

## ON MAXIMAL CHAINS IN POSETS WITH GROUP ACTIONS

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### ABSTRACT

Our main purpose in this work is to study the maximal chains in group-posets to observe that this study gives us indications on the type of some group actions on posets. Therefore we shall study the behavior of the group actions on chains .

### §.1 Introduction :

For any group  $G$  and any set  $X$ , we say that  $G$  acts on  $X$  from the left if to each  $g \in G$  and  $x \in X$  there corresponds a unique element in  $X$  denoted by  $g x$  (or some times  $gx$ ) such that for all  $x \in X$  and  $g_1, g_2 \in G$ ;

$$(i) e x = x \quad (ii) g_1(g_2 x) = (g_1 g_2) x .$$

Such a set  $X$  with a left action of  $G$  on it, is called a left  $G$ -set, or simply a  $G$ -set. [13].

Since the concept of a group action of a group  $G$  on a set  $X$  began as a group homomorphism  $\rho : G \rightarrow S_{|X|}$ , we can consider any element  $g$  in  $G$  as a permutation  $g : X \rightarrow X$  with  $g(x) = g x$  for all  $x \in X$ . So this concept can be extended on sets with additional mathematical structure, with  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{isom}(X, X)$  and the isomorphism related to the structure on  $X$ .

### §.2 Group-posets :

In this section we give the definition of the group actions on posets. This definition is slightly different from the definition given in [5].

#### Definition (2-1) :

Let  $G$  be a group and  $P$  a poset, we say that there is a left action of  $G$  on  $P$  if for every  $g \in G$  and  $p \in P$  there corresponds a unique element  $g p \in P$  such that for all  $p, q \in P$  and  $g, g_1, g_2 \in G$ ;

$$(i) e p = p \quad (ii) g_2(g_1 p) = (g_2 g_1) p \quad (iii) \text{if } p \succ q \text{ then } g p \succ g q$$

Such a poset  $P$  with a left action of  $G$  on it, is called a left  $G$ -poset, (or simply a  $G$ -poset). When condition (iii) is neglected,  $P$  is called a  $G$ -set. For more details see [7], [9] and [10].

Also , for any group  $G$  and poset  $P$  there is at least the trivial action which defined by :  $g \cdot p = p$  for all  $g \in G$  ,  $p \in P$ .

The following theorem shows that a group action on poset can be defined as a poset automorphism on  $P$ .

**Theorem (2-2) :**

Let  $G$  acts on the poset  $P$ . Then to each  $g \in G$  there corresponds an automorphism  $\rho_g$  on  $P$  defined by :

$\rho_g(p) = g \cdot p$  for all  $p \in P$ . Also , the map  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(P)$  ; defined by

$\rho(g) = \rho_g$  for all  $g \in G$  is a homomorphism called the corresponding homomorphism to the  $G$  action on  $P$ .

**Proof :**

Similar to the proof in [9]. ■

**Proposition (2-3) :**

Let  $E$  be a  $G$ -poset . Then  $P(E)$  the family of all subsets of  $E$  (the power set of  $E$ ) is a  $G$ -poset with an action defined by ;

$g \cdot Y = \{x \in E : g^{-1} \cdot x \in Y\}$ , for all  $g \in G$  and  $Y \in P(E)$ .

**Proof :**

(i) Let  $Y \in P(E)$  , then ;  $e \cdot Y = \{x \in E : e^{-1} \cdot x \in Y\} = \{x \in E : x \in Y\} = Y$

(ii) For any  $Y \in P(E)$  and  $g_1, g_2 \in G$ ;

$$\begin{aligned} g_2(g_1 \cdot Y) &= \{x \in E : g_2^{-1} \cdot x \in g_1 \cdot Y\} = \{x \in E : g_1^{-1}(g_2^{-1} \cdot x) \in Y\} \\ &= \{x \in E : g_1^{-1} g_2^{-1} \cdot x \in Y\} = \{x \in E : (g_2 g_1)^{-1} \cdot x \in Y\} = (g_2 g_1) \cdot Y. \end{aligned}$$

(iii) Let  $X, Y \in P(E)$  with  $Y > X$  , and let  $g \in G$ . So  $X \subset Y$  , that is  $g \cdot X \subset g \cdot Y$  .

Hence,  $g \cdot Y > g \cdot X$  . Therefore  $P(E)$  is a  $G$ -poset. ■

Definition (2-4): [16]

Let  $P$  be a  $G$ -poset . For each  $p \in P$  , the set  $\{g \in G: g.p = p\}$  is called the stabilizer of  $p$  and denoted by  $\text{Stab}_G(p)$  or  $G_p$ .

Proposition (2-5) : [8]

Let  $P$  be a  $G$ -poset. Then for any  $p \in P$  ,  $\text{Stab}_G(p)$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

Proposition (2-6) :

Let  $P$  be a  $G$ -poset. Then for all  $p \in P$  .

(1)  $G/\text{Stab}_G(p)$  is a poset with ;

$g_1.\text{Stab}_G(p) \geq g_2.\text{Stab}_G(p)$  if and only if  $g_1.p \geq g_2.p$

(2)  $G/\text{Stab}_G(p)$  is a  $G$ -poset with an action defined by ;

$t.(g.\text{Stab}_G(p)) = (tg).\text{Stab}_G(p)$  for all  $t, g \in G$ .

**Proof :**

(1)(i) It is obvious that the relation is reflexive .

(ii) Let  $g_1.\text{Stab}_G(p) \geq g_2.\text{Stab}_G(p)$  and  $g_2.\text{Stab}_G(p) \geq g_1.\text{Stab}_G(p)$ .

Then  $g_1.p \geq g_2.p$  and  $g_2.p \geq g_1.p$ . So  $g_1.p = g_2.p$ .

Hence  $g_1.\text{Stab}_G(p) = g_2.\text{Stab}_G(p)$ .

(iii) Let  $g_1.\text{Stab}_G(p) \geq g_2.\text{Stab}_G(p)$  and  $g_2.\text{Stab}_G(p) \geq g_3.\text{Stab}_G(p)$ .

Then  $g_1.p \geq g_2.p$  and  $g_2.p \geq g_3.p$ . So  $g_1.p \geq g_3.p$ .

Hence  $g_1.\text{Stab}_G(p) \geq g_3.\text{Stab}_G(p)$ .

Therefore  $(G/\text{stab}_G(p) , \geq)$  is a poset.

(2)(i)  $t.(g.\text{stab}_G(p)) = (tg).\text{Stab}_G(p) = g.\text{stab}_G(p)$  ,for all

$g.\text{stab}_G(p) \in G/\text{Stab}_G(p)$ .

(ii) Let  $g.\text{stab}_G(p) \in G/\text{Stab}_G(p)$  and  $t, r \in G$ . Then ;

$$\begin{aligned} r(t(g.\text{Stab}_G(p))) &= r(tg.\text{Stab}_G(p)) = r(tg).\text{Stab}_G(p) \\ &= (rt)g.\text{Stab}_G(p) = {}^{rt}(g.\text{Stab}_G(p)). \end{aligned}$$

(iii) Let  $g_1.\text{stab}_G(p) > g_2.\text{stab}_G(p)$ , and  $t \in G$ .

Then  $g_1 p > g_2 p$ . So  $t(g_1 p) > t(g_2 p)$

That is  $tg_1 p > tg_2 p$ . So  $tg_1.\text{Stab}_G(p) > tg_2.\text{Stab}_G(p)$ .

Hence,  $t(g_1.\text{Stab}_G(p)) > t(g_2.\text{Stab}_G(p))$ .

Therefore  $G/\text{Stab}_G(p)$  is a  $G$  – poset. ■

Definition (2-7) : [2]

Let  $P$  be a poset . We say that the element  $a$  of  $P$  covers the element  $b$  of  $P$  if  $a > b$  and there is no element  $c \in P$  such that  $a > c > b$ .

Proposition (2-8) :

Let  $P$  be a  $G$ -poset and  $a, b \in P$  with  $a$  covers  $b$ , then  $g a$  covers  $g b$  for all  $g \in G$ .

**Proof :**

Suppose that  $g a$  does not cover  $g b$ , then there exist at least an element  $c \in P$  such that  $g a > c > g b$ . So  $g^{-1}(g a) > g^{-1} c > g^{-1}(g b)$ .

That is  $g^{-1} g a > g^{-1} c > g^{-1} g b$ . So  $a > g^{-1} c > b$ . Hence  $a > g^{-1} c > b$  and this is a contradiction . Therefore  $g a$  covers  $g b$ . ■

Definition (2-9) : [1]

Let  $P$  be a poset . Then the set ,  $C(P) = \{(a, b) : a \text{ covers } b\} \subset P \times P$ , is called the covering poset of  $P$ .

Proposition (2-10) :

Let  $(P, \geq)$  be a poset , then  $((P), \underset{C}{\geq})$  is a poset such that : for all  $(a, b)$  ,  
 $(a', b') \in C(P)$  ,  $(a, b) \underset{C}{\geq} (a', b')$  if and only if  $\{(a, b) = (a', b') \text{ or } b \geq a'\}$

**Proof :**

(i) Let  $(a, b) \in C(P)$ , then  $(a, b) \underset{C}{\geq} (a, b)$ .

(ii) Let  $(a, b) \underset{C}{\geq} (a', b')$  and  $(a', b') \underset{C}{\geq} (a, b)$ .

Then either ;  $(a, b) = (a', b')$ , or  $b \geq a'$  and  $b' \geq a$ .

Now suppose that  $b \geq a'$  and  $b' \geq a$ , then we have  $a > b$ ,  $b \geq a'$ ,  $a' > b'$  and  $b' \geq a$ .  
 So,  $a > a$  and this is a contradiction . Hence it must be  $(a, b) = (a', b')$ .

(iii) Let  $(a, b) \underset{C}{\geq} (a', b')$  and  $(a', b') \underset{C}{\geq} (a'', b'')$ .

Then either  $(a, b) = (a', b') = (a'', b'')$ , so  $(a, b) = (a'', b'')$ , or  $b \geq a'$  and  $b' \geq a''$ .

So we have  $b \geq a'$ ,  $a' > b'$  and  $b' \geq a''$ . That is  $b \geq a''$ . Hence  $(a, b) \underset{C}{\geq} (a'', b'')$

Therefore  $C(P)$  is a poset. ■

Theorem (2-11) :

Let  $P$  be a  $G$ -poset . Then  $C(P)$  is also a  $G$ -poset with an action defined by;  ${}^g(a, b) = ({}^g a, {}^g b)$  for all  $(a, b) \in C(P)$  and  $g \in G$ .

**Proof :**

(i)  ${}^e(a, b) = ({}^e a, {}^e b) = (a, b)$  for all  $(a, b) \in C(P)$ .

(ii)  ${}^{g_1}({}^{g_2}(a, b)) = {}^{g_1}({}^{g_2} a, {}^{g_2} b) = ({}^{g_1}({}^{g_2} a), {}^{g_1}({}^{g_2} b))$   
 $= ({}^{g_1 g_2} a, {}^{g_1 g_2} b) = {}^{g_1 g_2}(a, b)$

For all  $(a, b) \in C(P)$  and  $g_1, g_2 \in G$ .

(iii) For all  $(a, b), (a', b') \in C(P)$  and  $g \in G$ , with  $(a', b') \succ_c (a, b)$ . Then  $b' \geq a$

So  $g b' \geq g a$ . Since  $(a, b), (a', b') \in C(P)$ . Then  $(g a, g b), (g a', g b') \in C(P)$

That is  $(g a', g b') \succ_c (g a, g b)$ . Hence  $g(a', b') \succ_c g(a, b)$ .

Therefore  $C(P)$  is a  $G$ -poset. ■

### §3. Group-Chains :

In this section we study the group actions on chains and the behavior of these actions and when the trivial action is the only one.

#### Definition (3-1) : [2]

A poset  $P$  is called a chain (or totally ordered set) if : for all  $a, b \in P$  :  $a \geq b$  or  $b \geq a$ .

Equivalently, the poset  $P$  is called a chain if for every two different elements  $a, b$  of  $P$  either  $a > b$  or  $b > a$ .

From the definition above, we conclude that every element of a chain covers at most one element and covered at most by one element. Also any chain has at most one maximal element  $I$  and one minimal element  $0$ .

#### Proposition (3-2) : [2]

Any chain  $X$  of  $n$  elements is isomorphic to the set of natural numbers  $\underline{n} = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . That is there exists a bijection function  $f : X \rightarrow \underline{n}$  such that :  $f(x_1) \geq f(x_2)$  if and only if  $x_1 \geq x_2$ .

#### Theorem (3-3) :

Let  $X = \{x_i\}_{i \in I}$  be a  $G$ -chain and  $I$  be a set of successive integers with  $\dots x_{i-1} < x_i < x_{i+1} < \dots$

If  $g_{x_i} = x_j$  then  $g_{x_{i+r}} = x_{j+r}$  for all  $i, j, i+r, j+r \in I$ .

**Proof :**

(i) Let  $i+1, j+1 \in I$ . Since  $X$  is a chain, then  $x_{i+1}$  covers  $x_i$  and by proposition (2-8),  $g_{x_{i+1}}$  covers  $g_{x_i}$ .

Since  $g_{x_i} = x_j$ , then  $x_{j+1}$  covers  $g_{x_i}$ . So  $g_{x_{i+1}} = x_{j+1}$ .

(ii) Now we shall use the mathematical induction to prove that  $g_{x_{i+r}} = x_{j+r}$ . From (i) we see that  $g_{x_{i+1}} = x_{j+1}$  for  $r = 1$ . Suppose  $g_{x_{i+n}} = x_{j+n}$  for  $r = n$  and  $i+n, j+n \in I$ . Since  $X$  is a chain, then  $x_{i+n+1}$  covers  $x_{i+n}$ . So  $g_{x_{i+n+1}}$  covers  $g_{x_{i+n}}$ . Now from  $g_{x_{i+n}} = x_{j+n}$  we have  $g_{x_{i+n+1}} = x_{j+n+1}$ .

Therefore,  $g_{x_{i+r}} = x_{j+r}$  for all  $i, j, i+r, j+r \in I$ . ■

Lemma (3-4) :

Let  $X$  be a  $G$ -chain and  $g \in G$ . If  $g_{x_i} = x_t$  and  $x_i < x_t$  then  $g^{-1}x_i < x_i$  for all  $x_i \in X$ .

**Proof :**

$$g_{x_i} = x_t \Rightarrow g^{-1}(g_{x_i}) = g^{-1}x_t \Rightarrow g^{-1}g_{x_i} = g^{-1}x_t \Rightarrow g^{-1}x_t = x_i.$$

Also,  $x_i < x_t \Rightarrow g^{-1}x_i < g^{-1}x_t$ . Therefore  $g^{-1}x_i < x_i$ . ■

Proposition (3-5) :

Let  $X$  be a  $G$ -chain and  $g \in G$  with  $g^{-1} = g$ . Then  $g \in \text{Stab}_G(x_i)$  for all  $x_i \in X$ .



**Proof :**

Let  $g_{x_i} = x_t$  Then  $x_i = g^{-1} x_t$ . So  $x_i = g x_t$ . Suppose that  $x_i \neq x_t$ .

Then either  $x_i < x_t$  or  $x_t < x_i$ . If  $x_i < x_t$  then  $g_{x_i} < g x_t$ . So,  $x_t < x_i$ . That is a contradiction . Similarly we have a contradiction if  $x_t < x_i$ .

Hence , since  $X$  is a chain , then  $x_i = x_t$ . So,  $g_{x_i} = x_i$ .

Therefore  $g \in \text{Stab}_G(x_i)$  for all  $x_i \in X$ . ■

**Theorem (3-6) :**

Let  $(X, \leq)$  be a  $G$ -chain . Then the action of  $G$  on  $X$  is only the trivial action if  $X$  has 0 or I.

**Proof :**

(i) Let  $0 = x_1 \in X$  and  $g \in G$ . Suppose that  $g_{x_1} \neq x_1$ , then  $x_1 < g_{x_1} [x_1 = 0]$ .

Also ,  $g^{-1} x_1 < x_1 = 0$ . So this is a contradiction . So,  $g_{x_1} = x_1$ . Now from theorem (3-3) we have  $g_{x_i} = x_i$  for all  $x_i \in X$  and  $g \in G$ .

(ii) Let  $I = x_1 \in X$  and  $g \in G$  . Suppose that  $g_{x_1} \neq x_1$ , then  $g_{x_1} < x_1 [x_1 = I]$ .

Also ,  $x_1 < g^{-1} x_1$ . So this is a contradiction .

So ,  $g_{x_1} = x_1$ . Now from theorem (3-3) we have  $g_{x_i} = x_i$  for all  $x_i \in X$  and  $g \in G$ . ■

The following corollary can be proved directly from the previous theorem , but we will give another proof.

**Corollary (3-7):**

Let  $P = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}$  be a  $G$ -chain with  $p_1 > p_2 > \dots > p_n$ . Then  $P$  is a trivial  $G$ -chain.

**Proof :**

Suppose that there exists  $g \in G$  and  $p_i \in P$  such that  ${}^g p_i = p_t$  with  $t \neq i$ . That is  ${}^g p_i \neq p_i$ . Suppose that  $t > i$ , then  ${}^g p_{i+(n-t)} = p_{t+(n-t)} = p_n$  such that  $i+(n-t) \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . Also,  ${}^g p_{i+(n-t)+1} = p_{n+1}$  such that  $i+(n-t)+1 \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . But  $|P| = n$ . So  $p_{n+1} \notin P$ . Hence  ${}^g p_{i+(n-t)+1} \neq p_{n+1}$ .

Now let  ${}^g p_{i+(n-t)+1} = p_r$ . Since  $p_{i+(n-t)} > p_{i+(n-t)+1}$ , then  ${}^g p_{i+(n-t)} > {}^g p_{i+(n-t)+1}$ . So,  $p_n > p_r$  and this is a contradiction. Similarly we have contradiction when  $t < i$ . Hence  $t = i$ .

Therefore the  $G$  action on  $P$  is the trivial action only. ■

**§.4 Maximal chains :**

Finally in this section we will study the maximal chains in group-posets and we shall observe that the study of these kinds of chains give us some indications on the type of some group actions on posets.

**Definition (4-1) :** [3]

Let  $P$  be a poset and  $X = \{x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_j\} \subseteq P$  be a chain such that  $x_i < x_{i+1} < \dots < x_j$ , then  $X$  is called a maximal chain in  $P$  if and only if :

- (i) There is no element  $c \in P$  such that :  $x_i < x_{i+1} < \dots < c < \dots < x_j$ .
- (ii) There is no element  $k \in P$  such that :  $k < x_i$  or  $x_j < k$ .

**Proposition (4-2) :**

Let  $P$  be a  $G$ -poset and  $Y$  be a maximal chain in  $P$ . Then  ${}^g Y$  is also a maximal chain in  $P$  with  $|{}^g Y| = |Y|$ .

**Proof :**

(i) Since  $Y$  is a maximal chain in  $P$ , so we can say  $Y = \{x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_j\}$  such that  $x_{r+1}$  covers  $x_r$  for all  $i < r < j$ . So,  ${}^g Y = \{{}^g x_i, {}^g x_{i+1}, \dots, {}^g x_j\}$  for all  $g \in G$ . Hence  ${}^g x_i < {}^g x_{i+1} < \dots < {}^g x_j$ . Suppose that there exists an element  $c \in P$  such that  ${}^g x_i < {}^g x_{i+1} < \dots < c < \dots < {}^g x_j$ .

Then  $g^{-1}({}^g x_i) < g^{-1}({}^g x_{i+1}) < \dots < g^{-1}c < \dots < g^{-1}({}^g x_j)$ .

That is  $x_i < x_{i+1} < \dots < g^{-1}c < \dots < x_j$  and this is a contradiction since  $Y$  is a maximal chain.

(ii) suppose that there exists an element  $b \in P$  such that  $b \leq {}^g x_i$  then :  
 $b \leq {}^g x_i \Rightarrow g^{-1}b \leq x_i \Rightarrow g^{-1}b = x_i \Rightarrow b = {}^g x_i$ . Similarly, if  ${}^g x_j \leq a$  then  ${}^g x_j = a$ . Therefore  ${}^g Y$  is a maximal chain.

Now let the map  $f: Y \rightarrow {}^g Y$  is defined by :  $f(y) = {}^g y$  for all  $y \in Y$ .  
 $f$  is injective map since :  $f(y_1) = f(y_2) \Rightarrow {}^g y_1 = {}^g y_2 \Rightarrow y_1 = y_2$ .

Also  $f$  is onto since if  $x \in {}^g Y$  then there exists  $y \in Y$  such that  $x = {}^g y$ . Hence,  $f$  is bijection and  $|Y| = |{}^g Y|$ . ■

**Definition (4-3) :** [4]

Let  $P$  be a poset and  $x \in P$ . Then the subset  $C$  of  $P$  is called a cutset of the element  $x$  in  $P$  if every element of  $C$  is not comparable with  $x$  and all the maximal chains in  $P$  cut with  $C \cup \{x\}$ . We shall note to this set by cut  $x$ .

**Theorem (4-4) :**

Let  $P$  be a  $G$ -poset and  $C$  is the cutset of  $x \in P$ . Then  ${}^g C$  is the cutset of  ${}^g x$ . That is  ${}^g C = \text{cut } {}^g x$ .

**Proof :**

Let  $y \in \text{cut}^g x$  then  $g^{-1}y$  is not comparable with  $g_x$ . So  $g^{-1}y$  is not comparable with  $x$ . That is  $g^{-1}y \in C$ . So  $g(g^{-1}y) \in^g C$ . That is  $y \in^g C$ .

Hence  $\text{cut}^g x \subseteq^g C$ .

Now let  $g_s \in^g C$ . Then  $s \in C$ . So  $s$  is not comparable with  $x$ . That is  $g_s$  is not comparable with  $g_x$ . So  $g_s \in \text{cut}^g x$ . Therefore  $gC = \text{cut}^g x$  ■

**Theorem (4-5) :**

Let  $P$  be a finite  $G$ -poset with  $P(M) = \{M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n\}$  be the set of the maximal chains in  $P$  with  $|M_i| = |M_j|$  if and only if  $i = j$ . Then the trivial action is the only action of  $G$  on  $P$ .

**Proof :**

To prove this theorem we must first prove that  $gM_i = M_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , after that we must show that  $gx = x$  for all  $x \in M_i$  and  $g \in G$

**First part :**

Our argument proceeds by induction on the number  $n$  to prove that  $gM_i = M_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .

Let  $|M_1| = r_1, |M_2| = r_2, \dots, |M_n| = r_n$  such that  $r_1 < r_2 < \dots < r_n$ .

(i) Let  $n=2$ . That is  $P(M) = \{M_1, M_2\}$  with  $|M_1| \neq |M_2|$ .

Suppose that  $gM_1 \neq M_1$ , then  $gM_1 = M_2$ . So  $|gM_1| = |M_2| = |M_1|$  and this is a contradiction. Hence  $gM_1 = M_1$ . Similarly we have  $gM_2 = M_2$ .

(ii) Now assume that  $n=k$  with  $gM_i = M_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .

Let  $n=k+1$ . Since  $gM_i = M_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .

Suppose that  $gM_{k+1} \neq M_{k+1}$  then  $gM_{k+1} = M_j$  for some  $1 \leq j \leq k$ . So  $|gM_{k+1}| = |M_j| = r_j$ . But  $|gM_{k+1}| = |M_{k+1}| = r_{k+1}$ . Hence  $r_j = r_{k+1}$ , that is  $j=k+1$ , and this is a contradiction since  $k+1 > j$ . So  $gM_{k+1} = M_{k+1}$ .

**Second part:**

Since  $\{M_i\}_{i=1}^n$  is the family of the maximal chains in  $P$ , the  $M_i$  is a finite maximal chain in  $P$ . Using corollary (3-7) we get :  $g_x = x$  for all  $x \in M_i$ ,  $g \in G$  with  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .

Therefore from part one, the action of  $G$  on  $P$  is the trivial action only. ■

The above theorem is not true when  $P$  has two maximal chains  $M_i, M_j$  with  $|M_i| = |M_j|$  as in the following example.

**Example (4-6):**

Let  $P = \{a, b, c, d\}$  be a poset with  $a > b$  and  $c > d$ . So  $P(M) = \{M_1, M_2 : M_1 = \{a, b\}, M_2 = \{c, d\}\}$ . Hence  $|M_1| = |M_2|$ .

Let  $G = C_2 = \{e, g\}$  with  $g^2 = e$ , and  $ga = c, gb = d$ .

Therefore  $P$  is a  $G$ -poset and the action is not trivial.

**Proposition (4-7):**

Let  $P(M) = \{M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n\}$  be the set of the maximal chains in the  $G$ -poset  $P$ . Let  $gM_i = M_t$ , then  $gM_j \neq M_t$  for all  $j \neq i$ .

**Proof :**

Suppose that  $gM_j = M_t$  for some  $j \neq i$ . Then  $gM_j = gM_i$  for some  $j \neq i$ . So  $g^{-1}(gM_j) = g^{-1}(gM_i)$  for some  $j \neq i$ .

Hence  $M_j = M_i$  for some  $j \neq i$ . This is a contradiction since  $j \neq i$  implies  $|P(M)| < n$ . Therefore  $gM_j \neq M_t$  for all  $j \neq i$ . ■

Proposition (4-8) :

Let  $P$  be an injective  $G$ -poset , and  $P(M) = \{M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n\}$  be the family of the maximal chains in  $P$ . Then :

(i)  $(|M_i| = |M_j| \text{ if and only if } i = j)$  , implies that  $G = \{e\}$ .

(ii) If  $|M_1| = |M_2| = \dots = |M_n|$  , then  $|G| \leq n!$ .

(iii) If we reordered the maximal chains such that :

$|N_1| = |N_2| = \dots = |N_r| \neq |N_{r+1}| = \dots = |N_t| \neq |N_{t+1}| = \dots = |N_n|$ , with  $N_i \in P(M)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$  , then :  $|G| \leq r! \times (t-r)! \times \dots \times (n-k)!$  .

**Proof :**

(i) Since  $\rho(g) = \rho_g(p) = p = I(p)$  for all  $p \in P$  ,  $g \in G$  , then  $g \in \ker(\rho)$ .

But  $\ker(\rho) = \{e\}$  because  $\rho$  is injective .

Then  $g = e$  for all  $g \in G$  . So  $G = \ker(\rho) = \{e\}$ .

(ii)  $|M_1| = |M_2| = \dots = |M_n|$  . So for all  $M_i \in P(M)$  and  $g \in G$  there exists some

$M_t \in P(M)$  such that  $g M_i = M_t$ . From proposition (4-7) we have

$g M_i \neq M_t$  for all  $j \neq i$  .

So the Number of permutations on the maximal chains is  $n!$ .

Now since  $P$  is an injective  $G$ -poset, then  $|G| \leq n!$  .

(iii) Applying (ii) on every part of equal parts of :

$|N_1| = |N_2| = \dots = |N_r| \neq |N_{r+1}| = \dots = |N_t| \neq |N_{t+1}| = \dots = |N_{k+1}| = \dots = |N_n|$  we get that the number of permutations on the equal parts are ,  $r!$ ,  $(t-r)!$ , ...,  $(n-k)!$  respectively . Using the fundamental principle of counting , the number of the permutations on the maximal chains is  $r! \times (t-r)! \times \dots \times (n-k)!$  .

Since  $P$  is an injective  $G$ -poset , then  $|G| \leq r! \times (t-r)! \times \dots \times (n-k)!$  . ■

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