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Finite Unions of Closed Subgroups of the n -Dimensional Torus

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OF THE N -DIMENSIONAL TORUS
by Jim Lawrence

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and

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Abstract

Let U be an open subset of the torus group T^n . We show that the set of maximal subgroups of T^n which miss U is of finite cardinality. This result is applied to show that the lattice of finite unions of closed subgroups of T^n is a complete distributive lattice, and to show that, up to unimodular equivalence, there are only finitely many convex polytopes $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ having vertices in $\mathbb{Z}^n$ but no interior points in $\mathbb{Z}^n$ and such that each subgroup G of the additive group $\mathbb{R}^n$ which properly contains $\mathbb{Z}^n$ does have points in common with the interior of P .

FINITE UNIONS OF CLOSED SUBGROUPS OF THE N-DIMENSIONAL TORUS

by Jim Lawrence

1. Introduction.

Let $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ be an element of $\mathbb{R}^n$ and let $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be an open neighborhood of 0. A classical theorem of Dirichlet asserts that there exist a positive integer m and a point $z = (z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ such that $mx - z \in U$. The numbers $x_1, \dots, x_n$ and 1 are independent over the rational numbers if there is no $w \in \mathbb{Z}^n \sim \{0\}$ such that $\langle w, x \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}$. A classical theorem of Kronecker asserts that the numbers $x_1, \dots, x_n$, and 1 are independent over the rational numbers if and only if for every open set $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ there exist a positive integer m and $z \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ such that $mx - z \in U$. (These are Theorems 201 and 442 of [4]. See also Chapter VII of [1].)

In this paper we consider, for open sets $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, the nature of the sets $\tilde{\tau}(U) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \text{there exist } m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } z \in \mathbb{Z}^n \text{ such that } mx - z \in U\}$. (Alternatively, $\tilde{\tau}(U) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \text{the (additive) group generated by } \{x\} \cup \mathbb{Z}^n \text{ intersects } U\}$.) We show that $\mathbb{R}^n \sim \tilde{\tau}(U)$ is a finite union of closed subgroups of $\mathbb{R}^n$; and moreover, the set $M(\mathbb{R}^n, U)$ of maximal subgroups G of $\mathbb{R}^n$ such that $G \cap U = \emptyset$ and $\mathbb{Z}^n \subseteq G$, is finite. This is Corollary 1.A, below.

As an example, let $n = 2$ and let $U = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 0 < x, 0 < y, \text{ and } x + y < 1\}$. Then the subgroups H of $\mathbb{R}^2$ such that $\mathbb{Z}^2 \subseteq H$ and $H \cap U = \emptyset$ are precisely the subgroups of the following four groups:

$$H_1 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x \in \mathbb{Z}\},$$

$$H_2 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : y \in \mathbb{Z}\},$$

$$H_3 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x + y \in \mathbb{Z}\}, \text{ and}$$

$$H_4 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 2x \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } 2y \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

One of several interesting consequences of the general finiteness result concerns subsets of the n -dimensional torus group T^n . It is obvious that these subsets form a finitely distributive lattice under the operations of intersection and union. It follows from the finiteness result that they actually form a complete lattice: The intersection of an arbitrary family of finite unions of closed subgroups of T^n is again a finite union of closed subgroups of T^n . (We will have occasion in this paper to use the word "lattice" in two different senses: We will use it as we have in this paragraph, to mean a partially ordered set with certain properties; we will also use it in its sense in the geometry of numbers, to mean a discrete, full-dimensional subgroup of $\mathbb{R}^n$. The usage must be ascertained from the context.)

In Section 3 we present some consequences of these results concerning finiteness of certain sets of unimodular equivalence classes of polytopes with integer vertices.

This paper uses standard results concerning additive subgroups of $\mathbb{R}^n$. The best reference for this topic for our purposes is Chapter VII of [1].

2. Preliminaries.

Let $\mathcal{G}$ be the lattice of closed subgroups G of $\mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\mathbb{Z}^n \subseteq G$. (We could equivalently work with closed subgroups of the torus group $T^n = \mathbb{R}^n/\mathbb{Z}^n$ in view of the bijective correspondence $G \rightarrow \pi(G)$ mapping the set of such subgroups to the set of subgroups of T^n , where $\pi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow T^n$ is the canonical map. We prefer to remain in $\mathbb{R}^n$ in order to make easy use of results from the geometry of numbers.)

Let $\overline{\mathcal{G}}$ be the lattice of closed subgroups of $\mathbb{R}^n$. For $G \in \overline{\mathcal{G}}$, let $G^* = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \langle x, u \rangle \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ for each } u \in G\}$. Then G^* is also in $\overline{\mathcal{G}}$ and the map $G \rightarrow G^*$ is an anti-automorphism of $\overline{\mathcal{G}}$. (See [1].)

The lattice $\mathcal{G}$ satisfies the descending chain condition; that is, each non-empty subset of $\mathcal{G}$ possesses a minimal element. Equivalently, any chain $H_1 \supseteq H_2 \supseteq \dots$ of distinct elements of $\mathcal{G}$ must be finite. To see this note that $H_1^* \subseteq H_2^* \dots$ would be an ascending chain of subgroups of $(\mathbb{Z}^n)^* = \mathbb{Z}^n$, which satisfies the ascending chain condition, since it is a finitely generated abelian group.

For $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, let $\text{pol}(S) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \langle x, y \rangle \leq 1 \text{ for each } y \in S\}$. Then $\text{pol}(S)$ is a closed, convex set which contains the origin; $\text{pol}(\text{pol}(S))$ is the smallest closed, convex set which contains $S \cup \{0\}$; and pol is a dual automorphism of the partially ordered set of closed, convex sets containing the origin.

Our objective now is to establish a lemma (Lemma 3) which will be used in the proof in the next section of the main result.

LEMMA 1. Suppose that U is a convex subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$ and that $p \in U$. If H is a subgroup of $\mathbb{R}^n$ such that $H \cap (1/n (U - p))$ contains a basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$ then $H + U = \mathbb{R}^n$.

Proof. Let $\{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ be a basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$ contained in $H \cap (1/n (U - p))$. Let $P = \{ \sum \alpha_i b_i : 0 \leq \alpha_i \leq 1 \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n \}$. Then $P \subseteq \text{conv}\{0, nb_1, \dots, nb_n\} \subseteq U - p$. Any $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ can be expressed in terms of the basis: $x = \sum \alpha_i b_i$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. We then have:

$$x = \sum [\alpha_i] b_i + \sum (\alpha_i) b_i \in H + P,$$

so $H + P = \mathbb{R}^n$. (Here $[\alpha]$ denotes the greatest integer less than or equal to α and $(\alpha) = \alpha - [\alpha]$ is the fractional part of α .) It follows that $H + (U - p) = \mathbb{R}^n$; i.e., $H + U = \mathbb{R}^n$. $\square$

In the proof of Lemma 2 we will use a result of Mahler belonging to the theory of successive minima. Recall that for a lattice $L \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, and a full-dimensional, compact, convex set K symmetric about the origin, the successive minima $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ of L with respect to K are the smallest real numbers such that (for each i) $(\lambda_i K) \cap L$ contains a set of i linearly independent points.

Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ be the successive minima of L with respect to K (as above) and let $\lambda_1^*, \dots, \lambda_n^*$ be the successive minima of L^* with respect to $\text{pol}(K)$.

Mahler's result is that (for each i) one has

$$1 \leq \lambda_i \lambda_{n-i+1}^* \leq n!.$$

(In Mahler's original result, the right-hand bound was $(n!)^2$. The statement as we have it is Theorem VI of Chapter VIII, Section 5, of [2]. The right-hand bound has been spectacularly improved by Lagarias, Lenstra, and Schnorr in [5].)

LEMMA 2. Let K be a full-dimensional, convex, compact set with $K = -K$. Let H be a closed subgroup of $\mathbb{R}^n$ such that $H \cap K$ does not contain a basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$. Then $H^* \cap (n! \text{pol}(K))$ contains a non-zero element.

Proof. Suppose that there is a convex, full-dimensional, compact set K symmetric about 0 and a closed subgroup H such that $H \cap K$ contains no basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $H^* \cap (n! \text{pol}(K)) = \{0\}$. We may choose a basis

$\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ for $\mathbb{R}^n$ such that

$$H = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i x_i : \alpha_i \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ for } i = a+1, \dots, b, \right.$$

$$\text{and } \alpha_i = 0 \text{ for } i = b+1, \dots, n \}.$$

Let L_m be the lattice generated by $\{x_1/m, \dots, x_a/m, x_{a+1}, \dots, x_b, mx_{b+1}, \dots, mx_n\}$. It is clear that we may

choose m sufficiently large that $L_m \cap K$ contains no basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$, and $L_m^* \cap (n! \text{ pol}(K)) = \{0\}$. Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n, \lambda_1^*, \dots, \lambda_n^*$ be the successive minima for L_m with respect to K and for L_m^* with respect to $\text{pol}(K)$, respectively. Since $L_m \cap K$ contains no basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$, we have $\lambda_n > 1$. Also $L_m^* \cap (n! \text{ pol}(K)) = \{0\}$, so $\lambda_1^* > n!$. This contradicts Mahler's Theorem, since then $\lambda_n \lambda_1^* > n!$. $\square$

LEMMA 3. Let G be a closed subgroup of $\mathbb{R}^n$. Let U be a subset of G which contains a non-empty relatively open set. Then there is a bounded set $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ such that if H is a closed subgroup of G for which $H + U \neq G$ then $H^* \cap X$ is not contained in G^* .

Proof. It is clear that, if $\lambda : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is a nonsingular linear transformation, then the statement holds for a given group G and open set $U \subseteq G$ if and only if it holds for the images $\lambda(G)$ and $\lambda(U)$. We may therefore suppose that

$$G = \{ (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_{a+1}, \dots, x_b \in \mathbb{Z} \\ \text{and } x_{b+1} = \dots = x_n = 0 \},$$

where a and b are integers for which $0 \leq a \leq b \leq n$.

Let

$$A = \{ (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_i = 0 \text{ unless } i \leq a \}, \\ B = \{ (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_i = 0 \text{ unless } a < i \leq b \},$$

and

$$C = \{ (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_i = 0 \text{ unless } b < i \};$$

and let $\alpha : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow A$, $\beta : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow B$, and $\gamma : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow C$ be the obvious projections. Then we may write

$$G = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \beta(x) \in \mathbb{Z}^n \text{ and } \gamma(x) = 0 \}, \text{ and}$$

$$G^* = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \alpha(x) = 0 \text{ and } \beta(x) \in \mathbb{Z}^n \}.$$

$$\text{Let } P = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \alpha(x) = \gamma(x) = 0 \text{ and } 0 \leq \beta(x) < 1 \}.$$

Note that $P \cap G^* = \{0\}$. If G is a discrete group, so that $a = 0$, then we may take $X = P$. Otherwise, let W be the unit ball in A : $W = \{ x \in A : \|x\| \leq 1 \}$. Let $p \in U$ and choose ϵ sufficiently small that $\epsilon W \subseteq \frac{U - p}{a}$. Finally, let $X = (a!/\epsilon)W + P$. Clearly X is bounded.

Suppose H is a closed subgroup of G such that $H + U \neq G$. We will show that $(H^* \cap X) \sim G^* \neq \emptyset$.

Suppose $\beta(H)$ is properly contained in $\beta(G) = \mathbb{Z}^n \cap B$. It follows that $H + A + C (= \beta^{-1}(\beta(H)))$ is properly contained in $G + A + C$, so that $H^* \cap B = (H + A + C)^*$ properly contains $(G + A + C)^* = G^* \cap B = \mathbb{Z}^n \cap B$. Choose $x \in (H^* \cap B) \sim (G^* \cap B)$; say,

$$x = (0, \dots, 0, x_{a+1}, \dots, x_b, 0, \dots, 0). \text{ Then}$$

$$\tilde{x} = (0, \dots, 0, [x_{a+1}], \dots, [x_b], 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{Z}^n \cap B \subseteq H^* \cap B, \text{ so } x - \tilde{x} \text{ is a nonzero element of } P \text{ which is in } H^*. \text{ Therefore } x - \tilde{x} \in (H^* \cap X) \sim G^*.$$

Finally, suppose $\beta(H) = \beta(G)$. If $a \in W + (H \cap A) = A$ then $a \in W + H = G$ so $U + H \supseteq (a \in W + p) + H = G$, contrary to our assumption. Therefore $a \in W + (H \cap A) \neq A$, and we see by invoking Lemma 1 that $\epsilon W \cap H$ contains no basis for A . By Lemma 2 applied to A there is a nonzero vector in

$$(n!/\epsilon)W \cap (H \cap A)^* = (n!/\epsilon)W \cap (H^* + B + C);$$

i.e., we may find $x \in H^*$ such that $\alpha(x) \in (n!/\epsilon)W$, $\alpha(x) \neq 0$. Suppose $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$. Then $\tilde{x} = (0, \dots, 0, [x_{a+1}], \dots, [x_b], x_{b+1}, \dots, x_n) \in H^*$ (since H^* contains G^*), and $x - \tilde{x}$ is the required element of $(H^* \cap X) \sim G^*$. $\square$

3. Main Results and Corollaries.

Let G be a closed subgroup of $\mathbb{R}^n$. Suppose $U \subseteq G$. We shall call U full if its intersection with each closed subgroup H of G is empty or contains a relatively open, non-empty subset of H . In particular, open sets are full.

THEOREM 1. Suppose G is a closed subgroup of $\mathbb{R}^n$ and U is a full subset of G . Let $M(G, U)$ be the set of maximal subgroups $H \subseteq G$ such that $\mathbb{Z}^n \subseteq H$ and $H \cap U = \emptyset$. Then $M(G, U)$ is of finite cardinality.

Proof. Let Γ denote the set of all closed subgroups G of $\mathbb{R}^n$ containing $\mathbb{Z}^n$ for which there exists a full subset $U \subseteq G$ such that $M(G, U)$ is infinite. Suppose $G \in \Gamma$ and U is a corresponding full subset. Clearly $U \neq \emptyset$. By Lemma 3 there is a bounded set $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ such that if H is a closed subgroup of G such that $H + U \neq G$ then $H^* \cap X \not\subseteq G^*$. If $H \in M(G, U)$ then $H + U \neq G$ (since $0 \notin H + U$), so for such H there is $b \in (H^* \cap X) \setminus G^*$. It follows that

$$M(G, U) \subseteq \bigcup_b M(G_b, U_b),$$

where the union is taken over $b \in (H^* \cap X) \setminus G^*$, $G_b = \{x \in G : \langle x, b \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}\}$, and $U_b = U \cap G_b$. Notice that, for each such b , G_b is a proper subgroup of G (since $b \notin G^*$). Also, since $\mathbb{Z}^n \subseteq H$, it follows that $H^* \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^n$, so $H^* \cap X$ is finite. It follows that $M(G_b, U)$ is of infinite cardinality for some $b \in (H^* \cap X) \setminus G^*$, so that $G_b \in \Gamma$.

We have shown that Γ has no minimal element. By the descending chain condition on $\mathcal{G}$, $\Gamma = \emptyset$. $\square$

We present some corollaries of Theorem 1.

COROLLARY 1.A. If U is a full subset of T^n then there are only finitely many maximal closed subgroups H of T^n such that $H \cap U = \emptyset$.

COROLLARY 1.B. Let S be a closed subset of T^n such that if $x \in S$ and m is a positive integer then $mx \in S$. Then S is a finite union of closed subgroups of T^n .

We now consider an order relation on open subsets of the torus T^n . For open subsets U and V of T^n we write $U < V$ if for each $x \in U$ there is a positive integer m such that $mx \in V$. We write $U \approx V$ if $U < V$ and $V < U$. Then $\approx$ is an equivalence relation on the set of open subsets of T^n and $<$ induces a partial ordering on the set of equivalence classes. We wish to study this partially ordered set.

For open subsets U of T^n let $\tau(U)$ denote the complement of the union of the closed subgroups G of T^n such that $G \cap U = \emptyset$. We see from Theorem 1 that $\tau(U)$ is open. Perhaps it is easier to derive this fact as a consequence of the following lemma.

LEMMA 4. $\tau(U) = \{ x \in T^n : \text{there is } m \in \mathbb{Z}, m > 0, \text{ such that } mx \in U \}$.

Proof. Certainly if there is a positive integer m such that $mx \in U$ then each subgroup $G \subseteq T^n$ such that $x \in G$ intersects U nontrivially, so $x \in \tau(U)$. Suppose no such m exists. The closure of the set $\{ mx : m \in \mathbb{Z}, m > 0 \}$ is then a closed subgroup G of T^n which misses U . Since $x \in G$, $x \notin \tau(U)$. $\square$

We see that τ is an algebraic closure operator on the collection of all open subsets of T^n : $U \subseteq \tau(U)$ for each open set U ; if $U \subseteq V$ then $\tau(U) \subseteq \tau(V)$; and $\tau(\tau(U)) = \tau(U)$, for each open set U . Also from the lemma it is immediate that $\tau(U)$ is the largest open set such that $\tau(U) \leq U$. The following theorem, which is now immediate, characterizes the partial ordering of $\mathcal{E}$ induced by $\leq$.

THEOREM 2. If U and V are open subsets of T^n then $U \prec V$ if and only if $\tau(U) \subseteq \tau(V)$, and $U \approx V$ if and only if $\tau(U) = \tau(V)$. The partially ordered set $\mathcal{E}$ is dually isomorphic to the partially ordered set of finite unions of closed subgroups of T^n (under inclusion). This partially ordered set is a finitely distributive complete lattice.

Finally we wish to establish a chain condition for this lattice.

THEOREM 3. Let $U_1 \subseteq U_2 \subseteq \dots$ be an ascending sequence of open subsets of T^n . Then there is an integer M such that $\tau(U_M) = \tau(U_{M+1}) = \dots$

Proof. Let Γ denote the set of closed subgroups G of T^n such that there exists an infinite ascending chain

$\tau(U_1) \subseteq \tau(U_2) \subseteq \dots$ of distinct τ -closed open sets

$\tau(U_i) \supseteq T^n \sim G$. We may write $\tau(U_1) = T^n \sim (G_1 \cup \dots \cup G_m)$
 $= \bigcap_{j=1}^m (T^n \sim G_j)$ for some closed subgroups $G_1, \dots, G_m$.

Then $\tau(U_i) = \tau(U_i) \cup \tau(U_1) = \bigcap_{j=1}^m (\tau(U_i) \cup (T^n \sim G_j))$. It is

clear that for some j the sequence of sets

$\tau(U_i) \cup (T^n \sim G_j) \supseteq T^n \sim G_j$ must contain an infinite

subsequence of distinct τ -closed open sets. Since G_j

properly contains G , we see that Γ contains no maximal

element. By the chain condition on the closed subgroups of

T^n , it follows that $\Gamma = \emptyset$. $\square$

4. Some Consequences and Related Results.

LEMMA 5. Let $U^n = \{ (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_i > 0 \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n \text{ and } x_1 + \dots + x_n < 1 \}$. There is a number $\chi < 1$ such that if G is a group for which $\mathbb{Z}^n \subseteq G \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and $G \cap U^n \neq \emptyset$ then there is a point $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in G \cap U^n$ for which $x_1 + \dots + x_n \leq \chi$.

Proof. Consider the sequence

$$\tau(1/2 U^n) \subseteq \tau(2/3 U^n) \subseteq \tau(3/4 U^n) \subseteq \dots$$

By Theorem 3 there is an m such that

$$\tau(m/(m+1) U^n) = \tau((m+1)/(m+2) U^n) = \dots$$

We may set $\chi = m/(m+1)$. $\square$

In general it seems difficult to find a value for χ . We know that for $n = 1$ we can take $\chi = 1/2$; for $n = 2$, $\chi = 5/6$. Any value for $n = 3$ must satisfy $\chi \geq 41/42$, but we do not know a value even in this case.

Let χ_n denote the least value for χ satisfying Lemma 5. It is easy to see that $\chi_n \leq \chi_{n+1}$ for $n = 1, 2, \dots$, for if $G \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is a group such that $G \cap U^n \neq \emptyset$ and $G \cap (\alpha U^n) = \emptyset$ then $G \times \mathbb{R}$ has the analogous properties in $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$. For $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ denote by S^o its interior. For a convex polytope $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ denote by $\text{vert}(K)$ its vertex set.

LEMMA 6. Let $k = \lceil \frac{1}{1 - x_{2n-2}} \rceil$. Suppose the convex
polytope K , having $\text{vert}(K) \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^n$, contains at least
 $(1 + k)^n + 1$ points of $\mathbb{Z}^n$, and $K^\circ \cap \mathbb{Z}^n = \emptyset$. Then there is
a linear function $A : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ such that $A(\mathbb{Z}^n) = \mathbb{Z}^{n-1}$
and $A(K)^\circ \cap \mathbb{Z}^{n-1} = \emptyset$.

Proof. Clearly some pair of points of $K \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ must be congruent modulo $1 + k$; the line L containing these satisfies $|L \cap K \cap \mathbb{Z}^n| \geq k + 2$. Let $u, w \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ be such that $u, u + w, u + 2w, \dots$, and $u + (k+1)w$ are consecutive points of $L \cap K \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$. We may choose a basis $\{w, b_2, b_3, \dots, b_n\}$ for $\mathbb{Z}^n$ which contains w . For $x = \alpha_1 w + \alpha_2 b_2 + \dots + \alpha_n b_n \in \mathbb{Z}^n$, let $A(x) = (\alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$. Then $A : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ is a linear function such that $A(\mathbb{Z}^n) = \mathbb{Z}^{n-1}$.

We will complete the proof by showing that if $A(K)^\circ \cap \mathbb{Z}^{n-1} \neq \emptyset$ then $K^\circ \cap \mathbb{Z}^n \neq \emptyset$. Suppose $p \in A(K)^\circ \cap \mathbb{Z}^{n-1}$. Then by a theorem of Steinitz ([6]; see also Exercise 2.3.5 of [3]) we may choose a set of $m \leq 2(n - 1)$ vertices of $A(K)$, say, $\{A(v_1), \dots, A(v_m)\}$, where $v_1, \dots$, and v_m are vertices of K , such that p is in the interior of $\text{conv}\{A(v_1), \dots, A(v_m)\}$. We may find $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$, and β , where $\alpha_i > 0$ ($i = 1, \dots, m$), $\beta > 0$, $(\sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i) + \beta = 1$, and $p = (\sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i A(v_i)) + \beta (A(u))$.

Let $G \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ be the subgroup

$$G = \left\{ (v_1, \dots, v_m) : \sum_{i=1}^m v_i (A(v_i) - A(u)) \in \mathbb{Z}^{n-1} \right\}.$$

Clearly $G \supseteq \mathbb{Z}^m$, and $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m) \in G$. By Lemma 5 it is possible to choose $(\tilde{\alpha}_1, \dots, \tilde{\alpha}_m) \in G$ such that $\tilde{\alpha}_i > 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$ and $\tilde{\alpha}_1 + \dots + \tilde{\alpha}_m \leq \chi_m \leq \chi_{2(n-1)}$. Let $\tilde{\beta} = 1 - \tilde{\alpha}_1 - \dots - \tilde{\alpha}_m \geq 1 - \chi_{2(n-2)} > 1/(k+1)$. Consider

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^m \tilde{\alpha}_i v_i + \tilde{\beta} u \quad \text{and} \quad y = \sum_{i=1}^m \tilde{\alpha}_i v_i + \tilde{\beta} (u + (k+1)w)$$

$= x + \tilde{\beta}(k+1)w$. Suppose $x = \tau_1 w + \tau_2 b_2 + \dots + \tau_n b_n$, so that $A(x) = (\tau_2, \dots, \tau_n)$. Since $(\tilde{\alpha}_1, \dots, \tilde{\alpha}_m) \in G$, $\tau_2, \dots$, and τ_n are integers. Since $\tilde{\beta}(k+1) > 1$, there is an integer $\tilde{\tau}_1$ such that $\tau_1 < \tilde{\tau}_1 < \tau_1 + \beta(k+1)$. Then $z = \tau_1 w + \tau_2 b_2 + \dots + \tau_n b_n \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ is in the relative interior of the line segment connecting x and y , so $z \in K^\circ \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$. $\square$

THEOREM 4. There are, up to unimodular equivalence, only finitely many convex polytopes P satisfying:

- (i) $\text{vert}(P) \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^n$;
- (ii) $P^\circ \cap \mathbb{Z}^n = \emptyset$; and
- (iii) $P^\circ \cap G \neq \emptyset$, for each group $G \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ which properly contains $\mathbb{Z}^n$.

Proof. After Lemma 6, we need only show that there are only finitely many equivalence classes of such P for which

$|P \cap \mathbb{Z}^n| < m$ (where $m = (1 + k)^n + 1$ as in Lemma 6).

Indeed, if $|P \cap \mathbb{Z}^n| \geq m$ and if P satisfies (i) and (ii) then $A^{-1}(\mathbb{Z}^{n-1})$ is a subgroup G of $\mathbb{R}^n$ for which (iii) fails, where A is the linear function guaranteed by the lemma.

Suppose that P and Q are convex polytopes, each satisfying conditions (i), (ii), and (iii), and neither having m or more elements in common with $\mathbb{Z}^n$. Let

$$U^n = \{(x_1, \dots, x_{m-2}) \in \mathbb{R}^{m-2} : x_i > 0$$

$$\text{for } 1 \leq i \leq m-2 \text{ and } x_1 + \dots + x_{m-2} < 1 \}.$$

Let $B : \mathbb{R}^{m-2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ and $C : \mathbb{R}^{m-2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be affine functions mapping $\text{cl}(U^n)$ onto P and Q respectively and mapping $\mathbb{Z}^{m-2}$ onto $\mathbb{Z}^n$. The subgroups $G = B^{-1}(\mathbb{Z}^n)$ and $H = C^{-1}(\mathbb{Z}^n)$ then miss U , and are maximal such subgroups. If $G = H$ then there is an affine unimodular function $D : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $B = DC$. In particular, $DQ = P$.

By Theorem 1, the number of maximal subgroups $G \supseteq \mathbb{Z}^{m-2}$ such that $G \cap U = \emptyset$ is finite. We see from the preceding paragraph that this number is an upper bound on the cardinality of any collection of unimodularly inequivalent convex polytopes P satisfying (i), (ii), (iii), and $|\text{vert}(P)| < m$. $\square$

5. Unanswered Questions.

In this final section we present some problems and questions that seem natural but with which we have not dealt.

A. Is there a reasonable method for computing the finitely many groups of Theorem 1 -- say, when the dimension n is small and the set U is the interior of a convex polytope?

B. Compute χ_n ; or at least find numbers that can serve as the χ 's of Lemma 5. (We know $\chi_1 = 1/2$, $\chi_2 = 5/6$, $\chi_3 \geq 41/42$, . . .)

C. Find the convex polytopes P of Theorem 4, when (say) $n = 3$. (For $n = 1$, there is, up to unimodular equivalence, only the interval $[0, 1]$; for $n = 2$, only $\text{conv}\left\{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}\right\}$).

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