

Last name \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_

**LARSON—MATH 556—HOMEWORK WORKSHEET 09**  
**Posets!**

1. (**Divisibility poset**). Let  $X = \{2, 3, \dots, 20\}$  and define the divisibility relation “ $|$ ”: For  $x, y \in X$ ,  $x|y$  (that is,  $x$  divides  $y$ , or  $y$  is divisible by  $x$ ) if there is an integer  $k$  such that  $kx = y$ . We showed that  $P = (X, |)$  is a poset.
  - Find a largest antichain in  $P$ .
  - Find a minimal chain decomposition in  $P$ .
  - Prove that your antichain is indeed maximal and your chain decomposition is indeed minimal.
2. Let  $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{101}\}$  be a sequence of 101 distinct positive integers. Argue that  $X$  contains either an 11-term increasing subsequence or an 11-term decreasing subsequence. (**Hint:** Define an appropriate poset).

3. Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 7/12 & 0 & 5/12 \\ 1/6 & 1/2 & 1/3 \\ 1/4 & 1/2 & 1/4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Use Birkhoff’s algorithm to show that  $A$  is a convex combination of permutation matrices. (So for each iteration, you’ll need to define a bipartite graph  $G_i$ , find a perfect matching  $M_i$ , a corresponding permutation matrix  $P_i$  and number  $m_i$ . If you get a 0 matrix after  $k$  iterations, you will have  $A = m_1P_1 + \dots + m_kP_k$  and  $m_1 + \dots + m_k = 1$ .)

**Birkhoff’s Algorithm** (from class notes)

Let  $A_1$  be a non-negative square matrix with constant (non-zero) row and column sums.

1. Let  $G_i$  be the associated bipartite graph (whose points represent the rows and columns of  $A_i$  and where  $\rho_j$  is adjacent to  $c_k$  if  $(A_i)_{j,k}$  is non-zero).
2. Let  $M_i$  be a perfect matching in  $G_i$ .
3. Each line of  $M_i$  corresponds to an entry in  $A_i$ , each in a different row and different column. Let  $m_i$  be the minimum of these entries.
4. Let  $P_i$  be the permutation matrix with 1 entries in the coordinates corresponding to  $M_i$ .
5. Let  $A_{i+1} = A_i - m_iP_i$ .
6. If  $A_{i+1}$  is non-zero, repeat.
7. Else, if  $A_{i+1}$  is the zero matrix, then  $A_i = m_1P_1 + m_2P_2 + \dots + m_{i-1}P_{i-1}$ .