

# Chromatic symmetric functions

Soojin Cho  
Ajou University



Hanyang University Mathematics Colloquium  
October 29, 2019

# Part I

## Chromatic polynomial: Birkhoff 1912

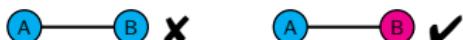
Given  $G$  with vertex set  $V$  a proper colouring  $\kappa$  of  $G$  in  $k$  colours is

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

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

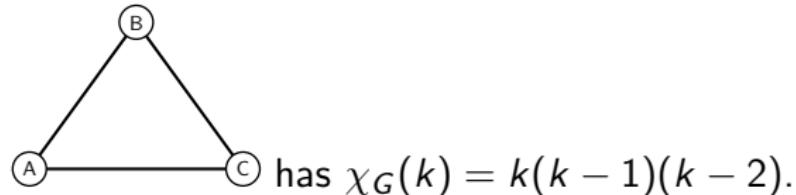
Given  $G$  the chromatic polynomial  
 $\chi_G(k)$  is the number of proper  
colourings with  $k$  colours.



## 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  $\kappa$  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  $\kappa$  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

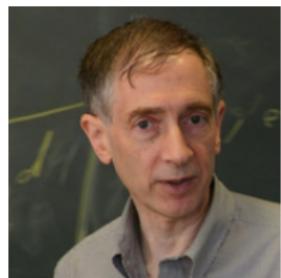
Given  $G$  with vertices  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N$  the chromatic symmetric function is

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

where the sum over all proper colourings  $\kappa$ .

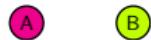
Then

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



## Chromatic symmetric function: Stanley 1995

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



## Symmetric functions

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

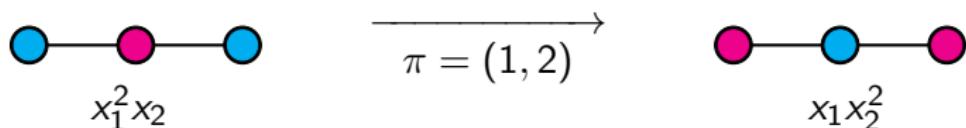
$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots) = f(x_{\pi(1)}, x_{\pi(2)}, \dots).$$

# Symmetric functions

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

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

$X_G$  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  $\Lambda^N$  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  $\lambda = \lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_\ell$

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

where all tuples  $(i_1, \dots, i_\ell)$  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  $a_\lambda$  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  $a_\lambda$  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  $a_\lambda$  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

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

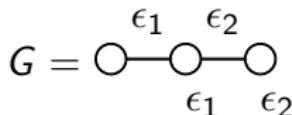
## Classical basis: power sum

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  $\textcircled{2}$  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

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

$$G = \textcircled{O} - \textcircled{O} - \textcircled{O} \quad X_G = 3e_3 + e_{21}$$

## Classical basis: elementary

Theorem (Stanley 1995)

If

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

then

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

Example

$$G = \text{O---O---O} \quad X_G = 3e_3 + e_{21}$$

## Classical basis: elementary

Theorem (Stanley 1995)

If

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

then

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

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

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

Example

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

## Classical basis: elementary

Theorem (Stanley 1995)

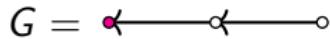
If

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

then

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

Example



$$X_G = 3e_3 + e_{21}$$

## Classical basis: elementary

Theorem (Stanley 1995)

If

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

then

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

Example

$$G = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\[-1ex] \leftarrow \end{array} - \circ - \rightarrow \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\[-1ex] \rightarrow \end{array} \qquad X_G = 3e_3 + e_{21}$$

## 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

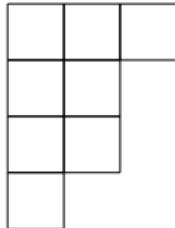
$$h_{21} = h_2 h_1 = (x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \cdots + x_1 x_2 + x_1 x_3 + \cdots)(x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + \cdots)$$

$$G = \textcircled{O} - \textcircled{O} - \textcircled{O} \quad X_G = 3h_3 - 7h_{21} + 4h_{111}$$

## 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  $\lambda_i$  boxes in row  $i$  from the **top**.



3221

## Semi-standard Young tableaux

A semi-standard Young tableau (SSYT)  $T$  of shape  $\lambda$  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

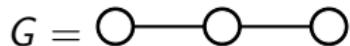
The Schur function is

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

### Example

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

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?

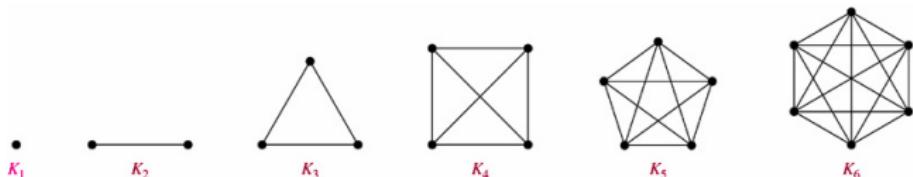
Question: Are classical symmetric functions ever examples of chromatic symmetric functions of a connected graph?

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  $G_\lambda$  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

$$G_{211} = \textcircled{1} - \textcircled{2} \quad \textcircled{3} \quad \textcircled{4}$$

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

## $e$ -positivity and Schur-positivity

$G$  is  $e$ -positive if  $X_G$  is a positive linear combination of  $e_\lambda$ .

$G$  is Schur-positive if  $X_G$  is a positive linear combination of  $s_\lambda$ .

## e-positivity and Schur-positivity

$G$  is **e-positive** if  $X_G$  is a positive linear combination of  $e_\lambda$ .

$G$  is **Schur-positive** if  $X_G$  is a positive linear combination of  $s_\lambda$ .

$$\text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{has} \quad X_G = e_{21} + 3e_3 \quad \checkmark$$
$$X_G = 4s_{111} + s_{21} \quad \checkmark$$

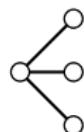
## e-positivity and Schur-positivity

$G$  is **e-positive** if  $X_G$  is a positive linear combination of  $e_\lambda$ .

$G$  is **Schur-positive** if  $X_G$  is a positive linear combination of  $s_\lambda$ .



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



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

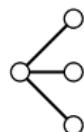
## e-positivity and Schur-positivity

$G$  is **e-positive** if  $X_G$  is a positive linear combination of  $e_\lambda$ .

$G$  is **Schur-positive** if  $X_G$  is a positive linear combination of  $s_\lambda$ .



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



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

$K_{13}$  : 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  $\mu$  filled with  $\lambda_1$  1s, ...,  $\lambda_\ell$   $\ell$ s, and  $\mu^t$  is the transpose of  $\mu$  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

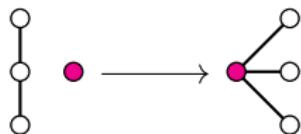
Conjecture (Stanley-Stembridge 1993)

*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)

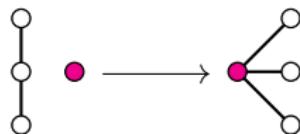
If  $G$  is an incomparability graph of a  $(3+1)$ -free poset then  $X_G$  is e-positive.



## 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.

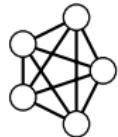


Theorem (Gasharov 1996)

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

## Known e-positive graphs

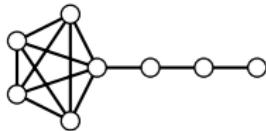
- ▶ Complete graphs  $K_m$ .



- ▶ 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

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

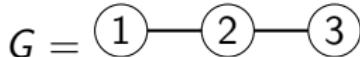
where the sum is over all proper colorings  $\kappa$  and

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

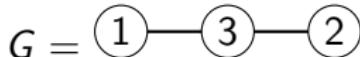
## Example



## Chromatic quasi symmetric functions



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

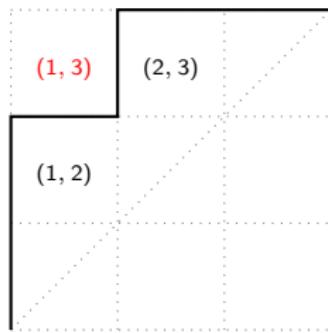


then  $X_G(\mathbf{x}, t) = (e_3 + F_{12} + 2e_3)t + (e_3 + F_{21})t^2$

where  $F_\alpha$  is a fundamental quasisymmetric function for  $\alpha$  a composition.

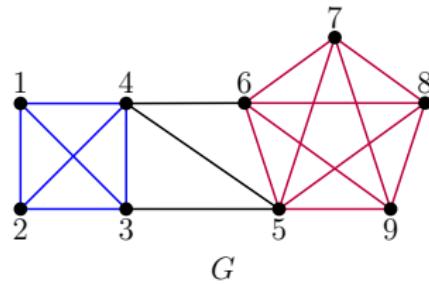
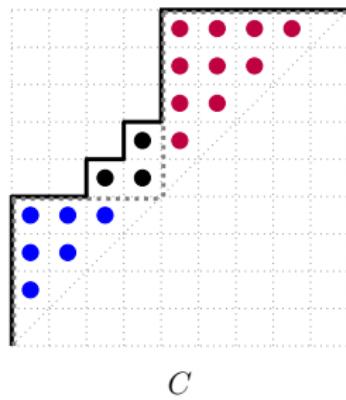
## Naturally labeled unit interval graph (natural unit interval order)

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



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

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

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

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

## 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

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

where  $chH^{2j}(\mathcal{H}(P))$  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

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

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

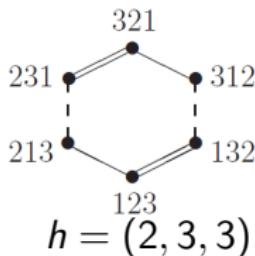
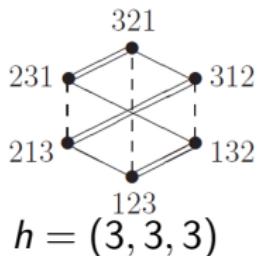
# Cohomology ring of Hessenberg varieties

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

—  $t_1 - t_2$

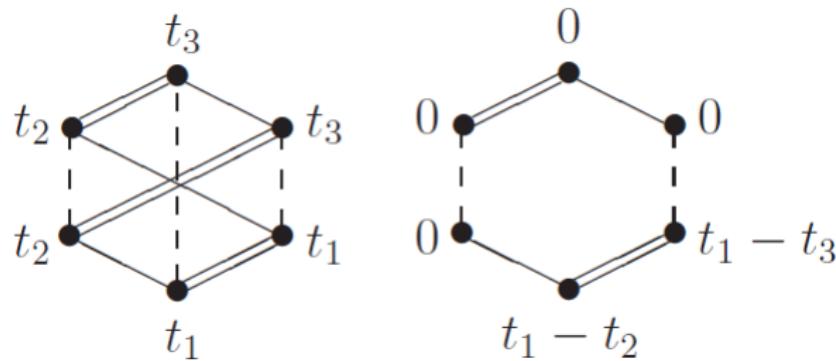
==  $t_2 - t_3$

---  $t_1 - t_3$

# Cohomology ring of Hessenberg varieties

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

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



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

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

## Cohomology ring of Hessenberg varieties

- 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)

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

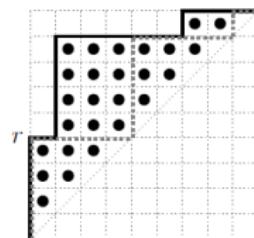
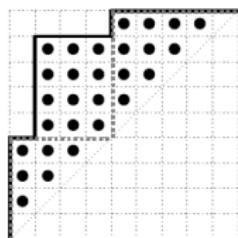
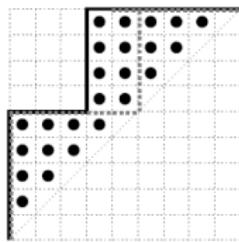
Hence, the  $e$ -positivity of  $X_G(\mathbf{x}, t)$  is equivalent to the  $h$ -positivity of  $chH^{2j}(\mathcal{H}(P))$  for each  $j$ , which means that each  $H^{2j}(\mathcal{H}(P))$  is a permutation representation of  $\mathcal{S}_n$ .

## 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)

$\omega(X_{inc(P(h))}(\mathbf{x}))$  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)

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

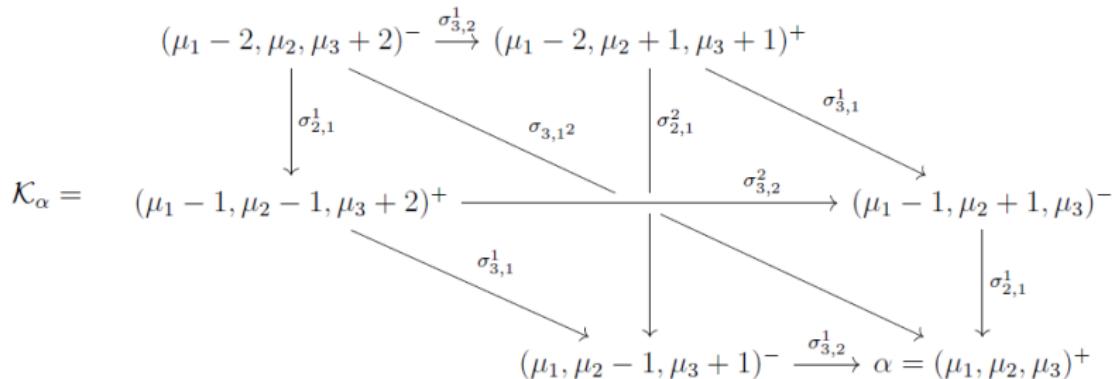
where the sum is over all  $h$ -tableaux and  $\lambda(T)$  is the shape of  $T$ .

- ▶ Jacobi-Trudi identity

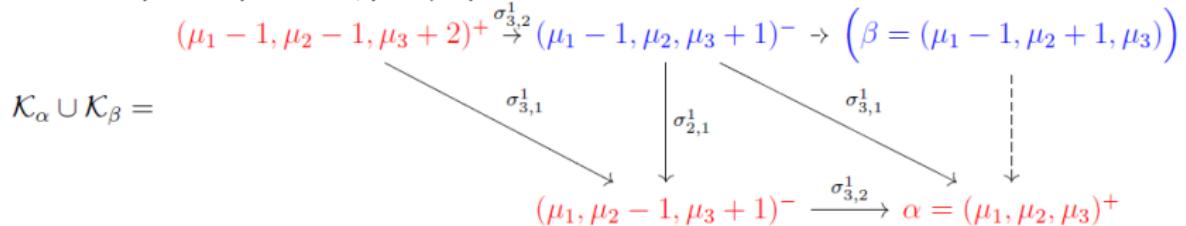
$$s_\lambda = \det(e_{\lambda'_i - i + j})_{\ell' \times \ell'} = \det(h_{\lambda_i - i + j})_{\ell \times \ell}$$

# Our method of proofs

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

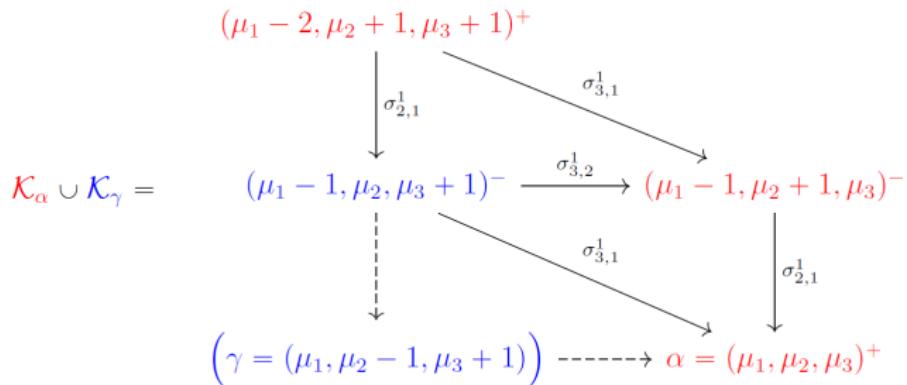


**Case II.**  $\mu_1 = \mu_2 + 1, \mu_2 \neq \mu_3 + 1$

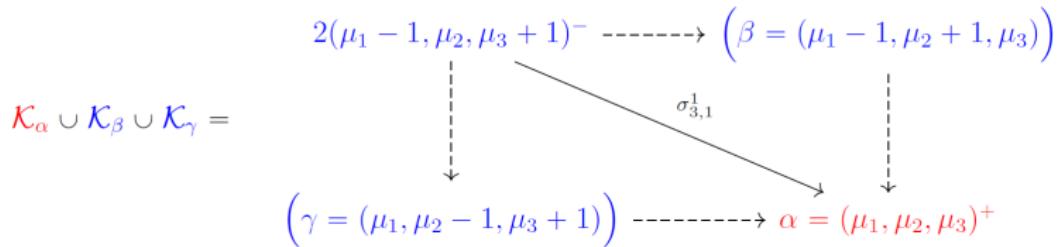


## Our method of proofs

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!