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*Partitionable Simplicial Complexes.* Preliminary report.

A simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is said to be partitionable if there exists a partition  $\Delta = \cup_{i=1}^r [Fi, Gi]$  where the  $G_i$  are the facets of  $\Delta$  and  $[Fi, Gi] = \{F \in \Delta \mid Fi \subseteq F \subseteq Gi\}$ . Stanley has conjectured that if  $\Delta$  is Cohen-Macaulay then  $\Delta$  is partitionable. We assume this conjecture and explore some of the implications.

If  $\Delta$  is a pure simplicial complex of dimension  $n$  on  $v$  vertices, we define  $C_{(n-1)}(\Delta)$  to be the simplicial complex on one more vertex  $v + 1$  such that  $\{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \in C_{(n-1)}(\Delta)$  if and only if either  $\{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \in \Delta$  or  $i_k = v + 1$ ,  $\{i_1, \dots, i_{k-1}\} \in \Delta$  and  $k - 1 \leq n - 1$ . Let  $C_{n-1}^t(\Delta)$  be the  $t$ -fold application of this procedure. Then we prove that  $\min\{t \mid C_{n-1}^t(\Delta) \text{ is partitionable}\} = \dim(k[\Delta]) - \text{depth}(k[\Delta])$  where  $k[\Delta]$  is the Stanley-Reisner ring of  $\Delta$ . (Received February 14, 2012)