

Sublattices of associahedra and permutohedra

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TACL 2011, Marseilles, July 29 2011

A(4): the associahedron on 4 + 1 letters

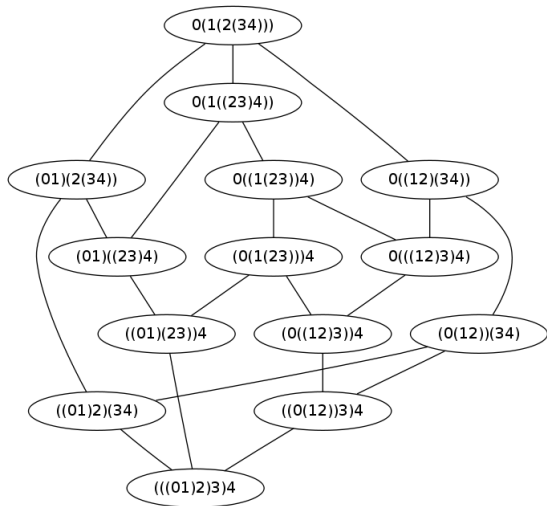
Associahedra,
permutohedra

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Geyer's
Conjecture

Non-
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Non-
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$P(4)$: the permutohedron on 4 letters

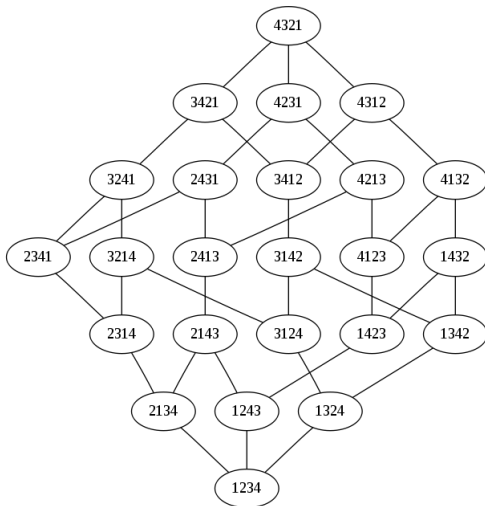
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A logical issue:

to characterize the equational theory of these lattices.

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until recently [S&W, November 2010].

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Permutohedra: no nontrivial lattice identity known to hold –
yet.

The permutohedron on n letters

These objects can be defined in many equivalent ways:

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The permutohedron on n letters

These objects can be defined in many equivalent ways:

- Set $[n] := \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ and

$$\mathcal{J}_n := \{(i, j) \in [n] \times [n] \mid i < j\}.$$

Elements of \mathcal{J}_n are called **inversions**.

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Say that \mathbf{a} is **open** if $\mathcal{J}_n \setminus \mathbf{a}$ is closed.

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- The **permutohedron of n letters** – $P(n)$ – is defined as:

$$P(n) = \{\text{clopen (i.e., closed and open) subsets of } \mathcal{J}_n\},$$

$P(n)$ is ordered by containment.

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Theorem (Guilbaud and Rosenstiehl 1963)

The poset $P(n)$ is a lattice, for each positive integer n .

$P(n)$ as the lattice of all permutations of $[n]$

- For $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$, the **inversion set**

$$\text{Inv}(\sigma) := \{(i, j) \in \mathcal{J}_n \mid \sigma^{-1}(i) > \sigma^{-1}(j)\}$$

is clopen.

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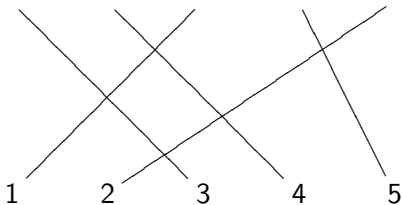
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$$\text{Inv}(34152) = \{(1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5)\}$$

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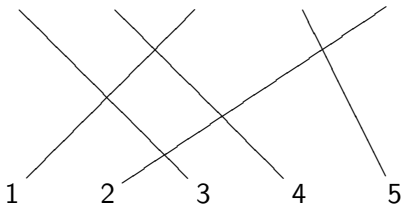
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- Every clopen set has the form $\text{Inv}(\sigma)$,

for a (unique) $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$.

Theorem

$$\text{Inv}(\sigma) \subseteq \text{Inv}(\tau)$$

if and only if

there is a length-increasing path from σ to τ

in the Cayley graph of \mathfrak{S}_n .

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- $A(n)$, the **associahedron** (Tamari 1962) of index n :
all bracketings on $n + 1$ letters ordered
together with the reflexive and transitive closure of

$$(xy)z < x(yz).$$

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- Say that $\mathbf{a} \subseteq \mathcal{J}_n$ is a **left subset** if

$$i < j < k \text{ and } (i, k) \in \mathbf{a} \text{ implies that } (i, j) \in \mathbf{a}.$$

Then:

$$A(n) := \{ \text{closed left subsets of } \mathcal{J}_n \}.$$

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Every left subset is open, whence $A(n) \subseteq P(n)$.

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Theorem (mostly Björner and Wachs 1997)

$A(n)$ is a lattice-theoretical retract of $P(n)$.

$P(3)$ and $A(3)$

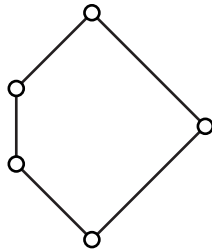
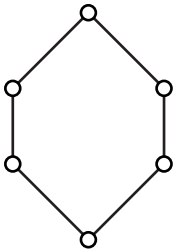
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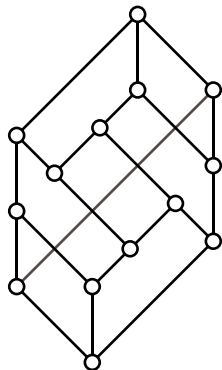
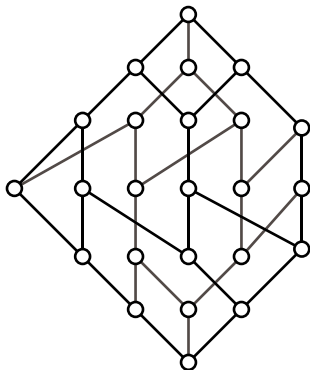
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Grätzer's problem for associahedra

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Problem (Grätzer 1971)

Characterize the (finite) lattices that can be embedded into some associahedron $A(n)$.

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- At that time, no reasonable guess for a solution to Grätzer's problem.
- Still unknown whether

$$\{ L \mid \exists n \text{ s.t. } L \hookrightarrow A(n) \}$$

is **decidable**.

Bounded homomorphic images of free lattices

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is upper and lower residuated.

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- **Join-dependency relation \mathbf{D}** : for $p, q \in \text{Ji}(L)$ and $p \neq q$,

$$p \mathbf{D} q \text{ if } \exists x \text{ s.t. } p \leq q \vee x \text{ and } p \not\leq q_* \vee x.$$

L is *lower bounded* if \mathbf{D} has no cycle.

L is *bounded* if L and L^{op} are both lower bounded.

The easiest examples

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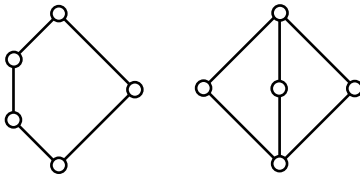
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Every associahedron $A(n)$ is bounded.

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- As $A(n)$ is a retract of $P(n)$, Caspard's result supersedes Urquhart's result.

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- Caspard's result was extended to all **finite Coxeter lattices** by Caspard, Le Conte de Poly-Barbut, and Morvan (2004).

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- Caspard's result was extended to all **finite Coxeter lattices** by Caspard, Le Conte de Poly-Barbut, and Morvan (2004).
- It follows that **every** quotient of a **sublattice of a permutohedron (associahedron)** is bounded.

Geyer's Conjecture

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Conjecture (Geyer 1994)

Every finite bounded lattice can be embedded (as a sublattice) into some associahedron $A(n)$.

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- Conjecture easy to verify for finite **distributive** lattices.
- Strangely, a similar conjecture for **permutohedra** was not stated at that time.

The lattices $B(m, n)$

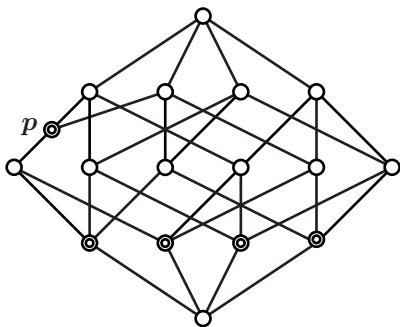
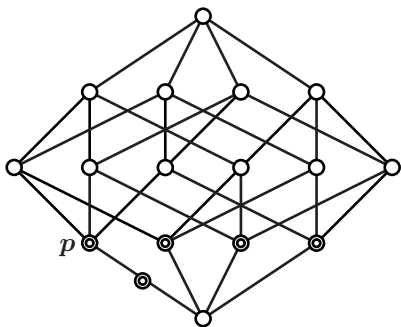
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$B(1, 3)$ and $B(2, 2)$, non-atom join-irreducible element is \mathbf{p} .

The lattices $B(m, n)$

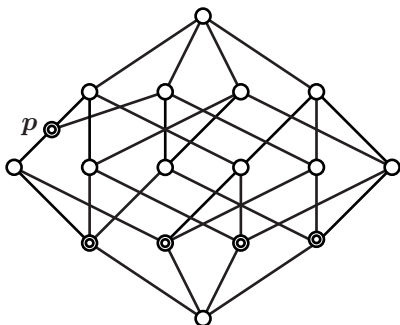
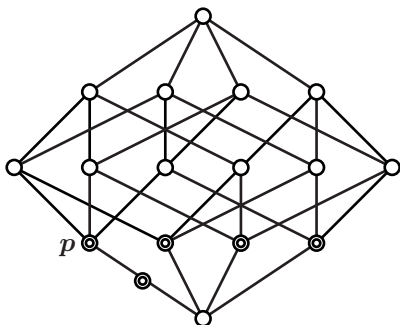
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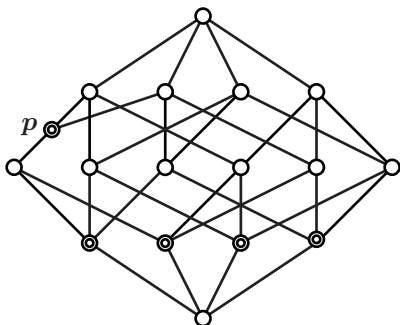
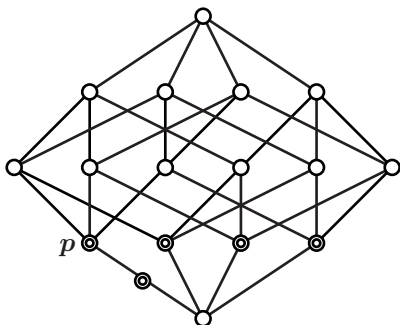
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- The lattice $B(m, n)$ is defined by **doubling** the join of m atoms in an $(m + n)$ -atom Boolean lattice.
- All lattices $B(m, n)$ are **bounded**.

The lattices $B(m, n)$

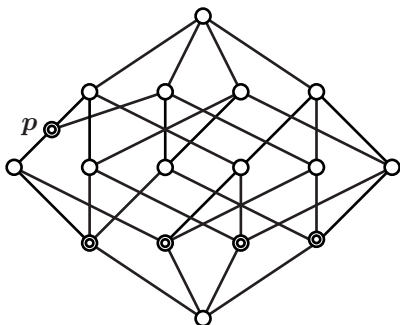
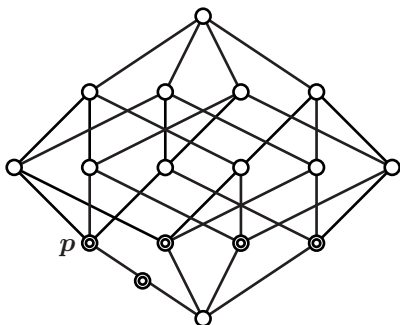
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- The lattice $B(m, n)$ is defined by **doubling** the join of m atoms in an $(m + n)$ -atom Boolean lattice.
- All lattices $B(m, n)$ are **bounded**.
- The lattices $B(m, n)$ and $B(n, m)$ are opposite (“dual”).

$B(m, n)$, $A(n)$ and $P(n)$

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Theorem (S+W 2010)

- $B(m, n)$ can be embedded into an associahedron iff $\min\{m, n\} \leq 1$.

$B(m, n)$, $A(n)$ and $P(n)$

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- $B(m, n)$ can be embedded into an associahedron iff $\min\{m, n\} \leq 1$.
- $P(n)$ can be embedded into an associahedron iff $n \leq 3$.

In particular:

neither $B(2, 2)$ nor $P(4)$ can be embedded into any $A(n)$.

Polarized measures: duality for finite lattices at work

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$$L \xrightarrow{\ell} A(n)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{Ji}(A(n)) \simeq \mathcal{J}_n & \\ & \swarrow \mu & \downarrow \\ L & \xleftarrow{\ell} & A(n) \end{array}$$

Polarized measures: duality for finite lattices at work

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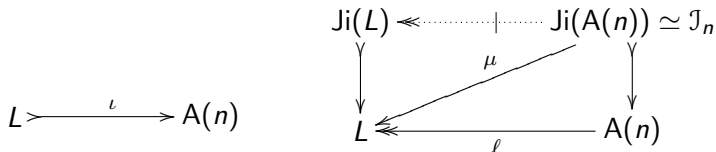
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 \text{Ji}(L) & \xleftarrow{\dots\dots\dots} & \text{Ji}(A(n)) \simeq \mathcal{J}_n \\
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 \end{array}$$

Polarized measures:

duality for finite lattices at work



Polarized measure (satisfying the V -condition):

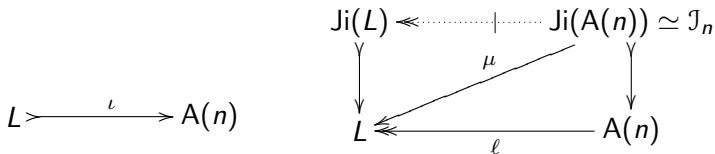
$$\mu : \mathcal{J}_n \longrightarrow L ,$$

surjective on $J_i(L)$, s.t., for $i < j < k$,

$$\mathbf{1} \quad \mu(i, j) \leq \mu(i, k),$$

Polarized measures:

duality for finite lattices at work



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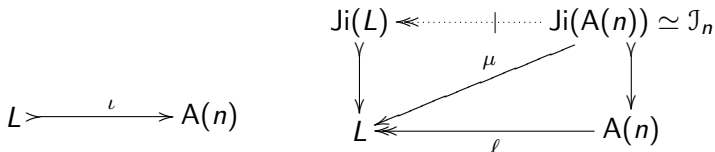
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Polarized measures:

duality for finite lattices at work



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- 2 $\mu(i, k) \leq \mu(i, j) \vee \mu(j, k)$,
- 3 $\mu(i, j) \leq \mathbf{a} \vee \mathbf{b}$ implies

$$i = z_0 < z_1 < \cdots < z_m = j \quad \text{and}$$

$$\text{either } \mu(z_i, z_{i+1}) \leq \mathbf{a} \text{ or } \mu(z_i, z_{i+1}) \leq \mathbf{b},$$

for each $i < m$.

Vegetables and Gazpachos

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- $B(2, 2) \not\leftrightarrow A(n)$ gives rise to a separating Horn formula.

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- $B(2, 2) \not\leftrightarrow A(n)$ gives rise to a separating Horn formula.
- The separating Horn-formula is equivalent to (Veg_1) :

$$(a_1 \vee a_2 \vee b_1) \wedge (a_1 \vee a_2 \vee b_2) \leq \bigvee_{i,j \in \{1,2\}} ((a_i \vee \tilde{b}_j) \wedge (a_1 \vee a_2 \vee b_{3-j})),$$

$$\text{with } \tilde{b}_j := (b_1 \vee b_2) \wedge (a_1 \vee a_2 \vee b_j),$$

satisfied by all $A(n)$ but not by $B(2, 2)$.

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- An infinite collection of identities, the **Gazpacho identities**, were discovered to hold in $A(n)$.

Vegetables and Gazpachos

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- The Gazpacho identity **(Veg₂)**:

$$(a_1 \vee b_1) \wedge (a_2 \vee b_2) \leq \bigvee_{i=1}^2 \bigwedge_{j=1}^2 (a_i \vee \tilde{b}_j),$$

$$\text{with } \tilde{b}_i := (b_1 \vee b_2) \wedge (a_i \vee b_i),$$

is satisfied by all $A(n)$ but not by $P(4)$.

... and permutohedra?

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Theorem (S+W 2011)

$B(m, n)$ embeds into some permutohedron iff $\min\{m, n\} \leq 2$.

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... and permutohedra?

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- For a finite lattice L , certain U -polarized measures with values in L correspond to lattice embeddings of L into certain subdirectly irreducible quotients $P_U(n)$ of $P(n)$ (see next page).

Cambrian lattices of type A

- For $U \subseteq [n]$, say that $\mathbf{a} \subseteq \mathcal{J}_n$ is a **U -subset** if

$$i < j < k \text{ and } (i, k) \in \mathbf{a} \text{ implies } \begin{cases} (i, j) \in \mathbf{a}, & j \in U, \\ (j, k) \in \mathbf{a}, & j \notin U. \end{cases}$$

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Cambrian lattices of type A

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Cambrian lattices of type A

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- The $P_U(n)$ are exactly the quotient lattices $P(n)/\theta$, where θ is a **minimal meet-irreducible congruence** of $P(n)$. They are **retracts** of $P(n)$.
- $P(n)$ is a **subdirect product** of all $P_U(n)$ for $U \subseteq [n]$.

$A(4)$ and $P_{\{3\}}(4)$

None of the Cambrian lattices $P_{\{3\}}(4)$ and its dual, $P_{\{2\}}(4)$, can be embedded into any $A(n)$.

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$A(4)$ and $P_{\{3\}}(4)$

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$A(4)$ and $P_{\{3\}}(4)$

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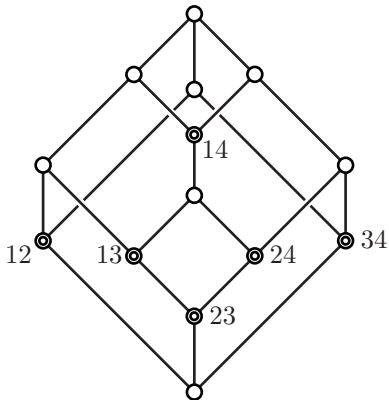
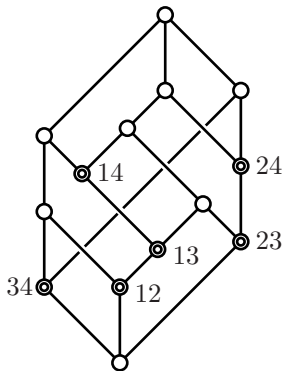
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Can $B(3, 3) \not\hookrightarrow P(n)$ be done via an identity?

- Negative embeddability results for the $A(n)$ lead to discover *separating identities*.

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Can $B(3, 3) \not\leftrightarrow P(n)$ be done via an identity?

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- Attempts to get an identity that holds in all the $P(n)$ but not in $B(3, 3)$: *failed*.

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- **In fact, there is no such identity!**

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- Attempts to get an identity that holds in all the $P(n)$ but not in $B(3, 3)$: *failed*.
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- We prove that a certain $P_U(12)$ does not satisfy the **splitting identity** of $B(3, 3)$:

$$\bigwedge_{1 \leq j \leq 3} (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3 \vee y_j) \leq \bigvee_{1 \leq i \leq 3} (\hat{x}_i \wedge \hat{y}_1 \wedge \hat{y}_2 \wedge \hat{y}_3),$$

where $x := x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3$, $y := y_1 \vee y_2 \vee y_3$,

$\hat{x}_1 := x_2 \vee x_3 \vee y$, $\hat{y}_1 := y_2 \vee y_3 \vee x$, *etc.*

No separating identity for $B(3, 3)$ (cont'd)

- Relevant values of the x_i, y_i obtained with help of the **Prover9 -Mace4** program (yields $U = \{5, 6, 9, 10, 11\}$).

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- Verified above in the case of $B(3, 3)$ (with $P(12)$).