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**Research Article** 

# On small covers over a product of simplices

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we give a formula for the number of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over a product of simplices. We also give an upper bound for the number of small covers over a product of simplices up to homeomorphism.

Key words: Small cover, equivariant homeomorphism, polytope, acyclic digraph

# 1. Introduction

A small cover is a smooth closed manifold  $M^n$  that admits a locally standard  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -action whose orbit space is a simple convex polytope. The notion of a small cover was introduced by Davis and Januszkiewicz [5] as a generalization of real toric manifolds. In [5], it was shown that every small cover over a simple convex polytope  $P^n$  can be obtained from a characteristic function on the set of facets of  $P^n$ . There is a free action of the general linear group  $GL(n,\mathbb{Z}_2)$  on the set of characteristic functions and the orbit space of this action is in one-to-one correspondence with the Davis–Januszkiewicz equivalence classes of small covers. Recently, several studies have been done to calculate the number of Davis–Januszkiewicz equivalence classes of small covers over a specific polytope (see [1, 3, 6]). In [6], Garrison and Scott used a computer program to find the number of small covers over a dodecahedron up to Davis–Januszkiewicz equivalence. In [3], Choi constructed a bijection between the set of Davis–Januszkiewicz equivalence classes of small covers over a product digraphs with *n*-labeled nodes. He also gave a formula for the number of small covers over a product of simplices up to Davis–Januszkiewicz equivalence in terms of acyclic digraphs with labeled nodes.

There is a standard action of the automorphism group of the face poset of  $P^n$  on the set of characteristic functions on  $P^n$ . Lü and Masuda [7] showed that there is a bijection between the set of orbits of this action and the set of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over  $P^n$ . By Burnside's lemma, the number of orbits of an action is the average number of the points fixed by an element of the group. Therefore, one can find the number of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over  $P^n$  by enumerating the number of fixed points of elements of the automorphism group. Using the Burnside lemma, Choi [3] gave a formula for the number of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over a cube, which is the product of 1-simplices. When  $P^n$  is a product of simplices of dimension greater than 1, the action of the automorphism group of the face poset is free. Therefore, the number of equivariant small covers over a product of simplices of dimension greater than 1 is the quotient of the number of the small covers and the order of the automorphism

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group of the face poset. In [2], Chen and Wang directly counted the number of equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over  $\Delta^1 \times \Delta^{n_1} \times \Delta^{n_2}$  and  $\Delta_1 \times \Delta^{n_3}$ , where  $\Delta^{n_i}$  is an  $n_i$ -simplex with  $n_i \ge 1$  for  $1 \le i \le 3$ . In this paper, we use Choi's argument to generalize these formulas to an arbitrary product of simplices.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we recall the basic theory about the small covers over a simple polytope and vector matrices. In Section 3 we obtain a formula for the number of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes over a product of simplices. In Section 4 we give an upper bound for the number of small covers over a product of equidimensional simplices up to homeomorphism.

### 2. Preliminaries

An *n*-dimensional convex polytope P is said to be simple if every vertex of P is the intersection of precisely n facets. A small cover over P is a smooth closed *n*-manifold  $M^n$  that admits a  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -action that is locally isomorphic to a standard action of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and the orbit space of the action is P.

Given a simple convex polytope P of dimension n, let  $\mathcal{F}(P) = \{F_1, \ldots, F_m\}$  be the set of facets of P. A function  $\lambda : \mathcal{F}(P) \to \mathbb{Z}_2^n$  is called a characteristic function if it satisfies the nonsingularity condition that whenever the intersection  $F_{i_1} \cap \cdots \cap F_{i_n}$  is nonempty, the set  $\{\lambda(F_{i_1}), \ldots, \lambda(F_{i_n})\}$  forms a basis for  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ . For a given point  $p \in P$ , let  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n(p)$  be the subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$  generated by  $\lambda(F_{i_1}), \ldots, \lambda(F_{i_k})$  where the intersection  $\bigcap_{j=1}^k F_{i_j}$  is the minimal face containing p in its relative interior. Then the manifold  $M(\lambda) = (P \times \mathbb{Z}_2^n)/\sim$  where

$$(p,g) \sim (q,h)$$
 if  $p = q$  and  $g^{-1}h \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n(p)$ 

is a small cover over P.

**Theorem 2.1** ([5]) For every small cover M over P, there is a characteristic function  $\lambda$  with  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -homeomorphism  $M(\lambda) \to M$  covering the identity on P.

Two small covers  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  over P are said to be DJ-equivalent (Davis–Januszkiewicz equivalent) if there is a weakly  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -homeomorphism  $f: M_1 \to M_2$  covering the identity on P. Following [7], let  $\Lambda(P)$ be the set of all characteristic functions on P. There is a free action of  $GL(n, \mathbb{Z}_2)$  on  $\Lambda(P)$  defined by  $g \cdot \lambda = g \circ \lambda$ . By the above theorem, DJ-equivalence classes of small covers over P bijectively correspond to the coset  $GL(n, \mathbb{Z}_2) \setminus \Lambda(P)$ . In particular,  $|\Lambda(P)|$  is equal to the product of  $|GL(n, \mathbb{Z}_2) \setminus \Lambda(P)|$  and  $|GL(n, \mathbb{Z}_2)| =$  $\prod_{k=1}^{n} (2^n - 2^{k-1})$ .

On the other hand, the equivariant classes of small covers over P are characterized by the action of the automorphism group of the face poset of P. More precisely, let  $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P))$  be the group of bijections from the set of faces of P to itself, which preserves the poset structure. Then  $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P))$  acts on  $\Lambda(P)$  on the right by  $\lambda \cdot h = \lambda \circ h$ . In [7], Lu and Masuda proved the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.2** The set of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -homeomorphism classes of small covers over P corresponds bijectively to the coset  $\Lambda(P)/\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P))$ .

By the above theorem, to find the number of equivariant classes of small covers over P, we need to find the number of orbits of  $\Lambda(P)$  under the action of  $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P))$ . The Burnside lemma reduces this problem to the enumeration of fixed points

$$\Lambda(P)_h = \{\lambda \in \Lambda(P) \mid \lambda(h(F)) = \lambda(F) \text{ for all } F \in \mathcal{F}(P)\}$$

by elements  $h \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P))$ .

**Lemma 2.3 (Burnside lemma)** Let G be a finite group acting on a set X. Then the number of G-orbits of X is equal to  $\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} |X^g|$ , where  $X^g = \{x \in X \mid gx = x\}$ .

Therefore, one can find the number of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over  $P^n$  by enumerating  $\Lambda(P)_h$  for all  $h \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P))$ .

As a combination of the above theorems, we have the following result.

**Theorem 2.4** The number of weakly  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -homeomorphism classes of small covers over P is the size of the double coset  $GL(n,\mathbb{Z}_2)\backslash\Lambda(P)/\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P))$ .

# 3. The number of $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes

Let  $P = \Delta^{n_1} \times \cdots \times \Delta^{n_m}$ , where  $\Delta^{n_i}$  is the standard  $n_i$ -simplex. Let  $\mathcal{G}_m$  be the set of acyclic digraphs with m labeled nodes with labeled vertex set  $V(G) = \{v_1, \ldots, v_m\}$ . Here, a digraph is a graph with at most one edge directed from vertex  $v_i$  to  $v_j$ . A directed graph is said to be acyclic if there is no directed cycle. The outdegree outdeg(v) (the indegree indeg(v)) of a vertex v is the number of edges directed from (to) v. In [3], Choi gave the following formula for the number of small covers over P.

**Theorem 3.1** (Theorem 2.8, [3]) The number of DJ-equivalence classes of small covers over  $P = \Delta^{n_1} \times \cdots \times \Delta^{n_m}$  with  $\sum_{i=1}^m n_i = n$  is

$$|GL(n,\mathbb{Z}_2)\backslash \Lambda(P)| = \sum_{G\in\mathcal{G}_m} \prod_{v_i\in V(G)} (2^{n_i} - 1)^{\operatorname{outdeg}(v_i)}.$$

It is well known that the automorphism group of the face poset of  $\Delta^n$  is the group of permutations on the set of facets, i.e.  $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(\Delta^n)) \cong S_{n+1}$ , where  $S_{n+1}$  is the symmetric group of degree n+1. To understand the automorphism group of  $\mathcal{F}(P)$ , we need to take the number of  $\Delta^n$  occurring in P into account. For this reason, we write

$$P = \prod_{i=1}^{l} P_i, \text{ where } P_i = \Delta_1^{n_i} \times \dots \times \Delta_{m_i}^{n_i},$$

with  $1 \le n_1 < n_2 < \cdots < n_l$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^l n_i m_i = n$ . Then the set of facets of  $P^i$  is

$$\{f_{j,k}^i = \Delta_1^{n_i} \times \dots \times \Delta_{j-1}^{n_i} \times \tilde{f}_{j,k}^i \times \Delta_{j+1}^{n_i} \times \dots \times \Delta_{m_i}^{n_i} | \ 0 \le k \le n_i, \ 1 \le j \le m_i\}$$

where  $\{\tilde{f}^i_{j,0},\ldots,\tilde{f}^i_{j,n_i}\}$  is the set of facets of the simplex  $\Delta^{n_i}_j$ . Therefore, we have

$$\mathcal{F}(P) = \{F_{j,k}^i \mid 0 \le k \le n_i, \ 1 \le j \le m_i, \ 1 \le i \le l\}$$

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where  $F_{j,k}^i = P_1 \times \cdots \times P_{i-1} \times f_{j,k}^i \times P_{i+1} \times \cdots \times P_l$ . Note that there are (n+m)-facets, where  $m = \sum_{i=1}^l m_i$ . Since  $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(\Delta^n)) \cong S_{n+1}$ ,  $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P_i))$  is the wreath product of  $S_{n_{i+1}}$  with  $S_{m_i}$ , where  $\mu \in S_{m_i}$  sends  $f_{j,k}^i$  to  $f_{\mu(j),k}^i$ . More precisely,  $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P_i)) = S_{n_i+1} \wr S_{m_i}$  is equal to  $\underbrace{S_{n_i+1} \times \cdots \times S_{n_i+1}}_{m_i} \times S_{m_i}$  as a set where the

group multiplication is defined by

$$(\sigma_1, \cdots, \sigma_{m_i}, \mu)(\sigma'_1, \cdots, \sigma'_{m_i}, \mu') = (\sigma_1 \sigma'_{\mu^{-1}(1)}, \cdots, \sigma_{m_i} \sigma'_{\mu^{-1}(m_i)}, \mu\mu')$$

for any  $\sigma_i, \sigma'_i \in S_{n_i+1}$  and  $\mu, \mu' \in S_{m_i}$ . Since  $n_1 < n_2 < \cdots < n_l$ , we have the following.

Lemma 3.2 Aut
$$(\mathcal{F}(P)) \cong \prod_{i=1}^{l} \left( S_{n_i+1} \wr S_{m_i} \right).$$

By the nonsingularity condition, a characteristic function must send any set obtained by taking  $n_i$ -many elements from  $\{F_{j,k}^i|0 \le k \le n_i\}$  for each  $1 \le j \le m_i$  and  $1 \le i \le l$  to a basis of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ . When  $1 < n_1$ , more than one element is arbitrarily chosen from each set. However, for every nontrivial element g of  $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P))$ , there exist  $1 \le j \le m_i$  and  $1 \le i \le l$  for which at least two elements from the set  $\{F_{j,k}^i|0 \le k \le n_i\}$  are not fixed by g. Therefore, g cannot fix any characteristic function. This means that the action of  $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P))$  on  $\mathcal{F}(P)$  is free and hence the number of equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over P with  $n_1 > 1$  is

$$\frac{|\Lambda(P)|}{|\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P))|} = \frac{|\Lambda(P)|}{\prod\limits_{i=1}^{l} [(n_i+1)!]^{m_i}(m_i)!}$$

Since  $|GL(n,\mathbb{Z}_2)| = \prod_{k=1}^n (2^n - 2^{k-1})$ , by the above theorem we have:

**Corollary 3.3** Let  $P = \prod_{i=1}^{l} \Delta_1^{n_i} \times \cdots \times \Delta_{m_i}^{n_i}$  with  $\sum_{i=1}^{l} m_i = m$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^{l} n_i m_i = n$ . Define a function  $n : \{1, \ldots, m\} \rightarrow \{n_1, \ldots, n_l\}$  by  $n(s) = n_i$  whenever  $k_1 + \cdots + k_{i-1} + 1 \le s \le k_1 + \cdots + m_i$ . Then the number of equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over P with  $n_1 > 1$  is

$$\frac{|\Lambda(P)|}{|\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P))|} = \frac{\left(\prod_{k=1}^{n} (2^{n} - 2^{k-1})\right) \left(\sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}_{m}} \prod_{v_{s} \in V(G)} (2^{n(s)} - 1)^{\operatorname{outdeg}(v_{s})}\right)}{\prod_{i=1}^{l} [(n_{i} + 1)!]^{m_{i}}(m_{i})!}$$

When  $n_1 = 1$ , the only elements of Aut( $\mathcal{F}(P)$ ) that have a fixed point are the ones of the form

$$\chi_1^{\epsilon_1} \cdots \chi_{m_1}^{\epsilon_{m_1}}, \ \epsilon_i \in \mathbb{Z}_2$$

where  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_{m_1}$  are the reflections in Aut $(\mathcal{F}(I^{m_1}))$ . To count the number of elements in  $\Lambda(P)_{\chi_1^{\epsilon_1}\dots\chi_{m_1}^{\epsilon_{m_1}}}$ , first note that it is a  $GL(n,\mathbb{Z}_2)$ -invariant subset of  $\Lambda(P)$ . Since the action of  $GL(n,\mathbb{Z}_2)$  is free, we have

$$|\Lambda(P)_{\chi_1^{\epsilon_1}\cdots\chi_{m_1}^{\epsilon_{m_1}}}| = |GL(n,\mathbb{Z}_2)| \times |GL(n,\mathbb{Z}_2) \setminus \Lambda(P)_{\chi_1^{\epsilon_1}\cdots\chi_{m_1}^{\epsilon_{m_1}}}|.$$

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To find  $|GL(n,\mathbb{Z}_2)\setminus \Lambda(P)_{\chi_1^{\epsilon_1}\cdots\chi_{m_1}^{\epsilon_{m_1}}}|$  we use the correspondence given by Choi [3]. By the nonsingularity condition, for any  $\lambda \in \Lambda(P)$ , the vectors

$$\lambda(F_{1,1}^1), \dots, \lambda(F_{m_1,1}^1), \lambda(F_{1,1}^2), \lambda(F_{1,2}^2), \dots, \lambda(F_{1,n_2}^2), \lambda(F_{2,1}^2), \dots, \lambda(F_{m_l,1}^l), \dots, \lambda(F_{m_l,n_l}^l)$$
(1)

form a basis for  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ . For each coset in  $GL(n,\mathbb{Z}_2)\setminus \Lambda(P)_{\chi_1^{e_1}\cdots\chi_{m_1}^{e_{m_1}}}$ , choose a representative  $\lambda$  for which the vectors in (1) correspond to the standard basis elements

$$e_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0), \dots, e_n = (0, \dots, 0, 1),$$

respectively. More precisely, we have

$$\lambda(F_{j,k}^{i}) = e_{m_{1}n_{1} + \dots + m_{i-1}n_{i-1} + (j-1)n_{i} + k}$$

for  $1 \leq i \leq l$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq m_i$  and  $1 \leq k \leq n_i$ . Let  $A(\epsilon_1, \ldots, \epsilon_{m_1})$  be the set of such representatives. For the remaining facets, we write  $F_{j,0}^i =: F_{m_1+\cdots+m_{i-1}+j}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq l$  and  $1 \leq j \leq m_i$ . Then we have

$$\lambda(F_p) = \sum_{q=1}^n a_{qp} e_q.$$

We can view the corresponding  $(n \times m)$ -matrix  $\Lambda = [a_{pq}]$  as an  $(m \times m)$ -vector matrix  $[\mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{pq}}]$  whose entries in the *p*th row are vectors in  $\mathbb{Z}_2^{n(p)}$  where n(p) is defined as in Corollary 3.3. We refer reader to [4] for details. Let  $\Lambda_{s_1 \cdots s_m}$  be the  $(m \times m)$ -submatrix of  $\Lambda$  whose *i*th row is the  $s_i$  th row of  $[\mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{pq}}]$ . Then  $\lambda$  satisfies the singularity condition if and only if every principal minor of  $\Lambda_{s_1 \cdots s_m}$  is 1 for any  $1 \leq s_1 \leq n(1), \dots, 1 \leq s_m \leq n(m)$ .

**Theorem 3.4** 
$$|\Lambda(P)_{\chi_1^{\epsilon_1} \dots \chi_{m_1}^{\epsilon_{m_1}}}| = \Big(\prod_{k=1}^n (2^n - 2^{k-1})\Big)\Big(\sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}_m(\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_{m_1})} \prod_{v_i \in V(G)} (2^{n_i} - 1)^{\operatorname{outdeg}(v_i)}\Big)$$

where  $\mathcal{G}_m(\epsilon_1, \ldots, \epsilon_{m_1})$  is the set of acyclic digraphs with m labeled nodes  $\{v_1, \ldots, v_m\}$  such that  $indeg(v_i) = 0$ whenever  $\epsilon_i = 1$  for  $1 \le i \le m_1$ .

**Proof** Without loss of generality, we assume that  $\epsilon_i = 1$  for  $1 \le i \le t \le m_1$  and  $\epsilon_i = 0$  for  $t < i \le m_1$ . Let  $A = A(\underbrace{1, \dots, 1}_{t}, 0, \dots, 0)$ . For  $\lambda \in A$ , let  $\Lambda = [\mathbf{v_{ij}}]$  be the  $(m \times m)$ -vector matrix corresponding to  $\lambda$ .

Let  $B(\Lambda) =: [b_{ij}]$  be the  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -matrix whose (i, j) th entry is 1 if  $\mathbf{v}_{ij}$  is nonzero and 0 otherwise. By Lemma 5.1 in [4],  $\Lambda$  is conjugate to a unipotent upper triangular vector matrix. Therefore,  $B(\Lambda) - I_m$ , where  $I_m$  is the  $(m \times m)$  identity matrix, is an adjacency matrix of an acyclic digraph. Define  $\phi$  from A to  $\mathcal{G}_m$  by  $\phi(\lambda) = G$ where the adjacency matrix of G is  $B(\Lambda) - I_m$ .

Since  $\lambda \in A$ ,  $b_{ij} = 0$  for  $i \neq j$  where  $1 \leq j \leq t$  and  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Therefore, the image of  $\phi$  is indeed  $\mathcal{G}_m(\epsilon_1, \ldots, \epsilon_{m_1})$ . For  $G \in \mathcal{G}_m(\epsilon_1, \ldots, \epsilon_{m_1})$ , we have

$$|\phi^{-1}(G)| = \prod_{v_i \in V(G)} (2^{n_i} - 1)^{\operatorname{outdeg}(v_i)},$$

as shown in the proof of Theorem 2.8 in [3].

Therefore, by the Burnside lemma, we have the following result.

**Theorem 3.5** The number of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over P with  $n_1 = 1$  is

$$\left(\frac{\sum\limits_{(\epsilon_1,\dots,\epsilon_{m_1})\in\{0,1\}^{m_1}G\in\mathcal{G}_m(\epsilon_1,\dots,\epsilon_{m_1})v_i\in V(G)}\prod\limits_{i=1}^{n} (2^{n_i}-1)^{\mathrm{outdeg}(v_i)}}{\prod\limits_{i=1}^{l} [(n_i+1)!]^{m_i}(m_i)!}\right)\cdot\prod\limits_{k=1}^{n} (2^n-2^{k-1})$$

where  $\mathcal{G}_m(\epsilon_1, \ldots, \epsilon_{m_1})$  is the set of acyclic digraphs with m labeled nodes  $\{v_1, \ldots, v_m\}$  such that  $indeg(v_i) = 0$ whenever  $\epsilon_i = 1$  for  $1 \le i \le m_1$ .

Let  $A_{mr}$  be the number of acyclic digraphs with m labeled nodes and r edges where the labeled vertex set is  $\{v_1, \ldots, v_m\}$ . For  $\alpha \subseteq \{v_1, \cdots, v_m\}$ , let  $A_m^{\alpha}$  be the number of acyclic digraphs with m labeled nodes  $\{v_1, \ldots, v_m\}$  such that indeg(v) = 0 for all  $v \in \alpha$  and  $A_{mr}^{\alpha}$  be the number of such acyclic digraphs with redges.

**Corollary 3.6** (Theorem 3.3, [3]) If  $P = I^n$  then the number of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over P is

$$\left(\frac{\sum_{i=0}^{n} \binom{n}{i} 2^{i(n-i)} A_{i}}{2^{n} n!}\right) \cdot \prod_{k=1}^{n} (2^{n} - 2^{k-1}).$$

**Proof** Let  $\alpha(\epsilon_1, \cdots, \epsilon_n) = \{v_i | \epsilon_i = 1\}$ . Then

$$|\Lambda(P)_{\chi_1^{\epsilon_1}\cdots\chi_n^{\epsilon_n}}| = \Big(\prod_{k=1}^n (2^n - 2^{k-1})\Big)A_n^{\alpha(\epsilon_1,\cdots,\epsilon_n)}.$$

By (4) in [8], for any  $\alpha \subseteq \{v_1, \cdots, v_n\},\$ 

$$A_n^{\alpha} = \sum_{r \ge 0} \sum_{k=0}^r \binom{|\alpha|(n-|\alpha|)}{r-k} A_{n-|\alpha|,k}.$$

Therefore, we have

$$\sum_{(\epsilon_{1},\dots,\epsilon_{n})\in\{0,1\}^{n}} A_{n}^{\alpha(\epsilon_{1},\dots,\epsilon_{n})} = \sum_{\alpha\subseteq\{v_{1},\dots,v_{n}\}} A_{n}^{\alpha} = \sum_{\alpha\subseteq\{v_{1},\dots,v_{n}\}} \sum_{r\geq0} \sum_{k=0}^{r} \binom{|\alpha|(n-|\alpha|)}{r-k} A_{n-|\alpha|,k}$$
$$= \sum_{i=0}^{n} \binom{n}{i} \sum_{r\geq0} \sum_{k=0}^{r} \binom{i(n-i)}{r-k} A_{i,k}$$
$$= \sum_{i=0}^{n} \binom{n}{i} \sum_{k\geq0} \left(\sum_{r\geq k} \binom{i(n-i)}{r-k}\right) A_{i,k}$$
$$= \sum_{i=0}^{n} \binom{n}{i} \sum_{k\geq0} 2^{i(n-i)} A_{i,k} = \sum_{i=0}^{n} \binom{n}{i} 2^{i(n-i)} A_{i}$$

as desired.

Let  $P = I \times \Delta^n$  with  $n \ge 2$ . There are three acyclic digraphs with 2 labeled nodes  $\{v_1, v_2\}$ :

$$G_1: \underset{v_1}{\bullet} \quad \underset{v_2}{\bullet}, \quad G_2: \underset{v_1}{\bullet} \longrightarrow \underset{v_2}{\bullet}, \quad \text{and} \quad G_3: \underset{v_1}{\bullet} \longleftarrow \underset{v_2}{\bullet}.$$

Since  $m_1 = 1$  in the formula of Theorem 3.5, we have  $\mathcal{G}(0) = \{G_1, G_2, G_3\}$  and  $\mathcal{G}(1) = \{G_1, G_2\}$ . Thus, we obtain:

**Corollary 3.7** (Theorem 4.2, [2]) If  $P = I \times \Delta^n$  with  $n \ge 2$ , the number of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over P is

$$\left(\frac{2^n+3}{2(n+1)!}\right)\prod_{t=1}^{n+1}(2^{n+1}-2^{t-1}).$$

In a similar way, by listing the acyclic digraphs of 3 vertices, one can obtain the following result due to Chen and Wang.

**Corollary 3.8** (Theorem 4.1, [2]) If  $P = I \times \Delta^n \times \Delta^m$  then the number of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over P is

$$1. \quad \frac{\prod_{t=1}^{n+m+1} (2^{n+m+1} - 2^{t-1})}{2(n+1)!(m+1)!} \left( 2^{2n+m} + 2^{n+2m} + 2^{2n} + 2^{2m} + 3 \cdot 2^{n+1} + 3 \cdot 2^{m+1} - 2^{n+m} - 7 \right) \text{ if } 1 < n < m \,,$$

2. 
$$\frac{\prod_{t=1}^{n+m+1}(2^{n+m+1}-2^{t-1})}{4(n+1)!(m+1)!} \left(2^{3n+1}+2^{2n}+3\cdot 2^{n+2}-7\right) \text{ if } 1 < n=m,$$

3. 
$$\frac{\prod_{t=1}^{n+2} (2^{n+2} - 2^{t-1})}{8(m+1)!} \left( 3 \cdot 2^{2m} + 3 \cdot 2^{m+2} + 8 \right) \text{ if } 1 = n < m.$$

### 4. The number of weakly equivariant homeomorphism classes

By Theorem 2.4 the number of weakly  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over a simple polytope P is equal to the size of the double coset on  $\Lambda(P)$  by  $GL(n,\mathbb{Z}_2)$  and  $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P))$ . Therefore, the number of weakly  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over  $P = \prod_{i=1}^l P_i$ , where  $P_i =$ 

$$\Delta_1^{n_i} \times \dots \times \Delta_{m_i}^{n_i} \text{ with } 1 \le n_1 < n_2 < \dots < n_l, \sum_{i=1}^l m_i = m \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^l n_i m_i = n, \text{ is}$$
$$|A(P) / \prod_{i=1}^l (S_{n_i+1} \wr S_{m_i})|$$

where  $A(P) = A(0, \dots, 0)$ .

Consider the subgroup  $H = \prod_{i=1}^{l} S_{m_i} \leq \operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{F}(P))$ . Note that an element  $\mu \in S_{m_i}$  acts on A(P)by  $\lambda \cdot \mu = \lambda_{\mu}$  where  $\lambda_{\mu} \in A(P)$  corresponds to a class represented by the characteristic function that sends  $F_{q,r}^p$  to  $\lambda(F_{\mu(q),r}^i)$  if p = i and to  $\lambda(F_{q,r}^p)$  otherwise. Let  $\overline{\mu} \in S_n$  be the permutation that sends  $m_1n_1 + \cdots + m_{i-1}n_{i-1} + (j-1)n_i + k$  to  $m_1n_1 + \cdots + m_{i-1}n_{i-1} + (\mu(j)-1)n_i + k$  for  $1 \le j \le m_i$ ,  $1 \le k \le n_i$ and fixes other elements. Then the matrix  $\Lambda_{\mu}$  corresponding to  $\lambda_{\mu}$  is

$$P(\overline{\mu})^{-1}\Lambda P(\mu)$$

where  $P(\sigma)$  denotes the permutation matrix corresponding to a permutation  $\sigma$ . This is the conjugation action of  $H = \prod_{i=1}^{l} S_{m_i} \leq S_m$  on the set of  $(m \times m)$ -vector matrices. It corresponds to an action of  $H \leq S_m$  on the acyclic digraph with *m*-labeled nodes  $\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$  given by

$$\mu \cdot v_j = \begin{cases} v_{\mu(j)}, & \text{if } m_1 + \dots + m_{i-1} + 1 \le j \le m_1 + \dots + m_i \\ v_j, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for any  $\mu \in S_{m_i}$ . Therefore, when l = 1, we have the following generalization of Theorem 4.1 in [3].

**Theorem 4.1** The number of weakly  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ -equivariant homeomorphism classes of small covers over  $P = \Delta_1^k \times \cdots \times \Delta_m^k$  with mk = n is less than or equal to

$$\sum_{G\in\overline{\mathcal{G}}_m} (2^k - 1)^{|E(G)|}$$

where  $\overline{\mathcal{G}}_m$  is the set of acyclic digraphs with m unlabeled nodes and E(G) is the set of edges of the graph G.

**Corollary 4.2** The number of homeomorphism classes of small covers over  $P = \Delta_1^k \times \cdots \times \Delta_m^k$  with mk = n is less than or equal to

$$\sum_{G\in\overline{\mathcal{G}}_m} (2^k - 1)^{|E(G)|}$$

where  $\overline{\mathcal{G}}_m$  is the set of acyclic digraphs with m unlabeled nodes.

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