The Möbius function of generalized subword order

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and

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Pattern order and generalized subword order

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Open Questions

Outline

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Let P be a finite poset (partially ordered set). The set of closed intervals of P is

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$$P = \{ [x, y] : x \le y \}.$$

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The Möbius function of P, μ : Int $P \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$, is defined recursively by

$$\sum_{z \in [x,y]} \mu(x,z) = \delta_{x,y} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x = y, \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

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The Möbius function is an important invariant of any poset.

$$A^* = \{w = w(1) \dots w(n) : w(i) \in A \text{ for all } i, n \ge 0\}.$$

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Theorem (Björner)

If |w| denotes the length of w and $v \leq w$ in A^* then

 $\mu(v, w) = (-1)^{|w| - |v|} (\# \text{ of normal embeddings of } v \text{ in } w).$

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Question (Wilf)

What is the Möbius function of \mathfrak{S} ?

Call $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}$ layered with layer lengths $\ell(\sigma) = (k, l, ...)$ if

$$\sigma = k(k-1)\ldots 1(k+l)(k+l-1)\ldots k+1\ldots$$

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Let $\mathfrak{L} \subset \mathfrak{S}$ be the induced order on layered permutations. **Ex.** We have that $\sigma = 321|4|65$ is layered with $\ell(\sigma) = (3, 1, 2)$. Also $\pi = 21|43$ is layered and $\pi \leq \sigma$ since $\ell(\pi) = (2, 2)$ and $(2, 0, 2) \leq (3, 1, 2)$ component-wise.

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Theorem (S. and Vatter)

Let P be a rooted forest. If $v \leq w$ in P^{*} then

$$\mu(\mathbf{v},\mathbf{w}) = \sum_{\eta} (-1)^{d(\eta)}$$

where the sum is over all normal embeddings η of v in w, and $d(\eta)$ is the number of indices i where w(i) covers $\eta(i)$.

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The smallest poset which is not a rooted forest is $\Lambda = a$. Theorem (conjecture: S. and Vatter, proof: Tomie) If $0 \le i \le j$, then in Λ^* we have $\mu(a^i, c^j) = \text{coefficient of } x^{j-i} \text{ in } T_{i+j}(x)$ where $T_n(x)$ is the nth Tchebyshev polynomial of the 1st kind.



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Theorem (McNamara and S.) Let P be a poset such that P_0 is locally finite. Then

$$\mu(v,w) = \sum_{\eta} \prod_{i=1}^{|w|} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \mu_0(\eta(i),w(i)) + 1 & \text{if } \eta(i) = 0 \text{ and } w(i-1) = w(i), \\ \mu_0(\eta(i),w(i)) & \text{else,} \end{array} \right.$$

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The proof uses discrete Morse theory and classical results about μ ,

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 $\mu(v, w) = (-1)^{|w|-|v|} (\# \text{ of normal embeddings of } v \text{ in } w).$

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Theorem (McNamara and S) Let P be a poset with $\operatorname{rk} P \leq 1$. If v < w then $\Delta(v, w)$ is homotopic to a wedge of $|\mu(v, w)|$ spheres all of dimension |w| - |v| - 2.

Outline

The Möbius function of ordinary subword order

Pattern order and generalized subword order

The Möbius function of generalized subword order

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Open Questions

1. What can be said about the Möbius function of other intervals in \mathfrak{S} (pattern order)?

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THANKS FOR LISTENING!