On quasitrivial and associative operations

University of Zielona Góra

Jimmy Devillet

in collaboration with Miguel Couceiro and Jean-Luc Marichal

University of Luxembourg

Connectedness and Contour Plots

Let X be a nonempty set and let $F\colon X^2 \to X$

Definition

- The points $(x, y), (u, v) \in X^2$ are *F-connected* if

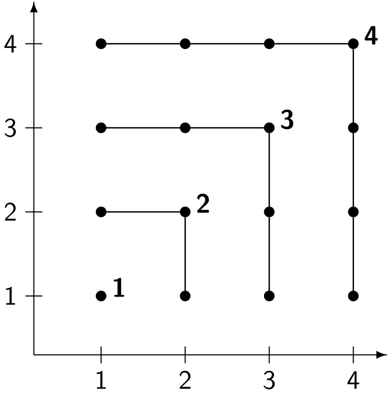
$$F(x, y) \; = \; F(u, v)$$

- The point $(x, y) \in X^2$ is *F-isolated* if it is not F-connected to another point in X^2

Connectedness and Contour Plots

For any integer $n \geq 1$, let $X_n = \{1, ..., n\}$ endowed with $\leq$

Example. $F(x, y) = \max\{x, y\}$ on $(X_4, \leq)$



Quasitriviality and Idempotency

Definition

$F\colon X^2 \to X$ is said to be

- *quasitrivial* if
$$F(x,y) \in \{x,y\}$$
- *idempotent* if
$$F(x,x) = x$$

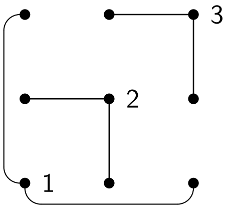
Graphical interpretation of quasitriviality

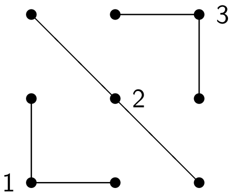
Let $\Delta_X = \{(x,x) \mid x \in X\}$

Proposition

$F\colon X^2 \to X$ is quasitrivial iff

- it is idempotent
- every point $(x,y) \notin \Delta_X$ is F-connected to either (x,x) or (y,y)





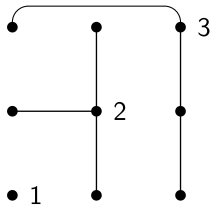
Graphical interpretation of the neutral element

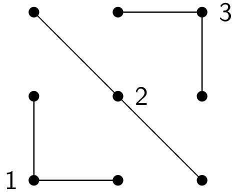
Definition. An element $e \in X$ is said to be a *neutral element* of $F\colon X^2 \to X$ if

$$F(x,e) \;=\; F(e,x) \;=\; x$$

Proposition

Assume $F\colon X^2 \to X$ is quasitrivial and let $e \in X$.
Then e is a neutral element of F iff (e,e) is F-isolated





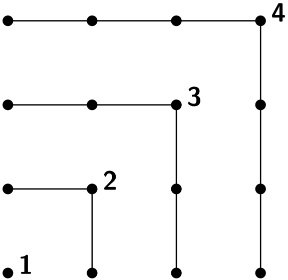
Degree sequence

Recall that $X_n = \{1, ..., n\}$

Definition. Assume $F\colon X_n^2 \to X_n$ and let $z \in X_n$. The *F-degree of z*, denoted $\deg_F(z)$, is the number of points $(x, y) \neq (z, z)$ such that $F(x, y) = F(z, z)$

Definition. Assume $F\colon X_n^2 \to X_n$. The *degree sequence of F*, denoted $\deg_F$, is the nondecreasing n-element sequence of the F-degrees $\deg_F(x)$, $x \in X_n$

Degree sequence



1 $<$ **2** $<$ **3** $<$ **4**

$$\deg_F = (0, 2, 4, 6)$$

Graphical interpretation of the annihilator

Definition. An element $a \in X$ is said to be an *annihilator* of $F\colon X^2 \to X$ if

$$F(x,a) \;=\; F(a,x) \;=\; a$$

Proposition

Assume $F\colon X_n^2 \to X_n$ is quasitrivial and let $a \in X_n$.
Then a is an annihilator iff $\deg_F(a) = 2n-2$

A class of associative operations

We are interested in the class of operations $F\colon X^2 \to X$ that are

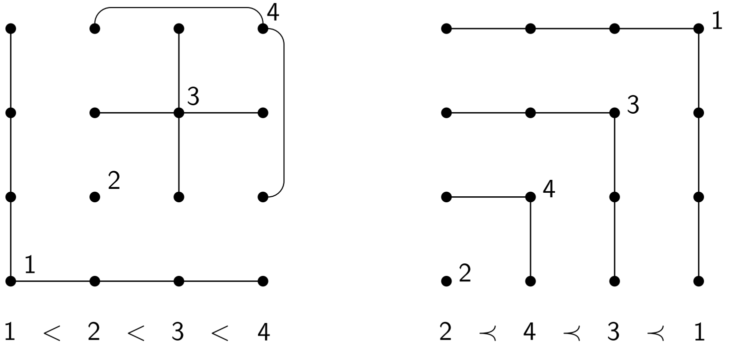
- associative
- quasitrivial
- symmetric

Note : We will assume later that F is nondecreasing w.r.t. some total ordering on X

A first characterization

Theorem (Länger, 1980)

$F\colon X^2 \to X$ is associative, quasitrivial and symmetric iff there exists a total ordering $\leq$ on X such that $F = \max_{\leq}$.



A second characterization

Theorem

Let $F\colon X^2 \to X$. If $X = X_n$ then TFAE

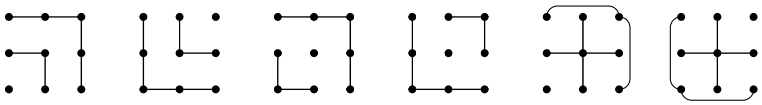
(i) F is associative, quasitrivial and symmetric

(ii) $F = \max_{\leq}$ for some total ordering $\leq$ on X_n

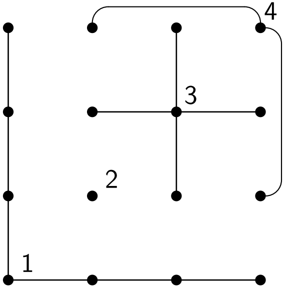
(iii) F is quasitrivial and $\deg_F = (0, 2, 4, \ldots, 2n-2)$

There are exactly $n!$ operations $F\colon X_n^2 \to X_n$ satifying any of the conditions (i)–(iii). Moreover, the total ordering $\leq$ considered in (ii) is determined by the condition: $x \preceq y$ iff $\deg_F(x) \leq \deg_F(y)$.

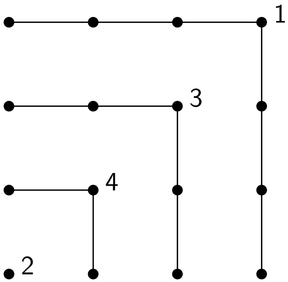
Operations on X_3



The nondecreasing case



$1 < 2 < 3 < 4$



$2 \prec 4 \prec 3 \prec 1$

Single-peaked total orderings

Definition.(Black, 1948) Let $\leq, \preceq$ be total orderings on X. The total ordering $\preceq$ is said to be *single-peaked w.r.t.* $\leq$ if for all $a, b, c \in X$ such that $a < b < c$ we have $b \prec a$ or $b \prec c$

Example. The total ordering $\preceq$ on

$$X_4 = \{1 < 2 < 3 < 4\}$$

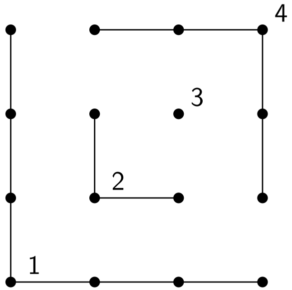
defined by

$$3 \prec 2 \prec 4 \prec 1$$

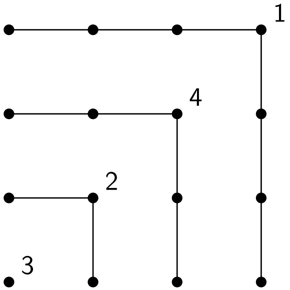
is single-peaked w.r.t. $\leq$

Note : There are exactly 2^{n-1} single-peaked total orderings on $(X_n, \leq)$.

Single-peaked total orderings



$1 < 2 < 3 < 4$



$3 \prec 2 \prec 4 \prec 1$

A third characterization

Theorem

Let $\leq$ be a total ordering on X and let $F\colon X^2 \to X$. TFAE

(i) F est associative, quasitrivial, symmetric and nondecreasing

(ii) $F = \max_{\preceq}$ for some total ordering $\preceq$ on X that is single-peaked w.r.t. $\leq$

A fourth characterization

Theorem

Let $\leq$ be a total ordering on X and let $F\colon X^2 \to X$. If $(X,\leq) = (X_n,\leq)$ then TFAE

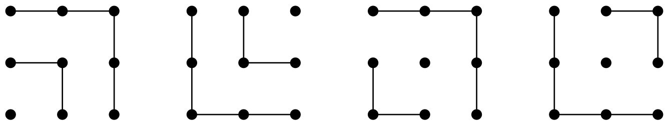
(i) F is associative, quasitrivial, symmetric and nondecreasing

(ii) $F = \max_{\preceq}$ for some total ordering $\preceq$ on X_n that is single-peaked w.r.t. $\leq$

(iii) F is quasitrivial, nondecreasing and $\deg_F = (0,2,4,\ldots,2n-2)$

There are exactly 2^{n-1} operations $F\colon X_n^2 \to X_n$ satisfying any of the conditions (i)–(iii).

Operations on X_3



A more general class of associative operations

We are interested in the class of operations $F\colon X^2 \to X$ that are

- associative
- quasitrivial

Note : We will assume later that F is nondecreasing w.r.t. some total ordering on X

Weak orderings

Recall that a binary relation R on X is said to be

- *total* if $\forall x, y$: xRy or yRx
- *transitive* if $\forall x, y, z$: xRy and yRz implies xRz

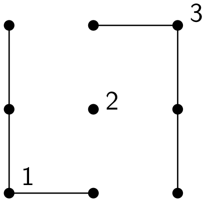
A *weak ordering on X* is a binary relation $\lesssim$ on X that is total and transitive. We denote the symmetric and asymmetric parts of $\lesssim$ by $\sim$ and $<$, respectively.
Recall that $\sim$ is an equivalence relation on X and that $<$ induces a total ordering on the quotient set $X/\sim$

A fifth characterization

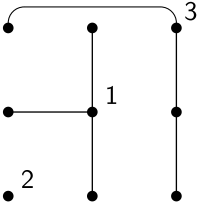
Theorem (Mclean, 1954, Kimura, 1958)

$F\colon X^2 \to X$ is associative and quasitrivial iff there exists a weak ordering $\lesssim$ on X such that

$$F|_{A\times B} \;=\; \begin{cases} \max_{\lesssim}|_{A\times B}, & \text{if } A \neq B, \\ \pi_1|_{A\times B} \text{ or } \pi_2|_{A\times B}, & \text{if } A = B, \end{cases} \qquad \forall A, B \in X/\sim$$



$1 < 2 < 3$



$2 \prec 1 \sim 3$

A fifth characterization

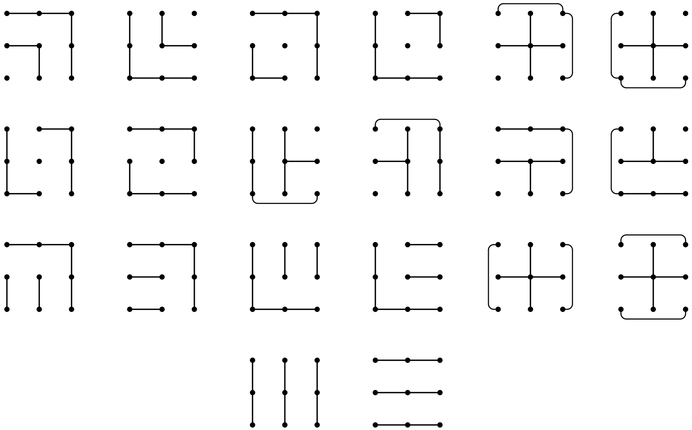
Theorem (Mclean, 1954, Kimura, 1958)

$F\colon X^2 \to X$ is associative and quasitrivial iff there exists a weak ordering $\precsim$ on X such that

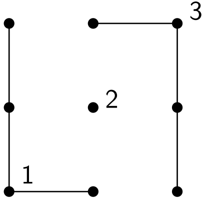
$$F|_{A\times B} = \begin{cases} \max_{\precsim}|_{A\times B}, & \text{if } A \neq B, \\ \pi_1|_{A\times B} \text{ or } \pi_2|_{A\times B}, & \text{if } A = B, \end{cases} \qquad \forall A, B \in X/\sim$$

Moreover, if $X = X_n$ the weak ordering $\precsim$ is determined by the condition: $x \precsim y$ iff $\deg_F(x) \leq \deg_F(y)$.

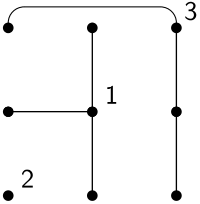
Operations on X_3



The nondecreasing case



$1 < 2 < 3$



$2 \prec 1 \sim 3$

Weakly single-peaked weak orderings

Definition. Let $\leq$ be a total ordering on X and let $\precsim$ be a weak ordering on X. The weak ordering $\precsim$ is said to be *weakly single-peaked w.r.t.* $\leq$ if for any $a, b, c \in X$ such that $a < b < c$ we have $b \prec a$ or $b \prec c$ or $a \sim b \sim c$

Example. The weak ordering $\precsim$ on

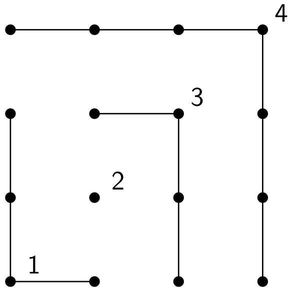
$$X_4 = \{1 < 2 < 3 < 4\}$$

defined by

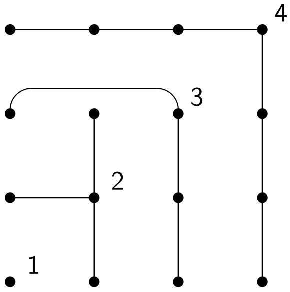
$$2 \prec 1 \sim 3 \prec 4$$

is weakly single-peaked w.r.t. $\leq$

Weakly single-peaked weak orderings



$1 < 2 < 3 < 4$



$2 \prec 1 \sim 3 \prec 4$

A sixth characterization

$$F|_{A\times B} \;=\; \begin{cases} \max_{\precsim}|_{A\times B}, & \text{if } A \neq B, \\ \pi_1|_{A\times B} \text{ or } \pi_2|_{A\times B}, & \text{if } A = B, \end{cases} \qquad \forall A, B \in X/\sim \qquad (*)$$

Theorem

Let $\leq$ be a total ordering on X. $F\colon X^2 \to X$ is associative, quasitrivial, and nondecreasing w.r.t. $\leq$ iff F is of the form $(*)$ for some weak ordering $\precsim$ on X that is weakly single-peaked w.r.t. $\leq$

Enumeration of associative and quasitrivial operations

Recall that if the generating function (GF) or the exponential generating function (EGF) of a given sequence $(s_n)_{n\geq 0}$ exist, then they are respectively defined as the power series

$$S(z) \;=\; \sum_{n\geq 0} s_n\, z^n \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{S}(z) \;=\; \sum_{n\geq 0} s_n\, \frac{z^n}{n!}\,.$$

Recall also that for any integers $0 \leq k \leq n$ the *Stirling number of the second kind* $\left\{ {n \atop k} \right\}$ is defined as

$$\left\{ {n \atop k} \right\} \;=\; \frac{1}{k!}\, \sum_{i=0}^{k} (-1)^{k-i} \binom{k}{i}\, i^n.$$

Enumeration of associative and quasitrivial operations

For any integer $n \geq 1$, let $q(n)$ denote the number of associative and quasitrivial operations $F\colon X_n^2 \to X_n$ (OEIS : A292932)

Theorem

For any integer $n \geq 0$, we have the closed-form expression

$$q(n) \;=\; \sum_{i=0}^{n} 2^i \sum_{k=0}^{n-i} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} \left\{ n-k \atop i \right\} (i+k)!\,, \qquad n \geq 0.$$

Moreover, its EGF is given by $\hat{Q}(z) = 1/(z+3-2e^z)$.

Enumeration of associative and quasitrivial operations

In arXiv:1709.09162 we found also explicit formulas for

- $q_e(n)$: number of associative and quasitrivial operations $F\colon X_n^2 \to X_n$ that have a neutral element (OEIS : A292933)
- $q_a(n)$: number of associative and quasitrivial operations $F\colon X_n^2 \to X_n$ that have an annihilator (OEIS : A292933)
- $q_{ea}(n)$: number of associative and quasitrivial operations $F\colon X_n^2 \to X_n$ that have a neutral element and an annihilator (OEIS : A292934)

Enumeration of associative quasitrivial and nondecreasing operations

For any integer $n \geq 0$ we denote by $v(n)$ the number of associative, quasitrivial, and nondecreasing operations $F\colon X_n^2 \to X_n$ (OEIS : A293005)

Theorem

For any integer $n \geq 0$, we have the closed-form expression

$$3\,v(n)+2 \;=\; \textstyle\sum_{k\geq 0} 3^k\big(2\binom{n}{2k}+3\binom{n}{2k+1}\big)\,, \quad n\geq 0.$$

Moreover, its GF is given by $V(z)=z(z+1)/(2z^3-3z+1)$.

Enumeration of associative quasitrivial and nondecreasing operations

In arXiv:1709.09162 we found also explicit formulas for

- $v_e(n)$: number of associative, quasitrivial and nondecreasing operations $F\colon X_n^2 \to X_n$ that have a neutral element (OEIS : A002605)
- $v_a(n)$: number of associative, quasitrivial and nondecreasing operations $F\colon X_n^2 \to X_n$ that have an annihilator (OEIS : A293006)
- $v_{ea}(n)$: number of associative, quasitrivial and nondecreasing operations $F\colon X_n^2 \to X_n$ that have a neutral element and an annihilator (OEIS : A293007)

Selected references

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