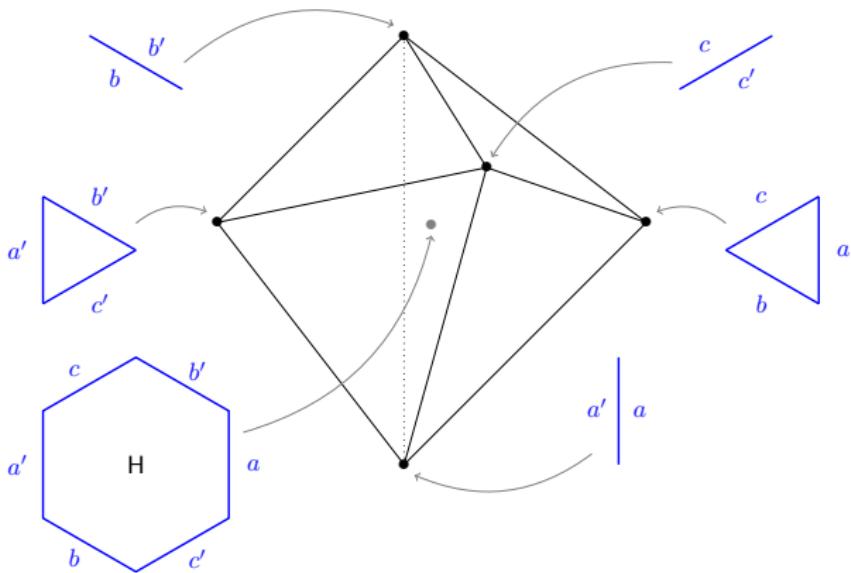


# Minkowski indecomposability of polytopes

**Germain Poullot** with Arnau Padrol

ArXiv: 2512.05307



## 1 What is a polytope?

- Two definitions of polytopes
- Faces and normal fans

## 2 Deformations (weak Minkowski summands)

- Minkowski decomposition
- Cone of deformations

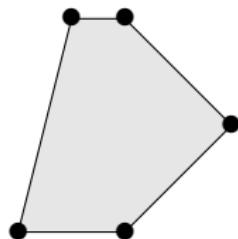
## 3 Graph of edge dependencies

- Triangle, parallelograms
- Graph of edge dependencies
- Applications

*What is a polytope?*

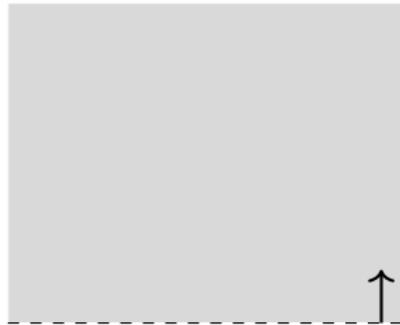
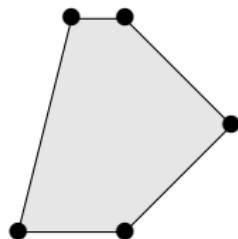
## Definition

*Polytope*: convex hull of finitely many points in  $\mathbb{R}^n$



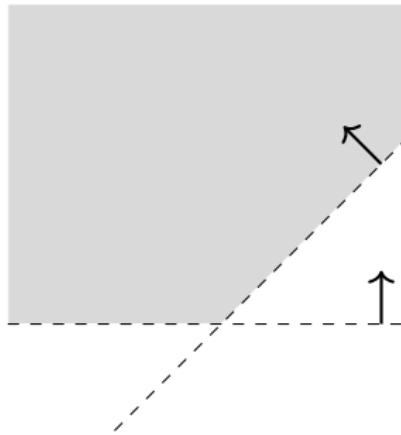
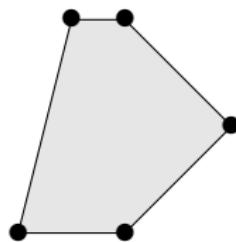
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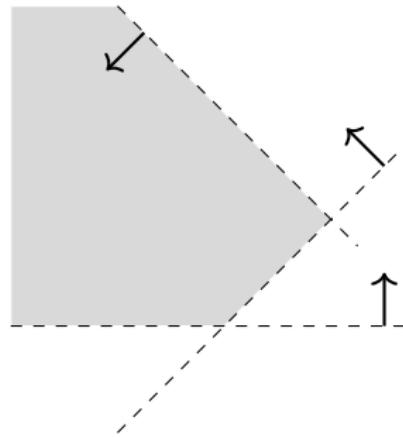
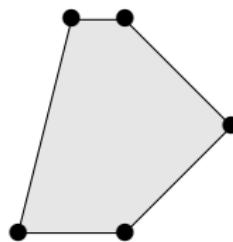
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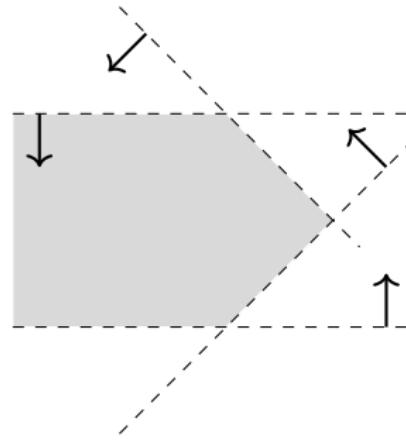
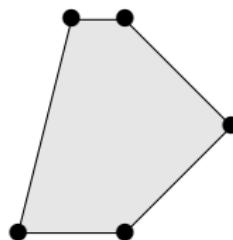
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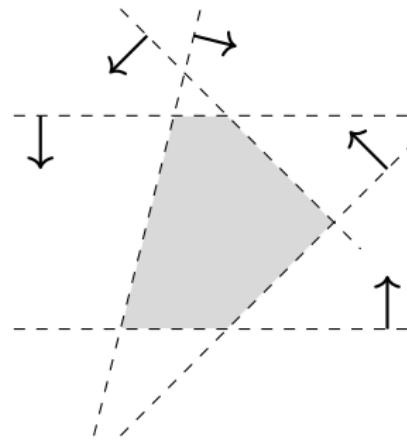
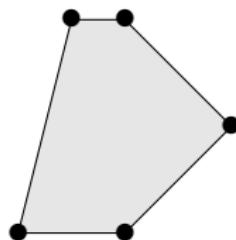
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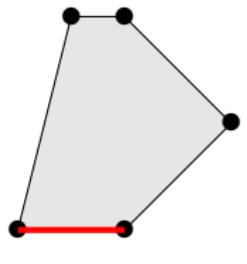
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*Face*:  $P^c := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n ; \langle x, c \rangle = \max_{y \in P} \langle y, c \rangle\}$



P

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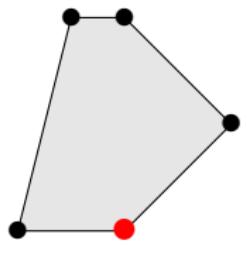
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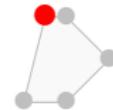
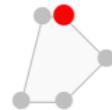
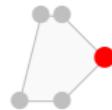
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$P$

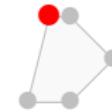
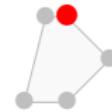
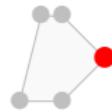
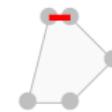
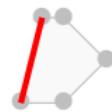
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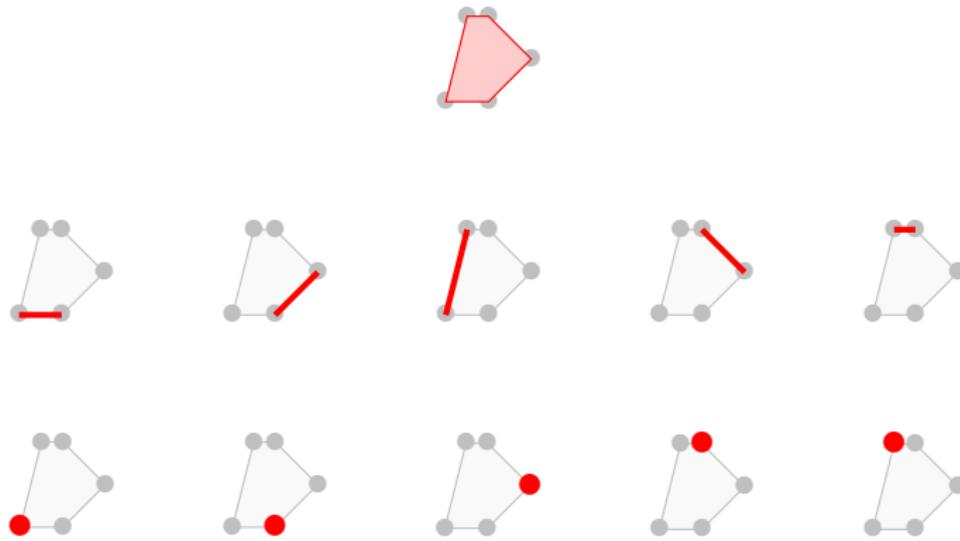
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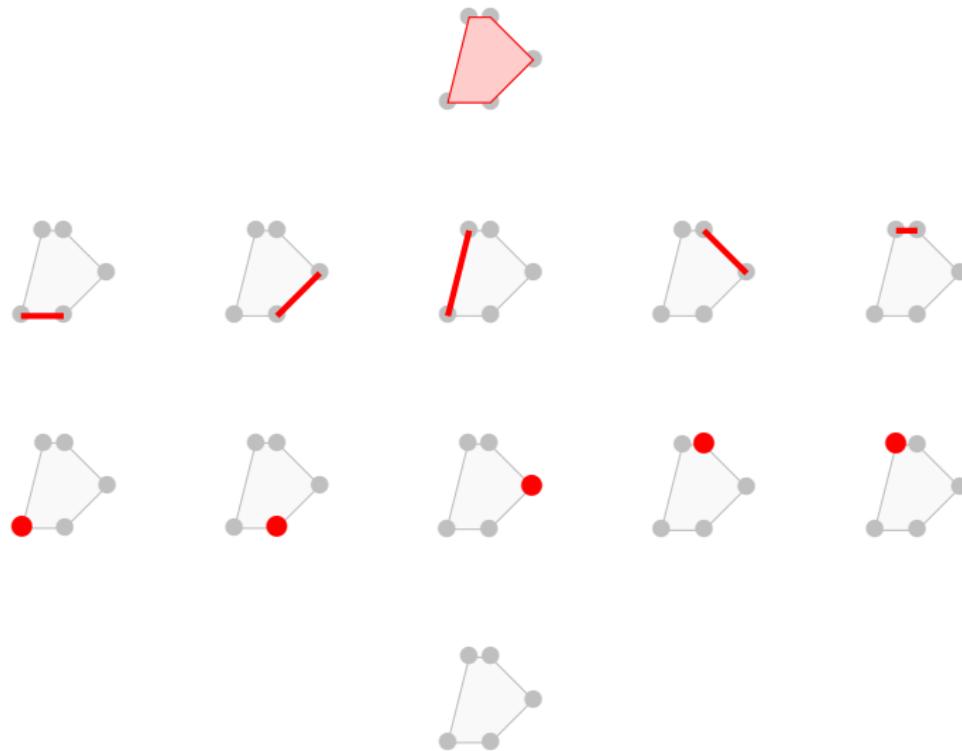
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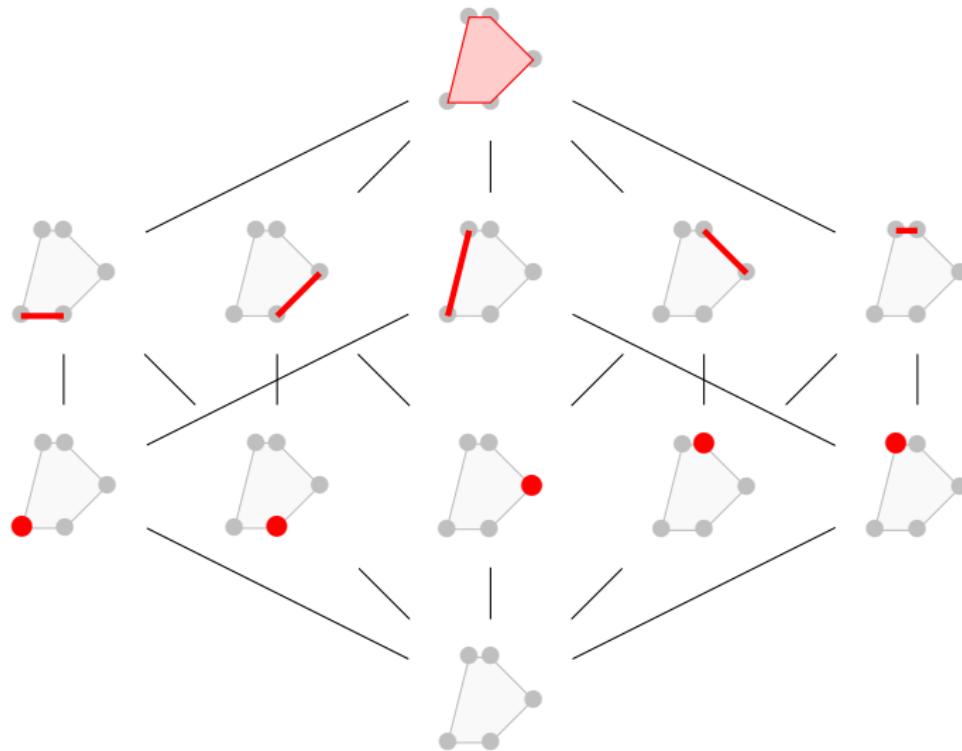
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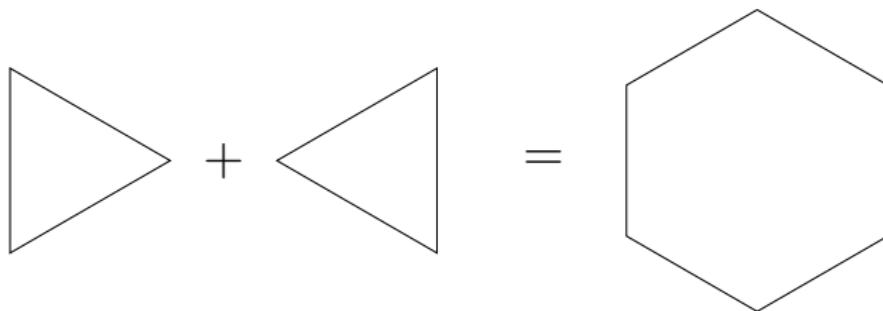
## *Deformations (weak Minkowski summands)*

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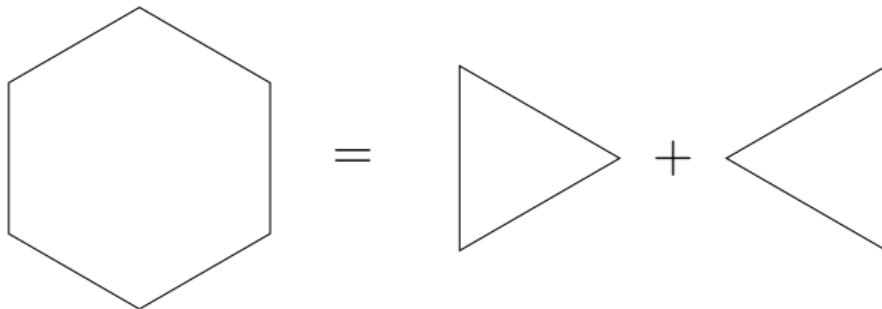
$P, Q$  polytopes. *Minkowski sum*:

$$P + Q = \{p + q \ ; \ p \in P, q \in Q\}$$

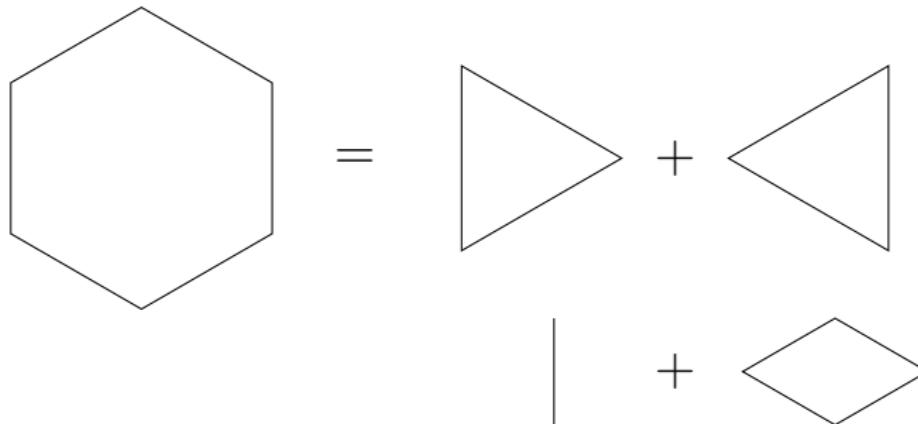
**N.B.**  $\text{Vert}(P + Q) \subseteq \text{Vert}(P) + \text{Vert}(Q)$



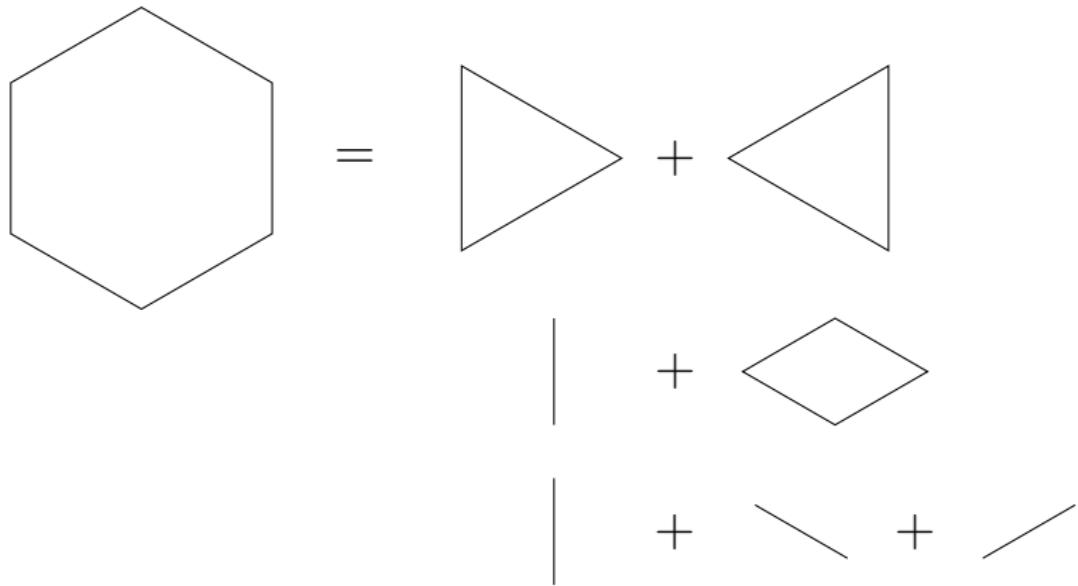
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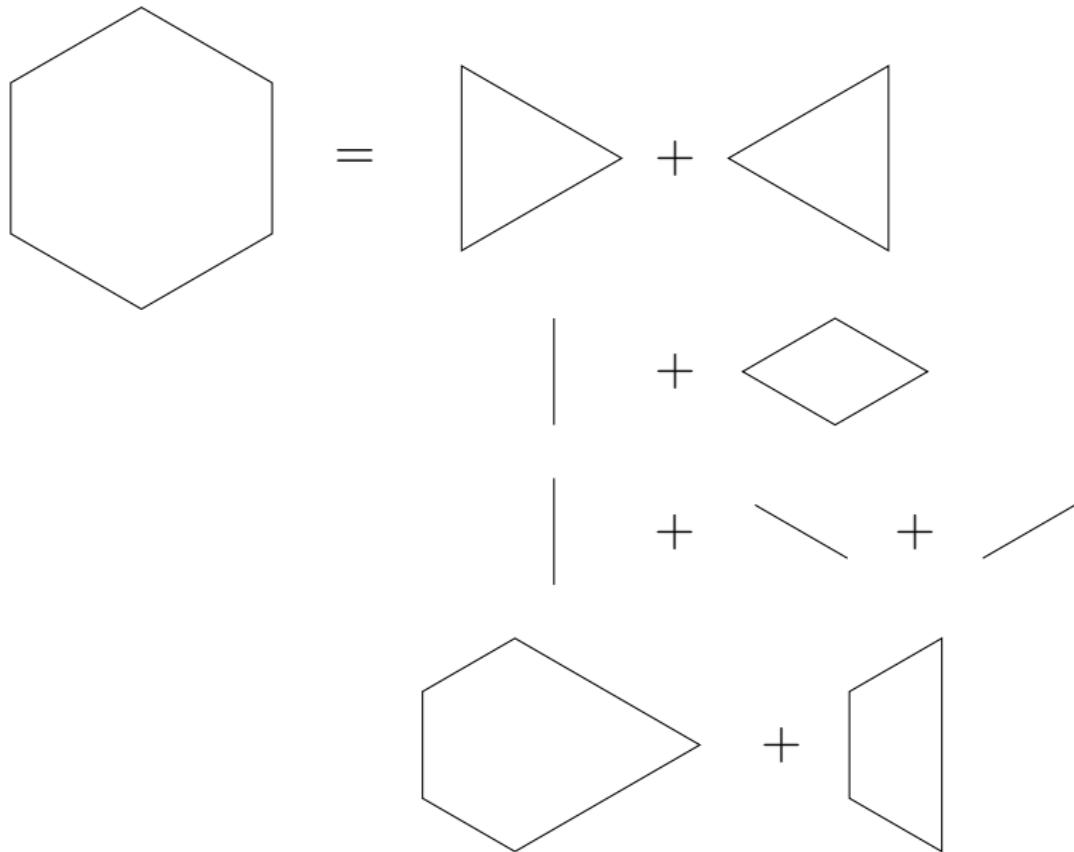
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What is the best way to write  $P$  as a Minkowski sum ?

- With the fewest number of (indecomposable) summands ?
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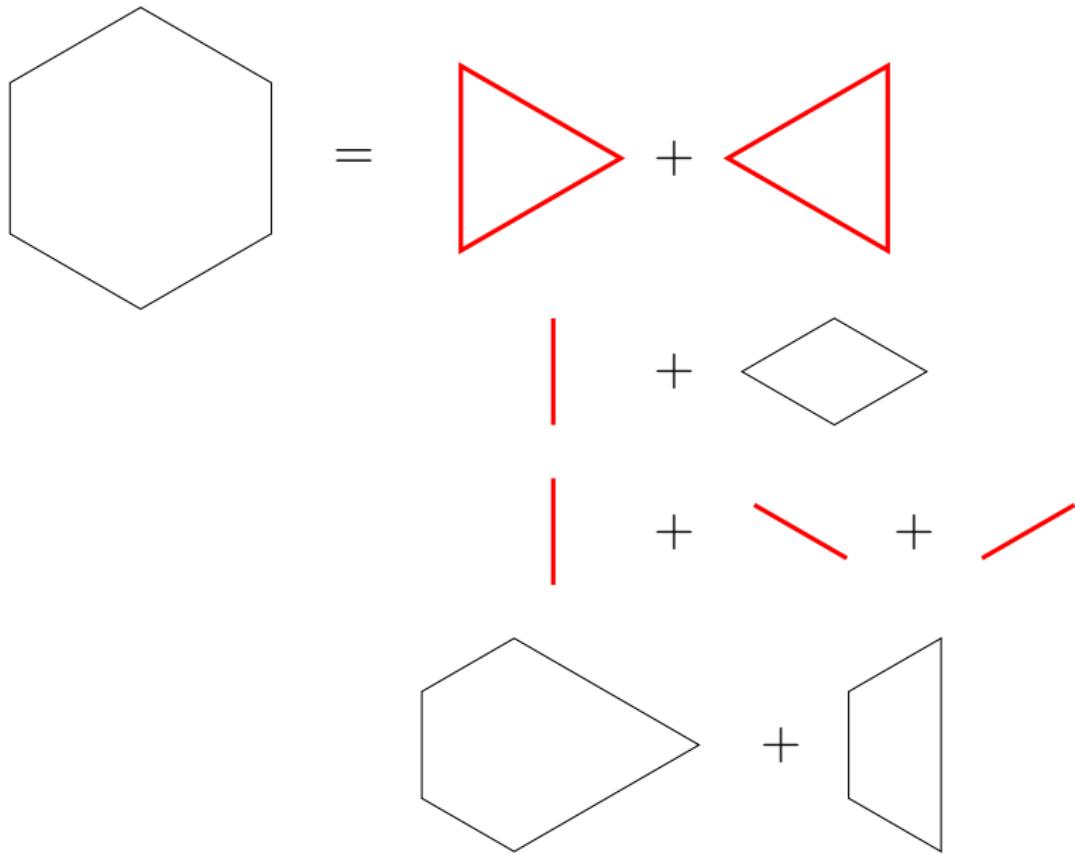
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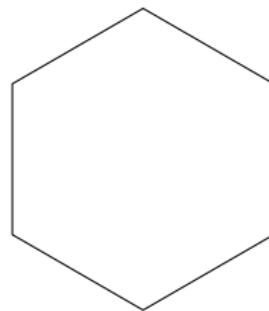
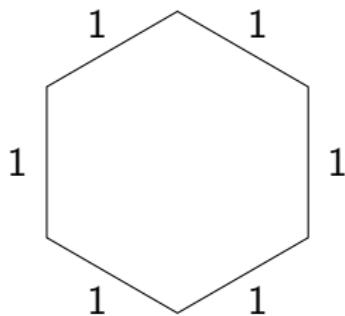
⇒ What is the structure of  $\mathbb{DC}(P)$  ?

# Minkowski summands



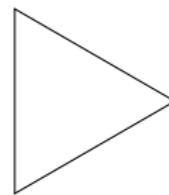
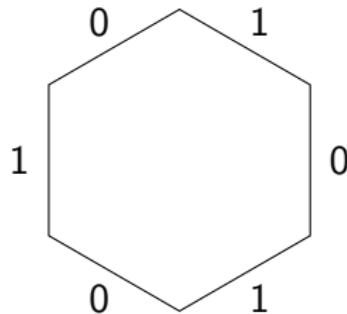
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If  $P = Q + R$ , then the edges of  $P$  “are” edges of  $Q$  or of  $R$ .  
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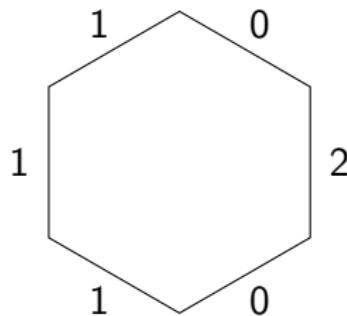
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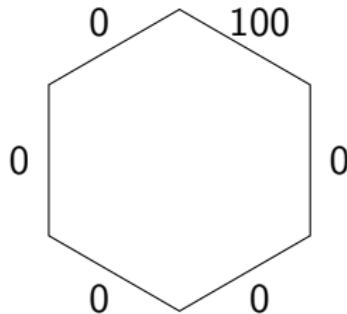
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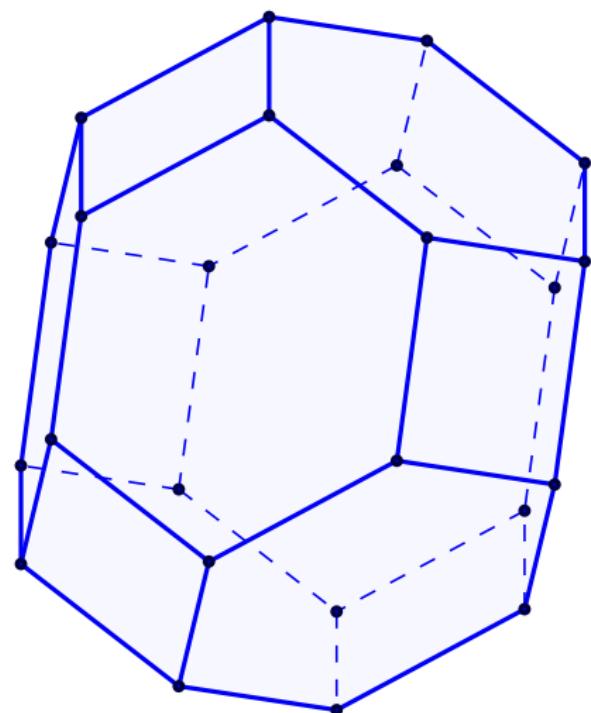


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# Deformations of 3-dim permutohedron



Permutahedron  $\Pi_4$

Sequence of deformations of  $\Pi_4$

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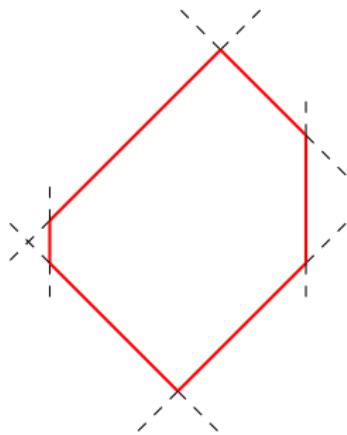
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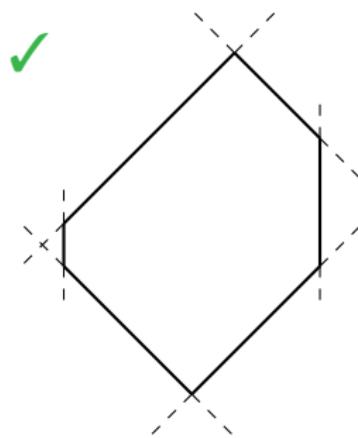
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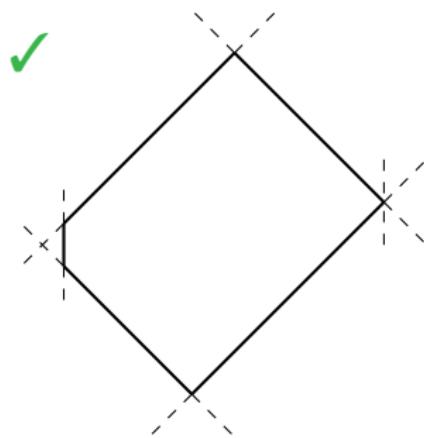
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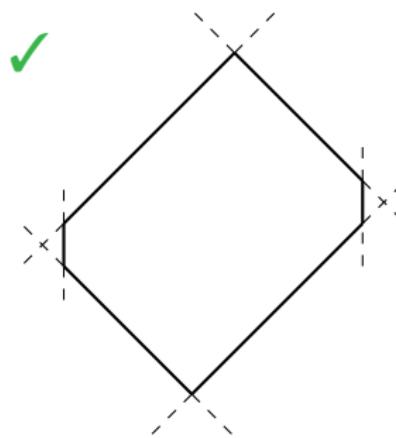
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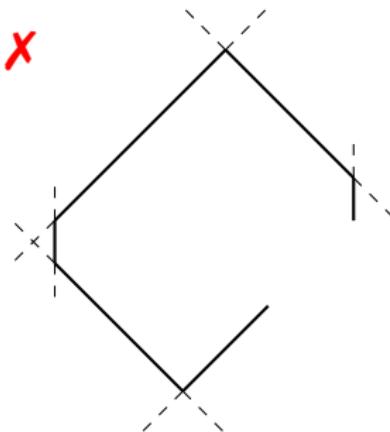
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$$\ell_e \geq 0 \text{ for all } e \text{ edge}$$

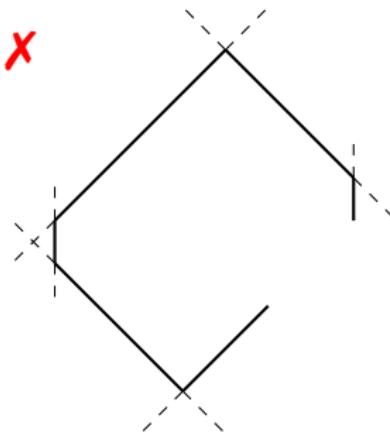
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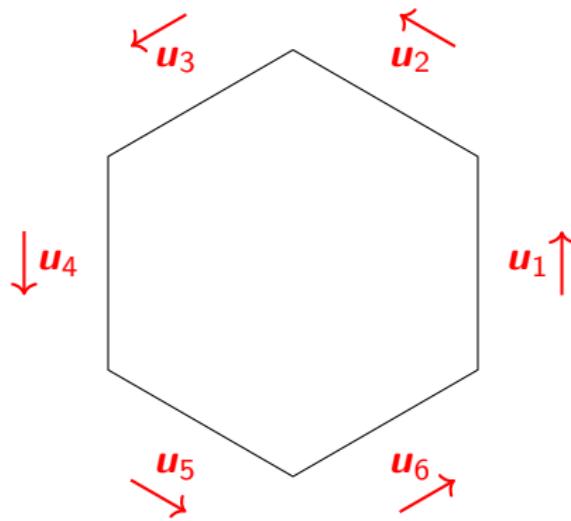
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$P_\ell =$  start at a vertex, find the coordinates of the other vertices from the graph of  $P$  and  $\ell$

# Cycle equations



For  $F$  a 2-dim face of  $P$ :

$$\sum_e \mathbf{u}_e = \mathbf{0} \quad , \quad \mathbf{u}_e \text{ unit vector}$$

hence

$$\sum_e \ell_e \mathbf{u}_e = \mathbf{0}$$

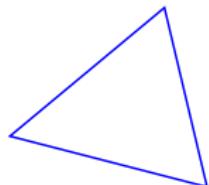
# Summary on $\mathbb{DC}(P)$

$\mathbb{DC}(P)$		
$Q$ Minkowski summands	$\ell$ edge-lengths	$h$ heights on rays
$Q_1 + Q_2$	$\ell_1 + \ell_2$	$h_1 + h_2$
Dilation $\lambda Q$	$\lambda \ell$	$\lambda h$
Translations	Has been fixed	Lineal
<i>complicated</i>	edge directions Cycle equations $V$ -description	normal fan $\mathcal{N}_P$ Wall-crossing ineq. $H$ -description
Polytope algebra	Weight algebra	Polynomial algebra

$\mathbb{DC}(P)$  is a ray =  $P$  Minkowski indecomposable

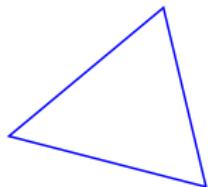
$\mathbb{DC}(P)$  is simplicial cone =  $P$  has **unique** Minkowski decomposition

## *Graph of edge dependencies*



**Triangle:**

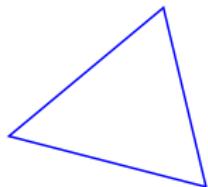
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## Triangle:

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2 equations (= 1 equation in dimension 2)

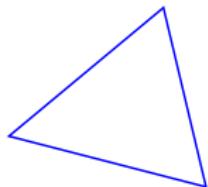


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$\Rightarrow \dim(\text{space of solutions}) = 1$



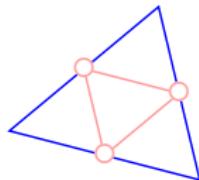
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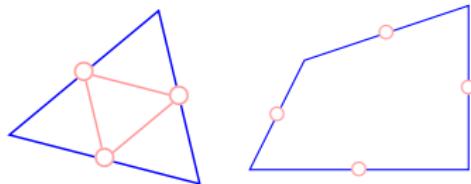
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$\Rightarrow$  If I know the length of 1 edge, I know the length of the others.



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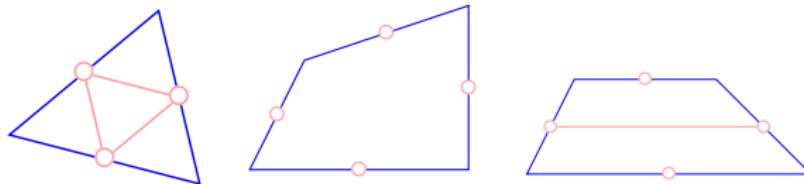
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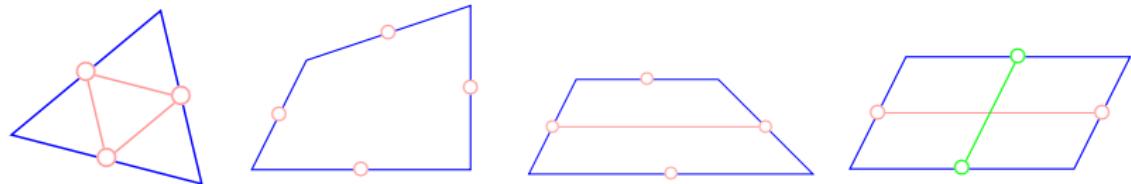
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3 variables (= lengths of the edges)

2 equations (= 1 equation in dimension 2)

$\Rightarrow \dim(\text{space of solutions}) = 1$

$\Rightarrow$  Indecomposable

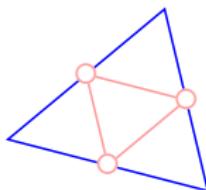
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# Graph of edge dependencies

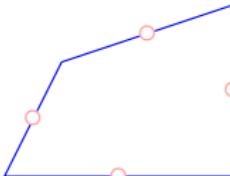
Graph of edge dependencies  $ED(P)$ :

nodes: edges of  $P$

arcs: link two *dependent* edges, i.e. I can deduce the length of one from the length of the other, using the cycle equations



(a) Triangle



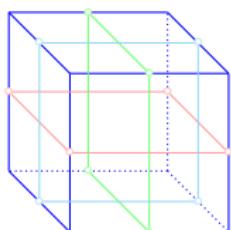
(b) Quadrilateral



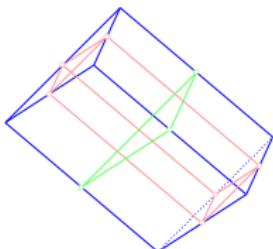
(c) Trapezoid



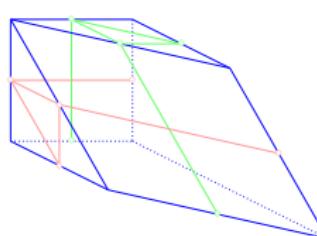
(d) Parallelogram



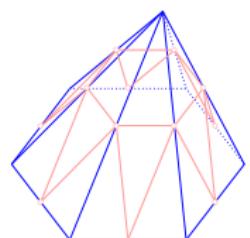
(e) Cube



(f) Prism



(g) Hemicube



(h) Pyramid

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How to find edges of  $ED(P)$ .

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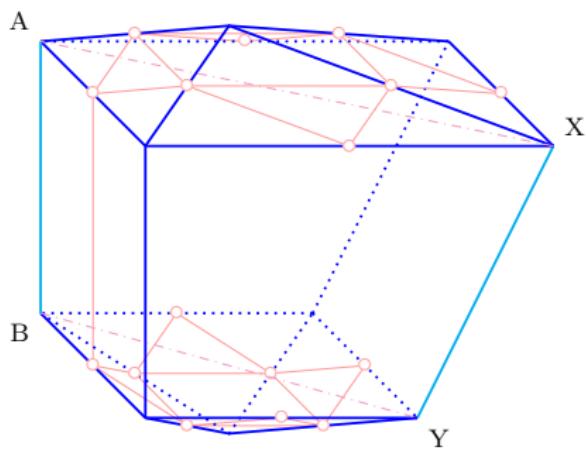
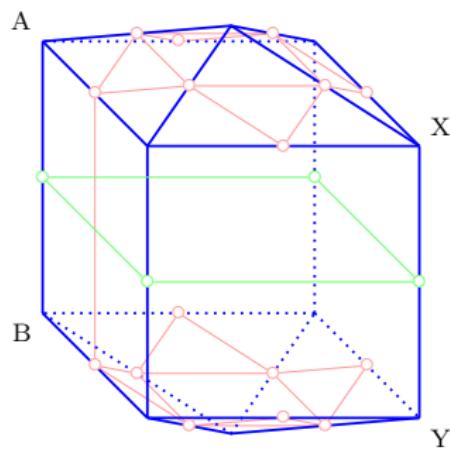
“triangles”  $\rightarrow$  edges in  $ED(P)$

“all 2-faces”  $\rightarrow$  enough edges in  $ED(P)$

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In  $ED(P)$ , two nodes  $e, f$  ( $\in$  edges of  $P$ ) are linked if, e.g.:

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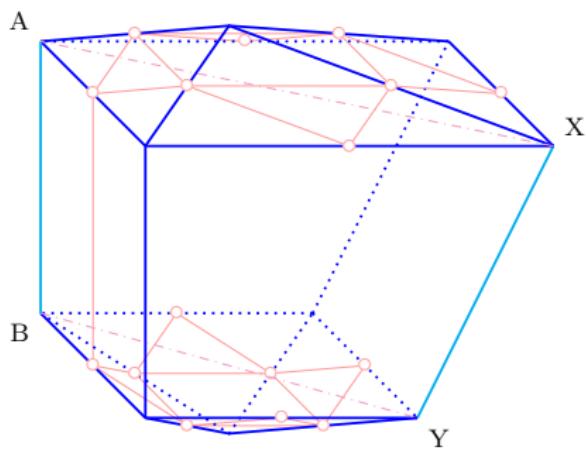
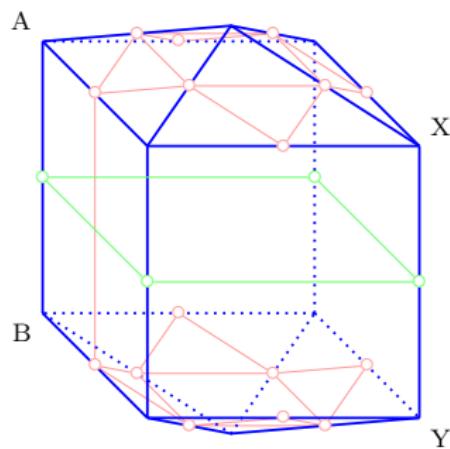


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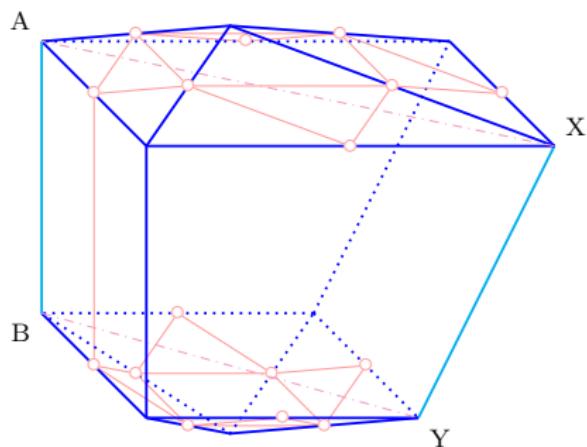
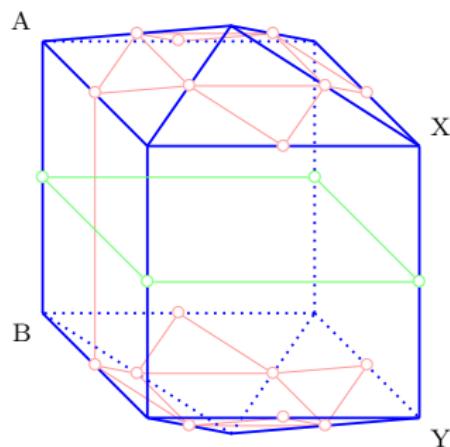
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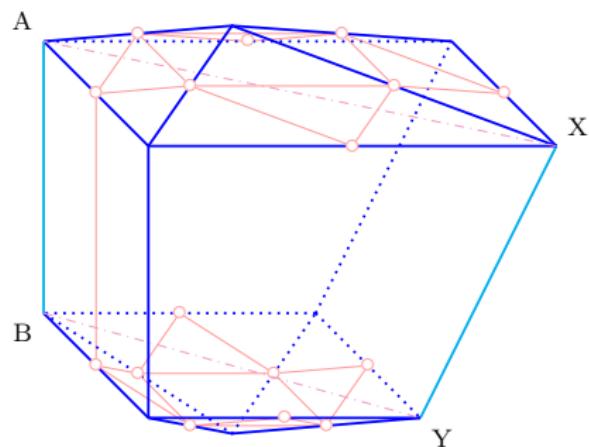
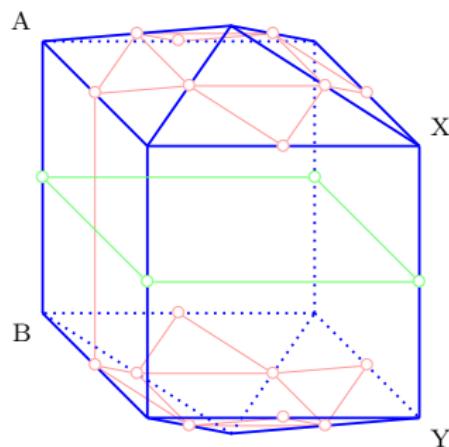
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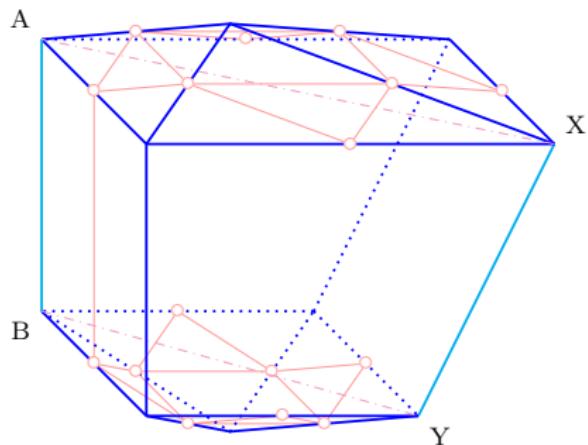
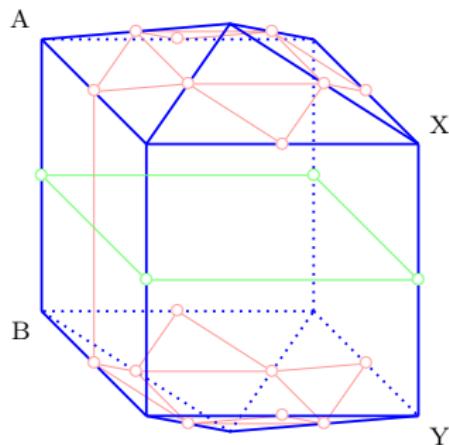
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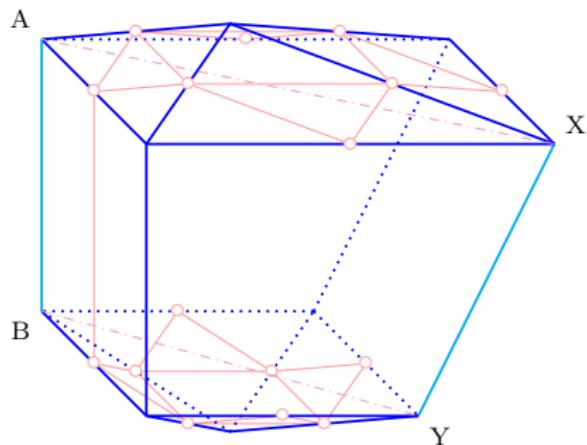
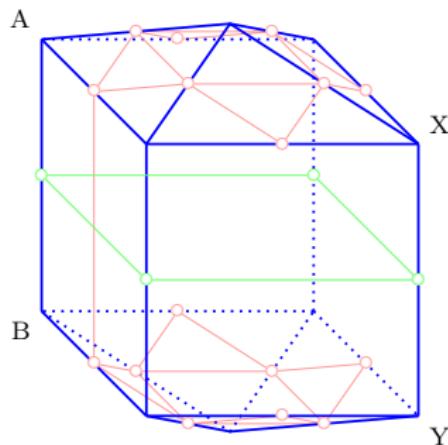


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- are opposite in a trapezoid,
- are in a sub-graph of  $P$  which projects down to indecomposable,
- ... (there is a nicer way to write these properties)

+ implicit edges



## Problem 2: consequences of $ED(P)$

Theorem (Padrol–P. '25)

*If  $ED(P)$  is connected, then  $P$  is indecomposable*

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$S \subseteq V(P)$  is *dependent* if for all  $u, v \in S$ , there is a path (in  $G(P)$ ) of dependent edges between  $u$  and  $v$ .

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**Corollaries:** Gale '54, Shepard '63, Kallay '82, McMullen '87, Yost–Przesławski '08 & '16 criteria...

## Corollary (Padrol–P. '25)

*If there is  $S \subseteq V(P)$ , and  $X_1, \dots, X_r$  dependent sets of edges with*

- *any two vertices of  $S$  are connected via  $\bigcup_i X_i$ , and*
- *every facet of  $P$  contains a vertex of  $S$ ,*

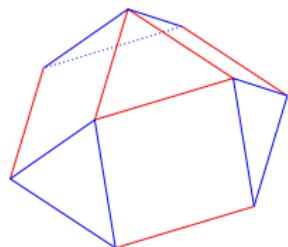
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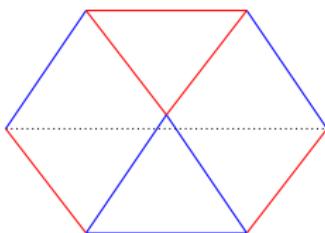
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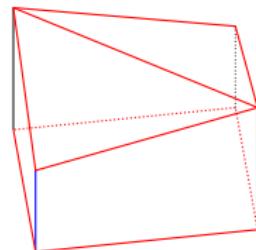
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(a) Triang. cupola

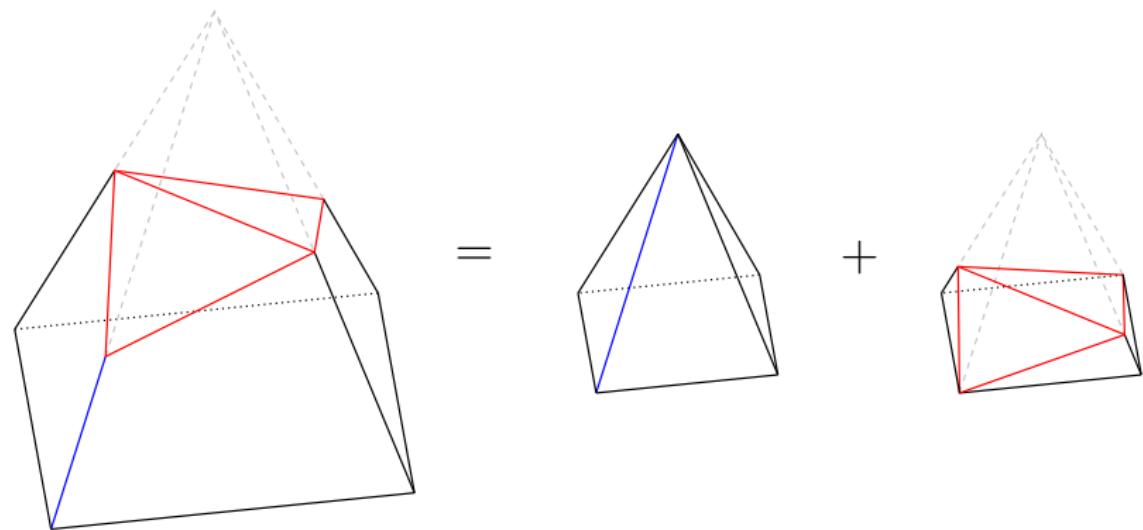


(b) Sum of 2 triangles



(c) Chiseled cube

$\dim \mathbb{DC}(P) = 2$ , only one Minkowski decomposition (in 2 terms)



$\dim \mathbb{DC}(P) = 2$ , this is the only Minkowski decomposition

# New indecomposable generalized permutohedra

*Generalized permutohedra*: edge directions are  $e_i - e_j$  for  $i \neq j$

*Edmonds problem* '70: find all indecomposable gene. permut.

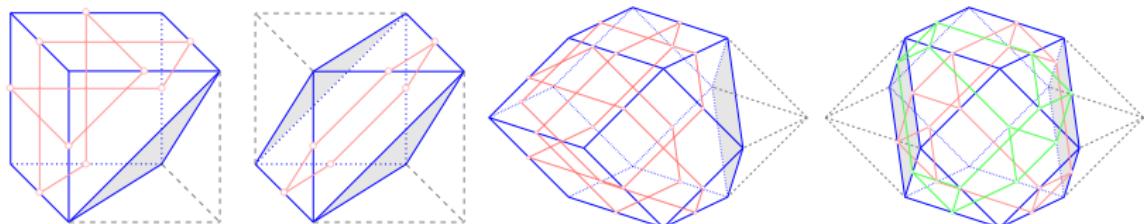
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For all complete bipartite graphs  $K_{n,m}$  (except  $n = m = 2$ ), it is possible to truncate 1 or 2 vertices of  $Z_{K_{n,m}}$  to obtain an indecomposable generalized permutohedron.



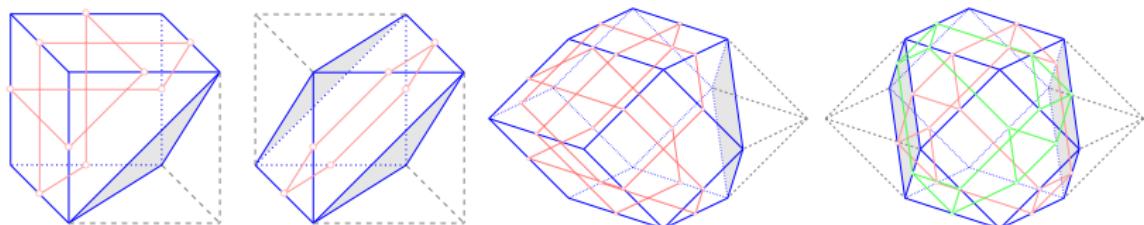
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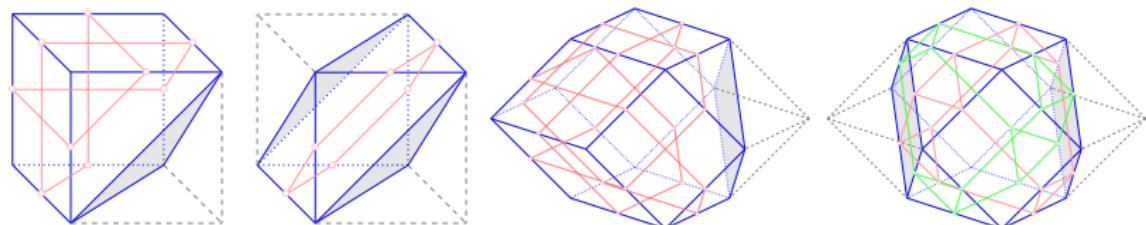
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Loho–Padrol–P.'25: we create  $2^{2^{n-2}}$  indecomposable gene. permut.

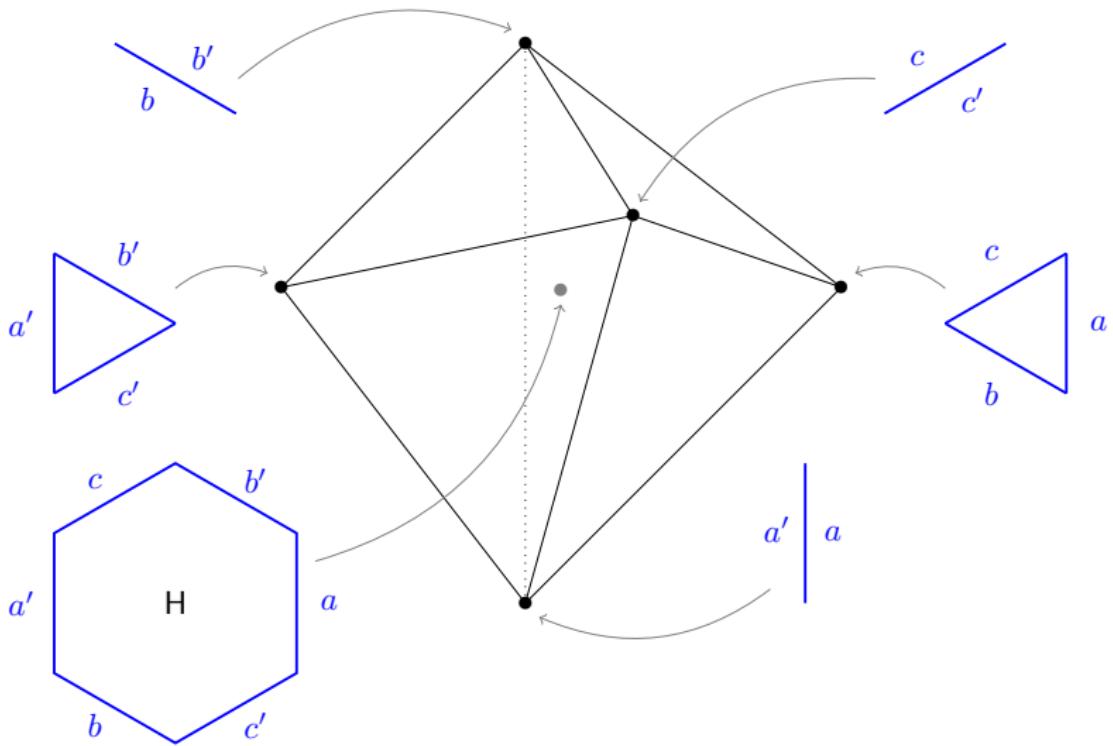
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Be careful,  $ED(P)$  is not always sufficient for recovering  $\mathbb{DC}(P)$ .



**Merci !**

**Thank you!**

**Bonus slides...**

# What else do I do?

*Submodular cone*: “Many rays of the submodular cone”

*Linear programming*: “Vertices of the monotone path polytopes of hypersimplices” & “Pivot polytopes of products of simplices and shuffles of associahedra”

*Random polytopes*: “Unimodality of the number of paths per length on polytopes: Examples, counter-examples, and central limit theorem”

*Ehrhart theory, triangulations*: “Ehrhart non-positivity and unimodular triangulations for classes of s-lecture hall simplices”

3D polytopes, framing lattices, polytope/weight algebra, hypergraphs, Grey codes,...

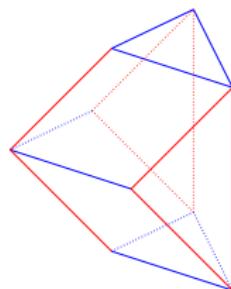
Anything that might contain a polytope somewhere is interesting !!

# Parallelogramic Minkowski sums

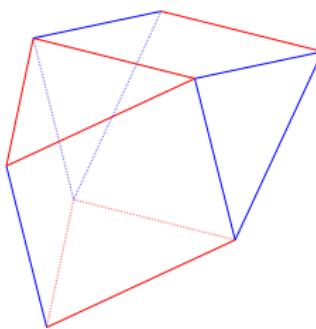
$P, Q$  are in *parallelogramic position* if no edge of  $P$  is in a plane spanned by the 2-faces of  $Q$

Theorem (Padrol–P. '25)

$P, Q$  in parallelogramic position:  $\mathbb{DC}(P + Q) \simeq \mathbb{DC}(P) \times \mathbb{DC}(Q)$ .



(a) Diminished trapezohedron



(b) Gyrobifastigium

Corollary (Padrol–P. '25)

$$\mathbb{DC}(P \times Q) \simeq \mathbb{DC}(P) \times \mathbb{DC}(Q)$$