ON TRIANGULATIONS OF ORDER POLYTOPES FOR SNAKE POSETS

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Abstract. Motivated by recent work by von Bell et al., we study triangulations of the order polytopes of generalized snake posets. We impose a partial ordering on the regular triangulations of this order polytope, and conjecture that it is a lattice and that it induces a good orientation as defined by Kalai. We explore the geometry of the secondary polytope of the order polytope and make progress towards proving that all two-dimensional faces are quadrilaterals, pentagons, and hexagons. We also investigate the “twist group”, as introduced by von Bell et al., which acts on the set of regular triangulations. We prove the twist action is free and give an eigenbasis for the action of the twist group on the secondary polytope. Lastly, we show that a subset of the triangulations admit the same number of bistellar flips. Our results make partial progress towards proving certain conjectures posed by von Bell et al.

CONTENTS

1. Introduction 1
2. Background 3
3. Circuits and a partial ordering on triangulations 11
4. Geometry of the secondary polytope 13
5. Valence-regularity of the bistellar flip graph 18
6. Freeness of the twist action on regular triangulations 20
7. Eigenbasis of the twist action 22
8. Further thoughts and work in progress 26
Acknowledgements 33
References 33

1. Introduction

Triangulations of point configurations have been studied for centuries as a natural method of breaking up a given space into smaller pieces which are easier to understand. While triangulations have applications in many fields, including computer science and algebra, we are primarily concerned with their usefulness in the field of combinatorics. For example, the $n$th Catalan number

$$\text{Cat}(n) := \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n},$$

which counts many combinatorial objects including parenthesizations of the product of $n+1$ factors and Dyck paths of length $2n$, also counts triangulations of a convex $(n+2)$–gon. We refer the reader to the book by De Loera, Rambau and Santos [DRS10] for more background and history.
Another connection between geometry and combinatorics can be found in the study of order polytopes. Order polytopes of finite posets were first introduced by Richard Stanley in [Sta86], motivated by a link between the geometric structure of these objects and the combinatorial structure of finite posets. Triangulations of order polytopes are currently an area of interest.

Much of our work is motivated by a 2022 paper of von Bell, Braun, Hanely, Serhiyenko, Vega, Vindas-Meléndez, and Yip, titled *Triangulations, Order Polytopes, and Generalized Snake Posets* [Bel+22]. In this paper, the authors study a family of generalized snake posets $P(w)$ and the triangulations of the corresponding order polytope $O(Q_w)$, where $Q_w$ is the poset of meet-irreducibles of a modification of $P(w)$. In one section of their paper, the authors classify the circuits of the vertex set of these order polytopes. In another section, they introduce a “twist” action on triangulations of $O(Q_w)$. They prove several initial results about this action, namely that twists preserve regular triangulations and twists commute with bistellar flips.

Their paper concludes with several conjectures on a specific class of generalized snake posets, which is denoted by $V$. For further detail on this class, see Definition 2.14. In particular, our paper focuses on the following three conjectures:

**Conjecture 1.1** ([Bel+22], Conjecture 6.1). For $w \in V$, the flip graph of regular triangulations for $O(Q_w)$ is $k$-regular, where $k$ is the dimension of the secondary polytope of $O(Q_w)$.

**Conjecture 1.2** ([Bel+22], Conjecture 6.4). For $w \in V$, all triangulations of $O(Q_w)$ are regular.

**Conjecture 1.3** ([Bel+22], Conjecture 6.5). The number of regular triangulations of $O(S_k)$ is $2^{k+1} \cdot \text{Cat}(2k + 1)$.

In working towards proving these conjectures, we pose some of our own conjectures about triangulations of order polytopes of snake posets. In Section 4, we make several remarks about the secondary polytope $\Sigma_{O(S_k)}$ which lead us to the following conjecture about its dual polytope.

**Conjecture 1.4.** The dual polytope of $\Sigma_{O(S_k)}$ is a flag simplicial complex.

In Section 3.2, we define a partial ordering on triangulations of $O(S_k)$ that satisfies interesting properties. Specifically, we have the following conjectures, which we have verified for $k = 1, 2, 3$.

**Conjecture 1.5.** For any snake poset $S_k$, the set of triangulations of $O(S_k)$ under the partial ordering given in Definition 3.2 is a lattice.

**Conjecture 1.6.** The orientation on the flip graph induced by the partial ordering is a *good* orientation in the sense of Kalai [Kal88]: every face of the polytope contains a unique sink vertex.

In studying the secondary polytope $\Sigma_{O(S_k)}$, it is natural to consider the 2-dimensional faces, as these correspond to certain cycles in the bistellar flip graph. This leads us to our final conjecture:

**Conjecture 1.7.** The 2-dimensional faces of $\Sigma_{O(S_k)}$ are quadrilaterals, pentagons and hexagons.
We prove four main theorems which relate to the conjectures above. In Section 4, we classify all of the squares which appear in the secondary polytope via the following theorem, where the notion of “commuting” is defined in Definition 4.3.

**Theorem 1.8.** Let $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ be circuits of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$, where $w \in V$. Then $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ commute at $\mathcal{T}$ if and only if $\mathcal{T}$ can be flipped at $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ and at least one of the following hold:

(i) $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ appear on different maximal simplices in $\mathcal{T}$, or

(ii) $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ share no vertex

We also make progress towards similar theorems for pentagonal and hexagonal faces. In Section 5, we make partial progress towards the valence-regularity of the flip graph of $\mathcal{O}(S_k)$.

**Theorem 1.9.** Let $\mathcal{T}$ be a triangulation of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$ obtained by applying one flip to the canonical triangulation $\mathcal{T}_w$, where $w = w_0 w_1 \cdots w_n \in V$. Then, $\mathcal{T}$ admits $n + 1$ flips.

In the context of stating their Conjecture 1.3, the authors of [Bel+22] implicitly conjecture that nonidentity elements of the twist groups has no fixed triangulations. We give a proof of the following statement in Section 6.

**Theorem 1.10.** The twist group acts freely on the regular triangulations of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$.

Finally, in Section 7, we construct an eigenbasis for the twist group that arises from a combinatorial interpretation of $P(w)$.

**Theorem 1.11.** Let $w = \varepsilon w_1 \cdots w_n \in V$. Let $V \cong \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ be the linear subspace of $\mathbb{R}^{2n+6}$ parallel to the affine subspace containing the secondary polytope $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}(Q_w)}$. Then the twist group acts on $V$ in some eigenbasis $v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_{n+1}$ in which each $v_i$ corresponds with a letter $\varepsilon$ or $w_i$ in $w$ and each twist $\tau_i$ negates exactly the basis elements that correspond to the $w_i$ in the ladder that $\tau_i$ reflects.

1.1. **Main Results and Organization.** We organize this report as follows. In Section 2.1, we provide background on triangulations, circuits and flips, in Section 2.2 we provide background on order polytopes and snake posets, in Section 2.3, we characterize the circuits of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$, and in Section 2.4 we provide background on the twist group. In Section 3, we enumerate the circuits of $\mathcal{O}(S_k)$ and we define a partial ordering on triangulations of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$, conjecturing that this partial ordering satisfies certain interesting properties. In Section 4, we study the geometry of the secondary polytope of $\mathcal{O}(S_k)$, introducing several conjectures and making progress towards proving Conjecture 1.7. In Section 5, we prove that a subset of triangulations of $\mathcal{O}(S_k)$ admit $2k + 1$ flips, and precisely describe which flips are possible. In Section 6, we prove that the twist action on the set of regular triangulations of order polytopes $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$ is free. In Section 7, we analyze the geometric interpretation of the twist action and we describe its eigenbasis. Finally, in Section 8, we discuss work in progress on towards some of the conjectures above and discuss further directions.

2. **Background**

2.1. **Triangulations, circuits and flips.** In this section, we briefly explain the basic concepts that are needed for this problem such as simplicial complexes, triangulations and circuits, among others. We follow the exposition given in [DRS10].

A *d-simplex* is the convex hull of $d + 1$ affinely independent points in $\mathbb{R}^n$ for some $n$. Simplices generalize the concept of a triangle. For instance, a 1-simplex is a line segment, a
2-simplex is a triangle, a 3-simplex is a tetrahedron, and so on. More importantly, simplices are the basic elements of simplicial complexes.

**Definition 2.1.** A (geometric) simplicial complex $\Delta$ is a set of simplices in $\mathbb{R}^n$ satisfying two properties: (1) if $\sigma \in \Delta$ and $\tau$ is a subsimplex of $\sigma$, meaning $\tau$ is the convex hull of a subset of the vertices of $\sigma$), then $\tau \in \Delta$, and (2) if a pair of simplices in $T$ intersect, then they intersect exactly at a shared face of each.

We say that $\sigma \in \Delta$ is a face and, if $\sigma$ is a maximal simplex, we say that it is a facet.

A particular case of a simplicial complex is the triangulation of a given point configuration, which will be the main object of study of our paper.

**Definition 2.2.** Given a point configuration $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ with convex hull $\text{conv}(A)$, a triangulation of $A$ is a collection $T$ of $d$-simplices such that

(i) The union of all simplices in $T$ is $\text{conv}(A)$.

(ii) The collection $T$ forms a geometric simplicial complex.

(iii) Every simplex in $T$ has vertices only from $A$.

We say that $T$ is unimodular if every simplex has normalized volume one, and we say that it is regular if there are heights $h_1, \ldots, h_d \in \mathbb{R}$ such that the projection of the upper convex hull of $\hat{A} = \left\{ \left[ \frac{a_1}{h_1} \right], \ldots, \left[ \frac{a_d}{h_d} \right] \right\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ to $\mathbb{R}^d$ is $T$.

Often we might identify a triangulation with its maximal simplices, since these encode all the information of the triangulation. Further, we might sometimes only specify the vertices of the maximal simplices instead of the convex hull of them.

**Example 2.3.** Consider the polytope in $\mathbb{R}^3$ defined by the convex hull of the point configuration $A = \{(1,0,0), (0,1,0), (0,-1,0), (0,0,1), (0,0,-1)\}$. A triangulation of this polytope consists of the maximal simplices:

$$\sigma_1 = \text{conv}\{(1,0,0), (0,1,0), (0,-1,0), (0,0,1)\}$$
$$\sigma_2 = \text{conv}\{(1,0,0), (0,1,0), (0,-1,0), (0,0,-1)\}$$

**Example 2.4.** Let $A = \{A, B, C, D, E, F\} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ where

$$A = (1,0), B = \left( \frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right), C = \left( -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right), D = (-1,0), E = \left( -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right), F = \left( \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right).$$

Let $T_1 = \{ABC, CDE, EFA, ACE\}$. This triangulation is regular: we may place vertices $A, C, E$ at height 2 and vertices $B, D, F$ at height 1. Then the projection of the convex hull of $\hat{A}$ to $\mathbb{R}^2$ is $T_1$.

**Definition 2.5.** A point configuration $A = \{a_j : j \in J\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ is said to have corank one if it has a unique affine dependence $\sum_{j \in J} \lambda_j a_j = 0$ with $\sum_{j \in J} \lambda_j = 0$, up to multiplication by a constant.

If $A$ has corank one, we can partition $J$ into the following three sets

$$J_+ = \{ j \in J : \lambda_j > 0 \}, \quad J_0 = \{ j \in J : \lambda_j = 0 \}, \quad J_- = \{ j \in J : \lambda_j < 0 \}$$

The pair $(J_+, J_-)$ is called the Radon partition of $J$, and these are the only subsets of $J$ whose relative interiors intersect at a point.
Definition 2.6. A subset $Z \subseteq J$ is called a circuit if it is a minimal affinely dependent set. The partition of $Z$ into the pair $(Z_+, Z_-)$ such that $\text{conv}(Z_+) \cap \text{conv}(Z_-) \neq \emptyset$ is called an oriented circuit.

Note that, as in the definitions above, we sometimes abuse notation and refer to the circuit $Z$ as the set points of $A$ indexed by $Z$.

Lemma 2.7 ([DRS10], Lemma 2.4.2). Let $A$ be a point configuration of corank one with index set $J = J_+ \cup J_0 \cup J_-$. Then, there are only two triangulations of $A$, namely:

$$T^+ = \{ J \setminus \{ j \} : j \in J_+ \}$$
$$T^- = \{ J \setminus \{ j \} : j \in J_- \},$$

where we have only specified the maximal simplices of each triangulation.

Remark. Note that the lemma above implies that, in particular, there are only two triangulations of a given circuit. That is, given a circuit $Z$ with oriented circuit $(Z_+, Z_-)$, the only two triangulations of $Z$ are $T^+_Z = \{ Z \setminus \{ z \} : z \in Z_+ \}$ and $T^-_Z = \{ Z \setminus \{ z \} : z \in Z_- \}$. We will use this fact in various sections of this paper.

These results are particularly interesting since they guarantee that one can move between triangulations of a larger point configuration $A$ by swapping between triangulations of the circuits that appear in it. This is the notion of a bistellar flip. However, to precisely define a flip, we need some more background.

Definition 2.8. Given a simplicial complex $\Delta$ and a face $\sigma \in \Delta$, the link of $\sigma$ in $\Delta$ is the simplicial complex

$$\text{lk}_\Delta(\sigma) = \{ \tau \in \Delta : \sigma \cup \tau \in \Delta, \sigma \cap \tau = \emptyset \}.$$ 

Given two simplicial complexes $\Delta$ and $\Delta'$, their join is $\Delta \ast \Delta' = \{ \sigma \cup \sigma' : \sigma \in \Delta, \sigma' \in \Delta' \}$

We can now precisely define the flip of a triangulation. We note that there are several different equivalent definitions of a bistellar flip, but here we use the definition given in [DRS10, Theorem 4.4.1].

Definition 2.9. Let $T_1$ and $T_2$ be two triangulations of a point configuration $A$. Then $T_1$ and $T_2$ differ by a flip if and only if there is a circuit $Z$ of $A$ such that

(i) They contain, respectively, the two triangulations $T^+_Z$ and $T^-_Z$ of $Z$.

(ii) All the maximal simplices of $T^+_Z$ and $T^-_Z$ have the same link $L$ in $T_1$ and $T_2$, respectively.

(iii) Removing the subcomplex $T^+_Z \ast L$ from $T_1$ and replacing it with $T^-_Z \ast L$ gives $T_2$. 
Lastly, we define the flip graph of a point configuration $A$ as the graph whose vertices are the triangulations of $A$ and where two vertices are connected by an edge if there is a bistellar flip between their corresponding triangulations.

**Example 2.10.** Continuing the example of the hexagon from 2.4, let $A = \{A, B, C, D, E, F\}$ consist of the vertices of a regular hexagon. Let $T_1 = \{ABC, CDE, EFA, ACE\}$. Let $T_2 = \{ABC, CDE, CEF, FAC\}$. Then $T_1, T_2$ differ by a flip: the circuit $Z$ satisfying (i), (ii), and (iii) is $ACEF$.

The subgraph of flip graph induced by regular triangulations is closely related to the secondary polytope introduced by Gelfand, Kapranov and Zelevinsky in 1991. Even though the secondary polytope admits a very precise description, we do not need it here and we shall only use the following results about it.

**Theorem 2.11 ([GKZ08]).** Let $A$ be a $d$-dimensional point configuration. Then, there exists a $(\#A - d - 1)$-dimensional polytope $\Sigma_A$ whose vertices are in correspondence with the regular triangulations of $A$ and whose edges correspond to bistellar flips between them. The polytope $\Sigma_A$ is called the secondary polytope of $A$.

2.2. Order polytopes and snake posets. The order polytope was first introduced and defined by Richard Stanley in [Sta86]. Here, we will define $O(P)$ for any poset $P$ using notation from [Bel+22, Section 2.2]. We define an upper order ideal $A \subset P$ to be any subset such that $i \in A$ and $j \geq_P i$ implies $j \in A$. We let $J(P)$ denote the poset of upper order ideals of $P$, where the partial ordering is by reverse inclusion. For any $A \in J(P)$, we define the characteristic vector $v_A := \sum_{i \in A} e_i$, where $e_i$ is the standard basis vector of $\mathbb{R}^d$ and $d = |P|$. We define $O(P) := \text{conv}(V)$, where $V = \{v_A : A \in J(P)\}$.

For any poset $P$, $O(P)$ has a canonical triangulation $\mathcal{T}$, which satisfies the following property: the maximal simplices of $\mathcal{T}$ are in bijection with maximal chains of $J(P)$, such that given a maximal chain $C = \{A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n\}$ in $J(P)$, the corresponding maximal simplex of $\mathcal{T}$ is given by $\text{conv}(V)$ where $V = \{v_A : A \in C\}$.

In our project, we study triangulations of a certain family of order polytopes. We begin by defining the family of generalized snake posets $P(w)$ as introduced in [Bel+22].

**Definition 2.12.** [Bel+22, Definition 3.1] For $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, a generalized snake word is a word of the form $w = w_0 w_1 \cdots w_n$ where $w_0 = \varepsilon$ is the empty letter and $w_i$ is in the alphabet $\{L, R\}$ for $i = 1, \ldots, n$. 

**Figure 2.** The triangulation $\mathcal{T}_2$ (right) obtained by flipping $\mathcal{T}_1$ (left) at circuit $ACEF$. 


Definition 2.13. [Bel+22, Definition 3.2] Given a generalized snake word, we define the \textit{generalized snake poset} $P(w)$ recursively in the following way:

\begin{itemize}
\item $P(w_0) = P(\varepsilon)$ is the poset on elements $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ with cover relations $1 \triangleleft 0$, $2 \triangleleft 0$, $3 \triangleleft 1$, and $3 \triangleleft 2$.
\item $P(w_0w_1 \cdots w_n)$ is the poset $P(w_0w_1 \cdots w_{n-1})$ with the added cover relations $2n + 3 \triangleleft 2n + 1$, $2n + 3 \triangleleft 2n + 2$, and
$$
\begin{cases}
2n + 2 \triangleleft 2n - 1 & \text{if } n = 1 \text{ and } w_n = L, \text{ or } n \geq 2 \text{ and } w_{n-1}w_n \in \{RL, LR\} \\
2n + 2 \triangleleft 2n & \text{if } n = 1 \text{ and } w_n = R, \text{ or } n \geq 2 \text{ and } w_{n-1}w_n \in \{LL, RR\}.
\end{cases}
$$
\end{itemize}

We often restrict our attention to a subset of generalized snake posets $\mathcal{V}$, as classified in the following definition.

Definition 2.14. Let $\mathcal{V}$ be the set of generalized snake words $w$ that contain neither $RLR$ nor $LRL$.

We are also particularly interested in a special case of generalized snake posets: the \textit{snake poset}. We define a snake poset $S_k = P(w)$ where $w = w_0w_1 \cdots w_k$ such that $w_i = R$ if $i$ is odd and $w_i = L$ if $i$ is even and not equal to $0$. For instance, the snake poset $S_3$ is represented in Figure 3. We note in particular that $J(S_k) = \hat{P}(w)$ for $w = \varepsilon(RL)(LR)(RL)\cdots$ with $k$ pairs of the form $(RL)$ or $(LR)$, and that $w \in \mathcal{V}$.

Definition 2.15. Given $w$ a generalized snake word, let $\hat{P}(w)$ be $P(w)$ with $\hat{0}$ and $\hat{1}$ adjoined. Define $Q_w$ as the poset of meet-irreducibles of $\hat{P}(w)$.

Here we note that by the fundamental theorem of finite distributive lattices, $\hat{P}(w) \cong J(Q_w)$. Thus, every element in $\hat{P}(w)$ is associated with an order filter of $Q_w$. In our project we primarily study the order polytope of $Q_w$, denoted $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$. We denote the canonical triangulation of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$ by $\mathcal{T}_w$.

2.3. Characterization of circuits. In this section, we discuss a result from [Bel+22] which will allow us to characterize the circuits of the vertex set of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$.

We let $C(Q_w)$ be the set of circuits of the vertex set of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$, which are the objects we are primarily concerned with. Here we recall that the set of vertices of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$ is precisely the set of characteristic vectors $v_A$ corresponding to each $A \in \hat{P}(w)$.

We define the graph $G(w)$ as follows. If $w = w_0w_1 \cdots w_n$, then the set of vertices of $G(w)$ is $V(G) = \{w_0, w_1, \ldots, w_n\}$. The set of edges of $G(w)$ is $E(G) = \{(w_i, w_{i+1}) : i = 0, \ldots, n-1\} \cup \{(w_i, w_{i+2}) : w_{i+1}w_{i+2} \in \{RL, LR\}\}$. We denote the set of nonempty
connected induced subgraphs of \( G(w) \) by \( G(w) \). Here we note that we can identify each induced subgraph uniquely as a subword of \( w \), but not all subwords of \( w \) correspond to elements of \( G(w) \).

If we embed the Hasse diagram of \( \hat{P}(w) \) onto the plane such that no two edges cross, we note that each bounded face has degree 4, and we call each such bounded face a square of \( \hat{P}(w) \). In this notation, there is a one-to-one correspondence between the squares of \( \hat{P}(w) \) and the letters of \( w \). We denote by \( \text{Sq}(w_i) \) the four elements of \( \hat{P}(w) \) which are contained in the \( i \)-th bounded face, labelling from top to bottom.

We define a map \( \Gamma: G(w) \to C(Q_w) \) as follows. Given some \( H \in G(w) \), we consider the subword corresponding to \( H \). We consider the set of squares \( \text{Sq}(w_i) \) corresponding to each letter \( w_i \) in \( H \). For any \( A \in \hat{P}(w) \), we say \( A \) is compatible with \( H \) if \( A \) is an element of an odd number of squares \( \{\text{Sq}(w_i): w_i \in H\} \). We say \( \Gamma(H) \) is precisely the set of all \( v_A \) such that \( A \) is compatible with \( H \).

**Theorem 2.16.** [Bel+22, Theorem 4.5] Let \( w \in V \) be a generalized snake word of length \( n \). The map \( \Gamma: G(w) \to C(Q_w) \) is a bijection.

In their proof of the above theorem, the authors introduce a convention for assigning signs to the vertices in each circuit. They construct their definition by assigning a sign to each square. Figure 4 shows the signs of vertices in a square corresponding to a square with \( \text{sgn}(\text{Sq}(w_i)) = 1 \).

![Figure 4. Signs of vertices corresponding to a square with \( \text{sgn}(\text{Sq}(w_i)) = 1 \)](image)

If \( \text{sgn}(\text{Sq}(w_{i1})) = -1 \), then we swap the positive and negative vertices of the square. This leads us to the following definition.

**Definition 2.17.** Suppose \( H = \{w_{i1}, \ldots, w_{i\ell}\} \in G(w) \). We assign signs to the squares as follows: \( \text{sgn}(\text{Sq}(w_{i1})) = 1 \). For \( j = 2, \ldots, \ell \), we have the following:

\[
\text{sgn}(\text{Sq}(w_{ij})) = \begin{cases} 
\text{sgn}(\text{Sq}(w_{i,j-1})) & \text{if } i_j - i_{j-1} = 1 \\
-\text{sgn}(\text{Sq}(w_{i,j-1})) & \text{if } i_j - i_{j-1} = 2.
\end{cases}
\]

We note that when \( w = \varepsilon(RL)(LR)(RL) \cdots \), the poset \( Q_w = P(\varepsilon RLRL \cdots) = S_k \). We can therefore characterize the circuits of the vertex set of \( O(S_k) \) by examining the elements of \( G(w) \) for \( w = \varepsilon(RL)(LR)(RL) \cdots \). Given a circuit \( Z \) of the vertex set of \( O(S_k) \), we say \( Z \) belongs to exactly one of the following four categories:

(i) \( Z \) is a square if \( Z = \text{Sq}(w_i) \) for some \( w_i \).
(ii) \( Z \) is a rectangle if \( Z \) has four elements and is not a square.
(iii) \( Z \) avoids a corner if its corresponding subgraph contains \( w_i w_{i+2} \).
(iv) \( Z \) contains corners if it has more than four elements and its corresponding subgraph can be denoted \( w_i w_{i+1} \cdots w_{i+r} \) for some \( r \).
2.4. The twist group.

**Definition 2.18.** Let \( w = w_0w_1 \cdots w_n \in V \), and say \( w_{ij} \) is the \( j \)th index such that \( w_{ij}w_{ij+1}w_{ij+2} = RRL \) or \( LLR \). We define the *ladders* \( \mathcal{L}^j \) on \( \hat{P}(w) \) by

\[
\mathcal{L}^1 = \bigcup_{k=0}^{i+1} \text{Sq}(w_k), \quad \mathcal{L}^j = \bigcup_{k=i_{j-1}+1}^{i_{j+1}} \text{Sq}(w_i).
\]

Visually, the ladders are simply the diagonal lines of squares in the Hasse diagram of \( \hat{P}(w) \):

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathcal{L}^1: & \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{\( w_1 \) } \\
\text{\( w_2 \) } \\
\text{\( w_3 \) } \\
\text{\( w_4 \) } \\
\text{\( w_5 \) }
\end{array} \\
\mathcal{L}^2: & \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{\( w_1 \) } \\
\text{\( w_2 \) } \\
\text{\( w_3 \) } \\
\text{\( w_4 \) } \\
\text{\( w_5 \) }
\end{array} \\
\mathcal{L}^3: & \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{\( w_1 \) } \\
\text{\( w_2 \) } \\
\text{\( w_3 \) } \\
\text{\( w_4 \) } \\
\text{\( w_5 \) }
\end{array}
\end{align*}
\]

Let \( V \) be the set of vertices of \( \hat{P}(w) \). Given a ladder, we want to permute these vertices as though we were reflecting them over the center line of the ladder. First, we label the vertices of the ladder \( x_1, \ldots, x_s \) as follows, with odd indices on the top line and even indices on the bottom:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{\( x_1 \) } & \quad \text{\( x_2 \) } \\
\text{\( x_3 \) } & \quad \text{\( x_4 \) } \\
\text{\( x_5 \) } & \quad \text{\( x_6 \) } \\
\text{\( x_{s-5} \) } & \quad \text{\( x_{s-4} \) } \\
\text{\( x_{s-3} \) } & \quad \text{\( x_{s-2} \) } \\
\text{\( x_{s-1} \) } & \quad \text{\( x_s \) }
\end{align*}
\]

**Definition 2.19.** [Bel+22, Definition 5.3] We define the permutation \( \tau_i \in \mathfrak{S}_{|V|} \) of \( V \) by

\[
\tau_i(v) = \begin{cases} 
  x_{j-1} & \text{if } v = x_j \text{ and } j \text{ even} \\
  x_{j+1} & \text{if } v = x_j \text{ and } j \text{ odd} \\
  v & \text{otherwise.}
\end{cases}
\]

**Lemma 2.20.** [Bel+22, Lemma 5.4] For all \( \tau_i, \tau_j \in \mathfrak{S}_{|V|} \), the following properties hold:

(i) \( \tau_i^2 = 1 \)

(ii) \( \tau_i \tau_j = \tau_j \tau_i \)
This means the set of all $\tau_i$ generate a commutative subgroup of $S_{|V|}$. In particular,

**Definition 2.21.** [Bel+22, Definition 5.5] Let $\mathfrak{S}(w)$ be the subgroup of $S_{|V|}$ generated by $\{\tau_i : 1 \leq i \leq s\}$ where $s$ is the number of ladders in $\hat{P}(w)$. We call $\mathfrak{S}(w)$ the *twist group* of $\hat{P}(w)$. Elements of $\mathfrak{S}(w)$ are called *twists*, and the elements $\tau_i$ corresponding to ladder reflections are called *elementary twists*.

By the previous lemma, $\mathfrak{S}(w) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^s$. In particular, the twist group of $J(S_k)$ is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^{k+1}$.

**Example 2.22.** Consider $Q_w = S_1$ and $J(S_1)$ below. The first elementary twist $\tau_1$ reflects the vertices of $J(S_1)$ across the dotted line.

![Diagram of a twist group example]

One of the simplices in $\mathcal{T}_w$ is $\{0, 100000, 110000, 111000, 111100, 111110, 1\}$. Twisting by $\tau_1$, we obtain $\{0, 100000, 110000, 111010, 111100, 111110, 1\}$.

It's important to note that even if $\mathcal{T}$ is a triangulation of $O(Q_w)$, $\tau(\mathcal{T})$ for $\tau \in \mathfrak{S}(w)$ may not be a triangulation, meaning $\mathfrak{S}(w)$ doesn't necessarily act on the set of triangulations of $O(Q_w)$. However, twisting does preserve circuits:

**Lemma 2.23.** [Bel+22, Lemma 5.11] If $Z = (Z_+, Z_-)$ is a circuit of $O(Q_w)$, then for any $\tau \in \mathfrak{S}(w)$, $\tau(Z) = (\tau(Z_+), \tau(Z_-))$ is also a circuit.

Another key property of the twist group is that twists and flips commute.

**Theorem 2.24.** [Bel+22, Theorem 5.6] Suppose $\mathcal{T}$ and $\tau(\mathcal{T})$ are triangulations of $O(Q_w)$ for some $\tau \in \mathfrak{S}(w)$. If $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{T}_Z^+$ can be flipped at a circuit $Z$, then the following diagram commutes:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{T}_Z^+ & \xrightarrow{\text{flip in } Z} & \mathcal{T}_Z^- \\
\downarrow\text{twist} & & \downarrow\text{twist} \\
\tau(\mathcal{T}_Z^+) = \tau(\mathcal{T}_Z^+) & \xrightarrow{\text{flip in } \tau(Z)} & \tau(\mathcal{T}_Z^-) = \tau(\mathcal{T}_Z^-)
\end{array}
\]

This implies that if $\tau$ is a twist and $\mathcal{T}$ and $\tau(\mathcal{T})$ are both triangulations, $\mathcal{T}$ and $\tau(\mathcal{T})$ admit the same number of flips. The action of the twist group on the canonical triangulation is particularly interesting.

**Theorem 2.25.** [Bel+22, Theorem 5.1] Let $w \in V$ have length $k$. The canonical triangulation of $O(Q_w)$ admits exactly $k + 1$ flips.
Theorem 2.26. [Bel+22, Theorem 5.8] The canonical triangulation $\mathcal{T}_w$ of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$ is a regular triangulation, and for any twist $\tau$, $\tau(\mathcal{T}_w)$ is also a regular triangulation.

Finally, combining Theorem 2.24 and Theorem 2.26, we get

Corollary 2.27. [Bel+22, Corollary 5.12] The component of the flip graph of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$ containing all regular triangulations admits a $\mathcal{T}(w)$-action by twists.

3. Circuits and a Partial Ordering on Triangulations

3.1. Enumeration of circuits. Since circuits of $J(S_k)$ correspond to connected induced subgraphs as described in Theorem 2.16, it is possible to find a recurrence and a closed formula that enumerates the number of such circuits.

Theorem 3.1. The number of circuits of $J(S_k)$ is precisely $9 \cdot 2^k - 3k - 8$.

Proof. From Theorem 2.16, we know that the number of circuits of the vertex set of $\mathcal{O}(S_k)$ is precisely the number of nonempty connected induced subgraphs of $G(w)$. If $J(S_k)$ corresponds to a snake word of the form $w = \varepsilon(RL)(LR)\cdots$ where there are $k$ such sets of parentheses, then we can represent any element of $G(w)$ as a subword of $w$. We write $w = w_0 \cdots w_{2k}$.

Let $C_k$ be the number of induced subgraphs of $G(w)$. We can verify easily that in the $S_0$ case we have one induced subgraph, so $C_0 = 1$. We now prove a recursive formula for $C_k$ in terms of $C_{k-1}$. All of the induced subgraphs which were present in $J(S_{k-1})$ will clearly also be present in $J(S_k)$. We now notice that $J(S_k)$ has two more squares than $J(S_{k-1})$, and the corresponding snake word has two more letters: $w_{2k-1}$ and $w_{2k}$. The three subwords $w_{2k-1}, w_{2k}$, and $w_{2k-1}w_{2k}$ will each correspond to induced subgraphs which were clearly not in $J(S_{k-1})$. We also add the set of subwords which can be described as a concatenation of a subword of $J(S_{k-1})$ ending with $w_{2k-2}$ and one of these three new subwords. We let $B_{k-1}$ be the number of induced subgraphs which include the bottom square – in other words, the number of induced subgraphs which correspond to a subwords which contains $w_{2k-2}$. We see now that $C_k = C_{k-1} + 3 + 3 \cdot B_{k-1}$.

We now prove a recursive formula for $B_k$ in terms of $B_{k-1}$. We see that $B_0 = 1$. We see that there are two new words in $B_k$ which were not in $B_{k-1} - w_{2k}$ and $w_{2k-1}w_{2k}$. We also see that we can construct all remaining subwords in $B_k$ by adding $w_{2k}$ or $w_{2k-1}w_{2k}$ to any subword in $B_{k-1}$. So $B_k = 2 + 3 \cdot B_{k-1}$.

Combining these formulas, we solve recursively to get $C_k = 9 \cdot 2^k - 3k - 8$. \hfill $\Box$

3.2. A partial order on triangulations. In this section, we describe a partial order defined on triangulations of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$ that is defined in terms of circuits and bistellar flips between them.

Definition 3.2. We define a relation ordering on our set of triangulations of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$ as follows: given two triangulations $\mathcal{T}$ and $\mathcal{T}'$, we say that $\mathcal{T} \preceq \mathcal{T}'$ if there exists a bistellar flip between $\mathcal{T}$ and $\mathcal{T}'$ at some circuit $Z$ such that $\mathcal{T}$ contains the triangulation $\mathcal{T}_Z^+$ and $\mathcal{T}'$ contains $\mathcal{T}_Z^-$. It is clear that the cover relations of this partial ordering will correspond precisely to edges in the bistellar flip graph. Taking the transitive closure of this cover relation, we say that $\mathcal{T} \leq \mathcal{T}'$ if there exists some sequence of flips to get from $\mathcal{T}$ to $\mathcal{T}'$ where each flip at some circuit $Z$ exchanges a simplex in $\mathcal{T}_Z^-$ for a simplex in $\mathcal{T}_Z^+$. 
Figure 5. The poset of triangulations of $\mathcal{O}(S_1)$. The circuits are enumerated, so an arrow labelled $Z_i$ indicates a flip on circuit $Z_i$, as labelled in the bottom diagram. The arrow points from the triangulation containing $\mathcal{T}_{-Z_i}$ to the one containing $\mathcal{T}_{Z_i}^+$. The bottom triangulation (13) is the canonical triangulation.

Figure 6. The poset of triangulations of $\mathcal{O}(S_2)$.

For example, Figure 5 shows the poset obtained by the ordering above applied to $Q_w = S_1$. It is not trivial that this ordering relation is indeed a partial ordering, which we prove below.

**Proposition 3.3.** The relation defined in Definition 3.2 is a partial ordering on the set of triangulations of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$, where $w = w_0 w_1 \cdots w_n \in \mathcal{V}$.

**Proof.** It is immediate that the relation is both reflexive and transitive, so we only need to prove that it is antisymmetric.
Let $T$ be a triangulation of $O(Q_w)$. Each maximal simplex $\omega \in T$ corresponds to a set of vertices in $\hat{P}(w)$. Since $\hat{P}(w)$ is a ranked poset, for any $\omega \in T$ we can define a weight $\rho(\omega) = (x_{n+5}, x_{n+4}, \ldots, x_1, x_0)$, where $x_i$ is the number of vertices of rank $i$ in $\omega$. We define a weight function $\text{wt}$ on triangulations of $O(Q_w)$.

$$\text{wt}(T) := \sum_{\omega \in T} \rho(\omega)$$

Since the weights are sequences of non-negative integers, we can order lexicographically. Let $\leq_\ell$ denote lexicographic order. If $T \leq_\ell T'$, then $T' = f_Z(T)$ for some circuit $Z$ such that $T$ contains $T_Z$ and $T'$ contains $T_Z'$. Following Theorem 2.16, the circuit $Z$ corresponds to a subword $w_{i_1} \cdots w_{i_d}$ of $w$. We know the top vertex $A \in \text{Sq}(w_{i_1})$ will have strictly higher rank than any other vertex in $Z$ and by Definition 2.17, $A \in Z_+$. Hence, every simplex $\omega \in T$ containing $T_Z$ contains $A$. In $T'$, $A$ is contained in exactly one less simplex, and every other vertex of rank greater than or equal to the rank of $A$ is not affected by the flip. Therefore, $\text{wt}(T') <_\ell \text{wt}(T)$. So for any triangulations $T, T'$ with $T \neq T'$, if $T \leq_\ell T'$ we have the strict inequality $\text{wt}(T') < \text{wt}(T)$, so we cannot also have $T' \leq_\ell T$, confirming $\leq_\ell$ is antisymmetric.

The above partial ordering seems to satisfy nice properties. In [Kal88], the author describes a useful property that certain orientations of the graph of a polytope satisfy. Let $P$ be a polytope and $G(P)$ be its graph. If $O$ is an acyclic orientation of $G(P)$ then we say that $O$ is a good orientation if for every nonempty face $F$ of $P$, $G(F)$ has exactly one sink. We conjecture that the partial ordering in Definition 3.2 is a lattice, as stated in Conjecture 1.5 and that it has good orientation, as stated in Conjecture 1.7.

It is worth remarking that if the above conjectures hold, along with Conjecture 1.1 that the secondary polytope for $O(S_k)$ is simple, then the orientation induced by our partial ordering satisfies certain hypothesis described in [Her23]. In particular, the orientation satisfies the hypothesis from Theorems 1.1, 1.2 by Hersh and Theorem 7.4 by Preuss in the appendix of [Her23].

If $P$ is a $d$-dimensional polytope, the cost of a vector $v \in P$ is the dot product $c \cdot v$, where $c \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is a fixed vector known as the cost vector. A cost vector, induces an orientation on the edges of $P$ by following the direction in which the cost of the vertices increases. The directed graph obtained by this orientation on the 1-skeleta of $P$ is denoted by $G(P, c)$.

In our setting, we let $c = \text{wt}(T_w)$ be the cost vector, where $w = \epsilon(R L)(L R) \cdots$ is the word inducing $Q_w = S_k$. Then, $G(O(S_k), c)$ is the Hasse diagram of the partial ordering described earlier in this section. The aforementioned theorems from [Her23] rely on the hypothesis that $G(O(S_k), c)$ is the Hasse diagram of a lattice $L$ (which is our conjecture above), and they conclude that the Möbius function $\mu_L$ only takes values 0, 1, $-1$ and that every directed path in $L$ has length at most $n - d$, where $n$ is the number of facets and $d$ is the dimension of the polytope. For a more detailed description of these results, we refer the reader to [Her23].

4. Geometry of the secondary polytope

4.1. Dual polytopes and flag simplicial complexes. We begin this section by including a picture of the secondary polytope of triangulations of $O(S_1)$.

In studying a secondary polytope, it is sometimes also natural to consider its dual polytope, defined as follows:
Definition 4.1. Given a polytope $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$, the polar dual of $P$ is
\[
P^* := \{ c \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^* : cx \leq 1 \text{ for all } x \in P \}
\]

We refer to the polar dual of a polytope $P$ simply as the dual polytope of $P$. In the dual polytope of $\Sigma_{O(S_k)}$, the facets correspond to triangulations of $O(S_k)$ and the vertices correspond to facets of $O(S_k)$. The dual polytope of a simple polytope is always a simplicial complex. In order to better understand the structure of the secondary polytope, it is natural to try and understand the structure of this corresponding simplicial complex. This leads us to the following definition:

Definition 4.2. A flag simplicial complex is a simplicial complex with the property that if all facets of some simplex are part of the simplicial complex, the simplex itself is as well.

For instance, there cannot be three vertices $\{a, b, c\}$ for which the edges $\{a, b\}, \{b, c\}$ and $\{a, c\}$ are all in the complex but the full triangle $\{a, b, c\}$ is not, as in the following example where we take our simplicial complex to be the boundary of a bipyramid.

![Diagram of a bipyramid]

Our study of the secondary polytopes $\Sigma_{O(S_k)}$ for $k = 1, 2, 3$ lead us to conjecture that the dual of $\Sigma_{O(S_k)}$ is always a flag complex, as stated in Conjecture 1.4.

Figure 8 shows the planar embedding of the dual polytope of $\Sigma_{O(S_1)}$. One can check from the figure that it is a flag simplicial complex, as every 3-cycle of edges in its 1-skeleton actually bounds a triangular boundary face.
4.2. 2D faces of the secondary polytope. After studying the first few examples of snake posets, we are led to conjecture that the 2D faces of the secondary polytope $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}(S_k)}$ are all quadrilaterals, pentagons, and hexagons as stated in Conjecture 1.7.

Remark. Conjecture 1.7 bears a strong spiritual similarity to a result of Zelevinsky [Zel06, Prop. 4.6], where the author shows that certain simple polytopes called nestohedra have only triangles, quadrangles, pentagons and hexagons as 2-faces. The nestohedra are the polar duals to certain simplicial polytopes whose boundary complexes are what Zelevinsky calls a nested complex, and what other authors have called the complex of nested sets, associated to a building set. Those nestohedra contain as special cases the associahedra and the permutohedra. This similarity may suggest that the secondary polytope of $\mathcal{O}(S_k)$ has a rich geometric structure.

In order to prove this conjecture, we investigate which sequences of flips cause 4-cycles, 5-cycles, and 6-cycles to appear in the bistellar flip graph. We prove a statement that tells us precisely when a given triangulation $\mathcal{T}$ will appear as a vertex of a quadrilateral in the secondary polytope. In Section 8, we make progress towards similar results for pentagons and hexagons. We expect that proving Conjecture 1.7, with careful attention to the direction of arrows in each cycle, should lead to a proof of Conjecture 1.5 that the poset is a lattice via Lemma 2.1 of [Bjö+6].

4.2.1. Quadrilaterals. We begin by introducing notation that we will use throughout this section. If a triangulation $\mathcal{T}$ can be flipped at a circuit $Z$, we denote the triangulation obtained after flipping at $Z$ by $f_Z(\mathcal{T})$. Further, we denote by $\mathcal{T}_Z$ the triangulation of the circuit $Z$ contained in $\mathcal{T}$. Observe that this notation drops the sign of the triangulation of $Z$ to avoid losing generality.

Definition 4.3. We say that two circuits $Z_1, Z_2$ commute at a triangulation $\mathcal{T}$ if:

(a) $\mathcal{T}$ contains $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}, \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}$ and can be flipped at these circuits, and
(b) $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$ contains $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}$ and can be flipped at $Z_2$, and $f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T})$ contains $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}$ and can be flipped at $Z_1$, and
(c) $f_{Z_2}(f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})) = f_{Z_1}(f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T}))$
The following proposition relates the notion of commutation of circuits defined above to the flip graph of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$. In particular, it relates commuting circuits to faces with 4 elements in the flip graph that are oriented in a particularly interesting way following Definition 3.2.

**Proposition 4.4.** If two circuits $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ commute at a triangulation $\mathcal{T}$ of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$, then there exist four triangulations $\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \mathcal{T}_3, \mathcal{T}_4$ such that:
- $\mathcal{T}_1$ contains $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}$ and $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}$
- $\mathcal{T}_2$ contains $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}$ and $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^+$
- $\mathcal{T}_3$ contains $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^+$ and $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}$
- $\mathcal{T}_4$ contains $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^+$ and $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^+$

and $f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T}_1) = \mathcal{T}_2$, $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T}_2) = \mathcal{T}_4$, and $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T}_4) = \mathcal{T}_3$.

**Proof.** By Definition 4.3, if two circuits $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ commute at a triangulation $\mathcal{T}$, then $\mathcal{T}$ can be flipped at $Z_1$ and $Z_2$. So $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$ exists and contains $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}$ with the opposite sign, and $f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T})$ exists and contains $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}$ with the opposite sign. Since $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ commute at $\mathcal{T}$, we also know that $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$ can be flipped at $Z_2$ and $f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T})$ can be flipped at $Z_1$, and in particular $f_{Z_2}(f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})) = f_{Z_1}(f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T}))$. By construction, this triangulation will contain both $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}$ and $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}$, each with the opposite sign to how they appear in $\mathcal{T}$. So we see that we have four triangulations $\mathcal{T}$, $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$, $f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T})$, and $f_{Z_1}(f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T}))$ such that there exists one triangulation for every configuration of positive and negative in $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}$ and $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}$ and, once these are assigned, it is not hard to check that they satisfy the relations above.

We now give a sufficient condition for a pair of circuits to be preserved after a flip in either of them, and also show that this sufficient condition implies commutation as well.

**Proposition 4.5.** If a triangulation $\mathcal{T}$ of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$ can be flipped at two circuits $Z_1, Z_2$ such that $Z_1 \cap Z_2 = \emptyset$, then $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$ and $f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T})$ can be flipped at $Z_2$ and $Z_1$, respectively. Moreover, $f_{Z_1}(f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T})) = f_{Z_2}(f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T}))$

**Proof.** We assume that $\mathcal{T}$ can be flipped at $Z_1, Z_2$ and that it contains $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^-$ and $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$, the other cases following by the same argument. For the first statement, it suffices to show that $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$ can be flipped at $Z_2$. Since $Z_1 \cap Z_2 = \emptyset$, then $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$ contains $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$. Thus, we only need to prove that any two simplices of $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$ have the same link in $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$. Let $\sigma \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$, and define

$$B_\sigma = \{ \omega \setminus \delta : \omega \in \text{lk}_\mathcal{T}(\sigma) \text{ and } \delta \in \omega \text{ for some } \delta \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^- \}$$

By definition of the link, we obtain

$$\text{lk}_{f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})}(\sigma) = \{ \omega : \omega \in \text{lk}_\mathcal{T}(\sigma) \text{ and } \delta \notin \omega \text{ for all } \delta \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^- \}$$

$$\cup \bigcup_{\xi \in B_\sigma} \{ \xi \cup \delta : \delta \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^- \}$$

By definition of the link, we obtain
Since $\text{lk}_\mathcal{T}(\sigma) = \text{lk}_\mathcal{T}(\delta)$ for any $\delta \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}$, then we have $B_\sigma = B_\delta$ and thus $\text{lk}_{f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})}(\sigma) = \text{lk}_{f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})}(\delta)$. Therefore, $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$ can be flipped at $Z_2$, and by the same argument we conclude that $f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T})$ can be flipped at $Z_1$.

We now prove that $f_{Z_2}(f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})) = f_{Z_1}(f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T}))$ by showing that they have the same maximal simplices. Since we can replace $Z_1$ by $Z_2$ and vice versa, it suffices to show that $f_{Z_1}(f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T})) \subseteq f_{Z_2}(f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T}))$. Let $\sigma \in f_{Z_1}(f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T}))$.

If $\sigma$ does not contain any simplex in $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^-$ or in $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$, then since $Z_1 \cap Z_2 = \emptyset$ we must have $\sigma \in \mathcal{T}$ and $\sigma$ is not affected by either of the flips, so $\sigma \in f_{Z_2}(f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T}))$.

If $\sigma$ contains a simplex $\delta_1 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^+$ but no simplex in $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$, then for all $\omega \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^-$, we have $(\sigma \setminus \delta_1) \cup \omega \in \mathcal{T}$ and so $(((\sigma \setminus \delta_1) \cup \omega) \setminus \omega) \cup \delta \in f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$ for all $\delta \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^-$. In particular, $((\sigma \setminus \delta_1) \cup \omega) \setminus \omega \cup \delta_1 = \sigma \in f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$ and since $\sigma$ is not changed after flipping at $Z_2$, we obtain $\sigma \in f_{Z_2}(f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T}))$.

If $\sigma$ contains a simplex $\delta_2 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^+$ but no simplex in $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^-$, then a similar argument as above implies that $\sigma \in f_{Z_2}(f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T}))$.

Lastly, suppose that $\sigma$ contains $\delta_1 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^+$ and $\delta_2 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^+$. Then, $(\sigma \setminus \delta_2) \cup \omega_2 \in f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$ for all $\omega_2 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$. Since $Z_1 \cap Z_2 = \emptyset$, then $\delta_1 \in (\sigma \setminus \delta_2) \cup \omega_2$. Thus $(\sigma \setminus (\delta_1 \cup \delta_2)) \cup (\omega_1 \cup \omega_2) \in \mathcal{T}$ for all $\omega_1 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^-$ and all $\omega_2 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$. Hence, for all $\xi_1 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^+$ and $\xi_2 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^+$, we have $(\sigma \setminus (\delta_1 \cup \delta_2)) \cup (\xi_1 \cup \xi_2) \in f_{Z_1}(f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T}))$ and choosing $\xi_1 = \delta_1$ and $\xi_2 = \delta_2$ yields $\sigma \in f_{Z_2}(f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T}))$, finishing the proof.

In the previous proposition, we gave a sufficient condition for a pair of circuits to commute. However, we can improve this result and prove sufficient and necessary conditions for two circuits to commute at a given triangulation.

**Theorem 1.8.** Let $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ be circuits of $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$, where $w \in \mathcal{V}$. Then $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ commute at $\mathcal{T}$ if and only if $\mathcal{T}$ can be flipped at $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ and at least one of the following holds:

(i) $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ appear on different maximal simplices in $\mathcal{T}$, or

(ii) $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ share no vertex

**Proof.** We prove the forward direction by contrapositive. Assume that $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ occur in the same simplex. Then, the link condition implies that for all $\delta_1 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^-$ and $\delta_2 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$, there exists some maximal simplex $S \in \mathcal{T}$ such that $\delta_1, \delta_2 \in S$.

Suppose that there exist some subsets $z_1 \subseteq Z_1$ and $z_2 \subseteq Z_2$ such that $z_1 \cup z_2$ is a circuit. Since $z_1$ and $z_2$ are strictly smaller than $Z_1$ and $Z_2$, respectively, then there must exist some simplex $\sigma_1$ in $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^-$ or $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$ which contains $z_1$. Similarly, there must be some simplex $\sigma_2$ in $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$ or $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^+$ which contains $z_2$. Finally, there must be some maximal simplex in $\mathcal{T}_i$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$ or $4$ which contains $\sigma_1$ and $\sigma_2$, which is a contradiction.

Now suppose $v$ is a vertex such that $v \in Z_1 \cap Z_2$. By Proposition 4.4, we can assume without loss of generality that $\mathcal{T}$ contains $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^-$ and $\mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$. If $v$ is negative in at least one of these circuits, without loss of generality $Z_1$, then there exists some $\sigma_1 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^-$ such that $v \notin \sigma_1$. However, there clearly exists some $\sigma_2 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$ such that $v \in \sigma_2$, so these two simplices $\sigma_1$ and $\sigma_2$ cannot both be contained in some maximal simplex $S$ and we have already reached a contradiction.

Therefore, any $v \in Z_1 \cap Z_2$ must be positive in both circuits. Fix some arbitrary $\delta_1 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^-$ and $\delta_2 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}^-$ and consider the maximal simplex $S \in \mathcal{T}$ which contains both $\delta_1$ and $\delta_2$. We imagine first applying a flip at $Z_1$ to $\mathcal{T}$. We choose some $v \in Z_1 \cap Z_2$. We know there exists precisely one simplex $\delta \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}^+$ such that $\delta$ does not contain $v$. After flipping at $Z_1$, we know
that the resulting triangulation will have some maximal simplex \( S' \) which is our original \( S \) but with \( \delta \) instead of \( \delta_1 \). In particular, \( v \notin S' \). We know that \( v \) is also a positive vertex in \( Z_2 \), so all simplices in \( T_{Z_2} \) contain \( v \). Hence, \( S' \) does not contain any simplex in \( T_{Z_2} \) and will not be changed when we flip at \( Z_2 \).

We now show that if we instead flipped at \( Z_2 \) and then flipped at \( Z_1 \), the resulting triangulation would not contain \( S' \). Assume for the sake of contradiction that \( S' \in f_{Z_1}(f_{Z_2}(T)) \), where \( f_i \) represents flipping at circuit \( Z_i^- \) and \( f_i^+ \) is flipping at circuit \( Z_i^+ \). By construction, \( S' \) contains \( \delta \in T_{Z_1}^+ \), so \( f_{Z_1}^{-1}(f_{Z_1}(f_{Z_2}(T))) = f_{Z_2}(T) \) must contain \( S \). However, \( S \) contains \( \delta_2 \), which is in \( T_{Z_2}^- \), which forces a contradiction. Therefore, \( Z_1 \) and \( Z_2 \) do not commute.

For the converse, we assume that \( T \) can be flipped at \( Z_1 \) and \( Z_2 \) and that it contains \( T_{Z_1} \) and \( T_{Z_2} \). Since a flip at a given circuit \( Z \) only changes those simplices containing \( T \), it is straightforward to see that if \( T_{Z_1}^- \) and \( T_{Z_2}^- \) are contained in different simplices of \( T \), then \( f_{Z_1}(f_{Z_2}(T)) = f_{Z_2}(f_{Z_1}(T)) \). On the other hand, if \( Z_1 \cap Z_2 = \emptyset \), then Proposition 4.5 immediately implies that \( Z_1 \) and \( Z_2 \) commute at \( T \). \( \square \)

5. Valence-regularity of the bistellar flip graph

We recall Conjecture 1.1. In order to make progress towards proving this conjecture, it is natural to begin by considering a subset of triangulations \( T \) in \( \mathcal{O}(Q_w) \). This leads us to the following result.

**Theorem 1.9.** Let \( T \) be a triangulation of \( \mathcal{O}(Q_w) \) obtained by applying one flip to the canonical triangulation \( T_w \), where \( w = w_0w_1 \cdots w_n \in \mathcal{V} \). Then, \( T \) admits \( n + 1 \) flips.

**Proof.** We know from Theorem 2.25 that the canonical triangulation of \( \mathcal{O}(Q_w) \) admits \( n + 1 \) flips, and these occur precisely at the squares. Let \( T_i \) be the triangulation obtained by applying a flip to \( T_w \) at the circuit \( Z_i = \text{Sq}(w_i) \).

Let \( Z_j = \text{Sq}(w_j) \) be such that \( Z_j \cap Z_i = \emptyset \). By Proposition 4.5, it follows that \( T_i \) can be flipped at \( Z_j \).

Suppose then that \( Z_j \cap Z_i \neq \emptyset \) and that \( j \neq i \) and \( j \neq i - 1 \). Let \( A \) be the unique vertex of intersection in \( Z_j \cap Z_i \) and let \( \sigma \in T_{Z_i}^- \). Let \( T_{Z_i}^- = \{ \delta_1, \delta_2 \} \) and \( T_{Z_i}^+ = \{ \delta_3, \delta_4 \} \). Without loss of generality, we might assume that \( \sigma \cup \delta_4 \) contains \( Z_i \). Hence, no element in \( \text{lk}_{T_i}(\sigma) \) contains \( \delta_4 \). See Figure 9 for an illustration.

![Figure 9](image-url)

**Figure 9.** The case \(|Z_j \cap Z_i| = 1\), with \( \delta_4 = \{B, C, D\} \)

Then, the link of \( \sigma \) in \( T_i \) is given by:

\[
\text{lk}_{T_i}(\sigma) = \{ S : S \in \text{lk}_{T_w}(\sigma) \text{ and } \delta_1, \delta_2 \notin S \cup \{A\} \} \\
\cup \{(S \setminus \delta_1) \cup (\delta_3 \setminus \{A\}) : S \in \text{lk}_{T_w} \text{ and } \delta_1 \in S \}.
\]
Since all simplices in $\mathcal{T}_z^-$ have the same link in $\mathcal{T}_w$, it follows that $\mathcal{T}_i$ admits flips at squares $\text{Sq}(w_j)$ where $j \neq i + 1$ and $j \neq i - 1$.

It is also clear that $\mathcal{T}_i$ contains $\mathcal{T}_z^+$. We now show that $\mathcal{T}_i$ can be flipped at precisely two more circuits, or one more circuit if $i = 0$ or $i = 2k$. We claim that $\mathcal{T}_i$ can be flipped at the rectangles $w_iw_{i+1}$ and $w_{i-1}w_i$. We show this for $w_iw_{i+1}$, and the other case follows by the same argument.

Let $Z$ be the circuit corresponding to the rectangle $w_iw_{i+1}$. In Figure 10, the two sets of red vertices are the two simplices $\sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \mathcal{T}_z^-$, where $\sigma_1 = \{A, B, E\}$ and $\sigma_2 = \{B, E, F\}$. We consider the links of each of these two simplices in $\mathcal{T}_i$. We take $\omega_1$ to be a maximal simplex in $\mathcal{T}_i$ which contains $\sigma_1$. If $\omega_1$ doesn’t contain $C$ or $D$, then it does not contain any triangulation of $\text{Sq}(w_i)$ and was not changed by the flip at $\text{Sq}(w_i)$, so it is a maximal chain. However, no maximal chain exists which passes through $A$ and $B$ but avoids $C$, so we have reached a contradiction. If $\omega_1$ contains $C$, then it contains a simplex in $\mathcal{T}_z^-$, so we have reached a contradiction since $\mathcal{T}_i$ does not contain any such simplex. Thus, we must have that $D \in \omega_1$. We now consider $\sigma_2$ and take $\omega_2$ to be any maximal simplex in $\mathcal{T}_i$ which contains $\sigma_2$. If $\omega_2$ contained $A$, then it would contain a circuit, so $\omega_2$ does not contain $\mathcal{T}_z^+$ since all the simplices in this triangulation contain $A$. Hence, $\omega_2$ must be a maximal chain, so it must contain $D$ and avoid $C$. It then readily follows that $\text{lk}_{\mathcal{T}_i}(\sigma_1) = \text{lk}_{\mathcal{T}_i}(\sigma_2)$.

![Figure 10. The rectangle $w_iw_{i+1}$](image)

We have now proven that $\mathcal{T}_i$ admits at least $2k + 1$ flips. It remains to show that $\mathcal{T}_i$ cannot be flipped at any other circuit. We begin by considering any circuit $Z$ which has more than 4 elements. To prove that $\mathcal{T}_i$ cannot be flipped at $Z$, it suffices to show that $Z$ contains at least one pair of incomparable elements $\{A, B\}$ which have the same sign in $Z$ and are not both contained in $\text{Sq}(w_i)$. To justify this, we begin by noting that since $Z$ has at least six elements, there must exist at least one simplex in $\mathcal{T}_z^-$ and at least one simplex in $\mathcal{T}_z^+$ which contains both $A$ and $B$. We assume for the sake of contradiction that $\mathcal{T}_i$ can be flipped at $Z$ and let $\omega$ be a maximal simplex which contains both $A$ and $B$. If neither $A$ nor $B$ are contained in $\text{Sq}(w_i)$, then we conclude that $A$ and $B$ are both contained in some maximal chain and reach a contradiction. If $B \in \text{Sq}(w_i)$ without loss of generality, then we consider two cases: either $\omega$ contains a simplex $\sigma \in \mathcal{T}_z^+$ or it does not. If it does not, then $\omega$ is a maximal chain and we reach a contradiction. If it does, we begin by noting that there must exist some simplex $\varsigma \in \mathcal{T}_z^-$ which contains $B$. Since $\text{lk}_{\mathcal{T}_i}(\sigma) = \text{lk}_{\mathcal{T}_w}(\varsigma)$, we know there exists some maximal chain in $\mathcal{T}_w$ which contains $B$ and $A$, and we again reach a contradiction.

It is not hard to check that if $Z$ has more than four elements, it will have two pairs of incomparable elements, where the elements of each pair has the same sign in the circuit. Since there are two such pairs, one of them is not entirely contained in $\text{Sq}(w_i)$.
We now prove that $T_i$ cannot be flipped at $\text{Sq}(w_{i+1})$ or $\text{Sq}(w_{i-1})$, if these squares exist. If $T_i$ contains a simplex in $T^+_Z$ for either of these circuits, then $T_i$ will have an incomparable pair of elements not entirely contained in $\text{Sq}(w_i)$, so we reach a contradiction. We show that it cannot be flipped at $T^-_{Z_{i+1}}$ for $Z_{i+1} = \text{Sq}(w_{i+1})$, and the other case follows similarly.

![Figure 11. The case $Z_{i+1} = \text{Sq}(w_{i+1})$](image)

Let $\sigma_1 = \{D, C, E\}$ and $\sigma_2 = \{D, F, E\}$ be the two simplices of $T^-_{Z_{i+1}}$ as shown in Figure 11. We know there exists some maximal chain in $T_w$ which includes $\{B, D, C, E\}$, and since $\{B, C, D\} \in T^-_{Z_{i+1}}$, we conclude that there exists a maximal simplex $\omega_1 \in T_i$ which contains $\{A, D, C, E\}$. Thus, $\text{lk}_{T}(\sigma_1)$ has some element which contains $A$. Now assume for the sake of contradiction that there exists a maximal simplex $\omega_2 \in T_i$ which contains $A$. Note that $\omega_2$ is therefore not a maximal chain, so it must contain some simplex in $T^+_Z$ and also contains $\{E, F\}$, since these are not affected by the flip at $\text{Sq}(w_i)$. However, all simplices in $T^-_{Z_{i+1}}$ contain $C$, so we have reached a contradiction since $C$ and $F$ are incomparable. Therefore, $\text{lk}_{T}(\sigma_2)$ does not contain any element which contains $A$, so $\text{lk}_{T}(\sigma_1) \neq \text{lk}_{T}(\sigma_2)$ and so it is not possible to flip at $Z_{i+1}$.

Lastly, we consider the rectangles that share some vertices with $\text{Sq}(w_i)$ and that we have not considered earlier in the proof. In particular, these are the 4-element circuits containing $w_{i-2}w_{i-1}$, or $w_{i-1}w_iw_{i+1}$, or $w_{i+1}w_{i+2}$. In these cases, it is not hard to check that for $T^-_Z$, the simplices fail to meet the link condition. In the two examples below, each set of red vertices represents a simplex $\sigma$ in $T^-_Z$ for some rectangle $Z$, and the corresponding blue vertices represent elements in $\text{lk}_{T}(\sigma)$ which are not in link of the unique other simplex in $T^-_Z$. For $T^+_Z$, neither simplex can appear in $T_i$ since any simplex contains a pair of incomparable elements which is not contained in $\text{Sq}(w_i)$.

6. FREEDISS OF THE TWIST ACTION ON REGULAR TRIANGULATIONS

In this section, we focus our attention on Conjecture 1.3. In order to prove that the number of regular triangulations of $O(S_k)$ is $2^{k+1} \cdot \text{Cat}(2k + 1)$, one approach could be to
prove that the orbit of each twist in the twist group contains precisely $2^{k+1}$ elements. In order for this to be true, we need the twist action to be free. With this motivation in mind, we introduce the following series of definitions and propositions, which culminate in a proof of Theorem 1.10. Throughout this section, we assume that $w \in \mathcal{V}$ as in Definition 2.14.

**Definition 6.1.** Given a generalized snake poset $\hat{P}(w)$ and a twist $\tau \in \Sigma(w)$, we define the twisted poset $\tau(\hat{P}(w))$ to have the covering relations given by $\tau(a) \lessdot \tau(b)$ in $\tau(\hat{P}(w))$ if and only if $a \lessdot b$ in $\hat{P}(w)$.

**Proposition 6.2.** Let $T_w$ be the canonical triangulation of $O(Q_w)$ and let $\tau$ be a twist. Then, the maximal simplices of the triangulation $\tau(T_w)$ correspond to the maximal chains of $\tau(J(Q_w))$.

**Proof.** We begin by noticing that Theorem 2.26 implies that the maximal simplices of $\tau(T_w)$ are given by

$$\{\tau(\sigma) : \sigma \in T_w \text{ a maximal simplex}\}$$

Let $\sigma = \{v_0, v_{(a_1)}, \ldots, v_{(a_1, \ldots, a_\ell)}, v_{S_k}\}$ be a maximal simplex in $T_w$ indexed by a maximal chain of $J(S_k)$. By definition of the twist action on the elements of $J(S_k)$, we have

$$\tau(\sigma) = \{v_0, v_{\{\tau(a_1)\}}, \ldots, v_{\{\tau(a_1, \ldots, a_\ell)\}}, v_{S_k}\}$$

By the covering relation given in Definition 6.1, $(\emptyset, \{\tau(a_1)\}, \ldots, \{a_1, \ldots, a_\ell\}, S_k)$ is a maximal chain in $\tau(J(S_k))$. Hence, $\tau(\sigma)$ corresponds to a maximal chain of $\tau(J(S_k))$. □

**Proposition 6.3.** Let $Q_w$ be a generalized snake poset and let $T_w$ be its canonical triangulation. For any twist $\tau \in \Sigma(w)$, we have $\tau(T_w) \neq T_w$.

**Proof.** We assume for the sake of contradiction that there exists some $\tau = \tau_{i_1} \cdots \tau_{i_k}$ such that $\tau(T_w) = T_w$.

Let $i = \min\{i_1, \ldots, i_k\}$. We first consider the case where $i \neq 1$. By construction, $\tau_i$ corresponds to twisting the ladder $L^i$, the “highest” ladder in our poset such that $\tau$ acts non-trivially on all of its vertices. We can assume without loss of generality that the topmost square of $L^i$ corresponds to an $L$ in the word $w = \varepsilon RLLR \ldots$. Now consider the vertices $A, B, C$ in the topmost square of $L^i$ as shown in the figure below, where left-hand side is in $J(Q_w)$ and the right-hand side is in $\tau(J(Q_w))$. Here we note that since $L^i$ is the topmost ladder, then $\{A, B, C\}$ are not contained in any other ladders permuted by $\tau$.

![Diagram](image)

We know that simplices of the $T_w$ correspond to maximal chains of $J(Q_w)$. Hence, there exists some simplex of $T_w$ which contains the set of vertices $\{v_A, v_B, v_C\}$.

By Proposition 6.2, the maximal simplices of $\tau(T_w)$ correspond to the maximal chains of $\tau(J(Q_w))$. However, in $\tau(J(Q_w))$, the elements $A, B$ are incomparable, which implies that there is no maximal chain that contains both of them. It is not hard to see that if
i = 1, the same argument applies, with a few modifications. In particular, A and B will also be incomparable in \( \tau(Q_w) \). Thus, no maximal simplex in \( \tau(T_w) \) contains the vertices \( \{v_A, v_B, v_C\} \), which contradicts \( \tau(T_w) = T_w \). □

**Theorem 1.10.** The twist group acts freely on the regular triangulations of \( \mathcal{O}(Q_w) \).

**Proof.** Assume for the sake of contradiction that the twist action is not free, so there exists some triangulation \( T \) of \( \mathcal{O}(S_k) \) and some twist \( \tau \) such that \( \tau(T) = T \). Since the bistellar flip graph is connected, there exists some finite set of flips \( f_{Z_1}, f_{Z_2}, \ldots, f_n \) such that \( (f_n \circ \ldots \circ f_{Z_2} \circ f_{Z_1})(T) = T_w \), where \( T_w \) denotes the canonical triangulation for \( \mathcal{O}(Q_w) \). By Theorem 2.26, it follows that every square in the following diagram commutes.

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
T & \xrightarrow{\tau} & T \\
\downarrow f_{Z_1} & & \downarrow f_{Z_1} \\
\tau(T) & \xrightarrow{\tau} & \tau(T) \\
\downarrow f_{Z_2} & & \downarrow f_{Z_2} \\
\vdots & & \vdots \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
f_{n-1} \circ \ldots \circ f_{Z_1}(T) & \xrightarrow{\tau} & f_{n-1} \circ \ldots \circ f_{Z_1}(T) \\
\downarrow f_n & & \downarrow f_n \\
T_w & \xrightarrow{\tau} & T_w
\end{array}
\]

Therefore, we must have \( \tau(T_w) = T_w \), so by Proposition 6.3 we have reached a contradiction. □

**Corollary 6.4.** Each orbit under the twist group action on regular triangulations of \( \mathcal{O}(S_k) \) has \( 2^{k+1} \) elements.

## 7. Eigenbasis of the twist action

Viewed in 3D, the actions of the elementary twists \( \tau_1 \) and \( \tau_2 \) on the secondary polytope of \( S_1 \) are both 180° rotations through axes that pass through the centers of two hexagons. \( \tau_1 \circ \tau_2 = \tau_2 \circ \tau_1 \) is just the composition of these two rotations. The axes of rotation pass through the centers of distinct pairs of opposing hexagons.
This is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/2 \times \mathbb{Z}/2$ as expected. This suggests there may be a nice general description of the action of the twist group on the secondary polytope of any $Q_w$.

**Proposition 7.1.** Let $\tau_1, \ldots, \tau_r$ be commuting diagonalizable operators on a vector space $V$ over a field $k$, and $v_1, \ldots, v_s$ be simultaneous eigenvectors for all of the $\tau_i$, say

$$\tau_i v_j = \lambda_{ij} v_j.$$ 

Assume also that no two $v_j, v_{j'}$ share the same list of $\tau_i$-eigenvalues, that is, for all $j \neq j'$, there exists some $i$ with $\lambda_{i,j} \neq \lambda_{i,j'}$. Then the $v_1, \ldots, v_s$ are linearly independent.

**Proof.** Create a new operator $\tau = c_1 \tau_1 + \cdots + c_r \tau_r$ with coefficients $c_i \in k$, and note that $v_1, \ldots, v_r$ are eigenvectors for $\tau$, with $v_j$ having eigenvalue $\sum_{i=1}^r c_i \lambda_{ij}$. By extending the field $k$ if necessary, one can pick the $c_i$ so that these eigenvalues are all distinct (by our assumption about the lists of $\tau_i$-eigenvalues on the $v_j$ being distinct). But then $v_1, \ldots, v_s$ are eigenvectors for distinct eigenvalues of $\tau$, and hence linearly independent. \qed

Since the twists $\tau_i$ are involutions, their eigenvalues acting on any space lie in the set $\{+1, -1\}$. And since the elements of the twist group commute, so do the corresponding matrices. This implies the matrices of the elementary twists can be simultaneously diagonalized, i.e. there is an eigenbasis in which all are diagonal. Then the eigenvalues are simply the diagonals. Such a basis is particularly nice because the eigenvalues of the non-elementary twists are easily computed by matrix multiplication, which (because the matrices are diagonal) works out to multiplying the eigenvalues place by place in the order they appear on the diagonal.

Say $w \in V$. $O(Q_w)$ is a $|Q_w|$-dimensional polytope. If $w = \varepsilon w_1 \cdots w_n$, then $|Q_w| = n + 4$ ([Bel+22] Lemma 4.3). The number of vertices in $O(Q_w)$ is $|J(Q_w)| = |\hat{P}(w)| = 2n+6$. So by Theorem 2.11, the secondary polytope $\Sigma_{O(Q_w)}$ has dimension $2n+6-(n+4)-1 = n+1$. This
is exactly the number of squares in $\hat{P}(w)$. In particular, if $Q_w = S_k$, $w = \varepsilon(RL)(LR)(RL)\cdots$ with $k$ parentheses, so $n = 2k$.  

**Theorem 1.11.** Let $w = \varepsilon w_1 \cdots w_n \in \mathcal{V}$. Let $V \cong \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ be the linear subspace of $\mathbb{R}^{2n+6}$ parallel to the affine subspace containing the secondary polytope $\Sigma_{\mathcal{O}(Q_w)}$. Then the twist group acts on $V$ in some eigenbasis $v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_{n+1}$ in which each $v_i$ corresponds with a letter $\varepsilon$ or $w_i$ in $w$ and each elementary twist $\tau_i$ negates exactly the basis elements that correspond to the $w_i$ in the ladder that $\tau_i$ reflects. 

**Proof.** $\hat{P}(w) \cong J(Q_w)$ is the order filter poset of $Q_w$, so each vertex of $\hat{P}(w)$ is associated with an order filter of $Q_w$, i.e. a vector of length $|Q_w|$. The order polytope $\mathcal{O}(Q_w)$ can be expressed as a homogeneous matrix $A$ where the columns correspond to the vertices (order filters) in $\hat{P}(w)$. The top entry of each column is a 1, and the remaining $n + 4$ entries are the order filter. [DRS10] Theorem 5.1.10 states that $V$ is the kernel of $A$.

We build a basis of $V$ as follows. Recall that each coordinate in $\mathbb{R}^{2n+6}$ corresponds to one vertex of $\hat{P}(w)$, so we can define vectors in $\mathbb{R}^{2n+6}$ by assigning a coefficient to each vertex of $\hat{P}(w)$. The basis will contain one element for every letter in $w$, with $v_1$ corresponding to $w_0 = \varepsilon$ and $v_i$ corresponding to $w_{i-1}$. We define the basis element of a letter $w_i$ based on its relationship to corners of $\hat{P}(w)$. A “corner” of $\hat{P}(w)$ is a square that is contained in 2 ladders. Since $w \in \mathcal{V}$, no corner is next to/touching another corner. If the square in $\hat{P}(w)$ corresponding to $w_i$ is a corner or is not next to any corners, the corresponding basis element $v_{i+1}$ is

or a horizontal reflection of the above, whichever matches the squares surrounding $w_i$ in $\hat{P}(w)$. Every vertex outside of the ladder gets coefficient 0. If $w_i$ is directly next to one corner, $v_{i+1}$ is the appropriate vertical or horizontal reflection of

Finally, if $w_i$ is directly in between 2 corners, $v_{i+1}$ is the appropriate horizontal reflection of
To prove \( \{v_1, ..., v_{n+1}\} \subset V = \ker A \), we simply need to prove that for each coordinate in the order filters in \( \mathcal{P}(w) \), the products of the coefficients in each \( v_i \) by the value of the coordinate (0 or 1) at the corresponding vertex of \( \mathcal{P}(w) \) is 0. We notice first that the total sum of all coefficients in each \( v_i \) is 0, ensuring their products with the row of all 1s at the top of \( A \) are 0, and that their products with any coordinate that is the same for all vertices with non-zero coefficients in \( v_i \) are 0. We also notice that the vertices of any square in \( \mathcal{P}(w) \) share all but 2 coordinates, and similarly that length 2 ladders/sub-ladders share all but 3 coordinates and length 3 ladders/sub-ladders share all but 4. So we can restrict our attention to these coordinates.

We observe that every ladder/sub-ladder of a given length and direction must have the same structure of 0s and 1s on its non-identical coordinates (up to reordering the coordinates/relabelling the vertices of \( Q_w \), which does not impact whether \( v_i \) is in the kernel because if we reorder the coordinates in \( \mathcal{P}(w) \) we reorder the coordinates in \( A \) in the same way):

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
111 & 110 & 101 & 100 \\
101 & 100 & 011 & 010 \\
011 & 010 & 001 & 000 \\
001 & 000 & 000 & 000 \\
\end{array}
\]

The reflected versions of these ladders/corners have the same coordinate structures reflected in the obvious way.

Looking at \( v_i \) with \( w_{i-1} \) next to one corner, we see that the sum of the products over the first coordinate is \(-2(1) + 2(1) + 1(1) - 1(1) + 1(0) - 1(0) = 0\), the sum over the second coordinate is \(-2(1) + 2(1) + 1(0) - 1(0) + 1(0) - 1(0) = 0\), and the sum over the third coordinate is \(-2(1) + 2(0) + 1(1) - 1(0) + 1(1) - 1(0) = 0\). So \( v_i \in \ker A \). The other two cases for \( v_i \) similarly sum to 0 over every coordinate that is not identical on the non-zero vertices of \( v_i \), so \( \{v_1, ..., v_{n+1}\} \subset \ker A \).

\( \{v_1, ..., v_{n+1}\} \) is a set of \( n+1 \) vectors in \( V \), so if they are linearly independent they are indeed a basis. Linear independence follows from Proposition 7.1 once we confirm the eigenvalues of the elementary twists are distinct.

We now characterize the twist group using this basis. Say \( \mathcal{P}(w) \) has \( k \) ladders, giving it \( k \) elementary twists. Say \( \tau_j \) twists the \( j \)th ladder. If the square corresponding to \( w_i \) is in the \( j \)th ladder, \( \tau_j \) inverts the corresponding basis element \( v_{i+1} \).
On the other hand, $\tau_j$ does not impact any other basis element. In particular, it sends the basis elements corresponding to squares $w_i$ not contained in the $j$th ladder that nonetheless intersect the $j$th ladder to themselves:

This completes the proof. \qed

8. Further thoughts and work in progress

8.1. Face numbers: $f$-, $h$- and $\gamma$-vectors. We have also explored the face numbers of the secondary polytopes $\Sigma_{O(S_k)}$. Given a $d$-dimensional polytope $P$, its $f$-vector is the integer sequence $(f_0, \ldots, f_d)$ where $f_i$ is the number of $i$-dimensional faces. Since $\Sigma_{O(S_k)}$ is conjecturally a simple $d$-dimensional (with $d = 2k + 1$), it is appropriate to re-encode its $f$-vector $(f_0, f_1, \ldots, f_d)$ and $f$-polynomial $f(t) := \sum_{i=0}^{d} f_it^i$ to an $h$-vector $(h_0, h_1, \ldots, h_d)$ and $h$-polynomial $h(t) := \sum_{i=0}^{d} h_it^i$ via the transformations

$$f(t) = h(t+1) \quad \text{and} \quad h(t) = f(t-1).$$

The $h$-vector has provably nonnegative entries, with $h_0 = 1$ and $\sum_{i=0}^{d} h_i = f_0$ and satisfies the Dehn-Somerville relations $h_i = h_{d-i}$.

Furthermore, since $\partial\Sigma_{O(S_k)}$ is conjecturally flag, it might be appropriate to re-encode the $h$-vector into something even more compact, called the $\gamma$-vector $\gamma = (\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \ldots, \gamma_{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor})$ and $\gamma$-polynomial $\gamma(t) := \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor} \gamma_i t^i$, via the transformation

$$h(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor} \gamma_i t^i (1+t)^{d-2i} = (1+t)^d \gamma \left( \frac{t}{(1+t)^2} \right).$$

The point of this last transformation is two-fold:

- the $\gamma$-vector again only records half as many numbers, so it is more compact, and
- nonnegativity of all of the entries in $\gamma = (\gamma_0, \ldots, \gamma_{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor})$ for flag simplicial spheres is known as the Charney-Davis-Gal Conjecture. It was conjectured, first by Charney and Davis [CD95] for $\gamma_{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor}$, and then for the rest of the entries of $\gamma$ by Gal [Gal05].

For further information about the $f$ and $h$-vectors, we refer the reader to [Zie95, Section 8]. For a more detailed exposition about the $\gamma$-vector, see [Gal05]. Table 1 shows the data we have gathered for some values of $k$. 

![Diagram](image-url)
see if these facets are prisms over certain polytopes. Tables 4 and 3 show the

f can be flipped at two circuits

of the facets of the secondary polytopes of

O

ω

maximal simplex

T

Work towards Conjecture 1.7.

8.2. Work towards Conjecture 1.7. In order to prove that all 2D faces of the secondary polytope are quadrilaterals, pentagons, and hexagons, we consider a triangulation \( T \) which can be flipped at two circuits \( Z_1 \) and \( Z_2 \). From Theorem 1.8, if there does not exist a maximal simplex \( \omega \in T \) \( \omega \in \mathcal{T} \) such that for some \( \sigma \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1} \) and some \( \delta \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2} \), \( \sigma, \delta \subset \omega \), then \( T, f_{Z_1}(T), \) and \( f_{Z_2}(T) \) will appear on a quadrilateral face of the secondary polytope.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( k )</th>
<th>( f )-vector ((f_0, f_1, \ldots, f_{2k+1}))</th>
<th>( h )-vector ((h_0, h_1, \ldots, h_{2k+1}))</th>
<th>( \gamma )-vector ((\gamma_0, \ldots, \gamma_k))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>(2, 1)</td>
<td>(1, 1)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(20, 30, 12, 1)</td>
<td>(1, 9, 9, 1)</td>
<td>(1, 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>(336, 840, 744, 276, 38, 1)</td>
<td>(1, 33, 134, 134, 33, 1)</td>
<td>(1, 28, 40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>(6864, 24024, 33184, 22900, 8212, 1430, 96, 1)</td>
<td>(1, 89, 875, 2467, 2467, 875, 89, 1)</td>
<td>(1, 82, 444, 280)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. \( f, h \) and \( \gamma \)-vector data gathered for \( \Sigma_{O(S_k)} \)

Similarly, we have explored the factorizations of the \( f \)-polynomial of the facets of \( \Sigma_{O(S_k)} \) to see if these facets are prisms over certain polytopes. Tables 4 and 3 show the \( f \)-polynomials of the facets of the secondary polytopes of \( O(S_2) \) and \( O(S_3) \). We remark that all facets with the same number of vertices have the same \( f \)-polynomial.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of vertices in facet</th>
<th>( f )-polynomial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>((x^2 + 5x + 5)^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>((x + 2)^2 \cdot (x^2 + 7x + 7))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>((x^2 + 6x + 6)^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>((x + 2)^2 \cdot (x^2 + 10x + 10))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>(x^4 + 19x^3 + 83x^2 + 128x + 64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>(x^4 + 24x^3 + 112x^2 + 176x + 88)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. \( f \)-polynomials of facets of \( \Sigma_{O(S_2)} \)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of vertices in facet</th>
<th>( f )-polynomial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>196</td>
<td>((x + 2)^2 \cdot (x^2 + 7x + 7)^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210</td>
<td>((x^2 + 5x + 5) \cdot (x^4 + 14x^3 + 56x^2 + 84x + 42))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320</td>
<td>((x^2 + 5x + 5) \cdot (x^4 + 19x^3 + 83x^2 + 128x + 64))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>((x + 2)^2 \cdot (x^2 + 10x + 10)^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>416</td>
<td>((x + 2)^2 \cdot (x^3 + 25x^4 + 129x^2 + 208x + 104))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>528</td>
<td>((x^2 + 6x + 6) \cdot (x^4 + 24x^3 + 112x^2 + 176x + 88))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>672</td>
<td>((x + 2)^2 \cdot (x^3 + 36x^4 + 204x^2 + 336x + 168))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1124</td>
<td>(x^6 + 49x^5 + 505x^4 + 2036x^3 + 3828x^2 + 3372x + 1124)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1180</td>
<td>(x^6 + 53x^5 + 539x^4 + 2152x^3 + 4026x^2 + 3540x + 1180)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1688</td>
<td>(x^6 + 66x^5 + 726x^4 + 3008x^3 + 5724x^2 + 5064x + 1688)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. \( f \)-polynomials of facets of \( \Sigma_{O(S_3)} \)

Some interesting observations can be drawn from this data. In particular, the facets with 28 vertices in \( \Sigma_{O(S_2)} \) seem to be prisms over 3-associahedra. Similarly, the facets with 210 vertices in \( \Sigma_{O(S_2)} \) seem to be cartesian products of pentagons (2-dimensional associahedra) with 4-dimensional associahedra. It might be interesting to investigate whether the irreducible \( f \)-polynomials correspond the order polytopes of some class of posets.
If there does exist some such maximal simplex $\omega$, then we also know from Theorem 1.8 that if $Z_1 \cap Z_2 = \emptyset$, they will still appear on a quadrilateral. Otherwise, we conjecture that if $Z_1 \cap Z_2 = \{x\}$ or $Z_1\cap Z_2 = Z_1 \setminus \{x\}$ for some vertex $x$, then $\mathcal{T}$, $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$, and $f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T})$ appear be on a pentagonal face. Similarly, we conjecture that if $Z_1 \cap Z_2 = \{x, y\}$ or $Z_1\cap Z_2 = Z_1 \setminus \{x, y\}$ for some vertices $x, y$, then $\mathcal{T}$, $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$, and $f_{Z_2}(\mathcal{T})$ appear be on a hexagonal face. We claim that no other possible configuration of circuits will occur.

We provide reasoning for one example, which can be generalized, where the circuits $Z_1$ and $Z_2$ induce a pentagonal cycle in the bistellar flip graph. Let the yellow vertex denote $x$, the red vertices denote remaining elements in $Z_1$, and the blue vertices denote remaining elements in $Z_2$. Let $Z_3 = Z_1 \cup Z_2 \setminus \{x\}$.

We see that $x \in Z_1^+$ and $x \in Z_2^+$ and we assume for the example that $\mathcal{T}_{Z_1}, \mathcal{T}_{Z_2} \subset \mathcal{T}$. We know that for all $\sigma \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}$ and $\delta \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}$, $x \in \sigma$ and $x \in \delta$. We also know that there exists at least one maximal simplex $\omega_1 \in \mathcal{T}$ such that for some $\sigma_1 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}$ and some $\delta_1 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}$, $\sigma_1, \delta_1 \subset \omega_1$, and from the above, we also have $x \in \omega_1$. By the link condition, for all remaining $\sigma' \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}$, there must exist some $\omega'$ such that $\sigma' \subset \omega'$ and all vertices in $Z_2 \setminus \{x\}$ are also in $\omega'$. Since $x \in \sigma'$, this means that $\delta_1 \in \omega'$. Following this logic, we conclude that for all $\sigma \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}$ and $\delta \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}$, there exists some maximal simplex $\omega$ such that $\sigma, \delta \subset \omega$.

We label each vertex in our diagram with the sign it has in $Z_3 = (Z_1 \cup Z_2) \setminus \{x\}$. In particular, we note that since $x$ was positive in both circuits, the signs of the vertices in $Z_2$ will be opposite to the signs of the vertices in $Z_3$. We now choose some arbitrary $\sigma_1 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_1}$ and $\delta_1 \in \mathcal{T}_{Z_2}$ and draw the simplex $\omega_1$ they must appear on in $\mathcal{T}$.

Here we make a key observation: $\omega_1$ almost contains an element of $\mathcal{T}_{Z_3}^+$ or $\mathcal{T}_{Z_3}^-$. In particular, $\omega_1$ contains all but two elements of $Z_3$. We now imagine flipping at $Z_1$ and see we produce the following two types of simplices in $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$: those which contain $x$ and those which do not.
We note that any simplex which doesn’t contain $x$ will now contain a simplex in $\mathcal{T}^+_Z$ because it will be precisely “gaining” the negative vertex it was missing from before. We can characterize all simplices in $\mathcal{T}^+_Z$ by which positive vertex in $Z_3$ they do not contain. We thus see that any simplex in $\mathcal{T}^+_Z$ whose missing positive vertex belongs to $Z_2$ will be appear in $f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T})$. Further, it will no longer contain a simplex in $\mathcal{T}^-_Z$, so it will not change when we flip at $Z_2$.

The remaining simplices in $\mathcal{T}^+_Z$ are those whose missing positive vertex belongs to $Z_1$. These will be precisely generated once we flip at $Z_2$, and we can see an example of this below:

We are now in $f_{Z_2}(f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T}))$. It is clear from our above reasoning that all simplices of $\mathcal{T}^+_Z$ will appear in $f_{Z_2}(f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T}))$, further that they will have the same link since their link is contained in the links of $\mathcal{T}^+_Z$ and $\mathcal{T}^-_Z$ and $x$ does not appear in any of the maximal simplices. We also note the following: there will be some maximal simplices in $f_{Z_2}(f_{Z_1}(\mathcal{T}))$ generated by our series of flips which still contain $x$. One example appears below:

In particular, these maximal simplices contain simplices in $\mathcal{T}^+_Z$ and $\mathcal{T}^+_Z$ which both contain $x$. If we had flipped at $Z_2$ and then at $Z_1$, we would have produced all simplices in $\mathcal{T}^-_Z$ by the same logic as above. In particular, we see that flipping first at $Z_1$ either moves the vertex at $x$ to a positive vertex, thereby creating a simplex in $\mathcal{T}^-_Z$, or creates a new “missing” negative
vertex which can then be taken by flipping at $Z_1$. Further, all resulting maximal simplices which do not contain $T_{Z_3}$ are the same in both cases. It follows from the link condition that these two triangulations $f_{Z_3}(f_{Z_1}(T))$ and $f_{Z_1}(f_{Z_3}(T))$ are equivalent up to whether they include $T_{Z_3}$ or $T_{Z_3}^\perp$, so we conclude that $f_{Z_3}(f_{Z_1}(T)) = f_{Z_1}(f_{Z_3}(T))$.

8.3. Work towards Conjecture 1.4. To better understand the structure of the dual of the secondary polytope, we need to find a combinatorial interpretation for the vertices of the dual polytope, as well as for the edges between them. Currently we are trying to find a way to represent the vertices of the dual as some set of simplices that all the triangulations in a given facet of the secondary polytope share. This could provide an understanding of the dual polytope analogue to the simplicial dual of the associahedron.

To show that the dual simplicial polytope is a flag complex, we would need to prove that if we have a set of vertices and there is an edge between every pair, then there must be a face containing all of these vertices. Perhaps, this face would represent a triangulation which shares all the shared simplices. We have collected data on shared simplices in the faces of the secondary polytope for some of the smaller cases.

In the $S_1$ case, all the quadrilaterals and pentagonal faces have the property that all the triangulations at their vertices intersect at a maximal simplex. However, the hexagonal faces do not all have exactly one simplex in common. In particular, they have four codimension-1 simplices in common.

In higher cases, there are a higher number of low-dimensional simplices shared by elements on the same face. We include the following table of shared simplices on facets of $S_2$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of vertices in facet</th>
<th>Dimension of shared simplices</th>
<th>Number of shared simplices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Shared simplices of facets of $\Sigma_{O(S_2)}$

8.3.1. Vertices in the dual simplicial polytope. We have computed the number of facets (i.e. $2k$-dimensional faces) in $\Sigma_{O(S_k)}$ for the first values of $k$, obtaining the sequence $2, 12, 38, 96, \ldots$. Since these are the number of vertices in the simplicial boundary complex of the polar dual polytope $\Sigma^*_{O(S_k)}$ and that simplicial complex $\text{Bd}(\Sigma^*_{O(S_k)})$ is currently conjectured to be a flag/clique complex, it would be very helpful to have some combinatorial objects counted by $2, 12, 38, 96, \ldots$ to model those vertices, and then some sort of pairwise compatibility relation among those vertices that tells us when a subset of them forms a simplex in $\text{Bd}(\Sigma^*_{O(S_k)})$.

Interestingly, OEIS and its email lookup service superseeker are suggesting that this sequence might continue as follows:

$$a_n = 2(2^{n+2} - 3n - 4)$$

(1)

$$a_0, a_1, a_2, \ldots = (0, 2, 12, 38, 96, 218, 468, 974, 1992, 4034, 8124, \ldots).$$

(2)

However, we have been unable to gather more data to support this conjecture due to computational limitations.
8.4. **Facet normals in the eigenbasis coordinates?** A general difficulty in describing the facets of the secondary polytope $\Sigma_A$ for a point configuration $A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is the following: in seeking facet normal vectors $n_j$ that define $\Sigma_A$ as an intersection of half-space inequalities

$$\Sigma_A = \bigcap_j \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^{|A|} : n_j \cdot x \leq b_j \},$$

there is no canonical choice when doing this in the ambient space $\mathbb{R}^{|A|}$. Recall $\Sigma_A$ has dimension $|A| - (d + 1)$, and lives in the subspace $\mathbb{R}^{|A|-(d+1)}$ which is the kernel of the homogeneous matrix for $A$. So there are infinitely many choices for each normal vector $n_j$.

However, if one had some natural $\mathbb{R}$-basis $\{v_i\}_{i=1,2,\ldots,|A|-(d+1)}$ for this subspace $\mathbb{R}^{|A|-(d+1)}$ in which $\Sigma_A$ is embedded as a full-dimensional polytope, one could instead use coordinates $x = (x_1, \ldots, x_{|A|-(d+1)})$ with respect to this basis. Then the normal vectors $n_j$ here

$$\Sigma_A = \bigcap_j \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^{|A|-(d+1)} : n_j \cdot x \leq b_j \}$$

will be *unique* up to scaling.

Fortunately, having proven Theorem 1.11, we find ourselves having exactly such a natural $\mathbb{R}$-basis for the space $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ containing $\Sigma_{O(Q_w)}$ with $w = e w_1 \cdots w_n \in V$. The twist group simultaneous eigenbasis $\{v_i\}_{i=1,2,\ldots,n+1}$ seems like a great candidate in which to compute those facet normal vectors $\{n_j\}$, and see how their coordinates look, when plotted on the $n + 1$ “squares” of the generalized snake for $w$. It might even suggest the mysterious combinatorial objects that should parametrize those facets of $\Sigma_{O(Q_w)}$ ($= \text{vertices of } \Sigma^*_r(Q_w)$).

8.5. **Work towards Conjecture 1.3.** After proving that the twist action is free, we conjecture that $\text{Cat}(2k+1)$ counts the number of orbits of the twist action on regular triangulations of $O(S_k)$. We might consider choosing one “representative” for each orbit and finding a bijection between these orbit representatives and a set of objects counted by the Catalan numbers. Using edge-distance from the canonical triangulation, we can pick candidates for our orbit representatives. In the $S_1$ case, with the exception of orbit #5, everything other choice is well-defined. We had several ideas about how to biject these orbit representatives with various sets of objects counted by the Catalan numbers, including Dyck paths and poset labellings. At this point, it is unclear to us how a bijection such as this one would proceed into higher cases. We include a brief description of our bijection between Dyck paths of length 6 and orbit representatives of triangulations of $O(S_1)$.

8.5.1. **Bijection between Dyck paths Orbit Representatives in $S_1$.** We note that the five orbit representatives in $S_1$ can be described by $T_w$, the three triangulations obtained by applying a flip at $\text{Sq}(w_1)$, $\text{Sq}(w_2)$, or $\text{Sq}(w_3)$ to $T_w$, and one of the two triangulations obtained by either applying a flip at $\text{Sq}(w_1)$ and then $\text{Sq}(w_3)$ or vice versa.

We consider Dyck paths of length 3. Let $P$ be a Dyck path. Then, we define three Dyck path “operations”.

(i) If $P$ contains a vertex at $(1,3)$, then $\phi_1(P)$ is the path obtained by moving the vertex $(1,3)$ to $(2,2)$ and applying the minimum number of moves to other vertices until obtaining a valid Dyck path. For example, if $P = NNNEEE$, then $\phi_1(P) = NNEENGE$.

(ii) If $P$ contains a vertex at $(0,3)$, i.e. $P = NNNEEE$, then $\phi_2(P)$ is the Dyck path obtained by moving the vertex from $(0,3)$ to $(1,2)$, i.e $\phi_1(P) = NNENEE$. 


(iii) If $P$ contains a vertex at $(0, 2)$, then $\phi_3(P)$ is the path obtained by moving this vertex to $(1, 1)$ and applying the minimum number of diagonal moves to other vertices until obtaining a Dyck path. For example, if $P = NNNEEE$, then $\phi_3(P) = NENNEE$.

The illustrations below show these operations. Note that the vertex colored red represents the vertex that initiates the move, with corresponding red arrow showing the position after the move. The dashed black arrows represent the minimal move that needs to be made to adjust the path to the new position of the vertex in red so as to obtain a Dyck path.

We will associate $\phi_1$ to flipping at $\text{Sq}(w_1)$, $\phi_2$ to flipping at $\text{Sq}(w_2)$, and $\phi_3$ to $\text{Sq}(w_3)$. Note that this assignment is not arbitrary. The circuits $\text{Sq}(w_1)$, $\text{Sq}(w_2)$, and $\text{Sq}(w_3)$ correspond to the squares in $J(S_1)$ read from top to bottom, and $\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3$ correspond to the moves on the admissible vertices read from top-right to bottom-left.

To map our orbit representatives to Dyck paths, we begin by mapping the canonical triangulation to the canonical Dyck path $P = NNNEEE$. With the operations above, the orbit representative corresponding to the flip at $\text{Sq}(w_1)$ maps to $\phi_1(P)$, and so on so forth. For the orbit representative which lies two flips away from $T_w$, we can imagine that we have applied two operations to our “canonical” Dyck path – we have moved the vertex below the top left one and then we have moved the vertex to the right of the top left one. Both double-operations would result in our fifth and final length-3 Dyck path. In other words, this orbit representative maps to $\phi_1\phi_3(NNNEEE) = NENENE = \phi_3\phi_1(NNNEEE)$.

So we have established a bijection between Dyck paths of length 3 and orbit representatives of triangulations by mapping the operation of moving a special Dyck path ”vertex” (the top
left one and its two closest ones in either direction) to the operation of doing a bistellar flip at one of the three squares $\text{Sq}(w_1), \text{Sq}(w_2), \text{Sq}(w_3)$.

8.6. **Numerical recurrence.** Conjecture 1.3 asserts that the number $t_k$ of (regular) triangulations of $\mathcal{O}(S_k)$ has this formula

$$t_k = 2^{k+1} \text{Cat}(2k + 1) = \frac{2^{k+1}}{2k + 2} \left( \frac{4k + 2}{2k + 1} \right).$$

For $k \geq 1$, one can check that it satisfies this recurrence

$$\frac{t_k}{t_{k-1}} = \frac{8(4k + 1)(4k - 1)}{(2k + 2)(2k + 1)},$$

which by clearing denominators, can be written in this equivalent form:

$$(2k + 2)(2k + 1) \cdot t_k = 8(4k + 1)(4k - 1) \cdot t_{k-1}. \quad (3)$$

Is there some way to prove (3) in the spirit of some of the proofs of the Catalan formula for triangulations of a polygon?

8.7. **Other symmetries.** Proving Theorem 1.11 leads us to wonder if the secondary polytope of $\mathcal{O}(S_k)$ has any other linear symmetries, or if the linear symmetry group of the secondary polytope of $\mathcal{O}(S_k)$ is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^{k+1}$.

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