Lattice walks at the Interface of Algebra, Analysis and Combinatorics BIRS, Banff, Canada - September 20th, 2017

Winding angles of simple walks on \mathbb{Z}^2 Timothy Budd

Based on arXiv:1709.04042 and w.i.p.

IPhT, CEA, Université Paris-Sadlay

timothy.budd@ipht.fr, http://www.nbi.dk/~budd/

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- Winding angle sequence $(\theta_0^w, \theta_1^w, \dots, \theta_{|w|}^w)$, $\theta_0^w = 0$, $\theta^w := \theta_{|w|}^w$.
- Can we compute the following generating function?

$$\mathcal{W}_{\ell, p}^{(lpha)}(t)\coloneqq \sum_w t^{|w|} \mathbf{1}_{\{w_0=(p,0), \ |w_{|w|}|=\ell, \ \theta^w=lpha\}}. \qquad (p,\ell\geq 1, lpha\in rac{\pi}{2}\mathbb{Z})$$



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Building blocks



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Interpret A_{I,p}(t), B_{I,p}(t), J_{I,p}(t) as elements of "infinite matrices": walk composition then corresponds to matrix multiplication



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- ► To formalize this: fix k = 4t ∈ (0, 1) and choose convenient Hilbert space + basis.



Building blocks (operators)



▶ Let basis $(e_p)_{p=1}^{\infty}$ of $\ell^2(\mathbb{C})$ be such that $\langle e_l, e_p \rangle = p \mathbf{1}_{\{l=p\}}$ and let

 $\langle e_l, \mathbf{A}_k e_p \rangle = lp A_{l,p}(t), \quad \langle e_l, \mathbf{B}_k e_p \rangle = B_{l,p}(t), \quad \langle e_l, \mathbf{J}_k e_p \rangle = l J_{l,p}(t).$



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• Then indeed
$$\mathbf{J}_k = \mathbf{A}_k \mathbf{B}_k$$
:

$$IJ_{l,p}(t) = I\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} A_{l,m}(t)B_{m,p}(t) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \langle e_l, \mathbf{A}_k e_m \rangle \frac{1}{m} \langle e_m, \mathbf{B}_k e_p \rangle = \langle e_l, \mathbf{A}_k \mathbf{B}_k e_p \rangle$$



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► A_k, B_k, J_k are bounded, self-adjoint and commuting! Simultaneous eigenvalue decomposition?





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w is encoded by a simple walk (α_j)^N_{j=0} on π/2 from 0 to α together with a sequence (w⁽⁰⁾,...,w^(N)) of "matching" walks with w⁽⁰⁾,...,w^(N-1) of type J and w^(N) of type B.



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Hence W^(α)_{ℓ n}(t) = ⟨e_l, Y^(α)_ke_p⟩ where Y^(α)_k is formally given by

 $\mathbf{Y}_{k}^{(\alpha)} = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \#\{\text{simple walks from 0 to } \alpha \text{ of length } N\} \cdot \mathbf{J}_{k}^{N} \mathbf{B}_{k}$





The operator \mathbf{J}_k



$$J_{\ell,p}(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} t^n \frac{p}{n} \binom{n}{\frac{n-p}{2}} \binom{n}{\frac{n-\ell}{2}} \mathbf{1}_{\{n-p \text{ and } n-\ell \text{ nonnegative and even}\}}$$



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$$\mathbf{R}_{k}e_{p} \coloneqq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e_{n} \left(\frac{k}{4}\right)^{n/2} \frac{p}{n} \binom{n}{\frac{n-p}{2}} \mathbf{1}_{\{n-p \ge 0 \text{ and even}\}}$$



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$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e_{n} [z^{n}]\psi_{k}(z)^{p}, \qquad \psi_{k}(z) \coloneqq \frac{1-\sqrt{1-kz^{2}}}{\sqrt{kz}}.$$



▶ $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{D})$ is Hilbert space of analytic functions f on the unit disk $\mathbb{D} \subset \mathbb{C}$ with f(0) = 0 and finite norm w.r.t. $(dA(x + iy) := \frac{1}{\pi} dx dy)$

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By conformal invariance of the Dirichlet inner product,

$$\langle f, \mathbf{J}_k g \rangle_{\mathcal{D}} = \left\langle f, \mathbf{R}_k^{\dagger} \mathbf{R}_k g \right\rangle_{\mathcal{D}} = \left\langle f \circ \psi_k, g \circ \psi_k \right\rangle_{\mathcal{D}} = \langle f, g \rangle_{\mathcal{D}(\psi_k(\mathbb{D}))}.$$

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- Look for a nice conformal mapping.



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- Look for a nice conformal mapping.
- An elliptic integral does the job $(k' = \sqrt{1 k^2}, k_1 = \frac{1 k'}{1 + k'})$

$$v_{k_1}(z) = \frac{1}{4K(k_1)} \int_0^z \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{(k_1 - x^2)(1 - k_1 x^2)}} = \frac{\arcsin\left(\frac{z}{\sqrt{k_1}}, k_1\right)}{4K(k_1)}$$



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- Hence basis

$$f_m(z) = \cos(2\pi m(v_{k_1}(z) + 1/4)) - \cos(\pi m/2), \quad m \ge 1$$

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▶ Conclusion: \mathbf{J}_k has eigenvectors $(f_m)_{m \ge 1}$ and eigenvalues

$$\frac{\langle f_m, f_m \rangle_{\mathcal{D}(\psi_k(\mathbb{D}))}}{\langle f_m, f_m \rangle_{\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{D})}} = \frac{\sinh(2m\pi T_k)}{\sinh(4m\pi T_k)} = \frac{1}{q_k^{m/2} + q_k^{-m/2}}, \qquad q_k = e^{-\pi \frac{K(k')}{K(k)}}$$
 "nome"







▶ May work out eigenvalues of \mathbf{A}_k and \mathbf{B}_k too (eigenvectors $(f_m)_{m\geq 1}$):



$$\mathbf{Y}_{k}^{(\alpha)} = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \#\{\text{simple walks from 0 to } \alpha \text{ of length } N\} \cdot \mathbf{J}_{k}^{N} \mathbf{B}_{k}.$$

It has eigenvalues

$$\mathbf{Y}_{k}^{(\alpha)}f_{m}=\frac{2K(k)}{\pi}\frac{1}{m}q_{k}^{m|\alpha|/\pi}f_{m}$$

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$$I = (\beta_-, \beta_+)$$
, $\beta_\pm \in \frac{\pi}{4}\mathbb{Z}$, $\alpha \in I \cap \frac{\pi}{2}\mathbb{Z}$ and p, ℓ even, let
 $W_{\ell,p}^{(\alpha,I)}(t) = \sum t^{|w|} \mathbf{1}_{\{w_0=(p,0), |w_{|w|}|=\ell, \theta^w=\alpha, \theta_i^w \in I \text{ for } 1 \le i < |w|\}}.$

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If θ^w ∈ 2β₊ - α + δZ then θ^{w'} ∈ α + δZ, δ = 2(β₊ - β₋).

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$$\blacktriangleright \ W^{(0,(-\pi/4,\pi/2))}_{\ell,p}(t) = \langle e_{\ell}, \mathbf{X} e_{p} \rangle_{\mathcal{D}} \text{ and } \mathbf{X} \text{ has e.v. } \frac{2K(k)}{\pi m} \frac{1-q_{k}^{m}}{1+q_{k}^{m/2}+q_{k}^{m}}$$


More examples See [TB,'17, Theorem 1] for the general case.







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Deserves a combinatorial explanation!









- Consider loops w, i.e. w₀ = w_{|w|} ∈ {(1,0), (2,0),...}, with winding angle θ^w = α ∈ 2πℤ and θ^w_i < α for i < |w|.</p>
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Substituting x → √k₁(t)/4 in g.f. of Dyck paths on the slit plane with fixed endpoints yields the corresponding g.f. for diagonal walks.

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Open problem: give a bijective explanation of this fact!











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Application: Excursions

• Consider set \mathcal{E} of excursions from the origin (rectilinear or diagonal).

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Not quite covered by main result since walks do not avoid (0,0). However, a combinatorial trick (exercise!) shows

$$F^{(\alpha)}(t) = 4 \sum_{m,l,p=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{l+p+m+1} m W_{2l,2p}^{(|\alpha|+m\pi/2)}(t)$$





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Excursions in cones

▶ For
$$I = (\beta_-, \beta_+)$$
, $\beta_{\pm} \in \frac{\pi}{4}\mathbb{Z}$, $\alpha \in I \cap \frac{\pi}{2}\mathbb{Z}$, a reflection principle shows

$$egin{aligned} &\mathcal{I}^{(lpha,I)}(t) \coloneqq \sum_{w\in\mathcal{E}} t^{|w|} \mathbf{1}_{\{w_1=(1,1),\, heta^w=lpha,\, heta^w_i\in I ext{ for all }i\}} \ &= rac{1}{4}\sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} \left(\mathcal{F}^{(lpha+n\delta)}(t) - \mathcal{F}^{(2eta_+-lpha+n\delta)}(t)
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$$\alpha = -\pi/2$$

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$$\begin{split} F^{(\alpha,I)}(t) &\coloneqq \sum_{w \in \mathcal{E}} t^{|w|} \mathbf{1}_{\{w_1 = (1,1), \, \theta^w = \alpha, \, \theta^w_i \in I \text{ for all } i\}} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \left(F^{(\alpha + n\delta)}(t) - F^{(2\beta_+ - \alpha + n\delta)}(t) \right), \quad \delta \coloneqq 2(\beta_+ - \beta_-) \\ &= \frac{\pi}{8\delta} \sum_{\sigma \in (0,\delta) \cap \frac{\pi}{2}\mathbb{Z}} \left(\cos\left(\frac{4\sigma\alpha}{\delta}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{4\sigma(2\beta_+ - \alpha)}{\delta}\right) \right) F\left(t, \frac{4\sigma}{\delta}\right), \end{split}$$



$$\begin{split} F^{(\alpha,l)}(t) &= \frac{\pi}{8\delta} \sum_{\sigma \in (0,\delta) \cap \frac{\pi}{2}\mathbb{Z}} \left(\cos\left(\frac{4\sigma\alpha}{\delta}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{4\sigma(2\beta_{+} - \alpha)}{\delta}\right) \right) F\left(t, \frac{4\sigma}{\delta}\right), \\ F(t,b) &= \frac{1}{\cos\frac{\pi b}{2}} \left[1 - \frac{\pi \tan\frac{\pi b}{4}}{2K(k)} \frac{\theta_{1}'\left(\frac{\pi b}{4}, \sqrt{q_{k}}\right)}{\theta_{1}\left(\frac{\pi b}{4}, \sqrt{q_{k}}\right)} \right] \quad (b \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Z}) \end{split}$$



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▶ $t \mapsto F(t, b)$ is algebraic for $b \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$ and transcendental for $b \in \mathbb{Z}!$



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t → F(t, b) is algebraic for b ∈ Q \ Z and transcendental for b ∈ Z!
t → F^(α,l)(t) is algebraic if β₊ − β_− ∈ π/2 Z + π/4 (or if β_± ∈ π/2 Z and either β₊ − β_− ∈ πZ + π/2 or α ∈ πZ + π/2 or β₊ − α ∈ πZ).



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Gessel's sequence



► Special case
$$\alpha = 0$$
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 $F^{(0,I)}(t) = \frac{1}{4}F\left(t, \frac{4}{3}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{\sqrt{3}\pi}{2K(4t)}\frac{\theta_1'\left(\frac{\pi}{3}, \sqrt{q_k}\right)}{\theta_1\left(\frac{\pi}{3}, \sqrt{q_k}\right)} - 1\right]$





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 Gessel's conjecture, proved in [Kauers, Koutschan, Zeilberger, '09], [Bostan, Kurkova, Raschel, '13], [Bousquet-Mélou, '16], [Bernardi, Bousquet-Mélou, Raschel, '17]:

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► Another proof: check that both satisfy same algebraic equation.







- ▶ Walks with small steps: $S \subset \{-1, 0, 1\}^2 \setminus \{(0, 0)\}$
- Excursion w in upper-half plane from (0,0) to (-p-2,0), $p \ge 1$.





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Background: planar map combinatorics

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• Φ_p is a bijection with rooted planar maps of perimeter p with

- For each face of degree d ≥ 1 an excursion above or below axis from (0,0) to (d − 2,0)
- for each vertex an excursion above axis from (0,0) to (-2,0).

- This extends to a bijection Φ_{I,p} between walks on the slit plane from (p,0) to (-1,0) and rooted planar maps with perimeter p and
 - ► a marked face of degree *I*,
 - For each (unmarked) face of degree d ≥ 1 an excursion above or below axis from (0,0) to (d − 2,0)



- This extends to a bijection Φ_{l,p} between walks on the slit plane from (p,0) to (-l,0) and rooted planar maps with perimeter p and
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- This extends to a bijection Φ_{1,p} between walks on the slit plane from (p,0) to (-1,0) and rooted planar maps with perimeter p and
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From walks to loop-decorated maps (-1,0) (p,0)

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- ► This is a bijection between walks from (p, 0) to (±1, 0) with winding angle α ∈ πZ (and some extra conditions) and planar maps with perimeter p and marked face of degree I and
 - nested (rigid) loops each carrying an angle $\pm \pi$, such that they add up to α ,
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 - for each vertex an excursion above axis from (0,0) to (-2,0).
- ► A very similar enumeration problem (O(n) loop model on random planar maps) has been solved in the mathematical physics literature. [Borot, Bouttier, Guitter, '11] [Borot, Bouttier, Duplantier, '16], (B) + (B) +

• Generalization to walks with step set $S \subset \{-1, 0, 1\}^2 \setminus \{(0, 0)\}.$



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• If S is non-singular then K(x, y) = 0 defines an elliptic curve, which determines a point in moduli space with corresponding nome q.

[Fayolle, lasnogordski, Malyshev]



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$$q = e^{-i\pi \frac{\omega_2}{\omega_1}}, \quad \omega_1 = i \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{-d(x)}}, \quad \omega_2 = \int_{x_2}^{x_3} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{d(x)}} \quad (d(x_i) = 0)$$



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$$\alpha \in 2\pi\mathbb{Z}, \quad \alpha \in \pi\mathbb{Z}, \quad \text{or} \quad \alpha \in \frac{\pi}{2}\mathbb{Z}$$





Thanks for you attention! Comments?

