

A new determinant for the Q -enumeration of ASMs

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Outline

- 1 An overview on alternating sign matrices
- 2 A Q -enumeration formula
- 3 From integers to polynomials
- 4 Outlook

Alternating sign matrices

Definition

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

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

The ASMs of size 3 are

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

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

Counting ASMs

We denote by $A_n(Q)$ the number of ASMs of size n , where each ASM has weight $Q^{\text{number of entries equal to } -1}$. This is called the Q -enumeration of ASMs.

n	1	2	3	4	5	6
$A_n(0)$	1	2	6	24	120	720
$A_n(1)$	1	2	7	42	429	7436
$A_n(2)$	1	2	8	64	1024	32768
$A_n(3)$	1	2	9	90	2025	102060

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n	1	2	3	4	5	6	
$A_n(0)$	1	2	6	24	120	720	# of permutations
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$A_n(1)$	1	2	7	42	429	7436	# ASMs
$A_n(2)$	1	2	8	64	1024	32768	# perfect matchings of
$A_n(3)$	1	2	9	90	2025	102060	Atzec diamonds

The ASM Conjecture

Conjecture (Mills-Robbins-Rumsey, 1982)

The number of ASMs of size n is given by

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

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Descending Plane Partitions

6 6 5 3 1
5 3
2

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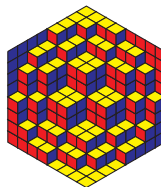
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Descending Plane Partitions

6 6 5 3 1
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Totally Symmetric Self
Complementary Plane Partitions



Proofs of the ASM Conjecture

- 1996: D. Zeilberger. “*Proof of the Alternating Sign Matrix Conjecture*”.
- 1996: G. Kuperberg. “*Another proof of the alternating sign matrix conjecture*”.
- 2007: I. Fischer. “*A new proof of the refined alternating sign matrix theorem*”.
- 2016: I. Fischer. “*Short proof of the ASM theorem avoiding the six-vertex model*”.

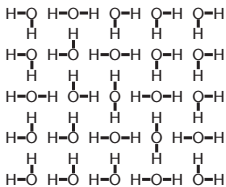
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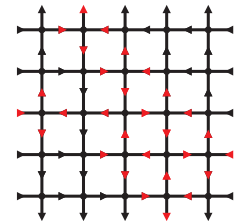
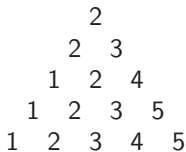
“However, the greatest, still unsolved, mystery concerns the question what plane partitions have to do with alternating sign matrices.” – Krattenthaler.

The many faces of ASMs

square ice



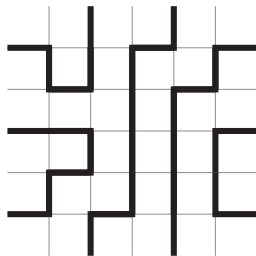
monotone triangle



six-vertex configuration

0	1	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0
1	0	-1	1	0
0	0	1	-1	1
0	0	0	1	0

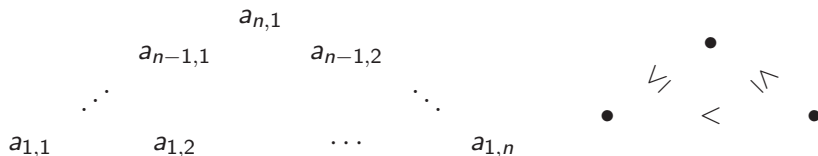
ASM



FPL

Monotone triangles

A *monotone triangle* with n rows is a triangular array $(a_{i,j})_{1 \leq j \leq i \leq n}$ of integers of the following form



whose entries are weakly increasing along north-east $a_{i+1,j} \leq a_{i,j}$ and south-east diagonals $a_{i,j} \leq a_{i+1,j+1}$ and strictly increasing along rows $a_{i,j} < a_{i,j+1}$.

A bijection between ASMs and monotone triangles

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$$

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- We replace every entry by the partial column-sum of its column from top to bottom.

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A bijection between ASMs and monotone triangles

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{array}$$

- We replace every entry by the partial column-sum of its column from top to bottom.

A bijection between ASMs and monotone triangles

0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0					
0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0			2		
1	0	-1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0		2	3		
0	0	1	-1	1	1	1	1	0	1		1	2	4	
0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1		1	2	3	5
										1	2	3	4	5

- We replace every entry by the partial column-sum of its column from top to bottom.
- We form an triangular array by writing in the i -th row the labels of the columns with entry 1 in the i -th row.

An operator formula

We define the forward difference $\overline{\Delta}_x$ as the operator

$$\overline{\Delta}_x f(x) = f(x+1) - f(x).$$

Theorem (Fischer, 2010)

The Q -enumeration of ASMs of size n is given by

$$\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (Q \text{Id} + (Q-1)\overline{\Delta}_{x_i} + \overline{\Delta}_{x_j} + \overline{\Delta}_{x_i}\overline{\Delta}_{x_j}) \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{x_j - x_i}{j - i} \Bigg|_{x_i=i}.$$

The operator formula for $n = 2$.

Remember: $\bar{\Delta}_x f(x) = f(x+1) - f(x)$.

$$(Q\text{Id} + (Q-1)\bar{\Delta}_{x_1} + \bar{\Delta}_{x_2} + \bar{\Delta}_{x_1}\bar{\Delta}_{x_2})(x_2 - x_1)|_{x_1=1, x_2=2}$$

The operator formula for $n = 2$.

Remember: $\overline{\Delta}_x f(x) = f(x+1) - f(x)$.

$$\begin{aligned} & (Q\text{Id} + (Q-1)\overline{\Delta}_{x_1} + \overline{\Delta}_{x_2} + \overline{\Delta}_{x_1}\overline{\Delta}_{x_2})(x_2 - x_1)|_{x_1=1, x_2=2} \\ &= (Q(x_2 - x_1) + (Q-1)(-1) + 1 + 0)|_{x_1=1, x_2=2} = 2. \end{aligned}$$

A new determinant for the Q -enumeration

Theorem (A. 2018)

The $(q^{-1} + 2 + q)$ -enumeration of ASMs is given by

$$A_n(q^{-1} + 2 + q) = \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(\binom{i+j-2}{j-1} \frac{1 - (-q)^{1+j-i}}{1+q} \right).$$

Sketch of the proof

Set $Q = q^{-1} + 2 + q$.

- 1 Start with the operator formula.

$$\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (Q \text{Id} + (Q - 1) \bar{\Delta}_{x_i} + \bar{\Delta}_{x_j} + \bar{\Delta}_{x_i} \bar{\Delta}_{x_j}) \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{x_j - x_i}{j - i} \Bigg|_{x_i = i}$$

Sketch of the proof

Set $Q = q^{-1} + 2 + q$.

- 1 Start with the operator formula.
- 2 Rewrite it to a constant term formula.

$$\text{CT}_{x_1, \dots, x_n} \frac{\mathcal{AS}_{x_1, \dots, x_n} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n (1 + x_i)^i \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (Q + (Q - 1)x_i + x_j + x_i x_j) \right)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_j - x_i)}$$

Sketch of the proof

Set $Q = q^{-1} + 2 + q$.

- 1 Start with the operator formula.
- 2 Rewrite it to a constant term formula.
- 3 Use a general Lemma (Fonseca, Zinn-Justin, '08; Fischer, '18) which transforms the antisymmetriser into a determinant.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{CT}_{x_1, \dots, x_n} \left((-1)^{\frac{n(n+1)}{2}} q^n (q - q^{-1})^{\frac{n(n+3)}{2}} \prod_{i=1}^n (1 + x_i)^{n+1} (x_i + 1 + q)^{-2} \right. \\
 & \times \lim_{y_1, \dots, y_n \rightarrow 1} \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(\frac{1}{\left(y_j - \frac{x_i + 1 + q^{-1}}{x_i + 1 + q} \right) \left(y_j - q^2 \frac{x_i + 1 + q^{-1}}{x_i + 1 + q} \right)} \right) \\
 & \left. \times \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_j - x_i)^{-1} (y_j - y_i)^{-1} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Sketch of the proof

Set $Q = q^{-1} + 2 + q$.

- 1 Start with the operator formula.
- 2 Rewrite it to a constant term formula.
- 3 Use a general Lemma (Fonseca, Zinn-Justin, '08; Fischer, '18) which transforms the antisymmetriser into a determinant.
- 4 Use algebraic manipulations and a trick (Behrend, Di Francesco, Zinn-Justin, 2012) to obtain the wanted formula.

$$\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(\binom{i+j-2}{j-1} \frac{1 - (-q)^{1+j-i}}{1+q} \right)$$

A more general determinant

Instead of the previous determinant we consider

$$d_{n,k}(x, q) := \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(\binom{x + i + j - 2}{j - 1} \frac{1 - (-q)^{k+j-i}}{1 + q} \right),$$

with $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and x is a variable.

The weighted enumeration of ASMs is $d_{n,1}(0, q)$.

Desnanot-Jacobi / Condensation method

Theorem (Desnanot-Jacobi, Condensation method)

Let n be a positive integer and A an $n \times n$ matrix, then holds

$$\det A \det A_{1,n}^{1,n} = \det A_1^1 \det A_n^n - \det A_1^n \det A_n^1,$$

where A is an $n \times n$ matrix and $A_{j_1, \dots, j_k}^{i_1, \dots, i_k}$ denotes the submatrix of A in which the i_1, \dots, i_k -th rows and j_1, \dots, j_k -th columns are omitted.

Desnanot-Jacobi applied

$$\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(\binom{x+i+j-2}{j-1} \frac{1 - (-q)^{1+j-i}}{1+q} \right)_1^1$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix}
 \binom{x}{0} & \frac{1-q^2}{1+q} \binom{x+1}{1} & \frac{1+q^3}{1+q} \binom{x+2}{2} & \frac{1-q^4}{1+q} \binom{x+3}{3} & \frac{1+q^5}{1+q} \binom{x+4}{4} & \dots \\
 0 & \binom{x+2}{1} & \frac{1-q^2}{1+q} \binom{x+3}{2} & \frac{1+q^3}{1+q} \binom{x+4}{3} & \frac{1-q^4}{1+q} \binom{x+5}{4} & \dots \\
 \frac{1}{q} \binom{x+2}{1} & 0 & \binom{x+4}{2} & \frac{1-q^2}{1+q} \binom{x+5}{3} & \frac{1+q^3}{1+q} \binom{x+6}{4} & \dots \\
 \frac{1-q^{-2}}{1+q} \binom{x+3}{0} & \frac{1}{q} \binom{x+4}{1} & 0 & \binom{x+6}{3} & \frac{1-q^2}{1+q} \binom{x+7}{4} & \dots \\
 \frac{1+q^{-3}}{1+q} \binom{x+4}{0} & \frac{1-q^{-2}}{1+q} \binom{x+5}{1} & \frac{1}{q} \binom{x+6}{2} & 0 & \binom{x+8}{4} & \dots \\
 \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots
 \end{vmatrix}$$

Desnanot-Jacobi applied

$$\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(\binom{x+i+j-2}{j-1} \frac{1 - (-q)^{1+j-i}}{1+q} \right)_1^1$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix}
 \binom{x+2}{1} & \frac{1-q^2}{1+q} \binom{x+3}{2} & \frac{1+q^3}{1+q} \binom{x+4}{3} & \frac{1-q^4}{1+q} \binom{x+5}{4} & \dots \\
 0 & \binom{x+4}{2} & \frac{1-q^2}{1+q} \binom{x+5}{3} & \frac{1+q^3}{1+q} \binom{x+6}{4} & \dots \\
 \frac{1}{q} \binom{x+4}{1} & 0 & \binom{x+6}{3} & \frac{1-q^2}{1+q} \binom{x+7}{4} & \dots \\
 \frac{1-q^{-2}}{1+q} \binom{x+5}{1} & \frac{1}{q} \binom{x+6}{2} & 0 & \binom{x+8}{4} & \dots \\
 \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots
 \end{vmatrix}$$

Desnanot-Jacobi applied

$$\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(\binom{x+i+j-2}{j-1} \frac{1 - (-q)^{1+j-i}}{1+q} \right)_1$$

$$= \frac{(x+2)(x+3)(x+4)(x+5) \dots (x+n)}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot \dots \cdot (n-1)}$$

$$\times \begin{vmatrix} \binom{x+2}{0} & \frac{1-q^2}{1+q} \binom{x+3}{1} & \frac{1+q^3}{1+q} \binom{x+4}{2} & \frac{1-q^4}{1+q} \binom{x+5}{3} & \dots \\ 0 & \binom{x+4}{1} & \frac{1-q^2}{1+q} \binom{x+5}{2} & \frac{1+q^3}{1+q} \binom{x+6}{3} & \dots \\ \frac{1}{q} \binom{x+4}{0} & 0 & \binom{x+5}{2} & \frac{1-q^2}{1+q} \binom{x+6}{3} & \dots \\ \frac{1-q^{-2}}{1+q} \binom{x+5}{0} & \frac{1}{q} \binom{x+6}{1} & 0 & \binom{x+8}{3} & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{vmatrix}$$

Desnanot-Jacobi applied

$$\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(\binom{x+i+j-2}{j-1} \frac{1 - (-q)^{1+j-i}}{1+q} \right)_1$$

$$= \binom{x+n}{n-1} \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n-1} \left(\binom{x+i+j}{j-1} \frac{1 - (-q)^{1+j-i}}{1+q} \right).$$

What do we obtain for general q ?

The determinant $d_{n,k}(x, q)$ has the form

$$d_{n,k}(x, q) = q^{c_q(n,k)} p_{n,k}(x) f_{n,k}(x, q),$$

with

$$p_{n,k}(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{\lfloor \frac{i}{2} \rfloor!}{i!} \prod_{i=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n-|k|-1}{2} \rfloor} (x + |k| + 2i + 1),$$

$$c_q(n, k) = \begin{cases} 0 & k > 0, n \leq k, \\ nk & k < 0, n \leq -k, \\ -\sum_{i=1}^{n-k} \lfloor \frac{i}{2} \rfloor & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and $f_{n,k}(x, q)$ being a polynomial in x and q which is given recursively.

A factorisation theorem for general q

Theorem (Kuperberg 1996, A. 2018)

Denote by $A_n(Q)$ the Q -enumeration of ASMs of size n . Then there exists polynomials $r_n(Q)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}A_{2n}(Q) &= 2r_{2n}(Q)r_{2n+1}(Q), \\ A_{2n+1}(Q) &= r_{2n+1}(Q)r_{2n+2}(Q).\end{aligned}$$

This was conjectured by Mills-Robbins-Rumsey for $A_n(Q)$ and by Fischer for the evaluation of the determinant.

Various specialisations for q

0-enumeration:	$q = -1$	(primitive second root of unity),
1-enumeration:	$q = -\frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i$	(primitive third root of unity),
2-enumeration:	$q = \pm i$	(primitive fourth root of unity),
3-enumeration:	$q = \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i$	(primitive sixth root of unity),
4-enumeration:	$q = 1$	(primitive first root of unity).

Various specialisations I

Theorem (A.)

The 0-enumeration case:

$$d_{n,1}(x, -1) = \left(2 \left\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \right\rfloor - 1\right)!! \prod_{i=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} (x + 2i).$$

Various specialisations I

Theorem (A.)

The 0-enumeration case:

$$d_{n,1}(x, -1) = \left(2 \left\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \right\rfloor - 1\right)!! \prod_{i=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} (x + 2i).$$

Corollary

There are $n!$ permutations of size n .

Various specialisations II

Theorem (A.)

The 1-enumeration case: let q be a primitive third root of unity.

$$\begin{aligned}
 d_{n,6k+1}(x, q) &= 2^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \prod_{i=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor} \frac{(i-1)!}{(n-i)!} \\
 &\quad \times \prod_{i \geq 0} \left(\frac{x}{2} + 3i + 1 \right)_{\lfloor \frac{n-4i}{2} \rfloor} \left(\frac{x}{2} + 3i + 3 \right)_{\lfloor \frac{n-4i-3}{2} \rfloor} \\
 &\quad \times \prod_{i \geq 0} \left(\frac{x}{2} + n - i + \frac{1}{2} \right)_{\lfloor \frac{n-4i-1}{2} \rfloor} \left(\frac{x}{2} + n - i - \frac{1}{2} \right)_{\lfloor \frac{n-4i-2}{2} \rfloor},
 \end{aligned}$$

where $(a)_i := a(a+1) \cdots (a+i-1)$.

Corollary

This implies the enumeration formula of ASMs.

Various specialisations III

Theorem (A.)

The 2-enumeration case: let q be a primitive fourth root of unity.

$$d_{n,4k+1}(x, q) = 2^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{4^{\lfloor \frac{i}{2} \rfloor} \lfloor \frac{i}{2} \rfloor!}{i!} \prod_{i=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \left(\frac{x}{2} + i \right)_{n-2i+1}.$$

Corollary (A.)

This implies the 2-enumeration formula of ASMs.

Various specialisations IV

Theorem (A.)

The 3-enumeration case: let q be a primitive sixth root of unity.

$$d_{n,3k+1}(x, q) = c(n) \prod_{i=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor} (x + 2 + 3i)_{n-1-2i},$$

with

$$c(n) = \begin{cases} 3^{\frac{(n-2)n}{4}} \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{\lfloor \frac{i}{2} \rfloor!}{i!} & n \text{ is even,} \\ 3^{\frac{(n-1)^2}{4}} \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{\lfloor \frac{i}{2} \rfloor!}{i!} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Corollary

This implies the 3-enumeration formula of ASMs.

Various specialisations V

Theorem (A.)

The 4-enumeration case: $q = 1$.

$$d_{n,2k+1}(x, 1) = \prod_{i=2}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} (2i - 1)^{-(n+1-2i)} \prod_{i=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} (x + 2i) p_n(x) p_{n-1}(x),$$

with

$$p_1(x) = 1, \quad p_3(x) = 2x + 5, \quad p_{2n}(x) = p_{2n-1}(x + 2),$$

$$p_{2n+1}(x) = \left((x + 2n + 1)(x + 2n + 2) p_{2n-1}(x) p_{2n-1}(x + 4) - \right. \\ \left. - (x + 1)(x + 2) p_{2n-1}(x + 2)^2 \right) (2n p_{2n-3}(x + 4))^{-1}.$$

Connection to another determinant

Let q be a sixth root of unity, then holds

$$d_{n,3-k}(x, q^2) = q^{-n} \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(\binom{x+i+j-2}{j-1} + q^k \delta_{i,j} \right).$$

Theorem (Ciucu-Eisenkölbl-Krattenthaler-Zare, 2001)

The above determinant counts weighted cyclically symmetric lozenge tilings of a hexagon with a triangular hole of size x .

Outlook I - What is x ?

general x :

$$d_{n,k}(x, q)$$

specialising x :

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general x :

$$d_{n,k}(x, q)$$



specialising x :

ASMs

ASMs Alternating Sign Matrices

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general x :

$$d_{n,k}(x, q) \leftrightarrow \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \left(\binom{x+i+j-2}{j-1} + q^k \delta_{i,j} \right)$$

↓

specialising x : ASMs

ASMs Alternating Sign Matrices

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specialising x :
 ↓
 ASMs

 ↓
 DPPs

ASMs Alternating Sign Matrices
DPPs Descending Plane Partitions

Outlook I - What is x ?

general x :

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specialising x :

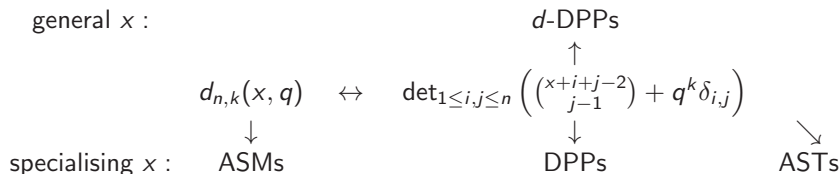
↓
ASMs

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DPPs

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ASTs

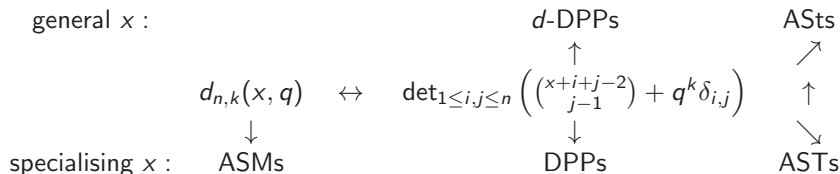
- ASMs Alternating Sign Matrices
- DPPs Descending Plane Partitions
- ASTs Alternating Sign Triangles

Outlook I - What is x ?



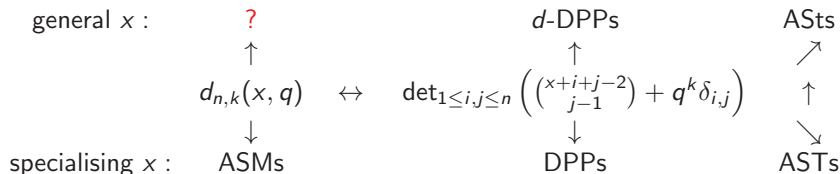
- ASMs Alternating Sign Matrices
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- d -DPPs d -Descending Plane Partitions

Outlook I - What is x ?



- ASMs Alternating Sign Matrices
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- ASSts Alternating Sign trapezoids

Outlook I - What is x ?



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- DPPs Descending Plane Partitions
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- d -DPPs d -Descending Plane Partitions
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Outlook II - Different starting points

We started with an operator formula for ASMs weighted by their number of -1 's. However there are also further operator formulas, e.g., for

- ASMs with respect to their inv and inv' statistic (this is a refinement of the above),
- vertically symmetric ASMs.

Outlook III - symmetric functions

We had in the proof sketch:

$$A_n(Q) = \text{CT}_{x_1, \dots, x_n} \frac{\mathcal{AS}_{x_1, \dots, x_n} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n (1 + x_i)^i \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (Q + (Q - 1)x_i + x_j + x_i x_j) \right)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_j - x_i)}.$$

Outlook III - symmetric functions

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By substituting $x_i \mapsto x_i - 1$ and dividing by $x_1 \dots x_n$ we obtain

$$A_n(Q) = \frac{\mathcal{AS}_{x_1, \dots, x_n} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n (x_i)^{i-1} \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (1 + (Q - 2)x_i + x_i x_j) \right)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_j - x_i)} \Bigg|_{x_1 = \dots = x_n = 1}.$$

