

## Contents

1.	Introduction .....	7
1.1.	Preliminaries .....	7
1.2.	Notation and terminology .....	14
1.3.	The main examples .....	18
2.	The general Sperner problem .....	23
2.1.	The Sperner problem as an optimization problem ....	23
2.2.	Coverings by chains as the dual problem and Dilworth-type theorems .....	29
2.3.	Normal posets and flow morphisms .....	34
2.4.	Symmetric chain orders .....	50
2.5.	Peck posets and linear algebra methods .....	56
2.6.	An inequality for distributive lattices .....	72
2.7.	Optimal representations of posets .....	77
2.8.	The asymptotic product theorem .....	86
3.	Problems in $S(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n)$ .....	97
3.1.	Lexicographic order .....	98
3.1.1.	The Clements-Lindström theorem .....	98
3.1.2.	Estimations of shadows .....	106
3.1.3.	The new-shadow operator .....	113
3.2.	Applications of the Clements-Lindström theorem ....	120
3.2.1.	Canonical Sperner families .....	120
3.2.2.	An existence theorem for Sperner families .....	122
3.2.3.	Ideals of minimum weight .....	124
3.2.4.	Maximum adjacencies .....	125
3.2.5.	Minimum ideals with generating families of given size .....	127
3.2.6.	Minimal number of basic elements .....	133
3.3.	Maximum Sperner families .....	135
3.3.1.	Sperner families .....	135
3.3.2.	Complementfree Sperner families .....	137
3.3.3.	Complementary Sperner families .....	140
3.3.4.	Dynamically intersecting Sperner families .....	143
3.3.5.	Statically intersecting Sperner families .....	146
3.4.	Erdös-Ko-Rado type theorems .....	153
3.4.1.	Dynamic intersection .....	153
3.4.2.	Static intersection .....	154

3.5.	Maximum not Sperner families .....	159
3.5.1.	Dynamically intersecting families .....	159
3.5.2.	Statically intersecting families .....	161
3.5.3.	Hamming intersecting families .....	164
3.5.4.	Further results .....	166
3.6.	Further problems .....	169
4.	Profiles of families and extremal problems in the function poset $F_k^n$ and the cubical poset $C_n$ .....	172
4.1.	Profiles of families and their convex closure .....	173
4.2.	The intersection condition in the function poset $F_k^n$ .....	177
4.3.	Profile polyhedra for the cubical poset $C_n$ .....	183
5.	The eigenvalue method and intersection problems in the linear lattice $L_n(q)$ .....	186
5.1.	An upper bound for the independence number of a regular graph .....	186
5.2.	Intersection theorems for the linear lattice $L_n(q)$ .....	189
6.	Applications .....	196
6.1.	Number of monotone Boolean functions .....	196
6.2.	Boolean functions of maximum length .....	198
6.3.	Recognition of order-preserving functions .....	200
6.4.	Problems in relational data base .....	203
6.5.	The Littlewood-Offord problem .....	204
6.6.	Hilbert's base theorem .....	205
6.7.	The Erdős-Moser problem .....	206
6.8.	An inequality for Bernstein polynomials .....	208
6.9.	A continuous Sperner type theorem .....	209
6.10.	Three further applications .....	211
	References .....	213
	Subject index .....	230