Permutations, Card Shuffling, and Representation Theory

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Permutations and Increasing Subsequences

Permutation : bijection $\sigma: \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$

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2-line notation :
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ \mathbf{3} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

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symmetric group \mathfrak{S}_n : group of permutations of $\{1,\ldots,n\}$

Definition

$$\mathrm{inc}_k(\sigma) = \# \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \mathrm{increasing\ subsequences} \\ \mathrm{of\ length\ } k \mathrm{\ in\ } \sigma \end{array} \right\}$$

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increasing				
subsequences				
of length 2				
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σ	123			
increasing	12			
subsequences				
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increasing	12	13		
subsequences	1 3			
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σ	123	132	213	231	
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of length 2	23				
$\operatorname{inc}_2(\sigma)$	3	2	2	1	

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subsequences of length 2	1 3	1 2	13			
of length 2	23					
$\operatorname{inc}_2(\sigma)$	3	2	2	1	1	0

Matrix of increasing k-subsequences

$$\operatorname{Inc}_{n,k} = \sigma \left(\begin{array}{ccc} & \tau & & \\ \vdots & & \\ \cdots & \operatorname{inc}_{k}(\tau^{-1}\sigma) & \cdots \end{array} \right)$$

$$\operatorname{Inc}_{3,1} = \left[\operatorname{inc}_1(\boldsymbol{\tau}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma})\right]$$

```
123
           132 213 231
                          312
                               321
123
132
213
231
312
321
```

$$\operatorname{Inc}_{3,1} = \left[\operatorname{inc}_1(\tau^{-1}\sigma)\right]$$

$$\operatorname{Inc}_{3,2} = \left[\operatorname{inc}_2(\boldsymbol{\tau}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma})\right]$$

```
123
          132 213 231
                         312
                               321
123
132
213
231
312
321
```

$$\operatorname{Inc}_{3,2} = \left[\operatorname{inc}_2(\boldsymbol{\tau}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma})\right]$$

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$$\operatorname{Inc}_{4,1} = \left[\operatorname{inc}_1(\tau^{-1}\sigma)\right]$$

$$\operatorname{Inc}_{4,2} = \left[\operatorname{inc}_2(\boldsymbol{\tau}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\sigma})\right]$$

$$\operatorname{Inc}_{4,3} = \left[\operatorname{inc}_3(\tau^{-1}\sigma)\right]$$

$$\operatorname{Inc}_{4,4} = \left[\operatorname{inc}_4(\tau^{-1}\sigma)\right]$$

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$$\operatorname{Inc}_{n,i} \operatorname{Inc}_{n,j} = \operatorname{Inc}_{n,j} \operatorname{Inc}_{n,i}$$

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 - 1. $\operatorname{Inc}_{n,i} \operatorname{Inc}_{n,j} = \operatorname{Inc}_{n,j} \operatorname{Inc}_{n,i}$
 - 2. the eigenvalues are non-negative integers
- Questions : Is this true? Why? What are these integers?

they do commute!

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additional families of intriguing matrices :

 \circ second family of matrices with similar properties (obtained by replacing inc_k with another *permutation statistic*)

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connections with probability and representation theory:

- card shuffling and related random walks
- o representation theory of the symmetric group

Card Shuffling

random-to-random shuffle

deck of cards:

$$\sigma_1\,\sigma_2\,\sigma_3\,\sigma_4\,\sigma_5\,\sigma_6\,\sigma_7\,\sigma_8\,\sigma_9$$

random-to-random shuffle

deck of cards:

$$\sigma_1\,\sigma_2\,\sigma_3\,\sigma_4\,\sigma_5\,\sigma_6\,\sigma_7\,\sigma_8\,\sigma_9$$

remove a card at random:

$$\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \uparrow \sigma_4 \sigma_5 \sigma_6 \sigma_7 \sigma_8 \sigma_9$$

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deck of cards:

$$\sigma_1 \, \sigma_2 \, \sigma_3 \, \sigma_4 \, \sigma_5 \, \sigma_6 \, \sigma_7 \, \sigma_8 \, \sigma_9$$

remove a card at random:

$$\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \uparrow \sigma_4 \sigma_5 \sigma_6 \sigma_7 \sigma_8 \sigma_9$$

insert the card at random:

$$\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_5 \sigma_6 \sigma_7 \sigma_3 \sigma_8 \sigma_9$$

```
132 213 231 312
123
132
213
231
312
```

```
132 213 231
                             312
      123
123
132
213
231
312
321
         3 ways to obtain 123 from 123:
```

```
132 213 231 312
      123
123
132
213
231
312
321
         2 ways to obtain 132 from 123 :
```

```
123
             132 213 231 312
            \frac{2}{9}
123
132
213
231
312
321
         2 ways to obtain 213 from 123 :
```

```
123
             132 213 231 312
             \frac{2}{9} \frac{2}{9}
123
132
213
231
312
321
          1 way to obtain 231 from 123:
```

```
123
              132 213 231
                                   312
              \frac{2}{9} \frac{2}{9} \frac{1}{9}
123
132
213
231
312
321
           1 way to obtain 312 from 123:
```

	123	132	213	231	312	321	
123	3 2 2 1 1	2	2	1	1	0	
132	2	3	1	0	2	1	
213	2	1	3	2	0	1	\downarrow $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1}}$
231	1	0	2	3	1	2	9
312	1	2	0	1	3	2	
321	0	1	1	2	2	3	1

 $\operatorname{Inc}_{n,n-1} \stackrel{\text{(renorm.)}}{=} \operatorname{random-to-random}$ shuffle

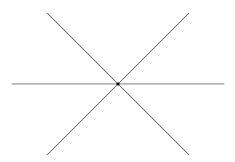
Properties of the transition matrix

The transition matrix T governs properties of the random walk.

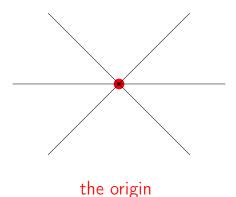
typical questions	\longleftrightarrow	algebraic properties
probability after m steps	\longleftrightarrow	entries of T^m
long-term behaviour (limiting distribution)	\longleftrightarrow	eigenvectors $\vec{\pi}$ s.t. $\vec{\pi} T = \vec{\pi}$
rate of convergence $\vec{v} \; T^n \longrightarrow \vec{\pi}$	\longleftrightarrow	governed by eigenvalues of T

random walks on the chambers of a hyperplane arrangement

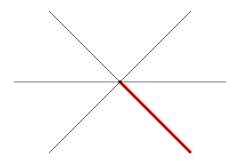
a set of hyperplanes partitions \mathbb{R}^n into *faces* :



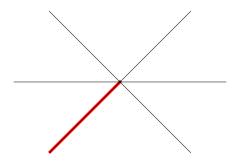
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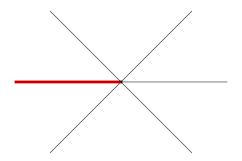
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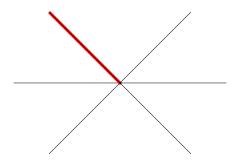
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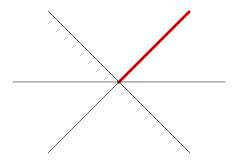
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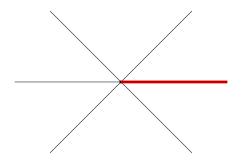
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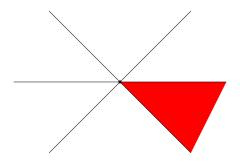
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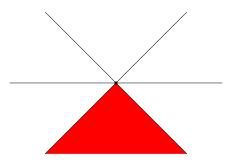
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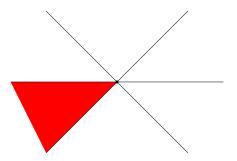
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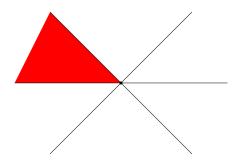
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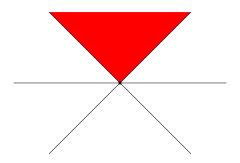


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faces of a hyperplane arrangement

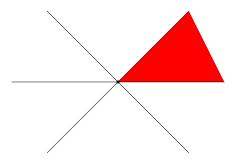
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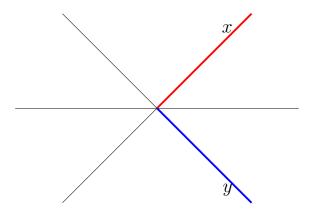
chambers cut out by the hyperplanes

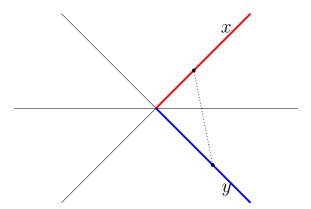
faces of a hyperplane arrangement

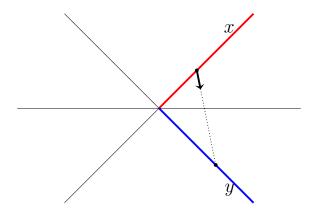
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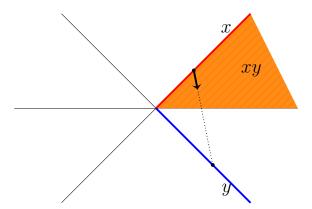


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- ullet consider a vector $ec{v}$ that belongs to a chamber
- ullet we can order the entries of $ec{v}$ in increasing order; e.g. :

$$v_5 < v_1 < v_3 < v_2 < v_4$$

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so chambers correspond to permutations :

$$v_5 < v_1 < v_3 < v_2 < v_4 \longleftrightarrow [5, 1, 3, 2, 4]$$

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• so chambers correspond to permutations :

$$v_5 < v_1 < v_3 < v_2 < v_4 \longleftrightarrow [5, 1, 3, 2, 4]$$

• if \vec{v} lies on $H_{i,j}$, then $v_i < v_j$ becomes $v_i = v_j$:

$$v_1 = v_5 < v_2 = v_3 < v_4 \longleftrightarrow [\{1, 5\}, \{2, 3\}, \{4\}]$$

combinatorial description:

faces \leftrightarrow ordered set partitions of $\{1,\ldots,n\}$:

$$[\{2,3\},\{4\},\{1,5\}] \neq [\{4\},\{1,5\},\{2,3\}]$$

chambers ↔ partitions into singletons

$$[{2},{3},{4},{1},{5}]$$

product ↔ intersection of sets in the partition

$$\Big[\{2,5\}\{1,3,4,6\}\Big] \cdot \Big[\{4\}\{1\}\{5\}\{6\}\{3\}\{2\}\Big]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{1}{2,5} & \{1,3,4,6\} \\
\end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix}
\frac{1}{4} & \{1\} & \{5\} & \{6\} & \{3\} & \{2\} \\
\end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \{2,5\} & \cap \{4\} \\
\end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{\downarrow}{2,5} \\
\{1,3,4,6\}
\end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix}
\frac{\downarrow}{4} \\
\{1\}\{5\}\{6\}\{3\}\{2\}
\end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \emptyset \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{1}{2,5} & \{1,3,4,6\} \\
\end{bmatrix} \cdot \left[\{4\} \cdot \frac{1}{1} \{5\} \{6\} \{3\} \{2\} \right]$$

$$= \left[\{2,5\} \cap \{1\} \right]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{\downarrow}{2,5} \\
[3,3,4,6]
\end{bmatrix} \cdot \left[\{4\}\{1\} \\
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$$\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{\downarrow}{2,5} \\
[3,3,4,6]
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[3,3,4,6]
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$$\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{1}{2,5} & \{1,3,4,6\} \\
\end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \{4\}\{1\}\{5\} \\
\underline{6} \\
\end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \{5\}\{2,5\} \\
\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \{5\}\{2,5\} \\
\end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \{6\} \\
\end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{1}{2,5} & \{1,3,4,6\} \\
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\end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{\downarrow}{(2,5)} \{1,3,4,6\} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \left[\{4\}\{1\}\{5\}\{6\}\{3\} \right] \\
= \left[\{5\}\{2,5\} \cap \{2\} \right]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{\downarrow}{\{2,5\}} \{1,3,4,6\} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \left[\{4\} \{1\} \{5\} \{6\} \{3\} \right] \\
= \left[\{5\} \{2\} \right]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \{2,5\} \overline{\{1,3,4,6\}} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \overline{\left[\frac{4}{4}\}} \{1\} \{5\} \{6\} \{3\} \{2\} \right] \\
= \overline{\{5\} \{2\} \{1,3,4,6\}} \cap \{4\}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \{2,5\} \overline{\{1,3,4,6\}} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \overline{\left[\frac{4}{4}\right]} \{1\} \{5\} \{6\} \{3\} \{2\} \} \\
= \overline{\{5\} \{2\} \{4\}}$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} \{2,5\} \overline{\{1,3,4,6\}} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \left[\{4\} \{1\} \{5\} \{6\} \overline{\{3\}} \{2\} \right] \\
= \left[\{5\} \{2\} \{4\} \{1\} \{6\} \{1,3,4,6\} \cap \{3\} \right]$$

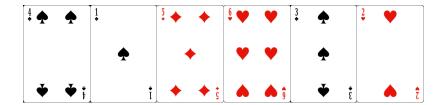
$$\begin{bmatrix} \{2,5\} \overline{\{1,3,4,6\}} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \left[\{4\} \{1\} \{5\} \{6\} \overline{\{3\}} \{2\} \right] \\
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$$[\{2,5\}\{1,3,4,6\}] \cdot [\{4\}\{1\}\{5\}\{6\}\{3\}\{2\}]$$

$$= [\{5\}\{2\}\{4\}\{1\}\{6\}\{3\}]$$

$$[\{2,5\}\{1,3,4,6\}] \cdot [\{4\}\{1\}\{5\}\{6\}\{3\}\{2\}]$$
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$$\left[\{2,5\}\{1,3,4,6\} \right] \cdot \left[\{4\}\{1\}\{5\}\{6\}\{3\}\{2\} \right]$$

$$= \left[\{5\}\{2\}\{4\}\{1\}\{6\}\{3\} \right]$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad$$

A step in the random walk :

starting from an element c, pick an element y at random, and move to $y \times c$.

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$$[\{2,5\}\{1,3,4,6\}] \times [1,2,3,4,5,6] = [2,5,1,3,4,6]$$
$$[\{1,2,6\}\{3,4,5\}] \times [2,5,1,3,4,6] = [2,1,6,5,3,4]$$
$$[\{3\}\{1,2,4,5,6\}] \times [2,1,6,5,3,4] = [3,2,1,6,5,4]$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & [\{\underline{2},\underline{5}\}\{1,3,4,6\}] \times [1,\underline{2},3,4,\underline{5},6] = [\underline{2},\underline{5},1,3,4,6] \\ & [\{\underline{1},\underline{2},\underline{6}\}\{3,4,5\}] \times [\underline{2},5,\underline{1},3,4,\underline{6}] = [\underline{2},\underline{1},\underline{6},5,3,4] \\ & [\{\underline{3}\}\{1,2,4,5,6\}] \times [2,1,6,5,\underline{3},4] = [\underline{3},2,1,6,5,4] \end{aligned}$$

A step in the random walk:

starting from an element c, pick an element y at random, and move to $y \times c$.

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} & [\{\underline{2},\underline{5}\}\{1,3,4,6\}] \times [1,\underline{2},3,4,\underline{5},6] = [\underline{2},\underline{5},1,3,4,6] \\ & [\{\underline{1},\underline{2},\underline{6}\}\{3,4,5\}] \times [\underline{2},5,\underline{1},3,4,\underline{6}] = [\underline{2},\underline{1},\underline{6},5,3,4] \\ & [\{\underline{3}\}\{1,2,4,5,6\}] \times [2,1,6,5,\underline{3},4] = [\underline{3},2,1,6,5,4] \end{aligned}$$

(Inverse) Riffle Shuffle

A step in the random walk:

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Example:

$$\begin{split} & [\{\underline{2},\underline{5}\}\{1,3,4,6\}] \times [1,\underline{2},3,4,\underline{5},6] = [\underline{2},\underline{5},1,3,4,6] \\ & [\{\underline{1},\underline{2},\underline{6}\}\{3,4,5\}] \times [\underline{2},5,\underline{1},3,4,\underline{6}] = [\underline{2},\underline{1},\underline{6},5,3,4] \\ & [\{\underline{3}\}\{1,2,4,5,6\}] \times [2,1,6,5,\underline{3},4] = [\underline{3},2,1,6,5,4] \end{split}$$

(Inverse) Riffle Shuffle and Random-to-Top

Introduced by Bidigare-Hanlon-Rockmore (1999):

- $\circ\,$ computed eigenvalues of the transition matrices
- o presents a unified approach to several random walks

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Others:

Björner, Athanasiadis-Diaconis, Chung-Graham, ...

$\operatorname{Inc}_{n,k}$ and hyperplane chamber walks

Theorem (Reiner-S-Welker 2011)

$$\operatorname{Inc}_{n,k} = \mathsf{T}_k \, \mathsf{T}_k^t$$

where T_k is the transition matrix of a random walk on the braid arrangement.

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$$\operatorname{Inc}_{n,k} = \mathsf{T}_k \, \mathsf{T}_k^t$$

where T_k is the transition matrix of a random walk on the braid arrangement.

Consequently,
$$\ker(\operatorname{Inc}_{n,k}) = \ker(\mathsf{T}_k)$$

A $\it representation$ of a group $\it G$ is a group homomorphism

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A representation of a group G is a group homomorphism

$$\rho: G \longrightarrow \mathrm{Mat}_d$$

That is,

- $\rho(g)$ is a $(d \times d)$ -matrix
- $\rho(gh) = \rho(g)\rho(h)$

Examples:

• trivial representation :

$$\rho(g) = [1]$$

Regular representation of \mathfrak{S}_3

Regular representation of \mathfrak{S}_3

$$\rho(\mathbf{123}) = \begin{bmatrix}
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
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1 & 1 & 1$$

$$3\rho(\mathbf{123}) + 2\rho(\mathbf{132}) + 2\rho(\mathbf{213}) + 1\rho(\mathbf{231}) + 1\rho(\mathbf{312}) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\operatorname{Inc}_{n,k}$ and the regular representation of \mathfrak{S}_n

Theorem (Reiner-S-Welker 2011)

$$\operatorname{Inc}_{n,k} = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \operatorname{inc}_k(\sigma) \operatorname{reg}(\sigma)$$

where reg is the regular representation of \mathfrak{S}_n .

(decompose the regular representation into irreducible representations)

 $3 \cdot 123 \quad 2 \cdot 132$

 $2 \cdot \mathbf{213}$

 $1 \cdot 231 \quad 1 \cdot 312$

(decompose the regular representation into irreducible representations)

$$3 \cdot 123$$
 $2 \cdot 132$ $2 \cdot 213$ $1 \cdot 231$ $1 \cdot 312$

trivial:

$$3 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

(decompose the regular representation into irreducible representations)

$$3 \cdot 123$$
 $2 \cdot 132$ $2 \cdot 213$ $1 \cdot 231$ $1 \cdot 312$

sign:

$$3 \cdot [1] + 2 \cdot [-1] + 2 \cdot [-1] + 1 \cdot [1] + 1 \cdot [1]$$

= $[1]$

(decompose the regular representation into irreducible representations)

$$3 \cdot 123 \quad 2 \cdot 132$$

$$2 \cdot 132$$

$$2 \cdot \mathbf{213}$$

$$1 \cdot 231$$

$$1 \cdot 231 \quad 1 \cdot 312$$

$$\chi$$
 :

$$3 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

(decompose the regular representation into irreducible representations)

$$3 \cdot 123$$
 $2 \cdot 132$ $2 \cdot 213$ $1 \cdot 231$ $1 \cdot 312$

$$\chi: \\ 3 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \text{eigs}(\text{Inc}_{3,2}) = \{9, 1, 4, 4, 0, 0\}$$

Final Remarks

- This research was facilitated by computer exploration with the math. software Sage (sagemath.org) and Sage-Combinat:
 - to test the conjectures
 - to compute the eigenvalues of the matrices
 - to construct irreducible representations of \mathfrak{S}_n
 - to decompose the eigenspaces into irreducible representations
 - to search for other transition matrices with these properties
 - to provide ideas for proofs
- Second family of random walks with similar properties.
 Our analysis combines what we've seen today :
 - BHR theory of random walks to analyze the kernels; and
 - representation theory to analyze the other eigenspaces.