

# Concepts of Dimension for Convex Geometries

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- Perhaps the single most widely studied example are classes of graphs with  $f$  being chromatic number and  $g$  being clique number.

## Dushnik-Miller Dimension—Abbreviated to Dimension

- Let  $\sigma = (L_1, \dots, L_n)$  be a sequence of linear orders on the ground set of a poset  $P$ . For  $x, y \in P$ , let  $q(x, y, \sigma)$  be the 0–1 sequence with coordinate  $i$  set to 1 if and only if  $x \leq y$  in  $L_i$ .

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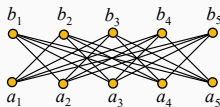
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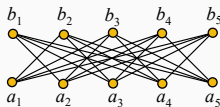
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- The **dimension** of  $P$ , denoted  $\dim(P)$ , is the least positive integer  $n$  for which  $P$  has a Dushnik-Miller realizer  $\sigma = (L_1, \dots, L_n)$  of length  $n$ .

## Dimension and Standard Example Number



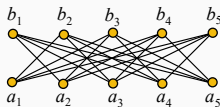
- For  $n \geq 2$ , the **standard example**  $S_n$  is the height 2 poset with minimal elements  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ , maximal elements  $b_1, \dots, b_n$ , and  $a_i < b_j$  in  $S_n$  if and only if  $i \neq j$ .

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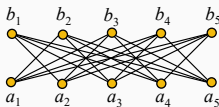
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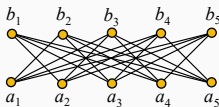
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- $\dim(P) \geq \text{se}(P)$  for all posets  $P$ .

## Separating Dimension and Standard Example Number

- **Dushnik-Miller 1941** For every  $d \geq 3$ , there is a poset  $P$  with  $\text{se}(P) = 3$  and  $\dim(P) > d$ .

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- **Felsner and WTT 2000** For every  $d \geq 3$ , there is a height 2 poset  $P$  with  $se(P) = 2$  and  $\dim(P) > d$ .
- Regardless, it is of interest to investigate classes of posets for which dimension is bounded in terms of standard example number.

- Baker, Fishburn and Roberts 1970 If  $P$  is a poset with a 0 and a 1, and the order diagram of  $P$  is planar, then  $\dim(P) \leq 2$ .

## Dimension and Posets with Planar Cover Graphs I

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- **Kelly 1981** For every  $d \geq 1$ , there is a poset  $P$  with a planar order diagram such that  $\dim(P) > d$ .
- **Conjecture** In the class of posets with planar cover graphs, dimension is bounded in terms of standard example number.

- Theorem (Blake, Hodor, Micek, Seweryn and WTT, 2023+) If  $P$  is a poset with a planar cover graph, then  $\dim(P) = O((se(P))^6)$ .



# Resolution of the Conjecture

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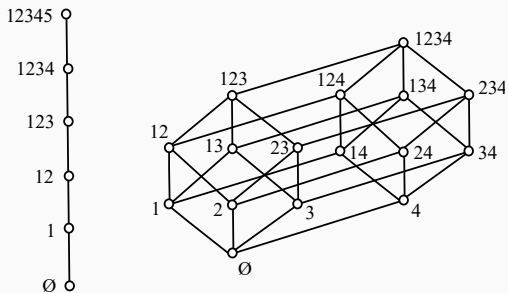
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- Convex geometries have also been called *anti-matroids*.

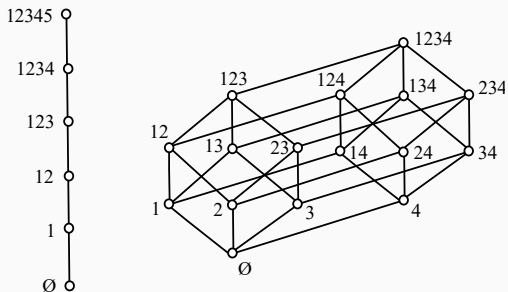


## Two Important Special Cases of a Convex Geometry



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- On the left, we show a **linear geometry**.
- On the right, we show a **Boolean algebra**. These are also called **subset lattices**.

- **Distributive lattices** are the convex geometries that are closed under unions.

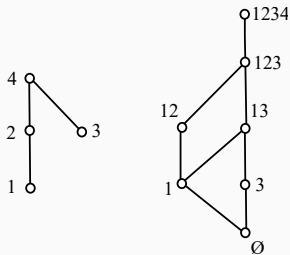
# Distributive Lattices I

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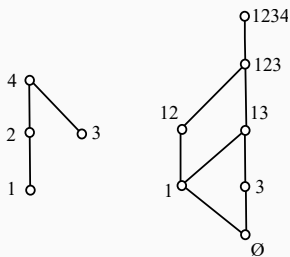
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- Linear geometries and Boolean algebras are distributive lattices.

## Distributive Lattices II



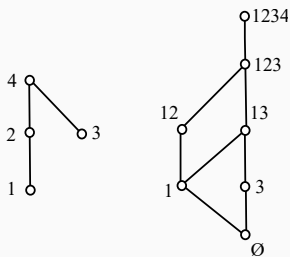
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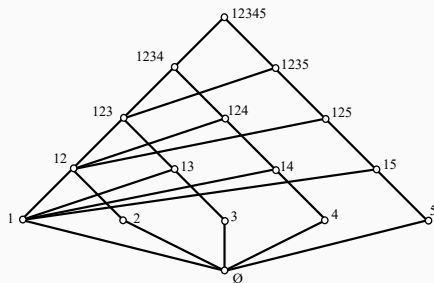
## Distributive Lattices II



- On the left, we show a poset  $X$  with ground set  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .
- On the right, we show the family of all down sets of  $X$ , ordered by inclusion.
- This distributive lattice is neither a linear geometry nor a Boolean algebra.

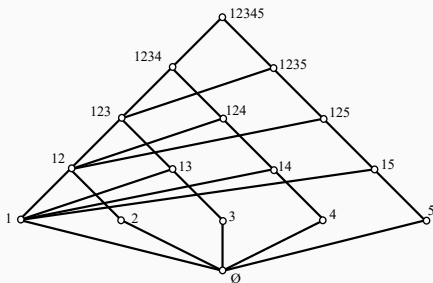


# An Example of a Convex Geometry I



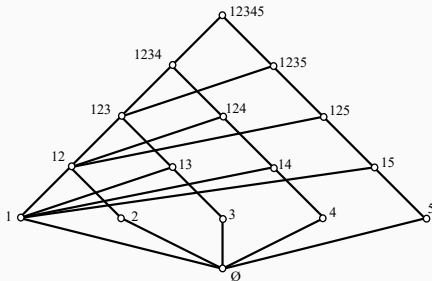
- The ground set  $X$  is  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ .

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- The ground set  $X$  is  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ .
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- The ground set  $X$  is  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ .
- The sets  $\{1, 3\}$  and  $\{5\}$  show that  $P$  is *not* a distributive lattice, i.e.,  $P$  is not closed under unions.
- Note that the maximum up-degree is 5, and the maximum down-degree is 2.

## The Wedge Operation on Convex Geometries

- If  $n \geq 1$  and  $P_i$  is a convex geometry with ground set  $X$  for each  $i \in [n]$ , then the family of all sets of the form  $A_1 \cap \cdots \cap A_n$ , where  $A_i \in P_i$  for each  $i \in [n]$ , is a convex geometry with ground set  $X$ .

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- We denote this geometry as  $P_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge P_n$ .
- Note that  $P_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge P_n$  is the smallest convex geometry with ground set  $X$  containing all sets in  $P_1 \cup \cdots \cup P_n$ .

- When  $P$  is a convex geometry with ground set  $X$ , the **convex dimension** of  $P$ , denoted  $\text{cdim}(P)$ , is the least integer  $n$  such that there are linear geometries  $P_1, \dots, P_n$ , with ground set  $X$ , such that  $P = P_1 \wedge \dots \wedge P_n$ .

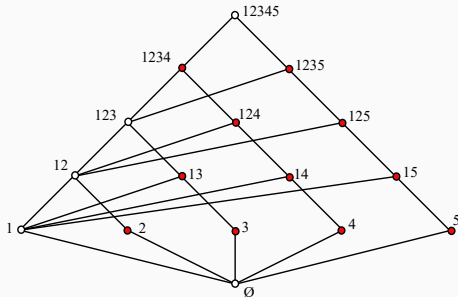
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- **Edelman and Jamison 1985** The convex dimension of  $P$  is the width of the subset of  $P$  consisting of the elements that have up-degree 1.



# Convex Dimension I

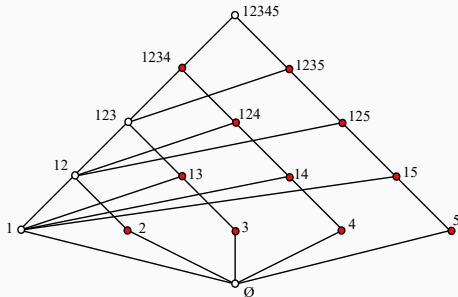
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- **Edelman and Jamison 1985** The convex dimension of  $P$  is the width of the subposet of  $P$  consisting of the elements that have up-degree 1.
- Elements that have up-degree 1 are also called **meet-irreducible** elements.

# An Example of a Convex Geometry II



- The width of the subposet of meet-irreducible elements is 4.

# An Example of a Convex Geometry II



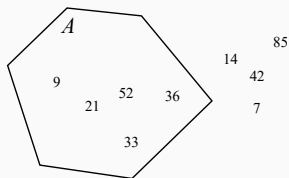
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## Dimension and Convex Dimension

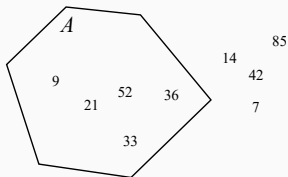
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## Dimension and Convex Dimension

- **Dilworth 1950** The dimension of a distributive lattice is the same as its convex dimension, i.e., the width of the subposet of meet-irreducible elements.
- **Edelman and Jamison 1985** If  $P$  is a convex geometry, then  $\dim(P) \leq \text{cdim}(P)$ .

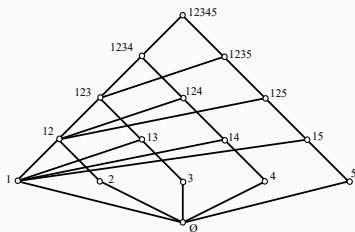


- When  $\mathcal{F}$  is a family of subsets of a finite set  $X$ , the **VC-dimension** of  $\mathcal{F}$  is the largest integer  $n$  for which there are  $n$ -elements  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  of  $X$  such that for each subset  $S \subseteq [n]$ , there is a set  $A = A_S$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  with  $a_i \in A$  if and only if  $i \in S$ .



- When  $\mathcal{F}$  is a family of subsets of a finite set  $X$ , the **VC-dimension** of  $\mathcal{F}$  is the largest integer  $n$  for which there are  $n$ -elements  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  of  $X$  such that for each subset  $S \subseteq [n]$ , there is a set  $A = A_S$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  with  $a_i \in A$  if and only if  $i \in S$ .
- If  $X = [85]$ , and  $\mathcal{F}$  has VC-dimension 9, as evidenced by the set  $\{7, 9, 14, 21, 33, 36, 42, 52, 85\}$ , then  $2^9$  sets are required. We illustrate one of them.

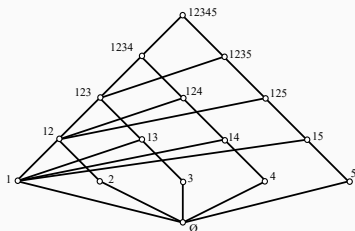
## An Example of a Convex Geometry II



- The elements 2 and 4 together with the sets  $\emptyset$ ,  $\{1, 2\}$ ,  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  show that the VC-dimension of  $P$  is at least 2.

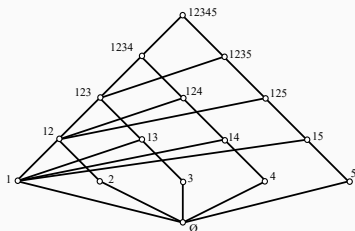


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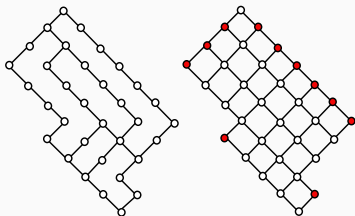


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- By inspection, the VC-dimension of  $P$  is 2.
- **Challenge** Show that the dimension of  $P$  is 3.

- Edelman and Jamison 1985 When  $P$  is a convex-geometry, the *VC*-dimension of  $P$  is the maximum down-degree in  $P$ .

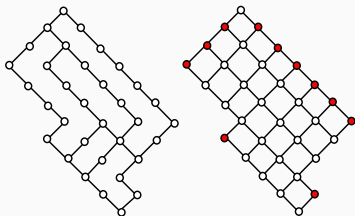
- **Edelman and Jamison 1985** When  $P$  is a convex-geometry, the VC-dimension of  $P$  is the maximum down-degree in  $P$ .
- **Edelman and Jamison 1985** When  $L$  is a finite lattice, there is a convex geometry  $P$  such that  $L$  is isomorphic to  $P$  (as a poset) if and only if for every element  $y$  of  $L$  with  $y$  distinct from the zero of  $L$ , the interval of  $L$  between  $y$  and the meet of all elements covered by  $y$  is a Boolean algebra.

# Recognizing Convex Geometries



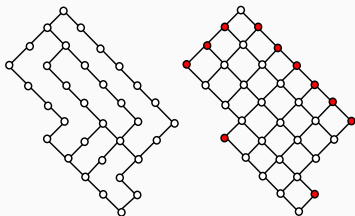
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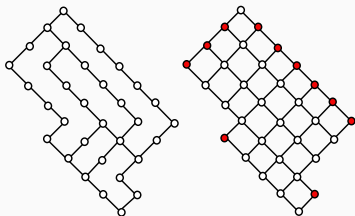
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- It has convex dimension 2.



# Separating Parameters for Convex Geometries I

- There are three parameters for convex geometries that are (essentially) the same.

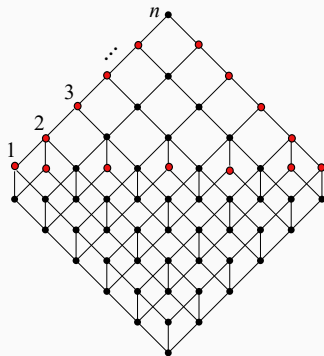
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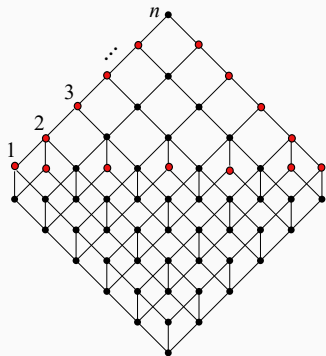
- There are three parameters for convex geometries that are (essentially) the same.
- If  $P$  is a convex geometry, then  $VC$ -dimension is maximum down degree.
- **Bandelt, Chepoi, Dress and Koolen 2006** If  $P$  is a convex geometry, then the  $VC$ -dimension of  $P$  equals  $se(P)$  **unless** the  $VC$ -dimension is 2. In this case,  $se(P)$  is either 1 or 2.

# Knauer's Construction



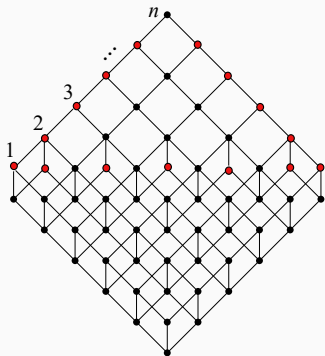
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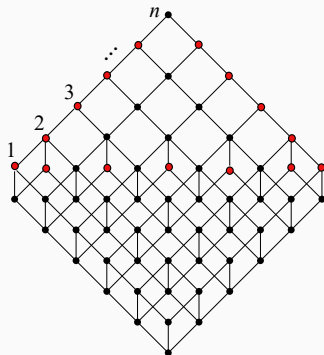
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- So in the class of convex geometries, convex dimension can be separated from dimension and  $VC$ -dimension.

## Two Natural Questions for Convex Geometries

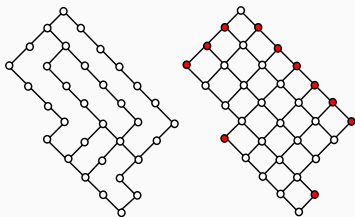
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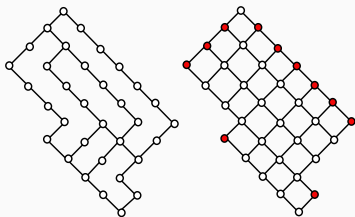
- Can convex dimension be separated from dimension if dimension is at most 2?
- Can convex dimension be separated from maximum down degree when maximum down degree is 2?

## One Question has an Immediate Negative Answer



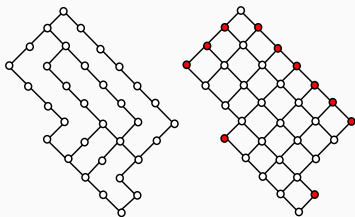
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## Answering the Second Question I

- When  $m$  is an integer, let  $[m] = \{1, \dots, m\}$  when  $m \geq 1$ , and let  $[m] = \emptyset$  when  $m \leq 0$ .

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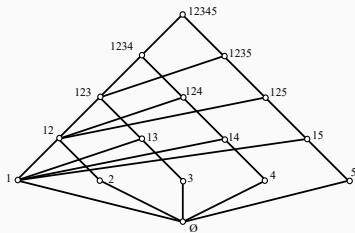
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- $\{1, 2, 3, 6, 11\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 6, 10, 11\}$  belong to  $P(3, 12)$ , while  $\{1, 3, 6, 10, 11\}$  does not.



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- **Exercise** If  $1 \leq k \leq n - 2$ , then  $P(k, n)$  is a convex geometry.

## An Example of a Convex Geometry III



- This is the convex geometry  $P(1, 5)$ .

## Answering the Second Question II

- If  $k$  and  $n$  are integers with  $1 \leq k \leq n - 2$ , then the following statements hold:
  1. If  $1 \leq k < k' \leq n - 2$ , then  $P(k, n)$  is a subposet of  $P(k', n)$ .
  2.  $\text{cdim}(P(k, n)) = \binom{n-1}{k}$ .
  3.  $\text{maxdd}(P(k, n)) = \text{se}(P(k, n)) = k + 1$ .
  4.  $\dim(P(1, n)) = 1 + \lfloor \lg n \rfloor$ ,
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- The family  $\{P(1, n) : n \geq 3\}$  shows that dimension and convex dimension can be separated from  $VC$ -dimension, even when  $VC$ -dimension is 2.

## Boolean Dimension

- Let  $\sigma = (L_1, \dots, L_n)$  be a sequence of linear orders on the ground set of a poset  $P$ . We say  $\sigma$  is a **Boolean realizer** of  $P$  if there is a set  $\tau$  of 0–1 strings of length  $n$  such that  $x < y$  in  $P$  if and only if  $q(x, y, \sigma) \in \tau$ .

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- **Fact**  $\text{fdim}(S_n) = n$  for all  $n \geq 2$ .
- **Brightwell and Scheinerman** If  $\text{se}(P) = 1$ , then  $\text{fdim}(P) < 4$ .



- Let  $\sigma = (M_1, \dots, M_t)$  be a sequence of linear extensions of subposets of a poset  $P$ . We say that  $\sigma$  is a **local realizer** of  $P$  if there is some  $i \in [t]$  with  $x \geq y$  in  $M_i$  whenever  $x \not\leq y$  in  $P$ .

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- If  $\text{dim}(P) \leq 3$ , then  $\text{ldim}(P) = \text{dim}(P)$ .

## Local Dimension

- Let  $\sigma = (M_1, \dots, M_t)$  be a sequence of linear extensions of subsets of a poset  $P$ . We say that  $\sigma$  is a **local realizer** of  $P$  if there is some  $i \in [t]$  with  $x \geq y$  in  $M_i$  whenever  $x \not\leq y$  in  $P$ .
- The **local dimension** of  $P$ , denoted  $\text{ldim}(P)$ , is the least  $n$  such that  $P$  has a local realizer  $\sigma$  such that all elements of  $P$  appear in at most  $n$  different extensions of  $\sigma$ .
- A Dushnik-Miller realizer is a local realizer. Therefore,  $\text{ldim}(P) \leq \text{dim}(P)$  for all posets  $P$ .
- If  $\text{dim}(P) \leq 3$ , then  $\text{ldim}(P) = \text{dim}(P)$ .
- $\text{ldim}(S_n) = n$  for all  $n \geq 3$ .

- For fixed  $k$ , both the Boolean dimension and the local dimension of  $P(k, n)$  tends to infinity.

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## Concepts of Dimension for Convex Geometries

- For fixed  $k$ , both the Boolean dimension and the local dimension of  $P(k, n)$  tends to infinity.
- For fixed  $k$ , the fractional dimension of  $P(k, n)$  is less than  $2^k$ .
- In the class of convex geometries, both Boolean dimension and local dimension can be separated from fractional dimension and  $VC$ -dimension, even when the  $VC$ -dimension is 2.



## Separating Dimension Parameters for Posets

- **Fact** Dimension and fractional dimension are separated from Boolean dimension, and local dimension by the family of standard examples.

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## Separating Dimension Parameters for Posets

- **Fact** Dimension and fractional dimension are separated from Boolean dimension, and local dimension by the family of standard examples.
- **Barrera-Cruz, Prag, Smith, Taylor, WTT and Wang** Dimension, Boolean dimension and local dimension are separated from fractional dimension by the family of posets with standard example number 1.
- **WTT and Walczak** Each of Boolean dimension and local dimension can be separated from the other.

## Open Questions for Convex Geometries

- In the class of convex geometries, we have been unable to separate dimension from either of Boolean dimension and local dimension.

## Open Questions for Convex Geometries

- In the class of convex geometries, we have been unable to separate dimension from either of Boolean dimension and local dimension.
- Also, we are unable to separate Boolean dimension and local dimension in either direction.