

Sign Variations and Descents

Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

Welcome!

Thanks for coming to my poster talk! You can either go through the slides like “normal”, or jump around using the links in green (ex: [Go to directory](#)) or in the bottom-right corner of every slide .

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask Aram!

▶ Start with the directory

▶ Start with the main result!

arXiv: [2008.03794](#)

Link to directory



Sign Variations and Descents

Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

Directory of contents

Background:

- Sign Vectors
- Real Projective Space
- Projective Sign Vectors
- Order complex
- f -vector
- Partitionable
- Coxeter Groups
- Descents
- Sign Variations

Results:

- Main Result
- Restrictions

Come back at any time

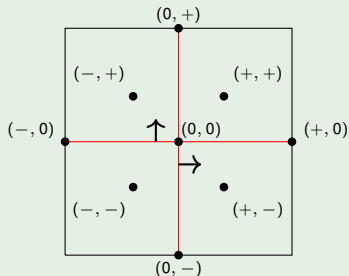
Sign Variations and Descents

Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

Sign vectors

- A *sign vector* is a vector in $\mathcal{V}_n = \{+, 0, -\}^n$ which give the sign of a generic point in \mathbb{R}^n .

Example



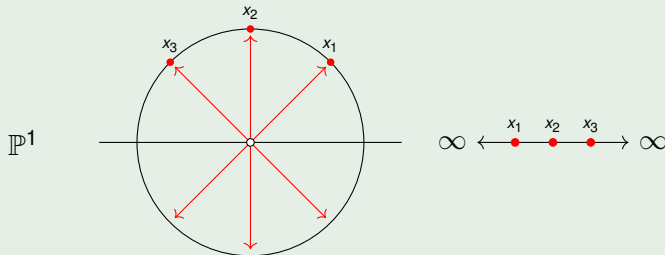
Sign Variations and Descents

Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

Real Projective Space

- *Real Projective space* \mathbb{P}^n is quotient of $\mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}$ under equivalence relation $x \sim \lambda x$ for $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$.

Example



Sign Variations and Descents

Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

Projective Sign Vectors

- A *projective sign vector* is an equivalence class of **sign vectors** in **projective space** where $\omega \sim \omega'$ iff $\omega = \omega'$ or $\omega = -\omega'$.

$\mathcal{PV}_n := (\mathcal{V}_n \setminus \{0\}) / \sim \cong \{\omega \in \mathcal{V}_n : \text{First non-zero entry of } \omega \text{ is } +\}$.

- Let P_n denote the poset $(\mathcal{PV}_n, <)$ where for $\omega, \omega' \in \mathcal{PV}_n$:

$$\omega' \leq \omega \iff \pm\omega' \subseteq \omega$$

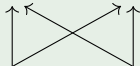
Example

$\mathcal{V}_2 = \{(+, +), (+, 0), (+, -),$
 $(0, +), (0, 0), (0, -),$
 $(-, +), (-, 0), (-, -)\}$

↓

$\mathcal{PV}_2 = \{(+, +), (+, 0), (+, -), (0, +)\}$

$(+, +)$ $(+, -)$



$(+, 0)$ $(0, +) \sim (-, 0)$

P_2

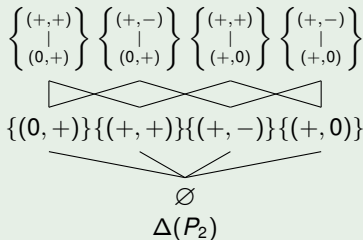
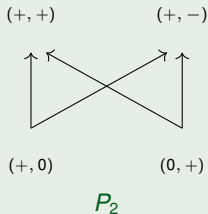
Sign Variations and Descents

Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

Order complex (of a poset)

- **Simplicial complex** Δ - A collection of sets s.t. $\sigma \in \Delta$ and $\tau \subseteq \sigma$ implies $\tau \in \Delta$.
- The sets are called **faces**. Maximal sets are called **facets**.
- **Order complex** $\Delta(P)$ of a poset P - Simplicial complex where faces are chains in P .

Example



Sign Variations and Descents

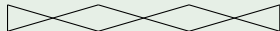
Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

f -vector and h -vector

- Δ a d -dim **simplicial complex**.
- f -vector is the vector $f(\Delta) = (f_{-1}, f_0, f_1, \dots, f_d)$ where $f_i =$ number of i -dim **faces**.
- h -vector is the vector $h(\Delta) = (h_0, h_1, \dots, h_{d+1})$ where $h_k = \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^{k-i} \binom{d-i}{k-i} f_{i-1}$.

Example

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} (+, +) \\ | \\ (0, +) \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} (+, -) \\ | \\ (0, +) \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} (+, +) \\ | \\ (+, 0) \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} (+, -) \\ | \\ (+, 0) \end{array} \right\}$$



$$\{(0, +)\} \{(+, +)\} \{(+, -)\} \{(+, 0)\}$$



$$\emptyset \\ \Delta(P_2)$$

$$f(\Delta(P_2)) = (1, 4, 4)$$

$$h(\Delta(P_2)) = (1, 2, 1)$$

Sign Variations and Descents

Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

Partitionable

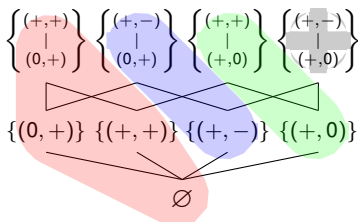
A simplicial complex Δ is *partitionable* if $\Delta = \bigsqcup [G_i, F_i]$ where F_i is a facet.

Proposition (Stanley)

Let Δ be a partitionable simplicial complex. Then

$$h_i(\Delta) = |\{j : |G_j| = i\}|.$$

$$h(\Delta(P_2)) = (1, 2, 1)$$



$\Delta(P_2)$

Sign Variations and Descents

Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

Coxeter groups

Type A_n

The elements in type A_n Coxeter groups can be represented as permutations in \mathfrak{S}_{n+1} .

Example

$$57238146 \in A_7$$

Type B_n

The elements in type B_n Coxeter groups can be represented as *signed* permutations of \mathfrak{S}_n .

Example

$$5\bar{7}23\bar{8}\bar{1}46 \in B_8$$

Type D_n

The elements in type D_n Coxeter groups can be represented as *even signed* permutations of \mathfrak{S}_n .

Example

$$5\bar{7}2\bar{3}\bar{8}\bar{1}46 \in D_8$$

Sign Variations and Descents

Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

Descents

Type A_n

For $\pi = \pi_1 \dots \pi_{n+1}$ in A_n let $\text{des}_A(\pi)$ denote the descent set of π .

$$\text{des}_A(\pi) = \{i : \pi_i > \pi_{i+1}\}$$

Example

$$\pi = 57238146 \in A_7$$
$$\text{des}_A(\pi) = \{2, 5\}$$

Type B_n

For $\pi = \pi_1 \dots \pi_n$ in B_n let $\text{des}_B(\pi)$ denote the descent set of π .

$$\text{des}_B(\pi) = \text{des}_A(0\pi)$$

Example

$$\pi = 5\bar{7}2\bar{3}\bar{8}\bar{1}46 \in B_8$$
$$\text{des}_B(\pi) = \{1, 3, 4\}$$

Type D_n

For $\pi = \pi_1 \dots \pi_n$ in D_n let $\text{des}_D(\pi)$ denote the descent set of π .

$$\text{des}_D(\pi) = \text{des}_A(\bar{\pi}_2\pi)$$

Example

$$\pi = 5\bar{7}2\bar{3}\bar{8}\bar{1}46 \in D_8$$
$$\text{des}_D(\pi) = \{0, 1, 3, 4\}$$

Sign Variations and Descents

Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

Cyclic Sign Variations

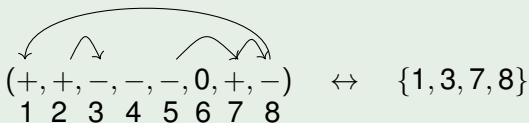
Given a **sign vector** $\omega \in \mathcal{V}_n = \{+, 0, -\}^n$.

$\text{cvar}(\omega)$ = number of times ω changes sign, cyclically

$i \in [n]$ is a **cyclic sign flip** of ω if there exists a j such that $\omega_{i-j}\omega_i < 0$ while $\omega_{i-k}\omega_i = 0$ for all $1 \leq k < j$ where $\omega_i = \omega_{i+n}$.

Example

$$\omega = (+, +, -, -, -, -, +, -) \Rightarrow \text{cvar}(\omega) = 4$$



Sign Variations and Descents

Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

Main Theorem

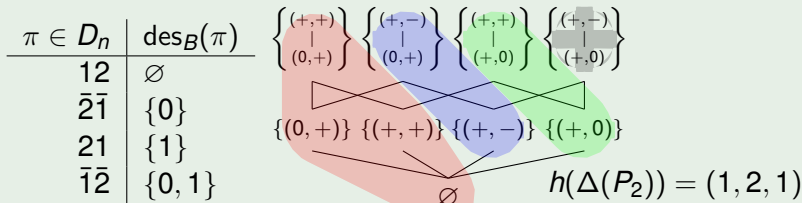
Theorem (Bergeron, D., Machacek 2020)

The *order complex* $\Delta(P_n)$ is partitionable with *h-vector*

$$h_i(\Delta(P_n)) = |\{\pi \in D_n : |\text{des}_B(\pi)| = i\}| \quad \text{for all } 0 \leq i \leq n$$

with *Coxeter group* of type D_n and *descent set*, des_B , of type B .

Example ($n = 2$)



Sign Variations and Descents

Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

Even signed permutations and chains (proof idea)

1. Use **cyclic sign variations** on the set of negative numbers to get a sign vector.
2. For each set of increasing sequences, replace signs with 0s to get a new sign vector.
3. Proceed inductively to get chain.

$(+, +, -, -, -, -, +, -)$

$(+, +, -, -, 0, -, +, -)$

$5|\bar{7}2|\bar{3}|\bar{8}\bar{1}46 \xleftrightarrow{\min} (+, 0, -, -, 0, -, 0, -)$

$(57238146, \{1, 3, 7, 8\})$

$(+, 0, 0, -, 0, -, 0, -)$

$\text{des}_D(\pi) = \{0, 1, 3, 4\}$

$\text{des}_B(\pi) = \{1, 3, 4\}$



Sign Variations and Descents

Aram Dermenjian (Manchester Uni) – Joint with: Nantel Bergeron and John Machacek

Restriction of variations

- $\mathcal{PV}_{n,m} = \{\omega \in \mathcal{PV}_n : \text{var}(\omega) \leq m\}$.
- $P_{n,m} = (\mathcal{PV}_{n,m}, <)$.
- $D_{n,m} = \{\pi \in D_n : \pi \text{ has at most } m \text{ negatives}\}$.

Theorem (Bergeron, D., Machacek 2020)

If $m \leq n - 1$ is even then the *order complex* $\Delta(P_{n,m})$ is *partitionable*. Moreover,

$$h_i(\Delta(P_{n,m})) = |\{\pi \in D_{n,m} : |\text{des}_B(\pi)| = i\}|$$

for each $0 \leq i \leq n$.