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The type defect of a simplicial complex

We introduce an algebraic invariant of simplicial complexes called the "type defect." This invariant has close ties to graph chordality, as well as to various generalizations of the chordal property to simplicial complexes. The type defect is also linked to Cohen-Macaulay complexes, and can be used to study bi-Cohen-Macaulay complexes (CM complexes whose duals are CM as well). We will define new classes of complexes and graphs on which this invariant is especially well-behaved, and we will discuss how it changes when two complexes are glued together along a face. (This is joint work with Hailong Dao.)