

Permutation groups and permutation patterns

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Permutations

We consider permutations of $\{1, \dots, n\}$, for some $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$.

A **permutation** of rank n is a bijective map on $\{1, \dots, n\}$.

We may consider a permutation $\pi \in S_n$ as a word of length n :

$$\pi = \pi_1 \pi_2 \dots \pi_n,$$

where $\pi_i = \pi(i)$.

Permutation patterns

$$\sigma = \sigma_1 \dots \sigma_\ell \in S_\ell$$

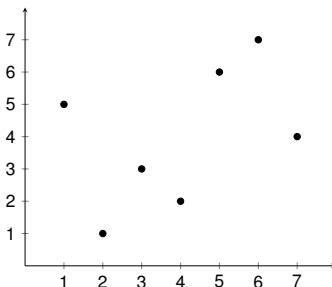
$$\tau = \tau_1 \dots \tau_n \in S_n$$

$$(\ell \leq n)$$

σ is a **pattern** of τ (or τ **involves** σ), in symbols, $\sigma \leq \tau$, if there exists a scattered subword $\tau_{i_1} \dots \tau_{i_\ell}$ of τ ($i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_\ell$) that is order-isomorphic to $\sigma_1 \dots \sigma_\ell$.

Example

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5 26 4
3 14 2
3142 \leq 5132674



Permutation patterns

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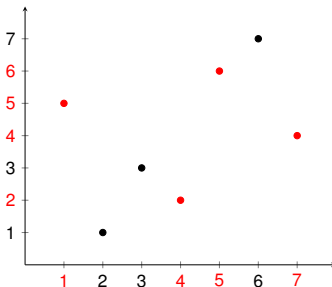
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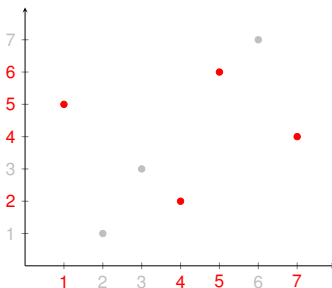
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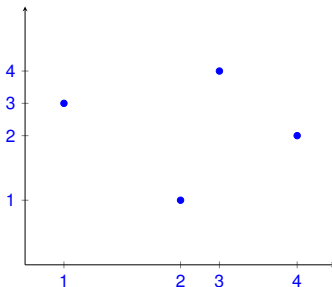
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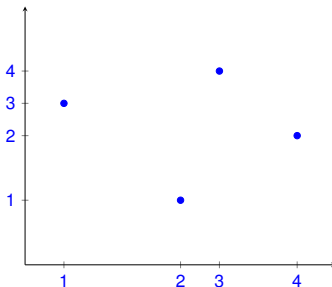
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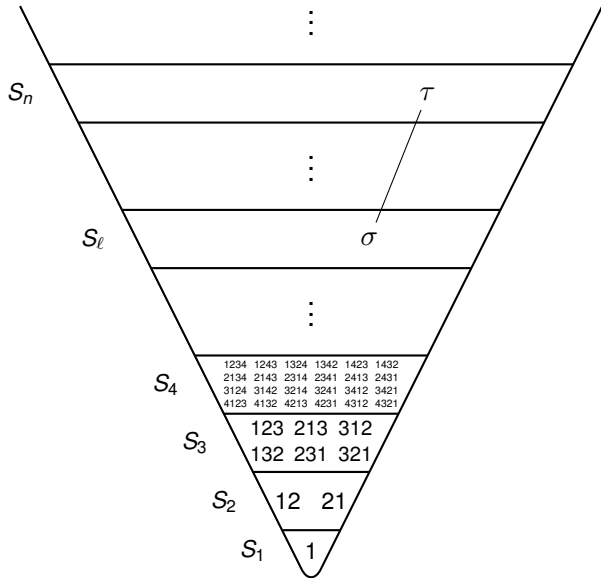
$$\sigma = \sigma_1 \dots \sigma_\ell \in S_\ell \qquad \tau = \tau_1 \dots \tau_\ell \in S_n \qquad (\ell \leq n)$$

σ is a **pattern** of τ (or τ **involves** σ), in symbols, $\sigma \leq \tau$, if there exists a scattered subword $\tau_{i_1} \dots \tau_{i_\ell}$ of τ ($i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_\ell$) that is order-isomorphic to $\sigma_1 \dots \sigma_\ell$.

τ **avoids** σ if $\sigma \not\leq \tau$.

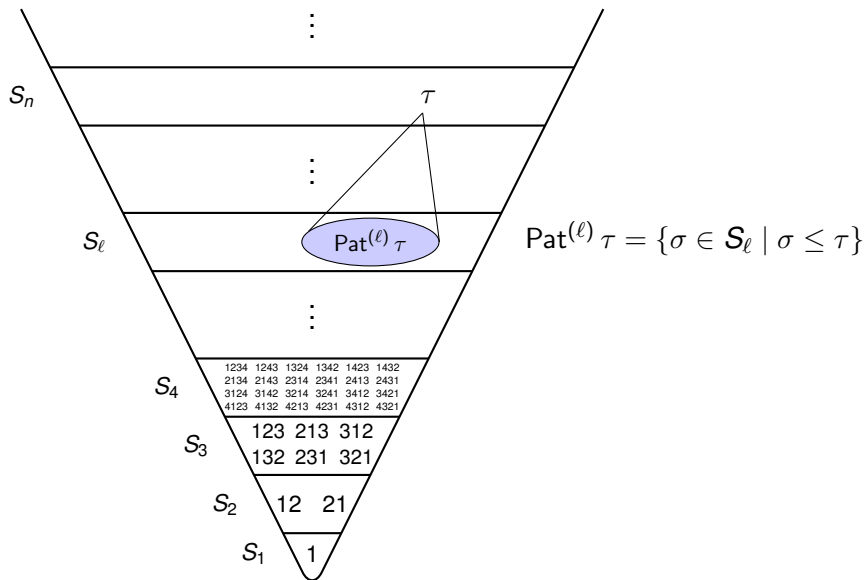
The pattern involvement relation \leq is a partial order on the set $\mathbb{P} := \bigcup_{n \geq 1} S_n$ of all finite permutations. Downward closed subsets of \mathbb{P} under \leq are called **permutation classes**.

Permutation patterns

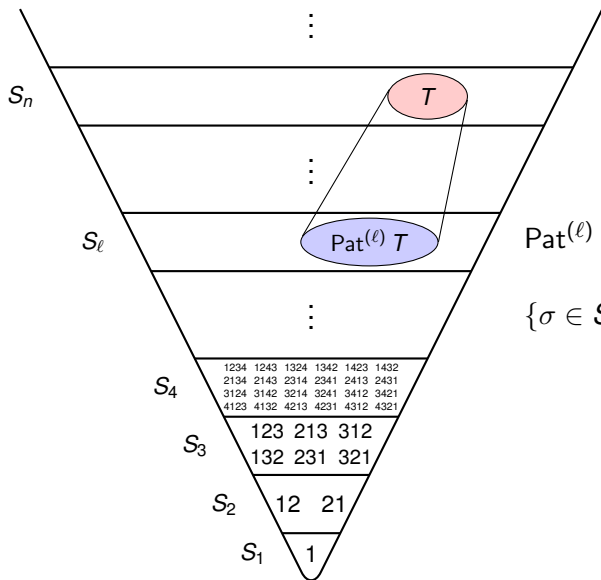


$$\sigma \leq \tau$$

Permutation patterns

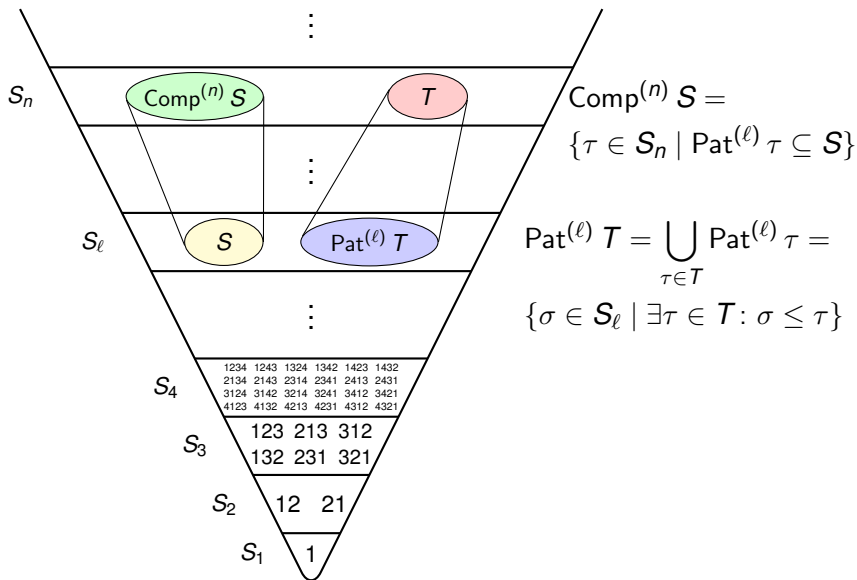


Permutation patterns



$$\text{Pat}^{(\ell)} T = \bigcup_{\tau \in T} \text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \tau = \{\sigma \in S_{\ell} \mid \exists \tau \in T : \sigma \leq \tau\}$$

Permutation patterns



Galois connection

The operators $\text{Pat}^{(\ell)}$ and $\text{Comp}^{(n)}$ constitute a monotone Galois connection between $\mathcal{P}(S_\ell)$ and $\mathcal{P}(S_n)$.

This is in fact the monotone Galois connection induced by the pattern avoidance relation $\not\subseteq$ between S_ℓ and S_n .

$$S \subseteq S_\ell, T \subseteq S_n \ (\ell \leq n)$$

$$\text{Comp}^{(n)} S := \{\tau \in S_n \mid \text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \tau \subseteq S\} = \{\tau \in S_n \mid \forall \sigma \in S_\ell \setminus S: \sigma \not\subseteq \tau\},$$

$$\text{Pat}^{(\ell)} T := \bigcup_{\tau \in T} \text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \tau = S_\ell \setminus \{\sigma \in S_\ell \mid \forall \tau \in T: \sigma \not\subseteq \tau\}.$$

Closures and kernels:

$$\text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \text{Comp}^{(n)} S \subseteq S,$$

$$T \subseteq \text{Comp}^{(n)} \text{Pat}^{(\ell)} T,$$

$$\text{Comp}^{(n)} S = \text{Comp}^{(n)} \text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \text{Comp}^{(n)} S,$$

$$\text{Pat}^{(\ell)} T = \text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \text{Comp}^{(n)} \text{Pat}^{(\ell)} T.$$

The operators $\text{Comp}^{(n)}$, $\text{Pat}^{(\ell)}$ have a “transitive” property.

For $\ell \leq m \leq n$, $S \subseteq S_\ell$, $T \subseteq S_n$:

$$\text{Comp}^{(n)} \text{Comp}^{(m)} S = \text{Comp}^{(n)} S$$

$$\text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \text{Pat}^{(m)} T = \text{Pat}^{(\ell)} T$$

For any $I \in \mathcal{P}_\ell(n)$, let $h_I: [\ell] \rightarrow I$ be the unique order-isomorphism from $([\ell], \leq)$ to (I, \leq) .

For $\tau \in S_n$, define $\tau_I: [\ell] \rightarrow [\ell]$ as

$$\tau_I := h_{\tau(I)}^{-1} \circ \tau \circ h_I.$$

The patterns of τ are precisely the permutations of the form τ_I for some $\emptyset \neq I \subseteq [n]$.

Lemma

For any $\pi, \tau \in S_n$ and $\emptyset \neq I \subseteq [n]$, we have $(\pi\tau)_I = \pi_{\tau(I)} \circ \tau_I$.

Proof.

$$(\pi\tau)_I = h_{(\pi\circ\tau)(I)}^{-1} \circ \pi \circ \tau \circ h_I = h_{\pi(\tau(I))}^{-1} \circ \pi \circ h_{\tau(I)} \circ h_{\tau(I)}^{-1} \circ \tau \circ h_I = \pi_{\tau(I)} \circ \tau_I. \quad \square$$

Proposition

If S is a subgroup of S_ℓ , then $\text{Comp}^{(n)} S$ is a subgroup of S_n .

Sketch of a proof.

Assume that $S \leq S_\ell$. Let $\pi, \tau \in \text{Comp}^{(n)} S$.

Thus $\text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \pi, \text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \tau \subseteq S$.

It holds that

$$\text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \pi^{-1} = (\text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \pi)^{-1} := \{\sigma^{-1} \mid \sigma \in \text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \pi\},$$

$$\text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \pi\tau \subseteq (\text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \pi)(\text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \tau) = \{\sigma\sigma' \mid \sigma \in \text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \pi, \sigma' \in \text{Pat}^{(\ell)} \tau\}.$$

Since S is a group, it contains the inverses and products of its members. Consequently, π^{-1} and $\pi\tau$ also belong to $\text{Comp}^{(n)} S$. Thus $\text{Comp}^{(n)} S$ is a group. □

The converse of the Proposition does not hold.

There even exist subgroups $H \leq S_n$ which are of the form $\text{Comp}^{(n)} S$ for some $S \subseteq S_\ell$ but there is no subgroup $G \leq S_\ell$ such that $H = \text{Comp}^{(n)} G$.

However, for $\ell \leq 3$ and $n \geq \ell$, it holds that for every $S \subseteq S_\ell$, $\text{Comp}^{(n)} S$ is a subgroup of S_n if and only if S is a subgroup of S_ℓ .

Recall the Galois connection Inv – Aut between permutations of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ and relations on $\{1, \dots, n\}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Inv } T &:= \{\rho \in \text{Rel}_n \mid \forall \pi \in T: \pi \triangleright \rho\} & T &\subseteq S_n, \\ \text{Aut } R &:= \{\pi \in S_n \mid \forall \rho \in R: \pi \triangleright \rho\} & R &\subseteq \text{Rel}_n. \end{aligned}$$

Proposition

Let $H \leq S_n$ and assume that $H = \text{Comp}^{(n)} S$ for some subset $S \subseteq S_\ell$. Then H is determined by its ℓ -ary invariant relations:

$$H = \text{Aut Inv } H = \text{Aut Inv}^{(\ell)} H.$$

In particular, the ℓ -orbits are enough to characterize the group:

$$H = \text{Aut}\{(h_I)^H \mid I \in \mathcal{P}_\ell(n)\}.$$

$$\mathbf{a}^H := \{\sigma(\mathbf{a}) \mid \sigma \in H\} = \{(\sigma(a_1), \dots, \sigma(a_\ell)) \mid \sigma \in H\}$$

The order-isomorphism $h_I: [\ell] \rightarrow I$ is an ℓ -tuple: $h_I \in [n]_{\neq}^\ell$.

$(h_I)^H$ is called an ℓ -orbit of H .

Theorem

Let $H \leq S_n$, and consider the ℓ -orbits $\rho_I := (h_I)^H$ for all $I \in \mathcal{P}_\ell(n)$. Then H is of the form $H = \text{Comp}^{(n)} S$ for some $S \subseteq S_\ell$ if and only if

- 1 $H = \text{Aut}\{\rho_I \mid I \in \mathcal{P}_\ell(n)\},$
- 2 the ρ_I satisfy the following property: for every $x \in [n]_{\neq}^n$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\forall I \in \mathcal{P}_\ell(n) \exists J \in \mathcal{P}_\ell(n): \text{red}(x[I]) \in \text{red}(\rho_J)) \\ \implies \forall I \in \mathcal{P}_\ell(n): x[I] \in \rho_I. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem

Let $H \leq S_n$. Then H is of the form $H = \text{Comp}^{(n)} G$ for some $G \leq S_\ell$ if and only if $H = \text{Aut } \rho$ for some k -ary ($k \leq \ell$) irreflexive relation ρ satisfying $\rho = \rho^{\vee\wedge}$.

$$\rho^\vee := \{h_l^{-1}(\mathbf{r}) \mid \mathbf{r} \in \rho, \text{Im } \mathbf{r} \subseteq l \in \mathcal{P}_\ell(n)\},$$

$$\sigma^\wedge := \{h_J(\mathbf{s}) \mid \mathbf{s} \in \sigma, J \in \mathcal{P}_\ell(n)\}.$$

Further details on the Galois connection $\text{Comp}^{(n)}\text{--Pat}^{(\ell)}$ and the related Galois connection between the subgroup lattices of S_ℓ and S_n in

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Acta Sci. Math. (Szeged) **83** (2017) 355–375.

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Permuting mechanisms and closed classes of permutations,
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Proc. DMTCS '99 and CATS '99 (Auckland), Aust. Comput. Sci. Commun.,
21, No. 3, Springer, Singapore, 1999, pp. 117–127.

M. D. ATKINSON, R. BEALS,
Permutation involvement and groups,
Q. J. Math. **52** (2001) 415–421.

Theorem (Atkinson, Beals)

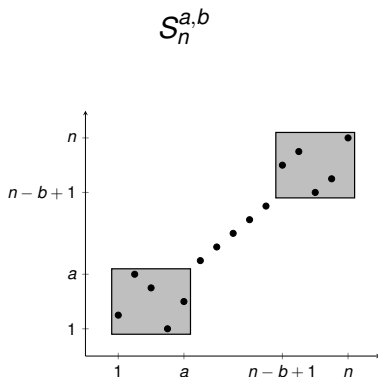
*If C is a permutation class in which every level $C^{(n)}$ is a permutation group, then the level sequence $C^{(1)}, C^{(2)}, \dots$ eventually coincides with one of the following **stable** families of groups:*

- ❶ *the groups $S_n^{a,b}$ for some fixed $a, b \in \mathbb{N}_+$,*
- ❷ *the natural cyclic groups Z_n ,*
- ❸ *the full symmetric groups S_n ,*
- ❹ *the groups $\langle G_n, \delta_n \rangle$, where $(G_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is one of the above families (with $a = b$ in (1)).*

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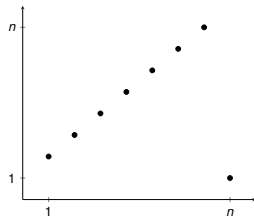


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$$\zeta_n = (1 \ 2 \ \dots \ n)$$

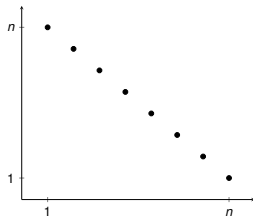


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$$\delta_n = n(n-1) \dots 1$$



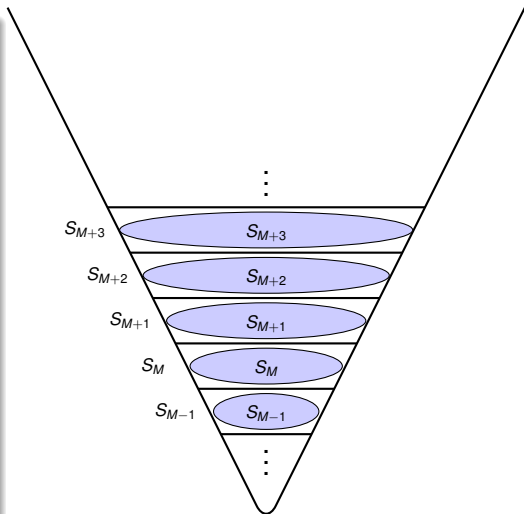
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Let C be a permutation class in which every level $C^{(n)}$ is a transitive group. Then, with the exception of at most two levels, one of the following holds.

- (1) $C^{(n)} = S_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$.
- (2) For some $M \in \mathbb{N}$, $C^{(n)} = S_n$ for $1 \leq n \leq M$, and $C^{(n)} = D_n$ for $n > M$.
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The exceptions, if any, may occur in the second and third cases and are of the following two possible types:

- (i) $C^{(M+1)} = A_{M+1}$ and $C^{(M+2)}$ is an anomalous group that is neither D_{M+2} nor Z_{M+2} , or
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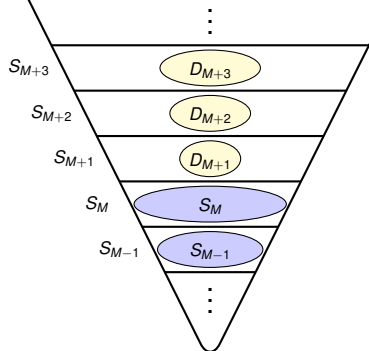
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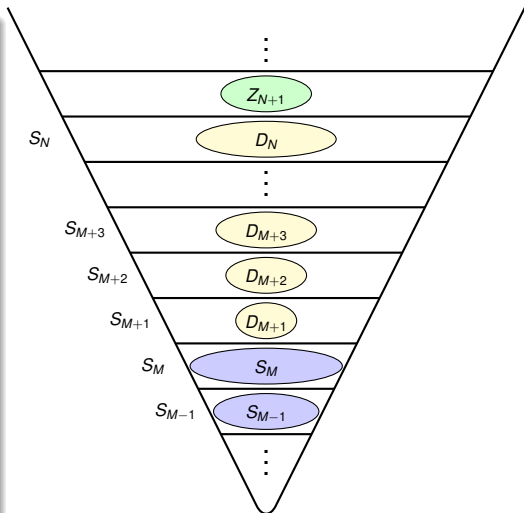
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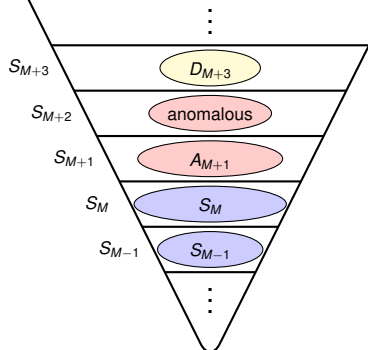
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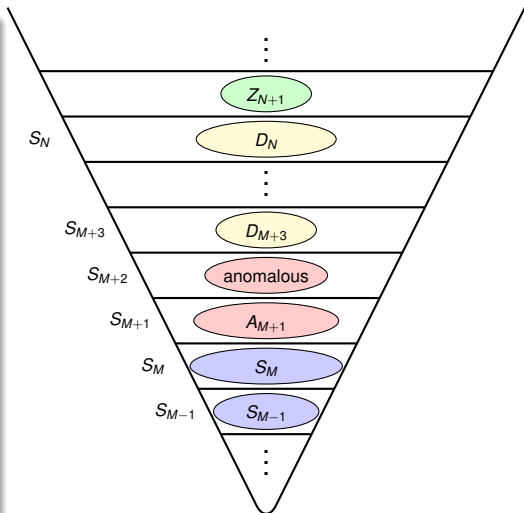
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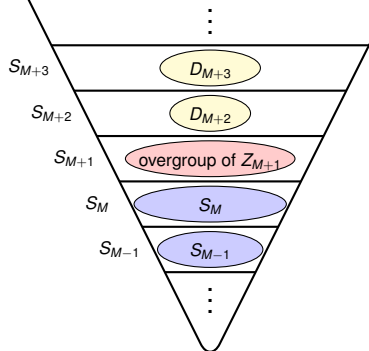
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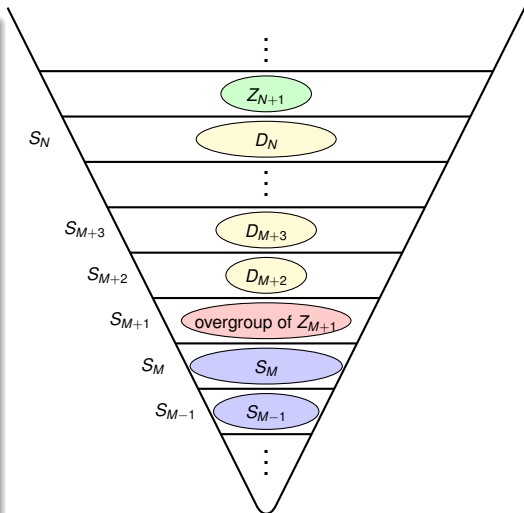
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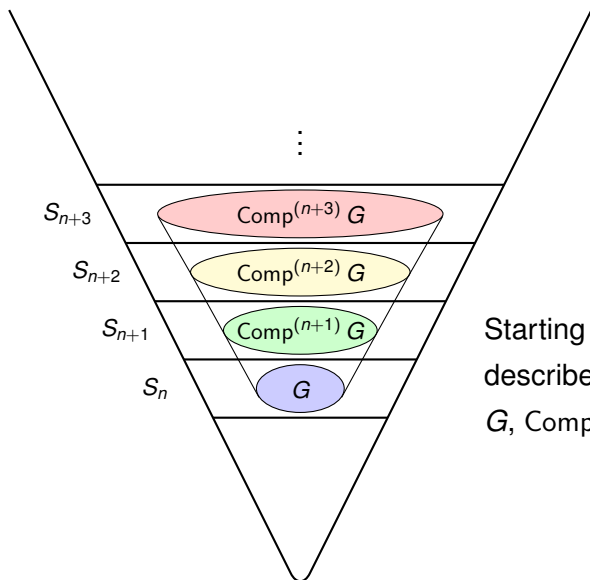
- (1) $C^{(n)} = S_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$.
- (2) For some $M \in \mathbb{N}$, $C^{(n)} = S_n$ for $1 \leq n \leq M$, and $C^{(n)} = D_n$ for $n > M$.
- (3) For some $M, N \in \mathbb{N}$ with $M \leq N$, $C^{(n)} = S_n$ for $1 \leq n \leq M$, $C^{(n)} = D_n$ for $M+1 \leq n \leq N$, and $C^{(n)} = Z_n$ for $n > N$.

The exceptions, if any, may occur in the second and third cases and are of the following two possible types:

- (i) $C^{(M+1)} = A_{M+1}$ and $C^{(M+2)}$ is an anomalous group that is neither D_{M+2} nor Z_{M+2} , or
- (ii) $C^{(M+1)}$ is a proper overgroup of Z_{M+1} but is not D_{M+1} .



Permutation groups arising from pattern avoidance

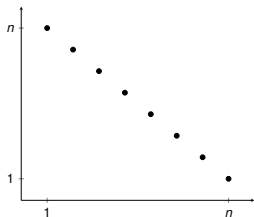


Starting from $G \leq S_n$,
describe the sequence
 $G, \text{Comp}^{(n+1)} G, \text{Comp}^{(n+2)} G, \dots$

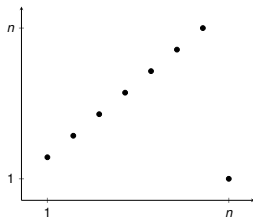
Roadmap

- $S_n, \langle \delta_n \rangle$, trivial
- A_n
- $\zeta_n \in G$ and $A_n \not\subseteq G$
- $\zeta_n \notin G$:
 - intransitive
 - transitive:
 - imprimitive
 - primitive

$$\delta_n = n(n-1) \dots 1$$



$$\zeta_n = (1\ 2\ \dots\ n)$$



Simple observations

Lemma

Let $n, m \in \mathbb{N}_+$ with $n \leq m$. Let $G \leq S_n$. Then $\delta_m \in \text{Comp}^{(m)} G$ if and only if $\delta_n \in G$.

Lemma

Let $G \leq S_n$.

- (a) The following statements are equivalent.
 - (i) $Z_n \leq G$.
 - (ii) $Z_{n+1} \leq \text{Comp}^{(n+1)} G$.
 - (iii) $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} G$ contains a permutation $\pi \in Z_{n+1} \setminus \{\iota_{n+1}\}$.
- (b) The following statements are equivalent.
 - (i) $D_n \leq G$.
 - (ii) $D_{n+1} \leq \text{Comp}^{(n+1)} G$.
 - (iii) $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} G$ contains a permutation $\pi \in D_{n+1} \setminus (Z_{n+1} \cup \{\delta_{n+1}\})$.

Theorem

The following statements hold for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$.

- (a) $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} S_n = S_{n+1}$.
- (b) *If $n \geq 2$, then $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} \{\iota_n\} = \{\iota_{n+1}\}$.*
- (c) *If $n \geq 3$, then $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} \langle \delta_n \rangle = \langle \delta_{n+1} \rangle$.*

Let Π be a partition of $[n]$.

$$S_{\Pi} := \{\pi \in S_n \mid \forall B \in \Pi: \pi(B) = B\}$$

Alternating groups

\mathcal{AE}_n – partition of $[n]$ into odd and even numbers

$S_{\mathcal{AE}_n}$ – permutations preserving blocks of \mathcal{AE}_n

$W_{\mathcal{AE}_n}$ – permutations interchanging blocks of \mathcal{AE}_n

A_n – even permutations

O_n – odd permutations

$$\Xi_n := (S_{\mathcal{AE}_n} \cap A_n) \cup (W_{\mathcal{AE}_n} \cap O_n)$$

Theorem

$$\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} A_n = \Xi_{n+1}$$

$$\text{Comp}^{(n+2)} A_n = \begin{cases} \langle \delta_{n+2} \rangle, & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\ D_{n+2}, & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ \{ \iota_{n+2} \}, & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{4}, \\ Z_{n+2}, & \text{if } n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Theorem

Let $G \leq S_n$, and assume that G contains the natural cycle ζ_n .

- (i) If $D_n \leq G$ and $G \notin \{S_n, A_n\}$, then $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} G = D_{n+1}$.*
- (ii) If $D_n \not\leq G$, then $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} G = Z_{n+1}$.*

Intransitive groups

Let $G \leq S_n$ be an intransitive group.

Let $\text{Orb } G$ be the set of orbits of G .

Then $G \leq S_{\text{Orb } G}$.

Moreover, $\text{Orb } G$ is the finest partition Π such that $G \leq S_\Pi$.

Intransitive groups

Let Π be a partition of $[n]$.

Define the partition Π' of $[n+1]$ as follows.

Let I_Π be the coarsest interval partition that refines Π .

$$I_\Pi^1 := \{B+1 \mid B \in I_\Pi, 1 \notin B\} \cup \{((1/I_\Pi)+1) \cup \{1\}\}$$

$$I_\Pi^{n+1} := \{B \mid B \in I_\Pi, n \notin B\} \cup \{n/I_\Pi \cup \{n+1\}\}$$

$$\Pi' := I_\Pi^1 \wedge I_\Pi^{n+1}$$

Example

$$\Pi = \{\{1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10\}, \\ \{4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14\}, \\ \{11\}\}$$

$$I_\Pi = \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \\ \{4, 5, 6\}, \\ \{7, 8, 9, 10\}, \\ \{11\}, \\ \{12, 13, 14\}\}$$

$$\Pi' = \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \\ \{4\}, \{5, 6\}, \\ \{7\}, \{8, 9, 10\}, \\ \{11\}, \\ \{12\}, \{13, 14, 15\}\}$$

Theorem

Let Π be a partition of $[n]$.

- (i) If $\delta_n \notin S_\Pi$, then $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} S_\Pi = S_{\Pi'}$.*
- (ii) If $\delta_n \in S_\Pi$, then $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} S_\Pi = S_{\Pi'} \cup \delta_{n+1} S_{\Pi'} = \langle S_{\Pi'}, \delta_{n+1} \rangle$; moreover, $\Pi' = \delta_{n+1}(\Pi')$.*

Theorem

Let Π be a partition of $[n]$.

- (i) Π' is an interval partition with no consecutive non-trivial blocks.*
- (ii) If Π is an interval partition with no consecutive non-trivial blocks and $\Pi = \delta_n(\Pi)$, then $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} \langle S_\Pi, \delta_n \rangle = \langle S_{\Pi'}, \delta_{n+1} \rangle$; moreover, $\Pi' = \delta_{n+1}(\Pi')$.*

Theorem

Let $G \leq S_n$ be an intransitive group, and let $\Pi := \text{Orb } G$. Let a and b be the largest numbers α and β , respectively, such that $S_n^{\alpha, \beta} \leq G$. Then for all $\ell \geq M_{a,b}(\Pi)$, it holds that $\text{Comp}^{(n+\ell)} G = S_{n+\ell}^{a,b}$ or $\text{Comp}^{(n+\ell)} G = \langle S_{n+\ell}^{a,b}, \delta_{n+\ell} \rangle$.

$$M(\Pi) := \max(\{|B| : B \in I_\Pi^- \} \cup \{1\})$$

$$M_{a,b}(\Pi) := \max(M(\Pi), |1/I_\Pi| - a + 1, |n/I_\Pi| - b + 1)$$

Let Π be a partition of $[n]$.

$$\text{Aut } \Pi := \{\pi \in S_n \mid \forall B \in \Pi: \pi(B) \in \Pi\}$$

Theorem

Let Π be a partition of $[n]$ with no trivial blocks. Then

$$\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} \text{Aut } \Pi = \begin{cases} \langle S_{\Pi'}, E_{\Pi} \rangle, & \text{if } \delta_n \notin \text{Aut } \Pi, \\ \langle S_{\Pi'}, E_{\Pi}, \delta_{n+1} \rangle, & \text{if } \delta_n \in \text{Aut } \Pi, \end{cases}$$

where E_{Π} is the set of permutations satisfying the following conditions:

- If $[1, \ell] \propto \Pi$ for some ℓ with $1 < \ell < n$, then $\nu_{\ell}^{(n+1)} \in E_{\Pi}$.
- If $[m, n] \propto \Pi$ for some m with $1 < m < n$, then $\lambda_{n-m+1}^{(n+1)} \in E_{\Pi}$.
- If $[1, n] \propto \Pi$, then $\zeta_{n+1} \in E_{\Pi}$.
- E_{Π} does not contain any other elements than the ones implied by the previous conditions.

Primitive groups

Theorem

Assume that $G \leq S_n$ is a primitive group such that $\zeta_n \notin G$ and $A_n \not\leq G$.

(i) (a) $n = 6$

| G | $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} G$ |
|---|--|
| $\langle (1\ 2\ 3\ 4), (3\ 4\ 5\ 6) \rangle$ | $\{1234567, 2154376, 6734512, 7654321\}$ |
| $\langle (1\ 2\ 3\ 4), (2\ 3\ 4\ 5\ 6) \rangle$ | $\{1234567, 1276543, 1543276, 1567234\}$ |
| $\langle (1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5), (3\ 4\ 5\ 6) \rangle$ | $\{1234567, 2165437, 4561237, 5432167\}$ |
| $\langle (1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5), (1\ 3\ 4)(2\ 5\ 6) \rangle$ | $\langle \nu_5^{(7)} \rangle$ |
| $\langle (2\ 3\ 4\ 5\ 6), (1\ 2\ 5)(3\ 4\ 6) \rangle$ | $\langle \lambda_5^{(7)} \rangle$ |

(b) $n \neq 6$

| G | $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} G$ | G | $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} G$ |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| $D_{[1, n-1]} \leq G$ | $\langle \nu_{n-1}^{(n+1)} \rangle$ | $D_{[2, n]} \leq G$ | $\langle \lambda_{n-1}^{(n+1)} \rangle$ |
| $D_{[1, n-2]} \leq G$ | $\langle \nu_{n-2}^{(n+1)} \rangle$ | $D_{[3, n]} \leq G$ | $\langle \lambda_{n-2}^{(n+1)} \rangle$ |

(c) Otherwise $\text{Comp}^{(n+1)} G \leq \langle \delta_{n+1} \rangle$.

(ii) $\text{Comp}^{(n+2)} G \leq \langle \delta_{n+2} \rangle$.

Corollary

Let $G \leq S_n$ and let m be the smallest number i such that $\text{Comp}^{(n+i)} G$ belongs to one of the stable families of groups.

- ❶ *If G is intransitive, then $m \leq n - 1$.*
- ❷ *If G is imprimitive and $\zeta_n \notin G$, then $m \leq p$, where p is the largest proper divisor of n .*
- ❸ *Otherwise $m \leq 2$.*

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Thank you for your attention.