

# Topological aspects of partial product spaces: a survey

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Topological methods in toric geometry, symplectic geometry and combinatorics:  
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# Summary

- What is a generalized moment-angle complex/partial product space?
- Some history
- Calculating with the polyhedral product functor
- Stable splitting
- The (rational) homotopy Lie algebra; the (integral) Pontryagin algebra
- Some open problems

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## Some references

- Michael W. Davis and Tadeusz Januszkiewicz, *Convex polytopes, Coxeter orbifolds and torus actions*, Duke Math. J. **62** (1991), no. 2, 417–451.
- Victor Buchstaber and Taras Panov, *Torus actions and their applications in topology and combinatorics*, AMS University Lecture Series **24** (2002).
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## Definition (Partial product spaces)

- Let  $K$  be a simplicial complex on  $m$  vertices.
- For  $1 \leq i \leq m$ , let  $* \hookrightarrow A_i \hookrightarrow X_i$  be based CW-complexes.
- For  $\sigma \in K$ , let

$$(\underline{X}, \underline{A})^\sigma = \prod_{i=1}^m \begin{cases} X_i & \text{if } i \in \sigma; \\ A_i & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- Let

$$\mathcal{Z}_K(\underline{X}, \underline{A}) = \bigcup_{\sigma \in K} (\underline{X}, \underline{A})^\sigma.$$

- Special case: if  $X_i = X$  and  $A_i = A$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m$ , write  $\mathcal{Z}_K(X, A) := \mathcal{Z}_K(\underline{X}, \underline{A})$ .
- Another special case: if  $A_i = *$  for all  $i$ , write  $\underline{X}^K := \mathcal{Z}_K(\underline{X}, \underline{A})$ .

Generally: for each  $i$ , let  $A_i \rightarrow X_i$  be a cofibration of cofibrant objects in a suitable model category. Let

$$\mathcal{Z}_K(\underline{X}, \underline{A}) = \operatorname{colim}_{\sigma \in K} (\underline{X}, \underline{A})^\sigma.$$

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## first examples

### Note

$$\prod_{i=1}^m A_i \subseteq \mathcal{Z}_K(\underline{X}, \underline{A}) \subseteq \prod_{i=1}^m X_i.$$

### Example

- Let  $K = \Delta^{m-1}$ , the full simplex. Then

$$\mathcal{Z}_K(\underline{X}, \underline{A}) = X_1 \times X_2 \times \cdots \times X_m.$$

- Let  $K = \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \circ \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ \circ \end{array}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{X}^K &= (X_1 \times *) \cup (* \times X_2) \\ &= X_1 \vee X_2. \end{aligned}$$

- For  $K = \partial\Delta^{m-1}$ ,  $\underline{X}^K$  is the **fat wedge** of  $X_1, \dots, X_m$ .

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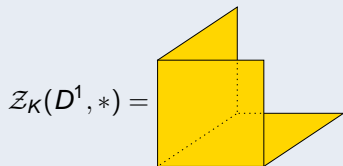


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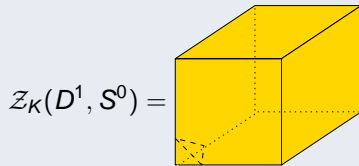
Let

$$K = \partial\Delta^2 = \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & & 2 \\ & \text{---} & \\ & \diagdown & / \\ & & 3 \end{array}$$

Then  $(D^1 = [0, 1])$ :



and



## Example (Subspace arrangements)

For  $k = \mathbb{C}$  and  $k = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{Z}_K(k, k^*)$  is a **coordinate subspace arrangement**:

$$\mathcal{Z}_K(k, k^*) = k^n - \bigcup_{\substack{S = \{x_{i_1} = \dots = x_{i_k} = 0\}: \\ \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \notin K}} S.$$

[de Longueville, Schultz], [Goresky, MacPherson]

## Example (Torus complexes)

Let  $\Gamma = K^{(1)}$ , and present the **right-angled Artin group**

$$G_\Gamma = \langle x_1, \dots, x_m \mid x_i x_j = x_j x_i \text{ for } \{i, j\} \text{ an edge of } \Gamma \rangle.$$

Then

- $G_\Gamma = \pi_1((S^1)^K)$  [Kim, Roush] and
- $(S^1)^K$  is aspherical iff  $K$  is a flag complex. [Charney, Davis]

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## Moment-angle complexes

- The partial product spaces  $\mathcal{Z}_K(D^2, S^1)$  are the “classical” moment-angle complexes.
- If  $K$  is a simplicial  $d$ -sphere,  $\mathcal{Z}_K(D^2, S^1)$  is a  $m + d + 1$ -dimensional manifold.
- The dual of a simple polytope  $P$  is a simplicial polytope. Write  $\mathcal{Z}_P(D^2, S^1)$  for the corresponding moment-angle manifold.
- If  $m + d + 1$  is even: [López de Medrano, Verjovsky; Bosio, Meersseman]
- Label faces of  $P$  with lattice vectors, a basis for  $\mathbb{Z}^{d+1}$  around each vertex. Free  $T^{m-d+1}$  action on  $\mathcal{Z}_P(D^2, S^1)$ . The orbit space is a (quasi)toric manifold. [Davis, Januszkiewicz]

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# Identification spaces

## Definition

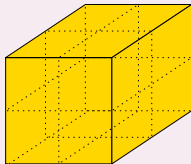
For a space  $X$  and simplicial complex  $K$  with  $m$  vertices, let

$$I_K(X) = X^{\times m} \times \mathcal{Z}_K(D^1, 0) / \sim,$$

where  $\sim$  is: for  $p \in \mathcal{Z}_K(D^1, 0)$ , let  $\sigma(p) = \{i \in [n] : p_i = 1\}$ . Set  $(x, p) \sim (x', p)$  if and only if  $x_i = x'_i$  for all  $i \notin \sigma(p)$ .

## Example

If  $K$  is a 3-cycle, then  $I_K(\mathbb{Z}/2)$  consists of eight copies of  $\mathcal{Z}_K(D^1, 0)$ , identified:



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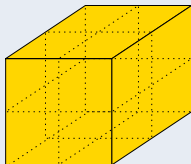
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## Proposition

For any  $X$  and simplicial complex  $K$ ,

$$I_K(X) \cong \mathcal{Z}_K(\mathbf{C}X, X),$$

where  $\mathbf{C}X$  is the cone on  $X$ .

- Suppose  $K$  is a pure  $d - 1$ -complex. If  $\rho: G^{\times m} \rightarrow G^{\times d}$  is a group homomorphism with the property that  $\rho|_{G^\sigma}$  is an isomorphism for each maximal  $\sigma \in K$ , form quotient  $M_{K,G} = I_K(G)/\ker \rho$ .
- $G = S^1$ : quasitoric manifolds;  $G = \mathbb{Z}/2$ : small covers. [Davis, Januszkiewicz]

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# Naturality: the polyhedral product functor

- If  $f: (\underline{X}, \underline{A}) \rightarrow (\underline{Y}, \underline{B})$  is a map of pairs, then the induced map

$$\mathcal{Z}_f: \mathcal{Z}_K(\underline{X}, \underline{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_K(\underline{Y}, \underline{B})$$

preserves  $\simeq$ .

- For example:

$$\mathcal{Z}_K(\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C}^*) \simeq \mathcal{Z}_K(D^2, S^1) \simeq \mathcal{Z}_K(ES^1, S^1);$$

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## Lemma

Given fibrations

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 F & \longrightarrow & E & \longrightarrow & B \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 F' & \longrightarrow & E' & \longrightarrow & B'
 \end{array}$$

then  $\mathcal{Z}_K(F, F') \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_K(E, E') \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_K(B, B')$  is also a fibration, provided either  $B = B'$  or  $F = F'$ .

## Example

For any topological group  $G$ , there are fibrations (in fact,  $G^{\times m}$ -bundles)

$$G^{\times m} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}_K(EG, G) \longrightarrow (BG)^K,$$

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So, e.g.,  $DJ(K) := (\mathbb{C}P^\infty)^K$  is the homotopy orbit space for the diagonal action of  $T^m = (S^1)^{\times m}$  on  $\mathcal{Z}_K(D^2, S^1)$ . [Davis, Januszkiewicz]



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# Cohomology

## Lemma

1. The inclusion  $\underline{X}^K \hookrightarrow \prod_{i=1}^m X_i$  induces a surjection in cohomology:

$$H^*(\prod_{i=1}^m X_i, \mathbf{k}) \twoheadrightarrow H^*(\underline{X}^K, \mathbf{k}).$$

2.  $H^*(\underline{X}^K, \mathbf{k}) \cong \varprojlim_{\sigma \in K} H^*(\underline{X}^\sigma, \mathbf{k})$ .

Useful cases:

- For  $X = S^1$ ,

$$E := H^*(T^m) = \bigwedge [x_1, \dots, x_m] \twoheadrightarrow H^*((S^1)^K) =: E/J_K,$$

- and for  $X = BS^1 = \mathbb{C}P^\infty$ ,

$$S := H^*(BT^m) = \mathbf{k}[x_1, \dots, x_m] \twoheadrightarrow H^*((BS^1)^K) =: S/I_K,$$

where  $I_K, J_K$  are generated by  $x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_k}$ , for  $\{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \notin K$ .

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- CDGA version: [Félix-Tanré]. Gives CDGA for  $\mathcal{Z}_K(X, A)$  from  $X, A$ . So, e.g.,  $\text{cat}(X^K) = \text{cat}(X)(1 + \dim K)$  for simply-connected  $X$ .

## Theorem (Buchstaber, Panov)

*For any coefficients  $\mathbf{k}$ , there is a bigraded algebra isomorphism*

$$H^*(\mathcal{Z}_K(D^2, S^1), \mathbf{k}) \cong \text{Tor}^S(S/I_K, \mathbf{k}).$$

- For  $I \subseteq [m]$ , let  $K_I$  denote induced subcomplex on vertices  $I$ . Additively,

$$\text{Tor}^S(S/I, \mathbf{k}) \cong \bigoplus_{I \subseteq [m]} \tilde{H}^*(K_I). \quad [\text{Hochster}]$$

- Bigrading on left is from MHS on cohomology of the subspace complement. [Deligne, Goresky, MacPherson]
- Right-hand side has history: free resolutions of monomial ideals. [Eagon, Reiner, Welker]
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Note  $G^{\times m}$  acts on  $\mathcal{Z}_K(EG, G)$  and

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## Stable splitting

The suspension of a partial product space (often) has a nice description.  
[Bahri, Bendersky, Cohen, Gitler]<sup>1</sup>

### Definition

- If  $(\underline{X}, \underline{A})$  are pairs of based CW-complexes and  $K$  is a simplicial complex, let

$$(\underline{X}, \underline{A})^{\hat{\sigma}} = \bigwedge_{i=1}^m \begin{cases} X_i & \text{if } i \in \sigma; \\ A_i & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{and } \widehat{\mathcal{Z}}_K(\underline{X}, \underline{A}) = \text{colim}_{\sigma \in K} (\underline{X}, \underline{A})^{\hat{\sigma}}$$

- Equals the image of  $\mathcal{Z}_K(\underline{X}, \underline{A})$  in  $X_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge X_m$ .
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## Theorem (Bahri, Bendersky, Cohen, Gitler)

*If each  $A_i \hookrightarrow X_i$  is connected, there is a natural homotopy equivalence*

$$\Sigma \mathcal{Z}_K(\underline{X}, \underline{A}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \Sigma \left( \bigvee_{I \subseteq [m]} \widehat{\mathcal{Z}}_K(\underline{X}_I, \underline{A}_I) \right).$$



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## Theorem (Bahri, Bendersky, Cohen, Gitler)

*If each  $X_i \simeq *$ , there is a homotopy equivalence*

$$\Sigma \mathcal{Z}_K(\underline{X}, \underline{A}) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \Sigma \left( \bigvee_{I \notin K} |K_I| * \widehat{A}^I \right).$$

## Corollary (Moment-angle complexes)

*We have*

$$\Sigma \mathcal{Z}_K(D^2, S^1) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \Sigma \left( \bigvee_{I \notin K} \Sigma^{2+|I|} |K_I| \right).$$

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$$\Sigma(\underline{X}^K) \xrightarrow{\cong} \Sigma\left(\bigvee_{I \in K} \hat{X}^I\right)$$

- Order  $k$ -simplices by

$$(i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_k) \prec (j_1 < j_2 < \cdots < j_k) \Leftrightarrow i_r < j_r \quad \forall r.$$

- $K$  is a **shifted complex** if simplices are an initial sequence in  $\prec$ .
- In this case, the previous result holds without suspension:

### Theorem (Grbić, Theriault)

*If  $K$  is shifted,  $\mathcal{Z}_K(D^{n+1}, S^n)$  is homotopy equivalent to a wedge of spheres.*

### Remark

*Not all (generalized) moment-angle complexes are homotopy equivalent to wedges of spheres.*

# Formality

- A (commutative) differential graded algebra  $(A, d)$  is **formal** if  $(A, d) \simeq_{\text{q.i.}} (H^*(A), 0)$ .
- A space  $X$  is **formal** if the DGA  $C_{\text{sing}}^*(X, \mathbb{Z})$  is formal.
- A space  $X$  is  **$\mathbb{Q}$ -formal** if the CDGA  $A_{PL}^*(X)$  is formal.
- $DJ(K)$  is formal and  $\mathbb{Q}$ -formal. [Franz; Notbohm, Ray]
- Moment-angle complexes:

$$C_{\text{sing}}^*(\mathcal{Z}_K(D^2, S^1), \mathbf{k}) \simeq_{\text{q.i.}} S/I_K \otimes_{\mathbf{k}} E,$$

the Koszul complex of the Stanley-Reisner ideal. [Baskakov, Buchstaber, Panov]

- However,  $\mathcal{Z}_K(D^2, S^1)$  need not be formal. [Baskakov]
- For  $K \cong S^2$ ,  $\mathcal{Z}_K(D^2, S^1)$  is “almost never” formal. [D., Suciu]

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# The rational homotopy Lie algebra

- For simply-connected  $X$ , let  $\mathfrak{g}(X) = \pi_*(\Omega X) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$ .
- Note  $\mathfrak{g}(DJ(K)) \cong \mathfrak{g}(\mathcal{Z}_K(D^2, S^1)) \times \mathbb{Q}^m$ .
- Since  $DJ(K)$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -formal,

$$U(\mathfrak{g}) = H_*(\Omega DJ(K), \mathbb{Q}) \cong \text{Ext}_{S/I_K}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}).$$

- Right-hand side: Poincaré series?
- $S/I_K$  is a Koszul algebra iff  $K$  is a flag complex.
- A semi-explicit presentation: [Berglund]

$$\mathfrak{g}(DJ(K)) \cong FH^* \mathcal{L}_{\infty}(K)$$

- [Dobranskaya]: an operadic description of  $H_*(\Omega X^K, \mathbf{k})$  in terms of  $H_*(\Omega X)$  and a configuration space of points in  $\mathbb{R}$  with partial collisions.
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