

# Automata generated topological spaces (and self-affine tiles)

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1. Multiple addresses in numeration
2. Properties of topology-generating automata
3. Iterated function systems and automata

(Few remarks on tiles)

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## 1.1 Ingredients of numeration

$D = \{0, 1, \dots, m-1\}$  alphabet, digit set

$S = D^{\mathbb{N}} = \{s = s_1 s_2 \dots \mid s_k \in D\}$  symbolic space (or subshift)

$X$  topological space

$\psi: S \rightarrow X$  numeration map (onto)

assigns addresses to points  $x \in X$

continuous  $\rightarrow X$  compact

$\psi$  is a quotient map

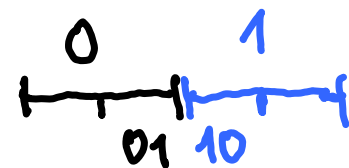
## 1.2 Multiple addresses

topology of  $X$  is determined by the equivalence relation

$$L = \{ (s, t) \mid \varphi(s) = \varphi(t) \} \subseteq S \times S$$

We consider the case that  $L$  is generated by an automaton.

Ex. Binary numbers  $X = [0, 1]$   $\mathcal{D} = \{0, 1\}$   $\bar{1} = 111\dots$   
 $\varphi(s_1 s_2 \dots) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} s_i \cdot 2^{-i}$   $\varphi(0\bar{1}) = \varphi(1\bar{0})$



# 1.3 Modular structure

word  $w = w_1 \dots w_n \in \mathcal{D}^n$

$$S = \{s_1 s_2 \dots \mid s_i \in \mathcal{D}\}$$

$S_w = \{w_1 \dots w_n s_{n+1} s_{n+2} \dots \mid s_i \in \mathcal{D}\}$  cylinder set



Principle of self-similarity: All  $S_w$  are treated in the same way as  $S$  (or several types)

$$\varphi(s) = \varphi(t) \Rightarrow \varphi(ws) = \varphi(wt)$$

for all words  $w$

(simplifies our work)

## 1.4 Topology-generating automaton

Def.  $G = (V, E)$  directed graph,  $\alpha \in V$  initial state  
states      transitions

Input alphabet  $D \times D$  for marking edges

Automaton accepts those sequences  $(i_1, j_1), (i_2, j_2), \dots$   
for which there is a path  $e_1 e_2 \dots$  starting in  $\alpha$   
and edge  $e_k$  is marked  $(i_k, j_k)$ .



- Rem. - all states accepting. Could add rejecting state  $w$ .
- $\alpha$  must have loops  $(i,i)$  for all  $i \in D$  (self-sim.)
  - $\alpha$  should have no other incoming edges  
(in order to get finite equiv. classes)
  - from each state  $v$  there must be a path to a directed cycle  
(in order to accept infinite sequences  $(i_k, j_k)$ )



## 1.5 Topology generated by the automaton

$v, w \in D^n$   $(v, w)$  accepted means  $\gamma(S_v)$  intersects  $\gamma(S_w)$

On finite level  $n$ , topology is approximated by an undirected graph  $H_n = (D^n, E_n = \text{accepted } \{v, w\})$   
(Hata 1986)

$s, t \in S$   $(s, t)$  accepted means  $\gamma(s) = \gamma(t)$

So the automaton defines the equivalence relation  $\sim$  and hence the topology of  $X$ .

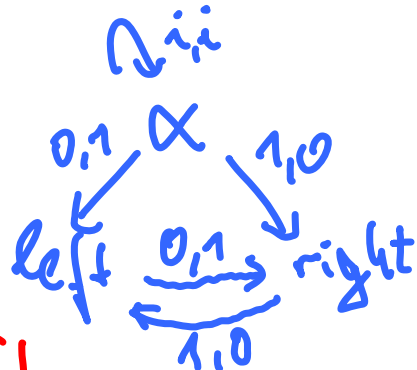
$$H_n = (D^n, E_n = \text{accepted } \{v, w\})$$

Prop. Let  $X^{(n)} = D^n \cup E_n$ , where points of  $D^n$  are open and points of  $E_n$  are closed. Then  $X$  is the inverse limit of the finite topological spaces  $X^{(n)}$ .

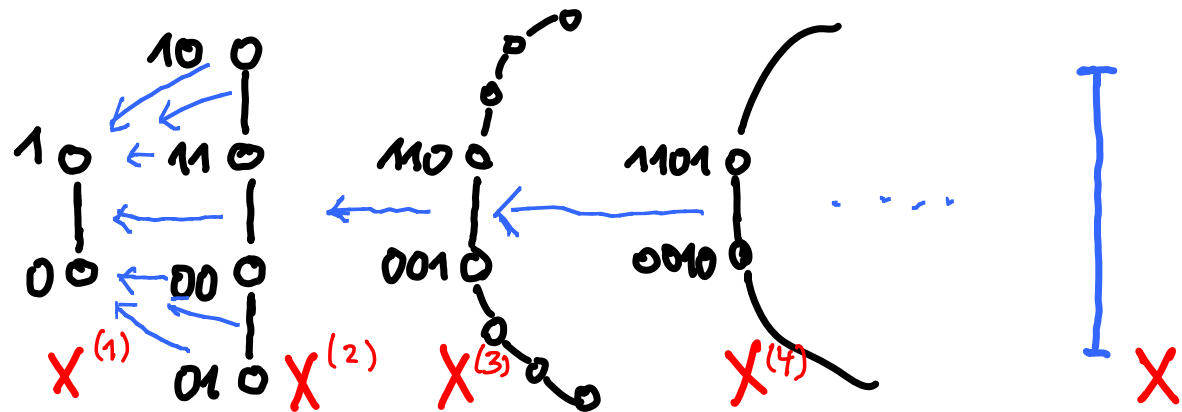
$$X = \varprojlim (X^{(n)}, \pi_n)$$

with  $\pi_n: X^{(n)} \rightarrow X^{(n-1)}$ ,  $\pi_n(w_1 \dots w_n) = w_1 \dots w_{n-1}$ ,  
 $\pi_n(v_1 \dots v_n, w_1 \dots w_n) = (v_1 \dots v_{n-1}, w_1 \dots w_{n-1})$

Ex.



$$\varphi(1\bar{1}\bar{0}) = \varphi(0\bar{0}\bar{1})$$





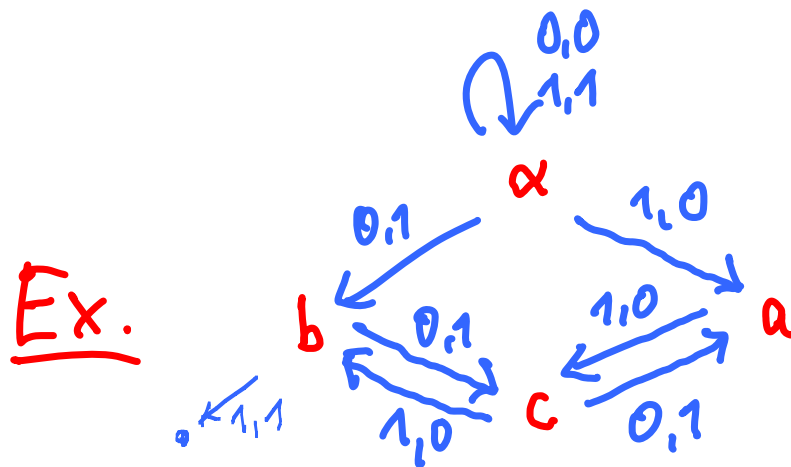
Rem. 1) Example was number system with base-2.  

$$\psi(s_1 s_2 \dots) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} s_i \cdot 2^{-i}$$

2) complete automaton - defines equivalence relation

incomplete automaton - defines relation which can be extended to equivalence relation

(easier to draw)



$01 \sim 00$      $\alpha \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow a$

$00 \sim 11$      $\alpha \rightarrow b \rightarrow c$

but  $01 \not\sim 11$

automaton not complete

## 1.6 Motivation: Description of complex geometries by computer

3D geometry is at the centre of current science:  
cell biology, brain research, nano materials

great variety of complex geometric structures, even  
in everyday context: dust, soil, smoke, fire, ...

More network-like than manifold-like

Mathematics must find ways to model, describe,  
analyze such geometric phenomena by computer.

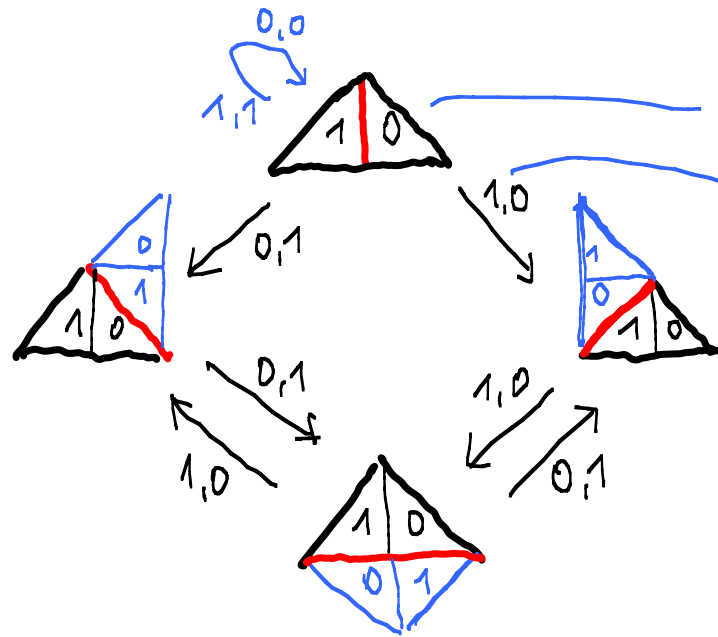
Numeration is one option.

## 2. Properties of topology-generating automata

### 2.1 Interpretation of states:

relative positions of intersecting pieces


Ex.



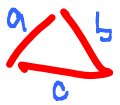
initial state  $\alpha$  is standard position of  $X$

first label denotes reference piece which is turned into standard position

second label for neighboring piece

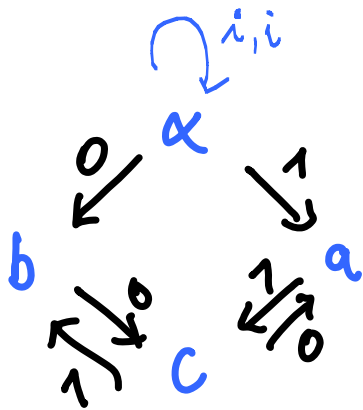
(no reflections involved  
one-point intersections ignored  
like   
incomplete automaton)

States can also be considered as  
boundary edges of  $X$



transitions go from pairs of pieces to pairs of subpieces

Rem. The automaton and its accepted language code the geometry of  $X$ .



only first label, since second label is found at the "inverse" state  $b = a^{-1}, c = \bar{c}^{-1}$

(simplified)

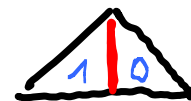
$L_a = \{ (1(10)^*0)^\infty \}$  addresses of boundary set



$L_b = \{ (0(01)^*1)^\infty \}$  addresses of



$L = \{ (0L_b, 1L_a) \}$  multiple addresses of



$(0,0) L$



$(1,1) L$



other multiple addresses

$$h = 1a = 0b$$

## 2.2 Cycles in the automaton

Prop. a state,  $B_a$  corresponding boundary set  
Consider directed paths starting in  $a$

- Path directly to terminal cycle

$\Leftrightarrow B_a$  is singleton



- Path to terminal cycle through transient cycle

$\Leftrightarrow B_a$  is countably infinite



- Path to at least two connected cycles

$\Leftrightarrow B_a$  is uncountable



This also holds for initial state  $\alpha$  and  
intersection sets  $X_i \cap X_j$ .

For  $X = \varphi(S)$ , let  $X_i = \varphi(S_i)$ ,  $i=0, \dots, u-1$

$X$  is called p.c.f. (post-critically finite, used by Thurston 1989 for Julia sets)

if  $X_i \cap X_j$  consist of finitely many points with eventually periodic addresses

Prop. • P.c.f. spaces are generated by automata,

• An automaton generates p.c.f. space  $X \iff$

no cycles of  $G$  are connected by a directed path.

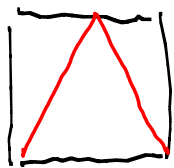
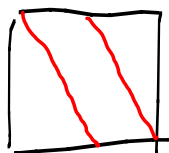
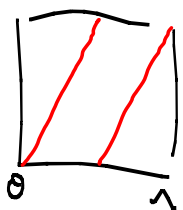
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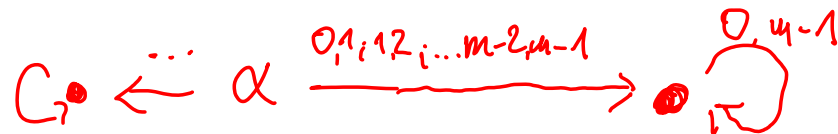
## 2.3 Automata with 2 states (plus $\alpha$ )

**Prop.** Each complete automaton with 2 states (plus  $\alpha$ ) and connected  $X$  describes a one-dimensional numeration system. Three cases for  $D = \{0, 1, \dots, m-1\}$

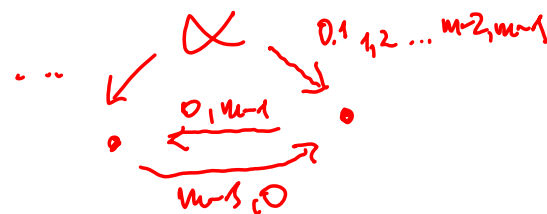
shift map



a) Numeration with base  $m$



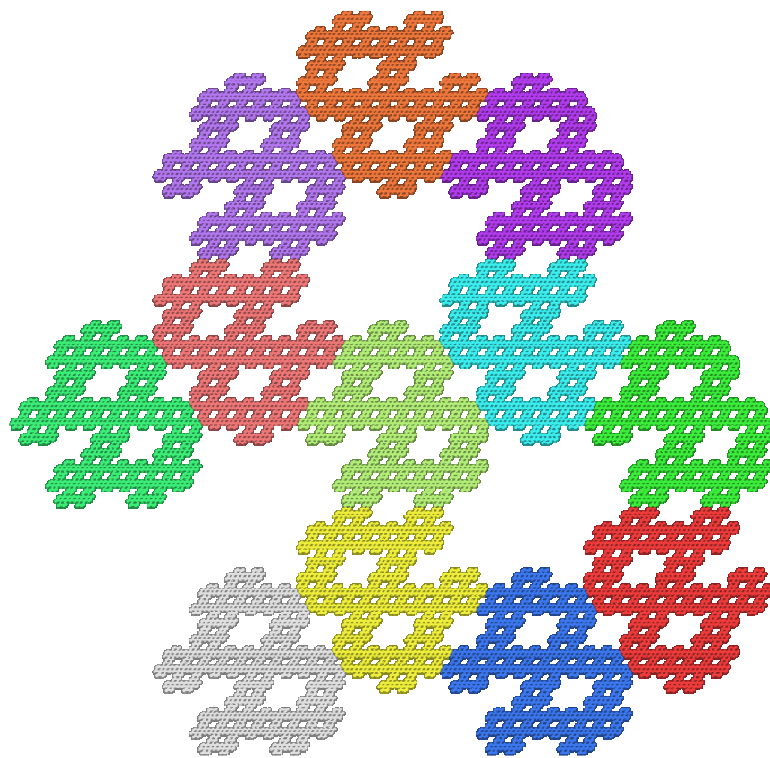
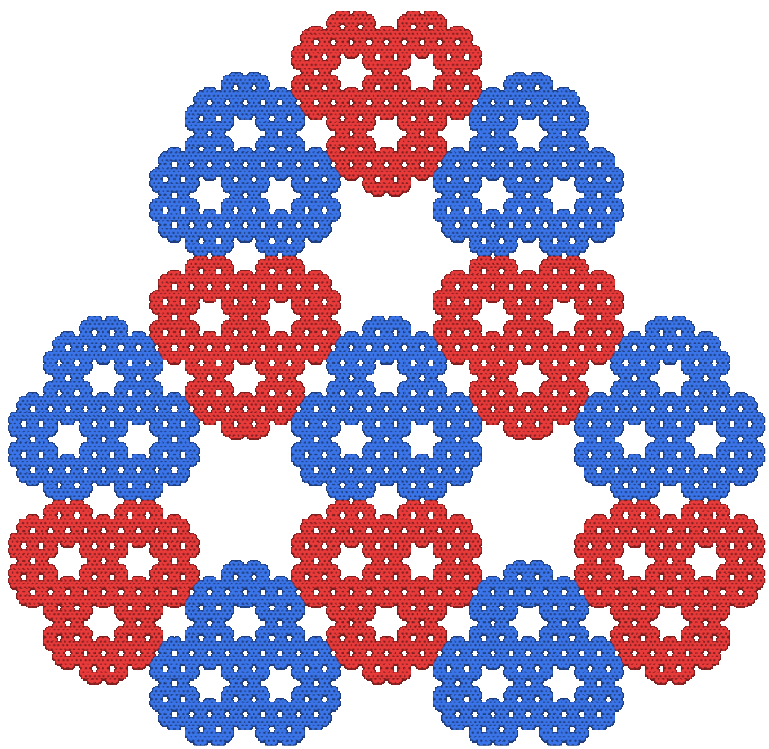
b) Numeration with base  $-m$



c) Numeration by paperfolding map  
(tent map for  $m=2$ )

2 automata for even  $|D|$   
2 automata for odd  $|D|$

Rem. • Already with 3 states and  $m > 2$ , there is a huge variety of spaces  $X$ . For 4 states, we get the "fractal squares" (generalizations of Sierpiński carpet)





## 2.4 Topological properties of $X$

Due to  $X = \varprojlim X^{(n)}$  all topological properties of  $X$  can be expressed in terms of the automaton and the  $H_n$ .

- $X$  connected  $\Leftrightarrow H_1$  connected (Hata 1986, Barnsley 1987)  
 $\Downarrow$   $X$  locally and evenly connected (Hahn-Mazurkiewicz 1930)
- If  $X$  disconnected: connected components  
Conj: They are described by an automaton.
- Q: how to describe top. dimension? When is  $X$  homeomorphic to a ball?  
see Thurston + Zhang 2020, 2022 for a special case (polyhedral structure)

## 2.5 Uniform structure - interior metric

Assumption: all  $X_w$  mit  $|w|=n$  have "almost the same size".

Prop The following entourages form a uniform structure on  $X$ .

$$U_{n,k} = \{ (x,y) \mid \text{projections } x_n, y_n \text{ have distance } \leq k \text{ in } H_n \}$$

with  $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Q. Is there a natural interior metric on  $X$ ? Is there a kind of "uniform dimension"? Conj. yes for p.c.f. case.

Rem. Topology-generating automaton can only determine absolute properties of the abstract space  $X$ , not the relative properties of an  $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  like folding and knots.

### 3. Metric realization of automata-generated spaces

#### 3.1 Iterated function systems (IFS)

$f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  contractive map if  $|f(x) - f(y)| < r \cdot |x - y|$   
for some constant  $r < 1$ .

Prop. If  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  are contractions on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , there is a  
unique compact nonempty set  $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  with

$$X = \bigcup_{i=1}^m f_i(X), \quad (*)$$

and a numeration system  $\varphi: S \rightarrow X$  with

$$\varphi(s_{w_1} \dots s_{w_n}) = f_{w_1} \dots f_{w_n}(X),$$

$$\varphi(s_1 s_2 \dots) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_{s_1} \dots f_{s_n}(o). \quad (\text{Hutchinson 1981})$$

$$\tau_i : S \rightarrow S$$

$$\tau_i (s_1 s_2 \dots) = i s_1 s_2 \dots$$

conjugate to  $f_i$ ,  $i=1..m$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \xrightarrow{g} & X \\ \tau_i \downarrow & & \downarrow f_i \\ S & \xrightarrow{g} & X \end{array}$$

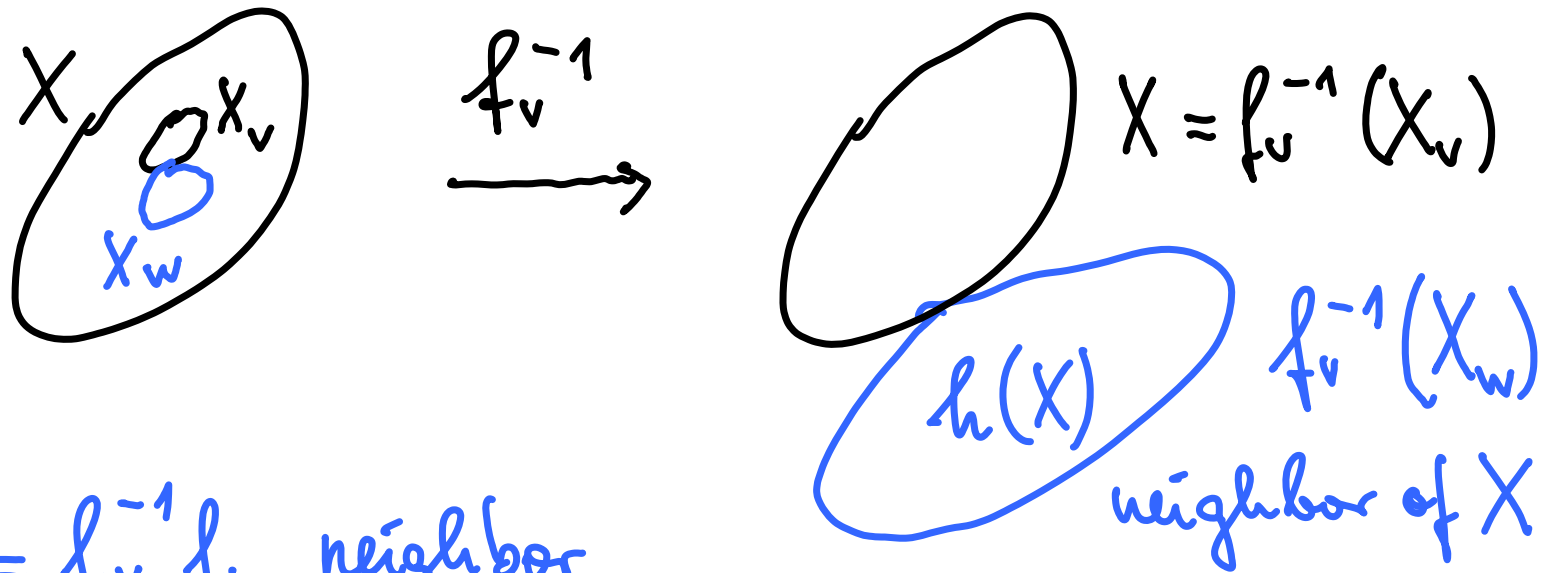
Maps  $f_i$  allow calculations in the space  $X$ .

**Problem:** 1) Overlap of the  $f_i(X)$  can be large.

2)  $g$  need not be automatic.

## 3.2 Neighbor maps

Maps that express the relative position of pieces  $X_w$ .



$$h = f_v^{-1} f_w \text{ neighbor map}$$

(Bandt, Graf)  
1991

Rem. We restrict ourselves to proper neighbor maps for which  $X \cap h(X) \neq \emptyset$ .

Prop. If there are finitely many neighbor maps  $h$ , they are the states of a topology-generating automaton with transitions

"neighbor graph"

$$\textcircled{h} \xrightarrow{i, j} \textcircled{h'} \quad \text{if } h' = f_i^{-1} h f_j$$

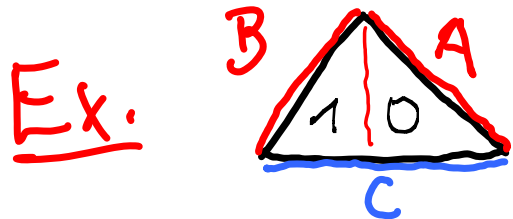
(Lau + Rao, Bandt, Thurwaldner + Scheiber, Akiyama, Teng, ...)

Rem. Need assume special form of the  $f_i$ , for example

- $f_i(x) = g^{-1}(x + v_i)$ ,  $g$  expanding on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , then  $h(x) = x + b$  translations
- $f_i(z) = a_i z + b_i$  with  $|a_i| = r < 1$  on  $\mathbb{C}$ , then  $h(z) = cz + d$  are isometries  $|c| = 1$

Rem. The neighbor graph can be expressed as a system of equations between the boundary sets.

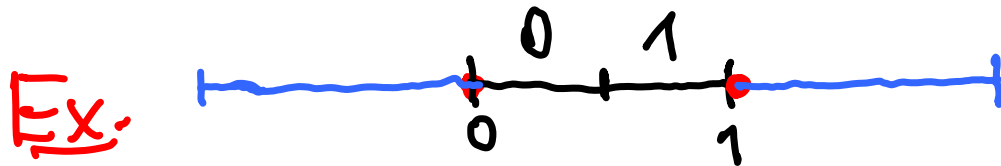
(Gilbert, Duvall, Keesling, Vince, Strichartz + Vaug, Ngai, Lau et al.)



$$A = f_0(C), B = f_1(C), C = f_0(B) \cup f_1(A)$$

$$f_1(B) = f_0(A)$$

Rem. The neighbor maps formally describe the relation between neighboring pieces.



$$X = [0, 1]$$

$$f_0(x) = \frac{x}{2} \quad f_1(x) = \frac{x+1}{2}$$

$$h(x) = f_0^{-1} f_1 = 2 \cdot \frac{x+1}{2} = x+1 \text{ translation}$$

$$h^{-1}(x) = x-1$$



### 3.3 Number of neighbors

The number  $N$  of neighbors or boundary sets is a measure of complexity of  $X$ .

Prop For affine maps  $f_i$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , there is a fast algorithm deciding whether  $N \leq N_0$  with  $N_0 \leq 2000$ , say.

!  $\rightarrow$  Mekhontsev 2012-2022 ifstile.com

Rem • The algorithm works without numerical errors if all data are from an algebraic number field.

•  $N > 2000$  is practically infinite

We are interested in  $N \leq 20$ .



### 3.4 Metric realization of top. automata

Well-known: IFS  $\rightsquigarrow$  automaton  
(neighbor graph)

Completely open:  
top. automaton  $\overset{??}{\rightsquigarrow}$  IFS

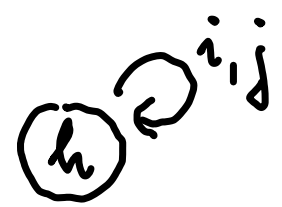
- Q. • Which automata can be realized by mappings or affine mappings or similitudes on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d = 1, 2, 3, \dots$
- When is the realization unique?

Conj. If an automaton describes a space  $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  with nonempty interior then there is a unique realization by affine maps  $f_i$ .

(X tile)

Rem. The automaton defines generating relations for the maps  $f_i$  which lead to equations for their coefficients.

Ex.



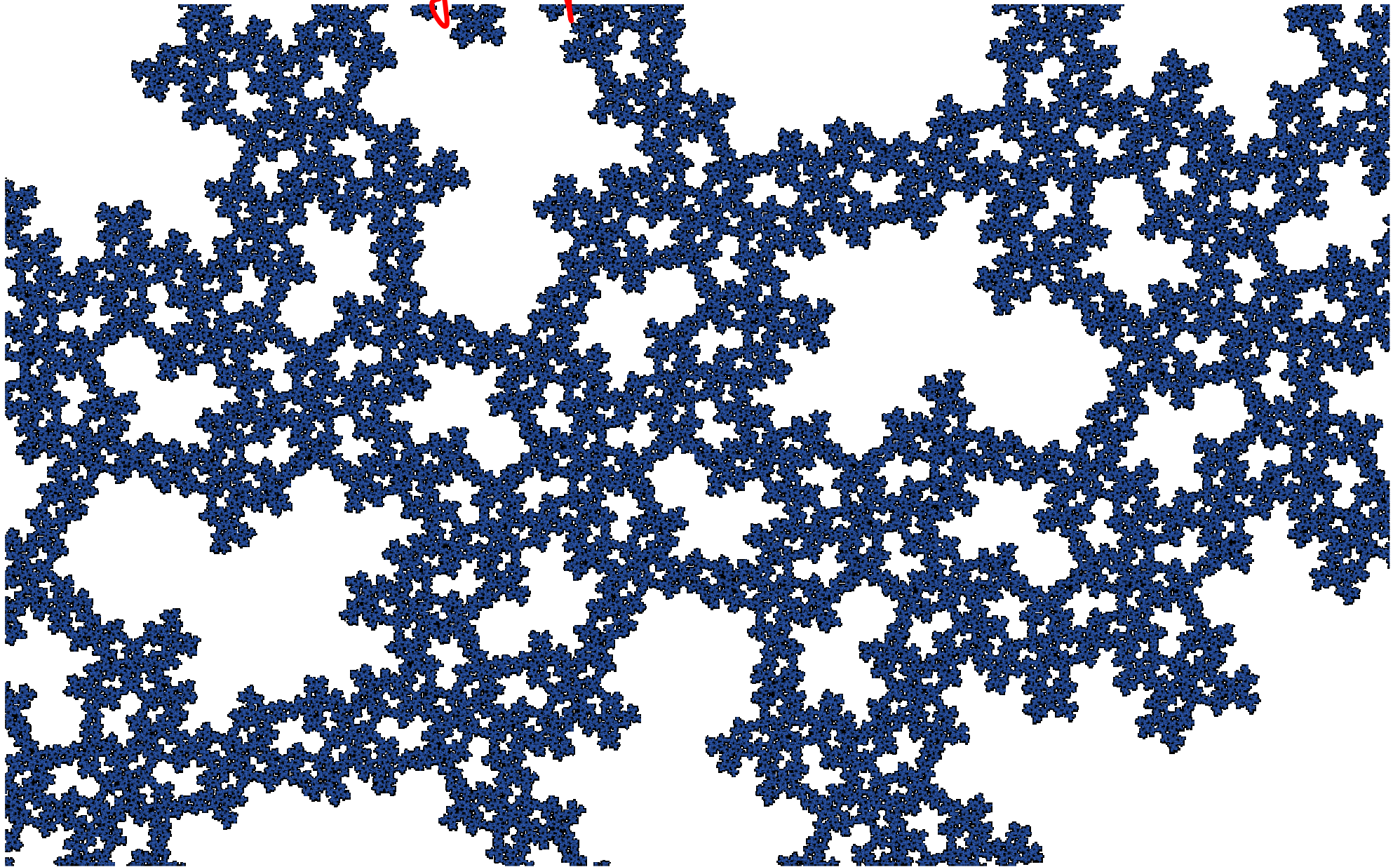
$$f_i^{-1} h f_j = h$$

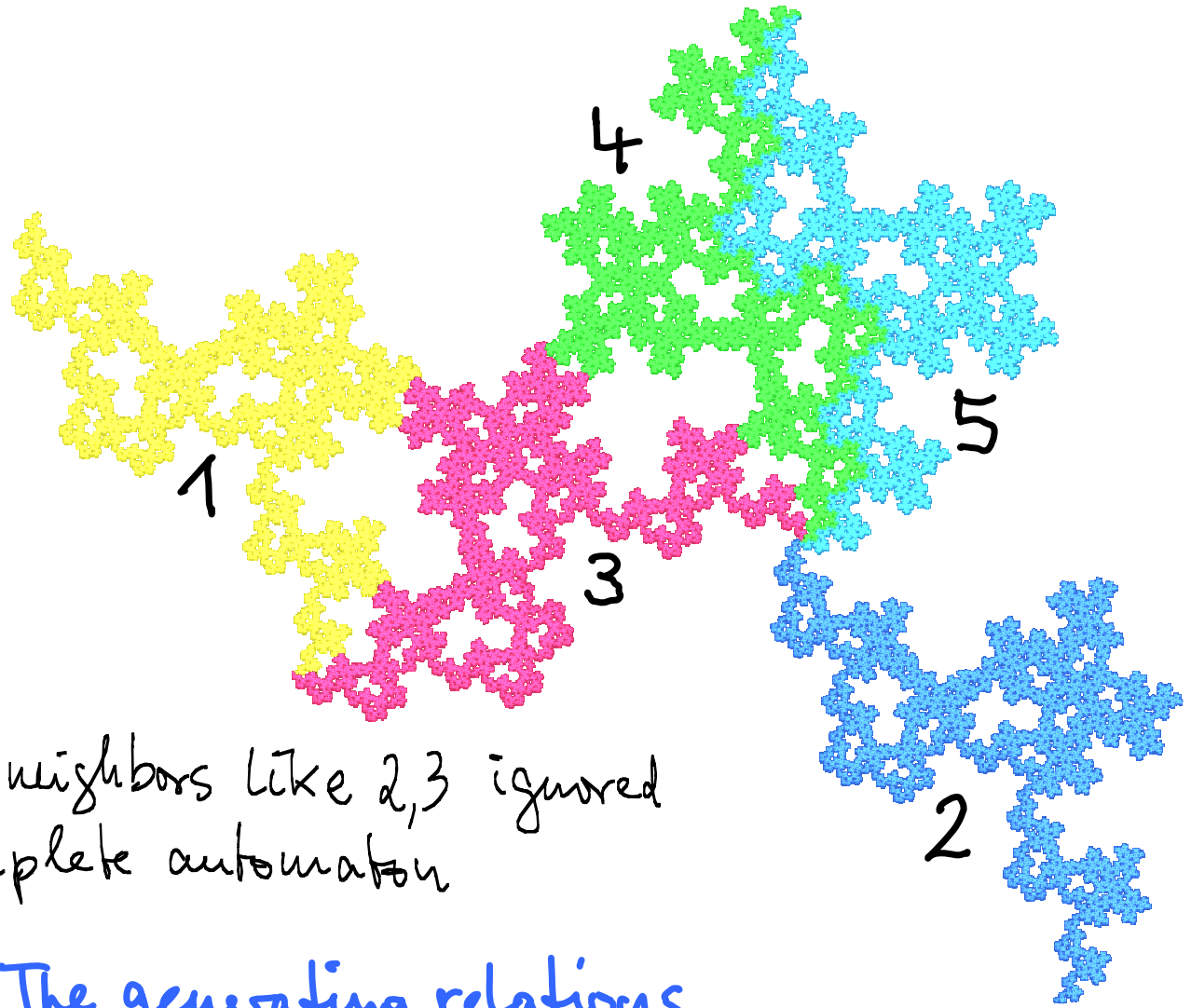
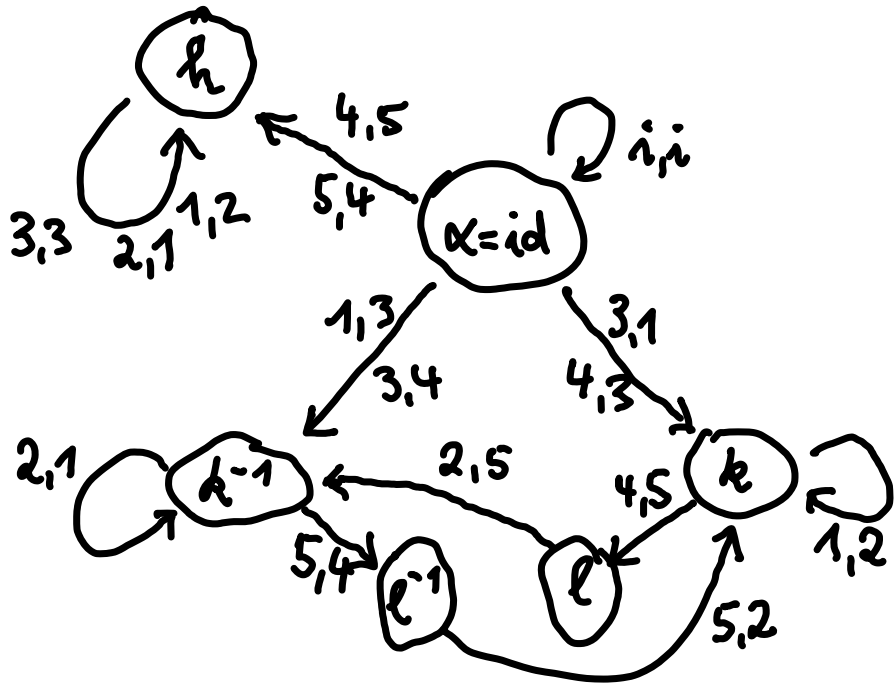
$$h f_i = f_i h$$



$$f_i^{-1} h f_j = f_k^{-1} h f_l$$

### 3.5 The dog carpet with irrational rotation



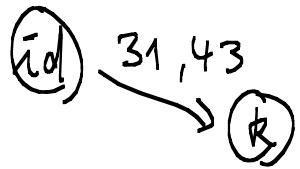


$$\begin{aligned}
 f_4^{-1} f_5 &= h \\
 f_3^{-1} h f_3 &= h \\
 f_2^{-1} h f_1 &= h \\
 f_3^{-1} f_1 &= f_4^{-1} f_3 = k \\
 f_1^{-1} k f_2 &= k \\
 f_2^{-1} f_4^{-1} k f_5 f_5 &= k^{-1}
 \end{aligned}$$

one-point neighbors like 2,3 ignored  
incomplete automaton

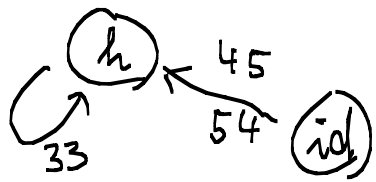
**Prop.** The generating relations  
determine the IFS.  
(linear mappings in  $\mathbb{C}$ )

**Proof.** Let  $g(z) = \lambda z$ ,  $f_k = g^{-1} h_k$  with  $h_k(z) = a_k z + b_k$   $k=1, \dots, 5$ .  
 Choice of coordinate system:  $h_3 = z$  (origin)  $|a_k| = 1$   
 $h_1 = az + 1$  (unit point)



$$k = f_3^{-1} f_1 = f_4^{-1} f_3 \Rightarrow h_1 = h_4^{-1}, \quad h_4 = h_1^{-1} = \bar{a}(z-1)$$

$$k = h_1$$



$h$  must be self inverse,  $h = -z + v$

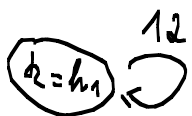
$f_3^{-1} h f_3 = h$ ,  $h f_3 = f_3 h$ :  $h$  must have the same fixed point as  $f_3 = g^{-1}$ , that is 0.

$$h = -z$$

$$h_4^{-1} h_5 = h \Rightarrow h_5 = h_4 h = -\bar{a}(z+1)$$



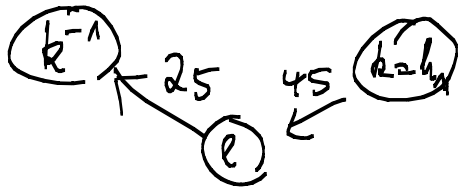
$$f_1^{-1} h f_2 = h \quad f_2 = h f_1 h \Rightarrow h_2 = az - 1$$



$$h_1 f_2 = f_1 h_1 = \frac{1}{\lambda} (a^2 z + a + 1)$$

$$\frac{a}{\lambda} (az - 1) + 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = 2a + 1$$



$$f_2^{-1} f_4^{-1} h_1 f_5^2 = h_1^{-1} = h_4 = \bar{a}(z-1)$$

$$h_1 f_5^2 = f_4 f_2 (\bar{a}(z-1)) = \frac{\bar{a}}{\lambda^2} (z-2) - \frac{\bar{a}}{\lambda}$$

$$\frac{\bar{a}}{\lambda^2} (z+1) - \frac{1}{\lambda} + 1$$

$$\lambda^2 + \lambda(\bar{a}-1) + 3\bar{a} = 0 \quad -a$$

$$a\lambda^2 + \lambda(1-a) + 3 = 0, \text{ note } a = \frac{\lambda-1}{2}$$

$$\lambda^3 - 2\lambda^2 + 3\lambda + 6 = 0, \quad /(\lambda+1)$$

$$\lambda^2 - 3\lambda + 6 = 0$$

$$\lambda = \frac{3 + i\sqrt{15}}{2}, \quad a = \frac{1 + i\sqrt{15}}{4}$$

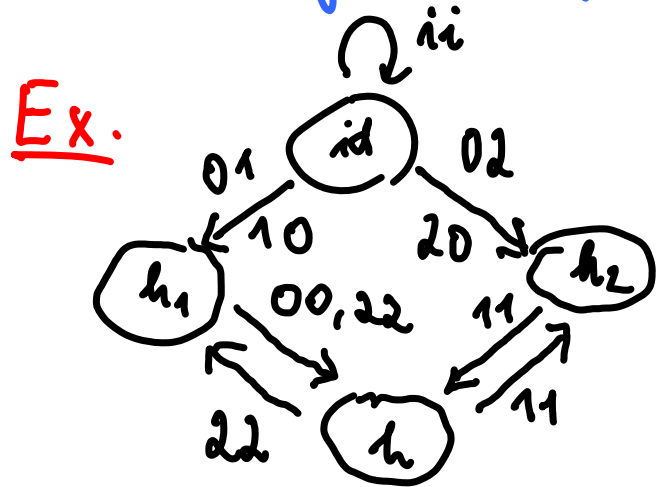
Note that  $a$  denotes the rotation between pieces  $X_3$  and  $X_1$ .

The angle  $\arg a$  is irrational!

No tiling with this property known.

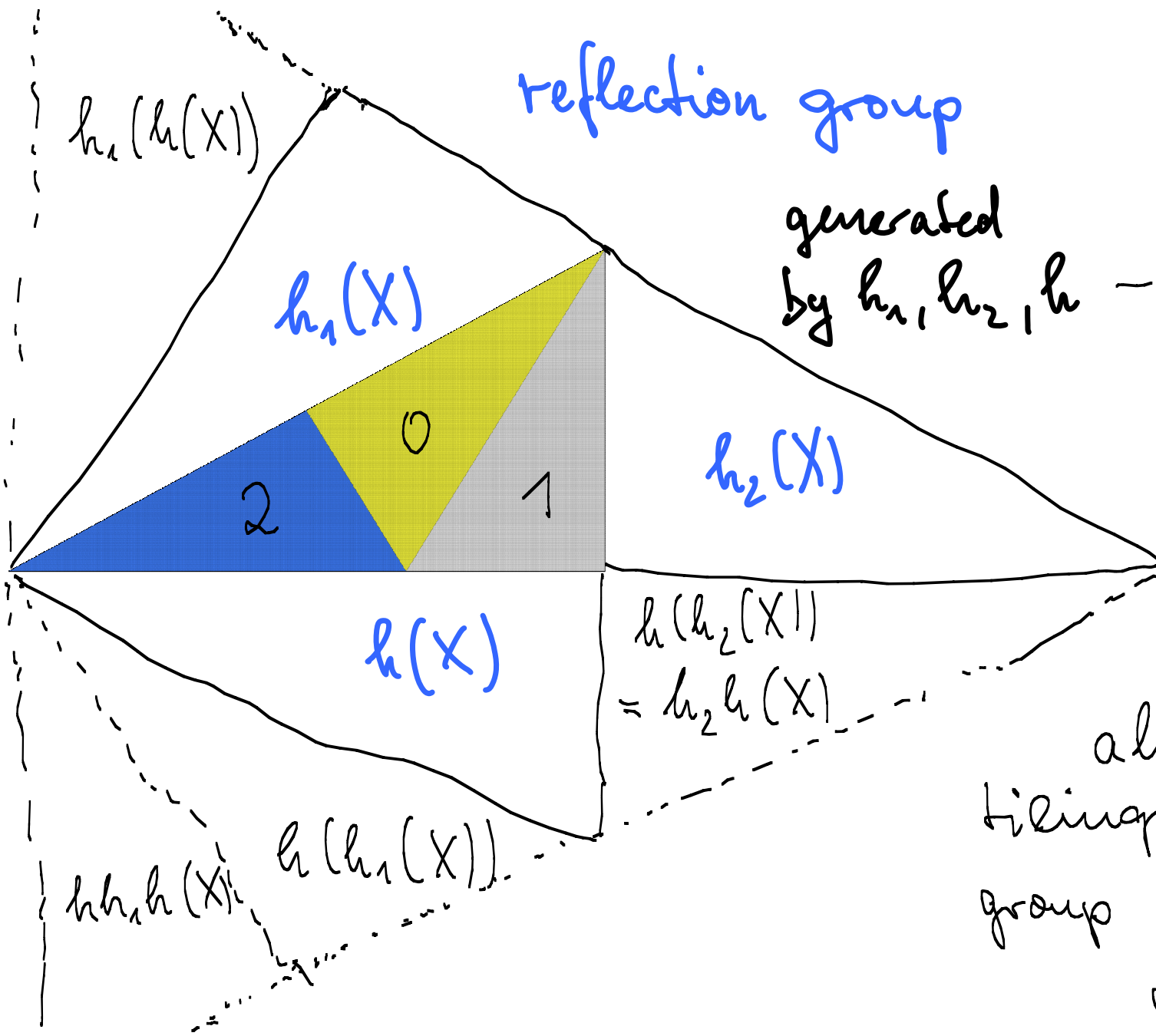
## 3.6 Crystallographic tilings

Prop. Suppose that an automaton can be realized by affine mappings  $f_x$ , and that each state has incoming edges with first label  $i$  for each digit  $i$ . Then the neighbor maps generate a crystallographic group. (and conversely)



(assume  $h_0 = id$ )

Dog carpet: only the state  $h(x) = -x$  fulfils the condition (permanent neighbor).



reflection group

generated by  $h_1, h_2, h$  - all reflections

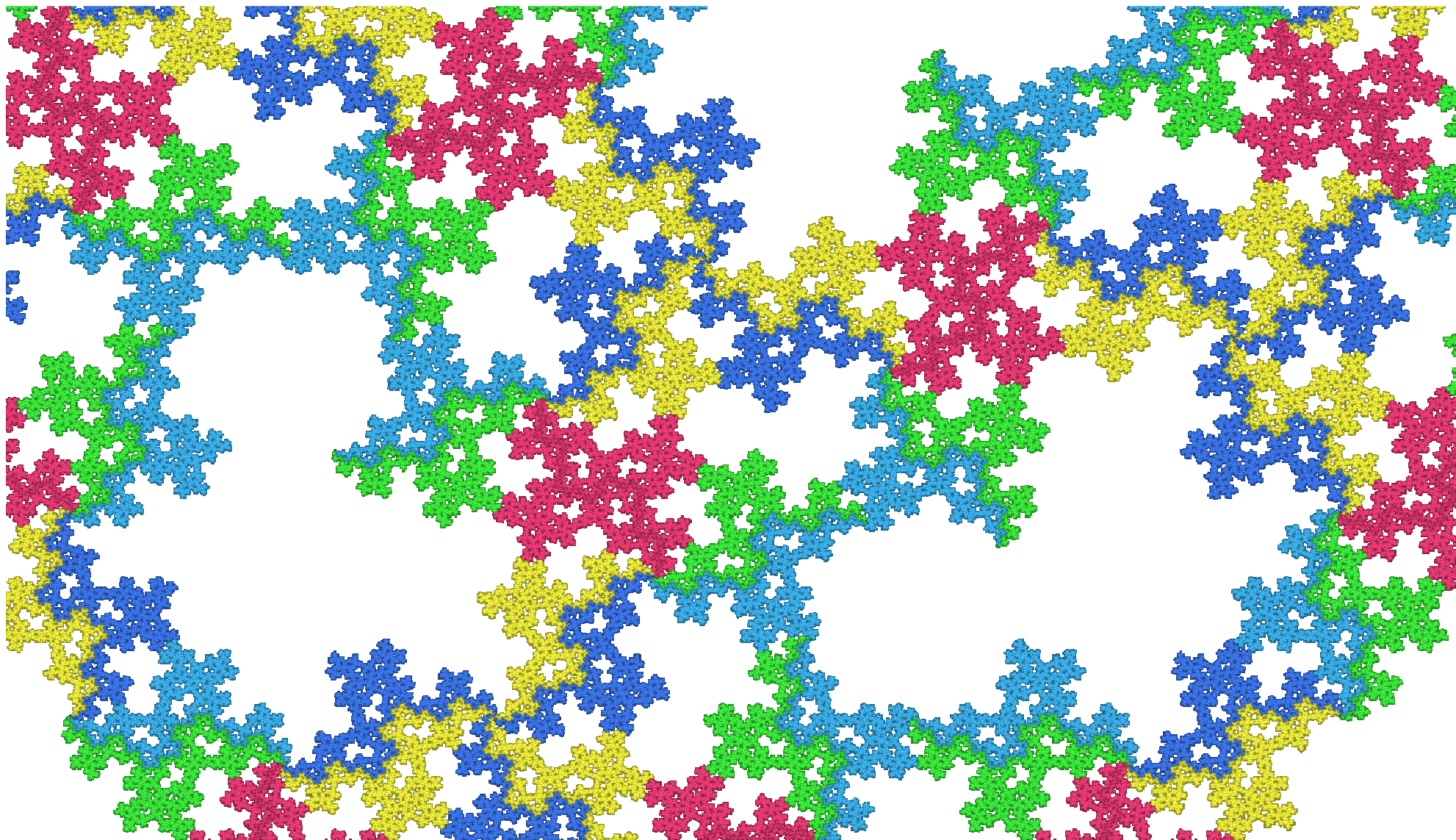
$h_1 \circ h$  60° rotation

$h_1 h_2 = h_2 h$  180° rotation

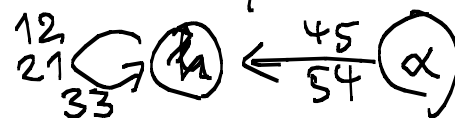
$$h(h_2(x)) = h_2 h(x)$$

all crystallographic tilings are periodic = group includes a lattice of translations





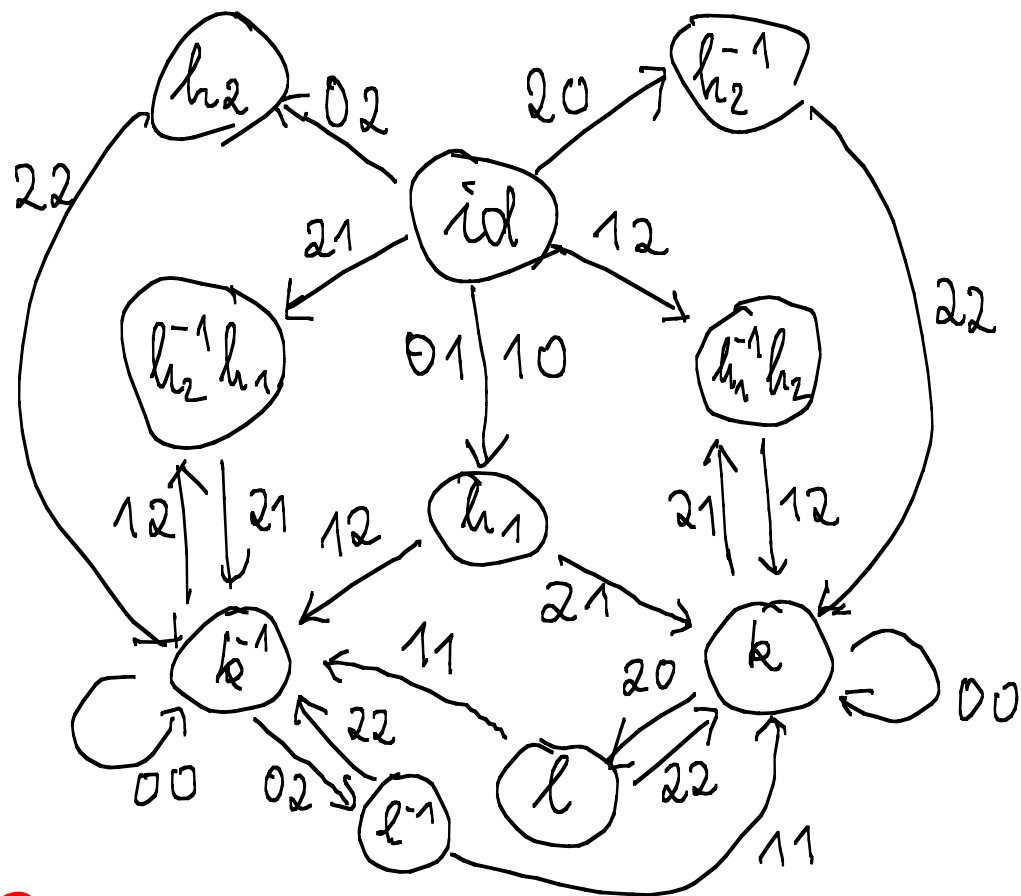
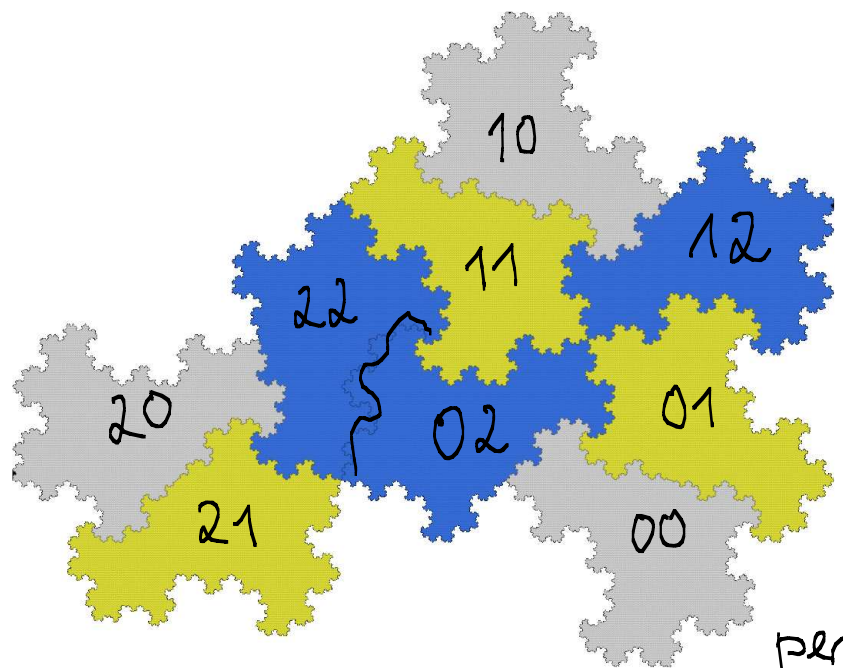
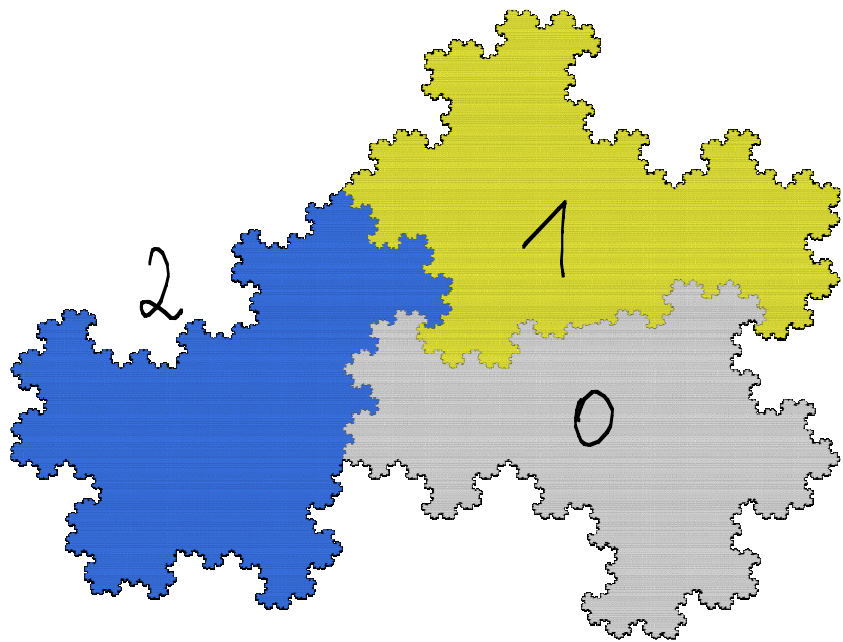
permanent neighbor  $h(z) = -z$  pairs 1 with 2, 4 with 5, 3 with 3



**Proof.** First show that in fractal cases, with arbitrary large holes, not all neighbors can be permanent.

If  $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  has non-empty interior, there is a tiling corresponding to the automaton. All tiles must have the same proper neighbor maps  $h_1, \dots, h_n$ . They must include inverses  $h_i^{-1}$ . All improper neighbors are obtained by repeatedly applying the maps  $h_i$ . So the proper + improper neighbor maps form the group generated by the  $h_i$ .

### 3.7 An aperiodic tile



**Prop.** Already the relations at vertex  $k$  identify the IFS (overdetermined system of equations)

permanent nbs:  $k, k^{-1}$

