On a scissors congruence phenomenon for some polytopes

J. L. Ramírez Alfonsín

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joint work with C.G. Fernandes, J.C. de Pina and S. Robins

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Hilbert's Third Problem

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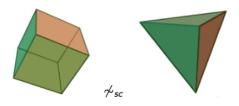
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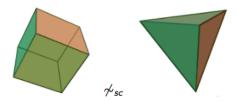
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Done by using the Dehn invariant of a polyhedron depending on edge lengths and edge dihedral angles.

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Question (Haase and McAllister, 2008) Is there a decomposition of \mathcal{P}_1 in a finite number of polytopes Q_i and a set of affine unimodular transformations U_i such that the union of all $U_i(Q_i)$ is equal to \mathcal{P}_2 ?

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Motivation : The Ehrahrt polynomial of an integer polytope is invariant under affine unimodular transformation.

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Ehrhart polynomial

Let \mathcal{P} be an integer polytope.

Ehrhart defined a function $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t)$ on the integer parameter t which is the number of integer points inside the dilation $t\mathcal{P}$.

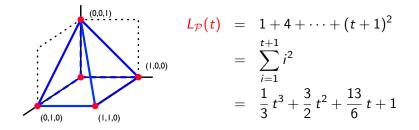
Theorem (Ehrhart). For every integer polytope \mathcal{P} of dimension d, $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t)$ is a polynomial on t of degree d.

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Polytope of Liu and Osserman

{1,3}-graphs : degree of every vertex is 1 or 3 For each degree -3 vertex v of a {1,3}-graph G, let a, b, and c be the edges incident to v. S(v) is the system defined on the variables w_a , w_b , and w_c : $w_a + w_b + w_c \leq 1$ $w_a \leq w_b + w_c$ $w_b \leq w_a + w_c$ $w_c \leq w_a + w_b$.

Polytope \mathcal{P}_{G} :

solutions of the union of S(v) for all degree-3 vertices v.

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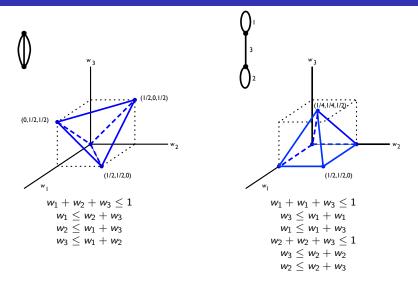
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Properties of this polytope are related to a work in algebraic geometry by Mochizuki, 1999.

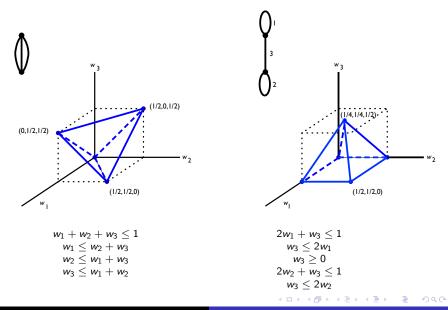
Examples : polytopes of cubic graphs on two vertices



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Corollary The Ehrhart quasi-polynomials of \mathcal{P}_{G_1} and \mathcal{P}_{G_2} are the same.

This was a conjecture in the paper by Liu and Osserman (2006).

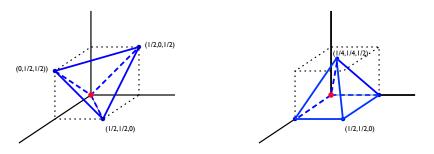
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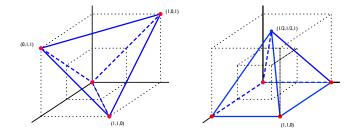
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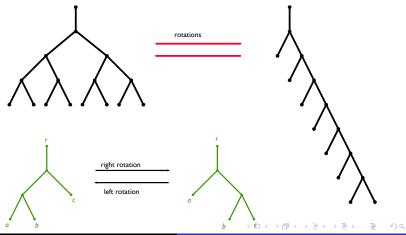
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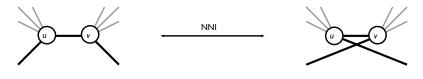
Binary trees and rotations

Theorem (Culik and Wood, 1982) Any two binary trees with the same number of vertices can be transformed into one another through a finite series of rotations.



Nearest neighbor interchange

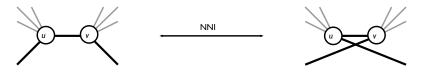
NNI : nearest neighbor interchange



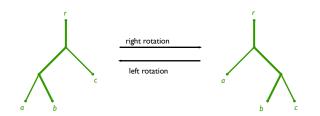
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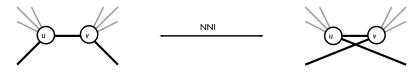


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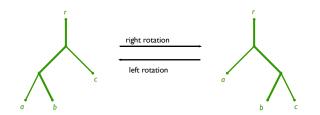


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Loops and parallel edges allowed

First result

Leaf : a degree -1 vertex

An edge is external if it is incident to a leaf, otherwise it is internal.

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Theorem (Fernandes, De Pina, Robins, R.A., 2018) Let G and G' be connected graphs with the same degree sequence and the same set of external edges. Then,

(a) G can be transformed into G' through a series of NNI moves.

(b) One can choose a spanning tree in G and a spanning tree in G' and require that all the pivots of the NNI moves are internal edges of both of these spanning trees.

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Extension of a theorem for cubic graphs by Tsukui (1996).

For the proof of the previous theorem...

- G : a connected graph that is not a tree.
- e : an edge of G that is in a cycle.

The graph obtained from G by cutting e is

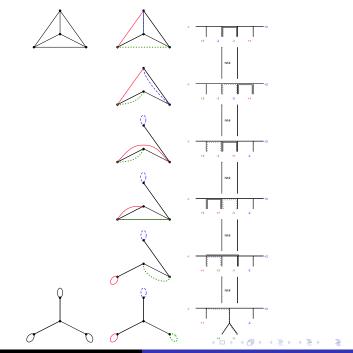
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the graph G' resulting from the splitting of e into two edges, each connecting one of the ends of e to one of two new leaves.

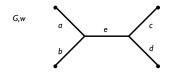


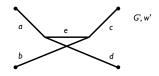
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- G : {1,3}-graph
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Let w' be defined on the edges of G' as $w'_f = w_f$ for every $f \neq e$ and $w'_e = w_e + \max\{w_a + w_b, w_c + w_d\} - \max\{w_a + w_d, w_b + w_c\}$.

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Note that if w has integer values, so does w'.



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Scketch of the proof of the lemma



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Lemma. For every integer t, $w \in t\mathcal{P}_G$ if and only if $w' \in t\mathcal{P}_{G'}$. *Proof*: Note that w'' = w, so it is enough to check one direction. We may assume that $w_a + w_b \ge w_c + w_d$ and $w_a + w_d \ge w_b + w_c$. Thus $w'_e = w_e + w_b - w_d$.

For example, if $w_e + w_a + w_b \leq t$, then

$$w'_{e} + w_{b} + w_{c} \leq w'_{e} + w_{a} + w_{d}$$

= $(w_{e} + w_{b} - w_{d}) + w_{a} + w_{d}$
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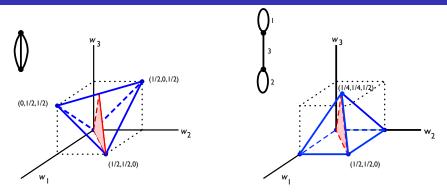
We associate to ψ the hyperplanes $w_a + w_b - w_c - w_d = 0$ and $w_a - w_b - w_c + w_d = 0$, which are either the same hyperplane (if a = b or c = d) or two orthogonal hyperplanes.

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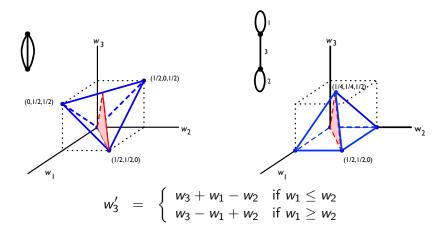
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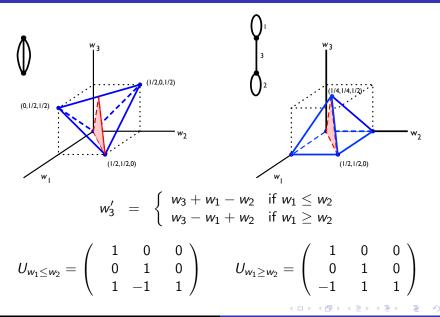
$$\begin{split} w_3' &= w_3 + \max\{w_1 + w_2, w_1 + w_2\} - \max\{2w_1, 2w_2\} \\ &= w_3 + w_1 + w_2 - 2\max\{w_1, w_2\} \\ &= \begin{cases} w_3 - w_1 + w_2 & \text{if } w_1 \ge w_2 \\ w_3 + w_1 - w_2 & \text{if } w_1 \le w_2 \end{cases} \end{split}$$

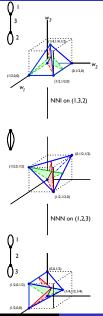
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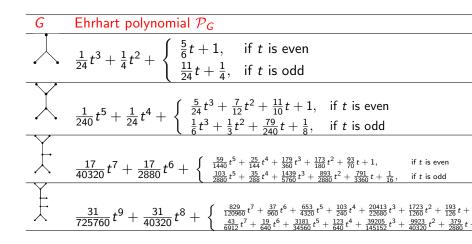
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Tiavintío!! (Thanks in Mixteca)

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