Realizability and inscribability for simplicial polytopes via nonlinear optimization

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Abstract

We show that nonlinear optimization techniques can successfully be applied to realize and to inscribe matroid polytopes and simplicial spheres. Thus we obtain a complete classification of neighborly polytopes of dimension 4, 6 and 7 with 11 vertices, of neighborly 5-polytopes with 10 vertices, as well as a complete classification of simplicial 3-spheres with 10 vertices into polytopal and non-polytopal spheres. Surprisingly many of the realizable polytopes are also inscribable.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Previous results

The classification of polytopes has been a major goal in discrete geometry. Euclid's elements culminates in the last proposition of its last book in which Euclid remarks that there are precisely five regular polyhedra [Euc82, Liber XIII, Propositio 18]. The study of polytopes in higher dimensions was started in the middle of the 19th century, see for example the work by Schläfli [Sch01], Wiener [Wie64] and Schlegel [Sma86]. The enumeration of polytopes with a fixed number of faces emerged as a question and Eberhardt [Ebe91] gave some answers, see Brückner [Brü00].

We are interested in the classification of polytopes up to combinatorial type. Two polytopes are combinatorially equivalent if they have isomorphic face lattices. Given an arbitrary lattice L, we can ask: is L polytopal, i.e. the face lattice of a polytope? Other than classifying *all* polytopes of dimension d with n vertices we will focus on the subfamilies of *simplicial* and *simplicial neighborly* polytopes. These families are of particular interest: a polytope is simplicial if all of its facets are simplices. If all the vertices of a polytope are in general position, then it is simplicial. It is simplicial neighborly if the number of its *i*-dimensional faces is maximized for all *i* among all polytopes with a fixed number of vertices by McMullen's Upper Bound Theorem [McM70]. The first known neighborly polytopes were the cyclic polytopes; Motzkin conjectured that the cyclic polytopes are the only combinatorial types of neighborly polytopes, which turned out to be false, see [Mot57] and [Gal63, p. 225 and §2]. In even dimensions all neighborly polytopes are simplicial, while in odd dimensions there are neighborly but non-simplicial polytopes. (For example, every 3-polytope is neighborly.)

The classification of combinatorial types of *d*-polytopes on *n* vertices for $n \leq d+3$ was achieved by using Gale diagrams, see [Grü67, Sect. 6.1-3] and [Zie95, Sect. 6.5]. There are formulae for the number of combinatorial types:

- For n = d+2 vertices there are $\lfloor d^2/4 \rfloor$ combinatorial types of polytopes, $\lfloor d/2 \rfloor$ combinatorial types of simplicial polytopes and there is only one neighborly polytope: the cyclic polytope, see [Grü67, Sect. 6.1].
- For n = d + 3 vertices an erroneous formula for the number of *d*-polytopes with *n* vertices was given by Lloyd [Llo70]; it has been corrected by Fusy [Fus06, Th. 1], see A114289. For simplicial *d*-polytopes with *n* vertices there is a formula by Perles [Grü67, Sect. 6.2, Th. 6.3.2, p. 113 and p. 424], see Bagchi and Datta, [BD98, Rem. 6 (C)], A000943. There is a formula for the number of neighborly and simplicial neighborly *d*-polytopes with d + 3 vertices, see the work by McMullen and Altshuler [McM74], [AM73] and A007147. The number of simplicial neighborly (2n - 3)-polytopes with 2n vertices coincides with the number of self-dual 2-colored necklaces with 2n beads and it is possible to find a

simple bijection between these two combinatorial objects. Similarly, there is also a relation between the self-dual 2-colored necklaces on 2n beads and simplicial (n - 3)-polytopes with n vertices. This is provided by Montellano-Ballesteros and Strausz [MBS04]. For the corresponding classification of (d - 1)-dimensional polytopal spheres with d + 3 vertices see Mani [Man72] for the simplicial case and Kleinschmidt [Kle76] for the general case.

d n	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
d = 3 all	1	2	7	34	257	2606	32300	440564	6384634
simplicial	1	1	2	5	14	50	233	1249	7595
+neighborly	1	1	2	5	14	50	233	1249	7595
d = 4 all		1	4	31	1 294 [AS85]	?	?	?	?
simplicial		1	2	5	37 [<mark>GS67</mark>]	1 142 [ABS80]	162004	?	?
n ai mh h a nIrr		1	1	1	3	23	431	19095	≥ 556061
neighboriy		1	T	1	[GS67]	[AS73]	[Alt77]	19 999	$\leq {f 556062}$
d = 5 all			1	6	116	47 923 [FMM13]	?	?	?
simplicial			1	2	8	322 [FMM13]	?	?	?
+neighborly			1	1	2	126 [Fin14]	159375	?	?
d = 6 all				1	9	379	?	?	?
simplicial				1	3	18	?	?	?
neighborly				1	1	1	37 [BS87]	42099	?
d = 7 all					1	12	1133	?	?
simplicial					1	3	29	?	?
+neighborly					1	1	4	35993	?
d = 8 all						1	16	3210	?
simplicial						1	4	57	?
neighborly						1	1	1	2 586 [MP15]
d = 9 all							1	20	8 803
simplicial							1	4	96
+neighborly							1	1	5
d = 10 all								1	25
simplicial								1	5
neighborly								1	1
any d , all	2	4	13	73	1677	?	?	?	?
simplicial	2	3	6	14	64	1537	?	?	?
+neighborly	2	3	5	9	22	203	160083	?	?

Table 1: Families of *d*-polytopes with *n* vertices that have been enumerated. **Boldface** results are new. For $n \le d+3$ results are due to [Grü67] [AM73] [McM74] [Fus06]. For the row d = 3, see [BW88] [Tut80] [RW82]..

The most important result in the classification of polytopes of dimension 3 is Steinitz's theorem: the face lattices of (simplicial) 3-polytopes are in bijection with the 3-connected (cubic) planar graphs with at least 4 vertices, see [Ste22, Satz 43, p. 77]. The asymptotic behavior of the number of combinatorial types (simplicial) 3-polytopes with n vertices is known precisely, see [BW88] [Tut80] [RW82] and A000944, A000109.

For higher dimensional polytopes much less is known. In fact there is no hope to find a criterion in terms of local conditions as in the 3-dimensional case, see [Stu87] and [Kal88]. Already in dimension 4, deciding whether a given face lattice is the face lattice of a polytope is is in fact complete for the "existential theory of the reals", see Richter-Gebert and Ziegler [RGZ95]. This problem is known to be NP-hard and also the problem of determining whether an orientable matroid is realizable is known to be NP-hard, see the results by Mnëv and Shor [Mnë88, Sho91] even if restricted to neighborly polytopes, by a result of Adiprasito, Padrol and Theran [APT14]. For an overview of known realization algorithms see [BLVS⁺99, A.5, p. 486].

However, complete enumerations/classifications have been achieved for some pairs (d, n) with $n \ge d + 4$ and $d \ge 4$. The first attempt was an enumeration of simplicial 4-polytopes with 8-vertices by Brückner [Brü09]. A mistake in his enumeration was fixed by the complete classification of this family by Grünbaum and Sreedharan [GS67], thereby also classifying neighborly 4-polytopes with 8-vertices. It also provided the first examples of non-cyclic neighborly polytopes. This was followed by a few results by Altshuler, Bokowski and Steinberg [AS73] [Alt77] [ABS80] [AS85], all for 4-dimensional polytopes, until the classification of neighborly 6-polytopes with 10 vertices by Bokowski and Shemer [BS87]. After that no significant progress in the classification of these families of polytopes has been made for a long time. Closely related to these classifications are the classifications of oriented matroids. A good summary of results in that area is [Fin01]. Very recently Fukuda, Miyata and Moriyama [FMM13] classified various families of oriented matroids and obtained classification of 5-polytopes with 9 vertices. Miyata and Padrol [MP15] classified neighborly 8-polytopes with 12 vertices.

Table 1 summarizes known and new enumeration results of families of d-polytopes on n vertices.

1.2 Our contributions

We propose a new algorithmic approach in order to give complete enumeration results for simplicial 3-spheres with 10 vertices and for various families of neighborly polytopes. We not only provide a complete description in rational coordinates, but give realizations with all vertices on the unit sphere if possible, thereby proving inscribability for many polytopes. We also provide two further applications: the classification of simplicial 3-spheres with small valence and a special realization of the Bokowski–Ewald–Kleinschmidt polytope. We hope that our results might be used as a treasure trove of examples and potential counterexamples for the study of polytopes. By polar duality our enumeration results for families of (inscribable) *simplicial* polytopes imply the results on corresponding families of (circumscribable) *simple* polytopes.

A simplicial polytope with vertices in general position yields a uniform matroid polytope by taking the induced oriented matroid. (Remember that every combinatorial type of simplicial polytope has a realization with its vertices in general position). We denote this map from simplicial polytopes to uniform matroid polytopes by M. In turn a uniform matroid polytope gives rise to a simplicial sphere, by taking the face lattice. We denote this map from uniform matroid polytopes to simplicial spheres by S. The composition $S \circ M$ maps a simplicial polytope to the simplicial sphere induced by its boundary. A uniform matroid polytope is realizable if and only if is has a preimage under the map M. A simplicial sphere is polytopal if and only if it has a preimage under the map $S \circ M$, i.e. if it has a preimage under the map S that is a realizable



Figure 1: simplicial polytopes, uniform matroid polytopes and simplicial spheres.

uniform matroid polytope. For the map S there is a technique that can provide definite results in both directions: to either prove the non-existence of preimages or to find preimages. This technique checks the consistency of the chirotope axioms, which are binary constraints, and is discussed in Section 2.3.2. For the maps M and $S \circ M$ we use different methods for proving the non-existence of preimages and finding preimages under these maps:

- finding preimages: Here we employ nonlinear optimization software in order to solve systems of nonlinear inequalities. This is explained in Section 2.1. The realizations are first obtained numerically and then converted to rational realizations, such that the combinatorial type can be checked using exact arithmetic; see Section 2.2.
- proving the non-existence of preimages: For proving non-realizability we rely on classical methods of finding final polynomials such as finding biquadratic final polynomials (bfp), see [BS89, Sect. 7.3, p. 121] and apply this also to partial chirotopes, see Section 2.3

We combine these techniques with previous classification results: For the enumeration of some families of neighborly polytopes we build on the enumeration of corresponding families of neighborly uniform oriented matroids given by Miyata and Padrol [MP15] [Miy] For the enumeration of simplicial 4-polytopes with 10 vertices and 4-polytopes with small valence we build on the enumeration of corresponding simplicial spheres by Lutz [Lut08] [FLS] [Lut].

The methods presented here can not only be used to realize a combinatorial type of simplicial polytope, but also the combinatorial type of a uniform matroid polytope or even a non-uniform oriented matroid. In the resulting point configurations additional methods would have to be used in order to obtain results in exact arithmetic and not only numerical results, since the methods presented in Section 2.2 would fail in this case. It is also possible to consider other (simplicial) manifolds than the sphere and obtain realizations. The optimization approach also allows for additional requirements on the objects being realized, we exemplify this with inscribability: In

many cases and without much additional difficulty we could find realizations on the sphere, proving inscribability of the polytopes in question. For all the families of neighborly polytopes we enumerated, there was not a single non-inscribable case, which leads us to the belief that there might be none, see Conjecture 1. Since we are free to choose an objective function, we can also find extremal realizations. We don't need to focus on combinatorial type, but can consider other equivalence classes of polytopes. An example where we optimize over all polytopes similar to a given polytope can be found in [Fir15].

1.3 Remaining questions and a brave conjecture

Already Steiner [Ste32, Question 77), p. 316] asked if all polytopes are inscribable. One reason why "inscribable" is an interesting property of a polytope is the close relationship with Delaunay triangulations and Voronoi diagrams, as provided by [Bro79], see also Section 3.4. For 3-dimensional polytopes, the situation is well understood. There is a characterization of inscribable 3-polytopes by Hodgson, Rivin and Smith [HRS92] and there are conditions for inscribability on the edge-graph given by Dillencourt and Smith [DS96], which can be checked algorithmically. A criterion for the inscribability of *stacked* polytopes that also works in higher dimensions is given by Gonska and Ziegler [GZ13, Th. 1]. Having a complete edge graph is far away from being stacked. The question whether all (even-dimensional) neighborly polytopes are inscribable has been asked by Gonska and Padrol in [GP15, p. 2]. All the neighborly polytopes in the families that we have enumerated are inscribable. Although this is all the evidence we have, we propose a conjecture.

Conjecture 1. All 2-neighborly simplicial polytopes are inscribable.

Out of the simplicial 4-polytopes with 10 vertices, which we have enumerated, we can decide inscribability in all but 13 cases. We expect the remaining cases to be non-inscribable.

Question 2 (see Theorem 25 ii)). Are the remaining 13 cases non-inscribable?

Question 3. Is there an efficient method for proving non-inscribability of combinatorial types of non-stacked polytopes of dimension greater than 3?

For two families we are able to realize all but a single combinatorial type. We expect the answers to the following questions to be negative:

Question 4 (see Theorem 21 iv)). Is there a 4-dimensional polytope on 12 vertices with facet list F374225? Is it inscribable?

Question 5 (see Theorem 27). Is there a 4-dimensional polytope on 14 vertices with facet list T2775? Is it inscribable?

2 Methods for finding realizations and proving non-realizability

2.0 Definitions and notations

We quickly revise the basics of polytopes, oriented matroids and chirotopes. Our notation mostly coincides with those outlined in [BLVS⁺99], [RGZ04, Sect. 6], [BS89] and the introduction of [MP15].

Definition 6 (face lattice, combinatorial equivalence, neighborly). The set of faces of a *d*-polytope partially ordered by inclusion is the *face lattice*. The number *m*-dimensional faces of a *d*-dimensional polytope *P* is denoted by $f_m(P)$ or f_m and the vector (f_0, f_1, \ldots, f_d) is the *f*-vector of *P*. A *d*-polytope is simplicial if all of its facets contain exactly *d* vertices. It is simple

if each of its vertices is contained in exactly d facets. A polytope is k-neighborly if any set of k vertices is a face, $f_{k-1} = \binom{f_0}{k}$. A d-polytope is neighborly if it is k-neighborly for all $k \leq \lfloor \frac{d}{2} \rfloor$. Two polytopes are called combinatorially equivalent if they have isomorphic face lattices. A d-polytope is inscribed if all its vertices lie on the unit (d-1)-sphere, i.e. if $\sum_{i=1}^{d} v_i^2 = 1$ for each vertex $v = (v_1, \ldots, v_d)$. If P is combinatorially equivalent to an inscribed polytope it is inscribable.

Definition 7 (simplicial complex, triangulation, simplicial sphere). A homeomorphism from the geometric realization of a simplicial complex C to a topological space X is a triangulation of X. If X is a sphere, we call the triangulation simplicial sphere.

The boundary of a simplicial polytope gives rise to a simplicial sphere.

Definition 8 (polytopal). A simplicial sphere $|\mathcal{C}| \to S^{d-1}$ is *polytopal* if it arises from the boundary of a simplicial *d*-polytope *P*, i.e. if \mathcal{C} is isomorphic to the set of faces in the boundary of *P*.

Definition 9 (prerequisites for covectors). Let *E* be a finite set. A sign vector is an element $C \in \{-, 0, +\}^E$. Given two sign vectors *C* and *D*, we define their composition as

$$(C \circ D)_e := \begin{cases} C_e & \text{if } C_e \neq 0\\ D_e & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for $e \in E$. An element $e \in E$ separates C and D, if $0 \neq C_e = -D_e$. The set of all elements which separate C and D is denoted by S(C, D).

Definition 10 (oriented matroid given by covectors). An *oriented* matroid is given by a finite set E together with a set $\mathcal{L} \subset \{-, 0, +\}^E$ of *covectors*, which satisfies

- i) $\mathbf{0} \in \mathcal{L}$,
- ii) if $C \in \mathcal{L}$ then $-C \in \mathcal{L}$,
- iii) if C and $D \in \mathcal{L}$, then $C \circ D \in \mathcal{L}$,
- iv) if $C, D \in \mathcal{L}$ and $e \in S(C, D)$, then there is $Z \in \mathcal{L}$ such that $Z_e = 0$ and $Z_f = (C \circ D)_f$ for all $f \in E \setminus S(C, D)$.

Definition 11 (rank, uniform). The *rank* of the oriented matroid is defined as the rank of the underlying matroid. It is called *uniform* if the underlying matroid is uniform

Definition 12 (acyclic, face lattice, matroid polytope). An oriented matroid $\mathcal{M} = (E, \mathcal{L})$ is called *acyclic* if

$$(+,\ldots,+)\in\mathcal{L}$$

The set of *faces* of \mathcal{M} is defined as

$$FL(\mathcal{M}) := \left\{ C^0 \, | \, C \in \mathcal{L} \cap \{0, +\}^E \right\}$$

This set is partially ordered by inclusion and is called the *face lattice* of \mathcal{M} . An acyclic oriented matroid is *k*-neighborly if any set of *k* elements of *E* is a face. An acyclic oriented matroid of rank *r* is neighborly if it is *k*-neighborly for all $k \leq \lfloor \frac{r-1}{2} \rfloor$. The acyclic oriented matroid \mathcal{M} is called a matroid polytope if for every $e \in E$, we have $\{e\} \in FL(\mathcal{M})$, that is if it is 0-neighborly.

The face lattice of a uniform matroid polytope induces a simplicial sphere.

Definition 13 (chirotope). Let E be a finite set and r an integer. A *chirotope* of rank r is a map

$$\chi : E^r \to \{-1, 0, 1\}$$

such that

- i) χ is alternating, i.e. $\chi \circ \sigma = \operatorname{sign}(\sigma)\chi$ for all permutations $\sigma \in \Sigma_r$.
- ii) For all $\lambda \in E^{r-2}$ and $a, b, d, e \in E \setminus \lambda$ the set

$$\{\chi(\lambda, a, b)\chi(\lambda, c, d), -\chi(\lambda, a, c)\chi(\lambda, b, d), \chi(\lambda, a, d)\chi(\lambda, b, c)\}$$

is either equal to $\{0\}$ or contains $\{-1, 1\}$

iii) The set of elements of E^r that are not mapped to zero by χ constitutes the basis elements of a matroid, and is in particular non-empty.

A chirotope gives rise to an oriented matroid and vice versa. If 0 is not in the image of χ , we obtain a *uniform* oriented matroid.

Definition 14 (oriented matroid and chirotope of a configuration of vectors). Given a configuration X of n vectors $p_1, \ldots p_n \in \mathbb{R}^d$ that span \mathbb{R}^d , the oriented matroid $\mathcal{M}_X := ([n], \mathcal{L}_X)$ of rank r := d + 1 is given by

$$\mathcal{L}_X := \{ (\operatorname{sign}(q \cdot \overline{p}_1), \dots, \operatorname{sign}(q \cdot \overline{p}_n)) \, | \, q \in \mathbb{R}^r \} \,,$$

where $\overline{p}_m := \begin{pmatrix} p_m \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ The associated *chirotope* χ_X of \mathcal{M}_X is the map:

$$\chi_X : \{1, \dots, n\}^r \to \{-1, 0, 1\}$$
$$(m_1, \dots, m_r) \mapsto \text{sign det} (\overline{p}_{m_1}, \dots, \overline{p}_{m_r})$$

If the points are in general position, i.e. if 0 is not in the image of χ_X , we obtain an uniform oriented matroid.

The oriented matroid and chirotope of a configuration of vectors is indeed an oriented matroid and chirotope; in fact the property of the former inspire the definition of the latter. If the point configuration is the set of vertices of a simplicial polytope P, we will obtain a matroid polytope \mathcal{M} and the face lattice of P will be isomorphic to the face lattice of \mathcal{M} .

Definition 15. A chirotope (resp. oriented matroid) is *realizable* if it can be obtained as the chirotope (resp. oriented matroid) of a configuration of vectors.

2.1Finding realizations and inscriptions as an optimization problem

Let $\chi_{\mathcal{M}}$ be a chirotope of a uniform matroid polytope \mathcal{M} of rank r with n elements. To the chirotope we associate the following system of polynomial inequalities:

$$\chi_{\mathcal{M}}(m_1,\ldots,m_r)\det\left(\overline{p}_{m_1},\ldots,\overline{p}_{m_r}\right) > 0 \text{ for all } m_1,\ldots,m_r \in \binom{[n]}{r} \tag{1}$$

Here $p_m := (p_{m,1}, \ldots, p_{m,r-1})$ for $1 \leq m \leq n$ are vectors of real variables, so there are nmmany variables. The system is defined over $\mathbb{R}[p_{m,i} \text{ for } 1 \leq m \leq n \text{ and } 1 \leq i \leq r-1]$ with $\binom{n}{r}$ homogeneous inequalities of degree r.

Proposition 16. A uniform matroid polytope \mathcal{M} is realizable if and only if the system (1) has a solution.

Inequality (1) implies

$$\chi(m_1,\ldots m_r) = \operatorname{sign} \det\left(\overline{p}_{m_1},\ldots,\overline{p}_{m_r}\right),\,$$

which is just what is needed in the definition of chirotope of a configurations of vectors.

In addition, we could ask for all vertices to lie on the unit sphere:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{r-1} p_{m,i}^2 = 1 \text{ for } 1 \le m \le n.$$
(2)

Proposition 17. The uniform matroid polytope \mathcal{M} is realizable as an inscribed polytope if and only if the system (1) and (2) has a solution.

We can weaken (1) and only consider inequalities that concern faces of \mathcal{M} :

$$\chi_{\mathcal{M}}(m_1, \dots, m_r) \det\left(\overline{p}_{m_1}, \dots, \overline{p}_{m_r}\right) > 0 \text{ for all } m_1, \dots, m_r \in \binom{[n]}{r}$$

if for some $j, (m_1, \dots, \widehat{m_j}, \dots, m_r)$ is a face of M (3)

Proposition 18. The face lattice of \mathcal{M} is polytopal if and only if the system (3) and has a solution.

Proposition 19. The face lattice of \mathcal{M} is the face lattice of an inscribable polytope if and only if the system (3) and (2) has a solution.

In the last two propositions only the partial information of the chirotope is required, namely the orientation of the simplices that contain a face. It is straightforward generate this partial information when given a simplicial complex.

In order to solve such systems of inequalities and equations, we need a solver for nonlinear programs. For our computations we have used SCIP, which uses branch and bound techniques and linear underestimation in order to find a feasible solution within a certain precision; see [Ach09] and [ABKW08] for details.

For numerical reasons, the solver cannot handle strict inequalities, which is why we adapt inequalities (1) by replacing "> 0" by " $\geq \varepsilon$ " for some small positive ε . If we simply replace the strict inequalities by weak inequalities or if epsilon is very close to machine precision, we will obtain trivial solutions. It is important to choose ε adequately. We can be certain that for our results no feasible solutions have been discarded, since we prove the infeasibility of the system using different techniques, see Section 2.3.

In all cases discussed, a numerical solution with a certain precision can be turned into a rational solution of the system in question, see Section 2.2. Once we have a solution with rational coordinates we can prove the validity of the systems of (in)equalities (1), (2) and (3) by calculation in exact arithmetic.

That procedure works reasonably well in practice for *finding* realizations if they exist. If there is no realization and the system of inequalities and equations is therefore infeasible, the optimizer does not terminate in a reasonable amount of time or runs out of memory. See Section 2.3 on how to handle potentially non-realizable cases.

2.2 Finding rational points on the sphere

From the calculations described in the previous section, we obtain *numerical* solutions of the system of inequalities and equations, which are not guaranteed to be correct. The goal is to derive *rational* points from these solutions that satisfy the system of inequalities and equations in exact arithmetic. This is in particularly easy if we investigate the realization of *uniform* matroids that are realized as *simplicial* polytopes, whose combinatorial type is unchanged by a small distortion. When we look at inscribed realizations, we start with a point x given numerically that is very close to the unit sphere and we are looking for a point x' with rational coordinates on the sphere very close to x. Since the rational points are dense in the unit sphere, the existence of a good rational approximation is guaranteed. Consider a rational line through the sphere that intersects the unit sphere in two points. If one of the points is rational, let's say it is the north pole, then the other intersection point will also be rational. We notice that stereographic projections and its inverse send rational points to rational points and is continuous away from the projection point.

This enables us to find a suitable rational point constructively as follows:

Construction 20.

Step 1 Use stereographic projection to map $x \in S^d$ to a point $\tilde{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1}$.

Step 2 Find a suitable rational approximation \widetilde{x}' for \widetilde{x} .

Step 3 Use the inverse stereographic projection to map \tilde{x}' to a rational point x' on the sphere.

2.3 Certificates for non-realizability

2.3.1 Biquadratic final polynomials

An oriented matroid is non-realizable if and only if it has a final polynomial, see [BS89]. Given a (uniform) oriented matroid, there is a good algorithm for *showing non-realizability*, it finds *biquadratic final polynomials* that prove non-realizability. This is described by Bokowski, Richter and Sturmfels [BR90], [BS89, Sect. 7.3, p. 121]. There are cases of non-realizable oriented matroids that do not possess a *biquadratic* final polynomial, but do possess a final polynomial (and hence are non-realizable) the first one is given by Richter-Gebert [RG96]. We might have found another such instance, see Theorem 21 iv).

2.3.2 From simplicial spheres to uniform oriented matroids

Showing that a simplicial sphere is not realizable can be done in two steps:

- i) generate all compatible uniform matroid polytopes (possibly there aren't any!)
- ii) find final polynomials for all of them.

Given a simplicial sphere S, the values of a compatible chirotope χ on tuples that contain a face of S are already determined, if we fix the sign of one of those tuples. (We can always flip all the signs of a chirotope and obtain a valid chirotope again.) All compatible chirotopes are precisely the ones that satisfy the conditions on the signs derived from the Graßmann-Plücker identities (condition ii) in Definition 13). These can be formulated as a boolean satisfiability problem (SAT), compare the work by Schewe [Sch10], and has been implemented by David Bremner, see [BBG09, Sect. 3]. It can also be formulated as an integer program, which has been done by the author. Then a solver for integer programs can be used to generate all compatible matroids. It might of course be the case, that the system has no solution, which means that the simplicial sphere has no compatible uniform matroid polytopes. In the case of odd-dimensional neighborly simplicial spheres, there is at most one solution. This property is called rigidity and has been established for polytopes of even dimension in [She82] and, more generally, for neighborly oriented matroids of odd rank in [Stu88].

2.3.3 Using partial chirotopes

In some cases there will be many compatible chirotopes and there might be too many to find (biquadtratic) final polynomials for all of them. Sometimes, however, we are still able to prove non-realizability by using only partial information of the chirotopes. As mentioned above, all compatible chirotopes for a given simplicial sphere have their values on tuples that contain a face of S in common, if we fix the sign of one of those tuples. In general those chirotopes will have values on even more tuples in common, and these values can be determined by examining the conditions on the signs derived from the Graßmann-Plücker identities. We call this the *partial chirotope* compatible with S. The question if a partial chirotope can be completed is NP-complete, see [Tsc01] and [Bai05]. In many small cases the following approach works reasonably well. The method of finding biquadratic final polynomials by Bokowski and Richter [BR90], consists of setting up a linear program that encodes the 3-term Graßmann-Plücker relations using the signs of the chirotope is not known, but only the partial chirotope, we can still set up the linear program, only with less constraints. The infeasibility of this program will still prove the existence of a biquadtratic final polynomial.

To summarize, another method for proving that a simplicial sphere is not realizable, without generating all compatible matroid polytopes, is the following:

- i) find a partial chirotope (if there are any compatible uniform matroid polytopes)
- ii) find biquadratic final polynomials for it.

2.4 Computations and hardware

For the calculations of the results presented in Section 3 the systems of (in)equalities from the simplicial complex and face lattices that are passed to SCIP were set up with the computer algebra system Sage $[S^+14]$. The smaller cases were done on a desktop PC, with 8GB of RAM, the larger cases ran on a cluster on about 300 Xeon CPUs with about 3GB RAM each. The time needed for an individual realization varied depending on the dimension and number of points between less than a second and several minutes. In the largest cases the size of the system of (in)equalities passed to SCIP were several hundred megabytes. Sage was also used to verify the solution in exact arithmetic and to prove non-realizability by an implementation of the biquadratic final polynomial method which runs on the partial chirotope.

3 Results

Data for all our results are available at the author's web page:

http://page.mi.fu-berlin.de/moritz/

3.1 Realizations and inscriptions of neighborly polytopes

Miyata and Padrol [MP15] enumerate simplicial neighborly uniform oriented matroids of various ranks and number of elements. This allows us to apply the methods from Section 2 in order to find realizations of those neighborly uniform oriented matroids. A sewing method of Padrol [Pad13] provides many neighborly polytopes, which are also inscribable, see [GP15], and include all simplicial neighborly *d*-polytopes with up to d+3 vertices. We present results on realizability and inscribability for neighborly simplicial *d*-polytopes with *n* vertices for d = 4, 5, 6 and 7 and n > d+3.

3.1.1 Neighborly 4-polytopes

The neighborly 4-polytopes given by Padrol's sewing construction include the 3 combinatorial types of neighborly 4-polytopes with 8 vertices, described in [GS67]. The number combinatorial types of neighborly 4-polytopes with n vertices was previously only known for $n \leq 10$, see A133338. The number of combinatorial types of neighborly 4-polytopes with 9 vertices was determined by Altshuler and Steinberg [AS73], for 10 vertices it was determined by Altshuler [Alt77].

Theorem 21.

- i) All 23 distinct combinatorial types of neighborly 4-polytopes with 9 vertices are inscribable.
- ii) All 431 distinct combinatorial types of neighborly 4-polytopes with 10 vertices are inscribable.
- iii) There are precisely 13 935 distinct combinatorial types of neighborly 4-polytopes with 11 vertices. All of these are inscribable.
- iv) The number of distinct combinatorial types of neighborly 4-polytopes with 12 vertices is 556 061 or 556 062 and at least 556 061 of those are inscribable.

Proof.

- i)-ii) We provide rational inscribed realizations for all known combinatorial types.
 - iii) Out of the 13 937 combinatorial types of neighborly oriented matroids, 2 admit a biquadratic final polynomial, see [MP15, Sect. 4.1.1]. For the remaining combinatorial types we provide rational inscribed realizations
 - iv) We analyzed the 556 144 combinatorial types of neighborly oriented matroids given by Miyata and Padrol [MP15, p. 3]: Using methods from Section 2.1 we realized all but 83 cases. On those we ran the biquadratic final polynomial method and obtained certificates for non-realizability in 82 cases. The only case left is #374225, which has the following facet list: $F374225 = \{[0\,1\,4\,8] \ [0\,1\,4\,10] \ [0\,1\,8\,9] \ [0\,1\,9\,10] \ [0\,2\,3\,6] \ [0\,2\,3\,11] \ [0\,2\,4\,9] \ [0\,2\,4\,11] \ [0\,2\,6\,7] \ [0\,2\,7\,9] \ [0\,3\,6\,7] \ [0\,3\,7\,9] \ [0\,3\,9\,11] \ [0\,4\,5\,8] \ [0\,4\,5\,9] \ [0\,4\,10\,11] \ [0\,5\,8\,9] \ [0\,9\,10\,11] \ [1\,2\,3\,4] \ [1\,2\,3\,8] \ [1\,2\,4\,5] \ [1\,2\,5\,8] \ [1\,3\,4\,11] \ [1\,3\,8\,11] \ [1\,4\,5\,8] \ [1\,4\,10\,11] \ [1\,6\,7\,9] \ [1\,6\,7\,10] \ [1\,6\,8\,9] \ [1\,6\,8\,10] \ [1\,7\,9\,10] \ [1\,8\,10\,11] \ [2\,3\,4\,11] \ [2\,3\,5\,6] \ [2\,3\,5\,10] \ [2\,3\,8\,10] \ [2\,4\,5\,6] \ [2\,4\,6\,7] \ [2\,4\,7\,9] \ [2\,5\,8\,10] \ [3\,5\,6\,11] \ [3\,5\,10\,11] \ [3\,6\,7\,11] \ [3\,7\,9\,11] \ [3\,8\,10\,11] \ [4\,5\,6\,7] \ [4\,5\,7\,9] \ [5\,6\,7\,8] \ [5\,6\,8\,10] \ [5\,6\,10\,11] \ [5\,7\,8\,9] \ [6\,7\,10\,11] \ [7\,9\,10\,11] \}$

It remains to decide realizability in this case. If one can find a final polynomial, then this would be an example without *biquadratic* final polynomial with a smaller number of vertices, than the example provided by Richter-Gebert [RG96], which has 14 elements and is of rank 3.

3.1.2 Simplicial neighborly 5-polytopes

The number of combinatorial types of simplicial neighborly 5-polytopes with 9 vertices was determined by Finbow [Fin14] and also in [FMM13].

Theorem 22.

- i) All 126 distinct combinatorial types of simplicial neighborly 5-polytopes with 9 vertices are inscribable.
- ii) There are precisely 159375 distinct combinatorial types of simplicial neighborly 5-polytopes with 10 vertices. All of these are inscribable.

Proof.

- i) We provide rational inscribed realizations for all known combinatorial types.
- ii) Miyata and Padrol give 159750 neighborly uniform oriented matroids of rank 6 on 10 elements, one for each combinatorial type of face lattice. We realize 159375 of these face lattices, while not paying attention to realizing the specific matroid, and show that they are all inscribable. We use partial information of the chirotope coming from the faces, together with the biquadratic final polynomial method to find certificates for non-realizability for additional 189 face lattices. For the remaining 186 cases in addition to the partial information coming from the faces we use the information coming from Graßmann-Plücker relations. This allows us to determine sufficiently many signs of the chirotope in order to obtain biquadratic final polynomials, see Section 2.3.3.

3.1.3 Neighborly 6-polytopes

The number of combinatorial types of simplicial neighborly 6-polytopes with 10 vertices was determined by Bokowski and Shemer [BS87].

Theorem 23.

- i) All 37 distinct combinatorial types of neighborly 6-polytopes with 10 vertices are inscribable.
- ii) There are precisely 42 099 distinct combinatorial types of neighborly 6-polytopes with 11 vertices. All of these are inscribable.
- iii) There are precisely 4523 simplicial 2-neighborly 6-polytopes with 10 vertices. All of these are inscribable.

Proof. Notice that i) is included in iii). We provide rational inscribed realizations for all combinatorial types. \Box

3.1.4 Simplicial neighborly 7-polytopes

Theorem 24. There are precisely 35 993 distinct combinatorial types of simplicial neighborly 7-polytopes with 11 vertices. All of these are inscribable.

Proof. We provide rational inscribed realizations for all known combinatorial types. \Box

	n = 5	n = 6	n = 7	n = 8	n = 9	n = 10	n = 11	n = 12
d = 4	1	1	1	3	<u>23</u>	<u>431</u>	$\underline{13935}$	${\geq 556061 \over \leq 556062}$
d = 5		1	1	2	126	$\underline{159375}$?	?
d = 6			1	1	1	$\underline{37}$	$\underline{42099}$?
d = 7				1	1	4	$\underline{35993}$?

Table 2: The numbers of combinatorial types of neighborly simplicial d-polytopes with n vertices. **Boldface** results are new. All polytopes in the classes enumerated in this table can be inscribed. <u>Underlined</u> results about inscribability are new.

3.1.5 Summary

We summarize the results in Table 2, compare [MP15, Table 3].

3.2 Simplicial 4-polytopes with 10 vertices.

The number of simplicial 3-polytopes with n vertices is known for $n \leq 23$, see A000109. Because of the connection with planar graphs it is easier to classify simplicial 3-polytopes than simplicial 4-polytopes. The number of simplicial 4-polytopes with n vertices was previously known only for $n \leq 9$, see A222318, see [ABS80] [GS67] [FMM13]. The number of triangulations of S^3 is known for $n \leq 10$.

vertices	triangulations of S^3	non-polytopal	polytopal
5	1	1	0
6	2	2	0
7	5	5	0
8	39	2	37
9	1296	154	1142
10	247882	85878	162004

Table 3: polytopal and non-polytopal simplicial 3-spheres. Boldface results are new.

Frank Lutz gives a complete enumeration of all combinatorial 3-manifolds with 10 vertices in [Lut08]. He finds precisely 247 882 triangulations of S^3 and asked for the number of simplicial polytopes with 10 vertices [Lut08, Prob. 4]: "Classify all simplicial 3-spheres with 10 vertices into polytopal and non-polytopal spheres."

Theorem 25.

- i) There are precisely 162004 distinct combinatorial types of simplicial 4-polytopes with 10 vertices.
- ii) There are precisely 161978 + D distinct combinatorial types of inscribable simplicial 4polytopes with 10 vertices, for some 0 ≤ D ≤ 13.
- iii) All combinatorial types of simplicial 4-polytopes with up to 8 vertices are inscribable.
- iv) Out of the 1142 combinatorial types of 4-polytopes with 9 vertices, precisely 1140 are inscribable.

f-vector	S^3	non-polytopal	polytopal	inscribable	p., non-i. ¹
(10, 30, 40, 20)	30	0	30	27	3
(10, 31, 42, 21)	124	0	124	≤ 119 and ≥ 118	$\geq 5 \text{ and } \leq \underline{6}$
(10, 32, 44, 22)	385	0	385	≤ 381 and ≥ 379	$\geq 4 \text{ and } \leq \underline{6}$
(10, 33, 46, 23)	952	0	952	≤ 951 and ≥ 948	$\geq 1 \text{ and } \leq \underline{4}$
(10, 34, 48, 24)	2142	0	2142	$\leq 2142 \text{ and} \geq 2139$	$\geq 0 \text{ and } \leq \underline{3}$
(10, 35, 50, 25)	4340	28	4312	≤ 4312 and $\geq \underline{4309}$	$\geq 0 \text{ and } \leq \underline{3}$
(10, 36, 52, 26)	8106	151	7955	≤ 7955 and $\geq \underline{7954}$	$\geq 0 \text{ and } \leq \underline{1}$
(10, 37, 54, 27)	13853	583	13270	13270	0
(10, 38, 56, 28)	21702	1862	19840	19840	0
(10, 39, 58, 29)	30526	4547	25979	25979	0
(10, 40, 60, 30)	38553	9267	29286	29286	0
(10, 41, 62, 31)	42498	15680	26818	26818	0
(10, 42, 64, 32)	39299	20645	18654	18654	0
(10, 43, 66, 33)	28087	19027	9060	9060	0
(10, 44, 68, 34)	13745	10979	2766	2766	0
(10, 45, 70, 35)	3540	3109	431	431	0
(10, *, *, *)	247882	85878	162004	≥ 161978	$\leq \underline{26}$
				≤ 161991	≥ 13

Table 4: Simplicial 3-spheres with 10 vertices. Conjectured tight bounds are underlined.

Proof.

- i) Previously it was known that out of the 247 882 triangulations of S^3 , at least 135 317 are polytopal and at least 85 638 are non-polytopal. The last number is largely due to David Bremner. He used his program "matroid polytope completion" (mpc), see [BBG09, Sect. 3] to find matroids for these triangulations. If there are no compatible matroids for a given triangulation, this triangulation cannot be polytopal. This way he could sort out 85 636 cases. Two additional non-realizable cases are the following: there is one nonrealizable neighborly triangulation of S^3 with 10 vertices, see Theorem 21 ii) and there is one non-realizable triangulation of S^3 with f-vector (1, 10, 40, 60, 30), which is discussed under the name T2766 in Section 3.3. We realized 162 004 with methods described in Section 2.1. For the 240 remaining cases, we applied the methods from Section 2.3. In all but one case we could prove the existence of a biquadtratic final polynomial by using only partial chirotopes. In the remaining case, 12418 in Lutz's numbering, we generated all 2985 compatible chirotopes and found biquadtratic final polynomials for all of them.
- ii) We expect D to be zero. We could inscribe all but 26 cases of the 162004 realizable simplicial spheres, and use the criterion for the inscribability for stacked polytopes given by Gonska and Ziegler [GZ13, Th. 1] to show 3 of the combinatorial types of polytopes with *f*-vector (10, 30, 40, 20) are not inscribable. Proving that the other cases cannot be inscribed is work in progress; Hao Chen provides a proof of the non-inscribability of 10 additional cases (private communication).

In Lutz's numbering, the remaining 13 cases are: 2458, 7037, 8059, 8062, 116369, 116370, 116407, 116434, 116437, 134098, 136359, 136366, 136376.

iii) We found rational coordinates on the sphere with methods described in Section 2.1

¹polytopal, but non-inscribable

iv) Here these methods provide rational inscribed realizations for all but 2 out of the 1142 distinct combinatorial types. We could realize the other two combinatorial types, but not with all vertices on the sphere. One case is the 4-simplex, stacked on 4 of its faces; this is non-inscribable because of the criterion given by Gonska and Ziegler. The other case is constructed as follows: Take the direct sum of two triangles and choose a vertex v in it. Then stack on all three facets that do not contain v. A proof of the non-inscribability of this polytope with the name (9,355) was provided by Hao Chen (private communication). He uses methods similiar to those used by Gonska and Ziegler [GZ13].

We observe that these two polytopes are the only 4-polytopes with 9 vertices whose edgegraphs have an independent set of size 4; all the other 1140 polytopes have maximal independent sets of smaller size.

The results are summarized in Tables 4 and 5.

3.3 Manifolds with small valence

We consider a combinatorial analogue of curvature or angular defect.

Definition 26 (valence). We call a (d-2)-face of a *d*-dimensional simplicial complex a *subridge*. The *valence* of a subrigde is the number facets it is contained in.

Frick, Lutz and Sullivan consider simplicial manifolds with small valence [FLS, Fri15]. One case they study in particular are 3-dimensional manifolds with valence less or equal than 5. The result of a computer enumeration by Lutz [Fri15, Th. 3.10]: Out of the 4787 distinct combinatorial types of 3-dimensional manifolds, there are 4761 triangulations of the 3-sphere S^3 .

Previously little was known about the polytopality of most of these spheres. In contrast to Section 3.2 the number of vertices of these triangulation can be larger than 10, it can be in fact be as large as 120. We were able to realize as polytopes, and even better to find inscriptions on the sphere with rational coordinates, for all but 2 of those triangulations of S^3 .

Theorem 27. Out of the 4761 simplicial 3-spheres with small valence at least 4759 are realizable and inscribable.

The triangulations, for which we could not find realizations, are T2766 and T2775 in the numbering used in [Fri15]. The triangulations are given as follows:

Triangulation T2766 cannot be realized as a polytope, as explained in [BS95] and [Fri13]. It remains to show that triangulation T2775 is not polytopal, which is what we expect to be the case.

¹polytopal, but non-inscribable

f-vector	S^3	non-polytopal	polytopal	inscribable	p., non-i. ¹
(5, 10, 10, 5)	1	0	1	1	0
(6, 14, 16, 8)	1	0	1	1	0
(6, 15, 18, 9)	1	0	1	1	0
$(6, \ *, \ *, \ *)$	2	0	2	2	0
(7, 18, 22, 11)	1	0	1	1	0
(7, 19, 24, 12)	2	0	2	2	0
(7, 20, 26, 13)	1	0	1	1	0
(7, 21, 28, 14)	1	0	1	1	0
$(7, \ *, \ *, \ *)$	5	0	5	5	0
(8, 22, 28, 14)	3	0	3	3	0
(8, 23, 30, 15)	5	0	5	5	0
(8, 24, 32, 16)	8	0	8	8	0
(8, 25, 34, 17)	8	0	8	8	0
(8, 26, 36, 18)	6	0	6	6	0
(8, 27, 38, 19)	5	1	4	4	0
(8, 28, 40, 20)	4	1	3	3	0
$(8, \ *, \ *, \ *)$	39	2	37	37	0
(9, 26, 34, 17)	7	0	7	6	1
(9, 27, 36, 18)	23	0	23	22	1
(9, 28, 38, 19)	45	0	45	45	0
(9, 29, 40, 20)	84	0	84	84	0
(9, 30, 42, 21)	128	0	128	128	0
(9, 31, 44, 22)	175	3	172	172	0
(9, 32, 46, 23)	223	11	212	212	0
(9, 33, 48, 24)	231	22	209	209	0
(9, 34, 50, 25)	209	46	163	163	0
(9, 35, 52, 26)	121	45	76	76	0
(9, 36, 54, 27)	51	28	23	23	0
$(9, *, *, \overline{*})$	1296	154	1142	$11\overline{40}$	2

Table 5: Simplicial 3-spheres with ≤ 9 vertices.

3.4 A special inscribed realization for the Bokowski–Ewald–Kleinschmidt polytope

Bokowski, Ewald and Kleinschmidt provide a 4-polytope on 10 vertices with disconnected realization space, see [BEK84] and [BGdO90]. While enumerating all simplicial 4-polytopes with 10 vertices, we also realized this one: it has number 6986 in Lutz's numbering. We provide the following rational coordinates on the sphere:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
$-\frac{20}{583}$	$-\frac{2}{17}$	$-\frac{6}{61}$	$-\frac{5}{18}$	$-\frac{4}{237}$	$\frac{10}{59}$	$\frac{4}{79}$	$\frac{4}{27}$	$\frac{28}{79}$	$\frac{48}{221}$
$\frac{2}{53}$	$\frac{16}{51}$	$\frac{20}{61}$	$-\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{8}{79}$	$\frac{10}{59}$	$-\frac{80}{553}$	$-\frac{40}{189}$	$-\frac{4}{79}$	$\frac{32}{221}$
$\frac{38}{583}$	$-\frac{10}{51}$	$\frac{6}{61}$	$-\frac{1}{18}$	$-\frac{56}{237}$	$\frac{16}{59}$	$\frac{40}{553}$	$-\frac{8}{63}$	$-\frac{20}{79}$	$-\frac{12}{221}$
$\frac{581}{583}$	$\frac{47}{51}$	$\frac{57}{61}$	$\frac{17}{18}$	$\frac{229}{237}$	$\frac{55}{59}$	$\frac{545}{553}$	$\frac{181}{189}$	$\frac{71}{79}$	$\frac{213}{221}$

The polytope has f-vector (1, 10, 38, 56, 28) and its facet list is: { $[0123] [0124] [0134] [0235] [0249] [0259] [0346] [0356] [0467] [0479] [0569] [0679] [1238] [1249] [1258] [1259] [1348] [1489] [1589] [2358] [3467] [3478] [3567] [3578] [4789] [5678] [5689] [6789] }$

We can stack over the facet $[0\,2\,5\,9]$ with the point $(\frac{2}{23}, \frac{5}{23}, \frac{4}{23}, \frac{22}{23})$ and over another facet $[0\,3\,5\,6]$ with the point $(\frac{4}{203}, -\frac{80}{609}, \frac{8}{87}, \frac{601}{609})$. These two facets lie in the same orbit of the involution given by the permutation (1,7)(2,6)(3,9), such that the stacking points are also on the sphere. This gives rise to two configurations of 10 points in \mathbb{R}^3 which have combinatorial equivalent Delaunay triangulations, but lie in distinct components of its realization space.

Theorem 28 ([APT14, Cor. 4.18]). There is a 3-dimensional configuration of 10 points whose Delaunay triangulation has a disconnected realization space.

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