

Patterns in Ordered Set Partitions and Parking Functions

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November 16, 2017

Set Partitions

Definition (Set Partition)

A **set partition** π of $[n] = \{1, \dots, n\}$ is a family of nonempty, pairwise disjoint subsets B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k of $[n]$ called blocks such that $\bigcup_{i=1}^k B_i = [n]$. We write

$$\pi = B_1 / \dots / B_k,$$

where $\min(B_1) < \dots < \min(B_k)$.

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Example

$\pi = 134/268/57 \vdash [8]$ with parts $B_1 = \{1, 3, 4\}$, $B_2 = \{2, 6, 8\}$, and $B_3 = \{5, 6\}$.

Ordered Set Partitions

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An **ordered set partition** with underlying set partition $\pi = B_1 / \dots / B_k$ is a permutation of the blocks of π , $\delta = B_{\sigma_1} / \dots / B_{\sigma_k}$ for some permutation σ of $[k]$.

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$\delta = 57/134/268$ is an ordered set partition of $[8]$ with underlying set partition $\pi = 134/268/57$.

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Let $\lambda = (1^{\alpha_1} 2^{\alpha_2} \dots n^{\alpha_n})$ be a partition and $\ell(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i$ denote the length of λ , then

- ▶ $OP_{[\lambda]}$ denote the set of ordered set partitions $\delta = B_1 / \dots / B_{\ell(\lambda)}$ of $[\lambda]$ such that the partition induced by the sizes of the parts of $\delta = \lambda$.

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Ex. $OP_{[1^2 2^2]} = OP_{5,3;1,2,2} + OP_{5,3;2,1,2} + OP_{5,3;2,2,1}$.

Reduction of a Sequence

Definition ($\text{red}(w)$)

Given a sequence of distinct positive integers $w = w_1 \dots w_n$, we let the **reduction** (or **standardization**) of the sequence $\text{red}(w)$ denote the permutation of $[n]$ obtained from w by replacing the i -th smallest letter in w by i .

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Example

If $w = 4592$, then $\text{red}(w) = 2341$.

Pattern Avoidance in Ordered Set Partitions

Godbole, Goyt, Herdan, and Pudwell [GGHP, 2014] used the definition that a permutation $\sigma = \sigma_1 \dots \sigma_j \in \mathcal{S}_j$ *occurs* in an ordered set partition $\delta = B_1 / \dots / B_k$ if and only if there exists $1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_j \leq k$ and $b_{i_l} \in B_{i_l}$ for $l = 1, \dots, j$ such that $\text{red}(b_{i_1} \dots b_{i_j}) = \sigma$.

δ *avoids* σ if σ does *not occur* in δ .

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Example

$\delta = 57/134/268$, 213 occurs in δ since $\text{red}(518) = 213$.

But δ avoids 123 because every element in the first part $\{5, 7\}$ of δ is bigger than every element in the second part $\{1, 3, 4\}$ of δ .

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The **word** of $\delta = B_{\sigma_1} / \dots / B_{\sigma_k}$ is obtained from δ by **removing all the slashes**, write $w(\delta)$.

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Focus 1: Word Avoidance in Ordered Set Partitions

New Definition of Pattern Avoidance

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Given an ordered set partition $\delta = B_1 / \dots / B_k$ of $[n]$, we say that a permutation $\sigma = \sigma_1 \dots \sigma_j$ in the symmetric group \mathcal{S}_j *word occurs* in δ if there exists $1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_j \leq n$ such that $\text{red}(w_{i_1} \dots w_{i_j}) = \sigma$ where $w(\delta) = w_1 \dots w_n$.

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Thus σ *word occurs* in δ if σ classically occurs in $w(\delta)$.

We say that an ordered set partition δ *word avoids* σ if σ does *not word occur* in δ .

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Word Avoidance v.s. Avoidance

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Example

There are four ordered set partitions of 3 in which 123 word occurs:

123, 1/23, 12/3 and 1/2/3,

but 123 occurs in only one permutation of 3, namely 123, and it occurs in only one ordered partition, of [3], namely 1/2/3.

Word Avoidance v.s. Avoidance—Similarity

If σ is the decreasing permutation $\sigma = j(j-1)\dots 21$, then

$OP_{n,k;b_1,\dots,b_k}(\sigma) = WOP_{n,k;b_1,\dots,b_k}(\sigma)$ for all n, k , and b_1, \dots, b_k .

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For another example, $wop_{n,k}(321) = op_{n,k}(321)$.

Results on ordered set partitions which word avoid σ

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The enumerations we are interested in are $wop_{n,k}(\sigma)$ and $wop_{[b_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, b_k^{\alpha_k}]}(\sigma)$, which have generating functions

$$A_\sigma(x, t) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{k \geq 0} wop_{n,k}(\sigma) x^n t^k \quad (1)$$

and

$$A_{\sigma, [b_1, \dots, b_k]}(x, t, q_1, \dots, q_k) = \sum_{\alpha_1 \geq 0, \dots, \alpha_k \geq 0} wop_{[b_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, b_k^{\alpha_k}]}(\sigma) x^{\sum_{i=1}^k b_i \alpha_i} t^{\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i} q_1^{\alpha_1} \dots q_k^{\alpha_k}. \quad (2)$$

The Patterns 132, 213, 231, 312

Theorem (Pattern 132)

$$A_{132}(x, t) = \frac{x + 1 - \sqrt{x^2 - 4tx - 2x + 1}}{2(1 + t)x},$$

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$$wop_{[b_1^{\alpha_1} \dots b_s^{\alpha_s}]}(132) = \frac{1}{n} \binom{k}{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_s} \binom{n+k}{n-1}.$$

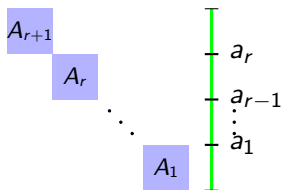
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Structure of 132 avoiding ordered set partitions

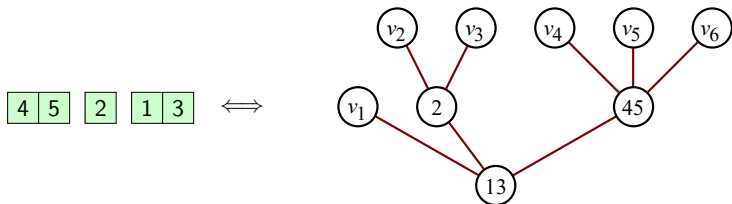
Bijection between $WOP_n(132)$ and rooted planar trees with no vertices out degree 1

It follows from the Theorem that $wop_n(132)$ is the number of rooted planar trees with $n + 1$ leaves that have no vertices of out degree 1.

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In fact, we can give a bijective proof of this.



Bijection between $WOP_n(132)$ and rooted planar trees with no vertices out degree 1

Symmetry among the Patterns 132,213,231,312

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Theorem

For all n, k , and b_1, \dots, b_k such that $b_1 + \dots + b_k = n$,

$$wop_{n,k}(132) = wop_{n,k}(213) = wop_{n,k}(231) = wop_{n,k}(312) \text{ and}$$

$$\begin{aligned} wop_{n,k;b_1,\dots,b_k}(132) &= wop_{n,k;b_k,\dots,b_1}(213) = wop_{n,k;b_1,\dots,b_k}(231) \\ &= wop_{n,k;b_k,\dots,b_1}(312). \end{aligned}$$

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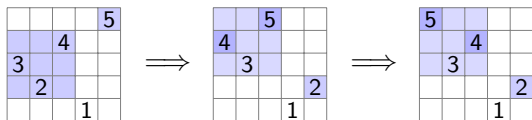
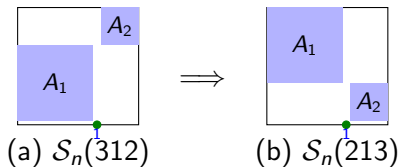
A bijection between $\mathcal{OP}_n(\text{word}, 312)$ and $\mathcal{OP}_n(\text{word}, 213)$ preserving block size composition

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$$p = \{3, 2, 4, 1, 5\} \in \mathcal{S}_n(312) \Rightarrow p' = \{5, 3, 4, 1, 2\} \in \mathcal{S}_n(213)$$

Symmetry between $wop_{n,k;b_1,\dots,b_k}(321)$ and $wop_{n,k;b_1,\dots,b_k}(123)$

In [GGHP, 2014], the authors proved that

$$wop_{n,k;b_1,\dots,b_i,b_{i+1},\dots,b_k}(321) = wop_{n,k;b_1,\dots,b_{i+1},b_i,\dots,b_k}(321).$$

Thus for the permutation 321, we can essentially reduce ourselves to ordered set partitions where the size of the parts weakly increase as we read from left to right. We have proved a similar result for 123.

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \boxed{a_3} & \boxed{a_1 a_2} & \iff & \boxed{a_1 a_3} & \boxed{a_2} \\ \boxed{a_2} & \boxed{a_1 a_3} & \iff & \boxed{a_1 a_2} & \boxed{a_3} \\ \dots, 1, 2, \dots & & & & \dots, 2, 1, \dots \end{array}$$

Pattern 123

It is easy to see that an ordered set partition that word **avoids 123** can have parts of **size only 1 or 2**. Then we have the following theorem.

Theorem

$$A_{123,[1,2]}(x, t, q_1, q_2) = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4xt(q_1 + xq_2)}}{2tx(q_1 + xq_2)}.$$

And for $2k \geq n$,

$$wop_{n,k;1^{2k-n},2^{n-k}}(123) = \frac{wop_{n,k}(123)}{\binom{k}{n-k}} = \frac{1}{k+1} \binom{2k}{k} = C_k.$$

Here C_k is the k^{th} **Catalan number**.

Pattern 321

We also have generating function of $wop_{n,k}(321)$.

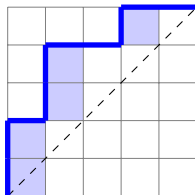
Theorem

$$A_{321}(x, t) = \frac{2(t+1)(x-x^2) + t - t\sqrt{1-4(t+1)(x-x^2)}}{2(t+1)^2(x-x^2)}.$$

Focus 2: Pattern Avoidance in Parking Functions

A parking function of size n can be considered as a combination of a Dyck path on an $n \times n$ lattice and an ordered set partition.

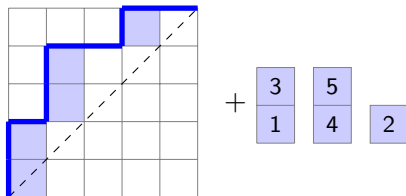
Given any Dyck path on the $n \times n$ lattice, one creates a parking function P by labeling the **north steps** with $1, 2, \dots, n$ in such a way that in any **column**, the numbers are **increasing** when read from bottom to top.



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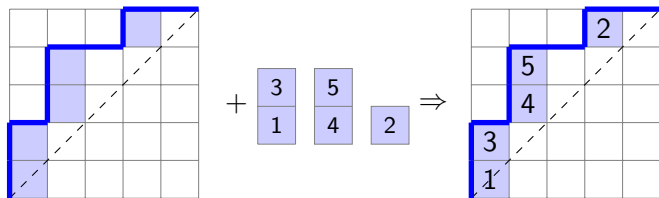
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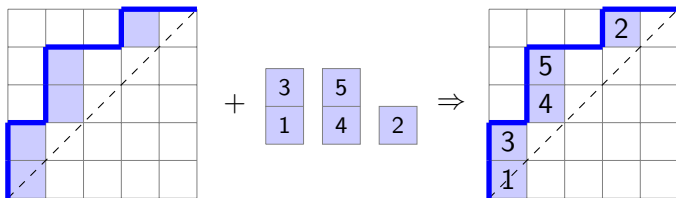
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The construction of a parking function

Word Avoidance in Parking Functions

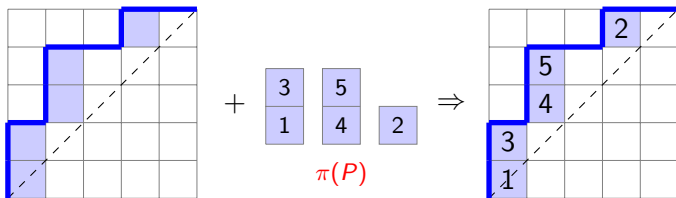
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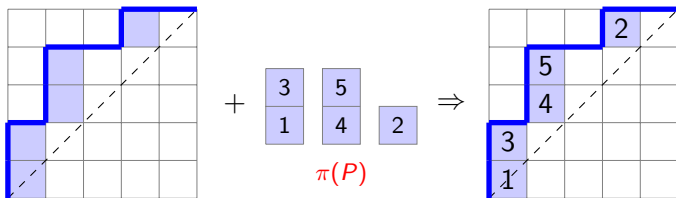
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The construction of a parking function

We say that a permutation σ *word occurs* in a parking function P if it *word occurs* in $\pi(P)$. A parking function P *word avoids* a permutation σ if σ does not occur in P .

Word Avoidance in Parking Functions

PF_n is the set of **parking functions on the $n \times n$ lattice**. If $\sigma = \sigma_1 \dots \sigma_j$ is a permutation in the symmetric group \mathcal{S}_j , then

- ▶ $PF_n(\sigma) = \{P \in PF_n \mid \pi(P) \in WOP_n\}$,
- ▶ $PF_{n,k}(\sigma) = \{P \in PF_n \mid \pi(P) \in WOP_{n,k}\}$,
- ▶ $PF_{n,k;b_1,\dots,b_k}(\sigma) = \{P \in PF_n \mid \pi(P) \in WOP_{n,k;b_1,\dots,b_k}\}$,

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Similarly, we let

- ▶ $\text{pf}_n(\sigma) = |PF_n(\sigma)|$,
- ▶ $\text{pf}_{n,k}(\sigma) = |PF_{n,k}(\sigma)|$,
- ▶ $\text{pf}_{n,k;b_1,\dots,b_k}(\sigma) = |PF_{n,k;b_1,\dots,b_k}(\sigma)|$.

Results on Pattern Avoidance in Parking Functions

We have proved a number of results on patterns in parking functions. For example, we have the following theorem.

Theorem

$$\begin{aligned} \text{pf}_{n,k}(123) &= \frac{1}{(k+1)(n-k+1)} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{n-k} \binom{2k}{k} \\ &= \frac{C_k}{n-k+1} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{n-k}. \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{pf}_n(123) &= \sum_{k=\frac{n}{2}}^n \frac{1}{(k+1)(n-k+1)} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{n-k} \binom{2k}{k} \\ &= \sum_{k=\frac{n}{2}}^n \frac{C_k}{n-k+1} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{n-k}. \end{aligned}$$

Focus 1': Adding descents to generating functions

We have also found expression for generating functions over ordered set partitions which word avoid a permutation in \mathcal{S}_3 where we keep track of certain kinds of descents.

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We have also found expression for generating functions over ordered set partitions which word avoid a permutation in \mathcal{S}_3 where we keep track of certain kinds of descents.

Here are three natural types of descent sets that one can define on a ordered set partition $\pi = B_1 / \dots / B_k$. Let $b_{i_{min}} = \min\{B_i\}$ and $b_{i_{max}} = \max\{B_i\}$.

$$(a) \text{Des}_{min}(\pi) = \{i \mid b_{i_{min}} > b_{i+1_{min}}\},$$

$$(b) \text{Des}(\pi) = \{i \mid b_{i_{max}} > b_{i+1_{min}}\}, \text{ and}$$

$$(c) \widetilde{\text{Des}}(\pi) = \{i \mid b_{i_{min}} > b_{i+1_{max}}\}.$$

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We let $\text{des}_{min}(\pi) = |\text{Des}_{min}(\pi)|$, $\text{des}(\pi) = |\text{Des}(\pi)|$, and $\widetilde{\text{des}}(\pi) = |\widetilde{\text{Des}}(\pi)|$.

Focus 1': Adding descents to generating functions

We can find the generating function $\text{des}(\pi)$ and $\widetilde{\text{des}}(\pi)$ over all ordered set partitions which word avoid α for any $\alpha \in \mathcal{S}_3$, and the generating function of $\text{des}_{\min}(\pi)$ over all ordered set partitions which word avoid 132.

Example

Taking pattern $\sigma = 123$ and $\text{des}(\pi)$, we have

$$A_{\sigma, \text{des}}(x, y, t) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{k \geq 0} \sum_{\pi \in WOP_{n,k}(\sigma)} x^n t^k y^{\text{des}(\pi)}$$
$$= \frac{2t^3x^2(y-1)^2y - 2t^2x(2x+1)(y-1)y + t(2x^2y + 2xy - 1) - 1 + (1+t)\sqrt{4t^2x^2y^2 - 4t^2x^2y - 4tx^2y - 4txy + 1}}{2t(t+1)xy^2(tx - tx - x - 1)}.$$

Future Work

- ▶ $wop_{n,k;b_1,\dots,b_k}(321)$ is not known yet.
- ▶ Adding $des_{min}(\pi)$ to generating function is open for several patterns.
- ▶ Many parking function pattern avoidance problems are open.

References



A. Godbole, A. Goyt, J. Herndan, and L. Pudwell(2014)

Pattern avoidance in ordered set partitions

Annals of Combinatorics, **18.3** (2014), 429-445.

Thank You!

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Definition (parking function)

Let $\alpha = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{P}^n$, and let $b_1 \leq b_2 \leq \dots \leq b_n$ be the increasing rearrangement of α . Then α is a parking function iff $b_i \leq i$.

