Groups with quadratic-non-quadratic Dehn functions

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Abstract

We construct a finitely presented group \( G \) with non-quadratic Dehn function \( f \) majorizable by a quadratic function on arbitrary long intervals.

1 Introduction

Recall that the Dehn function of a finite presentation \( \langle X \mid R \rangle \) of a group \( G \) is the smallest function \( f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \) such that any word of length at most \( n \) in \( X \) that represents the identity of \( G \) is freely equal to a product of at most \( f(n) \) conjugates of elements of \( R \). The Dehn functions \( f_1, f_2 \) of any two finite presentations of the same group \( G \) are equivalent, that is \( f_2(n) \leq C f_1(Cn) + Cn + C \) for some constant \( C \). As usual, we do not distinguish equivalent functions. The Dehn function can also be defined as the smallest isoperimetric function of the presentation: that is the smallest function \( f(n) \) such that the area (i.e. the number of 2-cells) of a minimal van Kampen diagrams over \( \langle X \mid R \rangle \) having perimeter (i.e. the combinatorial length of the contour) at most \( n \) does not exceed \( f(n) \). The connections of the properties of Dehn functions, on the one hand, to the asymptotic geometry of groups and spaces, and, on the other hand, to the computational complexity of the algorithmic word problem, are discussed in [6], [1] and [8].

The class of increasing functions which, up to equivalence, can be represented as Dehn functions of groups is vast (see [11], [4], [3], [9]), but there is one gap in the scale of their rates: if a Dehn function of a group \( G \) is subquadratic, then it is linear, and so \( G \) is a word hyperbolic group [5], [7], [2].

The goal of this paper is to give an example of a group whose Dehn function is not majorized on \( \mathbb{N} \) by a quadratic function but is smaller than a quadratic function on arbitrary long intervals of natural numbers.

Theorem 1.1. Let \( \Psi(n) = n^2 \log' n / \log' \log' n \) where \( n \geq 0 \) and \( \log' n = \max(\log_2 n, 1) \). There is a finitely generated group \( G \) whose Dehn function \( f(n) \) satisfies the following properties:

1. \( c_1 n^2 \leq f(n) \leq c_2 \Psi(n) \) for some positive constants \( c_1, c_2 \) and all sufficiently large \( n \);
2. there is a sequence \( n_i \to \infty \) with \( f(n_i) \geq c_3 \Psi(n_i) \) for a positive \( c_3 \) and every \( n_i \);
3. there is a sequence \( n'_i \to \infty \) with \( f(n'_i) \leq c_4 (n'_i)^2 \) for a positive \( c_4 \) and every \( n'_i \);

Moreover:

4. there are sequences of positive numbers \( d_i \to \infty \) and \( \lambda_i \to \infty \) such that \( f(x) \leq c_4 x^2 \) for arbitrary integer \( x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} [\frac{d_i}{\lambda_i}, \lambda_i d_i] \);
5. there is a positive constant \( c_5 \) such that for every \( n_i \) defined in (2), and for every integer \( x \) with \( x \leq c_5 n_i \), we have \( f(x) \leq c_4 n_i^2 \), in particular, \( f(c_5 n_i)/f(n_i) \to 0 \).

The group \( G \) is a multiple HNN extension of a free group.

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It will be clear from the proof that the sequences \((n_i), (n'_i)\) and \((d_i)\) have double exponential growth. Notice that such sequences cannot grow as an ordinary exponential function (or slower), because any function \(f\), up to equivalence, is determined by its values \(f(a^i), i = 1, 2, \ldots\), if \(a > 1\).

The unusual almost quadratic behavior of the Dehn function, and especially the properties (4) and (5), lead in [10], to the solution of a well known problem about asymptotic cones of groups. Namely, property (4) guarantees that a cone defined by the scaling sequence \((4)\) and \((5)\), lead in [10], to the solution of a well known problem about asymptotic cones of groups. Namely, property (4) guarantees that a cone defined by the scaling sequence \((d_i)\) is simply connected, and property (5) implies that a cone defined by the sequence \(n_i\) is not simply connected. (See [10] for the details.)

To prove Theorem 1.1 we construct \(G\) as a special multiple HNN extension of a free groups, namely, an \(S\)-machine. Starting with [11], Sapir’s \(S\)-machines are applied to a number of group theoretical tasks. In Section 3, we recall the definition and basic property of an auxiliary adding machine \(Z(A)\) introduced in [9]. In a sense, the main machine \(M\) defined in Section 4, is composed from various copies of adding machines.

It is seen from the definition of \(M\) that given number \(n\), this machine can produce a computation \(W_0 → W_1 → \cdots → W_t\) such that the words \(W_0\) and \(W_t\) are of length \(n\), the maximal length of \(W_i\) is roughly \(\exp n\), and \(t\) is roughly \(\exp n\). The corresponding diagram \(\Delta\) for the conjugation of the words \(W_0\) and \(W_t\), has area roughly equal to \(t \log t\). One can obtain a diagram of area \(t^2 \log t / \log \log t\) and perimeter \(4t\) when gluing together \(t / \log \log t\) copies of \(\Delta\). This proofs the property (2) of Theorem 1.1.

To obtain the other inequalities, one has to strictly control what the non-deterministic machine \(M\) can do. (For example, the rules of ages (2) and (5) look useless for property (2) but we need them to prove the other properties.) The work of \(M\) is studied in Section 5. However one meets the primary difficulties when proceeding to the calculation of areas for arbitrary diagrams over the group \(G\). In Section 6, we refine the technique of [9], and the exposition heavily depends on [9]. The quadratic upper bound for the dispersion of a bipartite chord diagram introduced in [9], plays a key role here as well.

## 2 Adding machine \(Z(A)\)

Following [9], we treat \(S\)-machines as HNN extensions of a free group \(F(Q, Y)\) generated by two sets of letters \(Q = \cup_{i=1}^{N} Q_i\) and \(Y = \cup_{i=1}^{N-1} Y_i\) where \(Q_i\) are disjoint and non-empty (below we always assume that \(Y_N = Y_0 = \emptyset\)). The set \(Q\) is called the set of \(q\)-letters, the set \(Y\) is called the set of \(a\)-letters.

Instead of the set of stable letters we have a collection \(\Theta\) of \(N\)-tuples of \(\theta\)-letters. Elements of \(\Theta\) are called rules. The components of \(\theta\) are called brothers \(\theta_1, ..., \theta_N\).

With every \(\theta \in \Theta\), we associate two sequences of elements in \(F(Q ∪ Y)\): \(B(\theta) = [U_1, ..., U_N]\), \(T(\theta) = [V_1, ..., V_N]\), and a subsets \(Y_i(\theta) \subseteq Y_i\).

The generating set \(\mathcal{X}\) of the group \(S\) consists of all \(q\)-, \(a\)- and \(\theta\)-letters. The relations, under condition \(\theta_{N+1} = \theta_1\), are:

\[U_i \theta_{i+1} = \theta_i V_i, \quad i = 1, ..., s, \quad \theta_j a = a \theta_j \quad \text{for all } a \in Y_j(\theta) \quad (2.1)\]

Sometimes we will denote the rule \(\theta\) by \([U_1 → V_1, ..., U_N → V_N]\). This notation contains all the necessary information about the rule except for the sets \(Y_i(\theta)\). In most cases it will be clear what these sets are. By default \(Y_i(\theta) = Y_i\).

In this section we recall the definition and some properties of an auxiliary adding machine \(Z(A)\) introduced in [9].
Let $A$ be a finite set of letters. Let the set $A_1$ be a copy of $A$. It will be convenient to denote $A$ by $A_0$. For every letter $a \in A$ $a_0$ and $a_1$ denotes its copy in $A_0$ and $A_1$, respectively.

The set of state letters of $Z(A)$ is $\{L\} \cup \{p(1), p(2), p(3)\} \cup \{R\}$, i.e., there are 3 states for the $p$-letter, and the letters $L$ and $R$ do not change their states. The set of tape letters is $Y_1 \cup Y_2$ where $Y_1 = A_0 \cup A_1$ and $Y_2 = A_0$.

The machine $Z(A)$ has the following rules (there $a$ is an arbitrary letter from $A$) and their inverses. The comments explain the meanings of these rules.

- $r_1(a) = [L \to L, p(1) \to a_1^{-1}p(1)a_0, R \to R]$.

  *Comment.* The state letter $p(1)$ moves left searching for a letter from $A_0$ and replacing letters from $A_1$ by their copies in $A_0$.

- $r_{12}(a) = [L \to L, p(1) \to a_0^{-1}a_1p(2), R \to R]$.

  *Comment.* When the first letter $a_0$ of $A_0$ is found, it is replaced by $a_1$, and $p$ turns into $p(2)$.

- $r_2(a) = [L \to L, p(2) \to a_0p(2)a_0^{-1}, R \to R]$.

  *Comment.* The state letter $p(2)$ moves toward $R$.

- $r_{21} = [L \to L, p(2) \xrightarrow{i} p(1), R \to R], Y_1(r_{21}) = Y_1, Y_2(r_{21}) = \emptyset$.

  *Comment.* $p(2)$ and $R$ meet, the cycle starts again.

- $r_{13} = [L \xrightarrow{i} L, p(1) \to p(3), R \to R], Y_1(r_{13}) = \emptyset, Y_2(r_{13}) = A_0$.

  *Comment.* If $p(1)$ never finds a letter from $A_0$, the cycle ends, $p(1)$ turns into $p(3)$; $p$ and $L$ must stay next to each other in order for this rule to be executable.

- $r_3(a) = [L \to L, p(3) \to a_0p(3)a_0^{-1}, R \to R], Y_1(r_3(a)) = Y_2(r_3(a)) = A_0$.

  *Comment.* The letter $r_3$ returns to $R$.

**Remark 2.1.** If we replace every letter in $A_i$ by its index $i$, then every word $u$ in the alphabet $A_0 \cup A_1$ turns into a binary number $b(u)$. If the machine starts with the word $Lup(1)R$ where $u$ is a positive word in $A_0$, then $b(u) = 0$ and each ’regular’ cycle of the machine adds 1 to $b(u)$ modulo $2^{|u|}$. After $2^{|u|}$ we obtain $Lup(3)R$.

For every letter $a \in A$ we set $r_i(a^{-1}) = r_i(a)^{-1} (i = 1, 2, 3)$.

**Remark 2.2.** All the rules of machine $Z(A)$ are transformed into relations by formulas 2.1, and so $Z(A)$ can also be considered as a group. However, as in [9], we will use diagram and machine concepts in our proofs. All of them can be found in [9]: reduced diagrams, bands in diagrams, trapezia, their heights, bases and histories; admissible words, computation $W = W_0 \to \theta_1 W_1 \to \theta_2 \cdots \to \theta_t W_t = f \cdot W$ with history $f = \theta_1 \theta_2 \cdots \theta_t$ determined by a trapezia, the width and area of a computation.
Proof. This assertion is proved in \([9]\), Lemma 2.25 and Remark 2.19.

**Lemma 2.3.** Suppose (1) \(\text{base}(W) \in \{LpR, p^{-1}pR\}\), both \(W\) and \(f \cdot W\) contain \(p(1)R\) (resp. \(p(3)R\)) or (2) \(\text{base}(W)\) is \(p^{-1}pR\) and both \(W\) and \(f \cdot W\) contain \(p(1)R\) or \(p(3)R\). Assume that all \(a\)-letters in \(W\) and in \(f \cdot W\) are from \(A_0\) in both cases. Then \(f\) is empty.

*Proof.* In case (1), the assertion is proved in \([9]\), Lemma 2.27. It remains to consider case (2) where \(W\) contains \(p(1)\) but \(f \cdot W\) contains \(p(3)\). But this is impossible since the \(p\)-letter cannot change state from \(p(1)\) to \(p(3)\) when its left neighbor in the base differs from \(L\). (See the definition of the rule \(r_{13}\)).

**Lemma 2.4.** Let \(W = LvpupR\), \(\text{base}(W) = LpR\). Suppose that \(|\theta \cdot W| > |W|\). Then for every computation \(\theta \rightarrow W_1 \rightarrow W_2 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow f \cdot W\), we have \(|W_i| > |W|\) for every \(i \geq 1\).

*Proof.* This assertion is proved in \([9]\), Lemma 2.24.

**Lemma 2.5.** Suppose that an admissible word \(W\) has the form \(LvpuvR\) (resp. \(p^{-1}upvR\) or \(Lvpup^{-1}\)) where \(u, v\) are words in \((A_0 \cup A_1)^{\pm 1}\). Let \(\theta \cdot W = Lu'p'v'R\) (resp. \(\theta \cdot W = (p')^{-1}u'p'vR\) or \(\theta \cdot W = Lv'p'u'p^{-1}\)). Then the projections of \(uv\) and \(u'v'\) (resp. \(v^{-1}uv\) and \((v')^{-1}u'v'\), or \(uv^{-1}\) and \(v'u'(v')^{-1}\)) onto \(A\) are freely equal.

*Proof.* This assertion is proved in \([9]\), Lemma 2.18.

**Lemma 2.6.** Suppose that one of the following conditions for an admissible word \(W\) of \(Z(A)\) is satisfied (there \(p = \{p(1), p(2), p(3)\}\)):\(W\) does not contain a \(p\)-letter or \(\text{base}(W) = Lpp^{-1}\), or \(\text{base}(W) = pp^{-1}p\), or \(\text{base}(W) = p^{-1}pR\), or \(\text{base}(W) = LpR\). Then the width of any computation

\[
W = W_0 \rightarrow_{\theta_0} W_1 \rightarrow_{\theta_1} \cdots \rightarrow_{\theta_t} W_t
\]

is at most \(C \max(|W|, |W_t|)\) for some constant \(C\).

*Proof.* This assertion is proved in \([9]\), Lemma 2.29.

**Lemma 2.7.** Let \(\text{base}(W) = LpR\). Then for every computation \(W = W_0 \rightarrow W_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow W_t = f \cdot W\) of the \(S\)-machine \(Z(A)\):

1. \(|W_i| \leq \max(|W|, |f \cdot W|), i = 0, \ldots, t,\)

2. If \(W = LpR\) where \(p = p(1)\) (resp. \(p = p(3)\)), \(f \cdot W\) contains \(p(3)R\) (resp. \(p(1)R\)) and all \(a\)-letters in \(W, f \cdot W\) are from \(A_0^{\pm 1}\), then the length \(g(|u|)\) of \(f\) is between \(2|u|\) and \(6 \cdot 2|u|\), \(u\) is a positive word, and all words in the computation have the same length. Vice versa, for every positive word \(u\), such a computation does exist.

*Proof.* This assertion is proved in \([9]\), Lemma 2.25 and Remark 2.19.

**Lemma 2.8.** For every admissible word \(W\) with \(\text{base}(W) = LpR\), every rule \(\theta\) applicable to \(W\), and every natural number \(t > 1\), there is at most one computation \(W \rightarrow_{\theta} W_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow W_t\) of length \(t\) where the lengths of the words are all the same.

*Proof.* This assertion is proved in \([9]\), Lemma 2.21.
3 How machine $\mathcal{M}$ works

In this section, we introduce the machine $\mathcal{M}$ defining our group $G$.

We set $N = 5$ and $\mathcal{Q} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{5} \mathcal{Q}_i$. Here $\mathcal{Q}_6 = \mathcal{Q}_1 = \{k_0\}$, $\mathcal{Q}_3 = \{k_1\}$, $\mathcal{Q}_5 = \{k_2\}$, $\mathcal{Q}_2$ is of the form $\{q_1^*(*)\}$, $\mathcal{Q}_4$ is of the form $\{q_2^*(*)\}$, where the stars * and (⋆) will be replaced by particular indices below. The set of rules of machine $\mathcal{M}$ will be partitioned in several ages.

Consider the machine $Z(\{a\})$ for a 1-letter alphabet $\{a\}$. Let $\Upsilon$ be the set of its rules. We introduce letters $a_r \in A(\Upsilon)$ for every $r \in \Upsilon$. Then we have two copies $A(\Upsilon)_0$ and $A(\Upsilon)_1$ of this alphabet. Let $Y = \bigcup_{i=1}^{5} Y_i$ where $Y_1 = \{a_0 \} \cup \{a_1\}$, $Y_2 = \{a_0\}$, $Y_3 = A(\Upsilon)_0$, $Y_4 = A(\Upsilon)_0 \cup A(\Upsilon)_1$.

**Age(1)** We correspond to every rule $\tau$ of $Z(A)$, a rule $\tau^1$ of age (1) of the machine $\mathcal{M}$. For example, for $\tau = r_1(a)$, we have

$$r_1(a)^1 = [k_0 \rightarrow k_0, q_1(1)^1 \rightarrow a_1^{-1}q_1(1)^1a_0, k_1 \rightarrow k_1, q_2^1 \rightarrow a_{r_1(a)}q_2^1, k_2 \rightarrow k_2]$$

with $Y_3(r_1(a)^1) = A(\Upsilon)_0, Y_4(r_1(a)^1) = \emptyset$

**Comment.** Now the machine $Z(\{a\})$ works with letters $L, p, R$ replaced by $k_0, q_1, k_1$. At the same time it writes the history of its work in alphabet $A(\Upsilon)_0$ on the tape between the heads $k_1$ and $q_2$. For example, it can start working with a word $k_0a_0^0q_1(1)^1k_1q_2^1k_2$ and finish 'adding' with $k_0a_0^0q_1(3)^1k_1uq_2^2k_2$ where $u$ is the history $f$ of such a computation copied in the alphabet $A(\Upsilon)$. The length of the positive word $u$ is $g(n)$ (see Lemma 2.7).

**Age(2)** The only connecting rule to the age (2) is

$$r_2^{12} = [k_0 \rightarrow k_0, q_1(3)^1 \rightarrow q_1(3)^2, k_1 \rightarrow k_1, q_2^1 \rightarrow q_2^2, k_2 \rightarrow k_2]$$

with $Y_1(r_2^{12}) = \{a_0\}, Y_2(r_2^{12}) = \emptyset, Y_3(r_2^{12}) = A(\Upsilon)_0, Y_4(r_2^{12}) = \emptyset$

**Comment.** This rule changes the states of the heads $q_1, q_2$ making possible the applications of rules of age (2). It is applicable under the restrictions imposed on the sets $Y_i(r_2^{12})$ above.

**Age(2)** Again, we correspond to every rule $\tau$ of machine $Z(\{a\})$ a rule $\tau^2$ of age (2) of machine $\mathcal{M}$. For example, for $\tau = r_1(a)$, we define

$$r_1(a)^2 = [k_0 \rightarrow k_0, q_1(1)^2 \rightarrow a_1^{-1}q_1(1)^1a_0, k_1 \rightarrow k_1, q_2^1 \rightarrow a_{r_1(a)}q_2^1a_{r_1(a)}^{-1}, k_2 \rightarrow k_2]$$

with $Y_3(r_1(a)^2) = Y_4(r_1(a)^2) = A(\Upsilon)_0$

**Comment.** The work of $\mathcal{M}$ is similar to that in age (1). But now the head $q_2$ runs to the left. For example, it can start working with the word $k_0a_0^0q_1(3)^2k_1uq_2^2k_2$ (see Comment to Age (1)), then it can simulate the computation of $Z(A)$ with history $f^{-1}$ and finish 'adding' with $k_0a_0^0q_1(1)^2k_1uq_2^2k_2$. We show and use that such a smooth work between applications of rules of ages (12) and (23) is possible only when the word $u$ has length $g(n)$ for some $n$.

**Age(23)** The connecting rule to the age (3) is

$$r_2^{23} = [k_0 \rightarrow k_0, q_1(1)^2 \rightarrow q_1^3, k_1 \rightarrow k_1, q_2^1 \rightarrow q_2(1)^3, k_2 \rightarrow k_2]$$

with $Y_1(r_2^{23}) = \{a_0\}, Y_2(r_2^{23}) = \emptyset, Y_3(r_2^{23}) = \emptyset, Y_4(r_2^{23}) = A(\Upsilon)_0$. 

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Comment. The role of this rule is similar to that of \( r^{12} \).

**Age** (3) Here we use the machine \( Z(A(\Upsilon), \text{mir}) \). To every rule \( \tau \) of \( Z(A(\Upsilon), \text{mir}) \), we correspond a rule \( r^3 \) of age (3) for the machine \( \mathcal{M} \). For example, for \( \tau = r_1(a) \ (a \in A(\Upsilon)) \) we have

\[
r_1(a)^3 = [k_0 \rightarrow k_0, q_1^3 \rightarrow q_1^3, k_1 \rightarrow k_1, q_2(1)^3 \rightarrow a_0q_2(1)^3a_1^{-1}, k_2 \rightarrow k_2]
\]

with \( Y_1(r_1(a)^3) = A(\Upsilon)_0 \), \( Y_2(r_1(a)^3) = \emptyset \), \( Y_3(r_1(a)^3) = A(\Upsilon)_0 \).

**Comment.** The machine \( Z(A(\Upsilon), \text{mir}) \) works now with heads \( L, p, R \) replaced by \( k_1, q_2, k_2 \). The head \( q_1 \) stays by \( k_2 \), and the piece of tape between \( k_1 \) and \( q_1 \) is unchanged. For example, it can start working with \( k_0a_0^nq_1^3k_1q_2(1)^3uk_2 \) where \( u \) is a reduced word of length \( g(n) \) in the alphabet \( A(\Upsilon) \), and finish 'adding' with \( k_0a_0^nq_1^3k_1q_2(3)^3uk_2 \) after application of \( g(g(n)) \) rules (double exponential in \( n \) time by Lemma 2.7).

**Age** (34) The connecting rule of age (34) is

\[
r^{34} = [k_0 \rightarrow k_0, q_1^4 \rightarrow q_1^4, k_1 \rightarrow k_1, q_2(3)^3 \rightarrow q_2(3)^4, k_2 \rightarrow k_2]
\]

with \( Y_1(r^{34}) = \{a_0\}, Y_2(r^{34}) = \emptyset \), \( Y_3(r^{34}) = \emptyset \), \( Y_4(r^{34}) = A(\Upsilon)_0 \).

**Ages** (4), (45), (5), (56), (6). The rules of ages (4), (5), and (6) are similar to the rules of ages (3), (2) and (1), respectively, up to the superscripts at \( r \)- and \( q\)-letters: we replace 1 by 6, 2 by 5, and 3 by 4. The connecting rule of ages (45) and (56) are, respectively,

\[
r^{45} = [k_0 \rightarrow k_0, q_1^4 \rightarrow q_1^5, k_1 \rightarrow k_1, q_2(1)^4 \rightarrow q_2^5, k_2 \rightarrow k_2]
\]

with \( Y_1(r^{45}) = \{a_0\}, Y_2(r^{45}) = \emptyset \), \( Y_3(r^{45}) = \emptyset \), \( Y_4(r^{45}) = A(\Upsilon)_0 \),

and

\[
r^{56} = [k_0 \rightarrow k_0, q_1(3)^5 \rightarrow q_1(3)^6, k_1 \rightarrow k_1, q_2^6 \rightarrow q_2^6, k_2 \rightarrow k_2]
\]

with \( Y_1(r^{56}) = \{a_0\}, Y_2(r^{56}) = \emptyset \), \( Y_3(r^{56}) = A(\Upsilon)_0 \), \( Y_4(r^{56}) = \emptyset \).

**Comment.** Let us start with the word \( k_0a_0^0q_1^3k_1q_2(3)^3uk_2 \). (See Comment to Age (3).) Then consecutive applications of rules of ages (34), (4), (45), (5), (56) and (6) can transform it as follows: \( \rightarrow k_0a_0^0q_1^4k_1q_2(3)^4uk_2 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow k_0a_0^0q_1^4k_1q_2(1)^4uk_2 \rightarrow k_0a_0^0q_1(1)^5k_1q_2^5uk_2 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow k_0a_0^0q_1(1)^5k_1q_2^5k_2 \rightarrow k_0a_0^0q_1(3)^6k_1q_2^6k_2 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow k_0a_0^0q_1(1)^6k_1q_2^6k_2 \). The computation \( k_0a_0^0q_1(1)^5k_2^5k_2 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow k_0a_0^0q_1(1)^6k_1q_2^6k_2 \) we have considered as an example in the comments to the definition of machine \( \mathcal{M} \), has an exponential width in \( n \) and double exponential length of the history.

As it was explained in the previous section, the machine \( \mathcal{M} \) defines the group \( G = G(\mathcal{M}) \). (See (2.1).)

If the history \( h \) of a computation is a product \( h_1h_2 \ldots h_s \), where, for every subword \( h_i \), each of its letter has the same age \( \{j_i \ (j_i \in \{(1), (12), \ldots, (56), (6)\}) \) and \( j_i \neq j_{i+1} \) for \( i = 1, \ldots, s-1 \), then we say that this computation has brief history \( \{j_1\}(j_2) \ldots (j_s) \).

Since a history \( h \) is always a reduced word, it cannot contain subwords of the form \( \tau \tau^{-1} \). If \( \tau \) is a connecting rule, and the computation base has at least one \( q \)-letter, the \( h \) has no
subwords $\tau_i^2$, since every connecting rule changes the states of $q$ letters. For the same reason, a brief history of such a computation (with a $q$-letter in the base) cannot be of the form (1)(3) or (6)(1), or (3)(34)(3), etc.

We call a computation $W_0 \to W_1 \to \ldots W_i$ long if the brief history of this computation or of the inverse computation has a subword equal to (1)(12)(2) ... (56)(6). Otherwise it is short.

4 \ $M$-computations with various bases and histories

Denote by $A$ the alphabet of all $a$-letters $\{a_0^{\pm 1}, a_1^{\pm 1}\} \cup A(\Upsilon)_0^{\pm 1} \cup A(\Upsilon)_1^{\pm 1}$. The length of a word $W$ we denote by $|W|$, and the $a$-width $|W|_a$ of $W$ is the number of $a$-letters in $W$. The width $||W||$ of an admissible word of the form $q^{-1}uqvk$ and $kvquq^{-1}$ where $u$ and $v$ are words in $A$, is defined as $3 + |u| + 2|v|$, and $||W|| = |W|$ for all other words by definition.

We say that a reduced computation is regular if the applications of its rules do not change the width. An application of a rule $W \to W'$ increases the width of $W$ if the word $W'$ is longer than $W$. Then the application of the inverse rule to $W'$ decreases the width.

Lemma 4.1. Let $W_0 \to \rho_1 \ldots \to \rho_l W_l$ be a computation with base $k_1q_2k_2$. Assume that all the rules $\rho_1, \ldots, \rho_l$ are of age (1) or (6) (of age (2), or (5)). Then there is an integer $d$, $0 \le d \le l$, such that the applications of $\rho_1, \ldots, \rho_d$ decrease (do not increase) the widths of words $W_0, \ldots, W_{d-1}$, and the applications of $\rho_{d+1}, \ldots, \rho_l$ increase (do not decrease) the widths of $W_d, \ldots, W_{l-1}$.

Proof. Assume that an application of a rule $\rho_i$ of age (1) increases the width of $W_{i-1} = k_1wq_2k_2$, and $i < l$. Then $W_i = k_1waq_2k_2$ with a reduced word $wa$, $a \in A(\Upsilon)^{\pm 1}_0$. Since the history of a computation is reduced, we have $\rho_{i+1} \neq \rho_i^{-1}$, and so the application of $\rho_{i+1}$ must also increase the width of $W_i$ as this follows from the definition of the rules of age (1). The lemma statement follows from this observation. The proofs of the assertion for rules of ages (6), (2) and (5), are similar.

Lemma 4.2. Let the history of a computation be $\eta h \eta^{-1}$, where $\eta$ is a connecting rule and $h$ has no connecting rules. Assume that the base of this computation has one of the forms $kqk^{-1}$, $qq^{-1}q$, $kq$, $q^{-1}kq$. Then the base is $q^{-1}qk$ or $kqk$, and if $q = q_1$, then rules of $h$ have age (3) or (4), and if $q = q_2$, then rules of $h$ have age (1) or (6).

Proof. No connecting rule is applicable to a word $quq^{-1}vq$ where $u$ and $v$ are $a$-words.

Now we assume that the base is $kqk$ and the age of $h$ is not (3) or (4). Then the equality $q = q_1$ is impossible by Lemma 2.3. Similarly, $h$ cannot be of age (3) or (4) if $q = q_2$. The assumption that the history $h$ is of age (2) or (5) and the base is $k_1q_2k_2$ leads to a contradiction since $h$ is reduced, and a connecting rule $\rho$ is applicable when $Y_4(\rho) = \emptyset$. Lemma 2.3 also works for bases $kq^{-1}$, $q^{-1}kq$ if a connecting rule is applicable to a word having such a base.

Lemma 4.3. Let the base of a computation $W_0 \to W_1 \to \ldots W_t$ have one of the forms $kqk^{-1}$, $k^{-1}k$, $qq^{-1}q$, $kqk$, $q^{-1}kq$, $kk^{-1}$, or $k_1k_2$. Then

(1) all applications of the rules are regular if the first and the last rules are both connecting rules and there are no subwords (12)(1)(12) and (56)(6)(56) in the brief history; there are no such subwords if the base contains $q = q_1$;

(2) if there is an application $W_{i-1} \to W_i$ of a connecting rule in the computation and there are no letter $q_2$ in the base or there are no rules of ages (1) and (6) in the history, then $||W_i|| \le ||W_s||$ for arbitrary $s \in \{0, 1, \ldots, t\}$.
Proof. (1) We may exclude cases $kk^{-1}$, $k^{-1}k$ and $k_{2}k_{0}$ since they are trivial: $||W_{0}|| = ||W_{1}|| = \ldots$. Then we may assume that the only connecting rules are the first one and the last one. The remaining rules must be of the same age, say $(l)$ where $l \in \{2,3,4,5\}$. (If, for example, $l = 1$, then there must be a subword $(12)(1)(12)$ in the brief history, and $q = q_{2}$ by Lemma 4.2.) The $a$-letters of both $W_{0}$ and $W_{1}$ must belong to $\{a_{0}^{\pm 1}\}$ or to $A(\Upsilon)^{0,1}$.

Assume the base is $kqk$. It is easy to see that the applications of rules do not change the projection of a word onto the subalphabet $A_{0}$ since neither of the rules are of age (1) or (6). It follows that $||W_{0}|| = ||W_{1}||$ and $||W_{i}|| \geq ||W_{0}||$ for $i = 1, \ldots, t - 1$. We notice now that no rule application is increasing by Lemma 2.4, if the age $(l)$ is (2) or (5) and the base is $k_{0}q_{2}k_{1}$, or $l = 3,4$ and the base is $k_{1}q_{1}k_{2}$ (i.e., a copy of machine $Z(\{a\})$ or machine $Z(A(\Upsilon),mir)$ works). In other cases, the assertion follows from Lemma 4.1 since $||W_{0}|| = ||W_{i}||$.

Let the base be $kqq^{-1}$. Then the connecting rules (12) and (56) are not applicable, and one may assume by the symmetry that $l = 3$. The mirror version of Lemma 2.3 makes this case impossible if $q = q_{2}$. Otherwise we just have $W_{0} = W_{1} = \ldots$

Similar arguments work for the bases $q^{-1}qk$ and $qq^{-1}q$.

(2) Let $W_{s} = k_{0}u_{s}q_{1}v_{s}k_{1}$. The reduced form of the projections of $u_{s}v_{s}$ on the alphabet $A_{0}$ do not depend on $s$ by Lemma 2.5. But $u_{s}v_{1}$ is a reduced word in $A_{0}$ since one of the factors is empty (recall that $W_{i}$ is the result of an application of a connecting rule). Hence $||W_{s}|| \geq ||W_{i}||$.

The argument is similar if $q = q_{2}$ and there are no rules of ages (1) and (6) in the history.

Again, the base cannot be equal to $qq^{-1}q$, and the statement is obvious for bases $kk^{-1},k^{-1}k$ and $k_{2}k_{0}$. Then we may assume by part (1), that $i = 1$, the history is $\eta h$ where $\eta$ is a connecting rule and $h$ has no connecting rules.

Assume, for example, that the base is $q_{1}^{-1}q_{1}k_{1}$, the rule $\eta$ is of age (12) or (23) ((45), or (56)) and $h$ is of age (2) (of age (5)). Let $W_{s} = q_{1}^{-1}u_{s}q_{1}v_{s}k_{1}$. Then the reduced forms of the projections of $v_{s}^{-1}u_{s}v_{s}$ on the alphabet $A_{0}$ do not depend on $s$ by Lemma 2.5. Since $u_{1}$ is a word in $A_{0}$ and $v_{1}$ is empty (recall that $\eta$ is a connecting rule of age (12) or (23)), we have

$$||W_{s}|| = 3 + |u_{s}| + 2|v_{s}| \geq 3 + |v_{s}^{-1}u_{s}v_{s}| \geq 3 + |u_{1}| = ||W_{1}||$$

as desired. If $h$ is of age (3) or (4), then obviously $||W_{0}|| = ||W_{1}|| = \ldots$.

Similar arguments work for $q = q_{2}$ and also for bases of the form $kqq^{-1}$. The lemma is proved.

Lemma 4.4. Let the base of a computation $W_{0} \rightarrow W_{1} \rightarrow \ldots \rightarrow W_{t}$ be one of the forms $kqq^{-1}$, $k^{-1}k$, $qq^{-1}q$, $kkk$, $q^{-1}qk$, $kk^{-1}$. Then

(1) if the history of the computation contains both connecting rules $r^{12}$ and $r^{23}$ (or their inverses), then the base has the form $kqk$;

(2) if $q = q_{1}$ or the computation is short, then $|W_{i}| \leq c \max(|W_{0}|,|W_{i}|)$ for some constant $c$ independent of the computation.

Proof. (1) The connecting rule $r^{12}$ is not applicable whenever $kqq^{-1}$ is the base.

We have $q = q_{1}$ if the base is $q^{-1}qk$, since otherwise $r^{23}$ is not applicable. But after the application of $r^{12}$, the state of the $q$-letters is $q_{1}(3)^{2}$, and before the rule $r^{23}$ is applied, the state must be $q_{1}(1)^{2}$. But the state $q_{1}(1)^{2}$ cannot be reached since the base has a subword $q_{1}^{-1}q_{1}$ (but not $k_{0}q_{1}$), a contradiction.

Similarly, the bases of forms $k^{-1}k$, $qq^{-1}q$, $kqq^{-1}$, and $kk^{-1}$ can be eliminated.

(2) We can assume that there is a $q$-letter in the base since otherwise the assertion is obvious. Let $h = \rho_{0} \ldots \rho_{t}$ be the computation history, and $\rho_{i_{1}}, \ldots, \rho_{i_{l}}$ all connecting rules in this computation.
For \( l = 0 \), the assertion follows from Lemma 2.6 if the age and the base are similar to those for machines \( Z(\{a\}) \) or \( Z(\Upsilon), \mir \). Otherwise it either obvious or follows from Lemma 4.1.

Let \( l \geq 1 \). Then denote by \( h_0, h_1, \ldots, h_l \) the subwords of \( h \) such that \( h_j \) starts with \( \rho_{i_j} \) (with \( \rho_0 \) for \( j = 0 \)) and terminates with \( \rho_{j+1} \) (with \( \rho_j \) for \( j = l \)).

First assume that either \( q = q_1 \) or \( h_0 \) has no rules of age (1) or (6). Then by Lemma 4.3(1), we have that \(|W_{i-1}| = |W_i| = |W_s|\) for \( i_1 - 1 \leq s \leq i_l \), and by Lemma 4.3(2), \(|W_0| \geq |W_{i-1}| = |W_i|\). Therefore this case is reduced to the statement for the subcomputations \( W_0 \to \ldots \to W_{i-1} \) and \( W_{is} \to \ldots \to W_l \) having no connecting rules in the histories. The case where \( h_l \) has no rules of age (1) or (6) is similar.

Thus, it remains to eliminate the case: \( l \geq 1 \), \( q = q_2 \), \( h_0 \) contains rules of age (1) or (6), and similarly \( h_l \) does. Therefore \( l > 1 \), and we may assume that \( h_0 \) contains a rule of age (1). Then \( \rho_1 = (12) \), and it follows from Lemma 4.2 that \( \rho_{i_2} = (23) \). Then the base is \( k_2q_2k \) by part (1) of the lemma. Now applying Lemma 4.2 several times, we have that \( \rho_{i_3} = (34) \), \( \rho_{i_4} = (45) \), \( \rho_{i_5} = (56) \), \( l = 5 \), and the computation is long against the lemma condition.

\[ \square \]

**Lemma 4.5.** Let \( W_0 \to W_1 \to \ldots \to W_l \) be a long computation with base \( k_0q_1k_1q_2k_2 \) or \( k_1q_2k_0q_1k_1 \), or \( k_2k_0q_1k_1q_2k_2 \). Then for every \( W_i \), where \( 1 \leq i \leq l \), we have \(|W_i|_a \leq \max(|W_1|_a, |W_l|_a, 2^{l+1})\).

If \( k_0q_1 \) is a subword of \( W_0 \) with \(|u| = n \), and a subcomputation \( W_l \to W_{i+1} \to \ldots \to W_m \) starts (ends) with an application of the rule (12) (the rule (56)), then \( m - l = (5 + 2g(n) + 2g(g(n))) \) for some integer \( n \), and the \( a \)-width of this subcomputation is \( n + g(n) \). The \( a \)-widths of the restrictions of this subcomputation to bases \( k_0q_1k_2 \) and \( k_1q_2k_2 \) are \( n \) and \( g(n) \), respectively.

**Proof.** We will assume that the base is \( k_0q_1k_1q_2k_2 \). By Lemma 4.3 (1), there are no subwords (12)(12) and (56)(56) in the brief history \( B \) of the computation, and so \( B = (1)(12) \ldots (56)(6) \).

Denote by \( W'_i \) and \( W''_i \), respectively, the prefix (the suffix) of \( W_i \) ending (starting) with \( k_1 \). Then \(|W'_i| \leq \max(|W'_0|, |W'_l|)\) for \( 0 \leq i \leq l \), by Lemma 2.7, and \(|W''_i| \leq |W''_0|\) by Lemma 4.3 (2).

Also we have \(|W''_i| \leq \max(|W'_0|, |W''_l|)\) by Lemma 4.1.

Then \(|W_i| = |W'_i| = |W''_m|\) for \( l \leq i \leq m \) by Lemma 4.3 (1), and \( t \geq g(|v|_a) \geq 2^{|v|_a} \) by Lemma 2.7 for the subcomputation of age (3), where \( v \) is any of the words read between \( k_1 \) and \( k_2 \) in age (3). Similarly, when considering the maximal subcomputation of age (2), we have by lemmas 4.3 and 2.7, \(|v|_a = g(|u|) = g(n) \geq 2^n \). Hence, for \( l \leq i \leq m \), we have \(|W_i|_a \leq n + |v| < \log_2 \log_2 t + \log_2 (4t) \leq \log_2 t \). For \( i < l \), \(|W_i|_a = |W''_i|_a \leq \max(|W'_0|_a, |W''_l|_a) \leq \max(|W_0|_a, |W_0|_a, 2\log_2 t) \) since there is a similar estimate in case \( i \geq m \), the desired upper bound for \(|W_i|_a\) is obtained for all \( i \).

The equality \( m - l = (5 + 2g(n) + 2g(g(n))) \) follows from lemmas 2.8 and 2.7 since there are 5 connecting rules in the subcomputation.

\[ \square \]

**Lemma 4.6.** Let \( W_0 \to W_1 \to \ldots \to W_l \) be a computation with base \( k_0q_1k_1q_2k_2 \) or \( k_1q_2k_0q_1k_1 \), or \( k_2k_0q_1k_1q_2k_2 \). Assume that \( 10g(g(n-1)) \leq t \leq g(g(n)) \) for some integer \( n \). Then the area of the corresponding trapezium \( \Delta \) does not exceed \( 2Ct(|W_0|_a + |W'_1|_a) \) for a constant \( C \) independent of the computation.

**Proof.** If the computation is short, then the statement follows from Lemma 4.4 applied to the restrictions of the computation to subbases \( k_0q_1k_1 \) and \( k_1q_2k_2 \). Therefore as in the proof of Lemma 4.5, one may suppose that the brief history of the computation is \( (1)(12) \ldots (6) \).
We denote by $T_i$ the $i$-th $\theta$-band of $\Delta$. Observe that at most four $(\theta,a)$-cells of $T_i$ can be attached to its $(\theta,a)$-cells along $a$-edges. Hence the number of cells in $T_i$ does not exceed $4 + 6 + |W_i| = 10 + |W_i|$ because $T$ has at most six $k$- and $q$-cells.

Let the application of rules (12) and (56) be the $l$-th and the $m$-th, respectively, in the history $\rho_1 \ldots \rho_l$. Then $\Delta$ is the union of at least three subtrapezia $\Delta_1$, $\Delta_2$ and $\Delta_3$ which correspond to subwords $\rho_1 \ldots \rho_l$, $\rho_1 \ldots \rho_m$, and $\rho_m \ldots \rho_l$, respectively. By Lemma 4.5, there is an integer $r$ such that $m - l = 5 + 2g(r) + 2g(g(r))$, and $r < n$ since $m - l \leq t < g(g(n))$. Also, by Lemma 4.5, $|W_i|_a \leq r + g(r)$ for $l \leq i \leq m$. Using the observation of the previous paragraph, we see that the area of $\Delta_2$ does not exceed $(10 + r + g(r))(5 + 2g(r) + 2g(g(r)))$.

Consider the restriction of the subcomputation with subhistory $\rho_1 \cdots \rho_l$ to the subbase $k_1q_2k_2$. By Lemma 4.1, there is an integer $d$, $0 \leq d \leq l$, such that the applications of $\rho_1, \ldots, \rho_d$ decrease the $a$-widths of the suffixes $V_{i-1} = k_1 \ldots k_2$ of subwords $W_{i-1}$, and the applications of $\rho_{d+1}, \ldots, \rho_l$ increase them. But $|W_i|_a = g(r)$ by Lemma 4.5, and therefore $l - d \leq g(r)$.

Let $\Delta_{11}$ and $\Delta_{12}$ be the subtrapezia of $\Delta_1$ of heights $d$ and $l - d$, respectively. It follows from Lemma 4.5 that the $a$-width of $\Delta_{12}$ does not exceed $r + g(r)$, and therefore its area does not exceed $(10 + r + g(r))g(r)$ since its height is not greater than $g(r)$.

The $a$-width of $\Delta_{11}$ is not greater than $3l + r + g(r)$ because a single application of a rule changes the $a$-width of a word with base $k_0q_1k_1q_2k_2$ at most by 3. Thus the area of $\Delta_{11}$ does not exceed $l(10 + 3l + r + g(r))$. Therefore the area of $\Delta_1$ is not greater than $(10 + r + g(r))g(r) + l(10 + 3l + r + g(r))$. Similarly, the area of $\Delta_3$ is bounded from above by $(10 + r + g(r))g(r) + (l - m)(10 + 3(t - m) + r + g(r))$. Thus the area of $\Delta$ is at most $100g(g(r))g(r) + 100t(g(r)) + 3t^2$.

It follows from the definition of $\Delta_{11}$ that $|W|_a \geq d$. Also recall that $d \geq l - g(r)$. Hence $|W_i|_a + |W_i|_a$ is at least

$$l - g(r) + (t - m) - g(r) = t - (m - l) - 2g(r) = t - (5 + 2g(r) + 2g(g(r))) - 2g(r) > \max(t/3, g(g(r)))$$

by the choice of $t$ and by inequality $r \leq n - 1$. Therefore the area of $\Delta$ is not greater than $Ct(|W_i|_a + |W_i|_a)$ for a constant $C$ independent of the computation. 

**Lemma 4.7.** Let $W_0 \rightarrow W_1 \rightarrow \ldots \rightarrow W_t$ be a long computation with base $k_0q_1k_1q_2k_2$ or $k_1q_2k_2k_0q_1k_1$, or $k_2k_0q_1k_1q_2k_2$. Then $|W_i|_a + |W_i|_a + 1 \geq c_0 \log^3 \log^t$ for a positive constant $c_0$.

**Proof.** We will use the notation of Lemma 4.6. To proof the statement, it suffices to assume that $d = 0$ because, by Lemma 2.7 (2), the applications of $\rho_1, \ldots, \rho_d$ cannot increase the lengths of subwords $k_0 \ldots k_1$ of the words $W_i$ since the rules of age (1) follows by a connecting rule in the whole computation; and they decrease the lengths of subwords of the form $k_1 \ldots k_2$. Similar assumption is applicable to $W_m \rightarrow W_{m+1} \rightarrow \ldots \rightarrow W_t$. Then $l = l - d \leq g(r)$ and $t - m \leq g(r)$ as in the proof of Lemma 4.6. Hence $t \leq 5 + 2g(r) + 2g(g(r)) + 2g(r)$.

On the other hand, by Lemma 3.3 (2) restricted to the base $k_0q_1k_1$, we have $|W_0|_a, |W_t|_a \geq r$. To finalize the proof, it suffices to note that, by Lemma 2.7, there exists a positive $c_0$ such that $c_0 \log^3 \log^t(5 + 4g(r) + 2g(g(r))) \leq 2r + 1$ for every $r \geq 0$.

**Lemma 4.8.** Let $W_0 \rightarrow W_1 \rightarrow \ldots \rightarrow W_t$ be a long computation with base $k \ldots k$, where the first and the last k-letters coincide. Then, for some constant $c$ and for every $i \in \{1, \ldots, t\}$, we have $|W_i|_a \leq c(|W_1|_a + |W_i|_a + \log_2 t)$, where $b$ is the length of the base.

**Proof.** Neither the base nor its inverse word has subwords of the form $kqq^{-1}$ or $k^{-1}k$, or $qq^{-1}q$, or $q^{-1}bk$, or $kk^{-1}$ by Lemma 4.4. Recall also that every letter $k_2$ can be followed in the base by letter $k_0$ only. Then it follows from the lemma assumption that every word $W_i$ (or the inverse word) can be covered by its subwords with base of the form $k_0q_1k_1q_2k_2$ or $k_1q_2k_2k_0q_1k_1$, or
\[ k_2k_0q_1k_1q_2k_2, \text{ in such way that every basic letter is covered at most two times and every } a\text{-letter is covered once. Now the assertion is a consequence of Lemma 4.5.} \]

Lemma 4.9. Let \( \Delta \) be a trapezium of height \( h \geq 1 \) with either (a) base \( k \ldots k \), where the first and the last \( k \)-letters coincide, and which contains neither subwords \((qq^{-1}q)\pm 1\) nor shorter subwords of the form \( k \ldots k \), or (b) base \( qq^{-1}q \). Then the area of \( \Delta \) does not exceed \( ch(W|_a+W'|_a+\log'h) \) for a constant \( c \), where \( W, W' \) are the labels of its top and bottom, respectively. The third summand can be replaced by 1 if the base is \( qq^{-1}q \) or \( \Delta \) corresponds to a short computation.

Proof. (a) It follows from the lemma assumption that the length \( b \) of the base is bounded from above. Since the area of the \( i \)-th band of \( \Delta \) can exceed the length of \( W_i \) at most by \( 2b \), the lemma statement follows from lemmas 4.8 and 4.4.

(b) Similarly, the statement follows from Lemma 4.4 in this case. \( \Box \)

5 Areas of diagrams over the group \( G \)

As in [9], we use constants \( L, K, \delta \). It suffices to set \( L \geq 6 \) since the are no defining relations of length \( > 6 \) now. Then \( K = 2K_0 \), where \( K_0 \) bounds from above the length of bases having neither subwords \((qq^{-1}q)\pm 1\) nor subwords \( xux \) whith a \( k \)-letter \( x \). As in [9], a sufficiently small positive \( \delta \) is selected so that \( \delta(4L+LK+1) < 2 \). As in Section 4.1 [9], the lengths of words, paths and perimeters of diagrams are modified now. (The number of edges in a path is called now a combinatorial length.) The reader of this section should have the paper [9] at hand. In particular, the concept of diagram dispersion \( E(\Delta) \) is crucial for the proofs of Lemma 6.2 [9] and the lemmas of this section. However it is not defined here since we do not use the definition and use the same property of dispersion as in [9] (e.g., the quadratic upper bound in term of the perimeter \( |\partial\Delta| \)). As in [9] we take a big enough constant \( M \). Here “big enough” means that \( M \) satisfies the inequalities used in the proof of lemmas 5.1 and 5.2. Each of them has the form \( M > C \) for some constant \( C \) that does not depend on \( M \) (but depends on the constants introduced earlier). Since the number of inequalities is finite, one can choose such a number \( M \).

Lemma 5.1. The area of a reduced diagram \( \Delta \) does not exceed \( M\Psi(n) + M\psi(n)E(\Delta) \), where \( n = |\partial\Delta| \) and \( \psi(n) = \log'n/\log'\log'n \).

Proof. We follow the proof of Lemma 6.2 [9]. Steps 1 and 2 are analogous to those in [9]: The only difference is that one must multiply the entropy \( E(\Delta) \) by \( \psi(\Delta) \) and replace the factor \( \log'(\ldots) \) by \( \psi(\ldots) \). Then we use all the notations of Step 3 [9] for the supposed minimal counter example: \( \Delta, T, T', Q, Q', \mathcal{Q}_2 - \mathcal{Q}_4, l, l', (l' > l/2), l_3, l_4, \Gamma, \Gamma', \Gamma_1 - \Gamma_4, \Delta_0, n, n_0, \alpha, p, p', u_i d_i, d_i' \) for \( i = 3, 4 \) and \( A_0 - A_4 \). Then reader can just compare our arguments here and there. In particular, as in (6.23) [9],

\[ n - n_0 \geq 2 + \delta(\max(0, d_3' - 2L, \alpha_3 - (d_3 - d_3') - 2Ll_3) + \max(0, d_4' - L, \alpha_4 - (d_4 - d_4') - 2Ll_4)) \] \[(5.2)\]

By Lemma 4.9 we have now

\[ A_2 \leq C_2l'(d_3 + d_4 + \log'l') \] \[(5.3)\]

for some constant \( C_2 \), and

\[ A_2 \leq C_2l'(d_3 + d_4 + 1) \] \[(5.4)\]
if the computation defined by the trapezium $\Gamma_2$ is short.

The inequalities (5.3), (5.4) provide us with the following modification of our task (in comparison with (6.28) in [9]): To obtain the desired contradiction, we must now prove that

$$(Mn(n - n_0) + \frac{M}{K^2} l'(l - l'))\psi(n) \geq C_3 l'(d_3 + d_4 + \log l') + C_3(l_3^2 + l_4^2) + 2\alpha_3 l_3 + 2\alpha_4 l_4$$

(5.5)

where (as in inequality (6.28), [9]) $C_3 \geq C_2$ is a constant that does not depend on $M$, and if the trapezium $\Gamma_2$ corresponds to a short computation, we must prove (5.5) with the logarithmic summand replaced by 1.

First, as in [9], we can choose $M$ big enough so that

$$\frac{M}{3K^2} l'(l - l') \geq C_3(l_3^2 + l_4^2)$$

(5.6)

Then, as in [9], we assume without loss of generality that $\alpha_3 \geq \alpha_4$, and consider two cases.

(a) Suppose we have $\alpha_3 \leq 2C_3(l - l')$.

Since $d_i \leq \alpha_3 + d'_i$ for $i = 3, 4$, we also, by inequality (5.2), have $d_3 + d_4 + 1 \leq \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + d'_3 + d'_4 + 1 < 4C_3(l - l') + \delta^{-1}(n - n_0) + 2L - 2\delta^{-1} + 1 < 4C_3(l - l') + \delta^{-1}(n - n_0)$ because $\delta^{-1} > L + 1/2$ by the choice of $\delta$. Therefore

$$\left(\frac{M}{3K^2} l'(l - l') + \frac{M}{2} n(n - n_0)\right) \geq C_3 l'(d_3 + d_4 + 1)$$

(5.7)

because $n \geq l'$, $n - n_0 \geq 2$ by (5.2), $M \geq C_3\delta^{-1}$ and $M \geq 20C_3^2K^2$.

Since $l_3 + l_4 = l - l' < l'$, we have also

$$\frac{M}{3K^2} l'(l - l') \geq 2(l - l')2C_3(l - l') \geq 2\alpha_3 l_3 + 2\alpha_4 l_4$$

(5.8)

because $M \geq 20K^2C_3$.

If the trapezium $\Gamma_2$ corresponds to a short computation, then the inequality (5.5) (with the logarithmic summand replaced by 1) follows from (5.6), (5.7) and (5.8). Then we assume that the computation is long. Since the base of $\Gamma_2$ satisfies the Lemma 4.9 condition (as in [9]), it follows from Lemma 4.4 that the base or its inverse has one of the forms $k_0q_1k_1q_2k_2k_0$, $k_1q_2k_0q_1k_1$, $k_2k_0q_1k_1q_2k_2$.

Now we consider two possibilities.

(a1) Let $l - l' \geq \frac{1}{20C_3} \log l' \log l'$. Then

$$\frac{M}{5K^2} l'(l - l')\psi(n) \geq C_3 l' \log l'$$

(5.9)

by the definition of the function $\psi(n)$, because $M \geq 100K^2C_3^2$. By adding inequalities (5.6), (5.7) - (5.9), we obtain a stronger inequality than the desired inequality (5.5).

(a2) Let $l - l' \leq \frac{1}{20C_3} \log l' \log l'$. Let us estimate the number of $A$-edges lying on the path $u_3$. Recall that it is equal $d_q + |p^3|_a$ (see [9]). It follows from Lemma 4.10 [9] that $|p^3|_a \geq (d_3 - d'_3) - C_0l_3$ for a constant $C_0$. If $C_3 > C_0c_0^{-1}/10$ where $c_0$ is given by Lemma 4.7. Thus $|u_3|_a \geq d_3 - C_0l_3$. By using a similar lower bound for $|u_4|_a$, we have $|u_3|_a + |u_4|_a \geq (d_3 + d_4) - C_0(l - l')$. When applying the assumption (a2) and Lemma 4.7 to the right-hand side of this equality, we have $|u_3|_a + |u_4|_a + 1 \geq (c_0 - \frac{c_0}{20C_3}) \log l' \log l'$. By Lemma 4.6
[9], we obtain \(|u_i| \geq l_i + \delta(|u_i|a - L_i)| for \(i = 3, 4\). Since we may chose \(C_3\) such that \(C_3 \geq c_0^{-1}L\), and \(l_3 + l_4 = l - l' \leq \frac{1}{20C_3} \log' \log' l'\), we have now

\[ |u_3| + |u_4| + 1 \geq l_3 + l_4 + \delta(c_0 - \frac{C_0}{20C_3} - \frac{L}{20C_3}) \log' \log' l' \geq (l - l') + \frac{\delta c_0}{2} \log' \log' l'\]

It follows from this inequality and the comparison of perimeters \(|\Delta|\) and \(|\Delta_0|\), that \(n - n_0 \geq 2 + |u_3| + |u_4| - (l - l') \geq \frac{\delta c_0}{2} \log' \log' l'\), and since \(l' \leq n\) and \(M \geq 2\delta^{-1}c_0^{-1}C_3\), we obtain

\[ \frac{M}{2} n(n - n_0) \psi(n) \geq C_3 l' \log' l' \] (5.10)

The sum of inequalities (5.6), (5.7), (5.8), and (5.10) gives us a stronger inequality than (5.5).

(b) Assume now that \(\alpha_3 > 2C_3(l - l')\). Then, as in [9], we have

\[ d_3 + d_4 + 1 \leq \frac{5}{3} \alpha_3 + \delta^{-1}(n - n_0) \] (5.11)

Here we add 1 to the left-hand side (comparatively to [9]). This is possible since, as in [9], \(n - n_0 \geq 2\) and \(\delta\) can be selected small enough. Then, as in [9], one obtains

\[ n - n_0 \geq \frac{1}{l} \delta \alpha_3. \] (5.12)

From inequalities (5.11), (5.12), \(M \geq 10C_3 \delta^{-1}\) and \(l' \leq n/2\), we have

\[ \frac{M}{3} n(n - n_0) \geq \frac{10C_3}{3} \delta^{-1}n(n - n_0) \geq C_3 l'(d_3 + d_4 + 1) \] (5.13)

Inequalities (5.12), \(M \geq 21\delta^{-1}\), \(\alpha_3 \leq \alpha_4\), and \(l_3 + l_4 = l - l' \leq l/2 \leq \frac{1}{4}n\) give us

\[ \frac{M}{6} n(n - n_0) \geq \frac{7}{2} \delta^{-1}(n - n_0)n \geq 2\alpha_3(l_3 + l_4) \geq 2\alpha_3l_3 + 2\alpha_4l_4 \] (5.14)

If the \(\Gamma_2\)-computation is short then the corresponding version of (5.5) (where the logarithmic summand is replaced by 1) follows from inequalities (5.6), (5.13) and (5.14). Thus, as in case (a), by Lemma 4.4, the base or its inverse can be supposed having one of the forms \(k_0q_1k_1q_2k_2k_0\), \(k_1q_2k_2k_0q_1k_1\), \(k_2k_0q_1k_3q_2k_2\).

Then, from (5.11), (5.12) and Lemma 4.7, we have

\[ n - n_0 \geq \frac{\delta}{13}(d_3 + d_4 + 1) \geq \frac{\delta c_0}{13} \log' \log' l' \]

Since \(M \geq 13\delta^{-1}c_0^{-1}C_3\) and \(l' \leq n/2\), it follows from the definition of \(\psi(n)\) that

\[ \frac{M}{2} n(n - n_0) \psi(n) \geq C_3 l' \log' l' \] (5.15)

The inequality (5.5) follows now from inequalities (5.6), (5.13), (5.14), and (5.15).

The lemma is proved by contradiction.

**Lemma 5.2.** Let the perimeter \(n\) of a reduced diagram \(\Delta\) satisfy inequality \(n \leq g(g(r))\) for some positive integer \(r\). Then the area of diagram \(\Delta\) does not exceed \(M(n^2 + m^2 \log m) + M \mathcal{E}(\Delta)\), where \(m = 10g(g(r - 1)) \log' n\).
Proof. By Lemma 5.1, the statement is true for \( n \leq 10g(g(r-1))\log' n \) since \( m \geq n \) in this case. Then arguing by contradiction, we consider a counter-example \( \Delta \) with minimal perimeter \( n > 10g(g(r-1))\log' n \).

As in the proof of Lemma 5.1, we follow the proof of Lemma 6.2 [9]. Steps 1 and 2 are analogous to those in [9] since the extra term \( m^2 \log m \) does not affect. Then again we use the notations of Step 3 [9]. In particular, inequality (5.2), (5.6) hold again, and by lemmas 4.4 and 4.6, there is a constant \( C \) (independent of \( M \)) such that

\[
A_2 \leq Cl'(d_3 + d_4 + 1) \quad (5.16)
\]

if \( l' \geq m/\log' n \).

For arbitrary \( l' \), by Lemma 4.9,

\[
A_2 \leq cl'(d_3 + d_4 + \log l'), \quad (5.17)
\]

and what’s more, the logarithmic summand can be replaced by 1 if the trapezium \( \Gamma_2 \) defines a short computation.

To obtain the desired contradiction, we first consider

**Case 1:** Either \( l' < n/\log' n \) or the computation corresponding to \( \Gamma_2 \) is short.

In view of inequalities (5.17), the modified (in comparison with [9]) task is to show that

\[
(Mn(n - n_0) + \frac{M}{K^2}l'(l - l')) \geq C_3l'(d_3 + d_4 + \log l') + C_3(l_3^2 + l_4^2) + 2\alpha_3l_3 + 2\alpha_4l_4 \quad (5.18)
\]

where \( C_3 \) is a constant that does not depend on \( M \), and the logarithm is replaced by 1 when the trapezium \( \Gamma_2 \) corresponds to a short computation.

We notice that

\[
\frac{M}{2}n(n - n_0) \geq C_3l'\log' l' \quad (5.19)
\]

if \( \Gamma_2 \) corresponds to a long computation, because we have \( n - n_0 \geq 2 \), \( n \geq l' \log' l' \) and \( M \geq C_3 \). Then, as in [9], we assume without loss of generality that \( \alpha_3 \geq \alpha_4 \), and consider two cases.

(a) Suppose we have \( \alpha_3 \leq 2C_3(l - l') \). Then inequalities (5.7) and (5.8) hold as in Lemma 5.1.

The sum of inequalities (5.19) (if \( l' < n/\log' n \); otherwise we do not need it), (5.6), (5.7), and (5.8) gives us both versions of the desired inequality (5.18).

(b) Assume now that \( \alpha_3 > 2C_3(l - l') \). Then to come to a contradiction, we argue as in case (b) of the proof of Lemma 5.1, but inequality \( \frac{M}{2}n(n - n_0) \geq C_3l'\log' l' \) (the analog of (5.15)) follows now just from the assumption that \( l' \leq n/\log' n \) since \( M \geq 2C_3 \).

**Case 2:** \( l' \geq n/\log' n \) and \( \Gamma_2 \) corresponds to a long computation.

Since \( n \) has been supposed to be greater than \( 10g(g(r-1))\log' n \), we have \( l' > 10g(g(r-1)) \). Then, by Lemma 4.6, we may use inequality (5.16) instead of (5.17), which has no term \( l' \log l' \).

So this term is absent in (5.18), and we do not need (5.19), and in subcase (b), we do not need any analog of inequality (5.15).

The lemma is proved by contradiction. \( \square \)

6 Proof of Theorem 1.1

**Lemma 6.1.** Let \( n \) be the combinatorial perimeter of a reduced diagram \( \Delta \), and \(|\partial\Delta|\) the modified perimeter. Then \( n = O(|\partial\Delta|) \)

\[^1\text{We use the Computer Science “big-O” notation assuming that } f(n) = O(g(n)) \text{ if } \frac{1}{C}g(n) < f(n) < Cg(n) \text{ for some positive constant } C.\]
Proof. As in [9], it follows from the definition that $\delta n \leq |\partial \Delta| \leq n$. \hfill \qed

Proof of the theorem. (1) It is proved in [9] (Lemma 5.3) that

$$E(\Delta) \leq (n/2)^2.$$ (6.20)

By lemmas 6.1, 5.1 and inequality (6.20), we have the desired upper bound in the property (1) of Theorem 1.1. The lower bound follows from the consideration of the diagrams corresponding to the consequences of the commutativity relations (2.1).

(2) We set $n_i = 5 + 4g(i) + 2g(g(i))$. Then there is a trapezium $\Delta$ of height $n_i$ whose area is $O(n_i g(i)) = O(n_i \log n_i)$ and the combinatorial lengths of top and bottom are equal to $5 + i = O(\log \log n_i)$. (See Lemma 4.5 and the comments to the definition of machine $M$ in Section 4.) Lemma 6.1 and the trick from [9] with $O(n_i/\log \log n_i)$ copies of $\Delta$ gluing along sides of these trapezia, give us a diagram with area $O(\Psi(n_i))$.

(3) Since $g(g(r-1))^2 \leq g(g(r))$ we conclude from $E(\Delta) \leq O(|\partial \Delta|^2)$ and from Lemma 5.2 that $f(n'_i)$ is at most $O((n'_i)^2)$ for $n'_i = g(g(i))$.

(4) Moreover, the same argument shows that $f(x)$ does not exceed a quadratic function on the set $\bigcup_{i=1}^\infty \{d_i, \lambda_i d_i\}$, where $d_i = (n'_i)^{3/4}$ and $\lambda_i = (n'_i)^{\epsilon}$ with $\epsilon < 1/4$.

(5) It follows from the definitions of $n_i$ and $n'_i$ that $n_i/3 < n'_i$ for big enough $i$-s. Hence the property (5) of Theorem 1.1 holds with $c_5 = 1/3$.

Theorem 1.1 is proved.

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