

Coxeter submodular functions and deformations of Coxeter permutahedra

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Abstract

We describe the cone of deformations of a Coxeter permutahedron, or equivalently, the nef cone of the toric variety associated to a Coxeter complex. This family of polytopes contains polyhedral models for the Coxeter-theoretic analogs of compositions, graphs, matroids, posets, and associahedra. Our description extends the known correspondence between generalized permutahedra, polymatroids, and submodular functions to any finite reflection group.

1 Introduction

The permutahedron Π_n is the convex hull of the $n!$ permutations of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ in \mathbb{R}^n . This polytopal model for the symmetric group S_n appears in and informs numerous combinatorial, algebraic, and geometric settings. There are two natural generalizations, which we now discuss.

1. **Reflection groups:** Instead of the group S_n , we may consider any finite reflection group W with corresponding root system $\Phi \subset V$. This group is similarly modeled by the Φ -permutahedron, which is the convex hull of the W -orbit of a generic point in V . Most of the geometric and representation theoretic properties of the permutahedron extend to this setting.

2. **Deformations:** We may deform the polytope by moving its faces while preserving their directions. The resulting family of *generalized permutahedra* or *polymatroids* is special enough to feature a rich combinatorial, algebraic, and geometric structure, and flexible enough to contain polytopes of interest in numerous different contexts.

The goal of this paper is to describe the *deformations of Φ -permutahedra* or *Φ -polymatroids*, thus generalizing these two directions simultaneously. We have two motivations:

- *Coxeter combinatorics* recognizes that many classical combinatorial constructions are intimately related to the symmetric group, and have natural generalizations to the setting of reflection groups. There are natural Coxeter analogs of compositions, graphs, matroids, posets, and clusters, and we observe that they are all part of this framework of deformations of Φ -permutahedra.
- The *Coxeter permutahedral variety* X_Φ is the toric variety associated to a crystallographic Coxeter arrangement \mathcal{A}_Φ . The various embeddings of X_Φ into projective spaces give rise to the *nef cone*, a key object in the toric minimal model program. The nef cone of X_Φ can be identified with the cone of possible deformations of the Φ -permutahedron.

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A central result about generalized permutahedra in \mathbb{R}^n is that they are in bijection with the functions $f : 2^{[n]} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that satisfy the *submodular inequalities* $f(A) + f(B) \geq f(A \cup B) + f(A \cap B)$. Thus the field of submodular optimization is essentially a study of this family of polytopes. Our main result extends this to all finite reflection groups:

Theorem 1.1. Let Φ be a finite root system with Weyl group W and $\mathcal{R} = W\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d\}$ be the set of W -conjugates of fundamental weights $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d$. The deformations of the Φ -permutahedron are in bijection with the Φ -submodular functions $h : \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that satisfy the following inequalities:

For every element $w \in W$, every simple reflection s_i , and corresponding fundamental weight λ_i ,

$$h(w\lambda_i) + h(ws_i\lambda_i) \geq \sum_{j \in N(i)} -A_{ji} h(w\lambda_j) \quad (1)$$

where $N(i)$ is the set of neighbors of i in the Dynkin diagram and A is the Cartan matrix.

These inequalities are very sparse: The right hand side of the Φ -submodular inequality has 1, 2, or 3 non-zero terms, depending on the number of neighbors of i in the Dynkin diagram of Φ . For $\Phi = A_{n-1}$ we get precisely the classic family of submodular functions. For $\Phi = B_n$ and $\Phi = C_n$ we get precisely Fujishige's notion of bisubmodular functions. More generally, we expect Φ -submodular functions to be useful in combinatorial optimization problems with an underlying symmetry of type Φ .

We prove that the inequalities (12) are precisely the facets of the cone SF_Φ of Φ -submodular functions. This allows us to enumerate them. On the other hand, the rays of the Φ -submodular cone seem to be very difficult to describe, even when $\Phi = A_{n-1}$.

We completely describe an important slice of SF_Φ : the *symmetric Φ -submodular cone* consisting of the Φ -submodular functions that are invariant under the natural action of the Weyl group W . When Φ is crystallographic, the lattice points in this cone correspond to the irreducible representations of the associated Lie algebra.

Theorem 1.2. The *symmetric Φ -submodular cone* $\text{SF}_\Phi^{\text{sym}}$ is the simplicial cone generated by the rows of the inverse Cartan matrix of Φ .

We conclude by characterizing which weight polytopes are indeformable; or equivalently, which rays of the symmetric submodular cone $\text{SF}_\Phi^{\text{sym}}$ are also rays of the submodular cone SF_Φ . When Φ is crystallographic, they are in bijection with the nodes of the Dynkin diagram whose edges are simply laced; that is, have no labels greater than 3.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews some preliminaries on polytopes and their deformations. Section 3 reviews some basic facts about root systems, reflection groups, and Coxeter complexes. Section 4 introduces Coxeter permutahedra and some of their important deformations. In Section 5 we describe the Φ -submodular cone SF_Φ , which parameterizes the deformations of the Φ -permutahedron. Section 6 studies weight polytopes: the deformations of the Φ -permutahedron that are invariant under the action of the Weyl group W_Φ ; the fundamental weight polytopes are especially important, and we study them in some detail. These polytopes correspond to the W -symmetric Φ -submodular functions. Section 7 describes and enumerates the facets of the Φ -submodular cone, while Section 8 describes some of its rays. We conclude with some future research directions in Section 9.

2 Polytopes and their deformations

2.1 Polytopes and their support functions

Let U and V be two real vector space of finite dimension d in duality via a perfect bilinear form $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : U \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. A *polyhedron* $P \subset V$ is an intersection of finitely many half-spaces; it is a *polytope* if it is bounded. We will regard each vector $u \in U$ as a linear functional on V , which gives rise to the *u -maximal face*

$$P_u := \{v \in P : \langle u, v \rangle = \max_{x \in P} \langle u, x \rangle\}$$

whenever $\max_{x \in P} \langle u, x \rangle$ is finite.

Let Σ_P be the (*outer*) *normal fan* in U . For each ℓ -codimensional face F of P , the normal fan Σ_P has a dual ℓ -dimensional face

$$\Sigma_P(F) = \{u \in U : P_u = F\}.$$

The support $|\Sigma_P|$ of Σ_P is the union of its faces. It equals U if P is a polytope.

A polyhedron P is *simple* if each vertex $v \in P$ is contained in exactly d facets, or equivalently if every cone in Σ_P is *simplicial* in that its generating rays are linearly independent. Each relative interior of a cone in a fan Σ is called an *open face*. Denote by $\Sigma(\ell)$ the set of ℓ -dimensional cones of Σ . We call the elements of $\Sigma(d)$ *chambers* and the elements of $\Sigma(d-1)$ *walls*; they are the full-dimensional and 1-codimensional faces of Σ , respectively.

All fans we consider in this paper will be normal fans Σ_P of polyhedra P , so from now on we will assume that every fan $\Sigma \subset U$ has convex support. We say that the fan Σ is *complete* if $|\Sigma| = U$ and *projective* if $\Sigma = \Sigma_P$ for some polytope P .

Given a fan $\Sigma \subset U$, we denote the space of *continuous piecewise linear functions* on Σ by

$$\text{PL}(\Sigma) := \{f : |\Sigma| \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f \text{ linear on each cone of } \Sigma \text{ and continuous}\}.$$

It is a finite-dimensional vector space, since a piecewise linear function on Σ is completely determined by its restriction to the rays of Σ .

The *support function* of a polyhedron P is the element $h_P \in \text{PL}(\Sigma_P)$ defined by

$$h_P(u) := \max_{v \in P} \langle u, v \rangle \quad \text{for } u \in |\Sigma_P|. \quad (2)$$

Notice that we can recover P from h_P uniquely by

$$P = \{v \in V : \langle u, v \rangle \leq h_P(u) \text{ for all } u \in |\Sigma_P|\},$$

so a polyhedron and its support function uniquely determine each other.

Notice that the translation $P + v$ of a polyhedron P has support function $h_{P+v} = h_P + h_{\{v\}}$, where $h_{\{v\}}$ is the linear functional $\langle \cdot, v \rangle$ (restricted to $|\Sigma_P|$). Therefore translating a polytope P is equivalent to adding a global linear functional to its support function h_P .

We say two polyhedra P, Q are *normally equivalent* (or *strongly combinatorially equivalent*) if $\Sigma_P = \Sigma_Q$. If two fans Σ and Σ' have the same support, we say Σ *coarsens* Σ' (or equivalently Σ' *refines* Σ) if each cone of Σ is a union of cones in Σ' (or equivalently, each cone of Σ' is a subset of a cone of Σ). We denote this relation by $\Sigma \preceq \Sigma'$.

2.2 Deformations of polytopes

While we will be primarily interested in deformations of polytopes, we first define them for polyhedra in general. Let P be a polyhedron.

Definition 2.1. A polyhedron Q is a *deformation* of P if the normal fan Σ_Q is a coarsening of the normal fan Σ_P .

When P is a simple polytope, it is shown in [35, Theorem 15.3] that we may think of the deformations of P equivalently as being obtained by any of the following three procedures:

- moving the vertices of P while preserving the direction of each edge, or
- changing the edge lengths of P while preserving the direction of each edge, or
- moving the facets of P while preserving their directions, without allowing a facet to move past a vertex.

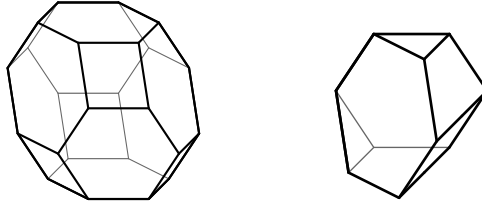


Figure 1: The standard 3-permutahedron and one of its deformations.

By allowing certain facet directions to be unbounded in this deformation process, we obtain a larger family of polyhedra:

Definition 2.2. A polyhedron Q is an *extended deformation* of P if the normal fan Σ_Q coarsens a convex subfan of Σ_P .

In other words, an extended deformation Q of a polyhedron P is a deformation of a polyhedron P' where $P' = \{v \in V : \langle v, u \rangle \leq h_P(u) \text{ for all } u \in |\Sigma'|\}$ for some convex subfan Σ' of Σ_P . Deformations are extended deformations with $\Sigma' = \Sigma_P$.

For polytopes, Minkowski sums provide yet another way of thinking about deformations. The *Minkowski sum* of two polytopes Q and R in the same vector space V is the polytope

$$Q + R := \{q + r : q \in Q, r \in R\}.$$

The support function of $Q + R$ is

$$h_{Q+R} = h_Q + h_R$$

and the normal fan Σ_{Q+R} is the coarsest common refinement of the normal fans Σ_Q and Σ_R [5, Proposition 1.2]. Therefore Q is a deformation of $Q + R$. The next result shows that this is, up to scaling, the only source of deformations. For this reason, deformations of polytopes are also often called *weak Minkowski summands*.

Theorem 2.3 (Shepard [18]). If P and Q be polytopes, then Q is a deformation of P if and only if there exist a polytope R and a scalar $\lambda > 0$ such that $Q + R = \lambda P$.

2.3 Deformations of zonotopes

Let $\mathcal{A} = \{v_1, \dots, v_m\} \subset V$ be a set of vectors and let $\mathcal{H} = \{H_1, \dots, H_m\}$ be the corresponding hyperplane arrangement in U given by the hyperplanes $H_i = \{u \in U : \langle u, v_i \rangle = 0\}$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$. The hyperplane arrangement \mathcal{H} then determines a fan $\Sigma_{\mathcal{H}}$ whose maximal cones are the closures of the connected components of the arrangement complement.

Definition 2.4. Let $\mathcal{A} = \{v_1, \dots, v_m\} \subset V$. The *zonotope* of \mathcal{A} is the Minkowski sum

$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A}) := [0, v_1] + \dots + [0, v_m].$$

The relationship between Minkowski sums and coarsening of fans imply that the normal fan of the zonotope $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$ is equal to $\Sigma_{\mathcal{H}}$. We can describe the (extended) deformations of $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$ easily as follows.

Proposition 2.5. Let \mathcal{A} be a finite set of vectors in V . A polyhedron P is an extended deformation of $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$ if and only if every face affinely spans a parallel translate of $\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}(S)$ for some $S \subseteq \mathcal{A}$. In particular, a polytope is a deformation of the zonotope $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$ if and only if every edge is parallel to some vector in \mathcal{A} .

Proof. We start with two easy observations. First, if two cones $\sigma \subseteq \sigma'$ have the same dimension, then $\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma) = \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma')$. Second, if $\sigma \in \Sigma_{\mathcal{H}}$, then $\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma) = \bigcap_{i \in S} H_i$ for some $S \subseteq \mathcal{A}$.

Now, let P be an extended deformation of $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$ and F a face of P . Then since Σ_P coarsens a convex subfan of $\Sigma_{\mathcal{H}}$, the cone $\Sigma_P(F)$ has the same \mathbb{R} -span as $\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma)$ for some $\sigma \in \Sigma_{\mathcal{H}}$. This implies that the affine span of F is a parallel translate of $\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}(S)$ for some $S \subseteq \mathcal{A}$.

Conversely, assume every face of P satisfies the given condition. Then the fan Σ_P has convex support and for each maximal cone $\sigma \in \Sigma_P$, one has $\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}(\sigma) = \bigcap_{i \in S} H_i$ for some $S \subseteq \mathcal{A}$. We may assume that Σ_P is not full dimensional: If it is not, then it is contained in a linear space $L = \bigcap_{j \in T} H_j$ for some $T \subset \mathcal{A}$ and equivalently P has a lineality space $L^\perp := \{v \in V : \langle v, u \rangle = 0 \text{ for all } u \in L\}$, so we may replace U with L , V with V/L^\perp , and P with P/L^\perp .) Now, since Σ_P is full dimensional in U , all of its walls are contained in some hyperplane H_i . Collecting these hyperplanes gives a subarrangement \mathcal{H}' of \mathcal{H} , whose fan $\Sigma_{\mathcal{H}'}$ restricted to $|\Sigma_P|$ is exactly Σ_P , as desired. \square

Corollary 2.6. Let \mathcal{A} be a finite set of vectors in V . If P is a(n extended) deformation of $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$ then any face of P is a(n extended) deformation of $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$.

2.4 Deformation cones

Let P be a polyhedron in V and $\Sigma = \Sigma_P$ be its normal fan in U . In this section we will assume Σ is full dimensional. This results in no loss of generality, as shown in the proof of Proposition 2.5.

For each deformation Q of P , the normal fan Σ_Q coarsens Σ , and hence the support function h_Q defined in (2) is piecewise-linear on Σ . Thus, by identifying Q with its support function h_Q , we can define the following.

Definition/Theorem 2.7. [11, Theorems 6.1.5–6.1.7]. Let P be a polyhedron in V and $\Sigma = \Sigma_P$ be its normal fan. The *deformation cone* of P (or of Σ) is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Def}(P) = \text{Def}(\Sigma) &:= \{h_Q \mid Q \text{ is a deformation of } P\} \\ &= \{h_Q \in \text{PL}(\Sigma) \mid \Sigma_Q \preceq \Sigma\} \\ &= \{h \in \text{PL}(\Sigma) \mid h \text{ is convex}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Remark 2.8. For each ray $\rho \in \Sigma(1)$ let u_ρ be a vector in the direction of ρ . When Σ is a rational fan, we let u_ρ be the first lattice point on the ray ρ . Let $\mathcal{R} = \{u_\rho : \rho \in \Sigma(1)\}$. A piecewise linear function on Σ is determined by its values on each u_ρ , so we may regard it as a function $h : \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Therefore we can think of $\text{PL}(\Sigma)$ as a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{R}}$. We have

$$\text{PL}(\Sigma) \cong \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{R}} \quad \text{if } \Sigma \text{ is simplicial}$$

since in this case the values $h(u_\rho)$ may be chosen arbitrarily.

It is known that $\text{Def}(\Sigma)$ is a polyhedral cone of dimension $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} \text{PL}(\Sigma)$. There is a *wall-crossing criterion*, consisting of finitely many linear inequalities, to test whether a piecewise linear function $h \in \text{PL}(\Sigma) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{R}}$ is convex. We now review two versions of this criterion: a general one in Section 2.4.1, and a simpler one that holds for simple polytopes (or simplicial fans) in Section 2.4.2.

2.4.1 The wall crossing criterion

Definition 2.9. (*Wall-crossing inequalities*) Let $\tau \in \Sigma(d-1)$ be a wall separating two chambers σ and σ' of Σ . Choose any $d-1$ linearly independent rays $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_{d-1}$ of τ and any two rays ρ, ρ' of σ, σ' , respectively, that are not in τ . Up to scaling, there is a unique linear dependence of the form

$$c \cdot u_\rho + c' \cdot u_{\rho'} = \sum_{i=1}^{d-1} c_i \cdot u_{\rho_i} \quad (3)$$

with $c, c' > 0$. To the wall τ we associate the *wall-crossing inequality*

$$I_{\Sigma, \tau}(h) := c \cdot h(u_\rho) + c' \cdot h(u_{\rho'}) - \sum_{i=1}^{d-1} c_i \cdot h(u_{\rho_i}) \geq 0, \quad (4)$$

which a piecewise linear function $h \in \text{PL}(\Sigma)$ must satisfy in order to be convex.

We will often write $I_\tau(h)$ instead of $I_{\Sigma, \tau}(h)$ when there is no potential confusion in doing so. We are mostly interested in cases where the fan Σ is complete and simplicial, where there is no choice for $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_{d-1}$ and ρ, ρ' . In general, since h is linear in σ and in σ' , different choices of the $d-1$ rays $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_{d-1}$ and the two rays ρ, ρ' give rise to equivalent wall-crossing inequalities. Therefore the element $I_\tau \in \text{PL}(\Sigma)^\vee$ is well-defined up to positive scaling. Notice that $I_\tau(h) = 0$ if and only if h is represented by the same linear functional at both sides on τ , which happens if and only if τ is no longer a wall in the fan of lineality domains of h .

Lemma 2.10. (*Wall-Crossing Criterion*) [11, Theorems 6.1.5–6.1.7] Let Σ be a full dimensional fan with convex support in U . A continuous piecewise linear function $h \in \text{PL}(\Sigma)$ is a support function of a polyhedron Q with $\Sigma_Q \preceq \Sigma$ if and only if it satisfies the wall-crossing inequality $I_{\Sigma, \tau}(h) \geq 0$, as defined in (4), for each wall τ of Σ .

Sketch of Proof. To check whether h is convex, it suffices to check its convexity on a line segment xy . Furthermore, it suffices to check this condition locally, on short segments xy where x and y are in adjacent domains of lineality σ and σ' . If $\tau = \sigma \cap \sigma'$ is the wall separating σ and σ' and $z = xy \cap \tau$, it is enough to check convexity between the extreme points x and y and their intermediate point z . One then verifies, using the linearity of h in σ , that it is enough to check this when x and y are rays of σ and σ' respectively; but these are precisely the wall-crossing inequalities (4). \square

We now describe the deformation cones for polytopes. Note that V embeds into $\text{PL}(\Sigma)$ by $v \mapsto \langle v, \cdot \rangle$. The following is a rephrasing of [11, 4.2.12, 6.3.19–22].

Proposition 2.11. Let Σ be the normal fan of a polytope P . Say $h \sim h'$ for two functions $h, h' \in \text{PL}(\Sigma)$ if $h - h'$ is a globally linear function on U , or equivalently, if $h - h' \in V \subset \text{PL}(\Sigma)$. Then:

- *Def Cone:* $\text{Def}(\Sigma)$ is the polyhedral cone parametrizing deformations of P . It is the full dimensional cone in $\text{PL}(\Sigma)$ cut out by the wall-crossing inequalities $I_{\Sigma, \tau}(h) \geq 0$ for each wall τ of Σ . Its lineality space is the d -dimensional space $V \subset \text{PL}(\Sigma)$ of global linear functions on $|\Sigma| = U$, corresponding to the d -dimensional space of translations of P .
- *Nef Cone:* $\text{Nef}(\Sigma) := \text{Def}(\Sigma)/V = \text{Def}(\Sigma)/\sim$ is the quotient of $\text{Def}(\Sigma)$ by its lineality space V of globally linear functions. It is a strongly convex cone in $\text{PL}(\Sigma)/V$ parametrizing the deformations of P up to translation.

Two things must be kept in mind when applying Lemma 2.10. It is not true that all the wall crossing inequalities are facet defining for $\text{Def}(\Sigma)$. Furthermore, it may happen that two walls give the exact same inequality. Both situations are illustrated in [10, Example 2.13].

When Σ is a rational fan, it has an associated toric variety $X(\Sigma)$ [11, Chapter 6.3], and $\text{Nef}(\Sigma)$ is the *Nef (numerically effective) cone* of the toric variety $X(\Sigma)$. The *Mori cone* $\overline{NE}(\Sigma)$ of Σ is

$$\overline{NE}(\Sigma) := \text{Cone}(I_{\Sigma, \tau} \mid \tau \in \Sigma(d-1)) \subseteq \text{PL}(\Sigma)^\vee.$$

The Wall-Crossing Criterion of Lemma 2.10 states that the Nef cone and the Mori cone are dual cones in $\text{PL}(\Sigma)/V$ and $(\text{PL}(\Sigma)/V)^\vee$, respectively; in the toric setting, this is [11, Theorem 6.3.22]. The structure of the strongly convex cones $\text{Nef}(\Sigma)$ and $\overline{NE}(\Sigma)$ plays an important role in the geometry of the minimal model program for associated toric varieties. For details in this direction see [11, §15].

2.4.2 Batyrev's criterion

When Σ is simplicial, Batyrev's criterion ([11, Lemma 6.4.9]) offers another useful test for convexity, and hence an alternative description of the deformation cone $\text{Def}(\Sigma) = \text{Def}(P)$ when $\Sigma = \Sigma_P$. To state it, we need the following notion.

Definition 2.12. Let Σ be a simplicial fan. A *primitive collection* F is a set of rays of Σ such that any proper subset $F' \subsetneq F$ forms a cone in Σ but F itself does not. In other words, the primitive collections of a simplicial fan correspond to the minimal non-faces of the associated simplicial complex.

Lemma 2.13. (*Batyrev's Criterion*) [11, Theorem 6.4.9] Let Σ be a complete simplicial fan. A piecewise linear function $h \in \text{PL}(\Sigma)$ is in the deformation cone $\text{Def}(\Sigma)$ (and hence the support function of a polytope) if and only if

$$\sum_{\rho \in F} h(u_\rho) \geq h \left(\sum_{\rho \in F} u_\rho \right)$$

for any primitive collection F of rays of Σ .

Remark 2.14. The material in this section can be rephrased in terms of triangulations of point configurations (see [13, Section 5]). Deformation cones are instances of secondary cones for the collection of vectors $\{u_\rho : \rho \in \Sigma(1)\}$. The Wall-Crossing criterion Lemma 2.10 is called the *local folding condition* in [13, Theorem 2.3.20]. The secondary cones form a *secondary fan* whose faces are in bijection with the regular subdivisions of the configuration. When the configuration is *acyclic* (so it can be visualized as a point configuration), this secondary fan is complete, and it is the normal fan of the *secondary polytope*. Our situation is more subtle because our vector configurations is not acyclic, so the secondary fan is not complete, and there is no secondary polytope.

3 Reflection groups and Coxeter complexes

In this section we review the combinatorial aspects of finite reflection groups that we will need. We refer the reader to [22] for proofs.

3.1 Root systems and Coxeter complexes

From now on, we will identify V with its own dual by means of a positive definite inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Any vector $v \in V$ defines a linear automorphism s_v on V by reflecting across the hyperplane orthogonal to v ; that is,

$$s_v(x) := x - \frac{2\langle x, v \rangle}{\langle v, v \rangle} v. \quad (5)$$

Definition 3.1. A *root system* Φ is a finite set of vectors in an inner product real vector space V satisfying

$$(R0) \quad \text{span}(\Phi) = V,$$

$$(R1) \quad \text{for each root } \alpha \in \Phi, \text{ the only scalar multiples of } \alpha \text{ that are roots are } \alpha \text{ and } -\alpha, \text{ and}$$

$$(R2) \quad \text{for each root } \alpha \in \Phi \text{ we have } s_\alpha(\Phi) = \Phi.$$

It is called *crystallographic* if it also satisfies

$$(R3) \quad \text{for each pair of roots } \alpha, \beta \in \Phi \text{ we have that } 2\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle / \langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle \text{ is an integer,}$$

Each root $\alpha \in \Phi$ gives rise to a hyperplane $H_\alpha = \{x \in V : \langle \alpha, x \rangle = 0\}$. This set of hyperplanes $\mathcal{H}_\Phi = \{H_\alpha : \alpha \in \Phi\}$ is called the *Coxeter arrangement*. The *Coxeter complex* is the associated fan Σ_Φ , which is simplicial. We will often use these two terms interchangeably, and drop the subscript Φ when the context is clear. Let $s_\alpha \in GL(V)$ be the reflection across hyperplane H_α ; we have

$$s_\alpha(x) = x - 2 \frac{\langle \alpha, x \rangle}{\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle} \alpha \quad \text{for } x \in V.$$

Definition/Proposition 3.2. Let Φ be a finite root system spanning V and let $W = W_\Phi$ be the subgroup of $GL(V)$ generated by the reflections s_α for $\alpha \in \Phi$. Then W is a finite group, called the *Weyl group* of Φ .

The combinatorial structure of the Coxeter complex Σ_Φ is closely related to the algebraic structure of the Weyl group W_Φ , as we explain in the remainder of this section. Let us fix a chamber (maximal cone) of Σ_Φ to be the *fundamental domain* D ; recall that it is simplicial. Then the *simple roots* $\Delta = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d\} \subset \Phi$ are the roots whose positive halfspaces minimally cut out the fundamental domain; that is,

$$D = \{x \in V : \langle \alpha_i, x \rangle \geq 0 \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq d\}.$$

The simple roots form a basis for V , and we call $d = \dim V$ the *rank* of the root system Φ . The *positive roots* are those that are non-negative combinations of simple roots; we denote this set by $\Phi^+ \subset \Phi$. We have that $\Phi = \Phi^+ \sqcup (-\Phi^+)$.

The *Cartan matrix* is the $d \times d$ integer matrix A whose entries are

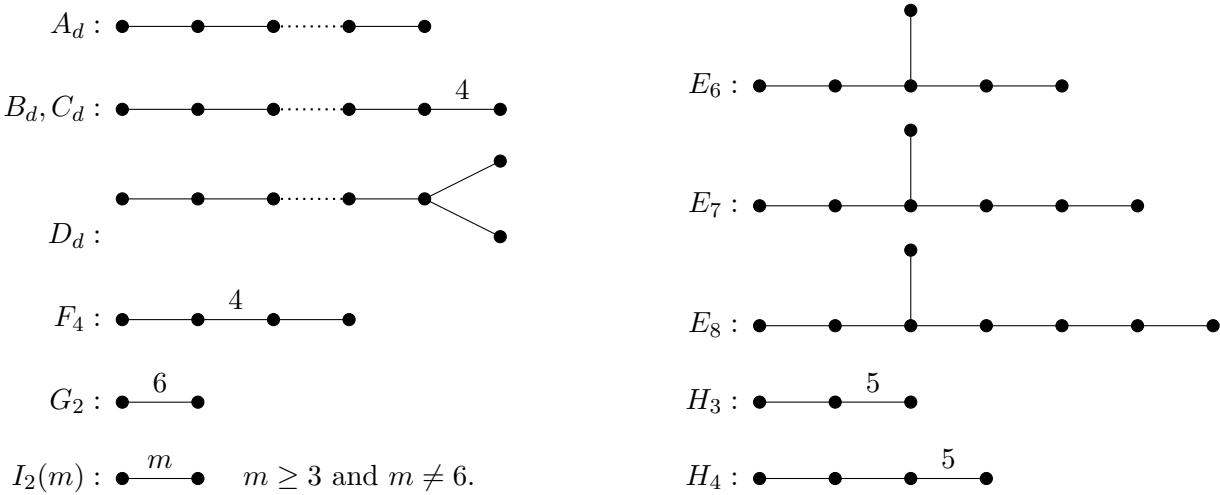
$$A_{ij} := 2 \frac{\langle \alpha_i, \alpha_j \rangle}{\langle \alpha_i, \alpha_i \rangle} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i, j \leq d.$$

This is a very sparse matrix: each row or column of A contains at most four nonzero entries. For most root systems, the entries of the Cartan matrix are integers.

There exist positive integers $m_{ij} = m_{ji}$ such that $A_{ij}A_{ji} = 4 \cos^2(\pi/m_{ij})$. These entries form the *Cartan matrix* of Φ . This information is more economically encoded in the *Dynkin diagram* $\Gamma(\Phi)$, which has vertices $\{1, \dots, d\}$, and an edge labelled m_{ij} between i and j whenever $m_{ij} > 2$. Labels equal to 3 are customarily omitted.

The *direct sum* of two root systems Φ_1 and Φ_2 , spanning V_1 and V_2 respectively, is the root system $\Phi_1 \oplus \Phi_2 := \{(\alpha, 0) \in V_1 \oplus V_2 : \alpha \in R_1\} \cup \{(0, \beta) \in V_1 \oplus V_2 : \beta \in R_2\}$ which spans $V_1 \oplus V_2$. An *irreducible* root system is a root system that is not a non-trivial direct sum of root systems. The connected components of the Dynkin diagram $\Gamma(\Phi)$ correspond to the irreducible root systems whose direct sum is Φ .

Theorem 3.3. [22, §2] The irreducible root systems can be completely classified into four infinite families A_d, B_d, C_d, D_d occurring in every dimension, the exceptional types $E_6, E_7, E_8, F_4, G_2, H_3, H_4$ in the dimensions indicated by their subscripts, and $I_2(m)$ for $m \geq 3$. Their Dynkin diagrams are:



Example 3.4. In particular, the *classical root systems* are

$$\begin{aligned} A_{d-1} &= \{\pm(e_i - e_j) : 1 \leq i \neq j \leq d\} \\ B_d &= \{\pm e_i \pm e_j : 1 \leq i \neq j \leq d\} \cup \{\pm e_i : 1 \leq i \leq d\} \\ C_d &= \{\pm e_i \pm e_j : 1 \leq i \neq j \leq d\} \cup \{\pm 2e_i : 1 \leq i \leq d\} \\ D_d &= \{\pm e_i \pm e_j : 1 \leq i \neq j \leq d\} \end{aligned}$$

where $\{e_1, \dots, e_d\}$ is the standard basis of \mathbb{R}^d . Notice that the root system A_{d-1} spans the subspace $\mathbb{R}_0^d := \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d : x_1 + \dots + x_d = 0\}$ of \mathbb{R}^d . For a suitable choice of fundamental chamber, the simple roots of the classical root systems are

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{A_{d-1}} &= \{e_1 - e_2, e_2 - e_3, \dots, e_{d-1} - e_d\} \\ \Delta_{B_d} &= \{e_1 - e_2, e_2 - e_3, \dots, e_{d-1} - e_d, e_d\} \\ \Delta_{C_d} &= \{e_1 - e_2, e_2 - e_3, \dots, e_{d-1} - e_d, 2e_d\} \\ \Delta_{D_d} &= \{e_1 - e_2, e_2 - e_3, \dots, e_{d-1} - e_d, e_{d-1} + e_d\} \end{aligned}$$

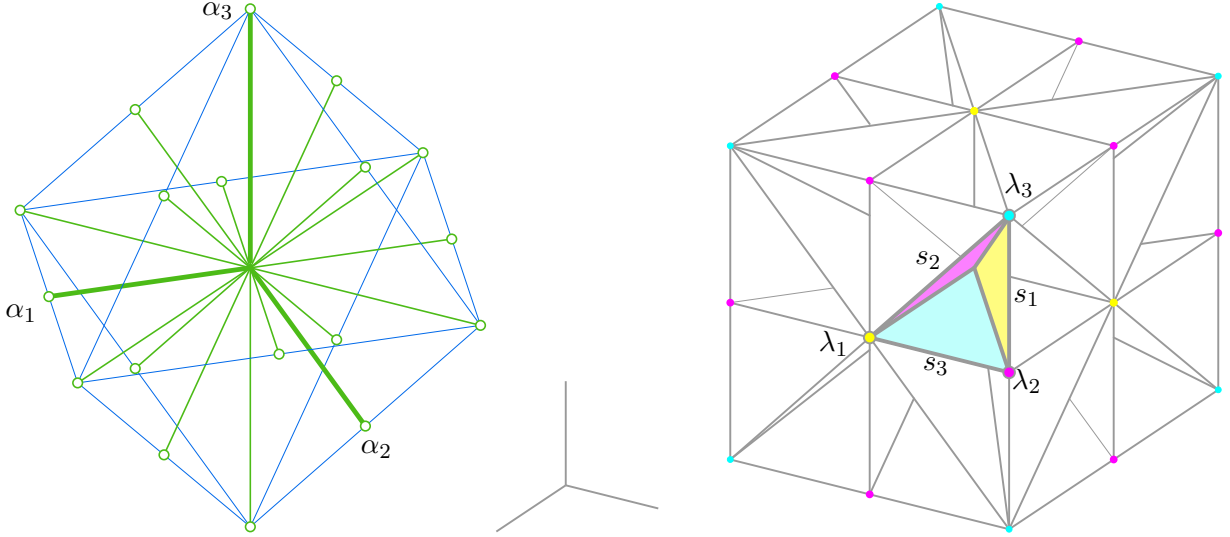


Figure 2: (a) The root system C_3 consists of 24 roots, which are the vertices and edge midpoints of a regular octahedron. The simple roots $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$ are emphasized. (b) The Coxeter complex of C_3 has 48 chambers. One of them, the fundamental domain, is emphasized; its rays contain the fundamental weights $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$, and its walls determine the simple reflections s_1, s_2, s_3 .

Definition/Proposition 3.5. If Φ is a root system, the *coroot* α^\vee of a root α is defined to be

$$\alpha^\vee = \frac{2}{\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle} \alpha.$$

The coroots form the *dual root system* Φ^\vee . We have $\Phi^{\vee\vee} = \Phi$.

Notice that the reflection across α_i can be rewritten simply as

$$s_i(x) = x - \langle x, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \alpha_i \tag{6}$$

Also notice that the Cartan matrix can be rewritten as

$$A_{ij} = \langle \alpha_i^\vee, \alpha_j \rangle. \quad (7)$$

This implies that the Cartan matrix of the dual root system Φ^\vee is A^T .

Definition/Proposition 3.6. Let the *fundamental weights* $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d)$ form the basis of V dual to the simple coroots $(\alpha_1^\vee, \dots, \alpha_d^\vee)$; that is, $\langle \lambda_i, \alpha_j^\vee \rangle = \delta_{ij}$. Let the *fundamental weight conjugates* or *rays* of Φ be

$$\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{R}_\Phi := W\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d\}.$$

Each ray in \mathcal{R}_Φ can be expressed as $w\lambda_i$ for a unique i ; the choice of w is not unique. There is exactly one ray of \mathcal{R}_Φ on each ray of the Coxeter arrangement \mathcal{H}_Φ , explaining our terminology.

Similarly, let the *fundamental coweights* $(\lambda_1^\vee, \dots, \lambda_d^\vee)$ form the basis of V dual to the simple roots $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d)$. Clearly $\lambda_i^\vee = \frac{1}{2}\langle \alpha_i, \alpha_i \rangle \lambda_i$.

Let e_1, \dots, e_d be an orthonormal basis for \mathbb{R}^d . Let $e_S := \sum_{i \in S} e_i$ for $S \subseteq [d]$ and $\mathbf{1} = e_{[d]} = (1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^d$. For $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ define $\mathbf{x} := \mathbf{x} - (x_1 + \dots + x_d)/d \cdot \mathbf{1} \in \mathbb{R}_0^d$.

Example 3.7. The fundamental weights of the classical root systems are:

$$\begin{aligned} A_{d-1} : & \quad \{\bar{e}_1, \bar{e}_1 + \bar{e}_2, \dots, \bar{e}_1 + \dots + \bar{e}_{d-1}\} \\ B_d : & \quad \{e_1, e_1 + e_2, \dots, e_1 + \dots + e_{d-1}, (e_1 + \dots + e_d)/2\} \\ C_d : & \quad \{e_1, e_1 + e_2, \dots, e_1 + \dots + e_{d-1}, e_1 + \dots + e_d\} \\ D_d : & \quad \{e_1, e_1 + e_2, \dots, e_1 + \dots + e_{d-2}, (e_1 + \dots + e_{d-1} - e_d)/2, (e_1 + \dots + e_{d-1} + e_d)/2\} \end{aligned}$$

In light of (7), the transition matrix between the roots and the fundamental weights is the transpose of the Cartan matrix:

$$\alpha_j = \sum_{i=1}^d A_{ij} \lambda_i \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_j = \sum_{i=1}^d A_{ij}^{-1} \alpha_i \quad \text{for } 1 \leq j \leq d, \quad (8)$$

and we have

$$\langle \lambda_i^\vee, \lambda_j \rangle = A_{ij}^{-1}. \quad (9)$$

We say Φ is *simply laced* if it is of type ADE ; that is, its Dynkin diagram has no labels greater than 3. These root systems are self dual; there is no distinction between roots and coroots, or between weights and coweights.

3.2 Weyl groups, parabolic subgroups, and the geometry of the Coxeter complex

Let Φ be a finite root system spanning V and let $W = W_\Phi$ be its Weyl group; recall that it is finite. Let $\Delta = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d\}$ be a choice of simple roots of Φ , and let $s_i = s_{\alpha_i}$ be the reflection across the hyperplane H_{α_i} orthogonal to α_i for $1 \leq i \leq d$.

Proposition 3.8. The Weyl group W of the root system Φ is generated by the set of simple reflections $S := \{s_1, \dots, s_d\}$, with presentation given by the Coxeter matrix as follows:

$$W = \langle s_1, \dots, s_d \mid (s_i s_j)^{m_{ij}} = e \text{ for } 1 \leq i, j \leq d \rangle \quad (10)$$

Example 3.9. The Weyl groups of the classical root systems are:

$$\begin{aligned} W_{A_{d-1}} &= \{\text{permutations of } [d]\} \\ W_{B_d} = W_{C_d} &= \{\text{signed permutations of } [d]\} \\ W_{D_d} &= \{\text{evenly signed permutations of } [d]\}. \end{aligned}$$

As matrix groups, $W_{A_{d-1}}$ is the set of $d \times d$ permutation matrices, $W_{B_d} = W_{C_d}$ is the set of $d \times d$ “generalized permutation matrices” whose non-zero entries are 1 or -1 , and W_{D_d} is the subgroup of W_{B_d} whose matrices involve an even number of -1 s.

The action of W on V induces an action on the Coxeter complex Σ_Φ . Every face of Σ_Φ is W -conjugate to a unique face of the fundamental domain. This action behaves especially well on the top-dimensional faces:

Proposition 3.10. The Weyl group W acts regularly on the set $\Sigma_\Phi(d)$ of chambers of the Coxeter arrangement; that is, for any two chambers σ and σ' there is a unique element $w \in W$ such that $w \cdot \sigma = \sigma'$. In particular, the chambers of the Coxeter arrangement are in bijection with W .

The previous proposition implies that a different choice wD of a fundamental domain (where $w \in W$) gives rise to a new set of simple roots $w\Delta$ that is linearly isomorphic to the original set Δ of simple roots, since W acts by isometries. It follows that the presentation for the Weyl group in (10) and the Cartan matrix A are independent of the choice of fundamental domain D .

The lower dimensional faces of Σ_Φ correspond to certain subgroups of W and their cosets. The *parabolic subgroups* of W are the subgroups

$$W_I := \langle s_\alpha : \alpha \in I \rangle \subseteq W \quad \text{for each } I \subseteq \Delta.$$

They are in bijection with the faces of the fundamental domain, where W_I is mapped to the face

$$C_I := \{x \in D : \langle x, \alpha \rangle = 0 \text{ for all } \alpha \in I, \langle x, \alpha \rangle \geq 0 \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Delta \setminus I\}$$

The *parabolic cosets* are the cosets of parabolic subgroups.

Proposition 3.11. The faces of the Coxeter complex are in bijection with the parabolic cosets of W , where the face F is labeled with the parabolic coset $\{w : F \subseteq wD\}$. More explicitly, the face C_I of the fundamental domain is labeled with the parabolic subgroup W_I , and its W -conjugate vC_I is labeled with the coset vW_I for $v \in W$.

Two special cases, stated in the following corollaries, are especially important to us.

Corollary 3.12. The walls of the Coxeter complex are labeled by the pairs $\{w, ws_i\} = wW_{\{i\}}$ for $w \in W$ and $s_i \in S$. The wall labeled $\{w, ws_i\}$ separates the chambers labeled w and ws_i . This correspondence is bijective, up to the observation that $wW_{\{i\}} = ws_iW_{\{i\}}$.

Corollary 3.13. The d rays of the fundamental domain are spanned by the fundamental weights $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d\}$, and the rays of the Coxeter complex are spanned by the fundamental weight conjugates $\mathcal{R} = W\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d\}$. These correspondences are bijective.

Note that the faces of the fundamental chamber are given by

$$\begin{aligned} C_I &= D \cap \left(\bigcap_{i \in I} H_{\alpha_i} \right) \\ &= \text{cone}(\lambda_i \mid i \notin I) \quad \text{for } I \subseteq \Delta. \end{aligned}$$

The parabolic subgroups arise as isotropy groups for the action of W on V [22, Theorem 1.12, Proposition 1.15]:

Theorem 3.14. The isotropy group of the face C_I is precisely the parabolic subgroup W_I . More generally, if V' is any subset of V then the subgroup of W fixing V' pointwise is generated by those reflections s_α whose normal hyperplane H_α contains V' .

Let $[\pm d] = \{1, 2, \dots, d, -1, -2, \dots, -d\}$. Say that a subset S of $[\pm d]$ is *admissible* if it is nonempty and $j \in S$ implies that $-j \notin S$. In this case, write $S \subseteq [\pm d]$, and let $e_S = e_A - e_B$ where $A = \{a \in [d] : a \in S\}$ and $B = \{b \in [d] : -b \in S\}$.

Example 3.15. For the classical root systems, the rays or fundamental weight conjugates are:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_{A_{d-1}} &= \{\bar{e}_S : \emptyset \subsetneq S \subsetneq [d]\} \\ \mathcal{R}_{B_d} &= \{e_S : \text{admissible } S \subseteq [\pm d], |S| \leq d-1\} \cup \left\{ \frac{1}{2}e_S : \text{admissible } S \subseteq [\pm d], |S| = d \right\} \\ \mathcal{R}_{C_d} &= \{e_S : \text{admissible } S \subseteq [\pm d]\} \\ \mathcal{R}_{D_d} &= \{e_S : \text{admissible } S \subseteq [\pm d], |S| \leq d-2\} \cup \left\{ \frac{1}{2}e_S : \text{admissible } S \subseteq [\pm d], |S| = d \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

4 Coxeter permutahedra and some important deformations

One of the main goals of this paper is to describe the cone of deformations of the Φ -permutahedron; we will do so in Theorem 5.2. Before we do that, we motivate that result by discussing some notable examples of generalized Φ -permutahedra in this section.

Throughout this section, let Φ be a root system and W be its Weyl group. The following definitions will play an important role.

Definition 4.1. Define the *length* $l(w)$ of an element $w \in W$ to be the smallest k for which there exists a factorization $w = s_{i_1} \cdots s_{i_k}$ into simple reflections $s_{i_1}, \dots, s_{i_k} \in S$.

- The *Bruhat order* on W is the poset defined by decreeing that $w < ws_\alpha$ for every element $w \in W$ and reflection s_α with $\alpha \in \Phi$ such that $l(w) < l(ws_\alpha)$.
- The *weak order* on W is the poset defined by decreeing that $w < ws_i$ for every element $w \in W$ and simple reflection s_i with $\alpha_i \in \Delta$ such that $l(w) < l(ws_i)$.

4.1 The Coxeter permutahedron

Definition/Proposition 4.2. The *standard Coxeter permutahedron of type Φ* or *Φ -permutahedron* is the Minkowski sum of the roots of Φ ; that is, the zonotope of the Coxeter arrangement \mathcal{H}_Φ given by

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_\Phi &:= \sum_{\alpha \in \Phi} [0, \alpha] \\ &= 2 \text{conv}\{w \cdot \delta : w \in W\}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\delta = \frac{1}{2}(\sum_{\alpha \in \Phi^+} \alpha) = \lambda_1 + \cdots + \lambda_d$ is the sum of the fundamental weights.

The 1-skeleton of the Φ -permutahedron can be identified with the Hasse diagram of the weak order on W : vertices $w\delta$ and $w'\delta$ are connected by an edge if and only if $w' = ws_i$ for some simple reflection s_i , and in that situation $w < w'$ in the weak order if and only if $\langle w\delta, \delta \rangle > \langle w'\delta, \delta \rangle$.

Definition 4.3. A *generalized Coxeter permutahedron* or *Coxeter polymatroid* is a deformation of the Φ -permutahedron Π_Φ ; that is, a polytope whose normal fan coarsens the Coxeter complex Σ_Φ .

We collect the results of this section in the following proposition. The following subsections include precise definitions and further details.

Proposition 4.4. The following families of polytopes are deformations of Coxeter permutahedra:

1. the *weight polytopes* describing the representations of semisimple Lie algebras [16],
2. the *Coxeter graphic zonotopes* of Zaslavsky [47],
3. the *Coxeter matroids* of Gelfand–Serganova [7, 17],
4. the *Coxeter root cones* of Reiner [39] and Stembridge [43], and
5. the *Coxeter associahedra* of Hohlweg–Lange–Thomas [19].

These families of polyhedra model the Coxeter-theoretic analogs of compositions, graphs, matroids, posets, and clusters, respectively.

4.2 Weight polytopes

Definition 4.5. The *weight polytope* $P_\Phi(x)$ of a point $x \in V$ is the convex hull of the orbits of x under the action of the Weyl group W :

$$P_\Phi(x) := \text{conv}\{w \cdot x : w \in W\}.$$

These polytopes are of fundamental importance in the theory of Lie algebras¹. [16, 23, 24] A semisimple complex Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} has an associated root system Φ which controls its representation theory. The irreducible representations $L(\lambda)$ of \mathfrak{g} are in bijection with the points $\lambda \in D \cap \Lambda$, where D is the dominant chamber of the root system Φ and Λ is the *weight lattice* generated by the fundamental weights. The representation $L(\lambda)$ decomposes as a direct sum of weight spaces $L(\lambda)_\mu$ which are indexed precisely by the lattice points μ in the weight polytope $P_\Phi(x)$.

Proof of Proposition 4.4.1. Every edge of $P_\Phi(x)$ is parallel to a root in Φ by [26, Lemma 4.13], so Proposition 2.5 implies that weight polytopes are generalized Φ -permutahedra. \square

Remark 4.6. An important special case of this construction is the *root polytope* of Φ , which is the convex hull of the roots.

4.3 Coxeter graphic polytopes

Definition 4.7. For any subset $\Psi \subseteq \Phi^+$ of positive roots, we define the *Coxeter graphic zonotope* to be the Minkowski sum

$$Z(\Psi) = \sum_{\alpha \in \Psi} [0, \alpha].$$

¹when Φ is crystallographic

In type A_{n-1} , a subset Ψ of $\Phi^+ = \{e_i - e_j : 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$ corresponds to a graph G_Ψ with vertex set $[n]$ and an edge connecting i and j whenever $e_i - e_j \in \Psi$. The definition above is the usual definition of the graphic zonotope of G_Ψ .

Proof of Proposition 4.4.2. The normal fan of $Z(\Psi)$ is given by the subarrangement $\mathcal{H}_\Psi \subseteq \mathcal{H}_\Phi$ consisting of the normal hyperplanes to the roots in Ψ . This is clearly a coarsening of Σ_Φ , so Coxeter graphic zonotopes are indeed generalized Φ -permutahedra. \square

4.4 Coxeter matroids

Gelfand and Serganova [17] introduced Coxeter matroids, a generalization of matroids that arises in the geometry of homogeneous spaces G/P . The book [8] offers a detailed account; here we give a brief sketch. Throughout this subsection, fix a parabolic subgroup W_I of the Weyl group W generated by I .

Let $\lambda_I = \sum_{i \notin I} \lambda_i$. As we will see in Proposition 6.2, the quotient W/W_I is in bijection with the set of vertices of the weight polytope $Q(W/W_I) := P_\Phi(\lambda_I)$. The coset $\bar{w} \in W/W_I$ corresponds to the vertex $\delta_I(\bar{w}) = w\lambda_I$, which is independent of the choice of $w \in \bar{w}$ because $\lambda_I \in C_I$.

Definition/Theorem 4.8. [8, Theorem 6.3.1] For each subset $M \subseteq W/W_I$ define the polytope

$$Q(M) := \text{conv}\{\delta_I(\bar{w}) \mid \bar{w} \in M\} \subseteq Q(W/W_I). \quad (11)$$

Then M is a Coxeter matroid if and only if every edge of $Q(M)$ is parallel to a root in Φ .

We call this a theorem because Coxeter matroids are usually defined differently, in terms of a Coxeter analog of the greedy algorithm; but this alternative characterization will best suit our purposes. If M is a Coxeter matroid, we call $Q(M)$ its *base polytope* or *Coxeter matroid polytope*.

Proof of Proposition 4.4.3. Theorem 4.8 and Proposition 2.5 readily imply that Coxeter matroid polytopes are generalized Φ -permutahedra. \square

In type A_{n-1} , when $W = S_n$ and $W_I = \langle s_1, \dots, s_{k-1}, s_{k+1}, \dots, s_{n-1} \rangle$ is a maximal parabolic subgroup, the quotient W/W_I is in bijection with the collection of k -subsets of $[n]$, and a (W, W_I) -matroid is precisely a matroid on $[n]$ of rank k .

4.5 Coxeter root cones

Definition 4.9. For any subset $\Psi \subseteq \Phi$ of roots we define the *Coxeter root cone*

$$\text{cone}(\Psi) = \left\{ \sum_{\alpha \in \Psi} c_\alpha \alpha : c_\alpha \geq 0 \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Psi \right\}$$

Coxeter root cones are dual to the *Coxeter cones* of Stembridge [43]. Furthermore, pointed Coxeter root cones are in one-to-one correspondence with Reiner's *parsets* [39]. In type A , these families are in bijection with *preposets* and *posets* on $[n]$, respectively. This correspondence sends $\text{cone}(\Psi)$ to the (pre)poset given by $i < j$ if $e_i - e_j \in \text{cone}(\Psi)$.

Proof of Proposition 4.4.5. Every face of $\text{cone}(\Psi)$ is generated by roots, so its dual face in the normal fan $\Sigma_{\text{cone}(\Psi)}$ is cut out by hyperplanes in the Coxeter arrangement. Therefore any Coxeter root cone is an extended Coxeter generalized permutahedron. \square

4.6 Coxeter associahedra

A *Coxeter element* c of W is the product of the simple reflections of W taken in some order. Reading [37] introduced the *Cambrian fan* \mathcal{F}_c , a complete fan with rich combinatorial properties and close connections with the theory of cluster algebras [38]. Hohlweg, Lange, and Thomas constructed the *Coxeter associahedron* $\text{Asso}_c(W)$, a polytope whose normal fan is the Cambrian fan \mathcal{F}_c ; for a precise definition, see [20].

In type A , a particular choice of Coxeter element gives rise to Loday's realization of the *associahedron*, a polytope with $C_n = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$ vertices discovered by Stasheff in homotopy theory. [28] In type B , a particular choice of Coxeter element gives Bott and Taubes's *cyclohedron*, which originally arose in knot theory. [9]

Proof of Proposition 4.4.5. This follows from the fact that the Cambrian fan \mathcal{F}_c is a coarsening of the Coxeter fan. [38] \square

5 Deformations of Coxeter permutahedra: the Φ -submodular cone

Our next goal is to describe the deformation cone of a Coxeter permutahedron. Throughout this section, we let Φ be a fixed finite root system of dimension d . Let W be the corresponding Weyl group, $\Sigma = \Sigma_\Phi$ the Coxeter complex, D a fixed choice of a fundamental chamber, A the Cartan matrix, and $\mathcal{R} = W\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d\}$ the set of conjugates of the fundamental weights $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d\}$.

Recall that a piecewise linear function on a fan is uniquely determined by its restriction to the rays of the fan. Since each ray of the Coxeter complex Σ_Φ contains a conjugate to a fundamental weight, and this correspondence is bijective, we may identify the space $\text{PL}(\Sigma_\Phi)$ of piecewise-linear functions on Σ_Φ , with the space $\mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{R}}$ of functions from \mathcal{R} to \mathbb{R} .

5.1 Φ -submodular functions

Definition 5.1. A function $h : \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is Φ -submodular if the following equivalent conditions hold:

- h is in the deformation cone $\text{Def}(\Sigma_\Phi)$ of the Coxeter complex of Φ .
- When regarded as a piecewise linear function in $\text{PL}(\Sigma_\Phi)$, the function h is convex.
- The polytope $P_h := \{v \in V : \langle \lambda, v \rangle \leq h(\lambda) \text{ for all } \lambda \in \mathcal{R}\}$ is a generalized Φ -permutahedron.

We call $\text{Def}(\Sigma_\Phi) \subset \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{R}}$ the Φ -submodular cone.

Recall that, thanks to Theorem 2.7, this correspondence between Φ -submodular functions h and generalized Φ -permutahedra P_h is a bijection. Furthermore, every defining inequality $\langle \lambda, v \rangle \leq h(\lambda)$ of the polytope P_h is *tight*, in the sense that $h(\lambda) = \max_{v \in P_h} \langle \lambda, v \rangle$ for all $\lambda \in \mathcal{R}$.

We now describe the Φ -submodular cone.

Theorem 5.2. A function $h : \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is Φ -submodular if and only if the following two equivalent sets of inequalities hold:

1. (*Local Φ -submodularity*) For every element $w \in W$ of the Weyl group and every simple reflection s_i and corresponding fundamental weight λ_i ,

$$h(w\lambda_i) + h(ws_i\lambda_i) \geq \sum_{j \in N(i)} -A_{ji} h(w\lambda_j) \quad (12)$$

where A is the Cartan matrix and $N(i)$ is the set of neighbors of i in the Dynkin diagram.

2. (*Global Φ -submodularity*) For any two conjugates of fundamental weights $\lambda, \lambda' \in \mathcal{R}$

$$h(\lambda) + h(\lambda') \geq h(\lambda + \lambda') \quad (13)$$

where h is regarded as a piecewise-linear function on Σ_Φ .

Remark 5.3. The sparseness of the Cartan matrix implies that the local Φ -submodular inequalities (12) have at most three terms on the right hand side, given by the neighbors of i in the Dynkin diagram.

Remark 5.4. To interpret the global Φ -submodular inequalities (13) directly in terms of the function $h \in \mathbb{R}^\mathcal{R}$, we need to find the minimal cone C of Σ_Φ containing $\lambda + \lambda'$. If $\mathcal{R}_C = C \cap \mathcal{R}$ is the set of conjugates of fundamental weights in the cone C , we can write $\lambda + \lambda' = \sum_{w \in \mathcal{R}_C} c_w w$ for a unique choice of non-negative constants c_w , and (13) means that $h(\lambda) + h(\lambda') \geq \sum_{w \in \mathcal{R}_C} c_w h(w)$. In particular, (13) holds trivially when λ and λ' span a face of Σ_Φ .

Proof of Theorem 5.2.1. We know that the deformation cone $\text{Def}(\Sigma_\Phi)$ is given by the wall crossing inequalities of Lemma 2.10. We first compute them for the walls of the fundamental domain D .

Let us apply Definition 2.9 to the wall $H_i = H_{\alpha_i}$ of D orthogonal to the simple root α_i , which separates the chambers D and $s_i D$. Notice that the only ray of D that is not on the wall H_i is precisely the one spanned by the fundamental weight λ_i . Similarly, the only ray of $s_i D$ that is not on H_i is the one spanned by $s_i \lambda_i \in \mathcal{R}$. Therefore we need to find the coefficients such that

$$c\lambda_i + c's_i\lambda_i = \sum_{j \neq i} c_j \lambda_j.$$

Since λ_i and $s_i \lambda_i$ are symmetric across the wall H_i , the coefficients c and c' in the equation above are equal, and we may set them both equal to 1. To compute the coefficient c_j for $j \neq i$, let us take the inner product of both sides with α_j^\vee . We obtain that

$$\langle s_i \lambda_i, \alpha_j^\vee \rangle = c_j,$$

keeping in mind that the bases $\{\alpha_1^\vee, \dots, \alpha_d^\vee\}$ and $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d\}$ are dual. Thus

$$c_j = \langle \lambda_i - \langle \lambda_i, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \alpha_i, \alpha_j^\vee \rangle = 0 - \langle \alpha_i, \alpha_j^\vee \rangle = -A_{ji}.$$

It follows that

$$\lambda_i + s_i \lambda_i = \sum_{j \neq i} -A_{ji} \lambda_j, \quad (14)$$

so the wall-crossing inequality is

$$h(\lambda_i) + h(s_i \lambda_i) \geq \sum_{j \neq i} -A_{ji} h(\lambda_j). \quad (15)$$

It remains to observe that $A_{ji} = 0$ unless i and j are neighbors in the Dynkin diagram.

More generally, consider the wall-crossing inequality for the wall wH_i , which separates chambers wD and $ws_i D$. The rays of these chambers that are not on the wall are $w\lambda_i$ and $ws_i \lambda_i$, and

$$w\lambda_i + ws_i \lambda_i = \sum_{j \in N(i)} -A_{ji} w\lambda_j.$$

by (14). Therefore the wall-crossing inequalities are indeed the ones given in (12). \square

Proof of Theorem 5.2.2. Since the Coxeter complex is simplicial, the deformation cone $\text{Def}(\Sigma_\Phi)$ is also given by Batyrev's condition as described in Lemma 2.13. To apply it, we need to understand the primitive collections of rays in Σ_Φ .

The Coxeter complex Σ_Φ is *flag*, in the sense that a set of rays R_1, \dots, R_k forms a k -face of Σ if and only if every pair of them forms a 2-face of Σ . [1, p. 29] This is equivalent to saying that the primitive collections are the pairs that do not form a 2-face. The desired result follows. \square

5.2 The classical types: submodular, bisubmodular, disubmodular functions

For the classical root systems, these notions are of particular combinatorial importance. Let us now describe them, keeping in mind that fundamental weights and their conjugates have simple combinatorial interpretations, as explained in Example 3.15.

1. (Type A : submodular functions) For $f : \mathcal{R}_{A_{d-1}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, let us write $f(S) := f(\bar{e}_S)$ for $\emptyset \subsetneq S \subsetneq [d]$ and $f(\emptyset) = f([d]) = 0$. The A_{d-1} -submodular inequalities of Theorem 5.2 say

$$\text{local: } f(Sa) + f(Sb) \geq f(S) + f(Sab) \quad \text{for } S \subseteq [d], \{a, b\} \subseteq [d] - S$$

$$\text{global: } f(S) + f(T) \geq f(S \cap T) + f(S \cup T) \quad \text{for } S, T \subseteq [d]$$

where for simplicity we omit brackets, for instance, denoting $Sab := S \cup \{a, b\}$.

The only difference with the classical notion of *submodular functions* is the additional condition that $f([d]) = 0$. In fact, the submodular functions $F : 2^{[d]} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are precisely those of the form $F(S) = f(\bar{e}_S) + \alpha|S|$ for a Φ -submodular function f and a constant α . Geometrically, we go from F to f by translating the generalized permutahedron along the $\mathbf{1}$ direction so that it lies on the hyperplane $x_1 + \dots + x_d = 0$.

2. (Type B and C : bisubmodular functions) The submodular inequalities of type B_d and C_d are equivalent since they correspond to the same fan; we focus on C_d . For $f : \mathcal{R}_{C_d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, let us write $f(S) = f(e_S)$ for any admissible $S \subseteq [\pm d]$. The C_d -submodular inequalities of Theorem 5.2 say

$$\begin{aligned} \text{local: } f(Sa) + f(Sb) &\geq f(S) + f(Sab) && \text{for } S \subseteq [\pm d], |S| \leq d-2, \{a, b\} \subseteq [\pm d] - S \\ f(Sa) + f(S\bar{a}) &\geq 2f(S) && \text{for } S \subseteq [\pm d], |S| = d-1, \{a\} \subseteq [\pm d] - S \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{global: } f(S) + f(T) \geq f(S \sqcap T) + f(S \sqcup T) \quad \text{for } S, T \subseteq [\pm d]$$

where $S \sqcap T = S \cap T$ and $S \sqcup T = \{e \in S \cup T : -e \notin S \cup T\}$ are admissible. This is precisely the classical notion of *bisubmodular functions* from optimization. [15]

3. (Type D : disubmodular functions) For $f : \mathcal{R}_{D_d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, let us write $f(S) = f(e_S)$ for any admissible $S \subseteq [\pm d]$ of size at most $d-2$, and $g(S) = f(\frac{1}{2}e_S)$ for any admissible $S \subseteq [\pm d]$ of size d . The local D_d -submodular inequalities of Theorem 5.2 say that for any admissible $S \subseteq [\pm d]$

$$\begin{aligned} f(Sa) + f(Sb) &\geq f(S) + f(Sab) && \text{for } |S| \leq d-4, \{a, b\} \subseteq [\pm d] - S, \\ f(Sa) + f(Sb) &\geq f(S) + g(Sabc) + g(Sab\bar{c}) && \text{for } |S| = d-3, \{a, b, c\} \subseteq [\pm d] - S \\ g(Sab) + g(S\bar{a}\bar{b}) &\geq f(S) && \text{for } |S| = d-2, \{a, b\} \subseteq [\pm d] - S \end{aligned}$$

The global D_d -submodular inequalities can similarly be derived in a case-by-case analysis. It is easier to notice that a function that is piecewise linear on the Coxeter arrangement D_d is also piecewise linear on the Coxeter arrangement B_d , where its convexity can be checked more cleanly.

Accordingly, if f and g are defined on the admissible subsets of $[d]$ sizes at most $d - 2$ and equal to d , respectively, define h on all admissible subsets by

$$h(S) = \begin{cases} f(S) & \text{if } |S| \leq d - 2 \\ g(Sa) + g(S\bar{a}) & \text{if } |S| = d - 1 \text{ and } a \notin S \\ 2g(S) & \text{if } |S| = d \end{cases}$$

Then (f, g) is disubmodular if and only if h is bisubmodular; that is,

$$h(S) + h(T) \geq h(S \sqcap T) + h(S \sqcup T) \quad \text{for } S, T \subseteq [d].$$

This seems to be a new notion, which we call *disubmodular function*. We expect it to be useful in combinatorial optimization problems with underlying symmetry of type D .

4. (Exceptional types) It would be very interesting to find applications of these notions for the exceptional Coxeter groups. For instance, might submodular functions of type E shed new light on problems with an underlying symmetry of type E_6, E_7 , or E_8 ?

6 The symmetric case: weight polytopes and the inverse Cartan matrix

The action of the Weyl group W on the Coxeter complex naturally gives rise to actions of W on the vector space $\text{PL}(\Sigma_\Phi)$ and the deformation cone $\text{Def}(\Sigma_\Phi) \subset \text{PL}(\Sigma_\Phi)$. This section is devoted to studying the deformations of the Coxeter permutahedron and the Coxeter submodular functions that are invariant under this action.

6.1 Weight polytopes

Recall that the weight polytope $P_\Phi(x)$ of a point $x \in V$ is

$$P_\Phi(x) := \text{conv}\{w \cdot x : w \in W\}.$$

These are precisely the generalized Coxeter permutahedra that are invariant under the action of the Coxeter group. In this section we study them in more detail, collecting some properties that will play an important role in what follows.

Definition 6.1. The *fundamental weight polytopes* or Φ -*hypersimplices* of the root system Φ are the d weight polytopes $P_\Phi(\lambda_1), \dots, P_\Phi(\lambda_d)$ corresponding to the fundamental weights of Φ .

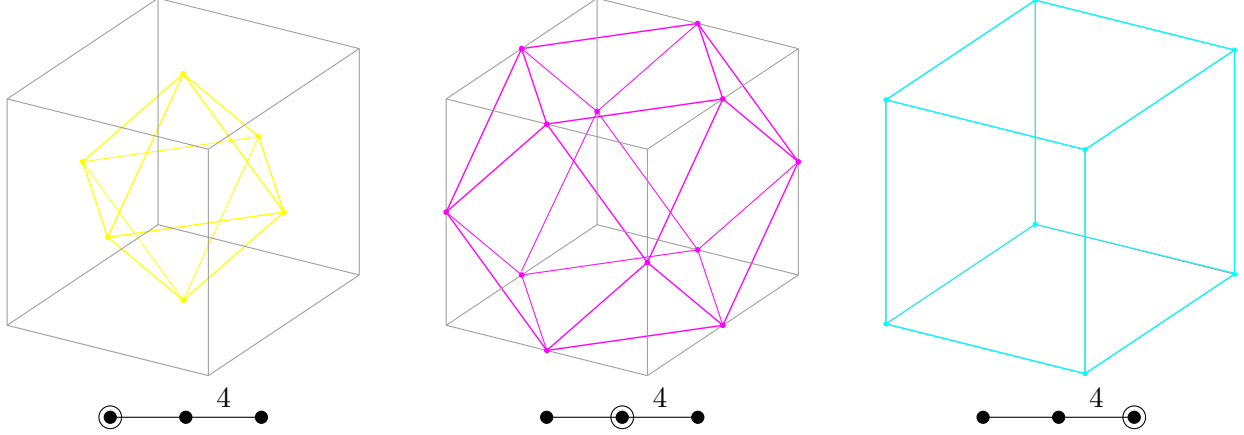


Figure 3: The three fundamental weight polytopes of C_3 ; compare with Figure 2.b.

Since W acts transitively on the chambers of the Coxeter complex Σ_Φ , in the study of the weight polytopes $P_\Phi(x)$ it is sufficient to consider only points x in the fundamental domain D . For those points, the combinatorial type of the weight polytope $P_\Phi(x)$ is determined by the face of D containing x in its interior:

Proposition 6.2. [22, §1.12] For x in the interior of C_I , the chambers of the normal fan of $P_\Phi(x)$ are in bijection with W/W_I . The chamber of $\Sigma_{P_\Phi(x)}$ corresponding to the coset wW_I is the union of the $|W_I|$ chambers of the Coxeter complex Σ_Φ labeled ww_I for $w_I \in W_I$.

The following special cases of weight polytopes $P_\Phi(x)$ will be important to us.

Corollary 6.3. 1. When x is the sum of the positive roots, $P_\Phi(x)$ is precisely the standard Φ -permutahedron Π_Φ .

2. When x is in the interior of the fundamental chamber D , $P_\Phi(x)$ is normally equivalent to Π_Φ .
3. When x is in the interior of face $C_{[d]\setminus I}$ of D , the polytope $P_\Phi(x)$ has positive edge length on the edge between wx and ws_ix for each $w \in W$ and $i \in I$, and zero everywhere else. In other words, its normal fan is obtained from Σ_Φ by only keeping the walls between the chambers wD and ws_iD for each $w \in W$ and $i \in I$.

Proof. 1. This follows directly from the definitions.

2. and 3. The normal fan of $P_\Phi(x)$ is obtained from the Coxeter complex Σ_Φ by keeping only the W -translates of the walls of the fundamental chamber D that do not contain x ; that is, the walls between chambers D and s_iD for each $i \in I$. \square

We can describe any weight polytope as a Minkowski sum of the fundamental weight polytopes as follows.

Proposition 6.4. Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d$ be a set of fundamental weights of Φ and $a_1, \dots, a_d \geq 0$. Then

$$P_\Phi \left(\sum_{i=1}^d a_i \lambda_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^d a_i P_\Phi(\lambda_i)$$

In particular, for any x in the interior of $C_{[d]\setminus I}$, the weight polytope $P_\Phi(x)$ is normally equivalent to the Minkowski sum $\sum_{i \in I} P_\Phi(\lambda_i) = P_\Phi(\lambda_I)$.

Proof. Let us first prove the second statement. By Corollary 6.3, the normal fan Σ of $P_\Phi(x)$ is the coarsest common refinement of the fans Σ_i for $i \in I$, where $\Sigma_i = \Sigma_{P_\Phi(\lambda_i)}$ is obtained from Σ_Φ by only keeping the walls between chambers wD and ws_iD .

Now let us call the two polytopes in the equation P and Q , respectively. For any $x \in D$, the x -maximal face of $P_\Phi(\lambda_i)$ is its vertex λ_i . Therefore the x -maximal face of Q is $\sum a_i \lambda_i$, which is thus a vertex of Q . By W -symmetry, $w(\sum a_i \lambda_i)$ is also a vertex of Q for every $w \in W$. Since every vertex of P is a vertex of Q , and P and Q are normally equivalent by the previous paragraph, we must have $P = Q$. \square

We now establish some lemmas about the edges and 2-faces of the fundamental weight polytopes. By symmetry, it is sufficient to describe the local geometry of $P_\Phi(\lambda_i)$ around λ_i .

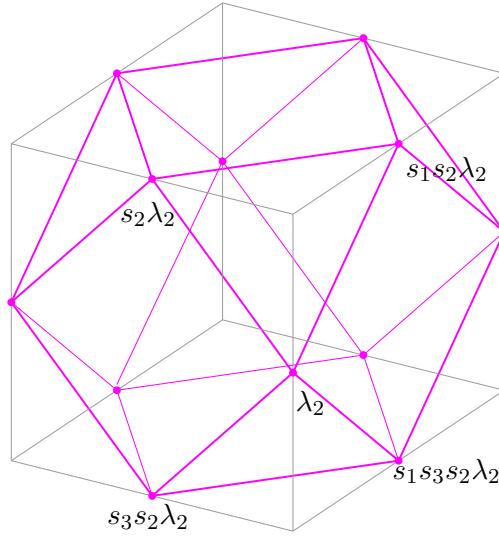


Figure 4: The neighbors of λ_2 in $P_{C_3}(\lambda_2)$ are $ws_2\lambda_2$ for $w \in W_{13}/W_\emptyset = \{e, s_1, s_3, s_1s_3\}$.

Lemma 6.5. The edges containing the vertex λ_i in the fundamental weight polytope $P_\Phi(\lambda_i)$ are in bijection with $W_{[d]-i}/W_{[d]-i-N(i)}$. More precisely:

1. The vertices adjacent to λ_i in $P_\Phi(\lambda_i)$ are those of the form $us_i\lambda_i$ for $u \in W_{[d]-i}$.
2. For each $u \in W_{[d]-i}$, the vector from λ_i to $us_i\lambda_i$ is $-u\alpha_i^\vee$, a negative multiple of $u\alpha_i$.
3. For $u, v \in W_{[d]-i}$ we have $us_i\lambda_i = vs_i\lambda_i$ if and only if $u^{-1}v \in W_{[d]-i-N(i)}$.

Proof. 1. Recall that λ_i is in the interior of the ray $C_{[d]-i}$, and its stabilizer is $W_{[d]-i}$. By Corollary 6.3.3, the vertices λ_i and $w\lambda_i$ are adjacent when we can find $u \in W$ such that, without loss of generality, $\lambda_i = u\lambda_i$ and $w\lambda_i = us_i\lambda_i$. The first condition says that $u \in W_{[d]-i}$ and the second says that $s_iu^{-1}w \in W_{[d]-i}$. Combined, they are equivalent to the condition that $w \in W_{[d]-i}s_iW_{[d]-i}$. Therefore we have $w\lambda_i \in (W_{[d]-i}s_iW_{[d]-i})\lambda_i = (W_{[d]-i}s_i)\lambda_i$, as desired.

2. Since $u \in W_{[d]-i}$ stabilizes λ_i , we have

$$us_i\lambda_i - \lambda_i = us_i\lambda_i - u\lambda_i = u(s_i\lambda_i - \lambda_i) = u(-\alpha_i^\vee).$$

3. We have $us_i\lambda_i = vs_i\lambda_i$ if and only if $s_iv^{-1}us_i \in W_{[d]-i}$; that is, $u^{-1}v \in s_iW_{[d]-i}s_i$. The result then follows from the claim that

$$W_{[d]-i} \cap (s_iW_{[d]-i}s_i) = W_{[d]-i-N(i)},$$

which we now prove.

\supseteq : If $w \in W_{[d]-i-N(i)}$ then $w \in W_{[d]-i}$; and since w and s_i commute, $w = s_iws_i \in s_iW_{[d]-i}s_i$.

\subseteq : If w is in $W_{[d]-i}$ and $s_iW_{[d]-i}s_i$, which are the stabilizers of the faces $C_{[d]-i}$ and $s_iC_{[d]-i}$ of D , respectively, then it stabilizes λ_i and $s_i\lambda_i$. Therefore it also stabilizes

$$\lambda_i + s_i\lambda_i = - \sum_{j \neq i} A_{ji}\lambda_j, \quad (16)$$

using (14). But this is an interior point of $C_{[d]-i-N(i)}$ since $A_{ji} < 0$ for $j \in N(i) - i$ and $A_{ji} = 0$ for $j \in [d] - N(i) - i$, so its stabilizer is $W_{[d]-i-N(i)}$ as desired. \square

Recall that the *vertex figure* P/v of a polytope P at a vertex v is the intersection of P with a hyperplane H separating v from the other vertices. The precise polytope P/v depends on the choice of H , but different choices of H give rise to combinatorially equivalent polytopes. More precisely, there is an order preserving bijection between the faces of P containing v and the faces of P/v . [48, Proposition 2.4] Slightly ambiguously, any such polytope is called the vertex figure.

Let $\Phi_{[d]-i}$ be the root system with simple roots $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{i-1}, \alpha_{i+1}, \dots, \alpha_d$, which span the vector space $\{x \in V : \langle x, \lambda_i \rangle = 0\}$. Its fundamental weights are $\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_{i-1}, \bar{\lambda}_{i+1}, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_d$, where $\bar{\lambda}_j$ is the image of λ_j in the dual space $V/\mathbb{R}\lambda_i$.

Lemma 6.6. The vertex figure of λ_i in the fundamental weight polytope $P_\Phi(\lambda_i)$ is combinatorially equivalent to the weight polytope

$$P_{\Phi_{[d]-i}}(\bar{\lambda}_{N(i)}) = \sum_{j \in N(i)} P_{\Phi_{[d]-i}}(\bar{\lambda}_j) \quad (17)$$

where $\bar{\lambda}_{N(i)} = \sum_{j \in N(i)} \bar{\lambda}_j$.

Proof. Consider the hyperplane

$$H = \{x \in V : \langle x - \lambda_i, \lambda_i \rangle = -1\}.$$

Clearly the vertex λ_i is in the positive side of this hyperplane. Now we show that every neighboring vertex is on H . Such a vertex can be written as $us_i\lambda_i$ for $u \in W_{[d]-i}$. Let $u = s_{j_1}s_{j_2} \cdots s_{j_\ell}$ for some $j_1, \dots, j_\ell \in [d] - i$, and let $c_1, \dots, c_d \in \mathbb{R}$ be the unique scalars such that

$$us_i\lambda_i - \lambda_i = -u\alpha_i^\vee = -s_{j_1}s_{j_2} \cdots s_{j_\ell}\alpha_i^\vee = \sum_{k=1}^d c_k\alpha_k^\vee,$$

keeping Lemma 6.5.2 in mind. Notice that $s_m\alpha_n^\vee = \alpha_n^\vee - A_{nm}\alpha_m^\vee$ for $1 \leq m, n \leq d$; so when $s_{j_\ell}, \dots, s_{j_1}$ successively act on $-\alpha_i^\vee$, they never change the coefficient of α_i^\vee . This means that $c_i = -1$, and hence $us_i\lambda_i \in H$.

Since all the neighbors of λ_i are on the hyperplane H , they are the vertices of the vertex figure of v . Notice that they are precisely the $W_{[d]-i}$ orbit of $s_i\lambda_i$ in V . When we identify H with $V/\mathbb{R}\lambda_i$ via $x \mapsto -\bar{x}$, they are sent to the $W_{[d]-i}$ orbit of $-\bar{s}_i\lambda_i = \bar{\lambda}_i + \sum_{j \in N(i)} A_{ji}\bar{\lambda}_j = \sum_{j \in N(i)} A_{ji}\bar{\lambda}_j$ in $V/\mathbb{R}\lambda_i$ in light of (16). Since this point is in the cone $C_{[d]-j-N(j)}$ of the fundamental chamber of $\Phi_{[d]-i}$, its weight polytope is normally equivalent to $P_{\Phi_{[d]-i}}(\sum_{j \in N(i)} \bar{\lambda}_j)$ as desired. \square

Let us now describe the 2-faces of the fundamental weight polytope.

Lemma 6.7. Every 2-dimensional face of $P_\Phi(\lambda_i)$ is W -conjugate to a face containing the vertices $\lambda_i, s_i\lambda_i, s_j s_i\lambda_i$ for some $j \in N(i)$. These faces are:

1. triangles when $m_{ij} = 3$, and
2. not triangles when $m_{ij} > 3$.

Proof. Lemma 6.5.1, and the fact that any $u \in W_{[d]-i}$ stabilizes λ_i , imply that any edge of $P_\Phi(\lambda_i)$ is W -conjugate to the edge joining λ_i and $s_i\lambda_i$. By the proof of Lemma 6.6, a 2-face containing this edge corresponds to an edge e of the vertex figure $P_\Phi(\lambda_i)/\lambda_i \cong P_{\Phi_{[d]-i}}(\bar{\lambda}_{N(i)}) = \sum_{j \in N(i)} P_{\Phi_{[d]-i}}(\bar{\lambda}_j)$ containing $\bar{\lambda}_{N(i)}$.

We claim that this edge e connects $\bar{\lambda}_{N(i)}$ to $vs_j\bar{\lambda}_{N(i)}$ for some $j \in N(i)$ and $v \in W_{[d]-i-N(i)}$. This will mean that the corresponding 2-face of $P_\Phi(\lambda_i)$ contains $\lambda_i, s_i\lambda_i$, and $vs_j s_i\lambda_i$. But $v \in W_{[d]-i}$ and $v \in W_{[d]-i-N(i)}$ respectively will imply that

$$v\lambda_i = \lambda_i \quad \text{and} \quad vs_i\lambda_i = s_i v\lambda_i = s_i\lambda_i,$$

showing that this 2-face is conjugate by v to the 2-face containing $\lambda_i, s_i\lambda_i$, and $s_j s_i\lambda_i$, as desired.

Let us prove the claim about the edge e . Note that the edges of the j th Minkowski summand in (17) are parallel to W -conjugates of the j th simple root α_j , so each of the summands has different edge directions. This has two consequences:

- The edge direction e must come from an edge of a unique summand – say the j th – that connects $\bar{\lambda}_j$ to $vs_j\bar{\lambda}_j$ for some $v \in W_{([d]-i)-j}$.
- For every other summand $k \in N(i) - j$ in (17) we must have $\bar{\lambda}_k = vs_j\bar{\lambda}_k$, so $vs_j \in W_{([d]-i)-k}$. Therefore vs_j is in the intersection of these subgroups; that is, $vs_j \in W_{([d]-i-N(i)) \cup j}$.

The first observation gives us a reduced word $v = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_l}$ with $i_1, \dots, i_l \in [d] - i - j$, while the second gives us a word $v = s_{j_1} \dots s_{j_{l-1}} s_j$ with $j_1, \dots, j_{l-1} \in ([d] - i - N(i)) \cup j$. But any two reduced words for the same group element must use the same set of letters [6, Corollary 1.4.8(ii)], so the second word can be reduced to one that does not use s_j ; that is, $v \in W_{[d]-i-N(i)}$. This completes the proof of the claim, and thus of the first statement of the lemma.

1. If $m_{ij} = 3$, the vertex $s_i s_j s_i \lambda_i = s_j s_i s_j \lambda_i = s_j s_i \lambda_i$ is adjacent to λ_i by Lemma 6.5.1. Acting on them by s_i gives the desired result.

2. Let $m_{ij} > 3$ and assume, contrariwise, that $s_i\lambda_i$ and $s_j s_i\lambda_i$ are adjacent. Then, by the proof of Lemma 6.5.1, we must have $s_i s_j s_i \in W_{[d]-i} s_i W_{[d]-i}$, say $s_i s_j s_i = ts_i t'$ for some $t, t' \in W_{[d] \setminus i}$. Since the word $s_i s_j s_i$ is reduced, [6, Corollary 1.4.8.(i) and (ii)] implies that there is a reduced subword of $ts_i t'$ consisting only of s_i and s_j . The only possibility is that $ts_i t' = s_j s_i s_j$, which implies that $m_{ij} = 3$, a contradiction. \square

Recall that a Dynkin diagram is simply laced if it is of type ADE; that is, it has no edges with label greater than 3.

Corollary 6.8. The fundamental weight polytope $P_\Phi(\lambda_i)$ only has triangular 2-faces if and only if the edges adjacent to i in the Dynkin diagram are unlabeled; that is, the Dynkin diagram $\Gamma(\Phi_{N(i) \cup i})$ is simply laced.

Proof. This follows directly from Lemma 6.7. \square

6.2 Symmetric Φ -submodular functions

Say a Φ -submodular function f is *symmetric* if it is invariant under the action of the Weyl group; that is, if

$$f(w\lambda_i) = f(\lambda_i) \quad \text{for all } w \in W \text{ and } 1 \leq i \leq d.$$

These functions correspond to the support functions of the weight polytopes of Section 6.1. They form the *symmetric Φ -submodular cone*, a linear slice of $\text{Def}(\Sigma_\Phi)$.

By identifying a Φ -submodular function with its values on the fundamental weights, we may think of this cone as living in \mathbb{R}^d . We now show that this cone has an elegant description: it is the simplicial cone generated by the rows of the inverse of the Cartan matrix. This inverse matrix was first described by Lusztig and Tits [29]; an explicit table for the irreducible root systems is given in [23, 46].

A key role is played by the fundamental weight polytopes of the previous subsection. The results are a bit more elegant if we rescale them and work with the coweight polytopes instead.

Lemma 6.9. The Φ -submodular function h_k of the fundamental coweight polytope $P_\Phi(\lambda_k^\vee)$ is

$$h_k(w\lambda_i) = A_{ki}^{-1} \quad \text{for } w \in W, \quad 1 \leq i \leq d,$$

where A^{-1} is the inverse of the Cartan matrix.

Proof. Let x be in the interior of the fundamental domain D . Since $\lambda_i \in D$, the λ_i -maximal face of $P_\Phi(\lambda_k^\vee)$ must contain the x -maximal face of $P_\Phi(\lambda_k^\vee)$, which is the vertex λ_k . It follows that the λ_i -maximal value of $P_\Phi(x)$ is $h_k(\lambda_i) = \langle \lambda_k^\vee, \lambda_i \rangle = A_{ki}^{-1}$ by (9). By W -symmetry, this is also the value of $h_k(w\lambda_i)$ for any $w \in W$. \square

Theorem 6.10. The symmetric Φ -submodular cone is the simplicial cone generated by the rows of the inverse Cartan matrix of Φ .

Proof. Proposition 6.4 shows that any weight polytope is a Minkowski sum of the fundamental coweight polytopes $P_\Phi(\lambda_k^\vee)$. Since the support function of a Minkowski sum $aP + bQ$ is given by $h_{aP+bQ} = ah_P + bh_Q$ for $a, b \geq 0$, this means that any symmetric Φ -submodular function is a non-negative combination of the functions described in Lemma 6.9. Since A^{-1} is invertible, these functions are linearly independent. The desired result follows. \square

7 Facets of the Φ -submodular cone

In this section we describe and enumerate the facets of the Φ -submodular cone. We first prove that all the wall crossing inequalities define facets; for an arbitrary polytope, this is rarely the case. This claim is equivalent to saying that all the rays spanned by the I_τ s, as described in (4), are extremal in the Mori cone $\overline{NE}(\Sigma_\Phi) = \text{cone}(I_\tau : \tau \text{ is a wall of } \Sigma_\Phi) \text{ in } (\text{PL}(\Sigma_\Phi))^\vee$.

Theorem 7.1. Every local Φ -submodular inequality (12) is a facet of the Φ -submodular cone.

Proof. By Corollary 6.3.3 we can produce, for each $1 \leq i \leq d$, a generalized Φ -permutahedron $Q_i = P_\Phi(\lambda_i)$ whose normal fan is obtained from Σ_Φ by removing the walls wH_i separating chambers wD and ws_iD for all $w \in W$. The support function of this polytope satisfies

$$I_\tau(h_{Q_i}) = 0, \quad \text{if } \tau = wH_i \text{ for some } w \in W, \text{ and} \quad (18)$$

$$I_\tau(h_{Q_i}) > 0, \quad \text{otherwise.} \quad (19)$$

This means that the set of rays $\{I_{wH_i} : w \in W\}$ form a face F_i of the Mori cone, so at least one of them must be extremal. But these rays form an orbit of the action of W on the Mori cone, so if one of them is extremal, all are extremal. \square

Theorem 7.2. The number of facets of the Φ -submodular cone is

$$\sum_{i=1}^d \frac{|W|}{|W_{[d]-N(i)}|},$$

where $N(i)$ is the set of neighbors of i in the Dynkin diagram. They come in d symmetry classes up to the action of W . For the classical root systems, these numbers are:

$$\begin{aligned} A_{d-1} &: d(d-1)2^{d-3} \\ BC_d &: 2d(d-1)3^{d-2} + d2^{d-1} \\ D_d &: 2d(d-1)3^{d-2} - d(d-1)2^{d-2} \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We have one local Φ -submodular inequality for each pair of an element $1 \leq i \leq d$ and a group element $w \in W$, but there are many repetitions. For each i we now show that the set of elements w stabilizing the wall-crossing inequality (15) is $W_{[d]-N(i)}$.

If an element w stabilizes (15), it must stabilize the support of the right hand side, that is, the set of fundamental weights $\{\lambda_j : j \in N(i)\}$. Therefore w stabilizes the sum of those weights, which is in the interior of cone $C_{[d]-N(i)}$. By Proposition 3.11, $w \in W_{[d]-N(i)}$.

Conversely, suppose $w \in W_{[d]-N(i)}$. Then for each $j \in N(i)$ we have $w \in W_{[d]-j}$, so w stabilizes λ_j individually. Therefore w does stabilize the right hand side of (15). Now, each simple reflection s_k with $k \notin [d] - N(i) - i$ stabilizes λ_i because $k \neq i$, and hence it also stabilizes $s_i\lambda_i$ since s_i and s_k commute. The remaining reflection s_i interchanges λ_i and $s_i\lambda_i$. It follows that each generator of $W_{[d]-N(i)}$, and hence the whole parabolic subgroup, stabilizes the left-hand side of (15) as well.

We conclude that, for fixed i , each inequality in (15) is repeated $|W_{[d]-N(i)}|$ times, and hence the number of different inequalities is $|W|/|W_{[d]-N(i)}|$. Furthermore, there is one symmetry class of inequalities for each i . The desired result follows.

One may then compute explicitly the number of facets for the classical root systems, using that $|W_{A_{r-1}}| = r!$, $|W_{B_r}| = 2^r r!$, and $|W_{D_r}| = 2^{r-1} r!$. \square

Notice that if r and r' are rays and C and C' are adjacent chambers of the Coxeter complex such that r belongs to $C - C'$ and r' belongs to $C' - C$, then the linear relation between the rays of C and C' is determined entirely by the rays r and r' , independently of the choice of chambers C and C' . This offers an explanation for the repetition of the wall-crossing inequalities. This property, which significantly simplifies the study of the deformation cone, holds for several interesting combinatorial fans; for instance, g -vector fans of Coxeter associahedra and normal fans of graph associahedra. [21, 30]

8 Some extremal rays of the Φ -submodular cone

On the opposite end of the facets, we now discuss the problem of describing the extremal rays of the Φ -submodular cone $\text{Nef}(\Sigma_\Phi)$. These rays correspond to indeformable generalized Φ -permutahedra.

Definition 8.1. We say a polytope P is *indecomposable* or *indeformable* if its only deformations, in the sense of Definition 2.1, are its multiples (up to translation) [42]; that is, if its nef cone $\text{Nef}(P)$ is a single ray.

Describing **all** the extremal rays of $\text{Nef}(\Sigma_\Phi)$ seems to be a very difficult task, even in the classical case $\Phi = A_d$. For example, the matroid polytope P_M of any connected matroid M on $[d]$ is a ray of $\text{Nef}(\Sigma_\Phi)$. [34, 45]. Therefore the number of rays of this nef cone is doubly exponential, because the asymptotic proportion of matroids that are connected is at least $1/2$ and conjecturally equal to 1 [31] and the number m_d of matroids on $[d]$ satisfies $\log \log m_d \geq d - \frac{3}{2} \log d - O(1)$. [25] The cone $\text{Nef}(\Sigma_{A_{d-1}})$ has been computed for $d \leq 6$; for $d = 6$ it has only 80 facets in six S_5 symmetry classes, while it has 117978 rays in 1319 S_5 symmetry classes. [32, 44]

We focus here on the more modest task of describing some interesting families of rays; *i.e.*, indecomposable generalized Φ -permutahedra. Our main tools will be the following simple sufficiency criterion.

Proposition 8.2. [42] If all 2-faces of a polytope P are triangles then P is indecomposable.

We will also use the following computational tool:

Remark 8.3. To check computationally whether a polytope P is indecomposable, one could in principle “simply” compute the dimension of its deformation cone. Unfortunately, this is not easy to do in practice. When P is a deformation of the Φ -permutahedron Π_Φ (or some other polytope with a nice deformation cone) and we know its support function h_P , there is a shortcut available to us. Since $\text{Def}(P)$ is the intersection of $\text{Def}(\Pi_\Phi)$ with the facet-defining hyperplanes that contain h_P , we can now determine which wall-crossing inequalities (12) h_P satisfies **with equality**. If, after modding out by globally linear functions, those wall-crossing equalities cut out a 1-dimensional subspace, then $\text{Def}(P)$ is just a ray, and the polytope P is indecomposable.

The following is our main result about rays of the Φ -submodular cone. Recall that $N(i)$ denotes the set of nodes in the Dynkin diagram $\Gamma(\Phi)$ adjacent to the node i .

Theorem 8.4. A weight polytope P of a crystallographic root system Φ is indecomposable if and only if $P = kP_\Phi(\lambda_i)$ for $k > 0$ and a fundamental weight λ_i such that the edges adjacent to i in the Dynkin diagram are unlabeled; that is, the Dynkin diagram $\Gamma(\Phi_{N(i) \cup i})$ is simply laced.

Proof. Proposition 6.4 shows that if a weight polytope is indecomposable, it must be a multiple of $P_\Phi(\lambda_i)$ for some fundamental weight λ_i . When the Dynkin diagram $\Gamma(N(i) \cup i)$ is simply laced, we showed in Corollary 6.8 that all the 2-faces of $P_\Phi(\lambda_i)$ are triangles, so this polytope is indecomposable by Proposition 8.2.

To show that all other fundamental weight polytopes are decomposable, we do a case by case analysis through the classification 3.3. The Dynkin diagrams that have nodes i such that $N(i) \cup i$ has an edge with label greater than 3 are B_d, C_d, F_4 , and G_2 . Only the types B_d and C_d provide infinite families of weight polytopes, so we prove our claim in these two cases. One checks the remaining cases F_4, G_2 individually.

$\Phi = B_d$ or C_d and $i = d$: In this case λ_d equals $\frac{1}{2}(e_1 + e_2 + \cdots + e_d)$ and $e_1 + e_2 + \cdots + e_d$, respectively. In both cases the orbit polytope is a hypercube of dimension d , which is the Minkowski sum of d lines, and hence decomposable.

$\Phi = B_d$ or C_d and $i = d - 1$: We have $\lambda_{d-1} = e_1 + e_2 + \cdots + e_{d-1}$ and the weight polytope is the same in types B and C . Now we claim that the orbit of $e_1 + \cdots + e_{d-1}$ under the action of W_{C_d} is the same as its orbit under the action of W_{D_d} . To see this, recall that W_{C_d} acts by all permutations and sign changes of the coordinates, while $W_{D_d} \leq W_{C_d}$ consists of those actions where the number of sign changes is even. Therefore the W_{C_d} -orbit of $\lambda_{d-1} = e_1 + \cdots + e_{d-1}$ consists of the vectors $v = w\lambda_{d-1}$ with one coordinate equal to 0 and all other coordinates equal to 1 or -1 . By adding a sign change to w in the 0 coordinate if needed, we can arrange for it to be an element of D_d , as desired.

This observation, combined with Proposition 6.4, tells us that

$$\begin{aligned} P_{C_d}(e_1 + \cdots + e_{d-1}) &= P_{D_d}(e_1 + \cdots + e_{d-1}) \\ &= P_{D_d}\left(\frac{e_1 + \cdots + e_{d-1} - e_d}{2}\right) + P_{D_d}\left(\frac{e_1 + \cdots + e_{d-1} + e_d}{2}\right) \end{aligned}$$

keeping in mind that $\frac{1}{2}(e_1 + \cdots + e_{d-1} - e_d)$ and $\frac{1}{2}(e_1 + \cdots + e_{d-1} + e_d)$ are the last two fundamental weights of type D . These two polytopes are deformations of the D_d -permutahedron, which is itself a deformation of the C_d -permutahedron. Therefore the fundamental weight polytope $P_{C_d}(\lambda_{d-1})$ is decomposable in this case as well. \square

Remark 8.5. By Proposition 8.2, any face of the indecomposable weight polytopes is also indecomposable. These are also rays of the nef cone by Corollary 2.6: in types A_n, BC_n, D_n , we get exponentially many such rays of the nef cone as a function of n .

Remark 8.6. Theorem 8.4 can fail for non-crystallographic root systems. More precisely, it fails for the fundamental weight polytopes $P_{H_3}(\lambda_2)$ and $P_{H_4}(\lambda_3)$, which are indecomposable. We have verified this by computer as outlined in Remark 8.3.² By Corollary 6.3.3, the support function h_k for $P_\Phi(\lambda_k)$ lies precisely on the facet hyperplanes given by local Φ -submodular conditions 12 with $i \neq k$. In each of these two cases, those hyperplanes intersect in a line, making the nef cone of $P_\Phi(\lambda_k)$ one-dimensional.

²The supporting files are available at <http://math.sfsu.edu/federico/Articles/deformations.zip>.

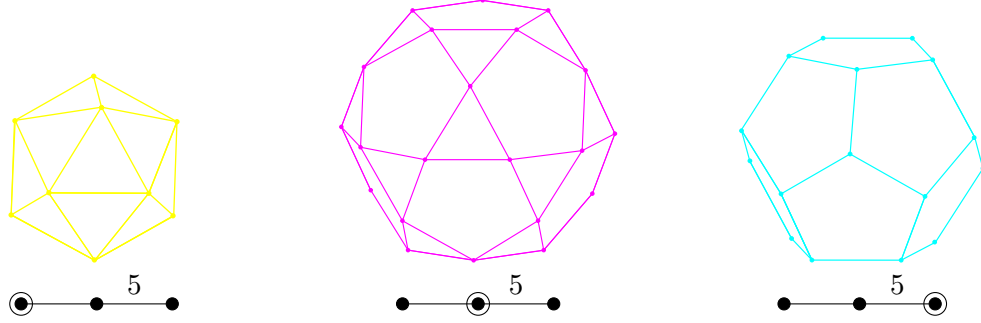


Figure 5: The icosahedron $P_{H_3}(\lambda_1)$ is indecomposable because its 2-faces are triangles. A computation shows that the icosidodecahedron $P_{H_3}(\lambda_2)$ is also indecomposable. The dodecahedron $P_{H_3}(\lambda_3)$ is decomposable because we can push away one of its pentagonal faces.

Let us verify Theorem 8.4 for a few examples of interest.

1. (Type A) The fundamental weight polytope $P_{A_d}(\lambda_i)$ is the hypersimplex $\Delta(i, d+1) = \text{conv}(e_S : S \subseteq [d+1], |S| = i)$ which only has triangular 2-faces, and hence is indecomposable.
2. (Type BC) In type C_2 the fundamental weight polytopes are the diamond and the square, which are indeed decomposable. This is consistent with the fact that the Dynkin diagram has no node satisfying the condition of Theorem 8.4. In type C_3 , they are shown in Figure 3. The octahedron is indeed indecomposable, while the rhombic dodecahedron is the Minkowski sum of two tetrahedra in opposite orientations, and the cube is the Minkowski sum of three segments.

9 Further questions and future directions.

1. In type A , generalized permutahedra have the algebraic structure of a Hopf monoid; in fact, they are the universal family of polytopes that support such a structure. [2] This leads to numerous interesting algebraic and combinatorial consequences. A crucial observation that makes this work is that for any generalized permutahedron P in \mathbb{R}^E and any subset $\emptyset \subsetneq S \subsetneq E$, the maximal face of P in direction e_S decomposes naturally as the product of two generalized permutahedra in \mathbb{R}^S and \mathbb{R}^{E-S} , respectively.

One of the main motivations for this project was the expectation that, similarly, generalized Φ -permutahedra should be an important example of a new kind of algebraic structure: a *Coxeter Hopf monoid*. [40] It is still true that if P is a generalized Φ -permutahedron and $r = w\lambda_i$ is a ray, the maximal face of P in direction r is a generalized $\Phi_{[n]-i}$ -permutahedron. It decomposes as a product of one, two, or three generalized Coxeter permutahedra, depending on the number of neighbors of i in the Dynkin diagram. A further development of this algebraic structure will be the subject of an upcoming paper.

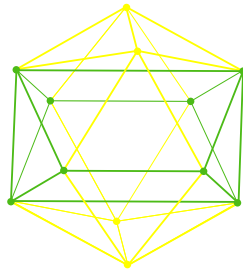
2. In the classical types A_n and BC_n , the notions of Φ -submodular functions correspond to submodular and bisubmodular functions, which are well studied in optimization. [15, 33, 41] We expect that D_n -submodular functions, which we call *disubmodular*, should play a similar role in combinatorial optimization problems with an underlying symmetry of type D . Similarly, it would be very interesting to find applications for the exceptional Φ -submodular functions, for instance, to problems with an underlying symmetry of type E_6, E_7 , or E_8 .

3. In type A , every generalized permutahedron in \mathbb{R}^d is a signed Minkowski sum of the simplices $\Delta_S = \text{conv}(e_s : s \in S)$ for $S \subseteq [d]$. Geometrically, this corresponds to the statement that the $2^d - 1$ polytopes Δ_S , which are rays of the $(2^d - 1)$ -dimensional submodular cone, are also a basis for \mathbb{R}^{2^d-1} . Remarkably, one may compute the mixed volumes of these polytopes P_S , and this gives combinatorial formulas for the volume of any generalized permutahedron. For details, see [3, 36].

Is there a similarly nice choice of $|\mathcal{R}_\Phi|$ rays of the Φ -submodular cone that generate all others? Can one compute their mixed volumes? If so, one would obtain a formula for the volume of an arbitrary generalized Φ -permutahedron. In type A , the $2^d - 1$ non-empty faces of the simplex $P_{A_{d-1}}(\lambda_1)$ suffice, as explained above. Unfortunately (but still interestingly), the $3^d - 1$ non-empty faces of the cross-polytope $P_{B_d}(\lambda_1)$, which are rays of $\text{Def}(B_d)$, only span a subspace of dimension $\frac{1}{2}(3^d - (-1)^d)$ of \mathbb{R}^{3^d-1} . [14] Can one do better, either in type B or in general? For some related work on the mixed volumes of the fundamental weight polytopes, see [4, 12, 27, 36].

4. The framework presented here makes it very natural to define the *rank function* of a Coxeter matroid M of type Φ to be the support function $h_{Q(M)} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow R$ of its Coxeter matroid polytope. It would be interesting and useful to give a characterization of these rank functions.
5. Is there a good characterization of the indecomposable Coxeter matroids? This has been done beautifully in type A [34, 45]: a matroid polytope $Q(M)$ is indecomposable if and only if, upon deleting all loops and coloops, the matroid M is connected. Equivalently, for a rank r matroid M on $[d]$, the matroid polytope $Q(M)$ is indecomposable if and only if it is a full-dimensional subset of the hypersimplex $\Delta(d, r)$.

The analogous statement does not hold for Coxeter matroids, even when one accounts for the fact that, unlike in type A , some fundamental weight polytopes can be decomposable. For example, consider the polytope highlighted below; it is a full-dimensional subset of the icosahedron – an indecomposable fundamental weight polytope of type H_3 . However, it is decomposable, since one can deform it by shortening the four middle edges until the two short ones disappear.



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