

# **Permutations, moments, measures**

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**Natasha Blitvić** (Lancaster)

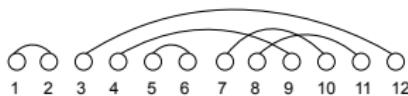
joint work with Einar Steingrímsson (Strathclyde)

GGI, Florence, April 2022

Combinatorics  Probability

# Moments

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^{2n} \frac{\exp(-x^2/2)}{\sqrt{2\pi}} dx = \# \text{ perfect matchings on } [2n]$$



$$\int_{-2}^2 x^{2n} \frac{\sqrt{4-x^2}}{2\pi} dx = \# \text{ non-crossing perfect matchings on } [2n]$$

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} k^n \frac{e^{-1}}{k!} = \# \text{ set partitions on } [n]$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} x^n \exp(-x) dx = \# \text{ permutations on } [n]$$

Comm. rel.

$$a_i a_j^* - a_j^* a_i = \delta_{i,j}$$

Fock 1932, Segal 1956

Law of  $a_i + a_i^*$   
on  $\bigoplus_n H^{\otimes n}$

$$\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

CLT & Moments

Classical CLT



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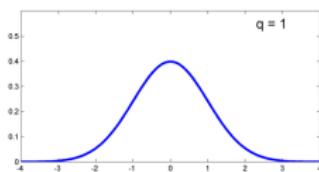
Physics '50s/'70s

Maths '90s

Bożejko & Speicher 1991

$q$ -Gaussian

$$q \in [-1, 1]$$



$X_1, X_2, \dots$  "iid"

$$\mathbb{E}(X_i) = 0, \mathbb{E}(X^2) = 1$$

$$X_i X_j = s(j, i) X_j X_i$$

$$s(j, i) \in \{-1, 1\}$$

$$\frac{X_1 + \dots + X_N}{\sqrt{N}} \implies a + a^*$$

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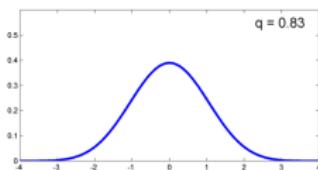
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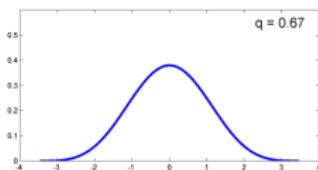
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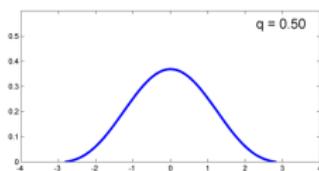
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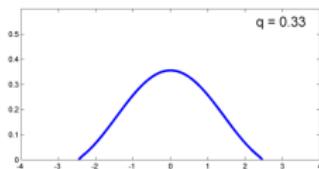
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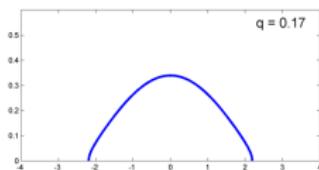
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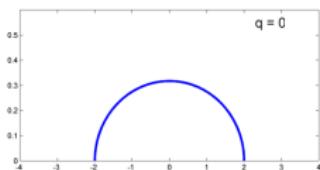
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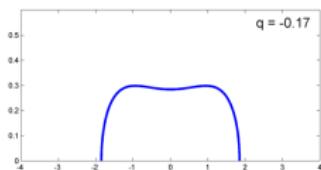
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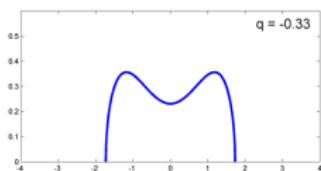
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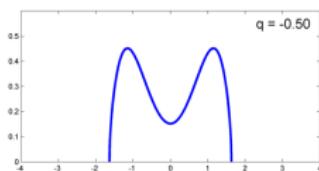
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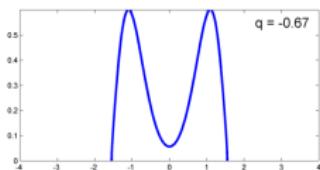
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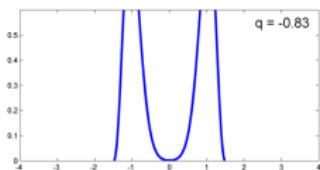
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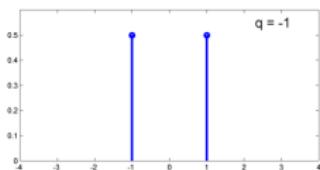
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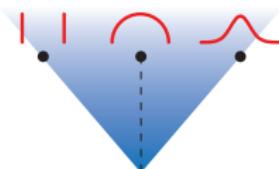


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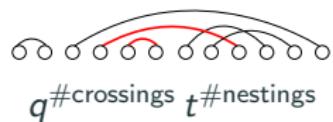
$$a_i a_j^* - q a_j^* a_i = t^N \delta_{i,j}$$

Physics '90s  
Bożejko & Yoshida '06  
B. 2012 JFA

' $(q, t)$ -Gaussian'  
 $|q| \leq t$



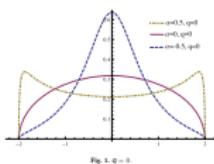
$X_i^\epsilon X_j^{\epsilon'} = \mu_{\epsilon', \epsilon}(j, i) X_j^{\epsilon'} X_i^\epsilon$   
 $\mu_{\epsilon', \epsilon}(j, i) \in \mathbb{R}$   
B. 2014 AIHP



$$a_i a_j^* - q a_j^* a_i = \delta_{i,j} + \alpha \langle e_i, \Pi_0 e_j \rangle q^{2N}$$

Bożejko, Ejsmont,  
& Hasebe 2015

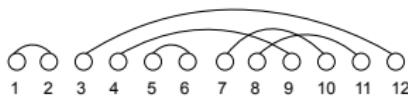
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 $q, \alpha \in (-1, 1)$



$X_i X_j = s(j, i) X_j X_i$   
 $Y_i Y_j = s(j, i) Y_j Y_i$   
 $X_i Y_j = r(j, i) Y_j X_i$   
 $s(j, i), r(j, i) \in \{-1, 1\}$   
B. - Ejsmont 2019 JMAA

# Moments

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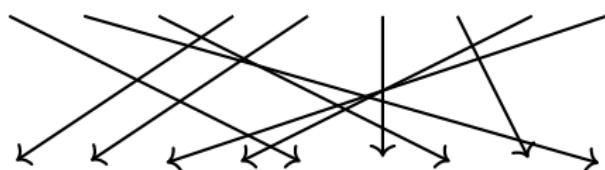
Looking for:

- Unifying threads between known combinatorial constructions with ties to probability/analysis.
- Basic building blocks of more complicated combinatorial statistics.
- A combinatorial perspective on positivity.

# A combinatorial perspective on positivity

(B. & Steingrímsson '21)

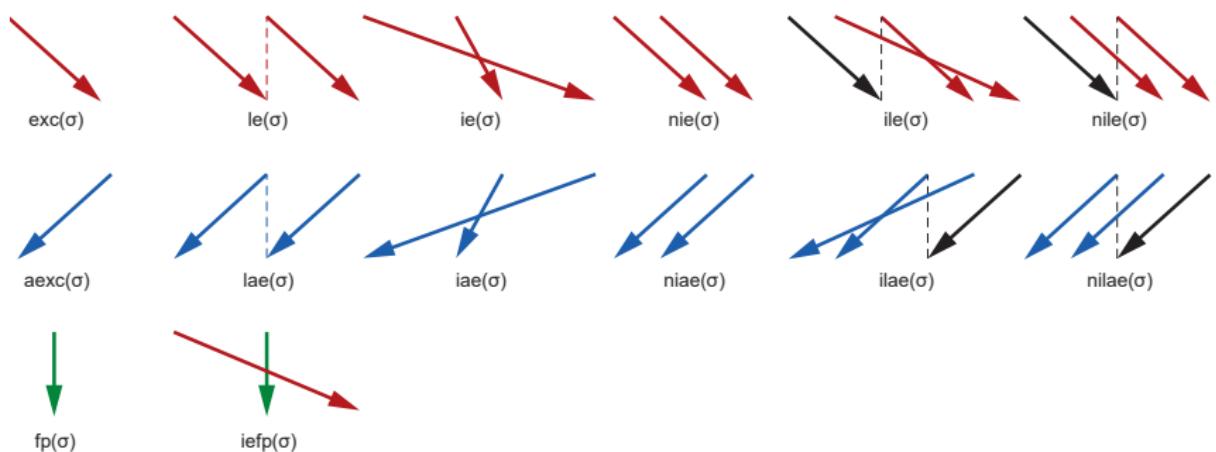
Represent  $\sigma \in S_n$  in 2-line notation:  $i$  [top]  $\mapsto \sigma(i)$  [bottom]



$$\sigma = 597126843$$

## Definition (B. & Steingrímsson '21)

For  $\sigma \in S_n$ ,



**Definition** For parameters  $a, b, c, d, f, g, h, \ell, p, r, s, t, u, w \in \mathbb{R}$ , let

$$\mathcal{C}(z) = \mathcal{C}_{a,b,c,d,f,g,h,\ell,p,r,s,t,u,w}(z) := \frac{1}{1 - \alpha_0 z - \frac{\beta_1 z^2}{1 - \alpha_1 z - \frac{\beta_2 z^2}{\ddots}}}$$

with

$$\alpha_n = u w^n + s [n]_{a,b} + t [n]_{f,g}, \quad \beta_n = p r [n]_{c,d} [n]_{h,\ell}.$$

where  $[n]_{x,y} = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} x^k y^{n-1-k}$ . (For  $x \neq y$ ,  $[n]_{x,y} = \frac{x^n - y^n}{x - y}$ .)

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{C}(z) = \mathcal{C}_{a,b,c,d,f,g,h,\ell,p,r,s,t,u,w}(z) : &= \frac{1}{1 - \alpha_0 z - \frac{\beta_1 z^2}{1 - \alpha_1 z - \frac{\beta_2 z^2}{\ddots}}} \\ &= m_0 + m_1 z + m_2 z^2 + \dots\end{aligned}$$

with

$$\alpha_n = u w^n + s [n]_{a,b} + t [n]_{f,g}, \quad \beta_n = p r [n]_{c,d} [n]_{h,\ell} > 0$$

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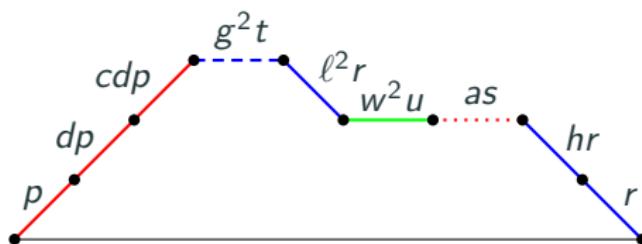
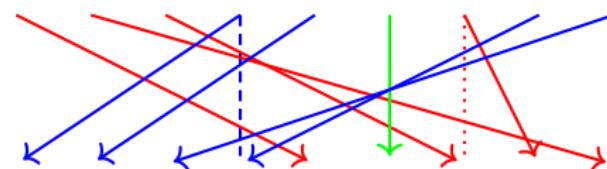
**Theorem (B.-Steingrímsson, 2021)** As formal power series,

$$\mathcal{C}(z) =$$

$$\begin{aligned}&\sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n} a^{\text{ile}(\sigma)} b^{\text{nile}(\sigma)} c^{\text{ie}(\sigma) - \text{ile}(\sigma)} d^{\text{nie}(\sigma) - \text{nile}(\sigma)} f^{\text{ilae}(\sigma)} g^{\text{nilae}(\sigma)} h^{\text{iae}(\sigma) - \text{ilae}(\sigma)} \\ &\times \ell^{\text{niae}(\sigma) - \text{nilae}(\sigma)} p^{\text{exc}(\sigma) - \text{le}(\sigma)} r^{\text{aexc}(\sigma) - \text{lae}(\sigma)} s^{\text{le}(\sigma)} t^{\text{lae}(\sigma)} u^{\text{fp}(\sigma)} w^{\text{iefp}(\sigma)} z^n.\end{aligned}$$

# Proof.

Exhibit a bijection:





$\in$  bijection

Related to/extends:

Françon-Viennot 1979

Foata-Zeilberger 1990

Biane 1993

de Médicis-Viennot 1994

Simion-Stanton 1994

Clarke-Steingrímsson-Zeng 1996

Randrianarivony 1998

Elizalde 2018

Contemporaneous: Sokal & Zeng 2020 (arXiv:2003.08192, 122 p.).



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Research

Lancaster, 6-10 June 2022

## Quick example

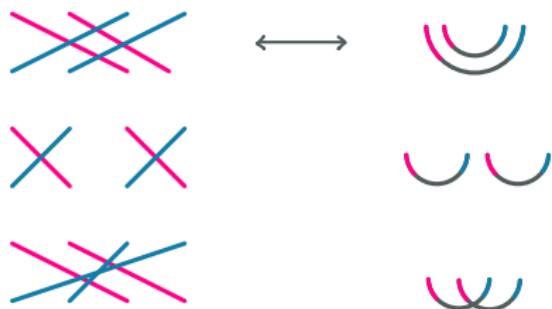
$$c = s = t = u = 0, a = b = d = f = g = \ell = w = p = r = 1.$$

Free parameter:  $h$ .

No: fixed points, linked excedances, linked antiexcedances, inversions among excedances.

Yes:  $h^{\#\text{inversions among anti-excedances}}$

$n = 4$ :



## Another quick example

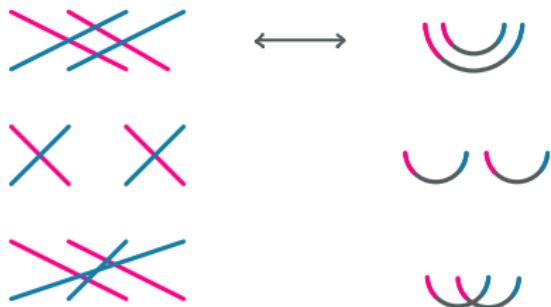
$$c = s = t = u = 0, a = b = d = f = g = w = p = r = 1.$$

Free parameters:  $h, \ell$ .

No: fixed points, linked excedances, linked antiexcedances, inversions among excedances.

Yes:  $h^{\#\text{inversions among anti-excedances}} \ell^{\#\text{restricted non-inversions among anti-excedances}}$

$n = 4$ :



## More examples

Set partitions by # blocks (Stirling, second kind)	$\longleftrightarrow$	Poisson
Non-crossing set partitions by # blocks (Narayana)		Free Poisson (Marchenko-Pastur)
Eulerian polynomials $\sum_{\sigma} q^{\text{des}(\sigma)}$		Geometric
Derangements		e.g. Martin & Kearney '15
Alternating permutations		Sokal '18
Little Schroeder numbers		Młotowski & Penson '13

# Positivity

Fix  $a, b, c, d, f, g, h, \ell, p, r, s, t, u, w \in \mathbb{R}$  and let

$$m_n = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} a^{\text{ile}(\sigma)} b^{\text{nile}(\sigma)} c^{\text{ie}(\sigma) - \text{ile}(\sigma)} d^{\text{nie}(\sigma) - \text{nile}(\sigma)} f^{\text{ilae}(\sigma)} g^{\text{nilae}(\sigma)} h^{\text{iae}(\sigma) - \text{ilae}(\sigma)} \\ \times \ell^{\text{niae}(\sigma) - \text{nilae}(\sigma)} p^{\text{exc}(\sigma) - \text{le}(\sigma)} r^{\text{aexc}(\sigma) - \text{lae}(\sigma)} s^{\text{le}(\sigma)} t^{\text{lae}(\sigma)} u^{\text{fp}(\sigma)} w^{\text{iefp}(\sigma)}.$$

Is  $(m_n)$  a moment sequence of some positive Borel measure on  $\mathbb{R}$ ?

$$\mathcal{C}(z) = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha_0 z - \frac{\beta_1 z^2}{1 - \alpha_1 z - \frac{\beta_2 z^2}{\ddots}}} = m_0 + m_1 z + m_2 z^2 + \dots$$

with

$$\alpha_n = u w^n + s [n]_{a,b} + t [n]_{f,g}, \quad \beta_n = p r [n]_{c,d} [n]_{h,\ell}$$

## Answer:

If  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{k-1} > 0$  and  $\beta_n = 0$  for all  $n \geq k$ , measure supported on  $k$  elements.

If  $\beta_n > 0$  for all  $n$ , measure exists (need not be unique).

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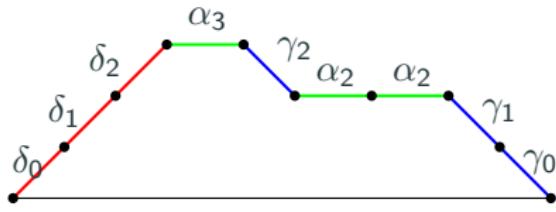
Perspective 1: Hamburger moment problem

$$H_n = \det \begin{bmatrix} m_0 & m_1 & \dots & m_n \\ m_1 & m_2 & \dots & m_{n+1} \\ \vdots & & & \vdots \\ m_n & m_{n+1} & \dots & m_{2n} \end{bmatrix} = (\beta_1)^n (\beta_2)^{n-1} \dots (\beta_{n-1})^2 \beta_n > 0$$

E.g. Partitions of  $[n]$ :  $e_n = \sum_{\pi} x^{\#\text{blocks}(\pi)}$ . Then,  $H_n = x^{\binom{n+1}{2}} \prod_{k=1}^n k!$

E.g. Derangements of  $[n]$ :  $d_n = \#\{ \sigma \in S_n \mid \text{fp}(\sigma) = 0 \}$ .  $H_n = \prod_{k=1}^n (k!)^2$

## Perspective 2: tridiagonal operators



Summing over all weighted Motzkin paths  $p$  of length  $n$ :

$$\sum_p \text{wt}(p) = \langle A^n e_0, e_0 \rangle$$

where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 & \delta_1 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \gamma_1 & \alpha_1 & \delta_2 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & \gamma_2 & \alpha_2 & \delta_3 & \dots \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & \end{bmatrix}$$

When  $\delta_n \gamma_n \geq 0$  for all  $n$ , can symmetrize (redistribute weights):

$$\sum_p \text{wt}(p) = \langle A^n e_0, e_0 \rangle = \langle \tilde{A}^n e_0, e_0 \rangle$$

$$\tilde{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 & \sqrt{\delta_1\gamma_1} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \sqrt{\delta_1\gamma_1} & \alpha_1 & \sqrt{\delta_2\gamma_2} & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & \sqrt{\delta_2\gamma_2} & \alpha_2 & \sqrt{\delta_3\gamma_3} & \dots \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & \end{bmatrix}$$

Bounded case: self-adjoint extension and the spectral theorem.  
In the unbounded case, may not have uniqueness.

---

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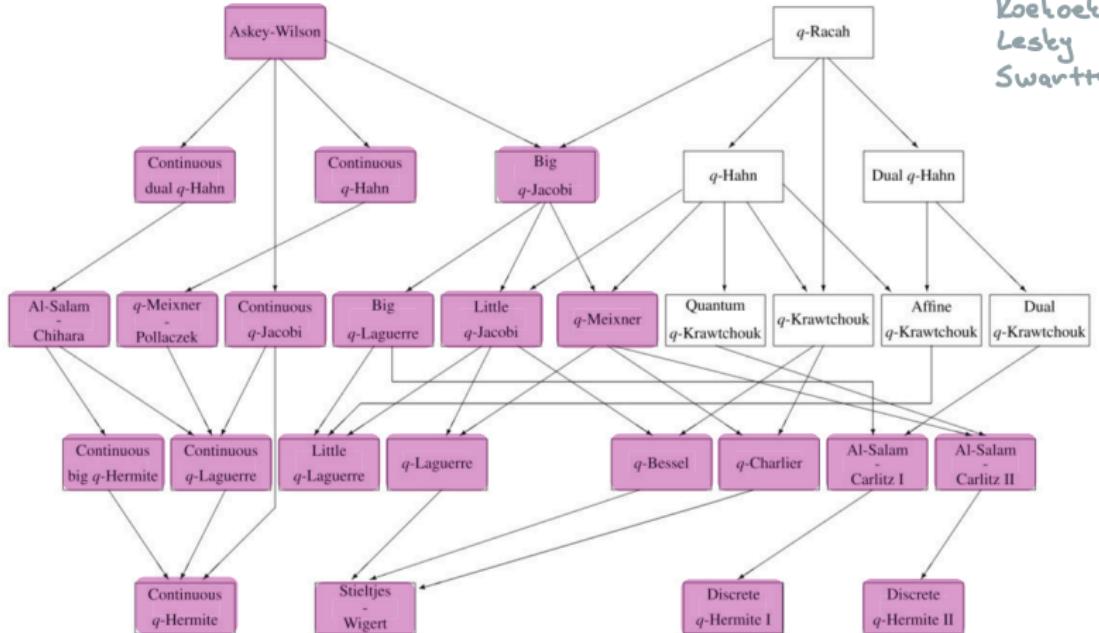
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### Perspective 3: Orthogonal polynomials

$$P_0(x) = 1, P_1(x) = x - \alpha_0, P_{n+1}(x) = (x - \alpha_n)P_n(x) - \beta_n P_{n-1}(x)$$

Stieltjes, Favard, Shohat, ...

# Consequences: (1) New Interpretations

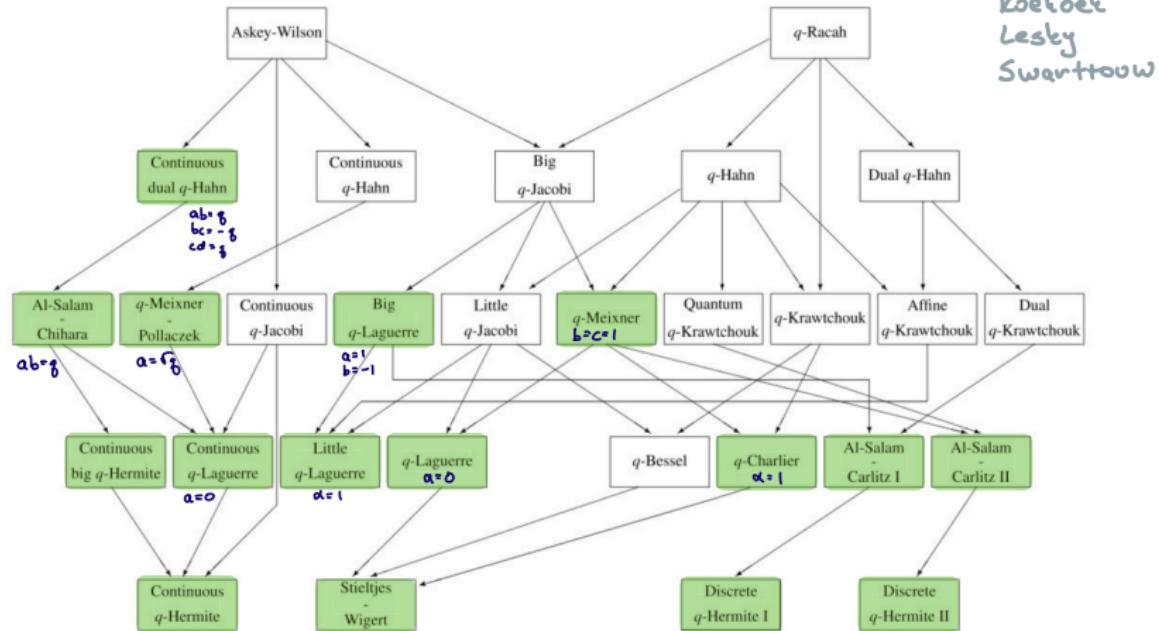


Koelkoek  
Lesky  
Swarttouw

Corteel & Williams '11/'12:

$$m_n = \frac{(abcd; q)_\infty}{(q, ab, ac, ad, bc, bd, cd; q)_\infty} \sum_{\ell=0}^n (-1)^{n-\ell} \binom{n}{\ell} \left(\frac{1-q}{2}\right)^\ell \frac{Z_\ell}{\prod_{i=0}^{\ell-1} (\alpha\beta - \gamma\delta q^i)}.$$

## Consequences: (1) New Interpretations



$$m_n = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} a^{\text{ile}(\sigma)} b^{\text{nile}(\sigma)} c^{\text{ie}(\sigma) - \text{ile}(\sigma)} d^{\text{nie}(\sigma) - \text{nile}(\sigma)} f^{\text{ila}e(\sigma)} g^{\text{nilae}(\sigma)} h^{\text{iae}(\sigma) - \text{ila}e(\sigma)}$$

$$\times \ell^{\text{niae}(\sigma) - \text{nilae}(\sigma)} p^{\text{exc}(\sigma) - \text{le}(\sigma)} r^{\text{aexc}(\sigma) - \text{lae}(\sigma)} s^{\text{le}(\sigma)} t^{\text{lae}(\sigma)} u^{\text{fp}(\sigma)} w^{\text{iefp}(\sigma)} z^n.$$

Koeloeck  
Lesley  
Swarttouw

## (2) New lines of attack

**Definition.** Permutation pattern:  $\pi \in S_n$  and a containment rule

Example:  $\pi = 1324$  classical, consecutive, or vincular



$\sigma_1$



Classical

$\sigma_2$



Consecutive

$\sigma_3$



Vincular 13 – 24

Let  $\text{Av}_\pi(n) := \#$  permutations on  $[n]$  **avoiding**  $\pi$ .

**Theorem (Simion & Schmidt '85).**

For any classical pattern  $\pi$  of length 3,

$$\text{Av}_\pi(n) = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}.$$

**Conjecture (Stanley-Wilf) / Theorem (Marcus & Tardos '04)**

$$(\text{Av}_\pi(n))^{1/n} \rightarrow c_\pi > 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Only 3 symmetry classes for patterns of length 4:

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Only 3 symmetry classes for patterns of length 4:

1234 Gessel '90 (exact) | 1342 Bona '97 (exact) | 1324 wide open,  $c = ?$

**Theorem (Rains '98).** Let  $\pi = 123\dots k$  classical ( $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ). Then,

$$\text{Av}_\pi(n) = \mathbb{E}_{U \in \mathbb{U}(k)}(|\text{Tr}(U)^2|^n).$$

**Conjecture (B. & Steingrímsson, Elvey Price's PhD Thesis for 1324).**  
For any classical pattern  $\pi$ ,  $(\text{Av}_\pi(n))_n$  is a moment sequence.

Numerical evidence for patterns of length 4: **Bostan, Elvey Price,  
Guttmann, Maillard '20**

Numerical evidence for patterns of length 5: **Clisby, Conway, Guttmann,  
Inoue '21+**

$$\mathcal{C}(z) = \mathcal{C}_{a,b,c,d,f,g,h,\ell,p,r,s,t,u,w}(z) := \cfrac{1}{1 - \alpha_0 z - \cfrac{\beta_1 z^2}{1 - \alpha_1 z - \cfrac{\beta_2 z^2}{\ddots}}}$$

with

$$\alpha_n = u w^n + s [n]_{a,b} + t [n]_{f,g}, \quad \beta_n = p r [n]_{c,d} [n]_{h,\ell}.$$

**Theorem (B. & Steingrímsson, '21)** For any pattern of length 3 (classical, consecutive, vincular),  $(\text{Av}_\pi(n))_n$  is a moment sequence  
 $\iff \sum_{n \geq 0} \text{Av}_\pi(n) z^n$  is a special case of  $\mathcal{C}(z)$ .

Refines further:

**Theorem** Set  $s = qx, p = x$ , all other parameters = 1,

$$\mathcal{C}(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} x^{\text{des}(\sigma)} q^{\text{occ}_{321}(\sigma)} z^n.$$

(Previously in Elizalde '17.)

**Theorem** Set  $b = d = g = l = q, s = qx, p = u = x$  all other parameters = 1,

$$\mathcal{C}(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} x^{\text{des}(\sigma)+1} q^{\text{occ}_{2-31}(\sigma)} z^n.$$

(Previously in Claesson & Mansour '02.)

Further work in progress with Slim Kammoun and Einar Steingrímsson.

### (3) New definitions

#### Definition (B. & Steinr  msson '21)

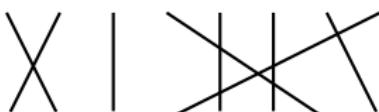
**$k$ -arrangement:**  $\sigma \in S_n$  and a  $k$ -coloring of the fixed points in  $\sigma$  ( $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$ )

$k = 0$



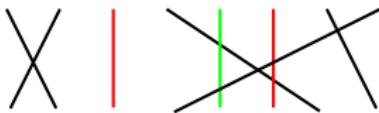
Derangements

$k = 1$



Permutations

$k = 2$



Arrangements (Comtet '74)

Decorated permutations  
(Postnikov '06)

Same form of CF, replace  $uw^n$  by  $(u_1 + \dots + u_k)w^n$ .

~ Same 14 statistics + distinguishes the color of the fixed points.

$$A_k(n) := \begin{cases} 1, & n = 0 \\ \#\text{$k$-arrangements on } [n], & n \in \mathbb{N} \end{cases}.$$

Easy Proposition:

- $A_k(n) = nA_k(n-1) + (k-1)^n.$
- $A_k(n) = \text{perm} \begin{bmatrix} k & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & k & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & k & \cdots & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & k \end{bmatrix}.$
- $A_k(n) = \sum_{i \geq 0} \binom{n}{i} A_{k-1}(i).$

Fix a classical permutation pattern  $\pi$  of length 3. Let:

$$\text{Av}_\pi(n; k) := \#k\text{-arrangements on } [n] \text{ avoiding } \pi.$$

**Proposition (Simion & Schmidt '85)**

$$\text{Av}_\pi(n; 1) = C_n = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$$

**Proposition (B. & Steingrímsson '21)**

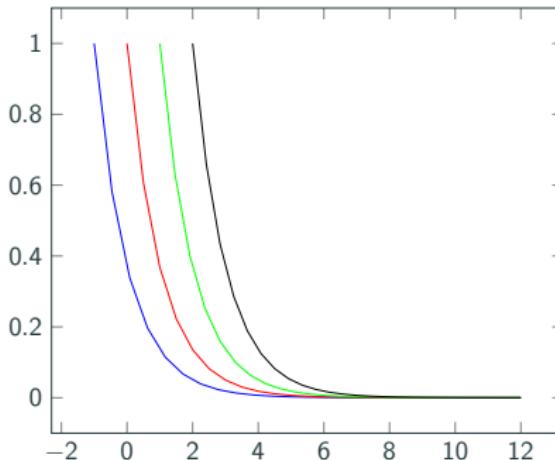
$$\text{Av}_\pi(n; 2) = C_{n+1}$$

~~Conjecture (B. & Steingrímsson '21)~~ **Theorem (Fu, Han, Lin '20)**

$$\text{Av}_\pi(n; 3) = C_{n+2} - 2^n$$

## Proposition (B. & Steingrímsson, '21)

$$\#k\text{-arrangements on } [n] = \int_{k-1}^{\infty} x^n e^{-x+(k-1)} dx$$



Positivity previously observed for:

- $k = 0$ : Martin & Kearney '15
- $k = 2$ : Ardila, Rincón, Williams '16 (# positroids)

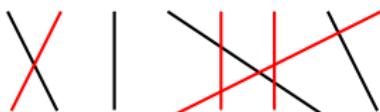
## (4) Further generalizations

$S_n$



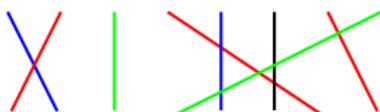
Permutations

$B_n$



Signed permutations

$\mathbb{Z}_k \wr S_n$



$k$ -colored permutations

**Steingrímsson '94** defines fixed points, excedances, anti-excedances, and inversions.

**Corollary (B. & Steinrímsson '21)**

For  $s = p = kx$ ,  $t = r = ky$ ,  $u = (k - 1)x + q$  (all other parameters = 1),

$$\mathcal{C}(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n^k} x^{\text{exc}(\sigma)} y^{\text{aexc}(\sigma)} q^{\text{fxt}(\sigma)} z^n.$$

(Refines further.)

**Corollary (B. & Steinrímsson '21)**

For  $a = c = h = r = q$ ,  $b = f = d = \ell = t = q^2$ ,  $g = w = 0$ ,  $p = u = 1$ ,  
 $s = 2q$ ,

$$\mathcal{C}(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n^k} q^{\text{inv}(\sigma)} z^n.$$

Recovers Biane '93 for  $k = 1$ .

# Conclusion (for now)

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Multiparameter combinatorial frameworks can:

- unite
- distinguish
- explain
- suggest new definitions and
- new points of view on familiar things

THANK YOU

LEVERHULME  
TRUST \_\_\_\_\_

