

Monotone Grid Classes Limit Shapes and Enumeration

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Co-conspirators

Some of this talk is based on joint work with **Noura Alshammari**.



Another small part is based on joint work with **Robert Brignall** and **Nik Ruškuc**.

Monotone grid classes:

- Grid(*M*) is defined by a gridding matrix *M*.
- Entries of *M* are drawn from $\{ \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{N}, \square \}$.
- Entries corresponds to cells in *M*-griddings of permutations.
 - Any points in the cell must increase.
 - Any points in the cell must decrease.
 - Blank cells must be empty.



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Limit shapes and enumeration

Some questions



What does a typical large permutation in a given monotone grid class look like?

- **?** Enumeration (exact and asymptotic) What is known?
 - **★ Open questions**: What is not known?
- ?
- How are these questions related?

Multiple griddings

A permutation in Grid(M) may have more than one *M*-gridding.

- Row/columns dividers may be positioned in more than one way.
- This is what makes the analysis of grid classes hard.



• These correspond to **one** element of $Grid(\underbrace{\nabla Z}$).

Classes of gridded permutations

It's much easier to analyse gridded permutations.

• Grid[#](*M*) is the gridded class, consisting of *M*-gridded permutations.



• These are **five** distinct elements of $\operatorname{Grid}^{\#}(\underline{\Sigma})$.

Cell graphs and connected classes

Cell graph of Grid(*M*):

- Vertices: non-blank cells of *M*.
- Edges join vertices sharing a row or column.
- Properties of the cell graph are transferred to the class.
- Mostly, we focus on connected classes.





[†]At most one cycle per component

Part I: Limit Shapes



Based on B. (2015), Albert & Vatter (2019), and Alshammari & B. (2025).

M-admissible matrix

• Nonnegative matrix $A = (a_{i,j})$ such that $a_{i,j} = 0$ if $M_{i,j}$ is blank.

Integer *M*-admissible matrix: records number of points in each cell.

 If A = (a_{i,j}), then Grid[#]_A(M) consists of M-gridded permutations with a_{i,j} points in cell (i, j).



Counting points in cells

Enumerating $\operatorname{Grid}_{A}^{\#}(M)$ is easy.

Proposition

If M has dimensions $r \times s$, then

$$\left|\operatorname{Grid}_{A}^{\#}(M)\right| = \prod_{i=1}^{r} \left(\sum_{a_{i,1}, a_{i,2}, \dots, a_{i,s}}^{s} \right) \times \prod_{j=1}^{s} \left(\sum_{a_{1,j}, a_{2,j}, \dots, a_{r,j}}^{r} \right).$$

- Each multinomial coefficient counts the possibilities for one row or column.
- The ordering of points (increasing or decreasing) *within* a particular cell is fixed by the corresponding entry of *M*.
- The interleaving of points in *distinct* cells in the same row or column can be chosen arbitrarily and independently.

The distribution of points between cells

M-distribution matrix

• *M*-admissible matrix whose entries sum to one.

M-distribution matrix: records **proportion** of points in each cell.

• If
$$\Gamma = (\gamma_{i,j})$$
 is an *M*-distribution matrix, then
 $\operatorname{Grid}_{\Gamma n}^{\#}(M) = \operatorname{Grid}_{A}^{\#}(M)$ for some $A = (a_{i,j})$
such that $\sum a_{i,j} = n$ and $|a_{i,j} - n\gamma_{i,j}| < 1$.

- ▶ The existence of *A* is guaranteed by Baranyai's Rounding Lemma.
- ► If $\sigma^{\#} \in \operatorname{Grid}_{\Gamma n}^{\#}(M)$ the proportion of points of $\sigma^{\#}$ in cell (i, j) differs from $\gamma_{i,j}$ by less than 1/n.

The distribution of points between cells

By Stirling's approximation:

Proposition

If $\Gamma = (\gamma_{i,j})$ is an M-distribution matrix with row sums $\rho_i = \sum_j \gamma_{i,j}$ and column sums $\kappa_j = \sum_i \gamma_{i,j}$, then

$$|\operatorname{\mathsf{Grid}}_{\Gamma n}^{\#}(M)| \sim C n^{\beta} g^{n},$$

where

$$g = g(\Gamma) := \prod_{i} \frac{\rho_{i}^{\rho_{i}}}{\prod_{j} \gamma_{i,j}^{\gamma_{i,j}}} \times \prod_{j} \frac{\kappa_{j}^{\gamma_{j}}}{\prod_{i} \gamma_{i,j}^{\gamma_{i,j}}},$$

and C and β are constants that only depend on Γ .

Given Grid(M), we would like to find a maximal *M*-distribution matrix Γ for which the growth rate $g(\Gamma)$ is greatest.

Proposition

Suppose $\Gamma = (\gamma_{i,j})$ is a maximal M-distribution matrix. Then there exists a constant λ such that, for each nonzero entry $\gamma_{i,j}$ of Γ , we have

$$\frac{\gamma_{i,j}^2}{\rho_i \kappa_j} = \lambda,$$

where $\rho_i = \sum_j \gamma_{i,j}$ and $\kappa_j = \sum_i \gamma_{i,j}$ are the row and column sums of Γ .

• Proof uses Lagrange multipliers to solve the constrained optimisation problem.

Unique maximal distribution for connected classes

For **connected** classes, there is only one maximal distribution.

Proposition

If Grid(M) is a connected grid class, then it has a unique maximal *M*-distribution matrix Γ_M .

• Proof uses linear algebra (singular value decomposition and Perron–Frobenius).

The set of equations

$$\sum_{i,j} \gamma_{i,j} = 1, \qquad \frac{\gamma_{i_1,j_1}^2}{\rho_{i_1}\kappa_{j_1}} = \frac{\gamma_{i_2,j_2}^2}{\rho_{i_2}\kappa_{j_2}} = \frac{\gamma_{i_3,j_3}^2}{\rho_{i_3}\kappa_{j_3}} = \dots = \lambda$$

has a unique positive solution.

Unique maximal distribution for connected classes

Example

 $M = \underbrace{\mathbf{N}}_{\mathbf{M}} \mathcal{I}. \quad \Gamma_M = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta & \gamma \\ 0 & \delta & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$

Maximal *M*-distribution matrix satisfies $\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = 1$ and

$$\frac{\alpha^2}{\alpha(\alpha+\beta+\gamma)} = \frac{\beta^2}{(\beta+\delta)(\alpha+\beta+\gamma)} = \frac{\gamma^2}{\gamma(\alpha+\beta+\gamma)} = \frac{\delta^2}{\delta(\beta+\delta)}.$$

Solution:

$$\Gamma_M = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{4}(2-\sqrt{2}) & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The typical distribution of points

For connected classes, the distribution of points in almost all gridded permutations in $\text{Grid}^{\#}(M)$ is close to Γ_M .

•
$$\sigma_{(i,j)}^{\#}$$
: the number of points of $\sigma^{\#}$ in cell (i,j) .

Theorem

If Grid(M) *is connected and* $\Gamma_M = (\gamma_{i,j})$ *, then for any* $\varepsilon > 0$ *,*

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{P}\big[\max_{i,j} \big| \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{(i,j)}^{\#} / n - \gamma_{i,j} \big| \leqslant \varepsilon \big] = 1,$$

where, for each *n*, we draw $\sigma^{\#}$ uniformly at random from $\operatorname{Grid}_{n}^{\#}(M)$.

• Proved by showing that the set of gridded permutations with distributions ε -far from Γ_M have a smaller growth rate.

Definition (permuton)

Probability measure μ on the unit square $[0, 1]^2$ with uniform marginals:

 $\mu([a,b]\times [0,1]) \ = \ \mu([0,1]\times [a,b]) \ = \ b-a \ \text{ for every } \ 0\leqslant a\leqslant b\leqslant 1.$

Permuton μ_{π} corresponding to permutation π





- Mass for each point: 1/*n*
- Small square area: 1/n²
- Density ("height"): n

Definition (limit shape of a permutation class)

The permuton μ is the limit shape of C if the sequence of random permutons $(\mu_{\sigma_n})_{n \ge 1}$ converges in distribution for the weak topology to μ , where, for each n, we draw σ_n uniformly at random from C_n .

• Formalises what a typical large permutation looks like.



Two final steps:

- In almost all large gridded permutations, the points are close to the diagonals across the cells.
- The limit shape of $\operatorname{Grid}(M)$ is the same as that for $\operatorname{Grid}^{\#}(M)$.



Limit shapes



Part II: Enumeration



The exponential growth rate is known for any grid class.

Theorem (B.; Albert & Vatter)

Let *B* be the binary matrix with $B_{i,j} = 0$ if $M_{i,j} = \Box$ and $B_{i,j} = 1$ otherwise. Then, gr(Grid(M)) exists and is equal to the largest eigenvalue of $B^T B$.

$$M = \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \swarrow & \checkmark \\ & \searrow \end{array}} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

• If *M* is connected, then $gr(Grid(M)) = g(\Gamma_M)$, the growth rate of gridded permutations with maximal distribution.

Theorem (Albert, Atkinson, Bouvel, Ruškuc & Vatter)

Every acyclic monotone grid class is finitely based.

• Because acyclic classes are geometric classes.

Theorem (B., Brignall & Ruškuc)

Every $unicyclic^{\dagger}$ monotone grid class is finitely based.

[†]Exactly one cycle

Theorem (B., Brignall & Ruškuc)

Some monotone grid classes with two cycles are not finitely based, such as



Theorem (Albert, Atkinson, Bouvel, Ruškuc & Vatter)

Every acyclic monotone grid class has a *rational* generating function.

• Because acyclic classes are geometric classes.

Theorem (Gridded classes, B.)

Every **pseudoforest gridded** *class has an explicitly constructible* **algebraic** *generating function*.

Every gridded class has a D-finite generating function.

★ Conjectures (Grid classes, B.)

Every pseudoforest monotone grid class has an algebraic generating function.

Every monotone grid class has a D-finite generating function.

Polynomial (Homberger & Vatter)

- At most one earrow or in any column or row.
- Algorithm to give polynomial enumeration (growth rate equals 1).

Skinny (B.; Brignall & Sliačan)

- Procedure to give g.f. when *M* has dimensions $1 \times k$.
- Special case (Asinowski, Banderier & Hackl):

$$\operatorname{Grid}(\underbrace{\boxtimes \cdots \boxtimes}_{k}): \sum_{r=1}^{k} \frac{1}{1-rz} \left(\frac{rz}{rz-1}\right)^{k-r}$$

Small acyclic (Hušek & Opler, after Braunfeld)

• Using monadic second-order logic.

\star 2×2 classes

- Growth rate: 4.
- Asymptotics have the form $c4^n/\sqrt{n}$.

		g.f.	basis
<i>C</i> ₀		?	conjecture (35 perms)
<i>C</i> ₁	$\mathbf{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}}$?	conjecture (36 perms)
<i>C</i> ₂	\mathbf{x}	?	conjecture (10 perms)
<i>C</i> ₃	\mathbf{N}	conjecture (A163824)	conjecture (14 perms)
<i>C</i> ₆	\mathbf{X}	Atkinson A029759	Av(2143, 3412)
<i>C</i> ₉	$\langle \rangle$?	conjecture (32 perms)

Double chevron class

★ Conjecture ("entanglement diagrams")

Every permutation in $Grid(\overset{\frown}{K})$ has a **unique** gridding in exactly one of the following three diagrams:



• There must be a point at each •.

★ A new family of permutation classes (superset of grid classes) ★

Definition (monotone curve class)

Suppose $S = \{\{p_1, q_1\}, \{p_2, q_2\}, \dots, \{p_k, q_k\}\}$ is a finite multiset of pairs of lattice points $\{p_i, q_i\} \in \mathbb{N}^2$ sharing neither *x* or *y* coordinate. Then Mono(S) consists of those permutations that can be drawn on *k* monotone curves joining each p_i to q_i .

- $Av(321) = Mono(\{(0,0), (1,1)\}, \{(0,0), (1,1)\}).$
 - Two increasing sequences.
- What is the basis and enumeration of Mono()?
- The relationship between grid and curve classes is similar to that between geometric and picture classes.

Connected acyclic and unicyclic (Alshammari & B.)

• Procedure to give asymptotics $\operatorname{Grid}(M) \sim g^n \theta(n)$, where *g* is the exponential growth rate, and $\theta(n)$ is subexponential.

Recipe

- 1. Typical distribution of points (Γ_M , as above).
- 2. Gridded asymptotics $|\operatorname{Grid}_n^{\#}(M)| \sim g^n \theta^{\#}(n)$.
- 3. Structure of typical $\sigma^{\#}$ if σ has exactly ℓ distinct *M*-griddings.
- 4. With $\sigma_n^{\#}$ drawn uniformly from Grid[#](*M*), let

$$P_{\ell} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{P}[\sigma_n \text{ has exactly } \ell \text{ distinct } M \text{-griddings}].$$

5. Then, $|\operatorname{Grid}_n(M)| \sim \kappa g^n \theta^{\#}(n)$, where $\kappa = \sum_{\ell \ge 1} P_{\ell}/\ell$.

Connected one-corner classes

A cell is a corner if it isn't the only non-blank cell in its row or column.

Connected one-corner classes: L-shaped, T-shaped or cross-shaped:







• We assume r + 1 rows and c + 1 columns.

1. Asymptotic distribution in one-corner classes

Grid(M) connected with one-corner and dimensions $(r + 1) \times (c + 1)$:

$$\Gamma_M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \gamma & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \beta & \alpha & \beta & \beta & \beta \\ 0 & \gamma & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

satisfying

$$\alpha + c\beta + r\gamma = 1$$
 and $\frac{\alpha^2}{(\alpha + c\beta)(\alpha + r\gamma)} = \frac{\beta}{\alpha + c\beta} = \frac{\gamma}{\alpha + r\gamma} = \lambda.$

Solution

$$\alpha \ = \ \frac{1}{q}, \quad \beta \ = \ \frac{c-r+q-1}{2cq}, \quad \gamma \ = \ \frac{r-c+q-1}{2rq}, \quad \lambda \ = \ \frac{c+r+1-q}{2cr},$$

where

$$q = \sqrt{(c+r+1)^2 - 4cr}.$$

2. Enumerating acyclic and unicyclic gridded classes

We stitch together skinny classes at the corners.

Each gridded permutation in $\operatorname{Grid}^{\#}(\checkmark)$ is uniquely defined by

- a ZZNN-gridded permutation and
- a -gridded permutation

with the same number of points in the corner.



Enumerating acyclic and unicyclic gridded classes

Stitching corresponds to an operation on generating functions.

•
$$\frac{1}{1-xz-cz}$$
 Horizontal $c + 1$ cells; x counts corner points.
• $\frac{1}{1-yz-rz}$ Vertical $r + 1$ cells; y counts corner points.

Stitching yields:

$$[z^0] \frac{1}{(1-x\sqrt{z}-cz)(1-\sqrt{z}/x-rz)} = \frac{1}{1-(c+r+1)z+crz^2}.$$

- By diagonalization of rational Laurent series (Stanley *Volume 2*).
 Sum of residues at small poles.
- Repeat to give a **rational** g.f. for any **acyclic** class or an **algebraic** g.f. for any **unicyclic** class.

Enumerating gridded classes

Connected one-corner classes

If *M* is connected with one corner and dimensions $(r + 1) \times (c + 1)$, then

$$\sum_{n \ge 0} \left| \mathsf{Grid}_n^{\#}(M) \right| z^n = \frac{1}{1 - (c + r + 1)z + crz^2}$$

Asymptotics

Hence (by standard analytic combinatorics),

$$\left|\operatorname{\mathsf{Grid}}_n^{\#}(M)\right| \sim \theta^{\#} g^n,$$

where

$$\theta^{\#} = \frac{c+r+q+1}{2q} \text{ and } g = \frac{c+r+q+1}{2}.$$

A point *Q* of an *M*-gridded permutation $\sigma^{\#}$ can dance if there is a sequence of one-step moves of row and column dividers, such that

- after each step the result is a valid *M*-gridding of σ , and
- at the end of the sequence some divider is on the other side of *Q*.



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A peak point (extremal point in a peak) can dance if it is adjacent to the divider, giving two griddings:

-gridded permutations, with peak points circled:



At the right, the orange controller prevents dancing.



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-gridded permutations, with peak points circled:



At the right, the orange controller prevents dancing.

Diagonally adjacent cells with the same orientation:



An adjacent non-blank cell must have the same orientation:

 \mathbb{H}

The 3 circled points in these 2^{2} -gridded permutations can dance, giving four griddings:



Diagonally adjacent cells with the same orientation:



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 \mathbb{H}



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ΡŅ

 \mathbb{H}



Diagonally adjacent cells with the same orientation:



An adjacent non-blank cell must have the same orientation:

The 3 circled points in these 2^{2} -gridded permutations can dance, giving four griddings:

 $\mathbf{)}$

 \mathbb{H}



Tee

Three adjacent cells forming a T shape:



Tee

Three adjacent cells forming a T shape:



Tee

Three adjacent cells forming a T shape:



Tee

Three adjacent cells forming a T shape:



Tee

Three adjacent cells forming a T shape:



Tee

Three adjacent cells forming a T shape:

The 3 circled points in these derived permutations can dance, giving 6 griddings:



Depending on the controllers,
 k dancers may give 2*k* − 1 or 2*k* or 2*k* + 1 griddings.

Definition (constrained)

An *M*-gridded permutation $\sigma^{\#}$ is constrained if every *M*-gridding of σ is the result of zero or more points of $\sigma^{\#}$ dancing.

In general, some *M*-griddings may not result from dancing.

Example

The three (unconstrained) ______-griddings of 1234:



Constrained gridded permutations

For connected *M*, almost all *M*-gridded permutations are constrained:

Theorem

If M is connected and $\sigma_n^{\#}$ *is drawn uniformly from* $\text{Grid}_n^{\#}(M)$ *, then*

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{P}[\boldsymbol{\sigma}_n^{\#} \text{ is } M\text{-constrained}] = 1.$$

• Only unusually structured large permutations have griddings that aren't a result of dancing.

If *M* is connected, for almost all *M*-gridded permutations:

- The distribution of points is close to Γ_M .
- The gridded permutation is constrained.

With $\sigma_n^{\#}$ drawn uniformly from $\text{Grid}^{\#}(M)$, for each $\ell \ge 1$, let

$$P_{\ell} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{P}[\boldsymbol{\sigma}_n \text{ has exactly } \ell \text{ distinct } M \text{-griddings}]$$

be the asymptotic probability of having exactly ℓ griddings, and let

$$\kappa_M = \sum_{\ell \ge 1} P_\ell / \ell = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{|\operatorname{Grid}_n(M)|}{|\operatorname{Grid}_n^{\#}(M)|}$$

be the correction factor.

Then, $|\operatorname{Grid}_n(M)| \sim \kappa_M g^n \theta^{\#}(n)$.

A peak is a corner peak if one of its two cells is a corner.

Dancing is always possible at every non-corner peak.

- Each non-corner peak doubles the number of griddings.
- If *M* has *p* non-corner peaks, then $\kappa_M = 2^{-p} \kappa_{M'}$, where *M*' is formed from *M* by removing the non-corner peaks.
 - The only dancing in Grid(M') is at the corners.

Example



has 3 non-corner peaks, so

Corner types

There are 11 inequivalent corner types in connected one-corner classes:



Correction factors for corner types



• Multiply together to give correction factors for other corner types.

If *M* is connected and either acyclic or unicyclic:

- $\operatorname{Grid}_{n}^{\#}(M)$ can be enumerated (g.f. and asymptotics).
- Consider the uniform distribution over $\operatorname{Grid}_n^{\#}(M)$.
- Almost all gridded permutations have a close-to-optimal distribution of points between the cells, which can be calculated.
 - Gives limit shape.
- For almost all permutations, griddings are constrained to those that result from dancing.
- Analysis of possible dancing yields the asymptotic probability P_{ℓ} of an underlying permutation having exactly ℓ distinct griddings.
- $|\operatorname{Grid}_n(M)| \sim \kappa |\operatorname{Grid}_n^{\#}(M)|$, where $\kappa = \sum_{\ell \ge 1} P_{\ell}/\ell$.

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Thanks for listening!





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