# Laplacian Simplices II: A Coding Theoretic Approach

# Tefjol Pllaha

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### AMS Sectional Meetings Ann Arbor, MI

\*Joint with Marie Meyer

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### Outline



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## Outline

### **1** (Ehrhart) Theory of simplices

2 Laplacian simplices

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### Outline

### 1 (Ehrhart) Theory of simplices

- 2 Laplacian simplices
- **3** Reflexive Laplacian simplices

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### 1 (Ehrhart) Theory of simplices

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- **3** Reflexive Laplacian simplices
- 4 Further research

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### Outline

### 1 (Ehrhart) Theory of simplices

#### 2 Laplacian simplices

3 Reflexive Laplacian simplices

### 4 Future research

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# (Ehrhart) Theory of simplices

A simplex ∆ in ℝ<sup>d</sup> is a full-dimensional convex hull of d + 1 points v<sub>1</sub>,..., v<sub>d+1</sub> (in ℝ<sup>d</sup>).

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- $\blacksquare$  If  $\bm{0}\in \Delta$  then the  $\bm{dual}$  of  $\Delta$  is given by

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- If  $\mathbf{0} \in \Delta$  then the **dual** of  $\Delta$  is given by

$$\Delta^{\!\!\vee} := \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid \mathbf{x} \, \mathbf{y}^{\!\!\mathsf{T}} \leq 1 ext{ for all } \mathbf{y} \in \Delta \} \,.$$

• The fundamental parallelepiped of  $\Delta$  is

$$\mathsf{\Pi}(\Delta) := \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{d+1} \lambda_i(\mathbf{v}_i, 1) \, \middle| \, 0 \leq \lambda_i < 1 
ight\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$$

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• (Batyrev and Hofscheier):

$$\Lambda(\Delta) := \left\{ \lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{d+1}) \ \left| \ \sum_{i=1}^{d+1} \lambda_i(\mathbf{v}_i, 1) \in \Pi(\Delta) \cap \mathbb{Z}^{d+1} \right\}.$$

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# (Ehrhart) Theory of simplices

•  $\Lambda(\Delta) \leq (\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})^{d+1}$ 

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# (Ehrhart) Theory of simplices

$${f A}(\Delta) \leq ({\Bbb Q}/{\Bbb Z})^{d+1}$$
 with addition

 $(\lambda_1,\ldots,\lambda_{d+1})+(\lambda'_1,\ldots,\lambda'_{d+1})=(\{\lambda_1+\lambda'_1\},\ldots,\{\lambda_{d+1}+\lambda'_{d+1}\}),$ 

where  $\{\bullet\}$  denotes the fractional part of a number.

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• The  $h^*$ -vector of  $\Delta$  is  $h^*(\Delta) = (h_0, h_1, \dots, h_d)$  where

$$h_i = \# \{ \mathbf{p} \in \Pi(\Delta) \cap \mathbb{Z}^{d+1} \mid \mathbf{p}_{d+1} = i \}$$

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• If  $h^*(\Delta)$  is symmetric then  $\Delta$  is called **reflexive**.

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## Outline

### 1 (Ehrhart) Theory of simplices

### 2 Laplacian simplices

3 Reflexive Laplacian simplices

#### 4 Future research

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### Laplacian simplices

• Let G be a simple connected graph with n vertices. Denote  $L_G$  its Laplacian matrix and  $\tau(G)$  the number of spanning trees.

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## Laplacian simplices

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- Denote  $L_G(n)$  the matrix obtained from  $L_G$  with the  $n^{\text{th}}$  column removed and  $[L_G(n) | 1]$  the matrix  $L_G(n)$  with a coulumn of ones appended.

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### Definition (Braun/Meyer, 2017)

The convex hull of the rows of  $L_G(n)$ , denoted  $\Delta_G$ , is called the **Laplacian simplex associated to** G.

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- The convex hulls of the rows of the Laplacian after removing any column are unimodularly equivalent.
- $\operatorname{Vol}(\Delta_G) = n \cdot \tau(G).$

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# Reflexive Laplacian simplices

### Theorem (Meyer/P, 2018)

Let G be a simple connected graph on n vertices such that  $\Delta_G$  is reflexive. Then

$$\Lambda(\Delta_G) = \left\{ rac{\mathbf{x}}{n} \, \Big| \, \overline{\mathbf{x}} \in \ker_{\mathbb{Z}_n}[L(n) \mid 1] 
ight\}.$$

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## Families of reflexive simplices

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## Families of reflexive simplices

 (Braun/Meyer, 2017) Trees, odd cycles, and complete graphs yield reflexive Laplacian simplices.

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# Families of reflexive simplices

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#### Definition

To whisker a graph G means to attach an edge and vertex to each existing vertex in G.

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To *whisker* a graph G means to attach an edge and vertex to each existing vertex in G. To *star* a graph G means to attach an additional vertex with every vertex in G.

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### Theorem (Meyer/P, 2018)

• Note: 
$$V(W^*(K_n)) = 2n + 1$$

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### Theorem (Meyer/P, 2018)

• Note: 
$$V(\mathcal{W}^*(K_n)) = 2n + 1, \tau(\mathcal{W}^*(K_n)) = (2n + 1)^{n-1},$$

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#### Theorem (Meyer/P, 2018)

• Note: 
$$V(\mathcal{W}^*(K_n)) = 2n + 1, \tau(\mathcal{W}^*(K_n)) = (2n + 1)^{n-1},$$
  
 $\operatorname{Vol}(\Delta_{\mathcal{W}^*(K_n)}) = (2n + 1)^n.$ 

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## Duality

• Recall the finite abelian group  $\Lambda(\Delta_G)$ .

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# Duality

- Recall the finite abelian group  $\Lambda(\Delta_G)$ .
- Let A be a finite abelian group and let B be a subgroup. Denote := Hom(A, ℚ/ℤ) the Pontryagin dual of A.

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#### Theorem (Meyer/P, 2018)

Let G be a simple connected graph with n vertices such that the associated  $\Delta_G$  is reflexive. Then

$$\Lambda((\Delta_G)^{\vee}) \cong \Lambda(\Delta_G)^{\circ}.$$

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## Future research I: Unimodality

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#### Let G be the graph $K_3$ with a 7-edge path as a tail. Then

$$h^*(\Delta_G) = (1, 3, 3, 5, 3, 5, 3, 3, 1).$$

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# Future research I: Unimodality

## Let G be the graph $K_3$ with a 7-edge path as a tail. Then

$$h^*(\Delta_G) = (1, 3, 3, 5, 3, 5, 3, 3, 1).$$

#### **Open Problem**

Classify reflexive Laplacian simplices with unimodal  $h^*$ -vector.

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## Future research II: Duality

## Theorem (Meyer/P, 2018)

Let  $T_n$  and  $K_n$  denote any tree on n vertices and complete graph respectively. Then

 $\Lambda(\Delta_{K_n})^{\circ} \cong \Lambda(\Delta_{T_n}).$ 

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# Future research II: Duality

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#### **Open Problem**

Find pairs of graphs (on *n* vertices) (G, H) such that  $\Lambda(\Delta_G)^{\circ} \cong \Lambda(\Delta_H)$ .

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#### **Open Problem**

Find pairs of graphs (on *n* vertices) (G, H) such that  $\Lambda(\Delta_G)^{\circ} \cong \Lambda(\Delta_H)$ .

• Note: A necessary condition is  $\tau(G) \cdot \tau(H) = n^{n-2}$ .

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## Future research III: $h^*$ -vector of the dual

Let  $\Delta_G$  be reflexive. Denote

$$h^*(\Delta_G) := \sum_{i=o}^n h_i x^{n-i} y^i.$$

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## Future research III: h\*-vector of the dual

Let  $\Delta_G$  be reflexive. Denote

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**Open Problem** 

Is there any relation between  $h^*(\Delta_G)$  and  $h^*((\Delta_G)^{\vee})$ ?

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## Future research III: $h^*$ -vector of the dual

Let  $\Delta_G$  be reflexive. Denote

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Is there any relation between  $h^*(\Delta_G)$  and  $h^*((\Delta_G)^{\vee})$ ?

Motivation: MacWilliams Duality and MacWilliams Identity.

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# Thank You!

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