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**Fan Wei\*** (fan\_wei@mit.edu), 6-301, 471 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139. *The Weak Bruhat Order and Separable Permutations.*

Let  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  denote the symmetric group of all permutations of  $1, 2, \dots, n$ , partially ordered by the weak Bruhat order. Thus for any permutation  $w \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ , the rank  $\ell(w)$  of  $w$  is the number of inversions in  $w$ . It follows that the rank-generating function of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  is

$$F(\mathfrak{S}_n, q) = \sum_{w \in \mathfrak{S}_n} q^{\ell(w)} = (n)!,$$

where  $(n) = (1)(2) \cdots (n)$  and  $(i) = 1 + q + q^2 + \cdots + q^{i-1}$ .

For any  $w \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ , we define two graded posets associated with  $w$ :  $\Lambda_w = \{v \in \mathfrak{S}_n : v \leq w\}$  and  $V_w = \{v \in \mathfrak{S}_n : v \geq w\}$ . In  $V_w$ , we define the rank of  $v$  to be  $\ell(v) - \ell(w)$ . We will show that if  $w$  is separable (i.e., 3142 and 2413-avoiding), then there is the surprising formula

$$F(\Lambda_w, q)F(V_w, q) = (n)!.$$

Moreover, we define a bijection  $\varphi: \Lambda_w \times V_w \rightarrow \mathfrak{S}_n$  satisfying  $\ell(u) + \ell(v) - \ell(w) = \ell(\varphi(u, v))$ , and we give an explicit formula for  $F(\Lambda_w, q)$  and  $F(V_w, q)$ . We also show that  $\Lambda_w$  and  $V_w$  are rank-symmetric and rank-unimodal for any separable permutation  $w$ .

These results were obtained under the supervision of Richard Stanley when the author was an undergraduate at MIT. (Received September 15, 2010)