
Invariant Measure Under the Affine Group Over \mathbb{Z}

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Received 8 November 2011; revised 16 November 2013; first published online 2 January 2014

A rational polyhedron $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is a finite union of simplexes in \mathbb{R}^n with rational vertices. P is said to be \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphic to the rational polyhedron $Q \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ if there is a piecewise linear homeomorphism η of P onto Q such that each linear piece of η and η^{-1} has integer coefficients. When $n = m$, \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphism amounts to continuous \mathcal{G}_n -equidissectability, where $\mathcal{G}_n = GL(n, \mathbb{Z}) \ltimes \mathbb{Z}^n$ is the affine group over the integers, i.e., the group of all affinities on \mathbb{R}^n that leave the lattice \mathbb{Z}^n invariant. \mathcal{G}_n yields a geometry on the set of rational polyhedra. For each $d = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, we define a rational measure λ_d on the set of rational polyhedra, and show that any two \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphic rational polyhedra $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and $Q \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ satisfy $\lambda_d(P) = \lambda_d(Q)$. $\lambda_n(P)$ coincides with the n -dimensional Lebesgue measure of P . If $0 \leq \dim P = d < n$ then $\lambda_d(P) > 0$. For rational d -simplexes T lying in the same d -dimensional affine subspace of \mathbb{R}^n , $\lambda_d(T)$ is proportional to the d -dimensional Hausdorff measure of T . We characterize λ_d among all unimodular invariant valuations.

2010 Mathematics subject classification: Primary 20H25

Secondary 20H05, 51M25, 51N25, 52B20, 14E05, 52A38

1. Introduction: statement of the main results

1.1. Prologue: Markov unrecognizability theorem

Following [14] and [26], we use the term *polyhedron* P in \mathbb{R}^n ($n = 1, 2, \dots$) to mean the union of a finite set of (always closed) simplexes T_i in \mathbb{R}^n . If the vertices of each T_i are in \mathbb{Q}^n , P is said to be a *rational polyhedron*. By Markov's unrecognizability theorem [25, and references therein], no Turing machine can decide whether there is a PL-homeomorphism θ of two polyhedra P and Q . For the decision problem to make sense, P and Q are assumed to be rational, so that they can be effectively presented as finite strings of symbols. Without loss of generality, one may insist that each linear piece of θ and θ^{-1} has *rational* coefficients [11, p. 55], thus showing that the set of pairs of PL-homeomorphic rational polyhedra is *Gödel incomplete* (i.e., recursively enumerable but not decidable). If we further assume that all coefficients are *integers*, we obtain what in [17] is called

a \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphism. Any \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphism preserves (least common) denominators of rational points, thus taking due care of the amount of data needed to specify P and Q . Two rational polyhedra $R, S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ are \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphic if and only if they are continuously \mathcal{G}_n -equidissectable [14], where $\mathcal{G}_n = GL(n, \mathbb{Z}) \ltimes \mathbb{Z}^n$ is the group of all affinities on \mathbb{R}^n that leave the lattice \mathbb{Z}^n invariant. \mathcal{G}_n induces a geometry on the family of rational polyhedra, and equips them with many invariants. The present paper deals with one such invariant, the d -dimensional rational measure λ_d , for $d = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

1.2. Fans and regular triangulations of rational polyhedra

For any $n = 1, 2, \dots$ and rational point $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ we let $\text{den}(x)$ denote the least common denominator of the coordinates of x . The integer vector

$$\tilde{x} = \text{den}(x)(x_1, \dots, x_n, 1) \in \mathbb{Z}^{n+1}$$

is called the *homogeneous correspondent* of x . For $m = 0, 1, \dots$, an m -simplex

$$T = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_m) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$$

is said to be *rational* if all its vertices are rational. We use the notation $T^\uparrow = \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \tilde{v}_0 + \dots + \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \tilde{v}_m \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ for the positive span in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} of the homogeneous correspondents of the vertices of T . We say that T^\uparrow is the (*rational simplicial*) *cone* of T . The *generators* $\tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_m$ of T^\uparrow are *primitive*, in the sense that each \tilde{v}_i is minimal as a non-zero integer vector along its *ray* $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \tilde{v}_i$. T^\uparrow uniquely determines the set of its primitive generators, just as T uniquely determines the set $\text{ext}(T)$ of its vertices. Following [8] we say that T^\uparrow is *regular* if its primitive generators are part of a basis of the free abelian group \mathbb{Z}^{n+1} . By definition, a rational m -simplex $T = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_m) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is (*Farey*) *regular* if T^\uparrow is regular. (*Warning.* In the literature one also finds the term ‘regular’ simplex T when all edge lengths of T are equal. Regular simplexes in this sense will have no role in this paper.) The m th Farey sequence, $m = 1, 2, \dots$, yields the vertices of a (Farey) regular triangulation of the unit interval. More generally, any (Farey) regular triangulation of the unit interval consists of intervals that appear in some Farey sequence.

By a (*polyhedral*) *complex* in \mathbb{R}^n we mean a finite set Λ of convex polyhedra P_i in \mathbb{R}^n , closed under taking faces, and having the further property that any two elements of Λ intersect in a common face. The complex Λ is said to be *rational* if the vertices of all $P_i \in \Lambda$ are rational. If all P_i are simplexes then Λ is said to be a *simplicial complex*. For every complex Λ , its *support* $|\Lambda| \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is the pointset union of all polyhedra of Λ . Let Δ be a rational simplicial complex. Instead of saying that the support of Δ is the rational polyhedron $|\Delta|$, we say that Δ is a *triangulation* of $|\Delta|$. The set $\Delta^\uparrow = \{T^\uparrow \mid T \in \Delta\}$ is a *simplicial fan*, [8, 21]. We say that Δ is *regular* if the simplicial fan Δ^\uparrow is *regular* (= *non-singular* in [21]), meaning that every cone $T^\uparrow \in \Delta^\uparrow$ is regular. Lemma 2.1 ensures that every rational polyhedron P is the support of some regular complex.

1.3. The rational measure λ_d

For $n > 0$ a fixed integer, let $Q \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a (not necessarily rational) polyhedron. For any triangulation \mathcal{T} of Q and $i = 0, 1, \dots$ we let $\mathcal{T}^{\max}(i)$ denote the set of maximal i -simplexes

of \mathcal{T} . The i -dimensional part $Q^{(i)}$ of Q is now defined by

$$Q^{(i)} = \bigcup \{T \in \mathcal{T}^{\max(i)}\}. \tag{1.1}$$

Since any two triangulations of Q have a joint subdivision, the definition of $Q^{(i)}$ does not depend on the chosen triangulation \mathcal{T} of Q . If $Q^{(i)}$ is non-empty, then it is an i -dimensional polyhedron whose j -dimensional part $Q^{(j)}$ is empty for each $j \neq i$. Trivially, $Q^{(k)} = \emptyset$ for each integer $k > \dim(Q)$. For every (Farey) regular m -simplex $S = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_m) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ we use the notation

$$\text{den}(S) = \prod_{j=0}^m \text{den}(v_j),$$

and say that $\text{den}(S)$ is the *denominator* of S . For any rational polyhedron P in \mathbb{R}^n , regular triangulation Δ of P , and $i = 0, 1, \dots$, the rational number $\lambda(n, i, P, \Delta)$ is defined by

$$\lambda(n, i, P, \Delta) = \sum_{T \in \Delta^{\max(i)}} \frac{1}{i! \text{den}(T)}, \tag{1.2}$$

with the proviso that $\lambda(n, i, P, \Delta) = 0$ if $\Delta^{\max(i)} = \emptyset$. In particular, this is the case for all $i > \dim(P)$.

Our first main result, Theorem 2.3, shows that the quantity $\lambda(n, i, P, \Delta)$ does not depend on Δ . Thus we can unambiguously write

$$\lambda_d(P) = \lambda(n, d, P, \Delta), \tag{1.3}$$

where Δ is an arbitrary regular triangulation of $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$. We say that λ_d is the d -dimensional rational measure of P . Trivially, $\lambda_d(P) = 0$ for each integer $d > \dim(P)$.

As an alternative construction of λ_d for readers having some familiarity with fans [8, 21], let us write $(P, 1)$ as an abbreviation of $\{(x, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid x \in P\}$. Let Φ be a regular fan over the set $\{\theta y \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid 0 \leq \theta \in \mathbb{R}, y \in (P, 1)\}$. Next, let Δ_Φ be the triangulation of $(P, 1)$ obtained by intersecting every cone of Φ with the hyperplane $x_{n+1} = 1$. Then

$$\lambda_d(P) = \sum \left\{ \frac{1}{d! \prod_{v \in \text{ext}(T)} \text{den}(v)} \mid T \text{ a maximal } d\text{-simplex of } \Delta_\Phi \right\}.$$

The proof of Theorem 2.3 relies upon the solution of the weak Oda conjecture by Morelli and Włodarczyk [15, 27].

Perusal of the proof of Lemma 2.1 shows that the map $(P, d) \mapsto \lambda_d(P)$ is Turing-computable. Some explicit computations are given in Figures 1 and 2.

Recall that $\mathcal{G}_n = GL(n, \mathbb{Z}) \times \mathbb{Z}^n$ denotes the group of transformations of the form $x \mapsto Ax + t$ ($x \in \mathbb{R}^n$), where $t \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ and A is an $n \times n$ matrix with integer entries and determinant ± 1 . Throughout, we will let

$$\mathcal{P}^{(n)}$$

denote the set of all rational polyhedra in \mathbb{R}^n . Our second main result is as follows.

Theorem 1.1. *For each $n = 1, 2, \dots$ and $d = 0, 1, \dots$, the map $\lambda_d : \mathcal{P}^{(n)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ has the following properties, for all $P, Q \in \mathcal{P}^{(n)}$.*

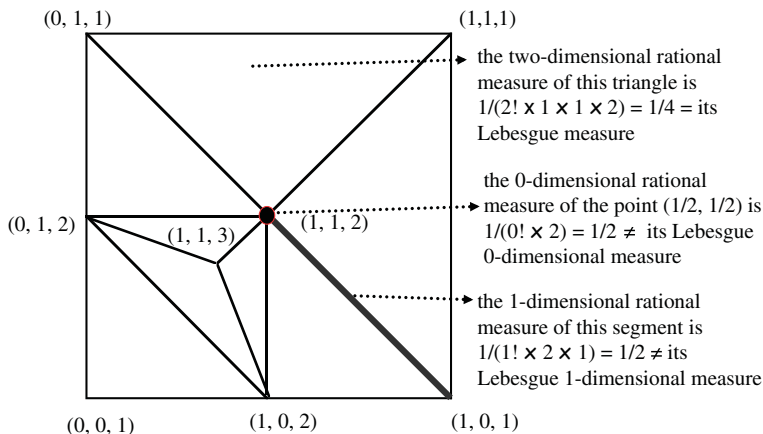


Figure 1. (Colour online) Hironaka's regular triangulation ∇ of the unit square (see [6, pp. 270–271]). The vertices of ∇ are specified by their homogeneous coordinates. Each simplex of ∇ is (Farey) regular. The sum of the two-dimensional measures of the 2-simplexes of ∇ equals 1. Only the rational measure of segments and vertices of ∇ may differ from their Lebesgue measure.

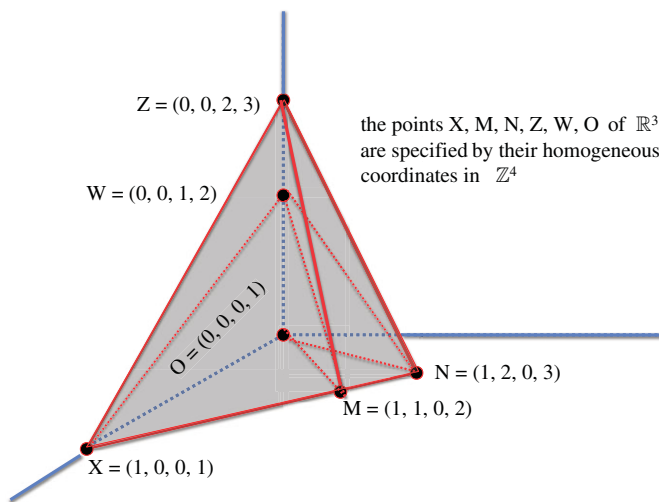


Figure 2. (Colour online) The two-dimensional rational measure $1/9$ of the triangle XNZ in \mathbb{R}^3 is the sum of the two-dimensional rational measures $1/12 = 1/(2! \times 1 \times 2 \times 3)$ and $1/36 = 1/(2! \times 2 \times 3 \times 3)$ of the (Farey) regular simplexes XMZ and MNZ . The segment XN is not regular. The segments XM and MN , as well as XZ and ZN , are regular. The tetrahedra $ZWXM$, $ZWMN$, $OWXM$, $OWMN$ are regular. Their three-dimensional rational measures are $1/72$, $1/216$, $1/24$, $1/72$, respectively, coinciding with their Lebesgue volumes.

- (i) Invariance. If $P = \gamma(Q)$ for some $\gamma \in \mathcal{G}_n$ then $\lambda_d(P) = \lambda_d(Q)$.
- (ii) Valuation. $\lambda_d(\emptyset) = 0$, $\lambda_d(P) = \lambda_d(P^{(d)})$, and the restriction of λ_d to the set of all rational polyhedra P, Q in \mathbb{R}^n having dimension $\leq d$ is a valuation, i.e.,

$$\lambda_d(P) + \lambda_d(Q) = \lambda_d(P \cup Q) + \lambda_d(P \cap Q). \tag{1.4}$$

(iii) Conservativity. For any $P \in \mathcal{P}^{(n)}$, let

$$(P, 0) = \{(x, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid x \in P\}.$$

Then $\lambda_d(P) = \lambda_d(P, 0)$.

(iv) Pyramid. For $k = 1, \dots, n$, if $\text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_k)$ is a (Farey) regular k -simplex in \mathbb{R}^n with $v_0 \in \mathbb{Z}^n$, then

$$\lambda_k(\text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_k)) = \lambda_{k-1}(\text{conv}(v_1, \dots, v_k))/k. \tag{1.5}$$

(v) Normalization. Let $j = 1, \dots, n$. Suppose the set $B = \{w_1, \dots, w_j\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^n$ is part of a basis of the free abelian group \mathbb{Z}^n . Let the closed parallelepiped $P_B \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be defined by

$$P_B = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid x = \sum_{i=1}^j \gamma_i w_i, 0 \leq \gamma_i \leq 1 \right\}. \tag{1.6}$$

Then $\lambda_j(P_B) = 1$.

(vi) Proportionality. Let A be an m -dimensional rational affine subspace of \mathbb{R}^n for some $m = 0, \dots, n$. Then there is a constant $\kappa_A > 0$, depending only on A , such that $\lambda_m(Q) = \kappa_A \cdot \mathcal{H}^m(Q)$ for every rational m -simplex $Q \subseteq A$. Here, as usual, \mathcal{H}^m denotes the m -dimensional Hausdorff measure.

Conversely, in Theorem 6.2 we will prove that conditions (i)–(vi) uniquely characterize the maps $\lambda_d : \mathcal{P}^{(n)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$. As proved in Section 4, the Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R}^n is obtainable from λ_n via Carathéodory’s construction, or using the main result of [20], or even [23]. In contrast to the Lebesgue measure, for each $0 \leq d < n$ and rational d -simplex $T \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, the rational measure $\lambda_d(T)$ does not vanish. Related measure-theoretic work on convex polyhedra, and applications of the λ_i to ordered groups and AF C^* -algebras will be briefly discussed in Section 8.

2. Farey blow-up and \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphism

Given two simplicial complexes Λ' and Λ with the same support, we say that Λ' is a subdivision of Λ if every simplex of Λ' is contained in a simplex of Λ . For any $c \in |\Lambda|$, the blow-up $\Lambda_{(c)}$ of Λ at c is the subdivision of Λ given by replacing every simplex $C \in \Lambda$ that contains c by the set of all simplexes of the form $\text{conv}(F \cup \{c\})$, where F is any face of C that does not contain c (see [27, p. 376], [8, III, 2.1]).

The inverse of a blow-up is called a blow-down.

For any (Farey) regular m -simplex $T = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_m) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, the Farey mediant of T is the rational point v of T whose homogeneous correspondent \tilde{v} coincides with $\tilde{v}_0 + \dots + \tilde{v}_m$. If T belongs to a regular complex Δ and c is the Farey mediant of T , then the Farey blow-up $\Delta_{(c)}$ is regular.

By a rational (affine) hyperplane $H \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, we mean a subset of \mathbb{R}^n of the form $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid a \cdot x = t\}$, where \cdot denotes the scalar product, a is a non-zero vector in \mathbb{Q}^n (equivalently, in \mathbb{Z}^n) and $t \in \mathbb{Q}$. When $t = 0$, H is called homogeneous. By a rational affine subspace of \mathbb{R}^n we mean the intersection $A_{\mathcal{F}}$ of a finite set \mathcal{F} of rational hyperplanes in \mathbb{R}^n . In particular,



Figure 3. Two \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphic rational polyhedra in the unit square $[0, 1]^2$.

$A_\emptyset = \mathbb{R}^n$. The *affine hull* $\text{aff}(T)$ of a simplex T in \mathbb{R}^n is the set of all affine combinations of points of T .

Lemma 2.1. *Every rational polyhedron $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is the support of a regular complex.*

Proof. By [26, p. 36], P is the support of some simplicial complex Λ . Since P is rational, Λ can be assumed rational. The set $\Lambda^\uparrow = \{T^\uparrow \mid T \in \Lambda\}$ is a simplicial fan in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . The desingularization procedure of [8, VI, 8.5] yields a regular subdivision Λ^* of Λ^\uparrow . Intersecting each cone of Λ^* with the hyperplane $x_{n+1} = 1$, we obtain a simplicial complex Δ whose support is the set $(P, 1) = \{(x, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid x \in P\}$. For each simplex $U \in \Delta$, let U' be the projection of U onto the hyperplane $x_{n+1} = 0$, identified with \mathbb{R}^n . Then the regularity of Λ^* ensures that the set $\{U' \mid U \in \Delta\}$ is a regular complex with support P . \square

The following notion is of independent interest [17, Proof of Claim 2, pp. 544–545], and will find repeated use in this paper.

Definition 1. Two rational polyhedra $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and $Q \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ are \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphic, $P \cong_{\mathbb{Z}} Q$, if there is a piecewise linear homeomorphism $\eta = (\eta_1, \dots, \eta_m)$ of P onto Q (each η_i with a finite number of pieces $l_{i1}, \dots, l_{ik(i)}$) such that each linear piece of η and η^{-1} is a linear (affine) map with integer coefficients.

The adjective ‘linear’ is understood in the affine sense. Figures 3 and 4 give examples of \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphic rational polyhedra in the unit square $[0, 1]^2$.

In particular, if $m = n$ and there exists $\gamma \in \mathcal{G}_n$ with $Q = \gamma(P)$, then $P \cong_{\mathbb{Z}} Q$. The converse does not hold: the two 0-simplexes $\{1/5\}$ and $\{2/5\}$ in \mathbb{R} are \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphic but there is no $\gamma \in \mathcal{G}_1$ such that $\gamma(1/5) = 2/5$.

Lemma 2.2. *Suppose $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and $P' \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n'}$ are rational polyhedra and η is a \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphism of P onto P' .*

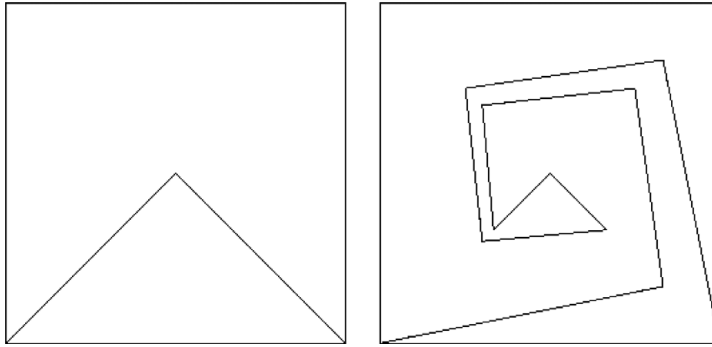


Figure 4. The triangle $T = \text{conv}((0,0), (1,0), (1/2, 1/2)) \subseteq [0, 1]^2$ and a \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphic copy of T .

- (i) A point $z \in P$ is rational if and only if the point $\eta(z) \in P'$ is rational. Further, $\text{den}(y) = \text{den}(\eta(y))$ for every rational point $y \in P$.
- (ii) There is a regular complex Λ with support P such that η is linear (in the affine sense) over every simplex of Λ .
- (iii) For any regular complex Λ with support P such that η is linear over every simplex of Λ , the set $\Lambda' = \{\eta(S) \mid S \in \Lambda\}$ is a regular complex with support P' .

Proof. (i) This is an immediate consequence of Definition 1.

(ii) Lemma 2.1 yields a regular complex \mathcal{C}_0 with support P . Let $\eta_1, \dots, \eta_{n'}$ be the components of η . Fix $i = 1, \dots, n'$ and let l_{i1}, \dots, l_{ik} be the linear pieces of η_i . Letting σ range over all permutations of the set $\{1, \dots, k\}$, the family of sets $P_\sigma = \{x \in P \mid l_{i\sigma(1)} \leq \dots \leq l_{i\sigma(k)}\}$ can be subdivided into a rational (polyhedral) complex \mathcal{C}_i with support P , such that the maps l_{ij} are stratified over each polyhedron R of \mathcal{C}_i , in the sense that for all $j' \neq j''$ we have either $l_{ij'} \leq l_{ij''}$ or $l_{ij'} \geq l_{ij''}$ on R . Since every complex can be subdivided into a simplicial complex without adding new vertices [8, III, 2.6], we can assume without loss of generality that all polyhedra in \mathcal{C}_i are simplexes and that \mathcal{C}_i is a subdivision of \mathcal{C}_0 . Thus η_i is linear over every simplex of \mathcal{C}_i . We now routinely construct a common subdivision \mathcal{C} of the rational complexes $\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_{n'}$, such that every simplex of \mathcal{C} is rational. It follows that η is linear over each simplex of \mathcal{C} . The set $\mathcal{C}^\dagger = \{T^\dagger \mid T \in \mathcal{C}\}$ is a simplicial fan. The desingularization procedure [8, VI, 8.5] yields a regular fan Φ such that every cone of \mathcal{C}^\dagger is a union of cones of Φ . Intersecting the cones in Φ with the hyperplane $x_{n+1} = 1$, we have a complex Ξ whose support is the set

$$(P, 1) = \{(x, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid x \in P\}.$$

Dropping the last coordinate from the vertices of the simplexes of Ξ , we obtain a regular complex Λ with support P such that η is linear over every simplex of Λ .

(iii) Λ' is a rational simplicial complex with support P' . Fix a rational j -simplex

$$S = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_j) \subseteq P,$$

not necessarily belonging to Λ , such that η is linear over S . Let $S' = \eta(S)$. The (affine) linear map $\eta : x \in S \mapsto y \in S'$ determines the homogeneous linear map

$$(x, 1) \in (S, 1) \mapsto (y, 1) \in (S', 1).$$

Let M_S be the $(n' + 1) \times (n + 1)$ integer matrix whose bottom row has the form

$$(0, 0, \dots, 0, 0, 1)$$

(with n zeros), and whose i th row ($i = 1, \dots, n'$) is given by the coefficients of the (affine) linear polynomial $\eta_i \upharpoonright S$. Let $\tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_j \in \mathbb{Z}^{n+1}$ be the homogeneous correspondents of the vertices v_0, \dots, v_j of S , and let $S^\uparrow = \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \tilde{v}_0 + \dots + \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \tilde{v}_j \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ be the positive span of $\tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_j$. Similarly, let S'^\uparrow be the positive span in $\mathbb{R}^{n'+1}$ of the integer vectors $M_S \tilde{v}_0, \dots, M_S \tilde{v}_j$. By construction, M_S sends integer points of S^\uparrow one-to-one into integer points of S'^\uparrow . Interchanging the roles of S and S' , we see that M_S sends integer points of S^\uparrow one-to-one onto integer points of S'^\uparrow . Blichfeldt's theorem [13], yields the following characterization:

S is (Farey) regular

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{the half-open parallelepiped } Q_S = \{\mu_0 \tilde{v}_0 + \dots + \mu_j \tilde{v}_j \mid 0 \leq \mu_0, \dots, \mu_j < 1\}$$

contains no non-zero integer points

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{the half-open parallelepiped } Q_{S'} \text{ contains no non-zero integer points}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow S' \text{ is (Farey) regular.}$$

In particular, if S is a simplex of Λ then the assumed regularity of Λ entails the (Farey) regularity of S , whence of S' . We conclude that Λ' is a regular complex with support P' . □

Recall from (1.2) the definition of $\lambda(n, i, P, \Delta)$.

Theorem 2.3. *For every $n = 1, 2, \dots$, $i = 0, 1, \dots$, polyhedron $P \in \mathcal{P}^{(n)}$ and regular triangulations Δ and Δ' of P , we have $\lambda(n, i, P, \Delta) = \lambda(n, i, P, \Delta')$.*

Proof. We first suppose that Δ' is obtained from Δ by a blow-up at the Farey mediant c of some j -simplex $S = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_j) \in \Delta$, $j = 1, \dots, n$. In symbols, $\Delta' = \Delta_{(c)}$. S is the smallest simplex of Δ containing c as an element. Thus $c \in R \in \Delta \Rightarrow \dim(R) \geq j$. Let $d = 0, 1, \dots, n$. If, for no simplex $T \in \Delta^{\max}(d)$, it is the case that $c \in T$, then $\Delta^{\max}(d) = \Delta'^{\max}(d)$. Otherwise, let $T = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_j, \dots, v_d)$ be a simplex of $\Delta^{\max}(d)$ such that $c \in T$. We now define the d -simplexes S_0, \dots, S_j as follows:

$$S_0 = \text{conv}(c, v_1, \dots, v_d),$$

$$S_j = \text{conv}(v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{j-1}, c, \dots, v_d),$$

$$S_t = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_{t-1}, c, v_{t+1}, \dots, v_j, \dots, v_d)$$

for each $t = 1, \dots, j - 1$. By the definition of the Farey mediant, $\text{den}(c) = \text{den}(v_0) + \dots + \text{den}(v_j)$. By the definition of the Farey blow-up, the subcomplex of Δ given by T and its faces is replaced in Δ' by the simplicial complex given by the d -simplexes S_0, \dots, S_j

and their faces. Since T is (Farey) regular, then so is S_u for each $u = 0, \dots, j$, whence $\text{den}(S_u) = \text{den}(T) \cdot \text{den}(c)/\text{den}(v_u)$. As a consequence,

$$1/\text{den}(T) = \sum_{u=0}^j 1/\text{den}(S_u).$$

Since

$$\sum_{T \in \Delta^{\max(d)}} \frac{1}{d! \text{den}(T)} = \sum_{U \in \Delta'^{\max(d)}} \frac{1}{d! \text{den}(U)},$$

then $\lambda(n, d, P, \Delta) = \lambda(n, d, P, \Delta')$. Thus, in the case $\Delta' = \Delta_{(c)}$, we obtain

$$\lambda(n, i, P, \Delta) = \lambda(n, i, P, \Delta'),$$

for all $i = 0, 1, \dots$

In the general case when Δ' is an arbitrary regular triangulation of P , the solution of the weak Oda conjecture [15, 27] yields a sequence of regular triangulations

$$\nabla_0 = \Delta, \nabla_1, \dots, \nabla_{s-1}, \nabla_s = \Delta',$$

where each ∇_{k+1} is obtained from ∇_k by a Farey blow-up, or, *vice versa*, ∇_k is obtained from ∇_{k+1} by a Farey blow-up. Then the desired conclusion follows by induction on s . \square

This theorem enables us to equip the totality of rational polyhedra with the rational d -dimensional measure λ_d defined in (1.3).

3. Proof of Theorem 1.1(i)–(v)

3.1. Invariance

We will actually prove the stronger result that λ_d is invariant under \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphisms. In other words, whenever $P' \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n'}$ is a rational polyhedron and $P \cong_{\mathbb{Z}} P'$, then $\lambda_d(P) = \lambda_d(P')$ for all $d = 0, 1, \dots$. Let ι be a \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphism of P onto P' . Let Δ be a regular complex with support P such that ι is (affine) linear over every simplex of Δ . The existence of Δ is ensured by Lemma 2.2(ii). Let $\Delta' = \{\iota(T) \mid T \in \Delta\}$. By Lemma 2.2(i)–(iii), Δ' is a regular complex with support P' , and $\text{den}(\iota(z)) = \text{den}(z)$ for every rational point $z \in P$. It follows that $\lambda(n, d, P, \Delta) = \lambda(n', d, P', \Delta')$. The desired conclusion now follows from Theorem 2.3.

3.2. Valuation

The identities $\lambda_d(\emptyset) = 0$, and $\lambda_d(P) = \lambda_d(P^{(d)})$ immediately follow by the definition of rational measure. To prove (1.4), we first observe that both $P \cup Q$ and $P \cap Q$ are rational polyhedra in \mathbb{R}^n whose dimension is at most d . As an application of Lemma 2.1, let the regular complexes $\Delta, \Phi, \Psi, \Omega$ have the following properties:

$$|\Delta| = P \cap Q, |\Phi| = P, |\Psi| = Q, |\Omega| = P \cup Q.$$

Using the extension argument in [8, VI. 9.3], we can assume $\Delta = \Phi \cap \Psi$ and $\Omega = \Phi \cup \Psi$, without loss of generality. For every $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ we let $\text{cl}(X)$ denote the closure of X in \mathbb{R}^n ,

as usual. By Theorem 2.3 we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda_d(P) + \lambda_d(Q) &= \lambda(n, d, P, \Phi) + \lambda(n, d, Q, \Psi) \\
 &= \frac{1}{d!} \left[\sum_{T \in \Phi^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} + \sum_{T \in \Psi^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} \right] \\
 &= \frac{1}{d!} \left[\sum_{\text{cl}(P \setminus Q) \supseteq T \in \Phi^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} + \sum_{\text{cl}(Q \setminus P) \supseteq T \in \Psi^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} \right] \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{d!} \left[\sum_{P \cap Q \supseteq T \in \Phi^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} + \sum_{P \cap Q \supseteq T \in \Psi^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} \right] \\
 &= \frac{1}{d!} \left[\sum_{\text{cl}(P \setminus Q) \supseteq T \in \Phi^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} + \sum_{\text{cl}(Q \setminus P) \supseteq T \in \Psi^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} \right] \\
 &\quad + \frac{2}{d!} \sum_{T \in \Delta^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} \\
 &= \frac{1}{d!} \left[\sum_{\text{cl}(P \setminus Q) \supseteq T \in \Omega^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} + \sum_{\text{cl}(Q \setminus P) \supseteq T \in \Omega^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} \right] \\
 &\quad + \frac{2}{d!} \sum_{T \in \Delta^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} \\
 &= \frac{1}{d!} \left[\sum_{\text{cl}(P \setminus Q) \supseteq T \in \Omega^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} + \sum_{\text{cl}(Q \setminus P) \supseteq T \in \Omega^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} \right] \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{d!} \left[\sum_{P \cap Q \supseteq T \in \Omega^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} + \sum_{T \in \Delta^{\max}(d)} \text{den}(T)^{-1} \right] \\
 &= \lambda(n, d, P \cup Q, \Omega) + \lambda(n, d, P \cap Q, \Delta) = \lambda_d(P \cup Q) + \lambda_d(P \cap Q).
 \end{aligned}$$

3.3. Conservativity and pyramid

Properties (iii) and (iv) are immediate consequences of the definition of λ_d .

3.4. Normalization

To prove property (v), let Π be the set of permutations of the set $\{1, 2, \dots, j\}$. For every permutation $\pi \in \Pi$ we let T_π be the convex hull of the set of points

$$0, w_{\pi(1)}, w_{\pi(1)} + w_{\pi(2)}, w_{\pi(1)} + w_{\pi(2)} + w_{\pi(3)}, \dots, w_{\pi(1)} + w_{\pi(2)} + \dots + w_{\pi(j)}.$$

Arguing as in [24, 3.4], it follows that the j -simplexes T_π are the maximal elements of a triangulation Σ of P_B , called the *standard triangulation* Σ . Each simplex T_π is regular and has unit denominator. There are $j!$ such simplexes. By definition, the rational j -dimensional measure of T_π is equal to $1/j!$. A final application of Theorem 2.3 yields $\lambda_j(P_B) = 1$.

4. From λ_n to Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R}^n via Carathéodory's method

In what follows, \mathcal{L}^n will denote the Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R}^n .

Proposition 4.1. *For any $n = 1, 2, \dots$ and polyhedron $Q \in \mathcal{P}^{(n)}$, we have $\lambda_n(Q) = \mathcal{L}^n(Q)$.*

Proof. If $\dim(Q) < n$ then $\mathcal{L}^n(Q) = \lambda_n(Q) = 0$. If $\dim(Q) = n$, since $\lambda_n(Q) = \lambda_n(Q^{(n)})$ and $\mathcal{L}^n(Q) = \mathcal{L}^n(Q^{(n)})$, without loss of generality we may assume $Q = Q^{(n)}$. Let ∇ be a regular triangulation of Q as given by Lemma 2.1. Since, as we have seen, λ_n is a valuation on $\mathcal{P}^{(n)}$ and $\mathcal{L}^n(Q) = \sum_{S \in \nabla^{\max}(n)} \mathcal{L}^n(S)$, it is enough to prove

$$\lambda_n(S) = \mathcal{L}^n(S) \text{ for every } n\text{-simplex } S = \text{conv}(w_0, \dots, w_n) \in \nabla. \tag{4.1}$$

To this end, let $T \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ be the $(n + 1)$ -simplex with vertices $0, (w_0, 1), \dots, (w_n, 1)$. Then

$$\mathcal{L}^{n+1}(T) = \mathcal{L}^n(S)/(n + 1).$$

This is the classical formula for the volume of the $(n + 1)$ -dimensional pyramid with base S and height 1. Next we observe that T is contained in the closed $(n + 1)$ -dimensional parallelepiped

$$E = \{\alpha_0(w_0, 1) + \dots + \alpha_n(w_n, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid \alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_n \in [0, 1]\}.$$

Further,

$$E \subseteq U = \{\alpha_0 \tilde{w}_0 + \dots + \alpha_n \tilde{w}_n \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid \alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_n \in [0, 1]\}.$$

Since S is (Farey) regular, a classical argument in the geometry of numbers ([13] or [8, Proof of VI, 8.5]) yields $\mathcal{L}^{n+1}(U) = 1$. For all $i = 0, \dots, n$, let $d_i = \text{den}(w_i)$. Since

$$\tilde{w}_0 = d_0(w_0, 1), \dots, \tilde{w}_n = d_n(w_n, 1),$$

then

$$\mathcal{L}^{n+1}(E) = (d_0 \dots d_n)^{-1}.$$

The construction of [24, 3.4] now yields a triangulation of E consisting of $(n + 1)$ -simplexes $T_1, \dots, T_{(n+1)!}$ and their faces, in such a way that

$$\mathcal{L}^{n+1}(T_i) = \frac{\mathcal{L}^{n+1}(E)}{(n + 1)!} \quad \text{for each } i = 1, \dots, (n + 1)!$$

Each T_i is a (Farey) regular simplex. One easily gets a linear (affine) isometry of T_i onto T . Therefore,

$$\mathcal{L}^{n+1}(T) = \frac{\mathcal{L}^{n+1}(E)}{(n + 1)!}.$$

Summing up, $\mathcal{L}^n(S) = \mathcal{L}^{n+1}(E)/n! = (n! d_0 \dots d_n)^{-1} = \lambda_n(S)$, and (4.1) is proved. □

Corollary 4.2. Fix $n = 1, 2, \dots$ and let $\mathcal{K}^{(n)}$ denote the family of compact subsets of \mathbb{R}^n . For any Borel set $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ let us define

$$\bar{\lambda}_n(E) = \sup_{E \supseteq K \in \mathcal{K}^{(n)}} \inf_{K \subseteq P \in \mathcal{P}^{(n)}} \lambda_n(P).$$

Then $\bar{\lambda}_n(E) = \mathcal{L}^n(E)$.

Proof. We first claim that every $K \in \mathcal{K}^{(n)}$ coincides with the intersection of all rational polyhedra of $\mathcal{P}^{(n)}$ containing it.

As a matter of fact, for any $P, Q \in \mathcal{P}^{(n)}$ both $P \cup Q$ and $P \cap Q$ are members of $\mathcal{P}^{(n)}$. Moreover, there exists a rational triangulation \mathcal{T} of $P \cup Q$ such that the set $\{T \in \mathcal{T} \mid T \subseteq P \cap Q\}$ is a triangulation of $P \cap Q$. Thus the set $\{T \in \mathcal{T} \mid T \subseteq \text{cl}(P \setminus Q)\}$ is a triangulation of the set $\text{cl}(P \setminus Q) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, which shows that $\text{cl}(P \setminus Q)$ is a rational polyhedron. For every $x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus K$ there is a rational n -simplex T containing x in its interior and such that $T \cap K = \emptyset$. Since K is contained in some rational polyhedron, our claim is settled.

Now let $P_0 \supseteq P_1 \supseteq \dots$ be a sequence of rational polyhedra such that $\bigcap_i P_i = K$, and for every $R \in \mathcal{P}^{(n)}$ with $K \subseteq R$ there exists $j = 0, 1, \dots$ such that $P_j \subseteq R$. The existence of this sequence follows from our claim, together with the observation that there are only countably many rational polyhedra. By Proposition 4.1,

$$\lambda_n(P_0) = \mathcal{L}^n(P_0) \geq \mathcal{L}^n(P_1) = \lambda_n(P_1) \geq \lambda_n(P_2) \geq \dots,$$

whence by construction,

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_n(P_i) = \inf\{\lambda_n(R) \mid R \supseteq K, R \in \mathcal{P}^{(n)}\} = \bar{\lambda}_n(K).$$

Combining Proposition 4.1 with the countable monotonicity property of \mathcal{L}^n , we get

$$\mathcal{L}^n(K) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{L}^n(P_i) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_n(P_i) = \bar{\lambda}_n(K).$$

Having thus proved that $\bar{\lambda}_n$ agrees with \mathcal{L}^n on all compact subsets of \mathbb{R}^n , the desired conclusion follows from the regularity properties of the Lebesgue measure. □

Remark. Following [10, 115C], we now routinely extend $\bar{\lambda}_n$ to an outer measure

$$\lambda_n^* : \text{powerset}(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow [0, \infty],$$

which, by Corollary 4.2 and [10, 115D], coincides with the Lebesgue outer measure on \mathbb{R}^n . As proved in [10, 115E], by applying to λ_n^* Carathéodory's construction [10, 113], we finally obtain the Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R}^n .

Alternatively, one can obtain the Lebesgue measure from $\bar{\lambda}_n$ using the main result of [20], to the effect that if a Borel measure μ on \mathbb{R}^n is invariant under the linear action of $SL(n, \mathbb{Z})$, annihilates the set of rational rays $\{tz \mid t \geq 0, z \in \mathbb{Z}^n\}$, and is locally finite at some point x (in the sense that x has some open neighbourhood N with $\mu(N) < \infty$), then μ coincides with a scalar multiple of the Lebesgue n -dimensional measure. This extends a result in [5] concerning locally finite measures which are ergodic under the action of $SL(n, \mathbb{Z})$. Further, see [23].

5. Proof of Theorem 1.1(vi)

5.1. Basic material on Hausdorff measure

In the following proposition we collect a number of well-known consequences of the isodiametric inequality (see [9, 2.10.33]), and of the invariance of the Hausdorff d -dimensional measure under isometries.

Proposition 5.1. *For each $0 < n \in \mathbb{Z}$ we have the following.*

- (i) *If $T = \text{conv}(x_0, \dots, x_n)$ is an n -simplex in \mathbb{R}^n , letting M be the $n \times n$ matrix whose i th row is given by the vector $x_i - x_0$ ($i = 1, \dots, n$), then $\mathcal{H}^n(T) = |\det(M)|/n! = \mathcal{L}^n(T)$.*
- (ii) *If S is an m -simplex in \mathbb{R}^n with $0 < m < n$, and we map S onto a copy S' by means of an isometry ι sending the affine hull of S onto the linear subspace \mathbb{R}^m of \mathbb{R}^n spanned by the first m standard basis vectors of \mathbb{R}^n , then $\mathcal{H}^m(S) = \mathcal{L}^m(S')$. If $\dim(S) = 0$, then $\mathcal{H}^0(S) = 1 = \text{number of elements of the singleton } S$.*

(iii) Suppose Q is a non-empty polyhedron in \mathbb{R}^n and $Q = Q^{(d)}$ for some $d = 0, 1, \dots, n$. Then, letting T be an arbitrary triangulation of Q , with its d -simplexes T_1, \dots, T_k , we have

$$\mathcal{H}^d(Q) = \sum_{j=1}^k \mathcal{H}^d(T_j).$$

If $Q = \emptyset$, then $\mathcal{H}^k(Q) = 0$ for all $k = 0, 1, \dots$.

(iv) Given integers $0 \leq m < n$, suppose $T = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_m)$ and $T' = \text{conv}(v'_0, \dots, v'_m)$ are m -simplexes in \mathbb{R}^n with $\text{aff}(T) = \text{aff}(T')$. For v an arbitrary point lying in $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \text{aff}(T)$, let $U = \text{conv}(T, v)$ and $U' = \text{conv}(T', v)$. Then

$$\mathcal{H}^{m+1}(U')/\mathcal{H}^{m+1}(U) = \mathcal{H}^m(T')/\mathcal{H}^m(T).$$

(v) More generally, suppose the points $v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n \in \mathbb{R}^n$ have the property that

$$W = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_m, v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n)$$

is an n -simplex. Then $W' = \text{conv}(v'_0, \dots, v'_m, v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n)$ is also an n -simplex, and we have the identity

$$\mathcal{H}^n(W')/\mathcal{H}^n(W) = \mathcal{H}^m(T')/\mathcal{H}^m(T).$$

□

5.2. Completion of the proof of Theorem 1.1(vi)

It remains to be proved that λ_d has the *proportionality* property (vi). By Lemma 2.1, Q has a regular triangulation. Since λ_m is a valuation, recalling Proposition 5.1(iii) it suffices to consider the case that Q is a (Farey) regular m -simplex. If $m = n$, the result follows from Proposition 4.1 since, by Proposition 5.1(i), $\mathcal{H}^n(Q) = \mathcal{L}^n(Q)$. In this case $\kappa_A = 1$. Next suppose $0 \leq m < n$. It suffices to prove that for any two (Farey) regular m -simplexes $T = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_m)$ and $T' = \text{conv}(v'_0, \dots, v'_m)$ lying in A ,

$$\lambda_m(T)/\lambda_m(T') = \mathcal{H}^m(T)/\mathcal{H}^m(T').$$

To this end, let $U = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_m, v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n)$ be a (Farey) regular n -simplex in \mathbb{R}^n having T as a face.

Claim. The simplex $U' = \text{conv}(v'_0, \dots, v'_m, v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n)$ is (Farey) regular.

As a matter of fact, the (Farey) regularity of T means that the set $\{\tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_m\}$ is a basis of the free abelian group $G = \mathbb{Z}^{n+1} \cap (\mathbb{R}\tilde{v}_0 + \dots + \mathbb{R}\tilde{v}_m)$ of integer points in the $(m + 1)$ -dimensional linear space spanned by $\tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_m$ in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . Since $\text{aff}(T') = A = \text{aff}(T)$ and T' is (Farey) regular, $\tilde{v}'_0, \dots, \tilde{v}'_m$ also constitute a basis of G . Upon writing each \tilde{v}_i and \tilde{v}'_j as a column vector, let M be the $(n + 1) \times (m + 1)$ matrix whose i th row coincides with \tilde{v}_i . Similarly, let M' be the $(n + 1) \times (m + 1)$ matrix whose j th row equals \tilde{v}'_j . Let the $(m + 1) \times (m + 1)$ integer matrix Z be defined by $MZ = M'$. The $(m + 1) \times (m + 1)$ integer matrix V defined by $M'V = M$ coincides with Z^{-1} , whence $|\det(Z)| = |\det(Z^{-1})| = 1$.

Let the matrix N be defined by

$$N = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} \mathbb{Z} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & I_{n-m} \end{array} \right),$$

where I_{n-m} denotes the $(n - m) \times (n - m)$ identity matrix. N is a unimodular integer $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$ matrix. Let W (resp. W') be the $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$ integer matrix whose first $m + 1$ columns are those of M (resp. those of M'), and whose last $n - m$ columns are given by the column vectors $\tilde{v}_{m+1}, \dots, \tilde{v}_n$. From $WN = W'$, it follows that the vectors $\tilde{v}'_0, \dots, \tilde{v}'_m, \tilde{v}_{m+1}, \dots, \tilde{v}_n$ constitute a basis of the free abelian group \mathbb{Z}^{n+1} . Therefore,

$$\text{conv}(v'_0, \dots, v'_m, v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n)$$

is a (Farey) regular n -simplex in \mathbb{R}^n , and our claim is settled.

Now let $d_i = \text{den}(v_i)$ ($i = 0, \dots, n$) and $d'_j = \text{den}(v'_j)$ ($j = 0, \dots, m$). Since both simplexes U and U' are (Farey) regular, we can write the identities

$$\frac{\lambda_m(T)}{\lambda_m(T')} = \frac{(m! d_0 \cdots d_m)^{-1}}{(m! d'_0 \cdots d'_m)^{-1}} = \frac{(n! d_0 \cdots d_m d_{m+1} \cdots d_n)^{-1}}{(n! d'_0 \cdots d'_m d_{m+1} \cdots d_n)^{-1}} = \frac{\lambda_n(U)}{\lambda_n(U')}.$$

By Propositions 4.1 and 5.1(ii)–(v), we obtain

$$\frac{\lambda_n(U)}{\lambda_n(U')} = \frac{\mathcal{L}^n(U)}{\mathcal{L}^n(U')} = \frac{\mathcal{H}^n(U)}{\mathcal{H}^n(U')} = \frac{\mathcal{H}^m(T)}{\mathcal{H}^m(T')},$$

as required to prove (vi).

The proof of Theorem 1.1 is now complete. □

6. Uniqueness

For every non-empty rational affine subspace F of \mathbb{R}^n , let the integer $d_F \geq 1$ be defined by

$$d_F = \min\{q \in \mathbb{Z} \mid q = \text{den}(r) \text{ letting } r \text{ range over all rational points of } F\}. \tag{6.1}$$

Lemma 6.1. Fix $n = 1, 2, \dots$ and $e = 0, \dots, n$. Let F be a rational e -dimensional affine subspace of \mathbb{R}^n and $d = d_F$.

- (i) There are rational points $v_0, \dots, v_e \in F$, all with denominator d , such that $\text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_e)$ is a (Farey) regular e -simplex.
- (ii) For any rational point $y \in F$ there is an integer $k = 1, 2, \dots$ such that $\text{den}(y) = kd$.

Proof. (i) For some (Farey) regular e -simplex

$$S_0 = \text{conv}(u_0, \dots, u_e),$$

we can write

$$F = \text{aff}(u_0, \dots, u_e).$$

The (Farey) regularity of S_0 means that the set $B_0 = \{\tilde{u}_0, \dots, \tilde{u}_e\}$ can be extended to a basis of the free abelian group \mathbb{Z}^{n+1} , whence B_0 is a basis of the lattice $\mathbb{Z}^{n+1} \cap F^*$, where $F^* = \mathbb{R}\tilde{u}_0 + \dots + \mathbb{R}\tilde{u}_e$ is the linear subspace of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} generated by $\tilde{u}_0, \dots, \tilde{u}_e$.

It is impossible for the heights (= last coordinates) of $\tilde{u}_0, \dots, \tilde{u}_e$ all to be equal to the same integer $h > d$, for otherwise, any primitive vector \tilde{r} in F^* of height d , for r as in (6.1), could not arise as a linear combination of the \tilde{u}_i with integer coefficients, and B_0 would not be a basis of $\mathbb{Z}^{n+1} \cap F^*$.

If the heights of $\tilde{u}_0, \dots, \tilde{u}_e$ are all equal to d we have nothing to prove. Otherwise, we will construct a finite sequence B_0, B_1, \dots of bases of $\mathbb{Z}^{n+1} \cap F^*$, and finally obtain a basis $\{\tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_e\}$ having the property that the height of each \tilde{v}_i is equal to d .

The first step is as follows. Choose a vector $\tilde{u}_i \in B_0$ of greatest height, a vector $\tilde{u}_j \in B_0$ of smaller height, and replace \tilde{u}_i by $\tilde{u}_i - \tilde{u}_j$. We get a new basis B_1 of $\mathbb{Z}^{n+1} \cap F^*$, and a new (Farey) regular e -simplex S_1 in F . Specifically, letting the rational point $w \in F$ be defined by $\tilde{w} = \tilde{u}_i - \tilde{u}_j$, the vertices of S_1 are $u_0, \dots, u_{i-1}, w, u_{i+1}, \dots, u_e$. Observe that the sum of the heights of the elements of B_1 is strictly smaller than the sum of the heights of the elements of B_0 .

Proceeding inductively, and replacing a top vector \tilde{u} of the basis B_t by a vector $\tilde{u} - \tilde{v}$ with $\tilde{v} \in B_t$ of smaller height than \tilde{u} , we obtain a new basis B_{t+1} such that the sum of the heights of the elements of B_{t+1} is strictly smaller than the sum of the heights of the elements of B_t . We also get a new (Farey) regular e -simplex S_{t+1} lying in F . The process must terminate with a basis $\{\tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_e\}$ of $\mathbb{Z}^{n+1} \cap F^*$ where all \tilde{v}_i have the same height, which by our initial discussion must be equal to d . By definition, $\text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_e)$ is the desired (Farey) regular e -simplex in F .

(ii) Condition (ii) now follows trivially from (i), since the (Farey) regularity of $\text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_e)$ implies that the primitive vector $\tilde{y} \in \mathbb{Z}^{n+1}$ is a linear combination of the \tilde{v}_i with integer coefficients. □

Theorem 6.2. *For each $n = 1, 2, \dots$, properties (i)–(vi) in Theorem 1.1 uniquely characterize the rational measures $\lambda_0, \dots, \lambda_n$ among all maps from $\mathcal{P}^{(n)}$ to $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$.*

Proof. Suppose that for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$, the maps $\mu_0, \dots, \mu_n : \mathcal{P}^{(n)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, as well as the maps $\mu'_0, \dots, \mu'_{n+1} : \mathcal{P}^{(n+1)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, have all properties (i)–(vi). Since by Lemma 2.1 every rational polyhedron has a regular triangulation, and each μ_j and λ_j is a valuation, it suffices to show that $\mu_m(S) = \lambda_m(S)$ for all $m = 0, \dots, n$, and (Farey) regular m -simplex S in \mathbb{R}^n . Let $F = \text{aff}(S)$ be the affine hull of S in \mathbb{R}^n . Let $d = d_F$ be the smallest denominator of a rational point of F as in (6.1) above. Let us identify \mathbb{R}^n with the hyperplane $x_{n+1} = 0$ of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . Let $T = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_m) \subseteq F$ be a (Farey) regular m -simplex such that $\text{den}(v_0) = \dots = \text{den}(v_m) = d$. The existence of T is ensured by Lemma 6.1. Let $T' = \{(x, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid x \in T\}$. There exists $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}_{n+1}$ such that $\alpha(T, 0) = T'$. From the invariance and conservativity properties of all μ_i and μ'_j , we obtain

$$\mu'_m(T') = \mu'_m(T, 0) = \mu_m(T). \tag{6.2}$$

The (Farey) regularity of T means that the set $B = \{\tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_m\}$ is part of a basis of the free abelian group \mathbb{Z}^{n+1} . As in (1.6) above, let the closed parallelepiped P_B be defined by

$$P_B = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid x = \sum_{i=0}^m \gamma_i \tilde{v}_i, 0 \leq \gamma_i \leq 1 \right\}.$$

From the *normalization* property we get $\mu'_{m+1}(P_B) = 1$. Arguing as in Section 3.4, we obtain a triangulation Δ of P_B consisting of $(m + 1)$ -simplexes $T_1, \dots, T_{(m+1)!}$ and their faces. Each T_i is (Farey) regular and has denominator 1. A direct verification shows that for any two such simplexes T_i and T_j there exists $\gamma \in \mathcal{G}_{n+1}$ such that $T_i = \gamma(T_j)$. From the *valuation* and *invariance* properties of μ'_{m+1} , it follows that

$$\mu'_{m+1}(T_j) = \frac{\mu'_{m+1}(P_B)}{(m + 1)!} = \frac{1}{(m + 1)!} \quad \text{for all } j = 1, \dots, (m + 1)!$$

Let $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ be the $(m + 1)$ -simplex with vertices $0, \tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_m$. It is easily seen that D is (Farey) regular and $\text{den}(D) = 1$. Thus an easy exercise yields an $\eta \in \mathcal{G}_{n+1}$ such that $\eta(T_1) = D$. One more application of the *invariance* property of μ'_{m+1} yields

$$\mu'_{m+1}(D) = \frac{1}{(m + 1)!}.$$

Since the $(m + 1)$ -simplex D' with vertices $0, (v_0, 1), \dots, (v_m, 1)$ has the same affine hull as D , by the assumed *proportionality* property of μ'_{m+1} we have

$$\mu'_{m+1}(D') = \frac{1}{(m + 1)! d^{m+1}}.$$

On the other hand, the *pyramid* property is to the effect that

$$\mu'_{m+1}(D') = \frac{\mu'_m(T')}{m + 1},$$

whence

$$\mu'_m(T') = \frac{1}{m! d^{m+1}}.$$

Recalling (6.2), we obtain

$$\mu_m(T) = \frac{1}{m! d^{m+1}} = \lambda_m(T),$$

because T is (Farey) regular and the denominators of its vertices are all equal to d . Since S and T have the same affine hull, a final application of the *proportionality* property of μ_m and λ_m yields

$$\frac{\mu_m(S)}{\mu_m(T)} = \frac{\mathcal{H}^m(S)}{\mathcal{H}^m(T)} = \frac{\lambda_m(S)}{\lambda_m(T)}.$$

In conclusion,

$$\mu_m(S) = \lambda_m(S) \frac{\mu_m(T)}{\lambda_m(T)} = \lambda_m(S).$$

The proof is complete. □

7. The value of the proportionality constant κ_A of Theorem 1.1(vi)

Following [13], for any k -dimensional sub-lattice Λ of \mathbb{Z}^n , the *determinant* $\det(\Lambda)$ of Λ is the k -dimensional volume of a fundamental region (also known as a *cell*) for Λ in the k -dimensional rational linear subspace spanned by Λ .

Theorem 7.1. *Let $A = A_0 + t$ be a rational e -dimensional affine subspace of \mathbb{R}^n , for $e = 0, 1, \dots, n$, where the affine rational subspace A_0 is homogeneous and $t \in \mathbb{Q}^n$. Let $d = d_A$ be the smallest denominator of a rational point of A .*

- (i) *The ratio k_A between the e -dimensional rational measure and the e -dimensional Hausdorff measure of any e -simplex lying in A is equal to $(d_A \times \det(A_0 \cap \mathbb{Z}^n))^{-1}$.*
- (ii) *If the lattice $A_0 \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ is equipped with a basis h_1, \dots, h_e , where each h_i is a vector in \mathbb{Z}^n , then letting M be the matrix with the coordinates of h_i in the i th row, we have the identity $\det(A_0 \cap \mathbb{Z}^n) = (MM')^{1/2}$, where M' is the transpose of M . This holds independently of the chosen basis.*

Proof. (i) Lemma 6.1 yields rational points $v_0, \dots, v_e \in A$, all with the same denominator d , which are the vertices of a (Farey) regular e -simplex $S = \text{conv}(v_0, \dots, v_e) \subseteq A$. Thus the integer vectors $\tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_e \in \mathbb{Z}^{n+1}$ are a basis of the lattice $A^* \cap \mathbb{Z}^{n+1}$ of integer points in the linear span A^* of the set $\{\tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_e\}$ in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} .

By the definition of rational measure we immediately have $\lambda_e(S) = (e! d^{e+1})^{-1}$.

To compute the e -dimensional Hausdorff measure of S , let the e -simplex $S' = (S, 1) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ be obtained by vertically lifting S to the hyperplane $x_{n+1} = 1$. Multiplying each vector of S' by the scalar d , we obtain the e -simplex

$$dS' = \{dy \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid y \in S'\}.$$

All vertices of dS' lie at the same height d in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . From $dS' = \text{conv}(\tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_e)$ it follows that

$$\mathcal{H}^{(e)}(S) = \frac{\mathcal{H}^{(e)}(dS')}{d^e} = \frac{\mathcal{H}^{(e)}(\text{conv}(\tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_e))}{d^e}.$$

Translating the e -simplex $\text{conv}(\tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_e) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ by a shift of $-\tilde{v}_0$, since the Hausdorff measure is translation-invariant, we have

$$\mathcal{H}^{(e)}(S) = \frac{\mathcal{H}^{(e)}(\text{conv}(0, \tilde{v}_1 - \tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_e - \tilde{v}_0))}{d^e}.$$

On the hyperplane $x_{n+1} = 0$ of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} we now have an e -simplex with integer vertices $0, \tilde{v}_1 - \tilde{v}_0, \dots, \tilde{v}_e - \tilde{v}_0$. Let us write w_i for the vector in \mathbb{R}^n obtained by forgetting the last (zero) coordinate of $\tilde{v}_e - \tilde{v}_0$. The points $0, w_1, \dots, w_e \in \mathbb{Z}^n \cap A_0 \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ satisfy

$$\mathcal{H}^{(e)}(S) = \frac{\mathcal{H}^{(e)}(\text{conv}(0, w_1, \dots, w_e))}{d^e}.$$

Let $\mathcal{P}(w_1, \dots, w_e)$ be the paralleliped spanned by the vectors w_1, \dots, w_e in \mathbb{R}^n . As a trivial corollary of the isodiametric inequality ([9, 2.10.33]), we have

$$\mathcal{H}^{(e)}(S) = \frac{\mathcal{H}^{(e)}(\mathcal{P}(w_1, \dots, w_e))}{d^e e!}.$$

Note that A_0 coincides with A translated by $-v_0$. Further, $\{w_1, \dots, w_e\}$ is a basis of the lattice $A_0 \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$. By the definition of the lattice determinant,

$$\mathcal{H}^{(e)}(S) = \frac{\det(A_0 \cap \mathbb{Z}^n)}{d^e e!},$$

whence

$$k_A = \frac{\lambda_e(S)}{\mathcal{H}^{(e)}(S)} = \frac{1}{e! d^{e+1}} \cdot \frac{\det(A_0 \cap \mathbb{Z}^n)}{d^e e!} = \frac{1}{d \times \det(A_0 \cap \mathbb{Z}^n)},$$

as required to complete the proof of (i).

(ii) See, for example, [3, Theorem 7, p. 308]. □

8. Related work and concluding remarks

In the literature, \mathcal{G}_n -invariance is also known as *unimodular* invariance [14, p. 979 and references therein]. Theorems 1.1 and 6.2 uniquely characterize the array of unimodular invariant maps λ_i on the set $\mathcal{P}^{(n)}$ of rational polyhedra in \mathbb{R}^n , and relate λ_i to i -dimensional Hausdorff measure. All valuations on classes of polyhedra pre-existing in the literature miss at least one of the conditions in Theorem 1.1.

As a notable example, following [14, p. 979–980], let $\mathcal{P}_{\mathbb{Z}}^n$ be the set of *convex lattice polyhedra* in \mathbb{R}^n (the word ‘lattice’ meaning here that all vertices have integer coordinates). The Betke–Kneser theorem ([2], [12, 19.6]) states that every additive unimodular invariant function defined on the space $\mathcal{P}_{\mathbb{Z}}^n$ is a linear combination of the $n + 1$ functions G_i introduced in [7] by Ehrhart. Here ‘additive’ means that the *valuation* property holds for $P, Q \in \mathcal{P}_{\mathbb{Z}}^n$ subject to the condition that both $P \cup Q$ and $P \cap Q$ belong to $\mathcal{P}_{\mathbb{Z}}^n$. See [1, 8, 12] for more information on Ehrhart theory.

The convexity of each element of $\mathcal{P}_{\mathbb{Z}}^n$, together with the condition that all its vertices are integers, is indispensable for the Betke–Kneser theorem to hold. In fact, an *infinite-dimensional* space of unimodular invariant (*unconditionally*) additive maps on $\mathcal{P}^{(n)}$ can be immediately constructed as follows. For every prime p consider the function $C_p : \mathcal{P}^{(n)} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$, where for every $P \in \mathcal{P}^{(n)}$, $C_p(P)$ counts the number of rational points x in P having $\text{den}(x) = p$. A moment’s reflection shows that C_p is a valuation on $\mathcal{P}^{(n)}$. Further, C_p is \mathcal{G}_n -invariant, because each $\gamma \in \mathcal{G}_n$ preserves denominators of rational points. For primes $p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_t$ the valuations $C_{p_1}, C_{p_2}, \dots, C_{p_t}$ form a linearly independent set, which shows that the space of all \mathcal{G}_n -invariant valuations on $\mathcal{P}^{(n)}$ is infinite-dimensional. As expected, conditions (iv)–(vi) in Theorem 1.1 do not hold in general for the valuations C_p .

While $\mathcal{P}_{\mathbb{Z}}^n$ is not even closed under unions and intersections, for any $P, Q \in \mathcal{P}^{(n)}$, $P \cap Q$, $P \cup Q$ and the closure of $P \setminus Q$ are still in $\mathcal{P}^{(n)}$, and so is the orthogonal projection of P onto any rational hyperplane of \mathbb{R}^n . Cartesian products and Minkowski sums of rational polyhedra are rational polyhedra. The value $\lambda_d(Q)$ exists for all $Q \in \mathcal{P}^{(n)}$ and all $d = 0, 1, \dots$. Thus $\dim(Q)$ may be strictly smaller than the dimension of the ambient space \mathbb{R}^n . With the notation of (1.1), one may have non-empty $Q^{(i)}$ and $Q^{(j)}$ for distinct i and j . Further, the vertices of Q need not belong to the lattice \mathbb{Z}^n .

The rational measure λ_d has the additivity property for all rational polyhedra in \mathbb{R}^n whose dimension is $\leq d$. This latter restriction cannot be dispensed with: for instance, the 0-dimensional rational measure of the positive and of the negative unit segment in \mathbb{R} with vertex 0 is 0, but the 0-dimensional measure of their intersection is 1. Because the additivity properties of the λ_d and of the Betke–Kneser functionals are so different, the latter can hardly provide an alternative approach to the restriction to $\mathcal{P}_{\mathbb{Z}}^n$ of the rational measures $\lambda_0, \dots, \lambda_{n-1}$. (Recall that λ_n coincides with the Lebesgue n -dimensional measure, and $0 = \lambda_{n+1} = \lambda_{n+2} = \dots$).

We conclude this paper with a brief discussion of the invariance property of rational polyhedra under \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphism *versus* unimodular invariance and invariance under rational PL-homeomorphism.

(i) The arithmetic–algebraic–geometric structure of the set of rational polyhedra and their piecewise linear maps with integer coefficients makes \mathcal{P}^n into a category tightly connected to certain other categories. In [18], rational polyhedra are classified in terms of weighted abstract simplicial complexes, and a duality (contravariant categorical equivalence) is constructed between rational polyhedra and finitely presented MV-algebras and lattice-ordered abelian groups with a distinguished strong unit (for short, *unital ℓ -groups*). \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphic rational polyhedra correspond to *isomorphic* unital ℓ -groups. Every convex combination of the λ_d with coefficients > 0 equips every finitely presented unital ℓ -group L with a faithful invariant *state* σ_L (= normalized order-preserving, unit-preserving homomorphism σ with $\ker \sigma = 0$ of L into the naturally ordered additive group \mathbb{R} equipped with the strong unit 1). See [17, 4.1] for a proof. Via Elliott classification and the Grothendieck K_0 -group, this result has an application to AF C^* -algebras A whose Murray–von Neumann order of projections is a lattice. Since the invariant tracial states of A are in one-to-one correspondence with the invariant states of $K_0(A)$, from $\sigma_{K_0(A)}$ one constructs an invariant (ergodic, by [22]) state on notable examples of AF C^* -algebras existing in the literature, such as the ‘free one-generator’ AF C^* -algebra \mathfrak{M}_1 introduced in [16] and recently rediscovered in [4] (as shown in [19]).

(ii) Paraphrasing McMullen [14, p. 939], for any group \mathcal{A} of affinities in \mathbb{R}^d , the core of Hilbert’s third problem is to characterize \mathcal{A} -equidissectability in terms of suitable families of *simple* \mathcal{A} -invariant valuations, those \mathcal{A} -invariant valuations vanishing on P whenever $\dim(P) < d$. Now, the \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphism of two rational polyhedra $R, S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ amounts to their *continuous* \mathcal{G}_n -equidissectability (this easily follows from the fact that every rational triangulation has a regular subdivision). Each rational measure λ_d is a simple *Turing-computable* \mathcal{G}_n -invariant valuation on all rational polyhedra in \mathbb{R}^n , and the conditions $\lambda_d(P) = \lambda_d(Q)$, $d = 0, 1, \dots$, are necessary for P to be \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphic to Q . By considering all sorts of Turing-computable \mathcal{G}_n -invariant valuations on \mathcal{P}_n , for instance the C_p described above in this section and variants thereof, one might hope to get a better understanding of continuous \mathcal{G}_n -equidissectability of rational polyhedra, and of the complexity of the following problem.

Instance. Two rational polyhedra $R, S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$.

Question. Does there exist a \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphism of R onto S ?

It turns out that the decidability of this (continuous \mathcal{G}_n -equidissectability) problem is open, notwithstanding Markov's unrecognizability theorem for rational polyhedra under rational PL-homeomorphism. The problem has an equivalent algebraic counterpart, known as the isomorphism problem for finitely presented unital ℓ -groups, or MV-algebras. Indeed, as remarked above, rational polyhedra are dually equivalent to finitely presented unital ℓ -groups and MV-algebras. The difficulty of proving that this problem is undecidable may be due in part to the wealth of Turing-computable invariants for \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphisms possessed by rational polyhedra, of which the rational measures λ_d are an example, well beyond those of rational polyhedra under rational PL-homeomorphisms. Indeed, \mathbb{Z} -homeomorphism is a much finer equivalence relation than PL-homeomorphism.

Acknowledgements

The author is very grateful to the referee and to the editors for their valuable comments and suggestions for improving clarity and comprehensibility, resulting in a substantial reframing of large portions of this paper.

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