

Steep tilings and sequences of interlaced partitions

Jérémie Bouttier

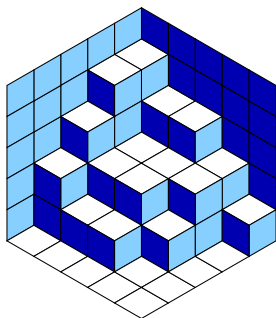
Joint work with Guillaume Chapuy and Sylvie Corteel
arXiv:1407.0665

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Integrability and Representation Theory seminar
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Introduction

Rhombus tiling

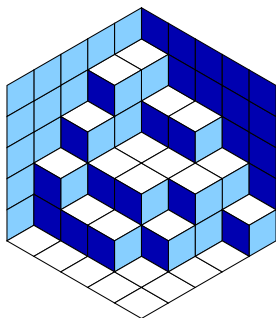


Plane partition

4	3	3	2	1
4	2	2	2	
3	2	2	1	
2	1	1		

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Sequence of interlaced partitions

2	\curvearrowright	3	\curvearrowright	4	\curvearrowright	4	\curvearrowright	3	\curvearrowright	3	\curvearrowright	2	\curvearrowright	1
		1		1		2		1		2				

Introduction

An (integer) **partition** λ is a finite non-increasing sequence of integers

$$\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \lambda_3 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_\ell > 0$$

(By convention we set $\lambda_i = 0$ for $i \geq \ell$.)

We say that λ and μ are (horizontally) **interlaced**, and denote $\lambda \succ \mu$, iff

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Plane partitions correspond to sequences of interlaced partitions:

$$\cdots \lambda^{(-2)} \prec \lambda^{(-1)} \prec \lambda^{(0)} \succ \lambda^{(1)} \succ \lambda^{(2)} \succ \cdots$$

with $\lambda^{(i)} = \emptyset$ for $|i|$ large enough.

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$$\left(s_{\lambda^{(0)}}(q^{1/2}, q^{3/2}, q^{5/2}, \dots) \right)^2.$$

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How about tilings made of dominos instead of rhombi?

Motivations

In general:

- statistical mechanics: rhombus/domino tilings = dimer model on honeycomb/square lattice
- enumerative combinatorics: beautiful enumeration formulas
- probability theory: determinantal correlations, limit shape phenomena, interesting limiting processes related to random matrices
- algebraic geometry: Donaldson-Thomas theory

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For our specific work: understand precisely the connection between domino tilings and interlaced partitions, implicitly hinted at in works of Johansson, Borodin, etc. Have fun with “vertex operators” (a recreation after a reading group on the works from the Kyoto school: solitons, infinite dimensional Lie algebras and all that).

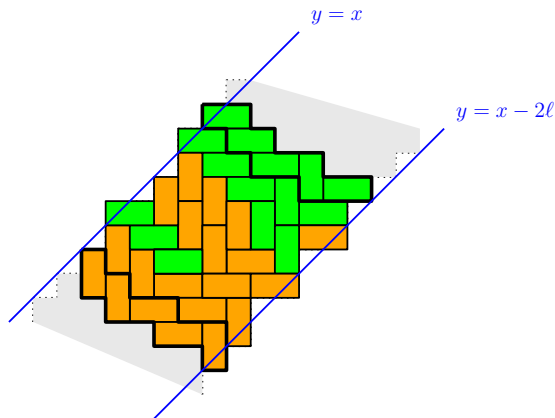
Outline

- 1 Steep tilings
- 2 Bijection with sequences of interlaced partitions
- 3 Enumeration via the vertex operator formalism

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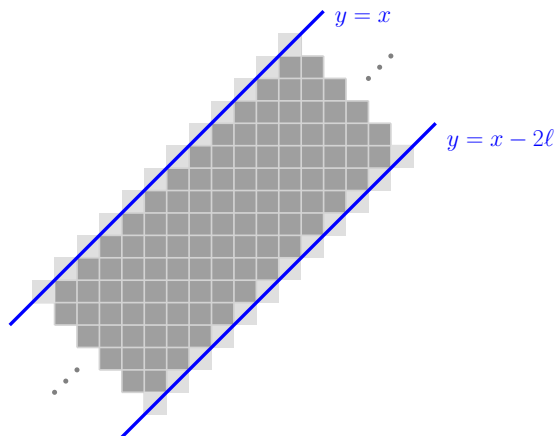
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Steep tilings



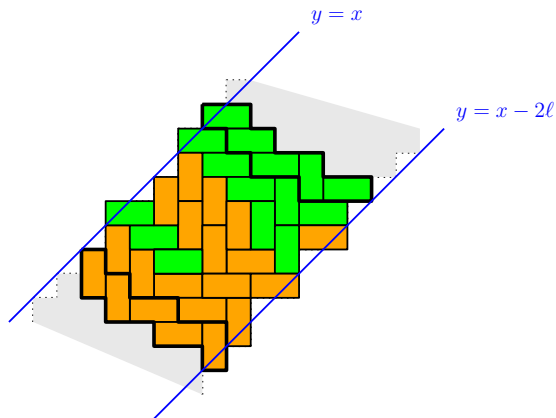
- A domino tiling of the oblique strip $x - 2l \leq y \leq x$
- Steepness condition: we eventually find only north or east dominos in the NE direction, south or west in the SW direction.

Steep tilings



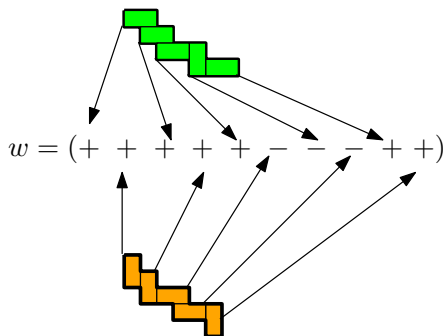
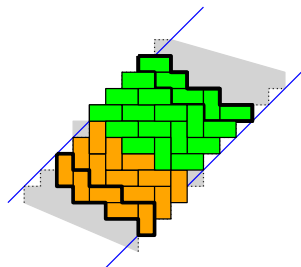
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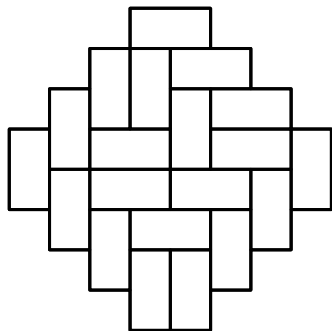
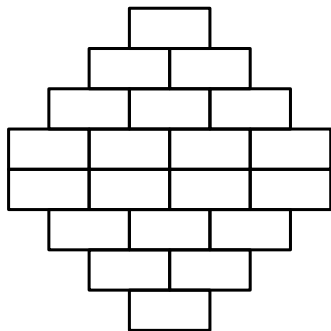
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Steep tilings



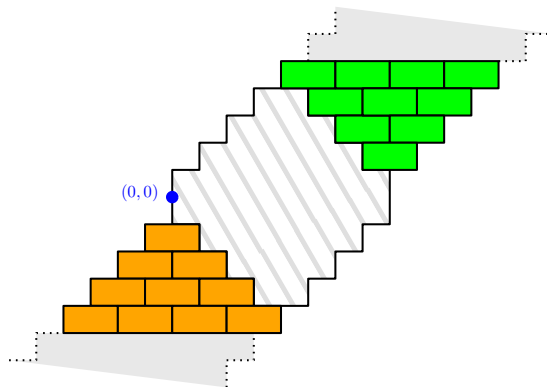
The steepness condition implies that the tiling is eventually periodic in both directions. The two repeated patterns define the **asymptotic data** $w \in \{+, -\}^{2\ell}$ of the tiling. For fixed w there is a unique (up to translation) **minimal tiling** which is periodic from the start.

Examples



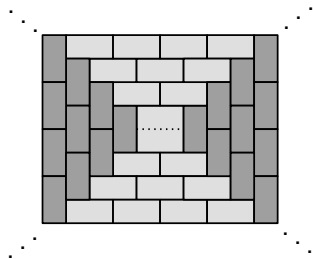
Domino tilings of the Aztec diamond [Elkies *et al.*]

Examples

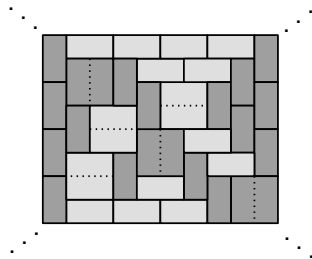


Domino tilings of the Aztec diamond [Elkies *et al.*] correspond to steep tilings with asymptotic data $+ - + - + - + - \dots$

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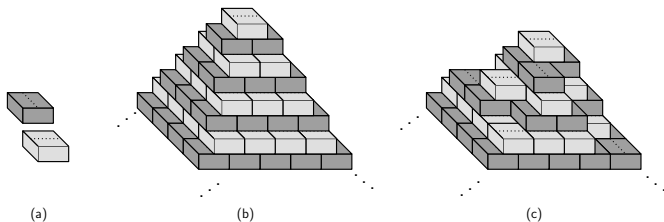
(a)



(b)

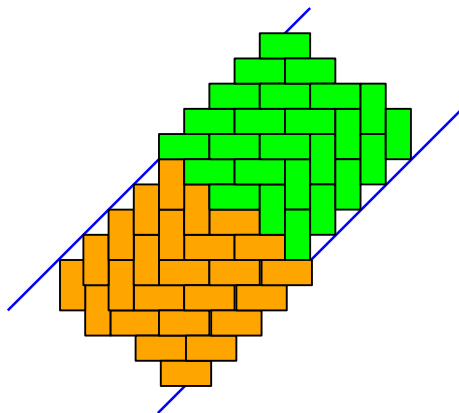
Pyramid partitions [Kenyon, Szendrői, Young]

Examples



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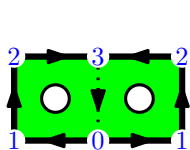


Pyramid partitions [Kenyon, Szendrői, Young] correspond to steep tilings with asymptotic data $\dots + + + + + - - - - - \dots$

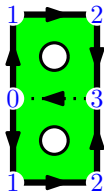
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- 2 Bijection with sequences of interlaced partitions**
- 3 Enumeration via the vertex operator formalism

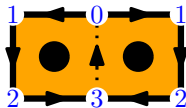
Particle configurations



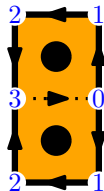
N



E



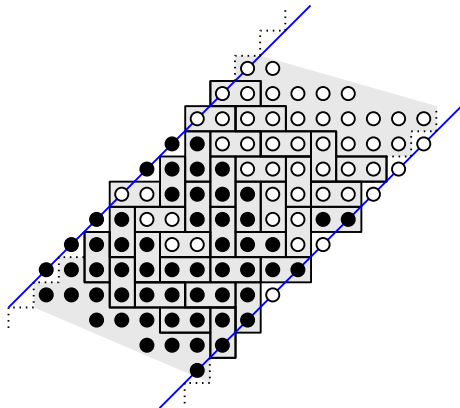
S



W

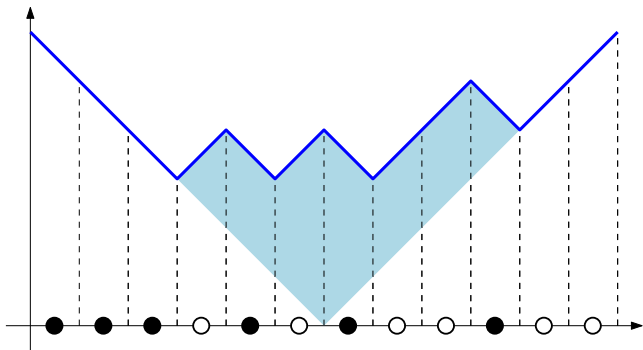
To each step tiling we may associate a **particle configuration** by filling each square covered by a N or E domino with a white particle, and each square covered by a S or W domino with a black particle.

Particle configurations



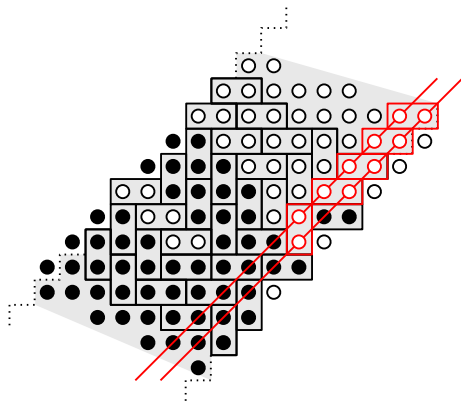
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Integer partitions



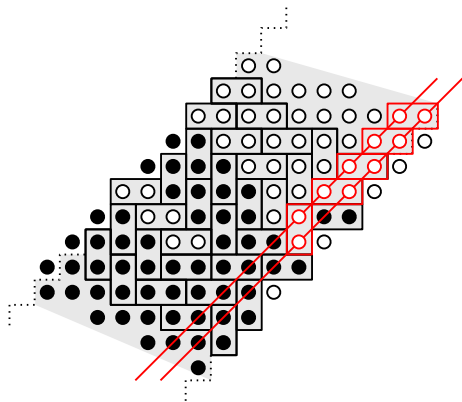
Particles along a diagonal form a “Maya diagram” which codes an integer partition (here 421).

Interlacing of particles



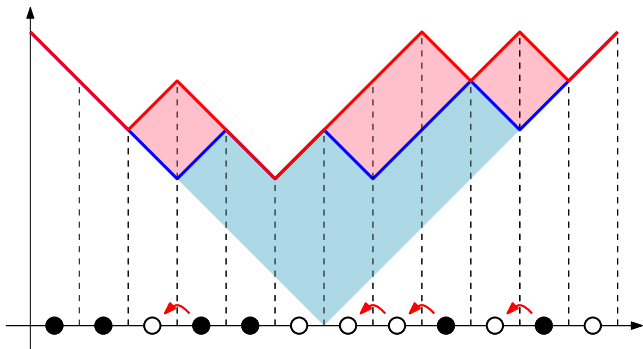
Between two successive even/odd diagonals, the white particles must be adjacent.

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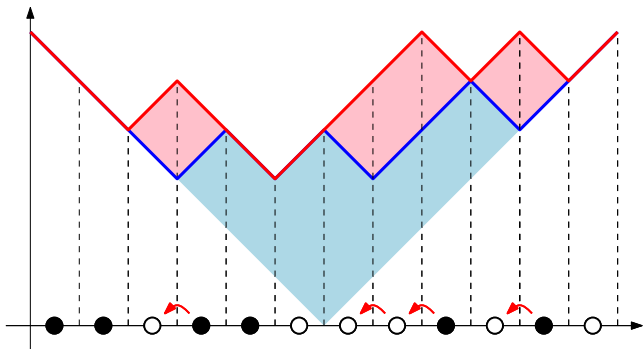
Between two successive even/odd diagonals, the white particles must be adjacent. Conversely, between two successive odd/even diagonals, the black particles must be adjacent.

Interlacing of partitions



Between two successive even/odd diagonals, a finite number of white particles can be moved one site to the left (+) or to the right (-) in the Maya diagram (depending on asymptotic data). This corresponds to adding/removing a **horizontal strip** to the associated partition.

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Interlacing of partitions

For λ, μ two integer partitions, the following are equivalent:

- λ/μ is a horizontal strip,
- $\lambda_1 \geq \mu_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \mu_2 \geq \lambda_3 \geq \dots$,
- $\lambda'_i - \mu'_i \in \{0, 1\}$ for all i .

Notation: $\lambda \succ \mu$ or $\mu \prec \lambda$.

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Similarly, the following are equivalent:

- λ/μ is a vertical strip,
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Notation: $\lambda \succ' \mu$ or $\mu \prec' \lambda$.

The fundamental bijection

For a fixed word $w \in \{+, -\}^{2\ell}$, there is a one-to-one correspondence between steep tilings of asymptotic data w and sequences of partitions $(\lambda^{(0)}, \lambda^{(1)}, \dots, \lambda^{(2\ell)})$ satisfying for all $k = 1, \dots, \ell$:

- $\lambda^{(2k-2)} \prec \lambda^{(2k-1)}$ if $w_{2k-1} = +$, and $\lambda^{(2k-2)} \succ \lambda^{(2k-1)}$ if $w_{2k-1} = -$,
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Examples:

- Aztec diamond:

$$\emptyset = \lambda^{(0)} \prec \lambda^{(1)} \succ' \lambda^{(2)} \prec \lambda^{(3)} \succ' \lambda^{(4)} \prec \dots \succ' \lambda^{(2\ell)} = \emptyset,$$

- Pyramid partitions:

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The size of $\lambda^{(m)}$ is equal to the number of **flips** on diagonal m in any shortest sequence of flips between the tiling at hand and the minimal tiling.

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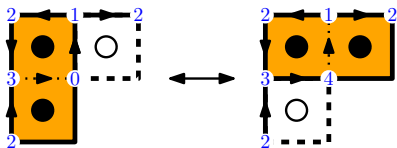
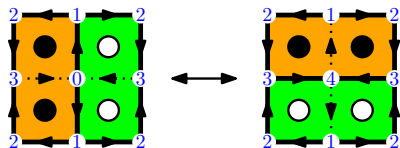
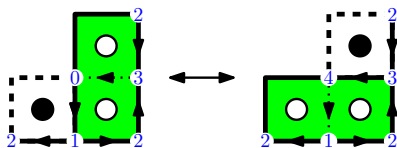
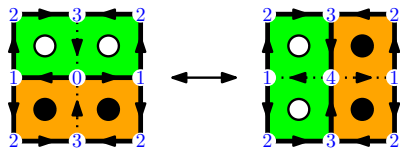
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The size of $\lambda^{(m)}$ is equal to the number of **flips** on diagonal m in any shortest sequence of flips between the tiling at hand and the minimal tiling. Under natural statistics we obtain a **Schur process** [Okounkov-Reshetikhin].

Flips



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Transfer matrices

Enumerating sequences of interlaced partitions is done via transfer matrices, which are here “vertex operators”:

$$\langle \lambda | \Gamma_+(t) | \mu \rangle = \langle \mu | \Gamma_-(t) | \lambda \rangle = \begin{cases} t^{|\mu| - |\lambda|} & \text{if } \lambda \prec \mu \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
$$\langle \lambda | \Gamma'_+(t) | \mu \rangle = \langle \mu | \Gamma'_-(t) | \lambda \rangle = \begin{cases} t^{|\mu| - |\lambda|} & \text{if } \lambda \prec' \mu \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Example: Aztec diamond:

$$\langle \emptyset | \Gamma_+(z_1) \Gamma'_-(z_2) \Gamma_+(z_3) \Gamma'_-(z_4) \cdots | \emptyset \rangle$$

Bosonic representation

The transfer matrices can be rewritten as

$$\Gamma_{\pm}(t) = \exp \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{t^k}{k} \alpha_{\pm k}, \quad \Gamma'_{\pm}(t) = \exp \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{(-1)^{k-1} t^k}{k} \alpha_{\pm k}$$

where $[\alpha_n, \alpha_m] = n\delta_{n+m}$.

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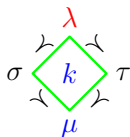
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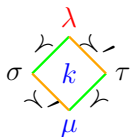
where $[\alpha_n, \alpha_m] = n\delta_{n+m}$. This implies that Γ 's with the same sign commute, and that we have the following nontrivial commutation relations:

$$\Gamma_+(t)\Gamma_-(u) = \frac{1}{1-tu}\Gamma_-(u)\Gamma_+(t)$$

$$\Gamma_+(t)\Gamma'_-(u) = (1+tu)\Gamma'_-(u)\Gamma_+(t)$$



$$k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$



$$k = 0, 1$$

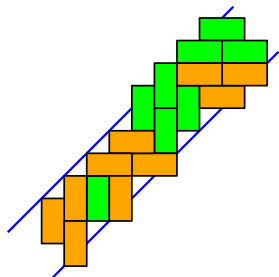
Super Schur functions

When w consists only of $+$'s, the partition function with fixed boundary conditions is a so-called **super Schur function**

$$\langle \mu | \Gamma_+(x_1) \Gamma'_+(y_1) \Gamma_+(x_2) \Gamma'_+(y_2) \cdots | \lambda \rangle = S_{\lambda/\mu}(x_1, x_2, \dots; y_1, y_2, \dots).$$

Super Schur functions may be combinatorially defined in terms of super semistandard tableaux or (reverse) plane overpartitions:

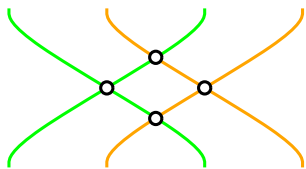
$$\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 1 & \bar{1} & \bar{2} \\ \bar{1} & 2 & 2 & \bar{2} \\ \bar{1} & \bar{2} & & \\ 2 & & & \end{array}$$



Pure steep tilings

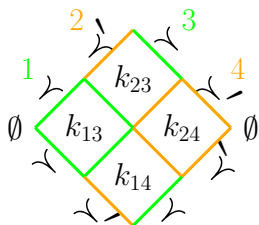
For general asymptotic data and “pure” ($\langle \emptyset |$ and $|\emptyset \rangle$) boundary conditions the partition function is readily evaluated from the commutation relations.

$$\langle \emptyset | \Gamma_+(z_1) \Gamma'_+(z_2) \Gamma_-(z_3) \Gamma'_-(z_4) | \emptyset \rangle =$$



$$\langle \emptyset | \Gamma_-(z_3) \Gamma'_-(z_4) \Gamma_+(z_1) \Gamma'_+(z_2) | \emptyset \rangle \times$$

$$\frac{(1 + z_1 z_4)(1 + z_2 z_3)}{(1 - z_1 z_3)(1 - z_2 z_4)}$$



$$k_{13}, k_{24} = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

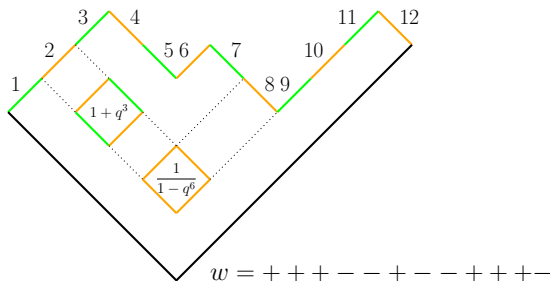
$$k_{23}, k_{14} = 0, 1$$

Equivalently we have a RSK-type bijection between pure steep tilings and suitable fillings of the Young diagram associated with w .

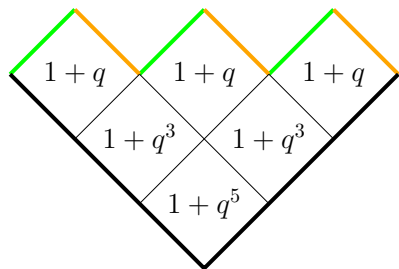
Pure steep tilings

For a general word w and the “ q^{flip} ” specialization, the partition function of pure steep tilings is given by a hook-length type formula:

$$T_w(q) = \prod_{\substack{1 \leq i < j \leq 2\ell \\ w_i = +, w_j = -}} \varphi_{i,j}(q^{j-i}), \quad \varphi_{i,j}(x) = \begin{cases} 1+x & \text{if } j-i \text{ odd} \\ 1/(1-x) & \text{if } j-i \text{ even} \end{cases}$$

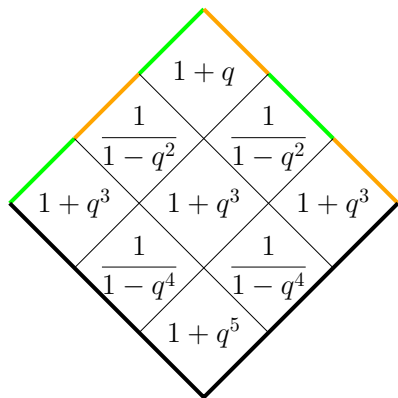


Aztec diamonds and pyramids



Aztec diamond $w = + - + - + -$
 [Elkies *et al.*, Stanley]

$$T_w(q) = (1+q)^3(1+q^3)^2(1+q^5)$$



Pyramid partitions $w = + + + - - -$.
 Case $\ell \rightarrow \infty$ [Young]:

$$T_w(q) = \prod_{k \geq 1} \frac{(1+q^{2k-1})^{2k-1}}{(1-q^{2k})^{2k}}$$

Free boundaries

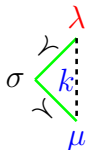
We may also obtain a closed-form formula for the partition function in the case of free boundary conditions

$$|\underline{\nu}\rangle = \sum_{\lambda} \nu^{|\lambda|} |\lambda\rangle$$

thanks to the “reflection relations”

$$\Gamma_+(t)|\underline{\nu}\rangle = \frac{1}{1-t\nu} \Gamma_-(t\nu^2)|\underline{\nu}\rangle$$

$$\Gamma'_+(t)|\underline{\nu}\rangle = \frac{1}{1-t\nu} \Gamma'_-(t\nu^2)|\underline{\nu}\rangle$$

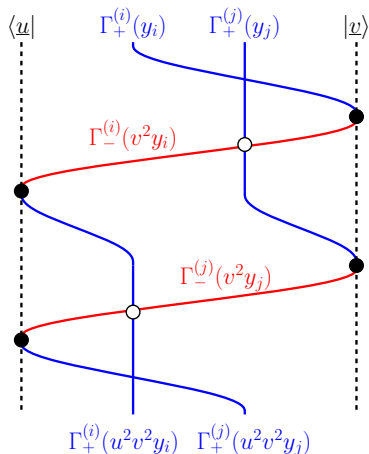


$$k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Free boundaries

Example: $w = + + + + \dots$

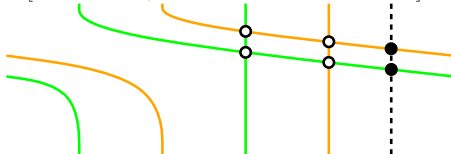
$$\langle \underline{u} | \Gamma_+(y_1) \Gamma'_+(y_2) \Gamma_+(y_3) \Gamma'_+(y_4) \cdots | \underline{v} \rangle = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{1 - u^k v^k} \prod_{i=1}^{2\ell} \frac{1}{1 - u^{k-1} v^k y_i} \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq 2\ell} \varphi_{i,j}(u^{2k-2} v^{2k} y_i y_j) \right)$$



Periodic boundary conditions

When identifying the left and right boundaries we obtain a cylindric steep tiling. The corresponding sequence of interlaced partitions form a periodic Schur process [Borodin].

The partition function may still be written as an infinite product.

$$\text{Tr} \left[\Gamma_+(z_1) \Gamma'_+(z_2) \Gamma_-(z_3) \Gamma'_-(z_4) q^H \right] =$$


$$\text{Tr} \left[\Gamma_+(qz_1) \Gamma'_+(qz_2) \Gamma_-(z_3) \Gamma'_-(z_4) q^H \right] \times$$

$$\frac{(1 + z_1 z_4)(1 + z_2 z_3)}{(1 - z_1 z_3)(1 - z_2 z_4)}$$

Example: $w = + + - -$

$$\text{Tr} \left[\Gamma_+(z_1) \Gamma'_+(z_2) \Gamma_-(z_3) \Gamma'_-(z_4) q^H \right] =$$

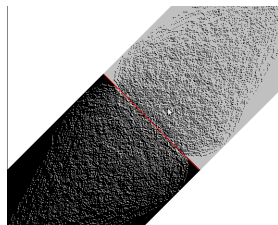
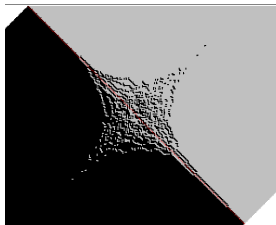
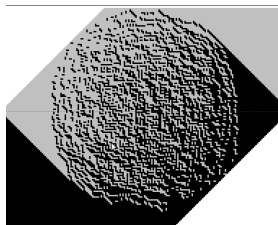
$$\prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 + q^{k-1} x_1 x_4)(1 + q^{k-1} x_2 x_3)}{(1 - q^k)(1 - q^{k-1} x_1 x_3)(1 - q^{k-1} x_2 x_4)}$$

Further work

- Correlation functions [joint with C. Boutillier and S. Ramassamy]:
 - ▶ straightforward to compute for particles in the pure case, thanks to their free fermionic nature
 - ▶ less trivially we deduce an explicit expression for the inverse Kasteleyn matrix, which yields domino correlations
 - ▶ more involved in the periodic case [Borodin], how about free boundary case?

Further work

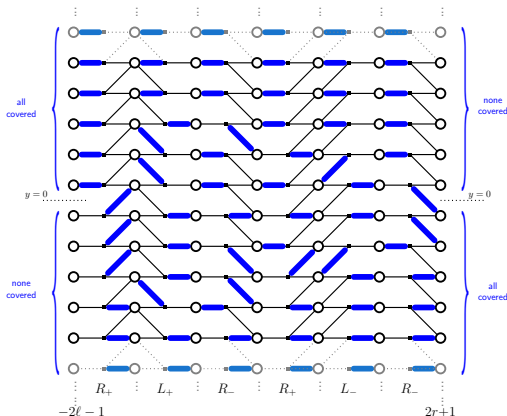
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- Random generation and limit shapes [joint with D. Betea and M. Vuletić]



Further work

More general setting
[BBCR]: **Rail Yard Graphs**
(interpolate between lozenge
and domino tilings)

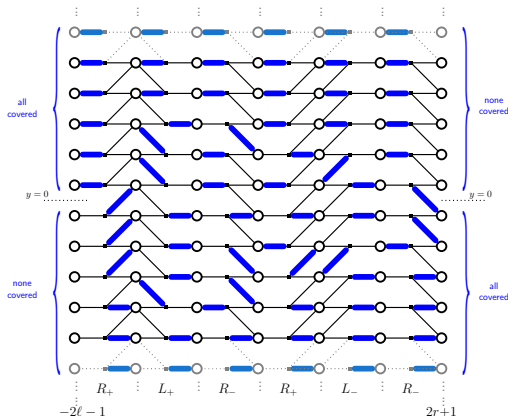
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- deformations? (e.g. Schur \rightarrow McDonald)



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Thanks for your attention!