

# Sublattices of associahedra and permutohedra

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TACL 2011, Marseilles, July 29 2011

# $A(4)$ : the associahedron on $4 + 1$ letters

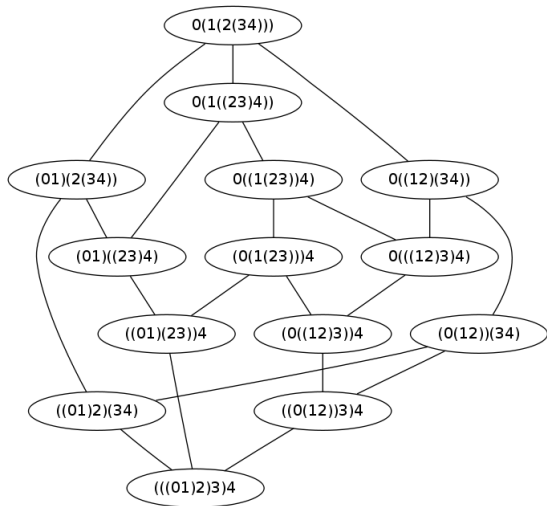
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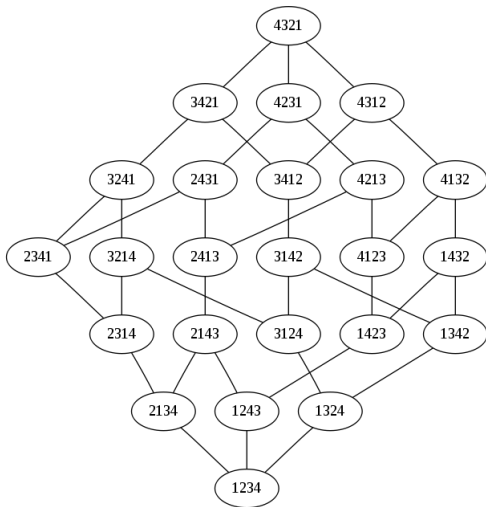
Geyer's  
Conjecture

Non-  
embeddable  
bounded  
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Non-  
embeddability  
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# $P(4)$ : the permutohedron on 4 letters



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**Permutohedra:** no nontrivial lattice identity known to hold –  
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# The permutohedron on $n$ letters

These objects can be defined in many equivalent ways:

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- The **permutohedron of  $n$  letters** –  $P(n)$  – is defined as:

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Theorem (Guilbaud and Rosenstiehl 1963)

The poset  $P(n)$  is a lattice, for each positive integer  $n$ .

# $P(n)$ as the lattice of all permutations of $[n]$

- For  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ , the **inversion set**

$$\text{Inv}(\sigma) := \{(i, j) \in \mathcal{J}_n \mid \sigma^{-1}(i) > \sigma^{-1}(j)\}$$

is clopen.

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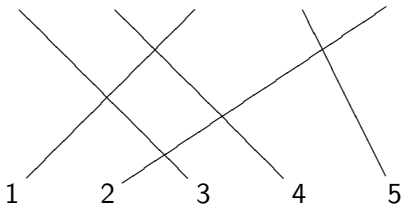
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$$\text{Inv}(34152) = \{(1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5)\}$$

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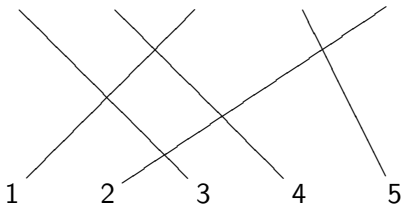
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- Every clopen set has the form  $\text{Inv}(\sigma)$ ,

for a (unique)  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ .

## Theorem

$$\text{Inv}(\sigma) \subseteq \text{Inv}(\tau)$$

*if and only if*

*there is a length-increasing path from  $\sigma$  to  $\tau$*

*in the Cayley graph of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ .*

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- $A(n)$ , the **associahedron** (Tamari 1962) of index  $n$ :  
all bracketings on  $n + 1$  letters ordered  
together with the reflexive and transitive closure of

$$(xy)z < x(yz).$$

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- Say that  $\mathbf{a} \subseteq \mathcal{J}_n$  is a **left subset** if

$$i < j < k \text{ and } (i, k) \in \mathbf{a} \text{ implies that } (i, j) \in \mathbf{a}.$$

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Theorem (mostly Björner and Wachs 1997)

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# $P(3)$ and $A(3)$

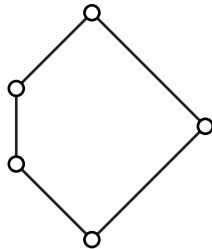
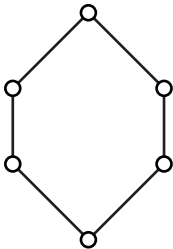
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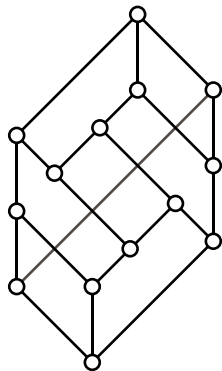
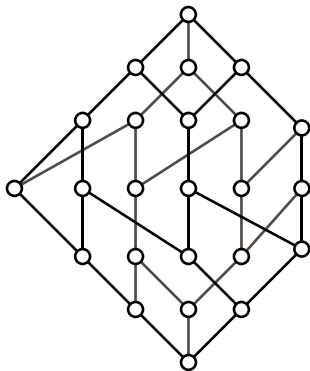
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## Problem (Grätzer 1971)

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- Still unknown whether

$$\{ L \mid \exists n \text{ s.t. } L \hookrightarrow A(n) \}$$

is **decidable**.

# Bounded homomorphic images of free lattices

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- $L$  (finite) is **bounded** if the projection map

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- **Join-dependency relation  $\mathbf{D}$** : for  $p, q \in \text{Ji}(L)$  and  $p \neq q$ ,

$$p \mathbf{D} q \text{ if } \exists x \text{ s.t. } p \leq q \vee x \text{ and } p \not\leq q_* \vee x.$$

$L$  is *lower bounded* if  $\mathbf{D}$  has no cycle.

$L$  is *bounded* if  $L$  and  $L^{\text{op}}$  are both lower bounded.

# The easiest examples

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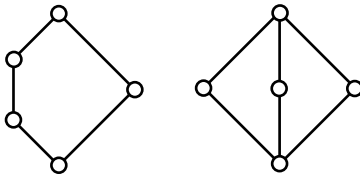
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- Caspard's result was extended to all **finite Coxeter lattices** by Caspard, Le Conte de Poly-Barbut, and Morvan (2004).
- It follows that **every** quotient of a **sublattice of a permutohedron (associahedron)** is bounded.

# Geyer's Conjecture

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## Conjecture (Geyer 1994)

Every finite bounded lattice can be embedded (as a sublattice) into some associahedron  $A(n)$ .

# Geyer's Conjecture

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- The following conjecture is natural:

## Conjecture (Geyer 1994)

Every finite bounded lattice can be embedded (as a sublattice) into some associahedron  $A(n)$ .

- Conjecture easy to verify for finite **distributive** lattices.

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- Strangely, a similar conjecture for **permutohedra** was not stated at that time.

# The lattices $B(m, n)$

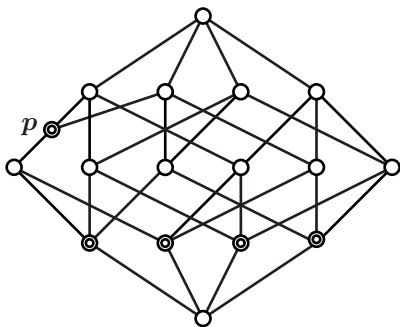
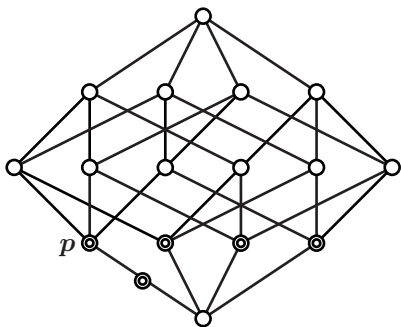
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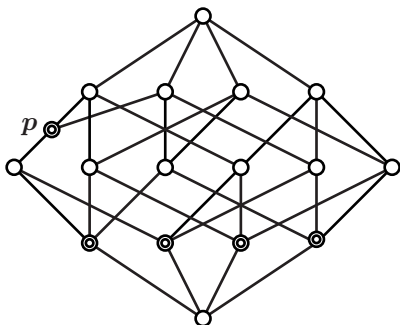
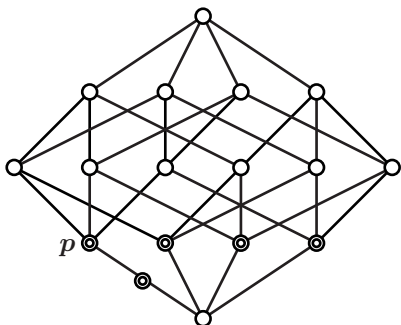
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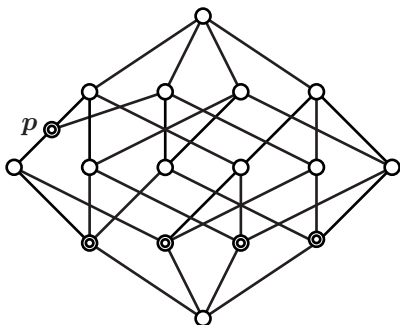
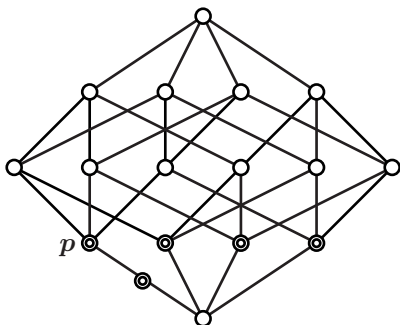
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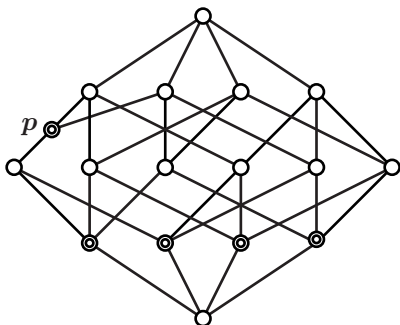
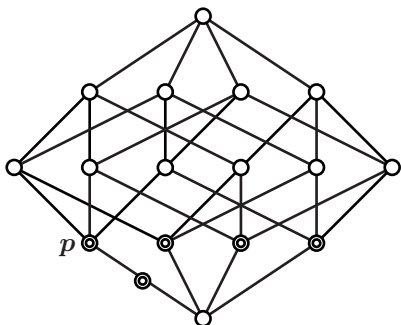
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- All lattices  $B(m, n)$  are **bounded**.
- The lattices  $B(m, n)$  and  $B(n, m)$  are opposite (“dual”).

# $B(m, n)$ , $A(n)$ and $P(n)$

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- $B(m, n)$  can be embedded into an associahedron iff  $\min\{m, n\} \leq 1$ .

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In particular:

neither  $B(2, 2)$  nor  $P(4)$  can be embedded into any  $A(n)$ .

# Polarized measures:

## duality for finite lattices at work

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$$L \xrightarrow{\ell} A(n)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{Ji}(A(n)) \simeq \mathcal{J}_n & \\ & \swarrow \mu & \downarrow \\ L & \xleftarrow{\ell} & A(n) \end{array}$$

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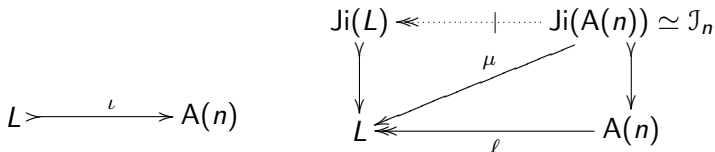
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**Polarized measure** (satisfying the  $V$ -condition):

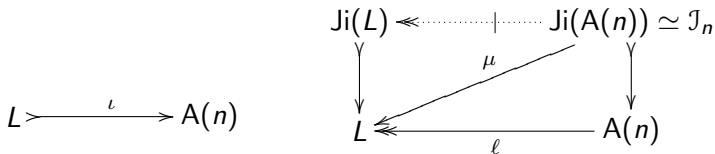
$$\mu : \mathcal{J}_n \longrightarrow L ,$$

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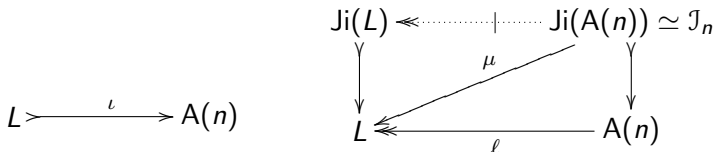
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- 2  $\mu(i, k) \leq \mu(i, j) \vee \mu(j, k)$ ,
- 3  $\mu(i, j) \leq \mathbf{a} \vee \mathbf{b}$  implies

$$i = z_0 < z_1 < \cdots < z_m = j \quad \text{and}$$

$$\text{either } \mu(z_i, z_{i+1}) \leq \mathbf{a} \text{ or } \mu(z_i, z_{i+1}) \leq \mathbf{b},$$

for each  $i < m$ .

# Vegetables and Gazpachos

Associahedra,  
permutohedra

- $B(2, 2) \not\leftrightarrow A(n)$  gives rise to a separating Horn formula.

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- $B(2, 2) \not\leftrightarrow A(n)$  gives rise to a separating Horn formula.
- The separating Horn-formula is equivalent to  $(\text{Veg}_1)$ :

$$(a_1 \vee a_2 \vee b_1) \wedge (a_1 \vee a_2 \vee b_2) \leq \bigvee_{i,j \in \{1,2\}} ((a_i \vee \tilde{b}_j) \wedge (a_1 \vee a_2 \vee b_{3-j})),$$

$$\text{with } \tilde{b}_j := (b_1 \vee b_2) \wedge (a_1 \vee a_2 \vee b_j),$$

satisfied by all  $A(n)$  but not by  $B(2, 2)$ .

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$$(a_1 \vee b_1) \wedge (a_2 \vee b_2) \leq \bigvee_{i=1}^2 \bigwedge_{j=1}^2 (a_i \vee \tilde{b}_j),$$

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is satisfied by all  $A(n)$  but not by  $P(4)$ .

# ... and permutohedra?

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## Theorem (S+W 2011)

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- A most useful tool for proving this is the notion of  **$U$ -polarized measure**.
- For a finite lattice  $L$ , certain  $U$ -polarized measures with values in  $L$  correspond to lattice embeddings of  $L$  into certain subdirectly irreducible quotients  $P_U(n)$  of  $P(n)$  (see next page).

# Cambrian lattices of type A

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- For  $U \subseteq [n]$ , say that  $\mathbf{a} \subseteq \mathcal{J}_n$  is a  **$U$ -subset** if

$$i < j < k \text{ and } (i, k) \in \mathbf{a} \text{ implies } \begin{cases} (i, j) \in \mathbf{a}, & j \in U, \\ (j, k) \in \mathbf{a}, & j \notin U. \end{cases}$$

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- The  $P_U(n)$  are exactly the quotient lattices  $P(n)/\theta$ , where  $\theta$  is a **minimal meet-irreducible congruence** of  $P(n)$ . They are **retracts** of  $P(n)$ .

# Cambrian lattices of type A

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- In particular,  $A(n) = P_{[n]}(n)$ . Also,  $P_U(n)$  and  $P_{[n] \setminus U}(n)$  are dual.
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- The  $P_U(n)$  are exactly the quotient lattices  $P(n)/\theta$ , where  $\theta$  is a **minimal meet-irreducible congruence** of  $P(n)$ . They are **retracts** of  $P(n)$ .
- $P(n)$  is a **subdirect product** of all  $P_U(n)$  for  $U \subseteq [n]$ .

# $A(4)$ and $P_{\{3\}}(4)$

None of the Cambrian lattices  $P_{\{3\}}(4)$  and its dual,  $P_{\{2\}}(4)$ , can be embedded into any  $A(n)$ .

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permutohedra

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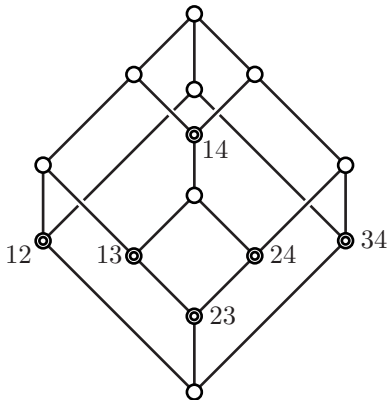
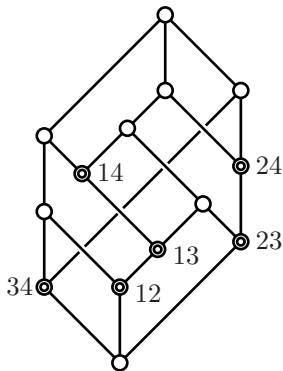
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# Can $B(3, 3) \not\rightarrow P(n)$ be done via an identity?

- Negative embeddability results for the  $A(n)$  lead to discover *separating identities*.

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## Theorem (S+W 2011)

$B(3, 3)$  is a homomorphic image of a sublattice of  $P(12)$ .

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## Theorem (S+W 2011)

$B(3, 3)$  is a homomorphic image of a sublattice of  $P(12)$ .

- We prove that a certain  $P_U(12)$  does not satisfy the **splitting identity** of  $B(3, 3)$ :

$$\bigwedge_{1 \leq j \leq 3} (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3 \vee y_j) \leq \bigvee_{1 \leq i \leq 3} (\hat{x}_i \wedge \hat{y}_1 \wedge \hat{y}_2 \wedge \hat{y}_3),$$

where  $x := x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3$ ,  $y := y_1 \vee y_2 \vee y_3$ ,

$\hat{x}_1 := x_2 \vee x_3 \vee y$ ,  $\hat{y}_1 := y_2 \vee y_3 \vee x$ , *etc.*

# No separating identity for $B(3, 3)$ (cont'd)

- Relevant values of the  $x_i, y_i$  obtained with help of the **Prover9 -Mace4** program (yields  $U = \{5, 6, 9, 10, 11\}$ ).

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- Verified above in the case of  $B(3, 3)$  (with  $P(12)$ ).