Super Fibonacci and Super Markov Numbers

Gregg Musiker (University of Minnesota)

Paris Algebra Seminar

February 10, 2025

Some of this joint work with Nicholas Ovenhouse and Sylvester Zhang.

http://www-users.math.umn.edu/~musiker/Paris25.pdf

Paper in preparation ... coming soon

April 2021 Talk: Combinatorial formulas for λ -lengths and μ -invariants in decorated super-Teichmüller spaces associated to polygons, and their relationship to superfriezes, joint work with N. Ovenhouse and S. Zhang.

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February 2025 Talk: Super Markov Numbers and **signed** enumeration formulas associated to the once-punctured torus. Leads to new avenues in algebra, combinatorics, geometry, and number theory, and the like.

What is a Cluster Algebra?

Definition (Sergey Fomin and Andrei Zelevinsky 2001)

A cluster algebra \mathcal{A} (of geometric type) is a subalgebra of $k(x_1, \ldots, x_n, x_{n+1}, \ldots, x_{n+m})$ constructed cluster by cluster by certain exchange relations.

Generators:

Specify an initial finite set of them, a Cluster, $\{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+m}\}$.

Construct the rest via Binomial Exchange Relations:

$$x_{lpha}x_{lpha}' = \prod x_{\gamma_i}^{d_i^+} + \prod x_{\gamma_i}^{d_i^-}.$$

The set of all such generators are known as Cluster Variables, and the initial pattern B of exchange relations determines the Seed.

Relations:

Induced by the Binomial Exchange Relations.

Example: Coordinate Ring of Grassmannian(2, n + 3)

Let $Gr_{2,n+3} = \{V | V \subset \mathbb{C}^{n+3}, \text{ dim } V = 2\}$ planes in (n+3)-space

Elements of $Gr_{2,n+3}$ represented by 2-by-(n+3) matrices of full rank.

Plücker coordinates $p_{ij}(M) = \det \text{ of } 2\text{-by-}2$ submatrices in columns *i* and *j*.

The coordinate ring $\mathbb{C}[Gr_{2,n+3}]$ is generated by all the p_{ij} 's for $1 \le i < j \le n+3$ subject to the Plücker relations given by the 4-tuples

$$p_{ik}p_{j\ell} = p_{ij}p_{k\ell} + p_{i\ell}p_{jk} \text{ for } i < j < k < \ell.$$

Claim. $\mathbb{C}[Gr_{2,n+3}]$ has the structure of a cluster algebra. Clusters are each maximal algebraically independent sets of p_{ij} 's.

Each have size (2n + 3) where (n + 3) of the variables are frozen and *n* of them are exchangeable.

Example: Coordinate Ring of Grassmannian(2, n + 3)

Cluster algebra structure of $Gr_{2,n+3}$ as a triangulated (n+3)-gon.

Frozen Variables / Coefficients \leftrightarrow sides of the (n + 3)-gon

Cluster Variables $\longleftrightarrow \{p_{ij} : |i - j| \neq 1 \mod (n + 3)\} \longleftrightarrow$ diagonals

Seeds \leftrightarrow triangulations of the (n + 3)-gon

Clusters \leftrightarrow Set of p_{ij} 's corresponding to a triangulation

Can exchange between various clusters by flipping between triangulations.

This is called mutation, and we will present a detailed example later.

Let $B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & b \\ -c & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. $(\{x_1, x_2\}, B)$ is a seed for a cluster algebra $\mathcal{A}(b, c)$ of rank 2.

$$\mu_1(B) = \mu_2(B) = -B$$
 and $x_1x'_1 = x_2^c + 1$, $x_2x'_2 = 1 + x_1^b$.

Thus the cluster variables in this case are

$$\{x_n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \text{ satisfying } x_n x_{n-2} = \begin{cases} x_{n-1}^b + 1 \text{ if } n \text{ is odd} \\ x_{n-1}^c + 1 \text{ if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

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Example (b = c = 1):

$$x_3 = \frac{x_2 + 1}{x_1}$$
, $x_4 = \frac{x_3 + 1}{x_2} = \frac{\frac{x_2 + 1}{x_1} + 1}{x_2} = \frac{x_1 + x_2 + 1}{x_1 x_2}$.

$$x_5 = \frac{x_4 + 1}{x_3} = \frac{\frac{x_1 + x_2 + 1}{x_1 x_2} + 1}{(x_2 + 1)/x_1} = \frac{x_1(x_1 + x_2 + 1 + x_1 x_2)}{x_1 x_2(x_2 + 1)} = \frac{x_1 + 1}{x_2}. \quad x_6 = x_1.$$

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$$x_3 = \frac{x_2^2 + 1}{x_1}$$
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$$x_5 = \frac{x_4^2 + 1}{x_3} = \frac{x_2^6 + 3x_2^4 + 3x_2^2 + 1 + x_1^4 + 2x_1^2 + 2x_1^2x_2^2}{x_1^3x_2^2}, \dots$$

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The next number in the sequence is $x_7 = \frac{34^2+1}{13} = \frac{1157}{13} = 89$, an integer!

In fact, the sequence $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7, \dots\}$ ends up being

Every-other Fibonacci Number by Cassini's identity.

Teichmüller and Decorated Teichmüller Spaces

Let $S = S_g^n$ be a smooth oriented surface (possibly with boundary) of genus g equipped with a collection of marked points p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n . Here $n \ge 0$. The marked points either lie on boundary components, or in the interior of S, in which case they are called punctures.

Roughly speaking, the Teichmüller space of such a surface is

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Definition

Define the *Teichmüller space* of S to be the quotient space

 $T(S) = \operatorname{Hom}(\pi_1(S), \operatorname{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R})) / \operatorname{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R}).$

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Definition (Penner)

When n > 0, any such surface $S = S_g^n$ also admits a *decorated Teichmüller* space, which is a trivial $\mathbb{R}_{>0}^n$ -bundle over T(S), denoted $\tilde{T}(S)$.

Decorated Teichmüller Theory

We will usually let $S = S_0^n$ be a disk with *n* marked points on its unique boundary (i.e. a polygon). Such surfaces admit the *Poincaré disk* \mathbb{D} model as a hyperbolic structure.

 $\mathbb{D}:=\{z=x+yi\in\mathbb{C}:|z|<1\}$, with metric $ds=2rac{\sqrt{dx^2+dy^2}}{1-|z|^2}.$

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Definition (λ -length via horocycles)

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A *horocycle* is a smooth curve in the hyperbolic plane with constant geodesic curvature 1. In \mathbb{D} , it is a Euclidean circle tangent to an infinite point, which is the center.

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For a pair of horocycles h_1, h_2 , the λ -length between them is

 $\lambda(h_1,h_2)=e^{\delta/2}$

where $\boldsymbol{\delta}$ is the hyperbolic distance between the two intersections.

Ptolemy Relations

Given a quadruple of horocycles with distinct centers (a decorated ideal quadrilateral), one has the **Ptolemy transformation** induced by flipping the diagonal of the quadrilateral.



At the level of λ -lengths, this induces the identity

$$\lambda(e)\lambda(f) = \lambda(a)\lambda(c) + \lambda(b)\lambda(d).$$

Note that we will often abbreviate this as ef = ac + bd.

Structural Theorems for Cluster Algebras

Theorem (Fomin-Zelevinsky 2001, The Laurent Phenomenon)

For any cluster algebra defined by initial seed $(\{x_1, x_2, ..., x_{n+m}\}, B)$, all cluster variables of $\mathcal{A}(B)$ are Laurent polynomials in $\{x_1, x_2, ..., x_{n+m}\}$ (with no coefficient $x_{n+1}, ..., x_{n+m}$ in the denominator).

Because of the Laurent Phenomenon, any cluster variable x_{α} can be expressed as $\frac{P_{\alpha}(x_1,...,x_{n+m})}{x_1^{\alpha_1}\cdots x_n^{\alpha_n}}$ where $P_{\alpha} \in \mathbb{Z}[x_1,\ldots,x_{n+m}]$ and the α_i 's $\in \mathbb{Z}$.

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Theorem (Lee-Schiffler 2014, Gross-Hacking-Keel-Kontsevich 2015, Prooof of the Positivity Conjecture)

For any cluster variable x_{α} and any initial seed (i.e. initial cluster $\{x_1, \ldots, x_{n+m}\}$ and initial exchange pattern B), the polynomial $P_{\alpha}(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ has nonnegative integer coefficients.

Cluster Algebras from Surfaces

Theorem (Fomin-Shapiro-Thurston 2006)

Given a Riemann surface with marked points (S, M), one can define a corresponding cluster algebra $\mathcal{A}(S, M)$.

Seed
$$\leftrightarrow$$
 Triangulation $T = \{\tau_1, \tau_2, \ldots, \tau_n\}$

Cluster Variable \leftrightarrow Arc γ ($x_i \leftrightarrow \tau_i \in T$)

Cluster Mutation (Binomial Exchange Relations) \leftrightarrow Flipping Diagonals.

(Based on earlier work of Gekhtman-Shapiro-Vainshtein and Fock-Goncharov.)

From the perspective of hyperbolic geometry, Laurent expansions of cluster variables may be expressed as λ -lengths of arcs, which can be measured by choosing a point in Penner's decorated Teichmüller space.

Theorem (Schiffler 2006)

Let A be any cluster algebra of type A_n , i.e. with a seed Σ defined by a triangulation T of an (n + 3)-gon.

Then the Laurent expansion of every cluster variable with respect to the seed Σ has non-negative coefficients.

Proof via explicit combinatorial formulas in terms of T-paths.



Theorem (Schiffler-Thomas 2007, Schiffler 2008)

Let $\mathcal{A}(S, M)$ be any cluster algebra arising from an unpunctured surface S with marked points M, with principal coefficients, and let Σ be any initial seed. Here Σ correponds to a triangulation of S with respect to the marked points M.

Then the Laurent expansion of every cluster variable with respect to the seed Σ has non-negative coefficients.

Proof via explicit combinatorial formulas in terms of **T-paths**.



Theorem (M-Schiffler 2008)

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Proof via explicit combinatorial formulas in terms of snake graphs.



Theorem (M-Schiffler-Williams 2009)

Let $\mathcal{A}(S, M)$ be any cluster algebra arising from a surface (with or without punctures), where the coefficient system is of geometric type, and let Σ be any initial seed.

Then the Laurent expansion of every cluster variable with respect to the seed Σ has non-negative coefficients.

Proof via explicit combinatorial formulas in terms of snake graphs.



Superalgebras (and towards Superspace)

A super algebra is a \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded algebra.

i.e. $A = A_0 \oplus A_1$, (the "even" and "odd" parts) and

$$A_i A_j \subseteq A_{i+j}$$
 for $i, j \in \{0, 1\} \mod 2$

The algebra A generated by $x_1, \dots, x_n, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_m$, subject to the following relations

$$x_i x_j = x_j x_i$$
 $x_i \theta_j = \theta_j x_i$ $\theta_i \theta_j = -\theta_j \theta_i$

is a superalgebra. In particular $\theta_i^2 = 0$.

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Here A_0 is spanned by monomials with an even number of θ 's and A_1 is spanned by monomials with an odd number of θ 's.

$$\mathsf{E}.\mathsf{g}. \ x_1x_2 + x_1\theta_1\theta_3 + x_2\theta_1\theta_2\theta_3\theta_4 \in \mathsf{A}_0, \ x_1\theta_1\theta_2\theta_3 + x_1x_4\theta_2 + \theta_4 \in \mathsf{A}_1$$

By replacing PSL(2, ℝ) with OSp(1|2), Penner and Zeitlin define the super-Teichmüller space of a surface S to be

 $ST(S) = \operatorname{Hom}(\pi_1(S), \operatorname{OSp}(1|2)) / \operatorname{OSp}(1|2)$

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• But unlike the bosonic case, we need additional invariants to accommodate for the extra degree of freedom coming from the odd dimension.

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- Similar to the bosonic case, the decorated space is encoded by a collection of horocycles centered at each ideal point, which leads to the definition of super λ-length.
- But unlike the bosonic case, we need additional invariants to accommodate for the extra degree of freedom coming from the odd dimension.
- They associate an odd variable to each triangle (triple of ideal points), and call them the μ-invariants.
Spin Structures

Components of ST(S) are indexed by the set of **spin structures** on S.

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Cimasoni-Reshetikhin formulated the set of spin structures of S in terms of the set of isomorphism classes of Kasteleyn orientations of a fatgraph spine of S.

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Spin Structures

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Cimasoni-Reshetikhin formulated the set of spin structures of S in terms of the set of isomorphism classes of Kasteleyn orientations of a fatgraph spine of S.

Dual to this formulation, we consider the set of spin structures on S to be the set of equivalence classes of orientations on triangulations of S of the following equivalence relation.



where $\epsilon_a, \epsilon_b, \epsilon_c$ are orientations on the edges, and θ is the μ -invariant associated to the triangle.

The Ptolemy transformation on super λ -length coordinates is given as follows.



$$ef = (ac + bd) \left(1 + \frac{\sigma\theta\sqrt{\chi}}{1+\chi} \right), \quad \chi = \frac{ac}{bc}$$
$$\sigma' = \frac{\sigma - \sqrt{\chi}\theta}{\sqrt{1+\chi}} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta' = \frac{\theta + \sqrt{\chi}\sigma}{\sqrt{1+\chi}}$$

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The Ptolemy transformation on super λ -length coordinates is given as follows.



$$ef = ac + bd + \sqrt{abcd} \,\sigma\theta$$
$$\sigma' = \frac{\sigma\sqrt{bd} - \theta\sqrt{ac}}{\sqrt{ac + bd}} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta' = \frac{\theta\sqrt{bd} + \sigma\sqrt{ac}}{\sqrt{ac + bd}}$$
$$\sigma\theta = \sigma'\theta'$$

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Super Fibonacci and Markov Numbers

Super-flip also reverses the orientation of the edge *b*.



Remark

- Super Ptolemy moves are not involutions: $\mu_i^8 = I$.
- The even-degree-0 terms of a super λ-length are exactly the (ordinary) λ-length in the bosonic decorated space.

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If we flip a diagonal twice



the orientations of the triangle θ are reversed and θ is changed to $-\theta$.



This orientation is equivalent to the original one, i.e. both the first and third pictures represent the same spin structure.

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Super Fibonacci and Markov Numbers

Start with a Pentagon with given orientation.



а

3

 θ_2

d

2

Start with a Pentagon with given orientation.

^b The boundary orientations are ignored, β_3 5^5 because they are irrelevant in the calculations.



Start with a Pentagon with given orientation.

The boundary orientations are ignored, because they are irrelevant in the calculations.

What are λ_{24} , λ_{25} , and λ_{35} ?



Start with a Pentagon with given orientation.

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What are λ_{24} , λ_{25} , and λ_{35} ?

We first flip the edge x_1 .



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Here the red color indicates that the orientation on the boundary edge has been reversed.

Next we flip x_2 .











Question: If we now flip x_3 to x_5 , what do we expect x_5 to look like?

Main Question

In a cluster algebra A, any cluster variable can be expressed as a positive Laurent polynomial in the initial cluster, i.e.

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- Is there a "positivity" for terms with anti-commuting variables?

Answers (Spoiler Alert)

- Super λ -lengths live in $\mathbb{R}[x_1^{\pm \frac{1}{2}}, \cdots, x_1^{\pm \frac{1}{2}} | \theta_1, \cdots, \theta_{n+1}].$
- For the case of polygons, there exists an ordering on the odd variables, called *positive ordering*, such that if we multiply θ's in the positive ordering then the coefficients are positive.

Before giving the general answer, we illustrate the result of flipping x_3 to x_5 :













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Given a snake graph G, the *word* of G, denoted W(G), is a string in the alphabet {R,U} (standing for "*right*" and "*up*") indicating how each tile is connected to the previous.



























Every square tile in a snake graph represents two triangles in the triangulation. We label tiles with the odd variables of those triangles.



We built the snake graph from this triangulation traversing the dashed line from bottom-to-top, gluing tiles together based on boundary edges shared by adjacent quadrilaterals.

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A **double dimer cover** of a graph is the union of two dimer covers. It is composed of cycles and doubled edges.

Dimer covers will be drawn as wavy orange lines, and double dimer covers will be drawn as straight blue lines.
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The **weight** of a double dimer cover is the product of the square roots of the edge weights, times the odd variables at the beginning and end of cycles.

Theorem (M-Ovenhouse-Zhang [MOZ22])

Consider a triangulation where f is the longest edge, we follow the construction of [MSW11] to build the snake graph G corresponding to the arc f.

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 $\frac{1}{\operatorname{cross}(f)} \sum_{M \in DD(G)} \operatorname{wt}(M) \text{ where } DD(G) \text{ is the set of double dimer covers on } G.$

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Additionally each cycle around tiles appearing in M contributes a weight of $\theta_i \theta_j$ to wt_{θ} , where θ_i and θ_j label the first and last triangles of that cycle G. Musiker (University of Minnesota) Super Fibonacci and Markov Numbers Feb 10, 2025 32 / 71







Lattice Structure in Dimer Case



Superimpose the minimal dimer cover (but do not draw doubled edges) to see this is isomorphic to a lattice of subsets ordered under inclusion.

Lattice Structure in Dimer Case



Lattice isomorphism

There is a poset isomorphism $L(G) \cong J(P(G))$, between the set of dimer covers on G and the lattice of lower order ideals in P(G), the fence poset corresponding to the snake graph G.

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Application: Lattice Structure in Double Dimer Case



Application: Lattice Structure in Double Dimer Case



Application: Lattice Structure in Double Dimer Case

Theorem

There is a poset isomorphism $L(G) \cong J(\mathbb{P}(G))$, between double dimer covers on G and lower order ideals in $\mathbb{P}(G) := P(G) \times \{0, 1\}$.



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In the special case that Λ is the path algebra KQ of an acyclic type A_n quiver, then $\tilde{\Lambda}$ is that path algebra (with relations) of the quiver with a loop ϵ_i at every vertex and relations $\epsilon_i^2 = 0$ and $\epsilon_i \alpha = \alpha \epsilon_i$ for arrows $i \to j$.

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Motivated by how indecomposable rigid modules M_G of Λ in the ordinary type A case correspond to cluster variables and hence snake graphs G:

Theorem 5.18 of [ÇFES24]: The lattice of double dimer covers of snake graph *G* is in bijection with the submodule lattice of module $\widetilde{M_G}$ of $\widetilde{\Lambda}$.

Theorem 6.6 of [ÇFES24]: The Caldero-Chapoton Formula $CC((M_G))$ adapted to involve square-root weights and odd elements associated to sectional paths (AR-triangles) matches the super lambda length formulas.

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The sub-triangulation bounded by c_{i-1}, c_i, c_{i+1} is called the *i*-th fan segment of T.

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Given a triangulation of an annulus, we consider the periodic mutation sequence a, b, a, b, a, b, ... in the universal cover. (Arrows indicate default orientation and $\cdots > \sigma > \sigma > \theta > \theta > \cdots$ in positive ordering)



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Since $\sigma\theta = \sigma'\theta' = \sigma''\theta'' = \ldots$, if we let $\epsilon = \sigma\theta$, the Super Ptolemy Relation will always have the form $ef = a^2 + b^2 + ab\epsilon$.
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Since $\sigma\theta = \sigma'\theta' = \sigma''\theta'' = \ldots$, if we let $\epsilon = \sigma\theta$, the Super Ptolemy Relation will always have the form $ef = a^2 + b^2 + ab\epsilon$. Thus letting $Z_1 = a, Z_2 = b$, we get the recurrence $Z_m Z_{m-2} = Z_{m-1}^2 + Z_{m-1}\epsilon + 1$ for the resulting infinite sequence of super λ -lengths.

G. Musiker (University of Minnesota)

Letting G_m denote the snake graph for the word $W(G) = RR \dots R$, i.e. with *m* tiles in a horizontal row, where all edges have weight 1, and all tiles alternate between the same two μ -invariants σ and θ



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Further, when we initialize $Z_1 = a = 1$ and $Z_2 = b = 1$, we get for $m \ge 3$

$$Z_m = F_{2m-3} + \left(\sum_{k=0}^{m-3} (2k+1) \binom{m+k-1}{2k+2}\right) \epsilon,$$

where F_k is the *k*th Fibonacci number such that $F_1 = F_2 = 1$.

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Examples:

$$Z_3 = 2 + \epsilon$$
$$Z_4 = 5 + 6\epsilon$$
$$Z_5 = 13 + 26\epsilon$$
$$Z_6 = 34 + 97\epsilon$$

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where F_k is the *k*th Fibonacci number such that $F_1 = F_2 = 1$. We also can let $W_m = F_{2m-2} + \left(\sum_{k=0}^{m-3} (2k) \binom{m+k-2}{2k+1}\right) \epsilon$, which is the double dimer partition function for G_{2m-4} .

Examples: https://oeis.org/A054454

$$Z_3 = 2 + \epsilon$$

$$W_3 = 3 + 2\epsilon$$

$$Z_4 = 5 + 6\epsilon$$

$$W_4 = 8 + 12\epsilon$$

$$Z_5 = 13 + 26\epsilon$$

$$W_5 = 21 + 50\epsilon$$

$$Z_6 = 34 + 97\epsilon$$

Question

If we let $W_1 = W_2 = 1$ (or if we let $W_1 = a$ and $W_2 = b$), and set W_m to be the double dimer partition function of G_{2m-4} , then what does W_m correspond to in the context of the decorated super-Teichmüller space?

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We will demonstrate that the W_m 's are the super λ -lengths of a peripheral arc in an annulus that wind around (m - 2) times, see [MOZ23, Remark 6.3], but this will utilize a description using super matrices.

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Related Work: V. Ovsienko [Ovs23] defines **shadow sequences** including Shadow Fibonacci Numbers of the form $F_m + G_m \epsilon$ where

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 $\{G_m\} = \{2, 5, 10, 20, 38, 71, 130, \dots\}.$

We note that if we write our Super Fibonacci Numbers as $X_m + Y_m \epsilon$, e.g.

 $2+\epsilon, 3+2\epsilon, 5+6\epsilon, 8+12\epsilon, 13+26\epsilon, 21+50\epsilon, 34+97\epsilon,$

then his G_m 's equal our (X_m+Y_m-1) or (X_m+Y_m) , up to parity.

Given an oriented triangulation of the once-punctured torus, and allowing flips in all three directions, the resulting λ -lengths of such arcs correspond to the Markov numbers, which are the integer solutions to the Diophantine equation $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 3xyz$.

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Such numbers, and their triples (x, y, z) are of interest in number theory including in the theory of quadratic forms. Markov numbers also count dimer covers in snake graphs as described in [Pro05, Sec. 7] or [RS20].

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In [HPZ19], Huang, Penner, and Zeitlin studied **Super** Decorated Teichmüller space associated to the once-punctured torus and showed that **super** lambda lengths on this surface satisfy

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + (xy + yz + xz)\sigma\theta = 3(1 + \sigma\theta)xyz.$$

Question: Do they have combinatorial interpretations using double dimer covers of the snake graphs appearing in Section 7 of [Propp 2005] in the presence of appropriately specialized μ -invariants?

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Note also that if we fix z = 1, the triples (x, y, 1) involve Super-Fibonacci numbers as previously studied, but we also get other triples such as:

 $(2 + \sigma\theta, 5 + 6\sigma\theta, 29 + 74\sigma\theta), (2 + \sigma\theta, 29 + 74\sigma\theta, 169 + 668\sigma\theta),$

The Supergroup OSp(1|2)

Consider the set of $2|1 \times 2|1$ super matrix over \mathbb{R} :

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & \gamma \\ c & d & \delta \\ \hline \alpha & \beta & e \end{pmatrix}$$

Let J denote the following matrix

$$J = egin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & | \ 0 \ -1 & 0 & 0 \ \hline 0 & 0 & | \ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

then elements in the group OSp(1|2) can be realized as $2|1 \times 2|1$ supermatrices g with Ber(g) = 1 satisfying the relation

$$g^{st}Jg = J$$

where g^{st} denotes the super-transpose of g and Ber(g) is the Berezinian, a super-analogue of the determinant.

The Supergroup OSp(1|2)

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & \gamma \\ c & d & \delta \\ \hline \alpha & \beta & e \end{pmatrix}$$

These constraints Ber(g) = 1 and $g^{st}Jg = J$ can also be written down explicitly as the following system of equations.

$$e = 1 + \alpha\beta \tag{1}$$

$$e^{-1} = ad - bc \tag{2}$$

$$\alpha = c\gamma - a\delta \tag{3}$$

$$\beta = d\gamma - b\delta \tag{4}$$

$$\gamma = \mathbf{a}\beta - \mathbf{b}\alpha \tag{5}$$

$$\delta = c\beta - d\alpha \tag{6}$$

Flat OSp(1|2) Connection

Given a triangulation T, we build a planar graph Γ_T on top of it and then define a flat connection on Γ_T using these super matrices.



Flat OSp(1|2) Connection



Matrix Interpretations of super λ -lengths and μ -invariants

Theorem 4.3 of [MOZ23]: Let *T* be a generic triangulation endowed with an orientation (spin structure) and fan centers labeled as $c_0, c_1, \ldots, c_{N+1}$, with $a = c_0$ and $b = c_{N+1}$. Then the holonomy matrix for the connection from *a* to *b* is $H_{a,b} =$



Here the formula for the (3,3)-entry (i.e. $1 + \star$) can be given as

$$1+\star = 1 + (-1)^{\epsilon_{a}-1} \frac{1}{\lambda_{c_{0},c_{1}}} \bigtriangledown_{c_{N},c_{N+1}}^{c_{1}} \bigtriangledown_{c_{N},c_{N+1}}^{c_{0}} = 1 + (-1)^{\epsilon_{b}-1} \frac{1}{\lambda_{c_{N}c_{N+1}}} \bigtriangledown_{c_{0},c_{1}}^{c_{N+1}} \bigtriangledown_{c_{0},c_{1}}^{c_{N}} \bigtriangledown_{c_{0},c_{1}}^{c_{N}} \bigtriangledown_{c_{0},c_{1}}^{c_{N}} \bigtriangledown_{c_{0},c_{1}}^{c_{N}}$$

and the signs $(-1)^{\epsilon_a}$ and $(-1)^{\epsilon_b}$ depend on the orientations of initial and final triangles (c_0, c_1, c_2) and (c_{N-1}, c_N, c_{N+1}) .

The Holonomy Matrix $H_n = (E^{-1}A_{\theta}^{-1}\rho E A_{\sigma}\rho)^{n-2} E^{-1}$ for the bridging arc winding around the annulus equals $H_n =$



where ℓ_k denotes the *k*th Lucas number defined by $\ell_1 = 1$, $\ell_2 = 3$, and $\ell_k = \ell_{k-1} + \ell_{k-2}$ for $k \ge 3$.

This quantity $\ell_{2n-4} - 2$ also equals $\kappa(W_{n-2})$, the number of spanning trees on the wheel graph with (n-1) vertices.

We can also define holonomy matrices for arcs on the once-punctured torus to directly compute Super Markov Numbers.

Lifting the torus to its universal cover (the Euclidean plane), arcs on the torus correspond to lines of rational slope, plus the vertical line of slope $\frac{1}{0}$.

We start with the standard initial triangulation with lines of slope $\frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{0}, \frac{-1}{1}$ and then apply a sequence of diagonal flips (w.l.o.g. we assume our first two flips are at $\frac{-1}{1} \rightarrow \frac{1}{1}$, and then $\frac{1}{0} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}$).



$$\left\{\frac{a}{b},\frac{c}{d},\frac{e}{f}\right\} \to \left\{\frac{a}{b},\frac{a+e}{b+f},\frac{e}{f}\right\} \text{ or } \to \left\{\frac{c+e}{d+f},\frac{c}{d},\frac{e}{f}\right\}.$$

Given $0 < \frac{p}{q} \le 1$ with gcd(p,q) = 1, we draw γ of slope p/q on the universal cover of the torus.

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Example: If p/q = 3/5, we get $(a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_8) = (0, 5, 2, 7, 4, 1, 6, 3, 0)$ and hence the upper Christoffel word is 10100100, corresponding to the lattice path given by *NENEENEE*, lying just above the arc γ of slope 3/5.



The upper Christoffel word of length (p+q) is $w_1w_2\cdots w_{p+q}$ via the characteristic function $w_n = \chi(a_{n-1} < a_n)$.

This determines a lattice path from (0,0) to (p,q) so that the *n*th step is a north step *N* (resp. east step *E*) whenever $a_{n-1} < a_n$ (resp. $a_{n-1} > a_n$), using the residues $a_n = nq \mod (p+q)$ for $0 \le n \le p+q$.

Example: If p/q = 3/5, we get $(a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_8) = (0, 5, 2, 7, 4, 1, 6, 3, 0)$ and hence the upper Christoffel word is 10100100, corresponding to the lattice path given by *NENEENEE*, lying just above the arc γ of slope 3/5.





Following a canonical path based on the upper Christoffel word yields holonomy matrix $H_{\frac{p}{q}}$ so that the Super Markov Number is the (1,2)-entry. The first (resp. second) path corresponds to $w_i = 0$ (resp. $w_i = 1$), while the third is the canonical path in the final quadrilateral.

If p/q = 1/2, the Upper Christoffel word is 100 and the corresponding Holonomy matrix is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2+\sigma\theta & -\sigma+\theta\\ -1 & -1 & \sigma\\ -\sigma & -\sigma-\theta & 1-\sigma\theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0\\ -1 & 3+2\sigma\theta & \theta\\ 0 & \theta & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2+\sigma\theta & 5+6\sigma\theta & -\sigma+3\theta\\ -1 & -2-\sigma\theta & \sigma-\theta\\ -\sigma-\theta & -3\sigma-\theta & 1-2\sigma\theta \end{bmatrix}$$

which has (1,2)-entry $5 + 6\sigma\theta = SM_{1/2}$.

If p/q = 2/3, the Upper Christoffel word is 10100 and the corresponding Holonomy matrix is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2+\sigma\theta & -\sigma+\theta\\ -1 & -1 & \sigma\\ -\sigma & -\sigma-\theta & 1-\sigma\theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0\\ -1 & 3+2\sigma\theta & \theta\\ 0 & \theta & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -\sigma\\ 1 & 2+\sigma\theta & -\sigma+\theta\\ -\theta & -\sigma-\theta & 1-\sigma\theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0\\ -1 & 3+2\sigma\theta & \theta\\ 0 & \theta & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} 12+22\sigma\theta & 29+74\sigma\theta & -8\sigma+20\theta\\ -5-6\sigma\theta & -12-22\sigma\theta & 4\sigma-8\theta\\ -8\sigma-4\theta & -20\sigma-8\theta & 1-16\sigma\theta \end{bmatrix}$$

with (1,2)-entry $29 + 74\sigma\theta = SM_{2/3}$.

For our running example of p/q = 3/5, we get truncated Christoffel word 010010 and holonomy matrix

$\lceil 179 + 706\sigma\theta \rceil$	$433 + 2032\sigma\theta$	$-112\sigma + 303\theta$
$-74-237\sigma\theta$	$-179-706\sigma\theta$	$47\sigma - 125\theta$
$-125\sigma - 47\theta$	$-303\sigma - 112\theta$	$1-241\sigma\theta$

The (1,2)-entry is $SM_{3/5} = 433 + 2032\sigma\theta$.

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 $SM_{p/q} = M_{p/q} + \hat{M}_{p/q}\sigma\theta$, where $M_{p/q}$ is the number of dimer covers on snake graph $G_{p/q}$ (equiv. double dimer covers with only doubled edges), and $\hat{M}_{p/q}$ is the signed enumeration of double dimer covers on $G_{p/q}$ with exactly one cycle, necessarily of odd length.

Use the upper Christoffel word to build G_{γ} corresponding to the arc γ cutting through the universal cover of the once-punctured torus.



Theorem in Progress (Musiker 2025): $SM_{p/q} = M_{p/q} + \hat{M}_{p/q}\sigma\theta$, where $\hat{M}_{p/q}$ is the signed enumeration of double dimer covers on $G_{p/q}$ containing a single cycle of odd length as follows:

(# containing a single cycle whose leftmost tile is X and whose rightmost tile is also X)

+ (# containing a single cycle whose leftmost tile is Y and whose rightmost tile is also Y)

+ (# containing a single cycle whose leftmost tile is Z and whose rightmost tile is also Z)

- (# containing a single cycle whose leftmost tile is X but whose rightmost tile is Y)

- (# containing a single cycle whose leftmost tile is Y but whose rightmost tile is X).

Example of double dimer covers contributing positively to $SM_{2/3} = M_{2/3} + \hat{M}_{2/3}\sigma\theta = 29 + 74\sigma\theta = 29 + (78 - 4)\sigma\theta$, which up to flips of doubled edges, break into classes as $78\sigma\theta = (4+5+5+12+12+10+10+1+5+4+5+2+2+1)\sigma\theta.$ 2×5 2×12 2×10 G. Musiker (University of Minnesota)

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Nuances in the Super Markov Proof

Unlike the disk or annulus (Super Fibonacci) examples, we cannot use a default orientation on the universal cover because it would not be consistent when we project down to the torus.


Nuances in the Super Markov Proof

Instead we use cyclic orientation of the two triangles on the torus and lift that up to the universal cover. Then for a given arc γ , we must apply equivalences triangle-by-triangle thereby negating some μ -invariants.



Nuances in the Super Markov Proof

Then for a given arc γ , we must apply equivalences triangle-by-triangle thereby negating some μ -invariants.



This also affects the positive ordering. For arc $\gamma = \gamma_{3/5}$, the upper Christoffel word is 10100100, which has non-initial 1's in positions 3 and 6. The positive ordering associated to this default orientation is

 $\sigma_1 > \sigma_2 > \theta_2 > \sigma_4 > \sigma_5 > \theta_5 > \sigma_7 > \theta_7 > \theta_6 > (-\sigma_6) > \theta_4 > \theta_3 > (-\sigma_3) > \theta_1.$

Observation: In all examples done thus far, even when plugging in x, y, and z, the Super Markov Numbers only seem to have positive coefficients despite the above signed formulas.

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Observation: In all examples done thus far, even when plugging in x, y, and z, the Super Markov Numbers only seem to have positive coefficients despite the above signed formulas.

Question: Does this positivity always continue for the super λ -lengths on the once-punctured torus?

Question: If so, is there an adaptation of the above combinatorial interpretation via signed enumeration that would require only a positive expansion formula? In particular, can one further restrict which double dimer covers contribute to the partition function (similar to how Lindstrom-Gessel-Viennot often allows one to interpret the signed expansion formula of a matrix determinant as a positive generating function for non-intersecting lattice paths) therefore manifesting positivity with no cancellation of signed terms needed?

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Question: What about other surfaces like annuli with more than one marked point on each of boundary or once-punctured disks?

Question: What is the relationship between our family of Super Markov numbers and Ovsienko's shadow Markov sequence [Ovs23]?

Example:

$$\begin{array}{l} 2+4\epsilon \text{ vs } SM_{1/1}=2+\sigma\theta \\ 5+13\epsilon \text{ vs } SM_{1/2}=5+6\sigma\theta \\ 13+40\epsilon \text{ vs } SM_{1/3}=13+26\sigma\theta \\ 34+120\epsilon \text{ vs } SM_{1/3}=34+97\sigma\theta \\ 89+354\epsilon \text{ vs } SM_{1/5}=89+332\sigma\theta \\ 29+117\epsilon \text{ vs } SM_{2/3}=29+74\sigma\theta \\ 169+921\epsilon \text{ vs } SM_{3/4}=169+688\sigma\theta \\ 194+976\epsilon \text{ vs } SM_{2/5}=194+801\sigma\theta \\ 433+2592\epsilon \text{ vs } SM_{3/5}=433+2032\sigma\theta \end{array}$$

Thanks for Listening! References I



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Thanks for Listening! References II



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http://www-users.math.umn.edu/~musiker/Paris25.pdf

What about odd variables?

Consider an arc γ as before.



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Let φ be a triangle with γ as a side, and also a boundary side.



Consider an arc γ as before.

Let φ be a triangle with γ as a side, and also a boundary side.

Can we express the μ -invariant θ_{φ} in terms of the initial triangulation?



The Toggle Involution

Recall that snake graphs are labelled with odd variables.



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If θ_n is the label on the upper-right of the last tile, define an involution $x \mapsto x^*$ on monomials which adds/removes θ_n .

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Examples:

$$(heta_1 heta_2)^*= heta_1 heta_2 heta_6, \qquad (heta_4 heta_6)^*= heta_4$$

Formula for Odd Variables



Formula for Odd Variables



Theorem [M-Ovenhouse-Zhang 2021]

$$\sqrt{df} \ \theta_{\varphi} = \frac{1}{\operatorname{cross}(f)} \frac{\sqrt{e}}{\sqrt{b}} \sum_{M \in D_t(G_f)} \operatorname{wt}(M)^*$$

where D_t is the set of double dimer covers using the **top** edge of the last tile (as long as the polygon has an odd number of triangles; otherwise use the **right** edge on the last tile instead).













$$\sqrt{a\gamma}\,\theta_{\varphi} = \frac{1}{xy} \Big(ax\sqrt{cy}\,\theta_3 + a\sqrt{bdxy}\,\theta_2 + y\sqrt{abex}\,\theta_1\Big)$$