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The degree of a lattice polytope is an invariant originated in Ehrhart theory. It is a useful measure of complexity for lattice polytopes without interior lattice points. As will be explained in the talk, there is a natural generalization of this notion for combinatorial types of polytopes. Here, this invariant measures "almost-neighborliness". Most of the existing results for lattice polytopes should have analogues in this purely combinatorial setting. We will describe preliminary results and conjectures we are currently working on.

This talk reports on work in progress with Arnau Padrol. (Received January 16, 2012)