

Alternating sign matrices and totally symmetric plane partitions

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joint work with I. Fischer

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Diskrete Mathematik

Outline

- 1 A multivariate generating function for ASMs
 - Alternating sign matrices (ASMs)
 - Plane partitions
 - Connecting both via symmetric polynomials
 - Proof sketch
- 2 A weighted generating function for d-DPPs
 - Extending the family of symmetric polynomials
 - Lozenge Tilings
 - Proof sketch
- 3 On the antisymmetriser to determinant lemma

Alternating sign matrices

Definition (Mills-Robbins-Rumsey)

An **alternating sign matrix (ASM)** of size n is an $n \times n$ matrix with entries $1, 0, -1$, such that

- all row- and column-sums are equal to 1,
- in each row and column, the non-zero entries alternate.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Enumeration of ASMs

The enumeration formula for ASMs was conjectured by Robbins and Rumsey in the early 1980s.

Theorem (Zeilberger, 1996)

The number of ASMs of size n is given by

$$\prod_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{(3i+1)!}{(n+i)!}.$$

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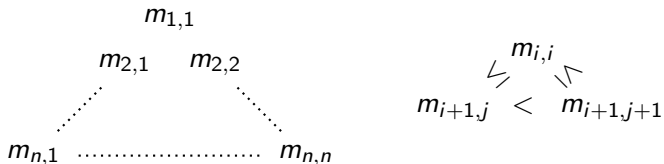
$$\prod_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{(3i+1)!}{(n+i)!}.$$

Further proofs were found by

- Kuperberg in 1996 using the six-vertex model approach,
- Fischer in 2007 using her *operator formula* (a short version of this paper appeared in 2016),
- A. in 2021 which is also based on the operator formula.

Monotone Triangles

A **monotone triangle** (MT) is an array of integers of the form

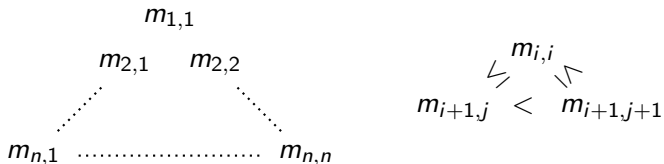


ASMs are in bijection to MTs with bottom row $(1, 2, \dots, n)$.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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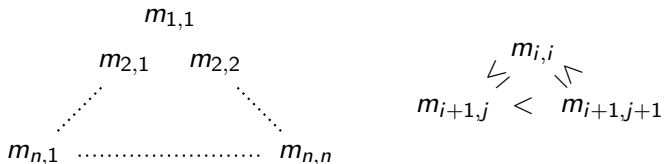
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4

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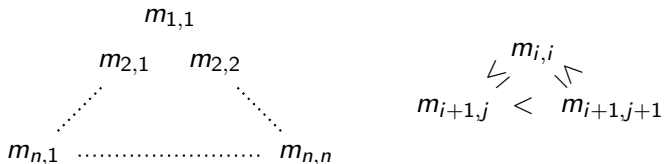
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$$\begin{matrix} & & 4 \\ 3 & & 4 \end{matrix}$$

Monotone Triangles

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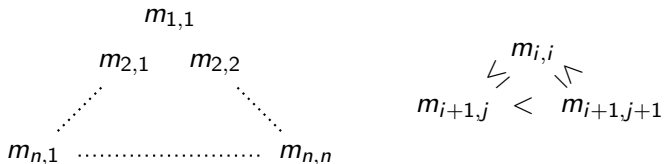
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$$\begin{matrix} & & & 4 & & \\ & & & & 4 & \\ & & 3 & & & \\ & & & & & \\ 1 & & & 3 & & 5 \end{matrix}$$

Monotone Triangles

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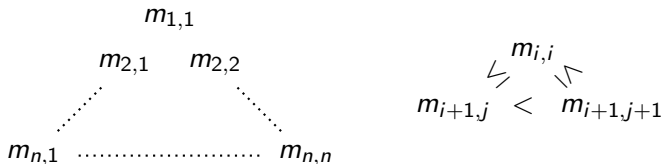
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$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccc} & & & 4 \\ & & 3 & 4 \\ & 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 & 5 \end{array}$$

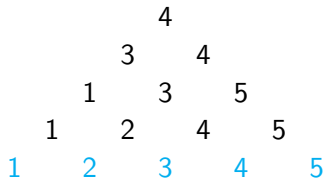
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Weights for monotone triangles

Let $M = (m_{i,j})$ be a monotone triangle. We define

$$s_i(M) = \#j : m_{i+1,j} < m_{i,j} < m_{i+1,j+1}, \quad (\text{special entries})$$

$$l_i(M) = \#j : m_{i,j} = m_{i+1,j}, \quad (\text{left-leaning entries})$$

$$r_i(M) = \#j : m_{i,j} = m_{i+1,j+1}, \quad (\text{right-leaning entries})$$

$$\tilde{d}_i(M) = \sum_j (m_{i,j}) - \sum_j (m_{i-1,j}) - i.$$

The weight $\omega(M)$ is defined as

$$\omega(M) = \prod_{i=1}^n u^{r_i(M)} v^{l_i(M)} x_i^{\tilde{d}_i(M) + 2r_{i-1}(M)} (v + wx_i + ux_i^2)^{s_{i-1}}.$$

Example - MTs with bottom row (1, 2, 3)

$$\tilde{d}_i(M) = \sum_j (m_{i,j}) - \sum_j (m_{i-1,j}) - i,$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} & 1 & \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ & 2 & 3 \end{array}$$

$$v^3$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & 2 \\ & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{array}$$

$$uv^2x_1x_2$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & 1 \\ & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & & 2 \\ & & 1 & 3 \\ & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{array}$$

$$uvx_1(v + wx_2 + ux_2^2)x_3$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & & 3 \\ & & 1 & 3 \\ & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{array}$$

$$u^2vx_1^2x_2x_3$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & & 2 \\ & & 2 & 3 \\ & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{array}$$

$$u^2vx_1x_2x_3^2$$

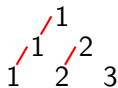
$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & & & 3 \\ & & & 2 & 3 \\ & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{array}$$

$$u^3x_1^2x_2^2x_3^2$$

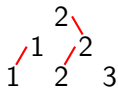
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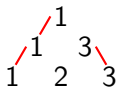
$$\omega(M) = \prod_{i=1}^n u^{r_i(M)} v^{l_i(M)} x_i^{\tilde{d}_i(M) + 2r_{i-1}(M)} (v + wx_i + ux_i^2)^{s_{i-1}}.$$



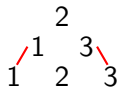
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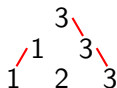
$$uv^2x_1x_2$$



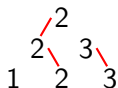
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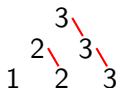
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A multivariate generating function for MTs

Denote by E_x denote the *shift operator* $E_x f(x) = f(x + 1)$.

Theorem (A.-Fischer)

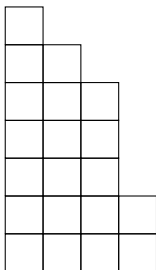
The multivariate generating function for monotone triangles with bottom row $(k_n, k_{n-1}, \dots, k_1)$ w.r.t. the weight ω is

$$\sum_M \omega_M(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left(vE_{\lambda_j}^{-1} + wE_{\lambda_i} E_{\lambda_j}^{-1} + uE_{\lambda_i} \right) s_{(\lambda_n, \dots, \lambda_1)}(\mathbf{x}) \Big|_{\lambda_i = k_i - 1},$$

where the sum is over all monotone triangles with bottom row $(k_n, k_{n-1}, \dots, k_1)$.

Frobenius notation for partitions

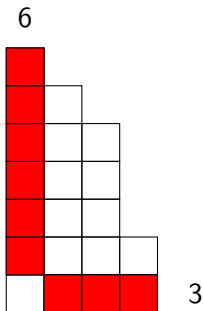
Let λ be a partition and l the length of the Durfee square. The Frobenius notation of λ is $(\lambda_1 - 1, \dots, \lambda_l - l | \lambda'_1 - 1, \dots, \lambda'_l - l)$.



$$\lambda = (4, 4, 3, 3, 3, 2, 1)$$

Frobenius notation for partitions

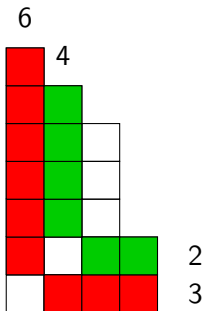
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$$\begin{aligned}\lambda &= (4, 4, 3, 3, 3, 2, 1) \\ &= (3, \quad | 6, \quad)\end{aligned}$$

Frobenius notation for partitions

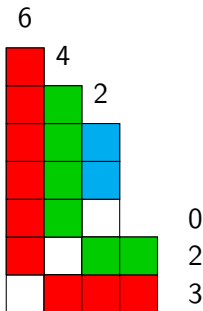
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$$\begin{aligned}\lambda &= (4, 4, 3, 3, 3, 2, 1) \\ &= (3, 2, 0 | 6, 4, 2)\end{aligned}$$

Plane partitions

Definition (MacMahon)

A *plane partition* $\pi = (\pi_{i,j})$ inside an (a, b, c) -box is an array of non-negative integers

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \pi_{1,1} & \pi_{1,2} & \cdots & \pi_{1,b} \\ \pi_{2,1} & \pi_{2,2} & \cdots & \pi_{2,b} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \pi_{a,1} & \pi_{a,2} & \cdots & \pi_{a,b} \end{array}$$

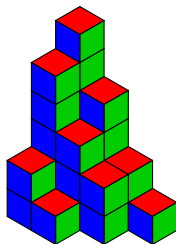
such that $\pi_{i,j} \leq c$ and all rows and columns are weakly decreasing.

Five times plane partitions

6	4	2	1
5	3	2	0
2	1	0	0

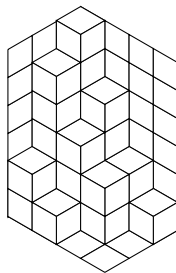
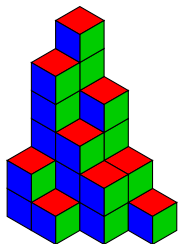
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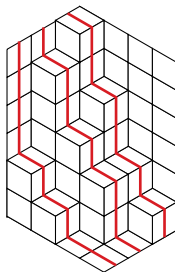
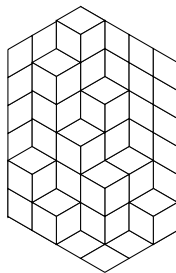
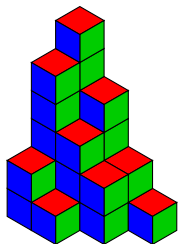
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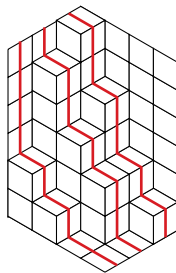
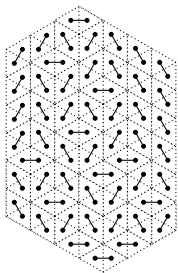
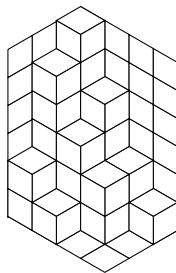
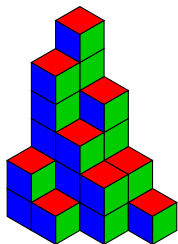
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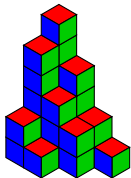


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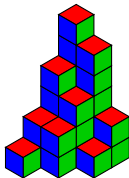
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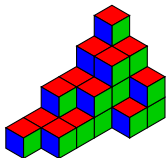
Symmetry operations on plane partitions



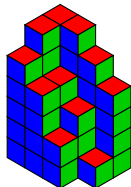
π



reflection / transposition



rotation



completion π^c

$$\pi_{i,j}^c := C - \pi_{a+1-i, b+1-j}$$

Totally symmetric plane partitions

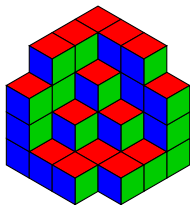
Denote by TSPP_n the set of totally symmetric plane partitions inside an (n, n, n) -box. For $T \in \text{TSPP}_n$ define

$$\text{diag}(T) = (T_{i,i})' = (a_1, \dots, a_l | b_1, \dots, b_l),$$

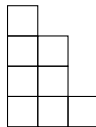
$$\pi(T) = (a_1, \dots, a_l | b_1+1, \dots, b_l+1),$$

$$\omega_T(r, u, v, w) = r^l u^{\sum_{i=1}^l (a_i+1)} v^{\binom{n}{2} - \sum_{i=1}^l (b_i+1)} w^{\sum_{i=1}^l (b_i - a_i)}.$$

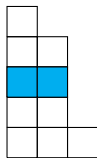
4 4 4 3
4 3 2 1
4 2 1 1
3 1 1 0



T



$\text{diag}(T)$



$\pi(T)$

A multivariate generating function for ASMs

Theorem (A.-Fischer-Konvalinka-Nadeau-Tewari)

The multivariate generating function for ASMs w.r.t ω is

$$\sum_M \omega(M) = \sum_{T \in \text{TSPP}_{n-1}} \omega_T(1, u, v, w) s_{\pi(T)}(\mathbf{x}),$$

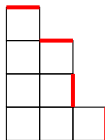
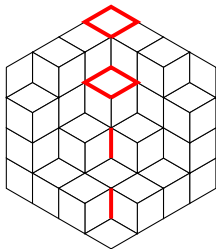
where the first sum is over all monotone triangles with bottom row $(1, 2, \dots, n)$.

Proof sketch - right hand side

Proposition

Let $\lambda = (a_1, \dots, a_l | b_1, \dots, b_l)$. The number of totally symmetric plane partitions T with $\text{diag}(T) = \lambda$ is given by

$$\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq l} \begin{pmatrix} b_i \\ a_j \end{pmatrix}.$$

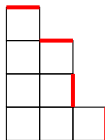
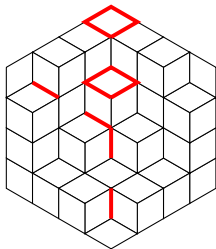


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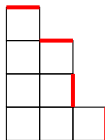
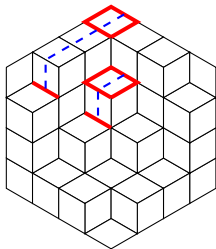


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Proof sketch - left hand side I

$$\sum_M \omega(M) = \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left(uE_{\lambda_i} + wE_{\lambda_i}E_{\lambda_j}^{-1} + vE_{\lambda_j}^{-1} \right) s_{(\lambda_n, \dots, \lambda_1)}(\mathbf{x}) \Big|_{\lambda_i = i-1}$$

Proof sketch - left hand side I

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_M \omega(M) &= \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left(uE_{\lambda_i} + wE_{\lambda_i}E_{\lambda_j}^{-1} + vE_{\lambda_j}^{-1} \right) s_{(\lambda_n, \dots, \lambda_1)}(\mathbf{x}) \Big|_{\lambda_i = i-1} \\ &= \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left(uE_{\lambda_i} + wE_{\lambda_i}E_{\lambda_j}^{-1} + vE_{\lambda_j}^{-1} \right) \frac{\mathbf{ASym}_{\mathbf{x}} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\lambda_i + i - 1} \right)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_j - x_i)} \Big|_{\lambda_i = i-1} \end{aligned}$$

Proof sketch - left hand side I

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_M \omega(M) &= \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left(uE_{\lambda_i} + wE_{\lambda_i}E_{\lambda_j}^{-1} + vE_{\lambda_j}^{-1} \right) s_{(\lambda_n, \dots, \lambda_1)}(\mathbf{x}) \Big|_{\lambda_i = i-1} \\
 &= \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left(uE_{\lambda_i} + wE_{\lambda_i}E_{\lambda_j}^{-1} + vE_{\lambda_j}^{-1} \right) \frac{\mathbf{ASym}_x \left(\prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\lambda_i + i - 1} \right)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_j - x_i)} \Big|_{\lambda_i = i-1} \\
 &= \frac{\mathbf{ASym}_x \left[\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left(ux_i + wx_i x_j^{-1} + vx_j^{-1} \right) \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\lambda_i + i - 1} \right]}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_j - x_i)} \Big|_{\lambda_i = i-1}
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof sketch - left hand side I

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_M \omega(M) &= \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left(uE_{\lambda_i} + wE_{\lambda_i}E_{\lambda_j}^{-1} + vE_{\lambda_j}^{-1} \right) s_{(\lambda_n, \dots, \lambda_1)}(\mathbf{x}) \Big|_{\lambda_i = i-1} \\
 &= \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left(uE_{\lambda_i} + wE_{\lambda_i}E_{\lambda_j}^{-1} + vE_{\lambda_j}^{-1} \right) \frac{\mathbf{ASym}_{\mathbf{x}} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\lambda_i + i - 1} \right)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_j - x_i)} \Big|_{\lambda_i = i-1} \\
 &= \frac{\mathbf{ASym}_{\mathbf{x}} \left[\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left(ux_i + wx_i x_j^{-1} + vx_j^{-1} \right) \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{2(i-1)} \right]}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_j - x_i)}
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof sketch - left hand side II

Lemma (A.-Fischer)

Let $n \geq 1$, and $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$, $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$ be indeterminants. Then

$$\widehat{\mathbf{ASym}} \left(\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (y_j - x_i) \right) = \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} (y_i^j - x_i^j),$$

with $\widehat{\mathbf{ASym}}(f) = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n} \text{sgn}(\sigma) f(x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(n)}; y_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, y_{\sigma(n)})$.

Proof sketch - left hand side II

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$$\sum_M \omega(M) = \frac{\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} (x_i^{n-j} p_j(x_i))}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_i - x_j)},$$

with $p_j(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{j-1} x^k (-w - ux)^k v^{j-k-1}$.

Proof sketch - left hand side III

For a sequence $L = (L_1, \dots, L_n)$ of non-negative integers, we define

$$s_L(\mathbf{x}) := \frac{\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(x_i^{L_j + n - j} \right)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_i - x_j)} = \begin{cases} \operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) s_\lambda(\mathbf{x}) & L_j = \lambda_{\sigma(j)} + j - \sigma(j), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

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$$\frac{\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(x_i^{n-j} p_j(x_i) \right)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_i - x_j)} = \sum_{k_1, \dots, k_n \geq 0} \left(\prod_{j=1}^n a_{j, k_j} \right) \frac{\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(x_i^{k_j + n - j} \right)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_i - x_j)}$$

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Proof sketch - left hand side III

For a sequence $L = (L_1, \dots, L_n)$ of non-negative integers, we define

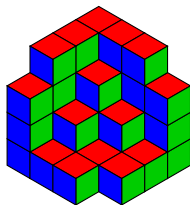
$$s_L(\mathbf{x}) := \frac{\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(x_i^{L_j + n - j} \right)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_i - x_j)} = \begin{cases} \operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) s_{\lambda}(\mathbf{x}) & L_j = \lambda_{\sigma(j)} + j - \sigma(j), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

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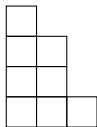
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(x_i^{n-j} p_j(x_i) \right)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_i - x_j)} &= \sum_{k_1, \dots, k_n \geq 0} \left(\prod_{j=1}^n a_{j, k_j} \right) \frac{\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(x_i^{k_j + n - j} \right)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_i - x_j)} \\ &= \sum_{\lambda} s_{\lambda}(\mathbf{x}) \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} (a_{j, \lambda_i + j - i}). \end{aligned}$$

Extending the family of symmetric polynomials

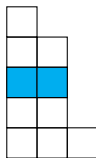
For $T \in \text{TSPP}_n$ with diagonal $\text{diag}(T) = (a_1, \dots, a_l | b_1, \dots, b_l)$ define $\pi_k(T) = (a_1, \dots, a_l | b_1+k, \dots, b_l+k)$.



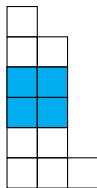
T



$\text{diag}(T) = \pi_0(T)$



$\pi_1(T)$

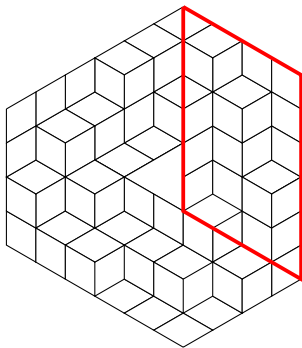
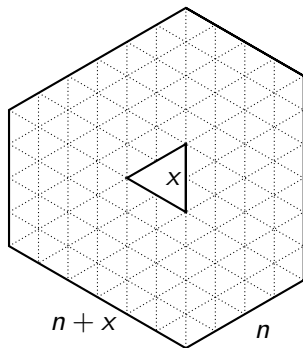


$\pi_2(T)$

We define the symmetric polynomial in $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_{n+k-1})$

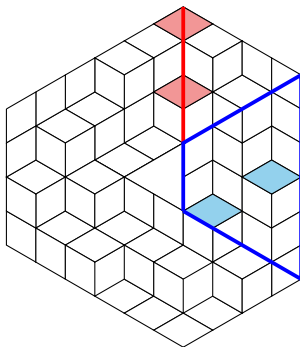
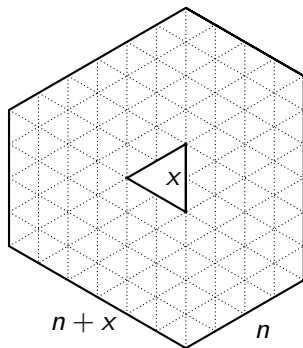
$$\mathcal{A}_{n,k}(r, u, v, w; \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{T \in \text{TSPP}_{n-1}} \omega_T(r, u, v, w) s_{\pi_k(T)}(\mathbf{x}).$$

Cyclically symmetric lozenge tilings I



Denote by $CS_{n,x}(r, t)$ the generating function of cyclically symmetric lozenge tilings in a cored hexagon with side lengths $(n, n+x, n, n+x, n, n+x)$ with respect to the weight

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$$r^{\#\diamond} \text{ on the red line } t^{\#\diamond} \text{ in the blue region}$$

Cyclically symmetric lozenge tilings II

- **Krattenthaler 2006:** Cyclically symmetric lozenge tilings in a cored hexagon with side lengths $(n, n + x, n, n + x, n, n + x)$ are in bijection to $(2 - x)$ -descending plane partitions (DPPs).
- **Andrews 1979:** introduced and enumerated d -DPPs.
- **Mills, Robbins and Robbins 1982:** conjectured ASMs to be equinumerous to 0-DPPs.
- **Behrend, Di Francesco and Zinn-Justin 2013:** showed that ASMs and 0-DPPs are equinumerous with respect to four statistics.

Three enumeration formulas

Remember, the symmetric polynomials $\mathcal{A}_{n,k}(r, u, v, w; \mathbf{x})$ were defined as

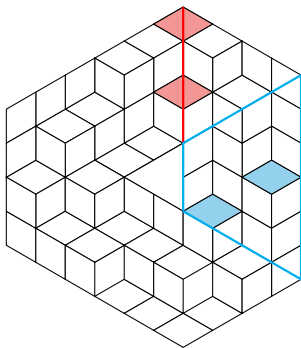
$$\mathcal{A}_{n,k}(r, u, v, w; \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{T \in \text{TSPP}_{n-1}} \omega_T(r, u, v, w) s_{\pi_k(T)}(\mathbf{x}).$$

Theorem (A.-Fischer)

Let n be a positive integer and let $\mathbf{1} = (1, \dots, 1)$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{A}_{n,0}(r, 1, t, 1; \mathbf{1}) &= \text{CS}_{n-1,0}(r, t+2), \\ \mathcal{A}_{n,k}(r, 1, -1, 1; \mathbf{1}) &= \text{CS}_{n-1,2k}(r, 1), \\ \mathcal{A}_{n,k}(r, 1, 0, 1; \mathbf{1}) &= \text{CS}_{n-1,k}(r, 2).\end{aligned}$$

Proof sketch - right hand side



Proof sketch - left hand side

Lemma (A.-Fischer)

Let $n \geq 2$ be an integer, then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_{n,k}(r, u, v, w; \mathbf{x}) \\ = \det_{0 \leq i, j \leq n-2} \left((-1)^{j-i} v^{j+1} \binom{i}{j} + ru^{i+1} w^{j-i} s_{(i|j+k)}(\mathbf{x}) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Proof sketch - left hand side

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Let $n \geq 2$ be an integer, then

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Proof sketch

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_{n,k}(r, u, v, w; \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\lambda=(a_1, \dots, a_l | b_1, \dots, b_l)} s_{\lambda}(\mathbf{x}) \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq l} \left(\binom{b_i}{a_j} \right) \\ \times r^l u^{\sum_i (a_i+1)} v^{\binom{n}{2} - \sum_i (b_i+1)} w^{\sum_i (b_i - a_i)}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof sketch - left hand side

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$$\text{(Giambelli)} \quad s_{(a_1, \dots, a_l | b_1, \dots, b_l)}(\mathbf{x}) = \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq l} \left(s_{(a_i | b_j)}(\mathbf{x}) \right).$$

A combinatorial interpretation I

$$\widehat{\mathbf{ASym}} \left(\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (y_j - x_i) \right) = \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} (y_i^j - x_i^j).$$

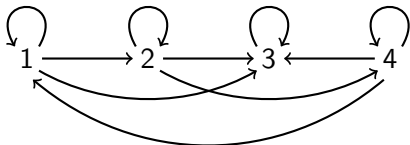
A combinatorial interpretation I

$$\widehat{\mathbf{ASym}} \left(\prod_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq n} (y_j + x_i) \right) = \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(y_i^j + (-1)^{j+1} x_i^j \right).$$

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We consider orientations O of the complete graph on n vertices together with a loop from each vertex to itself,



$$x_1^2 y_1 x_2^3 x_3 y_4^3$$

with weight $w(O) = \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\#\{j \geq i: i \rightarrow j\}} y_i^{\#\{j \leq i: j \leftarrow i\}}$.

A combinatorial interpretation II

We consider the subset \mathcal{P}_n of orientations obtained recursively:

- start with a vertex and its loop.

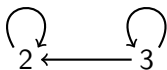


x_2

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We consider the subset \mathcal{P}_n of orientations obtained recursively:

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- add a neighbouring vertex at the left (resp. right) with all new edges oriented to the right (resp. left).

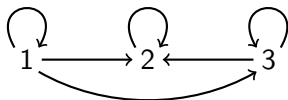


$$x_2 y_3^2$$

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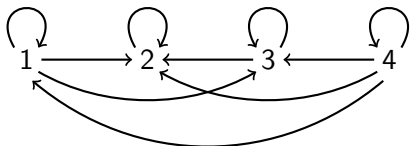


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$$x_1^3 x_2 y_3^2 y_4^4$$

A combinatorial interpretation III

We claim $\widehat{\mathbf{ASym}} \left(\sum_{O \in \mathcal{P}_n} w(O) \right) = \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(y_i^j + (-1)^{j+1} x_i^j \right)$:

A combinatorial interpretation III

We claim $\widehat{\mathbf{ASym}} \left(\sum_{O \in \mathcal{P}_n} w(O) \right) = \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(y_i^j + (-1)^{j+1} x_i^j \right)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{O \in \mathcal{P}_n} w(O) &= y_n^n \sum_{O \in \mathcal{P}_{n-1}} w(O) \\ &+ x_1^n(1, 2, \dots, n) \left(\sum_{O \in \mathcal{P}_{n-1}} w(O) \right), \end{aligned}$$

where $(1, 2, \dots, n)$ denotes the long cycle that sends $i \mapsto i + 1 \pmod n$.

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