

Counting weighted simplicial spanning trees  
of shifted complexes

CombinaTexas

Texas A&M

February, '07

**Counting weighted simplicial spanning  
trees of shifted complexes**

Art Duval

*University of Texas at El Paso*

Caroline Klivans

*University of Chicago*

Jeremy Martin

*University of Kansas*

## COUNTING SPANNING TREES OF $K_n$

Thm (Cayley):  $K_n$  has  $n^{n-2}$  spanning trees.

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

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

Note: Any two conditions imply the third.

### WITH WHAT WEIGHTING?

**vertices** Silly ( $n^{n-2}(x_1 \cdots x_n)$ )

**edges** No nice structure (can't see  $n^{n-2}$ )

**edges and vertices** Get Prüfer coding

$$\text{wt } T = \prod_{e \in T} \text{wt } e = \prod_{e \in T} \left( \prod_{v \in e} x_v \right)$$

$$\sum_{T \in ST(K_n)} \text{wt } T =$$

$$(x_1 \cdots x_n)(x_1 + \cdots + x_n)^{n-2}$$

## ARBITRARY GRAPHS

Thm (Matrix Tree): Graph  $G$  has  $|\det L_r(G)|$  spanning trees, where  $L_r(G)$  is the reduced Laplacian matrix of  $G$ .

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

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

$A(G) =$  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

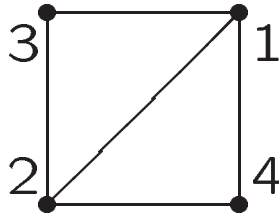
Proof (Matrix Tree Theorem):

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

by Binet-Cauchy

## EXAMPLES

Example:



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

Example:  $K_n$

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

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

## WEIGHTED MATRIX TREE THEOREM

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

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

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

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

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

$$A(G) = \text{adjacency matrix}$$

(entry  $x_i x_j$  for edge  $v_i v_j$ )

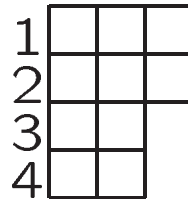
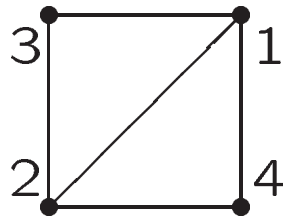
Defn 2:  $\hat{L}(G) = \partial(G)B(G)\partial(G)^T$

$$\partial(G) = \text{incidence matrix}$$

$B(G)$  diagonal, indexed by edges,

entry  $\pm x_i x_j$  for edge  $v_i v_j$

Example:



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

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

$$\begin{aligned} \det \hat{L}_r &= 234 \begin{vmatrix} 1+3+4 & -\sqrt{23} & -\sqrt{24} \\ -\sqrt{23} & 1+2 & 0 \\ -\sqrt{24} & 0 & 1+2 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 234 \left| 1I + \begin{pmatrix} 3+4 & -\sqrt{23} & -\sqrt{24} \\ -\sqrt{23} & 2 & 0 \\ -\sqrt{24} & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \right| \\ &= 234(1+0)(1+2)(1+2+3+4) \\ &= (1234)(1+2)(1+2+3+4) \end{aligned}$$

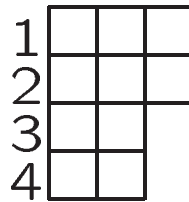
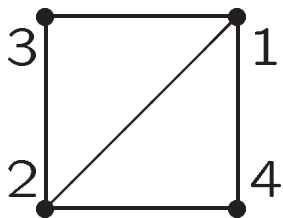
## THRESHOLD GRAPHS

Defn 1:  $V = 1, \dots, n$

$E \in \mathcal{E}, i \notin E, j \in E, i < j \Rightarrow E \cup i - j \in \mathcal{E}$ .

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

Ex:



**Thm (Merris '94):** Threshold graph has

$$\prod_{r \neq 1} (d^T)_r$$

spanning trees, where  $d$  is degree sequence.

**Thm (Martin-Reiner '03; implied by Remmel-Williamson '02):** If  $G$  is threshold, then

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



## SIMPLICIAL SPANNING TREES of $K_n^k$

Simplicial complex:  $\Delta \subseteq 2^V$ ;

$F \subseteq G \in \Delta \Rightarrow F \in \Delta$ .

$K_n^k$  denotes the  $k$ -dimensional complete complex on  $n$  vertices (so  $K_n = K_n^1$ ).

Simplicial spanning trees of  $K_n^k$  (Kalai, '83):  
Set  $T$ , of  $k$ -dimensional faces, containing all  $(k-1)$ -dimensional faces and:

1.  $|T| = \binom{n-1}{k}$
2.  $\tilde{H}_k(T) = 0$
3.  $\tilde{H}_{k-1}(T)$  is finite group

Note: Any two conditions imply the third.

How many are there?

Bolker ('76) should be  $n \binom{n-2}{k}$ , but isn't

Kalai ('83) proves

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

## WEIGHTING

As before, weight tree by product of the faces of the tree, and, for nice factoring, weight face by product of vertices.

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

Thm (Kalai '83):

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

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

## KALAI'S THEOREM

Proof (unweighted; weighted is similar):

$$\begin{aligned}n \binom{n-2}{k} &= \det L_r(K_n^k) = \det \partial_r(K_n^k) \partial_r(K_n^k)^T \\ &= \sum_T (\det \partial_r(T))^2 \\ &= \sum_T |\tilde{H}_{k-1}(T)|^2\end{aligned}$$

by Binet-Cauchy, again.

“Reduced” now means pick one vertex, and then remove rows/columns corresponding to all  $(k - 1)$ -dimensional faces containing that vertex.

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

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

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

EXAMPLE  $n = 4, k = 2$

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

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

Note that  $L_{F,G} \neq 0$  iff  $F$  and  $G$  differ by just one vertex.

## SIMPLICIAL SPANNING TREES of ARBITRARY COMPLEXES

Defn: (Assume  $\dim \Delta = k$ .)  $k$ -dimensional complex  $T$  containing all  $(k - 1)$ -dimensional faces of  $\Delta$  ( $T^{(k-1)} = \Delta^{(k-1)}$ ) and:

1.  $f_k(T) = f_k(\Delta) - \beta_k(\Delta) + \beta_{k-1}(\Delta)$
2.  $\tilde{H}_k(T) = 0$
3.  $\tilde{H}_{k-1}(T)$  is finite group

Note: Any two conditions imply the third.

$f_k$  is number of  $k$ -dimensional faces;

$$\beta_k = \dim_{\mathbb{Q}} \tilde{H}_k$$

## SIMPLICIAL MATRIX TREE THEOREM

Thm (DKM):

$$\sum_{T \in SST(\Delta)} |\tilde{H}_{k-1}(T)|^2 = \frac{|\tilde{H}_{k-2}(\Delta)|^2}{|\tilde{H}_{k-2}(\Delta_U)|^2} \det L_r.$$

$U$  = set of facets of  $(k-1)$ -spanning tree of  $\Delta$

$L_r$  is  $L$  reduced by all of  $U$

$$\Delta_U = U \cup \Delta^{(k-2)}$$

There is also analogous weighted version.

## SHIFTED SIMPLICIAL COMPLEXES

Defn:  $V = 1, \dots, n$

$F \in \Delta, i \notin F, j \in F, i < j \Rightarrow F \cup i - j \in \Delta$   
 (equivalently, the  $k$ -faces form an initial ideal in the componentwise partial order).

Ex: bipyramid =  $\{123, 124, 125, 134, 135, 234, 235\}$  (and subfaces)

$$\Delta = (1 * \text{lk}_{\Delta} 1) \dot{\cup} B_{\Delta}$$

$$B_{\Delta} = \{F \in \Delta : 1 \notin F, F \dot{\cup} 1 \notin \Delta\}$$

$$\text{lk}_{\Delta} 1 = \{F - 1 : 1 \in F, F \in \Delta\}, \text{ shifted}$$

$$\text{del}_{\Delta} 1 = \{G : 1 \notin G, G \in \Delta\}, \text{ shifted}$$

$$\beta_i(\Delta) = f_i(B_{\Delta})$$

$$\text{del}_{\Delta} 1 = \text{lk}_{\Delta} 1 \dot{\cup} B_{\Delta}$$

(D-Reiner '02) Eigenvalues of top-dimensional Laplacian given by  $d^T$  where  $d$  is degree sequence,  $d_i = |\{\text{facets } F : i \in F\}|$ .

## EXAMPLE: BIPYRAMID

$$B_{\Delta} = 234, 235$$

$$lk_{\Delta} 1 = 23, 24, 25, 34, 25; 2, 3, 4, 5; \emptyset$$

$$\text{del}_{\Delta} 1 = lk_{\Delta} 1 \dot{\cup} B_{\Delta}.$$

Eigenvalues



## COUNTING TREES OF SHIFTED COMPLEXES

Pick  $U$  to be ridges ( $(k-1)$ -dimensional faces) containing 1, which is acyclic, and contains  $(k-1)$ -faces of  $\Delta$ , and so it is (the facets of) a simplicial spanning tree.

Also,  $\tilde{H}_{k-2}(\Delta_U) = 0$ , and if  $\Delta$  is pure and shifted, then  $\tilde{H}_{k-2}(\Delta) = 0$ , so we just have to compute  $\det \hat{L}_r$ .

Ex: bipyramid. Set of all ridges is all possible edges, except 45.  $U = \{12, 13, 14, 15\}$ , so  $\hat{L}_r$  is indexed by  $\{23, 24, 25, 34, 35\}$ .

$$\hat{L}_r =$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 23(1+4+5) & -234 & -235 & 234 & 235 \\
 -234 & 24(1+3) & 0 & -234 & 0 \\
 -235 & 0 & 25(1+3) & 0 & -235 \\
 234 & 234 & 0 & (1+2)34 & 0 \\
 235 & 0 & -235 & 0 & (1+2)35
 \end{array}$$

## SIMPLIFICATIONS

$$\det \hat{L}_r = (23)(24)(25)(34)(35) \det M$$

$$\det M = \begin{vmatrix} 1 + 4 + 5 & -\sqrt{34} & -\sqrt{35} & \sqrt{24} & \sqrt{25} \\ -\sqrt{34} & 1 + 3 & 0 & -\sqrt{23} & 0 \\ -\sqrt{35} & 0 & 1 + 3 & 0 & -\sqrt{23} \\ \sqrt{24} & -\sqrt{23} & 0 & 1 + 2 & 0 \\ \sqrt{25} & 0 & -\sqrt{23} & 0 & 1 + 2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= |1I + N|$$

$$N = \begin{pmatrix} 4 + 5 & -\sqrt{34} & -\sqrt{35} & \sqrt{24} & \sqrt{25} \\ -\sqrt{34} & 3 & 0 & -\sqrt{23} & 0 \\ -\sqrt{35} & 0 & 3 & 0 & -\sqrt{23} \\ \sqrt{24} & -\sqrt{23} & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ \sqrt{25} & 0 & -\sqrt{23} & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Remarkably,  $N$  is a weighted Laplacian of  $\text{del}_\Delta 1$ ;  
 $N = \partial\partial^T$  with

$$\partial^T = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{4} & -\sqrt{3} & 0 & \sqrt{2} & 0 \\ \sqrt{5} & 0 & -\sqrt{3} & 0 & \sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

The  $(F, G)$  entry of this matrix is  $\pm\sqrt{F - G}$ .

## FURTHER SIMPLIFICATIONS

This makes the eigenvalues of this  $N$  be  $0, 0, 0, 2 + 3, 2 + 3 + 4 + 5$ , and  $\det M = (1)^3(1 + 2 + 3)(1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5)$ . Finally it makes the weighted tree enumerator of the bipyramid

$$(23)(24)(25)(34)(35) \times (1)^3(1 + 2 + 3)(1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5).$$

More generally,

$$\left( \prod_{F \in R} x_F \right) \prod_{r=1}^{|R|} \sum_{i=1}^{1+d_r^T} x_i,$$

where  $R = \text{facets of } \text{lk}_{\Delta} 1$  and  $d$  is the degree sequence of  $\text{del}_{\Delta} 1$ .