

EXCHANGE MAPS OF CLUSTER ALGEBRAS

Ibrahim Saleh

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ABSTRACT. Every two labeled seeds in a field of fractions \mathcal{F} together with a permutation give rise to an automorphism of \mathcal{F} called an exchange map. We provide equivalent conditions for exchange maps to be cluster isomorphisms of the corresponding cluster algebras. The conditions are given in terms of an action of the quiver automorphisms on the set of seeds.

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1. Introduction

Cluster algebras were introduced by S. Fomin and A. Zelevinsky in [5, 6, 3, 7]. The original motivation was to find an algebraic combinatorial framework to study canonical basis and total positivity. One of the unique characterizations of cluster algebras is the way their generators (the cluster variables) are related. The cluster variables are grouped in overlapping sets called clusters and each cluster forms a (commutative) free generators set of an ambient field. Attached with each cluster is a valued quiver and the cluster together with the valued quiver form a pair called a seed. A new seed is produced from an existing one using an operation called mutation, which defines an equivalence relation on the set of all seeds. The equivalence classes are called mutation classes and each mutation class characterizes a cluster algebra.

In an effort to explore the automorphisms that preserve the mutation classes of coefficient-free skew-symmetric cluster algebras, the authors in [2] introduced and studied *cluster automorphisms*, which are \mathbb{Z} -automorphisms of cluster algebras that send a cluster to another and commute with mutation. It was proved in [2, Corollary 2.7] that the cluster automorphisms are exactly the \mathbb{Z} -algebra automorphisms that map each cluster to a cluster. Inspired by this result and by the strong isomorphisms introduced in [6], we mean by a *cluster isomorphism* an automorphism of the ambient field that induces a bijection between the two sets of clusters of the two cluster algebras.

Any two seeds (X, Q) and (Y, Q') of rank n in a field of fractions \mathcal{F} and a permutation $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$, define an automorphism over \mathcal{F} , induced by sending the cluster variable x_i in X to the cluster variable $y_{\sigma(i)}$ in Y for every i . Such field automorphism is called *exchange map*, (Definition 3.10). The aim of this work is to find equivalent conditions on exchange maps to be cluster isomorphisms.

Quiver automorphisms act on the set of all seeds which gives rise to a relation between seeds called σ -*similarity* (Definition 3.5).

Theorem 1.1. *Two cluster algebras of the same rank n are cluster isomorphic if and only if there exists a permutation $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ such that the cluster algebras contain two σ -similar seeds.*

Positive cluster algebras are the cluster algebras that satisfy the positivity conjecture [5]. The class of positive cluster algebras includes all skew-symmetric cluster algebras [11], acyclic cluster algebras [10] and cluster algebras arising from triangulations of surfaces [12].

Theorem 1.2. *An exchange map from a positive cluster algebra \mathcal{A} to a positive cluster algebra \mathcal{B} is a cluster isomorphism if and only if it sends every cluster variable in \mathcal{A} to a cluster variable in \mathcal{B} .*

The article is organized as follows. Section 2 is devoted to cluster algebras associated with valued quivers. In the first three subsections of section 3, we introduce an action of quiver automorphisms on the set of all seeds, define the σ -similarity relation and provide some equivalent conditions for two seeds to be σ -similar. In subsection 3.4 we prove the main results (Theorems 3.14-3.15). We finish section 3, by providing presentations of groups of cluster automorphisms of some cluster algebras of types \mathbb{B}_2 and \mathbb{G}_2 .

Throughout the paper, K is a field with zero characteristic and $\mathcal{F} = K(t_1, t_2 \dots t_n)$ is the field of rational functions in n independent (commutative) variables over K . Let $Aut_K(\mathcal{F})$ denote the automorphism group of \mathcal{F} over K and Let \mathfrak{S}_n be the symmetric group on n letters. We always denote (b_{ij}) for the square matrix B and $[1, n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

2. Cluster algebras associated with valued quivers

For more details about the material of this section refer to [4, 9, 5, 6, 7].

2.1. Valued quivers.

- A *valued quiver* of rank n is a quadruple $Q = (Q_0, Q_1, V, d)$, where
 - Q_0 is a set of n vertices labeled by $[1, n]$;
 - Q_1 is called the *set of arrows* of Q and consists of ordered pairs of vertices, that is $Q_1 \subset Q_0 \times Q_0$;
 - $V = \{(v_{ij}, v_{ji}) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \mid (i, j) \in Q_1\}$, V is called the *valuation* of Q ;
 - $d = (d_1, \dots, d_n)$, where d_i is a positive integer for each i , such that $d_i v_{ij} = v_{ji} d_j$, for every $i, j \in [1, n]$.

In the case of $(i, j) \in Q_1$, then there is an arrow oriented from i to j and in notation we shall use the symbol $\cdot_i \xrightarrow{(v_{ij}, v_{ji})} \cdot_j$. If $v_{ij} = v_{ji} = 1$ we simply write $\cdot_i \longrightarrow \cdot_j$.

In this paper, we moreover assume that $(i, i) \notin Q_1$ for every $i \in Q_0$, and if $(i, j) \in Q_1$ then $(j, i) \notin Q_1$.

- If $v_{ij} = v_{ji}$ for every $(v_{ij}, v_{ji}) \in V$ then Q is called *equally valued quiver*.
- A *valued quiver morphism* ϕ from $Q = (Q_0, Q_1, V, d)$ to $Q' = (Q'_0, Q'_1, V', d')$ is a pair of maps (σ_ϕ, σ_1) where $\sigma_\phi : Q_0 \rightarrow Q'_0$ and $\sigma_1 : Q_1 \rightarrow Q'_1$ such that $\sigma_1(i, j) = (\sigma_\phi(i), \sigma_\phi(j))$ and $(v_{ij}, v_{ji}) = (v'_{\sigma_\phi(i)\sigma_\phi(j)}, v'_{\sigma_\phi(j)\sigma_\phi(i)})$ for each $(i, j) \in Q_1$. If ϕ is invertible then it is called a *valued quiver isomorphism*. In particular ϕ is called a *quiver automorphism* of Q if it is a valued quiver isomorphism from Q to itself.

- Remarks 2.1.** (1) *Every (non valued) quiver Q without loops nor 2-cycles corresponds to an equally valued quiver which has an arrow (i, j) if there is at least one arrow directed from i to j in Q and with the valuation $(v_{ij}, v_{ji}) = (m, m)$, where m is the number of arrows from i to j .*
- (2) *Every valued quiver of rank n corresponds to a skew symmetrizable integer matrix $B(Q) = (b_{ij})_{i, j \in [1, n]}$ given by*

$$b_{ij} = \begin{cases} v_{ij}, & \text{if } (i, j) \in Q_1, \\ 0, & \text{if neither } (i, j) \text{ nor } (j, i) \text{ is in } Q_1, \\ -v_{ij}, & \text{if } (j, i) \in Q_1. \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

Conversely, given a skew symmetrizable $n \times n$ matrix B , a valued quiver Q_B can be easily defined such that $B(Q_B) = B$. This gives rise to a bijection between the skew-symmetrizable $n \times n$ integral matrices B and the valued quivers with set of vertices $[1, n]$, up to isomorphism fixing the vertices.

- The *mutation of valued quivers* is defined through Fomin-Zelevinsky's mutation of the associated skew-symmetrizable matrix. The mutation of a skew symmetrizable matrix $B = (b_{ij})$ on the direction $k \in [1, n]$ is given by $\mu_k(B) = (b'_{ij})$, where

$$b'_{ij} = \begin{cases} -b_{ij}, & \text{if } k \in \{i, j\}, \\ b_{ij} + \text{sign}(b_{ik}) \max(0, b_{ik}b_{kj}), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (2.2)$$

- The mutation of a valued quiver Q can be described using the mutation of $B(Q)$ as follows: Let $\mu_k(Q)$ be the valued quiver obtained from Q by applying mutation at the vertex k . We obtain Q'_1 and V' , the set of the arrows and the valuation of $\mu_k(Q)$ respectively, by altering Q_1 and V of Q , based on the following rules
 - (1) replace the pairs (i, k) and (k, j) with (k, i) and (j, k) respectively and switch the components of the ordered pairs of their valuations;
 - (2) if $(i, k), (k, j) \in Q_1$, but $(j, i) \notin Q_1$ and $(i, j) \notin Q_1$ (respect to $(i, j) \in Q_1$) add the pair (i, j) to Q'_1 , and give it the valuation $(v_{ik}v_{kj}, v_{ki}v_{jk})$ (respect to change its valuation to $(v_{ij} + v_{ik}v_{kj}, v_{ji} + v_{ki}v_{jk})$);
 - (3) if $(i, k), (k, j)$ and (j, i) in Q_1 , then we have three cases
 - (a) if $v_{ik}v_{kj} < v_{ij}$, then keep (j, i) and change its valuation to $(v_{ji} - v_{jk}v_{ki}, -v_{ij} + v_{ik}v_{kj})$;
 - (b) if $v_{ik}v_{kj} > v_{ij}$, then replace (j, i) with (i, j) and change its valuation to $(-v_{ij} + v_{ik}v_{kj}, |v_{ji} - v_{jk}v_{ki}|)$;
 - (c) if $v_{ik}v_{kj} = v_{ij}$, then remove (j, i) and its valuation.
- One can see that; $\mu_k^2(Q) = Q$ and $\mu_k(B(Q)) = B(\mu_k(Q))$ for each vertex k .

Example 2.2. Let $Q = \begin{array}{ccc} & \cdot 3 & \xrightarrow{(2,3)} \cdot 2 \\ & \uparrow & \swarrow \\ (6,2) & \cdot 1 & \searrow (1,2) \end{array}$. Applying mutation at the vertices 1 and 2

produces the valued quivers $\mu_1(Q) = \begin{array}{ccc} & \cdot 3 & \xleftarrow{(3,2)} \cdot 2 \\ & \downarrow & \swarrow \\ (2,6) & \cdot 1 & \searrow (2,1) \end{array}$ and $\mu_2(Q) = \begin{array}{ccc} & \cdot 3 & \xleftarrow{(3,2)} \cdot 2 \xleftarrow{(2,1)} \cdot 1 \\ & \downarrow & \swarrow \\ (2,6) & \cdot 1 & \searrow (2,1) \end{array}$.

2.2. Cluster algebras. [7, Definition 2.3] A *labeled seed* of rank n in \mathcal{F} is a pair (X, Q) where $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is an n -tuple elements of \mathcal{F} forming a free generating set and Q is a valued quiver of rank n . In this case, X is called a *cluster*.

We will refer to labeled seeds simply as seeds, when there is no risk of confusion.

The definition of clusters above is a bit different from the definition of clusters given in [3], [5] and [6].

Definition 2.3 (Seed mutations). Let $p = (X, Q)$ be a seed in \mathcal{F} , and $k \in [1, n]$. A new seed $\mu_k(X, Q) = (\mu_k(X), \mu_k(Q))$ is obtained from (X, Q) by setting $\mu_k(X) = (x_1, \dots, x'_k, \dots, x_n)$ where x'_k is defined by the so-called *exchange relation*:

$$x'_k x_k = f_{p, x_k}, \quad \text{where } f_{p, x_k} = \prod_{(i, k) \in Q_1} x_i^{v_{ik}} + \prod_{(k, i) \in Q_1} x_i^{v_{ki}}. \quad (2.3)$$

And $\mu_k(Q)$ is the mutation of Q at the vertex k . The elements of \mathcal{F} obtained by applying iterated mutations on elements of X are called *cluster variables*.

Definitions 2.4. [Mutation class and cluster algebra]

- The equivalence class of a seed (X, Q) under mutation is called the *mutation class* of (X, Q) and it will be denoted by $\text{Mut}(X, Q)$.
- Let \mathcal{X} be the union of all clusters in $\text{Mut}(X, Q)$. The (coefficient free) *cluster algebra* $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ is the \mathbb{Z} -subalgebra of \mathcal{F} generated by \mathcal{X} .

Theorem 2.5. [5, Theorem 3.1] (Laurent Phenomenon) *The cluster algebra $\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ is contained in the integral ring of Laurent polynomials $\mathbb{Z}[x_1^\pm, \dots, x_n^\pm]$. More precisely, every non zero element y in $\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ can be uniquely written as*

$$y = \frac{P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)}{x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots x_n^{\alpha_n}}, \quad (2.4)$$

where $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ are integers and $P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ is a polynomial with integer coefficients which is not divisible by any of the cluster variables x_1, \dots, x_n .

Conjecture 2.6 (Positivity Conjecture). *If y is a cluster variable, then the polynomial $P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$, in (2.4), has positive integer coefficients.*

Definition 2.7. *Positive cluster algebras* are the cluster algebras that satisfy the positivity conjecture.

3. Isomorphisms of cluster algebras

3.1. Quiver automorphisms action on seeds. Let ϕ be a quiver automorphism of $Q = (Q_0, Q_1, V, d)$. Then ϕ induces a permutation $\sigma_\phi \in \mathfrak{S}_n$. We can obtain a new valued quiver $\phi(Q) = (Q'_0, Q'_1, V', d')$ from Q as follows

- Q'_0 is obtained by permuting the vertices of Q_0 using σ_ϕ ;
- $Q'_1 = \{(\sigma_\phi(i), \sigma_\phi(j)) \mid (i, j) \in Q_1\}$;
- For every $(\sigma_\phi(i), \sigma_\phi(j)) \in Q'_1$ we give the valuation $(v_{\sigma_\phi(i)\sigma_\phi(j)}, v_{\sigma_\phi(j)\sigma_\phi(i)})$;

- $d' = (d_{\sigma_\phi(1)}, \dots, d_{\sigma_\phi(n)})$.

Example 3.1. Consider the valued quiver $Q =$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \cdot 1 & \xrightarrow{(2,1)} & \cdot 2 \\ (4,1) \downarrow & \nearrow & \\ & & \cdot 3 \end{array} \quad \text{with } d = (1, 2, 4)$$

and the quiver automorphism ϕ with underlying permutation $\sigma_\phi = (123)$. Then

$$\phi(Q) = \begin{array}{ccc} \cdot 2 & \xrightarrow{(2,1)} & \cdot 3 \\ (4,1) \downarrow & \nearrow & \\ & & \cdot 1 \end{array} \quad \text{and } \phi(d) = (4, 1, 2).$$

Question 3.2. For which valued quivers Q and a quiver automorphism ϕ are there a sequence of mutations μ such that $\phi(Q) = \mu(Q)$?

The following example shows that there are cases in which such a sequence of mutations does not exist.

Example 3.3. Consider the valued quiver $Q = \cdot 1 \xrightarrow{(2,2)} \cdot 2 \longrightarrow \cdot 3$, and the quiver automorphism with underlying permutation (12). In the following, we will show that there is no sequence of mutations μ , such that $\mu(Q) = \cdot 2 \xrightarrow{(2,2)} \cdot 1 \longrightarrow \cdot 3$

or equivalently there is no sequence of mutations μ such that $\mu(B(Q)) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2 & +1 \\ +2 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

Here we have $B(Q) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +2 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & +1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. The proof is written in terms of the

matrix $B(Q) = (b_{ij})$. If we could show that there is no sequence of mutations that sends the entry b_{23} to zero, we will be done. We do this by showing that every sequence of mutations sends b_{23} to an odd number. First we show, by induction on the length of the sequence of mutations, that any sequence of mutations sends b_{13} and b_{12} to even numbers. For sequences containing only one mutation: one can see that, only μ_2 and μ_3 would change b_{13} and b_{12} respectively, that is $\mu_2(b_{13}) = \mu_3(b_{12}) = 2$. Now, assume that every sequence of mutations of length k sends b_{13} and b_{12} to an even number, and let $\mu_{i_{k+1}}\mu_{i_k} \dots \mu_{i_1}$ be a sequence of length $k+1$. So if

$$\mu_{i_k} \dots \mu_{i_1}((b_{ij})) = (b'_{ij}). \quad (3.1)$$

Then $b'_{12} = 2m$ for some integer number m . We have

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_{i_{k+1}}(b'_{13}) &= b'_{13} + \text{sign}(b'_{12}) \max(0, b'_{12}b'_{23}) \\ &= b'_{13} + \text{sign}(b'_{12}) \max(0, 2mb'_{23})\end{aligned}$$

which is a sum of two even numbers. This shows that any sequence of mutations will send b_{13} to an even number. In a similar way one can show that any sequence of mutation sends b_{12} to an even number.

Secondly, we show that every sequence of mutations sends $|b_{23}|$ to an odd number, noting that the possible change in $|b_{23}|$ appears only after applying μ_1 . We show this by induction on the number of occurrences of μ_1 in the sequence.

Sequences containing only one copy of μ_1 : Without loss of generality, let $\mu_{i_1}\mu_{i_2}\dots\mu_{i_k}$ be a sequence of mutations such that $\mu_{i_k} = \mu_1$, and $\mu_{i_j} \neq \mu_1$, $\forall j \in [1, k-1]$. Then using the same notation as in (3.1), we have

$$b'_{23} = \pm 1 + \text{sign}(b'_{21}) \max(0, b'_{21}b'_{13}). \quad (3.2)$$

However b'_{21} and b'_{13} are both even numbers, so $\text{sign}(b'_{21}) \max(0, b'_{21}b'_{13})$ must be an even number, and then b'_{23} is an odd number.

Sequences containing more than one copy of μ_1 : Assume that any sequence of mutations with μ_1 repeated k times sends b_{23} to an odd number.

Let $\mu_{i_t}\mu_{i_2}\dots\mu_{i_1}$ be a sequence of mutations containing $k+1$ -copies of μ_1 . Then we can assume that $\mu_{i_t} = \mu_1$. Let

$$\mu_{i_t}\dots\mu_{i_1}((b_{ij})) = (b''_{ij}) \text{ and } \mu_{i_{t-1}}\dots\mu_{i_1}((b_{ij})) = (b'_{ij}), \quad (3.3)$$

then one can see that b'_{23} is an odd number and b'_{12} and b'_{13} are both even numbers. Then,

$$b''_{23} = b'_{23} + \text{sign}(b'_{13}) \max(0, b'_{21}b'_{13}), \quad (3.4)$$

a sum of an odd and an even number, hence b''_{23} is an odd number.

Let $T = \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n\}$ be a free generating set of \mathcal{F} and $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$. We define an \mathcal{F} -automorphism σ_T , by $\sigma_T(r(t_1, \dots, t_n)) = r(t_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, t_{\sigma(n)})$ for $r(t_1, \dots, t_n) \in \mathcal{F}$.

Definition 3.4. Fix a cluster X in \mathcal{F} . A quiver automorphism ϕ , with underlying permutation $\sigma_\phi \in \mathfrak{S}_n$, acts on the set of all seeds of \mathcal{F} with respect to X as follows: for any seed $q = (Y, \Gamma)$ define

$$\phi_X(q) := (\phi_X(Y), \phi(\Gamma)), \quad (3.5)$$

where $\phi_X(Y) = ((\sigma_\phi)_X(y_1), \dots, (\sigma_\phi)_X(y_n))$. We write $\phi(p)$ and $\phi(Y)$ instead of $\phi_X(q)$ and $\phi_X(Y)$ respectively if there is no chance of confusion.

Definitions 3.5. (1) Let $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$. Two valued quivers Q and Q' are said to be σ -similar if σ is the underlying permutation of a quiver isomorphism between Q and one of the valued quivers Q' or $(Q')^{\text{op}}$.

(2) Two seeds (X, Q) and (Y, Q') are said to be σ -similar if Q and Q' are σ -similar.

Remarks 3.6. (a) Q and Q' are σ -similar if and only if $B(Q) = \epsilon\sigma(B(Q'))$, for $\epsilon \in \{-1, +1\}$.

(b) The σ -similarity relation defines an equivalence relation on the set of all seeds of \mathcal{F} .

Lemma 3.7. Two quivers Q and Q' are σ -similar if and only if

$$\prod_{(i,k) \in Q_1} t_i^{v_{ik}} + \prod_{(k,i) \in Q_1} t_i^{v_{ki}} = \prod_{(\sigma(i), \sigma(k)) \in Q_1} t_{\sigma(i)}^{v_{\sigma(i)\sigma(k)}} + \prod_{(\sigma(k), \sigma(i)) \in Q_1} t_{\sigma(i)}^{v_{\sigma(k)\sigma(i)}}, \forall k \in [1, n] \quad (3.6)$$

Proof. One can see that Q and Q' are σ -similar if and only if $(v_{ij})_{i,j \in [1, n]} = (v'_{\sigma(i)\sigma(j)})_{i,j \in [1, n]}$ and one of the following two conditions is satisfied

$$(i, j) \in Q_1 \text{ if and only if } (\sigma(i), \sigma(j)) \in Q'_1, \text{ for every } i, j \in [1, n]; \quad (3.7)$$

or

$$(i, j) \in Q_1 \text{ if and only if } (\sigma(j), \sigma(i)) \in Q'_1, \text{ for every } i, j \in [1, n]. \quad (3.8)$$

Since $\{t_1, \dots, t_n\}$ is a transcendence basis of \mathcal{F} , then one of the conditions (3.7) or (3.8) is satisfied if and only if one of the following two conditions is satisfied

(1)

$$\prod_{(i,k) \in Q_1} t_i^{v_{ik}} = \prod_{(\sigma(i), \sigma(k)) \in Q_1} t_{\sigma(i)}^{v_{\sigma(i)\sigma(k)}} \text{ and } \prod_{(k,i) \in Q_1} t_i^{v_{ki}} = \prod_{(\sigma(k), \sigma(i)) \in Q_1} t_i^{v_{\sigma(k)\sigma(i)}}, \forall k \in [1, n];$$

or

(2)

$$\prod_{(i,k) \in Q_1} t_i^{v_{ik}} = \prod_{(\sigma(k), \sigma(i)) \in Q_1} t_i^{v_{\sigma(k)\sigma(i)}} \text{ and } \prod_{(k,i) \in Q_1} t_i^{v_{ki}} = \prod_{(\sigma(i), \sigma(k)) \in Q_1} t_{\sigma(i)}^{v_{\sigma(i)\sigma(k)}}, \forall k \in [1, n].$$

Which is equivalent to (3.6). \square

3.2. Main definitions. Let $p = (X, Q)$ and $p' = (Y, Q')$ be two seeds of rank n .

Definition 3.8. Let f be an element of $\text{Aut}_K(\mathcal{F})$.

- f is called a *cluster variables preserver* from $\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ to $\mathcal{B}(Y, Q')$, if it sends every cluster variable in \mathcal{A} to a cluster variable in \mathcal{B} . In particular, f is a cluster variables preserver of a cluster algebra $\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ if it leaves \mathcal{X} , the set of all cluster variables of \mathcal{A} , invariant. For simplicity we call such automorphisms the \mathcal{X} -preservers.
- [1, 2, 6] f is said to be a *cluster isomorphism* from $\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ to $\mathcal{B}(Y, Q')$ if it induces a one to one correspondence from the set of all clusters of \mathcal{A} to the set of all clusters of \mathcal{B} . In particular, $f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is called a *cluster automorphism* of \mathcal{A} if it permutes the clusters of \mathcal{A} .

Remark 3.9. An element f of $\text{Aut}_K(\mathcal{F})$ is a cluster isomorphism from $\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ to $\mathcal{B}(Y, Q')$ if and only if it induces a one to one correspondence between the mutation classes $\text{Mut}(X, Q)$ and $\text{Mut}(Y, Q')$. This is due to the fact that for every seed (X, Q) the quiver Q is uniquely defined by the cluster X which has been proved in [8, Theorem 3].

3.3. Exchange maps.

Definition 3.10. Let $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ and $p = (X, Q)$ and $p' = (Y, Q')$ be two labeled seeds in \mathcal{F} . Then, the map $T_{pp', \sigma}$, induced by $x_i \mapsto y_{\sigma(i)}$, is called an *exchange map*.

One can see that exchange maps are elements of $\text{Aut}_K(\mathcal{F})$.

Lemma 3.11. Let $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$. Then

Q and Q' are σ -similar if and only if $T_{pp', \sigma}(\mu_k(x_k)) = \mu_{\sigma(k)}(y_{\sigma(k)})$, for all $k \in [1, n]$.

Proof. \Rightarrow) Assume that Q and Q' are σ -similar valued quivers. Then $v_{ij} = v'_{\sigma(i)\sigma(j)}$ for every $i, j \in [1, n]$ and one of the conditions (3.7) or (3.8) is satisfied. Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
T_{pp', \sigma}(\mu_k(x_k)) &= T_{pp', \sigma} \left(\frac{1}{x_k} \left(\prod_{(i,k) \in Q_1} x_i^{v_{ik}} + \prod_{(k,i) \in Q_1} x_i^{v_{ki}} \right) \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{y_{\sigma(k)}} \left(\prod_{(i,k) \in Q_1} y_{\sigma(i)}^{v_{ik}} + \prod_{(k,i) \in Q_1} y_{\sigma(i)}^{v_{ki}} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{y_{\sigma(k)}} \left(\prod_{(\sigma(i), \sigma(k)) \in Q'_1} y_{\sigma(i)}^{v'_{\sigma(i)\sigma(k)}} + \prod_{(\sigma(k), \sigma(i)) \in Q'_1} y_{\sigma(i)}^{v'_{\sigma(k)\sigma(i)}} \right) \\
&= \mu_{\sigma(k)}(y_{\sigma(k)}).
\end{aligned}$$

\Leftrightarrow) Suppose that Q and Q' are not σ -similar. Then (3.6) is not satisfied. Hence $T_{pp',\sigma}(f_{p,x_k}) \neq f_{p',y_{\sigma(k)}}$, for some $k \in [1, n]$. Therefore $T_{pp',\sigma}(\mu_i(x_k)) \neq \mu_{\sigma(k)}(y_{\sigma(k)})$ for some $k \in [1, n]$. \square

Lemma 3.12. *For every $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ and any square matrix B , we have*

$$\sigma(\mu_k(B)) = \mu_{\sigma(k)}(\sigma(B)), \quad \text{for all } k \in [1, n]. \quad (3.9)$$

In particular, for every valued quiver Q

$$\sigma(\mu_k(Q)) = \mu_{\sigma(k)}(\sigma(Q)), \quad \text{for all } k \in [1, n]. \quad (3.10)$$

Proof. Let $\sigma(B) = (b_{ij}^*)$, $\mu_{\sigma(k)}(\sigma(B)) = (\bar{b}_{ij})$, $\mu_k(B) = (b'_{ij})$, and $\sigma(\mu_k(B)) = (b_{ij}^*)$. We obtain the matrix $\sigma(B)$ from B , by relocating the entries of B using σ . Indeed, the entry $b_{ij}^* = b_{\sigma^{-1}(i)\sigma^{-1}(j)}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{b}_{ij} &= \begin{cases} -b_{ij}^*, & \text{if } \sigma(k) \in \{i, j\}, \\ b_{ij}^* + \text{sign}(b_{ik}^*)\max(0, b_{ik}^*b_{kj}^*), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} -b_{\sigma^{-1}(i)\sigma^{-1}(j)}, & \text{if } k \in \{\sigma^{-1}(i), \sigma^{-1}(j)\} \\ b_{\sigma^{-1}(i)\sigma^{-1}(j)} + \text{sign}(b_{\sigma^{-1}(i)\sigma^{-1}(k)})\max(0, b_{\sigma^{-1}(i)\sigma^{-1}(k)}b_{\sigma^{-1}(k)\sigma^{-1}(j)}), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ &= b'_{\sigma^{-1}(i)\sigma^{-1}(j)} \\ &= b_{ij}^*. \end{aligned}$$

This proves (3.9). Identity (3.10) is immediate by using $B = B(Q)$ in (3.9). \square

Theorem 3.13. *Let (X, Q) and (Y, Q') be two σ -similar seeds. Then for any sequence of mutations $\mu_{i_k}, \mu_{i_{k-1}}, \dots, \mu_{i_1}$, the following are true*

- (1) $\mu_{i_k}\mu_{i_{k-1}} \dots \mu_{i_1}(X, Q)$ and $\mu_{\sigma(i_k)}\mu_{\sigma(i_{k-1})} \dots \mu_{\sigma(i_1)}(Y, Q')$ are σ -similar,
- (2) $T_{pp',\sigma}(\mu_{i_k}\mu_{i_{k-1}} \dots \mu_{i_1}(X)) = \mu_{\sigma(i_k)}\mu_{\sigma(i_{k-1})} \dots \mu_{\sigma(i_1)}(Y)$.

Proof. To prove part (1), assume that Q and Q' are two σ -similar valued quivers. Then $B(Q) = \epsilon\sigma(B(Q'))$ for $\epsilon \in \{-1, +1\}$. Hence from (3.9), we have

$$\mu_k(B(Q)) = \mu_k(\epsilon\sigma(B(Q'))) = \epsilon\sigma(\mu_{\sigma(k)}(B(Q'))), \quad \text{for every } k \in [1, n].$$

Therefore, $\mu_k(B(Q))$ and $\mu_{\sigma(k)}(B(Q'))$ are σ -similar for every $k \in [1, n]$. An induction process generalizes this fact to any sequence of mutations $\mu_{i_k}, \mu_{i_{k-1}}, \dots, \mu_{i_1}$.

For part (2), let $p_{i_1 i_k} = \mu_{i_k}\mu_{i_{k-1}} \dots \mu_{i_1}(p)$ and $p'_{\sigma(i_1)\sigma(i_k)} = \mu_{\sigma(i_k)}\mu_{\sigma(i_{k-1})} \dots \mu_{\sigma(i_1)}(p')$. Part (1) of this theorem tells us that $p_{i_1 i_{k-1}}$ and $p'_{\sigma(i_1)\sigma(i_{k-1})}$ are σ -similar. Then

Lemma 3.11 implies that

$$T_{p_{i_1 i_k} p'_{\sigma(i_1)\sigma(i_k)}, \sigma}(\mu_{i_k}(\mu_{i_{k-1}} \dots \mu_{i_1}(X))) = \mu_{i_{\sigma(k)}}(\mu_{i_{\sigma(k-1)}} \dots \mu_{\sigma(i_1)}(Y)). \quad (3.11)$$

So, it remains to show that

$$T_{p_{i_1 i_k} p'_{\sigma(i_1) \sigma(i_k)}, \sigma}(\mu_{i_k}(\mu_{i_{k-1}} \cdots \mu_{i_1}(X))) = T_{pp', \sigma}(\mu_{i_k}(\mu_{i_{k-1}} \cdots \mu_{i_1}(X))). \quad (3.12)$$

This will be proved by induction on the length of the sequence of mutations. First we will show (3.12) in the general setting for sequences of mutations of length 2. Let $q = (Z, D)$ and $q' = (T, C)$ be any two σ -similar seeds, and let $q_1 = \mu_i(Z, D) = (Z', D')$, $q'_1 = \mu_{\sigma(i)}(T, C) = (T', C')$. We show that

$$T_{q_1 q'_1, \sigma}(\mu_k \mu_i(Z)) = T_{qq', \sigma}(\mu_k \mu_i(Z)). \quad (3.13)$$

Let z_j be a cluster variable in Z . Then for $j \neq i$, both of $T_{q_1 q'_1, \sigma}$, and $T_{qq', \sigma}$ will leave z_j unchanged. Now, let $j = i$. Then, using the notation f_{p, x_k} introduced in Equation (2.3) above, we have

$$T_{q_1 q'_1, \sigma}(\mu_i(z_i)) = T_{q_1 q'_1, \sigma} \left(\frac{f_{q, z_i}}{z_i} \right) = \frac{f_{q'_1, t_{\sigma(i)}}}{T_{p_1 p'_1, \sigma}(z_i)}.$$

However,

$$T_{q_1 q'_1, \sigma}(\mu_i(z_i)) = \mu_{\sigma(i)}(t_{\sigma(i)}) = \frac{f_{q'_1, t_{\sigma(i)}}}{t_{\sigma(i)}}.$$

Hence, $T_{p_1 p'_1, \sigma}(z_i) = t_{\sigma(i)}$. This shows that $T_{q_1 q'_1, \sigma}$, and $T_{qq', \sigma}$ have the same action on every cluster variable in Z , and since cluster variables from the cluster $\mu_k \mu_i(Z)$ are integral Laurent polynomials of cluster variables from Z , this gives (3.13).

For equation (3.12) we use induction on the length of the mutation sequence. Assume that equation (3.12) is true for any sequence of mutations of length less than or equal $k - 1$. Now we have

$$\begin{aligned} T_{p_{i_1 i_k} p'_{i_1 i_k}, \sigma}(\mu_{i_k} \mu_{i_{k-1}} \cdots \mu_{i_1}(X)) &= T_{p_{i_1 i_{k-2}} p'_{i_1 i_{k-2}}, \sigma}(\mu_{i_k} \mu_{i_{k-1}} \cdots \mu_{i_1}(X)) \\ &= T_{pp', \sigma}(\mu_{i_k} \mu_{i_{k-1}} \cdots \mu_{i_1}(X)), \end{aligned}$$

where the first equality is by (3.13) and the second is by the induction hypotheses. \square

3.4. Main theorem. Equivalent conditions for exchange maps to be cluster automorphisms are provided in this subsection.

Theorem 3.14. *Let $p = (X, Q)$ and $p' = (Y, Q')$ be two labeled seeds in \mathcal{F} , and $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$. Then p and p' are σ -similar if and only if $T_{pp', \sigma}$ is a cluster isomorphism from $\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ to $\mathcal{B}(Y, Q')$. In particular, two cluster algebras of the same rank n are cluster isomorphic if and only if there exists a permutation $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ such that the cluster algebras contain two σ -similar seeds.*

Proof. Assume that p and p' are σ -similar. Let $(Z, D) \in \text{Mut}(X, Q)$. Then there is a sequence of mutations $\mu_{i_1}, \mu_{i_2}, \dots, \mu_{i_k}$ such that $Z = \mu_{i_1} \mu_{i_2} \dots \mu_{i_k}(X)$. Then part (1) of Theorem 3.13 implies that $\mu_{i_2} \dots \mu_{i_k}(X, B)$ and $\mu_{\sigma(i_2)} \dots \mu_{\sigma(i_k)}(Y, B')$ are σ -similar too. But, from Theorem 3.13 part (2), we have

$$T_{pp', \sigma}(\mu_{i_1}(\mu_{i_2} \dots \mu_{i_k}(X))) = \mu_{\sigma(i_1)}(\mu_{\sigma(i_2)} \dots \mu_{\sigma(i_k)}(Y)),$$

and since the right hand side is a cluster, then $T_{pp', \sigma}$ sends Z to a cluster in $\text{Mut}(Y, Q')$. So, $T_{pp', \sigma}$ sends every cluster in $\text{Mut}(X, Q)$ to a cluster in $\text{Mut}(Y, Q')$. Since the map $\mu_{i_1} \dots \mu_{i_t} \mapsto \mu_{\sigma(i_1)} \dots \mu_{\sigma(i_t)}$, with t a non-negative integer, is a one to one correspondence on the set of all sequences of mutations. Thus $T_{pp', \sigma}$ defines a one to one correspondence from the set of all clusters of $\text{Mut}(X, Q)$ to the set of all clusters of $\text{Mut}(Y, Q')$.

Assume that $T_{pp', \sigma}$ is a cluster isomorphism. Then $T_{pp', \sigma}(\mu_i(X))$ is a cluster in $\text{Mut}(Y, Q')$; which shares $n-1$ cluster variables with the cluster $\mu_{\sigma(i)}(Y)$. Then from [8, Theorem 3], each one of the two clusters can be obtained from the other by applying one mutation which must be $\mu_{\sigma(i)}$. But $\mu_{\sigma(i)}^2(y_{\sigma(i)}) = y_{\sigma(i)}$ and $T_{pp', \sigma}(\mu_i(x_i)) = \frac{T_{pp', \sigma}(f_{p, x_i})}{y_{\sigma(i)}}$. Then the two clusters coincide, hence $T_{pp', \sigma}(\mu_i(x_i)) = \mu_{\sigma(i)}(y_{\sigma(i)})$ for every $i \in [1, n]$. Therefore, p and p' are σ -similar, thanks to Lemma 3.11. \square

Theorem 3.15. *Let $p = (X, Q)$ and $p' = (Y, Q')$ be two labeled seeds in \mathcal{F} such that $\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ and $\mathcal{B}(Y, Q')$ are positive cluster algebras and let $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) $T_{pp', \sigma}$ is a cluster variables preserver from $\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ to $\mathcal{B}(Y, Q')$;
- (2) p and p' are σ -similar;
- (3) $T_{pp', \sigma}$ is a cluster isomorphism from $\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ to $\mathcal{B}(Y, Q')$.

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2). To show that p and p' are σ -similar, we only need to show that $T_{pp', \sigma}(\mu_i(x_i)) = \mu_{\sigma(i)}(y_{\sigma(i)})$, for all $i \in [1, n]$, thanks to Lemma 3.11.

Let $z = T_{pp', \sigma}(\mu_i(x_i))$ and $\xi = \mu_{\sigma(i)}(y_{\sigma(i)})$. Then

$$z = \frac{T_{pp', \sigma}(f_{p, x})}{y_{\sigma(i)}}, \quad \text{and} \quad \xi = \frac{f_{p', y_{\sigma(i)}}}{y_{\sigma(i)}}. \quad (3.14)$$

Both of $T_{pp', \sigma}(f_{p, x})$ and $f_{p', y_{\sigma(i)}}$ are elements in the ring of polynomials $\mathbb{Z}[y_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, y_{\sigma(i-1)}, y_{\sigma(i+1)}, \dots, y_{\sigma(n)}]$ such that neither of them is divisible by $y_{\sigma(j)}$ for any $j \in [1, n]$. From the assumption that $T_{pp', \sigma}$ is a cluster variables preserver from the cluster algebra $\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ to the cluster algebra $\mathcal{B}(Y, Q')$, then z must be a cluster variable in $\mathcal{B}(Y, Q')$. Hence, by Laurent phenomenon, z is an element of the ring of Laurent polynomials in the variables of the cluster $\mu_{\sigma(i)}(Y)$ with integer

coefficients. More precisely, z can be written uniquely as

$$z = \frac{P(y_{\sigma(1)}, y_{\sigma(2)}, \dots, y_{\sigma(i-1)}, \xi, y_{\sigma(i+1)}, \dots, y_{\sigma(n)})}{y_{\sigma(1)}^{\alpha_1} \cdots y_{\sigma(i-1)}^{\alpha_{i-1}} \xi^{\alpha_i} y_{\sigma(i+1)}^{\alpha_{i+1}} \cdots y_{\sigma(n)}^{\alpha_n}}, \quad (3.15)$$

where $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{Z}$, for all $i \in [1, n]$ and P is not divisible by any of the cluster variables $y_{\sigma(1)}, y_{\sigma(2)}, \dots, y_{\sigma(i-1)}, \xi, y_{\sigma(i+1)}, \dots, y_{\sigma(n)}$. Comparing z from (3.14) and (3.15), we get

$$T_{pp', \sigma}(f_{p,x}) \cdot y_{\sigma(1)}^{\alpha_1} \cdots y_{\sigma(i-1)}^{\alpha_{i-1}} \cdots \xi^{\alpha_i} \cdots y_{\sigma(i+1)}^{\alpha_{i+1}} \cdots y_{\sigma(n)}^{\alpha_n} = P \cdot y_{\sigma(i)}. \quad (3.16)$$

Since $f_{p,x}$ is not divisible by any cluster variable x_i for any $i \in [1, n]$ as well then $T_{pp', \sigma}(f_{p,x})$ is not divisible by y_i for all $i \in [1, n]$. More precisely $T_{pp', \sigma}(f_{p,x})$ is a sum of two monomials in cluster variables from $Y \setminus \{y_{\sigma(i)}\}$, with positive exponents. Therefore $\alpha_j = 0$ for all $j \in [1, n] \setminus \{i\}$. Then equation (3.16) is reduced to

$$T_{pp', \sigma}(f_{p,x}) \left(\frac{f_{p', y_{\sigma(i)}}}{y_{\sigma(i)}} \right)^{\alpha_i} = P \cdot y_{\sigma(i)}.$$

For α_i , we break it down into three cases:

(1) if $\alpha_i \geq 0$, then $y_{\sigma(i)}^{\alpha_i+1}$ divides either $T_{pp', \sigma}(f_{p,x})$ or $f_{p', y_{\sigma(i)}}$ which is a contradiction; (2) if $\alpha_i < -1$, then $y_{\sigma(i)}^{-\alpha_i-1}$ divides either P or $f_{p', y_{\sigma(i)}}$ which again is a contradiction; (3) assume $\alpha_i = -1$. Hence (3.16) ends up to

$$T_{pp', \sigma}(f_{p,x}) = P \cdot f_{p', y_{\sigma(i)}}, \quad (3.17)$$

where $f_{p', y_{\sigma(i)}}$ is a sum of two monomials in cluster variables from $Y \setminus \{y_{\sigma(i)}\}$, with positive exponents. However, P is a polynomial with positive integers coefficients, and not divisible by any cluster variable from $Y' = \mu_{\sigma(i)}(Y)$. From equation (3.16) and since $T_{pp', \sigma}(f_{p,x})$ is a sum of two monomials, then P must be an integer. Finally, since the coefficients of $T_{pp', \sigma}(f_{p,x})$ and $f_{p', y_{\sigma(i)}}$ are all ones, then $P = 1$.

Hence

$$T_{pp', \sigma}(f_{p,x}) = f_{p', y_{\sigma(i)}}. \quad (3.18)$$

Therefore

$$T_{pp', \sigma}(\mu_i(x_i)) = \mu_{\sigma(i)}(y_{\sigma(i)}), \text{ for all } i \in [1, n]. \quad (3.19)$$

(2) \Rightarrow (3) is from Theorem 3.14, and (3) \Rightarrow (1) is immediate. \square

Corollary 3.16. *If p and p' are two labeled seeds in $\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ and $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$. Then*

- (1) p and p' are σ -similar if and only if $T_{pp', \sigma}$ is a cluster automorphism of \mathcal{A} .
- (2) If \mathcal{A} is positive cluster algebra. Then, the following are equivalent
 - (a) $T_{pp', \sigma}$ is a \mathcal{X} -preserver;
 - (b) p and p' are σ -similar;
 - (c) $T_{pp', \sigma}$ is a cluster automorphism.

Proof. Special cases of Theorems 3.14 and 3.15 by taking $\mathcal{B}(Y, Q') = \mathcal{A}(X, Q)$. \square

3.5. The exchange group and the group of cluster automorphisms. Definitions 3.8 and 3.10 give rise to the following two subgroups of $Aut_K(\mathcal{F})$.

- Definitions 3.17.** (a) The exchange group, denoted by $EAut\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$, is the subgroup of $Aut_K(\mathcal{F})$ generated by $\{T_{pp', \sigma} | p, p' \in Mut(X, Q), \sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n\}$.
 (b) [2] The cluster automorphisms group $Aut\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ is the subgroup of $Aut_K(\mathcal{F})$ that consists of all cluster automorphisms of $\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$.

Corollary 3.18. (1) $Aut\mathcal{A}(X, Q) = \{T_{pp', \sigma} | p, p' \text{ are } \sigma\text{-similar in } \mathcal{A}(X, Q), \sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n\}$.

- (2) $Aut\mathcal{A}(X, Q) = EAut\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$ if and only if the σ -similarity relation on $Mut(X, Q)$ has only one equivalence class.

Examples 3.19. (1) If (X, Q) is a seed of rank 2 then $Aut\mathcal{A}(X, Q) = EAut\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$.

- (2) Let $Q = \begin{array}{ccc} & & \cdot_2 \\ & \xrightarrow{(2,2)} & \\ \cdot_1 & & \\ \downarrow (2,2) & \nearrow (2,2) & \\ & & \cdot_3 \end{array}$. Then $Aut\mathcal{A}(X, Q) = EAut\mathcal{A}(X, Q)$.

In [2], the authors computed the cluster automorphism groups for cluster algebras of Dynkin and Euclidean types. Using Corollary 3.18 and part (1) of Example 3.19, we provide presentations for exchange groups and the cluster automorphisms groups of cluster algebras of types \mathbb{B}_2 and \mathbb{G}_2 .

Example 3.20. (1) *The group of cluster automorphisms* $Aut(X, \mathbb{B}_2)$.

$$Aut\mathcal{A}(X, \mathbb{B}_2) = \{T_1, T_2 \mid T_1^2 = T_2^2 = 1, (T_1 T_2)^3 = 1\}.$$

- (2) *The group of cluster automorphisms* $Aut(X, \mathbb{G}_2)$.

$$Aut\mathcal{A}(X, \mathbb{G}_2) = \{T_1, T_2 \mid T_1^2 = T_2^2 = 1, (T_1 T_2)^4 = 1\}.$$

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Ibrahim A Saleh

Department of Mathematics

University of Wisconsin Colleges-Marathon

Wausau, WI 54401

e-mail: ibrahim.saleh@uwc.edu