

# Simplicial spanning trees

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Discrete Mathematics & Representation Theory Seminar  
University of California, Davis  
May 23, 2008

## Counting weighted spanning trees of $K_n$

**Theorem** [Cayley]:  $K_n$  has  $n^{n-2}$  spanning trees.

$T$  spanning tree: set of edges containing all vertices and

1. connected ( $\tilde{H}_0(T) = 0$ )
2. no cycles ( $\tilde{H}_1(T) = 0$ )
3.  $|T| = n - 1$

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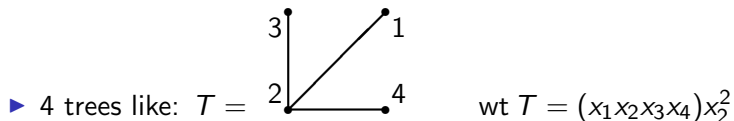
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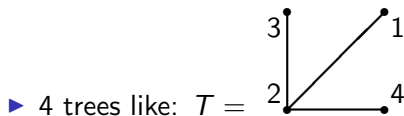
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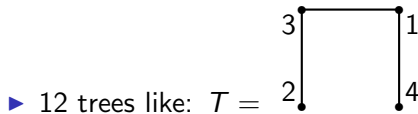
both!  $\text{wt } T = \prod_{e \in T} \text{wt } e = \prod_{e \in T} (\prod_{v \in e} x_v)$  Prüfer coding

$$\sum_{T \in \text{ST}(K_n)} \text{wt } T = (x_1 \cdots x_n)(x_1 + \cdots + x_n)^{n-2}$$

Example:  $K_4$ 

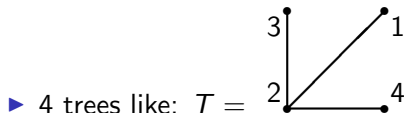
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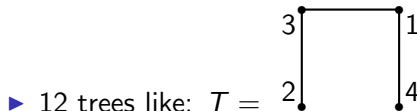


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Total is  $(x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4) (x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4)^2$ .

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Defn 1:  $L(G) = D(G) - A(G)$

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# Laplacian

**Definition** The **reduced Laplacian** matrix of graph  $G$ , denoted by  $L_r(G)$ .

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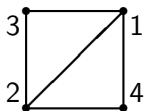
$A(G)$  = adjacency matrix

Defn 2:  $L(G) = \partial(G)\partial(G)^T$

$\partial(G)$  = incidence matrix (boundary matrix)

“**Reduced**”: remove rows/columns corresponding to any one vertex

## Example



$$\partial = \begin{array}{c|cccccc} & 12 & 13 & 14 & 23 & 24 \\ \hline 1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array}$$

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Matrix-Tree Theorems

**Version I** Let  $0, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{n-1}$  be the eigenvalues of  $L$ . Then  $G$  has

$$\frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \cdots \lambda_{n-1}}{n}$$

spanning trees.

**Version II**  $G$  has  $|\det L_r(G)|$  spanning trees

**Proof** [Version II]

$$\begin{aligned} \det L_r(G) &= \det \partial_r(G) \partial_r(G)^T = \sum_T (\det \partial_r(T))^2 \\ &= \sum_T (\pm 1)^2 \end{aligned}$$

by Binet-Cauchy

Example:  $K_n$ 

$$\begin{aligned} L(K_n) &= nI - J && (n \times n); \\ L_r(K_n) &= nI - J && (n-1 \times n-1) \end{aligned}$$



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$$L(K_n) = nI - J \quad (n \times n);$$

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Version I: Eigenvalues of  $L$  are  $n - n$  (multiplicity 1),  $n - 0$  (multiplicity  $n - 1$ ), so

$$\frac{n^{n-1}}{n} = n^{n-2}$$

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$$\frac{n^{n-1}}{n} = n^{n-2}$$

Version II:

$$\begin{aligned} \det L_r &= \prod \text{eigenvalues} \\ &= (n - 0)^{(n-1)-1} (n - (n - 1)) \\ &= n^{n-2} \end{aligned}$$

## Weighted Matrix-Tree Theorem

$$\sum_{T \in ST(G)} \text{wt } T = |\det \hat{L}_r(G)|,$$

where  $\hat{L}$  is weighted Laplacian.

Defn 1:  $\hat{L}(G) = \hat{D}(G) - \hat{A}(G)$

$$\hat{D}(G) = \text{diag}(\hat{\text{deg}}v_1, \dots, \hat{\text{deg}}v_n)$$

$$\hat{\text{deg}}v_i = \sum_{v_i v_j \in E} x_i x_j$$

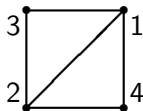
$\hat{A}(G) =$  adjacency matrix  
 (entry  $x_i x_j$  for edge  $v_i v_j$ )

Defn 2:  $\hat{L}(G) = \partial(G)B(G)\partial(G)^T$

$\partial(G) =$  incidence matrix

$B(G)$  diagonal, indexed by edges,  
 entry  $\pm x_i x_j$  for edge  $v_i v_j$

## Example



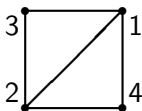
$$\hat{L} = \begin{pmatrix} 1(2+3+4) & -12 & -13 & -14 \\ -12 & 2(1+3+4) & -23 & -24 \\ -13 & -23 & 3(1+2) & 0 \\ -14 & -24 & 0 & 4(1+2) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\det \hat{L}_r = (1234)(1+2)(1+2+3+4)$$

# Threshold graphs: Order ideal definition

- ▶ Vertices  $1, \dots, n$

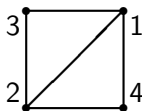
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# Threshold graphs: Order ideal definition

- ▶ Vertices  $1, \dots, n$
- ▶  $E \in \mathcal{E}, i \notin E, j \in E, i < j \Rightarrow E \cup i - j \in \mathcal{E}$ .

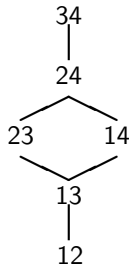
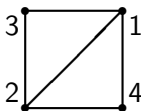
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- ▶ Vertices  $1, \dots, n$
- ▶  $E \in \mathcal{E}, i \notin E, j \in E, i < j \Rightarrow E \cup i - j \in \mathcal{E}$ .
- ▶ Equivalently, the edges form an initial ideal in the componentwise partial order.

### Example



# Threshold graphs: Recursive building

Defn 2: Can build recursively, by adding isolated vertices, and coning.

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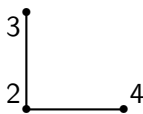
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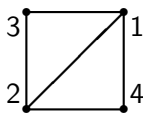
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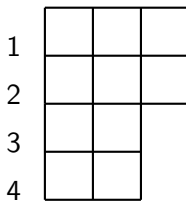
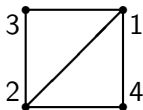
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# Eigenvalues of threshold graphs

**Theorem** [Merris '94] Eigenvalues are given by the transpose of the Ferrers diagram of the degree sequence  $d$ .



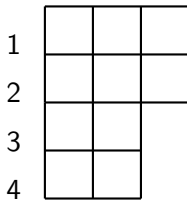
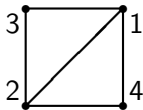
**Corollary**  $\prod_{r \neq 1} (d^T)_r$  spanning trees

## Weighted spanning trees of threshold graphs

**Theorem** [Martin-Reiner '03; implied by Remmel-Williamson '02]:  
If  $G$  is threshold, then

$$\sum_{T \in ST(G)} \text{wt } T = (x_1 \cdots x_n) \prod_{r \neq 1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{(d^T)_r} x_i \right).$$

### Example



$$(1234)(1+2)(1+2+3+4)$$

# Complete skeleta of simplicial complexes

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**Complete skeleton** The  $k$ -dimensional complete complex on  $n$  vertices, *i.e.*,

$$K_n^k = \{F \subseteq V : |F| \leq k + 1\}$$

(so  $K_n = K_n^1$ ).

## Simplicial spanning trees of $K_n^k$ [Kalai, '83]

$\Upsilon \subseteq K_n^k$  is a **simplicial spanning tree** of  $K_n^k$  when:

0.  $\Upsilon_{(k-1)} = K_n^{k-1}$  (“spanning”);
  1.  $\tilde{H}_{k-1}(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Z})$  is a finite group (“connected”);
  2.  $\tilde{H}_k(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Z}) = 0$  (“acyclic”);
  3.  $|\Upsilon| = \binom{n-1}{k}$  (“count”).
- ▶ If 0. holds, then any two of 1., 2., 3. together imply the third condition.
  - ▶ When  $k = 1$ , coincides with usual definition.



# Counting simplicial spanning trees of $K_n^k$

**Conjecture** [Bolker '76]

$$\sum_{\tau \in SST(K_n^k)} = n \binom{n-2}{k}$$

# Counting simplicial spanning trees of $K_n^k$

**Theorem** [Kalai '83]

$$\sum_{\tau \in SST(K_n^k)} |\tilde{H}_{k-1}(\tau)|^2 = n \binom{n-2}{k}$$

## Weighted simplicial spanning trees of $K_n^k$

As before,

$$\text{wt } \Upsilon = \prod_{F \in \Upsilon} \text{wt } F = \prod_{F \in \Upsilon} \left( \prod_{v \in F} x_v \right)$$

Example:

$$\Upsilon = \{123, 124, 125, 134, 135, 245\}$$

$$\text{wt } \Upsilon = x_1^5 x_2^4 x_3^3 x_4^3 x_5^3$$

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**Theorem** [Kalai, '83]

$$\sum_{T \in \text{SST}(K_n)} |\tilde{H}_{k-1}(T)|^2 (\text{wt } T) = (x_1 \cdots x_n)^{\binom{n-2}{k-1}} (x_1 + \cdots + x_n)^{\binom{n-2}{k}}$$

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(Adin ('92) did something similar for complete  $r$ -partite complexes.)

# Proof

Proof uses determinant of reduced **Laplacian** of  $K_n^k$ . “Reduced” now means pick one vertex, and then remove rows/columns corresponding to all  $(k - 1)$ -dimensional faces containing that vertex.

$$L = \partial\partial^T$$

$$\partial: \Delta_k \rightarrow \Delta_{k-1} \text{ boundary}$$

$$\partial^T: \Delta_{k-1} \rightarrow \Delta_k \text{ coboundary}$$

Weighted version: Multiply column  $F$  of  $\partial$  by  $x_F$

# Example $n = 4, k = 2$

$$\partial^T = \begin{array}{c|cccccc} & 12 & 13 & 14 & 23 & 24 & 34 \\ \hline 123 & -1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 124 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 134 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 234 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 \end{array}$$

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Simplicial spanning trees of arbitrary simplicial complexes

Let  $\Sigma$  be a  $d$ -dimensional simplicial complex.

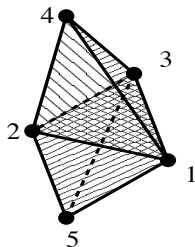
$\Upsilon \subseteq \Sigma$  is a **simplicial spanning tree** of  $\Sigma$  when:

0.  $\Upsilon_{(d-1)} = \Sigma_{(d-1)}$  (“spanning”);
  1.  $\tilde{H}_{d-1}(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Z})$  is a finite group (“connected”);
  2.  $\tilde{H}_d(\Upsilon; \mathbb{Z}) = 0$  (“acyclic”);
  3.  $f_d(\Upsilon) = f_d(\Sigma) - \tilde{\beta}_d(\Sigma) + \tilde{\beta}_{d-1}(\Sigma)$  (“count”).
- ▶ If 0. holds, then any two of 1., 2., 3. together imply the third condition.
  - ▶ When  $d = 1$ , coincides with usual definition.



# Example

Bipyramid with equator,  $\langle 123, 124, 125, 134, 135, 234, 235 \rangle$



Let's figure out all its simplicial spanning trees.

# Metaconnectedness

- ▶ Denote by  $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$  the set of simplicial spanning trees of  $\Sigma$ .
- ▶ **Proposition**  $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma) \neq \emptyset$  iff  $\Sigma$  is **metaconnected**, *i.e.* (equivalently)
  - ▶ homology type of wedge of spheres;
  - ▶  $\tilde{H}_j(\Sigma; \mathbb{Z})$  is finite for all  $j < \dim \Sigma$ .
- ▶ Many interesting complexes are metaconnected, including everything we'll talk about.

## Simplicial Matrix-Tree Theorem — Version I

- ▶  $\Sigma$  a  $d$ -dimensional metaconnected simplicial complex
- ▶  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional **(up-down) Laplacian**  $L_{d-1} = \partial_{d-1} \partial_{d-1}^T$
- ▶  $s_d =$  product of nonzero eigenvalues of  $L_{d-1}$ .

**Theorem [DKM]**

$$h_d := \sum_{\Upsilon \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma)} |\tilde{H}_{d-1}(\Upsilon)|^2 = \frac{s_d}{h_{d-1}} |\tilde{H}_{d-2}(\Sigma)|^2$$

## Simplicial Matrix-Tree Theorem — Version II

- ▶  $\Gamma \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma(d-1))$
- ▶  $\partial_\Gamma =$  restriction of  $\partial_d$  to faces not in  $\Gamma$
- ▶ reduced Laplacian  $L_\Gamma = \partial_\Gamma \partial_\Gamma^*$

**Theorem [DKM]**

$$h_d = \sum_{\Upsilon \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma)} |\tilde{H}_{d-1}(\Upsilon)|^2 = \frac{|\tilde{H}_{d-2}(\Sigma; \mathbb{Z})|^2}{|\tilde{H}_{d-2}(\Gamma; \mathbb{Z})|^2} \det L_\Gamma.$$

**Note:** The  $|\tilde{H}_{d-2}|$  terms are often trivial.

## Weighted Simplicial Matrix-Tree Theorems

- ▶ Introduce an indeterminate  $x_F$  for each face  $F \in \Delta$
- ▶ Weighted boundary  $\partial$ : multiply column  $F$  of (usual)  $\partial$  by  $x_F$
- ▶  $\partial_\Gamma =$  restriction of  $\partial_d$  to faces not in  $\Gamma$
- ▶ Weighted reduced Laplacian  $\mathbf{L} = \partial_\Gamma \partial_\Gamma^*$

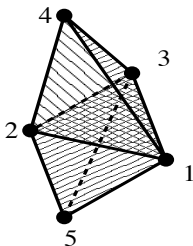
**Theorem** [DKM]

$$\mathbf{h}_d := \sum_{\Upsilon \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma)} |\tilde{H}_{d-1}(\Upsilon)|^2 \prod_{F \in \Upsilon} x_F^2 = \frac{\mathbf{s}_d}{\mathbf{h}_{d-1}} |\tilde{H}_{d-2}(\Sigma)|^2$$

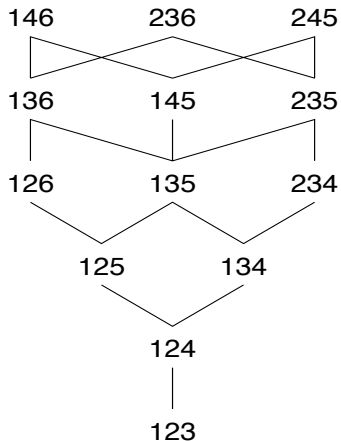
$$\mathbf{h}_d = \frac{|\tilde{H}_{d-2}(\Delta; \mathbb{Z})|^2}{|\tilde{H}_{d-2}(\Gamma; \mathbb{Z})|^2} \det \mathbf{L}_\Gamma.$$

## Definition of shifted complexes

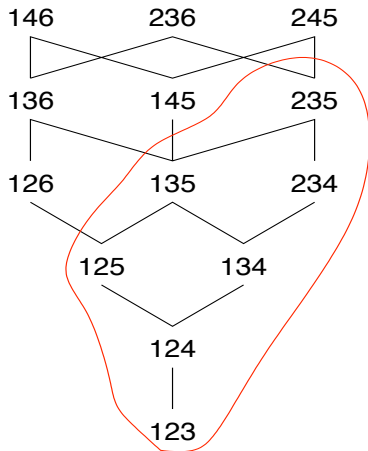
- ▶ Vertices  $1, \dots, n$
- ▶  $F \in \Sigma, i \notin F, j \in F, i < j \Rightarrow F \cup i - j \in \Sigma$
- ▶ Equivalently, the  $k$ -faces form an initial ideal in the componentwise partial order.
- ▶ **Example** (bipyramid with equator)  
 $\langle 123, 124, 125, 134, 135, 234, 235 \rangle$



# Hasse diagram



# Hasse diagram





## Links and deletions

- ▶ Deletion,  $\text{del}_1 \Sigma = \{G : 1 \notin G, G \in \Sigma\}$ .
- ▶ Link,  $\text{lk}_1 \Sigma = \{F - 1 : 1 \in F, F \in \Sigma\}$ .
- ▶ Deletion and link are each shifted, with vertices  $2, \dots, n$ .
- ▶ **Example:**

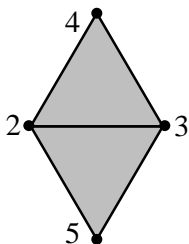
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- ▶ Deletion and link are each shifted, with vertices  $2, \dots, n$ .
- ▶ **Example:**

$$\Sigma = \langle 123, 124, 125, 134, 135, 234, 235 \rangle$$

$$\text{del}_1 \Sigma = \langle 234, 235 \rangle$$



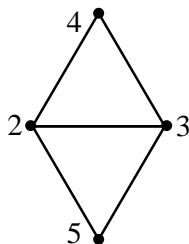
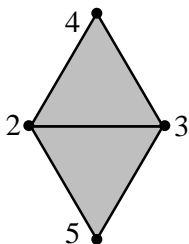
## Links and deletions

- ▶ Deletion,  $\text{del}_1 \Sigma = \{G : 1 \notin G, G \in \Sigma\}$ .
- ▶ Link,  $\text{lk}_1 \Sigma = \{F - 1 : 1 \in F, F \in \Sigma\}$ .
- ▶ Deletion and link are each shifted, with vertices  $2, \dots, n$ .
- ▶ **Example:**

$$\Sigma = \langle 123, 124, 125, 134, 135, 234, 235 \rangle$$

$$\text{del}_1 \Sigma = \langle 234, 235 \rangle$$

$$\text{lk}_1 \Sigma = \langle 23, 24, 25, 34, 35 \rangle$$



## Weighted spanning trees

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where  $X_j = x_j^2$

## Weighted spanning trees reduce to eigenvalues

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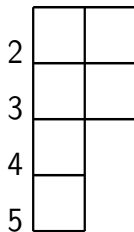
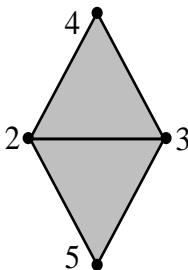
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## Eigenvalues

**Theorem** [D-Reiner, '02]

Non-zero eigenvalues are given by the transpose of the Ferrers diagram of the (generalized) degree sequence  $d$ .

**Example**



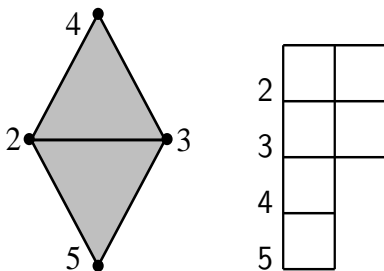


## Weighted Eigenvalues

### Theorem [DKM]

Non-zero weighted eigenvalues are given by the transpose of the Ferrers diagram of the (generalized) degree sequence  $d$ .

### Example



$$(2 + 3)(2 + 3 + 4 + 5)$$

## Weighted enumeration of SST's in shifted complexes

**Theorem** Let  $\Lambda = \text{lk}_1 \Sigma$ ,  $\Delta = \text{del}_1 \Sigma$ ,

**Example** bipyramid  $\Sigma = \langle 123, 124, 125, 134, 135, 234, 235 \rangle$  again

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$$h_d = \prod_{\sigma \in \Lambda} X_{\sigma \cup 1} \prod_r \left( \sum_{i=1}^{1+(d(\Delta)^T)_r} X_i \right) / X_1$$

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## Weighted enumeration of SST's in shifted complexes

**Theorem** Let  $\Lambda = \text{lk}_1 \Sigma$ ,  $\tilde{\Lambda} = 1 * \Lambda$ ,  $\Delta = \text{del}_1 \Sigma$ ,  $\tilde{\Delta} = 1 * \Delta$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{h}_d &= \prod_{\sigma \in \Lambda} X_{\sigma \cup 1} \prod_r \left( \left( \sum_{i=1}^{1+(d(\Delta))^T, r} X_i \right) / X_1 \right) \\ &= \prod_{\sigma \in \tilde{\Lambda}} X_{\sigma} \prod_r \left( \left( \sum_{i=1}^{(d(\tilde{\Delta}))^T, r} X_i \right) / X_1 \right). \end{aligned}$$

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$$\Delta = \text{del}_1 \Sigma = \langle 234, 235 \rangle \quad \tilde{\Delta} = \langle 1234, 1235 \rangle$$

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## Fine weighting

- ▶ Weight  $F = \{i_1 < \dots < i_k\}$  by

$$x_{1,i_1} x_{2,i_2} \cdots x_{k,i_k}.$$

- ▶ Keeps track of where in each face the vertex appears.
- ▶ Can generalize our results on tree enumeration and eigenvalues, but things get more complex.

# Conjecture for Matroid Complexes

$h_d$  again seems to factor nicely, though we can't describe it yet.

## Cubical complexes

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- ▶ Complete skeleta are very nicely behaved for eigenvalues, spanning trees.
- ▶ Cubical analogue of shifted complexes have integer eigenvalues; still working on trees.

## Definition of color-shifted complexes

- ▶ Set of colors
- ▶  $n_c$  vertices,  $(c, 1), (c, 2), \dots, (c, n_c)$  of color  $c$ .
- ▶ Faces contain at most one vertex of each color.
- ▶ Can replace  $(c, j)$  by  $(c, i)$  in a face if  $i < j$ .
- ▶ Example: Faces written as (red,blue,green): 111, 112, 113, 121, 122, 123, 131, 132, 211, 212, 213, 221, 222, 223, 231, 232.

## Conjecture for complete color-shifted complexes

Let  $\Delta$  be the color-shifted complex generated by the face with red  $a$ , blue  $b$ , green  $c$ . Let the red vertices be  $x_1, \dots, x_a$ , the blue vertices be  $y_1, \dots, y_b$ , and the green vertices be  $z_1, \dots, z_c$ .

### Conjecture

$$\begin{aligned} h_d(\Delta) &= \left(\prod_{i=1}^a x_i\right)^{b+c-1} \left(\prod_{j=1}^b y_j\right)^{a+c-1} \left(\prod_{k=1}^c z_k\right)^{a+b-1} \\ &\times \left(\sum_{i=1}^a x_i\right)^{(b-1)(c-1)} \left(\sum_{j=1}^b y_j\right)^{(a-1)(c-1)} \left(\sum_{k=1}^c z_k\right)^{(a-1)(b-1)} \end{aligned}$$

# Notes on conjecture

- ▶ This is with coarse weighting. Every vertex  $v$  has weight  $x_v$ , and every face  $F$  has weight

$$x_F = \prod_{v \in F} x_v.$$

- ▶ The case with two colors is a (complete) **Ferrers graph**, studied by Ehrenborg and van Willigenburg.