

The enumeration of four-dimensional polytopes

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Abstract

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An algorithm to enumerate the combinatorial types of three-spheres is described. The respective numbers are given for three-spheres with up to 9 facets. Simple geometrical arguments are used to find most of the nonpolytopal three-spheres.

1. Introduction

The morphology of polytopes has a long tradition in combinatorial geometry. Its beginnings go back to Euler, but since then little progress has been made. An efficient algorithm for enumerating the combinatorial types of 3-polyhedra was described by the author in [9]. Brückner [8] investigated the morphology of 4-polytopes without, however, realizing that some of his constructions do not correspond to 4-polytopes. Only after Grünbaum and coworkers [11–12] revealed the nonpolytopality of one of Brückners construction has a renewed interest in polytope morphology emerged.

Whereas the characterization of 3-polytopes is completely solved by Steinitz' theorem [17], no corresponding theorem is known to hold for d -polytopes, $d \geq 4$. Reformulated in the language of graph theory, Steinitz' fundamental theorem states that every 3-connected planar graph is isomorphous to the edge graph of a 3-polytope. However, according to Bokowski and Sturmfels [7] it seems likely that in higher dimensions there is no local solution to the Steinitz problem, i.e., to find intrinsic characterizations for boundary complexes of d -polytopes.

Under a (combinatorial) $(d - 1)$ -sphere we understand a face-to-face tiling with convex tiles of the $(d - 1)$ -sphere in \mathbb{R}^d , where each k -face has at least $k + 1$ subordinated $(k - 1)$ -facets, and where the intersection of any two k -faces is either empty or an h -face of each. By Steinitz' theorem each 2-sphere is polytopal that is, it is isomorphic to a 3-polytope. However, in higher dimensions there exist

$(d - 1)$ -spheres, $d \geq 4$, that are nonpolytopal. Only for d -polytopes with few vertices, $N_0 \leq d + 3$, the Steinitz theorem still holds by results of Mani [14] and Kleinschmidt [13]. Perles [15] enumerated the combinatorial types of d -polytopes with $N_0 = d + 3$, for $d = 4, 5, 6$. The simplicial 4-polytopes with 8 vertices were completely determined by Grünbaum and Sreedharan [12], correcting earlier results of Brückner [8]. Altshuler and coworkers [1–4] enumerated the 3-spheres with 8 vertices and the simplicial ones with 9 vertices and decided their polytopality.

2. Derivation of the combinatorial types of 3-spheres

Following Brückner [8], we consider a bounded, convex 4-polytope $P_N \subset \mathbb{R}^4$ with N facets as the intersection of N closed halfspaces H_i ,

$$P_N := \bigcap_{i=1}^N H_i.$$

For computation of the d -polytopes we use the halfspace-intersection algorithm described by the author in [10]. Obviously, given all polytopes P_{N-1} with $N - 1$ facets we obtain the polytopes with N facets by intersecting the P_{N-1} with a further halfspace H_N in all possible ways subject to the requirement that H_N does not cut off a complete facet of P_{N-1} . It follows that H_N does cut off certain vertices v_j of a particular facet F_k of P_{N-1} . We denote by v^+ , v^0 , or v^- a vertex which lies inside, on the boundary, or outside of H_N respectively. Given a polytope P_{N-1} and a halfspace H_N , the combinatorial type of the resulting polytope P_N is uniquely determined through the identification of the vertices of P_{N-1} with v^+ , v^0 , or v^- . Using the halfspace-intersection algorithm of [10] we can transform the face-lattice of P_{N-1} into the face-lattice of P_N . We call such a transformation a cut. We note that not every possible cut can be realized as a halfspace-intersection. Moreover, the present algorithm checks that the resulting face-lattice corresponds to a 3-sphere and eliminates impossible cuts.

The present algorithm to derive the combinatorial types of 3-spheres starts with the face-lattice $L(P_5)$ of the 4-simplex in \mathbb{R}^4 . By appropriate cuts we can obtain the face-lattices of all 3-spheres with N facets. This algorithm proved to be very efficient for deriving the face-lattices of the simple 3-spheres, that is, those whose vertices are all 4-valent. In this case the vertices of $L(P_{N-1})$ have to be identified with v^+ , or v^- only. It was already stated by Grünbaum and Sreedharan [12] that the list of possible cuts given by Brückner [8] is not complete. Indeed the complexity of the cuts depends on the number N of facets. Clearly, it is possible to get 4-spheres of the same combinatorial type with cuts from different starting 4-spheres.

In order to derive the nonsimple 3-spheres in a systematic way we use the method of edge-reduction described by the author in [9]. An edge E_{ij} of P_N is

shrunk until both adjacent vertices v_i and v_j coincide. The corresponding transformation performed on the face-lattice $L(P_N)$ results in the derived face-lattice $L(P'_N)$. An edge-reduction may result in a bridge, that is, the intersection of two k -faces of the derived face-lattice is not a h -face. The algorithm eliminates such edge-reductions. If an edge E_{ij} belongs to a k -simplex T^k , $k \geq 2$ then the reduction of E_{ij} results in a $(k-1)$ -simplex T^{k-1} . The corresponding transformation may generate a bridge. This is always true if P_N is simple. In this case a further edge E_{ik} of T^{k-1} is reduced. This step is possibly repeated until the bridge disappears.

3. Characterization of the combinatorial types of 3-spheres

The algorithm to enumerate the combinatorial types of 3-spheres requires a unique characterization of the face-lattice of P_N . In what follows, we propose a unified polytope-scheme. We call a subseries of mutually subordinated k -faces F^k of P_N , $F^0 \subset F^1 \subset \dots \subset F^d \equiv P_N$, a d -flag. Given an arbitrary d -flag we can number all the faces of P_N in a unique way. For each level k we use a separate numbering scheme. The numbering starts at level 0 with the vertex $v_1 := F^0$. Next, we go up along the d -flag to F^1 and find the vertex v_2 adjacent to v_1 with respect to F^1 . Thereby the d -flag is transformed to $F^0 := v_2$. If all faces subordinated to F^k are numbered through, we also assign a successive number to F^k and ascent along the d -flag to F^{k+1} . Among all unnumbered faces F^k subordinated to F^{k+1} we find a face $F^{k'}$ which itself has subordinated a face F_m^{k-1} with relative minimal number m . The d -flag is transformed to $F^k := F^{k'}$. In a similar way we descend within the face-lattice until we reach F^0 , or a face F^h , all subordinated faces of which are already numbered. We number this face with a successive number according to the corresponding level and go up again along the d -flag to the next higher level. Thus, ascending and descending within the face-lattice, we can number through all faces. Having completed the numbering, all the faces of P_N appear in a determined order. Next, we write down for each facet the numbers of its subordinated vertices in increasing order. With a slash we indicate the completion of a facet. The resulting polytope-scheme consists of a sequence of numbers and slashes. A subsequence of numbers which are successive numbers from n_1 to n_2 is written, by abbreviation, as n_1-n_2 .

This polytope-scheme depends only on the arbitrarily chosen initial d -flag. We set up the polytope-scheme for each possible d -flag and retain those polytope-schemes wherein a smaller number first occurs. We can reduce the number of possible initial d -flags if we require that each k -face F^k within the initial d -flag has subordinated a relative maximal number of $(k-1)$ -faces. The minimal polytope-scheme we call the unified polytope-scheme. It gives a unique characterization of the face-lattice of P_N , and hence, of its combinatorial type. Vice versa, given a polytope-scheme we can regenerate again the complete face-lattice. The number

of identical unified polytope-schemes obtained in the above process corresponds to the order of the combinatorial automorphism group of the face-lattice. The unified polytope-scheme is particularly useful for computer applications.

4. The determination of nonpolytopal 3-spheres

We note that some of the cuts and edge-reductions may result in a 3-sphere which cannot be realized as a polytope through halfspace-intersections. Such 3-spheres are called nonpolytopal. Given any 3-sphere, it seems to be extremely difficult to decide whether it is polytopal. Representing the polytopes through halfspace-intersections, we are able to give a simple geometrical condition for a given cut to be nonrealizable through a halfspace-intersection.

It is easy to see that we can always realize through a halfspace-intersection the cutting off of any part of a 2-face, of a k -simplex, or of a complete k -face, $k = 0 - (d - 1)$. These cuts generate most of the polytopes P_N from the P_{N-1} which we call the free generated polytopes. The more complicated cuts which involve two adjacent 2-faces have to be checked in each case individually in order to decide whether they can be realized through a halfspace-intersection. In what follows, we show under which conditions such a cut cannot be realized through a halfspace-intersection.

Consider a facet F^3 of a 4-polytope P_N . We say that three 2-faces of F^3 which share no common vertex form a trihedron if there exists a trigonal section through the three 2-faces. (Thus a trigonal pyramid forming a vertex of F^3 is not considered as a trihedron.) It is an elementary geometrical fact that the carrier planes of the three 2-faces which build a trihedron intersect in a common point (which may be at infinity).

Let F_h^3 be a facet of P_N and consider an edge E_{ij} of F_h^3 . Suppose E_{ij} is common to at least two different trihedra which do not belong to F_h^3 . We shall prove that some of the cuts involving the edge E_{ij} and both adjacent 2-faces cannot be realized through halfspace-intersections. As shown in Fig. 1 we define the

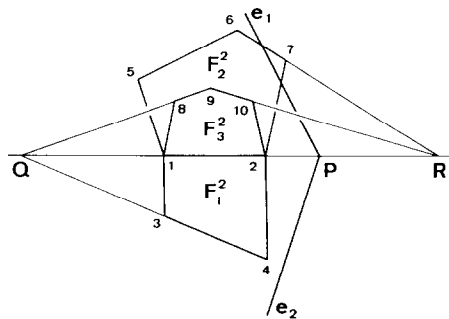


Fig. 1. A nonrealizable halfspace-intersection.

following 2-faces,

$$F_1^2 := \{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \quad F_2^2 := \{1, 2, 5, 6, 7\}, \quad F_3^2 := \{1, 2, 8, 9, 10\}.$$

Suppose that F_1^2 and F_3^2 belong to a trihedron having edges $E_{1,2}$, $E_{3,4}$, and $E_{8,9}$. The straight lines defined by these edges intersect in a common point Q . Similarly, suppose that F_2^2 and F_3^2 belong to a second trihedron with edges $E_{1,2}$, $E_{6,7}$, and $E_{9,10}$ with the corresponding straight lines intersecting in a common point R (one or both of the points Q and R may be at infinity). Because of the convexity of F_3^2 the point Q lies outside of the closed interval $[v_1, R]$, either beyond v_1 or else beyond R . Now assume that we want to cut off the following sequence of vertices: v_6^- , v_5^- , v_1^- , v_2^- , and v_4^- . As a shorthand we write for this cut $6^- - 5^- - 1^- = 2^- - 4^-$. The double line indicates the edge $E_{1,2}$ which is common to both trihedra. This implies that the trace e_1 of the intersection of H_N with the carrier plane of F_2^2 intersects the edge $E_{6,7}$ and intersects the straight line through $E_{1,2}$ in P . Thus the point P is within the open interval (R, v_2) . Now consider the trace e_2 of the intersection of H_N with the carrier plane of F_1^2 . Necessarily, e_2 meets P but avoids v_4^- . Since the point Q is outside of the interval $[R, v_1]$ it follows that the halfspace H_N necessarily cuts off the vertex v_3 . Hence, the cut $6^- - 5^- - 1^- = 2^- - 4^-$ cannot be realized through a halfspace-intersection.

From this we may not conclude that the cut $5^- - 1^- = 2^- - 4^-$ may be realized. It still depends on the shape of F_h^3 which may not be preassigned as was shown by Barnette [6].

Let M be the set of vertices of a facet F^3 and let Σ be a sequence of vertices of M which define a cut. We denote by Σ' the complement of Σ in M . We observed that for simple 3-spheres the two cuts defined by Σ and by the complement Σ' result in the same combinatorial type. If the sequence Σ defines a nonrealizable halfspace-intersection then does also the complement Σ' and vice versa.

The nonpolytopality of a given 3-sphere can be established by indicating the cut which leads to a nonrealizable halfspace-intersection. The individual proof may be a slight variation of the above model case. For example, it may happen that the edge E_{ij} is common to more than two trihedra. In this case additional restrictions occur which are easily recognized.

We will show that it is sufficient to prove the nonpolytopality only for a few special 3-spheres which we call initial ones. Given a nonsimple 3-sphere S we can cut off a complete facet which contains at least one vertex with valence higher than 4. The derived 3-sphere S' has the same number of facets and, in general, is of a different combinatorial type than S . Now, if there exists a derived type S' which is nonpolytopal then necessarily S also is nonpolytopal. This is an important construction in finding large classes of nonpolytopal 3-spheres. There exist nonpolytopal 3-spheres S which have not any nonpolytopal derived type S' . These non-polytopal 3-spheres are exactly the initial nonpolytopal 3-spheres introduced above. Clearly, all simple nonpolytopal 3-spheres are initial. But there

Table 1
 Unified polytope-schemes of the combinatorial types of 4-polytopes with 5, 6, 7 facets

	S	5	10	10	AUT=120
5.5-1	1-4/1-3,5/1,2,4,5/1,3-5/2-5/				
6.6-1	A	6	13	13	AUT= 16
	1-5/1-4,6/1,2,5,6/1,3,5,6/2,4-6/3-6/				
6.7-1	H	7	15	14	AUT= 12
	1-6/1-4,7/1,2,5-7/1,3,5,7/2,4,6,7/3-7/				
6.8-1	S	8	16	14	AUT= 48
	1-6/1-4,7,8/1,2,5-8/1,3,5,7/2,4,6,8/3-8/				
6.9-1	S	9	18	15	AUT= 72
	1-6/1-4,7,8/1,2,5-7,9/1,3,5,7-9/2,4,6-9/3-6,8,9/				
7.6-1	A	6	14	15	AUT= 12
	1-5/1-3,6,7/1,2,4,6/1,3,4,6/2,3,5,6/2,4-6/3-6/				
7.7-1	A	7	16	16	AUT= 20
	1-6/1-5,7/1,2,6,7/1,3,6,7/2,4,6,7/3,5-7/4-7/				
7.7-2	A	7	16	16	AUT= 2
	1-6/1-4,7/1,2,5-7/1,3,5,7/2,4,6,7/3-5,7/4-7/				
7.7-3	A	7	17	17	AUT= 4
	1-5/1-3,6,7/1,2,4,6,7/1,3,4,6/2,3,5,7/2,4,5,7/3-7/				
7.8-1	A	8	18	17	AUT= 2
	1-7/1-5,8/1,2,6-8/1,3,6,8/2,4,7,8/3,5-8/4,5,7,8/				
7.8-2	A	8	18	17	AUT= 4
	1-7/1-4,8/1,2,5,6,8/1,3,5,7,8/2,4,6-8/3,4,7,8/5-8/				
7.8-3	A	8	18	17	AUT= 2
	1-6/1-4,7,8/1,2,5-8/1,3,5,7/2,4,6,8/3-5,7,8/4-6,8/				
7.8-4	A	8	18	17	AUT= 8
	1-6/1-4,7,8/1,2,5-7/1,3,5,7,8/2,4,6-8/3-6,8/5-8/				
7.8-5	A	8	19	18	AUT= 2
	1-6/1-4,7,8/1,2,5-7/1,3,5,7,8/2,4,6,7/3-5,8/4-8/				
7.9-1	H	9	20	18	AUT= 4
	1-8/1-5,9/1,2,6-9/1,3,6,9/2,4,7,9/3,5,6,8,9/4,5,7-9/				
7.9-2	H	9	20	18	AUT= 48
	1-8/1-4,9/1,2,5,6,9/1,3,5,7,9/2,4,6,8,9/3,4,7-9/5-9/				
7.9-3	A	9	19	17	AUT= 4
	1-7/1-5,8,9/1,2,6-9/1,3,6,8/2,4,7,9/3,5-9/4,5,7,9/				
7.9-4	A	9	20	18	AUT= 2
	1-7/1-5,8,9/1,2,6-9/1,3,6,8/2,4,7,9/3,5-8/4,5,7-9/				

7.9-5	A	9 20 18	AUT= 4
1-7/1-4,8,9/1,2,5,6,8,9/1,3,5,7,8/2,4,6,7,9/3,4,7-9/5-9/			
7.9-6	A	9 20 18	AUT= 2
1-7/1-4,8,9/1,2,5,6,8,9/1,3,5,7,8/2,4,6,9/3,4,6-9/5-8/			
7.9-7	A	9 20 18	AUT= 2
1-6/1-4,7,8/1,2,5,7,9/1,3,5,7-9/2,4,6-9/3-5,8,9/4-6,9/			
7.10-1	H	10 21 18	AUT= 2
1-8/1-5,9,10/1,2,6-10/1,3,6,9/2,4,7,10/3,5,6,8-10/4,5,7,8,10/			
7.10-2	A	10 21 18	AUT= 16
1-8/1-4,9,10/1,2,5,6,9,10/1,3,5,7,9/2,4,6,8,10/3,4,7-10/5-10/			
7.10-3	A	10 22 19	AUT= 2
1-7/1-5,8,9/1,2,6-8,10/1,3,6,8-10/2,4,7-10/3,5,7,9,10/4,5,7,9/			
7.10-4	A	10 21 18	AUT= 4
1-7/1-4,8-10/1,2,5,6,8,9/1,3,5,7,8,10/2,4,6,7,9,10/3,4,7,10/5-10/			
7.10-5	A	10 22 19	AUT= 2
1-7/1-4,8-10/1,2,5,6,8,9/1,3,5,7,8,10/2,4,6,7,9/3,4,7,9,10/5-10/			
7.10-6	H	10 21 18	AUT= 12
1-7/1-4,8-10/1,2,5,6,8,9/1,3,5,7,8,10/2,4,6,9/3,4,7,10/4-10/			
7.11-1	S	11 22 18	AUT= 12
1-8/1-5,9-11/1,2,6-11/1,3,6,9/2,4,7,10/3,5,6,8,9,11/4,5,7,8,10,11/			
7.11-2	A	11 23 19	AUT= 4
1-8/1-5,9,10/1,2,6-9,11/1,3,6,9-11/2,4,7,9-11/3,5,6,8,10,11/4,5,7,8,10,11/			
7.11-3	H	11 23 19	AUT= 2
1-8/1-5,9,10/1,2,6-9,11/1,3,6,9-11/2,4,7,9/3,5,6,8,10,11/4,5,7-11/			
7.11-4	H	11 23 19	AUT= 4
1-8/1-4,9-11/1,2,5,6,9,10/1,3,5,7,9,11/2,4,6,8,10,11/3,4,7,8,11/5-11/			
7.12-1	S	12 24 19	AUT= 8
1-8/1-5,9-11/1,2,6-10,12/1,3,6,9,11,12/2,4,7,10/3,5,6,8,11,12/4,5,7-12/			
7.12-2	H	12 25 20	AUT= 2
1-8/1-5,9-11/1,2,6-9,12/1,3,6,9-12/2,4,7,9,11,12/3,5,6,8,10,12/4,5,7,8,10-12/			
7.12-3	S	12 24 19	AUT= 48
1-8/1-4,9-12/1,2,5,6,9,10/1,3,5,7,9,11/2,4,6,8,10,12/3,4,7,8,11,12/5-12/			
7.13-1	S	13 26 20	AUT= 8
1-8/1-5,9-11/1,2,6-9,12,13/1,3,6,9-13/2,4,7,9,11,13/3,5,6,8,10,12/4,5,7,8,10-13/			
7.14-1	S	14 28 21	AUT= 14
1-8/1-5,9-11/1,2,6-9,12,13/1,3,6,9-12,14/2,4,7,9,11-14/3,5,6,8,10,12-14/4,5,7,8,10,11,13,14/			

N8.15-2	A 15 32 25	AUT= 1	A20	N8.17-1
1-9/1-5,10-13/1,2,6-8,10,11,14/1,3,6,9,10,12,13,15/2,4,7,11-15/3,5,8,9,12,14,15/4,5,7,8,12,14/				
6.18-11,13-15/				
N8.15-3	A 15 32 25	AUT= 2	A416	N8.17-2
1-9/1-5,10-13/1,2,6-8,10,14,15/1,3,6,9-11,14/2,4,7,10-12,14,15/3,5,8,9,11,13,4,5,7,8,12,13,15/				
6.18,9,11-15/				
N8.15-4	A 15 32 25	AUT= 1	A19	N8.17-1
1-2/1-5,10-12/1,2,6-8,10,13,14/1,3,6,9-13,15/2,4,7,10,12-16/3,5,9,11,13-15/4,5,7,8,11,12,14,15/				
5.18,8,9,13,14/				
N8.15-5	A 15 32 25	AUT= 1	A401	N8.17-2
1-2/5,10-12/1,2,6-8,10,13,14/1,3,6,9-11,13,15/2,4,7,10,15/3,5,8,9,11,12,15/4,5,7,8,12,14/				
6.12,9,11-15/				
N8.17-1	A 16 33 25	AUT= 4	A21,K3,S5	P7.13-1: 8-5=4-11=10°
1-10/1-6,11-14,16/1,2,7-9,11,15,16/1,3,7,10-12,15/2,4,8,11-13,15/16/3,5,10,12-16/4,6,8,9,13,14,16/				
5.7,9,10,11-14,16/				
N8.16-2	A 16 34 26	AUT= 1	A688	N8.17-2
1-10/1-6,11-13,14,16/1,2,7-9,11,14-16/1,3,7,10-12,14/2,4,8,11,12,14,15/3,5,10,12-16/4,6,8,9,12,13,15,16/				
5.7,9,10,11-14,16/				
N8.16-3	A 16 34 26	AUT= 1	A687	N8.18-1
1-10/1-5,11-14/1,2,6-8,11,12,15/1,3,6,9,11,13,14,16/2,4,7,12-16/3,5,9,10,13,15,16/4,5,7,8,10,13,15/				
6.8-12,14-16/				
N8.16-4	A 16 34 26	AUT= 2	A490	N8.18-1
1-9/1-5,10-13/1,2,6-8,10,11,14,15/1,3,6,9,10,12,13,16/2,4,7,11-16/3,5,8,9,12,14-16/4,5,7,8,12,14/				
6.15-11,13,15,16/				
N8.16-5	A 16 34 26	AUT= 2	A689	N8.18-1
1-9/1-5,10-13/1,2,6-8,10,14,15/1,3,6,9-11,14-16/2,4,7,10-12,15,16/3,5,8,9,11,13/4,5,7,8,12-16/				
6.18,9,11-14,16/				
N8.17-1	A 17 35 26	AUT= 2	A22,S23	P7.16-1: 4-5=8-6=3°
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-9,11,12,15,16/1,3,7,10,11,15-17/2,4,8,12-14,16,17/3,5,10-12,14,16,17/4,6,8,9,13,15-17/				
5.7,9,10,13-15,17/				
N8.17-2	H 17 35 26	AUT= 2	A506	N8.19-1
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-9,11,15-17/1,3,7,10-12,15/2,4,8,11-13,15,16/3,5,10,12-17/4,6,8,9,13,14,16,17/				
5.7,9,10,14,15,17/				
N8.18-1	H 18 37 27	AUT= 1	A519	N8.20-1
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-9,11,15,18/2,7-9,10,13,7,10,11,15,16,18/2,4,8,12-14,17,18/3,5,10-12,14,16-18/				
4.18,9,10,15,18/				
N8.18-2	H 18 37 27	AUT= 1	A518/	N8.19-1
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-9,11,13,7,10-12,14,16-18/4,17/1,3,7,10-12,14,18/2,4,8,11,12,14-16,18/3,5,10,12,13,15-18/4,6,8,9,12,13,15,17/				
15.17,15,19,10,13,14,16-18/				
N8.19-1	I 5,19,38,27	AUT= 12	Barnette	P7.13-1: 8-5=4-11-
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-9,11,15-18/1,3,7,10-12,15,19/2,4,8,11-13,15-17,19/3,5,10,12-14,16-19/4,6,8,9,13,14,16,18/5-7,9,10,14,15,17-19/				
16,18/5-7,9,10,14,15,17-19/				
N8.20-1	I 5,20,40,28	AUT= 6	Brückner	P7.14-1: 4-5=8-6-
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-9,11,13,15-17/1,3,7,10,11,15,16,18-20/2,4,8,12-14,17-20/3,5,10-12,14,16-19/				
4,6,8,9,13,15-17,19,20/5-7,9,10,13-15,18,20/				

8.18-1	S	18 36 26	AUT= 1
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-11,15-17/1,3,7,11-16,18/2,4,8,11,13,16-18/3,5,7,9,12,15/4,6,8,10,13,14,17,18/5,6,9,10,12,14-18/	S	18 36 26	AUT= 2
8.18-2	S	18 36 26	AUT= 2
1-10/1-6,11-15/1,2,7-11,15-17/1,3,7,11-13,15,18/2,4,8,11,13,15,16,18/3,5,7,9,12,14-18/4,6,8,10,12-14,16-18/	S	18 36 26	AUT= 2
8.18-3	S	18 36 26	AUT= 2
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-9,11,12,15-17/1,3,7,10,11,15,16,18/2,4,8,12-18/3,5,10-12,14,16,18/4,6,8,9,13,17/5-7,9,12/13-15,17,18/	S	18 36 26	AUT= 2
8.18-4	S	18 36 26	AUT= 2
1-10/1-6,11-18/1,2,7-9,11,15-18/1,3,7,10-12,15,16/2,4,8,11-13,16,17/3,5,10,12-18/4,6,8,9,13,14,17,18/5-7,9,12/14,15,18/	S	18 36 26	AUT= 4
8.18-5	S	18 36 26	AUT= 4
1-10/1-6,11-12/1,2,7-9,11,15-18/1,3,7,11-13,15,16/2,4,8,11,13,14,16,17/3,5,7,9,10,12,15,18/4,6,8-10,14,17,18/5,6,9,12/16/	S	18 36 26	AUT= 4
8.18-6	S	18 36 26	AUT= 4
1-10/1-6,11-17/1,2,7-9,11,15,16/1,3,7,10-12,15-18/2,4,8,11-13,16,18/3,5,10,12-14,17,18/4,6,8,9,13-18/5-7,9,12/14,15,17/	S	19 38 27	AUT= 2
8.19-1	S	19 38 27	AUT= 2
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-11,15-17/1,3,7,11-15,18,19/2,4,8,11,13,15-19/3,5,7,9,12,15,17,18/4,6,8,10,13,14,16,19/5-6,9,10,12,14,16-19/	S	19 38 27	AUT= 1
8.19-2	S	19 38 27	AUT= 1
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-11,15-17/1,3,7,11-13,15,16,18,19/2,4,8,11,13,14,16,19/3,5,7,9,12,15,17,18/4,6,8,10,14-19/5,6,9,10,12-14,17-19/	S	19 38 27	AUT= 2
8.19-3	S	19 38 27	AUT= 2
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-9,11,12,15-17/1,3,7,10,11,15-19/2,4,8,12-14,16-19/3,5,10-12,14,16,18/4,6,8,9,13,15,17,19/5-7,9,10,13-15,18,19/	S	19 38 27	AUT= 4
8.19-4	S	19 38 27	AUT= 4
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-9,11,15-18/1,3,7,10-12,15,16/2,4,8,11-13,16-19/3,5,10,12-16,18,19/4,6,8,9,13,14,17,19/5-7,9,10,14,15,17-19/	S	20 40 28	AUT= 16
8.20-1	S	20 40 28	AUT= 16
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-11,15-17/1,3,7,11-15,18,19/2,4,8,11,13,15-17,19,20/3,5,7,9,12,15,17-20/4,6,8,10,13,14,16,18-20/5,6,9,10,12,15,16,18,20/	S	20 40 28	AUT= 4
8.20-2	S	20 40 28	AUT= 4
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-11,15-17/1,3,7,11-15,18,19/2,4,8,11,13,15,16,18-20/3,5,7,9,12,15-18,20/4,6,8,10,13,14,16,17,19,20/5,6,9,10,12,14,17-20/	S	20 40 28	AUT= 2
8.20-3	S	20 40 28	AUT= 2
1-10/1-6,11-14/1,2,7-11,15-17/1,3,7,11-13,15,16,18,19/2,4,8,11,13,14,16,18-20/3,5,7,9,12,15,17-20/4,6,8,10,13,14,16-17,19,20/5,6,9,10,12,14,17,18,20/			

exist other initial nonpolytopal 3-spheres which are characterized by having at least one edge of valence higher than 3. In the example shown in Fig. 1 the following special cuts, in general, will lead to nonsimple, initial 3-spheres:

$$7^0 - 6^0 - 5^- - 1^- = 2^- - 4^-, \quad 6^- - 5^- - 1^- = 2^- - 4^0 - 3^0, \quad \text{and}$$

$$7^0 - 6^0 - 5^- - 1^- = 2^- - 4^0 - 3^0.$$

It is easily verified that these special cuts are nonrealizable halfspace-intersections.

5. Results of calculations

For applications of this algorithm a computer program POLYTOPE has been written in PL/I programming language. All calculations were performed using the IBM 3090 computer of BEDAG (Berne). The 3-spheres with up to 7 facets are readily obtained. They are all polytopal and are well known. In Table 1 we give their unified polytope-schemes; these are needed for the derivation of the 3-spheres with 8 facets.

From all polytopes P_7 we obtained the 37 simple polytopes P_8 by cutting off parts of the 2-faces. By construction, these are free generated polytopes. In order to complete the list of simple 3-spheres with 8 facets we used the process of edge-reduction followed by cutting off complete facets. By this we obtained two further simple 3-spheres, the Barnette sphere [5], and the Brückner sphere [8]. The complete list of all 3-spheres with 8 facets was derived through successive edge-reductions starting from the simple ones. For the initial nonpolytopal 3-spheres we had to find the corresponding cuts. The remaining nonpolytopal 3-spheres are then readily found. In Table 2 are given the unified polytope-schemes of the nonpolytopal 3-spheres with 8 facets. In Table 2 the cut is given for each initial 3-sphere, marked with the code I, which proves the nonpolytopality. The references stated in Table 2 are as follows: A1–A22 refer to Altshuler [1], A125–A520 refer to Altshuler [2], S1–S23 refer to Schulz [16], K1–K4 refer to Kleinschmidt [13], Barnette to [5], and Brückner to [8]. In Table 3 we list the simple 4-polytopes with 8 facets which are needed to derive the 3-spheres with 9 facets.

From all polytopes P_8 we obtained 1135 simple polytopes P_9 by cutting off of any part of the 2-faces, or of 3-simplices. By construction these are free generated polytopes. The complete list of simple 3-spheres with 9 facets was obtained by edge-reduction followed by cutting off complete facets. By this process further 161 simple 3-spheres were found. Starting from the simple 3-spheres we calculated all 3-spheres with 9 facets through edge-reductions. The amount of computer time increases very rapidly and further progress seems to be beyond reasonable expense.

Table 4
Unified polytope-schemes of the combinatorial types of simple nonpolytopal 3-spheres with 9 facets

N9_22-1	I S	22	44	31	AUT=4	P8_16-3: 9-5=3-13-
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,14,18	21/1,3,8	12,13,15,18,22/2,4,9,14,3,5,12,15-17,19-22/4,6,9,11,13-15,17,18,20-22/	
5-2,9,10,11,16,17	18-20,22/6,7,10,11,16,17,19,21	40,11	15,16,17,19,21			
N9_22-2	I S	22	48	31	AUT=1	P8_16-1: 9-5=6-16-
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,14,18	21/1,3,8	13,15,16,18-20,22/2,4,9,14,3,5,8,10,15,17,18,21/4,6,9,11-14,16,19,22/	
5-2,3,10-12,17	16,17,22/6,7,12,15-18,20,22	40,11	12,15-18,20,22			
N9_23-1	I S	23	46	32	AUT=1	P8_16-9: 9-16=15-11-
1-12/1-6	13-18/1-2	17-10	13,16,19	20/1,3,7,11,13,17,19,21/2,4,8,14,3,5,9-12,17,20-22/4,6,8,10,12,14,16,18,20,22/		
5-6,12,13,15,17	18-21,22/7,9,11,15,16,18-22	40,11	15,16,18-22			
N9_23-1	I S	23	46	32	AUT=1	P8_17-1: 7-15=11-14-
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,15,18	20/1,3,8,12,13,18,19,21-23/2,4,9,14,3,5,12,13,15,16,19-22/		
4-6,9,11,14	15,17,20-22/5,7,8,10,12,16-18,21,23/6,7,10,11,15-17,19,21,22,24	40,11	20-22,24			
N9_23-2	I S	23	46	32	AUT=1	P8_17-12: 1-7=10-17-
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,15,18	20/1,3,8,13,16-18,21-23/2,4,9,14,7,3,5,8,10,16,18-22/4,6,9,11,12,14,15,19-23/		
5-7,10-12,16,17	19,21,23/6,7,12,13,15,17,18,20,22,23	40,11	18,20,22,23			
N9_23-3	I S	23	46	32	AUT=2	P8_17-1: 5-9=7-15
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,14,18	20/1,3,8,12,13,15,16,18,22,23/2,4,9,14,3,5,12,15,17,19-23/		
4-6,9,11,13,14,16,18	20-23/5,7,8,10,12,17-20,22/6,7,10,11,15-17,19,21,22/	40,11	15,17,19,21,23/			
N9_23-4	I S	23	46	32	AUT=1	P8_17-4: 9-5=3-12-
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,18	22/1,3,8,12-15,18,19,23/2,4,9,13,15,19,3,5,12,14,16,17,20-23/		
4-6,9,11,14,15,17-19	21-23/5,7,8,10,12,16,18,20,21,23/6,7,10,11,16,17,21,22/	40,11	16,17,20,22/			
N9_23-5	I S	23	46	32	AUT=1	P8_17-2: 5-9=10-17-
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,18	22/1,3,8,12-14,18,23/2,4,9,13-16,18-21,23/3,5,12,14,16,17,20-23/		
4-6,9,11,15,19,15,7,8,10,12,16,18,20,22,23/6,7,10,11,15-17,19,21,22/	40,11	15,17,19,21,22/				
N9_23-6	I S	23	46	32	AUT=2	P8_16-4: 5-3=1-2-12-
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,18	22/1,3,8,12-14,18,23/2,4,9,13-16,18-21,23/3,5,12,14,16,17,20-23/		
4-6,9,11,15,19,15,7,8,10,12,16,18,20,22,23/6,7,10,11,15-17,19,21,22/	40,11	15,17,19,20,22/				
N9_23-7	I S	23	46	32	AUT=1	P8_16-3: 7-11=8-15-
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,18	22/1,3,8,12-14,18,23/2,4,9,13-16,18-21,23/3,5,12,14,16,19,20,22,23/		
4-6,9,11,15,19,15,7,8,10,12,16,18,20,22,23/6,7,10,11,15-17,19,21,22/	40,11	15,17,19,21,22/				
N9_23-8	I S	23	46	32	AUT=1	P8_17-12: 1-2=13-16-4-
1-12/1-6	13-18/1-2	17-10	13,16,19	20/1,3,7,11,13,17,19,21-23/2,4,6,8,14,3,5,9,12,17,20-22/4,6,8,10,12,14,16,18,20-23/		
5-6,12,13,15,17	18-21,22/7,9,11,15,16,18-21,23	40,11	15,16,18-21,23			
N9_23-9	I S	23	46	32	AUT=2	P8_17-12: 7-10=17-14-
1-12/1-6	13-18/1-2	17-10	13,15,19	21/1,3,7,11,13,16-18,22,23/2,4,6,8,14,3,5,11,12,16,19-23/4,6,8,10,14,15,17,18,20-23/		
5-6,9,10,12,16,18,19	21,23/7,9,11-13,15,17,19,20,22	40,11	13,15,17,19,20,22			
N9_23-10	I S	23	46	32	AUT=2	P8_17-13: 7-1=8-12-
1-12/1-6	13-18/1-2	17-10	13,14,19	22/1,3,7,11,13,15,2,4,8,14,16,17,19-21,23/3,5,11,12,15-19,21-23/		
4-6,8,10,16,18,19,22/5,6,9,10,12,18,20-23/7,9,11-15,17,20,23/	40,11	15,17,20,23/				
N9_23-11	I S	23	46	32	AUT=6	P8_17-28: 10-17=16-12-
1-12/1-6	13-16/1-2	17-9	13,14,17-19/1,3,7,10,11,13,17,18,20-23/2,4,8,14,16-19,21-23/3,5,10,13,14,16,18-21/			
4-6,8,9,12,15,17-19,21-23/5,6,10-12,15,16,20,22,23/7,9,11,12,17,22	40,11	12,17,22				
N9_24-1	I S	24	48	33	AUT=1	P8_17-1: 5-6=14-11-12-
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,14,18	21/1,3,8,12,13,18,19,22-24/2,4,9,14-17,20-24/3,5,12-14,16,19,21-23/		
4-6,9,11,15,20/5,7,8,10,12,16-18,22,24/6,7,10,11,15,17-21,23,24/	40,11	23,24/				
N9_24-2	I S	24	48	33	AUT=1	P8_18-10: 2-1=7-10-
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,14,18	21/1,3,8,12,13,18,19,22-24/2,4,9,14-16,20,22-24/3,5,12-14,16,19,20,22,23/		
4-6,9,11,15,20/5,7,8,10,12,15-18,21,22,24/6,7,10,11,17,21/	40,11	11,17,21/				
N9_24-3	I S	24	48	33	AUT=1	P8_17-12: 1-2=12=13-14-
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,14,18	21/1,3,8,12,13,18,19,22-24/2,4,9,14,15,20/3,5,12-16,19-23/		
4-6,9,11,15,17,20-24/5,7,8,10,12,16-18,22,24/6,7,10,11,17,19,21,23,24/	40,11	18,21,23,24/				
N9_24-4	I S	24	48	33	AUT=1	P8_17-10: 1-9=8-13-
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,14,18	21/1,3,8,12,13,15,16,18,22,24/2,4,9,14,15,18,20-23/		
4-6,9,11,15,17,19-24/5,7,10-12,16,20,22,24/6,7,12-14,18,22,24/7,9,11,15,18-21,22,23/	40,11	18,22,24/				
N9_24-5	I S	24	48	33	AUT=3	P8_18-5: 18-5=7-15-
1-12/1-7	13-17/1-2	18-11	13,18	22/1,3,8,12-15,18,23,24/2,4,9,13,15,18-20,23,24/3,5,12,14,16,17,19-24/		
4-6,9,11,14,15,17,19,21,22,24/5,7,8,10,12,16,18,20,21,23/6,7,10,11,15,18-22,24/5,7,8,10,12,14,16,17,19-24/	40,11	15,18-22,24/				

N9_26-32	I	S	26	52	35	AUT=2	P8_19-3:	14--12--2--8--17-																														
1-12/1-7	13	17	11	8	11	13	18	22	24	25	23	5	12	14	16	19	21	24	26																			
4_16	9	11	15	19	22	26	5	7	8	10	12	16	18	20	23	25	26	6	7																			
N9_33-26	I	S	26	52	35	AUT=2	P8_19-3:	14--12--2--8--17-																														
1-12/1-7	13	17	11	8	11	13	18	22	24	25	23	5	12	14	16	19	21	24	26																			
4_16	9	11	15	19	22	26	5	7	8	10	12	16	18	20	23	25	26	6	7																			
N9_27-1	I	S	27	54	36	AUT=1	A31	P8_20-3:	3--15--6--10--8-																													
1-12/1-7	13	17	11	8	11	13	18	21	1	3	8	13	16	18	19	22	24	2	4	9	13	15	18	20	22	25	27											
4_16	9	11	15	19	22	26	5	7	10	12	14	16	20	22	24	26	2	6	7	11	12	15	17	23	27	3	5	8	10	14	18	20	22	25	27			
N9_27-2	I	S	27	54	36	AUT=1	A26	P8_20-1:	4--6--5--9--7-																													
1-12/1-7	13	17	11	8	11	13	18	21	1	3	8	13	16	18	19	22	24	2	4	9	13	15	18	20	22	23	25	27										
4_16	9	11	15	19	22	26	5	7	10	12	14	16	20	22	24	26	2	6	7	11	12	14	16	17	18	22	23	25	27									
N9_27-3	I	S	27	54	36	AUT=1	A47	P8_20-2:	4--6--5--9--7-																													
1-12/1-7	13	17	11	8	11	13	18	21	1	3	8	13	16	18	22	25	2	4	9	13	15	18	19	22	24	26	27											
4_16	9	11	15	19	22	26	5	7	10	12	14	16	20	22	24	26	2	6	7	11	12	14	16	17	18	22	23	25	27									
N9_27-4	I	S	27	54	36	AUT=1	A43	P8_20-2:	11--15--7--9--17-																													
1-12/1-7	13	17	11	8	11	13	14	18	21	1	3	8	10	12	16	18	19	22	24	25	27																	
4_16	9	11	15	18	20	22	4	24	27	7	8	10	12	15	18	21	23	25	26	3	5	12	14	16	19	22	24	26	27									
N9_27-5	I	S	27	54	36	AUT=2	A33	P8_20-3:	3--5--9--10--8-																													
1-12/1-7	13	17	11	8	11	13	14	18	21	1	3	8	15	13	18	20	22	25	2	4	9	14	16	19	21	23	26	27	3	5	12	14	16	19	22	24	26	27
4_16	9	11	15	18	21	22	4	27	5	7	8	10	12	15	18	22	25	26	6	7	10	11	17	18	20	21	23	25	27									
N9_27-6	I	S	27	54	36	AUT=1	A27	P8_20-3:	11--1--7--15--17-																													
1-12/1-7	13	17	11	8	11	13	14	18	21	1	3	8	12	13	18	20	22	25	2	4	9	14	16	19	21	23	25	27										
4_16	9	11	15	19	21	23	26	5	7	8	10	12	17	18	22	24	27	6	7	10	11	15	18	20	22	24	26	27										
N9_27-7	I	S	27	54	36	AUT=1	A27	P8_20-3:	11--1--7--15--17-																													
1-12/1-7	13	17	11	8	11	13	14	18	21	1	3	8	12	13	18	20	22	25	2	4	9	14	16	19	21	23	25	27										
4_16	9	11	15	19	21	23	26	5	7	8	10	12	17	18	22	24	27	6	7	10	11	15	18	20	22	24	26	27										

For the 161 nonfree generated 3-spheres, we had to decide their polytopality. For each of them the relevant cut was found and for 123 the nonpolytopality could directly be proved. Among the remaining ones, 7 could be realized as polytopes by constructing them. There are left 31 3-spheres for which we could not prove nonpolytopality, but which were determined to be nonpolytopal by Altshuler and coworkers [3, 4], so they were added to the list of nonpolytopal 3-spheres. Nonsimple initial 3-spheres were found through special cuts. For the 3-spheres with 24 vertices we looked at all those which have an edge of valence 4 and thus could prove the completeness of the results. However, for those with less vertices the numbers of 3-spheres involved becomes so large that we were not able to prove completeness although, we are convinced, to have missed only a few ones. In Table 4 we give the unified polytope-schemes of the simple nonpolytopal 3-spheres with 9 facets. The references A24-A50 in Table 4 refer to Altshuler [4].

The above results suggest the following proposition.

Almost all d -polytopes in \mathbb{R}^d are free generated.

In Table 5 we give the numbers of combinatorial types of simple 3-spheres with

Table 5
Number of combinatorial types of simple 3-spheres with N_3 facets and N_0 vertices. The numbers of nonpolytopal 3-spheres are given within parentheses

$N_0 \backslash N_3$	5	6	7	8	9
5	1				
6					
7					
8		1			
9		1			
10					
11			1		
12			2		
13			1		
14			1	3	
15				5	
16				8	
17				8	7
18				6	23
19				(1) 5	45
20				(1) 4	84
21					128
22					(3) 175
23					(11) 223
24					(22) 231
25					(46) 209
26					(45) 121
27					(27) 50
Total	1	2	5	(2) 37	(154) 1296

Table 6
 Number of combinatorial types of 3-spheres with N_3 facets and N_0 vertices. The numbers of nonpolytopal 3-spheres are given within parentheses

$N_0 \backslash N_3$	5	6	7	8	9
5	1				
6		1	1	1	1
7		1	3	5	7
8		1	5	27	76
9		1	7	76	(>1) 467
10			6	(1) 138	(>6) 1908
11			4	(4) 209	(>57) 5411
12			3	(6) 231	(>260) 11974
13			1	(8) 226	(>778) 21129
14			1	(7) 173	(>1706) 31234
15				(5) 122	(>3046) 39875
16				(5) 70	(>4488) 44461
17				(2) 33	(>5529) 43870
18				(2) 16	(>5836) 38493
19				(1) 5	(>5408) 30216
20				(1) 4	(>4313) 21089
21					(>3154) 13231
22					(>1872) 7181
23					(>1133) 3604
24					(444) 1390
25					(236) 567
26					(45) 121
27					(27) 50
Total	1	4	31	(42) 1336	(>38339) 316355

up to 9 facets. Within parenthesis are given the numbers of nonpolytopal 3-spheres. In Table 6 we give the numbers of combinatorial types of 3-spheres with up to 9 facets. The numbers of nonpolytopal 3-spheres with 9 facets and 9 to 23 vertices are lower bounds only.

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