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§1 Main result.

R commutative ring

$CB(R^n)$ simplicial complex w/ vertices: ^{nonzero proper} free summands of R^n
 simplex $M_0, \dots, M_p \Leftrightarrow \exists$ basis of R^n that contains
 a basis of each M_i

Ex $R^3 = \langle e_1, e_2, e_3 \rangle$

A maximal simplex is $\{\langle e_1 \rangle, \langle e_2 \rangle, \langle e_3 \rangle, \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle, \langle e_1, e_3 \rangle, \langle e_2, e_3 \rangle\}$

We usually blur distinction between simplicial cx
 and its poset of simplices

Rogues : $H_k(CB(R^n))$ for $k \geq 2n-2$

NB $\dim CB(R^n) = 2^n - 3$

Conjecture R local or euclidean
 $\Rightarrow CB(R^n)$ is $(2n-4)$ -connected

$$\tilde{H}_{2n-3}(CB(R^n)) =: St^\infty(R^n)$$

[Jeremy: some people call it $StLie$ "Steinberg-Lie"]



$PD(R^n)$ poset of partial decompositions

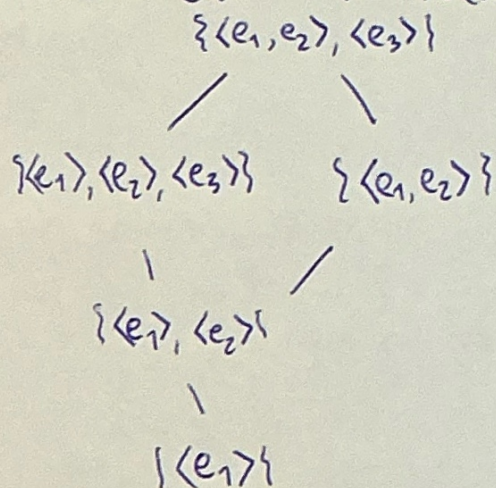
elements are $\{N_1, \dots, N_k\}$ st. each N_i proper nonzero free R -module summand of R^n
and $R^n = N_1 \oplus \dots \oplus N_k \oplus M$

ordered by refinement:

$\{N_1, \dots, N_k\} \leq \{N'_1, \dots, N'_k\}$ if

$\forall i \exists j$ st. $N_i \subseteq N'_j$

Ex Maximal chains in $PD(R^3)$:

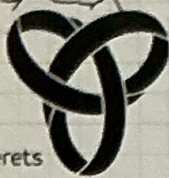


Thm (Brick-Pitman-Volker)

If R is Hermite then there exists a $GL_n(R)$ -equivariant homotopy equiv $CB(R^n) \simeq |PD(R^n)|$

A ring is Hermite if every stably free R -module is free.

Thm is a special case of more general statement that also works in some other situations (symplectic groups, free factor complexes)



Miller-Patzet-Wilson: Rognes conjecture true for fields.

Hauelon-Hershen-Shareshian: R finite ^{field} $\Rightarrow PD(R^n)$ is $(2n-3)$ -spherical
and describe $GL_n(R) \hookrightarrow St^\infty(R^n) \otimes \mathbb{C}$

§2 Definitions

Let $\mathcal{Y}$ be a poset.

$x, y \in \mathcal{Y}$ write $z = x \vee y$ if z is minimal among elements $\geq x$ and $\geq y$, the join.

An antichain is a subset $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{Y}$ s.t. all elements of $\mathcal{C}$ incomparable.

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} R \text{ comm ring, } n \in \mathbb{N} \\ \mathcal{Y} \text{ poset of nonzero proper summands of } R^n \\ \text{If } N, N' \in \mathcal{Y} \text{ and } N+N' \in \mathcal{Y} \text{ then } N+N' = N \vee N'. \end{array} \right] \quad (\star)$$

A frame is $\emptyset \neq \mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{Y}$ is an antichain satisfying certain conditions (?!)

$\mathcal{F}$ fixed set of frames in $\mathcal{Y}$

Def $CB(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{F})$ and $PD(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{F})$.

For $\mathcal{J} \in \mathcal{F}$ let $\Sigma(\mathcal{J}) \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$ be the subposet of joins of subsets of $\mathcal{J}$.

$\mathcal{Y} \geq \sigma$ is basis-compatible if $\exists \mathcal{J} \in \mathcal{F}$ s.t. $\forall y \in \sigma, y \in \Sigma(\mathcal{J})$ $(*)$

$CB(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{F})$ poset of all basis-compatible subsets under containment



σ is a partial decomposition if $(*)$ holds and
 $\forall x \in \mathcal{F}$ there is at most one $y \in \sigma$ st $x \leq y$.

$PD(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{F})$ partial decompositions up to refinement (not continuous)

For $\mathcal{Y}$ as in $\star$, $\mathcal{F}$ as in $(\star\star)$

$$CB(R^n) = CB(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{F})$$

$$PD(R^n) = PD(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{F})$$

More precise version of thm:

G group

$\mathcal{Y}$ poset with G -action

$\mathcal{F} \neq \emptyset$ G -invariant set of frames with (E.P.)

"extension property"

then $CB(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{F}) \cong PD(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{F})$

Def $\mathcal{F}$ has E.P. if $\forall \sigma, \sigma' \in PD(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{F})$

st. $\sigma \leq \sigma'$, $\exists \mathcal{I} \in \mathcal{F}$ st. $(*)$ holds for both σ and σ' .

In situation of $(\star\star)$, R is Hermite $\Leftrightarrow$ E.P. is satisfied



$$\mathcal{F} = \left\{ \mathcal{T} \mid \mathcal{T} = \{N_1, \dots, N_n\}, \text{rk } N_i = 1, N_1 \otimes \dots \otimes N_n = R^n \right\}$$

$n=3, \mathcal{T} = \{L_1, L_2, L_3\}$

$\Sigma(\mathcal{T}) =$

(★★)

Other examples: $\mathcal{F}$ = isotropics in symplectic v.s.p.

$\mathcal{F}$ = symplectic bases

$\mathcal{F}$ = free factors in F_n

$\mathcal{F}$ = decompositions of F_n into rank 1 free factors.