

Lattice paths and the toric g -vector of nestohedra

Richard Ehrenborg¹ **Gábor Hetyei**² Margaret Readdy¹

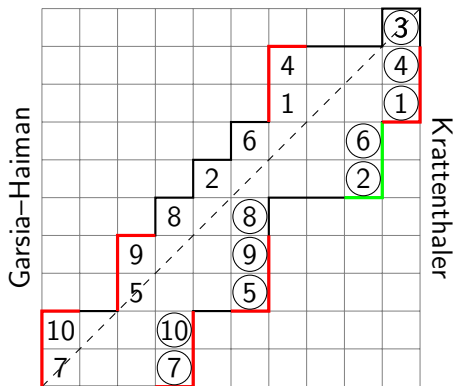
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and Applications
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The main illustration

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1 Toric g -vectors

- The toric g -vector of a simple polytope
- The toric g -vector of the associahedron

2 Generalizations and variants

- Variants
- Parking trees

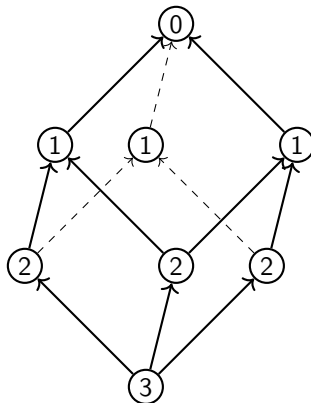
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Visual definition of the usual h -vector of a simple polytope:

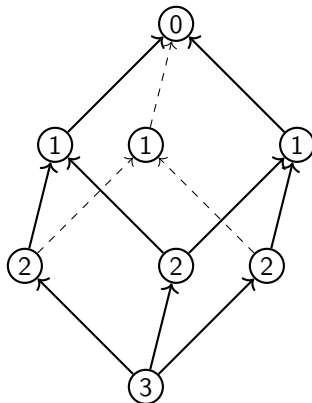
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$$h_0 = 1, h_1 = 3, h_2 = 3, h_3 = 1.$$

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$$f([\widehat{0}, \widehat{1}], x) = \sum_{p \in [\widehat{0}, \widehat{1})} g([0, p], x) (x-1)^{\rho(\widehat{1})-1-\rho(p)} \quad \text{and}$$

$$g([\widehat{0}, \widehat{1}], x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor (\rho(\widehat{1})-1)/2 \rfloor} ([x^i] f([\widehat{0}, \widehat{1}], x) - [x^{i-1}] f([\widehat{0}, \widehat{1}], x)) x^i$$

subject to the initial conditions $f(\emptyset, x) = g(\emptyset, x) = 1$.

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- 4 Stanley asked for a formula expressing the toric g -vector of the (face lattice) of the permutahedron. (Now we have an answer.)

Lemma (Hetyei)

The toric g -polynomial of an n -dimensional simple polytope P is given by

$$g(P, x) = h_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} (h_i - h_{i-1}) \cdot C(n, i, x).$$

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Proposition (Krattenthaler, rotated)

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Lemma

The coefficient of x^k in $\sum_{i=j}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} C(n - 2j, i - j) \cdot C(n, i, x)$ is the number of Dyck paths of semilength $n - j$ with k peaks whose first coordinate is at most $n - 1$.

The key formula

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$$g_{n,j}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\min(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor, n-j)} C_{n-k-j} \cdot \binom{n-k}{k} \cdot (x-1)^k,$$

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where $(\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor})$ is the γ -vector of the simple polytope P .

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In our work we used the results of Postnikov–Reiner–Williams. We also answered Stanley's original question to understand the toric g -vector of the permutahedron. In this talk we focus on the associahedron whose gamma vector is

$$\gamma_j(\mathcal{A}_n) = C_j \cdot \binom{n}{2j}.$$

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Theorem

The coefficient of x^k in the toric g -polynomial of the n -dimensional associahedron is the number of 123-avoiding parking functions on the set $[n]$ having exactly k ascents.

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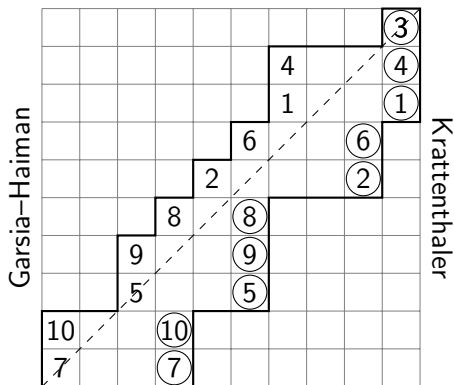
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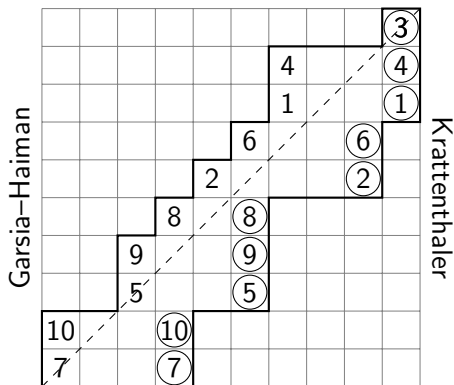
The number of all 123-avoiding parking functions was first computed by Qiu and Remmel.

The proof

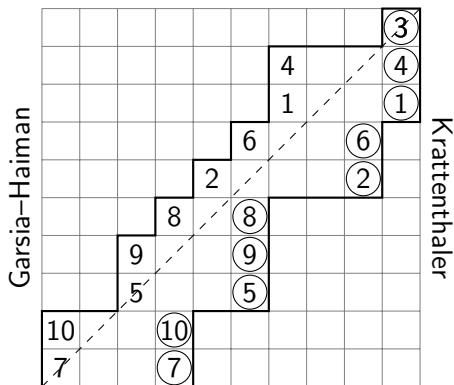
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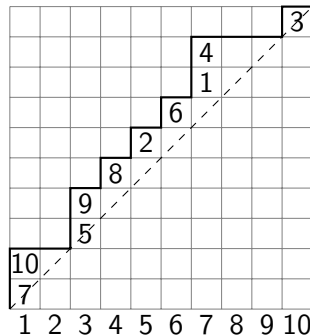


The Garsia-Haiman lattice path of a parking function

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$$\begin{array}{cccccccccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 \\ f: \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ 7 & 5 & 10 & 7 & 3 & 6 & 1 & 4 & 3 & 1 \end{array}$$

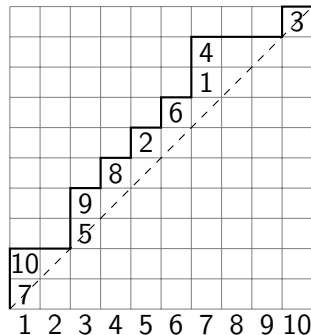
$$\begin{aligned} f^{-1}(1) &= \{7, 10\} & f^{-1}(2) &= \emptyset \\ f^{-1}(3) &= \{5, 9\} & f^{-1}(4) &= \{8\} \\ f^{-1}(5) &= \{2\} & f^{-1}(6) &= \{6\} \\ f^{-1}(7) &= \{1, 4\} & f^{-1}(8) &= \emptyset \\ f^{-1}(9) &= \emptyset & f^{-1}(10) &= \{3\} \end{aligned}$$



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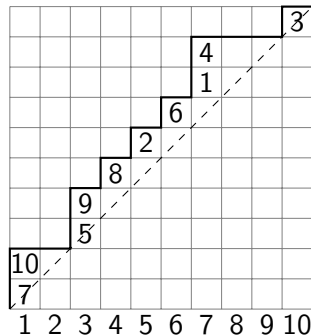


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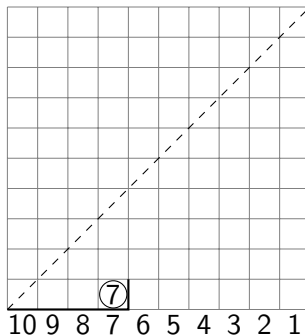
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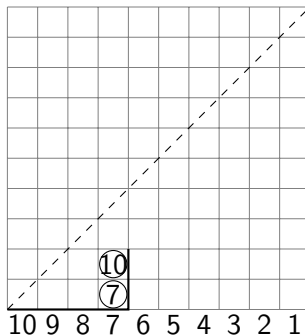
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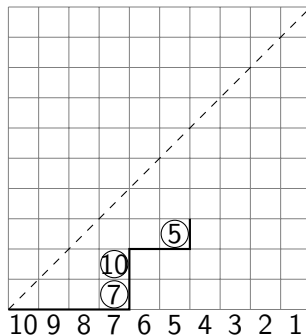
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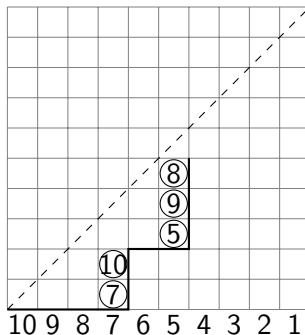
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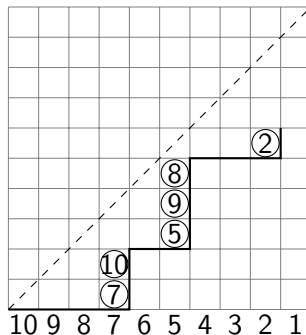
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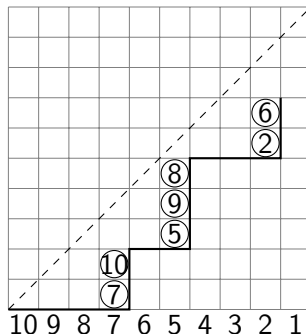
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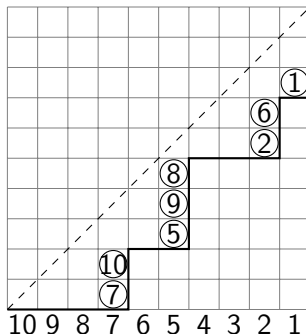
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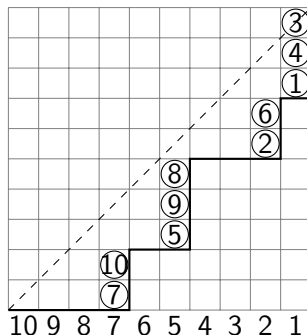
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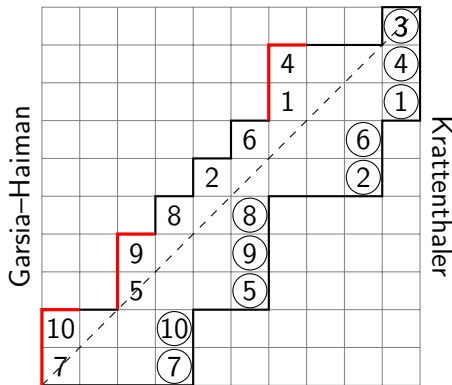
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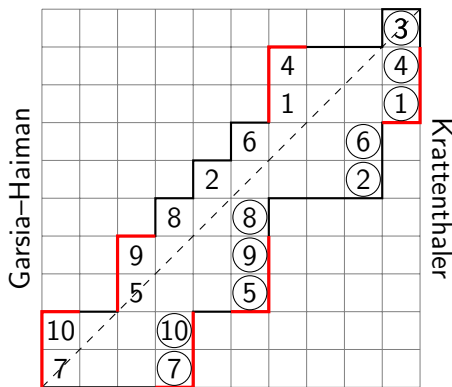
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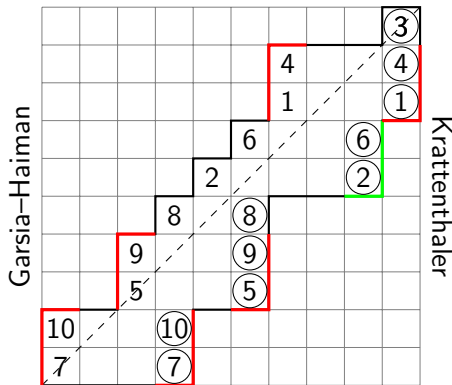
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Counting compatible Dyck words

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Definition

Let A and B be two sparse subsets of the set $[n - 1]$ and let w be a labeled Dyck word of semilength n . We say that the word w is (A, B) -compatible if

- (a) for each $a \in A$ the word $U_a U_{a+1} D$ is a factor in w , and
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The proof is an explicit recursive bijection.

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Corollary

Let A and B be sparse subsets of $[n - 1]$. Then the number of 123-avoiding permutations π in $\mathfrak{S}_n$ such that $B \subseteq \text{Asc}(\pi)$ and $A \subseteq \text{Asc}(\pi^{-1})$ is given by the Catalan number $C_{n-|A|-|B|}$.

The toric contribution of the γ -vector entries

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Proposition

Let B be a sparse subset of the set $[n - 1]$. The coefficient of x^k in the toric g -contribution polynomial $g_{n,|B|}(x)$ is given by:

- (a) the number of all $(\emptyset, B)$ -compatible Dyck words of semilength n that contain exactly k copies of the word UUD as a factor.*
- (b) the number of 123-avoiding permutations $\pi \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ such that $B \subseteq \text{Asc}(\pi)$ and the inverse permutation π^{-1} has exactly k ascents.*

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The k th entry in the toric g -vector of the n -dimensional cube is the number of 123-avoiding permutations of $[n]$ having exactly k ascents.

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The coefficient of x^k in the toric g -polynomial of the n -dimensional cyclohedron is the number of 123-avoiding functions $f : [n] \rightarrow [n]$ having exactly k ascents.

The cube and the cyclohedron

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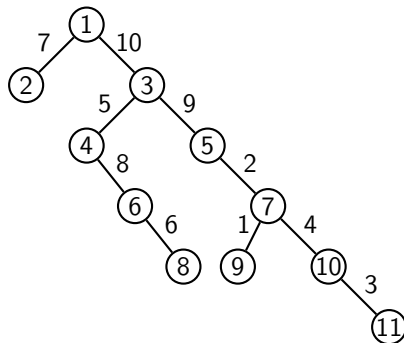
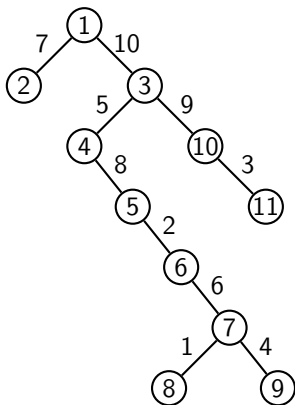
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Theorem

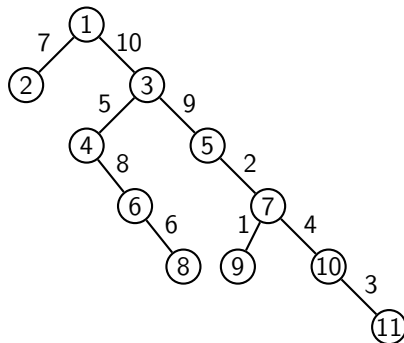
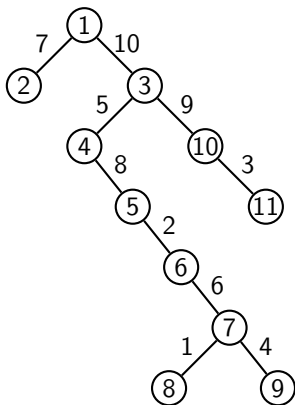
The coefficient of x^k in the toric g -polynomial of the n -dimensional cyclohedron is the number of 123-avoiding functions $f : [n] \rightarrow [n]$ having exactly k ascents.

Parking trees

Parking trees

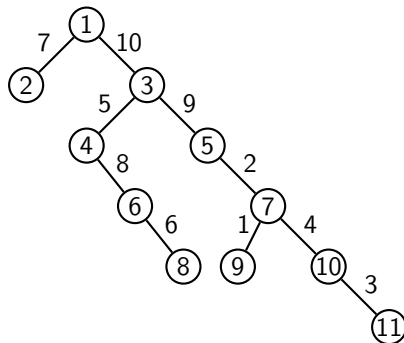
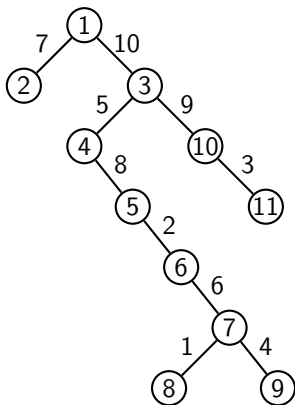


Parking trees



Depth-first search and breadth-first search parking trees of the same parking function.

Parking trees



Depth-first search and breadth-first search parking trees of the same parking function.

The toric g -vector of the permutahedron

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Theorem

The coefficient of x^k in the toric g -polynomial of the n -dimensional permutahedron is the number of parking trees on $n + 1$ nodes encoding a 123-avoiding parking function having exactly k ascents.

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Thank you!

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Full paper: [arXiv:2511.04815](https://arxiv.org/abs/2511.04815) [math.CO]

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<https://ecajournal.haifa.ac.il/Conference/ICECA2026.html>