

# ¿Cuántos árboles tiene una red?

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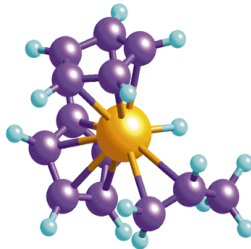
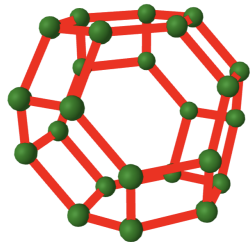
# Part 1: Graphs and Spanning Trees

# Graphs

**Definition** A **graph**  $G = (V, E)$  consists of **vertices**  $V$  connected by **edges**  $E$ .

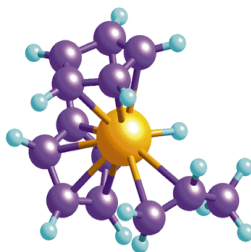
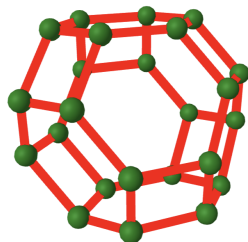
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**Definition** A **tree** is a graph that is connected and acyclic.

**Definition** A **spanning tree**  $T$  of a graph  $G$  is a tree with  $V(T) = V(G)$  and  $E(T) \subseteq E(G)$ .

$$\mathcal{T}(G) = \{\text{spanning trees of } G\}$$

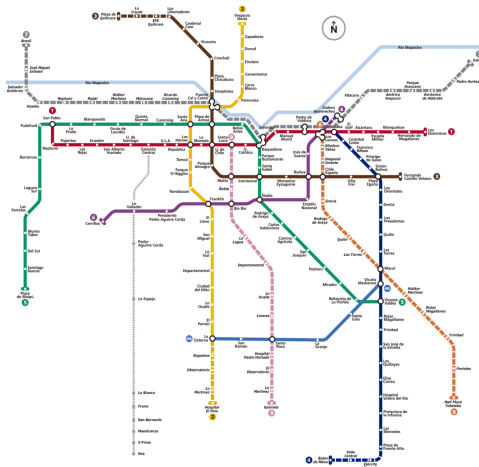
$$\tau(G) = |\mathcal{T}(G)|$$

# Counting Spanning Trees

The number  $\tau(G)$  measures the **complexity** and **resilience** of  $G$ .

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# Spanning Trees and Linear Algebra

**Orient** the edges of  $G$  by assigning each one a **head** and a **tail**.

**Definition** The **signed incidence matrix**  $\partial = \partial(G)$  has rows and columns corresponding to vertices and edges of  $G$ , with entries

$$\partial_{v,e} = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } v = \text{head}(e) \\ -1 & \text{if } v = \text{tail}(e) \\ 0 & \text{if } v \notin e \text{ or } e \text{ is a loop} \end{cases}$$

**Fact** A spanning tree of  $G$  is precisely a set of edges corresponding to a column basis of  $\partial$ .



# The Laplacian Matrix

**Definition** Let  $G$  be a connected graph with  $n$  vertices.

The **Laplacian** of  $G$  is the  $n \times n$  matrix  $L = \partial\partial^T$ , with rows/columns labeled by vertices and entries

$$\ell_{ij} = \begin{cases} \deg_G(i) & \text{if } i = j, \\ -(\text{number of edges between } i \text{ and } j) & \text{if } i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

- ▶  $L$  is symmetric and positive semi-definite
- ▶  $\text{rank } L = n - 1$
- ▶  $\ker L$  is spanned by the all-1's vector

# The Matrix-Tree Theorem

## Matrix-Tree Theorem [Kirchhoff 1847]

(1) Let  $0, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{n-1}$  be the eigenvalues of  $L$ . Then the number of spanning trees of  $G$  is

$$\tau(G) = \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \cdots \lambda_{n-1}}{n} .$$

(2) Let  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Form the **reduced Laplacian**  $L_i$  by deleting the  $i^{th}$  row and  $i^{th}$  column of  $L$ . Then

$$\tau(G) = \det L_i .$$

# Complete and Complete Bipartite Graphs

The **complete graph**  $K_n$  has  $n$  vertices, with every pair connected by one edge.

- ▶ Laplacian spectrum:  $0^1 n^{n-1}$
- ▶  $\tau(K_n) = n^{n-2}$  (Cayley's formula)

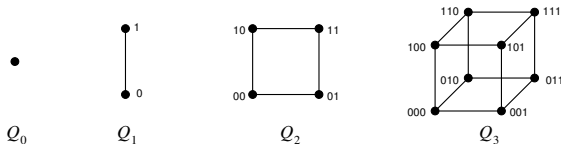
The **complete bipartite graph**  $K_{p,q}$  has  $p$  red vertices and  $q$  blue vertices, with every red/blue pair connected by one edge.

- ▶ Laplacian spectrum:  $0^1 (p+q)^1 p^{q-1} q^{p-1}$
- ▶  $\tau(K_{p,q}) = p^{q-1} q^{p-1}$

Both these formulas can also be obtained bijectively.

# Hypercubes

The **hypercube graph**  $Q_n$  has  $2^n$  vertices, labeled by strings of  $n$  bits (0's and 1's), with two vertices adjacent if they agree in all but one bit.



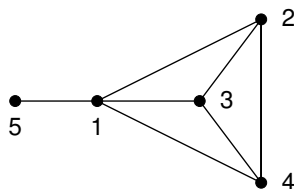
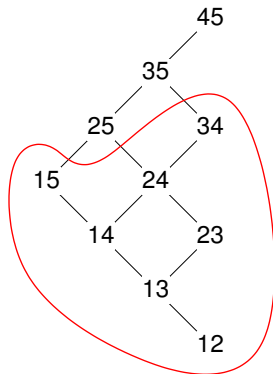
**Theorem** The eigenvalues of the Laplacian of  $Q_n$  are  $0, 2, 4, \dots, 2n$ , with  $2k$  having multiplicity  $\binom{n}{k}$ . Therefore,

$$\tau(Q_n) = 2^{2^n - n - 1} \prod_{k=2}^n k \binom{n}{k}.$$

Combinatorial proof: [Bernardi '12]

# Threshold Graphs

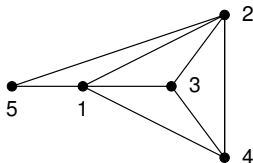
A graph  $G$  with vertex set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  is a **threshold graph** if, whenever  $ab$  is an edge, so is  $a'b'$  for all  $a' \leq a$  and  $b' \leq b$ .



# Threshold Graphs

**Theorem** [Merris '94] The **eigenvalues** of the Laplacian of a threshold graph  $G$  on vertices  $[n]$  are the **columns**  $\lambda'_j$  of the partition  $\lambda = \lambda(G)$  whose **rows** are the **vertex degrees**.

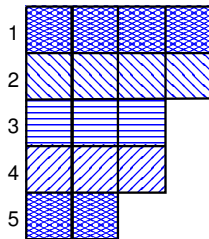
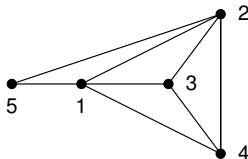
**Corollary**  $\tau(G) = \lambda'_2 \lambda'_3 \cdots \lambda'_{n-1}$ .



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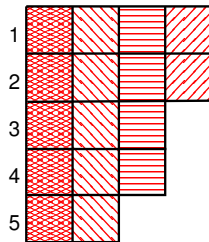
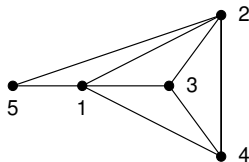


Vertex degrees: 4, 4, 3, 3, 2

# Threshold Graphs

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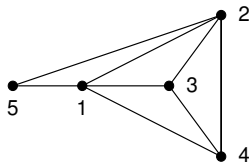
Laplacian eigenvalues: 5, 5, 4, 2, 0



# Threshold Graphs

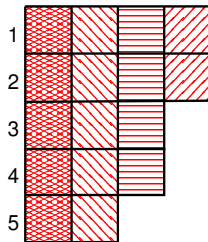
**Theorem** [Merris '94] The **eigenvalues** of the Laplacian of a threshold graph  $G$  on vertices  $[n]$  are the **columns**  $\lambda'_j$  of the partition  $\lambda = \lambda(G)$  whose **rows** are the **vertex degrees**.

**Corollary**  $\tau(G) = \lambda'_2 \lambda'_3 \cdots \lambda'_{n-1}$ .



$$\tau = 5 \times 4 \times 2 = 40$$

Laplacian eigenvalues: 5, 5, 4, 2, 0



# Weighted Counting

Let  $\{x_e: e \in E\}$  be commuting indeterminates.

**Weighted Laplacian**  $\hat{L} = [\hat{\ell}_{ij}]_{i,j \in V}$ :

$$\hat{\ell}_{ij} = \begin{cases} \sum_{e \ni i} x_e & \text{if } i = j, \\ -\sum_{e=ij} x_e & \text{if } i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

**Reduced Laplacian**  $\hat{L}_i$ : delete  $i^{th}$  row and  $i^{th}$  column of  $\hat{L}$

**Weighted Matrix-Tree Theorem**

$$\det L_i = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}(G)} \prod_{e \in T} x_e.$$

# Weighted Counting

Combinatorial information about  $\mathcal{T}(G)$  can be obtained by specializing edge weights  $x_e$ . Often, tree enumerators factor nicely.

- ▶ **Complete graphs:**  $x_{ij} = x_i x_j$  gives *Cayley-Prüfer formula*

$$\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}(K_n)} x_1^{\deg_T(1)} \cdots x_n^{\deg_T(n)} = x_1 \cdots x_n (x_1 + \cdots + x_n)^{n-2}$$

- ▶ Generalization to **extended [Prüfer] graphs** [Kelmans '92]
- ▶ **Threshold graphs** [Remmel-Williamson '02, JLM-Reiner '03]: factorization for bidegree generating function:

$$\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}(G)} \prod_{e=i < j \in T} x_i y_j = x_1 y_n \prod_{r=2}^{n-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{\lambda'_r} x_{\min(i,r)} y_{\max(i,r)} \right)$$

- ▶ **Hypercubes:** different weighting factors [JLM-Reiner '03]

## Part 2: Higher Dimension

# Simplicial Complexes

A  **$d$ -simplex** is the convex hull of  $d + 1$  general points in  $\mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ .



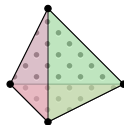
$d = 0$



$d = 1$

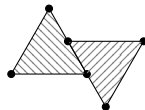
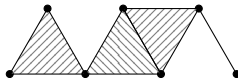
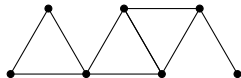


$d = 2$



$d = 3$

A **simplicial complex** is a space built (properly) from simplices.



# Simplicial Complexes

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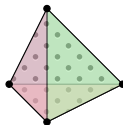
$d = 0$



$d = 1$

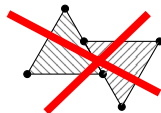
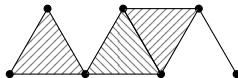
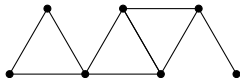


$d = 2$



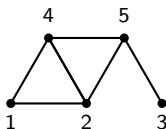
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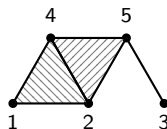


# Simplicial Complexes

Combinatorially, a simplicial complex is a **set family**  $\Delta \subseteq 2^{\{1,2,\dots,n\}}$  such that if  $\sigma \in \Delta$  and  $\sigma' \subseteq \sigma$ , then  $\sigma' \in \Delta$ .



$$\Delta_1 = \langle 12, 14, 24, 24, 25, 35 \rangle$$



$$\Delta_2 = \langle 124, 245, 35 \rangle$$

- ▶ **faces** or **simplices**: elements of  $\Delta$
- ▶ **dimension**:  $\dim \sigma = |\sigma| - 1$
- ▶ **facet**: a maximal face
- ▶ **pure** complex: all facets have equal dimension
- ▶ **k-skeleton**  $\Delta_{(k)} = \{\sigma \in \Delta : \dim \sigma \leq k\}$

# Simplicial Boundary Maps and Homology

Let  $\Delta$  be a simplicial complex on vertices  $[n]$ .

Write  $\Delta_k$  for the set of  $k$ -dimensional faces.

The  $k^{\text{th}}$  simplicial boundary matrix of  $\Delta$  is

$$\partial_k = \partial_k(\Delta) = [d_{\rho,\sigma}]_{\rho \in \Delta_{k-1}, \sigma \in \Delta_k}$$

where

$$d_{\rho,\sigma} = \begin{cases} (-1)^j & \text{if } \sigma = \{v_0 < v_1 < \cdots < v_k\} \text{ and } \rho = \sigma \setminus v_j \\ 0 & \text{if } \rho \not\subseteq \sigma \end{cases}$$

**Note:**  $\partial_1$  is the signed incidence matrix of the 1-skeleton of  $\Delta$ .

**Fact:**  $\ker \partial_k \supseteq \operatorname{im} \partial_{k+1}$  for all  $k$ .



# Simplicial Boundary Maps and Homology

$$\cdots \rightarrow R\Delta_{k+1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{k+1}} R\Delta_k \xrightarrow{\partial_k} R\Delta_{k-1} \rightarrow \cdots \quad \partial_k \partial_{k+1} = 0 \quad \forall k$$

**Definition**   **Homology groups of  $\Delta$  over  $R$**  (default:  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ ):

$$\tilde{H}_k(\Delta; R) = \ker(\partial_k; R) / \operatorname{im}(\partial_{k+1}; R).$$

Homology groups are topological invariants that “count holes”.

- ▶  $\tilde{H}_0(\Delta; R) = 0 \iff \Delta$  is connected
- ▶  $\tilde{H}_1(\Delta; R) = 0 \iff \Delta$  is simply connected
- ▶  $\Delta$  is contractible  $\implies \tilde{H}_k(\Delta; R) = 0$  for all  $k, R$

# Simplicial Spanning Trees

**Definition** Let  $\Delta^d$  be a pure simplicial complex of dimension  $d$ . A **spanning tree** (ST) is a complex  $\Upsilon$  such that  $\Delta_{(d-1)} \subseteq \Upsilon \subseteq \Delta$  and either of the following equivalent conditions hold:

1. The columns of  $\partial_d(\Delta)$  corresponding to faces of  $\Upsilon$  form a basis for its column space over  $\mathbb{Q}$
2.  $\tilde{H}_d(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Q}) = 0$  and  $\tilde{H}_{d-1}(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ .
3.  $\tilde{H}_d(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Z}) = 0$  and  $\tilde{H}_{d-1}(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Z})$  is finite.

$\mathcal{T}(\Delta)$  = set of spanning trees of  $\Delta$

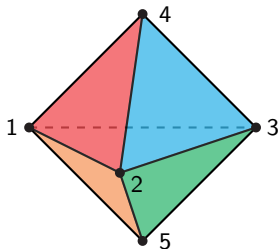
Note that we are **not** defining  $\tau(\Delta)$  to be the cardinality of  $\mathcal{T}(\Delta)$ !

# Examples of STs

- ▶  $\dim \Delta = 1$ :  $\mathcal{T}(\Delta)$  = usual graph-theoretic spanning trees
- ▶  $\dim \Delta = 0$ :  $\mathcal{T}(\Delta)$  = vertices of  $\Delta$
- ▶ If  $\Delta$  is **contractible**: it has only one ST, namely itself.
  - ▶ Contractible complexes  $\approx$  acyclic graphs
  - ▶ Some noncontractible complexes also qualify, notably  $\mathbb{RP}^2$
- ▶ If  $\Delta$  is a **simplicial sphere**: STs are  $\Delta \setminus \{\sigma\}$ , where  $\sigma \in \Delta$  is any facet (maximal face)
  - ▶ Simplicial spheres are analogous to cycle graphs

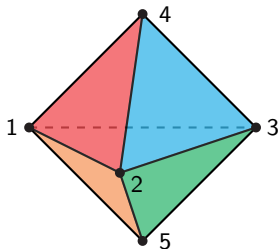
# Examples of STs

**Pop quiz:** How many spanning trees does the equatorial bipyramid  $\Delta = \langle 123, 124, 134, 234, 125, 135, 235 \rangle$  have?



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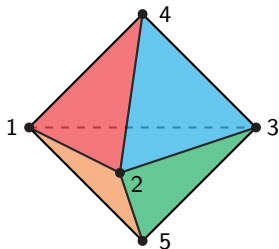


**Solution: 15.**

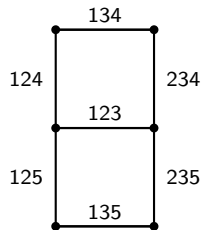
- Either remove triangle 123 and any other triangle (6 STs)...
- ...or one each “northern” and “southern” triangle (9 STs).

# Examples of STs

**Pop quiz:** How many spanning trees does the equatorial bipyramid  $\Delta = \langle 123, 124, 134, 234, 125, 135, 235 \rangle$  have?



**Solution: 15.**



- Either remove triangle 123 and any other triangle (6 STs)...
- ...or one each “northern” and “southern” triangle (9 STs).

If  $\Delta$  is a graph, then every spanning tree  $\Upsilon \in \mathcal{T}(\Delta)$  is contractible, hence  $\tilde{H}_0(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Z}) = 0$ .

On the other hand, if  $\dim \Delta = d \geq 2$  then  $\tilde{H}_{d-1}(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Z})$  can be **finite and nontrivial**.

**Example**  $\Delta$  = complete 2-dimensional complex on 6 vertices;  $\Upsilon$  = triangulation of  $\mathbb{RP}^2$ . Then

$$\tilde{H}_1(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}.$$

**Geometrically:** torsion suggests non-orientability.

**Combinatorially:** torsion affects the count of spanning trees.

# Simplicial Laplacians

**Definition** **Updown Laplacian matrix** of  $\Delta$  in dimension  $k - 1$ :

$$L_{k-1}^{\text{ud}}(\Delta) = \partial_k \partial_k^T.$$

- ▶  $L_0^{\text{ud}}(\Delta)$  is the usual graph Laplacian (rows/columns indexed by vertices).
- ▶  $L_{k-1}^{\text{ud}}(\Delta)$  is a symmetric square matrix with rows/columns indexed by  $\rho, \pi \in \Delta_{k-1}$ :

$$\ell_{\rho, \pi} = \begin{cases} \#\{\sigma \in \Delta_k \mid \sigma \supseteq \rho\} & \text{if } \rho = \pi, \\ \pm 1 & \text{if } \rho, \pi \text{ lie in a common } k\text{-face,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**Reduced Laplacian**  $L_T(\Delta)$ : pick a  $(k - 1)$ -tree  $T$  and delete all rows/columns corresponding to its facets



# The Simplicial Matrix-Tree Theorem

## Simplicial Matrix-Tree Theorem

(Bolker, Kalai, Adin, Duval–Klivans–JLM, ...)

The “number” of spanning trees of  $\Delta^d$  is

$$\tau_d(\Delta) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{\Upsilon \in \mathcal{T}(\Delta)} |\tilde{H}_{d-1}(\Upsilon)|^2 = c \det \hat{L}_{\mathcal{T}} = \frac{c' \text{pdet } L}{\tau_{d-1}(\Delta)}.$$

- ▶ If  $d = 1$  (graphs) then all summands are 1
- ▶  $\text{pdet } M$  = product of nonzero eigenvalues (pseudodeterminant)
- ▶ Correction factors  $c, c'$  involve torsion homology; often trivial
- ▶ When do  $L$  and/or  $L_{\mathcal{T}}$  have integer eigenvalues?

# Kalai's Theorem

Complete  $d$ -dimensional complex on  $n$  vertices:

$$K_{n,d} = \{F \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\} \mid \dim F \leq d\}$$

(In particular  $K_{n,1} = K_n$ .)

**Theorem** [Kalai '83]

$$\tau(K_{n,d}) = n^{\binom{n-2}{d}}.$$

Better yet,

$$\sum_{\gamma \in \mathcal{T}(K)} |\tilde{H}_{d-1}(\gamma)|^2 \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\deg \gamma(i)} = (x_1 \cdots x_n)^{\binom{n-2}{d-1}} (x_1 + \cdots + x_n)^{\binom{n-2}{d}}.$$

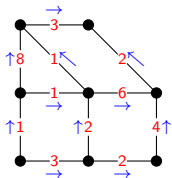
# Kalai's Theorem

- ▶ Kalai's theorem reduces to  $\tau(K_n) = n^{n-2}$  when  $d = 1$ , and the weighted version reduces to Cayley-Prüfer.
- ▶ Bolker (1976): Observed that  $n^{\binom{n-2}{d}}$  is an exact count of trees for small  $n, d$ , but fails for  $n = 6, d = 2$ .
  - ▶ The problem is torsion —  $\mathbb{RP}^2$  requires six vertices to triangulate
- ▶ Adin (1992): Analogous formula for **complete colorful complexes**, generalizing  $\tau(K_{n,m}) = n^{m-1}m^{n-1}$
- ▶ Duval–Klivans–JLM (2009): Enumeration for **shifted complexes** (I might get to this later)

## Part 3: Trees, Simplicial Trees, and... Electrical Networks??

# Resistor Networks

A **[resistor] network**  $N = (V, E, \mathbf{r})$  is a connected graph  $(V, E)$  together with positive **resistances**  $\mathbf{r} = (r_e)_{e \in E}$ .



**currents**  $\mathbf{i} = (i_{\vec{e}})_{e \in E}$

**voltages**  $\mathbf{v} = (v_{\vec{e}})_{e \in E}$

**Ohm's law**

$$i_e r_e = v_e \quad (\forall e \in E)$$

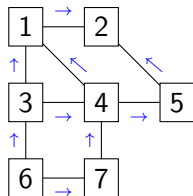
**Kirchhoff's current law**

Net current into a vertex = net current out

**Kirchhoff's voltage law**

Net voltage gain around a cycle is 0

# Kirchhoff's Laws and the Incidence Matrix



$\partial$	12	31	41	52	34	45	63	74	67
1	-1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	-1	0	0	-1	0	1	0	0
4	0	0	-1	0	1	-1	0	1	0
5	0	0	0	-1	0	1	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1

KCL:  $\mathbf{i} \in \ker \partial = \text{nullspace}(\partial)$

► Currents are **flows**

KVL:  $\mathbf{v} \in (\ker \partial)^\perp = \text{rowspace}(\partial)$

► Voltages are **cuts**

# Effective Resistance

**Idea:** Attach a **current generator**: edge  $\mathbf{e} = \overrightarrow{xy}$  with current  $i_e$ , then look for currents and voltages satisfying OL, KCL, KPL.

**Dirichlet principle** The state of the system is the unique minimizer of “total energy”  $\sum_e v_e i_e$  subject to OL, KCL, KPL.

**Rayleigh principle** As far as the external world is concerned, the system is equivalent to a single edge  $\mathbf{e}$  with a certain resistance (its **effective resistance**).

**Fact** If a voltage/current pair  $(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{i})$  on  $N + e$  obeys OL+KCL+KPL and minimizes energy, then

$$R_e^{\text{eff}} = v_e / i_e.$$

# Effective Resistance and Tree Counting

**Theorem** [Thomassen 1990]

Let  $N = (V, E, \mathbf{r})$  be a network and  $e = xy \in E$ .

- If  $\mathbf{r} \equiv 1$ , then

$$R_{xy}^{\text{eff}} = \frac{\tau(G/xy)}{\tau(G)} = \Pr[\text{random spanning tree contains } xy]$$

- Generalization for arbitrary resistances:

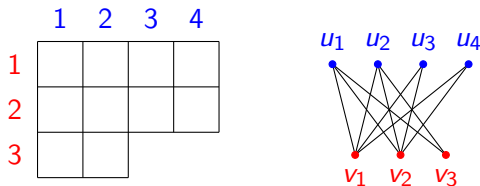
$$R_{xy}^{\text{eff}} = \frac{\hat{\tau}(G/xy)}{\hat{\tau}(G)} = \frac{\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}(G/xy)} \prod_{e \in T} r_e^{-1}}{\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}(G)} \prod_{e \in T} r_e^{-1}}.$$

**Combinatorial application:** weighted tree enumeration!



# Application: Ferrers Graphs

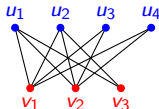
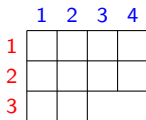
The **Ferrers graph**  $G_\lambda$  of a partition  $\lambda$  has vertices corresponding to the rows and columns of  $\lambda$ , and edges corresponding to squares.



Here  $\lambda = (4, 4, 2)$ ,  $\lambda' = (3, 3, 2, 2)$ ,  $n = 3 = \ell(\lambda)$ ,  $m = 4 = \ell(\lambda')$ .  
Define a degree-weighted tree enumerator

$$\hat{\tau}(G) = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}(G_\lambda)} \prod_{i=1}^m x_i^{\deg_T(u_i)} \prod_{j=1}^n y_j^{\deg_T(v_j)}$$

# Application: Ferrers Graphs



**Theorem** (Ehrenborg and van Willigenburg, 2004):

$$\hat{\tau}(G_\lambda) = x_1 \cdots x_m y_1 \cdots y_n \prod_{i=2}^n (y_1 + \cdots + y_{\lambda_i}) \prod_{j=2}^n (x_1 + \cdots + x_{\lambda'_j})$$

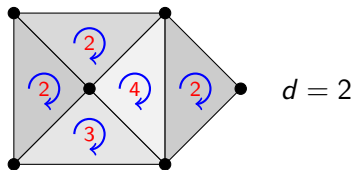
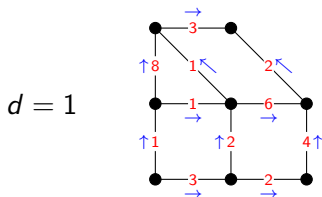
(Proof sketch: Find effective resistance of a corner of  $\lambda$ ; induct.)  
In the example above,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\tau}(G_\lambda) &= x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 y_1 y_2 y_3 \\ &\quad \times (y_1 + y_2 + y_3)(y_1 + y_2)^2 (x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4)(x_1 + x_2) \end{aligned}$$

and in particular  $\tau(G_\lambda) = 3 \cdot 2^2 \cdot 4 \cdot 2$ .

# Simplicial Networks

**Simplicial network:** pure complex  $\Delta^d$  with resistances  $(r_\phi)_{\phi \in \Phi}$   
( $\Phi$  = facets of  $\Delta$ )



Currents  $\mathbf{i} = (i_\varphi)_{\varphi \in \Phi}$

Voltages  $\mathbf{v} = (v_\varphi)_{\varphi \in \Phi}$

## Ohm's law

$$i_\varphi r_\varphi = v_\varphi \text{ for all } \varphi \in \Phi$$

## Kirchhoff's current law

$$\mathbf{i} \in \ker(\partial_d)$$

## Kirchhoff's voltage law

$$\mathbf{v} \in \ker(\partial_d)^\perp$$

- ▶ Dirichlet, Rayleigh,  $R^{\text{eff}}$  have natural simplicial analogues.

# Counting Simplicial Trees via Effective Resistance

**Theorem** [Kook–Lee 2018]

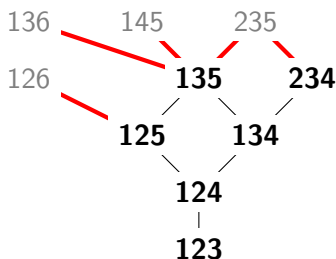
Let  $(\Delta, \mathbf{r})$  be a simplicial network and  $\sigma$  a current generator. Then:

$$R_{\sigma}^{\text{eff}} = \frac{\hat{\tau}(\Delta/\sigma)}{\hat{\tau}(\Delta)} = \frac{\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}(\Delta/\sigma)} |\tilde{H}_{d-1}(T, \mathbb{Z})|^2 \prod_{\varphi \in T} r_{\varphi}^{-1}}{\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}(\Delta)} |\tilde{H}_{d-1}(T, \mathbb{Z})|^2 \prod_{\varphi \in T} r_{\varphi}^{-1}}.$$

- ▶ Generalizes Thomassen's theorem for  $R^{\text{eff}}$  in graphs
- ▶  $\Delta/\sigma =$  quotient complex (not simplicial, but close enough)
- ▶ Application: count trees by induction on facets (a la Ehrenborg–van Willigenburg)

# Shifted Complexes

A (pure) simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on vertices  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  is **shifted** if replacing any vertex of a face with a smaller vertex produces another face.



$$\Delta = \langle 135, 234 \rangle_{\text{Gale}}$$

**Facets**

Nonfaces

Critical pairs

Shifted complexes are **nice**: shellable, good h-vectors, arise in algebra (Borel-fixed ideals), generalize threshold graphs

# Shifted Complexes

**Duval–Reiner '02:** Let  $\lambda_i$  = number of max-dim faces containing vertex  $i$ . Then eigenvalues of  $L(\Delta)$  = column lengths of  $\lambda$ .

(Generalizes Merris's Theorem — one-dimensional shifted complexes are just threshold graphs.)

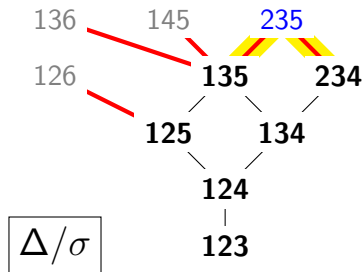
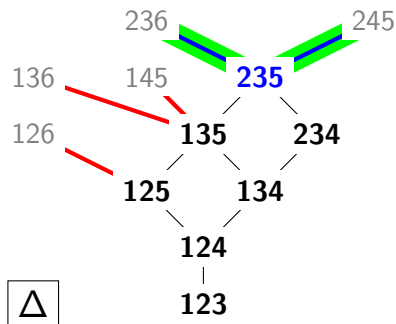
**Duval–Klivans–JLM '09:** recursion for  $\hat{\tau}(\Delta)$  via the shifted complexes  $\langle \varphi \in \Delta \mid 1 \in \varphi \rangle$  and  $\langle \varphi \in \Delta \mid 1 \notin \varphi \rangle$ .

Here  $\hat{\tau}(\Delta)$  is the finely weighted degree enumerator

$$\hat{\tau}(\Delta) = \sum_{\Upsilon \in \mathcal{T}(\Delta)} |H_{d-1}(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Z})|^2 \prod_{\substack{\text{facets} \\ \{v_0 < \dots < v_d\}}} x_{0,v_0} \cdots x_{d,v_d}$$

**Punchline:** Critical pairs  $P$  correspond to factors  $f_P$  of  $\hat{\tau}(\Delta)$ .

# Shifted Complexes

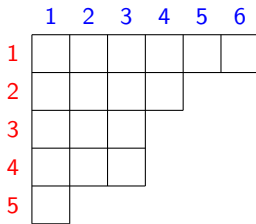
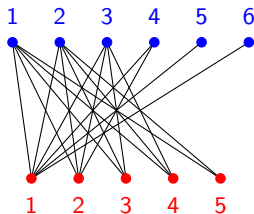


$$R^{\text{eff}}(\sigma) = \frac{\hat{\tau}(\Delta/\sigma)}{\hat{\tau}(\Delta)} = \frac{\prod_{\text{yellow } P} f_P}{\prod_{\text{green } P} f_P}$$

# Color-Shifted Complexes

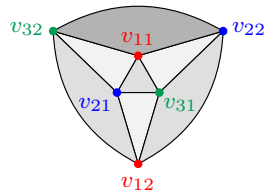
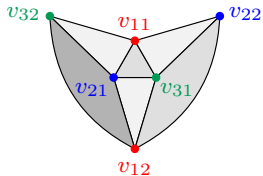
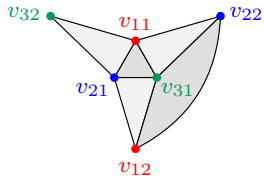
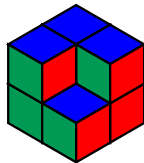
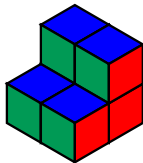
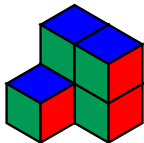
A simplicial complex  $\Delta^d$  is **color-shifted** [Babson–Novik '06] if:

- ▶  $V(\Delta) = V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_{d+1}$ , where  $V_q = \{v_{q,1}, \dots, v_{q,\ell_q}\}$
- ▶ Each facet contains exactly one vertex of each color
- ▶ Replacing any vertex of a face with a smaller vertex *of the same color* produces another face.
- ▶ A 1-dimensional color-shifted complex is just a Ferrers graph.





# Color-Shifted Complexes



**Vertex-weighted spanning tree enumerators:**

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\tau}(\Delta) &= \sum_{\Upsilon \in \mathcal{T}(\Delta)} |H_{d-1}(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Z})|^2 \prod_{\varphi \in \Upsilon} \prod_{v_{q,j} \in \varphi} x_{q,j} \\ &= \sum_{\Upsilon \in \mathcal{T}(\Delta)} |H_{d-1}(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Z})|^2 \prod_{q,j} x_{q,j}^{\deg_{\Upsilon}(v_{q,j})}\end{aligned}$$

**Proposition** [Duval–Kook–Lee–JLM 2021<sup>+</sup>]

Let  $\Delta^d$  be color-shifted and  $\sigma = v_{1,k_1} \dots v_{d+1,k_{d+1}}$  a minimal nonfacet. Then

$$R^{\text{eff}}(\sigma) = \frac{\hat{\tau}(\Delta + \sigma)}{\tau(\Delta)} = \prod_{q=1}^{d+1} \frac{x_{q,1} + \dots + x_{q,k_q}}{x_{q,1} + \dots + x_{q,k_q-1}}.$$

# Trees in Color-Shifted Complexes

**Theorem** [Duval–Kook–Lee–JLM 2022<sup>+</sup>]

$$\hat{\tau}(\Delta) = \prod_{q,i} x_{q,i}^{e(q,i)} \prod_{\substack{\rho \in \Delta \\ \dim \rho = d-1}} (x_{m(\rho),1} + \cdots + x_{m(\rho),k(\rho)})$$

where

$$e(q,i) = \#\{\sigma \in \Delta_d \mid v_{q,i} \in \sigma \text{ and } v_{q',1} \in \sigma \text{ for some } q' \neq q\}$$

$$m(\rho) = \text{unique color missing from } \rho$$

$$k(\rho) = \max\{j \mid \rho \cup v_{m(\rho),j} \in \Delta\}$$

- ▶ Special case  $d = 1$  is Ehrenborg–van Willigenburg
- ▶ Previously conjectured by Aalipour and Duval [unpublished]
- ▶ Result seems inaccessible without effective resistance

**¡Muchas gracias!**

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## Some notable works:

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- ▶ A.M. Duval and V. Reiner, *Shifted simplicial complexes are Laplacian integral*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 354 (2002) 4313–4344
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- ▶ W. Kook and K.-J. Lee, *Simplicial networks and effective resistance*, Adv. Appl. Math. 100 (2018) 71–86

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- ▶ A.M. Duval, C.J. Klivans, and J.L. Martin, *Simplicial and cellular trees*, Recent Trends in Combinatorics, 713–752, IMA Pubs. (Springer) 2016

# Image Acknowledgements

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