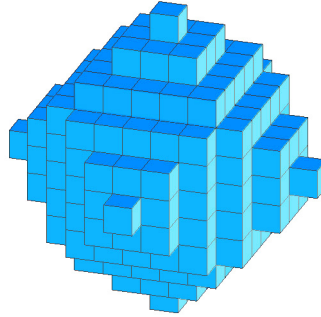


The 24-hedral Number

Luciano Ancora

I built this figurate number by placing on a centered cube six square pyramids, as shown in the following figure:



The centered cube number is given by OEIS A016755:

$$CCub(n) = (2n + 1)^3$$

The figurate number represented by the square pyramids is given by OEIS A000447:

$$P^{(4)}(n) = (1 + n)(1 + 2n)(3 + 2n)/3$$

Therefore, for our 24-hedral number, we have:

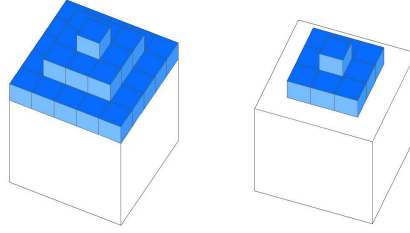
$$\begin{aligned} 24H(n) &= CCub(n) + 6P^{(4)}(n) \\ &= (2n + 1)^3 + 6(1 + n)(1 + 2n)(3 + 2n)/3 \\ &= (2n + 1)(8n^2 + 14n + 7) \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

The first few of these numbers are: 7, 87, 335, 847, 1719, 3047, 4927, ...

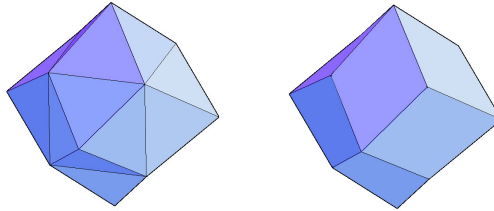
This figurate number is very close to the Haüy construction of the rhombic dodecahedron, given by OEIS A046142:

$$HaüyRhoDod(n) = (2n - 1)(8n^2 - 14n + 7) \tag{2}$$

The substantial difference between these figurate numbers lies in the fact that the HaüyRhoDod construction uses $P^{(4)}(n - 1)$ pyramids, as shown in the following figure (right part):



This difference, because of the different inclination of pyramids faces (in HauryRhoDod construction triangles are coplanar in pairs forming rhombs), produces two different constructions, a 24-hedron and a dodecahedron, respectively:



These two polyhedra are, for n large enough, almost coincident. In other words, as n tends to infinity, the 24-hedron tends to the dodecahedron, ie:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} 24H(n) = HauryRhoDod(n)$$

In fact, since the two third degree polynomials (1) and (2) have the same leading coefficient, their ratio tends to 1, as n tends to infinity.