

Correctness, proof completeness, and novelty audit

An Identity for the Coefficients of Characteristic Polynomials of Hyperplane Arrangements

Zakhar Kabluchko

Reviewed source	Open version of record · Discrete & Computational Geometry 70 (2023), 1476–1498
Exact version	Version of record
Journal citation	Zakhar Kabluchko. An Identity for the Coefficients of Characteristic Polynomials of Hyperplane Arrangements. Discrete & Computational Geometry 70 (2023), 1476–1498.
DOI	10.1007/s00454-023-00577-y
Audit date	August 23, 2026
Scope	Statements, proofs, and novelty
Important limitation. AI-generated analysis. This report is not a correctness certificate or a substitute for expert scrutiny.	

SUMMARY

01	Statements	Correct
02	Proofs	Correct
03	Novelty	No non-novelty findings

Statements

Correct The paper’s projection-count theorem, explicit exceptional-set theorem, reflection-arrangement corollary, and worked arrangement examples are correct with their stated hypotheses. No false or unsupported mathematical statement was found in the complete version of record.

Theorems 1.2 and 1.6: The projection statistic equals the characteristic coefficient

Journal pages 1479–1482 · Theorems 1.2 and 1.6

Correct

For an affine arrangement in dimension d , the number of closed chambers whose metric projection of a generic point lies in a k -face is the absolute k -th characteristic coefficient. Theorem 1.6 makes the exceptional set explicit as a finite union of proper affine hyperplanes. The indexing, signs, and affine rather than merely central scope agree throughout the statement and proof.

Source: [Exact open version of record](#)

Examples 1.3–1.4 and Section 4: The main specializations and examples are consistent

Journal pages 1479–1481 and 1494–1497 · Examples 1.3–1.4 and Section 4

Correct

Summing the dimension-refined counts recovers Zaslavsky’s region formula, while the group action converts the chamber count to the Drton–Klivans orbit count. The Boolean and coordinate examples have the expected characteristic coefficients and projection dimensions. No boundary case contradicts the closed-chamber convention stated on journal page 1478.

Proofs

Correct The complete proof chain was checked. Normal-cone polarity translates projection faces into chamber incidences, the localized central-arrangement count supplies the coefficient contribution, and the finite exceptional family makes every required incidence locally constant. The final Whitney-formula calculation has the claimed coefficient and sign.

Proposition 2.1 and Theorem 1.6: The metric-projection criterion is applied with the correct face dimension

Journal pages 1482–1490 · Proposition 2.1 and proof of Theorem 1.6, Steps 1–2

Correct

For a face F of a chamber P , the inverse image of relint F under metric projection is relint $F + N_F(P)$. Passing to the polar of the tangent cone gives the needed chamber-intersection problem in the orthogonal complement. Relative interiors are used at the exact points needed to avoid double counting lower-dimensional faces.

Proposition 3.1 and proof Steps 3–4: The local chamber count and global coefficient sum close the argument

Journal pages 1485–1496 · Proposition 3.1 and proof of Theorem 1.6, Steps 3–4

Correct

The central localization at an intersection flat has the required general-position section after the exceptional hyperplanes are removed. The polar-cone count is then summed over flats and chambers. Reordering that finite sum produces the Whitney expansion of the characteristic polynomial, with the parity absorbed by the nonnegative coefficient convention. The cited KVZ chamber-section result is checked separately in its exact version of record.

Exceptional set: The genericity set is genuinely a finite hyperplane union

Journal pages 1480–1482 and 1488–1492 · definition of E_k and proof Steps 1–3

Correct

Only finitely many arrangement faces, their spans, and their normal-cone boundary spans occur. Every excluded condition is contained in a proper affine hyperplane. Thus the theorem proves the stronger advertised conclusion rather than only an unspecified null-set statement.

Novelty

No non-novelty findings No non-novelty findings.

METHOD

Exact-source disclosure

This audit evaluated only the linked journal version of record. An arXiv preprint, accepted manuscript, or later correction is not silently substituted for that source.

Sources checked

1. [Exact open version of record](#)

Audit instructions

You are a mathematical auditor. Evaluate only the correctness of the paper’s central statements, the correctness and completeness of its proofs, and evidence-backed non-novelty. Do not make editorial comments or evaluate importance, exposition, style, or suitability for publication. Keep the report neutral, precise, and professional.

PART 1 — CORRECTNESS OF THE MAIN STATEMENTS

Identify the paper’s central statements and assess each one separately using exactly one of these outcomes:

- Correct: the statement has a correct, verifiable proof; or, despite a defect in the printed proof, you can give a fully verified repair or independent proof.
- Incorrect: you can give strong formal evidence that the statement as written is false, preferably a counterexample or a complete contradiction.
- Not able to verify: the supplied proof does not establish the statement, and you can neither supply a fully verified proof nor disprove it.

For every adverse or unverified outcome, restate the exact claim and hypotheses, identify its location in the reviewed version, and give the decisive reasoning. Do not infer that a theorem is false merely because its printed proof is defective.

Assign the overall statements status by the following priority:

1. Contains wrong statements, if at least one central statement is Incorrect.
2. Contains unsupported statements, if no central statement is Incorrect but at least one is Not able to verify.
3. Correct, if every central statement is Correct, apart from any typographical or minor formal findings allowed by Part 4.

PART 2 — CORRECTNESS AND COMPLETENESS OF THE PROOFS

Audit the proofs of the central statements and every material internal or cited input on which they depend. For each proof or proof segment, use the narrowest supported outcome:

- Correct and complete: every substantive step is verifiable and no case or crucial nontrivial step is missing.
- Incorrect as written: a displayed calculation, inference, lemma, or cited application is formally false or inapplicable.
- Incomplete as written: a necessary substantive step or case is missing, even though no explicit contradiction has been proved.
- Not able to verify: the available paper and sources are insufficient to decide whether the step is valid.

Do not flag omitted routine details, compressed arguments, or “analogously” steps when the omitted reasoning is recoverable and correct. For every defect, identify its smallest exact location, explain its downstream dependency, and classify any proposed repair as one of:

- Verified repair: supply enough reasoning to verify that the repair works throughout every affected use.
- Plausible repair only: describe the possible repair but do not treat it as established.
- No repair supplied.

Assign the overall proofs status by the following priority:

1. Contains incorrect or incomplete proofs, if at least one proof is Incorrect as written or Incomplete as written.
2. Contains unverified proofs, if there is no proved incorrectness or incompleteness but at least one material proof is Not able to verify.
3. Correct, if all audited proofs are Correct and complete, apart from any typographical or minor formal findings allowed by Part 4.

PART 3 — NOVELTY OF THE MAIN STATEMENTS

This is a one-sided, evidence-only check. Evaluate only central results. Report a result only when a verifiable primary source, publicly available before the earliest public version of the paper that contains the result, proves the same statement up to a change of notation, or when the result follows directly and immediately from such an earlier theorem.

For each non-novelty finding, provide the earlier source, its public date, the exact theorem or proposition, and an explicit hypothesis-and-conclusion mapping. A later source cannot establish non-novelty. Do not flag a result merely because an easier proof exists or because it follows through a nontrivial argument. Do not flag a result that the paper itself explicitly presents as known, a survey item, or an alternative proof.

Mention only statements that meet this non-novelty threshold. Say nothing about statements for which no such evidence was found: do not certify novelty, list unsuccessful searches, or add statement-level “no prior source found” entries. If the list is empty, the section may say only “No non-novelty findings.”

PART 4 — TECHNICAL AND EVIDENTIARY RULES

1. Criticism must never be overstated. Call a statement incorrect, a proof incorrect or incomplete, or a result non-new only when strong formal evidence supports that exact judgment. Otherwise use Not able to verify where that outcome exists, or remain silent in the novelty section.
2. Review a specified paper version. Give exact page, theorem, equation, or proof locations; restate relevant quantifiers and hypotheses; and check domains, endpoints, parameter ranges, constants, and dependencies explicitly. Apply a defect only to the regimes and downstream results that actually depend on it.
3. Immediate-consequence closure: when deciding whether a conclusion is supported, treat the argument as including every immediate formal consequence of facts established earlier in the paper and available at that point. An immediate formal consequence is a local, mechanically checkable inference using only definitions already in force, elementary logic, direct substitution or renaming, weakening of an inequality or set inclusion, or a monotonicity or symmetry property explicit in a definition or already proved.
4. Such an inference must introduce no new lemma, estimate, construction, case analysis, limiting or compactness argument, external result, or new issue of uniformity or parameter dependence. Check the direction of monotonicity and the dependence of every threshold or constant explicitly. Do not exchange pointwise and uniform conclusions, change exceptional sets, interchange quantifiers or limits, or extend an endpoint under this rule unless the required fact was already established.
5. If the claimed conclusion follows after immediate-consequence closure, it is fully supported. Do not report a gap, unsupported statement, minor formal correction, or recommendation to add an explanatory sentence, and do not mention the suppressed item in the report. This suppression does not apply to a genuine typographical error as defined below, because a typo is a literal notation defect that still requires a textual correction. For example, if $P(\delta)$ is proved for every sufficiently small $\delta > 0$ and P is immediately monotone in the required direction, then the claim that $P(\delta)$ holds for every $\delta > 0$ requires no correction; the omitted monotonicity step is exposition rather than an audit finding.
6. Immediate-consequence closure permits reconstruction of an omitted inference; it does not permit silent alteration of the printed domain, hypotheses, or quantifiers of an intermediate statement later invoked outside its stated scope. If formal validity requires changing the text of that statement or its stated range, report the appropriate finding even when the repair is easy. Thus a result stated only for $t > 0$ and subsequently applied at $t = 0$ remains a formal scope mismatch unless the endpoint case was separately established before the application.
7. Apply this mandatory gate before recording any adverse, unverified, typographical, or minor formal finding: (a) identify the exact assertion or inference alleged to be defective; (b) reconstruct the strongest conclusion following from the preceding argument after all admissible immediate formal consequences are added; (c) identify the specific defect that remains — a formally demonstrated falsehood, a concrete nontrivial unresolved proof obligation, or a genuine domain, hypothesis, quantifier, or notation mismatch requiring a textual correction; and (d) state the evidence and minimal repair. If no specific defect remains, or if the only possible addition would be explanatory, suppress the finding entirely. Use Not able to verify only when a precise, nontrivial unresolved obligation can be identified.
8. A typographical error is an incorrect symbol, index, exponent, sign, variable name, or notation mismatch whose unique intended correction is mechanically determined from the surrounding text and does not alter the mathematical argument. Report it in yellow as Typo, with the printed text, correction, exact location, and reason it is harmless. It does not lower an overall status.
9. A minor formal correction is a boundary, endpoint, or displayed parameter-range defect that can be repaired consistently in every affected statement by a local change, without a new argument, without invalidating any related result or application, and without creating another substantive defect. Report it in yellow as Minor formal correction, with the same details. It does not lower an overall status.
10. Do not use either minor category if more than one materially different repair is possible; if the repair changes the substance or scope of a central result; if an excluded case is used later; if the correction fails to propagate consistently; or if a new mathematical idea is required. In such cases use the strongest substantive classification actually supported by evidence.
11. Write every mathematical expression as valid, compilable LaTeX. Use $\dots$ for inline mathematics and $\dots$ for displayed mathematics, with balanced delimiters and braces. Do not leave raw LaTeX commands outside math delimiters.
12. Separate theorem truth from the correctness of the printed proof. A theorem can be Correct in Part 1 because of a fully verified independent proof while its printed proof is adverse in Part 2. Conversely, a defective proof alone never licenses an Incorrect theorem classification.

Organize the report under Parts 1–3 and apply Part 4 throughout. Do not add editorial commentary, scores, rankings, recommendations, or a list of suppressed observations.

END OF REPORT