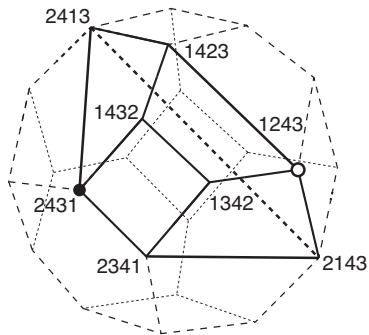
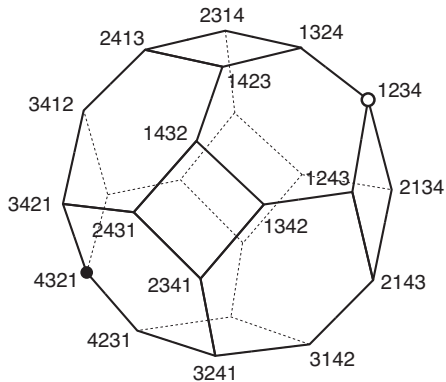


Bruhat interval polytopes and their friends

Lauren K. Williams, Harvard



Outline of the talk

- Bruhat interval polytopes and their faces
- Combinatorics of Bruhat interval polytopes
- Some open problems
- Where did Bruhat interval polytopes come from?
- Connection to tropical geometry and (flag) matroids
- Subdivisions of the permutohedron

Based on: joint works with Yuji Kodama, Emmanuel Tsukerman,
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The weak and strong Bruhat orders on S_n

Let S_n denote the symmetric group on $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, i.e. the set of all permutations $u = (u_1, \dots, u_n)$ of $[n]$.

Let $\ell(u)$ denote the length of u , i.e. the number of inversions of u .

The **weak** Bruhat order on S_n is generated by

$$u \leq_w s_i u \text{ if } \ell(s_i u) = \ell(u) + 1, \text{ where } s_i = (i, i + 1).$$

The **strong** Bruhat order on S_n is generated by

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Definition (Kodama -W.)

Let S_n be the symmetric group on n letters. Let $u \leq v$ in the (strong) Bruhat order on S_n . The Bruhat interval polytope $Q_{u,v}$ is $Q_{u,v} = \text{Conv}\{(z(1), \dots, z(n)) \mid u \leq z \leq v\}$.

Rk: if $u = e$ and $v = w_0 = (n, n-1, \dots, 1)$, $Q_{u,v}$ is the **permutohedron**.

Prop. (K.W.): $Q_{u,v}$ is the Minkowski sum of $n-1$ matroid (positroid) polytopes. It is a generalized permutohedron (in sense of Postnikov).

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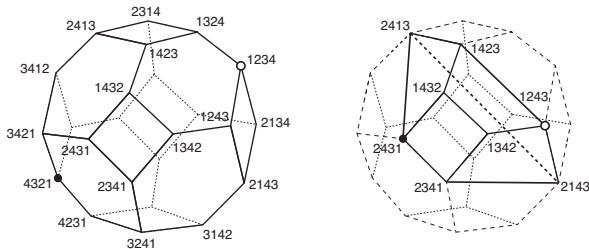
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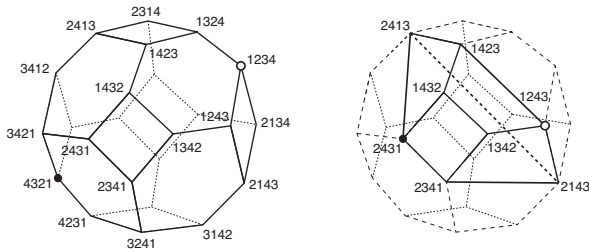
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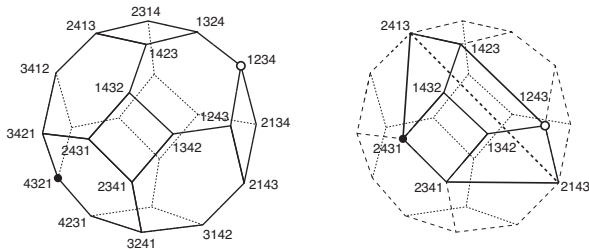
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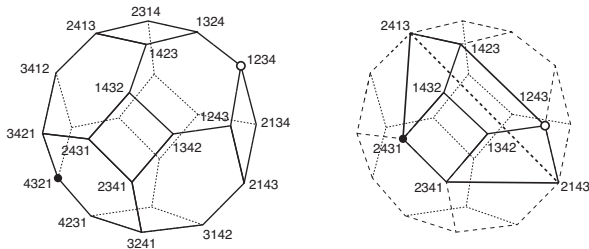
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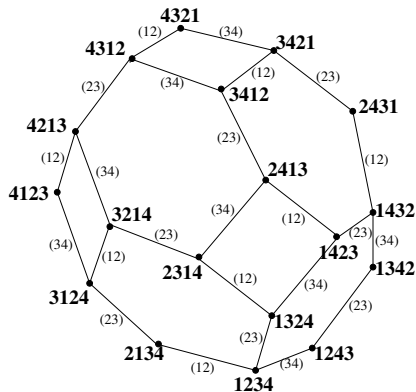
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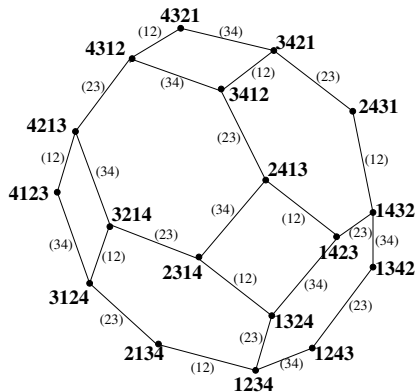
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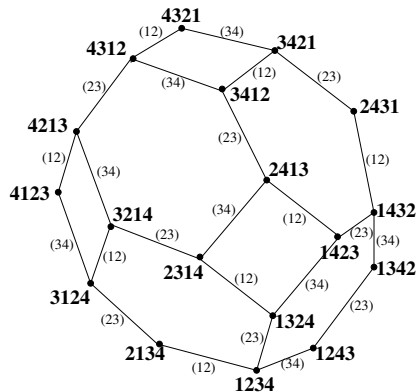
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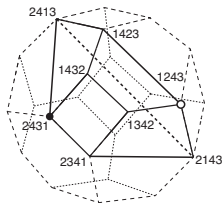
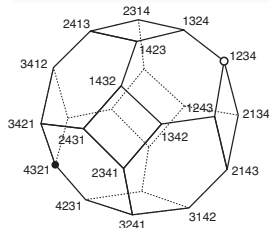
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Every edge of a Bruhat interval polytope $Q_{u,v}$ comes from a cover relation in the **strong** Bruhat order. Moreover, each face of a Bruhat interval polytope $Q_{u,v}$ is a Bruhat interval polytope $Q_{x,y}$ where $u \leq x \leq y \leq v$.



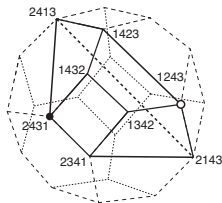
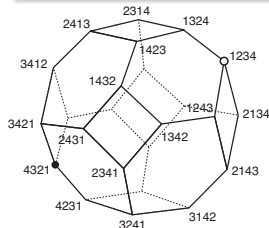
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Can one characterize all edges of $Q_{u,v}$? Can one characterize all faces? (With Tsukerman we have a complicated criterion for determining when $Q_{x,y}$ is a face of $Q_{u,v}$; not very nice.)

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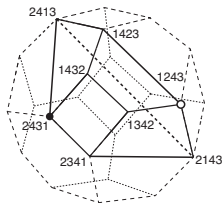
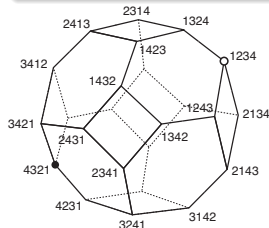
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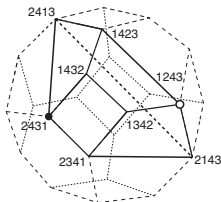
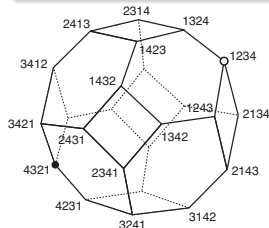
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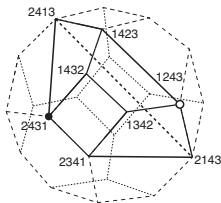
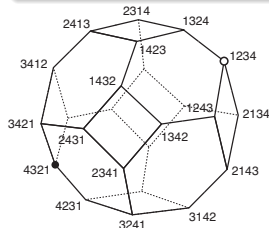
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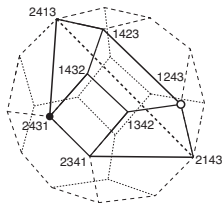
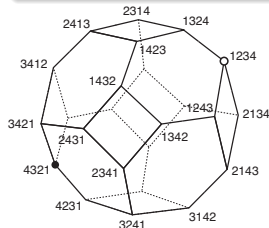
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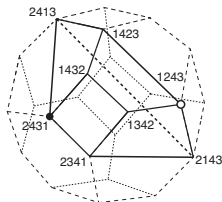
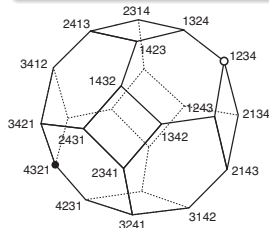
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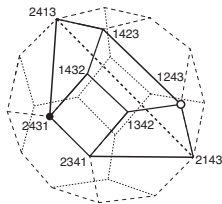
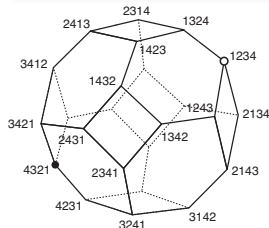
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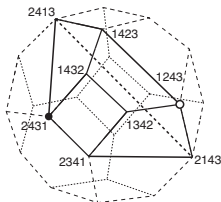
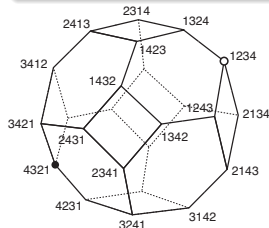
Theorem (Christian Gaetz)

Let e be the identity permutation. For any v , the 1-skeleton of $Q_{e,v}$ is the Hasse diagram of a lattice. (Poset is intermediate in strength between the weak and strong Bruhat order on $[e, v]$.)

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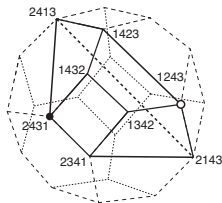
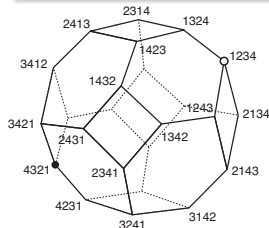
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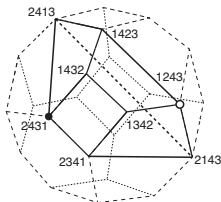
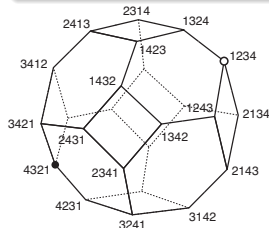
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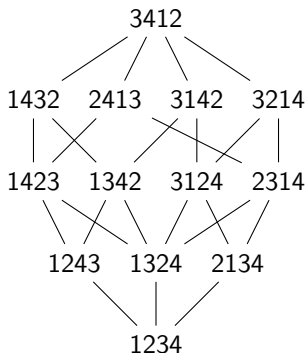


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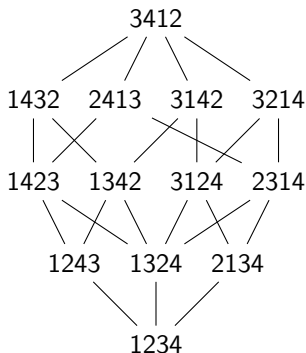
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Def/Lemma: Let $u \leq v$ in S_n , and let $\mathcal{C} : u = x_{(0)} \triangleleft x_{(1)} \dots \triangleleft x_{(l)} = v$ be any maximal chain in $[u, v]$. Label each edge of \mathcal{C} by the transposition (ab) indicating the positions which are swapped. Then say $a \sim b$ for each edge label on \mathcal{C} . Let $B_{u,v} = \{B^1, \dots, B^r\}$ be the blocks of the equivalence relation on $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ that \sim generates. Then $B_{u,v}$ is independent of \mathcal{C} .



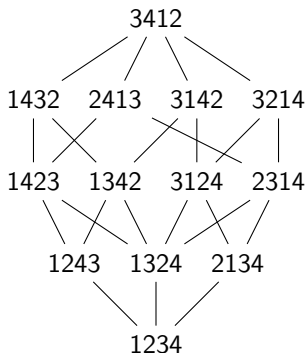
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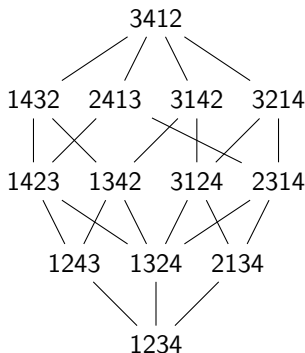
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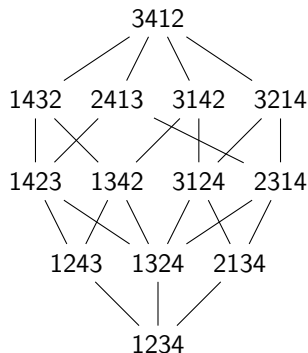
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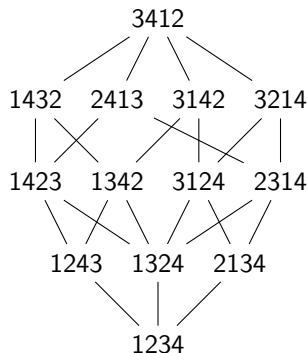
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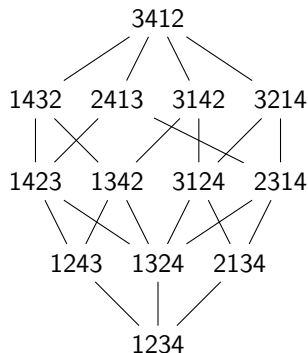
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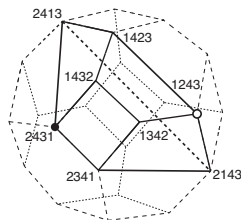
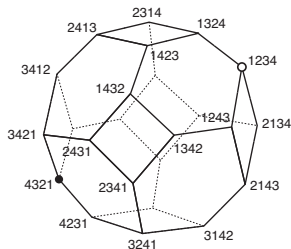
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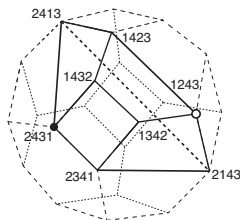
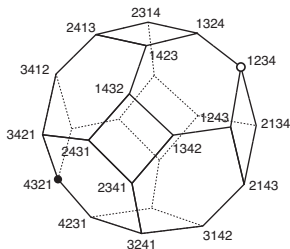
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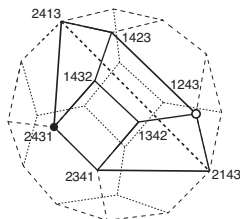
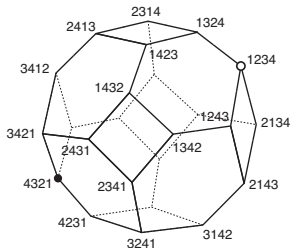
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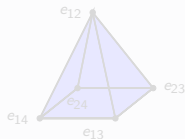
Connection with matroids and their polytopes

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Such a matroid is called *realizable*. [example!](#)

If $M = ([n], \mathcal{B})$ is a matroid and $T \subseteq [n]$, let $r_M(T) = \max_{B \in \mathcal{B}} |\{T \cap B\}|$.

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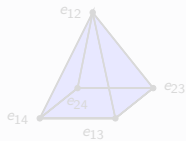
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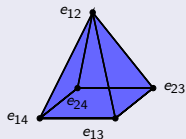
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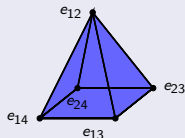
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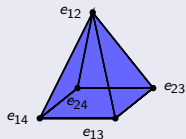
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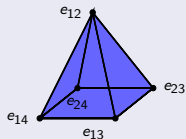
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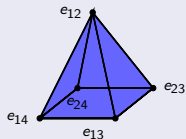
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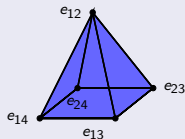
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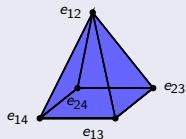
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Choose $u \leq v \in S_n$, and for each $1 \leq k \leq n$, define \mathcal{B}^k to be

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Corollary: Inequality description of $Q_{u,v}$

$$Q_{u,v} = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \sum_{i \in [n]} x_i = \binom{n+1}{2}, \sum_{i \in A} x_i \leq \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} r_{M^j}(A) \forall A \subset [n] \right\}$$

Question: Is there a shorter description? Characterization of facets?

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- Let G be a semisimple simply connected algebraic group with torus T and Weyl group W .
- Let $P = P_J$, a parabolic subgroup of G . Let W_J be corresponding parabolic subgroup of W .
- ρ_J – sum of fund. weights corresp. to J , so that $G/P \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}(V_{\rho_J})$.

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Next: link our story more closely to tropical geometry and flag variety.


But first: an aside on decompositions of the permutohedron ...

¹actually the Dressian, which contains the trop Grassmannian 

Connection to tropical geometry and matroids

- *Tropical geometry* is a version of algebraic geometry where we replace **polynomials** (defined using $\times, +$) with **tropical polynomials** (defined using $+, \min$).
- Various connections between tropical geometry and matroids have been discovered starting around 2008 (Speyer, Herrmann, Jensen, Joswig, Sturmfels ...).
- Baker-Bowler have a framework of **matroids over hyperfields**.
In this framework,
 - Grassmannian over the *tropical hyperfield* \rightsquigarrow *trop Grassmannian*¹
 - Grassmannian over the *Krasner hyperfield* \rightsquigarrow the set of matroids.
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Decompositions of the permutohedron

Subdivisions of the permutohedron into special Bruhat interval polytopes (isomorphic to cubes) appeared in recent work of:

- Harada-Horiguchi-Masuda-Park 2019:
“The volume polynomial of regular semisimple Hessenberg varieties and the Gelfand-Tsetlin polytope”
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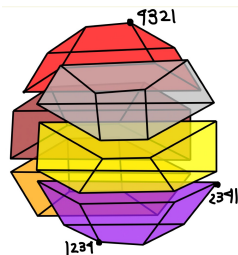


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Can we systematically understand how to cut up Perm_n into BIPs?

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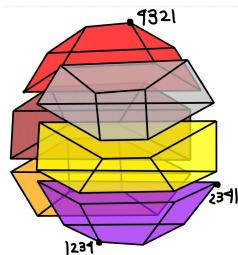


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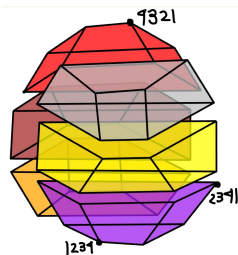


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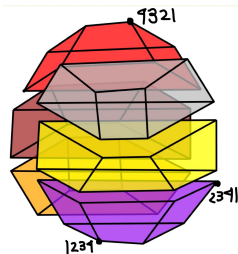


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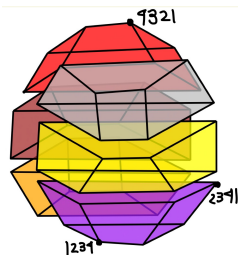


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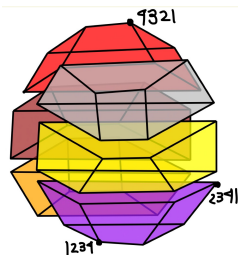


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Coherent subdivisions of polytopes

General method to produce a polyhedral subdivision of a polytope $P \subset \mathbb{R}^d$:

- Assign a real *height* $h(v)$ to each vertex $v \in \text{Vert}(P)$.
- Consider the polytope $\tilde{P} := \text{Conv}\{(v, h(v)) \mid v \in \text{Vert}(P)\} \subset \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$.
- Project the *lower faces* of \tilde{P} back down to P .

Gives polyhedral subdivision of P called *coherent* (or *regular*) subdivision.

example?

Questions:

- Can we produce subdivisions of Perm_n into BIPs using this method?
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Definition/Theorem (Boretsky)

The *positive tropical flag variety* $\text{Tr Fl}_n^{>0}$ is the set of points $\mu = (\mu_I \mid I \subsetneq [n]) \in \mathbb{R}^{2^n}$ satisfying *positive trop 3-term Plücker relations*:

- for $i < j < k < \ell$ and S disjoint from them,
$$\mu_{Sik} + \mu_{Sj\ell} = \min(\mu_{Sij} + \mu_{Skl}, \mu_{Si\ell} + \mu_{Sjk}).$$
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Remarks:

- Is a theorem because original defn of pos trop flag variety is as the closure of the coordinate-wise valuation of the flag variety over positive Puiseux series.
- Boretsky's result extends to $\text{Tr Fl}_n^{\geq 0}$.

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Def/Thm (Boretsky): $\text{Tr FI}_n^{>0}$ is the set of points $\mu = (\mu_I \mid I \subsetneq [n]) \in \mathbb{R}^{2^n}$ such that for $i < j < k < \ell$ and S disjoint from them,

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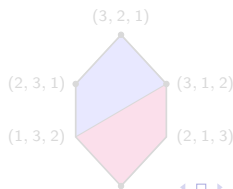
Theorem (Joswig-Loho-Luber-Olarte)

Let $\mu = (\mu_I \mid I \subsetneq [n]) \in \mathbb{R}^{2^n}$. The following are equivalent.

- μ lies in the positive tropical complete flag variety $\text{Tr FI}_n^{>0}$
- Every face in the coherent subdivision of Perm_n induced by μ is a BIP.

Example: $n = 3, (\mu_I) \in \mathbb{R}^{2^3}$ such that

$\mu_2 + \mu_{13} = \mu_1 + \mu_{23} < \mu_3 + \mu_{12}$. Get:



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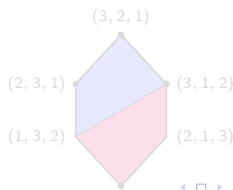
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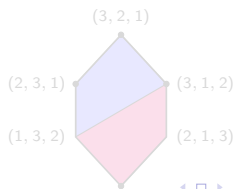
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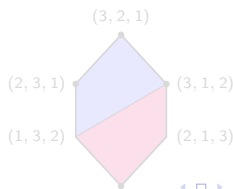
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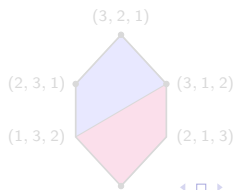
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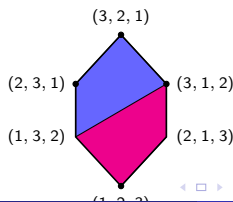
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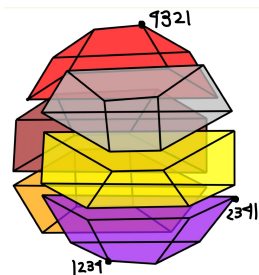
$\mu_2 + \mu_{13} = \mu_1 + \mu_{23} < \mu_3 + \mu_{12}$. Get:



Subdivisions of Perm_4 into BIPs using $\text{Tr FI}_4^{>0}$

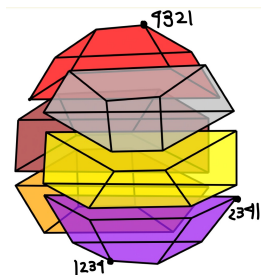
Height function ($\mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3, \mu_4; \mu_{12}, \mu_{13}, \mu_{14}, \mu_{23}, \mu_{24}, \mu_{34}; \mu_{123}, \mu_{124}, \mu_{134}, \mu_{234}$)	Bruhat interval polytopes in subdivision	f -vector
(15, -1, -7, -7; 4, -2, -2, -2, -2, 4; -7, -7, -1, 15)	$Q_{3214, 4321}, Q_{3124, 4231}, Q_{2314, 3421}, Q_{2134, 3241}, Q_{1324, 2431}, Q_{1234, 2341}$	(24, 46, 29, 6)
(15, 3, -9, -9; 4, -8, -8, -4, -4, 20; -1, -1, -1, 3)	$Q_{2413, 4321}, Q_{3124, 4231}, Q_{2314, 4231}, Q_{2134, 3241}, Q_{1324, 2431}, Q_{1234, 2341}$	
(15, -7, -1, -7; -2, 4, -2, -2, 4, -2; -7, -1, -7, 15)	$Q_{3142, 4321}, Q_{3124, 4312}, Q_{2143, 3421}, Q_{2134, 3412}, Q_{1243, 2431}, Q_{1234, 2413}$	
(-1, -1, -1, 3; 4, -8, -4, -8, -4, 20; 15, 3, -9, -9)	$Q_{2413, 4321}, Q_{1423, 4231}, Q_{1342, 4231}, Q_{1324, 4213}, Q_{1243, 4132}, Q_{1234, 4123}$	
(-7, -7, -1, 15; 4, -2, -2, -2, -2, 4; 15, -1, -7, -7)	$Q_{1432, 4321}, Q_{1423, 4312}, Q_{1342, 4231}, Q_{1324, 4213}, Q_{1243, 4132}, Q_{1234, 4123}$	
(-1, -7, -7, 15; -2, -2, 4, 4, -2, -2; 15, -7, -7, -1)	$Q_{3142, 4321}, Q_{2143, 4312}, Q_{2134, 4213}, Q_{1342, 3421}, Q_{1243, 3412}, Q_{1234, 2413}$	
(-9, -9, 3, 15; 20, -4, -8, -4, -8, 4; 3, -1, -1, -1)	$Q_{1432, 4321}, Q_{1423, 4312}, Q_{1342, 4231}, Q_{1324, 4213}, Q_{1324, 4132}, Q_{1234, 3142}$	
(11, -7, -7, 3; -6, -6, 4, 4, 2, 2; 11, -7, -7, 3)	$Q_{3142, 4321}, Q_{2143, 4312}, Q_{2134, 4213}, Q_{2143, 3421}, Q_{1243, 2431}, Q_{1234, 2413}$	
(3, 3, -3, -3; 20, -10, -10, -10, -10, 20; -3, -3, 3, 3)	$Q_{2413, 4321}, Q_{3124, 4231}, Q_{2314, 4231}, Q_{1324, 2431}, Q_{1324, 3241}, Q_{1234, 3142}$	
(3, -1, -1, -1; 20, -4, -4, -8, -8, 4; -9, -9, 3, 15)	$Q_{3214, 4321}, Q_{3124, 4231}, Q_{2314, 3421}, Q_{1324, 3241}, Q_{1324, 2431}, Q_{1234, 3142}$	
(-3, -3, 3, 3; 20, -10, -10, -10, -10, 20; 3, 3, -3, -3)	$Q_{2413, 4321}, Q_{1423, 4231}, Q_{1342, 4231}, Q_{1324, 4132}, Q_{1324, 4213}, Q_{1234, 3142}$	
(3, -7, -7, 11; 2, 2, 4, 4, -6, -6; 3, -7, -7, 11)	$Q_{3142, 4321}, Q_{3124, 4312}, Q_{1342, 3421}, Q_{2134, 3412}, Q_{1243, 3412}, Q_{1234, 2413}$	
(11, -1, -7, -3; -2, -8, -4, -4, 0, 18; 11, -1, -7, -3)	$Q_{2413, 4321}, Q_{2143, 4231}, Q_{2134, 4213}, Q_{1243, 2431}, Q_{1234, 2413}$	
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Subdivisions of Perm_4 into BIPs using $\text{Tr Fl}_4^{>0}$



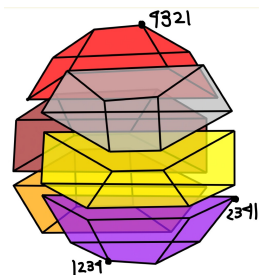
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Has same combinatorics as associahedron, and is closely connected to cluster algebra of type A_3 (which is the cluster type of Fl_4).
- Open question: describe combinatorics of $\text{Tr Fl}_n^{>0}$ more generally.
How many maximal cones?

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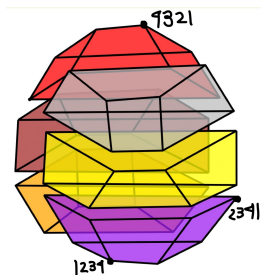
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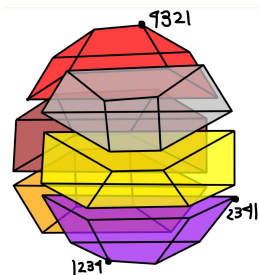
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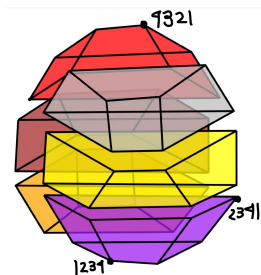
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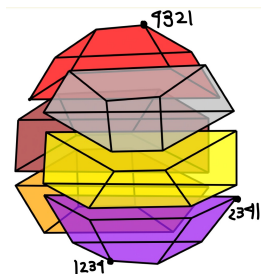
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- The previous theorem was for about the (complete) flag variety. We will extend to more general partial flag varieties.
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The flag variety

Let $R = \{r_1 < \dots < r_k\} \subseteq [n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. The *flag variety* $\text{Fl}_{R;n}$ is

$$\text{Fl}_{R;n} = \{(V_1, \dots, V_k) \mid 0 \subset V_1 \subset \dots \subset V_k \subset \mathbb{R}^n \text{ and } \dim V_i = r_i \forall i\}$$

Special cases:

- If $R = [n]$: complete flag variety Fl_n
- If $R = \{r\}$: Grassmannian $\text{Gr}_{r,n}$.

Can represent an element of $\text{Fl}_{R;n}$ by an $r_k \times n$ matrix A such that the span of the top r_i rows is V_i .

Example: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ represents an element of Fl_3 .

For $I \subset [n]$, the *Plücker coordinate* (or *flag minor*) $p_I(A)$ is the determinant of the submatrix in columns I and rows $1, 2, \dots, |I|$.

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Flag matroids, flag positroids, and their polytopes

Let $R = (r_1 < \dots < r_k) \subset [n]$. A *flag matroid* of ranks R is a sequence $\underline{M} = (M_1, \dots, M_k)$ of matroids of ranks r_i on $[n]$ such that all vertices of

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$\chi_M : \binom{[n]}{d} \rightarrow \{-1, 0, 1\}$ which is “consistent w/ 3-term Plücker relations.”

Related notions of oriented flag matroid, positively oriented (flag) matroid.

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Thank you for listening!

- “Polyhedral and tropical geometry of flag positroids,” with Jon Boretsky and Chris Eur, arXiv:2208.09131.
- “Bruhat interval polytopes” with Emmanuel Tsukerman, Adv Math 2015.
- “The full Kostant-Toda hierarchy on the positive flag variety” with Yuji Kodama, Comm Math Phys 2015.

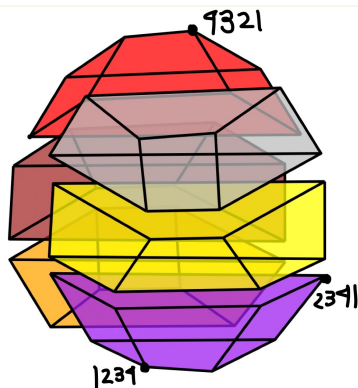


Figure from Nadeau-Tewari 2208.04128 “Remixed Eulerian numbers”

Quick intro to tropical geometry

- Tropical varieties are “piecewise-linear” versions of ordinary varieties.
- Let $\mathcal{C} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{C}((t^{1/n}))$ be the field of *Puiseux series*.
Each element has the form $ct^a + \dots$ where $c \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$, $a \in \mathbb{Q}$, and the other terms have larger exponents.
- Define *valuation* $\text{val}(ct^a + \dots) = a$.
- For $I \subset \mathcal{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ an ideal, the corresponding *tropical variety* is $\text{Trop } V(I) := \overline{\text{val}(V(I) \cap (\mathcal{C} \setminus \{0\})^n)}$.
That is, we compute the “ordinary” variety over the field of Puiseux series, but then apply the valuation to each coordinate.
- The *positive Puiseux series* \mathcal{C}^+ consists of $ct^a + \dots$ where $c \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$.
- The *positive tropical variety* is $\text{Trop}^+ V(I) := \overline{\text{val}(V(I) \cap (\mathcal{C}^+ \setminus \{0\})^n)}$.
- Note: If $f(t), g(t) \in \mathcal{C}^+$, then $\text{val}(f(t)g(t)) = \text{val}(f(t) + g(t))$ and $\text{val}(f(t) + g(t)) = \min(\text{val}(f(t)), \text{val}(g(t)))$.

Polyhedral and tropical geometry of positroids

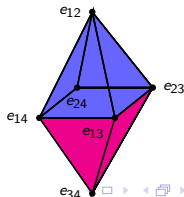
Thm (Lukowski-Parisi-W, Speyer-W, Arkani-Hamed-Lam-Spradlin)

Let $\mu = (\mu_I \mid I \in \binom{[n]}{r}) \in \mathbb{R}^{\binom{[n]}{r}}$. The following are equivalent.

- μ lies in the positive tropical Grassmannian $\text{Tr Gr}_{r,n}^{>0}$ (the closure of the coordinate-wise valuation of $\text{Gr}_{r,n}$ over positive Puiseux series)
- μ obeys the positive tropical 3-term Plücker relations: for $i < j < k < \ell$ and S disjoint from them, $|S| = r - 2$,
$$\mu_{Sik} + \mu_{Sj\ell} = \min(\mu_{Sij} + \mu_{Skl}, \mu_{Sj\ell} + \mu_{Sil}).$$
- Every face in the regular (coherent) subdivision of the hypersimplex $\Delta_{r,n} = \text{Conv}(e_I \mid I \in \binom{[n]}{r})$ induced by μ is a positroid polytope.

Example: $n = 4, r = 2, (\mu_I) \in \mathbb{R}^{\binom{[4]}{2}}$ such that

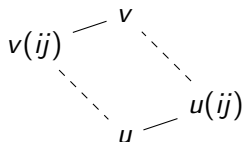
$$\mu_{13} + \mu_{24} = \mu_{23} + \mu_{14} < \mu_{12} + \mu_{34}. \text{ Get:}$$



The lifting property and a generalization

Lifting property: Suppose $u < v$ in Bruhat order and s is a simple reflection such that $vs \triangleleft v$ and $us \triangleright u$. Then $u \leq vs \triangleleft v$ and $u \triangleleft us \leq v$.

Caution: *such an s may not exist.*



Def: Say a transposition (ij) is *inversion-minimal* on (u, v) if $[i, j]$ is minimal (with respect to inclusion) such that $v(ij) < v$ and $u(ij) > u$.

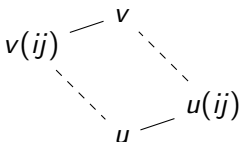
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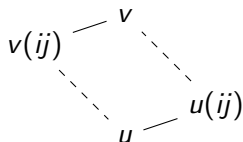
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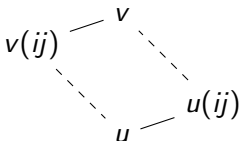
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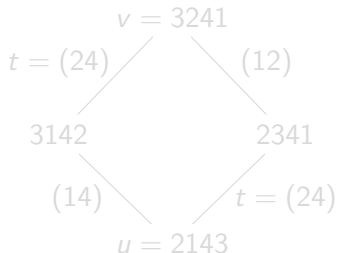
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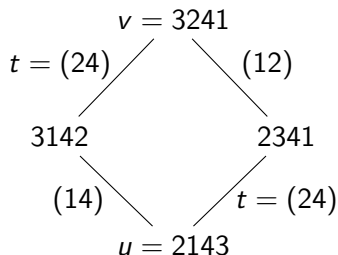
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Generalization of the recurrence for R -polynomials $R_{u,v}(q)$

Kazhdan and Lusztig introduced R -polynomials as a tool for computing Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials. Geometric interpretation:
 $R_{u,v}(q) = \#\mathcal{R}_{u,v}(\mathbb{F}_q)$, the number of \mathbb{F}_q -points in the Richardson variety.

They showed that R -polynomials can be defined by the conditions:

- 1 $R_{u,v}(q) = 0$, if $u \not\leq v$.
- 2 $R_{u,v}(q) = 1$, if $u = v$.
- 3 If $vs < v$ (s a simple reflection) then

$$R_{u,v}(q) = \begin{cases} R_{us,vs}(q) & \text{if } us < u, \\ qR_{us,vs}(q) + (q-1)R_{u,vs}(q) & \text{if } us > u. \end{cases}$$

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