# 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

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\sum_{s \in S}(\operatorname{sgn} s)(\mathrm{wt} s)=\sum_{s \in S^{\iota}} \mathrm{wt} s
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Stanley's chromatic symmetric function is

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X(G)=X(G ; \mathbf{x})=\sum_{\kappa} \mathbf{x}^{\kappa}
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where the sum is over all proper $\kappa: V \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$.

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

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3. Use a sign-reversing involution to cancel the negative terms.

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Some non-P-tableaux: \begin{tabular}{|l|l|}
\hline$a$ \& $b$ <br>
\hline$u$ \& $v$ <br>
\hline

 

\hline$b$ \& $v$ <br>
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\cline { 1 - 2 } \& <br>
\&
\end{tabular}

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

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c_{\lambda}=\# \mathrm{PT}_{\lambda}(P) .
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\text { If } \lambda=\left(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, \ldots\right) \text { then } s_{\lambda^{t}}=\left|\begin{array}{ccc}
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e_{\lambda_{2}-1} & e_{\lambda_{2}} & \cdots \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots
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So writing $X(\operatorname{inc}(P))$ first in $s_{\lambda}$ and then in $e_{\mu}$ has signed coefficients which count pairs $(T, \pi)$ where $T \in \mathrm{PT}_{\lambda}(P)$ and $\pi \in \mathfrak{S}_{\lambda_{1}}$ is the permutation from the determinant expansion.

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

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X(\operatorname{inc}(P))=4 s_{2^{2}}+4 s_{2,1^{2}}+4 s_{1^{4}}
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\end{array}\right|+4\left|\begin{array}{ll}
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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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If $P$ is a natural unit interval order (NUIO) then $X(\operatorname{inc}(P) ; \mathbf{x}, t)$ is symmetric.

Conjecture (Shareshian-Wachs)
If $P$ is a NUIO then $X(\operatorname{inc}(P) ; \mathbf{x}, t)$ is e-positive.

Let $P$ be an NUIO, and so a poset on $[n]$, and let $T$ be a $P$-tableau.

Let $P$ be an NUIO, and so a poset on [ $n$ ], and let $T$ be a $P$-tableau. An inversion in $T$ is a pair $i, j \in[n]$ with

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Ex.

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P=2 \bullet 4 \quad T=\begin{array}{|l|l|l}
\hline 1 & 3 & 5 \\
\hline 2 & & \text { Inv } T=\{23,45\} \\
\hline 4 &
\end{array}
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$$
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\hline 1 & 3 & 5 \\
\hline 2 & & \text { Ex. } \\
\hline 4 & \text { Inv } T=\{23,45\}
\end{array}
$$

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

$$
c_{\lambda}(t)=\sum_{T \in \mathrm{PT}_{\lambda}(P)} t^{\mathrm{inv} T}
$$

## Outline

## Sign-reversing involutions

The (3+1)-free Conjecture

The coefficient of $e_{n}$

## Other results and future work

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Ex. $\lambda=$| $L$ | $A\|A\| A$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $L$ |  |\(\quad s_{\lambda}=\left|\begin{array}{ccccc}e_{3} \& e_{4} \& e_{5} \& e_{6} \& e_{7} <br>

e_{0} \& e_{1} \& e_{2} \& e_{3} \& e_{4} <br>
0 \& e_{0} \& e_{1} \& e_{2} \& e_{3} <br>
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| $L$ |  |

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $e_{0}$ | $e_{1}$ | $e_{2}$ | $e_{3}$ | $e_{4}$ |
| 0 | $e_{0}$ | $e_{1}$ | $e_{2}$ | $e_{3}$ |
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| 3 |  |
| 2 |  |
| 4 |  |.

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\hline 1 \& 5 <br>

\hline 3 \& .5 is movable with $T^{\prime}=$| 1 | 3 |
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| 4 |  | <br>

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\hline
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If $k$ is movable in $T$, then there is a unique position to which it can be moved.

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## Lemma (Hamaker-S-Vatter)

If $k$ is movable in $T$, then there is a unique position to which it can be moved.
If $k$ is movable in $T$ then let $T^{k}$ be the result of moving $k$. Define a map $\iota$ on $P$-tableau $T$ of hook shape by
$\iota(T)= \begin{cases}T^{k} & \text { if } k \text { is the smallest integer which is movable in } T, \\ T & \text { if no element in } T \text { is movable. }\end{cases}$

Theorem (Hamaker-S-Vatter)
Let $P$ be any NUIO on [ $n$ ].

1. $\iota$ is a sign-reversing, Inv-preserving, involution on hook $P$-tableaux.
2. If $T$ is fixed by $\iota$ then it has shape $\left(1^{n}\right)$.
3. The coefficient $c_{n}(t)$ of $e_{n}$ in $X(\operatorname{inc}(P) ; \mathbf{x}, t)$ 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

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If $P$ is an NUIO on $[n]$ and $X(\operatorname{inc}(P) ; \mathbf{x}, t)=\sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda}(t) e_{\lambda}$, then

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Theorem (Hamaker-S-Vatter)
For any NUIO and $m \geq 0$, 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.

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## THANKS FOR LISTENING!

