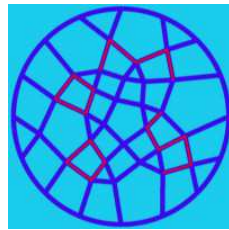


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# Some Properties of Switching Games on oriented Matroids.



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Adrien Vieillerivière.  
LRI Université Paris-Sud.

*joint work with*  
David Forge.  
LRI Université Paris-Sud.

Combinatorial Geometries and Applications: Oriented Matroids and Matroids  
**Marseille-Luminy, November 8 2005**

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# Initial Switching Game

- The Shannon Switching Game : [S60]
  - On undirected graphs
  - Maker / Breaker game
  - Construct a s-t path
  - Who win ? How ?
  
- Complete Solution on Graphs :
  - A. Lehman : A solution to the Shannon Switching Game, [SIAM J. 1964]
  - simplified proof using Nash William's Theorem [Edmonds]

---

# Solve the game on graphs.

- Maker wants to Mark a s-t path
  - Induction on spawning chains

- Maker wins



- the graph has a subgraph connecting s to t with two edge-disjoint spanning trees

---

# Various Switching Games.

- Change who begin
- Give more than one play by turn (biased version)
- Add previous claimed elements
- Other substructure as Goal
  - Cut, Spanning tree, Circuit
- Other structures :
  - Directed graphs
  - Matroids
  - Oriented Matroids

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# Outline of the Talk

- **Playing on a matroid**
  - Graphs
  - **Oracles and Matroids**
- Playing on oriented matroids
  - Some oriented games with comparison
  - Weak maps and uniform matroids
- General representation by a game tree
  - Examples with known families
    - Cases 2-4, 6-3 and 8-4
- Playing on a Lawrence matroid
  - Make explicit a winning strategy
  - Biased extensions
- Rank complexity
- Conclusion

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# Representing matroids.

- On a ground set  $E$
- Exponential space in an explicit description
- Can be defined by oracles :
  - Independence oracle  
 $X \subseteq P(E)$ ,  
is  $X$  independent ?
  - Port oracle  
 $e \in E \quad X \subseteq P(E)$ ,  
does  $X$  contain a circuit containing  $e$  ?

---

# Solving circuit game on matroids.

- Maker wants to Mark a circuit on  $M$ 
  - Characterized by block-matroids  
[Hamidoune, Las Vergnas 84]
  - Time :  $\text{Poly}(|E|)$  with  $|E|^2$  independent oracle calls  
[Kelmans, Polesskii 94]
  
- With an independence oracle in time polynomial, we can compute winning strategies in PTIME.
  - Cover Graphs by an easy PTIME oracle.
  - Cover matroids defined by submodular functions.  
Ellipsoid algorithm leading to strongly PTIME

---

# Extending to threshold computation on matroids.

- Biased : Maker has  $q$  choices by turn.
- threshold computation : finding the smallest  $q$  such that Maker wins  
→ trivially harder than deciding who wins.
  - e-based ear decomposition of  $M$ .
  - with  $O(|E|^2)$  ports oracles in time  $O(|E|^3)$ .
- with a port oracle in time polynomial, we can decide who wins in PTIME.
  - Extend efficient decision on graphs in the biased game.
    - Applications (goal=integer density subgraph)

[Bednarska,Pikhurko 05]

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## Independence Oracle Vs Port Oracle.

- With  $O(|E|^4)$  calls to port oracle and  $O(|E|^5)$  time, we can simulate an independence oracle.
- Port Oracle are meaningful if Maker has to build a circuit through a given element.
  - It abstracts the cost of final position validation.
- In the undirected case, efficient port (or independence) oracle leads to efficient solution for these switching games.

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# Outline of the Talk

- Playing on a matroid.
- **Playing on oriented matroids.**
  - Some oriented games with comparison.
  - Weak maps and uniform matroids.
- General representation by a game tree.
  - Examples with known families.
    - Cases 2-4, 6-3 and 8-4.
- Playing on a Lawrence matroid.
  - Make explicit a winning strategy.
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# Game 1 on oriented matroid :

Maker orients one element by turn.  
Maker begins.

Breaker orients one element by turn.

■ Game 1 : **OC**

$(1^*, 1^+)$

$(\{e\}, \emptyset)$

No restriction on the circuit to build

One first element given.

Goal : Build a Circuit of the inputted oriented matroid

# Game 3 on oriented matroid :

Maker orients one element by turn.  
Maker begins.

Breaker removes one element by turn.

■ Game 3 : OC

$(1^*, 1)$

$(\{e\}, \{e\})$

Circuit has to contain e.

One first element given.

Goal : Build a Circuit of the inputted oriented matroid

# Comparing Games :

- Game 1 : OC  $(1^*, 1^+)$   
 $(\{e\}, \emptyset)$
- Game 2 : OC  $(1^*, 1^+)$   
 $(\{e\}, \{e\})$
- Game 3 : OC  $(1^*, 1)$   
 $(\{e\}, \emptyset)$
- Game 4 : OC  $(1^*, 1)$   
 $(\{e\}, \{e\})$

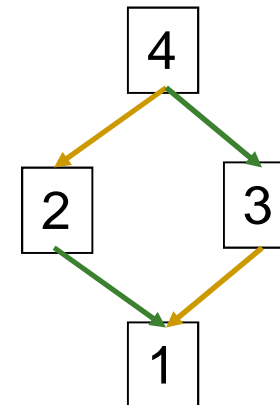
For Maker

$(1^*, 1) \longrightarrow (1^*, 1^+)$

3->1, 4->2

$(\{e\}, \{e\}) \longrightarrow (\{e\}, \emptyset)$

2->1, 4->3



Hardest



Easiest

---

## Weak maps :

- Let  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  be two oriented matroids on the same ground set.
  - There is a weak map from  $M_1$  to  $M_2$  when every signed circuit of  $M_1$  contains a circuit of  $M_2$ .
  - If  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  have the same rank, a weak map from  $M_1$  to  $M_2$  is said rank preserving.
  - Notation :  $M_1 \blacktriangleleft M_2$  .
  
- Let  $\Phi_1$  and  $\Phi_2$  be two family of matroids on the same ground set.
  - Notation :  $\Phi_1 \blacktriangleleft \Phi_2$  iff  
 $\forall M_2 \in \Phi_2 \exists M_1 \in \Phi_1$  such that  $M_1 \blacktriangleleft M_2$ .

---

# Extending winning strategies with weak maps

- A matroid is said to be winning if Maker have a winning strategy when he begins.
- If  $M$  is winning and  $M_2$  is such that  $M \triangleleft M_2$ , then  $M_2$  is winning.
- If  $\Phi$  is winning and  $\Phi \triangleleft \Phi_2$  then  $\Phi_2$  is winning.

---

# Considering uniform matroids is sufficient

- Every Oriented matroid is the weak map of a uniform oriented matroid of the same rank.

[Björner, Las Vergnas & al. 1999]

- With the previous slide : Corollary :  
If every uniform matroid of  $M_{n,r}$  is winning,  
then every matroid of rank  $k$  on  $n$  elements is winning.

- This technique can be used in every Game OC  $\begin{pmatrix} - & - \\ - & \emptyset \end{pmatrix}$



---

## On uniform matroids:

- If  $2r > n$  then Maker loses.
  - All circuits have the same cardinality  $r+1$ .
  - Maker finishes Game 3 with  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1$  elements.
  - If maker doesn't choose enough elements, he cannot win.
  
- Interesting matroids :
  - $2r=n$ .

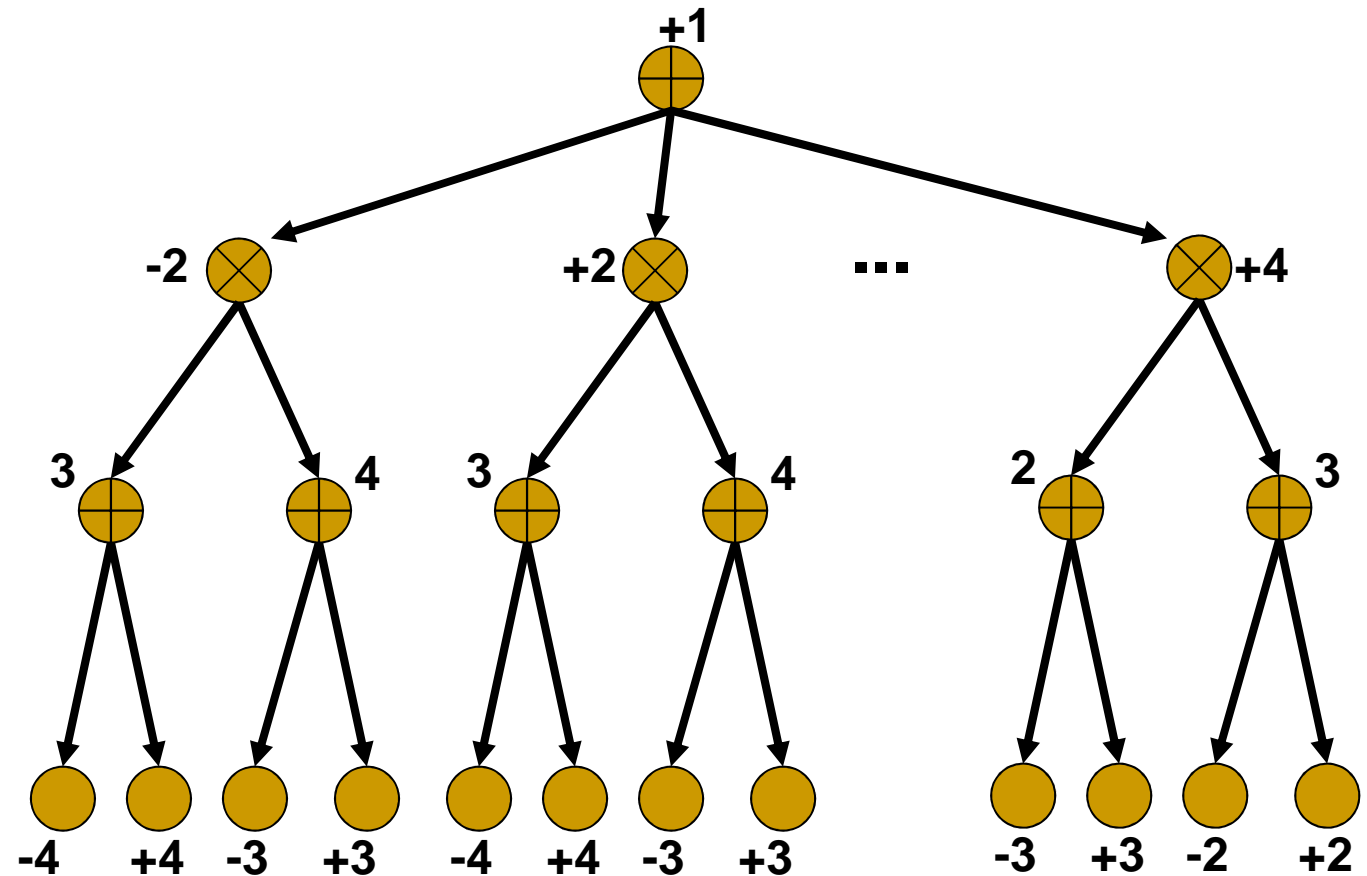
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# Outline of the Talk

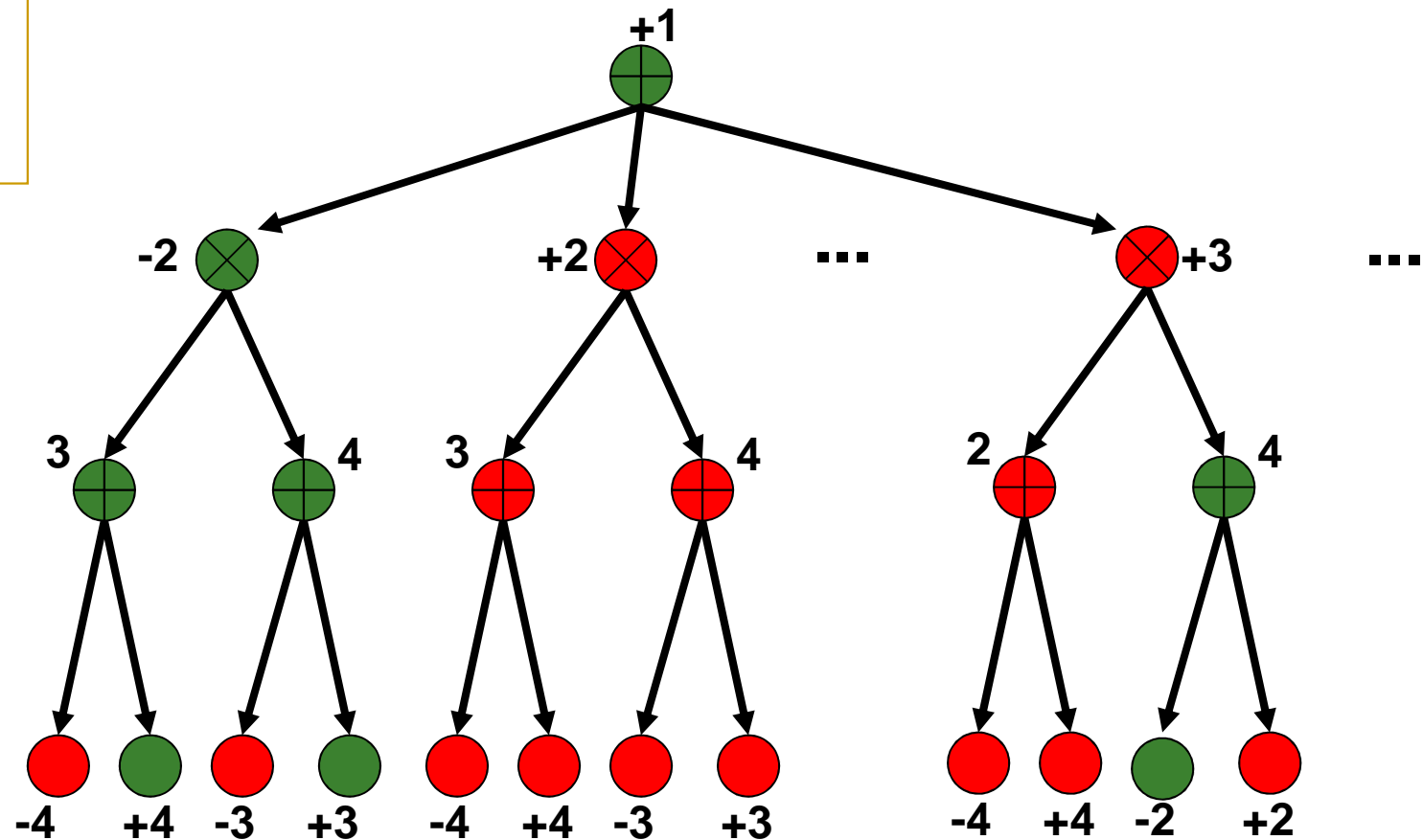
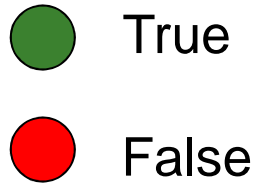
- Playing on a matroid.
- Playing on oriented matroids.
- **General representation by a game tree.**
  - Examples with known families.
    - Cases 2-4, 6-3 and 8-4.
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# Tree representation. Game 3.

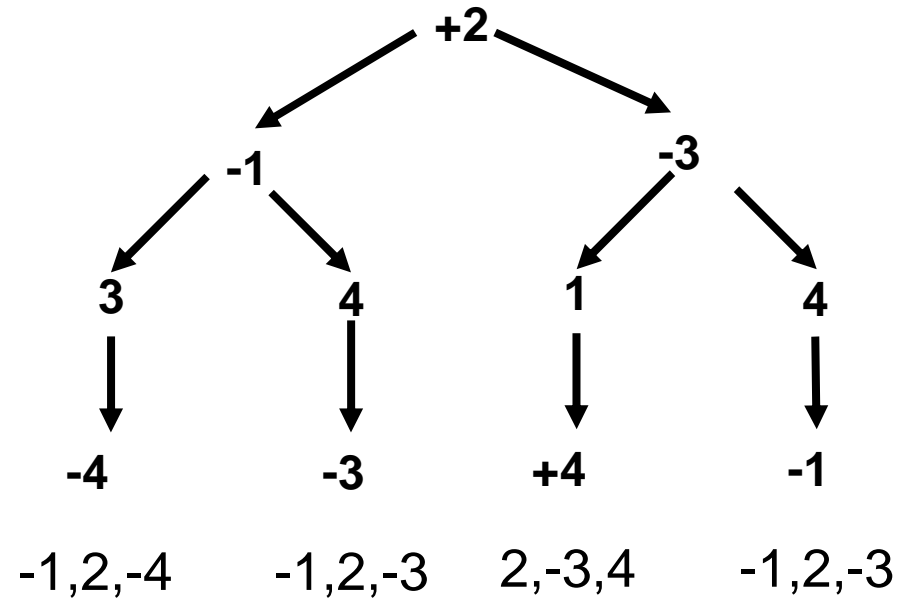
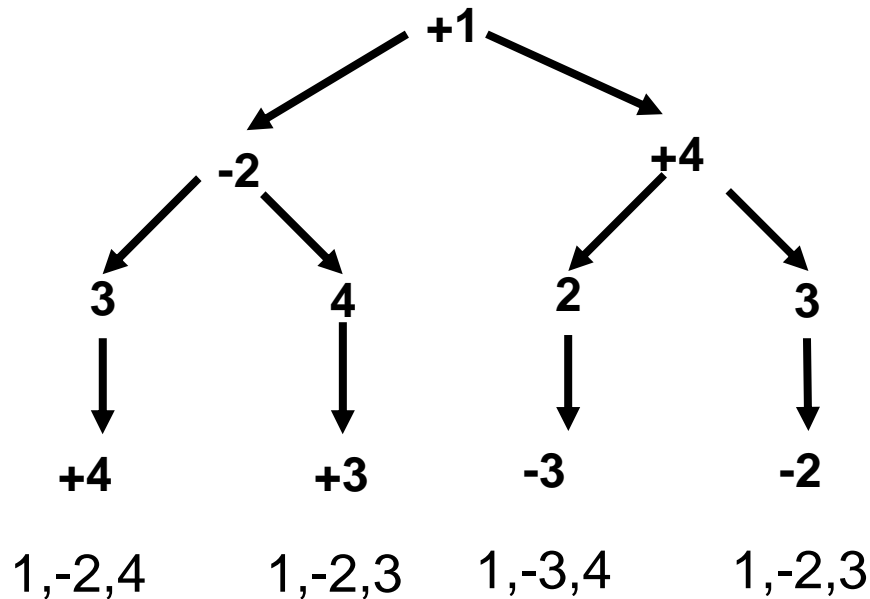
- Root : {e}.
- Maker :  
OR node.
- Breaker :  
AND node.
- Leaf :  
Circuit oracle.



There is a winning strategy for Maker iff the root is true.



# Example : Game 3 or 4, 4 elements, rank 2

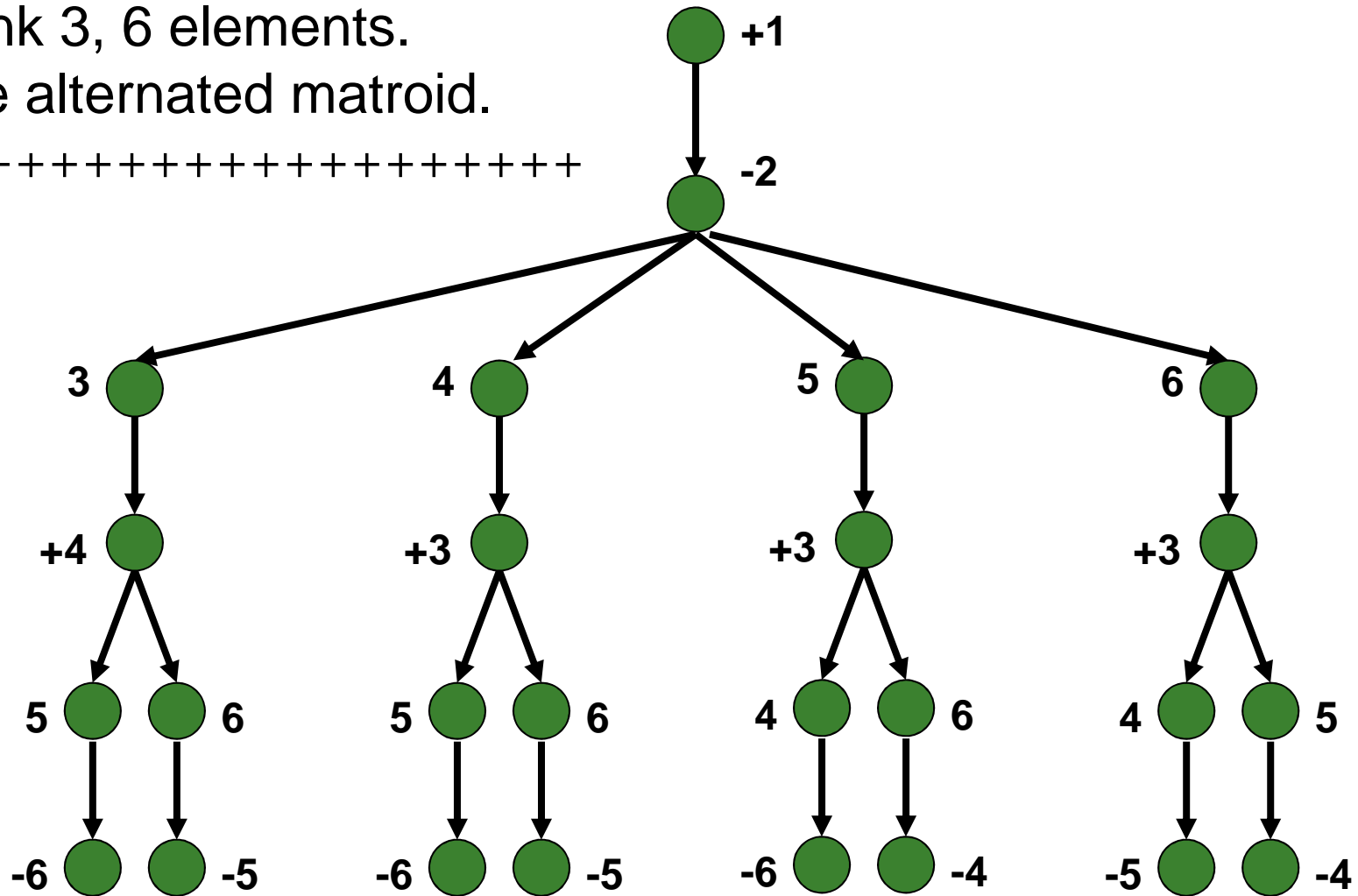


Only one matroid up to isomorphism :  
 The alternated matroid : ++++++ : 1-2-3-4.  
 For any  $\{e\}$ , Maker wins iff he begins.

# Example 1 : 1/3

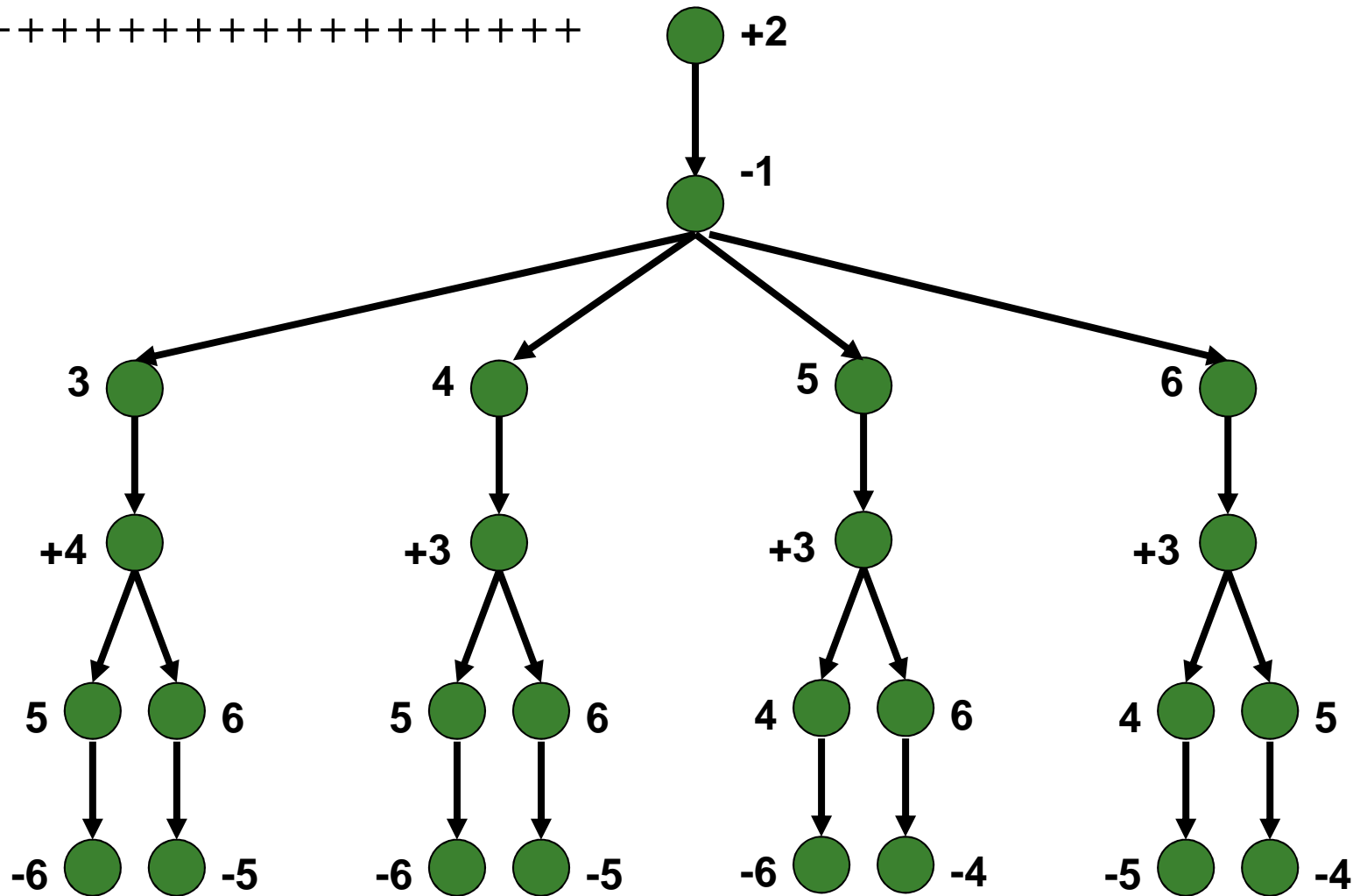
Rank 3, 6 elements.  
The alternated matroid.

+++++



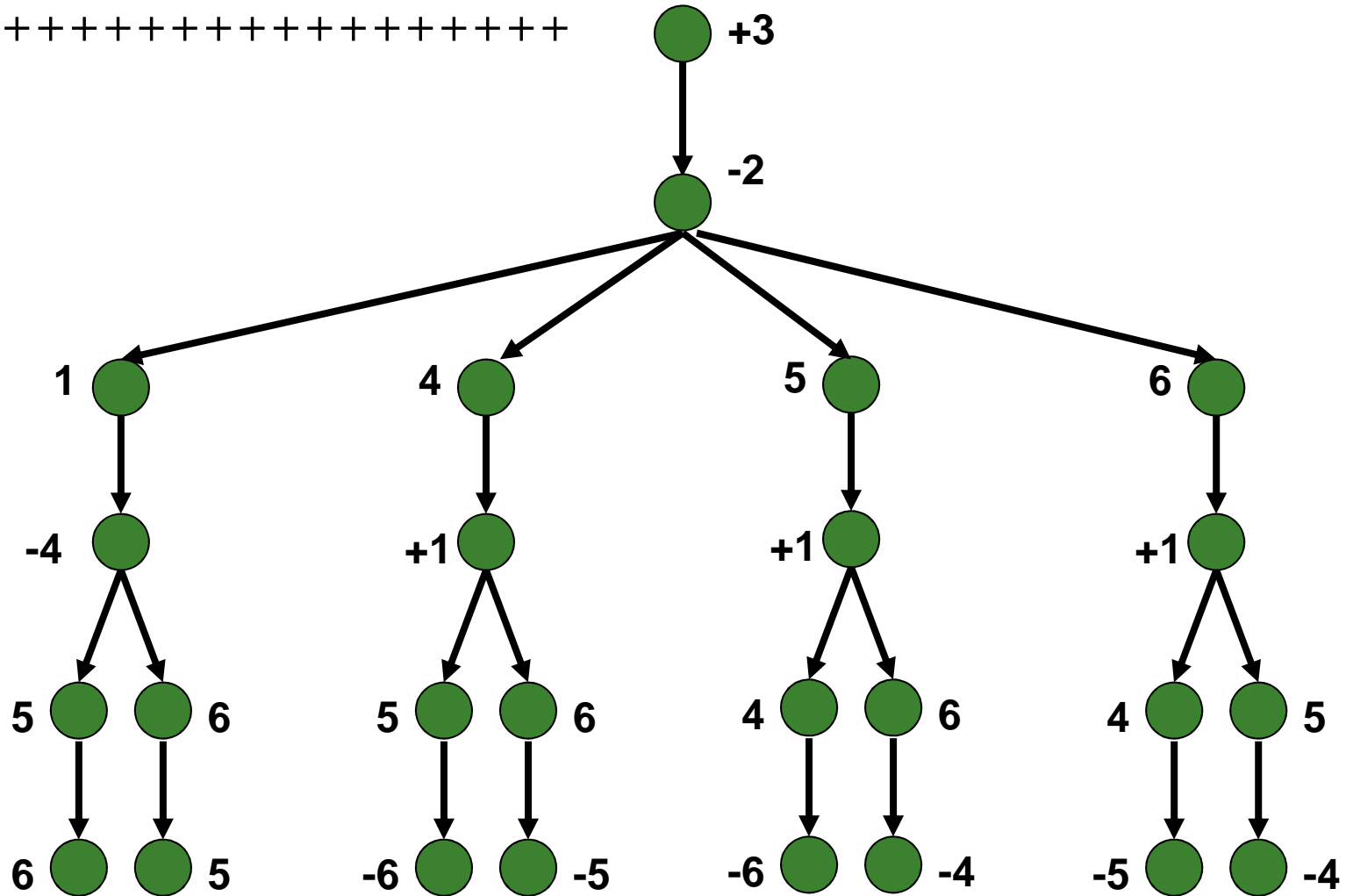
# Example 1 : 2/3

+++++



# Example 1 : 3/3

+++++





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## Lawrence Matroid

- Let  $A = (a_{i,j})$  a  $r \times n$  matrix of 1 and  $-1$
  - The chirotope of  $L_A$ , the associated Lawrence matroid, is
$$\chi(i_1 < \dots < i_r) = \prod_{k=1..r} a_{k,i_k}.$$
  - Properties :
    - Uniform matroid.
    - Vectorial matroid.
    - Exactly  $n$  simplicial cells.
    - Let  $C = \{ i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_{r+1} \}$  be a circuit of the matroid.  
A signature of  $C$  is given by  $C(i_1) = +$  and recursively
$$C(i_{j+1}) = - C(i_j) * a_{j,i_j} * a_{j,i_{j+1}}.$$
-

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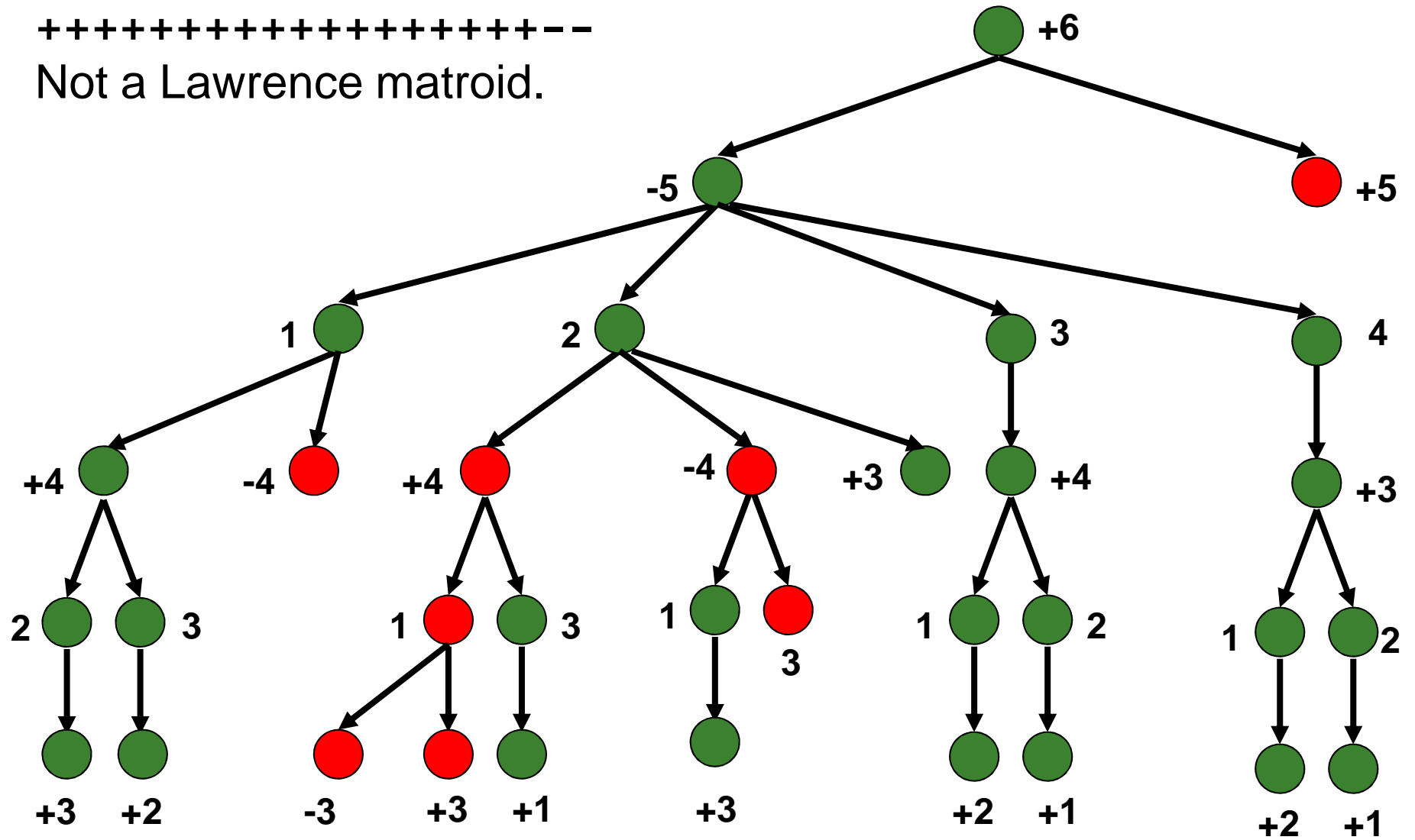
## Example 2 with 6 elements and rank 3.

■ ++++++-----

- Particular case of Lawrence matroids
  - Signing correctly elements is simple
  - Clear extensions for all the four games

# Example 3 :

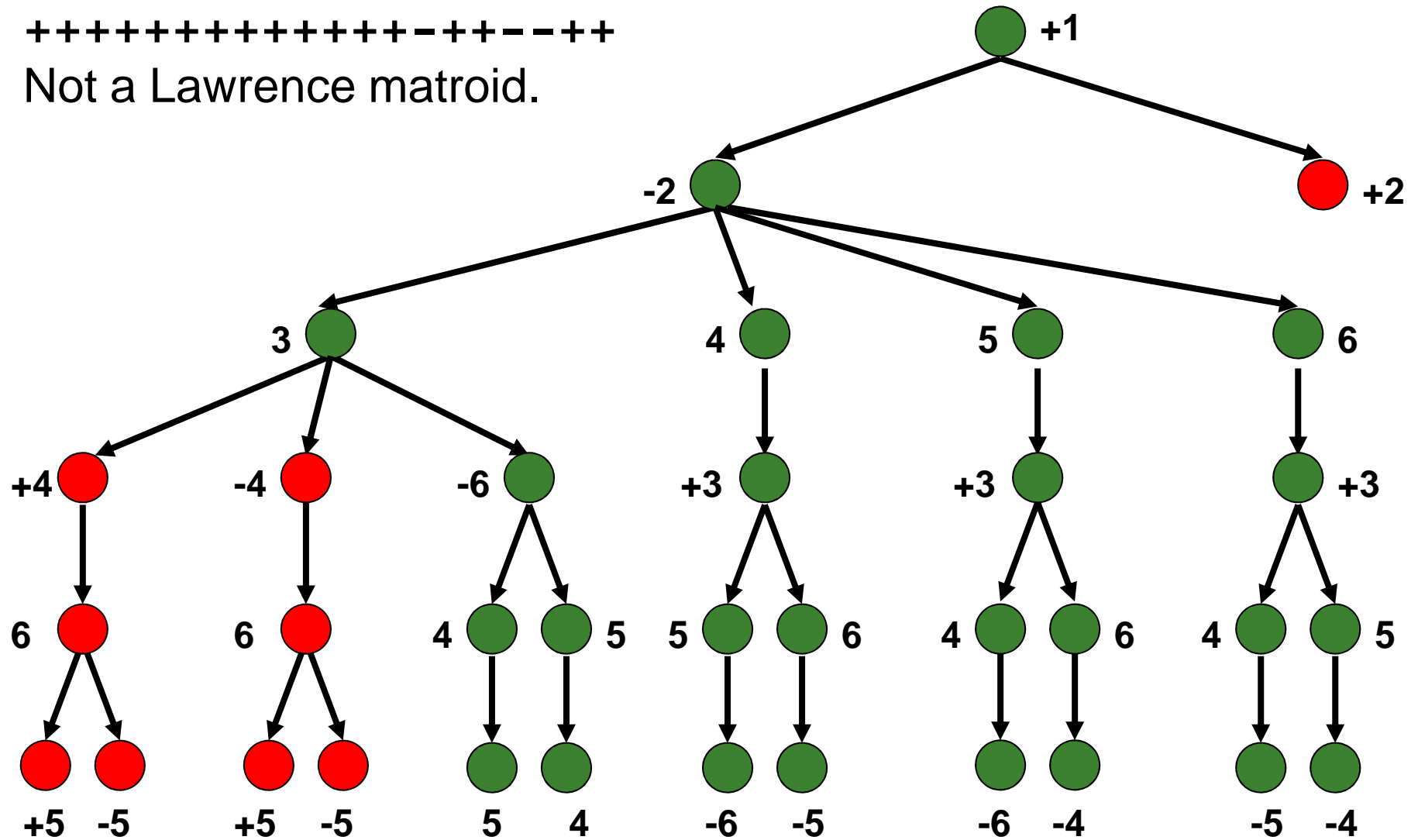
+++++-----  
 Not a Lawrence matroid.



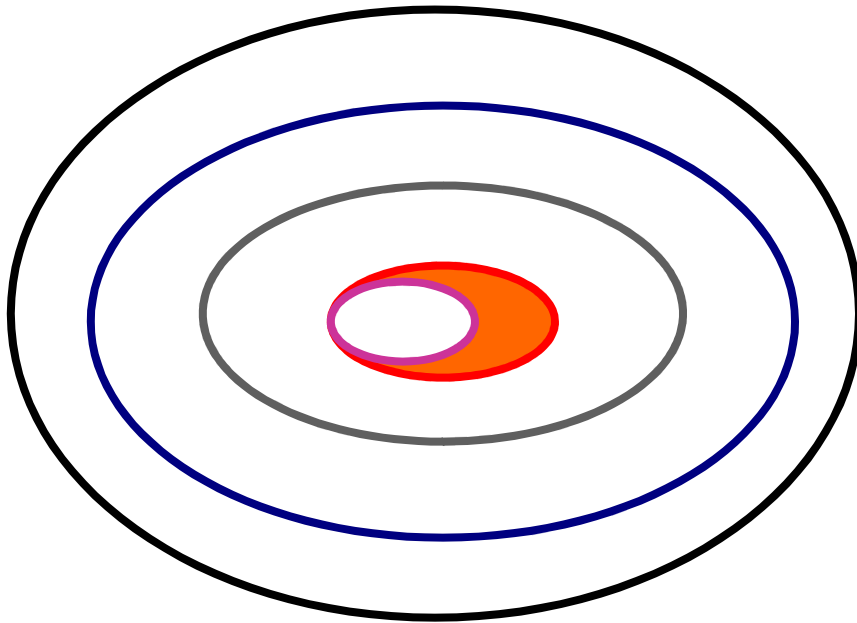
# Example 4 :

+++++-----++

Not a Lawrence matroid.



## 3-6 Summary.



- $2^{20} = 1048576$  sign vectors

- 23808 matroids

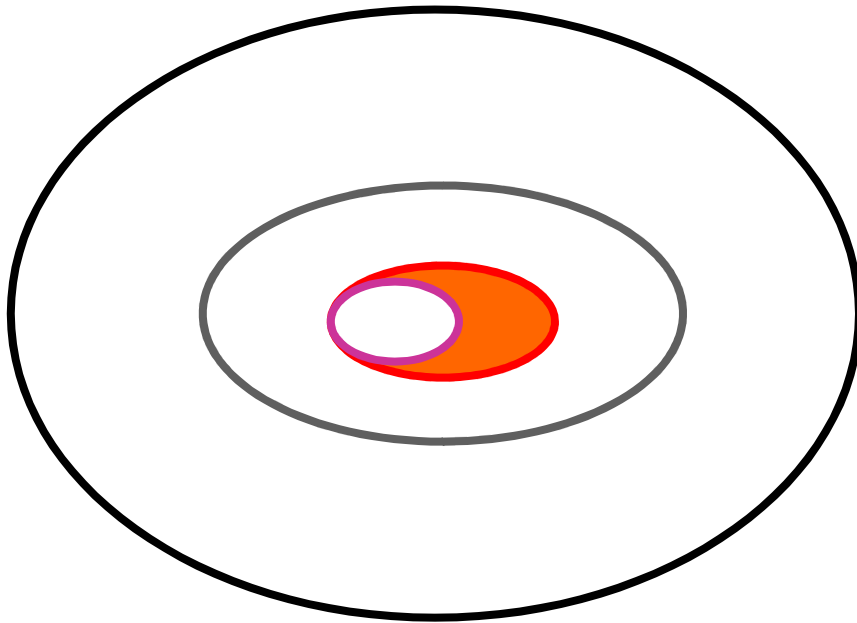
- 23808 winning vectors

- 17 Isomorphic classes

- 4 uniform representants

- 2 Lawrence

## 8-4 summary



- $2^{70} = 1180591620717411303424$   
 $\approx 10^{21}$  sign vectors
- ? Matroids
- ? winning vectors
- 181472 Isomorphic classes
- 2628 uniform representants
- ? Lawrence (soon)

---

# Outline of the Talk

- Playing on a matroid.
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- General representation by a game tree.
  
- **Playing on a Lawrence matroid.**
  - Making explicit a winning strategy.
  - Biased extensions.
  
- Rank complexity.
- Conclusion.

---

# Making explicit a winning strategy on Lawrence matroids.

- Winning strategy : general principle
  - $x_0$  is given (+)
  - Maker orients  $r$  elements  $x_1, \dots, x_r$
  - When maker orients an element  $x_i$ , he knows its final position in the circuit and a previous claimed neighbor  $x_j$ .
  - He can sign  $x_i$  using the relation
    - $S(x_i) = -S(x_j) \cdot a_{k,x_i} \cdot a_{k,x_j}$  such that  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  will be in position  $k$  and  $k+1$  in the circuit.



# Example

1	2	3	4	5	6
		-	+		
1	-1	1	-1	1	1
1	1	-1	-1	1	1
1	1	1	-1	1	-1

# Example

1	2	3	4	5	6
		-	+		-
1	-1	1	-1	1	1
1	1	-1	-1	1	1
1	1	1	-1	1	-1

# Example

1	2	3	4	5	6
+		-	+		-
1	-1	1	-1	1	1
1	1	-1	-1	1	1
1	1	1	-1	1	-1

# Simple characterization of the existence of a Maker winning strategy on Lawrence matroids.

- Theorem :

The game 3 is winning on a Lawrence matroid of rank  $r$  and of order  $n$  if and only if  $n \geq 2r$ .

# Extending the threshold computation on Lawrence matroids.

- Theorem :

The biased  $(1^*, q)$  version of game 3 is winning on a Lawrence matroid of rank  $r$  and of order  $n$   
if and only if  $n \geq r(q+1)$ .

- With a similar strategy.
- Undirected version :  $n \geq (r-1)(q+1)+2$
- $q-1$  more elements needed in the directed case.

---

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# Space complexity needed for the rank.

- $C=L$  : Languages such that it exists a non deterministic logarithmic space-bounded machine such that  $x \in L$  iif for input  $x$ ,  
#accepting paths = # rejecting paths.
- $Ver.RANK^- = \{ (A,r) \mid A \in Z^{m \times n}, n \in N, rank(A) < r \}$
- $Ver.RANK = \{ (A,r) \mid A \in Z^{m \times n}, n \in N, rank(A) = r \}$
- $Ver.RANK^-$  is complete for  $C=L$  and  $Ver.RANK$  is complete for the second level of the boolean hierarchy above  $C=L$
- Implies hardness for NL and membership in  $TC^1$  and  $NC^2$ .

---

# Time and operations bounds for the rank.

- Parallel model : Rank for  $n \times n$  matrices in polylogtime  $O^*(1)$  using  $n^{2.376}$  processors.
- The rank  $r$  of  $A \in K[x]^{n \times n}$  degree  $d$  and  $n-r$  independent nullspace vectors can be computed in
  - Time  $O^*(n \times \text{MM}(n, \log \|A\|))$   
[Moenck, Carter 1979]
  - $O(n^\alpha + n^2 \log \|A\|)$  operations in  $K$   
[Bürgisser, Clausen, Shokrollahi 1997]
  - $O^*(\text{MM}(n, d)) = O^*(n^\alpha d)$  operations in  $K$   
[Storjohann, Villard 2005]



---

# Reduction Conclusions.

- Computing the rank is easy over a field
  - a representation can help
  - space complexity from rank approach is  $O(n^2) + \text{SpaceCost}(C\_L) = O(n^{2.7})$
- Focus on uniform oriented matroids.
- On Lawrence matroid, studies all the four games collapse.
- Focus on non Lawrence matroids.

---

# Space Conclusions.

- A PSPACE oracle for circuits leads to
  - a PSPACE decision for “who wins”
  - a PSPACE algorithm to choose of a good “move” if one exists
  - This space upper bound can be easily extended for PSPACE oracle deciding final positions
- Since PSPACE hardness is already known for game 4 on oriented graphs, we expect this exact space complexity for simple extensions of the game 3.

---

# Future Experimental Work.

- Use of duality remarks.
- Intensive study for 4-8 case : 70 signs
  - Complete checkout seems too hard ( $2^{70}$ )
  - Testing can help
- Toward the case 5-10 : 252 signs
  - Isomorphic classes for the 5-10 case are not known
  - Without a complete matroid generator, testing is inescapable
- Implementation of weak maps
- Algorithm to get a Lawrence representation if possible

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## Future Theoretical Work.

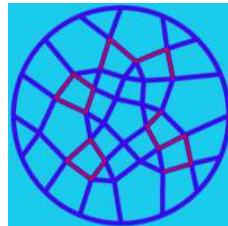
- Explain the experimental coincidence between existence of a winning strategy and the 3-term Grassmann Plucker relations.
- Find a larger class of oriented matroids upon which linear (or polynomial, non greedy) strategies exist.
- Precise the cost of weak map argument for an effective uniform standardisation.
- Precise the hardness increase for breaker signing or previous given elements in general ?

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Thank you for your attention.

Questions ?

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[veille@lri.fr](mailto:veille@lri.fr)