

BINARY OPERATIONS on STANLEY-REISNER RINGS

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ABSTRACT

Starting from a set of simplicial complexes all of whose vertices lies in a common “universe” \mathbf{W} , and then defining the concept of “non-simplices” relative to this universe, we reach, after some “local modifications”, equivalences between the most common binary operations on simplicial complexes and Stanley-Reisner Rings i.e. $\mathbf{R}[\Delta' \hat{*} \Delta'] \cong \mathbf{R}[\mathbf{W}]/(\mathbf{I}_{\Delta'} \cap \mathbf{I}_{\Delta'})$, where $\hat{*}$ is an extension of the classical join to the case of possible common vertices, and $\mathbf{R}[\Delta' \cap \Delta''] \cong \mathbf{R}[\mathbf{W}]/(\mathbf{I}_{\Delta'} + \mathbf{I}_{\Delta''})$, and changing the “universe” to $\mathbf{W} \times \mathbf{W}$ we have $\mathbf{R}[\Delta' \times \Delta''] \cong \mathbf{R}[\Delta'] \bar{\otimes} \mathbf{R}[\Delta'']$ where $\bar{\otimes}$ is a tempered Segre Product. Moreover, for a finite universe, we get an isomorphism on distributive lattices, induced by the “Stanley-Reisner Ring assignment functor”.

Definition. An (abstract) simplicial complex Δ on a vertex set \mathbf{V}_{Δ} is a collection (empty or non-empty) of finite subsets δ (empty or non-empty) of \mathbf{V}_{Δ} satisfying

- (a) If $v \in \mathbf{V}_{\Delta}$, then $v \in \Delta$.
- (b) If $\delta \in \Delta$ and $\tau \subset \delta$ then $\tau \in \Delta$.

Definition. A subset $s \subset \mathbf{W} \supset \mathbf{V}_{\Delta}$ is said to be a **non-simplex** of Δ , denoted $s \notin \Delta$, if $s \notin \Delta$ but $(\bar{s})^{(\dim s)-1} \subset \Delta$ (i.e. the $(\dim s - 1)$ -dimensional skeleton of the simplicial complex consisting of all proper faces of s is a subcomplex of Δ). For a simplex $\delta = \{v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_k}\}$ we define m_{δ} to be the squarefree monic monomial $m_{\delta} := 1_{\mathbf{R}} \cdot v_{i_1} \cdot \dots \cdot v_{i_k} \in \mathbf{R}[\mathbf{W}]$ where $\mathbf{R}[\mathbf{W}]$ is the graded polynomial algebra on the variable set \mathbf{W} over the commutative ring \mathbf{R} . In particular $m_{\emptyset} = 1_{\mathbf{R}}$. Let $\mathbf{R}[\Delta] := \mathbf{R}[\mathbf{W}]/\mathbf{I}_{\Delta}$ where $\mathbf{I}_{\Delta} := (\{m_{\delta} \mid \delta \notin \Delta\})$. $\mathbf{R}[\Delta]$ is called the “face ring” or “Stanley-Reisner ring” of Δ over \mathbf{R} . Frequently $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{k}$, a field.

Note. i. Since $\emptyset \in \Delta$ for every simplicial complex $\Delta \neq \emptyset$ we see that for every element $v \in \mathbf{W} \setminus \mathbf{V}_{\Delta}$, $\{v\}$ is a “non-proper” non-simplex of Δ (i.e. $\{v\} \notin \Delta \Leftrightarrow \{\{v\}\} \notin \Delta \neq \emptyset$).

ii. In particular, if $\Delta = \{\emptyset\}$, then the set of non-simplices equals \mathbf{W} , and so $\mathbf{R}[\{\emptyset\}] = \mathbf{R}$.

iii. If $\Delta = \emptyset$, then the set of non-simplices equals $\{\emptyset\}$, since $\emptyset \notin \emptyset$, and $(\overline{\emptyset})^{(\dim \emptyset - 1)} = \overline{\emptyset}^{(-2)} = \emptyset \subset \emptyset$, implying $\mathbf{R}[\emptyset] = 0 =$ “The trivial ring”, since $m_{\emptyset} = 1_{\mathbf{R}}$.

iv.
$$\mathbf{R}[\Delta] \cong \frac{\mathbf{R}[\mathbf{V}_{\Delta}]}{(\{m_{\delta} \in \mathbf{R}[\mathbf{V}_{\Delta}] \mid \delta \notin \Delta\})}$$

In [Fo] p. 2 we gave a proof, working for arbitrary simplicial complexes, for the following graded \mathbf{k} -algebra isomorphism; $\mathbf{k}[\Delta' * \Delta''] \cong \mathbf{k}[\Delta'] \otimes \mathbf{k}[\Delta'']$, but it is possible to improve the strength of this join related “Stanley-Reisner Ring assignment functor”. To do so, we extend the definition of “join” to a join, denoted “ $\hat{*}$ ”, defined for all pairs of simplicial complexes over \mathbf{W} , i.e including joins of pairs with intersecting vertex sets. So, we make the following definition, where $[\delta]_{\Delta} := \delta \cap \mathbf{V}_{\Delta}$ and \mathcal{P} , the power set:

$$\Delta_1 \hat{*} \Delta_2 := \{\delta_1 \cup \delta_2 \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{W}) \mid [\delta_i \in \Delta_i, i = 1, 2.] \wedge [([\delta_1 \cup \delta_2]_{\Delta_1} \in \Delta_1] \vee [([\delta_1 \cup \delta_2]_{\Delta_2} \in \Delta_2])]\}.$$

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“ $\hat{*}$ ” is associative and (trivially) commutative. The associativity of “ $\hat{*}$ ” is a trivial consequence of the following Lemma where \mathbf{R} is an arbitrary ring, but where, as well as in the rest of this paper, we’ll assume $\Delta_i \neq \emptyset$, since \emptyset , due to the fact that $\Delta \hat{*} \emptyset = \emptyset$ for all Δ ’s, doesn’t fit into the lattice structure we are about to deduce:

Lemma. *If $\Delta_i \neq \emptyset$ $i = 1, 2$, then in $\mathbf{R}[\mathbf{W}]$: 1. $\mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1 \hat{*} \Delta_2} = \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1} \cap \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_2}$. 2. $\mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1 \cap \Delta_2} = \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1} + \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_2}$.*

Proof. 1. The following set generates $\mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1} \cap \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_2}$ as an ideal;

$\{m_\delta \in \mathbf{R}[\mathbf{W}] \mid [[\delta \subset V_{\Delta_1} \cup V_{\Delta_2}] \wedge [\delta_i \in \Delta_i, i = 1, 2.] \wedge [\exists \delta_1 \subset \delta; \delta_1 \not\subseteq \Delta_1] \wedge [\exists \delta_2 \subset \delta; \delta_2 \not\subseteq \Delta_2]] \vee [\delta = \{v\}; v \in \mathbf{W} \setminus (V_{\Delta_1} \cup V_{\Delta_2})]\}$ where “ $\not\subseteq$ ” stands for “is a **proper** non-simplex of” oppose to being just a non-vertex. This set determines (and is determined by) the following set of δ ’s, the complement of which is;

$$\{\delta \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{W}) \mid [\delta \subset V_{\Delta_1} \cup V_{\Delta_2}] \wedge [[\exists \delta_1 \subset \delta; \delta_1 \not\subseteq \Delta_1] \vee [\exists \delta_2 \subset \delta; \delta_2 \not\subseteq \Delta_2]]\} = \Delta_1 \hat{*} \Delta_2 \quad \square$$

2. The following set generates $\mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1} + \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_2}$ as an ideal;

$$\{m_1 + m_2 \in \mathbf{R}[\mathbf{W}] \mid m_i \in \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_i}\} = \{m_\delta \mid \delta \in \Delta_1^c \cup \Delta_2^c\} = \{m_\delta \mid \delta \in (\Delta_1 \cap \Delta_2)^c\} = \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1 \cap \Delta_2} \quad \blacksquare$$

“ Δ^c ” denotes the set-theoretic complement of Δ in $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{W})$.

$\mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1} \cap \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_2}$ and $\mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1} + \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_2}$ are generated by a set (no restrictions on its cardinality) of squarefree monomials, if both \mathbf{I}_{Δ_1} and \mathbf{I}_{Δ_2} are. It is known that these squarefree monomially generated ideals form a distributive sublattice $(\mathcal{I}; \cap, +, \mathbf{R}[\mathbf{W}]_+)$, of the ordinary lattice structure on the set of ideals of the polynomial ring $\mathbf{R}[\mathbf{W}]$, with a counterpart, with reversed lattice order, called the squarefree monomial rings with unit, denoted $(\mathbf{R}^\circ[\mathbf{W}]; \cap, +, \mathbf{R})$. $\mathbf{R}[\mathbf{W}]_+$ is the unique homogeneous maximal ideal and zero element. We can use this structure to define a distributive lattice structure on $\Sigma_{\mathbf{W}}^\circ :=$ “The set of non-empty simplicial complexes over \mathbf{W} ”, with $\{\emptyset\}$ as zero element and denoted $(\Sigma_{\mathbf{W}}^\circ; \hat{*}, \cap, \{\emptyset\})$, as follows:

Definition. $\Delta_1 \geq \Delta_2$ if $\mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1} \leq \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_2}$.

Lemma. $\begin{cases} \text{lub}(\Delta_1, \Delta_2) = \Delta_1 \hat{*} \Delta_2 & (\text{since } \text{glb}(\mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1}, \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_2}) = \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1} \cap \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_2}) \\ \text{glb}(\Delta_1, \Delta_2) = \Delta_1 \cap \Delta_2 & (\text{since } \text{lub}(\mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1}, \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_2}) = \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1} + \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_2}) \end{cases} \quad \blacksquare$

Summing up, we get:

Theorem. *The “Stanley-Reisner Ring assignment functor” defines a monomorphism on distributive lattices from $(\Sigma_{\mathbf{W}}^\circ, \hat{*}, \cap, \{\emptyset\})$ to $(\mathbf{R}^\circ[\mathbf{W}], \cap, +, \mathbf{R})$, which is an isomorphism for finite \mathbf{W} .* \blacksquare

Below, we’ll use the notations from [B-H 2] § 7.1 p. 289 ff., but skip the simple verifications.

Definition. **The Graded Hodge Algebra structure on a Stanley-Reisner Ring**

$H := \mathbf{W}$ (The partial order on H is irrelevant for discrete graded Hodge Algebras).

Σ has $\{\text{index of } m_\delta \mid \delta \not\subseteq \Delta\}$ as its set of generators.

(\mathbf{H}_2) $m_\delta = 0$ for every $\delta \not\subseteq \Delta$

Dealing with monomially generated ideals only, we get the following results; $\mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1 \hat{*} \Delta_2} = \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1} \cap \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_2} = (\{m \mid m = \text{Lcm}(m_{\delta_1}, m_{\delta_2}), \delta_i \not\subseteq \Delta_i, i = 1, 2\})$ and $\mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1 \cap \Delta_2} = \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_1} + \mathbf{I}_{\Delta_2} = (\{m_\delta \mid \delta \not\subseteq \Delta_1 \vee \delta \not\subseteq \Delta_2\})$. Now, deleting all elements in the generator sets, resp. having other elements as proper factors, we’ll get a presentation of the Hodge Algebra structure on $R[\Delta_1 \hat{*} \Delta_2]$ resp. $R[\Delta_1 \cap \Delta_2]$

Definition. A graded \mathbf{R} -algebra R is called a Segre product of R_1 and R_2 over \mathbf{R} , denoted by $R = \sigma_{\mathbf{R}}(R_1, R_2)$ or $R = \sigma(R_1, R_2)$, if for every $p \in \mathbf{N}$, $[R]_{\bar{p}} = [R_1]_{\bar{p}} \otimes_{\mathbf{R}} [R_2]_{\bar{p}}$. The “canonical Segre product”, denoted $R_1 \otimes_{\mathbf{R}} R_2$, is equipped with componentwise multiplication.

Given a monomial m , let $\text{Supp}(m)$ be the squarefree monomial defined by putting every non-zero exponent (of the variables) in m equal to 1. Put $p_1(w_{\lambda, \mu}) = p_1((v'_{\lambda}, v''_{\mu})) := v'_{\lambda}$, $p_2(w_{\lambda, \mu}) := v''_{\mu}$ and if $\text{Supp}(m) := w_{\lambda_1, \mu_1} \cdots w_{\lambda_k, \mu_k}$ put $[\bar{p}_i(m)] := \{p_t(w_{\lambda_1, \mu_1}), \dots, p_t(w_{\lambda_k, \mu_k})\}$ and $p_t(m) := p_t(w_{\lambda_1, \mu_1}) \cdots p_t(w_{\lambda_k, \mu_k})$ for $t = 1, 2$. (The same notations when $w_{\lambda, \mu} := v_{\lambda} \otimes v_{\mu}$.)

Put $C' := \{w_{\lambda, \mu} w_{\nu, \xi} \mid \lambda < \nu \wedge \mu > \xi\}$ where $w_{\lambda, \mu} := v_{\lambda} \otimes v_{\mu}$ with $(v_{\lambda}, v_{\mu}) \in \mathbf{W} \times \mathbf{W}$ and where the subindices reflects the linear ordering, now presupposed on \mathbf{W} and

$$D := \left\{ \mathbf{w} = w_{\lambda_1, \mu_1} \cdots w_{\lambda_k, \mu_k} \mid [\mathbf{w} \text{ is a chain}] \wedge \left[\left[[\bar{p}_1(\mathbf{w})] \notin \mathcal{J}_{\Delta_1} \right] \wedge [\bar{p}_2(\mathbf{w})] \in \Delta_2 \right] \wedge [\mu_1^{\lambda_1} \leq \dots \leq \mu_k^{\lambda_k}] \vee \right. \\ \left. \vee \left[[\bar{p}_1(\mathbf{w})] \in \Delta_1 \right] \wedge [\bar{p}_2(\mathbf{w})] \notin \mathcal{J}_{\Delta_2} \right] \wedge [\mu_1^{\lambda_1} \leq \dots \leq \mu_k^{\lambda_k}] \vee \left[[\bar{p}_1(\mathbf{w})] \notin \mathcal{J}_{\Delta_1} \right] \wedge [\bar{p}_2(\mathbf{w})] \notin \mathcal{J}_{\Delta_2} \right] \wedge [\mu_1^{\lambda_1} \leq \dots \leq \mu_k^{\lambda_k}] \left. \right\}.$$

Definition. The Graded Hodge Algebra structure for the Canonical Segre Product of two Stanley-Reisner rings, denoted $\mathbf{R}[\Delta'] \otimes_{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{R}[\Delta'']$.

$H := \mathbf{W} \times \mathbf{W}$ equipped with the product order.

Σ has $\{\text{index of } m \mid m \in C' \cup D\}$ as its set of generators.

$$(H_2) \quad g := \begin{cases} w_{\lambda, \xi} w_{\nu, \mu} & \text{if } g = w_{\lambda, \mu} w_{\nu, \xi} \in C' \\ 0 & \text{if } g \in D. \end{cases}$$

By [Fo] p. 4 lemma and [B-H] p. 291 Prop. 7.1.3 this Hodge Algebra is graded algebra isomorphic to the canonical Segre Product of two Stanley-Reisner Rings, but it's not discrete and so, not that of a Stanley-Reisner Ring, but this is fixed by “the discrete algebra on the same data as the Canonical Segre Product” (c.f. [B-H 2] p. 292), denoted $\mathbf{R}[\Delta'] \bar{\otimes}_{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{R}[\Delta'']$, so we just change the last “(H₂)” to become -“All elements in $C' \cup D$ are put to 0”. In [Fo] p. 4 lemma, we gave a proof, working for arbitrary simplicial complexes, for the following graded \mathbf{k} -algebra isomorphism; $\mathbf{k}[\Delta' \times \Delta''] \cong \mathbf{k}[\Delta'] \bar{\otimes}_{\mathbf{k}} \mathbf{k}[\Delta'']$, but in this proof, it turns out that the role played by the coefficient field \mathbf{k} , is totally irrelevant to the success of the proof method, so we actually proved that $\mathbf{R}[\Delta' \times \Delta''] \cong \mathbf{R}[\Delta'] \bar{\otimes}_{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{R}[\Delta'']$, for any coefficient ring \mathbf{R} . Note: $C' \cup D = \{m_{\delta} \mid \delta \notin \Delta' \times \Delta''\}$ under the identification $v_{\lambda} \otimes v_{\mu} \leftrightarrow (v_{\lambda}, v_{\mu})$.

[Fo] p. 5 Th. 2 resp. [Fo] p. 10-11 Th's 7-8 combined with [F-H] p. 3371 Prop. 5-6 gives

Proposition. $\mathbf{R}[\Delta'] \otimes_{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{R}[\Delta'']$ is Koszul (Buchsbaum, Cohen-Macaulay) if and only if $\mathbf{R}[\Delta'] \bar{\otimes}_{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{R}[\Delta''] \cong \mathbf{R}[\Delta' \times \Delta'']$ is.

Necessary and sufficient conditions for the Gorenstein version of the last proposition is easily extracted by combining [Fo] p. 17 Th. 11 and [F-H] p. 3372 Prop. 7 where $-a(k[\Delta])$ for Cohen-Macaulay rings should be interpreted as the number of cone points in Δ .

For completeness, we quote from [E] p. 251 the following ASL-construction for a Stanley-Reisner ring. Now, the partial ordering on H is vital, since it fully determines Σ .

Definition. The ASL-structure on a Stanley-Reisner Ring

$H := \{m_{\delta} \mid \delta \in \Delta\}$ where $m_{\delta} \leq m_{\tau}$ **iff** $\delta \supset \tau$.

$$(H_2) \quad m_{\delta} m_{\tau} := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \delta \cup \tau \notin \Delta \\ m_{\delta} m_{\tau}^{\dagger} \text{ written as a standard monomial} & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

\dagger This condition was originally given in [E] as “ $m_{\delta \cup \tau}$ else” which gives the wrong order if $\delta \cap \tau \neq \emptyset$.

The partial ordering, i.e. reverse inclusion, given to H , could seem somewhat odd, but the fact is that it is the most common way to order H in an ASL-structure, and so, it has been given a name, i.e. if $\deg h_1 \geq \deg h_2$ for all $h_1, h_2 \in H$ with $h_1 \leq h_2$ then the ASL-structures is said to be a “monotonely graded ASL” [B-H 1].

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To appear in *Proceedings of the Trieste Workshop on Commutative Algebra*.