

# Jack characters: dual combinatorics of Jack polynomials

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## motivations for Jack characters:

- ▶ deformation of characters of the symmetric groups  $\mathfrak{S}(n)$ ,
- ▶ Jack polynomials,
- ▶ extra deformation parameter  $\alpha$ ,  
good for algebraic combinatorics
- ▶ amazing combinatorial conjectures  
related to  $\rightarrow$  maps,
- ▶ extra deformation parameter  $\alpha$ ,  
new scaling and universality for random matrices,  
 $\beta$ -ensembles  
 $\rightarrow$  talk of DOŁĘGA

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# asymptotic representation theory of symmetric groups

the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}(n)$

is the group of permutations of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$

$$\mathfrak{S}(1) \subset \mathfrak{S}(2) \subset \dots \subset \mathfrak{S}(\infty)$$

can we study (representations of) the symmetric groups  $\mathfrak{S}(n)$

- in the limit  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ?
- for all  $n$  at the same time?
- for  $n = \infty$ ?

→ VERSHIK

characters of the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}(n)$ :

$$\chi_{\lambda}^{(1)}(\pi) := \frac{\text{Tr } \rho_{\lambda}(\pi)}{\text{Tr } \rho_{\lambda}(\text{Id})}$$

$\lambda$ -Young diagram with  
 $|\lambda|=n$  boxes

$\pi$ -partition of  $n$

$\pi$ -fixed partition

$\lambda$ -Young diagram  
with arbitrary  
number of boxes

$$\text{Ch}_{\pi}^{(1)}(\lambda) := \begin{cases} \underbrace{|\lambda| \cdot (|\lambda|-1) \cdots (|\lambda|-|\pi|+1)}_{|\pi| \text{ factors}} \chi_{\lambda}^{(1)}(\pi, 1, \dots, 1) & \text{if } |\pi| \leq |\lambda| \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



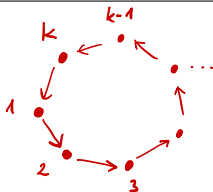
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 $|\lambda|=n$  boxes

$\pi$ -partition of  $n$

$\pi = (k)$



$k+1$



$k+2$

...



$|\lambda|$

$$\text{Ch}_k^{(1)}(\lambda) := \begin{cases} \underbrace{|\lambda| \cdot (|\lambda|-1) \cdots (|\lambda|-k+1)}_{k \text{ factors}} \chi_{\lambda}^{(1)}(k, 1, \dots, 1) & \text{if } k \leq |\lambda| \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Jack characters:

$$|\pi| = |\lambda| = n$$

$$J_{\lambda}^{(\alpha)} = \sum_{\pi} \chi_{\lambda}^{(\alpha)}(\pi) p_{\pi} \frac{n!}{z_{\pi}}$$



---


$$\alpha > 0$$

$$\text{Ch}_{\pi}(\lambda) = \text{Ch}_{\pi}^{(\alpha)}(\lambda) =$$

$$\alpha^{-\frac{|\pi| - \ell(\pi)}{2}} \underbrace{|\lambda| \cdot (|\lambda| - 1) \cdots (|\lambda| - |\pi| + 1)}_{|\pi| \text{ factors}} \chi_{\lambda}^{(\alpha)}(\pi, \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}, \dots, \mathbf{1})$$

$$\text{if } |\pi| \leq |\lambda|$$

→ LASSALLE; DOŁĘGA & FÉRAY

## examples

$$\text{Ch}_1(\lambda) = \sum_i \lambda_i,$$

$$\text{Ch}_2(\lambda) = \sqrt{\alpha} \sum_i (\lambda_i^2 - \lambda_i) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha}} \sum_i 2(i-1)\lambda_i$$

polynomials in  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots$

set  $x_j = \lambda_j - \frac{j}{\alpha}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ch}_2(\lambda) = & \sqrt{\alpha} \sum_i \left( x_i^2 - \left( \frac{-i}{\alpha} \right)^2 \right) + \\ & + \left( -\sqrt{\alpha} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{\alpha}} \right) \sum_i \left( x_i - \left( \frac{-i}{\alpha} \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

symmetric polynomials in  $x_1, x_2, \dots$

proof  $\longrightarrow$  LASSALLE

$\longrightarrow$  algebra of  $\alpha$ -polynomial functions of KEROV & OLSHANSKI

for each  $\pi$  and each  $\alpha > 0$

→ FÉRAY

$\text{Ch}_\pi(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots)$  is the **unique** polynomial such that:

- ▶  $\text{Ch}_\pi(x_1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}, x_2 + \frac{2}{\alpha}, \dots)$  is symmetric in  $x_1, x_2, \dots$ ;
- ▶ polynomial  $\text{Ch}_\pi(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots)$  is of degree  $|\pi|$ ;  
its top-degree homogeneous part is equal to  
the power-sum symmetric function

$$\alpha^{\frac{|\pi| - \ell(\pi)}{2}} p_\pi;$$

- ▶ for all partitions  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots)$  such that  $|\lambda| < |\pi|$

$$\text{Ch}_\pi(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots) = 0$$

structure coefficients for Jack characters:

$$\text{Ch}_2 \text{Ch}_2 = 2\delta \text{Ch}_2 + 2 \text{Ch}_{1,1} + 4 \text{Ch}_3 + \text{Ch}_{2,2},$$

$$\text{Ch}_3 \text{Ch}_2 = 6\delta \text{Ch}_3 + \text{Ch}_{3,2} + 6 \text{Ch}_{2,1} + 6 \text{Ch}_4,$$

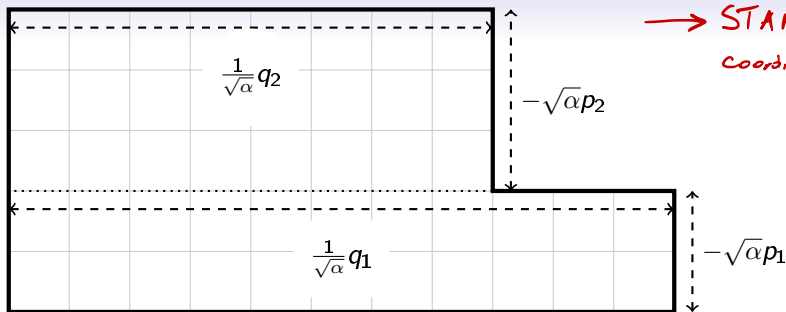
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ch}_3 \text{Ch}_3 &= (6\delta^2 + 3) \text{Ch}_3 + 9\delta \text{Ch}_{2,1} + 18\delta \text{Ch}_4 + 3 \text{Ch}_{1,1,1} + \\ &+ 9 \text{Ch}_{3,1} + 9 \text{Ch}_{2,2} + 9 \text{Ch}_5 + \text{Ch}_{3,3}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Ch}_{2,2} \text{Ch}_2 = 4\delta \text{Ch}_{2,2} + 8 \text{Ch}_4 + 4 \text{Ch}_{2,1,1} + 8 \text{Ch}_{3,2} + \text{Ch}_{2,2,2}$$

where

$$\delta = \sqrt{\alpha} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha}}$$

more conjectures  $\longrightarrow$  ŚNIADY arXiv:1603.04268;  
partial results  $\longrightarrow$  BURCHARDT



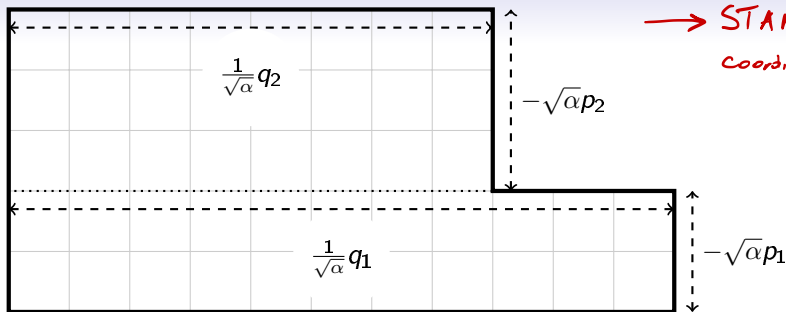
$$\begin{aligned}
 -\text{Ch}_3 &= p_1^3 q_1 + 3p_1^2 q_1^2 + p_1 q_1^3 + 3p_1^2 p_2 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2^2 q_2 \\
 &+ p_2^3 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2 q_1 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2 q_2^2 + 3p_2^2 q_2^2 + p_2 q_2^3 \\
 &+ 3p_1^2 q_1 \gamma + 3p_1 q_1^2 \gamma + 6p_1 p_2 q_2 \gamma + 3p_2^2 q_2 \gamma \\
 &+ 3p_2 q_2^2 \gamma + 2p_1 q_1 \gamma^2 + 2p_2 q_2 \gamma^2 + p_1 q_1 + p_2 q_2
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\gamma = -\delta = -\sqrt{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha}}$$

→ STANLEY polynomials;

see also → KEROV polynomials;



$$\begin{aligned}
 -\text{Ch}_3^{\text{top}} = & p_1^3 q_1 + 3p_1^2 q_1^2 + p_1 q_1^3 + 3p_1^2 p_2 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2^2 q_2 \\
 & + p_2^3 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2 q_1 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2 q_2^2 + 3p_2^2 q_2^2 + p_2 q_2^3 \\
 & + 3p_1^2 q_1 \gamma + 3p_1 q_1^2 \gamma + 6p_1 p_2 q_2 \gamma + 3p_2^2 q_2 \gamma \\
 & + 3p_2 q_2^2 \gamma + 2p_1 q_1 \gamma^2 + 2p_2 q_2 \gamma^2
 \end{aligned}$$

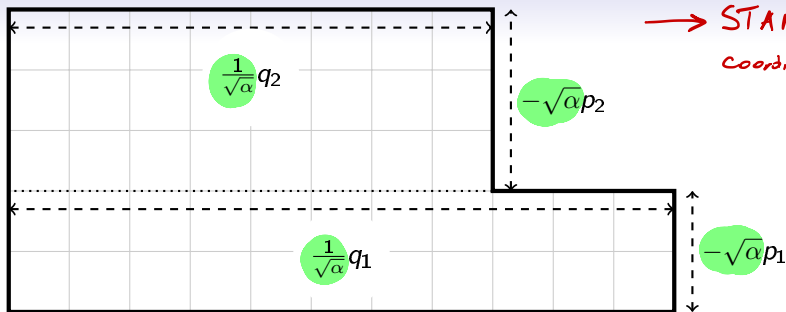
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→ STANLEY polynomials;

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→ STANLEY  
coordinates

$$\begin{aligned}
 -\text{Ch}_3^{\text{top}} = & p_1^3 q_1 + 3p_1^2 q_1^2 + p_1 q_1^3 + 3p_1^2 p_2 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2^2 q_2 \\
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characters of  $\mathfrak{S}(n)$   
○○○○○

Jack characters  
○○○

... are unique  
○

conjectures  
○○

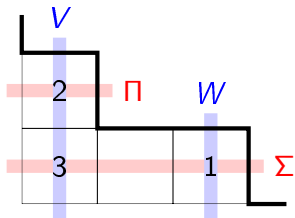
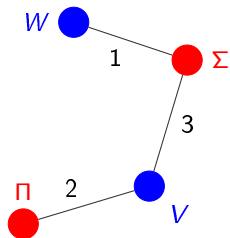
**maps**  
●○○○○

taxonomy of edges  
○○○

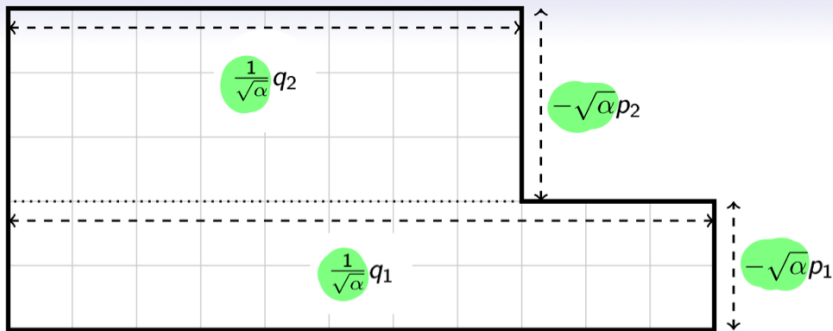
top-twisted maps  
○○○

$$\text{Ch}_\pi = ?$$

## embeddings of a graph to a Young diagram



$$\mathfrak{N}_G(\lambda) = \sqrt{\alpha}^{|\text{blue vertices}|} \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha}}\right)^{|\text{red vertices}|} \# \text{embeddings of } G \text{ to } \lambda$$

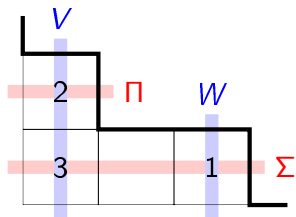
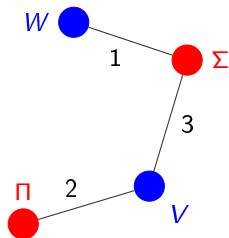


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polynomial in  $p_1, p_2, \dots, q_1, q_2, \dots$

with non-negative integer coefficients

## embeddings of a graph to a Young diagram



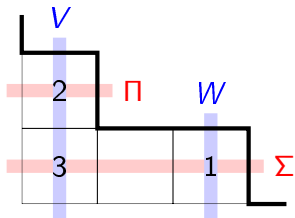
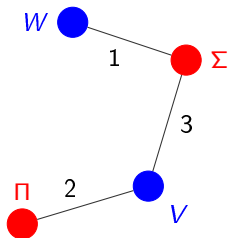
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## Problem

find some nice family of *graphs* such that

$$\text{Ch}_\pi(\lambda) = \sum_G c_G \mathfrak{N}_G(\lambda)$$

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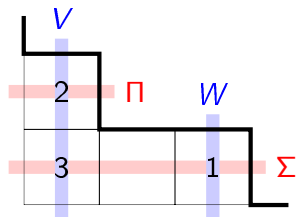
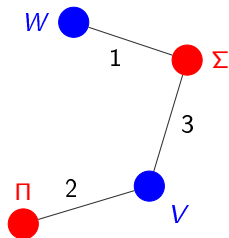
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find some nice family of *maps* such that

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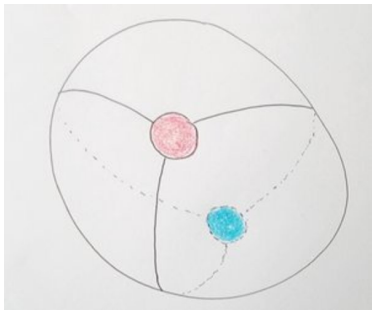
## Problem

find some nice family of *maps* such that

$$\text{Ch}_\pi(\lambda) = \sum_G c_G \mathfrak{N}_G(\lambda)$$

for  $\alpha \in \{1, \frac{1}{2}, 2\}$   
we know the answer!

**map** is a graph on a surface

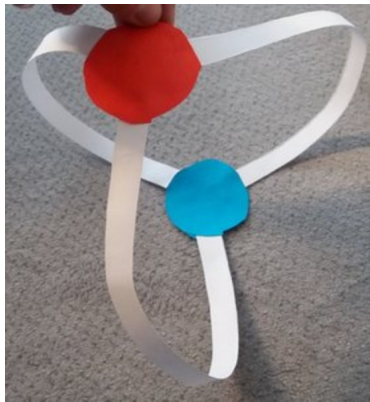
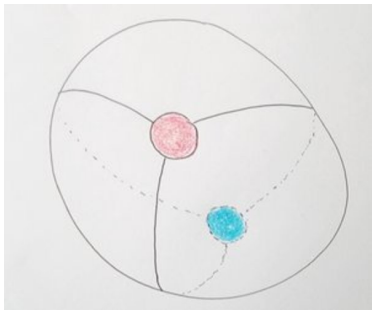


map on a **sphere**



**map** is a graph on a surface

each map can be visualized as a **ribbon graph**

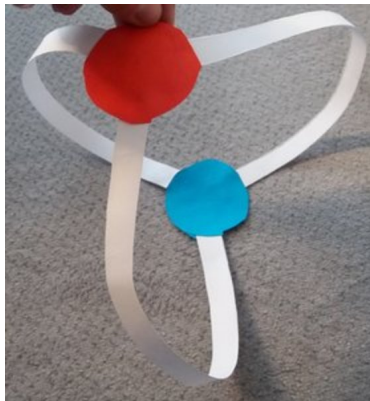
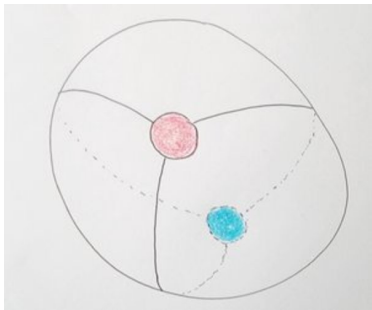


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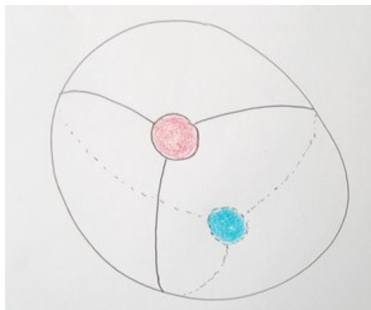
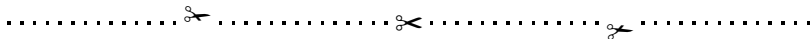
each map can be visualized as a **ribbon graph**

today: all maps are bicolored (red and blue vertices)

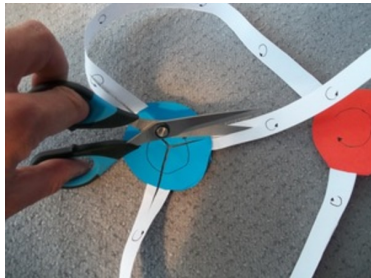
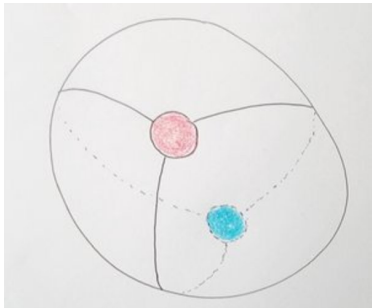
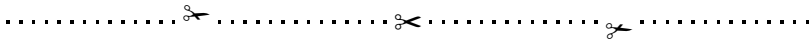


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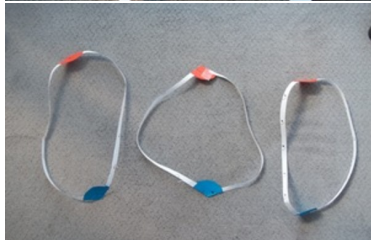
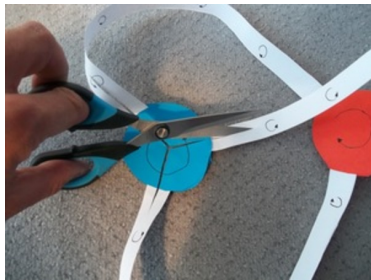
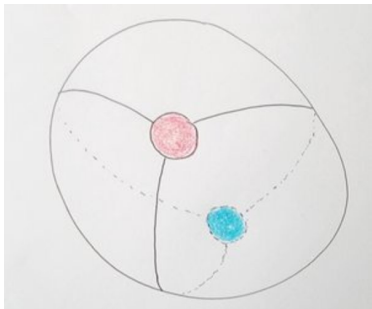
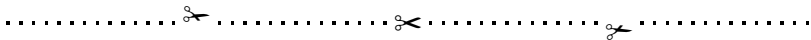
we require that if we cut the surface along the edges  
the surface breaks into a number of **faces** (=polygons)



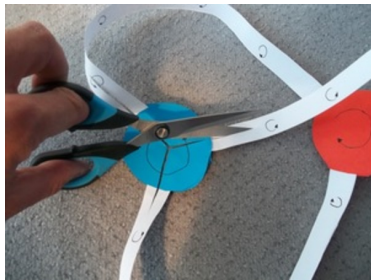
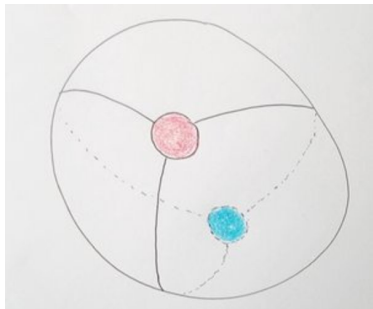
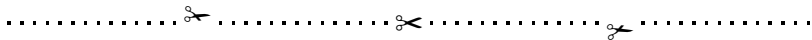
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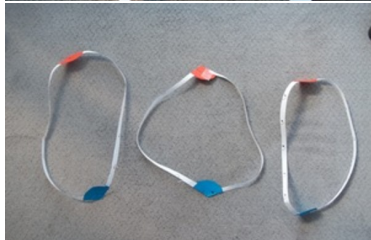


we require that if we cut the surface along the edges  
the surface breaks into a number of **faces** (=polygons)



a map with three faces

one  $2 \cdot 1$ -gon, one  $2 \cdot 1$ -gon,  
one  $2 \cdot 1$ -gon, so  
**face-type** (1, 1, 1)



## conjecture

there exists some **nice** family of coefficients  $\text{mon}_M \in \mathbb{Q}[\gamma]$   
such that

$$\text{Ch}_\pi(\lambda) = \sum_M \text{mon}_M \mathfrak{R}_M(\lambda),$$

where the sum runs over maps  $M$  with face-type  $\pi$

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there exists some **nice** family of coefficients  $\text{mon}_M \in \mathbb{Q}[\gamma]$  such that

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hint from GOULDEN & JACKSON:  
how (non)orientable is the map  $M$ ?

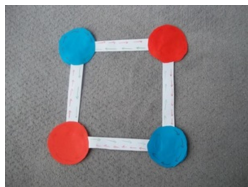
**mon** = **m**ea**s**ure of **n**onorientability



for an edge  $E$  of a map  $M$ ...

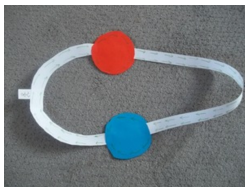
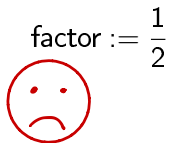
remove the edge  $E$ ; what happens to the number of faces of  $M \setminus E$ ?

we say that  $E$  is:



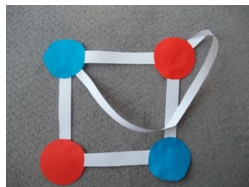
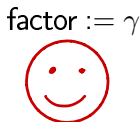
border

if  $\#faces(M \setminus E) =$   
 $\#faces(M) - 1;$



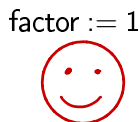
twisted

if  $\#faces(M \setminus E) =$   
 $\#faces(M);$



handle

if  $\#faces(M \setminus E) =$   
 $\#faces(M) + 1;$



how non-orientable is your map?

- 1 choose random order of the edges!

how non-orientable is your map?

- 1 choose random order of the edges!
- 2 take the first edge;  
is it twisted / border / handle?  
calculate the corresponding factor!

how non-orientable is your map?

- 1 choose random order of the edges!
- 2 take the first edge;  
is it twisted / border / handle?  
calculate the corresponding factor!
- 3 remove this edge,

how non-orientable is your map?

- 1 choose random order of the edges!
- 2 take the **next** edge;  
is it twisted / border / handle?  
calculate the corresponding factor!
- 3 remove this edge,
- 4 take the next edge, repeat,

how non-orientable is your map?

- 1 choose random order of the edges!
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- 3 remove this edge,
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all edges removed? multiply all factors!

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take the mean value of the product

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- 3 remove this edge,
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all edges removed? multiply all factors!

take the mean value of the product

this is the **measure of non-orientability**  $\text{mon}(M)$  of a map  $M$

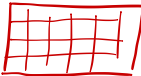


## conjecture

$$\text{Ch}_\pi(\lambda) = \sum_M \text{mon}_M \mathfrak{N}_M(\lambda),$$

where the sum runs over maps  $M$  with face-type  $\pi$

- true for  $\alpha \in \{\frac{1}{2}, 2\}$   
any  $\lambda$

- true for  
 $\lambda =$    
any  $\alpha$

## bad news

$$\text{Ch}_\pi(\lambda) \neq \sum_M \text{mon}_M \mathfrak{R}_M(\lambda),$$

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$$\begin{aligned} -\text{Ch}_3 &= p_1^3 q_1 + 3p_1^2 q_1^2 + p_1 q_1^3 + 3p_1^2 p_2 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2^2 q_2 \\ &+ p_2^3 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2 q_1 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2 q_2^2 + 3p_2^2 q_2^2 + p_2 q_2^3 \\ &+ 3p_1^2 q_1 \gamma + 3p_1 q_1^2 \gamma + 6p_1 p_2 q_2 \gamma + 3p_2^2 q_2 \gamma \\ &+ 3p_2 q_2^2 \gamma + 2p_1 q_1 \gamma^2 + 2p_2 q_2 \gamma^2 + p_1 q_1 + p_2 q_2 \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} -\text{Ch}_3^{\text{top}} &= p_1^3 q_1 + 3p_1^2 q_1^2 + p_1 q_1^3 + 3p_1^2 p_2 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2^2 q_2 \\ &\quad + p_2^3 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2 q_1 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2 q_2^2 + 3p_2^2 q_2^2 + p_2 q_2^3 \\ &\quad + 3p_1^2 q_1 \gamma + 3p_1 q_1^2 \gamma + 6p_1 p_2 q_2 \gamma + 3p_2^2 q_2 \gamma \\ &\quad + 3p_2 q_2^2 \gamma + 2p_1 q_1 \gamma^2 + 2p_2 q_2 \gamma^2 \end{aligned}$$

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## good news

$$\text{Ch}_k^{\text{top}}(\lambda) = \sum_M ([\text{top-degree part in } \gamma] \text{mon}_M) \mathfrak{N}_M(\lambda),$$

where the sum runs over maps  $M$  with *one face,  $k$  edges*

$$\begin{aligned} -\text{Ch}_3^{\text{top}} &= p_1^3 q_1 + 3p_1^2 q_1^2 + p_1 q_1^3 + 3p_1^2 p_2 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2^2 q_2 \\ &\quad + p_2^3 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2 q_1 q_2 + 3p_1 p_2 q_2^2 + 3p_2^2 q_2^2 + p_2 q_2^3 \\ &\quad + 3p_1^2 q_1 \gamma + 3p_1 q_1^2 \gamma + 6p_1 p_2 q_2 \gamma + 3p_2^2 q_2 \gamma \\ &\quad + 3p_2 q_2^2 \gamma + 2p_1 q_1 \gamma^2 + 2p_2 q_2 \gamma^2 \end{aligned}$$

new scaling:  $\longrightarrow \beta$ -ensembles for  $\beta \rightarrow 0, \beta \rightarrow \infty$

degree of a map = (number of vertices) + (exponent of  $\gamma$ )

main contribution from maps (with an order on edges) such that

- (a) during the edge removal there are **no border edges**  $\iff$
- (b) during the edge removal **each connected component = one face**

such maps are called **top-twisted**

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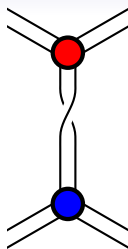
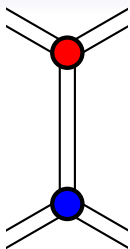
such maps are called **top-twisted**

there is a bijection between: CZYŻEWSKA-JANKOWSKA, ŚNIADY

- pairs  $(M, \prec)$ , where  
 $M$  is a **non-oriented**, rooted map with  $k$  edges, **one face**;  
 $\prec$  is an order on the edges which makes  $M$  top-twisted;
- pairs  $(M, \prec)$ , where  
 $M$  is an **oriented**, rooted map with  $k$  edges, **connected**,  
**arbitrary number of faces**;  
 $\prec$  an arbitrary order on the edges of  $M$ ;

}  
top-twisted





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$$\text{Ch}_k^{\text{top}}(\lambda) =$$

$$\sum_{\substack{\text{oriented map } M \\ \text{with } k \text{ edges}}} \gamma^{k+1-|\text{vertices}|} \mathfrak{R}_M(\lambda) =$$

$$\sum_{\substack{\text{non-oriented map } M \\ \text{with face-type } (k)}} ([\text{top-degree part in } \gamma] \text{mon}_M) \mathfrak{R}_M(\lambda)$$

proof: abstract characterization of Jack characters

## farewell questions

- ▶ for special values of  $\alpha$  there are known formulas for  $\text{Ch}_\pi$ :
  - ▶  $\alpha = 1, \gamma = 0$ :  
summation over **oriented** maps,
  - ▶  $\alpha \in \{\frac{1}{2}, 2\}, \gamma = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ :  
summation over **non-oriented** maps,
  - ▶  $\alpha \rightarrow 0, \alpha \rightarrow \infty, |\gamma| \rightarrow \infty$ :  
summation over **top-twisted maps**
  - ▶ general  $\alpha$ ?
- ▶ what does it tell us about random matrices?
- ▶ *What is the representation theory behind Jack characters?*



Maciej Dołęga, Valentin Féray, Piotr Śniady

Jack polynomials and orientability generating series of maps  
Séminaire Lotharingien de Combinatoire 70 (2014),  
Article B70j



Piotr Śniady

Top degree of Jack characters and enumeration of maps  
Preprint [arXiv:1506.06361](https://arxiv.org/abs/1506.06361)



Piotr Śniady

Structure coefficients for Jack characters:  
approximate factorization property  
Preprint [arXiv:1603.04268](https://arxiv.org/abs/1603.04268)



Agnieszka Czyżewska-Jankowska, Piotr Śniady

Jack characters and enumeration of maps.  
Preprint [arXiv:1611.02446](https://arxiv.org/abs/1611.02446)

$$\text{Ch}_1 = \underbrace{R_2}_{\text{Ch}_1^{\text{top}}},$$

$$\text{Ch}_2 = \underbrace{R_3 + R_2\gamma}_{\text{Ch}_2^{\text{top}}},$$

$$\text{Ch}_3 = \underbrace{R_4 + 3R_3\gamma + 2R_2\gamma^2}_{\text{Ch}_3^{\text{top}}} + R_2,$$

$$\text{Ch}_4 = \underbrace{R_5 + 6R_4\gamma + R_2^2\gamma + 11R_3\gamma^2 + 6R_2\gamma^3}_{\text{Ch}_4^{\text{top}}} + 5R_3 + 7R_2\gamma.$$

$$\alpha t \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \log \left( \sum_{\lambda} \frac{J_{\lambda}(\mathbf{x}) J_{\lambda}(\mathbf{y}) J_{\lambda}(\mathbf{z}) t^{|\lambda|}}{\langle J_{\lambda}, J_{\lambda} \rangle_{\alpha}} \right) =$$

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} t^n \left( \sum_{\mu, \nu, \tau \vdash n} h_{\mu, \nu}^{\tau}(\alpha - 1) p_{\mu}(\mathbf{x}) p_{\nu}(\mathbf{y}) p_{\tau}(\mathbf{z}) \right)$$

conjecture [GOULDEN & JACKSON 1996]

there exists a function  $\eta$  such that

$$h_{\mu, \nu}^{\tau}(\beta) = \sum_M \beta^{\eta(M)}$$

where the summation runs over connected, rooted **maps** with **face-type**  $\tau$ ,

**blue vertex distribution**  $\mu$ , and **red vertex distribution**  $\nu$ , and  $\eta(M) \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$

TODO:

roles of  $n$  and  $k$  should be interchanged.

