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A GENERALIZATION OF THE ABSOLUTE ORDER AND OF THE LATTICE OF NONCROSSING PARTITIONS

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The absolute order A_n is a partial ordering of the symmetric group S_n . A permutation v covers u if $v = (i, j)u$ for some transposition (i, j) , and if v has one less cycle than u . Thus, A_n has a unique minimal element (the identity permutation) and $(n - 1)!$ maximal elements (the n -cycles).

The poset A_n has many interesting algebraic and combinatorial properties. In particular, for any maximal element w , the interval $[id, w]$ is isomorphic to the lattice $PF(n)$ of noncrossing partitions of $\{1, \dots, n\}$. We will discuss a class of subposets of A_n that have many properties similar to those of A_n .

This talk is based on joint work with John Shareshian and Michelle Wachs.