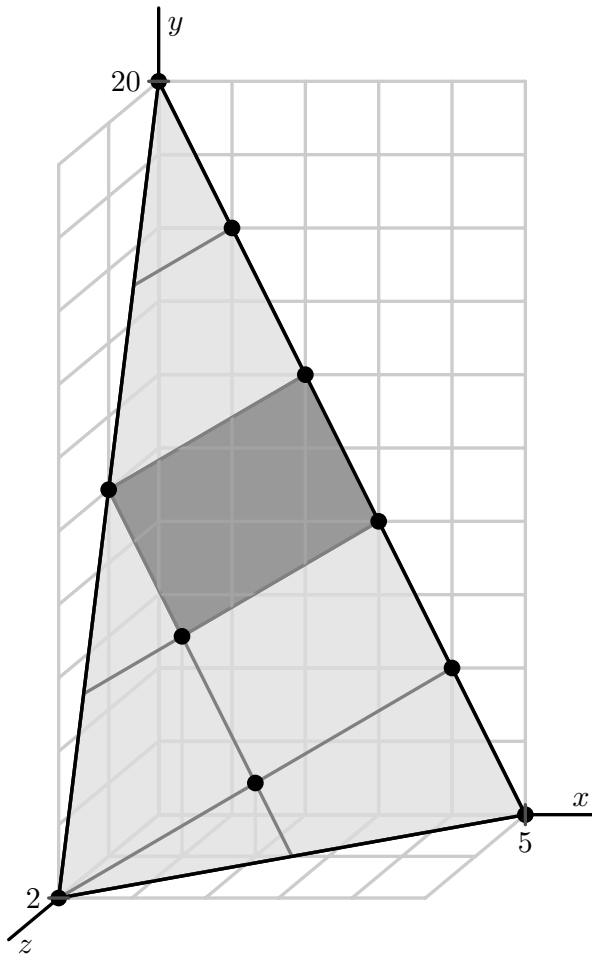


# Digital ~~Discrete~~ Volume Computations for Polyhedra



Matthias Beck

San Francisco State University

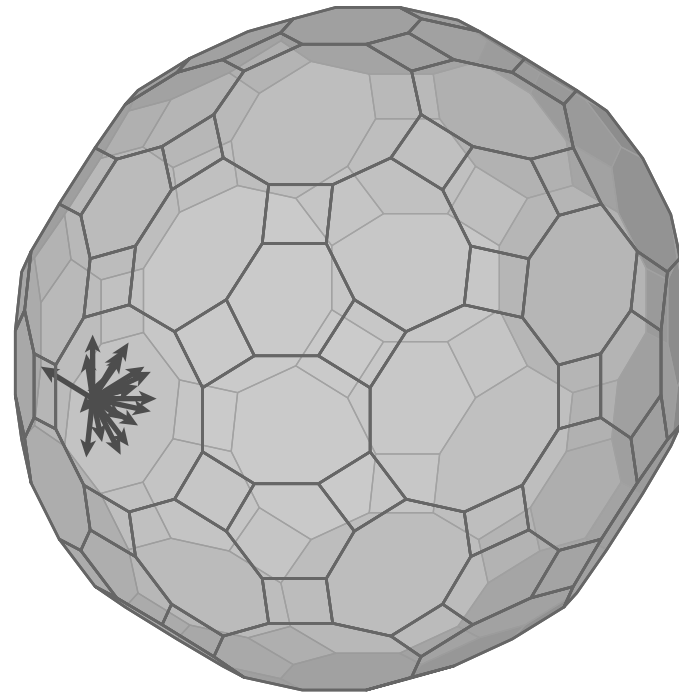
[math.sfsu.edu/beck](http://math.sfsu.edu/beck)

DGCI 2016



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

Donald Knuth



# Themes

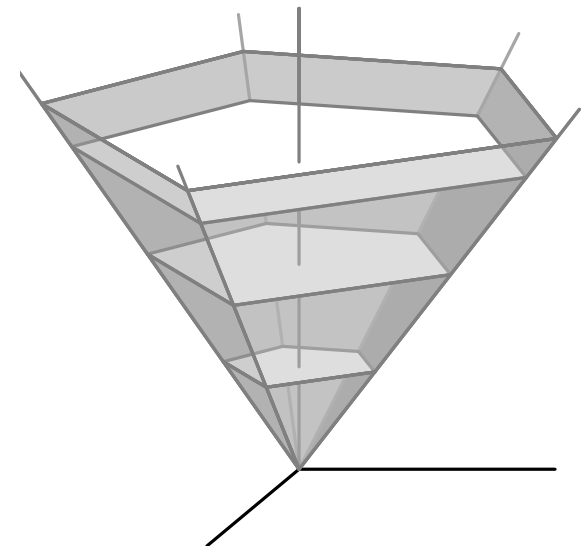
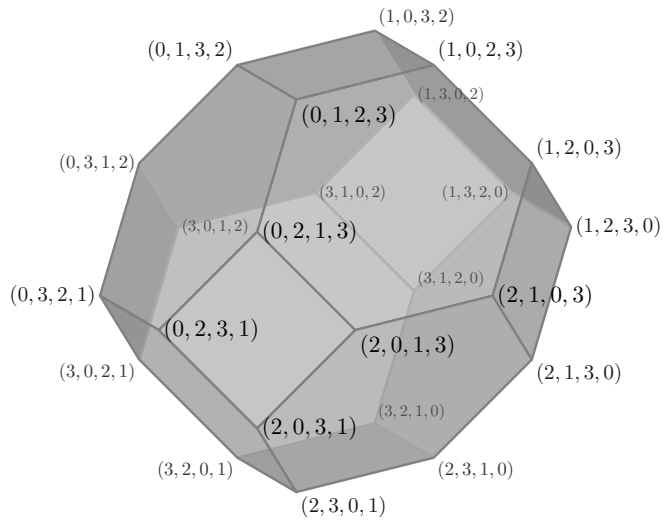
Discrete-geometric  
polynomials

Computation  
(complexity)

Generating  
functions

Combinatorial  
structures

Discrete Fourier  
analysis



# 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!](#))

A037302 Normalized volume of Birkhoff polytope of  $n \times n$  doubly-stochastic square matrices. If the volume 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 1,3

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  $n \geq 4$ ? - [Dean Hickerson](#), Nov 27 2002

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

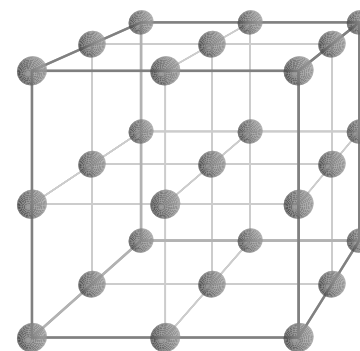
# Discrete Volumes

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

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

► (list)  $\sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d} z_1^{m_1} z_2^{m_2} \dots z_d^{m_d}$

► (count)  $|\mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d|$



# Discrete Volumes

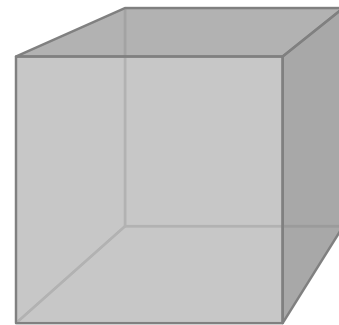
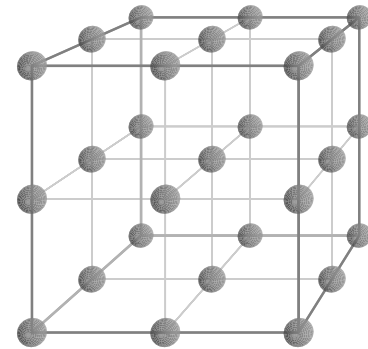
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► (volume) 
$$\text{vol}(\mathcal{P}) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t^d} \left| \mathcal{P} \cap \frac{1}{t} \mathbb{Z}^d \right|$$



# Discrete Volumes

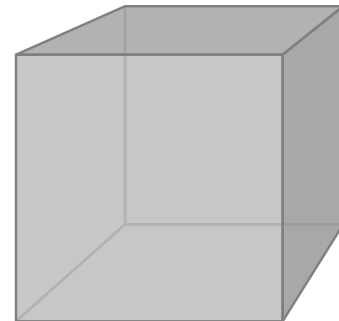
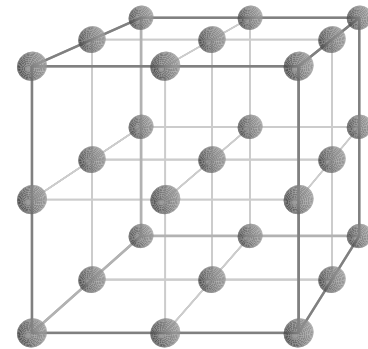
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**Ehrhart function** 
$$L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) := \left| \mathcal{P} \cap \frac{1}{t} \mathbb{Z}^d \right| = |t\mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d| \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$$

# Some Motivation

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



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- ▶ Linear systems are **everywhere**, and so polyhedra are everywhere.
- ▶ In applications, the **volume** of the polytope represented by a linear system measures some fundamental data of this system (“average”).
- ▶ Polytopes are basic geometric objects, yet even for these basic objects volume computation is **hard** and there remain many open problems.
- ▶ Many **discrete problems** in various mathematical areas are linear problems, thus they ask for the discrete volume of a polytope in disguise.

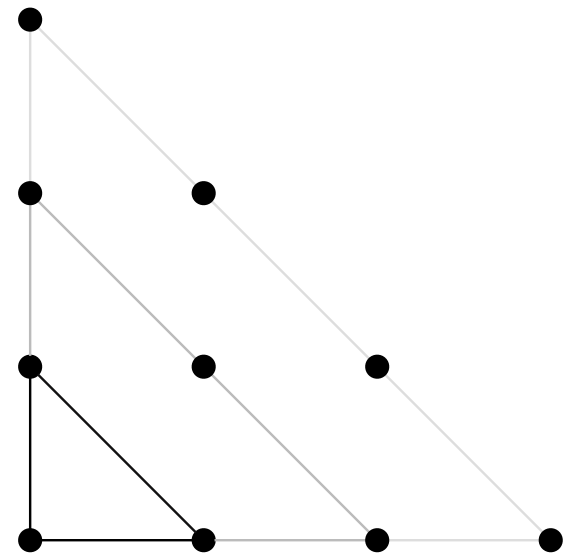
# A Warm-Up Ehrhart Function

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

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

Example:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta &= \text{conv} \{(0, 0), (1, 0), (0, 1)\} \\ &= \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^2 : x + y \leq 1\}\end{aligned}$$



# A Warm-Up Ehrhart Function

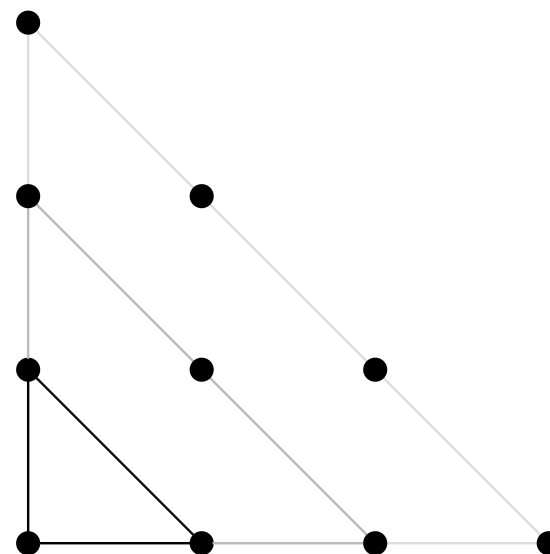
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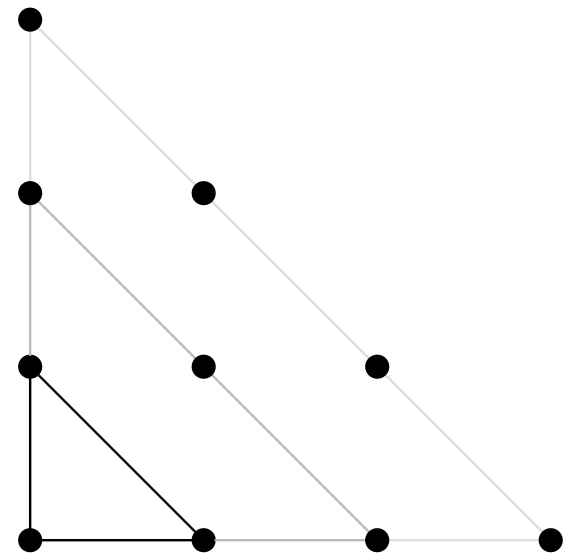
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a polynomial in  $t$  with leading coefficient  $\text{vol}(\Delta) = \frac{1}{2}$



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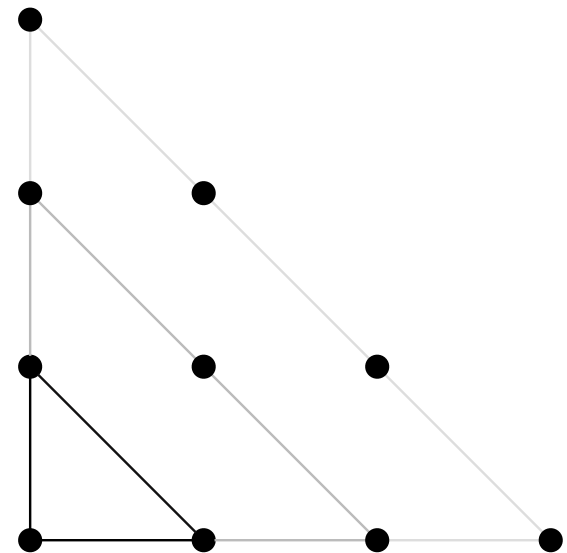
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comes with the friendly generating function  $\sum_{t \geq 0} \binom{t+2}{2} z^t = \frac{1}{(1-z)^3}$



# Ehrhart Polynomials



EH  
1959

**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  $\text{vol } \mathcal{P}$  and constant term 1.

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

$$\text{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z) = \frac{h(z)}{(1 - z)^{\dim \mathcal{P} + 1}}$$

where the **Ehrhart h-vector**  $h(z)$  satisfies  $h(0) = 1$  and  $h(1) = (\dim \mathcal{P})! \text{vol}(\mathcal{P})$ .



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

# 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  $\text{vol } \mathcal{P}$  and constant term 1.

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

Equivalent descriptions of an Ehrhart polynomial:

- ▶  $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) = c_d t^d + c_{d-1} t^{d-1} + \cdots + c_0$
- ▶ via roots of  $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t)$
- ▶  $\text{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z) \longrightarrow L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) = h_0 \binom{t+d}{d} + h_1 \binom{t+d-1}{d} + \cdots + h_d \binom{t}{d}$

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

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

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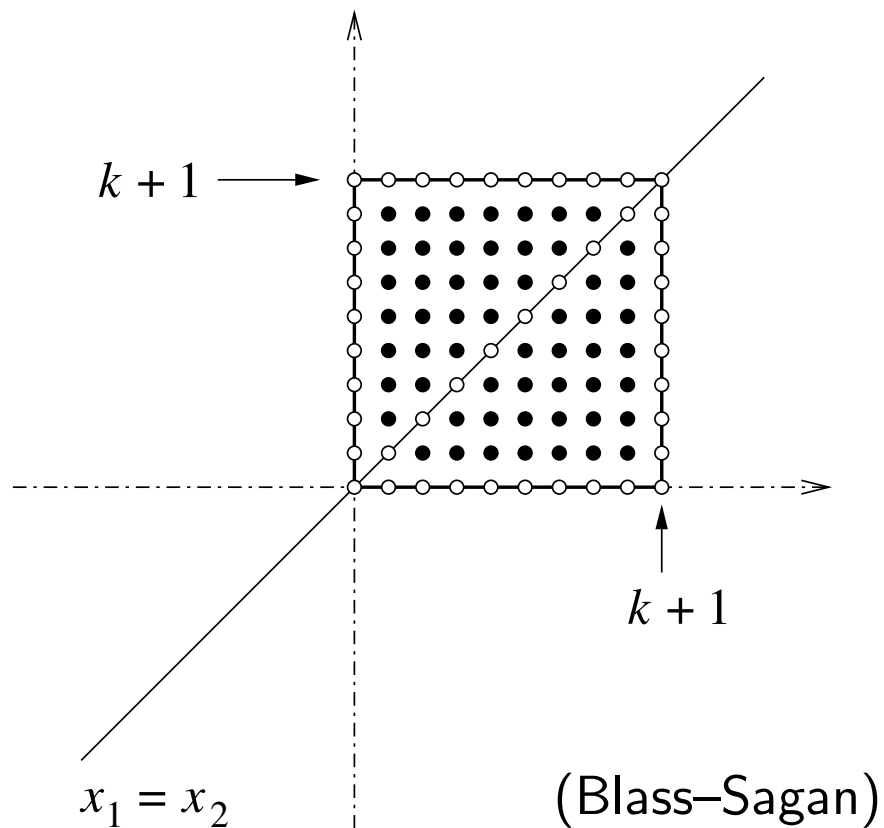
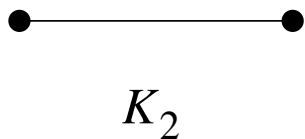
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**Theorem** (Stanley 1980)  $h_0, h_1, \dots, h_d$  are nonnegative integers.

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

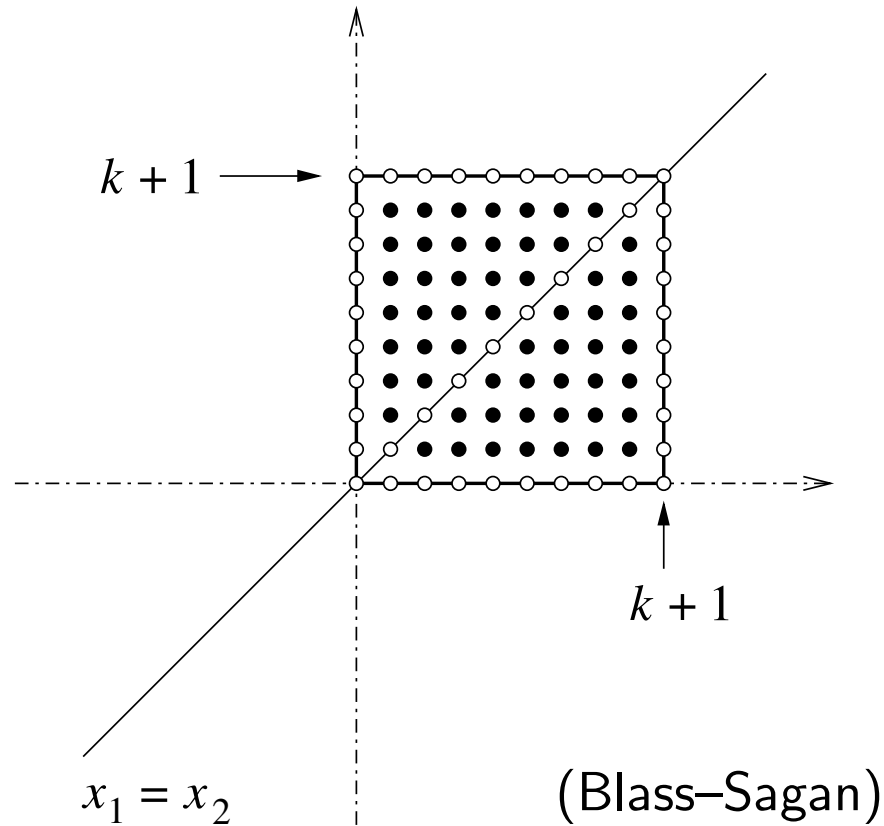
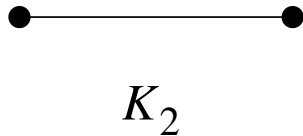
## Interlude: Graph Coloring a la Ehrhart

$$\chi_{K_2}(k) = 2 \binom{k}{2} \dots$$



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Similarly, for any given graph  $G$  on  $n$  nodes, we can write

$$\chi_G(k) = a_0 \binom{k+n}{n} + a_1 \binom{k+n-1}{n} + \dots + a_n \binom{k}{n}$$

for some (meaningful) nonnegative integers  $a_0, \dots, a_n$

# Computational Complexity of Integer-Point Transforms

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

$\longrightarrow \sigma_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{z}) := \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d} z_1^{m_1} z_2^{m_2} \cdots z_d^{m_d}$  is a rational function in  $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_d$

**Lenstra (1983)** polynomial-time algorithm to decide whether  $\sigma_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{z}) = 0$

**Barvinok (1994)** polynomial-time algorithm to compute  $\sigma_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{z})$



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**Example**  $\mathcal{P} = [0, 1000]$

$$\sigma_{[0,1000]}(z) = 1 + z + \cdots + z^{1000} = \frac{1 - z^{1001}}{1 - z}$$

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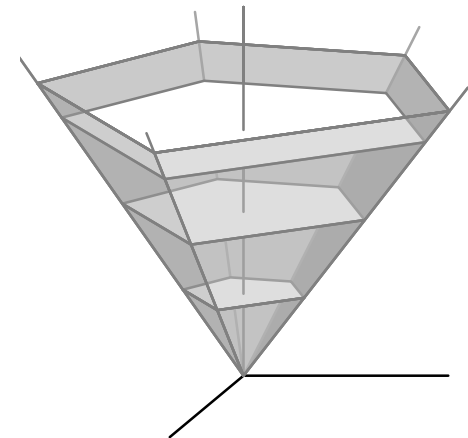
**Lenstra (1983)** polynomial-time algorithm to decide whether  $\sigma_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{z}) = 0$

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Given a polytope  $\mathcal{P}$  we can compute

$$\text{Ehr}_{\mathcal{P}}(z) = \sigma_{\text{cone}(\mathcal{P})}(1, 1, \dots, 1, z)$$

where  $\text{cone}(\mathcal{P}) := \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}(\mathcal{P} \times \{1\})$



# Computational Complexity of Integer-Point Transforms

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Implementations:

**De Loera, Köppe et al** [www.math.ucdavis.edu/~latte](http://www.math.ucdavis.edu/~latte)

**Verdoolaege** [freshmeat.net/projects/barvinok](http://freshmeat.net/projects/barvinok)

# 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  $t$ :

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

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

**Example**  $L_{[0, \frac{1}{2}]}(t) = \frac{1}{2}t + \frac{3 + (-1)^t}{4}$

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

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

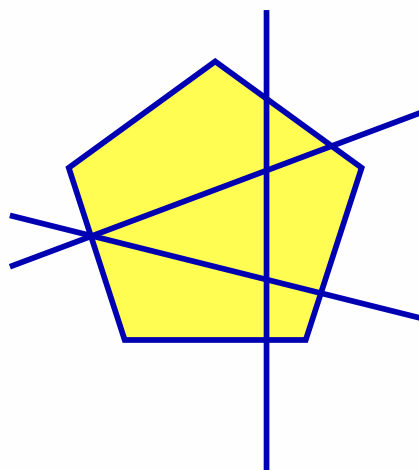
**Example**  $\text{Ehr}_{[0, \frac{1}{2}]}(z) = \sum_{t \geq 0} \left( \frac{1}{2} t + \frac{3 + (-1)^t}{4} \right) z^t = \frac{1 + z}{(1 - z^2)^2}$

# Interlude: Magic Squares

joint with  
Thomas Zaslavsky  
Andrew Van Herick

$M_n(t)$  – number of  $n \times n$  squares with distinct entries and row, column, and diagonal sums  $t$

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6



Similar to graph coloring, this is a polyhedral problem with forbidden hyperplanes:  
**inside-out polytopes**

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Example

$$M_3(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{2t^2-32t+144}{9} = \frac{2}{9}(t^2 - 16t + 72) & \text{if } t \equiv 0 \pmod{18} \\ \frac{2t^2-32t+78}{9} = \frac{2}{9}(t - 3)(t - 13) & \text{if } t \equiv 3 \pmod{18} \\ \frac{2t^2-32t+120}{9} = \frac{2}{9}(t - 6)(t - 10) & \text{if } t \equiv 6 \pmod{18} \\ \frac{2t^2-32t+126}{9} = \frac{2}{9}(t - 7)(t - 9) & \text{if } t \equiv 9 \pmod{18} \\ \frac{2t^2-32t+96}{9} = \frac{2}{9}(t - 4)(t - 12) & \text{if } t \equiv 12 \pmod{18} \\ \frac{2t^2-32t+102}{9} = \frac{2}{9}(t^2 - 16t + 51) & \text{if } t \equiv 15 \pmod{18} \\ 0 & \text{if } t \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3} \end{cases}$$

$$\sum_{t \geq 0} M_3(t) z^t = \frac{8z^{15} (2z^3 + 1)}{(1 - z^3) (1 - z^6) (1 - z^9)}$$

# Fourier–Dedekind Sums

joint with  
Sinai Robins

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

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Natural ingredients of formulas for Ehrhart quasipolynomials:

$$s_n(c_1, \dots, c_d; c) := \frac{1}{c} \sum_{k=1}^{c-1} \frac{e^{2\pi i n/c}}{(1 - e^{2\pi i c_1/c}) (1 - e^{2\pi i c_2/c}) \dots (1 - e^{2\pi i c_d/c})}$$

**Examples**  $s_n(c_1; c) \sim \left\lfloor \frac{n}{c} \right\rfloor$



# Fourier–Dedekind Sums

joint with  
Sinai Robins

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

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**Fun Facts** (Dedekind 1880s, Rademacher 1950s)

- ▶  $s_n(a, 1; b) = s_n(a \bmod b, 1; b)$
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**Corollary** The Ehrhart quasipolynomial of any rational polygon  $\mathcal{P}$  can be expressed in terms of Fourier–Dedekind sums **and** computed in linear time in the input size of  $\mathcal{P}$ .

# Dedekind–Carlitz Polynomials

joint with  
Christian Haase  
Asia Matthews

Dedekind sum  $s_0(a, 1; b) \sim \sum_{k=1}^{b-1} \left\lfloor \frac{ka}{b} \right\rfloor^2 \sim \sum_{k=1}^{b-1} \left\lfloor \frac{ka}{b} \right\rfloor (k-1)$

Dedekind–Carlitz Polynomial  $c(u, v; a, b) := \sum_{k=1}^{b-1} u^{\lfloor \frac{ka}{b} \rfloor} v^{k-1}$

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**Theorem** (Carlitz 1975) If  $a$  and  $b$  are relatively prime,

$$(v-1) c(u, v; a, b) + (u-1) c(v, u; b, a) = u^{a-1} v^{b-1} - 1$$

Applying  $u \partial u$  twice and  $v \partial v$  once gives Dedekind's reciprocity law.

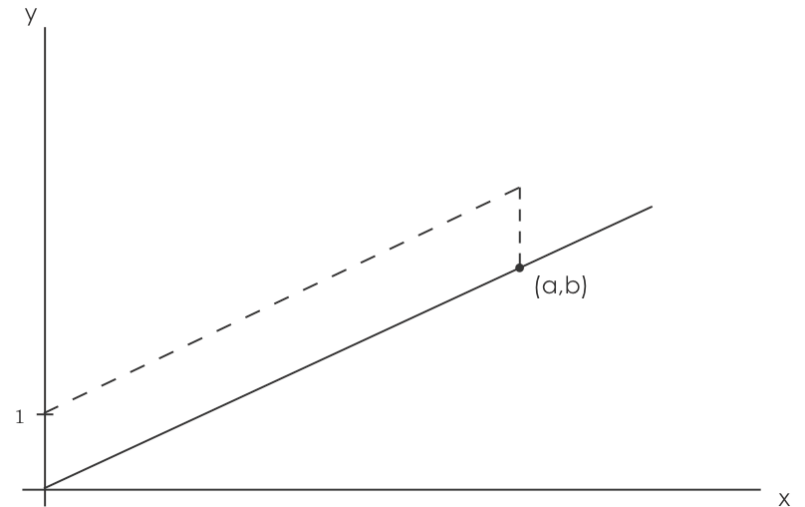
# Dedekind–Carlitz Polynomials

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$$c(u, v; a, b) := \sum_{k=1}^{b-1} u^{\lfloor \frac{ka}{b} \rfloor} v^{k-1}$$

Consider the 2-dimensional cone

$$\mathcal{K} := \{ \lambda_1(0, 1) + \lambda_2(a, b) : \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \geq 0 \}$$



**Fun Fact**  $\sigma_{\mathcal{K}}(u, v) := \sum_{(m, n) \in \mathcal{K} \cap \mathbb{Z}^2} u^m v^n = \frac{1 + uv c(v, u; b, a)}{(1 - v)(1 - u^a v^b)}$

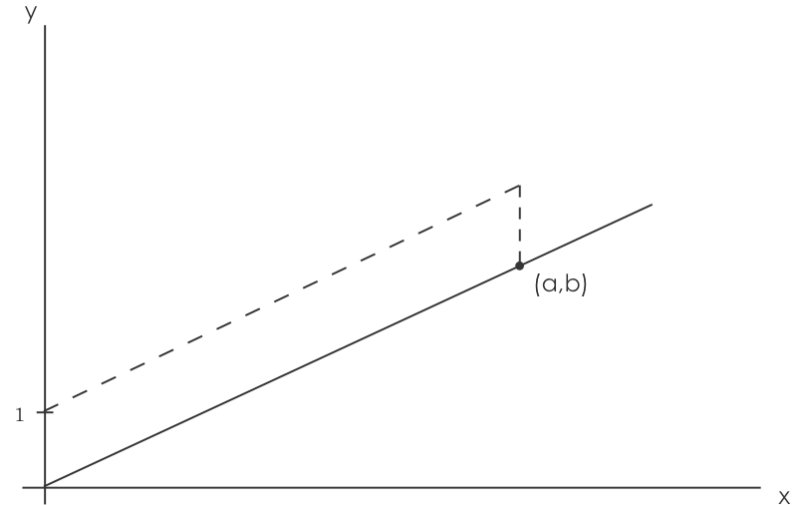
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- ▶ Carlitz reciprocity = two cones adding up to  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^2$
- ▶ Complexity anyone?

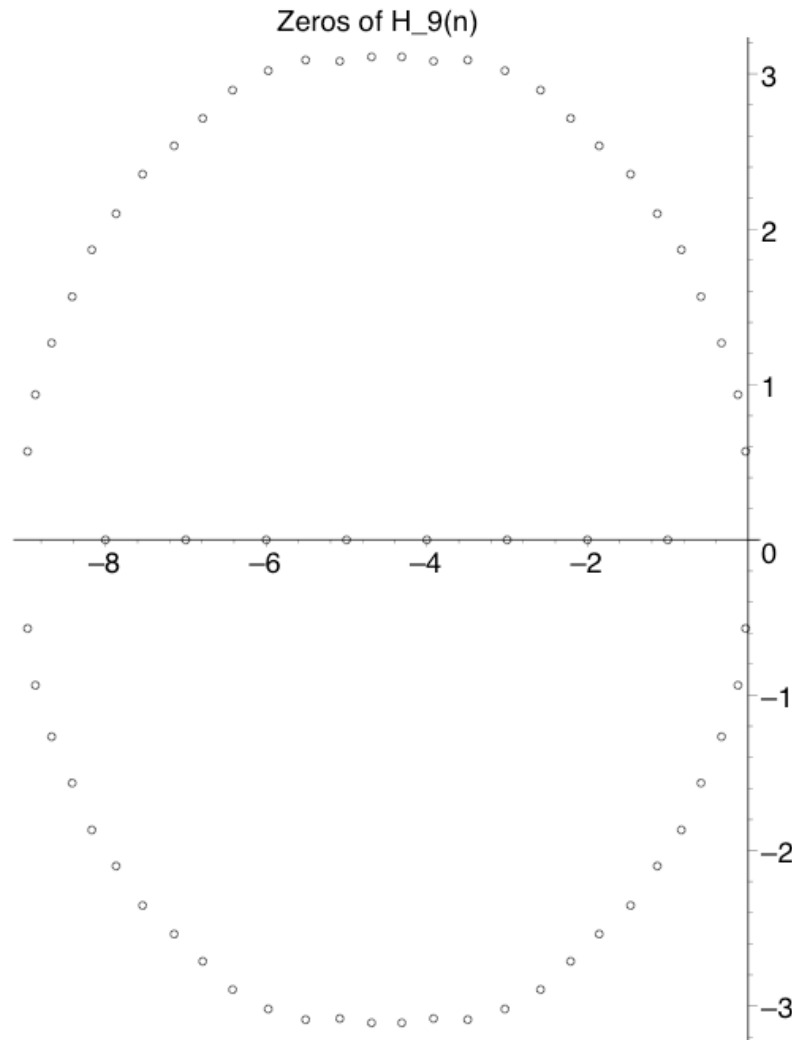


# A (Small) Bouquet of Open Problems

- ▶ Classify Ehrhart polynomials (or, alternatively, Ehrhart h-vectors)
- ▶ Find more inside-out polytopes
- ▶ Attack existence problems via (discrete-geometric) polynomials
- ▶ Study periods of Ehrhart quasipolynomials
- ▶ Study complexity of Fourier–Dedekind sums
- ▶ Compute  $\text{vol}(B_{11})$

# Birkhoff–von Neumann Revisited

joint with  
Dennis Pixton  
Jesus De Loera  
Mike Develin  
Julian Pfeifle  
Richard Stanley



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