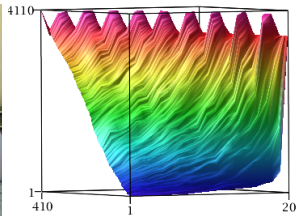
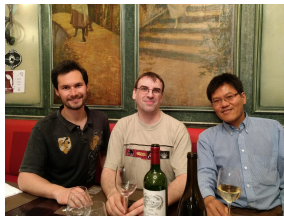
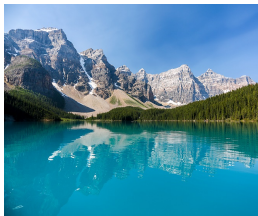


Periodic Pólya urns and asymptotics of triangular Young tableaux

Cyril Banderier, Philippe Marchal, Michael Wallner
(CNRS/Univ. Paris Nord/Univ. Bordeaux)



2019 March 12, [BIRS Workshop on Asymptotic Algebraic Combinatorics](#)

Introduction: what are Pólya urns?

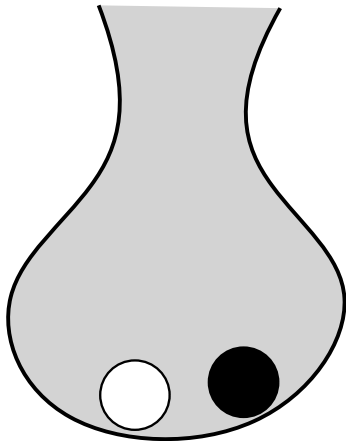


What are Pólya urns?

= an urn

+

a replacement rule

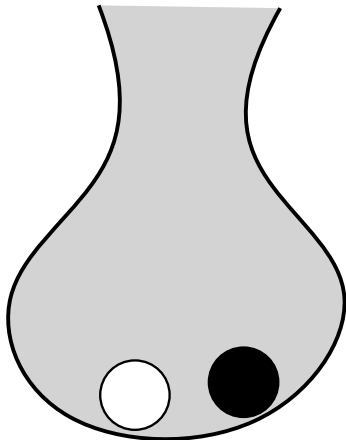


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

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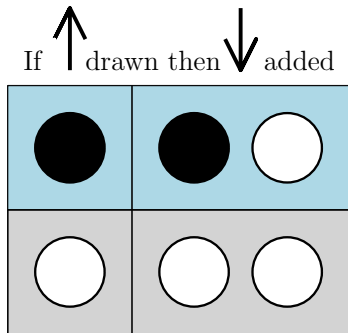
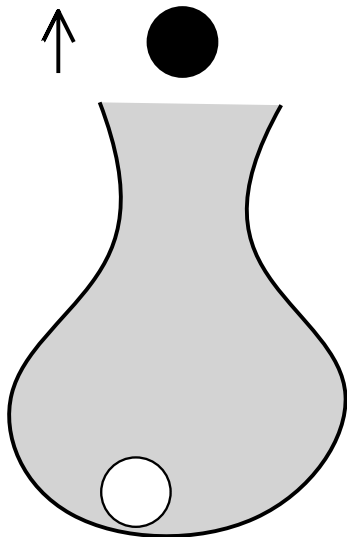
	
	

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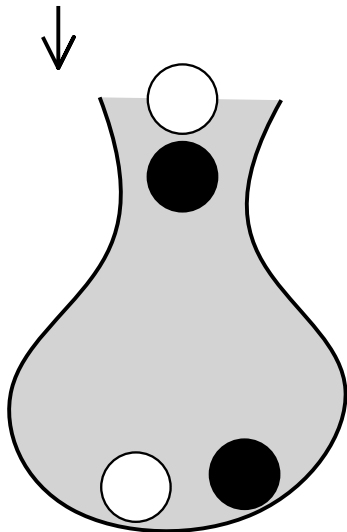


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
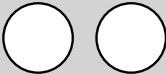
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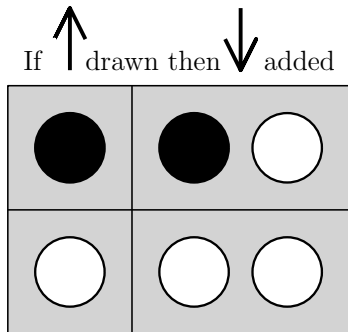
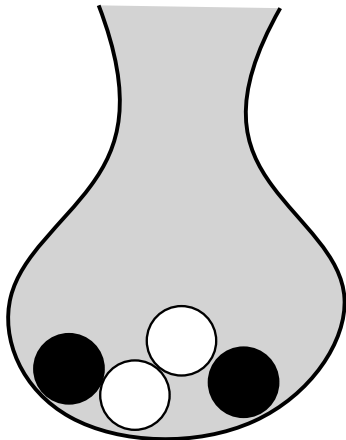
	
	

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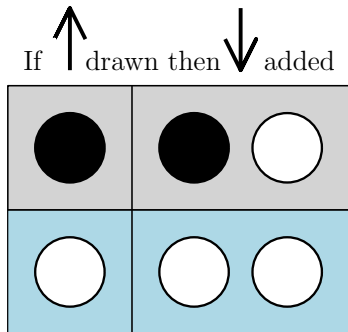
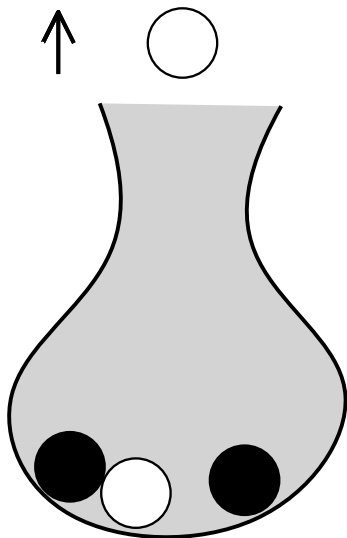


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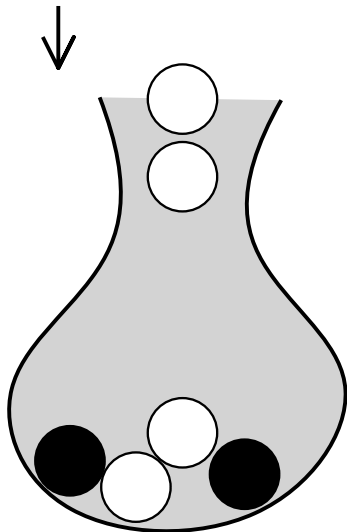


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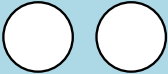
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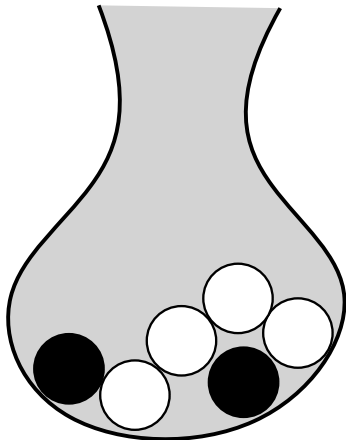
	
	

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

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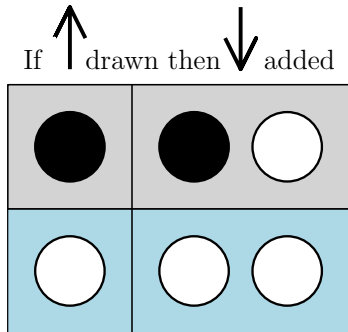
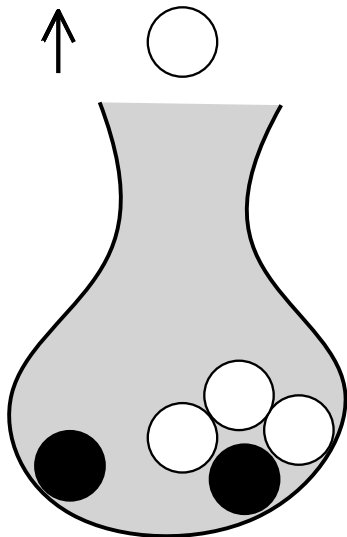
	
	

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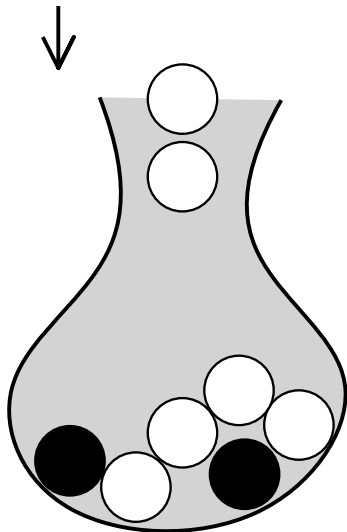


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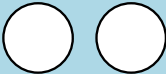
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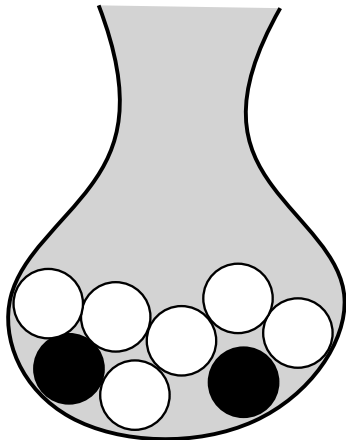
	
	

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

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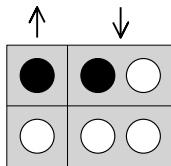
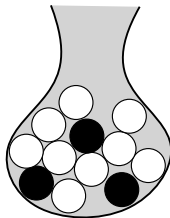
	
	

A formal definition

Replacement matrix

Let $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$.

$$\begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \circ \\ \bullet \left(\begin{array}{cc} a & b \\ c & d \end{array} \right) \\ \circ \end{array}$$

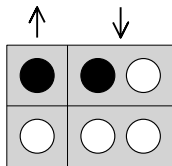
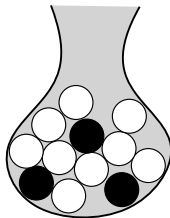


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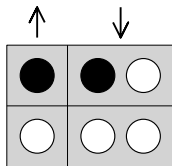
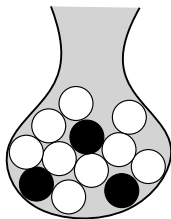


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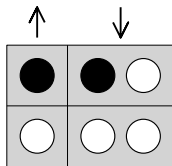
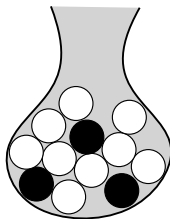
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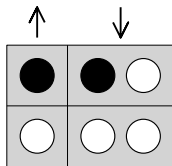
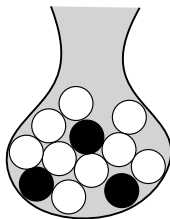
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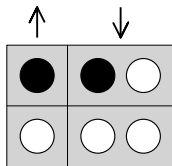
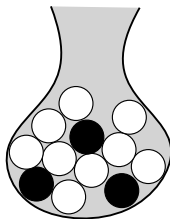
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Famous urn models [Flajolet, Dumas, Puyhaubert 2006]

Contagion urn
(Pólya)

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Adverse-campaign urn
(Friedman)

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Coupon collector's urn

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Vast number of applications

- [Pólya, Eggenberger 1923-1930]: Disease infections $\begin{pmatrix} m & 0 \\ 0 & m \end{pmatrix}$
- [Rivest 2012]: How to check election results? How to be sure your vote was counted?
- [Fanti, Viswanath 2017]: Deanonymization in Bitcoin's peer-to-peer network
- [Smythe, Mahmoud 1994, Holmgren, Janson 2016]: m-ary search trees
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Vivid field:

- many tools (martingales, analytic combinatorics, contraction, stochastic approximation, ...),
- many experts (see above, and more),
- many challenges: more colors, subset samplings, non tenable (non trivial positivity constraint), non time homogeneous, ...

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Definition

The *Young–Pólya urn* is a Pólya urn of period 2 with replacement matrix $M_1 := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ for every odd step, and replacement matrix $M_2 := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ for every even step.

Caveat: not modelizable as a classical Pólya urn (even with multidrawing)

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Histories of length n : A sequence of n drawings/evolutions.

$h_{n,k,\ell}$: Number of histories of length n , from (b_0, w_0) to (k, ℓ) .

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$$H(x, y, z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} H_n(x, y) \frac{z^n}{n!} = \sum_{n, k, \ell \geq 0} h_{n, k, \ell} x^k y^\ell \frac{z^n}{n!}.$$

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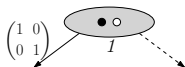
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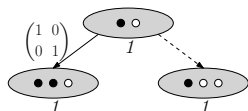
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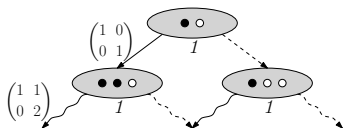
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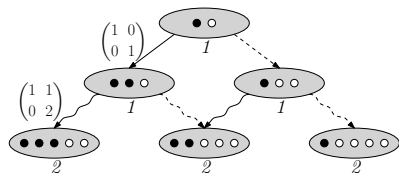
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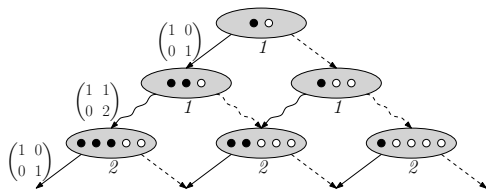
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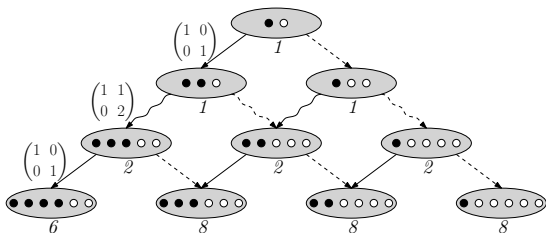
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$$H_3 = 6x^4y^2 + 8x^3y^3 + 8x^2y^4 + 8xy^5$$

Asymptotic distribution



Distribution of the urn

Main question:

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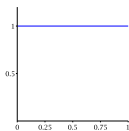
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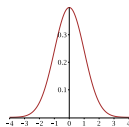
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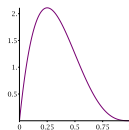
Many known distributions for (non-periodic) urn models:



Uniform distribution



Normal distribution



Beta distribution $\mathcal{B}(2, 4)$

Periodic Pólya urns gives a new universal distribution

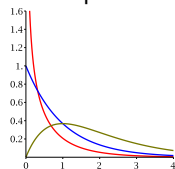
Generalized Gamma distribution $\text{GenGamma}(\alpha, \beta)$

Let $\alpha, \beta > 0$ be real, then the density function with support $(0, +\infty)$ is

$$f(x; \alpha, \beta) := \frac{\beta x^{\alpha-1} \exp(-x^\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha/\beta)},$$

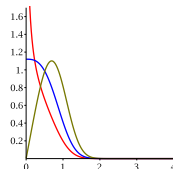
where Γ is the classical Gamma function $\Gamma(z) := \int_0^\infty t^{z-1} \exp(-t) dt$.

Some examples with **red** $\alpha = 0.5$, **blue** $\alpha = 1$, and **green** $\alpha = 2$:



$\beta = 1$

Gamma distributions



$\beta = 3$

This talk!

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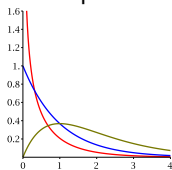
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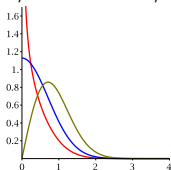
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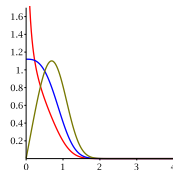
$\beta = 1$

Gamma distributions



$\beta = 2$

Half-normal for $\alpha = 1$



$\beta = 3$

This talk!

- [Janson 2010]: area of the supremum process of the Brownian motion
- [Peköz, Röllin, Ross 2016]: preferential attachments in graphs
- [Khodabin, Ahmadabadi 2010]: generalization of special functions

The number of black balls

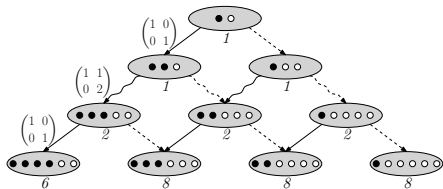


Black balls in Young–Pólya urns

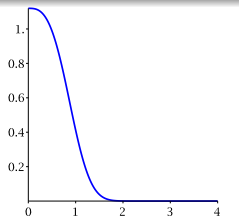
Theorem

The normalized random variable $\frac{2^{2/3}}{3} \frac{B_n}{n^{2/3}}$ of the number of black balls in a Young–Pólya urn converges in law to a generalized Gamma distribution:

$$\frac{2^{2/3}}{3} \frac{B_n}{n^{2/3}} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \text{GenGamma}(1, 3).$$



The evolution of the Young–Pólya urn



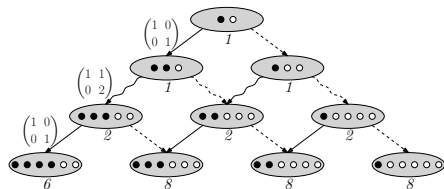
Density: $f(x; 1, 3) = \frac{3e^{-x^3}}{\Gamma(1/3)}$

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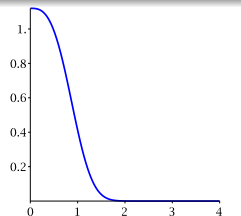
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The evolution of the Young–Pólya urn



Density: $f(x; 1, 3) = \frac{3e^{-x^3}}{\Gamma(1/3)}$

- 1 Classical Pólya urn $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$: $c_1 \frac{B_{1,n}}{n} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}}$ uniform distribution
- 2 Classical Pólya urn $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$: $c_2 \frac{B_{2,n}}{\sqrt{n}} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}}$ half-normal distribution

Capture the evolution of the urn I

- 1 Split into even and odd steps

$$H_e(x, y, z) := \sum_{n \geq 0} H_{2n}(x, y) \frac{z^{2n}}{(2n)!}$$

$$H_o(x, y, z) := \sum_{n \geq 0} H_{2n+1}(x, y) \frac{z^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!}$$

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- 2 Model the evolution using differential operators

$$M_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_1 := x^2 \partial_x + y^2 \partial_y$$

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- 3 Link odd and even steps

$$\partial_z H_o(x, y, z) = \mathcal{D}_1 H_e(x, y, z)$$

$$\partial_z H_e(x, y, z) = \mathcal{D}_2 H_o(x, y, z)$$

Capture the evolution of the urn II

- As the urn is balanced, we have:

$$\text{number of balls after } n \text{ steps} = 2 + n + \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

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- 5 Algebra! Eliminate $\partial_y H_e$ and $\partial_y H_o$, then substitute $y = 1$
(We define $H(x, z) := H(x, 1, z)$, $H_e(x, z) := H_e(x, 1, z)$, and $H_o(x, z) := H_o(x, 1, z)$)

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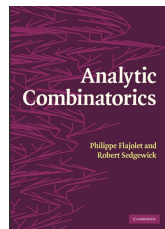
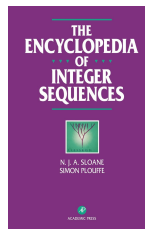
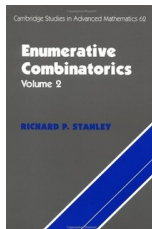
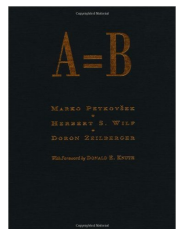
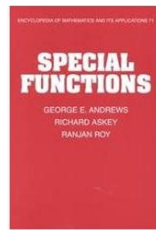
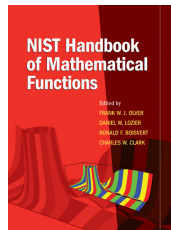
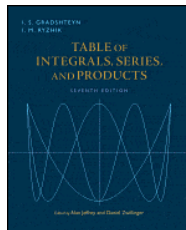
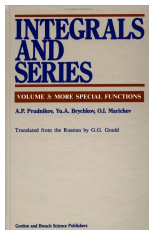
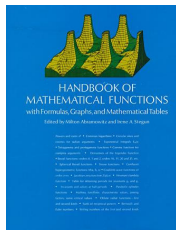
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Moreover, they satisfy linear differential equations, i.e., they are D-finite.

The nice world of D-finite functions



Holonomy is the key to handle sums, integrals, special functions, orthogonal polynomials, q -series. Allows proof of identities, asymptotic expansions, numerical values, structural properties. Applications: combinatorics, computer science, probability theory, engineering, physics...

$$\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{i+j}{i}^2 \binom{4n-2i-2j}{2n-2i} = (2n+1) \binom{2n}{n}^2$$

$$\int_0^{+\infty} x J_1(ax) I_1(ax) Y_0(x) K_0(x) dx = -\frac{\ln(1-a^4)}{2\pi a^2}$$

$$\int_{-1}^{+1} \frac{e^{-px} T_n(x)}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = (-1)^n \pi I_n(p)$$

$$\sum_{j=0}^n \sum_{i=0}^{n-j} \frac{q^{(i+j)^2+j^2}}{(q; q)_{n-i-j} (q; q)_i (q; q)_j} = \sum_{k=-n}^n \frac{(-1)^k q^{7/2k^2+1/2k}}{(q; q)_{n+k} (q; q)_{n-k}}$$

$$\zeta(3) = 1.202056903159594285399738161511449990764986292340498 \dots$$

$$[z^n] \left\{ y + 6y' + (-54 + 54z)y'' + (27 - 54z + 27z^2)y''' = 0, y(0) = e, y'(0) = \frac{-e}{3}, y''(0) = \frac{-e}{9} \right\}$$

$$\sim -1/3 \frac{n^{-4/3}}{\Gamma(2/3)} - 1/6 \frac{\sqrt{3}\Gamma(2/3)n^{-5/3}}{\pi} - 1/18 \frac{n^{-7/3}}{\Gamma(2/3)} - \frac{19}{216} \frac{\sqrt{3}\Gamma(2/3)n^{-8/3}}{\pi} + O(n^{-3})$$

$${}_2F_1\left(\left[\frac{1}{12}, \frac{5}{12}\right], [1]; 1728 \frac{z}{(z+16)^3}\right) = \left(\frac{z+256}{16z+256}\right)^{-1/4} \cdot {}_2F_1\left(\left[\frac{1}{12}, \frac{5}{12}\right], [1]; 1728 \frac{z^2}{(z+256)^3}\right)$$

Periodic Pólya urns are D-finite, with a **rich structure**, and offer a lot of identities with similar flavors.

Urns are D-finite!

Let $\tilde{H}(x, z) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{H_n(x)}{H_n(1)} z^n$ be the **probability generating function**. Then we have

$$L\tilde{H}(x, z) = (\cdots \partial_z^3 + \cdots \partial_z^2 + \cdots \partial_z)\tilde{H}(x, z) = 0.$$

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$$\begin{aligned} L = & 9z(z-1)(z+1)(x^3z^2+2x^3z+3x^2-3x+1)(x^3z^2-2x^3z+3x^2-3x+1)(15x^7z^6+36x^7z^5+45x^7z^4-3x^6z^5+15x^6z^4+180x^6z^3-24x^5z^4-210x^5z^3+8x^4z^4 \\ & -108x^6z+63x^5z^2+90x^4z^3+180x^5z-108x^4z^2-10x^3z^3-81x^5-135x^4z+81x^3z^2+189x^4+54x^3z-30x^2z^2-189x^3-9x^2z+5xz^2+99x^2-2xz-27x+z+3)\partial_z^3 \\ & +3(375x^{13}z^{12}+1188x^{13}z^{11}+912x^{13}z^{10}-84x^{12}z^{11}-2646x^{13}z^9+1419x^{12}z^{10}-4995x^{13}z^8+9822x^{12}z^9-1734x^{11}z^{10}-486x^{13}z^7+5853x^{12}z^8-10974x^{11}z^9 \\ & +578x^{10}z^{10}+1620x^{13}z^6-24138x^{12}z^7-1902x^{11}z^8+4506x^{10}z^9-7938x^{12}z^6+53940x^{11}z^7-5102x^{10}z^8-424x^9z^9+24138x^{12}z^5+5292x^{11}z^6-65778x^{10}z^7+5958x^9z^8 \\ & +3240x^{12}z^4-62748x^{11}z^5+11358x^{10}z^6+49444x^9z^7-2472x^8z^8-7776x^{12}z^3+13932x^{11}z^4+102168x^{10}z^5-29508x^9z^6-21948x^8z^7+412x^7z^8+27054x^{11}z^3 \\ & -46224x^{10}z^4-120504x^9z^5+33384x^8z^6+4918x^7z^7-8748x^{11}z^2-55242x^{10}z^3+69579x^9z^4+102294x^8z^5-22658x^7z^6-360x^6z^7+25434x^{10}z^2+85158x^9z^3 \\ & -77346x^8z^4-61030x^7z^5+9456x^6z^6+2430x^{10}z-46332x^9z^2-104976x^8z^3+71694x^7z^4+24626x^6z^5-2286x^5z^6-13770x^9z+76869x^8z^2+100998x^7z^3-52878x^6z^4 \\ & -6102x^5z^5+254x^4z^6+5103x^9+35964x^8z-109242x^7z^2-72612x^6z^3+29151x^5z^4+718x^4z^5-22113x^8-56646x^7z+116856x^6z^2+37458x^5z^3-11534x^4z^4-8x^3z^5 \\ & +44226x^7+59346x^6z-89910x^5z^2-13098x^4z^3+3144x^3z^4-53298x^6-43092x^5z+49137x^4z^2+2698x^3z^3-540x^2z^4+42525x^5+21906x^4z-18726x^3z^2-144x^2z^3 \\ & +45xz^4-23247x^4-7674x^3z+4758x^2z^2-66xz^3+8694x^3+1764xz^2-728xz^2+12z^3-2142x^2-238xz+51z^2+315x+14z-21)\partial_z^2+2(1020x^{13}z^{11}+4032x^{13}z^{10} \\ & +7461x^{13}z^9-276x^{12}z^{10}+972x^{12}z^9+1317x^{12}z^8-9315x^{13}z^7+29340x^{12}z^8-2559x^{11}z^9-5346x^{13}z^6+27990x^{12}z^7-34260x^{11}z^8+853x^{10}z^9-52974x^{12}z^6 \\ & -19935x^{11}z^7+14352x^{10}z^8-40743x^{12}z^5+113634x^{11}z^6-5916x^{10}z^7-1466x^9z^8+40338x^{12}z^4+25839x^{11}z^5-127818x^{10}z^6+13083x^9z^7+19440x^{12}z^3-150660x^{11}z^4 \\ & +40608x^{10}z^5+89886x^9z^6-5442x^8z^7-11664x^{12}z^2-4617x^{11}z^3+240894x^{10}z^4-80883x^9z^5-38142x^8z^6+907x^7z^7+58806x^{11}z^2-92340x^{10}z^3-206514x^9z^4 \\ & +69570x^8z^5+8198x^7z^6-17496x^{11}z-115182x^{10}z^2+227124x^9z^3+93150x^8z^4-38517x^7z^5-526x^6z^6+58563x^{10}z+127008x^9z^2-289710x^8z^3-12354x^7z^4 \\ & +14154x^6z^5-10206x^{10}-105462x^9z-93312x^8z^2+232929x^7z^3-9330x^6z^4-3231x^5z^5+27216x^9+139482x^8z+50922x^7z^2-122508x^6z^3+5958x^5z^4+359x^4z^5 \\ & -20412x^8-150903x^7z-20358x^6z^2+41499x^5z^3-1632x^4z^4-19278x^7+134298x^6z+4050x^5z^2-8526x^4z^3+194x^3z^4+55566x^6-94770x^5z+1350x^4z^2+948x^3z^3 \\ & -57834x^5+50715x^4z-1416x^3z^2-60x^2z^3+35910x^4-19620x^3z+540x^2z^2+5xz^3-14490x^3+5148x^2z-110xz^2+3780x^2-819xz+10z^2-588x+60z+42)\partial_z \\ & +17010x^{10}-61236x^9+102060x^8-103194x^7+70308x^6-34020x^5+11970x^4-3024x^3 \\ & +504x^2-42x+12x(270x^6-261x^5+126x^4+21x^3-69x^2+30x-5)(3x^2-3x+1)^2z \\ & +2x(3x^2-3x+1)(3240x^9-2673x^8-6129x^7+16254x^6-16101x^5+8010x^4-1923x^3+78x^2+45x-5)z^2 \\ & +4x^3(3x^2-3x+1)(1134x^7-4995x^6+5886x^5-2841x^4+129x^3+366x^2-159x+28)z^3 \\ & -6x^4(3x^2-3x+1)(1485x^6-468x^5-927x^4+1150x^3-623x^2+162x-27)z^4 \\ & -4x^6(3x^2-3x+1)(1107x^4-3093x^3+1863x^2-565x-28)z^5+6x^7(405x^6+5178x^5-4335x^4-128x^3+1619x^2-666x+111)z^6 \\ & +20x^9(405x^4+1053x^3-1335x^2+597x-76)z^7+10x^{10}(783x^3-57x^2-69x+23)z^8+240x^{12}(12x-1)z^9+600x^{13}z^{10} \end{aligned}$$

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Let $\tilde{H}(x, z) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{H_n(x)}{H_n(1)} z^n$ be the probability generating function. Then we have

$$L\tilde{H}(x, z) = (\cdots \partial_z^3 + \cdots \partial_z^2 + \cdots \partial_z)\tilde{H}(x, z) = 0.$$

$$\begin{aligned} L = & 9z(z-1)(z+1)(x^3z^2+2x^3z+3x^2-3x+1)(x^3z^2-2x^3z+3x^2-3x+1)(15x^7z^6+36x^7z^5+45x^7z^4-3x^6z^5+15x^6z^4+180x^6z^3-24x^5z^4-210x^5z^3+8x^4z^4 \\ & -108x^6z+63x^5z^2+90x^4z^3+180x^5z-108x^4z^2-10x^3z^3-81x^5-135x^4z+81x^3z^2+189x^4+54x^3z-30x^2z^2-189x^3-9x^2z+5xz^2+99x^2-2xz-27x+z+3)\partial_z^3 \\ & +3(375x^{13}z^{12}+1188x^{13}z^{11}+912x^{13}z^{10}-84x^{12}z^{11}-2646x^{13}z^9+1419x^{12}z^{10}-4995x^{13}z^8+9822x^{12}z^9-1734x^{11}z^{10}-486x^{13}z^7+5853x^{12}z^8-10974x^{11}z^9 \\ & +578x^{10}z^{10}+1620x^{13}z^6-24138x^{12}z^7-1902x^{11}z^8+4506x^{10}z^9-7938x^{12}z^6+53940x^{11}z^7-5102x^{10}z^8-424x^9z^9+24138x^{12}z^5+5292x^{11}z^6-65778x^{10}z^7+5958x^9z^8 \\ & +3240x^{12}z^4-62748x^{11}z^5+11358x^{10}z^6+49444x^9z^7-2472x^8z^8-7776x^{12}z^3+13932x^{11}z^4+102168x^{10}z^5-29508x^9z^6-21948x^8z^7+412x^7z^8+27054x^{11}z^3 \\ & -46224x^{10}z^4-120504x^9z^5+33384x^8z^6+4918x^7z^7-8748x^{11}z^2-55242x^{10}z^3+69579x^9z^4+102294x^8z^5-22658x^7z^6-360x^6z^7+25434x^{10}z^2+85158x^9z^3 \\ & -77346x^8z^4-61030x^7z^5+9456x^6z^6+2430x^{10}z-46332x^9z^2-104976x^8z^3+71694x^7z^4+24626x^6z^5-2286x^5z^6-13770x^9z+76869x^8z^2+100998x^7z^3-52878x^6z^4 \\ & -6102x^5z^5+254x^4z^6+5103x^9+35964x^8z-109242x^7z^2-72612x^6z^3+29151x^5z^4+718x^4z^5-22113x^8-56646x^7z+116856x^6z^2+37458x^5z^3-11534x^4z^4-8x^3z^5 \\ & +44226x^7+59346x^6z-89910x^5z^2-13098x^4z^3+3144x^3z^4-53298x^6-43092x^5z+49137x^4z^2+2698x^3z^3-540x^2z^4+42525x^5+21906x^4z-18726x^3z^2-144x^2z^3 \\ & +45xz^4-23247x^4-7674x^3z+4758x^2z^2-66xz^3+8694x^3+1764xz^2-728xz^2+12z^3-2142x^2-238xz+51z^2+315x+14z-21)\partial_z^2+2(1020x^{13}z^{11}+4032x^{13}z^{10} \\ & +7461x^{13}z^9-276x^{12}z^{10}+972x^{12}z^9+1317x^{12}z^8-9315x^{13}z^7+29340x^{12}z^8-2559x^{11}z^9-5346x^{13}z^6+27990x^{12}z^7-34260x^{11}z^8+853x^{10}z^9-52974x^{12}z^6 \\ & -19935x^{11}z^7+14352x^{10}z^8-40743x^{12}z^5+113634x^{11}z^6-5916x^{10}z^7-1466x^9z^8+40338x^{12}z^4+25839x^{11}z^5-127818x^{10}z^6+13083x^9z^7+19440x^{12}z^3-150660x^{11}z^4 \\ & +40608x^{10}z^5+89886x^9z^6-5442x^8z^7-11664x^{12}z^2-4617x^{11}z^3+240894x^{10}z^4-80883x^9z^5-38142x^8z^6+907x^7z^7+58806x^{11}z^2-92340x^{10}z^3-206514x^9z^4 \\ & +69570x^8z^5+8198x^7z^6-17496x^{11}z-115182x^{10}z^2+227124x^9z^3+93150x^8z^4-38517x^7z^5-526x^6z^6+58563x^{10}z+127008x^9z^2-289710x^8z^3-12354x^7z^4 \\ & +14154x^6z^5-10206x^{10}-105462x^9z-93312x^8z^2+232929x^7z^3-9330x^6z^4-3231x^5z^5+27216x^9+139482x^8z+50922x^7z^2-122508x^6z^3+5958x^5z^4+359x^4z^5 \\ & -20412x^8-150903x^7z-20358x^6z^2+41499x^5z^3-1632x^4z^4-19278x^7+134298x^6z+4050x^5z^2-8526x^4z^3+194x^3z^4+55566x^6-94770x^5z+1350x^4z^2+948x^3z^3 \\ & -57834x^5+50715x^4z-1416x^3z^2-60x^2z^3+35910x^4-19620x^3z+540x^2z^2+5xz^3-14490x^3+5148xz^2-110xz^2+3780x^2-819xz+10z^2-588x+60z+42)\partial_z \\ & +17010x^{10}-61236x^9+102060x^8-103194x^7+70308x^6-34020x^5+11970x^4-3024x^3 \\ & +504x^2-42x+12x(270x^6-261x^5+126x^4+21x^3-69x^2+30x-5)(3x^2-3x+1)^2z \\ & +2x(3x^2-3x+1)(3240x^9-2673x^8-6129x^7+16254x^6-16101x^5+8010x^4-1923x^3+78x^2+45x-5)z^2 \\ & +4x^3(3x^2-3x+1)(1134x^7-4995x^6+5886x^5-2841x^4+129x^3+366x^2-159x+28)z^3 \\ & -6x^4(3x^2-3x+1)(1485x^6-468x^5-927x^4+1150x^3-623x^2+162x-27)z^4 \\ & -4x^6(3x^2-3x+1)(1107x^4-3093x^3+1863x^2-565x-28)z^5+6x^7(405x^6+5178x^5-4335x^4-128x^3+1619x^2-666x+111)z^6 \\ & +20x^9(405x^4+1053x^3-1335x^2+597x-76)z^7+10x^{10}(783x^3-57x^2-69x+23)z^8+240x^{12}(12x-1)z^9+600x^{13}z^{10} \end{aligned}$$

NB: D-finiteness allows “time travelling”: composition at time n in time $O(\sqrt{n})!$

An ugly D-finite equation, but nice moments

Let $m_r(n)$ be the r -th factorial moment of the distribution of black balls after n steps, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned}m_r(n) &:= \mathbb{E}(B_n(B_n - 1) \cdots (B_n - r + 1)) \\&= [z^n] \partial_x^r \tilde{H}(x, z) \Big|_{x=1} \\&= \frac{[z^n] \frac{\partial^r}{\partial x^r} H(x, z) \Big|_{x=1}}{[z^n] H(1, z)}\end{aligned}$$

Theorem

The r -th factorial moment satisfies

$$m_r(n) = \frac{3^r}{2^{2r/3}} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{r}{3} + \frac{1}{3}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)} n^{2r/3} \left(1 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)\right).$$

For n large, this gives:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2^{2r/3}}{3^r} \frac{m_r(n)}{n^{2r/3}} = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{r}{3} + \frac{1}{3}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)} =: m_r.$$

Is this the **moment of some known law**? Is there only one such possible law?

Moments and generalized gamma distributions



Torsten Carleman
(1892-1949)



Maurice Fréchet
(1878-1973)

Theorem

The distribution of Young–Pólya urn is characterized by its moments.

Proof.

[Carleman 1923] & [Fréchet, Shohat 1930] \Rightarrow the moments determine the distribution uniquely.

The support of the distribution plays a role. There is a unique distribution with such moments if the **Carleman's condition** holds:

- for support $[0, \infty)$ (Stieljes moment problem): if $\sum 1/m_r^{1/2r} = \infty$
- for support $(-\infty, \infty)$ (Hamburger moment problem): if $\sum 1/m_{2r}^{1/2r} = \infty$ □

Young–Pólya urn of period p and parameter ℓ

The same method of **differential operators** allows us to obtain the distribution of black balls for the urn with replacement matrices

$$M_1 = M_2 = \cdots = M_{p-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$M_p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \ell \\ 0 & 1 + \ell \end{pmatrix}.$$

We call this model the *Young–Pólya urn of period p and parameter ℓ* .

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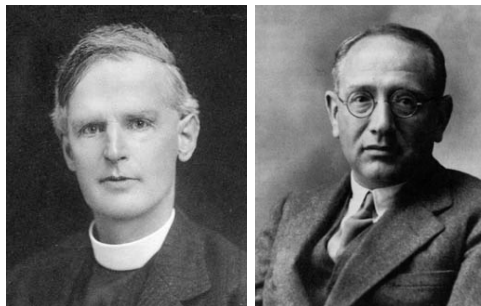
We call this model the *Young–Pólya urn of period p and parameter ℓ* .

Theorem (Product of GenGamma)

Let b_0 be the initial black and w_0 the initial white balls. Then,

$$\frac{p^\delta}{p + \ell} \frac{B_n}{n^\delta} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \text{Beta}(b_0, w_0) \prod_{i=0}^{\ell-1} \text{GenGamma}(b_0 + w_0 + p + i, p + \ell),$$

with $\delta = p/(p + \ell)$, and where $\text{Beta}(b_0, w_0)$ is the law with support $[0, 1]$ and density $\frac{\Gamma(b_0 + w_0)}{\Gamma(b_0)\Gamma(w_0)} x^{b_0-1} (1-x)^{w_0-1}$.



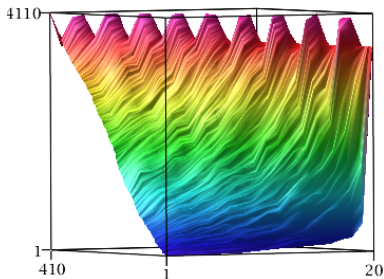
“After this the reader who wishes to do so will have no difficulty in developing the theory of urns when they are regarded as differential operators.”

[From the wording of [Alfred Young \(1873–1940\)](#) in Grace & Young, *The algebra of invariants*, 1903, p. 366.]

“A method is a trick used twice.”

[From the wording of [George Pólya \(1887–1985\)](#) in *How to solve it.*, 1957, p. 208.]

What is the density method?



[ancestors (playing with posets, volume of polytopes, and probability or enumeration): Pak 2001, Elkies 2003, Baryshnikov & Romik 2010]

Young tableaux with local decreases

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 bold red edge, which we call a **“wall”**.

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

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

- Walls everywhere: $(2n)!$
- Horizontal walls everywhere:

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- Vertical walls everywhere: $\binom{2n}{n} = \frac{(2n)!}{(n!)^2}$
- k vertical walls:

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- k vertical walls: $\frac{1}{n+1-k} \binom{n}{k} \binom{2n}{n}$.

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For shape $n \times m$ with k long walls at distance λ_i :

$$\frac{(m-1)!}{(mn+m-1)_{m-1}} \left(\prod_{i=1}^{k+1} \prod_{j=1}^{m-2} \binom{\lambda_i+j}{j}^{-1} \right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^{k+1} \binom{m(\lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_i) + m - 1}{\lambda_i, \dots, \lambda_i} \right).$$

Uniform random generation and enumeration

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

We now show how to generate the above tableaux via the density method. This example is “**without loss of generality**” (i.e., our method works also for non-periodic shapes). 😊

The density method will give thousands of coefficients in a few seconds.

$f_n = (6n + 1)! \int_0^1 p_n(z)$, with

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

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

$115375222087417545717234273063750, 55038140590519890608190921051205837500, \dots\}$.

From tableaux to tuples of real numbers, and polytopes

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

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

.74	.96	.97
.25	.94	.95
.85	.91	.99
.42	.90	.93
.54	.82	.98
.35	.57	.92
.06		

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

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

Centre: A related tableau Polyo_n 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 Polyo_n is made of the overlapping of n such building blocks.

Density method: key ideas

- **geometric point of view:**

Associate with a poset of size N its “order polytope” \mathcal{P} which is a subset of $[0, 1]^N$. Generate a random element of the polytope 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,

$$p_{n+1}(z) = \int_0^z \int_x^z \int_0^y \int_r^z \int_z^1 \int_y^w p_n(v) dv dw ds dr dy dx$$

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

The density method algorithm

- 1 **Initialization:** Order 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, W random numbers x, y, r, s, v, w with conditional density

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

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

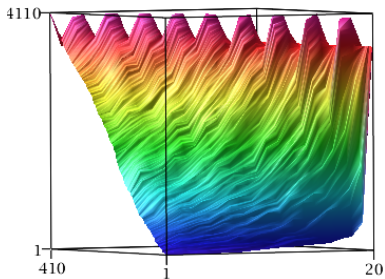
$$\mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{P}_z} := \mathbf{1}_{\{0 \leq x \leq y \leq z, 0 \leq r \leq y, r \leq s \leq z, z \leq w \leq 1, y \leq v \leq w\}}.$$

- 3 **Iteration:** Consider X as a 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* and *linear space complexity*.

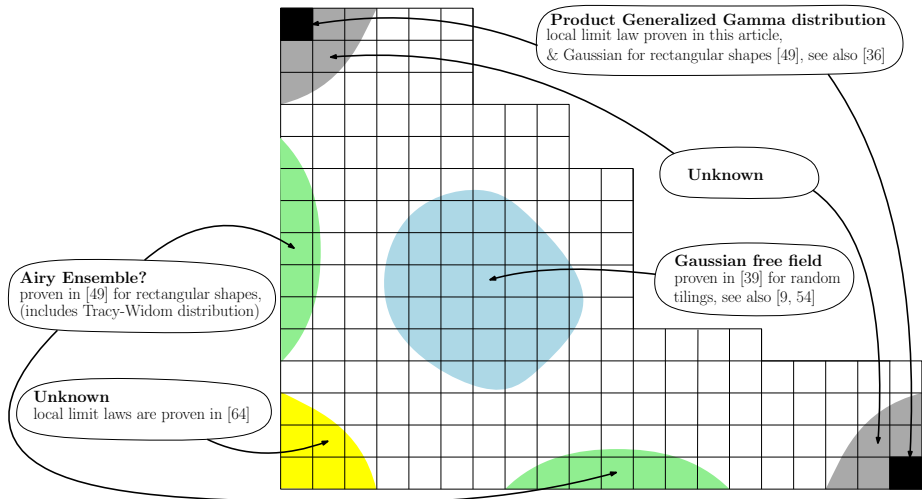
Limit surface of Young Tableaux



Classical dream: **universality** via limiting objects for combinatorial structures:

- Dyck paths \rightsquigarrow Brownian motion (Bachelier, Einstein)
- Trees \rightsquigarrow Continuous random trees (Aldous)
- Domino tilings \rightsquigarrow Gaussian Free Field (Kenyon)
- Planar maps \rightsquigarrow Brownian map (Marckert, Mokkadem: existence, Le Gall: triangulations, Miermont: quadrangulations)
- Self-avoiding processes \rightsquigarrow SLE (Schramm, Lawler, Werner, Smirnov...)
- **Young tableaux** \rightsquigarrow ?
 - Fluctuations in the corners of rectangular shapes: Gaussian
 - Fluctuations along the edge of square shapes: Tracy–Widom limit law

Fluctuation on the limiting surface



Triangular Young tableaux

Triangular Young tableaux

A **triangular Young tableau of slope** $\alpha := -\frac{\ell}{p}$ and of size N is a classical Young tableau with N cells such that

- the first p rows (from the bottom) have length $n\ell$,
- the next p rows have length $(n-1)\ell$ and so on

6		
2	4	
1	3	5

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2	4	
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We are interested in $n \rightarrow \infty$.
In particular: **Distribution of the lower right corner.**

Here

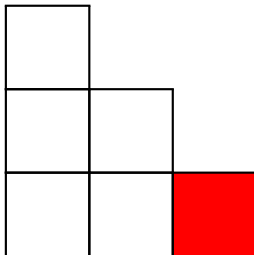
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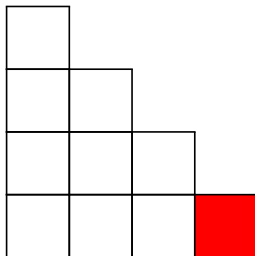
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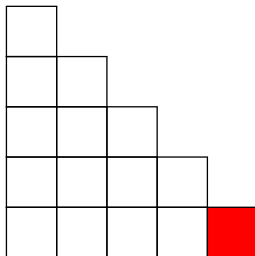
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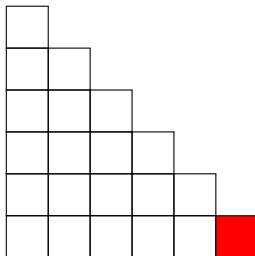
- $p = 1, \ell = 1$
- $n = 5$

Triangular Young tableaux

Triangular Young tableaux

A **triangular Young tableau of slope** $\alpha := -\frac{\ell}{p}$ and of size N is a classical Young tableau with N cells such that

- the first p rows (from the bottom) have length $n\ell$,
- the next p rows have length $(n-1)\ell$ and so on



We are interested in $n \rightarrow \infty$.
In particular: **Distribution of the lower right corner.**

Here

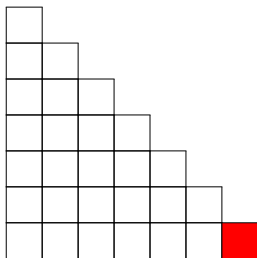
- $p = 1, \ell = 1$
- $n = 6$

Triangular Young tableaux

Triangular Young tableaux

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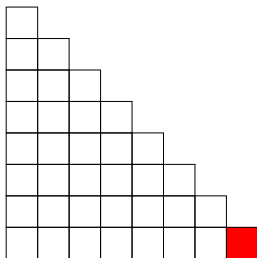
- $p = 1, \ell = 1$
- $n = 7$

Triangular Young tableaux

Triangular Young tableaux

A **triangular Young tableau of slope** $\alpha := -\frac{\ell}{p}$ and of size N is a classical Young tableau with N cells such that

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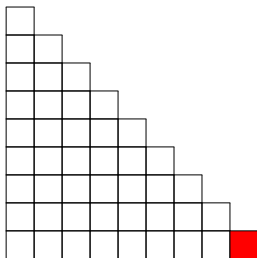
- $p = 1, \ell = 1$
- $n = 8$

Triangular Young tableaux

Triangular Young tableaux

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We are interested in $n \rightarrow \infty$.
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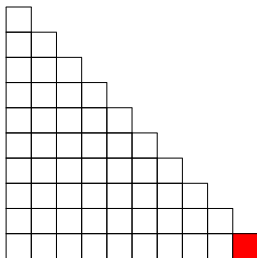
- $p = 1, \ell = 1$
- $n = 9$

Triangular Young tableaux

Triangular Young tableaux

A **triangular Young tableau of slope** $\alpha := -\frac{\ell}{p}$ and of size N is a classical Young tableau with N cells such that

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- the next p rows have length $(n-1)\ell$ and so on



We are interested in $n \rightarrow \infty$.
In particular: **Distribution of the lower right corner.**

Here

- $p = 1, \ell = 1$
- $n = 10$

Triangular Young tableaux

Triangular Young tableaux

A **triangular Young tableau of slope** $\alpha := -\frac{\ell}{p}$ and of size N is a classical Young tableau with N cells such that

- the first p rows (from the bottom) have length $n\ell$,
- the next p rows have length $(n-1)\ell$ and so on

41	55	61	72																	
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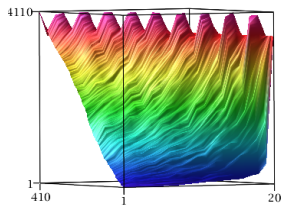
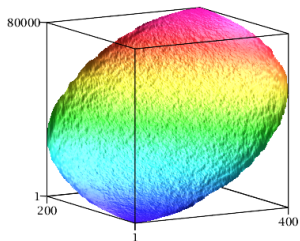
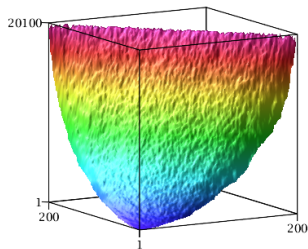
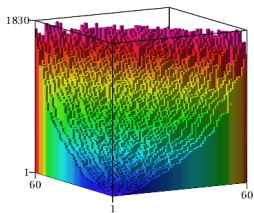
Diagram annotations: A vertical double-headed arrow on the right of the first three rows is labeled p . A vertical double-headed arrow on the right of the next three rows is labeled p . A vertical double-headed arrow on the right of the last three rows is labeled p . Horizontal double-headed arrows below the first three columns are labeled ℓ . Horizontal double-headed arrows below the next three columns are labeled ℓ . Horizontal double-headed arrows below the last three columns are labeled ℓ . The cell containing the number 42 is highlighted in red.

We are interested in $n \rightarrow \infty$.
In particular: **Distribution of the lower right corner.**

Here

- $p = 3, \ell = 4$
- $n = 3$

Random Young tableaux as random surfaces



Asymptotics of triangular Young tableaux

Asymptotic results for Young Tableaux: [Logan, Shepp 77], [Vershik, Kerov 77], [Cohn, Larsen, Propp 98], [Borodin, Okounkov, Olshanski 99], [Widom 01], [Okounkov, Reshetikhin 01], [Pittel, Romik 04], [Romik 15], [Marchal 15], [Morales, Pak, Panova 16], ... Svante, Robin, Vadim, Alejandro, Jehanne, Valentin, Piotr, room!

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Theorem

Let X_n be the entry of the *lower right corner* of a uniform random *triangular Young tableau* of slope $\alpha = -\frac{\ell}{p}$ and of size N . Define $\delta = \frac{p}{p+\ell} = \frac{1}{1-\alpha}$.

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$$\frac{N - X_n}{n^{1+\delta}}$$

converges in law to the same limiting distribution as the number of *black balls* in a *periodic Young-Pólya urn* with initial conditions $w_0 = \ell$, $b_0 = p$ and with replacement matrices $M_1 = \dots = M_{p-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $M_p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \ell \\ 0 & 1 + \ell \end{pmatrix}$,

Asymptotics of triangular Young tableaux

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replacement matrices $M_1 = \dots = M_{p-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $M_p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \ell \\ 0 & 1 + \ell \end{pmatrix}$,

i.e., for $n \rightarrow \infty$ we have

$$\frac{2}{p\ell} \frac{N - X_n}{n^{1+\delta}} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \text{Beta}(b_0, w_0) \prod_{i=0}^{\ell-1} \text{GenGamma}(b_0 + w_0 + p + i, p + \ell).$$

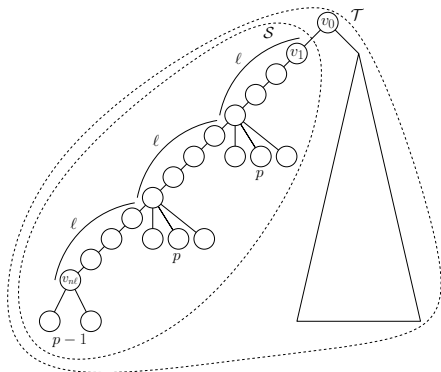
Proof: Young tableaux \rightarrow trees \rightarrow periodic Pólya urns

Correspondence 1

41	55	61	72								
31	44	60	71								
22	27	45	58								
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ℓ ℓ ℓ

p p p



Proof: Young tableaux \rightarrow trees \rightarrow periodic Pólya urns

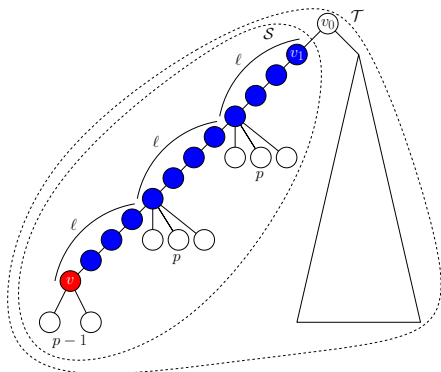
Correspondence 1

- Lower right cell of \mathcal{Y} corresponds to node v in the tree \mathcal{T}

41	55	61	72																	
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ℓ ℓ ℓ

p p p



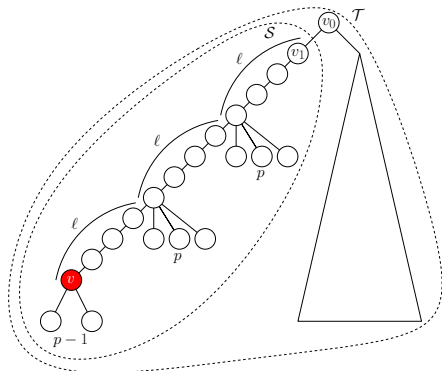
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- Lower right cell of \mathcal{Y} corresponds to node v in the tree \mathcal{T}
- First row corresponds to left-most branch of \mathcal{S}
- Important: Hook lengths are the same!

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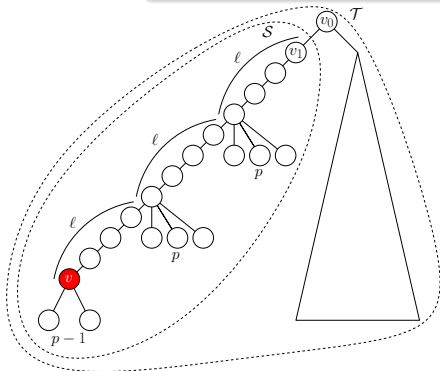
Key result (via density method)

Let $E_{\mathcal{T}}$ be a uniform random linear extension of \mathcal{T} , and X_n be the lower right entry of \mathcal{Y} .

$$1 + X_n \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} E_{\mathcal{T}}(v).$$

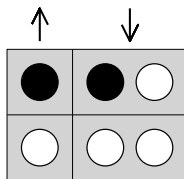
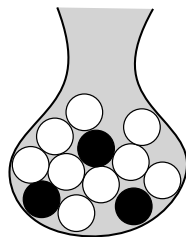
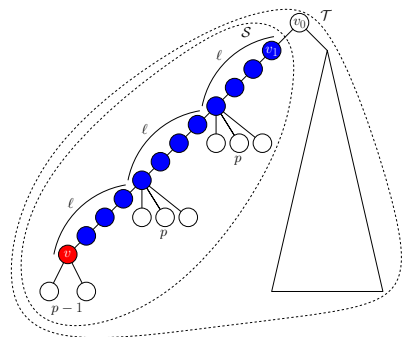
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1	2	4	9	11	16	23	33	34	36	37	42									

Diagram showing hook lengths ℓ and p for the Young tableau. The bottom row is highlighted in blue, and the bottom-right cell (42) is highlighted in red.



Proof: Young tableaux \rightarrow trees \rightarrow periodic Pólya urns

Correspondence 2

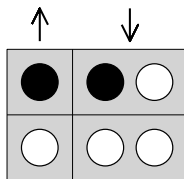
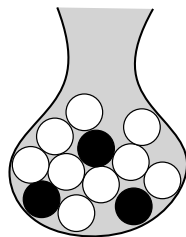
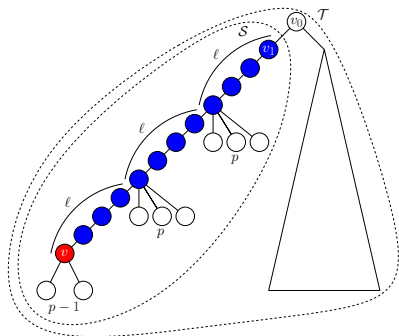


Proof: Young tableaux \rightarrow trees \rightarrow periodic Pólya urns

Correspondence 2

- Periodic Young–Pólya urn with period p and parameter ℓ with replacement matrices

$$M_1 = M_2 = \dots = M_{p-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad M_p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \ell \\ 0 & 1 + \ell \end{pmatrix}.$$



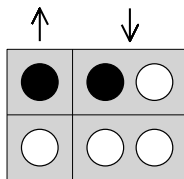
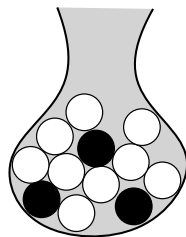
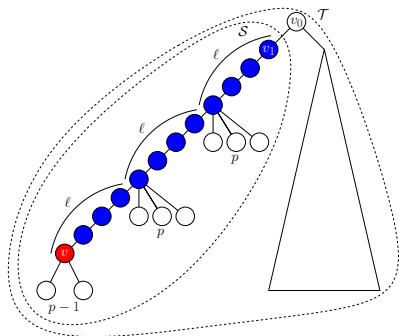
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- Initial conditions $b_0 = p$ and $w_0 = \ell$



Proof: Young tableaux \rightarrow trees \rightarrow periodic Pólya urns

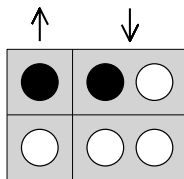
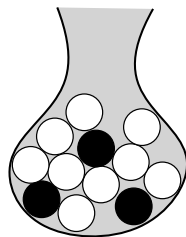
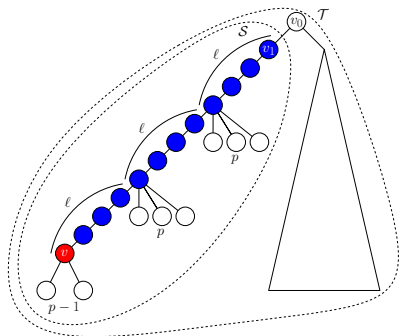
Correspondence 2

- Periodic Young–Pólya urn with period p and parameter ℓ with replacement matrices

$$M_1 = M_2 = \dots = M_{p-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad M_p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \ell \\ 0 & 1 + \ell \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Initial conditions $b_0 = p$ and $w_0 = \ell$

$\Rightarrow N - E_S(v)$ is distributed like $B_{(n-1)p}$, the black balls after $(n-1)p$ steps



The general result for Pólya urns

Theorem (The product generalized gamma distribution for balanced periodic triangular urns)

Let $p \geq 1$ and $\ell_1, \dots, \ell_p \geq 0$ be non-negative integers. Consider a periodic Pólya urn of period p with replacement matrices M_1, \dots, M_p given by

$$M_j := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \ell_j \\ 0 & 1 + \ell_j \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then, the renormalized distribution of black balls is asymptotically for $n \rightarrow \infty$ given by the following product of independent distributions:

$$\frac{p^\delta}{p + \ell} \frac{B_n}{n^\delta} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \text{Beta}(b_0, w_0) \prod_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq \ell_1 + \dots + \ell_j + j \text{ with } 1 \leq j \leq p-1}}^{p+\ell-1} \text{GenGamma}(b_0 + w_0 + i, p + \ell).$$

with $\ell = \ell_1 + \dots + \ell_p$, $\delta = p/(p + \ell)$, and $\text{Beta}(b_0, w_0) = 1$ when $w_0 = 0$.

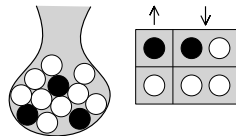
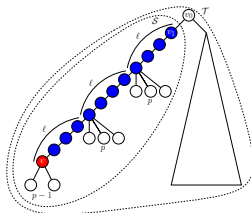


Solves the law of the south-east corner for a periodic triangular Young tableaux of any periodic shape.

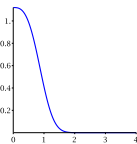
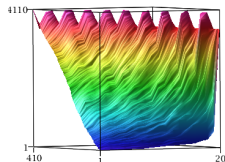
Conclusion

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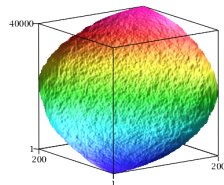
Labels: ℓ (width of columns), p (height of rows)



- 1 Powerful method to tackle Pólya urn problems (colors, multidrawing, time...)
- 2 Exact and asymptotic analysis of the urn composition
- 3 New universal limit law: product of generalized Gamma distributions
- 4 Computer algebra challenges (D-finiteness and pde's, sums of hypergeom)
- 5 En passant, density method to generate/enumerate combinatorial structures
- 6 Nice cherry: corners of triangular Young tableaux, duality



$$\text{GenGamma}(1, 3) : \frac{3e^{-x^3}}{\Gamma(1/3)}$$

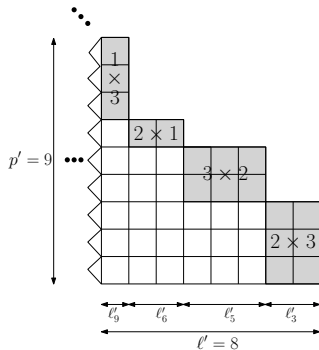
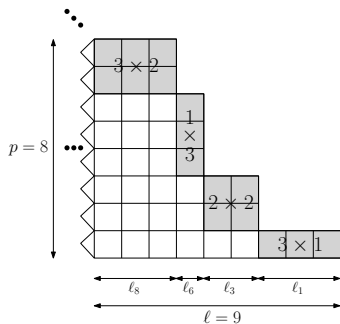


Bonus slides, just in case...



Factorisation of Gamma distributions via Young tableaux

$$(i_1, j_1; \dots; i_4, j_4) = (\vec{3}, \downarrow, \vec{1}, \downarrow, \vec{3}, \downarrow, \vec{2}, \downarrow, \vec{3}, \downarrow) \xrightarrow{\text{cyclic shift}} (j_4, i_1; \dots; j_3, i_4) = (\vec{1}, \downarrow, \vec{3}, \downarrow, \vec{2}, \downarrow, \vec{3}, \downarrow, \vec{2}, \downarrow, \vec{3}, \downarrow)$$



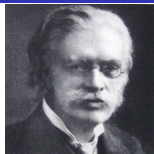
$$\text{GenGamma}(s_0 + 1, 2) = \sqrt{m} \prod_{k=1}^m \text{GenGamma}(s_0 + 2k - 1, 2m).$$

$\text{GenGamma}(a, 1/b) = \Gamma(ab)^b$ thus with $x := \frac{s_0+1}{2m}$:

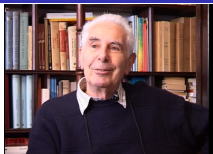
$$\Gamma(mx)^m = m^m \prod_{k=1}^m \Gamma\left(x + \frac{k-1}{m}\right) \longleftrightarrow$$

probabilistic proof of Gauss multiplication formula!

Universality of the tails



Gösta Mittag-Leffler
(1846-1927)



Jean-Pierre Kahane
(1926-2017)

Theorem

ProdGenGamma have tails similar to a Mittag-Leffler distribution: $\frac{\log \frac{\mathbb{E}(X^r)}{\mathbb{E}(Y^r)}}{r} \rightarrow 0$.

Definition (Subgaussian tails Kahane, 1960)

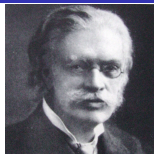
A random variable X has subgaussian tails if there exist $c, C > 0$, such that

$$\mathbb{P}(|X| \geq t) \leq Ce^{-ct^2}, \quad t > 0.$$

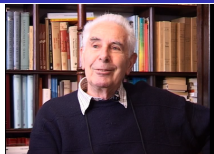
Theorem

The ProdGenGamma($[\ell_1, \dots, \ell_p], b_0, w_0$) distributions have **subgaussian tails** if and only if $p \geq \ell$, where $\ell = \ell_1 + \dots + \ell_p$.

Universality of the tails



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ProdGenGamma have tails *similar to a Mittag-Leffler distribution*: $\frac{\log \frac{\mathbb{E}(X^r)}{\mathbb{E}(Y^r)}}{r} \rightarrow 0$.

Definition (Subgaussian tails **Kahane, 1960**)

A random variable X has subgaussian tails if there exist $c, C > 0$, such that

$$\mathbb{P}(|X| \geq t) \leq Ce^{-ct^2}, \quad t > 0.$$

Theorem

The ProdGenGamma($[\ell_1, \dots, \ell_p], b_0, w_0$) distributions have **subgaussian tails** if and only if $p \geq \ell$, where $\ell = \ell_1 + \dots + \ell_p$.

The tails **depend** only on

- the slope δ
- the period length p .

The tails are **independent** of

- the initial conditions b_0 and w_0
- the periodic pattern $[\ell_1, \dots, \ell_p]$.

Theorem (Limit law for the location of the maximum)

Choose a uniform random triangular Young tableau of parameters (ℓ, p, n) .

$\text{Posi}_n \in \{1, \dots, \ell n\} := x$ -coordinate of the cell containing the largest entry. Then,

$$\frac{\text{Posi}_n}{\ell n} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \text{Arcsine}(\delta), \quad \text{where } \delta := p/(p + \ell).$$

Proof.

$\mathcal{Y}^* :=$ tableau where the cell containing the max is removed.

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{Posi}_n = k\ell) = \frac{\prod_{c \in \mathcal{Y}^*} \text{hook}_{\mathcal{Y}^*}(c)}{\prod_{c \in \mathcal{Y}} \text{hook}_{\mathcal{Y}}(c)} = \prod_{\substack{c \in \mathcal{Y}^* \text{ with } (x\text{-coord of } c) = k\ell \\ \text{or } (y\text{-coord of } c) = (n-k)p}} \frac{\text{hook}_{\mathcal{Y}^*}(c)}{1 + \text{hook}_{\mathcal{Y}^*}(c)}.$$

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{Posi}_n = k\ell) \sim \frac{(k/n)^{\delta-1} (1-k/n)^{-\delta}}{\Gamma(\delta)\Gamma(1-\delta)}.$$

= **generalized arcsine law** on $[0, 1]$ with density $\frac{x^{\delta-1}(1-x)^{-\delta}}{\Gamma(\delta)\Gamma(1-\delta)}$. □

This is in sharp contrast with the case of an $n \times n$ square tableau where, for every $t \in (0, 1)$, the cell containing the entry tn^2 is asymptotically distributed according to the Wigner semicircle law on its level line (see [PittelRomik07]).

More to dig with combinatorics of differential operators!

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COMBINATORIAL MODELS OF CREATION-ANNIHILATION

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ABSTRACT. Quantum physics has revealed many interesting formal properties associated with the algebra of two operators, A and B , satisfying the partial commutation relation $AB - BA = 1$. This study surveys the relationships between classical combinatorial structures and the reduction to normal form of operator polynomials in such an algebra. The connection is achieved through suitable labelled graphs, or “*diagrams*”, that are composed of elementary “*gates*”. In this way, many normal form evaluations can be systematically obtained, thanks to models that involve set partitions, permutations, increasing trees, as well as weighted lattice paths. Extensions to q -analogues, multivariate frameworks, and urn models are also briefly discussed.

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$\exp(y\partial_x^2 + xy\partial_y^2)$
(Heisenberg–Weyl algebra)

Coucou aux amateurs de générique de fin

