DIFFERENTIAL STRUCTURES ON BRAID HYPERPLANE ARRANGEMENTS

Abstract. This paper investigates the algebraic and differential properties of braid arrangements through the characterisation of logarithmic derivation modules and associated invariant operators. We rigorously establish the freeness of the arrangement by applying Saito's Criterion and providing an explicit construction of the symmetric group invariant derivation basis. Furthermore, we analyse the descent of these differential structures to the quotient variety, culminating in a description of the ring of differential operators on the discriminant hypersurface. Modern connections to the Rational Cherednik Algebra and Dunkl operators are developed to provide a unified framework for the singular geometry of reflection arrangements.

Keywords. Hyperplane arrangement, Logarithmic Derivations, Invariant Theory, Weyl Algebra, Dunkl Operators, Discriminant Hypersurface.

1. Introduction

The study of hyperplane arrangements occupies an intersection bridging the discrete rigour of algebraic combinatorics, the continuous structures of singularity theory, and the noncommutative complexities of representation theory. At its most fundamental level, an arrangement $\mathcal{A} = \{H_1, \ldots, H_n\}$ is a finite collection of codimension-one affine subspaces in a complex vector space $V \cong \mathbb{C}^\ell$. While the construction of $\mathcal{A}$ is seemingly linear, the geometry of its complement space, $M(\mathcal{A}) = V \setminus \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{A}} H$, and the algebraic properties of its defining hypersurface reveal deep invariants of the underlying space.

Historically, the seminal work of Arnold [1] established the cohomology ring of the group of pure braids, and Brieskorn [3] generalised these results to all finite Coxeter groups. Their work proved that the cohomology ring of the complement $M(\mathcal{A})$ is purely combinatorial, governed by the intersection lattice $L(\mathcal{A})$. However, the modern algebraic perspective was transformed by the introduction of the module of **logarithmic derivations**, $D(\mathcal{A})$, pioneered by Kyoji Saito [9]. Saito defined these as the set of S-linear derivations (vector fields) that preserve the defining ideal of the arrangement. A pivotal discovery in this field is the existence of **free arrangements**,

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2020 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 32S22; Secondary 13N10, 14L30, 16S32, 52C35.

characterised by the property that $D(\mathcal{A})$ is a free module over the polynomial ring $S = \mathbf{Sym}(V^*)$.

The **Braid Arrangement** stands as the canonical example of this theory, defined by the vanishing of the Vandermonde determinant $Q = \prod_{1 \le i < j \le \ell}(x_i - x_j)$. This arrangement possesses a rich symmetry inherited from the action of the **symmetric group S_ℓ**. Through the lens of Saito's Criterion and the modern formulation of Dunkl operators, this paper aims to characterise the ring of differential operators on the discriminant variety, linking the combinatorics of reflections to the noncommutative algebra of the Weyl algebra.

2. Preliminaries and The Braid Arrangement

We work over the field of complex numbers $\mathbb{C}$. Let $V \cong \mathbb{C}^\ell$ be a complex vector space of dimension ℓ, and let V^* denote its dual space. The symmetric algebra $S = \mathbf{Sym}(V^*)$ is identified with the polynomial ring $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \ldots, x_\ell]$. We refer the reader to Orlik and Terao [8] for the general theory and Suciu [11] for the topology of fibrations and complements.

2.1. Hyperplane Arrangements and Examples.

We begin by identifying two fundamental classes of arrangements that serve as prototypes for the theory.

Definition 2.1. A **hyperplane arrangement** $\mathcal{A} = \{H_1, \ldots, H_n\}$ is a finite collection of codimension-one linear subspaces in V. Each hyperplane $H \in \mathcal{A}$ is the kernel of a non-zero linear form $f_H \in V^*$. Thus let $f_H : V \to \mathbb{C}$ be a linear form with kernel H. The **defining polynomial** of $\mathcal{A}$ is the square-free product:

$$Q(\mathcal{A}) = \prod_{H \in \mathcal{A}} f_H \in S.$$

This is a homogeneous polynomial of degree equal to $|\mathcal{A}|$, the cardinality of the set $\mathcal{A}$. The union of hyperplanes $X = \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{A}} H$ represents the singular locus of the arrangement.

The combinatorics of the arrangement is encoded in its **intersection lattice**, $L(\mathcal{A})$, which is the poset of all intersections of $\mathcal{A}$, ordered by reverse inclusion and ranked by codimension. Throughout this discussion, we assume the arrangement is **essential**, meaning the intersection of all flats in $L(\mathcal{A})$ is the zero subspace $\{0\}$.

The primary topological invariant associated to an arrangement $\mathcal{A}$ is its **complement**:

$$M(\mathcal{A}) = X \setminus \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{A}} H$$

$M(\mathcal{A})$ is a smooth, quasi-projective variety with the homotopy type of a connected, finite CW-complex of dimension ℓ.

2.2. **The Geometry and Topology of the Complement.** The properties of $\mathcal{A}$ are encoded in its **intersection lattice**, $L(\mathcal{A})$, the set of all non-empty intersections of hyperplanes ordered by reverse inclusion [8]. As a complex manifold, the topology of $M(\mathcal{A})$ is highly constrained by the intersection lattice $L(\mathcal{A})$.

Definition 2.2. The **Möbius function** $\mu : L(\mathcal{A}) \times L(\mathcal{A}) \to \mathbb{Z}$ is defined recursively: $\mu(X, X) = 1$ and $\mu(X, Y) = -\sum_{X \leq Z < Y} \mu(X, Z)$ for $X < Y$.

Example 2.3. The **Boolean arrangement** $\mathcal{B}_\ell$ consists of the coordinate hyperplanes $H_i = \{x_i = 0\}$ for $i = 1, \ldots, \ell$ in $\mathbb{C}^\ell$. Its intersection lattice is the Boolean lattice of subsets of $\{1, \ldots, \ell\}$, and its complement is the complex algebraic torus $(\mathbb{C}^*)^\ell$.

For instance, the Boolean arrangement in $\mathbb{C}^2$ is defined by $Q = x_1 x_2$, this arrangement consists of the two axes.

$$\{\underbrace{\{x_1 = 0\}}_{H_1}, \underbrace{\{x_2 = 0\}}_{H_2}\}$$

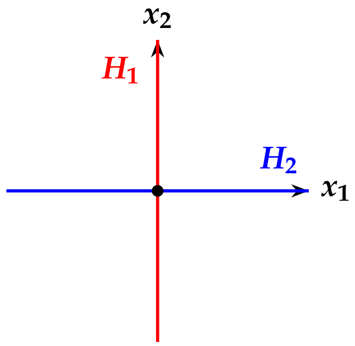

FIGURE 1. The Boolean arrangement in $\mathbb{C}^2$.

Example 2.4. The **Braid arrangement**, consists of the diagonal hyperplanes $H_{ij} = \{x_i - x_j = 0\}$ for $1 \leq i < j \leq \ell$ in $\mathbb{C}^\ell$. Its intersection lattice is isomorphic to the lattice of partitions of the set $\{1, \ldots, \ell\}$ ordered by refinement. The complement $M(A_{\ell-1})$ is the configuration space of ℓ ordered distinct points in $\mathbb{C}$, and its fundamental group is the pure braid group P_ℓ.

Additionally, the group $\mathbb{C}^*$ acts freely on $V \setminus \{0\}$. The orbit map $\pi : V \setminus \{0\} \to \mathbb{CP}^{\ell-1}$ (the Hopf fibration) induces a trivial bundle map $\pi(\mathcal{A}) : M(\mathcal{A}) \to U(\mathcal{A})$ with fiber $\mathbb{C}^*$, where $U(\mathcal{A})$ is the complement of the corresponding projective arrangement. This bundle is trivial, leading to the diffeomorphism:

$$M(\mathcal{A}) \cong U(\mathcal{A}) \times \mathbb{C}^*$$

The A_2 arrangement in $\mathbb{C}^3$ is defined by the Vandermonde product $Q = (x_1 - x_2)(x_2 - x_3)(x_1 - x_3)$. The singular locus contains the line $x_1 = x_2 = x_3$.

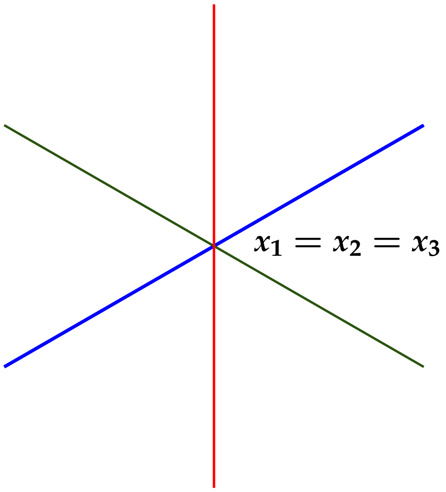

FIGURE 2. The Braid Arrangement A_2 in $\mathbb{C}^3$.

Definition 2.5. The **Milnor fibration** is defined by the restriction of the defining polynomial to the complement, $Q : M(\mathcal{A}) \to \mathbb{C}^*$. This is a locally trivial smooth fibration. Its typical fiber $F = Q^{-1}(1)$, the **Milnor fiber**, is a connected, smooth complex variety. The geometric monodromy $h : F \to F$ is given by $h(z) = e^{2\pi i/n} z$, where $n = |\mathcal{A}|$.

Proposition 2.6 Brieskorn Lemma. *The cohomology ring $H^*(M(\mathcal{A}), \mathbb{Z})$ is generated by the cohomology classes of the differential forms $\omega_H = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{df_H}{f_H}$ for each $H \in \mathcal{A}$. Furthermore, $H^*(M(\mathcal{A}), \mathbb{Z})$ is a free abelian group, and its Betti numbers $b_k(M(\mathcal{A}))$ are determined solely by the intersection lattice $L(\mathcal{A})$.*

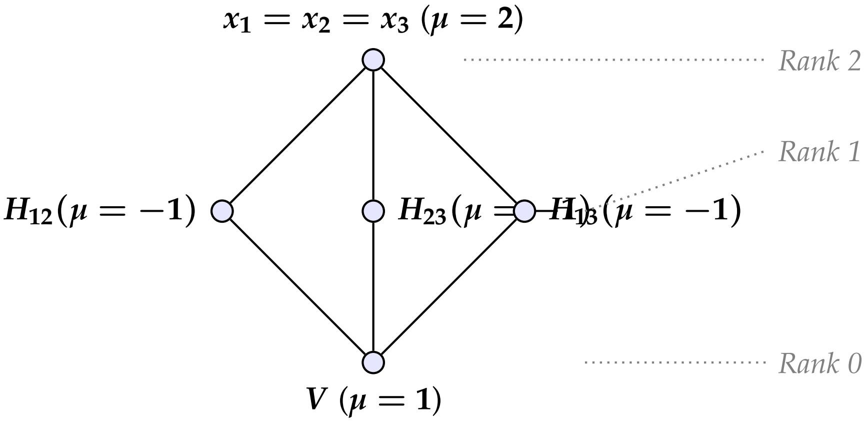

FIGURE 3. Intersection lattice $L(\mathcal{A})$ for the A_2 Braid arrangement, ranks and Möbius values $\mu(V, X)$.

Following Suciu [11], the cohomology of the complement is isomorphic to the **Orlik-Solomon algebra** $A(\mathcal{A})$. This is defined as the exterior algebra generated by symbols e_H for $H \in \mathcal{A}$, modulo an ideal J generated by relations arising from dependent sets of hyperplanes.

3. Logarithmic Derivations and Freeness

The differential structure of an arrangement is captured by vector fields that preserve the geometry of the hyperplanes, a theory foundationalised by Saito [9] and recently extended by Yoshinaga [13] through the method of restriction.

Definition 3.1. The module of **logarithmic derivations** of $\mathcal{A}$, denoted $D(\mathcal{A})$, is defined as:

$$D(\mathcal{A}) = \{\theta \in \mathbf{Der}(S) \mid \theta(Q) \in \langle Q \rangle\}.$$

Geometrically, $\theta \in D(\mathcal{A})$ if the associated vector field is tangent to every hyperplane $H \in \mathcal{A}$.

Definition 3.2. An arrangement $\mathcal{A}$ is **free** if $D(\mathcal{A})$ is a free S-module. This implies the existence of a homogeneous basis $\{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_\ell\}$ with degrees $\{d_1, \dots, d_\ell\}$ known as the **exponents** of $\mathcal{A}$.

3.1. Saito's Criterion.

A fundamental result by Kyoji Saito allows us to test freeness using the determinant of the coefficient matrix.

Theorem 3.3 Saito's Criterion [9]**.** *Let $\mathcal{A}$ be a central arrangement with defining polynomial Q. A set of ℓ homogeneous derivations $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_\ell \in D(\mathcal{A})$ forms a basis for $D(\mathcal{A})$ if and only if the determinant of their coefficient matrix is $c \cdot Q$ for a non-zero constant $c \in \mathbb{C}$.*

3.2. Freeness of the Braid Arrangement.

We now prove that the Braid arrangement $A_{\ell-1}$ is free by explicitly constructing a basis invariant under the symmetric group.

Proposition 3.4. *The derivations $\theta_k = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} x_i^k \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$ for $k \in \{0, \dots, \ell-1\}$ are logarithmic.*

Proof. Let $\alpha_{ij} = x_i - x_j$ be the linear form defining a hyperplane. Applying θ_k, we obtain:

$$\theta_k(x_i - x_j) = x_i^k - x_j^k = (x_i - x_j) \sum_{m=0}^{k-1} x_i^{k-1-m} x_j^m.$$

Since the right-hand side is divisible by $(x_i - x_j)$, θ_k preserves the ideal $\langle \alpha_{ij} \rangle$. By the Leibniz rule, $\theta_k(Q) \in \langle Q \rangle$, hence $\theta_k \in D(A_{\ell-1})$. □

Theorem 3.5. *The Braid arrangement $A_{\ell-1}$ is free with exponents $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, \ell-1\}$.*

Proof. Consider the set of derivations $\{\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_{\ell-1}\}$. Their degrees are $d_k = k$. The sum of degrees is $\sum_{k=0}^{\ell-1} k = \frac{\ell(\ell-1)}{2}$, which is exactly the number of hyperplanes in $A_{\ell-1}$, i.e., $\mathbf{deg}(Q)$. We construct the coefficient matrix M where $M_{kj} = \theta_k(x_j) = x_j^k$:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ x_1 & x_2 & \dots & x_\ell \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_1^{\ell-1} & x_2^{\ell-1} & \dots & x_\ell^{\ell-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

This is the classical **Vandermonde matrix**. Its determinant is $\prod_{1 \le i < j \le \ell}(x_j - x_i)$, which equals Q (up to a sign change). Since the determinant is a unit multiple of Q, Saito's Criterion is satisfied. ☐

Example 3.6. Consider the Braid arrangement A_2 in $V \cong \mathbb{C}^3$ with coordinates (x_1, x_2, x_3). This serves as the fundamental non-trivial case to illustrate the theorem.

The arrangement is defined by the hyperplanes H_{12}, H_{23}, H_{13} where coordinates coincide. The defining polynomial is the Vandermonde product:

$$Q = (x_1 - x_2)(x_2 - x_3)(x_1 - x_3)$$

Following Proposition 3.4, we propose the following three invariant derivations:

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_0 &= \partial_1 + \partial_2 + \partial_3 \\ \theta_1 &= x_1\partial_1 + x_2\partial_2 + x_3\partial_3 \\ \theta_2 &= x_1^2\partial_1 + x_2^2\partial_2 + x_3^2\partial_3 \end{aligned}$$

To apply Saito's Criterion, we construct the coefficient matrix M where $M_{kj} = \theta_k(x_j)$:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ x_1^2 & x_2^2 & x_3^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The determinant of this matrix is the classical **Vandermonde determinant**:

$$\mathbf{det}(M) = (x_2 - x_1)(x_3 - x_1)(x_3 - x_2)$$

Observe that $\mathbf{det}(M) = -Q$. Since the determinant is a non-zero constant multiple of the defining polynomial Q, the arrangement is **free** with exponents $\{0, 1, 2\}$.

4. THE WEYL ALGEBRA AND INVARIANT THEORY

To extend the analysis to higher-order differential operators, we transition from the commutative polynomial ring S to the noncommutative setting of the **Weyl algebra**.

5. The Weyl Algebra and Invariant Theory

5.1. **The Weyl Algebra and Idealizers.**

Definition 5.1. The ℓ-th **Weyl algebra**, denoted $\mathbb{A}_\ell(\mathbb{C})$, is the associative $\mathbb{C}$-algebra generated by the position operators $x_1, \dots, x_\ell$ and the partial derivatives $\partial_1, \dots, \partial_\ell$, subject to the canonical commutation relations:

$$[\partial_i, x_j] = \delta_{ij}, \quad [x_i, x_j] = 0, \quad [\partial_i, \partial_j] = 0,$$

where δ_{ij} denotes the Kronecker delta.

The ring of differential operators on S that preserve the ideal $I = \langle Q \rangle$ is the **idealizer** $\mathcal{D}(I) = \{P \in \mathbb{A}_\ell \mid P(I) \subseteq I\}$. The module of logarithmic derivations $D(\mathcal{A})$ generates the subalgebra of first-order operators in $\mathcal{D}(I)$.

Example 5.2. Consider the Boolean arrangement B_2 with $Q = xy$. The module $D(\mathcal{A})$ has basis $\theta_1 = x\partial_x$ and $\theta_2 = y\partial_y$. In the Weyl algebra, $\mathcal{D}(I)$ is differentially generated by $D(\mathcal{A})$, yielding $\mathcal{D}(I) = S\langle x\partial_x, y\partial_y \rangle$.

5.2. **Dunkl Operators.** Modern extensions of these structures involve **Dunkl operators** [4], which deform partial derivatives using reflections $s_{ij} \in S_\ell$:

$$T_i = \partial_i + k \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{1 - s_{ij}}{x_i - x_j}.$$

These operators are remarkable because they satisfy the commutativity relation $[T_i, T_j] = 0$. This commutativity is a consequence of the Arnold relation in the cohomology of the braid arrangement. Dunkl operators form the core of the **Rational Cherednik Algebra $H_k(S_\ell)$** [5], and their second-order sum corresponds to the **Calogero–Moser Hamiltonian** [6]:

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \partial_i^2 - k(k-1) \sum_{i<j} \frac{1}{(x_i - x_j)^2}.$$

The freeness of the Braid arrangement, established in Section 3, serves as the geometric engine ensuring the integrability of this system.

Example 5.3. Consider the Braid arrangement A_2 in $\mathbb{C}^3$ with coordinates (x_1, x_2, x_3) and a parameter $k \in \mathbb{C}$. The reflections $s_{ij} \in S_3$ act on the polynomial ring by swapping coordinates x_i and x_j.

The three Dunkl operators $\{T_1, T_2, T_3\}$ associated with this arrangement are defined by deforming the partial derivatives ∂_i as follows:

$$T_1 = \partial_1 + k\left(\frac{1-s_{12}}{x_1-x_2} + \frac{1-s_{13}}{x_1-x_3}\right),$$
$$T_2 = \partial_2 + k\left(\frac{1-s_{21}}{x_2-x_1} + \frac{1-s_{23}}{x_2-x_3}\right),$$
$$T_3 = \partial_3 + k\left(\frac{1-s_{31}}{x_3-x_1} + \frac{1-s_{32}}{x_3-x_2}\right).$$

Despite the presence of the singular denominators $(x_i - x_j)$, these operators exhibit the following fundamental properties of commutativity.

6. Combinatorial Invariants and Chambers

To rigorously enumerate the topological features of the arrangement, we employ the characteristic polynomial, an algebraic invariant derived from the intersection lattice.

Definition 6.1. The **characteristic polynomial** of an arrangement $\mathcal{A}$ in $\mathbb{C}^\ell$ is defined as:

$$\chi_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = \sum_{X \in L(\mathcal{A})} \mu(V, X) t^{\dim(X)}.$$

In terms of the Whitney numbers $b_i(\mathcal{A})$, this can be written as:

$$\chi_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{\ell} (-1)^i b_i(\mathcal{A}) t^{\ell-i}.$$

When working over the complex numbers $\mathbb{C}^\ell$, the coefficients $b_i(\mathcal{A})$ correspond to the i-th topological Betti numbers of the complement $M(\mathcal{A})$, as detailed in Suciu [11].

6.1. Modular Elements and Supersolvability.

The factorisation of the characteristic polynomial for the Braid arrangement is not accidental. Terao's Factorization Theorem [12] states that for any free arrangement with exponents $\{d_1, \ldots, d_\ell\}$, the characteristic polynomial factors as $\chi_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = \prod_{i=1}^{\ell}(t - d_i)$. This connection was further solidified by Solomon and Terao [10], who provided an explicit formula for $\chi_{\mathcal{A}}(t)$ using the values of basis derivations.

The integer factorization arises from a specific lattice property known as modularity, which induces a fibre bundle structure on the complement.

Definition 6.2. An element $Y \in L(\mathcal{A})$ is called **modular** if for every $X \in L(\mathcal{A})$, the pair (X, Y) creates a modular pair in the geometric lattice sense, satisfying the rank condition:

$$\mathrm{rank}(X) + \mathrm{rank}(Y) = \mathrm{rank}(X \vee Y) + \mathrm{rank}(X \wedge Y).$$

An arrangement is **supersolvable** if its lattice $L(\mathcal{A})$ contains a maximal chain of modular elements $V = Y_0 < Y_1 < \cdots < Y_\ell = T$.

Remark 6.3. The Braid arrangement $A_{\ell-1}$ is supersolvable. The chain of modular elements corresponds to the successive projection maps (forgetting coordinates):

$$\pi : M(A_{\ell-1}) \to M(A_{\ell-2}).$$

This projection defines a locally trivial fibre bundle, known as the **Fadell-Neuwirth bundle**. The existence of this tower of fibrations explains why the characteristic polynomial factors into linear terms over the integers:

$$\chi_{A_{\ell-1}}(t) = \prod_{k=0}^{\ell-1} (t-k).$$

Recent work by Bibby and Cohen [2] utilises these modular structures to compute the **Parametrized Topological Complexity** of the arrangement, applying these algebraic invariants to motion planning algorithms in robotics.

6.2. **Chambers and Zaslavsky's Theorem.** Although we work primarily over $\mathbb{C}$, the term **chamber** originates from the real setting. For a real arrangement in $\mathbb{R}^\ell$, a chamber is a connected component of the complement $\mathbb{R}^\ell \setminus \bigcup_{H\in\mathcal{A}} H$. The number of such chambers is given by the evaluation of the characteristic polynomial, a result due to Zaslavsky [14]:

$$|\,\mathbf{ch}(\mathcal{A})| = (-1)^\ell \chi_{\mathcal{A}}(-1) = \sum_{X \in L(\mathcal{A})} |\mu(V, X)|.$$

For the complex braid arrangement, this count corresponds to the number of elements in the symmetric group, $|\,\mathbf{ch}(A_{\ell-1})| = \ell!$.

Example 6.4. For A_2 in $\mathbb{C}^3$, the lattice contains the ambient space V (rank 0, dim 3), three hyperplanes (rank 1, dim 2), and the line $x = y = z$ (rank 2, dim 1). The Möbius values are $\mu(V, V) = 1$, $\mu(V, H_i) = -1$, and $\mu(V, L) = 2$. Thus, the characteristic polynomial is:

$$\chi_{A_2}(t) = 1 \cdot t^3 + 3(-1) \cdot t^2 + 2 \cdot t^1 = t(t-1)(t-2).$$

Evaluating at $t = -1$:

$$|\,\mathbf{ch}(A_2)| = |(-1)((-1)-1)((-1)-2)| = |-1 \cdot -2 \cdot -3| = 6.$$

Observe, that the symmetric group S_3 acts simply transitively on these regions. Any permutation $\sigma \in S_3$ maps the fundamental chamber C_0 to a unique chamber defined by the ordering $x_{\sigma(1)} < x_{\sigma(2)} < x_{\sigma(3)}$. These six chambers correspond to the six possible total orderings of the coordinates $x_1 < x_2 < x_3$, $x_1 < x_3 < x_2$,

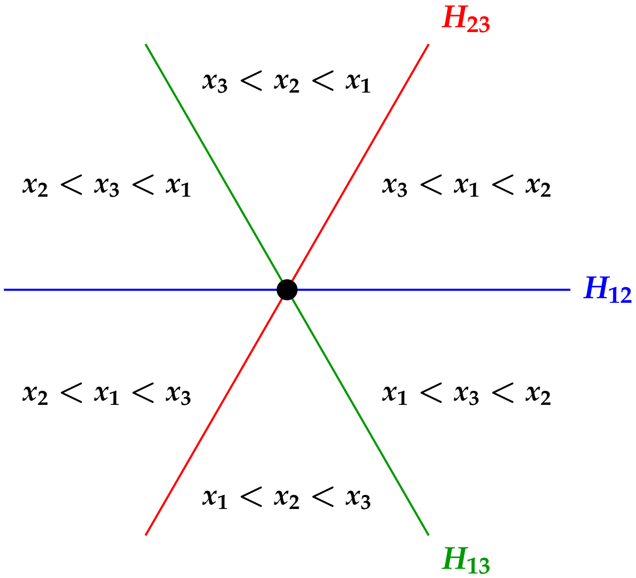

Figure 4. Cross-section of the chambers of the A_2 arrangement. The symmetric group S_3 acts transitively on these regions.

$x_2 < x_1 < x_3$, $x_2 < x_3 < x_1$, $x_3 < x_1 < x_2$, $x_3 < x_2 < x_1$. Namely, (x_1, x_2, x_3) represents $x_1 < x_2 < x_3$ the fundamental chamber C_0.

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