

# Computer Algebra for Lattice Path Combinatorics

Alin Bostan

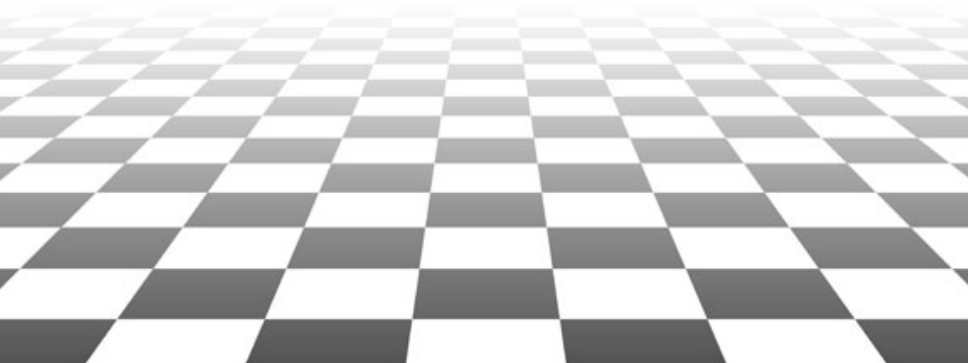


Computer Algebra in Combinatorics

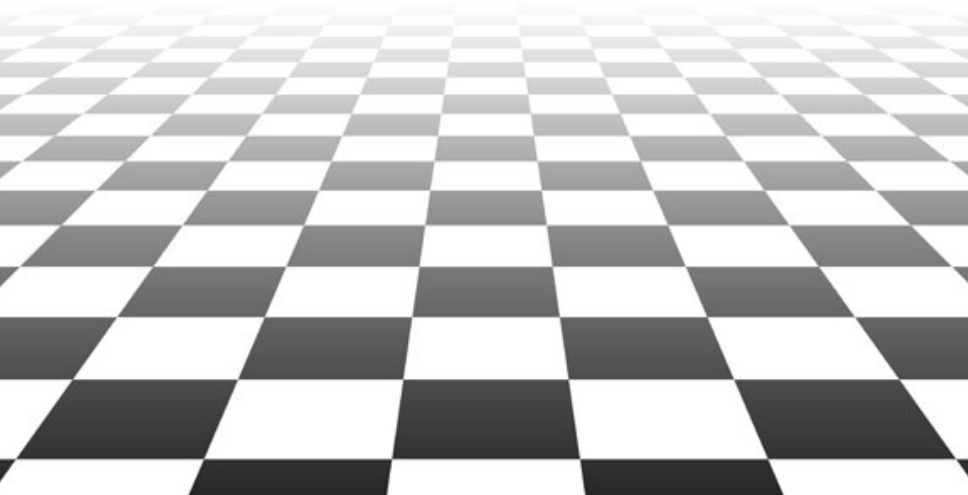
ESI, Vienna, November 13, 2017

Part 1:           General presentation

Part 2:           Guess'n'Prove



## Part 1: General presentation



## An (innocent looking) exercise

Let  $\mathfrak{S} = \{\uparrow, \leftarrow, \searrow\}$ . A  $\mathfrak{S}$ -walk is a path in  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  using only steps from  $\mathfrak{S}$ . Show that, for any integer  $n$ , the following quantities are equal:

- (i) the number  $a_n$  of  $\mathfrak{S}$ -walks of length  $n$  confined to the upper half plane  $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}$  that start and end at the origin  $(0,0)$ ;
- (ii) the number  $b_n$  of  $\mathfrak{S}$ -walks of length  $n$  confined to the quarter plane  $\mathbb{N}^2$  that start at the origin  $(0,0)$  and finish on the diagonal  $x = y$ .

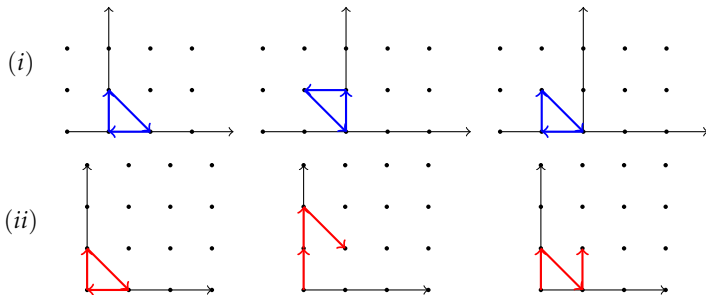
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For instance, for  $n = 3$ , this common value is  $a_3 = b_3 = 3$ :



**Teaser 1:** This exercise can be solved using computer algebra!

**Teaser 2:** The answer has a nice closed form!

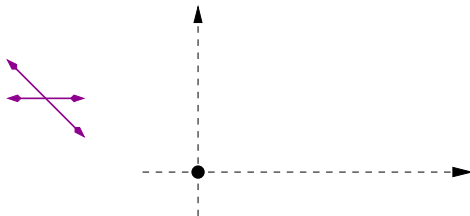
$$a_{3n} = b_{3n} = \frac{(3n)!}{n!^2 \cdot (n+1)!}, \quad \text{and} \quad a_m = b_m = 0 \quad \text{if } 3 \text{ does not divide } m.$$

**Teaser 3:** A certain group attached to the step set  $\{\uparrow, \leftarrow, \searrow\}$  is finite!

## General context: lattice paths confined to cones

Let  $\mathfrak{S}$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  (**step set**, or **model**) and  $p_0 \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  (**starting point**).

**Example:**  $\mathfrak{S} = \{(1,0), (-1,0), (1,-1), (-1,1)\}$ ,  $p_0 = (0,0)$

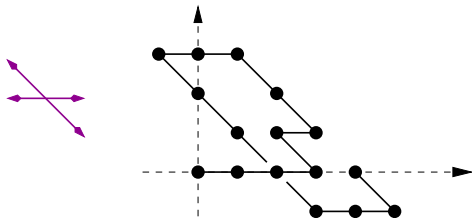


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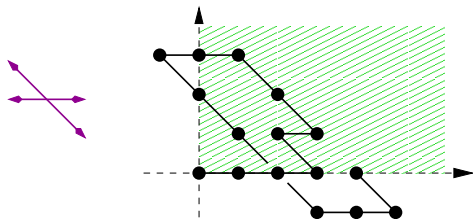
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Let  $\mathfrak{C}$  be a **cone** of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  (if  $x \in \mathfrak{C}$  and  $r \geq 0$  then  $r \cdot x \in \mathfrak{C}$ ).

**Example:**  $\mathfrak{S} = \{(1,0), (-1,0), (1,-1), (-1,1)\}$ ,  $p_0 = (0,0)$  and  $\mathfrak{C} = \mathbb{R}_+^2$



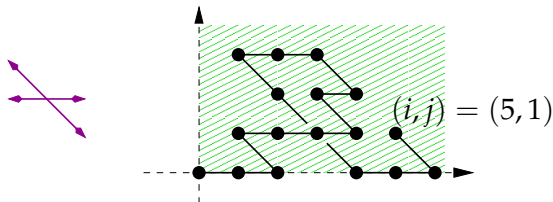
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### Questions

- What is the number  $a_n$  of  $n$ -step walks contained in  $\mathfrak{C}$ ?
- For  $i \in \mathfrak{C}$ , what is the number  $a_{n;i}$  of such walks that end at  $i$ ?
- What about their GF's  $A(t) = \sum_n a_n t^n$  and  $A(t; \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{n,i} a_{n,i} \mathbf{x}^i t^n$ ?

## Why count walks in cones?

Many discrete objects can be encoded in that way:

- discrete mathematics (permutations, trees, words, urns, ...)
- statistical physics (Ising model, ...)
- probability theory (branching processes, games of chance, ...)
- operations research (queueing theory, ...)

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**7<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
LATTICE PATH COMBINATORICS AND APPLICATIONS**



*Siena, Italy July 4-7*

<b>HOME</b>	<b>TOPICS to be covered include</b> (but are not limited to):
<b>Photo</b>	Lattice path enumeration
<b>Program</b>	Plane Partitions
<b>Proceedings</b>	Young tableaux
<b>Submission</b>	q-calculus
<b>Important dates</b>	Orthogonal polynomials
<b>Participants</b>	Random walks
<b>General Information</b>	Non parametric statistical Inference
	Discrete distributions and urn models
	Queueing theory
	Analysis of algorithms
	Graph Theory and Applications
	Self-dual codes and unimodular lattices
	Bijections between paths and other combinatoric structures

Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference 140 (2010) 2237–2254



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference

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## A history and a survey of lattice path enumeration

Katherine Humphreys

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### ARTICLE INFO

Available online 21 January 2010

**Keywords:**  
Lattice path  
Reflection principle  
Method of images

### ABSTRACT

In celebration of the Sixth International Conference on Lattice Path Counting and Applications, it is fitting to review the history of lattice path enumeration and to survey how the topic has progressed thus far.

We start the history with early games of chance specifically the ruin problem which later appears as the ballot problem. We discuss André's Reflection Principle and its misnomer, its relation with the method of images and possible origins from physics and Brownian motion, and the earliest evidence of lattice path techniques and solutions.

In the survey, we give representative articles on lattice path enumeration found in the literature in the last 35 years by the lattice, step set, boundary, characteristics counted, and solution method. Some of this work appears in the author's 2005 dissertation.

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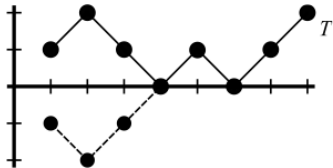
# An old topic: The ballot problem and the reflection principle

## Ballot problem [Bertrand, 1887]

Suppose that candidates  $A$  and  $B$  are running in an election. If  $a$  votes are cast for  $A$  and  $b$  votes are cast for  $B$ , where  $a > b$ , then the probability that  $A$  stays ahead of  $B$  throughout the counting of the ballots is  $(a - b)/(a + b)$ .

**Lattice path reformulation:** find the number of paths that start at the origin and never touch the  $x$ -axis, consisting of  $a$  upsteps  $\nearrow$  and  $b$  downsteps  $\searrow$

**Reflection principle [Aebly, 1923]:** *paths in  $\mathbb{N}^2$  from  $(1, 1)$  to  $T(a + b, a - b)$  that do touch the  $x$ -axis* are in bijection with *paths in  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  from  $(1, -1)$  to  $T$*



**Answer:** *(paths in  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  from  $(1, 1)$  to  $T$ ) - (paths in  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  from  $(1, -1)$  to  $T$ )*

$$\binom{a+b-1}{a-1} - \binom{a+b-1}{b-1} = \frac{a-b}{a+b} \binom{a+b}{a}$$

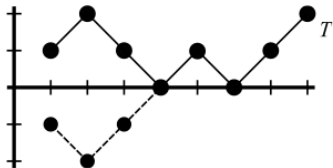
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**Answer:** when  $a = n + 1$  and  $b = n$ , this is the **Catalan number**

$$C_n = \frac{1}{2n+1} \binom{2n+1}{n+1} = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$$

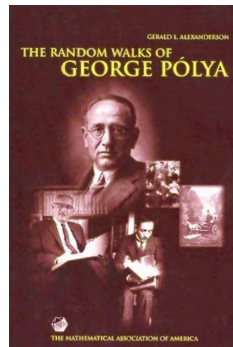
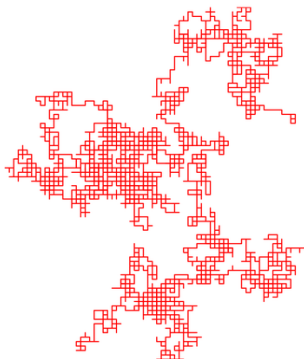
# An old topic: Pólya's "promenade au hasard" / "Irrfahrt"

*Motto:* Drunkard: "Will I ever, ever get home again?"

Polya (1921): "You can't miss; just keep going and stay out of 3D!"  
(Adam and Delbruck, 1968)

[Pólya, 1921] Simple random walk  $\{\pm 1\}^d$  on  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  is **recurrent** in dimensions  $d = 1, 2$  ("Alle Wege führen nach Rom"), and **transient** in dimension  $d \geq 3$

Über eine Aufgabe der Wahrscheinlichkeitsrechnung  
betreffend die Irrfahrt im Straßennetz.



Many recent contributors:

Arquès, Bacher, Banderier, Bernardi, Bostan, Bousquet-Mélou, Budd, Chyzak, Cori, Courtiel, Denisov, Dreyfus, Du, Duchon, Dulucq, Duraj, Fayolle, Fisher, Flajolet, Fusy, Garbit, Gessel, Gouyou-Beauchamps, Guttmann, Guy, Hardouin, van Hoeij, Hou, Iasnogorodski, Johnson, Kauers, Kenyon, Koutschan, Krattenthaler, Kreweras, Kurkova, Malyshev, Melczer, Miller, Mishna, Niederhausen, Pech, Petkovšek, Prellberg, Raschel, Rechnitzer, Roques, Sagan, Salvy, Sheffield, Singer, Viennot, Wachtel, Wang, Wilf, D. Wilson, M. Wilson, Yatchak, Yeats, Zeilberger, . . .

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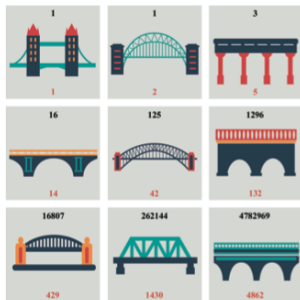
~~Specific question  
Ad hoc solution~~



**Systematic approach**

DISCRETE MATHEMATICS AND ITS APPLICATIONS

## HANDBOOK OF ENUMERATIVE COMBINATORICS



Edited by  
**Miklós Bóna**

 **CRC Press**  
Taylor & Francis Group  
A CHAPMAN & HALL BOOK

## Chapter 10

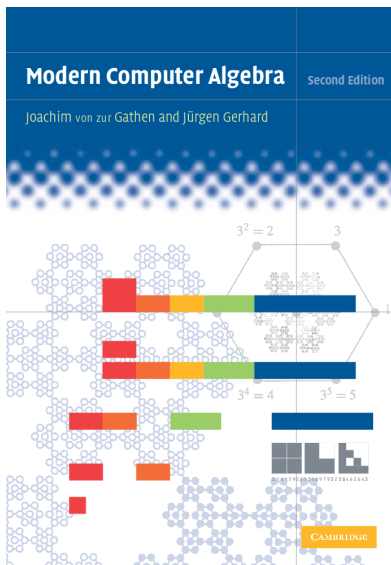
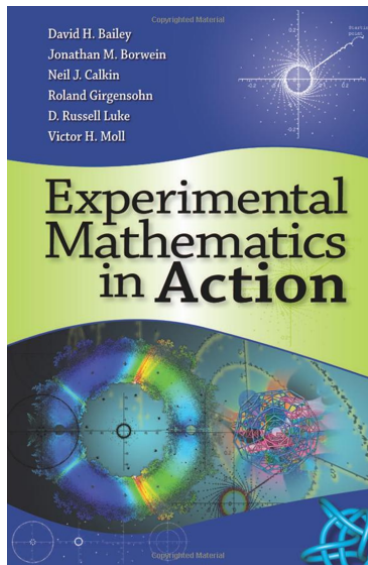
### *Lattice Path Enumeration*

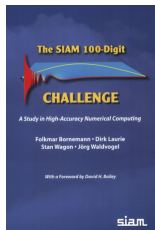
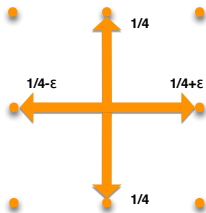
Christian Krattenthaler

Universität Wien

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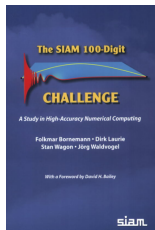
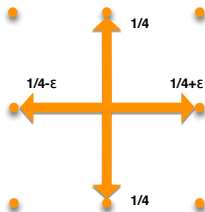
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## Problem 6

*A flea starts at  $(0, 0)$  on the infinite two-dimensional integer lattice and executes a biased random walk: At each step it hops north or south with probability  $1/4$ , east with probability  $1/4 + \epsilon$ , and west with probability  $1/4 - \epsilon$ . The probability that the flea returns to  $(0, 0)$  sometime during its wanderings is  $1/2$ . What is  $\epsilon$ ?*

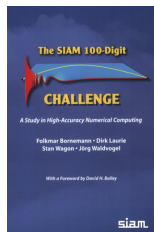
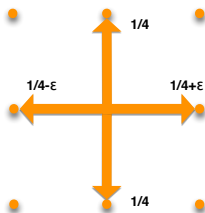


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▷ Computer algebra [conjectures](#) and [proves](#)

$$p(\epsilon) = 1 - \sqrt{\frac{A}{2}} \cdot {}_2F_1 \left( \begin{matrix} \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle| \frac{2\sqrt{1-16\epsilon^2}}{A} \right)^{-1}, \quad \text{with } A = 1 + 8\epsilon^2 + \sqrt{1-16\epsilon^2}.$$



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$$\epsilon \approx 0.0619139544739909428481752164732121769996387749983 \\ 6207606146725885993101029759615845907105645752087861 \dots$$

## A (very) basic cone: the full space

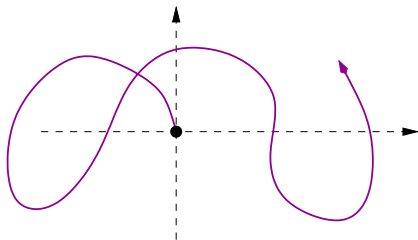
### Rational series

If  $\mathfrak{S} \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$  is finite and  $\mathfrak{C} = \mathbb{R}^d$ , then

$$a_n = |\mathfrak{S}|^n, \text{ i.e. } A(t) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n t^n = \frac{1}{1 - |\mathfrak{S}|t}$$

More generally:

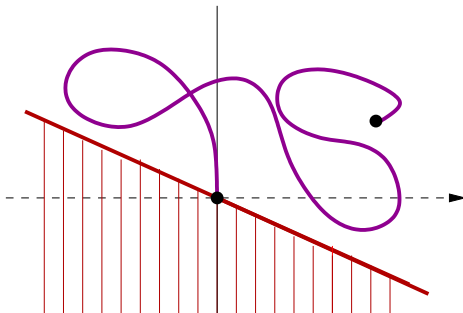
$$A(t; \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{n, i} a_{n, i} \mathbf{x}^i t^n = \frac{1}{1 - t \sum_{s \in \mathfrak{S}} \mathbf{x}^s}.$$



## Also well-known: a (rational) half-space

Algebraic series [Bousquet-Mélou, Petkovšek, 2000]

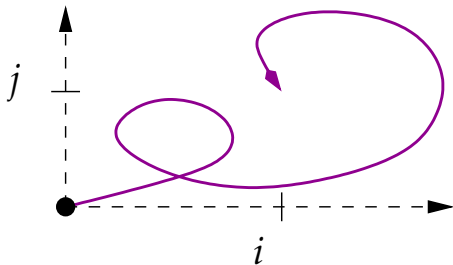
If  $\mathfrak{S} \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$  is finite and  $\mathfrak{C}$  is a rational half-space, then  $A(t; x)$  is algebraic, given by an explicit system of polynomial equations.



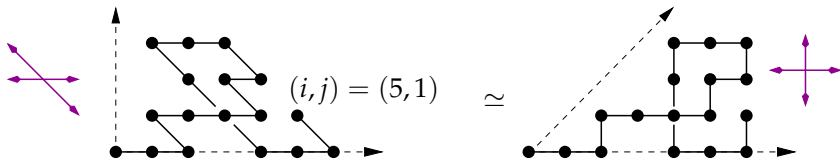
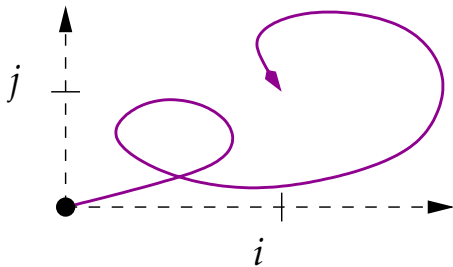
**Example:** For Dyck paths (ballot problem),  $A(t; 1) = \sum_{n \geq 0} C_n t^n = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4t}}{2t}$



## The “next” case: intersection of two half-spaces



# The “next” case: intersection of two half-spaces

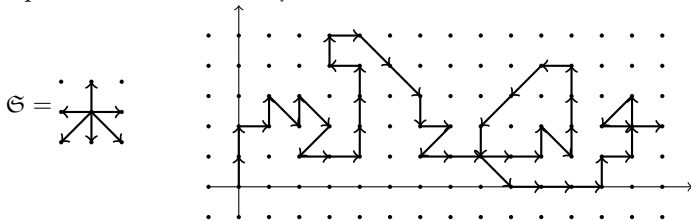


# Lattice walks with small steps in the quarter plane

- ▷ From now on: we focus on **nearest-neighbor walks in the quarter plane**, i.e. walks in  $\mathbb{N}^2$  starting at  $(0,0)$  and using steps in a *fixed* subset  $\mathfrak{S}$  of

$$\{\swarrow, \leftarrow, \nearrow, \uparrow, \rightarrow, \searrow, \downarrow\}.$$

- ▷ Example with  $n = 45$ ,  $i = 14$ ,  $j = 2$  for:

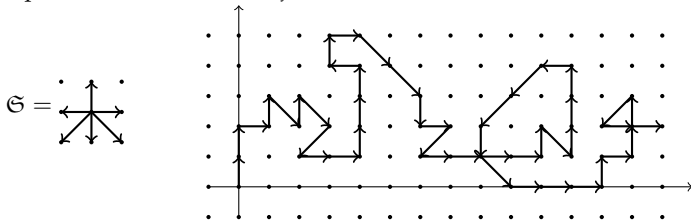


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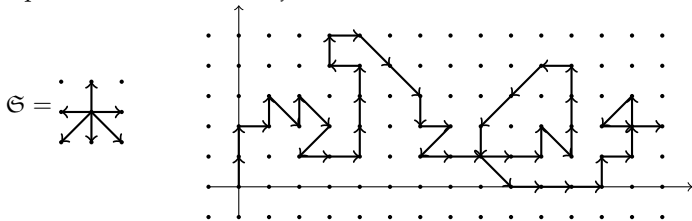
- ▷ Counting sequence:  $f_{n;i,j}$  = number of **walks of length  $n$  ending at  $(i,j)$** .

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▷ Counting sequence:  $f_{n;i,j}$  = number of **walks of length  $n$  ending at  $(i,j)$** .

▷ Specializations:

- $f_{n;0,0}$  = number of **walks of length  $n$  returning to origin** (“excursions”);
- $f_n = \sum_{i,j \geq 0} f_{n;i,j}$  = number of **walks with prescribed length  $n$** .

▷ Complete generating function:

$$F(t; x, y) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{i,j=0}^{\infty} f_{n,i,j} x^i y^j \right) t^n \in \mathbb{Q}[x, y][[t]].$$

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▷ Specializations:

- GF of excursions:

$$F(t; 0, 0);$$

- GF of walks:

$$F(t; 1, 1) = \sum_{n \geq 0} f_n t^n;$$

- GF of horizontal returns:

$$F(t; 1, 0);$$

- GF of diagonal returns:

$$"F(t; 0, \infty)" := [x^0] F(t; x, 1/x).$$

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Combinatorial questions:

Given  $\mathfrak{S}$ , what can be said about  $F(t; x, y)$ , resp.  $f_{n,i,j}$ , and their variants?

- **Structure** of  $F$ : algebraic? transcendental? solution of ODE?
- **Explicit form**: of  $F$ ? of  $f_{n,i,j}$ ?
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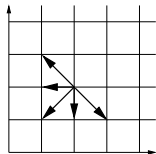
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Our goal: Use computer algebra to give computational answers.

From the  $2^8$  step sets  $\mathfrak{S} \subseteq \{-1, 0, 1\}^2 \setminus \{(0, 0)\}$ , some are:

## Small-step models of interest

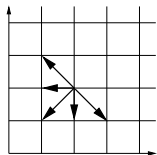
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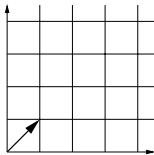
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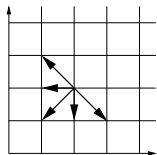
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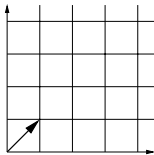
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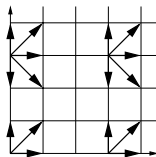
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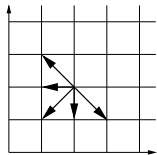
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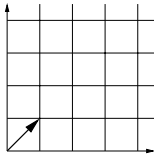
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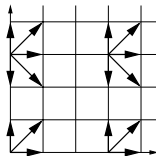
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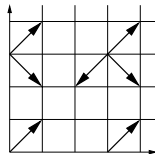
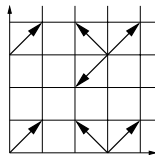
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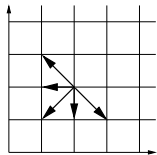
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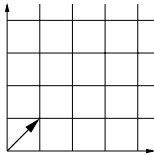
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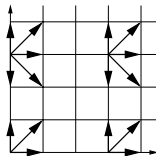
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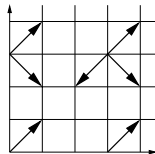
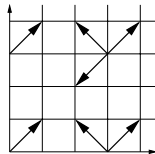
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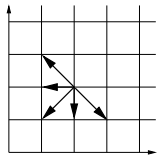


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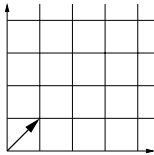
One is left with [79 interesting distinct models](#).

## Small-step models of interest

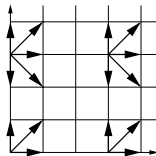
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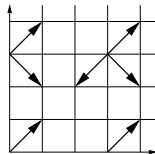
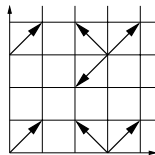
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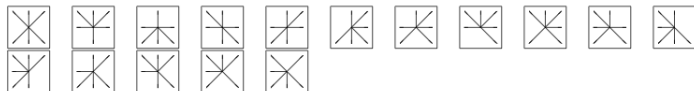
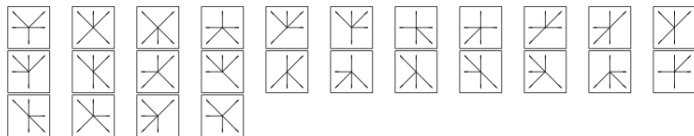
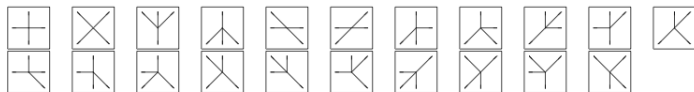
Is any further classification possible?



# The 79 models



Non-singular



Singular

# The 79 models



Non-singular



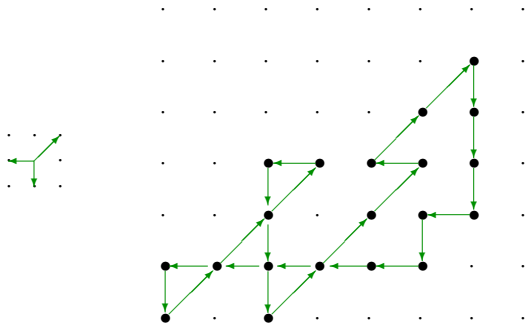
Singular

## Two important models: **Kreweras** and **Gessel** walks

$$\mathfrak{S} = \{\downarrow, \leftarrow, \nearrow\} \quad F_{\mathfrak{S}}(t; x, y) \equiv K(t; x, y)$$

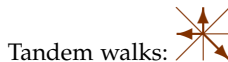
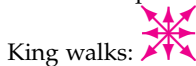
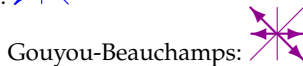
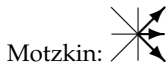
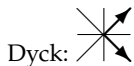


$$\mathfrak{S} = \{\nearrow, \swarrow, \leftarrow, \rightarrow\} \quad F_{\mathfrak{S}}(t; x, y) \equiv G(t; x, y)$$

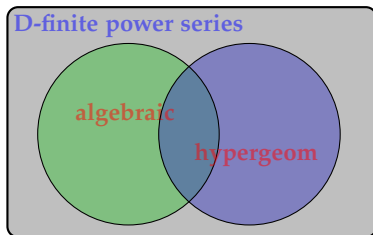


Example: A Kreweras excursion.

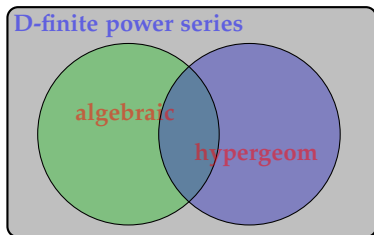
# “Special” models



# Classification of univariate power series



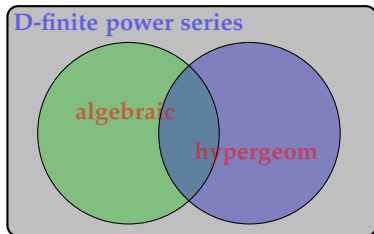
# Classification of univariate power series



$$S(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s_n t^n \in \mathbb{Q}[[t]] \text{ is}$$

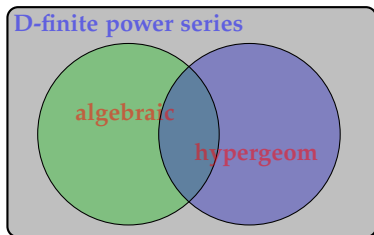
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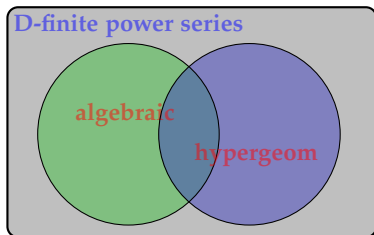


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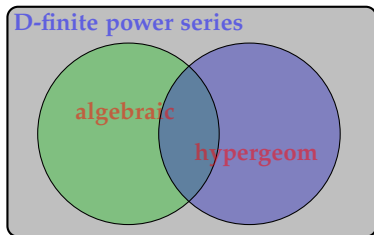


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$$\ln(1-t); \quad \frac{\arcsin(\sqrt{t})}{\sqrt{t}}; \quad (1-t)^\alpha, \alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$$

# Classification of univariate power series

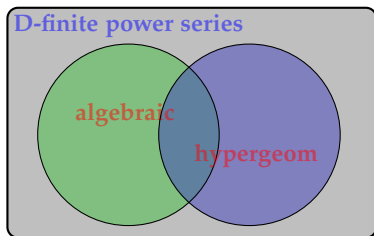


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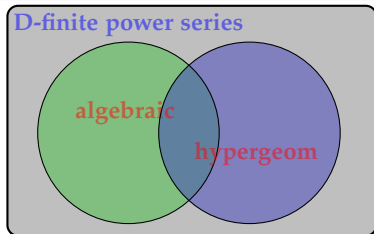


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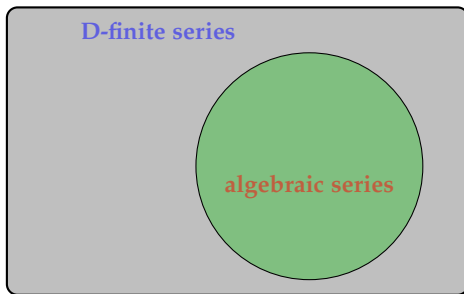
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**Theorem** [Schwarz, 1873; Beukers, Heckman, 1989]

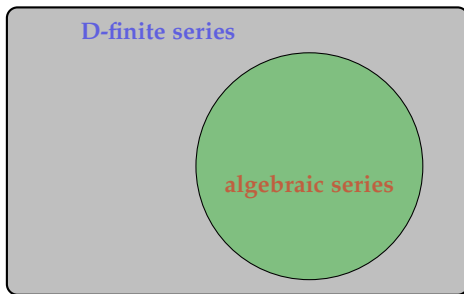
Characterization of  $\{ \textit{hypergeometric} \} \cap \{ \textit{algebraic} \}$ .

# Classification of multivariate power series



▷  $S \in \mathbb{Q}[[x, y, t]]$  is *algebraic* if it is the root of a polynomial  $P \in \mathbb{Q}[x, y, t, T]$ .

# Classification of multivariate power series



- ▷  $S \in \mathbb{Q}[[x, y, t]]$  is *algebraic* if it is the root of a polynomial  $P \in \mathbb{Q}[x, y, t, T]$ .
- ▷  $S \in \mathbb{Q}[[x, y, t]]$  is *D-finite* if it satisfies a system of linear partial differential equations with polynomial coefficients

$$\sum_i a_i(t, x, y) \frac{\partial^i S}{\partial x^i} = 0, \quad \sum_i b_i(t, x, y) \frac{\partial^i S}{\partial y^i} = 0, \quad \sum_i c_i(t, x, y) \frac{\partial^i S}{\partial t^i} = 0.$$

$$\mathcal{G} = \{\nearrow, \searrow, \leftarrow, \rightarrow\}$$

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founded in 1964 by N. J. A. Sloane


[Hints](#)

(Greetings from [The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences!](#))

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Displaying 1-1 of 1 result found.

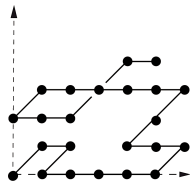
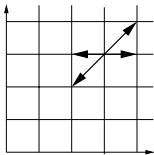
page 1

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[A135404](#)

Gessel sequence: the number of paths of length  $2m$  in the plane, starting and ending at  $(0,1)$ , with  $\binom{+20}{6}$  unit steps in the four directions (north, east, south, west) and staying in the region  $y > 0, x > -y$ .

**1, 2, 11, 85**, 782, 8004, 88044, 1020162, 12294260, 152787976, 1946310467, 25302036071,  
334560525538, 4488007049900, 60955295750460, 836838395382645, 11597595644244186,  
162074575606984788, 2281839419729917410, 32340239369121304038, 461109219391987625316,  
6610306991283738684600 ([list](#); [graph](#); [refs](#); [listen](#); [history](#); [text](#); [internal format](#))



**Conjecture 1** The generating function of Gessel excursions is equal to

$$G(t; 0, 0) = {}_3F_2 \left( \begin{matrix} 5/6 & 1/2 & 1 \\ 5/3 & 2 \end{matrix} \middle| 16t^2 \right)$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(5/6)_n (1/2)_n}{(5/3)_n (2)_n} (4t)^{2n}$$

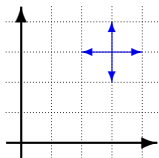
$$= 1 + 2t^2 + 11t^4 + 85t^6 + 782t^8 + \dots$$

**Conjecture 2**

The full generating function  $G(t; x, y)$  is not D-finite.



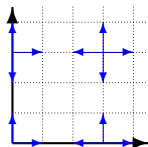
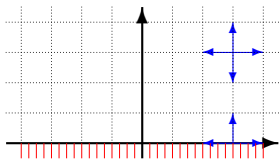
## The simple walk in the plane



[Pólya, 1921]:

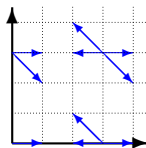
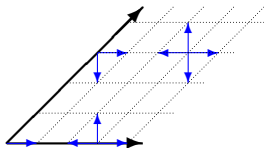
- ▷ Formula  $\binom{2n}{n}^2$  for  $2n$ -excursions
- ▷ Rational generating function

## The simple walk in the half-plane and in the quarter-plane



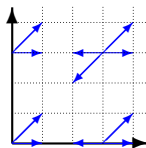
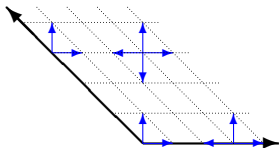
- ▷ Formulas  $\binom{2n+1}{n}C_n$ , resp.  $C_nC_{n+1}$ , for  $2n$ -excursions [Arquès, 1986]
- ▷ Full generating functions: algebraic [Bousquet-Mélou, Petkovšek, 2000], resp. D-finite [Bousquet-Mélou, 2002]

## The simple walk in the cone with angle $45^\circ$



- ▷ Formula  $C_n C_{n+2} - C_{n+1}^2$  for  $2n$ -excursions [Gouyou-Beauchamps, 1986]
- ▷ D-finite generating function [Gessel, Zeilberger, 1992]

## What about the simple walk in the cone with angle $135^\circ$ ?

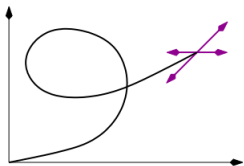


# Algebraic reformulation: solving a functional equation

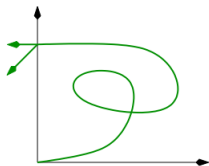
Generating function:  $G(t; x, y) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n g_{n;i,j} t^n x^i y^j \in \mathbb{Q}[x, y][[t]]$

“Kernel equation”:

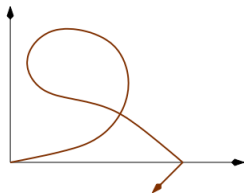
$$G(t; x, y) = 1 + t \left( xy + x + \frac{1}{xy} + \frac{1}{x} \right) G(t; x, y) - t \left( \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{x} \frac{1}{y} \right) G(t; 0, y) - t \frac{1}{xy} (G(t; x, 0) - G(t; 0, 0))$$



⊖



⊖

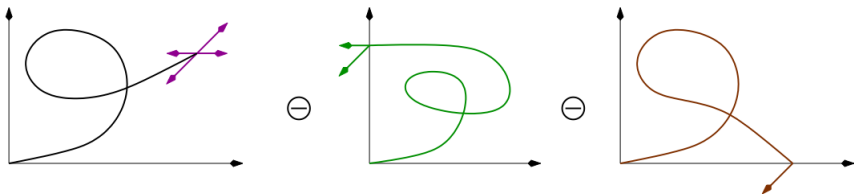


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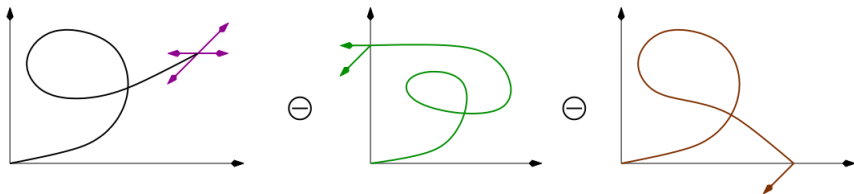
**Task:** Solve this functional equation!

# Algebraic reformulation: solving a functional equation

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**Task:** For the other models: solve 78 similar equations!

## Main results (I): algebraicity of Gessel walks

**Theorem** [Kreweras, 1965; 100 pages long combinatorial proof!]

$$K(t;0,0) = {}_3F_2\left(\begin{matrix} 1/3 & 2/3 & 1 \\ 3/2 & 2 \end{matrix} \middle| 27t^3\right) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{4^n \binom{3n}{n}}{(n+1)(2n+1)} t^{3n}.$$

**Theorem** [Kauers, Koutschan, Zeilberger, 2009: former Gessel's conj. 1]

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**Question:** What about the structure of  $K(t; x, y)$  and  $G(t; x, y)$ ?

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## Main results (II): Explicit form for $G(t; x, y)$

**Theorem** [B., Kauers, van Hoeij, 2010]

Let  $V = 1 + 4t^2 + 36t^4 + 396t^6 + \dots$  be a root of

$$(V - 1)(1 + 3/V)^3 = (16t)^2,$$

let  $U = 1 + 2t^2 + 16t^4 + 2xt^5 + 2(x^2 + 83)t^6 + \dots$  be a root of

$$\begin{aligned} & x(V - 1)(V + 1)U^3 - 2V(3x + 5xV - 8Vt)U^2 \\ & - xV(V^2 - 24V - 9)U + 2V^2(xV - 9x - 8Vt) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

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# Main results (III): Models with D-Finite $F(t; 1, 1)$

	OEIS	$\mathfrak{S}$	Pol size	LDE size	Rec size		OEIS	$\mathfrak{S}$	Pol size	LDE size	Rec size
1	A005566		—	(3, 4)	(2, 2)	13	A151275		—	(5, 24)	(9, 18)
2	A018224		—	(3, 5)	(2, 3)	14	A151314		—	(5, 24)	(9, 18)
3	A151312		—	(3, 8)	(4, 5)	15	A151255		—	(4, 16)	(6, 8)
4	A151331		—	(3, 6)	(3, 4)	16	A151287		—	(5, 19)	(7, 11)
5	A151266		—	(5, 16)	(7, 10)	17	A001006		(2, 2)	(2, 3)	(2, 1)
6	A151307		—	(5, 20)	(8, 15)	18	A129400		(2, 2)	(2, 3)	(2, 1)
7	A151291		—	(5, 15)	(6, 10)	19	A005558		—	(3, 5)	(2, 3)
8	A151326		—	(5, 18)	(7, 14)						
9	A151302		—	(5, 24)	(9, 18)	20	A151265		(6, 8)	(4, 9)	(6, 4)
10	A151329		—	(5, 24)	(9, 18)	21	A151278		(6, 8)	(4, 12)	(7, 4)
11	A151261		—	(4, 15)	(5, 8)	22	A151323		(4, 4)	(2, 3)	(2, 1)
12	A151297		—	(5, 18)	(7, 11)	23	A060900		(8, 9)	(3, 5)	(2, 3)

Equation sizes = (order, degree)

- ▷ Computerized discovery: enumeration + guessing [B., Kauers, 2009]
- ▷ 1–22: Confirmed by human proofs in [Bousquet-Mélou, Mishna, 2010]
- ▷ 23: Confirmed by a human proof in [B., Kurkova, Raschel, 2013]

# Main results (III): Models with D-Finite $F(t; 1, 1)$ [B., Kauers, 2009]

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1	A005566		N	$\frac{4}{\pi} \frac{4^n}{n}$	13	A151275		N	$\frac{12\sqrt{30}}{\pi} \frac{(2\sqrt{6})^n}{n^2}$
2	A018224		N	$\frac{2}{\pi} \frac{4^n}{n}$	14	A151314		N	$\frac{\sqrt{6}\lambda\mu C^{5/2}}{5\pi} \frac{(2C)^n}{n^2}$
3	A151312		N	$\frac{\sqrt{6}}{\pi} \frac{6^n}{n}$	15	A151255		N	$\frac{24\sqrt{2}}{\pi} \frac{(2\sqrt{2})^n}{n^2}$
4	A151331		N	$\frac{8}{3\pi} \frac{8^n}{n}$	16	A151287		N	$\frac{2\sqrt{2}A^{7/2}}{\pi} \frac{(2A)^n}{n^2}$
5	A151266		N	$\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{3}{\pi}} \frac{3^n}{n^{1/2}}$	17	A001006		Y	$\frac{3}{2} \sqrt{\frac{3}{\pi}} \frac{3^n}{n^{3/2}}$
6	A151307		N	$\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{5}{2\pi}} \frac{5^n}{n^{1/2}}$	18	A129400		Y	$\frac{3}{2} \sqrt{\frac{3}{\pi}} \frac{6^n}{n^{3/2}}$
7	A151291		N	$\frac{4}{3\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{4^n}{n^{1/2}}$	19	A005558		N	$\frac{8}{\pi} \frac{4^n}{n^2}$
8	A151326		N	$\frac{2}{\sqrt{3\pi}} \frac{6^n}{n^{1/2}}$	20	A151265		Y	$\frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\Gamma(1/4)} \frac{3^n}{n^{3/4}}$
9	A151302		N	$\frac{1}{3} \sqrt{\frac{5}{2\pi}} \frac{5^n}{n^{1/2}}$	21	A151278		Y	$\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{2}\Gamma(1/4)} \frac{3^n}{n^{3/4}}$
10	A151329		N	$\frac{1}{3} \sqrt{\frac{7}{3\pi}} \frac{7^n}{n^{1/2}}$	22	A151323		Y	$\frac{\sqrt{23}^{3/4}}{\Gamma(1/4)} \frac{6^n}{n^{3/4}}$
11	A151261		N	$\frac{12\sqrt{3}}{\pi} \frac{(2\sqrt{3})^n}{n^2}$	23	A060900		Y	$\frac{4\sqrt{3}}{3\Gamma(1/3)} \frac{4^n}{n^{2/3}}$
12	A151297		N	$\frac{\sqrt{3}B^{7/2}}{2\pi} \frac{(2B)^n}{n^2}$					

$$A = 1 + \sqrt{2}, B = 1 + \sqrt{3}, C = 1 + \sqrt{6}, \lambda = 7 + 3\sqrt{6}, \mu = \sqrt{\frac{4\sqrt{6}-1}{19}}$$

- ▶ Computerized discovery: conv. acc. + LLL/PSLQ [B., Kauers, 2009]
- ▶ Confirmed by human proofs using ACSV in [Melcer, Wilson, 2015]

# Main results (III): Models with D-Finite $F(t; 1, 1)$ [B., Kauers, 2009]

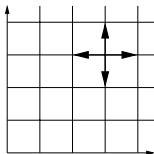
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$$A = 1 + \sqrt{2}, B = 1 + \sqrt{3}, C = 1 + \sqrt{6}, \lambda = 7 + 3\sqrt{6}, \mu = \sqrt{\frac{4\sqrt{6}-1}{19}}$$

▷ More on PSLQ in [David Broadhurst's](#) talk.

▷ On ACSV: [Robin Pemantle](#), [Stephen Melczer](#), [Mark Wilson](#), [Bruno Salvy](#).

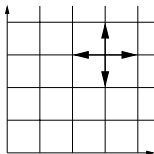
## The group of a model: the simple walk case



The characteristic polynomial  $\chi_{\mathfrak{S}} := x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y}$



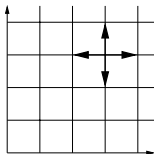
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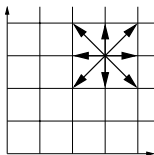
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and thus under any element of the group

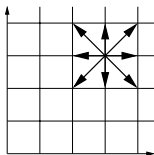
$$\langle \psi, \phi \rangle = \left\{ (x, y), \left(x, \frac{1}{y}\right), \left(\frac{1}{x}, \frac{1}{y}\right), \left(\frac{1}{x}, y\right) \right\}.$$

## The group of a model: the general case



The polynomial  $\chi_{\mathfrak{G}} := \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathfrak{G}} x^i y^j = \sum_{i=-1}^1 B_i(y) x^i = \sum_{j=-1}^1 A_j(x) y^j$

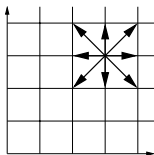
## The group of a model: the general case



The polynomial  $\chi_{\mathfrak{S}} := \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathfrak{S}} x^i y^j = \sum_{i=-1}^1 B_i(y) x^i = \sum_{j=-1}^1 A_j(x) y^j$  is left invariant under

$$\psi(x, y) = \left( x, \frac{A_{-1}(x)}{A_{+1}(x)} \frac{1}{y} \right), \quad \phi(x, y) = \left( \frac{B_{-1}(y)}{B_{+1}(y)} \frac{1}{x}, y \right),$$

## The group of a model: the general case



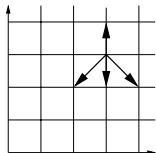
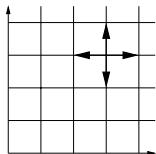
The polynomial  $\chi_{\mathfrak{G}} := \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathfrak{G}} x^i y^j = \sum_{i=-1}^1 B_i(y) x^i = \sum_{j=-1}^1 A_j(x) y^j$  is left invariant under

$$\psi(x, y) = \left( x, \frac{A_{-1}(x)}{A_{+1}(x)} \frac{1}{y} \right), \quad \phi(x, y) = \left( \frac{B_{-1}(y)}{B_{+1}(y)} \frac{1}{x}, y \right),$$

and thus under any element of the group

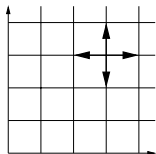
$$\mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{G}} := \langle \psi, \phi \rangle.$$

# Examples of groups

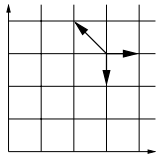


Order 4,

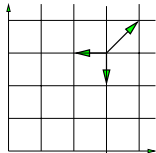
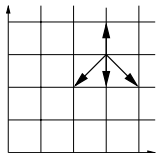
# Examples of groups



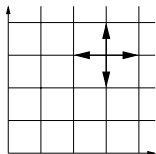
Order 4,



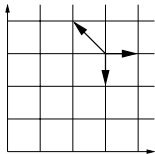
order 6,



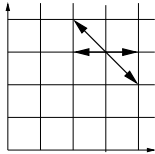
# Examples of groups



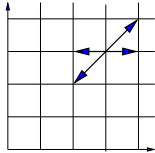
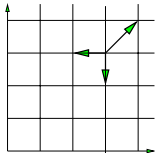
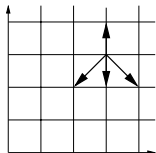
Order 4,



order 6,

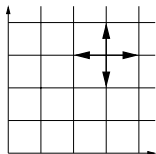


order 8,

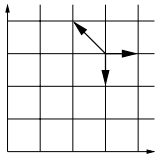




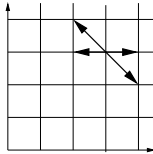
# Examples of groups



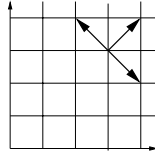
Order 4,



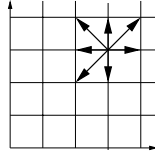
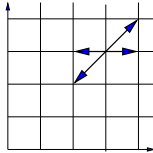
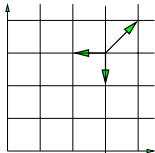
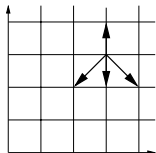
order 6,



order 8,



order  $\infty$ .



## An important concept: the orbit sum (OS)

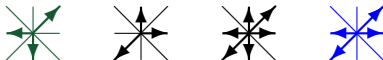
When  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{S}}$  is finite, the **orbit sum of  $\mathfrak{S}$**  is the polynomial in  $\mathbb{Q}[x, x^{-1}, y, y^{-1}]$ :

$$\text{OS}_{\mathfrak{S}} := \sum_{\theta \in \mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{S}}} (-1)^{\theta} \theta(xy)$$

▷ E.g., for the simple walk, with  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{S}} = \left\{ (x, y), \left(x, \frac{1}{y}\right), \left(\frac{1}{x}, \frac{1}{y}\right), \left(\frac{1}{x}, y\right) \right\}$ :

$$\text{OS} \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \leftarrow \\ \leftarrow \\ \rightarrow \\ \searrow \end{array} = x \cdot y - \frac{1}{x} \cdot y + \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{1}{y} - x \cdot \frac{1}{y}$$

▷ For 4 models, the orbit sum is zero:

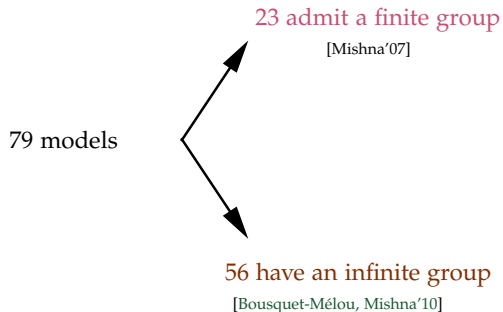


E.g., for the **Kreweras** model:

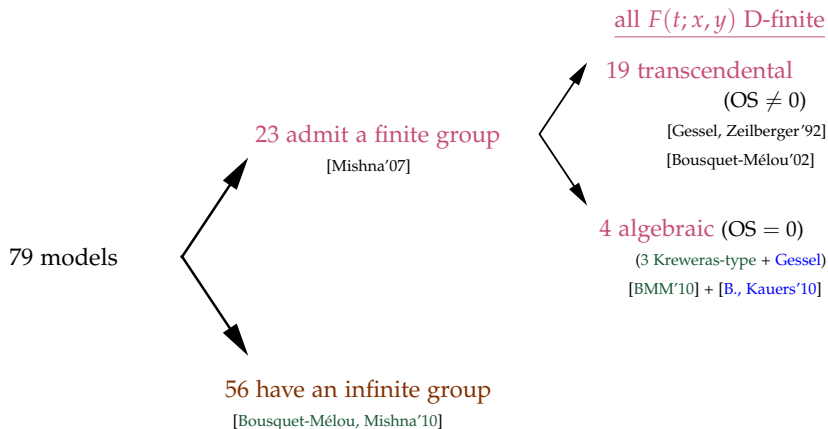
$$\text{OS} \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \leftarrow \\ \leftarrow \\ \rightarrow \\ \searrow \end{array} = x \cdot y - \frac{1}{xy} \cdot y + \frac{1}{xy} \cdot x - y \cdot x + y \cdot \frac{1}{xy} - x \cdot \frac{1}{xy} = 0$$

79 models

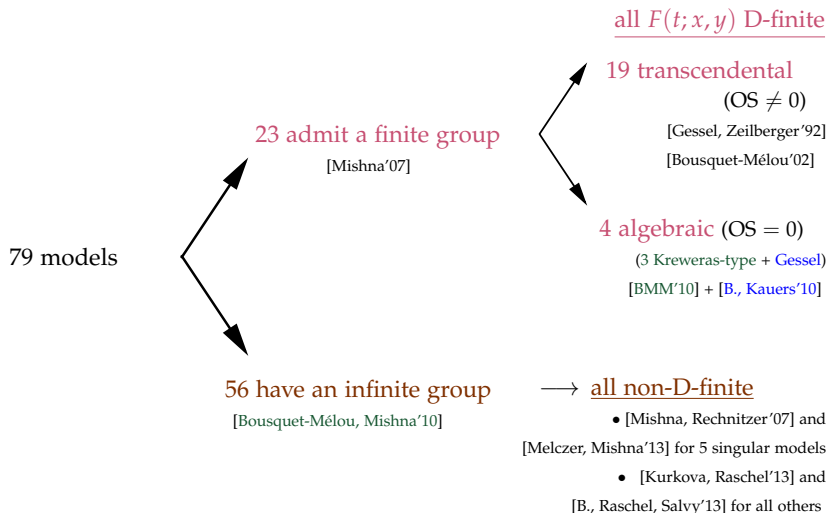
# The 79 models: finite and infinite groups

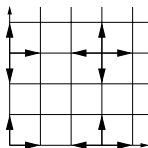


# The 79 models: finite and infinite groups



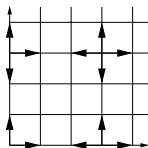
# The 79 models: finite and infinite groups





The kernel  $J = 1 - t \cdot \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathfrak{S}} x^i y^j = 1 - t \left( x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y} \right)$  is **invariant** under the change of  $(x, y)$  into, respectively:

$$\left( \frac{1}{x}, y \right), \left( \frac{1}{x}, \frac{1}{y} \right), \left( x, \frac{1}{y} \right).$$



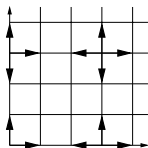
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Kernel equation:

$$J(t; x, y)xyF(t; x, y) = xy - txF(t; x, 0) - tyF(t; 0, y)$$



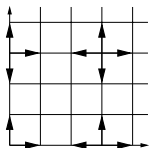


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Kernel equation:

$$\begin{aligned} J(t; x, y)xyF(t; x, y) &= xy - txF(t; x, 0) - tyF(t; 0, y) \\ - J(t; x, y)\frac{1}{x}yF(t; \frac{1}{x}, y) &= -\frac{1}{x}y + t\frac{1}{x}F(t; \frac{1}{x}, 0) + tyF(t; 0, y) \end{aligned}$$

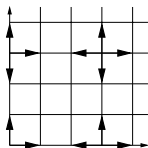


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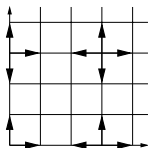


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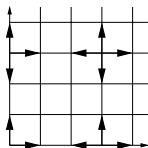
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Summing up yields the orbit equation:

$$\sum_{\theta \in \mathcal{G}} (-1)^\theta \theta(xy F(t; x, y)) = \frac{xy - \frac{1}{x}y + \frac{1}{x}\frac{1}{y} - x\frac{1}{y}}{J(t; x, y)}$$



The kernel  $J = 1 - t \cdot \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathfrak{G}} x^i y^j = 1 - t \left( x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y} \right)$  is invariant under the change of  $(x, y)$  into, respectively:

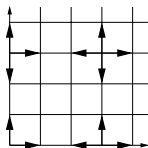
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Taking positive parts yields:

$$[x^>y^>] \sum_{\theta \in \mathfrak{G}} (-1)^\theta \theta(xy F(t; x, y)) = [x^>y^>] \frac{xy - \frac{1}{x}y + \frac{1}{x}\frac{1}{y} - x\frac{1}{y}}{J(t; x, y)}$$



The kernel  $J = 1 - t \cdot \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathfrak{S}} x^i y^j = 1 - t \left( x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y} \right)$  is invariant under the change of  $(x, y)$  into, respectively:

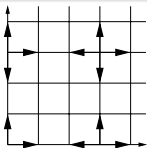
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Summing up and taking positive parts yields:

$$xy F(t; x, y) = [x > y] \frac{xy - \frac{1}{x}y + \frac{1}{x}\frac{1}{y} - x\frac{1}{y}}{J(t; x, y)}$$



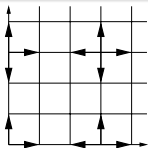
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$$GF = \text{PosPart} \left( \frac{\text{OS}}{\text{kernel}} \right)$$



The kernel  $J = 1 - t \cdot \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathfrak{S}} x^i y^j = 1 - t \left( x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y} \right)$  is invariant under the change of  $(x, y)$  into, respectively:

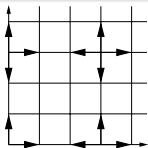
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$$\text{GF} = \text{PosPart} \left( \frac{\text{OS}}{\text{ker}} \right) = \text{D-finite [Lipshitz, 1988]}$$





The kernel  $J = 1 - t \cdot \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathfrak{S}} x^i y^j = 1 - t \left( x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y} \right)$  is invariant under the change of  $(x, y)$  into, respectively:

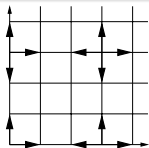
$$\left( \frac{1}{x}, y \right), \left( \frac{1}{x}, \frac{1}{y} \right), \left( x, \frac{1}{y} \right).$$

Kernel equation:

$$\begin{aligned} J(t; x, y)xyF(t; x, y) &= xy - txF(t; x, 0) - tyF(t; 0, y) \\ - J(t; x, y)\frac{1}{x}yF(t; \frac{1}{x}, y) &= -\frac{1}{x}y + t\frac{1}{x}F(t; \frac{1}{x}, 0) + tyF(t; 0, y) \\ J(t; x, y)\frac{1}{x}\frac{1}{y}F(t; \frac{1}{x}, \frac{1}{y}) &= \frac{1}{x}\frac{1}{y} - t\frac{1}{x}F(t; \frac{1}{x}, 0) - t\frac{1}{y}F(t; 0, \frac{1}{y}) \\ - J(t; x, y)x\frac{1}{y}F(t; x, \frac{1}{y}) &= -x\frac{1}{y} + txF(t; x, 0) + t\frac{1}{y}F(t; 0, \frac{1}{y}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{GF} = \text{PosPart} \left( \frac{\text{OS}}{\text{ker}} \right) = \text{D-finite [Lipshitz, 1988]}$$

▷ Argument works if  $\text{OS} \neq 0$ : algebraic version of the reflection principle



The kernel  $J = 1 - t \cdot \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathfrak{S}} x^i y^j = 1 - t \left( x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y} \right)$  is invariant under the change of  $(x, y)$  into, respectively:

$$\left( \frac{1}{x}, y \right), \left( \frac{1}{x}, \frac{1}{y} \right), \left( x, \frac{1}{y} \right).$$

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▷ **Creative telescoping** finds a differential equation for  $\text{PosPart}(\text{OS}/\text{ker})$

## Main results (IV): explicit expressions for models 1–19

**Theorem** [B., Chyzak, van Hoeij, Kauers, Pech, 2016]

Let  $\mathfrak{S}$  be one of the 19 models with finite group  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{S}}$ , and non-zero orbit sum. Then

- $F_{\mathfrak{S}}$  is expressible using iterated integrals of  ${}_2F_1$  expressions.
- Among the  $19 \times 4$  specializations of  $F_{\mathfrak{S}}(t; x, y)$  at  $(x, y) \in \{0, 1\}^2$ , only 4 are algebraic: for  $\mathfrak{S} = \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \swarrow \searrow \end{array}$  at  $(1, 1)$ , and  $\mathfrak{S} = \begin{array}{c} \swarrow \uparrow \searrow \\ \swarrow \uparrow \searrow \end{array}$  at  $(1, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1)$

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**Example** (King walks in the quarter plane, A025595)

$$F_{\begin{array}{c} \swarrow \downarrow \searrow \\ \cdot \end{array}}(t; 1, 1) = \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t \frac{1}{(1+4x)^3} \cdot {}_2F_1\left(\frac{3}{2} \quad \frac{3}{2} \mid \frac{16x(1+x)}{(1+4x)^2}\right) dx$$
$$= 1 + 3t + 18t^2 + 105t^3 + 684t^4 + 4550t^5 + 31340t^6 + 219555t^7 + \dots$$

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- ▷ Computer-driven discovery and proof; no human proof yet.
- ▷ Proof uses **creative telescoping**, **ODE factorization**, **ODE solving**.

# Hypergeometric Series Occurring in Explicit Expressions for $F(t; x, y)$

	$\mathcal{G}$	occurring ${}_2F_1$	$w$		$\mathcal{G}$	occurring ${}_2F_1$	$w$
1		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$16t^2$	11		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$\frac{16t^2}{4t^2+1}$
2		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$16t^2$	12		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$\frac{64t^3(2t+1)}{(8t^2-1)^2}$
3		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$\frac{64t^2}{(12t^2+1)^2}$	13		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$\frac{64t^2(t^2+1)}{(16t^2+1)^2}$
4		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$\frac{16t(t+1)}{(4t+1)^2}$	14		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$\frac{64t^2(t^2+t+1)}{(12t^2+1)^2}$
5		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$64t^4$	15		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$64t^4$
6		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$\frac{64t^3(t+1)}{(1-4t^2)^2}$	16		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$\frac{64t^3(t+1)}{(1-4t^2)^2}$
7		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$\frac{16t^2}{4t^2+1}$	17		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$27t^3$
8		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$\frac{64t^3(2t+1)}{(8t^2-1)^2}$	18		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$27t^2(2t+1)$
9		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$\frac{64t^2(t^2+1)}{(16t^2+1)^2}$	19		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$16t^2$
10		${}_2F_1\left(\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4} \\ 1 \end{matrix} \middle  w\right)$	$\frac{64t^2(t^2+t+1)}{(12t^2+1)^2}$				

▷ All related to the **complete elliptic integrals**  $\int_0^{\pi/2} (1 - k^2 \sin^2 \theta)^{\pm \frac{1}{2}} d\theta$

**Theorem** [B., Raschel, Salvy, 2013]

Let  $\mathfrak{G}$  be one of the 51 non-singular models with infinite group  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{G}}$ .  
Then  $F_{\mathfrak{G}}(t; 0, 0)$ , and in particular  $F_{\mathfrak{G}}(t; x, y)$ , are non-D-finite.

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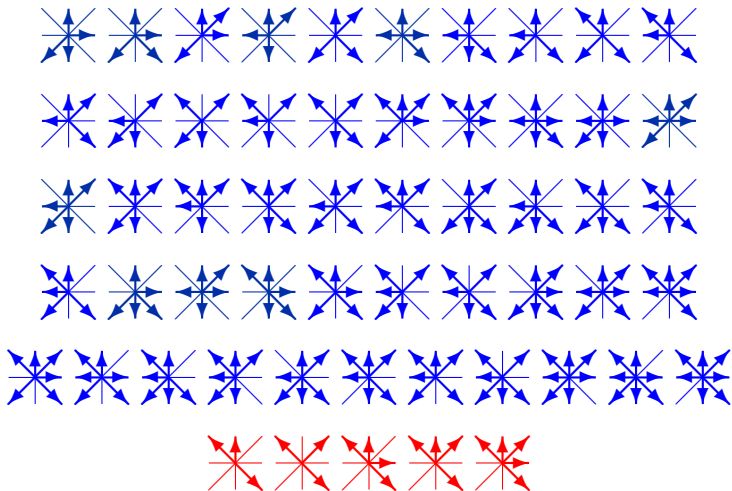


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- ▷ **[Bernardi, Bousquet-Mélou, Raschel, 2016]** For 9 of these 51 models,  $F_{\mathfrak{G}}(t; x, y)$  is nevertheless D-algebraic!
- ▷ **[Dreyfus, Hardouin, Roques, Singer, 2017]:** hypertranscendence of the remaining 42 models.

# The 56 models with infinite group

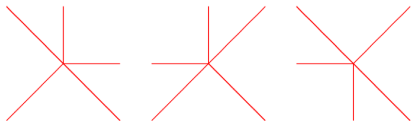


In **blue**, non-singular models, solved by [B., Raschel, Salvy, 2013]

In **red**, singular models, solved by [Melczer, Mishna, 2013]

## Example: the scarecrows

[B., Raschel, Salvy, 2013]:  $F_{\mathfrak{S}}(t;0,0)$  is not D-finite for the models



For the 1st and the 3rd, the excursions sequence  $[t^n] F_{\mathfrak{S}}(t;0,0)$

$$1, 0, 0, 2, 4, 8, 28, 108, 372, \dots$$

is  $\sim K \cdot 5^n \cdot n^{-\alpha}$ , with  $\alpha = 1 + \pi / \arccos(1/4) = 3.383396\dots$

[Denisov, Wachtel, 2013]

The **irrationality** of  $\alpha$  prevents  $F_{\mathfrak{S}}(t;0,0)$  from being D-finite.

[Katz, 1970; Chudnovsky, 1985; André, 1989]

**The Main Theorem** Let  $\mathfrak{S}$  be one of the 74 non-singular models. The following assertions are equivalent:

- (1) The full generating function  $F_{\mathfrak{S}}(t; x, y)$  is D-finite
- (2) the excursions generating function  $F_{\mathfrak{S}}(t; 0, 0)$  is D-finite
- (3) the excursions sequence  $[t^n] F_{\mathfrak{S}}(t; 0, 0)$  is  $\sim K \cdot \rho^n \cdot n^\alpha$ , with  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$
- (4) the group  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{S}}$  is finite (and  $|\mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{S}}| = 2 \cdot \min\{\ell \in \mathbb{N}^* \mid \frac{\ell}{\alpha+1} \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ )
- (5) the step set  $\mathfrak{S}$  has either an axial symmetry, or zero drift and cardinality different from 5.

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Moreover, under (1)–(5),  $F_{\mathfrak{S}}(t; x, y)$  is **algebraic** if and only if the model  $\mathfrak{S}$  has **positive covariance**  $\sum_{(i,j) \in \mathfrak{S}} ij - \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathfrak{S}} i \cdot \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathfrak{S}} j > 0$ , and iff it has **OS = 0**.

## Summary: Classification of 2D non-singular walks

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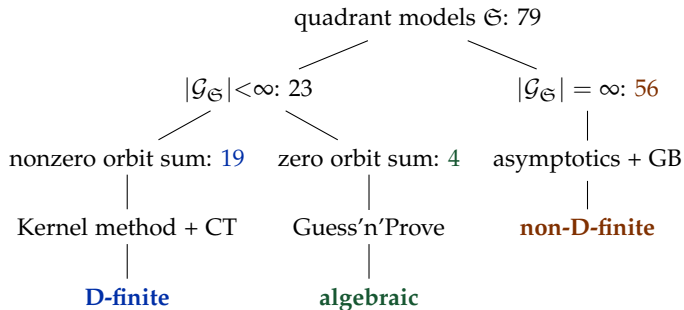
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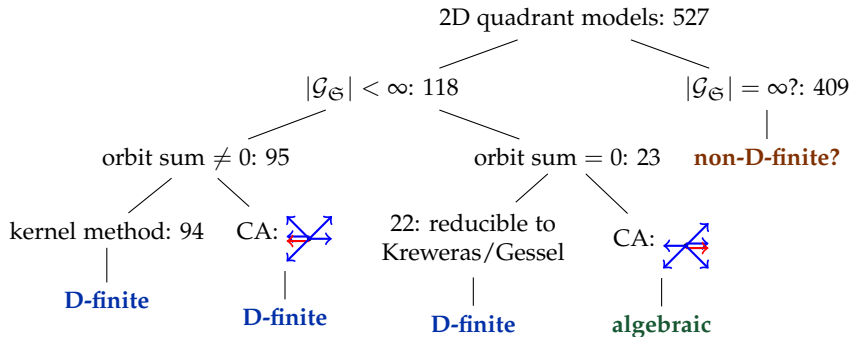
In this case,  $F_{\mathfrak{S}}(t; x, y)$  is expressible using **nested radicals**.

If not,  $F_{\mathfrak{S}}(t; x, y)$  is expressible using **iterated integrals of  ${}_2F_1$  expressions**.

# Summary: Walks with unit steps in $\mathbb{N}^2$



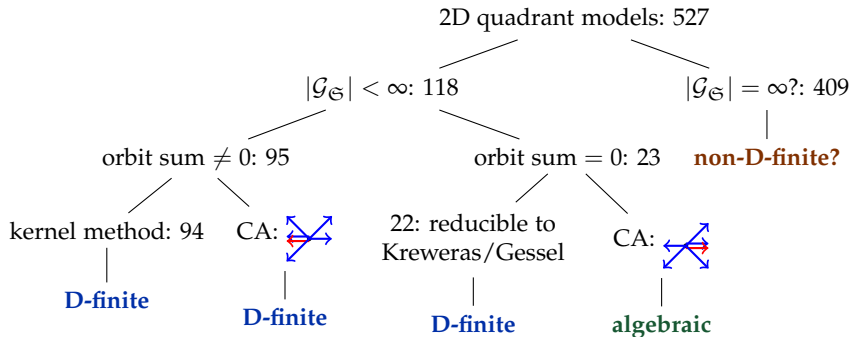
## Extensions: Walks in $\mathbb{N}^2$ with small repeated steps



[B., Bousquet-Mélou, Kauers, Melczer, 2015]



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- ▷ [Du, Hou, Wang, 2015]: proofs that groups are infinite in the 409 cases, and GF are non-D-finite in 366 cases.
- ▷ [Kauers, Yatchak, 2015]: extension to  $4^8 = 65536$  models with mult.  $\leq 3$ .  
1457 **D-finite**, 79 **algebraic**, 3 pearls:



# A pearl among models in $\mathbb{N}^2$ with small but repeated steps

**Theorem** [B., Bousquet-Mélou, Kauers, Melczer, 2015]

Let  $e_n = \# \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \cdot \\ \text{---} \cdot \\ \text{---} \cdot \\ \text{---} \cdot \\ \text{---} \cdot \end{array} \right\}$  - walks of length  $n$  in  $\mathbb{N}^2$  from  $(0,0)$  to  $(0,0)$

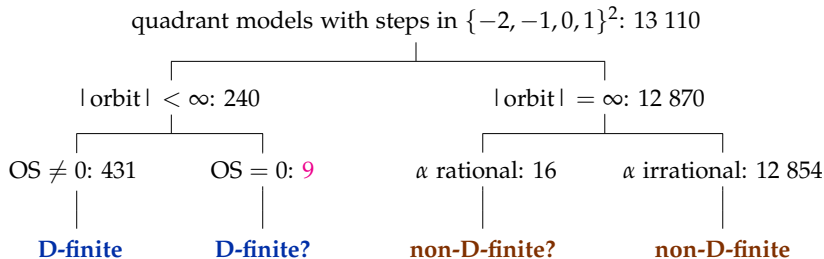
$$(e_n)_{n \geq 0} = (1, 0, 3, 0, 26, 0, 323, 0, 4830, 0, 80910, \dots)$$

Then

$$e_{2n} = \frac{6(6n+1)!(2n+1)!}{(3n)!(4n+3)!(n+1)!}$$

- ▷ Current proof is computer-driven.
- ▷ Open problem: find a *human proof*.

## Extensions: Walks in $\mathbb{N}^2$ with longer steps



[B., Bousquet-Mélou, Melczer, 2017]


- **Example:** For the model



$$xyF(t; x, y) = [x^{>0}y^{>0}] \frac{(x - 2x^{-2})(y - (x - x^{-2})y^{-1})}{1 - t(xy^{-1} + y + x^{-2}y^{-1})}$$

## Two pearls among the 9 difficult models with large steps

**Conjecture 1** [B., Bousquet-Mélou, Melczer, 2017]

For the model   $F(t^{1/2}; 0, 0)$  is equal to

$$\frac{1}{3t} - \frac{1}{6t} \cdot \left( \frac{1-12t}{(1+36t)^{1/3}} \cdot {}_2F_1 \left( \frac{1}{6}, \frac{2}{3} \mid \frac{108t(1+4t)^2}{(1+36t)^2} \right) + \sqrt{1-12t} \cdot {}_2F_1 \left( -\frac{1}{6}, \frac{2}{3} \mid \frac{108t(1+4t)^2}{(1-12t)^2} \right) \right).$$

**Conjecture 2** [B., Bousquet-Mélou, Melczer, 2017]

For the model   $F(t; 0, 0)$  is equal to

$$\frac{(1-24U+120U^2-144U^3)(1-4U)}{(1-3U)(1-2U)^{3/2}(1-6U)^{9/2}},$$

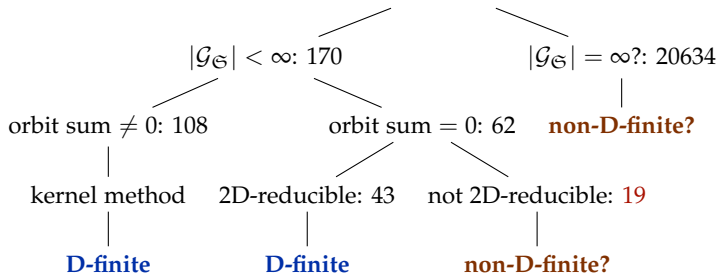
where  $U = t^4 + 53t^8 + 4363t^{12} + \dots$  is the unique series in  $\mathbb{Q}[[t]]$  satisfying

$$U(1-2U)^3(1-3U)^3(1-6U)^9 = t^4(1-4U)^4.$$

## Extensions: Walks with unit steps in $\mathbb{N}^3$

$2^{3^3-1} \approx 67$  million models, of which  $\approx 11$  million inherently 3D

3D octant models  $\mathfrak{S}$  with  $\leq 6$  steps: 20804



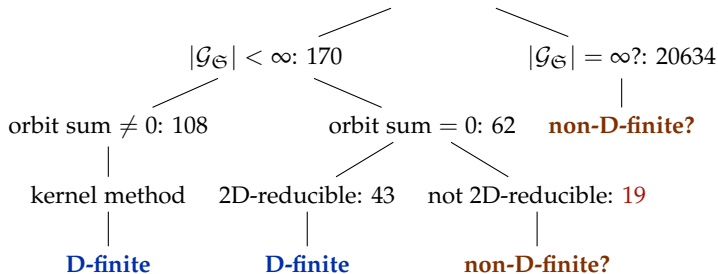
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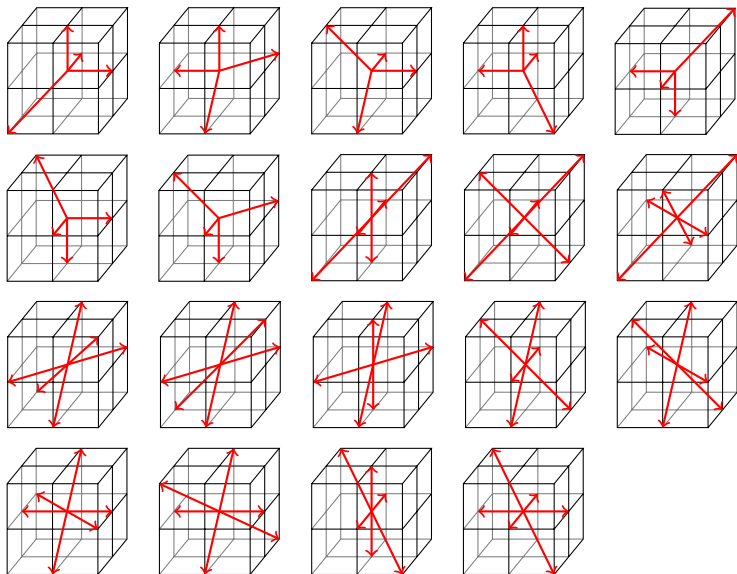
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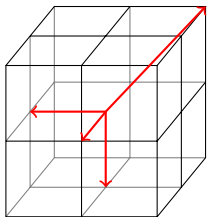


[B., Bousquet-Mélou, Kauers, Melczer, 2015]

- ▷ Open question: **are there non-D-finite models with a finite group?**
- ▷ [Du, Hou, Wang, 2015]: proofs that groups are infinite in the 20634 cases
- ▷ [Bacher, Kauers, Yatchak, 2016]: extension to all 3D models; 170 models found with  $|\mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{S}}| < \infty$  and orbit sum 0 (instead of 19)

# 19 mysterious 3D-models





Two different computations suggest:

$$k_{4n} \approx C \cdot 256^n / n^{3.3257570041744\dots},$$

so excursions are very probably transcendental  
(and even non-D-finite)





Computer algebra may solve difficult combinatorial problems



Classification of  $F(t; x, y)$  **fully completed** for 2D small step walks



**Robust algorithmic** methods, based on efficient algorithms:

- **Guess'n'Prove**
- **Creative Telescoping**



Brute-force and/or use of naive algorithms = **hopeless**.

E.g. size of algebraic equations for  $G(t; x, y) \approx 30\text{Gb}$ .

# Conclusion



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Lack of “purely human” proofs for some results.



**Open:** is  $F(t; 1, 1)$  **non-D-finite** for all 56 models with infinite group?



**Many beautiful open questions** for 2D models with **repeated** or **large** steps, and in **dimension**  $> 2$ .

- Automatic classification of restricted lattice walks, with M. Kauers. *Proceedings FPSAC*, 2009.
- The complete generating function for Gessel walks is algebraic, with M. Kauers. *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*, 2010.
- Explicit formula for the generating series of diagonal 3D Rook paths, with F. Chyzak, M. van Hoeij and L. Pech. *Séminaire Lotharingien de Combinatoire*, 2011.
- Non-D-finite excursions in the quarter plane, with K. Raschel and B. Salvy. *Journal of Combinatorial Theory A*, 2013.
- On 3-dimensional lattice walks confined to the positive octant, with M. Bousquet-Mélou, M. Kauers and S. Melczer. *Annals of Comb.*, 2016.
- A human proof of Gessel's lattice path conjecture, with I. Kurkova, K. Raschel, *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society*, 2017.
- Hypergeometric expressions for generating functions of walks with small steps in the quarter plane, with F. Chyzak, M. van Hoeij, M. Kauers and L. Pech, *European Journal of Combinatorics*, 2017.
- *Computer Algebra for Lattice Path Combinatorics*, preprint, 2017.

Thanks for your attention!