LORENTZIAN POLYNOMIALS AND THE INDEPENDENCE SEQUENCES OF GRAPHS

AMIRE BENDJEDDOU, LEONARD HARDIMAN

ABSTRACT. We study the multivariate independence polynomials of graphs and the log-concavity of the coefficients of their univariate restrictions. Let R_{W_4} be the operator defined on simple and undirected graphs which replaces each edge with a caterpillar of size 4. We prove that all graphs in the image of R_{W_4} are what we call pre-Lorentzian, that is, their multivariate independence polynomial becomes Lorentzian after appropriate manipulations. In particular, as pre-Lorentzian graphs have log-concave (and therefore unimodal) independence sequences, our result makes progress on a conjecture of Alavi, Malde, Schwenk and Erdős which asks if the independence sequence of trees or forests is unimodal.

1. INTRODUCTION

A subset of vertices in a finite, simple, undirected graph is called *independent* if it contains no two vertices that are adjacent. For such a graph G, one can consider the so-called *independence sequence*,

$$i_k = \#\{S \subset V(G) \mid S \text{ is independent and } \#S = k\}$$

As is often the case, considering the corresponding generating function, the *independence polynomial*, has proved valuable in studying this sequence. In this paper, we develop a novel methodology for establishing various properties of the independence polynomial and provide an application. To contextualise these results within the existing literature we now briefly discuss related results.

We first consider a close relation to the independence polynomial: the matching polynomial; indeed the matching polynomial of a graph G is the independence polynomial of the line graph of G. It is well known that the matching polynomial is real rooted and more recently Chudnovsky and Seymour [CS07] proved that this is true for the independence polynomial of any claw-free graph. Both the matching and independence polynomial have natural multivariate versions by associating each vertex to a unique variable. The multivariate version of the matching polynomial was proven to be real stable by Borcea and Brändén, [BB09b], which can be seen as a multivariate generalisation of real rootedness. In a similar spirit, Leake and Ryder [LR19] show that the Chudnovsky-Seymour result can be generalised to the multivariate independence polynomial of claw-free graphs, by introducing the notion of same-phase stability.

Date: May 2, 2024.

Before proceeding, we take a moment to state certain key definitions that the following discussion will reply upon.

Definition 1.1. A non-negative sequence (s_0, s_1, \ldots, s_n) is called *log-concave* if

$$s_k^2 \ge s_{k-1}s_{k+1}, \ \forall k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}.$$

Definition 1.2. A non-negative sequence (s_0, s_1, \ldots, s_n) is called *ultra log-concave* if

$$\frac{s_k^2}{\binom{n}{k}^2} \ge \frac{s_{k-1}}{\binom{n}{k-1}} \frac{s_{k+1}}{\binom{n}{k+1}}, \ \forall k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}.$$

Note that, as the sequence $s_k = \binom{n}{k}$ is log-concave, ultra log-concavity implies log-concavity.

It is well known that the coefficients of real rooted polynomials form ultra logconcave sequences [Com74, Theorem B, p. 270]. Motivated by the mentioned successful approaches of considering the multivariate independence polynomial to prove real rootedness (and hence ultra-log concavity), in this paper we show that Brändén and Huh's recently developed theory of Lorentzian polynomials [BH20] can also be used to prove that the independence polynomial of certain families of graphs have log-concave coefficients. In particular, we introduce a property of partitioned graphs (essentially graphs with a distinguished subset of vertices, see Definition 3.8) called *pre-Lorentzian* which implies log-concavity of the coefficients of their independence polynomials. Let us now introduce the following operator on graphs.

Definition 1.3. Let R_{W_4} denote the operator on graphs which replaces every edge in a graph with the following,



where the blue vertices are the ones to be identified with the vertices of the original graph (we call these vertices the *endpoints*).

To illustrate the effectiveness of our approach, we provide an application in the form of the following result.

Theorem 4.5. Let G denote the set of simple finite undirected graphs (not necessarily connected). Then every graph in $R_{W_4}(G)$ has an independence sequence that is log-concave.

We now say a few words on the proof of Theorem 4.5. In truth, our principal tool is not the multivariate independence polynomial, but rather the *coloured independence polynomial*, which may be thought of as a "compromise" between the independence polynomial and its multivariate analogue. Indeed, just as the independence polynomial may be recovered by identifying the variables in its multivariate analogue, the coloured independence polynomial is recovered by partially identifying the variables. Crucially, the coloured independence polynomial is flexible enough to satisfy the properties we require for non-trivial families of graphs (unlike the multivariate independence polynomial) and powerful enough to allow for glueing arguments (unlike the univariate independence polynomial). In particular, these glueing arguments are at the heart of the proof of Theorem 4.5.

A pleasing feature of Theorem 4.5 is that it implies progress on the following, well studied, conjecture. Alavi, Malde, Schwenk and Erdős [AMSE87] asked if the independence sequence of trees or forests is unimodal, a property implied by logconcavity. Despite substantial effort (see [BBO14, Ben18, GH18, LM03, LM02, MS16, WZ11, Zhu16, ZC19, ZW20, Zhu07], futhermore, [BG21] provides an extensive survey on this topic) in proving the conjecture for different families of trees, all the constructions so far exhibit a recursive structure which restricts the families of trees that can be built. By using the coloured independence polynomial we overcome this constraint (in particular due to the possibility of the aforementioned glueing arguments). Indeed, applying our edge replacement to forests we prove the conjecture for all forests which can be built by replacing all edges of arbitrary forests with caterpillars of size 4. We note, however, that the full conjecture remains beyond the reach of the techniques developed in this paper, as demonstrated by the following result of Kadrawi and Levit.

Theorem 1.4 ([KL23]). There exist infinite families of trees whose independence sequences fail to be log-concave.

1.1. Structure of this paper. Section 2 details the necessary background material and records certain straightforward lemmas from linear algebra. Section 3 then introduces the coloured independence polynomial, develops the theory enabling the corresponding glueing arguments, and specialises these arguments to the pre-Lorentzian property. Finally, Section 4 concludes by providing an application in the form of Theorem 4.5.

1.2. Conventions. All graphs in this paper are assumed to be finite, simple and undirected. For a graph G, we use V(G) and E(G) to denote the sets of vertices and edges, respectively. We will also discuss *coloured* graphs in this paper, however this should not be understood as referring to the standard graph-theoretic concept, but the following, simpler, concept.

Definition 1.5. A coloured graph \mathcal{G} , is a pair (G, i), where G is a graph and i is a map from $\mathcal{V}(G)$ to some indexing set \mathcal{I} , we call \mathcal{I} the set of colours.

Throughout the paper, we will make extensive use of the following terminology, which we record here for convenience.

Definition 1.6 (Free vertex). For a vertex v in a coloured graph, we say that v (and its colour) are *free* if the subset of vertices that share a colour with v is $\{v\}$.

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we use [n] to denote the set $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$. When a collection of n variables is written with a shared symbol x decorated by a subscript in [n] (i.e. x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n), we write, for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n$, x^{α} to denote $\prod x_i^{\alpha_i}$. Unless otherwise specified, all polynomials are assumed to be over \mathbb{R} . For $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, we use < and \leq

to denote the partial orders on \mathbb{N}^n given by

$$\alpha < \beta \iff \alpha_i < \beta_i, \forall i \in [n] \text{ and } \alpha \leq \beta \iff \alpha_i \leq \beta_i, \forall i \in [n].$$

We also use the symbol e_i to denote the standard basis vector $(0, \ldots, 0, 1, 0, \ldots, 0)$, where the 1 is in the *i*th position.

2. Preliminaries

2.1. Lorentzian polynomials. We start by recording certain properties of Lorentzian polynomials. The results in this section are well-known to experts in the field how-ever we include their statements and proofs for the sake of completeness.

Definition 2.1. A finite subset $A \subset \mathbb{Z}^n$ is called *M*-convex if for any $\alpha, \beta \in A$ and any index *i* satisfying $\alpha_i > \beta_i$, there is an index *j* satisfying

$$\beta_j > \alpha_j$$
 and $\alpha - e_i + e_j \in A$.

Definition 2.2. The support of a multivariate polynomial $p = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n} c_{\alpha} x^{\alpha}$ is given by the set $\operatorname{Supp}(p) = \{ \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n : c_{\alpha} \neq 0 \}.$

Definition 2.3. A homogeneous polynomial p of degree d with non-negative coefficients is called *Lorentzian* if

- $\operatorname{Supp}(p)$ is M-convex,
- for every (d-2)th partial derivative of p, the corresponding Hessian matrix has at most one positive eigenvalue.

Remark 2.4. Lorentzian polynomials were introduced by Brändén and Huh [BH20] using an alternative definition. In particular, [BH20, Theorem 2.25] provides an equivalence between the original definition and the definition given above.

Proposition 2.5. Lorentzian polynomials are stable under identifying variables.

Proof. This is a special case of [BH20, Theorem 2.10].

Proposition 2.6. Lorentzian polynomials are stable under taking products.

This was proven in [BH20, Corolarry 2.32.]. For sake of completeness we outline a more detailed proof here.

Proof. Following Gurvits [Gur09], we say that a polynomial $p(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ in n variables with non-negative coefficients is *strongly log-concave* if, for any $i \in [n]$ and $a_i \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\prod_{i=1}^n \partial_{x_i}^{a_i} p \text{ is identically zero or } \log \Big(\prod_{i=1}^n \partial_{x_i}^{a_i} p\Big) \text{ is concave on } \mathbb{R}^n_{>0}.$$

Homogeneous polynomials are Lorentzian if and only if they are strongly logconcave [BH20, Theorem 2.30], so it suffices to show the result for strongly logconcave polynomials. Let $u = (u_1, \ldots, u_m)$ and $w = (w_1, \ldots, w_d)$ be two disjoint sets of variables and let f(u), g(w) be two homogeneous strongly log-concave polynomials. It is clear that h(u, w) = f(u)g(w) is a homogeneous polynomial with non-negative coefficients. We need to show that $\prod_{i=1}^{m} \partial_{u_i}^{a_i} \prod_{j=1}^{d} \partial_{w_j}^{b_j} h(u, w)$ is either identically zero or log-concave on $\mathbb{R}_{>0}^{m+d}$, where $a_i \in \mathbb{N}$ and $b_j \in \mathbb{N}$ are arbitrary. We have $\prod_{i=1}^{m} \partial_{u_i}^{a_i} \prod_{j=1}^{d} \partial_{w_j}^{b_j} h(u, w) = \prod_{i=1}^{m} \partial_{u_i}^{a_i} f(u) \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{d} \partial_{w_j}^{b_j} g(w)$. If either $\prod_{i=1}^{m} \partial_{u_i}^{a_i} f(u)$ or $\prod_{j=1}^{d} \partial_{w_j}^{b_j} g(w)$ are identically zero, we are done. If both polynomials are not identically zero, then

$$\log\Big(\prod_{i=1}^m \partial_{u_i}^{a_i} \prod_{j=1}^d \partial_{w_j}^{b_j} h(u,w)\Big) = \log\Big(\prod_{i=1}^m \partial_{u_i}^{a_i} f(u)\Big) + \log\Big(\prod_{j=1}^d \partial_{w_j}^{b_j} g(w)\Big),$$

which is a sum of concave functions on $\mathbb{R}_{>0}^{m+d}$. Since sums of concave functions are concave, h(u, w) is strongly log-concave, thus Lorentzian. The general case where u and w share variables now follows by applying Proposition 2.5 to h(u, w).

Definition 2.7. For $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{N}^n$ the power truncation operator $P_{\alpha,\beta}$ is defined as follows,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}_{\alpha,\beta}: \quad & \mathbb{R}[x_1,\ldots,x_n] \to \mathbb{R}[x_1,\ldots,x_n] \\ & \sum_{\gamma \in \mathbb{N}^n} a(\gamma) x^{\gamma} \mapsto \sum_{\alpha \leq \gamma \leq \beta} a(\gamma) x^{\gamma}. \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 2.8. Lorentzian polynomials are stable under $P_{\alpha,\beta}$.

Proof. Let $p \in \mathbb{R}[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ be a Lorentzian polynomial. By [BH20, Theorem 3.2], $P_{\alpha,\beta}(p)$ being Lorentzian follows from the following two claims:

- (i) there exists l ∈ N such that P_{α,β} is homogeneous of degree l, i.e. it either kills a monomial, or changes its degree by adding l. This holds trivially for l = 0, as P_{α,β} either kills a monomial or leaves its degree unchanged.
- (ii) The polynomial

$$\operatorname{sym}_{\mathbf{P}_{\alpha,\beta}}((x_i),(y_i)) := \sum_{0 \le \gamma \le \kappa} \binom{\kappa}{\gamma} \mathbf{P}_{\alpha,\beta}(x^{\gamma}) y^{\kappa-\gamma}$$

is Lorentzian, where $\kappa \in \mathbb{N}^n$ is such that $\kappa_i \geq \deg p$, and $\binom{\kappa}{\alpha} = \prod_i \binom{\kappa_i}{\alpha_i}$. To see that Claim (ii) holds, observe that

$$\sum_{0 \le \gamma \le \kappa} \binom{\kappa}{\gamma} \mathbf{P}_{\alpha,\beta}(x^{\gamma}) y^{\kappa-\gamma} = \sum_{\alpha \le \gamma \le \beta} \binom{\kappa}{\gamma} x^{\gamma} y^{\kappa-\gamma}$$
$$= \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left(\sum_{\alpha_i \le j \le \beta_i} \binom{k_i}{j} x_i^j y_i^{k_i-j} \right)$$

hence it is enough to show that

$$\sum_{\alpha_i \le j \le \beta_i} \binom{k_i}{j} x_i^j y_i^{k_i - j}$$

is Lorentzian for all $i \in [n]$. This follows from the fact that a bivariate homogeneous polynomial is Lorentzian if and only if the sequence of coefficients is ultra log-concave, non-negative and has no internal zeros (see [BH20, Example 2.26]).

Definition 2.9. Let R be a polynomial ring over \mathbb{R} in a finite set of variables V, and let x be in V. The *multi-affine part* associated to x is the unique linear

operator $MAP_x \colon R \to R$ which satisfies

$$\mathrm{MAP}_{x}\left(\prod_{v\in V} v^{d_{v}}\right) = \begin{cases} \prod_{v\in V} v^{d_{v}} & \text{if } d_{x} \leq 1, \\ v \in V & 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

in other words, the linear operator which simply kills any monomial of degree in x greater than 1.

Corollary 2.10. Let R be a polynomial ring over \mathbb{R} in a finite set of variables and let p be in R. Lorentzian polynomials are stable under MAP_x.

Proof. After putting an order on the finite set of variables which identifies x with x_1 , this follows immediately by noting that,

$$P_{0,\beta}(p) = MAP_{x_1}(p),$$

when $\beta = (1, N, \dots, N)$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}$ is sufficiently large. The conclusion then follows from Proposition 2.8.

2.2. Linear algebra lemmas. In this section, we detail certain lemmas which will be used in the proof of Theorem 4.3. In particular, all of these results follow from standard arguments from linear algebra.

Lemma 2.11. Let M be a $(n+2) \times (n+2)$ symmetric matrix of the form

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a & \cdots & a & b & c \\ a & 0 & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & a & b & c \\ a & \cdots & a & 0 & b & c \\ b & \cdots & b & b & d & f \\ c & \cdots & c & c & f & e \end{pmatrix}$$

where a, b, c, d, e, f are non-negative real numbers. Then M has n-1 negative eigenvalues of the form -a and the corresponding eigenspace is spanned by the vectors $(e_1 - e_i)_{2 \le i \le n}$. Furthermore, any of the remaining 3 eigenvalues is either equal to -a or is an eigenvalue of

$$\tilde{M} := \begin{pmatrix} (n-1)a & b & c \\ nb & d & f \\ nc & f & e \end{pmatrix}.$$

Within the context of this lemma, we call \tilde{M} the reduced form of M.

Proof. The first assertation of the lemma simply follows by applying the matrix to the claimed eigenvectors. For the second part, note that any of the other 3 eigenvalues is either -a or has corresponding eigenvector which is orthogonal to all $(e_1 - e_i)_{2 \le i \le n}$, since eigenvectors of a symmetric matrix with different eigenvalues are orthogonal. This implies that these eigenvectors with, say, eigenvalue λ , have the form $v_{\lambda} = (v, v, \dots, v, u, w)^{\top}$. Now it is easy to see that the eigenvalue equation

 $Mv_{\lambda} = \lambda v_{\lambda}$ is equivalent to

$$\begin{pmatrix} (n-1)a & b & c \\ nb & d & f \\ nc & f & e \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v \\ u \\ w \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} v \\ u \\ w \end{pmatrix}$$

i.e. λ is an eigenvalue of \tilde{M} . Conversely, since u, v, w are free parameters, any eigenvalue of \tilde{M} is also an eigenvalue of M.

Remark 2.12. Note that \tilde{M} has only real eigenvalues, since its eigenvalues form a subset of the eigenvalues of M, and M is symmetric.

Lemma 2.13. Let A be a 3×3 matrix which satisfies

(1)
$$\operatorname{Tr}(A) > 0, \ A_{11} + A_{22} + A_{33} \le 0 \ and \ \det(A) \ge 0$$

where A_{ii} is the minor of A obtained by deleting the *i*-th row and column. Then A has exactly one positive eigenvalue.

Proof. The characteristic polynomial of A has the form

$$p_A(x) = x^3 - \operatorname{Tr}(A)x^2 + (A_{11} + A_{22} + A_{33})x - \det(A).$$

By our assumptions (1), the number of sign changes in the sequence of $p_A(x)$'s coefficients is exactly 1. By Descartes' rule of signs p_A has exactly one positive root.

3. Multivariate independence polynomial and glueing

3.1. **Independence polynomials.** As has become fairly standard within the literature, we study the independence sequence via its generating function, the independence polynomial, first defined by Gutman and Harary in 1983 [GH83].

Definition 3.1 (Independence polynomial). Let G be a finite graph. The corresponding *independence polynomial*, denoted I(G), is an element of the polynomial ring $\mathbb{Z}[x]$, defined by setting

$$I(G; x) = \sum_{S \subseteq V(G)} Indep(S) \cdot x^{|S|},$$

where Indep(S) is an indicator function for whether or not S is independent and |S| denotes the cardinality of S.

More recently, evidence has emerged that considering the analogous multivariate polynomial can be fruitful (Borcea and Brändén's simple proof that the matching polynomial is real-rooted proves a striking example [BB09a, BB09b]).

Definition 3.2 (Multivariate independence polynomial). Let G be a finite graph. The corresponding *multivariate independence polynomial*, denoted M(G), is an element of the polynomial ring $\mathbb{Z}[(x_v)_{v \in V(G)}]$, defined by setting

$$\mathcal{M}(G;(x_v)) = \sum_{S \subseteq V(G)} \operatorname{Indep}(S) \cdot x_S.$$

where $x_S = \prod_{v \in S} x_v$.

We introduce what may be considered a "halfway house" between the independence polynomial and its multivariate counterpart: the coloured independence polynomial. Indeed, just as I(G; x) may be recovered by identifying *all* the variables in $M(G; (x_v))$, the coloured independence polynomial is recovered by *partially* identifying the variables.

Definition 3.3 (Coloured independence polynomial). Let $\mathcal{G} = (G, i)$ be a finite coloured graph. The corresponding *coloured independence polynomial*, denoted $C(\mathcal{G})$, is an element of the polynomial ring $\mathbb{Z}[(x_l)_{l \in \mathrm{Im}\,i}]$, defined by setting

$$\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{G};(x_l)) = \mathcal{M}(G,(x_v))\big|_{x_v = x_{i(v)}},$$

i.e. the polynomial obtained by identifying variables corresponding to vertices which share the same colour. We also say that a variable x_l is *free* if the associated colour is (see Definition 1.6).

3.2. **Glueing graphs.** We now describe a glueing procedure that takes as input two finite coloured graphs, $\mathcal{G}_1 = (G_1, i_1)$ and $\mathcal{G}_2 = (G_2, i_2)$, with colour sets \mathcal{I}_1 and \mathcal{I}_2 . We may assume, up to changing the colours, that $\mathcal{I}_1 \cap \mathcal{I}_2 = \emptyset$. The procedure also takes as input two colours, $c_1 \in \text{Im } i_1$ and $c_2 \in \text{Im } i_2$. The resulting glued graph, denoted $\text{Gl}(\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2; c_1, c_2)$, is constructed as follows:

- (1) Let \mathcal{I}_3 be the disjoint union of \mathcal{I}_1 and \mathcal{I}_2 with c_1 and c_2 identified into a single colour which, by convention, we call c_1 . We start by considering the disjoint union of \mathcal{G}_1 and \mathcal{G}_2 , with the induced colouring on \mathcal{I}_3 .
- (2) We then add any missing edges to the subgraph induced by $i^{-1}(c_1) \subseteq \mathcal{V}(G_1) \sqcup \mathcal{V}(G_2)$ until it forms a clique. The result is $\mathrm{Gl}(\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2; c_1, c_2)$.

Example 3.4. We consider the following two coloured graphs:



Then the coloured graph resulting from glueing with respect to the colours **red** and **blue** is given by



where the added edges have been drawn in red.

Remark 3.5. If $i^{-1}(c_1)$ has the form $\{v_1, v_2\}$ then the only new edge after glueing is a single edge from v_0 to v_1 . Note that such a glueing is possible *if and only if* v_1 and v_2 are free vertices¹ (when considered as vertices of the original unglued graphs).

Definition 3.6. Let S denote a property of multivariate polynomials. We call S glueable if the following three stability conditions hold:

8

¹See Definition 1.6.

- \mathcal{S} is stable under identifying variables,
- \mathcal{S} is stable under taking products,
- S is stable under MAP_x for arbitrary x.

This terminology is justified by the following proposition.

Proposition 3.7. Let \mathcal{G}_1 and \mathcal{G}_2 be two coloured graphs such that $C(\mathcal{G}_1)$ and $C(\mathcal{G}_2)$ both satisfy a glueable property \mathcal{S} . We also take c_1 and c_2 in the set of colours of \mathcal{G}_1 and \mathcal{G}_2 respectively, and consider $\mathcal{G}_3 = \operatorname{Gl}(\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2; c_1, c_2)$. Then $C(\mathcal{G}_3)$ also satisfies \mathcal{S} .

Proof. The proposition follows from the claim that

(2) $C(\mathcal{G}_3) = MAP_{x_{c_1}} \left(C(\mathcal{G}_1) \cdot C(\mathcal{G}_2) |_{c_1 = c_2} \right).$

However, the method of constructing $\operatorname{Gl}(\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2; c_1, c_2)$ described above makes it clear that (2) holds. Indeed, $\operatorname{C}(\mathcal{G}_1) \cdot \operatorname{C}(\mathcal{G}_2) = \operatorname{C}(\mathcal{G}_1 \sqcup \mathcal{G}_2)$, and adding exactly the missing edges such that $i^{-1}(c_1)$ forms a clique has the precise effect of removing any terms in $\operatorname{C}(\mathcal{G}_1) \cdot \operatorname{C}(\mathcal{G}_2)$ which contain a power of x_{c_1} greater than 1.

3.3. Glueing across free vertices. Our aim now is to focus on glueings across free vertices. In particular, we might as well identify any colours that are not free, leading to the following definition.

Definition 3.8. A *partitioned graph* is a coloured graph with a distinguished colour called the *bound colour* such that every colour other than the bound colour is free. As before, we extend this terminology to vertices and variables in the obvious way.

Remark 3.9. Strictly speaking, glueing two partitioned graphs across free vertices does not result in a partitioned graph, as the result will contain multiple non-free vertices. However, identifying all the non-free colours allows us to recover a partitioned graph. For the remainder of this paper, this is what is meant by the glueing of two partitioned graphs.

An immediate corollary of Proposition 3.7 is that two partitioned graphs whose coloured independence polynomials satisfy a glueable property S, can be glued across a free vertex into a new partitioned graph that also satisfies S. However, as we can guarantee that we will never glue across bound variables, we can in fact modify S into a weaker property which will still be preserved by glueing as follows.

Let \mathcal{G}_1 and \mathcal{G}_2 be partitioned graphs with free colours c_1 and c_2 , respectively. By abuse of notation we use x to denote the bound variable for both \mathcal{G}_1 and \mathcal{G}_2 . Let us suppose that there exist $k_1, k_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $x^{k_1} \cdot C(\mathcal{G}_1)$ and $x^{k_2} \cdot C(\mathcal{G}_1)$ satisfy \mathcal{S} , where \mathcal{S} is a glueable property. We now consider \mathcal{G}_3 , the glueing of \mathcal{G}_1 and \mathcal{G}_2 across c_1 and c_2 . As from the proof of Proposition 3.7, we have

(3)
$$C(\mathcal{G}_3) = MAP_{x_{c_1}} \left(C(\mathcal{G}_1) \cdot C(\mathcal{G}_2) |_{c_1 = c_2} \right).$$

Note that $x \notin \{x_{c_1}, x_{c_2}\}$ as c_1 and c_2 are free, and therefore multiplication by x commutes with MAP_{c1}($\bullet |_{c_1=c_2}$) giving us

(4)
$$\operatorname{MAP}_{x_{c_1}}\left(x^{k_1} \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{G}_1) \cdot x^{k_2} \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{G}_2)|_{c_1=c_2}\right) = x^{k_1+k_2} \cdot \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{G}_3),$$

i.e. $x^{k_3} \cdot C(\mathcal{G}_3)$ also satisfies \mathcal{S} , for $k_3 = k_1 + k_2$. This discussion can be summarised into the following remark (which will play an important role in the remainder of this paper).

Remark 3.10. For a glueable property S, the property of there existing $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $x^k \cdot C(\mathcal{G})$ satisfies S, is stable with respect to glueing partitioned graphs across free vertices. Note that this new property is a property of the partitioned graph, not the coloured independence polynomial.

3.4. **Pre-Lorentzian graphs.** Although there are many glueable properties worthy of study in light of Proposition 3.7, we choose here to focus in on one which is closely related to Lorentzian polynomials. In this section, we introduce this property.

Definition 3.11. Let p be a polynomial in x_1, \ldots, x_n . We write H(p) to denote the homogeneous polynomial in x_1, \ldots, x_n, y of minimal degree which satisfies $H(p)|_{y=1} = p$. We call H(p) the homogenisation of p and y the homogenising variable.

Definition 3.12. Let \mathcal{G} be a partitioned graph. We call \mathcal{G} pre-Lorentzian if there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $(xy)^k \cdot \operatorname{H}(\operatorname{C}(\mathcal{G}))$ is Lorentzian, where x is the variable associated to the bound colour and y is the homogenising variable.

Recalling the two conditions that constitute the definition of a Lorentzian polynomial (see Definition 2.3), we note that the $(xy)^k$ factor has no impact on the M-convexity condition as a set $M \subset \mathbb{Z}^n$ is M-convex if and only if $M + \alpha$ is, for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}^n$. It would therefore be equivalent to declare \mathcal{G} pre-Lorentzian if

- Supp $(H(C(\mathcal{G})))$ is M-convex,
- for every (d-2)th partial derivative of $(xy)^k \cdot H(C(\mathcal{G}))$, the corresponding Hessian matrix has at most one positive eigenvalue.

Remark 3.13. As monomials with positive coefficients are Lorentzian, this definition is equivalent to requiring that there exist $k_1, k_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $x^{k_1}y^{k_2} \cdot C(\mathcal{G})$ is Lorentzian.

Due to the homogenising variable y being uninvolved in the glueing procedure, we can strengthen Remark 3.10 into the following proposition.

Proposition 3.14. Pre-Lorentzian graphs are stable under glueing across free vertices.

Proof. Let S be the property of having Lorentzian homogenisation. By Propositions 2.5, 2.6 and 2.8, S is a glueable property. The statement then follows from the exact same line of reasoning as was used to arrive at Remark 3.10 in Section 3.3 (bolstered with the fact that multiplication by y also commutes with $MAP_{c_1}(\bullet |_{c_1=c_2})$).

Lemma 3.15. If a partitioned graph is pre-Lorentzian, then its independence sequence is log-concave.

Proof. Let $\mathcal{G} = (G, i)$ be a pre-Lorentzian partitioned graph. By identifying all free variables in $H(C(\mathcal{G}))$ with the bound variable x, we recover the homogenisation of the independence polynomial of G, i.e.,

$$\mathrm{H}(\mathrm{C}(\mathcal{G}))|_{x_v=x} = \mathrm{H}(\mathrm{I}(G;x)).$$

It follows from Proposition 2.5, that there exists a $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $(xy)^k \cdot H(I(G; x))$ is Lorentzian. Furthermore, let d be the degree of H(I(G; x)) and $(a_m)_{0 \le m \le d}$ the independence sequence of G, then

$$(xy)^{k} \cdot \mathrm{H}(\mathrm{I}(G;x)) = (xy)^{k} \sum_{S \subseteq V(G)} \mathrm{Indep}(S) x^{|S|} y^{d-|S|}$$
$$= (xy)^{k} \sum_{m=0}^{d} a_{m} x^{m} y^{d-m}$$
$$= \sum_{m=0}^{d} a_{m} x^{m+k} y^{d+k-m}$$

is a bivariate Lorentzian polynomial of degree d+2k with coefficients $b_m = 0$ for $0 \le m < k$, $b_m = a_{m-k}$ for $k \le m < d+k$ and $b_m = 0$ for $d+k \le m \le d+2k$. According to [BH20, Example 2.26] the coefficients b_m form an ultra log-concave sequence, and since ultra log-concavity implies log-concavity, we conclude that $(a_m)_{0 \le m \le d}$ form a log-concave sequence.

4. Application

4.1. Characterising R_{W_4} in terms of glueing. Our announced application of the material developed in Section 3 (Theorem 4.5) refers to an edge replacement operator whereas the material itself discusses (constrained) glueings. We now provide the bridge between these concepts.

Definition 4.1. For $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, we consider the following partitioned graph on 3n + 1 vertices:



where the bound vertices have been drawn in black and the vertex labelled c is called the centre.

Proposition 4.2. Every connected graph in $R_{W_4}(G)$ may be constructed by glueing copies of \mathcal{L}_n across free vertices.

Proof. Let G be a connected graph. For each vertex v_i in V(G), let $\mathcal{L}_{\deg(v_i)}^{(i)}$ denote a copy of $\mathcal{L}_{\deg(v_i)}$ and let $c^{(i)}$ denote its centre. Glue $\mathcal{L}_{\deg(v_i)}^{(i)}$ and $\mathcal{L}_{\deg(v_j)}^{(j)}$ at any of the free vertices if and only if $\{v_i, v_j\} \in E(G)$. We claim that the graph obtained in this way is exactly $R_{W_4}(G)$. For $\{v_i, v_j\} \in E(G)$, let e_{ij} be the unique edge connecting $\mathcal{L}_{\deg(v_i)}^{(i)}$ and $\mathcal{L}_{\deg(v_j)}^{(j)}$. It is clear that, for every such edge, we can choose



FIGURE 1. Glueing an edge replaced tree.



FIGURE 2. Glueing an edge replaced cycle.

a unique W_4 , that contains e_{ij} with endpoints (see Definition 1.3) $c^{(i)}$ and $c^{(j)}$. In particular, this W_4 can be seen as the image of e_{ij} under R_{W_4} .

4.2. **Proof of the main result.** With Proposition 3.15 and 4.2 in mind, the main obstacle to proving Theorem 4.5 becomes clear: establishing that \mathcal{L}_n is pre-Lorentzian. We now proceed with the proof.

Theorem 4.3. \mathcal{L}_n is pre-Lorentzian for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Proof. We start by noting that the coloured independence polynomial of \mathcal{L}_n is given by

(5)

$$C(\mathcal{L}_n; x, (x_i)) = x(x+1)^n + (x+1)^n \prod_{i=1}^n (x+x_i+1)$$

$$= (x+1)^n \left(x + \prod_{i=1}^n (x+x_i+1) \right)$$

where x is the variable associated to the bound colour and the x_i are the variables associated to the free colours. To see that (5) holds, consider the fact that an independent set can either contain the central vertex c, giving the $x(x+1)^n$ term, or not, giving the $(x+1)^n \prod_{i=1}^n (x+x_i+1)$ term.

We recall that to prove that \mathcal{L}_n is pre-Lorentzian, we have to show that the homogenisation

$$H(C(\mathcal{L}_n; x, (x_i))) = (x+y)^n \left(xy^{n-1} + \prod_{i=1}^n (x+x_i+y) \right)$$

is Lorentzian after being multiplied by $(xy)^k$, for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$. In proving this, it will be useful to suppose n > 2, we therefore deal with the n = 1, 2 cases now.

For n = 1, $H(L(\mathcal{L}_1, x, (x_1))) = (x + y)(2x + x_1 + y)$ is a product of Lorentzian polynomials, thus Lorentzian. For n = 2, we show that $p(x, y, x_1, x_2) = (x + y)(yx + (x + x_1 + y)(x + x_2 + y))$ is Lorentzian, from which we conclude that

 $H(L(\mathcal{L}_2, x, x_1, x_2)) = p(x, y, x_1, x_2) \cdot (x + y)$ is Lorentzian. The support satisfies $Supp((x+y)(yx+(x+x_1+y)(x+x_2+y))) = Supp((x+y)(x+x_1+y)(x+x_2+y))$, which is the support of a Lorentzian polynomial, thus M-convex. We proceed with checking the eigenvalue condition. If we take a partial derivative with respect to x_1 or x_2 we end up with a Lorentzian polynomial, since $\partial_{x_1}p(x, y, x_1, x_2) = (x + y)(x + x_2 + y)$ is a product of Lorentzian polynomials (and similarly for ∂_{x_2}). Thus, it is enough to show that the Hessians of $\partial_x p(x, y, x_1, x_2)$ and $\partial_y p(x, y, x_1, x_2)$ have at most one positive eigenvalue. It suffices to check the Hessian of $\partial_x p(x, y, x_1, x_2)$, because p is symmetric in x and y. It has the form

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 6 & 8 \\ 2 & 2 & 8 & 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

and the eigenvalues are $\lambda_1 = \frac{3}{2}(5 + \sqrt{33}), \lambda_2 = -\frac{3}{2}(\sqrt{33} - 5), \lambda_3 = -1, \lambda_4 = 0.$

Let n be greater than 2. As $(x+y)^n$ is Lorentzian, the result follows by proving

$$p(x, y, (x_i)) = xy^{n-1} + \prod_{i=1}^{n} (x + x_i + y)$$

to be Lorentzian after being multiplied by $(xy)^k$, for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$ (note that this does not hold when n = 2). We start by proving M-convexity. This follows directly from the fact that

$$\operatorname{Supp}(p) = \operatorname{Supp}\left(xy^{n-1} + \prod_{i=1}^{n}(x+x_i+y)\right) = \operatorname{Supp}\left(\prod_{i=1}^{n}(x+x_i+y)\right),$$

as $\prod_{i=1}^{n} (x + x_i + y)$ is a product of Lorentzian polynomials and hence M-convex (recall also the discussion in Definition 3.12 which established that the $(xy)^k$ factor may be ignored when checking M-convexity).

It remains to be shown that for every (n + 2k - 2)th partial derivative of

(6)
$$q(x, y, (x_i)) := (xy)^k \cdot \left(xy^{n-1} + \prod_{i=1}^n (x + x_i + y) \right)$$
$$= x^{k+1}y^{n+k-1} + x^k y^k \prod_{i=1}^n (x + x_i + y),$$

there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that the associated Hessian has exactly 1 positive eigenvalue. In fact, we will show that this holds for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ sufficiently large. We note that, for any $j \in [n]$, we have

$$\partial_{x_j} q(x, y, (x_i)) = x^k y^k \prod_{i \neq j} (x + x_i + y),$$

which is a product of Lorentzian polynomials and therefore Lorentzian. We can therefore restrict ourselves to checking that partial derivatives of the form

$$\partial_x^l \partial_y^{n+2k-l-2} q(x, y, (x_i))$$

have Hessians with exactly one positive eigenvalue (for large enough k). We now proceed by splitting this problem in four cases based upon the value of l.

Case 1: l < k - 1 or l > k + 1. This is the simplest case as such sequences of partial derivatives all kill the $y^{n+k-1}x^{k+1}$ term appearing in (6), leaving just $x^k y^k \prod_{i=1}^n (x + x_i + y)$ which is a product of Lorentzian polynomials and hence Lorentzian.

In order to tackle the remaining cases, we will need to make use of Lemma 2.11, so let us now justify its relevance. As $q(x, y, (x_i))$ is symmetric in the x_i variables and $\deg_{x_i}(q) = 1$, the Hessian associated to any (n + 2k - 2)th partial derivative of q satisfies the conditions of Lemma 2.11.

Case 2 : l = k - 1. In this case, the only monomials in q which survive and contribute to the Hessian are the ones that have degree in x at least k - 1 and degree in y at least n + k - 1. In particular, they are given by

$$x^{k-1}y^{n+k-1}x_ix_j, x^ky^{n+k-1}x_i, x^{k-1}y^{n+k}x_i, x^{k+1}y^{n+k-1}, x^{k-1}y^{n+k+1} \text{ and } x^ky^{n+k}.$$

Expanding q, we see that their respective coefficients are

$$0, 1, 0, n+1, 0$$
 and 1 .

After differentiating and removing the common (k-1)!(n+k-1)! factor, which comes from the exponents in x and y, we are left with a Hessian H, whose reduced form (see Lemma 2.11) is given by

$$ilde{H} = egin{pmatrix} 0 & k & 0 \ nk & (n+1)(k+1) & k(n+k) \ 0 & k(n+k) & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Developing the first row gives det $\tilde{H} = 0$. Furthermore, the trace is positive and

 $\tilde{H}_{11} + \tilde{H}_{22} + \tilde{H}_{33} = -nk^2 - k^2(n+k)^2 < 0.$

We can therefore apply Lemmas 2.11 and 2.13 to conclude that H has exactly 1 positive eigenvalue.

We note that up to this point in the proof, the $(xy)^k$ factor (which, we recall, characterises the difference between p being pre-Lorentzian and H(p) simply being Lorentzian) has not played a role. However, this will not be the case for the remaining cases, which will require us to study the asymptotics in terms of k.

Case 3: l = k. In this case, the only monomials in q which survive and contribute to the Hessian are the ones that have degree in x at least k and degree in y at least n + k - 2. In particular, they are given by

$$x^{k}y^{n+k-2}x_{i}x_{j}, x^{k+1}y^{n+k-2}x_{i}, x^{k}y^{n+k-1}x_{i},$$
$$x^{k+2}y^{n+k-2}, x^{k}y^{n+k} \text{ and } x^{k+1}y^{n+k-1},$$

with coefficients in q given by

1,
$$n - 1$$
, 1, $\binom{n}{2}$, 1 and $n + 1$,

respectively. As before, after taking derivatives we can factor out k!(n+k-2)! and we get the reduced Hessian

$$\tilde{H} = \begin{pmatrix} n-1 & (k+1)(n-1) & n+k-1\\ n(k+1)(n-1) & (k+2)(k+1)\binom{n}{2} & (k+1)(n+k-1)(n+1)\\ n(n+k-1) & (k+1)(n+k-1)(n+1) & (n+k)(n+k-1) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Note that, for arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $k \leq 2$, this matrix has two positive eigenvalues. However, we claim that for k large enough this cannot happen. In fact, as before, this will follow from Lemma 2.13. As the trace is still clearly positive we just have to show that $\tilde{H}_{11} + \tilde{H}_{22} + \tilde{H}_{33} \leq 0$ and $\det(\tilde{H}) \geq 0$. To see this, first note that \tilde{H}_{22} and \tilde{H}_{33} are both of order k^2 , whereas

$$\tilde{H}_{11} = k^4 \left(\binom{n}{2} - (n+1)^2 \right) + O(k^3),$$

which is clearly negative for large enough k. For the determinant, we consider the following simplified matrix \tilde{H}' where we remove any factors containing k:

$$\tilde{H}' = \begin{pmatrix} n-1 & n-1 & 1\\ n(n-1) & \binom{n}{2} & n+1\\ n & n+1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

In particular, expanding $\det(\tilde{H})$ gives

$$\det(\tilde{H}) = k^4 \cdot \det(\tilde{H}') + O(k^3),$$

implying that it is enough to see that $\det(\tilde{H}') > 0$. A simple calculation gives

$$\det(\tilde{H}') = \frac{n^2 - 3n}{2} + 1,$$

which is positive for n > 2.

Case 4 : l = k + 1. In this case, the only monomials in q which survive and contribute to the Hessian are the ones that have degree in x at least k + 1 and degree in y at least n + k - 3. In particular, they are given by

$$x^{k+1}y^{n+k-3}x_ix_j, \ x^{k+2}y^{n+k-3}x_i, \ x^{k+1}y^{n+k-2}x_i,$$
$$x^{k+3}y^{n+k-3}, \ x^{k+1}y^{n+k-1} \text{ and } x^{k+2}y^{n+k-2},$$

with coefficients in q given by

$$n-2$$
, $\binom{n-1}{2}$, $n-1$, $\binom{n}{3}$, $n+1$ and $\binom{n}{2}$

respectively. As before, after taking derivatives we can factor out (k+1)!(n+k-3)!and we get the reduced Hessian

$$\tilde{H} = \begin{pmatrix} (n-1)(n-2) & (k+2)\binom{n-1}{2} & (n+k-2)(n-1) \\ n(k+2)\binom{n-1}{2} & (k+3)(k+2)\binom{n}{3} & (k+2)(n+k-2)\binom{n}{2} \\ n(n+k-2)(n-1) & (k+2)(n+k-2)\binom{n}{2} & (n+1)(n+k-1)(n+k-2) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Again, the trace is clearly positive, and we only have to check that $\tilde{H}_{11} + \tilde{H}_{22} + \tilde{H}_{33} \leq 0$ and $\det(\tilde{H}) \geq 0$. The argument is extremely similar to the one given in Case 3: \tilde{H}_{22} and \tilde{H}_{33} are both of order k^2 , whereas

$$\tilde{H}_{11} = k^4 \left(\binom{n}{3} (n+1) - \binom{n}{2}^2 \right) + O(k^3),$$

which is clearly negative for large enough k. Finally, for the determinant, we again simplify the matrix by removing the factor with any k dependence:

$$\tilde{H}' = \begin{pmatrix} (n-1)(n-2) & \binom{n-1}{2} & n-1\\ n\binom{n-1}{2} & \binom{n}{3} & \binom{n}{2}\\ n(n-1) & \binom{n}{2} & (n+1) \end{pmatrix},$$

and compute

$$\det(N) = \frac{n^4 - 4n^3 + 5n^2 - 2n}{6},$$

which is positive for n > 2.

Remark 4.4. We now make a few remarks about the hypotheses of Theorem 4.3. One might ask whether $C(\mathcal{L}_n, x, (x_i))$ is real stable, which turns out to be a glueable property. This is false, since $I(\mathcal{L}_3; x)$ is not real rooted and this approach already fails for n = 3. We also observe two interesting features of \mathcal{L}_n . If we remove all leaves from \mathcal{L}_n , the support of the coloured star we get is not M-convex and a naive attempt of glueing stars fails as well. If we instead only remove the leaves attached to the center of \mathcal{L}_n we indeed end up with a support that is M-convex, but the eigenvalue condition fails. So, in some sense the additional leaves attached to the center 'push' the eigenvalues of the Hessian in just the right way to guarantee that the graph is pre-Lorentzian.

We can now apply the glueing procedure established in Proposition 3.14 for the following result.

Theorem 4.5. Let G denote the set of simple finite undirected graphs (not necessarily connected). Then every graph in $R_{W_4}(G)$ has an independence sequence that is log-concave.

Proof. Since being pre-Lorentzian is stable under disjoint union (indeed, this follows from Proposition 2.5, Proposition 2.6 and the fact that $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{G}_1 \sqcup \mathcal{G}_2) = \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{G}_1) \cdot \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{G}_2)$), in light of Lemma 3.15, the result follows from the claim that every connected graph in $R_{W_4}(\mathbf{G})$ is pre-Lorentzian.

Let G be connected in R_{W_4} . Proposition 4.2 then tells us that G may be constructed by glueing copies of \mathcal{L}_n across free vertices. By Theorem 4.3 these copies are all pre-Lorentizan, and furthermore, by Proposition 3.14, so is G (thought of as a partitioned graph with no free vertices).

References

- [AMSE87] Yousef Alavi, Paresh J Malde, Allen J Schwenk, and Paul Erdös. The vertex independence sequence of a graph is not constrained. *Congressus Numerantium*, 58(15-23):2, 1987.
- [BB09a] Julius Borcea and Petter Brändén. The Lee-Yang and Pólya-Schur programs. I. Linear operators preserving stability. *Invent. Math.*, 177(3):541–569, 2009.
- [BB09b] Julius Borcea and Petter Brändén. The Lee-Yang and Pólya-Schur programs. II. Theory of stable polynomials and applications. Comm. Pure Appl. Math., 62(12):1595– 1631, 2009.
- [BBO14] Patrick Bahls, Elizabeth Bailey, and McCabe Olsen. New families of graphs whose independence polynomials have only real zeros. Australas. J. Combin., 60:128–135, 2014.
- [Ben18] Ferenc Bencs. On trees with real-rooted independence polynomial. *Discrete Math.*, 341(12):3321–3330, 2018.
- [BG21] Abdul Basit and David Galvin. On the independent set sequence of a tree. The Electronic Journal of Combinatorics, pages P3–23, 2021.
- [BH20] Petter Brändén and June Huh. Lorentzian polynomials. Ann. of Math. (2), 192(3):821– 891, 2020.
- [Com74] Louis Comtet. Advanced combinatorics. D. Reidel Publishing Co., Dordrecht, enlarged edition, 1974. The art of finite and infinite expansions.
- [CS07] Maria Chudnovsky and Paul Seymour. The roots of the independence polynomial of a clawfree graph. Journal of Combinatorial Theory, Series B, 97(3):350–357, 2007.
- [GH83] Ivan Gutman and Frank Harary. Generalizations of the matching polynomial. Utilitas Math., 24:97–106, 1983.
- [GH18] David Galvin and Justin Hilyard. The independent set sequence of some families of trees. Australas. J. Combin., 70:236–252, 2018.
- [Gur09] Leonid Gurvits. On multivariate Newton-like inequalities. In Advances in combinatorial mathematics, pages 61–78. Springer, Berlin, 2009.
- [KL23] Ohr Kadrawi and Vadim E Levit. The independence polynomial of trees is not always log-concave starting from order 26. arXiv preprint arXiv:2305.01784, 2023.
- [LM02] Vadim E. Levit and Eugen Mandrescu. On well-covered trees with unimodal independence polynomials. In Proceedings of the Thirty-third Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory and Computing (Boca Raton, FL, 2002), volume 159, pages 193–202, 2002.
- [LM03] Vadim E. Levit and Eugen Mandrescu. On unimodality of independence polynomials of some well-covered trees. In *Discrete mathematics and theoretical computer science*, volume 2731 of *Lecture Notes in Comput. Sci.*, pages 237–256. Springer, Berlin, 2003.
- [LR19] Jonathan D. Leake and Nick R. Ryder. Generalizations of the Matching Polynomial to the Multivariate Independence Polynomial. Algebraic Combinatorics, 2(5):781–802, 2019.
- [MS16] Eugen Mandrescu and Arthur Spivak. Maximal trees with log-concave independence polynomials. Notes on Number Theory and Discrete Mathematics, 22(2):44–53, 2016.
- [WZ11] Yi Wang and Bao-Xuan Zhu. On the unimodality of independence polynomials of some graphs. European J. Combin., 32(1):10–20, 2011.
- [ZC19] Bao-Xuan Zhu and Yun Chen. Log-concavity of independence polynomials of some kinds of trees. Appl. Math. Comput., 342:35–44, 2019.
- [Zhu07] Zhi-Feng Zhu. The unimodality of independence polynomials of some graphs. Australas. J. Combin., 38:27–33, 2007.
- [Zhu16] Bao-Xuan Zhu. Clique cover products and unimodality of independence polynomials. Discrete Appl. Math., 206:172–180, 2016.
- [ZW20] Bao-Xuan Zhu and Qingxiu Wang. Unimodality of independence polynomials of rooted products of graphs. Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh Sect. A, 150(5):2573–2585, 2020.

CSFT/INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS, EPFL, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND Email address: amire.bendjeddou@epfl.ch Email address: leonard.hardiman@epfl.ch