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Positivity Property of Descent Polynomials. Preliminary report.

We say that a permutation $\pi = \pi_1\pi_2\cdots\pi_n \in S_n$ has a descent at index i if $\pi_i > \pi_{i+1}$. Let $Des(\pi)$ denote the set of indices where π has a descent. Given a set I of positive integers, we define $D(I; n) = \{\pi \in S_n \mid Des(\pi) = I\}$ and $d(I; n) := |D(I; n)|$. We say $d(I; n)$ is the descent polynomial of I . In this talk we will show that descent polynomials, like peak polynomials, can be written in a binomial basis with (strictly) positive coefficients. We will then describe the coefficients combinatorially, and explore some of their properties. (Received September 14, 2017)