

Neighbourly abstract polytopes.

Eugenia O'Reilly-Regueiro
Joint work with Dimitri Leemans and Egon Schulte.

SCDO2016, Queenstown, NZ, February 2016.



Definitions

Abstract polytopes

An *abstract n -polytope* (or *abstract polytope of rank n*) \mathcal{P} is a **POSET**, whose

Definitions

Abstract polytopes

An *abstract n -polytope* (or *abstract polytope of rank n*) \mathcal{P} is a **POSET**, whose

- elements are called *faces*, and

Definitions

Abstract polytopes

An *abstract n -polytope* (or *abstract polytope of rank n*) \mathcal{P} is a **POSET**, whose

- elements are called *faces*, and
- maximal totally ordered chains are called *flags*. Also,

Definitions

Abstract polytopes

An *abstract n -polytope* (or *abstract polytope of rank n*) \mathcal{P} is a **POSET**, whose

- elements are called *faces*, and
- maximal totally ordered chains are called *flags*. Also,
- there is a strictly monotone rank function from \mathcal{P} to the set $\{-1, 0, \dots, n\}$.

Definitions

Abstract polytopes

- Faces of rank i are called i -faces.

Definitions

Abstract polytopes

- Faces of rank i are called i -faces.
- Two flags are **adjacent (i -adjacent)** if they differ by just one face (i -face).

Definitions

Abstract polytopes

- Faces of rank i are called i -faces.
- Two flags are **adjacent** (i -adjacent) if they differ by just one face (i -face).
- Given two faces G and F of \mathcal{P} with $F \leq G$, the **section** $G/F = \{H \in \mathcal{P} \mid F \leq H \leq G\}$ of \mathcal{P} is also a polytope, with $\text{rank}(G/F) = \text{rank}(G) - \text{rank}(F) - 1$.

Definitions

Abstract polytopes

- Faces of rank i are called i -faces.
- Two flags are **adjacent** (i -adjacent) if they differ by just one face (i -face).
- Given two faces G and F of \mathcal{P} with $F \leq G$, the **section** $G/F = \{H \in \mathcal{P} \mid F \leq H \leq G\}$ of \mathcal{P} is also a polytope, with $\text{rank}(G/F) = \text{rank}(G) - \text{rank}(F) - 1$.
- We identify a face F with the section F/F_{-1} , and the section F_n/F is the **co-face** of \mathcal{P} at F .

Definitions

Abstract polytopes

- Faces of rank i are called i -faces.
- Two flags are **adjacent** (i -adjacent) if they differ by just one face (i -face).
- Given two faces G and F of \mathcal{P} with $F \leq G$, the **section** $G/F = \{H \in \mathcal{P} \mid F \leq H \leq G\}$ of \mathcal{P} is also a polytope, with $\text{rank}(G/F) = \text{rank}(G) - \text{rank}(F) - 1$.
- We identify a face F with the section F/F_{-1} , and the section F_n/F is the **co-face** of \mathcal{P} at F .
- If F is a vertex, the co-face at F is the **vertex-figure** of \mathcal{P} at F .

Definitions

Abstract polytopes

Also:

- There is a unique -1 -face (F_{-1}) and a unique n -face (F_n).

Definitions

Abstract polytopes

Also:

- There is a unique -1 -face (F_{-1}) and a unique n -face (F_n).
- Every flag contains precisely $n + 2$ elements including F_{-1} and F_n .

Definitions

Abstract polytopes

Also:

- There is a unique -1 -face (F_{-1}) and a unique n -face (F_n).
- Every flag contains precisely $n + 2$ elements including F_{-1} and F_n .
- \mathcal{P} is *strongly flag-connected*.

Definitions

Abstract polytopes

Also:

- There is a unique -1 -face (F_{-1}) and a unique n -face (F_n).
- Every flag contains precisely $n + 2$ elements including F_{-1} and F_n .
- \mathcal{P} is *strongly flag-connected*.
- Diamond condition.

Definitions

Regular and chiral polytopes

- An **automorphism** of a polytope \mathcal{P} is a bijection $\beta : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$ which preserves the order.

Definitions

Regular and chiral polytopes

- An **automorphism** of a polytope \mathcal{P} is a bijection $\beta : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$ which preserves the order.
- We denote the automorphism group of a polytope \mathcal{P} as $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{P}) = \Gamma(\mathcal{P})$.

Definitions

Regular and chiral polytopes

- An **automorphism** of a polytope \mathcal{P} is a bijection $\beta : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$ which preserves the order.
- We denote the automorphism group of a polytope \mathcal{P} as $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{P}) = \Gamma(\mathcal{P})$.
- Any element $\beta \in \Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ is uniquely determined by its action on a given flag, due to the diamond condition and strong flag-connectivity (so the number of flags is an upper bound for $|\Gamma(\mathcal{P})|$).

Definitions

Regular and chiral polytopes

- A polytope \mathcal{P} is *regular* if $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ is transitive on the flags of \mathcal{P} (there is one orbit of flags).

Definitions

Regular and chiral polytopes

- A polytope \mathcal{P} is *regular* if $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ is transitive on the flags of \mathcal{P} (there is one orbit of flags).
- If J is the set of ranks of a chain, we say \mathcal{P} is *J -transitive* if $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ acts transitively on the J -chains (so a regular polytope is *J -transitive* for every J).

Definitions

Regular and chiral polytopes

- A polytope \mathcal{P} is *regular* if $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ is transitive on the flags of \mathcal{P} (there is one orbit of flags).
- If J is the set of ranks of a chain, we say \mathcal{P} is *J -transitive* if $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ acts transitively on the J -chains (so a regular polytope is *J -transitive* for every J).
- An abstract polytope \mathcal{P} is *chiral* if $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ has two orbits on the flags of \mathcal{P} , with adjacent flags in different orbits.

Definitions

k-neighbourliness

- Let $k \geq 1$ be an integer. We say that an abstract n -polytope \mathcal{P} is *k-neighbourly* if every non-empty set of k or fewer vertices is the vertex set of a face of \mathcal{P} .

Definitions

k-neighbourliness

- Let $k \geq 1$ be an integer. We say that an abstract n -polytope \mathcal{P} is *k-neighbourly* if every non-empty set of k or fewer vertices is the vertex set of a face of \mathcal{P} .
- Every polytope is 1-neighbourly.

Definitions

k-neighbourliness

- Let $k \geq 1$ be an integer. We say that an abstract n -polytope \mathcal{P} is *k-neighbourly* if every non-empty set of k or fewer vertices is the vertex set of a face of \mathcal{P} .
- Every polytope is 1-neighbourly.
- Every k -neighbourly polytope is also l -neighbourly for each l with $1 \leq l \leq k$.

Definitions

k-neighbourliness

- Let $k \geq 1$ be an integer. We say that an abstract n -polytope \mathcal{P} is *k-neighbourly* if every non-empty set of k or fewer vertices is the vertex set of a face of \mathcal{P} .
- Every polytope is 1-neighbourly.
- Every k -neighbourly polytope is also l -neighbourly for each l with $1 \leq l \leq k$.
- We say that \mathcal{P} is *neighbourly* if it is 2-neighbourly, (\mathcal{P} is neighbourly if and only if any two vertices are the vertices of an edge).

k-neighbourliness

Examples

Examples

- The tetrahedron is neighbourly. Furthermore, it is a 4-neighbourly 3-polytope.

k-neighbourliness

Examples

Examples

- The tetrahedron is neighbourly. Furthermore, it is a 4-neighbourly 3-polytope.
- The n -simplex is an $(n + 1)$ -neighbourly n -polytope.

k-neighbourliness

Examples

Examples

- The tetrahedron is neighbourly. Furthermore, it is a 4-neighbourly 3-polytope.
- The n -simplex is an $(n + 1)$ -neighbourly n -polytope.
- If a convex n -polytope which is not a simplex is k -neighbourly (with $k \geq 2$) then $n \geq 2k$.

k-neighbourliness

Examples

Examples

- The tetrahedron is neighbourly. Furthermore, it is a 4-neighbourly 3-polytope.
- The n -simplex is an $(n + 1)$ -neighbourly n -polytope.
- If a convex n -polytope which is not a simplex is k -neighbourly (with $k \geq 2$) then $n \geq 2k$.
- Cyclic polytopes ($C(n, d)$, the convex hull of n points on a moment curve in a d -dimensional real space with $n > d$) are $\lfloor (d/2) \rfloor$ -neighbourly.

k-neighbourliness

A few results

Here we will only consider **regular** or **chiral** polytopes which are **lattices**.

k-neighbourliness

A few results

Here we will only consider **regular** or **chiral** polytopes which are **lattices**.

Lemma

Let \mathcal{P} be a k -neighbourly n -polytope which is a lattice.

k-neighbourliness

A few results

Here we will only consider **regular** or **chiral** polytopes which are **lattices**.

Lemma

Let \mathcal{P} be a k -neighbourly n -polytope which is a lattice.

- 1 *Then $k \leq n + 1$ and each k -face is a k -simplex. If $k = n$ or $n + 1$ then \mathcal{P} is the n -simplex.*

k-neighbourliness

A few results

Here we will only consider **regular** or **chiral** polytopes which are **lattices**.

Lemma

Let \mathcal{P} be a k -neighbourly n -polytope which is a lattice.

- Then $k \leq n + 1$ and each k -face is a k -simplex. If $k = n$ or $n + 1$ then \mathcal{P} is the n -simplex.*
- Each j -face of \mathcal{P} with $j \geq k - 1$ is k -neighbourly, and each co-face at a j -face with $j \leq k - 2$ is $(k - j - 1)$ -neighbourly.*

k-neighbourliness

A few results

Here we will only consider **regular** or **chiral** polytopes which are **lattices**.

Lemma

Let \mathcal{P} be a k -neighbourly n -polytope which is a lattice.

- 1 Then $k \leq n + 1$ and each k -face is a k -simplex. If $k = n$ or $n + 1$ then \mathcal{P} is the n -simplex.
- 2 Each j -face of \mathcal{P} with $j \geq k - 1$ is k -neighbourly, and each co-face at a j -face with $j \leq k - 2$ is $(k - j - 1)$ -neighbourly.

- So faces of “large” rank are also k -neighbourly, and

k-neighbourliness

A few results

Here we will only consider **regular** or **chiral** polytopes which are **lattices**.

Lemma

Let \mathcal{P} be a k -neighbourly n -polytope which is a lattice.

- 1 Then $k \leq n + 1$ and each k -face is a k -simplex. If $k = n$ or $n + 1$ then \mathcal{P} is the n -simplex.
- 2 Each j -face of \mathcal{P} with $j \geq k - 1$ is k -neighbourly, and each co-face at a j -face with $j \leq k - 2$ is $(k - j - 1)$ -neighbourly.

- So faces of “large” rank are also k -neighbourly, and
- vertex-figures are $(k - 1)$ -neighbourly.

k-neighbourliness

A few results

Lemma

If \mathcal{P} is a n -polytope which is a lattice and $k \leq n - 1$, then the following conditions are equivalent:

k-neighbourliness

A few results

Lemma

If \mathcal{P} is a n -polytope which is a lattice and $k \leq n - 1$, then the following conditions are equivalent:

- 1 \mathcal{P} is k -neighbourly.

k-neighbourliness

A few results

Lemma

If \mathcal{P} is a n -polytope which is a lattice and $k \leq n - 1$, then the following conditions are equivalent:

- 1 \mathcal{P} is k -neighbourly.
- 2 \mathcal{P} is $\{0, \dots, k - 1\}$ -transitive.

k-neighbourliness

A few results

Lemma

If \mathcal{P} is a n -polytope which is a lattice and $k \leq n - 1$, then the following conditions are equivalent:

- 1 \mathcal{P} is k -neighbourly.
- 2 \mathcal{P} is $\{0, \dots, k - 1\}$ -transitive.
- 3 $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ acts k -transitively on the vertices of \mathcal{P} .

k-neighbourliness

A few results

Lemma

If \mathcal{P} is a n -polytope which is a lattice and $k \leq n - 1$, then the following conditions are equivalent:

- 1 \mathcal{P} is k -neighbourly.
- 2 \mathcal{P} is $\{0, \dots, k - 1\}$ -transitive.
- 3 $\Gamma(\mathcal{P})$ acts k -transitively on the vertices of \mathcal{P} .
- 4 The number of l -faces of \mathcal{P} is $f_l = \binom{f_0}{l+1}$ for all $1 \leq l \leq k - 1$.

2-neighbourliness

A few results

Theorem (W. Kimmerle and E. Kouzoudi, 2003)

The doubly transitive automorphism groups of combinatorial surfaces are:

2-neighbourliness

A few results

Theorem (W. Kimmerle and E. Kouzoudi, 2003)

The doubly transitive automorphism groups of combinatorial surfaces are:

- S_4 acting on the tetrahedron,

2-neighbourliness

A few results

Theorem (W. Kimmerle and E. Kouzoudi, 2003)

The doubly transitive automorphism groups of combinatorial surfaces are:

- S_4 acting on the tetrahedron,
- A_5 acting on the hemi-icosahedron, and

2-neighbourliness

A few results

Theorem (W. Kimmerle and E. Kouzoudi, 2003)

The doubly transitive automorphism groups of combinatorial surfaces are:

- S_4 acting on the tetrahedron,
- A_5 acting on the hemi-icosahedron, and
- The Frobenius group $C_7 \cdot C_6$ acting on the torus map $\{3, 6\}_{(1,2)}$.

2-neighbourliness

A few results

Theorem (W. Kimmerle and E. Kouzoudi, 2003)

The doubly transitive automorphism groups of combinatorial surfaces are:

- S_4 acting on the tetrahedron,
- A_5 acting on the hemi-icosahedron, and
- The Frobenius group $C_7 \cdot C_6$ acting on the torus map $\{3, 6\}_{(1,2)}$.

So these are the only 2-neighbourly 3-polytopes.

3-neighbourliness

A few results

- Suppose \mathcal{P} is a regular 3-neighbourly 4-polytope which is a lattice.

3-neighbourliness

A few results

- Suppose \mathcal{P} is a regular 3-neighbourly 4-polytope which is a lattice.
- \mathcal{P} has 3-neighbourly facets and 2-neighbourly vertex-figures (both regular).

3-neighbourliness

A few results

- Suppose \mathcal{P} is a regular 3-neighbourly 4-polytope which is a lattice.
- \mathcal{P} has 3-neighbourly facets and 2-neighbourly vertex-figures (both regular).
- Facets are simplices and vertex figures are $\{3, 3\}$ or $\{3, 5\}_5$.

3-neighbourliness

A few results

- Suppose \mathcal{P} is a regular 3-neighbourly 4-polytope which is a lattice.
- \mathcal{P} has 3-neighbourly facets and 2-neighbourly vertex-figures (both regular).
- Facets are simplices and vertex figures are $\{3, 3\}$ or $\{3, 5\}_5$.
- \mathcal{P} is a simplex or has type $\{3, 3, 5\}$, but this is a quotient of the 600-cell and we rule it out.

3-neighbourliness

A few results

- Suppose \mathcal{P} is a chiral 3-neighbourly 4-polytope which is a lattice.

3-neighbourliness

A few results

- Suppose \mathcal{P} is a chiral 3-neighbourly 4-polytope which is a lattice.
- \mathcal{P} has 3-neighbourly facets (so type $\{3, 3\}$) and chiral 2-neighbourly vertex-figure ($\{3, 6\}$).

3-neighbourliness

A few results

- Suppose \mathcal{P} is a chiral 3-neighbourly 4-polytope which is a lattice.
- \mathcal{P} has 3-neighbourly facets (so type $\{3, 3\}$) and chiral 2-neighbourly vertex-figure ($\{3, 6\}$).
- There is a chiral $\{3, 3, 6\}$ 4-polytope \mathcal{P} with $\Gamma(\mathcal{P}) \cong PSL(2, 7) \rtimes C_2$ (E. Schulte, A. I. Weiss, 1994).

3-neighbourliness

A few results

- Suppose \mathcal{P} is a chiral 3-neighbourly 4-polytope which is a lattice.
- \mathcal{P} has 3-neighbourly facets (so type $\{3, 3\}$) and chiral 2-neighbourly vertex-figure ($\{3, 6\}$).
- There is a chiral $\{3, 3, 6\}$ 4-polytope \mathcal{P} with $\Gamma(\mathcal{P}) \cong PSL(2, 7) \times C_2$ (E. Schulte, A. I. Weiss, 1994).
- It's 3-neighbourly!

3-neighbourliness

A few results

Theorem

The only 3-neighbourly regular 4-polytopes which are lattices are simplices.

3-neighbourliness

A few results

Theorem

The only 3-neighbourly regular 4-polytopes which are lattices are simplices.

Theorem

There is only one chiral 3-neighbourly 4-polytope which is a lattice, namely, $\{\{3, 3\}, \{3, 6\}_{1,2}\}$ ($\Gamma(\mathcal{P}) \cong \text{PSL}(2, 7) \rtimes C_2$).

3-neighbourliness

A few results

Theorem

The only 3-neighbourly regular 4-polytopes which are lattices are simplices.

Theorem

There is only one chiral 3-neighbourly 4-polytope which is a lattice, namely, $\{\{3, 3\}, \{3, 6\}_{1,2}\}$ ($\Gamma(\mathcal{P}) \cong \text{PSL}(2, 7) \rtimes C_2$).

Theorem

There are no chiral 3-neighbourly 5-polytopes.

k-neighbourliness

What next?

- Check for 3-neighbourliness on higher ranks.

k-neighbourliness

What next?

- Check for 3-neighbourliness on higher ranks.
- Doing 3-neighbourliness takes care of k -neighbourliness for $3 \leq k$.

k-neighbourliness

What next?

- Check for 3-neighbourliness on higher ranks.
- Doing 3-neighbourliness takes care of k -neighbourliness for $3 \leq k$.
- What about 2-neighbourliness? Hard... 2-transitive groups.

k-neighbourliness

What next?

- Check for 3-neighbourliness on higher ranks.
- Doing 3-neighbourliness takes care of k -neighbourliness for $3 \leq k$.
- What about 2-neighbourliness? Hard... 2-transitive groups.
- Drop lattice condition??

Thank you!

and

Happy birthday!!!