# Dual graphs of projective schemes 

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August 26th, Haeundae, Busan, KOREA

## Motivations

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One way to make precise the concept of "combinatorial configuration of its irreducible components" is by meaning of the dual graph of $X$....

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Given $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n}$ and the unique saturated homogeneous ideal $I_{X} \subseteq S=K\left[x_{0}, \ldots, x_{n}\right]$ s.t. $X=\operatorname{Proj}\left(S / I_{X}\right)$, let us recall that $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n}$ is arithmetically Cohen-Macaulay (resp. arithmetically Gorenstein) if $S / I_{X}$ is Cohen-Macaulay (resp. Gorenstein).

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For a connected graph $G$, the following are equivalent:

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- There is a curve $C \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n}$ such that no 3 of its irreducible components meet at one point, $\operatorname{reg}(C)=2$, and $G(C)=G$.
- $G$ is a tree.


## From graphs to curves

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However, by taking 6 generic lines $L_{i} \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{2}$ and blowing up $\mathbb{P}^{2}$ along the points $P_{1,2}=L_{1} \cap L_{2}$ and $P_{3,4}=L_{3} \cap L_{4}$,

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## Connectivity of graphs

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## Menger theorem (Max-flow-min-cut).

A graph is $d$-connected iff between any 2 vertices one can find $d$ vertex-disjoint paths.

## From schemes to graphs

## Theorem B, Benedetti-Bolognese-V. 2015

Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n}$ be an arithmetically Gorenstein projective scheme such that $\operatorname{reg}(X)=\operatorname{reg}\left(I_{X}\right)=r+1$. If $\operatorname{reg}(\mathfrak{q}) \leq \delta$ for all primary components $\mathfrak{q}$ of $I_{X}$, then $G(X)$ is $\lfloor(r+\delta-1) / \delta\rfloor$-connected.

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When $\delta$ can be chosen to be 1 , i.e. when $X$ is a (reduced) union of linear spaces (a subspace arrangement), we recover the following:

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## Benedetti-V. 2014

Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n}$ be an arithmetically Gorenstein subspace arrangement such that $\operatorname{reg}(X)=\operatorname{reg}\left(I_{X}\right)=r+1$. Then $G(X)$ is $r$-connected.

## Example: 27 lines

As we know, on a smooth cubic $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{3}$ there are exactly 27 lines, which can be read from the fact that $X$ is the blow-up of $\mathbb{P}^{2}$ along 6 generic points.

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(1) $G(C)$ is 10 -connected.
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The important things to know are that:
(1) $G(C)$ is 10 -connected.
(2) The diameter of $G(C)$ is 2 .
(3) There is a partition $V_{1}, \ldots, V_{9}$ of the nodes of $G(C)$ such that the induced subgraph of $G(C)$ on each $V_{i}$ is a triangle.

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In particular $C \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{3}$ is an an arithmetically Gorenstein subspace arrangement of regularity $\operatorname{deg}(f)+\operatorname{deg}(g)-1=3+9-1=\mathbf{1 1}$. Thus our result confirms that $G(C)$ is $\mathbf{1 0}$-connected.

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## Question

Is $\operatorname{diam}(G(C)) \leq 2$ for any aCM line arrangement $C \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{3}$ ?

## Hirsch embeddings

We say that a projective scheme $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n}$ is Hirsch if

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Be careful:

- There exist nonreduced complete intersections $C \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{3}$ such that $C_{\text {red }} \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{3}$ is a line arrangement and $\operatorname{diam}(G(C))$ is arbitrarily large.
- For large $n$, there are arithmetically Gorenstein line arrangements that are not Hirsch (Santos).


## Hirsch embeddings

Many projective embeddings, however, are Hirsch:

## Adiprasito-Benedetti 2014

If $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n}$ is aCM and $I_{X}$ is a monomial ideal generated by quadrics, then $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n}$ is Hirsch.

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If $X$ is an arrangement of lines, no 3 of which meet in the same point, canonically embedded in $\mathbb{P}^{n}$, then $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n}$ is Hirsch.

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Conjecture: Benedetti-V. 2014
If $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n}$ is a (reduced) aCM scheme and $I_{X}$ is generated by quadrics, then $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n}$ is Hirsch.

Sketch of the proof of Theorem B

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## Caviglia 2007

If $I=\cap_{i=1}^{S} \mathfrak{q}_{i}$ is a primary decomposition of a homogeneous ideal $I \subseteq S=K\left[x_{0}, \ldots, x_{n}\right]$ and $\operatorname{Proj}(S / I)$ has dimension 1, then:

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Let $I_{X}=\cap_{i=1}^{s} \mathfrak{q}_{i}$ be the primary decomposition of $I_{X}$, choose $A \subseteq\{1, \ldots, s\}$ of cardinality less than $\lfloor(r+\delta-1) / \delta\rfloor$ and let $B=\{1, \ldots, s\} \backslash A$.

## Sketch of the proof of Theorem B

By taking generic hyperplane sections, we can reduce ourselves to consider $\operatorname{dim} X=1$.

## Caviglia 2007

If $I=\cap_{i=1}^{S} \mathfrak{q}_{i}$ is a primary decomposition of a homogeneous ideal
$I \subseteq S=K\left[x_{0}, \ldots, x_{n}\right]$ and $\operatorname{Proj}(S / I)$ has dimension 1, then:

$$
\operatorname{reg}(I) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{s} \operatorname{reg}\left(\mathfrak{q}_{i}\right)
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$$
X_{A}=\operatorname{Proj}\left(S / I_{A}\right) \quad X_{B}=\operatorname{Proj}\left(S / I_{B}\right)
$$

(1) $X_{A}$ and $X_{B}$ are geometrically linked by $X$ which is aGorenstein; so by a result of Hartshorne and Schenzel, we have a graded isomorphism

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H_{\mathfrak{m}}^{1}\left(S / I_{B}\right) \cong H_{\mathfrak{m}}^{1}\left(S / I_{A}\right)^{\vee}(2-r)
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(5) But then the dual graph of $X_{B}$, which is the same as the dual graph of $X$ with the vertices of $A$ removed, is connected.

## An 'Eisenbud-Goto style' question

Eisenbud-Goto conjecture (1984)
Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n}$ be a nondegenerate reduced projective scheme with connected dual graph. Then

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\operatorname{reg}(X) \leq \operatorname{deg}(X)-\operatorname{codim}_{\mathbb{P}^{n}} X+1
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The conjecture is known to be true in its full generality in dimension 1 by Gruson-Lazarsfeld-Peskine and Giaimo; in dimension 2, it is true for smooth surfaces by Lazarsfeld; for smooth threefolds and fourfolds, it is 'almost' true by Kwak.

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Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n}$ be an equidimensional reduced projective curve. Then

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This implies that the question above would admit a positive answer in dimension 2 if the EG conjecture was true in dimension 2 in its full generality (not only for irreducible surfaces).

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