

An introduction to toric arrangements

MSJ SI 2009 on Arrangements of Hyperplanes

Luca Moci

University of Roma Tre (Italy)

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1. Introduction

Natural questions

- What are toric arrangements?
- Why are they interesting objects?
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An example

Let be $V = \mathbb{C}^2$ with coordinates (z_1, z_2) ,
 $T = (\mathbb{C}^*)^2$ with coordinates (t_1, t_2) , and

$$X = \{2z_1^*, 2z_2^*, z_1^* + z_2^*, z_1^* - z_2^*\} \subset V^*.$$

We associate to X 3 arrangements:

- 1 a **central h.a.** $\mathcal{H} = \{H_\chi\}_{\chi \in X}$ in V ,
defined by the equations $\chi(v) = 0$ (e.g. $2z_1 = 0$)
- 2 a **periodic affine h.a.** $\mathcal{A} = \{H_{\chi,m}\}_{\chi \in X, m \in \mathbb{Z}}$ in V ,
defined by the equations $\chi(v) = m$ (e.g. $2z_1 = 7$)
- 3 a **toric arrangement** $\mathcal{T} = \{U_\chi\}_{\chi \in X}$ in T ,
defined by the equations: $t_1^2 = 1, t_2^2 = 1, t_1 t_2 = 1, t_1 t_2^{-1} = 1$.

How does $\mathcal{T}$ arise, and how is it related with $\mathcal{A}$?

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Affine and toric arrangements

Let Λ be the $\mathbb{Z}$ -span of X . We have a natural map

$$\exp : V \rightarrow V/\Lambda \simeq T$$

$$(\text{topologically } \exp : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2 \simeq (\mathbb{C}^*)^2)$$

$$\underline{z} \mapsto \underline{t} \doteq e^{2\pi i \underline{z}}.$$

$\exp$ maps $\{H_{\chi,m}\}_{m \in \mathbb{Z}}$ onto U_χ , and the complement of $\mathcal{A}$ onto the complement of $\mathcal{T}$ (covering with fiber Λ).

Switching from $\mathcal{A}$ to $\mathcal{T}$ we lose linearity, but we gain finiteness!

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Hyperplane and toric arrangements

A **hyperplane arrangement** in a vector space V is a family of hyperplanes $\mathcal{H} = \{H_\chi\}_{\chi \in X}$, where $X \subset \text{Hom}(V, \mathbb{C})$ and $H_\chi \doteq \{v \in V \mid \chi(v) = 0\}$.

A **toric (toral) arrangement** in a torus T is a family of hypersurfaces $\mathcal{T} = \{U_\chi\}_{\chi \in X}$, where $X \subset \text{Hom}(T, \mathbb{C}^*)$ and $U_\chi \doteq \{t \in T \mid \chi(t) = 1\}$.

(Lehrer and others in the '90s; De Concini and Procesi, 2005).

With $\mathcal{H}$ is associated the poset $\mathcal{L}(X)$ of the **intersections** of the $\{H_\chi\}_{\chi \in X}$.
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Hyperplane versus toric arrangements

If in the previous example we replace $2z_1^*$ by z_1^* or $5z_1^*$, we get the same $\mathcal{H}$, but different $\mathcal{T}$. So $\mathcal{H}$ depends only on the linear algebra of X , whereas $\mathcal{T}$ also depends on its arithmetics. In fact

- $\mathcal{H}$ is more related with splines, $\mathcal{T}$ with partition functions;
- $\mathcal{H}$ with differential equations, $\mathcal{T}$ with difference equations;
- $\mathcal{H}$ with volume of polytopes, $\mathcal{T}$ with integral points in polytopes;

(see De Concini and Procesi's forthcoming book "Topics in Hyperplane Arrangements, Polytopes, and Box Splines").

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Toric arrangements and partition functions

One-dimensional problem: to count in how many ways an integer m can be written as a sum of given positive integers m_i . This amounts to compute the coefficient of x^m in the generating function

$$\prod_i \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{k m_i} \right) = \prod_i \frac{1}{1 - x^{m_i}}$$

i.e. to compute the residue at 0 of the function $\prod_i \frac{x^{-m-1}}{1-x^{m_i}}$ which is the opposite of the sum of the residues at the other poles, that are the d -th roots of 1, where $d = \text{GCD}\{m_i\}$.

In the **general problem**:

- m_i are replaced with vectors α_i in a n -dimensional lattice;
- the generating function has n variables, and its poles are the points of a toric arrangement.

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2. General results

Tutte polynomial for $\mathcal{H}$

We recall that the **Tutte polynomial** associated to a list of vectors X is

$$T(x, y) \doteq \sum_{A \subseteq X} (x - 1)^{r(X) - r(A)} (y - 1)^{|A| - r(A)}.$$

This is an important invariant of the matroid...

In particular it specializes to the characteristic polynomial of $\mathcal{L}(X)$:

$$(-1)^n T(1 - q, 0) = \chi(q).$$

This reflects the fact that $\mathcal{L}(X)$ only depends on the matroid defined by X . The same is not true for $\mathcal{C}(X)$: we need to add to the matroid some "arithmetic data".

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Analogous of Tutte polynomial for $\mathcal{T}$

Let be $X \subset \mathbb{Z}^n$. For every $A \subseteq X$ let us define

$$m(A) \doteq [\mathbb{Z}^n \cap \langle A \rangle_{\mathbb{Q}} : \langle A \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}}].$$

We can then define a polynomial $\tilde{T}(x, y)$ depending only on the matroid and on the multiplicity function m :

$$\tilde{T}(x, y) \doteq \sum_{A \subseteq X} m(A) (x-1)^{r(X)-r(A)} (y-1)^{|A|-r(A)}.$$

This seems to be the right analogous of the Tutte polynomial; in particular $\tilde{T}(1, 1)$ equals the volume of the zonotope associated to X , and

Theorem (M.)

$$(-1)^n \tilde{T}(1-q, 0) = \chi(q)$$

where $\chi(q)$ is the characteristic polynomial of $\mathcal{C}(X)$.

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$$m(A) \doteq [\mathbb{Z}^n \cap \langle A \rangle_{\mathbb{Q}} : \langle A \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}}].$$

We can then define a polynomial $\tilde{T}(x, y)$ depending only on the matroid and on the multiplicity function m :

$$\tilde{T}(x, y) \doteq \sum_{A \subseteq X} m(A)(x-1)^{r(X)-r(A)}(y-1)^{|A|-r(A)}.$$

This seems to be the right analogous of the Tutte polynomial; in particular $\tilde{T}(1, 1)$ equals the volume of the zonotope associated to X , and

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Two theorems and their analogues

Two famous results for $\mathcal{H}$ are:

- 1 Cohomology of the complement (Orlik and Solomon)
- 2 Wonderful models (De Concini and Procesi)

There are some analogues for $\mathcal{T}$ are:

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For every $C \in \mathcal{C}(X)$, let us define $X_C \doteq \{\chi \in X \mid \chi(t) = 1 \forall t \in C\}$.

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- 2 The **wonderful model** of $\mathcal{T}$ is obtained by blowing up along those components $C \in \mathcal{C}(X)$ (of codimension > 1 and) such that X_C is an irreducible set of vectors.

Then to make both results explicit, we need an enumeration of the components, together with a description of the sets X_C .

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3. Lie case : combinatorics

Hyperplane arrangements defined by root systems

Notations:

- $\mathfrak{g}$ a simple Lie algebra of rank n over $\mathbb{C}$
- $\mathfrak{h}$ a Cartan subalgebra
- $\Phi \subset \mathfrak{h}^*$ the root system of $\mathfrak{g}$
- $\Phi^\vee \subset \mathfrak{h}$ the coroot system
- W be the Weyl group of Φ

Φ defines in $V = \mathfrak{h}$ the hyperplane arrangement
 $\mathcal{H} = \{H_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \Phi^+}$, where $H_\alpha = \{v \in V \mid \alpha(v) = 0\}$

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Toric arrangements defined by root systems

The coroot system $\Phi^\vee$ spans a lattice $\langle \Phi^\vee \rangle$ in $\mathfrak{h}$.

$T \doteq \mathfrak{h} / \langle \Phi^\vee \rangle$ is a complex torus of rank n .

Each root α is a linear map $\mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ taking integer values on $\langle \Phi^\vee \rangle$.

So it induces a homomorphism $T \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z} \simeq \mathbb{C}^*$ that we denote e^α .

$\{e^\alpha(t) = 1\}_{\alpha \in \Phi}$ defines in T a finite family $\mathcal{T}$ of hypersurfaces.

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Kostant partition function

In this case the partition function we are computing is the **Kostant partition function**, that counts in how many ways an element of the lattice $\langle \Phi \rangle$ can be written as sum of positive roots.

It is involved in:

- Kostant's formula for **weight multiplicities** c_μ^λ
(c_μ^λ is the multiplicity of the weight λ in the representation $V(\mu)$ of $\mathfrak{g}$ of highest weight μ);
- Steinberg's formula for **Littlewood-Richardson coefficients** $c_{\mu,\nu}^\lambda$
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Points of the arrangement

We say that a subset Θ of Φ is a **subsystem** if:

- 1 $\alpha \in \Theta \Rightarrow -\alpha \in \Theta$
- 2 $\alpha, \beta \in \Theta$ and $\alpha + \beta \in \Phi \Rightarrow \alpha + \beta \in \Theta$.

We start from the set $\mathcal{C}_0(\Phi)$ of the 0-dimensional components, that we call the **points** of the arrangement.

For every $t \in \mathcal{C}_0(\Phi)$ we will describe its stabilizer $W(t)$ in W and the subsystem of Φ

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Affine Dynkin diagrams

Let $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ be simple roots of Φ and α_0 the lowest root.

Let Γ be the **affine Dynkin diagram** of Φ (see picture).

The set of its vertices $V(\Gamma)$ is in bijection with $\{\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}$.

Let Φ_p be the subsystem of Φ generated by $\{\alpha_i\}_{0 \leq i \leq n, i \neq p}$,

and let W_p be its Weyl group.

The (ordinary) Dynkin diagram Γ_p of Φ_p (and of W_p) is obtained by removing from Γ its vertex p .

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Theorem (M.)

There is a **bijection** $V(\Gamma) \leftrightarrow \mathcal{C}_0(\Phi)/W$, having the property that given a vertex p and a point t in the corresponding orbit $\mathcal{O}_p$, then:

- $\Phi(t)$ is W -conjugated to Φ_p ;
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Example: Case C_n

$$\Phi^+ = \{z_i^* - z_j^*\}_{i < j} \cup \{z_i^* + z_j^*\} \cup \{2z_i^*\}$$

Then on the torus $T = \{(t_1, \dots, t_n), t_i \in \mathbb{C}^*\}$ the equations $e^\alpha(t) = 1$ are:

$$\{t_i t_j^{-1} = 1\} \cup \{t_i t_j = 1\} \cup \{t_i^2 = 1\}.$$

The system of n independent equations

$$t_1^2 = 1, \dots, t_n^2 = 1$$

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Example: Case C_n , 2

$W \simeq \mathfrak{S}_n \ltimes (\mathfrak{C}_2)^n$ acts on T by permutations and inversions thus the second factor acts trivially on $\mathcal{C}_0(\Phi)$.

Then orbits are given by the number of negative coordinates. Let $\mathcal{O}_p$ be the set of points with p negative coordinates.

Clearly the stabilizer of a such point is

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Example: Case $C_n, 3$

The previous choice is not canonical!
(we could define as well $\mathcal{O}_p$ as the set of points
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Observation:

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The center

Given the coweight lattice

$$\Lambda(\Phi) \doteq \{h \in \mathfrak{h} \mid \alpha(h) \in \mathbb{Z} \forall \alpha \in \Phi\}$$

we define the **center**

$$Z(\Phi) \doteq \frac{\Lambda(\Phi)}{\langle \Phi^\vee \rangle} = \{t \in T \mid \Phi(t) = \Phi\}.$$

Thus:

- $Z(\Phi) \subseteq \mathcal{C}_0(\Phi)$;
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Canonical bijection

We can **make canonical** the bijection between vertices and W –orbits by identifying:

- $Aut(\Gamma)$ –conjugated vertices
- $Z(\Phi)$ –conjugated orbits

Complete subsystems

We define the completion of a subsystem Θ as

$$\overline{\Theta} \doteq \langle \Theta \rangle_{\mathbb{R}} \cap \Phi$$

and we say that Θ is **complete** if $\Theta = \overline{\Theta}$. (see example).

Let $\mathcal{K}_d$ be the set of complete subsystems of Φ of rank $n - d$: they are in natural bijection with the d -dimensional elements of $\mathcal{L}(\Phi)$ (the intersection poset of $\mathcal{H}$).

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Spaces and components

The poset $\mathcal{L}(\Phi)$ has been completely described for every Φ , computing how many elements (and W -orbits) there are for each type of subsystem. This was done in 1980 by Orlik and Solomon case-by-case according to the type of Φ .

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Components and subsystems

Given a component C of $\mathcal{T}$ let us consider

$$\Theta_C \doteq \{\alpha \in \Phi \mid e^\alpha(t) = 1 \forall t \in C\}.$$

In general Θ_C is not complete (see example).

Then for each complete subsystem Θ let us define $\mathcal{C}_\Theta^\Phi$ as the set of components C such that $\overline{\Theta_C} = \Theta$.

This is clearly a partition of the set of d -dimensional components of $\mathcal{T}$:

$$\mathcal{C}_d(\Phi) = \bigsqcup_{\Theta \in \mathcal{K}_d} \mathcal{C}_\Theta^\Phi$$

Then we just have to describe every $\mathcal{C}_\Theta^\Phi$, that is the set of the elements of $\mathcal{C}(\Phi)$ corresponding to a given element of $\mathcal{L}(\Phi)$.

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There are 3 conjugation classes of 1-dimensional spaces of $\mathcal{H}$,
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corresponding respectively to 1, 2, 4 components of $\mathcal{T}$:

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Reduction theorem

Notations:

- Θ be a complete subsystem of Φ
- W^Θ its Weyl group
- $Z(\Theta) \doteq \frac{\Lambda(\Theta)}{\langle \Theta^\vee \rangle}$ the center
- $\mathcal{D}$ the toric arrangement defined by Θ on the torus D
- $\mathcal{C}_0(\Theta)$ the set of points of $\mathcal{D}$

Theorem (M.)

There is a W^Θ -equivariant surjective map

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$$|\mathcal{C}_\Theta^\Phi| = n_\Theta^{-1} |\mathcal{C}_0(\Theta)|$$

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4. Lie case : applications

Degrees, components and Poincaré polynomial

Our results about the components yield more explicit description of the cohomology of the complement $\mathcal{R}$ of $\bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{T}} U$ in T .

Let $d_1, \dots, d_n$ be the **degrees** of W
(i.e. the degrees of the generators of the ring of W -invariant regular functions on $\mathfrak{h}$).

It is well known that $d_1 \dots d_n = |W|$.

We define $\mathcal{B}(\Phi) \doteq (d_1 - 1) \dots (d_n - 1)$.

By De Concini-Procesi formula for cohomology, the **Poincaré polynomial** is

$$P_{\Phi}(q) = \sum_C \mathcal{B}(\Theta_C) (q+1)^{d(C)} q^{n-d(C)}$$

where C varies on all the components of $\mathcal{T}$ and $d(C)$ is its dimension.

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The Euler characteristic

Theorem

The *Euler characteristic* χ_Φ of $\mathcal{R}$ is equal to $(-1)^n |W|$

Proof.

- 1 When we evaluate the Poincaré polynomial in $q = -1$ all the contributions vanish except for those of the points.
- 2 Applying our "points theorem" theorem we get

$$\chi_\Phi = (-1)^n \sum_{p=0}^n \frac{|W|}{|W_p|} \mathcal{B}(\Phi_p).$$

- 3 The equivalence between this expression and the claimed one is the "curious identity" $\sum_{p=0}^n \frac{(d_1^p - 1) \dots (d_n^p - 1)}{d_1^p \dots d_n^p} = 1$
(where $d_1^p, \dots, d_n^p$ are the degrees of W_p)
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The Poincaré polynomial

Moreover we get a formula which allows to compute explicitly the Poincaré polynomial $P_{\Phi}(q)$ of $\mathcal{R}$:

Corollary

$$P_{\Phi}(q) = \sum_{d=0}^n (q+1)^d q^{n-d} \sum_{\Theta \in \mathcal{K}_d} n_{\Theta}^{-1} |W^{\Theta}|$$

Wonderful models for toric arrangements

Let be

$$\mathcal{I}(\Phi) \doteq \{C \in \mathcal{C}(\Phi) \mid \Theta_C \text{ is irreducible}\}$$

where we recall that

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Corollary

$\mathcal{T}$ has a wonderful model, which is obtained blowing-up T along all the components $C \in \mathcal{I}(\Phi)$ of codimension > 1 (in any dimension-increasing order). The irreducible components of the NCD are in bijection with the elements of $\mathcal{I}(\Phi)$. Moreover this model is minimal among all the wonderful models obtained by blow-ups.

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Description of $\mathcal{I}(\Phi)$

The proof follows from a general theorem of Procesi and MacPherson on "conical stratifications". However, now we know exactly who $\mathcal{I}(\Phi)$ is: if subsystem Θ is irreducible, then also its completion $\overline{\Theta}$ is, and the Dynkin diagram of Θ is connected and is obtained by removing a vertex from the affine Dynkin diagram of $\overline{\Theta}$. Then we just need the list of complete irreducible subsystems of Φ , that we can get by Orlik and Solomon's tables. Finally, by the "reduction theorem" we know how many components correspond to a given subsystem.

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The End

An introduction to toric arrangements

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