Cornell University

## Mathematics > Combinatorics

## The 1/3-2/3 conjecture for $\$ \mathrm{~N} \$$-free ordered sets

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A balanced pair in a finite ordered set $\$ \mathrm{P}=(\mathrm{V}, \mathrm{leq}) \$$ is a pair $\$(\mathrm{x}, \mathrm{y}) \$$ of elements of $\$ \mathrm{~V} \$$ such that the proportion of linear extensions of $\$ P \$$ that put $\$ x \$$ before $\$ y \$$ is in the real interval $\$[1 / 3,2 / 3] \$$. We prove that every finite $\$ \mathrm{~N} \$$-free ordered set which is not totally ordered has a balanced pair.

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