

QUIVERS WITH POTENTIALS ASSOCIATED TO TRIANGULATIONS OF CLOSED SURFACES WITH AT MOST TWO PUNCTURES

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ABSTRACT. We tackle the classification problem of non-degenerate potentials for quivers arising from triangulations of surfaces in the cases left open by Geiss, Labardini-Fragoso and Schröer. Namely, for once-punctured closed surfaces of positive genus, we show that the quiver of any triangulation admits infinitely many non-degenerate potentials that are pairwise not weakly right-equivalent; we do so by showing that the potentials obtained by adding the 3-cycles coming from triangles and a fixed power of the cycle surrounding the puncture are well behaved under flips and QP-mutations. For twice-punctured closed surfaces of positive genus, we prove that the quiver of any triangulation admits exactly one non-degenerate potential up to weak right-equivalence, thus confirming the veracity of a conjecture of the aforementioned authors.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Albeit technical in nature, the problem of classifying all non-degenerate potentials on a given 2-acyclic quiver is relevant in different interesting, seemingly unrelated, contexts. In cluster algebra theory, having only one weak right-equivalence class means, very roughly speaking, that Derksen, Weyman and Zelevinsky’s representation-theoretic approach to the corresponding cluster algebra can be performed in essentially only one way.

The classification problem of non-degenerate potentials plays also a role in algebraic geometry and in symplectic geometry (more precisely, in the subjects of Bridgeland stability conditions and Fukaya categories). In [1, Theorem 9.9], the uniqueness of non-degenerate

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potentials on the quivers arising from positive genus closed surfaces with at least three punctures is used by Bridgeland and Smith to prove that there is a short exact sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow \mathit{Sph}_\Delta(\mathcal{D}(\Sigma, \mathbb{M})) \longrightarrow \mathit{Aut}_\Delta(\mathcal{D}(\Sigma, \mathbb{M})) \longrightarrow \mathrm{MCG}^\pm(\Sigma, \mathbb{M}) \longrightarrow 1,$$

where $\mathcal{D}(\Sigma, \mathbb{M})$ is the 3-Calabi–Yau triangulated category associated to (Σ, \mathbb{M}) , defined as the full subcategory that the dg-modules with finite-dimensional cohomology determine inside the derived category of the Ginzburg dg-algebra of the quiver with potential of **any**¹ tagged triangulation of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) , the group $\mathit{Aut}_\Delta(\mathcal{D}(\Sigma, \mathbb{M}))$ is the quotient of the group of auto-equivalences of $\mathcal{D}(\Sigma, \mathbb{M})$ that preserve the distinguished connected component $\mathrm{Tilt}_\Delta(\mathcal{D}(\Sigma, \mathbb{M}))$ by the subgroup of auto-equivalences that act trivially on $\mathrm{Tilt}_\Delta(\mathcal{D}(\Sigma, \mathbb{M}))$, $\mathit{Sph}_\Delta(\mathcal{D}(\Sigma, \mathbb{M}))$ is the subgroup of $\mathit{Aut}_\Delta(\mathcal{D}(\Sigma, \mathbb{M}))$ generated by (the quotient images of) the twist functors at the simple objects of a heart $\mathcal{A} \in \mathrm{Tilt}_\Delta(\mathcal{D}(\Sigma, \mathbb{M}))$, and $\mathrm{MCG}^\pm(\Sigma, \mathbb{M}) = \mathrm{MCG}(\Sigma, \mathbb{M}) \times \mathbb{Z}_2^{\mathbb{M}}$ is the signed mapping class group.

In [14, Theorem 1.1], Smith shows that, if (Σ, \mathbb{M}) is a positive genus closed surface with at least three punctures (i.e., $|\mathbb{M}| \geq 3$), then there is a linear fully faithful embedding of the 3-Calabi–Yau triangulated category $\mathcal{D}(\Sigma, \mathbb{M})$ into a Fukaya category of a 3-fold that fibres over Σ (with poles of a quadratic differential removed from Σ). He explains that the reason behind the hypothesis $|\mathbb{M}| \geq 3$ in [14, Theorem 1.1] arises from the fact that, for positive genus closed surfaces with at least three punctures, the quiver of any triangulation has exactly one non-degenerate potential up to weak right-equivalence (a fact shown by Geiss, Labardini-Fragoso and Schröer [3]). See [14, Sections 1.3 and 2.2].

Together with results from his work [1] with Bridgeland, the embeddings from the previous paragraph allow Smith to obtain non-trivial computations of spaces of stability conditions on Fukaya categories of symplectic six-manifolds.

In this paper we prove the following result.

- Theorem 1.1.** (1) *For once-punctured closed surfaces of positive genus, the quiver of any triangulation admits infinitely many non-degenerate potentials that are pairwise not weakly right-equivalent, provided the underlying field has characteristic zero.*
- (2) *For twice-punctured closed surfaces of positive genus, the quiver of any triangulation admits exactly one non-degenerate potential up to weak right-equivalence, provided the underlying field is algebraically closed.*

Let (Σ, \mathbb{M}) be a once-punctured closed surface, n a positive integer and $x \in K$ any scalar. For a triangulation τ of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) let $S(\tau, x, n)$ be the potential obtained by adding the 3-cycles of $Q(\tau)$ arising from triangles of τ and the x -multiple of the n^{th} power of the cycle of $Q(\tau)$ that runs around the puncture of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) . The following result of independent interest plays a central role in our proof of part (1) of Theorem 1.1:

Theorem 1.2. *Let (Σ, \mathbb{M}) be a once-punctured closed surface. If τ and σ are triangulations of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) related by the flip of an arc $k \in \tau$, then the quivers with potential*

¹That $\mathcal{D}(\Sigma, \mathbb{M})$ is independent of the tagged triangulation used follows after combining results of Keller and Yang [5] and Labardini [8], see [9, Section 5].

$(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))$ and $(Q(\sigma), S(\sigma, x, n))$ are related by the mutation of quivers with potential μ_k .

That the quivers associated to triangulations of once-punctured closed surfaces of positive genus admit more than one weak right-equivalence class of non-degenerate potentials has always been expected, since the articles [2] of Derksen, Weyman and Zelevinsky and [6, 7] of Labardini-Fragoso exhibit non-degenerate potentials for the Markov quiver² that are not weakly right-equivalent.

In [3, Theorem 8.4], Geiss, Labardini-Fragoso and Schröer proved that every quiver associated to some triangulation of a positive-genus closed surface with at least three punctures admits exactly one weak right-equivalence class of non-degenerate potentials, and conjectured that the same result holds in the case of two punctures. The reason why their proof fails for twice-punctured closed surfaces is that these do not admit triangulations all of whose arcs connect distinct punctures. The fact that such triangulations do exist for closed surfaces with at least three punctures plays an essential role in the proof of [3, Theorem 8.4].

The structure of the paper is straightforward: in Section 2 we prove a few facts (some of them quite technical) about the form of cycles and non-degenerate potentials for quivers arising from combinatorially nice triangulations of surfaces with empty boundary (see conditions (2.1) and (2.2)). Section 3 is devoted to proving part (1) of Theorem 1.1, whereas Section 4 is devoted to showing part (2).

2. PRELIMINARIES

Let K be any field. For a quiver Q , the *vertex span* is the K -algebra R defined as the K -vector space with basis $\{e_j \mid j \in Q_0\}$, with multiplication defined as the K -bilinear extension of the rule

$$e_i e_j := \delta_{i,j} e_j, \quad \text{for all } i, j \in Q_0,$$

where $\delta_{i,j} \in K$ is the *Kronecker delta* of i and j . Thus, R is (a K -algebra isomorphic to) K^{Q_0} with both sum and multiplication defined componentwise. The *complete path algebra* of Q is the K -vector space

$$K\langle\langle Q \rangle\rangle := \prod_{\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} A^{(\ell)},$$

where $A^{(0)} := R$, and for $\ell > 0$, $A^{(\ell)}$ is the K -vector space with basis all the paths of length ℓ on Q . The multiplication of $K\langle\langle Q \rangle\rangle$ is defined in terms of the concatenation of paths.

The vertex span R is obviously a subring of $K\langle\langle Q \rangle\rangle$ (actually, a K -subalgebra), but it is often not a central subring. Despite of this, any ring automorphism $\varphi : K\langle\langle Q \rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q \rangle\rangle$ such that $\varphi|_R = \mathbb{1}_R$ will be said to be an *R -algebra automorphism* of $K\langle\langle Q \rangle\rangle$.

Definition 2.1. Let Q be a quiver and $S, W \in K\langle\langle Q \rangle\rangle$ be potentials on Q . We will say that:

²The Markov quiver arises as the quiver associated to any triangulation of the once-punctured torus.

- (1) two cycles $a_1 \cdots a_\ell$ and $b_1 \cdots b_m$ on Q are *rotationally equivalent* if $a_1 \cdots a_\ell = b_1 \cdots b_m$ or $a_1 \cdots a_\ell = b_k \cdots b_m b_1 \cdots b_{k-1}$ for some $k \in \{2, \dots, m\}$;
- (2) S and W are *rotationally disjoint* if no cycle appearing in S is rotationally equivalent to a cycle appearing in W ;
- (3) S and W are *cyclically equivalent* if, with respect to the \mathfrak{m} -adic topology of $K\langle\langle Q \rangle\rangle$, the element $S - W$ belongs to the topological closure of the vector subspace of $K\langle\langle Q \rangle\rangle$ spanned by all elements of the form $a_1 \cdots a_\ell - a_2 \cdots a_\ell a_1$ with $a_1 \cdots a_\ell$ running through the set of all cycles on Q ; notation: $S \sim_{\text{cyc}} W$;
- (4) S and W are *right-equivalent* if there exists a *right equivalence* from S to W , i.e., an R -algebra automorphism $\varphi : K\langle\langle Q \rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q \rangle\rangle$ that acts as the identity on the set of idempotents $\{e_j \mid j \in Q_0\}$ and satisfies $\varphi(S) \sim_{\text{cyc}} W$; notation: $S \sim_{\text{r.e.}} W$;
- (5) S and W are *weakly right-equivalent* if S and λW are right-equivalent for some non-zero scalar $\lambda \in K$.

Throughout the paper, (Σ, \mathbb{M}) will be a punctured closed surface of positive genus. That is, Σ will be a compact, connected, oriented two-dimensional real differentiable manifold with positive genus and empty boundary, and \mathbb{M} will be a non-empty finite subset of Σ .

It is very easy to show that there exists at least one triangulation τ of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) such that

$$(2.1) \quad \text{every puncture has valency at least 4 with respect to } \tau;$$

$$(2.2) \quad \text{for any two arcs } i \text{ and } j \text{ of } \tau, \text{ the quiver } Q(\tau) \text{ has at most one arrow from } j \text{ to } i.$$

Throughout the paper, we will permanently suppose that τ satisfies (2.1) and (2.2).

Following Ladkani [10] we define two maps $f, g : Q(\tau)_1 \rightarrow Q(\tau)_1$ as follows. Each triangle Δ of τ gives rise to an oriented 3-cycle $\alpha_\Delta \beta_\Delta \gamma_\Delta$ on $Q(\tau)$. We set $f(\alpha_\Delta) = \gamma_\Delta$, $f(\beta_\Delta) = \alpha_\Delta$ and $f(\gamma_\Delta) = \beta_\Delta$. Now, given any arrow α of $Q(\tau)$, the quiver $Q(\tau)$ has exactly two arrows starting at the terminal vertex of α . One of these two arrows is $f(\alpha)$. We define $g(\alpha)$ to be the other arrow.

Note that the map f (respectively g) splits the arrow set of $Q(\tau)$ into f -orbits (respectively g -orbits). The set of f -orbits is in one-to-one correspondence with the set of triangles of τ . All f -orbits have exactly three elements. The set of g -orbits is in one-to-one correspondence with the set of punctures of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) . For every arrow α of $Q(\tau)$, we denote the size of the g -orbit of α by m_α ($m_\alpha \geq 4$ by (2.1)). Note that $g^{m_\alpha-1}(\alpha)g^{m_\alpha-2}(\alpha) \cdots g(\alpha)\alpha$ is a cycle surrounding the puncture p corresponding to the g -orbit of α . We denote this cycle by $\mathcal{G}(\alpha)$ or $\mathcal{G}(p)$. On the other hand, for every arrow β of $Q(\tau)$ and any non-negative integer r , we use the notation $G(r, \beta)$ to denote the path $g^{r-1}(\beta)g^{r-2}(\beta) \cdots g(\beta)\beta$. Similarly, we use the notation $F(r, \beta)$ to denote the path $f^{r-1}(\beta)f^{r-2}(\beta) \cdots f(\beta)\beta$.

Let $\mathbf{x} = (x_p)_{p \in \mathbb{M}}$ be a choice of a non-zero scalar $x_p \in K$ for each puncture $p \in \mathbb{M}$. For ideal triangulations which satisfy (2.1) and (2.2) the potential $S(\tau, \mathbf{x})$ defined by the second author [8] takes a simple form, namely,

$$S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) = T(\tau) + \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} x_p \mathcal{G}(p),$$

with $T(\tau) \sim_{\text{cyc}} \sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma} (f^2(\alpha)f(\alpha)\alpha)$ for any fixed set Γ containing exactly one arrow from each triangle of τ .

Lemma 2.2 (TYPES OF CYCLES). *Let (Σ, \mathbb{M}) be a punctured surface with empty boundary, and let τ be a triangulation of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) that satisfies (2.1) and (2.2). Then every cycle in $Q(\tau)$ is rotationally equivalent to a cycle of one of the following types:*

- (*f*-cycles) $(f^2(\alpha)f(\alpha)\alpha)^n$ for some $n \geq 1$;
- (*g*-cycles) $(g^{m_\beta-1}(\beta)g^{m_\beta-2}(\beta)\cdots g(\beta)\beta)^n$ for some $n \geq 1$;
- (*fg*-cycles) $f^2(a)f(a)\lambda$ for some arrow a and some path λ , such that $\lambda = g^{-1}f(a)\lambda'$ with λ' of positive length.

Proof. Let $\xi = \alpha_1 \cdots \alpha_r$ be any cycle on $Q(\tau)$. Write $\alpha_{r+1} = \alpha_1$, and notice that, for every $\ell = 1, \dots, r$, we have either $\alpha_\ell = f(\alpha_{\ell+1})$ or $\alpha_\ell = g(\alpha_{\ell+1})$. Let \mathbf{s}_ξ be the length- r sequence of *f*s and *g*s that has an *f* at the ℓ^{th} place if $\alpha_\ell = f(\alpha_{\ell+1})$ and a *g* otherwise.

If \mathbf{s}_ξ consists only of *f*s, then ξ is rotationally equivalent to $(f^2(\alpha)f(\alpha)\alpha)^n$ for some arrow α and some $n \geq 1$. Furthermore, if \mathbf{s}_ξ consists only of *g*s, then ξ is rotationally equivalent to $(g^{m_\beta-1}(\beta)g^{m_\beta-2}(\beta)\cdots g(\beta)\beta)^n$ for some arrow β and some $n \geq 1$. Therefore, if \mathbf{s}_ξ involves only *f*s or only *g*s, then ξ is an *f*-cycle or a *g*-cycle.

Suppose that at least one *f* and at least one *g* appear in \mathbf{s}_ξ . Rotating ξ if necessary, we can assume that \mathbf{s}_ξ starts with an *f* followed by a *g*, i.e., $\mathbf{s}_\xi = (f, g, \dots)$. This means that, if we set $a := f^{-1}(\alpha_2)$, then $\alpha_1 = f^2(a)$, $\alpha_2 = f(a)$ and $\alpha_3 = g^{-1}f(a)$. By (2.2), a is the only arrow in $Q(\tau)_1$ such that $\alpha_1\alpha_2a$ is a cycle. Since $\alpha_3 = g^{-1}f(a) \neq a$, this implies $\xi = f^2(a)f(a)g^{-1}f(a)\lambda'$ with λ' of positive length. \square

Remark 2.3. As in the case of cycles, every path falls within exactly one of three types of paths: *f*-paths, *g*-paths, and *fg*-paths.

By Lemma 2.2, up to cyclical equivalence we can write every potential S in $Q(\tau)$ as $S = S_f + S_g + S_{fg}$, where

$$\begin{aligned} S_f &= \sum_{\Delta} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} z_{\Delta,n} (f^2(\alpha_{\Delta})f(\alpha_{\Delta})\alpha_{\Delta})^n, \\ S_g &= \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \nu_{p,n} (\mathcal{G}(p))^n, \\ S_{fg} &= \sum_{a \in Q(\tau)_1} f^2(a)f(a)\omega_a, \end{aligned}$$

with each $z_{\Delta,n}, \nu_{p,n} \in K$, and ω_a a possibly infinite linear combination of paths of the form $g^{-1}f(a)\lambda'$ for each $a \in Q(\tau)$.

Lemma 2.4. *Let (Σ, \mathbb{M}) be a punctured surface with empty boundary, and let τ be a triangulation of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) that satisfies (2.1) and (2.2). Every non-degenerate potential S on $Q(\tau)$ is right-equivalent to a potential of the form $T(\tau) + U$ for some U rotationally disjoint from $T(\tau)$.*

Proof. By (2.2) the hypotheses of [3, Corollary 2.5] are satisfied. So, if S is a non-degenerate potential, then every f -cycle $f^2(\alpha)f(\alpha)\alpha$ appears in S . Hence,

$$S \sim_{\text{cyc}} \sum_{\Delta} z_{\Delta,1} f^2(\alpha_{\Delta}) f(\alpha_{\Delta}) \alpha_{\Delta} + U',$$

with all $z_{\Delta,1} \neq 0$ and U' rotationally disjoint from $T(\tau)$.

We define an R -algebra automorphism $\varphi : K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ by means of the rule

$$\varphi(\alpha_{\Delta}) = \frac{1}{z_{\Delta,1}} \alpha_{\Delta}.$$

We see that $\varphi(S) \sim_{\text{cyc}} T(\tau) + U$, for some potential U rotationally disjoint from $T(\tau)$. \square

Lemma 2.5 (REPLACING f -POTENTIALS AND fg -POTENTIALS BY LONGER ONES). *Let (Σ, \mathbb{M}) be a punctured surface with empty boundary, and let τ be a triangulation of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) that satisfies (2.1) and (2.2). Let ϕ be one of the symbols f and fg , and let ν be the other symbol, so that $\{\phi, \nu\} = \{f, fg\}$ as sets of symbols. If $W, A \in K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ are potentials rotationally disjoint from $T(\tau)$, and if $A_{\phi} \neq 0$, then there exists a potential $B \in K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ which is rotationally disjoint from $T(\tau)$ and satisfies the following four conditions:*

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{short}(B_{\phi}) > \text{short}(A_{\phi}); \\ & \text{short}(B_g) \geq \min(\text{short}(A_g), \text{short}(A_{\phi}) + 1); \\ & \text{short}(B_{\nu}) \geq \min(\text{short}(A_{\nu}), \text{short}(A_{\phi}) + 1); \\ & (Q(\tau), T(\tau) + W + A) \sim_{\text{r.e.}} (Q(\tau), T(\tau) + W + B). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Let us deal with the case $\phi = f$. Write

$$A_f = \sum_{\Delta} \sum_{n \geq \frac{\text{short}(A_f)}{3}} z_{\Delta,n} (f^2(\alpha_{\Delta}) f(\alpha_{\Delta}) \alpha_{\Delta})^n,$$

and define an R -algebra homomorphism $\varphi : K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ by means of the rule

$$\varphi(\alpha_{\Delta}) = \alpha_{\Delta} - \sum_{n \geq \frac{\text{short}(A_f)}{3}} z_{\Delta,n} \alpha_{\Delta} (f^2(\alpha_{\Delta}) f(\alpha_{\Delta}) \alpha_{\Delta})^{n-1}.$$

Then φ is a unitriangular automorphism of depth $\text{short}(A_f) - 3$, and

$$\varphi(T(\tau) + W + A) = T(\tau) - A_f + W + A + (\varphi(W + A) - (W + A)).$$

Consequently, if we set $B = A_g + A_{fg} + (\varphi(W + A) - (W + A))$, then:

- $\varphi(T(\tau) + W + A) = T(\tau) + W + B$;
- $\text{short}(\varphi(W + A) - (W + A)) \geq \text{depth}(\varphi) + \text{short}(W + A) \geq \text{short}(A_f) - 3 + 4 = \text{short}(A_f) + 1$;
- $\text{short}(B_f) = \text{short}((\varphi(W + A) - (W + A))_f) \geq \text{short}(A_f) + 1$;
- $\text{short}(B_g) \geq \min(\text{short}(A_g), \text{short}((\varphi(W + A) - (W + A))_g)) \geq \min(\text{short}(A_g), \text{short}(A_f) + 1)$; and
- $\text{short}(B_{fg}) \geq \min(\text{short}(A_{fg}, \text{short}((\varphi(W + A) - (W + A))_{fg}))) \geq \min(\text{short}(A_{fg}), \text{short}(A_f) + 1)$.

Now we deal with the case $\phi = fg$. Write

$$A_{fg} = \sum_{a \in Q(\tau)_1} f^2(a)f(a)\omega_a,$$

with $\omega_a \in e_{h(a)}K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle e_{t(a)}$ for each $a \in Q(\tau)_1$. Furthermore, we define an R -algebra homomorphism $\varphi : K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle$ by means of the rule $\varphi(a) = a - \omega_a$ for $a \in Q(\tau)_1$. Then φ is a unitriangular automorphism of depth $\text{short}(A_{fg}) - 3$, and

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(T(\tau) + W + A) &= \sum_{\Delta} (f^2(\alpha_{\Delta}) - \omega_{f^2(\alpha_{\Delta})}) (f(\alpha_{\Delta}) - \omega_{f(\alpha_{\Delta})}) (\alpha_{\Delta} - \omega_{\alpha_{\Delta}}) \\ &\quad + W + A + (\varphi(W + A) - (W + A)) \\ &\sim_{\text{cyc}} T(\tau) + W + A_f + A_g + (\varphi(W + A) - (W + A)) \\ &\quad + \sum_{a \in Q(\tau)_1} f^2(a)\omega_{f(a)}\omega_a - \sum_{\Delta} \omega_{f^2(a_{\Delta})}\omega_{f(a_{\Delta})}\omega_{a_{\Delta}}. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, if we set

$$B = A_f + A_g + (\varphi(W + A) - (W + A)) + \sum_{a \in Q(\tau)_1} f^2(a)\omega_{f(a)}\omega_a - \sum_{\Delta} \omega_{f^2(a_{\Delta})}\omega_{f(a_{\Delta})}\omega_{a_{\Delta}},$$

then:

- $\varphi(T(\tau) + W + A) \sim_{\text{cyc}} T(\tau) + W + B$;
- $\text{short}(\varphi(W + A) - (W + A)) \geq \text{depth}(\varphi) + \text{short}(W + A) \geq \text{short}(A_{fg}) - 3 + 4 = \text{short}(A_{fg}) + 1$;
- $\text{short}\left(\sum_{a \in Q(\tau)_1} f^2(a)\omega_{f(a)}\omega_a\right) \geq 2\text{short}(A_{fg}) - 3 \geq \text{short}(A_{fg}) + 4 - 3 = \text{short}(A_{fg}) + 1$ (since $\text{short}(A_{fg}) \geq 4$);
- $\text{short}\left(\sum_{\Delta} \omega_{f^2(a_{\Delta})}\omega_{f(a_{\Delta})}\omega_{a_{\Delta}}\right) \geq 3\text{short}(A_{fg}) - 6 \geq \text{short}(A_{fg}) + 8 - 6 \geq \text{short}(A_{fg}) + 1$;
- $\text{short}(B_{fg}) \geq \min\left(\text{short}(\varphi(W + A) - (W + A)), \text{short}\left(\sum_{a \in Q(\tau)_1} f^2(a)\omega_{f(a)}\omega_a\right), \text{short}\left(\sum_{\Delta} \omega_{f^2(a_{\Delta})}\omega_{f(a_{\Delta})}\omega_{a_{\Delta}}\right)\right) \geq \text{short}(A_{fg}) + 1$;
- $\text{short}(B_g) \geq \min\left(\text{short}(A_g), \text{short}(\varphi(W + A) - (W + A)), \text{short}\left(\sum_{a \in Q(\tau)_1} f^2(a)\omega_{f(a)}\omega_a\right), \text{short}\left(\sum_{\Delta} \omega_{f^2(a_{\Delta})}\omega_{f(a_{\Delta})}\omega_{a_{\Delta}}\right)\right) \geq \min(\text{short}(A_g), \text{short}(A_{fg}) + 1)$; and
- $\text{short}(B_f) \geq \min\left(\text{short}(A_f), \text{short}(\varphi(W + A) - (W + A)), \text{short}\left(\sum_{a \in Q(\tau)_1} f^2(a)\omega_{f(a)}\omega_a\right), \text{short}\left(\sum_{\Delta} \omega_{f^2(a_{\Delta})}\omega_{f(a_{\Delta})}\omega_{a_{\Delta}}\right)\right) \geq \min(\text{short}(A_f), \text{short}(A_{fg}) + 1)$.

Lemma 2.5 is proved. \square

Proposition 2.6 (REPLACING POTENTIALS BY SUMS OF POWERS OF g -CYCLES). *Let (Σ, \mathbb{M}) be a punctured surface with empty boundary, and let τ be a triangulation of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) satisfying (2.1) and (2.2). If $U, Z \in K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle$ are potentials rotationally disjoint from $T(\tau)$, then there exist a unitriangular automorphism $\varphi : K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle$ of depth*

at least $\text{short}(U) - 3$ and a potential $W \in K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle$ involving only positive powers of g -cycles, such that $\text{short}(W) \geq \text{short}(U)$ and φ is a right-equivalence $(Q(\tau), T(\tau) + Z + U) \rightarrow (Q(\tau), T(\tau) + Z + W)$.

Proof. Set $W_0 = U_g$ and $U_0 = U - U_g$. We obviously have $\text{short}(U_0), \text{short}(W_0) \geq \text{short}(U)$.

CLAIM 1. There exist sequences $(U_n)_{n \geq 1}$ and $(W_n)_{n \geq 1}$ of potentials on the quiver $Q(\tau)$, and a sequence $(\varphi_n)_{n \geq 1}$ of unitriangular automorphisms of $K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle$, such that the following properties are satisfied for every $n \geq 1$:

- φ_n is a right-equivalence
 $(Q(\tau), T(\tau) + Z + U_{n-1} + W_{n-1}) \rightarrow (Q(\tau), T(\tau) + Z + U_n + W_n)$;
- $\text{depth}(\varphi_n) = \text{short}(U_{n-1}) - 3$;
- each of U_n and W_n is rotationally disjoint from $T(\tau)$, U_n does not involve powers of g -cycles, and W_n involves only powers of g -cycles;
- $\text{short}(W_n - W_{n-1}) \geq \text{short}(U_{n-1}) + 1$;
- $\text{short}(U_{n+1}) \geq \text{short}(U_{n-1}) + 1$.

We shall produce the three sequences $(U_n)_{n \geq 1}$, $(W_n)_{n \geq 1}$ and $(\varphi_n)_{n \geq 1}$ recursively. Fix a positive integer n . If $U_{n-1} = 0$, we set U_n to be U_{n-1} , W_n to be W_{n-1} and φ_n to be the identity of $K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle$. Otherwise, let $\phi_{n-1}, \nu_{n-1} \in \{f, fg\}$ be symbols such that $\{\phi_{n-1}, \nu_{n-1}\} = \{f, fg\}$ and $\text{short}((U_{n-1})_{\phi_{n-1}}) \leq \text{short}((U_{n-1})_{\nu_{n-1}})$. By the proof of Lemma 2.5, there exist a potential $V_n \in K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle$ rotationally disjoint from $T(\tau)$ and a unitriangular automorphism $\varphi_n : K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle$ such that

- $\text{depth}(\varphi_n) = \text{short}(U_{n-1}) - 3$;
- φ_n is a right-equivalence
 $(Q(\tau), T(\tau) + Z + W_{n-1} + U_{n-1}) \rightarrow (Q(\tau), T(\tau) + Z + W_{n-1} + V_n)$;
- $\text{short}((V_n)_{\phi_{n-1}}) > \text{short}((U_{n-1})_{\phi_{n-1}})$;
- $\text{short}((V_n)_g) \geq \min(\text{short}((U_{n-1})_g), \text{short}((U_{n-1})_{\phi_{n-1}}) + 1) = \text{short}((U_{n-1})_{\phi_{n-1}}) + 1$;
- $\text{short}((V_n)_{\nu_{n-1}}) \geq \min(\text{short}((U_{n-1})_{\nu_{n-1}}), \text{short}((U_{n-1})_{\phi_{n-1}}) + 1)$.

We set $U_n = V_n - (V_n)_g$ and $W_n = W_{n-1} + (V_n)_g$. It is clear that the first four properties stated in the claim are satisfied. For the fifth property, note that, if $\phi_n = \phi_{n-1}$, then $\text{short}((U_n)_{\phi_n}) > \text{short}((U_{n-1})_{\phi_{n-1}})$, whereas, if $\phi_n \neq \phi_{n-1}$, then

$$\text{short}((U_{n+1})_{\phi_n}) > \text{short}((U_n)_{\phi_n}) \geq \text{short}(U_{n-1})$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{short}((U_{n+1})_{\phi_{n-1}}) &\geq \min(\text{short}((U_n)_{\phi_{n-1}}), \text{short}((U_n)_{\phi_n}) + 1) \\ &\geq \min\left(\text{short}((U_{n-1})_{\phi_{n-1}}) + 1, \right. \\ &\quad \left. \min(\text{short}((U_{n-1})_{\nu_{n-1}}), \text{short}((U_{n-1})_{\phi_{n-1}}) + 1) + 1\right) \\ &> \text{short}((U_{n-1})_{\phi_{n-1}}). \end{aligned}$$

These facts, together with the observation that for each $n \geq 0$ we have $\text{short}((U_n)_{\phi_n}) = \text{short}(U_n)$, allow us to deduce that $\text{short}(U_{n+1}) \geq \text{short}(U_{n-1}) + 1$ for all $n \geq 1$, thus completing the proof of Claim 1.

From the claim, we see that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{short}(U_n) = \infty, \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{short}(W_n - W_{n-1}) = \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{depth}(\varphi_n) = \infty.$$

Hence, if we set $W = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} W_n$, then $\varphi := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varphi_n \circ \cdots \circ \varphi_1$ is a right-equivalence $(Q(\tau), T(\tau) + Z + U) \rightarrow (Q(\tau), T(\tau) + Z + W)$. Proposition 2.6 follows. \square

Lemma 2.7. *Let (Σ, \mathbb{M}) be a punctured surface with empty boundary, let τ be a triangulation of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) satisfying (2.1) and (2.2), and let $\mathbf{x} = (x_p)_{p \in \mathbb{M}}$ be any choice of non-zero scalars. Suppose that m and t are positive integers and $U, W \in K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ are potentials rotationally disjoint from $S(\tau, \mathbf{x})$ that satisfy the following properties:*

- (1) $\text{short}(U) \geq m$;
- (2) $2 \text{short}(W) - 3 > m$;
- (3) $W = \lambda f(a) a G(t, g^{-t}(a)) c$ for some non-zero scalar $\lambda \in K$, some arrow a , and some path c .

Then there exists a unitriangular R -algebra automorphism $\zeta : K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ of depth $\text{short}(W) - 3$ that serves as a right-equivalence between the QPs $(Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U + W)$ and $(Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U + U' + W')$ for some potentials $U', W' \in K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ that satisfy:

- (1) $\text{short}(U') > m$;
- (2) $\text{short}(W') > \text{short}(W)$;
- (3) $W' = \lambda' f(b) b G(t - 1, g^{-(t-1)}(b)) c'$ for some non-zero scalar λ' , some arrow b , and some path c' .

Proof. Let $\zeta : K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ be the R -algebra homomorphism given by the rule

$$\zeta(f^{-1}(a)) = f^{-1}(a) - \lambda G(t, g^{-t}(a)) c.$$

Since τ satisfies (2.2), $\text{short}(W) - 3$ is a positive integer by Lemma 2.2, and hence ζ is actually a unitriangular automorphism of $K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$. The depth of ζ is obviously $\text{short}(W) - 3$.

The arrow $f^{-1}(a)$ connects two arcs of τ . Let $p_{f^{-1}(a)}$ be the puncture at which these arcs are incident. Direct computation shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U + W) &\sim_{\text{cyc}} S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) - W - \lambda x_{p_{f^{-1}(a)}} G(m_{f^{-1}(a)} - 1, g f^{-1}(a)) G(t, g^{-t}(a)) c \\ &\quad + U + W + (\zeta(U + W) - (U + W)) \\ &= S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) - \lambda x_{p_{f^{-1}(a)}} G(m_{f^{-1}(a)} - 2, g^2 f^{-1}(a)) g f^{-1}(a) g^{-1}(a) G(t - 1, g^{-t}(a)) c \\ &\quad + U + (\zeta(U + W) - (U + W)) \\ &\sim_{\text{cyc}} S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) - \lambda x_{p_{f^{-1}(a)}} g f^{-1}(a) g^{-1}(a) G(t - 1, g^{-t} a) c G(m_{f^{-1}(a)} - 2, g^2 f^{-1}(a)) \\ &\quad + U + (\zeta(U + W) - (U + W)). \end{aligned}$$

So, the lemma follows if we remember that $gf^{-1}(a) = fg^{-1}(a)$ and set

$$\begin{aligned} U' &:= \zeta(U + W) - (U + W), \\ \lambda' &:= -\lambda x_{p_{f^{-1}(a)}}, \\ b &:= g^{-1}(a), \\ c' &:= cG(m_{f^{-1}(a)} - 2, g^2 f^{-1}(a)) \\ \text{and } W' &:= \lambda' f(b) bG(t - 1, g^{-(t-1)}(b)) c'. \end{aligned}$$

Indeed, property (3) is obviously satisfied, whereas the inequalities $\text{short}(U) \geq m$, $\text{depth}(\zeta) > 0$ and $2 \text{short}(W) - 3 > m$ imply that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{short}(U') &\geq \min(\text{short}(\zeta(U) - U), \text{short}(\zeta(W) - W)) \\ &\geq \min(\text{depth}(\zeta) + \text{short}(U), \text{depth}(\zeta) + \text{short}(W)) \\ &= \min(\text{depth}(\zeta) + \text{short}(U), 2 \text{short}(W) - 3) \\ &> m. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, we also have

$$\text{short}(W') = m_{f^{-1}(a)} - 2 + \text{short}(W) - 1 > \text{short}(W),$$

where the inequality follows from the fact that τ satisfies (2.1). \square

Corollary 2.8 (REPLACING CERTAIN CYCLES BY SUMS OF LONG g -CYCLES). *Under the hypotheses of Lemma 2.7, if the path c is assumed to be an arrow, then there exists a unitriangular R -algebra automorphism $\Pi : K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ of depth at least $\min(m - 3, \text{short}(W) - 3)$ that serves as a right-equivalence between the QPs $(Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U + W)$ and $(Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U + \xi)$ for some potential ξ that involves only positive powers of g -cycles and satisfies $\text{short}(\xi) > m$.*

Proof. This corollary follows from an inductive use of Lemma 2.7. Set $U_0 = U$, $W_0 = W$, $a_0 = a$, $c_0 = c$, and $\lambda_0 = \lambda$. Using Lemma 2.7, we obtain a unitriangular automorphism $\zeta_1 : K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$, potentials $Z_1, W_1 \in K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$, an arrow a_1 , a path c_1 , and a non-zero scalar λ_1 , such that:

- (1) $\text{depth}(\zeta_1) = \text{short}(W_0) - 3$;
- (2) ζ_1 is a right-equivalence $(Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U_0 + W_0) \rightarrow (Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U_0 + Z_1 + W_1)$;
- (3) $\text{short}(Z_1) > m$ and $\text{short}(W_1) \geq \text{short}(W_0) + 1$;
- (4) $W_1 = \lambda_1 f(a_1) a_1 G(t - 1, g^{-(t-1)}(a_1)) c_1$.

Setting $U_1 = U_0 + Z_1$, we see that U_1, W_1, a_1, c_1 and λ_1 satisfy the hypotheses of Lemma 2.7 for the integers m and $t - 1$.

Assuming that for $i \in \{0, \dots, t - 1\}$ we have U_i, W_i, a_i, c_i and λ_i satisfying the hypotheses of Lemma 2.7 for the integers m and $t - i$, we can produce a unitriangular automorphism $\zeta_{i+1} : K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$, potentials $Z_{i+1}, W_{i+1} \in K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$, an arrow a_{i+1} , a path c_{i+1} , and a non-zero scalar λ_{i+1} , such that:

- (1) $\text{depth}(\zeta_{i+1}) = \text{short}(W_i) - 3$;

- (2) ζ_{i+1} is a right-equivalence
 $(Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U_i + W_i) \rightarrow (Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U_i + Z_{i+1} + W_{i+1});$
- (3) $\text{short}(Z_{i+1}) > m$ and $\text{short}(W_{i+1}) \geq \text{short}(W_i) + 1;$
- (4) $W_{i+1} = \lambda_{i+1} f(a_{i+1}) a_{i+1} G(t - i - 1, g^{-(t-i-1)}(a_{i+1})) c_{i+1}.$

Setting $U_{i+1} = U_i + Z_{i+1}$, we see that U_{i+1} , W_{i+1} , a_{i+1} , c_{i+1} and λ_{i+1} satisfy the hypotheses of Lemma 2.7 for the integers m and $t - (i + 1)$.

The composition $\zeta = \zeta_t \circ \zeta_{t-1} \circ \dots \circ \zeta_1$ is a unitriangular automorphism of $K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ that has depth at least $\text{short}(W) - 3$ and serves as a right-equivalence $(Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U + W) \rightarrow (Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U_t + W_t)$. Notice that $U_t = U + \sum_{i=1}^t Z_i$, that $\text{short}(\sum_{i=1}^t Z_i) > m$, and that $\text{short}(W_t) \geq \text{short}(W) + t = 2 \text{short}(W) - 3 > m$.

By Proposition 2.6, there exists a unitriangular automorphism $\varphi : K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ of depth greater than $m - 3$ that makes $(Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U + \sum_{i=1}^t Z_i + W_t)$ right-equivalent to $(Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U + \xi)$ for some potential $\xi \in K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ that involves only powers of g -cycles and satisfies $\text{short}(\xi) \geq \text{short}(\sum_{i=1}^t Z_i + W_t) > m$.

From the two previous paragraphs we deduce that the automorphism $\Pi := \varphi \circ \zeta$ satisfies the desired conclusion of Corollary 2.8. \square

3. ONCE-PUNCTURED SURFACES

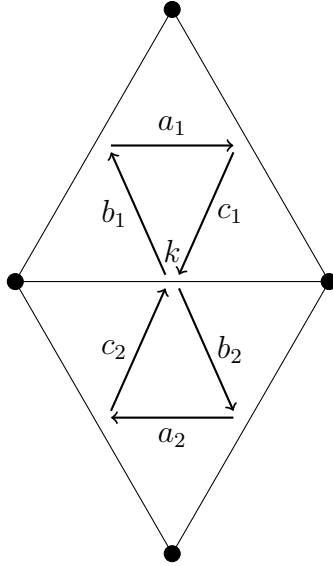
In [6] and [8], the second author showed that the potentials $S(\tau, \mathbf{x})$ are well behaved with respect to flips and mutations, in the sense that, if two triangulations are related by a flip, then the associated QPs are related by the corresponding QP-mutation. In this section, we show that for once-punctured closed surfaces the same result is true for a wider class of potentials. Namely, given a triangulation τ of a once-punctured closed surface of positive genus (Σ, \mathbb{M}) , a scalar $x \neq 0$ and a positive integer n , we define a potential $S(\tau, x, n)$ as

$$S(\tau, x, n) = T(\tau) + x\mathcal{G}(p)^n,$$

where p is the only puncture in (Σ, \mathbb{M}) .

Theorem 3.1. *Let (Σ, \mathbb{M}) be a once-punctured closed surface of positive genus, n be any positive integer, and $x \in K$ be any scalar. If τ and σ are triangulations of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) that are related by the flip of an arc $k \in \tau$, then the QPs $\mu_k(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))$ and $(Q(\sigma), S(\sigma, x, n))$ are right-equivalent.*

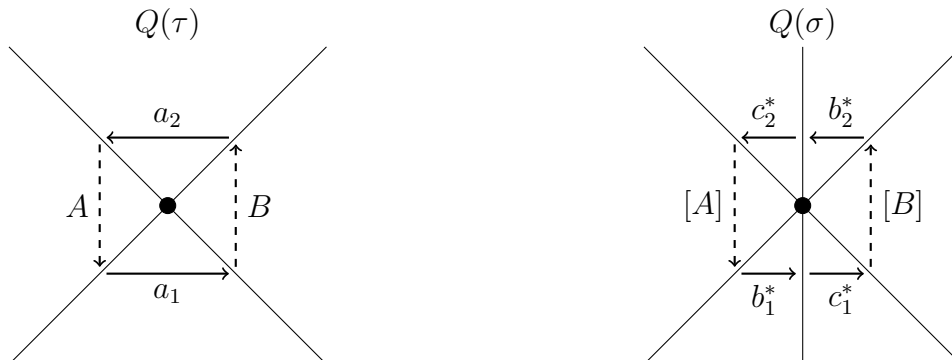
Proof. Let a_i, b_i, c_i , $i = 1, 2$, be the arrows in the two triangles with one side k as in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1. The two triangles with one side k .

Up to rotation we can write $\mathcal{G}(p) = a_1 A a_2 B$. Notice that $b_2 c_1, b_1 c_2$ are factors of $\mathcal{G}(p)$, but $b_1 c_1$ and $b_2 c_2$ are not. The potential $\tilde{\mu}_k(S(\tau, x, n))$ is cyclically equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} [T(\tau)] + x([a_1 A a_2 B])^n + c_1^* b_2^* [b_2 c_1] + c_2^* b_1^* [b_1 c_2] + c_1^* b_1^* [b_1 c_1] + c_2^* b_2^* [b_2 c_2] \\ = T(\sigma) + a_1 [b_1 c_1] + a_2 [b_2 c_2] + c_1^* b_1^* [b_1 c_1] + c_2^* b_2^* [b_2 c_2] + x(a_1 [A] a_2 [B])^n, \end{aligned}$$

where the paths $[A], [B]$ are the result of replacing $b_2 c_1, b_1 c_2$ in A, B by $[b_2 c_1], [b_1 c_2]$, respectively.

FIGURE 2. The cycle on $Q(\tau)$ and $Q(\sigma)$ surrounding the puncture.

We define R -algebra homomorphisms $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 : K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle$ by means of the rules

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_1(a_1) &= a_1 - c_1^* b_1^*; \\ \varphi_2([b_1 c_1]) &= [b_1 c_1] - x \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (-1)^j [A] a_2 [B] ((a_1 - c_1^* b_1^*) [A] a_2 [B])^{n-j-1} (c_1^* b_1^* [A] a_2 [B])^j.\end{aligned}$$

Applying φ_1 to $\tilde{\mu}_k(S(\tau, x, n))$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_1(\tilde{\mu}_k(S(\tau, x, n))) &\sim_{\text{cyc}} T(\sigma) + a_1 [b_1 c_1] + a_2 [b_2 c_2] + c_2^* b_2^* [b_2 c_2] + x ((a_1 - c_1^* b_1^*) [A] a_2 [B])^n \\ &\sim_{\text{cyc}} T(\sigma) + a_1 [b_1 c_1] + a_2 [b_2 c_2] + c_2^* b_2^* [b_2 c_2] + x (-1)^n (c_1^* b_1^* [A] a_2 [B])^n \\ &\quad + x \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (-1)^j a_1 [A] a_2 [B] ((a_1 - c_1^* b_1^*) [A] a_2 [B])^{n-j-1} (c_1^* b_1^* [A] a_2 [B])^j.\end{aligned}$$

The potential $\varphi_2 \varphi_1(\tilde{\mu}_k(S(\tau, x, n)))$ is cyclically equivalent to

$$\varphi_2 \varphi_1(\tilde{\mu}_k(S(\tau, x, n))) \sim_{\text{cyc}} T(\sigma) + a_1 [b_1 c_1] + a_2 [b_2 c_2] + c_2^* b_2^* [b_2 c_2] + x (-1)^n (c_1^* b_1^* [A] a_2 [B])^n.$$

In an analogous way, we define R -algebra homomorphisms $\varphi_3, \varphi_4 : K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau)\rangle\rangle$ by means of the rules

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_3(a_2) &= a_2 - c_2^* b_2^*; \\ \varphi_4([b_2 c_2]) &= [b_2 c_2] \\ &\quad - x (-1)^n \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (-1)^j [B] c_1^* b_1^* [A] ((a_2 - c_2^* b_2^*) [B] c_1^* b_1^* [A])^{n-j-1} (c_2^* b_2^* [B] c_1^* b_1^* [A])^j.\end{aligned}$$

We obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_4 \varphi_3 \varphi_2 \varphi_1(\tilde{\mu}_k(S(\tau, x, n))) &\sim_{\text{cyc}} T(\sigma) + a_1 [b_1 c_1] + a_2 [b_2 c_2] + x (c_1^* b_1^* [A] c_2^* b_2^* [B])^n \\ &\sim_{\text{cyc}} S(\sigma, x, n) + a_1 [b_1 c_1] + a_2 [b_2 c_2].\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the QPs $\mu_k(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))$ and $(Q(\sigma), S(\sigma, x, n))$ are right-equivalent. \square

Remark 3.2. (1) For once-punctured closed surfaces, Theorem 3.1 constitutes a generalization of the second author's results [6, Theorem 30] and [8, Theorem 8.1].

(2) It was observed by Ladkani [11, Proposition 3.1] that the proof of [6, Theorem 30] can be applied without change to produce a proof of Theorem 3.1 above for $x = 0$.

(3) In his Master thesis [4], the first author of this paper proved Theorem 3.1 for the once-punctured torus and $x \neq 0$.

(4) Motivated by the first author's Master thesis, the third author proved Theorem 3.1 in his Undergraduate thesis [12].

Proposition 3.3. *Let (Σ, \mathbb{M}) be a once-punctured closed surface of positive genus, τ a triangulation of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) , and $x \in K$ a non-zero scalar. If the characteristic of the field K is zero, then*

$$\dim_K(\mathcal{P}(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))) < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \dim_K(\mathcal{P}(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))) = \infty.$$

Proof. For the proof of finite-dimensionality we follow ideas suggested by Ladkani in his proof of [10, Proposition 4.2], whereas our proof that the limits of the dimensions are ∞ follows ideas that appear in the first author's Master thesis.

First, note that when we compute the cyclic derivative of $S(\tau, x, n)$ with respect to an arrow α , we get

$$(3.1) \quad \partial_\alpha(S(\tau, x, n)) = f^2(\alpha)f(\alpha) + xnG(nm_\alpha - 1, g(\alpha)).$$

So, $f^2(\alpha)f(\alpha)$ and $-xnG(nm_\alpha - 1, g(\alpha))$ become equal in the Jacobian algebra $\mathcal{P}(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))$.

Every fg -path of length three has the form $f^2(\alpha)f(\alpha)g^{-1}f(\alpha)$ or $gf^2(\alpha)f^2(\alpha)f(\alpha)$ for some arrow α , and it is hence equal to

$$-xnG(nm_\alpha - 1, g(\alpha))g^{-1}f(\alpha) = -xnG(nm_\alpha - 3, g^3(\alpha))g^2(\alpha)g(\alpha)f^{-1}g(\alpha)$$

or

$$-xngf^2(\alpha)G(nm_\alpha - 1, g(\alpha)) = -xngf^{-1}(\alpha)g^{-1}(\alpha)g^{-2}(\alpha)G(nm_\alpha - 3, g(\alpha))$$

in $\mathcal{P}(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))$. Thus, in $\mathcal{P}(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))$, every fg -path of length three is equal to another fg -path of length greater than three. In the same vein, an easy inductive argument shows that, in the Jacobian algebra, every fg -path is equal to an arbitrarily long fg -path, and therefore equal to $0 \in \mathcal{P}(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))$.

Any f -path $F(r, f(\beta)) = F(r - 2, \beta)f^2(\beta)f(\beta)$ of length r greater than three is equal to the fg -path $-xnF(r - 2, \beta)G(nm_\beta - 1, g(\beta))$ in $\mathcal{P}(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))$, and, in this way, to 0. Furthermore, any g -path of the form $G(r, g(\beta)) = G(r - nm_\beta + 1, \beta)G(nm_\beta - 1, g(\beta))$ with length greater than nm_β is equal to the fg -path $x^{-1}n^{-1}G(r - nm_\beta + 1, \beta)f^2(\beta)f(\beta)$, hence equal to 0 in the Jacobian algebra. Notice that, here, we have used that K is a field of characteristic zero.

Thus far, we have shown that every path of length greater than nm_α is equivalent to 0 in the Jacobian algebra $\mathcal{P}(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))$, and therefore the latter has finite dimension.

On the other hand, as the cyclic derivative of $S(\tau, x, n)$ with respect to any arrow α is equal to the sum of an f -path of length two and a scalar multiple of a g -path of length $nm_\alpha - 1$ (cf. (3.1)), and since no g -path is a multiple of any f -path of length greater than one, we conclude that for any $a, b \in K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$, no g -path of length smaller than $nm_\alpha - 1$ appears in the expression of the element $a\partial_\alpha(S(\tau, x, n))b$ as a possibly infinite sum of paths on the quiver $Q(\tau)$. From this, it follows that no finite linear combination of g -paths of lengths smaller than $nm_\alpha - 1$ can be written as a limit of finite sums of elements of the form $a\partial_\alpha(S(\tau, x, n))b$, i.e., the set of g -paths of length smaller than $nm_\alpha - 1$ is linearly independent in the Jacobian algebra $\mathcal{P}(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))$. Therefore, $\dim_K(\mathcal{P}(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))) \geq nm_\alpha - 2$. \square

Corollary 3.4. *Over a field of characteristic zero, the quiver of any triangulation of a once-punctured closed surface of positive genus admits infinitely many non-degenerate potentials up to weak right-equivalence.*

Remark 3.5. (1) In the case of the once-punctured torus, Proposition 3.3 was proved by the first author in his Master thesis [4].

- (2) In his Undergraduate thesis [12], the third author has computed an actual K -vector space basis of $\mathcal{P}(Q(\tau), S(\tau, x, n))$ for each $n \geq 1$, showing in particular that different values of n never yield Jacobian algebras with the same dimension. This implies that different values of n always yield potentials that are not weakly right-equivalent.

4. TWICE-PUNCTURED SURFACES

In this section we prove part (2) of Theorem 1.1, as formulated in the next theorem.

Theorem 4.1. *Let (Σ, \mathbb{M}) be a twice-punctured closed surface of positive genus, and let τ be any (tagged) triangulation of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) . Over an algebraically closed field, any two non-degenerate potentials on the quiver $Q(\tau)$ are weakly right-equivalent.*

Since any two ideal triangulations of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) are related by a finite sequence of flips (see [13]), the first paragraphs of the proof of [3, Lemma 8.5] imply that the mere exhibition of a single triangulation τ of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) , with $Q(\tau)$ having only one weak right equivalence class of non-degenerate potentials, suffices in order to prove Theorem 4.1.

Example 4.2. Figure 3 sketches a triangulation τ of a positive-genus twice-punctured surface with empty boundary. The triangulation is easily seen to satisfy (2.1) and (2.2). Note that the puncture p has valency $8g$, and the other puncture q has valency $4g$.

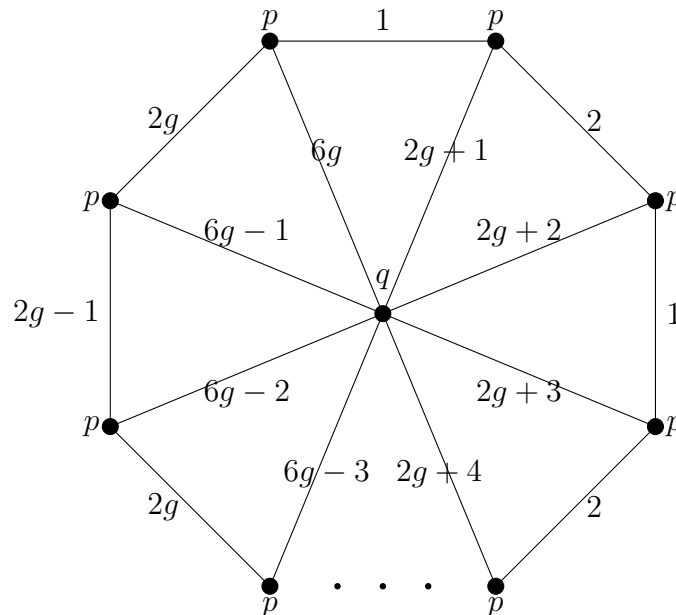
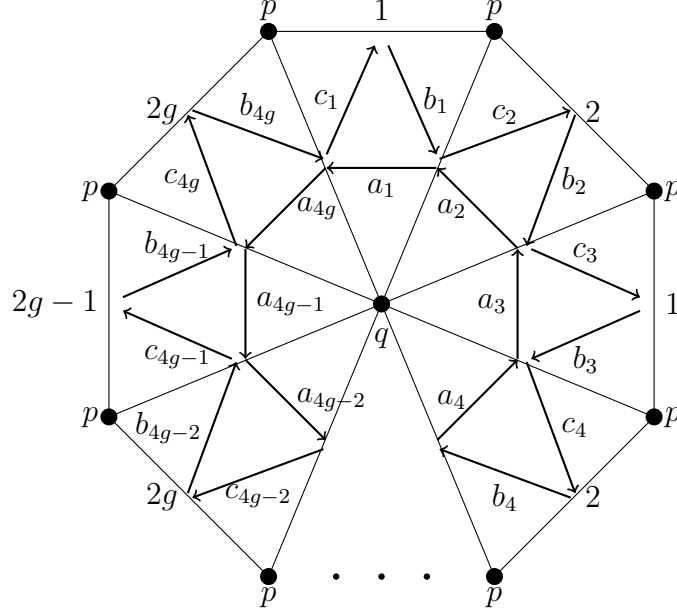


FIGURE 3. A triangulation τ of a twice-punctured closed surface (Σ, \mathbb{M}) of positive-genus.

FIGURE 4. The associated quiver $Q(\tau)$ to the triangulation τ .

Lemma 4.3. *Let (Σ, \mathbb{M}) be a twice-punctured closed surface of positive genus, and let τ be the triangulation of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) shown in Figure 3. If $V \in K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ is a potential involving only ≥ 2 -powers of g -cycles, then $(Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + V)$ is right-equivalent to $(Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}))$ for any choice $\mathbf{x} = (x_p, x_q)$ of non-zero scalars.*

Proof. Let g be the genus of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) . Then

$$V \sim_{\text{cyc}} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \nu_{p,n} (\mathcal{G}(p))^n + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \nu_{q,n} (\mathcal{G}(q))^n$$

for some scalars $\nu_{p,n}$ and $\nu_{q,n}$ for $n \geq 2$. Note that $\text{short}(V) \geq 2 \text{val}_{\tau}(q) = 8g$.

CLAIM 2. There exist a sequence $(V_m)_{m=8g}^{\infty}$ of potentials on $Q(\tau)$, and a sequence $(\varphi_m)_{m=8g}^{\infty}$ of unitriangular R -algebra automorphisms of $K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$, satisfying the following properties:

- (1) $V_{8g} = V$;
- (2) $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \text{depth}(\varphi_m) = \infty$;
- (3) for every $m \geq 8g$:
 - (a) φ_m is a right-equivalence $(Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + V_m) \rightarrow (Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + V_{m+1})$;
 - (b) V_m involves only ≥ 2 -powers of g -cycles;
 - (c) $\text{short}(V_m) \geq m$.

For the proof of the claim, we start by setting $V_{8g} = V$. Let a_p (respectively a_q) be an arrow lying in the g -orbit that surrounds p (respectively q). Suppose that for a fixed value of $m \geq 8g$ we have already defined a potential V_m involving only ≥ 2 -powers of g -cycles

and satisfying $\text{short}(V_m) \geq m$. We shall use V_m to define V_{m+1} and φ_m . Write

$$V_m \sim_{\text{cyc}} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \lambda_{p,n} (\mathcal{G}(a_p))^n + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \lambda_{q,n} (\mathcal{G}(a_q))^n$$

with $\lambda_{p,n}, \lambda_{q,n} \in K$ for $n \geq 2$. Set $r_{p,m}$ (respectively $r_{q,m}$) to be the first value of n for which $\lambda_{p,n} \neq 0$ (respectively $\lambda_{q,n} \neq 0$) if such an n exists, and ∞ if such an n does not exist. Note that $\text{short}(V_m) = \min(8gr_{p,m}, 4gr_{q,m}) \geq 8g$.

Define an R -algebra homomorphism $\Upsilon_{p,m} : K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ by means of the rule

$$\Upsilon_{p,m} : a_p \mapsto a_p - \frac{\lambda_{p,r_{p,m}}}{x_p} a_p (\mathcal{G}(a_p))^{r_{p,m}-1}.$$

Since $r_{p,m} - 1 > 0$, $\Upsilon_{p,m}$ is a unitriangular automorphism, and its depth is $8g(r_{p,m} - 1)$. Direct computation shows that

$$\Upsilon_{p,m}(S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + V_m) \sim_{\text{cyc}} S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U + W,$$

where

$$U = -\lambda_{p,r_{p,m}} (\mathcal{G}(a_p))^{r_{p,m}} + \Upsilon_{p,m} \left(\sum_{n=r_{p,m}}^{\infty} \lambda_{p,n} (\mathcal{G}(a_p))^n \right) + \sum_{n=r_{q,m}}^{\infty} \lambda_{q,n} (\mathcal{G}(a_q))^n,$$

$$W = -\frac{\lambda_{p,r_{p,m}}}{x_p} f(a_p) a_p (\mathcal{G}(a_p))^{r_{p,m}-1} f^2(a_p).$$

Note that $\text{short}(U) \geq m$ and $2\text{short}(W) - 3 = 2 \cdot 8g(r_{p,m} - 1) + 3 \geq 8gr_{p,m} + 3 > 8gr_{p,m} \geq m$. So, applying Corollary 2.8, we see that there exists a unitriangular R -algebra automorphism $\Pi_{p,m}$ of $K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ that has depth at least $\min(m - 3, 8g(r_{p,m} - 1))$ and serves as a right-equivalence between $S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U + W$ and $S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U + \xi$ for some potential ξ that involves only positive powers of g -cycles and satisfies $\text{short}(\xi) > m \geq 8g$. These last inequalities imply that, actually, ξ involves only ≥ 2 -powers of g -cycles.

Now, we can definitely write

$$U \sim_{\text{cyc}} \sum_{n=r_{p,m}+1}^{\infty} \kappa_{p,n} (\mathcal{G}(a_p))^n + \sum_{n=r_{q,m}}^{\infty} \lambda_{q,n} (\mathcal{G}(a_q))^n$$

for some scalars $\kappa_{p,n} \in K$. Define an R -algebra homomorphism $\Upsilon_{q,m} : K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle \rightarrow K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ by means of the rule

$$\Upsilon_{q,m} : a_q \mapsto a_q - \frac{\lambda_{q,n}}{x_q} a_q (\mathcal{G}(a_q))^{r_{q,m}-1}.$$

Since $r_{q,m} - 1 > 0$, $\Upsilon_{q,m}$ is a unitriangular automorphism, and its depth is $4g(r_{q,m} - 1)$. Direct computation shows that

$$\Upsilon_{q,m}(S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U + \xi) \sim_{\text{cyc}} S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U' + W',$$

where

$$U' = -\lambda_{q,r_{q,m}}(\mathcal{G}(a_q))^{r_{q,m}} + \sum_{n=r_{p,m}+1}^{\infty} \kappa_{p,n}(\mathcal{G}(a_p))^n + \Upsilon_{q,n} \left(\sum_{n=r_{q,m}}^{\infty} \lambda_{q,n}(\mathcal{G}(a_q))^n \right) + \Upsilon_{q,m}(\xi),$$

$$W' = -\frac{\lambda_{q,r_{q,m}}}{x_q} f(a_q) a_q (\mathcal{G}(a_q))^{r_{q,m}-1} f^2(a_q).$$

Note that $\text{short}(U') > m$ and $2 \text{short}(W') - 3 = 2 * 4g(r_{q,m} - 1) + 3 \geq 4gr_{q,m} + 3 > 4gr_{q,m} \geq m$. So, applying Corollary 2.8, we see that there exists a unitriangular R -algebra automorphism $\Pi_{q,m}$ of $K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ that has depth at least $\min(m - 3, 4g(r_{q,m} - 1))$ and serves as a right-equivalence between $S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U' + W'$ and $S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + U' + \xi'$ for some potential ξ' that involves only positive powers of g -cycles and satisfies $\text{short}(\xi') > m \geq 8g$. These last inequalities imply that, actually, ξ' involves only ≥ 2 -powers of g -cycles.

It is clear that U' involves only positive powers of g -cycles; these powers are actually greater than 1 because $\text{short}(U') > m \geq 8g$. So, if we set $V_{m+1} = U' + \xi'$ and $\varphi_m = \Pi_{q,m} \Upsilon_{q,m} \Pi_{p,m} \Upsilon_{p,m}$, we see that φ_m is a right-equivalence $(Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + V_m) \rightarrow (Q(\tau), S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + V_{m+1})$, that V_{m+1} involves only ≥ 2 -powers of g -cycles, and that $\text{short}(V_{m+1}) \geq m + 1$.

From the previous paragraph we deduce that the sequences $(V_m)_{m \geq 8g}$ and $(\varphi_m)_{m \geq 8g}$ satisfy the third condition stated in Claim 2. Moreover, since $m \leq \text{short}(V_m) = \min(8gr_{p,m}, 4gr_{q,m})$ for every $m \geq 8g$, we deduce that $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} r_{p,m} = \infty = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} r_{q,m}$. This and the inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} \text{depth}(\varphi_m) &\geq \min(\text{depth}(\Pi_{q,m}), \text{depth}(\Upsilon_{q,m}), \text{depth}(\Pi_{p,m}), \text{depth}(\Upsilon_{p,m})) \\ &\geq \min \left(\min(m - 3, 4g(r_{q,m} - 1)), 4g(r_{q,m} - 1), \right. \\ &\quad \left. \min(m - 3, 8g(r_{p,m} - 1)), 8g(r_{p,m} - 1) \right) \end{aligned}$$

imply that $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \text{depth}(\varphi_m) = \infty$.

This completes the proof of Claim 2.

Lemma 4.3 now follows from an obvious combination of Claim 2 and [8, Lemma 2.4]. \square

Proposition 4.4. *Let (Σ, \mathbb{M}) be a twice-punctured closed surface of positive genus, and let τ be the triangulation of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) shown in Figure 3. If $W \in K\langle\langle Q(\tau) \rangle\rangle$ is a potential that involves only positive powers of g -cycles and such that $(Q(\tau), T(\tau) + W)$ is a non-degenerate QP, then W involves each of the g -cycles that arise from the two punctures p and q of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) , that is, $T(\tau) + W = S(\tau, \mathbf{x}) + V$ for some choice $\mathbf{x} = (x_p, x_q)$ of non-zero scalars and some potential V involving only ≥ 2 -powers of g -cycles.*

Proof. With the notation of Figures 3 and 4, let us write

$$\begin{aligned}
 W &= ya_1a_2 \cdots a_{4g} + A \\
 &\quad + z \left(\prod_{j=0}^{g-1} b_{4(g-j)} c_{4(g-j)-2} b_{4(g-j)-3} c_{4(g-j)-1} b_{4(g-j)-2} c_{4(g-j)} b_{4(g-j)-1} c_{4(g-j)-3} \right) + B,
 \end{aligned}$$

with $A = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} y_n (a_1 a_2 \cdots a_{4g})^n$ and

$$B = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} z_n \left(\prod_{j=0}^{g-1} b_{4(g-j)} c_{4(g-j)-2} b_{4(g-j)-3} c_{4(g-j)-1} b_{4(g-j)-2} c_{4(g-j)} b_{4(g-j)-1} c_{4(g-j)-3} \right)^n.$$

If we set $I = \{2g + 1, 2g + 2, \dots, 6g - 1, 6g\}$, then $(Q(\tau), T(\tau) + W)$ and I satisfy the hypotheses of [3, Proposition 2.4]. We deduce that $y \neq 0$.

Note that, for every $k \in \{1, \dots, 2g - 1\}$, the quiver $\tilde{\mu}_k \tilde{\mu}_{k-1} \cdots \tilde{\mu}_2 \tilde{\mu}_1(Q(\tau))$ does not have 2-cycles incident to the vertex labelled $k + 1$. Therefore, the QP $\mu_{2g} \mu_{2g-1} \cdots \mu_2 \mu_1(Q(\tau), T(\tau) + W)$ is right-equivalent to the reduced part of the QP $\tilde{\mu}_{2g} \tilde{\mu}_{2g-1} \cdots \tilde{\mu}_2 \tilde{\mu}_1(Q(\tau), T(\tau) + W)$, whose underlying quiver and potential are $\tilde{\mu}_{2g} \cdots \tilde{\mu}_1(Q(\tau))$ and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{\mu}_{2g} \cdots \tilde{\mu}_1(T(\tau) + W) &= \left(\sum_{j=1}^{4g} a_j [b_j c_j] \right) + ya_1 \cdots a_{4g} + A + [B] \\
 &\quad + z \left(\prod_{j=0}^{g-1} [b_{4(g-j)} c_{4(g-j)-2}] [b_{4(g-j)-3} c_{4(g-j)-1}] [b_{4(g-j)-2} c_{4(g-j)}] [b_{4(g-j)-1} c_{4(g-j)-3}] \right) \\
 &\quad + \left(\sum_{j=1}^{2g} \left(c_j^* b_j^* [b_j c_j] + c_{j+2}^* b_j^* [b_j c_{j+2}] + c_j^* b_{j+2}^* [b_{j+2} c_j] + c_{j+2}^* b_{j+2}^* [b_{j+2} c_{j+2}] \right) \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Consider the QP $(\tilde{\mu}_{2g} \cdots \tilde{\mu}_1(Q(\tau)), \bar{S})$, where

$$\bar{S} = \left(\sum_{j=1}^{4g} a_j [b_j c_j] \right) + ya_1 \cdots a_{4g} + A + \left(\sum_{j=1}^{2g} \left(c_j^* b_j^* [b_j c_j] + c_{j+2}^* b_{j+2}^* [b_{j+2} c_{j+2}] \right) \right),$$

and let (Q, S) be its reduced part, computed according to the limit process with which Derksen, Weyman and Zelevinsky [2, Theorem 4.6] prove their Splitting Theorem. Note the presence of the sum $\sum_{j=1}^{4g} a_j [b_j c_j]$ in \bar{S} . Then $Q = Q(\sigma)$, where σ is a triangulation that can be obtained from τ by applying an orientation-preserving homeomorphism of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) that exchanges p and q (thus τ and σ have the same shape, sketched in Figure 4; see also Example 4.5 below). Moreover, since no arrow of the form a_j or $[b_j c_j]$ appears in any of the terms of the potential

$$\begin{aligned}
 W' &:= z \left(\prod_{j=0}^{g-1} [b_{4(g-j)} c_{4(g-j)-2}] [b_{4(g-j)-3} c_{4(g-j)-1}] [b_{4(g-j)-2} c_{4(g-j)}] [b_{4(g-j)-1} c_{4(g-j)-3}] \right) + [B] \\
 &\quad + \left(\sum_{j=1}^{2g} c_{j+2}^* b_j^* [b_j c_{j+2}] + c_j^* b_{j+2}^* [b_{j+2} c_j] \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

the QP $(Q(\sigma), S + W')$ is a reduced part of $(\tilde{\mu}_{2g} \cdots \tilde{\mu}_1(Q(\tau)), \tilde{\mu}_{2g} \cdots \tilde{\mu}_1(T(\tau) + W))$ and hence is (right-equivalent to) the mutation $\mu_{2g} \cdots \mu_1(Q(\tau), T(\tau) + W)$. Furthermore, from the fact that no arrow of the form $[b_j c_\ell]$ with $j \neq \ell$ appears in any of the terms of \bar{S} , we deduce that the coefficient in S of any of the rotations of the cycle

$$\left(\prod_{j=0}^{g-1} [b_{4(g-j)} c_{4(g-j)-2}] [b_{4(g-j)-3} c_{4(g-j)-1}] [b_{4(g-j)-2} c_{4(g-j)}] [b_{4(g-j)-1} c_{4(g-j)-3}] \right)$$

is 0. Therefore, the coefficient of this cycle in $S + W'$ is z (and its proper rotations do not appear).

The non-degeneracy of $(Q(\tau), T(\tau) + W)$ implies the non-degeneracy of $(Q(\sigma), S + W')$. Furthermore, it is easy to see that if we set $I = \{2g + 1, 2g + 2, \dots, 6g - 1, 6g\}$, then $(Q(\sigma), S + W')$ and I satisfy the hypotheses of [3, Proposition 2.4], from which we deduce that $z \neq 0$. This finishes the proof of the proposition. \square

Example 4.5. Figure 5 sketches the flip sequence in the proof of Proposition 4.4 in the case of a twice-punctured torus. Note that the first and last triangulations have the same shape.

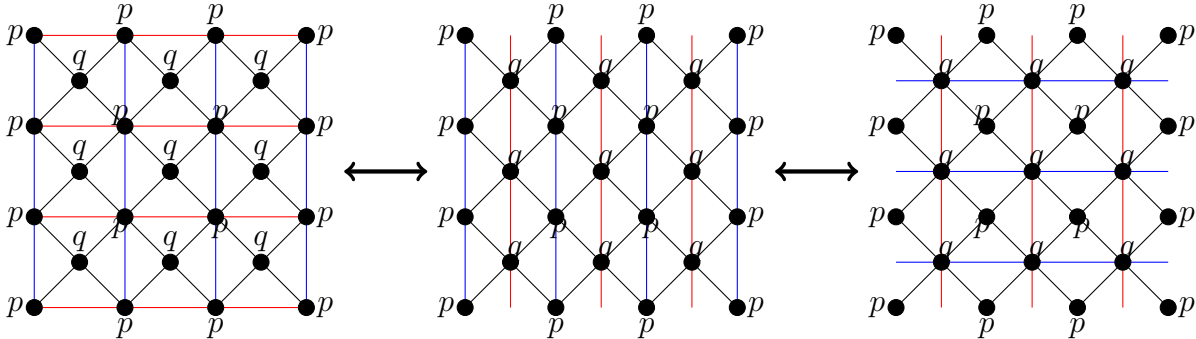


FIGURE 5. Proving Proposition 4.4 for the twice-punctured torus.

Proof of Theorem 4.1. Let (Σ, \mathbb{M}) be a twice-punctured closed surface of positive genus, and let τ be a triangulation of (Σ, \mathbb{M}) satisfying (2.1) and (2.2). By Lemma 2.4, every non-degenerate potential on $Q(\tau)$ is right-equivalent to a potential of the form $T(\tau) + U$ for some U which is rotationally disjoint from $T(\tau)$. By Proposition 2.6, $T(\tau) + U$ is right-equivalent to $T(\tau) + W$ for some potential that involves only positive powers of g -cycles. Theorem 4.1 now follows from Proposition 4.4, Lemma 4.3 and [3, Lemma 8.5]. \square

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