THE RADO SIMPLICIAL COMPLEX

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ABSTRACT. In this paper we study a remarkable simplicial complex Xon countably many vertexes. X is *universal* in the sense that any countable simplicial complex is an induced subcomplex of X. Additionally, X is *homogeneous*, i.e. any two isomorphic finite induced subcomplexes are related by an automorphism of X. We prove that X is the unique simplicial complex which is both universal and homogeneous. The 1skeleton of X is the well-known Rado graph. We show that a random simplicial complex on countably many vertexes is isomorphic to X with probability 1. We prove that the geometric realisation of X is homeomorphic to an infinite dimensional simplex. We observe several curious properties of X, for example we show that X is *robust*, i.e. removing any finite set of simplexes leaves a simplicial complex isomorphic to X. The robustness of X leads to the hope that suitable finite approximations of X can serve as models for very resilient networks in real life applications. In a forthcoming paper [8] we study finite approximations to the Rado complex, they can potentially be useful in real life applications due to their structural stability.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the 1920's, P. S. Urysohn constructed a remarkable complete, separable metric space \mathcal{U} , which is known as the Urysohn space. The space \mathcal{U} is universal in the sense that it contains an isometric copy of any complete, separable metric space. Additionally, the Urysohn space \mathcal{U} is homogeneous in the sense that any partial isometry between its finite subsets can be extended to a global isometry. The properties of universality and homogeneity determine \mathcal{U} uniquely up to isometry, see [17] for a detailed exposition.

The Rado graph Γ is another notable mathematical object, which can also be characterised by its universality and homogeneity. The graph Γ has countably many vertexes, and it is universal in the sense that any graph with countably many vertexes is isomorphic to an induced subgraph of Γ .

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Moreover, any isomorphism between finite induced subgraphs of Γ can be extended to the whole of Γ (homogeneity). The properties of universality and homogeneity determine Γ uniquely up to isomorphism. One may mention the surprising robustness of Γ : removing any finite set of its vertexes and edges produces a graph isomorphic to Γ . We refer to [5] for a comprehensive survey.

Erdős and Rényi [7] showed that a random graph on countably many vertexes has the following characteristic property with probability one: given finitely many distinct vertexes $u_1, \ldots, u_m, v_1, \ldots, v_n$ there exists a vertex which is adjacent to u_1, \ldots, u_m and nonadjacent to v_1, \ldots, v_m . It is not difficult to see that the Rado graph Γ is the unique countable graph possessing the characteristic property, and hence a random countable graph is isomorphic to Γ with probability 1; this result explains why Γ is sometimes called "the random graph". Rado [13] suggested a deterministic construction of Γ in which the vertexes $V(\Gamma)$ are labelled by integers \mathbb{N} and a pair of vertexes labelled by m < n are connected by an edge iff the *m*-th digit in the binary expansion of *n* is 1. This same graph construction implicitly appeared in an earlier paper by W. Ackermann [1], who studied the consistence of the axioms of set theory.

The Rado graph Γ and the Urysohn space \mathcal{U} are related. Any graph determines a metric on the set of its vertexes, where the distance between a pair of distinct vertexes is either 1 (if they are connected by an edge) or 2 (otherwise). Thus, the Rado graph Γ admits an isometric embedding into \mathcal{U} ; it can be viewed as a restricted version of the Urysohn space limited to metric spaces with the metric taking values in the set $\{0, 1, 2\}$.

In this paper we study a high-dimensional generalisation of the Rado graph which we call the Rado simplicial complex X. The complex X has countably many vertexes and is universal in the sense that any countable simplicial complex is an induced subcomplex of X. Additionally, X is homogeneous, i.e. any two isomorphic finite induced subcomplexes are related by an automorphism of X. Moreover, X is the unique (up to isomorphism) countable simplicial complex which is both universal and homogeneous. The 1-skeleton of X is the Rado graph Γ . We introduce a characteristic property of the Rado complex called *ampleness*, which generalises the characteristic property of the Rado graph. We show that a random simplicial complex on countably many vertexes (in a certain regime) is isomorphic to X with probability 1. We also give explicit deterministic constructions of the Rado complex. The geometric realisation of the Rado complex X is homeomorphic to an infinite dimensional simplex.

We observe several curious properties of X, for example we show that if the set of vertexes of X is partitioned into finitely many parts, the simplicial complex induced on at least one of these parts is isomorphic to X. The link of any simplex of X is isomorphic to X. One of the key properties of X is its

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robustness: removing any finite set of simplexes leaves a simplicial complex isomorphic to X.

Modern network science uses high-dimensional simplicial complexes for modelling complex networks of many objects whose interactions can occur in groups of two or more objects; the pairwise interactions can be recorded by representating the system by a graph, while higher order interactions require exploiting simplicial complexes of dimension ≥ 2 (see [2] for a recent survey with a vast list of references, including applications to social systems, neuroscience, ecology, and others). The robustness of X leads to the hope that suitable finite approximations of X can serve as models for very resilient networks in real life applications. We also expect that, like expanders and other combinatorial objects that can be constructed probabilistically, the Rado complex X developed in this paper can also be relevant for proving lower bound and impossibility results for certain (algorithmic) tasks. In a forthcoming paper [8] we study finite simplicial complexes with "limited" robustness and topological properties of their geometric realisations.

The Rado complex X can be viewed as the limit of a finite random simplicial complex in the medial regime, studied in [9]. Informally, finite random simplicial complexes in the medial regime are subcomplexes of the Rado complex X induced on a random subset of n vertexes. It was proven in [9] that, with probability tending to 1, such simplicial complexes are quite special; for example, they have dimension $\sim \log_2 \ln n + \log_2 \log_2 \ln n$ and have vanishing Betti numbers in dimensions $\leq \log_2 \ln n + c$, where c is a constant. Note however that by universality any finite simplicial complex arises as an induced subcomplex of X.

Next we comment on relations with previously known results. Theorem 3 of Rado [13] suggests a construction of a universal uniform hypergraph of a fixed dimension ℓ . Equivalently, uniform hypergraphs can be understood as simplicial complexes of a fixed dimension ℓ having complete $(\ell - 1)$ -dimensional skeleta.

In [3] Blass and Harary study the 0-1 law for the first order language of simplicial complexes of fixed dimension ℓ with respect to the counting probability measure. They show that a typical ℓ -dimensional simplicial complex has a full ($\ell - 1$)-skeleton. In [3], the authors introduce "Axiom n", which generalises the characteristic property of the Rado graph; it is a special case of our notion of ampleness.

When this paper was nearly completed we became aware of the 2013 preprint [4], revised in 2018; as far as we know, it has not been published yet. Paper [4] applies the methods of mathematical logic and model theory to study the geometry of simplicial complexes; it uses language very different from ours. A well-known general construction of model theory is *the Fraissé limit* for a class of relational structures possessing certain amalgamation properties,

see [10]. The Fraïssé limit construction, when applied to the class of all finite simplicial complexes, produces a simplicial complex F on countably many vertexes which is universal and homogeneous, i.e. it is a Rado complex in the terminology of this paper. The universality of the Fraïssé limit F is stated with respect to finite simplicial complexes, but this is equivalent to the countable version of universality as appears in Definition 1, see Remark 11.

In [4] the authors study the group automorphisms of F and state that any direct limit of finite groups and any metrisable profinite group embeds into the group of automorphisms of F. Besides, [4] contains a proof that the geometric realisation of F is homeomorphic to an infinite-dimensional simplex, a result which we independently establish below in Section 5. The authors of [4] also consider a probabilistic approach and claim the 0-1 law for first order theories. We were unable to fully understand the construction of their probability measure and the related proofs.

Although the current paper and [4] study the same object, the motivation, language, and methods of this paper are totally different compared to [4], and the current paper and [4] perfectly complement each other. For us the Rado complex is a model of an astonishingly stable network, and our notion of ampleness (which does not appear in [4]) is crucial in illustrating its resilience.

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2. The Definition of the Rado complex

2.1. **Basic terminology.** A simplicial complex X is a set of vertexes V(X) and a set of non-empty finite subsets of V(X), called *simplexes*, such that any vertex $v \in V(X)$ is a simplex $\{v\}$ and any subset of a simplex is a simplex. A simplicial complex X is said to be countable (finite) if its vertex set V(X) is countable (finite). The symbol F(X) stands for the set of all simplexes of X. For a simplex $\sigma \in F(X)$ we shall also write $\sigma \subset X$.

Two simplicial complexes are *isomorphic* if there is a bijection between their vertex sets which induces a bijection between the sets of simplexes.

The standard simplex Δ_n has the set of vertexes $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ with all nonempty subsets as simplexes. Another standard simplex is $\Delta_{\mathbb{N}}$; its vertex set is $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, \ldots\}$ and all non-empty finite subsets of \mathbb{N} are simplexes.

A simplicial subcomplex $Y \subset X$ is said to be *induced* if every simplex $\sigma \in F(X)$ with all its faces in V(Y) belongs to F(Y). The induced subcomplex $Y \subset X$ is completely determined by the set of its vertexes, $V(Y) \subset V(X)$. We shall use the notation $Y = X_U$ where U = V(Y).

For a vertex $v \in V(X)$ the symbol $Lk_X(v)$ stands for the link of v; the latter is the union of simplexes σ of X with $v \notin \sigma$ and $v\sigma \subset X$.

Definition 1. (1) A countable simplicial complex X is said to be universal if every countable simplicial complex is isomorphic to an induced subcomplex of X. (2) We say that X is homogeneous if for every two finite induced subcomplexes $X_U, X_{U'} \subset X$ and for every isomorphism $f : X_U \to X_{U'}$ there exists an isomorphism $F : X \to X$ with $F|X_U = f$. (3) A countable simplicial complex X is a Rado complex if it is universal and homogeneous.

It is clear that the 1-skeleton of a Rado complex is a Rado graph; the latter can be defined as a universal and homogeneous graph having countably many vertexes, see [5].

Theorem 2. Rado simplicial complexes exist and any two Rado complexes are isomorphic.

The following property is a useful criterion of being a Rado complex:

Definition 3. We shall say that a countable simplicial complex X is ample if for every finite subset $U \subset V(X)$ and for every simplicial subcomplex $A \subset X_U$ there exists a vertex $v \in V(X) - U$ such that

(1)
$$\operatorname{Lk}_X(v) \cap X_U = A.$$

Remark 4. Condition (1) can equivalently be expressed as

$$(2) X_{U'} = X_U \cup (vA)$$

where $U' = U \cup \{v\}$ and vA denotes the cone with apex v and base A. In the literature the cone vA is sometimes denoted by v * A, understood as the simplicial join of the vertex v and the complex A.

Remark 5. Suppose that X is a simplicial complex with countable set of vertexes V(X). One may naturally consider exhaustions $U_0 \subset U_1 \subset U_2 \subset \cdots \subset V(X)$ consisting of finite subsets U_n satisfying $\cup U_n = V(X)$. In order to check that X is ample as defined in Definition 3 it is sufficient to verify that for every $n \ge 0$ and for every subcomplex $A \subset X_{U_n}$ there exists a vertex $v \in V(X) - U_n$ satisfying $Lk_X(v) \cap X_{U_n} = A$.

Remark 6. Suppose that X is an ample simplicial complex. Given finitely many distinct vertexes $u_1, \ldots, u_m, v_1, \ldots, v_n \in V(X)$, there exists a vertex $z \in V(X)$ which is adjacent to u_1, \ldots, u_m and nonadjacent to v_1, \ldots, v_n . To see this we apply Definition 3 with $U = \{u_1, \ldots, u_m, v_1, \ldots, v_n\}$ and A = $\{u_1, \ldots, u_m\}$. This shows that the 1-skeleton of a Rado complex satisfies the characteristic property of the Rado graph [5]. This also shows that ampleness is a high dimensional generalizaton of this graph property.

The following property of ample complexes will be useful in the sequel.

Lemma 7. Let X be an ample complex and let $L' \subset L$ be a pair consisting of a finite simplical complex L and an induced subcomplex L'. Let $f' : L' \to X_{U'}$ be an isomorphism of simplicial complexes, where $U' \subset V(X)$ is a finite subset. Then there exists a finite subset $U \subset V(X)$ containing U' and an isomorphism $f : L \to X_U$ with f|L' = f'.

Proof. It is enough to prove this statement under an additional assumption that L has a single extra vertex, i.e. |V(L)| - |V(L')| = 1. In this case L is obtained from L' by attaching a cone wA where $w \in V(L) - V(L')$ denotes the new vertex and $A \subset L'$ is a subcomplex (the base of the cone). Applying the defining property of the ample complex to the subset $U' \subset V(X)$ and the subcomplex $f'(A) \subset X_{U'}$ we find a vertex $v \in V(X) - U'$ such that $Lk_X(v) \cap X_{U'} = f(A)$. We can set $U = U' \cup \{v\}$ and extend f' to the isomorphism $f: L \to X_U$ by setting f(w) = v.

Theorem 8. A simplicial complex is Rado if and only if it is ample.

Proof. Suppose X is a Rado complex, i.e. X is universal and homogeneous. Let $U \subset V(X)$ be a finite subset and let $A \subset X_U$ be a subcomplex of the induced complex. Consider an abstract simplicial complex $L = X_U \cup wA$ which obtained from X_U by adding a cone wA with vertex w and base A where $X_U \cap wA = A$. Clearly, $V(L) = U \cup \{w\}$. By universality, we may find a subset $U' \subset V(X)$ and an isomorphism $g: L \to X_{U'}$. Denoting $w_1 = g(w)$, $A_1 = g(A)$ and $U_1 = g(U)$ we have $X_{U'} = X_{U_1} \cup w_1 A_1$. Obviously, g restricts to an isomorphism $g|X_U : X_U \to X_{U_1}$. By the homogeneity property we can find an isomorphism $F: X \to X$ with $F|X_U = g|X_U$. Denoting $v = F^{-1}(w_1)$ we shall have $X_{U \cup \{v\}} = X_U \cup vA$ as required, see Remark 4.

Now suppose that X is ample. To show that it is universal consider a simplicial complex L with at most countable set of vertexes V(L). We may find a chain of induced subcomplexes $L_1 \subset L_2 \subset \ldots$ with $\cup L_n = L$ and each complex L_n has exactly n vertexes. Then L_{n+1} obtained from L_n by adding a cone $v_{n+1}A_n$ where v_{n+1} is the new vertex and $A_n \subset L_n$ is a simplicial subcomplex. We argue by induction that we can find a chain of subsets $U_1 \subset U_2 \subset \cdots \subset V(X)$ and isomorphisms $f_n : L_n \to X_{U_n}$ satisfying $f_{n+1}|L_n = f_n$. If U_n and f_n are already found then the next set U_{n+1} and the isomorphism f_{n+1} exist because X is ample: we apply Definition 3 with $U = U_n$ and $A = f_n(A_n)$ and we set $U_{n+1} = U_n \cup \{v\}$ where v is the vertex given by Definition 3. The sequence of maps f_n defines an injective map $f : V(L) \to V(X)$ and produces an isomorphism between L and the induced subcomplex $X_{f(V(L))}$.

The fact that any ample complex is homogeneous follows from Lemma 9 below. We state it in a slightly more general form so that it also implies the uniqueness of Rado complexes. $\hfill \Box$

Lemma 9. Let X and X' be two ample complexes and let $L \subset X$ and $L' \subset X'$ be two induced finite subcomplexes. Then any isomorphism $f : L \to L'$ can be extended to an isomorphism $F : X \to X'$.

Proof. We shall construct chains of subsets of the sets of vertexes $U_0 \subset U_1 \subset \cdots \subset V(X)$ and $U'_0 \subset U'_1 \subset \cdots \subset V(X')$ such that $\cup U_n = V(X)$, $\cup U'_n = V(X')$, $X_{U_0} = L$, $X_{U'_0} = L'$, and $|U_{n+1} - U_n| = 1$, $|U'_{n+1} - U'_n| = 1$. We shall also construct isomorphisms $f_n : X_{U_n} \to X_{U'_n}$ satisfying $f_0 = f$ and $f_{n+1}|X_{U_n} = f_n$. The whole collection $\{f_n\}$ will then define a required isomorphism $F : X \to X'$ with F|L = f.

To constructs these objects we shall use the well known back-and-forth procedure. Enumerate vertexes $V(X) - V(L) = \{v_1, v_2, ...\}$ and $V(X') - V(L') = \{v'_1, v'_2, ...\}$ and start by setting $U_0 = V(L)$, $U'_0 = L'$ and $f_0 = f$. We act by induction and describe U_n , U'_n and f_n assuming that the objects U_i , U'_i and $f_i : U_i \to U'_i$ have been already defined for all i < n.

The procedure will depend on the parity of n. For n odd we find the smallest j with $v_j \notin U_{n-1}$ and set $U_n = U_{n-1} \cup \{v_j\}$. Applying Lemma 7 to the simplicial complexes $L = X_{U_n}, L' = X_{U_{n-1}}$ and the isomorphism $f_{n-1} : X_{U_{n-1}} \to X'_{U'_{n-1}}$ we obtain a subset $U'_n \subset V(X')$ containing U'_{n-1} and an isomorphism $f_n : X_{U_n} \to X'_{U'_n}$ extending f_{n-1} .

For *n* even we proceed in the reverse direction. We find the smallest *j* with $v'_j \notin U'_{n-1}$ and set $U'_n = U'_{n-1} \cup \{v'_j\}$. Next we applying Lemma 7 to the simplicial complexes $L = X'_{U'_n}$, $L' = X'_{U'_{n-1}}$ and the isomorphism $f_{n-1}^{-1} : X'_{U'_{n-1}} \to X_{U_{n-1}}$. We obtain a subset $U_n \subset V(X)$ containing U_{n-1} and an isomorphism $f_n^{-1} : X'_{U'_n} \to X_{U_n}$ extending f_{n-1}^{-1} .

Corollary 10. Any two Rado complexes are isomorphic.

Proof. This follows from Theorem 8 with subsequent applying Lemma 9 with $L = L' = \emptyset$.

Remark 11. In Definition 1 we defined universality with respect to arbitrary countable simplicial subcomplexes. A potentially more restrictive definition dealing only with finite subcomplexes together with homogeneity is in fact equivalent to Definition 1; this follows from the arguments used in the proof of Theorem 8.

3. Deterministic constructions of Rado complexes

3.1. An inductive construction. One may construct a Rado simplicial complex X inductively as the union of a chain of finite induced simplicial subcomplexes

 $X_0 \subset X_1 \subset X_2 \subset \dots, \quad \cup_{n \ge 0} X_n = X.$

Here X_0 is a single point and each complex X_{n+1} is obtained from X_n by first adding a finite set of vertexes v(A), labeled by subcomplexes $A \subset X_n$ (including the case when $A = \emptyset$); secondly, we construct the cone v(A) * Awith apex v(A) and base A, and thirdly we attach each such cone v(A) * Ato X_n along the base $A \subset X_n$. Thus,

(3)
$$X_{n+1} = X_n \cup \bigcup_A (v(A) * A).$$

To show that the complex $X = \bigcup_{n \ge 0} X_n$ is ample, i.e. a Rado complex, we refer to Remark 5 and observe that any subcomplex $A \subset X_n$ the vertex $v = v(A) \in V(X_{n+1})$ satisfies $Lk_X(v) \cap X_n = A$.

3.2. An explicit construction. Here we shall give an explicit construction of a Rado complex X. To describe it we shall use the sequence $\{p_1, p_2, \ldots,\}$ of all primes in increasing order, where $p_1 = 2$, $p_2 = 3$, etc.

The set of vertexes V(X) is the set of all positive integers \mathbb{N} . Each simplex of X is uniquely represented by an increasing sequence $a_0 < a_1 < \cdots < a_k$ with certain properties. Subsequences of $a_0 < a_1 < \cdots < a_k$ are obtained by erasing one or more elements in the sequence.

Definition 12. (1) A sequence $a_0 < a_1$ is a 1-dimensional simplex of X if and only if p_{a_0} -th binary digit of a_1 is 1. (2) We shall say that an increasing sequence of positive integers $0 < a_0 < a_1 < \cdots < a_k$ represents a simplex of X if all its proper subsequences are in X and additionally the $p_{a_0}p_{a_1} \dots p_{a_{k-1}}$ th binary digit of a_k is 1.

Proposition 13. The obtained simplicial complex X is Rado.

Proof. With any increasing sequence σ of positive integers $0 < a_0 < a_1 < \cdots < a_k$ we associate the product

$$N_{\sigma} = p_{a_0} p_{a_1} \dots p_{a_k},$$

which is an integer without multiple prime factors. Note that for two such increasing sequences σ and σ' one has $N_{\sigma} = N_{\sigma'}$ if and only if σ is identical to σ' .

Given a finite subset $U \subset V(X)$ and a simplicial subcomplex $A \subset X_U$, consider the vertex

(4)
$$v = \sum_{\sigma \in F(A)} 2^{N_{\sigma}} + 2^{K_U} \in V(X)$$

where

$$K_U = 1 + \prod_{w \in U} p_w.$$

The binary expansion of v has ones exactly on positions N_{σ} where $\sigma \in F(A)$ and it has zeros on all other positions except an additional 1 at position K_U . Note that $K_U > N_{\sigma}$ for any simplex $\sigma \subset X_U$. In particular, we see that vertex v defined by (4) satisfies v > w for any $w \in U$.

Consider a simplex $\sigma \subset X_U$. By definition, the simplex $v\sigma$ with apex v and base σ lies in X if and only if the N_{σ} -th binary digit of v is 1. We see from (4) that it happens if and only if $\sigma \subset A$. This means that $\operatorname{Lk}_X(v) \cap X_U = A$ and hence the complex X is a Rado complex.

4. Some properties of the Rado complex

Lemma 14. Let X be a Rado complex, let $U \subset V(X)$ be a finite set and let $A \subset X_U$ be a subcomplex. Let $Z_{U,A} \subset V(X)$ denote the set of vertexes $v \in V(X) - U$ satisfying (1). Then $Z_{U,A}$ is infinite and the induced complex on $Z_{U,A}$ is also a Rado complex.

Proof. Consider a finite set $\{v_1, \ldots, v_N\} \subset Z_{U,A}$ of such vertexes. One may apply Definition 3 to the set $U_1 = U \cup \{v_1, \ldots, v_N\}$ and to the subcomplex $A \subset X_{U_1}$ to find another vertex v_{N+1} satisfying the condition of Definition 3. This shows that $Z_{U,A}$ must be infinite.

Let $Y \subset X$ denote the subcomplex induced by $Z_{U,A}$. Consider a finite subset $U' \subset Z_{U,A} = V(Y)$ and a subcomplex $A' \subset X_{U'} = Y_{U'}$. Applying the condition of Definition 3 to the set $W = U \cup U' \subset V(X)$ and to the subcomplex $A \sqcup A'$ we find a vertex $z \in V(X) - W$ such that

(5)
$$\operatorname{Lk}_X(z) \cap X_W = A \cup A'.$$

Since $X_W \supset X_U \cup X_{U'}$, the equation (5) implies $\operatorname{Lk}_X(z) \cap X_U = A$, i.e. $z \in Z_{U,A}$. Intersection both sides of (5) with $X_{U'} = Y_{U'}$ and using $\operatorname{Lk}_Y(z) = \operatorname{Lk}_X(z) \cap Y$ (since Y is an induced subcomplex) we obtain

$$\operatorname{Lk}_Y(z) \cap Y_{U'} = A'$$

implying that Y is Rado.

Corollary 15. Let X be a Rado complex and let Y be obtained from from X by selecting a finite number of simplexes $F \subset F(X)$ and deleting all simplexes $\sigma \in F(X)$ which contain simplexes from F as their faces. Then Y is also a Rado complex.

Proof. Let $U \subset V(Y)$ be a finite subset and let $A \subset Y_U$ be a subcomplex. We may also view U as a subset of V(X) and then A becomes a subcomplex of X_U since $Y_U \subset X_U$. The set of vertexes $v \in V(X)$ satisfying $Lk_X(v) \cap X_U = A$ is infinite (by Lemma 14) and thus we may find a vertex $v \in V(X)$ which is not incident to simplexes from the family F. Then $Lk_Y(v) = Lk_X(v) \cap Y$ and we obtain $Lk_Y(v) \cap Y_U = A$.

Corollary 16. Let X be a Rado complex. If the vertex set V(X) is partitioned into a finite number of parts then the induced subcomplex on at least one of these parts is a Rado complex.

Proof. It is enough to prove the statement for partitions into two parts. Let $V(X) = V_1 \sqcup V_2$ be a partition; denote by X^1 and X^2 the subcomplexes induced by X on V_1 and V_2 correspondingly. Suppose that none of the subcomplexes X^1 and X^2 is Rado. Then for each i = 1, 2 there exists a finite subset $U_i \subset V_i$ and a subcomplex $A_i \subset X_{U_i}^i$ such that no vertex $v \in V_i$ satisfies $\operatorname{Lk}_{X^i}(v) \cap X_{U_i}^i = A_i$. Consider the subset $U = U_1 \sqcup U_2 \subset V(X)$ and a subcomplex $A = A_1 \sqcup A_2 \subset X_U$. Since X is Rado we may find a vertex $v \in V(X)$ with $\operatorname{Lk}_X \cap X_U = A$. Then v lies in V_1 or V_2 and we obtain a contradiction, since $\operatorname{Lk}_{X^i}(v) \cap X_{U_i}^i = A_i$.

Lemma 17. In a Rado complex X, the the link of every simplex is a Rado complex.

Proof. Let $Y = \operatorname{Lk}_X(\sigma)$ be the link of a simplex $\sigma \in X$. To show that Y is Rado, let $U \subset V(Y)$ be a subset and let $A \subset Y_U$ be a subcomplex. We may apply the defining property of the Rado complex (i.e. ampleness) to the subset $U' = U \cup V(\sigma) \subset V(X)$ and to the subcomplex $A \sqcup \overline{\sigma} \subset X_{U'}$; here $\overline{\sigma}$ denotes the subcomplex containing the simplex σ and all its faces. We obtain a vertex $w \in V(X) - U'$ with $\operatorname{Lk}_X(w) \cap X_{U'} = A \sqcup \overline{\sigma}$ or equivalently, $X_{U'\cup w} = X_{U'} \cup wA$, see Remark 4. Note that $w \in Y = \operatorname{Lk}_X(\sigma)$ since the simplex $w\sigma$ is in X. Besides, $Y_{U\cup w} = Y_U \cup wA$. Hence we see that the link Y is also a Rado complex.

5. Geometric realisation of the Rado complex

Recall that for a simplicial complex X the geometric realisation |X| is the set of all functions $\alpha : V(X) \to [0,1]$ such that the support $\operatorname{supp}(\alpha) = \{v; \alpha(v) \neq 0\}$ is a simplex of X (and hence finite) and $\sum_{v \in X} \alpha(v) = 1$, see [16]. For a simplex $\sigma \in F(X)$ the symbol $|\sigma|$ denotes the set of all $\alpha \in |X|$ with $\operatorname{supp}(\alpha) \subset \sigma$. The set $|\sigma|$ has natural topology and is homeomorphic to the affine simplex lying in an Euclidean space. The weak topology on the geometric realisation |X| has as open sets the subsets $U \subset |X|$ such that $U \cap |\sigma|$ is open in $|\sigma|$ for any simplex σ .

Theorem 18. The Rado complex is isomorphic to a triangulation of the simplex $\Delta_{\mathbb{N}}$. In particular, the geometric realisation |X| of the Rado complex is homeomorphic to the geometric realisation of the infinite dimensional simplex $|\Delta_{\mathbb{N}}|$.

The result of Theorem 18 is also stated in preprint [4].

Note that the geometric realisation |X| of a Rado complex X (equipped with the weak topology) does not satisfy the first axiom of countability and hence is not metrizable. This follows from the fact that X is not locally finite. See [16], Theorem 3.2.8.

The geometric realisation of a simplicial complex carries yet another natural topology, the metric topology, see [16]. The geometric realisation of Xwith the metric topology is denoted $|X|_d$. While for finite simplicial complexes the spaces |X| and $|X|_d$ are homeomorphic, it is not true for infinite complexes in general. For the Rado complex X the spaces |X| and $|X|_d$ are not homeomorphic. Moreover, in general, the metric topology is not invariant under subdivisions, see [12], where this issue is discussed in detail. We do not know if for the Rado complex X the spaces $|X|_d$ and $|\Delta_{\mathbb{N}}|_d$ are homeomorphic.

The following general statement about subdivisions of simplicial complexes will be used in the proof of Theorem 18.

Lemma 19. Let (K, L) be a pair consisting of a finite simplicial complex K and its subcomplex L. Then there is a subdivision K' of K with the following properties: (1) K' contains L as a subcomplex, i.e. no simplex of L is subdivided; (2) L is an induced subcomplex of K' and (3) The number of new vertexes |V(K') - V(K)| equals the number of external simplexes of L in K of positive dimension.

Proof. Recall that a simplex $\sigma \subset K$ is said to be an external simplex of L if $\sigma \not\subset L$ but all proper faces of σ lie in L. A characteristic property of an induced subcomplex is that all its external simplexes are zero-dimensional. Based on this remark one can prove Lemma 19 by induction as follows.

Suppose the number of external simplexes of L in K of positive dimension is N > 0 and let σ be one of such simplexes, i.e. $\sigma \subset K$, $\sigma \not\subset L$, $\partial \sigma \subset L$ and finally dim $\sigma > 0$. We introduce a new vertex v_{σ} in the centre of σ and replace the closed star $\operatorname{St}(\sigma)$ by the simplicial cone $v_{\sigma} * (\operatorname{Lk}(\sigma) * \partial \sigma)$; this is similar to the star subdivision as described in [15], chapter 2. We obtain a subdivision K_1 of K having one extra vertex (lying outside L) such that the number of external simplexes of positive dimension of L in K_1 is N-1. Repeating this process N times, we arrive at the desired subdivision. At each step the number of external simplexes of positive dimension is reduced by one.

The construction of the proof of Lemma 19 is illustrated on Figure 1. On the left we see a 2-simplex K with its subcomplex $L = [A, B] \cup \{C\}$ consisting of the interval [A, B] and the vertex C. This subcomplex L is not induced, it has two external simplexes of dimension one. On the right picture we see two extra vertexes D and E lying on each of the external simplexes and a subdivision in which L is an induced subcomplex.

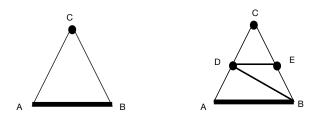


FIGURE 1. The 2-simplex K and its subcomplex $L = [A, B] \cup \{C\}$ on the left; a subdivision of the complement K - L producing an induced subcomplex on the right (it is obtained in two step, firstly by adding the vertex D and secondly by adding E).

Lemma 20. Let X be a Rado complex. Then there exists a sequence of finite subsets $U_0 \subset U_1 \subset U_2 \subset \cdots \subset V(X)$ such that $\cup U_n = V(X)$ and for any $n = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$ the induced simplicial complex X_{U_n} is isomorphic to a triangulation L_n of the standard simplex Δ_{n+1} of dimension n. Moreover, for any n the complex L_n is naturally an induced subcomplex of L_{n+1} and the isomorphisms $f_n: X_{U_n} \to L_n$ satisfy $f_{n+1}|X_{U_n} = f_n$.

Proof. Let $V(X) = \{v_0, v_1, ...\}$ be a labelling of the vertexes of X. One constructs the subsets U_n and complexes L_n by induction stating from $U_0 = \{v_0\}$ and $L_0 = \{v_0\}$. Suppose that the sets U_i and complexes L_i with $i \leq n$ have been constructed. Consider the subset $U'_{n+1} = U_n \cup \{v_i\} \subset V(X)$ where $i \geq 0$ is the smallest integer satisfying $v_i \notin U_n$. The induced simplicial complex $X_{U'_{n+1}}$ has dimension $\leq n+1$. Clearly, the complex $X_{U'_{n+1}}$ has the form $X_{U_n} \cup (v_i * A_n)$ for some subcomplex $A_n \subset X_{U_n}$. Applying Lemma 19 to the simplicial pair

$$(v_i * X_{U_n}, X_{U_n} \cup (v_i * A_n)) = (v_i * X_{U_n}, X_{U'_{n+1}})$$

we obtain a subdivision L_{n+1} of the cone $v_i * X_{U_n}$ which contains

$$X_{U_n} \cup (v_i * A_n) = X_{U'_{n+1}}$$

as an induced subcomplex. The map

$$\mathrm{id} * f_n : v_i * X_{U_n} \to v_i * L_n$$

is a simplcial isomorphism. By induction, L_n is a subdivison of a simplex of dimension n, and hence the simplicial complex L_{n+1} is a subdivision of a simplex of dimension n + 1 containing L_n as a codimension one face.

Next we apply Lemma 7 to the abstract simplicial complexes L_{n+1} and $X_{U'_{n+1}} \subset L_{n+1}$; it gives a subset $U_{n+1} \subset V(X)$ containing U'_{n+1} and an isomorphism $f_{n+1}: X_{U_{n+1}} \to L_{n+1}$ satisfying $f_{n+1}|X_{U_n} = f_n$.

Obviously, we have $\cup U_n = V(X)$. This completes the proof.

Proof of Theorem 18. It follows from Lemma 20. Indeed, the isomorphisms $f_n: X_{U_n} \to L_n$ of Lemma 20 determine an isomorphism of simplicial complexes $f: X \to L$ where $L = \bigcup L_n$ is a subdivision of the simplex $\Delta_{\mathbb{N}}$. Here f is defined by $f|_{L_n} = f_n$.

Corollary 21. The geometric realisation |X| of the Rado complex is contractible.

Proof. The Corollary follows from Theorem 18. We also give a short independent proof below. Let X be a Rado complex. By the Whitehead theorem we need to show that any continuous map $f: S^n \to X$ is homotopic to the constant map. By the Simplicial Approximation theorem f is homotopic to a simplicial map $g: S^n \to X$. The image $g(S^n) \subset X$ is a finite subcomplex. Applying the property of Definition 3 to the set of vertexes U of $g(S^n)$ and to the subcomplex $A = X_U$ we find a vertex $v \in V(X) - U$ such that the cone vA is a subset of X. Since the cone is contractible, we obtain that g, which is equal the composition $S^n \to A \to vA \to X$, is null-homotopic. \Box

6. INFINITE RANDOM SIMPLICIAL COMPLEXES

We show in the following §7 that a random infinite simplicial complex is a Rado complex with probability 1, in a certain regime. In this section we prepare the grounds and describe the probability measure on the set of infinite simplicial complexes.

6.1. Let L be a finite simplicial complex. We denote by F(L) the set of simplexes of L; besides, V(L) will denote the set of vertexes of L. Suppose that with each simplex $\sigma \subset L$ one has associated a probability parameter $p_{\sigma} \in [0, 1]$. We shall use the notation $q_{\sigma} = 1 - p_{\sigma}$. Given a subcomplex $A \subset L$ we may consider the set E(A|L) consisting of all simplexes of L which are not in A but such that all their proper faces are in A. Simplexes of E(A|L) are called *external for* A *in* L. As an example we mention that any vertex $v \in L - A$ is an external simplex, $v \in E(A|L)$.

With a subcomplex $A \subset L$ one may associate the following real number

(6)
$$p(A) = \prod_{\sigma \in F(A)} p_{\sigma} \cdot \prod_{\sigma \in E(A|L)} q_{\sigma} \in [0,1].$$

For example, taking $A = \emptyset$ we obtain $p(\emptyset) = \prod_{v \in V(L)} q_v$, the product is taken with respect to all vertexes v of L.

Lemma 22. One has $\sum_{A \subset L} p(A) = 1$, where A runs over all subcomplexes of L, including the empty subcomplex.

The proof can be found in $\S9$.

6.2. Let $\Delta = \Delta_{\mathbb{N}}$ denote the simplex spanned by the set $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, ...\}$ of positive integers. We shall denote by Ω the set of all simplicial subcomplexes $X \subset \Delta$. Each simplicial complex $X \in \Omega$ has finite or countable set of vertexes $V(X) \subset \mathbb{N}$ and any finite or countable simplicial complex is isomorphic to one of the complexes $X \in \Omega$.

6.3. Let Δ_n denote the simplex spanned by the vertexes $[n] = \{1, 2, ..., n\} \subset \mathbb{N}$. Let Ω_n denote the set of all subcomplexes $Y \subset \Delta_n$. One has the projection

$$\pi_n: \Omega \to \Omega_n, \quad X \mapsto X \cap \Delta_n.$$

In other words, for $X \in \Omega$ the complex $\pi_n(X) \subset \Delta_n$ is the subcomplex of X induced on the vertex set $[n] \subset \mathbb{N}$.

For a subcomplex $Y \subset \Delta_n$ we shall consider the set

(7)
$$Z(Y,n) = \pi_n^{-1}(Y) = \{X \in \Omega; X \cap \Delta_n = Y\} \subset \Omega.$$

Note that for n = n' the sets Z(Y, n) and Z(Y', n') are either identical (if and only if Y = Y') of disjoint; for n > n' the intersection $Z(Y, n) \cap Z(Y', n')$ is nonempty if and only if $Y \cap \Delta_{n'} = Y'$ and in this case $Z(Y, n) \subset Z(Y', n')$. Note also that for n > n' and $Y \cap \Delta_{n'} = Y'$ one has

(8)
$$Z(Y',n') = \bigsqcup_{j} Z(Y_j,n)$$

where $Y_j \subset \Delta_n$ are all subcomplexes with $Y_j \cap \Delta_{n'} = Y'$; one of these subcomplexes Y_j coincides with Y.

Let \mathcal{A} denote the set of all subsets $Z(Y, n) \subset \Omega$ (as Y and n vary) and \emptyset . The set \mathcal{A} is a *semi-ring*, see [11], i.e. \mathcal{A} is \cap -closed and for any $A, B \in \mathcal{A}$ the difference B - A is a finite union of mutually disjoint sets from \mathcal{A} . We shall denote by \mathcal{A}' the σ -algebra generated by \mathcal{A} .

Example 23. Let $U \subset \mathbb{N}$ be a finite subset and let L be a simplicial complex with vertex set $V(L) \subset U$. Then the set $\{X \in \Omega; X_U = L\}$ is the union of finitely many elements of the semi-ring \mathcal{A} and in particular, $\{X \in \Omega; X_U = L\} \in \mathcal{A}'$. Indeed, let n be an integer such that $U \subset [n]$ and let $Y_j \subset \Delta_n$, for $j \in I$, be the list of all subcomplexes of Δ_n satisfying $(Y_j)_U = L$; in other words, Y_j induces L on U. Then the set $\{X \in \Omega; X_U = L\}$ is the union $\sqcup_{j \in I} Z(Y_j, n)$.

6.4. Next we define a function $\mu : \mathcal{A} \to \mathbb{R}$ as follows. Fix for every simplex $\sigma \subset \Delta_{\mathbb{N}}$ a probability parameter $p_{\sigma} \in [0, 1]$. The function

(9)
$$F(\Delta_{\mathbb{N}}) \to [0,1], \quad \sigma \mapsto \{p_{\sigma}\}$$

will be called the system of probability parameters. Here σ runs over all simplexes $\sigma \in F(\Delta_{\mathbb{N}})$. We shall use the notation $q_{\sigma} = 1 - p_{\sigma}$.

For an integer $n \ge 0$ and a subcomplex $Y \subset \Delta_n$ define

(10)
$$\mu(Z(Y,n)) = \prod_{\sigma \in F(Y)} p_{\sigma} \cdot \prod_{\sigma \in E(Y|\Delta_n)} q_{\sigma}.$$

Let us show that μ is additive. We know that the set Z(Y, n) equals the disjoint union

(11)
$$Z(Y,n) = \sqcup_{j \in I} Z(Y_j, n+1)$$

where Y_j are all subcomplexes of Δ_{n+1} satisfying $Y_j \cap \Delta_n = Y$. One of these subcomplexes Y_{j_0} equals Y and the others contain the vertex (n + 1) and have the form

$$Y_j = Y \cup ((n+1) * A_j)$$

where $A_j \subset Y$ is a subcomplex. In other words, all complexes Y_j with $j \neq j_0$ are obtained from Y by adding a cone with apex n + 1 over a subcomplex $A_j \subset Y$. Clearly, any subcomplex $A_j \subset Y$ may occur, including the empty subcomplex $A_j = \emptyset$.

Applying the definition (10) we have

$$\mu(Z(Y, n+1)) = \mu(Z(Y, n)) \cdot q_{n+1},$$

and for $j \neq j_0$,

(12)
$$\mu(Z(Y_j, n+1) = \mu(Z(Y, n)) \cdot p_{n+1} \cdot \prod_{\sigma \in F(A_j)} p'_{\sigma} \cdot \prod_{\sigma \in E(A_j|Y)} q'_{\sigma},$$

where n + 1 denotes the new added vertex and p'_{σ} denotes the probability parameter $p_{(n+1)\sigma}$ associated to the simplex $(n+1)*\sigma$ (the cone over σ with apex n + 1); besides, $q'_{\sigma} = 1 - p'_{\sigma}$. Hence we obtain, using Lemma 22:

$$\sum_{j \in I} \mu(Z(Y_j, n+1))$$

$$= \mu(Z(Y, n)) \cdot \left\{ q_{n+1} + p_{n+1} \cdot \left[\sum_{A_j \subset Y} \prod_{\sigma \in F(A_j)} p'_{\sigma} \cdot \prod_{\sigma \in E(A_j|Y)} q'_{\sigma} \right] \right\}$$

$$= \mu(Z(Y, n)).$$

Thus we see that μ is additive with respect to relations of type (11). But obviously, by (8), these relations generate all additive relations in \mathcal{A} . This implies that μ is additive.

Note that Ω can be naturally viewed as the inverse limit of the finite sets Ω_n , i.e. $\Omega = \lim_{\leftarrow} \Omega_n$. Introducing the discrete topology on each Ω_n we obtain the inverse limit topology on Ω and with this topology Ω is compact and totally disconnected; it is homeomorphic to the Cantor set. The sets $Z(Y, n) \subset \Omega$ are open and closed in this topology, hence they are compact.

Next we apply Theorem 1.53 from [11] to show that μ extends to a probability measure on the σ -algebra \mathcal{A}' generated by \mathcal{A} . This theorem requires

for μ to be additive, σ -subadditive and σ -finite. By Theorem 1.36 from [11], σ -subadditivity is equivalent to σ -additivity. Recall that σ -additivity means that for $A = \bigsqcup_i A_i$ (disjoint union of countably many elements of \mathcal{A}) one has $\mu(A) = \sum_i \mu(A_i)$. In our case, since the sets $A_i \subset \Omega$ are open and closed and since Ω is compact, any representation $A = \bigsqcup_i A_i$ must be finite and hence σ -additivity of μ follows from additivity.

For fixed *n* we have $\Omega = \sqcup Z(Y, n)$ where *Y* runs over all subcomplexes of Δ_n (including \emptyset). Using additivity of μ and applying Lemma 22, we have $\mu(\Omega) = \sum_{Y \subset \Delta_n} \mu(Z(Y, n)) = 1$. This shows that μ is σ -finite and hence by Theorem 1.53 from [11] μ extends to a probability measure on \mathcal{A}' . The extended measure on \mathcal{A}' will be denoted by the same symbol μ .

Example 24. As in Example 23, let $U \subset \mathbb{N}$ be a finite subset and let L be a simplicial complex with vertex set $V(L) \subset U$. Then

(13)
$$\mu(\{X \in \Omega; X_U = L\}) = \prod_{\sigma \in F(L)} p_{\sigma} \cdot \prod_{\sigma \in E(L|\Delta_U)} q_{\sigma}$$

Here Δ_U denotes the simplex spanned by U. The proof is left to the reader as an exercise.

7. RANDOM SIMPLICIAL COMPLEX IN THE MEDIAL REGIME IS RADO

In this section we prove that an infinite random simplicial complex in the medial regime is a Rado complex with probability one.¹

Definition 25. We shall say that a system of probability parameters p_{σ} , see (9), is in the medial regime if there exist $0 < p_{-} < p_{+} < 1$ such that the probability parameter p_{σ} satisfies $p_{\sigma} \in [p_{-}, p_{+}]$ for any simplex $\sigma \in F(\Delta_{\mathbb{N}})$.

In other words, in the medial regime the probability parameters p_{σ} are uniformly bounded away from zero and one.

Theorem 26. A random simplicial complex with countably many vertexes in the medial regime is a Rado complex, with probability one.

Proof. For a finite subset $U \subset \mathbb{N}$ and for a simplicial subcomplex $A \subset \Delta_U$ of the simplex Δ_U consider the set

(14)
$$\Omega^{U,L} = \{ X \in \Omega; X_U = L \}.$$

This set belongs to the σ -algebra \mathcal{A}' and has positive measure, see Example 24.

Consider also the subset $\Omega^{U,L,A,v} \subset \Omega^{U,L}$ consisting of all subcomplexes $X \in \Omega$ satisfying $X_{U\cup v} = L \cup vA$. Here $A \subset L$ is a subcomplex and $v \in \mathbb{N} - U$.

¹Finite simplicial complexes in the medial regime were studied in [9].

The conditional probability equals

$$\mu(\Omega^{U,L,A,v}|\Omega^{U,L}) = p_v \cdot \prod_{\sigma \in F(A)} p_{v\sigma} \cdot \prod_{\sigma \in E(A|L)} q_{v\sigma} \ge p_{-}^{|F(A)|} (1-p_+)^{|E(A|L)|} > 0,$$

see (13). Note that the events $\Omega^{U,L,A,v}$, conditioned on $\Omega^{U,L}$ for various v, are independent and the sum of their probabilities is ∞ . Hence we may apply the Borel-Cantelli Lemma (see [11], page 51) to conclude that the set of complexes $X \in \Omega^{U,L}$ such that $X_{U\cup v} = L \cup vA$ for infinitely many vertexes v has full measure in $\Omega^{U,L}$.

By taking a finite intersection with respect to all possible subcomplexes $A \subset L$ this implies that the set $\Omega^{U,L}_* \subset \Omega^{U,L}$ of simplicial complexes $X \in \Omega^{U,L}$ such that for any subcomplex $A \subset L$ there exists infinitely many vertexes v with $X_{U\cup v} = L \cup vA$ has full measure in $\Omega^{U,L}$.

Since $\Omega = \bigcap_U \bigcup_{L \subset \Delta_U} \Omega^{U,L}$ (where $U \subset \mathbb{N}$ runs over all finites subsets) we obtain that the set $\bigcap_U \bigcup_{L \subset \Delta_U} \Omega^{U,L}_*$ has measure 1 in Ω . But the latter set $\bigcap_U \bigcup_{L \subset \Delta_U} \Omega^{U,L}_*$ is exactly the set of all Rado simplicial complexes, see Lemma 14.

8. RANDOM INDUCED SUBCOMPLEXES OF A RADO COMPLEX

In this section we consider a different situation. Let X be a fixed Rado complex with vertex set $V(X) = \mathbb{N}$. Suppose that each of the vertexes $n \in \mathbb{N}$ is selected at random with probability $p_n \in [0, 1]$ independently of the selection of all other vertexes. Denote by X_{ω} the subcomplex of X induced on the selected set of vertexes. Here ω stands for the selection sequence, one may think that $\omega \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$. Under which condition on the sequence $\{p_n\}$ the complex X_{ω} is Rado with probability 1?

Applying Borel-Cantelli Lemma we get:

(1) If $\sum p_n < \infty$ then complex X_{ω} has finitely many vertexes, with probability 1.

(2) If $\sum p_n = \infty$ then complex X_{ω} has infinitely many vertexes, with probability 1.

(3) If $\sum q_n < \infty$ (where $q_n = 1 - p_n$) then the set of vertexes of X_{ω} has a finite complement in \mathbb{N} and hence X_{ω} is a Rado complex with probability 1. In (3) we use Corollary 15.

The following result strengthens point (3) above:

Lemma 27. Suppose that for some p > 0 one has $p_n \ge p > 0$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then X_{ω} is a Rado complex with probability 1.

Proof. Denote by X_n the subcomplex of X induced on the set $[n] = \{1, 2, ..., n\} \subset \mathbb{N}$. For a subcomplex $A \subset X_n$ consider the set of vertexes

$$W(A,n) = \{ v \in \mathbb{N} - [n]; \mathrm{Lk}_X(v) \cap X_n = A \}.$$

We know that this set is infinite (see Lemma 14) and since each of the elements of this set is a vertex of X_{ω} with probability at least p > 0 we obtain (using Borel - Cantelli) that with probability 1 the intersection $V(X_{\omega}) \cap W(A, n)$ is infinite. Hence the set

(15)
$$\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{A \subset X_n} \{\omega; |V(X_{\omega}) \cap W(A, n)| = \infty\}$$

has measure 1 (as intersection of countably many sets of measure one). Here we use σ -additivity of the Bernoulli measure. It is obvious that for any ω lying in the intersection (15) the induced complex X_{ω} is ample and hence Rado.

9. Proof of Lemma 22

We obviously have

(16)
$$1 = \prod_{\sigma \in F(L)} (p_{\sigma} + q_{\sigma}) = \sum_{J \subset F(L)} \left(\prod_{\sigma \in J} p_{\sigma} \cdot \prod_{\sigma \notin J} q_{\sigma} \right).$$

In the above sum, J can be also the empty set. Denote by $A(J) \subset J$ the set of all simplexes $\sigma \in J$ such that for any face $\tau \subset \sigma$ one has $\tau \in J$. Note that A = A(J) is a simplicial complex, it is the largest simplicial subcomplex of L with $F(A) \subset J$. We also note that the set of external simplexes E(A|L)is disjoint from J.

Fix a subcomplex $A \subset L$ and consider all subsets $J \subset F(L)$ with A(J) = A. Any such subset $J \subset F(L)$ contains F(A) and is disjoint from E(A|L). Conversely, any subset $J \subset F(L)$ containing F(A) and disjoint from E(A|L)satisfies A(J) = A.

Denoting S(A) = F(L) - F(A) - E(A|L) and $I = J \cap S(A)$ we see that any term of (16) corresponding to a subset J with A(J) = A can be written in the form

(17)
$$\left(\prod_{\sigma\in F(A)} p_{\sigma} \cdot \prod_{\sigma\in E(A|L)} q_{\sigma}\right) \cdot \left(\prod_{\sigma\in I} p_{\sigma} \cdot \prod_{\sigma\in S(A)-I} q_{\sigma}\right)$$

and the first factor above is p(A), see (6). Hence the sum of all terms in the sum (16) corresponding to the subsets J with A(J) = A equals

$$p(A) \cdot \sum_{I \subset S(A)} \left(\prod_{\sigma \in I} p_{\sigma} \cdot \prod_{\sigma \in S(A) - I} q_{\sigma} \right) = p(A) \cdot \prod_{\sigma \in S(A)} (p_{\sigma} + q_{\sigma}) = p(A).$$

We therefore see that the statement of Lemma 22 follows from (16).

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