

Positivity among P -partition enumerators

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Joint work with:
Nathan Lesnevich
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AMS Special Session on *Combinatorics and Computing*
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Slides and paper available from
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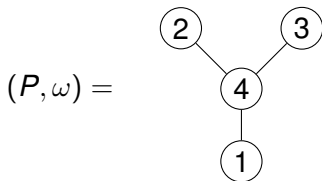
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- ▶ Posets and the (P, ω) -partition enumerator
- ▶ Quasisymmetric functions and our main goal
- ▶ Summary of results

Labeled posets

Poset: **p**artially **o**rdered **s**et

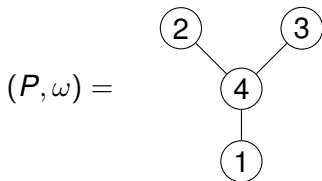
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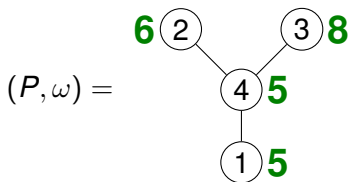
Key definition. A (P, ω) -**partition** is a map f from P to the positive integers satisfying:

- ▶ f is ordering preserving, i.e. if $a <_P b$ then $f(a) \leq f(b)$;
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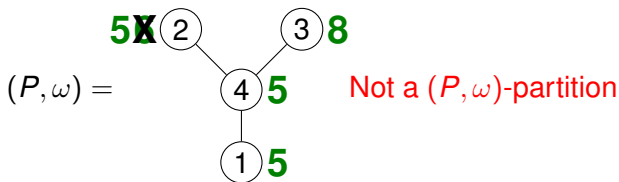
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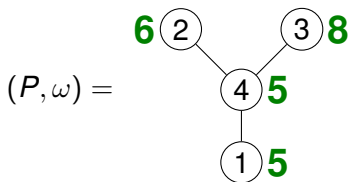
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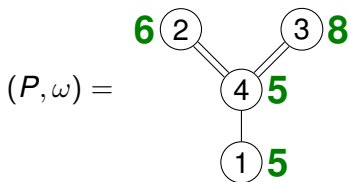
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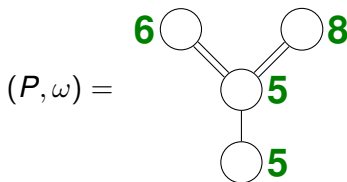
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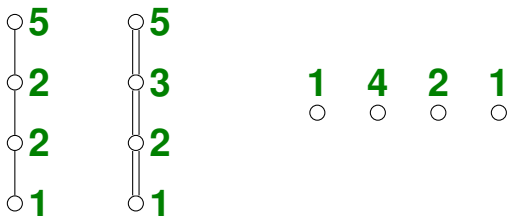


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We use double edges to denote the strictness conditions and then we can (usually) ignore the underlying labeling.

Motivating examples for (P, ω) -partitions

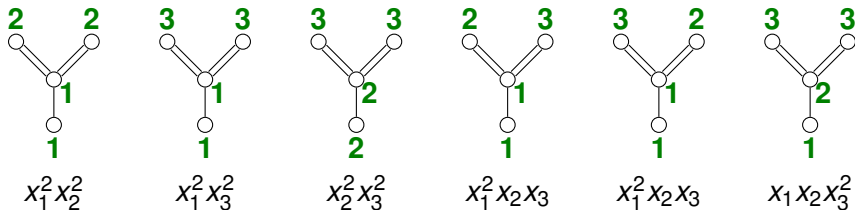


- ▶ (P, ω) chain with all weak edges: get a partition
- ▶ (P, ω) chain with all strict edges: get a partition with distinct parts
- ▶ (P, ω) is an antichain: get a composition

General (P, ω) -partitions interpolate between these classical objects.

The (P, ω) -partition enumerator

Example. Restrict to $f(p) \in \{1, 2, 3\}$.



$$K_{(P, \omega)}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^2 x_2^2 + x_1^2 x_3^2 + x_2^2 x_3^2 + 2x_1^2 x_2 x_3 + x_1 x_2 x_3^2.$$

In general, the (P, ω) -partition enumerator is given by:

$$K_{(P, \omega)}(x_1, x_2, \dots) = \sum_{(P, \omega)\text{-partition } f} x_1^{\#f^{-1}(1)} x_2^{\#f^{-1}(2)} \dots$$

Equality question

$$K_{(P,\omega)}(x_1, x_2, \dots) = \sum_{(P,\omega)\text{-partition } f} x_1^{\#f^{-1}(1)} x_2^{\#f^{-1}(2)} \dots .$$

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Open question. Determine simple necessary and sufficient conditions on labeled posets (P, ω) and (Q, τ) so that $K_{(P,\omega)} = K_{(Q,\tau)}$.

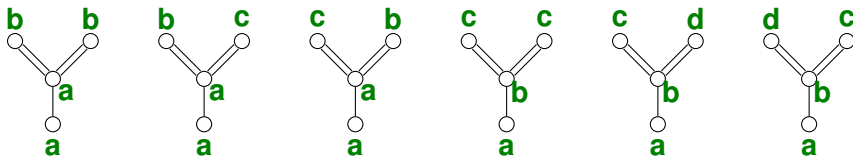
[Thomas Browning, Valentin Féray, Takahiro Hasebe, Max Hopkins, Zander Kelly, Ricky Liu, M., Shuhei Tsujie, Ryan Ward, Michael Weselcouch]

Generalizes the question of determining when two skew Schur functions are equal.

To state our goal, we need a little quasisymmetric background....

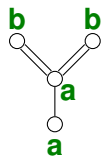
Quasisymmetric functions

Same Example. But now with $f(p) \in 1, 2, \dots$. With $a < b < c < d$, every (P, ω) -partition falls into one of these classes:

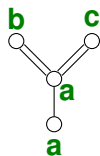


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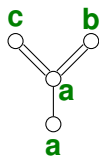
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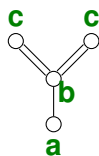
$$\sum_{a < b} x_a^2 x_b^2$$



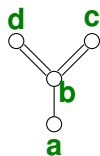
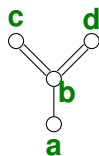
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For a composition $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k)$ the **monomial quasisymmetric function** is:

$$M_\alpha = \sum_{i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k} x_{i_1}^{\alpha_1} x_{i_2}^{\alpha_2} \dots x_{i_k}^{\alpha_k}.$$

In our example, $K_{(P, \omega)} = M_{22} + 2M_{211} + M_{112} + 2M_{1111}$.

Quasisymmetric functions

The M_α form a basis for the **quasisymmetric functions**, stars of 21st century algebraic combinatorics.

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A more important basis for us is Gessel's **fundamental quasisymmetric functions**:

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e.g.

$$F_{32} = M_{32} + M_{212} + M_{122} + M_{1112} + M_{311} + M_{2111} + M_{1211} + M_{11111}.$$

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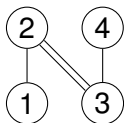
Why we care about F -basis:

1. One of the original two bases for quasisymmetric functions
2. Important symmetric function bases expand positively in F -basis
3. One of the candidates for a quasisymmetric analogue of Schur functions
4. Most importantly for us: Stanley & Gessel's $K_{(P,\omega)}$ expansion

Gessel & Stanley's expansion

Stanley ('71) and Gessel ('84): $K_{(P,\omega)}$ expands beautifully in F -basis.

Example.

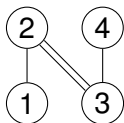


Linear extensions: $\mathcal{L}(P, \omega) = \{3412, 1324, 1342, 3124, 3142\}$.

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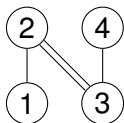


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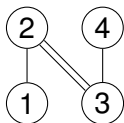
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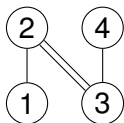
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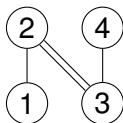
Theorem [Gessel & Stanley]. For a labeled poset (P, ω) ,

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Brigtwell & Winkler ('91): Counting linear extensions is #P-complete.

Our goal

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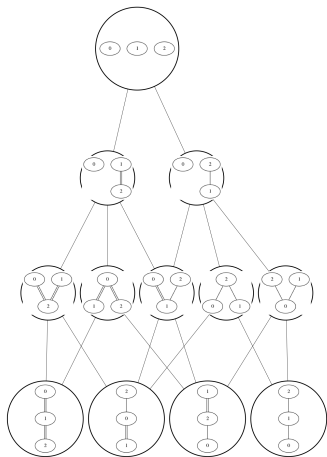
Motivation.

- ▶ Positivity questions have (always?) been at the forefront of algebraic combinatorics
- ▶ Natural next question after the equality question
- ▶ Symmetric analogue has received a lot of attention (≥ 15 papers)
- ▶ Representation theoretic: F -positive functions are characteristics of 0-Hecke algebra actions.

The F -positivity poset

An ordering on labeled posets:

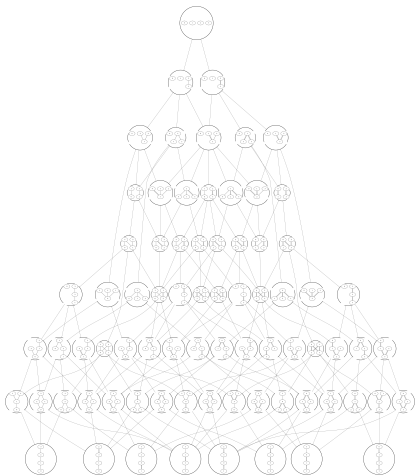
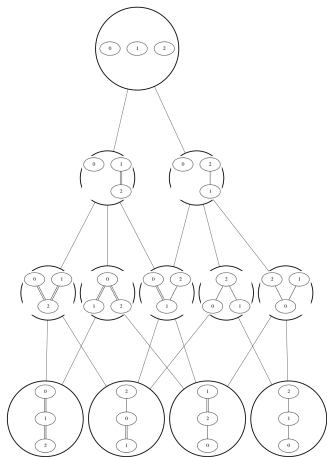
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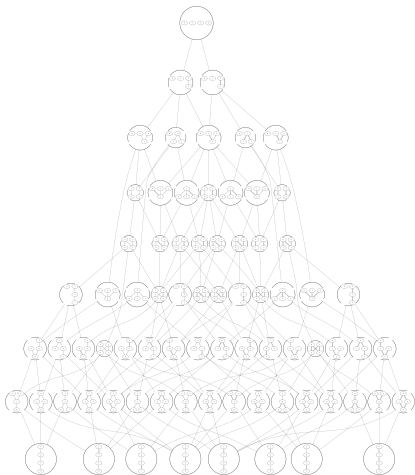
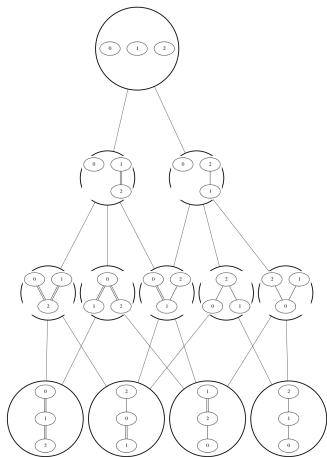
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Our goal restated. Understand these posets.

Necessary conditions

Since both the equality question and the symmetric analogue are still wide open, we aim for meaningful partial results.

Necessary conditions. If $(P, \omega) \leq_F (Q, \tau)$, what has to be true about (P, ω) versus (Q, τ) ?

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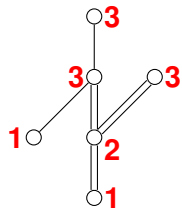
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- ▶ The **jump sequence** of (Q, τ) must dominate that of (P, ω) .



Jump sequence: $(2, 1, 3)$

Usual dominance order on compositions:

α dominates β if $\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \geq \sum_{i=1}^k \beta_i$ for all k .

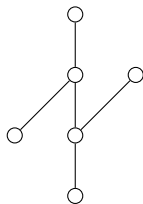
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Greene shape: $(4, 2)$

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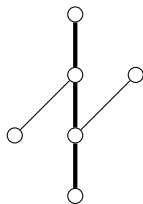
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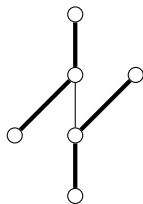
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A sufficient condition

Theorem [Gessel & Stanley]. For a labeled poset (P, ω) ,

$$K_{(P, \omega)} = \sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{L}(P, \omega)} F_{\text{comp}(\pi)}.$$

So, if $\mathcal{L}(P, \omega) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(Q, \tau)$, then certainly $(P, \omega) \leq_F (Q, \tau)$.

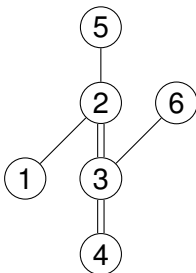
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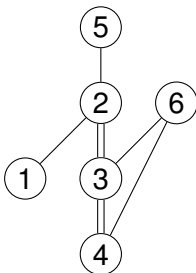
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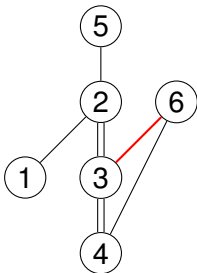
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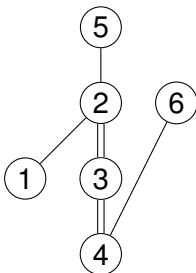
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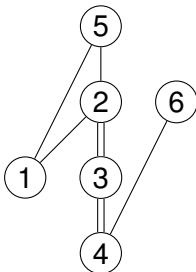
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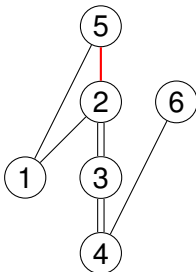
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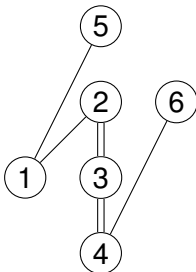
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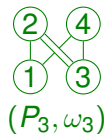
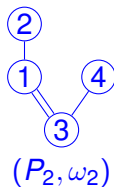
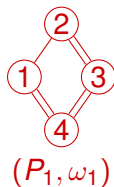
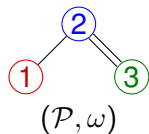
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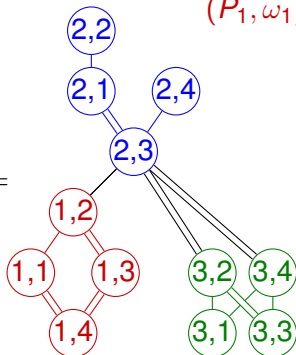
Poset assembly

What operations on posets preserve F -positivity?

Poset assembly (called “Ur-operation” in [Browning, Hopkins, Kelly])



$(\mathcal{P}[i \rightarrow P_i]) =$



Poset assembly and F -positivity

Theorem [Lesnevich, M.].

- ▶ Labeled posets (\mathcal{P}, ω) and (\mathcal{Q}, τ) such that $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{P}, \omega) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{Q}, \tau)$.
- ▶ Sequences $((P_1, \omega_1), \dots, (P_{|\mathcal{P}|}, \omega_{|\mathcal{P}|}))$ and $((Q_1, \tau_1), \dots, (Q_{|\mathcal{P}|}, \tau_{|\mathcal{P}|}))$ of labeled posets satisfying $(P_r, \omega_r) \leq_F (Q_r, \tau_r)$ for all r .

Then

$$(\mathcal{P}[i \rightarrow P_i]) \leq_F (\mathcal{Q}[i \rightarrow Q_i]).$$

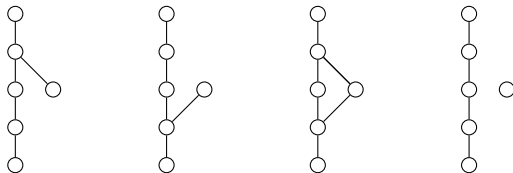
Notes.

- ▶ Computationally difficult to test.
- ▶ False if replace $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{P}, \omega) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{Q}, \tau)$ by $(\mathcal{P}, \omega) \leq_F (\mathcal{Q}, \tau)$. Counterexamples have 4×3 elements.
- ▶ $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{Q} = 2$ -element antichain: disjoint union preserves F -positivity
- ▶ $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{Q} = 2$ -element chain (with either strict or weak edge): ordinal sum preserves F -positivity

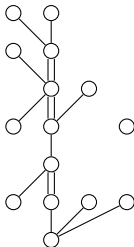
Special families

For 2 families of labeled posets, we have a full classification of \leq_F .

- ▶ Posets of Greene shape $(k, 1)$ with all weak edges:



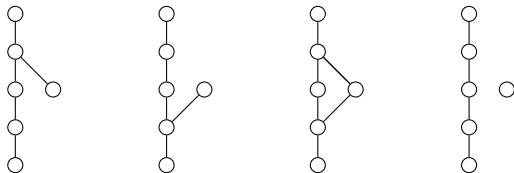
- ▶ Mixed-spine caterpillar posets:



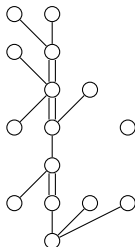
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Thanks for your attention!

Closing remarks

- ▶ Families on previous slide are very special and there seems to be plenty of scope for stronger or related results.
- ▶ For simplicity of presentation, we've only talked about F -positivity, but many of results hold for M -positivity and/or F -support containment.
- ▶ In fact, a weakness of our necessary conditions is that they don't use the full power of F -positivity, and M -support containment is often enough.
- ▶ In the equality case, get stronger results by restricting to naturally labeled posets (all weak edges). We have only scratched the surface of the potential of this restriction for positivity.

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