REFINED ELLIPTIC TROPICAL ENUMERATIVE INVARIANTS

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ABSTRACT

We suggest a new refined (i.e., depending on a parameter) tropical enumerative invariant of toric surfaces. This is the first known enumerative invariant that counts tropical curves of positive genus with marked vertices. Our invariant extends the refined rational broccoli invariant invented by L. Göttsche and the first author, though there is a serious difference between the invariants: our elliptic invariant counts weights assigned partly to individual tropical curves and partly to collections of tropical curves, and our invariant is not always multiplicative over the vertices of the counted tropical curves as was the case for other known tropical enumerative invariants of toric surfaces. As a consequence we define elliptic broccoli curves and elliptic broccoli invariants as well as elliptic tropical descendant invariants for any toric surface.

1. Introduction

Refined (i.e., depending on a formal parameter y) tropical enumerative invariants were introduced by F. Block and L. Göttsche [1] (see also [7] for proof of the invariance), and they showed that, for $y = 1$, its value is the Gromov–Witten tropical invariant, while for $y = -1$ it coincides with the Welschinger tropical invariant associated with totally real point constraints. Under appropriate conditions, enumeration of plane trivalent tropical curves with Mikhalkin and Welschinger weights gives Gromov–Witten and Welschinger invariants of toric

del Pezzo surfaces, respectively (see [12, Theorems 1 and 6]). Mikhalkin [13] observed that, in specific situations, the refined invariant itself has an algebro-geometric enumerative meaning. Note the Block–Göttsche invariants count tropical curves with marked points on the edges, and they are uniformly defined for any genus (cf. [2, Theorem 4.8] and [6, Theorem 1] for the complex and real specifications discovered earlier).

In [3], A. Gathmann, H. Markwig and the first author introduced rational tropical broccoli invariants, tightly related to Welschinger invariants for mixed, real and complex conjugate point constraints. L. Göttsche jointly with the first author [4] suggested a refinement of the rational broccoli invariant, which evaluates to the rational broccoli invariant for $y = -1$ and to a certain rational logarithmic descendant invariant of toric surfaces as $y = 1$ (see [9, 11] for detailed treatment of tropical descendant invariants and [5] for comparison with the logarithmic descendant invariants).

The main goal of this paper is to define elliptic (tropical) broccoli curves, elliptic broccoli invariants and their refinement. An attempt to define elliptic broccoli curves was undertaken by the first author in [14, Section 6], which basically led to indication of difficulties in this task. These difficulties come from the fact that the structure of the moduli space of plane tropical curves of a positive genus with marked vertices is much more complicated than that for genus zero. This stands in contrast to the moduli spaces of plane tropical curves without marked vertices, where the difference between genus zero and positive genera is quite simple (see [2]). In particular, this phenomenon allows one to easily define invariants counting tropical curves of any genus with markings only on edges [2, 12, 6, 7].

The main outcome of our work is

- a refined tropical invariant that counts elliptic plane tropical curves having markings on edges and at vertices and passing through appropriately many generic points; the new invariant naturally extends the refined rational broccoli invariant (see Theorem 3.7 in Section 3);
- an elliptic broccoli invariant and a definition of elliptic broccoli curves (geometric description in Definition 3.9, Section 3.4, and numerical characterization in Proposition 5.5, Section 5.2);
- an elliptic tropical descendant invariant $\langle \tau_0(2)^{n_e} \tau_1(2)^{n_v} \rangle_\Delta^1$ (Proposition 5.3 and Remark 5.4 in Section 5.2) that naturally extends the rational tropical descendant invariant $\langle \tau_0(2)^{n_e} \tau_1(2)^{n_v} \rangle_\Delta^0$ studied in [11].

Our refined tropical invariant is always a symmetric Laurent polynomial in the parameter y (Proposition 5.2 in Section 5). The computational aspect is addressed in Section 5.3, where we explain how to compute the invariant via a lattice path algorithm that is very similar to the algorithms presented in [12, Section 7.2] and [11, Section 9].

We also point out two main differences between the Block–Göttsche and refined rational broccoli invariants on one side and the refined elliptic broccoli invariant on the other side:

- Refined weights of elliptic tropical curves in count are no longer products of refined weights of vertices.
- Some tropical curves are counted with a joint refined weight, and it is not clear whether one can split such a joint weight into individual weights so that the invariant will become local (in the sense that, assigning to a top-dimensional face of the moduli space of the counted curves the weight of a generic element of the face, one obtains a topological cycle relative to infinity).

The questions on the enumerative meaning of the elliptic invariants and on possible extension of such invariants to all positive genera still remain open. Presumably, they can be viewed as certain tropical Welschinger invariants of positive genera.

A tropical computation of descendant log Gromov–Witten invariants, including higher genus case, was suggested in [10]. Our approach and our goals have been different: first of all, we focus on the construction of a refined invariant, interpolating between usual descendant Gromov–Witten invariants and broccoli invariants stressing on the latter invariants, since they have an important real enumerative meaning for the genus zero case (tropical and algebraic Welschinger invariants), and we expect that the elliptic broccoli invariants (as well as their possible extensions to higher genera) are closely related to real enumerative geometry too. In turn, no real counterpart of descendant log Gromov–Witten invariants is known so far.

2. Plane marked tropical curves

We briefly recall some basic definitions concerning tropical curves, adapted to our setting (for details, see [2, 4, 12]).

2.1. ABSTRACT AND PLANE TROPICAL CURVES. An **abstract tropical curve** is a finite connected compact graph $\overline{\Gamma}$ without bivalent vertices such that the complement $\Gamma = \overline{\Gamma} \setminus \overline{\Gamma}_\infty^0$ to the set $\overline{\Gamma}_\infty^0$ of univalent vertices is a metric graph whose non-closed edges (called **ends**) are isometric to $[0, \infty)$ (i.e., univalent vertices are infinitely far from their neighboring vertices). Denote by Γ^0, Γ^1, and Γ_∞^1 the sets of vertices, edges, and ends of Γ, respectively. The **genus** of Γ is $g(\Gamma) = b_1(\Gamma)$. A tropical curve $\overline{\Gamma}$ is called **trivalent** if all the vertices of Γ are trivalent. A **marked** tropical curve is a pair $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p})$, where $\boldsymbol{p}$ is an ordered sequence of distinct points of Γ. We say that the complement $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is **regular**, if each component of this set is simply connected and contains exactly one univalent vertex. The edges of the closure of a component of a regular set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ admit a unique orientation (called **canonical**) such that the marked points are the only sources and the univalent vertex of $\overline{\Gamma}$ is the only sink. A **labeled abstract marked** tropical curve is an abstract tropical curve with an ordered set $\overline{\Gamma}_\infty^0$ of univalent vertices. We denote a labeled marked tropical curve by $(\overline{\Gamma}^{\text{lab}}, \boldsymbol{p})$.

A **marked plane tropical curve** is a tuple $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$, where $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p})$ is a marked abstract tropical curve, and $h : \Gamma \to \mathbb{R}^2$ is a proper map such that

- the restriction $h|_E$ to any edge $E \in \Gamma^1$ is a nonconstant affine-integral map;
- for any vertex $V \in \Gamma^0$ the following balancing condition holds:

$$(1) \qquad \sum_{V \in E, \, E \in \Gamma^1} D(h|_E)(\overline{a}_V(E)) = 0,$$

where $\overline{a}_V(E)$ is the unit tangent vector to E at V, and $D(*)$ is the differential;

- if, for some vertex $V \in \Gamma^0$, $\dim \mathrm{Span}\{D(h|_E)(\overline{a}_V(E)),\ V \in E,\ E \in \Gamma^1\} = 1$, then $V \in \boldsymbol{p}$ (we call such vertices **collinear**).

The latter condition excludes parasitic parameters, coordinates of images of collinear unmarked vertices.

Notice that each vector $D(h|_E)(\overline{a}_V(E))$ has integral coordinates, and it can be written as

$$D(h|_E)(\overline{a}_V(E)) = m\overline{v},$$

where $\overline{v} \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ is primitive and m is a positive integer (called the **weight** of the edge E and denoted $\mathrm{wt}(E, h)$). The **degree** of the plane tropical curve $(\overline{\Gamma}, h)$ is the (unordered) multiset of vectors

$$\Delta(\overline{\Gamma}, h) = \{D(h|_E)(\overline{a}_V(E)),\ E \in \Gamma^1_\infty\}.$$

The balancing condition yields that $\Delta(\overline{\Gamma}, h)$ is a **balanced** multiset, i.e., $\sum_{\overline{a} \in \Delta(\overline{\Gamma}, h)} \overline{a} = 0$. We call $\Delta(\overline{\Gamma}, h)$ **primitive** if it contains only primitive vectors, and we call $\Delta(\overline{\Gamma}, h)$ **nondegenerate** if $\mathrm{Span}_{\mathbb{R}} \Delta(\overline{\Gamma}, h) = \mathbb{R}^2$.

The push-forward $T = h_*(\Gamma) \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ is an embedded tropical curve with the Newton polygon $P(\Delta)$ built of vectors $\overline{a} \in \Delta(\overline{\Gamma}, h)$ rotated by $\pi/2$. By $p_a(\Delta)$ we denote the number of interior integral points of $P(\Delta)$, the arithmetic genus of a curve in the tautological linear system on the toric surface associated with the polygon $P(\Delta)$. There is a natural duality between the edges and vertices of T on one side and the edges and polygons of a certain (dual) subdivision of $P(\Delta)$. We denote the dual object by $\mathcal{D}(*)$. Any edge E of T possesses a natural weight $\mathrm{wt}(E)$, which can be viewed as the lattice length of the dual edge $\mathcal{D}(E)$.

Observe also that our definition of a plane tropical curve does not allow loops in Γ formed by one edge. If a cycle contains exactly two edges, then these edges join the same two vertices of Γ, and they are mapped by h to the same segment (though they may have different weights). We call such cycles **collinear**.

Remark 2.1: When considering curves of genus $g > 0$, we should assume that $g \leq p_a(\Delta)$. Otherwise, one may encounter fake high genus curves like an "elliptic conic" shown in Figure 1.

2.2. MODULI SPACES OF TROPICAL CURVES.
Denote by $\mathcal{M}_{g,n,k}$, where $n \geq 0$, the moduli space of marked tropical curves $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p})$ of genus g with an ordered configuration $\boldsymbol{p}$ of n distinct points of Γ and such that $|\overline{\Gamma}^0_\infty| = k$. It is a polyhedral complex, whose cells parameterize n-marked curves of a given combinatorial

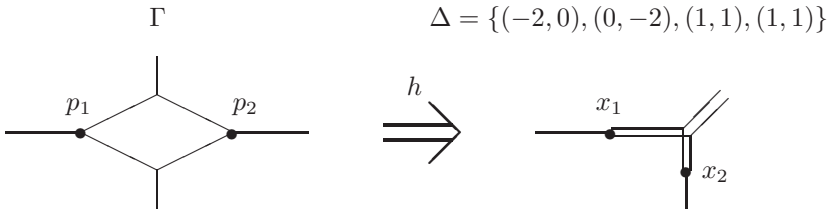$$\Gamma \qquad\qquad \Delta = \{(-2,0),(0,-2),(1,1),(1,1)\}$$

Figure 1. Fake elliptic conic.

type, while the parameters (possibly linearly dependent) are lengths between neighboring vertices and/or marked points. The natural closure $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n,k}$ includes the curves obtained by vanishing of some parameters and may contain curves of genus $< g$ (if g is positive) as some cycles contract to points.

Furthermore, for any splitting $n = n_v + n_e$ with $n_v, n_e \geq 0$, introduce

$$\mathcal{M}_{g,(n_v,n_e),k} = \{(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}) \in \mathcal{M}_{g,n,k} : \text{ the first } n_v \text{ points of } \boldsymbol{p} \text{ are vertices of } \Gamma\}.$$

LEMMA 2.2: *The moduli space* $\mathcal{M}_{g,(n_v,n_e),k}$ *is a finite polyhedral fan of pure dimension* $k + g - 1 + n_e$, *and its open top-dimensional cones parameterize trivalent curves* $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p})$ *such that* $p_i \notin \Gamma^0$, $i > n_v$, $p_i \in \boldsymbol{p}$.

Proof. For $n_e = n_v = 0$, the moduli space $\mathcal{M}_{g,(0,0),k}$ is a finite polyhedral fan of dimension $k + g - 1$ with top-dimensional open cones parameterizing trivalent curves (see [12, Propositions 2.13 and 2.23]). Then each marked point on an edge adds one more parameter. ∎

Denote by $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,(n_v,n_e),k}$ the closure of $\mathcal{M}_{g,(n_v,n_e),k}$ in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n,k}$.

Given a nondegenerate multiset $\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ such that $\sum_{\overline{a} \in \Delta} \overline{a} = 0$, we have the moduli spaces $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ of plane n-marked tropical curves of genus g and degree Δ and its subspaces for $n_e + n_v = n$,

$$\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta) = \{(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta) : (\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}) \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,(n_v,n_e),k}, \ k = |\Delta|\}.$$

We also have a natural evaluation map $\mathrm{Ev}_n : \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta) \to \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ that takes $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ to the vector $h(\boldsymbol{p}) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$. The following fact is well-known (see [2, 12, 14]):

LEMMA 2.3: *The space $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ is a finite polyhedral complex of (not necessarily pure) dimension $|\Delta| + g - 1 + n$. The space $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ is a finite polyhedral complex of (not necessarily pure) dimension $|\Delta| + g - 1 + n_e$.*

Suppose that $n = |\Delta| + g - 1$ and denote by $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{g,n}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ the closure in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ of the union of open cells of dimension $2n = |\Delta| + g - 1 + n$ whose Ev_n-images have dimension $2n$ (**enumeratively essential cells**). Respectively, suppose that $2n_v + n_e = |\Delta| + g - 1$ and denote by $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{g,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ the closure in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ of the union of open cells of dimension $2n = |\Delta| + g - 1 + n_e$ whose Ev_n-images have dimension $2n$. By Ev^e_n, resp. $\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v,n_e}$ we denote the restriction of Ev_n to $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{g,n}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ and $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{g,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$, respectively.

2.3. LABELED TROPICAL CURVES AND THEIR MODULI SPACES. A labeling of an abstract tropical curve $\overline{\Gamma}$ is a linear order on the set of the ends Γ^1_∞. The moduli spaces of tropical curves considered in the preceding section admit natural labeled counterparts, in particular, fixing an arbitrary order on Δ, we have $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^{\mathrm{lab}}_{g,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$, the space of labeled marked plane tropical curves of genus g, considered up to automorphisms respecting the labeling and the order of Δ. The forgetful map

$$\pi_{g,(n_v,n_e)} : \overline{\mathcal{M}}^{\mathrm{lab}}_{g,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta) \to \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$$

is surjective and finite and, for any element $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$, we have

$$(2) \qquad |(\pi_{g,(n_v,n_e)})^{-1}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)| = \frac{|\Delta|!}{|\mathrm{Aut}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)|}.$$

If $2n_v + n_e = |\Delta| + g - 1$, we denote by

$$\mathrm{Ev}^{e,\mathrm{lab}}_{n_v,n_e} : \overline{\mathcal{M}}^{e,\mathrm{lab}}_{g,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta) \to \mathbb{R}^{2n}$$

the evaluation map restricted to the (closure of the) enumeratively essential cells.

2.4. EVALUATION MAP IN CODIMENSION ZERO AND ONE. Below we will introduce a refined enumerative quantity related to the count of elliptic tropical curves passing through a generic configuration of points in $\mathbb{R}^2$, and we will prove its invariance via the study of its behavior along generic paths in the space of

point constraints. So we stratify the space of constraints identified with $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$ for an appropriate n into cells of full dimension $2n$, walls of codimension one, and the complement of codimension two which can be avoided by generic paths.

Throughout this section we suppose that $\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ is a balanced multiset. Furthermore, to simplify formulations we introduce the following notion: Given an abstract marked tropical curve $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p})$, we call $(\Gamma \setminus \overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p} \setminus \overline{\Gamma}')$, where $\overline{\Gamma}' \subset \overline{\Gamma}$ is a closed subgraph (possibly empty), **simple** if either $\Gamma \setminus \overline{\Gamma}'$ is trivalent, or all but one vertices of $\Gamma \setminus \overline{\Gamma}'$ are trivalent and there is a collinear cycle joining a trivalent marked vertex with a four-valent unmarked vertex.

LEMMA 2.4 ([2, 4, 12]): *Let $n = |\Delta| + g - 1$. Then for each element $\boldsymbol{x}$ belonging to some open dense subset of $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$, the preimage $\mathrm{Ev}_n^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x}) \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}^e(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ is non-empty and finite. Furthermore, for each curve $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \mathrm{Ev}_n^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$, the graph Γ is trivalent, $\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0 = \emptyset$, and the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular.*

LEMMA 2.5 ([2], Section 4, and [4], Section 2): *Under the hypotheses of Lemma 2.4, the map Ev_n^e is onto, and its target space splits into the disjoint union*

$$\mathbb{R}^{2n} = X_{g,n}^{2n} \cup X_{g,n}^{2n-1} \cup X_{g,n}^{2n-2},$$

where

(1) *$X_{g,n}^{2n}$ is the union of open polyhedra of dimension $2n$ and, for each element $\boldsymbol{x} \in X_{g,n}^{2n}$, its preimage $(\mathrm{Ev}_n^e)^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ satisfies the conclusions of Lemma 2.4;*

(2) *$X_{g,n}^{2n-1}$ is the union of open polyhedra of dimension $2n-1$, for each $\boldsymbol{x} \in X_{g,n}^{2n-1}$ the preimage $(\mathrm{Ev}_n^e)^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ is non-empty, finite, and the curves $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in (\mathrm{Ev}_n^e)^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ are as follows:*

   (2i) *either Γ is trivalent, having precisely one marked vertex,*

   (2ii) *or all but one vertices of Γ are trivalent, one vertex is four-valent, unmarked, $\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0 = \emptyset$, and the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular,*

   (2iii) *or, in case $g > 0$, all but two vertices of Γ are trivalent, the remaining two vertices are four-valent, and they are joined by a couple of edges that are mapped to the same segment in $\mathbb{R}^2$, and the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular;*

(3) $\dim X_{g,n}^{2n-2} \le 2n - 2$.

LEMMA 2.6: *Let $n = n_v + n_e$, $n_v > 0$, $n_e \ge 0$, and*

$$2n_v + n_e = |\Delta| + g - 1.$$

Then for a generic element $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$, the preimage

$$(\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v,n_e})^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x}) \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{g,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$$

is finite. Furthermore, one has:

- (1) *If $g = 0$, then each curve $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in (\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v,n_e})^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ satisfies the following conditions:*
  - (1i) $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, *and the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular;*
  - (1ii) Γ *is trivalent.*
- (2) *If $g = 1$, then each curve $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in (\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v,n_e})^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ satisfies the following conditions:*
  - (2i) $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, *and the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular;*
  - (2ii) $(\Gamma, \boldsymbol{p})$ *is simple.*

Proof. The case of $g = 0$ is settled in [3]. The second statement is a part of Lemma 2.8 below. ∎

LEMMA 2.7: *Let $n = n_v + n_e$, $n_v > 0$, $n_e \geq 0$, and $2n_v + n_e = |\Delta| - 1$. Then the target space of $\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v,n_e} : \overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{0,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Sigma) \to \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ splits into the disjoint union*

$$\mathbb{R}^{2n} = X^{2n}_{0,(n_v,n_e)} \cup X^{2n-1}_{0,(n_v,n_e)} \cup X^{2n-2}_{0,(n_v,n_e)},$$

where

- (1) $X^{2n}_{0,(n_v,n_e)}$ *is the union of open polyhedra of dimension $2n$ and, for each element $\boldsymbol{x} \in X^{2n}_{0,(n_v,n_e)}$, its preimage $(\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v,n_e})^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ is finite and satisfies the conclusions of Lemma 2.6(1);*
- (2) $X^{2n-1}_{0,(n_v,n_e)}$ *is the union of open polyhedra of dimension $2n - 1$, for each $\boldsymbol{x} \in X^{2n-1}_{0,(n_v,n_e)}$ the preimage $(\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v,n_e})^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ is finite, and the curves $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in (\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v,n_e})^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ are as follows:*
  - (2i) *either Γ is trivalent, and $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v + 1$,*
  - (2ii) *or all but one vertices of Γ are trivalent, one vertex is four-valent, unmarked, $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, and the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular,*
  - (2iii) *or all but one vertices of Γ are trivalent, one vertex is four-valent, marked, and $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$;*
- (3) $\dim X^{2n-2}_{0,(n_v,n_e)} \leq 2n - 2$.

Proof. See [3, Section 3] and [4, Section 4]. ∎

LEMMA 2.8: *Let $n = n_v + n_e$, $n_v > 0$, $n_e \geq 0$, and $2n_v + n_e = |\Delta|$. Then the target space of $\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v, n_e} : \overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{1,(n_v, n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta) \to \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ splits into the disjoint union*

$$\mathbb{R}^{2n} = X^{2n}_{1,(n_v, n_e)} \cup X^{2n-1}_{1,(n_v, n_e)} \cup X^{2n-2}_{1,(n_v, n_e)},$$

where

(1) *$X^{2n}_{1,(n_v, n_e)}$ is the union of open polyhedra of dimension $2n$ and, for each element $\boldsymbol{x} \in X^{2n}_{1,(n_v, n_e)}$, its preimage $(\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v, n_e})^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ satisfies the conclusions of Lemma 2.6(2);*

(2) *$X^{2n-1}_{1,(n_v, n_e)}$ is the union of open polyhedra of dimension $2n - 1$, for each $\boldsymbol{x} \in X^{2n-1}_{1,(n_v, n_e)}$ the preimage $(\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v, n_e})^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ is finite and consists of the following curves $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$:*

  (2i) *either Γ is elliptic, $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v + 1$, the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ contains exactly one bounded component, and the marked graph $(\Gamma, \boldsymbol{p})$ is simple,*

  (2ii) *or Γ is elliptic, $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular, there is an unmarked four-valent vertex $V \in \Gamma^0$ which neither belongs to a collinear cycle, nor is neighboring a collinear marked trivalent vertex belonging to a collinear cycle, and the marked graph $(\Gamma \setminus \{V\}, \boldsymbol{p})$ is simple,*

  (2iii) *or Γ is elliptic, has no collinear cycle, $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, all but one vertices of Γ are trivalent, one vertex is four-valent, marked, and exactly one edge of the unique bounded component of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is incident to that vertex,*

  (2iv) *or Γ is elliptic, has no collinear cycle, $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, all but one vertices of Γ are trivalent, one vertex is four-valent, marked, and exactly two edges of the unique bounded component of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ are incident to that vertex,*

  (2v) *or Γ is elliptic, has a collinear cycle, $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, and*

    (2v-a) *either all but two vertices of Γ are trivalent, two unmarked four-valent vertices are joined by a collinear cycle, and the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular,*

    (2v-b) *or all but two vertices of Γ are trivalent, two four-valent vertices, one marked and the other unmarked, are joined by a collinear cycle containing an additional marked point,*

    (2v-c) *or all but two vertices of Γ are trivalent, two marked four-valent vertices are joined by a collinear cycle,*

(2vi) or Γ is elliptic, and all but two vertices of Γ are trivalent, two
       four-valent vertices, one marked and the other unmarked, are
       joined by a collinear cycle containing no extra marked point, and
       the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is not regular,

(2vii) or Γ is rational, trivalent, $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, and the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ contains
        exactly one bounded component,

(2viii) or Γ is elliptic, has a collinear cycle, $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, and

    (2viii-a) either all but one vertices of Γ are trivalent, one five-
           valent vertex is unmarked, joined with a marked vertex
           by a collinear cycle, and the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular,

    (2viii-b) or all but two vertices of Γ are trivalent, two unmarked
           four-valent vertices are neighboring a collinear marked
           trivalent vertex, and the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular;

(3) $\dim X_{1,(n_v,n_e)}^{2n-2} \leq 2n-2$.

Proof. The statement can be extracted from [14, Chapter 6]. For the reader's
convenience we shall prove it here. Given a curve $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,(n_v,n_e)}^e(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$,
by $\mathrm{Def}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ we denote the (open) cell of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,(n_v,n_e)}^e(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ parameterizing
curves of the same combinatorial type as $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$.

STEP 1. Suppose that $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ is generic. Observe that $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$
and that the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ must be regular, since otherwise it would contain a
bounded component, and hence a condition to the images of the endpoints
of that component (cf. [15, Formula (4)]). Next, denote by s_i the valency of
the marked vertex $p_i \in \boldsymbol{p}$, $i = 1, \ldots, n_v$, set $u = |\Gamma^0 \setminus \boldsymbol{p}|$, and denote by
t_j, $j = 1, \ldots, u$, the valencies of the (somehow ordered) unmarked vertices
of Γ. Counting the marked points $p_i \in \boldsymbol{p}$, $i > n_v$ as bivalent vertices of $\overline{\Gamma}$ and
respectively defining the set Γ^1 of edges of Γ, we get

$$2|\Gamma^1| = \sum_{i=1}^{n_v} s_i + \sum_{j=1}^{u} t_j + 2n_e + |\Delta| = \sum_{i=1}^{n_v} s_i + \sum_{j=1}^{u} t_j + 2n_v + 3n_e + n_\infty,$$

$$|\overline{\Gamma}^0| = u + n_v + n_e + |\Delta| = u + 3n_v + 2n_e,$$

which together with the genus condition $|\overline{\Gamma}^0| = |\Gamma^1|$ yields

$$(3) \qquad\qquad \sum_{i=1}^{n_v}(4 - s_i) + n_e = \sum_{j=1}^{u}(t_j - 2).$$

Now denote by $\overline{\Gamma}_k$, $k = 1, \ldots, |\Delta|$, the closures of the components of $\Gamma \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ obtained by adding a vertex to each non-closed edge. Next, denote by s_{ik}, $i = 1, \ldots, n_v$, resp. t_{jk}, $j = 1, \ldots, u$, the number of edges of $\overline{\Gamma}_k$ incident to the respective marked and unmarked vertices, denote by $n_{e,k}$ the number of bivalent marked vertices of $\overline{\Gamma}$ belonging to $\overline{\Gamma}_k$, and, finally, denote by u_k the number of vertices of $\overline{\Gamma}_k$ of valency > 2, $k = 1, \ldots, |\Delta|$. Then the regularity condition $|\overline{\Gamma}_k^1| + 1 = |\overline{\Gamma}_k^0|$, $k = 1, \ldots, |\Delta|$, implies that

$$2|\overline{\Gamma}_k^1| + 2 = \sum_{i=1}^{n_v} s_{ik} + \sum_{j=1}^{u} t_{jk} + 2n_{e,k} + 3$$

$$= 2|\overline{\Gamma}_k^0| = 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n_v} s_{ik} + 2n_{e,k} + 2n_{\infty,k} + 2u_k + 2,$$

$k = 1, \ldots, |\Delta|$, and hence

(4) $$\sum_{i=1}^{n_v} (s_i - 2) + n_e = \sum_{j=1}^{u} (t_j - 2),$$

which together with (3) yields that all marked vertices $p_1, \ldots, p_{n_v}$ are trivalent. Furthermore, in the above notation, $s_{ik} \leq 2$ for all $i = 1, \ldots, n_v$, $k = 1, \ldots, |\Delta|$, and $s_{ik} = 2$ for at most one pair (i, k), since each pair like that yields a cycle of $\overline{\Gamma}$. If $s_{ik} = 1$ for all k, then all unmarked vertices are trivalent (cf. [12, Proposition 2.23]). If $s_{ik} = 2$ for some pair (i, k), and there is an unmarked vertex V of $\overline{\Gamma}_k$ of valency ≥ 4, then $\overline{\Gamma}_k \setminus \{V\}$ contains at least three bounded trees, and hence a restriction to the position of $h(\overline{\Gamma}_k) \cap \boldsymbol{x}$ unless V is four-valent and joined by a couple of edges with some $p_i \in \boldsymbol{p}$.

STEP 2. It is easy to see that the combinatorial types listed in item (2) of Lemma 2.8 are degenerations of the top-dimensional combinatorial types of item (1) and that $\dim \mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v, n_e}(\mathrm{Def}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)) = 2n + n_\infty - 1$ for each of them. We shall show that other degenerations satisfy

$$\dim \mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v, n_e}(\mathrm{Def}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)) \leq 2n - 2.$$

The following two simple observations will be used below.

First, we note that if $\Gamma \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ contains at least two bounded components then $\dim \mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v, n_e}(\mathrm{Def}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)) \leq 2n - 2$. Indeed, the closures of two such bounded components have at most two common points (since the genus is at most 1), and hence one gets two linearly independent conditions to the position of $h(\boldsymbol{p})$ (cf. [15, Formula (4)]).

Second, suppose that $h : \gamma \to \mathbb{R}^2$ is a plane rational tropical curve of degree δ having vertices of valencies $s_1, \ldots, s_r$, $r \geq 1$; then

$$\dim \mathrm{Def}(\gamma, h) = |\delta| - 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{r} (s_i - 3).$$

Indeed, this immediately follows from the formula $|\delta| - 3 - \sum_{i=1}^{r}(s_i - 3)$ for the number of bounded edges.

STEP 3. Let $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in (\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v, n_e})^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ be rational. The computation similar to that in Step 1 leads to relations

(5)
$$\begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^{n_v}(4 - s_i) + n_e = \sum_{j=1}^{u}(t_j - 2) + 2 + \sum_{i=1}^{n_e}(s'_i - 2), \\ \sum_{i=1}^{n_v}(s_i - 2) + \sum_{i=1}^{n_e}(s'_i - 2) + n_e = \sum_{j=1}^{u}(t_j - 2) + 2q, \end{cases}$$

where s'_i is the valency of the point $p_{i+n_v} \in \boldsymbol{p}$, $i = 1, \ldots, n_e$, and q is the number of bounded connected components of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$. If we suppose that $\dim \mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v, n_e}(\mathrm{Def}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)) = 2n - 1$, then $q \leq 1$, and from (5) we immediately get that $q = 1$, all marked vertices $p_i \in \boldsymbol{p}$, $i = 1, \ldots, n_v$ are trivalent, and all marked points $p_{i+n_v} \in \boldsymbol{p}$, $i = 1, \ldots, n_e$, are bivalent. It can easily be derived that all unmarked vertices are trivalent, since otherwise it would further reduce the dimension of $\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v, n_e}(\mathrm{Def}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h))$ (cf. Step 2). Thus we fit the conditions of item (2vii).

STEP 4. Let $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in (\mathrm{Ev}^e_{(n_v, n_e)})^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ be elliptic, and some of the marked points p_{i+n_v}, $1 \leq i \leq n_e$, have valency ≥ 3. The computation as in Step 1 leads to relations

(6)
$$\begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^{n_v}(4 - s_i) + n_e = \sum_{j=1}^{u}(t_j - 2) + \sum_{i=1}^{n_e}(s'_i - 2), \\ \sum_{i=1}^{n_v}(s_i - 2) + \sum_{i=1}^{n_e}(s'_i - 2) + n_e = \sum_{j=1}^{u}(t_j - 2) + 2q, \end{cases}$$

where $\sum_{i=1}^{n_e}(s'_i - 2) \geq 1$. Thus, we obtain that $q = 1$, $\sum_{i=1}^{n_e}(s'_i - 2) = 1$ and that all marked vertices $p_i \in \boldsymbol{p}$, $i = 1, \ldots, n_v$, are trivalent. It also follows that one point $p_{i+n_v} \in \boldsymbol{p}$, $1 \leq i \leq n_e$, is a trivalent vertex, while the others are bivalent. Finally, as in Step 1, we derive that $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ meets the conditions of item (2i).

STEP 5. Suppose that $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, and $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in (\mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v, n_e})^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ is elliptic with a collinear cycle. Introduce the rational curve $(\Gamma', \boldsymbol{p}, h')$ by replacing the edges of the collinear cycle with one edge whose weight is the sum of weights of the replaced edges. It belongs either to $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,(n_v, n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ or to $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,(n_v-1, n_e+1)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$.

In the latter case, $2(n_v - 1) + (n_e + 1) = |\Delta| - 1$, and hence Lemma 2.7(2) applies and leaves for $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ only the options (2ii) and (2viii).

In the former case, the relation

$$2n_v + n_e = |\Delta|$$

means that $\Gamma' \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ contains a bounded component (which is unique in view of the assumption $\dim \mathrm{Ev}^e_{n_v, n_e}(\mathrm{Def}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)) = 2n - 1$). In addition, the second observation in Step 2 yields that Γ' must be trivalent, and hence we are left only with options (2v) and (2vi).

STEP 6. Finally suppose that $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, and $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ is elliptic without collinear cycles. If the set $\overline{\Gamma} \backslash \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular, then (cf. the second observation in Step 2) all but one vertices of Γ are trivalent, one vertex is four-valent. Furthermore, the four-valent vertex must be unmarked, since otherwise one would encounter a bounded component of $\Gamma \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$. Thus we fit conditions of item (2ii). Suppose now that the set $\Gamma \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ contains a bounded component (unique in view of the first observation in Step 2). As in Step 4, we get relations (6), where $s'_i = 2$, $i = 1, \ldots, n_e$, and $q = 1$. It follows that exactly one marked vertex is four-valent while the others are trivalent. This four-valent marked vertex must be incident to a bounded component of $\Gamma \backslash \boldsymbol{p}$, since otherwise it would not be a degeneration of a top-dimensional combinatorial type. On the other hand, this four-valent vertex cannot be incident to more than two edges of the bounded component of $\Gamma \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$, since otherwise the curve would have genus > 1. Thus we fit conditions of either item (2iii) or item (2iv).   ∎

3. Refined count of plane marked tropical curves

Let $\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ be a balanced multiset. Given $\mu \in \mathbb{Z}$, set

$$[\mu]_y^- = \frac{y^{\mu/2} - y^{-\mu/2}}{y^{1/2} - y^{-1/2}}, \quad [\mu]_y^+ = \frac{y^{\mu/2} + y^{-\mu/2}}{y^{1/2} + y^{-1/2}}, \quad [\mu]_y^* = \frac{1}{\mu} \cdot \frac{y^{\mu/2} - (-1)^\mu y^{-\mu/2}}{y^{1/2} - (-1)^\mu y^{-1/2}},$$

y being a formal parameter.

Let $(\overline{\Gamma}, h)$ be a plane tropical curve. For any trivalent vertex $V \in \Gamma^0$, set its **Mikhalkin's weight**:

$$\mu(\overline{\Gamma}, h, V) = |D(h|_{E_1})(\overline{a}_V(E_1)) \times D(h|_{E_2})(\overline{a}_V(E_2))|,$$

where $E_1, E_2 \in \Gamma^1$ are distinct edges incident to V. Due to the balancing condition (1), this number does not depend on the choice of a pair of edges

incident to V and, in fact, it equals the lattice area of the triangle $\mathcal{D}(h(V))$, dual to the vertex $h(V)$ of the tropical curve $T = h_*(\Gamma)$. For any univalent vertex $V \in \overline{\Gamma}^0_\infty$, set $\mu(\overline{\Gamma}, h, V) = \mathrm{wt}(E, h)$, where E is the edge of $\overline{\Gamma}$ incident to V.

3.1. TRIVALENT CURVES WITHOUT MARKED VERTICES. Let

$$(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \mathcal{M}^e_{g,n}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$$

be trivalent, $n = |\Delta| + g - 1$, $\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0 = \emptyset$, and let the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ be regular (equivalently, $\mathrm{Ev}^e_n(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in X^{2n}_{g,n}$ in the notation of Lemma 2.5).

In line with [1, Definition 3.5], the **Block–Göttsche weight** of the curve $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ (with $\boldsymbol{p}_\infty = \emptyset$ and $n_\infty = 0$) is

$$\mathrm{BG}_y(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, \boldsymbol{p}_\infty, h) = \prod_{V \in \Gamma^0} [\mu(\overline{\Gamma}, h, V)]^-_y.$$

Under some mild conditions on Δ (for example, when Δ contains no even vectors), $\mathrm{BG}_y(\Gamma, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ is a symmetric Laurent polynomial in y (see [7, Proposition 2.3(4)]).

PROPOSITION 3.1 ([7], Theorem 1): *For any nondegenerate balanced multiset $\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ and integers $g \geq 0$, $n = |\Delta| + g - 1$, the expression*

$$\mathrm{BG}_y(\Delta, g, \boldsymbol{x}) = \sum_{(\Gamma, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in (\mathrm{Ev}^e_n)^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})} \mathrm{BG}_y(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$$

does not depend on the choice of $\boldsymbol{x} \in X^{2n}_{g,n}$ (defined in Lemma 2.5).

Furthermore,

PROPOSITION 3.2 ([7], Corollary 2.4, and [12], Theorems 1 and 3): *Under the hypotheses of Proposition 3.1, suppose additionally that Δ is primitive. Then*

(1) $\mathrm{BG}_1(\Delta, g)$ *equals the number of irreducible complex curves in the toric surface $\mathrm{Tor}(\Delta)$, belonging to the tautological linear system, having genus g, and passing through a generic configuration of n points in $\mathrm{Tor}(\Delta)$; if $\mathrm{Tor}(\Delta)$ is del Pezzo, then $\mathrm{BG}_1(\Delta, g) = GW_g(\Delta)$, the genus g Gromov–Witten invariant of $\mathrm{Tor}(\Delta)$ for the tautological linear system;*

(2) $\mathrm{BG}_{-1}(\Delta, g)$ *equals the sum of Welschinger signs of irreducible real curves in the toric surface $\mathrm{Tor}(\Delta)$, belonging to the tautological linear system, having genus g, and passing through a generic configuration of n real points that tropicalize into a configuration from $X^{2n}_{g,n}$; if $\mathrm{Tor}(\Delta)$ is*

del Pezzo and $g = 0$, then $\mathrm{BG}_{-1}(\Delta, 0)$ equals the Welschinger invariant $W_0(\Delta)$ of $\mathrm{Tor}(\Delta)$ corresponding to the tautological linear system and totally real configurations of points.

3.2. RATIONAL TRIVALENT CURVES WITH MARKED VERTICES. Let

$$(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \mathcal{M}^e_{0,(n_v, n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$$

be a rational, trivalent plane tropical curve. Assume that $n = |\Delta| - 1$, $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, and the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular. Following [4, Definition 3.13], define the **refined broccoli weight** of $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ by

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{RB}_y(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) = &\frac{1}{|\mathrm{Aut}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)|} \\
(7) \qquad &\times \prod_{V \in \boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0} [\mu(\overline{\Gamma}, h, V)]^+_y \cdot \prod_{V \in \Gamma^0 \setminus \boldsymbol{p}} [\mu(\overline{\Gamma}, h, V)]^-_y \cdot \prod_{V \in \overline{\Gamma}^0_\infty} [\mu(\overline{\Gamma}, h, V)]^*_y,
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\mathrm{Aut}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ is the automorphism group of $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$.

PROPOSITION 3.3 ([4], Theorem 4.1): *For any balanced multiset $\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ and nonnegative integers n_v, n_e such that $2n_v + n_e = |\Delta| - 1$, the expression*

$$(8) \qquad \mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 0, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x}) := \sum_{(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in (\mathrm{Ev}^e_{(n_v, n_e)})^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x})} \mathrm{RB}_y(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$$

does not depend on the choice of $\boldsymbol{x} \in X^{2n}_{0,(n_v, n_e)}$ (defined in Lemma 2.7).

For the proof see [4, Section 4]. Thus $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 0, (n_v, n_e))$ is a genus zero tropical invariant. Its particular values have an important enumerative meaning:

PROPOSITION 3.4 ([4], Corollary 3.14 and Lemmas 3.27, 3.29): *If Δ consists of the vectors $(1, 0), (0, 1), (-1, -1)$, each one appearing d times, then $\mathrm{Tor}(\Delta) \simeq \mathbb{P}^2$, and $\mathrm{RB}_1(\Delta, 0, (n_v, n_e))$ equals the descendant invariant $\langle \tau_0(2)^{n_e} \tau_1(2)^{n_v} \rangle^0_d$, while $\mathrm{RB}_{-1}(\Delta, 0, (n_v, n_e))$ equals the Welschinger invariant $W_{n_v}(\mathbb{P}^2, d)$, counting (with signs) real plane rational curves of degree d that pass through n_e real points and n_v pairs of complex conjugate points in general position.*

3.3. ELLIPTIC CURVES WITH MARKED VERTICES. Now we define refined weights of generic elliptic curves with marked vertices, i.e., tropical curves described in Lemma 2.6(2).

Suppose that $\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ is a balanced, nondegenerate multiset, $2n_v + n_e = |\Delta|$, where $n_v > 0$, $n_e \geq 0$.
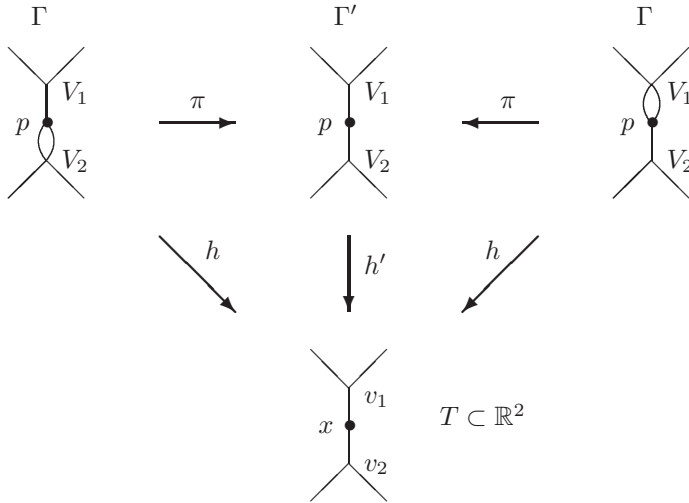
Figure 2. Tropical curves with collinear cycles.

Denote by $\mathcal{M}'_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta) \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ the subset formed by the elements $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ such that Γ is trivalent, elliptic, $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, and the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular. Denote by $\mathcal{M}''_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta) \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ the subset formed by the elements $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ such that Γ is elliptic with all but one vertices trivalent, one unmarked vertex is four-valent and joined with a marked vertex by a collinear cycle, $|\boldsymbol{p} \cap \Gamma^0| = n_v$, and the set $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is regular.

By Lemma 2.6(2), the complement of $\mathcal{M}'_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta) \cup \mathcal{M}''_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ has positive codimension.

Let $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \mathcal{M}''_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$. Then the marked trivalent vertex belonging to the collinear cycle is collinear, too. The map $\pi_{(\Gamma,h)} : \Gamma \to \Gamma'$, identifying edges of the collinear cycle according to the h-image, defines a curve $(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, h') \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{0,(n_v-1,n_e+1)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ such that $h = h' \circ \pi_{(\Gamma,h)}$ (see Figure 2). Furthermore, the corresponding morphism

$$(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \mathcal{M}''_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta) \overset{\pi}{\mapsto} (\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, h') \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{0,(n_v-1,n_e+1)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$$

satisfies $\mathrm{Ev}^e_{(n_v,n_e)} = \mathrm{Ev}^e_{(n_v-1,n_e+1)} \circ \pi$. A curve $(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, h') \in \mathrm{Im}(\pi)$ has a distinguished marked point $p \in \boldsymbol{p}$, the image of the marked vertex in the collinear cycle. Denote by $\mathcal{M}''_{0,(n_v-1,n_e+1)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ the moduli space of the tuples $(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$

such that $(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, h') \in \mathrm{Im}(\pi) \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,(n_v-1,n_e+1)}^{e}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$, and $p \in \boldsymbol{p}$ is the image of the marked collinear vertex belonging to the collinear cycle. Note that the point p belongs to some edge E of Γ' with $h'(E) = e$ an edge of the embedded curve $(T, \boldsymbol{x}) = h'_*(\Gamma', \boldsymbol{p})$ of weight $\mathrm{wt}(e) > 1$. Now we introduce the following expressions.

If $e = h'(E)$ is the image of an unbounded edge E of Γ', V_1 the vertex of E, $v_1 = h'(V_1)$, we let

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{RB}_y(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h') = & \frac{1}{|\mathrm{Aut}(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')|} \cdot \Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu) \\
& \times \prod_{V \in \boldsymbol{p} \cap (\Gamma')^0} [\mu(\overline{\Gamma}', h', V)]_y^+ \\
& \times \prod_{\substack{V \in (\Gamma')^0 \setminus \boldsymbol{p} \\ V \neq V_1}} [\mu(\overline{\Gamma}', h', V)]_y^- \\
& \times \prod_{V \in (\overline{\Gamma}')_\infty^0} [\mu(\overline{\Gamma}', h', V)]_y^*,
\end{aligned}
\tag{9}
$$

where

$$
m = \mathrm{wt}(e), \quad \nu = \frac{\mu(\overline{\Gamma}', h', V_1)}{m}, \quad y = z^2,
$$

and

$$
\begin{aligned}
\Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu) = & \frac{2}{(z - z^{-1})^2(z + z^{-1})} \\
& \times \left[\frac{z^{\nu m - 1} - z^{1 - \nu m}}{z - z^{-1}} - m \frac{z^{\nu m - m} - z^{m - \nu m}}{z^m - z^{-m}} - \frac{z^{\nu m - \nu} - z^{\nu - \nu m}}{z^\nu - z^{-\nu}} \right].
\end{aligned}
\tag{10}
$$

If $e = [v_1, v_2] = h'[V_1, V_2]$ (the image of a bounded edge), we let

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{RB}_y(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h') = & \frac{1}{|\mathrm{Aut}(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')|} \cdot \Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2) \\
& \times \prod_{V \in \boldsymbol{p} \cap (\Gamma')^0} [\mu(\overline{\Gamma}', h', V)]_y^+ \\
& \times \prod_{\substack{V \in (\Gamma')^0 \setminus \boldsymbol{p} \\ V \notin \{V_1, V_2\}}} [\mu(\overline{\Gamma}', h', V)]_y^- \\
& \times \prod_{V \in (\overline{\Gamma}')_\infty^0} [\mu(\overline{\Gamma}', h', V)]_y^*,
\end{aligned}
\tag{11}
$$

where

$$m = \text{wt}(e), \quad \nu_i = \frac{\mu(\overline{\Gamma}', h', V_i)}{m}, \, i = 1, 2, \quad y = z^2,$$

and

$$
\begin{aligned}
\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2) = & \frac{1}{(z - z^{-1})^3(z + z^{-1})} \\
& \times \left[\frac{2(z^{\nu_2 m} - z^{-\nu_2 m})(z^{\nu_1 m - 1} - z^{1 - \nu_1 m})}{z - z^{-1}} \right. \\
& \quad - \frac{2m(z^{\nu_2 m} - z^{-\nu_2 m})(z^{\nu_1 m - m} - z^{m - \nu_1 m})}{z^m - z^{-m}} \\
& \quad + (m - 1)(z^{\nu_1 m} - z^{-\nu_1 m})(z^{\nu_2 m} + z^{-\nu_2 m}) \\
& \quad - \frac{2(z^{\nu_2 m} - z^{-\nu_2 m})(z^{\nu_1 m - \nu_1} - z^{\nu_1 - \nu_1 m})}{z^{\nu_1} - z^{-\nu_1}} \\
& \quad \left. - \frac{2(z^{\nu_1 m} - z^{-\nu_1 m})(z^{\nu_2 m - \nu_2} - z^{\nu_2 - \nu_2 m})}{z^{\nu_2} - z^{-\nu_2}} \right].
\end{aligned}
$$

(12)

In both cases, $\text{Aut}(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$ is the automorphism group of $(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$.

Remark 3.5: (1) For the elliptic curves $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ counted in the right-hand side of (8), and rational curves $(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$ counted in the right-hand side of (9), the automorphism group is $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^r$, where r is the number of collinear trivalent vertices incident to a pair of ends of the same weight.

(2) Though the functions $\Psi^{(1)}(m, \nu)$ and $\Psi^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$ look complicated and mysterious, they necessarily appear in the construction of an invariant generalizing the Göttsche–Schroeter refined broccoli invariant, since there are wall-crossing phenomena (see, for instance, Section 4.6), in which the invariance equation contains in one side only trivalent curves without collinear cycles that are equipped with the Göttsche–Schroeter multiplicities and contains in the other side elliptic curves with collinear cycles, and the solution ends up with formulas (10) and (12).

We postpone the study of functions $\Psi_y^{(1)}(m, \nu)$ and $\Psi_y^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$ till Section 5, and here present only the following non-evident, but crucial property.

LEMMA 3.6: *The function $\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$ is symmetric with respect to ν_1 and ν_2, i.e., $\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2) = \Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_2, \nu_1)$.*

Proof. Since the last two summands in the formula for $\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$ are symmetric with respect to ν_1, ν_2, one only has to show that

$$\frac{2(z^{\nu_2 m} - z^{-\nu_2 m})(z^{\nu_1 m - 1} - z^{1 - \nu_1 m})}{z - z^{-1}} - \frac{2m(z^{\nu_2 m} - z^{-\nu_2 m})(z^{\nu_1 m - m} - z^{m - \nu_1 m})}{z^m - z^{-m}}$$
$$+ (m - 1)(z^{\nu_1 m} - z^{-\nu_1 m})(z^{\nu_2 m} + z^{-\nu_2 m})$$
$$= \frac{2(z^{\nu_1 m} - z^{-\nu_1 m})(z^{\nu_2 m - 1} - z^{1 - \nu_2 m})}{z - z^{-1}} - \frac{2m(z^{\nu_1 m} - z^{-\nu_1 m})(z^{\nu_2 m - m} - z^{m - \nu_2 m})}{z^m - z^{-m}}$$
$$+ (m - 1)(z^{\nu_2 m} - z^{-\nu_2 m})(z^{\nu_1 m} + z^{-\nu_1 m})$$

which can easily be done by a routine direct computation. ∎

Our main result is

THEOREM 3.7: *Given a balanced, nondegenerate multiset $\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ and integers $n_v > 0$, $n_e \geq 0$ such that $2n_v + n_e = |\Delta|$, $n = n_v + n_e$, the expression*

(13)
$$\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x}) := \sum_{\substack{(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \mathcal{M}'_{1,(n_v, n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta) \\ h(\boldsymbol{p}) = \boldsymbol{x}}} \mathrm{RB}_y(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$$
$$+ \sum_{\substack{(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h') \in \mathcal{M}''_{0,(n_v - 1, n_e + 1)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta) \\ h'(\boldsymbol{p}) = \boldsymbol{x}}} \mathrm{RB}_y(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$$

does not depend on the choice of a generic $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$.

Remark 3.8: In view of relation (2) and the absence of non-trivial automorphisms of labeled plane tropical curves under consideration, the statement of Theorem 3.7 is equivalent to the invariance of the expression

$$\mathrm{RB}_y^{\mathrm{lab}}(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x}) := \sum_{\substack{(\overline{\Gamma}^{\mathrm{lab}}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in (\mathcal{M}^{\mathrm{lab}}_{1,(n_v, n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta))' \\ h(\boldsymbol{p}) = \boldsymbol{x}}} \mathrm{RB}_y(\overline{\Gamma}^{\mathrm{lab}}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$$
$$+ \sum_{\substack{((\overline{\Gamma}')^{\mathrm{lab}}, \boldsymbol{p}, p, h') \in (\mathcal{M}^{\mathrm{lab}}_{0,(n_v - 1, n_e + 1)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta))'' \\ h'(\boldsymbol{p}) = \boldsymbol{x}}} \mathrm{RB}_y((\overline{\Gamma}')^{\mathrm{lab}}, \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$$

with respect to the choice of a generic $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$.

3.4. ELLIPTIC BROCCOLI CURVES. Fix a balanced, nondegenerate multiset $\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ and integers $n_v > 0$, $n_e \geq 0$ such that $2n_v + n_e = |\Delta|$, $n = n_v + n_e$. Fix also a generic point $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$.

Definition 3.9: (1) Suppose that $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \mathcal{M}'_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ and $h(\boldsymbol{p}) = \boldsymbol{x}$. Introduce the subgraph $\Gamma^{even} \subset \overline{\Gamma}$ containing all edges of even weight and their endpoints. We call the curve $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ an **elliptic broccoli curve**, if each marked vertex of $\overline{\Gamma}$ is adjacent to at most one edge of even weight and, in each component of Γ^{even}, all but one univalent vertices belong to $\overline{\Gamma}^0_\infty \cup \boldsymbol{p}$.

(2) Suppose that $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \mathcal{M}''_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ and $h(\boldsymbol{p}) = \boldsymbol{x}$, and let

$$\pi(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) = (\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h') \in \mathcal{M}''_{0,(n_v-1,n_e+1)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta).$$

Denote by E_p the edge of $\overline{\Gamma}$ that includes the point p. Introduce the subgraph $\overline{\Gamma}^{',even} \subset \overline{\Gamma}'$ that contains all edges of even weight except for the edge E_p, if the weight of E_p is even and E_p has finite length, and contains all endpoints of these edges. We call the curve $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ an **elliptic broccoli curve** if each marked vertex of $\overline{\Gamma}'$ is adjacent to at most one edge of even weight and, in each component of $\Gamma'^{,even}$, all but one univalent vertices belong to $\overline{\Gamma}^0_\infty \cup \boldsymbol{p}$.

Part (1) of Definition 3.9 matches the definition of unoriented rational broccoli curves [3, Definition 3.1].

In Proposition 5.5, Section 5.2, we show that the elliptic broccoli curves are characterized by the property that their refined broccoli weight, evaluated at $y = -1$, does not vanish, which, in particular, agrees with [4, Corollary 3.9].

4. Proof of Theorem 3.7

For the proof, we choose two generic configurations $\boldsymbol{x}^{(0)}, \boldsymbol{x}^{(1)} \in X^{2n}_{1,(n_v,n_e)} \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n}$, join them by a generic path $\boldsymbol{x}^{(t)} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$, and check the invariance as the path crosses top-dimensional cells of $X^{2n-1}_{1,(n_v,n_e)}$ at their generic points. Clearly, we can move points of the configuration one by one. Furthermore, by Remark 3.8, we can work with labeled curves. So all curves in this section are labeled, but to simplify notations, we skip the index "lab" everywhere.

For completeness, we shall consider all possible bifurcations so that as byproduct we prove the invariance stated in Propositions 3.1 and 3.3. In the sequel, we label bifurcations as in the list presented in Lemma 2.8(2).

Let $\boldsymbol{x}^{(t^*)}$ be generic in an $(2n-1)$-dimensional cell of $X^{2n-1}_{1,(n_v,n_e)}$. Denote by H_0 the germ of this cell at $\boldsymbol{x}^{(t^*)}$ and by $H_+, H_- \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ the germs of the halfspaces with common boundary H_0. Let $C^* = (\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in (\mathrm{Ev}^e_{(n_v,n_e)})^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x}^{(t^*)})$ be as described in Lemma 2.8(2), and let $F_0 \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ be the germ at C^*

of the $(2n-1)$-cell projecting by $\mathrm{Ev}^e_{(n_v, n_e)}$ onto H_0. We shall analyze the $2n$-cells of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ attached to F_0, their projections onto H_+, H_-, and prove the invariance of the expression $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x})$.

4.1. DEGENERATION OF TYPE (2i). Let C^* be as in Lemma 2.8(2i). Notice that the set Γ^0_{sing} of the marked trivalent non-collinear vertices of Γ belonging to the closure of the bounded component of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is nonempty. Each marked point $p \in \Gamma^0_{sing}$ is incident to two unbounded and one bounded component of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ (see Figure 3, where the bounded component of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is shown bold), and the cell F_0 lies on the boundary of exactly two $2n$-dimensional cells F_+, F_- of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ along which the marked point p moves towards one of the unbounded components of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$. Clearly, $\mathrm{Ev}^e_{(n_v-1, n_e+1)}$ takes F_+, F_- onto the germs H_+, H_- of the half spaces in $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$ with H_0 as a common boundary (see Figure 3). Clearly, for any point $p \in \Gamma^0_{sing}$, such a bifurcation does not affect the value of $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x}^{(t)})$, $t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$.
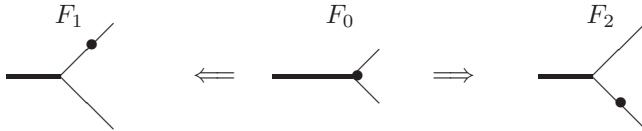

Figure 3. Degeneration of type (2i).

4.2. DEGENERATION OF TYPE (2ii). Let C^* be as in Lemma 2.8(2ii). The curve C^* admits three types of deformation according to three types of splitting of a four-valent vertex into a pair of trivalent vertices as shown in Figure 4, where the right part of the figure exhibits fragments of the dual subdivision of the Newton polygon (cf. [2, page 172]). That is, F_0 lies in the boundary of three $2n$-cells $F_1, F_2, F_3 \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$. We claim that $\mathrm{Ev}^e_{(n_v, n_e)}$ takes F_1 onto the germ of the halfspace H_+, and takes F_2, F_3 onto the germ of the halfspace H_-. Indeed, this holds in the situation considered in [2] when $n_v = 0$, and it corresponds to the local invariance of the count of tropical curves with Mikhalkin's weights, which in turn reduces here to the elementary geometric relation (see Figure 4(b))

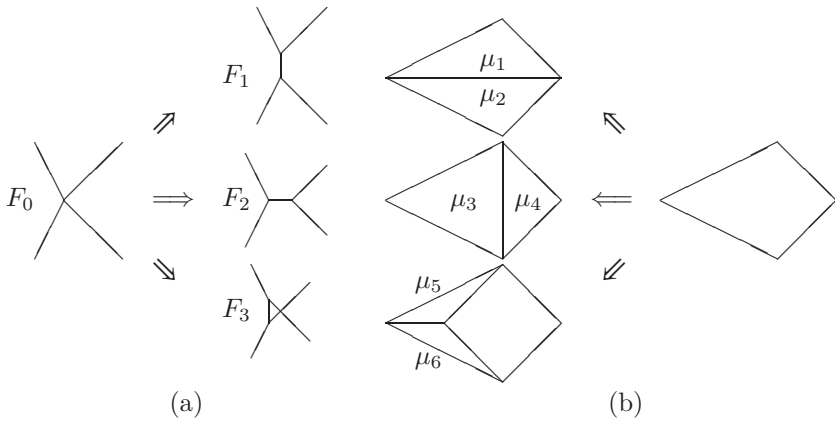$$\mu_1 \mu_2 = \mu_3 \mu_4 + \mu_5 \mu_6,$$

Figure 4. Degeneration of type (2ii).

where μ_i's, in fact, are equal to the lattice areas of the dual triangles. The same holds in our case, if we replace each marked vertex by a couple of close marked points on edges (see, for example, such a replacement in the case of a collinear marked vertex in Figure 4(c)). Thus the invariance of $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x}^{(t)})$, $t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$, reduces to the relation

$$\varphi(y)(z^{\mu_1} - z^{-\mu_1})(z^{\mu_2} - z^{-\mu_2})$$
$$= \varphi(y)(z^{\mu_3} - z^{-\mu_3})(z^{\mu_4} - z^{\mu_4}) + \varphi(y)(z^{\mu_5} - z^{-\mu_5})(z^{\mu_6} - z^{-\mu_6})$$

with some expression $\varphi(y)$ and $y = z^2$. So we have to show

$$(z^{\mu_1} - z^{-\mu_1})(z^{\mu_2} - z^{-\mu_2})$$
$$= (z^{\mu_3} - z^{-\mu_3})(z^{\mu_4} - z^{\mu_4}) + (z^{\mu_5} - z^{-\mu_5})(z^{\mu_6} - z^{-\mu_6}),$$

which immediately follows from the following elementary geometric observations:

$$(14) \qquad \mu_1 + \mu_2 = \mu_3 + \mu_4, \quad \mu_1 - \mu_2 = \mu_6 - \mu_5, \quad \mu_3 - \mu_4 = \mu_5 + \mu_6.$$

4.3. DEGENERATION OF TYPE (2iii). Let $C^* = (\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ be as in Lemma 2.8(2iii). As above (cf. [4, page 24]) we derive that F_0 lies in the boundary of three $2n$-cells F_1, F_2, F_3 of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{1,(n_v, n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ according to three types of splitting of the four-valent vertex into a pair of trivalent vertices, shown in Figure 5. We have to study two cases according as the edge of a bounded component of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is

dual to a side of the parallelogram inscribed into the quadrangle or not (see Figures 5(a,b), where the edge belonging to the bounded component of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ and its dual are labeled by an asterisk, and the triangles dual to the marked trivalent vertices are shown by bold lines). Assuming that along the germ of the path $(\boldsymbol{x}^{(t)})_{t \in [0,1]}$ at $\boldsymbol{x}^{(t^*)}$, the image of the marked point at the four-valent vertex of C^* is moving and the rest of $\boldsymbol{p}$ is fixed, we decide which cells F_i, $i = 1, 2, 3$, project onto H_+ or onto H_- according as the moving marked vertex belongs to the halfplane $\mathbb{R}^2_+$ or $\mathbb{R}^2_-$. In the notation of Section 4.2 for the Mikhalkin's weights of the trivalent vertices (see Figures 5(a,b)), we have the following additional geometric relations:

$$(15) \qquad \begin{cases} \mu_3 = \mu_1 + \mu_5, & \text{in Figure 5(a),} \\ \mu_1 = \mu_4 + \mu_6, & \text{in Figure 5(b).} \end{cases}$$

Similarly to Section 4.2, the invariance of $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x}^{(t)})$, $t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$, reduces to the relation

$$(z^{\mu_3} - z^{-\mu_3})(z^{\mu_4} + z^{-\mu_4})$$
$$= (z^{\mu_1} - z^{-\mu_1})(z^{\mu_2} + z^{-\mu_2}) + (z^{\mu_5} - z^{-\mu_5})(z^{\mu_6} + z^{-\mu_6})$$

in the case of Figure 5(a), and the relation

$$(z^{\mu_1} - z^{-\mu_1})(z^{\mu_2} + z^{-\mu_2})$$
$$= (z^{\mu_3} + z^{-\mu_3})(z^{\mu_4} - z^{-\mu_4}) + (z^{\mu_5} + z^{-\mu_5})(z^{\mu_6} - z^{-\mu_6})$$

in the case of Figure 5(b). Both relations immediately follow from (14) and (15).

4.4. DEGENERATION OF TYPE (2iv). Let $C^* = (\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ be as in Lemma 2.8(2iv) (see Figure 6(a,c)). It admits four different deformations shown in Figures 6(b$_1$–b$_4$) and 6(d$_1$–d$_4$). It is easy to see that if both edges of the bounded component of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ are dual to the sides of the inscribed parallelogram or both are not (cf. Figures 6(a,b$_1$–b$_4$) and 6(a',b')), then two $2n$-cells of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ attached to F_0 are projected onto H^+ and the other two onto H_-. In turn, if one edge of the bounded component of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is dual to a side of the inscribed parallelogram and the other is not (cf. Figures 6(c,d$_1$–d$_4$) and 6(c',d')), then three $2n$-cells of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^e_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ attached to F_0 are projected onto H^+ and
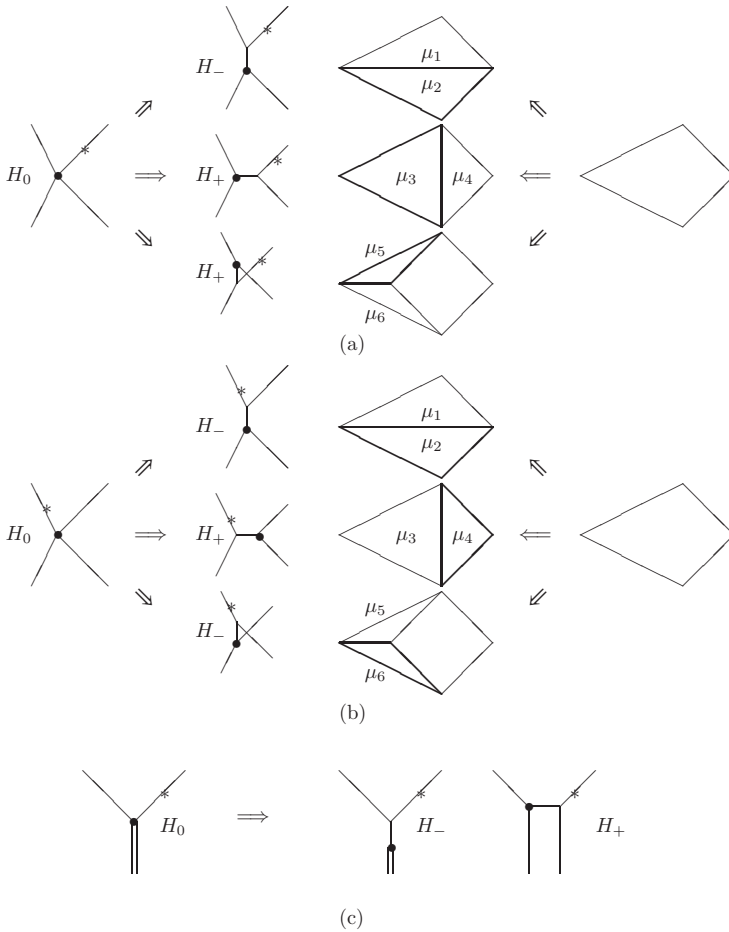
Figure 5. Degeneration of type (2iii).

the remaining one onto H_-. Thus the invariance of $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x}^{(t)})$, $t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$, reduces

- in the former case to the equality (cf. Figure 6(b))

$$
\begin{aligned}
(z^{\mu_1} + z^{-\mu_1})(z^{\mu_2} - z^{-\mu_2}) &+ (z^{\mu_5} + z^{-\mu_5})(z^{\mu_6} - z^{-\mu_6}) \\
&= (z^{\mu_1} - z^{-\mu_1})(z^{\mu_2} + z^{-\mu_2}) + (z^{\mu_5} - z^{-\mu_5})(z^{\mu_6} + z^{-\mu_6}),
\end{aligned}
$$

or, equivalently,

$$z^{\mu_2 - \mu_1} - z^{\mu_1 - \mu_2} = z^{\mu_5 - \mu_6} - z^{\mu_6 - \mu_5},$$

which immediately follows from the second relation in (14);

- in the latter case to the equality (cf. Figure 6(d))

$$(z^{\mu_3} + z^{-\mu_3})(z^{\mu_4} - z^{-\mu_4}) + (z^{\mu_5} + z^{-\mu_5})(z^{\mu_6} - z^{-\mu_6}) + (z^{\mu_5} - z^{-\mu_5})(z^{\mu_6} + z^{-\mu_6})$$
$$= (z^{\mu_3} - z^{-\mu_3})(z^{\mu_4} + z^{-\mu_4}),$$

or, equivalently,

$$z^{\mu_3 - \mu_4} - z^{\mu_4 - \mu_3} = z^{\mu_5 + \mu_6} - z^{-\mu_5 - \mu_6},$$

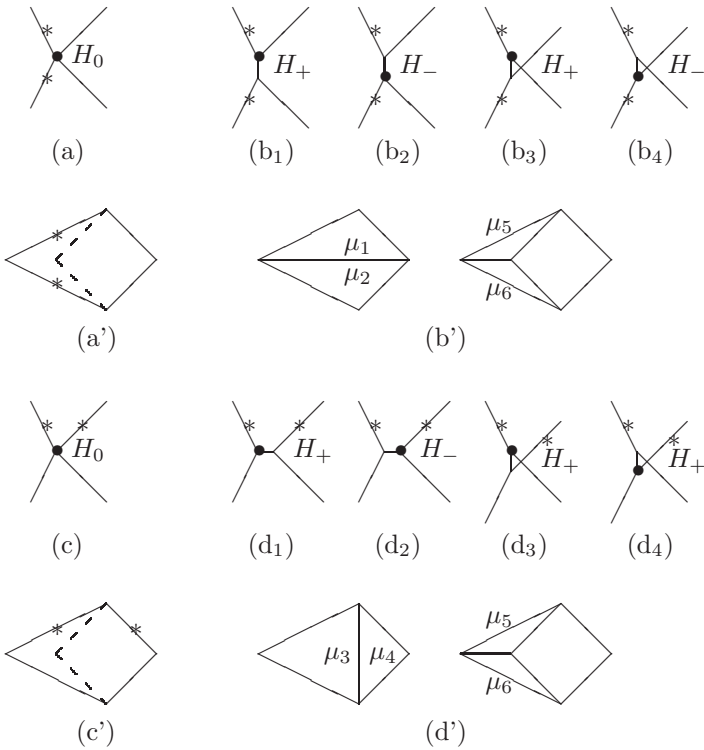which immediately follows from the first relation in (14).

Figure 6. Degeneration of type (2iv).

4.5. DEGENERATION OF TYPE (2v). Let C^* be as in Lemma 2.8(2v) (see Figure 7(a–c)). The collinear cycle contains either one or two marked points, and we can assume that the image of one of them in $\boldsymbol{x}^{(t)}$ moves transversally to the image of the collinear cycle, while the rest of the marked points have fixed images along the path $\boldsymbol{x}^{(t)}$, $t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$. The curve C^* admits exactly two deformations into generic elements of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^{e}_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$, and the corresponding $2n$-cells F_1, F_2, attached to F_0, project to H_+, H_-, respectively (see Figure 7(a,b,c), cf. [2, page 175, case (d)]). The invariance of $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x}^{(t)})$, $t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$, is evident, since the weights of the edges converging to the edges of the collinear cycle and the Mikhalkin's weights of the trivalent vertices converging to the four-valent vertices are respectively conserved (see Figure 7(d)).
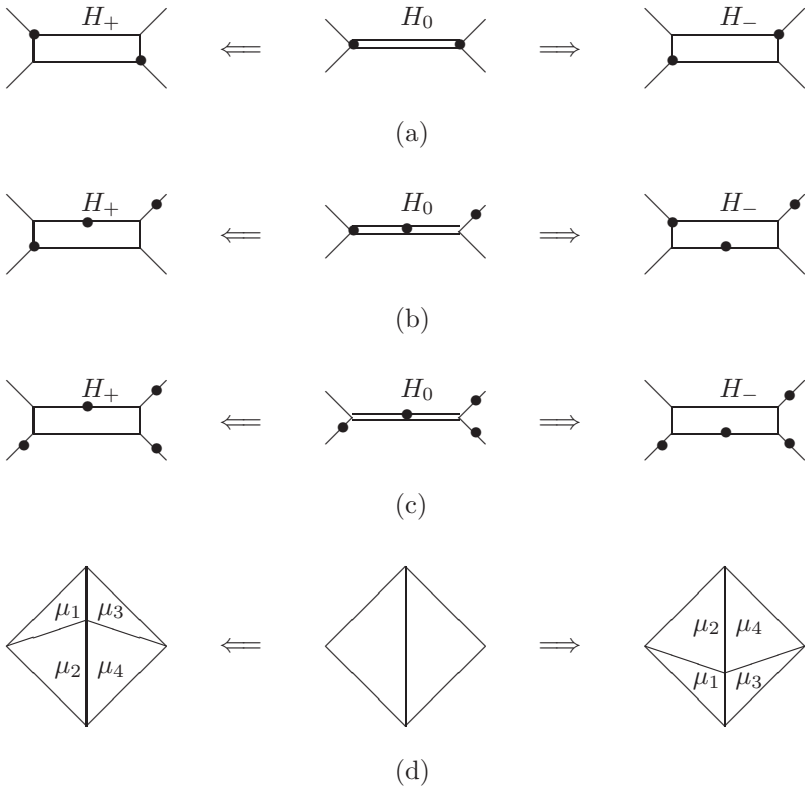

Figure 7. Degeneration of type (2v).

4.6. DEGENERATIONS OF TYPES (2vi) AND (2vii), I. We consider degenerations of types (2vi) and (2vii) together. Let C^* be either as in as in Lemma 2.8(2vi) or as in Lemma 2.8(2vii) (with the same embedded plane tropical curve $T = h_*(C^*)$ in both the situations, see Figure 8(a,b)). The closure of the bounded component of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ contains at least one marked vertex. Let $p \in \boldsymbol{p}_v$ be one of them (see Figures 8(a,b), where $x = h(p)$ and the bounded component of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is marked by an asterisk). In this section, we consider the case when the edges of the unbounded components of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ incident to p have finite length. Assume also that the weights of the corresponding edges of T satisfy $m_1, m_2 > 1$. The case of $m_1 = 1$ or $m_2 = 1$ can be treated in the same (in fact, rather simpler) way.

Assuming that the germ of the path $(\boldsymbol{x}(t), t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$ is such that the point x moves along a generic line while the rest of $\boldsymbol{x} = h(\boldsymbol{p})$ is fixed, we encounter the deformations of the above curves shown in Figures 8(d,e), where we also label $2n$-cells of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,(n_v,n_e)}^e(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ projecting onto H_+ or H_-. Notice that the curves shown in Figures 8(d₁–d₄) belong to $\mathcal{M}'_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ and the curves shown in Figures 8(e₁–e₄) belong to $\mathcal{M}''_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$. Introduce the following parameters of the curve C^* shown in Figure 8(a):

$$\nu_i = \frac{\mu(\Gamma, h, V_i)}{m_i}, \quad \nu'_i = \frac{\mu(\Gamma, h, p)}{m_i}, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

By definition, we can express the contributions of the curves shown in Figures 8(d₁–d₄), respectively, to $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x}^{(t)})$, $t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$, as

$$(16) \quad c_1 = \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\nu_1 m_1})(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2}) \sum_{v \in \mathrm{Int}\mathcal{D}(p) \cap \mathbb{Z}^2} \sigma_+(v),$$

$$(17) \quad c_2 = \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\nu_1 m_1})(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2}) \sum_{v \in \mathrm{Int}\mathcal{D}(p) \cap \mathbb{Z}^2} \sigma_-(v),$$

$$c_3 = \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2}) \sum_{i=1}^{m_1-1} ((z^{\nu_1 i} - z^{-\nu_1 i})(z^{\nu_1(m_1-i)} - z^{-\nu_1(m_1-i)})$$
$$\times (z^{\nu'_1 i} + z^{-\nu'_1 i})(z^{\nu'_1(m_1-i)} - z^{-\nu'_1(m_1-i)})),$$

$$c_4 = \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\nu_1 m_1}) \sum_{i=1}^{m_2-1} ((z^{\nu_2 i} - z^{-\nu_2 i})(z^{\nu_2(m_2-i)} - z^{-\nu_2(m_2-i)})$$
$$\times (z^{\nu'_2 i} + z^{-\nu'_2 i})(z^{\nu'_2(m_2-i)} - z^{-\nu'_2(m_2-i)})),$$
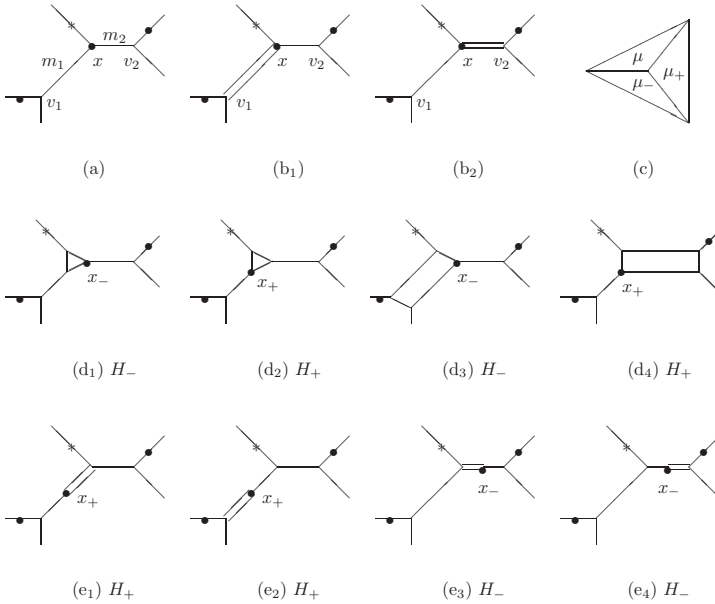
Figure 8. Degenerations of types (2vi) and (2vii), I.

where $y = z^2$, $\varphi(y)$ is the contribution of the vertices outside the fragments shown in Figure 8, and

$$
(18) \quad
\begin{cases}
\sigma_+ = (z^{\mu(v)} - z^{-\mu(v)})(z^{\mu_+(v)} + z^{-\mu_+(v)})(z^{\mu_-(v)} - z^{-\mu_-(v)}), \\
\sigma_- = (z^{\mu(v)} - z^{-\mu(v)})(z^{\mu_+(v)} - z^{-\mu_+(v)})(z^{\mu_-(v)} + z^{-\mu_-(v)}),
\end{cases}
$$

$\mu(v), \mu_+(v), \mu_-(v)$ being the lattice areas of the triangles in the subdivision of $\mathcal{D}(p)$ with vertex v (see Figure 8(c)). Correspondingly, the contributions of the curves shown in Figures 8(e_1–e_2) are

$$
d_1 = \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\mu_1 m_1})\Psi_z^{(2)}(\nu_2, \nu_2', m_2),
$$
$$
d_2 = \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\mu_2 m_2})\Psi_z^{(2)}(\nu_1, \nu_1', m_1).
$$

The desired invariance of $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x}^{(t)})$, $t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$, reads

$$
(19) \qquad\qquad c_1 + c_3 + d_1 = c_2 + c_4 + d_2.
$$

LEMMA 4.1:

$$c_2 - c_1 = 2\varphi(y)(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\mu_1 m_1})(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2})$$

(20)
$$\times \left[m_2 \frac{z^{\nu_2' m_2 - m_2} - z^{m_2 - \nu_2' m_2}}{z^{m_2} - z^{-m_2}} - m_1 \frac{z^{\nu_1' m_1 - m_1} - z^{m_1 - \nu_1' m_1}}{z^{m_1} - z^{-m_1}} \right.$$

$$\left. + \frac{z^{\nu_2' m_2 - \nu_2'} - z^{\nu_2' - \nu_2' m_2}}{z^{\nu_2'} - z^{-\nu_2'}} - \frac{z^{\nu_1' m_1 - \nu_1'} - z^{\nu_1' - \nu_1' m_1}}{z^{\nu_1'} - z^{-\nu_1'}} \right],$$

and

$$c_4 - c_3 = \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_1' m_1} - z^{-\nu_1' m_1})$$

(21)
$$\times \left[(m_2 - 1)(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\nu_1 m_1})(z^{\nu_2 m_2} + z^{-\nu_2 m_2}) \right.$$

$$- (m_1 - 1)(z^{\nu_1 m_1} + z^{-\nu_1 m_1})(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2})$$

$$+ 2(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2})\frac{z^{\nu_1 m_1 - \nu_1} - z^{\nu_1 - \nu_1 m_1}}{z^{\nu_1} - z^{-\nu_1}}$$

$$\left. - 2(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\nu_1 m_1})\frac{z^{\nu_2 m_2 - \nu_2} - z^{\nu_2 - \nu_2 m_2}}{z^{\nu_2} - z^{-\nu_2}} \right].$$

Before proving Lemma 4.1, we note that (19) follows from (20) and (21), since along (11) and (12) one gets

$$c_3 = \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2})$$

$$\times \left[2(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\nu_1 m_1})\frac{z^{\nu_1' m_1 - 1} - z^{1 - \nu_1' m_1}}{z - z^{-1}} \right.$$

$$- 2m_1(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\nu_1 m_1})\frac{z^{\nu_1' m_1 - m_1} - z^{m_1 - \nu_1' m_1}}{z^{m_1} - z^{-m_1}}$$

$$+ (m_1 - 1)(z^{\nu_1' m_1} - z^{\nu_1' m_1})(z^{\nu_1 m_1} + z^{-\nu_1 m_1})$$

$$- 2(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\nu_1 m_1})\frac{z^{\nu_1' m_1 - \nu_1'} - z^{\nu_1' - \nu_1' m_1}}{z^{\nu_1'} - z^{-\nu_1'}}$$

$$\left. - 2(z^{\nu_1' m_1} - z^{\nu_1' m_1})\frac{z^{\nu_1 m_1 - \nu_1} - z^{\nu_1 - \nu_1 m_1}}{z^{\nu_1} - z^{-\nu_1}} \right]$$

and

$$
c_4 = \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\nu_1 m_1})
$$

$$
\times \Bigg[2(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2}) \frac{z^{\nu_2' m_2 - 1} - z^{1 - \nu_2' m_2}}{z - z^{-1}}
$$

$$
- 2m_2(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2}) \frac{z^{\nu_2' m_2 - m_2} - z^{m_2 - \nu_2' m_2}}{z^{m_2} - z^{-m_2}}
$$

$$
+ (m_2 - 1)(z^{\nu_2' m_2} - z^{\nu_2' m_2})(z^{\nu_2 m_2} + z^{-\nu_2 m_2})
$$

$$
- 2(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2}) \frac{z^{\nu_2' m_2 - \nu_2'} - z^{\nu_2' - \nu_2' m_2}}{z^{\nu_2'} - z^{-\nu_2'}}
$$

$$
- 2(z^{\nu_2' m_2} - z^{\nu_2' m_2}) \frac{z^{\nu_2 m_2 - \nu_2} - z^{\nu_2 - \nu_2 m_2}}{z^{\nu_2} - z^{-\nu_2}} \Bigg],
$$

and the first summand in the brackets cancels out in $c_4 - c_3$ in view of

$$
\nu_1' m_1 = \nu_2' m_2.
$$

Proof of Lemma 4.1. We start with formula (21) which is simpler. We have

$$
c_3 = \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2})
$$

$$
\times \sum_{i=1}^{m_1 - 1} [(z^{\nu_1' i} + z^{-\nu_1' i})(z^{\nu_1'(m_1 - i)} - z^{-\nu_1'(m_1 - i)})
$$

$$
\times (z^{\nu_1 i} - z^{-\nu_1 i})(z^{\nu_1(m_1 - i)} - z^{-\nu_1(m_1 - i)})]
$$

$$
= \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2})
$$

(22)
$$
\times \sum_{i=1}^{m_1 - 1} [z^{(\nu_1 + \nu_1') m_1} + z^{(\nu_1' - \nu_1) m_1}
$$

$$
- z^{(\nu_1 - \nu_1') m_1} - z^{-(\nu_1' + \nu_1) m_1} - 2(z^{\nu_1' m_1} - z^{-\nu_1' m_1}) z^{(2i - m_1)\nu_1}]
$$

$$
= \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2})(z^{\nu_1' m_1} - z^{-\nu_1' m_1})
$$

$$
\times \Bigg[(m_1 - 1)(z^{\nu_1 m_1} + z^{-\nu_1 m_1}) - 2 \frac{z^{\nu_1 m_1 - m_1} - z^{m_1 - \nu_1 m_1}}{z^{m_1} - z^{-m_1}} \Bigg].
$$

Similarly (notice that $\nu_1' m_1 = \nu_2' m_2$),

$$
c_4 = \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\nu_1 m_1})(z^{\nu_1' m_1} - z^{-\nu_1' m_1})
$$

$$
\times \Bigg[(m_2 - 1)(z^{\nu_2 m_2} + z^{-\nu_2 m_2}) - 2 \frac{z^{\nu_2 m_2 - m_2} - z^{m_2 - \nu_2 m_2}}{z^{m_2} - z^{-m_2}} \Bigg],
$$

and formula (21) follows.

In view of formulas (16), (17), and (18), and using the equality

$$\mu(v) + \mu_+(v) + \mu_-(v) = \mu := \mu(\Gamma, h, p), \quad v \in \mathrm{Int}\Delta(p) \cap \mathbb{Z}^2,$$

we obtain

$$
\begin{aligned}
c_2 - c_1 =& \varphi(y)(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\nu_1 m_1})(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2})\\
&\times \sum_{v \in \mathrm{Int}\Delta(p) \cap \mathbb{Z}^2} [(z^{\mu(v)} - z^{-\mu(v)})(z^{\mu_+(v)} - z^{-\mu_+(v)})(z^{\mu_-(v)} + z^{-\mu_-(v)})\\
&\qquad\qquad - (z^{\mu(v)} - z^{-\mu(v)})(z^{\mu_+(v)} + z^{-\mu_+(v)})(z^{\mu_-(v)} - z^{-\mu_-(v)})]\\
=& 2\varphi(y)(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\mu_1 m_1})(z^{\nu_2 m_2} - z^{-\nu_2 m_2})\\
&\times \Bigg[\sum_{v \in \mathrm{Int}\Delta(p) \cap \mathbb{Z}^2} (z^{\mu - 2\mu_-(v)} + z^{2\mu_-(v) - \mu})\\
&\qquad - \sum_{v \in \mathrm{Int}\Delta(p) \cap \mathbb{Z}^2} (z^{\mu - 2\mu_+(v)} + z^{2\mu_+(v) - \mu}) \Bigg].
\end{aligned}
$$

To complete the proof of (20), and thereby of Lemma 4.1, we use the relations

$$(23) \quad
\begin{aligned}
2 \sum_{v \in \mathrm{Int}\Delta(p) \cap \mathbb{Z}^2} (z^{\mu - 2\mu_-(v)} + z^{2\mu_-(v) - \mu})\\
= 2m_2 \frac{z^{\nu_2' m_2 - m_2} - z^{m_2 - \nu_2' m_2}}{z^{m_2} - z^{-m_2}} - \frac{z^{\nu_1' m_1 - \nu_1'} - z^{\nu_1' - \nu_1' m_1}}{z^{\nu_1'} - z^{-\nu_1'}}\\
- \frac{z^{\nu_3' m_3 - \nu_3'} - z^{\nu_3' - \nu_3' m_3}}{z^{\nu_3'} - z^{-\nu_3'}}
\end{aligned}
$$

and

$$(24) \quad
\begin{aligned}
2 \sum_{v \in \mathrm{Int}\Delta(p) \cap \mathbb{Z}^2} (z^{\mu - 2\mu_+(v)} + z^{2\mu_+(v) - \mu})\\
= 2m_1 \frac{z^{\nu_1' m_1 - m_1} - z^{m_1 - \nu_1' m_1}}{z^{m_1} - z^{-m_1}} - \frac{z^{\nu_2' m_2 - \nu_2'} - z^{\nu_2' - \nu_2' m_2}}{z^{\nu_2'} - z^{-\nu_2'}}\\
- \frac{z^{\nu_3' m_3 - \nu_3'} - z^{\nu_3' - \nu_3' m_3}}{z^{\nu_3'} - z^{-\nu_3'}},
\end{aligned}
$$

where m_3 is the weight of the third edge incident to the vertex p of Γ, and $\nu_3' = \mu(\Gamma, h, p)/m_3$. Finally, both relations, (23) and (24), follow from Lemma 4.2 below.   ■

LEMMA 4.2: *Let $\mathcal{T} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be the lattice triangle with vertices $(0,0)$, $(m,0)$, (k,l), where $l,m \geq 1$. Denote by (x_v, y_v) the coordinates of a point $v \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Then*

$$
(25) \qquad
2 \sum_{v \in \mathrm{Int}\mathcal{T} \cap \mathbb{Z}^2} \left(z^{m(l-2y_v)} + z^{m(2y_v-l)} \right) + \sum_{\substack{v \in \partial\mathcal{T} \cap \mathbb{Z}^2 \\ 0 < y_v < l}} \left(z^{m(l-2y_v)} + z^{m(2y_v-l)} \right)
$$
$$
= m \frac{z^{ml-m} - z^{m-ml}}{z^m - z^{-m}}.
$$

Proof. (1) Suppose that $m = 1$.

First, we claim that the sequences $(l-2y_v)_{v \in \mathcal{T} \cap \mathbb{Z}^2, 0 < y_v < l}$ and $(2y_y - l)_{v \in \mathrm{Int}\mathcal{T} \cap \mathbb{Z}^2}$ are disjoint, and each number $s \equiv l \mod 2$, $-l < s < l$, appears once in one of the sequences. Since in each of the sequences, the elements are distinct, and the total number of elements in both sequences equals $2l - 2$ (Pick's formula), for the above claim it is enough to verify that the sequences are disjoint. Indeed, let $v_1 = (x_1, y_1) \in \mathcal{T} \cap Z^2$, $0 < y_1 < l$, $v_2 = (x_2, y_2) \in \mathrm{Int}\mathcal{T} \cap Z^2$, and $l - 2y_1 = 2y_2 - l$, or, equivalently, $y_2 = l - y_1$. We have the following relations for slopes:

$$
\frac{x_1}{y_1} \geq \frac{k}{l}, \quad \frac{x_1 - 1}{y_1} \leq \frac{k-1}{l}, \quad \frac{x_2}{y_2} > \frac{k}{l}, \quad \frac{x_2 - 1}{y_2} < \frac{k-1}{l},
$$

which yield

$$
\frac{k}{l} y_1 \leq x_1 \leq \frac{k}{l} y_1 + \frac{l - y_1}{l}, \quad \frac{k}{l} y_2 < x_1 < \frac{k}{l} y_2 + \frac{l - y_2}{l}.
$$

Plugging $y_2 = l - y_1$ into the second relation, we obtain

$$
\frac{k}{l} y_1 - \frac{y_1}{l} < k - x_2 < \frac{k}{l} y_1,
$$

that is, two integers $k - x_2 < x_1$ in the unit interval $(\frac{k}{l} y_1 - \frac{y_1}{l}, \frac{k}{l} y_1 + \frac{l - y_1}{l}]$, which is a contradiction.

Second, we notice that the sequences $(l - 2y_v)_{v \in \partial\mathcal{T} \cap \mathbb{Z}^2}$ and $(2y_v - l)_{v \in \partial\mathcal{T} \cap \mathbb{Z}^2}$ coincide.

Both claims together yield that

$$
(26) \qquad
2 \sum_{v \in \mathrm{Int}\mathcal{T} \cap \mathbb{Z}^2} \left(z^{l-2y_v} + z^{2y_v-l} \right) + \sum_{\substack{v \in \partial\mathcal{T} \cap \mathbb{Z}^2 \\ 0 < y_v < l}} \left(z^{l-2y_v} + z^{2y_v-l} \right)
$$
$$
= 2 \sum_{i=1}^{l-1} z^{l-2i} = 2 \frac{z^{l-1} - z^{1-l}}{z - z^{-1}}.
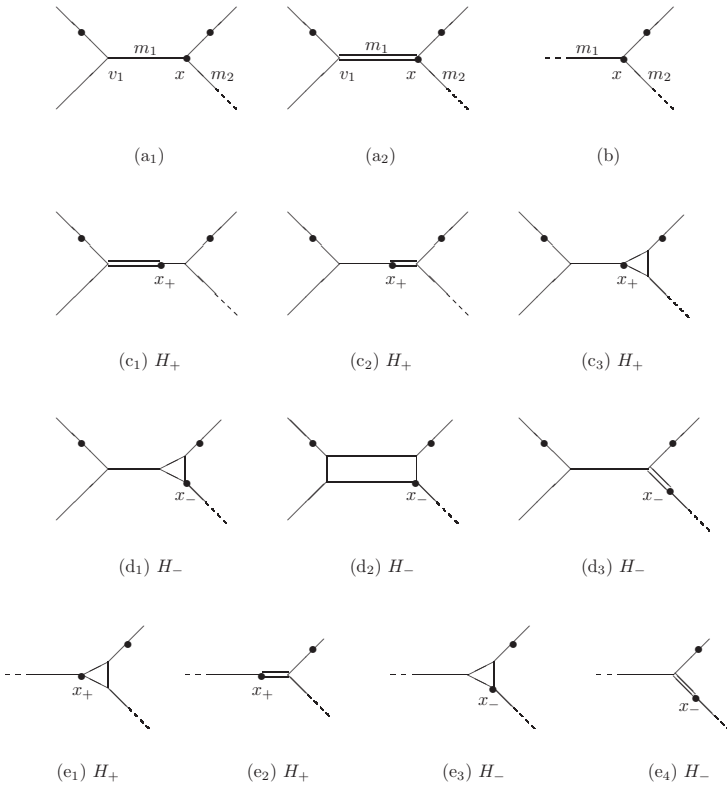$$

Figure 9. Degeneration of type (2vi) and (2vii), II.

(2) For an arbitrary $m \geq 1$, we divide the triangle $\mathcal{T}$ into the triangles $\mathcal{T}_s = \operatorname{conv}\{(s - 1, 0), (s, 0), (k, l)\}$, $s = 1, \ldots, m$, sum up the formulas (26) for $\mathcal{T}_s$, $s = 1, \ldots, m$, and substitute z^m for z, finally obtaining (25).   ∎

4.7. DEGENERATIONS OF TYPES (2vi) AND (2vii), II. Now we go back to the hypotheses of Section 4.6 with the following modification: we suppose that one or two edges of the unbounded components of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ incident to p are ends of Γ (see Figure 9(a,b), where the ends are shown by solid and dashed lines). Furthermore, we assume that the weights of the edges of $T = h_*(C^*)$ adjacent to x and covered by the edges of the unbounded components of $\Gamma \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ satisfy $m_1, m_2 > 1$. The case of $m_1 = 1$ or $m_2 = 1$ can be treated in the same way.

Suppose, first, that exactly one edge of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ incident to p is an end of Γ (see Figure 9(a)). Without loss of generality, we can also suppose that the germ of the path $\boldsymbol{x}^{(t)} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$, $t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$, is such that the point $x = h(p)$ moves along a line transversal to the h-image of the bounded component of $\Gamma \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ for the original curve C^*, while the rest of $\boldsymbol{x}$ stay fixed. Then we observe the deformations of C^* depicted in Figures 9(c_1–c_3,d_1–d_3), respectively corresponding to Ev_n-projections to the halfspaces H_+ and H_-.

Introduce the following parameters of the curve C^* shown in Figure 9(a_1):

$$m_1 = \mathrm{wt}([v_1, v_2]), \quad \nu_1 = \frac{\mu(\Gamma, h, V_1)}{m_1}, \quad \nu_i' = \frac{\mu(\Gamma, h, p)}{m_i}, \, i = 1, 2,$$

where $v_1 = h(V_1)$, $V_1 \in \Gamma^0$. The constancy of $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x}(t))$, $t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$, amounts to the verification of the relation

(27) $c_1 + c_2 + c_3 = d_1 + d_2 + d_3,$

where $c_1\varphi(y), c_2\varphi(y), c_3\varphi(y)$ and $d_1\varphi(y), d_2\varphi(y), d_3\varphi(y)$ are the contributions of the curves shown in Figures 9(c_1–c_3) and 9(d_1–d_3), respectively, with $\varphi(y)$ some expression and (setting $y = z^2$)

$$c_1 + c_2 = \Psi_z^{(2)}(m_1, \nu_1, \nu_1')(z - z^{-1})^3(z + z^{-1}),$$

$$c_3 - d_1 \overset{(23)}{=} \left(z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{-\nu_1 m_1}\right)$$

$$\times \left[m_1 \frac{z^{\nu_1' m_1 - m_1} - z^{m_1 - \nu_1' m_1}}{z^{m_1} - z^{-m_1}} - m_2 \frac{z^{\nu_2' m_2 - m_2} - z^{m_2 - \nu_2' m_2}}{z^{m_2} - z^{-m_2}} \right.$$

$$\left. + \frac{z^{\nu_1' m_1 - \nu_1'} - z^{\nu_1' - \nu_1' m_1}}{z^{\nu_1'} - z^{-\nu_1'}} - \frac{z^{\nu_2' m_2 - \nu_2'} - z^{\nu_2' - \nu_2' m_2}}{z^{\nu_2'} - z^{-\nu_2'}} \right],$$

$$d_2 \overset{(22)}{=} \left(z^{\nu_1' m_1} - z^{-\nu_1' m_1}\right)$$

$$\times \left[(m_1 - 1)(z^{\nu_1 m_1} + z^{-\nu_1 m_1}) - 2\frac{z^{\nu_1 m_1 - \nu_1} - z^{\nu_1 - \nu_1 m_1}}{z^{\nu_1} - z^{-\nu_1}} \right],$$

$$d_3 = (z^{\nu_1 m_1} - z^{\nu_1 m_1})\Psi_z^{(1)}(m_2, \nu_2')(z - z^{-1})^2(z + z^{-1}).$$

Substituting these formulas into (27) and using expressions (12), (10) for $\Psi^{(2)}$ and $\Psi^{(1)}$, we immediately establish the validity of (27).

Suppose now that two edges of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ incident to p are ends of Γ (see Figure 9(b)). We have to consider deformations of C^* shown in Figures 9(e_1–e_4) labeled according as the Ev_n-image of the deformed curves belongs to the halfspace H_+ or H_-. The constancy of $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x}(t))$, $t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$, reduces to the

relation

$$(28) \qquad\qquad e_1 + e_2 = e_3 + e_4,$$

where $e_i\varphi(y)$ is the contribution of the curves shown in Figure 9(e_i), $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, with some expression $\varphi(y)$ and

$$e_1 - e_3 \overset{(23)}{=} m_1 \frac{z^{\nu_1' m_1 - m_1} - z^{m_1 - \nu_1' m_1}}{z^{m_1} - z^{-m_1}} - m_2 \frac{z^{\nu_2' m_2 - m_2} - z^{m_2 - \nu_2' m_2}}{z^{m_2} - z^{-m_2}}$$
$$+ \frac{z^{\nu_1' m_1 - \nu_1'} - z^{\nu_1' - \nu_1' m_1}}{z^{\nu_1'} - z^{-\nu_1'}} - \frac{z^{\nu_2' m_2 - \nu_2'} - z^{\nu_2' - \nu_2' m_2}}{z^{\nu_2'} - z^{-\nu_2'}},$$
$$e_2 = \Psi_z^{(1)}(m_1, \nu_1')(z - z^{-1})^2(z + z^{-1}),$$
$$e_4 = \Psi_z^{(1)}(m_2, \nu_2')(z - z^{-1})^2(z + z^{-1}).$$

Substituting these formulas into (28) and using expression (10) for $\Psi^{(1)}$, we immediately establish the validity of (28).

4.8. DEGENERATION OF TYPE (2viii). Let C^* be as in Lemma 2.8(2viii) (see Figure 10(a,b)). We simultaneously consider the degenerations of types (2viii-a) and (2viii-b) having the same image $(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, h')$ in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,(n_v-1,n_e+1)}^e(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ (see Section 3.3). Let $p \in \boldsymbol{p}$ be the collinear trivalent vertex and $E \in (\Gamma')^1$ the edge of Γ' containing p. Note that only one edge of Γ incident to the endpoints of E has outward canonical orientation; furthermore, without loss of generality we can suppose that the other edges of Γ incident to the endpoints of E contain marked points (see Figure 10(a,b)). We will verify the invariance of $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x}^{(t)})$, $t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$, simultaneously considering deformations of the type (2viii-a) and (2viii-b). We can assume that, along the path $\boldsymbol{x}^{(t)}$, $t \in (\mathbb{R}, t^*)$, the image $x = h(p)$ moves transversally to the edge $h'(E)$, whereas $h(\boldsymbol{p} \setminus \{p\}) = h'(\boldsymbol{p} \setminus \{p\})$ stays fixed. The three possible deformations of C^* of type (2viii-a) correspond to splittings of the four-valent vertex outside the collinear cycle into a pair of trivalent vertices (see Figure 10(c)). A curve C^* of type (2viii-b) similarly admits three deformations shown in Figure 10(d) as well as two more types shown in Figure 10(e). In Figures 10(c,d,e) we present the subdivisions of the quadrangle $Q = \mathcal{D}(V_4)$, V_4 being the four-valent endpoint of E, and labeled with H_+, H_- according to the move of $h(p)$ into one or the other halfplane bounded by the line passing through $h'(E)$. We observe that the H_+, H_--labels of the deformations shown in Figures 10(c,d) meet the rule
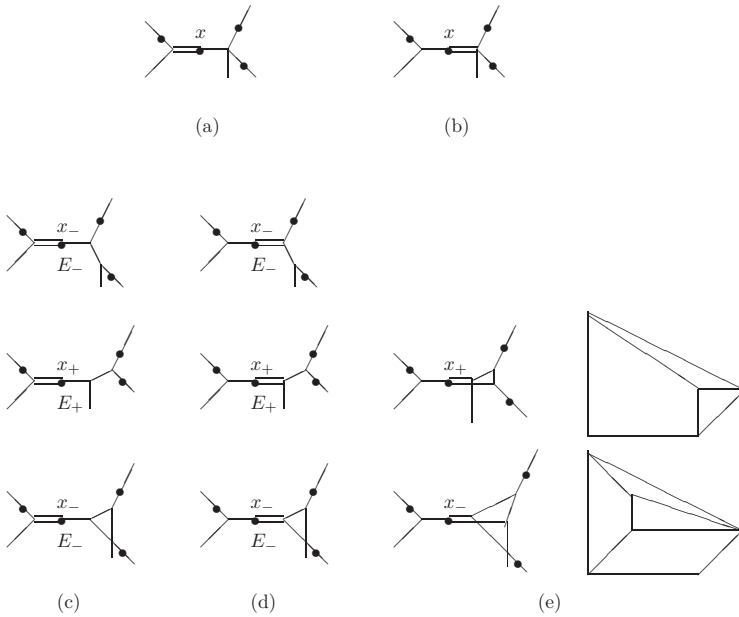
Figure 10. Degeneration of type (2viii).

described in Section 4.2. We also denote by $\boldsymbol{x}_+$, $\boldsymbol{x}_-$ the images of $\boldsymbol{p}$ in the plane corresponding to deformations labeled by H_+, H_-, respectively.

We need to show that the total refined weight of the curves labeled by H_+ equals that of the curves labeled by H_-. Note that we can restrict our attention to only fragments presented in Figures 10(c,d,e), since the remaining part of these curves provides the same multiplicative contribution to each term. Furthermore, we can make two additional assumptions:

- the outgoing edge of the trivalent endpoint V_3 of E has weight one; indeed, the refined weights of all curves depend only on the Mikhalkin weight of this vertex of Γ' and on the weight of E, and we can vary the weights and slopes of the images of the edges incident to V and different from E^* while keeping the aforementioned parameters;
- the marked point p can be chosen arbitrarily close to V_3.

To prove the required equality, we do not perform direct tedious computations but will exhibit a deformation of the configuration $\boldsymbol{x}$ along which the H_+-types turn into the H_--types so that, in this way, the considered curves undergo

degenerations of types (2i)–(2vii) for which we have already established the invariance of $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e), \boldsymbol{x})$.

For each of the curves presented in Figures 10(c,d,e), we denote by E_+ or E_- the edge of the embedded plane tropical curve $T = h_*(\overline{\Gamma})$, containing $h(p)$, so that the subindex $\pm$ matches the H_+, H_--labels. Next, we deform the configuration $\boldsymbol{x}_\varepsilon$, $\varepsilon = \pm$, so that the point $x = h(p)$ moves along the line, containing the edge E_ε, to the position x', also in a small neighborhood of V (see Figure 11(a)), while the rest of $\boldsymbol{x}$ stays fixed. Denote by $\boldsymbol{x}'_\varepsilon$ the deformed configuration. Now, for the initial configurations $\boldsymbol{x}_\pm$ we introduce the curves shown in Figure 11(c), where the triangular fragments are dual to the subdivisions of the $\mathcal{D}(V_3)$, induced by the choice of each of the integral points $v \in \mathrm{Int}\mathcal{D}(V_3)$ (see Figure 11(b)), and for the configurations $\boldsymbol{x}'_\pm$ we introduce the curves shown in Figures 11(d,e,f).

Then we introduce the following quantities:

- $\Sigma_\varepsilon^{(1)}$, the total refined weight of the curves of the shape shown in Figure 10(c,d), labeled by H_ε, and projected to the same rational curve $(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, h') \in \mathcal{M}_{0,4}^e(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ with $h'(\boldsymbol{p}) = \boldsymbol{x}_\varepsilon$, $\varepsilon = \pm$,
- $\Sigma_\varepsilon^{(2)}$, the total refined weight of the elliptic curves of shapes shown in Figure 10(e), labeled by H_ε, having the given degree, and passing through the configuration $\boldsymbol{x}_\varepsilon$, $\varepsilon = \pm$,
- $\Sigma_\varepsilon^{(3)}$, the total refined weight of the elliptic curves of the shape shown in Figure 11(c), labeled by H_ε, having the given degree, and passing through $\boldsymbol{x}_\varepsilon$, $\varepsilon = \pm$,
- $\Sigma_\varepsilon^{(4)}$, the total refined weight of the elliptic curves of the shape shown in Figure 11(d), labeled by H_ε, having the given degree, and passing through $\boldsymbol{x}'_\varepsilon$, $\varepsilon = \pm$,
- $\Sigma_\varepsilon^{(5)}$, the total refined weight of the elliptic curves of the shape shown in Figure 11(e), labeled by H_ε, having the given degree, and passing through $\boldsymbol{x}'_\varepsilon$, $\varepsilon = \pm$,
- $\Sigma_\varepsilon^{(6)}$, the total refined weight of the elliptic curves of the shape shown in Figure 11(e), labeled by H_ε, having the given degree, and passing through $\boldsymbol{x}'_\varepsilon$, $\varepsilon = \pm$.

The required invariance reads

$$(29) \qquad\qquad \Sigma_+^{(1)} + \Sigma_+^{(2)} = \Sigma_-^{(1)} + \Sigma_-^{(2)}.$$

(a)   (b)

(c₁) H_- (c₂) H_+ (c₃) H_-

(d₁) H_- (d₂) H_+ (d₃) H_-

(e₁) H_- (e₂) H_+ (e₃) H_-

(f₁) H_- (f₂) H_- (f₃) H_+ (f₄) H_+
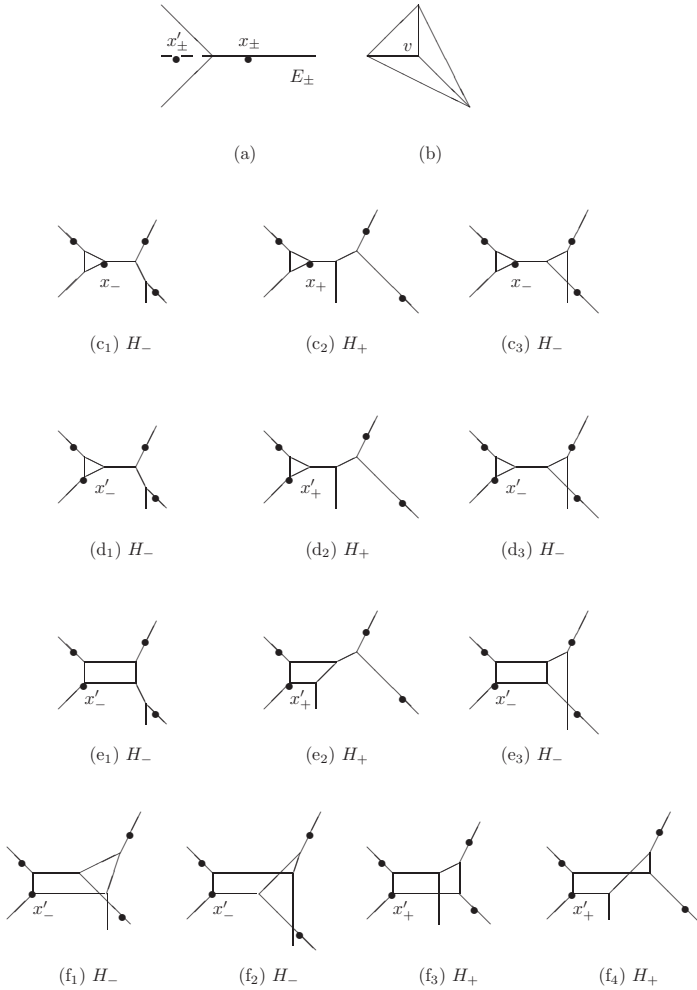
Figure 11. Deformations in case (2viii), I.

On the other hand, according to the result of Section 4.6,

$$\Sigma_\varepsilon^{(1)} = \Sigma_\varepsilon^{(4)} + \Sigma_\varepsilon^{(5)} - \Sigma_\varepsilon^{(3)}, \quad \varepsilon = \pm$$

(recall that, by our assumption, the weight of the left lower unbounded edge equals one), according to the result of Section 4.3,

$$\Sigma_\varepsilon^{(2)} = \Sigma_\varepsilon^{(6)}, \quad \varepsilon = \pm,$$

according to the result of Section 4.2,

$$\Sigma_+^{(3)} = \Sigma_-^{(3)} \quad \text{and} \quad \Sigma_+^{(4)} = \Sigma_-^{(4)},$$

and hence (29) converts to the following relation:

(30)
$$\Sigma_+^{(5)} + \Sigma_+^{(6)} = \Sigma_-^{(5)} + \Sigma_-^{(6)}.$$

If we fix weights of the horizontal edges for curves shown in Figure 11(e,f), equality (30) reduces to the comparison of the refined weight of the rational curves shown in Figure 12(a) on one side, and of the refined weight of the rational curves shown in Figure 12(b) (in both figures we assume that the marked points are far away from the vertices). However, it amounts to the comparison of the two values of BG_y for rational curves of the same degree hitting two generic configurations of points in $\mathbb{R}^2$, and hence the equality by Proposition 3.1 (alternatively, it follows from the consideration of degenerations in Sections 4.1 and 4.2).

(a) H_+

(b) H_-

Figure 12. Deformations in case (2viii), II.
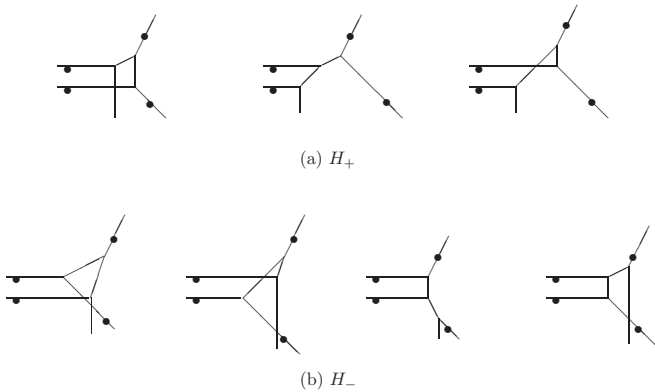
5. Computations

Here we show that the refined elliptic broccoli invariant $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e))$ is a Laurent polynomial in y (Proposition 5.2), evaluate it at $y = 1$ and $y = -1$, and characterize elliptic broccoli curves (see Definition 3.9) as the tropical curves in the right-hand side of (13) with the non-zero weight $\mathrm{RB}_y|_{y=-1}$. Finally, we

demonstrate a modification of the lattice path algorithm from [12, Section 7.2] and [11, Section 9] suitable for computation of the invariant $\mathrm{BG}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e))$.

5.1. EVALUATION AT $y = 1$ AND $y = -1$, AND THE LAURENT PROPERTY.

LEMMA 5.1:   (1) *The functions* $[m]_{z^2}^{\pm}$, $m_{z^2}^*$ *and* $\Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu)$, $\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$ *behave regularly at* $z = 1$ *and attain the following values:*

$$[m]_1^+ = 1, \quad \lim_{z \to 1}[m]_{z^2}^- = m \quad \lim_{z \to 1}[m]_{z^2}^* = \begin{cases} 1, & m \equiv 0 \mod 2, \\ \frac{1}{m}, & m \equiv 1 \mod 2, \end{cases}$$

$$\lim_{z \to 1} \Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu) = \frac{\nu(\nu - 1)m(m^2 - 1)}{12},$$

$$\lim_{z \to 1} \Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2) = \frac{\nu_1 \nu_2 (\nu_1 + \nu_2 - 1)m^2(m^2 - 1)}{12}.$$

(2) *The functions* $[m]_{z^2}^{\pm}$, $[m]_{z^2}^*$, *and* $\Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu)$, $\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$ *reveal the following behavior in a neighborhood of* $z = i$:

(2i) *for* $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, *we have*

$$\lim_{z \to i}[m]_{z^2}^+ = m \cdot \lim_{z \to i}[m]_{z^2}^* = m(-1)^{(m-1)/2}, \quad m \equiv 1 \mod 2,$$

$$\lim_{z \to i}(z + z^{-1})[m]_{z^2}^+ = 2(-1)^{m/2}, \quad m \equiv 0 \mod 2,$$

$$\lim_{z \to i}[m]_{z^2}^- = (-1)^{(m-1)/2}, \quad m \equiv 1 \mod 2,$$

$$\lim_{z \to i} \frac{[m]_{z^2}^-}{z + z^{-1}} = m \cdot \lim_{z \to i} \frac{[m]_{z^2}^*}{z + z^{-1}} = (-1)^{m/2-1}m, \quad m \equiv 0 \mod 2;$$

(2ii) $\Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu)$ *is regular at* $z = i$ *if* m *is odd; furthermore, if* ν *is odd one has*

(31)
$$\lim_{z \to i} \Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu) = \frac{1}{4} \cdot \begin{cases} (1 - \nu)(m^2 - 1), & \nu \equiv m \equiv 1 \mod 4, \\ (1 - \nu)(m^2 + 1), & \nu \equiv -m \equiv 1 \mod 4, \\ (m - 1)(\nu(m - 1) - m - 1), & \nu \equiv -m \equiv -1 \mod 4, \\ (\nu - 1)(m^2 + 1) - 2\nu, & \nu \equiv m \equiv -1 \mod 4, \end{cases}$$

and if ν *is even,* $\Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu)$ *vanishes at* $z = i$ *and*

$$\lim_{z \to i} \frac{\Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu)}{z + z^{-1}} = \frac{(-1)^{\nu/2}}{24} m(m^2 - 1)\nu(\nu - 3);$$

if m is even, then $\Psi_z^{(1)}$ has a pole at $z = i$ and one has

$$\lim_{z \to i}(z + z^{-1})\Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu) = \begin{cases} \frac{m\nu}{2}, & \nu \equiv 0 \mod 2, \\ (-1)^{m/2} \cdot \frac{m(\nu-1)}{2}, & \nu \equiv 1 \mod 2; \end{cases}$$

(2iii) *the function $\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$ is regular at $z = i$; furthermore, if $m = 2m'$ is even, then*

$$\lim_{z \to i}\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2) = \frac{(-1)^{m'(\nu_1+\nu_2)}}{2} \cdot \begin{cases} m'(\nu_1+\nu_2), & \nu_1 \equiv \nu_2 \equiv 1 \mod 2, \\ m'(\nu_1+\nu_2-\nu_1\nu_2), & \nu_1+\nu_2 \equiv 1 \mod 2, \\ m'(\nu_1+\nu_2-2\nu_1\nu_2), & \nu_1 \equiv \nu_2 \equiv 0 \mod 2; \end{cases}$$

if m is odd and $\nu_1 = 2\nu_1' + 1$, $\nu_2 = 2\nu_2' + 1$ are odd, then

$$\lim_{z \to i}\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2) = \frac{(-1)^{m(\nu_1'+\nu_2'+1)}}{4}(m^2 - 1)(2\nu_1' + 2\nu_2' + 1);$$

if m is odd, ν_1 is odd, and ν_2 is even, then $\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$ vanishes at $z = i$ and

$$\lim_{z \to i}\frac{\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)}{z + z^{-1}} = \frac{(-1)^{(1+m(\nu_1+\nu_2))/2}}{16}(2m^2\nu_1\nu_2 - 2m\nu_2 - 2m^3\nu_1\nu_2 + 2m^2\nu_2 \\ -2m^2\nu_1\nu_2 + 2m\nu_1\nu_2 + m(m^2 - 1)\nu_2^2),$$

if $m = 2m' + 1$ is odd and $\nu_1 = 2\nu_1'$, $\nu_2 = 2\nu_2'$ are even, then $\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$ has a double zero at $z = i$ and

$$\lim_{z \to i}\frac{\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)}{(z + z^{-1})^2} = \frac{(-1)^{\nu_1'+\nu_2'+1}}{3}\nu_1'\nu_2'(2\nu_1' + 2\nu_2' - 3)m'(m' + 1)(2m' + 1)^2.$$

Proof. All formulas for $[m]_{z^2}^{\pm}$ and $[m]_{z^2}^*$ are elementary and known [1, 4]. All the statements on $\Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu)$ and $\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$ can be obtained by a routine direct computation. ∎

PROPOSITION 5.2: *Given a balanced, nondegenerate multiset $\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ and integers $n_v > 0$, $n_e \geq 0$ such that $2n_v + n_e = |\Delta|$, $n = n_v + n_e$, the refined invariant $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e))$ is a symmetric Laurent polynomial in y, i.e., a polynomial of degree $|P(\Delta) \cap \mathbb{Z}^2| - |\Delta| - 1$ in $y + y^{-1}$ with a positive leading coefficient.*

Proof. We shall show that each weight $\mathrm{RB}_y(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ and $\mathrm{RB}_y(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$ in the right-hand side of formula (13) is a symmetric Laurent polynomial in y with a

positive leading coefficient. Substitute $y = z^2$ in the formulas for $\mathrm{RB}_y(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ and $\mathrm{RB}_y(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$.

Show, first, that $\mathrm{RB}_{z^2}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ and $\mathrm{RB}_{z^2}(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$ are even functions of z (equivalent to the fact that the weights of tropical curves are functions of y). Indeed, the expressions $[\mu]_{z^2}^{\pm}$ $[m]_{z^2}^{*}$ are even, resp. odd functions of z according as μ is odd, resp. even. By [7, Proposition 2.3(4)], the total number of trivalent and univalent vertices V of $\overline{\Gamma}$ with even $\mu(\overline{\Gamma}, h, V)$ is even. Hence, $\mathrm{RB}_{z^2}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ is an even function of z for $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \mathcal{M}'_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$. The same argument works in the case of $(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h') \in \mathcal{M}''_{0,(n_v-1,n_e+1)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ if we notice that

- the expression $\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$ is an even, resp. odd function of z according as the pair $(\nu_1 m, \nu_2 m)$ contains an even, resp. odd number of even values,
- if m is odd, then the expression $\Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu)[\mu(\overline{\Gamma}', h', V)]_{z^2}^{*}$ is an even, resp. odd function of z according as ν is odd, resp. even, where V is the univalent vertex belonging to the edge that contains p,
- if m is even, then the expression $\Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu)[\mu(\overline{\Gamma}', h', V)]_{z^2}^{*}$ is always an even function of z.

Next we verify that $\mathrm{RB}_{z^2}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ and $\mathrm{RB}_{z^2}(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$ are regular at $z = 1$ and $z = i$, and hence they are symmetric Laurent polynomials in y. Indeed, by Lemma 5.1(1), the functions $[\mu]_{z^2}^{\pm}$ and $[\mu]_{z^2}^{*}$, $\mu \in \mathbb{Z}$, and the functions $\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$, $\Psi_z^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$ are regular at $z = 1$.

The study of the point $z = i$ requires more work. We shall show that the total order of poles at $z = i$ does not exceed the total order of zeroes at $z = i$.

Let $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \mathcal{M}'_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ be a curve in the right-hand side of (13), and let $\overline{\Gamma}^{even} \subset \overline{\Gamma}$ be the subgraph introduced in Definition 3.9(1). The vertices of $\overline{\Gamma}^{even}$ are either univalent or trivalent. Then it follows from the regularity of the position of $\boldsymbol{p}$ in $\overline{\Gamma}$ that the closure of any component of $\overline{\Gamma}^{even} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ contains at least as many unmarked vertices as the marked ones; hence, by Lemma 5.1(2i) all the poles at $z = i$ cancel out with zeroes.

Suppose that $(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h') \in \mathcal{M}''_{0,(n_v-1,n_e+1)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$, and let $\overline{\Gamma}^{',even} \subset \overline{\Gamma}'$ be the subgraph introduced in Definition 3.9(2). As in the preceding paragraph, the closure of any component of $\Gamma^{',even} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ contains at least as many unmarked vertices as the marked ones. Assume that E_p has a finite length. If an endpoint of E_p is a bivalent vertex of $\overline{\Gamma}^{',even}$, then we can take off this vertex gluing the adjacent edges of $\overline{\Gamma}^{',even}$ into one edge and preserving the claim of the previous

sentence. In this case, we derive the cancellation of poles at $z = i$ from Lemma 5.1(2i) and the statements of Lemma 5.1(2ii,2iii), where the parameter m is even. If $d = 1$ or 2 endpoints of E_p are univalent vertices of $\overline{\Gamma}^{\,\prime,even}$, then again the poles at $z = i$ cancel out due to Lemma 5.1(2i) and the statements of Lemma 5.1(2ii,2iii), where either the parameter ν is even, or the parameter m is odd, while precisely d of the parameters ν_1, ν_2 are even. Assume that E_p is an end. If E_p has an odd weight, but its vertex belongs to $\overline{\Gamma}^{\,\prime,even}$, then the argument of the preceding paragraph applies since then $\Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu)$ vanishes at $z = -i$ by Lemma 5.1(2ii). If E_p has an even weight and is a separate component of $\overline{\Gamma}^{\,\prime,even}$, then $m = \mu(\overline{\Gamma}', h', V)$ is even, where $V \in (\overline{\Gamma}')_\infty^0$ is a vertex of E_p, and hence the regularity of $\mathrm{RB}_{z^2}(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$ at $z = i$ follows from the argument of the preceding paragraph and the fact that the product $\Psi_z^{(1)}(m, \nu)[m]_{z^2}^*$ is regular at $z = i$ (see Lemma 5.1(2i,2ii)). If E_p ends at a trivalent vertex of $\overline{\Gamma}^{\,\prime,even}$, then we separate the two other adjacent edges of $\overline{\Gamma}^{\,\prime,even}$ from E_p, glue them up into one edge and obtain the required result as in the latter considered case.

The degree of $\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e))$ can be computed as in [7, Proposition 2.11] with an additional term coming from $\prod_{V \in \overline{\Gamma}_\infty^0} [\mu(\overline{\Gamma}, h, V)]_y^*$.   ∎

5.2. Weights of elliptic broccoli curves and tropical descendant invariants.

PROPOSITION 5.3: *Given a balanced, nondegenerate multiset* $\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ *and integers* $n_v > 0$, $n_e \geq 0$ *such that* $2n_v + n_e = |\Delta|$, $n = n_v + n_e$, *the value* $\mathrm{RB}_1(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e))$ *is a positive integer. Moreover, for any generic point* $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$, *each summand in the right-hand side of* (13) *evaluated at* $y = 1$ *is a positive integer.*

Proof. The positivity is straightforward from Lemma 5.1(1) and the absence of trivalent collinear unmarked vertices. So we have to explain the integrality. Consider the subgraph G of Γ (resp. Γ') consisting of finite edges (and their endpoints) that are incident to trivalent marked collinear vertices, whose two other incident edges are ends of the same weight. Due to the general position of $\boldsymbol{x}$, the second endpoint of any edge of G is unmarked and, in the case of $G \subset \Gamma'$, if an unmarked vertex of G is incident to two edges of G, then the third edge of Γ' attached to this vertex does not contain the marked point p. Thus the

integrality follows from Remark 3.5 and the fact that the Mikhalkin weight of a trivalent vertex incident to at least one or two even edges is divisible by 2 or 4, respectively. ∎

Remark 5.4: If Δ is primitive, the invariant $\mathrm{RB}_1(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e))$ can be regarded as a tropical elliptic descendant invariant $\langle \tau_0(2)^{n_e} \tau_1(2)^{n_v} \rangle_\Delta^1$.

PROPOSITION 5.5: *Given a balanced, nondegenerate multiset $\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus 2\{0\}$, integers $n_v > 0$, $n_e \geq 0$ such that $2n_v + n_e = |\Delta|$, $n = n_v + n_e$, and a generic point $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$, the following holds:*

  (1) *if $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \mathcal{M}'_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$, $h(\boldsymbol{p}) = \boldsymbol{x}$, then $\mathrm{RB}_{-1}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \neq 0$ if and only if $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ is an elliptic broccoli curve;*
  (2) *if $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \mathcal{M}''_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$, $h(\boldsymbol{p}) = \boldsymbol{x}$, and*

$$\pi(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) = (\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h') \in \mathcal{M}''_{0,(n_v-1,n_e+1)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta),$$

   then $\mathrm{RB}_{-1}(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h') \neq 0$ if and only if $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ is an elliptic broccoli curve.

Proof. Following the argument in the proof of Proposition 5.2 and using the computations of Lemma 5.1, one immediately obtains that $\mathrm{RB}_{-1}(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$, resp. $\mathrm{RB}_{-1}(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$ vanishes whenever $(\Gamma, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$, resp. $(\Gamma', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$ is not an elliptic broccoli curve. The same reasoning yields that the weight RB_{-1} does not vanish for elliptic broccoli curves. ∎

5.3. LATTICE PATH ALGORITHM. To efficiently compute the refined elliptic broccoli invariant, we provide here a suitable version of the lattice path algorithm. It is a simplification of the algorithm from [11, Section 9], in which we allow only trivalent vertices but also consider elliptic curves. For the reader's convenience, we provide here all details.

  (1) INITIAL DATA AND GENERAL PROCEDURE. Suppose we are given a balanced, nondegenerate multiset $\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ and integers $n_v > 0$, $n_e \geq 0$ such that $2n_v + n_e = |\Delta|$, $n = n_v + n_e$. Pick a vector $\overline{a} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ which is not parallel or orthogonal to any vector $u_1 - u_2$, where $u_1, u_2 \in P(\Delta) \cap \mathbb{Z}^2$, $u_1 \neq u_2$, and consider a straight line $L_{\overline{a}}$ through the origin, directed by $\overline{a}$. Introduce a configuration of points $\boldsymbol{x} = (x_1, \ldots, x_n) \subset L_{\overline{a}}$ such that

$$x_i = M_i \overline{a}, \; i = 1, \ldots, n, \quad 0 < M_1 \ll M_2 \ll \cdots \ll M_n.$$

The linear functional $\varphi_{\overline{a}}(x) = \langle x, \overline{a} \rangle : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$ defines a linear order on the points $u \in P(\Delta) \cap \mathbb{Z}^2$, that is, $u \prec u'$ if $\varphi_{\overline{a}}(u) < \varphi_{\overline{a}}(u')$. Denote by $u_{\min}, u_{\max} \in P(\Delta)$ the extremal points. Any $\varphi_{\overline{a}}$-monotone sequence of points

$$u_0 = u_{\min} \prec u_1 \prec \cdots \prec u_r = u_{\max} \subset P(\Delta) \cap \mathbb{Z}^2$$

is called a lattice path in $P(\Delta)$ (of length r). Denote by $\mathcal{L}_n(\Delta, \overline{a})$ the set of lattice paths in $P(\Delta)$ of length n.

The algorithm starts with a lattice path $G \in \mathcal{L}_n(\Delta, \overline{a})$. Then we construct an enhanced lattice path $\widehat{G}$, and inductively extend it (if possible) to a certain subdivision of the polygon $P(\Delta)$. Such a subdivision uniquely determines a tropical curve passing through $\boldsymbol{x}$. We verify whether it is irreducible and has degree Δ. Then it must be elliptic. If the reconstructed tropical curve $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ is irreducible and has no collinear cycle, we assign to it a refined weight $\mathrm{RB}_y(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$. If $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ contains a collinear cycle, we take the rational curve $\pi(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) = (\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$ and assign to it the refined weight $\mathrm{RB}_y(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h')$. In both situations, the refined weights can be expressed in terms of the pair (enhanced lattice path, subdivision).

Notice that if either a lattice path cannot be equipped with an enhancement, or a current subdivision does not cover $P(\Delta)$ and cannot be extended anymore, or the subdivision covers $P(\Delta)$ but does not define an irreducible tropical curve of degree Δ, we skip these outcomes.

Given a subdivision S as a set of convex lattice polygons and segments, we let

$$|S| = \bigcup_{\sigma \in S} \sigma.$$

(2) ENHANCEMENT OF A LATTICE PATH. Let

$$G = (u_0, \ldots, u_n) \in \mathcal{L}_n(\Delta, \overline{a}).$$

Denote by $S_0(G)$ the set of the segments $[u_{i-1}, u_i]$, $i = 1, \ldots, n$.

Let $\partial P(\Delta)_+$ and $\partial P(\Delta)_-$ be the two components of $\partial P(\Delta) \setminus \{u_{\min}, u_{\max}\}$. Each component of $P(\Delta) \setminus |S_0(G)|$ has a nonempty intersection either with $\partial P(\Delta)_+$ or with $\partial P(\Delta)_-$. Denote by $P(\Delta)_+$ (resp. $P(\Delta)_-$) the the union of $\partial P(\Delta)_+$ (resp. $\partial P(\Delta)_-$) with the components of $P(\Delta) \setminus |S_0(G)|$ intersecting $\partial P(\Delta)_+$ (resp. $\partial P(\Delta)_-$).

An enhancement $\widehat{G}$ of G is a pair:

- a lattice path of length $n + n_v$ extending G with extra points u_i', $i = 1, \ldots, n_v \in P(\Delta) \cap \mathbb{Z}^2$ such that $u_{i-1} \prec u_i' \prec u_i$ for all $i = 1, \ldots, n_v$;
- a sequence of signs $\varepsilon_i = \pm 1$, $i = 1, \ldots, n_v$:   if $u_i' \in P(\Delta)_+$ (resp. $u_i' \in P(\Delta)_-$) we set $\varepsilon_i = 1$ (resp. $\varepsilon_i = -1$), if $u_i' \in [u_{i-1}, u_i]$ we choose either $\varepsilon_i = 1$ or $\varepsilon_i = -1$.

Denote by $\mathcal{L}_{n_v, n_e}(\Delta, \overline{q}) \subset \mathcal{L}_n(\Delta, \overline{a})$ the set of those lattice path which admit an enhancement $\widehat{G}$. From now on we suppose that $G \in \mathcal{L}_{n_v, n_e}(\Delta, \overline{a})$.

(3) INITIAL SUBDIVISION. Define $S_1(\widehat{G})$ to be the set of polygons

$$\mathrm{conv}\{u_{i-1}, u_i', u_i\},$$

$i = 1, \ldots, n_v$, and the segments $[u_{n_v+j-1}, u_{n_v+j}]$, $j = 1, \ldots, n_e$, and let $\partial S_1(\widehat{G})_+$ (resp. $\partial S_1(\widehat{G})_-$) to be the lattice path consisting of the points $U_0, \ldots, u_n$ and the points u_i', $1 \le i \le n_v$, such that $\varepsilon_i = 1$ (resp. $\varepsilon_i = -1$).

(4) STEP OF THE ALGORITHM. Suppose we are given $k \ge 1$, a subdivision $S_k(\widehat{G})$ and two lattice paths $\partial S_k(\widehat{G})_+$, $\partial S_k(\widehat{G})_-$ such that

$$S_k(\widehat{G})_\varepsilon \subset \partial |S_k(\widehat{G})| \cap \overline{P(\Delta)}_\varepsilon,$$

$\varepsilon = \pm 1$, and $\partial |S_k(\widehat{G})|$ is the union of the broken lines induced by $\partial S_k(\widehat{G})_\pm$.

If $\partial S_k(\widehat{G})_+ = \{v_0 = u_{\min} \prec v_1 \cdots \prec v_r = u_{\max}\}$, $r \ge 2$, we look for the minimal $i = 1, \ldots, r-1$ such that the points v_{i-1}, v_i, v_{i+1} are not collinear, and the triangle $T_i = \mathrm{conv}\{v_{i-1}, v_i, v_{i+1}\}$ is not contained in $|S_k(\widehat{G})|$. If such i does exist, we

- either set

$$S_{k+1}(\widehat{G}) = S_k(\widehat{G}) \cup \{T\}$$

  and

$$\partial S_{k+1}(\widehat{G})_+ = \partial S_k(\widehat{G})_+ \setminus \{v_i\},$$

- or, in case the parallelogram $\Pi_i = \mathrm{conv}\{v_{i-1}, v_i, v_{i+1}, v_i'\}$ lies inside $P(\Delta)$, set

$$S_{k+1}(\widehat{G}) = S_k(\widehat{G}) \cup \{\Pi_i\}$$

  and

$$\partial S_{k+1}(\widehat{G}) = \{v_o \prec \cdots \prec v_{i-1} \prec v_i' \prec v_{i+1} \prec \cdots \prec v_r\}.$$

In both cases $\partial S_{k+1}(\widehat{G})_- = \partial S_k(\widehat{G})_-$.

If we cannot perform the above step, we do the same exchanging all the signs.

(5) RESTORING A TROPICAL CURVE. Since the area of $|S_k(\widehat{G})|$ strictly grows, the algorithm is finite. Let $S_{fin}(\widehat{G})$, $\partial S_{fin}(\widehat{G})_+$, $\partial S_{fin}(\widehat{G})_-$ be the outcome. We call the outcome admissible if

- $|S_{fin}(\widehat{G})| = P(\Delta)$, in which case the broken lines induced by $\partial S_{fin}(\widehat{G})_\pm$ cover $\partial P(\Delta)$;
- $\partial S_{fin}(\widehat{G})_\pm$ match the degree Δ; this means that, orienting the segments that join consecutive points of $\partial S_{fin}(\widehat{G})_\pm$ counter-clockwise and rotating all of them by $\pi/2$ clockwise, we obtain the multiset of vectors Δ.

Non-admissible outcomes are skipped in the count.

To an admissible outcome we assign a tropical curve $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ of degree Δ with an n-tuple of marked points $\boldsymbol{p}$ such that $h(\boldsymbol{p}) = \boldsymbol{x}$. In fact, we follow the above algorithm in its dual form and, moreover, in parallel, construct an orientation of the components of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$. Denote by $\overline{b} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ the unit vector orthogonal to $\overline{a}$ and oriented from $P(\Delta)_-$ towards $P(\Delta)_+$.

In the construction we shall use auxiliary objects, plane tropical precurves, which are the following objects: Given a marked plane tropical curve $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$ and any open bounded subset $\Gamma' \subset \Gamma$ containing $\boldsymbol{p}$, we say that the triple $(\Gamma', \boldsymbol{p}, h|_{\Gamma'})$ is a marked plane tropical precurve (associated with $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h)$).

Take an n-tuple of points $\boldsymbol{p} = (p_1, \ldots, p_n)$ and consider the tropical precurve $(\Gamma_1, \boldsymbol{p}, h_1)$ with Γ_1 being the union of graph germs (Γ_1, p_i), $i = 1, \ldots, n$, which are trivalent for $i = 1, \ldots, n_v$ and bivalent for $i = n_v + 1, \ldots, n$ and with the map $h_1 : (\Gamma_1, \boldsymbol{p}) \to \mathbb{R}^2$ determined by the conditions

- $p_i \in \boldsymbol{p} \mapsto h_1(p_i) = x_i \in \boldsymbol{x}$, $i = 1, \ldots, n$;
- if $n_v < i \leq n$, the germ (Γ_1, p_i) is mapped onto the germ of a straight line through x_i orthogonal to the segment $[u_{i-1}, u_i]$;
- if $1 \leq i \leq n_v$, then the edges of (Γ_1, p_i) are mapped to the three rays rooted at x_i and directed by the vectors orthogonal to the segments $[u_{i-1}, u_i]$, $[u_{i-1}, u'_i]$, $[u'_i, u_i]$ and such that their scalar products with $\varepsilon_i \overline{b}$ are respectively negative, positive, and positive;
- the differential Dh_1 along each edge equals the Euclidean length of the corresponding orthogonal segment, mentioned in the two preceding items.

We then inductively proceed along the lattice path algorithm extending the current tropical precurve. Namely, having a tropical precurve $(\Gamma_k, \boldsymbol{p}, h_k)$, we follow step (4) of the lattice path algorithm:

- extend the edges e, e' of Γ_k corresponding to the segments $[v_{i-1}, v_i]$, $[v_i, v_{i+1}]$ induced by $\partial S_k(\widehat{G})_+$ (or $\partial S_k(\widehat{G})_-$), until $h(e)$ and $h(e')$ hit each other;
- if there is no third edge of Γ_k, which is mapped by h to the same ray as E or E', then either form a new trivalent vertex of Γ_{k+1} mapping the third edge orthogonal to the segment $[v_{i-1}, v_{i+1}]$, or slightly extend further the considered edges of the current tropical precurve without gluing them, while their h-images intersect transversally (cf. [8, Figure 2.17 in Section 2.5.6]);
- if there is an edge e'' of Γ_k which is mapped to the same ray as, say, e' (this can only happen when e', e'' are incident to the same collinear marked vertex), then either we extend all three edges without gluing so that $h(e') = h(e'')$ intersects transversally $h(e)$, or one of e', e'' joins with e forming a trivalent vertex with the germ of a new edge and the remaining edge extends further, or all e, e', e'' join together forming a four-valent vertex with the germ of a new edge.

Notice that in the very last situation one obtains a precurve with a collinear cycle.

The final tropical precurve turns into a plane tropical curve as we extend all open edges to unbounded rays and compactify them with univalent vertices. We claim that if it is irreducible, then it is elliptic. Indeed, it is easy to see from the construction that each component of $\overline{\Gamma} \setminus \boldsymbol{p}$ is a tree containing exactly one univalent vertex of $\overline{\Gamma}$. Hence $1 - g(\overline{\Gamma}) = \chi(\overline{\Gamma}) = |\Delta| - 2n_v - n_e = 0$.

(6) REFINED BROCCOLI WEIGHTS. Given an admissible subdivision S_{fin} corresponding to an irreducible tropical curve without collinear cycle, we define its refined broccoli weight $\mathrm{RB}_y(S_{fin})$ to be the product of

- $[\mu_i]_y^+$, where μ_i is the lattice area of the (possibly degenerate) triangle $\mathrm{conv}\{u_{i-1}, u'_i, u_i\}$, over all $i = 1, \ldots, n_v$,
- and $[\mu]_y^-$, where μ runs over the lattice areas of all other triangles in S_{fin},

which is divided by 2^r, r being the number of segments among $\mathrm{conv}\{u_{i-1}, u'_i, u_i\}$, $i = 1, \ldots, n_v$. If S_{fin} corresponds to an irreducible tropical curve with a collinear cycle, it contains a special fragment as shown in Figure 13(a,b) (where

the number of the incline of parallelograms may vary). We transform this fragment as shown in Figure 13(c,d), respectively, and then assign a refined weight $\mathrm{RB}_y(S'_{fin})$ to the newly obtained subdivision S'_{fin} to be the product of

- either $\Psi^{(1)}(m, \nu)$ or $\Psi^{(2)}(m, \nu_1, \nu_2)$ as S'_{fin} contains the fragment as in Figure 13(c,d), respectively,
- $[\mu_j]_y^+$, $j = 1, \ldots, n_v$, $j \neq i$,
- $[\mu]_y^-$, where μ runs over all triangles of S'_{fin} different from $\mathrm{conv}\{u_{j-1}, u'_j, u_j\}$, $j = 1, \ldots, n_v$, $j \neq i$, and lying outside the special fragment,
- $[\mu]_y^*$, where μ runs over the lattice length of all the vectors in Δ,

which is divided by 2^r, r being the number of segments among $\mathrm{conv}\{u_{j-1}, u'_j, u_j\}$, $j = 1, \ldots, n_v$, $j \neq i$.
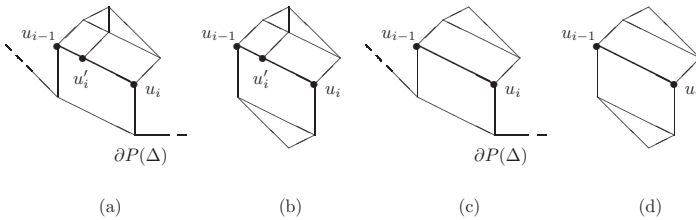

Figure 13. Subdivisions related to collinear cycles.

PROPOSITION 5.6: *For a balanced, nondegenerate multiset $\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$, integers $n_v > 0$, $n_e \geq 0$ such that $2n_v + n_e = |\Delta|$, $n = n_v + n_e$, and any generic vector $\overline{a} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$, we have*

$$\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_v, n_e)) = \sum_{S_{fin}} \mathrm{RB}_y(S_{fin}) + \sum_{S'_{fin}} \mathrm{RB}_y(S'_{fin}),$$

where S_{fin}, resp. S'_{fin}, run over all admissible subdivisions of the Newton polygon $P(\Delta)$ as described in the preceding part of Section 5.3, corresponding to irreducible tropical curves, and $\mathrm{RB}_y(S_{fin})$, $\mathrm{RB}_y(S'_{fin})$ are their refined weights.

Proof. The statement follows in the same way as [12, Theorem 2 in Section 7.2], where the subdivisions arising from lattice paths enumerate all plane trivalent tropical curves of a given degree and genus, passing through the given point

configuration. In our case, in the same manner, the subdivisions S_{fin} and S'_{fin} mentioned in the assertion of the theorem enumerate all trivalent elliptic curves $(\overline{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{p}, h) \in \mathcal{M}'_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ with $h(\boldsymbol{p}) = \boldsymbol{x}$ and all trivalent rational curves $(\overline{\Gamma}', \boldsymbol{p}, p, h') \in \mathcal{M}''_{0,(n_v-1,n_e+1)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$ with $h'(\boldsymbol{p}) = \boldsymbol{x}$ that appear in the right-hand side of (13). ∎

Example 5.7: The case of $\Delta = \{2 \times (-1,0), 3 \times (0,1), 2 \times (1,0), 3 \times (0-1)\}$ is one of the simplest, when the refined elliptic broccoli invariant is not constant. Here $n_e + 2n_v = |\Delta| = 10$, and the lattice path algorithm gives

$$\mathrm{RB}_y(\Delta, 1, (n_e, n_v)) = 2y + 16 - 2n_v + 2y^{-1}, \quad n_v = 0, \ldots, 5.$$

We also notice that the lattice path algorithm with the vector $\overline{a} = (1, \varepsilon)$, $0 < \varepsilon \ll 1$, counts only tropical curves in $\mathcal{M}'_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$, while the procedure with the vector $\overline{a} = (\varepsilon, 1)$ counts also tropical curves in $\mathcal{M}''_{1,(n_v,n_e)}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Delta)$.

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