

REAL TORIC MANIFOLDS AND SHELLABLE POSETS ARISING FROM  
 GRAPHS

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The purpose of this paper is to introduce joint work with Boram Park [12] from a toric topological view.

1. MOTIVATION

Throughout this paper, a graph permits multiple edges but not a loop, and a simple graph means a graph having neither multiple edges nor a loop.

A *toric variety* of complex dimension  $n$  is a normal algebraic variety over  $\mathbb{C}$  with an effective action of  $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$  having an open dense orbit. A *real toric manifold* is the subset consisting of points with real coordinates of a complete smooth toric variety. The fundamental theorem of toric geometry says that there is a one-to-one correspondence between the class of toric varieties of complex dimension  $n$  and the class of fans in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . In particular, for a complete smooth toric variety  $X$ , the fan  $\Sigma_X$  is complete and smooth. Furthermore, if a smooth toric variety  $X$  is projective, then  $\Sigma_X$  can be realized as the normal fan of a Delzant polytope in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , where a *Delzant polytope* is a simple convex polytope such that the  $n$  primitive vectors (outwardly) normal to the facets meeting at each vertex form a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -basis. Note that the normal fan of a Delzant polytope is a complete non-singular fan and hence it defines a complete smooth toric variety and a real toric manifold as well.

It is known by Danilov [10] and Jurkiewicz [11] that the (integral) Betti numbers of a complete smooth toric variety  $X$  vanish in odd degrees and the  $2i$ th Betti number of  $X$  is equal to  $h_i$ , where  $(h_0, \dots, h_n)$  is the  $h$ -vector of  $\Sigma_X$ . Note that the  $i$ th mod 2 Betti number of a real toric manifold  $X_{\mathbb{R}}$  is also equal to  $h_i$ . However, unlike toric varieties, only little is known about the cohomology of real toric manifolds. In [14] and [15], Suciu and Trevisan have found a formula for the rational cohomology groups of a real toric manifold, see also [8].

Recently, the rational Betti numbers of some interesting family of real toric manifolds, arising from graphs, have been formulated in terms of some posets determined by a graph by using the Suciu-Trevisan formula, see [7,9]. For a graph  $G$ , a simple polytope  $P_G$  was introduced in [5,6] as iterated truncations of the product of standard simplices.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore,  $P_G$  can be realized as a Delzant polytope canonically, see [7,9] for more details. Hence there is a real toric manifold  $M_G$  corresponding to a graph  $G$ .

**Theorem 1.1** ([9]). *The  $i$ th rational Betti number of the real toric manifold  $M_G$  is*

$$\beta^i(M_G) = \sum_{\substack{H: \text{PI-graph} \\ \text{of } G}} \sum_{A \in \mathcal{A}(H)} \tilde{\beta}^{i-1}(\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}}_{H,A}^{\text{odd}})),$$

where  $\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}}_{H,A}^{\text{odd}})$  is the ordered complex of the proper part of the poset  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{odd}}$ .

In Section 2, we will define a PI-graph  $H$  of  $G$ , an admissible collection  $\mathcal{A}(H)$  of  $H$ , the poset  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{odd}}$ , and the poset  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}$  satisfying that  $\tilde{H}^i(\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}}_{H,A}^{\text{odd}})) \cong \tilde{H}_{\dim(P_H)-i-2}(\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}))$ .

<sup>1</sup>In [5],  $G$  is assumed to be simple and  $P_G$  is called a graph associahedron, but in [6],  $G$  is not necessarily simple and  $P_G$  is called a pseudograph associahedron. Note that  $G$  having a loop defines an unbounded polyhedron.

A simplicial complex is *shellable* if its facets can be arranged in linear order  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_t$  in such a way that the subcomplex  $(\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \overline{F_i}) \cap \overline{F_k}$  is pure and  $(\dim F_k - 1)$ -dimensional for all  $k = 2, \dots, t$ . A bounded<sup>2</sup> poset  $\mathcal{P}$  is said to be *shellable* if its order complex  $\Delta(\mathcal{P})$  is shellable. It is shown in [3] that for a shellable poset  $\mathcal{P}$ , the order complex  $\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}})$  is homotopy equivalent to a wedge of spheres (of various dimensions).

**Theorem 1.2** ([7]). *Let  $H$  be a simple graph. If each of connected components of  $H$  has even number of vertices, then  $\mathcal{A}(H) = \{V(H)\}$  and  $\mathcal{P}_{H,V(H)}^{\text{even}}$  is pure and shellable; otherwise  $\mathcal{A}(H) = \emptyset$ . Furthermore,*

$$(1.1) \quad \beta^i(M_G) = \sum_{\substack{I \subseteq V(G) \\ |I|=2i}} \mu(\mathcal{P}_{G|I,I}^{\text{even}}),$$

where  $G|_I$  is the subgraph of  $G$  induced by  $I$  and  $\mu(\mathcal{P}_{G|I,I}^{\text{even}})$  is the Möbius invariant of the poset  $\mathcal{P}_{G|I,I}^{\text{even}}$ .

For instance, for a simple connected path graph,

$$(1.2) \quad \mu(\mathcal{P}_{P_{2k}, [2k]}^{\text{even}}) = \frac{1}{k+1} \binom{2k}{k} \text{ and } \beta^i(M_{P_n}) = \binom{n}{i} - \binom{n}{i-1}$$

for  $1 \leq i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ , where  $[2k] = \{1, 2, \dots, 2k\}$ . Note that  $\frac{1}{k+1} \binom{2k}{k}$  is known as the  $k$ th Catalan number and denoted by  $C_k$ . In [7], we can find not only (1.2) but also the explicit formula for the rational Betti numbers of  $M_G$  when  $G$  is a complete graph, a cycle graph, or a star graph. The rational Betti numbers of  $M_G$  for complete multipartite graphs are computed in [13].

When  $G$  is a simple graph, every PI-graph of  $G$  is an induced subgraph of  $G$ , and hence Theorem 1.1 is a generalization of (1.1). But, in general, for a non-simple graph  $G$ , our posets  $\mathcal{P}_{H,G}^{\text{even}}$  and  $\mathcal{P}_{H,G}^{\text{odd}}$  are not necessarily to be pure, and many of them are not shellable.

**Question** ([9]). For a graph  $G$ , let  $\mathcal{A}^*(G) = \{(H, A) \mid H \text{ is a PI-graph of } G \text{ and } A \in \mathcal{A}(H)\}$ . Find all graphs  $G$  such that  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}$  is shellable for every  $(H, A) \in \mathcal{A}^*(G)$ .

In [12], we answer the question above and give an explicit formula for the rational Betti numbers of the real toric manifolds corresponding to some path graphs having multiple edges.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

In this section, we introduce some properties of the polytope  $P_G$ , and prepare some notions and basic facts about a poset and its shellability.

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph. An edge  $e \in E$  is *multiple* if there exists an edge  $e' (\neq e)$  in  $E$  such that  $e$  and  $e'$  have the same pair of endpoints. A *bundle* of  $G$  is a maximal set of multiple edges which have the same pair of endpoints.<sup>3</sup> A subgraph  $H$  of  $G$  is an *induced* (respectively, *semi-induced*) subgraph of  $G$  if  $H$  includes all the edges (respectively, at least one edge) between every pair of vertices in  $H$  if such edges exist in  $G$ .

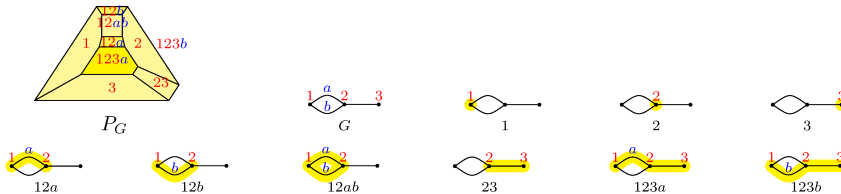
**Properties of  $P_G$ .** Let  $G$  be a connected graph with vertex set  $V$  and bundles  $B_1, \dots, B_k$ .

- (1) The polytope  $P_G$  is constructed from  $\Delta^{|V|-1} \times \Delta^{|B_1|-1} \times \dots \times \Delta^{|B_k|-1}$  by truncating the faces corresponding to the proper connected semi-induced subgraphs of  $G$ .<sup>4</sup>
- (2) There is a one-to-one correspondence between the facets of  $P_G$  and the proper connected semi-induced subgraphs of  $G$ .

<sup>2</sup>A poset  $\mathcal{P}$  is said to be *bounded* if it has a unique minimum, denoted by  $\hat{0}$ , and a unique maximum, denoted by  $\hat{1}$ . We denote by  $\overline{\mathcal{P}} = \mathcal{P} - \{\hat{0}, \hat{1}\}$ .

<sup>3</sup>Each bundle of a graph has at least two elements.

<sup>4</sup>The reader can find the detailed construction of  $P_G$  in [6, 9].

FIGURE 1. The facets of  $P_G$  and the proper semi-induced connected subgraphs of  $G$ 

- (3) Two facets  $F_H$  and  $F_{H'}$  of  $P_G$  intersect if and only if  $H$  and  $H'$  are disjoint and cannot be connected by an edge of  $G$ , or one contains the other. See Figure 1.

If  $G_1, \dots, G_\ell$  are connected components of  $G$ , then  $P_G = P_{G_1} \times \dots \times P_{G_\ell}$ .

A graph  $H$  is a *partial underlying graph* of  $G$  if  $H$  can be obtained from  $G$  by replacing some bundles with simple edges, that is, every bundle of  $H$  is also a bundle of  $G$ . A graph  $H$  is a *partial underlying induced graph* (PI-graph for short) of  $G$  if  $H$  is an induced subgraph of some partial underlying graph of  $G$ . Now we let  $\mathcal{C}_G$  be the set of all the vertices and multiple edges of  $G$ . Then every semi-induced subgraph of  $G$  can be expressed as a subset of  $\mathcal{C}_G$  and for a PI-graph  $H$  of  $G$ ,  $\mathcal{C}_H$  is inherited from  $\mathcal{C}_G$ . See Figures 1 and 2.

For a connected graph  $H$ , a subset  $A \subset \mathcal{C}_H$  is *admissible* to  $H$  if the following hold:

- (1)  $|A \cap V(H)| \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$  and each vertex incident to only simple edges of  $H$  is contained in  $A$ ,
- (2)  $B \cap A \neq \emptyset$  and  $|B \cap A| \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , for each bundle  $B$  of  $H$ .

For a disconnected graph  $H$ ,  $A \subset \mathcal{C}_H$  is *admissible* to  $H$  if  $\mathcal{C}_{H_i} \cap A$  is admissible to  $H_i$  for each component  $H_i$  of  $H$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{A}(H)$  the set of all the admissible collections of  $H$ . For each  $H_i$  in Figure 2, we have  $\mathcal{A}(H_1) = \{1234\}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}(H_2) = \{1234ab, 34ab\}$ , and  $\mathcal{A}(H_3) = \{1234cd, 1234ce, 1234de, 14cd, 14ce, 14de\}$ .

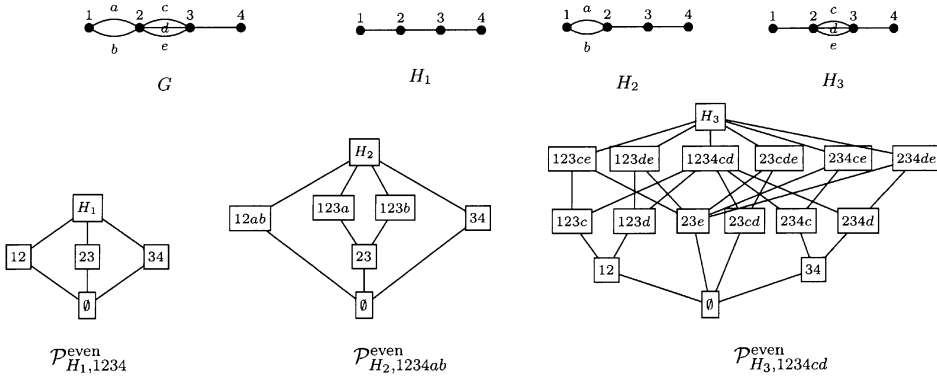
For each  $A \in \mathcal{A}(H)$ , a semi-induced subgraph  $I$  of  $H$  is *A-even* (respectively, *A-odd*) if  $|I \cap A|$  is even (respectively, odd) for each component  $I'$  of  $I$ . Now we define the poset  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}$  (respectively,  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{odd}}$ ) by the poset consisting of all *A-even* (respectively, *A-odd*) semi-induced subgraphs of  $H$  ordered by subgraph containment, including both  $\emptyset$  and  $H$ . Note that if  $\mathcal{A}(H) = \emptyset$  then  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}$  and  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{odd}}$  are defined to be the null poset, and if  $\mathcal{A}(H) \neq \emptyset$  then  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}$  and  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{odd}}$  are bounded posets. Figure 2 gives examples of  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}$ .

Note that for a graph  $H$ ,  $\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}})$  (respectively,  $\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{odd}}})$ ) is a geometric subdivision of the simplicial complex dual to the union of the facets  $F_I$  of the polytope  $P_H$  such that  $|I \cap A|$  is even (respectively, odd). Hence, from the Alexander duality, we have  $\tilde{H}^i(\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{odd}}})) \cong \tilde{H}^{\dim(P_H)-i-2}(\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}}))$ .

For a bounded poset  $\mathcal{P}$ , we denote by  $\mathcal{ME}(\mathcal{P})$  the set of pairs  $(\sigma, x < y)$  consisting of a maximal chain  $\sigma$  and a cover  $x < y$  along that chain. For  $x, y \in \mathcal{P}$  and a maximal chain  $r$  of  $[\hat{0}, x]$ , the closed rooted interval  $[x, y]_r$  of  $\mathcal{P}$  is a subposet of  $\mathcal{P}$  obtained from  $[x, y]$  adding the chain  $r$ . A *chain-edge labeling* of  $\mathcal{P}$  is a map  $\lambda: \mathcal{ME}(\mathcal{P}) \rightarrow \Lambda$ , where  $\Lambda$  is some poset satisfying; if two maximal chains coincide along their bottom  $d$  covers, then their labels also coincide along those covers. A *chain-lexicographic labeling* (CL-labeling for short) of a bounded poset  $\mathcal{P}$  is a *chain-edge labeling* such that for each closed rooted interval  $[x, y]_r$  of  $\mathcal{P}$ , there is a unique strictly increasing maximal chain, which lexicographically precedes all other maximal chains of  $[x, y]_r$ . A poset that admits a CL-labeling is said to be *CL-shellable*. We can easily see that  $\mathcal{P}_{H_1,1234}^{\text{even}}$  and  $\mathcal{P}_{H_2,1234ab}^{\text{even}}$  are CL-shellable.

Given a CL-labeling  $\lambda: \mathcal{ME}(\mathcal{P}) \rightarrow \Lambda$ , a maximal chain  $\sigma: x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_\ell$  of  $\mathcal{P}$  is called a *falling chain* if  $\lambda(\sigma, x_{i-1} < x_i) \geq_\Lambda \lambda(\sigma, x_i < x_{i+1})$  for every  $1 \leq i < \ell$ .

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FIGURE 2. Examples for PI-graphs of  $G$  and the posets  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}$ 

**Theorem 2.1** ([1, 3, 4]). *The following hold:*

- (1) *If a bounded poset  $\mathcal{P}$  is CL-shellable, then  $\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}})$  has the homotopy type of a wedge of spheres. Furthermore, for any fixed CL-labeling, the  $i$ th reduced Betti number of  $\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}})$  is equal to the number of falling chains of length  $i + 2$ .*
- (2) *Every (closed) interval of a shellable (respectively, CL-shellable) poset is shellable (respectively, CL-shellable).*
- (3) *The product of bounded posets is shellable (respectively, CL-shellable) if and only if each of the posets is shellable (respectively, CL-shellable).*
- (4) *A bounded poset is pure and totally semimodular, then it is CL-shellable.*

By (1) of Theorem 2.1, both  $\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{H_1,1234}^{\text{even}}})$  and  $\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{H_2,1234ab}^{\text{even}}})$  in Figure 2 have the homotopy type  $S^0 \vee S^0$  because they have two falling chains of length 2 for any CL-labelling. Theorem 2.1 shows that  $\mathcal{P}_{H_3,1234cd}^{\text{even}}$  is not shellable because the interval  $[\emptyset, 1234cd]$  is not shellable.

An alternative approach to CL-shellability, via so-called “recursive atom orderings”, was introduced in [2, 3].

**Definition 2.2.** A bounded poset  $\mathcal{P}$  admits a recursive atom ordering if its length  $\ell(\mathcal{P})$  is 1, or  $\ell(\mathcal{P}) > 1$  and there is an ordering  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_t$  of the atoms of  $\mathcal{P}$  satisfying the following:

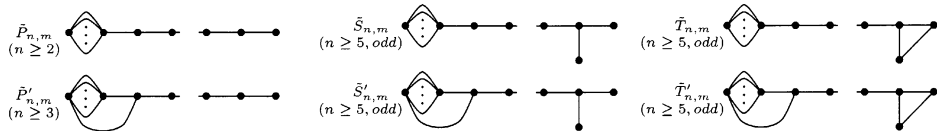
- (1) For all  $j = 1, \dots, t$ , the interval  $[\alpha_j, \hat{1}]$  admits a recursive atom ordering in which the atoms of  $[\alpha_j, \hat{1}]$  that belong to  $[\alpha_i, \hat{1}]$  for some  $i < j$  come first.
- (2) For all  $i, j$  with  $1 \leq i < j \leq t$ , if  $\alpha_i, \alpha_j < y$  then there exist an integer  $k$  and an atom  $z$  of  $[\alpha_j, \hat{1}]$  such that  $1 \leq k < j$  and  $\alpha_k < z \leq y$ .

**Theorem 2.3** ([3]). *A bounded poset admits a recursive atom ordering if and only if it is CL-shellable.*

### 3. MAIN RESULT AND ITS APPLICATION

In this section, we introduce the main result in [12] and give the formula for the rational Betti numbers of  $M_{\tilde{P}_{n,2}}$  as an application, where  $\tilde{P}_{n,2}$  is a graph in Figure 3.

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be the collection of graphs whose connected components are simple or belong to the list in Figure 3.

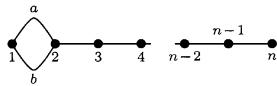
FIGURE 3. Non-simple connected graphs with  $n$  vertices and  $m$  multiple edges ( $m \geq 2$ )

**Theorem 3.1** (Main result in [12]). *Let  $G$  be a graph. Then  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}$  is CL-shellable for every  $(H, A) \in \mathcal{A}^*(G)$  if and only if  $G$  belongs to  $\mathcal{G}$ .*

*Sketch of proof.* The proof of ‘only if’ part relies on (2) of Theorem 2.1; if a graph  $G$  is not in  $\mathcal{G}$ , then we can always find a pair  $(H, A) \in \mathcal{A}^*(G)$  such that  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}$  has a non-shellable interval, see Theorem 4.2 in [12].

The proof of the ‘if’ part relies on (3)~(4) of Theorem 2.1 and Theorem 2.3. For a simple connected graph  $H$ , if  $\mathcal{A}(H) \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\mathcal{P}_{H,V(H)}^{\text{even}}$  is pure and totally semimodular (see [7]), and hence  $\mathcal{P}_{H,V(H)}^{\text{even}}$  is CL-shellable by (4) of Theorem 2.1. For a non-simple connected graph  $H \in \mathcal{G}$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}$  admits a recursive atom ordering for every  $A \in \mathcal{A}(H)$  (see Theorem 5.3 in [12]), and hence it is CL-shellable by Theorem 2.3. Since every PI-graph of  $G \in \mathcal{G}$  belongs to  $\mathcal{G}$ , every  $G \in \mathcal{G}$  satisfies that  $\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}$  is shellable for every  $(H, A) \in \mathcal{A}^*(G)$  by (3) of Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

Now we see the rational Betti numbers of the real toric manifold corresponding to  $\tilde{P}_{n,2}$  in Figure 3. We give labels  $1, \dots, n$  to the vertices from left to right and  $a, b$  to the multiple edges as shown below.



Under the recursive atom ordering in Theorem 5.3 in [12], we can compute the number of falling chains of  $\mathcal{P}_{\tilde{P}_{n,2},A}^{\text{even}}$ , which tells us the homotopy type of  $\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{\tilde{P}_{n,2},A}^{\text{even}}})$  by (1) of Theorem 2.1. Note that

$$\mathcal{A}(\tilde{P}_{n,2}) = \begin{cases} \{A_1 := 12 \cdots nab, A_2 := 34 \cdots nab\}, & \text{if } n \text{ is even;} \\ \{A_3 := 134 \cdots nab, A_4 := 234 \cdots nab\}, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

**Proposition 3.2** (Proposition 6.3 and Table 2 in [12]). *If  $n$  is even, then*

$$\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{\tilde{P}_{n,2},A_1}^{\text{even}}}) \simeq \bigvee_{C_{k-1}} S^{k-3} \text{ and } \Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{\tilde{P}_{n,2},A_2}^{\text{even}}}) \simeq \bigvee_{C_k} S^{k-1}$$

for  $k = \frac{n-2}{2}$ . If  $n$  is odd, then

$$\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{\tilde{P}_{n,2},A_3}^{\text{even}}}) \text{ is contractible and } \Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{\tilde{P}_{n,2},A_4}^{\text{even}}}) \simeq \bigvee_{C_{k+1}-C_k} S^{k-1}$$

for  $k = \frac{n-3}{2}$ . Here,  $C_k$  is the  $k$ th Catalan number.

Note that  $\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{2k,[2k]}^{\text{even}}})$  is homotopy equivalent to  $\bigvee_{C_k} S^{k-2}$ . Since each connected component of a PI-graph of  $\tilde{P}_{n,2}$  is a simple path graph or  $\tilde{P}_{m,2}$  for some  $m \leq n$ . By using  $\tilde{H}^i(\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{odd}}})) \cong \tilde{H}^{\dim(P_H)-i-2}(\Delta(\overline{\mathcal{P}_{H,A}^{\text{even}}}))$ , we can plug Proposition 3.2 into Theorem 1.1 and compute the rational Betti numbers of  $M_{\tilde{P}_{n,2}}$ .

**Proposition 3.3** (Section 6.2 in [12]). *The  $i$ th rational Betti number of  $M_{\tilde{P}_{n,2}}$  is*

$$\beta^i(M_{\tilde{P}_{n,2}}) = \beta^i(M_{P_n}) + \sum_{\ell=0}^{i-1} \sum_{m=2}^{n-2} b_m^\ell \beta^{i-\ell-1}(M_{P_{n-m-1}}) + b_{n-1}^{i-1} + b_n^{i-1},$$

where

$$\beta^i(M_{P_n}) = \begin{cases} \binom{n}{i} - \binom{n}{i-1}, & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and

$$b_k^i := \begin{cases} C_{\frac{k}{2}}, & \text{if } i = \frac{k}{2} \text{ or } \frac{k}{2} - 1 \text{ for even } k \\ C_{\frac{k+1}{2}} - C_{\frac{k-1}{2}}, & \text{if } i = \frac{k-1}{2} \text{ for odd } k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

For some  $i$ ,  $\beta^i(M_{\tilde{P}_{n,2}})$  can be written in a simple form. For instance,  $\beta^1(M_{\tilde{P}_{n,2}}) = n$ ,  $\beta^2(M_{\tilde{P}_{n,2}}) = \binom{n}{2}$ , and  $\beta^k(M_{\tilde{P}_{2k,2}}) = \beta^{k+1}(M_{\tilde{P}_{2k+1,2}}) = \frac{6k}{k+2}C_k$ , which is known as the total number of nonempty subtrees over all binary trees having  $k+1$  internal vertices, see [16, A071721].

**Remark.** It would be interesting if one figures out that the  $i$ th rational Betti number  $\beta^i(M_G)$  counts other combinatorial objects for every  $G \in \mathcal{G}$ .

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