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Zonotopal algebra, analysis and combinatorics.

A great number of geometric and combinatorial properties of a given linear endomorphism X of R^N is captured in the study of its associated zonotope $Z(X)$, and, by duality, its associated hyperplane arrangement $H(X)$. Of particular interest in various applications is the case $n \ll N$. We perform this study at an algebraic level, and associate X with three algebraic structures, referred as *external*, *central*, and *internal*. Each algebraic structure is given in terms of a pair of homogeneous polynomial ideals in n variables that are dual to each other: one encodes properties of the arrangement $H(X)$, while the other encodes by duality properties of the zonotope $Z(X)$. The algebraic structures are defined purely in terms of the combinatorial structure of X , but are subsequently proved to be equally obtainable by applying suitable algebraic or analytic operations to either of $Z(X)$ or $H(X)$. The theory is universal in the sense that it requires no assumptions on the map X , and provides new tools that can be used in enumerative combinatorics, graph theory, representation theory, polytope geometry, and analysis. (Received September 22, 2009)