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E. Wagneur

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# The Injectivity Modules of a Tropical Map

## Edouard Wagneur

GERAD HEC Montréal 3000, chemin de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine Montréal (Québec) Canada, H3T 2A7 edouard.wagneur@gerad.ca

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### 1 Introduction

A tropical torsion module M is an idempotent commutative semimodule over the idempotent commutative extended semiring  $\underline{\mathbb{R}} = \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty\}$ . Endowed with the max operator (written  $\vee$ ) as first composition law, and classical addition (written, and which will usually be omitted when no confusion arises), with the (torsion) property that, for any two generators, x, y, there exist  $\lambda_{xy} = \inf\{\xi \in \underline{\mathbb{R}} | x \leq \xi y\}$  and  $\lambda_{yx} = \inf\{\xi \in \underline{\mathbb{R}} | y \leq \xi x\}$ . Moreover, the product  $\tau(x, y) = \lambda_{xy} \cdot \lambda_{yx}$  in  $\underline{\mathbb{R}}$  is an invariant of the isomorphy class of M, called the torsion<sup>1</sup> of M.

We write  $\mathbf{0}$  and  $\mathbf{1}$  for the neutral elements of  $\vee$  and  $\cdot$  respectively.

In [5], we show that any m- dimensional tropical torsion module can be embedded in  $\underline{\mathbb{R}}^d$ , with  $d \leq m(m-1)$ , and that m-dimensional tropical torsion modules are classified by a p-parameter family, with  $p \leq (m-1)[m(m-1)-1]$ .

The aim of the paper is to revisit and extend some of these results by showing that – at least in the 3-dimensional case – the two upper bounds are tight. More precisely, we show that for m=3, we can find tropical torsion modules which cannot be embedded in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  for d<6, and that all the  $p=2\cdot(2\cdot 3-1)=10$  parameters required for the unambiguous specification of the 3 generators of M are necessary for the characterization of M.

Also, the concept of injectivity set (or injectivity tropical module) briefly dealt with in [5] is further investigated. In particular, we show the conterintuitive result that, for a given tropical map  $\varphi \colon M \to N$ , the quotient  $M_{|\varphi}$  defined by the equivalence  $\sim$  given by  $x \sim y \iff \varphi(x) = \varphi(y)$  is not isomorphic to  $\operatorname{Im}\varphi$ .

The paper is organised as follows. In Section 2, we briefly recall some of the results of [5] which will be used in the paper. in Section 3, we state the main result of the paper, related to the injectivity modules of a tropical map. then these results are illustrated in Section 4, by way of two examples, where m < n and n < m, respectively. The first one with a tropical map in  $\text{Hom}(\underline{\mathbb{R}}^3,\underline{\mathbb{R}}^6)$ , the second with a map in  $\text{Hom}(\underline{\mathbb{R}}^4,\underline{\mathbb{R}}^3)$ . In both cases, (some of) the injectivity modules are exhibited.

## 2 The main results of [5]

In this section we briefly recall the main results of [5] which will be used in this paper.

1. The canonical form of the torsion matrix:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & a_{13} & \cdots & a_{1m} \\ 1 & a_{22} & a_{23} & \cdots & a_{2m} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ 1 & a_{n2} & a_{n3} & \cdots & a_{nm} \end{bmatrix}$$
 (1)

with  $1 = a_{12} \le a_{22} \le \cdots \le a_{n2}$   $a_{ij} \le a_{ij+1}$ ,  $i = 1, \ldots, n$ ,  $j = 2, \ldots, m$ , and  $\tau(x_{j-1}, x_j) \le \tau(x_j, x_{j+1})$   $j = 2, \ldots, m-1$ , where  $x_j$  stands for column j of A.

This canonical form also defines the canonical basis of  $M_A$ .

2.  $\forall j \ (1 \leq j \leq m-1), \ \exists i \ (1 \leq i \leq n) \text{ such that } a_{ij+1} = a_{ij} \text{ (hence } \lambda_{jj+1} = 1 \text{)}.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Torsion in tropical modules has been introduced in [3]. $\tau(x,y)$  is equal to  $exp(\delta(x,y))$ , where  $\delta(x,y)$  is the Hilbert pseudometric, invented by Hilbert in [1].

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3. The  $\lambda_{ij}$  (from which we readily get the  $\tau_i$ ) are given by the matrix

$$\Lambda_{A} = A^{t} \cdot A^{-} = \begin{bmatrix}
1 & 1 & \lambda_{13} & \cdots & \lambda_{1m-1} & \lambda_{1m} \\
\tau_{12} & 1 & 1 & \cdots & \lambda_{2m-1} & \lambda_{2m} \\
\lambda_{31} & \tau_{23} & 1 & 1 & \cdots & \lambda_{3m} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
\lambda_{m1} & \lambda_{m2} & \cdots & \lambda_{mm-2} & \tau_{m-1m} & 1
\end{bmatrix}$$
(2)

where  $A^t$ , and  $A^-$  stand for the transpose of A and for the matrix with entries the inverses of those of A.

4. The Whitney embedding theorme and the classification of tropical modules have been recalled in Section 1 above.

## 3 The injectivity modules of a tropical map

In this section, we investigate some properties of  $\text{INJ}_A$  for a tropical torsion matrix (TTM) A. Let M,N be two tropical modules of dimension m,n respectively,  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}(M,N)$ , and  $\pi$  the canonical projection  $M \to M|_{\sim}$ , defined by the equivalence relation  $x \sim y \iff \varphi(x) = \varphi(y)$ . Clearly  $\varphi$  is injective on the set  $\{\xi \in M | \forall \lambda \in M, \ \lambda \neq \xi \implies \varphi(\lambda) \neq \varphi(\xi)\}$  is the **injectivity set** of  $\varphi$ .

Let A be a square tropical torsion matrix. In [5], we defined  $\text{INJ}_A = \{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n | \exists \sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n \text{ such that } \forall k, \bigvee_{j=1,j\neq k}^n a_{\sigma(k)j}\xi_j \leq a_{\sigma(k)k}\xi_k\}$ , and proved the following statement.

**Proposition 1** For any square tropical torsion matrix  $A \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^n)$  of maximal column rank, there is a unique permutation  $\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n$  such that

$$\{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ s. t. for } k = 1, \dots, n, \bigvee_{j=1, j \neq k}^n a_{\sigma(k)j} \xi_j \le a_{\sigma(k)k} \xi_k\}.$$

$$(3)$$

It is easy to see that the injectivity set of A satisfying 3 is a tropical module.

Clearly, for any  $n \times n$  permutation matrix P INJ $_{PA} = \text{INJ}_A$ , and, by Proposition 1, there exists a unique permutation matrix P such that, for B = PA, (3) is equivalent to

$$INJ_A = \{ \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n \ s. \ t. \ \text{for } k = 1, \dots, n, \bigvee_{j=1, j \neq k}^n b_{kj} \xi_j \le b_{kk} \xi_k \}.$$
 (4)

Let  $\tilde{A} = (\operatorname{diag}(b_{ii}^{-1}))B$ .

As a straightforward application of a weel-known result (cf [2] for instance), we have the following statement.

**Proposition 2** INJ<sub>A</sub> is generated by the columns of 
$$\tilde{A}^*$$
.

**Theorem 1** Let A be a TTM  $m \times n$ , then there are at most  $\binom{\max\{m,n\}}{\min\{m,n\}}$  tropical modules where A is injective. Each of these injectivity modules is generated by the Kleene star of some square matrix derived from A.

**Proposition 3** The tropical modules Im A and  $INJ_A$  are not isomorphic in general.

**Proposition 4** If A is a rectangular  $n \times m$  matrix with  $m \neq n$ , then  $INJ_A$  is a union of tropical modules, which is not a tropical module in general.

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**Definition.** We say the the union of modules  $INJ_A = \bigcup_{i=1}^k M_i$  is isomorphic to the union of modules  $INJ_B = \bigcup_{i=1}^k N_i$ . if, for every tropical module  $M_i \in INJ_A$ , there is a tropical module  $N_i \in INJ_B$ , which is isomorphic to  $M_i$ , i = 1, ..., k.

**Remark.** The statement in Proposition 3 differ from that in Proposition 4, since  $INJ_A$  is a TTM in Proposition 3.

## 4 Examples

The first two examples illustrate the statement in Theorem 1. In addition, our first example shows that the bound given in [5] for the Whitney embedding is tight, i.e. there exists a 3-dimensional tropical module which cannot be embedded in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  for d < 6 = m(m-1) = 6. Alsp, as a complement to the classification theorem of the same reference, this example will be used to show that all the p = (m-1)[m(m-1)-1] parameters are needed for the classification of  $M_A$ .

Our third example shows that we can find n-dimensional tropical modules with  $m \leq n$  generators with equal torsion coefficients.

#### Example 1

Let 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 11 & 5 \\ 11 & 1 & 4 \\ 11 & 2 & 14 \\ 11 & a & a \\ 11 & 8 & 15 \\ 11 & 9 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$$
, with  $5 < a < 8$ . We have

$$\Gamma_{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & a & 8 & 9 \\ 5 & 4 & 14 & a & 15 & 11 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 5^{-1} \\ 1 & 1^{-1} & 4^{-1} \\ 1 & 2^{-1} & 14^{-1} \\ 1 & a^{-1} & a^{-1} \\ 1 & 8^{-1} & 15^{-1} \\ 1 & 9^{-1} & 11^{-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 4^{-1} \\ 9 & 1 & 1 \\ 15 & 12 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ with }$$

 $\lambda_{12} = 11$ ,  $\lambda_{21} = 9$ ,  $\lambda_{13} = 4^{-1}$ ,  $\lambda_{31} = 15$ ,  $\lambda_{23} = 11$ , and  $\lambda_{32} = 12$ , given by rows 1, 6, 2, 5, 4, and 3, respectively.

We have  $\tau_{12} = \lambda_{12} \cdot \lambda_{21} = 9 < \tau_{13} = \lambda_{13} \cdot \lambda_{31} = 11 < \tau_{23} = \lambda_{23} \cdot \lambda_{32} = 12$ .

It follows that all six rows of A are required for the torsion of  $M_A$ . Hence, it A cannot be embedded into  $\underline{\mathbb{R}}^d$  for d < 6. Note that the  $\tau_{ij}$  are independent of a.

#### The tropical modules $INJ_A$

We compute the tropical modules  $M_{ijk} = \text{INJ}_{A_{ijk}}$  for i = 1, j = 2, k = 3, and for i = 1, j = 2, k = 4, where  $A_{ijk}$  is he map given by the square submatrix of A determined by rows i, j, k.

$$\begin{aligned} & \tilde{A}_{123} = \begin{bmatrix} & 1 & 11 & 5 \\ & 11 & 1 & 4 \\ & 11 & 2 & 14 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ then, since } \sigma = I, \text{ i.e. } P = I, \text{ we have } \tilde{A}_{123} = \begin{bmatrix} & 1 & 11 & 5 \\ & 1^{-1} & 11 & 3 \\ & 14^{-1} & 12^{-1} & 11 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } \\ & \tilde{A}_{123}^* = \tilde{A}_{123}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} & 1 & 11 & 5 \\ & 1^{-1} & 11 & 4 \\ & 13^{-1} & 12^{-1} & 11 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

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Hence 
$$M_{123}$$
 is generated by  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1^{-1} \\ 13^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 12^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

$$A_{124} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & a & a \end{bmatrix}, \text{ with } P = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & 1 \\ 1 & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & 1 & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \text{ thus }$$

$$\tilde{A}_{124} = \operatorname{diag}(11 \ a^{-1} \ 5^{-1}) P A_{124} = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 1 & 4 \\ a^{-1} & 11 & 11 \\ 5^{-1} & 5^{-1} & 11 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and we get}$$

$$\tilde{A}_{124}^* = \tilde{A}_{124}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 1 & 4 \\ 5^{-1} & 11 & 11 \\ 5^{-1} & 4^{-1} & 11 \end{bmatrix}$$

 $M_{124} = \{\xi | 1\xi_2 \leq \xi_1 \leq a\xi_2 , 4\xi_3 \leq \xi_1 \leq 5\xi_3 , \xi_2 \leq 5\xi_3 \leq 5\xi_2 \}, \text{ its generators are given by the columns of } \\ \tilde{A}_{124}^* = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 4 \\ 5^{-1} & 1 & 1 \\ 5^{-1} & 4^{-1} & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$ 

We have :  $\Gamma_{A_{124}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & a \\ 5 & 4 & a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 5^{-1} \\ 1 & 1^{-1} & 4^{-1} \\ 1 & a^{-1} & a^{-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 4^{-1} \\ a & 1 & 1 \\ a & 5 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , with the torsion coefficients given by  $4^{-1}a, 5, a$ , respectively, and

$$\Gamma_{A_{124}^*} = \left[ \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 5^{-1} & 5^{-1} \\ 1 & 1 & 4^{-1} \\ 4 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \left[ \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 1^{-1} & 4^{-1} \\ 5 & 1 & 1 \\ 5 & 4 & 1 \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 1^{-1} & 4^{-1} \\ 5 & 1 & 1 \\ 5 & 4 & 1 \end{array} \right],$$

with the  $\tau(i,j) = 1, 4, 4$ , respectively.

Thus  $Im A_{124}$  is **not isomorphic** to  $INJ_{A_{124}}$ .

On the other hand it is easy to see that:

$$A_{124} \, \tilde{A}_{124}^* = \text{diag}(5 \, 1\!\!1 \, a) P \tilde{A}_{124}^*, \text{i.e.}$$

#### $M_{124}$ is equal to its image under $A_{124}$ .

This example also illustrates the fact that the domain of a tropical map  $\varphi \colon M \to N$  splits into two parts:

- $\mathrm{INJ}_{\varphi}$ , every point of which is an equivalence class of " $\sim$ ".
- $M \setminus \text{INJ}_{\varphi}$  where the equivalence classes contain more than one point of M.

Moreover:, as easily seen from the torsion coefficients between generators, the Mijk are neither isomorphic to ImA, nor isomorphic to oneanother in general.

Our next example, which first appeared in [4] has been shortly examined in [5] . it is revisited here for an illustration of the case m > n in Theorem 1.

#### Example 2

Let 
$$x_i = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \\ i^2 \end{bmatrix}$$
,  $i = 1, 2, ..., m$ , with  $i = i^2 = 1$  for  $i = 0$ , and  $A = [x_1 | x_2 | \cdots | x_m |]$ . The tropical submodule  $M_A$  of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  can be made infinite dimen sional by letting  $m \to \infty$ .

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It is not difficult to see that A is injective on  $\bigcup_{0 \leq i < j < k} M_{ijk},$  where

$$M_{ijk} = \{ \xi | \bigvee_{\ell \ge 1, \ell \ne i} \xi_{\ell} \le \xi_{i} , \bigvee_{\ell \ge 1, \ell \ne j} \ell \xi_{\ell} \le j \xi_{j} , \bigvee_{\ell \ge 1, \ell \ne k} \ell^{2} \xi_{\ell} \le k^{2} \xi_{k} \}$$

For instance, with m = 4, we have:

$$\begin{split} &M_{124} = \{ \xi \in \mathbb{R}^4 | \ \xi_i \leq \xi_1 \ , \ i = 2, 3, 4 \ , \ \xi_1 \vee 2\xi_3 \vee 3\xi_4 \leq 1\xi_2 \ , \ \xi_1 \vee 2\xi_2 \vee 4\xi_3 \leq 6\xi_4 \} \\ &M_{134} = \{ \xi \in \mathbb{R}^4 | \ \xi_i \leq \xi_1 \ , \ i = 2, 3, 4 \ , \ \xi_1 \vee 1\xi_2 \vee 3\xi_4 \leq \ 2\xi_3 \ \xi_1 \vee 2\xi_2 \vee 4\xi_3 \leq 6\xi_4 \} \\ &M_{234} = \{ \xi \in \mathbb{R}^4 | \ \xi_1 \vee \xi_3 \vee \xi_4 \leq \xi_2 \ , \ \xi_1 \vee 1\xi_2 \vee 3\xi_4 \leq \ 2\xi_3 \ , \ \xi_1 \vee 2\xi_2 \vee 4\xi_3 \leq 6\xi_4 \}. \end{split}$$

The method described in Theorem 1.is illustrated as follows for the generators of the  $M_{ijk}$ , where the i (resp. j, k] stands for the rank of the column which dominates row 1 (resp. 2,3) of  $A\xi$ .

For 
$$M_{123}$$
, define  $\underline{A}_{123} = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 11 & 11 & 11 \\ 11 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 11 & 1^2 & 2^2 & 3^2 \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & 11 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Then from 
$$\underline{A}_{123}\xi = \begin{bmatrix} \xi_1 \\ 1\xi_2 \\ 2^2\xi_3 \\ \xi_4 \end{bmatrix}$$
, we get  $\underline{\tilde{A}}_{123} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1^{-1} & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2^{-2} & 2^{-1} & 1 & 2 \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , and

$$\tilde{\underline{A}}_{123}^{3} = \begin{bmatrix}
1 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\
1^{-1} & 1 & 1 & 3 \\
3^{-1} & 2^{-1} & 1 & 2 \\
\mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & 1
\end{bmatrix} = \tilde{\underline{A}}_{123}^{*}$$

Clearly: 
$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1}^{-1} \\ \mathbf{3}^{-1} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{2}^{-1} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ \mathbf{1} \end{bmatrix} \text{ generate INJ}_{A_{123}}.$$

For a straightforward verification, let

$$u = x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1^{-1} \\ 3^{-1} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \lor x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2^{-1} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \lor x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \lor x_4 \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \lor x_2 \lor 1x_3 \lor 3x_4 \\ 1^{-1}x_1 \lor x_2 \lor 1x_3 \lor 3x_4 \\ 3^{-1}x_1 \lor 2^{-1}x_2 \lor x_3 \lor 2x_4 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We leave it to the reader to check that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1^2 & 2^2 & 3^2 \end{bmatrix} u = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ 1u_2 \\ 2^2 u_3 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ i.e. } u \in M_{123}.$$

#### Example 3

This last example shows that we can ffind n-1 torsion elements in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  exhibiting two by two the same torsion.

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For n=2, the injectivity module of A has been investigated in [5]. The general case is illustrated by the

Since  $\tilde{A} \geq I$ , and  $\tilde{A}^2 = \tilde{A}$ , then  $\tilde{A}^* = \tilde{A}$ , and its columns generate  $INJ_A$ .

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