

# SYMBOLIC POWERS AND MATROIDS

Matteo Varbaro

Dipartimento di Matematica  
Università di Genova

# Preliminaries and notation

Simplicial complexes

# Preliminaries and notation

## Simplicial complexes

Throughout  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$ .

# Preliminaries and notation

## Simplicial complexes

Throughout  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$ . A *simplicial complex* on  $[n]$  is a collection  $\Delta$  of subsets of  $[n]$  satisfying:

# Preliminaries and notation

## Simplicial complexes

Throughout  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$ . A *simplicial complex* on  $[n]$  is a collection  $\Delta$  of subsets of  $[n]$  satisfying:

- $F \in \Delta$  and  $G \subseteq F \Rightarrow G \in \Delta$ ;

# Preliminaries and notation

## Simplicial complexes

Throughout  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$ . A *simplicial complex* on  $[n]$  is a collection  $\Delta$  of subsets of  $[n]$  satisfying:

- $F \in \Delta$  and  $G \subseteq F \Rightarrow G \in \Delta$ ;
- $\{i\} \in \Delta \quad \forall i \in [n]$ .

# Preliminaries and notation

## Simplicial complexes

Throughout  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$ . A *simplicial complex* on  $[n]$  is a collection  $\Delta$  of subsets of  $[n]$  satisfying:

- $F \in \Delta$  and  $G \subseteq F \Rightarrow G \in \Delta$ ;
- $\{i\} \in \Delta \quad \forall i \in [n]$ .

The subsets of  $\Delta$  are called *faces*

# Preliminaries and notation

## Simplicial complexes

Throughout  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$ . A *simplicial complex* on  $[n]$  is a collection  $\Delta$  of subsets of  $[n]$  satisfying:

- $F \in \Delta$  and  $G \subseteq F \Rightarrow G \in \Delta$ ;
- $\{i\} \in \Delta \quad \forall i \in [n]$ .

The subsets of  $\Delta$  are called *faces* and the faces maximal by inclusion are called *facets*.



# Preliminaries and notation

## Simplicial complexes

Throughout  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$ . A *simplicial complex* on  $[n]$  is a collection  $\Delta$  of subsets of  $[n]$  satisfying:

- $F \in \Delta$  and  $G \subseteq F \Rightarrow G \in \Delta$ ;
- $\{i\} \in \Delta \quad \forall i \in [n]$ .

The subsets of  $\Delta$  are called *faces* and the faces maximal by inclusion are called *facets*. We will denote the set of facets of  $\Delta$  by  $\mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

# Preliminaries and notation

## Simplicial complexes

Throughout  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$ . A *simplicial complex* on  $[n]$  is a collection  $\Delta$  of subsets of  $[n]$  satisfying:

- $F \in \Delta$  and  $G \subseteq F \Rightarrow G \in \Delta$ ;
- $\{i\} \in \Delta \quad \forall i \in [n]$ .

The subsets of  $\Delta$  are called *faces* and the faces maximal by inclusion are called *facets*. We will denote the set of facets of  $\Delta$  by  $\mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ . The dimension of a face  $F$  is  $\dim F := |F| - 1$ .

# Preliminaries and notation

## Simplicial complexes

Throughout  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$ . A *simplicial complex* on  $[n]$  is a collection  $\Delta$  of subsets of  $[n]$  satisfying:

- $F \in \Delta$  and  $G \subseteq F \Rightarrow G \in \Delta$ ;
- $\{i\} \in \Delta \quad \forall i \in [n]$ .

The subsets of  $\Delta$  are called *faces* and the faces maximal by inclusion are called *facets*. We will denote the set of facets of  $\Delta$  by  $\mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ . The dimension of a face  $F$  is  $\dim F := |F| - 1$ . The dimension of  $\Delta$  is  $\dim \Delta := \max\{\dim F : F \in \Delta\}$ .

# Preliminaries and notation

## Simplicial complexes

Throughout  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$ . A *simplicial complex* on  $[n]$  is a collection  $\Delta$  of subsets of  $[n]$  satisfying:

- $F \in \Delta$  and  $G \subseteq F \Rightarrow G \in \Delta$ ;
- $\{i\} \in \Delta \quad \forall i \in [n]$ .

The subsets of  $\Delta$  are called *faces* and the faces maximal by inclusion are called *facets*. We will denote the set of facets of  $\Delta$  by  $\mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ . The dimension of a face  $F$  is  $\dim F := |F| - 1$ . The dimension of  $\Delta$  is  $\dim \Delta := \max\{\dim F : F \in \Delta\}$ . A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is called *pure* if  $\dim F = \dim \Delta \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

# Preliminaries and notation

Stanley-Reisner ideals

# Preliminaries and notation

## Stanley-Reisner ideals

We can associate a simplicial complex to any ideal  $I \subseteq S := \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :

# Preliminaries and notation

## Stanley-Reisner ideals

We can associate a simplicial complex to any ideal  $I \subseteq S := \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :

$$\Delta(I) := \{F \subseteq [n] : \mathbb{k}[x_i : i \in F] \cap I = \{0\}\}.$$

# Preliminaries and notation

## Stanley-Reisner ideals

We can associate a simplicial complex to any ideal  $I \subseteq S := \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :

$$\Delta(I) := \{F \subseteq [n] : \mathbb{k}[x_i : i \in F] \cap I = \{0\}\}.$$

$\Delta(I)$  is called the *independence complex* of  $I$ .



# Preliminaries and notation

## Stanley-Reisner ideals

We can associate a simplicial complex to any ideal  $I \subseteq S := \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :

$$\Delta(I) := \{F \subseteq [n] : \mathbb{k}[x_i : i \in F] \cap I = \{0\}\}.$$

$\Delta(I)$  is called the *independence complex* of  $I$ . In the other direction, we can associate an ideal to any simplicial complex on  $[n]$ :

# Preliminaries and notation

## Stanley-Reisner ideals

We can associate a simplicial complex to any ideal  $I \subseteq S := \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :

$$\Delta(I) := \{F \subseteq [n] : \mathbb{k}[x_i : i \in F] \cap I = \{0\}\}.$$

$\Delta(I)$  is called the *independence complex* of  $I$ . In the other direction, we can associate an ideal to any simplicial complex on  $[n]$ :

$$I_\Delta := (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} : \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \notin \Delta) \subseteq S.$$

# Preliminaries and notation

## Stanley-Reisner ideals

We can associate a simplicial complex to any ideal  $I \subseteq S := \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :

$$\Delta(I) := \{F \subseteq [n] : \mathbb{k}[x_i : i \in F] \cap I = \{0\}\}.$$

$\Delta(I)$  is called the *independence complex* of  $I$ . In the other direction, we can associate an ideal to any simplicial complex on  $[n]$ :

$$I_\Delta := (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} : \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \notin \Delta) \subseteq S.$$

$I_\Delta$  is called the *Stanley-Reisner ideal* of  $\Delta$ .

# Preliminaries and notation

## Stanley-Reisner ideals

We can associate a simplicial complex to any ideal  $I \subseteq S := \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :

$$\Delta(I) := \{F \subseteq [n] : \mathbb{k}[x_i : i \in F] \cap I = \{0\}\}.$$

$\Delta(I)$  is called the *independence complex* of  $I$ . In the other direction, we can associate an ideal to any simplicial complex on  $[n]$ :

$$I_\Delta := (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} : \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \notin \Delta) \subseteq S.$$

$I_\Delta$  is called the *Stanley-Reisner ideal* of  $\Delta$ . Such a relationship leads to a one-to-one correspondence:

# Preliminaries and notation

## Stanley-Reisner ideals

We can associate a simplicial complex to any ideal  $I \subseteq S := \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :

$$\Delta(I) := \{F \subseteq [n] : \mathbb{k}[x_i : i \in F] \cap I = \{0\}\}.$$

$\Delta(I)$  is called the *independence complex* of  $I$ . In the other direction, we can associate an ideal to any simplicial complex on  $[n]$ :

$$I_\Delta := (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} : \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \notin \Delta) \subseteq S.$$

$I_\Delta$  is called the *Stanley-Reisner ideal* of  $\Delta$ . Such a relationship leads to a one-to-one correspondence:

$$\{\text{Square-free monomial ideals of } S\} \leftrightarrow \{\text{Simplicial complexes on } [n]\}$$

# Preliminaries and notation

## Stanley-Reisner ideals

We can associate a simplicial complex to any ideal  $I \subseteq S := \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :

$$\Delta(I) := \{F \subseteq [n] : \mathbb{k}[x_i : i \in F] \cap I = \{0\}\}.$$

$\Delta(I)$  is called the *independence complex* of  $I$ . In the other direction, we can associate an ideal to any simplicial complex on  $[n]$ :

$$I_\Delta := (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} : \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \notin \Delta) \subseteq S.$$

$I_\Delta$  is called the *Stanley-Reisner ideal* of  $\Delta$ . Such a relationship leads to a one-to-one correspondence:

$$\{\text{Square-free monomial ideals of } S\} \leftrightarrow \{\text{Simplicial complexes on } [n]\}$$

To relate combinatorial properties of  $\Delta$  with algebraic ones of  $I_\Delta$  caught the attention of several mathematicians.

# Preliminaries and notation

## Stanley-Reisner ideals

We can associate a simplicial complex to any ideal  $I \subseteq S := \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :

$$\Delta(I) := \{F \subseteq [n] : \mathbb{k}[x_i : i \in F] \cap I = \{0\}\}.$$

$\Delta(I)$  is called the *independence complex* of  $I$ . In the other direction, we can associate an ideal to any simplicial complex on  $[n]$ :

$$I_\Delta := (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} : \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \notin \Delta) \subseteq S.$$

$I_\Delta$  is called the *Stanley-Reisner ideal* of  $\Delta$ . Such a relationship leads to a one-to-one correspondence:

$$\{\text{Square-free monomial ideals of } S\} \leftrightarrow \{\text{Simplicial complexes on } [n]\}$$

To relate combinatorial properties of  $\Delta$  with algebraic ones of  $I_\Delta$  caught the attention of several mathematicians. For example, denoting by  $\wp_A := (x_i : i \in A) \subseteq S$  (where  $A \subseteq [n]$ ), it is easy to show that:

# Preliminaries and notation

## Stanley-Reisner ideals

We can associate a simplicial complex to any ideal  $I \subseteq S := \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :

$$\Delta(I) := \{F \subseteq [n] : \mathbb{k}[x_i : i \in F] \cap I = \{0\}\}.$$

$\Delta(I)$  is called the *independence complex* of  $I$ . In the other direction, we can associate an ideal to any simplicial complex on  $[n]$ :

$$I_\Delta := (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} : \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \notin \Delta) \subseteq S.$$

$I_\Delta$  is called the *Stanley-Reisner ideal* of  $\Delta$ . Such a relationship leads to a one-to-one correspondence:

$$\{\text{Square-free monomial ideals of } S\} \leftrightarrow \{\text{Simplicial complexes on } [n]\}$$

To relate combinatorial properties of  $\Delta$  with algebraic ones of  $I_\Delta$  caught the attention of several mathematicians. For example, denoting by  $\wp_A := (x_i : i \in A) \subseteq S$  (where  $A \subseteq [n]$ ), it is easy to show that:

$$I_\Delta = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_{[n] \setminus F}.$$



# Preliminaries and notation

## Stanley-Reisner ideals

We can associate a simplicial complex to any ideal  $I \subseteq S := \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :

$$\Delta(I) := \{F \subseteq [n] : \mathbb{k}[x_i : i \in F] \cap I = \{0\}\}.$$

$\Delta(I)$  is called the *independence complex* of  $I$ . In the other direction, we can associate an ideal to any simplicial complex on  $[n]$ :

$$I_\Delta := (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} : \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \notin \Delta) \subseteq S.$$

$I_\Delta$  is called the *Stanley-Reisner ideal* of  $\Delta$ . Such a relationship leads to a one-to-one correspondence:

$$\{\text{Square-free monomial ideals of } S\} \leftrightarrow \{\text{Simplicial complexes on } [n]\}$$

To relate combinatorial properties of  $\Delta$  with algebraic ones of  $I_\Delta$  caught the attention of several mathematicians. For example, denoting by  $\wp_A := (x_i : i \in A) \subseteq S$  (where  $A \subseteq [n]$ ), it is easy to show that:

$$I_\Delta = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_{[n] \setminus F}.$$

This fact implies that  $\dim \mathbb{k}[\Delta] = \dim \Delta + 1$ , where  $\mathbb{k}[\Delta] := S/I_\Delta$ .

# Preliminaries and notation

Matroids

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta),$$

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F,$$

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G :$$

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$$

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$$

**EXAMPLES:**



# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$$

**EXAMPLES:**

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$$

## EXAMPLES:

- Let  $V$  be a  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space and  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  some vectors of  $V$ .

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$$

## EXAMPLES:

- Let  $V$  be a  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space and  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  some vectors of  $V$ .

$$\Delta := \{F \subseteq [n] : |F| = \dim_{\mathbb{k}} \langle v_i : i \in F \rangle\}$$

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$$

## EXAMPLES:

- Let  $V$  be a  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space and  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  some vectors of  $V$ .

$$\Delta := \{F \subseteq [n] : |F| = \dim_{\mathbb{k}} \langle v_i : i \in F \rangle\}$$

Such a  $\Delta$  is easily seen to be a matroid:

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$$

### EXAMPLES:

- Let  $V$  be a  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space and  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  some vectors of  $V$ .

$$\Delta := \{F \subseteq [n] : |F| = \dim_{\mathbb{k}} \langle v_i : i \in F \rangle\}$$

Such a  $\Delta$  is easily seen to be a matroid: Actually, the concept of matroid is an “**abstraction of linear independence**”.

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$$

### EXAMPLES:

- Let  $V$  be a  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space and  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  some vectors of  $V$ .

$$\Delta := \{F \subseteq [n] : |F| = \dim_{\mathbb{k}} \langle v_i : i \in F \rangle\}$$

Such a  $\Delta$  is easily seen to be a matroid: Actually, the concept of matroid is an “**abstraction of linear independence**”.

- Let  $\Delta$  be the  $i$ -skeleton of the  $(n - 1)$ -simplex:

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$$

## EXAMPLES:

- Let  $V$  be a  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space and  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  some vectors of  $V$ .

$$\Delta := \{F \subseteq [n] : |F| = \dim_{\mathbb{k}} \langle v_i : i \in F \rangle\}$$

Such a  $\Delta$  is easily seen to be a matroid: Actually, the concept of matroid is an “**abstraction of linear independence**”.

- Let  $\Delta$  be the  $i$ -skeleton of the  $(n-1)$ -simplex:

$$\Delta := \{F \subseteq [n] : |F| \leq i\}.$$

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$$

## EXAMPLES:

- Let  $V$  be a  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space and  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  some vectors of  $V$ .

$$\Delta := \{F \subseteq [n] : |F| = \dim_{\mathbb{k}} \langle v_i : i \in F \rangle\}$$

Such a  $\Delta$  is easily seen to be a matroid: Actually, the concept of matroid is an “**abstraction of linear independence**”.

- Let  $\Delta$  be the  $i$ -skeleton of the  $(n-1)$ -simplex:

$$\Delta := \{F \subseteq [n] : |F| \leq i\}.$$

Such a  $\Delta$  is obviously a matroid.



# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$$

### EXAMPLES:

- Let  $V$  be a  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space and  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  some vectors of  $V$ .

$$\Delta := \{F \subseteq [n] : |F| = \dim_{\mathbb{k}} \langle v_i : i \in F \rangle\}$$

Such a  $\Delta$  is easily seen to be a matroid: Actually, the concept of matroid is an “**abstraction of linear independence**”.

- Let  $\Delta$  be the  $i$ -skeleton of the  $(n-1)$ -simplex:

$$\Delta := \{F \subseteq [n] : |F| \leq i\}.$$

Such a  $\Delta$  is obviously a matroid.

- If an ideal  $I \subseteq S$  is **prime**,

# Preliminaries and notation

## Matroids

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is a **matroid** if:

$$\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$$

## EXAMPLES:

- Let  $V$  be a  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space and  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  some vectors of  $V$ .

$$\Delta := \{F \subseteq [n] : |F| = \dim_{\mathbb{k}} \langle v_i : i \in F \rangle\}$$

Such a  $\Delta$  is easily seen to be a matroid: Actually, the concept of matroid is an “**abstraction of linear independence**”.

- Let  $\Delta$  be the  *$i$ -skeleton* of the  $(n - 1)$ -simplex:

$$\Delta := \{F \subseteq [n] : |F| \leq i\}.$$

Such a  $\Delta$  is obviously a matroid.

- If an ideal  $I \subseteq S$  is *prime*, then  $\Delta(I)$  is a matroid.

# Preliminaries and notation

S y m b o l i c   p o w e r s

# Preliminaries and notation

## Symbolic powers

The  $k$ th symbolic power of an ideal  $I \subseteq S$  is the ideal of  $S$ :

# Preliminaries and notation

## Symbolic powers

The *k*th symbolic power of an ideal  $I \subseteq S$  is the ideal of  $S$ :

$$I^{(k)} := (I^k \cdot W^{-1}S) \cap S,$$

where  $W$  is the multiplicative system  $S \setminus (\bigcup_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass}(I)} \mathfrak{p})$ .

# Preliminaries and notation

## Symbolic powers

The *k*th symbolic power of an ideal  $I \subseteq S$  is the ideal of  $S$ :

$$I^{(k)} := (I^k \cdot W^{-1}S) \cap S,$$

where  $W$  is the multiplicative system  $S \setminus (\bigcup_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass}(I)} \mathfrak{p})$ .

$$I^k \subseteq I^{(k)},$$

# Preliminaries and notation

## Symbolic powers

The *k*th symbolic power of an ideal  $I \subseteq S$  is the ideal of  $S$ :

$$I^{(k)} := (I^k \cdot W^{-1}S) \cap S,$$

where  $W$  is the multiplicative system  $S \setminus (\bigcup_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass}(I)} \mathfrak{p})$ .

$I^k \subseteq I^{(k)}$ , and equality holds if  $I^k$  has no embedded primes.

# Preliminaries and notation

## Symbolic powers

The  $k$ th symbolic power of an ideal  $I \subseteq S$  is the ideal of  $S$ :

$$I^{(k)} := (I^k \cdot W^{-1}S) \cap S,$$

where  $W$  is the multiplicative system  $S \setminus (\bigcup_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass}(I)} \mathfrak{p})$ .

$I^k \subseteq I^{(k)}$ , and equality holds if  $I^k$  has no embedded primes.

If  $I = I_{\Delta}$  is a square-free monomial ideal,



# Preliminaries and notation

## Symbolic powers

The  $k$ th symbolic power of an ideal  $I \subseteq S$  is the ideal of  $S$ :

$$I^{(k)} := (I^k \cdot W^{-1}S) \cap S,$$

where  $W$  is the multiplicative system  $S \setminus (\bigcup_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Ass}(I)} \mathfrak{p})$ .

$I^k \subseteq I^{(k)}$ , and equality holds if  $I^k$  has no embedded primes.

If  $I = I_{\Delta}$  is a square-free monomial ideal, then it is easy to show:

$$I_{\Delta}^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \mathfrak{p}_{[n] \setminus F}^k.$$

# The problem

Cohen-Macaulay combinatorial counterpart

# The problem

Cohen-Macaulay combinatorial counterpart

Reisner, in 1976, gave a characterization in terms of the *topological* realization of  $\Delta$  of the Cohen-Macaulay property of  $\mathbb{k}[\Delta]$ .

# The problem

## Cohen-Macaulay combinatorial counterpart

Reisner, in 1976, gave a characterization in terms of the *topological* realization of  $\Delta$  of the Cohen-Macaulay property of  $\mathbb{k}[\Delta]$ . However a characterization in a *combinatorial* fashion still misses.

# The problem

## Cohen-Macaulay combinatorial counterpart

Reisner, in 1976, gave a characterization in terms of the *topological* realization of  $\Delta$  of the Cohen-Macaulay property of  $\mathbb{k}[\Delta]$ . However a characterization in a *combinatorial* fashion still misses.

A related question is when all the rings  $S/I_{\Delta}^k$  are Cohen-Macaulay.

# The problem

## Cohen-Macaulay combinatorial counterpart

Reisner, in 1976, gave a characterization in terms of the *topological* realization of  $\Delta$  of the Cohen-Macaulay property of  $\mathbb{k}[\Delta]$ . However a characterization in a *combinatorial* fashion still misses.

A related question is when all the rings  $S/I_{\Delta}^k$  are Cohen-Macaulay. An answer is provided by a general result of Cowsik and Nori (1977):

# The problem

## Cohen-Macaulay combinatorial counterpart

[Reisner](#), in 1976, gave a characterization in terms of the *topological* realization of  $\Delta$  of the Cohen-Macaulay property of  $\mathbb{k}[\Delta]$ . However a characterization in a *combinatorial* fashion still misses.

A related question is when all the rings  $S/I_{\Delta}^k$  are Cohen-Macaulay. An answer is provided by a general result of [Cowsik](#) and [Nori](#) (1977):

$S/I_{\Delta}^k$  is Cohen-Macaulay  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$   $\Leftrightarrow I_{\Delta}$  is a complete intersection

# The problem

## Cohen-Macaulay combinatorial counterpart

Reisner, in 1976, gave a characterization in terms of the *topological* realization of  $\Delta$  of the Cohen-Macaulay property of  $\mathbb{k}[\Delta]$ . However a characterization in a *combinatorial* fashion still misses.

A related question is when all the rings  $S/I_{\Delta}^k$  are Cohen-Macaulay. An answer is provided by a general result of Cowsik and Nori (1977):

$S/I_{\Delta}^k$  is Cohen-Macaulay  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \Leftrightarrow I_{\Delta}$  is a complete intersection

Notice that  $S/I_{\Delta}^k$  Cohen-Macaulay  $\Rightarrow \text{Ass}(I_{\Delta}^k) = \text{Min}(I_{\Delta}^k) \Rightarrow I_{\Delta}^k = I_{\Delta}^{(k)}$ .



# The problem

## Cohen-Macaulay combinatorial counterpart

Reisner, in 1976, gave a characterization in terms of the *topological* realization of  $\Delta$  of the Cohen-Macaulay property of  $\mathbb{k}[\Delta]$ . However a characterization in a *combinatorial* fashion still misses.

A related question is when all the rings  $S/I_{\Delta}^k$  are Cohen-Macaulay. An answer is provided by a general result of Cowsik and Nori (1977):

$S/I_{\Delta}^k$  is Cohen-Macaulay  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \Leftrightarrow I_{\Delta}$  is a complete intersection

Notice that  $S/I_{\Delta}^k$  Cohen-Macaulay  $\Rightarrow \text{Ass}(I_{\Delta}^k) = \text{Min}(I_{\Delta}^k) \Rightarrow I_{\Delta}^k = I_{\Delta}^{(k)}$ .

Therefore it is natural to ask:

# The problem

## Cohen-Macaulay combinatorial counterpart

Reisner, in 1976, gave a characterization in terms of the *topological* realization of  $\Delta$  of the Cohen-Macaulay property of  $\mathbb{k}[\Delta]$ . However a characterization in a *combinatorial* fashion still misses.

A related question is when all the rings  $S/I_{\Delta}^k$  are Cohen-Macaulay. An answer is provided by a general result of Cowsik and Nori (1977):

$S/I_{\Delta}^k$  is Cohen-Macaulay  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \Leftrightarrow I_{\Delta}$  is a complete intersection

Notice that  $S/I_{\Delta}^k$  Cohen-Macaulay  $\Rightarrow \text{Ass}(I_{\Delta}^k) = \text{Min}(I_{\Delta}^k) \Rightarrow I_{\Delta}^k = I_{\Delta}^{(k)}$ .

Therefore it is natural to ask:

When is  $S/I_{\Delta}^{(k)}$  Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ ???

The result

## The result

In this talk, we are going to answer the above question:

# The result

In this talk, we are going to answer the above question:

$S/I_{\Delta}^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$   $\Leftrightarrow \Delta$  is a matroid

## The result

In this talk, we are going to answer the above question:

$S/I_{\Delta}^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$   $\Leftrightarrow \Delta$  is a matroid

It is fair to say that *Minh* and *Trung* proved at the same time the same result.

## The result

In this talk, we are going to answer the above question:

$S/I_{\Delta}^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$   $\Leftrightarrow \Delta$  is a matroid

It is fair to say that *Minh* and *Trung* proved at the same time the same result. However the two proofs are completely different.

# THE PROOF



Stanley-Reisner ideals  $\longrightarrow$  cover ideals

Properties of matroids

# Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

## Properties of matroids

(i) If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\Delta$  is pure.

# Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

## Properties of matroids

(i) If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\Delta$  is pure.

(ii) *Exchange property.*

# Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

## Properties of matroids

(i) If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\Delta$  is pure.

(ii) *Exchange property.* If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F,$   
 $\exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$

# Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

## Properties of matroids

(i) If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\Delta$  is pure.

(ii) *Exchange property.* If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F,$   
 $\exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$  and  $(G \setminus \{j\}) \cup \{i\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)!$

# Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

## Properties of matroids

(i) If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\Delta$  is pure.

(ii) *Exchange property.* If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F,$   
 $\exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$  and  $(G \setminus \{j\}) \cup \{i\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)!$

The **dual simplicial complex** of  $\Delta$  is the complex  $\Delta^c$  on  $[n]$  s. t.:

# Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

## Properties of matroids

(i) If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\Delta$  is pure.

(ii) *Exchange property.* If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F,$   
 $\exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$  and  $(G \setminus \{j\}) \cup \{i\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ !

The **dual simplicial complex** of  $\Delta$  is the complex  $\Delta^c$  on  $[n]$  s. t.:

$$\mathcal{F}(\Delta^c) := \{[n] \setminus F : F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)\}.$$

# Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

## Properties of matroids

(i) If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\Delta$  is pure.

(ii) *Exchange property.* If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F,$   
 $\exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$  and  $(G \setminus \{j\}) \cup \{i\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ !

The **dual simplicial complex** of  $\Delta$  is the complex  $\Delta^c$  on  $[n]$  s. t.:

$$\mathcal{F}(\Delta^c) := \{[n] \setminus F : F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)\}.$$

(iii) *Duality.*



# Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

## Properties of matroids

(i) If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\Delta$  is pure.

(ii) *Exchange property.* If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F, \exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$  and  $(G \setminus \{j\}) \cup \{i\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ !

The **dual simplicial complex** of  $\Delta$  is the complex  $\Delta^c$  on  $[n]$  s. t.:

$$\mathcal{F}(\Delta^c) := \{[n] \setminus F : F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)\}.$$

(iii) *Duality.* For any simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$ , we have

# Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

## Properties of matroids

(i) If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\Delta$  is pure.

(ii) *Exchange property.* If  $\Delta$  is a matroid, then  $\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta), \forall i \in F,$   
 $\exists j \in G : (F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$  and  $(G \setminus \{j\}) \cup \{i\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ !

The **dual simplicial complex** of  $\Delta$  is the complex  $\Delta^c$  on  $[n]$  s. t.:

$$\mathcal{F}(\Delta^c) := \{[n] \setminus F : F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)\}.$$

(iii) *Duality.* For any simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$ , we have

$$\Delta \text{ is a matroid} \Leftrightarrow \Delta^c \text{ is a matroid.}$$

Stanley-Reisner ideals  $\longrightarrow$  cover ideals

## Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

For a simplicial complex  $\Delta$ , its **cover ideal** is  $J(\Delta) := I_{\Delta^c}$ , so:

## Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

For a simplicial complex  $\Delta$ , its **cover ideal** is  $J(\Delta) := I_{\Delta^c}$ , so:

$$J(\Delta) = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F,$$

## Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

For a simplicial complex  $\Delta$ , its **cover ideal** is  $J(\Delta) := I_{\Delta^c}$ , so:

$$J(\Delta) = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F,$$

$A \subseteq [n]$  is a **vertex cover** of  $\Delta$  if  $A \cap F \neq \emptyset \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

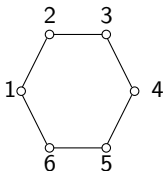
## Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

For a simplicial complex  $\Delta$ , its **cover ideal** is  $J(\Delta) := I_{\Delta^c}$ , so:

$$J(\Delta) = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F,$$

$A \subseteq [n]$  is a **vertex cover** of  $\Delta$  if  $A \cap F \neq \emptyset \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

EXAMPLES:



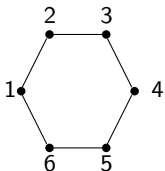
## Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

For a simplicial complex  $\Delta$ , its **cover ideal** is  $J(\Delta) := I_{\Delta^c}$ , so:

$$J(\Delta) = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F,$$

$A \subseteq [n]$  is a **vertex cover** of  $\Delta$  if  $A \cap F \neq \emptyset \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

EXAMPLES:



$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  is a vertex cover



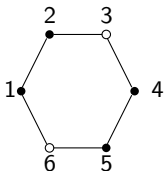
## Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

For a simplicial complex  $\Delta$ , its **cover ideal** is  $J(\Delta) := I_{\Delta^c}$ , so:

$$J(\Delta) = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F,$$

$A \subseteq [n]$  is a **vertex cover** of  $\Delta$  if  $A \cap F \neq \emptyset \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

EXAMPLES:



$\{1, 2, 4, 5\}$  is a vertex cover

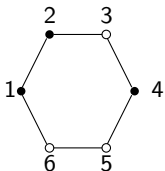
## Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

For a simplicial complex  $\Delta$ , its **cover ideal** is  $J(\Delta) := I_{\Delta^c}$ , so:

$$J(\Delta) = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F,$$

$A \subseteq [n]$  is a **vertex cover** of  $\Delta$  if  $A \cap F \neq \emptyset \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

EXAMPLES:



$\{1, 2, 4\}$  is not a vertex cover

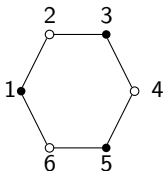
## Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

For a simplicial complex  $\Delta$ , its **cover ideal** is  $J(\Delta) := I_{\Delta^c}$ , so:

$$J(\Delta) = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F,$$

$A \subseteq [n]$  is a **vertex cover** of  $\Delta$  if  $A \cap F \neq \emptyset \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

EXAMPLES:



$\{1, 3, 5\}$  is a vertex cover

## Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

For a simplicial complex  $\Delta$ , its **cover ideal** is  $J(\Delta) := I_{\Delta^c}$ , so:

$$J(\Delta) = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F,$$

$A \subseteq [n]$  is a **vertex cover** of  $\Delta$  if  $A \cap F \neq \emptyset \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

One can easily check that:

$$J(\Delta) = (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} : \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \text{ is a vertex cover of } \Delta).$$

## Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

For a simplicial complex  $\Delta$ , its **cover ideal** is  $J(\Delta) := I_{\Delta^c}$ , so:

$$J(\Delta) = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F,$$

$A \subseteq [n]$  is a **vertex cover** of  $\Delta$  if  $A \cap F \neq \emptyset \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

One can easily check that:

$$J(\Delta) = (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} : \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \text{ is a vertex cover of } \Delta).$$

By the duality for matroids, because  $I_{\Delta} = J(\Delta^c)$ , we can pass

## Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

For a simplicial complex  $\Delta$ , its **cover ideal** is  $J(\Delta) := I_{\Delta^c}$ , so:

$$J(\Delta) = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F,$$

$A \subseteq [n]$  is a **vertex cover** of  $\Delta$  if  $A \cap F \neq \emptyset \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

One can easily check that:

$$J(\Delta) = (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} : \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \text{ is a vertex cover of } \Delta).$$

By the duality for matroids, because  $I_{\Delta} = J(\Delta^c)$ , we can pass from

$$S/I_{\Delta}^{(k)} \text{ is CM for any } k \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \Leftrightarrow \Delta \text{ is a matroid}$$

## Stanley-Reisner ideals $\longrightarrow$ cover ideals

For a simplicial complex  $\Delta$ , its **cover ideal** is  $J(\Delta) := I_{\Delta^c}$ , so:

$$J(\Delta) = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F,$$

$A \subseteq [n]$  is a **vertex cover** of  $\Delta$  if  $A \cap F \neq \emptyset \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

One can easily check that:

$$J(\Delta) = (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} : \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \text{ is a vertex cover of } \Delta).$$

By the duality for matroids, because  $I_{\Delta} = J(\Delta^c)$ , we can pass to

$S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is CM for any  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$   $\Leftrightarrow \Delta$  is a matroid

# Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers



## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We want to describe which monomials belong to  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ .

## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We want to describe which monomials belong to  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a nonzero function  $\alpha : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is called a  $k$ -cover of a simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$  if:

## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We want to describe which monomials belong to  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a nonzero function  $\alpha : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is called a  $k$ -cover of a simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$  if:  $\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) \geq k \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We want to describe which monomials belong to  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a nonzero function  $\alpha : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is called a  $k$ -cover of a simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$  if:  $\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) \geq k \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

A  $k$ -cover  $\alpha$  is **basic** if there is not a  $k$ -cover  $\beta$  with  $\beta < \alpha$ .

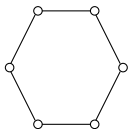
## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We want to describe which monomials belong to  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a nonzero function  $\alpha : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is called a  $k$ -cover of a simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$  if:  $\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) \geq k \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

A  $k$ -cover  $\alpha$  is **basic** if there is not a  $k$ -cover  $\beta$  with  $\beta < \alpha$ .

EXAMPLES:



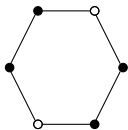
## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We want to describe which monomials belong to  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a nonzero function  $\alpha : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is called a  $k$ -cover of a simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$  if:  $\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) \geq k \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

A  $k$ -cover  $\alpha$  is **basic** if there is not a  $k$ -cover  $\beta$  with  $\beta < \alpha$ .

EXAMPLES:



vertex cover

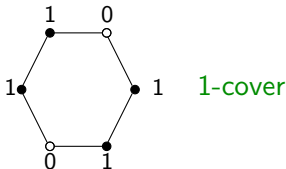
## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We want to describe which monomials belong to  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a nonzero function  $\alpha : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is called a  $k$ -cover of a simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$  if:  $\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) \geq k \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

A  $k$ -cover  $\alpha$  is **basic** if there is not a  $k$ -cover  $\beta$  with  $\beta < \alpha$ .

EXAMPLES:





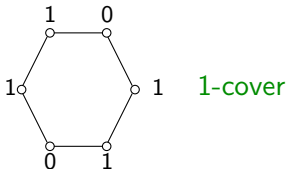
## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We want to describe which monomials belong to  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a nonzero function  $\alpha : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is called a  $k$ -cover of a simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$  if:  $\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) \geq k \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

A  $k$ -cover  $\alpha$  is **basic** if there is not a  $k$ -cover  $\beta$  with  $\beta < \alpha$ .

EXAMPLES:



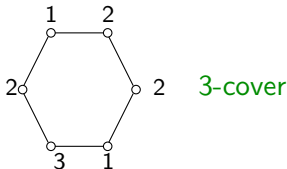
## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We want to describe which monomials belong to  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a nonzero function  $\alpha : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is called a  $k$ -cover of a simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$  if:  $\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) \geq k \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

A  $k$ -cover  $\alpha$  is **basic** if there is not a  $k$ -cover  $\beta$  with  $\beta < \alpha$ .

EXAMPLES:

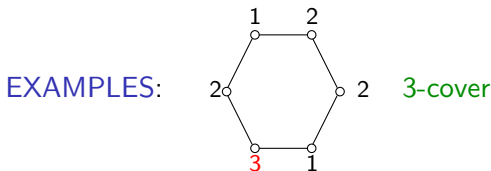


## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We want to describe which monomials belong to  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a nonzero function  $\alpha : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is called a  $k$ -cover of a simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$  if:  $\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) \geq k \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

A  $k$ -cover  $\alpha$  is **basic** if there is not a  $k$ -cover  $\beta$  with  $\beta < \alpha$ .

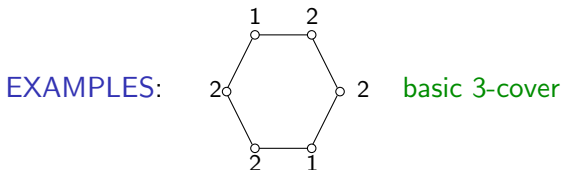


## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We want to describe which monomials belong to  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a nonzero function  $\alpha : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is called a  $k$ -cover of a simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$  if:  $\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) \geq k \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

A  $k$ -cover  $\alpha$  is **basic** if there is not a  $k$ -cover  $\beta$  with  $\beta < \alpha$ .



## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We want to describe which monomials belong to  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a nonzero function  $\alpha : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is called a  $k$ -cover of a simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$  if:  $\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) \geq k \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

A  $k$ -cover  $\alpha$  is **basic** if there is not a  $k$ -cover  $\beta$  with  $\beta < \alpha$ .

It is not difficult to show:

$$J(\Delta)^{(k)} = (x_1^{\alpha(1)} \cdots x_n^{\alpha(n)} : \alpha \text{ is a } k\text{-cover}).$$

## Symbolic powers and $k$ -covers

We have  $J(\Delta)^{(k)} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \wp_F^k \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We want to describe which monomials belong to  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ . For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , a nonzero function  $\alpha : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is called a  $k$ -cover of a simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $[n]$  if:  $\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) \geq k \quad \forall F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

A  $k$ -cover  $\alpha$  is **basic** if there is not a  $k$ -cover  $\beta$  with  $\beta < \alpha$ .

It is not difficult to show:

$$J(\Delta)^{(k)} = (x_1^{\alpha(1)} \cdots x_n^{\alpha(n)}) : \alpha \text{ is a basic } k\text{-cover}.$$

# The algebra of basic covers

Definition

# The algebra of basic covers

## Definition

The symbolic Rees algebra of  $J(\Delta)$ ,



# The algebra of basic covers

## Definition

The symbolic Rees algebra of  $J(\Delta)$ , i.e.  $A(\Delta) := \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ ,

# The algebra of basic covers

## Definition

The symbolic Rees algebra of  $J(\Delta)$ , i.e.  $A(\Delta) := \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ , has an obvious interpretation in terms of  $k$ -covers.

# The algebra of basic covers

## Definition

The symbolic Rees algebra of  $J(\Delta)$ , i.e.  $A(\Delta) := \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ , has an obvious interpretation in terms of  $k$ -covers. It has been introduced by *Herzog, Hibi* and *Trung*,

# The algebra of basic covers

## Definition

The symbolic Rees algebra of  $J(\Delta)$ , i.e.  $A(\Delta) := \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ , has an obvious interpretation in terms of  $k$ -covers. It has been introduced by *Herzog, Hibi* and *Trung*, and it is called the **vertex cover algebra** of  $\Delta$ .

# The algebra of basic covers

## Definition

The symbolic Rees algebra of  $J(\Delta)$ , i.e.  $A(\Delta) := \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ , has an obvious interpretation in terms of  $k$ -covers. It has been introduced by *Herzog, Hibi* and *Trung*, and it is called the **vertex cover algebra** of  $\Delta$ . We need to deal with the **special fiber** of  $A(\Delta)$ :

# The algebra of basic covers

## Definition

The symbolic Rees algebra of  $J(\Delta)$ , i.e.  $A(\Delta) := \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ , has an obvious interpretation in terms of  $k$ -covers. It has been introduced by Herzog, Hibi and Trung, and it is called the vertex cover algebra of  $\Delta$ . We need to deal with the special fiber of  $A(\Delta)$ :

$$\bar{A}(\Delta) := A(\Delta)/\mathfrak{m}A(\Delta) = \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J(\Delta)^{(k)}/\mathfrak{m}J(\Delta)^{(k)},$$

# The algebra of basic covers

## Definition

The symbolic Rees algebra of  $J(\Delta)$ , i.e.  $A(\Delta) := \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ , has an obvious interpretation in terms of  $k$ -covers. It has been introduced by Herzog, Hibi and Trung, and it is called the vertex cover algebra of  $\Delta$ . We need to deal with the special fiber of  $A(\Delta)$ :

$$\bar{A}(\Delta) := A(\Delta)/\mathfrak{m}A(\Delta) = \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J(\Delta)^{(k)}/\mathfrak{m}J(\Delta)^{(k)},$$

where  $\mathfrak{m} := (x_1, \dots, x_n) \subseteq S$ .

# The algebra of basic covers

## Definition

The symbolic Rees algebra of  $J(\Delta)$ , i.e.  $A(\Delta) := \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ , has an obvious interpretation in terms of  $k$ -covers. It has been introduced by Herzog, Hibi and Trung, and it is called the vertex cover algebra of  $\Delta$ . We need to deal with the special fiber of  $A(\Delta)$ :

$$\bar{A}(\Delta) := A(\Delta)/\mathfrak{m}A(\Delta) = \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J(\Delta)^{(k)}/\mathfrak{m}J(\Delta)^{(k)},$$

where  $\mathfrak{m} := (x_1, \dots, x_n) \subseteq S$ .

For all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , we have:

$$\bar{A}(\Delta)_k = \langle x^\alpha : \alpha \text{ is a basic } k\text{-cover} \rangle$$

.



# The algebra of basic covers

## Definition

The symbolic Rees algebra of  $J(\Delta)$ , i.e.  $A(\Delta) := \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ , has an obvious interpretation in terms of  $k$ -covers. It has been introduced by Herzog, Hibi and Trung, and it is called the vertex cover algebra of  $\Delta$ . We need to deal with the special fiber of  $A(\Delta)$ :

$$\bar{A}(\Delta) := A(\Delta)/\mathfrak{m}A(\Delta) = \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{N}} J(\Delta)^{(k)}/\mathfrak{m}J(\Delta)^{(k)},$$

where  $\mathfrak{m} := (x_1, \dots, x_n) \subseteq S$ .

For all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , we have:

$$\bar{A}(\Delta)_k = \langle x^\alpha : \alpha \text{ is a basic } k\text{-cover} \rangle$$

.

For this reason,  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  is called the algebra of basic covers of  $\Delta$ .

# The algebra of basic covers

How  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  comes into play

# The algebra of basic covers

How  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  comes into play

(HHT).  $A(\Delta)$  is a Cohen-Macaulay, finitely generated  $S$ -algebra.

# The algebra of basic covers

How  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  comes into play

(HHT).  $A(\Delta)$  is a Cohen-Macaulay, finitely generated  $S$ -algebra.

Using a theorem of *Eisenbud* and *Huneke*, the above result yields

# The algebra of basic covers

How  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  comes into play

(HHT).  $A(\Delta)$  is a Cohen-Macaulay, finitely generated  $S$ -algebra.

Using a theorem of *Eisenbud* and *Huneke*, the above result yields

$$\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = n - \min_{k \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}} \{\text{depth}(S/J(\Delta)^{(k)})\}$$

# The algebra of basic covers

How  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  comes into play

(HHT).  $A(\Delta)$  is a Cohen-Macaulay, finitely generated  $S$ -algebra.

Using a theorem of *Eisenbud* and *Huneke*, the above result yields

$$\dim \Delta + 1 = \text{ht}(J(\Delta)) \leq \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = n - \min_{k \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}} \{\text{depth}(S/J(\Delta)^{(k)})\}.$$

## The algebra of basic covers

How  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  comes into play

(HHT).  $A(\Delta)$  is a Cohen-Macaulay, finitely generated  $S$ -algebra.

Using a theorem of *Eisenbud* and *Huneke*, the above result yields

$$\dim \Delta + 1 = \text{ht}(J(\Delta)) \leq \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = n - \min_{k \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}} \{\text{depth}(S/J(\Delta)^{(k)})\}.$$

Therefore, since  $\dim S/J(\Delta) = n - \dim \Delta - 1$ , we get

# The algebra of basic covers

How  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  comes into play

(HHT).  $A(\Delta)$  is a Cohen-Macaulay, finitely generated  $S$ -algebra.

Using a theorem of Eisenbud and Huneke, the above result yields

$$\dim \Delta + 1 = \text{ht}(J(\Delta)) \leq \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = n - \min_{k \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}} \{\text{depth}(S/J(\Delta)^{(k)})\}.$$

Therefore, since  $\dim S/J(\Delta) = n - \dim \Delta - 1$ , we get

$$S/J(\Delta)^{(k)} \text{ is CM for any } k \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \Leftrightarrow \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = \dim \Delta + 1.$$



# The algebra of basic covers

How  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  comes into play

(HHT).  $A(\Delta)$  is a Cohen-Macaulay, finitely generated  $S$ -algebra.

Using a theorem of Eisenbud and Huneke, the above result yields

$$\dim \Delta + 1 = \text{ht}(J(\Delta)) \leq \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = n - \min_{k \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}} \{\text{depth}(S/J(\Delta)^{(k)})\}.$$

Therefore, since  $\dim S/J(\Delta) = n - \dim \Delta - 1$ , we get

$$S/J(\Delta)^{(k)} \text{ is CM for any } k \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \Leftrightarrow \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = \dim \Delta + 1.$$

In the next slides we are going to show that:

# The algebra of basic covers

How  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  comes into play

(HHT).  $A(\Delta)$  is a Cohen-Macaulay, finitely generated  $S$ -algebra.

Using a theorem of Eisenbud and Huneke, the above result yields

$$\dim \Delta + 1 = \text{ht}(J(\Delta)) \leq \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = n - \min_{k \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}} \{\text{depth}(S/J(\Delta)^{(k)})\}.$$

Therefore, since  $\dim S/J(\Delta) = n - \dim \Delta - 1$ , we get

$$S/J(\Delta)^{(k)} \text{ is CM for any } k \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \Leftrightarrow \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = \dim \Delta + 1.$$

In the next slides we are going to show that:

$$\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = \dim \Delta + 1 \text{ whenever } \Delta \text{ is a matroid.}$$

# The algebra of basic covers

A combinatorial description of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$

# The algebra of basic covers

A combinatorial description of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$

Since  $A(\Delta)$  is Noetherian,  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  is a finitely generated  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

# The algebra of basic covers

A combinatorial description of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$

Since  $A(\Delta)$  is Noetherian,  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  is a finitely generated  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

This implies that there exists a positive integer  $\delta$  such that:

## The algebra of basic covers

A combinatorial description of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$

Since  $A(\Delta)$  is Noetherian,  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  is a finitely generated  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

This implies that there exists a positive integer  $\delta$  such that:

$\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)} := \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}$  is a standard graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

## The algebra of basic covers

A combinatorial description of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$

Since  $A(\Delta)$  is Noetherian,  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  is a finitely generated  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

This implies that there exists a positive integer  $\delta$  such that:

$\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)} := \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}$  is a standard graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

$\bar{A}(\Delta)$  fin. gen.  $\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ -module  $\Rightarrow \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = \dim \bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ .

## The algebra of basic covers

A combinatorial description of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$

Since  $A(\Delta)$  is Noetherian,  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  is a finitely generated  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

This implies that there exists a positive integer  $\delta$  such that:

$\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)} := \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}$  is a standard graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

$\bar{A}(\Delta)$  fin. gen.  $\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ -module  $\Rightarrow \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = \dim \bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ .

Because  $\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$  is standard graded, it has a Hilbert polynomial.



## The algebra of basic covers

A combinatorial description of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$

Since  $A(\Delta)$  is Noetherian,  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  is a finitely generated  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

This implies that there exists a positive integer  $\delta$  such that:

$\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)} := \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}$  is a standard graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

$\bar{A}(\Delta)$  fin. gen.  $\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ -module  $\Rightarrow \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = \dim \bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ .

Because  $\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$  is standard graded, it has a Hilbert polynomial.

I.e. a polynomial  $P \in \mathbb{Q}[T]$ , of degree  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)} - 1$ , such that:

## The algebra of basic covers

A combinatorial description of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$

Since  $A(\Delta)$  is Noetherian,  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  is a finitely generated  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

This implies that there exists a positive integer  $\delta$  such that:

$\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)} := \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}$  is a standard graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

$\bar{A}(\Delta)$  fin. gen.  $\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ -module  $\Rightarrow \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = \dim \bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ .

Because  $\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$  is standard graded, it has a Hilbert polynomial.

I.e. a polynomial  $P \in \mathbb{Q}[T]$ , of degree  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)} - 1$ , such that:

$$P(m) = \dim_{\mathbb{k}}(\bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}) \quad \forall m \gg 0.$$

## The algebra of basic covers

A combinatorial description of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$

Since  $A(\Delta)$  is Noetherian,  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  is a finitely generated  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

This implies that there exists a positive integer  $\delta$  such that:

$\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)} := \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}$  is a standard graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

$\bar{A}(\Delta)$  fin. gen.  $\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ -module  $\Rightarrow \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = \dim \bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ .

Because  $\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$  is standard graded, it has a Hilbert polynomial.

I.e. a polynomial  $P \in \mathbb{Q}[T]$ , of degree  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)} - 1$ , such that:

$$P(m) = \dim_{\mathbb{k}}(\bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}) \quad \forall m \gg 0.$$

Therefore, since  $\dim_{\mathbb{k}}(\bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}) = |\{\text{basic } \delta m\text{-cover of } \Delta\}|$ ,

## The algebra of basic covers

A combinatorial description of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$

Since  $A(\Delta)$  is Noetherian,  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  is a finitely generated  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

This implies that there exists a positive integer  $\delta$  such that:

$\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)} := \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}$  is a standard graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

$\bar{A}(\Delta)$  fin. gen.  $\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ -module  $\Rightarrow \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = \dim \bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ .

Because  $\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$  is standard graded, it has a Hilbert polynomial.

I.e. a polynomial  $P \in \mathbb{Q}[T]$ , of degree  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)} - 1$ , such that:

$$P(m) = \dim_{\mathbb{k}}(\bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}) \quad \forall m \gg 0.$$

Therefore, since  $\dim_{\mathbb{k}}(\bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}) = |\{\text{basic } \delta m\text{-cover of } \Delta\}|$ ,

if  $|\{\text{basic } k\text{-covers}\}| = O(k^{s-1})$ ,

## The algebra of basic covers

A combinatorial description of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$

Since  $A(\Delta)$  is Noetherian,  $\bar{A}(\Delta)$  is a finitely generated  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

This implies that there exists a positive integer  $\delta$  such that:

$\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)} := \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}$  is a standard graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

$\bar{A}(\Delta)$  fin. gen.  $\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ -module  $\Rightarrow \dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = \dim \bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$ .

Because  $\bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)}$  is standard graded, it has a Hilbert polynomial.

I.e. a polynomial  $P \in \mathbb{Q}[T]$ , of degree  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)^{(\delta)} - 1$ , such that:

$$P(m) = \dim_{\mathbb{k}}(\bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}) \quad \forall m \gg 0.$$

Therefore, since  $\dim_{\mathbb{k}}(\bar{A}(\Delta)_{\delta m}) = |\{\text{basic } \delta m\text{-cover of } \Delta\}|$ ,

if  $|\{\text{basic } k\text{-covers}\}| = O(k^{s-1})$ , then  $\dim(\bar{A}(\Delta)) \leq s$ .

If  $\Delta$  is a matroid ...

The claim

If  $\Delta$  is a matroid ...

The claim

Set  $d := \dim(\Delta) + 1$ .

If  $\Delta$  is a matroid ...

The claim

Set  $d := \dim(\Delta) + 1$ . Being a matroid,  $\Delta$  is pure, so:



If  $\Delta$  is a matroid ...

The claim

Set  $d := \dim(\Delta) + 1$ . Being a matroid,  $\Delta$  is pure, so:

$d$  is the cardinality of each facet of  $\Delta$ .

If  $\Delta$  is a matroid ...

The claim

Set  $d := \dim(\Delta) + 1$ . Being a matroid,  $\Delta$  is pure, so:

$d$  is the cardinality of each facet of  $\Delta$ .

In order to show that  $S/J(\Delta)^k$  is Cohen-Macaulay  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ ,

If  $\Delta$  is a matroid ...

The claim

Set  $d := \dim(\Delta) + 1$ . Being a matroid,  $\Delta$  is pure, so:

$d$  is the cardinality of each facet of  $\Delta$ .

In order to show that  $S/J(\Delta)^k$  is Cohen-Macaulay  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ ,  
we have to prove that  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = d$ .

If  $\Delta$  is a matroid ...

The claim

Set  $d := \dim(\Delta) + 1$ . Being a matroid,  $\Delta$  is pure, so:

$d$  is the cardinality of each facet of  $\Delta$ .

In order to show that  $S/J(\Delta)^k$  is Cohen-Macaulay  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , we have to prove that  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = d$ . So:

**Claim:**  $|\{\text{basic } k\text{-covers of } \Delta\}| = O(k^{d-1})$ .

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ .

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ . Since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ . Since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) = k.$$



If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ . Since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) = k.$$

**Sub-claim:**  $F$  fixes  $\alpha$ . I.e., all the values of  $\alpha$  are determined by those on  $F$ .

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ . Since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) = k.$$

**Sub-claim:**  $F$  fixes  $\alpha$ . I.e., all the values of  $\alpha$  are determined by those on  $F$ .

In fact, let  $j_0$  be in  $[n] \setminus F$ .

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ . Since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) = k.$$

**Sub-claim:**  $F$  fixes  $\alpha$ . I.e., all the values of  $\alpha$  are determined by those on  $F$ .

In fact, let  $j_0$  be in  $[n] \setminus F$ . Again, since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ . Since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) = k.$$

**Sub-claim:**  $F$  fixes  $\alpha$ . I.e., all the values of  $\alpha$  are determined by those on  $F$ .

In fact, let  $j_0$  be in  $[n] \setminus F$ . Again, since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$j_0 \in G \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{j \in G} \alpha(j) = k.$$

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ . Since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) = k.$$

**Sub-claim:**  $F$  fixes  $\alpha$ . I.e., all the values of  $\alpha$  are determined by those on  $F$ .

In fact, let  $j_0$  be in  $[n] \setminus F$ . Again, since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$j_0 \in G \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{j \in G} \alpha(j) = k.$$

Exchange property for matroids  $\Rightarrow$  there exists  $i_0 \in F$  such that

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ . Since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) = k.$$

**Sub-claim:**  $F$  fixes  $\alpha$ . I.e., all the values of  $\alpha$  are determined by those on  $F$ .

In fact, let  $j_0$  be in  $[n] \setminus F$ . Again, since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$j_0 \in G \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{j \in G} \alpha(j) = k.$$

Exchange property for matroids  $\Rightarrow$  there exists  $i_0 \in F$  such that

(I)  $F' := (F \setminus \{i_0\}) \cup \{j_0\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$  and (II)  $G' := (G \setminus \{j_0\}) \cup \{i_0\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ . Since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) = k.$$

**Sub-claim:**  $F$  fixes  $\alpha$ . I.e., all the values of  $\alpha$  are determined by those on  $F$ .

In fact, let  $j_0$  be in  $[n] \setminus F$ . Again, since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$j_0 \in G \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{j \in G} \alpha(j) = k.$$

Exchange property for matroids  $\Rightarrow$  there exists  $i_0 \in F$  such that

(I)  $F' := (F \setminus \{i_0\}) \cup \{j_0\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$  and (II)  $G' := (G \setminus \{j_0\}) \cup \{i_0\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

$$(I) \implies \sum_{i \in F'} \alpha(i) \geq k$$

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ . Since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) = k.$$

**Sub-claim:**  $F$  fixes  $\alpha$ . I.e., all the values of  $\alpha$  are determined by those on  $F$ .

In fact, let  $j_0$  be in  $[n] \setminus F$ . Again, since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$j_0 \in G \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{j \in G} \alpha(j) = k.$$

Exchange property for matroids  $\Rightarrow$  there exists  $i_0 \in F$  such that

(I)  $F' := (F \setminus \{i_0\}) \cup \{j_0\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$  and (II)  $G' := (G \setminus \{j_0\}) \cup \{i_0\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

(I)  $\implies \sum_{i \in F'} \alpha(i) \geq k \implies \alpha(j_0) \geq \alpha(i_0)$ .



If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ . Since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) = k.$$

**Sub-claim:**  $F$  fixes  $\alpha$ . I.e., all the values of  $\alpha$  are determined by those on  $F$ .

In fact, let  $j_0$  be in  $[n] \setminus F$ . Again, since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$j_0 \in G \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{j \in G} \alpha(j) = k.$$

Exchange property for matroids  $\Rightarrow$  there exists  $i_0 \in F$  such that

(I)  $F' := (F \setminus \{i_0\}) \cup \{j_0\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$  and (II)  $G' := (G \setminus \{j_0\}) \cup \{i_0\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

$$(II) \implies \sum_{j \in G'} \alpha(j) \geq k$$

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ . Since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) = k.$$

**Sub-claim:**  $F$  fixes  $\alpha$ . I.e., all the values of  $\alpha$  are determined by those on  $F$ .

In fact, let  $j_0$  be in  $[n] \setminus F$ . Again, since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$j_0 \in G \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{j \in G} \alpha(j) = k.$$

Exchange property for matroids  $\Rightarrow$  there exists  $i_0 \in F$  such that

(I)  $F' := (F \setminus \{i_0\}) \cup \{j_0\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$  and (II)  $G' := (G \setminus \{j_0\}) \cup \{i_0\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

(II)  $\implies \sum_{j \in G'} \alpha(j) \geq k \implies \alpha(i_0) \geq \alpha(j_0)$ .

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The rigidity of the basic covers of a matroid

Let  $\alpha$  be a basic  $k$ -cover of  $\Delta$ . Since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$\sum_{i \in F} \alpha(i) = k.$$

**Sub-claim:**  $F$  fixes  $\alpha$ . I.e., all the values of  $\alpha$  are determined by those on  $F$ .

In fact, let  $j_0$  be in  $[n] \setminus F$ . Again, since  $\alpha$  is basic,  $\exists G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ :

$$j_0 \in G \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{j \in G} \alpha(j) = k.$$

Exchange property for matroids  $\Rightarrow$  there exists  $i_0 \in F$  such that

(I)  $F' := (F \setminus \{i_0\}) \cup \{j_0\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$  and (II)  $G' := (G \setminus \{j_0\}) \cup \{i_0\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ .

Therefore (I) and (II) together yield  $\alpha(j_0) = \alpha(i_0)$ .

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The conclusion

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The conclusion

Let us recall that, since  $F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $|F| = d$ .

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The conclusion

Let us recall that, since  $F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $|F| = d$ .

$$|\{(a_1, \dots, a_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d : a_1 + \dots + a_d = k\}| = \binom{k + d - 1}{k}.$$

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The conclusion

Let us recall that, since  $F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $|F| = d$ .

$$|\{(a_1, \dots, a_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d : a_1 + \dots + a_d = k\}| = \binom{k + d - 1}{k}.$$

So

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The conclusion

Let us recall that, since  $F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $|F| = d$ .

$$|\{(a_1, \dots, a_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d : a_1 + \dots + a_d = k\}| = \binom{k + d - 1}{k}.$$

So

$$|\{\text{basic } k\text{-covers}\}| \leq |\mathcal{F}(\Delta)| \binom{k + d - 1}{k}$$



If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The conclusion

Let us recall that, since  $F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $|F| = d$ .

$$|\{(a_1, \dots, a_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d : a_1 + \dots + a_d = k\}| = \binom{k + d - 1}{k}.$$

So

$$|\{\text{basic } k\text{-covers}\}| \leq |\mathcal{F}(\Delta)| \binom{k + d - 1}{k} = O(k^{d-1}).$$

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The conclusion

Let us recall that, since  $F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $|F| = d$ .

$$|\{(a_1, \dots, a_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d : a_1 + \dots + a_d = k\}| = \binom{k + d - 1}{k}.$$

So

$$|\{\text{basic } k\text{-covers}\}| \leq |\mathcal{F}(\Delta)| \binom{k + d - 1}{k} = O(k^{d-1}).$$

Therefore  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = d = \dim \Delta + 1$ .

If  $\Delta$  is a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional matroid ...

The conclusion

Let us recall that, since  $F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $|F| = d$ .

$$|\{(a_1, \dots, a_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d : a_1 + \dots + a_d = k\}| = \binom{k + d - 1}{k}.$$

So

$$|\{\text{basic } k\text{-covers}\}| \leq |\mathcal{F}(\Delta)| \binom{k + d - 1}{k} = O(k^{d-1}).$$

Therefore  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) = d = \dim \Delta + 1$ .

Hence  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for any  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ !

IF  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  IS COHEN-MACAULAY FOR ALL  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ ...

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The polarization of a monomial ideal

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The polarization of a monomial ideal

Given a monomial  $u \in S$ , say  $u := x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots x_n^{\alpha_n}$ , its *polarization* is:

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The polarization of a monomial ideal

Given a monomial  $u \in S$ , say  $u := x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots x_n^{\alpha_n}$ , its *polarization* is:

$$\tilde{u} := \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_1} x_{1,j} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_2} x_{2,j} \cdots \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_n} x_{n,j} \in \mathbb{k}[x_{i,j} : i \in [n], j \in [\deg u]].$$

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The polarization of a monomial ideal

Given a monomial  $u \in S$ , say  $u := x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots x_n^{\alpha_n}$ , its *polarization* is:

$$\tilde{u} := \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_1} x_{1,j} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_2} x_{2,j} \cdots \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_n} x_{n,j} \in \mathbb{k}[x_{i,j} : i \in [n], j \in [\deg u]].$$

If  $I \subseteq S$  is a monomial ideal with minimal monomial generators

$u_1, \dots, u_m$ ,



If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The polarization of a monomial ideal

Given a monomial  $u \in S$ , say  $u := x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots x_n^{\alpha_n}$ , its *polarization* is:

$$\tilde{u} := \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_1} x_{1,j} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_2} x_{2,j} \cdots \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_n} x_{n,j} \in \mathbb{k}[x_{i,j} : i \in [n], j \in [\deg u]].$$

If  $I \subseteq S$  is a monomial ideal with minimal monomial generators  $u_1, \dots, u_m$ , its polarization is the square-free monomial ideal:

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The polarization of a monomial ideal

Given a monomial  $u \in S$ , say  $u := x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots x_n^{\alpha_n}$ , its *polarization* is:

$$\tilde{u} := \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_1} x_{1,j} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_2} x_{2,j} \cdots \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_n} x_{n,j} \in \mathbb{k}[x_{i,j} : i \in [n], j \in [\deg u]].$$

If  $I \subseteq S$  is a monomial ideal with minimal monomial generators  $u_1, \dots, u_m$ , its polarization is the square-free monomial ideal:

$$\tilde{I} := (\tilde{u}_1, \dots, \tilde{u}_m) \subseteq \tilde{S} := \mathbb{k}[x_{i,j} : i \in [n], j \in [\max_i \{\deg u_i\}]].$$

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The polarization of a monomial ideal

Given a monomial  $u \in S$ , say  $u := x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots x_n^{\alpha_n}$ , its *polarization* is:

$$\tilde{u} := \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_1} x_{1,j} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_2} x_{2,j} \cdots \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_n} x_{n,j} \in \mathbb{k}[x_{i,j} : i \in [n], j \in [\deg u]].$$

If  $I \subseteq S$  is a monomial ideal with minimal monomial generators  $u_1, \dots, u_m$ , its polarization is the square-free monomial ideal:

$$\tilde{I} := (\tilde{u}_1, \dots, \tilde{u}_m) \subseteq \tilde{S} := \mathbb{k}[x_{i,j} : i \in [n], j \in [\max_i \{\deg u_i\}]].$$

$\tilde{I}$  has the same height and graded Betti numbers of  $I$ .

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The polarization of a monomial ideal

Given a monomial  $u \in S$ , say  $u := x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots x_n^{\alpha_n}$ , its *polarization* is:

$$\tilde{u} := \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_1} x_{1,j} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_2} x_{2,j} \cdots \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_n} x_{n,j} \in \mathbb{k}[x_{i,j} : i \in [n], j \in [\deg u]].$$

If  $I \subseteq S$  is a monomial ideal with minimal monomial generators  $u_1, \dots, u_m$ , its polarization is the square-free monomial ideal:

$$\tilde{I} := (\tilde{u}_1, \dots, \tilde{u}_m) \subseteq \tilde{S} := \mathbb{k}[x_{i,j} : i \in [n], j \in [\max_i \{\deg u_i\}]].$$

$\tilde{I}$  has the same **height** and **graded Betti numbers** of  $I$ . In particular:

$$S/I \text{ is Cohen-Macaulay} \Leftrightarrow \tilde{S}/\tilde{I} \text{ is Cohen-Macaulay.}$$

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The associated primes of  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}}$

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The associated primes of  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}}$

The trick is in understanding the **polarization** of  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ ;

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The associated primes of  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}}$

The trick is in understanding the polarization of  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ ;

Since  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \widetilde{\mathcal{O}_F^k}$ ,

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The associated primes of  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}}$

The trick is in understanding the polarization of  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ ;

Since  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \widetilde{\wp_F^k}$ , we can focus in understanding:

$$\widetilde{\wp_F^k} = (\prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_1,j}, \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} x_{i_1,j} \cdot x_{i_2,1}, \dots, \prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_d,j}),$$



If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The associated primes of  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}}$

The trick is in understanding the polarization of  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ ;

Since  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \widetilde{\wp_F^k}$ , we can focus in understanding:

$$\widetilde{\wp_F^k} = (\prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_1,j}, \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} x_{i_1,j} \cdot x_{i_2,1}, \dots, \prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_d,j}),$$

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The associated primes of  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}}$

The trick is in understanding the polarization of  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ ;

Since  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \widetilde{\wp_F^k}$ , we can focus in understanding:

$$\widetilde{\wp_F^k} = (\prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_1,j}, \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} x_{i_1,j} \cdot x_{i_2,1}, \dots, \prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_d,j}),$$

$F := \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}$  ( $d = \dim \Delta + 1$ ).

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The associated primes of  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}}$

The trick is in understanding the polarization of  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ ;

Since  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \widetilde{\wp_F^k}$ , we can focus in understanding:

$$\widetilde{\wp_F^k} = (\prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_1,j}, \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} x_{i_1,j} \cdot x_{i_2,1}, \dots, \prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_d,j}),$$

$F := \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}$  ( $d = \dim \Delta + 1$ ). We need to describe  $\text{Ass}(\widetilde{\wp_F^k})$ :

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The associated primes of  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}}$

The trick is in understanding the polarization of  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ ;

Since  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \widetilde{\wp_F^k}$ , we can focus in understanding:

$$\widetilde{\wp_F^k} = (\prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_1,j}, \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} x_{i_1,j} \cdot x_{i_2,1}, \dots, \prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_d,j}),$$

$F := \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}$  ( $d = \dim \Delta + 1$ ). We need to describe  $\text{Ass}(\widetilde{\wp_F^k})$ :

For each vector  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  with  $1 \leq a_i \leq k$ , set

$$\wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} := (x_{i_1,a_1}, x_{i_2,a_2}, \dots, x_{i_d,a_d}) \subseteq \widetilde{\mathcal{S}}.$$

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The associated primes of  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}}$

The trick is in understanding the polarization of  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ ;

Since  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \widetilde{\wp_F^k}$ , we can focus in understanding:

$$\widetilde{\wp_F^k} = (\prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_1,j}, \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} x_{i_1,j} \cdot x_{i_2,1}, \dots, \prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_d,j}),$$

$F := \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}$  ( $d = \dim \Delta + 1$ ). We need to describe  $\text{Ass}(\widetilde{\wp_F^k})$ :

For each vector  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  with  $1 \leq a_i \leq k$ , set

$$\wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} := (x_{i_1,a_1}, x_{i_2,a_2}, \dots, x_{i_d,a_d}) \subseteq \widetilde{\mathcal{S}}.$$

One can prove that for any prime ideal  $\wp \subseteq \widetilde{\mathcal{S}}$ ,

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The associated primes of  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}}$

The trick is in understanding the polarization of  $J(\Delta)^{(k)}$ ;

Since  $\widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(k)}} = \bigcap_{F \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)} \widetilde{\wp_F^k}$ , we can focus in understanding:

$$\widetilde{\wp_F^k} = (\prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_1,j}, \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} x_{i_1,j} \cdot x_{i_2,1}, \dots, \prod_{j=1}^k x_{i_d,j}),$$

$F := \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}$  ( $d = \dim \Delta + 1$ ). We need to describe  $\text{Ass}(\widetilde{\wp_F^k})$ :

For each vector  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  with  $1 \leq a_i \leq k$ , set

$$\wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} := (x_{i_1,a_1}, x_{i_2,a_2}, \dots, x_{i_d,a_d}) \subseteq \widetilde{\mathcal{S}}.$$

One can prove that for any prime ideal  $\wp \subseteq \widetilde{\mathcal{S}}$ ,

$$\wp \in \text{Ass}(\widetilde{\wp_F^k}) \Leftrightarrow \wp = \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} \text{ with } |\mathbf{a}| = a_1 + \dots + a_d \leq k + d - 1.$$

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The lack of connectedness

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The lack of connectedness

Assume by contradiction that  $\Delta$  is not a matroid.



If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The lack of connectedness

Assume by contradiction that  $\Delta$  is not a matroid.

Then there exist  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $i \in F$ , such that:

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The lack of connectedness

Assume by contradiction that  $\Delta$  is not a matroid.

Then there exist  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $i \in F$ , such that:

$(F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\}$  is not a facet of  $\Delta$  for every  $j \in G$ .

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The lack of connectedness

Assume by contradiction that  $\Delta$  is not a matroid.

Then there exist  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $i \in F$ , such that:

$(F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\}$  is not a facet of  $\Delta$  for every  $j \in G$ .

Let us assume that  $F = \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}$ ,  $G = \{j_1, \dots, j_d\}$  and  $i = i_1$ .

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The lack of connectedness

Assume by contradiction that  $\Delta$  is not a matroid.

Then there exist  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $i \in F$ , such that:

$(F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\}$  is not a facet of  $\Delta$  for every  $j \in G$ .

Let us assume that  $F = \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}$ ,  $G = \{j_1, \dots, j_d\}$  and  $i = i_1$ .

Eventually, consider  $\mathcal{H} := \widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(d+1)}}$ . ( $d+1 + d-1 = 2d$ ).

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The lack of connectedness

Assume by contradiction that  $\Delta$  is not a matroid.

Then there exist  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $i \in F$ , such that:

$(F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\}$  is not a facet of  $\Delta$  for every  $j \in G$ .

Let us assume that  $F = \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}$ ,  $G = \{j_1, \dots, j_d\}$  and  $i = i_1$ .

Eventually, consider  $\mathcal{H} := \widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(d+1)}}$ . ( $d+1 + d-1 = 2d$ ).

By the previous slide,  $\wp_{F,\mathbf{a}}$  and  $\wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$  belong to  $\text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$ , where

$\mathbf{a} := (d+1, 1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  and  $\mathbf{b} := (2, 2, \dots, 2) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  ( $|\mathbf{a}| = |\mathbf{b}| = 2d$ ).

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The lack of connectedness

Assume by contradiction that  $\Delta$  is not a matroid.

Then there exist  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $i \in F$ , such that:

$(F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\}$  is not a facet of  $\Delta$  for every  $j \in G$ .

Let us assume that  $F = \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}$ ,  $G = \{j_1, \dots, j_d\}$  and  $i = i_1$ .

Eventually, consider  $\mathcal{H} := \widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(d+1)}}$ . ( $d+1 + d-1 = 2d$ ).

By the previous slide,  $\wp_{F,\mathbf{a}}$  and  $\wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$  belong to  $\text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$ , where

$\mathbf{a} := (d+1, 1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  and  $\mathbf{b} := (2, 2, \dots, 2) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  ( $|\mathbf{a}| = |\mathbf{b}| = 2d$ ).

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The lack of connectedness

Assume by contradiction that  $\Delta$  is not a matroid.

Then there exist  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $i \in F$ , such that:

$(F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\}$  is not a facet of  $\Delta$  for every  $j \in G$ .

Let us assume that  $F = \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}$ ,  $G = \{j_1, \dots, j_d\}$  and  $i = i_1$ .

Eventually, consider  $\mathcal{H} := \widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(d+1)}}$ . ( $d+1 + d-1 = 2d$ ).

By the previous slide,  $\wp_{F,\mathbf{a}}$  and  $\wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$  belong to  $\text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$ , where

$\mathbf{a} := (d+1, 1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  and  $\mathbf{b} := (2, 2, \dots, 2) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  ( $|\mathbf{a}| = |\mathbf{b}| = 2d$ ).

We will show that  $R := \widetilde{S}/\mathcal{H}$  is not Cohen-Macaulay,

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The lack of connectedness

Assume by contradiction that  $\Delta$  is not a matroid.

Then there exist  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $i \in F$ , such that:

$(F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\}$  is not a facet of  $\Delta$  for every  $j \in G$ .

Let us assume that  $F = \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}$ ,  $G = \{j_1, \dots, j_d\}$  and  $i = i_1$ .

Eventually, consider  $\mathcal{H} := \widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(d+1)}}$ . ( $d+1 + d-1 = 2d$ ).

By the previous slide,  $\wp_{F,\mathbf{a}}$  and  $\wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$  belong to  $\text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$ , where

$\mathbf{a} := (d+1, 1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  and  $\mathbf{b} := (2, 2, \dots, 2) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  ( $|\mathbf{a}| = |\mathbf{b}| = 2d$ ).

We will show that  $R := \widetilde{S}/\mathcal{H}$  is not Cohen-Macaulay, contradicting the hypothesis that  $S/J(\Delta)^{(d+1)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay.



If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The lack of connectedness

Assume by contradiction that  $\Delta$  is not a matroid.

Then there exist  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $i \in F$ , such that:

$(F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\}$  is not a facet of  $\Delta$  for every  $j \in G$ .

Let us assume that  $F = \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}$ ,  $G = \{j_1, \dots, j_d\}$  and  $i = i_1$ .

Eventually, consider  $\mathcal{H} := \widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(d+1)}}$ . ( $d+1 + d-1 = 2d$ ).

By the previous slide,  $\wp_{F,\mathbf{a}}$  and  $\wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$  belong to  $\text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$ , where

$\mathbf{a} := (d+1, 1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  and  $\mathbf{b} := (2, 2, \dots, 2) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  ( $|\mathbf{a}| = |\mathbf{b}| = 2d$ ).

We will show that  $R := \widetilde{S}/\mathcal{H}$  is not Cohen-Macaulay, contradicting the hypothesis that  $S/J(\Delta)^{(d+1)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay.

Were it,  $R_{\wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} + \wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}}$  would be Cohen-Macaulay too.

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The lack of connectedness

Assume by contradiction that  $\Delta$  is not a matroid.

Then there exist  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ ,  $i \in F$ , such that:

$(F \setminus \{i\}) \cup \{j\}$  is not a facet of  $\Delta$  for every  $j \in G$ .

Let us assume that  $F = \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}$ ,  $G = \{j_1, \dots, j_d\}$  and  $i = i_1$ .

Eventually, consider  $\mathcal{H} := \widetilde{J(\Delta)^{(d+1)}}$ . ( $d+1 + d-1 = 2d$ ).

By the previous slide,  $\wp_{F,\mathbf{a}}$  and  $\wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$  belong to  $\text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$ , where

$\mathbf{a} := (d+1, 1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  and  $\mathbf{b} := (2, 2, \dots, 2) \in \mathbb{N}^d$  ( $|\mathbf{a}| = |\mathbf{b}| = 2d$ ).

We will show that  $R := \widetilde{S}/\mathcal{H}$  is not Cohen-Macaulay, contradicting the hypothesis that  $S/J(\Delta)^{(d+1)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay.

Were it,  $R_{\wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} + \wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}}$  would be Cohen-Macaulay too.

Particularly,  $R_{\wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} + \wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}}$  would be connected in codimension 1.

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The conclusion

So, there should be a prime  $\wp \in \text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$  such that:

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The conclusion

So, there should be a prime  $\wp \in \text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$  such that:

(i)  $\wp \subseteq \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} + \wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$ ;

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The conclusion

So, there should be a prime  $\wp \in \text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$  such that:

- (i)  $\wp \subseteq \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} + \wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$ ;
- (ii)  $\text{ht}(\wp + \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}}) = d + 1$ .

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The conclusion

So, there should be a prime  $\wp \in \text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$  such that:

- (i)  $\wp \subseteq \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} + \wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$ ;
- (ii)  $\text{ht}(\wp + \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}}) = d + 1$ .

In other words, there should be  $p, q \in [d]$  such that:

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The conclusion

So, there should be a prime  $\wp \in \text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$  such that:

- (i)  $\wp \subseteq \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} + \wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$ ;
- (ii)  $\text{ht}(\wp + \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}}) = d + 1$ .

In other words, there should be  $p, q \in [d]$  such that:

$$\wp = (x_{i_s, a_s}, x_{j_s, b_s} : s \in [d] \setminus \{p\}).$$

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The conclusion

So, there should be a prime  $\wp \in \text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$  such that:

- (i)  $\wp \subseteq \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} + \wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$ ;
- (ii)  $\text{ht}(\wp + \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}}) = d + 1$ .

In other words, there should be  $p, q \in [d]$  such that:

$$\wp = (x_{i_s, a_s}, x_{j_s, b_s} : s \in [d] \setminus \{p\}).$$

But this is impossible:



If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The conclusion

So, there should be a prime  $\wp \in \text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$  such that:

(i)  $\wp \subseteq \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} + \wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$ ;

(ii)  $\text{ht}(\wp + \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}}) = d + 1$ .

In other words, there should be  $p, q \in [d]$  such that:

$$\wp = (x_{i_s, a_s}, x_{j_q, b_q} : s \in [d] \setminus \{p\}).$$

But this is impossible:

If  $p = 1$ , then  $(F \setminus \{i_1\}) \cup \{j_q\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ , a contradiction.

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The conclusion

So, there should be a prime  $\wp \in \text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$  such that:

- (i)  $\wp \subseteq \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} + \wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$ ;
- (ii)  $\text{ht}(\wp + \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}}) = d + 1$ .

In other words, there should be  $p, q \in [d]$  such that:

$$\wp = (x_{i_s, a_s}, x_{j_q, b_q} : s \in [d] \setminus \{p\}).$$

But this is impossible:

If  $p = 1$ , then  $(F \setminus \{i_1\}) \cup \{j_q\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ , a contradiction.

If  $p \neq 1$ , then  $(d + 1) + \underbrace{1 + \dots + 1}_{d-2} + 2 > 2d$ , a contradiction.

If  $S/J(\Delta)^{(k)}$  is Cohen-Macaulay for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  ...

The conclusion

So, there should be a prime  $\wp \in \text{Ass}(\mathcal{H})$  such that:

- (i)  $\wp \subseteq \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}} + \wp_{G,\mathbf{b}}$ ;
- (ii)  $\text{ht}(\wp + \wp_{F,\mathbf{a}}) = d + 1$ .

In other words, there should be  $p, q \in [d]$  such that:

$$\wp = (x_{i_s, a_s}, x_{j_q, b_q} : s \in [d] \setminus \{p\}).$$

But this is impossible:

If  $p = 1$ , then  $(F \setminus \{i_1\}) \cup \{j_q\} \in \mathcal{F}(\Delta)$ , a contradiction.

If  $p \neq 1$ , then  $(d + 1) + \underbrace{1 + \dots + 1}_{d-2} + 2 > 2d$ , a contradiction.

So,  $\Delta$  has to be a **matroid**!

A related problem

## A related problem

As we noticed, for any  $\Delta$ , we have  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) \geq \dim \Delta + 1$ .

## A related problem

As we noticed, for any  $\Delta$ , we have  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) \geq \dim \Delta + 1$ . We showed that equality holds true exactly when  $\Delta$  is a matroid.

## A related problem

As we noticed, for any  $\Delta$ , we have  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) \geq \dim \Delta + 1$ . We showed that equality holds true exactly when  $\Delta$  is a matroid. So, the following is a natural problem:

## A related problem

As we noticed, for any  $\Delta$ , we have  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) \geq \dim \Delta + 1$ . We showed that equality holds true exactly when  $\Delta$  is a matroid. So, the following is a natural problem:

Looking for a combinatorial characterization of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$ .



## A related problem

As we noticed, for any  $\Delta$ , we have  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) \geq \dim \Delta + 1$ . We showed that equality holds true exactly when  $\Delta$  is a matroid. So, the following is a natural problem:

Looking for a combinatorial characterization of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$ .

Together with *Constantinescu*, we solved this problem when  $\dim \Delta = 1$ , that is when  $\Delta = G$  is a graph.

## A related problem

As we noticed, for any  $\Delta$ , we have  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) \geq \dim \Delta + 1$ . We showed that equality holds true exactly when  $\Delta$  is a matroid. So, the following is a natural problem:

Looking for a combinatorial characterization of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$ .

Together with *Constantinescu*, we solved this problem when  $\dim \Delta = 1$ , that is when  $\Delta = G$  is a graph. A little more precisely, we defined an invariant of  $G$ ,

## A related problem

As we noticed, for any  $\Delta$ , we have  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) \geq \dim \Delta + 1$ . We showed that equality holds true exactly when  $\Delta$  is a matroid. So, the following is a natural problem:

Looking for a combinatorial characterization of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$ .

Together with *Constantinescu*, we solved this problem when  $\dim \Delta = 1$ , that is when  $\Delta = G$  is a graph. A little more precisely, we defined an invariant of  $G$ , called *ordered matching number* and denoted by  $\nu_o(G)$ ,

## A related problem

As we noticed, for any  $\Delta$ , we have  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) \geq \dim \Delta + 1$ . We showed that equality holds true exactly when  $\Delta$  is a matroid. So, the following is a natural problem:

Looking for a combinatorial characterization of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$ .

Together with *Constantinescu*, we solved this problem when  $\dim \Delta = 1$ , that is when  $\Delta = G$  is a graph. A little more precisely, we defined an invariant of  $G$ , called *ordered matching number* and denoted by  $\nu_{\circ}(G)$ , and we showed that  $\dim \bar{A}(G) = \nu_{\circ}(G) + 1$ .

## A related problem

As we noticed, for any  $\Delta$ , we have  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta) \geq \dim \Delta + 1$ . We showed that equality holds true exactly when  $\Delta$  is a matroid. So, the following is a natural problem:

Looking for a combinatorial characterization of  $\dim \bar{A}(\Delta)$ .

Together with *Constantinescu*, we solved this problem when  $\dim \Delta = 1$ , that is when  $\Delta = G$  is a graph. A little more precisely, we defined an invariant of  $G$ , called *ordered matching number* and denoted by  $\nu_{\circ}(G)$ , and we showed that  $\dim \bar{A}(G) = \nu_{\circ}(G) + 1$ .

Already in this case things are complicated!

## References

- Constantinescu, Varbaro, *Koszulness, Krull dimension and other properties of graph-related algebras*, to appear in J. Algebraic Combin., available online on ArXiv.
- Herzog, Hibi, Trung, *Symbolic powers of monomial ideals and vertex cover algebras*, Adv. Math. (2007).
- Minh, Trung, *Cohen-Macaulayness of monomial ideals and symbolic powers of Stanley-Reisner ideals*, to appear in Adv. Math., available online on ArXiv.
- Varbaro, *Symbolic powers and matroids*, to appear in Proc. Amer. Math. Soc., available online on ArXiv.