

Chromatic symmetric functions

Soojin Cho
Ajou University



Hanyang University Mathematics Colloquium
October 29, 2019

Part I

Chromatic polynomial: Birkhoff 1912

Given G with vertex set V a **proper colouring** κ of G in k colours is

$$\kappa : V \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, \dots, k\}$$

so if $v_1, v_2 \in V$ are joined by an edge then

$$\kappa(v_1) \neq \kappa(v_2).$$

Example



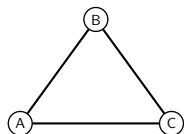
Chromatic polynomial: Birkhoff 1912

Given G the chromatic polynomial $\chi_G(k)$ is the number of proper colourings with k colours.



Chromatic polynomial: Birkhoff 1912

Given G the chromatic polynomial $\chi_G(k)$ is the number of proper colourings with k colours.



has $\chi_G(k) = k(k-1)(k-2)$.



Chromatic symmetric function: Stanley 1995

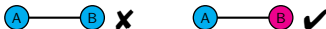
Given G with vertex set V a **proper colouring** κ of G is

$$\kappa : V \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$$

so if $v_1, v_2 \in V$ are joined by an edge then

$$\kappa(v_1) \neq \kappa(v_2).$$

Example

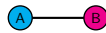


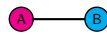
Chromatic symmetric function: Stanley 1995

Given a proper colouring κ of vertices v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N associate a monomial in commuting variables x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots

$$x_{\kappa(v_1)} x_{\kappa(v_2)} \cdots x_{\kappa(v_N)}.$$

Example

 gives $x_1 x_2$.

 gives $x_2 x_1 = x_1 x_2$.

 gives $x_1 x_3$.

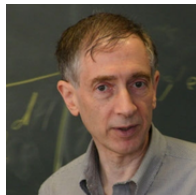
Chromatic symmetric function: Stanley 1995

Given G with vertices v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N the chromatic symmetric function is

$$X_G = \sum_{\kappa} x_{\kappa(v_1)} x_{\kappa(v_2)} \cdots x_{\kappa(v_N)}$$

where the sum over all proper colourings κ .
Then

$$\chi_G(k) = X_G(\underbrace{1, 1, \dots, 1}_k, 0, 0, \dots).$$



Chromatic symmetric function: Stanley 1995

⊙ ⊙ has $X_G(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 2x_1x_2 + 2x_2x_3 + 2x_1x_3$.

⊙
A

⊙
B

⊙
A

⊙
B

⊙
A

⊙
B

⊙
A

⊙
B

⊙
A

⊙
B

⊙
A

⊙
B

⊙
A

⊙
B

⊙
A

⊙
B

⊙
A

⊙
B

Symmetric functions

A **symmetric function** is a formal power series f in commuting variables x_1, x_2, \dots such that for all permutations π

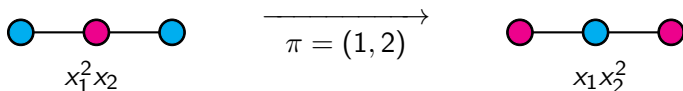
$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots) = f(x_{\pi(1)}, x_{\pi(2)}, \dots).$$

Symmetric functions

A **symmetric function** is a formal power series f in commuting variables x_1, x_2, \dots such that for all permutations π

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots) = f(x_{\pi(1)}, x_{\pi(2)}, \dots).$$

X_G is a symmetric function.



Let

$$\Lambda = \bigoplus_{N \geq 0} \Lambda^N \subset \mathbb{Q}[[x_1, x_2, \dots]]$$

be the **algebra of symmetric functions** with Λ^N spanned by ...

Classical basis: monomial

A **partition** $\lambda = \lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_\ell > 0$ of N is a list of positive integers whose sum is N : $3221 \vdash 8$.

The **monomial symmetric function** is for $\lambda = \lambda_1 \dots \lambda_\ell$

$$m_\lambda = \sum_{i_a \neq i_b} x_{i_1}^{\lambda_1} \dots x_{i_\ell}^{\lambda_\ell}$$

where all tuples (i_1, \dots, i_ℓ) yield distinct monomials.

Example

$$m_{21} = x_1^2 x_2 + x_1 x_2^2 + x_1^2 x_3 + x_1 x_3^2 + x_2^2 x_3 + x_2 x_3^2 + \dots$$

Classical basis: monomial

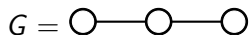
Given G , a **stable partition** of type $\lambda = \lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_\ell$ partitions vertices into sets of size $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell$ so each set is disconnected, and a_λ is the number thereof.

Theorem (Stanley 1995)

$$X_G = \sum_{\lambda} a_{\lambda} r_1! \cdots r_{\ell}! m_{\lambda}$$

where $r_i = \#\lambda_j$ s equal to i .

Example



$$X_G = 1 \cdot 1!1!m_{21} + 1 \cdot 3!m_{111} = m_{21} + 6m_{111}$$

Classical basis: monomial

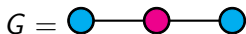
Given G , a **stable partition** of type $\lambda = \lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_\ell$ partitions vertices into sets of size $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell$ so each set is disconnected, and a_λ is the number thereof.

Theorem (Stanley 1995)

$$X_G = \sum_{\lambda} a_{\lambda} r_1! \cdots r_{\ell}! m_{\lambda}$$

where $r_i = \#\lambda_j$ s equal to i .

Example



$$X_G = 1 \cdot 1!1!m_{21} + 1 \cdot 3!m_{111} = m_{21} + 6m_{111}$$

Classical basis: monomial

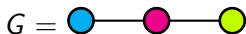
Given G , a **stable partition** of type $\lambda = \lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_\ell$ partitions vertices into sets of size $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell$ so each set is disconnected, and a_λ is the number thereof.

Theorem (Stanley 1995)

$$X_G = \sum_{\lambda} a_{\lambda} r_1! \cdots r_{\ell}! m_{\lambda}$$

where $r_i = \#\lambda_j$ s equal to i .

Example



$$X_G = 1 \cdot 1!1!m_{21} + 1 \cdot 3!m_{111} = m_{21} + 6m_{111}$$

Classical basis: power sum

The i -th power sum symmetric function is

$$p_i = x_1^i + x_2^i + x_3^i + \cdots$$

and for $\lambda = \lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_\ell$

$$p_\lambda = p_{\lambda_1} \cdots p_{\lambda_\ell}.$$

Example

$$p_{21} = p_2 p_1 = (x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + \cdots)(x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + \cdots)$$

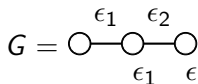
Classical basis: power sum

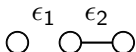
Given $S \subseteq E$, $\lambda(S)$ is the partition determined by the connected components of G restricted to S .

Theorem (Stanley 1995)

$$X_G = \sum_{S \subseteq E} (-1)^{|S|} p_{\lambda(S)}$$

Example



G restricted to $S = \{\epsilon_2\}$ is  and $\lambda(S) = 21$.

$$X_G = p_3 - 2p_{21} + p_{111}$$

Classical basis: elementary

The i -th elementary symmetric function is

$$e_i = \sum_{j_1 < \dots < j_i} x_{j_1} \cdots x_{j_i}$$

and for $\lambda = \lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_\ell$

$$e_\lambda = e_{\lambda_1} \cdots e_{\lambda_\ell}.$$

Example

$$e_{21} = e_2 e_1 = (x_1 x_2 + x_1 x_3 + x_2 x_3 + \cdots)(x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + \cdots)$$

$$G = \text{---}\bigcirc\text{---}\bigcirc\text{---}\bigcirc \qquad X_G = 3e_3 + e_{21}$$

Classical basis: elementary

Theorem (Stanley 1995)

If

$$X_G = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} e_{\lambda}$$

then

$$\sum_{\lambda \text{ with } k \text{ parts}} c_{\lambda} = \text{number of acyclic orientations with } k \text{ sinks.}$$

Example

$$G = \bigcirc - \bigcirc - \bigcirc \qquad X_G = 3e_3 + e_{21}$$

Classical basis: elementary

Theorem (Stanley 1995)

If

$$X_G = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} e_{\lambda}$$

then

$$\sum_{\lambda \text{ with } k \text{ parts}} c_{\lambda} = \text{number of acyclic orientations with } k \text{ sinks.}$$

Example

$$G = \circ \longrightarrow \circ \longrightarrow \bullet \qquad X_G = 3e_3 + e_{21}$$

Classical basis: elementary

Theorem (Stanley 1995)

If

$$X_G = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} e_{\lambda}$$

then

$$\sum_{\lambda \text{ with } k \text{ parts}} c_{\lambda} = \text{number of acyclic orientations with } k \text{ sinks.}$$

Example

$$G = \circ \text{---} \overset{\times}{\circ} \text{---} \circ \qquad X_G = 3e_3 + e_{21}$$

Classical basis: elementary

Theorem (Stanley 1995)

If

$$X_G = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} e_{\lambda}$$

then

$$\sum_{\lambda \text{ with } k \text{ parts}} c_{\lambda} = \text{number of acyclic orientations with } k \text{ sinks.}$$

Example

$$G = \text{ } \bullet \longleftarrow \circ \longleftarrow \circ \qquad X_G = 3e_3 + e_{21}$$

Classical basis: elementary

Theorem (Stanley 1995)

If

$$X_G = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} e_{\lambda}$$

then

$$\sum_{\lambda \text{ with } k \text{ parts}} c_{\lambda} = \text{number of acyclic orientations with } k \text{ sinks.}$$

Example

$$G = \bullet \leftarrow \circ \rightarrow \bullet \qquad X_G = 3e_3 + e_1$$

Classical basis: complete homogeneous

The i -th complete homogeneous symmetric function is

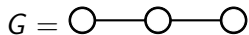
$$h_i = \sum_{j_1 \leq \dots \leq j_i} x_{j_1} \cdots x_{j_i}$$

and for $\lambda = \lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_\ell$

$$h_\lambda = h_{\lambda_1} \cdots h_{\lambda_\ell}.$$

Example

$$h_{21} = h_2 h_1 = (x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \cdots + x_1 x_2 + x_1 x_3 + \cdots)(x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + \cdots)$$

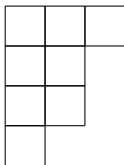


$$X_G = 3h_3 - 7h_{21} + 4h_{111}$$

Partitions and diagrams

A **partition** $\lambda = \lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_\ell > 0$ of N is a list of positive integers whose sum is N : **3221** \vdash 8.

The **diagram** $\lambda = \lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_\ell > 0$ is the array of **boxes** with λ_i boxes in row i from the **top**.



3221

Semi-standard Young tableaux

A semi-standard Young tableau (SSYT) T of shape λ is a filling with $1, 2, 3, \dots$ so rows **weakly increase** and columns **increase**.

1	1	1
2	4	
4	5	
6		

Given an SSYT T we have

$$x^T = x_1^{\#1s} x_2^{\#2s} x_3^{\#3s} \dots$$

$$x_1^3 x_2 x_4^2 x_5 x_6$$

Classical basis: Schur

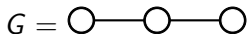
The Schur function is

$$s_{\lambda} = \sum_{T \text{ SSYT of shape } \lambda} x^T.$$

Example

$$s_{21} = x_1^2 x_2 + x_1 x_2^2 + x_1^2 x_3 + x_1 x_3^2 + x_2^2 x_3 + x_2 x_3^2 + 2x_1 x_2 x_3 + \cdots$$

1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	3	1	2	1	3
2		2		3		3		3		3		3		2	



$$X_G = s_{21} + 4s_{111}$$

Are these chromatic?

Question: Are classical symmetric functions ever examples of chromatic symmetric functions of a connected graph?

Are these chromatic?

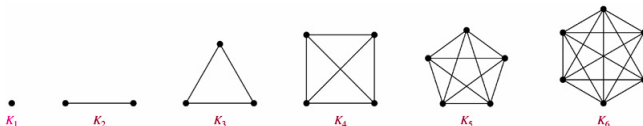
Question: Are classical symmetric functions ever examples of chromatic symmetric functions of a connected graph?

Answer:

Theorem (C-van Willigenburg 2018)

Only the elementary symmetric functions, namely

$$e_n = \frac{1}{n!} X_{K_n}.$$



New bases

New bases

Pick favourite connected graph on 1 vertex:

New bases

Pick favourite connected graph on 1 vertex:

$$G_1 = \circ$$

New bases

Pick favourite connected graph on 1 vertex:

$$G_1 = \circ$$

Pick favourite connected graph on 2 vertices:

New bases

Pick favourite connected graph on 1 vertex:

$$G_1 = \circ$$

Pick favourite connected graph on 2 vertices:

$$G_2 = \circ - \circ$$

New bases

Pick favourite connected graph on 1 vertex:

$$G_1 = \circ$$

Pick favourite connected graph on 2 vertices:

$$G_2 = \circ - \circ$$

Pick favourite connected graph on 3 vertices:

New bases

Pick favourite connected graph on 1 vertex:

$$G_1 = \circ$$

Pick favourite connected graph on 2 vertices:

$$G_2 = \circ - \circ$$

Pick favourite connected graph on 3 vertices:

$$G_3 = \circ - \circ - \circ$$

And so on ...

New bases

Pick favourite connected graph on 1 vertex:

$$G_1 = \circ$$

Pick favourite connected graph on 2 vertices:

$$G_2 = \circ - \circ$$

Pick favourite connected graph on 3 vertices:

$$G_3 = \circ - \circ - \circ$$

And so on ...

Let G_λ be the disjoint union $G_{\lambda_1} \cup \dots \cup G_{\lambda_\ell}$.

Example

$$G_{211} = \circ - \circ \quad \circ \quad \circ$$

New bases

Theorem (C-van Willigenburg 2016)

$$\Lambda = \mathbb{Q}[X_{G_1}, X_{G_2}, \dots] \quad \Lambda^N = \text{span}_{\mathbb{Q}}\{X_{G_\lambda} \mid \lambda \vdash N\}$$

where

$$X_{G_\lambda} = X_{G_{\lambda_1}} \cdots X_{G_{\lambda_\ell}}.$$

Example

$$G_{211} = \text{O} \text{---} \text{O} \quad \text{O} \quad \text{O}$$

$$\begin{aligned} X_{G_{211}} &= X_{G_2} X_{G_1} X_{G_1} \\ &= 2e_2 e_1 e_1 = 2e_{211} \end{aligned}$$

e-positivity and Schur-positivity


G is **e-positive** if X_G is a positive linear combination of e_λ .

G is **Schur-positive** if X_G is a positive linear combination of s_λ .

e-positivity and Schur-positivity

G is **e-positive** if X_G is a positive linear combination of e_λ .


G is **Schur-positive** if X_G is a positive linear combination of s_λ .


 has $X_G = e_{21} + 3e_3$ ✓
 $X_G = 4s_{111} + s_{21}$ ✓

e-positivity and Schur-positivity

G is **e-positive** if X_G is a positive linear combination of e_λ .

G is **Schur-positive** if X_G is a positive linear combination of s_λ .


 has $X_G = e_{21} + 3e_3$ ✓
 $X_G = 4s_{111} + s_{21}$ ✓

 has $X_G = e_{211} - 2e_{22} + 5e_{31} + 4e_4$ ✗
 $X_G = 8s_{1111} + 5s_{211} - s_{22} + s_{31}$ ✗

e-positivity and Schur-positivity

G is **e-positive** if X_G is a positive linear combination of e_λ .

G is **Schur-positive** if X_G is a positive linear combination of s_λ .



has $X_G = e_{21} + 3e_3$ ✓
 $X_G = 4s_{111} + s_{21}$ ✓



has $X_G = e_{211} - 2e_{22} + 5e_{31} + 4e_4$ ✗
 $X_G = 8s_{1111} + 5s_{211} - s_{22} + s_{31}$ ✗

K_{13} : Smallest graph that is not e-positive. Smallest graph that is not Schur-positive.

e-positivity and Schur-positivity

For $\lambda = \lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_\ell$

$$e_\lambda = \sum_{\mu} K_{\mu\lambda} s_{\mu^t}$$

where $K_{\mu\lambda} = \#$ SSYTs of shape μ filled with λ_1 1s, \dots , λ_ℓ ℓ s, and μ^t is the transpose of μ along the downward diagonal.

Hence $K_{\mu\lambda} \geq 0$ and

e-positivity implies Schur-positivity.

Example

$$e_{21} = s_{21} + s_{111}$$

1	1	
2		

1	1	2
---	---	---

e-positivity and Schur-positivity

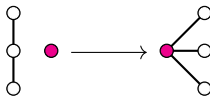
Conjecture (Stanley-Stembridge 1993)

If G is an incomparability graph of a $(3 + 1)$ -free poset then X_G is e-positive.

e-positivity and Schur-positivity

Conjecture (Stanley-Stembridge 1993)

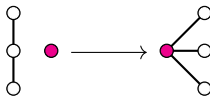
If G is an incomparability graph of a $(3 + 1)$ -free poset then X_G is e-positive.



e-positivity and Schur-positivity

Conjecture (Stanley-Stembridge 1993)

If G is an incomparability graph of a $(3 + 1)$ -free poset then X_G is e-positive.



Theorem (Gasharov 1996)

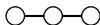
If G is an incomparability graph of a $(3 + 1)$ -free poset then X_G is Schur-positive.

Known e-positive graphs

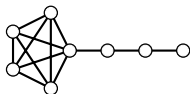
- ▶ Complete graphs K_m .



- ▶ Paths P_n (Stanley 1995).



- ▶ Lollipop graphs $L_{m,n}$ (Gebhard-Sagan 2001).



- ▶ Complement of G is bipartite (Stanley 1995).
- ▶ G avoids K_{13} and the paw (Hamel, Hoáng and Tuero 2017),
copaw (HHT), or P_4 (Tsujie 2017).

Why e-positivity?

- ▶ Stanley-Stembridge conjecture.
- ▶ e-positivity implies Schur-positivity.
- ▶ If Schur-positive, then it arises as the Frobenius image of some representation of a symmetric group.
- ▶ If Schur-positive, then it arises as the character of a polynomial representation of a general linear group.

Part II

A Theorem by Guay-Paquet 2013

If X_G is e-positive for unit interval graphs (incomparability graphs of posets that are both $(3+1)$ -free and $(2+2)$ -free) then Stanley-Stembridge conjecture is true.

Chromatic *quasi* symmetric functions: Shareshian-Wachs 2012

For a simple graph $G = (V, E)$ which has a vertex set $V \subset \mathbb{P}$, the chromatic quasisymmetric function of G is

$$\chi_G(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{\kappa} t^{\text{asc}(\kappa)} \mathbf{x}_{\kappa} ,$$

where the sum is over all proper colorings κ and

$$\text{asc}(\kappa) = \{ \{i, j\} \in E \mid i < j \text{ and } \kappa(i) < \kappa(j) \} .$$

Example

 gives $t x_1^2 x_2$

 gives $t^2 x_1^2 x_2$

Chromatic *quasi* symmetric functions

$$G = \textcircled{1} - \textcircled{2} - \textcircled{3}$$

$$\text{then } X_G(\mathbf{x}, t) = e_3 + (e_3 + e_{21})t + e_3t^2$$

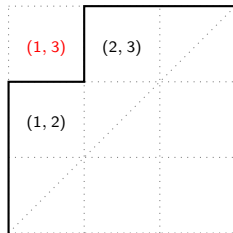
$$G = \textcircled{1} - \textcircled{3} - \textcircled{2}$$

$$\text{then } X_G(\mathbf{x}, t) = (e_3 + F_{12} + 2e_3)t + (e_3 + F_{21})t^2$$

where F_α is a fundamental quasisymmetric function for α a composition.

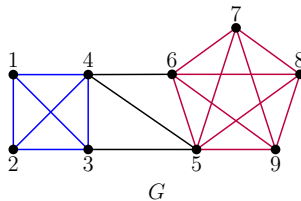
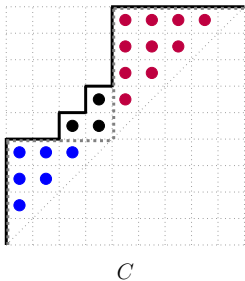
Naturally labeled unit interval graph (natural unit interval order)

$$G = \textcircled{1} - \textcircled{2} - \textcircled{3} \longleftrightarrow P = \{(1 \prec 3)\}$$



$h = (2, 3, 3)$, Hessenberg function

Naturally labeled unit interval graph (natural unit interval order)



$h = (4, 4, 5, 6, 9, 9, 9, 9)$, Hessenberg function

Chromatic quasisymmetric functions of natural unit interval order

Theorem (Shareshian-Wachs 2015)

If $G = \text{inc}(P)$ of a natural unit interval order P , then the coefficients of t^i , $i = 0, 1, \dots, |E|$, in $X_G(\mathbf{x}, t)$ are *symmetric functions* and form a *palindromic* sequence.

Conjecture (Shareshian-Wachs 2015)

Let G be an incomparability graph of a natural unit interval order. Then $X_G(\mathbf{x}, t)$ is an *e-positive* and *e-unimodal* polynomial in t .

Example

$$G = \textcircled{1} - \textcircled{2} - \textcircled{3}$$

$$H = \textcircled{1} - \textcircled{2} - \textcircled{3} - \textcircled{4}$$

$$X_G(\mathbf{x}, t) = e_3 + (e_3 + e_{21})t + e_3t^2$$

$$X_H(\mathbf{x}, t) = e_4 + (e_4 + e_{31} + e_{22})t + (e_4 + e_{31} + e_{22})t^2 + e_4t^3$$

Geometric representation?

In Shareshian-Wachs 2015,

The palindromicity of $X_G(\mathbf{x}, t)$, when G is the incomparability graph of a natural unit interval order, suggests that $X_G(\mathbf{x}, t)$ might be the Frobenius characteristic of the representation of \mathfrak{S}_n on the cohomology of some manifold...

Geometric representation: Hessenberg varieties

Conjecture (Shareshian-Wachs 2015)

Let P be a natural unit interval order with incomparability graph $G = (V, E)$, and let $\mathcal{H}(P)$ be the associated *regular semisimple Hessenberg variety*. Then

$$\omega(X_G(\mathbf{x}, t)) = \sum_{j=0}^{|E|} \text{ch}(H^{2j}(\mathcal{H}(P))) t^j,$$

where $\text{ch} H^{2j}(\mathcal{H}(P))$ is the Frobenius characteristic of the representation of \mathfrak{S}_n on the $2j$ -th cohomology group of $\mathcal{H}(P)$ defined by Tymoczko using GKM theory.

- ▶ This conjecture is proved independently by Brosnan-Chow (2015) and Guay-Paquet (2016).
- ▶ $\omega : \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda$ is an involution (algebra automorphism) defined as $\omega(e_\lambda) = h_\lambda$.

Hessenberg varieties: De Mari-Shayman 1988, De Mari-Procesi-Shayman 1992

For a positive integer n , a **non-decreasing** function $h : [n] \rightarrow [n]$ is called a **Hessenberg function** if $i \leq h(i)$ for all $i \in [n]$ where $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

natural unit interval orders (graphs) \leftrightarrow Hessenberg functions

Type A regular semisimple Hessenberg variety associated with Hessenberg function h and a regular semisimple linear transformation $s : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$ is

$$\mathcal{H}(h, s) = \{F_0 \subset F_1 \subset \dots \subset F_n = \mathbb{C}^n \mid \dim F_i = i, sF_i \subseteq F_{h(i)} \forall i \in [n]\}.$$

* regular semisimple s is a diagonal matrix with distinct diagonal entries.

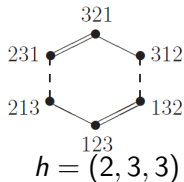
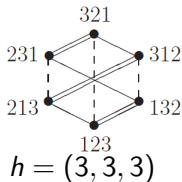
Cohomology ring of Hessenberg varieties

1. The maximal torus $T \subset GL(n, \mathbb{C})$ of diagonal matrices acts on $\mathcal{H}(h, s)$ by left multiplication and $\mathcal{H}(h, s)^T = Fl^T \cong \mathfrak{S}_n$.
2. By GKM(Goresky-Kottwitz-MacPherson 1998) theory T -equivariant cohomology ring of $\mathcal{H}(h, s)$ can be constructed;
GKM graph of $\mathcal{H}(h, s)$:

vertex set = \mathfrak{S}_n

edge set = $\{\{w, w(ij)\} \mid j < i \text{ and } i \leq h(j)\}$,

where the edge $\{w, w(ij)\}$ is labeled $t_{w(i)} - t_{w(j)}$.



labels

———— $t_1 - t_2$

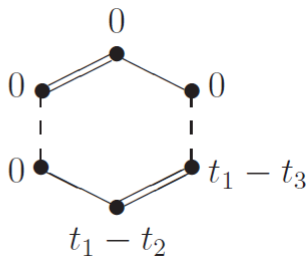
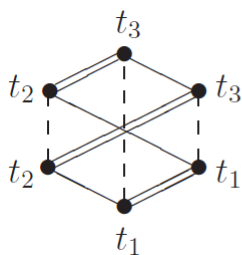
===== $t_2 - t_3$

----- $t_1 - t_3$

Cohomology ring of Hessenberg varieties

$$H_T^*(\mathcal{H}(h, s)) =$$

$$\left\{ \alpha \in \bigoplus_{w \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \mathbb{C}[t_1, \dots, t_n] \mid \alpha(w) - \alpha(w') \text{ is divisible by } t_{w(i)} - t_{w(j)} \right\}$$



3. (Tymoczko 2008) $v \in \mathcal{S}_n$ acts on $\alpha = (\alpha(w)) \in H_T^*(\mathcal{H}(h, s))$ as

$$(v \cdot \alpha)(w) = v \cdot \alpha(v^{-1}w) \text{ for all } w \in \mathcal{S}_n$$

Cohomology ring of Hessenberg varieties

4. From this, one gets ordinary cohomology ring;

$$H^*(\mathcal{H}(h, s)) \cong H_T^*(\mathcal{H}(h, s)) / \langle t_1, \dots, t_n \rangle H_T^*(\mathcal{H}(h, s))$$

and \mathcal{S}_n -action on $H^*(\mathcal{H}(h, s))$

Theorem (Brosnan-Chow, Guay-Paquet)

$$\omega(X_G(\mathbf{x}, t)) = \sum_{j=0}^{|E|} chH^{2j}(\mathcal{H}(P)) t^j$$

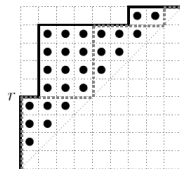
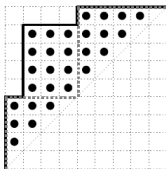
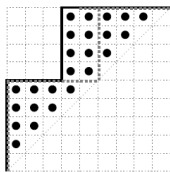
Hence, the e -positivity of $X_G(\mathbf{x}, t)$ is equivalent to the h -positivity of $chH^{2j}(\mathcal{H}(P))$ for each j , which means that each $H^{2j}(\mathcal{H}(P))$ is a permutation representation of \mathcal{S}_n .

Known results: refined(graded) e-positivity

- ▶ $h(i) = n$ for all i , or $G = K_n$ the complete graph
- ▶ $h(i) = i + 1$ or $G = P_n$ the path graph (Stanley)
- ▶ $h = (h(1), h(2), n, \dots, n)$ (Shareshian-Wachs 2015)
- ▶ bounce number of h is 2, or the complement of bipartite graph (C-Huh 2017, Harada-Precup 2017) non refined case (Stanley 1995)
- ▶ $h = (h(1), n - 1, n - 1, \dots, n, \dots, n)$ (C-Huh 2017)
- ▶ melting lollipop graph (Huh-Nam-Yoo 2019) non refined lollipop case (Dahlberg-van Willigenburg 2018)

Known results: e -unimodality

- ▶ $h(i) = n$ for all i , or $G = K_n$ the complete graph
- ▶ $h(i) = i + 1$ or $G = P_n$ the path graph (Shareshian-Wachs 2015)
- ▶ $h = (h(1), h(2), n, n, \dots, n)$ (Shareshian-Wachs 2015)
- ▶ some special cases of h with bounce number 2 or 3 (C-Huh 2017)
- ▶ melting lollipop graph (Huh-Nam-Yoo 2019)



A recent result on Stanley-Stembridge conjecture

Theorem (C-Hong 2019)

$\omega(X_{\text{inc}(P(h))}(\mathbf{x}))$ is h -positive when the bounce number of h is 3, that is when the longest chain in the poset $P(h)$ has length 3.

Our method of proofs

- ▶ (Gasharov, Shareshian-Wachs)

$$\omega X_{G(h)}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_T t^{\text{inv}_G(T)} s_{\lambda(T)}(\mathbf{x})$$

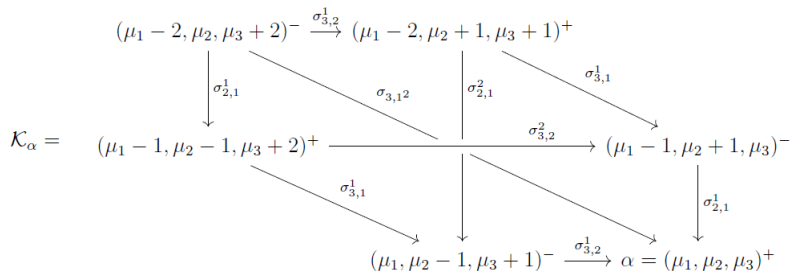
where the sum is over all *h-tableaux* and $\lambda(T)$ is the shape of T .

- ▶ Jacobi-Trudi identity

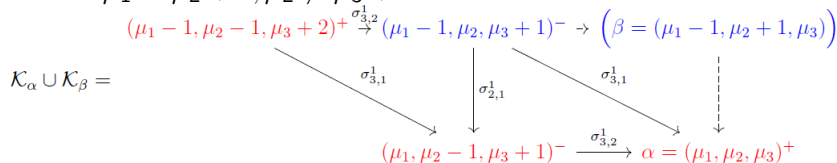
$$s_{\lambda} = \det(e_{\lambda'_i - i + j})_{\ell' \times \ell'} = \det(h_{\lambda_i - i + j})_{\ell \times \ell}$$

Our method of proofs

Case I. $\mu_1 \neq \mu_2 + 1, \mu_2 \neq \mu_3 + 1$

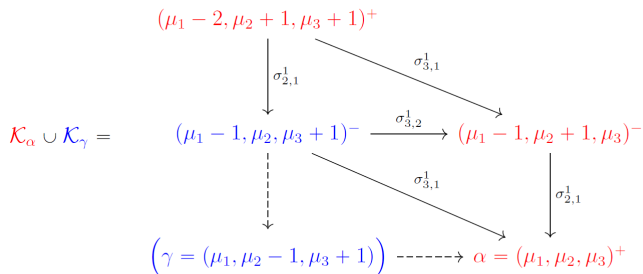


Case II. $\mu_1 = \mu_2 + 1, \mu_2 \neq \mu_3 + 1$

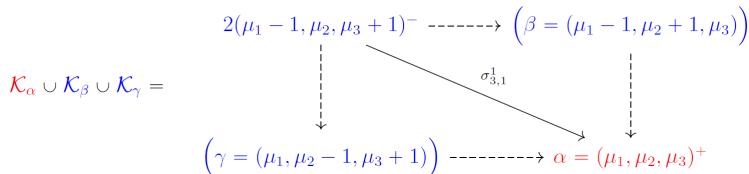


Our method of proofs

Case III. $\mu_1 \neq \mu_2 + 1, \mu_2 = \mu_3 + 1$



Case IV. $\mu_1 = \mu_2 + 1, \mu_2 = \mu_3 + 1$



Our method of proofs

- ▶ In each case, define (weight preserving) injections from negative set of h -tableaux to positive set of h -tableaux.

Thank you very much!

Special thanks to Stephanie van Willigenburg!