Enumeration of rectangulations and corner polyhedra

Éric Fusy (LIGM, Univ. Gustave Eiffel) Joint work with Erkan Narmanli and Gilles Schaeffer

FPSAC'23, UC Davis

Planar maps

Def. Planar map = connected graph embedded on the sphere



Planar maps

Def. Planar map = connected graph embedded on the sphere



= map with marked corner

Planar maps

Def. Planar map = connected graph embedded on the sphere



Easier to draw in the plane (choosing root-face to be the outer face)





- Nice counting formulas for many natural families [Tutte'60s] e.g. # rooted maps n edges = $\frac{2 \cdot 3^n}{n!(n+2)!} = \frac{2}{n+2} 3^n \operatorname{Cat}_n$
- More generally, generating functions are algebraic

[Bousquet-Mélou-Jehanne'06]

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- Bijective proofs in many cases [Cori-Vauquelin'81, Schaeffer'97, Bouttier,Di Francesco,Guitter'04,...]
- Universal scaling limit (Brownian map) for random planar maps (rescaling distances by $n^{1/4}$)

[Chassaing,Schaeffer'04] [Le Gall'13, Miermont'13]



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Decorated planar map = planar map + structure

(Ising model, proper coloring, Potts model,

spanning tree, spanning forest, specific orientations,...)

4-regular map

+ Eulerian orientation

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 v_R

Schnyder

wood

Decorated planar map = planar map + structure

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 $A = \frac{4}{9}v_R + \frac{2}{9}v_B + \frac{3}{9}v_G$

 v_B

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• Some of these structures give nice geometric representations of maps

 v_R

This talk

We consider two types of geometric representations



rectangulations



corner polyhedra

- Link to decorated planar maps & bijections to walks
- Exact enumeration
- Asymptotic enumeration

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Rectangulations (bicolored contact-systems)

Rectangulations

Rectangulation = tiling of a rectangle by rectangles $\frac{1}{2}$

Called "generic" if no -----





Generic

Not generic

used in "cartogram" representations



Two types of equivalences

Strong



(order of contacts along each maximal segment is preserved)



(order of contacts on each side of maximal segments is preserved)

Two types of equivalences

Strong



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$$w_n = \#$$
 weak equivalence classes with n regions
 $s_n = \#$ strong equivalence classes with n regions

Weak equivalence class: shelling order

[Ackerman, Barequet, Pinter'06]

Contract top-left region: two cases





 \Rightarrow shelling order on regions



Diagonal representation



Encoding by a triple of walks

[Dulucq,Guibert'98]





Gessel-Viennot
$$\Rightarrow \left[w_n = \frac{2}{n(n+1)^2} \sum_{r=0}^{n-1} \binom{n+1}{r} \binom{n+1}{r+1} \binom{n+1}{r+2} \right]$$
Baxter numbers

 $w_n \sim \frac{1}{\pi\sqrt{3}} \delta^m n^{-1}$ Baxter families are families counted by Baxter numbers among which Baxter permutations, plane bipolar orientations, ...



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Baxter numbers $w_n \sim \frac{2^5}{\pi\sqrt{3}} 8^n n^{-4}$ Baxter families are families counted by Baxter numbers

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Various bijections relating these families (common generating tree) [Viennot'81, Dulucq-Guibert'98, Ackerman-Barequet-Pinter'06, Felsner-F-Orden-Noy'11,...]



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Link to weak order on permutations: [Reading'04,12]

mapping $\mathfrak{S}_n \to \mathcal{R}_n$

grouping permutations by rectangulation gives a lattice congruence

Plane bipolar orientations



Acyclic orientation on planar map with single min and single max both incident to the outer face

Plane bipolar orientations \Leftrightarrow local conditions



Bijective link with weak rectangulations







Bijective link with weak rectangulations







Correspondence used in problem "squaring the square"

[Brooks, Smith, Stone, Tutte'40]



(www.squaring.net/history_theory/gfx/figure73.jpg)

Another walk-encoding: KMSW bijection [Kenyon, Miller, Sheffield, Wilson'15]





Another walk-encoding: KMSW bijection [Kenyon, Miller, Sheffield, Wilson'15]

Plane bipolar orientations \leftarrow "Tandem walks" in the quadrant a+1 b+1 $a \downarrow b$ b+1 b+1 $b \in \{(-i,j), i, j \ge 0\}$



Another walk-encoding: KMSW bijection

Orientation is built step by step from the walk,



Another walk-encoding: KMSW bijection

Orientation is built step by step from the walk,



Another walk-encoding: KMSW bijection

Example: build orientation associated to





Link with non-intersecting triples of walks

[Bousquet-Mélou, F, Raschel'20]



non-intersecting triple

tandem walk

Summary of bijections so far



Summary of bijections so far



Strong rectangulations

Model of decorated maps via duality [He'93]







Pair of transversal plane bipolar orientations



Encoding by (weighted) tandem walks



Transversal structure n+4 vertices

Encoding by (weighted) tandem walks [F-Narmanli-Schaeffer'21]



Transversal structure n+4 vertices



red bipolar poset + transversal edges

Encoding by (weighted) tandem walks



Encoding by tandem walks with small steps [F-Narmanli-Schaeffer'21] face-step small-step portion weight j \Leftrightarrow $\binom{i+j-2}{i}$ 2

 $\Rightarrow s_n = \# \text{ quadrant walks with steps in } \{SE, N, W, NW\}$ from (0, 1) to (1, 0), with n-2 SE steps steps SE can not be followed by N or W

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 \Rightarrow explicit recurrence

1, 2, 6, 24, 116, 642, 3938, 26194, 186042 (A342141 in OEIS) other recurrence (& small step walks) [Inoue, Takahashi, Fujimaki'09]

Asymptotic enumeration

[F-Narmanli-Schaeffer'21]

relies on [Denisov-Wachtel'11, Bostan-Raschel-Salvy'14]

Each of the counting sequences w_n, s_n has asymptotics of the form

$$c \gamma^n n^{-\alpha}$$

$$1 + \frac{\pi}{\theta}$$

	weak	strong	
γ	8	27/2	
$\cos(\theta)$	1/2	7/8	
lpha	4	$\approx 7.21 \notin \mathbb{Q}$	



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weak

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1/2

4

 $\cos(\theta)$

 α



optimal encoding [Takahashi, Fujimaki, Inoue'09] $s_n \leq {3n \choose n} 2^n$

not D-finite

Illustration on tandem walks with small steps

(triangulated bipolar orientations)



Step-set 🕇 🖛 🔪

N W SE

Illustration on tandem walks with small steps

Step-set † ← \ (triangulated b N W SE

(triangulated bipolar orientations)



Illustration on tandem walks with small steps





 $\Rightarrow \# \text{ quadrant excursions length } 3n \sim c \cdot 27^n n^{-4}$ (\alpha = 4 universal for plane bipolar orientations) Corner polyhedra (tricolored contact-systems)

Tricolored contact-systems





Not generic [Gonçalves'19]

Rk: Very rigid (regions are equilateral triangles)

Relaxed tricolored contact-systems



 $w'_n = \#$ weak equivalence classes with 2n regions $s'_n = \#$ strong equivalence classes with 2n regions

Relaxed tricolored contact-systems



$$w'_n = \#$$
 weak equivalence classes with $2n$ regions $s'_n = \#$ strong equivalence classes with $2n$ regions

Rk: For bicolored systems, same equivalence classes in the relaxed version

Rectilinear representation: corner polyhedra [Eppstein-Mumford'09]

3d-shape whose boundary is made of axis-orthogonal "flats" at most 3 flats meet at any point, 3 of them point backward



size = # flats - 3

Bijection to weak contact-systems:





Decorated map and bipolar orientation [Eppstein-Mumford'09]







polyhedral orientation





encoded by left-to-right bipolar orientation

[F,Narmanli,Schaeffer'22]

Characterization of the bipolar orientation [F,Narmanli,Schaeffer'22]







Characterization of the bipolar orientation [F,Narmanli,Schaeffer'22]







Corresponding quadrant tandem walks (bimodal effect)



starts at 0, ends on x-axis visits only points with x + y even no horizontal step starting from • no vertical step starting from o

Strong tricolored systems



strong contact-system





 $\begin{array}{l} \mathsf{quadrangulation} \ \mathsf{of} \ \mathsf{hexagon} \\ + \ \mathsf{edge-tricoloration} \end{array}$





Strong tricolored systems



strong contact-system



quadrangulation of hexagon + edge-tricoloration













bipartite bipolar orientation + transversal edges

tandem walks have a bimodal condition + binomial weights

Asymptotic enumeration (updated)



(*) up to extending [Denisov-Wachtel] to bimodal setting

Extension to models with degeneracies







also counted in [Conant, Michaels'12]



Extension to models with degeneracies







also counted in [Conant, Michaels'12]



Asymptotic exponent $\alpha(v)$ computable $\alpha(v) \to \infty$ as $v \to \infty$ regular grid behaviour