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# Discrete Morse Theory

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## 1 Introduction

## 2 Monomial Ideals

Monomial ideals are those ideals generated by monomials. For each monomial ideal there exists a unique minimal generating set of monomials.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $G = (V(G), E(G))$  be a finite simple graph. The *edge ideal* associated to  $G$  is the monomial ideal

$$I(G) = \langle x_i x_j \mid \{x_i, x_j\} \in E(G) \rangle \subseteq R = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

The *cover ideal* is the monomial ideal

$$J(G) = \bigcap_{\{x_i, x_j\} \in E(G)} \langle x_i, x_j \rangle \subseteq R = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

As edge ideals are square-free, we can apply the theory of Stanley Reissner ideals and simplicial complexes. [6]

**Definition 2.2.** A simplicial complex on  $V = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  is a subset  $\Delta$  of the power set of  $V$  (i.e.  $\Delta \subseteq \mathcal{P}(V)$ ) such that

- (i) if  $F \in \Delta$ , and  $G \subseteq F$ , then  $G \in \Delta$ .
- (ii)  $\{x_i\} \in \Delta$  for all  $i$ .

**Definition 2.3.** The *Stanley-Reisner ideal* associated to a simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is the square-free monomial ideal

$$I_\Delta = \langle x_W | W \notin \Delta \rangle$$

Where  $x_W := \prod_{x_i \in W} x_i$ , for  $W \subseteq V(G)$ .

For any simplicial complex  $\Delta$ , the primary decomposition of  $I_\Delta$  can be described in terms of the *facets* of  $\Delta$ . Recall that  $F \in \Delta$  is a facet if  $F$  is a face that is maximal under inclusion. For each facet  $F$ , let

$$P_F = \langle x_i | x_i \notin F \rangle$$

**Theorem 2.4.** ([6, Theorem 3.1.34]) Let  $\Delta$  be a simplicial complex with facets  $F_1, \dots, F_t$ . Then

$$I_\Delta = P_{F_1} \cap P_{F_2} \cap \dots \cap P_{F_t}$$

**Definition 2.5.** A subset  $W \subseteq V(G)$  is a *vertex cover* if  $W \cap e \neq \emptyset$  for all  $e \in E(G)$ . A vertex cover  $W$  is a *minimal vertex cover* if no proper subset of  $W$  is a vertex cover.

**Corollary 2.6.** ([6, Corollary 3.1.35]) Let  $W_1, \dots, W_t$  be the minimal vertex covers of  $G$ , and set  $\langle W_i \rangle = \langle x_j | x_j \in W_i \rangle$ . Then

$$I(G) = \langle W_1 \rangle \cap \dots \cap \langle W_t \rangle$$

**Definition 2.7.** Let  $I$  be a square-free monomial ideal with primary decomposition

$$I = \langle x_{1,1}, x_{1,2}, \dots, x_{1,s_1} \rangle \cap \langle x_{2,1}, x_{2,2}, \dots, x_{2,s_2} \rangle \cap \dots \cap \langle x_{t,1}, x_{t,2}, \dots, x_{t,s_t} \rangle$$

The *Alexander Dual* of  $I$ , denoted  $I^\vee$ , is the square-free monomial ideal

$$I^\vee = \langle x_{1,1}x_{1,2} \dots x_{1,s_1}, x_{2,1}x_{2,2} \dots x_{2,s_2}, \dots, x_{t,1}x_{t,2} \dots x_{t,s_t} \rangle$$

**Corollary 2.8.** ([6, Corollary 3.1.38]) Let  $G$  be a graph. Then  $I(G)^\vee = J(G)$ .

### 3 Free Resolutions

**Definition 3.1.** If  $I \subseteq R$  an ideal, then a *free resolution* of  $R/I$  is an exact sequence

$$\mathbb{F} : \dots \xrightarrow{\phi_n} F_n \xrightarrow{\phi_{n-1}} F_{n-1} \dots \xrightarrow{\phi_0} F_0 \rightarrow R/I \rightarrow 0$$

where each of the  $F_i$  is a free  $R$ -module.

$$F_i = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}^n} R(-\alpha)^{\beta_{i,\alpha}}$$

We say that  $\mathbb{F}$  is *minimal* if each of the modules  $F_i$  has minimum possible rank; in this case the ranks are the *Betti numbers* of  $S/I$  and these form a set of invariants.

### 3.1 Cellular Resolutions

A CW-complex  $X$  is a topological space obtained by attaching cells of increasing dimensions to a discrete set of points  $X^{(0)}$ . Let  $X^{(i)}$  denote the set of  $i$ -cells of  $X$  and consider the set of all cells  $X^{(*)} := \bigcup_{i \geq 0} X^{(i)}$ . Then we can view  $X^{(*)}$  as a poset with the partial order given by  $\sigma' \leq \sigma$  if and only if  $\sigma'$  is contained in the closure of  $\sigma$ . We can also give a  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ -graded structure to  $X$  by means of an order preserving map  $gr : X^{(*)} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$ .

We say that the free resolution is *cellular* (or is a *CW-resolution*) if there exists a  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ -graded CW-complex  $(X, gr)$  such that, for all  $i \geq 1$ :

- there exists a basis  $\{e_\sigma\}$  of  $F_i$  indexed by the  $(i-1)$ -cells of  $X$ , such that if  $e_\sigma \in R(-\alpha)^{\beta_{i,\alpha}}$  then  $gr(\sigma) = \alpha$ , and
- the differential  $d_i : F_i \rightarrow F_{i-1}$  is given by

$$e_\sigma \mapsto \sum_{\sigma \geq \sigma' \in X^{(i-1)}} [\sigma : \sigma'] \mathbf{x}^{gr(\sigma) - gr(\sigma')} e_{\sigma'}, \quad \forall \sigma \in X^{(i)}$$

where  $[\sigma : \sigma']$  denotes the coefficient of  $\sigma'$  in the image of  $\sigma$  by the differential map in the cellular homology of  $X$ .

From now on, we will denote the free resolution as  $\mathbb{F}_\bullet = \mathbb{F}_\bullet^{(X, gr)}$ . If  $X$  is a simplicial complex, we say that the free resolution is *simplicial*.

#### 3.1.1 Taylor Resolution

#### 3.1.2 Scarf Complex

#### 3.1.3 Lyubeznik Resolution

## 4 Results

In figure 1 we show all neighbourly Gale diagrams we found.

Figure 1: All neighbourly Gale Diagrams, some isomorphic.

Figure 2: The coordinates for all 3 different neighbourly 4-polytopes on 8 vertices up to combinatorial equivalence

([1])

## References

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