On the classification of Cohen–Macaulay binomial edge ideals

Giancarlo Rinaldo University of Trento, Italy giancarlo.rinaldo@unitn.it

Abstract

In 2010, binomial edge ideals were introduced in [3] and appeared independently also in [7]. Let $S = K[x_1, \ldots, x_n, y_1, \ldots, y_n]$ be the polynomial ring in 2*n* variables with coefficients in a field K. Let G be a graph on vertex set [n]. For each edge $\{i, j\}$ of G with i < j, we associate a binomial $f_{ij} = x_i y_j - x_j y_i$. The ideal J_G of S generated by $f_{ij} = x_i y_j - x_j y_i$ such that i < j, is called the binomial edge ideal of G. Any ideal generated by a set of 2-minors of a $2 \times n$ -matrix of indeterminates may be viewed as the binomial edge ideal of a graph.

The classification of Cohen-Macaulay binomial edge ideals in terms of the underlying graphs is still widely open and, as in the case of monomial edge ideals introduced in [9], it seems rather hopeless to give a full classification. In [6], [8], [4], [5], [1] and [2], the authors considered the Cohen-Macaulay property of these graphs.

The aim of this talk, after giving a brief survey on the subject, is to extend the results of [4] where unicyclic graphs have been studied. In particular we give a classification Cohen-Macaulay and unmixed binomial edge ideals J_G when G is a cactus graph. Thanks to these results we are able to classify the Cohen-Macaulay and unmixed binomial edge ideals J_G when G is a bicyclic graph (see [5]).

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