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# Poincaré series of some hypergraph algebras

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## Abstract

A hypergraph  $H = (V, E)$ , where  $V = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  and  $E \subseteq 2^V$  defines a hypergraph algebra  $R_H = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/(x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k}; \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \in E)$ . All our hypergraphs are  $d$ -uniform, i.e.,  $|e_i| = d$  for all  $e_i \in E$ . We determine the Poincaré series  $P_{R_H}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \dim_k \operatorname{Tor}_i^{R_H}(k, k)t^i$  for some hypergraphs generalizing lines, cycles, and stars. We finish by calculating the graded Betti numbers and the Poincaré series of the graph algebra of the wheel graph.

## 1 Introduction

A line is a graph  $L_n = (V, E)$ , where

$$V = \{x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}\} \text{ and } E = \{(x_1, x_2), \dots, (x_n, x_{n+1})\},$$

a cycle a graph  $C_n = (V, E)$ , where

$$V = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \text{ and } E = \{(x_1, x_2), \dots, (x_{n-1}, x_n), (x_n, x_1)\},$$

and a star a graph  $S_n = (V, E)$ , where

$$V = \{x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}\} \text{ and } E = \{(x_1, x_2), \dots, (x_1, x_{n+1})\}.$$

In [J 04, Chapter 7] the Betti numbers of their graph algebras,

$$k[x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}]/(x_1x_2, x_2x_3, \dots, x_nx_{n+1}),$$

$$k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/(x_1x_2, x_2x_3, \dots, x_{n-1}x_n, x_nx_1),$$

and

$$k[x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}]/(x_1x_2, x_1x_3, \dots, x_1x_{n+1})$$

are determined. This is generalized to certain “hyperlines”, “hypercycles”, and “hyperstars” in [E-M-M 08]. Here a hyperline is hypergraph with  $nd - (n - 1)\alpha$  vertices and  $n$  edges  $e_1, \dots, e_n$ , where all edges  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  have size  $d$ , and  $e_i \cap e_j \neq \emptyset$  and has size  $\alpha$  if and only if  $|i - j| = 1$ , a hypercycle is hypergraph with  $n(d - \alpha)$  vertices and  $n$  edges  $e_1, \dots, e_n$ , where all edges have size  $d$ , and  $e_i \cap e_j \neq \emptyset$  and has size  $\alpha$  if and only if  $|i - j| = 1 \pmod{n}$ , and the hyperstar is hypergraph with  $n(d - \alpha)$  vertices and  $n$  edges  $e_1, \dots, e_n$ , where all edges have size  $d$ , and for all  $i, j$   $|e_i \cap e_j| = |\cap_{i=1}^n e_i| = \alpha > 0$ . We denote the line hypergraph and its algebra with  $L_n^{d,\alpha}$ , the cycle hypergraph and its algebra with  $C_n^{d,\alpha}$ , and the star hypergraph and its algebra  $S_n^{d,\alpha}$ . Their Betti numbers were determined in [E-M-M 08, Chapter 3] (in the first two cases with the restriction  $2\alpha \leq d$ ). In this paper we will determine the Poincaré series for the same algebras. The Poincaré series of a graded  $k$ -algebra  $R = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$  is  $P_R(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \dim_k \text{Tor}_i^R(k, k)t^i$ . [G-L 69] is an excellent source for results on Poincaré series.

## 2 Hypercycles and hyperlines when $d = 2\alpha$

We start with the case  $d = 2\alpha$ . If  $e_i = \{v_{i1}, \dots, v_{i\alpha}, v'_{i1}, \dots, v'_{i\alpha}\}$ , where  $\{v'_{ij}\} \in e_{i+1}$ , we start by factoring out all  $v_{ik} - v_{il}$  and  $v'_{ik} - v'_{il}$ . This is a linear regular sequence of length  $(n + 1)(\alpha - 1)$  for the hyperline and of length  $n(\alpha - 1)$  for the hypercycle. The results are

$$L'_{n,a} = k[x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}]/(x_1^\alpha x_2^\alpha, x_2^\alpha x_3^\alpha, \dots, x_n^\alpha x_{n+1}^\alpha)$$

and

$$C'_{n,a} = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/(x_1^\alpha x_2^\alpha, x_2^\alpha x_3^\alpha, \dots, x_{n-1}^\alpha x_n^\alpha, x_n^\alpha x_1^\alpha).$$

Then

$$P_{L'_{n,a}}(t) = (1 + t)^{(n+1)(\alpha-1)} P_{L'_{n,a}}(t)$$

and

$$P_{C'_{n,a}}(t) = (1 + t)^{n(\alpha-1)} P_{C'_{n,a}}(t).$$

[G-L 69, Theorem 3.4.2 (ii)]. Now  $L_n^{2\alpha,\alpha}$  and  $C_n^{2\alpha,\alpha}$  have the same Poincaré series as the graph algebras

$$L_n = L_n^{2,1} = k[x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}]/(x_1x_2, x_2x_3, \dots, x_nx_{n+1})$$

and

$$C_n = C_n^{2,1} = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/(x_1x_2, x_2x_3, \dots, x_{n-1}x_n, x_nx_1)$$

respectively.

For a graded  $k$ -algebra  $\oplus_{i=0}^{\infty} R_i$ , the Hilbert series of  $R$  is defines as  $H_R(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \dim_k(R_i)t^i$ . The exact sequences

$$0 \longrightarrow (x_{n+1}) \longrightarrow L_n \xrightarrow{x_{n+1}} L_n \longrightarrow L_n/(x_{n+1}) \longrightarrow 0$$

and

$$0 \longrightarrow (x_{n+1}) \longrightarrow L_n \longrightarrow L_n/(x_{n+1}) \longrightarrow 0$$

and  $L_n/(x_{n+1}) \simeq L_{n-1}$  and  $(x_{n+1}) \simeq L_{n-2} \otimes k[x]$  gives

$$H_{L_n}(t) = H_{L_{n-1}}(t) + \frac{t}{1-t} H_{L_{n-2}}(t).$$

The exact sequences

$$0 \longrightarrow (x_1, x_{n-1}) \longrightarrow C_n \xrightarrow{x_n} C_n \longrightarrow L_{n-2} \longrightarrow 0$$

and

$$0 \longrightarrow (x_1, x_{n-1}) \longrightarrow C_n \longrightarrow C_n/(x_1, x_{n-1}) \longrightarrow 0$$

and  $C_n/(x_1, x_{n-1}) \simeq L_{n-4} \otimes k[x]$  gives

$$H_{C_n}(t) = H_{L_{n-2}}(t) - \frac{t}{(1-t)} H_{L_{n-4}}(t).$$

Now  $C_n$  and  $L_n$  are (as all graph algebras) Koszul algebras [F 75, Corollary 2], so  $P_{C_n}(t) = 1/H_{C_n}(-t)$  and  $P_{L_n}(t) = 1/H_{L_n}(-t)$ . Since  $L_0 = k[x_1]$  and  $L_1 = k[x_1, x_2]/(x_1x_2)$ , we have  $H_{L_0}(t) = 1/(1-t)$  and  $H_{L_1}(t) = (1+t)/(1-t)$ . We give the first Hilbert series:

$$\begin{aligned} H_{L_2}(t) &= (1+t-t^2)/(1-t)^2, H_{L_3}(t) = (1+2t)/(1-t)^2, \\ H_{L_4}(t) &= (1+2t-t^2-t^3)/(1-t)^3, H_{L_5}(t) = (1+3t+t^2-t^3)/(1-t)^3, \\ H_{C_3}(t) &= (1+2t)/(1-t), H_{C_4}(t) = (1+2t-t^2)/(1-t)^2, \\ H_{C_5}(t) &= (1+3t+t^2)/(1-t)^3, H_{C_6}(t) = (1+3t-2t^3)/(1-t)^3. \end{aligned}$$

**Remark** We note that it is probably hard to get one formula for  $H_{L_n}(t)$  for all  $n$ . An indication is that we get the Fibonacci numbers from  $H_{L_n}(t)$ . For  $t = 1/2$  we get  $H_{L_n}(1/2) = F_{n+2}$ , the  $(n+2)$ th Fibonacci number if  $F_0 = F_1 = 1$ .

Thus we get

$$\begin{aligned} P_{L_2}(t) &= (1+t)^2/(1-t-t^2), P_{L_3}(t) = (1+t)^2/(1-2t), \\ P_{L_4}(t) &= (1+t)^3/(1-2t-t^2+t^3), P_{L_5}(t) = (1+t)^3/(1-3t+t^2+t^3), \\ P_{C_3}(t) &= (1+t)/(1-2t), P_{C_4}(t) = (1+t)^2/(1-2t-t^2), \\ P_{C_5}(t) &= (1+t)^2/(1-3t+t^2), P_{C_6}(t) = (1+t)^3/(1-3t+2t^3). \end{aligned}$$

We collect the results in

**Theorem 2.1** *The Poincaré series of  $L_n$  and  $C_n$  satisfy the recursion formulas*

$$P_{L_n}(t) = \frac{(1+t)P_{L_{n-1}}(t)P_{L_{n-2}}(t)}{(1+t)P_{L_{n-2}}(t) - tP_{L_{n-1}}(t)}$$

where  $P_{L_0}(t) = 1 + t$  and  $P_{L_1}(t) = (1 + t)/(1 - t)$  and

$$P_{C_n}(t) = \frac{(1 + t)P_{L_{n-2}}(t)P_{L_{n-4}}(t)}{P_{L_{n-2}}(t) + (1 + t)P_{L_{n-4}}(t)}.$$

Furthermore

$$P_{L_n^{2\alpha, \alpha}}(t) = (1 + t)^{(n+1)(\alpha-1)} P_{L_n}(t)$$

and

$$P_{C_n^{2\alpha, \alpha}}(t) = (1 + t)^{n(\alpha-1)} P_{C_n}(t).$$

### 3 Hypercycles and hyperlines when $2\alpha < d$

Next we turn to the case  $2\alpha < d$ . Now each edge has a free vertex, i.e. a vertex which does not belong to any other edge. Then the Taylor resolution is minimal. In this case there is a formula for the Poincaré series in terms of the graded homology of the Koszul complex [F 78, Corollary to Proposition 2]. Let  $R$  be a monomial ring for which the Taylor resolution is minimal. Then the homology of the Koszul complex  $H(K_R)$  is of the form  $H(K_R) = k[u_1, \dots, u_N]/I$ , where  $I$  is generated by a set of monomials of degree 2. Define a bigrading induced by  $\deg(u_i) = (1, |u_i|)$ , where  $|u_i|$  is the homological degree. Then  $P_R(t) = (1 + t)^e / H_R(-t, t)$ , where  $e$  is the embedding dimension and  $H_R(x, y)$  is the bigraded Hilbert series of  $H(K_R)$ , see [F 78].

We begin with the hypercycle. The homology of the Koszul complex is generated by  $\{z_I\}$ , where  $I = \{i, i+1, \dots, j\}$  corresponds to a path  $\{e_i, e_{i+1}, \dots, e_j\}$  in  $C_n^{d, \alpha}$  (indices counted  $\pmod{n}$ ). Thus there are  $n$  generators in all homological degrees  $< n$  and one generator in homological degree  $n$ . We have  $z_I z_J = 0$  if  $I \cap J \neq \emptyset$ . Thus the surviving monomials are of the form  $m = z_{I_1} \cdots z_{I_r}$ , where  $I_i \cap I_j = \emptyset$  if  $i \neq j$ . The bidegree of  $m$  is  $(r, \sum_{j=1}^r |I_j|)$ . Let  $\sum_{j=1}^r |I_j| = i$ . Then  $m$  lies in  $H(K)_{i, di-(i-r)\alpha}$ . The graded Betti numbers are determined in [E-M-M 08, Chapter 3]. The nonzero Betti numbers are  $\beta_{i, di-(i-r)\alpha} = \frac{n}{r} \binom{i-1}{r-1} \binom{n-i-1}{r-1}$  if  $1 \leq r \leq i < n$  and  $\beta_{n, n(d-\alpha)} = 1$ . (As usual  $\binom{a}{b} = 0$  if  $b > a$ .) This gives the Poincaré series.

Next we consider the hyperline. The homology of the Koszul complex is generated by  $\{z_I\}$ , where  $I = \{i, i+1, \dots, j\}$  corresponds to a path  $\{e_i, e_{i+1}, \dots, e_j\}$  in  $L(n, d, \alpha)$ . Thus there are  $n+1-i$  generators of homological degree  $i$ . We have  $z_I z_J = 0$  if  $I \cap J \neq \emptyset$ . The graded Betti numbers are determined in [E-M-M 08, Chapter 3]. The nonzero Betti numbers are  $\beta_{i, di-(i-r)\alpha} = \binom{i-1}{r-1} \binom{n-i+1}{r}$  if  $1 \leq r \leq i \leq n$ . The same reasoning as above gives the Poincaré series. We state the results in a theorem.

**Theorem 3.1** *If  $2\alpha < d$ , then*

$$P_{C_n}(t) = \frac{(1 + t)^{n(d-\alpha)}}{1 + \sum_{1 \leq r \leq i \leq n} (-1)^r \frac{n}{r} \binom{i-1}{r-1} \binom{n-i-1}{r-1} t^{i+r} - t^{n+1}},$$

and

$$P_{L_n}(t) = \frac{(1+t)^{n(d-\alpha)+\alpha}}{1 + \sum_{1 \leq r \leq i \leq n} (-1)^r \binom{i-1}{r-1} \binom{n-i+1}{r} t^{i+r}}.$$

## 4 The hyperstar

We conclude with a hypergraph generalizing the star graph. Suppose  $|e_i| = d$  for all  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and that if  $i \neq j$ , then  $|e_i \cap e_j| = |\cap_{i=1}^n e_i| = \alpha < d$ . Then the ideal is of the form  $m(m_1, \dots, m_n)$ , where  $m$  is a monomial of degree  $\alpha$ . Then the hypergraph ring  $S_n^{d,\alpha}$  is Golod [G-L 69, Theorem 4.3.2]. This means that

**Theorem 4.1**

$$P_{S_n^{d,\alpha}}(t) = (1+t)^{|V|} / (1 - \sum \beta_i t^{i+1}) = (1+t)^{n(d-\alpha)+\alpha} / (1 - \sum \binom{n}{i} t^{i+1}).$$

## 5 The wheel graph

Finally we consider the wheel graph  $W_n$ , which is  $C_n$  with an extra vertex (the center) which is connected to all vertices in  $C_n$ . We let  $W_n$  also denote the graph algebra  $k[x_0, \dots, x_n] / (x_1 x_2, x_2 x_3, \dots, x_n x_1, x_0 x_1, \dots, x_0 x_n)$ .

**Theorem 5.1** *Let  $W_n$  be a wheel graph on  $n+1$  vertices. Then the Betti numbers of  $W_n$  are as follows:*

- (i) If  $j > i + 1$ , then  $\beta_{i,j}(k[\Delta_{W_n}]) = \beta_{i,j}(C_n) + \beta_{i-1,j-1}(C_n)$ .
- (ii) If  $j = i + 1$ , then  $\beta_{i,i+1}(W_n) = \beta_{i,i+1}(C_n) + \beta_{i-1,i}(C_n) + \binom{n}{i}$ .

*Proof.* Assume that  $V(W_n) = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  and  $C_n = W_n \setminus \{x_0\}$ . It is easy to see that  $\Delta_{W_n} = \Delta_{C_n} \cup \{x_0\}$ , where  $\Delta_{W_n}$  and  $\Delta_{C_n}$  are the independence complexes of  $W_n$  and  $C_n$ . It implies that for any  $i \geq 1$ ,  $H_i(\Delta_{W_n}) = H_i(\Delta_{C_n})$ . Thus, if  $j > i + 1$ , from Hochster's formula ([B-H 98, Theorem 5.5.1]) and the observation above one has the result. Now assume that  $j = i + 1$ . Then  $\beta_{i,i+1}(W_n) = \sum_{S \subseteq V(W_n), |S|=i+1} \dim(\tilde{H}_0(\Delta_S)) = \sum_{S \subseteq V(C_n), |S|=i+1} \dim(\tilde{H}_0(\Delta_S)) + \sum_{S \subseteq V(W_n), S=S' \cup \{x_0\}} \dim(\tilde{H}_0(\Delta_S))$ . For any  $S \subseteq V(W_n)$  and  $S_0 \subseteq V(C_n)$ , let  $r_S$  and  $r'_{S_0}$  denotes the number of connected components of  $\Delta_S$  in  $V(W_n)$  and  $\Delta_{S_0}$  in  $V(C_n)$  respectively. Then we have  $\sum_{S \subseteq V(W_n), S=S_0 \cup \{x_0\}} \dim(\tilde{H}_0(\Delta_S)) = \sum_{S \subseteq V(W_n), S=S_0 \cup \{x_0\}} (r_S - 1)$ . For any  $S \subseteq V(W_n)$  such that  $S = S_0 \cup \{x_0\}$ , we have  $r_S = r'_{S_0} + 1$ . Therefore  $\sum_{S \subseteq V(W_n), S=S_0 \cup \{x_0\}} \dim(\tilde{H}_0(\Delta_S)) = \sum_{S_0 \subseteq V(C_n), |S_0|=i} \dim(\tilde{H}_0(\Delta_{S_0})) + \binom{n}{i} = \beta_{i-1,i}(C_n) + \binom{n}{i}$ .

The term  $\binom{n}{i}$  is the number of subsets  $S_0$  of  $V(C_n)$  of cardinality  $i$ .

Substituting the  $\beta_{i,j}(C_n)$  from of [J 04, Theorem 7.6.28] we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 5.2** *Let  $W_n$  be the wheel graph on  $n + 1$  vertices. Then the Betti numbers of  $W_n$  are as follows:*

- (i) *If  $n = 3$ , then  $\beta_{2,3}(W_3) = 8$ ,  $\beta_{3,4}(W_3) = 3$ . If  $n = 4$ , then  $\beta_{3,4}(W_4) = 9$ ,  $\beta_{4,5}(W_4) = 2$ . Otherwise  $\beta_{i,i+1}(W_n) = n \binom{2}{i-1} + \binom{n}{i}$ .*
- (ii) *If  $n = 3m$ , then  $\beta_{2m,n}(W_n) = 3m + 2$ ,  $\beta_{2m+1,n+1}(W_n) = 2$ . If  $n = 3m + 1$ , then  $\beta_{2m+1,n}(W_n) = 3m + 2$ ,  $\beta_{2m+2,n+1}(W_n) = 1$ . If  $n = 3m + 2$ , then  $\beta_{2m,n}(W_n) = \beta_{2m+1,n+1}(W_n) = 1$ . Otherwise, if  $j > i + 1$ , then  $\beta_{i,j}(W_n) = \frac{n}{n-2(j-i)} \binom{n-2(j-i)}{j-i} \binom{j-i-1}{2i-j}$ .*

We can also determine the Poincaré series for the wheel graph algebra. This is also a Koszul algebra, and  $H_{W_n}(t) = H_{C_n}(t) + t/(1 - t)$ . Since  $P_{W_n}(t) = 1/H_{W_n}(-t)$  and  $P_{C_n}(t) = 1/H_{C_n}(-t)$ , this gives

**Theorem 5.3**

$$P_{W_n}(t) = \frac{P_{C_n}(t)(1 + t)}{1 + t - tP_{C_n}(t)}$$

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