Bounds on the Distinguishing (Chromatic) Number of Posets

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Branham High School

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Posets

ullet A poset P is a set S with a transitive, reflexive, antisymmetric order \preceq

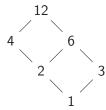
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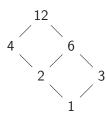


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Example: L_{12}

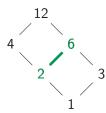
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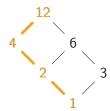
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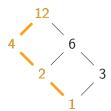
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- Divisors of 12 ordered by divisibility
- 6 > 2
- $1 \leq 2 \leq 4 \leq 12$ is a chain
- $h(L_{12}) = 3$

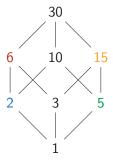


Poset Automorphisms

• Automorphisms of $P = (S, \preceq)$ are order-preserving bijections of S

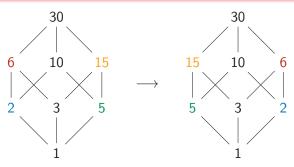
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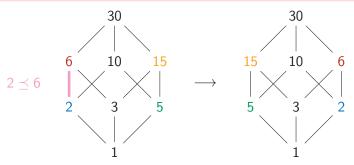
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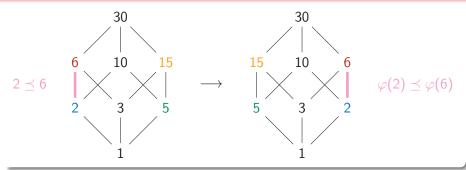
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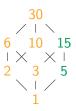
Distinguishing Colorings c

• Colorings of P preserved by no nontrivial automorphisms

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Example: A Distinguishing Coloring of L_{30}



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• $\varphi(6) = 15$

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Example: A Distinguishing Coloring of L_{30}

$$\begin{array}{c} 30 \\ / | \\ 6 \\ 10 \\ 15 \\ | \times \times | \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 5 \\ | / \\ 1 \end{array}$$

• $\varphi(6) = 15$

The Distinguishing Number D(P)

 \bullet The minimum number of colors in a distinguishing coloring of P

Distinguishing Chromatic Colorings c

 Distinguishing colorings of P where comparable elements are colored differently

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The Distinguishing Chromatic Number $\chi_D(P)$

ullet The least number of colors in a distinguishing chromatic coloring of P

Summary of Results

Notation

• Let P be a poset, L a lattice, and M a distributive lattice

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Quantity	Previous Upper Bound	Our Upper Bound
D(P)	$1 + \lfloor \log_2 \operatorname{Aut}(P) \rfloor$ (Choi, 2022)	$1 + \left\lceil \frac{\log_2 \operatorname{Aut}(P) }{f(P)} \right\rceil$
D(L)	-	$ Q_L -h(L)+2$
$\chi_D(L)$	-	$h(L) + \chi_D(Q_L)$
D(M)	2 (Collins & Trenk, 2021)	-
$\chi_D(M)$	$ Q_M + \chi_D(Q_M) - 1$ (Collins & Trenk, 2021)	$ Q_M + k$

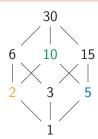
Lattices L

• Posets where any two elements of L have a least upper bound (their $join \lor$) and a greatest lower bound (their $meet \land$) in L

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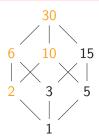
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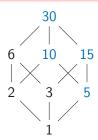
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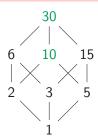
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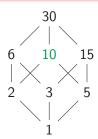
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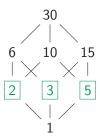
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Example: Join-Irreducibles of L_{30}

• The join-irreducibles of L_{30} are 2, 3, and 5



Results for Lattices I

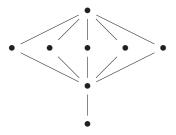
Theorem (J., 2025)

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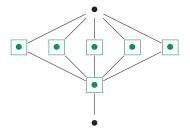
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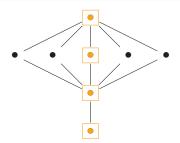


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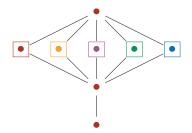


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Example: An Equality Case



- $|Q_L| = 6$
- h(L) = 3
- D(L) = 5

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For lattices L, we have $\chi_D(L) \leq h(L) + \chi_D(Q_L)$.

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• Cannot replace either term with a constant

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Theorem (Collins & Trenk, 2021)

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• Stronger except when $\chi_D(Q_M)=2$ and $|\max(Q_M)|=4$ or $\chi_D(Q_M)=3$ and $|\max(Q_M)|=4$

Corollary

For a distributive lattice M with $|\max(Q_M)| \neq 1, 4$, we have $\chi_D(M) \leq |Q_M| + 2$.

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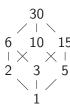
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Example: $\chi_D(L_{30})$



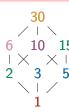
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Example: $\chi_D(L_{30})$

- $\chi_D(M) = 5$
- $|\max(Q_M)| = 3$



Acknowledgments

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13 / 15

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