

# A CENSUS OF TETRAHEDRAL HYPERBOLIC MANIFOLDS

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ABSTRACT. We call a cusped hyperbolic 3-manifold *tetrahedral* if it can be decomposed into regular ideal tetrahedra. Following an earlier publication by three of the authors, we give a census of all tetrahedral manifolds and all of their combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations with at most 25 (orientable case) and 21 (non-orientable case) tetrahedra. Our isometry classification uses certified canonical cell decompositions (based on work by Dunfield, Hoffman, Licata) and isomorphism signatures (an improvement of dehydration sequences by Burton). The tetrahedral census comes in **Regina** as well as **SnapPy** format, and we illustrate its features.

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*Date:* October 6, 2015.

*1991 Mathematics Classification.* Primary 57N10. Secondary 57M25.

*Key words and phrases:* hyperbolic 3-manifolds, regular ideal tetrahedron, census, tetrahedral manifolds, Bianchi orbifolds.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. **Tetrahedral manifolds.** We call a cusped hyperbolic 3-manifold *tetrahedral* if it can be decomposed into regular ideal tetrahedra. The combinatorial data of this decomposition is captured in the *combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation* which can be defined simply as an ideal triangulation where all edges have order 6. By Mostow rigidity, a combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation determines a tetrahedral manifold. However, there might be several non-isomorphic (i.e., not related by just relabeling tetrahedra and vertices) combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations yielding the same tetrahedral manifold. That is why we introduce the two terms tetrahedral manifold and combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation to distinguish whether we regard isometric or combinatorially isomorphic objects as equivalent.

The tetrahedral manifold were also called *maximum volume* in [Ani05, VMF11, VTF14a, VTF14b] because they are precisely the ones with maximal volume among all hyperbolic manifolds with a fixed number of tetrahedra. Thus, they also appear at the trailing ends of the SnapPy [CDW] census manifolds sharing the same letter<sup>1</sup> (e.g., m405 to m412, s955 to s961, v3551, t12833 to t12845, o9\_44249). Moreover, the number of tetrahedra and the Matveev complexity [Mat03] also coincides for these manifolds.

The census of tetrahedral manifolds illustrates a number of phenomena of arithmetic hyperbolic manifolds including symmetries visible in the canonical cell decomposition but hidden by the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation. In particular, the canonical cell decomposition might have non-tetrahedral cells.

Several manifolds that have played a key role in the development of hyperbolic geometry are tetrahedral, e.g., the complements of the figure-eight knot, the minimally twisted 5-chain link (which conjecturally is also the minimum volume orientable hyperbolic manifold with 5 cusps) and the Thurston congruence link. The last two have the special property that their combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation is maximally symmetric, i.e., any tetrahedron can be taken to any other tetrahedron in every orientation-preserving configuration via a combinatorial isomorphism. One of the authors has classified link complements with this special property in previous work [Goe15].

We also construct several new links with tetrahedral complement.

1.2. **Our results and methods.** Our main goals (see [Goe] for the data) are the creation of

- (a) The census of combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations up to 25 (orientable case), respectively, 21 (non-orientable case) tetrahedra.

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<sup>1</sup>The case of the letter m is exceptional because it spans several number of tetrahedra for purely historic reasons.

- (b) The grouping by isometry type and the corresponding canonical cell decompositions. We ship this as a `Regina` [Bur] file containing triangulations in a hierarchy reflecting the grouping.
- (c) The corresponding census of tetrahedral manifolds. We ship this as a `SnapPy` census containing a representative triangulation for each isometry type. This census can be used just like any other `SnapPy` census.
- (d) The list of covering maps between the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations.

For (a), we use a new approach differing from the traditional one that starts by enumerating 4-valent graphs used first by Callahan-Hildebrand-Weeks [CHW99] or variations of the traditional approach such as by Burton and Pettersson [BP14]. The advantage of our new approach is that it scales to a substantially higher number of tetrahedra because it allows for early pruning of triangulations with edges of wrong order. We also deploy isomorphism signatures to avoid recounting combinatorially isomorphic triangulations. Recall that the isomorphism signature is an improvement by Burton [Bur11] of the (non-canonical) dehydration sequences. It is a complete invariant of the combinatorial isomorphism type of a triangulation. Algorithms 1 and 2 used for the enumeration of combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations are described in Section 2. Isomorphism signatures of orientable combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations with at most seven tetrahedra are presented in Table 2.

For (b), we use a new invariant we call the *isometry signature* (see Section 3). It is a complete invariant of the isometry type of a cusped hyperbolic 3-manifold. It is defined as the isomorphism signature of the canonical retriangulation of the canonical cell decomposition [EP88]. To compute it, we use exact arithmetic to certify the canonical cell decomposition even when the cells are not tetrahedral, expanding on work by Dunfield, Hoffman, Licata [DHL14].

For (d), we wrote a script that finds combinatorial homomorphisms from a triangulation to another triangulation.

Several of the techniques here are new and can be generalized: The *isometry signature* is an invariant that is defined for any finite-volume cusped hyperbolic 3-manifolds. It is a complete isometry invariant (and thus by Mostow rigidity a complete homotopy invariant) that can be effectively computed and, in general, be certified whenever the manifold is orientable and the canonical cell decomposition contains only tetrahedral cells using `hikmot` [HIK<sup>+</sup>13]. We also provide an improvement of the code provided in [DHL14] to certify canonical triangulations that is simpler and generalizes to any number of cusps.

Applying the above discussed methods we obtain the following result.

**Theorem 1.1.** *The number of combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations and tetrahedral manifolds up to 25 tetrahedra for orientable manifolds and up to 21 tetrahedra for non-orientable manifolds are listed in Table 1.*

All combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations and tetrahedral manifolds indicated in Table 1 are enumerated in supplement files available in [Goe].

Knots and links with tetrahedral complement are shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5.

**1.3. Features of the tetrahedral census.** Properties of tetrahedral manifolds that make them interesting to study include:

TABLE 1. Number of triangulations in the census.

Tetrahedra	combinatorial tet. tessellations		tetrahedral manifolds		homology links
	orientable	non-or.	orientable	non-or.	
1	0	1	0	1	0
2	2	2	2	1	1
3	0	1	0	1	0
4	4	4	4	2	2
5	2	12	2	8	0
6	7	14	7	10	0
7	1	1	1	1	0
8	14	10	13	6	5
9	1	6	1	6	0
10	57	286	47	197	12
11	0	17	0	17	0
12	50	117	47	80	7
13	3	8	3	8	0
14	58	134	58	113	25
15	91	975	81	822	0
16	102	175	96	142	32
17	8	52	8	52	0
18	213	1118	199	810	66
19	25	326	25	326	0
20	1886	26320	1684	22340	209
21	31	251	31	251	0
22	390	-	381	-	148
23	58	-	58	-	0
24	1544	-	1465	-	378
25	7563	-	7367	-	0

- The tetrahedral manifolds are arithmetic as they are a proper subset of the commensurability class of figure-eight knot complement, closed under finite coverings, see Section 5.2.
- The tetrahedral manifolds are exactly those with maximal volume among all cusped hyperbolic manifolds with a fixed number of tetrahedra.
- Their Matveev complexity equals the number of regular ideal tetrahedra.
- Many combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations hide symmetries, i.e, there are isometries of the corresponding tetrahedral manifold that are not induced from a combinatorial isomorphism of the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation.
- A substantial fraction of tetrahedral manifolds are link complements.

## 2. THE ENUMERATION OF COMBINATORIAL TETRAHEDRAL TESSELLATIONS

```

Function FindAllTetrahedralTessellations(integer max, bool orientable)
  Result: Returns all (non-)orientable tetrahedral tessellations up to combinatorial
    isomorphism with at most max tetrahedra.

  result ← {}; /* resulting triangulations */
  already_seen ← {}; /* isomorphism signatures encountered earlier */

  Procedure RecursiveFind(Triangulation t)
    Result: Searches all triangulations obtained from t by gluing faces or adding
      tetrahedra.

    /* Close order 6 edges and reject unsuitable triangulations */
    if FixEdges(t) = "valid" then
      /* Skip triangulations already seen earlier */
      if isomorphismSignature(t) ∉ already_seen then
        already_seen ← already_seen ∪ {isomorphismSignature(t)};
        if t has no open faces then
          /* t orientable by construction if orientable = true */
          if t is non-orientable or orientable = true then
            result ← result ∪ {t};
          else
            /* This choice results in faster enumeration */
            choose an open face  $F_1=(\text{tetrahedron}, f_1)$  of t adjacent to an open
            edge of highest order;
            if t has less than max tetrahedra then
              RecursiveFind(t with a new tetrahedron glued to  $F_1$  via an odd
              permutation)
            for each open face  $F_2 \neq F_1$  of t do
              for each  $p \in S_4$  do
                if  $p(f_1) = f_2$  then
                  if p is odd or orientable = false then
                    RecursiveFind(t with  $F_1$  glued to  $F_2$  via p);

  RecursiveFind(triangulation with one unglued tetrahedron);
  return result

```

**Algorithm 1:** The main function to enumerate all tetrahedral tessellations.

We use Algorithm 1 to enumerate the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations. The input is the maximal number of tetrahedra to be considered and a flag indicating whether we wish

**Function** `FixEdges`(*Triangulation*  $t$ )

**Result:**  $t$  is modified in place. Returns “valid” or “invalid”.

**while**  $t$  has open edge  $e$  of order 6 **do**

  | close edge  $e$ ;

**return** “valid” if every edge  $e$

- has order  $< 6$  (if open) or  $= 6$  (if closed) and
- has no projective plane as vertex link.

**Algorithm 2:** A helper function closing order 6 edges and rejecting triangulations which cannot result in tetrahedral tessellations.

to enumerate the orientable or the non-orientable tessellations. The result is a set of ideal triangulations where each edge has order 6 resulting in manifolds of the desired orientability.

As pointed out in the introduction our algorithm differs from the traditional approach: we recursively try all possible ways open faces can be face-paired without enumerating 4-valent graphs first. This will, of course, result in many duplicates, so we keep a set of isomorphism signatures (see [Bur11]) of previously encountered triangulations around to prevent recounting. Recall that an isomorphism signature is, unlike a dehydration sequence, a complete invariant of the combinatorial isomorphism type of a triangulation.

The advantage of this approach is that we can insert a procedure that can prune the search space early on. In our case, this procedure is given in Algorithm 2 and rejects ideal triangulations where edges have the wrong order. It also rejects ideal triangulations with non-manifold topology. These can occur when the tetrahedra around an edge cannot be oriented consistently and the vertex link of the center of the edge becomes a projective plane  $\mathbb{R}P^2$ .

The algorithm has been implemented using `Regina` and we briefly recall how a triangulation is presented. The vertices of each tetrahedron are indexed 0, 1, 2, 3 and the faces are indexed by the number of the vertex opposite to it. Triangulations in intermediate stages will have unpaired faces. We call a face open if it is unpaired, otherwise closed. A triangulation consists of a number of tetrahedra and for each tetrahedron  $T_1$  and each face index  $f_1 = 0, \dots, 3$ , we store two pieces of data to encode whether and how the face  $F_1 = (T_1, f_1)$  is glued to another face  $F_2 = (T_2, f_2)$  with face index  $f_2$  of another (not necessarily distinct) tetrahedron  $T_2$ :

- (1) A pointer to  $T_2$ . If  $F_1$  is an open face, this pointer is null.
- (2) An element  $p \in S_4$  such that  $p(f_1) = f_2$  and the vertex  $i \neq f_1$  of  $T_1$  is glued to  $p(i)$  of  $T_2$ .

The face pairings implicitly determine edge classes. We call such an edge open if it is adjacent to an open face (necessarily so exactly two) and otherwise closed. Closing an open edge means gluing the two open adjacent faces by the suitable permutation.

The source for the implementation is in `src/genIsoSigsOfTetrahedralTessellations.cpp`. See [Goe, data/] for isomorphism signatures of all combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations from Table 1 and Table 2 for orientable tessellations with  $n \leq 7$  tetrahedra. Also names of manifolds in the census are presented (see Section 4).

TABLE 2. Isomorphism signatures for all orientable combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations with  $n \leq 7$  tetrahedra.

n	Signatures	Name	n	Signatures	Name
2	cPcbbbdxm	otet02 <sub>0000</sub>	6	gLLPQccdfefqjsqqjj	otet06 <sub>0000</sub>
2	cPcbbbiht	otet02 <sub>0001</sub>	6	gLLPQccdfeffqjsqqsj	otet06 <sub>0001</sub>
4	eLMkbbdddemdx	otet04 <sub>0000</sub>	6	gLLPQceeffpupuupa	otet06 <sub>0002</sub>
4	eLMkbcdddededde	otet04 <sub>0001</sub>	6	gLMzQbcdefffhxqqxha	otet06 <sub>0003</sub>
4	eLMkbcdddhxqdu	otet04 <sub>0002</sub>	6	gLMzQbcdefffhxqxxq	otet06 <sub>0004</sub>
4	eLMkbcdddhxqlm	otet04 <sub>0003</sub>	6	gLvQQadfedefjqqsjj	otet06 <sub>0005</sub>
5	fLLQcbcedeeloxset	otet05 <sub>0000</sub>	6	gLvQQbefeefedimipt	otet06 <sub>0006</sub>
5	fLLQcbdeedemnamjp	otet05 <sub>0001</sub>	7	hLvAQkadfdgggfjxqnjnbw	otet07 <sub>0000</sub>

### 3. THE ISOMETRY SIGNATURE

In the previous section, we enumerated all combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations with a given maximal number of tetrahedra up to combinatorial isomorphism. In the next step, we want to find the equivalence classes of those combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations yielding the same tetrahedral manifold up to isometry.

We do this by grouping combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations by their *isometry signature* which we define, compute and certify in this section. To summarize, the isometry signature is the isomorphism signature of the canonical retriangulation of the canonical cell decomposition. If, however, the canonical cell decomposition has simplices as cells, we short-circuit and just use the isomorphism signature of the canonical cell decomposition itself. We can certify the isometry signature by using exact computations to determine which faces in the proto-canonical triangulation are transparent.

The code implementing the certified canonical retriangulation can be found in `src/canonical_o3.py`. The code to group (and name) the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations by isometry signature is in `src/identifyAndNameIsometricIsoSigsOfTetrahedralTessellations.py`.

**3.1. Definition.** Recall that the hyperboloid model of 3-dimensional hyperbolic space  $\mathbb{H}^3$  in (3+1)-Minkowski space (with inner product defined by  $\langle x, y \rangle = x_0y_0 + x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 - x_3y_3$ ) is given by

$$S^+ = \{x = (x_0, \dots, x_3) \mid x_3 > 0, \quad \langle x, x \rangle = -1\}.$$

For a cusped hyperbolic manifold  $M$ , choose a horotorus cusp neighborhood of the same volume for each cusp. Lift  $M$  and the cusp neighborhoods to  $\mathbb{H}^3 \cong S^+$ . The cusp neighborhoods lift to a  $\pi_1(M)$ -invariant set of horoballs. For each horoball  $B \subset S^+$ , there is a dual vector  $v_B$  that is light-like (i.e.,  $\langle v_B, v_B \rangle = 0$ ) and such that  $w \in B \Leftrightarrow \langle v_B, w \rangle > -1$ . The boundary of the convex hull of all  $v_B$  has polygonal faces.

**Definition 3.1.** The *canonical cell decomposition* of  $M$  is given by the radial projection of the polygonal faces of the boundary of the convex hull of all  $v_B$  onto  $S^+$ .

The canonical cell decomposition was introduced by Epstein and Penner [EP88]. It does not depend on a particular choice of cusp neighborhoods as long as they all have the same volume, or equivalently, same area.

**Definition 3.2.** A triangulation which is obtained by subdividing the cells of the canonical cell decomposition and inserting (if necessary) flat tetrahedra is called a *proto-canonical triangulation*. If it contains no flat tetrahedra, i.e., all tetrahedra are positively oriented, it is called a *geometric proto-canonical triangulation*.

The result of calling `canonicalize` on a `SnapPy` manifold is a proto-canonical triangulation. If the canonical cell decomposition has cells which are not ideal tetrahedra (non-regular or regular), there might be more than one proto-canonical triangulation of the same manifold. A face of a proto-canonical triangulation which is part of a 2-cell of the canonical cell decomposition is called *opaque*. Otherwise, a face is called *transparent*.

**Definition 3.3.** Consider a 2-cell in the canonical cell decomposition which is an  $n$ -gon. Pick the suspension of such an  $n$ -gon by the centers of the two neighboring 3-cells. These suspensions over all 2-cells form a decomposition of  $M$  into topological diamonds. Each diamond can be split into  $n$  tetrahedra along its central axis. The result is called the *canonical retriangulation*.

The canonical retriangulation carries exactly the same information as the canonical cell decomposition (just packaged as a triangulation) and thus only depends on (and uniquely determines) the isometry type of the manifold. `SnapPy` uses it internally to compute, for example, the symmetry group of a hyperbolic manifold  $M$  by enumerating the combinatorial isomorphisms of the canonical retriangulation of  $M$ . Similarly, `SnapPy` uses it to check whether two manifolds are isometric.

**Definition 3.4.** The *isometry signature* of  $M$  is the isomorphism signature of the canonical retriangulation if the canonical cell decomposition has non-simplicial cells. Otherwise, it is the isomorphism signature of the canonical cell decomposition itself.

**Example 3.5.** The triangulation of `m004` given in the `SnapPy` census already is the canonical cell decomposition. Thus, the isometry signature of the manifold `m004` is the isomorphism signature of the census triangulation, namely `cPcbbbiht` presented in Table 2. In the census of tetrahedral hyperbolic manifolds `m004` named `otet020001`. Recall that this manifold is the figure-eight knot complement.

The cell decomposition for `m202` given in the `SnapPy` census is not canonical. The isomorphism signature of its `SnapPy` triangulation is `eLMkbbdddemdx` presented in Table 2. In the census of tetrahedral hyperbolic manifolds `m202` named `otet040000`. Observe, that `otet040000` is the complement of a 2-component link presented in Figure 3. The isometry signature of `m202` is `jLLzzQQccdfihhiqqffofafoaa` that is realized by a triangulation with ten tetrahedra.

**3.2. Computation of the tilt.** Consider an ideal triangulation  $\mathcal{T} = \cup_i T_i$  of a cusped manifold  $M$  with a shape assignment for each tetrahedron, i.e., a  $z_i \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\}$  determining an embedding of the tetrahedron  $T_i$  as ideal tetrahedron in  $\mathbb{H}^3$  up to isometry. If the shapes fulfill the consistency equations (also known as gluing equations) in logarithmic form and have positive imaginary parts, we call the triangulation together with the shape assignment



a *geometric ideal triangulation*. Thurston shows that a geometric ideal triangulation glues up to a complete hyperbolic structure on  $M$ . Given a geometric ideal triangulation and a face  $F$  of it, the tilt  $\text{Tilt}(F)$  is a real number defined by Weeks [Wee93] which determines whether a given triangulation is proto-canonical and which faces are transparent.

We now describe how to compute  $\text{Tilt}(F)$  following the notation in [DHL14] and use it to determine the canonical retriangulation.

3.2.1. *Computation of a cusp cross section.* The ideal tetrahedra intersect the boundary of a neighborhood of a cusp in Euclidean triangles and we call the resulting assignment of lengths to edges a *cusp cross section*. We first compute a cusp cross section  $C_c$  for some neighborhood of each cusp  $c$  by picking an edge  $e_j$  for each cusp and assigning length  $e_j = 1$  to it. We recursively assign lengths to the other edges by using that the ratio of two edge lengths is given by the respective  $|z_i^*|$  where  $z_i^*$  is one of the edge parameters  $z_i, z_i' = \frac{1}{1-z_i}, z_i'' = 1 - \frac{1}{z_i}$ :

$$e_l = e_k \cdot |z_i^*|.$$

3.2.2. *Computation of the cusp area.* We can compute the area of each Euclidean triangle  $t$  as

$$A(t) = \frac{1}{2}e_k^2 \cdot \text{Im}(z_i^*)$$

where  $e_k$  and  $z_i^*$  are as above. The cusp area  $A(C_c)$  of the cusp cross section  $C_c$  is simply the sum of the areas  $A(t)$  over all its Euclidean triangles  $t$ .

3.2.3. *Normalization of the cusp area.* We need to scale each cusp cross section to have the same target area  $A$ . The new edge lengths and areas are given by

$$e'_l = e_l \cdot \sqrt{\frac{A}{A(C_c)}} \quad \text{and} \quad A'(t) = A(t) \frac{A}{A(C_c)}.$$

3.2.4. *Computation of the circumradius for each Euclidean triangle.* Let  $R_v^i$  denote the circumradius of the Euclidean triangle  $t$  that is the cross section of the tetrahedron  $i$  near vertex  $v \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ . If  $e'_j, e'_k,$  and  $e'_l$  are the edge lengths of  $t$ , elementary trigonometry implies

$$R_v^i = \frac{e'_j e'_k e'_l}{4A'(t)}.$$

3.2.5. *Computation of the tilt of a vertex.* Compute

$$(1) \quad \text{Tilt}(i, v) = R_v^i - \sum_{u \neq v} R_u^i \frac{\text{Re}(z_i^*)}{|z_i^*|}$$

where  $z_i^*$  is the edge parameter for the edge from  $u$  to  $v$ .

3.2.6. *Computation of the tilt of a face.* If the face  $F$  opposite to vertex  $v$  of tetrahedron  $i$  is glued to that opposite of  $v'$  of tetrahedron  $i'$ , the tilt of the face is defined as

$$\text{Tilt}(F) = \text{Tilt}(i, v) + \text{Tilt}(i', v').$$

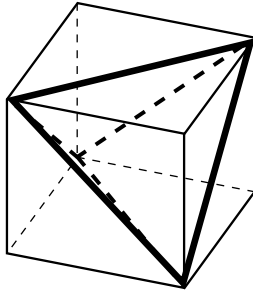


FIGURE 1. Subdivision of a cube into 5 tetrahedra. For a regular ideal hyperbolic cube, all tetrahedra are again regular ideal. The subdivision introduced additional diagonals on the faces.

3.2.7. *Determination of transparent faces and canonical retriangulation.* Weeks proves that [Wee93] a geometric ideal triangulation is a geometric proto-canonical triangulation if all  $\text{Tilt}(F) \leq 0$ . In that case, a face  $F$  is transparent if and only if  $\text{Tilt}(F) = 0$ .

`SnapPy` implements an algorithm to compute the canonical retriangulation. It can be refactored so that it takes as input the opacities of the faces and is purely combinatorial. In case of a geometric (!) proto-canonical triangulation, Weeks' arguments in the `SnapPy` code prove that this algorithm works correctly.

For all manifolds we encountered, several randomization trials were always sufficient to ensure that the ideal triangulation returned by `SnapPy`'s `canonize` is always geometric proto-canonical. Thus, the result of the purely combinatorial canonical retriangulation algorithm is known to be correct as long as we certify the input to be a geometric proto-canonical triangulation with certified opacities of its faces.

**Remark 3.6.** Even though we can certify the results for all listed manifolds in the tetrahedral census, it is not known if

- every cusped hyperbolic manifold has a geometric proto-canonical triangulation,
- every cusped hyperbolic manifold has a geometric ideal triangulation.

Moreover, it is known that `SnapPy`'s implementation can give the wrong canonical retriangulation if we use as input a non-geometric (!) proto-canonical triangulation. As pointed out by Burton, the triangulation `x101` in the non-orientable cusped `SnapPy` census is such an example where flat tetrahedra cause `SnapPy` to give an incorrect canonical retriangulation. It is unclear to the authors which of the following factors contribute to the incorrect result:

- Numerical precision issues.
- `SnapPy`'s extension of the above definition of  $\text{Tilt}(F)$  to flat tetrahedra (where some  $A(t) = 0$  and thus  $R_v^i = \infty$ ) using `CIRCUMRADIUS_EPSILON`.
- Week's arguments for the purely combinatorial part of the canonical retriangulation algorithm seem to implicitly assume that there are no flat-tetrahedra.

The existence of geometric triangulations of a hyperbolic manifold can be proven when some tetrahedra are allowed to be flat [PW00]. It can also be proven virtually [LST08].

**Remark 3.7.** Call a manifold that can be decomposed into regular ideal cubes *cubical*. Recall that a regular ideal cube can be subdivided into 5 regular ideal tetrahedra, see Figure 1. However, this does not imply that a cubical manifold is tetrahedral.

A counter-example is the manifold appearing in the census as **x101** and **x103**. Its canonical cell decomposition consists of one regular ideal cube. As Burton explained [Bur14], **x101** subdivides the cube into 5 regular ideal tetrahedra but needs to insert a flat tetrahedron to match the diagonals on the cube. Thus, it is not a tetrahedral manifold (but still has a tetrahedral double-cover  $\text{ntet10}_{0093}$ ).

**x103** splits the same cube into 6 non-regular tetrahedra and is a geometric proto-canonical triangulation.

**3.3. Certification for tetrahedral manifolds.** Let  $\sqrt{\mathbb{Q}^+}$  denote the multiplicative group of all square roots of positive rational numbers and let  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{\mathbb{Q}^+}) \subset \mathbb{C}$  be the field generated by  $\sqrt{\mathbb{Q}^+}$ .

**Lemma 3.8.** If we pick as target area  $A = \sqrt{3}$ , we have for a geometric proto-canonical triangulation of a tetrahedral manifold  $M$ :

$$\begin{aligned} z_i^* &\in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3}); & A(C_c) &\in \mathbb{Q}^+ \sqrt{3}; \\ |z_i^*|, e_l, A(t), e'_l, A'(t), R_v^i &\in \sqrt{\mathbb{Q}^+}; & \text{Tilt}(F) &\in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{\mathbb{Q}^+}). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.*  $M$  and thus its universal cover can be decomposed into regular ideal tetrahedra. The resulting regular tessellation in  $\mathbb{H}^3$  can be chosen to have vertices at  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$  (also see Section 5), thus the shapes of any ideal triangulation of  $M$  are in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$ .

Develop a cusp cross section constructed above in  $\mathbb{C}$  such that the vertices of the edge set to length 1 are at 0 and 1. Then all vertices have complex coordinates in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$  and a fundamental domain in  $\mathbb{C}$  for the cusp is a parallelogram spanned by two complex numbers in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$ . The area  $A(C_c)$  of such a parallelogram is in  $\mathbb{Q}^+ \sqrt{3}$ .

The rest follows from the above formulas. □

We can represent a  $z_i^*$  exactly by  $r_1 + r_2 \sqrt{-3}$  with  $r_1, r_2 \in \mathbb{Q}$ . We can represent the other quantities exactly using Corollary 3.10 below.

**Lemma 3.9.** Let  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  denote a list of distinct prime numbers and  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_1}, \dots, \sqrt{p_r})$  denote the corresponding number field. Then,

- (a)  $K/\mathbb{Q}$  is Galois with Galois group  $G(K/\mathbb{Q}) = (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^r$ .
- (b) If  $\mathbb{Q} \subset L \subset K$  is a subfield of  $K$  such that  $[L : \mathbb{Q}] = 2$  then  $L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_I})$  where  $p_I = \prod_{i \in I} p_i$  for some nonempty  $I \subset \{1, \dots, r\}$ .
- (c) The  $\mathbb{Q}$ -linear map

$$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_1}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_2}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \cdots \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_r}) \rightarrow K, \quad x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_r \mapsto \prod_{i=1}^r x_i$$

is an isomorphism of  $\mathbb{Q}$ -vector spaces.

*Proof.* We will prove this by induction on  $r$ . When  $r = 1$  (a) is obvious and (b) follows from the fundamental theorem of Galois theory [Lan02, VI,Thm.1.2].

Assume that the lemma is true for  $r - 1$ , and let  $K_1 = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_1}, \dots, \sqrt{p_{r-1}})$  and  $K_2 = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_r})$ . Then, we claim that  $K_1 \cap K_2 = \mathbb{Q}$ . Indeed, otherwise we have  $K_2 \subset K_1$  and by part (b) it follows that  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_r}) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_I})$  for some nonempty subset  $I \subset \{1, \dots, r-1\}$ . So,  $\sqrt{p_r} = a + b\sqrt{p_I}$  for  $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Squaring, we get

$$p_r = a^2 + b^2 p_I, \quad ab = 0.$$

If  $a = 0$  then  $p_r = b^2 p_I$  and since  $I$  is nonempty, it follows that  $p_i^2$  divides  $p_r$  where  $p_i, p_r$  are distinct primes, a contradiction. If  $b = 0$  then  $p_r = a^2$  and  $p_r$  is a prime number, also a contradiction. This shows that  $K_1 \cap K_2 = \mathbb{Q}$ . Let  $K = K_1 K_2 = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_1}, \dots, \sqrt{p_r})$  denote the composite field. It follows by [Lan02, VI, Thm.1.14] that  $K$  is a Galois extension with Galois group  $G(K/\mathbb{Q}) = G(K_1/\mathbb{Q}) \times G(K_2/\mathbb{Q}) = (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^r$ . This proves part (a) of the inductive part. Part (b) follows from part (a) by the fundamental theorem of Galois theory [Lan02, VI, Thm.1.2] and the classification of all index 2 subgroups of  $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^r$ . Part (c) follows from part (a) and the induction hypothesis.  $\square$

Part (c) of Lemma 3.9 implies the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.10.** Every element in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{\mathbb{Q}^+})$  has a unique representative of the form

$$(2) \quad r_1 \sqrt{n_1} + \dots + r_k \sqrt{n_k}$$

where  $r_i \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus 0$  and  $n_1 < \dots < n_k$  are square-free positive integers.

**Remark 3.11.** For the purpose of effective exact computation, we need an explicit way of adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing expressions of the form (2). This is obvious except for division where we give the following algorithm: To compute  $n/d$  where  $n$  and  $d$  are two such forms and  $d$  contains a non-rational term  $r_j \sqrt{n_j}$ , pick a prime  $p$  dividing  $n_j$ . We can write  $d$  as  $d_0 + \sqrt{p}d_1$  such that  $d_0$  contains no term  $r_i \sqrt{n_i}$  with  $p|n_i$ . We now have

$$\frac{n}{d} = \frac{n(d_0 - \sqrt{p}d_1)}{(d_0 + \sqrt{p}d_1)(d_0 - \sqrt{p}d_1)} = \frac{n(d_0 - \sqrt{p}d_1)}{d_0^2 - p d_1^2}.$$

The new denominator is simpler because it contains no more terms  $r_i \sqrt{n_i}$  with  $p|n_i$ . Thus, by repeating this process we can eliminate all primes in the terms of the denominator.

When we say *using interval arithmetics*, we mean:

- (1) We convert the exact representation of each quantity in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{\mathbb{Q}^+})$ , respectively,  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$  to an interval  $[a, b]$ , respectively, a complex interval  $[a, b] + [a', b']i$ . These intervals have interval semantics: the true value of the quantity is guaranteed to be contained in the interval.
- (2) Any operations such as  $+$  or  $\log$  are carried out such that interval semantics is preserved, i.e., the resulting interval is again guaranteed to contain the true value of the computed quantity.
- (3) An inequality involving an interval is considered certified only if it is true for all values in the interval. E.g., if the interval given for  $x$  is  $[a, b]$ , then  $x < 0$  is certified only if  $b < 0$ .

We can now certify the geometric proto-canonical triangulation and the opacities of its faces. Our input is a candidate geometric proto-canonical triangulation obtained by calling

`SnapPy`'s `canonize` on a tetrahedral manifold. We first guess exact values  $z_i$  from the approximated shapes reported by `SnapPy`. Using those guesses, we verify

- (1) the rectangular form of the edge equations exactly,
- (2)  $\text{Im}(z_i) > 0$  for each tetrahedron (using interval arithmetics),
- (3)  $|e| < 10^{-7}$  for each edge where  $e$  is the error of the logarithmic form of the edge equation (using interval arithmetics),
- (4) all the equations (3.2.1) exactly,
- (5)  $\text{Tilt}(F) < 0$  (using interval arithmetics) for an opaque face, respectively,  $\text{Tilt}(F) = 0$  (using exact arithmetics) for a transparent face.

(1) implies that the error in (3) will be a multiple of  $2\pi i$  so a small enough error implies that the logarithmic form of the edge equations is fulfilled exactly. Together with (2), this means that the tetrahedra yield a (not necessarily complete) hyperbolic structure. Completeness is ensured by (4) which checks that the cusp cross section is Euclidean. Checking (4) really means verifying that the recursion process to obtain the edge lengths could construct a consistent result. (5) certifies the geometric proto-canonical triangulation and the opacities of the faces.

**Remark 3.12.** Note that in the process, we actually produce complex intervals for the shapes from `SnapPy`'s approximations certified to contain the true values. We can do this because we know that the shapes are in the field  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$  and thus can guess exact solutions and verify them exactly. An alternative method to obtain certified intervals from approximated shapes is the Krawczyk test implemented in `hikmot` [HIK<sup>+</sup>13]. We could not use it here though, because it cannot deal with non-orientable manifolds. The edge equations for a non-orientable manifold are polynomials in  $z_i^*$  and  $1/\bar{z}_i^*$ .

**Remark 3.13.** We could have also avoided guessing by tracking `SnapPy`'s algorithm to obtain a proto-canonical triangulation. We know that the shapes of the tetrahedral tessellation are all exactly represented by  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{-3}$  and that `SnapPy` is performing 2-3 and 3-2 moves during the algorithm. However, this would require changes to the `SnapPea` kernel since it does not report the sequence of moves it performed.

For guessing a rational representation from an approximation, we use the `fractions` module shipped with `python`. It essentially computes the continued fraction for a given real number and evaluates it at a stage where the resulting denominator is less than a given bound (10000 in our case). For the (complex) interval arithmetics, we use `sage`. Our implementation in `python` is based on the script given in [DHL14].

**3.4. Certification in the generic case.** Dunfield, Hoffman, Licata give an implementation in [DHL14] to certify a triangulation to be the canonical cell decomposition (which cannot contain non-tetrahedral cells). Though not needed here, we want to point out that their implementation can be both simplified and generalized to any number of cusps.

They start with certified complex intervals for the shapes returned by `hikmot` [HIK<sup>+</sup>13]. But instead of following the complicated procedure in [DHL14, Section 3.7], one can simply apply interval arithmetics to the above equations to compute  $\text{Tilt}(F)$ . The result is an interval  $[a, b]$  for each  $\text{Tilt}(F)$  that is guaranteed to contain the true value of  $\text{Tilt}(F)$ . If

$b < 0$  for each interval, then the  $\text{Tilt}(F)$  are certified to be less than 0, thus the given ideal triangulation is the canonical cell decomposition.

We provide a version of `canonical.py` here that implements this.

#### 4. RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALGORITHMS

We implemented the algorithms described in the previous section, see [Goe] for the resulting data. The longest algorithm to run was the enumeration of the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations: the orientable case up to 25 tetrahedra and the non-orientable one up to 21 tetrahedra each took about  $\approx 6$  weeks CPU time and  $\approx 70\text{Gb}$  on a Xeon E5-2630, 2.3Ghz. The number of resulting combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations and tetrahedral manifolds are listed in Table 1.

**4.1. Names of tetrahedral manifolds.** We give the tetrahedral manifolds names such as “otet08<sub>0002</sub>” (orientable), respectively, “ntet02<sub>0000</sub>” (non-orientable) with “tet” followed by the number of tetrahedra and an index. The different combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations corresponding to the same tetrahedral manifold are named with an additional index, e.g., “otet08<sub>0002</sub>#0”, “otet08<sub>0002</sub>#1”. We choose as canonical representative for an isometry class the first combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation, e.g., otet08<sub>0002</sub>#0 for the tetrahedral manifold otet08<sub>0002</sub>.

The indices are canonical: before indexing the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations and tetrahedral manifolds, we first sort the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations within an isometry class lexicographically by isomorphism signature and then sort the tetrahedral manifolds lexicographically by the isomorphism signature of their canonical representative.

**4.2. SnapPy census.** Our census of tetrahedral manifolds can be easily accessed from SnapPy. Simply change to the directory `snappy` accompanying this article and type `from tetrahedralCuspedCensus import *`. The two censuses `TetrahedralOrientableCuspedCensus` and `TetrahedralNonorientableCuspedCensus` have the same methods as any other census such as `OrientableCuspedCensus`. Here are examples of how to use them:

```
>>> from tetrahedralCuspedCensus import *
>>> M=TetrahedralOrientableCuspedCensus['otet02_0000'] # also m003
>>> TetrahedralOrientableCuspedCensus.identify(Manifold('m004'))
otet02_0001(0,0)
>>> len(TetrahedralOrientableCuspedCensus(tets=5)) # Number with 5 tets
2
>>> for M in TetrahedralOrientableCuspedCensus(tets=5):
...     print OrientableCuspedCensus.identify(M)
m410(0,0)
m412(0,0)(0,0)
>>> TetrahedralOrientableCuspedCensus.identify(Manifold("m208"))
>>>
```

The last example shows that `m208` is not a tetrahedral manifold since it has only 5 tetrahedra and thus would be in the tetrahedral census. Note that SnapPy’s `is_isometric_to` is using numerical methods and can fail to find an isomorphism. To verify that `m208` is not

tetrahedral, one can certify its isometry signature<sup>2</sup> and check that it is not in the data files [Goe] provided with this paper.

**4.3. Regina files.** We also provide the census of combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations as two **Regina** files (for orientable and non-orientable) in the **Regina** directory accompanying this article. Each file groups the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations first by number of tetrahedra and then by isometry class. The container for each isometry class contains the different combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations as well as the canonical retriangulation.

The **Regina** files can be inspected using the **Regina** GUI or the **Regina** python API. An example of how to traverse the tree structure in the file is given in `regina/example.py`.

**4.4. Morphisms.** Similarly to combinatorial isomorphism, we can define a *combinatorial homomorphism* between combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations, but without the requirement that different tetrahedra in the source go to the different tetrahedra in the destination. It assigns to each tetrahedron in the source a tetrahedron in the destination and a permutation in  $S_4$  indicating which vertex of the source tetrahedron is mapped to which vertex of the destination tetrahedron. These permutations have to be compatible with the gluings of the source and destination tetrahedra. If the tessellations are connected and have no open faces, the source triangulation needs to have the same number of or a multiple of the number of tetrahedra as the destination. Topologically, a combinatorial homomorphism is a covering map that preserves the triangulation. We have implemented a procedure to list all combinatorial homomorphisms for a pair of triangulations in python.

We give a list of all pairs  $(M, N)$  of combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations such that there is a combinatorial homomorphism from  $M$  to  $N$  as a text file `data/morphisms.txt`. We do not include the trivial pairs  $(M, M)$  or pairs  $(M, N)$  which factor through another combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation as those can be recovered trivially through the reflexive and transitive closure. We also give some of the resulting graphs in `misc/graphs`. We discuss an example in more detail later in Section 5.3.

## 5. PROPERTIES OF TETRAHEDRAL MANIFOLDS

**5.1. Tetrahedral manifolds are arithmetic.** Recall that two manifolds (or orbifolds) are commensurable if they have a common finite cover. Commensurability is an equivalence relation. The commensurability class of the figure-eight knot complement `m004` consists exactly of the cusped hyperbolic orbifolds and manifolds with invariant trace field  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$  that are arithmetic or, equivalently, that have integral traces [MR03, Theorem 8.2.3 and 8.3.2]. Thus, tetrahedral manifolds are also arithmetic with the same invariant trace field since

**Lemma 5.1.** Tetrahedral manifolds are commensurable to `m004`.

More precisely, the commensurability class of `m004` also contains the orbifold  $\mathfrak{R} = \mathbb{H}^3 / \text{Isom}(\{3, 3, 6\})$  where the Coxeter group  $\text{Isom}(\{3, 3, 6\})$  is the symmetry group of the regular tessellation

---

<sup>2</sup> We plan a future publication describing how to generalize the techniques for certifying isometry signatures to all cusped hyperbolic manifold. The third named author has already incorporated this into SnapPy, beginning with version 2.3.2, see SnapPy documentation.

$\{3, 3, 6\}$  by regular ideal tetrahedra. This orbifold can be used to characterize the tetrahedral manifolds in this commensurability class:

**Lemma 5.2.** A manifold  $M$  is a covering space of  $\mathfrak{R}$  if and only if it is tetrahedral.

*Proof.* A combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation of a manifold  $M$  lifts to the tessellation  $\{3, 3, 6\}$  in its universal cover  $\mathbb{H}^3$ . Thus,  $\pi_1(M)$  is a subgroup of the symmetry group  $\text{Isom}(\{3, 3, 6\})$ . Consequently,  $M$  is a cover of  $\mathfrak{R}$ .

Conversely, a covering map  $M \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$  induces a combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation on the manifold  $M$  with the standard fundamental domain of  $\mathfrak{R}$  lifting to the barycentric subdivision of the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation.  $\square$

**5.2. Implications of the Margulis Theorem.** Since `m004` is arithmetic, Margulis Theorem implies that its commensurator is not discrete and thus the commensurability class of `m004` contains no minimal element [NR92a, MR03, Wal11]. In particular,  $\mathfrak{R}$  is not the minimal element of the commensurability class. We thus expect to see the following phenomena in the commensurability class containing the tetrahedral manifolds:

- Non-tetrahedral manifolds that are still commensurable with `m004`. For example, the following manifolds in SnapPy’s `OrientableCuspedCensus` up to 8 simplices have this property:

`m208, s118, s119, s594, s595, s596, v2873, v2874`

- Tetrahedral manifolds  $M$  with different covering maps  $M \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$  inducing non-isomorphic combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations of the same manifold  $M$ .
- Combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations “hiding symmetries”, defined as follows.

**Definition 5.3.** A combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation  $T$  hides symmetries if the corresponding tetrahedral manifold  $M$  has an isometry that is not induced from a combinatorial automorphism of  $T$ . In other words, if there is an isometry  $M \rightarrow M$  that does not commute with the covering map  $M \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$  corresponding to  $T$ .

In this section, we will illustrate these phenomena using the tetrahedral census.

**Remark 5.4.** By definition, the canonical cell decomposition and thus the canonical retriangulation sees all isometries, so we can detect this by checking that the number of combinatorial automorphisms of the canonical retriangulation is higher than those of the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation. To enable the reader to do this, the Regina file containing the tetrahedral census [Goe] includes the canonical retriangulation as well. The combinatorial automorphisms can be found using the method `findAllIsomorphisms` of a Regina triangulation or `find_morphisms` in `src/morphismMethods.py`.

**Remark 5.5.** The minimum volume orientable cusped hyperbolic orbifold  $\mathfrak{M} = \mathbb{H}^3/\text{PGL}(2, \mathbb{Z}[\zeta])$  and the Bianchi orbifold  $\mathfrak{B} = \mathbb{H}^3/\text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{Z}[\zeta])$  of discriminant  $D = -3$  where  $\zeta = \frac{1+\sqrt{-3}}{2}$  are related to  $\mathfrak{R}$  as follows with each map being a 2-fold covering [NR92b]:

$$\mathfrak{B} \rightarrow \mathfrak{M} \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}.$$

Similarly to  $\mathfrak{R}$  being the quotient of  $\mathbb{H}^3$  by the symmetry group of the regular tessellation  $\{3, 3, 6\}$ ,  $\mathfrak{M}$  corresponds to orientation-preserving symmetries, and  $\mathfrak{B}$  corresponds to



the symmetry group of the regular tessellation  $\{3, 3, 6\}$  after two-coloring the regular ideal tetrahedra.

Thus, the manifold covering spaces of  $\mathfrak{M}$  correspond to the orientable combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations, and the manifold covering spaces of  $\mathfrak{B}$  correspond to orientable combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations whose tetrahedra can be two-colored. Regina displays the dual 1-skeleton of a triangulation in its UI under “Skeleton: face pairing graph”, so we can check whether a combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation is a cover of  $\mathfrak{B}$  by testing whether the graph Regina shows is two-colorable. For example, all orientable combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations with fewer than 5 tetrahedra are covers of  $\mathfrak{B}$ . But  $\text{otet05}_{0000}$  and  $\text{otet06}_{0000}$  are not.

**Remark 5.6.** Related results include: [BMR95] show that all once-punctured torus bundles in the commensurability class of the figure eight-knot complement  $\mathfrak{m004}$  are actually cyclic covers of the tetrahedral manifolds  $\mathfrak{m003}$  and  $\mathfrak{m004}$  and thus tetrahedral. The non-arithmetic hyperbolic once-punctured torus bundles are studied in [GHH08] where an algorithm is given to compute the commensurator of a cusped non-arithmetic hyperbolic manifold. [RA01] study symmetries of or hidden by cyclic branched coverings of 2-bridge knots.

**5.3. The category of combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations.** To study the commensurability class containing the tetrahedral manifolds, we think of it as a category. For this, recall the notion of a combinatorial homomorphism from Section 4.4. On the underlying topological space, a combinatorial homomorphism is a covering map. We thus get two categories with a forgetful functor  $\mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ :

**Definition 5.7.** The *category  $\mathcal{M}$  of manifolds commensurable with tetrahedral manifolds* has as objects manifolds commensurable with  $\mathfrak{m004}$  and as morphisms covering maps. The *category  $\mathcal{T}$  of combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations* has as objects combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations and as morphisms combinatorial homomorphisms.

We show a small part of these categories in Figure 2 and observe:

- $\text{otet04}_{0001}\#0$  has two 2-covers (indicated by the solid arrows) giving two different triangulations  $\text{otet08}_{0002}\#0$  and  $\text{otet08}_{0002}\#1$ . These triangulations are not combinatorially isomorphic but yield isometric manifolds (indicated by the dashed line).
- The figure-eight knot complement,  $\text{otet02}_{0001}\#0$ , and its sister,  $\text{otet02}_{0000}\#0$ , have a common cover  $\text{otet04}_{0002}\#0$ . More general, any two combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations have a common cover combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation as they are in the same commensurability class.
- $\text{otet02}_{0001}\#0$  and  $\text{otet02}_{0000}\#0$  show that the graph is a poset with more than one minimal element. In fact, most combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations in our census are minimal elements and we conjecture that there are infinitely many such minimal elements.
- The figure also shows a manifold  $\mathfrak{m208}$ , which is non-tetrahedral. However, as with any manifold in this commensurability class, it still has a tetrahedral covering space, here  $\text{otet08}_{0010}\#0$  (the arrow has to be dashed because  $\mathfrak{m208}$  is not tetrahedral so the map is not a combinatorial homomorphism).

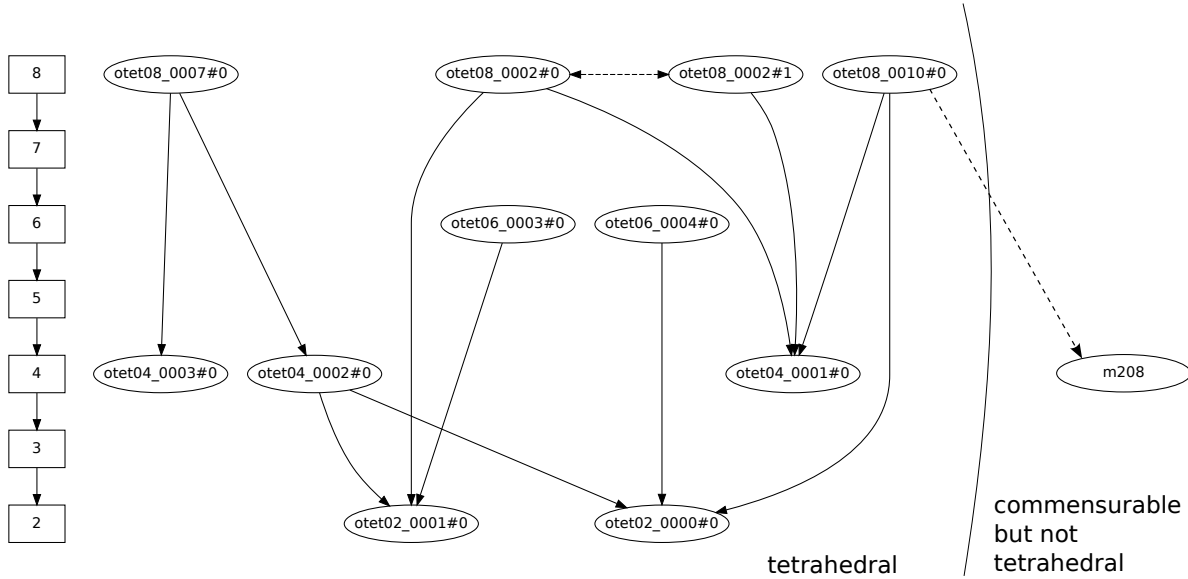


FIGURE 2. A small part of the category  $\mathcal{T}$  of combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations (solid arrows) and the larger category  $\mathcal{M}$  of manifolds commensurable with  $\mathbf{m004}$  (dashed arrows). Multiple morphisms between two objects are collapsed to just one arrow, automorphisms and morphisms factoring through another object are dropped.

**Remark 5.8.** The last example shows that the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation  $\text{otet08}_{0010}\#0$  hides symmetries as in Definition 5.3. To see this, notice that the covering space  $\text{otet08}_{0010} \rightarrow \mathbf{m208}$  is 2-fold, thus regular and  $\mathbf{m208}$  is the quotient of  $\text{otet08}_{0010}$  by the group  $G = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  of deck transformations. If  $G$  preserved the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation  $\text{otet08}_{0010}\#0$ , the quotient  $\mathbf{m208}$  would have an induced combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation. But  $\mathbf{m208}$  is not tetrahedral, thus the nontrivial element of  $G$  is a symmetry of  $\text{otet08}_{0010}\#0$  which is not a combinatorial homomorphism.

#### 5.4. Canonical cell decompositions.

5.4.1. *Examples.* The canonical cell decomposition of a tetrahedral manifold can:

- Be a **combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation**.

**Examples:**  $\text{otet02}_{0000}$  and  $\text{otet10}_{0010}$ . The latter one has two combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations,  $\text{otet10}_{0010}\#0$  being the canonical cell decomposition.

- Be a **coarsening** of a combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation.

(i.e., the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation is a subdivision of the canonical cell decomposition.)

**Example:**  $\text{otet05}_{0001}$ . The canonical cell decomposition consist of single regular ideal cube that can be subdivided into 5 tetrahedra (see Figure 1) such that the diagonals introduced on the faces are compatible. This yields the unique (up to combinatorial isomorphism) combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation for this manifold. We elaborate on the relationships to cubes below.

- **Neither** of the above.

In which case, the canonical cell decomposition can still

- Consists of (non-regular) tetrahedra.

**Example:** otet08<sub>0010</sub>.

- Contain cells which are not tetrahedra

**Example:** otet08<sub>0001</sub>. Its canonical cell decomposition contains some hexahedra obtained by gluing two non-regular tetrahedra.

5.4.2. *Cubical manifolds.* Recall from Remark 3.7 that a manifold was called cubical if it can be decomposed into regular ideal cubes. Figure 1 showed that there are two choices of picking alternating vertices of a cube, which span a tetrahedron and thus yield a subdivision of a regular ideal cube into 5 regular ideal tetrahedra. Even though each cube of a combinatorial cubical tessellation can be subdivided into regular ideal tetrahedra individually, this only yields a combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation if the choices made are compatible with the face-pairings of the combinatorial cubical tessellation. We saw otet05<sub>0001</sub> above as an example where this was possible and x103 in Remark 3.7 as an example where this was impossible.

If a manifold is both tetrahedral and cubical, the canonical cell decomposition can actually consist of regular cubes or regular ideal tetrahedra (or neither). This is illustrated by the two cubical links given by Aitchison and Rubinstein [AR92]:

- The canonical cell decomposition of the complement otet10<sub>0011</sub> of the alternating 4-chain link L8a21 (see Figure 3) consists of two regular ideal cubes.
- The complement otet10<sub>0006</sub> of the other cubical link L8a20 (see Figure 3) admits two combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations up to combinatorial isomorphism, one of which is equal to the canonical cell decomposition.

**Remark 5.9.** Figure 1 also shows that the choice of 5 regular ideal tetrahedra to subdivide a cube hides symmetries of the cube, namely, the rotation by  $\pi/2$  of the cube that takes one choice to the other. This rotation is an element in the commensurator but not in the normalizer of  $\text{Isom}(\{3, 3, 6\})$  and thus a hidden symmetry of  $\mathfrak{R}$ . A combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation arising as subdivision of a combinatorial cubical tessellation can hide the symmetries of the combinatorial cubical tessellation corresponding to this rotation, i.e., there can be symmetries of the combinatorial cubical tessellation that are not symmetries of the combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation.

An example of this is otet10<sub>0011</sub>. Other examples are obtained by subdividing the cubical regular tessellation link complements  $\mathcal{U}_{1+\zeta}^{\{4,3,6\}}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}_2^{\{4,3,6\}}$ , and  $\mathcal{U}_{2+\zeta}^{\{4,3,6\}}$  classified in [Goe15]. By definition, each of these three manifolds can be decomposed into ideal regular cubes such that each flag of a cube, an adjacent face and an edge adjacent to the face can be taken to any other flag by a symmetry. In particular, these manifolds contain a symmetry flipping the diagonals of the faces of the cubes.

5.4.3. *Canonical combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations.* We call a combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation a regular tessellation if it corresponds to a regular covering space of  $\mathfrak{R}$  or  $\mathfrak{M}$ . This is equivalent to saying that the combinatorial automorphisms act transitively on flags consisting of a tetrahedron, an adjacent face and an adjacent edge (we drop the vertex in the flag to allow chiral combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations) [Goe15].

**Lemma 5.10.** Consider a combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation  $T$ .  $T$  is equal to the canonical cell decomposition of the corresponding tetrahedral manifold  $M$  if  $T$  is a regular tessellation or if  $M$  has only one cusp. In particular, a tetrahedral manifold with only one cusp has a unique combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation. If  $T$  is equal to the canonical cell decomposition, then  $T$  hides no symmetries.

*Proof.* Recall from Section 3.1 that the canonical cell decomposition relies on choosing cusp neighborhoods of the same volume for each cusp. If  $T$  is regular, then each cusp neighborhood intersects  $T$  in the same triangulation. This is also true if  $M$  has only one cusp and there is only one cusp neighborhood to choose. Thus, each end of a tetrahedron intersects the cusp neighborhoods in the same volume.  $T$  lifts to the regular tessellation  $\{3, 3, 6\}$  of  $\mathbb{H}^3$  and the cusp neighborhoods lift to horoballs with the same symmetry. Hence, the canonical cell decomposition is equal to  $T$ . The other statement follows from the canonical cell decomposition not hiding any symmetries by definition.  $\square$

**Remark 5.11.** For some cubical tessellations such as  $\mathcal{U}_{1+\zeta}^{\{4,3,6\}}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}_2^{\{4,3,6\}}$ , and  $\mathcal{U}_{2+\zeta}^{\{4,3,6\}}$ , we can partition the cusps into two disjoint sets such that no edge connects two cusps of the same set. If, in the construction of the canonical cell decomposition, we now pick for cusps in one set cusp neighborhoods of a volume slightly different from those for cusps in the other set, we no longer obtain the cubical tessellation but one of the two subdivided combinatorial tetrahedral tessellations depending on which set of cusps we favored.

## 6. TETRAHEDRAL LINKS

**6.1. Some facts about tetrahedral links.** Consider a cusped 3-manifold  $M$ , i.e., the interior of a compact 3-manifold  $\bar{M}$  with boundary  $\partial\bar{M}$  a disjoint union of tori. We say that  $M$  is a *homology link complement* if the long exact sequence in homology associated to  $(\bar{M}, \partial\bar{M})$  is isomorphic to that of the complement of a link in  $S^3$ . Let  $i : \partial\bar{M} \rightarrow \bar{M}$  denote the inclusion of the boundary. We thank C. Gordon for pointing out to us that (b) implies (d).

**Lemma 6.1.** Let  $M$  be a cusped 3-manifold. The following are equivalent:

- (a)  $M$  is a homology link complement.
- (b)  $H_1(M; \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}^c$  where  $c$  is the number of cusps.
- (c) The cuspidal homology  $H_1^{\text{cusp}}(M) = H_1(\bar{M}; \mathbb{Z})/\text{Im}(i_*)$  vanishes.
- (d)  $M$  is the complement of a link in an integral homology sphere.

*Proof.* (a) implies (b) since  $H_1(\partial\bar{M}) \cong \mathbb{Z}^{2c}$  determines  $c$  and  $H_1(M) = \mathbb{Z}^c$  for a link complement in  $S^3$ . The equivalence of (b) and (c) was shown in [Goe15, Lem.6.9]. To prove that (b) implies (d), we work by induction on  $c$ . For  $c = 0$ ,  $M$  is a homology sphere and thus the complement of the empty link. Assuming it is true for  $c - 1$ , pick a component  $T$  of  $\partial\bar{M}$  and let  $H$  be the image of  $H_1(T; \mathbb{Z})$  in  $H_1(\bar{M}; \mathbb{Z})$  under the map induced by inclusion. By Poincaré duality,  $H$  has rank 1 or 2 (apply [Bre97, Chapter VI, Theorem 10. 4] to  $\bar{M}$  with all boundary components but  $T$  Dehn-filled). Now we claim that  $H$  contains a rank 1 direct summand of  $H_1(\bar{M}; \mathbb{Z})$  (so one can now do a Dehn filling on  $T$  to reduce  $c$  by 1). For if not, then  $H$  is contained in  $pH_1(\bar{M}; \mathbb{Z})$  for some prime  $p$ . Then  $H_1(T; \mathbb{Z}_p)$  maps trivially in  $H_1(\bar{M}; \mathbb{Z}_p)$ , contradicting duality.

It is left to show that (d) implies (a). This follows easily from Alexander duality [BZ85].  $\square$

A homology link  $M$  is the complement of a link in the 3-sphere if and only if there is a Dehn-filling of it with trivial fundamental group. In that case, the filling is a homotopy 3-sphere, hence a standard 3-sphere (by Perelman’s Theorem), and the link is the complement of the core of the filling. `SnapPy` can compute the homology of a hyperbolic manifold as well as a presentation of its fundamental group, before or after filling. Note that links are in general not determined by their complement, i.e., there are 3-manifolds that arise as the complement of infinitely many different links [GL89]. On the other hand, the only tetrahedral knot is the figure-eight knot. This follows from the fact that tetrahedral manifolds are arithmetic, and the only arithmetic knot is the figure-eight knot [Rei91, Theorem 2].

**6.2. A list of tetrahedral links.** Of the 124 orientable tetrahedral manifolds with at most 12 tetrahedra, 27 are homology links and `SnapPy` identified 13 of them with link exteriors in its census. Of the remaining 14 homology links,

- `otet040000` is the Berge manifold, the complement of a link in [MP06],
- 11 are link complements, with corresponding links shown in Figure 3 and 4. (These links were found by drilling some curves until the manifold could be identified as a complement of a link in `SnapPy`’s `HTLinkExteriors`. We then found a framing of some components of the link such that Dehn-filling gives back the tetrahedral manifold. This gives us a Kirby diagram of the tetrahedral manifold. Using the Kirby Calculator [Swe], we successfully removed all Dehn-surgeries and obtained a link.)
- `otet080003` and `otet100023` (with 2 and 1 cusps respectively) are not link complements. (This can be shown using `fef_gen.py` based on [MPR14] and available from [IM] to list all exceptional slopes. and then compute homologies for those.)

The data in Table 1 also suggest:

**Conjecture 6.2.** Every tetrahedral link complement has an even number of tetrahedra (i.e., a corresponding combinatorial tetrahedral tessellation has an even number of tetrahedra).

**6.3. A remarkable tetrahedral link.** Of the 11580 orientable tetrahedral manifolds with at most 25 tetrahedra, 885 are homology links, and have at most 7 cusps. There is a unique tetrahedral manifold with 7 cusps, `otet200570`, which is a link complement, and a 2-fold cover of the minimally twisted 5-chain link  $L10n113 = \text{otet10}_{0027}$ . This remarkable link is shown in Figure 5.

**Acknowledgment.** E.F., V.T. and A.V. were supported in part by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russia (the state task number 1.1260.2014/K) and RFBR grant 16-01-00414. S.G. was supported in part by a National Science Foundation grant DMS-14-06419. M. G. was supported in part by a National Science Foundation grant DMS-11-07452.

We would like to thank Frank Swenton for adding the features to the Kirby calculator [Swe] necessary to draw the new tetrahedral links, and Cameron Gordon for completing the proof of Lemma 6.1.

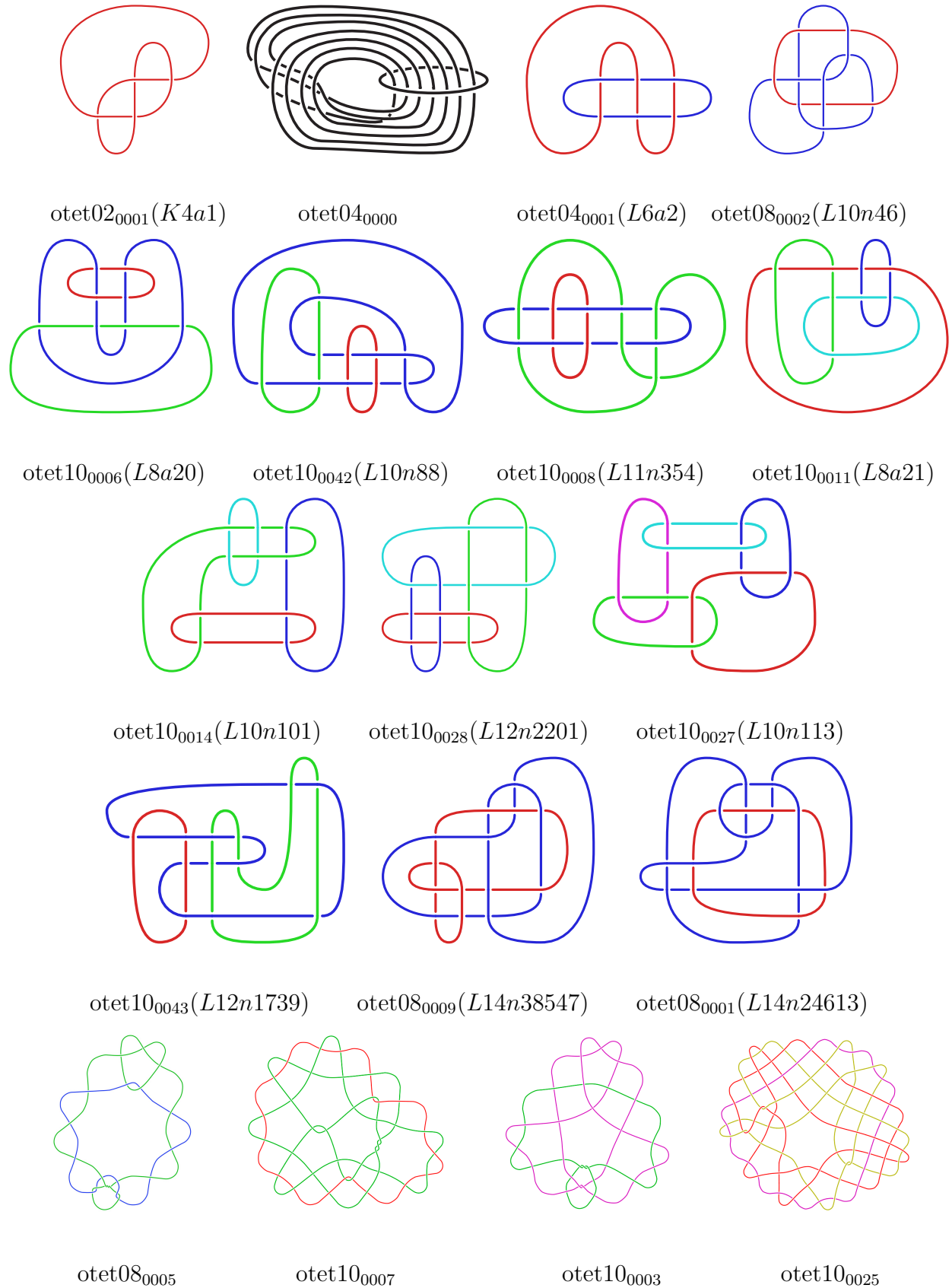


FIGURE 3. The tetrahedral links with at most 10 tetrahedra.

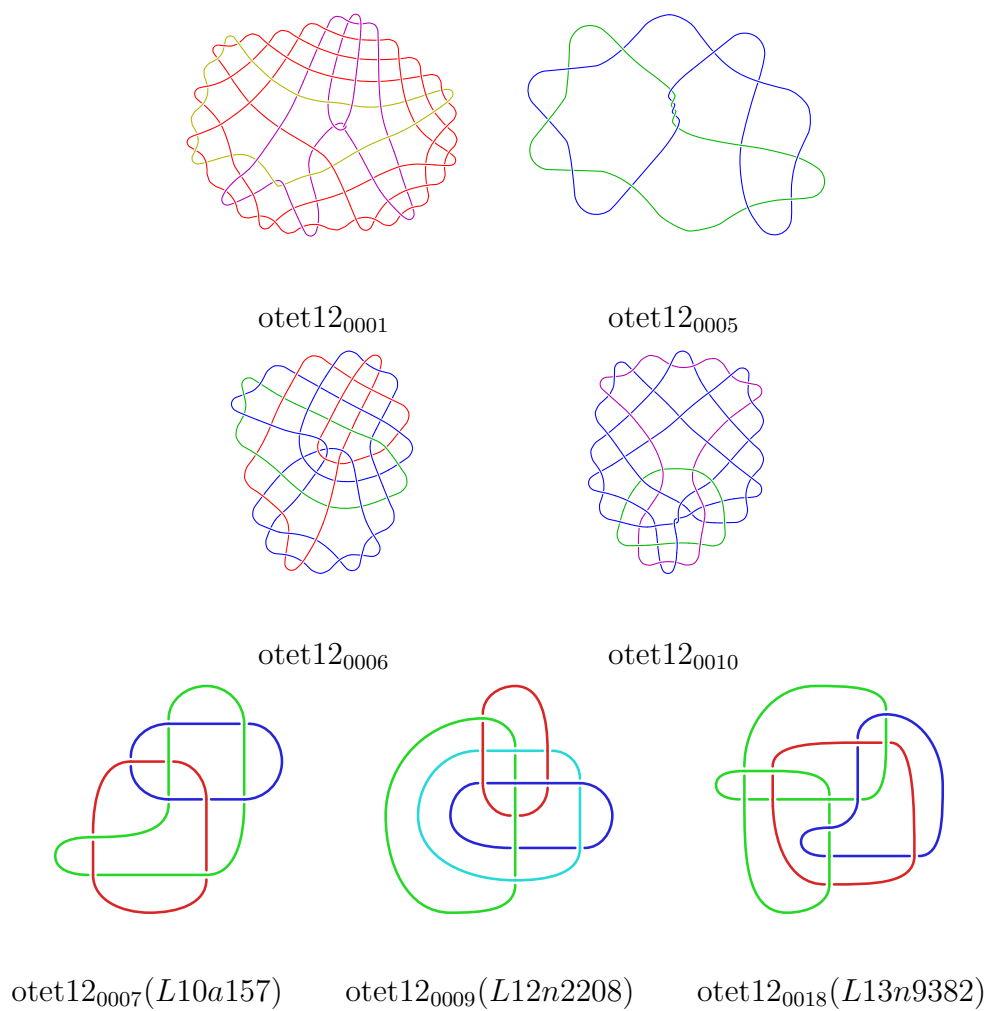


FIGURE 4. The tetrahedral links with 12 tetrahedra.

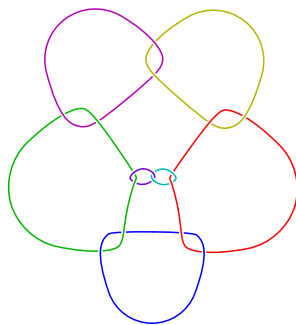


FIGURE 5. The remarkable link otet20<sub>0570</sub>.

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