Triangulations



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slides available at: http://www.lix.polytechnique.fr/~pilaud/enseignement/MPRI/MPRI-2-38-1-VP-4.pdf
Course notes available at: https://www.lix.polytechnique.fr/~pilaud/enseignement/MPRI/notesCoursMPRI21.pdf

TRIANGULATIONS & SUBDIVISIONS

SUBDIVISIONS

DEF. $\boldsymbol{P} = \mathsf{point} \mathsf{ set} \mathsf{ in } \mathbb{R}^d.$

polyhedral subdivision of P = collection S of subsets of P st:

- closure property: if $\operatorname{conv}(X)$ is a face of $\operatorname{conv}(Y)$ and $Y \in \mathcal{S}$, then $X \in \mathcal{S}$,
- <u>union property</u>: $\operatorname{conv}(\boldsymbol{P}) = \bigcup_{\boldsymbol{X} \in \mathcal{S}} \operatorname{conv}(\boldsymbol{X})$,
- intersection property: conv(X) and conv(Y) have disjoint relative interiors and intersect along a face of both, for any $X, Y \in S$.



 $S = \{01348, 0356, 3589, 569\} + all faces...$

TRIANGULATIONS

DEF. <u>triangulation</u> = subdivision \mathcal{T} where all subsets are affinely independent. (in particular, conv(\mathbf{X}) is a simplex for all $\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{T}$).

full triangulation = each point belongs to at least one simplex.



QU. Show that any full triangulation of a planar point set with *i* interior and *b* boundary points has i + b vertices, 3i + 2b - 3 edges, and 2i + b - 2 triangles.

TRIANGULATIONS IN $3\ \textsc{dimension}$

QU. What is the minimum / maximum number of simplices that triangulate the 3-cube?

TRIANGULATIONS IN 3 DIMENSION

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In dimension d, minimum is very difficult, maximum is d!

FREUDENTHAL TRIANGULATION

DEF. Freudenthal triangulation of the *d*-cube \Box_d = triangulation with a simplex $\Delta_{\sigma} = \left\{ \sum_{i \leq j} e_{\sigma(i)} \mid 0 \leq j \leq d \right\} = \left\{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \Box_d \mid x_{\sigma(1)} \geq x_{\sigma(2)} \geq \cdots \geq x_{\sigma(d)} \right\}$ for each permutation $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_d$.



NUMBER OF TRIANGULATIONS

CONVEX POSITION & CATALAN NUMBERS





CONVEX POSITION & CATALAN NUMBERS

PROP. number triangulations convex
$$n$$
-gon = Catalan number $C_{n-2} = \frac{1}{n-1} {2n-4 \choose n-2}$
$$\frac{n | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14}{C_n | 1 | 2 | 5 | 14 | 42 | 132 | 429 | 1430 | 4862 | 16796 | 58786 | 208012 | 742900 | 2674440}$$

proof A: in the triangulations of the (n-1)-gon:

- number of edges = 2n 5
- \bullet average degree of a vertex = 2(2n-5)/(n-1)

Thus, contracting the triangle containing 1 and n, we get the induction formula



$$T_n = \frac{2(2n-5)}{n-1}T_{n-1} \qquad \text{thus} \qquad T_n = \frac{2^{n-3}(2n-5)(2n-7)\dots 3}{(n-1)(n-2)\dots 2}T_3 = \frac{1}{n-1}\binom{2n-4}{n-2}.$$

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<u>proof B</u>: decomposing the triangulation by the triangle containing 1 and n, we have the summation formula

$$T_n = \sum_{2 \le j \le n-1} T_j \cdot T_{n-j+1}$$

For the generating function $T(x) = \sum_{j \ge 2} T_j x^{j-2}$, this gives

$$T(x) = 1 + x \cdot T(x)^2$$
 thus $T(x) = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4x}}{2x}$.

We then get T_j developing the series.



CATALAND

QU. Show that the following are Catalan families (ie. counted by Catalan numbers):

- (i) triangulations of a convex *n*-gon,
- (ii) binary trees with n-2 internal nodes,
- (iii) rooted plane trees with n-1 nodes,
- (iv) Dyck paths of length 2n-4 (ie. paths with up steps ≯ and down steps ↘ starting at (0,0) finishing at (2n-4,0) and which never go below the horizontal axis),
 (v) valid bracketings of a non-associative product on n-1 elements.



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DOUBLE CHAIN AND DOUBLE CIRCLE



QU. Compute the numbers of full triangulations of the double chain and double circle.

DOUBLE CHAIN AND DOUBLE CIRCLE



proof:

- db chain: all edges of the chains belong to full triangulations...
- db circle: inclusion-exclusion for triangulations of convex polygon with no even ear.

QU. What about all triangulations?

UPPER AND LOWER BOUNDS

THM. Any planar point set in general position with *i* interior and *b* boundary points has at least $C_{b-2}2^{i-b+2} = \Omega(2^n n^{-3/2})$ and at most $59^i 7^b / {i+b+6 \choose 6} \le 59^n$ full triangulations.

proof: For the lower bound:

1. if b = 3:

- check it for $i \leq 8$. This is a combinatorial problem!
- use stacked triangulations:

each point separates the triangle into three regions with $i = i_1 + i_2 + i_3 + 1$, thus defines at least $2^{i_1-1} \cdot 2^{i_2-1} \cdot 2^{i_3-1} = 2^{i-4}$ stacked triangulations thus in total, at least $i2^{i-4} \ge 2^{i-1}$ stacked triangulations.



2. if $b \ge 4$, choose a triangulation of the boundary, and stack in all triangles.

For the upper bound: see poly...

FLIPS

FLIPS

DEF. <u>flip</u> = local operation on triangulations of P defined as:

• diagonal flip = if pqr and prs form a convex quadrilateral pqrs, replace the diagonal pr by the other diagonal qs of pqrs.



• insertion/deletion flip = if a point p is contained in the interior of a triangle uvw, then insert the edges pu, pv, and pw or vice-versa.



DEF. flip graph = graph with vertices = triangulations and edges = flips.

FLIP GRAPH



THM. For any set X of d+2 points in \mathbb{R}^d , there exists a partition $X = X^+ \sqcup X^- \sqcup X^\circ$ such that $\operatorname{conv}(X^+) \cap \operatorname{conv}(X^-) \neq \emptyset$.

 $\begin{array}{l} \underline{\text{proof:}} \end{array} \text{ There is an affine dependence } & \sum_{x \in X} \lambda_x \, x = 0 \text{ with } \sum_{x \in X} \lambda_x = 0 \text{ (to see it, linearize).} \\ \text{Let } \mathbf{X}^+ = \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X} \mid \lambda_x > 0 \} \quad \mathbf{X}^- = \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X} \mid \lambda_x < 0 \} \quad \mathbf{X}^\circ = \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X} \mid \lambda_x = 0 \}. \\ \text{Then } \Lambda = \sum_{\mathbf{x}^+ \in \mathbf{X}^+} \lambda_{\mathbf{x}^+} = \sum_{\mathbf{x}^- \in \mathbf{X}^-} (-\lambda_{\mathbf{x}^-}) \text{ and } \frac{1}{\Lambda} \sum_{\mathbf{x}^+ \in \mathbf{X}^+} \lambda_{\mathbf{x}^+} \, \mathbf{x}^+ = \frac{1}{\Lambda} \sum_{\mathbf{x}^- \in \mathbf{X}^-} (-\lambda_{\mathbf{x}^-}) \, \mathbf{x}^-. \end{array}$



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DEF. X set of d + 2 points in \mathbb{R}^d . $X = X^+ \sqcup X^- \sqcup X^\circ$ Radon partition of X with (inclusion) maximal X° . <u>Bistellar flip</u> = $\{ \operatorname{conv}(X \setminus \{x\}) \mid x \in X^+ \} \iff \{ \operatorname{conv}(X \setminus \{x\}) \mid x \in X^+ \}$



QU. How many flips to connect these triangulations of the 3-cube?



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DELAUNAY TRIANGULATION (AGAIN)

VORONOI DIAGRAM

DEF. $P = \text{set of } \underline{\text{sites}} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n$. <u>Voronoi region</u> $\operatorname{Vor}(p, P) = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid ||x - p|| \le ||x - q|| \text{ for all } q \in P \}$. <u>Voronoi diagram</u> $\operatorname{Vor}(P) = \text{partition of } \mathbb{R}^n \text{ formed by } \operatorname{Vor}(p, P) \text{ for } p \in P$.



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LIFTING POINTS ON THE PARABOLOID

<u>paraboloïd</u> \mathcal{P} with equation $x_{d+1} = \sum_{i \in [d]} x_i^2$.





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<u>paraboloïd</u> \mathcal{P} with equation $x_{d+1} = \sum_{i \in [d]} x_i^2$. <u>lifting function</u> $\boldsymbol{p} \in \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \hat{\boldsymbol{p}} = (\boldsymbol{p}, \|\boldsymbol{p}\|^2) \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$.

PROP. The Voronoi diagram Vor(P) is the vertical projection of the upper enveloppe of the planes tangent to the paraboloïd \mathcal{P} at the lifted points \hat{p} for $p \in P$.



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proof:
$$H(\mathbf{p}) = \text{tangent plane to the paraboloïd } \mathcal{P} \text{ at } \hat{\mathbf{p}}.$$

= plane of equation $x_{d+1} = 2 \langle \mathbf{p} | \mathbf{x} \rangle - ||\mathbf{p}||^2$.

Therefore, $H(\boldsymbol{p})$ above $H(\boldsymbol{q})$ at point $\boldsymbol{x} \iff \|\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{p}\| \le \|\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{q}\|$.

DELAUNAY COMPLEX

DEF. $P = \text{set of } \underline{\text{sites}} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n$. <u>Voronoi region</u> $\operatorname{Vor}(p, P) = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid ||x - p|| \le ||x - q|| \text{ for all } q \in P \}$. <u>Voronoi diagram</u> $\operatorname{Vor}(P) = \text{partition of } \mathbb{R}^n \text{ formed by } \operatorname{Vor}(p, P) \text{ for } p \in P$.



DEF. Delaunay complex $Del(\mathbf{P}) = intersection complex of Vor(\mathbf{P})$

$$\mathrm{Del}(\boldsymbol{P}) = \big\{ \mathrm{conv}(\boldsymbol{X}) \mid \boldsymbol{X} \subseteq \boldsymbol{P} \text{ and } \bigcap_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \boldsymbol{X}} \mathrm{Vor}(\boldsymbol{p}, \boldsymbol{P}) \neq \boldsymbol{\varnothing} \big\}.$$

EMPTY CIRCLES

PROP. For any three points p, q, r of P,

- pq is an edge of $Del(P) \iff$ there is an empty circle passing through p and q,
- pqr is a triangle of $Del(P) \iff$ the circumcircle of p, q, r is empty.



proof idea: consider the circle centered at the intersection of the Voronoi regions and passing through the Voronoi sites.

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PROP. The Delaunay complex $Del(\mathbf{P})$ is the vertical projection of the lower convex hull of the lifted points \hat{p} for $p \in \mathbf{P}$.



PROP. The Delaunay complex Del(P) is the vertical projection of the lower convex hull of the lifted points \hat{p} for $p \in P$.

proof: Paraboloïd cap below a hyperplane:

$$x_{d+1} = \sum_{i \in [d]} x_i^2$$
 and $x_{d+1} \le \sum_{i \in [d]} \lambda_i x_i$.

Projection of this cap:

$$\sum_{i \in [d]} (x_i - \lambda_i/2)^2 \le \sum_{i \in [d]} \lambda_i^2/4.$$



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LAWSON FLIPS IN DIMENSION 2

DEF. Lawson flip = flip of an edge pq contained in two triangles pqr and pqs such that s is inside the circumcircle of pqr and r is inside the circumcircle of pqs.

PROP. Lawson flips are always possible, and lead to the Delaunay triangulation.



CORO. For any 2-dimensional point configuration, the flip graph is connected.

THM. (Santos) In dimension ≥ 5 , some point sets have disconnected flip graphs.

REGULAR TRIANGULATIONS & SUBDIVISIONS

LIFTINGS AND REGULAR SUBDIVISIONS

DEF. P = point configuration. $h: P \to \mathbb{R}$ height function.

 $S(\mathbf{P}, h) = \text{subdivision of } \mathbf{P} \text{ obtained as the projection of the lower convex hull of the lifted point set } \{(\mathbf{p}, h(\mathbf{p})) \mid \mathbf{p} \in \mathbf{P}\}.$



PROP. If $g : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is affine, then $\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{P}, g + h) = \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{P}, h)$ for any $h : \mathbf{P} \to \mathbb{R}$.

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Point configuration $P = \{(0,0), (3,0), (0,3), (3,3), (1,1)\}.$ Restrict to height functions h with h((0,0)) = h((3,0)) = h((0,3)) = 0.Let x = h((3,3)) and y = h((1,1)).



QU. Give conditions on x and y to obtain the following regular subdivisions:



















NON REGULAR TRIANGULATIONS



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<u>proof:</u> assume the left one regular, and pick a height function. Up to an affine function, height 3 for the 3 internal vertices. The heights of the 3 external vertices satisfy: a < b < c < a. Contradiction.

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CONVEX POSITION

QU. Show that all subdivisions of a planar point set in convex position are regular.



CONVEX POSITION

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Use $h(\mathbf{p}) = \sum_{\delta \in S} d(\delta, \mathbf{p})$ where $d(\delta, \mathbf{p})$ is the distance of \mathbf{p} to the line spanned by δ .

REGULAR SUBDIVISION LATTICE

DEF. S refines S' when for any $X \in S$, there is $X' \in S'$ st $X \subseteq X'$. regular subdivision lattice = regular subdivisions of P ordered by refinement.



SECONDARY FAN

DEF. secondary cone of subdivision S of $P = \Sigma \mathbb{C}(S) = \{h \in \mathbb{R}^P \mid S(P, h) = S\}$. secondary fan of P = fan formed by the secondary cones of all (regular) subdivisions.



SECONDARY POLYTOPE

DEF. \mathcal{T} triangulation of a point set $\mathbf{P} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$. volume vector of \mathcal{T} :

$$\Phi(\mathcal{T}) = \left(\sum_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \boldsymbol{\bigtriangleup} \in \mathcal{T}} \operatorname{vol}(\boldsymbol{\bigtriangleup})\right)_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \boldsymbol{P}}$$

secondary polytope of *P*:

 $\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\boldsymbol{P}) \coloneqq \operatorname{conv} \left\{ \Phi(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{T}}) \mid \boldsymbol{\mathcal{T}} \text{ triangulation of } \boldsymbol{P} \right\}.$

exm:





THM. (Gelfand, Kapranov, and Zelevinsky) For P in general position in \mathbb{R}^d ,

- $\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{P})$ has dimension $|\mathbf{P}| d 1$,
- $\Sigma \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{P})$ is the inner normal fan of $\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{P})$,
- The face lattice of $\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{P})$ is isomorphic to the regular subdivisions lattice of \mathbf{P} .



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proof: lower bound on $\dim(\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{P}))$ by induction on $|\mathbf{P}|$:

- when $|\boldsymbol{P}| = 3$, $\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\boldsymbol{P})$ is a single point,
- for $|\mathbf{P}| \ge 4$ and any $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbf{P}$, $\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{P} \smallsetminus \mathbf{p}) = \Sigma \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{P}) \cap \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbf{P}} \mid x_{\mathbf{p}} = \alpha \right\}$ where

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \boldsymbol{p} \text{ inside } \operatorname{conv}(\boldsymbol{P}), \\ \operatorname{vol}(\operatorname{conv}(\boldsymbol{P})) - \operatorname{vol}(\operatorname{conv}(\boldsymbol{P} \smallsetminus \boldsymbol{p})) & \text{if } \boldsymbol{p} \text{ on the boundary of } \operatorname{conv}(\boldsymbol{P}). \end{cases}$$

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<u>upper bound</u> on $\dim(\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{P}))$ from the volume and center of mass of $conv(\mathbf{P})$:

$$\operatorname{vol}(\boldsymbol{P}) = \sum_{\Delta \in \mathcal{T}} \operatorname{vol}(\Delta) = \sum_{\Delta \in \mathcal{T}} \sum_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \Delta} \frac{\operatorname{vol}(\Delta)}{d+1} = \frac{1}{d+1} \sum_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \boldsymbol{P}} \sum_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \Delta \in \mathcal{T}} \operatorname{vol}(\Delta) = \frac{1}{d+1} \sum_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \boldsymbol{P}} \Phi(\mathcal{T})_{\boldsymbol{p}}.$$
$$\operatorname{vol}(\boldsymbol{P}) \cdot \operatorname{cm}(\boldsymbol{P}) = \sum_{\Delta \in \mathcal{T}} \operatorname{vol}(\Delta) \cdot \operatorname{cm}(\Delta) = \sum_{\Delta \in \mathcal{T}} \operatorname{vol}(\Delta) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{d+1} \sum_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \Delta} \boldsymbol{p}\right) = \frac{1}{d+1} \sum_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \boldsymbol{P}} \Phi(\mathcal{T})_{\boldsymbol{p}} \cdot \boldsymbol{p}.$$

THM. (Gelfand, Kapranov, and Zelevinsky) For P in general position in \mathbb{R}^d ,

- $\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{P})$ has dimension $|\mathbf{P}| d 1$,
- $\Sigma \mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{P})$ is the inner normal fan of $\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\boldsymbol{P})$,
- The face lattice of $\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{P})$ is isomorphic to the regular subdivisions lattice of \mathbf{P} .

<u>proof</u>: \mathcal{T} triangulation of P and a height vector $h \in \mathbb{R}^{P}$. $f_{\mathcal{T},h} : \operatorname{conv}(P) \to \mathbb{R} = \operatorname{piecewise}$ linear map on the simplices of \mathcal{T} such that $f_{\mathcal{T},h}(p) = h_p$. Then the volume below the hypersurface defined by $f_{\mathcal{T},h}$ is

$$\int f_{\mathcal{T},\omega}(\boldsymbol{x}) \, d\boldsymbol{x} = \sum_{\Delta \in \mathcal{T}} \int f_{\mathcal{T},\omega}(\boldsymbol{x}) \, d\boldsymbol{x} = \sum_{\Delta \in \mathcal{T}} \frac{\operatorname{vol}(\Delta)}{d+1} \sum_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \Delta} \boldsymbol{h}_{\boldsymbol{p}}$$
$$= \frac{1}{d+1} \sum_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \boldsymbol{P}} \boldsymbol{h}_{\boldsymbol{p}} \cdot \sum_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \Delta \in \mathcal{T}} \operatorname{vol}(\Delta) = \frac{\langle \Phi(\mathcal{T}) \mid \boldsymbol{h} \rangle}{3}.$$

THM. (Gelfand, Kapranov, and Zelevinsky) For P in general position in \mathbb{R}^d ,

- $\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{P})$ has dimension $|\mathbf{P}| d 1$,
- $\Sigma \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{P})$ is the inner normal fan of $\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{P})$,
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$$\int_{\text{conv}(\mathbf{P})} f_{\mathcal{T},\omega}(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x} = \sum_{\Delta \in \mathcal{T}} \int_{\Delta} f_{\mathcal{T},\omega}(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x} = \sum_{\Delta \in \mathcal{T}} \frac{\text{vol}(\Delta)}{d+1} \sum_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta} \mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{p}}$$
$$= \frac{1}{d+1} \sum_{\mathbf{p} \in \mathbf{P}} \mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \sum_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta \in \mathcal{T}} \text{vol}(\Delta) = \frac{\langle \Phi(\mathcal{T}) \mid \mathbf{h} \rangle}{3}.$$

Therefore, if $\mathcal{T}=\mathcal{S}(\boldsymbol{P},\boldsymbol{h})\neq\mathcal{T}'$ then

$$\langle \Phi(\mathcal{T}) \mid \boldsymbol{h} \rangle < \langle \Phi(\mathcal{T}') \mid \boldsymbol{h} \rangle.$$

In other words, the normal cone of $\Phi(\mathcal{T})$ in $\Sigma \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{P})$ is the secondary cone of \mathcal{T} .

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