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# Permutations and cycles (Stanley §1.3)

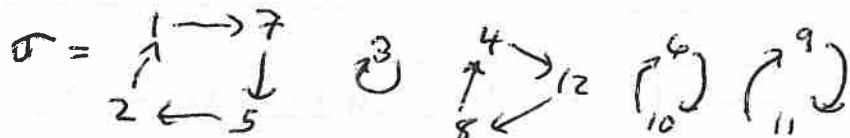
Recall  $G_n =$  symmetric group on  $n$  letters  
 $=$  permutations of  $[n]$

Notations:

- two-line  $\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 \\ 7 & 1 & 3 & 12 & 2 & 10 & 5 & 4 & 11 & 6 & 9 & 8 \end{pmatrix}$
- one-line  $\sigma = (7, 1, 3, 12, 2, 10, 5, 4, 11, 6, 9, 8)$

"directed graph"

• functional digraph:



• cycle notation:

$$\sigma = (1752) (3) (4128) (610) (911)$$

$$= (8412) (106) (527) (3) (119)$$

$$= \text{etc.} \Rightarrow (3) (7521) (106) (119) (1284)$$

Standard form:

• each cycle has its biggest element first

• cycles appear w/ biggest elements increasing left-to-right.

Q: How many  $\sigma \in S_n$  of cycle type  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots) \vdash n$

e.g.  $n=4$

$$\lambda = 1^4 = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline (a) & (b) & (c) & (d) \\ \hline \end{array} \quad 1$$

$$2^1 1^2 = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline (ab) & (c) & (d) \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \binom{4}{2} = 6$$

$$2^2 = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline (ab) & (cd) \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \frac{\binom{4}{2}}{2} = 6/2 = 3$$

$$3^1 1^1 = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline (abc) & (d) \\ \hline \end{array} \quad 2! \cdot \binom{4}{3} = 2 \cdot 4 = 8$$

$$4^1 = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline (abcd) \\ \hline \end{array} \quad 3! \cdot \binom{4}{4} = 6$$

multiplicity notation:

e.g.  $\lambda = (5, 5, 5, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1)$

$$= 1^2 2^4 3^1 4^0 5^3$$

$c_1 = 2, c_2 = 4, c_3 = 1, c_4 = 0, c_5 = 3$

Prop: There are  $\frac{n!}{1^{c_1} c_1! 2^{c_2} c_2! 3^{c_3} c_3! \dots}$  perms in  $G_n$   
of cycle type  $\lambda = 1^{c_1} 2^{c_2} 3^{c_3} \dots$

Pf of prop: Recall that  $\mathcal{G}_n$  acts on the set of perms with cycle type  $\lambda$  transitively, by conjugation:

e.g.  $\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1234567 \\ abcdefg \end{pmatrix}}_{\sigma} (1234)(567) \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} abcdefg \\ 1234567 \end{pmatrix}}_{\sigma^{-1}} = (abcd)(efg)$

So the # of such perms = size of the orbit

$\xrightarrow{\text{orbit-stabilizer}} = \frac{|S_n|}{|Z_{S_n}(\sigma_x)|}$  if  $\sigma_x$  is a perm of cycle type  $\lambda$ ,

where  $Z_{S_n}(\sigma) := \{ \tau \in S_n : \tau \sigma = \sigma \tau \}$  is the centralizer i.e.,  $\tau \sigma_x \tau^{-1} = \sigma_x$  of  $\sigma_x$  in  $\mathcal{G}_n$ .

Who centralizes  $\sigma_x = \underbrace{(a1b)}_{c_1 \text{ 1-cycles}} \dots \underbrace{(cd)(ef)}_{c_2 \text{ 2-cycles}} \dots$  ?

- Products of powers of each cycle: there are  $1^{c_1} 2^{c_2} 3^{c_3} \dots$  of these
- perms that swap two cycles of same size, there are  $c_1! c_2! c_3!$  of these preserving cycle order and biggest element, products of these things =  $1^{c_1} c_1! 2^{c_2} c_2! \dots$  many

e.g.  $(1234)(567)(8910) = \sigma_x$

is centralized by  $\tau = \underbrace{(4321)}_{(1234)^3} \underbrace{(591)(610)(78)}_{\text{swap}(567) + (8910)}$

Thus  $|\text{orbit}| = \frac{n!}{\prod_{j \geq 1} j^{c_j} c_j!}$ , as claimed.  $\square$

NOTE: Stanley presents different (but equivalent) proof by considering standard forms of perms  $\sigma_x$ .

DEFN: For any subgroup  $G$  of  $G_n$ , define its cycle index (indicator) polynomial to be

$$Z_G(t_1, t_2, \dots) := \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\sigma \in G} t_1^{c_1(\sigma)} t_2^{c_2(\sigma)} \dots$$

where  $c_i(\sigma) := \#$  cycles in  $\sigma$  of size  $i$ .  $\in \mathbb{C}[t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n]$

COR (Touchard): The cycle indicators  $Z_{G_n}$  have g.f.

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} Z_{G_n}(t) x^n = e^{t_1 x + t_2 \frac{x^2}{2} + t_3 \frac{x^3}{3} + \dots} = e^{\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} t_j \frac{x^j}{j}}$$

Proof (direct but mysterious... , we'll see better ps later)

$$\begin{aligned} e^{t_1 x + t_2 \frac{x^2}{2} + \dots} &= e^{t_1 x} e^{t_2 \frac{x^2}{2}} \dots \\ &= \left( \sum_{c_1 \geq 0} \frac{(t_1 x)^{c_1}}{c_1!} \right) \left( \sum_{c_2 \geq 0} \frac{(t_2 \frac{x^2}{2})^{c_2}}{c_2!} \right) \dots \\ &= \sum_{(c_1, c_2, \dots)} x^{1 \cdot c_1 + 2 \cdot c_2 + \dots} \frac{t_1^{c_1} t_2^{c_2} \dots}{1^{c_1} c_1! 2^{c_2} c_2! \dots} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \sum_{n \geq 0} x^n \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\substack{(c_1, c_2, \dots) \\ \sum_j j c_j = n}} \left( \frac{n!}{1^{c_1} c_1! 2^{c_2} c_2! \dots} \right) t_1^{c_1} t_2^{c_2} \dots$$

$\hookrightarrow = \# \{ \sigma \in G_n : \sigma \text{ has } c_j \text{ } j\text{-cycles} \}$

$$= \sum_{n \geq 0} x^n \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in G_n} t_1^{c_1(\sigma)} t_2^{c_2(\sigma)} \dots = Z_{G_n}(t)$$

Touchard's thm has many consequences ...

Let's see a few now ...

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① DEFN  $\sum_{k=1}^n \underbrace{c(n,k)}_{\substack{\text{(signless) Stirling} \\ \text{number of 1st kind}}} t^k := \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n} t^{\#\text{cycles}(\sigma)}$

i.e.,  $c(n,k) := \#\{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n : \sigma \text{ has } k \text{ cycles}\}$

Cor (to Touchard)  $\sum_{k=1}^n c(n,k) t^k = t(t+1)(t+2)\dots(t+(n-1))$

Pf: Set  $t_1 = t_2 = \dots = t$  in  $\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{x^n}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n} t_1^{c_1(\sigma)} t_2^{c_2(\sigma)} \dots = e^{t_1 \frac{x^1}{1} + t_2 \frac{x^2}{2} + t_3 \frac{x^3}{3} + \dots}$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{x^n}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n} t^{\#\text{cycles}(\sigma)} &= e^{t(x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} + \dots)} \\ &= e^{t(-\log(1-x))} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n c(n,k) t^k = (1-x)^{-t} \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{-t}{n} (-x)^n \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{t+n-1}{n} x^n = \frac{t(t+1)(t+2)\dots(t+(n-1))}{n!} \end{aligned}$$

Pf follows by comparing coeff's of  $\frac{x^n}{n!}$  □

Aside on posets: We've mentioned posets, but let's formally <sup>introduce</sup> ~~them~~...

A (finite) poset  $(P, \leq)$  is a finite set  $P$  together with a partial order  $\leq$  on <sup>pairs of</sup> elem's of  $P$ :

- (reflexive)  $x \leq x \quad \forall x \in P$
- (antisymmetric)  $x \leq y \text{ and } y \leq x \Rightarrow x = y \quad \forall x, y \in P$
- (transitive)  $x \leq y \text{ and } y \leq z \Rightarrow x \leq z \quad \forall x, y, z \in P$

Say  $y$  covers  $x$  in  $P$ , denoted  $x < y$ , if  $x < y$  and there is no  $z$  in  $P$  with  $x < z < y$ .

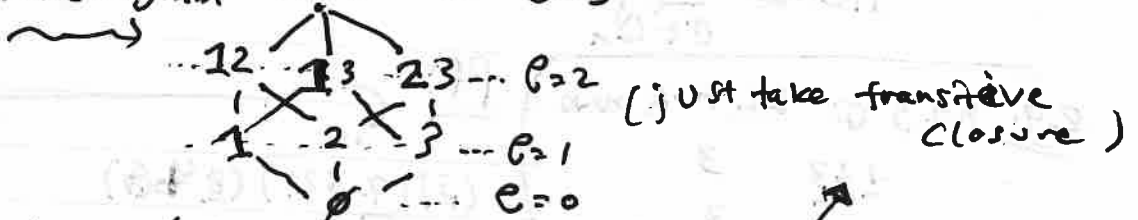
drawn in the plane!

The Hasse diagram of  $P$  is the graph w/ elements  $P$  and with an edge  $x \rightarrow y$ , and  $x$  below  $y$ , iff  $x \leq y$ .

E.g.,

recall  $B_3 =$   
 (subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ )  
 $\leq$   
 Boolean lattice

Hasse diagram  $123 \dots e=3$



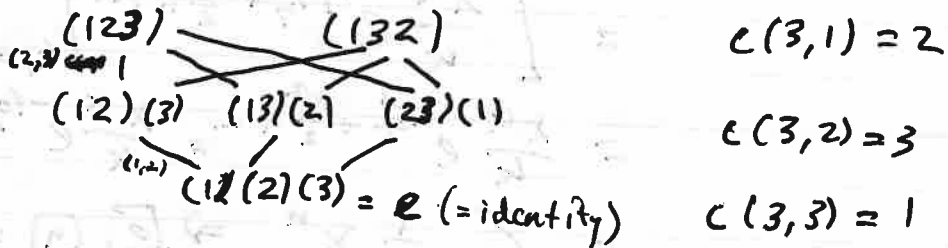
A finite poset is determined by its Hasse diagram.

DEFN A chain in  $P$  is a totally ordered subset  $p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_m$  of elem's in  $P$ . Say  $P$  is graded if all maximal  $\leq$  chains have the same length. In this case, length =  $m-1$ .  
 $\exists$  unique rank function  $c: P \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$   
 s.t.   
 •  $c(x) = 0$  if  $x$  is minimal in  $P$   
 •  $c(y) = c(x) + 1$  if  $x < y$ .

We saw that the binomial coeff's  $\binom{n}{k}$  give the rank sizes of a <sup>(finite)</sup> graded poset: the Boolean lattice  $B_n$ .  
 Same is true of Stirling #'s of 1<sup>st</sup> kind  $C(n, k)$ :

e.g.,  $n=3$

$$t(t+1)(t+2) = t^3 + 3t^2 + 2t$$



$$c(3,1) = 2$$

$$c(3,2) = 3$$

$$c(3,3) = 1$$

Partial order on  $G_n$  called absolute order  $(G_n, \leq_{abs})$

defined by  $\sigma \leq_{abs} \tau$  if  $\tau = \sigma \cdot (i, j)$  for some  $i, j$

and  $\# \text{cycles}(\tau) = \# \text{cycles}(\sigma) - 1$

(as opposed to  $\# \text{cycles}(\tau) = \# \text{cycles}(\sigma) + 1$ , the other possibility for  $\tau = \sigma \cdot (i, j)$ )

QTB: Hasse diagram of  $(G_n, \leq_{abs}) =$  Cayley graph of  $G_n$  w/ transpositions as generating set

Prop!  
her rmk: The map  $\mathcal{S}_n \rightarrow \hat{\mathcal{S}}_n$  put  $\sigma$  in standard form  
 $\sigma \mapsto \hat{\sigma}$  and erase parentheses  
 is a bijection, w/  $\# \text{cycles}(\sigma) = \# \text{L-to-R maxima in } \hat{\sigma}$ .  
 Hence  $\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n} t^{\# \text{L-to-R maxima}(\sigma)} = t(t+1) \dots (t+(n-1))$

9.  $n=3$

$\sigma$	#L-to-R max
$\overline{123}$	3
$\overline{132}$	2
$\overline{213}$	2
$\overline{231}$	2
$\overline{312}$	1
$\overline{321}$	1

PF:  $\sigma \mapsto \hat{\sigma}$   
 $(\underline{3})(\underline{7521})(\underline{846}) \mapsto (3)(7521)(846)$   
 is reversible; just put ( before L-to-R  
 maxima, and put ) right before the ( and at the end.

(2) (Cor of Touchard) Can compute  $E_k(n) =$  expected # of k-cycles  
in uniformly random  $\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n$ .

$$E_k(n) = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n} c_k(\sigma) = \frac{1}{n!} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t_k} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n} t_1^{c_1(\sigma)} t_2^{c_2(\sigma)} \dots \right]_{t_1=t_2=\dots=1}$$

$$\text{So } \sum_{n \geq 0} E_k(n) x^n = \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t_k} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{x^n}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n} t_1^{c_1(\sigma)} t_2^{c_2(\sigma)} \dots \right]_{t_1=t_2=\dots=1}$$

$$= \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t_k} e^{t_1 \frac{x}{1} + t_2 \frac{x^2}{2} + t_3 \frac{x^3}{3} + \dots} \right]_{t_i=1}$$

$$= \left[ \frac{x^k}{k} e^{t_1 \frac{x}{1} + \frac{x^2}{2} + \dots} \right]_{t_i=1}$$

$$= \frac{x^k}{k} e^{x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \dots} = \frac{x^k}{k} e^{-\log(1-x)} = \frac{x^k}{(1-x)}$$

$$= \sum_{n \geq k} \frac{1}{k} x^n \Rightarrow E_k(n) = \begin{cases} 1/k & \text{if } n \geq k, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Note:  $E_k(n)$  eventually constant in  $n$ . In fact,  
 can show  $E_k(n)$  converges (as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ) to a Poisson  
random variable w/ expectation  $\lambda = 1/k$ .

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③ (Coro of Touchard) There are special classes of perms defined by restrictions on their cycle sizes, so all have nice gen. fun's.

E.g. no large cycles

$\sigma \in S_n$  is an involution ( $\sigma^2 = e$ )

$\Leftrightarrow \sigma$  has only 1- and 2-cycles ( $\sigma = (ab)(cd)\dots(x)(y)(z)$ )

Hence 
$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{x^n}{n!} \# \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{involutions} \\ \text{in } S_n \end{array} \right\} = \left[ e^{t_1 x + t_2 \frac{x^2}{2} + t_3 \frac{x^3}{3} + \dots} \right]_{\substack{t_1 = t_2 = 1 \\ t_3 = t_4 = \dots = 0}}$$

$= e^{x + \frac{x^2}{2}}$

or even 
$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{x^n}{n!} \sum_{\substack{\text{involutions} \\ \sigma \in S_n}} t^{\# \text{1-cycles}(\sigma)} = e^{tx + \frac{x^2}{2}}$$
 similarly, etc.

What about no small cycles?

DEF 'N A derangement  $\sigma \in S_n$  is a permutation w/ no fixed points, equivalently, w/  $e_1(\sigma) = 0$ .

Q: (Derangement / Hat-check problem):  $n=100$  people check their hats; the attendant gives people back their hats <sup>completely</sup> randomly; what is the probability that no person gets their own hat back?

i.e., what is  $\frac{d_n}{n!}$ , where  $d_n = \# \{ \sigma \in S_n : \sigma \text{ derangement} \}$

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{x^n}{n!} d_n = \left[ e^{t_1 x + t_2 \frac{x^2}{2} + \dots} \right]_{t_1 = 0, t_2 = t_3 = \dots = 1}$$

$$= e^{\frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} + \dots}$$

$$= e^{-\log(1-x) - \frac{x^1}{1}} = \boxed{\frac{e^{-x}}{1-x}}$$



But  $\frac{e^{-x}}{1-x} = (1+x+x^2+\dots)(1-\frac{x}{1!}+\frac{x^2}{2!}-\frac{x^3}{3!}+\dots)$

$$= \sum_{n \geq 0} x^n \left( 1 - \frac{1}{1!} + \frac{1}{2!} - \frac{1}{3!} + \dots + (-1)^n \frac{1}{n!} \right)$$

$\frac{d_n}{n!} \xrightarrow{\text{converges quickly}} e^{-1} = \frac{1}{e}$

consistent w/  
 $C_1(G) \rightarrow$  Poisson  
w/ mean  $\lambda = 1$

### Advertisement on Pólya theory

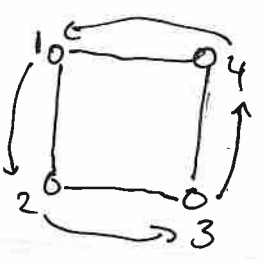
Recall that we defined the cycle index  $Z_G(t) := \sum_{\sigma \in G} \frac{1}{|G|} t_1^{c_1(\sigma)} t_2^{c_2(\sigma)} \dots$   
for any permutation group  $G \subseteq S_n$ .

Why? Pólya theory = counts G-orbits of colorings  
of a finite set  $X$  (where  $G \curvearrowright X$ ) with  $k$  colors  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k$ ,  
and more generally ~~to~~ studies the pattern inventory

$$\sum_{G \text{ orbits } \sigma \text{ of } k\text{-colorings of } X} a_1^{\# \text{ times color 1 is used}} a_2^{\# \text{ times color 2 is used}} \dots$$

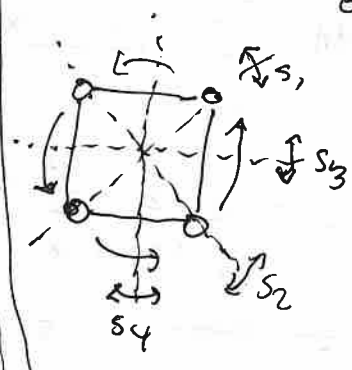
### Examples:

$G = C_4 =$  cyclic group  $\langle (1234) \rangle$   
of order 4



acting on  $X =$   
vertices of square  
and 3-colorings  
via colors  $\{a, b, c\}$

$G = D_8 =$  dihedral gp.  
of order 8



with  $X =$  square  
and  
colors  $\{a, b, c\}$   
as before



(Note: Colorings with n-gon up to cyclic symmetry = "necklaces")

up to dihedral symmetry = "bracelets"

Pattern inventory for  $C_4$ :

$a \sim a$	$a \sim a$	$a \sim a$	$a \sim b$
$a \sim a$	$a \sim b$	$b \sim b$	$b \sim a$
$a \sim b$	$a \sim b$	$b \sim a$	$b \sim a$
$a \sim b$	$a \sim b$	$b \sim a$	$b \sim a$

$a^4 + b^4 + c^4$	$+ a^3 b$	$+ 2a^2 b^2 + 2a^2 c^2$	$+ 3a^2 bc$
$+ a^3 c$	$+ a^2 b^2 + a^2 c^2$	$+ 2b^2 c^2$	$+ 3ab^2 c$
$+ a^2 b^2 + a^2 c^2$	$+ a^2 c^2$		$+ 3abc^2$

Pattern inventory for  $D_8$ :

$a \sim a$	$a \sim a$	$a \sim a$	$a \sim b$
$a \sim a$	$a \sim b$	$b \sim b$	$b \sim a$
$a \sim b$	$a \sim b$	$b \sim a$	$b \sim a$
$a \sim b$	$a \sim b$	$b \sim a$	$b \sim a$

$a^4 + b^4 + c^4 + \dots$		$+ 2a^2 bc$	$+ 2ab^2 c$	$+ 2abc^2$
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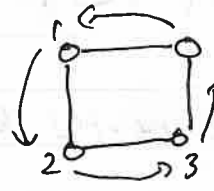
Same as for  $C_4$

Thm (Polya) The # of G-orbits of k-colorings of X is  $\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\sigma \in G} k^{\#cycles(\sigma)}$

and the pattern inventory is  $\left[ \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\sigma \in G} t_1^{c_1(\sigma)} t_2^{c_2(\sigma)} \dots \right]_{t_j = a_1^j + a_2^j + \dots + a_k^j}$

EXAMPLES

①  $G = C_4 =$



$= \{ e, r, r^2, r^3 \}$

$(1)(2)(3)(4)$      $(1234)$      $(13)(24)$      $(1432)$   
 $\{ e, r, r^2, r^3 \}$   
 $\begin{matrix} \text{a} & \text{b} & \text{c} & \text{a} \\ \text{b} & \text{a} & \text{c} & \text{b} \\ \text{c} & \text{c} & \text{a} & \text{c} \\ \text{c} & \text{c} & \text{a} & \text{c} \end{matrix}$

$Z_G(t) = \frac{1}{4} (t_1^4 + t_4^1 + t_2^2 + t_4^1) = \frac{1}{4} (t_1^4 + t_2^2 + 2t_4)$

$t_j = a^j + b^j + c^j$

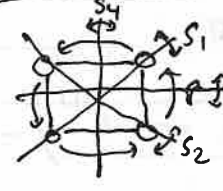
Pattern inventory =  $\frac{1}{4} ((a+b+c)^4 + (a^2+b^2+c^2)^2 + 2(a^4+b^4+c^4))$

#  $\left\{ \begin{matrix} a \sim a & a \sim a & a \sim b \\ c \sim b & b \sim c & e \sim a \end{matrix} \right\}$

# colorings w/ 2a's, 1b, 1c

$= \frac{1}{4} ( \binom{4}{2,1,1} + 0 + 0 ) = \frac{1}{4} \frac{4!}{2!1!1!} = 3$

②  $G = D_8 =$



$= \{ e, r, r^2, r^3, s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4 \}$

$\begin{matrix} \text{a} & \text{b} & \text{c} & \text{a} \\ \text{b} & \text{a} & \text{c} & \text{b} \\ \text{c} & \text{c} & \text{a} & \text{c} \\ \text{c} & \text{c} & \text{a} & \text{c} \end{matrix}$

$Z_G(t) = \frac{1}{8} (t_1^4 + t_4 + t_2^2 + t_4 + t_2 t_1^2 + t_2 t_1^2 + t_2^2 + t_2^2)$

$= \frac{1}{8} (t_1^4 + 3t_2^2 + 2t_4 + 2t_2 t_1^2)$

$t_j = a^j + b^j + c^j$

Pattern inventory =  $\frac{1}{8} ((a+b+c)^4 + 3(a^2+b^2+c^2)^2 + 2(a^4+b^4+c^4) + 2(a^2+b^2+c^2)(a+b+c)^2)$

#  $\left\{ \begin{matrix} a \sim a & a \sim b \\ c \sim b & c \sim a \end{matrix} \right\}$

# colorings w/ 2a's, 1b, 1c

$= \frac{1}{8} ( \binom{4}{2,1,1} + 0 + 0 + 2 \cdot 2 ) = \frac{1}{8} ( \frac{4!}{2!1!1!} + 4 ) = \frac{1}{8} (12+4) = 2$

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Proof of Pólya's thm The main result behind it is

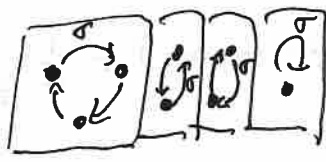
Burnside's Lemma For a group  $G$  of permutations of a finite set  $X$ , #  $G$ -orbits  $\mathcal{O}$  on  $X = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\sigma \in G} \#\{\sigma(x) = x\}$ .

Pf:  $\sum_{\sigma \in G} \#\{\sigma(x) = x\} = \#\{(\sigma, x) \in G \times X : \sigma(x) = x\}$   
 $= \sum_{x \in X} \#\{\sigma \in G : \sigma(x) = x\}$   
 $= \sum_{\substack{G\text{-orbits} \\ \mathcal{O} \text{ on } X}} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{O}} |G_x|$   
 $= |\mathcal{O}| \cdot |G|$

$G_x := G$ -stabilizer of  $x$   
 $\swarrow$  orbit-stabilizer lemma  
 $|\mathcal{O}| = \frac{|G|}{|G_x|} = [G : G_x]$

When  $G$  permutes  $X$ , it also permutes  $k$ -colorings of  $X$ ,

and  $\sigma \in G$  fixes a  $k$ -coloring  $\Leftrightarrow$  the  $k$ -coloring is constant within cycles of  $\sigma$

e.g.  $X =$    $\left| \begin{matrix} a & b & c \\ a & b & c \end{matrix} \right| \dots = (a^3 + b^3 + c^3) \cdot (a^2 + b^2 + c^2) \cdot (a + b + c)$

↑  
3-cycles fixed by  $\sigma$

Hence  $\sum_{\substack{k\text{-colorings} \\ \text{fixed by } \sigma}} a_1^{\#\text{color 1 used}} a_2^{\#\text{color 2 used}} \dots = \prod_{\text{cycles } C \text{ of } \sigma} (a_1^{|C|} + a_2^{|C|} + \dots + a_k^{|C|}) = \left[ \begin{matrix} t_1 & t_2 & \dots \\ t_1 & t_2 & \dots \end{matrix} \right]_{t_j = a_1^j + \dots + a_k^j}$

Burnside

Hence pattern inventory  $= \sum_{\substack{G\text{-orbits} \\ \mathcal{O} \text{ of colorings}}} \underline{a} = \sum_{\underline{c} = (c_1, \dots, c_k)} \underline{a} \cdot \#\{G\text{-orbits } \mathcal{O} \text{ using } \underline{c}\} = \sum_{\underline{a}} \underline{a} \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\sigma \in G} \#\{k\text{-colorings using } \underline{c} \text{ fixed by } \sigma\}$

$= \left[ \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\sigma \in G} \begin{matrix} t_1 & t_2 & \dots \\ t_1 & t_2 & \dots \end{matrix} \right]_{t_j = a_1^j + a_2^j + \dots + a_k^j}$

$[\underline{a}^c] \left[ \begin{matrix} t_1 & t_2 & \dots \\ t_1 & t_2 & \dots \end{matrix} \right]_{t_j = a_1^j + \dots + a_k^j}$

## Some theory of ordinary generating functions (Ardila §2.2)

Roughly speaking, if  $A$  is some class of combinatorial structures, w/  $a_n = \#$  (weighted?)  $A$ -structures of wt/size  $n \in \mathbb{R}$  (a comm. ring w/  $\neq$ ), then we can form the ordinary generating function  $A(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n \in \mathbb{R}[[x]]$ .  
(o.g.f.)

Prop. • If  $C$ -structures of size  $n$  are a choice of either an  $A$ - or  $B$ -structure of size  $n$  ("C = A + B")  
(i.e.,  $c_n = a_n + b_n$ )  
then  $C(x) = A(x) + B(x)$ .

• If  $C$ -structures of size  $n$  are a choice of  
- an  $A$ -structure of size  $i$   
- a  $B$ -structure of size  $j$   
for some  $i + j = n$  ("C = A x B")  
(i.e.,  $c_n = \sum_{\substack{i+j=n \\ i,j \geq 0}} a_i b_j$ )

then  $C(x) = A(x) \cdot B(x)$ .

• If  $C$ -structures of size  $n$  are a choice of  
 $B$ -structures of sizes  $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k$  for some  $i_1 + i_2 + \dots + i_k = n$   
(i.e.,  $c_n = \sum_{\substack{(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k), \\ \sum i_j = n, \\ i_j \geq 0}} b_{i_1} b_{i_2} \dots b_{i_k}$ ) ("C = Seq(B)")  
↓  
"sequence"

then  $C(x) = \frac{1}{1 - B(x)}$

Pf is straight forward. Let's see several examples of how to apply this proposition - - -

EXAMPLES (see also Arvola § 2.2.2) (so  $\lambda_i \leq k \forall i$ )  
 (partitions w/ bounded part size)

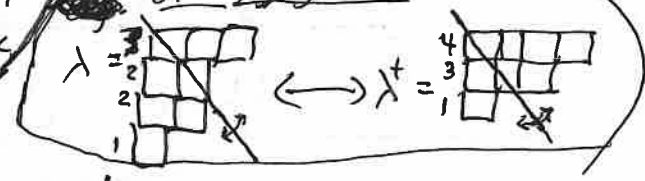
① Let  $P_k(n) := \#\{\text{partitions } \lambda \vdash n \text{ w/ } \lambda_i \leq k\}$

( $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots$ )  $\uparrow$  in bijection via conjugation of partitions

$= \#\{\text{partitions } \lambda \vdash n \text{ w/ } \ell(\lambda) \leq k\}$   $\lambda \leftrightarrow \lambda^t$

[Flip Young diagram along main diagonal]

example of conjugation:



Then  $P_k(q) = \sum_{n \geq 0} P_k(n) q^n$

$= \sum_{\lambda: \lambda_i \leq k} q^{|\lambda|} = \sum_{\lambda: \ell(\lambda) \leq k} q^{|\lambda|}$

$= \frac{1}{1-q} \cdot \frac{1}{1-q^2} \cdots \frac{1}{1-q^k} = \frac{1}{(1-q)(1-q^2)\dots(1-q^k)}$

o.g.f. for  $\lambda$  w/ only parts of size 1

o.g.f. for  $\lambda$  w/ only parts of size 2

w/ only parts of size k

we've seen the  $k \rightarrow \infty$  limit of this earlier

i.e.  $C = \{\lambda \text{ w/ } \lambda_i \leq k\} = \text{Seq}(\text{ones}) \times \text{Seq}(\text{twos}) \times \dots \times \text{Seq}(k\text{'s})$

Similarly,  $\sum_{\lambda: \lambda_i \leq k} q^{|\lambda|} t^{\ell(\lambda)} = \frac{1}{(1-tq)(1-tq^2)\dots(1-tq^k)} \left( = \sum_{\lambda: \ell(\lambda) \leq k} q^{|\lambda|} t^{\ell(\lambda)} \right)$

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② (Compositions)

DEFN A composition  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k)$  of  $n$ , denoted  $\alpha \vDash n$ , is a sequence of positive integers  $\alpha_i \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$  w/  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_k = n$ . (Unlike partitions, no requirement that  $\alpha_i$  weakly decrease).

As w/ partitions,  $\alpha_i$  are called the parts of  $\alpha$ .

PROP # compositions  $\alpha \vDash n$  of  $n$  into  $k$  parts =  $\binom{n-1}{k-1}$ .  
 ( $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k$ )

Pf: Say  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k)$  is a weak composition of  $n$  if  $\alpha_i$  are nonnegative integers  $\alpha_i \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  w/  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_k = n$ .

# weak compositions of  $n$  into  $k$  parts  $= \binom{k+n-1}{n}$  (recall = # size  $n$  multisets of  $[k]$ )

$(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k) \leftrightarrow \left\{ \underbrace{1, 1, \dots, 1}_{\alpha_1}, \underbrace{2, 2, \dots, 2}_{\alpha_2}, \dots, \underbrace{k, k, \dots, k}_{\alpha_k} \right\}$

also, # weak compositions of  $n$  into  $k$  parts = # (usual) compositions of  $(n+k)$  into  $k$  parts

$(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k) \leftrightarrow (\alpha_1 + 1, \alpha_2 + 1, \dots, \alpha_k + 1)$

Hence # comp. of  $n$  into  $k$  parts = # weak comp. of  $(n+k)$  into  $k$  parts  $= \binom{k+n-1}{n-k} = \binom{k+n-k-1}{n-k} = \binom{n-1}{n-k} = \binom{n-1}{k-1}$

Thus, total # compositions of  $n$  =  $\sum_{k=1}^n \# \text{ comp. of } n \text{ into } k \text{ parts} = \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{n-1}{k-1} = 2^{n-1}$  (for  $n=0$ , get 1 instead)

Let's see a different way to get this using o.g.f.'s:

Let  $a_n := \# \{ \text{comp. } \alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k) \vdash n \text{ of any length } k \}$  (convention  $a_0 = 1$ )

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Then } A(x) &= \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \frac{1}{1 - (x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots)} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{x}{1-x}} \\
 &= \frac{1-x}{1-x-x} = \frac{1-x}{1-2x} \\
 &= 1 + \frac{x}{1-2x} \\
 &= 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} 2^{n-1} x^n \quad \checkmark
 \end{aligned}$$

"A = Seq(one-part compositions)"  
 o.g.f. for compositions of  $n$  w/ one part  
 since 1 unique comp. of  $n$  into one part

(Compositions into odd parts)  
 ③ What about  $a_n = \{\text{compositions of } n \text{ into odd parts}\}$ ?

n	compositions of n into odd parts	# of compositions
0	()	1
1	1	1
2	1+1	1
3	3, 1+1	2
4	3+1, 1+3, 1+1+1+1	3
5	5, 3+1+1, 1+3+1, 1+1+3, 1+1+1+1+1	5
6	~	8

Guess  $a_n = \begin{cases} 1 & n=0 \\ F_{n+1} & n \geq 1 \end{cases}$  Recall Fibonacci #

and indeed

$$A(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = \frac{1}{1 - (x^1 + x^3 + x^5 + \dots)}$$

"A = Seq(one odd part compositions)" =  $\frac{1}{1 - \frac{x}{1-x^2}} = \frac{1-x^2}{1-x-x^2}$

saw this earlier  $\Rightarrow 1 + \frac{x}{1-x-x^2} = 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} F_{n+1} x^n$

④ Stirling #'s of the 2nd kind

DEFN A set partition of  $[n]$  is a set  $\Pi = \{\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_k\}$  of subsets  $\pi_i \subseteq [n]$  s.t.

- (nonempty)  $\pi_i \neq \emptyset \forall i$
- (disjoint)  $\pi_i \cap \pi_j = \emptyset \forall i \neq j$
- (covering)  $\cup \pi_i = [n]$

The  $\pi_i$  are called the blocks of the set partition  $\Pi$ .

DEFN  $S(n, k) := \#$  set partitions of  $[n]$  into exactly  $k$  blocks  
 for  $1 \leq k \leq n$  "Stirling #'s of 2nd kind."

$S(n, k) =$  rank sizes for the poset  $(\Pi_n, \leq)$

REFFASIDE:  $\Pi_n$  is the lattice of intersections of the Braid hyperplane arrangement:  $\{x_i = x_j : 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$

"all set partitions of  $[n]$ "  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{refinement} \\ \text{i.e. } \pi^1 \leq \pi^2 \text{ iff } \pi^1 \text{ refines } \pi^2 \end{array} \right.$

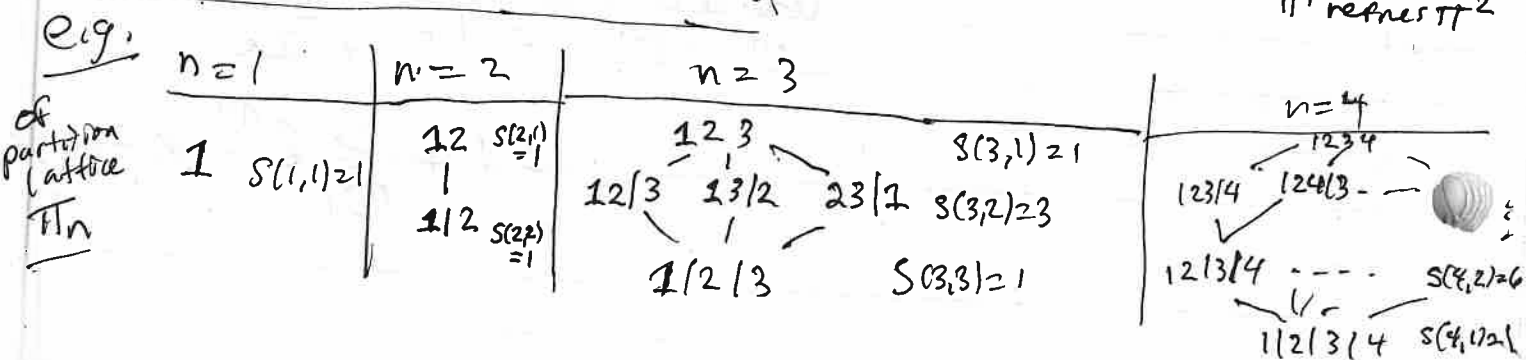


Table of  $S(n, k)$ :

$n \backslash k$	1	2	3	4
1	1	0	0	0
2	1	1	0	0
3	1	3	1	0
4	1	7	6	1

(Pascal-like) Recurrence for  $S(n, k)$ :

$$S(n, k) = \underbrace{S(n-1, k-1)}_{\substack{n \text{ is a singleton} \\ \text{block}}} + k \underbrace{S(n-1, k)}_{\substack{n \text{ goes into} \\ \text{one of the} \\ k \text{ other blocks}}}$$

w/ initial conditions  $S(n, 1) = 1 \forall n$   
and  $S(0, 0) = 1$

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Let's study the o.g.f.  $F_k(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} S(n, k) x^n$  in 2 ways.

(a) Solve recurrence: for  $k \geq 2$

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} S(n, k) x^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} S(n-1, k-1) x^n + \sum_{n \geq 0} k S(n-1, k) x^n$$

$$F_k(x) = x F_{k-1}(x) + k x F_k(x)$$

$$(1 - kx) F_k(x) = x F_{k-1}(x)$$

$$F_k(x) = \frac{x}{1 - kx} F_{k-1}(x)$$

(and for  $k=1$ ,  $F_1(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} S(n, 1) x^n = x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots = \frac{x}{1-x}$ )

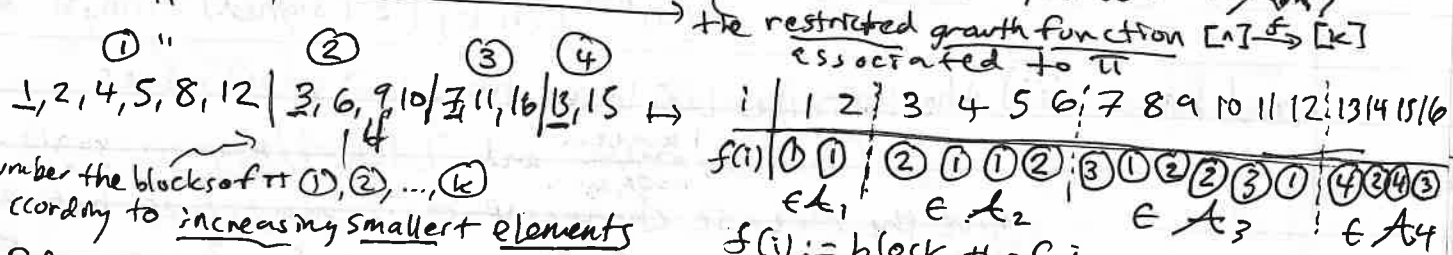
$$\Rightarrow F_k(x) = \frac{x}{1-kx} \cdot \frac{x}{1-(k-1)x} \cdots \frac{x}{1-2x} \cdot \frac{x}{1-x} = \frac{x^k}{(1-x)(1-2x)\cdots(1-kx)}$$

(b) Let  $A_m :=$  the structure of strings of letters from  $[m]$  that start w/ an  $m$ , whose size is their length (e.g.  $m=3$ )

Prop:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{set partitions} \\ \pi \text{ of } [n] \text{ w/ } k \text{ blocks} \end{array} \right\} \xleftrightarrow{\text{bijection}} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{total size} = n \\ \text{structures in } A_1, x A_2, x^2 \dots x A_k \end{array} \right\}$

(e.g.  $m=3$ )  
 $\frac{3}{1} \frac{1}{2} \frac{2}{3}$  or  $\frac{3}{3} \frac{1}{1}$   
 size 5                  size 4

e.g.,  
 $n=16$   
 $k=4$



Pf: Exercise c.

Cor  $F_k(x) = \frac{x}{1-x} \cdot \frac{x}{1-2x} \cdots \frac{x}{1-kx} = \frac{x^k}{(1-x)(1-2x)\cdots(1-kx)}$

$x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots$                    $x + 2x^2 + 4x^3 + \dots$                    $x + kx^2 + k^2x^3 + \dots$



# Digression on the two kinds of Stirling #'s

How are  $S(n, k)$  and  $c(n, k)$  related?   
 $S(n, k)$  = # of  $n$ -long #'s of 2nd kind (signed)   
 $c(n, k)$  = # of  $n$ -long #'s of 1st kind (signless)   
 $\# \{ \sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n : \# \text{cycles}(\sigma) = k \}$

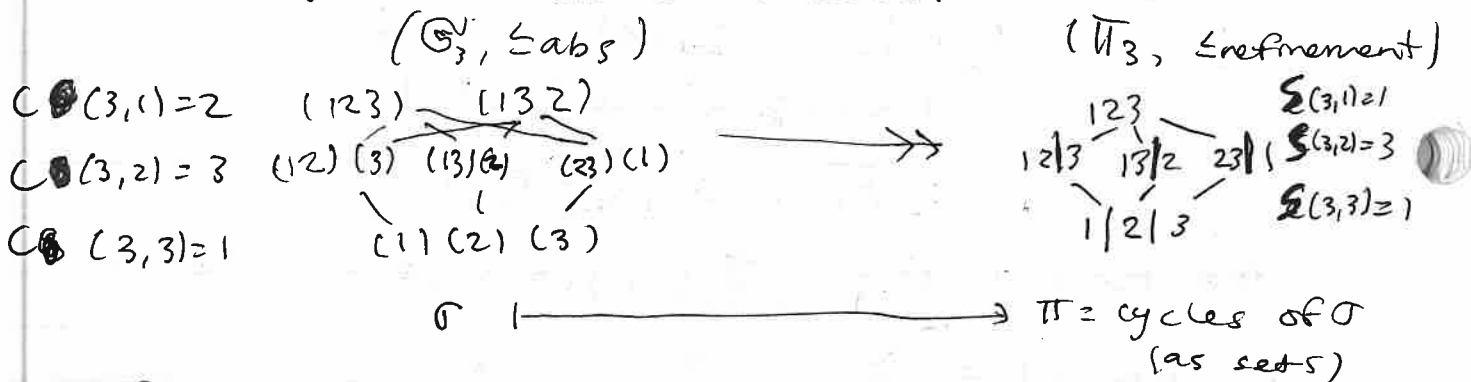
$$c(n, k)$$

$n \backslash k$	1	2	3	4
1	1	0	0	0
2	1	1	0	0
3	2	3	1	0
4	6	11	6	1

(a) The  $c(n, k)$  satisfy a similar recurrence:

$$c(n, k) = \underbrace{c(n-1, k-1)}_{n \text{ goes in } 1\text{-cycle}} + \underbrace{(n-1)c(n-1, k)}_{n \text{ maps to some } i \in [n-1]}$$

(b) They are rank #'s for posets w/ an order + rank-preserving surjection between them:



(a) + (b) are more sophisticated. The real relation between  $S(n, k)$  +  $c(n, k)$  is...

(c) Prop (i)  $x^n = \sum_{k=1}^n S(n, k) (x)_k$  where  $(x)_k := x(x-1)(x-2)\dots(x-(k-1))$   
 while (ii)  $(x)_n = \sum_{k=1}^n s(n, k) x^k$   
 $s(n, k) = (-1)^{n-k} c(n, k)$  (= signed Stirling #'s of 1st kind)

and hence (iii) the infinite (uni lower triangular) matrices

$(S(n, k))_{\substack{n=0,1,2,\dots \\ k=0,1,2,\dots}}$  and  $(s(n, k))_{\substack{n=0,1,2,\dots \\ k=0,1,2,\dots}}$  give the inverse change-of-basis matrices between the ordered bases  $\{x^n\}_{n=0,1,2,\dots}$  and  $\{(x)_n\}_{n=0,1,2,\dots}$  of  $\mathbb{C}[x]$

in particular, (iv)  $\sum_{k=1}^n S(n, k) s(k, m) = \delta_{n,m} = \sum_{k=1}^n s(n, k) S(k, m)$   
Kronecker delta

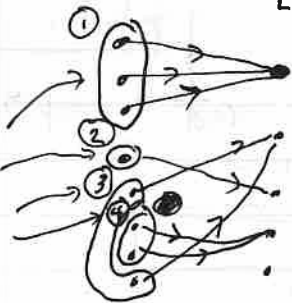
Pf of prop:

For (i), note that both sides lie in  $\mathbb{C}[x]$  (of degree  $n$ ), } use 61  
 so it is enough to prove equality holds for  $x=1, 2, 3, \dots$  } proof  
 (since a polynomial  $f(x) \in \mathbb{C}[x]$  that vanishes at  $x=1, 2, 3, \dots$  must be  $f=0$ ) } technique  
 LHS = RHS

For  $x=1, 2, 3, \dots$

$$x^n = \# \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{functions} \\ [n] \xrightarrow{f} [x] \end{array} \right\} = \sum_{\substack{\text{set partitions} \\ \pi \text{ of } [n]}} \# \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{set of fibers} \\ \{S^{-1}(i)\}_{i \in [x]} \\ \text{non-empty} \end{array} \right\} = \sum_{\pi} \prod_{i \in [x]} \# S^{-1}(i)$$

$f: [n] \rightarrow [x]$



$\pi$  associated to  $f$

choices of which  $i \in [x]$  are images of the (non-empty) fibers determined by  $\pi$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^n S(n, k) x(x-1)(x-2)\dots(x-(k-1)) = (x)_k$$

For (ii), recall  $x(x+1)(x+2)\dots(x+(n-1)) = \sum_{k=1}^n c(n, k) x^k$   
 $\downarrow x \mapsto -x$ , and multiply by  $(-1)^n$   
 $x(x-1)(x-2)\dots(x-(n-1)) = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{n-k} c(n, k) x^k$

Then (iii) & (iv) follow ...

10/2 Back to o.g.f examples ...

⑤ Let  $a_n := \# \{ \sigma \in \mathcal{G}_n : \sigma \text{ is irreducible / indecomposable} \}$  for  $n \geq 1$   
 i.e. it can't be factored as  $\sigma = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \in \mathcal{G}_n$  for  $1 \leq k < n$

e.g.  $\sigma = (135)(2)(4) \in \mathcal{G}_5$  is irreducible

but  $\sigma = (13)(2)(45) \in \mathcal{G}_{\{1,2,3\}} \times \mathcal{G}_{\{4,5\}}$  is not!

$n$	$\sigma$ irreducible in $\mathcal{G}_n$	$a_n$
1	(1)	1
2	(12) ( <del>12</del> )	1
3	(123), (132), (13)(2)	3
4	...	13

Q: How to compute  $a_n$ ?

Note: Permutations = Seq (irreducible permutations)

So if we let  $A(x) = \sum_{n \geq 1} a_n x^n$

and  $B(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{n!}{\# \mathcal{G}_n} x^n \in \mathbb{C}[[x]]$  but  $\uparrow$  is radius of convergence!

then  $B(x) = \frac{1}{1-A(x)}$  and so

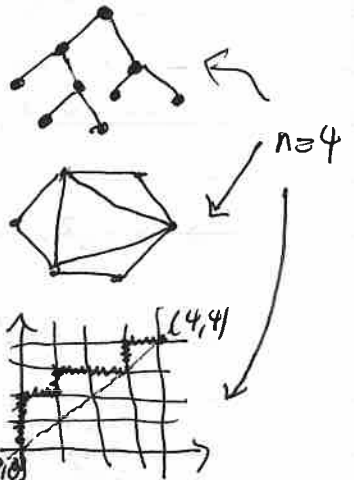
$$A(x) = 1 - \frac{1}{B(x)} = 1 - \frac{1}{\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{n!}{\# \mathcal{G}_n} x^n} = x + x^2 + 3x^3 + 13x^4 + 71x^5 + \dots$$

use some computer algebra software...

⑥ The Catalan family (see Stanley's other book on this subject!)

$C_n :=$  Catalan number = # { plane binary trees }  
 w/  $n+1$  leaves (or  $n$  internal vertices, each w/ a left-right child)

= # { triangulations of  $(n+2)$ -gon }  
 = # { lattice paths taking  $N, E$  steps  $(0,0) \rightarrow (n,n)$ , staying (weakly) above diagonal  $y=x$  }



Theorem  $C_n = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n} (= \frac{(2n)!}{(n!)n!} = \frac{1}{2n+1} \binom{2n+1}{n})$

$n$	$C_n$	plane binary trees	triangulations	lattice paths
0	$1 = \frac{1}{1} \binom{0}{0}$			
1	$1 = \frac{1}{2} \binom{2}{1}$			
2	$2 = \frac{1}{3} \binom{4}{2}$			
3	$5 = \frac{1}{4} \binom{6}{3}$			
4	$14 = \frac{1}{5} \binom{8}{4}$	...	...	...

Pf of thm:  $C(x) := \sum_{n \geq 0} C_n x^n = 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} C_n x^n$   
 $= 1 + C(x) \cdot x \cdot C(x)$

fundamental recurrence

i.e.,  $C_n = \sum_{i+j=n-1} C_i C_j$  for  $n \geq 1$

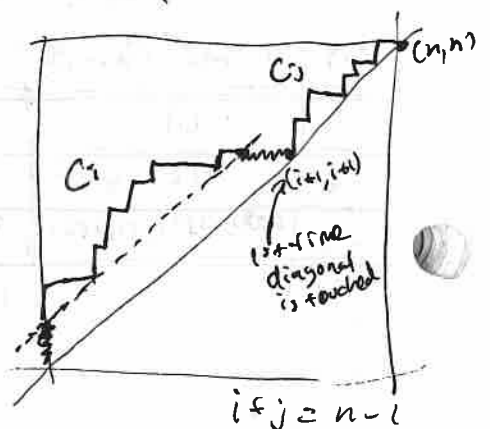
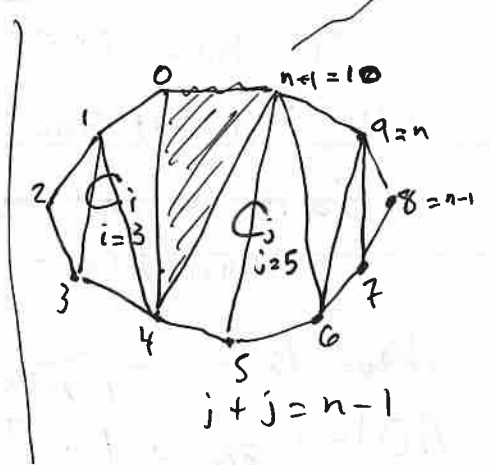
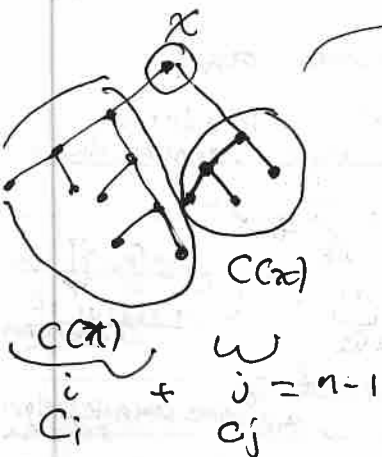


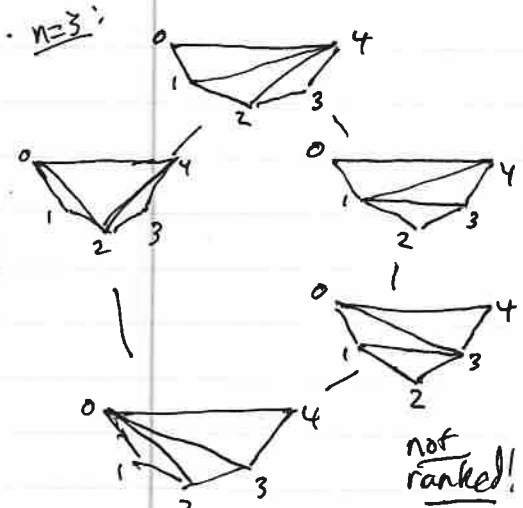
figure out  $\pm \sqrt{4x}$  by expanding  $\sqrt{1-4x}$

Consequently,  $C(x) = 1 + x C(x)^2 \Rightarrow 0 = x C(x)^2 - C(x) + 1 \Rightarrow C(x) = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1-4x}}{2x}$

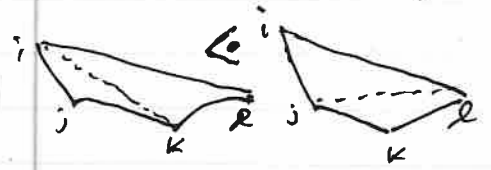
$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{1-4x} &= (1-4x)^{1/2} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{1/2}{n} (-4x)^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(1/2)(1/2-1)\dots(1/2-n+1)}{n!} (-1)^n 4^n x^n \\ &= 1 - 2 \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{2^{n-1} (1)(3)\dots(2n-3)}{n!} x^n \\ &= 1 - 2x \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{(2)(4)\dots(2n-2) \cdot (1)(3)\dots(2n-3)}{(n-1)! n!} x^{n-1} \\ &= 1 - 2x \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n-2}{n-1} x^{n-1} \\ \Rightarrow C(x) &= \sum_{n \geq 0} C_n x^n = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1-4x}}{2x} = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n-2}{n-1} x^{n-1} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n} x^n \end{aligned}$$

Aside: There are (at least) 3 different interesting posets on Catalan objects:

Tamari lattice  
on triangulations of  $(n+2)$ -gon



cover relations:

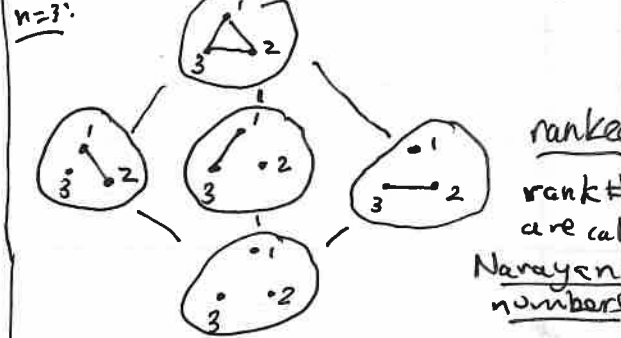
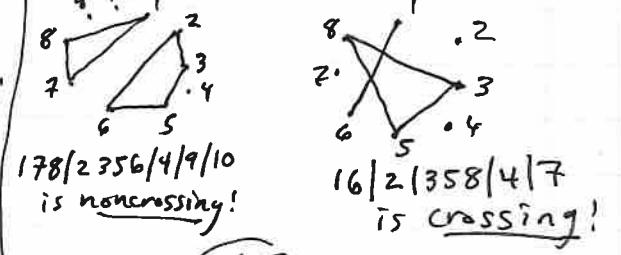


Switch  $ik$  diagonal to  $jl$  diagonal in  $i, j, k, l$  quadrilateral

The interval  $[\emptyset, \{\square\}]$  in Young's lattice of partitions:



NCCP := noncrossing set partitions (w.r.t.  $\leq$  refinement)



NOTE!

NCCP  $\cong$   $[2, (123 \dots n)]$  in absolute order on  $\Pi$   $\rightarrow$  orient cycles of counter-clockwise