

CONTENTS

Preface	<i>page vii</i>
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Sperner's theorem	1
1.2 Notation and terminology	4
1.3 The main examples	9
2 Extremal problems for finite sets	16
2.1 Counting in two different ways	16
2.2 Partitions into symmetric chains	29
2.3 Exchange operations and compression	33
2.4 Generating families	50
2.5 Linear independence	61
2.6 Probabilistic methods	71
3 Profile-polytopes for set families	84
3.1 Full hereditary families and the antiblocking type	86
3.2 Reduction to the circle	90
3.3 Classes of families arising from Boolean expressions	93
4 The flow-theoretic approach in Sperner theory	116
4.1 The Max-Flow Min-Cut Theorem and the Min-Cost Flow Algorithm	117
4.2 The k -cutset problem	125
4.3 The k -family problem and related problems	131
4.4 The variance problem	140
4.5 Normal posets and flow morphisms	148
4.6 Product theorems	166
5 Matchings, symmetric chain orders, and the partition lattice	179
5.1 Definitions, main properties, and examples	179
5.2 More part Sperner theorems and the Littlewood–Offord problem	187
5.3 Coverings by intervals and sc-orders	194
5.4 Semisymmetric chain orders and matchings	198

6	Algebraic methods in Sperner theory	208
6.1	The full rank property and Jordan functions	209
6.2	Peck posets and the commutation relation	229
6.3	Results for modular, geometric, and distributive lattices	248
6.4	The independence number of graphs and the Erdős–Ko–Rado Theorem	276
6.5	Further algebraic methods to prove intersection theorems	295
7	Limit theorems and asymptotic estimates	304
7.1	Central and local limit theorems	304
7.2	Optimal representations and limit Sperner theorems	317
7.3	An asymptotic Erdős–Ko–Rado Theorem	328
8	Macaulay posets	332
8.1	Macaulay posets and shadow minimization	333
8.2	Existence theorems for Macaulay posets	351
8.3	Optimization problems for Macaulay posets	356
8.4	Some further numerical and existence results for chain products	367
8.5	Sperner families satisfying additional conditions in chain products	378
	Notation	390
	Bibliography	395
	Index	413