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*Further developments on decompositions of Cohen-Macaulay simplicial complexes.*

Stanley conjectured in 1979 that every Cohen-Macaulay simplicial complex is partitionable. This conjecture, which would have provided an interpretation of  $h$ -vectors of Cohen-Macaulay complexes, was recently disproved by Duval, Klivans, Martin, and the speaker. The conjecture is still open for *balanced* Cohen-Macaulay complexes. Duval and Zhang have shown that the  $h$ -vector of a Cohen-Macaulay simplicial complex gives enumerative information about a certain decomposition weaker than a partitioning. In this talk, I will investigate whether the result of Duval and Zhang translates to balanced complexes and flag  $h$ -vectors. (Received August 11, 2015)