# Young tableaux and snakes 

Yuliy Baryshnikov<br>joint work with Dan Romik (Hebrew University)

## Motivation

- A Young tableaux is a filling of Young diagram consisting of $n$ boxes with numbers $1, \ldots, n$ increasing top-to-down and left-to-right.

| 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 3 | 5 |  |  |  |
| 4 |  | $n=9$ |  |  |
| 7 |  |  |  |  |

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- The number of YTs with given shape $\lambda$ has various interpretations (dimension of the representation $\lambda$ of $S_{n}$, for example).


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- The number of YTs with given shape $\lambda$ has various interpretations (dimension of the representation $\lambda$ of $S_{n}$, for example).
- Asymptotic regime is of interest:


## Motivation (cont'd)

- Consider a large shape $t \lambda, t \rightarrow \infty$ :



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- How one would prove it?


## Motivation (cont'd)

- By finding the rate function and then solving variational problem.


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- Rate function will count the (normalized, per unit area) number of YT filling the shapes approximating a strip



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- We start with the simplest task: finding the number of YT filling the strip of width 2 and slope 1 .


## Up-down permutations

- A permutation $\sigma \in S_{n}$ is called an up-down permutation (also zig-zag permutation, alternating permutation) if it satisfies

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\sigma(1)<\sigma(2)>\sigma(3)<\sigma(4)>\ldots
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- Theorem (D. André 1881): Let $A_{n}=\#$ of $n$-element up-down permutations. Then

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- Up-down permutations were named snakes and studied by V. Arnold to enumerate morsifications of real singularities.


## Up-down permutations (continued)

- Reminder:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \operatorname{sech} x=\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{E_{n} x^{n}}{n!}, \quad\left(E_{n}\right)_{n \geq 0}-\text { Euler numbers, } \\
& \tan x=\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{T_{n} x^{2 n-1}}{(2 n-1)!}, \quad\left(T_{n}\right)_{n \geq 0}-\text { Tangent numbers, } \\
& \frac{x}{e^{x}-1}=\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{B_{n} x^{n}}{n!}, \quad\left(B_{n}\right)_{n \geq 0}-\text { Bernoulli numbers. }
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- In this notation: $\quad A_{2 n}=\left|E_{2 n}\right|, \quad A_{2 n-1}=T_{n}=\frac{(-1)^{n-1} 4^{n}\left(4^{n}-1\right)}{2 n} B_{2 n}$.


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| :--- | :--- |
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| :--- | :--- |
| $x_{2}$ | $x_{3}$ |
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$$
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(continuous analogue of using adjacency matrix to count paths in graphs).

## Transfer operators (continued)

- Note that $S=C \circ T \circ C$ where $(C g)(x)=g(1-x)$, so we have shown that $A_{n}=n!\left\langle R^{n-1} \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}\right\rangle_{L_{2}[0,1]}$, where

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A_{n}=n!\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda_{k}^{n-1}\left\langle\mathbf{1}, \phi_{k}\right\rangle_{L_{2}[0,1]}^{2},
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where $\left(\phi_{k}\right)_{k \geq 1}$ is the orthonormal system of eigenfunctions of the self-adjoint operator $R$, with corresponding eigenvalues $\left(\lambda_{k}\right)_{k \geq 1}$.

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- It remains to diagonalize the operator $R$.


## Snake calculus

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- Plotting the last line one already can guess the base eigenfunction!


## Diagonalizing the transfer operator

- Looking for an eigenfunction:

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- The (normalized) solutions are

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\phi_{k}(x)=\sqrt{2} \cos \left(\frac{(2 k-1) \pi x}{2}\right), \quad \lambda_{k}=\frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{(2 k-1)} \frac{2}{\pi}, \quad k=1,2, \ldots .
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- So $A_{n}=\frac{2^{n+2} n!}{\pi^{n+1}} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{(k-1)(n-1)}}{(2 k-1)^{n+1}}$, which is equivalent to André's theorem. :)


## The transfer operator for the $2 m$-strip



Figure: The coordinate filtration for the 4-strip.

## The transfer operator for the $2 m$-strip



Figure: The coordinate filtration for the 4-strip.

- (main observation: better to cut tableau along diagonals!)


## The transfer operator for the $2 m$-strip, continued

- The transfer operator works on the function space over the m-dimensional simplex

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$$
\begin{aligned}
& (T f)\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{m}\right)= \\
& \quad \int_{0}^{1-x_{m}} \int_{1-x_{m}}^{1-x_{m-1}} \int_{1-x_{m-1}}^{1-x_{m-2}} \ldots \int_{1-x_{2}}^{1-x_{1}} f\left(y_{1}, \ldots, y_{m}\right) d y_{m} \ldots d y_{1} .
\end{aligned}
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## The transfer operator for the $2 m$-strip, continued

- Diagonalizing leads to boundary value problem:

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\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial^{2 m} f}{\partial^{2} x_{1} \ldots \partial^{2} x_{m}} & =\frac{(-1)^{m}}{\lambda^{2}} f \\
f & \equiv 0 \quad \text { on: } x_{1}=x_{2}, x_{2}=x_{3}, \ldots, x_{m-1}=x_{m}, x_{m}=1 \\
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- Solutions are

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\begin{aligned}
\phi_{k_{1}, \ldots, k_{m}}\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{m}\right) & =2^{m / 2} \operatorname{det}\left(\cos \left(\frac{\pi k_{i} x_{j}}{2}\right)\right)_{i, j=1, \ldots, m}, \\
\lambda_{k_{1}, \ldots, k_{m}} & =\frac{2^{m}(-1)^{\frac{1}{2} \sum\left(k_{j}-1\right)}}{\pi^{m} k_{1} k_{2} \ldots k_{m}},
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where $0<k_{1}<k_{2}<\ldots<k_{m}$ are odd integers.

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- In physicspeak: $m$-fermion systems


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(SSTSTTSTTTS) ${ }^{n}$
- Funds the eigenfunctions in the appropriate functional space
- For $m$-stack of ribbons, the eigenfunctions are $m$-fermionic states.


## Other slopes (cont'd)

- For example, for slope $1 / 2$,


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- One solves the boundary problem:

$$
f^{\prime \prime \prime}(x)=1 / \lambda f(x),
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- For $m$-stack of ribbons, the eigenfunctions are $m$-fermionic states.


## Finally...

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J(g)=\int_{0}^{1} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty}\left(\log \left(\frac{2}{\pi} \cos \left(\frac{\pi}{2} \frac{\partial g}{\partial u}\right)\right)-\log \frac{\partial g}{\partial t}\right) \frac{\partial g}{\partial t} d u d t
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subject to being a feasible growth profile for the shape $\lambda$.

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Thank you!

