

5. (a) For a finite poset P regard the set $Int(P) = \{[x, y] : x \leq y \text{ in } P\}$ as a poset ordered by containment. Let $J^0(Int(P))$ be the poset of downsets of $Int(P)$ ordered by reverse containment. Prove that the poset of ideals of the incidence algebra is isomorphic to $J^0(Int(P))$.

(I worked with Fernando Torres and Sebastián Osorio)

Let I be an ideal of the incidence algebra and let's consider $I^\perp = \{[x, y] : f([x, y]) = 0 \text{ for all } f \in I\}$. We'll see that I^\perp is a downset:

Let $[x, y] \in I^\perp$. If $f \in I$ and $g \in I(P)$ then $gf \in I$ i.e. $gf([x, y]) = 0$ which means:

$$\sum_{x \leq z \leq y} g[x, z]f[z, y] = 0$$

and this works for all $g \in I(P)$. In particular if we take $g = [x, z]^*$ we get $f([z, y]) = 0$ for all $f \in I$, then $[x, z] \in I^\perp$ for all $x \leq z \leq y$.

Analogously (since I is a two side ideal) we have $[z, y] \in I^\perp$ for all $x \leq z \leq y$ therefore if $[a, b] \subset [x, y]$ we have:

$[x, y] \in I^\perp \Rightarrow [x, b] \in I^\perp \Rightarrow [a, b] \in I^\perp$ Hence I^\perp is a downset i.e. $I^\perp \in \mathcal{J}^o(\text{Int}(P))$

On the other hand, a downset is clearly a subcoalgebra. Therefore the map $I \rightarrow I^\perp$ is a bijection.

Finally, let $I \subset J$ be two ideals of $I(P)$. If $f \in J^\perp$, then $f([x, y]) = 0$ for all $[x, y] \in J$ then of course $f \in I^\perp$. Hence our map preserves the order and our posets are isomorphic.