Parallelhedra and
a Walk Around the Voronoi Conjecture

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In 1885 E. Fedorov introduced one of the most basic notions in Geometry of Numbers, the parallelhedron. Fedorov required that a parallelhedron satisfies the restriction that it fits together with a selection of translates of itself, to form a facet-to-facet tiling.

By definition, a $d$-dimensional parallelhedron $P$ is a convex polyhedron to tile Euclidean $d$-space in face-to-face manner by its parallel copies. The centers of parallelhedra in a face-to-face tiling necessarily form a point lattice.

H. Minkowski (1897) proved two celebrated theorems on parallelhedra (necessary conditions and a sharp upper bound for the number of facets). Much later (1954), B. Venkov proved that necessary conditions by Minkowski are also sufficient. G. Voronoi (1908) developed a deep theory of parallelhedra of a special kind, the so-called Dirichlet-Voronoi parallelhedra. These parallelhedra, presently called Voronoi parallelhedra, are defined as the Voronoi cells for point lattices. Moreover, Voronoi conjectured that an arbitrary parallelhedron has the same structure as some appropriated Voronoi parallelhedron. Namely, he stated a conjecture on affine equivalence of an arbitrary parallelhedron to some Voronoi parallelhedron. Voronoi himself certified his conjecture for primitive parallelhedra (1908). Since then, regardless serious progress attained in the Voronoi conjecture in the first part of the last century (O. Zhitomirski, 1929), the conjecture remains unsolved.

We are going to present a survey of central results and some recent results in the theory of parallelhedra including certain thoughts relevant to the Voronoi conjecture.

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