

# On lattice path matroid polytopes: integer points and Ehrhart polynomial

Jorge Luis Ramírez Alfonsín

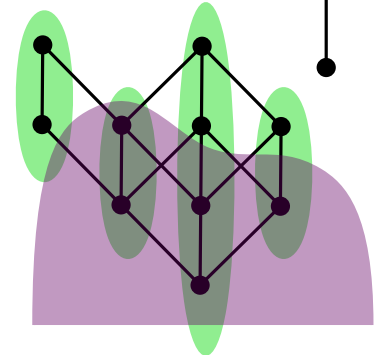
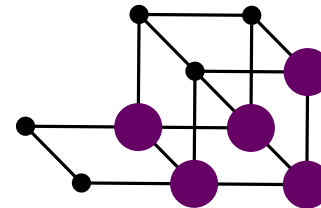
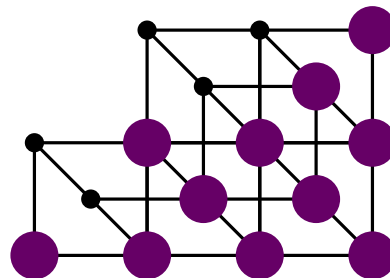
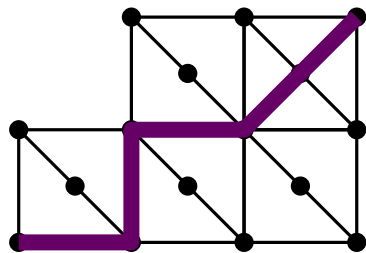
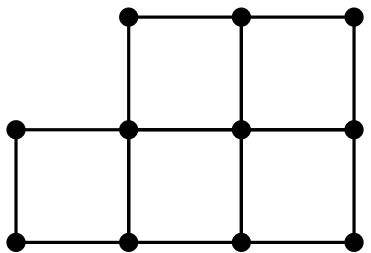
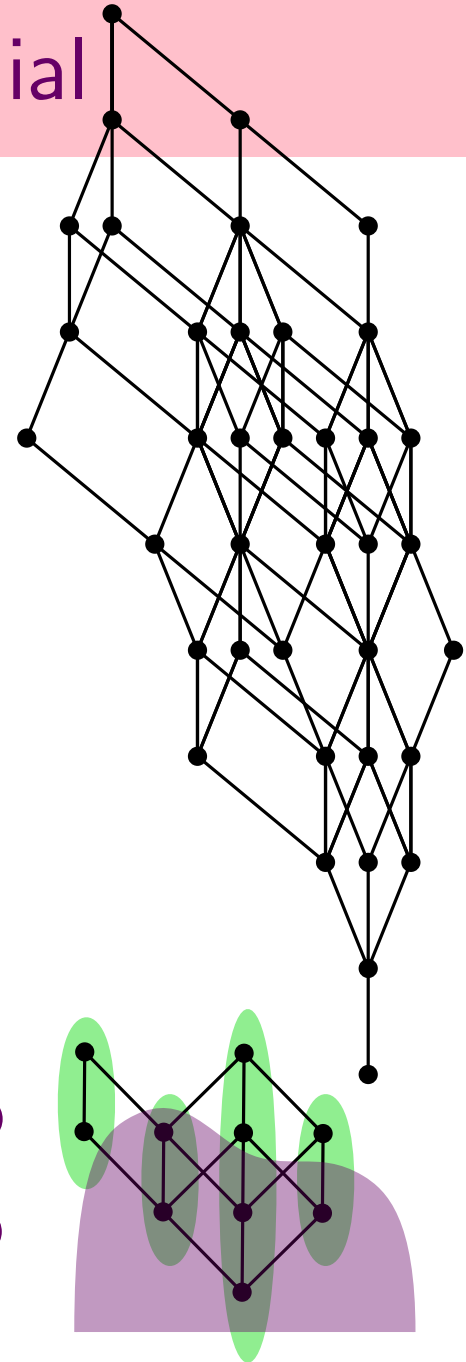
Institut Montpelliérain Alexander Grothendieck,  
Université de Montpellier

Leonardo Martínez-Sandoval

Faculté des Sciences  
Sorbonne Université

Kolja Knauer

Universitat de Barcelona



# A little bit of Ehrhart-theory

Let  $P \subset \mathbb{R}^{d'}$  be a  $d$ -dimensional integral convex polytope and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

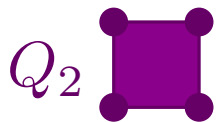
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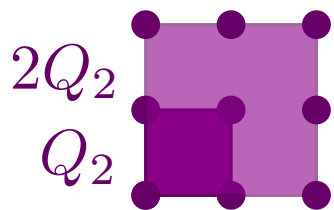
$k$	
1	
$L_{Q_2}(k)$	4



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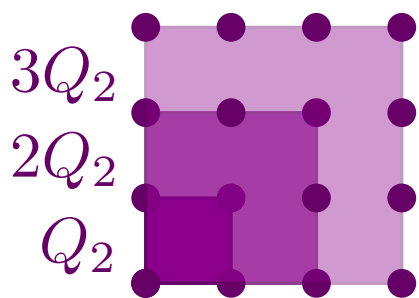


$k$	1	2
$L_{Q_2}(k)$	4	9

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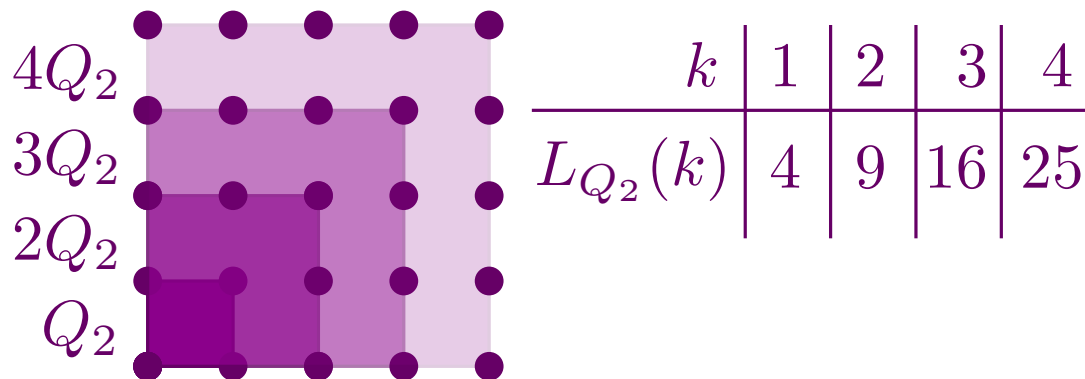


$k$	1	2	3
$L_{Q_2}(k)$	4	9	16

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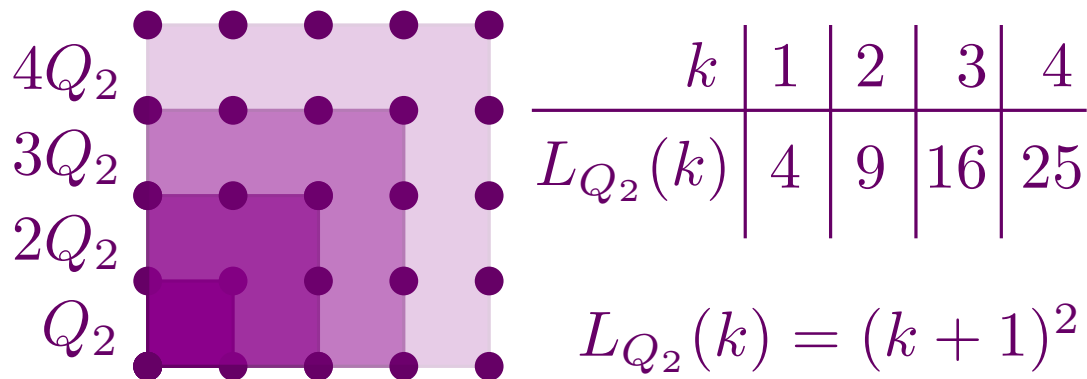
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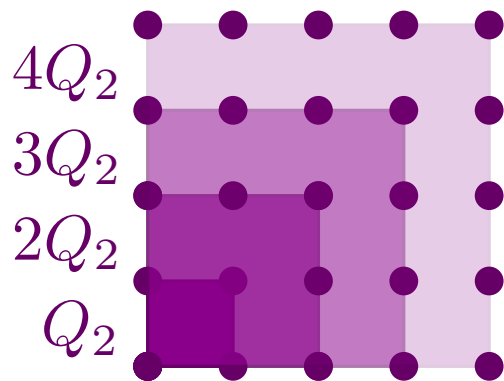
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$$L_{Q_2}(k) = (k + 1)^2$$

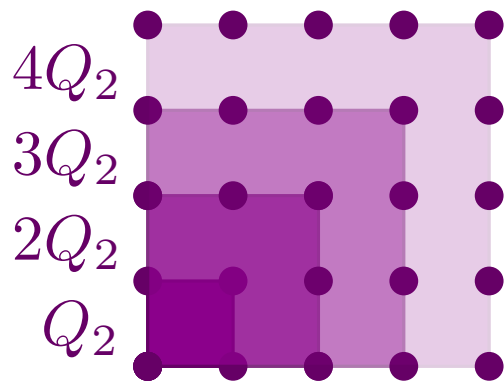
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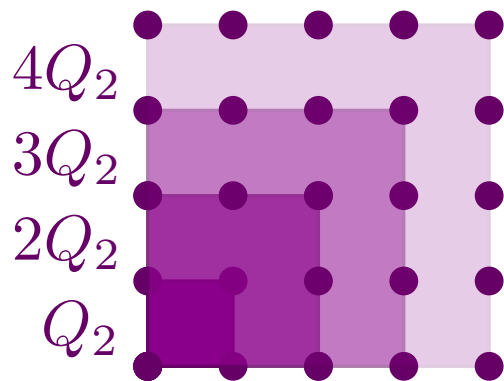
$$L_{Q_d}(t) = (t + 1)^d = \sum_{i=0}^d \binom{d}{i} t^i$$

- degree  $d$  polynomial
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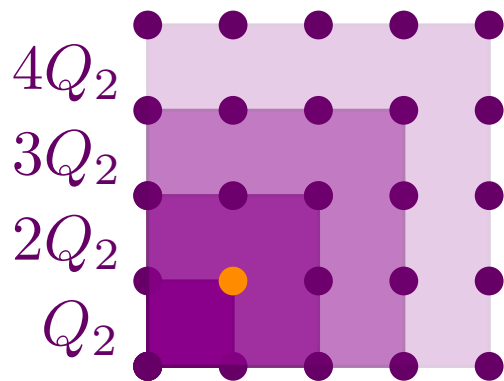
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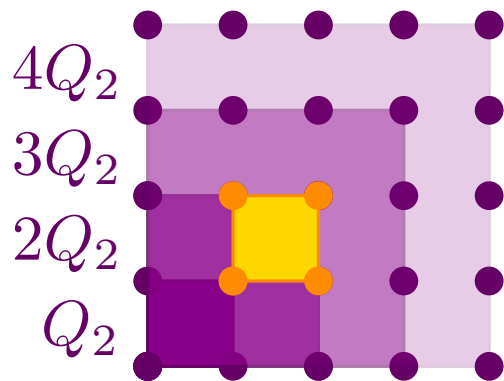
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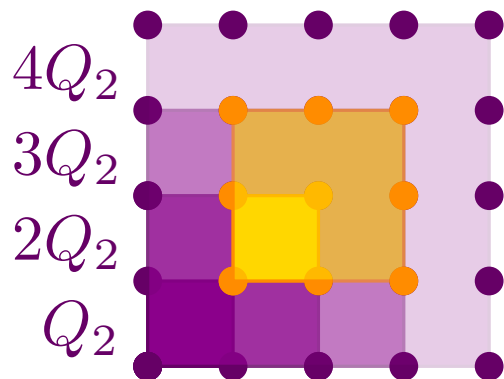
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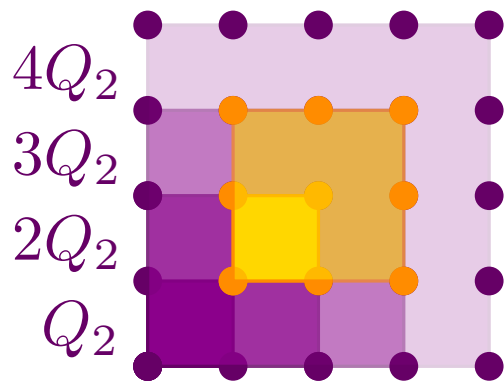
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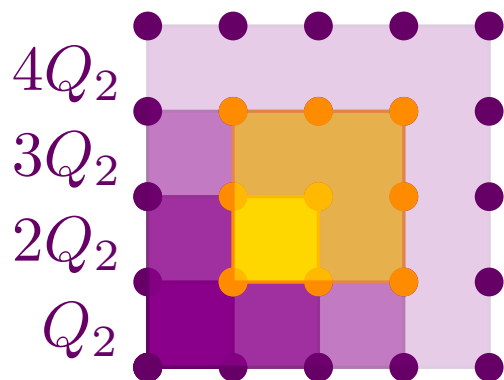
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## Thm (Ehrhart '62):

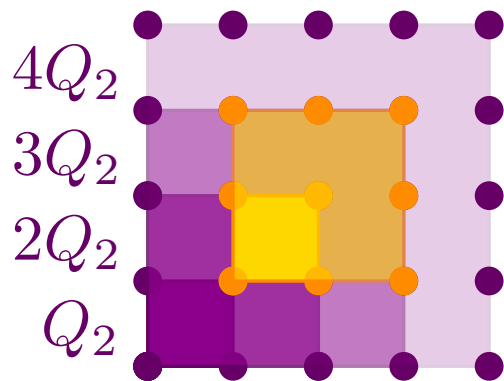
$L_P(t)$  is a degree  $d$  polynomial with rational coefficients.

Moreover,  $L_P(-k) = (-1)^d L_{P^\circ}(k)$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

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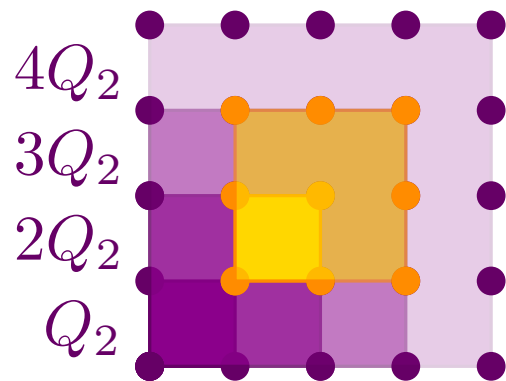
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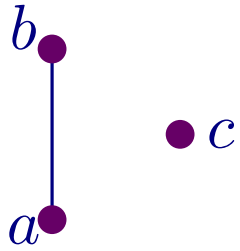
## Thm (Stanley '91):

there are  $h_0^*, \dots, h_d^* \geq 0$  such that  $L_P(t) = \sum_{i=0}^d h_i^* \binom{t+d-i}{d}$ .

# Order polytopes

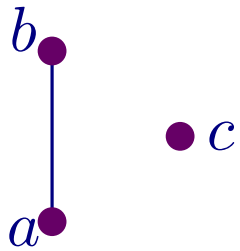
# Order polytopes

poset  $X$



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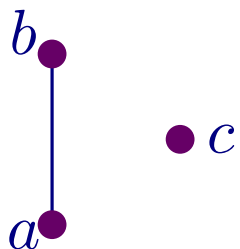
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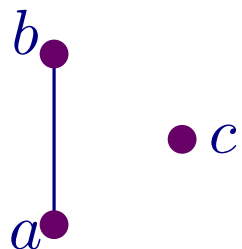
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$\mathcal{I}(X)$  set of ideals of  $X$   
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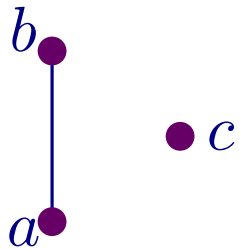
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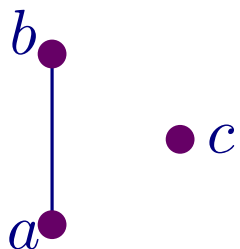
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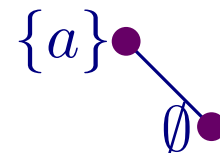
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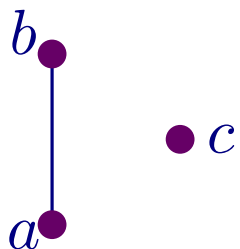
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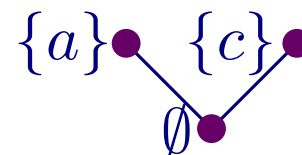
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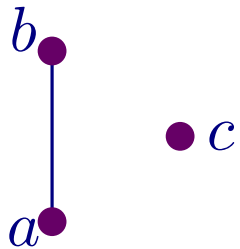
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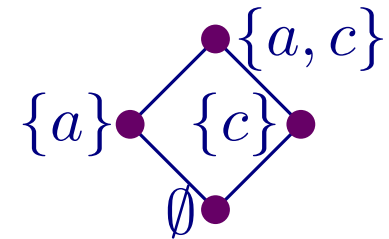
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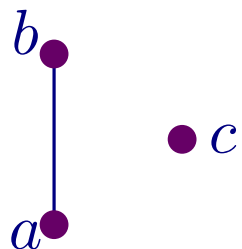
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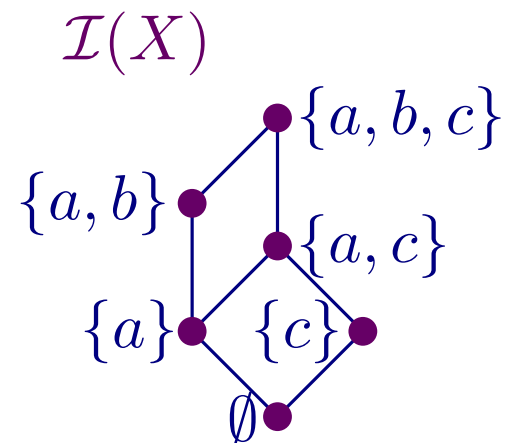
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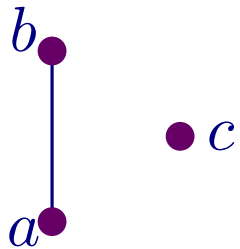
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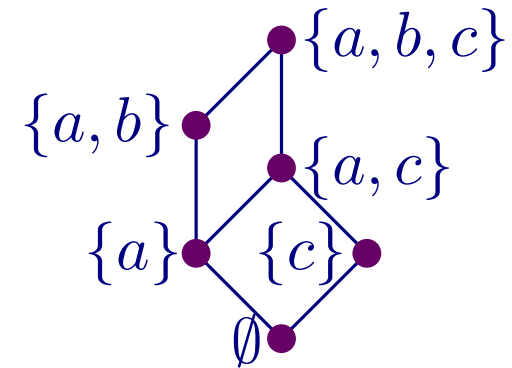
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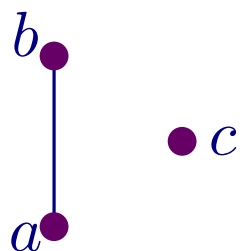
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$\mathcal{I}(X)$  distributive lattice



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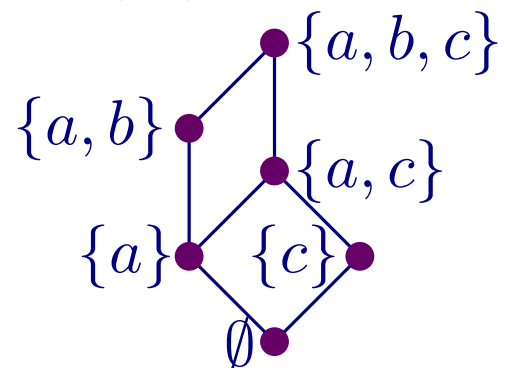
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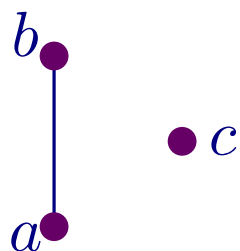
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order polytope  $P_X = \text{conv}\{\text{characteristic vectors of } \mathcal{I}(X)\}$

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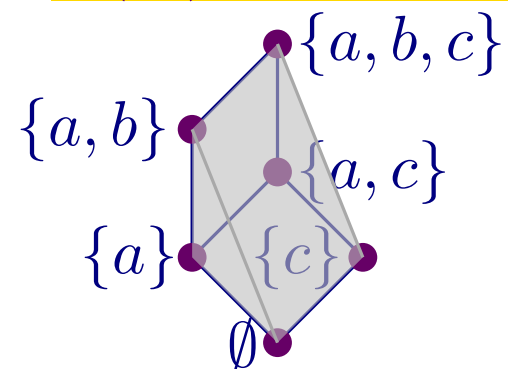
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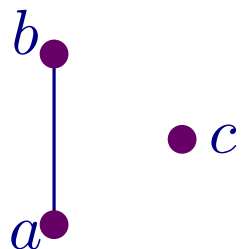
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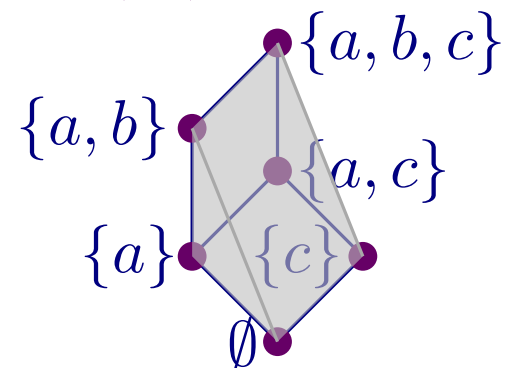
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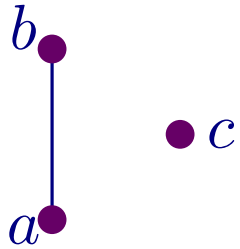
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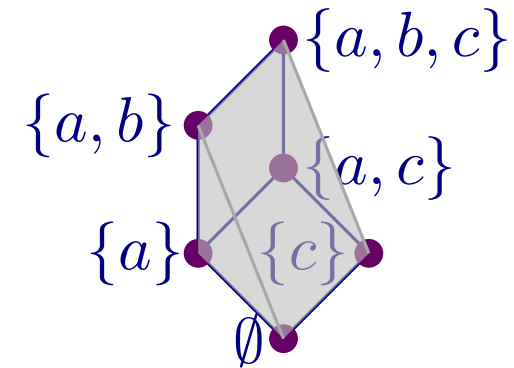
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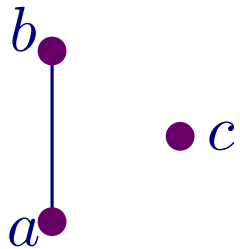
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$$L_{P_X}(1) = |\mathcal{I}(X)|$$



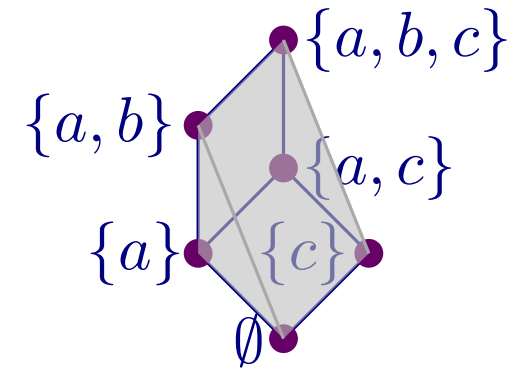
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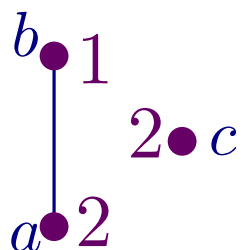
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# Order polytopes

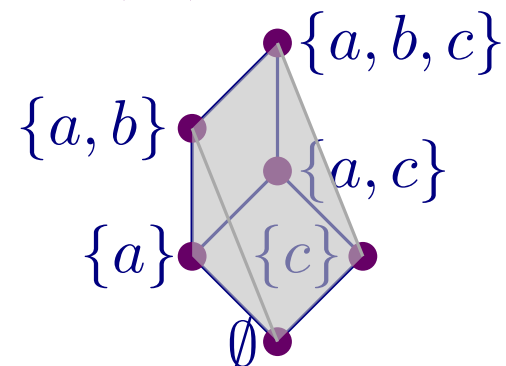
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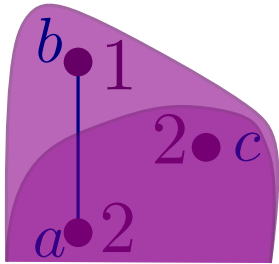
order polytope  $P_X = \text{conv}\{\text{characteristic vectors of } \mathcal{I}(X)\}$   
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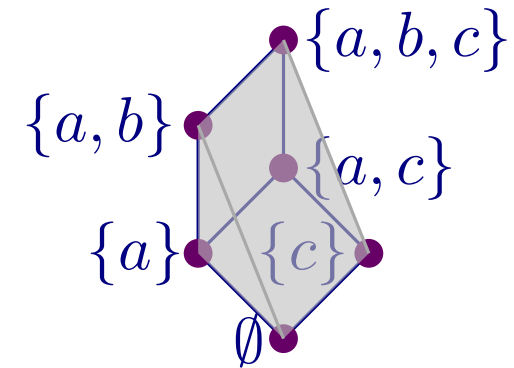
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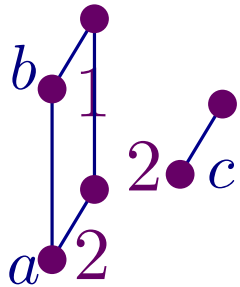
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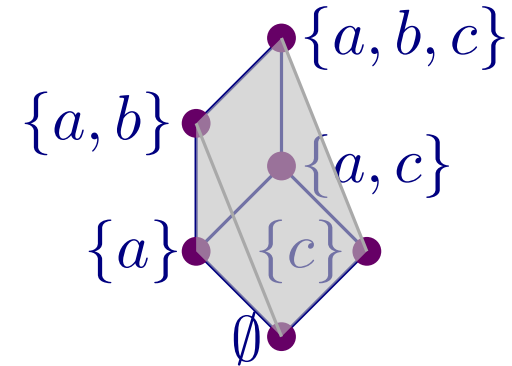
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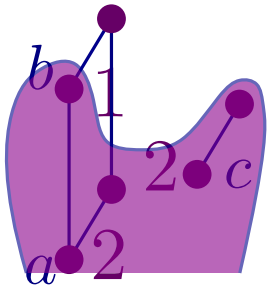
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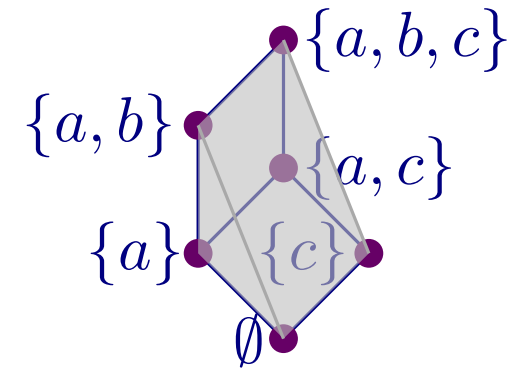
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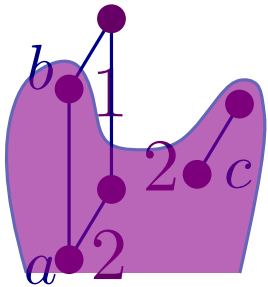
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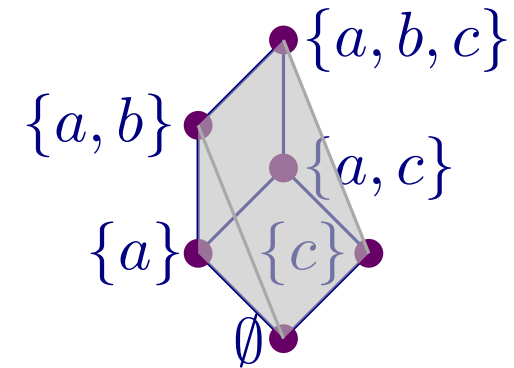
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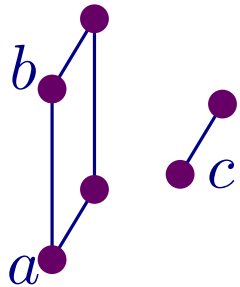
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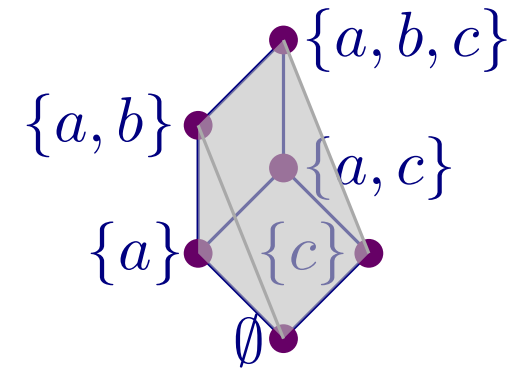
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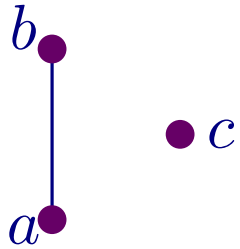


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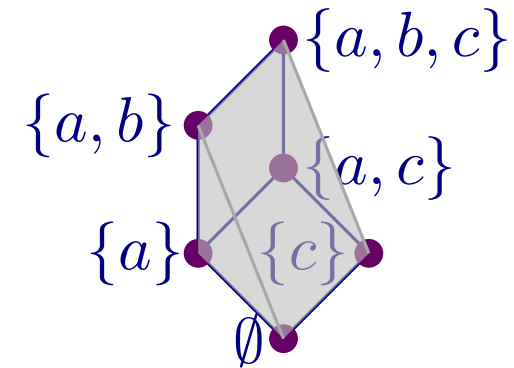
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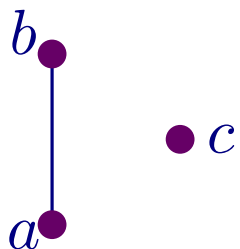
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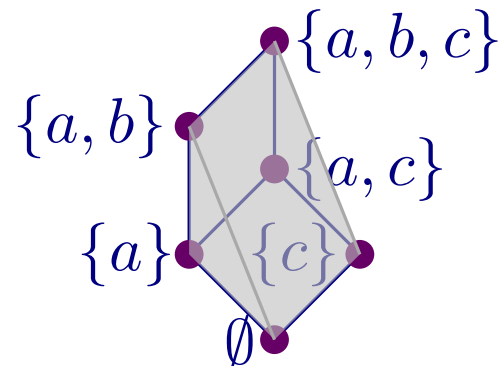
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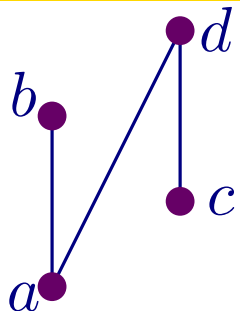
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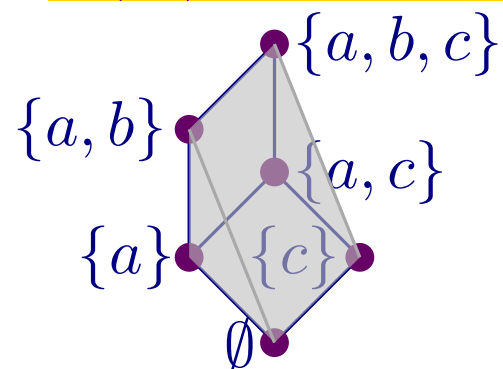
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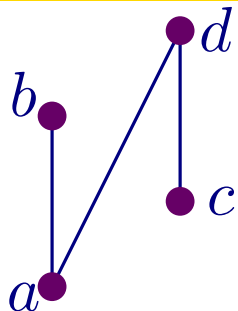
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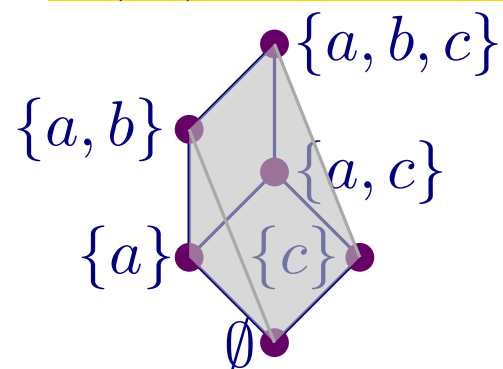
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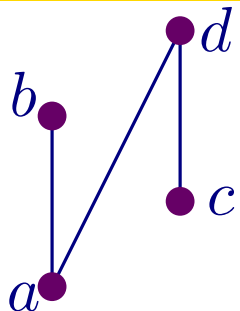
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$$E = abcd \bullet$$

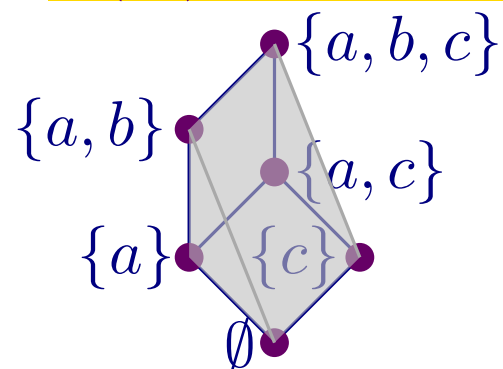
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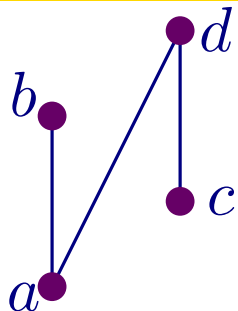
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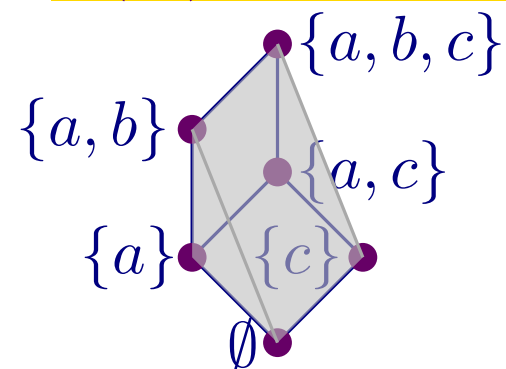
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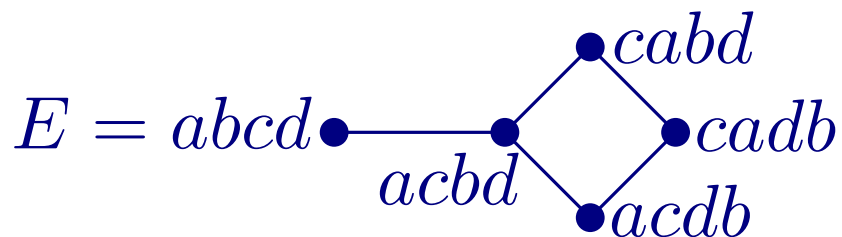


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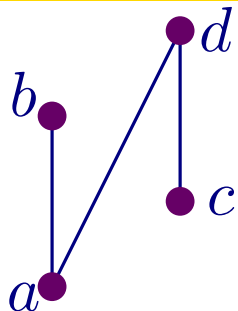
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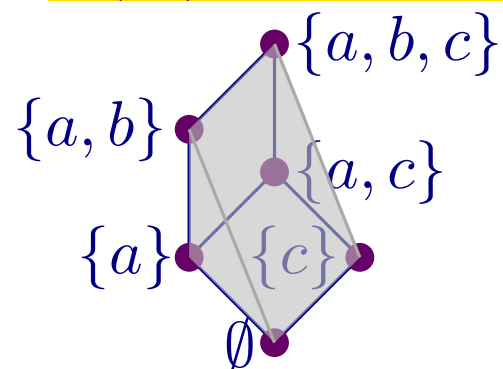
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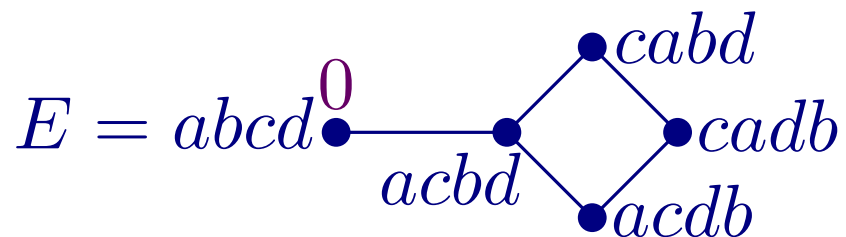


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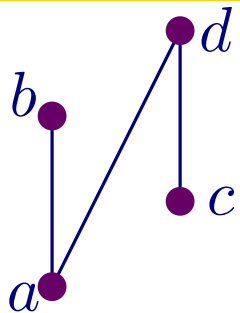
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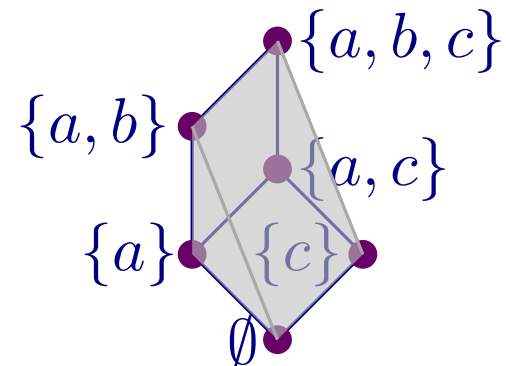
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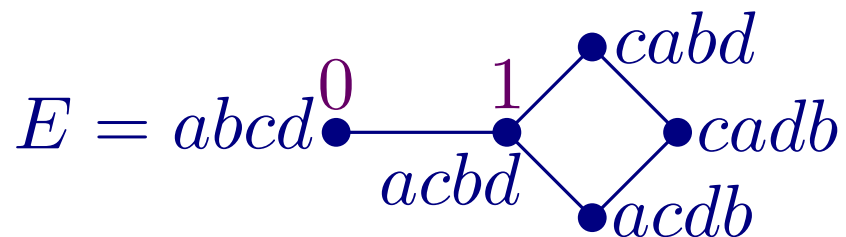


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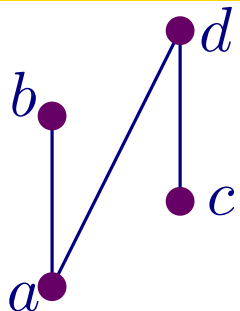
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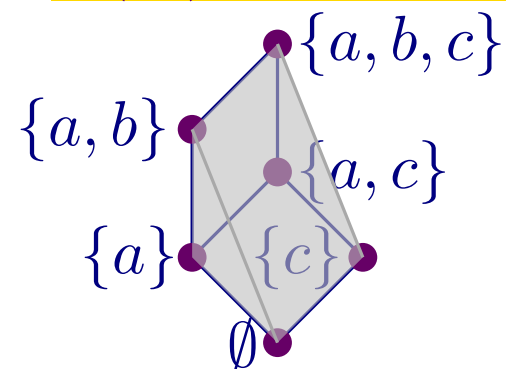
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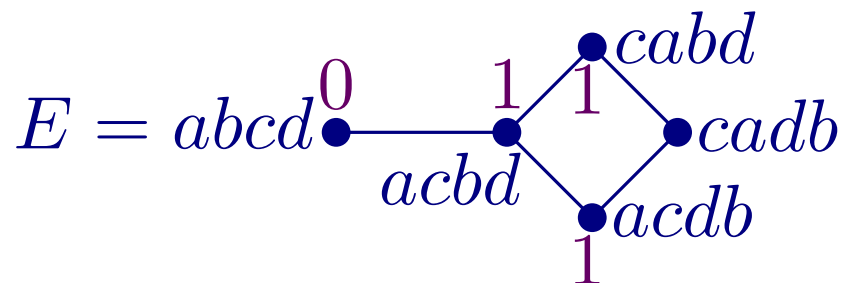


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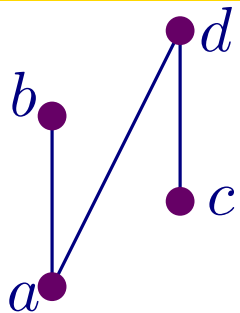
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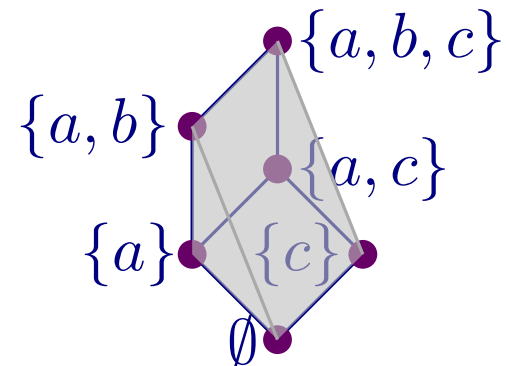
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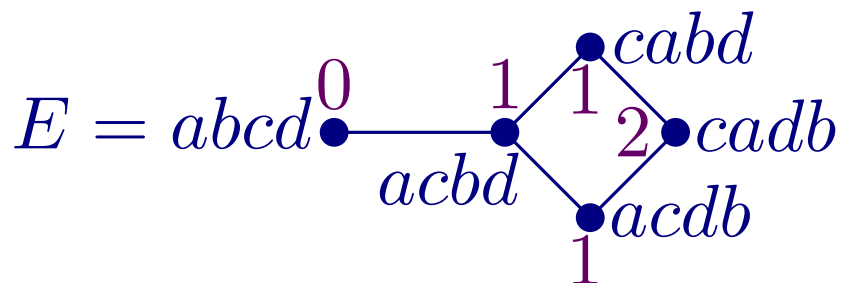


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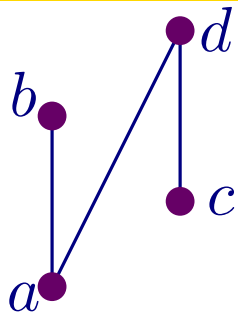
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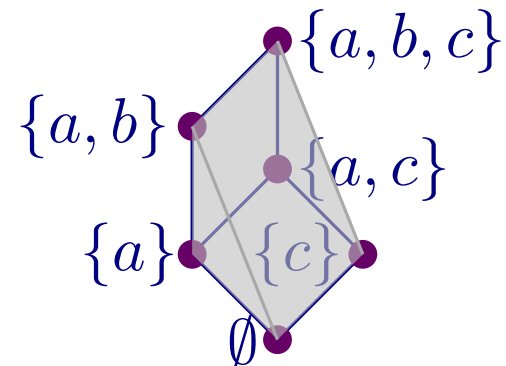
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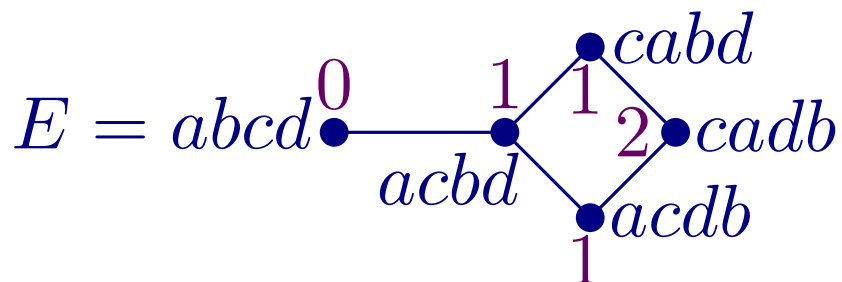


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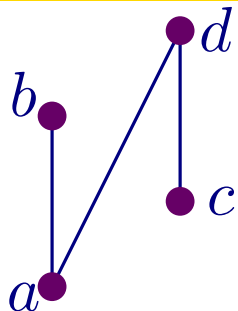
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$i$	0	1	2	3
$\omega_i$	1	3	1	0

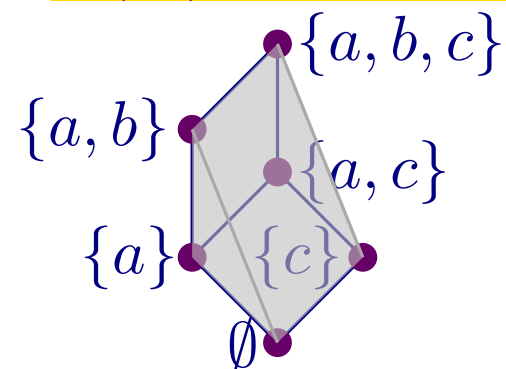
# Order polytopes

poset  $X$



$I \subseteq X$  is an *ideal* if  
 $y \leq x \in I \implies y \in I$   
 $\mathcal{I}(X)$  set of ideals of  $X$   
 ordered by inclusion

$\mathcal{I}(X)$  distributive lattice



order polytope  $P_X = \text{conv}\{\text{characteristic vectors of } \mathcal{I}(X)\}$   
 $= \{x \in [0, 1]^d \mid x_i \leq x_j \text{ if } i \geq j \text{ in } X\}$

$$L_{P_X}(k) = |\mathcal{I}(X \times P_k)| = L_{P_X \times P_k}(1)$$

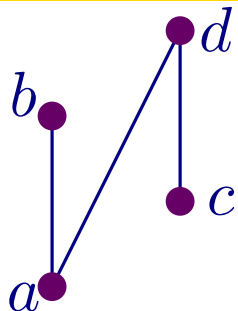
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**Conjecture (Neggers '78):**  $\omega$  is unimodal.  
 (actually something stronger but false (Stembridge '06))

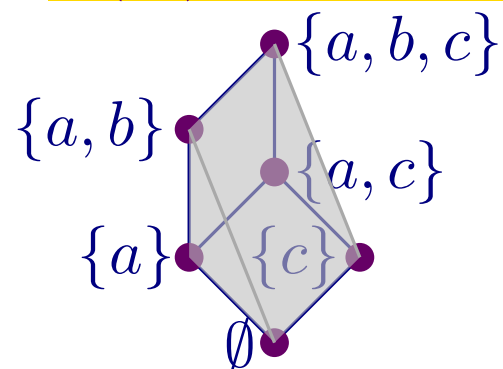
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**known for:**

unions of chains (Simion '84) and graded posets (Reiner, Welker '05).

# Matroid polytopes

A *matroid* is a pair  $M = (E, \mathcal{B})$  with  $E$  finite and  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq 2^E$  such that:

- $\mathcal{B}$  is non-empty.
- $\forall A, B \in \mathcal{B}$  and  $a \in A \setminus B, \exists b \in B \setminus A : A \setminus \{a\} \cup \{b\} \in \mathcal{B}$ .

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We will now study  $P_M$  for *lattice path matroids* and in the end find some new families confirming the above conjecture.

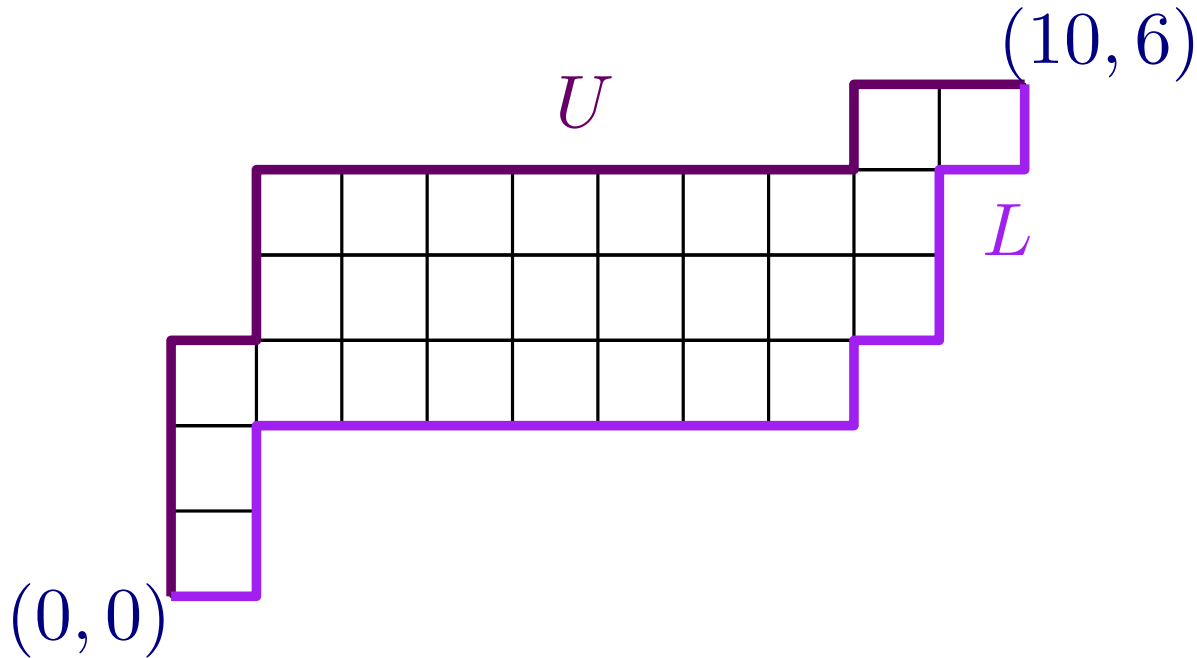
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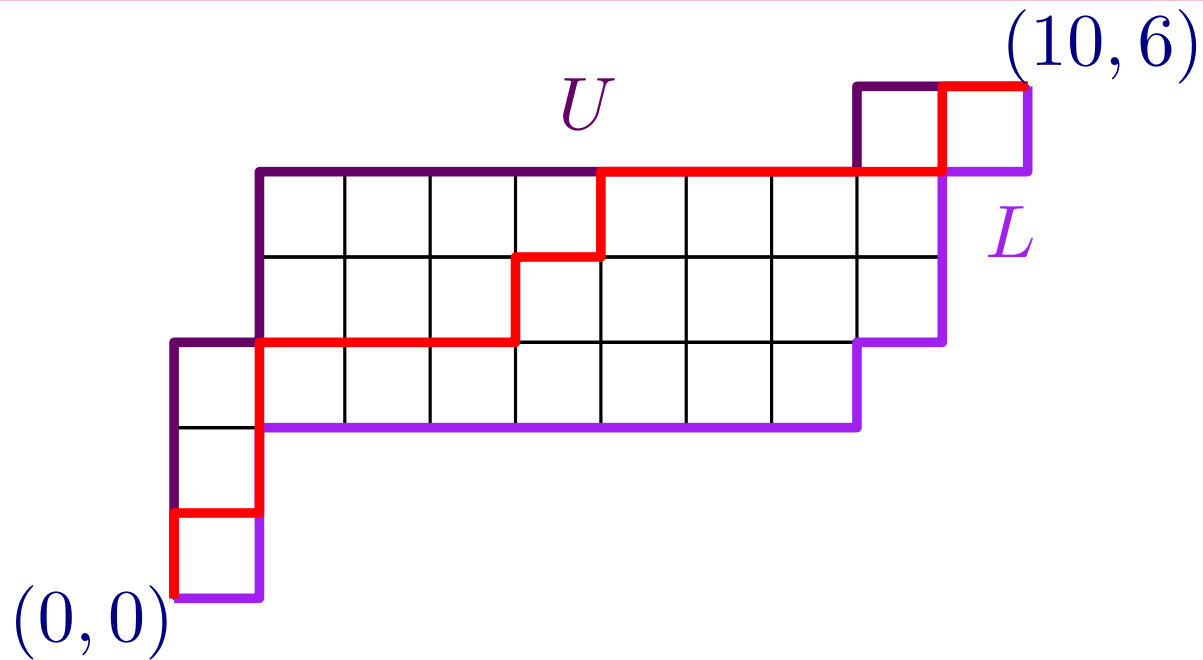
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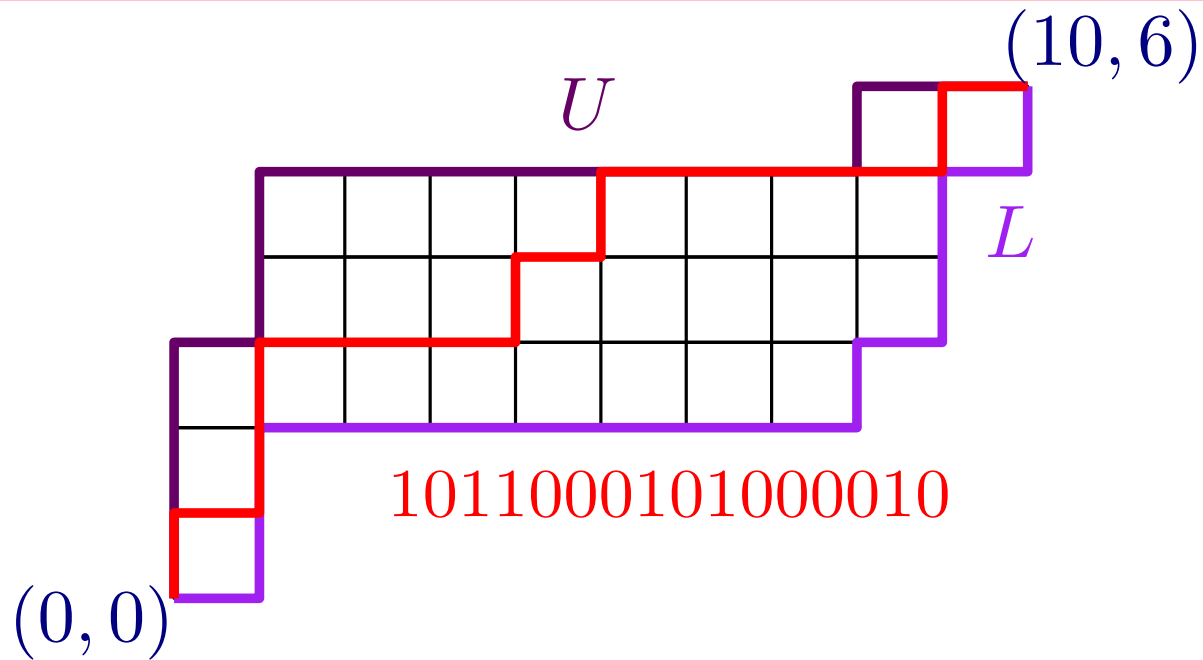
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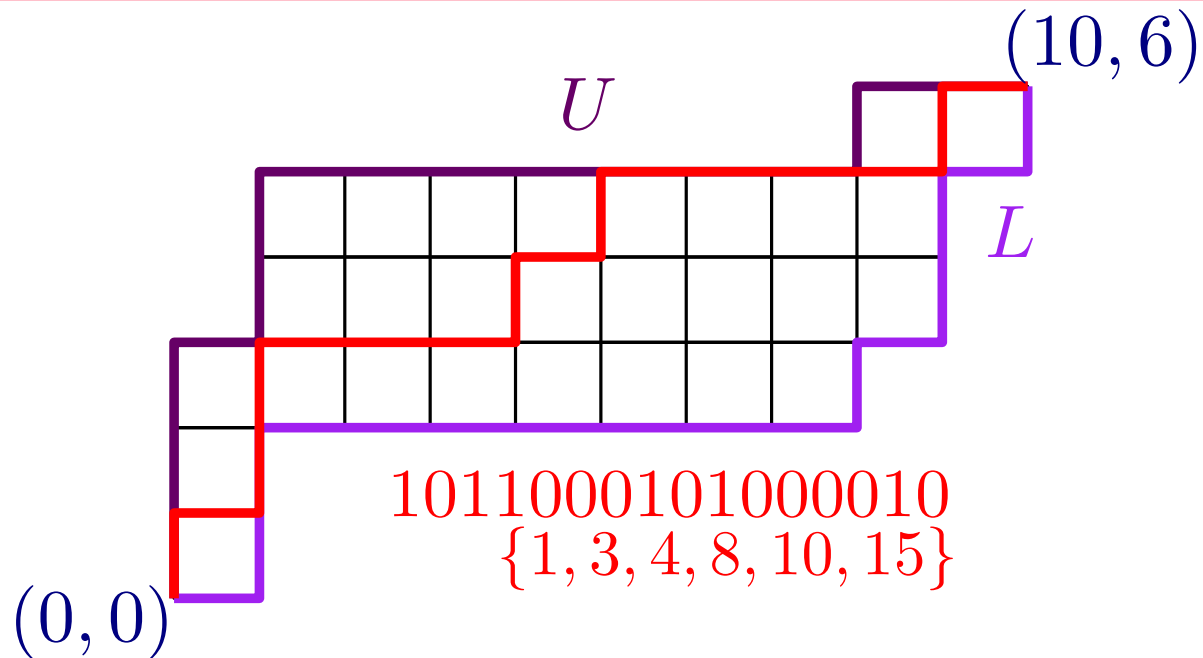
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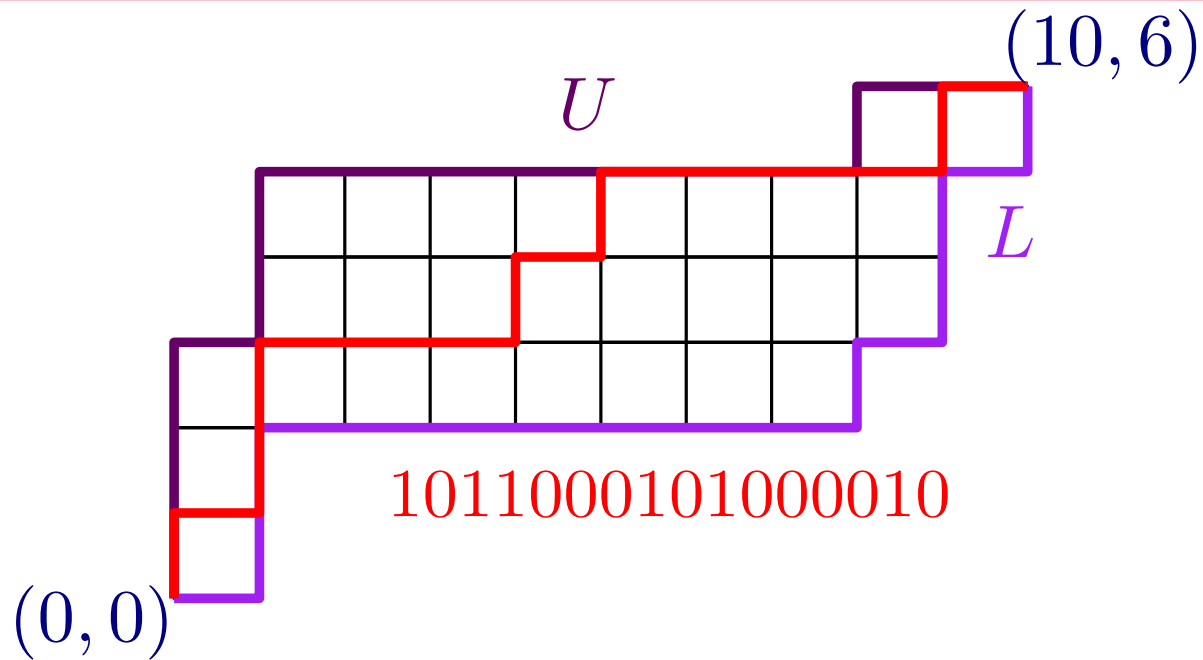
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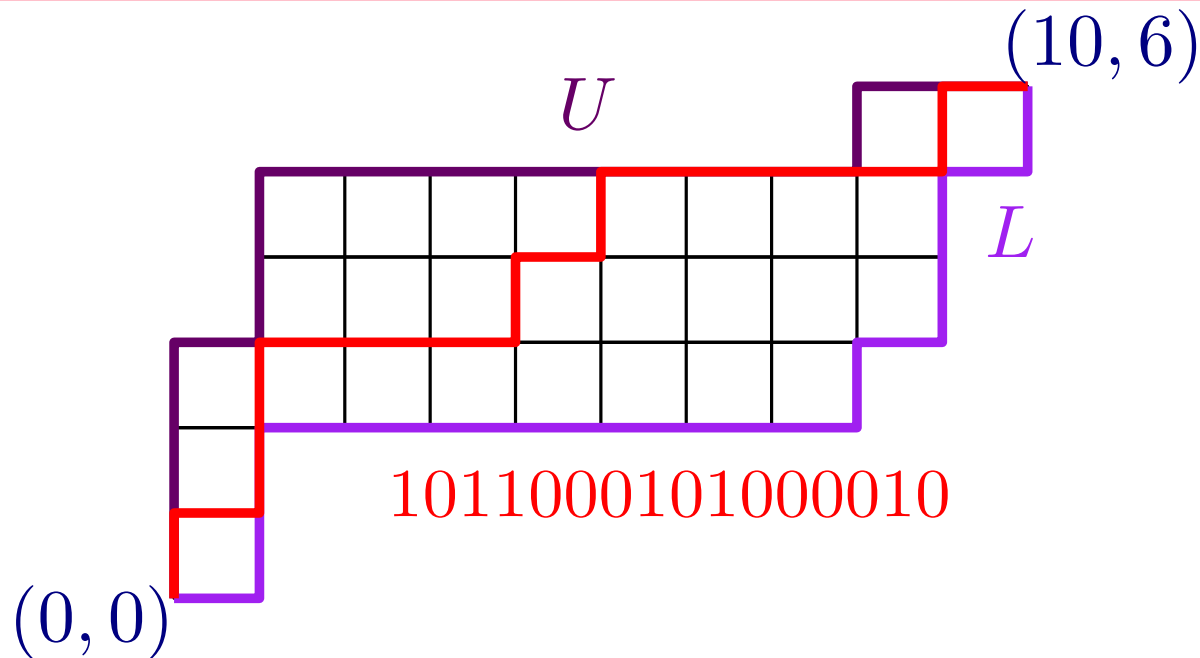
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*generalized lattice paths*  $\mathcal{C}_M$



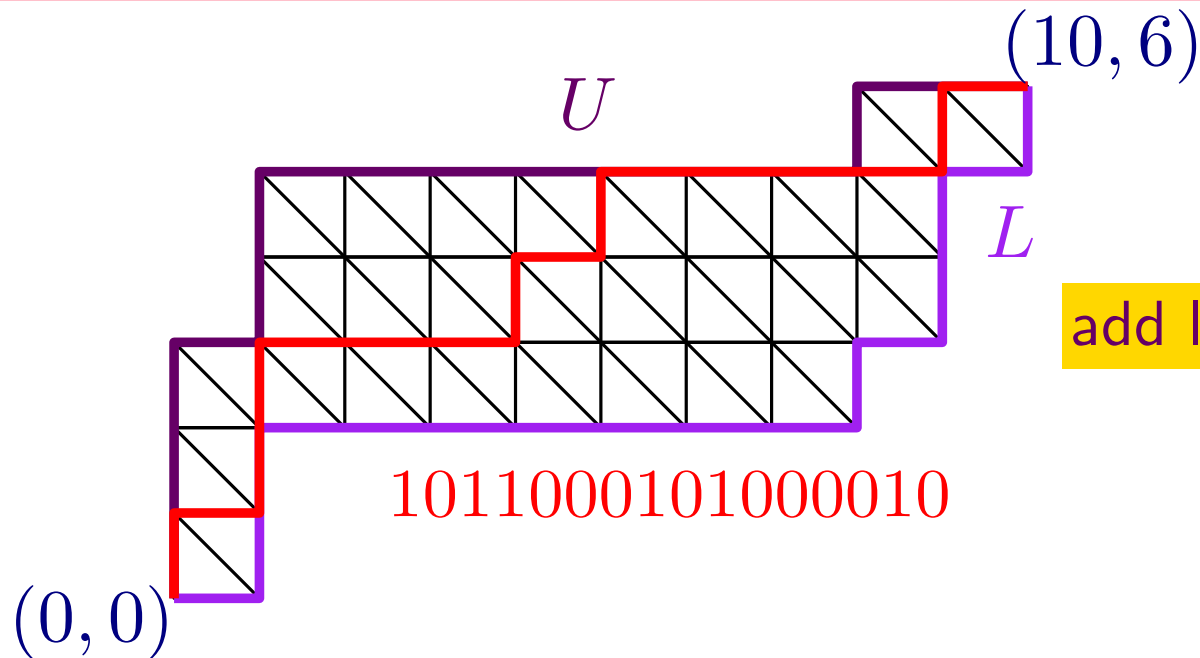
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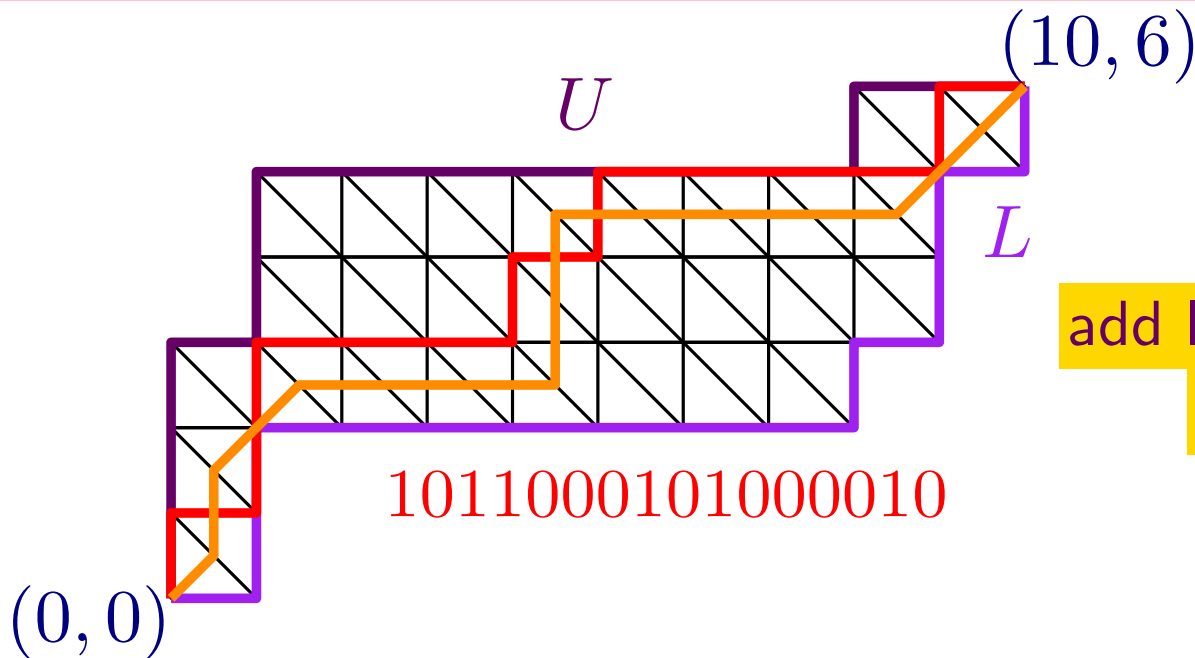
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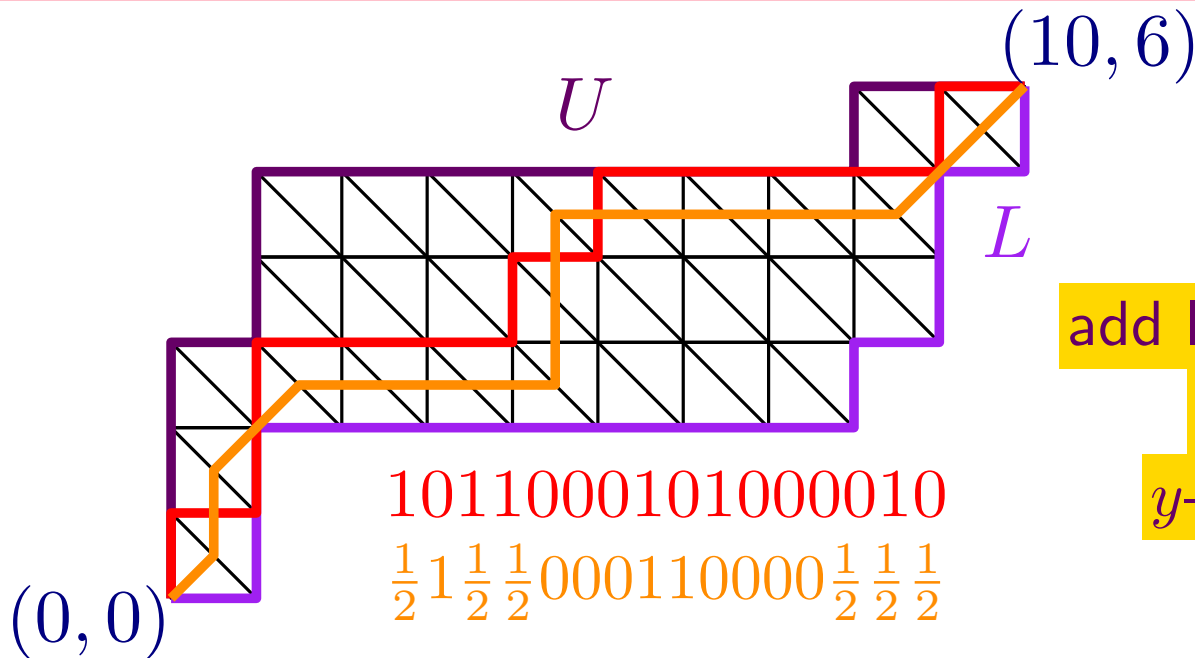
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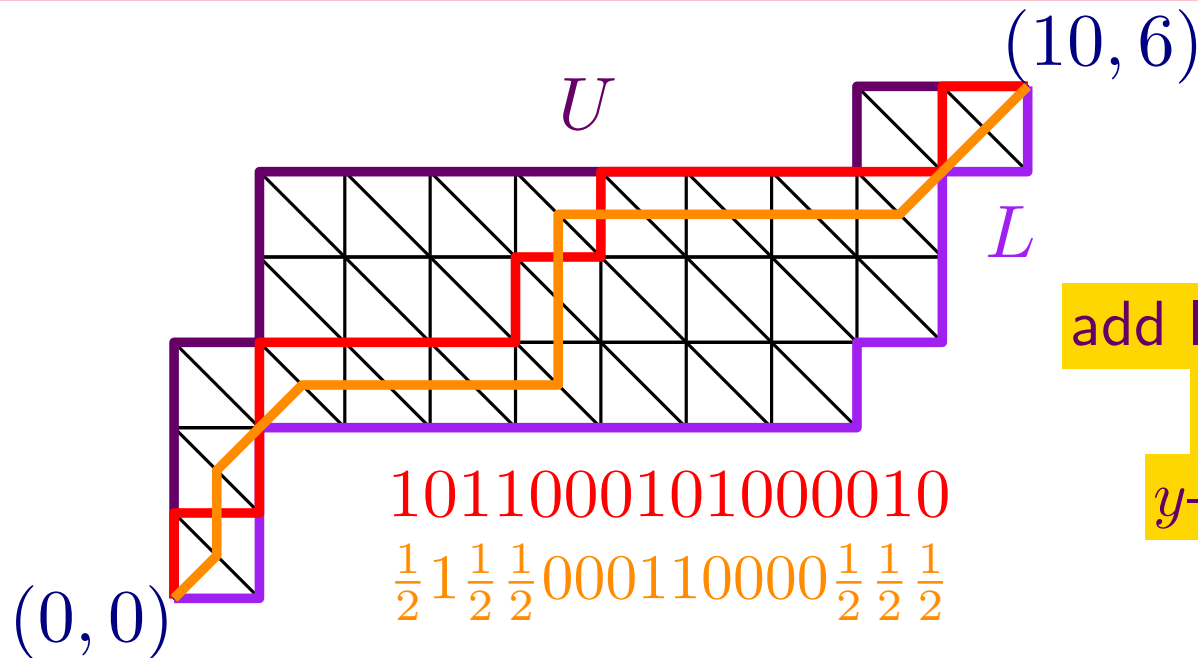
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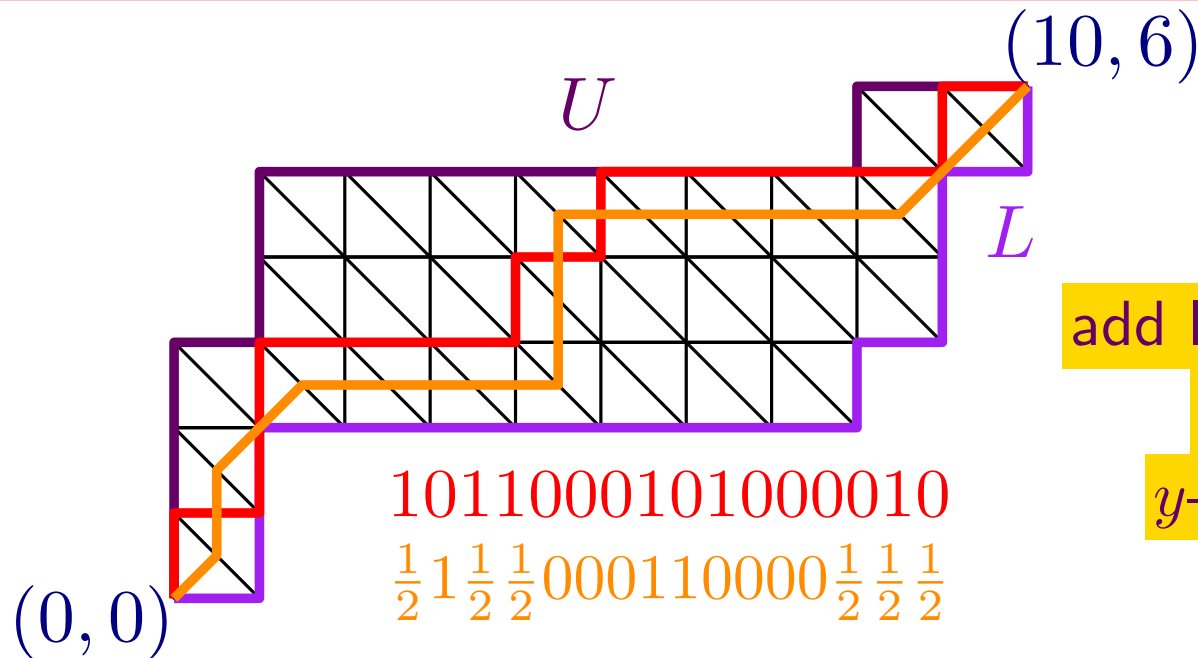
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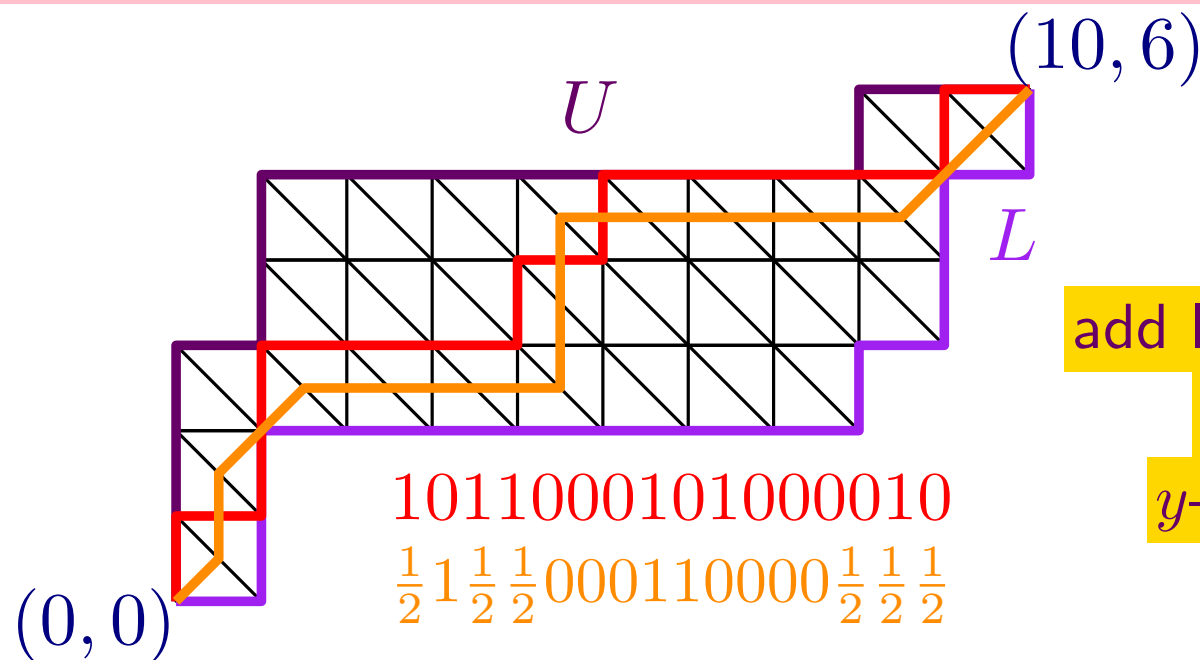
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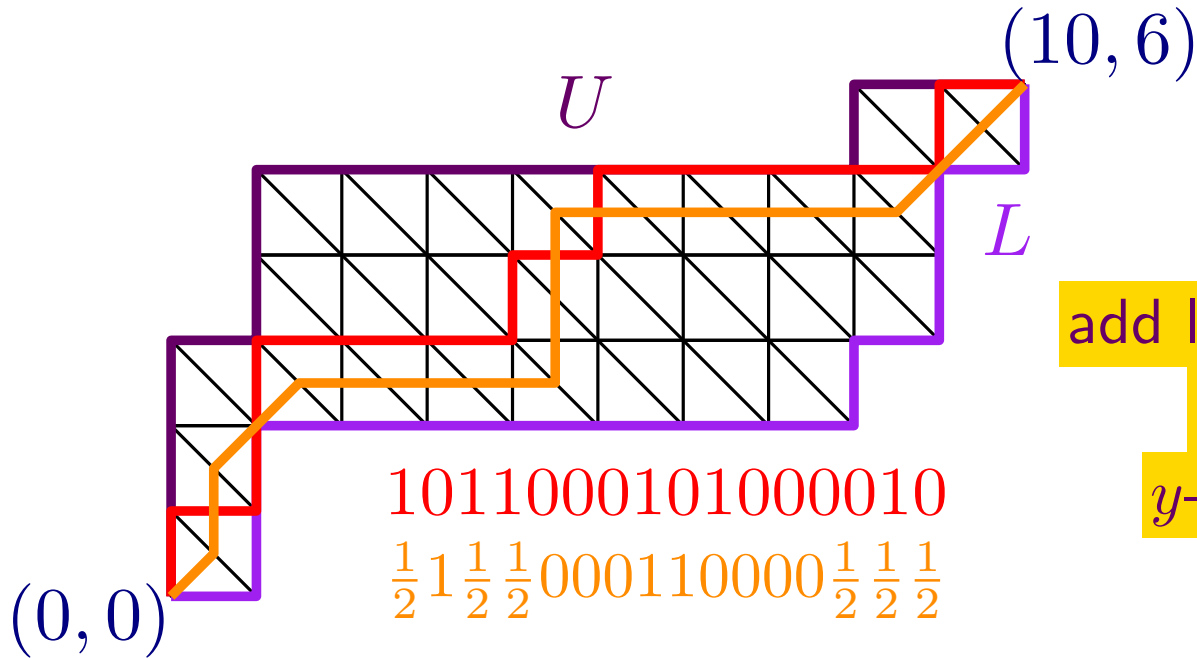
stay between  $L$  and  $U$

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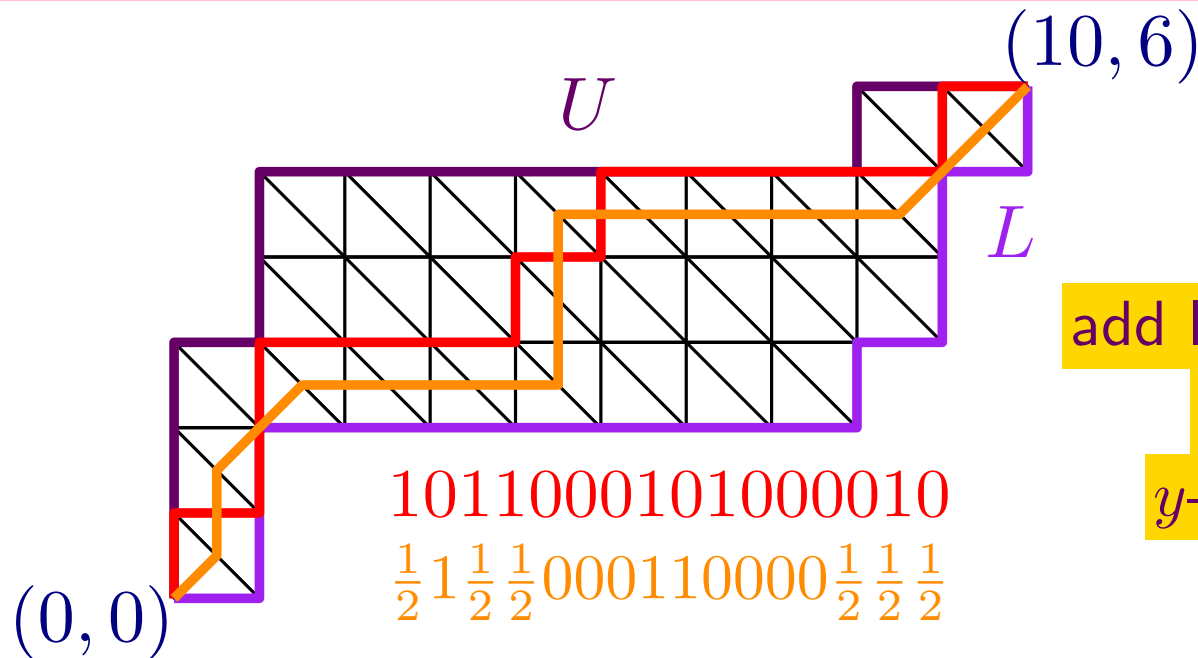
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$$P_M = \text{conv}\{\text{characteristic vectors of } \mathcal{B}\} \subseteq \text{conv}(\mathcal{C}_M) = \mathcal{C}_M.$$



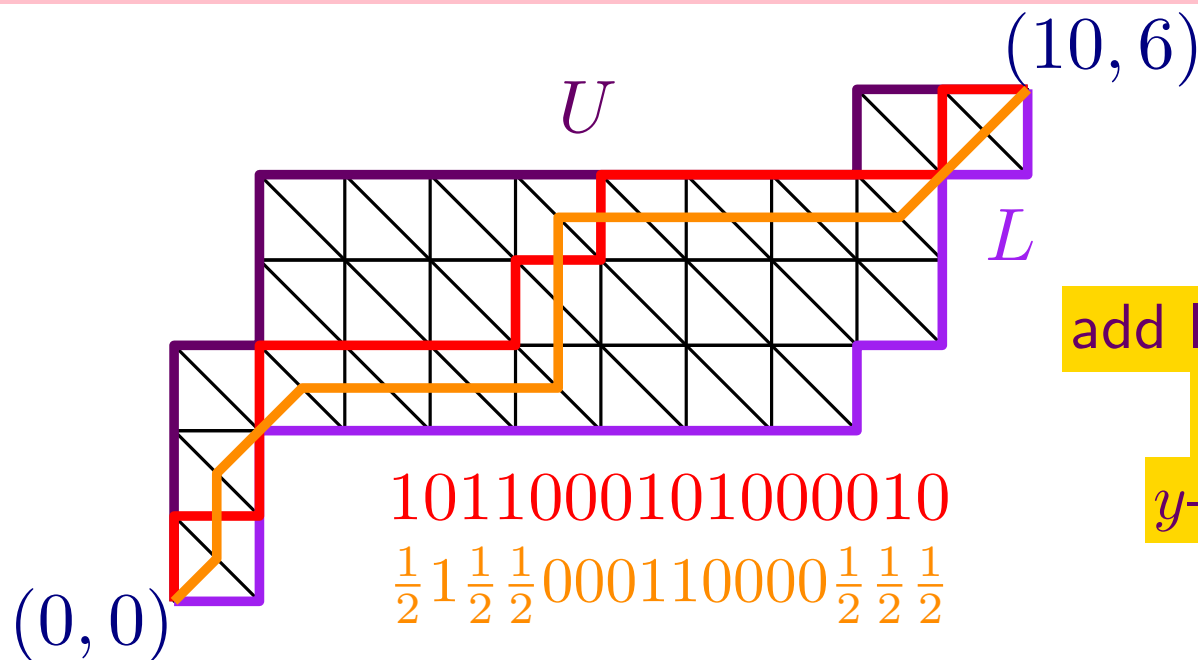
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$P_M \supseteq \mathcal{C}_M$ : easy induction.

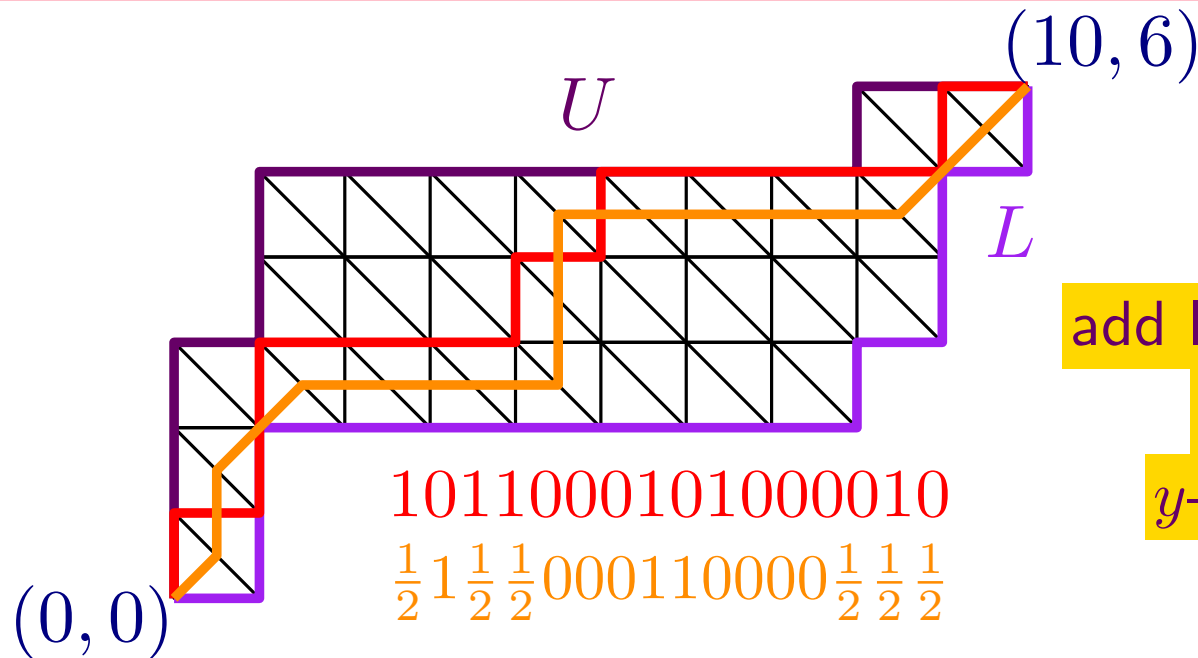
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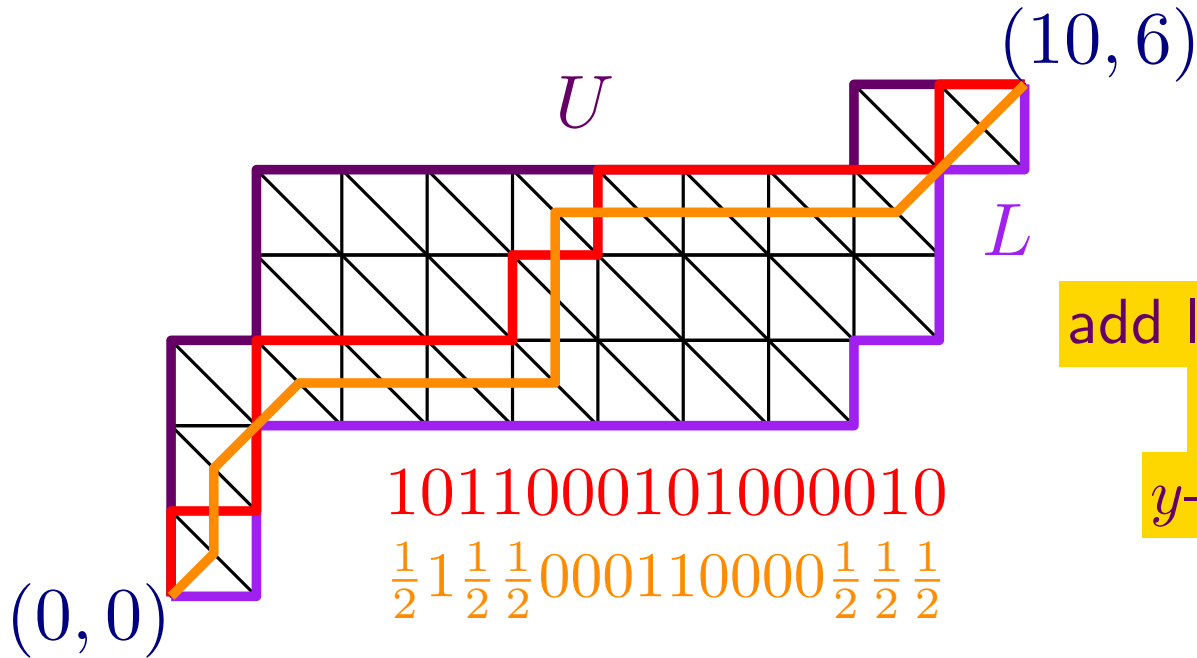
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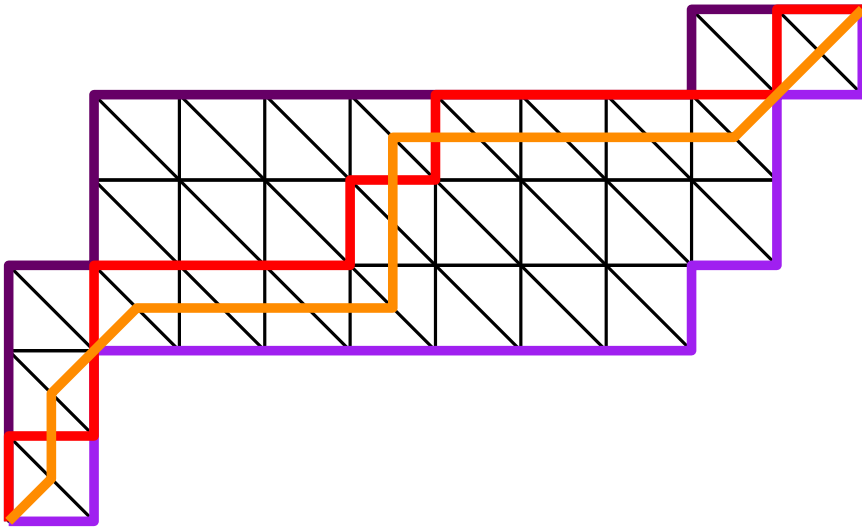
**Cor:**  $kP_M \cap \mathbb{Z}^d = \{\text{gen. lattice paths } y\text{-increase in } \frac{i}{k}, 0 \leq i \leq k\} =: \mathcal{C}_M^k.$

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**Thm (KMR):** Let  $M = M[U, L]$  a lattice path matroid, then

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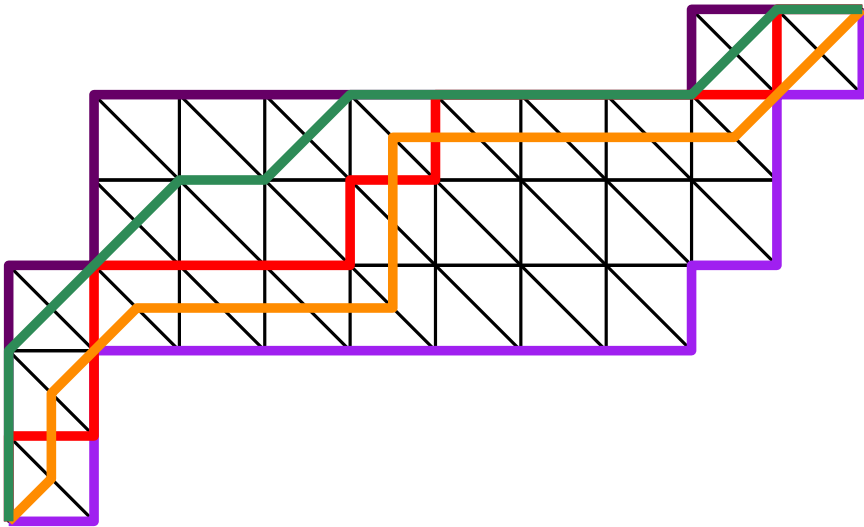
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poset on  $\mathcal{C}_M$

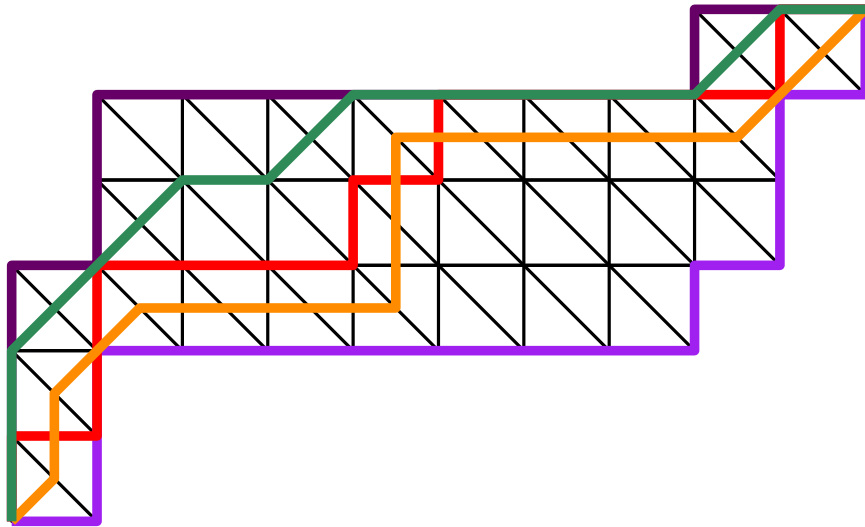
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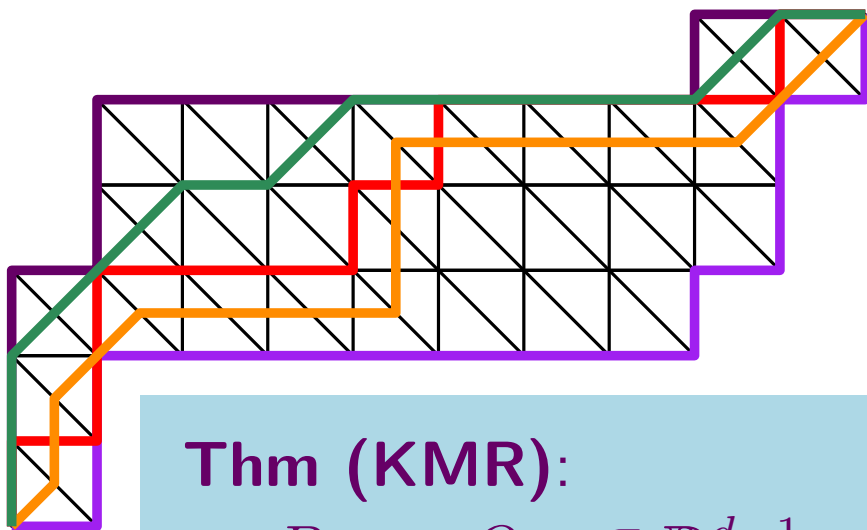
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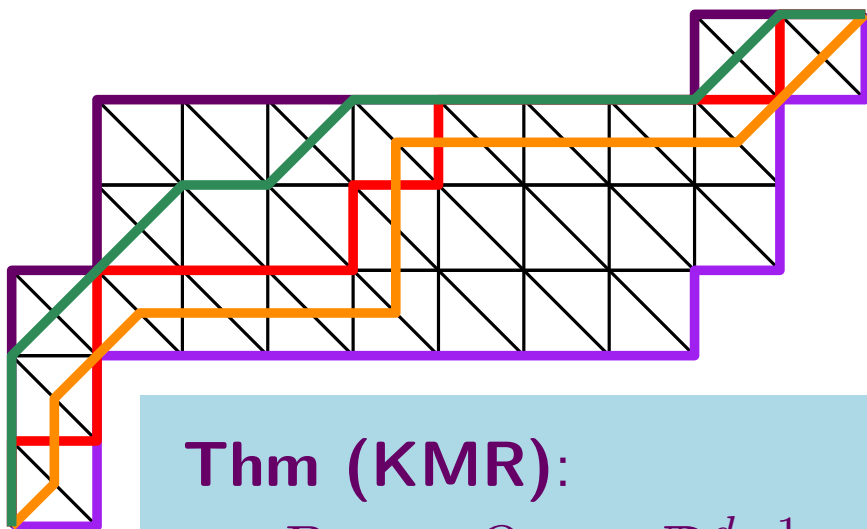
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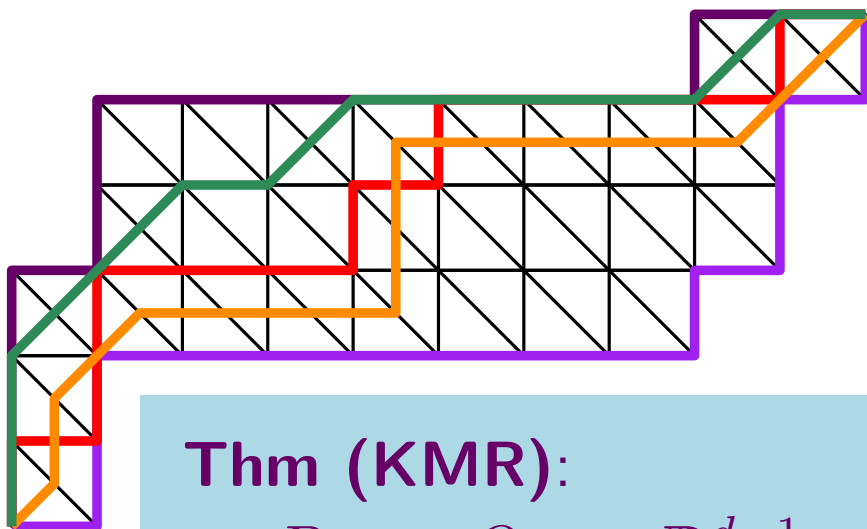
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show that closed under componentwise minimum and maximum



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And  $kQ_M \cap \mathbb{Z}^{d-1} \cong \mathcal{C}_M^k$ , too.

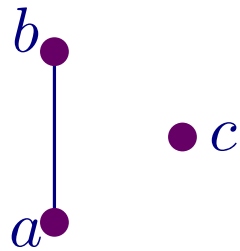


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# Embedded distributive lattices

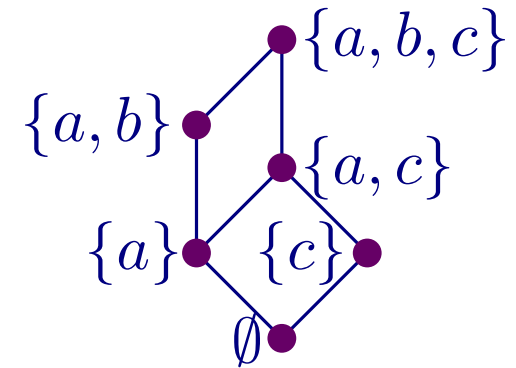
# Embedded distributive lattices

poset  $X$



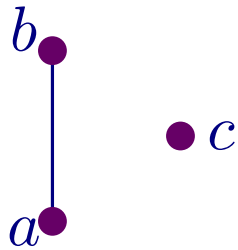
$I \subseteq X$  is an *ideal* if  
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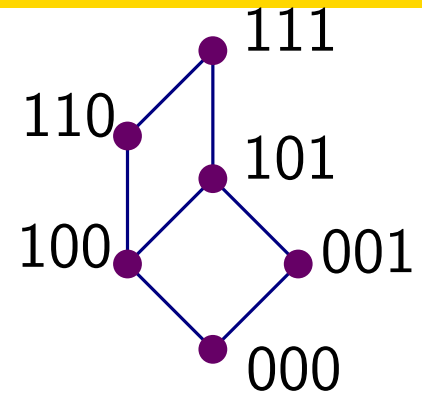


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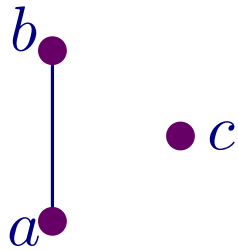
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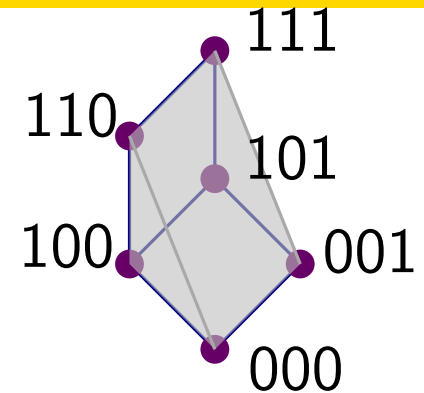


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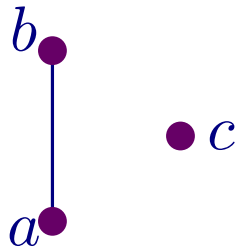
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chain-partitioned poset  $X$

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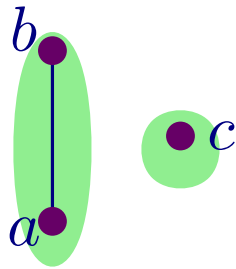
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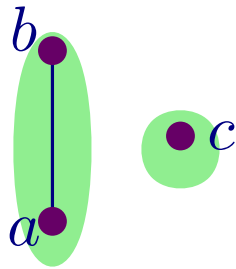
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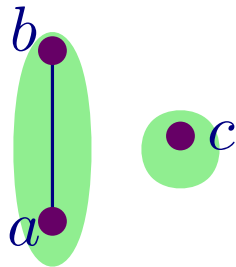
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$$\emptyset \overset{\bullet}{=} 00$$



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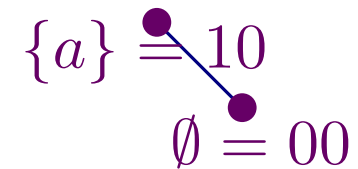


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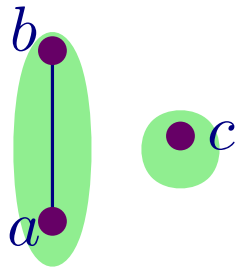
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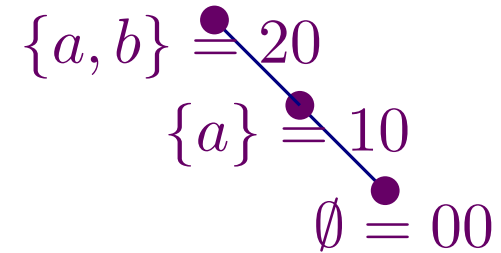


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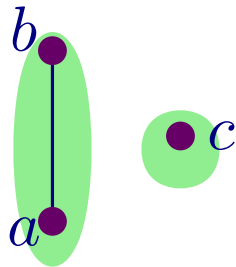
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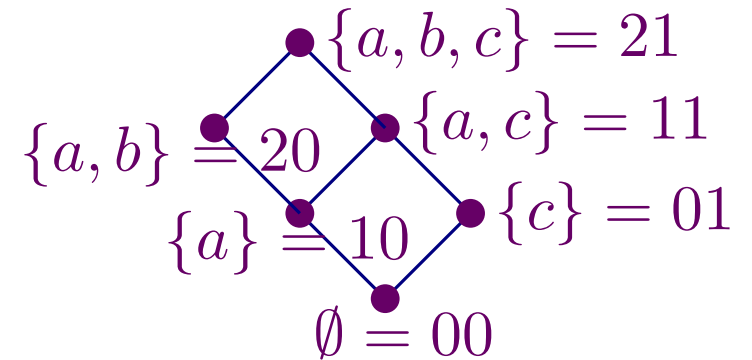


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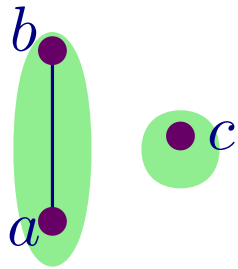
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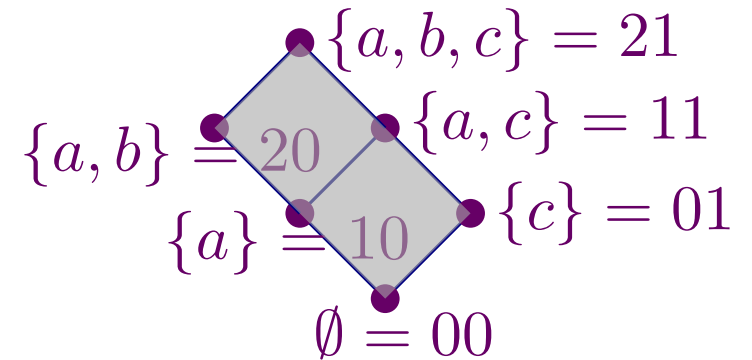


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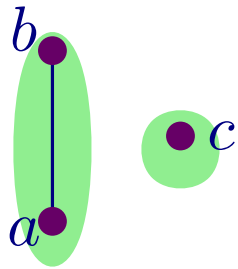
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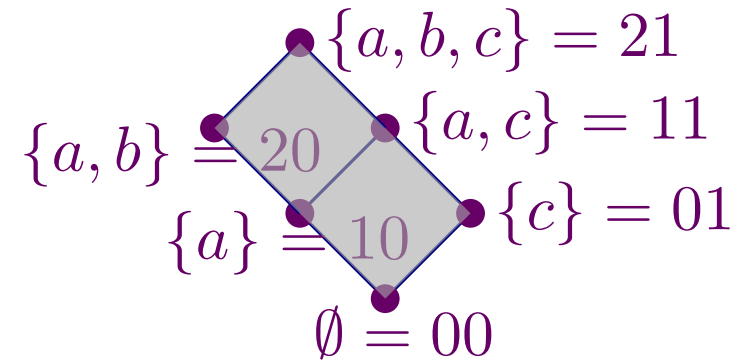


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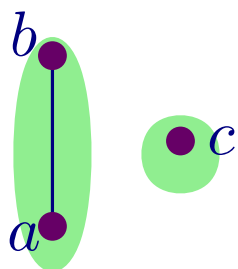
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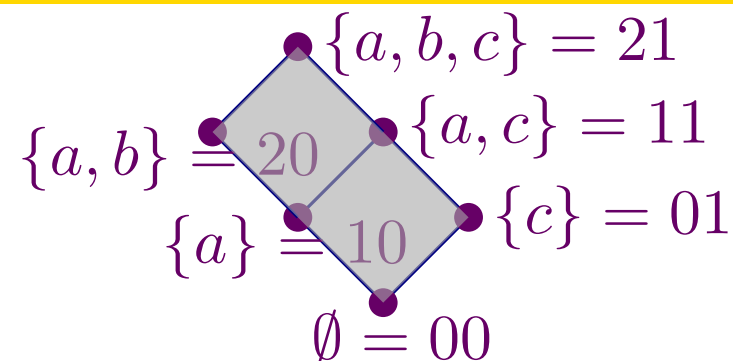


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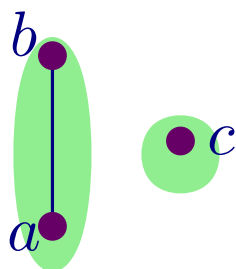
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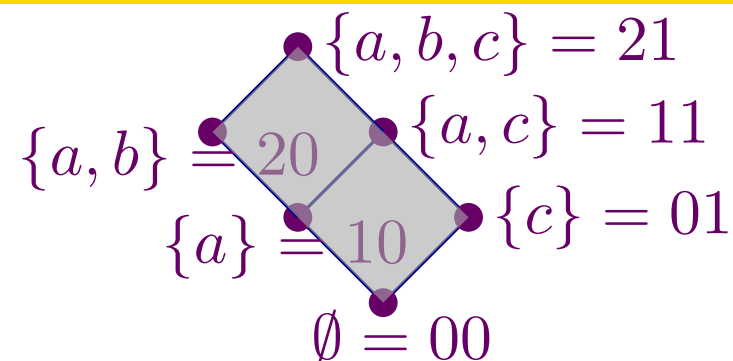


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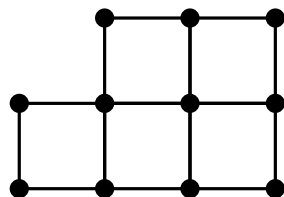
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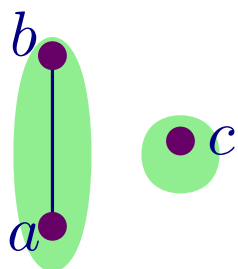
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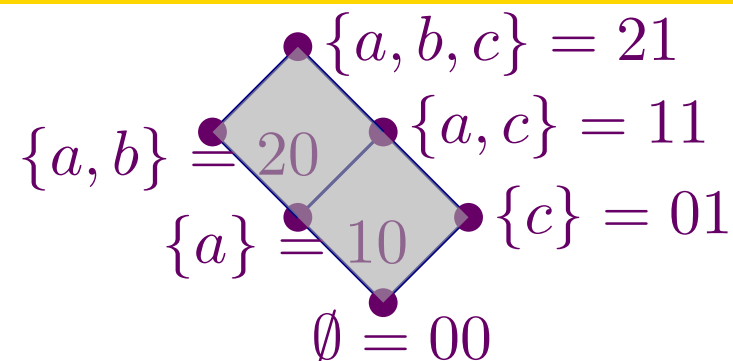


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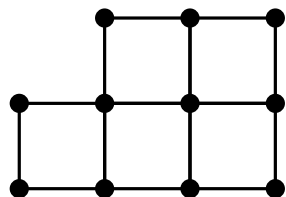
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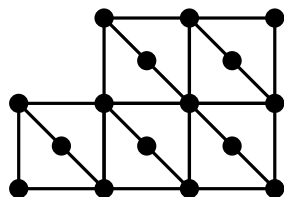
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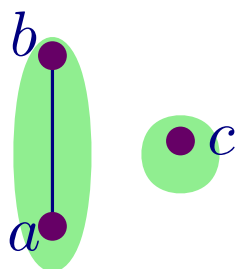


$k = 2$



# Embedded distributive lattices

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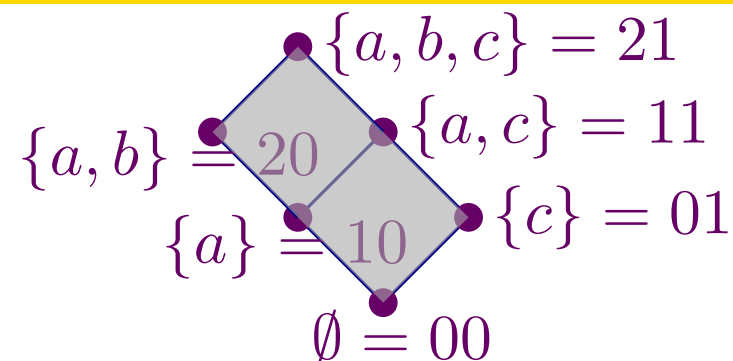


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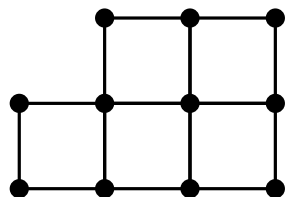
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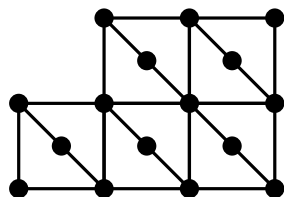
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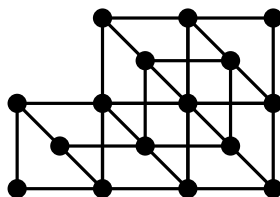
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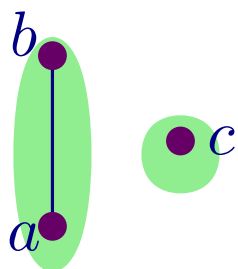


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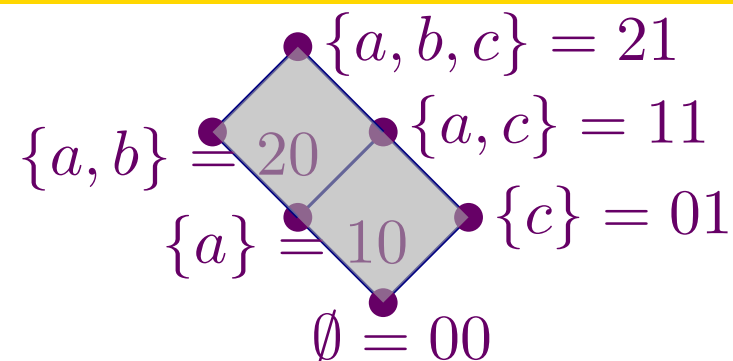


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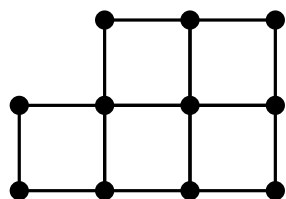
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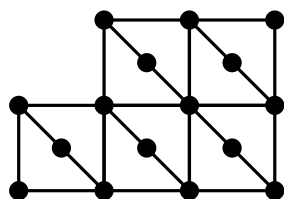
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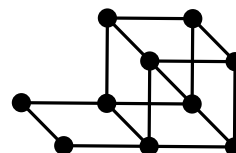
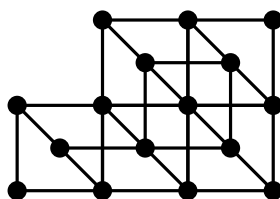
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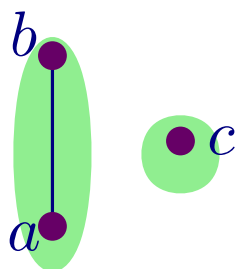


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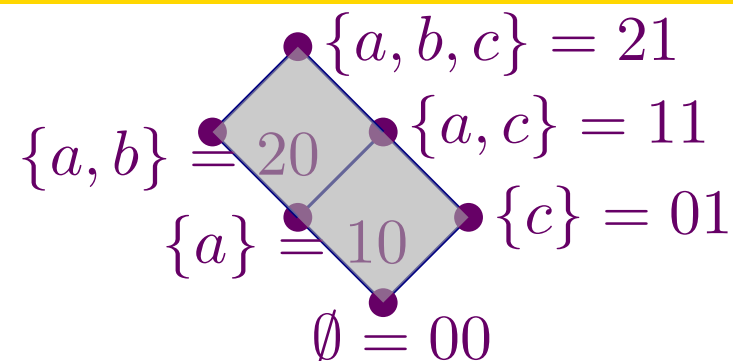


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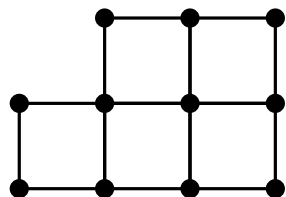
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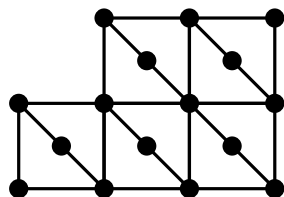
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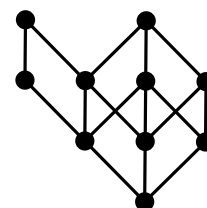
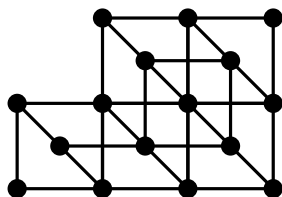
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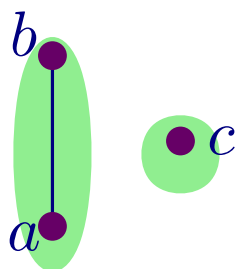
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$X_M$

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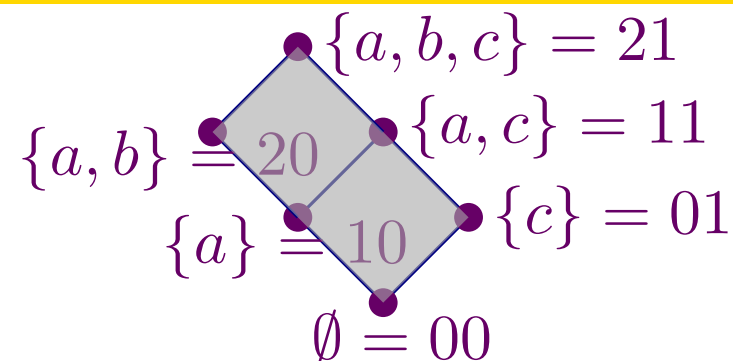


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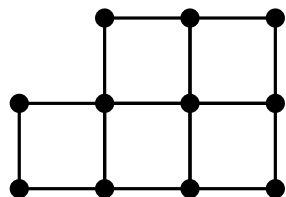
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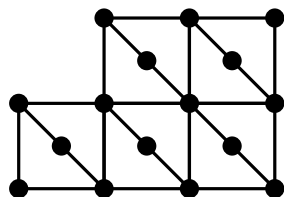
no chain-partition  $\cong$  singleton chain-partition  $\cong$   $(0, 1)$ -embedding

**Thm (KMR):**

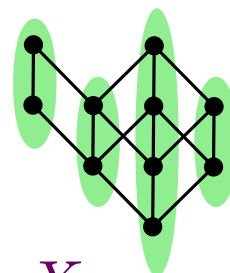
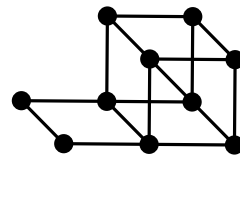
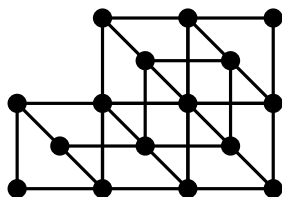
the embedded distributive lattice  $kQ_M \cap \mathbb{Z}^{d-1}$  corresponds to a chain-partitioned poset in the following way:



$M[U, L]$



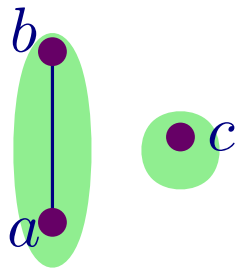
$k = 2$



$X_M$

# Embedded distributive lattices

chain-partitioned poset  $X$

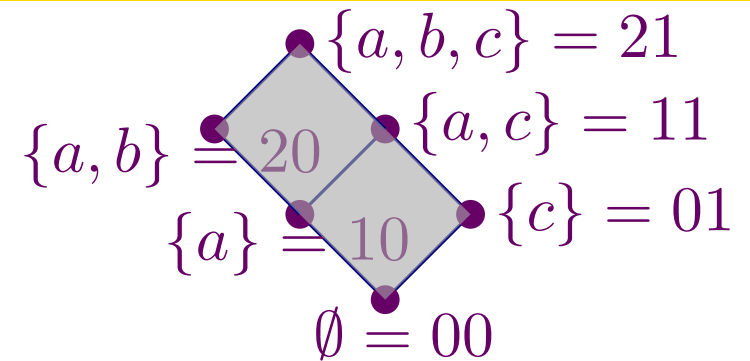


$I \subseteq X$  is an *ideal* if

$$y \leq x \in I \implies y \in I$$

$\mathcal{I}(X)$  set of ideals of  $X$   
ordered by inclusion

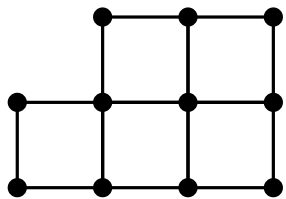
embedded  $\mathcal{I}(X)$  distributive lattice



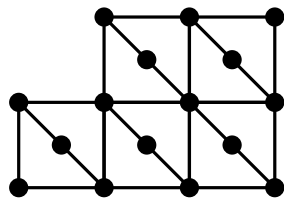
no chain-partition  $\cong$  singleton chain-partition  $\cong$   $(0, 1)$ -embedding

**Thm (KMR):**

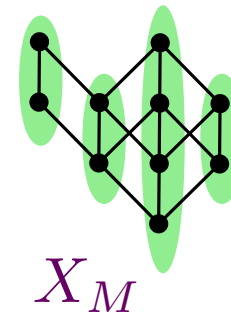
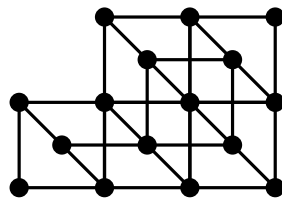
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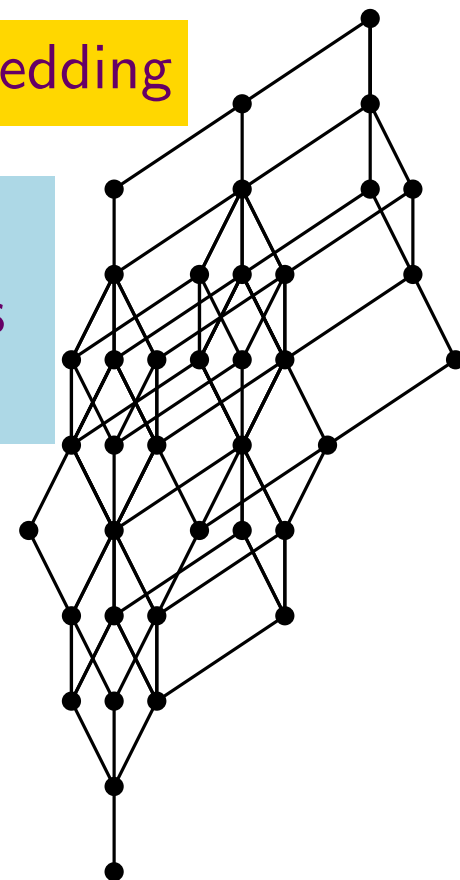
$M[U, L]$



$k = 2$

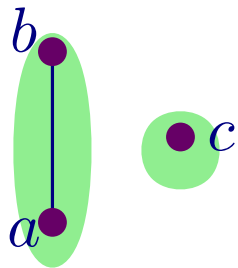


$X_M$



# Embedded distributive lattices

chain-partitioned poset  $X$

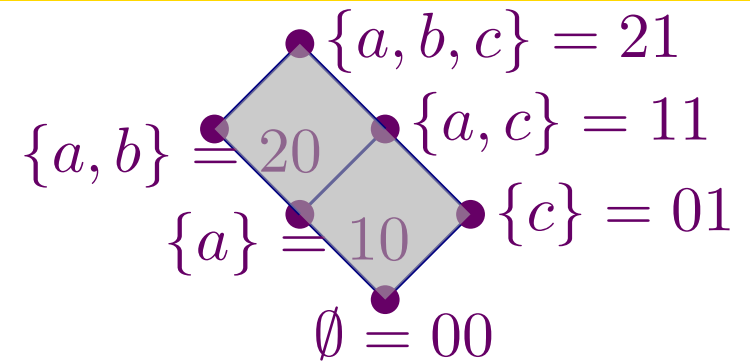


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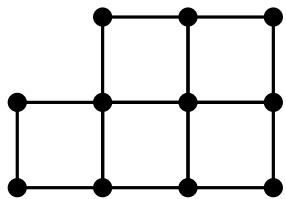
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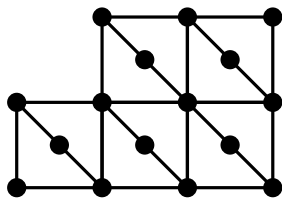
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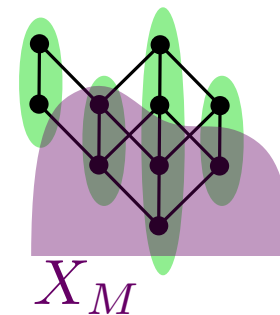
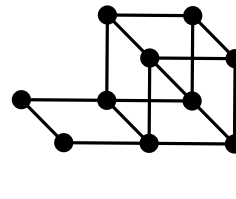
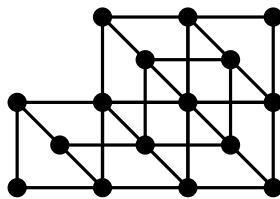
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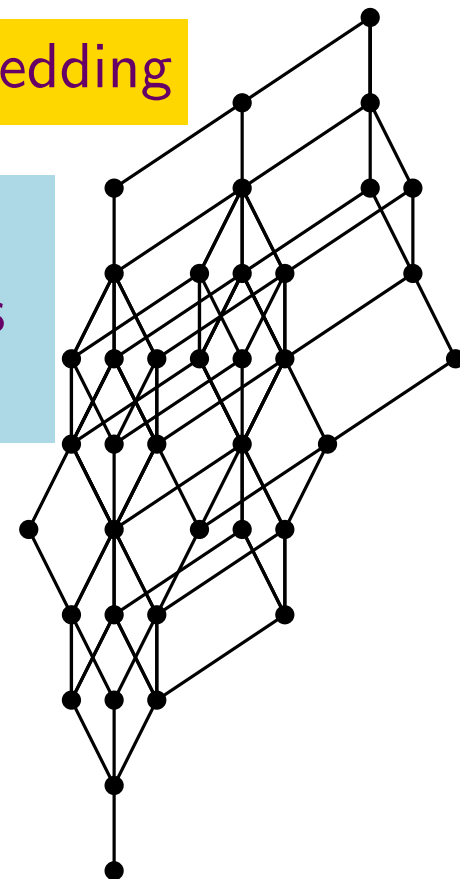
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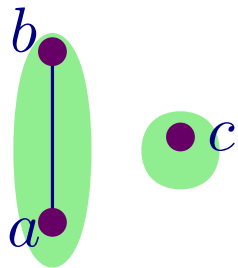


$X_M$



# Embedded distributive lattices

chain-partitioned poset  $X$

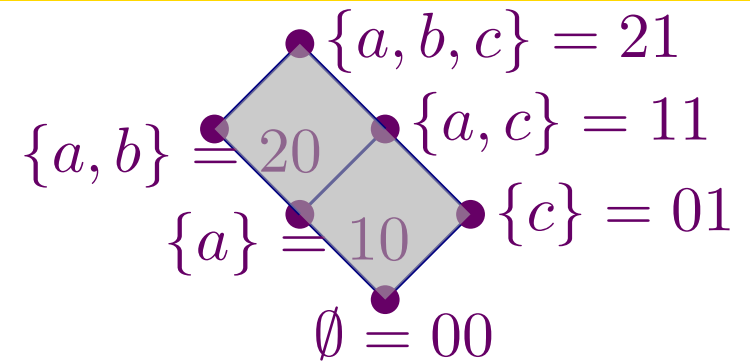


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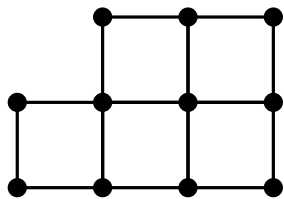
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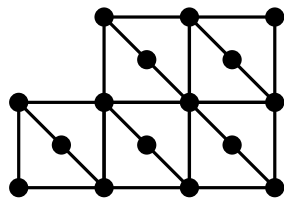
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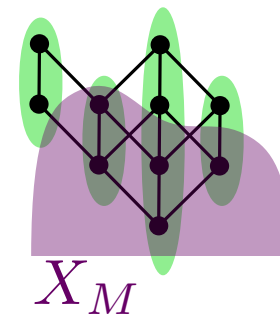
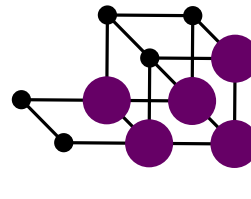
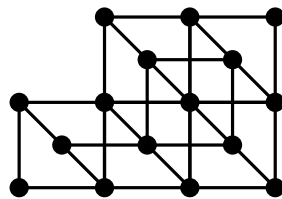
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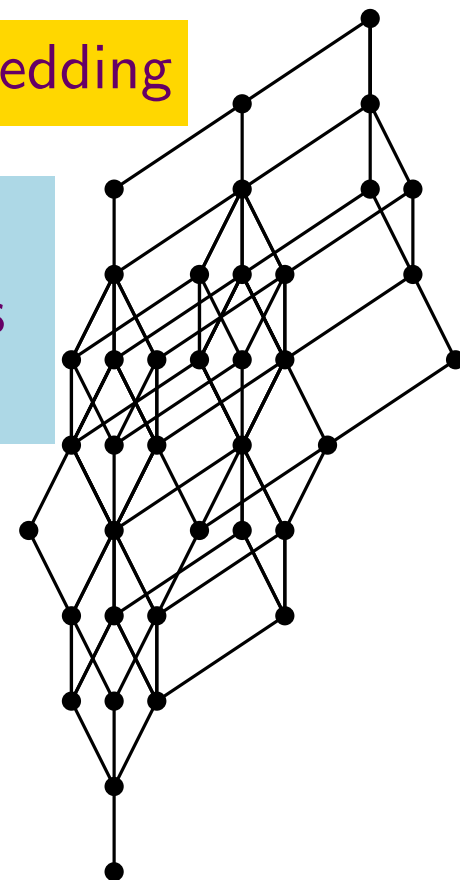
$M[U, L]$



$k = 2$

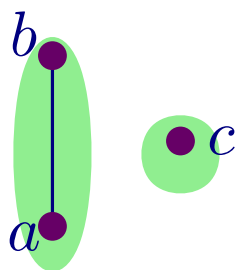


$X_M$



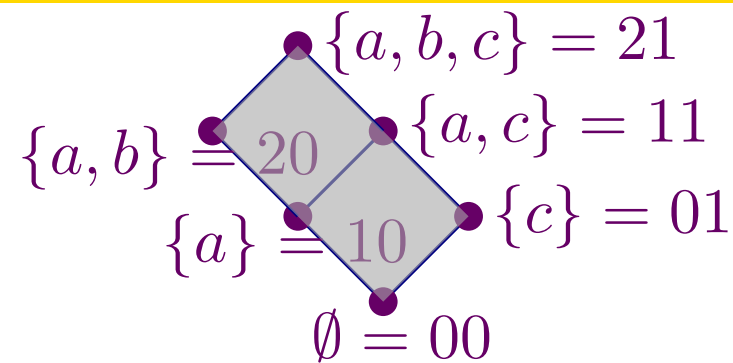
# Embedded distributive lattices

chain-partitioned poset  $X$



embedded  $\mathcal{I}(X)$  distributive lattice

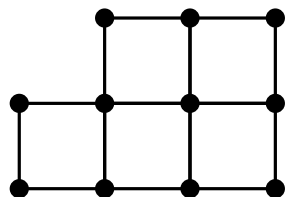
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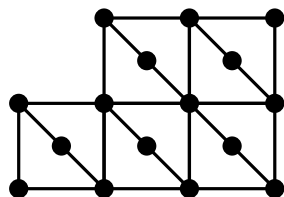
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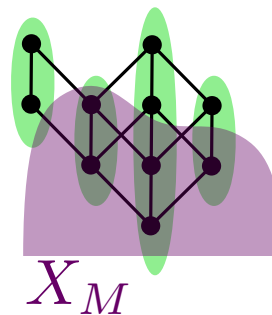
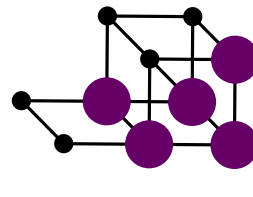
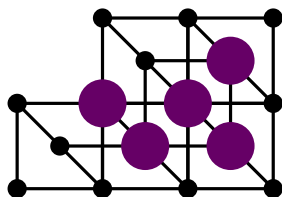
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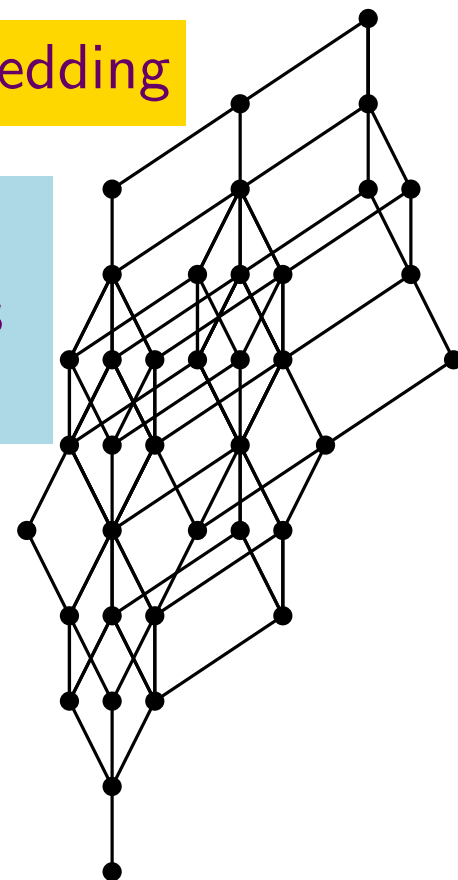
$M[U, L]$



$k = 2$



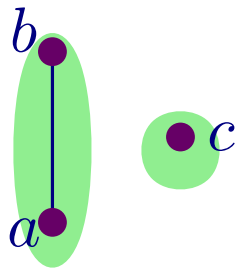
$X_M$





# Embedded distributive lattices

chain-partitioned poset  $X$

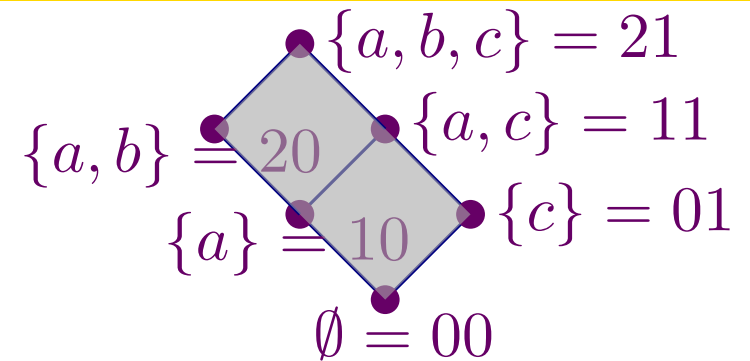


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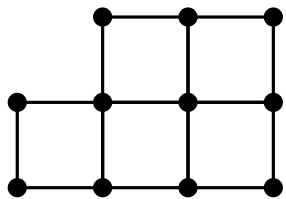
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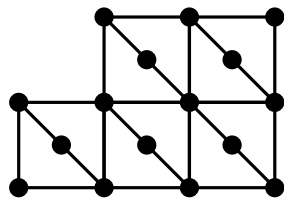
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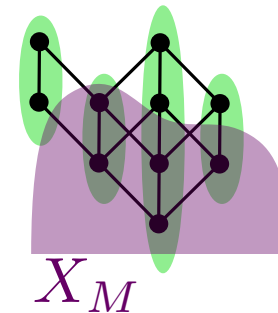
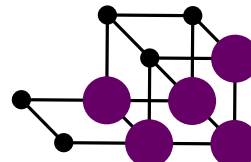
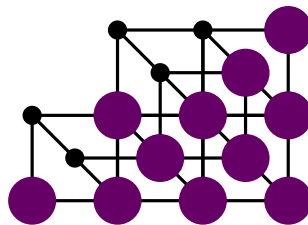
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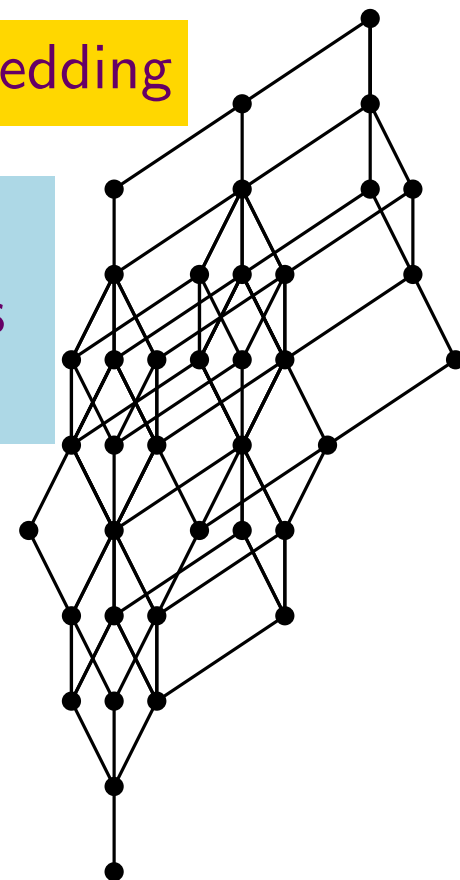
$M[U, L]$



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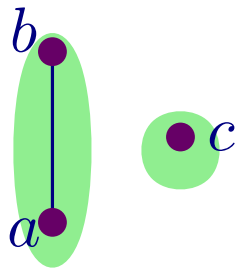


$X_M$



# Embedded distributive lattices

chain-partitioned poset  $X$

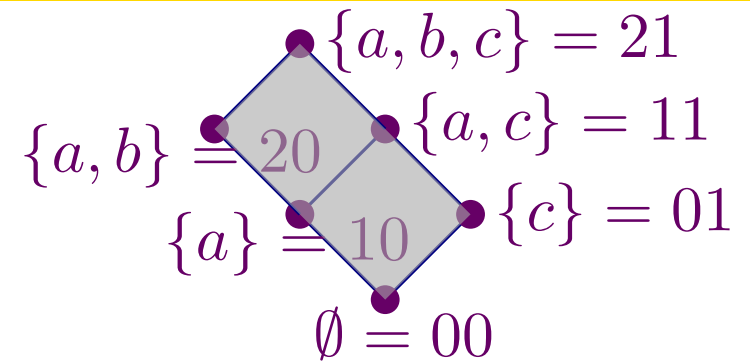


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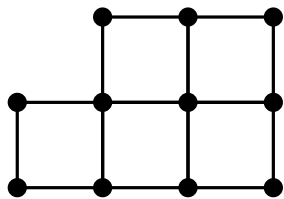
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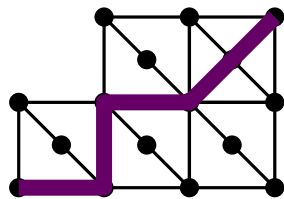
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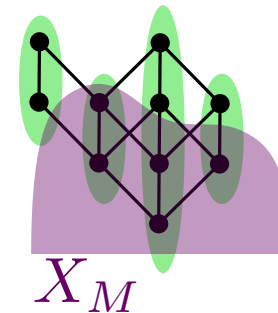
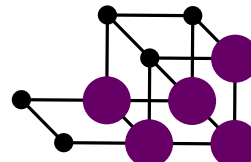
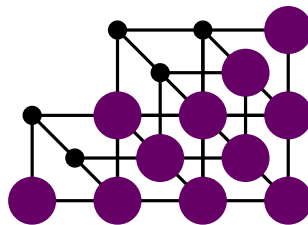
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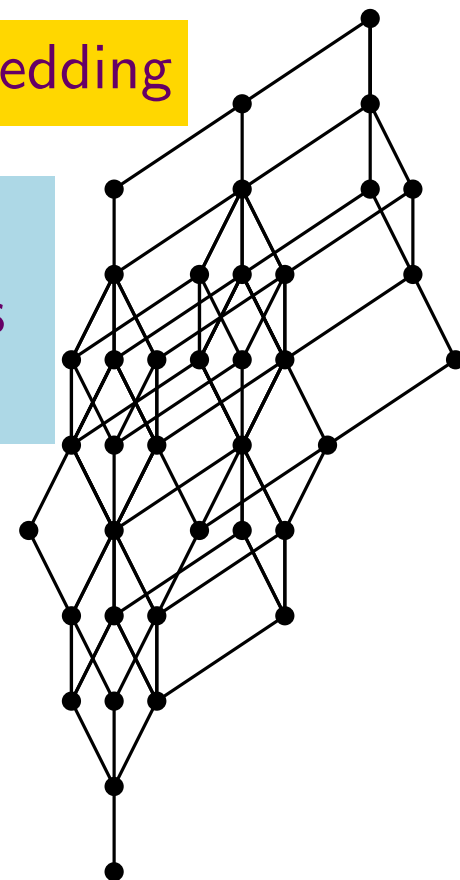
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$k = 2$



$X_M$

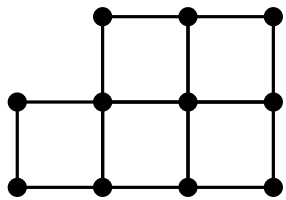


# Back to order

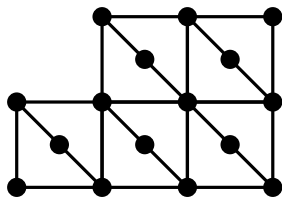
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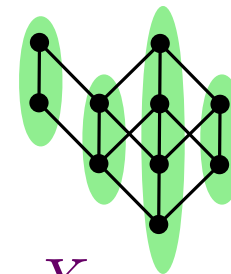
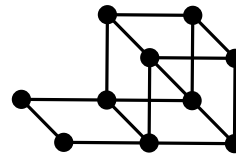
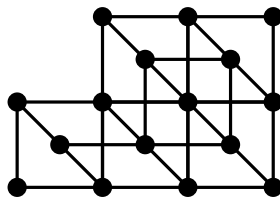
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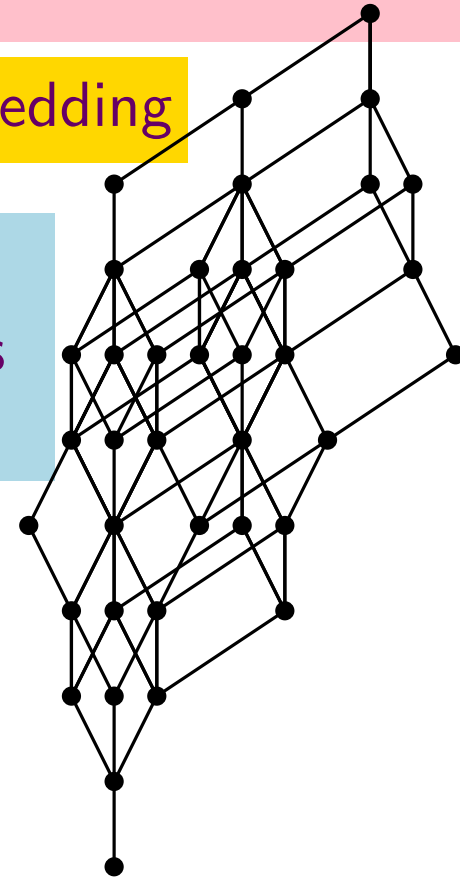
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$X_M$

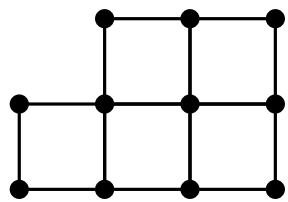


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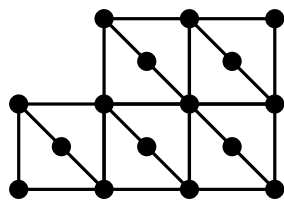
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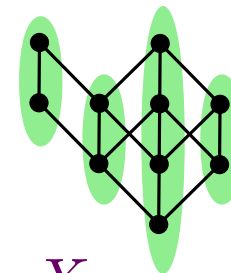
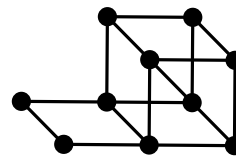
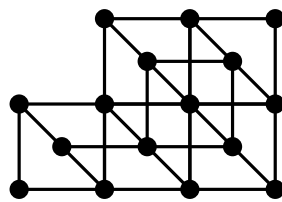
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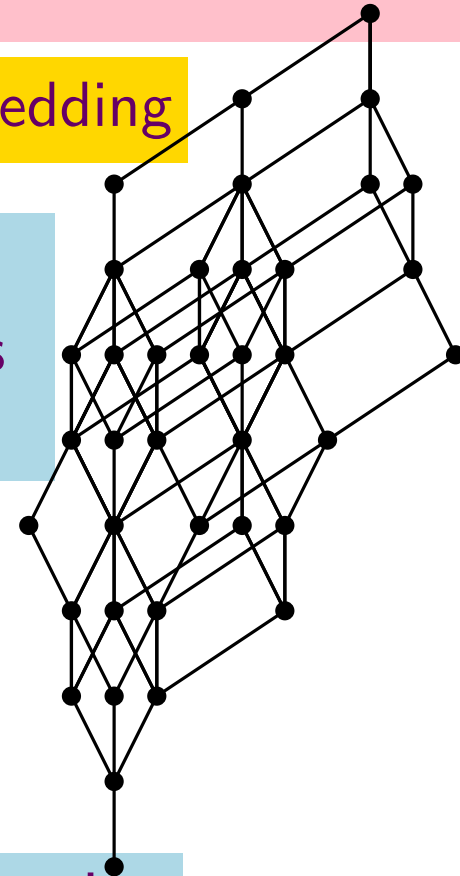
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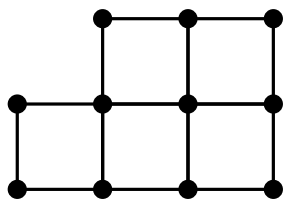
In particular,  $Q_M$  is an order polytope if  $M$  has no interior points

# Back to order

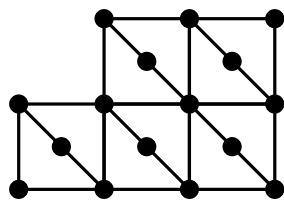
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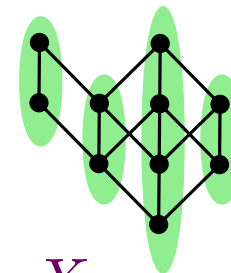
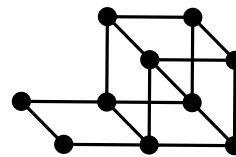
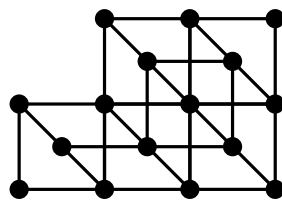
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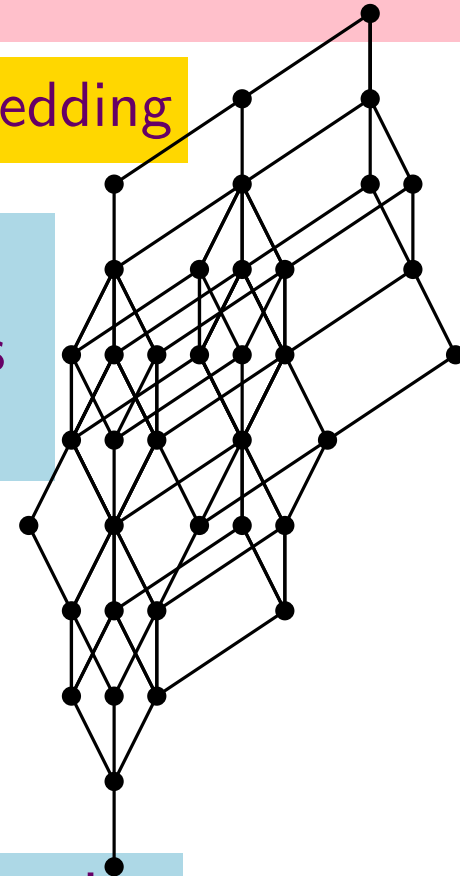
$M[U, L]$



$k = 2$



$X_M$



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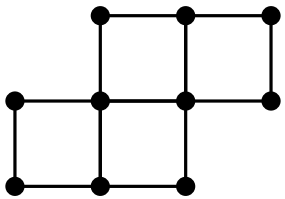
$M$  is a *snake*

# Back to order

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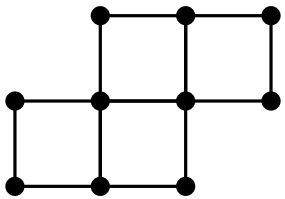
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# Back to order

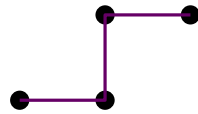
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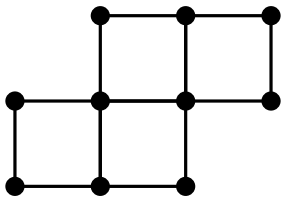
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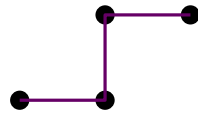
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$X$

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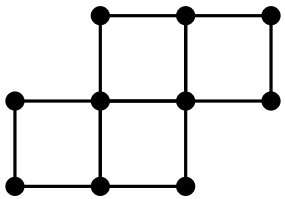


# Back to order

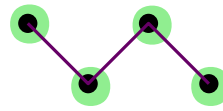
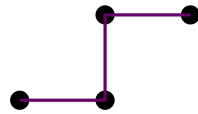
no chain-partition  $\cong$  singleton chain-partition  $\cong$   $(0, 1)$ -embedding

**Thm (KMR):**

the embedded distributive lattice  $kQ_M \cap \mathbb{Z}^{d-1}$  corresponds to a chain-partitioned poset in the following way:



$M[U, L]$



$X$

In particular,  $Q_M$  is an order polytope if  $M$  has no interior points

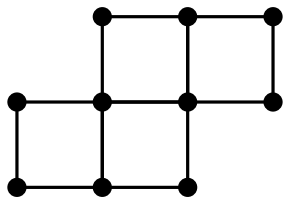
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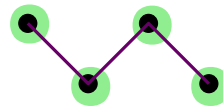
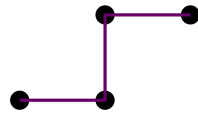
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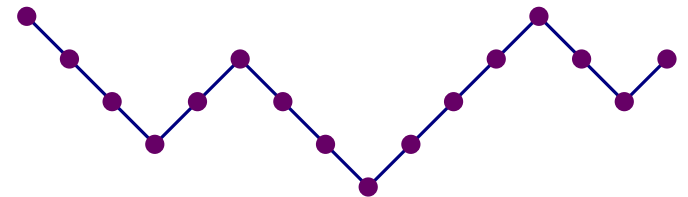
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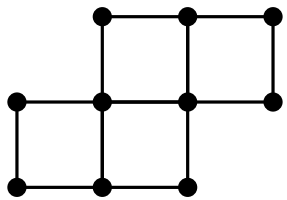
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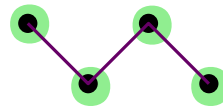
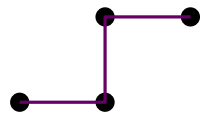
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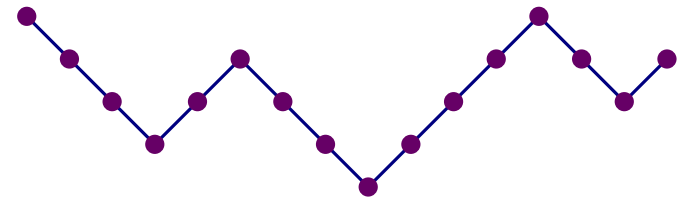
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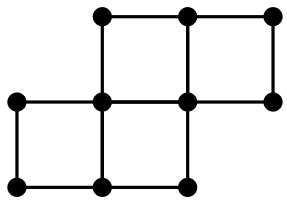
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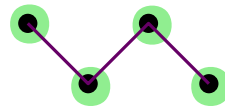
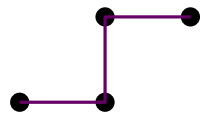
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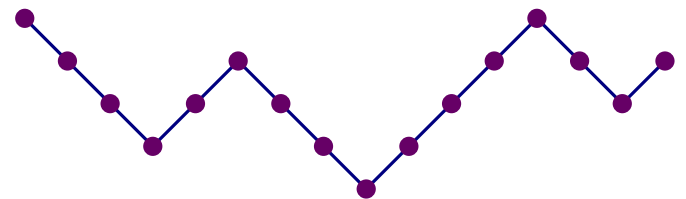
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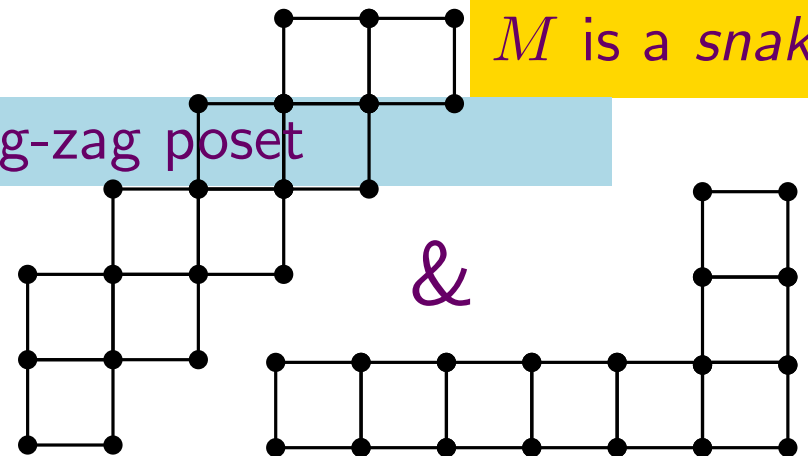
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$\omega$  unimodal, for unions of chains and graded posets  $\implies h^*$  unimodal for:



# What we did:

- $P_M$  as generalized lattice paths (formula for  $L_{P_M}$  for some snakes),
- *Ehrhart-equivalent* distributive polytope  $Q_M$ ,
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- unimodality of  $h^*$  for more lattice path matroids
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  - determine which matroid polytopes are order polytopes,
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