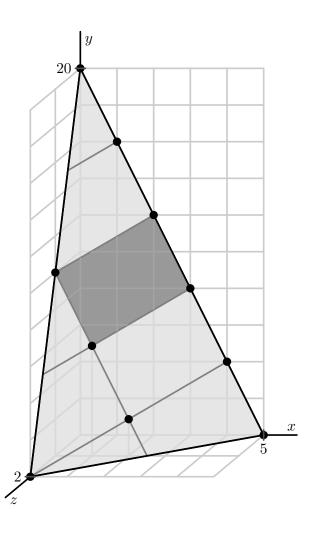
# **Ehrhart Polynomials**

Day I: Appetizers

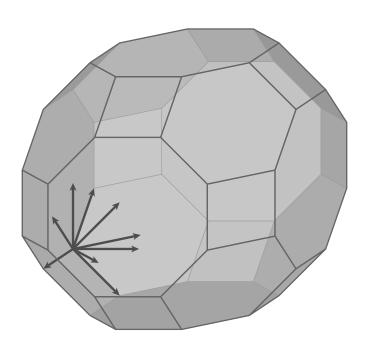


Matthias Beck San Francisco State University https://matthbeck.github.io/

VIII Encuentro Colombiano De Combinatoria

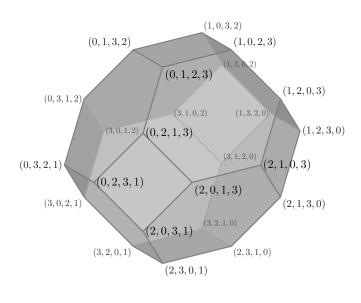
"Science is what we understand well enough to explain to a computer, art is all the rest."

#### Donald Knuth



Ehrhart Polynomials ( ) Matthias Beck

#### **Themes**



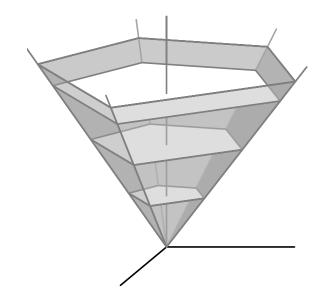
Discrete-geometric polynomials

Computation (complexity)

Generating functions

Combinatorial structures

Polyhedra



### A Sample Problem: Birkhoff-von Neumann Polytope

This site is supported by donations to The OEIS Foundation.

## THE ON-LINE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INTEGER SEQUENCES®

founded in 1964 by N. J. A. Sloane

Hints (Greetings from The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences!)

Normalized volume of Birkhoff polytope of n X n doubly-stochastic square matrices. If the volume <sup>2</sup> A037302 is v(n), then  $a(n) = ((n-1)^2)! * v(n) / n^{(n-1)}$ .

1, 1, 3, 352, 4718075, 14666561365176, 17832560768358341943028, 12816077964079346687829905128694016, 7658969897501574748537755050756794492337074203099, 5091038988117504946842559205930853037841762820367901333706255223000 (list; graph; refs; listen; history;

text; internal format) OFFSET

COMMENTS The Birkhoff polytope is an (n-1)^2-dimensional polytope in n^2-dimensional space; its vertices are the n! permutation matrices.

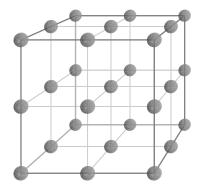
Is a(n) divisible by n^2 for all n>=4? - Dean Hickerson, Nov 27 2002

$$B_n = \left\{ \left( \begin{array}{ccc} x_{11} & \cdots & x_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ x_{n1} & \cdots & x_{nn} \end{array} \right) \in \mathbb{R}^{n^2}_{\geq 0} : \quad \sum_{k} x_{jk} = 1 \text{ for all } 1 \leq k \leq n \\ \sum_{k} x_{jk} = 1 \text{ for all } 1 \leq j \leq n \end{array} \right\}$$

#### **Discrete Volumes**

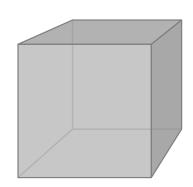
Rational polyhedron  $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  – solution set of a system of linear equalities & inequalities with integer coefficients

Goal: understand  $\mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d$  . . .



$$lacksquare$$
 (count)  $\left|\mathcal{P}\cap\mathbb{Z}^d\right|$ 

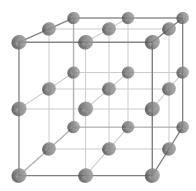
$$ightharpoonup$$
 (volume)  $\operatorname{vol}(\mathcal{P}) = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{1}{t^d} \left| \mathcal{P} \cap \frac{1}{t} \mathbb{Z}^d \right|$ 



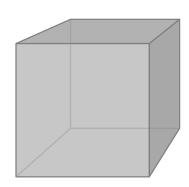
#### **Discrete Volumes**

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- ightharpoonup (count)  $\left|\mathcal{P}\cap\mathbb{Z}^d\right|$
- $\blacktriangleright$  (volume)  $\operatorname{vol}(\mathcal{P}) = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{1}{t^d} \left| \mathcal{P} \cap \frac{1}{t} \mathbb{Z}^d \right|$



Ehrhart function 
$$L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) := \left| \mathcal{P} \cap \frac{1}{t} \mathbb{Z}^d \right| = \left| t \mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \right| \text{ for } t \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$$

▶ Linear systems are everywhere, and so polyhedra are everywhere.

Ehrhart Polynomials 

Matthias Beck

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- ▶ In applications, the volume of the polytope represented by a linear system measures some fundamental data of this system ("average").

Ehrhart Polynomials 

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Ehrhart Polynomials 

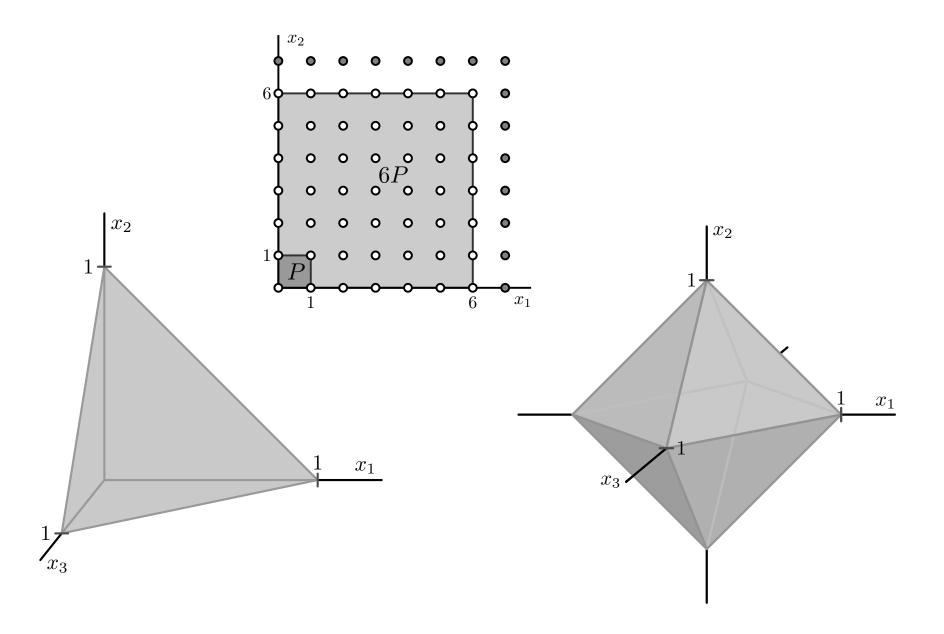
Matthias Beck

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- ▶ Polytopes are basic geometric objects, yet even for these basic objects volume computation is hard and there remain many open problems.

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- Many discrete problems in various areas are linear problems, thus they ask for the discrete volume of a polytope in disguise.
- Much discrete geometry can be modeled using polynomials and, conversely, many combinatorial polynomials can be modeled geometrically.
- ► Polytopes are basic geometric objects, yet even for these basic objects volume computation is hard and there remain many open problems.
- Also, polytopes are cool.

### Today's Menu: Get Our Hands Dirty



#### The Unit Cube

Lattice polytope  $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  – convex hull of finitely points in  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ 

For 
$$t \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$$
 let  $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) := \# \left( t \mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \right)$ 

The unit cube in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is  $\mathcal{P} = [0,1]^d = \{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d : 0 \le x_j \le 1 \}$ 

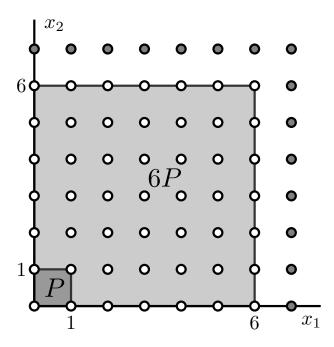
$$\longrightarrow L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) = (t+1)^d$$

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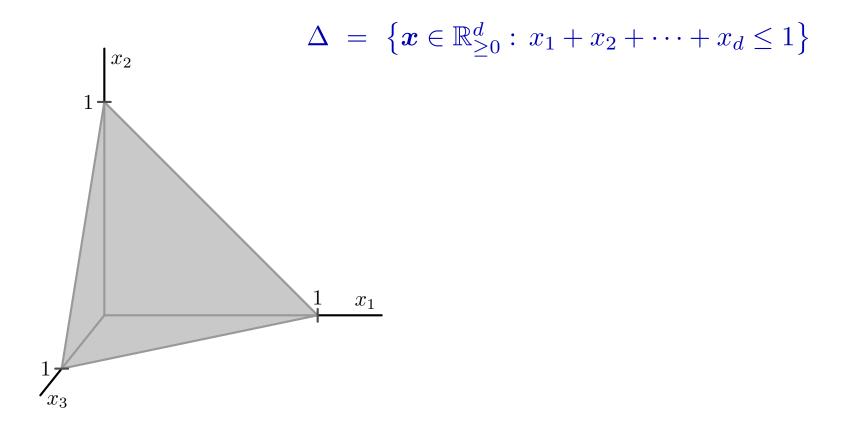


$$\longrightarrow L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) = (t+1)^d$$

$$L_{\mathcal{P}^{\circ}}(t) = (t-1)^d$$

### **The Standard Simplex**

The standard simplex  $\Delta \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is the convex hull of the unit vectors and the origin; alternatively,



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$$\Delta = \{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d_{\geq 0} : x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_d \leq 1 \}$$

$$L_{\Delta}(t) = \# \{ (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^d : x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_d \leq t \}$$

$$= \# \{ (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d, x_{d+1}) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^{d+1} : x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_{d+1} = t \}$$

$$= \binom{d+t}{d}$$

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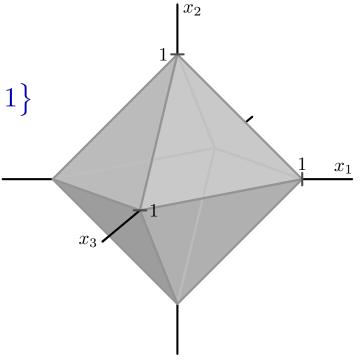
$$= \# \{ (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d, x_{d+1}) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^{d+1} : x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_{d+1} = t \}$$

$$= \binom{d+t}{d}$$

$$L_{\Delta^{\circ}}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} t - 1 \\ d \end{pmatrix}$$

The cross-polytope  $\diamondsuit \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is

$$\Diamond = \{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d : |x_1| + |x_2| + \dots + |x_d| \le 1 \}$$

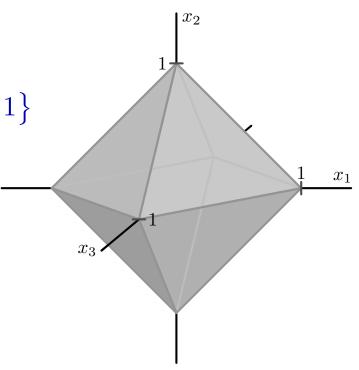


Ehrhart Polynomials 💮 Matthias Beck 10

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Let's compute  $L_{\diamondsuit}(t)$  for d=3 . . .

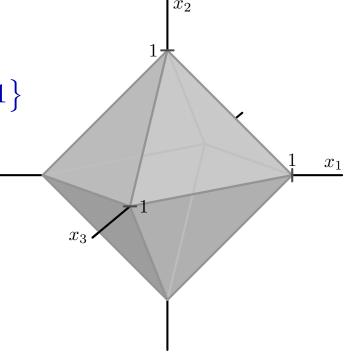


- Triangulation
- Disjoint triangulation
- Interpolation
- Generating function

The cross-polytope  $\diamondsuit \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is

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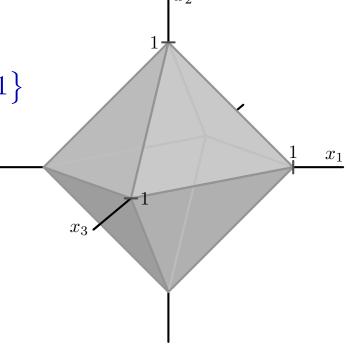
Triangulation

Dissect  $\diamondsuit$  into 8 (standard) tetrahedra and use inclusion—exclusion to compute  $L_\diamondsuit(t)$ 

The cross-polytope  $\diamondsuit \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is

$$\Diamond = \{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d : |x_1| + |x_2| + \dots + |x_d| \le 1 \}$$

Let's compute  $L_{\diamondsuit}(t)$  for d=3 . . .



Disjoint triangulation

Dissect ♦ into 8 half-open tetrahedra

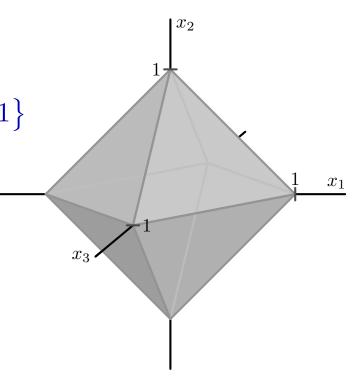
The cross-polytope  $\diamondsuit \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is

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Let's compute  $L_{\diamondsuit}(t)$  for d=3 . . .

Interpolation

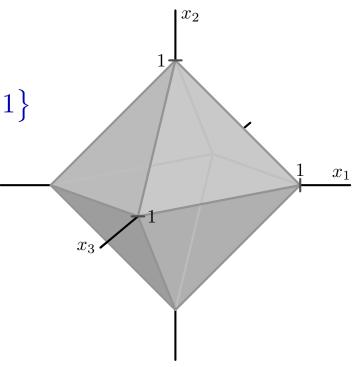
```
sage: L(1)
7
sage: L(2)
25
sage: L(3)
63
sage: L(4)
129
```



The cross-polytope  $\diamondsuit \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is

$$\diamond = \{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d : |x_1| + |x_2| + \dots + |x_d| \le 1 \}$$

Let's compute  $L_{\diamondsuit}(t)$  for d=3 . . .



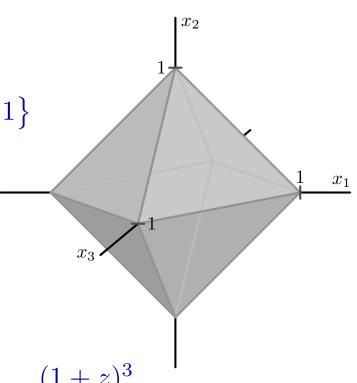
Generating function

$$\operatorname{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z) := 1 + \sum_{t \ge 1} L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) z^{t}$$

The cross-polytope  $\diamondsuit \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is

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Let's compute  $L_{\diamondsuit}(t)$  for d=3 . . .



Generating function

$$\operatorname{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z) := 1 + \sum_{t \ge 1} L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) z^t = \frac{(1+z)^3}{(1-z)^4}$$

Exercise: 
$$\operatorname{Ehr}_{\operatorname{BiPyr}(\mathcal{P})}(z) = \frac{1+z}{1-z} \operatorname{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z)$$

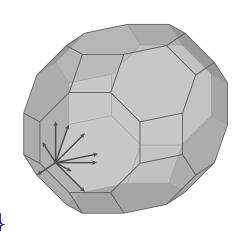
 $\ldots$  for unit cubes  $\longrightarrow$  Eulerian polynomials

Ehrhart Polynomials

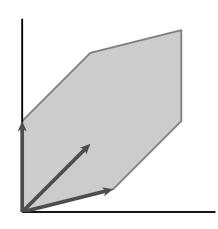
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### **Z**onotopes

Line segment  $[\boldsymbol{a}, \boldsymbol{b}] := \{(1 - \lambda) \, \boldsymbol{a} + \lambda \, \boldsymbol{b} : 0 \le \lambda \le 1\}$ 



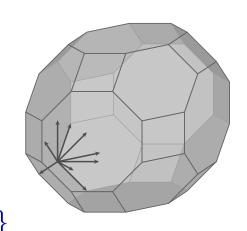
Minkowski sum  $\mathcal{K}_1 + \mathcal{K}_2 := \{ \boldsymbol{p} + \boldsymbol{q} : \boldsymbol{p} \in \mathcal{K}_1, \ \boldsymbol{q} \in \mathcal{K}_2 \}$ 



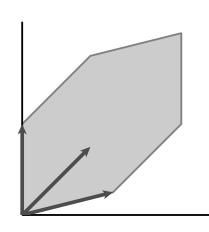
Zonotope  $\mathcal{Z} := [\boldsymbol{a}_1, \boldsymbol{b}_1] + [\boldsymbol{a}_2, \boldsymbol{b}_2] + \cdots + [\boldsymbol{a}_m, \boldsymbol{b}_m]$ 

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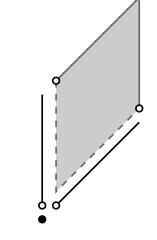


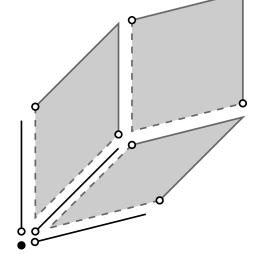
Zonotope 
$$\mathcal{Z}:=[oldsymbol{a}_1,oldsymbol{b}_1]+[oldsymbol{a}_2,oldsymbol{b}_2]+\cdots+[oldsymbol{a}_m,oldsymbol{b}_m]$$

Every zonotope admits a tiling into parallelepipeds

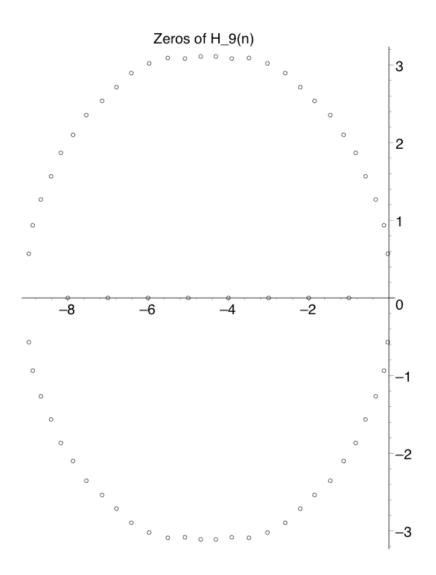
 $\mathcal{P}$  — half-open d-parallelepiped

$$\longrightarrow L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) = t^d$$





#### Birkhoff-von Neumann Revisited



For more about roots of (Ehrhart) polynomials, see Braun (2008) and Pfeifle (2010).

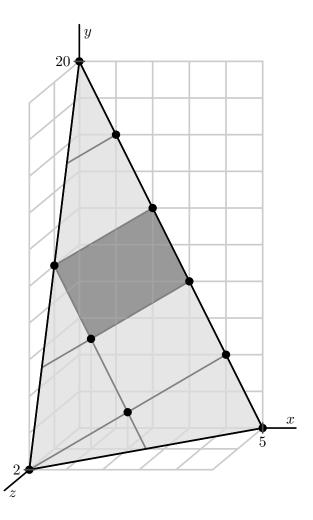
### Recap Day I

- Volume computations  $\longrightarrow$  don't agonize, discretize
- Integer-point counting in dilated polytopes  $\longrightarrow$  polynomials
- Interpolation
- Generating functions
- Dissections: triangulations, tilings
- Tomorrow: enough practice, how does this work in theory?



# **Ehrhart Polynomials**

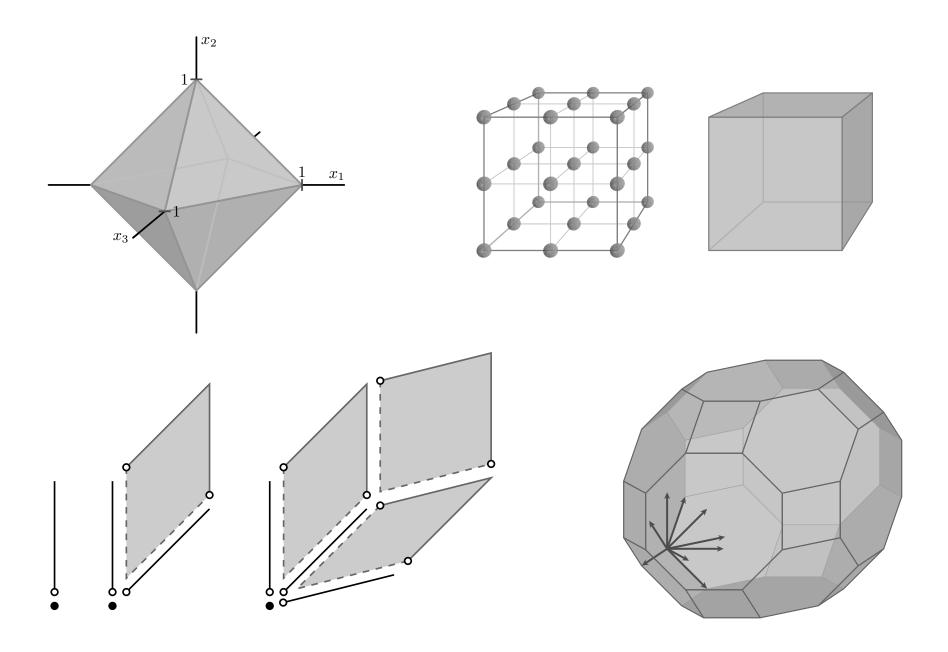
Day II: Generating Functions & Complexity



Matthias Beck San Francisco State University https://matthbeck.github.io/

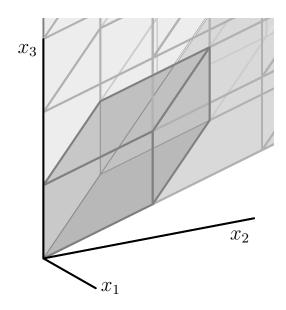
VIII Encuentro Colombiano De Combinatoria

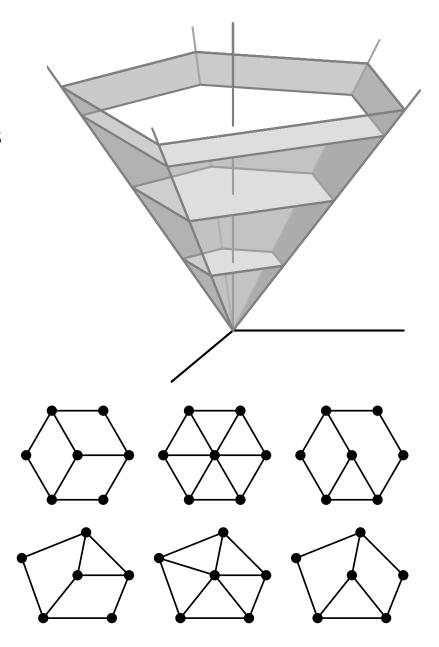
## Any questions about yesterday?



### Today's Menu: Theory and Complexity

- Partition function magic
- Lots of generating functions
- Rational cones
- Triangulations
- Ehrhart theory





A partition  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$  of an integer  $k \geq 0$  satisfies

$$k = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_n$$
 and  $0 \le \lambda_1 \le \lambda_2 \le \dots \le \lambda_n$ 

Goal Compute  $\sum_{\lambda} q^{\lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_n}$  over your favorite partition family

Example  $P_{\leq 3}$  — family of partitions into at most 3 parts

$$\sum_{\lambda \in P_{\leq 3}} q^{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3} = \frac{1}{(1 - q)(1 - q^2)(1 - q^3)}$$

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Example  $P_{\leq 3}$  — family of partitions into at most 3 parts

$$\sum_{\lambda \in P_{<3}} q^{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3} = \frac{1}{(1 - q)(1 - q^2)(1 - q^3)}$$

Idea 
$$P_{\leq 3} = \left\{\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^3 : 0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \lambda_3\right\} = \mathcal{K} \cap \mathbb{Z}^3$$
 
$$\mathcal{K} = \left\{\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 : 0 \leq x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3\right\} \longleftarrow \text{ polyhedral cone } \heartsuit$$

$$\mathcal{K} = \left\{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 : 0 \le x_1 \le x_2 \le x_3 \right\} = \mathbb{R}_{\ge 0} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \mathbb{R}_{\ge 0} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \mathbb{R}_{\ge 0} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

is a rational, simplicial, unimodular cone

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = -1$$

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#### Integer-point transform

$$\sigma_{\mathcal{K}}(z_1, z_2, z_3) = \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathcal{K} \cap \mathbb{Z}^3} z_1^{m_1} z_2^{m_2} z_3^{m_3}$$

$$= \frac{1}{(1 - z_3)(1 - z_2 z_3)(1 - z_1 z_2 z_3)}$$

# Warm-Up: Partition Generating Functions

$$\mathcal{K} = \left\{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 : 0 \le x_1 \le x_2 \le x_3 \right\} = \mathbb{R}_{\ge 0} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \mathbb{R}_{\ge 0} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \mathbb{R}_{\ge 0} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$= \frac{1}{(1 - z_3)(1 - z_2 z_3)(1 - z_1 z_2 z_3)}$$

$$\sum_{\lambda \in P_{\leq 3}} q^{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3} = \sigma_{\mathcal{K}}(q, q, q) = \frac{1}{(1 - q)(1 - q^2)(1 - q^3)}$$

### Variations on a Theme

 $P_3$  — family of partitions into exactly 3 parts

$$P_3 = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^3 : 0 < \lambda_1 \le \lambda_2 \le \lambda_3\} = \widetilde{\mathcal{K}} \cap \mathbb{Z}^3$$

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{K}} = \left\{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 : 0 < x_1 \le x_2 \le x_3 \right\} = \mathbb{R}_{\ge 0} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \mathbb{R}_{\ge 0} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \mathbb{R}_{>0} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\sigma_{\widetilde{\mathcal{K}}}(z_1, z_2, z_3) = \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \widetilde{\mathcal{K}} \cap \mathbb{Z}^3} z_1^{m_1} z_2^{m_2} z_3^{m_3}$$

$$= \frac{z_1 z_2 z_3}{(1 - z_3)(1 - z_2 z_3)(1 - z_1 z_2 z_3)}$$

$$\sum_{\lambda \in P_3} q^{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3} = \sigma_{\widetilde{\mathcal{K}}}(q, q, q) = \frac{q^3}{(1 - q)(1 - q^2)(1 - q^3)}$$

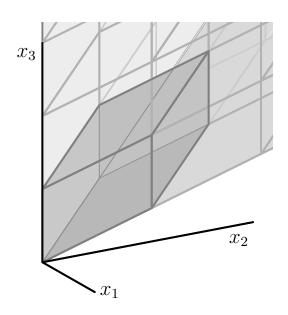
What if K is (still simplicial and rational but) not unimodular? Say  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, \mathbf{w}_3 \in \mathbb{Z}^3$  are linearly independent,  $\det[\mathbf{w}_1 \, \mathbf{w}_2 \, \mathbf{w}_3] = D > 1$ 

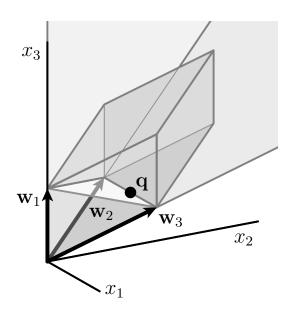
$$\mathcal{K} = \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \mathbf{w}_2 + \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \mathbf{w}_3$$

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Idea Tile  $\mathcal{K}$  with the half-open parallelepiped  $\Pi = [0,1) \, \mathbf{w}_1 + [0,1) \, \mathbf{w}_2 + [0,1) \, \mathbf{w}_3$ 

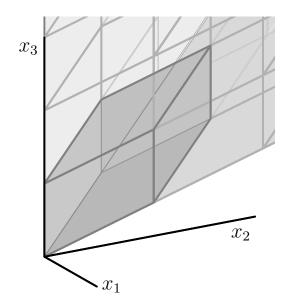




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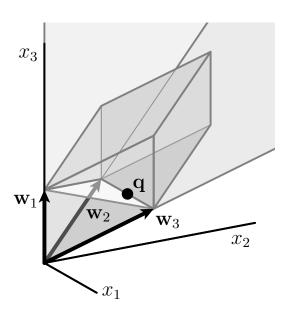




$$\sigma_{\mathcal{K}}(z_1, z_2, z_3) =$$

$$\frac{\sigma_{\Pi}(z_1, z_2, z_3)}{(1 - \mathbf{z}^{\mathbf{w}_1})(1 - \mathbf{z}^{\mathbf{w}_2})(1 - \mathbf{z}^{\mathbf{w}_3})}$$

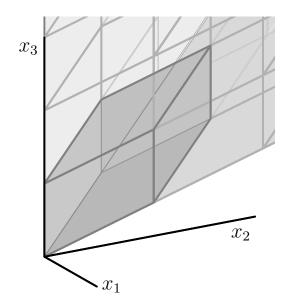
where 
$$\mathbf{z^m} = z_1^{m_1} z_2^{m_2} z_3^{m_3}$$



What if K is (still simplicial and rational but) not unimodular? Say  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, \mathbf{w}_3 \in \mathbb{Z}^3$  are linearly independent,  $\det[\mathbf{w}_1 \, \mathbf{w}_2 \, \mathbf{w}_3] = D > 1$ 

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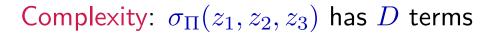
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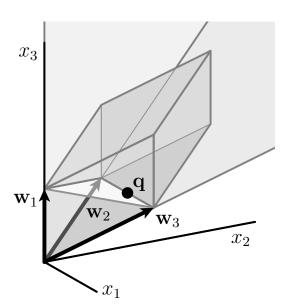




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# **Homogenizing Polytopes**

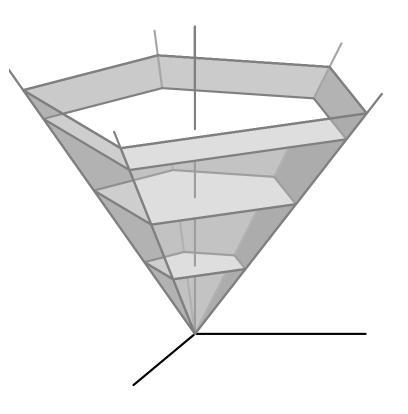
Given a polytope  $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  let

$$\operatorname{cone}(\mathcal{P}) := \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \left( \mathcal{P} \times \{1\} \right) \subset \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$$

$$= \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v}_2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \dots + \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v}_n \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$cone(\mathcal{P}) \cap \{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1} : x_{d+1} = t \}$$

contains a copy of  $t\mathcal{P}$ 



# **Homogenizing Polytopes**

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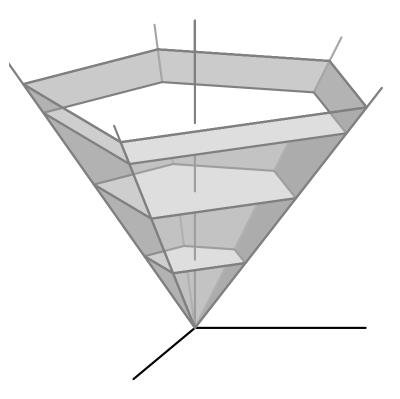
$$cone(\mathcal{P}) := \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} (\mathcal{P} \times \{1\}) \subset \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$$

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contains a copy of  $t\mathcal{P} \longrightarrow$ 

$$\operatorname{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z) := 1 + \sum_{t \ge 1} L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) z^{t} = \sigma_{\operatorname{cone}(\mathcal{P})}(1, 1, \dots, 1, z)$$



## **Homogenizing Polytopes**

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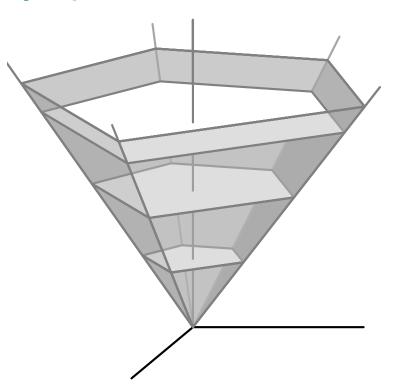


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If  $\mathcal{P}$  is a simplex,

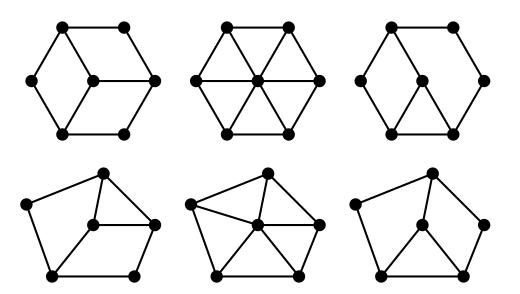
$$\sigma_{\operatorname{cone}(\mathcal{P})}(\mathbf{z}) = \frac{\sigma_{\Pi}(\mathbf{z})}{\prod_{\mathbf{v} \text{ vertex}} (1 - \mathbf{z}^{\mathbf{v}})} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z) = \frac{h_{\mathcal{P}}^{*}(z)}{(1 - z)^{d+1}}$$



## **Trials & Triangulations**

Subdivision of a polyhedron  $\mathcal{P}$  — finite collection S of polyhedra such that

- ightharpoonup if  $\mathcal{F}$  is a face of  $\mathcal{G} \in S$  then  $\mathcal{F} \in S$
- ightharpoonup if  $\mathcal{F},\mathcal{G}\in S$  then  $\mathcal{F}\cap\mathcal{G}$  is a face of both
- $ightharpoonup \mathcal{P} = \bigcup_{\mathcal{F} \in S} \mathcal{F}$



If each  $\mathcal{F}$  is a simplex  $\longrightarrow$  triangulation of a polytope



Theorem (Ehrhart 1962) For any lattice polytope  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t)$  is a polynomial in t of degree  $\dim \mathcal{P}$  with leading coefficient  $\operatorname{vol} \mathcal{P}$  and constant term 1.

Equivalently,  $\operatorname{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z) := 1 + \sum_{t \geq 1} L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) \, z^t$  is rational:

$$\operatorname{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z) = \frac{h_{\mathcal{P}}^{*}(z)}{(1-z)^{\dim \mathcal{P}+1}}$$

where the  $h^*$ -polynomial  $h_{\mathcal{P}}^*(z)$  satisfies  $h_{\mathcal{P}}^*(0) = 1$  and  $h_{\mathcal{P}}^*(1) = (\dim \mathcal{P})! \operatorname{vol}(\mathcal{P}).$ 



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### Computational bottlenecks:

- triangulation
- determinants of resulting simplicial cones



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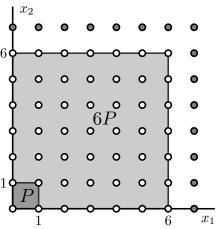
$$\operatorname{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z) = \frac{h_{\mathcal{P}}^{*}(z)}{(1-z)^{\dim \mathcal{P}+1}}$$

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We saw instances yesterday:  $\mathcal{P} = [0, 1]^d$ 

$$\longrightarrow L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) = (t+1)^d$$

 $h_{\mathcal{D}}^*(z)$  — Eulerian polynomial

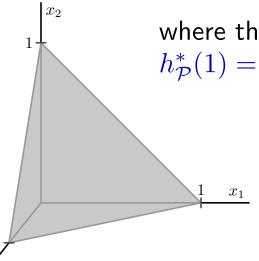




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Equivalently, 
$$\operatorname{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z) := 1 + \sum_{t \geq 1} L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) z^t$$
 is rational:

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where the  $h^*$ -polynomial  $h^*_{\mathcal{P}}(z)$  satisfies  $h^*_{\mathcal{P}}(0)=1$  and  $h^*_{\mathcal{P}}(1)=(\dim \mathcal{P})!\operatorname{vol}(\mathcal{P}).$ 

$$\Delta = \{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d_{\geq 0} : x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_d \leq 1 \}$$

$$L_{\Delta}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} d+t \\ d \end{pmatrix} \qquad h_{\mathcal{P}}^{*}(z) = 1$$



Theorem (Ehrhart 1962) For any lattice polytope  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t)$  is a polynomial in t of degree  $\dim \mathcal{P}$  with leading coefficient  $\operatorname{vol} \mathcal{P}$  and constant term 1.

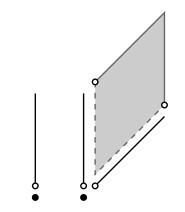
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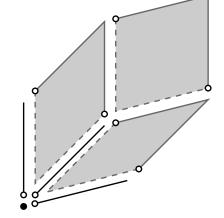
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 $\mathcal{P}$  — half-open d-parallelepiped

$$\longrightarrow L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) = t^d$$







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Seeming dichotomy:  $\operatorname{vol}(\mathcal{P}) = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{1}{t^{\dim \mathcal{P}}} L_{\mathcal{P}}(t)$  can be computed discretely via a finite amount of data.



Theorem (Ehrhart 1962) For any lattice polytope  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t)$  is a polynomial in t of degree  $d:=\dim \mathcal{P}$  with leading coefficient  $\operatorname{vol} \mathcal{P}$  and constant term 1.

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Equivalent descriptions of an Ehrhart polynomial:

$$L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) = c_d t^d + c_{d-1} t^{d-1} + \dots + c_0$$

 $\blacktriangleright$  via roots of  $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t)$ 



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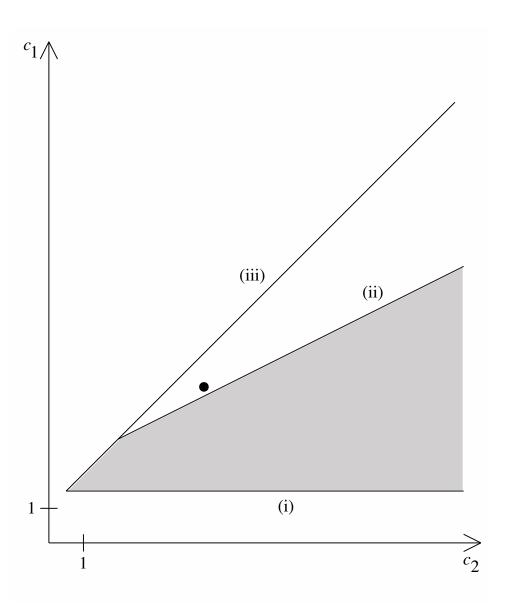
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Open Problem Classify Ehrhart polynomials.

# **Ehrhart Polynomials in Dimension 2**



P — lattice polygon

$$\longrightarrow L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) = c_2 t^2 + c_1 t + 1$$



Theorem (Ehrhart 1962) For any lattice polytope  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t)$  is a polynomial in t of degree  $d:=\dim \mathcal{P}$  with leading coefficient  $\operatorname{vol} \mathcal{P}$  and constant term 1.

$$\operatorname{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z) := 1 + \sum_{t \ge 1} L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) z^t = \frac{h(z)}{(1-z)^{d+1}}$$

$$\longrightarrow L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) = h_0^* {t+d \choose d} + h_1^* {t+d-1 \choose d} + \dots + h_d^* {t \choose d}$$

Theorem (Macdonald 1971)  $(-1)^d L_{\mathcal{P}}(-t)$  enumerates the interior lattice points in  $t\mathcal{P}$ . Equivalently,

$$L_{\mathcal{P}^{\circ}}(t) = h_d^*\binom{t+d-1}{d} + h_{d-1}^*\binom{t+d-2}{d} + \dots + h_0^*\binom{t-1}{d}$$



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Theorem (Stanley 1980)  $h_0^*, h_1^*, \ldots, h_d^*$  are nonnegative integers.



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Theorem (Stanley 1980)  $h_0^*, h_1^*, \ldots, h_d^*$  are nonnegative integers.

Corollary If  $h_{d+1-k}^* > 0$  then  $k\mathcal{P}^{\circ}$  contains an integer point.

# Positivity Among Ehrhart Polynomials



Theorem (Ehrhart 1962) For any lattice polytope  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t)$  is a polynomial in t of degree  $d:=\dim \mathcal{P}$  with leading coefficient  $\operatorname{vol} \mathcal{P}$  and constant term 1.

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Theorem (Betke-McMullen 1985, Stapledon 2009) If  $h_d^* > 0$  then

$$h(z) = a(z) + z b(z)$$

where  $a(z) = z^d a(\frac{1}{z})$  and  $b(z) = z^{d-1} b(\frac{1}{z})$  with nonnegative coefficients.

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Open Problem Try to prove the analogous theorem for your favorite combinatorial polynomial with nonnegative coefficients.

## **Ehrhart Quasipolynomials**

Rational polytope  $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  – convex hull of finitely points in  $\mathbb{Q}^d$ 

Theorem (Ehrhart 1962)  $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t)$  is a quasipolynomial in t:

$$L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) = c_d(t) t^d + c_{d-1}(t) t^{d-1} + \dots + c_0(t)$$

where  $c_0(t), \ldots, c_d(t)$  are periodic functions.

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$$\operatorname{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z) := 1 + \sum_{t \ge 1} L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) z^{t} = \frac{h(z)}{(1 - z^{p})^{\dim \mathcal{P} + 1}}$$

for some (minimal)  $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  (the period of  $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t)$ ).

Open Problem Study periods of Ehrhart quasipolynomials.

# Recap Day II

- Generating functions son chevere
- lacktriangle Integer-point transforms of rational polyhedra  $\longrightarrow$  rational functions
- ► Complexity of a simplicial cone: determinant of its generators
- Homogenize polytopes
- Triangulations
- Polynomial data
- Thursday: structural results about Ehrhart polynomials

