# Hyperplane arrangements, flag complexes and monoid cohomology 

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Happy Birthday Stuart Conference

## Outline

Combinatorial Topology Simplicial complexes
Leray numbers

Left Regular Bands
Background on LRBs
Examples of LRBs

Cohomological Dimension
Cohomology of monoids
Results

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- We begin with the relevant combinatorial topology.
- Then we give examples of the monoids and explain why people are interested in them.
- Then we try to put it altogether and state our main results.


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- $|K|$ is the union of the simplices spanned by sets of coordinate vectors corresponding to an element of $\mathcal{F}$.


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- Let $K$ be a regular cell complex with face poset $P$.
- Then $\Delta(P)$ is the barycentric subdivision of $K$.


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- The nerve of an open cover is fundamental to Čech cohomology.


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- The modern way to formulate his result is via Leray numbers.


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- E.g., $\operatorname{vd}_{\mathfrak{k}}\left(S^{1} \times[0,1]^{2}\right)=2=\operatorname{vd}_{k}\left(S^{1}\right)$.
- $\operatorname{vd}_{\mathfrak{k}}(K)$ is a homotopy invariant.


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- $\operatorname{Ler}_{\mathbb{k}}(K)=0$ iff $K$ is a simplex.


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- Let $G=(V, E)$ be a graph.
- The clique complex $\operatorname{Cliq}(G)$ is the flag complex with vertex set $V$ and simplices the cliques of $G$.


## Helly-type theorems

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$\operatorname{Cliq}(G)$ is 1-representable iff $G$ is chordal and $\bar{G}$ is a comparability graph (Lekkerkerker, Boland).

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- To each simplicial complex is associated a Stanley-Reisner ring.
- You factor the polynomial ring on the vertices by the ideal generated by non-faces.
- The Leray number $\operatorname{Ler}_{\mathbb{k}}(K)$ turns out to be the Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity of the Stanley-Reisner ring.


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- Markov chains on these objects can be analyzed via LRB representation theory.


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Others:
Björner, Athanasiadis-Diaconis, Chung-Graham, ...


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- long-term behavior: favorite books move to the front


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1 & 1 & \not 0 \\
0 & 1 & \not Z
\end{array}\right]=\left[\begin{array}{ll}
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$$

This construction generalizes to matroids and interval greedoids.

## Faces of a hyperplane arrangement

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## Product of faces (LRB structure)

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- $\Sigma(W)$ is a subalgebra of $\mathbb{k} W$ that can be viewed as a non-commutative character ring of $W$.
- For instance, in type $A$ the algebra $\Sigma(W)$ maps onto the character ring with nilpotent kernel.


## Free partially commutative LRBs

- The free partially commutative LRB $B(G)$ on a graph $G=(V, E)$ is the LRB with presentation:

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B(G)=\langle V| x y=y x \text { for all edges }\{x, y\} \in E\rangle
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- These are LRB-analogues of free partially commutative monoids and groups.


## Acyclic orientations

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Acyclic orientation on induced subgraph on vertices $\{a, d, c\}$ :


In $B(G): c a d=c d a=d c a(c$ comes before $a$ since $c \rightarrow a)$

## Random walk on $B(G)$

States: acyclic orientations of the complement $\bar{G}$


Step: left-multiplication by a generator (vertex) reorients all the edges incident to the vertex away from it

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Athanasiadis-Diaconis (2010): studied this chain using a different LRB (graphical arrangement of $\bar{G}$ )

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- Equivalently, $H^{n}(M ; A)=\operatorname{Ext}_{\mathbb{Z} M}^{n}(\mathbb{Z}, A)$.


## Cohomological dimension

- The $\mathbb{k}$-cohomological dimension of $M$ is

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\operatorname{cd}_{\mathbb{k}}(M)=\sup \left\{n \mid H^{n}(M ; A) \neq 0, A \in \mathbb{k} M-\bmod \right\}
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- We were able to reduce this question to computing $\mathrm{cd}_{\mathbb{k}}$ of LRBs.


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- Guba and Pride showed that any monoid embeds in a monoid $M$ with $\operatorname{cd}(M)=n$ and $\operatorname{cd}\left(M^{o p}\right)=m$.
- If $B$ is an LRB, then $\operatorname{cd}\left(B^{o p}\right)=0$.


## Hyperplane face monoids

Theorem (MSS)
Let $\mathscr{H}$ be an essential hyperplane arrangement in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ with corresponding face monoid $\mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H})$. Then $\operatorname{cd}_{\mathbb{k}}(\mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H}))=d$.

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Corollary
Let $\mathscr{H}$ and $\mathscr{H}^{\prime}$ be essential hyperplane arrangements in $\mathbb{R}^{n}$ and $\mathbb{R}^{m}$, respectively. Let $M=\mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H}) \times \mathcal{F}\left(\mathscr{H}^{\prime}\right)^{o p}$. Then $\operatorname{cd}(M)=n$ and $\operatorname{cd}\left(M^{o p}\right)=m$.

## Trees and cohomological dimension one

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Theorem (MSS)
If $B$ is an LRB whose loop-free right Cayley graph with respect to some generating set is a tree, then $\operatorname{cd}_{\mathfrak{k}}(B) \leq 1$. This theorem applies to free LRBs and LRBs associated to matroids.

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Theorem (MSS)
Let $G$ be a graph with associated free partially commutative $\operatorname{LRB} B(G)$. Then $\operatorname{cd}_{k}(B(G))=\operatorname{Ler}_{\mathbf{k}}(\operatorname{Cliq}(G))$.

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3. if $G$ is triangle-free but not chordal, then $\operatorname{cd}_{\mathfrak{k}}(B(G))=2$.

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Example: $F(\{a, b, c\})$


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- Thus $\Delta(\mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H}))$ is the barycentric subdivision of $\mathcal{Z}(\mathscr{H})$.


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- The proof uses Rota's cross-cut theorem.
- More generally, $\Delta\left(B(G)_{<a}\right)$ is homotopy equivalent to an induced subcomplex of $\operatorname{Cliq}(G)$.
- Moreover, each induced subcomplex comes up in this way.


## The main theorem

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Corollary (MSS)
$\operatorname{cd}_{\mathfrak{k}}(B) \leq \operatorname{Ler}_{\mathrm{k}}(\Delta(B))$.

## Semi-free actions

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Theorem (MSS)
Suppose that $B \curvearrowright K$ is a semi-free action on a contractible simplicial complex. Then the augmented chain complex of $K$ is a projective resolution of $\mathbb{k}$ over $\mathbb{k} B$.

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- In particular, $\operatorname{cd}_{\mathbb{k}}(B)<\infty$.


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- $\mathbb{k} B$ has a filtration by certain modules $V_{a}$ with $a \in B$.


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- $\operatorname{cd}_{\mathbb{k}}(B)=\max \left\{n \mid H^{n}(B ; \mathbb{k} B) \neq 0\right\}$.
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- The last isomorphism uses that $B_{\leq a}$ is a cone on $B_{<a}$, hence contractible, and the long exact sequence in relative cohomology.

The end

## Thank you for your attention!

