Enumeration & generation of Young tableaux with walls: the density method

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3	10	5	6	12	16	13	14
1	2	4	7	8	9	11	15





Based on articles with Michael Wallner (TU Wien) & Philippe Marchal (LAGA, Univ. Paris-Nord):

[Gascom 2018], [Annals of Proba 2020], [FPSAC 2021]

Uniform random generation of combinatorial structures

Many approaches:

- ad hoc methods (& general principles: bijections, rejection, (un)ranking, etc.)
- Markov chain Monte Carlo algorithms, e.g. coupling from the past [Propp Wilson 1998]
- recursive method [Nijenhuis Wilf 1975, Flajolet Zimmermann Van Cutsem 1994, Denise Dutour Zimmermann 1998]
 - \rightsquigarrow packages in MuPAD/SageMath/Maple
- generating trees [West 1990, Dulucq Gire Guibert 1996, Barcucci Del Lungo Pergola Pinzani 1998,

Banderier Bousquet-Mélou Denise Flajolet Gardy Gouyou-Beauchamps 1998...]

- Boltzmann method [Duchon Flajolet Louchard Schaeffer 2002, Fusy Pivoteau Salvy Soria Bodini Ponty Dovgal Bendkowsky Dien Papin Bacher Sportiello Stuffer...]: the cherry on the cake of Flajolet's symbolic method!
- density method ~~ this talk!



Part I:

Enumerative and bijective results

7	18	19	12	21	20	17
2	6	8	9	10	14	16
1	3	4	5	11	13	15

We consider Young tableaux in which some pairs of (horizontally or vertically) consecutive cells are allowed to have decreasing labels. Places where a decrease is allowed (but not compulsory) are drawn by a red edge, which we call a "wall".

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Nice formulas for some specific tableaux of shape $n \times 2$:

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- vertical walls everywhere: $\binom{2n}{n} = \frac{(2n)!}{(n!)^2}$
- all k vertical walls: $\frac{1}{n+1} \binom{n+1}{k} \binom{2n}{n}$ (We give 2 proofs \bigcirc)

Proof #1: bijection with paths

Theorem

The number of $n \times 2$ Young tableaux \mathcal{Y} with k vertical walls is equal to

$$v_{n,k} = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{n+1}{k} \binom{2n}{n}.$$

<u>Proof:</u> (part 1) Bijection with Dyck bridges on \mathbb{Z} : steps ± 1 , length 2n, k marked down steps:



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- The *k*th step is an up step iff the entry *k* appears in the first column of \mathcal{Y} ; otherwise it is a down step.
- Down steps coming from a row with a wall are colored.



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• Down steps coming from a row with a wall are colored.

 \Rightarrow $v_{n,k}$ counts the number of paths with exactly k colored steps.



Proof #1: bijection with paths and Chung–Feller

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Proof (part 2):

=

- A down step below 0 is always colored because a wall has to be involved, a down step above 0 has a choice.
- By [Chung–Feller 49] the number of Dyck bridges of length 2*n* with *i* down steps below 0 is independent of *i* and equal to $Cat(n) = \frac{1}{n+1} {\binom{2n}{n}}$.

$$> v_{n,k} = \sum_{i=0}^{k} \binom{n-i}{k-i} \operatorname{Cat}(n) = \binom{n+1}{k} \operatorname{Cat}(n). \square$$

Theorem

$$v_n(u) := \sum_{k=0}^n v_{n,k} u^k = \operatorname{Cat}(n) \left((1+u)^{n+1} - u^{n+1} \right).$$

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Theorem

The GF for a fixed size n and an arbitrary number of walls is

$$v_n(u) := \sum_{k=0}^n v_{n,k} u^k = \operatorname{Cat}(n) \left((1+u)^{n+1} - u^{n+1} \right).$$



Open problem: combinatorial explanation of $Cat(k-1) | v_{n,k}$?

Closed form of $v_{n,k}$ also proves $\sum_{n\geq 0} v_{n,k} z^n = \operatorname{Cat}(k-1) \frac{z^{k-1}}{(1-4z)^{(2k-1)/2}}$.

Enumeration & generation of Young tableaux with walls: the density method

Long walls with small holes: hook-length type formulas

Holes of size 1 on the border



Theorem

The number of $n \times m$ Young tableaux of size mn with k walls from column 1 to m-1 at distance $0 < d_i := \sum_{i=1}^i \lambda_i < n$, i = 1, ..., k with $h_i < h_{i+1}$ is equal to

$$\frac{(m-1)!}{(mn+m-1)_{m-1}}\left(\prod_{i=1}^{k+1}\prod_{j=1}^{m-2}\binom{\lambda_i+j}{j}^{-1}\right)\left(\prod_{i=1}^{k+1}\binom{md_i+m-1}{\lambda_i,\ldots,\lambda_i}\right)$$

where the multinomial coefficients contain $m-1 \lambda_i$'s.

 $\xrightarrow{(6n)!n!}$ hook-length formulas to a give a combinatorial explanation of the integrality of $\frac{(6n)!n!}{(3n)!(2n)!^2}$ or $\frac{(30n)!n!}{(15n)!(10n)!(6n)}$? (alternative to the Landau criterion, 1900)

Larger holes lead to unusual asymptotics



Theorem

The number f_n of such Young tableaux of size $n \times 3$ satisfies

$$f_n = \Theta\left(n! \ 12^n e^{a_1(3n)^{1/3}} n^{-2/3}\right),$$

where $a_1 \approx -2.338$ is the largest root of the Airy function of the first kind.

- Bijections to phylogenetic networks, special words with *n* distinct letters, and related to compacted trees (special DAGs) [Fuchs-Yu-Zhang 21]
- General method to prove stretched exponentials in bivariate recurrences [Elvey Price-Fang-Wallner 21]. Here:

$$y_{n,k} = y_{n,k-1} + (2n+k-1)y_{n-1,k}$$
 and $f_n = y_{n,n}$

Part II:

The density method

- * far origins in poset theory (volume of polytopes, log-concavity) [Stanley 1981]
- * avatars in number theory [Zagier, Beukers Kolk Calabi 1993, Elkies 2003]
- * applied to square Young tableaux [Barishnikov 2001] and variants of alternating permutations [Baryshnikov Romik 2010, Stanley 2010]
- * generalized to further posets & random generation [Banderier Marchal Wallner 2016-2021]



Values of the zeta function and geometry

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{k\geq 1} \frac{1}{k^s} \rightarrow S(s) := \zeta(s)(1 - \frac{1}{2^s}) = \sum_{k\geq 0} \frac{1}{(2k+1)^s}$$

$$S(2) = \sum_{k\geq 0} \frac{1}{(2k+1)^2} = \sum_{k\geq 0} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 (xy)^{2k} = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \frac{dxdy}{1 - (xy)^2}$$

Change of variable $x = \frac{\sin u}{\cos v}$ and $y = \frac{\sin v}{\cos u}$. The integration domain becomes the triangle $T = \{u > 0, v > 0, u + v < \pi/2\}$.

$$S(2) = \int_T du dv = \pi^2/8$$

n even: $S(n) = \text{vol}(\text{polytope of dimension } n) = (\pi/2)^n / n! A(n)$

A(n) = # alternating permutations of length n.

→ Kontsevich–Zagier periods / "dimension" of a number / Hilbert 3rd problem (congruence of polytopes)

Uniform random generation and enumeration



This example is "without loss of generality" (i.e., our method works also for non-periodic shapes).

How to generate/enumerate such tableaux? Brute-force is hopeless!

Uniform random generation and enumeration



This example is "without loss of generality" (i.e., our method works also for non-periodic shapes). 😄

How to generate/enumerate such tableaux? Brute-force is hopeless! Solution = use our density method!

The density method will give thousands of coefficients in a few seconds. The number of tableaux of size $2n \times 3$ is $f_n = (6n + 1)! \int_0^1 p_n(z) dz$, with

$$p_{n+1}(z) = \int_0^z \frac{1}{24}(z-1)(x-z)(3x^3-7x^2z-xz^2-z^3-2x^2+4xz+4z^2)p_n(x)\,dx.$$

 ${f_n}_{n\geq 0} = \{1, 12, 8550, 39235950, 629738299350, 26095645151941500, 2323497950101372223250, 392833430654718548673344250, 115375222087417545717234273063750, 55038140590519890608190921051205837500, ... \}.$

From tableaux to tuples of real numbers, and polytopes



Left: $2n \times 3$ Young tableau with walls.

Centre: A related tableau with one more cell (removing this cell + relabel: bijection with left tableau).

Our algorithm generates real numbers between 0 and 1, with same relative order. All possible values = a polytope $\mathcal{P} \in [0, 1]^{6n+1}$.

Right: The "building block" of 7 cells. Each polyomino is made of the overlapping of *n* such building blocks.

• geometric point of view:

Associate with a poset of size N its order polytope \mathcal{P} (it is a subset of $[0,1]^N$). Generate a random element of \mathcal{P} slice by slice using conditional densities. In the present example, N = 6n + 1 and the slices are the building blocks of size 6 (except for the first one).

• sequence of densities:

sequence of polynomials $p_n(x)$, defined by the following recurrence (which in fact encodes the full structure of the problem, building block after building block): $p_0 = 1$ and by induction,

$$p_{n+1}(z) = \int_{0 < x < z} \int_{x < y < z} \int_{0 < r < y} \int_{r < s < z} \int_{z < w < 1} \int_{y < v < w} p_n(v) \, dv \, dw \, ds \, dr \, dy \, dx.$$

S	Z	W		S	<	Z	<	W
R	Y	V		R	<	Y	<	V
	X					V X		

The density method algorithm



1 Initialization: Precompute the polynomials $p_0(z), \ldots, p_n(z)$. Label the building blocks from k = n - 1 to k = 0 (top to bottom). Start at the top, i.e. k := n - 1.

Put into the top cell Z a random number z with density $p_n(z) / \int_0^1 p_n(t) dt$.

2 Filling: Now that Z is known, put into the cells X, Y, R, S, V, Wrandom numbers x, y, r, s, v, w with conditional density

$$g_{k,z}(x,y,r,s,v,w):=\frac{1}{p_{k+1}(z)}p_k(x)\mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{P}k},$$

where $\mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{P}k}$ is the indicator function of the *k*-th building block (with value *z* in cell *Z*):

$$\mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{P}_k} := \mathbf{1}_{\{0 \le x \le y \le z, 0 \le r \le y, r \le s \le z, z \le w \le 1, y \le v \le w\}}.$$

3 Iteration: Consider X as the Z of the next building block. Set k := k - 1 and go to step 2 (until k = 0).

Theorem

The density method algorithm is a uniform random generation algorithm with quadratic time complexity (including precomputations).

Proof

Our algorithm yields a tuple $\mathbf{x} := (x_i, y_i, r_i, s_i, v_i, w_i)_{0 \le i \le n}$ with density

$$\frac{p_n(x_n)}{\int_0^1 p_n(t)dt} \prod_{i=1}^n g_{n-i,x_{n-i+1}}(x_{n-i}, y_{n-i}, r_{n-i}, s_{n-i}, v_{n-i}, w_{n-i})$$

$$= \frac{p_n(x_n)}{\int_0^1 p_n(t)dt} \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{p_k(x_k) \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{P}_{X_k}}}{p_{k+1}(x_{k+1})} \stackrel{\text{p}}{\uparrow} \frac{p_0(x_0) \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{P}}}{\int_0^1 p_n(t) dt} = \frac{\mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{P}}}{\int_0^1 p_n(t) dt} \quad (\text{as } p_0 = 1),$$

telescopic product!

where $\mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{P}_{X_k}}$ is as in the algorithm above the indicator function of the *k*-th block. \int (any density) = 1 implies:

$$\operatorname{vol}(\mathcal{P}) = \int_{[0,1]^{6n+1}} \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{P}} \, d\mathbf{x} = \int_0^1 p_n(t) \, dt.$$

end of proof (uniformity & complexity):

Now if we choose a random uniform element in $[0,1]^{6n+1},$ the probability that it belongs to ${\cal P}$ is

 $\int_{[0,1]^{6n+1}} \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{P}} \, d\mathbf{x}.$

This is also the probability that a random uniform filling of our building block is correct (i.e., respects the order constraints).

This implies that $f_n=(6n+1)!\int_0^1 p_n(t)dt=|\mathcal{P}|!\operatorname{vol}(\mathcal{P}).$

Each step = computation and evaluation of the associated polynomial $p_n(z)$ (of degree proportional to n) \Rightarrow quadratic time complexity and quadratic space.

Jenga tableaux and the density method







Jenga! = Construct! in Swahili.

Given a shape encoded by $(\ell_i, r_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$, what is the number of tableaux with *n* lines?

$$f_n = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n (\ell_i + r_i + 1)\right)! \int_0^1 p_n(x) \, dx.$$

$$p_n(z) = \int_{z < v_1 < 1} \dots \int_{0 < u_\ell < z} \int_{0 < u_\ell < z} \dots \int_{0 < u_\ell < z} \int_{0 < x < z} p_{n-1}(x) \, dx \, du_1 \dots du_\ell \, dv_r \dots dv_1$$

$$= \frac{z^{\ell_n} (1-z)^{r_n}}{\ell_n! \, r_n!} \int_0^z p_{n-1}(x) \, dx \quad \text{with} \qquad p_1(z) \frac{z^{\ell_1} (1-z)^{r_1}}{\ell_1! \, r_1!}.$$

Special Jenga shapes

Theorem (1-periodic Jenga tableaux are D-finite)

The bivariate GF
$$P(t,z) = \sum_{n \ge 1} p_n(z)t^n$$
 is D-finite in t and z.

Proposition

For $r_i = 0$, $\forall i \ge 1$, the number f_n of Jenga tableaux is $f_n = \frac{\left(\sum_{i=1}^n (\ell_i + 1)\right)!}{\prod_{i=1}^n \ell_i! \left(\sum_{i=1}^i (\ell_i + 1)\right)}.$



Proposition

For Jenga tableaux with period p, $L := \sum_{i=1}^{p} \ell_i$, and $(r_i)_{i=0}^{p} = (0, \ldots, 0)$, one has:

$$f_{kp+m} = f_m \left(\frac{(L+p)^L}{\prod_{i=1}^p \ell_i!} \right)^k \prod_{\substack{j=1\\ j \neq \ell_1 + \dots + \ell_i + i}}^{L+p} \frac{\Gamma\left(k + \frac{j+m}{L+p}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{j+m}{L+p}\right)}.$$

Accordingly, the GF of such tableaux is the sum of p hypergeometric functions.

Skew tableaux with walls



A periodic shape is the concatenation of *n* copies of a building block \mathcal{B} of jcells:

 $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{B}^n$.

A tableau \mathcal{Y} with periodic walls is a periodic shape filled with all integers from $\{1, \ldots, |\mathcal{B}|n\}$ respecting the induced order constraints.



A filling of \mathcal{B}^4 :

3	10	5	6	12	16	13	14
1	2	4	7	8	9	11	15

There are a priori $2^6 = 64$ shapes, but some are in bijection (e.g., turn by 180 degrees and reverse labels). It turns out that it leads to 32 different sequences.

We now characterize all 2×2 shapes according to the nature of the counting sequence/generating function, which is either

- "simple" hypergeometric
- hypergeometric,
- algebraic,
- D-algebraic and beyond.

"Simple" hypergeometric cases

= cases where walls split tableaux into independent regions \Rightarrow product formulas



Proofs: Choose and distribute elements according to constraints.

Hypergeometric cases

= cases with uniquely determined minimum or maximum

Class	Shape	Sequence	OEIS
H1	, <u> </u>	$\prod_{i=1}^n (4i-1)(4i-3)$	A101485
H2	,	$\prod_{i=1}^n (2i-1)(4i-1)$	A159605
H3	, <u> </u>	$2^{n+1}n!\prod_{i=1}^{n}(4i-3)$	$2^{n+1} \cdot 1084943$
H4	, —	$\binom{4n}{n}\prod_{i=1}^n(3i-1)$	(⁴ <i>n</i>) ⋅ A008544
H5	, —	$\binom{4n}{n}\prod_{i=1}^n(3i-2)$	$\binom{4n}{n}$ ·A007559
H6	,	$2^n n! \prod_{i=1}^n (4i-3)$	n! •A084948
H7	,	$\prod_{i=1}^n (2i-1)(4i-1)$	A159605

Proofs:

- Models H1–H5: variants of Jenga tableaux with $r_i = 0$ for all i
- Models H6–H7: recursively decompose with respect to the location of the unique minimum or maximum.

= cases with no vertical walls



Proofs:

- Models A1 and A2: Use bijections to Dyck bridges.
- Model A3: Decomposing at the first wall that cannot be removed gives

$$f_n = \operatorname{Cat}(2n) + \sum_{i=1}^n \operatorname{Cat}(2i-1)f_{n-i},$$

which we then solve with generating functions.

D-algebraic cases?

pprox cases with a zig-zag-like pattern



Proof for Z1: A permutation (a_1, \ldots, a_n) is an alternating permutation of type (k_1, \ldots, k_m) if $a_1 < \cdots < a_{k_1} > a_{k_1+1} < \cdots < a_{k_1+k_2} > a_{k_1+k_2+1} < \cdots < a_n$. Then, $k_i = 1$ gives classical alternating permutations; while $k_1 = 3$, $k_2 = \cdots = k_n = 4$, and $k_{n+1} = 1$ gives Z1. A generalization of [Carlitz 73] then leads to



Leonard Carlitz (1907-1999) 771 articles!

$$F(t) = rac{E_{4,3}(t)E_{4,1}(t)}{E_{4,0}(t)} + E_{4,0}(t) \quad ext{ where } \quad E_{k,r}(t) = \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n rac{t^{nk+r}}{(nk+r)!}. \quad \Box$$

Conclusion

- 3 ways to enumerate and generate Young tableaux with walls: hook-length type formulas, bijections, density method.
- Approach different from [Greene Nijenhuis Wilf 84]. They used the existence of a simple product formula (hook-length formula).
- Brute-force generation → exponential cost.
 Generation via our density method → O(n²) cost.
- A field to explore: examine more families of posets (e.g., permutations, Young tableaux, increasing trees, urn models in [Banderier Marchal Wallner 20]).
- Asymptotics? D-finite? D-algebraic? Links with other objects?



