

On the weakly polymatroidal property of the edge ideals

Rahim Rahmati-Asghar

University of Maragheh

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History

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- It was also independently discovered by **Takeo Nakasawa** whose work was forgotten for many years (Nishimura, Kuroda).
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Why matroid theory?

By today, matroids are among the most intensively studied objects in combinatorics. They play an important role in different fields such as **optimization**, **enumeration**, **algebraic combinatorics**, applications to **electrical networks**, **statistics**, **quantum computation**, **quantum cryptography**, etc.

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Definitions

Defn. A **matroid** is a pair (E, \mathcal{M}) consisting of a finite set E and a collection \mathcal{M} of subsets of E that satisfy the following conditions:

- (i) $\emptyset \in \mathcal{M}$;
- (ii) if $X \in \mathcal{M}$ and $Y \subseteq X$, then $Y \in \mathcal{M}$;
- (iii) for $X, Y \in \mathcal{M}$ with $|X| = |Y| + 1$ there exists an $x \in X \setminus Y$ such that $Y \cup x \in \mathcal{M}$.

The sets in \mathcal{M} are typically called **independent** sets. An independent set is called a **basis** if it is not a proper subset of another independent set. Denote by \mathcal{B} the set of bases.

The rank of a subset X , denoted by $r(X)$, of the ground set E is the size of the largest independent subset of X . The rank of \mathcal{M} is defined $r(\mathcal{M}) = \max\{r(X) : X \in \mathcal{M}\}$.

Examples

Exmp. Let $E = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$. Then \mathcal{M} , defined the following, is a matroid on E .

$$\mathcal{M} = \{123, 124, 245, 235\}.$$

Exmp. (Linear matroid) Let F be a field, $A \in F^{m \times n}$ an $m \times n$ matrix over F , $I = \{1, \dots, n\}$ be index set of columns of A . Then $U \subseteq I$ is independent if the corresponding columns are linearly independent.

Exmp. (Graphic matroid) Let E be the set of edges of a graph G and let \mathcal{M} be consists of those subsets that contain no circuit.

Thm. A non-empty collection \mathcal{B} of subsets of E is the set of bases of a matroid iff it satisfies the following condition:

(Exchange property)

For $B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{B}$ and $x \in B_1 \setminus B_2$ there exists a $y \in B_2 \setminus B_1$ such that $(B_1 \setminus x) \cup y \in \mathcal{B}$.

Proof. (\Rightarrow): All bases have the same cardinality and $B_1 \setminus x \in \mathcal{M}$.
Therefore there exists $y \in B_2 \setminus B_1$ such that $(B_1 \setminus x) \cup y \in \mathcal{B}$.

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(\Leftarrow): Let \mathcal{B} satisfies the exchange property.

Then all members of \mathcal{B} have the same cardinality. If $B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{B}$ with $|B_1| < |B_2|$, we can successively exchange the elements in $B_1 \setminus B_2$ with elements from $B_2 \setminus B_1$. We arrive at a set $B_3 \in \mathcal{B}$, where B_3 is a proper subset of B_2 , a contradiction.

Clearly, \mathcal{M} satisfies (i) and (ii). Let $X, Y \in \mathcal{M}$ with $|X| = |Y| + 1$ and let $X \subseteq B_1$ and $Y \subseteq B_2$. For all $b \in (B_2 \setminus B_1) \setminus Y$, there is $a \in B_1 \setminus B_2$, such that $(B_2 \setminus b) \cup a \in \mathcal{B}$.

If $a \in X$, then $Y \cup a \subseteq (B_2 \setminus b) \cup a$ and $Y \cup a \in \mathcal{M}$, as desired.

Otherwise, since that $|(B_1 \setminus B_2) \setminus X| < |(B_2 \setminus B_1) \setminus Y|$, after finitely many steps we obtain $a' \in X$ with $(B_2 \setminus b') \cup a' \in \mathcal{B}$ for some b' .

Therefore $Y \cup a' \in \mathcal{M}$.

Let \mathcal{M} be a matroid. Set $\mathcal{B}^* = \{B^c : B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{M})\}$.

Rem. \mathcal{B}^* is the set of bases of a matroid, called **dual matroid** of \mathcal{M} .

Proof. We use the fact that for $x \in B_1 \setminus B_2$ there exists a $y \in B_2 \setminus B_1$ such that $(B_2 \setminus y) \cup x \in \mathcal{B}$.

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Exmp. (Bipartite matroid) A graphic matroid is bipartite if and only if it comes from a bipartite graph.

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Defn. A simplicial complex whose facets are the bases of a matroid is called a **matroid complex**.

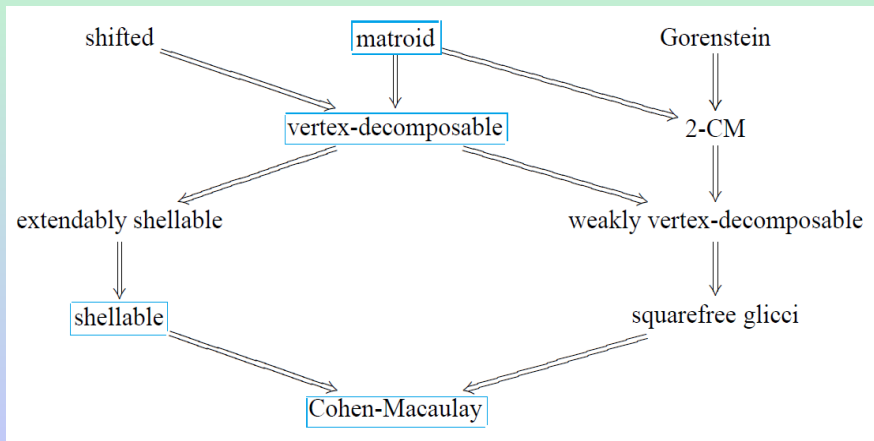
It is known that every matroid complex is pure shellable. To see this, consider the matroid complex \mathcal{M} and let the facets F_1, \dots, F_r of \mathcal{M} are lexicographically ordered with respect to an arbitrary ordering of vertices. Then it follows from definition that F_1, \dots, F_r is a shelling order for \mathcal{M} .

Moreover, it follows that every matroid complex is Cohen-Macaulay.

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Greedoids

Greedoids were invented in 1981 by Korte and Lovasz. Originally, the main motivation for proposing this generalization of the matroid concept came from combinatorial optimization.

They had observed that the optimality of a greedy algorithm could in several instances be traced back to an underlying combinatorial structure that was not a matroid-but (as they named it) a greedoid.

Greedoids

For a ground set E we denote by E^* the set of all sequences $\alpha := x_1 x_2 \dots x_k$ of elements $x_i \in E$. Set $\tilde{\alpha} = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k\}$. E is called **alphabet**, its elements **letters** and the elements of E^* **words**.

The collection of words $\mathcal{L} \subseteq E^*$ is called a **language** over the alphabet E .

The symbol \emptyset will also be used to denote the empty word.

A language is called **simple** if no letter is repeated in any word.

B. Kort, L. Lovász (1981)

A simple language (E, \mathcal{L}) is a **greedoid** if

- (i) $\emptyset \in \mathcal{L}$;
- (ii) $\alpha\beta \in \mathcal{L}$ implies $\alpha \in \mathcal{L}$;
- (iii) if $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{L}$ with $|\alpha| > |\beta|$, then there exists an $x \in \tilde{\alpha}$ such that $\beta x \in \mathcal{L}$.

Set $\mathcal{G} := \{\tilde{\alpha} : \alpha \in \mathcal{L}\}$.

Since that \mathcal{L} is simple, we can define:

A greedoid is a pair (E, \mathcal{G}) that satisfy the following conditions:

- (i) $\emptyset \in \mathcal{G}$;
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Note that if \mathcal{G} is closed under taking subsets, then (i) and (ii) are equivalent to the matroid axioms. So

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Examples of greedoids

Exmp. Let $E = \{a, b, c, d\}$ and let

$$\mathcal{G} = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{a, c\}, \{b, c\}, \{a, c, d\}, \{b, c, d\}\}.$$

Exmp. Let G be a graph and $r \in V(G)$ a specified root. Let \mathcal{G} be the family of edge-sets of subtrees of G containing r .

Exmp. Let G be a graph. Define a language (E, \mathcal{L}) with $E = V(G)$ consisting all words $x_1 \dots x_k$ such that x_i is a simplicial vertex in $G \setminus (N[x_1] \cup \dots \cup N[x_{i-1}])$. (E, \mathcal{L}) is a greedoid.

\rightsquigarrow B. Korte, L. Lovász, R. Schrader, *Greedoids*, Springer(1990), p. 51.

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A result in combinatorics

Thm. The dual of a greedoid is vertex-decomposable and hence shellable.

Open problems in Matroid Theory

Conj. The h -vector of a matroid complex is a pure M -vector.
 \rightsquigarrow R. Stanley, *Combinatorics and Commutative Algebra*, Birkhauser, Boston, MA, 1996.

Conj. For a matroid \mathcal{M} , the toric ideal $I_{\mathcal{M}}$, is generated by quadrics corresponding to double swaps, i.e.

$$I_{\mathcal{M}} = (y_u y_v - y_{(u/x_i)x_j} y_{(v/x_j)x_i} : x_i | u, x_j | v)$$

\rightsquigarrow N. White, *A unique exchange property for bases*, Linear Algebra Appl. **31** (1980), 81-91.

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Some references for greedoids:

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Discrete Polymatroids

Let $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n)$ and $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$ be two vectors belonging to \mathbb{R}_+^n . We write $\mathbf{u} \preceq \mathbf{v}$ if $u_i \leq v_i$ for all i , moreover, write $\mathbf{u} \prec \mathbf{v}$ if $\mathbf{u} \preceq \mathbf{v}$ and $\mathbf{u} \neq \mathbf{v}$. We say that \mathbf{u} is a subvector of \mathbf{v} if $\mathbf{u} \preceq \mathbf{v}$. In addition, we set

$$\mathbf{u} \vee \mathbf{v} = (\max\{u_1, v_1\}, \dots, \max\{u_n, v_n\}),$$

$$\mathbf{u} \wedge \mathbf{v} = (\min\{u_1, v_1\}, \dots, \min\{u_n, v_n\}).$$

Hence we have $\mathbf{u} \wedge \mathbf{v} \preceq \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \preceq \mathbf{u} \vee \mathbf{v}$.

The **modulus** of a vector $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n)$ is

$$|\mathbf{u}| = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i.$$

Defn. A **polymatroid** on the ground set $[n]$ is a nonempty compact subset \mathcal{P} in \mathbb{R}_+^n , the set of **independent vectors**, such that
 (P_1) every subvector of an independent vector is independent;
 (P_2) if $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}$ with $|\mathbf{v}| > |\mathbf{u}|$, then there is a vector $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{P}$ such that

$$\mathbf{u} \prec \mathbf{w} \preceq \mathbf{u} \vee \mathbf{v}.$$

A maximal independent vector of a polymatroid $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathbb{R}_+^n$ is an independent vector $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{P}$ with $\mathbf{u} \prec \mathbf{v}$ for no $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}$ and it is called a **base** of \mathcal{P} . Let $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{P})$ denote the set of bases of \mathcal{P} .

If \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} are bases of \mathcal{P} with $|\mathbf{u}| < |\mathbf{v}|$, then by (P_2) there exists $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{P}$ with $\mathbf{u} \prec \mathbf{w} \preceq \mathbf{u} \vee \mathbf{v}$, which is a contradiction, since \mathbf{u} is maximal. Thus every two elements of base of \mathcal{P} have the same modulus $r(\mathcal{P})$, the **rank** of \mathcal{P} .

Let $\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_n$ denote the canonical basis vectors of \mathbb{R}^n .

Defn. A **discrete polymatroid** on the ground set $[n]$ is a nonempty finite set $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathbb{Z}_+^n$ satisfying

- (D_1) if $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{P}$ and $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n$ with $\mathbf{v} \preceq \mathbf{u}$, then $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}$;
- (D_2) if $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n) \in \mathcal{P}$ and $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n) \in \mathcal{P}$ with $|\mathbf{u}| < |\mathbf{v}|$, then there is $i \in [n]$ with $u_i < v_i$ such that $\mathbf{u} + \epsilon_i \in \mathcal{P}$.

Notice that a polymatroid $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathbb{R}_+^n \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ is the same as a discrete polymatroid.

If $\mathcal{P} \subset \{0, 1\}^n$ then \mathcal{P} may be regarded as a matroid.

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$$I_{\mathcal{P}} = (y_{\mathbf{u}}y_{\mathbf{v}} - y_{\mathbf{u}-\epsilon_i+\epsilon_j}y_{\mathbf{v}-\epsilon_j+\epsilon_i} : \mathbf{u}(i) > 0, \mathbf{v}(j) > 0).$$

Monomial Ideals

Herzog, Hibi (2002)

Defn. A monomial ideal I of S with $G(I) = \{\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{u}_1}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{u}_t}\}$ is called **polymatroidal** if $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r\}$ is the set of bases of a discrete polymatroid on $[n]$. In other words, all elements in $G(I)$ have the same degree, and if $\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{u}_r} = x_1^{a_1} \dots x_n^{a_n}$ and $\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{u}_s} = x_1^{b_1} \dots x_n^{b_n}$ belong to $G(I)$ with $a_j > b_j$, then there exists j with $a_j < b_j$ such that $x_j(\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{u}_r}/x_j) \in G(I)$.

A squarefree polymatroidal ideal is called **matroidal**.

Monomial Ideals

Herzog, Hibi (2002)

Defn. A monomial ideal I of S with $G(I) = \{\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{u}_1}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{u}_t}\}$ is called **polymatroidal** if $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r\}$ is the set of bases of a discrete polymatroid on $[n]$. In other words, all elements in $G(I)$ have the same degree, and if $\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{u}_r} = x_1^{a_1} \dots x_n^{a_n}$ and $\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{u}_s} = x_1^{b_1} \dots x_n^{b_n}$ belong to $G(I)$ with $a_j > b_j$, then there exists j with $a_j < b_j$ such that $x_j(\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{u}_r}/x_j) \in G(I)$.

A squarefree polymatroidal ideal is called **matroidal**.

Some Properties

Conca, Herzog (2003)

A polymatroidal ideal I has linear quotients with respect to the reverse lexicographical order of the generators.

Herzog, Hibi (2002)

Let I and J be polymatroidal monomial ideals. Then IJ is polymatroidal.

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The base ring $K[\mathcal{P}]$ of a discrete polymatroid \mathcal{P} is normal.

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Weakly polymatroidal ideals

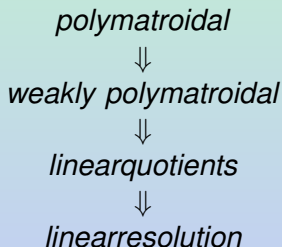
Hibi, KoKubo(2006)-Mohammadi, Moradi(2011)

Defn. A monomial ideal I is called **weakly polymatroidal** if for every two monomials $u = x_1^{a_1} \dots x_n^{a_n} >_{\text{lex}} v = x_1^{b_1} \dots x_n^{b_n}$ in $G(I)$ such that $a_1 = b_1, \dots, a_{t-1} = b_{t-1}$ and $a_t > b_t$, there exists $j > t$ such that $x_t(v/x_j) \in I$.

Hibi, KoKubo(2006)-Mohammadi, Moradi(2011)

Thm. A weakly polymatroidal ideal I has linear quotients.

Generated in one degree



Generated in different degrees

weakly polymatroidal



linearquotients



linearresolution

Questions

G is a graph

$$G \text{ is ? } \iff \left\{ \begin{array}{l} I(G) \text{ has linear resolution or} \\ I(G) \text{ has linear quotients or} \\ I(G) \text{ is weakly polymatroidal or} \\ I(G) \text{ is polymatroidal} \end{array} \right.$$

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Notations

Let $\mathcal{V} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ be a finite set and let $\mathcal{E} = \{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$ be a finite collection of distinct subsets of \mathcal{V} . The pair $\mathcal{H} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$ is called a **hypergraph** if $e_i \neq \emptyset$ for each i .

The elements of \mathcal{V} and \mathcal{E} are called the **vertices** and **edges**, respectively, of \mathcal{H} . We may write $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{H})$ and $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{H})$ for the vertices and edges of \mathcal{H} , respectively. The hypergraph \mathcal{H} is a **simple hypergraph** if:

- (1) $|e| \geq 2$ for all $e \in \mathcal{E}$ and
- (2) whenever $e_i, e_j \in \mathcal{E}$ and $e_i \subseteq e_j$, then $i = j$.

In the literature, a simple hypergraph is also called a *clutter*.

The vertex $x \in \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{H})$ is called **isolated** if it belongs to no edge of \mathcal{H} . The hypergraph \mathcal{H} is called **d -uniform** if $|e| = d$ for each $e \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{H})$. A hypergraph with vertex set $[n] := \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ is **complete** if its edge set is the set of all subsets of $[n]$ and it is denoted by \mathcal{K}_n . We will also denote by \mathcal{K}_n^d the complete d -uniform hypergraph. If $n < d$, we interpret \mathcal{K}_n^d as n isolated points.

For a d -uniform hypergraph \mathcal{H} , a subset C of $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{H})$ is called a **d -clique** of \mathcal{H} if \mathcal{H}_C is a complete d -uniform subhypergraph. The **d -clique complex** of \mathcal{H} , denoted by $\Delta(\mathcal{H})$, is a simplicial complex whose facets are all d -cliques of \mathcal{H} . Notice that $\Delta(\mathcal{H})$ is a simplicial complex with the vertex set $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{H})$.

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A subset F of $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{H})$ is called an **independent set** if $e \not\subseteq F$ for any $e \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{H})$. The **independence complex** of \mathcal{H} , $\Delta_{\mathcal{H}}$, is a simplicial complex whose every face is an independent set of \mathcal{H} .

The **edge ideal** of a hypergraph \mathcal{H} is the ideal $I(\mathcal{H}) \subset \mathcal{S}$ which is generated by the monomials $\mathbf{x}^e = \prod_{x_i \in e} x_i$, where $e \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{H})$. It is

known that

$$I(\mathcal{H}) = I_{\Delta_{\mathcal{H}}}.$$

In other words, every edge of \mathcal{H} is a minimal nonface of $\Delta_{\mathcal{H}}$.

The **complementary hypergraph** \mathcal{H}^c , of a d -uniform hypergraph \mathcal{H} , is defined as the hypergraph on the same set of vertices as \mathcal{H} , and edge set

$$\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{H}^c) = \{e \subseteq \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{H}) : |e| = d, e \notin \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{H})\}.$$

For a d -uniform hypergraph \mathcal{H} , one can easily obtain that

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For every d -uniform hypergraph \mathcal{H} we have

$$\Delta_{\mathcal{H}} = \Delta(\mathcal{H}^c).$$

A hypergraph is as **graph** if every edge has cardinality 2. For the graph G , $V(G)$ and $E(G)$ denote the vertex set and the edge set of G , respectively. Also, we will denote a complete graph on n vertices by K_n . We call the simplicial complex $\Delta(G)$, **clique complex** of G . A **vertex cover** of a graph G on $V(G)$ is a subset $C \subset V(G)$ such that $e \cap C \neq \emptyset$ for all $e \in E(G)$. A vertex cover C is called minimal if C is a vertex cover of G , and no proper subset of C is a vertex cover of G . Obviously, U is an independent set of G if and only if $V(G) \setminus U$ is a vertex cover of G . Thus the maximal independent sets of G correspond to the minimal vertex covers of G .

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A hypergraph \mathcal{H} on the vertex set $V^{(1)} \dot{\cup} \dots \dot{\cup} V^{(r)}$ (a disjoint union of vertex sets) is a **multipartite** hypergraph or **r -partite** hypergraph if for every edge $e = \{i_1, \dots, i_s\} \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{H})$, $e \not\subseteq V^{(j)}$ for all j .

Fröberg (1990)

Thm. A graph G is chordal if and only if $I(G^c)$ has a linear resolution.

Recall that a graph is **chordal** if each of its cycle of length four or more has an edge joining two nonadjacent vertices in the cycle.

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Improved

Theorem. A graph G is chordal if and only if $I(G^c)$ is weakly polymatroidal.

Emtander (2008)

Definition. A **chordal hypergraph** is a d -uniform hypergraph, obtained inductively as follows:

- \mathcal{K}_n^d is a chordal hypergraph, $n, d \in \mathbb{N}$.
- If \mathcal{G} is chordal, then so is $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{G} \cup_{\mathcal{K}_j^d} \mathcal{K}_i^d$ for $0 \leq j < i$. (\mathcal{K}_i^d is attached to \mathcal{G} in a common (under identification) \mathcal{K}_j^d .)

Emtander, Mohammadi, Moradi (2008)

Theorem. If a d -uniform hypergraph is chordal, then the edge ideal of its complementary hypergraph, $I(\mathcal{C}^c)$, has linear quotients.

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Theorem. Let \mathcal{C} be a d -uniform hypergraph which is chordal. Then the edge ideal of \mathcal{C}^c , $I(\mathcal{C}^c)$, is weakly polymatroidal.

The converse does not hold.

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Open problem

For a d -uniform hypergraph \mathcal{H} which $I(\mathcal{H})$ has **linear resolution** (l.q. or is **w.p.**), what do you say about \mathcal{H} ?

Nagel, Reiner (2009)

Definition. A d -partite d -uniform hypergraph \mathcal{F} on the vertex set $V^{(1)} \dot{\cup} \dots \dot{\cup} V^{(d)}$ and with the edge set $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{F}) = \{\{x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_d}\} : x_{i_j} \in V^{(j)} \text{ for all } j\}$ is a **Ferrers hypergraph** if for $\{x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_d}\} \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{F})$ and $\{x_{i'_1}, \dots, x_{i'_d}\}$ with $i'_j \leq i_j$ for all j , one also has $\{x_{i'_1}, \dots, x_{i'_d}\} \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{F})$.

A hypergraph \mathcal{H} on the vertex set $V^{(1)} \dot{\cup} \dots \dot{\cup} V^{(r)}$ (a disjoint union of vertex sets) is an r -partite hypergraph if for every edge $e = \{i_1, \dots, i_s\} \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{H})$, $e \not\subseteq V^{(j)}$ for all j .

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Thanks for your attention