

Bipolar orientations of maps and quadrant walks

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joint work with

Éric Fusy & Kilian Raschel

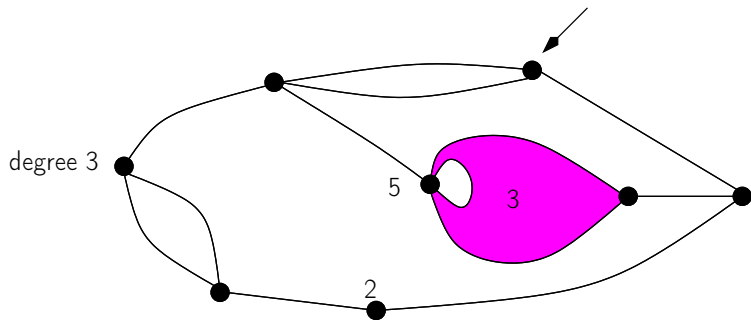


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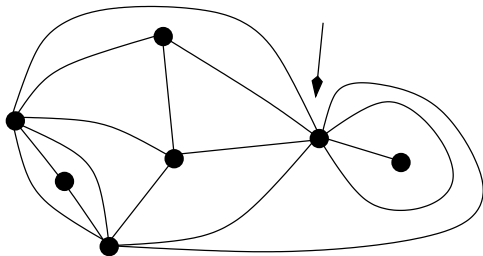
Outline

- I. Bipolar orientations of planar maps
- II. From bipolar orientations to quadrant walks
[Kenyon, Miller, Sheffield, Wilson 15(a)]
- III. Enumeration of quadrant walks
- IV. A bijective proof
- V. Asymptotics

Rooted planar maps

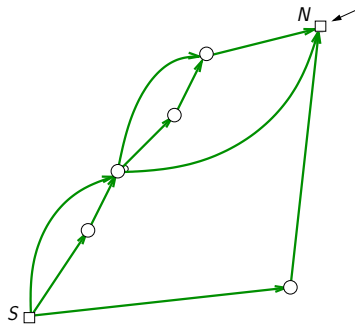


With degree constraints: rooted triangulations



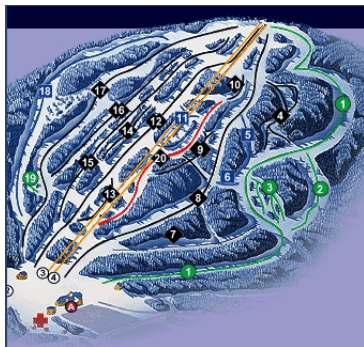
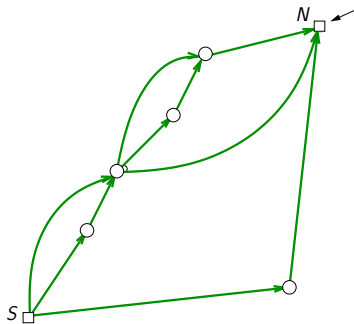
Bipolar orientations of maps

- a rooted planar map, with root vertex N (the north pole)
- another marked vertex S (the south pole) in the outer face
- an acyclic orientation
- S is the only source and N the only sink



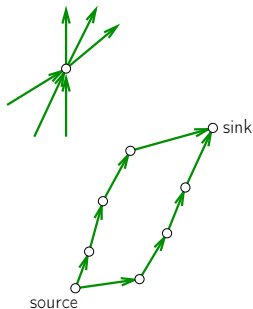
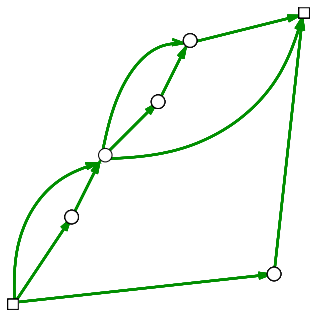
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Bipolar maps: basic facts

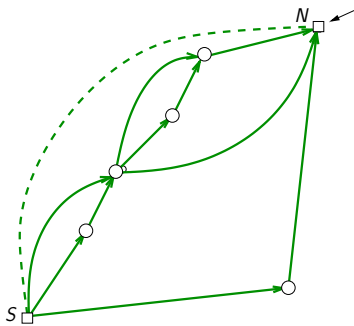
- simple orientations around a vertex/face



Bipolar maps: basic facts

- simple orientations around a vertex/face
- M admits a bipolar orientation from S to N iff $M \cup \{S, N\}$ is 2-connected

[De Fraysseix, Ossona de Mendez, Rosenstiehl 95]



Bipolar maps: basic facts

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- the number $\text{bip}(M)$ of bipolar orientations of M from N to S can be computed from the **chromatic polynomial** of $M \cup \{S, N\}$

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[Greene & Zaslavsky 83], [Lass 01]

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- **Aim:** compute, or characterize, the generating function

$$\sum_{M \text{ map}} \text{bip}(M)t^{e(M)} = \sum_{\circ \text{ bip. orient.}} t^{e(O)},$$

where the sum runs over a given family of planar maps M (or the corresponding bipolar orientations), and $e(M)$ is the edge number.

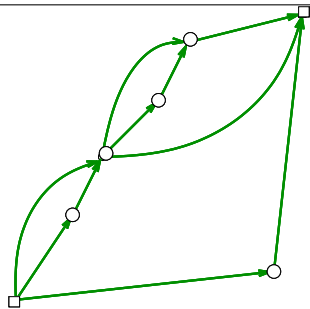
Maps equipped with an additional structure

In combinatorics, and in theoretical physics

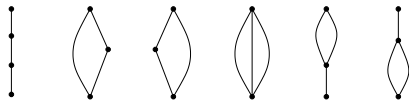
- Spanning trees [Mullin 67, Bernardi 07]
- Spanning forests [Bouttier et al., Sportiello et al., mbm-Courtial 13]
- Proper colourings [Tutte 68-84]
- Self-avoiding walks [Duplantier-Kostov 88]
- Hard particles [Bouttier et al. 02, mbm, Schaeffer, Jehanne]
- The q -state Potts model (equivalent to the Tutte polynomial)
[Eynard-Bonnet 99, Baxter 01, Bernardi-mbm 09, Borot et al. 12, Guionnet et al.]
- Loop models [Borot et al., Eynard 99, Kristjansen, Zinn-Justin 00]
- Eulerian orientations [Kostov 00, Zinn-Justin 00, Bonichon et al. 17, Elvey Price & Guttmann 18, mbm & Elvey Price 18(a)]

Bipolar orientations with n edges: Two main questions

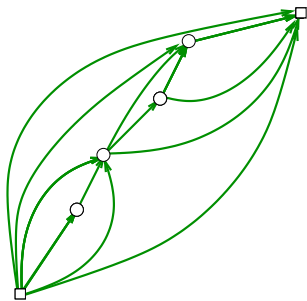
No degree restriction on faces



$$b(n) = 1, 2, 6, 22, 92, 422, 2074$$



Triangulations, quadrangulations, etc.



$$a(3k + 1) = 1, 1, 5, 42, 462, 6006, 87516$$



The number of bipolar orientations with n edges

Proposition [R. Baxter 01]

The number of bipolar orientations with n edges is

$$b(n) = \frac{2}{n(n+1)^2} \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{n+1}{k-1} \binom{n+1}{k} \binom{n+1}{k+1} \sim \frac{32}{\sqrt{3}\pi} 8^n n^{-4}.$$

This sequence is **P-recursive** (the associated generating function $\sum b(n)t^n$ is **D-finite**):

$$(n+6)(n+5)b(n+2) = (7n^2 + 49n + 82)b(n+1) + 8(n+2)(n+1)b(n)$$

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But but but... these numbers count **Baxter permutations!**

[G. Baxter 64] [Chung, Graham, Hoggatt & Kleiman 78]

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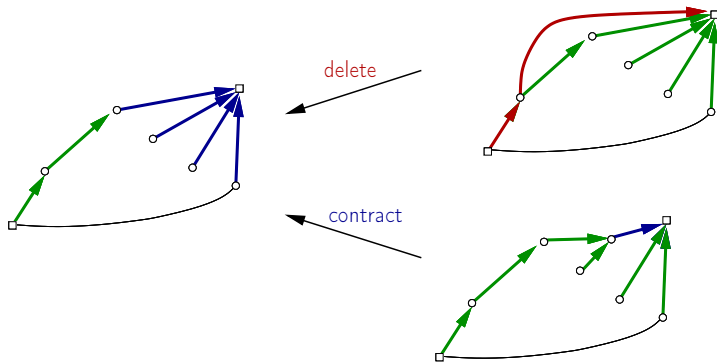
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\Rightarrow Bijections with Baxter permutations, non-intersecting 3-tuples of paths

[Bonichon, mbm & Fusy 09, Felsner, Fusy, Noy & Orden 11, Fusy, Poulalhon & Schaeffer 09]

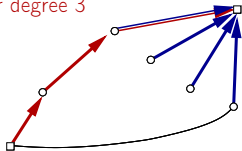
Bipolar orientations: a simple recursive structure



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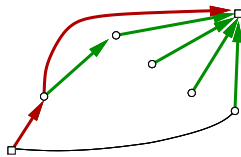
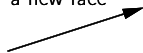
Two ways of adding an edge:

left outer degree 3

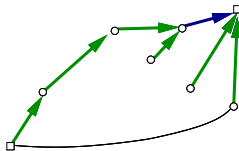
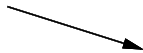


North degree 4

a new face



no new face



- Every bipolar map is obtained exactly once
- The left outer degree and the North degree can be described recursively

Prescribing face degrees

- Due to edge contractions, the above recursive construction behaves badly (apart from triangulations)

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- Due to edge contractions, the above recursive construction behaves badly (apart from triangulations)

Proposition [Tutte 73]

The number of bipolar orientations of triangulations of a digon having $n = 3k + 1$ edges is

$$a(k) = \frac{2(3k)!}{k!(k+1)!(k+2)!} \sim \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\pi} 27^k k^{-4}.$$

The sequence is P-recursive (hypergeometric):

$$(k+1)(k+2)a(k) = 3(3k-1)(3k-2)a(k-1).$$

This is also the number of rectangular Young tableaux of height 3 and width k .

Prescribing face degrees

- Due to edge contractions, the above recursive construction behaves badly (apart from triangulations)
- A new construction: a bijection with lattice paths [Kenyon, Miller, Sheffield, Wilson, 15(a)]

Bipolar orientations with prescribed face degrees

Denote $\bar{x} := 1/x$, $\bar{y} := 1/y$, and let

$$S(x, y) := x\bar{y} + \sum_{i, j \geq 0} z_{i+j} \bar{x}^i y^j.$$

Enumeration by face degrees [mbm, Fusy & Raschel 18(a)]

The generating function of bipolar orientations of a digon, with each edge weighted by t and each (inner) face of degree $k + 2$ weighted by z_k , is

$$B = -[x^0 y^0] \frac{t y^2}{x} \frac{S'_2(x, y)}{1 - t S(x, y)} \left(1 - \frac{\bar{x}^2}{t} + \sum_{k \geq 0} z_k (k + 1) \bar{x}^{k+2} \right)$$

When degrees are bounded, the RHS is a rational series and B is a D-finite series.

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Let $Y_1 = tx + O(t^2)$ is the unique power series in t (with coefficients that are Laurent polynomials in x) satisfying $1 = t S(x, Y_1)$.

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When degrees are bounded, the RHS is a rational series and B is a D-finite series. Equivalently,

$$B = [x^0] \frac{Y_1}{x} \left(1 - \frac{\bar{x}^2}{t} + \sum_{k \geq 0} z_k (k + 1) \bar{x}^{k+2} \right)$$

Recurrence relations for $(k + 2)$ -angulations by edges

Bipolar orientations: a D-finite series

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- $k = 1$ (triangulations)

$$(n + 3)(n + 2)a(n + 1) = 3(3n + 2)(3n + 1)a(n)$$

- $k = 2$ (quadrangulations)

$$(n + 4)(n + 3)^2 a(n + 2) = 4(2n + 3)(n + 3)(n + 1)a(n + 1) + 12(2n + 3)(2n + 1)(n + 1)a(n)$$

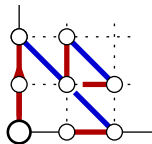
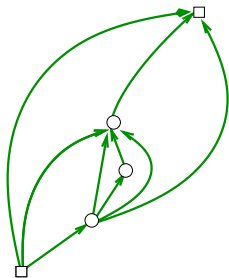
- $k = 3$ (pentagulations)

$$\begin{aligned} & 27(3n + 8)(3n + 4)(5n + 3)(3n + 5)^2(3n + 7)^2(n + 2)^2 a(n + 2) = \\ & 60(5n + 7)(3n + 5)(5n + 9)(5n + 6)(3n + 4)(8 + 5n)(145n^3 + 532n^2 + 626n + 233)a(n + 1) \\ & - 800(5n + 6)(5n + 1)(5n + 7)(5n + 2)(5n + 3)(5n + 9)(5n + 4)(8 + 5n)^2 a(n) \end{aligned}$$

Software: [Bostan, Lairez, Salvy 13]

II. From bipolar orientations to quadrant walks

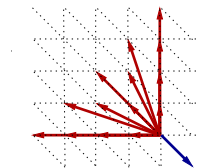
[Kenyon, Miller, Sheffield, Wilson, 15(a)]



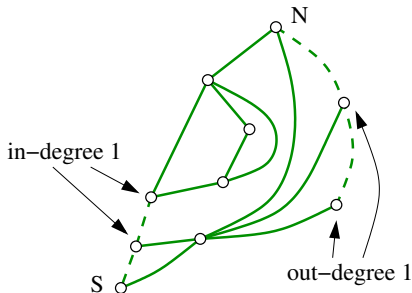
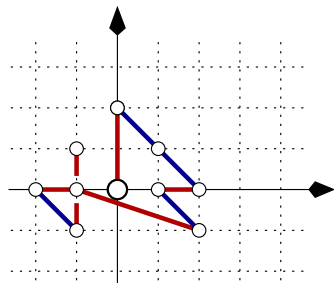
The KMSW construction

Take a lattice walk with two kinds of steps:

- SE steps $(1, -1)$
- NW steps $(-i, j)$ with $i, j \geq 0$



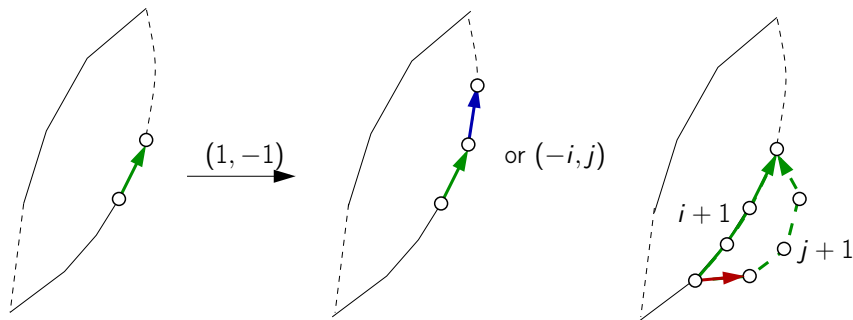
The construction starts from a walk and a bipolar orientation reduced to an edge, and yields an **incomplete bipolar orientation**.



The KMSW construction

The construction starts from a walk and a bipolar orientation reduced to an edge, and yields an **incomplete bipolar orientation**.

- every SE step $(1, -1)$ creates an edge.
- every NW step $(-i, j)$ creates a face of degree $i + j + 2$ and an edge.



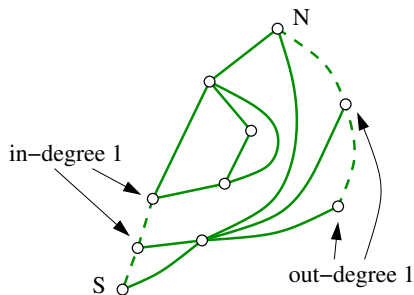
Example: walk

$(0, 2)(1, -1)(1, -1)(-1, 0)(1, -1)(-3, 1)(-1, 0)(1, -1)(0, 1)(0, 1)$

The KMSW construction

Proposition [Kenyon et al. 15(a)]

This construction is a bijection from lattice paths to incomplete bipolar orientations.

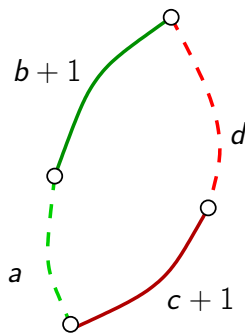
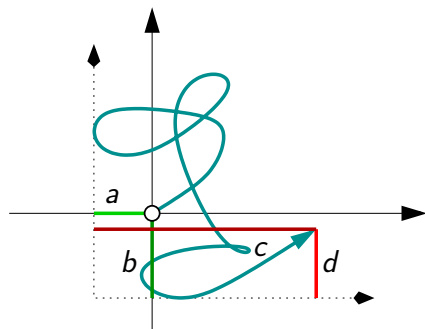


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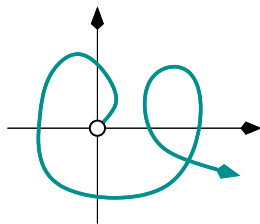
This construction is a bijection from lattice paths to incomplete bipolar orientations.

- steps \Leftrightarrow (solid) edges in the orientation (minus 1)
- steps $(-i, j) \Leftrightarrow$ inner faces of oriented degree $(i + 1, j + 1)$
- coordinates of the endpoints \Leftrightarrow left and right boundaries of the map.

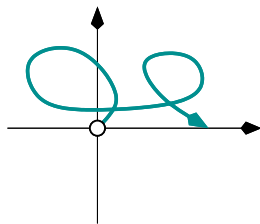


The KMSW construction: Some specializations

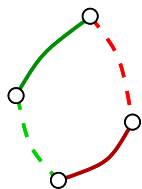
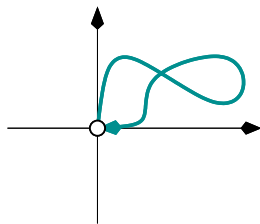
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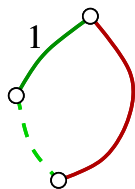
half-plane



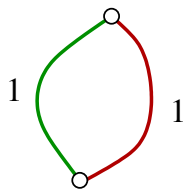
quadrant



incomplete



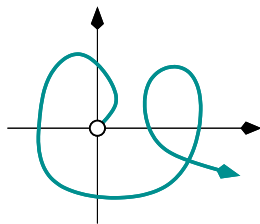
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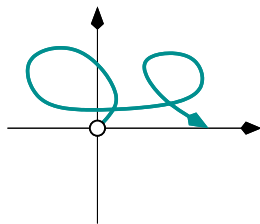
complete

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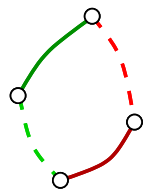
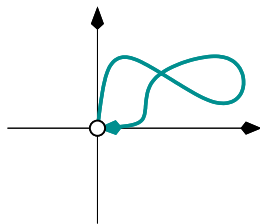
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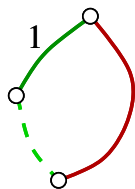
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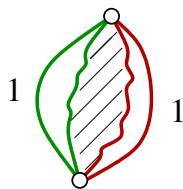
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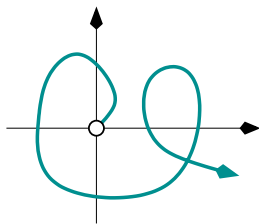
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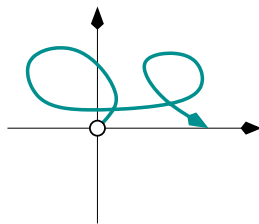
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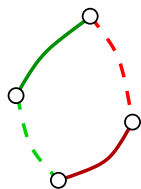
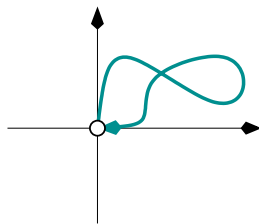
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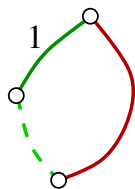
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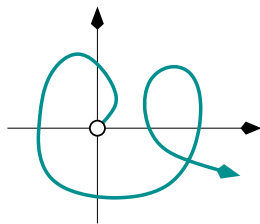
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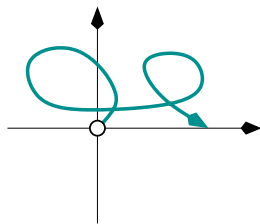
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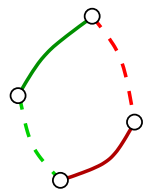
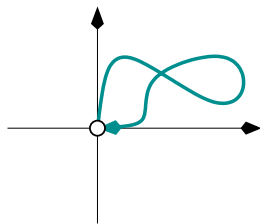
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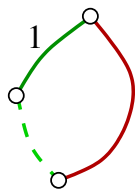
half-plane



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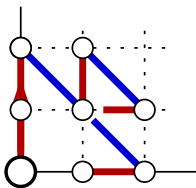
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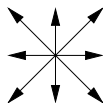
complete

Enumeration of walks confined to the quadrant

III. Counting quadrant walks: a very active topic

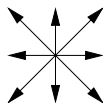


Counting quadrant walks



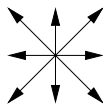
- With small steps (included in $\{-1, 0, 1\}^2$)
 - ▶ sporadic cases [Gessel, Gouyou-Beauchamps, Kreweras, Krattenthaler, Niederhausen, Sagan...]
 - ▶ uniform approach [Mishna, mbm-Mishna 10]
 - ▶ D-finite and algebraic cases [Bostan & Kauers 10, mbm-Mishna 10, Zeilberger]
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 - ▶ D-algebraic cases [Bernardi, mbm & Raschel 18(a)]
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 - ▶ an attractive mixture of methods: power series algebra, bijections, complex analysis, computer algebra, differential Galois theory...

Counting quadrant walks



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Counting quadrant walks



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- With arbitrary steps
 - ▶ an approach that solves (some) D-finite cases [Bostan, mbm & Melczer 18(a)]
including those corresponding to bipolar orientations [mbm, Fusy & Raschel 18(a)]

Walk enumeration for bipolar orientations

Parameters and variables:

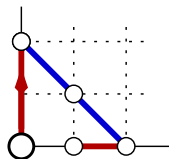
- steps/edges: variable t
- steps $(-i, j)$ (faces): variable z_{i+j} (degree selection)
- coordinates of the endpoint: variables x, y

Example:

$$\text{weight}(w) = t^4 z_2 z_1 x^1 y^0$$

The step polynomial (generating function of the steps)

$$S(x, y) := x\bar{y} + \sum_{i, j \geq 0} z_{i+j} \bar{x}^i y^j$$



Walk enumeration for bipolar orientations

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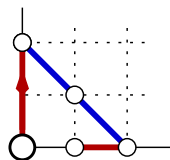
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Unrestricted walks: a rational series

$$U(x, y) = \frac{1}{1 - tS(x, y)}$$

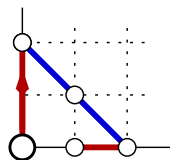
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Bipolar orientations

$$B = -[x^0 y^0] \frac{t y^2}{x} \frac{S'_2(x, y)}{1 - t S(x, y)} \left(1 - \frac{\bar{x}^2}{t} + \sum_{k \geq 0} z_k (k+1) \bar{x}^{k+2} \right)$$

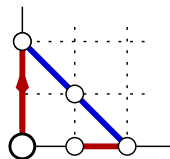
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The step polynomial (generating function of the steps)

$$S(x, y) := x\bar{y} + \sum_{i, j \geq 0} z_{i+j} \bar{x}^i y^j$$

Bipolar orientations: an alternative formula

$$B = [x^0] \frac{Y_1(x)}{x} \left(1 - \frac{\bar{x}^2}{t} + \sum_{k \geq 0} z_k (k+1) \bar{x}^{k+2} \right)$$

Walks in a half-plane

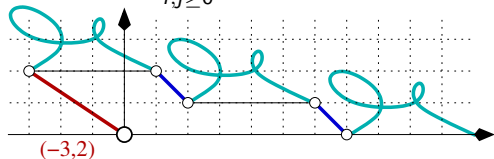
Half-plane walks: an algebraic series

$$H(x) = \frac{Y_1(x)}{tx},$$

where $Y_1(x)$ is the unique series in t satisfying $1 = tS(x, Y_1(x))$.

Proof. First return decomposition (largest down move = -1)

$$H(x) = 1 + \sum_{i,j \geq 0} z_{i+j} (t\bar{x}^i) H(x)^{j+1} (tx)^j.$$



This gives for $Y = txH(x)$ the equation $tS(x, Y) = 1$, with

$$S(x, y) := x\bar{y} + \sum_{i,j \geq 0} z_{i+j} \bar{x}^i y^j.$$

Walk enumeration: the quadrant case

Quadrant walks: a D-finite series

$$Q(0,0) = [x^0] \frac{Y_1(x)}{tx} \left(1 - \frac{\bar{x}^2}{t} + \sum_k (k+1)z_k \bar{x}^{k+2} \right).$$

Walk enumeration: the quadrant case

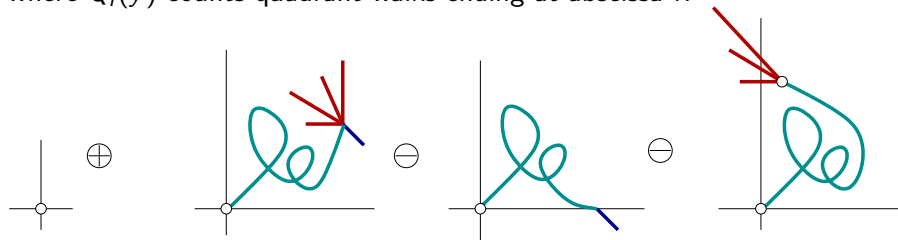
Quadrant walks: a D-finite series

$$Q(0,0) = [x^0] \frac{Y_1(x)}{tx} \left(1 - \frac{\bar{x}^2}{t} + \sum_k (k+1)z_k \bar{x}^{k+2} \right).$$

A functional equation:

$$Q(x,y) = 1 + tQ(x,y)S(x,y) - tx\bar{y}Q(x,0) - t \sum_{i>0, j \geq 0} z_{i+j} \bar{x}^i y^j (Q_0(y) + xQ_1(y) + \dots + x^{i-1}Q_{i-1}(y))$$

where $Q_i(y)$ counts quadrant walks ending at abscissa i .



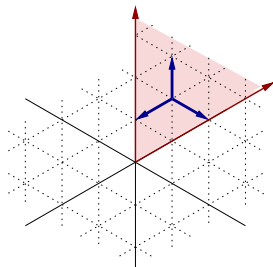
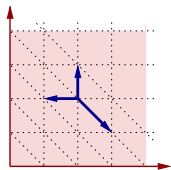
Walk enumeration: the quadrant case

Quadrant walks: a D-finite series

$$Q(0,0) = [x^0] \frac{Y_1(x)}{tx} \left(1 - \frac{\bar{x}^2}{t} + \sum_k (k+1)z_k \bar{x}^{k+2} \right).$$

A simple case: triangulations. Take $z_1 = 1$ and $z_i = 0$ if $i \neq 1$

$$Q(x,y) = 1 + Q(x,y)S(x,y) - tx\bar{y}Q(x,0) - t\bar{x}Q(0,y)$$



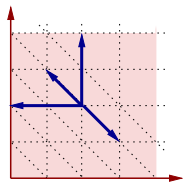
Walks confined to a Weyl chamber, solvable using the reflection principle
[Gessel-Zeilberger 92]

Walk enumeration: the quadrant case

Quadrant walks: a D-finite series

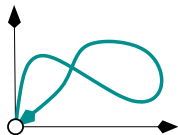
$$Q(0,0) = [x^0] \frac{Y_1(x)}{tx} \left(1 - \frac{\bar{x}^2}{t} + \sum_k (k+1)z_k \bar{x}^{k+2} \right).$$

Quadrangulations. Take $z_2 = 1$ and $z_i = 0$ if $i \neq 2$

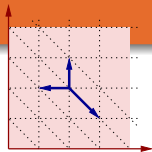


$Q(x, y) = 1 + S(x, y)Q(x, y) - tx\bar{y}Q(x, 0) - t\bar{x}^2(Q_0(y) + xQ_1(y)) - t\bar{x}yQ_0(y)$
where $Q_i(y)$ counts quadrant walks ending at abscissa i .

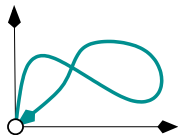
IV. Enumeration of quadrant walks: a bijective proof



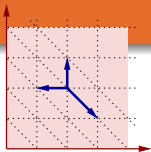
$$Q = [x^0] \frac{Y_1(x)}{tx} \left(1 - \frac{1}{tx^2} + \frac{2}{x^3} \right)$$



IV. Enumeration of quadrant walks: a bijective proof

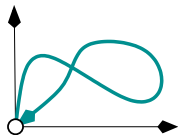


$$\begin{aligned} Q &= [x^0] \frac{Y_1(x)}{tx} \left(1 - \frac{1}{tx^2} + \frac{2}{x^3} \right) \\ &= [x^0] H(x) \left(1 - \frac{1}{tx^2} + \frac{2}{x^3} \right) \end{aligned}$$

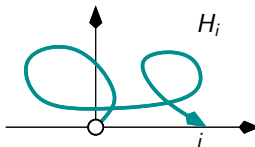
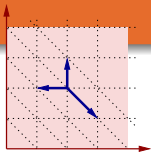


half-plane walks

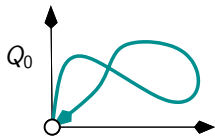
IV. Enumeration of quadrant walks: a bijective proof



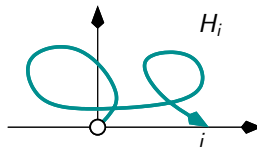
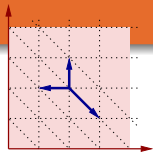
$$\begin{aligned} Q &= [x^0] \frac{Y_1(x)}{tx} \left(1 - \frac{1}{tx^2} + \frac{2}{x^3} \right) \\ &= [x^0] H(x) \left(1 - \frac{1}{tx^2} + \frac{2}{x^3} \right) \\ &= H_0 - \frac{1}{t} H_2 + 2H_3 \end{aligned}$$



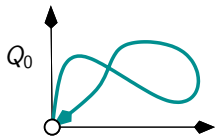
IV. Enumeration of quadrant walks: a bijective proof



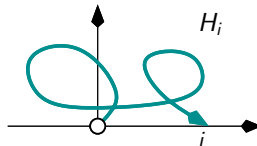
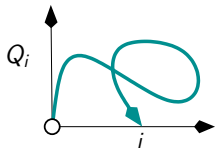
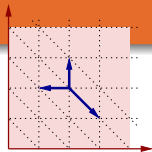
$$\begin{aligned} Q_0 &= [x^0] \frac{Y_1(x)}{tx} \left(1 - \frac{1}{tx^2} + \frac{2}{x^3} \right) \\ &= [x^0] H(x) \left(1 - \frac{1}{tx^2} + \frac{2}{x^3} \right) \\ &= H_0 - \frac{1}{t} H_2 + 2H_3 \end{aligned}$$



IV. Enumeration of quadrant walks: a bijective proof



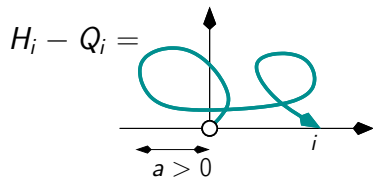
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 \end{aligned}$$



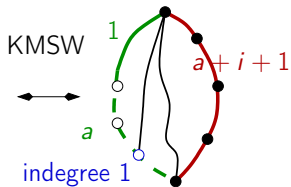
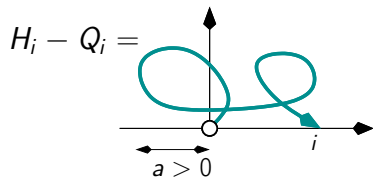
In fact,

$$Q_i = H_i - \frac{1}{t} H_{i+2} + 2H_{i+3}$$

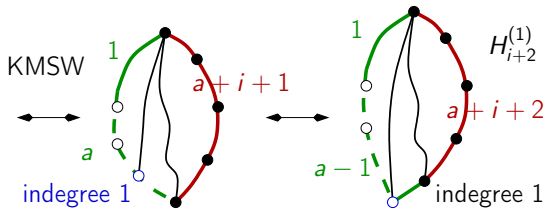
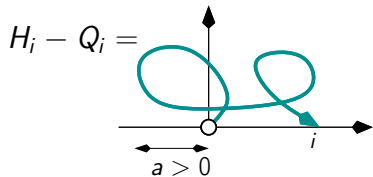
A bijective proof: $H_i - Q_i = H_{i+2}/t - 2H_{i+3}$



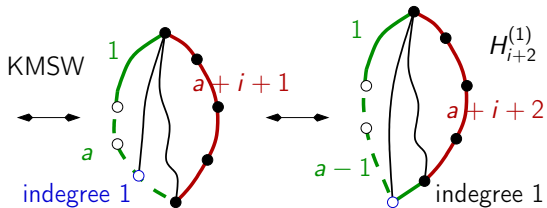
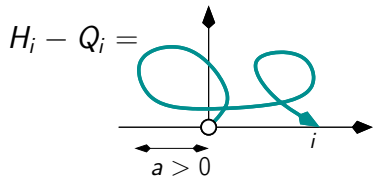
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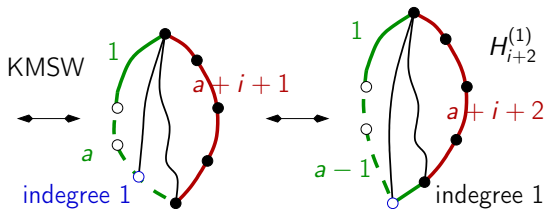
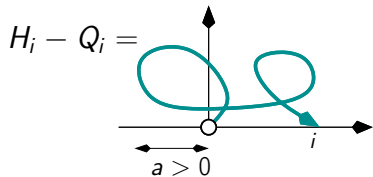


A bijective proof: $H_i - Q_i = H_{i+2}/t - 2H_{i+3}$



$$= \frac{1}{t} H_{i+2}^{(1)}$$

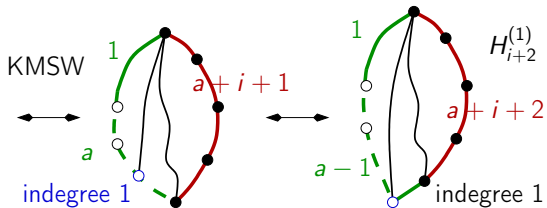
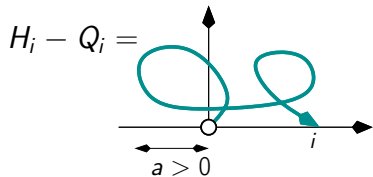
A bijective proof: $H_i - Q_i = H_{i+2}/t - 2H_{i+3}$



$$= \frac{1}{t} H_{i+2}^{(1)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{t} \left(H_{i+2} - H_{i+2}^{(2)} \right)$$

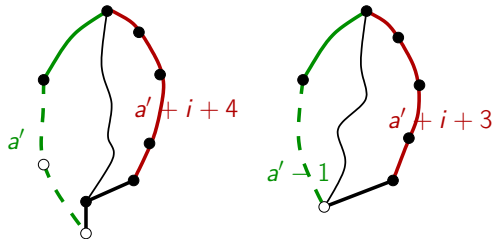
A bijective proof: $H_i - Q_i = H_{i+2}/t - 2H_{i+3}$



$$= \frac{1}{t} H_{i+2}^{(1)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{t} (H_{i+2} - H_{i+2}^{(2)})$$

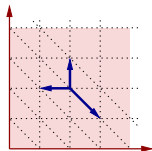
$$= \frac{1}{t} H_{i+2} - 2H_{i+3}$$



An algebraicity phenomenon

- **Known:** Young tableaux of height at most three are counted by Motzkin numbers [Regev 81]

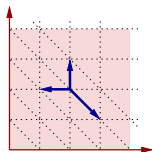
They correspond to quadrant walks ending anywhere.



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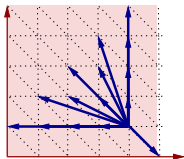
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- **Generalization:** the generating function of quadrant walks ending anywhere is Y/t , where $Y = Y_1(1)$ is the only power series solution of $tS(1, Y) = 1$. Equivalently,

$$Y = t + t \sum_{i,j \geq 0} z_{i+j} Y^{j+1}$$

[mbm, Fusy, Raschel 18(a)]:
an algebraic and a bijective proof

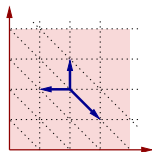


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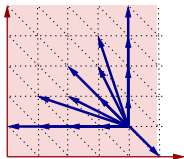
Bijections [Gouyou-Beauchamps 89, Eu 10, Chyzak & Yeats 18(a)]



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[mbm, Fusy, Raschel 18(a)]:
an algebraic and a bijective proof



VI. Asymptotics

A universal asymptotic behaviour

Given a finite set Ω of degrees, define α by

$$1 = \sum_{s \in \Omega} \binom{s-1}{2} \alpha^{-s},$$

and let

$$\gamma = \sum_{s \in \Omega} \binom{s}{2} \alpha^{-s+2}.$$

A universal behaviour [mbm, Fusy, Raschel 18(a)]

The number of bipolar orientations of a digon with n edges, in which all inner faces have degree in Ω , satisfies (with periodicity constraints)

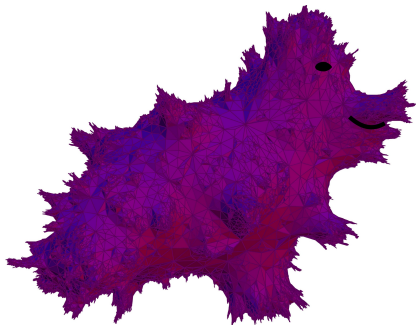
$$b^\Omega(n) \sim \kappa \gamma^n n^{-4}$$

where the constant κ is also explicit.

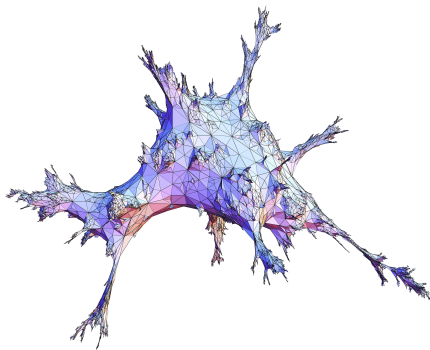
builds on enumerative results + the approach of [Denisov & Wachtel 15]

In conclusion

- Very rich combinatorics
- Connection with quadrant walks, with the longest increasing sequence in (Baxter) permutations...
- Enumerative results
- What about large random bipolar maps?



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