# Variations on the Majorization Order 

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## Inequalities: <br> Theory of Majorization and Its Applications

## Second Edition

 Inequalities: Theory of Majorization and its Applications, 2nd Edition Springer 2010 (909 p).
## HARDY LITTLEWOOD PÓLYA

## Inequalities

G. H. Hardy, J. E. Littlewood, G. Polya Inequalities
Cambridge U. Press 1934, 1951, 1967 (324 p).

## Muirhead's Inequalities (1902)

Example:
$\frac{1}{6}\left(A^{2} B^{2}+A^{2} C^{2}+\cdots+C^{2} D^{2}\right) \geq \frac{1}{12}\left(A^{2} B C+A^{2} B D+\cdots+B^{2} C D\right)$
Denote this by:

$$
M_{22} \gg M_{211}
$$

## Similarly:

$$
\frac{1}{24}\left(A^{5} B^{4} C+\cdots+B^{5} C^{4} D\right) \geq \frac{1}{12}\left(A^{4} B^{4} C^{2}+\cdots+B^{4} C^{2} D^{2}\right)
$$

Denote this by:

$$
M_{541} \gg M_{442} .
$$

Theorem (Muirhead): $M_{\lambda} \gg M_{\mu} \Leftrightarrow \lambda \succeq \mu \quad$ ("Majorization")

## Majorization: Definition

Assume $\lambda$ and $\mu$ are monotone decreasing sequences. Then $\lambda \succeq \mu$ iff

$$
\begin{aligned}
\lambda_{1} & \geq \mu_{1} \\
\lambda_{1}+\lambda_{2} & \geq \mu_{1}+\mu_{2} \\
\lambda_{1}+\lambda_{2}+\lambda_{3} & \geq \mu_{1}+\mu_{2}+\lambda_{3} \\
\lambda_{1}+\lambda_{2}+\lambda_{3}+\lambda_{4} & \geq \mu_{1}+\mu_{2}+\lambda_{3}+\lambda_{4} \\
& \vdots \text { etc. }
\end{aligned}
$$

Example:

$$
\lambda=\{8,6,6,3,1,1\} \succeq\{8,6,5,4,1,1\}=\mu
$$

Compare partial sums:

| 8 | 14 | 20 | 23 | 24 | 25 | $(\lambda)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 | 14 | 19 | 23 | 24 | 25 | $(\mu)$ |

## Moving Boxes



Example:

$$
(4,0,0,0) \succeq(3,1,0,0) \succeq(2,2,0,0) \succeq(2,1,1,0) \succeq(1,1,1,1)
$$



## The Poset $\left(P_{6}, \preceq\right)$ : Partitions of 6



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## Properties <br> - Lattice

- Self-dual $\left(\lambda \leftrightarrow \lambda^{\top}\right)$
- Möbius function $\pm 1,0$


Non-Properties

- Not ranked


The Poset $D P_{\leq 6}$
"Double-Majorization"


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- What is it?
- Why interesting?
- Properties?

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$\left(\frac{1}{6}(A B+A C+\cdots+B D+C D)\right)^{1 / 2} \geq\left(\frac{1}{4}(A B C+A B D+A C D+B C D)\right)^{1 / 3}$
or
$\left(\frac{1}{6}(A B+A C+\cdots+B D+C D)\right)^{3} \geq\left(\frac{1}{4}(A B C+A B D+A C D+B C D)\right)^{2}$

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$\left(\frac{1}{6}(A B+A C+\cdots+B D+C D)\right)^{3} \geq\left(\frac{1}{4}(A B C+A B D+A C D+B C D)\right)^{2}$
These last inequalities are TRUE (MacLaurin (1729)).

## "Symmetric Monomial Means"

$$
\begin{gathered}
\left(\frac{1}{6}(A B+A C+\cdots+B D+C D)\right)^{1 / 2}=\mathfrak{M}_{11} \\
\left(\frac{1}{4}(A B C+A B D+A C D+B C D)\right)^{1 / 3}=\mathfrak{M}_{111} \\
\left(\frac{1}{6}\left(A^{3} B^{3}+A^{3} C^{3}+B^{3} C^{3}+A^{3} D^{3}+B^{3} D^{3}+C^{3} D^{3}\right)\right)^{1 / 6}=\mathfrak{M}_{33} \\
\left(\frac{1}{12}\left(A^{2} B C+A^{2} B D+A^{2} C D+\cdots+D^{2} A C+D^{2} B C\right)\right)^{1 / 4}=\mathfrak{M}_{211}
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Theorems: $\mathfrak{M}_{11} \gg \mathfrak{M}_{111}$ (1729), $\quad \mathfrak{M}_{33} \gg \mathfrak{M}_{211}$ (2009).

## What is it? <br> "Normalized majorization"

NORMALIZE: $\quad \lambda \longmapsto \bar{\lambda}=\frac{\lambda}{|\lambda|}$
Embeds each $\mathcal{P}_{n}$ naturally into the lattice $\left(\mathcal{Q}_{1}, \preceq\right)$ of nonnegative monotone rational sequences summing to 1 , under majorization.

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\lambda \sqsubseteq \mu \text { if } \bar{\lambda} \preceq \bar{\mu} \text {, i.e., } \frac{\lambda}{|\lambda|} \preceq \frac{\mu}{|\mu|} .
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Example:

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\begin{aligned}
(4,3,1,1,1) & \sqsubseteq(3,3,0,0,0) \\
(.5, .7, .8, .9,1) & \preceq(.5,1,1,1,1)
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But note that $(1,1,1) \sqsubseteq(2,2,2) \sqsubseteq(1,1,1)$. (It's a preorder.)

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Example: $222 \nexists 311$

$\nexists$


Observe that the conditions $\lambda \sqsubseteq \mu$ and $\lambda^{\top} \sqsupseteq \mu^{\top}$ are not equivalent.


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## Application: Muirhead for Symmetric Monomial Means

Theorem (Cuttler-Greene-Skandera 2011) If $\lambda$ and $\mu$ are partitions with $|\lambda| \leq|\mu|$, then $\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda} \leq \mathfrak{M}_{\mu}$ if and only if $\lambda \unlhd \mu$.

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Conjecture Also true when $|\lambda|>|\mu|$.

- True for all cases shown in the diagram.
- Includes several families of classical inequalities (e.g. Maclaurin 1729).
- Actually, a very strong form of the inequality holds ("y-positivity").
- "Only if" part true for all $\lambda, \mu$.


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- $\mathcal{D} P_{\infty}$ is an infinite poset without universal bounds; it is locally finite, but is not locally ranked.
- All coverings are obtained by adding or moving boxes up, but not always a single box.


## Coverings in $\mathcal{D} P_{\infty}$

- If $|\lambda|=|\mu|$, then $\lambda$ is covered by $\mu$ if and only if $\mu$ is obtained from $\lambda$ by moving a single box up.


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- All such coverings are obtained as follows: if $|\lambda|=a,|\mu|=b$ with $a<b$, then:
- Let $S(\lambda)$ denote the sequence of partial sums of $\lambda$, and let $S^{b}(\lambda)=\lceil(b / a) S(\lambda)\rceil$. Let $\mu_{0}$ be the unique composition whose partial sum sequence is $S^{b}(\lambda)$.


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- Then $\mu$ is the unique partition obtained from $\mu_{0}$ obtained by repeatedly applying $\left(\ldots \mu_{i} \mu_{i+1} \ldots\right) \mapsto\left(\ldots \mu_{i+1} \mu_{i} \ldots\right)$ if $\mu_{i}<\mu_{i+1}$.


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- If $|\lambda|=a,|\mu|=b, a<b$ and $\lambda$ covers $\mu$, then $\mu$ is (uniquely) obtained by applying the above algorithm to $\lambda^{\top}$.


## Coverings in $\mathcal{D} P_{\infty}$

Example: $\lambda=(1,1,1,1), a=4, b=6$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
S(\lambda) & =(1,2,3,4) \\
(6 / 4) S(\lambda) & =(3 / 2,3,9 / 2,6) \\
S^{6}(\lambda) & =(2,3,5,6) \\
\mu_{0} & =(2,1,2,1) \\
\mu & =(2,2,1,1)
\end{aligned}
$$

Conclusion: $\lambda$ is covered by $\mu$.

## Variation: Majorization on Posets

Setup: $P=$ finite poset, $\mathbb{Z}[P]=$ set maps from $P$ to $\mathbb{Z}$. Identify $f \in \mathbb{Z}[P]$ with the formal sum $\sum_{x \in P} f(x) x$.
Problem: Given $f \in \mathbb{Z}[P]$, find conditions under which $f$ can be written as a positive linear combination

$$
\sum_{x<y} c_{x y}(y-x), \quad \text { with } c_{x y} \geq 0 \quad \forall x<y .
$$

Denote the set of such $f^{\prime}$ 's by $\mathcal{M}(P)$, and call $\mathcal{M}(P)$ the Muirhead cone of $P$,

Solution: $f \in \mathcal{M}(P)$ iff $f[K] \geq 0$ for all dual order ideals $K \subseteq P$ and $f[P]=0$.
Definition (Majorization): $f \preceq g$ iff $g-f \in \mathcal{M}(P)$.

## Some Properties (and Non-Properties)

Definition: $\mathbb{Z}_{n}[P]=\{f \in \mathbb{Z}[P]| | f \mid=n\}$

$$
\pi_{n}[P]=\left\{f \in \mathbb{Z}_{n}[P] \mid f \text { is order-preserving }\right\}
$$

Both $\left(\mathbb{Z}_{n}[P], \preceq\right)$ and $\left(\pi_{n}[P], \preceq\right)$ form posets under majorization. The latter are "reverse $P$-partitions".

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$$

Theorem:

- $\mathbb{Z}_{n}[P]$ is ranked and self-dual, but in general it is not a lattice.
- In general, $\pi_{n}(P)$ is neither ranked nor self-dual, and it is not a lattice.
- Coverings in both $\mathbb{Z}_{n}[P]$ and $\pi_{n}[P]$ always consist of "moving boxes up". In $\mathbb{Z}[P]$ it is always a single box, but in $\pi_{n}[P]$ more than one box may be required.

$\pi_{n}(P)$ is not a Lattice



## Another Variation: Principal Majorization

If we replace dual order ideals by principal dual order ideals, we get a larger cone

$$
\mathcal{M}^{+}(P)=\{f \mid f[J] \geq 0 \text { for all principal dual order ideals } J\}
$$

and a new type of majorization:
Definition: $f \preceq_{p} g$ iff $(g-f)[J] \geq 0$ for all principal dual order ideals J.

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## Extreme ray description of the cone $\mathcal{M}^{+}(P)$

Theorem: $f \in \mathcal{M}^{+}(P)$ iff $f$ can be expressed as a positive linear combination

$$
\sum_{z \in P} c_{z} \Delta_{z}, \quad \text { with } c_{z} \geq 0 \forall z
$$

where for all $z$,

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\Delta_{z}=\sum_{y \leq z} \mu(y, z) y
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Note: The cone $\mathcal{M}^{+}(P)$ contains the cone $\mathcal{M}(P)$. It's extreme generators $y-x$ are nonnegative linear combinations of the $\Delta_{z}$ 's. (Standard Möbius function argument.)

## References/Acknowledgements

Papers:

- "Inequalities for Symmetric Means", with Allison Cuttler '07, Mark Skandera (European Jour. Combinatorics, 2011).
- "Inequalities for Symmetric Functions of Degree 3", with Jeffrey Kroll '09, Jonathan Lima '10, Mark Skandera, and Rengyi Xu '12 (in preparation).
- "The Lattice of Two-Rowed Standard Young Tableaux", with Jonathan Lima '10 (in preparation)

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- symfun.m: Julien Colvin '05, Ben Fineman '05, Renggyi (Emily) Xu '12, Ian Burnette '12
- posets.m: Eugenie Hunsicker '91, John Dollhopf '94, Sam Hsiao '95, Erica Greene '10, Ian Burnette '12

