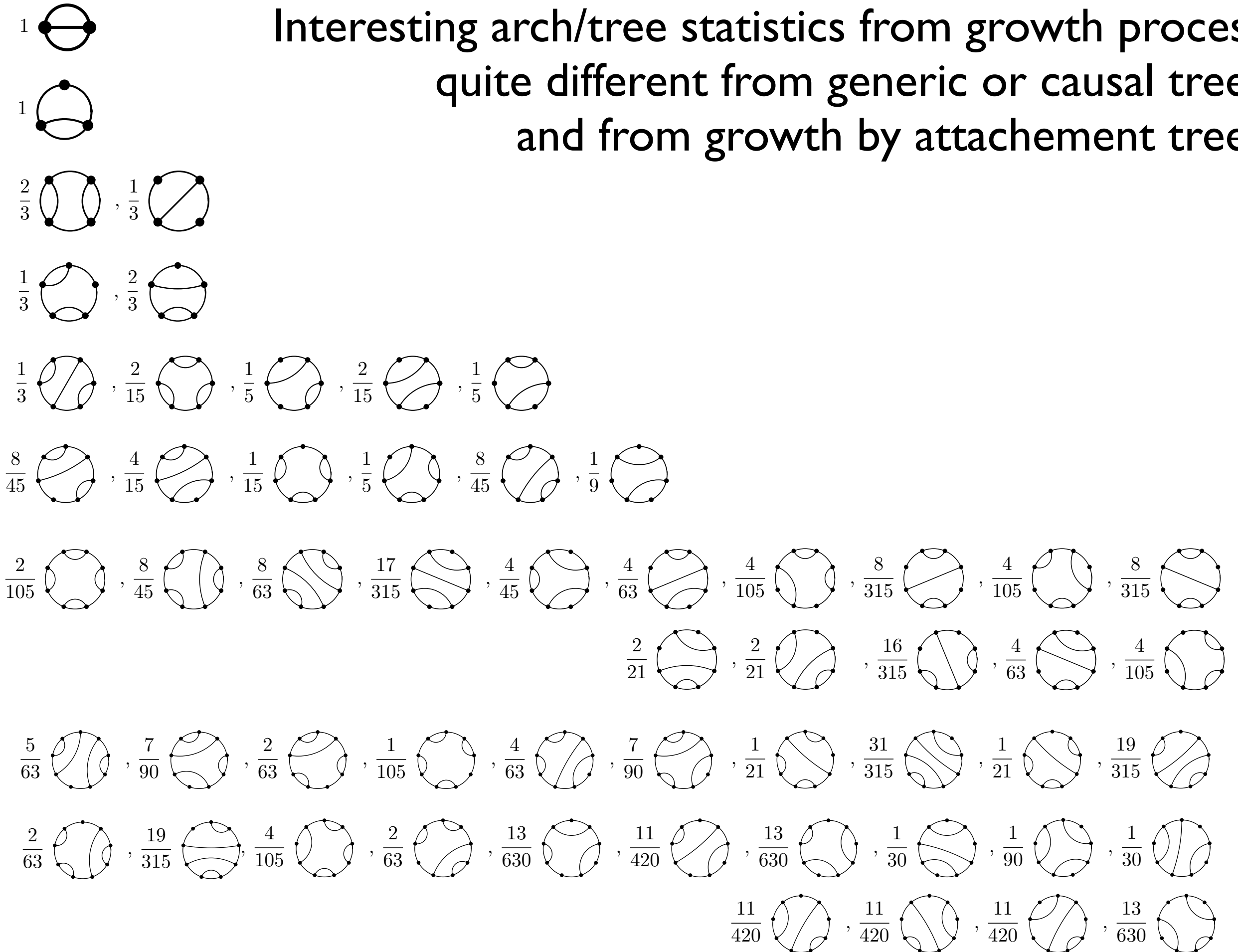
# Interesting arch/tree statistics from growth process



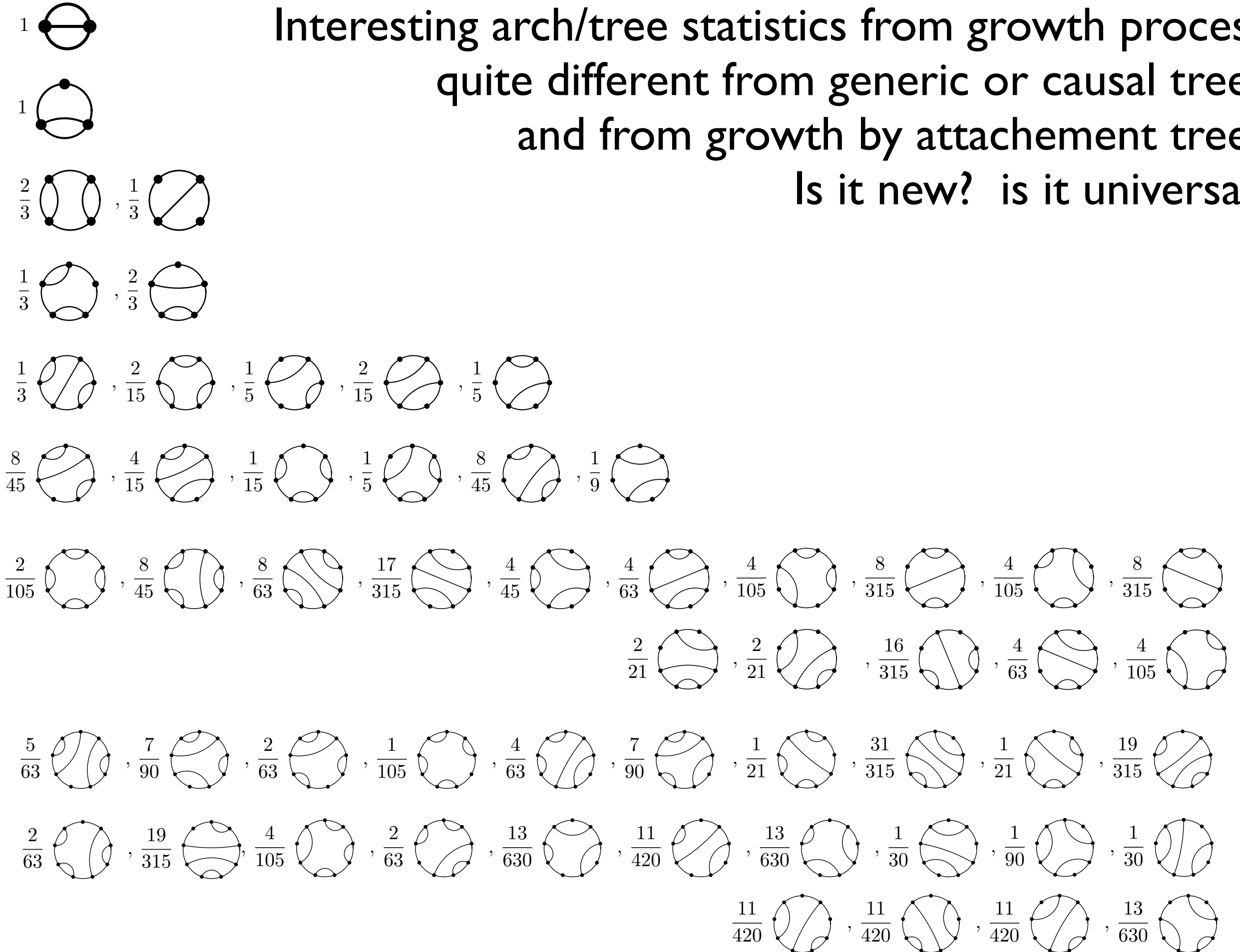
# Interesting arch/tree statistics from growth process quite different from generic or causal trees



# Interesting arch/tree statistics from growth process quite different from generic or causal trees and from growth by attachment trees



Interesting arch/tree statistics from growth process  
 quite different from generic or causal trees  
 and from growth by attachment trees  
 Is it new? is it universal?



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Is it new? is it universal?  
good for something?

