

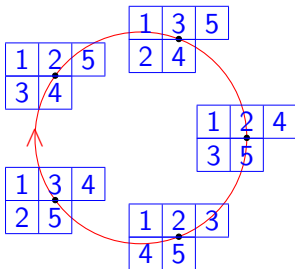
# On Cyclic Descents of SYT

Yuval Roichman

Bar-Ilan University

Based on joint works with

Ron Adin, Sergi Elizalde and Vic Reiner



# Cyclic descents

# Descents and cyclic descents of permutations

## Descents and cyclic descents of permutations

Denote  $[m] := \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ .

The **descent set** of a permutation  $\pi = [\pi_1, \dots, \pi_n]$  in the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  is

$$\text{Des}(\pi) := \{1 \leq i \leq n - 1 : \pi_i > \pi_{i+1}\} \subseteq [n - 1].$$

## Descents and cyclic descents of permutations

Denote  $[m] := \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ .

The **descent set** of a permutation  $\pi = [\pi_1, \dots, \pi_n]$  in the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  is

$$\text{Des}(\pi) := \{1 \leq i \leq n - 1 : \pi_i > \pi_{i+1}\} \subseteq [n - 1].$$

The **cyclic descent set** is

$$\text{cDes}(\pi) := \{1 \leq i \leq n : \pi_i > \pi_{i+1}\} \subseteq [n].$$

with the convention  $\pi_{n+1} := \pi_1$ .

## Descents and cyclic descents of permutations

Denote  $[m] := \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ .

The **descent set** of a permutation  $\pi = [\pi_1, \dots, \pi_n]$  in the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  is

$$\text{Des}(\pi) := \{1 \leq i \leq n - 1 : \pi_i > \pi_{i+1}\} \subseteq [n - 1].$$

The **cyclic descent set** is

$$\text{cDes}(\pi) := \{1 \leq i \leq n : \pi_i > \pi_{i+1}\} \subseteq [n].$$

with the convention  $\pi_{n+1} := \pi_1$ .

Introduced by Cellini ['95];

## Descents and cyclic descents of permutations

Denote  $[m] := \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ .

The **descent set** of a permutation  $\pi = [\pi_1, \dots, \pi_n]$  in the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  is

$$\text{Des}(\pi) := \{1 \leq i \leq n - 1 : \pi_i > \pi_{i+1}\} \subseteq [n - 1].$$

The **cyclic descent set** is

$$\text{cDes}(\pi) := \{1 \leq i \leq n : \pi_i > \pi_{i+1}\} \subseteq [n].$$

with the convention  $\pi_{n+1} := \pi_1$ .

Introduced by Cellini ['95]; further studied by Dilks, Petersen and Stembridge ['09] and others.

# Descents and cyclic descents of permutations

## Example



# Descents and cyclic descents of permutations

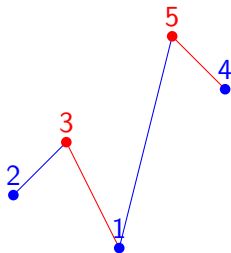
## Example

$$\pi = 23154 :$$

# Descents and cyclic descents of permutations

## Example

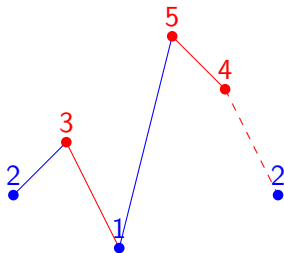
$$\pi = 23154 : \text{Des}(\pi) = \{2, 4\} ,$$



# Descents and cyclic descents of permutations

## Example

$\pi = 23154$  :  $\text{Des}(\pi) = \{2, 4\}$  ,  $\text{cDes}(\pi) = \{2, 4, 5\}$ .

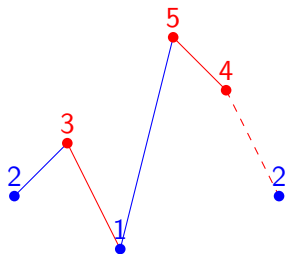


# Descents and cyclic descents of permutations

## Example

$\pi = 23154$  :  $\text{Des}(\pi) = \{2, 4\}$  ,  $\text{cDes}(\pi) = \{2, 4, 5\}$ .

$\pi = 34152$  :

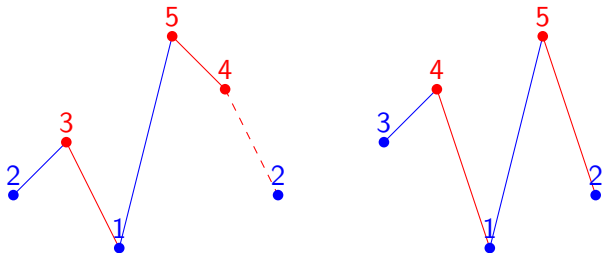


# Descents and cyclic descents of permutations

## Example

$\pi = 23154$  :  $\text{Des}(\pi) = \{2, 4\}$  ,  $\text{cDes}(\pi) = \{2, 4, 5\}$ .

$\pi = 34152$  :  $\text{Des}(\pi) = \{2, 4\}$  ,

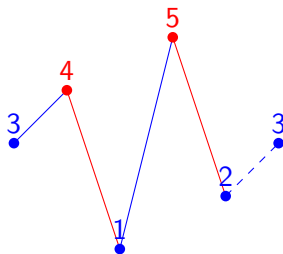
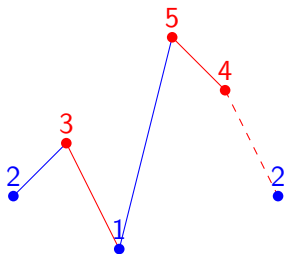


# Descents and cyclic descents of permutations

## Example

$\pi = 23154$  :  $\text{Des}(\pi) = \{2, 4\}$  ,  $\text{cDes}(\pi) = \{2, 4, 5\}$ .

$\pi = 34152$  :  $\text{Des}(\pi) = \{2, 4\}$  ,  $\text{cDes}(\pi) = \{2, 4\}$ .



Consider  $\mathbb{Z}$ -actions on  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  and on  $2^{[n]}$ , where the generator  $p$  of  $\mathbb{Z}$  acts by

$$\begin{aligned} [\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n-1}, \pi_n] &\xrightarrow{p} [\pi_n, \pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n-1}] \\ \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} &\xrightarrow{p} \{i_1 + 1, \dots, i_k + 1\} \bmod n \end{aligned}$$

Consider  $\mathbb{Z}$ -actions on  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  and on  $2^{[n]}$ , where the generator  $p$  of  $\mathbb{Z}$  acts by

$$\begin{aligned} [\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n-1}, \pi_n] &\xrightarrow{p} [\pi_n, \pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n-1}] \\ \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} &\xrightarrow{p} \{i_1 + 1, \dots, i_k + 1\} \bmod n \end{aligned}$$

For every permutation  $\pi$ , one has the following three properties:



Consider  $\mathbb{Z}$ -actions on  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  and on  $2^{[n]}$ , where the generator  $p$  of  $\mathbb{Z}$  acts by

$$\begin{aligned} [\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n-1}, \pi_n] &\xrightarrow{p} [\pi_n, \pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n-1}] \\ \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} &\xrightarrow{p} \{i_1 + 1, \dots, i_k + 1\} \bmod n \end{aligned}$$

For every permutation  $\pi$ , one has the following three properties:

$$\text{cDes}(\pi) \cap [n-1] = \text{Des}(\pi) \quad (\text{extension}) \quad (1)$$

Consider  $\mathbb{Z}$ -actions on  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  and on  $2^{[n]}$ , where the generator  $p$  of  $\mathbb{Z}$  acts by

$$\begin{aligned} [\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n-1}, \pi_n] &\xrightarrow{p} [\pi_n, \pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n-1}] \\ \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} &\xrightarrow{p} \{i_1 + 1, \dots, i_k + 1\} \bmod n \end{aligned}$$

For every permutation  $\pi$ , one has the following three properties:

$$\text{cDes}(\pi) \cap [n-1] = \text{Des}(\pi) \quad (\text{extension}) \quad (1)$$

$$\text{cDes}(p(\pi)) = p(\text{cDes}(\pi)) \quad (\text{equivariance}) \quad (2)$$

Consider  $\mathbb{Z}$ -actions on  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  and on  $2^{[n]}$ , where the generator  $p$  of  $\mathbb{Z}$  acts by

$$\begin{aligned} [\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n-1}, \pi_n] &\xrightarrow{p} [\pi_n, \pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n-1}] \\ \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} &\xrightarrow{p} \{i_1 + 1, \dots, i_k + 1\} \bmod n \end{aligned}$$

For every permutation  $\pi$ , one has the following three properties:

$$\text{cDes}(\pi) \cap [n-1] = \text{Des}(\pi) \quad (\text{extension}) \quad (1)$$

$$\text{cDes}(p(\pi)) = p(\text{cDes}(\pi)) \quad (\text{equivariance}) \quad (2)$$

$$\emptyset \subsetneq \text{cDes}(\pi) \subsetneq [n] \quad (\text{non-Escher}) \quad (3)$$

## A non-Escher property



*"Ascending and Descending"*, M. C. Escher

## A non-Escher property



*“Ascending and Descending”*, M. C. Escher  
The paradox of  $\text{cDes}(\pi) = \emptyset$  and  $\text{cDes}(\pi) = [n]$ .

# Descents and cyclic descents of SYT

## Descents and cyclic descents of SYT

Denote the set of all standard Young tableaux of shape  $\lambda/\mu$  by  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$ .

## Descents and cyclic descents of SYT

Denote the set of all standard Young tableaux of shape  $\lambda/\mu$  by  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$ .

The **descent set** of  $T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$  is

$$\text{Des}(T) := \{i : i + 1 \text{ is in a lower row than } i\}.$$



## Descents and cyclic descents of SYT

Denote the set of all standard Young tableaux of shape  $\lambda/\mu$  by  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$ .

The **descent set** of  $T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$  is

$$\text{Des}(T) := \{i : i + 1 \text{ is in a lower row than } i\}.$$

**Example**

$$T = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 4 \\ \hline 3 & 6 & \\ \hline 5 & & \\ \hline \end{array} \in \text{SYT}((4, 3, 1)/(1, 1))$$

## Descents and cyclic descents of SYT

Denote the set of all standard Young tableaux of shape  $\lambda/\mu$  by  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$ .

The **descent set** of  $T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$  is

$$\text{Des}(T) := \{i : i + 1 \text{ is in a lower row than } i\}.$$

**Example**

$$T = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 4 \\ \hline 3 & 6 & \\ \hline 5 & & \\ \hline \end{array} \in \text{SYT}((4, 3, 1)/(1, 1))$$

$$\text{Des}(T) = \{2, 4\}.$$

## Descents and cyclic descents of SYT

Denote the set of all standard Young tableaux of shape  $\lambda/\mu$  by  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$ .

The **descent set** of  $T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$  is

$$\text{Des}(T) := \{i : i + 1 \text{ is in a lower row than } i\}.$$

**Example**

$$T = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 4 \\ \hline 3 & 6 & \\ \hline 5 & & \\ \hline \end{array} \in \text{SYT}((4, 3, 1)/(1, 1))$$

$$\text{Des}(T) = \{2, 4\}.$$

**Motivating Problem:**

## Descents and cyclic descents of SYT

Denote the set of all standard Young tableaux of shape  $\lambda/\mu$  by  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$ .

The **descent set** of  $T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$  is

$$\text{Des}(T) := \{i : i + 1 \text{ is in a lower row than } i\}.$$

**Example**

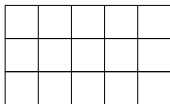
$$T = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 4 \\ \hline 3 & 6 & \\ \hline 5 & & \\ \hline \end{array} \in \text{SYT}((4, 3, 1)/(1, 1))$$

$$\text{Des}(T) = \{2, 4\}.$$

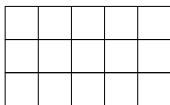
**Motivating Problem:**

Define a **cyclic descent set** for  $\text{SYT}$  of any shape  $\lambda/\mu$ .

# SYT of rectangular shapes



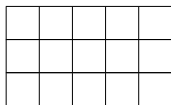
# SYT of rectangular shapes



Theorem (Rhoades '10)

There exists a *cyclic descent map*  $\text{cDes} : \text{SYT}(r^{n/r}) \rightarrow 2^{[n]}$  s.t.  
 $\forall T \in \text{SYT}(r^{n/r})$

# SYT of rectangular shapes



## Theorem (Rhoades '10)

There exists a *cyclic descent map*  $\text{cDes} : \text{SYT}(r^{n/r}) \rightarrow 2^{[n]}$  s.t.  
 $\forall T \in \text{SYT}(r^{n/r})$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cDes}(T) \cap [n-1] &= \text{Des}(T) \\ \text{cDes}(p(T)) &= p(\text{cDes}(T)), \end{aligned}$$

where  $p$  acts on  $\text{cDes}(T)$  by adding 1 (mod  $n$ ) to each element, and acts on  $\text{SYT}$  by Schützenberger's promotion operator.

# SYT of rectangular shapes

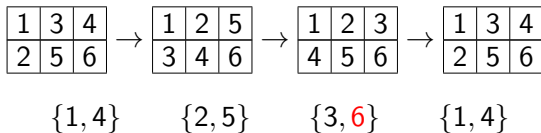
**Example**  $\lambda = (3, 3) \vdash 6$ .



# SYT of rectangular shapes

**Example**  $\lambda = (3, 3) \vdash 6$ .

A  $\mathbb{Z}$ -orbit:



# Reformulation

## Definition

Given a set  $\mathcal{T}$  and map  $\text{Des} : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow 2^{[n-1]}$ ,

# Reformulation

## Definition

Given a set  $\mathcal{T}$  and map  $\text{Des} : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow 2^{[n-1]}$ , a **cyclic extension** of  $\text{Des}$

## Reformulation

### Definition

Given a set  $\mathcal{T}$  and map  $\text{Des} : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow 2^{[n-1]}$ , a **cyclic extension** of  $\text{Des}$  is a pair  $(\text{cDes}, \rho)$ , where  $\text{cDes} : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow 2^{[n]}$  is a map and  $\rho : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  is a bijection, satisfying the following axioms:

## Reformulation

### Definition

Given a set  $\mathcal{T}$  and map  $\text{Des} : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow 2^{[n-1]}$ , a **cyclic extension** of  $\text{Des}$  is a pair  $(\text{cDes}, \rho)$ , where  $\text{cDes} : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow 2^{[n]}$  is a map and  $\rho : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  is a bijection, satisfying the following axioms: for all  $T$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ ,

- (extension)  $\text{cDes}(T) \cap [n-1] = \text{Des}(T)$ ,
- (equivariance)  $\text{cDes}(\rho(T)) = \rho(\text{cDes}(T))$ ,
- (non-Escher)  $\emptyset \subsetneq \text{cDes}(T) \subsetneq [n]$ .

## Reformulation

### Definition

Given a set  $\mathcal{T}$  and map  $\text{Des} : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow 2^{[n-1]}$ , a **cyclic extension** of  $\text{Des}$  is a pair  $(\text{cDes}, \rho)$ , where  $\text{cDes} : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow 2^{[n]}$  is a map and  $\rho : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  is a bijection, satisfying the following axioms: for all  $T$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{extension}) \quad & \text{cDes}(T) \cap [n-1] = \text{Des}(T), \\ (\text{equivariance}) \quad & \text{cDes}(\rho(T)) = \rho(\text{cDes}(T)), \\ (\text{non-Escher}) \quad & \emptyset \subsetneq \text{cDes}(T) \subsetneq [n]. \end{aligned}$$

### Examples

- $\mathcal{T} = \mathfrak{S}_n$ , with Cellini's cyclic descent set and  $\mathbb{Z}$ -action by cyclic rotation.
- $\mathcal{T} = \text{SYT}(r^{n/r})$ , with Rhoades' cyclic descent set and  $\mathbb{Z}$ -action by promotion.

# Reformulation

# Reformulation

Motivating Problem:



# Reformulation

Motivating Problem:

Does **Des** on  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$  have a **cyclic extension** ?

# Reformulation

## Motivating Problem:

Does **Des** on **SYT**( $\lambda/\mu$ ) have a **cyclic extension** ?

Recall the axioms: for all  $T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$ ,

- (extension)  $\text{cDes}(T) \cap [n-1] = \text{Des}(T)$ ,
- (equivariance)  $\text{cDes}(p(T)) = p(\text{cDes}(T))$ ,
- (non-Escher)  $\emptyset \subsetneq \text{cDes}(T) \subsetneq [n]$ .

## New examples

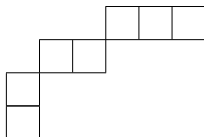
Theorem (Adin-Elizalde-Roichman '16)

*Each of the following shapes carries a cyclic descent extension:*

## New examples

Theorem (Adin-Elizalde-Roichman '16)

*Each of the following shapes carries a cyclic descent extension:*

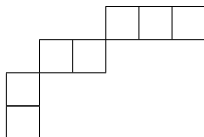


*(strip)*

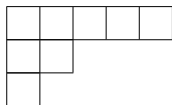
## New examples

Theorem (Adin-Elizalde-Roichman '16)

*Each of the following shapes carries a cyclic descent extension:*



*(strip)*

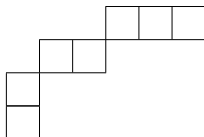


*(hook plus one box)*

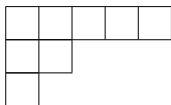
## New examples

Theorem (Adin-Elizalde-Roichman '16)

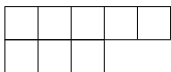
*Each of the following shapes carries a cyclic descent extension:*



*(strip)*



*(hook plus one box)*

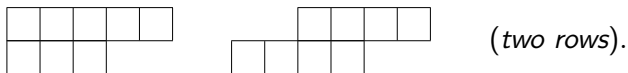
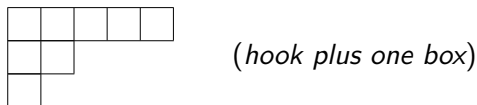
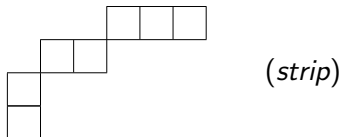


*(two rows).*

## New examples

Theorem (Adin-Elizalde-Roichman '16)

*Each of the following shapes carries a cyclic descent extension:*



The proofs are explicit and combinatorial.

# New examples



## New examples

For  $\lambda \vdash n - 1$  let  $\lambda^\square$  be the skew shape obtained from  $\lambda$  by placing a disconnected box at its upper right corner.

### Example

$$(3, 3, 1)^\square = \begin{array}{cccc} & & & \square \\ \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \square & \square & \square & \\ \square & & & \end{array}$$

## New examples

For  $\lambda \vdash n - 1$  let  $\lambda^\square$  be the skew shape obtained from  $\lambda$  by placing a disconnected box at its upper right corner.

### Example

$$(3, 3, 1)^\square = \begin{array}{cccc} & & & \square \\ \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \square & \square & \square & \\ \square & & & \end{array}$$

### Theorem (Elizalde-Roichman '15)

*For every partition  $\lambda \vdash n - 1$  there exists a cyclic descent extension on  $\text{SYT}(\lambda^\square)$ .*

## New examples

For  $\lambda \vdash n - 1$  let  $\lambda^\square$  be the skew shape obtained from  $\lambda$  by placing a disconnected box at its upper right corner.

### Example

$$(3, 3, 1)^\square = \begin{array}{cccc} & & & \square \\ \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \square & \square & \square & \\ \square & & & \end{array}$$

### Theorem (Elizalde-Roichman '15)

*For every partition  $\lambda \vdash n - 1$  there exists a cyclic descent extension on  $\text{SYT}(\lambda^\square)$ .*

So far - so good!

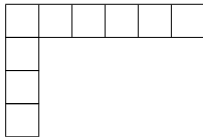
## Connected ribbons

A connected skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  is a **ribbon** if it does not contain a  $2 \times 2$  square.

## Connected ribbons

A connected skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  is a **ribbon** if it does not contain a  $2 \times 2$  square.

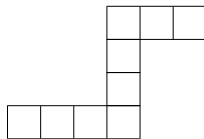
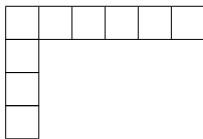
### Examples



## Connected ribbons

A connected skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  is a **ribbon** if it does not contain a  $2 \times 2$  square.

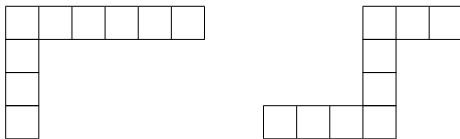
### Examples



## Connected ribbons

A connected skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  is a **ribbon** if it does not contain a  $2 \times 2$  square.

### Examples

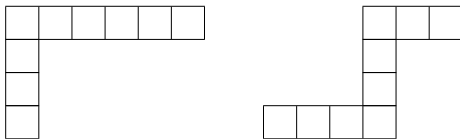


**Proposition** A connected ribbon *does not* have a cyclic descent extension.

## Connected ribbons

A connected skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  is a **ribbon** if it does not contain a  $2 \times 2$  square.

### Examples



**Proposition** A connected ribbon *does not* have a cyclic descent extension.

Oops !!!



# What's going on ?

# What's going on ?



## A Conjecture

At this point, we conducted computer experiments on all partitions of size  $n < 16$ . The numerical results led to

Conjecture

## A Conjecture

At this point, we conducted computer experiments on all partitions of size  $n < 16$ . The numerical results led to

### Conjecture

*For every **non-hook** partition  $\lambda \vdash n$ , the set  $\text{SYT}(\lambda)$  **has** a cyclic descent extension;*

## A Conjecture

At this point, we conducted computer experiments on all partitions of size  $n < 16$ . The numerical results led to

### Conjecture

For every *non-hook* partition  $\lambda \vdash n$ , the set  $\text{SYT}(\lambda)$  *has* a cyclic descent extension; namely,

$\exists$   $\text{cDes} : \text{SYT}(\lambda) \rightarrow 2^{[n]}$  and a bijection  $p : \text{SYT}(\lambda) \rightarrow \text{SYT}(\lambda)$ ,  
s.t.  $\forall T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda)$

- (extension)  $\text{cDes}(T) \cap [n-1] = \text{Des}(T)$ ,
- (equivariance)  $\text{cDes}(p(T)) = p(\text{cDes}(T))$ ,
- (non-Escher)  $\emptyset \subsetneq \text{cDes}(T) \subsetneq [n]$ .

# Affine ribbon Schur functions

# Ribbon Schur functions

## Ribbon Schur functions

For a subset  $J = \{j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_t\} \subseteq [n - 1]$  define the associated **composition**

$$\text{co}(J) := (j_1, j_2 - j_1, j_3 - j_2, \dots, n - j_t)$$



## Ribbon Schur functions

For a subset  $J = \{j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_t\} \subseteq [n-1]$  define the associated **composition**

$$\text{co}(J) := (j_1, j_2 - j_1, j_3 - j_2, \dots, n - j_t)$$

and the corresponding **ribbon Schur function**

$$s_{\text{co}(J)} := \sum_{I \subseteq J} (-1)^{|J \setminus I|} h_{\text{co}(I)}.$$

## Ribbon Schur functions

For a subset  $J = \{j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_t\} \subseteq [n-1]$  define the associated **composition**

$$\text{co}(J) := (j_1, j_2 - j_1, j_3 - j_2, \dots, n - j_t)$$

and the corresponding **ribbon Schur function**

$$s_{\text{co}(J)} := \sum_{I \subseteq J} (-1)^{|J \setminus I|} h_{\text{co}(I)}.$$

### Theorem (Gessel '83)

For any skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  and  $J \subseteq [n]$ ,

$$\langle s_{\lambda/\mu}, s_{\text{co}(J)} \rangle =$$

## Ribbon Schur functions

For a subset  $J = \{j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_t\} \subseteq [n-1]$  define the associated **composition**

$$\text{co}(J) := (j_1, j_2 - j_1, j_3 - j_2, \dots, n - j_t)$$

and the corresponding **ribbon Schur function**

$$s_{\text{co}(J)} := \sum_{I \subseteq J} (-1)^{|J \setminus I|} h_{\text{co}(I)}.$$

### Theorem (Gessel '83)

For any skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  and  $J \subseteq [n]$ ,

$$\langle s_{\lambda/\mu}, s_{\text{co}(J)} \rangle = \#\{T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu) : \text{Des}(T) = J\}.$$

# Affine ribbon Schur functions

## Affine ribbon Schur functions

For a subset  $\emptyset \neq J = \{j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_t\} \subseteq [n]$  define the associated **cyclic composition**

$$\text{cc}(J) := (j_2 - j_1, j_3 - j_2, \dots, j_1 - j_t + n)$$

## Affine ribbon Schur functions

For a subset  $\emptyset \neq J = \{j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_t\} \subseteq [n]$  define the associated **cyclic composition**

$$\text{cc}(J) := (j_2 - j_1, j_3 - j_2, \dots, j_1 - j_t + n)$$

and the corresponding **affine ribbon Schur function**

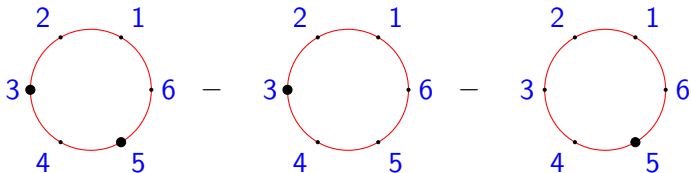
$$\tilde{s}_{\text{cc}(J)} := \sum_{\emptyset \neq I \subseteq J} (-1)^{|J \setminus I|} h_{\text{cc}(I)}.$$

# Affine ribbon Schur functions

## Example

Let  $n = 6$  and  $J = \{3, 5\}$ . The affine ribbon Schur function is

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{h}_{\text{cc}}(\{3,5\}) &= h_{\text{cc}}(\{3,5\}) - h_{\text{cc}}(\{3\}) - h_{\text{cc}}(\{5\}) \\ &= h_{(2,4)} - h_{(6)} - h_{(6)}.\end{aligned}$$



## Theorem (Adin-Reiner-Roichman '16)

*A skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  has a cyclic descent extension if and only if*

$$\langle s_{\lambda/\mu}, \tilde{s}_{cc(J)} \rangle \geq 0 \quad (\forall \emptyset \subsetneq J \subsetneq [n]),$$



## Theorem (Adin-Reiner-Roichman '16)

*A skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  has a cyclic descent extension if and only if*

$$\langle s_{\lambda/\mu}, \tilde{s}_{cc(J)} \rangle \geq 0 \quad (\forall \emptyset \subsetneq J \subsetneq [n]),$$

*and then*

$$\langle s_{\lambda/\mu}, \tilde{s}_{cc(J)} \rangle = \#\{T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu) : \text{cDes}(T) = J\}.$$

## Theorem (Adin-Reiner-Roichman '16)

A skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  has a cyclic descent extension if and only if

$$\langle s_{\lambda/\mu}, \tilde{s}_{\text{cc}(J)} \rangle \geq 0 \quad (\forall \emptyset \subsetneq J \subsetneq [n]),$$

and then

$$\langle s_{\lambda/\mu}, \tilde{s}_{\text{cc}(J)} \rangle = \#\{T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu) : \text{cDes}(T) = J\}.$$

**If** all the  $\tilde{s}_{\text{cc}(J)}$  were Schur positive, we would have a cyclic extension for all  $\lambda/\mu$ .

## Theorem (Adin-Reiner-Roichman '16)

A skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  has a cyclic descent extension if and only if

$$\langle s_{\lambda/\mu}, \tilde{s}_{\text{cc}(J)} \rangle \geq 0 \quad (\forall \emptyset \subsetneq J \subsetneq [n]),$$

and then

$$\langle s_{\lambda/\mu}, \tilde{s}_{\text{cc}(J)} \rangle = \#\{T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu) : \text{cDes}(T) = J\}.$$

If all the  $\tilde{s}_{\text{cc}(J)}$  were Schur positive, we would have a cyclic extension for all  $\lambda/\mu$ .

However, **this is not the case!**

## Theorem (Adin-Reiner-Roichman '16)

A skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  has a cyclic descent extension if and only if

$$\langle s_{\lambda/\mu}, \tilde{s}_{\text{cc}(J)} \rangle \geq 0 \quad (\forall \emptyset \subsetneq J \subsetneq [n]),$$

and then

$$\langle s_{\lambda/\mu}, \tilde{s}_{\text{cc}(J)} \rangle = \#\{T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu) : \text{cDes}(T) = J\}.$$

If all the  $\tilde{s}_{\text{cc}(J)}$  were Schur positive, we would have a cyclic extension for all  $\lambda/\mu$ .

However, **this is not the case!**

**Example** For  $n = 6$  and  $J = \{3, 5\}$ ,

$$\tilde{s}_{\text{cc}(\{3,5\})} = s_{4,2} + s_{5,1} - s_6.$$

# Main results:

# Main results: existence and uniqueness

# Existence

Recall that the cyclic ribbon Schur functions  $\tilde{s}_{cc(J)}$  are not always Schur positive. Can this be made more precise?

# Existence

Recall that the cyclic ribbon Schur functions  $\tilde{s}_{cc(J)}$  are not always Schur positive. Can this be made more precise?

Theorem (ARR,



# Existence

Recall that the cyclic ribbon Schur functions  $\tilde{s}_{cc(J)}$  are not always Schur positive. Can this be made more precise?

Theorem (ARR, Postnikov '05, McNamara '06)

## Existence

Recall that the cyclic ribbon Schur functions  $\tilde{s}_{cc(J)}$  are not always Schur positive. Can this be made more precise?

Theorem (ARR, Postnikov '05, McNamara '06)

For all  $\emptyset \neq J \subseteq [n]$  of size  $k > 0$

$$\tilde{s}_{cc(J)} + \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} (-1)^{k-i} s_{(n-i, 1^i)}$$

is Schur positive (and hook-free).

# Existence

Proof idea:

# Existence

Proof idea:

$$\tilde{s}_{cc(J)} = s_{\lambda/1/\lambda} + (-1)^{|J|-1} p_n,$$

where  $s_{\lambda/1/\lambda}$  is a special case of Postnikov's **toric Schur functions** and

$$p_n = x_1^n + x_2^n + \dots = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (-1)^i s_{(n-i,1^i)}$$

is the  $n$ -th **power symmetric function**.

## Existence

Proof idea:

$$\tilde{s}_{cc(J)} = s_{\lambda/1/\lambda} + (-1)^{|J|-1} p_n,$$

where  $s_{\lambda/1/\lambda}$  is a special case of Postnikov's **toric Schur functions** and

$$p_n = x_1^n + x_2^n + \dots = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (-1)^i s_{(n-i,1^i)}$$

is the  $n$ -th **power symmetric function**.

Postnikov proved that, letting  $x_{k+1} = x_{k+2} = \dots = 0$ ,

$$s_{\lambda/d/\mu}(x_1, \dots, x_k) = \sum_{\nu \subseteq k \times (n-k)} C_{\mu, \nu}^{\lambda, d} s_{\nu}(x_1, \dots, x_k),$$

where  $C_{\mu, \nu}^{\lambda, d} \geq 0$  are the **Gromov-Witten invariants**.

## Main theorem: existence

Recall

### Conjecture

*For every **non-hook** partition  $\lambda \vdash n$ , the set  $\text{SYT}(\lambda)$  has a cyclic descent extension.*

## Main theorem: existence

Recall

### Conjecture

*For every **non-hook** partition  $\lambda \vdash n$ , the set  $\text{SYT}(\lambda)$  has a cyclic descent extension.*

This can now be proved, and actually extended to **skew** shapes.

## Main theorem: existence

Recall

### Conjecture

For every *non-hook* partition  $\lambda \vdash n$ , the set  $\text{SYT}(\lambda)$  has a cyclic descent extension.

This can now be proved, and actually extended to *skew* shapes.

### Theorem (Adin-Reiner-Roichman '16)

For every skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  of size  $n$ , which is *not a connected ribbon*, there exists a cyclic descent extension;



## Main theorem: existence

Recall

### Conjecture

For every *non-hook* partition  $\lambda \vdash n$ , the set  $\text{SYT}(\lambda)$  has a cyclic descent extension.

This can now be proved, and actually extended to *skew* shapes.

### Theorem (Adin-Reiner-Roichman '16)

For every skew shape  $\lambda/\mu$  of size  $n$ , which is *not a connected ribbon*, there exists a cyclic descent extension; namely,

$\exists \text{cDes} : \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu) \rightarrow 2^{[n]}$  and  $p : \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu) \rightarrow \text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$ , s.t.  
 $\forall T \in \text{inSYT}(\lambda)$

- (extension)  $\text{cDes}(T) \cap [n-1] = \text{Des}(T)$ ,
- (equivariance)  $\text{cDes}(p(T)) = p(\text{cDes}(T))$ ,
- (non-Escher)  $\emptyset \subsetneq \text{cDes}(T) \subsetneq [n]$ .

# Uniqueness

# Uniqueness

The actual extended map  $\text{cDes}$  is almost never unique;

# Uniqueness

The actual extended map  $cDes$  is almost never unique; however, its **distribution** is almost always unique:

# Uniqueness

The actual extended map  $\text{cDes}$  is almost never unique; however, its **distribution** is almost always unique:

## Theorem

*If  $\lambda/\mu$  is not a connected ribbon then for all cyclic descent extensions, the distribution of  $\text{cDes}$  over  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$  is uniquely determined.*

## Uniqueness

The actual extended map  $\text{cDes}$  is almost never unique; however, its **distribution** is almost always unique:

### Theorem

*If  $\lambda/\mu$  is not a connected ribbon then for all cyclic descent extensions, the distribution of  $\text{cDes}$  over  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$  is uniquely determined.*

( $\implies$  **Equidistribution results**)

## Uniqueness

The actual extended map  $\text{cDes}$  is almost never unique; however, its **distribution** is almost always unique:

### Theorem

*If  $\lambda/\mu$  is not a connected ribbon then for all cyclic descent extensions, the distribution of  $\text{cDes}$  over  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$  is uniquely determined.*

( $\implies$  **Equidistribution results**)

### Corollary

$$\sum_{\pi \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \mathbf{x}^{\text{cDes}(\pi)} = \sum_{\substack{\text{non-hook} \\ \lambda \vdash n}} f^\lambda \sum_{T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda)} \mathbf{x}^{\text{cDes}(T)} \\ + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \binom{n-2}{k-1} \sum_{T \in \text{SYT}((n-k+1, 1^k)/(1))} \mathbf{x}^{\text{cDes}(T)},$$

where  $f^\lambda = |\text{SYT}(\lambda)|$ .

# Summary and open problems



# Summary

# Summary

- For almost all skew shapes  $\lambda/\mu$  there exists a cyclic extension  $\text{cDes}$  to the usual descent map.

# Summary

- For almost all skew shapes  $\lambda/\mu$  there exists a cyclic extension  $\text{cDes}$  to the usual descent map.
- For almost all skew shapes  $\lambda/\mu$ , the fiber distribution of this cyclic extension is unique.

# Summary

- For almost all skew shapes  $\lambda/\mu$  there exists a cyclic extension  $\text{cDes}$  to the usual descent map.
- For almost all skew shapes  $\lambda/\mu$ , the fiber distribution of this cyclic extension is unique.
- The proof (of existence) involves toric Schur functions and the nonnegativity of the Gromov-Witten invariants.

# Epilogue

# Epilogue

- Theory of **cyclic quasi-symmetric functions**, which explains the above results (with Adin, Gessel and Reiner)

# Epilogue

- Theory of **cyclic quasi-symmetric functions**, which explains the above results (with Adin, Gessel and Reiner)
- Applications to **Schur-positivity** (with Elizalde)

# Open Problems



# Open Problems

## Problem

*Find an explicit combinatorial description of the cyclic descent set of  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$ .*

# Open Problems

## Problem

*Find an explicit combinatorial description of the cyclic descent set of  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$ .*

## Problem

*Find an explicit  $\mathbb{Z}$ -action on  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$  which shifts the cyclic descent set.*

# Open Problems

## Problem

*Find an explicit combinatorial description of the cyclic descent set of  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$ .*

## Problem

*Find an explicit  $\mathbb{Z}$ -action on  $\text{SYT}(\lambda/\mu)$  which shifts the cyclic descent set.*

## Problem

*Find bijective proofs to resulting equidistribution identities.*

THANK YOU ! and ...

THANK YOU ! and ...  
a tribute to Bertinoro



