

# Counterexamples of the twins conjecture on chromatic symmetric functions

Li Mengxing

Center for Combinatorics

Nankai University, Tianjin 300071, P. R. China

August 12, 2020

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 A chromatic symmetric function in noncommuting variables
- 3 Decomposition techniques for graphs

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 A chromatic symmetric function in noncommuting variables
- 3 Decomposition techniques for graphs

# Chromatic symmetric function

Given a finite simple graph  $G = (V, E)$ , a **proper coloring of  $G$**  is a function  $\kappa$  from  $V$  to  $\mathbb{P} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$  such that  $\kappa(u) \neq \kappa(v)$  whenever  $uv \in E$ .

Definition (Stanley, 1995)

Let  $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  be the vertex set of  $G$ . The **chromatic symmetric function** is defined by

$$X_G = X_G(x_1, x_2, \dots) = \sum_{\kappa} x_{\kappa(v_1)} x_{\kappa(v_2)} \cdots x_{\kappa(v_n)},$$

where the sum ranges over all proper colorings  $\kappa : V \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$ .

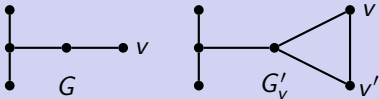


R.P. Stanley, A symmetric function generalization of the chromatic polynomial of a graph, Adv. Math., 111 (1995), pp. 166–194.

# Twins conjecture

- Two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are **twins** if they are adjacent and any vertex  $z$  is either adjacent to both  $x$  and  $y$  or non adjacent to both  $x$  and  $y$ .
- Given a graph  $G$  and a vertex  $v$  of  $G$ , define  $G'_v$  to be the graph obtained from  $G$  by adding a vertex  $v'$  that is a twin of  $v$ .

## Example



## Conjecture (Foley, Hoàng and Merkel, 2018)

*If  $G$  is e-positive, then  $G'_v$  is e-positive for any vertex  $v \in V$ .*



A.M. Foley, C.T. Hoàng and O.D. Merkel, Classes of graphs with e-positive chromatic symmetric function, Electron. J. Combin., 26 (2019), no. 3, Paper 3.51, 19 pp.

# Introduction

## Theorem (Hermosillo de la Maza, Jing and Masjoody, 2018)

*A connected graph  $G$  is (claw, bull)-free graph if and only if it belongs to one of the following (disjoint) classes of graphs:*

- *the class of graphs which are expansions of paths of length at least 4,*
- *the class of graphs which are expansions of cycles of length at least 6,*
- *the class of connected graphs which are complements of triangle-free graphs.*



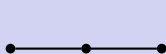
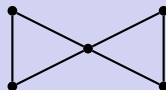
S.G. Hermosillo de la Maza, Y. Jing, M. Masjoody, On the structure of (claw, bull)-free graphs, arXiv:1901.00043.

# Introduction

## Definition

An **expansion** of a graph  $G = (V, E)$  with vertex set  $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  is any graph  $H$  obtained from  $G$  by substituting its vertices with disjoint cliques  $K^{[i]}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , and adding the edges of the complete bipartite graphs with the partite sets  $V(K^{[i]})$  and  $V(K^{[j]})$  for each  $v_i v_j \in E$ .

## Example

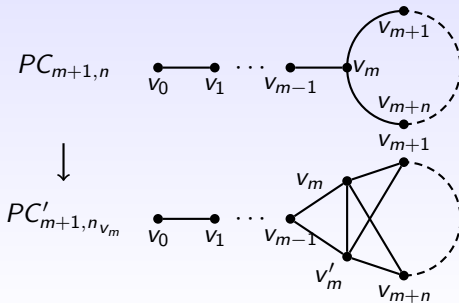

 $P_3$ 

 $K_2$ 
 $K_1$ 
 $K_2$

# Counterexample

Define  $PC_{m+1,n}$  to be the graph obtained from a path  $P_{m+1}$  and a cycle  $C_{n+1}$  by identifying one vertex of degree one of the path and one vertex of the cycle.

## Theorem

For any  $m \geq 0, n \geq 1$ , we have  $PC_{m+1,n}$  is  $e$ -positive. Moreover, for  $n = 3$  and  $m \geq 1$ , we have  $PC'_{m+1,3_{v_m}}$  is not  $e$ -positive.





# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 A chromatic symmetric function in noncommuting variables
- 3 Decomposition techniques for graphs

# Symmetric functions in noncommuting variables

- Let  $\Pi_d$  denote the lattice of set partitions  $\pi$  of  $[d]$ , ordered by refinement.
- Let  $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots\}$  be a set of noncommuting variables.

## Definition

Let  $\pi \in \Pi_d$ . Define the *monomial symmetric functions*  $m_\pi$  by

$$m_\pi = \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_d},$$

where the sum is over all sequences  $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d$  of positive integers such that  $i_j = i_k$  if and only if  $j$  and  $k$  are in the same block of  $\pi$ .

- The monomial symmetric functions,  $\{m_\pi : \pi \in \Pi_d, d \in \mathbb{N}\}$ , are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{C}$ , and we call their span the algebra of *symmetric functions in noncommuting variables*.

# Symmetric functions in noncommuting variables

## Definition

The *elementary symmetric functions*  $e_\pi$  is defined by

$$e_\pi = \sum_{\sigma: \sigma \wedge \pi = \hat{0}} m_\sigma = \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_d},$$

where the second sum is over all sequences  $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d$  of positive integers such that  $i_j \neq i_k$  if  $j$  and  $k$  are both in the same block of  $\pi$ .

- The set  $\{e_\pi : \pi \in \Pi_d, d \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is a basis of the algebra of symmetric functions in noncommuting variables.
- For  $\pi \in \Pi_d$  we define  $\lambda(\pi) = (1^{r_1} 2^{r_2} \dots d^{r_d})$  to be the integer partition of  $d$  whose parts are the block sizes of  $\pi$ .
- Allowing the variables to commute transforms  $e_\pi$  into  $1!^{r_1} 2!^{r_2} \dots d!^{r_d} e_{\lambda(\pi)}$ .

# Chromatic symmetric functions in noncommuting variables

## Definition (Gebhard and Sagan, 2001)

For any graph  $G$  with vertices labeled  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_d$  in a fixed order, define

$$Y_G = \sum_{\kappa} x_{\kappa(v_1)} x_{\kappa(v_2)} \cdots x_{\kappa(v_d)} = \sum_{\kappa} x_{\kappa},$$

where again the sum is over all proper colorings  $\kappa$  of  $G$ , but the  $x_i$  are now noncommuting variables.

## Example



$$Y_{P_3} = m_{13/2} + m_{1/2/3}$$

- $Y_G$  depends not only on  $G$ , but also on the labeling of its vertices.



D. Gebhard, B. Sagan, A chromatic symmetric function in noncommuting variables, J. Algebraic Combin. 2 (2001) 227 – 255.

# Some e-positivity results

## Example



$$Y_{P_3} = \frac{1}{2}e_{12/3} - \frac{1}{2}e_{13/2} + \frac{1}{2}e_{1/23} + \frac{1}{2}e_{123}$$

- Let  $B_{\sigma,i}$  denote the block of  $\sigma$  containing  $i$  and let  $B_{\tau,i}$  denote the block of  $\tau$  containing  $i$ , we define

$$\sigma \equiv_i \tau \text{ iff } \lambda(\sigma) = \lambda(\tau) \text{ and } |B_{\sigma,i}| = |B_{\tau,i}|$$

and extend this definition so that

$$e_{\sigma} \equiv_i e_{\tau} \text{ iff } \sigma \equiv_i \tau.$$

- Let  $(\tau)$  and  $e_{(\tau)}$  denote the equivalence classes of  $\tau$  and  $e_{\tau}$
- $\sum_{\sigma \in \Pi_d} c_{\sigma} e_{\sigma} \equiv_i \sum_{(\tau) \subseteq \Pi_d} c_{(\tau)} e_{(\tau)}$  where  $c_{(\tau)} = \sum_{\sigma \in (\tau)} c_{\sigma}$ .

# Some e-positivity results

- We say that a labeled graph  $G$  (and similarly  $Y_G$ ) is (e)-positive if all the  $c_{(\tau)}$  are non-negative for some labeling of  $G$  and suitably chosen congruence.
- Notice that the expansion of  $Y_G$  for a labeled graph may have all non-negative amalgamated coefficients for congruence modulo  $i$ , but not for congruence modulo  $j$ .
- Clearly (e)-positivity results for  $Y_G$  specialize to e-positivity results for  $X_G$ .

## Example



$$Y_{P_3} = \frac{1}{2}e_{12/3} - \frac{1}{2}e_{13/2} + \frac{1}{2}e_{1/23} + \frac{1}{2}e_{123}$$

$$Y_{P_3} \equiv_3 \frac{1}{2}e_{(12/3)} + \frac{1}{2}e_{(123)}$$

$$Y_{P_3} \equiv_2 e_{(12/3)} - \frac{1}{2}e_{(13/2)} + \frac{1}{2}e_{(123)}$$

# The $e$ -positivity of $PC_{m+1,n}$

## Theorem (Gebhard and Sagan, 2001)

*If  $Y_G$  is  $(e)$ -positive, then  $Y_{G+K_m}$  is also  $(e)$ -positive.*

- Given any graph  $G$  with vertices  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_d\}$ , define  $G + K_m$  to be the graph with

$$V(G + K_m) = V(G) \cup \{v_{d+1}, \dots, v_{d+m-1}\}$$

and

$$E(G + K_m) = E(G) \cup \{e = v_i v_j : i, j \in [d, d + m - 1]\}.$$

- For  $\pi \in \Pi_d$ , we let  $\pi + i$  denote the partition given by  $\pi$  with the additional  $i$  elements  $d + 1, d + 2, \dots, d + i$  added to  $B_\pi$ .
- $\langle m \rangle_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} m(m-1) \dots (m-i+1).$
- $(m)_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} m(m+1) \dots (m+i-1).$

# The e-positivity of $PC_{m+1,n}$

Lemma (Gebhard and Sagan, 2001)

If  $m \geq 1$ , and

$$Y_G \equiv_d \sum_{(\pi) \subseteq \Pi_d} c_{(\pi)} e_{(\pi)},$$

then

$$Y_{G+K_{m+1}} \equiv_{d+m} \sum_{(\pi) \subseteq \Pi_d} \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \frac{c_{(\pi)} \langle m-1 \rangle_i}{(b)_{i+1}} [(b-m+i)e_{(\hat{\pi})} + (i+1)e_{(\bar{\pi})}]$$

where  $b = |B_\pi|$  and

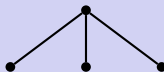
$$\hat{\pi} = \pi + i/d + i + 1, \dots, d + m,$$

$$\bar{\pi} = \pi + i + (d+m)/d + i + 1, \dots, d + m - 1.$$



# The e-positivity of $PC_{m+1,n}$

## Example



$$X_{K_{1,3}} = 4e_{(4)} + 5e_{(3,1)} - 2e_{(2,2)} + e_{(2,1,1)}$$



$$Y_{P_3} = \frac{1}{2}e_{12/3} - \frac{1}{2}e_{13/2} + \frac{1}{2}e_{1/23} + \frac{1}{2}e_{123}$$

$$Y_{P_3} \equiv_3 \frac{1}{2}e_{(12/3)} + \frac{1}{2}e_{(123)}$$

$$Y_{P_3} \equiv_2 e_{(12/3)} - \frac{1}{2}e_{(13/2)} + \frac{1}{2}e_{(123)}$$

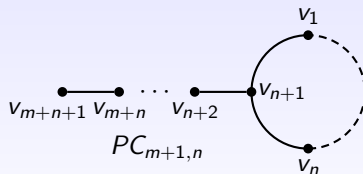
# The e-positivity of $PC_{m+1,n}$

Proposition (Gebhard and Sagan, 2001)

For all  $d \geq 2$ ,  $Y_{C_d}$  is (e)-positive.

Corollary

For any  $m \geq 0, n \geq 1$ , we have  $PC_{m+1,n}$  is e-positive.



# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 A chromatic symmetric function in noncommuting variables
- 3 Decomposition techniques for graphs

# Decomposition techniques for graphs

## Theorem (Orellana and Scott, 2014)

Let  $G$  be a graph where  $e_1, e_2, e_3 \in E(G)$  form a triangle. Furthermore, define

- $G_{2,3} = (V(G), E(G) - \{e_1\})$
- $G_{1,3} = (V(G), E(G) - \{e_2\})$
- $G_3 = (V(G), E(G) - \{e_1, e_2\})$ .

Then

$$X_G = X_{G_{2,3}} + X_{G_{1,3}} - X_{G_3}.$$

- M. Guay-Paquet (2013) has proved the same modular relation for the special case when  $G$  is an incomparability graph of  $(3+1)$ -free posets.



R. Orellana and G. Scott, Graphs with equal chromatic symmetric function, Discrete Math., 320 (2014), pp. 1 - 14.



M. Guay-Paquet, A modular relation for the chromatic symmetric function of  $(3+1)$ -free posets. preprint, Arxiv: 1306.2400.

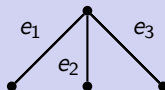
# Sketch of the proof

## Theorem (Stanley, 1995)

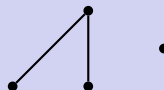
$$\chi_G = \sum_{S \subseteq E} (-1)^{\#S} p_{\lambda(S)}.$$

where  $\lambda(s)$  is the partition whose parts are the orders of the connected components of the spanning subgraphs of  $G$  induced by  $S$ .

## Example



claw



$$S = \{e_1, e_2\}$$

$$\lambda(S) = (3, 1)$$

# Sketch of the proof

Consider the following partition of the set of spanning subgraphs of  $G$ :

- $G^1 = \{S \subseteq E(G) : e_1, e_2, e_3 \in S\}$
- $G^2 = \{S \subseteq E(G) : e_1, e_2 \in S, e_3 \notin S\}$
- $G^3 = \{S \subseteq E(G) : e_1, e_3 \in S, e_2 \notin S\}$
- $G^4 = \{S \subseteq E(G) : e_2, e_3 \in S, e_1 \notin S\}$
- $G^5 = \{S \subseteq E(G) : e_1 \in S, e_2, e_3 \notin S\}$
- $G^6 = \{S \subseteq E(G) : e_2 \in S, e_1, e_3 \notin S\}$
- $G^7 = \{S \subseteq E(G) : e_3 \in S, e_1, e_2 \notin S\}$
- $G^8 = \{S \subseteq E(G) : e_1, e_2, e_3 \notin S\}$

# Sketch of the proof

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_G &= \sum_{S \subseteq E} (-1)^{\#S} p_{\lambda(S)} \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^8 \sum_{S \subseteq G^i} (-1)^{\#S} p_{\lambda(S)} \\
 &= \sum_{i \in 4,6,7,8} \sum_{S \subseteq G^i} (-1)^{\#S} p_{\lambda(S)} + \sum_{i \in 3,5,7,8} \sum_{S \subseteq G^i} (-1)^{\#S} p_{\lambda(S)} \\
 &\quad - \sum_{i \in 7,8} \sum_{S \subseteq G^i} (-1)^{\#S} p_{\lambda(S)} + \sum_{i \in 1,2} \sum_{S \subseteq G^i} (-1)^{\#S} p_{\lambda(S)} \\
 &= X_{G_{2,3}} + X_{G_{1,3}} - X_{G_3} + \sum_{i \in 1,2} \sum_{S \subseteq G^i} (-1)^{\#S} p_{\lambda(S)}.
 \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see that  $\sum_{i \in 1,2} \sum_{S \subseteq G^i} (-1)^{\#S} p_{\lambda(S)} = 0$ , and the proof follows.

# Decomposition techniques for graphs

## Corollary (Orellana and Scott, 2014)

Let  $G_{1,2}$  be a graph with the adjacent edges  $e_1 = vv_1$ ,  $e_2 = vv_2$  and  $e_3 = v_1v_2 \notin E(G_{1,2})$ . Define

- $G_{1,3} = (V(G_{1,2}), (E(G_{1,2}) - \{e_2\}) \cup \{e_3\})$
- $G_{2,3} = (V(G_{1,2}), (E(G_{1,2}) - \{e_1\}) \cup \{e_3\})$
- $G_1 = (V(G_{1,2}), E(G_{1,2}) - \{e_2\})$
- $G_3 = (V(G_{1,2}), (E(G_{1,2}) - \{e_1, e_2\}) \cup \{e_3\})$

Then

$$X_{G_{1,2}} = X_{G_{2,3}} + X_{G_1} - X_{G_3}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $G_{1,2,3} = (V(G_{1,2}), E(G_{1,2}) \cup \{e_3\})$ . Then we have

$$X_{G_{1,2,3}} = X_{G_{2,3}} + X_{G_{1,3}} - X_{G_3}$$

and

$$X_{G_{1,2,3}} = X_{G_{1,3}} + X_{G_{1,2}} - X_{G_1}.$$



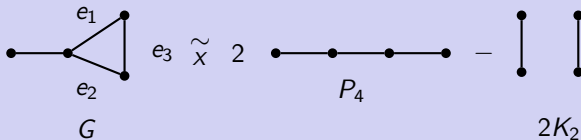
# An equivalence relation

## Definition

Let  $\{G_i\}_{i \leq p}$  and  $\{H_i\}_{i \leq k}$  be sets of graphs, and let  $\{c_i\}_{i \leq p}$  and  $\{d_i\}_{i \leq k}$  be real numbers. Define an equivalence relation  $\sim_X$  on linear combinations of graphs to be

$$\sum_{i \leq p} c_i G_i \sim_X \sum_{i \leq k} d_i H_i, \quad \text{if} \quad \sum_{i \leq p} c_i X_{G_i} = \sum_{i \leq k} d_i X_{H_i}.$$

## Example



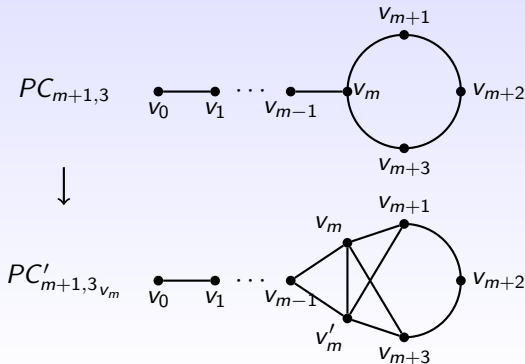
$$X_G = 2X_{P_4} - X_{2K_2}$$

# The non-e-positivity of $PC'_{m+1,3_{v_m}}$

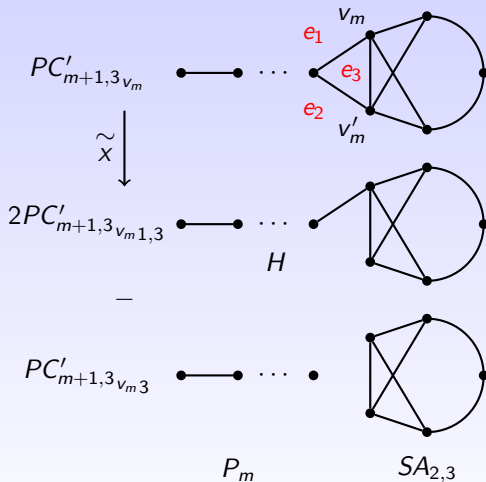
## Theorem

For any  $m \geq 1$ ,  $PC'_{m+1,3_{v_m}}$  is not e-positive.

*Proof.* The chromatic symmetric function of  $PC'_{m+1,3_{v_m}}$  can be acquired by repeated application of the decomposition techniques.

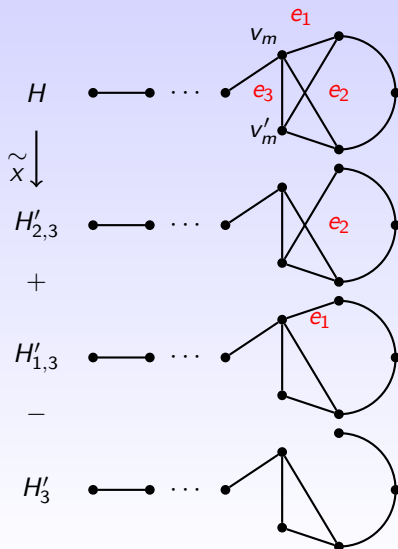


# Sketch of the proof



$$X_{PC'_{m+1,3_{v_m}}} = 2X_H - X_{P_m} X_{SA_{2,3}}$$

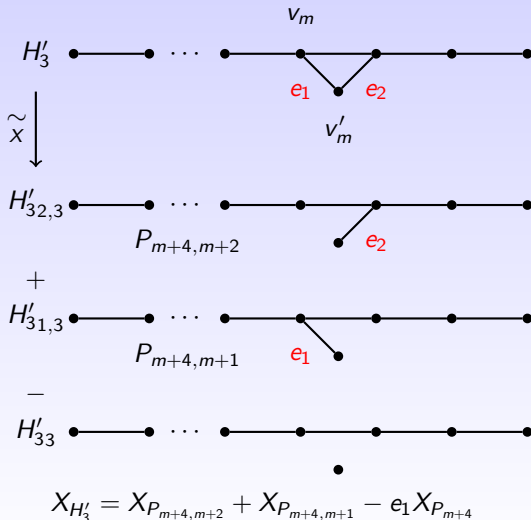
# Sketch of the proof



$$X_{H'_{2,3}} = 2X_{PC_{m+2,3}} - X_{P_{m+1}}X_{C_4}$$

$$X_H = X_{H'_{2,3}} + X_{H'_{1,3}} - X_{H'_3}$$

# Sketch of the proof



# Sketch of the proof

Diagrammatic equation showing the decomposition of a graph  $H'_{1,3}$  into a sum of three graphs:

$$X_{H'_{1,3}} = X_{PC_{m+1,4}} + e_1 X_{PC_{m+1,3}} - X_{P_{m+4,m+1}}$$

The graphs are labeled as follows:

- $H'_{1,3}$  (top graph, with vertices  $v_m$  and  $v'_m$  and edges  $e_1$  and  $e_2$ )
- $H'_{1,3,2,3}$  (middle graph, with edge  $e_2$ )
- $H'_{1,3,1,3}$  (bottom graph, with edge  $e_1$ )
- $PC_{m+1,4}$  (graph associated with the first term on the right)
- $P_{m+5}$  (graph associated with the third term on the right)

# Sketch of the proof

Hence we conclude:

$$\begin{aligned} X_{PC'_{m+1,3v_m}} = & 4X_{PC_{m+2,3}} + 4X_{PC_{m+1,4}} + 2e_1X_{PC_{m+1,3}} + 2e_1X_{P_{m+4}} \\ & - 2X_{P_{m+1}}X_{C_4} - 4X_{P_{m+4,m+1}} - 2X_{P_{m+4,m+2}} - X_{P_m}X_{SA_{2,3}} - 2X_{P_{m+5}} \end{aligned}$$

Using the same method the following results can be proved.

- $X_{PC_{m,n}} = nX_{P_{m+n}} - \sum_{i=2}^n X_{P_{m-2+i}}X_{C_{n+2-i}}$ .
- $X_{P_{m,n}} = X_{P_{m+1}} + e_1X_{P_m} - X_{P_n}X_{P_{m-n+1}}$ , where  $n \leq m$ .
- $X_{SA_{2,n}} = 4X_{C_{n+2}} + 2e_1X_{C_{n+1}} + 2e_2X_{P_n} - 6X_{P_{n+2}}$ .

Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} X_{PC'_{m+1,3v_m}} = & 20X_{P_{m+5}} + 2e_1X_{P_{m+4}} - 8X_{C_2}X_{P_{m+3}} \\ & + (2X_{P_3} - 8X_{C_3} - 2e_1X_{C_2})X_{P_{m+2}} + (4X_{P_4} - 6X_{C_4} - 2e_1X_{C_3})X_{P_{m+1}} \\ & + (6X_{P_5} - 4X_{C_5} - 2e_1X_{C_4} - 2e_2X_{P_3})X_{P_m} \\ = & 20X_{P_{m+5}} + 2e_1X_{P_{m+4}} - 16e_2X_{P_{m+3}} - (2e_{(2,1)} + 42e_3)X_{P_{m+2}} \\ & - (56e_4 + 4e_{(2,2)} + 4e_{(3,1)})X_{P_{m+1}} - (6e_{(4,1)} + 4e_{(3,2)} + 50e_5)X_{P_m}. \end{aligned}$$

# Sketch of the proof

From

$$\begin{aligned} X_{PC'_{m+1,3v_m}} = & 20X_{P_{m+5}} + 2e_1X_{P_{m+4}} - 16e_2X_{P_{m+3}} - (2e_{(2,1)} + 42e_3)X_{P_{m+2}} \\ & - (56e_4 + 4e_{(2,2)} + 4e_{(3,1)})X_{P_{m+1}} - (6e_{(4,1)} + 4e_{(3,2)} + 50e_5)X_{P_m}, \end{aligned}$$

we derive that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} X_{PC'_{m+1,3v_m}} t^{m+5} = & 20 \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} X_{P_{m+5}} t^{m+5} + 2e_1 \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} X_{P_{m+4}} t^{m+5} \\ & - 16e_2 \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} X_{P_{m+3}} t^{m+5} - (2e_{(2,1)} + 42e_3) \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} X_{P_{m+2}} t^{m+5} \\ & - (56e_4 + 4e_{(2,2)} + 4e_{(3,1)}) \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} X_{P_{m+1}} t^{m+5} \\ & - (6e_{(4,1)} + 4e_{(3,2)} + 50e_5) \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} X_{P_m} t^{m+5}. \end{aligned}$$



# Sketch of the proof

Proposition (Stanley, 1995)

$$\sum_{d \geq 0} X_{P_d} t^d = \frac{\sum_{i \geq 0} e_i t^i}{1 - \sum_{i \geq 1} (i-1) e_i t^i} = \frac{E(t)}{E(t) - tE'(t)},$$

where  $E(t) = \sum_{i \geq 0} e_i t^i$ .

By direct calculation, we derive that

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} X_{PC'_{m+1, 3_{v_m}}} t^{m+5} = \frac{F(t)}{E(t) - tE'(t)},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} F(t) = & 4e_{(2,2)} t^5 E'(t) + 24e_4 t^5 E'(t) + 6e_{(2,1)} t^4 E'(t) + 18e_3 t^4 E'(t) \\ & + 2e_{(1,1)} t^3 E'(t) + 24e_2 t^3 E'(t) + 22e_1 t^2 E'(t) - 4e_{(3,2)} t^5 E(t) \\ & - 6e_{(4,1)} t^5 E(t) - 50e_5 t^5 E(t) - 8e_{(2,2)} t^4 E(t) - 4e_{(3,1)} t^4 E(t) \\ & - 80e_4 t^4 E(t) - 8e_{(2,1)} t^3 E(t) - 60e_3 t^3 E(t) - 2e_{(1,1)} t^2 E(t) \\ & - 40e_2 t^2 E(t) - 20e_1 t E(t) + 20t E'(t). \end{aligned}$$

# Sketch of the proof

Let  $\lambda = (3^k)$ , where  $k \geq 2$ . We proceed to consider the coefficient of  $e_\lambda t^{|\lambda|}$ . Observe that  $e_\lambda t^{|\lambda|}$  can only appear in the expansion of the following terms:

$$\frac{18e_3t^4E'(t) + 20tE'(t) - 60e_3t^3E(t)}{E(t) - tE'(t)}.$$

Recall that

$$E(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e_n t^n,$$

we have the numerator equals

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (20n + 18ne_3t^3 - 60e_3t^3)e_n t^n.$$

# Sketch of the proof

Notice that  $\lambda = (3^k)$ , so we need only to consider the terms  $n = 0$  and  $n = 3$  in

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (20n + 18ne_3t^3 - 60e_3t^3)e_nt^n.$$

It is trivial to check that

$$-60e_3t^3 + (60 + 54e_3t^3 - 60e_3t^3)e_3t^3 = -6e_{(3,3)}t^6.$$

Thus we proceed to consider the formula

$$\frac{-6e_{(3,3)}t^6}{1 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_nt^n} = -6e_{(3,3)}t^6 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_nt^n \right)^i.$$

Since  $\lambda$  has  $k$  parts, we see that  $i = k - 2$ , and that  $n = 3$  in each term of

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_nt^n.$$

Hence the coefficient of  $e_{\lambda}t^{|\lambda|}$  equals  $-6 \cdot 2^{k-2}$ .

# Sketch of the proof

Next we consider the coefficient of  $e_\mu t^{|\mu|}$ , where  $\mu = (3^k, 1)$  and  $k \geq 2$ . Note that  $e_\mu t^{|\mu|}$  can only appear in the expansion of the following terms:

$$\frac{18e_3 t^4 E'(t) + 20t E'(t) - 60e_3 t^3 E(t) + 22e_1 t^2 E'(t) - 4e_{(3,1)} t^4 E(t) - 20e_1 t E(t)}{E(t) - t E'(t)}.$$

The numerator equals

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (18ne_3 t^3 + 20n - 60e_3 t^3) e_n t^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (22ne_1 t - 4e_{(3,1)} t^4 - 20e_1 t) e_n t^n.$$

In order to get  $e_\mu t^{|\mu|}$ , it suffices to consider the terms  $n = 0, 1, 3$  in  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (18ne_3 t^3 + 20n - 60e_3 t^3) e_n t^n$  and  $n = 0, 3$  in  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (22ne_1 t - 4e_{(3,1)} t^4 - 20e_1 t) e_n t^n$ .

# Sketch of the proof

Namely,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -60e_3t^3 + (18e_3t^3 + 20 - 60e_3t^3)e_1t + (60 + 54e_3t^3 - 60e_3t^3)e_3t^3 \\
 & - 4e_{(3,1)}t^4 - 20e_1t + (66e_1t - 4e_{(3,1)}t^4 - 20e_1t)e_3t^3 \\
 & = 20e_1t - 42e_{(3,1)}t^4 - 6e_{(3,3)}t^6 - 20e_1t + 42e_{(3,1)}t^4 - 4e_{(3,3,1)}t^7 \\
 & = -6e_{(3,3)}t^6 - 4e_{(3,3,1)}t^7.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $e_\mu t^{|\mu|}$  lies in

$$\frac{-6e_{(3,3)}t^6 - 4e_{(3,3,1)}t^7}{1 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_nt^n}.$$

# Sketch of the proof

Notice that

$$1 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_n t^n = 1 - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n-1)e_n t^n,$$

we see that the denominator does not contain  $e_1$ . Thus in order to get  $e_{\mu} t^{|\mu|}$ , we need only to check

$$\frac{-4e_{(3,3,1)} t^7}{1 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_n t^n} = -4e_{(3,3,1)} t^7 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_n t^n \right)^i.$$

Since  $\mu = (3^k, 1)$ , we see that  $i = k - 2$  and  $n = 3$  for each term

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_n t^n.$$

Therefore the coefficient of  $e_{\mu} t^{|\mu|}$  equals  $-2^k$ .

# Sketch of the proof

Finally, we consider the coefficient of  $e_\theta t^{|\theta|}$ , where  $\theta = (3^k, 2)$  and  $k \geq 2$ . Note that  $e_\theta t^{|\theta|}$  can only appear in the expansion of the following terms:

$$\frac{18e_3t^4E'(t) + 20tE'(t) - 60e_3t^3E(t) + 24e_2t^3E'(t) - 4e_{(3,2)}t^5E(t) - 40e_2t^2E(t)}{E(t) - tE'(t)}.$$

The numerator equals

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (18ne_3t^3 + 20n - 60e_3t^3)e_nt^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (24ne_2t^2 - 4e_{(3,2)}t^5 - 40e_2t^2)e_nt^n.$$

It suffices to consider the terms  $n = 0, 2, 3$  in

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (18ne_3t^3 + 20n - 60e_3t^3)e_nt^n \text{ and } n = 0, 3 \text{ in } \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (24ne_2t^2 - 4e_{(3,2)}t^5 - 40e_2t^2)e_nt^n \text{ in order to get } e_\theta t^{|\theta|}.$$

# Sketch of the proof

Namely,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -60e_3t^3 + (36e_3t^3 + 40 - 60e_3t^3)e_2t^2 + (60 + 54e_3t^3 - 60e_3t^3)e_3t^3 \\
 & -4e_{(3,2)}t^5 - 40e_2t^2 + (72e_2t^2 - 4e_{(3,2)}t^5 - 40e_2t^2)e_3t^3 \\
 & = 40e_2t^2 - 24e_{(3,2)}t^5 - 6e_{(3,3)}t^6 - 40e_2t^2 + 28e_{(3,2)}t^5 - 4e_{(3,3,2)}t^8 \\
 & = 4e_{(3,2)}t^5 - 6e_{(3,3)}t^6 - 4e_{(3,3,2)}t^8.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $e_\theta t^{|\theta|}$  lies in

$$\frac{4e_{(3,2)}t^5 - 6e_{(3,3)}t^6 - 4e_{(3,3,2)}t^8}{1 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_nt^n}.$$



# Sketch of the proof

It is clear that

$$\frac{4e_{(3,2)}t^5 - 6e_{(3,3)}t^6 - 4e_{(3,3,2)}t^8}{1 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_n t^n} = 4e_{(3,2)}t^5 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_n t^n \right)^i$$

$$- 6e_{(3,3)}t^6 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_n t^n \right)^i - 4e_{(3,3,2)}t^8 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_n t^n \right)^i.$$

Since  $\theta = (3^k, 2)$ , in the first summation we take  $i = k - 1$  and  $n = 3$  in each term of

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1)e_n t^n.$$

Hence the coefficient of  $e_{\theta} t^{|\theta|}$  in the first summation equals  $2^{k+1}$ .

# Sketch of the proof

In the second summation, we take  $i = k - 1$ . Moreover, we take  $n = 3$  in  $k - 2$ 's

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1) e_n t^n,$$

and  $n = 2$  in one

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1) e_n t^n.$$

There are  $k - 1$  choices. Thus the coefficient of  $e_{\theta} t^{|\theta|}$  in the second summation equals:

$$-6 \cdot (k-1) \cdot 2^{k-2} = -3(k-1)2^{k-1}.$$

# Sketch of the proof

Finally, in the third summation, we take  $i = k - 2$  and  $n = 3$  in each term of

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-1) e_n t^n.$$

Hence the coefficient of  $e_{\theta} t^{|\theta|}$  in the third summation equals  $-2^k$ .

Thus the coefficient of  $e_{\theta} t^{|\theta|}$  in  $\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} X_{PC'_{m+1, 3_{v_m}}} t^{m+5}$  equals

$$2^{k+1} - 3(k-1)2^{k-1} - 2^k = 2^{k-1}(5 - 3k).$$

Thus for  $k \geq 2$ , the coefficient of  $e_{\theta} t^{|\theta|}$  is negative.

# THANK YOU!