

# Euler's Polyhedron Formula

Lawrence C. Paulson

April 18, 2024

## Abstract

Euler stated in 1752 that every convex polyhedron satisfied the formula  $V - E + F = 2$  where  $V$ ,  $E$  and  $F$  are the numbers of its vertices, edges, and faces. For three dimensions, the well-known proof involves removing one face and then flattening the remainder to form a planar graph, which then is iteratively transformed to leave a single triangle. The history of that proof is extensively discussed and elaborated by Imre Lakatos [1], leaving one finally wondering whether the theorem even holds. The formal proof provided here has been ported from HOL Light, where it is credited to Lawrence [2]. The proof generalises Euler's observation from solid polyhedra to convex polytopes of arbitrary dimension.

## Contents

<b>1 Euler's Polyhedron Formula</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Cells of a hyperplane arrangement . . . . .	3
1.2 A cell complex is considered to be a union of such cells . . . .	5
1.3 Euler characteristic . . . . .	7
1.4 Show that the characteristic is invariant w.r.t. hyperplane arrangement. . . . .	7
1.5 Euler-type relation for full-dimensional proper polyhedral cones	8
1.6 Euler-Poincare relation for special $(n - 1)$ -dimensional polytope	8
1.7 Now Euler-Poincare for a general full-dimensional polytope .	9

**Acknowledgements** The author was supported by the ERC Advanced Grant ALEXANDRIA (Project 742178) funded by the European Research Council.

# 1 Euler's Polyhedron Formula

One of the Famous 100 Theorems, ported from HOL Light

Cited source: Lawrence, J. (1997). A Short Proof of Euler's Relation for Convex Polytopes. *Canadian Mathematical Bulletin*, 40(4), 471–474.

**theory** *Euler-Formula*

**imports**

*HOL-Analysis.Analysis*

**begin**

Interpret which "side" of a hyperplane a point is on.

**definition** *hyperplane-side*

**where** *hyperplane-side*  $\equiv \lambda(a,b). \lambda x. \text{sgn } (a \cdot x - b)$

Equivalence relation imposed by a hyperplane arrangement.

**definition** *hyperplane-equiv*

**where** *hyperplane-equiv*  $\equiv \lambda A x y. \forall h \in A. \text{hyperplane-side } h x = \text{hyperplane-side } h y$

**lemma** *hyperplane-equiv-refl* [*iff*]: *hyperplane-equiv*  $A x x$

*<proof>*

**lemma** *hyperplane-equiv-sym*:

*hyperplane-equiv*  $A x y \longleftrightarrow \text{hyperplane-equiv } A y x$

*<proof>*

**lemma** *hyperplane-equiv-trans*:

$\llbracket \text{hyperplane-equiv } A x y; \text{hyperplane-equiv } A y z \rrbracket \implies \text{hyperplane-equiv } A x z$

*<proof>*

**lemma** *hyperplane-equiv-Un*:

*hyperplane-equiv*  $(A \cup B) x y \longleftrightarrow \text{hyperplane-equiv } A x y \wedge \text{hyperplane-equiv } B x y$

*<proof>*

## 1.1 Cells of a hyperplane arrangement

**definition** *hyperplane-cell* ::  $(\text{'a}::\text{real-inner} \times \text{real}) \text{ set} \Rightarrow \text{'a set} \Rightarrow \text{bool}$

**where** *hyperplane-cell*  $\equiv \lambda A C. \exists x. C = \text{Collect } (\text{hyperplane-equiv } A x)$

**lemma** *hyperplane-cell*: *hyperplane-cell*  $A C \longleftrightarrow (\exists x. C = \{y. \text{hyperplane-equiv } A x y\})$

*<proof>*

**lemma** *not-hyperplane-cell-empty* [*simp*]:  $\neg \text{hyperplane-cell } A \{\}$

*<proof>*

**lemma** *nonempty-hyperplane-cell*: *hyperplane-cell*  $A C \implies (C \neq \{\})$

*<proof>*

**lemma** *Union-hyperplane-cells*:  $\bigcup \{C. \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C\} = \text{UNIV}$   
*<proof>*

**lemma** *disjoint-hyperplane-cells*:  
 $\llbracket \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C1; \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C2; C1 \neq C2 \rrbracket \implies \text{disjnt } C1 \ C2$   
*<proof>*

**lemma** *disjoint-hyperplane-cells-eg*:  
 $\llbracket \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C1; \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C2 \rrbracket \implies (\text{disjnt } C1 \ C2 \longleftrightarrow (C1 \neq C2))$   
*<proof>*

**lemma** *hyperplane-cell-empty [iff]*:  $\text{hyperplane-cell } \{\} \ C \longleftrightarrow C = \text{UNIV}$   
*<proof>*

**lemma** *hyperplane-cell-singleton-cases*:  
**assumes**  $\text{hyperplane-cell } \{(a,b)\} \ C$   
**shows**  $C = \{x. a \cdot x = b\} \vee C = \{x. a \cdot x < b\} \vee C = \{x. a \cdot x > b\}$   
*<proof>*

**lemma** *hyperplane-cell-singleton*:  
 $\text{hyperplane-cell } \{(a,b)\} \ C \longleftrightarrow$   
 $(\text{if } a = 0 \text{ then } C = \text{UNIV} \text{ else } C = \{x. a \cdot x = b\} \vee C = \{x. a \cdot x < b\} \vee C = \{x. a \cdot x > b\})$   
*<proof>*

**lemma** *hyperplane-cell-Un*:  
 $\text{hyperplane-cell } (A \cup B) \ C \longleftrightarrow$   
 $C \neq \{\} \wedge$   
 $(\exists C1 \ C2. \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C1 \wedge \text{hyperplane-cell } B \ C2 \wedge C = C1 \cap C2)$   
*<proof>*

**lemma** *finite-hyperplane-cells*:  
 $\text{finite } A \implies \text{finite } \{C. \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C\}$   
*<proof>*

**lemma** *finite-restrict-hyperplane-cells*:  
 $\text{finite } A \implies \text{finite } \{C. \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C \wedge P \ C\}$   
*<proof>*

**lemma** *finite-set-of-hyperplane-cells*:  
 $\llbracket \text{finite } A; \bigwedge C. C \in \mathcal{C} \implies \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C \rrbracket \implies \text{finite } \mathcal{C}$   
*<proof>*

**lemma** *pairwise-disjoint-hyperplane-cells*:  
 $(\bigwedge C. C \in \mathcal{C} \implies \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C) \implies \text{pairwise disjnt } \mathcal{C}$   
*<proof>*

**lemma** *hyperplane-cell-Int-open-affine*:  
**assumes** *finite A hyperplane-cell A C*  
**obtains** *S T* **where** *open S affine T C = S ∩ T*  
 ⟨*proof*⟩

**lemma** *hyperplane-cell-relatively-open*:  
**assumes** *finite A hyperplane-cell A C*  
**shows** *openin (subtopology euclidean (affine hull C)) C*  
 ⟨*proof*⟩

**lemma** *hyperplane-cell-relative-interior*:  
 [[*finite A; hyperplane-cell A C*]  $\implies$  *rel-interior C = C*]  
 ⟨*proof*⟩

**lemma** *hyperplane-cell-convex*:  
**assumes** *hyperplane-cell A C*  
**shows** *convex C*  
 ⟨*proof*⟩

**lemma** *hyperplane-cell-Inter*:  
**assumes**  $\bigwedge C. C \in \mathcal{C} \implies \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C$   
**and**  $\mathcal{C} \neq \{\}$  **and**  $\text{INT: } \bigcap \mathcal{C} \neq \{\}$   
**shows** *hyperplane-cell A ( $\bigcap \mathcal{C}$ )*  
 ⟨*proof*⟩

**lemma** *hyperplane-cell-Int*:  
 [[*hyperplane-cell A S; hyperplane-cell A T; S ∩ T ≠ {}*]  $\implies$  *hyperplane-cell A (S ∩ T)*]  
 ⟨*proof*⟩

## 1.2 A cell complex is considered to be a union of such cells

**definition** *hyperplane-cellcomplex*  
**where** *hyperplane-cellcomplex A S*  $\equiv$   
 $\exists \mathcal{T}. (\forall C \in \mathcal{T}. \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C) \wedge S = \bigcup \mathcal{T}$

**lemma** *hyperplane-cellcomplex-empty [simp]*: *hyperplane-cellcomplex A {}*  
 ⟨*proof*⟩

**lemma** *hyperplane-cell-cellcomplex*:  
*hyperplane-cell A C*  $\implies$  *hyperplane-cellcomplex A C*  
 ⟨*proof*⟩

**lemma** *hyperplane-cellcomplex-Union*:  
**assumes**  $\bigwedge S. S \in \mathcal{C} \implies \text{hyperplane-cellcomplex } A \ S$   
**shows** *hyperplane-cellcomplex A ( $\bigcup \mathcal{C}$ )*  
 ⟨*proof*⟩

**lemma** *hyperplane-cellcomplex-Un*:

[[*hyperplane-cellcomplex A S*; *hyperplane-cellcomplex A T*]]  
⇒ *hyperplane-cellcomplex A (S ∪ T)*  
<proof>

**lemma** *hyperplane-cellcomplex-UNIV [simp]*: *hyperplane-cellcomplex A UNIV*

<proof>

**lemma** *hyperplane-cellcomplex-Inter*:

**assumes**  $\bigwedge S. S \in \mathcal{C} \implies \text{hyperplane-cellcomplex } A \ S$   
**shows** *hyperplane-cellcomplex A (∩C)*  
<proof>

**lemma** *hyperplane-cellcomplex-Int*:

[[*hyperplane-cellcomplex A S*; *hyperplane-cellcomplex A T*]]  
⇒ *hyperplane-cellcomplex A (S ∩ T)*  
<proof>

**lemma** *hyperplane-cellcomplex-Compl*:

**assumes** *hyperplane-cellcomplex A S*  
**shows** *hyperplane-cellcomplex A (− S)*  
<proof>

**lemma** *hyperplane-cellcomplex-diff*:

[[*hyperplane-cellcomplex A S*; *hyperplane-cellcomplex A T*]]  
⇒ *hyperplane-cellcomplex A (S − T)*  
<proof>

**lemma** *hyperplane-cellcomplex-mono*:

**assumes** *hyperplane-cellcomplex A S A ⊆ B*  
**shows** *hyperplane-cellcomplex B S*  
<proof>

**lemma** *finite-hyperplane-cellcomplexes*:

**assumes** *finite A*  
**shows** *finite {C. hyperplane-cellcomplex A C}*  
<proof>

**lemma** *finite-restrict-hyperplane-cellcomplexes*:

*finite A* ⇒ *finite {C. hyperplane-cellcomplex A C ∧ P C}*  
<proof>

**lemma** *finite-set-of-hyperplane-cellcomplex*:

**assumes** *finite A*  $\bigwedge C. C \in \mathcal{C} \implies \text{hyperplane-cellcomplex } A \ C$   
**shows** *finite C*  
<proof>

**lemma** *cell-subset-cellcomplex*:

$\llbracket \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C; \text{hyperplane-cellcomplex } A \ S \rrbracket \implies C \subseteq S \iff \sim \text{disjnt } C \ S$   
 ⟨proof⟩

### 1.3 Euler characteristic

**definition** *Euler-characteristic* :: ('a::euclidean-space × real) set ⇒ 'a set ⇒ int  
**where** *Euler-characteristic*  $A \ S \equiv$   
 $(\sum C \mid \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C \wedge C \subseteq S. (-1) \wedge \text{nat} (\text{aff-dim } C))$

**lemma** *Euler-characteristic-empty* [simp]: *Euler-characteristic*  $A \ \{\} = 0$   
 ⟨proof⟩

**lemma** *Euler-characteristic-cell-Union*:  
**assumes**  $\bigwedge C. C \in \mathcal{C} \implies \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C$   
**shows** *Euler-characteristic*  $A \ (\bigcup \mathcal{C}) = (\sum C \in \mathcal{C}. (-1) \wedge \text{nat} (\text{aff-dim } C))$   
 ⟨proof⟩

**lemma** *Euler-characteristic-cell*:  
 $\text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C \implies \text{Euler-characteristic } A \ C = (-1) \wedge (\text{nat}(\text{aff-dim } C))$   
 ⟨proof⟩

**lemma** *Euler-characteristic-cellcomplex-Un*:  
**assumes** *finite*  $A$  *hyperplane-cellcomplex*  $A \ S$   
**and**  $A \ T$ : *hyperplane-cellcomplex*  $A \ T$  **and** *disjnt*  $S \ T$   
**shows** *Euler-characteristic*  $A \ (S \cup T) =$   
 $\text{Euler-characteristic } A \ S + \text{Euler-characteristic } A \ T$   
 ⟨proof⟩

**lemma** *Euler-characteristic-cellcomplex-Union*:  
**assumes** *finite*  $A$   
**and**  $\mathcal{C}$ :  $\bigwedge C. C \in \mathcal{C} \implies \text{hyperplane-cellcomplex } A \ C$  *pairwise disjnt*  $\mathcal{C}$   
**shows** *Euler-characteristic*  $A \ (\bigcup \mathcal{C}) = \text{sum} (\text{Euler-characteristic } A) \ \mathcal{C}$   
 ⟨proof⟩

**lemma** *Euler-characteristic*:  
**fixes**  $A :: ('n::euclidean-space * real) \text{ set}$   
**assumes** *finite*  $A$   
**shows** *Euler-characteristic*  $A \ S =$   
 $(\sum d = 0..DIM('n). (-1) \wedge d * \text{int} (\text{card} \{C. \text{hyperplane-cell } A \ C \wedge C \subseteq$   
 $S \wedge \text{aff-dim } C = \text{int } d\}))$   
 (is - = ?rhs)  
 ⟨proof⟩

### 1.4 Show that the characteristic is invariant w.r.t. hyperplane arrangement.

**lemma** *hyperplane-cells-distinct-lemma*:  
 $\{x. a \cdot x = b\} \cap \{x. a \cdot x < b\} = \{\} \wedge$   
 $\{x. a \cdot x = b\} \cap \{x. a \cdot x > b\} = \{\} \wedge$

$$\begin{aligned} \{x. a \cdot x < b\} \cap \{x. a \cdot x = b\} &= \{\} \wedge \\ \{x. a \cdot x < b\} \cap \{x. a \cdot x > b\} &= \{\} \wedge \\ \{x. a \cdot x > b\} \cap \{x. a \cdot x = b\} &= \{\} \wedge \\ \{x. a \cdot x > b\} \cap \{x. a \cdot x < b\} &= \{\} \end{aligned}$$

*<proof>*

**proposition** *Euler-characteristic-lemma:*  
**assumes** *finite A and hyperplane-cellcomplex A S*  
**shows** *Euler-characteristic (insert h A) S = Euler-characteristic A S*  
*<proof>*

**lemma** *Euler-characteristic-invariant-aux:*  
**assumes** *finite B finite A hyperplane-cellcomplex A S*  
**shows** *Euler-characteristic (A  $\cup$  B) S = Euler-characteristic A S*  
*<proof>*

**lemma** *Euler-characteristic-invariant:*  
**assumes** *finite A finite B hyperplane-cellcomplex A S hyperplane-cellcomplex B S*  
**shows** *Euler-characteristic A S = Euler-characteristic B S*  
*<proof>*

**lemma** *Euler-characteristic-inclusion-exclusion:*  
**assumes** *finite A finite S  $\wedge$  K. K  $\in$  S  $\implies$  hyperplane-cellcomplex A K*  
**shows** *Euler-characteristic A ( $\cup$  S) = ( $\sum \mathcal{T} \mid \mathcal{T} \subseteq S \wedge \mathcal{T} \neq \{\}$ ).  $(-1)^{\wedge}(\text{card } \mathcal{T} + 1) * \text{Euler-characteristic A } (\cap \mathcal{T})$*   
*<proof>*

## 1.5 Euler-type relation for full-dimensional proper polyhedral cones

**lemma** *Euler-polyhedral-cone:*  
**fixes** *S :: 'n::euclidean-space set*  
**assumes** *polyhedron S conic S and intS: interior S  $\neq$   $\{\}$  and S  $\neq$  UNIV*  
**shows** *( $\sum d = 0..DIM('n). (-1)^{\wedge} d * \text{int } (\text{card } \{f. f \text{ face-of } S \wedge \text{aff-dim } f = \text{int } d\})$ ) = 0 (is ?lhs = 0)*  
*<proof>*

## 1.6 Euler-Poincare relation for special $(n - 1)$ -dimensional polytope

**lemma** *Euler-Poincare-lemma:*  
**fixes** *p :: 'n::euclidean-space set*  
**assumes** *DIM('n)  $\geq$  2 polytope p  $i \in$  Basis and affp: affine hull p =  $\{x. x \cdot i = 1\}$*   
**shows** *( $\sum d = 0..DIM('n) - 1. (-1)^{\wedge} d * \text{int } (\text{card } \{f. f \text{ face-of } p \wedge \text{aff-dim } f = \text{int } d\})$ ) = 1*  
*<proof>*



**corollary** *Euler-poincare-special:*

**fixes**  $p :: 'n::\text{euclidean-space set}$

**assumes**  $2 \leq \text{DIM}('n)$  polytope  $p$   $i \in \text{Basis}$  **and**  $\text{aff}p$ : affine hull  $p = \{x. x \cdot i = 0\}$

**shows**  $(\sum d = 0.. \text{DIM}('n) - 1. (-1) ^ d * \text{card} \{f. f \text{ face-of } p \wedge \text{aff-dim } f = d\}) = 1$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

## 1.7 Now Euler-Poincare for a general full-dimensional polytope

**theorem** *Euler-Poincare-full:*

**fixes**  $p :: 'n::\text{euclidean-space set}$

**assumes** polytope  $p$   $\text{aff-dim } p = \text{DIM}('n)$

**shows**  $(\sum d = 0.. \text{DIM}('n). (-1) ^ d * (\text{card} \{f. f \text{ face-of } p \wedge \text{aff-dim } f = d\})) = 1$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

In particular, the Euler relation in 3 dimensions

**corollary** *Euler-relation:*

**fixes**  $p :: 'n::\text{euclidean-space set}$

**assumes** polytope  $p$   $\text{aff-dim } p = 3$   $\text{DIM}('n) = 3$

**shows**  $(\text{card} \{v. v \text{ face-of } p \wedge \text{aff-dim } v = 0\} + \text{card} \{f. f \text{ face-of } p \wedge \text{aff-dim } f = 2\}) - \text{card} \{e. e \text{ face-of } p \wedge \text{aff-dim } e = 1\} = 2$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**end**

## References

- [1] I. Lakatos. *Proofs and Refutations: The Logic of Mathematical Discovery*. 1976.
- [2] J. Lawrence. A short proof of Euler's relation for convex polytopes. *Canadian Mathematical Bulletin*, 40(4):471–474, 1997.