

321-avoiding affine permutations, heaps, and periodic parallelogram polyominoes

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joint work with

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Introduction and motivations

321-avoiding permutations

A permutation $\sigma \in S_n$ is **321-avoiding** if no integers $i < j < k$ are such that $\sigma(i) > \sigma(j) > \sigma(k)$

In S_6 , $\sigma = 513624$ is not 321-avoiding while $\sigma = 231564$ is.

They are counted by Catalan numbers $\frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$.

The **inversion number** $inv(\sigma)$ is the number of inversions of the permutation σ i.e.

$$inv(\sigma) = |\{(i, j) \in [n]^2 \mid i < j \text{ and } \sigma(i) > \sigma(j)\}|.$$

For example $\sigma = 513624$ has $4+0+1+2+0=6$ inversions.

Affine permutations

Definition (Affine permutations)

The group \tilde{S}_n is the set of **permutations** σ of \mathbb{Z} satisfying

$$\sigma(i+n) = \sigma(i) + n \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma(i) = \sum_{i=1}^n i.$$

Note that $\sigma(i) \equiv \sigma(j) \pmod{n}$ if and only if $i \equiv j \pmod{n}$.

An element of \tilde{S}_4 is

$$\dots | 2, -7, -5, 4, | \mathbf{6, -3, -1, 8}, | 10, 1, 3, 12, | 14, 5, 7, 16 | \dots$$

denoted simply by $[6, -3, -1, 8] = [\sigma(1), \sigma(2), \sigma(3), \sigma(4)]$.

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321-avoiding affine permutations

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For example

$$\dots, | 2, -7, -5, 4, | \mathbf{6, -3, -1, 8}, | 10, 1, 3, 12, | 14, 5, 7, 16 | \dots \in \tilde{S}_4(321)$$

$$\dots | -3, -5, 5 | \mathbf{0, -2, 8} | \mathbf{3, 1}, 11 | 6, 4, 14 | 9, 7, 17 | \dots \notin \tilde{S}_3(321)$$

Definition (Affine inversions)

$$\text{inv}(\sigma) = |\{(i, j) \in [n] \times \mathbb{P} \mid i < j \text{ and } \sigma(i) > \sigma(j)\}|.$$

For example $\text{inv}([6, -3, -1, 8]) = 9$.



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Generating function for permutations in $S_n(321)$

$$A_{n-1}(q) := \sum_{\sigma \in S_n(321)} q^{\text{inv}(\sigma)} \text{ and } A(x, q) = \sum_{n \geq 0} A_n(q) x^n.$$

Theorem (Barucci, Del Lungo, Pergola, Pinzani, 2001)

We have $A(x, q) = \frac{1}{1-xq} \times \frac{J(xq)}{J(x)}$, where

$$J(x) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-x)^n q^{\binom{n}{2}}}{(q)_n (xq)_n}$$

Here $(a)_0 := 1$

and $(a)_n := (1-a)(1-aq) \cdots (1-aq^{n-1})$, $n \geq 1$

Generating function for affine permutations in $\tilde{S}_n(321)$

$$\tilde{A}_{n-1}(q) := \sum_{\sigma \in \tilde{S}_n(321)} q^{\text{inv}(\sigma)} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{A}(x, q) := \sum_{n \geq 1} \tilde{A}_{n-1}(q) x^n$$

Theorem (B., Bousquet-Mélou, Jouhet, Nadeau, 2016)

$$\tilde{A}(x, q) = -x \frac{J'(x)}{J(x)} - \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{x^n q^n}{1 - q^n}$$

- Hanusa and Jones [2009] found a complicated expression for $\tilde{A}(x, q)$ and showed that the coefficients of the series $\tilde{A}_{n-1}(q)$ are ultimately periodic of period dividing n .
- BJN [2013] characterized the series $\tilde{A}_{n-1}(q)$ by a systems of non-linear q -equations.
- BBJN [2016] found the previous formula for $\tilde{A}(x, q)$, manipulating such q -equations.

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Generating function for affine permutations in $\tilde{S}_n(321)$

This computational approach does not explain the simplicity of $\tilde{A}(x, q)$ and $A(x, q)$.

In this talk, we provide two bijective explanations of them.

Today's combinatorial methods.

Encode 321-avoiding (affine) permutations by :

(affine) alternating diagrams, then by

- (periodic) parallelogram polyominoes, and
- (marked) heaps of segments;

or by

- Motzkin type paths, and
- (marked) pyramids of monomers and dimers.

Fully commutative elements

The original motivation was the computation of the series

$$\sum_{w \in W^{FC}} q^{\ell(w)}$$

where W^{FC} denotes the set of **fully commutative elements** in the Coxeter group W , and ℓ the Coxeter length.

Coxeter group

(W, S) Coxeter group W given by Coxeter matrix $(m_{st})_{s,t \in S}$.

Relations: $\begin{cases} s^2 = 1 \\ \underbrace{sts \cdots}_{m_{st}} = \underbrace{tst \cdots}_{m_{st}} \end{cases}$ (called **Braid relations**)

(if $m_{st} = 2$ **commutation relations**)

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Reduced decompositions

Definition (Length)

$\ell(w)$ = minimal l such that $w = s_1 s_2 \cdots s_l$ with $s_i \in S$
Such a minimal word is a **reduced decomposition** of w .

Proposition (Matsumoto-Tits property)

*Given two reduced decompositions of w , there is a sequence of **braid or commutation relations** which can be applied to transform one into the other.*

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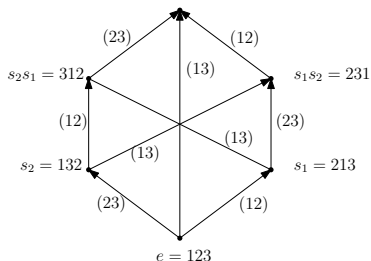
The symmetric group

Example

The symmetric group S_n is generated as a Coxeter group by the set S of simple transpositions $s_i = (i, i + 1)$ with

$$\text{Relations: } \begin{cases} s^2 = 1 \\ s_i s_{i+1} s_i = s_{i+1} s_i s_{i+1} \text{ (braid relations)} \\ s_i s_j = s_j s_i \text{ if } j \neq i \pm 1 \text{ (commutation relations)} \end{cases}$$

$$s_1 s_2 s_1 = s_2 s_1 s_2 = 321$$



All elements of S_3 are FC
except $321 = s_1 s_2 s_1 = s_2 s_1 s_2$.

Note that $\ell(\sigma) = \text{inv}(\sigma)$.

Fully commutative elements

Theorem (Billey-Jockush-Stanley, 1993)

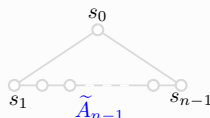
A permutation in S_n is fully commutative if and only if it is 321-avoiding.

Theorem (Green, 2001)

An affine permutation in \tilde{S}_n is fully commutative if and only if it is 321-avoiding.

Theorem (Lusztig, 1983)

- \tilde{S}_n is a Coxeter group of type \tilde{A}_{n-1} ;
- $s_0 = \cdots (-1 - n, -n)(-1, 0)(-1 + n, n) \cdots$;
- $s_i = \cdots (i, i + 1)(i + n, i + 1 + n) \cdots$.



Fully commutative elements

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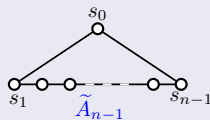
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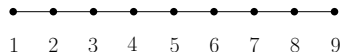
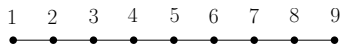
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Affine alternating diagrams

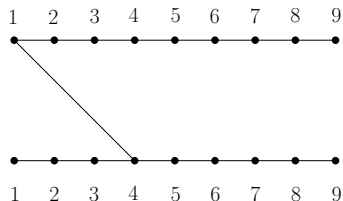
From line diagrams to alternating diagrams

Take the 321-avoiding permutation $\sigma = 461279358 \in S_9$.



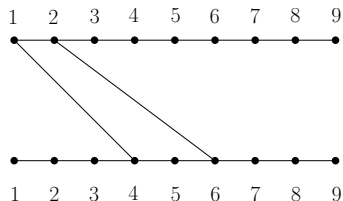
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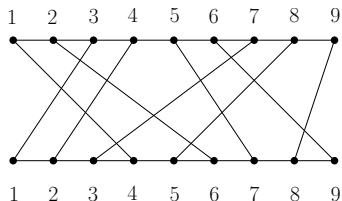
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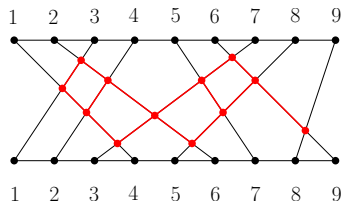
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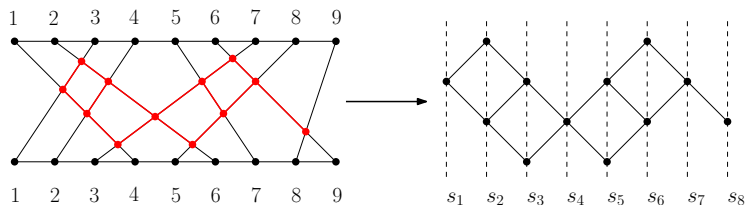
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From line diagrams to alternating diagrams

The alternating diagram of $\sigma = 461279358 \in S_9$: $inv(\sigma) = 12$.



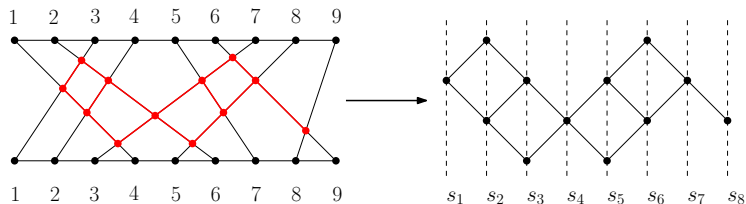
Definition (Alternating diagram)

An alternating diagram of rank n is a poset :

- its elements are labeled by the generators $\{s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}\}$ of S_n
- $\forall i$, elements with labels s_i, s_{i+1} form an alternating chain ;
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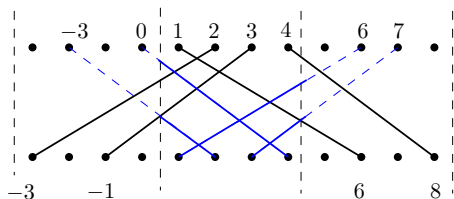
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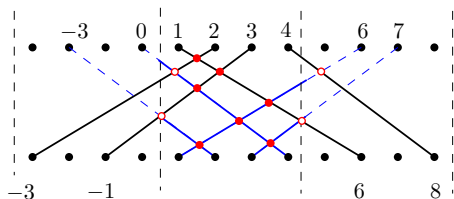
Here $\sigma \in \tilde{S}_4(321)$ and $\text{inv}(\sigma) = 9$.



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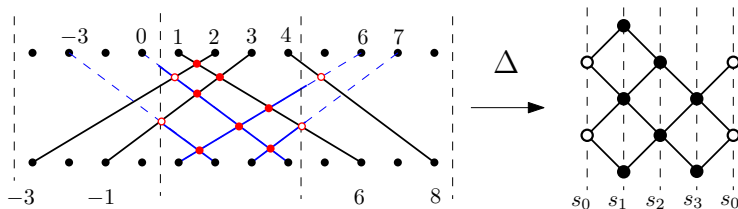
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Proposition (Characterization of affine alternating diagrams)

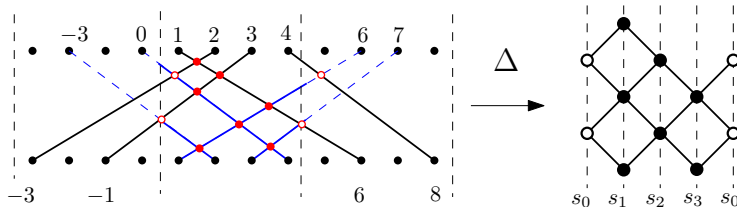
- **Same** number of occurrences of s_0 in the first and last column.



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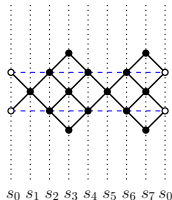
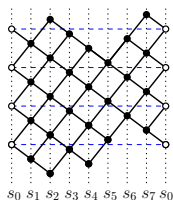
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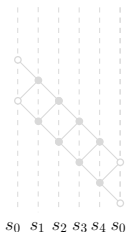
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Representations of alternating diagrams on a cylinder



Two affine alternating diagrams of \widetilde{S}_8 .

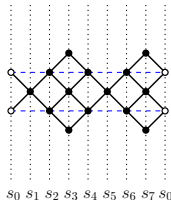
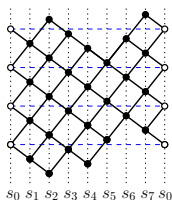
The second is self-dual.



Two excluded diagrams !
(rectangular shape)

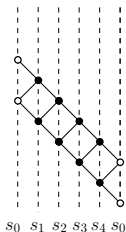
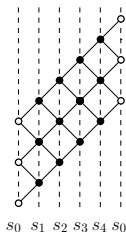
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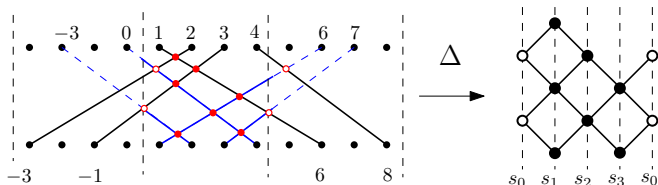
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Bijection between $\tilde{S}_n(321)$ and affine alternating diagrams

Theorem (B, Jouhet, Nadeau, 2015)

The map Δ between $\tilde{S}_n(321)$ and affine alternating diagrams is a bijection such that:

- $\sigma \in S_n(321)$ if and only if $\Delta(\sigma)$ do not contain any s_0
- σ is an involution if and only if $\Delta(\sigma)$ is self-dual.

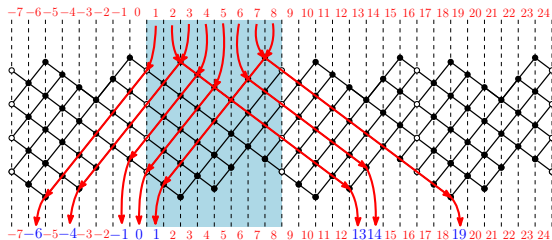


The inverse bijection

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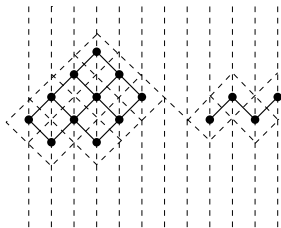
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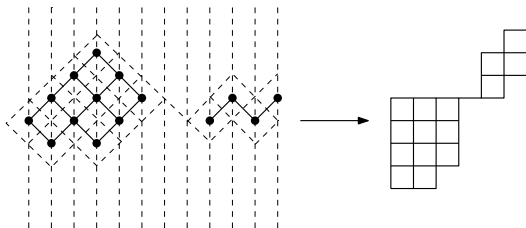


Periodic parallelogram polyominoes

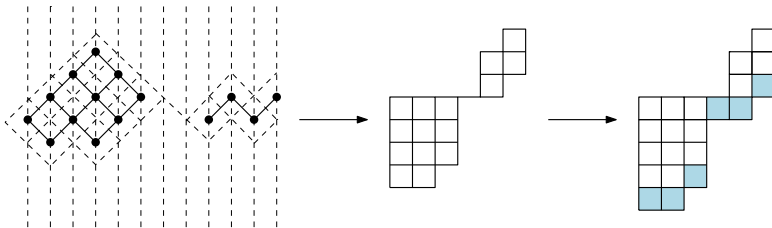
From alternating diagrams to parallelogram polyominoes



From alternating diagrams to parallelogram polyominoes



From alternating diagrams to parallelogram polyominoes

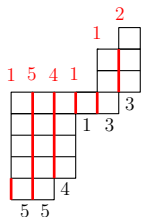


Theorem (Viennot, < 1992)

There is a bijection between alternating diagrams and parallelogram polyominoes (PP).

A PP is a convex polyomino enclosed by two paths consisting of unit horizontal and vertical steps, both starting in the same point, ending in the same point, and non-intersecting elsewhere.

Bousquet-Mélou, Viennot encoding

 (a_1, b_1) (a_n, b_n) $(1, 5), (5, 5), (4, 4), (1, 1), (1, 3), (2, 3)$ Convention: $a_1 = 1$

Parallelogram polyominoes are coded by sequences $(a_i, b_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n}$ with $a_1 = 1$, where:

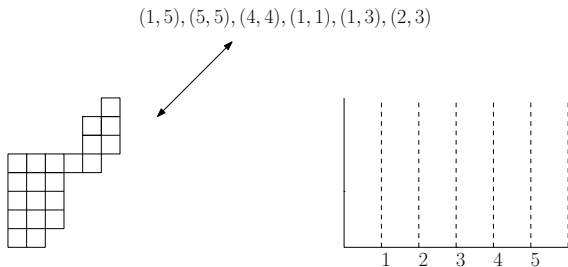
- b_i is the **height** of the column C_i ;
- a_i is the **number of common rows** between C_{i-1} and C_i .

Any of such finite sequences $(a_i, b_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n}$ satisfies :

$$1 \leq b_1 \geq a_2 \leq b_2 \geq \dots \leq b_{n-1} \geq a_n \leq b_n.$$

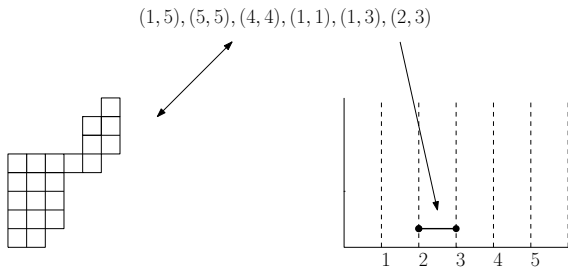
From parallelogram polyominoes to heaps of segments

Classical case (Bousquet-Mélou–Viennot, 1992)



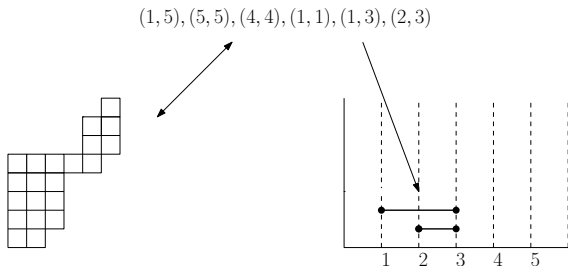
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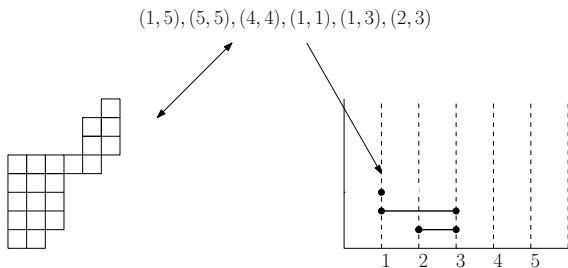
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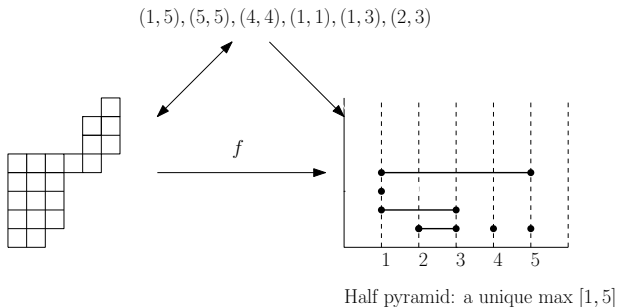
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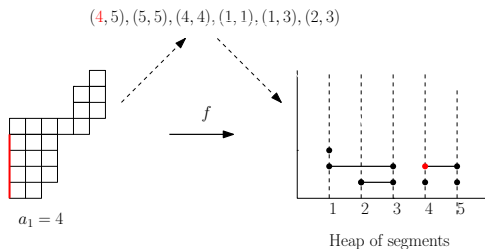
Theorem (Bousquet-Mélou–Viennot, 1992)

*The map f is a bijection between the set of **parallelogram polyominoes** and the set of **half pyramids of segments**.*

From \mathcal{S} to heaps of segments

Let \mathcal{S} be the set of finite sequences $(a_i, b_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n}$ satisfying

$$a_1 \leq b_1 \geq a_2 \leq b_2 \geq \dots \leq b_{n-1} \geq a_n \leq b_n.$$



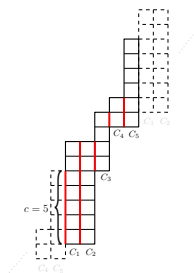
Proposition

The map f extends to a bijection between the set of (PP) marked in their first column and the set of heaps of segments \mathcal{H} .

Periodic parallelogram polyominoes (PPP)

Definition (PPP)

A **periodic parallelogram polyomino** is a couple (P, c) , where P is a marked PP and c is an integer between 1 and the height of the last column of P .



Periodic parallelogram polyominoes as sequences

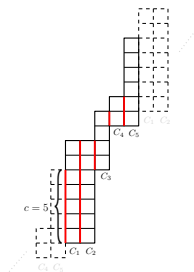
These naturally correspond to sequences $(a_i, b_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n} \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $b_n \geq a_1$, i.e.

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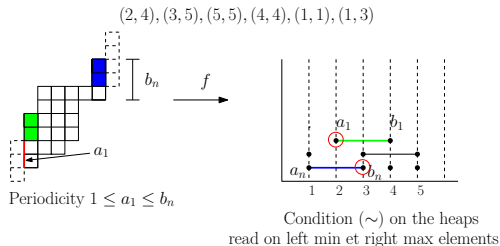


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From PPP to heaps of segments

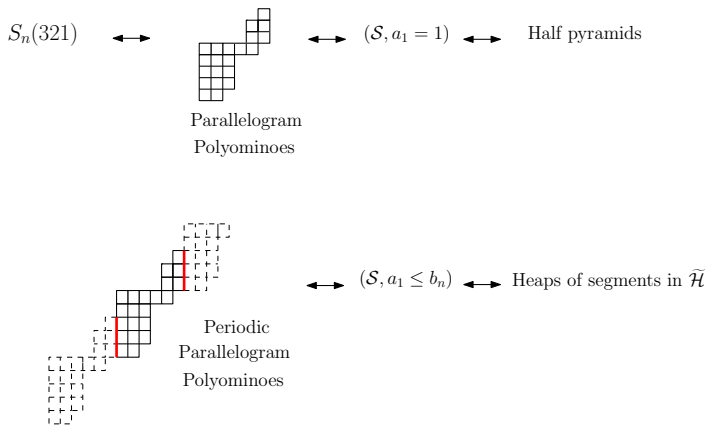


Let $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ be the set of heaps satisfying **condition (\sim)** i.e. the beginning of the rightmost maximal segment should be on the left of the end of the leftmost minimal segment.

Proposition

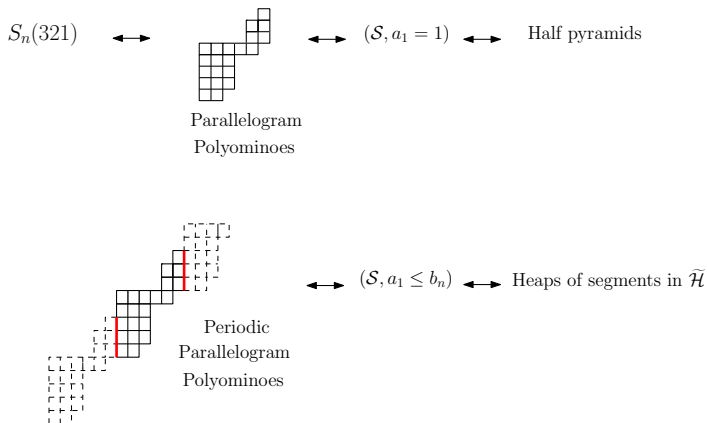
The map f induces a bijection between the set PPP and $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$.

Summary



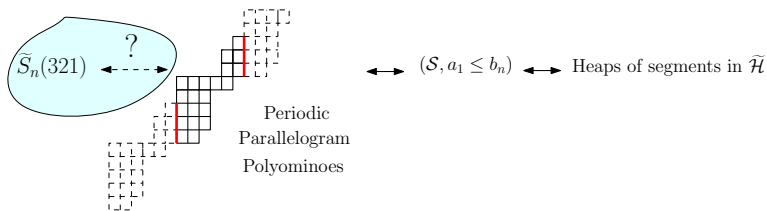
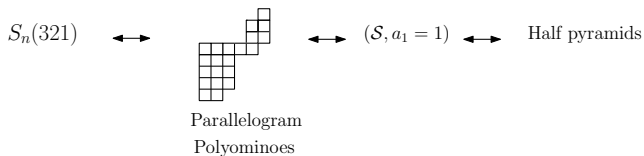
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Summary



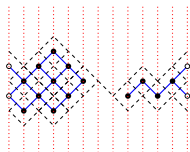
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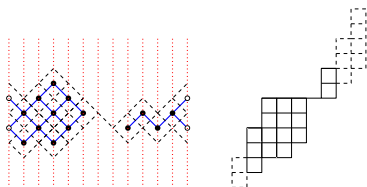


Connection between $\tilde{S}_n(321)$ and PPP

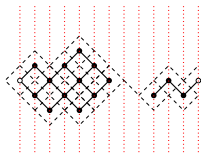
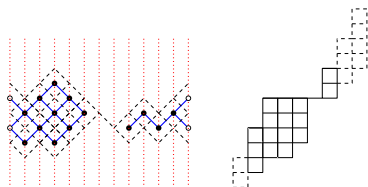
Back to 321-avoiding affine permutations



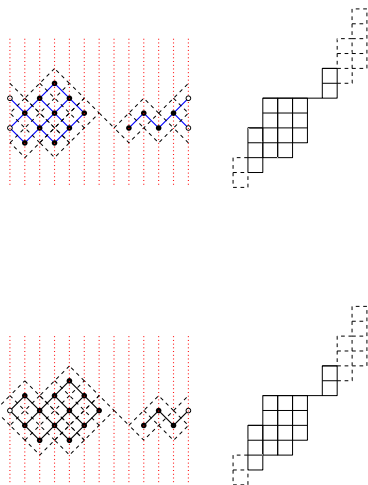
From 321-avoiding affine permutations to PPP^*



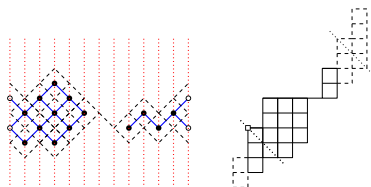
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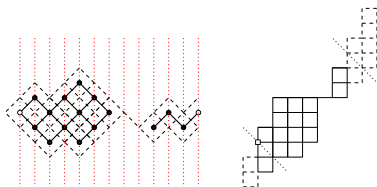
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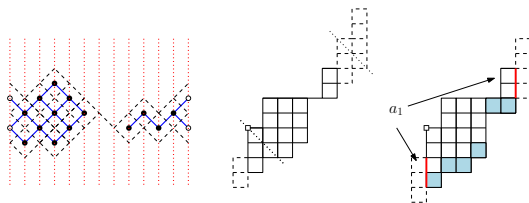
From 321-avoiding affine permutations to PPP^*



A mark in $[a_1, b_1]$
to recover s_0

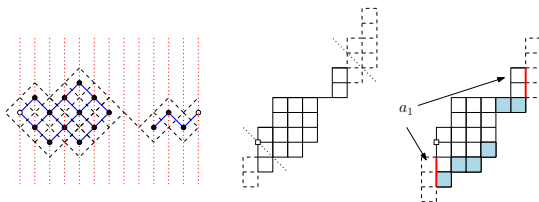


From 321-avoiding affine permutations to PPP^*



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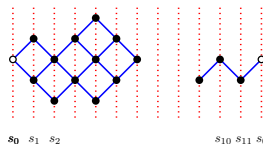
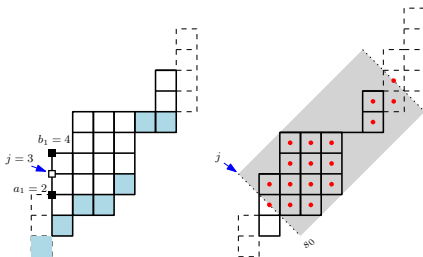
The periodicity identifies
a mark a_1 in $[1, b_n]$



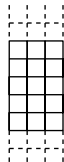
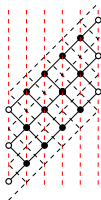
From PPP^* to 321-avoiding affine permutations

Theorem (B, Jouhet, Nadeau, (2016))

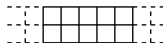
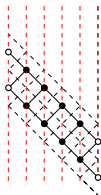
*The previous application is a bijection between 321-avoiding affine permutations and **marked PPP** of non-rectangular shape.*



Why the rectangular shape ?



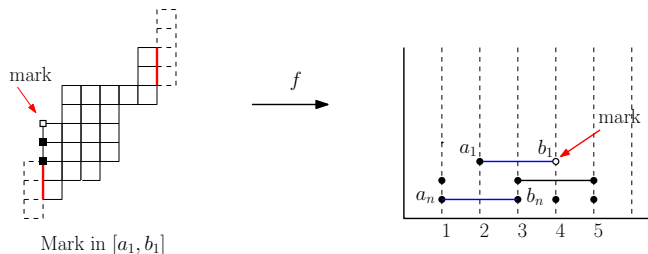
It is not a PPP



It is a PPP of rectangular shape.

Marked PPP

$(2, 4), (3, 5), (5, 5), (4, 4), (1, 1), (1, 3)$



Definition

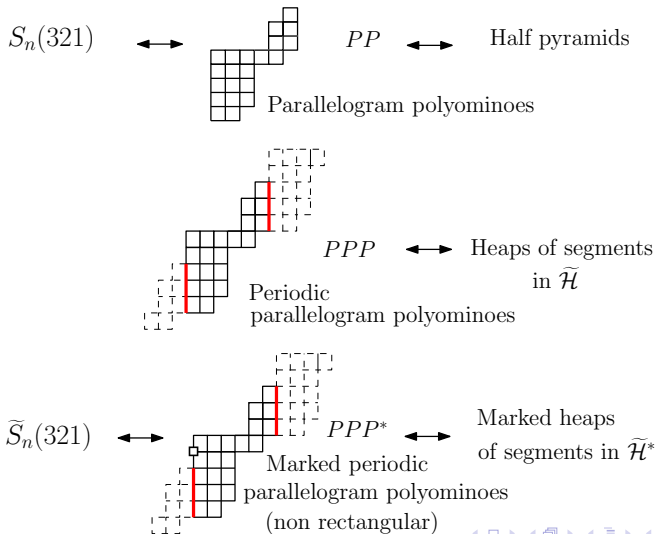
$PPP^* = PPP$ with a **mark** between a_1 and b_1 ;

$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^* = \text{heaps in } \tilde{\mathcal{H}} \text{ with a mark in their rightmost maximal segment.}$

Corollary

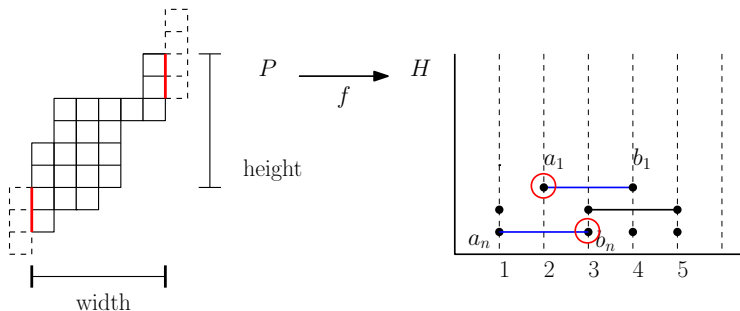
The map f induces a bijection between PPP^ and $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^*$.*

Summary



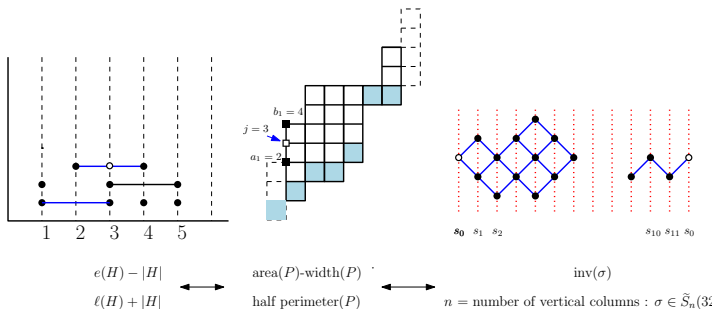
Generating functions

Statistics on PPP



- $\text{width}(P) = |H|$ the number of segments in H
- $\text{height}(P) = \ell(H)$ the sum of the lengths of the segments of H
- $\text{area}(P) = e(H)$ sum of right endpoints of the segments of H

Statistics on PPP



Hence we have that

$$\tilde{A}(x, q) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \left(\sum_{\sigma \in \tilde{S}_{n+1}(321)} q^{\text{inv}(\sigma)} \right) x^n = \sum_{H \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}^*} x^{\ell(H) + |H|} q^{e(H) - |H|} - \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{x^n q^n}{1 - q^n}.$$

Generating functions for PPP

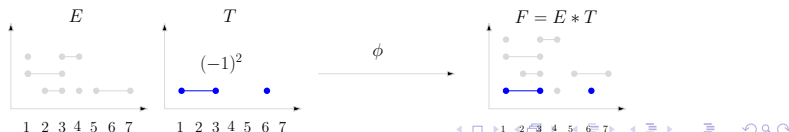
Goal: to compute the series

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^*(x, y, q) = \sum_{H \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}^*} x^{\ell(H)} y^{|H|} q^{e(H)}.$$

Theorem (Inversion Lemma - Viennot, 1985)

$$\mathcal{H}(x, y, q) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{T}(x, y, q)} \text{ and } \mathcal{HP}(x, y, q) = \frac{\mathcal{T}^c(x, y, q)}{\mathcal{T}(x, y, q)}$$

where \mathcal{T} (resp. \mathcal{T}^c) is the *signed* GF for *trivial* heaps (resp. *not touching abscissa 1*), and \mathcal{HP} denotes the *half pyramids*.



Generating functions for PPP

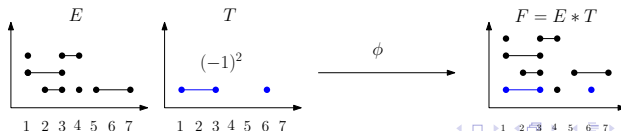
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Trivial heaps

Trivial heaps \mathcal{T}

A **trivial heap** $T \in \mathcal{T}$ has no two pieces in concurrence.



$$v(T) = x^5 y^3 q^{17}$$

Signed generating function for trivial heaps

$$\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{T}(x, y, q) = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}} (-1)^{|T|} x^{\ell(T)} y^{|T|} q^{e(T)}.$$

Generating functions for heaps of segments

Theorem (Bousquet-Mélou, Viennot, 1992)

$$\mathcal{T} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-y)^n q^{\binom{n+1}{2}}}{(q)_n (xq)_n} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{T}^c = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{(-y)^n q^{\binom{n+1}{2}}}{(q)_{n-1} (xq)_n}.$$

Since **321-avoiding permutations** are in bijection with **half pyramids**, we obtain back the result of Barcucci et al, by setting $y \rightarrow y/q$ (recall that we added a box in each column), and then $y \rightarrow x$, in Viennot formula. Note that $\text{inv}(\sigma) = e(H)$.

Theorem (Barcucci et al.)

$$A(x, q) = \frac{1}{1 - xq} \times \frac{J(xq)}{J(x)} \quad \text{where} \quad J(x) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-x)^n q^{\binom{n}{2}}}{(q)_n (xq)_n}$$

Adaptation to our special heaps of segments in $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^*$

We can adapt the Viennot's technique to $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^*$, but condition (\sim) is very complicated to handle.

Theorem (B, Jouhet, Nadeau, 2016)

$$PPP(x, y, q) = -y \frac{\partial_y \mathcal{T}}{\mathcal{T}} \quad PPP^*(x, y, q) = -x \frac{\partial_x \mathcal{T}}{\mathcal{T}}.$$

Since marked PPP^* (minus those of rectangular shape) of half-perimeter n are in bijection with 321-avoiding affine permutations of size n , we obtain (after taking care about the weight, $y \rightarrow y/q$, and $y \rightarrow x$) that

Theorem (B., Bousquet-Mélou, Jouhet, Nadeau)

$$\tilde{A}(x) = -x \frac{J'(x)}{J(x)} - \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{x^n q^n}{1 - q^n}$$

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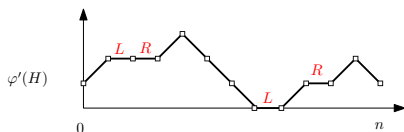
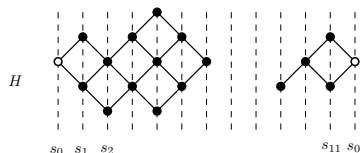
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A different encoding

A different bijection

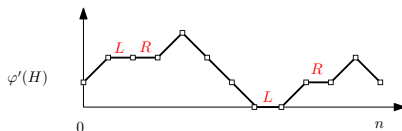
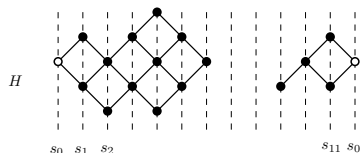


Theorem (BJN, 2013)

The map φ' is a bijection between :

- ① $\tilde{\mathcal{S}}_n(321)$ and
- ② $\mathcal{O}_n^* \setminus \{\text{paths at constant height } h > 0 \text{ with all steps having the same label } L \text{ or } R\}$, where \mathcal{O}_n^* is the set of length n paths with starting and ending point at the same height, with steps in $(1, 1)$, $(1, -1)$ and $(1, 0)$ satisfying condition (*).

A different bijection



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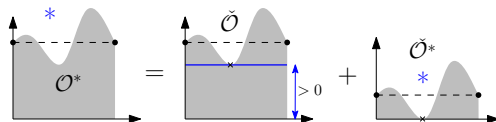
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GF and beginning of periodicity

Corollary

$$\tilde{A}_{n-1}^{FC}(q) = \mathcal{O}_n^*(q) - \frac{2q^n}{1-q^n} = \frac{q^n(\check{\mathcal{O}}_n(q) - 2)}{1-q^n} + \check{\mathcal{O}}_n^*(q),$$

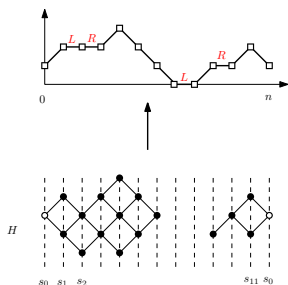
from which the periodicity follows.



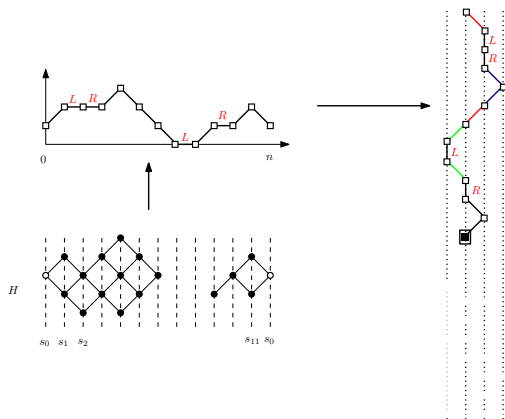
Corollary (Hanusa and Jones, 2010)

The coefficients of $\tilde{A}_{n-1}^{FC}(q)$ are ultimately periodic of period dividing n .

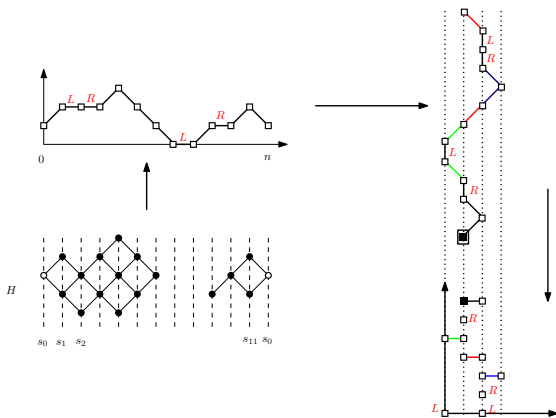
Encoding by heaps of monomers and dimers



Encoding by heaps of monomers and dimers



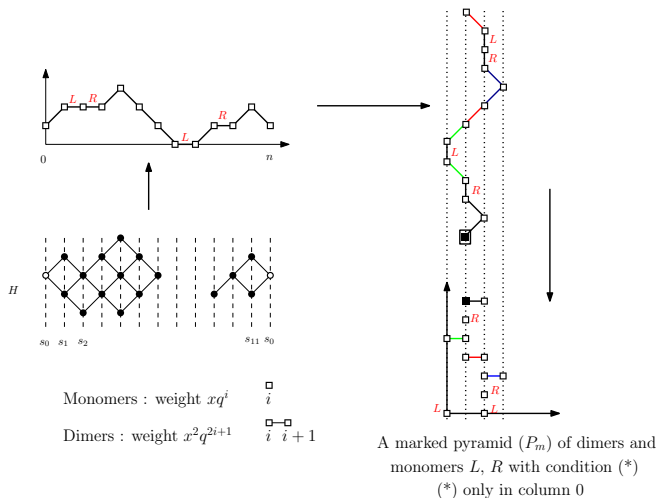
Encoding by heaps of monomers and dimers



A marked pyramid (P_m) of dimers and monomers L, R with condition (*)

(*) only in column 0

Encoding by heaps of monomers and dimers



GF of heaps of monomers and dimers

For a marked heap \mathcal{E} , the weight is

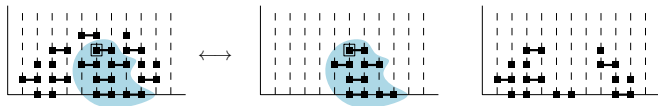
$$v(\mathcal{E}) := \prod_{\text{monomers } [i]} xq^i \prod_{\text{dimers } [i,i+1]} x^2q^{2i+1}.$$

We need to compute the GF of marked pyramids $\Pi_m(x)$.

If the GF of heaps is $E(x)$, the GF for marked heaps is $xE'(x)$.

Proposition (Viennot)

$$xE'(x) = \Pi_m(X) \times E(x).$$



GF of heaps of monomers and dimers

Once again we conclude using the Inversion Lemma.

Theorem (Inversion Lemma - Viennot, 1985)

$$E(x) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{T}^*(x)},$$

where \mathcal{T}^* is the *signed* GF for *trivial* heaps satisfying condition (*).

A computation shows that $\mathcal{T}^*(x) = (xq; q)_\infty J(x)$ from which we obtain the previous result

$$\tilde{A}(x) = -x \frac{J'(x)}{J(x)} - \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{x^n q^n}{1 - q^n}$$

321-avoiding involutions in S_n and \tilde{S}_n

$$\mathcal{A} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{A}_n^{\text{Invo}}(q) x^n \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\mathcal{A}} = \sum_{n \geq 1} \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n-1}^{\text{Invo}}(q) x^n.$$

Theorem (B., Bousquet-Mélou, Jouhet, Nadeau, 2016)

We have

$$\mathcal{A} = \frac{\mathcal{J}(-xq)}{\mathcal{J}(x)} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\mathcal{A}} = -x \frac{\mathcal{J}'(x)}{\mathcal{J}(x)}, \quad \text{where}$$

$$\mathcal{J}(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-1)^{\lceil n/2 \rceil} x^n q^{\binom{n}{2}}}{((q^2))_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}}.$$

Give a proof of this results using PPP^* .

Open problem : pyramids

Denote by Π the **set of pyramids** (heaps with a **unique maximal element**).

By using the bijection ϕ we find

$$\sum_{H \in \Pi} x^{\ell(H)} y^{|H|} q^{e(H)} = -y \frac{\partial_y T}{T} = \sum_{H \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}} x^{\ell(H)} y^{|H|} q^{e(H)}$$

A bijection between the set $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ and the **set of pyramids** Π would be nice, as would be a direct way of encoding periodic parallelogram polyominoes as pyramids.

End of the talk

The end