

# Some variations on connected layer families

## Subset partition graphs

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## Background

# Combinatorial abstractions of polytope graphs

Considered by:

- Adler, Dantzig, and Murty (abstract polytopes)
- Kalai (ultraconnected set systems)
- Eisenbrand, Hähnle, Razborov, and Rothvoß (connected layer families)

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## Earlier abstractions

Combinatorial abstraction(s) of  $d$ -dimensional polytopes with  $n$  facets:

Fix a set  $S$ ,  $|S| = n$ .

Graph  $G = (A, E)$  with  $A \subseteq \binom{S}{d}$  such that:

- 1 for each  $u, v \in A$ , there is a path connecting  $u$  and  $v$  whose intermediate vertices all contain  $u \cap v$ .
- 2  $(u, v) \in E$  iff  $|u \cap v| = d - 1$ .
- 3 if  $f \subseteq S$  and  $|f| = d - 1$ , then  $|\{v \in V : f \subseteq v\}| \in \{0, 2\}$ .

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A  $d$ -dimensional **connected layer family** on the symbol set  $S$  ( $n := |S|$ ) is a collection  $\{\mathcal{F}_0, \dots, \mathcal{F}_\delta\}$  of non-empty sets such that:

- the elements of  $\mathcal{F}_i$  are  $d$ -subsets of  $S$
- if  $i \neq j$ , then  $\mathcal{F}_i \cap \mathcal{F}_j = \emptyset$
- if  $i < j < k$  and  $u \in \mathcal{F}_i$  and  $w \in \mathcal{F}_k$ , then there is a  $v \in \mathcal{F}_j$  such that  $u \cap w \subseteq v$

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# Upper bounds

Kalai-Kleitman [1994], Eisenbrand-Hähnle-Razborov-Rothvoß [2010]:

## Theorem

The diameter of CLFs (and thus the diameters of all polyhedra graphs) is bounded above by  $n^{1+\log d}$ .

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## Lower bounds

Eisenbrand, Hähnle, Razborov, Rothvoß construct a lower bound on the diameter of CLFs when  $n$  is even:

### Theorem: Eisenbrand-Hähnle-Razborov-Rothvoß

Let  $D(n)$  be the maximal diameter of  $d$ -dimensional CLFs on  $n = 2d$  symbols. Then,

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{D(n)}{n^2 / \log n} \geq \text{constant}.$$

A new abstraction

## What if CLFs satisfied properties 2 and 3 also?

Let

$$A := \bigcup_{i=0}^{\delta} \mathcal{F}_i \subseteq \binom{S}{d}.$$

What if a CLF was defined as before, but satisfying properties 1, 2, and 3?

- **adjacency:** If  $a, a' \in A$  and  $|a \cap a'| = d - 1$ , then  $a$  and  $a'$  are in the same or adjacent layers.
- **edge-count:** If  $|e| = d - 1$ , then  $|\{a \in A : e \subset a\}| \in \{0, 2\}$ .

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## Definition: Subset partition graphs

Fix a finite set  $S$ ,  $n = |S|$ . Let  $A \subseteq \binom{S}{d}$ . Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph, with  $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_t\}$  such that:

- $A = v_1 \cup \dots \cup v_t$
- $v_i \cap v_j = \emptyset$  if  $i \neq j$
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The graph  $G$  is a **subset partition graph** of  $A$  on the **symbol set**  $S$ .

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Want to add conditions on the edge set  $E$  so SPGs look like polytope graphs...

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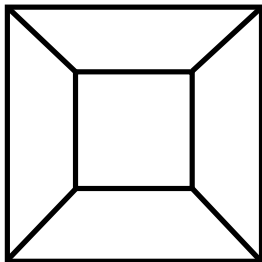
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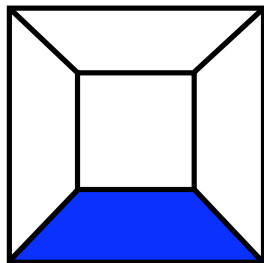
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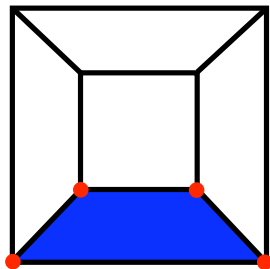
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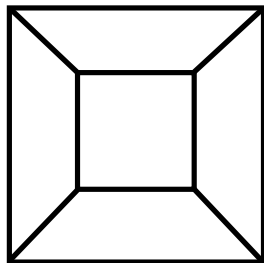
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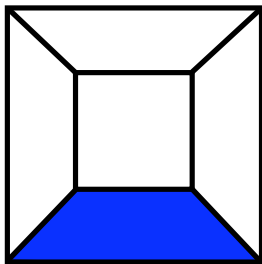
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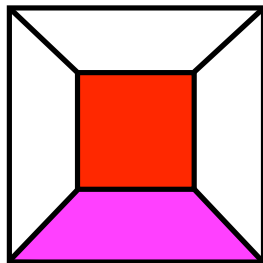
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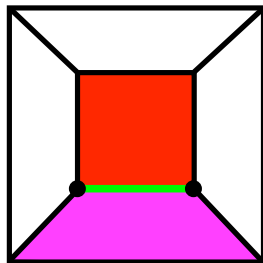
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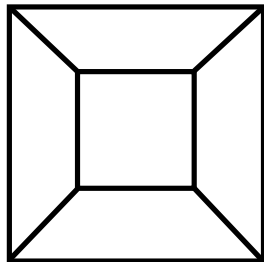
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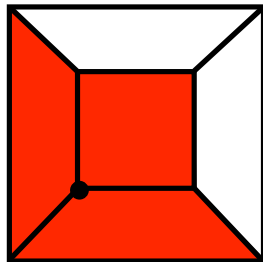
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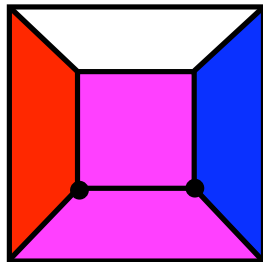
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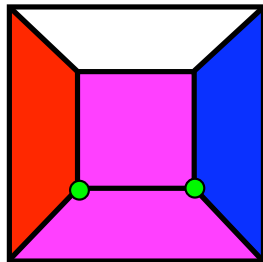
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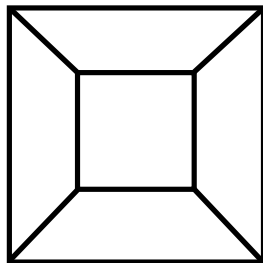
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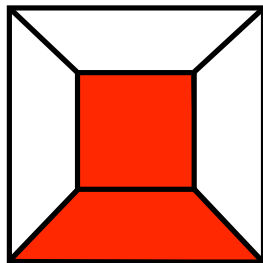
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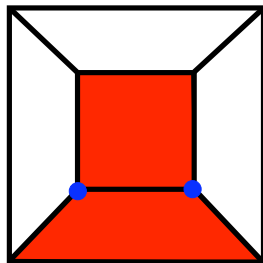
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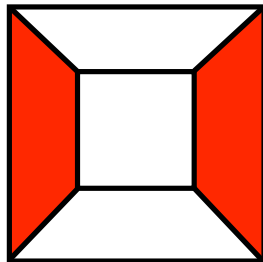
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$G$  path + dimension reduction + convexity  $\iff$  CLF

Three operations on SPGs

1 contraction, 2 edge addition, 3 induction

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- **adjacency:** If  $a, a' \in A$  and  $|a \cap a'| = d - 1$ , then  $a$  and  $a'$  are in the same or adjacent vertices in  $G$ .
- **edge-count:** If  $|e| = d - 1$ , then  $|\{a \in A : e \subset a\}| \in \{0, 2\}$ .

|    |   |   |    |
|----|---|---|----|
| DR | C | A | EC |
|    |   |   |    |

$G$  path + dimension reduction + convexity  $\iff$  CLF

Three operations on SPGs

1 contraction, 2 edge addition, 3 induction



## Other conditions on SPGs

Additional combinatorial properties:

- If  $a, a' \in A$ , then  $a$  is not contained in  $a'$ .
- The graph  $G$  is  $d$ -connected.
- The graph  $G$  is  $d$ -regular.
- For every  $a \in A$ ,  $|\{a' \in A \setminus a : |a \cap a'| = d - 1\}| = d$ .
- $|v_i| = 1$  for each  $i$ .

## Diameter, dimension...

A **subset partition graph** (SPG) of  $A \subseteq \binom{S}{d}$  on the **symbol set**  $S$  ( $n = |S|$ ) is a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , with  $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_t\}$  such that:

- $A = v_1 \cup \dots \cup v_t$
- $v_i \cap v_j = \emptyset$  if  $i \neq j$
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Upper bound

## Upper bound for convex, dimension-reduction SPGs

Let  $G$  be a subset partition graph of  $A$  on the symbol set  $S$  which satisfies the convexity and dimension-reduction properties.

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Analogous to Kalai-Kleitman,  
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The maximal diameter among  $d$ -dimensional subset partition graph on  $n$  symbols which satisfies the convexity and dimension-reduction properties is at most  $n^{1+\log d}$ .

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# Induction on CLFs

## Inspired by Eisenbrand-Hähnle-Razborov-Rothvoß...

Induction on a symbol  $s \in S$

- 1 Let  $A' = \{a \in A : s \in a\}$  and  $S' = S \setminus \{s\}$ .
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- 3 Remove  $s$  from each subset in  $A'$ .

## Lemma

Given a  $d$ -dimensional subset partition graph on  $n$  symbols which satisfies the convexity and dimension-reduction properties, induction on any symbol  $s \in S$  produces a  $(d - 1)$ -dimensional subset partition graph on  $n - 1$  symbols.

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Let  $J(d, n)$  denote the maximal diameter among  $d$ -dimensional subset partition graph on  $n$  symbols which satisfies the convexity and dimension-reduction properties.

Analogous to

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$$J(d, n) \leq n^{1+\log d}.$$

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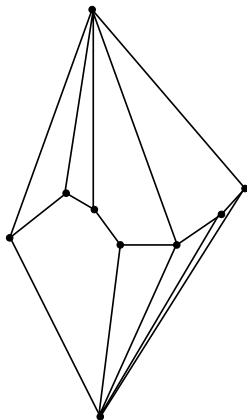
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## Lower bounds

# Spindles



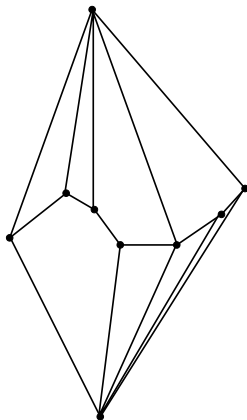
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## Definition

A spindle is a polytope with two distinguished vertices  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  (called the **apices**) such that every facet contains exactly one of the apices.

- The **length** of the spindle is the distance between  $a_1$  and  $a_2$ .
- A  $d$ -spindle is **long** if its length exceeds  $d$ .

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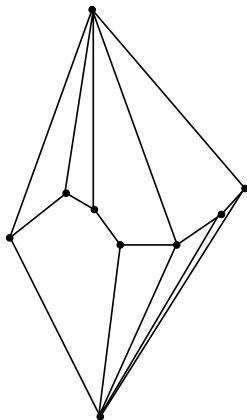
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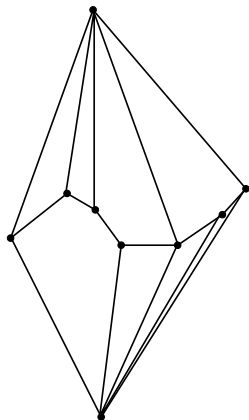
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## Theorem: Santos [2010]

- Long 5-dimensional spindles exist.
- Moreover, existence of long spindles implies existence of a long spindle  $P$  with  $n = 2d$  facets. Thus,  $P$  is non-Hirsch.

A subset partition graph satisfies the **spindle property** if there are two distinguished subsets  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  (called the **apices**) in  $A$  such that  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  is a partition of  $S$ .

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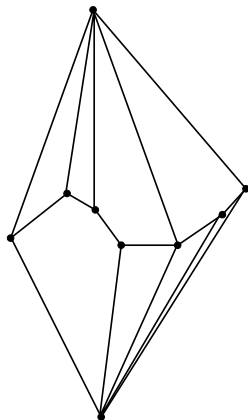
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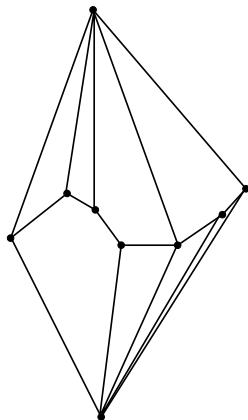
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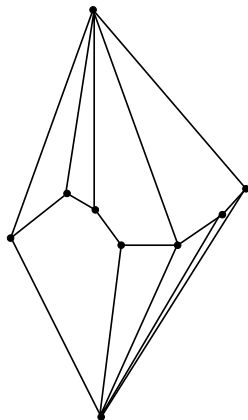
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## Superlinear diameter: abstract spindles

### Theorem: K. [2010]

Let  $T(n)$  be the maximal length of  $d$ -dimensional SPG spindles on  $n = 2d$  symbols satisfying the adjacency and edge-count properties. Then,

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{T(n)}{n^{3/2}} \geq \text{constant}. \quad (1)$$

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## Proof sketch

- Fix  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $S = [2m] \times [2m]$ . Let  $d = \frac{n}{2} = (2m)^2$ .
- The apices of the abstract spindle  $G$  are

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Example:  $m = 2$

$$S = \{1, \dots, 4\}^2.$$

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

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|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
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$$n = |S| = (2m)^2 = 4m^2.$$

- **Number of elements in each subset:**

$$d = \frac{1}{2}n = 2m^2.$$

- **Length:**

$$dm = 2m^3 = \Theta(n^{3/2}).$$

## Transportation SPGs

A SPG of  $A$  on the symbol set  $S = [p] \times [q] \times [r]$  satisfies the **3-way axial transportation property** if: for every  $a \in A$ , the set  $S \setminus a$  is the support set of the vertex of some  $p \times q \times r$  axial 3-way transportation polytope.

Proposition: K.

Let  $U(m)$  be the maximal diameter among SPGs of the symbol set  $[m]^3$  satisfying the adjacency, edge-count, and 3-way axial transportation properties. Then,  $U(m) \geq (m - 1)^3$ .

|    |   |   |    |
|----|---|---|----|
| DR | C | A | EC |
|    |   | X | X  |

Theorem: De Loera, K., Onn, Santos [2007]

The diameter of  $m \times m \times m$  axial 3-way transportation polytopes is at most  $2(3m - 2)^2$ .

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# Final thoughts

- Challenge: Satisfy the four main properties (convexity, dimension reduction, adjacency, edge-count) and construct a superlinear ( $n^{3/2}$ ?  $n \log n$ ?) family.
- Which combination of properties are most “useful” in combinatorial abstractions for superlinear lower bounds?
- Prove upper bound for SPGs satisfying adjacency and edge-count.
- Problem: Superlinear lower bounds for SPGs satisfying other interesting combinations of properties?

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## Challenges/Invitations

- Try to disprove the Linear Diameter Conjecture:
  - ① Start with a family of SPGs satisfying at least the edge-count property with superlinear growth.
  - ② Gain the other main properties with contraction and edge addition.
  - ③ Realize the new family of graphs as polytopes.
- Read Eisenbrand-Hähnle-Razborov-Rothvoß and join the POLYMATH conversation on Gil Kalai's blog.

- “If you have an idea (and certainly a question or a request), please don't feel necessary to read all earlier comments to see if it is already there.”
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