

# Sorting monoids and algebras on Coxeter groups

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New Orleans, March 20th of 2009

arXiv:0711.1561v1 [math.RT]

arXiv:0804.3781v1 [math.RT]

+ research in progress ...

# Bubble (anti) sort algorithm

1234

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1234

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1243

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1423

# Bubble (anti) sort algorithm

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# Bubble (anti) sort algorithm

4132



# Bubble (anti) sort algorithm

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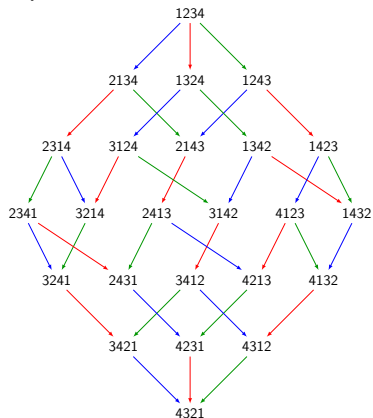
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Underlying combinatorics: right permutohedron

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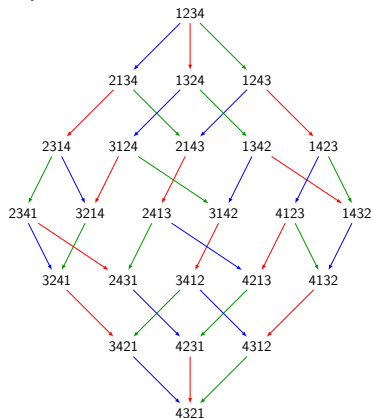
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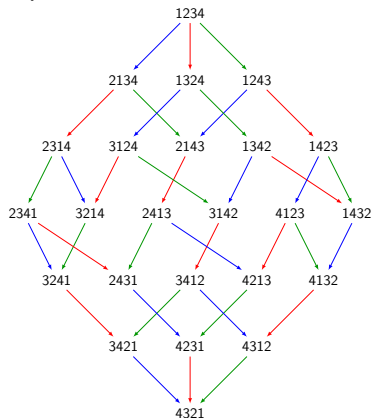


Elementary transpositions:  $s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots$

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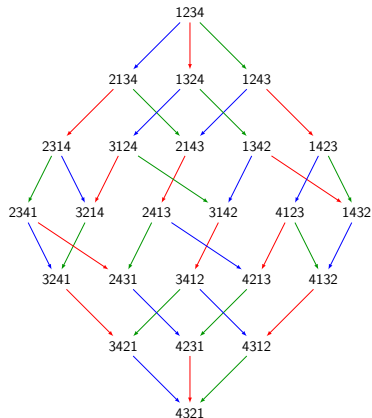
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Elementary bubble antisort operators:  $\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3, \dots$



# Cyclic bubble sort

$\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3, \dots$  antisort 12345 into 54321 **There is no return!**



Proposition (HT'08)

$\pi_0, \pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3, \dots$  act transitively on permutations

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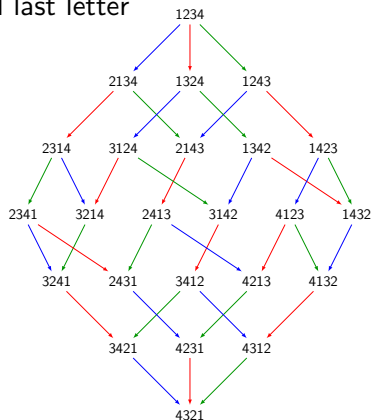
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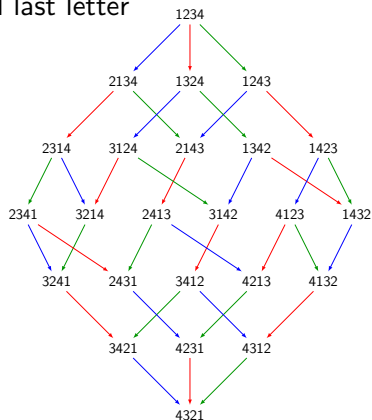
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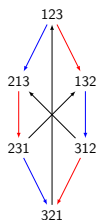
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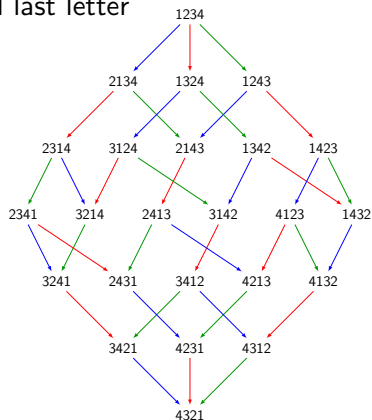
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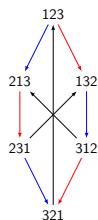
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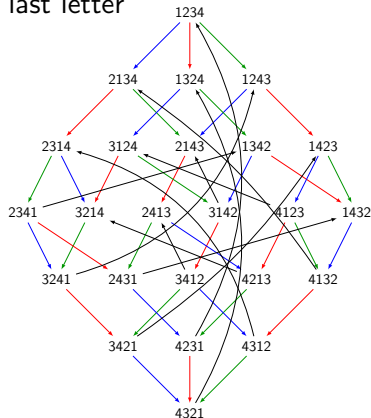
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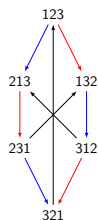
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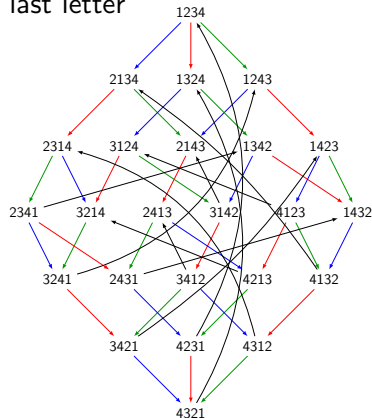
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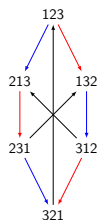
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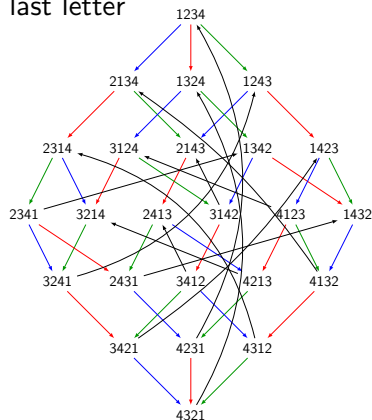
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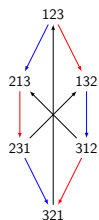
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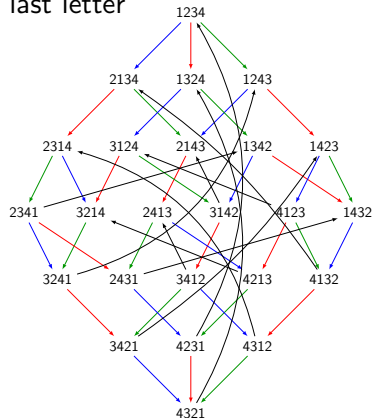
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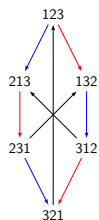
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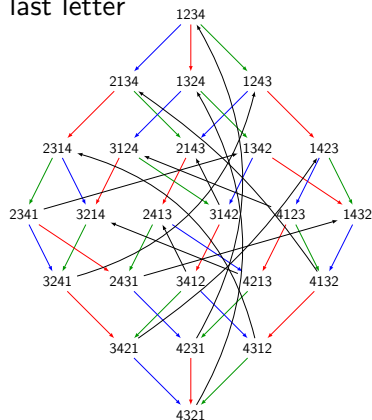
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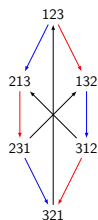
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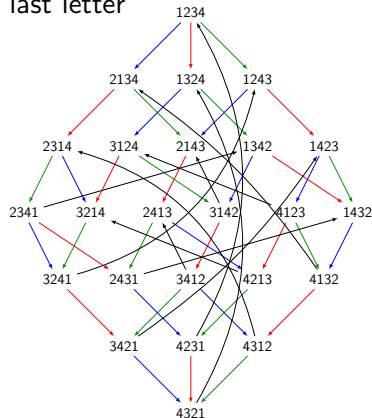
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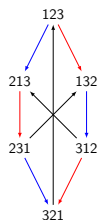
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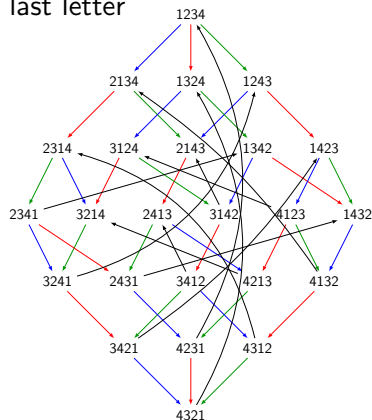
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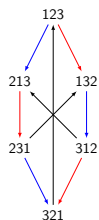
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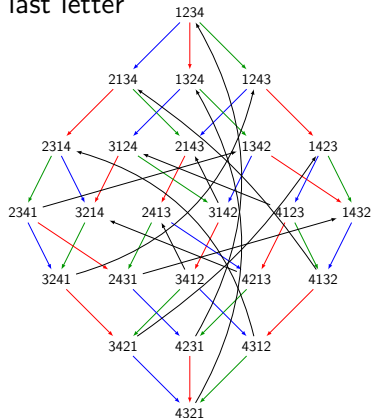
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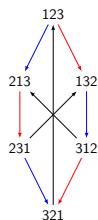
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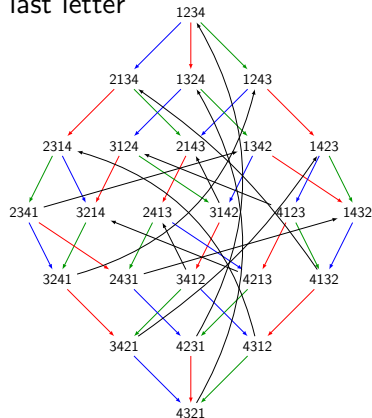
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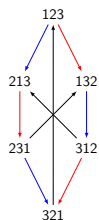
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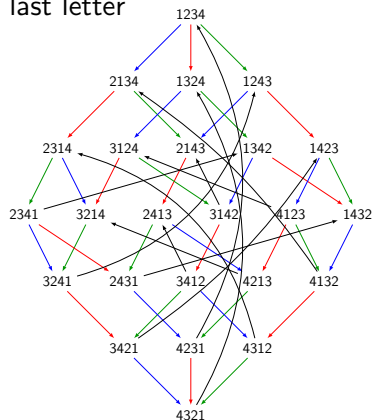
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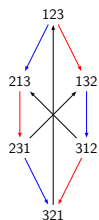
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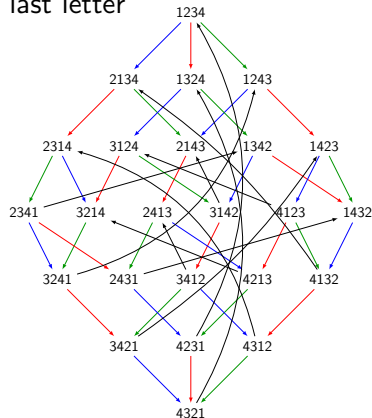
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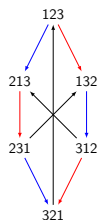
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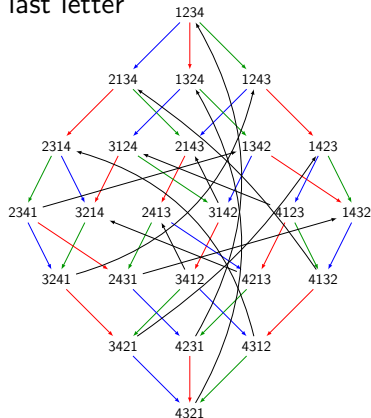
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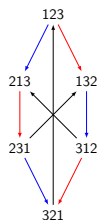
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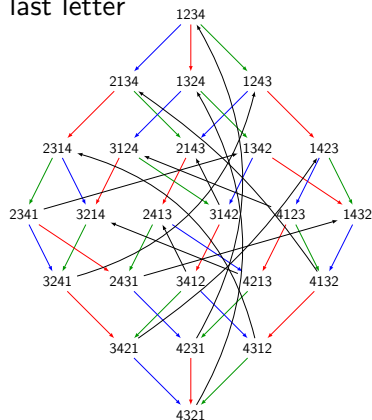
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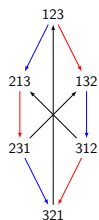
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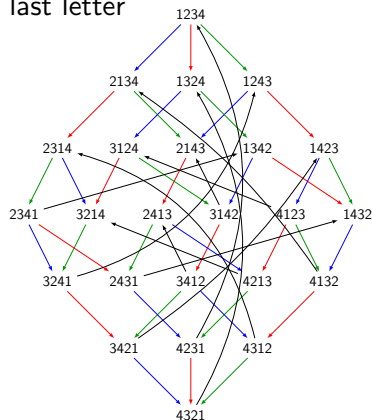
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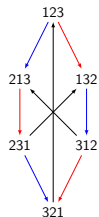
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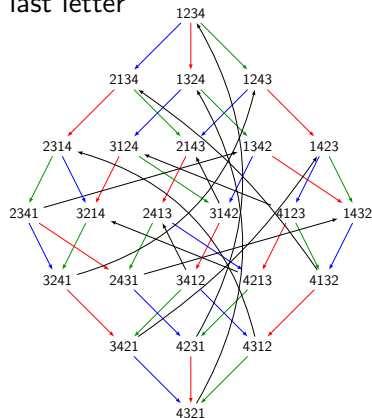
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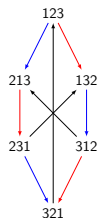
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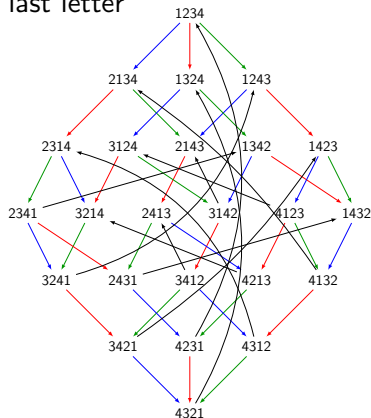
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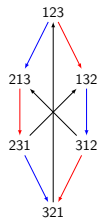
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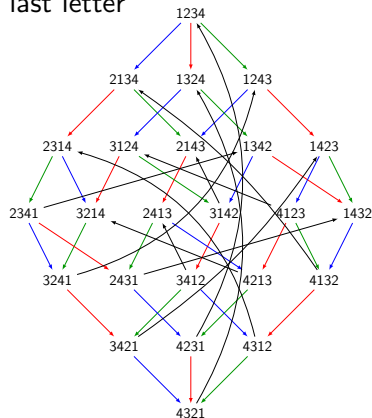
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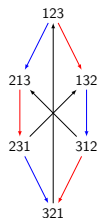
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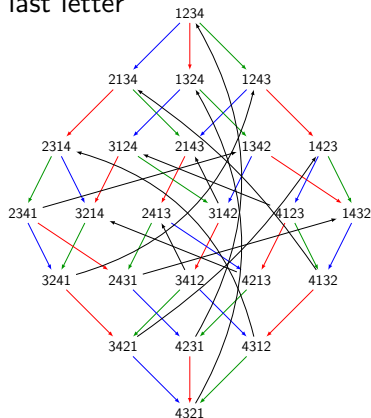
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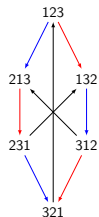
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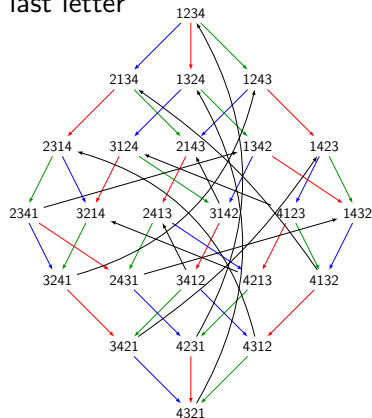
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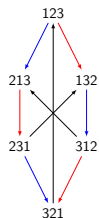
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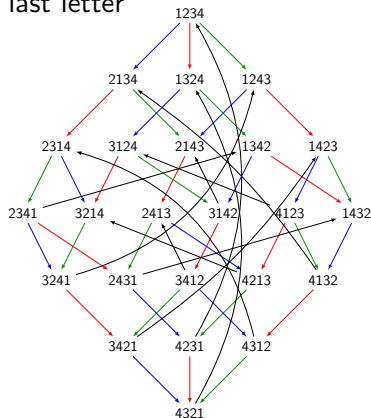
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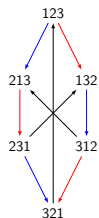
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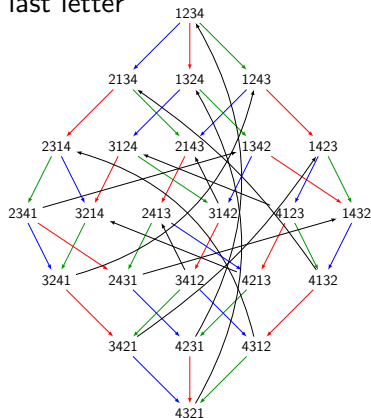
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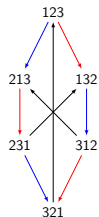
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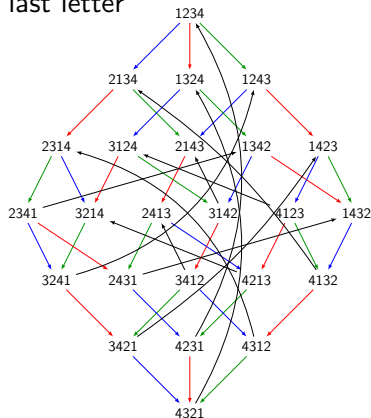
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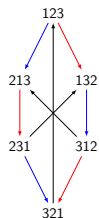
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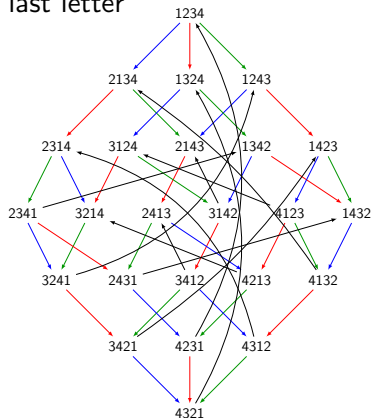
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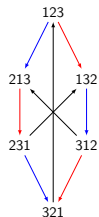
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$\pi_0, \pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3, \dots$  act transitively on permutations

# Cyclic bubble sort

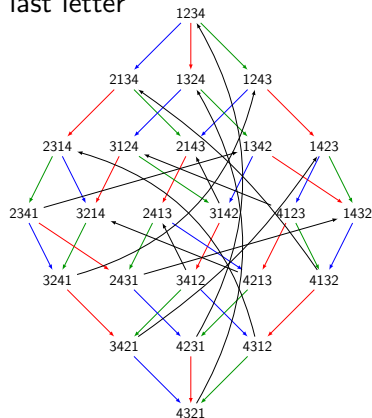
$\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3, \dots$  antisort 12345 into 54321 **There is no return!**

New operator  $\pi_0$ : acts between first and last letter



2                      3  
1                      4

5



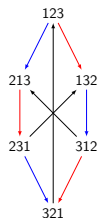
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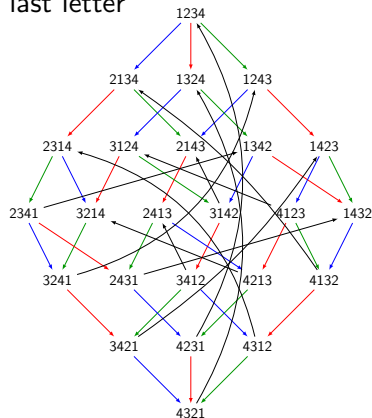
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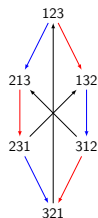
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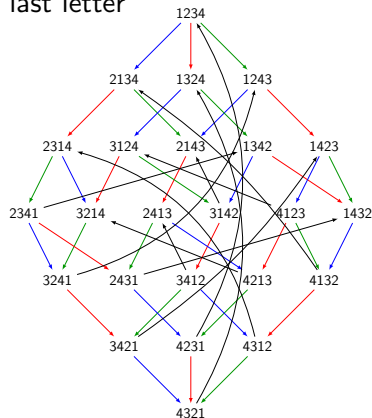
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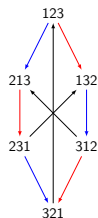
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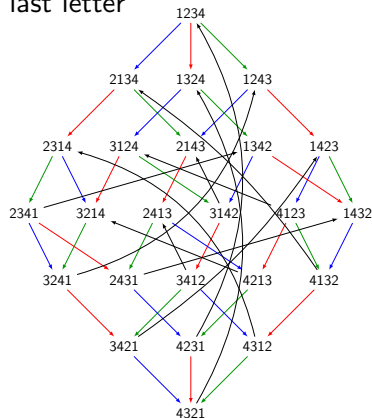
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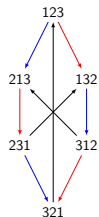
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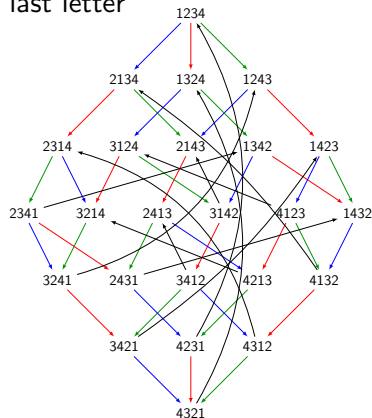
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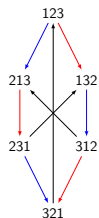




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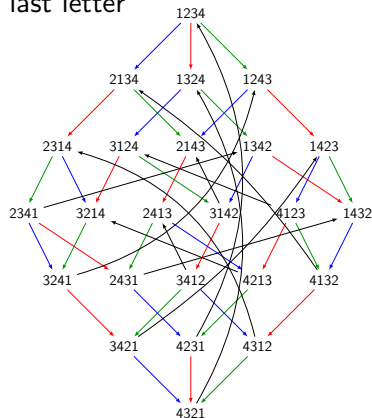
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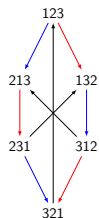
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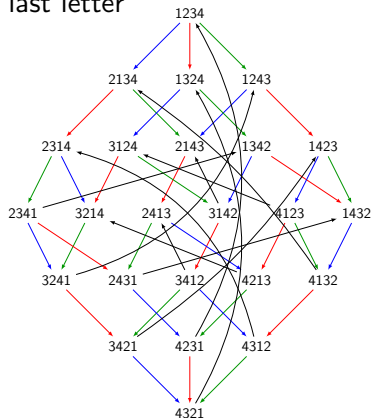
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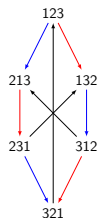
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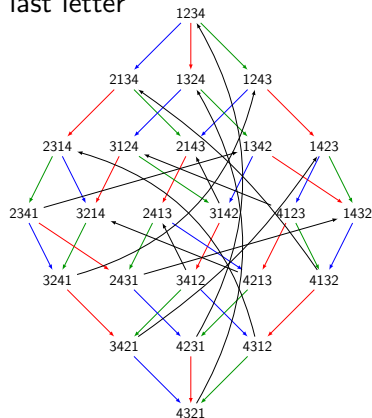
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# Coxeter groups

## Definition (Coxeter group $W$ )

Generators :  $(s_i)_{i \in S}$  (simple reflections)

Relations:  $s_i^2 = 1$  and  $\underbrace{s_i s_j \cdots}_{m_{i,j}} = \underbrace{s_j s_i \cdots}_{m_{i,j}}$ , for  $i \neq j$

Group algebra:  $\mathbb{C}[W]$

## Example (Type $A_n$ : symmetric group $\mathfrak{S}_{n+1}$ )

Generators:  $(s_i)_{i=1, \dots, n}$  (elementary transpositions)

Relations:

$$\begin{aligned} s_i^2 &= 1 && \text{for all } 1 \leq i \leq n, \\ s_i s_j &= s_j s_i && \text{for all } |i - j| > 1, \\ s_i s_{i+1} s_i &= s_{i+1} s_i s_{i+1} && \text{for all } 1 \leq i \leq n - 1. \end{aligned}$$

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## Proposition (S.,T.,2007)

- *Similar algorithms for types B, C, D*
- *Existence for all types (including twisted)*

## Proof

- Type B:  $\begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{matrix} \succ 2 \text{ --- } 3 \implies 4 \quad 1 < 2 < 3 < 4 < \underline{4} < \underline{3} < \underline{2} < \underline{1}$

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### Proposition (S.,T.,2007)

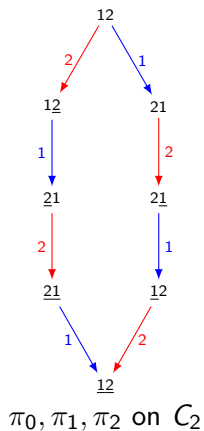
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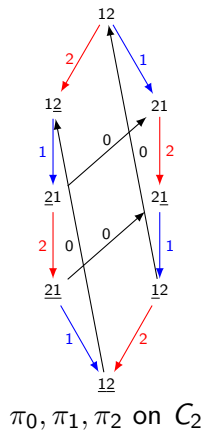
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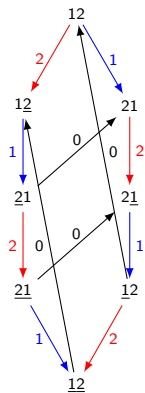
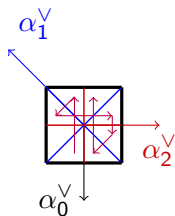
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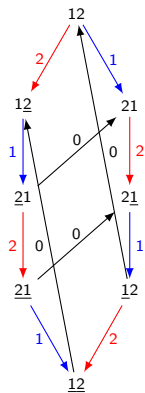
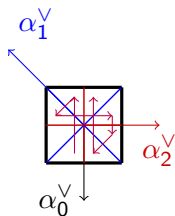
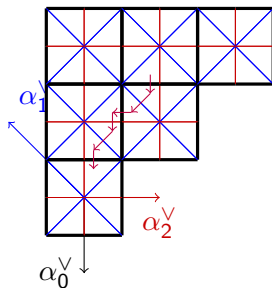


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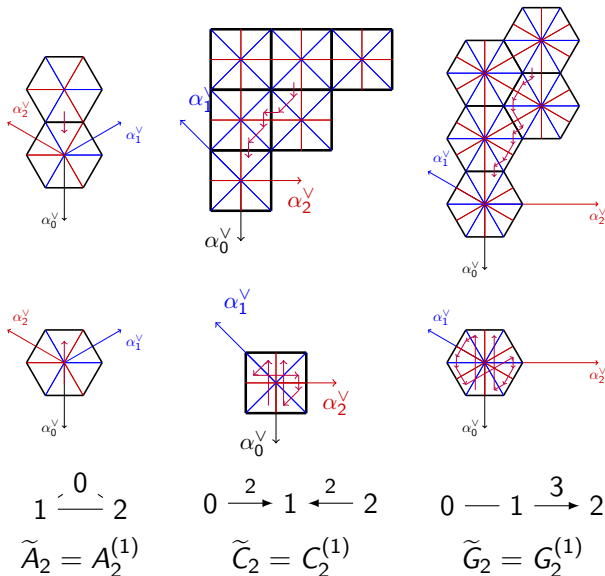
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Alcove picture at level 1



## Type free geometric argument (II)



# 0-(Iwahori)-Hecke algebras (or monoids)

## Definition (0-Hecke algebra $H(W)(0)$ )

Generators :  $(\pi_i)_{i \in S}$

Relations:  $\pi_i^2 = \pi_i$  and  $\underbrace{\pi_i \pi_j \cdots}_{m_{i,j}} = \underbrace{\pi_j \pi_i \cdots}_{m_{i,j}}$  for  $i \neq j$

Basis:  $(\pi_w)_{w \in W}$

## Example (Type $A_n$ )

Generators:  $(\pi_i)_{i=1, \dots, n}$

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$$\pi_i^2 = \pi_i \quad \text{for all } 1 \leq i \leq n,$$

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## Hecke algebras

Take  $q_1$  and  $q_2$  parameters, and set  $q := -\frac{q_1}{q_2}$ .

**Definition** (Hecke algebra  $H(W)(q_1, q_2)$ )

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- At  $q_1 = q_2 = 0$ : nilCoxeter algebra
- At  $q$  not 0 nor a root of unity: isomorphic to  $\mathbb{C}[W]$

**Motivation:** Macdonald polynomials, mathematical physics, Schur-Weyl duality for quantum groups, representations of  $GL(\mathbb{F}_q)$ , and ...

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# Motivation

## Geometric questions:

$\text{Fl}_n$  variety of complete flags in  $\mathbb{C}^n$

$$\emptyset = V_0 \subset V_1 \subset V_2 \subset \cdots \subset V_n = \mathbb{C}^n$$

with  $\dim V_i = i$

Cohomology ring (Borel)

$$H^*(\text{Fl}_n, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I_n$$

with  $I_n$  ideal generated by symmetric functions without constant term

Schubert classes  $\leftrightarrow$  Schubert polynomials  $\mathfrak{S}_w$ ,  $w \in S_n$

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# Algebraic definition of Schubert polynomials

Definition (Schubert polynomials, [Lascoux-Schützenberger](#))

$$\mathfrak{S}_w = \partial_{w^{-1}w_0}(x_1^{n-1}x_2^{n-2}\cdots x_{n-1})$$

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# Combinatorial formulation of Schubert polynomials

## Theorem (Fomin, Kirillov)

*Coefficient of  $x_1^{a_1} \cdots x_n^{a_n}$  in  $\mathfrak{S}_w(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ :*

*number of factorizations of  $w$  in the nilCoxeter algebra into factors of length  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  that are strictly decreasing*

Replace nilCoxeter algebra by the 0-Hecke algebra

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# Sorting algebras

- Transpositions:  $\mathbb{Q}[s_1, s_2, \dots]$ : algebra of the symmetric group
- Bubble antisort:  $\mathbb{Q}[\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots]$ : 0-Hecke algebra
- Bubble sort:  $\mathbb{Q}[\bar{\pi}_1, \bar{\pi}_2, \dots]$ : idem

Variants:

- $\mathbb{Q}[\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, s_1, s_2, \dots]$ :
- $\mathbb{Q}[\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \bar{\pi}_1, \bar{\pi}_2, \dots]$ :
- $\mathbb{Q}[\pi_0, \pi_1, \pi_2, \dots]$ :

Theorem (HT 05, HT 06, HST 09)

*Characterization, representation theory*

*Connection with the affine Hecke algebra*

*Combinatorics: descents*

# Sorting algebras

- Transpositions:  $\mathbb{Q}[s_1, s_2, \dots]$ : algebra of the symmetric group
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Variants:

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Theorem (HT 05, HT 06, HST 09)

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# Conclusion

## General strategy:

- Find combinatorial models for algebras and representations
- As simple as possible, but no simpler
- Find the right point of view where proofs become trivial
- Concrete and effective
- Use representation theory and computer exploration as a guide
- Sage-Combinat: `combinat.sagemath.org`



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