

Heaps and applications

K. N. Raghavan
IMSc

06 June 2017
at ISI-BC

A plug for videos of Viennot's
recently concluded 19-lecture course at IMSc

Xavier Viennot: COMMUTATIONS AND HEAPS OF PIECES

A plug for videos of Viennot's
recently concluded 19-lecture course at IMSc

Xavier Viennot: COMMUTATIONS AND HEAPS OF PIECES
19th January to 16th March

A plug for videos of Viennot's recently concluded 19-lecture course at IMSc

Xavier Viennot: COMMUTATIONS AND HEAPS OF PIECES
19th January to 16th March

Applications:

- Chapter 4: [Linear algebra](#)

A plug for videos of Viennot's recently concluded 19-lecture course at IMSc

Xavier Viennot: COMMUTATIONS AND HEAPS OF PIECES
19th January to 16th March

Applications:

- Chapter 4: [Linear algebra](#)
- Chapter 5: [Algebraic graph theory](#)

A plug for videos of Viennot's recently concluded 19-lecture course at IMSc

Xavier Viennot: COMMUTATIONS AND HEAPS OF PIECES
19th January to 16th March

Applications:

- Chapter 4: [Linear algebra](#)
- Chapter 5: [Algebraic graph theory](#)
- Chapter 6: [Fully commutative elements in Coxeter groups](#)

A plug for videos of Viennot's recently concluded 19-lecture course at IMSc

Xavier Viennot: COMMUTATIONS AND HEAPS OF PIECES
19th January to 16th March

Applications:

- Chapter 4: [Linear algebra](#)
- Chapter 5: [Algebraic graph theory](#)
- Chapter 6: [Fully commutative elements in Coxeter groups](#)
- Chapter 7: [Physics: statistical mechanics, quantum gravity](#)

A plug for videos of Viennot's recently concluded 19-lecture course at IMSc

Xavier Viennot: COMMUTATIONS AND HEAPS OF PIECES
19th January to 16th March

Applications:

- Chapter 4: **Linear algebra**
- Chapter 5: **Algebraic graph theory**
- Chapter 6: **Fully commutative elements in Coxeter groups**
- Chapter 7: **Physics: statistical mechanics, quantum gravity**
- many **Open questions** (all over the place)

A plug for videos of Viennot's recently concluded 19-lecture course at IMSc

Xavier Viennot: COMMUTATIONS AND HEAPS OF PIECES
19th January to 16th March

Applications:

- Chapter 4: **Linear algebra**
- Chapter 5: **Algebraic graph theory**
- Chapter 6: **Fully commutative elements in Coxeter groups**
- Chapter 7: **Physics: statistical mechanics, quantum gravity**
- many **Open questions** (all over the place)

What is this talk

We'll first derive a famous theorem (Stanley 1973) on colourings of graphs
thinking in terms of heaps

What is this talk

We'll first derive a famous theorem (Stanley 1973) on colourings of graphs thinking in terms of heaps, or as Viennot would say, "by the philosophy of heaps".

What is this talk

We'll first derive a famous theorem (Stanley 1973) on colourings of graphs thinking in terms of heaps, or as Viennot would say, "by the philosophy of heaps".

Stanley's theorem involves the *chromatic polynomial*.

What is this talk

We'll first derive a famous theorem (Stanley 1973) on colourings of graphs thinking in terms of heaps, or as Viennot would say, "by the philosophy of heaps".

Stanley's theorem involves the *chromatic polynomial*.

We'll then discuss the *matching polynomial* of a graph.

What is this talk

We'll first derive a famous theorem (Stanley 1973) on colourings of graphs thinking in terms of heaps, or as Viennot would say, "by the philosophy of heaps".

Stanley's theorem involves the *chromatic polynomial*.

We'll then discuss the *matching polynomial* of a graph.

More specifically we'll discuss three properties of it (all in terms of heaps).

What is this talk

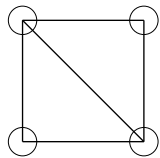
We'll first derive a famous theorem (Stanley 1973) on colourings of graphs thinking in terms of heaps, or as Viennot would say, "by the philosophy of heaps".

Stanley's theorem involves the *chromatic polynomial*.

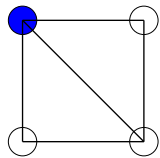
We'll then discuss the *matching polynomial* of a graph.

More specifically we'll discuss three properties of it (all in terms of heaps).

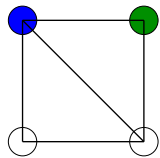
Colourings of a graph



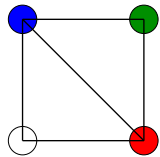
Colourings of a graph



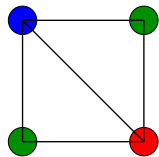
Colourings of a graph



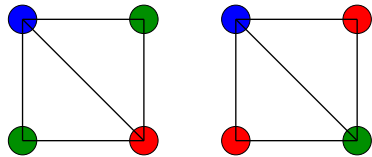
Colourings of a graph



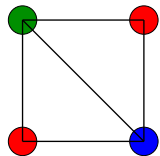
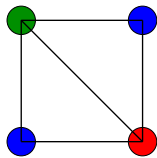
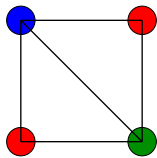
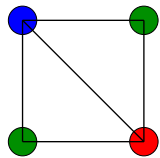
Colourings of a graph



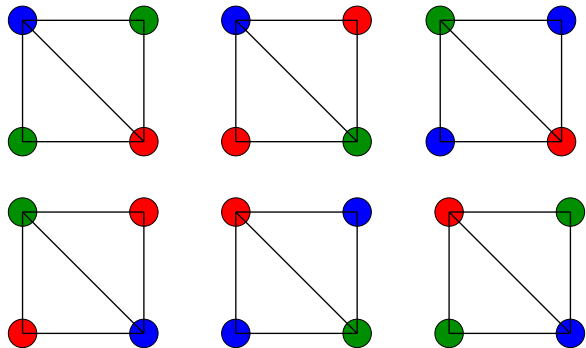
Colourings of a graph



Colourings of a graph

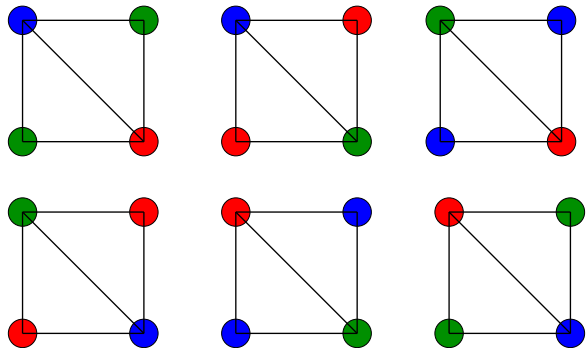


Colourings of a graph



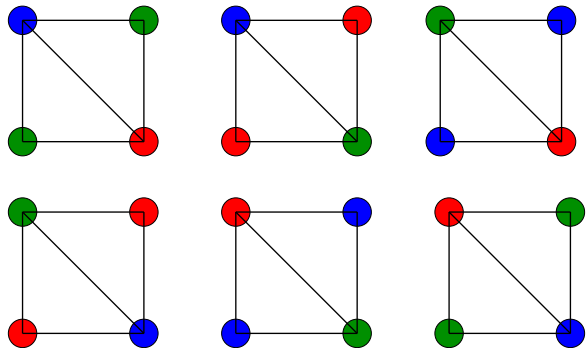
- At least 3 colours are required to colour the graph.

Colourings of a graph



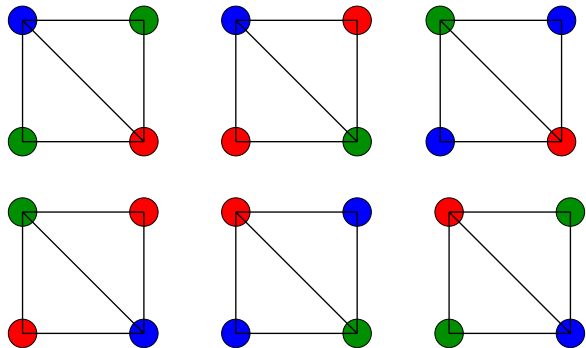
- At least 3 colours are required to colour the graph.
- Listed above are all the 6 different (exact) 3-colourings of the graph.

Colourings of a graph



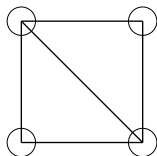
- At least 3 colours are required to colour the graph.
- Listed above are all the 6 different (exact) 3-colourings of the graph.
- The graph evidently has 24 different exact 4-colourings.

Colourings of a graph



- At least 3 colours are required to colour the graph.
- Listed above are all the 6 different (exact) 3-colourings of the graph.
- The graph evidently has 24 different exact 4-colourings.

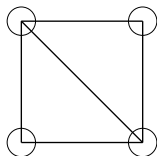
λ -colourings of a graph



Suppose we are given λ colours with which to colour the graph.

We need to use at least 3 colours and can use at most 4 colours.

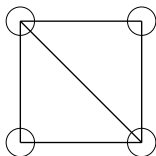
λ -colourings of a graph



Suppose we are given λ colours with which to colour the graph.
We need to use at least 3 colours and can use at most 4 colours.

$$6 \times \binom{\lambda}{3}$$

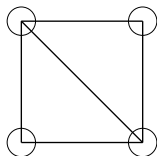
λ -colourings of a graph



Suppose we are given λ colours with which to colour the graph.
We need to use at least 3 colours and can use at most 4 colours.

$$6 \times \binom{\lambda}{3} +$$

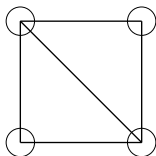
λ -colourings of a graph



Suppose we are given λ colours with which to colour the graph.
We need to use at least 3 colours and can use at most 4 colours.

$$6 \times \binom{\lambda}{3} + 24 \times \binom{\lambda}{4}$$

λ -colourings of a graph



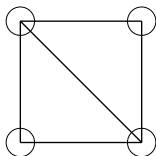
Suppose we are given λ colours with which to colour the graph.
We need to use at least 3 colours and can use at most 4 colours.

$$6 \times \binom{\lambda}{3} + 24 \times \binom{\lambda}{4}$$

The number of λ -colourings (colourings with at most λ colours) equals:

$$\lambda(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 2) + \lambda(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 2)(\lambda - 3)$$

λ -colourings of a graph



Suppose we are given λ colours with which to colour the graph.
We need to use at least 3 colours and can use at most 4 colours.

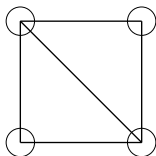
$$6 \times \binom{\lambda}{3} + 24 \times \binom{\lambda}{4}$$

The number of λ -colourings (colourings with at most λ colours) equals:

$$\lambda(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 2) + \lambda(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 2)(\lambda - 3)$$

Chromatic polynomial

λ -colourings of a graph



Suppose we are given λ colours with which to colour the graph.
We need to use at least 3 colours and can use at most 4 colours.

$$6 \times \binom{\lambda}{3} + 24 \times \binom{\lambda}{4}$$

The number of λ -colourings (colourings with at most λ colours) equals:

$$\lambda(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 2) + \lambda(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 2)(\lambda - 3)$$

Chromatic polynomial

General formula for the chromatic polynomial

The number of λ -colourings of a graph G , denoted by $\gamma_G(\lambda)$,

General formula for the chromatic polynomial

The number of λ -colourings of a graph G , denoted by $\gamma_G(\lambda)$, is given by:

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k=1}^n \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

General formula for the chromatic polynomial

The number of λ -colourings of a graph G , denoted by $\gamma_G(\lambda)$, is given by:

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k=1}^n \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

where n denotes the number of vertices in the graph G ,
 $\gamma'_G(k)$ denotes the number of exact k -colourings of G .

General formula for the chromatic polynomial

The number of λ -colourings of a graph G , denoted by $\gamma_G(\lambda)$, is given by:

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k=1}^n \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

where n denotes the number of vertices in the graph G ,
 $\gamma'_G(k)$ denotes the number of exact k -colourings of G .

An even better way to write this (without reference to the number of vertices):

General formula for the chromatic polynomial

The number of λ -colourings of a graph G , denoted by $\gamma_G(\lambda)$, is given by:

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k=1}^n \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

where n denotes the number of vertices in the graph G ,
 $\gamma'_G(k)$ denotes the number of exact k -colourings of G .

An even better way to write this (without reference to the number of vertices):

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

General formula for the chromatic polynomial

The number of λ -colourings of a graph G , denoted by $\gamma_G(\lambda)$, is given by:

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k=1}^n \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

where n denotes the number of vertices in the graph G ,
 $\gamma'_G(k)$ denotes the number of exact k -colourings of G .

An even better way to write this (without reference to the number of vertices):

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

General formula for the chromatic polynomial

The number of λ -colourings of a graph G , denoted by $\gamma_G(\lambda)$, is given by:

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k=1}^n \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

where n denotes the number of vertices in the graph G ,
 $\gamma'_G(k)$ denotes the number of exact k -colourings of G .

An even better way to write this (without reference to the number of vertices):

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$


What happens if we put $\lambda = -1$ in $\gamma_G(\lambda)$? !



For $\gamma_G(\lambda) = 6 \times \binom{\lambda}{3} + 24 \times \binom{\lambda}{4}$

What happens if we put $\lambda = -1$ in $\gamma_G(\lambda)$? !




For , we've seen that $\gamma_G(\lambda) = 6 \times \binom{\lambda}{3} + 24 \times \binom{\lambda}{4}$

$$\binom{\lambda}{3} = \frac{\lambda \cdot (\lambda - 1) \cdot (\lambda - 2)}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3}$$

$$\binom{\lambda}{4} = \frac{\lambda \cdot (\lambda - 1) \cdot (\lambda - 2) \cdot (\lambda - 3)}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4}$$

What happens if we put $\lambda = -1$ in $\gamma_G(\lambda)$? !




For , we've seen that $\gamma_G(\lambda) = 6 \times \binom{\lambda}{3} + 24 \times \binom{\lambda}{4}$

$$\binom{\lambda}{3} = \frac{\lambda \cdot (\lambda - 1) \cdot (\lambda - 2)}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3} \quad \binom{\lambda}{4} = \frac{\lambda \cdot (\lambda - 1) \cdot (\lambda - 2) \cdot (\lambda - 3)}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4}$$

$$\binom{-1}{3} = (-1)^3 = -1 \quad \binom{-1}{4} = (-1)^4 = 1$$

What happens if we put $\lambda = -1$ in $\gamma_G(\lambda)$? !



For , we've seen that $\gamma_G(\lambda) = 6 \times \binom{\lambda}{3} + 24 \times \binom{\lambda}{4}$


$$\binom{\lambda}{3} = \frac{\lambda \cdot (\lambda - 1) \cdot (\lambda - 2)}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3} \quad \binom{\lambda}{4} = \frac{\lambda \cdot (\lambda - 1) \cdot (\lambda - 2) \cdot (\lambda - 3)}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4}$$

$$\binom{-1}{3} = (-1)^3 = -1 \quad \binom{-1}{4} = (-1)^4 = 1$$

We get: $6 \times (-1) + 24 \times 1 = 18.$

What happens if we put $\lambda = -1$ in $\gamma_G(\lambda)$? !



For , we've seen that $\gamma_G(\lambda) = 6 \times \binom{\lambda}{3} + 24 \times \binom{\lambda}{4}$

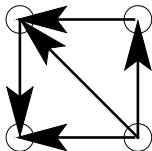
$$\binom{\lambda}{3} = \frac{\lambda \cdot (\lambda - 1) \cdot (\lambda - 2)}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3} \quad \binom{\lambda}{4} = \frac{\lambda \cdot (\lambda - 1) \cdot (\lambda - 2) \cdot (\lambda - 3)}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4}$$

$$\binom{-1}{3} = (-1)^3 = -1 \quad \binom{-1}{4} = (-1)^4 = 1$$

We get: $6 \times (-1) + 24 \times 1 = 18$.


Remarkably there are exactly 18 *acyclic orientations* of the above graph.

Example of acyclic orientation:



What happens if we put $\lambda = -1$ in $\gamma_G(\lambda)$? !



For , we've seen that $\gamma_G(\lambda) = 6 \times \binom{\lambda}{3} + 24 \times \binom{\lambda}{4}$

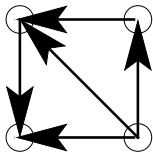
$$\binom{\lambda}{3} = \frac{\lambda \cdot (\lambda - 1) \cdot (\lambda - 2)}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3} \quad \binom{\lambda}{4} = \frac{\lambda \cdot (\lambda - 1) \cdot (\lambda - 2) \cdot (\lambda - 3)}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4}$$

$$\binom{-1}{3} = (-1)^3 = -1 \quad \binom{-1}{4} = (-1)^4 = 1$$

We get: $6 \times (-1) + 24 \times 1 = 18$.

Remarkably there are exactly 18 *acyclic orientations* of the above graph.

Example of acyclic orientation:



Stanley's theorem (1973)

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) (-1)^k = (-1)^{\# \text{ of vertices}} \# \text{ of acyclic orientations of } G$$

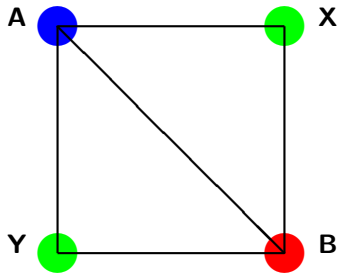
Proof in terms of **heaps** follows.

Stanley's theorem (1973)

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) (-1)^k = (-1)^{\# \text{ of vertices}} \# \text{ of acyclic orientations of } G$$

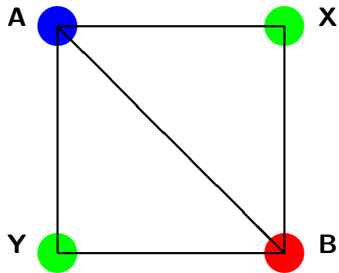
Proof in terms of **heaps** follows.

Colourings are layerings



B
XY
A

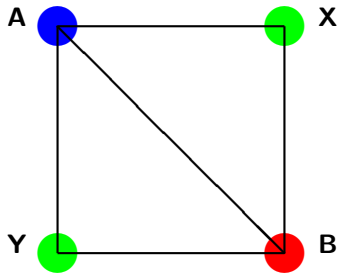
Colourings are layerings



B
XY
A

A layering is a partitioning of the vertices into layers of non-empty independent subsets stacked vertically.

Colourings are layerings

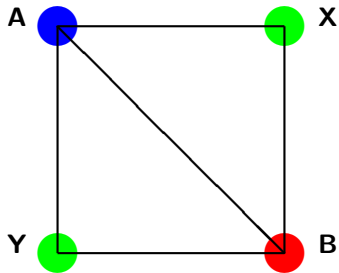


B
XY
A

A layering is a partitioning of the vertices into layers of non-empty independent subsets stacked vertically.

Exact k -colourings are layerings with k -layers.

Colourings are layerings

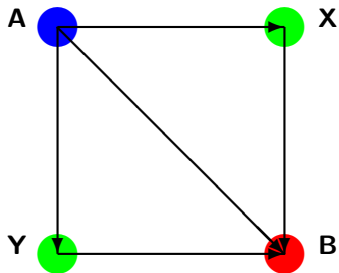


B
XY
A

A layering is a partitioning of the vertices into layers of non-empty independent subsets stacked vertically.

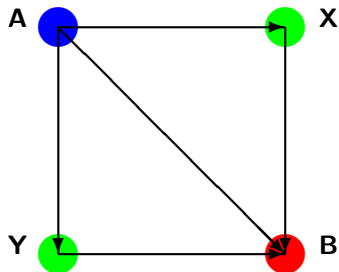
Exact k -colourings are layerings with k -layers.

Colourings are layerings and determine acyclic orientations

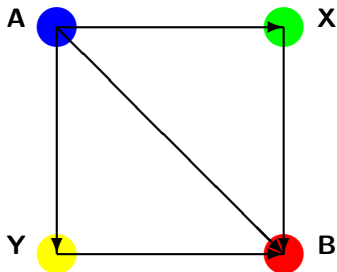


B
XY
A

Two colourings may yield the same acyclic orientation

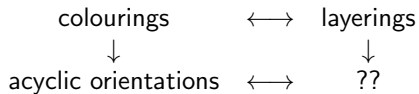


B
XY
A

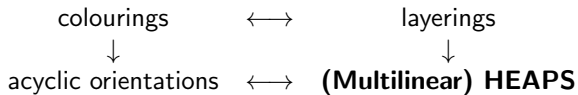


B
Y
X
A

colourings, layerings, acyclic orientations, and ...

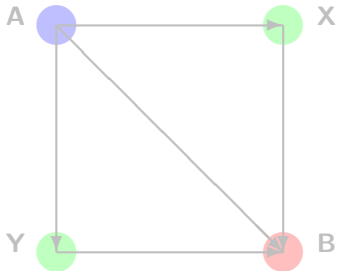


colourings, layerings, acyclic orientations, and **heaps**

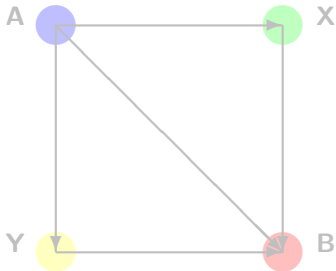


So what are **heaps**?

(Multilinear) **Heaps** are layerings in which things fall until obstructed.



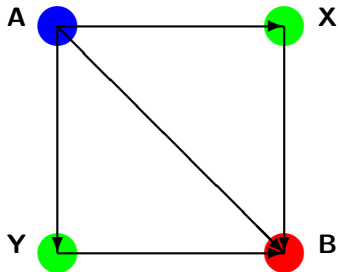
B
XY
A



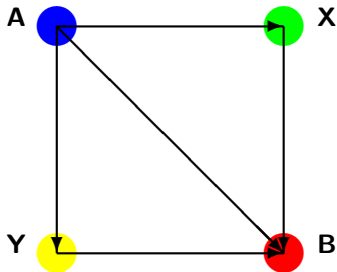
B
Y
X
A

So what are **heaps**?

(Multilinear) **Heaps** are layerings in which things fall until obstructed.



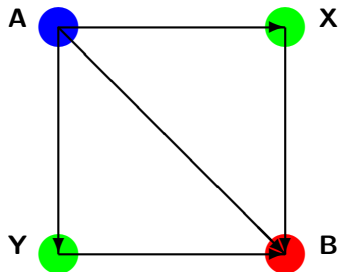
B
 XY
 A



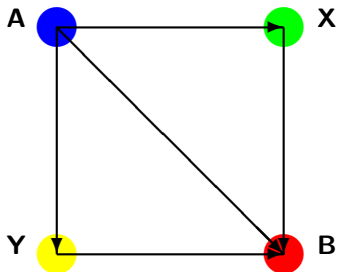
B
 Y
 X
 A \longrightarrow B
 XY
 A

So what are **heaps**?

(Multilinear) Heaps are layerings in which things fall until obstructed.



B
 XY
 A

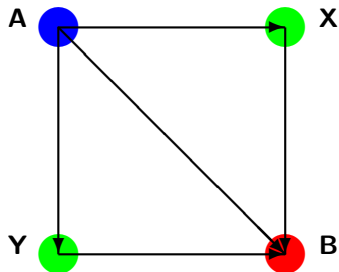


B
 Y
 X
 A \longrightarrow B
 XY
 A

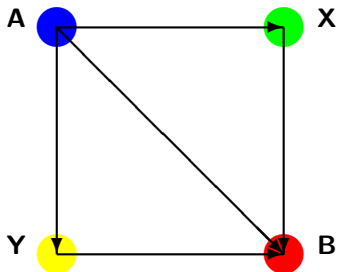
(Multilinear) Heaps are in bijection with acyclic orientations.

So what are **heaps**?

(Multilinear) Heaps are layerings in which things fall until obstructed.



B
 XY
 A



B
 Y
 X
 A \longrightarrow B
 XY
 A

(Multilinear) Heaps are in bijection with acyclic orientations.

Proof of Stanley's theorem

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{-1}{k}$$

Proof of Stanley's theorem

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{-1}{k}$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) (-1)^k$$

Proof of Stanley's theorem

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{-1}{k}$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) (-1)^k$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \sum_{k\text{-layerings}} (-1)^k$$

Proof of Stanley's theorem

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{-1}{k}$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) (-1)^k$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \sum_{k\text{-layerings}} (-1)^k$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{\text{layerings}} (-1)^{\# \text{ of layers}}$$

Proof of Stanley's theorem

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{-1}{k}$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) (-1)^k$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \sum_{k\text{-layerings}} (-1)^k$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{\text{layerings}} (-1)^{\# \text{ of layers}}$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{\text{multilinear heaps } \mathcal{H}} \left(\sum_{\text{layerings of } \mathcal{H}} (-1)^{\# \text{ of layers}} \right)$$

Proof of Stanley's theorem

$$\gamma_G(\lambda) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{\lambda}{k}$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) \binom{-1}{k}$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \gamma'_G(k) (-1)^k$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \sum_{k\text{-layerings}} (-1)^k$$

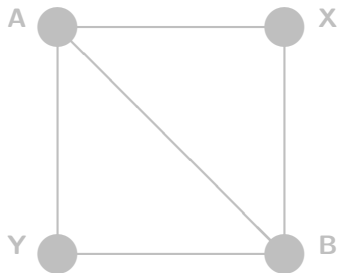
$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{\text{layerings}} (-1)^{\# \text{ of layers}}$$

$$\gamma_G(-1) = \sum_{\text{multilinear heaps } \mathcal{H}} \left(\sum_{\text{layerings of } \mathcal{H}} (-1)^{\# \text{ of layers}} \right)$$

Punch line of the proof

Theorem

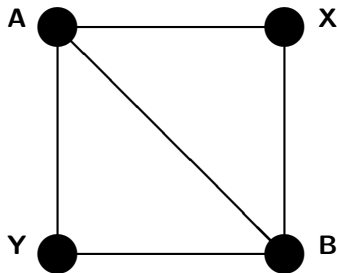
Signed sum of layerings of a (multilinear) heap equals $(-1)^{\# \text{ of vertices}}$.



Punch line of the proof

Theorem

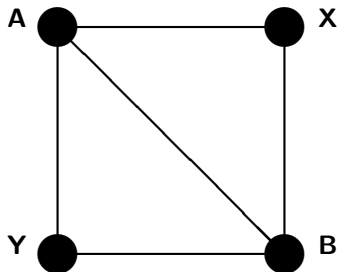
Signed sum of layerings of a (multilinear) heap equals $(-1)^{\# \text{ of vertices}}$.



Punch line of the proof

Theorem

Signed sum of layerings of a (multilinear) heap equals $(-1)^{\# \text{ of vertices}}$.

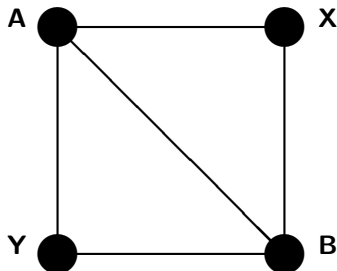


The heap $\begin{matrix} B \\ XY \\ A \end{matrix}$ has three layerings:

Punch line of the proof

Theorem

Signed sum of layerings of a (multilinear) heap equals $(-1)^{\# \text{ of vertices}}$.



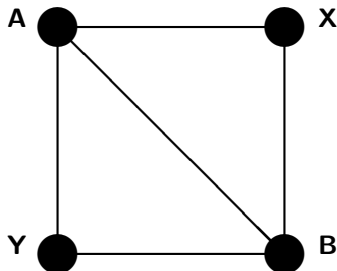
The heap $\begin{matrix} B \\ XY \\ A \end{matrix}$ has three layerings:

$\begin{matrix} B \\ XY \\ A \end{matrix}$

Punch line of the proof

Theorem

Signed sum of layerings of a (multilinear) heap equals $(-1)^{\# \text{ of vertices}}$.



The heap $\begin{matrix} B \\ XY \\ A \end{matrix}$ has three layerings:

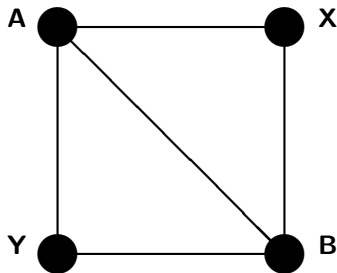
$\begin{matrix} B \\ XY \\ A \end{matrix}$

$\begin{matrix} B \\ Y \\ X \\ A \end{matrix}$

Punch line of the proof

Theorem

Signed sum of layerings of a (multilinear) heap equals $(-1)^{\# \text{ of vertices}}$.



The heap $\begin{matrix} B \\ XY \\ A \end{matrix}$ has three layerings:

$\begin{matrix} B \\ XY \\ A \end{matrix}$

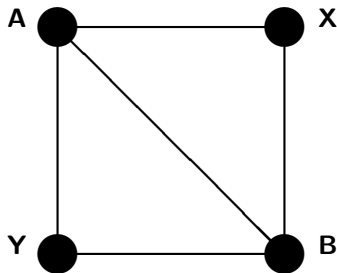
$\begin{matrix} B \\ Y \\ X \\ A \end{matrix}$

$\begin{matrix} B \\ X \\ Y \\ A \end{matrix}$

Punch line of the proof

Theorem

Signed sum of layerings of a (multilinear) heap equals $(-1)^{\# \text{ of vertices}}$.



The heap $\begin{matrix} B \\ XY \\ A \end{matrix}$ has three layerings:

$$\begin{matrix} B \\ XY \\ A \end{matrix}$$
$$\begin{matrix} B \\ Y \\ X \\ A \end{matrix}$$
$$\begin{matrix} B \\ X \\ Y \\ A \end{matrix}$$

Basic results on heaps

Inversion Lemma

Paths Lemma

Basic results on heaps

Inversion Lemma

Paths Lemma

Logarithmic Lemma

The **inversion lemma** delivers the punch (in the punch line above):

Basic results on heaps

Inversion Lemma

Paths Lemma

Logarithmic Lemma

The **inversion lemma** delivers the punch (in the punch line above):

It implies that the signed sum of layerings of a heap is $(-1)^{\#}$ of basic pieces in the heap.

Basic results on heaps

Inversion Lemma

Paths Lemma

Logarithmic Lemma

The **inversion lemma** delivers the punch (in the punch line above):
It implies that the signed sum of layerings of a heap is $(-1)^{\#}$ of basic pieces in the heap.

More on the inversion lemma

$$\text{generating function for heaps} := \sum_{\text{heaps } \mathcal{H}} \mathcal{H}$$

$$\text{generating function for heaps} = \frac{1}{1 + \mathcal{S}}$$

where

$$1 + \mathcal{S} := \text{signed sum of trivial heaps}$$

More on the inversion lemma

$$\text{generating function for heaps} := \sum_{\text{heaps } \mathcal{H}} \mathcal{H}$$

$$\boxed{\text{generating function for heaps} = \frac{1}{1 + \mathcal{S}}}$$

where

$$1 + \mathcal{S} := \text{signed sum of trivial heaps}$$

About the matching polynomial of a graph G

- All its roots are real.

About the matching polynomial of a graph G

- All its roots are real.
- If G is a tree with adjacency matrix A , then it equals $\det(I - tA)$.

About the matching polynomial of a graph G

- All its roots are real.
- If G is a tree with adjacency matrix A , then it equals $\det(I - tA)$.
(Thus the first item follows from the Spectral Theorem when G is a tree.)

About the matching polynomial of a graph G

- All its roots are real.
- If G is a tree with adjacency matrix A , then it equals $\det(I - tA)$.
(Thus the first item follows from the Spectral Theorem when G is a tree.)
- It's the denominator in the inversion lemma for heaps of dimers on G .

About the matching polynomial of a graph G

- All its roots are real.
- If G is a tree with adjacency matrix A , then it equals $\det(I - tA)$.
(Thus the first item follows from the Spectral Theorem when G is a tree.)
- It's the denominator in the inversion lemma for heaps of dimers on G .

About the matching polynomial of a graph G

- All its roots are real.
- If G is a tree with adjacency matrix A , then it equals $\det(I - tA)$.
(Thus the first item follows from the Spectral Theorem when G is a tree.)
- It's the denominator in the inversion lemma for heaps of dimers on G .