

Vector-partition functions

Matthias Beck

San Francisco State University

math.sfsu.edu/beck

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\mathbf{A} – an $(m \times d)$ -integral matrix

$\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{Z}^m$

Goal: Compute **vector partition function** $\phi_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{b}) := \# \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^d : \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \}$

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Applications in...

- ▶ Number Theory (partitions)
- ▶ Discrete Geometry (polyhedra)
- ▶ Commutative Algebra (Hilbert series)
- ▶ Algebraic Geometry (toric varieties)
- ▶ Representation Theory (tensor product multiplicities)
- ▶ Optimization (integer programming)
- ▶ Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Computer Science, Economics...

An example

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

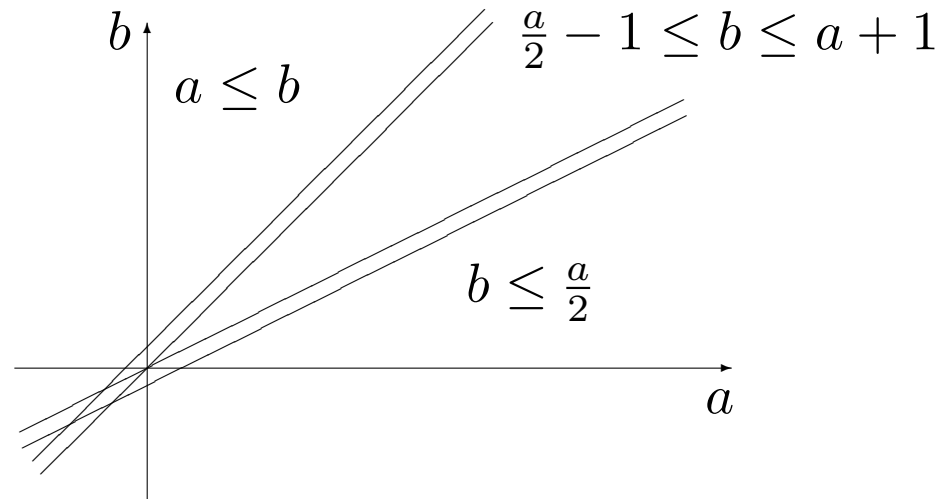
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$$\phi_{\mathbf{A}}(t) = \# \{ (m_1, \dots, m_d) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^d : m_1 a_1 + \dots + m_d a_d = t \},$$

a **quasi-polynomial**, i.e., $\phi_{\mathbf{A}}(t) = c_{d-1}(t) t^{d-1} + c_{d-2}(t) t^{d-2} + \dots + c_0(t)$
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Frobenius problem: find the largest value for t such that $\phi_{\mathbf{A}}(t) = 0$

Ehrhart quasi-polynomials

Rational (convex) polytope \mathcal{P} – convex hull of finitely many points in \mathbb{Q}^d

Alternative description: $\mathcal{P} = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d : \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}\}$

For $t \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, let $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t) := \#(t\mathcal{P} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d)$

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Theorem (Ehrhart 1967) If \mathcal{P} is a rational polytope, then the functions $L_{\mathcal{P}}(t)$ and $L_{\mathcal{P}^\circ}(t)$ are quasi-polynomials in t of degree $\dim \mathcal{P}$. If \mathcal{P} has integer vertices, then $L_{\mathcal{P}}$ and $L_{\mathcal{P}^\circ}$ are polynomials. Furthermore, $L_{\mathcal{P}}(0) = 1$

Theorem (Ehrhart, Macdonald 1970) $L_{\mathcal{P}}(-t) = (-1)^{\dim \mathcal{P}} L_{\mathcal{P}^\circ}(t)$

Corollaries due to Ehrhart theory

The computation of the (Ehrhart-)quasi-polynomial

$$\phi_{\mathbf{A}}(t) = \# \{ (m_1, \dots, m_d) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^d : m_1 a_1 + \dots + m_d a_d = t \},$$

gives rise to the **Fourier-Dedekind sum** (MB–Robins 2003)

$$\sigma_n(a_1, \dots, a_d; a_0) := \frac{1}{a_0} \sum_{\lambda^{a_0}=1} \frac{\lambda^n}{(1 - \lambda^{a_1}) \cdots (1 - \lambda^{a_d})}.$$

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Choosing $d = 2, n = 0, a_1 = a, a_2 = 1, a_0 = b$ gives rise to the classical **Dedekind sum**

$$s(a, b) := \frac{1}{4b} \sum_{j=1}^{b-1} \cot\left(\frac{\pi j a}{b}\right) \cot\left(\frac{\pi j}{b}\right)$$

Corollaries due to Ehrhart theory

Ehrhart-Macdonald Reciprocity yields the functional identity

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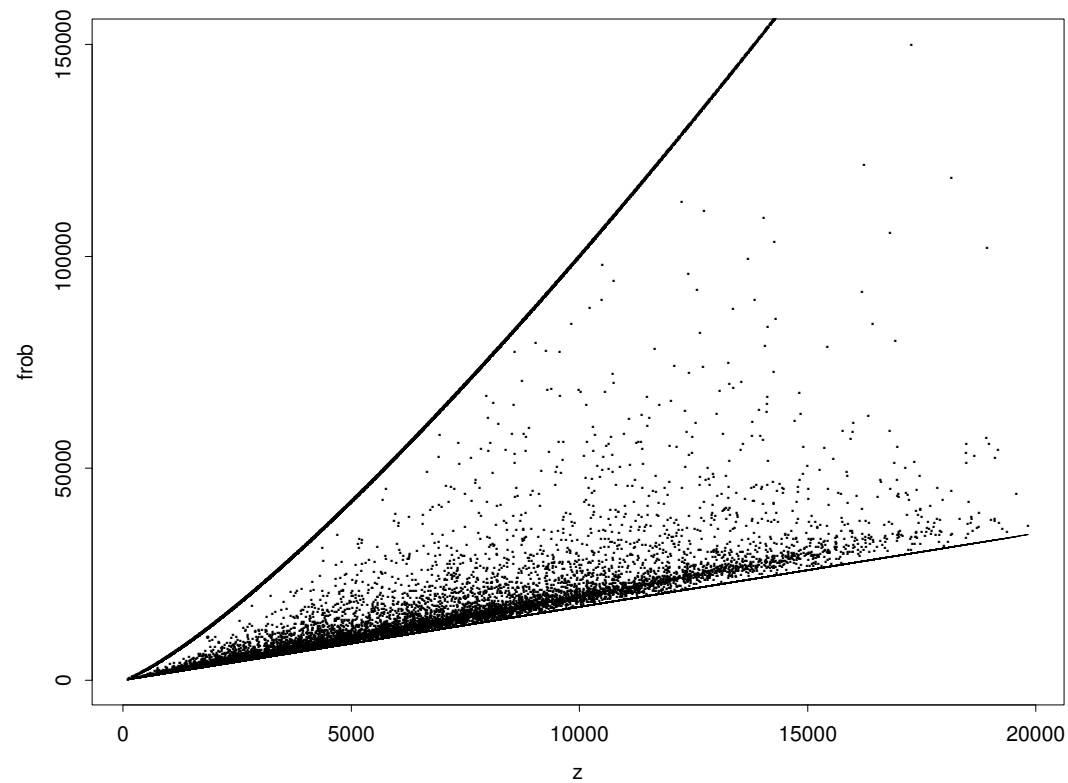
The identity

$$\phi_{\mathbf{A}}(t) = 0 \quad \text{for} \quad -(a_1 + \cdots + a_d) < t < 0$$

gives a new reciprocity relation which is a "higher-dimensional" analog of that for the the **Dedekind-Rademacher sum**.

Corollaries due to Ehrhart theory

Algorithms, bounds, experimental data on Frobenius problem (MB–Einstein–Zacks 2003)



Shameless plug

M. Beck & S. Robins

Computing the continuous discretely
Integer-point enumeration in polyhedra

To appear in [Springer Undergraduate Texts in Mathematics](#)

Preprint available at math.sfsu.edu/beck

Vector partition theorems

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Quasi-polynomial – a finite sum $\sum_{\mathbf{n}} c_{\mathbf{n}}(\mathbf{b}) \mathbf{b}^{\mathbf{n}}$ with coefficients $c_{\mathbf{n}}$ that are functions of \mathbf{b} which are periodic in every component of \mathbf{b} .

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A matrix is **unimodular** if every square submatrix has determinant ± 1 .

Theorem (Sturmfels 1995) $\phi_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{b})$ is a piecewise-defined quasi-polynomial in \mathbf{b} of degree $d - \text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$. The regions of \mathbb{R}^m in which $\phi_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{b})$ is a single quasi-polynomial are polyhedral. If \mathbf{A} is unimodular then $\phi_{\mathbf{A}}$ is a piecewise-defined polynomial.

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Theorem (MB 2002) Let r_k denote the sum of the entries in the k^{th} row of \mathbf{A} , and let $\mathbf{r} = (r_1, \dots, r_m)$. Then $\phi_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{b}) = (-1)^{d - \text{rank} \mathbf{A}} \phi_{\mathbf{A}}(-\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{r})$

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- ▶ Barvinok: $\sum_{t \geq 0} \phi_{\mathbf{A}}(t\mathbf{b}) z^t$ can be computed in polynomial time

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- ▶ (Baldoni–MB–Cochet–Vergne 200?) Computational approach using Jeffrey-Kirwan residues and DeConcini-Prochesi's maximal nested sets

Euler's generating function

$$\phi_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{b}) := \# \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^d : \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \} \quad \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} | & | & \cdots & | \\ \mathbf{c}_1 & \mathbf{c}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{c}_d \\ | & | & \cdots & | \end{pmatrix}$$

$\phi_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{b})$ equals the coefficient of $\mathbf{z}^{\mathbf{b}} := z_1^{b_1} \cdots z_m^{b_m}$ of the function

$$\frac{1}{(1 - \mathbf{z}^{\mathbf{c}_1}) \cdots (1 - \mathbf{z}^{\mathbf{c}_d})}$$

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Equivalently,

$$\phi_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{b}) = \text{const} \frac{1}{(1 - \mathbf{z}^{\mathbf{c}_1}) \cdots (1 - \mathbf{z}^{\mathbf{c}_d}) \mathbf{z}^{\mathbf{b}}}$$

Partial fractions

$$\phi_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{b}) = \text{const} \frac{1}{(1 - \mathbf{z}^{c_1}) \cdots (1 - \mathbf{z}^{c_d}) \mathbf{z}^{\mathbf{b}}}$$

Expand into partial fractions in z_1 :

$$\frac{1}{(1 - \mathbf{z}^{c_1}) \cdots (1 - \mathbf{z}^{c_d}) \mathbf{z}^{\mathbf{b}}} = \frac{1}{z_2^{b_2} \cdots z_m^{b_m}} \left(\sum_{k=1}^d \frac{A_k(\mathbf{z}, b_1)}{1 - \mathbf{z}^{c_k}} + \sum_{j=1}^{b_1} \frac{B_j(\mathbf{z})}{z_1^j} \right)$$

Here A_k and B_j are polynomials in z_1 , rational functions in z_2, \dots, z_m , and exponential in b_1 .

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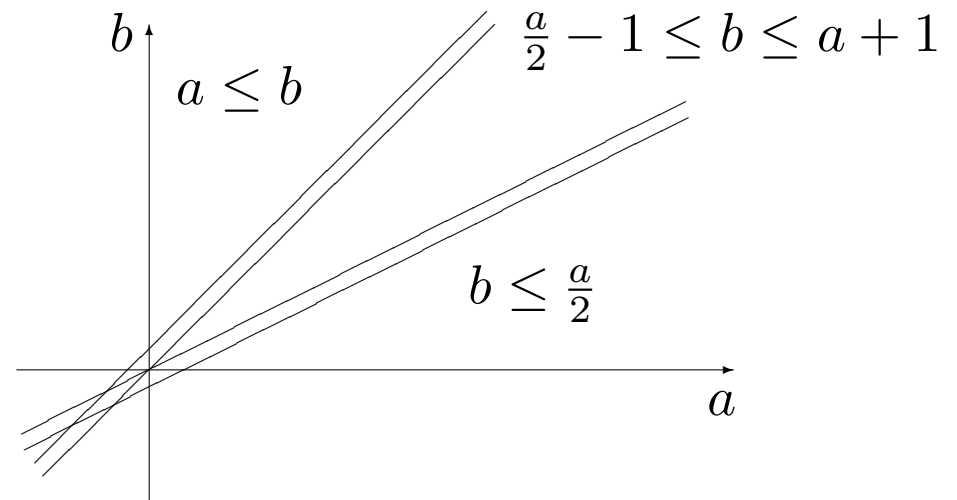
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- ▶ easy to implement
- ▶ allows symbolic computation
- ▶ constraints which define the regions of (quasi-)polynomiality are obtained “automatically”

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$$\begin{aligned} x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 &\geq 0 \\ x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 &= a \\ x_1 + x_2 + x_4 &= b \end{aligned}$$

