

A survey on Stanley decompositions

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An important special case for a \mathbb{Z}^n -graded S -module is $M = I/J$ where $J \subset I \subset S$ are monomial ideals.

A **Stanley decomposition** \mathcal{D} of M is direct sum of \mathbb{Z}^n -graded K -vector spaces

$$\mathcal{D} : M = \bigoplus_{j=1}^r m_j K[Z_j],$$

where each $m_j \in M$ is homogeneous, $Z_j \subset X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ and each $m_j K[Z_j]$ is a free $K[Z_j]$ -module.

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We set $\text{sdepth}(\mathcal{D}) = \min\{|Z_j| \mid j = 1, \dots, r\}$, and

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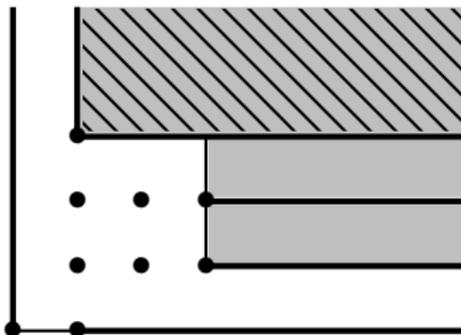
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Conjecture (Stanley) $\text{sdepth } M \geq \text{depth } M$.

Example: $I = (x_1x_2^3, x_1^3x_2)$



The figure displays Stanley decompositions of

$$I = x_1x_2^3K[x_1, x_2] \oplus x_1^3x_2^2K[x_1] \oplus x_1^3x_2K[x_1],$$

and

$$S/I = K[x_2] \oplus x_1K[x_1] \oplus x_1x_2K \oplus x_1x_2^2K \oplus x_1^2x_2K \oplus x_1^2x_2^2K.$$

Known cases

The Stanley depth for modules of the form I/J where $J \subset I \subset S_K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ are monomial ideals is a **pure combinatorial invariant**, in particular, it does not depend on the field K , while the depth is **homological invariant** and in case of squarefree monomial ideal, a topological invariant of the attached simplicial complex, and may very well depend on the field K .

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What is know for I/J ?

- ▶ (Jahan, Zheng, H) Stanley's conjecture holds for all algebras S/I , I a monomial ideal, if it holds for all such Cohen–Macaulay algebras.

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We choose $g \in \mathbb{N}^n$ such that $g \geq a$ for all generators x^a of I and J , and consider the finite poset

$$P_{I/J}^g = \{a \in \mathbb{N}^n \mid x^a \in I \setminus J, a \leq g\}.$$

We call it the **characteristic poset** of I/J with respect to g .

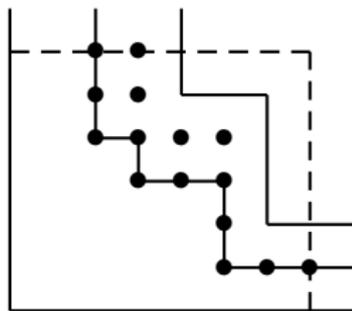
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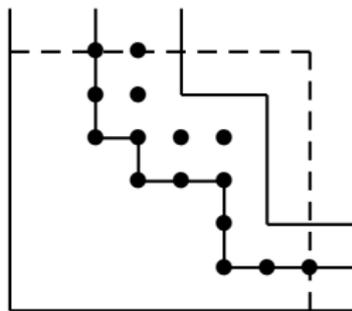
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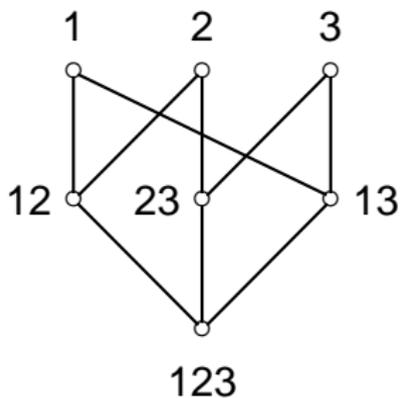
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If Δ is a simplicial complex and $g = (1, \dots, 1)$, then $P_{K[\Delta]}^g$ can be identified with the face poset of Δ .

The characteristic poset of $m = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ with respect to $g = (1, 1, 1)$ is given by



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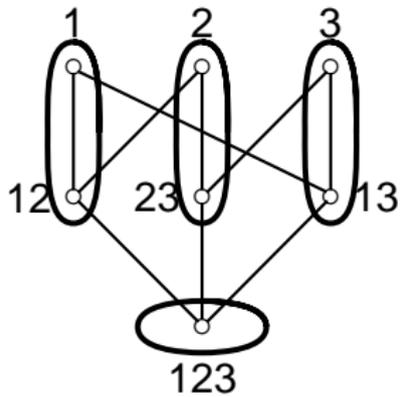
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$$\mathcal{P} : P_m^g = [1, 12] \cup [2, 23] \cup [3, 13] \cup [123, 123].$$

is a partition of P_m^g .



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and define

$$\rho : P_{I/J}^g \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, \quad b \mapsto \rho(b) = |Z_b|.$$

Theorem (a) Let $\mathcal{P} : P_{I/J}^g = \bigcup_{i=1}^r [c_i, d_i]$ be a partition of $P_{I/J}^g$.
Then

$$\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{P}) : I/J = \bigoplus_{i=1}^r \left(\bigoplus_{\mathbf{c}} x^{\mathbf{c}} K[Z_{d_i}] \right)$$

is a Stanley decomposition of I/J , where the inner direct sum is taken over all $\mathbf{c} \in [c_i, d_i]$ for which $c(j) = c_i(j)$ for all j with $x_j \in Z_{d_i}$. Moreover, $\text{sdepth } \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{P}) = \min\{\rho(d_i) \mid i = 1, \dots, r\}$.

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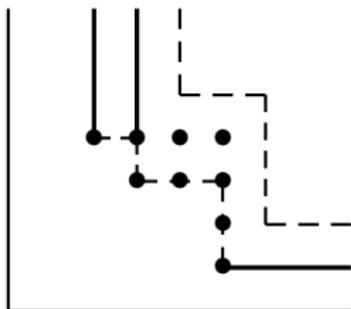
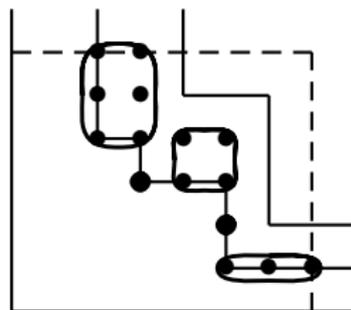
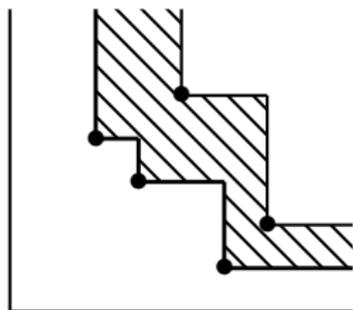
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(b) Let \mathcal{D} be a Stanley decomposition of I/J . Then there exists a partition \mathcal{P} of $P_{I/J}^g$ such that

$$\text{sdepth } \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{P}) \geq \text{sdepth } \mathcal{D}.$$

In particular, $\text{sdepth } I/J$ can be computed as the maximum of the numbers $\text{sdepth } \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{P})$, where \mathcal{P} runs over the (finitely many) partitions of $P_{I/J}^g$.



This theorem has been used to compute or to estimate the Stanley depth in several cases:

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- ▶ (Floystad, H) Let s be the largest integer such that $n + 1 \geq (2s + 1)(s + 1)$. Then the Stanley depth of any squarefree monomial ideal in n variables is greater or equal to $2s + 1$. Explicitly this lower bound is

$$2 \left\lfloor \frac{\sqrt{2n + 2.25} + 0.5}{2} \right\rfloor - 1.$$

Upper and lower bounds

Let M be a \mathbb{Z}^n -graded $S = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ -module. Then there exists

$$\mathcal{F} : 0 = M_0 \subset M_1 \subset \dots \subset M_m = M$$

a chain of \mathbb{Z}^n -graded submodules of M such that $M_i/M_{i-1} \simeq (S/P_i)(-a_i)$ where $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ and where each P_i is a monomial prime ideal.

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One has

$$\text{Min}(M) \subset \text{Ass}(M) \subset \{P_1, \dots, P_r\} \subset \text{Supp}(M),$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \min\{\dim S/P_1, \dots, S/P_r\} &\leq \text{depth } M, \text{sdepth } M \\ &\leq \min\{\dim S/P : P \in \text{Ass}(M)\}. \end{aligned}$$

The upper inequality has been proved by Apel.

Let M be a finitely generated \mathbb{Z}^n -graded $S = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ -module. It is also \mathbb{Z} -graded, i.e.,

$$M = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} M_i, \quad \text{with} \quad M_i = \bigoplus_{\substack{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}^n \\ |\mathbf{a}|=i}} M_{\mathbf{a}}.$$

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is the Hilbert series of M .

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Example: $H_S(t) = \frac{1}{(1-t)^n}$ for $S = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$.

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- ▶ (Bruns, Krattenthaler, Uliczka) Let $M(n, k)$ be the k -syzygy module of $K = S/(x_1, \dots, x_n)$. Then

$$\text{hdepth } M(n, k) = n - 1 \quad \text{for } \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \leq k < n,$$

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 $\text{hdepth}(x_1, \dots, x_n)^k = \lceil n/(k + 1) \rceil$

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$$\text{depth } Z_k(M) = t + k \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, n - t.$$

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Theorem (Floystad, H) $\text{sdepth } Z_k(M) \geq k$ for all k .

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