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Hyperplane arrangements, flag complexes and monoid cohomology

Stuart Margolis, Bar-Ilan University Franco Saliola, Université du Québec à Montréal **Benjamin Steinberg**, City College of New York



June 14, 2013 Happy Birthday Stuart Conference

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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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The plan

• Our goal is to give some idea of how combinatorial topology can be used to compute homological invariants of some monoids that arose in combinatorics.

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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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Simplicial complexes

• A simplicial complex K is a pair (V, \mathcal{F}) where V is a finite set and \mathcal{F} a collection of nonempty subsets of V such that:

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- The q-skeleton K^q consists of all simplices of dimension at most q.

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- |K| is the union of the simplices spanned by sets of coordinate vectors corresponding to an element of F.

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Order complex

• To each finite poset P is associated its order complex $\Delta(P).$

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- A subset of P is a simplex if it is a chain.

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- Let K be a regular cell complex with face poset P.

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- The vertex set of $\Delta(P)$ is P.
- A subset of P is a simplex if it is a chain.
- 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 construction

• Let \mathscr{F} be a finite family of subsets of some set.

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- Let \mathscr{F} be a finite family of subsets of some set.
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 - Simplices: $\{X_{i_1}, \ldots, X_{i_k}\}$ is a simplex iff

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

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d-representability

 A simplicial complex K is d-representable if K = N(𝔅) where 𝔅 is a family of compact convex subsets of ℝ^d.

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- A simplicial complex K is d-representable if K = N(𝔅) where 𝔅 is a family of compact convex subsets of ℝ^d.
- For example, K is 1-representable if it is the nerve of a collection of closed intervals.

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- The q-simplex is 1-representable: take q + 1 closed intervals centered at 0.

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- The four-cycle graph C4 is not 1-representable.

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

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Vanishing dimension of a simplicial complex

• Fix a commutative ring with unit \Bbbk for the duration.

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- Fix a commutative ring with unit \Bbbk for the duration.
- The vanishing dimension of K is

$$\operatorname{vd}_{\Bbbk}(K) = \min\{d \mid \forall n \ge d, \widetilde{H}^n(K, \Bbbk) = 0\}.$$

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- E.g., $\operatorname{vd}_{\Bbbk}(S^1 \times [0,1]^2) = 2 = \operatorname{vd}_{\Bbbk}(S^1).$

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- E.g., $\operatorname{vd}_{\Bbbk}(S^1 \times [0,1]^2) = 2 = \operatorname{vd}_{\Bbbk}(S^1).$
- $vd_k(K)$ is a homotopy invariant.
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The Leray number

• If *W* ⊆ *K*⁰, then the induced subcomplex *K*[*W*] consists of *all* simplices whose vertices belong to *W*.

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- $\operatorname{Ler}_{\Bbbk}(K) \leq \dim K + 1.$
- $\operatorname{Ler}_{\Bbbk}(K)$ is a combinatorial invariant, not a topological invariant.
- $\operatorname{Ler}_{\Bbbk}(K) = 0$ iff K is a simplex.

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Flag complexes

• *K* is a flag complex if whenever the 1-skeleton of a simplex belongs to *K*, then so does the simplex.

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- *K* is a flag complex if whenever the 1-skeleton of a simplex belongs to *K*, then so does the simplex.
- Flag complexes are determined by their 1-skeletons.

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- The order complex of a poset is a flag complex.

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

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Helly-type theorems

Theorem ('Helly') If K is d-representable, then $\operatorname{Ler}_{\Bbbk}(K) \leq d$.

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If K is d-representable, then $\operatorname{Ler}_{\Bbbk}(K) \leq d$.

• In general, the converse is false.

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If K is d-representable, then $\operatorname{Ler}_{\Bbbk}(K) \leq d$.

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- A graph is chordal if it contains no induced cycle of length greater than 3.

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Theorem (??)

The following are equivalent:

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The following are equivalent:

- 1. $Ler_{k}(K) \leq 1;$
- 2. K is the clique complex of a chordal graph.

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

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Stanley-Reisner rings

• Leray numbers also have meaning in combinatorial commutative algebra.

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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.

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Stanley-Reisner rings

- Leray numbers also have meaning in combinatorial commutative algebra.
- 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 $\operatorname{Ler}_{\Bbbk}(K)$ turns out to be the Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity of the Stanley-Reisner ring.

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Left regular bands (LRBs)

• We have a new interpretation of the Leray number of a flag complex via the cohomology of LRBs.

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Definition (LRB)

A left regular band is a semigroup B satisfying the identities:

x² = x (B is a "band")
xyx = xy ("left regularity")

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- Commutative LRBs are lattices with meet or join.
- All LRBs are assumed finite with identity.

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Combinatorial objects as LRBs

• A large number of combinatorial structures admit an LRB multiplication.

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- A large number of combinatorial structures admit an LRB multiplication.
- Examples include:
 - 1. real hyperplane arrangements (Tits)

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- A large number of combinatorial structures admit an LRB multiplication.
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- A large number of combinatorial structures admit an LRB multiplication.
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- A large number of combinatorial structures admit an LRB multiplication.
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 - 5. interval greedoids (Björner)

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- A large number of combinatorial structures admit an LRB multiplication.
- Examples include:
 - 1. real hyperplane arrangements (Tits)
 - 2. oriented matroids (Bland)
 - 3. matroids (Brown)
 - 4. complex hyperplane arrangements (Björner)
 - 5. interval greedoids (Björner)
- Markov chains on these objects can be analyzed via LRB representation theory.

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Random walks on hyperplane arrangements

Bidigare–Hanlon–Rockmore (1995):

- showed eigenvalues admit a simple description
- o presented a unified approach to several Markov chains

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Brown (2000):

- extended results to LRBs
- proved diagonalizability for LRBs using algebraic techniques and representation theory of LRBs
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Others:

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

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Free LRBs and the Tsetlin library

• The free LRB F(A) on a set A consists of all repetition-free words over the alphabet A.

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- The free LRB F(A) on a set A consists of all repetition-free words over the alphabet A.
- Product: concatenate and remove repetitions.

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- Example: In $F(\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$:

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 $3 \cdot 14532 = 314532 = 31452$

 Tsetlin Library: shelf of books "use a book, then put it at the front" Left Regular Bands

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- Tsetlin Library: shelf of books "use a book, then put it at the front"
 and arises of the books () words containing over
 - orderings of the books \leftrightarrow words containing every letter

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- Tsetlin Library: shelf of books "use a book, then put it at the front"
 - orderings of the books \leftrightarrow words containing every letter
 - move book to the front \leftrightarrow left multiplication by generator

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- Example: In $F(\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$:

- Tsetlin Library: shelf of books "use a book, then put it at the front"
 - orderings of the books \leftrightarrow words containing every letter
 - move book to the front \leftrightarrow left multiplication by generator
 - long-term behavior: favorite books move to the front

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A q-analogue

• Let q be a prime power.

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A q-analogue

- Let q be a prime power.
- $F_{q,n}$ is all ordered linearly independent subsets of \mathbb{F}_q^n .

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Example: In $F_{2,2}$:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \mathbf{0} \\ 0 & 1 & \mathbf{1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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This construction generalizes to matroids and interval greedoids.

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Faces of a hyperplane arrangement

A set of hyperplanes partitions \mathbb{R}^n into *faces*:



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$$xy := \begin{cases} \text{the face first encountered after a small} \\ \text{movement along a line from } x \text{ toward } y \end{cases}$$



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Solomon's descent algebra

• Consider a finite Coxeter group W with associated reflection arrangement \mathscr{H}_W .

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- Consider a finite Coxeter group W with associated reflection arrangement \mathscr{H}_W .
- Let $\mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H}_W)$ be the corresponding LRB.

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- Consider a finite Coxeter group W with associated reflection arrangement \mathscr{H}_W .
- Let $\mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H}_W)$ be the corresponding LRB.
- Bidigare proved the algebra of W-invariants kF(ℋ_W)^W is isomorphic to Solomon's descent algebra Σ(W).

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- $\Sigma(W)$ is a subalgebra of $\Bbbk W$ that can be viewed as a non-commutative character ring of W.

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- $\Sigma(W)$ is a subalgebra of $\Bbbk W$ 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.
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Free partially commutative LRBs

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

$$B(G) = \left\langle V \mid xy = yx \text{ for all edges } \{x, y\} \in E \right\rangle$$

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• If $E = \emptyset$, then B(G) is the free LRB on V.

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- $B(K_n)$ is the free commutative LRB on n generators.

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- $B(K_n)$ is the free commutative LRB on n generators.
- These are LRB-analogues of free partially commutative monoids and groups.

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Acyclic orientations

• Elements of B(G) correspond to acyclic orientations of induced subgraphs of the complement \overline{G} .

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Example



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Example



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



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Acyclic orientations

• Elements of B(G) correspond to acyclic orientations of induced subgraphs of the complement \overline{G} .

Example



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



In B(G): cad = cda = dca (c comes before a since $c \to a$)

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Random walk on B(G)

States: acyclic orientations of the complement \overline{G}



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

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Random walk on B(G)

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

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Cohomology of monoids

• Let M be a monoid and A a *left* $\mathbb{Z}M$ -module.

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Cohomology of monoids

- Let M be a monoid and A a *left* $\mathbb{Z}M$ -module.
- The cohomology $H^{\bullet}(M; A)$ of M with coefficients in A is the cohomology of the following cochain complex:

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 $C^q(M;A) = \{f \colon M^q \to A\};$

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$$\partial^q f(m_1, \dots, m_{q+1}) = m_1 f(m_2, \dots, m_{q+1}) +$$

= $\sum_{i=1}^q (-1)^i f(m_1, \dots, m_i m_{i+1}, \dots, m_{q+1})$
+ $(-1)^{q+1} f(m_1, \dots, m_q)$

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+ $(-1)^{q+1} f(m_1, \dots, m_q)$

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

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Cohomological dimension

• The $\Bbbk\mbox{-cohomological dimension of }M$ is

 $\mathrm{cd}_{\Bbbk}(M) = \sup\{n \mid H^n(M; A) \neq 0, \ A \in \Bbbk M \operatorname{-mod}\}.$

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• Equivalently, $cd_{\Bbbk}(M)$ is the projective dimension of \Bbbk with the trivial $\Bbbk M$ -module structure.

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Cohomological dimension

• The k-cohomological dimension of M is

 $\mathrm{cd}_{\Bbbk}(M)=\sup\{n\mid H^n(M;A)\neq 0,\ A\in \Bbbk M\text{-mod}\}.$

- Equivalently, $cd_{\Bbbk}(M)$ is the projective dimension of \Bbbk with the trivial $\Bbbk M$ -module structure.
- $cd(M) := cd_{\mathbb{Z}}(M) \ge cd_{\mathbb{k}}(M)$ for any \mathbb{k} .

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Cohomological dimension

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- $cd(M) := cd_{\mathbb{Z}}(M) \ge cd_{\mathbb{k}}(M)$ for any \mathbb{k} .
- We were originally interested in computing the global dimension of k*B* when k is a field and *B* is an LRB.

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Cohomological dimension

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- $\operatorname{cd}(M) := \operatorname{cd}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M) \ge \operatorname{cd}_{\Bbbk}(M)$ for any \Bbbk .
- We were originally interested in computing the global dimension of k*B* when k is a field and *B* is an LRB.
- We were able to reduce this question to computing cd_{\Bbbk} of LRBs.

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Pathologies

Cohomological dimension of monoids has several pathologies.

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Pathologies

- Cohomological dimension of monoids has several pathologies.
- Let $0 \le m, n \le \infty$.

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- Cohomological dimension of monoids has several pathologies.
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- Guba and Pride showed that any monoid embeds in a monoid M with cd(M) = n and $cd(M^{op}) = m$.

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Pathologies
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- Let $0 \le m, n \le \infty$.
- Guba and Pride showed that any monoid embeds in a monoid M with cd(M) = n and $cd(M^{op}) = m$.
- If B is an LRB, then $cd(B^{op}) = 0$.

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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 $\operatorname{cd}_{\Bbbk}(\mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H})) = d$.

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Corollary

Let \mathscr{H} and \mathscr{H}' be essential hyperplane arrangements in \mathbb{R}^n and \mathbb{R}^m , respectively. Let $M = \mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H}) \times \mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H}')^{op}$. Then $\operatorname{cd}(M) = n$ and $\operatorname{cd}(M^{op}) = m$.

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Trees and cohomological dimension one

Theorem (MSS)

If B is an LRB whose loop-free right Cayley graph with respect to some generating set is a tree, then $cd_{k}(B) \leq 1$.

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Trees and cohomological dimension one

Theorem (MSS)

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

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Free partially commutative LRBs

Theorem (MSS)

Let G be a graph with associated free partially commutative LRB B(G). Then $cd_{k}(B(G)) = Ler_{k}(Cliq(G))$.

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Corollary (MSS) Let G be a graph. Then:

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Corollary (MSS) Let G be a graph. Then: 1. $cd_{k}(B(G)) = 0$ iff G is complete;

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Let G be a graph. Then:

- 1. $\operatorname{cd}_{\Bbbk}(B(G)) = 0$ iff G is complete;
- 2. $\operatorname{cd}_{\Bbbk}(B(G)) = 1$ iff G is chordal, but not complete.

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Let G be a graph. Then:

- 1. $\operatorname{cd}_{\Bbbk}(B(G)) = 0$ iff G is complete;
- 2. $\operatorname{cd}_{\Bbbk}(B(G)) = 1$ iff G is chordal, but not complete.
- 3. if G is triangle-free but not chordal, then $cd_{k}(B(G)) = 2$.

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Poset of an LRB

An LRB B is a poset via

$$a \leq b \iff ba = a \iff aB \subseteq bB$$
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Example: $F(\{a, b, c\})$



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The poset for a hyperplane arrangement

• Let \mathscr{H} be an essential hyperplane arrangement in \mathbb{R}^d .

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The poset for a hyperplane arrangement

- Let \mathscr{H} be an essential hyperplane arrangement in \mathbb{R}^d .
- Assume that the hyperplanes are given by the equations

$$v_i \cdot \boldsymbol{x} = 0$$

for i = 1, ..., n.

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• The associated zonotope is the Minkowski sum of the line segments $[0, v_i]$:

$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathscr{H}) = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n} t_i v_i \mid 0 \le t_i \le 1 \right\}$$

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• It naturally has the structure of a polyhedral ball.

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- It naturally has the structure of a polyhedral ball.
- $\mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H})$ is isomorphic to the face poset of $\mathcal{Z}(\mathscr{H})$.
- Thus $\Delta(\mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H}))$ is the barycentric subdivision of $\mathcal{Z}(\mathscr{H})$.

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Certain subposets of an LRB

• If P is a poset and $a \in P$, put $P_{\langle a} = \{b \in P \mid b < a\}$.

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Certain subposets of an LRB

• If P is a poset and $a \in P$, put $P_{\leq a} = \{b \in P \mid b < a\}$.

Example: $F(\{a, b, c\})_{\leq b}$ is given by



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Subposets of hyperplane face monoids

• Let \mathscr{H} be an essential hyperplane arrangement in \mathbb{R}^d .

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- Let \mathscr{H} be an essential hyperplane arrangement in \mathbb{R}^d .
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- $\mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H})$ is the face poset of the zonotope $\mathcal{Z}(\mathscr{H})$.
- Thus $\Delta(\mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H})_{<1})$ is a (d-1)-sphere.
- $\Delta(\mathcal{F}(\mathscr{H})_{< a})$ is in general a sphere of dimension < d.

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Subposets of free partially commutative LRBs

• Let G be a graph.

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- Let G be a graph.
- $\Delta(B(G)_{<1})$ is homotopy equivalent to $\operatorname{Cliq}(G)$.

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- Let G be a graph.
- $\Delta(B(G)_{<1})$ is homotopy equivalent to $\operatorname{Cliq}(G)$.
- The proof uses Rota's cross-cut theorem.

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- Let G be a graph.
- $\Delta(B(G)_{<1})$ is homotopy equivalent to $\operatorname{Cliq}(G)$.
- The proof uses Rota's cross-cut theorem.
- More generally, $\Delta(B(G)_{\leq a})$ is homotopy equivalent to an induced subcomplex of $\operatorname{Cliq}(G)$.

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- $\Delta(B(G)_{<1})$ is homotopy equivalent to $\operatorname{Cliq}(G)$.
- The proof uses Rota's cross-cut theorem.
- More generally, $\Delta(B(G)_{< a})$ is homotopy equivalent to an induced subcomplex of $\operatorname{Cliq}(G)$.
- Moreover, each induced subcomplex comes up in this way.

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The main theorem

Recall: $\operatorname{vd}_{\Bbbk}(K) = \min\{d \mid \forall n \ge d, \widetilde{H}^n(K, \Bbbk) = 0\}.$

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Recall: $\operatorname{vd}_{\Bbbk}(K) = \min\{d \mid \forall n \ge d, \widetilde{H}^n(K, \Bbbk) = 0\}.$ Theorem (MSS) Let B be an LRB. Then $\operatorname{cd}_{\Bbbk}(B) = \max\{\operatorname{vd}_{\Bbbk}(\Delta(B_{< a})) \mid a \in B\}.$

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

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Semi-free actions

A simplicial action $B \curvearrowright K$ of an LRB on a simplicial complex is semi-free if the stabilizer of each simplex has a minimum element.

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Semi-free actions

A simplicial action $B \curvearrowright K$ of an LRB on a simplicial complex is semi-free if the stabilizer of each simplex has a minimum element.

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 \Bbbk over $\Bbbk B$.

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The action on $\Delta(B)$

• The left action of B on itself is order preserving.

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- The left action of B on itself is order preserving.
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- The left action of B on itself is order preserving.
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- $\Delta(B)$ is contractible because 1 is a cone point.

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- $\Delta(B)$ is contractible because 1 is a cone point.
- Let $\sigma = b_0 < b_1 < \cdots < b_m$ be a simplex.

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- Then b_m is the minimum element of the stabilizer of σ .

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- Then b_m is the minimum element of the stabilizer of σ .
- So $B \curvearrowright \Delta(B)$ is semi-free.
- In particular, $\operatorname{cd}_{\Bbbk}(B) < \infty$.

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The remaining ideas

• The remainder of the proof of the main theorem is mostly algebraic.

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- $\operatorname{cd}_{\Bbbk}(B) = \max\{n \mid H^n(B; \Bbbk B) \neq 0\}.$

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- The remainder of the proof of the main theorem is mostly algebraic.
- $\operatorname{cd}_{\Bbbk}(B) = \max\{n \mid H^n(B; \Bbbk B) \neq 0\}.$
- $\Bbbk B$ has a filtration by certain modules V_a with $a \in B$.

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- We compute using the resolution from $\Delta(B)$ that

$$H^{n}(B; V_{a}) \cong H^{n}(B_{\leq a}, B_{< a}; \Bbbk) \cong \widetilde{H}^{n-1}(B_{< a}; \Bbbk).$$

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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.
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The end

Thank you for your attention!