

Path ideals of graphs

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August 2013

Let $R = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, where k is a field.

For a simplicial complex Δ with vertex set $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$, the **Stanley-Reisner ideal** of Δ is defined as:

$$I_{\Delta} = \left(\prod_{x \in F} x : F \notin \Delta \right).$$

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The **facet ideal** of Δ is

$$I(\Delta) = \left(\prod_{x \in F} x : F \text{ is a facet of } \Delta \right).$$

Let V be a finite set and $E = \{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$ a finite collection of distinct non-empty subsets of V . Then the pair $H = (V, E)$ is called a **hypergraph**.

A hypergraph H is said to be **simple**, if there is no containment between its edges.

A hypergraph H is said to be **d-uniform** if $|e_i| = d$, for every edge $e_i \in E$.

The **edge ideal** of a hypergraph H is defined as

$$I(H) = \left(\prod_{x \in e} x : e \in H \right).$$

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a finite simple graph with vertex set $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ and edge set E .

Associated to G is a monomial ideal

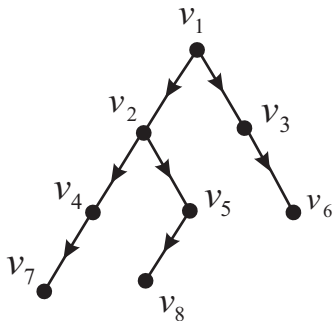
$$I(G) = (x_i x_j : \{v_i, v_j\} \in E),$$

in $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, called the **edge ideal** of G .

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a directed graph with vertex set $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ and edge set E . Fix an integer $2 \leq t \leq n$. Associated to G is a monomial ideal

$$I_t(G) = (x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_t} : v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_t} \text{ is a path of length } t \text{ in } G),$$

called the **path ideal** of G .



$$I_3(G) = (x_1x_3x_6, x_1x_2x_4, x_2x_4x_7, x_1x_2x_5, x_2x_5x_8).$$

- (Conca - De Negri, 1999) The Rees algebra of the path ideal of directed trees
- (Brumatti - da Silva, 2001) The Rees algebra and symmetric algebra of the path ideal of cycles
- (Restuccia - Villarreal, 2001) The path ideal of complete bipartite graphs

It is known that

$$I(C_n) \text{ is unmixed} \iff n = 3, 4, 5 \text{ or } 7.$$

Kiani - me - Terai

Let $t \geq 3$. Then $I_t(C_n)$ is unmixed if and only if $n = 2t + 1$ or $t \leq n \leq \lfloor 3t/2 \rfloor + 1$.

A graded R -module M is called **sequentially Cohen-Macaulay** (over k) if there exists a finite filtration of graded R -modules

$$0 = M_0 \subset M_1 \subset \cdots \subset M_r = M$$

such that each M_i/M_{i-1} is Cohen-Macaulay, and the Krull dimensions of the quotients are increasing:

$$\dim(M_1/M_0) < \dim(M_2/M_1) < \cdots < \dim(M_r/M_{r-1})$$

Francisco - Van Tuyl

Let $n \geq 3$. Then the following are equivalent:

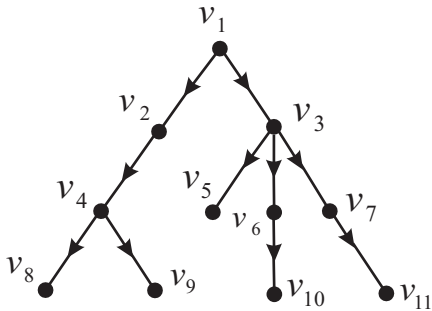
- (i) $R/I(C_n)$ is Cohen-Macaulay.
- (ii) $R/I(C_n)$ is sequentially Cohen-Macaulay.
- (iii) $n = 3$ or 5 .

Kiani - me - Terai

Let $n \geq t \geq 2$. Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) $R/I_t(C_n)$ is Cohen-Macaulay.
- (ii) $R/I_t(C_n)$ is sequentially Cohen-Macaulay.
- (iii) $n = t$ or $t + 1$ or $2t + 1$.

Path ideals of trees



Francisco -Van Tuyl

If G is a tree, then G is sequentially Cohen-Macaulay.

He -Van Tuyl

Let G be a directed tree and $t \geq 2$. Then $R/I_t(G)$ is sequentially Cohen-Macaulay.

Theorem

Let I be a squarefree monomial ideal in R . Then R/I is Cohen-Macaulay if and only if R/I is sequentially Cohen-Macaulay and I is unmixed.

Haghighi - Terai - Yassemi - Zaare-Nahandi

Let I be a squarefree monomial ideal in R . Then R/I is S_r if and only if R/I is sequentially S_r and I is unmixed.

Some algebraic preliminaries

A graded R -module M is called **sequentially S_r** (over k) if there exists a finite filtration of graded R -modules

$$0 = M_0 \subset M_1 \subset \cdots \subset M_r = M$$

such that each M_i/M_{i-1} is S_r , and the Krull dimensions of the quotients are increasing:

$$\dim(M_1/M_0) < \dim(M_2/M_1) < \cdots < \dim(M_r/M_{r-1})$$

Some algebraic preliminaries

A finitely generated graded module M over R is said to satisfy the Serre's condition S_r if $\text{depth } M_P \geq \min(r, \dim M_P)$, for all $P \in \text{Spec}(R)$.

Herzog - Hibi - Zheng

Let G be a chordal graph on the vertex set V . Let F_1, \dots, F_m be the facets of $\Delta(G)$ which admit a free vertex. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) G is Cohen-Macaulay.
- (ii) G is unmixed.
- (iii) V is the disjoint union of F_1, \dots, F_m .

$\text{level}(v) :=$ the length of the unique path starting at the root and ending at v minus one.

Note that by removing leaves at level strictly less than $(t - 1)$ from a tree Γ and repeating this process, one obtains a tree denoted by $C(\Gamma)$. This process is called **cleaning process** and the tree $C(\Gamma)$ is called the **clean form** of Γ .

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Note that by removing leaves at level strictly less than $(t - 1)$ from a tree Γ and repeating this process, one obtains a tree denoted by $C(\Gamma)$. This process is called **cleaning process** and the tree $C(\Gamma)$ is called the **clean form** of Γ .

Let Γ be a tree over n vertices and $2 \leq t \leq n$. Suppose that F_1, \dots, F_m are all facets of $\Delta = \Delta_t(C(\Gamma))$ containing a leaf of $C(\Gamma)$ such that each leaf belongs to exactly one of them. If $V(\Delta)$ is the disjoint union of F_1, \dots, F_m , then we say that Γ is **t -partitioned** (by F_1, \dots, F_m).

Let Γ be a t -partitioned tree (by F_1, \dots, F_m). We define a **t-branch** of Γ , as a path of length $t + 1$, say P , which starts at a vertex of some F_i , like x , and $P \cap F_i = \{x\}$. Then, for each $i = 1, \dots, m$, we define **degree** of F_i , as

$\text{Deg}_\Gamma(F_i) :=$ the number of vertices of F_i which are the first vertices of a t -branch of Γ .

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$$\text{Deg}(\Gamma) := \max\{\text{Deg}_\Gamma(F_i) : 1 \leq i \leq m\}.$$

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We call a t-branch of Γ , **initial** if it intersects some F_i in the first vertex of F_i . Otherwise, we call it **non-initial**.

We define **level** of a t-branch P of Γ , denoted by $\text{level}(P)$, as the level of the vertex x , where $P \cap F_i = \{x\}$ for some $i = 1, \dots, m$.

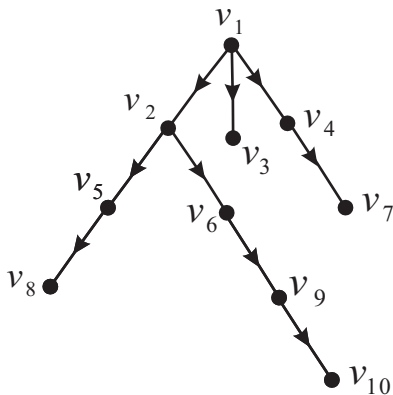
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Let Γ be a t -partitioned tree over n vertices and $2 \leq t \leq n$. We say that Γ is **fitting t -partitioned**, if the following hold:

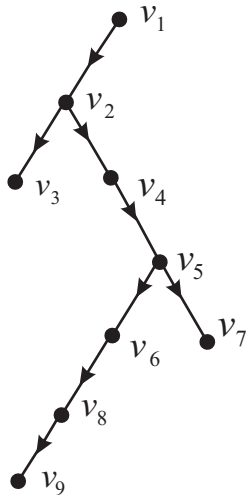
- (1) $\text{Deg}(\Gamma) \leq 1$; and
- (2) $\text{level}(P) \leq t - 1$, for each non-initial t -branch P of Γ .

Path ideals of trees



Γ_1 is fitting 3-partitioned by $F_1 = \{v_1, v_4, v_7\}$, $F_2 = \{v_2, v_5, v_8\}$ and $F_3 = \{v_6, v_9, v_{10}\}$. We have $\text{Deg}(\Gamma_1) = 1$.

Path ideals of trees



Γ_2 is 3 – partitioned but not fitting 3 – partitioned.

Kiani - me

Let Γ be a tree over n vertices and $2 \leq t \leq n$. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) $I_t(\Gamma)$ is unmixed.
- (ii) $R/I_t(\Gamma)$ is Cohen-Macaulay.
- (iii) $R/I_t(\Gamma)$ is S_r .
- (iv) Γ is fitting t -partitioned.

Kiani - me

Let $2 \leq t \leq n$. Then $R/I_t(P_n)$ is Cohen-Macaulay if and only if $t = n$ or $n/2$.

Kiani - me

Let Γ be a tree over n vertices and $2 \leq t \leq n$. If Γ is fitting t -partitioned (by F_1, \dots, F_m), then $\text{pd}(R/I_t(\Gamma)) = m$.

Herzog - Hibi - Zheng

Let G be a chordal graph. Then G is Gorenstein, if and only if G is a disjoint union of edges.

Kiani - me

Let Γ be a tree over n vertices, $2 \leq t \leq n$ and $\Delta_{n,t}$ be the Stanley-Reisner complex of $I_t(\Gamma)$. Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) $R/I_t(\Gamma)$ is a complete intersection.
- (ii) $R/I_t(\Gamma)$ is Gorenstein.
- (iii) $\Delta_{n,t}$ is a matroid.
- (iv) $C(\Gamma)$ is P_t .

Kiani - me

Let Γ be a tree over n vertices, $2 \leq t \leq n$ and $I := I_t(\Gamma)$. Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) I^m (resp. $I^{(m)}$) is Cohen-Macaulay for every $m \geq 1$.
- (ii) I^m (resp. $I^{(m)}$) is Cohen-Macaulay for some $m \geq 3$.
- (iii) $C(\Gamma)$ is P_t .

Thanks for your attention.