Chromatic Symmetric Functions and Sign-Reversing Involutions

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joint work with Zachary Hamaker and Vincent Vatter

BIRS Workshop on Interactions between Hessenberg Varieties, Chromatic Functions, and LLT Polynomials Sign-reversing involutions

The (3+1)-free Conjecture

The coefficient of e_n

Other results and future work

Outline

Sign-reversing involutions

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Let S be a finite set.

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If ι is a sign-reversing involution on S then

$$\sum_{s\in S} \operatorname{sgn} s = \#S^{\iota}$$

where # is cardinality and S^{ι} is the fixed-point set of ι .

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$$\sum_{s\in S} (\operatorname{sgn} s)(\operatorname{wt} s) = \sum_{s\in S^{\iota}} \operatorname{wt} s.$$

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Define involution $\iota: S \to S$ by $\iota(A) = A\Delta\{n\}$.

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Define involution $\iota : S \to S$ by $\iota(A) = A\Delta\{n\}$. So ι has no fixed points and is sign reversing.

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Define involution $\iota : S \to S$ by $\iota(A) = A\Delta\{n\}$. So ι has no fixed points and is sign reversing. Thus the sum equals $\#S^{\iota} = 0$.



Sign-reversing involutions

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Other results and future work

Let G = (V, E) be a graph.

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$$\mathbf{x}^{\kappa} = \prod_{\mathbf{v}\in V} x_{\kappa(\mathbf{v})}.$$

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Stanley's chromatic symmetric function is

$$X(G) = X(G; \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\kappa} \mathbf{x}^{\kappa}$$

where the sum is over all proper $\kappa: V \to \mathbb{P}$.

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Let (P, \leq_P) be a poset. Say P is (m + n)-free if it contains no induced subposet isomorphic to $[m] \uplus [n]$. The *incomparability* graph of P is inc(P) = (P, E) where $uv \in E$ if neither $u \leq_P v$ nor $v \leq_P u$. Let $\{e_{\lambda}\}$ and $\{s_{\lambda}\}$ be the elementary and Schur bases for symmetric functions, respectively.







Conjecture (Stanley-Stembridge (3 + 1)-free Conjecture) If P is a (3 + 1)-free poset then $X(inc(P); \mathbf{x})$ is e-positive.



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- 2. Expand the s_{λ} in terms of e_{μ} using Jacobi-Trudi determinants.



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- 1. Expand X(inc(P)) in terms of s_{λ} using Gasharov's *P*-tableaux.
- 2. Expand the s_{λ} in terms of e_{μ} using Jacobi-Trudi determinants.
- 3. Use a sign-reversing involution to cancel the negative terms.

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Let PT(P) and $PT_{\lambda}(P)$ be the set of all *P*-tableau and those of shape λ , respectively.

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Theorem (Gasharov) If P is (3 + 1)-free and $X(inc(P)) = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} s_{\lambda}$ then $c_{\lambda} = \# PT_{\lambda}(P).$

The *transpose* of partition λ is λ^t = diagonally reflect λ . **Ex.** If $\lambda =$ ______ then $\lambda^t =$ ______. The *transpose* of partition λ is λ^{t} = diagonally reflect λ . **Ex.** If $\lambda =$ then $\lambda^{t} =$. Theorem (dual Jacobi-Trudi determinant) If $\lambda = (\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, ...)$ then $s_{\lambda^{t}} =$ $e_{\lambda_{1}} e_{\lambda_{1}+1} \cdots e_{\lambda_{2}-1} e_{\lambda_{2}} \cdots e_{\lambda_{2}} \cdots e_{\lambda_{2}-1} e_{\lambda_{2}-1}$

Theorem (dual Jacobi-Trudi determinant)

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If
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 then $s_{\lambda^t} = \begin{vmatrix} e_{\lambda_1} & e_{\lambda_1+1} & \cdots \\ e_{\lambda_2-1} & e_{\lambda_2} & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{vmatrix}$

So writing X(inc(P)) first in s_{λ} and then in e_{μ} has signed coefficients which count pairs (T, π) where $T \in \text{PT}_{\lambda}(P)$ and $\pi \in \mathfrak{S}_{\lambda_1}$ is the permutation from the determinant expansion.

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So writing X(inc(P)) first in s_{λ} and then in e_{μ} has signed coefficients which count pairs (T, π) where $T \in \text{PT}_{\lambda}(P)$ and $\pi \in \mathfrak{S}_{\lambda_1}$ is the permutation from the determinant expansion. **Ex.** If $P = P_{2,2}$ then $\# \text{PT}_{\lambda}(P) = 4$ for $\lambda = (2^2), (2, 1^2), (1^4)$.

 $X(\mathrm{inc}(P)) = 4s_{2^2} + 4s_{2,1^2} + 4s_{1^4}$

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$$X(\text{inc}(P)) = 4s_{2^2} + 4s_{2,1^2} + 4s_{1^4}$$
$$= 4 \begin{vmatrix} e_2 & e_3 \\ e_1 & e_2 \end{vmatrix} + 4 \begin{vmatrix} e_3 & e_4 \\ e_0 & e_1 \end{vmatrix} + 4e_4$$

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Let G be a graph with V = [n] and $\kappa : [n] \to \mathbb{P}$ be a proper coloring.

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If t is a variable then the Shareshian-Wachs chromatic quasisymmetric function of a graph G with V = [n] is

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Theorem (Shareshian-Wachs) If P is a natural unit interval order (NUIO) then $X(inc(P); \mathbf{x}, t)$ is symmetric.

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Conjecture (Shareshian-Wachs) If P is a NUIO then $X(inc(P); \mathbf{x}, t)$ is e-positive. Let P be an NUIO, and so a poset on [n], and let T be a P-tableau.

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Ex. 5

$$P = 2 \bullet 3 \bullet 4$$
 $T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ Inv $T = \{23, 45\}$

Theorem (Shareshian-Wachs) If P is an NUIO and $X(inc(P); \mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda}(t)s_{\lambda}$ then

$$c_\lambda(t) = \sum_{T\in \mathsf{PT}_\lambda(P)} t^{\operatorname{inv} T}.$$
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$$\mathbf{Ex.} \ \lambda = \underbrace{\begin{matrix} A | A | A | A \end{matrix}}_{L} \qquad s_{\lambda} = \begin{bmatrix} e_3 & e_4 & e_5 & e_6 & e_7 \\ e_0 & e_1 & e_2 & e_3 & e_4 \\ 0 & e_0 & e_1 & e_2 & e_3 \\ 0 & 0 & e_0 & e_1 & e_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & e_0 & e_1 \end{bmatrix}$$





 $\pi = 51234$

$$\operatorname{sgn} T = \operatorname{sgn} \lambda = (-1)^{c-1}.$$

$$\mathbf{Ex.} \ \lambda = \underbrace{\begin{vmatrix} A & A & A \\ L \end{vmatrix}}_{L} \qquad s_{\lambda} = \begin{vmatrix} e_{3} & e_{4} & e_{5} & e_{6} & e_{7} \\ e_{0} & e_{1} & e_{2} & e_{3} & e_{4} \\ 0 & e_{0} & e_{1} & e_{2} & e_{3} \\ 0 & 0 & e_{0} & e_{1} & e_{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & e_{0} & e_{1} \end{vmatrix}$$

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Let P be an NUIO on [n] and T be a P-tableau of hook shape.

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Ex. 5

$$P = 2 \bullet 3 \bullet 4$$
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- The coefficient c_n(t) of e_n in X(inc(P); x, t) has nonnegative coefficients. It is the generating function by inv of P-tableau of column shape with no moveable elements.

Outline

Sign-reversing involutions

The (3 + 1)-free Conjecture

The coefficient of e_n

Other results and future work

An *orientation* O of a graph G is obtained by replacing each edge $uv \in G$ by one of the arcs $u\vec{v}$ or $v\vec{u}$.

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Theorem (Hamaker-S-Vatter)

For any NUIO and $m \ge 0$, the map $T \mapsto O$ is an inv-asc preserving bijection from P-tableaux of column shape with m movable elements to acyclic orientations of inc(P) with m + 1 sinks.

Related work.
Shareshian and Wachs used an involution which is similar but not equivalent to the involution for e_n in their determination of the coefficient of p_n (power sum symmetric function) in $X(inc(P); \mathbf{x}, t)$.

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THANKS FOR LISTENING!