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# Poset cohomology, Leray numbers and the global dimension of left regular bands

Stuart Margolis, Bar-Ilan University Franco Saliola, Université du Québec à Montréal **Benjamin Steinberg**, City College of New York

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#### Outline

#### Leray numbers

Representability by convex sets Stanley-Reisner rings

#### Left regular bands

Definition of LRBs Examples of LRBs

#### Representation theory

Global dimension The main result

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## The nerve construction

• Fix a field  $\Bbbk$  for the duration of the talk.

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- The nerve of an open cover is fundamental to Čech cohomology.

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## d-representability

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- An obstruction to d-representability was found in the 1920s by Helly.
- The modern way to formulate his result is via Leray numbers.

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## Leray number

 If W ⊆ X<sup>0</sup>, then the induced subcomplex X[W] consists of all simplices whose vertices belong to W.

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$$L(X) = \min\{d \mid \forall n \ge d, \forall W \subseteq X^0, \ \widetilde{H}^n(X[W], \Bbbk) = 0\}.$$

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- L(X) is a combinatorial invariant, not a topological invariant.
- L(X) = 0 iff X is a simplex.

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# Flag complexes

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- The order complex of a poset is a flag complex.
- Let  $\Gamma = (V, E)$  be a graph.
- Then  $\operatorname{Flag}(\Gamma)$  is the flag complex with vertex set V and simplices the cliques of  $\Gamma$  (vertices which induce a complete subgraph).

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## Helly-type theorems

Theorem ('Helly')

If X is d-representable, then  $L(X) \leq d$ .

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The following are equivalent:

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The following are equivalent:

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- **2**.  $L(X) \leq 1$ ;

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#### Theorem (Lekkerkerker, Boland)

The following are equivalent:

- 1. X is 1-representable;
- 2.  $L(X) \leq 1;$
- 3. X is the flag complex of a chordal graph.

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## Stanley-Reisner rings

• Leray numbers also have meaning in combinatorial commutative algebra.

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- The Stanley-Reisner ring of a simplicial complex X is  $R(X) = \Bbbk[X^0]/I(X)$  where I(X) is the ideal generated by the square-free monomials corresponding to non-faces of X.

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- If X is a flag complex, then I(X) is generated by products  $x_i x_j$  with  $\{x_i, x_j\}$  a non-edge of  $X^1$ .
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- R(X) being Cohen-Macaulay is a topological invariant.

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#### Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity

• The Leray number L(X) turns out to be the Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity of R(X).

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- Consequently, L(X) is of importance to people in combinatorial commutative algebra.
- To the best of my knowledge people in this area independently discovered the connection of chordal graphs and Leray number 1.

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## Left regular bands (LRBs)

• We have a non-commutative interpretation of the Leray number of a flag complex via the representation theory of right-angled Artin LRBs.

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## Definition (LRB)

A left regular band is a semigroup B satisfying the identities:

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$$x^2 = x$$

• 
$$xyx = xy$$

(B is a "band") ("left regularity")

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- We consider only finite monoids in this talk.

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### Combinatorial objects as LRBS

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- This has been done by: Bidigare, Hanlon and Rockmore; Diaconis and Brown; Brown; Björner; Diaconis and Athanasiadis; and Chung and Graham.

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- Diaconis says the LRB techniques are off only by a factor of two for riffle shuffling cards.

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#### Free LRBs and the Tsetlin library

• The free LRB F(A) on a set A consists of all repetition-free words over the alphabet A.

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 $3 \cdot 14532 = 314532 = 31452$ 

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- move book to the front  $\leftrightarrow$  left multiplication by generator
- long-term behavior: favorite books move to the front

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Left regular bands

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rays emanating from the origin

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# Product of faces (LRB structure)



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# Product of faces (LRB structure)



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# Right-angled Artin LRBs

$$B(\Gamma) = \left\langle V \mid xy = yx \text{ for all edges } \{x, y\} \in E \right\rangle$$

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# Right-angled Artin LRBs

• The right-angled Artin LRB  $B(\Gamma)$  on a graph  $\Gamma = (V, E)$  is the LRB with presentation:

$$B(\Gamma) = \left\langle V \mid xy = yx \text{ for all edges } \{x, y\} \in E \right\rangle$$

• If  $E = \emptyset$ , then  $B(\Gamma)$  is the free LRB on V.

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- Note: commutative LRB equals lattice with meet operation.
- LRB-version of right-angled Artin groups or trace monoids.

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## Acyclic orientations

• Word problem: same as in the right-angled Artin group.

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#### Acyclic orientations

- Word problem: same as in the right-angled Artin group.
- Elements of  $B(\Gamma)$  correspond to acyclic orientations of induced subgraphs of the complement  $\overline{\Gamma}$ .

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Example



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Acyclic orientation on induced subgraph on vertices  $\{a, d, c\}$ :



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# Random walk on $B(\Gamma)$

States: acyclic orientations of the complement  $\overline{\Gamma}$ 



Step: left-multiplication by a generator (vertex) reorients all the edges incident to the vertex away from it

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Athanasiadis-Diaconis (2010): studied this chain using a different LRB (graphical arrangement of  $\Gamma$ )

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## Global dimension

$$\cdots \longrightarrow P_n \longrightarrow P_{n-1} \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow P_0 \longrightarrow M \longrightarrow 0$$

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## **Global dimension**

• The projective dimension of an R-module M is the minimum length of a projective resolution

$$\cdots \longrightarrow P_n \longrightarrow P_{n-1} \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow P_0 \longrightarrow M \longrightarrow 0$$

• E.g., the cohomological dimension of a group G is the projective dimension of Z as a ZG-module.

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- For finite-dimensional algebras, the sup can be taken over simple modules.

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### Hereditary algebras

• A ring R is hereditary if each left ideal is a projective module.

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- Brown's proof uses Gabriel's theory of quivers.
- In the end it reduces to a non-bijective counting argument.
- The proof offers no real insight.

Representation theory

#### Global dimension of a right-angled Artin LRB

• Our main result:



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#### Theorem (Margolis, Saliola, BS)

Let  $\Gamma$  be a graph and  $B(\Gamma)$  the corresponding right-angled Artin LRB. Then gl. dim  $\Bbbk B(\Gamma) = L(\mathsf{Flag}(\Gamma))$ .

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Representation theory

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#### Corollary

The algebra of a free LRB is hereditary.

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#### What goes into the proof

• The theorem is a special case of a more general result.

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- The theorem is a special case of a more general result.
- We compute the global dimension of an arbitrary LRB *B* in terms of the cohomology of certain induced subcomplexes of the order complex of *B*.

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- The main techniques are a Shapiro lemma, classifying spaces of small categories and Quillen's theorem A.
- For right-angled Artin LRBs we also use Rota's cross-cut theorem.

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## Speculation

• We hope our new characterization of L(X) can be used to obtain new results.

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- Usual proof uses the Kunneth theorem.