

The principal Möbius function of permutations with opposing adjacencies

David Marchant Joint work with Robert Brignall

Permutation Patterns 2018 Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.

13th July 2018



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If
$$\pi \neq 1$$
, then $\sum_{[1,\pi]} \mu[\lambda] = 0$.

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We have opposing adjacencies when we have an interval isomorphic to 12 (an *up-adjacency*), and an interval isomorphic to 21 (a *down-adjacency*).





If a permutation π has opposing adjacencies, then $\mu[\pi] = 0$.

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- Construct three permutations:
 - λ , where we replace the left adjacency (of the two chosen) with a single point.
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- Use these permutations to split the poset into five (overlapping) subsets, then use inclusion-exclusion.













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$$\mu[\pi] = -\sum_{\tau \in [1,\pi)} \mu[\tau] = -\sum_{\tau \in L} \mu[\tau] - \sum_{\tau \in R} \mu[\tau] - \sum_{\tau \in T} \mu[\tau] + \sum_{\tau \in G} \mu[\tau] + \sum_{\tau \in X} \mu[\tau]$$





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• $L = [1, \lambda], R = [1, \rho]$, and $G = [1, \gamma]$ are closed intervals.

• Every permutation in $T = [1, \pi) \setminus (L \cup R)$ or $X = (L \cap R) \setminus G$ has an opposing adjacency.



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And taking $k = 2, \ldots, 9$, we obtain:

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Proportion of permutations where $\mu[\pi] = 0$

What about an upper bound?



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Length	Z(n)	Length	Z(n)
3	0.3333	8	0.5942
4	0.4167	9	0.6019
5	0.4833	10	0.6040
6	0.5361	11	0.6034
7	0.5742	12	0.6021

Figures were independently calculated by Jason Smith and by M.

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Conjecture

The proportion of permutations that have principal Möbius function value equal to zero is bounded above by $Z(10) \approx 0.6040$.

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- An upper bound for Z(n).
- Does a limit exist for *Z*(*n*)?
- And if a limit does exist, what is it?
- What about permutations that have multiple non-opposing adjacencies?
- We know that some permutations with multiple non-opposing adjacencies have a non-zero principal Möbius function value, so we need a criteria to exclude these.



Thank you!

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