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# Parabolic Subgroups and the Tableau Criterion

Ex. 1.  $n=3$  Is  $213 < 312$  in Bruhat order?  $x=213$ ,  $y=312$

note: For  $S_n \pi = abc\dots$ ,  $D_R(\pi) = \{i \mid \pi(i) > \pi(i+1)\}$

1. Find  $D_R(x) = \{1\}$  (index where  $x$  decreases)

2. Take the first  $i$  digits of  $x$  and  $y$ , in this case 1, and order/sort them in increasing order. (2 3)  $z = x_{i,1}$ ,  $3 = y_{i,1}$

3. Check if  $2 < 3$ . If yes, then  $213 < 312$  in Bruhat  $\checkmark$

Ex. 2  $n=9$  Is  $x = 368475912 < y = 694287531$ ?

1. Find  $D_R(x) = \{3, 5, 7\}$

2. Take the first  $i$  digits of  $x$  and  $y$ , in this case 7, and order/sort them in increasing order:

$3456789 < 2456789$  (fails here, but keep going for example)

order first 5:  $34678 < 24689$

order first 3: ~~3456789~~  $368 < 469$

3. Check it ~~3456789~~, no since  $372$ , so  $345$   
 $368 < 469$

Ex. 3  $n=7$   $\pi_1 = 4217653$   $\pi_2 = 5374612$

1.  ~~$D_R(\pi_1) = \{1, 2, 4, 5, 6\}$~~

2. take the first  $i$  digits of  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$ , 6, and order them in increasing order.

6:  $124567 < 134567$

5:  $12467 < 34567$

4:  $1247 < 3457$  ~~no~~ fails here!

so  $\pi_1 = 4217653 < \pi_2 = 5374612$

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Ex 4. Is  $\pi_1 = 21435 < \pi_2 = 54321$  ?

1.  $DR(\pi_2) = \{1, 3\}$

2. Sort the first 3 and then the other 2 digits of  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$ .

$124 < 345$

$245$

3. compare each value, it is less than for every number, so we can say  $\pi_1 < \pi_2$  in Bruhat.

At the extremes, for  $n = 5$ , we can see that:

$e = 12345$  has no descents

$w_0 = 54321$  has  $DR(w_0) = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  and maximal descents

By Picture / Intuitively  $l(w) = \# \text{inversions in } (w) = \{ (i, j) / \pi(i) > \pi(j) \}$

by definition of Bruhat  $v < w \Rightarrow l(v) < l(w)$

Parabolic subgroups and Quotients

For  $J \subseteq S$ , let  $W_J$  be the subgroup of  $W$  generated by the set  $J$ . Subgroups of  $(W, S)$  of this form are called parabolic.

Prop 2.4.1 (i)  $(W_J, J)$  is a coxeter group.

(ii)  $l_J(w) = l(w)$ , for all  $w \in W_J$ .

(iii)  $W_I \cap W_J = W_{I \cap J}$ .

(iv)  $\langle W_I \cup W_J \rangle = W_{I \cup J}$ .

(v)  $W_I = W_J \Rightarrow I = J$ .

Consequently, parabolic subgroups form a sublattice of  $W$ 's subgroup lattice that is isomorphic to the boolean lattice  $2^S$ . The coxeter diagram for  $(W_J, J)$  is obtained by removing all nodes in  $S \setminus J$  and their incident edges from the diagram for  $(W, S)$ .



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Parabolic subgroups of  $S_n$  are often called Young Subgroups.

For notational simplicity, describe only maximal parabolic subgroups and their quotients. All permutations  $x \in S_n$  will be denoted in complete notation as  $x = x_1 x_2 \dots x_n$  where  $x_i = x(i)$ . For  $k \in [n-1]$ , let

$$S_n^{(k)} = \{x \in S_n \mid x_1 < \dots < x_k \text{ and } x_{k+1} < \dots < x_n\}$$

From convention of letting  $s_i$  denote the adjacent transpositions  $(i, i+1)$ ,

Lemma 2.4.7 Let  $J = S \setminus \{s_k\}$ . Then,  $(S_n)_J = \text{stab}(k) \cong S_k \times S_{n-k}$  and  $(S_n)^J = S_n^{(k)}$ .

What does this mean? The reason why Parabolic subgroups are special is that you can read the result from the coverer graph

Ex ~~Example~~  $S_4$  let  $k=2$   $(S_4)_J = \{s_1, s_3\}$

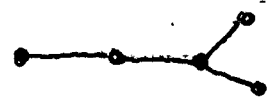


delete vertex corr to  $s_k$  and look at resulting graph

$\bullet s_2 \quad \bullet s_2 = S_2 \times S_2$

Thus  $S_4 \setminus \{s_2\} = S_2 \times S_2$

Ex ~~Example~~  $D_5$ :



$(D_5)_J = S_5$

If you understand subgroups well enough, you understand the whole group

Proposition 2.4.8 For  $x, y \in S_n^{(k)}$ , the following are equivalent

- (i)  $x \leq y$
- (ii)  $x_i \leq y_i$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .
- (iii)  $x_i \leq y_i$ , for  $k+1 \leq i \leq n$ .

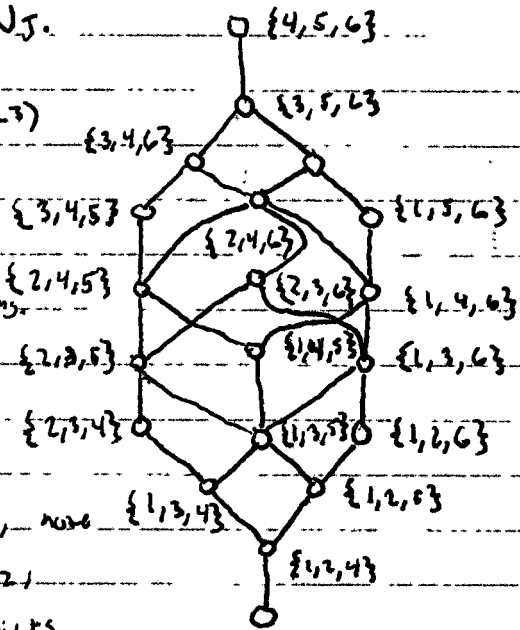
~~Proposition~~ ~~Example~~

An element  $x \in S_n^{(k)}$  is determined by the set  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k\}$ , so we can make the identifications  $S_n^{(k)} \leftrightarrow \binom{[n]}{k}$ . Thus proposition 2.4.8 shows that the maximal parabolic ~~quotient~~  $S_n^{(k)}$  under Bruhat order can be identified with the family of  $k$ -subsets of  $[n]$  under the product of  $k$ -tuples.

# Bruhat Order on Quotients

Much of the ~~strong~~ structure found in Bruhat order on all of  $W$  is ~~inherited~~ inherited when restricting to the sub poset ~~denoted~~  $W^J$ . This can to some extent be understood as ~~the~~ transfer of structure via the projection map defined as follows. Let  $J \subseteq S$ , define a mapping  $P^J: W \rightarrow W^J$ , by  $P^J(w) = w^J$ . In other words, the projection map  $P^J$  sends  $w$  to its minimal coset representative modulo  $W_J$ .

Figure 2.7 The Bruhat Poset  $A_5^{(3)}$



Proposition 2.5.1 The map  $P^J$  is order-preserving.

Proof: Suppose that  $w_1 < w_2$  in  $W$ .

We will show that  $w_1^J < w_2^J$  by

induction on  $l(w_2)$ . To begin with, note

that  $w_1^J < w_1 < w_2$ . Hence, if  $w_2^J = w_2$ ,

we are done. If not, then there exists

some  $s \in J$  such that  $w_2 s < w_2$ . The relation

$w_1^J < w_2$  can be lifted to  $w_1^J < w_2 s$ .

By induction,  $w_1^J < (w_2 s)^J = w_2^J$ .

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Corollary 2.6.2 Let  $u, w \in W$ . Then,  $u \leq w \iff P^{S \setminus \{k\}}(u) \leq P^{S \setminus \{k\}}(w)$ ,  $\forall s \in D_R(u)$   
 If  $(U, S)$  is finite  $u \leq w \iff P^{S \setminus \{k\}}(w_0 u) \leq P^{S \setminus \{k\}}(w_0 w)$ ,  $\forall k \in S \setminus D_R(w)$

We now return to the topic of describing Bruhat order for symmetric groups.

Theorem 2.6.3 (Tableau Criterion) For  $x, y \in S_n$ , let  $x_{i,k}$  be the  $i$ -th element in the increasing rearrangement of  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$ , and similarly define  $y_{i,k}$ . Then, the following are equivalent:

- (i)  $x \leq y$ .
- (ii)  $x_{i,k} \leq y_{i,k}$ , for all  $k \in D_R(x)$  and  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .
- (iii)  $x_{i,k} \leq y_{i,k}$ , for all  $k \in [n-1] \setminus D_R(y)$  and  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .

Proof: Condition (ii) can be restated as saying that  $P^{S \setminus \{k\}}(x) \leq P^{S \setminus \{k\}}(y)$  for all  $k \in D_R(x)$ . Similarly condition (iii) says that  $P^{S \setminus \{k\}}(w_0 y) \leq P^{S \setminus \{k\}}(w_0 x)$  for all  $k \in D_R(w_0 y)$ . The result therefore follows from Corollary 2.6.2.

ex. Check whether  $x = 3684759212 < y = 694287531$ . Using version (iii)

1. Get  $D_R(y) = \{2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$ , then take  $[8] \setminus D_R(y) = \{1, 4\}$
2. arrange first 4 then first 1  
 $3468 < 2469$   
 $3 < 6$
3. Evaluate, since  $342 < x4y$