Pólya frequency sequences and functions

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We survey some of the historical developments in total positivity, with an emphasis on Pólya frequency (PF) sequences and PF functions. This includes a classification of all PF functions and of ``one-sided PF sequences'' via the Laguerre-- Pólya classes of entire functions. We next present a reformulation in terms of probability distributions (or "frequencies"), and conclude by discussing some classifications of the post-composition operations that preserve such totally positive kernels. The final part is joint with Alexander Belton, Dominique Guillot, and Mihai Putinar.